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

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THE MONEY MARKET.

CONTRARY to anticipations, the turn of the year passed more easily than usual, and while rates on Tuesday, December 31st, ran up to 5 and 6 per cent., only a small amount had to be borrowed from the Bank on the final day of the year. Preparatory borrowing during the last week of the year, and heavy discountings of short bills at the

Bank were reflected in an increase of discounts and advances by £33.3 million during the last three weeks of the year, but the total sum of £42,171,000 outstanding on January 1st under this heading was £5½ million less than that for January 2nd last year, when the market had also had a day longer in which to get out of the Bank. It is also reported that this year the latest comers to the Bank only had to borrow for eight days at the most, which again shows that the pressure was less severe than usual.

* * * *

There are several possible explanations of this relaxation at the last minute. Anticipations rife immediately before Christmas that the end-of-the-year squeeze would be unusually severe led the market to discount an unusual number of short bills at the Bank, and, as events showed, these preparations were rather carried to excess. Again it is known that the banks and the market missed last week's issue of Treasury bills which mainly went to a special quarter. The banks, too, showed a certain readiness to buy bills immediately before the end of the year, and even to lend money into January, and this further eased the position.

* * * *

Apart from Tuesday, money has been almost unlendable, but as the Bank is gradually repaid, rates are expected to harden. Meanwhile there has been a sharp fall in discount rates from 4 11/16 per cent. for three months' bank bills immediately before Christmas to 4 5/16 per cent. this week. This fall is partly due to the banks' failure to secure any of last week's Treasury Bills, which is forcing them to replenish their portfolios in the market; but the Continental banks are now having to buy bills heavily in order to replace maturities.

* * *

The franc exchange has remained on either side of the lower gold point, and the shipment of gold made to Paris on Christmas Eve was followed by further shipments amounting to nearly a million of gold during the last week of the old year. It is thought that the Banque de France's decision to make short loans against approved bills has not so far borne much fruit, simply because of the lack of bills drawn on Paris. Drawers apparently are showing some reluctance to make use of Paris, and it will clearly take time for Paris to develop as a bill market. This means that the Paris market may remain inelastic for a time, and that French banks may have to continue to draw upon their foreign balances.

	Dec. 12, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	5	5½ (Dec. 12, '29)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec. 12, '29)
Discount { Call	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec. 12, '29)
Discount { Notice	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¾ (Dec. 12, '29)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	4 11/16–¾	4 13/16	4 11/16–¾	4 5/16	...

Against the French withdrawals, the Bank gained nearly £500,000 in sovereigns from Buenos Aires, and also secured £516,000 of Tuesday's new gold, so that the Bank's gold stocks are unchanged on balance. Nearly ten millions of notes returned from circulation during the last week of the year, so that the reserve, too, is practically ten millions higher. So far, the Proportion has not responded, as market borrowings have expended the Bank's liabilities, but once the Bank is repaid it should show a much stronger position.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—This week's Federal Reserve statements are complicated by the conclusion of the holidays and by year-end settlements. The first influence is reflected in a substantial drop in the circulation and in an increase of reserves; the second in an increase of $96 million in brokers' loans. There is also a large drop in discounts, which are some $500 million below their level of a year ago. The reserve ratio is up 2.0 per cent. on the week at 69.6 per cent., and up 7.7 per cent. on the year. Doubt is being expressed as to whether easy money can be expected in view of the rapid loss of gold, but on the whole the view prevails that the System is strong enough to avoid tight conditions.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The customary psychological features associated with the New Year combined with the firmer tone of America to give a better tone to the stock markets. Gilt-edged securities were firm on the outlook for still cheaper money and the reinvestment of money disbursed in dividends, but events at Lahore proved a bear point for India Loans. The year's home railway traffic figures were, on the whole, favourably regarded. Among industrial shares "internationals" were better, while brewery, tobacco and textile shares made an improved showing. Paris buying produced unexpected activity in Kaffirs, while that country's favourite oil, copper and other stocks also benefited. Silver-producing company shares, however, were depressed by the low price reached by the metal.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Owing to the holidays, it is impossible to make any effective estimate of the position this week. The export market for coal remains firm, but home demand is not lively for the time of year. In some branches of the steel trade makers appear fairly confident of the outlook, but the iron market is by no means satisfactory. A certain New Year optimism is expressed in the cotton trade, but it is difficult to discern on what it is founded. The prospects of the wool trade remain uncertain. A temporary quietness in the hide and leather trades is not regarded as symptomatic of this year's prospects. Vegetable oils and oilseeds remain a slack market. Wheat is firm.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

A fair volume of business was witnessed in the foreign exchange market in respect of end-of-the-year requirements, and rates were in many cases inclined to be irregular as a result of the reaction after these special needs had been met. Sterling on New York declined from 4.88¼ to 4.87 31/32, and Montreal improved from 4.94½ to 4.93¾. Paris lost five points at 123.90, and Brussels weakened with the reduction of the Bank rate from 34.86¼ to 34.88. Milan was four points better at 93.21. Madrid was again erratic, and went from 35.80 to 36.40, after touching 36.80. Amsterdam lost ⅛ at 12.09¾, Berlin depreciated from 20.37¾ to 20.43½, as also did Switzerland, moving with the turn of the year from 25.09⅜ to 25.13¼. The Scandinavian currencies all moved in our favour, Stockholm from 18.10¼ to 18.13⅜, Oslo from 18.19½ to 18.20½, and Copenhagen from 18.19 to 18.20⅜. Of the South American exchanges, Rio and Buenos Aires were irregular, the former losing 1/32d. on balance at 5 13/32d., while the latter gained 1/16d. at 45 15/16d. after 46⅜d. Montevideo gained ¼d. at 46¼d. The premiums for 90 days Lima on London declined by ⅛ per cent. to 20 per cent. In the Far East, the rupee was firm at 1s. 5 61/64d., and the yen gained 1/16d. at 2s. 0 5/32d. Batavia lost ¼ at 12.13¼. In the forward market New York was more sought at 9/32 cent and ¾ cent premium. Paris was quoted at par and 3 centimes premium, as against 2 centimes discount and par. Madrid was more offered at lower premiums of 8 and 24 centimos. Amsterdam was rather weaker at lower quotations of ⅛ and ¼ cent premium. Berlin was decidedly firmer at reduced discounts of 1¾ and 4½ pfennigs. The silver market established two new low records, spot falling at one time to 21 5/16d. and forward to 21⅜d., the previous lowest spot price recorded being 21 9/16d. in 1902. In the end spot was 5/16d. lower at 21¼d. and forward ⅜d. lower at the same figure. Steady selling by China and the absence of support were the cause. The China silver exchanges declined in sympathy, Hongkong losing ½d. at 1s. 8⅜d. and Shanghai also ½d. at 2s. 1⅜d.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

We have pleasure in announcing that our Intelligence Branch has recently been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., the British counterpart of the well-known and old-established American investment service. A new company has been formed under the title of Investment Statistics, Limited. Requests from our readers for economic, statistical or other information will in future be handled by the new company, which will have at its disposal the records both of the Economist Intelligence Branch and of Moody's Investors Service, Ltd.

THE CHOICE BEFORE INDIA.

We shall all do well to wait a little before making up our minds as to the meaning of this week's events in India. Almost every chapter of our Imperial history is a warning of the danger of underrating a demand for political liberty by a large body of opinion. It is true that, in comparison with the hundreds of millions of India's population, the numbers for whom the Nationalist Congress speaks are a mere handful. But the mass is passive, and of the active element in India the Congress represents no inconsiderable part; and, so long as its programme is vague and indefinite, it is able to make a strong appeal to the common denominator of Indian psychology, namely, the consciousness of a difference between Indian and European.

This does not mean that we need take matters too tragically or imagine that we are faced with a situation comparable with that of America a hundred and fifty years ago, or of Ireland in our own time. The story of the Lahore Congress, with its theatrical demonstrations, its confused procedure and its cross-currents of opinion, is sufficient to dispel any such idea. A year ago the older leaders in the Nationalist movement endeavoured to persuade the Congress to adopt the form of constitution set out in the Nehru Report. The influence of the younger school, however, proved too strong, and, after prolonged debate and negotiation, the Congress adopted a resolution that, unless a Dominion constitution were granted by the end of December, 1929, the party would adopt the policy of "independence." There was never any possibility that the Statutory Commission could report in time to enable Parliament to pass any constitution, whether satisfactory to the Nationalists or not, in the time allotted. But Mr Gandhi at various times intimated that the time-table need not be adhered to rigidly if it were clear that steps were being taken to move towards the goal. A renewed assurance that Great Britain is genuinely seeking a solution in accordance with the pledge of 1917 was, indeed, given at the end of October in the form of the offer of a Joint Conference as soon as the Statutory Commission's report is ready. But, whether because of the strength of the opposition, or because he genuinely despairs of getting adequate results from the Joint Conference, or because he feels himself literally bound by the decision of a year ago, or because he thinks that he may thereby drive Great Britain further and more rapidly along the road to Dominion status, Mr Gandhi has taken the lead in advising the Congress to refuse the Viceroy's offer and to declare for independence.

The Lahore resolution lays down, firstly, that the policy of the Congress is henceforth to complete independence of India; secondly, that members of the Party are to resign from the various legislatures, which are hereafter to be boycotted; and, thirdly, that the Working Committee is to draw up a plan of civil disobedience to be enforced as and when they think fit. The story of the Congress, however, shows that this very important and far-reaching programme has been launched by anything but a united or well-organised body. On the one hand, the opposition to the Gandhi resolution in the Committee proved unexpectedly strong, while, on the other hand, the extremist section, represented by the President, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who, in his presidential address, declared his belief that the Congress must adopt a programme of social revolution and declare war against the Indian Princes, landlords and Indian capitalists of all kinds, proved themselves little amenable to discipline. The doctrine of violence was openly preached during the debate, and Mr Gandhi, who only succeeded by a narrow margin in obtaining the passage of a resolution congratulating the Viceroy on his recent escape from assassination, was defeated in a proposal to make the committees of Congress more workman-like bodies. Finally, when the Congress had risen, after declaring that free India would repudiate all debts imposed upon it by a foreign administration unless on investigation an independent tribunal declared them to be fair and just and undertaken in the interests of India, a split occurred in the Congress Committee on the question whether the Working Committee should include minority members who were not fully in sympathy with the Congress programme. On this point certain members walked out, and have decided to form a Congress Democratic Party within the Congress.

What will happen from all this remains to be seen. The call to boycott the legislatures is not popular. It is said that Mr Patel, President of the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, has already decided that he does not feel that he is called upon to resign, and the temptation to members of Congress all over India to remain will be strong. Indeed, the moderate members of Congress have appealed to members of the Legislative bodies not to take action until a meeting to consider the position has met in Delhi on January 18th. Presumably some attempt will be made by the Committee to organise civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes during 1930; but even in this matter there is doubt as to the application of the resolution, one view being that action should only commence if the Government takes any repressive steps. Nor can anyone confidently foresee what the results would be were the programme of non-co-operation put into effect. Non-co-operation under Mr Gandhi's leadership has been tried before, and it is not to be wondered at if his supporters have lost a little of their belief in its efficacy. Indeed, speakers at the Congress openly derided the vacillating policy of first walking in and then walking out of the Legislatures.

But the incident which perhaps reveals most clearly the weakness of the Congress situation was the negotiations which took place between the Congress and the Sikhs who marched to Lahore. These stout warriors came to demand a larger representation in the Government of the Punjab than they have been granted by the Nehru Report. They were told that as the Congress had abandoned the Dominion solution the Nehru Report is now dead, that all the bitter feelings that have been aroused by the alleged inadequate safeguards for this or that community in the Nehru Report can now be forgotten, and that everybody may rely on Mr Gandhi's assurance that in the new India no communal solution would be made which did not satisfy the Sikhs and other minorities. In other words, the one serious attempt by the India communities themselves to solve the great problem of minority rights is abandoned, and everyone can now, ostrich-like, bury their heads in the sand and happily pretend that the problem does not exist.

Thus, the proceedings of the Congress present a picture of vociferous agitation and irresponsible enthusiasm in abundance; but certainly not one of a united national will or a constructive practical policy.

In the meantime the Liberal Federation has been meeting at Madras, and, under the leadership of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr Srinivasa Sastri, has welcomed the Viceroy's announcement as confirming the view that Dominion status for India was intended by the declaration of 1917, as recognising definitely that British India and the Indian States should together form a Greater United India and as conceding India's claim to confer on a footing of equality with the British Cabinet on the form and the future constitution of India. An appeal has been issued by the Federation stating that the only rallying cry that can unite "Hindus, Mohamedans, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis and Europeans, the propertied classes and the labouring and depressed classes, can be Dominion status for India, not as a distant goal or ideal, but as an object capable of achievement within the shortest possible limit of time." They add that there should be no difficulty in making provision against both internal and external trouble during the necessary transition period. They deplore that any section of the people should raise the cry of independence and involve the future of India in turmoil and confusion.

How will India divide as between these two points of view? The *Times of India*, putting a good face on the situation, welcomes the fact that the absence of the Nationalist leaders will mean that the Joint Conference will be a serious and businesslike affair instead of degenerating into a futile disputation with men who are tied by previous commitments. There is no doubt that the action of the Liberals will provide a rallying point for many elements in the active life of India and will, moreover, have the sympathy of many in the Nationalist Party who will secretly, if not openly, associate themselves with these efforts.

At the same time, India, like more advanced countries, may easily become the prey to phrases. We have spoken of the great mass of the India people as politically passive; the only man who can stir these deep waters, not by political conceptions, but by the power of his personality and his appeal to the soul of India, is Mr Gandhi. It matters little what the issue may be, the villager is on the side of the holy man. The Viceroy evidently cherished the hope that his great influence might be used to help India in her peaceful progress along the road of political self-realisation. Mr Gandhi's refusal to play this *rôle* may make the task much harder and longer; but, as a compensation, it may well be that his presence among the irreconcilables may save India from the more serious disturbances that might have been her fate if the opposition had been left in other hands.

In any case the end remains the same. The promise of 1917 was made by a country grateful for the assistance of India during the war and convinced that political freedom is the only tolerable condition for nations. It is a thought still far from the mind of the British nation that it is possible for a free country such as ours to continue to hold in political subjection, indefinitely and against its will, a vast country such as India. On the other hand, no party in this country would contemplate the abandonment of our responsibilities towards India or leave her to chaos and confusion. For us there is only one policy, and that is to pursue the course marked out. We regret that Mr Gandhi and his associates will not co-operate; but we must continue with those who will.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

THE revenue return to December 31, 1929, covering the first nine months of the State's financial year, confirms the doubts which we expressed when Mr Churchill opened his fifth Budget last April. Though it is hazardous to frame positive conclusions from the figures of these three quarters, since influx of revenue is always heaviest in the three months to come, the results up to date suggest strongly that in certain directions at least the late Chancellor's anticipations were unduly optimistic as regards both income and outgoings.

Excluding the self-balancing Post Office and Road Fund accounts, which show an increase of £1,534,243, there is a net decrease of £18,086,287 in revenue, as compared with receipts in the corresponding period of 1928-29, while ordinary expenditure, i.e., apart from allocations to the New (1928) Sinking Fund and the self-balancing accounts, is £17,717,449 higher, the current deficit being £133,434,294, against £97,630,558 a year ago. Excluding again the self-balancing items, Mr Churchill budgeted for a net decrease of £12,044,000 in revenue. Non-tax revenue, in whose case a decrease of £14,766,000 was anticipated (receipts in 1928-29 having been swollen by the non-recurring windfall of over £13 million from the Currency Notes Reserve), shows a decrease to date of £7,855,000. Since, however, the progress of receipts under this head is notoriously erratic, the nine months' figures give little indication what the final results for the whole year will be, and greater interest attaches to the course of revenue from taxation. Here the Budget forecasted a net increase of £2,722,000, but up to December 31st there has been a decrease of £10,231,000, a discrepancy which might well give Mr Snowden pause.

Examination in greater detail of the main heads of tax revenue discloses several features of interest. In the following table we show receipts for the first nine months of the current and previous financial years, together with actual receipts in 1928-29 and Mr Churchill's estimate (after allowing for the effect of tax-remissions enacted) for 1929-30:—

(000's omitted.)

	Whole Year's Receipts.			Nine Months' Receipts		
	Actual 1928-29.	Estd. 1929-30.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)	to 31st Dec. 1928.	to 31st Dec. 1929.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(−)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	118,972	119,850	+ 878	90,404	90,787	+ 383
Excise	134,000	130,330	− 3,670	103,735	98,400	− 5,335
Estate Duties	80,570	81,000	+ 430	60,360	58,700	− 1,660
Stamps	30,060	31,000	+ 940	20,460	17,280	− 3,180
Income Tax	237,620	239,500	+ 1,880	75,413	75,340	− 73
Super Tax	56,150	58,000	+ 1,850	15,140	15,120	− 20
Total Tax Revenue (including other items)	664,138	666,860	+ 2,722	367,819	357,588	− 10,231

When the three quarterly returns for the current financial year are contrasted it will be found that Customs, after greatly exceeding expectations in the first quarter, lost a little ground between June 30th and September 30th, and suffered a severe setback in the quarter now concluded. Receipts under this head, which were estimated by Mr Churchill to show an increase of £7,028,000 (less £6,150,000 remitted on tea) appear unlikely, unless the forthcoming quarter is much more prolific than the last, to realise the Budget anticipation, while Excise seems to be well on the way to a much larger decrease than was forecast. The cause of the decline in these two items is necessarily a matter for speculation, but the drop in revenue from Estate Duties, after the spurt recorded in the first quarter, will occasion little surprise, since Mr Churchill's continuous reliance on the beneficence of death in wealthy homes was clearly an attitude of "flukey" optimism, while the heavy decline in Stamp receipts—reflecting Stock Exchange depression—is a lurid commentary on the recklessness with which the late Chancellor budgeted for an increase of £940,000 from a source of revenue which the boom of 1928 had unexpectedly and precariously swollen by £2 million over the previous Budget estimate. How far probable losses under these four headings can be made good in the final quarter by Income and Super Tax remains to be seen. Here influx of revenue is normally heaviest in the second and fourth quarters of the financial year, and the loss at December 31st of an increase recorded at September 30th—which itself probably reflected acceleration under duress of payments of the second instalments of last year's assessments—may partly be recovered by the end of March if the screw is applied with sufficiently pitiless vigour. To expect, however, that a decrease of £10 million in tax revenue will be converted by March 31st into an increase of nearly £3 million calls for considerable optimism.

Unhappily, when we turn to the other side of the account, consolation is not to be found in decreased expenditure. Consolidated Fund services show so far an increase of £2.2 million, interest, etc., on the Debt being up by nearly £2 million, whereas Mr Churchill cheerfully anticipated a reduction of £7 million on the whole year. Compared with this discrepancy, the Supply expenditure is progressing more closely in accord with the Budget estimate; but the Army, Navy and Air Force votes show an increase up to date of over £2½ million, for which no provision was made, while the Civil and Revenue votes, for which an increase of £14.9 million (the net effect of the De-rating Act) was forecast, have already realised nearly £13 million of the anticipated expansion.

Under these circumstances Mr Snowden will be lucky if he succeeds in covering for 1929-30 the statutory sinking funds, to say nothing of the £50.4 million which Mr Churchill optimistically estimated as the aggregate which would be available for debt redemption, and we are unable to endorse the view of our distinguished contemporary, the *Times*, that the insufficiency of revenue for this purpose should be regarded as a factor "fortunately" qualified by the ability of receipts, at any rate, to meet fresh expenditure. If we entertain, as we do, serious doubts as to the present Government's grasp of the principles of sound national finance, it is because the past Session has led all thoughtful observers of politics to note that, despite the palpable difficulty which will confront the Chancellor of the Exchequer next April in providing out of a barely maintained revenue adequate

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provision for the essential task of debt redemption, fresh financial commitments—many of a non-productive nature—are being entered into on a scale which involves the risk of a seriously increased deficit for 1930-31. In reply to a question in the House of Commons on Christmas Eve, Mr Snowden, on whose Parliamentary duel with Mr Churchill we comment in a later column, stated that in the next financial year the estimated additional expenditure from the Exchequer under last year's Pensions Act and Unemployment Insurance Acts would be £19.3 million, in addition to £1.7 million under miscellaneous heads and such liabilities as Mr J. H. Thomas may incur under his various schemes for providing work. Unless the balance can be restored by unexpectedly drastic reductions in armaments expenditure, the outlook for the tax-payer is manifestly unpropitious. The psychological effect of a heavy increase in direct taxation would be extremely unfortunate, and there are signs already that fears of unpalatable developments next April are having a restrictive influence on business. In short, we should welcome reassurance that the Government will have the courage, now that a fair proportion of their costly pledges have been redeemed, to refrain from cutting an ampler coat until they have definitely saved some cloth.

MONEY IN 1929.

THE salient facts of what have proved to be the most eventful twelve months in post-war monetary history can be set down very shortly. The year witnessed no less than five changes in the Bank of England's rate. It saw the Bank lose £23.0 million of its gold during the first nine months, and recover during the final quarter about £16 million of its losses. On the Continent it witnessed the steady repatriation of French foreign balances, a movement which was the cause of heavy French gold imports, first from London and then from New York, while last, and most important of all, it saw the Wall Street boom rise to its culminating point in early September only to end a few weeks later in a sudden and catastrophic collapse.

It was the course of events on Wall Street that gave the key-note to the monetary history of the year. January opened with the Wall Street boom making what was then regarded as "normal progress." Call rate stood at about 7 per cent., and brokers' loans at $5,559 million. In London, January was a quiet month, and hopes were even entertained that the gold drain to America, which had cost the Bank nearly twenty millions of gold during the last half of 1928, had finally been checked. Money was comparatively easy as the Treasury was at that time redeeming in advance some imminent debt maturities, and on the whole the market was taking a calmer view of the situation than subsequent events warranted.

In February came a sudden change. The gold efflux to America began again, and in the first week of the month the Bank lost £3,000,000. With Call rate still at 7 per cent., and the prospect of the drain continuing, the Bank took immediate action, and raised its rate from 4½ to 5½ per cent. Thus the frontier between cheap and dear money was definitely crossed. There followed several weeks of extreme anxiety. During March, New York Call rate averaged nearly 10 per cent., and the dollar exchange was barely above the export gold point. The London market was living under the shadow of a further increase in Bank rate, and market rate rose to within ⅛ per cent. of Bank rate. Revenue collection, as usual, added to the stringency, and the whole position was one of great discomfort.

April proved an easier month. For one thing, the Bank was beginning to gain gold, while the increases in the Dutch Bank rate (from 4½ to 5½ per cent. on March 23rd), and in the German Bank rate (from 6½ to 7½ per cent. on April 25th), came as valuable reinforcements to the Bank of England in its stand against the absorption of short money by Wall Street. Moreover, in the early spring the American banks themselves were placing obstacles in the way of foreign short money seeking employment in the New York call market. May, too, was on the whole a quiet month. Trade was waiting on the result of the General Election, and so money was in fairly ample supply, with the three-months' discount rate down to 5½ per cent. The Bank continued to add to its gold stocks, and between February 7th—the date of the rise in its rate to 5½ per cent.—and June 12th it increased its gold from £149.9 to £164.2 millions. The end of the month, however, brought this period of comparative peace to an end. The first sign of warning was the decline of the dollar and mark exchanges to the export gold point, and in the middle of June a renewed outflow of gold began. During the last three weeks of June, £8,500,000 of gold were lost, and the Bank's stocks were reduced from £164.2 to £155.7 million. Nor was this the end of the trouble. By the middle of July the gold demands of New York and Berlin had been satisfied, but a new demand for gold sprang up, this time from Paris. This French demand lasted for the rest of the year; it proved in no respect amenable to discount rates; and, in short, it was the most serious drain of all.

The cause of the French demand for gold may be summarised very briefly. Before the stabilisation of the franc, French banks and other interests had accumulated large balances, mainly in London and New York. In 1928, some of these were repatriated, this accounting in part for New York's gold losses during that year. Early in 1929, the repatriation movement was off-set by exchange purchases on French Government account in preparation for the repayment of the American commercial debt in August. The conclusion of the debt agreement in July, with the funding of the commercial debt, removed this counterweight, and henceforward the repatria-

tion movement operated on the exchanges without a check. The cause of this movement was simply that the French banks were short of francs. Lack of fluidity in the Paris money market means that Treasury balances—augmented last year by heavy tax collections—are taken out of the market and lost to the banks and to the country as a whole; and in order to fill the void, and to meet the normal demands of traders and tourists, the banks had to draw on their foreign balances. There is no need to attach any political significance to this repatriation movement, and no ground for connecting it with the August Conference at the Hague.

The French drain of gold placed the Bank of England and the money market in a very difficult position. The Wall Street boom continued, and with call money at 8 per cent. and brokers' loans up to $6,217,000,000 no relief could be expected from New York. Indeed, when on August 7th the New York rediscount rate was raised from 5 to 6 per cent., a renewal of the gold efflux to America seemed a probability. In any event it had become clear that a 6½ per cent. Bank rate was inevitable, and the only question that remained was how soon it would come. It must be conceded that in August and September the Bank's decision each week was a difficult one. There was grave reason for fearing that a 6½ per cent. rate would kill all chances of an autumn trade revival, while the 5½ per cent. rate had already given Stock Exchange prices a downward turn and arrested new capital issues. A 6½ per cent. rate would also increase the cost of the floating debt, and in July Mr Snowden had taken the rather unusual step for a Chancellor of publicly expressing the hope that an increase in Bank rate could be avoided. Finally, there was no guarantee that a 6½ per cent. rate would check the outflow of gold to France. On the other hand, gold was still going, and by the end of August the Bank's reserves were under £140 million. Also, the uncertainty as to when the rate was going to be raised was a grave source of disturbance to the money market and even to the country. In the market, discount rates were raised right up to Bank rate, and the week's quota of new Treasury bills was only placed with increasing difficulty. In the country, the uncertainty during September definitely affected trade.

Rightly or wrongly, the Bank decided to delay raising its rate as long as possible, and when the New York rediscount rate was raised in August, the Bank immediately let it be known that no increase in its own rate was imminent. Bank rate was finally raised to 6½ per cent. on September 26th. By that time the Stock Exchange was in the throes of the Hatry crisis, and while there was no connection between this disaster and the increase in Bank rate, their coincidence was unfortunate. In any case, now that it is possible to look backwards, it is conceivable that if Bank rate had been raised in early August, it would have saved the country some weeks of suspense.

The 6½ per cent. rate took effect very quickly. It was accepted as a signal that London was prepared to go to any length to put an end to the indefinite absorption of short money by New York. With brokers' loans up to $6,761,000,000 at the end of September, including $3,860,000,000 from "others," and with stock prices establishing similar high records, Wall Street was in a state of very unstable equilibrium; and the reaction on New York of the Hatry crash, the withdrawals of short money which the 6½ per cent. Bank rate in London immediately stimulated, and finally a Massachusetts decision affecting public utility shares proved sufficient to send it tottering to its fall. In a few weeks, during late October and early November, Wall Street prices and brokers' loans were cut approximately in half, and this set free all the short money, American as well as foreign, that had been dammed up in the New York call market. The effect on London was instantaneous. Sterling bills, both commercial and Treasuries, found themselves in keen demand, and during October alone the return of short money to Europe drove the dollar exchange up from $4.85 to $4.88, or nearly across the whole of the range separating the two gold points.

The Bank was quick to respond to the altered situation. The sole purpose of the 6½ per cent. rate was to draw money back to London. Once the world showed itself ready to buy sterling bills at lower rates the justification for the higher Bank rate had gone, and, recognising that fact, the Bank made two reductions in its rate, to 6 per cent. on October 31st and to 5½ per cent. on November 21st. In one sense these reductions represented a bold step, as even by the last of these two dates the Bank had only regained £2.5 million of its gold losses. The Bank, however, rightly recognised that so long as money was flowing to London gold could be relied upon to follow.

The final reduction in Bank rate to 5 per cent. on December 12th was due to a different cause. Partly owing to the fact that the November depreciation in the dollar made gold shipments from New York to Paris profitable, and partly owing to the initiation of reforms in the Paris market designed to promote greater freedom, the Paris rate rose above the export gold point. The Bank seized upon this as the occasion to reduce its rate, especially as during December gold was at last arriving in substantial quantities. In addition to shipments from Australia and Buenos Aires and new gold from South Africa, the dollar exchange rose to the point at which several millions could profitably be brought from New York—an amazing reversal of the position obtaining only three months before. Thus, though the franc again relapsed and Paris took some gold from London during the last week of the year, the reduction to 5 per cent. was fully justified.

The issue of the new Conversion Loan at the beginning of November inevitably drew a large quantity of money off the market, while the pre-Christmas expansion in the note circulation also added to the stringency. The result was that although bills were in keen demand, and discount rates on the low side, money was usually difficult during the last two months of the year, and once or twice the market found itself in the Bank. During the last fortnight of December preparations for the end of the year were in full swing, and as usual money was abnormally easy. It remains to be seen how plentiful money will turn out to be when normal conditions prevail once more, but the approach of the revenue collection period does not suggest that any great ease is to be expected.

In the tables below we give daily average money rates for the past six years:—

BANK RATE.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st half ...	4 0 0	4 12 0	5 0 0	4 16 0	4 10 0	5 5 11
2nd half	4 0 0	4 10 0	5 0 0	4 10 0	4 10 0	5 14 0
Whole year	4 0 0	4 11 0	5 0 0	4 13 0	4 10 0	5 10 0

MARKET RATE—THREE MONTHS' BILLS.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st half ...	3 7 6	4 4 0	4 9 6	4 3 3	4 1 0	5 1 5
2nd half	3 14 0	4 0 0	4 11 0	4 6 6	4 5 0	5 9 3
Whole year	3 10 9	4 2 0	4 10 3	4 4 10	4 3 0	5 5 4

SHORT LOANS.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st half ...	2 9 10	3 9 8	4 1 2	3 17 6	3 13 0	4 8 2
2nd half	2 15 0	3 8 10	4 1 0	2 12 6	3 12 0	4 16 3
Whole year	2 12 5	3 9 3	4 1 1	3 15 0	3 12 6	4 12 3

The normal deposit rate paid by bankers was £2 below Bank rate for the whole of this period.

For 1929 the margin between Bank rate and market rate was 4s. 8d. per cent.; between market rate and the rate for short loans 13s. 1d. per cent.; and between the last rate and deposit rate £1 2s. 3d. per cent. The Bank's open-market policy continued to be that of neutralising changes in its reserve by appropriate purchases and sales of Government securities. This kept the supply of credit constant, but the unusually narrow margin between Bank rate and market rate measures both the strain imposed on the market by passing events and the efforts rightly made to keep the market in hand. The margin between market rate and that on short loans is relatively big. From that standpoint brokers had a good year.

The final table shows changes in Bank rates in foreign centres:—

CHANGES IN OVERSEAS BANK RATES YEAR 1929.

Date.			Date.		
1929.		% %	1929.		% %
Jan. 5	Italian..... raised	½ to 6	Sept. 27	Austrian..... raised	1 to 6½
Jan. 5	Greek..... reduced	1 „ 8	Oct. 3	Esthonia..... raised	½ „ 8
Jan. 12	German ..... reduced	½ „ 6½	Oct. 10	India..... raised	1 „ 6
Feb. 7	Irish..... raised	½ „ 6	Oct. 31	New York Fed. Reserve ..... raised	1 „ 5
Feb. 14	Indian..... raised	1 „ 8			
Mar. 13	Italian..... raised	1 „ 7	Oct. 31	Irish..... reduced	½ „ 6½
Mar. 23	Dutch..... raised	1 „ 5½	Oct. 31	India..... raised	1 „ 7
Apr. 11	Indian..... reduced	1 „ 7	Oct. 31	Dutch..... reduced	½ „ 5
Apr. 23	Austrian..... raised	1 „ 7½	Nov. 2	German..... reduced	½ „ 7
Apr. 24	Hungarian..... raised	1 „ 8	Nov. 2	Hungary..... reduced	½ „ 7½
Apr. 25	German ..... raised	1 „ 7½	Nov. 13	Belgium..... reduced	½ „ 4½
Apr. 24	Polish ..... raised	1 „ 9	Nov. 14	New York Fed. Reserve..... reduced	½ „ 4½
May 6	Roumanian... raised	2 „ 8			
May 9	Indian..... reduced	1 „ 6	Nov. 14	Poland..... reduced	½ „ 8½
May 14	Roumanian... raised	1½ „ 9½	Nov. 15	Dutch..... reduced	½ „ 4½
June 6	Indian..... reduced	1 „ 5	Nov. 21	Irish..... reduced	½ „ 6
July 2	Bulgarian.... raised	1 „ 10	Nov. 21	Norway..... reduced	½ „ 5½
July 22	Java..... raised	1 „ 5½	Nov. 22	Austria..... reduced	½ „ 8
July 31	Belgian..... raised	1 „ 5	Nov. 23	Roumania... reduced	½ „ 9
Aug. 8	New York Fed. Reserve..... raised	1 „ 6	Dec. 7	Austria..... reduced	½ „ 7½
			Dec. 12	Irish..... reduced	½ „ 5½
Sept. 26	Irish..... raised	1 „ 7	Dec. 12	Sweden..... reduced	½ „ 5
Sept. 26	Norway..... raised	½ „ 6	Dec. 24	Denmark... reduced	½ „ 5
Sept. 26	Sweden..... raised	1 „ 5½	Dec. 27	Norway ..... reduced	½ „ 5
Sept. 26	Denmark..... raised	½ „ 5½	Dec. 31	Belgium .... reduced	1 „ 3½

As many foreign central banks follow the Bank of Enlgand's lead, it was inevitable that a year in which London Bank rate was changed five times should also have witnessed an abnormal number of changes abroad. The table clearly shows how the peak of dear money was reached at the end of last September, and also reveals the extent of the downward movement that has since taken place.

RECONSTRUCTION IN RUSSIA.—IV.: REVOLUTION BY TRACTOR.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

CO-OPERATIVE farming grew out of propaganda started by the Government with a view to securing more and better crops. "The Khlebocentre," the Department which deals with the collection of grain, and the "Semenovod," the Department responsible for improving, grading and selecting seed grain, had for some time been endeavouring to establish contractual relations with the peasants with this object in view. As an inducement they offered to provide them (preferably whole villages) with selected seeds, agronomist aid, and implements including tractors, if they agreed to sell to the Government, at a fixed price, all their surplus grain. They also recommended, if they did not stipulate, that holdings should be pooled for purposes of rational cultivation. A monetary advance on the contracted grain was also provided by the scheme.

These methods, which go under the name of "Contractation," were responsible for the formation of thousands of "Grain Associations," most of which, in course of time, developed into *Colhos* proper. These grain associations, as well as *Colhos* formed in 1927, embraced usually only fifteen or twenty holdings and, therefore, were too small to be mechanised—their motive power remaining the horse. The attempt to introduce tractors and complicated agricultural machines into these farms was disappointing. It became increasingly clear that before tractors could be employed on a collective farm it must multiply its acreage many times and absorb dozens of villages. This difficulty, although not unsurmountable, seemed hardly likely to be overcome in the near future, when suddenly an experiment made on the Shevtchenke State Farm near Odessa, demonstrated that the manager, A. Markevich, had grappled successfully with the problem.

Before giving an account of this experiment, it may be as well to explain that all this time the Government was not only trying to organise the *Colhos*, but to establish large scale estates of its own. These big Government farms—the *Sovhos* (Soviet estates) are a remarkable episode in Soviet Russia's attempt to rationalise agriculture. The State Farms of to-day have nothing in common with those established immediately after the Revolution. The present *Sovhos* is a big mechanised estate run on commercial lines similar to those on which big estates are conducted in the U.S.A. and other capitalist countries. They are run for profits, in this case for an independent supply of grain, and they employ hired labour. In addition to their main object of supplying the Government with grain, the *Sovhos* are also experimental farms where new methods and new machines are tested and the cultivation of selected grain is undertaken on a large scale. Another mission of the State Farms is to disseminate ideas of modern agricultural methods among the peasants.

The Shevtchenke Farm is one of those State Farms—furnished, like most of them, with an abundant supply of tractors and agricultural implements. In the spring of 1928, Markevich, finding that the 100 tractors at his disposal were only in incomplete use, proposed to the neighbouring villagers that they should hire some of them to till their land if they agreed to pool their holdings and pay 25 per cent. of the harvest to the farm. In the first year only nine whole villages out of 26 which received his invitation and some holders in six others accepted Markevich's offer; their joint area under cultivation was over nine thousand hectares. In the autumn of the same year 16 whole villages and holders in ten others, with a joint area of 24,000 hectares, entered into the scheme.

The success of Markevich's experiment consisted in his discovery that tractor energy applied to large scale agriculture can be supplied from a central station just as easily as electricity. This simple discovery, and its implications when properly understood, were hailed with the greatest enthusiasm by the Bolsheviks, who believed that the high road to Socialist agriculture had at last been found, and, indeed, it is more than probable that Markevich may take his place in the history of Socialism by the side of the "Rochdale Pioneers."

With their customary vigour and quickness of grasp, the Bolsheviks have since concentrated all their energies in organising tractor stations and mobile tractor "columns," and have planted them in all suitable areas. These energetic measures have been so successful that in the spring and summer of 1929 the number of *Colhos* has doubled, the holdings which they embrace have increased fivefold and the area under cultivation sevenfold. There are at present nearly one hundred tractor stations active all over the country.

The *Colhos* movement has so far established itself mainly in grain-bearing districts. And naturally so, because mechanisation can more easily be applied to "extensive" cultivation and has, moreover, a more immediate effect. Persistent efforts, however, are now being made to extend the principles of collective farming to cattle-breeding, dairy and poultry and the growing of sugar-beet, flax and cotton.

The simplest and loosest organisations for collective farming are the "Grain Associations," which impose on their members the sole obligation of co-operating in all the necessary operations of sowing, reaping and threshing, each member eventually receiving his proportion of the produce. These loose combinations generally come into being at harvest time when they borrow from the co-operative societies threshing, sifting and other simple machines and so are initiated into the advantages of collective farming. Many such grain societies cease, of course, to exist after harvest time; but most of them

develop into *Colhos* proper. During harvest time of the present year over 20,000 such grain societies are said to have sprung up.

The *Colhos* proper can be divided into three categories: "Societies for Joint Tilling of the Soil," *Artels*, and Communes. The last two kinds belong rather to the earlier years of the Revolution and constitute at present less than one-third of all collective farms. The difference between these three kinds of *Colhos* is concerned first with the extent to which the property of its members is pooled. In the "joint tillage societies" the holdings, implements and draught cattle only are pooled; the rest—houses, pigs, cows and poultry—remain private property. In the *Artels* all domestic animals are pooled—as is also labour, industrial as well as agricultural—but members retain and live in their houses. In the Communes members live in communal houses and pool everything they possess. The second difference has regard to the manner in which members in each group get their share of the produce. Roughly speaking, members of the joint societies receive in accordance with what they contribute in the way of holdings, cattle, implements and labour; members of an *Artel* receive in accordance mainly with the labour which they put in; while members of the Commune benefit more or less in accordance with their needs.

Obviously there are other differences as well, differences of social life, for instance. Life in a *Colhos* of the looser kind is on the whole similar to life in any other village; though it must not be forgotten that work done in common is likely to lead, and actually does lead, to certain innovations. In a commune life is radically different from what it is in an ordinary village; the common kitchen and dining-room, on the one hand, and the common nursery, on the other, inevitably put their stamp upon it.

The organisation of the *Colhos* is similar to that of a co-operative society. It is run by a board elected by members. Each member of the board represents about twenty holders, and is the intermediary between the board and members, especially for the transmission of orders respecting labour. The organisation of labour in a *Colhos* is a very delicate and important business; for all the members are equal in their status, while the tasks to be performed vary in many ways. The first principle of organisation is, therefore, strict discipline; every member has to perform the task assigned to him. No hired labour must be employed by any member, except by widows and by soldiers on active service. Every member is expected to do a share of the work proportioned to what is required for the cultivation of his holding in the *Colhos*. For all work beyond that, repair or building of a communal character, members receive a wage.

The working capital of a *Colhos* is made up of entrance fees and yearly subscriptions. In 1928 the average capital of a *Colhos* was about 781 roubles in Russia and 348 roubles in the Ukraine. This share capital, as well as all pooled property, is called "The Divisible Fund." It is in collective use, but remains in individual possession. That is to say, members leaving the *Colhos* are entitled to get back their share holding, cattle, implements and money. But there is also "The Indivisible Fund," which represents the socialist accumulation of a *Colhos*, and is earmarked for one purpose only—the development of collective agriculture. This fund is not considerable yet, but efforts are now being made to increase it. Regular contributions to it come from various sources. In some cases part of the profits is invested in this way. In others it represents part of the exemption from taxation which the *Colhos* usually get from the Government. But the chief source is the capital value of flour mills, butter and cheese factories erected in the territory of a *Colhos* and handed over to it by the State or the co-operative movement. Tractors and machines sold to a *Colhos* on a three and five years' credit basis are also entered as part of "The Indivisible Fund."

The division of income in the *Colhos* is by no means uniform. In some cases, mostly in small *Colhos*, the division between the members is strictly equal. In larger *Colhos*, however, it is proportioned to the holding of each member. In some others again it is based, not on holding, but on the labour which the holder has contributed. But the principle of division, such as it is, applies equally to the monetary part and the part received in kind. After the harvest has been gathered, and the grain threshed, the marketable surplus is handed over to the Government at fixed prices. The rest of the grain is divided into two portions: seed grain, which is stored under the supervision of the board, and victualling grain, which is distributed among the individual holders. Thus the *Colhos* combines the principles of both socialist and capitalist accumulation.

The success of the *Colhos* movement has aroused great expectations, both as a short cut to Socialism and as a means of increasing the sources of marketable grain in the country. The latest reports show that over 7 million hectares of *Colhos* land were ploughed this autumn; and it is calculated that over one and a half million tons of grain will come from this source next year. It is expected that nearly as much will be supplied by the State Farms, which will mean that next year the State will have nearly one-third of its requirements furnished by the "Socialist sector" of agriculture.

Even so, individualist agriculture remains and will remain for some years the predominant form of Russian cultivation, and the general prosperity of the country will depend on raising the productivity of this sector. Such an increase presents no unsurmountable difficulties; for the main difficulty, the resistance of the peasants to agricultural reform, is rapidly being overcome. The technical revolution which Russian agriculture calls for is nearly at its door. But even without a technical revolution, the introduction of simple and practical reform would be sufficient to raise Russian agriculture to a considerably higher level. The abolition of wooden ploughs, of which there are still over five million in the country; the replacement of unsifted and ungraded seeds by selected seeds suitable to the particular areas; the preservation of a two months' interval between ploughing and sowing; the introduction of even the most elementary sowing machines—the application of these and similar remedies would soon increase the land's productivity by anything from 20 to 40 per cent. The task which the Soviet Government has set itself, however, is more arduous than this. It is nothing less than the doubling of agricultural production by the end of 1938. The immediate object is to increase production at least 35 per cent. in the period covered by the "Piatiletka." Whether or not this hope be realised, the Russian agrarian revolution is still gathering impetus, and the experiments which are now being made in the one million Russian villages constitute one of the most important events in modern economic history.

THE YEAR'S PRICE CHANGES.

DURING the past month the decline in the wholesale price level, which had continued without interruption since the end of July, was arrested, our index number for the end of December, at 88.3, showing no change as compared with the figure for the end of November. Fluctuations in the indices of each of the five groups, compared with a month ago, a year ago, and two years ago, are summarised below:—

	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) per cent. compared with		
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Two years ago.
Cereals and meat	+ 1·9	− 5·4	− 5·2
Other foods	− 0·5	− 7·3	− 14·9
Textiles	− 1·2	− 18·8	− 19·4
Minerals	—	− 1·8	− 1·8
Miscellaneous	− 0·7	− 2·4	− 12·1

It will be seen that last month a rise of nearly 2 per cent. in the index figure for cereals and meat balanced declines which occurred in textiles, and, to a minor extent, in the "other foodstuffs" and "miscellaneous" groups. The chief movements during December in the first-named group were advances in the price of imported wheat, flour, English beef, and both English and New Zealand mutton.

Among "other foods" the price of butter registered a further decline, but coconut oil was slightly dearer. In the textile group cotton prices weakened further, and both wool tops, silk and flax were cheaper. Among metals changes were few, somewhat lower prices in the case of tin and copper being offset by an advance in the value of lead. In the miscellaneous group sulphate of ammonia declined in price.

Our next table shows the course of our index number throughout the past year, together with the annual geometric averages for each year since 1924:—

1927 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	114·2	106·7	136·8	119·4	105·6	115·7
,, 1925	114·1	101·0	124·0	111·8	108·7	112·0
,, 1926	102·8	96·6	97·2	119·8	104·0	104·0
,, 1927	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
,, 1928	103·6	93·8	105·1	92·1	95·8	98·1
End Dec., 1927	97·4	98·2	102·5	94·1	101·5	98·8
,, Dec., 1928	97·6	90·2	101·7	94·1	91·4	95·0
,, Jan., 1929	96·7	89·4	101·3	94·8	91·2	94·7
,, Feb., ,, ...	101·2	88·5	99·9	96·4	91·4	95·6
,, Mar., ,, ...	100·9	87·3	100·8	99·7	91·4	96·1
,, April, ,, ...	99·1	86·5	96·7	96·7	90·0	94·0
,, May, ,, ...	92·6	84·3	94·9	95·7	89·5	91·5
,, June, ,, ...	95·1	84·1	92·7	96·3	89·3	91·7
,, July, ,, ...	103·5	84·7	91·6	96·1	91·0	93·7
,, Aug., ,, ...	101·3	86·2	91·7	96·3	91·0	93·6
,, Sept., ,, ...	95·8	86·6	87·7	96·2	91·5	91·8
,, Oct., ,, ...	94·4	85·9	85·2	94·6	90·7	90·2
,, Nov., ,, ...	90·6	84·0	83·6	92·4	89·8	88·3
,, Dec., ,, ...	92·3	83·6	82·6	92·4	89·2	88·3
Average, 1929	96·9	85·8	92·2	95·6	90·5	92·4

A fall in the average level of wholesale prices amounting to approximately 4 per cent. in 1927 and 2 per cent. in 1928 has been followed by a decline—comparing annual means in each case—of nearly 6 per cent. last year. The only exception to the downward movement is furnished by the minerals section, in which higher prices for coal, iron and steel during the first nine months raised the average for the year. When the figures for the end of last month are contrasted with those for December 31, 1928, a fall of approximately 7 per cent. is disclosed in the complete index, cereals and meat having declined by 5.4 per cent., "other foods" by 7.3 per cent., and textiles by about 19 per cent., while the minerals and miscellaneous groups are also slightly down on balance.

To illustrate further the course of prices during the year we summarise in the next table the actual price-quotations of a number of typical commodities at the end of each of the past four quarters, adding, for purposes of comparison, the prices ruling at the end of each of the past three years:—

	End 1926.	End 1927.	End 1928.	1929. End March.	1929. End June.	1929. End Sept.	1929. End Dec.
Wheat, Canadian, per qr.	57/6	58/-	49/3	50/3	48/3	54/9	55/6
Potatoes, per ton	£6/10/0	£6	£6	£6/5/0	£3	£4/10/0	£3/15/-
Beef, English sides, per 8 lb.	4/10	4/8	5/4	5/4	6/-	5/1	5/8
Mutton, New Zealand, per 8 lb.	4/3	4/9	5/-	5/-	4/8	4/7	4/10
Tea, Indian auction average, per lb.	1/3¾	1/6⅜	1/5½	1/5½	1/3	1/3⅜	1/1½
Sugar, granulated, per cwt.	34/1½	29/9½	24/7½	23/6	23/5½	24/2	22/9
Cotton, American Middling, per lb.	6·90d.	11·06d.	10·59d.	10·96d.	10·30d.	10·14d.	9·42d.
Cotton yarn, 32's twist, per lb.	12·37d.	15·25d.	15·50d.	16·00d.	15·00d.	15·00d.	13·87d.
Wool, Australian, per lb.	45d.	46d.	44d.	41d.	41d.	32d.	33d.
Jute, per ton	£31/5/0	£31/15/0	£32/5/0	£33/10/0	£30/5/0	£29/17/6	£27/15/-
Pig iron, Cleveland No. 3, per ton	87/6	65/-	66/-	67/-	72/6	72/6	72/6
Coal, best Welsh, per ton	29/3	19/1½	19/4½	21/6	20/0	20/0	20/1½
Tin, Standard, per ton	£300/7/6	£265/2/6	£225/15/0	£220/10/0	£201/10/0	£203/2/6	£178/2/6
Petrol, No. 1, per gallon	15·50d.	11·50d.	15·25d.	17·50d.	17·50d.	17·50d.	17·50d.
Linseed oil, per ton	£31/5/0	£28	£29	£29	£30/10/0	£44	£45
Rubber, plant, sheet, per lb.	19·12d.	20d.	8·69d.	11·00d.	10·62d.	9·75d.	8 06d.
Cement, Portland, per ton	60/9	54/-	47/-	47/-	47/-	47/-	47/-

In comparison with a year ago the prices of Canadian wheat, pig iron, petrol and linseed oil are appreciably higher, whereas there have been heavy falls in the case of potatoes, tea, cotton, wool, jute and tin. Other price changes during the past twelve months, not shown in the foregoing table, are substantial declines in the case of Argentine beef, flax, copper, spelter, hides, leather and creosote.

When the past year's trend of prices as a whole is reviewed, it will be noted that, between the end of December, 1928, and the end of April, 1929, the position was one of comparative stability, a declining tendency on the part of textile prices and those of "other foodstuffs" being counterbalanced by a slightly higher figure during February and March in the case of cereals and meat. From April onwards, with the exception of the "miscellaneous" group and apart from a temporary upward fluctuation during July in the case of "cereals and meat" (the cause being a speculative upward movement of grain prices), the decline was of a general character, reflecting in some part, it may be suggested, the influence of dear money. The fall was headed by the textile group, which sagged steadily from the end of March until the close of the year. Between July and November grain prices also slumped heavily, the collapse of the speculative boom in Wall Street being a contributory factor in the decline; and the same influence was responsible for a sharp reaction in the prices of non-ferrous metals, which produced a fall in the index figure for the mineral section between September and November, notwithstanding the firmness of coal and iron quotations.

In the next table we give the figures of our index number converted to a percentage of the average level of the last pre-war year:—

1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1925	168·4	204·2	194·6	139·8	126·2	160·9
,, 1926	151·7	195·3	152·6	149·8	120·7	149·4
,, 1927	147·6	202·2	157·0	125·1	116·1	143·7
,, 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	115·2	111·2	140·9
End June, 1928	166·4	187·3	172·3	114·2	111·3	144·5
,, Dec., 1928	144·0	182·4	159·6	117·7	106·1	136·5
,, June, 1929	140·3	170·1	145·5	120·4	103·6	131·7
,, Dec., 1929	136·2	169·1	129·6	115·6	103·5	126·9
Average, 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8

It will be seen that a great disparity continues to exist between the indices of the "other foods" and "miscellaneous" groups and the complete index number, the miscellaneous group being affected largely by the alteration since 1913 in the value of rubber. On the other hand, the index of textile prices is now considerably nearer the general average than was the case a year ago.

In the concluding table is shown the course of our index number calculated with 1924 as the base year:—

1924 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1926	90·0	90·6	71·1	100·3	98·4	89·9
,, 1927	87·5	93·8	73·1	83·7	94·7	86·4
,, 1928	90·7	87·9	76·8	77·1	90·7	84·8
End March, 1929	88·4	81·9	73·7	83·5	86·5	83·1
,, June, 1929	83·3	78·8	67·8	80·6	84·6	79·2
,, Sept., 1929	83·9	81·2	64·1	80·6	86·7	79·3
,, Dec., 1929	80·8	78·4	60·4	77·3	84·5	76·3
Average, 1929	84·8	80·5	67·4	80·0	85·7	79·9

Since 1924, it will be observed, by far the largest decline has been registered by the textile group, with a fall of 32.6 per cent. Judged by comparison with the movement of prices during the 50 years which preceded the war, the decline of over 20 per cent. in the average price level, disclosed by the foregoing table as having taken place during the past five years, must be regarded as a development of major significance. From the point of view of producers, signs of greater stability in the long-period trend of prices would be welcome.

THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE place that the fur trade held in the early history of what is now the Dominion of Canada is a familiar commonplace to all students of history. It was the great economic buttress of the French colony which first planted civilisation in the northern half of North America; indeed, it was fur that first took the French to Canada in hopes of supplying the urgent demands of the *habitués* of the French court. Basque and Breton fishermen, who had gone on fishing expeditions to the coasts of North America, began trading in furs, and eventually, in 1599, certain French adventurers established the post of Tadoussac as a base of operations for trading with the Indians of the Saguenay region. Later the fur traders penetrated further inland, and Quebec and Montreal were founded as trading posts.

Originally the French Government conferred monopolies of the fur trade upon a special company with the condition attached that it should bring to Canada a certain number of settlers, but agricultural settlement and the fur trade have never been good bedfellows, and, as the shores of the St. Lawrence became settled, the French fur traders ventured further afield into the interior. It was about 1632 that English adventurers began to take an interest in Canada, and thirty years later the first English fur trading ships arrived in the Hudson Bay at the instigation of two French *coureurs de bois*, Radisson and Groseilliers, who had quarrelled with the authorities of New France. The charter of the "Adventurers of England trading into Hudson Bay," now familiarly known as the Hudson Bay Company, was obtained in 1670. After the Seven Years War the fur trade definitely passed out of the hands of the French, and the Hudson Bay Company became the dominating factor in it. But it was faced with formidable competition from one great rival, the Northwest Company, and from various independent traders, and the history of the Canadian Northwest is full of the feuds and bickerings which were a concomitant of the fur trade. Eventually, in 1821, the Hudson Bay Company absorbed the Northwest Company and secured legal recognition of a monopoly of the fur trade. Its rights of exclusive fur trading, however, expired in 1859, and since that time competition has prevailed.

In recent years the fur trade has experienced great changes. For one thing, the railway has pushed settlement into the Northern hinterland and made communications with the fur-bearing areas infinitely more simple. Now the railway has been reinforced by the aeroplane, and the radio has helped to mitigate the loneliness of many trappers' lives. On the other hand, the projection of agricultural settlements and of lumbering and mining operations into the wilderness has driven fur-bearing animals farther and farther afield, and the decline in the numbers of some of the most important kinds of fur-bearers in districts where they were once common has caused the institution of close seasons. A system of auction sales has been established, and rising prices have led to new methods of treatment and to the utilisation of furs once rejected. The beaver, which once held premier place in the fur trade, is still important, but muskrat and silver fox have now outstripped it with higher annual values.

But one of the most noteworthy changes has been the development of a domesticated fur industry; for this purpose the silver fox, which is mostly black, has proved the most suitable, but other kinds of fur-bearers—mink, racoon, skunk, marten, fisher, muskrat and beaver—are now being raised with increasing success. The successful breeding of the fox on fur farms was first started in the time of rising prices about 1890, when the introduction of woven wire fencing facilitated its development. Its chief scene was the little province of Prince Edward Island, and before the war it began to enjoy there a remarkable boom which brought fortunes to a number of fur farmers. Prince Edward Island is still the main seat of the fox industry, but to-day there are fox farms in every province of Ontario. There have also been established in the prairie provinces karakul sheep farms, from which astrakhan and broadtail are secured, and the muskrat industry, which requires swampy territory, has been growing steadily. Some of these muskrat farms carry enormous stocks, and the Russian Government has recently placed an order with one of them for no less than 10,000 live muskrats, which are to be shipped in January. Experiments in the breeding of rabbits for their fur have resulted in the evolution of some valuable types, of which the best is a rabbit whose fur is closely akin to that of the Bolivian chinchilla which, under the name of "the Chinchilla rabbit," has attained importance in the fur trade.

The latest figures for raw fur production of Canada are for the season 1927-28, when it had a total estimated value of $18,758,177, as compared with $18,864,126 and $15,072,244 in the two preceding years. These totals represent the value both of ranch-bred animals and of animals taken by trappers, and the value of the former constituted roughly 11 per cent. of the total as compared with 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. in the two preceding seasons respectively. Comparison of the numbers of the seven principal kinds of furs in 1927-28 with 1919-20, the first season for which accurate returns were available, shows that in the nine-year period, whereas muskrat and beaver pelts declined in number by 17 per cent. and 65 per cent. respectively, silver fox pelts increased by 532 per cent., white fox pelts by 89 per cent., and red fox pelts by 77 per cent. The highest priced fur in 1927-28 was silver fox, with an average of $101 per pelt; cross or patch fox was second with $70; fisher third with $57; white fox fourth with $45, and lynx fifth with $41.

A century ago furs formed easily the most important item in Canada's export trade, and, although they are now far surpassed by other commodities, they are still of considerable importance. In 1667 Canada's exports of furs to France and the West Indies were valued at 550,000 francs, and in some years before the French regime terminated they attained a value of more than a million francs per annum. Records during the early years of British rule are somewhat unsatisfactory, but in 1850, the first year for which the trade tables of the Canadian Customs Department are available, the value of raw furs exported was placed at $93,872. Thereafter there has been a steady record of gain, subject to occasional setbacks through unfavourable trapping seasons, and in the twelve months ending June 30, 1928, their value was placed at $23,598,259.

During the war the London fur market lost its position of dominance to the United States, and in the year 1919, out of $13,300,000 worth of furs, only $3,700,000 went to England. The United States still takes the largest share of Canada's fur exports, but Britain has gone a long way to regain her old position as an outlet for Canada's fur exports and in 1927-28 took $10,000,000 worth as compared with $13,000,000 worth sent to the United States. After the war Montreal began to develop an international fur market, and a system of auction sales has been established. Fur auction sales are now also held in Winnipeg and Edmonton, but they are of lesser consequence. In connection with the fur trade, there has also developed in Canada an important industry in the dressing and drying of furs, and in 1928 eleven plants were devoted to it. They treated altogether 6,844,309 skins, which was 50 per cent. more than the number treated in 1925, and the prospects are that shipments of raw furs will henceforth steadily decline because a growing proportion of them will be treated at home.

The importance of the fur industry as an economic factor is fully recognised by the Government, and it has received special attention in Government policy through the organisation in 1916 of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, whose purpose is the co-ordination of the various departments and branches of the Federal Government in matters relating to the conservation of the wild life resources of the Dominion. The Board investigates and studies all problems relating to the protection and better utilisation of fur-bearing animals as well as big game and bird life, and it has authority to impose regulations governing the capture of fur-bearers. Every two years the Department of the Interior holds a conference of the Provincial and Federal game protection officials, and every effort is made to conserve the wild life resources of the Dominion.

Notes of the Week.

The Honours List.—The lop-sided appearance presented by the House of Lords under a Labour Government gave a not unnatural currency to rumours that Mr MacDonald would avail himself of the opportunity presented by the New Year to strengthen his position in the Upper House. These prophecies have not been fulfilled, and the Prime Minister has shown marked restraint in elevating to the ranks of the peerage only two of his supporters, Major Leigh Aman and Mr Arthur Ponsonby. He has, however, honoured also a distinguished worker for the cause he has most at heart; Sir Willoughby Dickinson receives a peerage "for public services and for services in the cause of peace." Shipping and the oil industry gain two new peers in the persons of Sir Wm. Noble and Sir Charles Wakefield. The barony conferred upon the retiring Chief of the Air Staff will be generally approved, to judge by the reception accorded a few years ago to Sir Hugh Trenchard as a guest of honour at the Oxford Encaenia. Sir William Middlebrook, who receives a baronetcy, is an active local administrator, and was a popular Lord Mayor of Leeds. The ex-Vice-Chancellor of London University also becomes a baronet and educational services are further recognised by the conferring of knighthoods upon two professors, of music and education respectively, and upon the Secretary of the Welsh department of the Board of Education. The arts are further honoured in the persons of a past Master of the Art Workers' Guild and trustee of the Wallace Collection, and of the Chairman of the Governors of the Shakespeare National Memorial Theatre. The various public and social services receive similar recognition, and the rounding off of a discreet but adequately representative list, which includes a K.C.M.G. for Mr Leith-Ross for services in connection with Reparations, is completed by the bestowal of a knighthood upon the Secretary of the Football Association.

Mr Snowden and Mr Churchill.—Christmas Eve in the House of Commons was enlivened by a vivid exchange of personalities between Mr Snowden and Mr Churchill. This pre-Budget skirmish, crowded as it was with acrid chastisement and seasonable bouquets, elicited two important statements on financial policy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer elaborated his earlier announcement with regard to protective and semi-protective duties. He denied that he had foreshadowed the abolition in the next Budget of the McKenna, the silk and the sugar duties; what he had said was that these duties would be removed as soon as was practicable, whenever that might prove to be, and that the safeguarding duties would be allowed to lapse as soon as their term under the Act expired. Any uncertainty was involved not by his policy but by that of his predecessors in imposing the duties; tariff disturbances could, indeed, only be avoided by abolishing tariffs. In short, what Mr Snowden's pronouncements demand of the trades directly concerned is that while still protected they should organise themselves as if they had shortly to stand upon their own feet. But the debate was chiefly notable for an astonishing passage in Mr Churchill's speech, in which he denounced the Chancellor for not taking the opportunity presented at the Hague by his acceptance of less than our claim under the Balfour Note to withdraw from the self-denying obligations of the Note. This is an amazing statement, especially when it is remembered that in the last Parliament Mr Snowden himself declared that if the Balfour Note were challenged in any future settlement (it was thought at the time that he was thinking of a possible failure of the French Chamber to ratify the Caillaux-Churchill debt agreement) he would not hesitate to escape from the onerous aspect of the Note, and that on that occasion Mr Churchill was the most thunderous in his denunciation of a pronouncement which undermined British financial credit and sapped confidence in our international good faith. The effect of the Young Plan and Mr Snowden's stand at the Hague was not to render any less obnoxious a repudiation of an international declaration so long accepted, but to bring explicitly within the scope of the Balfour Note the arrears of our war debt payments. If Russia were to pay a dividend on her war debt, or if the United States were to ameliorate the terms of our debt settlement, it would not in honesty be open to a British statesman to refuse to apply our standing policy of accepting only debt cover from war debt and Reparations combined; it would be open to him to withhold remissions to our creditors until the full amount of the arrears had been covered.

The Hague Conference.—The British delegation has left for the Hague to attend the resumed Reparations Conference. Once again it will be headed by Mr Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr William Graham, President of the Board of Trade. The Chancellor will be assisted by his Parliamentary Private Secretary, Mr J. H. Hudson, M.P., while his technical experts will be headed by Mr F. W. Leith-Ross, of the Treasury, who received a knighthood in the New Year Honours List. The French delegation will be an extremely strong one; four Ministers, M. Tardieu, M. Briand, M. Chéron and M. Loucheur, will be accompanied by the Governor (M. Moreau) and MM. Moret and Quesnay, of the Bank of France, as well as by a host of official experts. The Italian delegation will be headed by Signor Mosconi, Signor Pirelli, and Signor Suvich. The omission of Dr. Schacht from the German delegation is very significant; after his recent protest against the reparation "concessions" allowed by the Reich Government he could scarcely accept a position which might imply in the public mind his endorsement of the decisions to be reached at the resumed Hague Conference. Without him, the delegation is weaker in bargaining power, but stronger in homogeneity and popular responsibility. Dr. Schacht will be prepared to assist with his advice on matters affecting the Bank for International Settlements, in which institution he expects to co-operate. The German delegation will be headed by Herr Curtius, who succeeded Dr. Stresemann at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by Herr Moldenhauer, the Finance Minister, Herr Schmidt, Minister for Economic Affairs, Herr Wirth, Minister for the Occupied Territory, Dr. Bocke, a director of the Reichsbank, Dr. Melchior, Herr von Schubert, and other experts. One of the most controversial tasks of the Conference will be the non-German Reparations settlement. The main outstanding difficulty in the latter is the refusal of Hungary to accept the connection of Reparations with other claims arising out of the Peace Treaties, involving an extension of her reparation schedule for the benefit of the "optants." Bulgaria is reported to have acquiesced in the 12,500,000 gold franc schedule, and the objections raised by Roumania to her participation in the pool of debits and credits are not expected to prove insurmountable before the Conference opens. Naturally every party involved in the settlement is anxious to press for better terms until the last possible moment. Meanwhile the Governments of the Reich and of the United States have concluded a separate agreement for the payment of Reparations, but no announcement has been made regarding the crucial question of priority. The refusal of the United States to participate in an inclusive reparation settlement is part of a general policy which has also involved her failure to share officially in the constitution of the International Bank. In view of this attitude, the criticism of M. Georges Bonnet in the French Chamber, which gave the Government a vote of confidence in its policy towards the Bank, after being warned by M. Bonnet that the Bank would be used by the United States as a medium of financial domination, seems quite out of relation to the facts.

French Naval Aims.—The French memorandum on the coming naval conference created short-lived but very genuine consternation in certain quarters in the United States, the *New York World* going so far as to declare that the publication of the document made the convocation of the conference useless. That was a quite unwarrantable conclusion, but it is obvious enough that the views of the United States and France, respectively, represent the two poles of opinion among the nations attending the conference. The American Government is prepared to give no undertakings apart from the agreement to limit its fleet to a certain figure provided other nations take like action. France, taking her stand on the League of Nations Covenant, insists that if armaments are to be reduced, peace must be definitely organised on the basis of perfectly watertight agreements. France is emphatic on the interdependence of land, sea and air armaments and on the provisional character of the London Conference agreements pending their confirmation as part of a larger scheme approved by the ultimate Disarmament Conference at Geneva. The United States, while quite willing to work through the League of Nations so long as that produces no inconveniences, regards the London Conference as essentially an end in itself, and is bent on concluding there a definite three-power agreement, even if the hoped-for five-power agreement proves unattainable. France regards the Freedom of the Seas as a vital factor in the conversations. The United States would rule it out altogether for the present. These divergences of view, and many others that could be instanced, throw a considerable responsibility on the British delegates, on whom it will naturally devolve to reconcile Washington and Paris so far as they can be reconciled. The task should be by no means impossible, given the requisite minimum of genuine goodwill on either side. It must not be forgotten that the French proposal of April, 1927, for a combination of the principle of limitation by global tonnage with the principle of limitation by categories has been officially welcomed by American spokesmen as providing an acceptable basis for the solution of that difficult problem. And if agreement can be reached on this point it can be reached on any other. It would be a profound mistake either to dismiss the French memorandum lightly or to subject it to unduly hostile criticism. It is an extremely able document, and most of its contentions—apart from the demands it foreshadows of a quite excessive tonnage for France—are logically unassailable. But logic, as Sir Austen Chamberlain has so incessantly pointed out, and as it may be necessary to convince the French in this case, is not the determining factor in international conversations. If all parties at the London Conference rate the attainment of a working agreement higher than the obdurate vindication of their own pretensions, then a working agreement will in due course be obtained. And in one respect the French may be found to have done some real service. It is very doubtful wisdom for Europe, and to a less extent the rest of the world, to organise itself in a body like the League of Nations and then be ready to push all obligations in that field into a secondary place when it is a question of bringing the United States into some general negotiations. Such an attitude wins no respect in America itself, and the necessary adjustments can quite well be made by methods perfectly compatible with that resolute defence of the League system on which France lays such persistent stress. But an essential corollary is that France on her side should recognise the demands which the League system makes in the direction of a genuine reduction of armaments.

The "Unequal Treaties."—The action of the Nanking Government in declaring the abolition of extra-territorial privileges in China as from the beginning of this month needs prudent and diplomatic handling, and there is fortunately evidence that the British Government at any rate is approaching the question in that spirit. The purport of the treaties at present in force is not open to question. They state explicitly that "in mixed cases in China [i.e., cases between a Chinese and a foreigner] the case is tried by the official of the defendant's nationality," and, further, that "the law administered will be the law of the officer trying the case." Quite apart from questions of prestige, which count for more in China than in most regions of the world, it is obviously a serious matter to have a dozen or more legal codes applicable in particular cases all over China, and the fact that a foreign defendant in inland districts may have to be tried by an official of his own nationality who may be hundreds or even thousands of miles distant, means grave practical disabilities. But treaties cannot be denounced by unilateral action, and this particular question has been too fully and constantly discussed—most notably since the Mackay treaties of 1902 declared Great Britain's willingness to abandon her extra-territorial rights when the Chinese legal and administrative system justified it—for arbitrary denunciation by China to be tolerated. The United States, which is always studiously sympathetic towards Chinese aspirations, has declared itself as firmly on that point as anyone. Fortunately, the British Foreign Office appears to have found a formula that will ease the situation considerably. The Nanking administration is, after all, a revolutionary Government, which has somehow to justify itself to its supporters. It cannot remain simply otiose in regard to a matter which touches the susceptibilities of China as closely as extra-territoriality. On the other hand, Nanking's control over China as a whole is so precarious, and progress towards the evolution and application of a modern criminal code, to say nothing of the development of measures for its application, has been so slow—if, indeed, there has been progress at all—that the moment can hardly be said to have arrived for subjecting foreigners throughout China without reserve to the doubtful chances of Chinese justice. Under those conditions the British Government has suggested that "January 1, 1930, should be treated as the date from which the process of the gradual abolition of extra-territoriality should be regarded as having commenced in principle." The precise meaning of that declaration should perhaps not be pursued too closely, but that is not to say that it means nothing. It is a new pledge that the abolition of extra-territoriality is being taken seriously by Great Britain, that the principle is conceded decisively and finally, and that all that remains is to work out the modalities. This is a suggestion quite reconcilable with statements of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr C. T. Wang, on the position, and it has been received with appreciation by the Chinese Minister in London, to whom it was made. It may provide a happy issue from a delicate situation. If not, it might well be China's wisest course to carry the whole question to Geneva.

Changes in Spain.—Although details of the Spanish political programme for the coming six months, which has emerged from the conversations of the past week between the King and the Prime Minister, are not yet before us, it is undoubtedly most disappointing to those who saw in the omens an indication that General Primo de Rivera had seriously reconsidered his recent declaration that the return to a normal *régime* was becoming too rapid. On the other hand, the fact that King Alfonso has established contact with some of the party leaders who have been abstaining perforce from any political activity for the past six years is of unmistakable significance. General Primo de Rivera is probably anxious to drop his dictatorial powers if a practicable way can be found of doing it. The past year has not been of good omen for him, and the criticisms evoked by his draft of a new constitution, coupled with the universal refusal of practically every individual or organisation that counted to take part in the discussion of the constitution in the Consultative Assembly, are clear indications that where public opinion can express itself it is definitely adverse to the dictatorship. But the transition to some different *régime* does not become easier as time goes on, and King Alfonso has to reckon particularly with signs of the steady growth of the republican movement. Talk of abdication need not be taken seriously, but it is of some significance that the talk exists. While the success of the recent internal loan told to some extent in the present administration's favour, the continued depreciation of the peseta tells much more against it. The present indications denote considerable instability, with the future outlook distinctly unsettled.

Bankers' Clearing in 1929.—The return of the Bankers' Clearing House for last year showed that town clearings amounted to £39,936 million, as against £39,311 million in 1928, metropolitan clearings to £1,882 million, as against £1,854 million, and country clearings to £3,079 million, as against £3,039 million. The grand total came to £44,897 million, as against £44,205 million, and constituted a record for any single year. The increase in town clearings is somewhat surprising in view of the recession on the Stock Exchange and the recent dearth of new issues, and the report admits that clearings on Stock Exchange settling days were only £4,439 million, as against £4,427 million in 1928, and that clearings in respect of new issues were in 1929 only £285 million, or £84 million less than in 1928. The expansion in aggregate town clearings is ascribed mainly to the increasing daily turnover of money in the short loan market. Country clearings, which are rightly accepted as a better index to the course of trade, have risen since 1928 by £39.3 million, which is equivalent to 1.2 per cent. As the general price-level averaged 5.8 per cent. less in 1929 than in the preceding year, this increase in country clearings suggests an expansion in the volume of trade of 7.5 per cent. Unfortunately this optimistic view is not borne out by the provincial clearing figures. Only three of the eleven centres, namely, Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield, recorded increases, and such important cities as Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Nottingham were numbered among the declines. The shrinkage in the case of Bradford was as much as 13.3 per cent., which is a significant commentary on the state of the wool textile industry. The new record achieved by the aggregate London figures is in no respect adequate compensation for the shortcomings of provincial clearings.

The Floating Debt.—The nine months' revenue return, whose general significance we discuss in a leading article, shows that since March 31st there has been a net increase of £120.3 million in the floating debt. As compared with the position a year ago, the net increase amounts to £41.3 million, a decline of £7.7 million in the total of Treasury Bills outstanding being outweighed by an increase of £49 million in Ways and Means advances, which include £24.2 million borrowed from the Bank of England during the last ten days of the calendar year. Receipts from Treasury Bills issued during the nine months totalled £2,382 million, against £2,021 million in the corresponding period of 1928, and repayments amounted to £2,302 million, as compared with £1,760 million. Repayment of the principal of Treasury Bonds called for £29.4 million, against which £26.3 million was received from 4½ per cent. (1932-34) Bonds, and £56.6 million from the 5 per cent. Conversion Loan. Sales of National Savings Certificates to the public realised £29,150,000, an increase of £50,000, but encashments at £33,800,000 were nearly £3 million heavier than in the last financial year at this date. The natural increase in the number of certificates becoming 10-year maturities is apparently leading, as might be expected, to more frequent transfers of money from this to other forms of investment.

Coal Mining Costs and Proceeds.—The statistical summary, issued this week by the Mines Department, of output, costs of production and proceeds in the coal mining industry for the quarter ended September 30, 1929, shows a slight improvement in the position, as compared with the previous quarter. Output was over a million tons higher, whereas the average number of persons employed fell by 2,670. Production per manshift was barely maintained; average earnings per shift (9s. 2½d.) and wage costs per ton (9s. 3¼d.) were approximately the same; but, as a result of a slight reduction in "other costs," net costs of production (after deducting the proceeds of miners' coal) were 1½d. per ton lower at 13s. 9d., while proceeds rose from 13s. 7.07d. to 13s. 8.77d. per ton, the debit balance falling from £786,082 to £51,308. The course of output, costs and proceeds per ton since the beginning of 1928 is summarised quarterly in the following table:—

Period.	Tonnage Disposable (Mlns.).	Costs per ton. Wages.	Costs per ton. Total, Net.	Proceeds per Ton.	Profit per Ton.	Loss per Ton.	Output per Manshift.
1928.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Cwts.
1st quarter	56·8	9 8	14 2¾	13 5	...	0 9¼	21·24
2nd quarter	50·7	9 7	14 6	13 1	...	1 5	20·98
3rd quarter	49·5	9 6	14 4	13 0	...	1 4	21·13
4th quarter	54·5	9 2	13 9	13 6	...	0 3	21·80
1929.							
1st quarter	59·1	9 0	13 3	14 0	0 9	...	22·13
2nd quarter	55·1	9 3½	13 10½	13 7	...	0 3½	21·45
3rd quarter	56·2	9 3½	13 9	13 8¼	...	0 0¾	21·40

Northumberland and Durham realised credit balances of 6d. and 4d. per ton respectively during the September quarter, and the three Yorkshire-Midlands areas also showed a narrow margin of profit, but Scotland and South Wales each recorded a loss of, roughly, 2½d. per ton, while in the Lancashire, Cheshire and North Staffs. district the debit balance was as large as 1s. 2d. per ton. When comparison is made with the corresponding quarter of 1928, when losses ranging from 8½d. to 2s. 7½d. were made by the districts without exception, it is noteworthy that, whereas "other costs" generally have been reduced by a few pence per ton, the improved results have been due in the main to an advance in prices realised for sales. It would appear likely that seasonal expansion of output in the final quarter of 1929 will enable the industry's aggregate working to show a substantial credit balance, and, since the "average" figures in the Mines Department's summaries include the adverse results of many uneconomic producers, it is evident that a large proportion of the pits are now, temporarily at least, in a reasonably solvent condition.

Wholesale Co-operation.—The closing months of 1929, writes a correspondent, showed a substantial improvement in the turnover of the Co-operative Wholesale Society as compared with the corresponding period of 1928. There has been an increase of £323,105 in the Society's export trade in the thirteen weeks ended October 12th, the total being £420,028. Evidently the movement is spreading in South America; recently a society at Buenos Ayres was admitted to membership, and another at Rosario is applying for admission at the January meetings. The total sales of the C.W.S. for the past quarter were £21,772,195, an increase of £918,937, or 4⅝ per cent. From the Society's productive enterprises the supplies totalled £7,171,003, an increase of over £300,000, or 4½ per cent. In the C.W.S. Bank, where the trade union current accounts now number 8,682 and the deposit accounts 905, there was an increase of £7,802,835, or 4¾ per cent., in the deposits and withdrawals, which aggregated £171,189,735. The banking business is evidently growing as rapidly as the trading section, and there are now over 10,000 individual current

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Every description of Banking Business transacted.

accounts open. While the grocery section is responsible for a large portion of the turnover—£8,709,387 in the Manchester area, £5,724,730 in London and the South, and £1,828,315 in the Newcastle-on-Tyne district—there has also been an improvement in the drapery and tailoring departments. The supplies of tea reached 14,667,586 lbs., thus continuing the progressive development in the consumption since the removal of the tax in the Budget. In the milling of flour the eight C.W.S. mills reached a total of £2,467,895, an increase of nearly 3 per cent., the output being 986,833 sacks of flour and 734,097 of offals, etc. During the thirteen weeks 875,634 pairs of boots and shoes were sent out from the eight works, this being an increase of 150,086 pairs over the corresponding period of 1928. The C.W.S. has disposed of some property at Yarmouth following the removal of its canning factory to Lowestoft. Purchases of land have been made near Spitalfields Market for the purposes of the green fruit department and at Bristol for the establishment of a packing factory.

Cotton Trade Finance in 1929.—Mr Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has published his annual report on finance in the cotton trade. According to his records, 123 cotton companies went into liquidation during 1929, but 51 cases were formal for purposes of reconstruction or amalgamation. The firms comprise 40 spinners, 38 manufacturers, eight spinners and manufacturers, four finishers, etc., and 33 merchants and agents. Bankruptcies and deeds of arrangement numbered 54, with unsecured liabilities of £1,164,921, and net assets £361,529. These cases comprise one spinner, nine manufacturers, three finishers, etc., and 41 merchants and agents. Receivers were appointed in 34 cases, involving 10 spinners, 11 manufacturers, four spinners and manufacturers, one finisher, and eight merchants and agents. During the year 98 companies arranged mortgages, debentures and general charges amounting to £6,700,897, the cases including 18 spinners, 20 manufacturers, eight spinners and manufacturers, 14 finishers, etc., and 38 merchants and agents. During the twelve months 41 cotton companies, comprising 39 spinners, one manufacturer and one spinner and manufacturer, made calls on the shareholders for unpaid share capital, the total amount called up being £1,492,707. Registration of cotton companies amounted to 187, with a nominal capital of £5,869,290. These firms included 13 spinners, 26 manufacturers, three spinners and manufacturers, 18 finishers, etc., and 127 merchants and agents.

State Aid for Port Development.—Last July, when Mr J. H. Thomas was exploring various avenues whereby employment might be stimulated by the acceleration of constructional works, he suggested to the Shipowners' Parliamentary Committee that shipowners should re-examine their needs in the various ports of this country and make recommendations to the responsible authorities. As a result the Port Facilities Committee of the Chamber of Shipping, a committee whose membership includes representatives of the F.B.I. and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, resumed the investigations which they set on foot in 1923-24, and surveyed both the progress made since that date and the possibility of carrying out further improvements. The Committee's report, issued recently, states that gratifying progress has been made by almost all the large ports. Government assistance (by way of loan, rather than subsidy) is recommended for projected schemes of extension and development at Glasgow, Leith, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Hull and Swansea; but at London (save in the matter of road approaches), Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow the needs of overseas shipping have been "largely, and in some cases entirely, met by substantial improvements." The testimony which the Committee pays to the "progressive policy" of Port Authorities is encouraging, though port users, whether shippers or shipowners, are entitled to call attention to the fact that British ports still rank among the most expensive in the world, and it would be unfortunate if the impression were created that little more remained to be done towards cheapening port costs and accelerating loading and discharging speed in the case of overseas vessels. It is with the smaller ports, however, and the particular needs of coastwise shipping that the Committee on this occasion is most concerned, and the proposal is made in the Report that as a necessary corollary to the efforts of the Royal Commission on Transport to co-ordinate to the greatest public advantage all methods of communication, the coastwise shipment of goods should be encouraged by developing and bringing up to date a number of the small ports whose geographical position as distributive centres is advantageous, but which have been allowed to fall into decay. The "natural traffic" of these ports, according to the Committee, has been diverted to "artificial channels" by reason of railway competition and discriminatory port-to-port rail rates; through obsolete equipment the advantages of numerous small ports are being lost; but relatively small expenditure on better facilities would enable much of the lost coastwise trade to be recovered. The suggestion merits careful consideration, though we should not be disposed to welcome a policy whereby traffic was to be "recaptured" from the railways (at the possible cost of loss of speed in transit) through artificial encouragement of coastwise shipping. At the same time, though the development of the small ports is a complex and debatable issue, the Committee's plea, that State assistance in port improvements as a whole is a sound method of providing employment, will be generally endorsed.

Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Limited.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Limited, which was formed early this year for the purpose of amalgamating cotton mills, has now been in existence about nine months. During this period the directors and officials have examined about 200 concerns. To 135 of these companies offers of absorption have been made. Twenty-five companies have been refused as being units impossible to be turned into efficient plants. Negotiations regarding the remaining companies are still proceeding. Of the 135 companies for which firm offers have been made, 20 did not proceed further. Seventy-one companies, controlling 6,750,000 spindles and 20,000 looms, have definitely agreed to join the Corporation, and the necessary schemes of arrangements and agreements are being prepared. Forty-five companies are negotiating upon the offers made to them, and it is expected that in the next month or two half of these will agree to go forward. It is probable, therefore, that in a comparatively short time the Corporation will have absorbed mills containing 10,000,000 spindles. For the purchase of raw cotton an office has been opened in the Cotton Exchange, Liverpool, and a similar office has been organised in Manchester. The Corporation has applied for membership of the Liverpool Cotton Association and it is expected that the election will take place almost immediately. It is intended that all buying and selling shall be done centrally and officials have been appointed as yarn sales manager and cloth sales manager. Early in the New Year the capital of the Corporation will be increased to about £2,000,000, and at the same time an issue of income debentures of about £1,500,000 will be made to satisfy the purchase consideration of mills. An investigation of the trading position shows that the economies which were expected to arise from the Corporation's activities were very moderate and in several directions already arrangements have been made which will give much greater savings than were estimated.

Wool Clip in Argentina.—There are many features about wool growing and marketing in the Argentine, writes our Bradford correspondent, which distinguish it from the same enterprise in Australia and New Zealand. The Australasian wool season runs between July 1 of one year and June 30 of the next, whereas the Argentine season finishes on September 30th, all the "annual" statistics of wool exports being compiled in accordance with this seasonal requirement. During the past ten years shipments of wool from the Argentine have fluctuated considerably, but the total for 1928-29 was 37,000 bales more than in 1919-20. In the latter period the quantity exported was 305,524 bales, this being approximately equivalent to 302,468,760 lb. The following shows Argentine shipments during the past ten years:—

(In Bales.)

1919–20	...	305,524	1924–25	...	257,795
1920–21	...	313,714	1925–26	...	344,385
1921–22	...	476,217	1926–27	...	351,603
1922–23	...	365,683	1927–28	...	322,769
1923–24	...	294,866	1928–29	...	342,769

Argentine wool is mostly crossbred, the chief selling centre being Buenos Aires, to which clips are brought from the country. For many years Bradford users have been interested in B.A. crossbreds, and have always had keen competitors in the Continent and the United States, the former being the largest buyers. Last season Germany and the United States dominated the scene, but the financial crisis in those two countries has had disastrous consequences, and this time buyers on Bradford account have been able to operate at reasonable prices. The part played by this and other countries in purchasing Argentine wool during recent years is shown below:—

	1924–25. Bales.	1925–26. Bales.	1926–27. Bales.	1927–28. Bales.	1928–29. Bales.
United Kingdom	45,489	69,632	79,182	63,808	62,554
Continent	166,719	227,247	234,585	226,206	231,978
United States ...	41,090	40,627	30,261	23,083	39,740
Various	4,497	6,879	7,575	9,640	8,497
Total exports ...	257,795	344,385	351,603	322,737	342,769

That the United Kingdom has been an increasingly important buyer is shown in the fact that during the five years mentioned above the average annual purchases totalled 64,133 bales, compared with an annual average from 1909-10 to 1913-14 of 50,065 bales. The reason for this increase in United Kingdom purchases, which have all come to Bradford, is the improvement in the character of the wool and its preparation for market, this having overcome the prejudice of our users. Even yet there is not the reliability in the offering of clips bought in the country districts that is desirable, buyers having to exercise very great discretion, but in this respect there has been a great improvement, and the introduction of new blood from this country and New Zealand has been particularly beneficial.

Canadian Newsprint.—There have been frequent conferences in Montreal and New York on the subject of the price of newsprint for 1930, and Premier Taschereau, of Quebec, and Premier Ferguson, of Ontario, have taken an active interest in them. Canadian newsprint manufacturers are loud in their insistence that the present price of newsprint, ranging about $55 per ton, is inadequate to yield them reasonable profits, and some of them have announced that their price after July 1, 1930, will be $60 per ton. A further complaint is that, while the mills of the International Power and Paper Company have been operating at about 7 per cent. above their normal capacity, numerous Canadian mills have only been operating at between 70 and 80 per cent. of their capacity. Premiers Ferguson and Taschereau, on the ground that it is their duty to look after the interests, not only of the substantial population who are dependent for their living upon the pulp and paper industry, but also of Canadian investors in pulp and paper companies, have been vigorously backing the demand of the newsprint manufacturers for a higher price. They have suggested that $60 per ton would be an equitable price, and Premier Ferguson has also demanded that there should be enforced a rationing of the available business, whereby part of the business now enjoyed by the International Pulp and Paper Company could be allocated to Canadian mills to enable them to operate nearer capacity. But the Canadian daily newspapers, through their association, have joined the American newspapers in protesting against what they regard as an attempt at political interference with the normal play of supply and demand, and have announced their intention of resisting the alliance of the two Premiers and the dissatisfied newsprint manufacturers. They threaten, if the newsprint people persist in their attitude, to curtail the size of their papers and thereby lessen the demand; and, if a business slump were to materialise in the new year, such a policy would become feasible and might even come to pass in the natural course of things. The newsprint manufacturers in Canada are also somewhat handicapped in their stand by the attitude of the International Paper Company, which is playing a lone hand, and apparently there is no means of getting rid of its contracts with the Hearst Company, which are fixed at under $55 for a term of years. Another disturbing factor is the coming into production of the newsprint mill which the Mersey Pulp and Paper Company have erected at a cost of 14 million dollars at Brooklyn in Queen's County in Nova Scotia. The mill was formally opened on December 14, and as it is situated right on tidewater, it has to face lower transportation charges to the American market than any of its competitors. Consequently, it is in a position to undersell them, and the other newsprint firms claim that it is already doing so.

Industrial Developments in Italy.—A correspondent writes:—The debate on the Corporative Council in the Chamber of Deputies has ended with a vote favourable to the Bill, as summarised in the *Economist* of December 7th. The interesting point which emerged from the debate was the difference between the points of view of the representatives of the employers and the employees in the Corporative Chamber. Employees, such as Signor Razza, saw in the Bill a prelude to more and more direct intervention of the Corporative State in the control and organisation of industry. Employers, on the other hand, emphasised the principle of the Labour Charter that private initiative is the foundation of industry, and drew attention to the risk inherent in excessive State intervention. Signor Bottai endeavoured to keep a middle course, insisting on the experimental character of the Fascist legislation. The present economic situation is indeed not favourable to new experiments. The repercussions of the American slump are serious, and conditions in the South American, Levant, China, and Indian markets are not promising. The number of unemployed at the end of October is 297,382, not a big figure, but higher than that at the end of October, 1928, which was 282,379. It appears that rumours of discontent in the working masses are circulating, although newspapers in their Christmas edition reported that a meeting had been held in Milan between prominent employers and representatives of employees' syndicates at which all convened were happy to state that no disorder at all had taken place in the Milanese factories, that disputes were amicably arranged, and that the industrial situation was normal on the basis of the stabilised lira at the level of 19 lire to 1 dollar. It is evident, however, that the reorganisation process in Italian industry is not at an end. At the meeting of shareholders of the Flax and Hemp Corporation (Lanificio e Capanificio Nazionale, with a paid capital of 150 million lire), it was announced that for the first time, after 35 years, directors felt it their duty to advise the passing of the dividend. Keen internal competition, the partial loss of important markets, such as Argentina, the competition of foreign goods at a price lower than the cost prices, and the slump in the price of raw flax and hemp held in stock, were factors contributing to the unhappy result. In the motor car industry also there is some uncertainty. Motor cars exported in the first nine months of 1929 were 19,189, against 21,880 in the corresponding months of 1928. Prospects for the winter months are not good, owing also to the keen American competition. Introduction of short time on a vast scale was the inevitable outcome. Workers cannot, however, live on the wages of only four days' work, or less, weekly, and after consultation with the Prime Minister the president of the Fiat Company, Senator Agnelli, announced that workers will continue to receive, this winter, a minimum wage on the basis of 40 hours of work weekly. If

they work less, the hourly wage for hours not worked will be debited to the worker; and will be repaid afterwards when employment has improved, by means of a deduction, in the pay bill, of wages due for hours worked above 40 per week. The State has not made itself responsible for the future repaying of the sums paid and debited to the workers; but the solution arrived at appears to indicate that private industry is being transformed into a semi-public organisation.

Portuguese Banking. — The Banco Nacional Ultramarino has recently concluded a new contract with the Portuguese Government which has resulted in several important changes. Its privilege of Note Issue in the Portuguese Colonies has been renewed for a fixed period of thirty years, while the capital of the Bank has been raised from Esc. 50,000,000 to a maximum of Esc. 200,000,000. Of the maximum balance of Esc. 150,000,000, Esc. 85,000,000 are to be issued at once in shares of Esc. 90. The Portuguese Government are taking 200,000 of these shares at a premium of Esc. 80 per share, while the Portuguese Colonies are also to subscribe. The balance will be offered to the public. Hitherto, the Banco Nacional Ultramarino has combined the functions of an issuing and commercial bank, and in view of the present state of development of the colonies there is hardly room for separate banks performing each of these functions. It is now intended to emphasise a little more strongly the note issuing function of the Bank, and to bring it into closer relations with the Government. The new contract, therefore, provides that the State shall appoint two directors to the board of the Bank, and shall also confirm the nomination of the Governor and Vice-Governor of the Bank. Furthermore, it has been deemed hardly consistent with the underlying spirit of these changes that the Bank should itself directly own and operate offices in foreign centres. The London office of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino has, therefore, been transferred to a new company called the "Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank, Ltd.," while the Paris office has similarly been transferred to a new company called the "Banque Franco-Portugaise d'Outremer." Both these new companies are registered in their country of domicile, but they remain subsidiaries of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, whose Governor will be chairman of both the English and French banks. Including the chairman, the English bank is to have six directors resident abroad and on the board of the parent bank, but four English resident directors are to be appointed, and normally the supervision of the bank will rest in their hands. The reason for the change is clearly the undesirability of what is henceforward to be a bank of issue operating in foreign centres. At the same time the Banco Nacional Ultramarino could hardly have been expected to sacrifice its London and Paris business, and the creation of special British and French subsidiaries was the obvious solution to the problem.

Turkish Ministers' Default.—Our Stamboul correspondent writes:—A short time ago, through the intermediary of the Turkish dailies, the public learned to its surprise that Hassan Fehmi Bey, a former Minister of Finance in the Republican Government, stood charged with the misapplication of State funds amounting to about £10,000. This sum had been voted some four years ago by the Grand National Assembly for the restoration of the devastated area in the vicinity of Gumush-Hane, the ex-Minister's constituency, which district, situated on the old Caucasus front, had been the theatre of bitter fighting between Turk and Russian in the earlier stages of the great war. Following upon the investigations of the Government Auditing Department, it would appear that the bulk of this money was applied by the former Minister to the restoration of his personal property and that of his brothers situated within the radius of the devastated area. It was later announced that Ali Djenani Bey, a Deputy in the present Parliament and a former Minister of Commerce, had surreptitiously fled the country carrying with him about £7,000 representing the working capital put up by two or three of his friends in the Chamber with a view to securing Government building contracts. Djenani Bey, who, in addition to the foregoing is also debtor to the Treasury for some 200,000 Turkish liras, has been traced to Tripoli in Syria, and the Turkish Government have applied to the Franco-Syrian authorities for the extradition of the absconding Deputy. Turkish legislation governing matters of routine and procedure in the Grand National Assembly, as at present framed, however, would appear to preclude any possibility of bringing about the arrest and extradition of the fugitive, as members of the House are deemed to be on leave of absence for two consecutive months, during which they enjoy the benefit of parliamentary immunity from proceedings before the ordinary Law Courts of the country. In the course of the coming week, Ihsan Bey, a former Minister of Marine, is to be released after undergoing a term of two years' penal servitude for malversation and corruption in connection with a contract for repairs to the "Yavouz," the former German battle-cruiser "Goeben." Responsible Ministers are both shocked and incensed by the fact that these unsavoury particulars should have to see the light of day during the sojourn in Angora of M. Karakhan, the Soviet Under-Commissary for Foreign Affairs, who is the guest of the Republican Government whilst carrying on negotiations with his hosts for the elaboration of a new Russo-Turkish Trade Agreement.

New Life Assurance Business.—At this time last year the customary batch of new business announcements by the Life Assurance companies recorded a pleasing unanimity of expansion in amount. On this occasion it must be confessed that the returns so far are much more patchy. Although the complete official figures are not even yet available, it is estimated that the 1928 new business as a whole showed an increase over 1927 of approximately 11 per cent. It is already clear that the corresponding increase in 1929 will be substantially less. In addition to the continued trade depression in the major industries, Life Assurance last year had to combat the unfavourable effects of a severe Stock Exchange slump. This has probably been reflected in a scarcity of large policies, and possibly also of the single premium super-tax saving type of policy. Fifteen offices have so far published their totals of net new business for 1929 and they are as follows:—

Office.	1928.	1929.
Atlas	3,482,611	3,800,000
British Equitable	466,164	516,000
British General	405,616	482,131
Equitable	1,002,328	960,000
Equity and Law	1,807,749	1,708,219
Friends Provident	1,567,483	1,617,000
Law Union and Rock	1,977,388	2,150,000
Legal and General	7,646,900	7,881,150
London Life	2,502,925	2,927,608
National Mutual	906,089	859,635
Pearl	12,080,366	11,652,887
Phoenix	3,043,304	2,950,000
Prudential	17,401,001	17,600,000
Refuge	6,377,442	6,479,796
University Life	160,356	165,133
	60,827,722	61,749,559

This year there are no notable increases, the largest being that shown by the London Life with an increase of over £400,000. This non-commission mutual office publishes, in addition to the total figures, an analysis which shows that in 1929 the new business in every department contributed to the total growth. An interesting feature of the Atlas announcement, which does not reflect itself in the figures shown in the above table, is that capital redemption business was completed in 1929 for £3,400,000, compared with £220,000 in 1928. It is believed that this tremendous expansion has been due to the issue of a number of five-year term policies for single premiums for the purpose of super-tax saving. Of the fifteen offices whose figures are included in the above table, it will be observed that ten show increases and five decreases.

THE REVENUE.

I.—An Account of the Total Revenue of the United Kingdom, in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1930, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding Year.

	Quarter from October 1 to December 31, 1929, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.				Period from April 1 to December 31, 1929, compared with the corresponding Period of the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1929.	Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1928.	Increase.	Decrease.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1929.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1928.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary Revenue.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—								
Income Tax	17,881,000	20,182,000	...	2,301,000	75,340,000	75,413,000	...	73,000
Super-Tax	3,630,000	4,080,000	...	450,000	15,120,000	15,140,000	...	20,000
Estate, &c., Duties	16,910,000	18,610,000	...	1,700,000	58,700,000	60,360,000	...	1,660,000
Stamps	5,710,000	8,000,000	...	2,290,000	17,280,000	20,460,000	...	3,180,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax	...	180,000	...	180,000	10,000	580,000	...	570,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	30,000	10,000	20,000	...	190,000	170,000	20,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	44,161,000	51,062,000	20,000	6,921,000	166,640,000	172,123,000	20,000	5,503,000
Customs and Excise—								
Customs	29,716,000	31,454,000	...	1,738,000	90,787,000	90,404,000	383,000	...
Excise	37,122,000	38,935,000	...	1,813,000	98,400,000	103,735,000	...	5,335,000
Total Customs and Excise	66,838,000	70,389,000	...	3,551,000	189,187,000	194,139,000	383,000	5,335,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer share)	136,824	94,908	41,916	...	1,760,824	1,557,067	203,757	...
Post Office (Net receipt)	3,600,000	3,000,000	600,000	..	8,550,000	7,200,000	1,350,000	...
Crown Lands	400,000	350,000	50,000	...	1,010,000	920,000	90,000	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	5,840,027	5,915,843	...	75,816	23,454,093	20,292,273	3,161,820	...
Miscellaneous—								
Ordinary Receipts	5 331,822	7,097,537	...	1,765,715	8,349,745	11,678,176	...	3,329,431
Special Receipts	8,109,574	19,439,127	...	11,329,553	19,523,513	28,650,946	...	9,127,433
Total Ordinary Revenue	134,417,247	157,348,415	711,916	23,643,084	418,474,175	436,560,462	5,208,577	23,294,864
			£22,931,168 Net Decrease.				£18,086,287 Net Decrease.	
Self-Balancing Revenue.								
Post Office	14,800,000	13,700,000	1,100,000	...	42,350,000	41,000,000	1,350,000	...
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	2,130,176	2,149,092	...	18,916	8,247,176	8,062,933	184,243	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	16,930,176	15,849,092	1,100,000	18,916	50,597,176	49,062,933	1,534,243	...
Total	151,347,423	173,197,507	1,811,916	23,662,000	469,071,351	485,623,395	6,742,820	23,294,864
			£21,850,084 Net Decrease.				£16,552,044 Net Decrease.	

II.—An Account showing the Receipts into and Issues out of the Exchequer in the period ending December 31, 1929, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1929.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Ordinary Revenue, as shown in Account I.	418,474,175	436,560,462
Self-Balancing Revenue as shown in Account I.	50,597,176	49,062,933
Total Revenue	469,071,351	485,623,395
Temporary Advances Repaid—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	2,040,000	774,432
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—		
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	7,750,000	7,650,000
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	3,930,000	7,940,000
(c) For other Issues—		
By Treasury Bills	2,381,866,000	2,020,871,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	65,550,380	...
By National Savings Certificate	29,150,000	29,100,000
By National War Bonds	...	10
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	4,610,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	531,685,000	451,010,000
Repayments—		
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	113,859	114,641
	3,517,494,379	3,101,333,743
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	1929.	1928.
	£	£
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112
	6,252,524	6,322,625
	£3,523,746,903	£3,107,656,368

ISSUES.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1929.	Period ending Dec. 31, 1928.
Ordinary Expenditure.	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	272,383,229	270,461,437
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	7,472,294	8,131,214
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	3,401,426	3,033,967
Other Consolidated Fund Services	2,376,892	1,672,900
Total	285,633,841	283,299,518
Supply Services—		
Army, Navy and Air Votes	85,920,000	83,380,000
Civil and Revenue Votes (excluding Post Office)	180,354,628	167,511,502
Total, Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	266,274,628	250,891,502
Total Ordinary Expenditure	551,908,469	534,191,020
New Sinking Fund (1928)	36,363,292	40,148,582
Self-Balancing Expenditure.		
Post Office	42,350,000	41,000,000
Road Fund	8,247,176	8,062,933
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	50,597,176	49,062,933
Total	638,868,937	623,402,545
Temporary Advances—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	3,930,000	7,940,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,111,000	3,825,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	7,750,000	7,650,000
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928—		
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	2,040,000	774,432
Redemption of Debt—		
Treasury Bills paid off	2,301,940,000	1,759,880,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	33,800,000	30,950,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	82,763,476
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	29,409,505	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,006
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	45,506	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	491,365,000	584,520,000
Depreciation Fund—		
Under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—		
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000
	3,521,168,727	3,105,086,431
Balances in Exchequer—	Dec. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Bank of England	2,092,234	2,161,413
Bank of Ireland	485,942	408,524
	2,578,176	2,569,937
	£3,523,746,903	£3,107,656,368

Mem.—

	£	Dec. 31, 1929. £	Dec. 31, 1928. £
Floating Debt, outstanding March 31, 1929	737,345,000		
Ways and Means Advances outstanding:—			
Advances by Bank of England		24,240,000	...
,, ,, Public Departments		53,130,000	28,340,000
Treasury Bills outstanding		*780,245,000	787,985,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding		857,615,000	816,325,000
Net Increase		£120,270,000	

* Includes £86,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

Treasury, *December* 31, 1929.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—STOCK EXCHANGE—INDUSTRIAL RECESSION—MONEY—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 20.

AFTER a period of trading, during which the volume gradually declined close to the two million shares a day level, the share market has again turned distinctly weak on an increased volume. At to-day's close, industrial shares, as measured by the "averages," which on the rally had recovered 35 or 40 per cent. of the loss from the September highs, had lost about half the ground regained. The latest decline was helped by certain bad news, such as the receivership for the International Combustion Engineering Corporation, this being the final chapter in a chain of unpleasant developments which included unsuccessful speculation in shares by the head of the company. While the receivership was not of any great importance in point of size, it furnished material for the bears to work with. Another unsettling influence was a further sharp decline in the shares of the Fox Film Corporation, this coming about ten days after an announcement had been made of the appointment of trustees to take over Fox's personal holdings. The primary difficulty in this situation appears to have been the extensive commitments (approximating $90,000,000) into which Mr Fox had entered in the expectation of financing their conclusion by the sale of additional shares of his company. The break in the share market made the financing of this programme impossible, just as it did certain other mergers arranged in the early autumn. In any event, the bears became quite active and found their efforts well rewarded.

United States Steel common, which fell to 150 on the November break, and rallied to 189, to-day sold as low as 158, and closed at 162. Coppers sold very close to the earlier lows. Here the depressing influences are the uncertainty as to whether the 18 cent price can be maintained and the question how consumption of the metal will develop during the new year. Among the mail order concerns, Montgomery Ward broke to a new low for the year on reports of unsatisfactory earnings, which were connected with statements to the effect that the company's expansion into the chain store business has been carried on at too rapid a rate. However, the condition of the market undoubtedly had much to do with the emphasis given to the news. Moreover, it is not at all strange that the strong rally from the November lows should be followed by a secondary reaction. At the higher prices investment buying was discouraged, as shares obviously were no longer selling on a bargain basis; while speculative attraction was lacking because of the uncertainty that still exists as to the future of business.

Industrial news meanwhile indicates that the recession that started after the July peak is continuing and that it has been rather rapid since the stock market break. Production in the steel industry is down to about 60 per cent. of capacity, as against 100 per cent. in July. Automobile output is beginning to pick up again after the sharp curtailment of the autumn, but the resumption is cautious and will continue to be so until evidence has been furnished as to consumer demand by the January shows. Railway car loadings continue to recede even faster than would be called for by seasonal influences; and those for the first week of December were the smallest for that week in any year, with the exception of 1927, since 1923. Department store sales in this city, which before the break were running about 15 per cent. ahead of the year previous, are now somewhat under last year's showing. There are, of course, two ways of looking at this situation. One is that the sharpness of the recession indicates a serious decline in business. The other is that the very sharpness, in view of the conservative inventory and buying policies of the past year, makes for a quick cure. At the time of writing, opinion is divided as to whether the recession in business will be terminated by spring or autumn. Reverting to the steel industry, sentiment here has been somewhat better during the past week, despite the continued fall in output. The steel manufacturers feel that consumers will find it necessary to re-enter the market in January.

Money has been slightly firmer during the past two weeks, and bond prices have shown a tendency to decline. This situation is not unnatural in view of the seasonal demand for currency (which forces the commercial banks to sell investments or to rediscount at the Reserve banks), and of the recent large gold exports totalling, approximately, $85,000,000. This week's Federal Reserve statements disclosed a loss by the system of $84,000,000 in gold reserves, of which somewhat less than half could be attributed to gold exports; and an increase of $8,000,000 in note circulation. Discounts dropped moderately; and the system's open market operations were obscured by the persistence of a large part of the Treasury's overdraft in connection with the December 15th tax date. However, it is apparent that the Reserve system continues to be a liberal purchaser in the open market, its object being to help to supply the currency needed for the holidays and to compensate for the gold exports. At the moment, further considerable exports are anticipated, certainly to France and, perhaps, to England. Meanwhile the contingent liability on bills purchased for foreign correspondents continues to rise, the week's addition of $22,000,000 bringing the total to a new high of $539,798,000. The system's reserve ratio this week stands at 69.3 per cent., which compares with 71.6 the previous week, and with 64.5 a year ago. The local bank's ratio, at 65.5 per cent., is off 3.7 on the week and 2.7 on the year. A reduction in the Kansas City Reserve Bank rate to 4½ per cent. brought the number of banks on this basis up to six. The other six still retain a 5 per cent. rate.

A decline of nearly 2 per cent. in the level of wholesale commodity prices between October and November is disclosed by publication of the index prepared by the Bureau of Labour Statistics. At 94.4 per cent. of the 1926 average, the index was 2¾ per cent. below the level of November, 1928. The decline, as compared both with November, 1928, and with the 1926 average, is general; most of the groups making up the index participated in it.

FRANCE.—FOREIGN POLICY—TAX REDUCTIONS—INTEREST—IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, January 1.

AFTER sittings of the Chamber which occupied the whole of the last Sunday of the year, the Government succeeded, at 3.30 on Monday morning, in bringing the autumn session to a triumphant close, and Parliament rose until February. The much-talked-of full-dress debate on the Government's foreign policy—which was welcomed by Ministers (in spite of the risks that attended it) as giving them an opportunity for gauging the opinion of the House in regard to the issues to be decided at the Hague Conference—proved fruitful in exciting incidents, as it was expected to do. M. Briand was very frankly interpellated by chosen representatives of practically every group in the majority, as well as by less dangerous spokesmen of the Opposition groups, and the whole of the series of "renunciations" and "abandonments," to which successive French Cabinets are alleged to have consented from the beginning of the Peace Conference onwards, were strenuously emphasised. M. Briand, in his reply, proved thoroughly equal to the occasion. Both he and M. Tardieu repeatedly urged the House to speak its mind plainly, and either refuse to approve of their going to the Hague as the representatives of France or give them a majority that would enable them to speak with full authority at the resumed conference. In the result, M. Briand's Locarno and subsequent policy was endorsed by an overwhelming majority of the Chamber (342 against 17, with the whole of the Socialists, the Communists, and 102 of the 118 Radical-Socialists abstaining). Analysis of the voting reveals that, even had all the abstentionists voted against the motion of confidence, the Government would have secured a clear majority of 91, which can leave no doubt as to their authority as the French representatives at the Hague.

The French deputation at the resumed conference will be exceptionally strong. It will be headed by the Premier, M. Tardieu, who will have with him M. Briand, M. Chéron and M. Loucheur, who may be regarded as the "big four" of the present Ministry. The Quai d'Orsay will also be represented by MM. Philippe Berthelot, Peycelon, Léger and five other leading permanent officials. M. Chéron's section will include several of the highest officials of the Ministry of Finance. The Bank of France is to send its Governor, M. Moreau; its Deputy-Governor, M. Moret; and M. Quesnay. Four official experts will bring the strength of the delegation to 28. Its composition speaks eloquently of the importance the French place upon the Hague meeting, and leaves no doubt as to the vigour with which the adoption will be pressed of the carefully planned programme which the delegation has decided to act upon.

M. Chéron has reaped added credit from the skilful manner in which he has carried through his policy concerning taxation reduction, without departing by one franc from the total he originally laid down as the limit of present relief to be accorded. There is a general outcry throughout the country for much more sweeping reductions than the Minister has been able to see his way to accord, and the justice of this demand is admitted even in official quarters. No more money is available, however, for the time being, as M. Chéron was eventually able to convince the House. The Finance Commission of the Chamber made a strong fight for substantial cuts to be made forthwith in the taxes on amusements, and also in the luxury taxes imposed on hotel accommodation and on restaurant meals, and in the turnover tax on dealings in milk by-products, wool and woollen yarns (in view of the present depression in that industry), potatoes and haricot beans. On these points the Minister was adamant, as also in regard to further relief for investors in interest-bearing securities. The list of reductions ultimately authorised by the Chamber provides for total relief, as from January 1st, amounting to 1,447,000,000 francs, under 13 different heads. The agricultural community benefit most, in the form of a new scale of exemptions in regard to family charges and other income-tax factors, estimated to be equivalent to 274,000,000 francs a year, plus 50,000,000 francs representing reduction of the tax on cultivated land. The same classes will benefit, also, by the reduction by 80,000,000 francs of the tax on the transportation of cereals, manure, potatoes and fresh fruit. Small tradespeople are given benefit totalling 144,000,000 francs in exemptions; 122,000,000 francs has been taken off the tax on incomes from wages, salaries and fees; and 26,000,000 francs from Excise taxes on pharmaceutical specialities. The luxury tax on motor-car sale prices is reduced by a fraction, and the general luxury tax of 12 per cent. on other categories of merchandise has been brought down to 6 per cent. A cut of 300,000,000 francs has been made in the succession duties. The relief afforded to investors by reduction of stamp duties and transmission tax on securities totals only 239,000,000 francs. This is much smaller than had been expected, but the psychological effect already made itself felt on the Bourse. Further reductions, it has been hinted, will be included in the Budget Bill for the new financial year beginning on April 1st. These, M. Chéron has announced, may possibly take the form of a "conditional" remission of 10 per cent. of all assessments levied in respect of direct taxation. The full amount, it is understood, will be levied, and the equivalent of 10 per cent. may be deducted on payment during the coming year or from the following year's totals.

These reductions, as well as others totalling 1,187,000,000 francs granted since last July (including 83,000,000 francs off the sugar tax), have been rendered possible by drawing on the surplus revenue recovered (in excess of Budget estimates) during the past twelve months (estimated to amount to 7,000,000,000 francs),

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plus 600,000,000 francs furnished by the Caisse d'Amortissement, and other sums taken from exceptional revenue earned by the employment in the money market of portions of the Treasury balances. The reductions of taxation, therefore, are entirely outside the purview of the Budget proper. The total relief accorded since July last has been approximately 2,900,000,000 francs, or about £23,000,000. Provision was also made before the Chambers rose for the recess for increasing (retroactively as from July last) by 687,000,000 francs the pay of certain classes of public servants whose scales of pay had not yet been brought to levels consistent with the depreciation of the franc.

Attention is to-day called to the fact (which had hitherto escaped public notice) that in one of the Finance Bills passed at the end of the session the Government secured authorisation to reduce, as from January 1st, from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. (and later on to 4 per cent.) the rate of interest payable to certain classes of *sinistrés* who received payment of their claims for war damages in 15-year 5 per cent. bonds, instead of in cash. The number of persons affected is very large, and the reduction has been received with a good deal of surprise. The measure is a further step in the carrying out of the effort which the Government and the Bank of France have been making since stabilisation to bring down still further the standard rate for money. The expected lowering of the Bank of France rate during January from 3½ per cent. (at which it has stood for over two years) to 3 per cent. will be another step with the same object, and will also assist in preparing the way for the great conversion and consolidation loans which it is planned to issue towards the end of 1930 and in 1931. In the case of the *sinistrés*, one of the arguments used is that Rentes have now reached such a level that they no longer bring in 5 per cent.; therefore, holders of bonds representing war losses cannot reasonably claim to receive more than the yield from the premier security. Money for carrying over at yesterday's end-of-the-year settlement was to be had in the Parquet at an average of 2⅜ per cent., against 2½ per cent. a fortnight before.

Steel and iron production figures for November register a fractional decline, due partly to the 10 per cent. cut in output, as from November 1st, which was decided on by the European International Steel Cartel at the end of October, and partly to the fact that November contained two less working days. The total output of crude steel in November was 790,000 tons, or 43,000 tons less than in October, against a monthly average of 791,000 tons in 1928 and 559,000 tons (Alsace-Lorraine plants included) in 1913. The output of pig iron was 856,000 tons, or 29,000 tons less than in October, against a monthly average of 832,000 tons in 1928 and of 749,000 tons in 1913.

Coal production in November totalled 4,705,865 tons, against 4,971,234 tons in October. The output of metallurgical coke by the colliery plants was 406,534 tons, or 160,000 tons more than in 1913. The home market remains firm and active, but deliveries are still hampered by transport shortage. Selling prices are expected to remain unchanged during the coming three months, as it is doubtful whether the increase of the tax, on both imported and native coal, from 2 francs 50 to 3.65 per ton (authorised by the law of April last, as from January 1st to provide for increased old age pensions for miners) will come into operation for some time yet.

DENMARK.—EXPORTS TO GERMANY—AGRICULTURE—FOREIGN TRADE—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, December 18.

THE question of Danish agricultural exports to Germany is very much debated just at present. The most important farmers' associations held a meeting recently at which the matter was discussed. A resolution was unanimously adopted in which the changes proposed by Germany in the conditions for the sale of agricultural produce in the German market were severely criticised. The recent German-Swedish commercial agreement is referred to, and the agricultural organisations declare that, according to the " most-favoured-nation " status granted to Denmark, they took it for granted that when Sweden obtained an agreement by which its future exports of living cattle would be received by Germany in greater numbers than in the past, against a Customs duty of 16 marks per double-hundredweight, this rate would likewise apply to the Danish cattle exports, at least to the same extent as in the past. The German interpretation of the matter, on the contrary, is that Denmark, like Sweden, would be entitled by the " most-favoured-nation " status to export 7,000 head of cattle annually to Germany against a low duty. The said number covers the normal exports of Sweden to Germany, but for Denmark this interpretation is quite unsatisfactory, as the annual exports to Germany are more than 250,000 head of cattle. Practically the entire exports would, accordingly, pay duty at the rate of 24½ marks per double hundredweight, and the agricultural organisations declare that this would make the rights referred to quite illusory.

The meeting strongly urged the Government to endeavour by negotiation to prevent the proposed increase of duty and the differential treatment of Danish goods. Finally, the resolution states: " Should these endeavours not be successful, the meeting unanimously urges Danish merchants and consumers, when giving orders for or making purchases of goods, to prefer that country which still receives our agricultural produce free of duty." It is further pointed out that by the Free Trade policy Denmark is giving Germany favourable conditions in our market, and that Denmark purchases German goods to a far greater value than *vice-versa*. It is, therefore, emphasised that Denmark must be entitled to expect some trade consideration and that it is regrettable that developments have not gone in this direction. If need be the Danish farmers desire to go over to the purchase of English goods, and, in this connection, it is noteworthy that the interest in goods from the United Kingdom has already been growing for some time. The entire problem is at present the subject of discussion in Government and Parliamentary circles.

New Year is approaching and, in several quarters, endeavours are already being made to form an opinion of the results attained in 1929. As far as agriculture is concerned it may be mentioned that production and exports have been considerable throughout the past year. In the first ten months of 1929 the exports of bacon were thus 203,500,000 kilos, against 227,000,000 in the corresponding period of last year, while the exports of butter in casks were increased from 122,600,000 kilos to 132,600,000 kilos. The exports of fresh eggs were 29,100,000 scores, against 29,600,000 scores in the first ten months of 1928, and finally the exports of preserved eggs rose from 3,100,000 to 3,800,000 scores. Of living cattle the exports in the first ten months of the year had a value of Kr. 75,500,000, against Kr. 72,900,000 in the corresponding period of 1928. The exports of pork, meat, etc., increased from Kr. 400,900,000 to Kr. 420,900,000, while the value of butter, cream and milk exported rose from Kr. 417,200,000 to Kr. 440,000,000, and finally the value of the exports of eggs rose from Kr. 69,100,000 to Kr. 69,600,000.

Generally speaking, the income of agriculture from exports has been increased, and this fact, in connection with another good crop, has brought about an improved position not only in agriculture, but also in other trades. It is evident that goods produced in the towns have found an increased sale in the country, because of the augmented purchasing power there. On the whole, the production of the year has undoubtedly been somewhat greater and rather more remunerative than for the last few years, and it may be maintained that Danish economy has a more favourable aspect now than a year ago. With regard to the balance of trade it may be mentioned that in January-October, 1929, imports aggregated Kr. 1,480,000,000, against Kr. 1,455,000,000 during the corresponding period of last year. At the same time exports have been increased from Kr. 1,362,000,000 to Kr. 1,412,000,000, and the total excess of imports has thus been Kr. 68,000,000 only, against Kr. 93,000,000 in the first ten months of 1928. The Danish wholesale price index showed a figure of 147 in November, 1929, against 151 in November, 1928. At the same time the proportion between the prices of import goods and export goods has been favourable, the figure for import goods declining in the course of the year from 146 to 143, while export goods have shown a rise from 147 to 159. Accordingly, the index for export goods is at present 16 points higher than that for import goods, while a year ago the difference was one point only.

NORWAY.—FOREIGN TRADE—BUSINESS—MONEY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TRONDHJEM, December 21.

FOREIGN trade figures for November are not quite so favourable as those for November last year. It appears that the value of our imports during November this year amounts to 94,293,000 kroners against 80,746,000 kroners last year, while for October this year the figure was 95,918,000 kroners. This increase is only partially counterbalanced by a rise in the value of exports, viz., from 55,989,000 kroners in November last year to 60,520,000 kroners in the month under review. For October this year the amount was 70,133,000 kroners. The result is that the excess of imports over exports has increased from 24,757,000 kroners last year to 34,403,000 kroners in November, 1929. The alarm which may be felt at this rather heavy increase of the import surplus is somewhat alleviated by the fact that it is among the import items " raw materials and articles for production " that the heaviest increase is to be found, and not among articles of consumption. On the export side the most noticeable figures are those relating to paper, the value of this export article having fallen from 8.03 million kroner in November last year to 1.68 million kroner this year, which, to some extent at any rate, may be ascribed to a general decline in prices and sales rather than to a diminishing production. Comparing the first 11 months of this year with the same period last year, it appears that the excess of imports over exports has been reduced by about 3.5 million kroners. The fat herring fisheries which have just started have given very good yields, and there is at present a lively export to England, Denmark, Sweden, and especially to Germany and Poland. Very effective work has been done by the representative of the Norwegian State Railways in Berlin for the import into Germany (and Poland) of Norwegian herring and other fish.

Christmas trade this year has been tolerably good in most branches, though there is no very decided improvement of the general purchasing power as compared with last year. The general feeling in business circles was very adequately expressed by the Chairman of the Union of Oslo Merchants at a recent meeting, when he said that the progress of depression seems to have come to an end, but that the upward progress has hardly yet begun, or at any rate has not gained any speed, in spite of the fact that in most branches of trade and industry there is increased activity and growing initiative. It is to be hoped, he said, that political and economic developments in the country will be such as to contribute effectively towards a definite improvement next year.

The Norges Bank return as at December 16th shows that as a result of increased demands for Christmas financing, the amount of notes in circulation has risen from 302.7 million on November 30th to 314.4 million kroner, and deposits have been reduced during this period from 100.9 million to 70.8 million kroner, while foreign balances have fallen from 52 million to 43 million kroner. At the same time loans and discounts show a reduction of about 6.5 million kroner. On the whole developments at present hardly justify any hope of a reduction of the Norges Bank discount rate before the turn of the year, in spite of the move taken by the Bank of England on December 12th, which was followed by Sweden. The sterling quotation of the Norges Bank, which has been unchanged since July 9th last at 18.205, was suddenly reduced on December 18th inst. to 18.20 and again to-day to 18.195, a step which did not seem to be dictated by the position of the market. However, to-day the market fell off somewhat, operations taking place at rates a little below the quotation.

ROUMANIA.—BUDGET—STATE RÉGIES—TAX REDUCTIONS—ECONOMIC SITUATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, December 19.

THE Budget for 1930 is of special interest, not only because it is the first Budget after the legal stabilisation of the currency, but also because it presents the synthesis of the administrative reorganisation of the State as resulting from the number of administrative reform laws passed during the year. In these circumstances, a comparison with previous Budgets becomes an exceedingly complicated matter. It is accompanied by a number of Bills, such as Modification of Estate Duties, Modification of the Taxes on Petroleum Consumption, Modification of the Law of Direct Taxation, the law for preventing evasion of taxes, the modification of the luxury and business turnover taxes. It foreshadows, also, the reform of local finances and of direct taxation.

One of the features of the Budget is the separation of the commercial interests of the State from the Government departments by which they have so far been administered. These undertakings have become independent State Régies, with their own Budgets, the profits of which will be appropriated by the State, or which, in the case of deficits, will be subsidised. The new Public Régies are the following:—The Monopoly Institute, the Régie of the Ports and Waterways, the Fisheries and Districts subject to inundation, Prisons, Forests, Agricultural Exploitation, the Institute of Roads, the Public Commercial Régie of the Ardeal, the Official Gazette and the Petroleum Pipe Lines. It is hoped, by bringing them under a commercial administration, appreciably to raise their yield. A further important reform is that of the salaries and pensions of the Civil Servants. The Budget of 1931 is to form the basis of increases in salaries long overdue. The Minister of Finance lays stress on the necessity for State action towards a speedy recovery in the economic conditions of the country. In this connection it is intended that the State should contribute to the reconstruction of the railways, of the post, telegraph and telephones, and to the development of the seaports. For this purpose new foreign credits will be necessary, and it is hoped that, once financial equilibrium is assured and order in the accountancy established, it will be possible to realise a new State loan for the railways.

The budget for 1930 amounts to 37,450 million lei, comparing with 37,700 million lei of the previous budget. If, however, allowance is made for the separation of the State interests from the various Departments, this apparent diminution is converted to an increase of over 5,000 millions. Adding to the amount of 37,450 million lei the budgets of the various Régies and deducting their estimated net profits by which the State budget benefits, we arrive at the total of 58,700 million lei. The railways figure in this with 12,900 millions, the post, telegraph and telephones with 2,300 millions, the monopoly institute with 7,500 millions. The Profits of the Régies are estimated at 6,000 millions. Direct taxation is responsible for 9,300 millions, whereas the revenue from indirect taxation is estimated at 22,100 millions, certain parts of which, however, go to the Régies.

Although the loan raised in February this year was to provide for the outstanding debts of the railways and Government departments, it appears that the amount of 1,450 million lei remains unpaid on account of faulty estimates due to deficient accountancy. A further outstanding liability of 576 millions has been discovered, which is due to the distribution of imaginary budget surplus in the years of 1924 to 1927. There is a further sum of 250 millions to be paid on account of the loan contracted towards the end of July, 1928, for the relief of famished districts. The result is that the sum of 2,283 million lei must be found next year which is an exceptional charge on the budget. A further increase of the budget is due to the new arrangements between the railways and the Ministry of Finance on the one hand, and the Ministry of War on the other, for the payment of transport. These expenses were not provided for in former years except to a very small extent. Similar arrangements have been made between the Post-Telegraph-Telephones Services and various Ministries. This results in an increase of over 700 millions in the expenses. To provide in a certain measure for the exceptional expenditure next year, certain exceptional revenue has been found: this will be formed (1) by the liquidation of small estates, the administration of which by the Ministry of Agriculture was cumbersome and resulted in loss; (2) by the disposal of 260 hectares of petroleum lands belonging to the State; (3) by the sale of iron deposits of the metallurgical exploitations of the Ministry of Industry and of old material belonging to the Ministry of War; (4) by appropriating special funds which were held by various Government Departments and were not under proper control. By this means it is expected to realise the sum of 1,256 millions. Further special revenue will be obtained by the collection of overdue taxes of former years.

The expenditure is divided into two categories: ordinary and extraordinary. It amounts to 35,381 million lei to which must be added 300 millions reserved for supplementary credits. The balance of the revenue is to be used for the payment of the old debts, which will be effected only from such funds as are available from the exceptional revenue as outlined above. It is specially provided that one quarter of the sum reserved for extraordinary expenditure is only to be utilised after August 1st, and then only by the special authority of the Minister of Finance, who must assure himself that the normal receipts of the first seven months have attained 55 per cent. of the total revenue. Further regulations establish the closest supervision of the departmental expenses by the Ministry of Finance with a view to ensuring the strictest economy.

The Ministry of Finance has granted certain minor concessions, but appreciable diminution of taxation can only be effected when, owing to more active trade, the present taxes show an increasing yield.

Signs that the economic situation is slowly improving are not lacking, according to the report of Messrs. Charles Rist and Roger Auboin, the technical advisers of the National Bank. This report points to the increased Treasury receipts for the months of October and November, partly the result of the good harvest, the return to a favourable trade balance, the increased note circulation and the improved situation of the National Bank, which shows a 50 per cent. cover in gold and foreign bills of its liabilities. As the full effect of this year's harvest will be felt only next Spring, it is expected that conditions will continue to improve in the course of next year.

HUNGARY.—REPARATIONS—POLITICS—PUBLIC FINANCE—FOREIGN TRADE—DEPRESSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, December 15.

PUBLIC opinion awaits the coming conference at the Hague with keen interest. It is rumoured in the Press that Count Bethlen will head the Hungarian delegation and will fight for the case of Hungary to the utmost limit. Hungary will emphatically resist the contention of Roumania and Czechoslovakia, which found echo in the French Press, that the Young Plan cannot be applied so long as Hungary is not prepared to assume further reparation payments than those already fixed by the Geneva Protocol of 1924. Count Bethlen summarised the attitude of the Hungarian Government on the reparation question in the Upper House of Parliament, and said that Hungary is not willing to pay more on reparation account than the 200 million gold crowns fixed at the outset of the League of Nations' reconstruction scheme in 1924 for twenty years ahead averaging 10 million gold crowns per annum. Under no circumstances will Hungary consent to give up the protection secured in Article 250 of the Trianon Treaty for the property rights of her citizens, because the abandonment of the said article would deprive Hungarian citizens in the States of the Little Entente, viz., Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Jugoslavia of their only legal protection and would make them defenceless against sequestration of goods and expropriation of land, etc. Consequently, Hungary will firmly oppose the linking together of the private claims of Hungarian Optants against Roumania, etc., with that of the reparation question. The Prime Minister has declared also that, while Hungary will insist that the compensation claims of her citizens against Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia should be dealt with at the Mixed Tribunal as prescribed by the Peace Treaty, on the other hand the Hungarian Government is prepared to discuss claims of foreigners other than those settled under reparation account or by tribunals set up by the Trianon Treaty, and to endeavour to reach an equitable settlement involving payment of the possible balance in moderate annuities after 1943. As to the suggestion put forward in the Press of the Little Entente that Hungary, in exchange for the restoration of her financial sovereignty, should consent to pay further reparations, Count Bethlen emphatically refused to discuss such proposals because they are not in accordance with the spirit of the Peace Treaty. It is hardly necessary to add that the contention of the Government that Hungary cannot afford to assume further reparation burdens is unanimously backed by the country. Two Italian delegates recently spent a few days in Budapest and, according to the Press, inquired into the Hungarian situation with a view to facilitating the coming negotiations at the Hague.

The evil effects of the imminence of the eastern reparation question are already manifest in the strained political relations between Hungary and the States of the Little Entente. Trade relations have never been satisfactory among the Succession States of the Old Monarchy because the new national States have raised high tariff barriers and endeavoured to attain economic self-sufficiency under the long-desired political sovereignty. The conclusion of commercial treaties between the Successive States have somewhat improved the disturbed economic equilibrium of the Danube Valley in recent years, but it seems that the reparation question has given a new impetus to the national spirit, and on the eve of the Geneva Conference for the proposed two years' "tariff holiday" there is, unfortunately, more talk of raising than of lowering tariffs. It is much to be desired that the Hague Conference should inquire, in connection with eastern reparations, into the economic disturbances which still hamper the natural development of the Danubian States, because no lasting political or financial settlement can be achieved in Central Europe without solving its economic problems.

Revenue returns for the first four months of the fiscal year are not satisfactory. Treasury receipts in July-October amounted to 295.8 million pengös, as against 318.2 millions in the corresponding period of last year. On the other hand, expenditure has increased in the same period from 309.2 million to 324.9 million pengös, which has changed the actual surplus of revenue of 9 million pengös in the corresponding period of 1928 into a deficit of 29.1 millions in 1929. The deficit of the first four months of the present fiscal year, although considerably higher than was estimated for this period, will, it is hoped, be made good later on. The deficiency is due in the first place to the economic depression which occurred in the second half of the year owing to the absence of foreign credits and the low prices of agricultural products.

Foreign trade returns for the first ten months of the year show that exports have increased to 797.8 million pengös, as against 652.8 millions in the same period of 1928. On the other hand, imports have declined in the same period from 973 million pengös to 896.9 millions, reducing the adverse balance of trade to 99.1 millions against 320 millions in January-October, 1928. The increase of exports is mainly explained by the high money rates ruling in the autumn months, which caused farmers to part with their products at the earliest date. Unfortunately, much of the export has been carried on at an actual loss, because agricultural products command a low export price which in many cases does not suffice to cover the cost of production. The decrease of imports is due to the diminished purchasing power of the farmer population. Another factor responsible for the falling off of imports and of the prevailing economic depression is the absence of sufficient foreign accommodation. It should be remembered that Hungary borrowed about 400 million pengös from abroad in 1928, but the total commitments of the present year are scarcely more than 200 million pengös, about one-half only of last year.

Economic conditions are not satisfactory. The cheaper money rates ruling abroad have had little effect so far, because the short-term borrowing of Hungary cannot be increased, and new long-term credits are not available as yet. Insolvencies in October amounted to 204, against 105 in the same month of 1928; the number of unemployed, showed by trade union returns, was 15,182, against 13,115 a year ago, but this represents but a small part of the workless population. The outlook for the new year depends mainly on factors beyond the control of Hungary; that is to say, in the first place of the world export price level of grain and cattle, and, in the second place, of the trend of the international money market, as Hungary cannot develop her economic resources without the aid of foreign capital. But perhaps most depends on the outcome of the Hague Conference, because uncertainty has brought about an unhealthy psychological state of affairs, which seriously hampers business activities.

CANADA.—NEW FINANCE MINISTER—BUSINESS—CROP ESTIMATES—FOREIGN TRADE—MINERAL RIGHTS—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, December 17.

THE first act of Premier Mackenzie King on his return from his western tour was to appoint Mr Charles A. Dunning, his Minister of Railways, as successor to Mr Robb in the Ministry of Finance. Mr Dunning's advent to the Ministry of Finance may have important political consequences. His predecessor, Mr Robb, never made any secret of his protectionist convictions and contrived successfully to stave off during his *régime* the demands of the Western Liberals and Progressives for drastic tariff reductions. Mr Dunning is a politician of completely different antecedents, temperament and outlook; he is on record in the most definite terms as a vigorous critic of protectionism, and he derives his political strength from the support of the Free Trade farmers of the prairies. He might be able to bring in one standpat Budget on the excuse that he had not had sufficient time to study the tariff problem, but he could not produce a second which did not give some substantial tariff reductions without forfeiting the confidence of his western supporters. The West, apart from Mr Bennett, who only held office for a few weeks, has never before supplied a Finance Minister to Ottawa, and Mr Dunning's advent to this post means that it will have an influence upon fiscal policy which it never before enjoyed. It is also now rumoured that before the parliamentary session begins there will be a considerable reorganisation of the Cabinet, and that Mr T. A. Crerar, the former leader of the Progressive Party, will be brought in *vice* Mr Forke, the present Minister of Immigration. The Conservative press is interpreting these moves and projects as an indication that at the next general election Mr Mackenzie King intends to make a bid for the support of the prairie provinces by a policy of downward tariff revision, and they are hoping that the industrial and financial interests of Quebec, feeling that their position is endangered, will force a political revolt against the Liberal Party in its great stronghold. The date of the meeting of Parliament is uncertain, but meanwhile the Cabinet is meeting regularly to discuss estimates and make other preparations. Nothing is yet known about the decision of the Tariff Board about the "Empire content" regulations as affecting cotton; after the hearing the impression here was that nothing would be done, but Mr Dunning's appointment may have altered the situation, as he would find the regulation very difficult to defend against Progressive criticism.

There has been no noticeable change in the general business situation during the past two weeks, but certain weaknesses are still apparent and the difficulties are not minimized by intelligent people. Unemployment provides by far the most serious problem and already it is much worse than it has been at the corresponding date in any year since 1921 when the post-war depression was acute. In Montreal the *Star* is providing free meals daily for a large number of unemployed, and the situation is even worse in Toronto. Indeed, there is no industrial community which has not a large contingent of workless. The unemployment is not confined to casual labour, but affects many highly skilled artisans from the automobile and other industrial plants. Moreover, it is calculated that the two railway systems have curtailed their staffs for the winter by about 15 per cent. This diminution of employment, added to the shortage of the Western crop, has undoubtedly had adverse effects upon the public's purchasing power, and as a result merchants everywhere assert that this year their Christmas trade promises to show a substantial reduction in volume. Merchants and manufacturers find themselves compelled to take cognisance of this situation and are pursuing a cautious policy until the trade outlook is clearer. Greater caution is being exercised in regard to instalment sales and steps are being taken to prevent factory production exceeding demand and producing a surplus of stocks. There is no evidence of any widespread trade slump, but, on the whole, business is on a lower level of activity than it was a year ago at this time. The carloading figure for the week ending December 7, 1929, placed at 59,531 cars, showed a loss of 1,892 cars, as compared with the previous week, and of 15,863 cars, as compared with the corresponding week of 1928.

From the Canadian point of view a heartening feature is found in the improved outlook for the result of the policy of holding wheat which has been pursued with such tenacity by the Western pools and their allies. They have been greatly encouraged lately by the publication at Washington of official figures which show great shortages in the wheat crops both of Argentina and Australia. It is true that any sharp up-turn in grain prices has usually been followed by a set back, but the holders of the wheat are now confident that Europe will, during the first half of 1930, have to buy a great deal of wheat from Canada and at higher prices than now prevail. It is, however, realised that, if prices were kept too stiff, Europe might exhaust the normal carry-over of other wheat-exporting countries before it resorted to Canadian supplies, and, therefore, the Canadian holders of wheat, if prices go up a little, may begin to sell. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just published an estimate of the total value of the principal field crops of Canada for 1929, which it places at $986,936,000, as compared with parallel values of $1,125,003,000 in 1928 and $1,173,133,000 in 1927. The decline in aggregate value is smaller than most people anticipated and the detailed estimates with the final figures for 1929 are given below:—

	1929. $	1928. $
Wheat	345,480,000	451,235,000
Oats	169,951,000	210,956,000
Barley	62,448,000	76,112,000
Rye	11,135,000	11,491,000
Flaxseed	4,795,000	5,748,000
Other grains	51,933,000	52,630,000
Potatoes	69,963,000	40,874,000
Hay, clover, alfalfa	202,922,000	194,363,000
Root and fodder crops	67,929,000	81,584,000

The foreign trade returns for November, just published, are again exceedingly unsatisfactory. Domestic exports which in November, 1928, were valued at $167,013,618, are down to $111,068,332, which is a decline of 56 million dollars, or, roughly, one-third. On the other hand, imports, which last November were valued at $102,960,710, rose to $108,578,136. As a result the adverse trade balance for the first eight months of the present fiscal year has now mounted to about 83 million dollars; in this period exports valued at roughly 802 million dollars, show a decline of 139 millions, and imports valued at 885 million dollars have gained 44 millions.

On December 14th there were signed at Ottawa two agreements which bring to an end very ancient controversies. Under their terms the Federal Government, which hitherto has retained control of the natural resources of the three prairie provinces, agrees, in the case of Manitoba and Alberta, to transfer these resources to provincial jurisdiction. This question has been a political football for many years, and now the two provinces are conceded what are admitted to be very generous terms. It is true that most of the good land has passed out of public control, but there remain very valuable oil and mineral rights which come into the possession of the provincial administrations. In addition, they will not be deprived of the federal subsidy which was paid them in lieu of revenue derived from the sale of natural resources. And in the case of Manitoba 4½ million dollars is to be paid as compensation for the revenue loss which the province suffered from the withholding of the resources. Alberta is also to receive compensation, but the amount is to be determined by arbitration—a plan which had been previously followed in connection with Manitoba. Concurrent legislation by the Federal Parliament and the two provincial Legislatures will be required to ratify the agreements, but the only difficulty likely to be encountered is at Ottawa, where Mr Bourassa, the old Nationalist leader, and his allies may raise an issue about the failure of the Government to safeguard in the agreement the claims of the Catholic minorities in regard to educational funds derived from the sale of school lands.

Commodity prices showed a downward tendency last month, and the wholesale index number of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, on the base of 1926 equals 100, was 95.8 in November, as compared with 96.7 in October; 111 quotations were lower, 44 were higher and 347 were unchanged. In no group was there a decline of more than a point except in the case of vegetables and vegetable products which fell from 95.7 to 93.7. The compiler of the index expresses the opinion in a note that the downward tendency is the result of the stockmarket slump.

JAPAN.—GOLD STANDARD—PRICES—FOREIGN TRADE—MONEY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, December 10.

ON November 21st the Japanese Government announced its decision to remove the gold embargo, to take effect, rather earlier than had generally been anticipated, as from January 10th. The step is understood to have been taken hastily, if not prematurely, for political rather than financial reasons. But the preparations for the return to the gold standard have been fairly thoroughly completed,

though it cannot be admitted that all the essential conditions for it have been established. Besides the arrangement of British and American stabilisation credits to defend the yen after the lifting of the gold ban, the Government has replenished the specie held abroad, which stood at a comfortable sum of 232 million yen on the eve of the announcement of the decision, and some 71 millions more will be added to it by the end of the year. These balances hoarded at foreign centres will be enough to meet the international payments and stem the rapid outflow of gold during the first year of the restored gold standard. It is not expected that the foreign credits will be needed, and they will not be used unless very great strain is put upon the resources. As the Finance Minister stated in his declaration, there is room for little doubt as to our ability to retain the yen at parity as far as all indications go for the present.

At the moment there is little disposition to anticipate the immediate results of this momentous step. No one feels very sure whether the resumed monetary standard will come to stay without any dislocation of industrial conditions. Industry in general must, of course, suffer in varying degrees, and certain industries have already felt adverse effects in the form of lower prices, and have taken measures to cope with the situation. The silk reelers, for example, have agreed to curtail operations by 20 per cent. of their theoretical capacity from February 1st next. The rayon industry, also, has decided to run short time at the rate of 95 per cent. of its capacity.

The downward movement of wholesale prices made further rapid progress last month. The Bank of Japan's wholesale index number for November registered a substantially large drop on the month of 2⅜ per cent. and of 8¼ per cent. since the opening of the year. But our current figure is still some 20 per cent. higher than British and American indices. In comparison, however, with Japanese and world prices the higher Japanese price-level is accounted for largely by such " sheltered " goods as red beans, miso, dried bonito, Japanese paper, mattings and tobacco (Government monopoly), prices of which, in most cases, are kept high for special reasons. The adjustment of prices to the world level, therefore, will not be so tremendous as our current figure suggests.

Although the heavy import season normally sets in in November, the trade returns for last month show a favourable balance of 24.5 million yen, imports totalling 146,041,000 yen and exports 170,610,000 yen. As compared with the corresponding month of last year, imports fell by 19.3 millions, while exports rose by 17.2 millions. This contraction in imports is partly explained by consumers holding off for the recovery of the yen to parity, while foreign importers' speeding up of takings while the yen is still at a discount is, in the main, responsible for the expansion of exports. Although almost all imports fell off, the decline is largely accounted for by raw cotton, wool, sugar and timber. On the export side of the accounts the two staples, cotton goods and raw silk, which dominate the Japanese export trade, are largely responsible for the expansion. The apparent adverse balance of trade during the first eleven months has been reduced to 68 millions, as against 127 millions and 94.8 millions respectively for the same periods of 1928 and 1927.

The money market is quiet, the general trend remaining unchanged. Despite the seasonal pressure, the Bank returns showed that the note circulation at December 7th, at 1,239,769,000 yen, was 28 millions lower than at the corresponding date of last year, while gold reserve, at 1,064,373,000 yen, was 1.3 millions higher. The year-end is thus expected to be negotiated without undue difficulty. The stock markets remain weak and depressed in the complete absence of a disposition to buy. There is less evidence than usual of the year-end shopping rush and business is unsatisfactory.

Books and Publications.

ECONOMICS AND ETHICS.*

THIS is not a book for an idle hour. It is an ambitious attempt to frame a comprehensive social philosophy and, incidentally, to put the economist in his proper place in this scheme of things. At times the book's reach appears to exceed its grasp in the sense that the author leaves the impression that he is trying to say something which will not get itself expressed. But even when Mr Hobson is obscure it is usually worth while making some effort to penetrate his obscurity.

In defining his conception of welfare Mr Hobson stresses the importance of social values. He does not share the disbelief in society as such which the reaction against nineteenth century idealism has provoked in our own time. He has also a firm belief in the organic unity of every individual, and is sceptical of the value of sciences which split the ordinary man into an economic man, a religious man, and so on, and attempt to isolate his activities in each sphere. This means that, for Mr Hobson, economics must be concerned chiefly with the description and interpretation of an objective economic system; but that what is generally called analytical economics must dissolve into a general social philosophy "embracing the whole of human conduct."

Mr Hobson does not admit that the individual is necessarily the best judge of his own welfare. There are higher things and lower things, and the higher things remain higher even though to some of our lower natures they appear otherwise. Moreover the higher things, he thinks, cannot be referred to any common standard by which they may be measured against the lower; they are therefore essentially non-economic. Mr Hobson does not here face the very real practical difficulty that since nearly all " the higher " activities involve an economic cost we are in fact compelled in some fashion to measure their utility against alternative "lower" satisfactions which might be had for the same cost. It may be impossible to measure the utility of religious devotion against that of eating. But since most religious activity requires the maintenance of at least a church and a parson the ordinary worshipper does have to weigh his contribution to these costs against the alternative possibility of extending his expenditure on " lower " satisfactions. The starving artist constantly deciding how far he will sacrifice his art to his stomach settles every day the problem of valuation which eludes Mr Hobson.

When he comes to look for ethical principles embodied in the existing economic system, Mr Hobson does not find a very pleasing state of affairs. Our method of dividing the product of industry is particularly at fault. Here bargaining strength is the determining factor; and this will not square with moral right. Mr Hobson arrives (very quickly) at the conclusion that distribution according to needs is the only ethically satisfying principle; but little heed is now paid to it. This leads him to an elaborate inquiry how far the economic system would be broken down if the distribution of the product of industry were radically changed so as to give more scope to this principle. In other words, how far are existing methods of payment necessary to evoke the supplies of labour and capital and inventive and organising ability required to keep the machine running? Less than many of us suppose, Mr Hobson thinks. Unhappily, however, this all-important question of the motives which actuate economic activity is one on which our precise knowledge is extremely small. We are obliged to fall back on generalisations which lose most of their value because nobody knows how far they are applicable. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr Hobson is not able to say anything very new and significant about the matter. But he repeats many of the old things very convincingly.

* " Wealth and Life." By J. A. Hobson. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 1929. 15s

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

Survey of International Affairs, 1928. By A. J. Toynbee. Assisted by V. M. Boulter. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 21s. net.

The salient points in the 1928 " Survey " are the negotiation of the Kellogg Pact, the development of the constitution of the League of Nations, the policy of Italy in South-East Europe, the history of the Islamic world and the changes in the foreign relations of China.

Documents on International Affairs, 1928. By John W. Wheeler-Bennett. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 12s. 6d. net.

A collection of the most important treaties of the year; statements on foreign affairs made by premiers and foreign ministers before their respective parliaments, and domestic documents of more than usual international importance.

A Picture of World Economic Conditions in the Summer of 1929. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, 247, Park Avenue. $2.50.

An analysis of the condition of industry and trade in twenty-three countries. Part I. is principally statistical; Part II. consists of special articles contributed by authoritative correspondents in each of nineteen countries.

Notes on the Theory of Profit. By George O'Brien. (Dublin) Hodges, Figgis, and Company. 5s. net.

A slim, well-documented volume whose contribution to a much-disputed subject in economic theory will be of great value to students of economic principles.

The Five-Day Week in Manufacturing Industries. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $1.50.

A critical account of the experience of the five-day week in the United States. The data are collected and analysed with the usual thoroughness of the National Industrial Conference Board.

The Movement for a Sounder Money. (New York) Stable Money Association, 104, Fifth Avenue.

A pamphlet containing contributions by six distinguished financiers, including Mr Owen D. Young and Sir Josiah Stamp.

Kapitalismus und Sozialismus. By Karl Kumpmann. (Essen) G. D. Baedeker/Verlag. 7.50 mks.

Primarily an inquiry into what exactly is understood by these loosely used terms. The author has tried to avoid going over the ground already so thoroughly traversed by innumerable writers on capitalism and socialism.

The Commerce Year Book, 1929. *Vol. II. Foreign Countries.* (Washington) Government Printing Office. $1.00.

This is one of the few year books which enhance their value by a generous use of maps. It contains a concise account of the economic activity of each of sixty-five countries during 1928, with tables of statistics covering several years. The second half is devoted to comparative world statistics of crops, production, population, trade, shipping, insurance, telegraphs, prices, etc.

Anuario del Comercio Exterior de la República Argentina. Año 1927. (Buenos Aires) Talleres S. A. Casa Jacobo Peuser, Ltda.

An abstract of Argentine official statistics for 1927, with comparative figures for the two preceding years.

Migration Laws and Treaties. Vol. III. International Treaties and Conventions. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 14, Great Smith Street. 7s. 6d.

A survey, conveniently classified, of international treaties and agreements governing emigration. A full list of the documents analysed is appended.

Forschungen zur internationalen Finanz- und Bankgeschichte. By Adolf Trende. (Berlin) Berliner Kommissionsbuchhandlung G.m.b.H., Berlin, S.W. 68.

A study of Barthold Georg Niebuhr as a banker and financier.

Grundriss der Sozialökonomik. (Tübingen) Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr. (Paul Siebeck.)

An advanced German text book on transport. A large section is devoted to the subject of means of transport and the State.

Das Roggenproblem und die Gerstenzollfrage. Von Dr. Karl Kolwey. (Bremen) Nordwestdeutscher Wirtschaftsbund. 1s. 6d.

A discussion, in German, of the present crisis in the production of rye and of the proposed remedies.

Production Organisation. By J. D. Black and A. G. Black. (New York) Henry Holt and Co., 1, Park Avenue. $3.75.

A text-book intended to cover a first semester's course of economics. It is arranged on lines rather different from those conventionally adopted.

Reminders for Company Secretaries. By Herbert W. Jordan. Fifteenth edition. (London) Jordan and Sons, Limited, 116 to 118, Chancery Lane. 2s. 6d.

The company secretary is embarrassed this autumn by a wealth of new handbooks for his guidance. This new edition of an old manual is very conveniently arranged.

Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta: Annual Report of the Committee for the Year 1928. (Calcutta) M. P. Gandhi, 135, Canning Street.

Includes a survey of economic events during 1928. Excerpts from the more important correspondence of the Chamber during the year are reproduced in an appendix.

The East African Manual. Edited by C. Carlyle-Gall. (London) Mining and Industrial Publications of Africa, Limited, Africa House, Kingsway. 30s.

A profusely illustrated book of reference, designed primarily for traders.

The People's Year Book, 1930. (Manchester) The Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., 1, Balloon Street.

A reference book relating principally to matters of particular interest to members of the co-operative movement.

New York Insurance Report. Part III. (Albany) Insurance Department.

This volume contains the usual exhaustive statistics of casualty, credit, employers' liability, fidelity, surety, mutual compensation, automobile casualty, real estate title and mortgage guaranty.

Versicherungslexicon. Edited by Professor Dr. Alfred Manes. (Berlin) Verlag von E. S. Mittel und Sohn. Rm. 62.

A German encyclopædia of insurance.

Great Western Ports, 1930. (Cardiff) Great Western Railway, Chief Docks Manager's Office.

This unique annual contains an immense amount of information for the use of shippers, together with plans and photographs of the various ports.

The Shipping World. January 1, 1930. (London) Effingham House, Arundel Street. 1s.

A useful review of shipping during the past year. There are also articles on such related subjects as " Marine Insurance " and " Wireless in 1929."

The Hibbert Journal. January, 1930. (London) Constable and Company, Ltd., Orange Street, 2s. 6d. net.

Contains, among other articles, " Beauty and the Machine," by Robert Swann; " The Place of Authority in Religion," by Canon T. A. Lacey; and two articles by C. G. Montefiore and Professor F. C. Burkitt which attempt to give some idea of the views held by Jews and Christians respectively about each other's religions.

International Conciliation, December, 1929. *Observations on Present-Day Russia.* (Worcester, Mass.) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 44, Portland Street. 5 cents.

Contains a special article on " The Culture Programme of Soviet Russia," by Paul Monroe, and reprints or translations of other articles which have already been published elsewhere.

Empire Review. January, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 2s. net.

This issue includes, *inter alia*, articles on " Canada's Future," by H. Norman Bathgate, and " Britain and the Soviets," by Thomas Greenwood.

The Slavonic Review, December, 1929. (London) Jonathan Cape, Limited, 30, Bedford Square. 6s. net.

This issue contains a series of articles on aspects of Slavonic religious thought.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, 1928. 6s. net.

Civil Estimates: Supplementary Estimate, 1929, 2d. net.

Ninth Annual Report of the Electricity Commissioners, April 1, 1928, to March 31, 1929. 3s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE FUNCTION OF THE JOBBER.

THE jobber in the London Stock Exchange has by no means escaped the criticism which, during recent months of depression, has been impartially extended to all the component parts of the investing machine, including brokers, promoters, issuing houses, directors, and even the joint stock banks and the Stock Exchange Committee themselves. Such criticism has been none the less powerful, in the jobber's case, for being confined mainly to the larger investors, such as the trust companies, since to the small investor the jobber, whose business and personality are confined within the walls of the Stock Exchange, is a less familiar figure than the broker. The constitution of the London Stock Exchange differentiates sharply between brokers and dealers (the term "jobber" nowhere appears in its rules), laying down broadly, that a member may be one or the other, but not both at the same time, and that a dealer may not deal directly with the public. This division of functions has endured for many years in London, and as an analysis, made last October, showed that there were 1,510 jobbers out of about 3,700 Stock Exchange members in active business, it is not likely to be upset in the near future. It is sometimes contended, however, that the separation between the two classes is unduly rigid; that the size of the jobber's "turn" is occasionally out of proportion to his services in "making a price," and that he may even refuse to make a price at all at the precise moment when such a service is economically most desirable. We propose to discuss these charges in the following paragraphs.

The Stock Exchange view of the jobber's position has been well put to us by a "House" correspondent with a long inside experience. The technical position of a broker, he points out, is that of an agent, but the jobber acts as a principal. Upon occasion he may be an agent, but it is as a principal that he bases his plea for existence. He stands up in the market place to make prices, prepared to buy stock or shares at the lower, and to sell at the higher, of the two prices he quotes.

The first misapprehension which occurs in the public mind, our correspondent continues, is in connection with the necessity for the jobbers making prices. This misunderstanding becomes acute in days of "flatness," when nobody wants to buy. The jobber obviously cannot go on taking stock from all and sundry, and those who criticise him for refusing to do so ignore the fact that no man, however ample his resources and strong his credit, is able to take on more than a certain amount of responsibility. If a jobber imagined that a company in whose shares he regularly dealt was likely to go into liquidation, and his impression was shared by other people, no man in his senses would continue to make prices on the understanding that people could sell him shares simply because he quoted double figures. There must come a time when the jobber feels it is dangerous to make prices, because he does not know where to replace what he has sold, or to sell what he has bought, and must pay for.

Again, the fact that a jobber "makes a price" does not mean that the quotation is dependent upon his whim or fancy. The price, in fact, depends mainly upon public supply and demand. It may be unduly raised or lowered, according to the operations of people who are dealing in the shares, but, as a rule, these are outside the scope of the jobber, and he is just as likely to lose money by reason of them as is any member of the public. But his willingness, as a rule, to buy or to sell without knowing in which direction the man who comes to him wants to deal, offers a valuable "buffer" to the violence of such rises and falls as New York has recently witnessed. The jobber's province, in short, is to find stock with which to supply purchasers, and, as a necessary sequel, to discover purchasers who wish to take stock which is offered, and he must normally be prepared to take the ordinary business risks which attach to selling stock that one has not got and buying stock for which one knows of no immediate home. Jobbing may be defined as an art or an instinct. To those in close touch with British Stock Exchange practice, concludes our correspondent, the necessity for the presence of the jobber is as obvious as that of the broker, for while the latter acts as a client's agent, the dealer plays a part of equal consequence in imparting flexibility to all the markets around the House.

Few people would quarrel with this temperate statement of the jobber's responsibilities and limitations, but many who recognise that it is not his business to take on his book, in time of trouble, unlimited quantities of stock in the ultimate soundness of which he has no faith, frequently complain that in his anxiety to avoid personal loss he is sometimes unwilling to shoulder the ordinary trading risks inseparable from his position. Holders of these views declare, in fact, that there are an unnecessarily large number of jobbers on the Stock Exchange, and that not all of them possess the somewhat extensive financial resources which are indispensable to the efficient performance of their duties. As a Stock Exchange correspondent recently pointed out in our columns (see the *Economist*, December 14, 1929, page 1146) a man may become a member of the "House" for the modest sum of £2,225 (of which only £735 represents real "out-of-pocket" expenses, the remainder being the cost of a nomination and three Stock Exchange shares, which have a saleable value on a member's resignation), and sureties to a total of £1,500 for four years.

The essential functions of the jobber closely resemble those of a merchant. As a specialist, he is expected to have more than ordinary knowledge of the limited range of "wares" in which he deals. He should be in a position to keep, in his "warehouse," a sufficiently varied and extensive "stock" of those wares to satisfy the reasonable demands of his customers, or, if necessary, occasionally to provide a "line" which he may not possess at the moment, but may be able to obtain before the date of delivery. When trade is temporarily slack, he must be able and willing to carry an abnormally large "stock" which would otherwise press damagingly upon the market. These duties, it is argued, call for much more extensive financial resources than are presupposed by the Stock Exchange membership regulations. The presence in any market of numerous dealers who are virtually "men of straw" may be disadvantageous in two distinct ways. Their assumption of liabilities beyond their means involves the risk of a series of unsettling failures, while the much more common phenomenon of ultra-caution, evidenced by unwillingness to take stock, however sound, or the rush to "even their book" at the end of each day, tends to rob markets of the flexibility which is the jobber's *raison d'être*. The latter tendency may not be confined to periods of depression and liquidation. It has been asserted that some jobbers habitually refuse to deal in unquestionably sound investment stocks, which do not enjoy an active market, until they have assured themselves of a *contra* order from another customer. There would seem to be some force in the criticism that such dealers might well be superseded by a blackboard, which, incidentally, would not charge any "turn."

Whatever his contemporary shortcomings, the jobber remains an integral part of London's Stock Exchange organisation. His critics do not invariably define his functions with due precision. It may well be argued that the jobber should act as a cushion in respect of short-term fluctuations in prices—extending, say, over one, two or three accounts—but that the duty of carrying stock during a major swing in quotations, which may spread over many months, is essentially one for the outside speculative investor. The jobber may plead, again, that the banks and others who regularly supply him with "working capital" are liable at times to apply the screw for reasons outside his control. With all allowance, however, for the difficulties of his position and for his undoubtedly valuable services during such periods as last autumn (when, at one time, London was called upon to absorb masses of stock from every Bourse in North America and Europe), no serious observer, inside or outside the "House," would regard his *rôle* as incapable of improvement. The suggestion of a severer "means test" for new members of the Stock Exchange opens up many controversial questions, and must necessarily be left to the responsible authorities, who, it will readily be admitted, have, in the past, given many evidences of their realisation that the "House" was made for the public, not the public for the "House." In the long run, however, limitation of resources rather than of enterprise would seem to be behind many of the complaints that have been recently expressed. Whether the rigid segregation of the functions of the broker and the jobber, which is more or less peculiar to this country, might with advantage be modified, is another far-reaching question. In New York, for instance, the "specialist" and, to a less extent, the "floor trader," possess many of the attributes of the jobber, but may, and do, deal for outside clients, while brokers frequently deal directly with each other. The whole issue is primarily one for the Stock Exchange itself to decide, but its implications are so closely bound up with the investor's interests that those concerned would, it may be assumed, be the last to deprecate constructive criticism from any quarter.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
January 7.	January 9.

Though business remained of small dimensions, a more cheerful tone obtained in the "House," partly in sympathy with the increased firmness of New York, partly as a result of the distribution of year-end dividends and of the very favourable monetary outlook, and partly, it must be said, in response to the seasonal spirit of New Year optimism, which past experience has shown to be, unfortunately, of an evanescent character. Firmness was most in evidence on the investment side, the volume of dealings in more speculative stocks continuing very limited, and being likely to remain so until the incubus of the pending "Hatry" settlement is removed.

With money market conditions much easier than had been expected, the reinvestment of dividend disbursements was reflected more or less throughout the gilt-edged list. The Five per Cent. War Loan further strengthened, and both the Three and a Half per Cent. and the Five per Cent. Conversion issues were firm. The deliberations of the Lahore Congress, however, were naturally a bear point for India Loans, which gave way appreciably. Dominion and Colonial stocks attracted little interest.

Changes in quotations in the foreign market were few and irregular, though the pre-holiday demand for certain European stocks was again in evidence. Brazilian bonds showed no recovery. Chinese bond-holders were not, apparently, inclined to expect serious repercussions from the Nanking Government's unilateral denouncement of ex-territoriality, quotations being, if anything, firmer than before Christmas.

Considerable interest centred on the 52 weeks' traffic figures of the Home Railways, which are discussed on page 29 of this issue. While regarding increased dividends on the Great Western and the London and North-Eastern as a certainty, the market was more undecided as regards the Midland and Scottish and the Southern, though the more optimistic observers believed that economies in expenditure on both systems would wipe out the decrease in receipts and leave a margin for higher distributions. The "London" stocks continued to attract but a modicum of interest. The Foreign Railway market was quiet but dull, the Argentine stocks fluctuating in view of the prevailing uncertainty regarding the immediate economic outlook. San Paulo was a heavy feature among Brazilians, while the prospect of new restriction measures in the nitrate industry (discussed in a "Note" on page 31) induced a certain amount of selling of Chilean railway stocks.

Industrial shares opened in unexciting fashion, the accumulation of orders over the Christmas holiday being small. A better feeling prevailed, however, over the turn of the year, a moderate recovery occurring in various shares which had previously been on offer. Numerous international counters were marked up in anticipation of increased Wall Street interest. Support for Imperial Chemical drove a number of bears to cover, and Margarine issues gained further ground. Selling of Carreras having apparently come to an end, a rally ensued, and Imperial Tobacco shares were more in the picture than of late. American Celanese were in demand from New York, and Courtaulds had a stronger tone, the textile share market as a whole showing a slight but perceptible (and welcome) improvement. Though the speech at the Illustrated Newspapers meeting was somewhat conservatively interpreted, a number of buying orders produced a sizeable rise in Inveresk Paper. The firmness of Guinness was attributed to the success of the company's advertising campaign. Film company shares were weak, British International Pictures falling heavily on reports that no interim dividend would be paid this year. Bank shares were dull pending the dividend declarations, while insurance share values had an irregular trend.

The accumulation of orders in the rubber share market was appreciably in excess of anticipation, and a number of quotations showed improvement when the commodity rose to over 8d. a pound, with October-December rubber dealt in at 9¼d., though a reaction occurred on Thursday. Idle conditions obtained in the tea share market, no commodity auctions being held during the week. Business in oil shares was again limited, but Royal Dutch and Shell were firm, while Paris was a moderate buyer of Mexican Eagle. Anglo-Persian and Burmah were, however, indirectly affected by unfavourable Indian political developments.

Kaffirs finished the year with an unexpected burst of strength, emanating mainly from Paris, but regarded in some quarters as presaging an effort to bring about a revival of interest in these shares in the near future. Rhodesians, for once, held second place, though generally inclined to firmness, Rhodesian Congo Border showing marked strength. The low level of silver induced selling of Burma Corporation and other companies producing considerable quantities of the metal. Rio Tinto improved on support from Paris, but tin shares remained quiet despite an upward turn in the price of the metal.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The share market closed the year with a rally and started the New Year strongly, but then reacted in quiet conditions on renewed bear efforts, which were assisted by the weakness of Fox Film Corporation; the latter has been threatened with receivership proceedings by its Class "A" stockholders. However, there is a better feeling about the immediate prospects of the market, which resisted recent pressure rather well and which failed to develop any considerable bear volume on the occurrence of a reaction. It is also thought that call money will soon be quite cheap for a short time at least, as the Reserve Banks will be unable to offset fully the return flow of funds in early January by selling Government securities without damaging the market for the latter. Some difference of opinion is disclosed as to the subsequent course of the money market. One view held in good quarters is that money will be comfortable and that the banking situation can stand a loss of another $200 million of gold; another view is that the amount of "free gold," which has alre

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices Dec. 24.	Jan. 2.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	74⅛	74⅜	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	93 7/16	93⅜	+ 1/16
Do.5% 1944-64	99 13/16	100⅛	+ 1/16
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100	100 3/16	+ 3/16
Consols 2½%	52 15/16	52⅝	+ 1/16
Do. 4%	84 3/16	82½x	+ 1/16
Funding 4%	85⅝	85⅝	+ ⅛
Victory Bonds 4%	91⅛	91⅛	...
Local Loans 3%	61 11/16	61⅝	+ 1/16

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	100	99⅜	− ⅛
Argentine 4% Recise.	86	84x	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	102	102⅛	+ ⅛
Belgian 7%	108½	109	+ ⅛
Brazil 6½% (1927)	80½	80	− ⅛
Bulgaria 7½%	87	87	...
China 5% (1912)	44	43½	− ⅛
Czechoslovakia 8%	110	110½	+ ⅛
Egypt Unified 4%	79½	79½	...
French 5%	21⅝	21⅝	...
Do. 4% (Brit.)	19⅞	20	+ ⅛
German 7%	103⅜	103½	...
Greek 7% Refugee	100⅜	101⅜	+ 1
Hungary 7½%	101½	102½	+ 1
Chili 6%	95	95	...
Poland 7%	83⅛	83⅛	...
Mexican 5% (1899)	19	18⅛	− ⅛
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	83½	80½x	+ ⅛

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	61	61	...
L. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	93	93	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	95	95	...

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	90½	90⅜	+ ⅛
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	12⅞	12⅝	− ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	37⅛	37⅛	...
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	54⅛	54⅛	...
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	62½	62½	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	7 1/16	7 1/16	...
Southern Def. Stk.	29⅛	29⅛	...
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	72½	72⅝	+ ⅛
Underground Ord. £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Do. Income Bonds	102	102	...
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	193	195¼	+ 2⅛
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	89	87	− 2
B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	85⅛	84⅛	− 1
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	96⅛	96⅜	+ ⅛
B.A.Western,Ord.Stk.	79	80⅛	+ 1⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	21	21⅛	+ ⅛
G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3⅛	+ ⅛
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	50	49⅞	− ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	191⅛	189⅜	− 2
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$28⅛	$28⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	24⅛	24	− ⅛
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1⅛	...

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	247½	248	+ ½
Barclay B. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	2⅜	3	+ 9/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13	13 1/16	+ 1/16
Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1 7/16	1 7/16	− 1/16
Hongk. and S.($125).	122⅛	119⅛	− 3
St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14⅛	14⅛	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 5/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	17⅛	18⅛	+ 1
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	23½	23	− ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	26½	26½	...
Pearl (£1)	12½	12⅝	+ 1/16
Phoenix £1 fully pd.	12⅝	12⅝	+ 1/16
Roy.In.£1,with10/ pd.	7⅞	8	+ ⅛

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
Baldwin (£)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Stewarts&Lloyds(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Thorncroft,John(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Vickers (5/8)	⅝	⅝	...

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	⅛	1/16	− 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Courtaulds	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton(£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	− 1/16
Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Listers (£1)	1	1	...
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ ⅛
British Insulated (£1).	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ ⅛
General Electric (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/16

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Hydro-Elec. com. stk.	38	40½	+ 2⅛
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	335	335	...
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16
S. Metropolitan Stk.	100	100	...

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless 7½% *A Ord*	74⅛	74	− ⅛
B Ord.	36	35	− 1
5½% *Pref.*	96⅛	96⅛	+ ⅛
Canadian Marconi	⅞	⅞	...
Marconi Marine (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	− 1/16
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Ford Motors (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Leyland (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Napier (5/-)	2	2	...
Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/16

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16 x	2 1/16	− 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	29⅛	29⅛	...

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Doms.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	23	22½	− ½
London Asiatic (2/)-	1/16	1/16	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Ashtock (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
Burmah Oil (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	− 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Lobitos (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	1/16	1/16	...
Royal Dutch (£5)	32	33	+ 1
Shell (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Bras. Traction, no par	$37⅛	$40⅜	+ 2⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5 1/16	− 1/16
Carreras," A" Ord. (£1)	13 1/16	13⅛	+ 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	5 1/16	+ 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3⅜	− 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	1/16	1/16	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16 x	4⅛	...
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16
International Holdings	5 1/16 x	5 1/16	...
Inter. Nickel of Can.	31 1/16	33 1/16	+ 2⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	22⅜	25⅛	+ ⅛
Margarine Union (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	15	15⅜	+ ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 1/16 x	1 1/16	− 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	...
United Molasses (£1)	5⅛	5 1/16	+ 1/16
Vocalion (10/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Watney Combe Dl.(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅛	10	+ ⅛
Jagersfon (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
" *Chartered* " 15/t.p.	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Gwenia Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	⅛	− 1/16
Ilerez M'Kubwa, 5/sp	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Natal Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Rhod. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Willaw & Star (4/).	⅛	1/16	− 1/16
Zaba (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	⅞	7⅛	+ ⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	42½	44⅛	+ 2
Roan Antelope Copr. (5/)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Sub Nigel (10/)	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	1 15/16	2	+ 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6)fu.pd.	3 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16

been considerably reduced, will be still further reduced as soon as the volume of bills outstanding diminishes and the volume of eligible paper in the Reserve Banks available as reserve against notes is correspondingly reduced. According to this view, the Reserve System is quickly approaching a position where ability to expand the System's credit at the discretion of the authorities will have passed, and that the retention of a comfortable monetary position will then require the liquidation of the Member Banks' loans on securities. Some adherents of the second view feel that the System cannot afford to lose another $200 million gold now; however, it is probably the first view that prevails in the best quarters.

The output of the steel industry, which probably approximated 50 per cent. of capacity during the month of December, and which dropped to 40 per cent. last week, when many year-end stoppages occurred, is expected to approximate 60 per cent. early in January. Automobile manufacturers are gradually increasing their output. Department store sales in New York in the first 24 days of December totalled approximately the same volume as in the corresponding period of last year. This confirms the impression that, although the recession in industry has been very sharp, current consumption by the public remains good. There are many signs that manufacturing consumers of steel have already reduced their stocks of raw material to the absolute minimum and there is some disposition to believe that the rebound in production may be in proportion to the sharpness of the recession.

	Dec. 19.	Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104 3/16	104	104 1/16
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	110 1/16	111 1/16	111⅛
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99⅜	99	99 1/16
Do. 4½% '32-47	100 7/16	100 11/16	101
Do. 4½% '33-38	101 3/16	101 5/16	101⅛
Atchison	224	223	220
Ches. & Ohio	204	200½	204
Erie	59⅛	57½	57
Illinois Central	128½	129	129½
N.Y. Central	171⅛	171	170
Pennsylvania	79⅛	74⅜	73⅜
Southern Pacific	120	119⅝	121
Southern Rly.	134	133½	131
Union Pacific	215½	215	215
Am. Can.	112⅛	114⅛	119 1/16
Alleghany Corp.	25⅜	24	24⅜
Amer. Smelting	70	71⅜	71⅜
Anaconda	76	73⅜	72½
Bethlehem Steel	90⅛	92	92½
Chrysler Motor	34⅜	36½	35⅞
Corn Products	90⅛	88⅜	90
Eastman Kodak	173	179	178
Gen. Electric	229⅜	232⅛	241½
Gen. Motors	40⅜	41	40⅜
Int. Harvester	78½	76⅜	79
Montg. Ward	53⅜	48⅜	47⅜
Natl. Biscuit	171	170	175
Phelps Dodge	40½	38½	38½
Pullman	84	82½	84
Sears-Roebuck	97	92½	84½
Studebaker	42½	42⅜	43⅝
Un. Fruit	100	100⅛	101
U.S. Leather	8⅜	7	7⅜
U.S. Rubber	25½	24	24⅜
U.S. Steel	167½	166	167
Westinghouse	133	135½	141
Woolworth	74	70⅜	69½
Worthington Pump	70	67	68
Am. Pow. & Light	77	75⅛	84
Am. Tel. & Tg.	218	218½	219
Electric P. & L.	45½	46	51
Int. Tel. Teles.	71	70	72
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	30½	30⅛	32
Radio Corpn.	42⅜	41½	43⅜
Utilities P. & L.	31½	30⅞	31⅜
W. Union Tlg.	197⅛	187x	190
Associated Gas "A"	39⅛	37⅛	37⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	27	25⅜	...
Pan Amer. B.	58	56	59
Sinclair Oil	25	23⅜	24½
Std. California	61⅞	60⅜	60⅜
Do. N.J.	63	63⅜	65½

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1927. Lowest.	1927. Highest.	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Beginning of Year.	1929. Dec. 19.	1929. Dec. 26.
342 Industrials	104·7	137·1	132·5	186·4	191·1	144·6	144·3
33 Rails	106·1	128·0	120·5	139·7	140·9	136·3	135·4
35 Utilities	103·3	128·3	128·3	180·6	184·6	195·9	196·6
Total, 410 Stocks	104·7	134·1	130·3	178·9	182·8	151·4	151·2

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100):—

Highest of 1929. (Sep. 7).	Lowest of 1929. (Nov. 13)	Dec. 25.	Dec. 26.	Dec. 27.	Dec. 28.	Dec. 30.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 1.
252·8	141·3	*	165·7	165·5	164·1	165·4	169·3	*

* Stock Exchange Holiday.

PARIS.

The affairs of the Paris Bourse during the month of December fall into two well-defined periods. During the first ten days, in spite of the depression of foreign markets, liquidation in Paris was on a more or less moderate scale, with business restricted in volume. But during the week which preceded the selling of December 15th, despite the New York recovery, a veritable "slide" in prices occurred; in three days share values gave way something like 10 per cent. in a fairly active market. On the day following this burst of liquidation there was a complete reversal of tendency. On the intervention of the banks, assisted by the Government, a hasty re-buying movement ensued, prices swiftly regaining their November level. Since then, apart from a few fluctuations, quotations have been maintained, sellers refraining from attacking a market where a desire for support was so clearly visible. The poverty of transactions seems to give a rather artificial character to the improvement in all cases, and the uneasy sentiment is aggravated by the general weakness of foreign stocks. There are no orders from clients, and professionals dare not risk bullish operations in a market of such uncertain equilibrium. A noticeable factor is the extraordinary firmness of rentes, which continue to advance in a lively market. A strengthening of the banking group, and particularly of the Bank of France, has come opportunely at the time of the mid-December slump. Money remains easy and plentiful at 2¼ per cent.

"Valeurs à Terme":	Nov. 30.	Dec. 30.
Banque de France	22,350	23,940*
Banque Algérie	15,300	15,950
Paris Pays Bas	2,795	2,955*
Union Parisienne	1,970	2,140
Cie. Algérienne	2,240	2,365
Comptoir Nat.	1,958	2,000
Crédit Commer.	1,500	1,555
Crédit Foncier	5,240	5,600
Crédit Lyonnais	2,950	3,235
Suez	18,725	19,825
C. de F. Nord	2,300	2,540
C. de F. Santa Fé	2,950	2,795*
Soc. Lyon. Eaux	3,195	3,495
Parisienne Elect.	2,525	2,875
Gén. Electricité	3,110	3,340
Littoral Médit.	1,273	1,360
Elect. Nord Fr.	1,045	1,118
Courrières	1,635	1,720
Mines de Lens	1,354	1,430
Penarroya	1,029	1,081
Dives	2,285	2,570
Etab. Kuhmann	1,072	1,152
Phosph. Gafsa	942	987
Pechiney	3,315	3,550
Air Liquide	1,960	2,125
Caout. Indo-Ch.	720	763

"Valeurs à Terme":	Nov. 30.	Dec. 30.
Citroën	1,142	1,174
Norvég. Azote	2,080	2,220
Hotchkiss	2,050	2,090
"Valeurs au Comptant":		
Union-Vie	1,960	2,255
Urbaine Seine	1,799	1,766
Union Mines	1,424	1,590
Indo-Chine	5,100	4,775
El. Loire Centre	650	620
Dolfus Mieg	11,000	10,850
Chatillon-Comm.	4,800	4,900
Denain & Anzin	2,900	3,200
Alsac. Construct.	2,600	2,665
Rhône-Poulenc	3,725	3,350
St Gobain Chauny	7,100	6,885
Givet	9,000	8,800
Kali Ste Thérèse	14,900	15,750
Rosario	27,250	25,800
J. Damoy	1,465	1,468
Poliet Chausson	2,710	2,745
S. Fr. Viscose	23,700	20,000

* E coupon.

CANADA.

The Canadian stockmarkets have not attained anything which can be described as a state of buoyancy and although there has been a good recovery from the bottom prices which were reached at the end of the great slump, there is not much optimism about the immediate future. Probably there is not the same amount of cleaning up of *débris* to be accomplished in Canada as in the United States, but the same questions are heard about the position of some investment trust companies which had been buying stocks at peak prices. Brazilian Traction, which is a very popular Canadian stock, and is heavily held in Montreal and Toronto, has been erratic on disquieting reports about the coffee situation and the state of Brazilian finances. Some of the other public utility stocks, like Montreal Power, have been stronger, and the railway equipment stocks have been fortified by the announcement of large orders by both the railway systems. The public is doing some investment buying of good common stocks, but is averse from speculating, and has been turning its attention more and more to bonds, the market for high-grade securities of this class having been very firm. Trading generally has shrunk to modest dimensions and no real activity is now expected until after the holidays. The Western oil stocks have been weak and there has been a persistent and successful bear drive against a batch of important mining stocks known as the Lindsley group, which has carried them to very low levels and adversely affected the rest of the mining market.

	Oct. 31.	Nov. 29.	Dec. 31.
Abitibi Power & Paper	45	39⅜	35
Asbestos Corp.	4	No bid	2½
Bank of Montreal	320	300	315
Brazilian Traction	49x	41½	39⅜
British Col. Power "A"	43	38½	36
Calgary Power	170	161	158½
Can. Bank Commerce	270	258	245
Canadian Car	25	25½	27
Canada Cement	20½	19½	18½
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	13	13⅛	12
Canada Power & Paper	26½	23½	19⅛
Can. Steamship Lines	20	16	18½
Cockshutt Plow	21½	22	24
Cons. Mining	290	268	254
Dominion Bridge	83x	74	73½
Dom. Textile (New)	82	75	75
Hollinger Gold Mining	5½	5	4⅜
International Nickel	41	30⅜xd	32½
Massey Harris	45½	43	43⅜
Montreal Light	147½	119⅜	128
National Breweries	129	124½	118½
Nat. Steel Car	44½	52½	59½
Port Alfred Pulp	65	No bid	...
Power Corp., Canada	89⅜	78xd	74½
Price Bros.	92	84	79⅜
Quebec Power	73	64½	66⅜
Shawinigan	86	77	77⅛
Southern Can. Power	35½x	34	33
Steel of Canada	47½	44½	43½
Wayagamac kPulp	68	No bid	...
Winnipeg Electric	60	54	51½

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Home Railway Earnings.—Though the home railway stockholder has suffered this year in some cases a further loss in the capital value of his holdings, the position of the railways on the revenue side has, generally speaking, shown appreciable improvement. In the 52 weeks of 1928 gross receipts on the four group railways showed a decline of over £9,000,000 as compared with 1927. This tendency was definitely arrested last year, as the following table shows:—

(000's omitted).

Four "Group" Lines.	Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Goods and Passengers.
	£	£	£	£	£
52 weeks, 1928	79,275	66,428	33,405	99,833	179,108
52 weeks, 1929	77,107	66,962	36,329	103,291	180,398
1929 compared with 1928 Amount	− 2,168	+ 534	+ 2,924	+ 3,458	+ 1,290
1929 compared with 1928 *Per cent.*	− 2·7	+ 0·8	+ 8·75	+ 3·5	+ 0·7

A fresh loss of 2¾ per cent. in gross passenger revenus has been more than offset by increased receipts on the goods side, particularly under the heading of coal and coke. The decline in passenger revenue reflects mainly the provision of further cheap facilities, especially the extended week-end ticket system, which came into force in August, 1928. The railways, as a whole, have lately carried more passengers than at any previous period in their history. No receipts from railway-owned or partly-owned road transport undertakings are, of course, included in the figures. Increased coal traffic, especially for export, has made a significant contribution to the enhanced goods receipts. In the next table we compare revenue of the four group lines and the two London lines during the past two years quarter by quarter:—

(000's omitted.)

Increase or Decrease as compared with 1928, in	Group Lines. Great Western.	London and North Eastern.	London Midland and Scottish.	Southern	Total. 4 Groups.	London Lines. Metropolitan.	Underground Electric.†
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Passenger traffic—							
First quarter	*	− 65	− 45	+ 59	− 51	− 4	...
Second "	− 210	− 305	− 531	− 272	− 1,318	+ 2	...
Third "	− 33	− 154	− 360	− 35	− 582	+ 7	...
Fourth "	− 50	− 40	− 179	+ 52	− 217	+ 17	...
Total for Year	− 293	− 564	− 1,115	− 196	− 2,168	+ 22	...
Goods traffic—							
First quarter	+ 34	− 59	− 242	− 6	− 273	*	...
Second "	+ 380	+ 592	+ 299	+ 41	+ 1,312	+ 2	...
Third "	+ 246	+ 817	+ 290	+ 34	+ 1,387	+ 4	...
Fourth "	+ 268	+ 569	+ 152	+ 43	+ 1,032	+ 8	...
Total for Year	+ 928	+ 1,919	+ 499	+ 112	+ 3,458	+ 14	...
All traffic—							
First quarter	+ 34	− 124	− 287	+ 53	− 324	− 4	− 77
Second "	+ 170	+ 287	− 232	− 231	− 6	+ 4	+ 37
Third "	+ 213	+ 563	− 70	+ 1	+ 605	+ 11	+ 62
Fourth "	+ 218	+ 529	− 27	+ 95	+ 815	+ 25	+ 123
Total for Year	+ 635	+ 1,355	− 616	− 84	+ 1,290	+ 36	+ 145

* Totals virtually same in both periods.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during 1929.

The comparison is affected as regards the first and second quarters by the fact that Good Friday fell in April in 1928 and in March in 1929. Broadly, the loss in gross passenger receipts in the two "heavy" quarters of the year (the second and third) was shared by all the group lines, though the third quarter witnessed a relative recovery on the Great Western and the Southern, the Continental traffic of the last-named having been affected in the previous quarter by the restriction of entry into France under temporary "health" regulations. The most satisfactory showing as regards total receipts was made by the North-Eastern and the Great Western, and the least satisfactory by the London Midland and Scottish. In this connection it is relevant to point out that export coal, in a recent period, accounted for as much as 25 per cent. of the total coal receipts of the North-Eastern and 45 per cent. of those

of the Great Western, but only 10 per cent. of those of the London Midland and Scottish. The last-named company was undoubtedly affected also by the continued depression in Lancashire, one of its most important traffic areas. Its goods receipts are to a comparatively large extent derived from high-grade traffic, which is most vulnerable to road competition. The actual showing made by the North-Eastern and Great Western is appreciably better than the figures indicate, since the latter do not include dock receipts, which were substantially better than in 1928, though on the Midland and Scottish they showed little movement. Among the London lines, the Metropolitan has continued to make steady headway, while the Underground, whose stocks have been much less active than in 1928, more than recovered in the latter part of the year the loss of traffic in the first quarter. In this case, of course, 'bus receipts loom largely in the total figures. It is expected that railway expenditure will show a further decline, though not on the same scale as in 1928. The outlook for home railway stockholders altogether is brighter in many ways than for some time past.

Rayon Shares and the Rayon Market.—The demand for rayon, writes an artificial silk correspondent, is seasonally dull at present, and during the next few months business will undoubtedly be limited by uncertainty as to the fate of the "Silk Duties." In the event of a repeal of the duties, Mr Snowden's willingness to introduce a scheme of rebates to meet the position of holders of duty-paid stocks would doubtless be helpful. But it might well be that those firms whose very existence resulted from the duties would not be able to carry on. Those firms in a position to turn out the highest quality yarns, such as the fine filament and dull-lustre viscose, and the acetate warps on beam, are able to do a fairly remunerative business in these grades. Apart from these special yarns the main demand is for cheap grade weft and knitting yarns, and the medium quality yarn is apparently disappearing from the market, its place being taken by yarns in which price is the first consideration. Since the introduction just over a month ago of a 150 denier weft on pirn yarn, which sells at 3s. 9d. a lb., the prices of other cheap-grade yarns have been reduced from 3d. to 6d. below this level, so that, after paying the Excise duty of 1s. per lb. it is difficult to see how any profit can be made. Apart from the effects of the cautious policy which must perforce be adopted while uncertainty regarding the duties remains, the outlook for the home market for woven and knitted rayon fabrics is encouraging, and a big business is anticipated with the Dominions. In the Eastern markets for mixtures of American cotton and rayon, Lancashire has steadily lost ground to Japan during the past year. Efforts are being made to regain this trade and are believed to have been the main factor behind the introduction by the leading producers of the cheap yarn mentioned above. At present, however, Lancashire prices as a whole would seem to be too high. The Japanese fabrics, moreover, are of good quality. How far these considerations have affected the market in rayon shares it is difficult to say, for very little is known on the Stock Exchange of the conditions in the trade. The weakness of both Courtaulds and British Celanese shares has been a feature of the market during the past account, as the following table will show:—

	Highest, Nov. 25, 1929.	1929.	This week.
Courtaulds, £1	5 3/8	3 1/8	2 11/16
British Celanese, 10s.	44/4½	20/–	16/3
" " 7½% Second Pref. (£1)	18/3	13/3	12/6

It has been rumoured in the market that British Celanese have been encroaching to some extent upon Courtaulds trade. If Courtaulds have merely maintained their position it is argued that the fall in rayon prices will appreciably affect their earnings. Last year Courtaulds earned nearly 20 per cent. and paid 15 per cent. tax free. The interim dividend in respect of 1929 was reduced from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent., tax free, and the market is looking for a final of 6 per cent. or 8 per cent., tax free, making 10 per cent. or 12 per cent., tax free, for the year. If the Chancellor removes the rayon Customs and Excise duties the market on the Stock Exchange would undoubtedly become reactionary, discounting the probability of a slump in rayon prices, the closing down of the smaller companies and the throwing on the market of large stocks of rayon at distress prices. Taking the longer view, the market is confident that Courtaulds will emerge successfully from the present depression in the trade, but is inclined to take a conservative view of the dividend possibilities of British Celanese.

Ebbw Vale Changes.—Share and debenture holders in the Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Company have learned this week with considerable interest that Sir Frederick Mills, Bart., has resigned from the boards of the company and its subsidiaries. Sir Frederick came to Ebbw Vale as general manager in 1899, and has been chairman since 1918. The boards of the companies are to be reconstituted, and, as a first step, Sir John Beynon, Bart., has been appointed a director. Drastic changes have already taken place during the last three years. Sir John Beynon himself was a director until 1927, when he and three others resigned, leaving only Sir Frederick Mills and Captain C. E. Benson, the latter representing the noteholders. Mr L. D. Whitehead, chairman of the Whitehead Iron and Steel Company, and Sir Arthur Lowes Dickinson were appointed to the vacancies, but the former shortly afterwards resigned, and his place was filled by Sir W. R. Preston. Finally, Captain Benson announced his retirement a little time ago, on account of illness and absence abroad. Thus, save for the return after an interval of Sir John Beynon—who has all the while remained chairman of Ebbw Vale's sales agents, T. Beynon and Company—none of the pre-1927 directors retains his seat on the board, which now consists of Sir John Beynon, Sir Arthur Lowes Dickinson and Sir W. R. Preston. It has been intimated that Mr D. H. Allan, senior partner in a London firm of chartered accountants, is likely to join the board. The inner history of the happenings of the past three years has never been made public. Sir Frederick Mills, however, at the last general meeting, expressed regret at Mr Whitehead's decision to resign, not on any "real difference of opinion as to the requirements necessary for the success of the company, but rather as to the method, the time and the finance for putting them into execution." A writing down of the capital has seemed long overdue, and shareholders have pressed questions on the subject. The last balance sheet, dated March 31, 1929, showed bankers' loans, £784,709; other creditors, £543,955; and debit balance of profit and loss account, £957,636 (including £528,000 note interest accrued). Liquid assets then totalled £644,327, but though a capital reserve account of £1,350,348 and a special reserve of £871,836 appeared in the balance sheet, for several years past no depreciation has been provided on the properties and interests in subsidiaries, which stand at £9,948,681. A loss of £407,394 (including £240,000 note interest debited but not paid) was shown for 1928-29, and preference dividends are in arrear since 1923. At the meeting in June it was stated that arrangements were being made whereby the modernisation

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of the iron and steel departments would be carried out over the next three or four years, but in September notices were issued to all officials and men employed in the iron and steel plant to terminate their contracts, owing to intensity of foreign competition. The neighbouring Guest, Keen works at Dowlais appear to be more fortunate. The steel plant still in operation at Ebbw Vale is only finishing the balances of contracts on hand; the small furnaces that are still in blast are merely using up the stocks of ore. It has been suggested that the company intends now to concentrate on its collieries, which have an annual output of 5,000,000 tons, and colour is lent to this view by the news that Sir John Beynon has appointed Mr T. L. Mort to be his mining adviser. Mr Mort has been serving in association with Sir John Beynon on the board of Fernhill Collieries, a small company owning pits at the head of the Rhondda Valley. Ebbw Vale has the advantage, as compared with certain others of the large South Wales coal companies, that its coal properties are not scattered, but grouped well together. Meanwhile, shareholders will be anxious to learn what is the attitude of the creditor banks to the company under the new *régime*. It is not yet clear who has taken the initiative in the appointment of Sir John Beynon.

Nitrate Prospects.—The lot of the nitrate shareholder has not of late been a happy one. We summarise, in a subsequent "Note," proposals for amalgamation of two Chilean companies on a basis involving a heavy writing-down of capital—a process which the Stock Exchange has already carried out as regards the industry as a whole, nitrate shares having lost, on the average, two-thirds of their value over the last few years, as the following table suggests:—

	1925 (Best recent year). Highest Price.	1925 (Best recent year). Lowest Price.	1929. Highest Price.	1929. Lowest Price.	Last Ordinary Dividend. Rate %	Last Ordinary Dividend. When paid.	Yield at present Price. £ s. d.
Allanza (£5)	23½	16½	8	5½	7	1928	6 7 3
Lagunas Nitrate (£5)	1 1/16	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	1(a)	1925	Nil
Lagunas Syndicate (£1)	1/8	1/8	1/8	1/16	2	1924–5	Nil
Liverpool (£1)	3½	1 1/16	1½	1/16	6½†	Nov. 1929	...
New Tamarugal (£1)	3½	2 1/16	1 1/16	1/16	7(b)	1927–8	8 0 0
Rosario (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1/16	7½	1925	Nil
Tarapaca & Tocopilla (10s.)	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	10	1928	14 11 0

(a) Free of tax. (b) An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid in June, 1929
† Interim dividend.

The outlook does not promise any early improvement, increased consumption of Chilean nitrate of soda in Europe during the past six months having been more than offset by a falling off in deliveries in the United States of America, so that the 25 per cent. increase in consumption, postulated six months ago by Messrs. Aikman (London), Limited, as necessary to balance the probable growth in production during the nitrate year ending June 30th next, does not appear likely to be forthcoming. Visible supplies of Chilean nitrate have continued to rise, and were equal, on December 31st last, to about a year's consumption:—

SIX MONTHS, JUNE TO DECEMBER.

(Thousand Tons.)		1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Deliveries	Europe and Egypt	490	311	355	397
	U.S.A.	258	305	240	137
	Other countries	45	113	100	102
	Total	793	729	695	636
Production in Chile		1,367	1,028	1,635	1,575*
Visible Supply at Dec. 31	For Europe and Egypt	1,098	803	956	1,090*
	For U.S.A.	71	130	206	275*
	For other countries	18	43	54	39*
	Stocks in Chile	498	519	874	1,150*
	Total	1,685	1,495	2,090	2,554*

* Estimated.

January to June is normally the period during which America's takings are heaviest, and it remains to be seen whether increased consumption during these months will largely retrieve the lost ground, as it did a year ago. In the meantime, Messrs. Aikman declare that "a very cursory glance at the situation shows the urgent necessity of a general and substantial restriction in the production of nitrogen at any rate until such time as consumption can be more accurately gauged." But such a policy involves peculiar difficulties in Chile's case, partly on account of the ever-present competition of synthetic nitrogen and partly because the triumph of the "Guggenheim" process over the older "Shanks" process has largely committed the dominant interests in the Chilean industry to a policy of massed production. A scheme, however, has been inaugurated, to operate from February 1st next, aiming at a 20 per cent. reduction by the voluntary suspension of operations in oficinas where the cost is high. Whether the Guggenheim interests, who have an ambitious programme of development in hand on the Lautaro properties, will agree to restrict their output is another question. In the meantime, further negotiations have been taking place between synthetic nitrogen producers on the Continent of Europe during recent months, with a view to making the existing nitrogen agreement more comprehensive, and a working basis has been reached between the I.G. Farbenindustrie and the principal Ruhr producers.

A Nitrate Fusion.—Taken in conjunction with the general nitrate situation, outlined in a Note above, the decision of the directors of the Lagunas Nitrate Company and the Lagunas Syndicate, to seek more effective utilisation of the resources of both companies by a fusion of interests, should cause no surprise. Lagunas Syndicate, which, on a capital of £550,000, has made only £20,000 profit during the last three years, is to be placed in liquidation and the whole of its assets and liabilities transferred to Lagunas Nitrate. The present capital of the latter company, £900,000 in £5 shares, is to be written down to £180,000 by the cancellation of £720,000 unrepresented by available assets, and the remainder divided into 180,000 shares of £1 each. A new capital issue of 27,500 £1 shares, ranking *pari passu* with the old, is to be appropriated as the purchase consideration for the assets of the Syndicate, the shareholders of which are to receive one such new share for every 20 £1 shares of the Syndicate held by them. Debenture holders of the Syndicate are advised by the trustees to accept the arrangement, by which their £59,470 6 per cent. holdings are to be exchanged for an equal nominal value of 6 per cent. debentures of the Nitrate Company, repayable in January, 1937. It is estimated that as a result of the proposed fusion the gross trading profits of the combined concerns should be about £30,000 annually, which would enable all the liabilities other than the debentures of the company to be paid off within two years and the necessary working capital to be provided.

Discount Company Dividends.—The announcements by Alexanders Discount Company and the National Discount Company of the dividends they propose to pay for the past year go to show that 1929 has been by no means an unfavourable period in the discount market. The directors of the National Discount Company recommend an increase of bonus on the £576,688 of "B" capital from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per share, which, together with the usual distribution of 5s. 6d. per share, brings the total dividend to 24 per cent., as compared with 23 per cent. last year. The customary rate of 10 per cent., less tax, will be maintained on the £423,333 of "A" capital. £25,000 is to be placed to reserve account, against £15,000, while an amount of £14,000, compared with £10,000 last year, is to be appropriated to the pension fund. The carry-forward item shows a drop of some £3,600 at £212,000. Alexanders Discount Company has maintained its customary distribution, the ordinary shares again receiving a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, less tax, with, in addition, the usual bonus of 1s. per share, free of tax. The carry-forward is £53,000, against £47,989. The Union Discount Company announces similar distributions to last year, a final dividend of 7½ per cent. making 15 per cent. for the year, less tax. In addition there will be as before a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share. The £125,000 of additional capital issued in 1928 ranks for the whole of the past year. The premises account is reduced by £10,000, and a similar sum is again appropriated to the provident fund. £269,000 is to be carried forward, compared with £241,607 brought forward from the previous year.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ULSTER BANK, LIMITED.

NINETY-THIRD ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

The ninety-third ordinary general meeting of the Ulster Bank, Limited, was held at the head office of the Bank, Waring Street, Belfast, on Tuesday, December 31, 1929, at half-past twelve o'clock, p.m., when the report of the committee for the year ended November 30, 1929, was submitted to the proprietors.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The net profits of the Bank for the past year amounted to £218,434 17s. 4d., and this sum added to £72,214 18s. 3d., the balance of undivided profits from the previous year, leaves an available total of £290,649 15s. 7d.

Two half-yearly dividends, amounting to £128,000, have been paid to the shareholders, £50,000 has been appropriated to the reserve fund and £50,000 to the contingent fund, and the balance remaining, £62,649 15s. 7d., is carried forward to undivided profits account.

All ascertained bad and doubtful debts have been written off or fully provided for.

The directors and committee have pleasure in referring to the annexed balance sheet, with the report thereon of the auditors, Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son, chartered accountants.

J. MILNE BARBOUR,
Chairman of Committee.

Belfast, December 13, 1929.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED AND SUBSCRIBED, £3,000,000.
CAPITAL PAID UP, £800,000 } £1,750,000.
RESERVE FUND, £950,000 }

BALANCE SHEET, NOVEMBER 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.

	£ s. d.
Capital paid up	800,000 0 0
Reserve fund	950,000 0 0
	£1,750,000 0 0
Deposits and credit accounts	21,588,157 16 7
Acceptances current	*Nil*
Bills for collection	52,702 1 6
Notes in circulation	1,346,925 17 6
Undivided profits	62,649 15 7
	£24,800,435 11 2

ASSETS.

	£ s. d.
Government stocks—	
War Loan and other securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government	9,785,412 17 10
Other securities	957,091 10 8
	£10,742,504 8 6
Cash on hand, balances with London bankers, and remittances in transit	2,645,009 12 10
	£13,387,514 1 4
Bills discounted, advances to customers, short loans on securities, etc.	11,179,336 10 1
Acceptances, *per contra*	*Nil*
Bank premises	233,584 19 9
	£24,800,435 11 2

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To dividend at June, 1929	64,000 0 0	
To dividend at December, 1929	64,000 0 0	
		128,000 0 0
To reserve fund		50,000 0 0
To contingent fund		50,000 0 0
To undivided profits carried forward		62,649 15 7
		£290,649 15 7
		£ s. d.
By undivided profits from November 30, 1928		72,214 18 3
By net profits for year ending November 30, 1929 —after deducting rebate on bills current, interest due on deposits, income tax and all other expenses—all ascertained bad and doubtful debts having been written off or fully provided for		218,434 17 4
		£290,649 15 7

STANLEY FERGUSON,
A. H. MOODY,
W. M. FULLERTON,
JOHN GRAHAM, } Directors.

J. K. PATTEN, Secretary.
J. W. BLACKWOOD, Chief Accountant.

We have examined the accounts of the bank and the above balance sheet, and in accordance with the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, we report that :—

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

We have ascertained the correctness of the cash and bills on hand at the head office and in Dublin, and of the money at call and short notice, and have inspected the securities representing the investments of the bank, and find them to be in order.

We have also examined the above balance sheet in detail with the books at the head office, and with the certified returns from each branch, and in our opinion it is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the bank's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books.

HARMOOD BANNER AND SON,
Chartered Accountants.

ULSTER BANK, LIMITED.
Belfast, December 12, 1929.

E. W. TARRY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

ABNORMAL TRADING CONDITIONS.

The annual general meeting of E. W. Tarry and Company, Limited, was held, on the 31st ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir J. Fortescue Flannery, Bt., D.L. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said he regretted that the board were unable to report an increase in profits, but the disappointment was due to abnormal circumstances, and to those peculiar and particular difficulties which accompanied the rapid growth of a business which, with a capital based on pre-war values, had to conduct an increased post-war trading. Until three years ago the company's operations had been confined to stores and engineering works, which met the requirements of mining companies, exploration companies, building concerns and the ordinary requirements of the public in respect of hardware requisites, builders' ironmongery and household purchases.

For 50 years the company had enjoyed a name to be envied, that of supplying immediately the best article and in a square deal. The fact that they had entered into the motor business and invested a large amount in that new trade was evidence of the directors' faith, not only in the company's name as an advertising medium, but in the ability of the executive in South Africa to uphold the traditions of the company. In less than two years after their entering the motor trade a very large turnover was established, and a position was reached with necessitated an overdraft quite out of proportion to the profits of that section of their operations. The directors had therefore decided that, if they stayed in the trade, it must be confined to more narrow limits well within the company's resources.

These facts and the slump which took place in Rhodesia, as the result of the over-production of tobacco, were largely the causes of the reduced showing of the year's trading. Changes were being made and steps were being taken that the future might be assured.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account at £8,321 was less by £16,513 than for the previous year. The board recommended a dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and after reserving £1,500 for income tax they would carry forward £2,795. The balance sheet showed that there were reserves totalling £64,000, but it was not proposed that these should be drawn upon even for the amount required as a reserve for income tax.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF YEAR.
STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.
SIR CHARLES GORDON'S REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE CONDITIONS IN CANADA.

The one hundred and twelfth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the board-room at the bank's headquarters, Montreal, on Monday, December 2, 1929.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Sir Charles Gordon, G.B.E., in addressing the shareholders, said : Before moving the adoption of the report, it is customary for the President, to make a few remarks.

Since the last annual meeting we have had to mourn the death of Sir Vincent Meredith, Bt. His lifetime may be said to have been spent in the service of the bank, in which he rose to the highest position, and, as its president for ten years, guided its affairs with great ability and signal success. Two others of your directors also passed on during the year, the Honourable Sir Lomer Gouin and Mr Frederick W. Molson, who had brought to the deliberations of the board wide experience and ripe judgment. The vacancies thus created were filled by the appointment of Mr A. O. Dawson, Mr W. N. Tilley, K.C., Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor. I am sure you will agree that the bank is fortunate in having secured the services of the first two named of these gentlemen to assist in the direction of the bank's affairs, and in now having as a member of our board Sir Frederick, who for many years so ably filled the position of general manager.

You have before you the report of your directors for the year recently ended, as well as a statement of profits in that period and of assets and liabilities, which I trust will be deemed satisfactory.

An outstanding event in the affairs of the bank was the relinquishment by Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor in October of the office of general manager after a long term of able, assiduous and fruitful service. He has become a member of the board, in which capacity his profound knowledge of banking and intimate acquaintance with finance and commerce will continue to be available to the bank. Your directors deem themselves fortunate in having had on the staff a gentleman of the attainments and experience of Mr H. B. Mackenzie to succeed Sir Frederick. He was general manager of the Bank of British North America when that institution was absorbed by the Bank of Montreal, and since joining our staff has occupied positions of trust, in the discharge of the duties of which he has exhibited qualities of a high order.

In reviewing the commercial situation in Canada, it should be kept in mind that there have been five years of almost uninterrupted expansion. In that brief period Canada has achieved a degree of development quite unprecedented. Not in one or two directions, but practically in all, remarkable material progress has occurred—in agriculture, in many lines of manufacturing, in mining, forestry, trading, water-power production and building construction.

During the early part of the past year business, generally speaking, in nearly all lines remained active, and there was no serious check during the first ten months. Possibly the greatest advance in any direction was in mining. During the summer I had an opportunity of visiting, together with other directors, four of the great plants of the country, namely, the British Empire Steel at Sydney, International Nickel at Sudbury, Algoma Steel at the Soo, and the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. at Trail. One must visit these enormous developments to realise what they mean to the districts in which they are situated, to transportation interests, and to subsidiary interests all over the country. Other names which are becoming almost household words are Noranda, Flin Flon and Sherritt Gordon, and they, in turn, will mean much to the localities in which they are located, because they are not only great mining ventures, but propose to establish concentrators and refineries.

Favourable is the fact that there is no inflation apparent in any of the great basic commodities such as wheat, sugar, cotton, steel, and other raw materials, so that we had not to witness a slump in these prices as well as in the stock market.

The unfavourable features of the situation have been : first, the small crop of the Prairie Provinces and the slow movement of the grain towards the sea-board. This has affected United States exchange, which at times has ranged around 2 per cent. premium. It has also affected the earnings of the railroads and steamship companies, and has caused some check to business generally. The second unfavourable aspect of the situation was the crash in the stock markets. The call rate and other danger signals were out, but, with world-wide speculation rampant, these signals were not observed by many people until the situation got so top-heavy that a crash was inevitable. Fortunately, only a small proportion of the people are in the stock market, and so the losses will be confined to comparatively few. At the same time what has occurred is bound to have its effect on the purchasing power of the country as a whole.

For the first time in five years, grain crops were a partial failure in the Prairie Provinces, the yield of wheat—270,000,000 bushels—being one-half that of 1928, and that of other cereals correspondingly smaller. The harvest was gathered rapidly in propitious weather, and the quality of the wheat has graded exceptionally high.

Branch line railway construction has been considerable in the North-West during the year. New country is being opened to settlement, especially to the north, and it is apparent that, what the Great West is to the United States, the western provinces will be to Canada. Mining has been joined to agriculture and industrialisation to both. Manufacturing in the prairies in supplying no inconsiderable home market. Active operation of the Hudson Bay Railway is now within sight, and, true to its pioneer spirit, the Bank of Montreal was first to establish a branch at Fort Churchill.

Both a cause and a consequence of the marked trade activity of the last five years has been extensive building construction and the undertaking of important engineering works.

Water-power development is still going on and finding a ready market for the electric energy created.

Residential, office, warehouse and factory building will this year outstrip all previous records. In the first ten months of the year contracts awarded amounted to $498,727,500, being an increase of 17.6 per cent. over the corresponding period in 1928.

The visit to Canada of Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas and the activities of other agencies, both at home and abroad, will, it is hoped, be successful in enlarging inter-Empire trade.

In conclusion, may I say there never was a time in the history of Canada when business as a whole has been at a higher peak than during the year under review, or when the developed sources of our wealth were more wide and varied than they are to-day, and never a time when the earning power of our people was sustained in so many channels of production. We must not allow a possible temporary reaction, the result of a collapse in a purely speculative orgy in the stock markets, unduly to distort our view. Fundamental conditions are sound, and there is no reason for apprehension as to the ultimate future of Canada.

THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

Mr H. B. Mackenzie, the general manager of the bank, then made his annual address, as follows :—

Mr President and Gentlemen,—

It is my duty to present the annual balance sheet to you, but, before doing so, may I express to the President my appreciation of the generous terms in which he has been good enough to introduce me to you as general manager of your bank. I can assure you that I am deeply sensible of the responsibilities resting upon me. There are great traditions to uphold, and I follow a long line of eminent occupants of the office. I feel that I have been specially fortunate in enjoying for the past eleven years the advantage of a close association with my immediate predecessor, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, and I wish to pay tribute, not only to his great ability as a banker, but also to the unfailing human kindness which has been so notable a feature of his administration. There has grown up in the bank under him an *esprit de corps* that assures to me the support of a most loyal and efficient staff. We are happy in the knowledge that Sir Frederick in a higher office may now look forward to a period of comparative rest while the bank will continue to have the benefit of his ripe experience and counsel.

The balance sheet which I have the honour to present to you is a highly satisfactory one. It shows a healthy growth in the volume of our business, the strong liquid position it is our practice to maintain, and very good profits.

Our total assets now aggregate $965,000,000, against $873,000,000 a year ago, an increase of $92,000,000.

Our profits for the year are $7,070,000, as compared with $5,847,000 a year ago. Higher rates for call money in New York, and a larger volume of loans required by expanding trade in Canada, together with comparatively light mercantile mortality, account for the increase.

For several years we have been living under the menace of a rising fever of stock speculation. The collapse brought painful consequences to many individuals, but the real national wealth of the United States and Canada remains what it was. Business will perhaps be somewhat quieter while we are getting back to realities, but the realities in both countries afford firm basis for a healthy optimism.

In concluding, may I say with what a feeling of pride I have taken up the duties of general manager of the Bank of Montreal; not pride in my attainment of the office, but in the fame and the high traditions of the great institution which I have been called to serve in a position of such responsibility.

The Chairman then moved, seconded by Mr H. R. Drummond, that the report of the directors now read be adopted and printed for distribution among the shareholders.

The report was unanimously adopted.

An amendment to byelaw No. 4 having been agreed to, the auditors and directors were elected, and vote of thanks to the staff was unanimously carried.

The meeting then terminated.

PONTIAN (MALAY) RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS DESPITE LOW MARKETS.

The annual general meeting of the Pontian (Malay) Rubber Company, Ltd., was held, on the 31st ultimo, at the offices, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, London, Mr P. E. Gourju (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said that the figures showed a continuity of progress in the direction of low working costs, for, in spite of a very low market throughout most of the year, the profits were increased. When consumption more nearly balanced production they could expect better prices, and it was to higher selling prices that they must look for future increased profits, as there was a limit beyond which expenditure could not be reduced without danger to the estate.

The great increase in the percentage of rubber produced by small native producers, which formed at present about 45 per cent. of the total, was regarded by some people with apprehension. As conducted at present, the rubber planting was a simple industry within reach of any Asiatic owner of from 25 to 50 acres of land. They had no overhead charges and were able to sell at low prices if forced to do so.

Their planting, or, as he preferred to call it, their replacement, programme was on a very moderate scale. Budgrafting was generally talked about, and was being tried out on a small scale on all sides. They were in the happy position of having the experience and experiments of the other estates in their group at their disposal, so were partially planting their new lands with budgrafts, but taking care that should these prove unsatisfactory they could be cut out, leaving trees of selected strains to mature, thus losing no time in bringing those new plantings to maturity. The question of budgrafting was, of course, a possibility of the future, and if successful would undoubtedly reduce costs.

They might feel assured that they, with the co-operation of the other members of their group, were keenly alive to the necessity of improved methods for the planting of rubber, without losing sight of the importance of reducing costs in order to overcome the depressed market, which was, he believed, a temporary phase.

He did believe that things would gradually settle down, and that 1930 would see increased demand for rubber, especially from countries where motor transport had only started to make serious progress.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors and staff in the East and London terminated the proceedings.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher, "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
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In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

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LONDON TIN SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

RECORD OF IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS.

The ordinary general meeting of London Tin Syndicate, Limited, was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, the Right Hon. Lord Askwith, K.C.B., K.C., the Chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in announcing his impending retirement from the chairmanship and the board, outlined at some length the great and rapid strides which the syndicate had made during his years of office dating from the inception of the company in 1925. Then, he said, they had a capital of £50,000 only, and their energies were directed towards the reawakening of the ancient tin mining industry in Cornwall. By the middle of 1926, however, they already had one foot firmly planted in Nigeria, and early in 1927 they obtained a footing also in the F.M.S., deploying thence into Siam and Burma and later in Japan.

By the end of 1927 the ever-increasing production coming under the Syndicate's control had impelled them to look more closely into the smelting side of the business, and so began their association with the Penpoll smelter. Needing in that connection adequate supplies of high-grade Nigerian oxide, early in 1928 the board were once more applying energies and resources towards the broadening of their sphere of influence in the tin fields of that colony, with the result that in March of that year their premier Nigerian subsidiary, Associated Nigerian Tin Mines, completed a consolidation which established the "Associated" company as the largest individual producer of alluvial tin in the Empire—a distinction since upheld. Realising the importance of co-ordination within the industry, they redoubled their efforts towards rationalisation in Nigeria as a stepping stone in the direction of a much wider rationalisation which, he dared to believe, was now at last in prospect.

OBJECTIVE ATTAINED.

The current year marked the definite attainment of their first big objective in Nigeria, arrangements being concluded early in the year whereby the "Associated" company had become largely interested in the Kurra Falls Hydro Electric Concession; cheap and dependable power and a reduction of costs must necessarily be an integral part of a policy to improve the status of the industry. It was unfortunate that the work of the board, while meeting with increasing success, should be temporarily set at nought by the long-continued recession in the price of the metal, yet savings already effected had enabled them to face a price which, only a year or two ago, would have brought nearly all the mining operations in Nigeria to a close, and would have thrown the industry back five years or more. In due course, however, the reward of their labours was certain to become more apparent.

In July of this year negotiations for the acquisition of the well-known Ropp areas were completed, and a few weeks later a similar agreement was concluded with the Bauchi Company, and still more recently the board had come to provisional agreements with the Mongu and Anglo-Bauchi companies, four absorptions which were eminently sound, technically as well as financially. With their affiliate, the Associated Company, they might together claim to constitute the vital factor in the Nigerian tin industry.

SITUATION SUMMED UP.

Summing up the situation, four years ago they had a capital of £50,000 and a perhaps precarious effective contact with the tin industry. To-day the issued capital of the syndicate was very little short of £1,000,000, with 6,500 individual shareholders. To-day the syndicate mined as much alluvial tin as any other producer in the Empire, and their output of metal had brought them together with the largest interests in the industry. Within a few weeks, moreover, the syndicate should be definitely established in a predominant position in Nigeria, reinforced by a situation in Malaya of even greater magnitude, and no lesser potentialities.

Dealing with the accounts, the Chairman said that, as was inevitable in such a year, revenue showed some appreciable set-back, but the balance of £192,872 transferred to the balance sheet compared not so unfavourably with the sum similarly transferred in last year's appropriation account. It was interesting to note, however, that they had received in dividends more than two and a half times the sum accruing from that source during the preceding year, though naturally revenue from dividends had suffered substantially by reason of the much lower price for the metal.

Dealing with the comprehensive amalgamation to be considered at a meeting in a fortnight's time, the chairman said that the scheme could not be discussed at the present meeting. It probably would be the case that the scheme did not find instant favour with everyone, and some might be at first sight disposed to question the equities involved. He would, however, ask all to take the broadest possible view.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE UNITED STEEL COMPANIES.

GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN RESULTS.

CAPITAL REORGANISATION FORESHADOWED.

INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS.

MR BENTON JONES ON THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the United Steel Companies, Ltd., was held on Tuesday last at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr W. Benton Jones (chairman of the company) presided.

The secretary (Mr A. Blackmore) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the business of the meeting I wish to refer to the death since our last meeting of two members of the board, Mr Barber and Mr Mannaberg.

PURCHASE OF CAPITAL BY STEEL INDUSTRIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, LTD.

Before referring to the accounts I think it would be convenient if I were to say what I have to say with regard to the purchase of the securities and shares of your company by Austin Friars Trust, Ltd., and the subsequent conveyance of these securities and shares to a new holding company formed for the purpose, which has been given the title of Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd.

Your directors' report, which has been sent to every shareholder, reports that the offer was made and that it was accepted by a very large majority of the holders of each of the various classes of shares and securities of the company; it also tells you to what extent Austin Friars Trust, Ltd., carried out the terms of their offer, and it informs you that Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd., hope to complete what Austin Friars Trust failed to carry out.

The statutory meeting of Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd., was held on the 19th of this month, when I made a full statement to the shareholders of the present position and the intention of the directors as to the future. This statement has appeared in the Press, and I have no doubt that you will have seen it; in case, however, you did not see it, a copy was handed to you when you entered the room.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTIN FRIARS TRUST.

You will see from this statement that Austin Friars Trust completed their obligations to purchase the securities and shares of your company offered to them by the holders and gave these holders also the option to take preference shares in Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd., in full or in part payment of the purchase price in accordance with the terms of their offer, and that they handed over to the Steel Industries Company all the securities so purchased in exchange for ordinary and preference shares in the Steel Industries Company, and the Steel Industries Company is, therefore, the proprietor of almost the entire capital of your company. You will see also that I was in a position to state that the assets of the Steel Industries Company were not affected by the failure of Austin Friars Trust; that all the securities and shares of your company against which shares of the Steel Industries Company have been allotted had been delivered to the Steel Industries Company, and that transfers had been completed and were, at that date, in course of registration into the name of the Steel Industries Company.

If you will now refer to your directors' report, which is attached to the accounts, you will see in paragraphs 5 and 6 that Austin Friars Trust, Ltd., failed to carry out the terms of its offer in regard to the provision of the funds necessary to discharge your company's indebtedness to its bankers, but your directors intend as soon as these funds can be provided to proceed with the reorganisation of your company's capital and the writing down of its assets.

OFFER BY STEEL INDUSTRIES COMPANY.

You will see also from your directors' report, paragraph 7, that the Steel Industries Company has offered to purchase, and is purchasing, the securities and shares of your company from holders who did not sell to Austin Friars Trust, and that in case any such holder desires to retain an interest in your company he may do so indirectly by acquiring shares in Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd., which latter company owns no other properties, so that its capital in effect takes the place of the securities and shares of your company and United Strip and Bar Mills, Ltd.

Finally, I desire to state that the acquisition of the capital of the United Steel Companies, Ltd., by Steel Industries of Great Britain, Ltd., has involved no change in the policy or administration of the company, and that no such alteration is contemplated. The company will continue to trade under the name of the United Steel Companies, Ltd.

THE ACCOUNTS.

In view of the contemplated reorganisation of capital and writing down of assets I do not propose to take time in commenting on the balance sheet. In regard to this I have to say that, if the reorganisation of capital is carried through on the lines contemplated, the amount available for the writing down of these and other assets of the company will also be large and, in my opinion, sufficient to permit a writing down to figures which will represent sound values for the company's various properties.

As you have seen from the report, this reorganisation of capital involves the finding of means for dealing with certain bank indebtedness of the company and of its subsidiary and associated companies, but, in the meantime, the cash facilities which we have are ample to meet the ordinary needs of our business. The position of the combine as a whole in regard to working capital cannot be judged by reference only to the balance sheet now before you, as it contains, of course, no figures to indicate the large amounts of working capital employed in our principal operating companies—namely Steel, Peech, and Tozer, Ltd., S. Fox and Company, Ltd., and the Frodingham and Appleby Companies.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR'S WORKING.

With regard to the results of the year's working, I told you at our last annual meeting that your directors looked forward to a gradual and progressive improvement. I can say that during the year gradual improvement has taken place and, as stated in the directors' report, the combined trading profit is £145,333 better than in the previous year and amounts to £520,006. This represents the aggregate trading result, but it will interest you to know that of the 15 operating subsidiary or associated companies and branches whose results are included in that total only two failed to make a trading profit during the year, and the total amount required to be reserved by us in respect of losses of subsidiary and associated companies for the year was, in fact, only £15,570 16s. 7d.

Our Cumberland properties, which, as you know, have given us some anxiety in the past, have shown distinctly better results during the past year, and we have reason to believe that they have now reached a permanently better basis of operation and, therefore, that the improvement will be maintained. In Lincolnshire the Appleby Company has been able to increase its ouput with a corresponding reduction in cost of production, and the Frodingham Company had a better year than last year.

THE SHEFFIELD GROUP.

The Sheffield group, which covers Samuel Fox and Company, Steel, Peech and Tozer, including the new Templeborough Works, and Daniel Doncaster and Sons, show improved results except in the case of the Templeborough Works. In the Templeborough Works, as I told you last year, we had decided to operate as near full capacity as possible, in spite of the fact that the markets which they supply were subject to the full blast of Continental competition. We have continued this policy and propose to adhere to it, but it is yielding us no profit.

These works, as you know, have been completed since the war; they have a large capacity and are as economical for the work which they perform as any works in the country, but they are heavily handicapped by unfair competition. Large quantities of Continental steel are dumped into the markets which are served by the Templeborough Works at whatever prices Continental makers find it necessary to accept in order to supply their own works with orders sufficient to make up the difference between what they can make when operating at full capacity and what they can sell in remunerative markets.

COLLIERIES AND COKING PLANTS.

The operations of our collieries and coking plants show an improvement over the preceding year, but prices have remained at a low level and the profits earned are only small in relation to production. At our Yorkshire collieries, where we produce more than 2,000,000 tons of coal per annum, we have conducted the sales since November 1, 1926, by means of a joint selling agency company in co-operation with three other companies owning neighbouring collieries, the combined output of coal produced by all the members being 4,500,000 tons.

In addition to co-operating in selling our coal in this way, we have been members since its formation of the Central Collieries Commercial Association, or Five Counties Scheme, and we believe that this association has been of great benefit to its members and that it will continue to be so.

STEPS TOWARDS CONCENTRATION.

I should like to enumerate, without entering into details, a few of the steps which have been taken during the year towards concentration, together with one or two other matters which may be of interest to you. The older iron ore mines in Cumberland have been closed down, and all ore is now being mined from two mines. The rolling of railway rails, for which three of our works are equipped, has been concentrated at Workington.

In the Sheffield group substantial progress has been made in the concentration of the manufacture of heavy railway material other than rails at Steel, Peech and Tozer's works. Steel, Peech and Tozer, including the Templeborough Works and the United Strip and Bar Mills, have taken over a large proportion of the remaining heavy work, and all special steels and light work are being concentrated at Samuel Fox and Company's works. In addition to economies which will result from these steps, improvements and additions have been made to plant, and others are contemplated, all of which will assist in reducing costs of production.

SELLING AGENCY ASSOCIATION.

A selling agency association for the sale of certain steel products abroad under a common policy has been formed by the manufacturers of those products. Your company joined this association on its formation, and anticipates that it will bring benefits to all its members and increase export trade.

A local company has been formed in India under the title of the United Steel Companies (India), Ltd., for the sale of the company's products, and has completed 12 months' working. We are pleased with the progress which has been made by this company, and feel confident that it will continue to make progress and increase our oversea trade.

THE FUTURE.

With regard to the future, we have more work in hand now than at the corresponding period of last year, but prices remain, as they have been throughout the year, at a level which leaves only a small margin of profit per unit of production. We do, however, expect to continue the gradual improvement which has taken place during the last year. We found this expectation not on any anticipation of advance in prices or rapid growth in demand; to do so is merely to stand still. We found this expectation on the organisation which we have now in operation and which we shall continue to extend and improve, an organisation which we are confident will, on the one hand, increase the volume of our trade, and, on the other, not only show us where costs can be reduced, but in fact reduce them.

While we shall continue our quest of lower costs of production and larger volume of trade and wider markets, and while we are confident in our ability to make progress, there are factors beyond our individual control which may accelerate or retard our progress as they may accelerate or retard the progress of the industries of the country generally.

ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS.

The factors to which I refer are the actions of Governments. Every action of a Government, every policy formulated, every consideration of a policy by a Government, reacts either in favour of or to the detriment of the present or future volume of trade. The relations of the Government with a foreign State have a similar effect. The imposition of taxes, the levying of duties, have a similar effect. All these things are political actions and are outside the control of those engaged in the management of industy; they are controlled by Governments.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM.

The franchise has been greatly enlarged; the business of local and national government is widely reported and discussed and occupies the attention of a very large proportion of the population. Do those who are influencing the business of government—that is, the electorate—and those who are engaged in the business of government realise that everything they say and do has, and will have, an effect upon volume of trade, which, in turn, determines the amount of employment which will be available for the labour and capital of the country? I think they do not realise it; I think the outlook on what is called the problem of unemployment is sufficient evidence that they do not realise it.

The popular view of this problem appears to be that unemployment exists owing to natural causes or owing to some failure in the machinery of trade and commerce and that Governments can by some simple process remove unemployment. No Government can remove unemployment; all a Government can do is to influence the conditions which affect employment. The popular view is wrong from the commencement; it does not even understand what the problem is. The problem is not unemployment; it is not even occupation; the problem is *Employment*—that is, the employment in industry of the maximum quantity of the labour and capital available in this country.

I venture to think that, if all the thought and energy which are devoted to political theories and political actions in this country were diverted to the encouragement of employment, and every Government allowed its actions to be determined primarily by their influence on volume of trade, the so-called problem of unemployment would solve itself.

SAFEGUARDING OF MOTOR-CARS.

I have referred to unemployment as an illustration of the failure of the electorate and local and national Governments to realise how much they can influence volume of trade. I should now like to give three further examples which particularly affect your company. The first example relates to the safeguarding of the motor-car industry.

Safeguarding duties were imposed on the import of motor-cars for the encouragement of the motor-car industry by a Government having a certain party label in 1916; these duties were removed by a Government having another party label in 1924; they were reimposed by a Government having another party label in 1925. It is now proposed by the present Government that they should be removed again. I do not propose to make any comment on this example. It requires no comment.

The second example concerns the limitation of the hours of work in coal mines. In 1908 the hours of work were limited by statute to eight; in 1919 they were limited to seven; in 1926 they were limited to eight. It is now proposed to limit them to 7½ with an indication that in the near future they will again be limited to seven. This example also requires no comment.

POSITION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY.

The third example is the application of safeguarding to the steel industry. We have in this country the necessary raw materials, the necessary plant, the necessary labour to manufacture all the iron and steel which we use ourselves and which we work up into finished products for export abroad. At the same time we allow other countries to send into our country some 3,000,000 tons of iron and steel every year. A Government could prevent the importation of this iron and steel and by so doing ensure employment for labour and plant at present unemployed; but, although the principle of safeguarding employment has been accepted and applied in the case of some industries, no Government has taken the steps necessary to apply it to the iron and steel industry.

I am aware of the arguments which have been used for and against this action. The most strongly emphasised argument in recent months has been the argument that safeguarding fosters uneconomic plants which it would be better to let die. Should we refuse to employ a workman because his tools were not of the latest pattern or not in the best state of repair? We should not: we should employ him, knowing that when he was able to earn enough money to buy new tools or have the old ones repaired he would do so in his own interest, because it would enable him to earn more in the future. No argument can be maintained to justify the purchase abroad of well over £20,000,000 worth of material per annum which we can make, and for the making of which we have plant and labour standing idle at home.

A SUGGESTION TO POLITICAL PARTIES.

I have said sufficient to suggest that those who are influencing the business of government and those who are engaged in the business of government do not realise the effect of their actions on volume of trade, and, consequently, on employment. I hope I have said sufficient also to encourage you to follow the line of thought which I have started. If you do follow it, I think you will appreciate what great powers this country has put into the hands of its Governments.

With this appreciation, you will see how easily actions taken in the exercise of these powers, without real knowledge and careful consideration, may impose heavy handicaps upon industry, and you will agree how necessary it is in the interests of every section of the population that the powers should be used so as to make possible and encourage the maximum employment of industry. I venture to conclude by suggesting that, the maximum employment of industry being the paramount necessity for the well-being of the country, the ideals of the several political parties are of secondary importance, and that all parties should consult with industry and adopt and maintain a single and common industrial policy.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BRITISH HOSIERY TRUST, LIMITED.
GOOD RESULTS—SOUND INTERNAL POSITION.

The second annual general meeting of the British Hosiery Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Grand Hotel, Leicester, Sir Arthur Wheeler, Bart., D.L., J.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The secretary (Mr Edward Hill) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: As you have already received the managing director's progress report, together with a brochure, which places you in possession of the fullest information as to our position and prospects, I intend to be very brief in my remarks this morning.

You will see from the directors' report that we have transferred a sum of £6,841 18s. 1d. to capital reserve, and are using most of this to wipe out the balance of preliminary expenses. Our articles of association provide that 10 per cent. of the net profits shall be placed to a special reserve, and that fund, therefore. receives this time £6,248 16s. 11d., making a total of £11,564 9s. 11d. In addition to this, we propose to establish a general reserve account by transferring £10,000 out of this year's profits. Out of the remaining profits it is proposed to pay 8 per cent. on our capital, and there still remains £7,566 19s. 2d. to be carried forward.

UNDISCLOSED RESERVES.

This information you have in front of you, but I would like to refer to the sound internal position which has been built up during the short period your company has been in existence. I refer to the other reserves which are not disclosed to you by the figures before you.

You might be excused for assuming that we have searched the pockets of our subsidiary companies in order to present as good a picture as possible to you in our own report. I assure you that such is by no means the case, for the total surplus remaining in our subsidiary and associated companies is actually in excess of £100,000. That, I am sure you will agree, indicates a very sound policy.

You will notice from the illustrated booklet that our interests are well distributed. By this I mean that we have not confined ourselves to one class of manufacture. We have a very firm determination that our eggs shall not be in one basket. If trade falls in one quarter it increases in another, and it is our policy to spread our holdings so that we may at least maintain an even balance of results.

BOARD'S SOUND MANAGEMENT POLICY.

Before acquiring an interest in any of the hosiery businesses we have investigated your board has carefully gone into the past history, the earning power, and the assets position of the various concerns. That alone, however, has not been sufficient for us. In every case we have been most careful to see that the management which has produced the excellent profits in the past should be continued. Management is the life-blood of the business, which ensures that all the parts of the organism shall be functioning properly, and without which a business becomes nothing more than a corpse.

We have gone even one step further. Not only have we seen that there should be this continuity of management, and thus ensured that the business in the future should be as well conducted as in the past, but we have effected a series of transfusions of blood. By the formation of our advisory council, which is made up of the brains of the various companies we now control, the ability and experience of each is pooled and placed at the disposal of all, so that to previous strength further strength has been added. It is because of this pooling of management ability that I feel so very certain of our success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO EXECUTIVE.

These results which have so far been achieved are due, I may say, in no small degree to the zeal and ability of the executive heads of our subsidiary businesses. These gentlemen form a technical council, and the excellent team work which they have put in deserves our fullest apreciation and hearty thanks. I have now to propose: "That the report and accounts for the year ended December 13, 1929, as now presented, be and the same are hereby adopted; that the sum of £10,000 be transferred to general reserve; and that a dividend for the year at the rate of 8 per cent., less income tax, be and the same is hereby declared payable to the shareholders standing on the register at December 17, 1929."

Mr Arthur F. P. Wheeler (managing director) seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring director, Mr George Victor Smith, was re-elected; the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Company, were reappointed; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
(INCORPORATED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.)
YEAR'S RESULTS EMINENTLY SATISFACTORY.
FURTHER RECORDS ACHIEVED.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in Johannesburg, on Monday, November 25, 1929.

The Chairman (Mr A. W. Rogers) said:—I am sure you will agree that the results obtained were eminently satisfactory, fresh records again being achieved in the tonnage milled, the development footage accomplished, and in the profits earned.

The total profit for the period was £2,287,479, which, with the balance of £317,371 unappropriated at the beginning of the year and a small amount of £754 in respect of forfeited dividends, gave a total of £2,605,604 to the credit of appropriation account. As shown in the directors' report, this was disposed of as follows:—Dividends Nos. 45 and 46, of 70 per cent. each, absorbed £1,960,000; Government and Provincial taxation amounted to £315,982; capital expenditure, chiefly in respect of the annuity payable for certain undermining rights leased from the Government, accounted for the net sum of £12,561; and a further amount of £15,000 was set aside towards meeting the company's outstanding liability in respect of miners' phthisis compensation. The unappropriated balance at June 30, 1929, was £302,061, represented as to £161,749 by cash assets, mainly stores, materials and similar items, and as to £140,312 by net cash, after allowing for all current liabilities.

The company's proportion of the outstanding liability of the scheduled mines on account of miners' phthisis compensation was calculated at £341,580 as at July 31, 1929, an increase of £41,283 compared with the estimate made twelve months earlier. The sums provided up to June 30th last towards meeting this obligation, with accrued interest, total £57,462.

TONNAGE MILLED.

The tonnage milled during the past financial year averaged 142,750 tons per month, an increase of 7,250 tons over the monthly average for the previous year. Although the yield decreased by 0.7 dwt. per ton milled, working costs showed a satisfactory reduction of 1s. 8d. per ton milled, and, owing to the larger tonnage crushed, the total working profit was increased to £2,252,433, an improvement of £10,670. With regard to working costs, the consulting engineer points out in his report that, although operations were conducted on a larger scale during the year under review, the total working expenditure recorded a decrease of £62,414, by comparison with the preceding year's figure.

DEVELOPMENT WORK.

The development footage was increased to 74,982 feet, as compared with 58,565 feet during the previous twelve months and 47,300 feet during the year ended June 30, 1927. The increase was chiefly due to the larger footages driven on the Upper Leaders and the South Reef, as the result of the acceleration of development on these reefs in view of the approaching completion of the major development programme on the Main Reef Leader. Out of 19,545 feet sampled on the Main Reef Leader, 13,980 feet disclosed payable reef averaging 680 inch-dwts.; of 7,730 feet sampled on the Upper Leaders N.A. 1 and N.A. 2, 3,955 feet were classed as payable, with an average value of 384 inch-dwts.; of 12,554 feet sampled on the Upper Leader N.A. 7, 7,384 feet exposed payable reef averaging 373 inch-dwts.; and of 11,860 feet sampled on the South Reef, 7,070 feet gave payable values averaging 374 inch-dwts. The payable ore developed during the year on the Main Reef Leader amounted to 815,200 tons, averaging 9.8 dwts. over 48.9 inches; on the N.A. 1 and 2 Leaders it was 218,900 tons, averaging 6.1 dwts. over 44.5 inches; on the N.A. 7 Leader it was 296,300 tons, averaging 6.5 dwts. over 41.1 inches; and on the South Reef it was 220,900 tons, averaging 7 dwts. over 42 inches. The total payable ore developed on all reefs was thus 1,551,300 tons, an increase of 190,200 tons on the previous year's figure, although the average value at 8.2 dwts. per ton was 1.0 dwt. less. The ore reserve, as recalculated at June 30, 1929, totalled 9,097,600 tons, of an average value of 8.6 dwts. per ton over an assumed average stoping width of 50.2 inches. This included 1,240,000 tons or ore, averaging 6.7 dwts. per ton, included in shaft pillars, etc., which is not immediately available for stoping, but which sooner or later can be expected to be mined. Full particulars of the ore in reserve on each of the different reefs are given in the consulting engineers' report, and its location is shown on the plan accompanying this report.

I mentioned last year that the grade of ore going to the mill would probably be reduced in value as the proportion of ore mined from the Leaders was increased. That has been the case during the period under review. This tendency will continue to manifest itself. During the past year its effect was counterbalanced by the

larger tonnage milled and the reduction of working costs. The further increased rate of milling that will follow the proposed increase of the reduction plant will help to make up for the lower grade of ore that will, for the reason mentioned, be going to the mill, but the probability is that there will be some reduction in profits. While, however, the milling of a greater proportion of this lower grade ore will result in somewhat smaller profits than the recent high average, shareholders must not fail to take into account the influence which the opening up of additional tonnages of ore from the Leaders and South Reef will have in extending the profitable life of the mine.

As regards operations during the first four months of the current financial year, the tonnage crushed averaged 151,250 tons per month, an increase of 8,500 tons on the monthly average for the past year. The yield was slightly lower at 9.664 dwts. per ton milled, but working costs were reduced to 16s. 8d. per ton milled and the working profit totalled £742,432, or an average of £185,608 per month. Development was prosecuted at the again increased rate of 7,958 feet per month. The major development programme on the Main Reef Leader is now practically completed, and the footage at present being accomplished on that reef consists largely of internal development, for the purpose of opening up certain blocks of ore hitherto classed as unpayable. The results of this work are satisfactory. Altogether we hope to add something in the neighbourhood of 500,000 tons to the payable Main Reef Leader reserves.

In reply to a shareholder, the Chairman said it was impossible to estimate the life of the mine until it was known what the effect would be of the addition of the upper leaders and the south reef.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

LAKE VIEW AND STAR, LIMITED.
DISCOVERIES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of Lake View and Star, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at River Plate House, London.

Mr John A. Agnew (the chairman) said that the figures in the profit and loss account were not a criterion of what could be done in the future. Very little of the higher-grade ore opened up in the last 12 months had been treated, and that which had been dealt with had cost, owing to its location, a much higher figure than they would be prepared to see continue.

The policy of development had already been explained. They were taking up with the management the possibility of an alteration in their plans, suggesting that they should temporarily suspend the sinking of Chaffers shaft at a depth of approximately 2,600 feet and commence development work northwards in the Horse-Shoe ground. He would point out the overwhelming importance of any evidence confirming the belief that a block, containing probably several hundred thousand tons of ore, awaited development above the horizon of their present shaft bottom, and that such ore was of a grade approaching the value of double that of their present reserves.

Shareholders had been recently advised through the Press of a find of very rich telluride ore in the Lake View section, and another item of news published recently was the find of so-called alluvial on the property. It would be a welcome addition to their reserves if it was found to extend as anticipated.

The Lake View property as a whole was an aggregation of several mines, three of which had been producers of great magnitude and which still possessed potentialities of a continuance of a highly important production. Their scattered nature, however, meant the maintenance of a number of separate power plants, and they were very closely investigating the possibility of being able to establish on the mine a central power plant using oil for fuel. As an alternative, they were investigating the possibility of making a suitable arrangement with the Kalgoorlie Power Company for the supply of electric power. That, if completed, would obviate capital expenditure on their own account. They had decided to erect the first unit of a flotation plant of a capacity of about 5,000 tons monthly, and, if the results were confirmatory of test work, they would proceed with the erection of further units so as to provide for a total treatment capacity of about 40,000 tons per month.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

162 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.417,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/28): Fmk.2,934,742,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the ten days ended December 31, 1929 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	10,575	From Revenue	9,305
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,134	Increase in Debt	4,624
Sinking Fund	920		
Sundries	263		
Increase in Balances	37		
	13,929		13,929

The ordinary revenue for the ten days to December 31st amounted to £9,304,800. Property and income tax brought in £2,693,000 and super tax £600,000. Estate duties yielded £1,590,000, customs £2,216,000 and excise £919,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £121,400, but special receipts yielded only £400. The National Debt was increased by £4,624,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 2,400	Treasury Bills	−24,466
Public Dept. Advances	+ 750		
Bank of England Advances	+24,240		
Sundries	+ 1,700		
	+29,090		−24,466

The Floating Debt was increased by £590,000 to £857,615,000.

Financial Year, 1929–30, April 1 to December 31.

	£		£
Expenditure	588,271,761	Revenue	418,474,175
		Decreases in balance	3,674,348
		Amount borrowed	166,123,238
	588,271,761		588,271,761

Estimates for Financial Year, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure. £

Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT – (Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	204	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	832	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	221	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,253	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	111	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	385	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	261	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	773	681	600
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	360	361	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,094	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	788	700	780
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	28	37	77
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,665	7,500	7,681
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	103	120	108
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,768	7,620	7,789

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Dec. 31, '28.	Mar. 31, '29.	Dec. 31, '29.	Movement 10 days ended Dec. 31, '29.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	24,240,000	+24,240,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.	28,340,000	37,050,000	53,130,000	+ 750,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	787,985,000	700,295,000	780,245,000*	−24,400,000
Total Floating Debt	816,325,000	737,345,000	857,615,000	+ 590,000

* Includes £86,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on December 27, 1929, and the total amount applied for was £67,110,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £98 17s. 6d., about 56 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday to Saturday, at £98 17s. 3d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £45,000,000.

Date. 1929.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
	£	£	£ s. d.
Oct. 25	45,000,000	78,360,000	5 19 4·65
Nov. 1	45,000,000	104,935,000	5 15 8·33
Nov. 8	45,000,000	69,150,000	5 13 9·82
Nov. 15	45,000,000	71,555,000	5 9 2·92
Nov. 22	45,000,000	65,485,000	4 16 8·14
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,217,244
CLAIMS PAID - - - £53,253,248

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Thursday, December 26, 1929.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	369,782,581	Other Government Securities	233,622,415
In Banking Department	26,274,558	Other Securities	10,841,360
		Silver Coin	4,521,125
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	145,848,399
	£405,848,399		£405,848,399

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	67,123,618
Rest	3,390,838	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	8,829,268	Discounts and Advances £22,300,076	
Other Deposits—		Securities 17,735,120	
Bankers £71,048,531			40,035,196
Other Accounts 35,788,939		Notes	26,274,558
	106,837,470	Gold and Silver Coin	179,188
7-Day and other Bills	1,984		
	£133,612,560		£133,612,560

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

Return for Week ended Wednesday, January 1, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	369,782,581	Other Government Securities	233,816,364
In Banking Department	36,177,503	Other Securities	10,695,352
		Silver Coin	4,473,184
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	145,960,084
	£405,960,084		£405,960,084

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	81,658,618
Rest	3,450,561	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	12,350,138	Discounts and Advances £42,170,602	
Other Deposits—		Securities 18,013,503	
Bankers £110,297,026			60,184,105
Other Accounts 37,522,803			36,177,503
	147,819,829	Notes	155,662
7-Day and other Bills	2,360	Gold and Silver Coin	
	£178,175,888		£178,175,888

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

Both Departments.	Amount Jan. 1, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	369,782,581	− 9,791,260	− 8,511,902
Public deposits	12,350,138	+ 3,520,870	− 9,986,247
Bankers' deposits	110,297,026	+39,248,495	+ 26,280,984
Other deposits	37,522,803	+ 1,733,864	− 507,593
Seven-day bills	2,360	+ 376	− 655
Total, outside liabilities	529,954,908	+34,712,345	+ 7,274,587
Capital and rest	18,003,561	+ 59,723	+ 9,778
Government debt and securities	326,490,082	+14,728,949	+ 19,264,946
Discounts and advances	42,170,602	+19,870,526	− 5,574,560
Other securities	28,708,855	+ 132,375	+ 1,570,690
Silver coin in issue department	4,473,184	− 47,941	− 762,924
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	146,115,746	+ 88,159	− 7,213,787
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	36,333,165	+ 9,879,419	+ 1,298,715
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	22⅛%	+ 4/11%	− 1⅛%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	25⅛%	− 3⅛%	− 3⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£		%
Nov. 13	391,928,886	358,108,337	15,784,557	54,705,309	41,755,117	655,853 in	6
20	392,103,434	355,086,839	15,340,173	58,544,923	38,544,908	165,226 in	6
27	394,712,194	354,556,744	17,432,949	58,219,448	38,200,325	2,568,435 in	5½
Dec. 4	393,725,605	361,085,989	8,002,907	58,620,463	37,497,753	998,323 out	5½
11	397,006,947	365,158,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,277,426 in	5½
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Nov. 13	246390385	8791153	132771032 28⅛	66834792	9210078	19275175	34662695 30⅛
20	246385575	8791121	132830637 27⅛	62498618	8108161	21843957	37743798 33⅛
27	244743704	10432762	135381905 28⅛	57703618	15263821	17880406	40825161 35⅛
Dec. 4	244744435	10431977	134269209 28⅛	60428618	9622606	18730735	33183220 31⅛
11	244234017	10942367	137434418 29⅛	60663618	8827605	19470351	32278330 31⅛
18	244248529	10929370	140734339 29⅛	65143618	10629732	20565519	29036211 27
26	244637515	10841360	146027587 29⅛	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746 22½
1930.							
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746 25⅛	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165 22⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1929.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to December 18	38,739,496	1,826,106	2,992,740	43,558,342
Week ended December 25	626,019	32,214	45,332	703,565
Week ended Jan. 1, 1930	715,366	29,238	49,473	794,077
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	− 1·6%	− 1·5%	+ 1·3%	− 1·6%
Total for year 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Total for year 1927	36,819,682	1,758,032	2,972,827	41,550,541
Increase or decrease in 1928	+2,491,435	+ 96,158	+ 66,595	+2,654,188
	− 6·7%	− 5·4%	+ 2·2%	− 6·3%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of December. 1928.	1929.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to December 28. 1928.	1929.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,892,000	10,651,000	−10·4	136,865,900	131,601,100
BRADFORD	5,547,000	4,456,000	−19·6	...	...
BRISTOL	4,642,000	4,798,000	+ 3·3	62,528,000	60,188,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	251,630,500	247,752,800
HULL	3,571,000	3,437,000	− 3·7	45,540,000	43,671,100
LEEDS	3,903,000	3,908,000	+ 0·1	49,386,800	50,427,600
LEICESTER	3,772,000	3,159,000	−16·2	42,986,300	40,505,600
LIVERPOOL	32,836,000	30,798,000	− 6·2	425,112,400	401,999,100
MANCHESTER	58,622,000	52,931,000	− 9·7	677,629,000	642,816,700
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,643,000	6,199,000	−28·2	75,255,800	76,752,200
NOTTINGHAM	2,491,000	2,566,000	+ 3·0	32,490,000	32,039,49
SHEFFIELD	3,612,000	4,043,000	+11·9	49,527,200	51,053,400
Total	139,531,000	126,946,000	− 9·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Denmark appeared in the *Economist* of December 14; Roumania, in December 21. Canada, Italy, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Danzig and Egypt in December 28.

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

Resources.	Jan. 3, 1929.	Dec. 12, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,587,630	2,964,150	2,882,810	2,821,640	2,857,050
Total bills discounted	1,151,460	768,920	737,040	762,780	632,420
Bills bought in open market	484,360	321,840	309,410	354,940	392,210
Total U.S. Govt. securities	243,950	386,930	533,270	485,040	510,590
Total bills and securities	1,889,660	1,491,300	1,589,470	1,612,540	1,547,520
Total resources	5,584,710	5,433,320	5,624,460	5,472,280	5,458,450
Liabilities.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,829,360	1,918,310	1,926,020	1,989,160	1,909,720
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,493,760	2,396,980	2,408,220	2,320,120	2,355,260
Total deposits	2,563,730	2,425,690	2,439,130	2,375,210	2,413,660
Capital paid in and surplus	401,350	422,750	424,540	425,160	447,910
Total liabilities	5,584,710	5,433,320	5,624,460	5,472,280	5,458,450
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	61·9%	71·6%	69·3%	67·6%	69·

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Jan. 3, 1929.	Dec. 12, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
Total bills discounted	495,460	155,280	176,170	197,720	171,760
Bills bought in open market	146,790	145,180	118,030	173,830	191,750
Total U.S. Govt. securities	67,630	184,840	237,380	225,040	239,210
Total bills and securities	709,870	492,390	536,080	601,080	609,860
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	1,027,920	1,012,400	1,007,380	945,780	985,790
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	54·1%	69·2%	65·5%	58·9%	60·5%

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

Assets.	Dec. 7, 1928.	Nov. 8, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.
Gold coin and bullion	7,851	7,938	7,850	7,878	7,879	7,679
Subsidiary coin	112	80	95	96	85	78
Bills discounted	7,539	7,837	7,762	7,548	8,386	7,963
Investments	794	899	850	850	851	596
Liabilities.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,817	8,611	8,123	7,848	9,270	8,909
Government deposits	1,736	1,386	2,096	2,163	1,714	1,031
Bankers' deposits	4,951	4,576	4,728	4,776	4,695	4,759
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	49·0%	52·6%	51·9%	52·4%	48·9%	50·5%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 7, 1928.	Nov. 8, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.
Total securities	21,74,97	33,07,02	32,98,23	33,00,01	32,87,38	33,01,51
Loans	19,07,78	7,96,47	7,63,62	7,50,19	7,43,23	7,46,99
Cash credits	23,75,36	21,63,02	21,89,43	21,89,59	22,82,89	22,36,72
Inland bills	9,61,49	3,73,16	4,44,44	4,60,32	5,10,34	5,25,25
Foreign bills	37,12	29,54	29,96	26,48	34,55	38,43
Dead stock	2,85,42	2,84,56	2,84,65	2,84,45	2,84,35	2,83,96
Bal. with other banks	17,96	18,73	9,37	13,75	4,08	24,56
Cash	11,84,78	24,67,82	25,14,04	26,31,98	24,18,88	18,93,55
Liabilities.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,17,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits	76,29,32	82,63,11	83,53,84	84,75,23	83,85,00	78,79,25
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	996	1,105	985	977	908	1,050
Advances in London	885	1,019	1,019	966	946	898
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	130	141	71	99	27	179

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 28, 1928.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.
Gold	31,977,034	41,131,409	41,248,434	41,387,667	41,668,420
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	13,510,492	7,167,641	7,190,720	7,291,164	7,249,143
Bills discounted	19,130,845	18,777,766	18,792,856	18,789,542	18,705,367
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,750,793	8,358,057	7,793,129	7,218,579	8,611,951
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552
Other advances	2,222,873	2,669,887	2,629,440	2,543,144	2,521,380
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	2,984,648	2,832,224	2,683,313	2,945,503	2,429,983
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	63,915,593	67,291,168	66,904,038	67,149,395	68,570,806
Public deposits	12,213,833	13,593,200	12,980,823	11,977,384	11,737,412
Private deposits	6,515,018	6,105,212	6,648,382	6,997,305	7,295,726
Other liabilities	1,978,022	2,758,966	2,616,201	2,863,067	2,366,395

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 22, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,283	2,244,653	2,247,145	2,264,664
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	158,224	398,784	390,781	405,737
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,933,514	2,289,877	2,100,752	2,190,460
Silver and other coin	85,851	94,138	100,609	96,858
Notes of other German banks	21,380	12,352	14,147	14,740
Advances	37,537	57,082	108,579	97,981
Investments	92,357	92,558	92,558	92,558
Other assets	613,908	665,230	664,805	603,323
Liabilities.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,481,522	4,684,044	4,588,925	4,579,047
Other daily maturing obligations	496,473	438,732	402,053	448,354
Other liabilities	287,066	289,502	286,002	296,524

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Dec. 27, 1928.	Dec. 5, 1929.	Dec. 12, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.
Gold	(b)	903,425	1,101,186	1,123,260	1,146,255	1,175,184
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650 (Gold, Foreign Bills and Silver)	566,611	546,414	564,972	561,818	577,709
Silver and other coin		...	1,974	2,168	2,203	...
Securities	697,600	681,831	801,964	795,582	784,270	816,110
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,321,559	2,696,047	2,684,050	2,656,538	2,684,922
Current accounts	112,125	210,514	65,283	172,731	167,428	190,491

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Dec. 24, 1928.	Dec. 2, 1929.	Dec. 9, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold	163,092	434,569	447,507	447,493	447,483	447,472
Silver	8,436	22,335	22,766	23,599	24,534	25,451
Home Bills discnted.	153,504 (Home Bills, Foreign Bills and Loans)	386,320 (Home Bills, Foreign Bills and Loans)	61,252	60,124	60,194	59,310
Foreign Bills			219,455	219,464	219,574	218,703
Loans and advances in current acct.			106,983	85,699	85,619	94,072
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	815,854	861,216	829,451	818,489	823,353
Deposits	5,016	41,033	21,718	20,709	29,236	29,292

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30, 1914	Dec. 29, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.
Gold	22,971	169,810	167,200 (Gold and Silver)	166,900 (Gold and Silver)	166,800 (Gold and Silver)	168,800 (Gold and Silver)
Silver	29,785	20,557				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	159,876	164,800	159,900	156,000	152,500
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	311,442	298,300	298,400	291,600	288,800
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	63,897	53,600	44,000	42,800	39,500

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Dec. 22, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold	171,175	481,462	545,865	561,261	561,246	581,832
Silver	18,350	46,396	27,955	27,623	27,698	26,060
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	267,930	287,608	293,421	296,381	307,468
Discounts	...	149,813	113,654	106,426	106,884	120,078
Advances	103,000	69,610	60,526	62,944	54,265	61,639
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	902,590	927,761	898,958	886,991	945,908
Deposits	33,750	87,079	101,692	123,447	149,026	124,575

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 29, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.
Gold	235,900	240,218	239,960	244,742	244,659
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	3,240	3,240	22,740	22,740
" " Foreign	83,774	70,211	70,211	51,896	51,896
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	167	167	162	162
Bills payable in Sweden†	304,691	262,276	265,055	283,026	262,890
" " abroad	73,546	64,233	72,430	100,137	110,172
Balance abroad	58,406	147,941	113 471	113,867	104,181
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	80,146	79,275	77,988	65,117	63,524
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	533,751	510,999	522,569	558,092	539,393
Government deposits	273,242	313,510	280,948	263,513	259,319
Private deposits	10,303	3,938	5,104	5,508	8,042

† The sum of the items " Bills payable in Sweden " and " Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds " excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

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

Assets.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Dec. 29, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.
Gold	521,775	2,559,067	2,564,833	2,564,910	2,565,393	2,565,942
Silver	728,600	698,015	707,178	708,490	709,737	705,053
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,088,886	2,290,765	2,250,885	2,217,000	2,313,805
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Liabilities.						
Circulation	901,550	4,377,167	4,426,233	4,377,780	4,366,703	4,432,554
Deposits	477,500	961,062	926,855	964,545	951,605	929,536

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

Assets.	Dec. 19, 1928.	Nov. 27, 1929.	Dec. 4, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.
Coin and bullion	9,481	9,806	9,595	9,519	9,307
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	284,547	350,443	353,001	342,218	334,807
Discounts	247,521	312,357	308,712	316,459	337,465
Government loans	1,706,557	1,762,475	1,765,054	1,753,969	1,745,068
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	1,947,571	1,931,591	1,961,088	1,958,063	1,972,699
Deposits	74,206	54,711	83,949	82,409	99,107

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	240,253	224,956	224,147	222,919	233,859
Other foreign exchange†	339,998	327,561	326,525	324,995	331,925
Bills discounted	177,509	300,720	274,397	297,833	288,198
Gov. Debt	166,170	109,485	109,439	109,439	109,438
Liabilities.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	987,046	1,072,227	1,001,708	1,029,969	1,013,224
Deposits	107,605	61,432	103,767	96,402	121,127

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	201,091	162,747	162,747	162,747	162,749
Drafts and notes	46,835	41,259	39,314	38,636	38,729
Silver coin and bullion	787	8,225	8,325	8,516	8,382
Inland bills, warrants and securities	382,373	321,709	296,825	289,633	292,334
Advances to the Treasury	103,692	88,589	88,551	88,551	88,551
Liabilities.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	439,516	472,750	428,253	427,652	427,056
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	277,895	116,198	134,503	133,026	135,928

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold and silver holdings	1,183,115	1,258,639	1,258,695	1,258,395	1,258,373
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,466,741	1,954,270	1,995,284	2,040,142	2,174,873
Discounts and advances	388,520	993,680	956,769	889,826	903,593
State notes debt balance	4,107,728	3,802,323	3,779,852	3,778,789	3,774,466
Other assets	1,304,578	880,562	885,310	885,497	1,085,232
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,609,404	7,688,608	7,310,688	7,263,780	7,362,350
Check account balances	1,043,717	415,604	780,841	803,018	1,024,403
Other liabilities	364,936	312,668	311,785	313,257	337,190

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 22, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 8, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 22, 1929.
Gold	90,941	94,976	95,106	95,222	95,315
Other coin and notes	17,811	18,746	18,263	18,481	18,982
Foreign credits	234,720	288,170	292,213	291,897	289,422
Bills	1,426,634	1,274,187	1,274,790	1,254,312	1,231,828
Government advances	4,299,132	4,213,377	4,191,377	4,191,377	4,191,377
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	5,342,782	5,689,879	5,727,914	5,554,824	5,551,415
State credits	270,112	227,900	205,901	205,900	205,900
Deposits	1,009,528	1,438,216	1,456,521	1,609,472	1,645,671

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 15, 1928.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 23, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.
Gold and silver holdings	1,491,755	1,554,720	1,555,826	1,555,465	1,557,246
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,513,972	1,458,529	1,428,028	1,318,273	1,246,019
Discounts and advances	1,328,472	1,651,644	1,603,458	1,583,300	1,478,404
Advances to the Treasury	4,022,333	3,505,368	3,508,192	3,505,368	3,505,368
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,149,815	1,150,454	1,150,580	1,152,223	1,184,355
Bank notes in circulation	4,215,466	4,072,661	3,906,209	3,900,280	3,694,228
Sight liabilities	3,652,457	2,165,534	2,248,218	2,143,848	2,160,669
Deposits	472,634	441,725	440,636	738,062	385,552

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 23, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.
Gold	633,577	634,859	635,930	637,035	638,108
Gold exchange	4,819,519	4,586,323	4,549,212	4,482,276	4,387,592
Other foreign exchange	1,764	1,838	1,894	2,007	1,594
Bills discounted	98,487	99,625	109,211	117,210	122,238
Advances	148,068	161,933	160,355	158,477	160,090
Debt to the State	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,306,984	5,241,494	5,173,184	5,148,726	5,051,957
Deposits and current accounts	1,576,961	1,500,950	1,635,450	1,636,940	1,691,419
Foreign exchange liabilities	2,076,642	1,985,539	1,885,223	1,857,031	1,822,676

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 20, 1928.	Nov. 20, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.
Gold	607,978	682,439	682,519	682,584	682,637
Of which held abroad	182,339	206,385	161,726	161,726	161,726
Foreign currencies	718,632	509,272	516,983	521,161	520,570
Bills discounted	624,026	721,293	721,017	699,682	689,466
Loans against securities	90,748	78,812	79,262	79,898	79,874
Reserve fund securities	85,176	74,721	74,721	74,693	74,583
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Liabilities.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	94,435	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Notes in circulation	1,218,031	1,246,892	1,366,123	1,285,837	1,261,424
Current accounts	597,331	510,040	414,247	479,250	495,084
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (Note: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Nov. 16, 1929.	Dec. 1, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,856	27,643	27,643	28,089	28,570
Other precious metals	4,436	3,651	3,690	3,556	3,461
Foreign bank notes	7,846	8,845	8,405	8,168	6,785
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	276	287	287	288	292
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	82,586	119,574	117,974	117,899	114,893
Liabilities.					
Bank notes	112,256	159,842	157,540	157,605	153,697
Balance to which notes may still be issued	744	158	460	397	303

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 26, 1928.	Nov. 27, 1929.	Dec. 4, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 25, 1929.
Gold bullion and coins	23,751	23,910	23,915	23,917	23,925	23,927
Silver coin	4,394	3,011	3,932	4,061	4,076	3,980
Balance abroad	72,141	48,632	47,127	45,304	45,377	46,316
Treas. notes and sm. change	8,950	10,206	10,483	11,519	12,389	10,519
Short term bills	87,160	92,796	94,345	93,220	93,896	94,553
Loans against securities	46,487	56,085	56,477	56,606	56,545	56,428
Other assets	11,363	21,175	20,836	21,121	21,247	21,331
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	44,615	47,651	48,560	47,188	47,408	49,367
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Deposits	11,978	14,309	14,527	14,599	14,745	14,863
Current accounts	54,123	59,042	60,772	58,601	59,641	59,536
Government accounts	108,037	96,053	92,905	95,231	93,322	91,659
Other liabilities	14,322	15,689	17,179	16,957	19,166	18,456

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, June 30, 1914	Dec. 8, 1928.	Nov. 16, 1929.	Nov. 23, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,124,712	1,125,024	1,124,796	1,125,893	1,124,540
Discounts	41,740	740,664	672,662	674,871	684,874	675,296
Advances	70,540	88,511	74,471	75,213	83,977	75,031
Liabilities.						
Notes	362,270	1,262,655	1,172,258	1,210,562	1,346,290	1,239,769
Govt. deposits	87,340	526,080	605,530	602,988	582,080	541,450
Other deposits	11,440	365,661	407,869	390,314	289,534	405,470

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets	Nov. 30, 1928.	Nov. 8, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.
Gold at home	60,529	63,207	63,295	63,297	63,281
Gold abroad	504,603	440,385	442,394	439,678	410,011
Discounts and advances	8,987	51,275	57,930	54,445	72,144
Liabilities.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	318,579	333,699	322,266	321,948	330,069
Deposits	124,897	162,286	177,415	172,755	144,072
Drafts	29,516	1,083	2,967	2,969	2,969
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Dec. 26, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 2, 1930.
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5½% Dec. 12, 1929)	Boxing Day.	5	5	5	5	5	5
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts		4 13/16—⅞	4 13/16—⅞	4⅝—11/16	4½—⅝	4⅝	4½—⅝
3 months' do.		4 11/16	4 11/16	4⅝	4½—9/16	4⅝—7/16	4½—⅝
4 months' do.		4 11/16—¾	4 11/16—¾	4⅝	4½	4⅝	4½—⅝
6 months' do.		4⅝—11/16	4⅝—11/16	4⅝	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'		4 13/16	4 13/16	4⅝	4½—9/16	4⅝	4 7/16—½
3 months'‡		4 11/16	4⅝—11/16	4½—⅝	4½	4⅝	4½
Loans—Day to day		2½—4	2½—4	2—4	3½—5½	2—4	2½—3
Short		4½—5½	4½—5½	4½—5½	4—5½	3½—4	4
Deposit allowances: Bank		3	3	3	3	3	3
Discount houses at call		3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice		3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1929.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Dec. 12	5	4¾	4 11/16	4⅝	5¼ 6	5½	5¾
19	4½	4 13/16	4 13/16	4⅝	5 5½	5 ½	5 6
24	3 5½	4¾	4 11/16	4⅝	5 5½	5 ½	5½ 6
1930.							
Jan. 2	4	4½ ⅝	4½ ⅝	4⅝	5	5¼	5½ 6

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Jan. 3, 1929.	Dec. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 1/32—3/32	4·88 7/32—·88 9/32	4·87 15/16—8
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86½—⅝	4·94⅞—·95	4·93¼—½
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·08—13	123·84—·86	123·90—·92
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·38—9	20·37½—·38	20·43½—¾
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07⅞—8⅛	12·09⅜—·09⅝	12·09⅝—¾
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·88—9	34·86—·86½	34·88½—9
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·62—66	93·25—·28	93·21—3
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·18½—19	25·09—·09½	25·13½—14
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·18¾—19¼	18·19—·19½	18·20—½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·12¾—13¼	18·10—·10½	18·13¾—4
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·17½—18	18·19—·19½	18·20¼—¾
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	29·73—5	35·75—·80	36·60—5
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	4·50	108⅛—9	108⅛—108⅜	108⅛—⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·43—46	34·64—·67	34·64—7
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24·02(a)	163⅝—⅞	164 5/16—164 7/16	164¾—5
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275⅝—6	274¾—275¼	275—½
Budapest	pengo to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·79—84	27·84—·87	27·84—·88
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	806—810	816—818	817—820
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669—674	672—676	673—6
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾—375¼	374¾—375¼	374¾—5¼
Constantin'ple	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	985—990	1040	1040—50
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42—·44	†9·48—·50	†9·47½—·49½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 3/16—7/16	43 7/16—43 9/16	43⅜—½
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192½—3	194—194½	194—½
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½—9½	48½—49½	48½—9½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·10—17	18·17—·24	18·17—24
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·10—20	25·17—·27	25·23—30
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16—9/16	97 7/16—47 9/16	97 7/16—9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 11/32—13/32	45½—45⅝	45¾—⅞
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 27/64—29/64	5 7/16—5½	5⅜—7/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50¾—1½	46⅛—46⅝	46¼—¾
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·64	39·66	39·80
Lima	Eng. to Per £1	90 days	par	19⅞% prem.	20⅛% prem.	nom.*
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 3/64—5/64	1/5 31/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16—1/5 31/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 3/64—5/64	1/5 31/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16—1/5 31/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 3/64—5/64	1/5 31/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16—1/5 31/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	—	2/0½—3/16	1/8⅞—1/9	1/7⅞—1/8 1/16
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	—	2/7½—¾	2/1½—2/2¼	2/1¼—2/1⅜
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 27/32—29/32	2/3 13/16—2/3 15/16	2/3 13/16—2/3 15/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 23/32—25/32	2/0 1/16—2/0⅛	2/0⅛—2/0 3/16
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	23½—24	10·00—·30	10·10—·20
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

* 31st Dec. † Rate for previous day. ‡ Pence to escudo.

(a) An official stabilisation at 2·90—3·03 dollars to 100 krone, *i.e.*, approximately 164½ krone to £. (b) Pence to dollars.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Nov. 15, 1929	5	4½	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 19, 1928	4	3½
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Berlin	Nov. 2, 1929	7½	7	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Budapest	Nov. 4, 1929	8	7½	Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Stockholm	Dec. 12, 1929	5½	5
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·48
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Vienna	Dec. 7, 1929	8	7½
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	Nov. 15, 1929	9	8½
New York Federal Reserve	Nov. 14, 1929	5	4½	Irish	Dec. 12, 1929	6	5½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Jan. 2, 1929.	Dec. 4, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	12	4½	4½	4½	6	6
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7¾	4½	5	5	...	...
Bank acceptances :—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	4¾	4	4	4	4	...
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	4¾	4	4	4	4	...
Ineligible, 90 days	5⅜	4½	4½	4½	4½	...
Commercial accept. 90 days	5½	5	5½	5	5	...

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80¾	4·83⅝	4·83⅝	4·83 7/16
Cable			4·85⅛	4·88 1/16	4·88 5/32	4·87 11/16
Cheques			4·84¾	4·87⅝	4·87½	4·87⅝
Paris .... cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90 11/16	3·93 11/16	3·94¼	3·93⅞
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·90	13·995	14·00½	13·99½
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·255	19·44	19·46	19·42½
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·235	5·23⅜	5·23⅝	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·775	23·93	23·96	23·88
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·09	14·08	14·08	14·08
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	16·305	13·85	13·61	13·37
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12	40·30	40·37½	40·34½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·67	26·82	26·84	26·81
Oslo ,,			26·65	26·80	26·84	26·81
Stockholm ,,			26·73	26·97	26·98	26·91
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅛	1·30	1·30⅛	1·30⅛
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	17/64 dis.	1/16 dis.	...	4·93¼
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·90	49·00	49 1/16	•49 1/16
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H. Kong $	...	49·90	42·60	...	...
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	63·25	54·10	...	...
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·48	36·45	...	...
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·65	108·65	...	...
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·90	11·00	11·15	11·00
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·03	12·05	...	...

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·56
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·54
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·04
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·98
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	—	¼% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅜% prem
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	1/16 % dis.	⅜ to 1/16 % ,,
30 days	1½% ,,	5/16 % ,,	⅜% ,,	5/16 % ,,
60 days	2¼% ,,	⅜% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16 % ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	11/16 % ,,	1¾% ,,	5/16 % ,,
120 days	3¼% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 5/16 % ,,	—

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying.		Selling.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	—	—	98⅜	98⅜	—	—	102¼	102¼
Demand	97	97	98	98	100⅞	100½	101 11/16	101⅛
30 days	96 7/16	96 7/16	...	...	100¼	99⅞	101¼	101⅛
60 days	95⅞	95⅞	...	...	99 11/16	99½	100 11/16	100⅝
90 days	95 5/16	95 5/16	...	...	99⅜	98⅞	100⅜	100⅜

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended January 2, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		To—	
Germany	507	Poland	5,678
France	6,625	Germany	78,340
United States of America	2,053,807	Netherlands	786
Venezuela	6,909	France	212,599
Argentine Republic	2,096,489	Switzerland	8,560
Irish Free State	10,800	Austria	22,115
British West Africa	42,431	Morocco	6,000
British South Africa	1,243,775	Kenya	3,170
Australia	20,000	British India	126,980
Other Countries	636	Other Countries	850
Total declared value of imports	5,481,979	Total declared value of exports	465,078

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow :—

1929.	Arrivals.	£	1929.	Withdrawals.	£
Dec. 27	Bars bought	5,364	Dec. 27	Bars sold	362,960
,, 28	Sovs. from abroad	298,626		Sovs. for export	4,000
	Foreign coin bought	17	,, 28	Bars sold	314,956
,, 29	Sovs. from abroad	197,240		Sovs. for export	2,000
	Bars bought	2,990	,, 30	Bars sold	188,522
,, 31	Bars bought	576,304		Sovs. for export	2,000
	Sovs. from abroad	24,875	,, 31	Sovs. set aside	250,000
1930.			1930.		
Jan. 1		nil	Jan. 1	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 2		nil	,, 2		nil
	Total	1,105,416		Total	1,126,438

Net withdrawals, £21,022.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Company write on January 1, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes on the 25th ultimo amounted to £145,848,399 (as compared with £140,504,845 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £8,057,916 since April 29, 1925, when an effective gold standard was resumed. On the 24th ultimo about £586,000 was available in the open market. The price was fixed at 84s. 11¾d., at which the Bank of England secured £345,000 and France £210,000; the balance was acquired for Home and Continental trade. There was little inquiry for the £658,000 of South African gold offered in the open market yesterday, and the Bank of England obtained £576,000 at the statutory buying price. At the fixed price of 84s. 10d., India took £30,000 and the Home and Continental trade £48,000. Quite a cheerful note to the end of the year was given by the receipt on the 21st ultimo of £4,679,000 in bar gold from New York, which constituted the largest movement recorded at the Bank of England in any one day. The gold represented consignments from three steamers—"Berengaria," "Bremen," and "France"—which reached this country at the same time. Other receipts were about £920,000 bar gold from South Africa and about £1,000,000 in sovereigns from Argentina. Of the withdrawals, about £1,007,000 bar gold was for France and £250,000 in sovereigns "set aside."

SILVER.

Since our last letter silver prices have shown a marked decline. With the exception of that afforded by the Indian Bazaars, no support has been forthcoming, and free selling by China and America caused quotations to fall rapidly. From 22¼d. and 22 5/16 d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively on the 20th ultimo, the fall continued without a break until the 30th ultimo when 21 5/16 d. and 21⅜d. were quoted. The level thus reached established a new record for value of the metal, the lowest price previously recorded being 21 11/16 d., touched in November, 1902, and January, 1903. Hesitation on the part of sellers and further inquiry from India for silver for immediate shipment brought about a slight reaction yesterday and to-day, prices recovering to 21½d. for both deliveries. The market having been forced down to a point at which India is disposed to buy, there is a slightly steadier feeling for the moment, but the possibility of the demand from this quarter being intermittent renders the outlook still uncertain.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on December 16th to mid-day on December 30th :—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Germany	41,304	Germany	64,867
France	77,604	China and Hong Kong	156,509
Netherlands	9,600	Other countries	15,545
British India	42,732		
Other countries	1,861		
	£173,101		£236,921

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Dec. 22.	Dec. 15.	Dec. 7.
Notes in circulation	17,919	17,911	17,973
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,813	10,862	10,970
Silver coin and bullion out of India	—	—	—
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,222	3,222	3,222
Gold coin and bullion out of India	—	—	—
Securities (Indian Government)	3,718	3,676	3,661
Securities (British Government)	166	151	120

The stock in Shanghai on the 28th ultimo consisted of about 85,600,000 ounces in sycee, 126,000,000 dollars and 7,620 silver bars, as compared with 85,300,000 ounces in sycee, 124,000,000 dollars and 6,020 silver bars on the 21st ultimo.

Statistics for the month of December, 1929, are appended :—

	Bar Silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two Mos. delivery.	Bar Gold. per oz. fine.
Highest price	22 11/16 d.	22 11/16 d.	84s. 11½d.
Lowest price	21 5/16 d.	21⅜d.	84s. 10d.
Average price	22·258d.	22·297d.	84s. 11·25d.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1929.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Dec. 27	84 11½	21¾	21 13/16	Jan. 4, 1924	33 15/16
,, 28	84 11½	21½	21½	,, 2, 1925	31⅜
,, 30	84 11½	21 5/16	21⅜	,, 1, 1926	31 11/16
,, 31	84 10	21 7/16	21 7/16	Dec. 31, 1926	25
1930.				,, 30, 1927	26⅜
Jan. 1	84 11¼	21½	21½	Jan. 2, 1928	26 5/16
,, 2	84 11¼	21⅝	21⅝		

NOTICES.

Lazard Brothers and Company, Ltd., announce that Mr Emile Pusch has decided to retire. Although he relinquishes his position as managing director, he will still remain a director of the company. The Hon. Thomas Henry Brand has been appointed a managing director of the company.

Mr Maurice H. Megrah, B.Com., Cert. A.I.B., of the General Manager's Department, Westminster Bank, Limited, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Institute of Bankers.

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE.
SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL
INSURANCE COMPANY.
ASSETS EXCEED - £15,000,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh : 35, St. Andrew Square.
London : 5, Walbrook, E.C.4, and 4, St. James's Street, S.W.1

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 104 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester, and at 169 Stockport Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new branch at 18, Grance Road West, Charing Cross, Birkenhead. A sub-branch at Tadworth has been converted into a full branch. A new sub-branch has been opened at 10, Bridge Road, Wembley Park. The sub-branch at Whitchurch will be converted into a full branch in new premises at 1, Old Church Road, Whitchurch, Glam.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a new branch is now open at 10 High Street, Marylebone, W. 1.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that sub-branches of the bank are now open at 402, Ewell Road, Tolworth; at 178, Lawrence Hill, Bristol; and at 1543, The Parade, Robin Hood, Hall Green.

The Commercial Bank of Australia, Limited, announce that a branch of this bank has been opened at Wonthaggi (Victoria).

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. • Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
				%	%
BANKS.					
Alexanders Discount Co.	7½%*	and bonus 1/- p.s.		...	...
National Discount Co. "A"	5%†	...	...	10	10
National Discount Co. "B"	11%†	and bonus 4%		24	23
Union Bank of Australia	12½%*	...	Tax free	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Irish Catholic Church Property	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Midland Employers' Mutual	...	...	...	10	10
United	...	...	...	10	10
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Bila (Sumatra) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	6	Nil
Deltenne (Ceylon) Tea	3%*	Jan. 14	...	5	5
Glen Bervie Rubber	3¼%*	...	...	...	...
Hunters the Teamen	...	...	...	12½	5
Malay Rubber Planters	...	...	...	7½	7½
Soember Ajoe Rubber	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Zaloni Tea	...	...	...	97½	153¾
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Adamant Investment	...	...	...	12½	12½
Annandale and Son	...	...	Tax free	5	8
Australian Pastoral	...	...	...	8	7½
Bengal Telephone	1½%*	Jan. 20	Less tax	...	...
Burke (Edward and John)	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Buxton Entertainments	5%*	...	...	...	...
Cape Asbestos	...	...	...	...	...
Commonwealth Power	$1 p.s.*	Feb. 1	...	10	10
Cornbrook Brewery	5%*	...	...	20	20
Henekeys	12%†	...	...	...	...
Japan Mail Steamship	4%*	...	...	8	8
London Trading Estates	5½%†	...	...	...	...
Lovell and Christmas	2%*	...	...	...	...
Manchester Dock & Warehouse Extension	2¾%*	...	...	...	...
Manchester Ship Canal Warehousing	2¾%*	...	...	...	...
New Zealand and River Plate Land Mtge.	...	...	...	9	9
Olive and Partington	...	...	...	5	15
Oregon Mortgage	4%*	Jan. 10	Less tax	...	...
Penn-Ohio Edison	$½p.s.*	Feb. 1	...	...	...
Second Scottish Eastern Invest. (Def.)	...	...	...	5	...
Selected Investments Trust	3½%*	Jan. 2	...	...	...
Seville Waterworks	2%*	Jan. 14	Less tax	...	...
Smale (Joseph) and Son	4%*	Jan. 4	Less tax	...	...
Style and Winch	2½%*	Jan. 1	...	...	...
Trustees Corporation	4%*	Jan. 20	Less tax	...	...
Walker and Homfrays	3%*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Worksop and Retford Brewery	6%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical	2½%	Jan. 1	Less tax	...	...

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

JUTE INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

September 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £
10s. pref. shares	1,500,000	−1,500,000	Investments in subsidiaries at cost	2,809,489	−2,826,106
2s. ord. shares	150,000	−1,350,000	Stocks at cost or market value	89,479	+ 46,505
Unclaimed divds.	1,229	− 142	Preliminary expenses	...	− 35,000
Charges accrued	807	+ 257	Cash	223	− 7
Reserve	25,000	+ 25,000			
Advances from subsidiaries	665,529	− 88,454			
Balance due to bankers	529,812	+ 90,954			
Profit and loss	26,814	+ 7,777			
Total	2,899,191	−2,814,608	Total	2,899,191	−2,814,608

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Dec. 27, 1929. (c) Week ended Dec. 28, 1929.	Miles Open.	Week ended Dec. 29, 1929. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 52 weeks 1929. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,733	274	98	87	185	459	12724	11554	6,492	18,046	30,770
Do. for 1928	3,734	220	91	65	156	376	13017	11199	5,919	17,118	30,135
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	382	268	221	489	871	18943	21775	14044	35,819	54,762
Do. for 1928	6,360	338	254	195	449	787	19507	21388	12512	33,900	53,407
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	552	295	183	478	1,030	28561	29610	14140	43,750	72,311
Do. for 1928	6,952¾	471	316	176	492	963	29675	29739	13512	43,251	72,925
Southern	2,175	343	38	25	63	406	16879	4,024	1,653	5,676	22,555
Do. for 1928	2,175	281	39	23	62	343	17075	4,102	1,462	5,564	22,639
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·8	...	...	2·8	36·6	1691.6	...	...	203·9	1895·5
Do. for 1928	59	31·3	...	...	2·6	33·9	1669.2	...	...	190·3	1859·5
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	269·7	...	...	...	...	14941.2
Do. for 1928	...	...	...	...	...	246·2	...	...	...	...	14796.4
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	41·3	...	...	...	...	2199·6
Do. for 1928	...	...	...	...	...	36·8	...	...	...	...	2161·1
B'lf'st&Co.D'wn b	80	2·0	...	...	0·5	2·5	136·1	...	...	45·1	181·2
Do. for 1928	80	1·9	...	...	0·6	2·5	135·6	...	...	46·3	181·9
Great Northern b	562	14·3	...	...	9·7	24·0	672·0	...	...	843·0	1515·0
Do. for 1928	562	13·8	...	...	9·6	23·5	684·6	...	...	835·1	1519·7
Great Southern b	2,187	31·8	...	...	19·1	50·9	1555.2	...	...	2398·8	3954·0
Do. for 1928	2,187	29·5	...	...	18·8	48·3	1643.4	...	...	2460·3	4103·7

† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1929.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1929.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	34weeks	Nov 23	1,217	4,68,000	−11,011	1,39,83,323	− 6,85,433
Barsi Lt. Ry.	36weeks	Dec. 7	202	49,200	− 1,400	16,87,300	+ 70,800
Bengal & N.Western	36weeks	7	2,079	7,14,006	− 61,563	62,86,277	− 1,36,687
Bengal-Nagpur	33weeks	16	2,988	18,32,000	+241346	5,59,64,693	+28,05,392
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	38weeks	21	3,031	24,92,000	− 91,000	8,06,14,000	−13,97,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	36weeks	7	3,121	19,31,000	+ 68,030	6,33,63,785	+14,33,208
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	36weeks	7	1,146	5,00,491	+ 9,696	1,53,21,504	+19,79,889
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	34weeks	Nov 23	561	1,19,583	+ 3,924	8,10,845	− 60,085
South Indian	35weeks	30	2,351	11,83,468	− 36,577	4,48,52,825	+37,68,359

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1929.	+ or −	1929.	+ or −
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	26weeks	Dec.28	753	16,300	+ 700	409,800	− 6,700
B.A. and Pacific	26weeks	28	2,806	150,000	− 15,000	3,807,000	− 310,000
B.A. Central	26weeks	29	...	12,964	− 1,802	334,518	− 28,030
B.A. Gt. Southern	26weeks	28	4,875	253,000	− 37,000	5,816,000	+ 182,000
B.A. Western	26weeks	28	1,926	90,000	− 16,000	2,186,000	− 262,000
Central Argentine	26weeks	28	3,319	217,000	− 53,000	6,249,000	− 589,000
Cordoba Central	26weeks	28	1,218	46,000	− 14,000	1,653,000	− 181,000
Entre Rios	26weeks	28	789	37,300	− 2,700	667,500	− 69,800
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	26weeks	Dec.28	1,374	44,368	− 12,717	1,276,352	− 56,028
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	26weeks	Dec.28	273	32,996	+ 535	755,695	− 14,982
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	26weeks	28	311	7,883	− 709	162,809	+ 3,247
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	26weeks	28	185	3,711	− 235	84,071	− 4,191
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	26weeks	28	211	1,980	− 1,029	69,186	− 2,480
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	51weeks	Dec.21	19548	4,521,498	− 941374	254,102,545	-15185,467
Canadian Pacific	51weeks	21	15187	3,257,000	-1322000	204,447,000	-18565,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brasil	52weeks	Dec.28	1,016	19,800	− 800	967,900	+ 154,600
Leopoldina	52weeks	28	1,856	38,399	+ 101	2,507,748	+ 141,351
Leopoldina Termnl.	52weeks	28	Mlrs.	307,000	+ 21,000	14,714,000	+ 578,000
San Paulo	52weeks	29	153½	21,523	− 22,820	2,557,624	− 5,834
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	52weeks	Dec.29	804	30,200	− 13,380	1,974,255	+ 145,195
Nitrate (½-monthly)	50weeks	15	413	26,552	− 15,238	787,124	− 34,537
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	39weeks	Dec.10	608	12,593	+ 674	245,915	+ 15,920
Gt. Southn. of Spain	51weeks	21	104	Ps. 125317	+ 4,895	6,256,270	− 196,492
Mexican Railway	50weeks	21	483	$278,100†	− 476000	5,482,200	− 176,600
Paraguay Central	25weeks	21	274	3,890	+ 300	105,610	− 9,880
Salvador	26weeks	28	100	4,308	+ 196	95,539	− 4,083

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange. † Receipts for 21 days.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1929.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1929.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	51weeks	Dec.23	329	90,247	− 1,996	4,421,575	− 111,963
B. Aires Lacroze	26weeks	29	...	12,772	− 1,280	295,654	− 26,963
Burnley Corporation	1 week	28	13	3,820	+ 117	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	28	35½	Rs. 127436	− 34,322	...	...
Chatham & District	50weeks	19	15	1,145	+ 23	57,896	− 6,534
Egyptian Markets	49weeks	12	...	1,628	− 440	85,737	− 264
•Isle of Thanet Elec.	51weeks	24	...	903	+ 61	85,863	+ 2,134
Liverpool Corp.	39weeks	28	124	30,635	+ 1,510	1,178,168	+ 14,751
L.C.C. Tramways	38weeks	25	166	85,058	+ 6,433	3,227,151	+ 39,979
Madras Electric	‡48 w'ks	15	...	Rs. 43,326	+ 249	10,04,460	+ 2,248

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
Rubber, &c.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Glen Bervie Rubber	Sept. 30	2,719	6,235	8,954	...	4,253	5	2,000	2,701	5,306	5
Malay Rubber Planters	Sept. 30	1,682	19,229	20,911	...	13,595	12½	5,000	2,316	7,559	5
Soember Ajoe Rubber	Sept. 30	5,735	9,841	15,576	...	5,810	7½	2,000	7,766	9,576	7½
Financial Land, &c.											
New Zealand & River Plate Land Mortgage	Oct. 31	45,794	78,116	123,910	...	63,000	9	15,000	45,910	78,405	9
Peel River Land and Mineral	June 30	29,395	18,619	48,014	...	21,600	6†	...	26,414	37,500	8†
Textiles.											
International Artificial Silk	Mch. 31	...	*Dr. 1,684*	*Dr. 1,684*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 1,684*	...	...
Jute Industries	Sept. 30	...	51,814	51,814	19,068	...	...	25,000	7,746	46,446	...
Trust.											
Rio Claro Railway & Invest.	Nov. 30	77,364	162,178	239,542	59,156	78,875	10	20,000	81,511	154,081	10
Second Scottish Eastern Investment Trust	Nov. 30	3,342	31,796	35,138	16,196	11,614	5	4,286	3,042	17,427	5
Other Companies.											
Carrongrove Paper	Oct. 31	1,993	37,138	39,131	17,600	12,800	8	...	8,731	...	...
Glamorgan Wagon	Nov. 30	3,259	1,919	5,178	...	1,000	10	...	4,178	2,744	10
Henekeys	Oct. 28	13,462	50,194	63,656	7,500	36,000	20	10,000	10,156	...	20
Randall (C. W.)	Dec. 15	4,638	44,032	48,670	9,000	19,000	190	15,000	5,670	44,137	235
Trickett (Sir H. W.)	Nov. 30	...	3,508	3,508	2,812	...	...	...	696	...	...
United Tobacco Cos. (South)	Sept. 30	244,077	552,315	796,392	24,000	480,000	20†	...	292,392	507,005	20†

† Free of income-tax.

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.—Production for the week ended December 7th was 117,549 metric tons (previous week ended November 30th was 117,703 metric tons). Production for the week ended December 14th was :—Bolivar district, 115,904 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 3,792 metric tons; total, 119,696 metric tons. Production for the week ended December 21st was :—Bolivar District, 119,066 metric tons; Maracaibo District, 5,463 metric tons; total, 124,529 metric tons. Production for the week ended December 28th was :—Bolivar district, 119,436 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 5,291 metric tons; total, 124,727 metric tons.

THE OUTLOOK
FOR THE
NEW YEAR
IN THE
STOCK MARKETS

ARGENTINE RAIL
PROSPECTS

SEE The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review THIS WEEK
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REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Mr Douglas David Seligman has been appointed a director of Seligman Brothers, Limited.

Mr R. Gore, Captain R. Gordon Munro, M.C., and Mr D. H. Scott have been appointed assistant directors of Helbert, Wagg and Company.

The Lautaro Nitrate Company has removed to Cory Buildings, 117, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3. Telephone : Monument 3946.

Mr V. W. Tyler, F.I.A., has been appointed assistant actuary of the Alliance Assurance Company, Ltd.

RAILWAYS.

GRAND TRUNK PERPETUAL PREFERENCE STOCKS.—The *Investors' Protection Corporation, Ltd.*, are advised that the word "Perpetual" attached to these stocks implies that they have some of the characteristics of perpetual debentures. They have also voting rights acquired in part consideration of the surrender of their original right of foreclosure on the Canadian and American lines. The forfeiture of these voting stocks constituted a serious breach of the agreement between the Perpetual Stockholders and the Grand Trunk Company. The Corporation is fully satisfied that the special rights and equities attaching to these stocks not only exist, but govern the position. Nearly two thousand signatures have been affixed to the Petition to the Canadian Parliament.

BRITISH RAILWAY TRAFFICS.—This table shows traffic receipts of four British railways for the week ended December 22nd, also for 51 weeks of 1929. Receipts for 52 weeks of 1929 will be found in our usual column of weekly traffic returns :—

(b) Week ended Dec. 20, 1929. (c) Week ended Dec. 21, 1929.	Miles Open.	Week ended Dec. 22, 1929. (000's omitted.)					Aggregate 51 weeks 1929. (000's omitted.)				
		Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,733	252	223	142	365	617	12450	11456	6,405	17,861	30,311
Do. for 1928	3,734	314	210	131	341	655	12797	11108	5,854	16,962	29,759
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	363	415	303	718	1,081	18561	21507	13823	35,330	53,891
Do. for 1928	6,360	429	394	301	695	1,124	19169	21134	12317	33,451	52,620
Lond.,Mid.& Scot.	6,956½	559	586	331	917	1,476	28009	29315	13957	43,272	71,281
Do. for 1928	6,952½	690	557	327	884	1,574	29205	29423	13336	42,759	71,964
Southern	2,175	348	77	37	114	462	16536	3,986	1,627	5,613	22,149
Do. for 1928	2,175	395	73	35	108	503	16794	4,063	1,439	5,502	22,296

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH GOODRICH RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.—The fifth annual report and accounts shows a net profit for the year ended September 30, 1929, of £92,969 (last year £73,235), to which is added amount brought in, making total £102,703. Deducting preference dividends and £21,443 allocated to preference shareholders' reserve there is a balance of £66,242, from which it is recommanded that the balance of preliminary and formation expenses, £35,000, be written off. The B. F. Goodrich Co. having waived its right to receive £14,843 out of the profits, it will be necessary to alter the articles, and, subject to the passing of the consequent special resolution, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which would leave £10,461 to go forward.

BENGAL COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.—Figures for half-year to October 31, 1929, are :—Profit of Rs. 872,000, including carry forward ; depreciation, Rs. 125,000 ; dividend, Rs. 600,000 ; commissions, Rs. 65,000 ; carry forward, Rs. 82,000 ; dividend for the half-year, 15 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year.

THE LONDON COUNTY FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES LIMITED.—The directors state that in connection with the recent offer to shareholders of 210,388 shares of £1 each at 25s. per share, over 97¼ per cent. has been subscribed.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO (CHARTERED) COMPANY. By an oversight, a footnote was misplaced in our "Notice" regarding this company in last week's issue. The correct version is as follows :—

The financial results—Borneo and London—for the first nine months of the current year are shown below, together with the figures for the corresponding period of 1928.

		1928. £	1929. £
Borneo cabled figures	Revenue	345,328	344,832
	Expenditure	194,619	194,747
	Surplus	150,709	150,085
London	Revenue	18,857	21,983
	Expenditure	14,685	15,659*
	Surplus	4,172	6,324
Total surplus		£154,881	£156,409

* This figure includes the cost of the president's mission to Borneo and certain non-recurrent expenditure of an exceptional nature.

These figures are, of course, subject to deductions in respect of interest on debentures, depreciation, etc.

BENSKIN'S WATFORD BREWERY, LTD.—At an extraordinary general meeting on January 1st resolutions were unanimously agreed to capitalise £152,000 of the reserve fund by way of bonus shares to the existing shareholders in the proportion of one ordinary share for every two now held, and further approving the issue of 456,000 new ordinary shares. Letters of allotment in respect of the 152,000 bonus shares and also of the 456,000 will be posted in the course of a few days.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 1929

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profits.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
GOLD.							
Fresnillo	91,984	...	...	...	...	$101840	...
Oriental Consolidated (Oct.)	19,433	...	...	...	...	$102362	$33,553
Pato (18 dys. to Dec. 10)	...	...	...	...	...	$16,874	...

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
TIN.		
Amari	9	...
Berenguela	38	Black tin concentrates.
Naraguta Karama	27½	...
Naraguta Korot	20	...
Naraguta (Nigeria)	41	...
Sungei Pari	32	...
Yarde Kerri	5	...
COAL.		
Chinese Engineering	80,000	Sales of coal week ended Dec. 7.

FABULOSA MINES CONSOLIDATED.—Production of tin barrilla for the past month was 4,350 quintals of 46 kilos. (Approx. 197 tons.) *Note.*—This figure s 29 tons higher than the previous record output.

MAZAPIL COPPER COMPANY.—Production for the month of November was as follows : Copper matte, 843 metric tons ; lead concentrates, 413 metric tons ; zinc concentrates, 772 metric tons.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.—November production of the affiliated tin companies in Nigeria : Associated Tin Mines of Nigeria, 250 tons ; Mongu (Nigeria), 70 tons ; Juga Valley, 25 tons ; Tin Properties, 25 tons ; Junction, 3 tons ; London Tin Syndicate, 255 tons ; total, 628 tons, making a total output for all affiliated companies of 1,517½ tons.

PODEROSA MINING COMPANY.—Production for November : 1,410 metric tons, estimated at 17½ per cent. copper. The estimated profit, taking copper at 17¾ cents, after deducting London and Chile administration expenses and depreciation of plant and machinery, but subject to British and Chilean taxation, would be £5,325. Shipments for the same period were 1,215 tons, estimated at 18¼ per cent. copper.

THE MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—During the four-weekly period ended December 4th the mill treated 17,603 tons of ore, producing 3,864 tons of concentrates.

NORTH BROKEN HILL, LIMITED.—For the month of November the production was as follows : 37,125 tons of crude ore were treated, assaying 14·2 per cent. lead, 8·2 ounces silver per ton, and 10·4 per cent. zinc, producing 7,820 tons lead concentrates assaying 63·3 per cent. lead, 33·4 ounces silver per ton and 7·5 per cent. zinc ; also 8,130 tons zinc concentrates assaying 48·5 per cent. zinc, 2·8 per cent. lead and 3·8 ounces silver per ton.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC COMPANY OF AUSTRALASIA, LIMITED.—Production during four-weekly period ended December 11, 1929 : 4,212 tons zinc, of which 70 tons used at the works ; silver-lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 415 tons lead, 49,000 ounces silver.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—The total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of November, 1929, amounted to : Witwatersrand, £1,042,308 ; outside districts, £28,891 ; total, £1,071,199. The estimated working profit in October, 1929, was : Witwatersrand, £1,083,520 ; outside districts, £32,224 ; total, £1,115,744.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions generally were unfavourable for field work, heavy gales and rains rendering ploughing operations difficult owing to the sodden state of the ground. Native wheat continues in small supply at many of the provincial markets and a firm tone prevailed in sympathy with the international situation. The chief event on the import market was the publication of the surprisingly low official preliminary estimate of the Argentine crop. A yield of only 18 million quarters was indicated, which together with about 2 million quarters of old crop would provide an exportable surplus of 10 to 11 million quarters, compared with 32 million quarters actually shipped during the past twelve months. Prices immediately responded, and with buyers' attention directed to Canadian and American descriptions, sellers naturally took full advantage of the position to raise their limits. European consumers, however, were not disposed to follow the upward movement so that trade again relapsed into a quiet state, and the advance was difficult to maintain. It would appear that this is a favourable opportunity to market surplus holdings in North America, but in view of financial stringency both here and on the Continent, the question of price is the chief factor. Meanwhile, overseas purchases will be strictly measured by immediate wants until increased competition from the Southern Hemisphere is forthcoming, and the situation more clearly defined. Flour prices followed the course of wheat, London makes being advanced by 1s. per sack, and foreign offers are somewhat reservedly made for shipment. There is not much improvement in the feeding trade, consumers' demand being restricted, but Plate maize is moving rather more freely on Continental account, probably the result of a recent increase in the German import duty on barley, and the variable condition of Danubian shipments.

Wheat.—Firmer. No. 1, Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 57s. ; No. 2, ditto, 56s. 3d. ; No. 3, 54s. 9d. ; No. 4, Manitoba, 53s. 9d. ; No. 5, 50s. 3d. ; No. 6, 43s. 6d. ; No. 2, hard winter, 49s. 6d. ; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 48s. 6d. ; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 49s. 3d. ; Australian, 51s. 6d. per 496 lbs. ; English, 9s. 7d.-9s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Steady. London straight run, 42s. per sack for country deliveries, and 41s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 38s. 6d.-42s. ; Buffalo, 39s. 9d.-41s. 6d. ; Australian, 36s. 6d.-37s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, January-February, 39s. 6d.-40s. 6d. ; export, ditto, 37s.-38s. ; Australian, 34s. 6d. per 280 lbs. ; Argentine low grade, February-March, £7 5s. per ton.

Maize.—Steady. Plate, landed, 31s. 3d. ; ex ship to arrive, 30s. 3d. ; January-February, 30s. 6d. ; February-March, 31s. ; new, April-May, 31s. ; May-June, 30s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £7 5s. white, £6 15s. per ton, ex ship.

Barley.—Maintained. Californian old, landed, 36s.-43s. ; new, ex ship, 37s.-46s. as to sample ; Chilian brewing, ex store, 37s.-43s. ; Chevalier, 40s.-45s. ; Australian, 41s.-42s. ; Smyrna, 40s.-42s. per 448 lbs. ; Algerian/Tunisian, ex ship, 26s.-27s. 6d. as to sample ; No. 2, Federal American, landed, 25s. 9d. ; Danubian landed, 26s. 9d. ; Black Sea, January, ex ship, 24s. per 400 lbs. ; English malting, 8s. 6d.-14s. 6d. ; feed, 7s. 3d.-8s. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Quietly steady. Plate, landed, 19s. ; ex ship to arrive, 17s. 9d. ; black Plate, landed, 18s. 6d. ; Chilian white, landed, 24s. 6d. ; ditto, tawny, 20s. 9d. ; German, landed, 21s. 3d. ; ex ship to arrive, 20s. 3d. per 320 lbs. ; English, 7s. 4d.-7s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

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COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to December 28	Cwts. 133,319	Cwts. 140,920	Cwts. 150,443	Cwts. 257,648
17 weeks to December 28.....	4,495,184	4,795,684	4,204,018	6,422,204
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1925 to 1928 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1929.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Dec. 21.....	205,076	321,540	39,825	9 6	8 10	7 2
Dec. 28.....	133,319	141,466	20,376	9 6	8 8	7 0
Dec. 26, 1925...	448,048	257,033	51,079	12 5	10 6	9 3
Dec. 25, 1926...	209,603	259,705	51,830	11 11	10 9	8 0
Dec. 31, 1927...	150,443	228,020	45,009	9 10	11 4	9 3
Dec. 29, 1928...	140,920	188,944	45,599	9 6	10 2	8 11

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1928 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 4, 1928.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)— Cents per 60 lb.....	156⅛	122	136⅛	140⅛	141⅜
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.....	166⅛	116⅜	121⅛	126⅜	127⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,704,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 141,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 70,384,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports that apart from holiday disturbances, the export coal market continues strong, and output is being fully shipped. The price of best hards continues firm, at 18s. 6d. f.o.b., Humber ports. New business has been scarce during the last two weeks. The demand for industrial coal is only moderate, and although an increased tonnage of house coal is being called for, the volume of business is below the average of previous years. The output of coke has increased but demand keeps brisk and prices are maintained.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—The collieries closed down on Tuesday for the New Year holidays, and production will not be in full swing again until next week. There has been next to nothing doing in the market. The total coal shipments from Scottish ports during the year amounted to 13,259,000 tons, which was an increase of 1,400,000 tons on those of 1928. The Clyde accounted for 4,746,000 tons, or 424,000 tons more than in 1928, the Forth for 4,110,000 tons, a gain of 583,000 tons, and the Fife ports, 4,403,000 tons, a gain of 392,000 tons. The market closed the week with prices nominally as follows (f.o.b. district ports) :—Lanarkshire.—Ell best, 16s. 6d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 9d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 15s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 17s.; doubles, 16s. 3d.; singles-14s.; pearls, 13s.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 18s., 19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 16s.-16s. 6d.; third-class steam, 15s.; trebles, 18s. 6d.-19s. 6d.; doubles, 16s. 6d.-17s.; singles, 15s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.-14s. Lothians.—Prime steam, 15s.; secondary steam, 14s. 3d.; trebles, 18s.; doubles, 16s. 6d.; singles, 14s. 9d.; pearls, 13s. 3d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 17s. 6d.; doubles, 16s. 6d.; singles, 14s. 6d.; pearls, 13s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The holidays have greatly interfered with the transaction of business during the past week, and there has been little movement in prices. On Tuesday the companies producing the best house coal raised their prices by 1s. 6d. per ton to 26s. 6d. per ton as from January 1st, but so far the quotations for the more competitive second class house coals are unaltered. About 1¼ million tons of Monmouthshire and Rhymney Valley coals have been tendered to the Italian State Railways under the provisions of the Hague agreement, but no contracts have yet been actually placed. An announcement on the subject is expected next week on the return to Cardiff from Rome of the principal representative of the railways. The output regulation scheme came into operation in the coal field as from the beginning of the new year. Individual allocations to the collieries show that in the great majority of cases the quotas averaged from 3 per cent. to 4 per cent. below their rate of production last year, but that in a few cases the companies have at their disposal small surpluses over their 1928 production. Shipments at the South Wales ports last week fell, owing to the Christmas holidays, from 758,800 tons to 352,600 tons, but the latter quantity compares with 217,370 tons in the corresponding week last year. The following are the current approximate quotations :—Best Admiralties, 20s. to 20s. 3d.; seconds, 19s. 9d. to 20s.; best drys, 20s. 6d. to 21s.; Western Valleys, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Mon. Black Veins, 19s. to 19s. 3d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; best small steams, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d.; cargo smalls, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; cooking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d.; best anthracite large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein large, 27s. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 44s. to 46s.; French nuts, 45s. to 47s.; stove nuts, 44s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 12s. 9d. to 13s. 6d.; foundry coke, 35s. to 37s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 29s. 3d. to 29s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes :—There was littl serious attempt at business on Tuesday's market. Prices of Cleve land iron were unchanged : No. 1, 75s.; No. 3, 72s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 71s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Deliveries to home consumers will recommence on Thursday and by Monday next normal conditions will prevail. Makers are well provided with orders, and will be able to give prompt deliveries from accumulations of iron at the furnaces over the holidays. Further buying by home consumers is anticipated early in January, but there is no prospect of business with the near Continent at present prices. The official total of pig iron shipments for December amounted to only 12,619 tons against 21,518 tons in November and 25,711 tons in October. Hematite iron business has been held up with home consumers, but a few sales have been made on export account by merchants who have been willing to shade makers' prices. The latter are firm at 79s. for mixed numbers for January delivery, but are easier for January-March than hitherto. Makers are prepared to accept 80s. for good lines. They look for an expansion in trade as soon as the New Year is turned. In the steel trade it is expected that work will be fully resumed by Monday next, though some mills will start earlier. A fair amount of work is in hand, and additional contracts are under negotiation. Orders for five more good-sized steamers have just been placed on this coast, three on the Tyne and two at West Hartlepool, which will further increase the demand for shipbuilding materials. Prices are unchanged from last week. In the ore market there is almost nothing doing. Best Bilbao-Rubio is nominally 23s. 6d. for early delivery, and the freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough is 6s. 9d. to 7s. For forward up to 24s. is asked, according to period. Coke is offering rather freely and, good medium qualities can now be obtained at 22s. 6d. delivered furnaces. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is now 41, two having been blown out just recently, but two more will be started almost at once.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—The resumption of activities in the local industries at the beginning of the week was only partial, as a considerable number of workpeople are still idle. Conditions should be normal again next week. Prospects are being canvassed, but there are no indications at the moment of any change in an upward direction. The position continues mixed, with certain favoured branches doing well, and promising further expansion. The call for basic steel has improved a little, whereas the acid department continues to shrink. The sole remaining works in Sheffield producing wrought iron is to be closed next month. The railway waggon, axle and tyre plants continue short of work, particularly on export account. There is a steady demand for hand and engineers' small tools, but with no progress and the cutlery and electro-plate makers have finished a busy season with some orders on hand for new year execution.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—All the works in Glasgow and the West of Scotland are now closed down for the New Year holidays. In some cases works will not be reopened until January 13th. During the year 1929, business in the Glasgow district has been rather below the average of an ordinary good year. The pig iron trade has been unsatisfactory. Of the number of furnaces in Scotland, only about one-third are in operation, and throughout the year, that proportion has never been exceeded. Prices have advanced slightly, but the increase has been the result not of greater demand, but of the impossibility of carrying on at the former unremunerative figures. Steelmakers have been steadily employed during the greater part of the year, but have generally not had sufficient specifications for forward delivery on hand to give any feeling of confidence for the future. A gratifying feature is the larger tonnage of British steel that is being used by structural and other engineers. Tube makers were exceptionally busy in the early months of 1929, but there has been some falling off since then. On the whole, however, the year has been a busy one for this branch of industry and the outlook for the New Year is satisfactory. Bar iron makers and makers of re-rolled steel bars have had a quiet time, and the prospects are not encouraging. In the black sheet trade, business has been fairly well maintained and the plants well employed all year. Sheet galvanisers have also been almost fully employed, but during the closing months of the year there has been a falling off in export demand, and prices have been considerably cut. Competition from the Continent is on the increase in this trade. There are, however, signs of an improvement in demand, and sheetmakers have a fair tonnage on their books at the moment. Glasgow locomotive builders have secured some very good contracts during the year, but works are equipped for a much larger output than it has been possible to secure. Structural engineers in the Glasgow district have had a fairly good year, and have a considerable amount of work on hand. The shipyards on the Clyde have maintained the standard reached in 1928, and during the year some very fine vessels have been built and engined on the Clydeside.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The South Wales tinplate works have resumed operations after the Christmas week's stoppage, and on the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday prices were firm, and an optimistic view was taken of prospects over the new year. Belgian steel bars have recently been offered at between £5 2s. 6d. and £5 5s. 0d., compared with the minimum for the South Wales bar of £6 10s. 0d. per ton, and imports of the Continental material are, therefore, once again showing signs of expansion. Last week the Customs returns reported the arrival of 10,500 tons, but several additional cargoes are on the way. Galvanised sheets are fairly steady despite the continued paucity of inquiries from India. Shipments of tinplates last week were considerably below the average, but owing to the suspension of work at the mills, the deliveries to the dock warehouses were small, and stocks at the end of the week totalled 196,000 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—The standard market opened with a quiet tone and values eased on liberal offerings combined with lower Eastern advices, though later marked a sharp recovery on buyers becoming more prominent. Standard cash sold £175 5s. to £175 2s. 6d. to £178 2s. 6d. and £180 5s.; three months, £180-£177 17s. 6d. to £180 5s. and £183 12s. 0d. In the East, sales were reported on the basis of £181 to £184 ton c.i.f. terms.

Copper in quiet demand at irregular rates, offerings being in excess of requirements, closing firmer, however, on improved buying orders. Standard cash sold £67 5s. to £71 7s. 6d.; three months £67 2s. 6d. to £66 16s. 3d. to £67 5s. and £70 per ton.

Lead quiet but fully steady. Good soft foreign pig, December, sold at £21 15s. to £21 18s. 9d.; January, £21 8s. 9d. to £21 10s. to £21 8s. 9d.; February, £21 7s. 6d.; March, £21 10s.; April, £21 10s. ton.

Spelter active, especially for January and March dates, but prices easier. January, sold, £19 17s. 6d. to £19 12s. 6d. and £19 15s.; February, £20 6s. 3d. to £20 and £20 1s. 3d.; March, £20 11s. 3d. to £20 5s. and £20 7s. 6d.; April, £20 10s. to £20 7s. 6d ton.

Antimony easier. English regulus, quoted, £45 to £52 10s.; China ditto, spot, £31 10s.; December-January, £28 to £28 5s.; China, crude, December-January, £19 to £19 5s. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide.—December-January, £28 5s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore, 50 per cent., December-January, 4s.; 60 per cent., 5s. per unit c.i.f.

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QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

ALUMINIUM quiet. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

TIN PLATES quietly steady. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 9d. to 19s. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

MANCHESTER, December 31st.

Traders in the market have not yet recovered from holiday influences and again there has been an inclination to defer the arrangement of contracts of importance. On the whole there is rather less fear of lower values. Although uncertainty exists with regard to trading conditions in outlets abroad the feeling is growing that increased activity will show itself early in the New Year. For the time being there is nervousness relating to political developments in India, but some fair lines have been booked in light cloths for Calcutta. Operations for China remain restricted and poor clearances are still taking place at the auctions in Shanghai. Printed and dyed goods have been sold in moderate quantities for South America and the Continent. A number of manufacturers have extended the usual holidays. A slow tone has prevailed in the yarn market. Only limited quantities of American and Egyptian counts have been sold, and the prices ruling are decidedly unremunerative.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1929.				Corresponding Date.	
	Dec. 11.	Dec. 18.	Dec. 21.	Dec. 31.	1929.	1928.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	9·59	9·37	9·34	9·42	10·59	10·87
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .....per lb.	14·40	14·10	13·95	14·15	19·35	17·65
Yarns—32's twist .....per lb.	14	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	5⅜	15¼
,, 40's weft .....per lb.	14½	14½	14½	14½	16¼	16¼
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) .....per lb.	24	23½	23½	23½	28	27½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 7½	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 26 0	s. d. 25 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 4½	26 6	26 6	28 6	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	15 6	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb.	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	14 0	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—The year opens with little of an encouraging nature in sight so far as the wool textile industry is concerned. Lack of confidence in values is still the outstanding feature, and no development can be expected until the raw material position has again been tested. If values could be stabilised on about the present basis, users everywhere would have confidence to go forward. That the year starts with prices on a very different level from that ruling for many years may be gathered from the following table, in which January quotations are given:—

	TOPS IN OIL.					
	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
64's warp	79	50½	46	53½	48	32
60's super	75	46½	42¼	50	45	30
56's average	43	26	31⅜	38½	31⅜	24¼
46's carded	35	23	20¾	23½	24	18½
40's prepared	32½	21½	19½	22½	22½	18

Good business has been done in the past with prices on a much higher scale than that now current, but it has not lasted and the wild fluctuations have made steady and remunerative trade impossible. One might reasonably expect, therefore, that with cheap wool and stability—that is all-important—the present year will present opportunities for definite expansion.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

During the past fortnight cable information has been received in London to the effect that excellent rains have fallen over large areas in Australia. Coming at this time of the year the greatest possible good will be done, for feed and water will be provided for the summer, thus helping the sheep to maintain good physical condition. Another two inches general rainfall towards the end of the month would stimulate the growth of the clip, and the extra weight would be some compensation for the lower prices. It would be far better to have a good weight of well-grown wool to offer than a short clip, even if the price for the latter is 2d. to 3d. per lb. more. The prospects for the New Year cannot be described in glowing terms. Consumption will have to expand very considerably during the next twelve months if all the wool likely to be available is to be absorbed readily. The second half of the selling season will open next Monday, and there is nothing to indicate any recovery in values. These may be expected to move on about the same level as before the Christmas recess. Fair sales of tops have been made in Bradford without values being much influenced in an upward direction. Some topmakers have sold quite as much as they consider safe, and have advanced their quotations, but spinners are not yet willing to pay any more than fractional advances for such business as they have to offer. There is a fair amount of encouragement for users to continue buying wool at to-day's level, though the prevalent impression is that there is quite enough in sight to satisfy all requirements. The fact that during 1929 64's tops fell about 16d. per lb., 56's 9½d., 50's 7d., and 40's prepared 5d., shows that the year cannot have been profitable. This prevents users feeling enthusiastic about the future and the only hope of any substantial recovery lies in an expansion of manufacturing requirements. More trade is needed in tops, yarns and fully manufactured goods on both home and export account to find work for the standing spindles and looms. Until this comes no great improvement in values can be expected.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Business in the leather and kindred industries has been quiet since the resumption after the holidays. In spite of this, however, there seems to be a feeling that conditions this year will be better than those during most of 1929. At the auctions for English hides held in the middle of the week prices were steady, with a slight appreciation for some classes, and it is expected that similar results will be forthcoming at the bulk of the sales held later. Imported hides, on the other hand, have been hardly able to maintain recent quotations, the one exception being Frigorifics, prices for Argentine ox now having touched 8¾d. Light ox have sold at 7¾d., while Montevideo ox have realised 8¼d. Practically the whole of the buying in this direction has been on account of the United States, European tanners not being interested in these goods at the present basis of values. Dry River Plates are inclined to be easier, and sales of B.A. Americanos have been made at 9⅜d., with M.V. Americanos fetching 10¾d. Cape hides are nominally steady at 10d. and 9d. for first and second drys, and one penny less for drysalted. The Chicago market is cabled as steady, with best native steers quoted at 16 cents. There has been very little doing in sole leather so far this week, and what orders have come to hand have mostly been in connection with repairing trade requirements. Shoe manufacturers have been looking about for future supplies of light and medium weight English and wetsalted bends, but very little actual business has been put through. Dry hide leathers are a poor sale and only interest a certain class of trade. Demand for upper leather has also been slow; here and there orders have come to hand for small parcels of box and willow calf leather, and it would seem that this line will be mostly in request when things become more normal. Inquiry has also been experienced for black and brown glacé in the cheap to medium priced skins, while the demand for most of the other lines has been negligible. Shoe manufacturers are now getting back to something like regular working conditions, and it is fully expected that the holiday sales will soon be reflected in orders for replacement of stock.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Quiet and somewhat easier conditions have ruled in the markets since the holiday. Linseed oil offers only sparingly on spot, and prices are firm around £44 per ton naked ex Hull mill, with £43 10s. quoted for January and £42 5s. January-April. Consumers, however, are not displaying much interest. Cotton oils are quiet and neglected. Crude Egyptian ex Hull offers at £29 and common edible at £32 5s. for prompt delivery. Other seed oils are quiet and inclined easier. In the oilseed section linseed is in poor request here, but there has been some demand from the Continent for seed on passage and December loading, prices paid for Plate ranging from £19 3s. to £19 6d. Current value of old crop on spot at Hull is £21, December shipment of new seed being quoted £19 7s. 6d. and January £19 2s. 6d. Some interest in the new Bombay crop has been shown and £21 has been conceded for March. The official estimate of the new season's yield in Argentina, issued by the authorities, is less than expected, the gross total being 1,413,000 tons as against 2,103,000 tons harvested last season. Allowing for a small carry over and seeding requirements, the possible exportable surplus is put at 1,250,000 tons. Cottonseed is easier, black Egyptian offering at £8 2s. 6d. spot, passage and December, and £8 5s. January. Prices of oilcakes have been drastically reduced to attract purchasers.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—The market is dull with a weak tendency. Uncertainty as to the fate of the commodity at the forthcoming Budget, puts confidence at a very low ebb. Previous quotations were repeated for all spot goods, and moderate quantities of home-grown granulated are on offer. Imported descriptions call for no comment. All raw refining sugars are somewhat difficult to clear at the moment. The Java market fails to develop. Continental granulated for shipment, scarcely mentioned. Czecho granulated, ready quoted, 10s.; January-March, 10s. 1½d.; and April-June, sold, 10s. 3¾d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Peruvian, 96 per cent. afloat, 8s. 2½d. c.i.f. Terminal sections presented quiet features, and moderate sales in raw include March delivery, 6s. 9¾d. to 6s. 9d.; May, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 8½d.; August, 8s. 3d. to 8s. 2½d.; December, 8s. 5½d. White, August, 11s. 1½d. Peruvian, 96 per cent. afloat and arrived, sold, 8s. 0⅜d. c.i.f. Brazilian, ditto, February, 8s. 3d. c.i.f. London. Cuban receipts last week, 33,400 tons, against 26,280 last year; exports, 41,630, against 52,230; stocks, 181,460, against 124,400. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending December 28 amounted to 212,119 tons, compared with 100,886 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—Business still partakes of a holiday character, but during next week the market should revive, as representative quantities from Kenya and Costa Rica are due to reach London. Of the latter, certain consignments from the Pacific slope will be included.

COCOA.—Only small transactions on the spot, but prices remain unaltered. Forward positions quiet. Accra, F/F, January-March, sellers, 39s. 6d.; February-April, 40s. f.o.b. Terminal, March delivery, sold, 44s. 1½d. to 43s. 9d.; May, 44s. 3d.; July, 45s. 1½d.

TEA.—No change to note in the private contract market, and business is conducted on quiet lines.

RICE.—There is no general improvement in demand, but sellers ask steady prices.

BEANS.—A feature of the market was quite a mild run upon Ohtenashi, and prices advanced. Butter beans at the moment move off slowly. Madagascar butters, afloat steamer "Clan Macindoe," quoted 28s.; November-December bill of lading, 27s. 3d.; December-January, 27s.; January-March, 26s. 9d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, December-January, sold, 22s. to 22s. 3d.; March-May, buyers, 23s. c.i.f.

PEAS.—Steadier for Japanese, and afloat quoted 16s. 6d. to 16s. 9d.; November-December, 17s.; December-January, 17s. 1½d.; January-February, 17s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch steady but quiet.

SPICE.—A firmer market for pepper, particularly in forward positions. Improved buying was met with reserve on the part of sellers. Lampong, January-March, sold, 11½d. to 11½d.; March-May, 11⅝d. to 11⅞d.; Muntok, white, January-March, sold, 1s. 4¼d. to 1s. 4⅜d.; March-May, 1s. 4⅜d. to 1s. 4½d. London stocks: Black, 1,324 tons, against 1,286 tons at same time last year; white, 1,468, against 262 tons in 1928. Cloves quiet. Zanzibar, spot, 10½d.; January-March, 9½d. Pimento to arrive, 87s. cwt. c.i.f. London. Tapioca dull at late rates. Sago flour steady. Sarawak, December-January, London, 12s. 9d., Liverpool, 12s. 7½d.; January-February, 12s. 6d. Liverpool, 12s. 7½d. London. Desiccated coconut, spot, medium cut, 33s. 6d.; fine, 36s.; halves forward, 31s. 6d. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried)—There has been very little movement in this market during the past week owing to holiday interruptions, and prices nominally unchanged pending the resumption of business early in the New Year.

EVAPORATED FRUITS quiet and trend of prices easier. Californian apples, extra choice, 60s. to 69s.; Canadian, 64s.; Californian pears, 87s. 6d. to 102s. 6d.; Australian, 65s. to 85s.; Oregon plums, 54s. to 60s. South African apricots range from 70s. to 112s. 6d.; Australian ditto, 67s. 6d. to 77s. 6d. Other descriptions unaltered. Almonds firm, and Bitter-Jordan range from 180s. to 195s.

CANNED GOODS, &c.

Business was unimportant and quotations mostly unaltered. The general tone, however, remained steady and offers somewhat reservedly made.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market occasionally the turn easier. Dutch condensed, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 39s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, ditto, 24s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 50s. English condensed, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 42s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, ditto, 24s. 9d. carriage paid. Powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, full cream, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 75s.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 96s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 28s. 9d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 43s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 42s., all per cwt. All Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of March, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra, Liverpool 6d., Manchester 1s. On the grocery side: F.C.S., 19s. 6d.; M.S.S., 10s., basis usual packing.

HONEY.—Market quiet and prices unaltere.

RUBBER.

A firmer market, owing mainly to buying orders from New York. Thus, sellers were encouraged to adopt more reserve, but the improvement was not maintained. Sheet, spot and January, sold, 8 1/16d. to 7 15/16d.; February, 8 1/16d.; March, sold, 8¼d. to 8 3/16d.; April-June, 8⅛d. to 8 7/16d., 8⅜d.; July-September, 8⅜d. to 8⅝d.; October-December, 9d. to 8⅞d., and January-December, 1931, 9⅛d. to 9 1/16d. London landings for past week amounted to 870 tons; deliveries, 504; stock, 54,260 tons, against 19,727 at same time last year, being an increase of 366 tons on the week. Liverpool landings, 451 tons; deliveries, 88; stock, 19,059, against 2,854, an increase of 363 tons on the week.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—There is no improvement to note in this market. On the contrary, increased weakness was observable, and meantime trade remains very quiet, in keeping with slackness attending the sale of manufactured jute goods. Firsts, spot, Hamburg, sold, £28; ditto,

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	54	9
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	6
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	8	11
Oats, " "	7	3
Maize. La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	31	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 40 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12 6	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 4 0	5	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 4	6	2
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 10	5	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6 8	7	4
N.Z. frozen " 4 6	5	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 9 0	10	0
BACON— OTHER FOODS.		
Irish .....per cwt. 98 0	118	0
Danish..... 99 0	108	0
Canadian..... 88 0	101	0
Dutch 93 0	99	0
HAMS—Irish..... 0 0	0	0
Canadian..... 0 0	0	0
American 92 0	115	0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt. Nominal		
Australian 146 0	158	0
New Zealand 152 0	186	0
Danish..... 180 0	182	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt. 96 0	100	0
New Zealand 85 0	89	0
English Cheddars 90 0	120	0
Dutch 52 0	89	0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt. 43 0	47	0
Trinidad 60 0	65	0
Grenada 48 0	54	0
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt. 140 0	150	0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 150 0	180	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 120 0	143	0
Kenya, bold sizes 112 6	157	0
Colombian, mid to fine... 110 0	125	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120 23 0	24	0
Danish..... 23 0	25	0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs. 0 0	0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes 10 0	17	0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia		
½ cases 300 7 0	15	0
360 6 6	10	0
504 7 6	19	0
Lemons, Naples.... boxes 0 0	0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes 7 0	11	6
" ..... cases 12 0	17	6
Malaga .... cases 420 No. 1 0 0	0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls. 16 0	36	0
" (var.) boxes 9 0	11	0
" Tasmanian boxes 0 0	0	0
" W. Australian 0 0	0	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	6	0	6	6
case 5s.	7	6	9	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	82	0	88	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	0	55	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort,per lb.	1	5	1	7
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	10½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	68	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	80	0	110	0
Mace..... per lb.	3	0	3	9
Nutmegs 55's.....	1	9	1	10
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	9	24	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Jan.–Mar.	11	1½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	4½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	9	26	3
Crushed.....	24	6	25	0
Granulated.....	22	3	23	1½
Home Grown (prompt)	21	4½	21	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	2
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	1
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	3½
Broken Orange.....	0	11½	2	10½
TOBACCO— (Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	9·50
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	14·20
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	58	0	57	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	65	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	54	0	56	0
Manila, Jan.–Mar. " J2 "...	35	10	0	0
N.Z., Aug.–Oct.	nom.			
Sisal African, Jan.–Mar...	34	10	37	0
Mexican, Nov.–Dec.	38/15/0		43/2/6	

JUTE—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton				
Jan.–Feb.	28/0/0		0	0
Feb.–Mar.	28/5/0		0	0
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	13	9	15	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	23
" Lincoln hog, washed	16
Queensland, scd; super cmbg.	33
N.S.W. greasy, super "	17
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56 Crossbred 40–44	17 / 12½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	34
" 64's	32
Crossbred 48's	18½
" 46's	18

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	6
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	9	19	0

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/0/0		83	15
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard 67/17/6			68/2/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	23	5	0	0
Soft Foreign 21/18/9			21/10/0	
Spelter G.O.B. 19/12/6			20 /5/0	
Tin—English ingots ...179		0	180	0
Standard cash 178	2	6	178/5/0	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	11	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Jan.–Feb.	22/10/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea Dec.–Jan.	21/10/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	16	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayns Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5¼	0	5¾
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Capes...	0	9	0	10½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	5½
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9½	1	1½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	45	0	0	0
Rape, refined	42	6	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	31	15	33	15
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	10	12	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Jan.–Feb.	19/2/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Dec.–Jan.	22/15/0		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	42	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	10	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	8	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	152	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-c.-P. "	4	0	12	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	19	0	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	19	0	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	19	0	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	10	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	0	6
African "	0	6	0	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	9
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	6

December-January, to Hamburg, £27 10s. to £27 12s. 6d.; ditto to Antwerp at £27 15s.; January-February, usual ports, £27 17s. 6d.; February-March, £28 5s. Lightnings, January-February quoted, £25 15s.; Hearts, sellers, £23 c.i.f.

SHELLAC.—Market stronger. Fair T.N., spot, 152s. 6d.; March, sold, 146s. to 148s.; May, 146s. to 150s.; December-January and January-February, sellers, 141s.; February-March, 142s. cwt.

HEMP.—Manila firm. J No. 2, January-March, quoted £36; K ditto, sold at £32; L No. 1, quoted £30; L No. 2, £27 5s.; M No. 1, £27 5s.; M. No. 2, £25. Sisal quiet. African No. 1, f.a.q., January-February sellers, £35 10s.; No. 2, £34 10s., and good marks, No. 1, £37, No. 2, £36 c.i.f. Mexican: Good white, £38 15s. to £39 12s. 6d.; special, £41 5s. to £42 2s. 6d., and special brushed, £42 5s. to £43 2s. 6d. Receipts for past week totalled 28,000 bales, against 37,000 at same period in last year, and 24,000 in 1927. Estimates for this week 28,000, and the following week 26,000 bales.

COPRA quiet, and trend of values in buyers' favour. Straits, S.D., to Rotterdam, January-February, also February-March, quoted £22 10s. Dutch East Indies, ditto, £22 10s. Ceylon, quoted £24. To Marseilles, Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, January-February, £21 8s. 9d. Smoked South Sea ditto, £21 7s. 6d. S.D. quoted £21 10s. Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £21 12s. 6d. Manila, £21 5s. Cebu, £21 12s. 6d.

PALM KERNELS steady. For shipment, January-February, sellers £16 17s. 6d. to Hull ex ship. To Hamburg, January-February, £16 17s. 6d.; February-March, £17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 20s. to 22s. 6d. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 2½d.; Java, 2s. 9½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—January 1.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Irish	...		...		Canadian	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...		Sheep—Downs	8	8	10	0
Short Horns	6	0	6	4	Half bred	...		...	
Herefords	6	6	6	10	Ewes	5	4	5	8
Devons	7	0	7	4	Scottish	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...		Lamb—Downs	10	0	10	8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—January 1.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	4	0	5	0
" " whites.....	3	0	5	6
Bedford King Edward.....	4	0	5	6
" " whites.....	3	0	4	0
Essex King Edward.....	3	6	...	
" " whites	2	6	4	6
			3	0

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THE MONEY MARKET.

By the middle of the week the Bank had finally been repaid its loans to the market over the turn of the year, while there were also signs that the influx of revenue was beginning to take money off the market. Money, therefore, though still comfortable, has become "usable"

from the lender's standpoint, and on Thursday 3¾ per cent. was being obtained for short money. The main event of the week, however, was the further fall in discount rates for all maturities. On Wednesday one house mentioned a level 4 per cent. for all dates, while elsewhere March bills were quoted at 3 15/16 per cent., while even the three months' market rate was barely 4 per cent. Demand for bills on both home and foreign account was very keen, and was intensified by such factors as the decision of the Argentine Government to keep the proceeds of the recent loan from Barings in London, while issuing notes against it in Buenos Aires.

* * * *

In these circumstances a five per cent. Bank rate, with a spread of a whole point between it and market rate had become distinctly anomalous, and on Wednesday it was universally anticipated that the week would witness a reduction in Bank rate to 4½ per cent. Much to the market's surprise, the Bank authorities when they met the following day decided to make no change. Discount rates, however, hardly moved, but with weekly fixtures at 4 per cent. and market rate at about the same figure, brokers and discount houses have no margin in hand out of which to pay their expenses. It is true that they have done reasonably well out of bills bought a few weeks ago, but even so the present condition of affairs cannot last indefinitely.

* * * *

It is not easy to understand why the reduction in Bank rate has been delayed. This week's Bank return shows that the Bank has gained just over three millions of gold, and the Bank's gold stocks to-day are £149,215,000, or only £5,264,000 less than a year ago. It is true that much of the week's gold arrivals represented the final shipments from Buenos Aires, while another £250,000 consists of nothing more than gold released from earmark. It is also necessary to add that this week the Bank had to bid up to £84s. 11d. for Tuesday's new gold, and that even so it was only able to secure £536,000 out of £746,000, while £100,000 was bought by France. Still, even these considerations hardly explain the Bank's decision. Wednesday's appreciation of the dollar to $4.86⅞ was purely due to the anticipation of a reduction in the Bank rate, for so soon as it was known that no change had been made the rate relapsed to $4.87¼. Nor does the French exchange at Frs. 123.90 leave any margin of profit on gold shipments. Finally, a return of £6,760,000 of notes from circulation has, in conjunction with the gold receipts, raised the Bank's reserve by £9,961,862.

	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2. 1930.	Jan. 9, 19 .	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	5	5½ (Dec.12,'29)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Discount ∫ Call	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Houses ⌊ Notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3¾ (Dec.12,'29)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	4 13/16	4 11/16–¾	4 5/16	4 ¼	...

The market would welcome a reduction in the rate, as apart from more direct considerations, it would put an end to the present uncertainty. Again, tax collection and the impending payment of the final call on Conversion Loan mean that a period of stringency is likely, and the market would naturally prefer to face it upon a 4½ per cent. basis.

NEW YORK.

The week's Federal Reserve statements reflect the usual contraction in the figures of the System, the total credit outstanding being down by $163,000,000, and $218,000,000 below the figures of a year ago. The circulation has declined sharply, reserves showing a corresponding increase. The ratio is 72.9 per cent., showing a rise of 3.3 per cent. on the week and 6.6 per cent. on the year. Similar changes have occurred at the local bank, where the ratio is 67.4 per cent., having risen by 6.9 per cent. over the week and 0.4 per cent. over the year. Not much interest is shown here over the question of a change in the discount rate, but a cessation of gold exports would possibly diminish any resistance to a reduction which the Board might display.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Hopes of a reduction in Bank rate gave a firmer appearance to the Stock markets, only a slight easing of prices ensuing on Thursday's announcement of the Bank's adverse decision. Activity centred mainly on stocks of an investment character, including British Government securities and bank shares, but home rails were bought in anticipation of increased dividends, and various domestic industries shares were in fair demand. The rubber and tea share markets, by contrast, remained idle. Among mining shares, Kaffirs were prominent in the early part of the week, but the position of the leading base metals remained inconducive to share activity.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There has been little change in the general state of trade. New coal contracts are not very abundant. The iron and steel trades have not yet recovered from the holidays, but makers of finished steel anticipate an improved demand for their products. The chief event in South Wales has been the formation of a new company by Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and Baldwins. Little improvement is evident in the cotton trade. Activity in the wool textile industries is being held back by the possibility of a further decline in wool prices, but it is believed that there is a substantial demand ready to materialise if prices appear firm. A general state of depression in the jute trade is attributed largely to overproduction by the Calcutta mills. The hides and leather market has improved slightly. Oilseeds and vegetable oils remain a quiet market though there is a somewhat better demand for cotton seed and its products. Wheat prices, after a rise, are back almost to the level of the end of the year.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Steady trading characterised the Foreign Exchange Market last week, most of the principal exchanges, except the peseta, moving against this country in anticipation of a change in the Bank rate. Sterling on New York went from 4.87 31/32 to 4.87¼ on Thursday, after 4.86⅞ on the previous day. Montreal improved from 4.93½ to 4.92. Paris was unchanged on balance at 123.90 after being up to 123.96½. Brussels was weak at 34.92¼. Milan gained eight points at 93.13. The peseta was very erratic, and went from 36.40 to 40.20. Amsterdam improved from 12.09¾ to 12.08⅞, and Berlin gained four points at 20.39½, after 20.43¾. Switzerland was better at 25.13. Rio was shaky, but 1/16d. better on balance, at 5 11/32d. Buenos Aires was erratic, and lost ⅛d. at 45 1/16d. Montevideo lost a penny at 45½d. In the Far East the rupee was steady at 1s. 5 61/64d.; the yen was a little better, as a result of satisfactory trade returns, at 2s. 0 3/16d. Batavia improved by ¼ to 12.13. Future rates were rather of a nominal character in view of the anticipations of a change in Bank rate, but, roughly, dollars were at ⅛ and ⅜ cent premiums, and francs at 4 and 8 centimes premium. Brussels was at considerably wider discounts of 1½ and 3½ centimes. Milan was more on offer at discounts of 14 to 30 centesimi, nearly double those of last week. Berlin was weaker at 2½ pfennigs and 7 pfennigs discount, against 1¾ pfennigs and 4½ pfennigs last week. Silver prices tumbled sharply as a result of continuous sales by China, and new low records were touched for both spot and forward, at 20⅜d. and 20 9/16d. respectively. The China exchanges reacted in sympathy, Hongkong losing a penny at 1s. 7⅜d. and Shanghai 1⅜d. at 2s.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

We have pleasure in announcing that our Intelligence Branch has recently been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., the British counterpart of the well-known and old-established American investment service. A new company has been formed under the title of Moody's-Economist Service. Requests from our readers for economic, statistical or other information will in future be handled by the new company, which will have at its disposal the records both of the Economist Intelligence Branch and of Moody's Investors Service, Ltd.

THE PRESS LORDS AND PROTECTION.

THE public have been treated to a New Year comedy. A short time ago the proprietors of the *Daily Mail* and of the *Daily Express* were engaged in a bitter struggle for journalistic supremacy. No weapon was overlooked and no ally ignored that might be used in the fight. This week the picture is completely changed. The former competitors appear to-day before the public in a close political alliance, and Lord Rothermere has opened an offensive with his morning, evening and Sunday batteries to make Lord Beaverbrook Prime Minister of England. By an oversight he omitted to give the names of the cabinet of Fleet Street peers, and, as their numbers are somewhat limited, the offices, in Mussolini fashion, would presumably be duplicated; but we may assume that Lord Rothermere himself would take the Foreign and India Offices, Lord Riddell the Home Departments, and Lord Camrose Labour and Trade.

It is true that there is some slight contradiction between the Rothermere policy of Protection and the Beaverbrook policy of Empire Free Trade, but it would be churlish to remind the noble lords that Joseph Chamberlain's great tariff reform campaign largely came to grief over precisely this difficulty of reconciling conflicting protectionist aims. If two different tunes have to be sung at once it is, after all, much easier for two performers than for one. To complete the cacophony it only requires a third performer to chime in about the virtues of a tariff for bargaining purposes. No one has yet shown how to reconcile the conception of preserving the home market for the home producer with that of opening it freely to Empire products, such, for example, as motor cars produced in the Canadian factories of General Motors, or with that of offering access to the British market in return for tariff concessions by foreign countries. But the popular Press has much too much experience of maintaining two or three conflicting views at the same time to be at all distressed by this trilemma, and it is in accordance with the traditions of these papers that they have both put their respective views forward in their crudest and least practicable forms.

It is difficult to know which to admire more: Lord Beaverbrook's persistence in adhering to a policy which there is not the slightest chance that the Empire will accept, or Lord Rothermere's audacity in claiming that a policy of high protection—amounting even to prohibition of trade—can increase the welfare of this country. Take the case of Canada, 90 per cent. of whose population lives within a hundred miles of the American border, whose trade unions are branches of the American brotherhoods, whose literature, sport, theatres, trains and all the material details of life are American rather than British. Is it thinkable that the increasing tendency in, say, the prairie provinces for economic intercourse to develop with the great and wealthy nation across the neighbouring border can be checked and the current of economic life diverted eastward to the coast thousands of miles away and across the ocean?

But Lord Beaverbrook is a man of resource. Meeting with no response from the self-governing Dominions, he is concentrating on the non-self-governing colonies. In a magnificent flight of imagination, in his speech to Lord Rothermere's editors and staff, he told us that if the imports of these non-self-governing colonies increased at the rate of recent years they would, in ten years' time, be importing £750,000,000 of goods, which is equal to the total which Great Britain exports to the whole world to-day. Here is a *suggestio falsi* indeed. The statement has little significance unless it is meant to imply that these countries could absorb a great part of British exports. But let us briefly examine the figures. Firstly, the rate of growth is calculated from a pre-war base, and the total for 1939, which in any case is greatly exaggerated, could, therefore, only be reached if we have another war to send up the level of prices. Secondly, the imports include, not only food, but oil and many materials which we cannot produce. Nearly half the total consists of imports into British Malaya; and, of these, nearly half consists of the produce of the Dutch and other East Indies, China, etc., in transit to Europe and other parts of the world. Of the rest a large part consists of rice. In the light of these figures it is fantastic to suggest that there is here a market for the products of Great Britain of the dimensions suggested.

Many other of Lord Beaverbrook's statements are of a similar kind, including the remarkable argument that the Dominion producer can get much higher prices for his products and yet not raise the price to the consumer in Great Britain. We shall have occasion to return to Lord Beaverbrook's argument with regard to foodstuffs from the Empire, but it may perhaps be useful to put in perspective the changes in the channels of British trade which his proposal would involve by enumerating the chief sources of our purchases and of our markets in 1928. We have added one or two of the non-self-governing Dominions for comparison:—

Sources of British Imports. (000,000's omitted.)	£	Markets for British Exports. (000,000's omitted.)	£
U.S.A.	191	India	89
India	78	Australia	56
Argentina	77	U.S.A.	48
France	67	Germany	40
Germany	63	Irish Free State	35
Holland	59	Canada	34
Canada	57	France	32
Australia	55	Holland	32
Denmark	53	Argentina	31
New Zealand	47	South Africa	31
Irish Free State	45	New Zealand	19
South Africa	24	West Africa	15
West Africa	11	Straits Settlements	11
Straits Settlements	10	West Indies	5
West Indies	5		

Lord Rothermere has had less time than Lord Beaverbrook to expound the details of his policy, but it is even more sweeping. Its salient features are:—

- A prohibitive tariff against all foreign manufactured goods.
- A subsidy which, it is estimated, will cost a mere £30,000,000, designed to ensure the farmer 55s. a quarter for wheat, £4 5s. a ton for potatoes, a bonus of £2 a head on all cattle reaching the age of two years, and a bonus of not less than 3d. a pound on all butter.
- India is to be compelled to admit British goods free and to put on high taxes against goods from other countries, in return for defence and the maintenance of internal security (for both of which the Indian taxpayer incidentally pays).
- The economic affairs of the nation are to be entrusted to a caucus of business men, whose decisions are to be accepted by the Government of the day.

We have no space this week for detailed comment on this arresting programme. It appeals strongly to an idea that is to be found all over the world, namely, that the fact that you buy from other people goods which you do not, and often cannot, make for yourself, is a sign of poverty and decadence. That idea is even prevalent in the happy country which has the highest tariff in the world, if we may judge from the *Emmitsburg Chronicle* as quoted in last month's *American Mercury*:—

> Nothing's wrong with Emmitsburg except—entirely too many of us get up in the morning at the alarm of a Connecticut clock, button a pair of Chicago trousers to Ohio suspenders, put on a pair of shoes made in Massachusetts, wash in a Pittsburgh tin basin, using Cincinnati soap and a cotton towel made in New Hampshire, sit down to a Grand Rapids table, eat pancakes made from Minneapolis flour, spread with Vermont maple syrup and Kansas City bacon fried on a St. Louis stove, buy fruit put up in California, seasoned with Colorado sugar, put on a hat made in Philadelphia, hitch a Detroit mule on Texas gasoline to an Ohio plow and work all day long on a Maryland farm covered with Pennsylvania mortgages, send our money to Chicago for auto tires, and at night crawl under a New Jersey blanket to be kept awake from a dern dog, the only home product on the place—wondering all the while why ready money and prosperity are not more abundant in this wonderful town of ours.

As to India, it is a little difficult to follow Lord Rothermere's mind, for he makes the curious remark that it is "the loose thinking of the Free Trade theorists" which has "led to a Dependency like India being allowed to impose a tariff on this country's cotton goods." As

a matter of fact, it was Free Trade theory that insisted for decades that the cotton import duty of India should be balanced by an internal excise which would put Lancashire on precisely equal terms with the Indian mills. It is not Free Trade, but protectionist ideas which have upset Lancashire. Lord Rothermere is right in thinking that the Indian problem is a vital one for this country. But to talk of putting back the clock and of taking away India's autonomy in tariff matters by abolishing the Fiscal Convention, shows that in his imperial ideas Lord Rothermere has gone back to the days of Lord North.

In comparing these two programmes we cannot help thinking that the extreme form in which they have been put forward betrays—in spite of the appearance of harmony—an element of that competitive spirit which recently produced even higher insurance bribes to readers. Their success in persuading a nation, whose very existence depends on the free exchange of commodities, to adopt a policy of trade restriction will be an interesting test of the real influence of the popular Press. But it will be no more than an experiment, for of the ultimate fate of these proposals there can be no doubt. It is no accident that in industrialised Germany the forces in favour of the removal of tariffs are gathering strength and that densely peopled Belgium was the first country officially to welcome *as an economic necessity* the Geneva policy of removing trade barriers. Our latest protectionists are up against the economic interests of the mass of consumers of this country and of the great industries and trades which depend for their existence on overseas commerce. Against these great vested interests even the press lords cannot hope to prevail.

WASHINGTON AND PARIS.

THE declaration in the new German-American Reparation agreement that "the United States Government agrees to regard Germany's loyalty and faith and credit as sole security and guarantee for the fulfilment of Germany's obligations under this agreement" introduces an unaccustomed note into a formal diplomatic document, and it is not surprising that pointed contrasts have been drawn in Germany itself between the attitude of the American Government and that of certain other countries a good deal nearer to Berlin, whose habit it is to raise the "sanction" issue wherever possible.

That contrast does, in fact, exist, and it springs from a divergence of outlook which finds expression in more fields than one. So far as Reparations go, it may be observed without suspicion of cynicism that the United States can well afford to be tender to German susceptibilities, for Germany's obligations are now being so largely commercialised that the whole national credit is involved in any case, and the last nation with which the German Government would willingly embroil itself financially is the State to which financial dominance has largely passed. By introducing into the agreement a passage expressly renouncing all idea of any but moral sanctions, America creates a general atmosphere of goodwill and establishes herself in particularly good odour in Berlin. Even from the purely business point of view there is sound sense in such a course, just as from the purely business point of view there was sound sense in America's renunciation of a considerable portion of her share of the Boxer Indemnity in 1908. In such matters American idealism is entirely genuine, but it is perhaps commended rather more than it otherwise would be to the average American mind by the fact that it has its uses as an asset in international relations as well.

Akin to the opposition of view between the United States and, for example, France over sanctions in regard to Germany is the same opposition of view between the same two countries over such larger questions as the Naval Conference and the relationship of the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact. In all these fields Washington and Paris represent merely the poles of opposition. The questions on which they thus take position concern equally the other powers of the world, particularly those participating in the Naval Conference. All of them have their individual points of view, and the future evolution of their policies may have considerable influence on the immediate development of world relations. Broadly speaking, the contrast is between tight and loose understandings (a contrast, incidentally, which finds an interesting parallel in America's own history in the opposition between the literal and the loose construction of the Constitution), France standing, as she always does stand, for the system formally complete and worked out remorselessly in every logical detail. The Treaty of Versailles, with its specific provision against every possible contingency and its sanctions in reserve against every possible default, is characteristically French. So—paradoxically enough in view of its partially American origin—is the League Covenant as contrasted with the Kellogg Pact, which, to carry the paradox further, is characteristically American in tenour despite its debt to the initiative of a French Foreign Minister.

Fundamentally, the contrast is due to the difference of conditions on the two sides of the Atlantic. For France, and in lesser, or in some cases even in greater, degree, for other European States, security is a real and vital issue. For the United States it is not and never has been. The parallel often drawn between the relationships of the forty-eight States of the American Union and the relationships of the twenty odd States of Europe is so profoundly misleading that if deliberately considered it can impress none but the most superficial minds. But subconsciously it has none the less so far impressed itself on the average American citizen as to make it extremely hard for him to enter with any full understanding into the anxieties and perplexities that of necessity preoccupy responsible statesmen in most European countries. The inevitable intermediary and interpreter between France on the one hand and the United States on the other is Great Britain, a fact which imposes considerable responsibilities on a Government which has just sent its Foreign Minister to Geneva to carry a stage further the task of bringing the League Covenant into harmony with the Kellogg Pact, and will in ten days' time have four of its Cabinet Ministers sitting side by side with the French and American delegates hammering out the details of a naval limitation agreement.

Those two tasks are far more intimately associated than at first sight appears. Naval limitation raises immediately the security issue on which France lays such increasing stress. In American eyes France's views on security are no less than an obsession. Because of France's insistence on guns and aeroplanes and submarines as bulwarks of security, instead of on covenants of good faith between nations, the whole limitation of armaments is imperilled. So reasons Washington. Because America, Paris replies, will give no assurance that she will take her part in enforcing covenants if they are wantonly broken, France at least must take measures in other directions for her safety. She is a loyal member of the League of Nations, lacking though the League is in that material force with which the French delegation at the Peace Conference strove so hard to equip her. But even the Covenant of the League is insufficient for France, in view of the room it leaves for uncertainty as to whether war in violation of obligations will, in fact, be repressed by collective action. Hence the enthusiasm for measures like the Geneva Protocol, designed to tighten the Covenant up in this respect.

In contrast to the Covenant, with its palpable insufficiencies from France's point of view, America sets the Kellogg Pact. There is, fortunately, no sort of opposition between the two documents. If the Pact goes further in the direction of formal prohibition, or rather renunciation, of war, the Covenant goes further in the measures it embodies for the protection of the law-abiding nation against the lawless. In the former respect the Covenant is in process of being brought up to the level of the Pact. In the latter there is no visible prospect of the Pact being invested with the provisions for enforcement included in the Covenant. That matters little to signatories of the Pact who are also signatories of the Covenant, except in so far as it fails to give them an assurance that America will be in action at the side of the unoffending law-observer when attacked by a law-breaking aggressor. So far from that, there is not even the assurance that America will not interfere, in the interests of her own traders, with the measures the law-observers may find it necessary to take in concert against the law-breaker. It is under these conditions that France declares openly that, till the American attitude—and, to a much lesser degree, the attitude of various prominent members of the League of Nations, including Great Britain—changes, her eastern fortifications and her air squadrons and her super-submarines must be her safeguard.

These diversities of attitude are in some measure disturbing, particularly on the eve of an armaments conference, in the course of which each position is likely to be re-stated with fresh emphasis. At the same time, they need not be deplored unduly. To begin with, it is well to recognise them as inevitable. The Continent of America, thanks to various fortunate circumstances in its history, has advanced further towards the organisation of permanent peace than Europe, and can, therefore, dispense with certain safeguards and sanctions which a continent less assured against war still finds necessary. The process of increasing Europe's faith in the sanctity of covenants unaccompanied by any obtrusive menace of enforcement is developing. So is the process of the education of the United States in the lesson that world-citizenship means world-responsibilities. No one soberly reviewing the course of events in the past ten years can be blind for a moment to the progress achieved in both directions. The present attitude of the United States and France may present strong contrasts. But, at any rate, the roads the two States are taking are tending to converge steadily, not to diverge further.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES IN 1929.

THE foreign exchange history of 1929, like its monetary history, falls naturally into two parts, the dividing date being the end of September. During the first three quarters of the year, the dominating influence was the Wall Street boom, whose magnetic effect upon the world's supply of short money produced a steady efflux of funds from London to New York, representing either short money hitherto employed in London or Continental money remitted to New York through London. This explains the continued weakness of sterling against the dollar during the whole of this period, the highest rate touched being \$4.85 15/16 and the lowest \$4.84 23/32, or appreciably below the export gold point of about \$4.84 7/8.

The second period, consisting of the final quarter of the year, included the month of a 6½ per cent. Bank rate in London and the Wall Street collapse, which set free the huge supplies of short money hitherto dammed up in New York. It was also a period in which the prices of many agricultural products, such as wheat, maize, coffee and wool, were standing at extremely low levels. The result was that a very marked improvement in sterling against the dollar—so marked that the rate crossed the whole range from the export to the import gold point—was accompanied by the depreciation of the exchanges of Australia, Canada and Argentina, whose exports consist mainly of grain and wool. During this quarter, the American exchange rose from \$4.85 to a maximum of \$4.88 7/16. The Australian pound fell from 1¾ to 2¾ per cent. discount, the Canadian rate rose from \$4.89 to a maximum of \$5.01, and the Argentine gold peso fell from 47½d. to a minimum of 44d. To this must be added the fall during the year in the price of silver to a record low level of 21 5/16d.

Another major movement, which continued throughout the last half of the year, was the strength of the franc, first against the pound and latterly also against the dollar. During the year ending June 30, 1929, the Banque de France reduced its foreign balances by 9.5 milliards of francs, and most of this amount was taken over by the French banks, who added it to the foreign currencies already in their possession. With the turn of the half-year, the French banks in their turn began to dispose of these foreign balances, for reasons which have already been discussed in the *Economist*. The result was that during the second half of the year France imported 5 milliards of francs of gold, equivalent to £40,000,000. Most of this gold came from London, and consisted either of new gold from South Africa or gold from the Bank of England's vaults; but later in the year the depreciation of the dollar which followed the Wall Street collapse led to New York largely replacing London as the supplier of France's demands.

These were the major forces at work upon the foreign exchange market in 1929. As regards actual fluctuations, these are summarised in the following table, and little additional comment is needed:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity.	End 1928.	End 1929.	Highest for Year.	Lowest for Year.
New York	$ to £	4·86⅛	4·85½	4·88½	4·88 7/16	4·84 7/16
Montreal	$ to £	4·86⅛	4·86¼	4·93⅛	5·01	4·85¼
Paris	Frs. to £	124·21	124·03	123·87	124·37	123·81
Brussels	Bel. to £	35·00	34·90	34·86	34·96¼	34·84¼
Amsterdam	Fl. to £	12·107	12·07⅞	12·09⅜	12·13	12·05½
Italy	Lire to £	92·46	92·65	93·22	93·27½	92·52
Madrid	Ptas. to £	25·22½	29·75	36·50	36·92	29·67
Switzerland	Frs. to £	25·22½	25·18½	25·12½	25·24½	25·08¾
Lisbon	Esc to £	4·50	108¾	108¼	111	107¾
Helsingfors	Mks. to £	193·23	192¼	194	194¾	192¾
Oslo	Kr. to £	18·159	18·19	18·20½	18·21½	18·18¾
Stockholm	Kr. to £	18·159	18·13	18·13	18·18¾	18·08¾
Copenhagen	Kr. to £	18·159	18·18	18·20½	18·22½	18·17½
Riga	Lats to £	25·22½	25·15	25·26¼	25·27	25·10
Reval	E.Kr. to £	18·159	18·13½	18·20½	18·25	18·08
Kovno	Lits. to £	48·66	49	49	49¼	48¼
Berlin	Mks. to £	20·43	20·38¼	20·42½	20·58	20·31½
Vienna	Sch. to £	34·58½	34·46	34·66	34·75	34·41
Budapest	Peu to £	27·82	27·81½	27·86	27·94	27·77
Prague	Kr. to £	164½	163¾	164¾	164¾	163¾
Belgrade	Dinar to £	25·22½	275⅜	275½	277	274½
Bucharest	Lei to £	813·16	808	818½	822	804
Sofia	Leva to £	25·22½	671½	674½	680	665
Athens	Dr. to £	375	375	375	375½	374½
Constantinople	Pa. to £	110	987½	1045	1105	980
Bombay	Per rupee	1s. 6d.	1s. 6 1/16d.	1s. 5 11/16d.	1s. 6 5/16d.	1s. 5 11/16d.
Hongkong	Per Dollar	...	2s. 0⅛d.	1s. 8d.	2s. 0⅛d.	1s. 7⅞d.
Shanghai	Per Tael	...	2s. 7⅛d.	2s. 1⅛d.	2s. 7⅛d.	2s. 1 3/16d.
Singapore	Per Dollar	2s. 4d.	2s. 3 11/16d.	2s. 3⅛d.	2s. 4⅛d.	2s. 3⅛d.
Japan	Per Yen	2s. 0·58d.	1s. 10⅜d.	2s. 0⅛d.	2s. 0⅛d.	1s. 9 11/16d.
Buenos Aires	Per Peso	47·62d.	47⅛d.	45 11/16d.	47⅛d.	44d.
Monte Video	Per Peso	51d.	51d.	46⅛d.	51⅛d.	45¼d.
Rio	Per Milreis	16d.	5 11/16d.	5 11/16d.	5 11/16d.	5 11/16d.
Valparaiso	$ to £	40	39·64	39·80	39·80	39·37
Lima	£E. to £P.	Par	19¼%pm	20⅛%pm	20⅛%pm	18½%pm
Mexico	Pes. to £	9·76	10·10½	10·15	10·25	9·97

In March the Dutch rate displayed monetary weakness, rising to Fl. 12.12 5/16 and necessitating the immediate increase in the Dutch Bank rate from 4½ to 5½ per cent. This movement merely meant that the Netherlands Bank had delayed a little too long in coming into line with the 5½ per cent. rate in London. A month later the threatened breakdown of the Young Committee was the cause of a sudden weakening in the mark, whose rate rose to Mks. 20.58 and involved the Reichsbank in a loss during the month of Mks. 834,000,000, or £40,700,000 of gold. A recovery soon followed, and by June Berlin was taking gold from London. The Swiss rate was in favour of London early in the year, but latterly moved steadily against the pound, while the Swedish rate weakened in the spring, but stood definitely in favour of Stockholm during the last seven months of the year. The

Westminster Bank Leaflets

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allow; and, until this novel idea has become firmly settled in his head, a trained adviser, with knowledge alike of co-operative principles, of banking rules, and of the language and habits of the peasant, should be frequently beside him to discourage extravagance and to instill the lessons of prudence. The absence of such trained men, and the devolution of all guidance on an unstable group of elected villagers in a Union, was one of the leading causes of the troubles of the co-operative organisation in Burma, as revealed in a recent report of a special committee appointed by the Burmese Government.

In Burma, the growth of societies, chiefly of urban and rural credit and of cattle insurance, has been steady and encouraging since the introduction of the Co-operative Act in 1904; there were nearly 4,000 credit and 400 insurance societies on the register at the end of 1928. Over them stood nearly 600 local unions of societies, 21 central banks, and the Burma Provincial Co-operative Bank at Mandalay. The working capital amounted to £3,750,000. In recent years, however, a growing reluctance on the part of the peasant-cultivators to repay their debts to the small village societies, which finance their agricultural and domestic needs, had raised to an uncomfortable figure the percentage of "overdues" in the provincial and the central banks. The object of the rural unions was to secure, by a mutual guarantee, the loans advanced to their affiliated societies from the banks, and the committee members of a union should have denounced to their own general meeting and to the bank the name of any recalcitrant village society, while exercising all possible moral and social pressure on the defaulters. The social ideals of an Oriental country do not always include punctuality in repayment, and the duty of recommending so unpopular a virtue proved most unwelcome to the leaders of the unions. Consequently, little or nothing was done, and the example of unpunished default was infectious. The Registrar is provided with a staff of official inspectors, whose functions cover propaganda and supervision, and who should, on the complaint of an unsatisfied creditor, move him to bring a society compulsorily under liquidation. Here, too, the report of the Calvert Committee to the Burmese Government shows that there has been undue leniency, and insolvent societies have been allowed to remain on the register in the idle hope of their improvement.

The result is a crisis. The Burma Co-operative Bank in 1928 recovered only one-sixth of the principal debt and one-half of the interest due to it; a loss on the year's working was avoided only by writing up the investments to their market value; and it became necessary for the Government to guarantee a temporary overdraft of the Co-operative Bank with the Imperial Bank of India, and to accept responsibility for the full repayment of all deposits. The loss to the provincial revenues is officially estimated at Rs. 30 lakhs (£250,000). The Burma Co-operative Bank is to be wound up, several of the central banks will probably follow suit, at least three-quarters of the insurance societies will be closed, and 1,400 out of 3,800 rural credit societies are already in liquidation. The co-operative movement in Burma is not dead, but will require to be built up again on sounder lines. In the meantime, the shock is severe.

To what causes is the disaster attributed, and how is the restoration to be carried out? In the first place, there is no suggestion of bad faith. Audits have been imperfect, auditors' warnings have been neglected, local supervision has lacked courage and thoroughness, but dishonesty, with the exception of minor incidents, is not alleged. The chief weakness has been an excessive reliance on the Guaranteeing Union, a group of rural representatives who possessed neither the character nor the inclination to be strict at the price of unpopularity. Co-operation among Asiatics differs from that of Europeans in no point more sharply than in the capacity for facing an unpleasant duty and for insisting on rules of business. Certain Indian provinces, therefore, have laid on the official inspectors the duty of reporting to the financing bank on the condition and "credit worthiness" of its debtor societies, and of stimulating the latter to fulfil their obligations. Eager to evoke the power of co-operative self-government, the Burmese left this burden to the unions, which failed to shoulder it. The unions are now to be abolished. The inspecting staff, however, when working among a simple peasantry, must also be occupied in constant teaching and guidance, and for this purpose they must themselves be steeped in co-operative knowledge. A fuller course of training is in future to be given to the Burmese inspectors, equipping them as sympathetic guides of the villagers and as real sources of authority. Whether their opinion should be demanded by the financing banks on the fitness of applicant societies for further credit is a question on which the Government and the special committee have disagreed, the former rejecting the recommendation of the latter that such help should be sought. Theoretically it is undesirable, but in practice the banks will find it difficult to obtain from elsewhere the intimate information which they need. Villages are remote and villagers taciturn; communications are poor. If the policy of extending mortgage credit to the peasants, for clearance of old debt and for opening up new land, be adopted as is now proposed, special mortgage institutions will no doubt be required, and the ordinary co-operative banks will then confine themselves to advances of shorter term. Loans for the period of one agricultural crop are easily controlled, since full repayment will normally be made after the harvest, but intermediate loans for cattle-purchase, etc., will still call for information over a longer period. The banks may perhaps have recourse to the stronger step of asking the Registrar to liquidate an unpunctual society, but will be in the same difficulty, without the advice of his staff, in judging beforehand the real wisdom of an advance for which application has been made. Other Indian provinces foresaw at an early stage the need to strengthen village societies by the help of a trained supervisor. In Bombay the latter is often a non-official, who takes charge of a circle of societies and spurs them to activity. In other parts a full-time official is more usually employed, whether in the service of Government, of the co-operative banks, or of an organising and auditing union. The policy of high training has been carried farthest in the Punjab, which appoints Indian graduates of rural sympathies and requires a probation of 18 months in the field and study, culminating in an economic test of post-graduate standard. Several of the inspectors thus trained have proved capable, in addition to their ordinary duties, of conducting intensive or extensive economic inquiries into the welfare of the people, either under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies or under the Board of Economic Inquiry. It is held that an agricultural credit policy should be based on an exact and intimate knowledge of peasant economy, without which the most skilled economist, in advising the cultivator, is working in the dark. More than 100 of these specialists are now serving under the Punjab Government, and the best of them are able to grapple with the puzzling and multifarious problems of a country, in which all economic conditions, and above all the fortunes of the cultivator, are being affected and re-shaped by the change from a subsistence to an export system of agriculture.

The organisation, both of the cultivators and of the artisans and clerical classes, has thus been developed, with the assistance of the Government, until, not only credit societies, but also agricultural purchase and sale, cattle-breeding, and land improvement institutions are found in half the villages of the province. There are now no less than 20,000 societies of every kind, with a membership of 600,000 and a working capital of £12,000,000. Over the primary societies are 120 central banks and a provincial bank, the latter serving also as the financial agency for a dozen mortgage banks and attracting funds for their use by the issue of 25-year bonds. A thorough audit of the primary societies is annually conducted by the employees of the Provincial Union, and of the secondary bodies by chartered accountants. A European banker has been appointed by Government as financial adviser to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, not only because a small proportion (about 1¼ per cent.) of the working capital has been lent by Government for special purposes, but also because the moral responsibility of the State for a movement to closely intertwined with the life of the people renders financial skill and caution indispensable. The managing officers and the directors of the central banks and the Provincial Bank gladly welcome technical advice, and, though certain of the minor banks have from time to time been closed for lack of wise policy, no central institution in this area has ever failed to pay its creditors in full or has required financial subsidies from the State.

Surprise has sometimes been expressed at the ability of Indian peasants and artisans to accumulate considerable funds from their own savings, and there is no doubt that, when the earliest societies were founded 25 years ago, the prospect of such thrift appeared to be dim. Confidence has nevertheless attracted the more long-sighted villagers towards the credit banks, and a sum of £3,250,000 represents the share money and other savings of the members in the Punjab. The remainder of the working capital is derived from deposits in the central banks, drawn, to a great extent, from the professional and clerical classes, who prefer to place their money in a secondary and well-managed institution rather than in a virtuous, but not highly educated, village society. Minor peculations in the latter undoubtedly occur, but are not numerous or alarming if it be remembered that 92 per cent. of the people cannot read or write; the central banks, on the other hand, are financially sound, and maintain for the most part a good level of accountancy. The banks, no less than the primary societies, manage their own affairs, being advised by the official staff in difficulties and checked in case of irregularity. Such a supervision, which would be irksome and superfluous in a European community, is desirable and convenient where business methods are less standardised and social pressure renders impartiality less easy to attain.

The clearest conclusions from the comparison of the stricter and the looser systems are that simple men in an Oriental country require prolonged guidance in their economic dealings from trained experts, and that financial laxity should be immediately corrected before it becomes habitual. It is on these principles that the more successful Indian provinces have erected their co-operative organisations, and the less fortunate will, if patient and courageous, be enabled to rebuild their own.

BRAINS AND BUSINESS.

It was recently decreed in Italy that quack doctors should no longer be allowed to practise, and in order to put the quacks out of action all men who wished to treat the sick were ordered by a certain date to produce their diplomas before a commissioner appointed to inspect them. The chief interest of the medical profession centred in one enormously successful quack and in his extremely lucrative practice, which must on his professional decease revert to the properly qualified brethren. The successful quack, it is said, obtained a special interview with the commissioner, and, greatly to the commissioner's surprise, laid before him unquestionable evidence that he was a qualified medical man. "But," he added, "let me implore you to treat this information in the strictest confidence, for should it leak out that I hold these qualifications my practice will inevitably be ruined."

This Italian doctor, or the person who invented the story about him, had mastered at least one secret of human nature: the deep mistrust of the "average man" in academic success and his pathetic belief that the brain space in heads which have never been filled with the lumber of book learning is likely to be replete with "sound practical sense." He likes to believe, and succeeds in believing, that boys who do best at school do worst in after life and that the world's work is really carried on by men who in their schooldays were never more than halfway up the form. If this be true, if it be a fact that boys who succeed at school commonly fail in the world outside, the fault does not necessarily lie with the school. It may equally well be in the world outside. Moreover, the bold, common-sense practical man who tells you that the clever schoolboy is "no good afterwards" must prove his thesis, and so far as we know no attempt has ever been made to support the general argument by an appeal to particular instances. But by chance there has fallen into our hands a copy of the modern register of one of England's oldest schools, a school that draws almost all its boys from homes in which there is neither wealth nor influence, but all the runners start from scratch. For this reason it is a specially good field for our examination, and a search of the register for the after-school successes yields interesting results.

Unhappily the only yardstick for measuring success is a poor thing, and no one with any sense of values could regard it as final. The unknown schoolmaster who sends into the world two or three hundred boys with high standards and keen, active minds must by decent people be held to have made a greater success in life than the man who makes a noisy million out of speculation; but these spiritual values are imponderable and beyond analysis, and when we talk of success we must think of a much smaller achievement, the filling with distinction of an important post, the conquest of some measure of wealth or influence or public consideration, the occupation, in fact, of a chief place in the synagogue. Working by these partial and defective standards, let us take up this school register and see what sort of school career lies behind the men who have achieved in the world greatness or success.

For convenience the specimens may be taken in two separate classes, first the Church and Letters, and second Business, Law and Administration. Looking through this modern register we find among the outstanding successes of the school the following: Two bishops, one popular cleric, two popular novelists, one world-famous author. This is the section in which one would naturally expect success at school to precede most surely success in after life, but, strangely enough, the school careers of these great men are rather mixed. Of the bishops one was undoubtedly wafted to his high place in the Church by a favouring gale of scholarship, for he did very well at school, and at Oxford got his first in Mods. and Greats without a slip; but the other bishop, best of fellows though he clearly was, climbed but a short way up the school and distinguished himself only by captaining both the cricket and the football sides. The popular cleric is still a youngish man, but has probably the largest personal following of any parson in the country, and may without undue risk be backed for a mitre before he dies. His school career was quite a good one, school scholarship, school prizes, and another good scholarship at the University. The men of letters are rather curious in their record. The world-famous author clearly never found his feet at school, for he got no scholarship (though he produced a prize poem), and at the age of eighteen he was scarcely halfway up the ladder which boys of no literary gifts were scaling so easily in front of him. The popular novelists were both scholars, but the elder of the two seems to have flagged in his scholastic interests, and academically the end of his career was second-rate. The other would appear from the register to have had the ordinary career of a normally clever boy.

So much for the Church and Letters. In Business, Law and Administration we get a mixed bag of successes:—One pro-consul, one eminent K.C., one banking magnate, one insurance magnate, two heads of Government Departments.

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In selecting the successes here we have taken no note of the boys who went into prosperous family businesses and continued their prosperity, for we are concerned not with the silver-spoon boys, but with those who carved the path to fortune for themselves. Of the six boys who make up this list, all have achieved real eminence in the world. Every one was a scholarship boy, and four had school careers of outstanding merit. The pro-consul is shown by the register to have been a clever boy, but his later success must be to some extent discounted, as he reached his eminent position by a successful venture in politics. The K.C., too, was clearly a clever boy, but we suspect from the register that he could, if he would, submit himself to a pretty damaging cross-examination on some aspects of his career at school. The banking magnate blazed with a never-ceasing brilliance throughout his time at school and the University, and in everything he touched foreshadowed the great career that he has achieved in after life. The insurance magnate is one of several brothers who went to the same school, and their family record at school is head and shoulders above that of any other family in the register. All the brothers showed themselves to be boys of unusual ability, and all crowned their school careers with great distinction and success in their professions. The two heads of Government Departments followed the scholar's normal round of a good school and 'varsity career, and steady, comfortable progress in the Civil Service. The register, indeed, is full of the names of boys now in the Civil Service, many of them doubtless in high and responsible positions, but an outsider is not competent to judge their relative degrees of success.

This reference to the Civil Service leads us to the general conclusion that may be drawn from the register:—The able schoolboy is likely to develop into the able man, and the development will take place not less surely in commerce than in the Church or at the Bar or in the Civil Service; but by a bad tradition the clever boys are treated as unfit for business and steered into the placid waters of the Civil Service, which has absorbed in the past fifty years far more than its proper share of the country's ability. It is a bad thing to starve a Government service of able men, but it is scarcely less bad to overfeed it, and we note with great interest that Sir Robert Waley Cohen, who speaks on this subject with unique authority, expresses in a letter to the *Times* the same opinion that we have reached by studying this school register. To head the clever type of boy away from business has always been a mistake, but if business units continue to increase in size and importance, it will not merely be a mistake; it will be a disaster.

Notes of the Week.

The Motor Duties.—Considerable pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to give an assurance that the McKenna duties, particularly those on motor cars, will not be changed; and the case is somewhat surprisingly supported in the columns of the *Nation* on the grounds, first, that the Exchequer cannot afford to lose the revenue which they yield, and, secondly, that this is not the moment to give a jolt to industry. With this policy we entirely disagree. As regards the financial argument, we have repeatedly pointed out that there are two ways of dealing with protective duties. One is to abolish them; the other is to impose a countervailing Excise on the home product—thus, at the same time, adding to the revenue and equalising the conditions of competition. As to the industrial argument, there is little doubt that, in conjunction with the horse-power tax, which has accustomed the British motorist to a very special type of engine, the duty has played some part—though not a very great one—in establishing the hold of the industry on its own home market. But, unfortunately, in concentrating attention at home it has led the industry into a backwater, and has had the result that we have missed the opportunity of getting a reasonable proportion of the immensely important and growing international trade in Europe. In countries with good roads, no less than in those with bad, the British car, on equal competitive terms, is badly outclassed. The result is shown in the figures contained in the Balfour report on Trade and Industry, according to which, whereas Great Britain before the war supplied 20 per cent. of the exports of cars of the five chief producing countries, our share in 1927 was only 11 per cent. of the exports of these countries. Or, again, whereas we exported 33 per cent. of our production in 1912, in 1924 (the only available census year) we exported only 12 per cent. of our output. The report goes on to compare this record with that in two unprotected sections, viz.: general machinery, in which in 1927 we secured 14 per cent. of the increase in international trade since 1913, and electrical machinery, in which we hold 31 per cent. of the increase in trade. Any visitor to European countries, the Dominions, India, Egypt, the Far East, will see the evidence that we have failed to win an appropriate share in this great section of world trade. The Balfour Committee were divided on this subject; but even the section which took the most favourable view of the duties observed that while the figures afford striking evidence of the expansion of production, employment and export, concurrently with a decline of prices, "it would be very rash to claim all these results as flowing from the normal operation of the duties," having in view the immense change that has been going on in the conditions of demand and production. It is reasonable to choose carefully the time and season for the alteration of any tariff, particularly one with duties so high as 33⅓ per cent., but in the interests of the trade, no less than of the country, the industry should get back to a competitive basis and meet and overcome it—as we have in many other cases so successfully done—by producing the right kind of article at the right price. It is said that the motor trade wants certainty. In one respect it has it in the categorical assertion of Mr Snowden that it is the policy of the Government to abolish the protection of these duties. A case may be made out for a sliding-scale reduction over two or three years or for the gradual increase of Excise, or a combination of both methods. But this is the only definiteness for which the trade can ask—it cannot expect from a Government elected to abolish protection to have a promise of indefinite postponement.

Difficulties at the Hague.—There has not been any hurling of bombshells yet at the resumed Reparations Conference at the Hague. Such explosions as have been heard above the hum of Treasury experts and other calculating machines at work have been chiefly the bursting of *ballons d'essai* sent up to satisfy press and public in the delegates' home countries. The opening session was unexciting, and the Conference proceeded at once to divide into two committees, on Germany and non-German Reparations. The way of neither has been particularly smooth. That of the Committee on German Reparations has been beset by two obstacles—"sanctions" in the event of Germany's wilful default, and a troublesome dispute about dates of payment. The Young Plan proposes that the annuities should be paid monthly; the Germans proposed to pay at the end of each month, but the creditor Powers insisted that the middle of the month was the proper date and declared that the schedule of annuities in the Young Plan was drawn up on this basis. The sum involved is estimated at between £250,000 and £400,000 a year. It will be remembered that last August Mr Snowden obtained an average additional annuity of £200,000 by an arrangement, which was stated to have been assumed in the Young Plan, to pay Great Britain her annuity in time to cover American debt payments. It is understood that only if Germany pays on the 15th of the month can this concession be covered out of her annuities, and that otherwise the Trust Agreement would have to provide for a contribution from the other creditors. Dr. Schacht and Dr. Kastl were summoned to the Hague to declare what had been the basis of the Young Plan schedule; the President of the Reichsbank, who prefers the *rôle* of dictator to that of expert adviser, replied that he could not come until January 12th, when the Organisation Committee for the International Bank meets, but Dr. Kastl arrived, only to renew the argument with the experts of the creditor Governments. The other problem that has faced the Committee on German Reparations need never have been raised, for neither France nor Germany really contemplates the eventuality to which it relates, namely the application of special coercive measures should Germany deliberately default on her Young annuities. A very small measure of good faith is needed to dismiss the whole question, but an unfortunate mention of Article 430 of the Treaty of Versailles by M. Tardieu before the Conference began has stiffened both German and French delegations with an effort to satisfy opinion at home. Article 430 declares the right of the creditors to re-occupy the Rhineland if the Reparation Commission declares Germany's default, but as the Young Plan abolishes the Reparation Commission the clause could have been allowed to die unnoticed and unmourned. Controversy is now concentrated at the Hague upon the method by which default is to be established in the event of disapproval, by the special advisory committee to be appointed by the Bank for International Settlements, of the postponement of the annuities by Germany; the plan put forward for consideration by the German delegation allows, in the last resort, an appeal by Germany to the Permanent Court of International Justice. If that appeal failed, the creditor Powers would be free to apply commercial, but not military, measures of retaliation. In the event, however, of a definite repudiation of the Young Plan by a German Government, all rights of the creditors under Article 430, including the re-occupation of the Rhineland, would be re-established. As it does not require the existence of a special agreement to permit the application of economic pressure, and as repudiation of the Plan would in any case re-open the whole Reparations question, this seems a reasonable compromise which should satisfy both parties. The Preamble to the final Hague Treaty will declare that the creditor Governments, in return for Germany's solemn word to observe her obligations under the Plan, undertake to regard the Reparations problem as thereby finally settled.

Non-German Reparations.—The Hague Conference may, unfortunately, have to decide whether the Young Plan can be definitively accepted while the problem of non-German Reparations and of the liquidation of the past in Central and Eastern Europe, remains unsettled, for there yet appears little prospect of a unanimous agreement on this matter. Both Germany and her chief creditors are anxious to bring the Young Plan into operation as soon as possible, and are unlikely to allow the obduracy of a few small States to thwart them in that purpose. The only essential objection to thus isolating the non-German Reparations problem is furnished by Italy's guarantee to Great Britain of £450,000 a year on the strength of her Liberation Debt receipts from Czechoslovakia. It seems unlikely that the latter will consent to pay the annuity proposed for her (£550,000) until she is assured of a general settlement of claims arising out of the war, as she has extremely valuable ceded properties to account for. All that has been done so far at the Hague is that the cases of Austria and of Bulgaria have been considered. Great Britain and the other chief creditor powers, as holders of Austrian Relief Bonds, have agreed that Austria should not pay Reparations or compensation before 1968, and are willing to wipe the slate clean for her; but Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland have specific claims against her on account of post-war deliveries which they refuse to abandon. For Bulgaria, the Paris Committee on the liquidation of the past proposed an inclusive annuity of 15 million gold francs, but in subsequent negotiations the creditor Governments reduced their claims to 12½ million gold francs (£500,000). At the Hague this week M. Buroff painted a very melancholy picture of Bulgaria's economic plight. Under pressure, the Bulgarian delegation then offered an annuity of "round about" 10 million gold francs, which is the annuity due from her this year, and it is believed that this phrase will be stretched to cover the 11 million gold francs (£440,000) which the creditor Governments are contemplating as a final offer. All these discussions are being conducted with one eye on the critical question of Hungarian Reparations; if that can be solved, the remainder of the committee's difficulties should not prevent a final settlement, but there is no sign of any relaxation of the attitude of the Governments most intimately concerned.

Naval Preliminaries.—As the date of the London Naval Conference approaches there are signs of an increase of public interest in its activities, not least of them a reasoned advocacy in more quarters than one of the reduction of the maximum tonnage of capital ships by some 50 per cent. That is satisfactory so far as it goes, but nothing has yet been written or said in public to call in question the soundness of Admiral Richmond's contention that no good case can be made for the maintenance of any war vessel (apart perhaps from aircraft carriers) of more than 10,000 tons, as against the 35,000 fixed as the maximum for capital ships under the Washington Treaty. Seeing that only three Powers possess capital ships at all, and that the function of such vessels is simply to fight one another, the abolition of this type, or rather its substitution by a new capital-ship type with a maximum of 10,000 tons, is a quite practical proposal to which the Conference delegates ought to apply their minds. Meanwhile, the head of the Japanese delegation, Mr Wakatsuki, has made a statement to which singularly little attention has been paid. "Japan," he said, "is now claiming 70 per cent. of the naval strength of the Power which holds the largest number of the larger types of cruisers." The insistence on a 70 per cent. ratio instead of a 60 per cent. was expected, and discussion of that demand, which neither the United States nor Great Britain is ready to concede, will be one of the chief preoccupations of the Conference. But much more important is Mr Wakatsuki's assumption that Japan is to have 70 per cent., not in relation to Great Britain, whose proposed allocation is 15 of the 10,000 cruisers, but to the United States, which is to have either 18 or 21. To allow Japan 70 per cent. of an American total of 21 would be to give her 14 Treaty cruisers against the 15 allotted to this country under the MacDonald-Dawes agreement. That would mean virtual parity between Great Britain and Japan instead of the 5:3 ratio laid down at Washington. Agreement would certainly not be reached on this basis. Even if the United States claim no more than 18 Treaty cruisers, Japan would get 12 or 13 on the 70 per cent. scale, which, again, would bring her too close to Great Britain for agreement to be probable. On either the 60 per cent. or 70 per cent. basis the position must be difficult if America gets more of the Treaty cruisers than Great Britain, and Japan claims, as she naturally will, to base her ratio on the American, not the British total. The cleanest way out of the difficulty on paper would be to revert to the 12:12:8 allocation, which

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came near finding acceptance at the Coolidge Conference in 1927. The great merit of this would be that it would relieve Great Britain and Japan (so far as Treaty cruisers are concerned) of any new construction apart from ships already laid down. Its weakness—and this would probably prove fatal—is that it gives the United States and Great Britain equality in Treaty cruisers, whereas an essential feature of the tentative agreements so far reached is that the United States shall be accorded a superiority in large cruisers to counterbalance a British superiority in small ones. In spite of that, the 12 : 12 : 8 allocation might well be taken as a starting point for discussion.

The Five Fleets.—In view of the discussions impending at the Naval Conference which opens on January 21st, certain salient figures regarding the fleets of the five Powers concerned are of immediate importance. The capital ship totals were fixed at Washington in 1922 and no vessels of this description are building or projected in any country. (The new German 10,000-ton battleship stands in a category of its own.) France and Italy have not built up to the totals allotted them. Replacement under the Washington Treaty was due to begin in 1931, but it is probable that this arrangement will be modified in the course of the coming discussions.

	British Empire.	United States.	Japan.	France.	Italy.
CAPITAL SHIPS (Tonnage with numbers in brackets).					
	556,450 (20)	525,850 (18)	302,930 (10)	194,544 (9)	89,170 (4)
CRUISERS (Tonnage with numbers in brackets).					
(*a*) 10,000 TON CRUISERS, ALL WITH 8-INCH GUNS.					
Built	110,000 (11)	10,000 (1)	40,000 (4)	40,000 (4)	20,000 (2)
Building	20,000 (2)	90,000 (9)	40,000 (4)	20,000 (2)	40,000 (4)
Authorised	Nil	130,000 (13)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	130,000	230,000	80,000	60,000	60,000
(*b*) OTHER CRUISERS.					
Built	217,111 (44)	75,000 (10)	126,815 (23)	69,526 (10)	49,061 (10)
Building	16,800 (2)	Nil	Nil	6,600 (1)	30,000 (6)
Authorised	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	233,911	75,000	126,815	76,126	79,061
FLOTILLA LEADERS, DESTROYERS AND TORPEDO BOATS (Numbers of Ships).					
Built	156	223	112	81	119
Building	20	Nil	22	12	14
SUBMARINES.					
Built	52	122	67	53	45
Building	10	2	4	38	10

The figures are based on British official returns, corrected where possible in the light of later information in the 1930 edition of Jane's "Fighting Ships."

The League Council.—The League of Nations Council meeting, which opens at Geneva on Monday, will suffer a little by being sandwiched in between the Hague Conference (now in session) and the London Naval Conference on the 21st. The most important questions arising are the tariff truce proposition and the proposed amendment of the League Covenant to bring it into harmony with the Kellogg Pact. Discussions on the latter point may be more important than was orginally expected in view of the contrasts drawn between Pact obligations and Covenant obligations in the French Note setting forth the policy of M. Tardieu's Government at the Naval Conference. The Council's actual task in this connection is simply to appoint a committee to frame the actual text of amendments to the Covenant in accordance with the principle already approved by the Assembly, but it is by no means impossible that with that as starting-point Mr Henderson and M. Briand will take the opportunity to discuss privately the whole important question of the steps to be taken, whether under Covenant or Pact, to suppress any outbreak of war anywhere. In regard to the tariff truce, the Council, again, is not expected to enter into the merits of the question. It will, however, have to make the important decision whether a conference such as Mr Graham proposed last September shall be summoned or not. There can be no serious doubt about the answer, for some twenty-five States, in the main European, have declared in favour of the Conference, and in that number are included Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy. There will be certain details of some importance to consider, not least of them the date of the Conference, for the longer its convocation is deferred the more danger there will be that some States will hurriedly raise their tariffs in advance of it, and so destroy much of the value of any agreement for the purpose in hand, viz., to create favourable conditions for negotiating general reductions. The fact that the British Chambers of Commerce have declared against the truce proposal ignores the fact that in the absence of something like a tariff armistice it is difficult to make real headway in such negotiations, which is after all the main object in view. In the circumstances this resolution will certainly not weaken the British Government's faith in its own proposal, which is only the first move in a policy which hardly fails to commend the assent of the Chamber.

The International Coal Conference.—At its Tenth Session, last September, the Assembly of the League of Nations, after considering the report of the Economic Committee on the problems of the European coal industry, adopted a resolution, proposed by the British and French delegations, inviting the League Council to request the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to consider the advisability of including in the agenda for the 1930 International Labour Conference questions relating to hours, wages and conditions of work in coal mines, "with the object of agreeing upon an international convention." The outcome of that resolution is The Preparatory Technical Conference, which has been in session at Geneva this week, convened to advise the Governing Body what aspects of the "labour-costs" side of the coal problem offer the best scope for international agreement. The reports of the proceedings so far do not encourage optimisim as to the prospects of a convention securing assent. With regard to wages, both the Government and the employers' delegates from France, Germany and Poland expressed the view, not only that regulation by international agreement is impossible, but that varying costs of living and allowances other than cash wages make international comparison of earnings impracticable; and at the close of Wednesday's discussion M. Albert Thomas admitted that it appeared that the question of wages was "unripe for definite action." The possibility of a convention with regard to working hours seems, on paper, to be less remote, but its utility, without agreement on the inter-related wages issue, would be doubtful.

Trade Unions and Politics.—Criticism of the policy of so-called "Mondism" in the industrial side of the Labour movement has so far originated largely from the attitude of blind suspicion (the "inferiority complex" of extreme class-consciousness), which induces the belief that conversations with "the enemy" are inevitably the prelude to betrayal. To such unreasoning opposition the General Council of the T.U.C. have rightly paid little heed in pursuing their determination to establish jointly with the employers' organisations a permanent mechanism for consultation on matters of common interest to industry. Their critics, however, have now received a considerable reinforcement. At the annual conference last week of the Oxford University Labour Federation, Mr G. D. H. Cole delivered an address roundly denouncing the project of a national industrial council as a potential spoke in the wheel of a Labour Government prepared to carry out a programme of "drastic economic and industrial reform." The council, he argued, would be a body having a strong claim to be consulted by Government before important legislation affecting industry was introduced; but, since the council's voice would be one of "fifty-fifty" co-operation based on a non-Socialist structure of industry, the result could only be to delay and hamper the Government's plans. In short, Mr Cole seemed to fear that the industrial Labour movement, disappointed by and drifting away from the political leaders, might enter into relations with the employers so close as to amount to an abandonment of Socialist aspirations and the completion of the divorce between the politicians and the trade unionists. One's reactions to this argument naturally depend to some extent on whether one judges co-operation in industry to be an end good in itself, or regards the organisations of industrial workers simply as means towards the achievement of "drastic" programmes. Whatever the end in view, we differ wholly from Mr Cole's estimate of the results likely to follow the realisation of the Melchett-Turner conference plan. The *rapprochement* between industrial Labour and a "capitalism" which is rapidly transforming itself from "ownership" into new and varied types of "control" is not calculated to act as a brake on Labour's political progress. Trade unionism may be turning its eyes away from Parliament; but that is because it is recognising the truth that in our complex economic system the task of securing for Labour the status to which it aspires cannot be achieved by any royal road of legislative enactment. If the T.U.C. can succeed in turning the projected national industrial council into a constructive body covering in its scope the whole field of industrial development, the Council is more likely to give the lead even to a progressively-minded Labour Government than to retard the programme which such a Government, on Mr Cole's assumption, will have prepared on its own account.

Exchanges, Prices and Money.—This month's Midland Bank Review contains a timely contribution to the theory of the foreign exchanges. Advocates of the purchasing power parity theory have for some time insisted that it is the relative level of commodity prices that governs the rates of exchange. This, however, is too narrow a view to take, for the balance of payments between different countries is composed not only of settlements in respect of the international movement of commodities, but also of the international movement of long-term capital and of short money. Thus, the foreign exchanges are susceptible to the relative level of interest rates as well as to the relative level of commodity prices, and, during the last two years, when the Wall Street boom and New York money rates were rising to their peak, it is generally agreed that the exchange value of sterling was governed by the international movement of capital and short money rather than commodities. The writer in the Midland Bank Review has seized the occasion to test out this theory over the past four years. He has plotted three curves, representing respectively the sterling-dollar exchange, the relative level of commodity prices in England and America, and the relative level of money rates in London and New York. From the autumn of 1925 to the summer of 1927 they all three moved in substantial agreement, while the results for the next nine months were indeterminate. From the spring of 1928, however, onwards the money and exchange curves are in striking agreement, while the price curve diverges. This indicates that it was the course of American money rates which governed the sterling exchange, and so provides confirmation of the theory. The writer, of course, would himself admit that this is not the whole story. The movement of long-term capital, stimulated by prospects of capital appreciation offered by American securities during the boom should have been brought into the picture, if only it had been possible. Again, the writer's curve of relative money rates excludes deposit rates offered by bankers for fixed periods, which, on the face of it, is a serious omission, even though there are once more obvious difficulties in the way of collecting the necessary data. A final and more important point is that the analysis necessarily corsiders London and New York artificially segregated from other centres. No regard is paid to the possible effect upon the curves of events in Paris or Berlin.

World Production of Iron and Steel in 1929.—We give below a table showing the estimated production of pig iron and steel in the chief producing countries for 1929, compared with 1928 and 1913. The world production of pig iron is estimated at 97,000,000 tons, and of steel 119,000,000 tons, which, in both cases, is the highest ever recorded. World pig-iron production represents an increase over 1928 of 11½ per cent., and over 1913 of 25 per cent. All countries show an increase compared with 1928, but, except in Germany, the rate of increase on the Continent is less than in the United Kingdom or United States, since France, Belgium and Luxemburg were working so near to capacity that there was little margin for expansion. Germany's high rate of increase in 1929 is due to the fact that there was a strike in the Ruhr towards the end of 1928. All countries except Great Britain show an increase in the production of pig iron compared with 1913. World steel production in 1929 is 11 per cent. higher than in 1928 and 58 per cent. than in 1913.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL, 1913, 1928 AND 1929.

	Pig Iron.			Steel Ingots and Castings.		
	1913.*	1928.	1929 (Estd.)	1913.*	1928.	1929 (Estd.)
	(In millions of tons).					
United Kingdom	10·26	6·61	7·57	7·66	8·52	9·65
Germany ...	10·73	11·62	13·10	11·99	14·29	16·25
France.....	8·93	9·82	10·30	6·86	9·35	9·50
Belgium	2·45	3·84	4·00	2·43	3·87	4·05
Luxemburg	2·51	2·73	2·83	1·31	2·53	2·65
Saar	1·35	1·91	2·10	2·05	2·04	2·15
Total, Western Europe.....	36·23	36·53	39·90	32·30	40·60	44·25
U.S.A.	30·97	38·16	43·00	31·30	51·54	57·00
Other Countries	10·70	12·25	14·10	11·45	15·84	17·75
World Total	77·90	86·94	97·00	75·15	107·98	119·00

* Areas as now constituted.

The increased use of scrap in steel making is evident from the much greater increase in steel production than in pig-iron production. Whereas in 1913 the tonnage of pig iron produced exceeded that of steel, in 1929 the tonnage of steel produced was 20 per cent. in excess of that of pig iron.

Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd.—At a general meeting of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, held in Manchester this week, it was decided to increase the capital of the Corporation by £1,651,317. This will be divided into £1,300,000 of ordinary shares, £87,795 in preference shares, and £263,522 in deferred shares. The increased capital is to enable the Corporation to absorb 29 mill companies, controlling about 2,500,000 spindles and 5,200 looms. There will not be any public issue, the shares being allotted to creditors and shareholders as payment for the mills taken over. It is understood, writes our Manchester correspondent, that the Corporation expects to make further increases of capital for the absorption of additional companies within the next few weeks. Lancashire spinning companies outside the Corporation are complaining of severe competition from mills in the Corporation. It is recognised that the concerns taken over by the Corporation are working on a very low capital basis and outside mills with heavy prior charges are being somewhat harassed.

Cash for Cotton.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—On Monday last a special meeting of the members of the Liverpool Cotton Association passed a resolution requesting the Board of Directors to draft a new rule providing that payment for cotton sold on spot terms shall be made either by bankers' acceptance, bankers' confirmed credit or cash in exchange for delivery order—the system to be in force for a period of two years. A further meeting will have to be held in due course when the new rule will be submitted for approval, and it will be necessary for the alteration to secure the support of 75 per cent. of the members present before it can be put into operation. About two years ago there was a similar

movement among Liverpool brokers, but ultimately the proposal was abandoned. It may be pointed out that the new rule will not apply to Sea Island and Egyptian cotton. Consideration has also been given to the abandonment of weekly settlements for future contracts and the substitution of daily or semi-weekly settlements, but it was decided not to make any change. The action of the Liverpool firms has been criticised by spinners, but on behalf of the new proposals it is urged that it is not fair or just to the cotton merchants of Liverpool that it should be possible for cotton to be delivered to the mills and immediately come under the power of a receiver appointed by the banks or debenture holders. It is argued that Liverpool should be protected by the credit for cotton delivered being guaranteed by the source from which the mills' credit is drawn, namely the banks. In trade circles there is some doubt as to whether the alteration in the rules will obtain the necessary voting majority at the later meeting.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—Conditions of unrelieved depression characterised the whole-cargo freight market during December, and our index number of "tramp" charter rates records a further decline of over 2 per cent. The current figure, 100.3, which contrasts with an average of 116.3 in 1913, is nearly 24 per cent. lower than at this time last year. The following table summarises recent movements of the various group indices:—

AVERAGE 1898-1913=100.

	Average, 1913.	Dec., 1928.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.
European Waters	110·0	122·1	130·4	124·9	117·3
North America	113·1	131·3	98·3	96·9	95·5
South America	123·4	125·6	103·1	97·6	94·6
India	106·3	126·8	117·4	110·7	109·0
Far East and Pacific	117·4	127·4	95·1	91·6	93·4
Australia	127·9	156·9	106·8	94·4	91·7
Total	116·3	131·7	108·5	102·7	100·3

The market last month suffered from the pressure in all quarters of unfixed tonnages seeking employment. Homeward rates from South America were steady at the low level previously established, but both from the Plate and other grain-exporting centres demand was meagre. In European waters freights weakened all round, an excessive supply of vessels being accentuated by the congestion caused by stormy weather and consequent delays at loading ports. Coal freights re-acted sharply both for South American discharge and to Continental ports. The month's changes in the index of each group and subgroup are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	104·0	− 7·3	South America—outwards	103·9	− 7·1
Bay—outwards	139·4	−11·1	South America—homewards	85·2	+ 1·1
Bay—homewards	140·3	− 9·7	India—outwards	117·9	− 2·1
Mediterranean—outwards	108·8	− 5·2	India—homewards	100·2	− 1·3
Mediterranean—homewards	107·3	− 5·3	Far East, etc.	93·4	+ 1·8
North America	95·5	− 1·4	Australia	91·7	− 2·7

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for December works out at 86.2, as compared with 88.3 in November, and 113.2 a year ago. The annual mean of our index number (1898-1913 = 100) is 112.6 for 1929, as compared with 114.9 in 1928, and 118.9 in 1925.

The Estate Market in 1929.—A trade correspondent writes:—While the Estate Market was not entirely unaffected by the change of Government early in the year, the high Bank rate and the financial chaos during the past few months, there has been relatively calm confidence among property owners and investors. For some few years now there has been a steady increase in the number of investors in real estate, and there is no lack of funds for financing sound building propositions. An increased demand was shown for good sporting and residential estates for occupation, and the year 1929 shows a considerable increase in the sales of such estates, in a number of cases with large mansions where the cost of upkeep is considerable: unquestionably the year under review is the most satisfactory in this respect since the war. While grazing farms have sold readily at satisfactory prices, the demand for arable holdings has shown no improvement. For residential estates of the smaller size results are quite satisfactory. The market in country and suburban residences was without doubt adversely affected by purely problematical causes towards the end of the year, but, judged as a whole, the year 1929 has yielded a highly satisfactory volume of business. Prices of town houses have been well maintained. The metamorphosis of Mayfair has caused a greatly increased demand for houses outside this once exclusive residential area, and the districts adjacent to the Park, both North and South, extending into Belgravia and even into St. John's Wood have become increasingly popular. The demand for medium-sized, well-planned flats at any economic rent still exceeds the supply, but the super luxury suite, where the rent exceeds £1,000 a year, is possibly a little less in demand. As regards investment properties, taken as a whole, the year has been, under the circumstances, reasonably satisfactory. There has been no material fall in prices, and the volume of business is as large as in previous years. Although applications for shop premises have been up to average, a slight fall is revealed in the demand for the more highly rented shops. With regard to shops outside the central area, a great deal of building has taken place during the year. Rentals for this class of property have been quite well maintained and business has been good, but there is a danger of overbuilding in suburban shop premises. This is indicated by the large number of newly-built premises, for which tenants have not yet been found. The erection of new factories is continuing apace, which in itself is a very good sign, but new building makes it difficult to deal with old premises. The factory market has for some years been under a cloud, but a slight upward movement is taking place. The development of sites for commercial and private garages has proved a lucrative business where proper care has been exercised in the selection of the site. Building land which possesses sewerage and other public services and facilities for development has sold well during the year, and a great deal of building, particularly of small-type properties, continues. Many estates have been placed on the market, and very large areas, which a few years ago were under cultivation, have now been made potential building land by the construction of arterial roads, greatly adding to the amount of frontage available for development. Future development naturally depends a great deal on the distribution of the demand for houses. In general, 1929 has been a year of remarkable stability in face of financial and trade depression.

New Capital Issues in the United States.—Through the courtesy of the New York *Journal of Commerce* we are able to supplement our recently published statistics of British capital issues during the year 1929 with a comparative table for the United States:—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Foreign—	$	$	$	$
Government	634,338,500	786,630,000	764,943,000	178,816,161
Corporate	725,877,040	601,563,375	811,550,482	284,503,847
Domestic—				
Municipal	1,922,007,101	1,867,230,449	1,123,940,316	1,074,476,451
Railroad	360,743,500	791,202,000	668,488,843	528,659,620
Public utility	1,667,750,950	2,405,298,382	2,427,790,217	1,559,144,726
Industrial	1,230,580,600	2,013,430,220	2,311,350,808	2,578,364,081
Others	770,520,400	1,132,307,589	1,783,542,833	2,550,867,842
Totals	7,311,818,091	9,597,662,015	9,891,606,499	8,754,832,698

Foreign borrowing in the United States amounted during the past year to $463 million, as compared with $1,576 million in 1928, this decline accounting for practically the whole of the reduction in the aggregate figure for the year. Domestic borrowing, the total of which came within $24 million of the 1928 level despite the violent check to new issues administered by the Wall Street slump during the last quarter. The growth of new issues for "others" reflects strikingly the boom in investment trust and holding company financing, a development which was largely overdone and contributed in some measure to the stock market collapse.

The Canadian Tariff Advisory Board.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—The very important hearing of the Tariff Advisory Board about the iron and steel schedules of the Canadian tariff occupied its attention for more than two weeks and brought to Ottawa representatives of practically every industrial interest which would be affected by a revision of the iron and steel schedules. The process adopted has been something of an experiment for Canada where tariff changes were in the past usually determined by backstairs pressure and negotiation. The Board had accumulated considerable data from the earlier stages of the hearing, and with this as a guide it had extracted the whole list of iron and steel items from the tariff, and rearranged, remodelled and reorganised them in conformity with the new industrial conditions and processes which had developed since most of the schedules were first framed. Before the hearing was resumed a draft reclassification with the rates left blank was distributed to the different interests and they were invited to attend with criticisms and suggestions for improvement. Nearly every interest which was affected availed itself of the opportunity and, while it was impossible to expect complete harmony and some sharp clashes of opinion took place, many difficulties have already been ironed out and substantial progress has been made in straightening out the tangle which the obsolescence and overlapping of many of the iron and steel schedules had produced. Inevitably there developed during the hearing the fundamental conflict of interest between the primary manufacturers of iron and steel who want more protection for their product and that of the secondary manufacturers like the tube and motor firms who want to get their iron and steel as cheaply as possible and dread any increase in their costs of production. It was asserted, for instance, by the manufacturers of tubes who import their raw material, skelp, from the United States, that the aggregate Canadian demand for this material was not large enough to make its production an economical enterprise in Canada, but the Dominion Iron and Steel Company announced their willingness to manufacture it if they were accorded sufficient protection. There was considerable discussion about the British preference and sardine canners and others complained that the preference on British tinplate was being used for the benefit of a rigid international cartel of tinplate manufacturers. Mr Moore, the chairman of the board, more than once expressed the view that in the process of revision it should be accepted as a guiding principle that when any commodity was not made in Canada, British goods of this type should be given as substantial a preference as possible. Most manufacturers endorsed this view, but there was also some criticism of the British preference and a group of manufacturers of machine tools came out flatly against it, laying down the doctrine that Canadians should look after their own interests first. A good proportion of the industrial interests professed satisfaction with their existing tariff protection and deprecated any changes. The motor schedules produced perhaps the sharpest controversy; a spokesman of the Montreal Automobile Owners' Association submitted figures showing that the prices of Canadian-made cars were exorbitantly high compared with American prices for the same type of car, and the accusation was made that the Canadian motor manufacturers had not kept their pledge to give the public the benefit of their release from the excise tax on cars under $1,200 in value. The motor manufacturers denied this charge and eventually it was decided to adjourn the hearing until January 22nd in order to secure time for a careful study of the evidence in this connection. Representatives of the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the Consumers' League were present, and adopted an attitude of critical vigilance.

Royal Bank of Canada.—The annual statement of the Royal Bank of Canada, relating to the bank's position on November 30th last, is summarised below. It shows that during the accounting year under review the bank's total assets were increased from $909,395,884 to $1,001,442,741. This is the first occasion on which the billion mark has been passed by a Canadian bank:—

	Nov. 30, 1928. $	Nov. 30, 1929. $
Capital	30,000,000	35,000,000
Reserve fund	30,000,000	35,000,000
Balance of profits	2,361,085	3,574,151
Total assets	909,395,884	1,001,442,741
Liquid assets	398,862,085	409,275,965
Cash holdings	180,321,670	157,632,114
Loans	539,874,360	636,026,432
Deposits bearing interest	523,651,908	591,380,470
Deposits not bearing interest	183,814,937	180,707,298

The ratio of cash to the bank's total outside liabilities is 18.07 per cent., a more than adequate figure. The bank's capital has been increased by $5,000,000, and as the new stock was issued at a premium it was possible to increase the revenue fund by a similar amount. The expansion of $96,000,000 in loans is a measure of the increased business that the bank has been able to secure. In view of the fact that the year included the Wall Street slump it is interesting to observe that call loans outside Canada have risen by $22,000,000. It is conceivable that, had the balance sheet been dated at the peak of the Wall Street boom, the increase would have been appreciably greater.

New Life Assurance Business.—During the past week six additional offices have published their figures as to the amounts of new business transacted during 1929:—

Office.	1928. £	1929. £
Caledonian	1,344,891	1,384,265
Commercial Union	4,105,082	3,976,036
Royal Exchange	2,496,040	2,277,646
Royal London Mutual	4,098,075	4,180,000
Scottish Provident	2,789,886	3,099,000
Wesleyan and General	969,236	1,149,058

The new batch of figures continues to display the uncertain and patchy tendency evidenced in the earlier announcements. Four out of the six offices show increases, while two show decreases. The most notable figure is perhaps that of the Wesleyan and General, which records an increase of almost £200,000, equivalent to nearly 25 per cent.

Scottish Automobile and General Insurance Company, Ltd.—Again the first of the year to appear, the report of this insurance company for 1929 is very favourable. The company was founded just after the war, with a head office in Glasgow, and transacts on non-tariff lines a select and increasing motor insurance business. In 1929 the premium income was again larger and amounted to £234,000, of which all but a very insignificant portion was attributable to motor business. The underwriting profit from the whole business worked out at 3.7 per cent. of the premiums. This, though moderate in itself, compares not unfavourably with results achieved by the large composite offices, though it is significant that the profit ratio has declined each year from 1926, when it was as high as 5.88 per cent. After allowing for various items in the profit and loss account, the total net trading surplus of the year worked out at £7,994, compared with £11,178 in 1928. The dividend was maintained at the same rate as in 1928, viz., 17½ per cent., and cost £5,250, a figure which was amply covered by interest earnings of over £7,800. The paid-up capital amounts to £37,500, made up of 150,000 £1 shares, on which 5s. has been called up. The general reserve amounts to £63,750, and out of this the directors

have decided to transfer £18,750 for the purpose of capitalising 2s. 6d. per share in respect of the uncalled capital. The only change on the assets side of the balance sheet relates to the acquisition at par of 25,000 £1 shares of Automotor Finance, Ltd.

Applications are invited for the post of Head of the Bureau of Economic and Social Studies at the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome. Particulars of the salary attached to the post and of the form of application which should be submitted will be found in an advertisement on p. ii of this issue of the *Economist*.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—BUSINESS RECESSION—SHARE MARKET—GOLD EXPORTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, December 27.

SEASONAL quietness in trade and financial markets was accentuated this week by continued uncertainty over the probable extent of the business recession. Reports on holiday retail trade are conflicting, but on the whole buying seems to have been fairly well up to the average. However, in such basic industries as steel, automobile and transport, activity is well below that proper to the season. Building is always at a rather low ebb at this time of year, and the motor industry has failed to increase production as it was hoped some time ago that it might. With these two large consumers of steel withholding orders and with new demand from the mass of smaller consumers in suspense, partly because of the annual inventory taking and partly because manufacturers are disposed to wait to see what happens, operations have fallen to about half the capacity of the mills.

Curtailment of manufacture and stocktaking among all lines of business is, however, only revealing small stocks of commodities on hand. It is, therefore, confidently expected that replenishment demand will be substantial at an early date. Business men, though reluctant to predict for next year, are in general moderately optimistic over the chances of warding off a real business depression. Nevertheless, affairs may become somewhat worse before they improve substantially. Railroad traffic continues to decline, and, reflecting smaller car loadings in November, the railroad earning reports for that month are running about 25 per cent. under those of the same month of last year.

During the next two months the financial community will read corporate earning statements for the fourth quarter of the current year and for the past twelve months which may not be altogether pleasing. Earnings in the first nine months, however, were so well above any previous performance that a poor fourth quarter may be carried without too much difficulty. Anyhow, there has been a tendency among the timid to exaggerate the possibilities in trade and to overlook the very real prosperity which we have been enjoying.

The share market has been notable mainly for its dullness. Volume of trading at the worst fell below 2,000,000 shares, and only once during the week rose as high as 3,000,000 shares. Activity was lowest on declining prices, and the trading was largely of a professional character, interlarded with some liquidation by those who wished to sell at prevailing prices, so that they might mark off their losses on their income-tax statements. Finding the easiest way downward, the professionals were mostly on the bear side, but covering operations began after prices had lost about half their recovery from the bottom reached in November. To those of the public who still are in a trading mood, prevailing prices appear too high to encourage a long position and too low to stimulate short selling. On a yield basis stocks are competing with bonds, which have been irregular on the cessation of dealer demand in anticipation of reinvestment buying next month and firmer money rates. No special performance is to be expected of the share market until the business outlook clears up.

Were it not for the heavy gold outflow it could at least be said with assurance that money rates would be low for the next several months. However, after a loss of approximately $23 million on balance in November, the efflux this month, in addition to earmarking of metal at the reserve banks, will be around $90 million, the bulk of it going to France. It is estimated that gold earmarkings now total close to $135 million. Metal thus set aside plus shipments already made or in preparation before the end of the year threaten to cut down an early gain of $232 million of gold this year to less than $110 million. The narrowing of the credit base since the decline in the stock market began amounts to more than $110 million, or sufficient to support a burden of nearly $1,500 million of credit.

So far the gold outflow has had no effect on the money market, such firming up in rates as has taken place being due to the expansion of currency for holiday buying, window dressing by the banks and corporations, and preparations made for record-breaking year-end dividend and interest payments. But later on the loss of gold may be an influence, if the Federal Reserve Banks are unwilling to continue to offset it by release of a greater amount of their credit. This they are doing at present, the current statement showing a rise of about $23 million in total credit outstanding. Borrowing at the Reserve Banks by the member banks occurred for the first time in several weeks, and Reserve holdings of Government securities dropped. On the other hand, the Reserve added $45 million to its bill holdings, and there was a gain of a million in contingent liability on bills purchased for foreign correspondents.

Recent increases in this item, together with the rising balances of the Bank of France in the face of heavy gold exports to Paris, are interpreted as indicating that the withdrawals of funds for France have been for private account. By taking dollars and supplying francs the Bank of France has doubtless retarded the movement.

FRANCE.—HAGUE CONFERENCE—AMERICAN DEBT—BUDGET—BANK OF FRANCE—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, January 8.

THE attention of all economic and political France is concentrated on the resumed Conference at the Hague. The feeling among all sections of opinion is generally optimistic, particularly in financial and other business circles. M. Tardieu has largely taken the place, in the imagination of the nation, held formerly by M. Clemenceau, and latterly by M. Poincaré. The nation has given every indication of confidence in the new leader's personal magnetism and proved ability to "get things done," and he has gone to the Hague with the faith of the country behind him. The preliminary skirmishes, according to the reports received here, have justified this trust. The nation's confidence may be summed up in the phrase that "Tardieu is a man who can say 'No,'" which is meant to imply that the period of concessions and "abandonments," of which M. Briand is accused, has come to an end. French interest centres mainly on the maintenance of Clause 430 of the Peace Treaty, which gives the Allied and associated Powers the right, in the event of Germany's "refusing during the occupation, *or after*," to observe the whole or part of her (reparation) obligations under the present Treaty, "to reoccupy the whole or part of the Rhineland immediately." This clause of the Treaty represents practically all that is now left, from the French point of view, in the way of security against German default in the future, and it seems almost certain, at the time of writing, that this country's delegates, M. Briand included, will resist to the end and at any cost any attempt of Germany to secure the abrogation of this safeguard. There is a confident belief here that Mr Snowden will take the same line.

Apart from this dominating Clause 430 factor, and quite secondary to it, is the ever-active undercurrent in the French collective mind stimulated by the *rôle* which is being played by the United States in all the fundamentals underlying the liquidation of the war. "When my country pays three marks to the Allies towards the restoration of the devastated regions," Dr. Schacht one day said to the experts in Paris, "two of them immediately leave Europe for the United States." "Great Britain," the French are now saying, "asks to be paid only the equivalent of what she has to pay to America. Every franc we have to pay to the British Treasury is therefore merely a second and indirect instalment which we hand to America by way of London." This was an outstanding thought in many French brains yesterday when the French Government paid over to the United States the first instalment of $12,067,934 under the Washington Agreement. The French are becoming conscious of the fact that more than one-half of the German reparation payments under the Young Plan already pass into American pockets, and that, during the last 22 of the 59 years covered by the Plan, neither they nor any other Allied Power will receive a single mark from the sums paid by Germany, these instalments going entirely to the United States. There are indications that the French obsession regarding the German debt to France may shortly be transformed into one regarding the European debt to America, which the increasingly unsettled economic situation of the United States itself can only accentuate. The possibility that France may shortly impose an import duty of 90 per cent. *ad valorem* on American motor cars (failing substantial concessions on French exports) is a symptom of the slowly developing European defensive attitude.

The Chambers will reassemble next week after the holiday, but whether much business will be actually taken in hand, in the absence of the Premier and three of his principal colleagues at the Hague, remains to be seen. A series of flying visits between Paris and the scene of the Conference is projected, and will doubtless have to be repeated when the pending Disarmament Conference follows; which may militate seriously against the prospect of the 1930-31 Budget Bill being taken in hand as speedily as is desired. The original 1930 Budget, designed to come into force on January 1st, provided (last March) for total expenditure of 48,665,916,000 francs and a revenue of 48,722,103,976 francs. This was subsequently modified to cover 49,248,732,000 francs of expenditure, with an estimated revenue of 49,267,798,000 francs. The extension of the financial year to March 31, so that the 1929 Budget will have to cover 15 months, would perhaps be an awkward factor but for the fact that the revenue is still coming in well in advance of normal expenditure. What the third edition of the Budget estimates will amount to is not yet clear, but there are already indications that substantial modifications will be required in both revenue and expenditure figures. The agitation for further reductions of the burden on all forms of scrip, and the operations attendant thereon, is steadily growing, and industry is also calling loudly for relief. On the other hand, the Finance Minister will apparently require a good deal less money than was originally provided for in regard to the initial cost of the national insurance scheme. This should come into operation early next month, but the law still requires much overhauling. The original scheme has already been shorn of many of its more costly features (including the complete elimination of the unemployment insurance section), but the law is still regarded by all classes (except Labour) as in many ways seriously unsatisfactory.

The Bank of France has declared a distribution of 634 francs per 1,000-franc share, which gives a net yield, after tax deduction, of 520 francs, or 52 per cent., as against 35 per cent. for 1928. The shares closed on the Bourse to-night at 24,900 francs, so that the actual yield at the present price works out at about 2⅛ per cent. Quite apart from the extraordinary inflation of the capital value of the shares, which has been common to all French pre-war issues, there are two reasons for anticipating that they will yet go to much higher levels. One is based on the remarkably strong situation of the institution itself, both from the trading point of view and its accumulated assets. The other is the fact that the dividend distributed probably represents less than one-half of the year's net profits.

The foreign trade returns for November indicate total imports valued at 4,789,413,000 francs, against exports of 4,267,785,000 francs. The total adverse balance for the first eleven months of the year amounts to 7,589,000,000 francs, as against one of 1,690,000,000 francs in the corresponding period of 1928, and a surplus of 2,098,000,000 francs in 1927. The average excess of imports before the war was about 15 per cent. of their total. During the first eleven months of 1913 the deficit on the visible exchanges was 714,000,000 francs (gold) equivalent to over 3,500,000,000 present-day francs, or about 9½ per cent. of the imports, against 14½ per cent. in 1929. The detailed figures are as follows:—

	First eleven months of 1928.	First eleven months of 1929.	Differences in 1929.
IMPORTS.			
Foodstuffs.....	11,239,643,000f.	12,182,730,000f.	+ 943,087,000f.
Raw materials	29,777,780,000f.	32,045,719,000f.	+2,267,939,000f.
Mnf'd. goods...	7,106,631,000f.	9,036,420,000f.	+1,929,789,000f.
Totals	48,124,054,000f.	53,264,869,000f.	+5,140,815,000f.
EXPORTS.			
Foodstuffs.....	5,576,836,000f.	5,497,647,000f.	— 79,189,000f.
Raw materials	11,957,522,000f.	11,585,842,000f.	— 371,680,000f.
Mnf'd. goods...	29,049,216,000f.	28,592,375,000f.	— 456,841,000f.
Totals	46,583,574,000f.	45,675,864,000f.	— 907,710,000f.

Two factors which should not be overlooked in considering the increase in imports are (1) that these figures include values of German reparation payments in kind (which will henceforward become of less importance, until they cease to exist in 10 years' time), and (2) that values of French exports are calculated f.o.b. French port, while imports are reckoned on a c.i.f. basis.

ITALY.—BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT—TAX BURDENS—PROBLEM OF ARREARS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, December 26.

RECENT reports on the Budget by Signori Olivetti and Magrini, on behalf of the General Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and by Signor Mayer for the Senate Finance Committee make interesting reading. They are more interesting because more critical than most analogous reports before the Fascist regime. Criticism is levelled, in the first place, against the increasing taxation burden. Here are reproduced the final figures of an interesting table by Olivetti and Magrini. The figures summarise the total revenue and expenditure of the State for the years from 1922-23 to 1927-28, for which accounts are closed. According to our budgeting system, the figures include all revenues and expenditures pertaining to the respective fiscal years (July 1st to June 30th), taking also into account revenue due but not received and expenditure due but not yet actually effected. The revenue figures which follow are net, and, owing to various other arrangements to make them comparable from year to year, they are not exactly the same as those published in the gross revenue accounts (in milliards lire):—

	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Deficit or Surplus.	
	Paper lire.	Present lire.	Paper lire.	Present lire.	Paper lire.	Present lire.
1922–23	16·7	14·8	19·6	17·3	— 2·9	— 2·5
1923–24	18·0	14·9	18·0	15·0	...	— 0·1
1924–25	19·1	15·2	18·2	14·5	+ 0·9	+ 0·7
1925–26	21·0	15·6	20·8	15·5	+ 0·2	+ 0·1
1926–27	21·4	17·2	21·0	16·9	+ 0·4	+ 0·3
1927–28	20·1	20·4	19·6	19·9	+ 0·5	+ 0·5

Revenues were received and expenditure made in paper lire at the value current from time to time. "Present lire" figures are added, however, in order to show what would have been the burden of taxation and the amount of expenditure if the same monetary unit, the present lira at the legal rate of stabilisation, had been current throughout the period. Viewed in this way, revenue was but slightly increased from 1922-23 to 1925-26, and expenditure was diminished in no small proportion, so that the

great feat of changing a deficit of 2,500 million lire (in present lire) into a small but highly significant surplus was achieved. Revaluation in 1926-27 and stabilisation in 1927-28 gave a rude shock to this process. Revenue and expenditure remained about the same, and even slightly decreased in actual paper lire; but in terms of " present lire " the burden greatly increased, expenditure going up about 30 per cent. and taxation becoming more and more burdensome. Signori Magrini and Olivetti conclude that State expenditure was not appropriate to the changed value of the lira. This is indeed the crucial point of every revaluation process. Revaluation means contraction of prices and of private incomes; but State expenditure is mostly fixed and cannot be contracted, so that the burden on taxpayers increases. Years must pass before the old equilibrium between private and public expenditure is restored.

The second criticism of the Budget Committee of both Chambers of Parliament relates to " arrears." This is probably something of a mystery for British readers, who are accustomed to their cash budgeting system. In Italy we budget on the basis of revenues which are actually received plus revenues which are due at the end of the fiscal year, and of expenditure made and remaining to be made. Therefore, side by side with the current yearly budget we carry on a separate budget of arrears to be received and expended. This double budget makes it possible, argue Parliamentary Committees, to charge a given expenditure on the arrears instead of on the current budget, making the latter appear better than it ought to be. It is not easy to estimate the importance of such a criticism; but it is certain that the condition of the exchequer is determined by the sum total of actual receipts and issues, whatever the year to which they refer, without regard to the revenue still to be cashed and expenditure to be made. The Chamber Budget Committee has made some interesting calculations, and we publish their final " adjusted " comparable figures (in milliard lire):—

	Exchequer Receipts.			Exchequer Payments.		
	Current Revenue.	Arrears.	Total.	Current Expenditure.	Arrears.	Total.
1923–24	16·9	2·8	19·8	11·8	5·1	16·9
1924–25	18·0	1·9	19·9	11·6	6·2	17·8
1925–26	19·7	1·4	21·1	13·2	5·9	19·1
1926–27	19·9	1·5	21·4	13·8	6·7	20·5
1927–28	18·8	1·5	20·3	13·5	8·0	21·5
1928–29	...	...	18·8*	...	...	19·4*

* Not adjusted.

In the total receipts arrears play a minor part, while about a third of the total payments are in arrears. Each year the exchequer pays only about two-thirds of the current expenditure, and passes on the remaining third as arrears. To obviate such a situation, section 6 of the statute of December 9, 1928, enacted that the fiscal year, though ended as usual at June 30th, should have a sequel in July, being finally closed at July 31st. During the month of July, 1929, we had thus for the first time a double budget—the old 1928-29 budget ended at June 30, 1929, but not yet closed, and the new 1929-30 budget. It is hoped to get rid in this way of a part of arrears which are received and paid shortly after the end of the fiscal year.

A third source of criticism by the Budget Committees is the growth of the habit of spreading certain expenditure to be made in a given period over a longer series of fiscal years. According to a table published by both Chamber and Senate Committee, the sum total of the expenditure to be thus charged on the budgets from 1929-30 to 1938-39 amounts to 28,858 million lire. This is wholly apart from permanent expenses, such as public debt interest, pensions, salaries, etc., and to that extent the elasticity of future budgets is impaired. These and other minor criticisms seem severe; but the Chamber of Deputies Budget Committee observe that it is the duty of the new Corporative Chamber to restore the financial control of Parliament to its ancient traditions, which were almost forgotten in the last years of the parliamentary regime. The Committee's strictures provoked some reaction in the Assemblies: Signori Zingali in the Chamber and Rava and Ranieri in the Senate maintaining that arrears on the expenditure side had already diminished from 43.06 at June 30, 1923, to 18.97 million at June 30, 1928, and were bound to decrease further; and that the taxation burden was not so grievous as it was made to appear in the Committee reports, as the national income had not decreased in proportion to the revaluation of the lira. Statistics are lacking on the respective variations of public expenditure and national income; but the parliamentary discussion very usefully pointed out the necessity of keeping a keen eye on the tendency of public departments to increase their expenditure. The hero of the debate was a man unknown to the public at large, the Accountant-General of the State, Signor De Bellis, to whom all orators paid homage as the man to whose lot falls the ungrateful task of saying " No " to all claiming a right to dip their hands into the public purse. Truly, in his capacity of watchdog, Signor De Bellis has saved billions to the public exchequer.

BELGIUM.—HOUSE RENTS—FISCAL REFORM—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, December 22.

WITH a view to solving the house-rent problem, the Government has drawn up a Bill, which is now before Parliament and will probably pass into law without notable modification. Like all European countries whose currency has undergone a serious degree of devaluation, Belgium limited rents to a gold value below the pre-war level. The last of the series of Acts regulating this was passed in December, 1926, and provided for the gradual decontrol of the highest rents, but there is still a large range of rents under control, as, for example, those of houses rented at less than 1,600 francs yearly pre-war in the communes of more than 100,000 inhabitants, and at less than 1,200 francs pre-war in the communes of 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, etc. Leases of houses subject to legal restrictions were extended and their rents limited to 50 per cent. of the gold value charge of 1914. Buildings erected since 1918 are exempt from this regulation on renting, and, in fact, many flats are more highly rented.

Complete freedom was to be restored in January, 1930, but in order, as far as possible, to avoid disturbance, the Government decided upon the establishment of a transition arrangement. France's example in prolonging her housing law, in certain cases to 1939, has had a perceptible influence here. According to the present Bill, which, though prudent and moderate, has given rise to protest from owners and tenants, the end of leases involved by this scheme will again be postponed; in the towns of more than 100,000 inhabitants the houses which rented in 1914 at from 600 to 1,200 francs per annum are regulated and the termination of the lease postponed for a period of one year; for rents below 600 francs postponement will extend over two years. Apart from specified exceptions, freedom is restored in communes of less than 50,000 inhabitants. In no case, even in the big towns, will the owner be obliged any longer to agree to a rent lower than the pre-war price, expressed in gold. This indicates decided progress in the direction of uncontrolled agreement. The consequent rise in rents will naturally affect the cost of living and the competitive power of Belgian industry. A rising level of rents is, however, unavoidable in a country with a sound economic system, and as a very considerable proportion of Belgian workmen own their own houses the increase will, to some extent, be an increase in appearance only.

The fiscal reform already discussed in a previous letter is now before Parliament, and will probably be passed in its present form. The vote will probably not be granted till next February, but most arrangements will be enforced retroactively from January 1, 1930. With this object a Royal Decree was issued for the re-scheduling of the sales tax, which is to be lowered from 2 to 1 per cent.; this duty is imposed upon internal transactions and imports. The Fiscal Reform Bill and its schedule are a very voluminous statement, from which the following data of interest to foreigners trading with Belgium are abstracted. Customs remain unchanged except for a few reductions concerning cacao and mineral oils. The duty on matches is lowered from 50 to 30 centimes per thousand shanks. In anticipation of the establishment of petroleum refineries an Excise duty of 40 centimes per litre (1¾ pints) of petrol is enlisted. The stamp duty imposed on trade bills is reduced to half the present amount; it is entirely abolished for bills arising out of transit trade. Bonds issued abroad by Belgian companies are also free from stamp duty.

Modifications in the income tax have been outlined in a preceding report. The tax on dividends is fixed at 22 per cent.; interest on loans, bonds or banking deposits is taxed at the rate of 16 per cent. Belgian loans issued before the war are exempt from this tax. Income from abroad continues to pay 6 per cent.; interest paid to aliens remains taxable at 5 per cent. The Government proposes to impose a special tax on income proceeding from directorships of " sociétés anonymes." This tax will vary from 10 to 18 per cent., but its imposition automatically frees this class of income from local taxes, and it will therefore still be moderately assessed. The Bill regulates according to equity the question of fictitious profits resulting from the devaluing of the franc; in the case of liquidation of companies only the surplus exceeding the paid-up capital expressed in gold values (instead of the paid-up capital in paper francs, the basis formerly adopted) is taxable as shareholders' income.

The business trend is less satisfactory. A slackening is, for instance, perceptible in the sales of automobiles and luxury items. The serious Stock Exchange crisis is in great part responsible for this. A few firms dismissed some hands, but they were immediately enlisted elsewhere. In the building industry activity remains strenuous, but new contracts seem less numerous than before. Recent reports from the metallurgical companies show their standing less favourable than in 1928, though order books are well filled. Purchases of toys for Santa Claus presents were at least as abundant as last year, according to the big shops.

Improvement in the diamond industry has not been maintained, and the industry has been at a standstill during half December (from the 7th to the 23rd). The annual output of Antwerp is £13,000,000 worth of polished stones and the industry employs 25,000 craftsmen. The fundamental cause of the crisis lies in the erection of cutting shops in South Africa and the aid granted to them by the Capetown Government in selling them uncut stones at low prices. Also the slump on the New York Stock Exchange caused a heavy decline in exports to the United States, which is a leading client of this industry. In general, it is anticipated that 1930 will be a less prosperous year for Belgian industry, though there is nothing in the nature of an acute crisis.

AUSTRIA.—INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS—TARIFF POLICY—MONEY—STOCK EXCHANGE—TAXATION—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, December 27.

THE serious fights in domestic politics have come to an end with the passing of the constitutional reforms. The Bill was not passed in the original form desired by the Government and the majority parties; nevertheless, State authority is strengthened by the reforms. A far more important matter than the reform of the constitution is the economic ruin which will overtake the country if the political parties insist on continuing hostilities and do not take definite steps to ward off further impoverishment. Up to the present, however, the Government has shown nothing but good intentions, and concrete measures are not yet in sight. The most striking outward sign of economic difficulty is the serious increase in unemployment. In the first half of December alone the number of unemployed in receipt of benefit advanced by 25,600, and of those receiving no benefit by 5,000. The number of unemployed in the whole of Austria is 226,000, which is 18,000 higher than last year. This aggravation of the evil is largely due to the fact that investment activity on the part of the Federal authorities, as also on the part of the Municipality of Vienna, is being kept at a minimum. The failure to float the foreign loan is also being felt. Furthermore, the Municipality of Vienna intends to avail itself in future of the credit support offered by the State to promote housing, and this will not be possible before next year. In consequence the Municipality is for the time being passing no contracts for new buildings.

The State Railways, which for a long time have been one of the best customers of Austrian industry, are also restricted in their commercial activities by the fact that the term of office of the chairman of the Federal Railways has come to a close and the Government has not yet appointed his successor. It will be necessary greatly to reduce the staff or to make a cut in salaries, for the revenue from the last increases in fares and tariffs has been almost completely swallowed up by increases in salaries and wages. The reserve exercised by the Federal Railways in the matter of orders is seriously affecting the iron industry, which was remarkably busy until the autumn. Since then, however, there has been a great falling off. In the production of crude steel the Alpine Montan Gesellschaft was working to 99 per cent. of its capacity, whereas now the figure is only 72 per cent. At the end of the year 1929 the electrical industry will have completed the current orders from the supply companies, and fresh contracts have not yet been given. A great number of workers are being discharged by the automobile industry. The Steyr Motor Works, which now belongs to the concerns of the Credit-Anstalt, will enter into a certain community of interests with the Austro-Daimler Works, whereby a saving will be made in both production and sale. In spite of the concentration of the shares, it is still difficult to see how the Steyr Works can reduce its debt to the bank. Poor business in the paper industry has led to sharp competition, and the cardboard factories have formed a ring in order to ease the situation.

The unfavourable situation in trade and industry in general is causing a demand for increased tariff protection. Higher duties are demanded on automobiles, cotton fabrics, furniture, glass, fancy goods, chemicals, electric machines. Agriculture, which has already succeeded in securing the addition of six gold crowns to the sugar duty, is demanding other increases, but the Hungarian farmers have expressed strong objection to any further Customs duty increases in favour of Austrian agriculturists, as they fear that such increases would result in diminished imports from Hungary.

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The National Bank has for the last few weeks been the only source of money, and it has also made preparations for an unusually heavy call at the end of the year. Within the last few days very considerable offers of foreign credits have, however, been made in Austria. In regard to contracts for special credits negotiations are being carried on. The result is that the National Bank is feeling a reduction of the pressure. The shortage of money is still being felt in commercial circles and in industry, for it is enhanced by the absence of capital formation. Whereas last year savings deposits increased by at least 500 million schillings, this year they have probably grown by less than 300 millions. In these circumstances, it is very important that the large capital which went abroad while the tension was so high in domestic politics and while the difficulties in regard to the Bodencredit-Anstalt were being dealt with, should gradually come back again into the country.

As far as Austrian shares are concerned, the past year was a prolonged catastrophe. One slump followed upon another, and the value of all the shares dealt in on the Vienna Exchange fell by 25 per cent. Part of these losses will never be recovered, for the syndicate shares of the Bodencredit-Anstalt may, in some cases, not make good even in a most favourable market. On the other hand, there are on the Vienna Exchange a number of shares which are quoted much below their real value, for they are bringing in as much as 8 or 9 per cent. In a quiet way interest is being shown in the real estate market. Domestic and, more especially, foreign capital is making excellent purchases from time to time. The economic stress is compelling house owners to sell, although rents will automatically advance next year and the following year, and even now some property is bringing in as much as 7 and 8 per cent., whereas a year to two years ago, before the reform of rents, property was bringing in nothing at all, or at most 1 to 2 per cent. It is calculated that, if houses are built under the State scheme, whereby only about 10 per cent. of the total building costs has to be paid down by the prospective owner, the owner's capital will yield from 15 to 18 per cent. It must be mentioned, however, that this calculation depends for its accuracy on the owner's finding tenants who are able to pay the rent. In these houses built with the aid of the State housing promotion scheme, a four-room flat, with the usual offices, will cost about 250 schillings a month in rent to the house owner. The question is whether such a rent can be afforded even by the middle class, if present economic conditions continue.

Next year the population will have to bear fresh burdens. For example, the Minister of Finance desires to collect 147 millions more in duties and imposts. Postal fees are expected to aggregate an additional 14 millions and the tax on sugar will total 9 millions more. The Municipality of Vienna has given notice that the price of electricity and gas will be increased, and municipal tramway fares are also to be raised. Altogether, this means the extortion of a further 200 million schillings. The state of the balance of foreign trade is unsatisfactory. November figures show a serious falling off. Austrian exports to Germany are still regressing, but commercial relations with Czechoslovakia are more satisfactory. Russian business is further depressed by the fact that not only the banks, but also the Municipality of Vienna is more reserved. Two years ago the Municipality of Vienna declared itself prepared to guarantee to an extent of 100 million schillings losses on shipments to Russia. As a matter of fact it has up to the present not guaranteed more than 71 million schillings, and in the coming year it will not release the remaining 29 millions. It will do nothing more than afford a secondary guaranty within the scope of the State subsidy, which grants far less assurance in case of loss. From the Hague Conference, which will be attended by Federal Chancellor Schober, people are expecting a certain amount of clarity in relation to the investment loan, and it is hoped that an advance, at least, will be available on account of this loan.

FINLAND.—THE MONEY MARKET—FOREIGN TRADE—DIET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, December 18.

THE movement towards lower rates of interest and an easier tone of the money market which has appeared in the great financial centres after the crash on the New York Stock Exchange, has not yet extended to the Finnish money market. Here the level of rates remains unchanged, and the money shortage continues. To a certain extent the depression has spread to wider circles, and the usual winter unemployment appears to be taking on larger proportions than for a long time, though the number of unemployed on the books of the labour exchanges has not yet exceeded 10,000. There are, however, signs of an approaching improvement.

In the first place, the position of the Bank of Finland has grown stronger from month to month. The total credits granted by the bank on December 7th were 1,420.6 million marks, or 42.6 millions less than one month and 52.5 millions less than two months earlier. The reduction was entirely a result of a falling-off in rediscounted bills. The foreign balances rose simultaneously from 550.1 million marks on October 8th to 613.9 millions and 627.0 millions on the same day in November and December. As the falling tendency of the note circulation has continued without interruption, the note reserve of the central bank has been strengthened from 443.7 millions on October 8th to 471.0 millions on November 8th and 525.1 millions on December 7th. The percentage of the note cover has risen steadily from 54.1 to 56.5 and 58.5 per cent. For the sake of comparison it may be mentioned that the unused right of note issue on December 8, 1928, was 264.4 million marks, and the percentage of the note cover 53.7 per cent. It is especially in the former respect that the improvement in the position of the Bank of Finland is consequently considerable.

The rising tendency is not so clear in the case of the joint stock banks. Their deposits have dropped regularly month by month since last July, and the falling-off in October was 67.5 and in November 175.9 million marks. At the same time the banks' credits have been reduced from month to month, with the exception of October, when there was a slight increase of 12.7 million marks, but in November the reduction was again 133.5 millions. As usual at this time of the year, the difference between credits and deposits has increased slightly, but this increase has been appreciably smaller than during the previous years. In the position of the banks towards foreign countries the development was also normal during October and November; a slight increase of the net indebtedness is customary at this season.

Foreign trade has returned very favourable figures for the last few months, particularly compared with conditions last year. The value of imports for October and November amounted to 654 and 571 million marks, compared with 884 and 735 millions last year. The reduction in the value of imports for these two months was consequently 394 million marks. Exports, on the other hand, were at about the same level as last year, for October 731 and for November 595 million marks, compared with 740 and 625 millions a year ago. As the reduction in exports was only 39 million marks, the balance of trade was improved for these two months by no less than 355 million marks over the results for last year. While these months showed a surplus of imports last year amounting to 254 millions, there was a surplus of exports this year of 101 million marks, a result that is very satisfactory for this time of the year.

In regard to the balance of trade for the whole of the completed part of this year, there has been a similar improvement. The value of imports has been reduced by 964 million marks to 6,462 millions, while exports have been increased by 227 million marks to 5,975 millions. While the surplus of imports at the end of November last year amounted to the exceptionally high figure of 1,678 million marks, it has now dropped to 487 millions. Even this figure is less satisfactory than usual during recent years, but the improvement since last year is promising.

As is usual towards the end of the year, the interest of the Diet has been directed to the Budget for next year. This is, however, not quite ready. In connection with the Budget there has been a great deal of legislation. Changes have been made in several clauses of the Customs tariff, and higher rates of duty have been introduced on imported pigs and pork, grain, flour, potatoes, eggs, expensive motor cars and bricks. In addition, the Government was empowered to raise the import duty to a maximum of four-fold on various textiles and rubber footwear. The Diet passed certain amendments to the law regarding associations which facilitates the struggle of the authorities against subversive elements. These measures are connected with a strong movement among wide circles of the population, which demand resolute steps for putting down Communism and hooliganism.

AUSTRALIA.—BUDGET—TARIFF REVISION—SUPER TAX—COMMONWEALTH BANK AMENDMENT ACT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, December 14.

THE new Commonwealth Government on November 21st introduced a revised Budget for 1929-30, modifying that introduced by the Bruce-Page Government last August. Taking the figures on a net basis, by which the Post Office, Commonwealth Railways, and Territories are reduced by cross-entries to net figures, the total revenue is now estimated at £64,589,000 (instead of £64,198,000 as previously estimated in August) and the expenditure, exclusive of sinking fund, at £64,575,442 (instead of £63,837,102), leaving an estimated surplus of £14,558 (instead of £360,898) on the year. The accumulated deficit will thus be reduced from £4,987,718 as at June 30, 1929, to £4,973,160 as at June 30, 1930. The late Government proposed to reduce the accumulated deficit still further by bringing in special receipts representing accumulated income arising from liquidation of ex-enemy properties, £1,200,000, but this proposal is now dropped.

The net expenditure is larger by £737,340 than that proposed by the late Government, after allowing for reductions of £150,000 in Defence, besides minor reductions, while the revenue is larger by £391,000. The estimate of Customs revenue has been enlarged by £1,154,000, making it £32,239,000, but the Excise estimate is reduced by £454,000, making it £12,211,000. The latter reduction is partly due to beer, the Excise on which under the August Budget was raised from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per gallon, but is now to be 1s. 10d.

Although the present list of alterations to the Customs tariff is not short, it was recently announced that the main work of making the tariff more highly protective will only be undertaken next year (1930). As regards revenue, the present Budget estimate of £32,239,000 from Customs (excluding Excise), when compared with £29,502,755 received in 1928-29, means that the volume of imports would require to be at least equally heavy. During the three months ended September 30th there has been an increase in imports; but, in view of the decline in the export trade now in progress, in consequence of the lower prices ruling for wool and the smaller wheat harvest, in addition to the difficulty of raising loans abroad, a substantial reduction in imports is required, and this might easily curtail the Customs revenue by some millions. If expenditure is to be maintained and Customs revenue declines, a much more serious recourse to other sources of revenue will be necessary to balance the Budget. In the meantime, the Government proposes a super tax of 10 per cent. on the taxable incomes of individuals from £201 to £1,500, 15 per cent. on individuals from £1,501 to £3,000, 20 per cent. on individuals from £3,001 upwards, and 20 per cent. on taxable income of companies. The super tax will produce £1,285,000 instead of £400,000 proposed by the late Government in August. The late Government proposed a general amusement tax of 5 per cent. on admission charges, to produce £600,000 (in addition to the existing entertainment tax), but the amusement tax is to be dropped. The picture theatre interests were very outspoken in opposition to it at the recent election. The super tax has not been welcomed, as for one reason it will curtail companies' net profits. Brewery and distillery shares, however, have hardened on the Exchange. The new tariff gives additional protection to local iron and steel goods, cotton and woollen goods, socks and stockings, and a variety of other articles.

An Act introduced by the Commonwealth Government has been passed to enable the Treasurer to authorise the Commonwealth Bank to require any person to furnish particulars of gold coin and bullion held by him, and to require any person to exchange the gold for Australian notes. The Treasurer can also, on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Bank, prohibit the export of gold. The letter from the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, Sir Robert Gibson, which was quoted in the House of Representatives by the Treasurer, Mr Theodore, in introducing the Bill on November 28th, stated that, owing to various causes, including unfavourable borrowing conditions in London, reduced values of exports from Australia, due to unfavourable seasons and a large reduction in wool values, there had been a steady adverse drift against accumulation of funds in London. The Commonwealth Bank was faced with proposals "which must have the effect of depleting the reserve of gold, and further taking the control of the situation" out of the hands of the Commonwealth Bank board. The proposed legislation "would place the gold in Australia definitely in the control" of the Commonwealth Bank, and "there would only be one authority in control of the gold in Australia." As this legislation will enable the Commonwealth Bank to commandeer the gold held in Australia by the ordinary banks, the view of the latter is that the Commonwealth Bank should be prepared to provide exchange on London, if required, as notes if given in return for the gold are not available for export. The attitude of the Commonwealth Bank on this point is still uncertain. In the past it has been prepared to sell exchange on London up to the amount of its available resources, but not further. To deal with the unfavourable position of the balance of payments due to the causes above mentioned is not a matter for which the Commonwealth Bank is at present well fitted. The only real cure for the position is a curtailment of imports, and the attitude of the ordinary banks towards their customers is calculated to bring this about, though the process requires a little time.

Although the Act is based upon Section 11 of the English Currency and Bank Notes Act, 1928, some differences are to be noted. The English Act does not interfere with the holding of gold by or on behalf of foreign banks or foreign persons, and it has not stood in the way of gold exports. Under the Australian Act, however, according to the Treasurer's statement in the House, institutions will serve no object by presenting notes and demanding gold to the extent of £1,000,000 because the Commonwealth Bank has power to requisition it immediately.

Letters to the Editor.

RESIGNATIONS OF DIRECTORS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The frequency in the past year or two with which one has seen statements emanating from companies in the Press that a gentleman has resigned the managing directorship, or that one or more have simultaneously resigned their directorships, causes one to consider whether directors are the servants of the company or whether they are simply individuals solely out for their own gain.

I have, of course, no desire to make any comment as to the propriety of those gentlemen who resign for a cause such as age, "real" ill-health, or for some similar good reason.

We have seen too frequently, prior to the first annual general meeting of some of the companies that have been recently formed, the resignation of a director or directors whose name on the prospectus caused people to subscribe for shares. We have also observed that when shares have heavily depreciated in value on the Stock Exchange some directors resign, and yet rarely is any explanation given for their resignation.

The name of an influential man appears on the prospectus of a company when its shares are offered for subscription, and the subscribers believe that he has faith in its prospects and that in exchange for his fees he will, to his utmost capacity, do all he should both legally and honourably. He may discover that the company was conceived in fraud, or that it has little or no hope of a financial success, and to avoid the unpleasantness of being criticised or listening to criticism at the next shareholders' meeting he resigns, calmly leaving the company to its unhappy fate.

Sometimes, and too frequently, it happens that when a prosperous company has gone too far in its projects and reaches a stage at least of danger, or possibly has to be reconstructed, one or more members resign without a word of explanation.

If there be a dispute on the board so serious as to warrant a resignation or resignations, let the shareholders be told of it, so that they themselves may judge and consider what they should do; they are the masters and the directors are their servants.

I would ask you, sir, to use the influence of your columns with a view to insisting that when a gentleman retires from his directorship he should give a reason, and if there is some cause which he is not desirous of publicly avowing the company of which he is a director should themselves give the cause.—Your obedient servant,

J. S. BLANCKENSEE.

85, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.
December 31, 1929.

[We discuss this letter in an "Investment Note" on page 83.—ED., *Econ.*]

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

Forestry. A Study of its Origin, Application and Significance in the United States. By A. B. Recknagel and N. Spring. (London) Alfred A. Knopf, Ltd., 37, Bedford Square. 10s. 6d.

An illustrated account of forestry in the United States, in which the questions of reconstruction and conservation are kept well to the fore.

Inedible Animal Fats in the United States. By L. B. Zapoleon. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., Orchard House, 14, Great Smith Street.

An examination of the economic and technological problems of a group of animal by-product industries.

Seasonal Unemployment in the Building Industry in Certain European Countries. By L. Hersch. (London) P. S. King, 14, Great Smith Street. 1s. 6d.

This analysis of the facts of seasonal unemployment in the building trades of Great Britain, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Italy is to be followed by a further series of articles suggesting remedies.

Mathiesons' Handbook for Investors for 1930. (London) Fredc. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue. 5s. net.

A record of the prices and dividends of selected securities during the past ten years.

Just Published

THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

By PAUL EINZIG, D.Sc., Pol. & Econ. (Paris), author of "International Gold Movements," etc. **7s. 6d.** net.

Dr. Einzig's book deals with a question now causing very lively discussion. The author represents an intermediate stage between academic economists and practical specialists, and aims at providing material for the discussion of hitherto neglected details of the proposed institution. In doing so it will be found that he breaks entirely new ground.

BRITISH BUDGETS

Second Series—1913-14 to 1920-21. By Sir BERNARD MALLET, K.C.B., and C. OSWALD GEORGE, B.Sc. (Econ.). **20s.** net.

Sunday Times: "This volume, in addition to giving interesting facts with regard to each particular Budget, contains very useful tables analysing public revenue and expenditure."

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON, W.C. 2.

The Trustee Savings Banks of Great Britain and Ireland, from 1817 *to* 1928. By Charles Eason. (London) Simpkin, Marshall, Ltd., Stationers' Hall Court. 1s.

A reprint of a paper containing facts not to be found elsewhere. It is accompanied by a typed sheet containing corrections of numerous statements in the "Encyclopedia Britannica" article on "Savings Banks."

The Bankers' Magazine, January, 1930. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London Wall.

Editorials in this number include "The Banking Year" and "Banking and Industry."

Fourteen Years of European Investments, 1914-1928. By S. Stern. (New York) The Bankers' Publishing Company.

An extremely interesting survey, whose purpose is "to outline certain outstanding features of well-diversified investment in European securities and to establish the record of typical securities over the period mentioned, and, with this record as a background, to clarify some of the factors which, it is believed, influence foreign investments more or less at all times."

Mining: Highest and Lowest Prices, Dividends, etc., for the Past Six Years. Mid-December, 1929. (London) Fredc. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue. 3s.

Foreign Affairs. January, 1930. (New York) Council on Foreign Relations, 25, West 43rd Street. $1.25.

The issue includes, among a number of interesting articles, "The Permanent Bases of Foreign Policy," by Jules Cambon; "Stresemann," by Viscount D'Abernon; "Pan-Europe," by Edouard Herriot; and "British Labour and the Soviets," by Louis Fischer.

A Bibliography of the Monroe Doctrine, 1919-1929. By Professor Phillips Bradley. (London) London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych. 2s.

The Agricultural Economics Society. Proceedings of Conferences, December 12, 1928, and June 21-24, 1929. (Reading) University of Reading, 7 Redlands Road. **2s. 6d.**

Besides the constitution and list of members of the society this publication contains eight papers, including "Some Social and Human Factors in the Agricultural Depression," by A. W. Ashby, and "Some Aspects of Foreign Competition in Relation to Agricultural Produce," by J. P. Maxton.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants: List of Members, 1930, *Royal Charter and Bye-Laws.* (London) Gee and Co., Limited, 6, Kirby Street. 2s.

The Paper-Maker. Annual Number. (London) 47, Cannon Street. 3s.

An illustrated journal containing articles on a wide variety of subjects connected with the paper industry. The leading article on general conditions appears in five languages.

The Crisis in the Coal Industry and a Way Out. By Tom Myers. Second Edition. Published by the author at Brewery Lane, Thornhill Lees, Dewsbury. 2d.

A pamphlet in favour of nationalisation.

British Industries Fair, 1930. *Special Overseas Advance Catalogue.* (London) Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street. 1s.

British Industries Fair, Birmingham, 1930. *Official Catalogue.* (Birmingham) Chamber of Commerce, 95, New Street. 1s.

The Bank for International Settlements. By Paul Einzig. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 7s. 6d. net.

Mr Einzig is to be congratulated on the promptitude of the appearance of this book, which, in his own words, "aims at providing material for the discussion of neglected technical aspects of the proposed institution."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Countries, 1928, *compared with the years* 1924-27. Vol. IV. £1 5s. net.

Nineteenth Report of the Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1929. 4s. net.

Import and Export List. 1929. 9d. net.

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK

(Incorporated with limited liability under the National Bank Act of the United States of America)

Head Office: **55 Wall Street New York**

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits $239,650,233·27

London Branches: **36 Bishopsgate, E.C. 2, and 11 Waterloo Place, S.W. 1**

Condensed Statement of Condition as of December 31, 1929

INCLUDING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BRANCHES

ASSETS.		
Cash in Vault and in Federal Reserve Bank	$172,195,091·28	
Due from Banks, Bankers and U.S. Treasurer	264,930,395·94	
		$437,125,487·22
Loans, Discounts and Acceptances of other Banks		1,245,424,078·49
United States Government Bonds and Certificates	$178,466,500·00	
State and Municipal Bonds	24,684,908·24	
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	6,600,000·00	
Other Bonds and Securities	74,466,508·47	
		284,217,916·71
Subsidiaries:		
International Banking Corporation	$6,000,000·00	
Bank of Haiti, Inc.	2,000,000·00	
		8,000,000·00
Bank Buildings		34,953,147·84
Items in Transit with Branches		22,963,884·97
Customers' Liability Account of Acceptances		165,162,955·58
Other Assets		8,353,699·56
Total		$2,206,241,170·37
LIABILITIES.		
Capital	$110,000,000·00	
Surplus	110,000,000·00	
Undivided Profits	19,650,233·27	
		$239,650,233·27
Deposits		1,649,554,260·74
Liability on Acceptances and Foreign Bills		292,164,182·43
Circulation		99,365·00
Reserves for:—		
Dividends, Interest, Taxes and Expenses	$18,014,735·45	
Contingencies	6,758,393·48	
		24,773,128·93
Total		$2,206,241,170·37

Above includes figures of Foreign Branches and European Affiliate as of December 24, 1929.

CITY BANK FARMERS TRUST COMPANY

(Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the State of New York, United States of America)

(Affiliated with The National City Bank of New York)

Head Office: **22 William Street, New York.**

London Office: **11 Waterloo Place, S.W. 1**

Condensed Statement of Condition as of December 31, 1929

ASSETS.	
Cash in Vault and in Federal Reserve Bank	$818,247·26
Due from Banks and Bankers	50,722,762·36
Loans and other Secured Advances	1,117,929·54
United States Government Bonds	7,469,000·00
Other Bonds, Mortgages and Securities	12,242,553·90
Other Assets	2,207,706·46
Total	$74,578,199·52
LIABILITIES.	
Capital	$10,000,000·00
Surplus	10,000,000·00
Undivided Profits	2,167,651·63
Deposits	50,403,517·53
Reserves for Dividends, Interest, Taxes and Expenses	2,007,030·36
Total	$74,578,199·52

The Stock Exchange.

RETAIL TRADE PROMOTIONS.

LEST we should be accused of having deliberately confined ourselves to the worst examples of reckless company promotions in our series of inquests on the 1928 new issue boom, we propose in the following article to consider a group of issues of a less speculative order, *prima facie*, than the safety glass, film and gramophone flotations so far considered. We therefore propose to discuss the results achieved by eighteen companies engaged in various retail trades, which were floated in 1928 and have submitted their first reports to us for comment. These companies cover a variety of trades—laundries, dry cleaners, tailors, boots, shoes, chemists, drapery stores, tobacconists, fruiterers, restaurants and motor agents. The following table shows the results achieved by these companies in comparison with their respective prospectus estimates, and compares their present market prices with the highest prices recorded in 1929:—

	1928 Public Issue of	Highest Price 1929.	Present Price	Prospectus Estimates. of Profits £	Profits Shown in First Reports £
Advance Laundries	260,000 8% pref. £1 520,000 ord. of 2/–	18/9 2/3½	14/6 1/3½	52,744	28,751
Amalgamated Fruiterers.	225,000 8% pref. 10/- 225,000 ord. of 1/-	9/3 1/11½	2/1½ –/3½	41,620	4,648 (Loss)
Beau Brummel (1928) (Dyers, Cleaners & Valet Service).	160,000 7½% pref. 10/- 480,000 ord. of 2/-	8/6 2/6	4/– –/7½	49,175	9,776
Bolsom Bros. (1928) (Boot and Shoe Factors).	85,000 7½% pref. £1 340,000 ord. of 1/-	17/6 2/–	13/3 1/–	14,588 (1927 actual)	20,086 (15 mths.)
Carlton Shoe Co.	320,000 12% pref. 5/-	5/9	4/6	25,000	22,374
Cavendish House (Cheltenham) (Drapery Store).	300,000 8% pref. 10/- 300,000 ord. of 1/-	11/6 2/–	10/– 1/3	40,577 (1928 actual)	38,362
Charles Finegold (Wholesale Silk & Woollen Merchants)	200,000 8% pref. 10/- 500,000 ord. of 1/–	9/9 1/1½	6/6 –/4½	32,030 (1927 actual)	28,517
John Gardner (London) (Restaurants)	100,000 7½% pref. £1 40,000 ord. of 10/-	21/6 12/4½	20/9 10/–	30,783 (1928 actual)	27,534
Henleys (1928) (Motor Agents).	150,000 7½% pref. £1 150,000 ord. of 5/-	20/3 12/3	14/– 3/6	48,081 (1928 actual)	39,842
Kit-Kat Restaurants	80,000 7½% pref. ord. £1..... 600,000 def. ord. 1/-	13/9 1/9	9/6 –/6¼	43,500	12,687
John Lewis and Co. (Drapery Stores).	750,000 7% pref. £1	23/1¼	21/6	175,920 (1928 actual)	95,542
Melbourne Hart (Cigar Merchants).	120,000 7½% pref. £1	21/–	19/6	42,923 (1927 actual)	27,886
McIlroy's Stores (Stoke-on-Trent Dept. store).	500,000 shs. of 5/-	4/0¾	2/9	20,965 (1927 actual)	4,387
Timothy Whites (Chemists).	1,000,000 7½% pref. shs. £1..... 1,000,000 def. ord. of 1/-	22/9 4/–	22/1½ 3/–	159,294 (1927 actual)	163,640
Prices, Tailors (50/- tailors).	500,000 8% pref. shs. 10/- ..... 250,000 ord. shs. of 1/-	9/3 2/9	8/1½ 1/9	75,000	57,267
Sunlight Laundries...	225,000 7½% pref. shs. £1..... 450,000 ord. shs. of 1/-	20/– 2/6¾	18/3 2/–	69,116	35,599
Mortimers (London) (Tailors and Clothiers).	300,000 8% pref. shs. 5/- 300,000 def. shs. of 1/-	1/8 3d.	No market	30,000	934
Chez Taglioni (Restaurant).	150,000 7½% pref. shs. 5/-..... 150,000 ord. shs. of 1/–	2/– ...	1/– No market	10,000	6,245 (Loss—17 mths.)

Before drawing conclusions from this statement of results we may reproduce the directors' explanations in the cases of those companies whose profits are noticeably less than was estimated in the prospectuses:—

Prospectus Statements.

Advance Laundries.—The advantages of amalgamation are manifest. Great savings can be effected in the purchase on a large scale of materials, fuel and general requirements.

Amalgamated Fruiterers.—The outstanding success that has attended multiple shop trading is common knowledge.

Beau Brummel (1928).—The economy resulting from the amalgamation will produce immediate results.

First Report Statements.

The directors consider that, taking into account the reorganisation expenses which must follow the amalgamation of 14 laundries, results are satisfactory.

The result . . . is attributable to the difficulties and expenses of changing the method of trading from private businesses to a multiple shop organisation.

Unforeseen delays have been experienced in taking over shops and businesses.

Kit-Kat Restaurants.—Centralisation in the catering and distributing departments . . . will result in considerable economy in administration.

John Lewis and Company.—Apart from the economies which should result from unification of administration and additional buying power, the combined profits should be materially increased.

Mortimers (1928).—The business is a cash one and will finance itself.

Chez Taglioni.—"I consider . . net profits should be not less than £10,000 per annum. This I consider to be a conservative figure which I confidently anticipate will be considerably exceeded." (Mr. Taglioni.)

The company during the first nine months of this period met with exceptional difficulties.

The sales of the second half of the year were inevitably affected by the disappointing slowness of the completion of the transfer of the business from the vendors to your company.

The amazing increase in the number of competing tailoring shops has resulted in the returns of some of your branches not reaching directors' expectations.

Redecoration and extension of premises caused a dislocation in business. Road repairs resulted in closing of Gerrard Street for several weeks. Dispute with underwriters resulted in underwriting contract not being carried out.

We deduce from these apologies that an appreciable risk is attendant upon the first stages of the process of rationalisation, and that the successful management of a small individual business affords no guarantee that the management of a combination of businesses will be equally efficient. The difference in the risk involved in turning a number of small private concerns into one large-sized public company, and in establishing an entirely new business, is obviously one of degree and not of kind.

One feature of the finance of these companies deserves especial notice. In the first place, the companies obtained their money by the issue of preference shares which had little of the character of "preferred" securities. For example, when Amalgamated Fruiterers was formed with a preference capital of £288,270 and an ordinary capital of only £52,230 in 1s. shares, the preference shareholders were clearly shouldering the lion's share of the risks of the business. In all these issues (with the exception of John Lewis and Company) the amount of preference was out of all proportion to the ordinary capital, which was invariably in shares of low denomination. In such conditions, when trade is good, preference shareholders must be content with their fixed interest; when trade is bad they must forego their dividends; and if the company is forced into liquidation their capital is lost. It is difficult to imagine a more unattractive type of security. It may be argued that the public was offered a participation in the equity shares of the companies, and that the dividends on the preference shares were high, varying from 7 per cent. to 12 per cent.; but the participation offered in the equity shares was always small, and the "high" dividend rates on the preference shares were a poor compensation for the doubtful security offered.

A second objection, resulting largely from the conditions described, emerges from the fact that, while the present market valuation of the shares offered to the public is £3,731,786, against a par valuation of £4,143,250—a depreciation of £411,464, or over 9 per cent.—the vendor interests obtained £3,053,151 of capital, which is at present valued at £3,551,734—an appreciation of £498,583, or over 16 per cent. The public, in fact, obtained, in many cases, an extremely low proportion of the "equity" shares:—

PERCENTAGE OF EQUITY SHARES OFFERED TO PUBLIC.

Advance Laundries	52·0	Kit-Cat	60·0
Amal. Fruiterers	21·5	John Lewis.....	Nil.
Beau Brummel	44·4	Melbourne Hart.....	Nil.
Bolsom Bros.	100·0	McIlroy Stores	69·4
Carlton Shoe	Nil.	Chez Taglioni	66·7
Cavendish House	15·0	Mortimers	34·1
Charles Finegold	26·6	Prices, Tailors	7·1
John Gardner	13·3	Sunlight Laundries	22·5
Henleys	37·5	Timothy Whites	16·6

However proper it may have been to raise capital for these trading companies by public subscription, it is obvious that the issue of an inordinate amount of "preference" capital, with an excessive amount of the equity shares of low denomination handed out to the vendor interests is, in many cases, a questionable type of finance, the perpetuation of which can scarcely be in the best interest of new companies, their promoters, or the reputation of the City of London itself.

Taken as a whole, these companies make a distinctly better showing than any group previously considered, two of the eighteen having fulfilled their promises, and four others having come within measurable distance of doing so. The disappointing results of the others reinforce the lesson, amply demonstrated by earlier experience, that to run a business profitably under private auspices is one thing, and to operate it with equal success when it has been enlarged, re-capitalised and metamorphosed as a public concern is another. When, in addition, such a business is, as it were, placed in a new context, by being amalgamated with other concerns under entirely different management, the speculative risks inherent in its reflotation are sensibly increased. The investor, of course, has the consolation that the companies to which he subscribes are, presumably, in operation on a commercial scale from the outset—a stage which many of the entirely "new" companies considered in earlier articles have as yet failed to attain, and may never attain. The retail concerns analysed this week may, eventually, establish themselves as sound, profit-earning bodies, though not, in all instances, on a scale sufficient to justify their present capitalisation. The drawbacks involved, however, in flotations of this order, from the investor's point of view, are twofold. In the first place, the change-over from private to public control involves the payment of numerous incidental expenses and, frequently, of substantial profits to the parties immediately concerned in the operation, which saddle the new company with a larger proportion of non-profit-earning capital than the old. Secondly, if the business has really been run on sound lines, and has a reasonably prosperous future before it, the inside parties are reluctant to allow the outside subscriber to share in the equity to any very considerable extent. The investor, therefore, is apt to receive a proportion of the fruits of future prosperity, and a share of voting power, which bear slight relation to the amount of new capital he brings to the business.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
January 21.	January 23.

Quite early in the week, the Stock Exchange made up its mind that a reduction of Bank rate was a probable contingency. Business, consequently, showed a tendency to expand, and though its dimensions, by normal standards, were never more than moderate, the tone of most markets was appreciably more hopeful than for some time past. Paris continued to buy its favourite stocks, particularly Kaffirs. The sensitiveness of the "House" to changed conditions was well demonstrated on Thursday, when the atmosphere became decidedly cooler *before* the Bank's "No Change" announcement was made. Prices eased slightly, but the decision was not regarded as likely to inflict any marked check on the tendency of prices to incipient improvement, the omens, in fact, favouring further cautious activity in anticipation of a reduction in money next week.

Gilt-edged stocks showed conspicuous strength pending the Bank rate decision. The older Conversion Loans were especially firm, while War Loan and Funding Loan gained ground steadily. The immediate effect of the Bank's decision was a shading of prices by about one-sixteenth. The Five per Cent. Conversion Loan, however, was sluggish, and was thought likely to remain so till the stock had become fully-paid and the market less professional. India Loans, the position of which is discussed in a "Note" on

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.							
Conv. Loan 3½%	74⅞	75⅞	+ 1	Treasury 5% (B) ...	101	101⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	93⅜	95⅛	+ 1⅜	Canada 4% 1940-60	88	88	...
Do. 5% 1944-64.....	99⅞	100⅛	+ ⅛	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100⅛	100⅜	+ ⅛	India 3½%	60	61½	+ 1½
Consols 2½%	52⅞	54⅛	+ 1¼	Do. 4½% 1958-68..	78	80⅜	+ 2⅜
Do. 4%	82⅛x	83⅜	+ ⅛	Australia 5% 1945-75	91	91	...
Funding 4%	85⅜	86⅛	+ 1⅛	N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	90	90	...
Victory Bonds 4%.....	91⅛	91⅞	+ ⅝	N. Zealand 5% 1946	99	100	+ 1
Local Loans 3%.....	61⅞	62⅜	+ ⅜				
Foreign Government Securities.							
Japanese 6% (1924) ..	99⅜	100⅜	+ 1	French 5%	21⅜	21⅜	...
Argentine 4% Recisa..	84x	83⅛	— ⅛	Do. 4% (Brit.).....	20	20⅛	+ ⅛
Austrian 6% 1923-43..	102½	103	+ ½	German 7%	103½	104¼	+ ¾
Belgian 7%	109	110	+ 1	Greek 7% Refugee ..	101½	102	+ ½
Brazil 6½% (1927). ...	80	80	...	Hungary 7½%	102⅛	103	+ ⅞
Bulgaria 7½%	87	86	— 1	Chili 6%	95	95⅝	+ ⅝
China 5% (1912)	43½	45½	+ 2	Poland 7%	83½	85½	+ 2
Czechoslovakia 8%....	110½	110⅝	+ ⅛	Mexican 5% (1899)	18½	19	+ ½
Egypt Unified 4% ...	79⅛	79	— ⅛	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	80½x	80	— ½
Corporation Stocks.							
L.C.C. 3%	61	62	+ 1	Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	93	91	— 1½
W. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	95	90½x	— 1½
British and Foreign Railways.							
G. Western Ord. Stk...	90⅜	91⅛	+ ⅜	B.A.& Pacific Ord.Stk.	84½	87	+ 2½
L.N.E., Def. Stk.....	12⅜	13	+ ⅛	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	95⅜	98½	+ 1⅜
Do. 5% Pref. Stk...	37⅜	38⅛	+ ⅛	B.A.Western,Ord.Stk.	80½	82	+ 1½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	54⅜	56⅛	+ 1⅝	Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	21⅞	23	+ 1⅛
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	62½	63	+ ½	G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	3⅛	3⅛	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	71⅛	72	+ ⅝	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	49½	51	+ 1½
Southern Def. Stk. ...	29⅜	31	+ 1½	San Paulo Ord. Stk....	189½	188⅜	— ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	72½	74	+ 1½	Int. Rlys. Cent. Am.			
Underground Ord. £1...	1⅛	1⅛	...	no par	$28⅛	$28⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds..	102	104	+ 2	Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	24	24	...
Can. Pacific Cons. Stk.	195½	196	+ ½	Beira Rlwy. no par.	1½	1½	...
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	87	85½	— 1½				
Banks.							
Bank of England Stk.	248	249	+ 1	Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13⅛	13⅛x	...
Barclay B. (£1).....	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛	Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1⅛	...
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...	Hongk. and S.($125).	115½	115½	— 4
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3	3⅛	+ ⅛	St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14⅛	14⅛x	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅜	+ ⅛	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅜	3⅜x	...
Insurance.							
Alliance £1, fully paid	18⅜	18⅜	...	Pearl (£1).....	12⅜	12⅜	...
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	23	24	+ 1	Phœnix £1 fully pd....	12⅞	13⅛	+ ⅜
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	26½	27	+ ½	Roy.In.£1,with10/pd.	8	8⅛	+ ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.							
Amal. Anthracite (£1).	⅜	⅜	...	Powell Duffryn (£1).	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	2⅜	2⅝	+ ⅛	Stewarts&Lloyds(£1)	1⅞	1⅛	+ ⅛
Baldwin (4/).....	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛	Swan, Hunter (£1) ..	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛	Thornycroft, John(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅜	⅜	...	*Vickers* (6/8)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛				
Textiles.							
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	Eng.Sewg.Cotton(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	⅜	⅜	+ ⅛	Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)...	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛	Listers (£1)	1	1	...
Courtaulds	2⅜	2⅜	+ ⅛	Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Electrical Manufacturing.							
Associated Elec. (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	*General Electric* (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛	...
British Insulated (£1).	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Electric Light and Power.							
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	*Hydro-Elec. com. stk...*	40½	41½	+ 1
City of London (£1) ..	1⅛	1⅛	...	Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...	*Newcastle-on-Ty* (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.							
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅜	⅜	...	Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Imp. Continental Stk.	335	345	+ 10	S. Metropolitan Stk.	100	100	...
Telegraphs and Cables.							
Cables and Wireless — 7½% A Ord.	74	76½	+ 2½	*Canadian Marconi*...	⅞	⅞	...
Cables and Wireless — B Ord.	35	38	+ 3	*Marconi Marine* (£1)...	2⅜	2⅜	+ ⅛
Cables and Wireless — 5½% *Pref.*	96½	98½	+ 2½	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.							
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	...	*Rolls-Royce* (£1).....	2½	2⅝	+ ⅛
Ford Motors (£1).....	2⅛	2⅛	— ⅛	Napier (5/-)	2	2⅛	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	+ ⅛	Singer (£1).....	1½	1⅝	+ ⅛
Shipping.							
Cunard (£1).....	1½	1⅜	— ⅛	P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1) ..	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	Royal Mail Ord. Stk..	29⅛	29⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.							
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛	London Asiatic (2/)...	⅛	⅛	...
Cons.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	22½	21⅞	— 1	*Rubber Trust* (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛
Oil.							
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	3⅜	3⅜x	...	Lobitos (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	⅜	⅜	...
Burmah Oil (£1).....	3⅜	3⅜	— ⅛	*Royal Dutch* (£5½).....	33	33x	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅜	⅜	— ⅛	*Shell* (£1)	4⅜	4⅜x	...
Miscellaneous.							
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	*Imperial Tobacco* (£1)	4⅜	4⅜	+ ⅛
Bras. Traction, no par	$40⅜	$39⅜	— ⅛	*International Holdings*	5⅜	5⅜	— ⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅜	5⅜x	...	*Inter. Nickel of Can..*	33⅞	35⅞	+2⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	13⅛	13x	...	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr.100)	23⅛	25⅛	+ 2⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅜	6⅛	+ ⅛	*Margarine Union* (£1)	3⅛	3⅜	+ ⅛
Distillers (£1).....	3⅛	3⅜	+ ⅛	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
Dunlop (6/8)	⅜	⅜	...	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	15⅛	16⅜	+ 1⅛
Gramophone Co. (£1)...	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛	Tate and Lyle (£1) ...	1⅜	1⅜	+ ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅜	3⅜	+ ⅛	Turner & Newall (£1)	4⅛	4⅛x	...
Hudson's Bay (£1).....	4⅜	4⅛	— ⅛	*United Molasses* (£1)	5⅛	5⅜	+ ⅛
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛x	...	*Vocalion* (10/-)	⅛	⅛	— ⅛
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅜	+ ⅛	Watney Combe Df.(£1)	2⅜	2⅜	+⅛
Mines.							
Anglo-Amer.of S.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	*N'Changa* (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	1⅜	2⅛	+ ⅛
De Beers Def. (£2½)....	10	10	...	*Rhodesian Copper* (3/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Brakpan (£1)	3⅜	3⅛	+ ⅛	*Rhodesian Congo Border* (£1).....	⅞	⅞	...
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p...	1⅜	2⅛	+ ⅛	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	44⅛	46⅛	+ 1⅛
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)...	⅛	⅛	— ⅛	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/p	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	Sub Nigel (10/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	— ⅛	*Tanganyika* (£1)	2	2⅛	+ ⅛
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛	UnionCrp.(12/6)tn.pd.	3⅜	3⅜	+ ⅛
Lake View & Star (4/).	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛				
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛				
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛				

page 79, experienced a certain recovery, the preceding fall having given them a cheap appearance in some eyes. Dealings, however, were not on a large scale. Dominion and Colonial issues remained inactive, apart from a decline in a number of Australian stocks.

The leading feature in the Foreign Market was the support given to certain Chinese bonds. Some slight inquiry was received for Japanese, and the tendency of Europeans continued firm, but no accession of activity was recorded in Brazilian bonds.

Home Railways experienced the broadening of business, which normally occurs between the publication of a year's traffic returns and the declaration of dividends. Midland and Scottish reflected the belief that the company would, after all, show an increase in net earnings in 1929, while Southern were strong on good New Year Continental traffic. Underground issues were a firm feature on Wednesday. After a quiet start, Foreign Railways shared in the mild optimism of other markets, Argentines enjoying a fair recovery, though Brazilians were quiet. Canadian Pacific gained a point or two. Indian railways were on offer at the outset, but became steadier as the week progressed.

In the Industrial markets the carry-over revealed a very small open account, a number of bear positions being, in fact, outstanding. A moderate revival of inquiry this week, mainly professional in origin, thus gave prices a measurable upward trend in a number of cases. Buying of Imperial Chemical drove the bears sharply to cover, the statement being made that the company's volume of business was greater last year than in 1928. Courtaulds further recovered and Celanese were harder, other textiles making headway under the lead of Fine Spinners. The Guest, Keen-Baldwins arrangements, described in an "Investment Note" on page 80, were well received, and, together with the statement regarding negotiations beween Dorman, Long and the "Furness" Companies, served to give the iron and steel share market an air of unwonted public interest. Rolls-Royce showed consistent firmness among motor shares. Associated Cement was a strong feature. Brewery shares obtained support, though Guinness encountered profit-taking after a sharp rise. Some overseas interest was evinced for Lautaro Nitrate. Cables and Wireless took an upward turn. Margarine Union was dealt in for the first time under its new style of Unilevers, the tendency of the shares being firm. Bank shareholders were gratified to learn that the "Big Five's" profits were more than maintained, despite last year's trials and tribulations, a revival of solid investment demand following the announcement of the figures, which are set out on page 79. Insurance shares were similarly firm in tone.

Inactivity reigned in the rubber share market, though the fresh weakness of the commodity did not provoke any large volume of selling. The position is discussed in an "Investment Note" on page 83. Tea share prices had a drooping tendency, buyers being at times difficult to discover, though fair competition for the commodity prevailed at the first auctions of the year. The leaders in the oil market were in moderate demand, but business was limited and largely professional.

The opening of the new account found the mining markets stirred by eager expectation, which later developed into a sizeable buying movement. With Paris and the Cape supporting their favourites, Kaffirs were again in the van of activity. The finance companies shared in the prevailing tendency, "Johnnies" gaining several points. On Tuesday the movement extended to Rhodesians, Bwana, Roan Antelope, and Rhodesian Selection reflecting private orders from New York and Montreal. The drop in silver to a new low level was a bear factor as regards Burma Corporation and other producers, while the partial improvement in tin had few repercussions in the share market. A quieter tone was noticeable at the close, with Tintos a firm exception on the continuance of orders from Paris.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—After a somewhat disappointing opening to the New Year the share market showed ability to maintain itself against a small amount of selling pressure, and subsequently rallied to a moderate extent, reviving hopes of a January rally. The leading feature, however, of the past week has been the distinct improvement in the bond market. It is expected that the condition of this market will soon be tested in an important way. There is still some uncertainty as to how much liquidation may appear on later rallies, due to the existence of large bank loans on securities, but it is certain that any such securities will not be pressed on the market. Meanwhile, it is realised that a good bond market is normally one of the first symptoms of financial recovery. A rally in shares is hoped for, but anticipations are modest, and it is thought that any strong recovery is likely to await clearer signs of a recovery in business. Public utility stocks have been leading features on successive rallies, and copper shares have improved moderately on a partial break in the domestic buyers' strike, which has lasted since September, 1929. Motors have risen slightly on anticipations in advance of the local Show, but remain sluggish pending clearer indications of spring business. The strength of International Nickel is associated with rumours of buying from London. Call and time money are easy, a natural state of affairs at this time of the year, when funds return to New York faster than the Reserve Bank can sell Government securities. The output of the steel industry has increased after the holidays, production being about 60 per cent. of capacity, with some prospect of a rise to 65 per cent. Prices are somewhat ragged. Automobile output is increasing slowly. Good chain-store sales this month indicate a satisfactory volume of purchasing power, with some shifting of buying from the more to the less expensive shops.

	Dec. 26.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104	104[7/32]	104[17/32]
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111[1/32]	111[1/32]	111[13/32]
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99	99[13/32]	99[1/32]
Do. 4¼% '32-47	100[11/32]	101	100[1/32]
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101[7/32]	101[1/32]	101[1/32]
Atchison	223	220	222
Ches. & Ohio	200½	204	205½
Erie	57½	57	57½
Illinois Central	129	129½	129
N.Y. Central	171	170	168
Pennsylvania	74⅜	73⅜	74⅛
Southern Pacific	119⅜	121	119⅜
Southern Rly.	133½	131	133
Union Pacific	215	215	217½
Am. Can.	114⅜	119⅛	123⅛
Alleghany Corp.	24	24⅜	24⅜
Amer. Smelting	71⅜	71⅜	75
Anaconda	73⅛	72⅛	79
Bethlehem Steel	92	92⅞	95⅛
Chrysler Motor	36⅛	35⅛	36⅜
Corn Produce	88⅛	90	90⅛
Eastman Kodak	179	178	177
Gen. Electric	232⅛	241⅛	246
Gen. Motors	41	40⅜	39⅞
Int. Harvester	76⅜	79	80⅞
Montg. Ward	48⅜	47⅜	46⅛
Natl. Biscuit	170	175	182
Phelps Dodge	38½	38½	42
Pullman	82½	84	86½
Sears-Roebuck	92½	84½	87½
Studebaker	42½	43⅜	43⅜
Un. Fruit	100½	101	103½
U.S. Leather	7	7⅜	9⅜
U.S. Rubber	24	24½	25⅜
U.S. Steel	166	167	170½
Westinghouse	135⅞	141	148⅜
Woolworth	70⅜	69½	66
Worthington Pump	67	68	70
Am. Pow. & Light	75½	84	82⅜
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	218½	219	220
Electric P. & L.	46	51	53⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	70	72	74⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	30½	32	34⅛
Radio Corpn.	41½	43⅜	42⅜
Utilities P. & L.	30⅞	31½	32
W. Union Tlg.	187x	190	210
Associated Gas "A"	37⅛	37⅜	37⅛
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25⅜	...	26½
Pan Amer. B.	56	59	57½
Sinclair Oil	23⅜	24½	24
Std. California	60½	60½	60½
Do. N.J.	63½	65½	64⅜

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Dec. 26. (1929.)	Jan. 2.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	144·3	146·0
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	135·4	134·3
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	196·6	202·2
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	151·2	153·0
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·89%	4·83%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 6).	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 2).	Jan. 1.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 3.	Jan. 4.	Jan. 6.	Jan. 7.	Jan. 8.
170·1	167·4	*	167·4	167·6	169·7	170·1	168·7	168·0

* Stock Exchange holiday.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Progress Towards the "Hatry" Settlement.—The last few days have appreciably improved the prospects of an early Stock Exchange settlement in the "Hatry" securities. We understand that the question of "bad stock" does not arise in the case of Photomaton, the public holding of which, in any case, is not very considerable. The Associated Automatic Company will next week apply to the Court for the rectification of its share register. If the Court grants the application, a period will probably be fixed during which objections can be made. Presuming the period were, say, something like three weeks (its actual duration being, of course, entirely a matter for the Court's discretion), the Stock Exchange Committee might find its way clear at the end of that time to fix a Settlement in *all* the stocks concerned on a convenient early date—possibly towards the end of February. Meanwhile, the "unofficial" sub-committee which has been endeavouring to arrive at a concrete financial scheme, acceptable to all the parties closely concerned, would seem to be nearer success than at any earlier time, if the assent of certain remaining parties to its proposals is duly forthcoming. Broadly speaking, the amount involved is of the order of £1,000,000. The characteristic features of the proposed scheme are that the outside public, which dealt in the "Hatry" stocks in good faith, will not suffer; that the danger of prolonged and expensive litigation will be avoided; and that the possibility of a series of failures among members, which would have a damaging effect on the prestige of the Stock Exchange, will, if all goes well, be eliminated. In view of the unfortunate influence which uncertainty regarding the position has exercised during recent weeks, an official statement, in due course, of the date of the settlement will be welcomed by investors generally.

Bank Profits and Dividends.—The profits of the leading British banks in 1929 show a stability which is customary, but, in the circumstances, distinctly gratifying. As will be seen from the following table, published earnings showed a slight increase as compared with those of 1928, and dividend rates were unchanged in all cases except that of Williams Deacon's Bank, which showed a decline in profits from £305,340 to £297,901 and reduced its total "A" dividend from 13¾ per cent. to 13⅛ per cent.:—

	1927.		1928.		1929.	
	Profits. £	Div. %	Profits. £	Div. %	Profits. £	Div. %
Barclays	2,306,329	{A 10 BC14}	2,301,285	{A 10 BC14}	2,331,580	{A 10 BC14}
Lloyds	2,475,674	{A 16⅔ B 5}	2,528,143	{A 16⅔ B 5}	†	{A 16⅔ B 5}
Midland	2,554,650	18	2,656,554	18	2,665,042	18
National Provincial	2,093,452	18	2,108,664	18	2,189,704	18
Westminster	2,132,815	{20 12½}	2,148,408	{20* 12½*}	2,160,384	{20* 12½*}
Martin's	555,229	16	825,434	16	836,240	16
Manch. and County	188,860	16½	188,681	16½	†	16½
District	452,521	18½	455,132	18½	510,526	{18½ B 10}

* On £20 shares and £1 shares respectively. † Figures not yet available.

The year, undoubtedly, was more difficult than its predecessor, though money rates were higher, deposits showed further expansion, and the demand for advances was keen, while a somewhat larger monetary turnover was indicated by the returns of the London Bankers' Clearing House. On the other hand, the recession on the Stock Exchange, while doubtless necessitating few allocations for writing down the older securities in the banks' portfolios (since British institutions do not write up their securities in times of high values), may conceivably have called for financial adjustments as regards more recently acquired securities. Various unfortunate developments in the Stock Exchange and in the world of industry, again, may have tended to make bad debts of somewhat larger dimensions than usual. The main factor in the stability of banking profits is, of course, the strength of the "inside" financial position of all the great British institutions, built up on a policy of conservative dividend distribution, maintained over many years, and continued on the present occasion:—

		Profits.	Dividend.	Reserve.	Premises.	Staff Funds.	Inc. or Dec. in carry-forward.
Barclays	1928	2,301,285	1,666,349	500,000	100,000	50,000	− 15,064
	1929	2,331,580	1,666,349	500,000	150,000	...	+ 15,231
Lloyds	1928	2,528,143	1,973,886	...	250,000	300,000	+ 4,257
	1929	†	†	†	†	†	†
Midland	1928	2,656,554	1,923,788	...	500,000	220,000	+ 12,766
	1929	2,665,042	1,923,788	...	500,000	220,000	+ 10,694
National Provincial	1928	2,108,664	1,706,295	200,000	100,000	100,000	+ 2,369
	1929	2,189,704	1,706,295	200,000	200,000	100,000	− 16,590
Westminster	1928	2,148,408	1,366,276	200,000	375,000	200,000	+ 17,132
	1929	2,160,384	1,366,276	400,000	250,000	200,000	− 45,892
Martin's	1928	825,434	665,606	...	150,000	...	+ 9,828
	1929	836,240	665,606	50,000	100,000	...	+ 20,634
Manchester and County	1928	188,681	177,456	12,040	...	6,000*	− 6,815
	1929	†	†	†	†	†	†
District	1928	455,132	347,600	...	...	40,000	+ 67,532
	1929	502,726	379,200	...	20,000	40,000	+ 63,526

* Voted to general manager. † Figures not yet available.

Figures for Lloyds Bank are not available at the time of going to press. As regards the other members of the "Big Five," it will be noted that Barclays have distributed in dividends this year only 71½ per cent. of their earnings, the Midland 72 per cent., the National Provincial 78 per cent., and the Westminster 63 per cent. Bank shares have been firm this week, on the publication of the various statements, demand from the provinces being particularly in evidence.

The Position of India Stocks.—Certain holders of India stocks have been disquieted by the proceedings of last week's Lahore Congress, a serious fall in values having been only partially recovered during the last few days, as is shown by the following table of representative security prices:—

	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Dec. 2, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Yield at Last Price.
GOVERNMENT.						£ s. d.
3% stock	61[3/8]	50½	54	49½	52½x	5 14 3
3½% stock	71[1/8]	60	64	59½	62½x	5 12 0
4½% Loan, 1950–55	92½	80½	84	79½	79½	5 2 0
5½% Loan, 1932	102	98½	100½	98	98½x	5 1 9
RAILWAYS.						
Bengal, North-Western, ord. stk.	306	271½	272	270	259	7 6 9
East Indian new 3½% deb. stk. red.	71	60½	61½	60	59½	5 17 9
Nizam's ord. stock	275	232½	264	279½	275	6 11 0
Great Indian Peninsula 3½% deb. red. stk.	70	61	63	60	60	5 16 9
UTILITIES.						
Calcutta Elect. Supply, ord. (£1)	2[1/16]	2[1/16]	2[1/16]	2[1/16]	2[1/16]	5 4 6
Calcutta Elect. Tramways, ord. (£1)	1	[3/16]	[3/16]	[3/16]	[3/16]	8 7 0
Madras Elect. Supply, ord. (£1)	1[1/16]	1[1/16]	1[1/16]	1[1/16]	1[1/16]	5 16 3(a)
Rangoon Electric Trams, 6% cum. pref. (£1)	1[1/16]	[1/16]	1	1	1	6 0 0
Tata Power, 7½% "B" debs.	104½	97	100	99	99	7 11 0
INDUSTRIALS AND MINES.						
Bengal Iron, ord. (£1)	1[1/16]	[3/16]	[1/16]	[1/16]	[1/16]	8 17 0
Tata Iron and Steel, 7% deb.	104[1/16]	97[1/16]	100	97	95	7 8 6
Burmah Oil, ord. (£1)	4[1/16]	3[1/16]	3[1/16]	3[1/16]	3[1/16]	5 3 3
Burma Corporation (Rs. 10)	1[1/16]	[1/16]	[1/16]	[1/16]	[1/16]	8 5 0
BANKS.						
Chartered (£5)	22½	18½	18½	16½	17½	5 16 0(a)
National (£25, with £12½ paid)	55	45	46½	44	44	5 13 6
Mercantile "A" (£25, with £12½ paid)	35	30	31	29	28½	7 0 0

(a) Free of income tax. x = ex dividend.

The heaviest decline occurred after the passage, at the Congress, on January 1st, of a resolution declaring that

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" every obligation and concession which an independent India would inherit would be strictly subject to investigation by an independent tribunal " and " would be repudiated if it were not found by the tribunal to be just and justifiable." But there is a considerable difference between threats and ability to carry them out, and, when the Stock Exchange had had time to give second thoughts to the matter, it took comfort from the reflection that no responsible British Government would willingly place the framers of the above resolution in a position to carry it out. The assumption—which has been fostered by the inclusion of India loans under the heading of British funds in the Stock Exchange official list—that India's obligations are guaranteed by the British Government and should, therefore, be on the same yield basis as British securities, is, of course, unjustified, for though these loans are raised on the authority of a British Cabinet Minister—the Secretary of State for India—they are secured, not on British funds, but on the revenues of India. It, therefore, behoves investors in these securities to study a little more closely than is sometimes done the financial position of British India, and compare this position on its merits with that of, say, Canada or Australia. The comparison will be not unfavourable to India, for the financial administration of that country has from long tradition followed very sound rules, with the result that the unproductive debt of India is to-day very small in comparison with her wealth. Whatever may be done in regard to future loans, it is certain that in any change made in the direction of more responsible Government, the charge of these loans upon the resources of India will be maintained in its integrity. This security would, of course, disappear if India were to disintegrate as a result of the new Congress policy, but happily this contingency is very remote.

Stock Exchange Transactions: A Client's Duties.—A Stock Exchange correspondent suggests, with reference to our recent articles on the duties of the broker and the jobber (see the *Economist*, December 7, 1929, page 1096, and January 4, 1930, page 26), that it may be well to complete the picture by a brief reference to the position of the client himself. The first duty of a client towards a broker, declares our correspondent, is to trust him. He must feel that the broker is acting in his interest to the very utmost of his power, and that even if a transaction goes against the broker's personal interest it will be carried through for the client's sake. If the client feels undecided about any particular point with regard to the price at which he dealt, the mechanical routine connected with the obtaining of the transfer, certificate, etc., or the obtaining or the giving up of a dividend, he should never hesitate to write and ask for guidance. Every broker is willing to elucidate, as far as he can, the technicalities of his business, and knows full well that, to men unfamiliar with the practices of the Stock Exchange, much that appears to him as clear as day may be as dark as a London fog. For instance, a client who has been nourishing a grievance because a certificate has been overdue for a month or more will better understand the broker's difficulties if he learns that the directors of the company have not met for some time, or that some of them are ill. The second *sine qua non* for harmonious dealings between broker and client is that the latter shall be prompt in his business transactions, sending a cheque when it is due, or when he is asked to do so, furnishing certificates or bonds in the case of sales, returning transfer deeds with promptitude—regarding, in short, the business of the Stock Exchange as of equal consequence with his own. If he leaves an order to buy or to sell shares, he should renew it from account to account. He should make it plain whether the limit is capable of elasticity, *i.e.*, whether the broker may exercise a certain amount of discretion in executing his order. By carefully studying the certificate or other instrument testifying to the ownership of a particular security, a client can frequently avoid the necessity of troubling his broker for information on various detailed points in regard to that security. Goodwill, as between broker and client, is an asset of material value, and if it be carefully fostered, Stock Exchange business may develop a friendliness of personal relationship such as is found in few other branches of business.

Coal, Iron and Steel Profits.—Though 1929 was marked by a gratifying increase in the output of British pig iron and steel—production of the former during the first 11 months of the year showing a rise of 14.3 per cent., as compared with the corresponding months of 1928, and that of steel ingots a rise of 14.7 per cent.—the profit-earning capacity of the industry continues to leave much to be desired. The following table sets out the profits and dividends for the last two years of various representative companies which have published their accounts during the last two months:—

Company.	1928.		1929.		Ordinary Capital.		
	Net Profits.	Ord. Div.	Net Profits.	Ord. Div.	Par Value.	Present Price.	Yield (%).
	£		£				£ s. d.
Arniston Coal	*Dr.97*	...	7,984	5	£1	14/6	6 18 0
Blaenavon Co	2,357	...	10,295	...	£1	3/9	Nil
Bolckow, Vaughan & Co.	79,016	...	136,929	...	...	...	...
Broomhill Collieries	8,153	2	13,787	2½	£1	17/-	2 19 6
Cargo Fleet Iron	54,699	...	52,537	...	...	...	...
Dorman, Long and Co.	123,538	...	164,162	...	£1	7/-	Nil
Fassifern Coal	3,830	6†	*Dr.975*	...	...	...	...
Hill (Richard) and Co.	4,768	...	5,388	...	£1	2/6	Nil
Horden Collieries	18,642	2½	144,241	7½	£1	22/6	6 13 3
North Lonsdale Iron and Steel	4,121	...	3,998	...	£1	8/-	Nil
Redpath, Brown and Co.	114,321	22†	117,972	22†	...	...	...
Sheffield Steel Products	25,779	...	40,170	...	...	...	...
Shotts Iron Co.	*Dr 67150*	...	3,382	...	£1	12/-	Nil
South Durham Iron and Steel	89,366	6	79,656	6	£1	22/6 xd.	5 6 9
Do., "B"	...	...	...	...	...	10/-	...
Thomas (Richard) & Co.	110,287	...	94,902	...	£1	3/-	Nil
United Steel Companies	*Dr 37487*	...	*Dr 14855*	...	...	...	...
United Strip & Bar Mills	*Dr 10174*	...	1,183	...	...	...	...
Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke	31,920	6	43,257	6	£1	20/6	5 16 6

† Free of income-tax.

Although the aggregate profits of the 18 companies shown in the table increased from £555,889 in 1928 to £904,013 in 1929 only five companies paid ordinary dividends, while the amounts written off for depreciation were not, in all cases, on a large scale. The process of rationalisation, however, has made more rapid progress in 1929 than in any recent year, the past 12 months having witnessed, for instance, the final clearing up of the Armstrong Whitworth position and the merger of Bolckow, Vaughan and Dorman, Long. The last few days have brought the announcement of an agreement between Guest, Keen and Baldwins, discussed in a " Note " below, and reports of negotiations for closer relations between the Dorman, Long-Bolckow, Vaughan group and the " Furness " group on the North-East Coast. For the coal industry the year, though bringing no final solution of the trade's many present problems, was more profitable than 1928, as will be evident from an inspection of the coal company figures shown in the table. The " heavy " industries have naturally been out of favour on the Stock Exchange for some time past, but a firmer tone has been observable in this week's dealings.

Baldwins and Guest, Keen.—A noteworthy step towards the more economic organisation of the iron and steel industry in South Wales is revealed by the announcement that negotiations were completed last Monday for the promotion of a company to take over and operate, as from January 1, 1930, the coke ovens, blast furnaces, steel works, and heavy steel rolling mills of Baldwins and of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds. The two companies, acting in conjunction, will hold the shares and appoint the directors of the new concern. Baldwins' contributions will be the Briton Ferry blast furnaces, the Port Talbot steel works, and the Margam works, which include coke ovens and by-product plants as well as iron and steel works. These all lie some distance west of the Guest, Keen properties concerned, which are at Cardiff and Dowlais. Presumably Baldwins' Cribbwr Fawr collieries (which produce coking coal for Margam) and its interests in the Oxfordshire Ironstone Co., as well as Guest, Keen's iron ore interests in Spain, will be brought in, for, according to the preliminary announcement, the new company will be assured of its own sources of supply of limestone, iron ore, and coking coals. The proposal is subject to the preparation of a detailed scheme, and to the consent of debenture holders, since the properties form part of the security of existing debentures. In principle, the plan is a sound one. It seeks to segregate from each of two rival composite undertakings those branches engaged on similar work, and to merge them, " like with like," into a single unit. Of two plants, each working far below capacity, the less economic can be closed down, with saving of overhead costs; while the other can be worked at full capacity, such capital expenditure as is necessary being concentrated upon it. If the final proposals appear equitable as between the interests concerned, share- and debenture-holders alike should welcome them—possibly with a regret that it was not found practicable to bring them about at an earlier date. The effect will be that Baldwins will have the new company as its principal subsidiary, carrying on all the heavy work, and will continue to operate itself only its lighter steel work, including the manufacture of tinplates. The Port Talbot and the Margam steel works (the latter erected as a war measure at the request of the Government, and continuously unprofitable of recent years owing to lack of demand) are already being operated as one unit. It had previously been intimated that the Briton Ferry works were to be disposed of when opportunity occurred. Guest, Keen shareholders deserve a full statement on the new position of their company's assets in South Wales. Apart from the present changes, the colliery properties are being transferred to Associated Welsh Collieries, Ltd., the formation of which was announced not many weeks ago. Meanwhile the anticipation, expressed in these columns last week, that the Ebbw Vale Company would close its iron and steel section and concentrate on its collieries, has since been confirmed by its new chairman, Sir John Beynon.

Inveresk Paper Affairs.—The formation by the first preference shareholders in the Inveresk Paper Company of a committee to protect their interests has now been followed by the constitution of a committee of ordinary shareholders. The latter have addressed to every holder of ordinary shares a request that they be given authority to act on their behalf at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the company. The committee state that they are informed " that the withholding of the preference dividend has not been brought about by reason of the profits being insufficient to enable payment, but for want of ready cash which had been utilised in anticipation by the further business acquisitions by the late board and the refusal of the bank to make further temporary advances. So far as the committee's investigation has gone, they have every reason for believing that the assets of the company are sound, but clearly require protection." In this connection considerable interest attaches to the first report, issued this week, of Provincial Newspapers, Ltd., the company formed to consolidate the provincial newspaper interests controlled either directly by the Inveresk Paper Company, Ltd., or indirectly through its control of the *Daily Chronicle* group, whose provincial papers were last year transferred to Provincial Newspapers in exchange for the latter company's shares. The accounts show profits for the period December 12, 1928, to November 30, 1929, amounting to £204,968, which contrast with Mr. Harrison's statement at the last meeting of the Inveresk Paper Company that the profits available for dividend, earned by the concerns to be amalgamated, had been nearly £240,000 for the four years ended December 31, 1927, and would be approximately £300,000 for the year 1928. At the date of the balance sheet the issued capital of Provincial Newspapers was £461,644 in 7 per cent. first cumulative preference shares, £1,000,000 in 7 per cent. second cumulative preference shares, and £1,000,000 in ordinary shares. From the statement made by Mr Harrison at the last meeting of United Newspapers, Ltd. (the operating company of the *Daily Chronicle* group), it may be assumed that approximately half of the second cumulative preference and of the ordinary share capital is held by United Newspapers, the remainder presumably having been allotted to shareholders of the amalgamated provincial papers or to Inveresk Newspapers as vendors. The fact, however, that there is a loan from bankers amounting to £750,394 implies that some at least of the other provincial journals were acquired by Provincial Newspapers for cash. On the other side of the balance sheet, freehold and leasehold land and buildings figure at £449,872, plant and machinery at £269,875, goodwill at £1,881,686, and shares in subsidiary companies, at cost, £656,347. A note appended to the balance sheet states that a guarantee has been given in respect of liabilities to bankers of the Inveresk Paper Company to the extent of £650,000, a corresponding guarantee having been given by Inveresk Paper in respect of Provincial Newspapers' bank loan. The decrease in profits and the non-payment of any further ordinary dividend will considerably affect the accounts of United Newspapers and greatly reduce the security behind the large nominal shareholding of Inveresk in the Daily Chronicle Investment Trust. The situation is one in which Inveresk's shareholders may well demand that the investigations of their committee should cover the tangled ramifications of the whole group.

British Cement Products.—The refusal of the directors of British Cement Products and Finance Company to agree to the appointment of a committee of investigation has had a sequel in an effort by dissatisfied shareholders to secure an inquiry by the Board of Trade. For this purpose it is necessary to produce applications from holders of not less than one-tenth of the shares. Shareholders who are interested in this development have been asked to write to the Secretary of the Shareholders' Committee at 4, Broad Street Place, London, E.C. 2. In the *Economist* of December 14th we analysed the accounts of British Cement Products, which showed a loss of £257,829 resulting from the realisation of some of its holdings, while £1,782,146 had been written off for depreciation on its remaining investments. It seems highly necessary that an independent investigation should be made into the position of the whole of the companies of the so-called Horne group, which are so interlocked as to make the study of individual accounts an inadequate and, possibly, misleading process. The results of a Board of Trade inquiry into the group might conceivably suggest important conclusions on the whole subject of the financial interlocking of companies.

Photomaton Parent Corporation.—The first accounts of Photomaton Parent Corporation make dismal reading. At one time last year the 5s. shares commanded a premium of 12s. 9d., giving a market value of over £4,000,000 to the £1,578,590 of capital. Before the suspension of dealings, last September, they were dealt in at 2s. 7½d. At the beginning of last year the directors issued a statement declaring the value of their assets at £4,671,000, of which £4,070,000 represented receipts in cash and shares from the Photomaton subsidiaries. The first accounts disclose net assets of £1,939,567, of which no less than £1,335,368 is represented by patent rights. The following is an analysis of the balance sheet:—

ASSETS.		£
Liquid assets (debtors *less* creditors)		27,375
Patent rights and trade marks		1,335,368
Investments (Photomaton Inc., Photomaton S.A., S.A. Photomaton Italiana, Far Eastern Photomaton, Photomaton (Lancashire and Midland))		857,044
Sundry trading assets		89,572
Stock of machines, parts, paper, etc., *less* manufacturer's claims		91,560
Deposit (repayable))		27,501
		2,428,420
LIABILITIES.	£	
Loan to bankers	47,100	
Austin Friars Trust	352,254	
Photomaton Inc.	19,599	
Photomaton Far Eastern	70,000	
	£488,953	
Net assets		£1,939,567

The trading account for the period from March 16, 1928, to November 15th, shows a loss of £97,557, which is charged against a paper profit of £458,525 arising out of an "assets adjustment account." This credit balance of £360,968 is all that is available for writing down the value of the patent rights. The directors in their report state that the Austin Friars Trust, which was responsible for the formation of the company, and owned about 90 per cent. of the share capital, has been unable to fulfil its obligations in regard to certain further developments. The failure has made it necessary to effect a complete change in the organisation, and, after consultation with the auditors and Price, Waterhouse and Company, the directors have prepared certain schemes which involve (*a*) the formation of a new company, British Photomaton Trading, which will absorb all the existing trading companies and trading assets; (*b*) the re-purchase from Far Eastern Photomaton of its rights and properties in exchange for income debentures and profit-sharing certificates. At Thursday's meeting, when the accounts were passed, the vice-chairman was strongly critical of the methods adopted in the past. Altogether, the company's position affords a striking commentary on the dangers of "parent and off-spring finance," which have been discussed *ad nauseam* in our columns. Whether the Stock Exchange Committee may find it possible to take effective steps against a possible future recrudescence of this objectionable type of finance is an interesting question.

Theatre Securities, Ltd.—A Guarantee Rescinded.—The increasing number of unsatisfactory reports of companies floated during the 1928 boom in new issues should cause greater vigilance to be exercised by shareholders. Vigilance, however, may be of little avail if resolutions are carried at a general meeting by the use of overwhelming proxies in the directors' favour against the manifest wishes of the shareholders present. Theatre Securities, Ltd., made a public issue in July, 1928, of 100,000 7½ per cent. preference shares of £1 and 2,000,000 ordinary shares of 1s. at 1s. 3d. The report of the company for the period July 14, 1928, to June 30, 1929, showed profits amounting to only £17,460, against a comparable figure for 1927 of £31,259. At the general meeting the directors submitted a resolution for the cancellation of the guarantee which they had given that certain expenditure would not in future be borne by the company. It was explained that the theatres had been run as privately owned businesses and that certain payments had been debited in the accounts which would not ordinarily be found in the accounts of a public company. The experience of the first year's working, according to the directors, had proved that the existence of the guarantee was acting against the best interests of the company, and that the directors, in justice to themselves, were forced to avoid, or hesitated to incur, certain expenditure which was both reasonable and necessary. The first year's accounts of the subsidiary companies showed sums aggregating £4,805 which the accountants had treated as falling within the purview of this guarantee. The shareholders at the general meeting naturally resented the cancellation of a guarantee which formed part of the promises on which they had subscribed to the issue in July, 1928. A heated discussion apparently took place. The shareholders proposed the appointment of a committee of investigation, which was carried on a show of hands. The Chairman then demanded a poll, stated that the votes were 100,471 against the shareholders' amendment and 15,191 for it, and then declared the resolution abolishing the guarantee carried, adding that if the shareholders wanted a poll they could have one and the same figures would serve. Apart from the circumstances of this, or any other particular case, the principle involved is of prime importance, and deserves careful consideration by all shareholders.

British American Tobacco Meeting.—That 1929 did *not* involve a break in the record of increasing profits earned by the British American Tobacco Company, despite the apparent drop shown by the company's published figures, was the most interesting fact emerging from this week's general meeting. The chairman, Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, Bart., recalled that in October, 1928, shareholders had received shares in the Tobacco Securities Trust, which took over certain assets of the B.A.T. Allowing for dividends paid on the latter, the total B.A.T. distribution for 1929 was 26.821 per cent., against a comparable 1928 figure of 25 per cent. Without departing from the tradition of reticence which enshrouds the operations of this great concern, Sir Hugo made it clear that the year had been one of continued expansion in various directions. Despite the elimination of the Tobacco Securities Trust assets, shares and bonds in subsidiaries and associated companies showed a rise of £787,313, while loans to these companies were up by £1,397,883, the latter reflecting an increase in business, which, in the case of the parent company, had necessitated a rise of £2,539,090 in stock-in-trade, mainly to finance increased purchases of leaf tobacco. Part of the resources required had been obtained by drawing on cash, the company's bank balance having declined over the year by £1,584,633. Sir Hugo's summary, however, made no reference to the nature of the further expansion in the company's activities, actual or projected, which had induced the directors to obtain as much as £6,000,000 of new money last autumn by the issue of 6 per cent. second preference shares. For fresh light on this matter shareholders must, apparently, await the next annual balance sheet.

Liebig's Results.—The increasing popularity of meat extracts with the consuming public is reflected in the latest results of this well-known firm, despite the not altogether satisfactory conditions which have recently prevailed in the meat trade generally. Net profits, at £371,126, are the highest obtained during the sixty-four years of the company's existence, and for the seventh year in succession show an increase on those of the previous twelve months. Preference dividend absorbs £50,000, and from the balance dividend on ordinary shares is to be paid at the rate of 16 per cent., free of tax, which is, roughly, the percentage earned:—

	Years Ended August 31.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Issued capital	2,500,000	2,500,000	3,000,000
Profit	325,086	344,863	377,126
Preference dividend	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ordinary, after tax: Earned	18·3%	19·6%	16·0%
Paid	16%	16%	16%
Amount	240,000	240,000	240,000
To reserve	25,000	50,000	...
Inc. or dec. in carry-forward	+10,086	+4,863	+1,126

In spite of the improvement in profits, no allocation has been made to reserve fund this year and the carry-forward item has increased by only £1,126. The practically complete absorption of profits by dividends would seem to suggest that the capital obtained by the issue of 100,000 new £5 ordinary shares to shareholders at a premium of 50 per cent. in October, 1928, has not yet become fully productive. Nevertheless, the balance sheet reveals an unmistakably sound position. Reserves total £1,625,000 on an issued capital of £3,000,000, while assets exceed current liabilities by £2,745,225, as compared with £1,999,949 this time last year. Cash is up £12,500 at £199,946, and stocks on hand are nearly a million higher at £3,645,790, while contingent liabilities are now only £215,446, as against £339,459 twelve months ago. The latest price of the £5 shares is £15 10s., which, allowing for a final dividend of 9s. per share, gives a yield of £5 6s. 3d. per cent., free of tax.

TELEGRAMS: "NAKLANK" BOMBAY
Ali Mahomed Mecklai & Co.
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POST BOX No. 585. *Bombay*

Malayan Rubber Shipments.—The rubber share market remains in the doldrums, after a disappointing year, with few omens of an early change for the better. The commodity has not only failed to regain the level of one shilling a pound, prophesied some months ago, but remains obstinately under 8d., and early this year touched its lowest point for seven years. The main cause of this disappointing state of affairs has been the phenomenal increase in shipments from Malaya, the world's largest crude rubber exporter:—

Month.	1928.		1929.	
	Total Exports.	Of which obtained from other Areas.*	Total Exports.	Of which obtained from other Areas.*
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
January	27,731	16,618	52,546	13,415
February	28,813	12,911	47,926	12,103
March	27,813	10,508	49,448	14,553
April	20,029	9,335	49,816	11,414
May	26,403	10,350	43,960	15,593
June	22,930	16,168	40,398	14,344
July	30,405	13,383	46,454	15,071
August	35,593	15,114	50,441	15,469
September	29,700	11,239	53,484	12,392
October	24,441	12,603	47,937	12,516
November	68,072	10,436	46,279	11,204
December	66,763	11,112	48,513	13,451
	408,693	149,777	577,202	161,525

* Including a large proportion of "native" rubber, with a large moisture content.

The total exported has increased by 41 per cent. during the year, practically the whole of this expansion being attributable to Malayan-grown rubber, re-exports from other areas showing the comparatively negligible growth of 11,700 tons. Some increase was expected, since for ten months of 1928 restriction was operative, exports being limited to 60 per cent. of standard production. Heavy Eastern stocks, estimated at between 70,000 and 111,000 tons, remained for disposal in the last two months of that year and the opening months of 1929. The steady decline in the monthly shipments between November, 1928, and June, 1929, suggested the comforting thought that these stocks were being steadily liquidated. The subsequent rise in the figures, however, suggesting the semi-permanent "stabilisation" of exports between 45,000 tons and 55,000 tons a month, came as an unwelcome indication that the productive power of the industry under unrestricted conditions, particularly after a lengthy period of enforced "resting," had been greatly underestimated. The shock to confidence administered by the American share market slump thus came at a particularly unfortunate moment. Part of the increase in shipments has been taken up by higher consumption in America, and, more particularly, in Europe. London and Liverpool, however, have been called upon to carry about a third of the increase, stocks in these two centres having risen from 24,900 at the beginning of 1929 to 76,000 at the end of last week.

Silver and Silver Shares.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Although the recent drop in the price of silver appears to have come as a surprise to those interested in silver-producing companies, it merely represents the acceleration of a movement which has been in progress for some time; a movement largely due to the growing demonetisation of the metal. It may be recalled that in the report of the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, published in 1926, reference was made to this tendency. It was remarked that the increasing use of notes, and the resort to nickel and other base metals for subsidiary coinage, pointed to "a distinct diminution in the demand for silver in future." This naturally presaged a fall in the metal. From an average of 28 11/16d. in 1926 the price of bar silver declined to 25 15/16d. in 1927, rallied to 26¼d. for 1928, but is now under 20d. per fine oz. With some large producing companies silver is a by-product; for example, the Anaconda Copper Company turns out 20,000,000 ozs. per annum, the Aramayo 2,000,000 ozs. and the Burma Corporation approximately 7,000,000 ozs. With others it is the chief, or sole, source of income. Thus, in the year ended June 30th last, the Santa Gertrudis recovered 55,550 ozs. gold and 13,186,200 ozs. silver. For the latter the average price on the New York market was $0.567 per fine oz., as against $0.573 for the previous year, but at the conclusion of the latest period the quotation was only $0.524. To-day's level is under 44 cents. This difference of about 13 cents, or over 6d. per oz. as compared with the average for 1928-29, would represent more than the amount distributed for the year (3s.) by the Santa Gertrudis Company. In the case of an associated undertaking, the Fresnillo, a similar position exists. This company has recently paid 25 cents per share per quarter; the latest ore reserve estimate postulated oxide material containing 13,480 ozs. gold and 12,706,000 ozs. silver; sulphide, positive, 807,000 tons of complex ore. It may be recalled that the Lampa Silver Mining Company shut down a few weeks ago after having paid small dividends during the past two years.

Fanti Consolidated.—The promptly issued report of this mining-finance enterprise marks a distinct step forward, the profit of £135,200 comparing with £103,300 for 1928. Accordingly, the dividend rate is further advanced, the 1s. per share now declared making a total of 1s. 6d. per 8s. share, as against 1s. previously and 9d. in respect of 1927. On the present basis the yield shown is about 11 per cent. As the increase in last year's profits arose entirely from realisations, maintenance of the rate must not be too strongly assumed. The sum of £30,000 is transferred to reserve, increasing that fund to £60,000. The more notable changes in the portfolio comprise an increase in the number of Chartered shares from 50,000 to 100,000; a reduction in the Bwanas from 100,000 to 70,000 and in the Rhodesian Broken Hills from 50,000 to 20,000.

Resignation of Directors.—A correspondent whose letter is reproduced on page 73 of this issue voices a complaint frequently made by investors. For some time past unsound health and other ills have been exceptionally rife on the directorial boards of certain companies, particularly those which have failed to fulfil their prospectus estimates, or have over-traded, or have suffered heavy depreciation on the Stock Exchange. The position of a director who has lost faith in a concern, with respect to which he may be incurring legal liability without, in fact, having any deciding voice in its affairs, is naturally unenviable, but the investor who has subscribed for shares on the strength of the "sound names" on a prospectus has a legitimate grievance if the first onset of trouble produces a crop of directorial resignations. Our correspondent, however, appears to have overlooked the fact that under the new

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C. 4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Companies Act the position of the inefficient or ill-informed director has become much more onerous, and what has been described as a mild "flight of the guinea-pigs" would certainly appear to have been in progress during the last few weeks. Obviously, British company finance will be strengthened rather than weakened in the long run by the elimination of weak "figure-head" directors. A much more serious situation has arisen, however, in some recent cases in which a managing director, whose specialised technical knowledge or experience has been a company's chief asset, has voluntarily resigned at the precise moment when his services should, presumably, have been of maximum value. Whether, however, practical means can be devised of compelling full and frank disclosure of the real reasons for a director's resignation, as our correspondent suggests, is an open question, though the Stock Exchange Committee, with its unequalled powers for safeguarding the investors' interests, might conceivably examine its possibilities. Ultimately the most effective solution would be to ensure that pusillanimous directors were altogether excluded from company boards at the outset, either by the formidable nature of their legal liability or by the disappearance of the conception that directing a company is a "spare-time" occupation. The corollary of the latter would be the payment of a considerably higher scale of remuneration to much smaller boards of directors than are in existence, in many cases, at the present time.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The brighter tone of the Stock Exchange has coincided with a tentative "trying-out" of conditions in the new issue market, after a protracted period of suspended animation. Three offers were made this week. The *North-West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority* issue of Five per Cent. Stock was made for the purpose of financing a stage in the progressive electrification of an area with large industrial potentialities. Though the stock is not a trustee issue, its security is unexceptionable—a condition which would seem to have been fully taken into account when its yield was decided upon. *E. S. and A. Robinson* offered a sound preference security, covered over seven times, in an old-established and profitable business. In this case, again, the yield was not over-generous, but prompt over-subscription was obtained, preferential allotment being promised to customers and shareholders. That the shilling deferred share has not become defunct during the recent slump is evidenced by its reappearance in the prospectus of *Taylors (Cash Chemists)*. The proceeds of this issue are to be used to extend a multiple shop business made into a public company in July, 1928. This issue falls into the category to which reference is made in a leading article on "Retail Trading Promotions," on page 76 of this issue.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to January 4, 1930, Nil.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to January 4, 1930, Nil.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales four days ended January 4, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to January 4, 1930, *Dr. £3,400,000.*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
North-West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority	886,000	...	872,710	43,635	829,075
Robinson (E. S. & A.)	400,000	...	400,000	50,000	350,000
Taylors (Cash Chemists) Cum. Pref.	250,000	...	250,000	31,250	218,750
Def.	12,500	...	12,500	12,500	...
Total offered to public, week ended Jan. 11, 1930	1,548,500	...	1,535,210	137,385	1,397,825
To Shareholders only.					
Auto-Rides, 369,950 Ord. 1/- at 6s.	18,498	...	110,985	36,995	73,990
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Jan. 11, 1930	18,498	...	110,985	36,995	73,990

To date—	Total Offered for Subscription—Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	1,696,195	1,696,195
1929	30,648,105	18,138,105
1928	...	4,654,703
1927	...	8,879,300
1926	...	15,500,333
1925	...	2,880,992
1924	...	2,616,750
1923	...	20,508,648

Whole year—	Total Offered for Subscription—Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Total week ended January 4, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
United Tobacco Companies (South), 1,000,000 6½% Pref. £1 (Jan. 2)	1,000,000	21/6	1,075,000
Total, week ended, January 11, 1930	1,000,000	...	1,075,000
Total to date, 1930	1,000,000	...	1,075,000
Total to date, 1929	341,250	...	392,187

North-West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority.—Issue of £886,000 5 per cent. stock, 1950-70, at £98 10s. per cent., the proceeds to be utilised in the acquisition of new generating plant belonging to the Corporations of Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford. An annual sinking fund will be established, sufficient to redeem the stock on or before July 1, 1970. The stock is repayable at par on July 1, 1970, but the authorities reserve the right to repay the whole amount at par at any time on or after July 1, 1950. The stock and interest thereon is charged on the undertaking and all the revenues of the authority. On payment of the purchase price of £631,081, the authority will have the monopoly of the public supply of electricity to the Corporations of Stoke-on-Trent and Stafford.

E. S. and A. Robinson, Ltd.—Issue at par of 400,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, of £1 each, ranking for dividend *pari passu* with existing 6 per cent. and 7½ per cent. preference shares, redeemable at any time by special sanction at 10 per cent. premium. The company was incorporated as a limited company in 1893 to carry on the business of printers, paper bag and cardboard manufacturers. Net profits for the year ended February, 1929, were £336,058, covering interest on 6 per cent. and 7½ per cent. preference shares, including the present issue, 5.3 times.

Taylors (Cash Chemists) London, Ltd.—Issue at par of £250,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 250,000 deferred ordinary shares of 1s. each. No part of the issue has been underwritten. Profits of the company for the year 1928-29 were £55,174, dividends being paid at the rate of 7½ per cent. on preferred shares and 25 per cent. on deferred shares. Interest on preferred shares, including the present issue, requires £56,250.

Particulars of the following have been issued for information only, with a view to Stock Exchange introduction. **Greek Exchanged Refugees Indemnity Loans, 1926 and 1928;** Issued loans £9,940,693 in 8 per cent. bonds and £1,350,973 in 6 per cent. bonds. Power is reserved to issue the balance of the 6 per cent. loan, standing at £3,049,027. The loans are the direct obligation of the Greek Government. **Field, Sons and Company, Ltd., Bradford;** Issued capital 3,571 cumulative preference shares of £1, 3,552 preferred ordinary shares of £1, and 77,469 ordinary shares of £1. Incorporated May, 1905, to acquire the business of printers and stationers carried on by M. Field & Sons. **Auto Rides, Ltd.;** Issued capital, 283,750 shares of 1s. each. Incorporated in March, 1929, to acquire property and assets of Midget Motor Ride, Ltd.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, summary of balance sheets, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 92, under the heading "Company News."*]

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
January	207,021	206,094	217,027	195,481
February	194,556	195,996	196,649	191,786
March	197,908	213,708	204,000	200,435
April	219,984	204,876	206,234	203,780
May	209,331	207,818	200,130	203,798
June	221,560	223,418	218,745	204,603
July	213,500	207,448	206,877	196,016
August	209,982	199,860	214,077	196,528
September	204,187	193,646	201,625	190,354
October	211,680	197,501	182,032	198,308
November	215,982	200,481	201,689	195,386
December	202,836	208,016	189,319	...
Total Gold	2,508,527	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,176,475

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

PROFIT FIGURES EXPLAINED.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the British-American Tobacco Company, Ltd., was held, on the 6th instant, at the registered offices of the company, Westminster House, 7, Millbank, London, S.W., Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman said: As you are aware, it is usual at our annual meeting to go through the various items of the balance sheet and make some comments thereon.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

Taking the assets side of the balance sheet first, you will observe that the item of real estate and buildings at cost, less provision for amortisation of leaseholds, £701,473, shows an increase of £132,414 as compared with last year. This is accounted for by the purchase of some leasehold property and by additional factory buildings which have been erected and are in course of erection.

Plant, machinery, furniture and fittings at cost or under, £821,079, shows an increase of £43,832. This increase is made up of items of additional machinery required in your factories.

Goodwill, trade marks and patents at the same figure as last year—namely, £200,000—and, in view of the great value of the company's trade marks, the directors remain of the opinion that this item should appear on the balance sheet, even if only at the nominal value of £200,000.

INVESTMENTS.

Investments at cost of under in (1) shares in subsidiary companies, £17,651,336, and (2) shares and bonds in associated companies, £4,067,058, making a total of £21,718,394, show an increase over last year of £787,313, and is the largest item on the assets side. This increase is after the deduction from investments of the book value of the Tobacco Securities Trust Company, Ltd., shares which were distributed to the ordinary shareholders in accordance with the extraordinary resolution of October 29, 1928, and is accounted for by the increase of your investments in subsidiary and associated companies and in the purchase of new businesses. As I mentioned last year, the actual value of your proportion of the net tangible assets of these subsidiary and associated companies considerably exceeds the figure at which the investments are carried in the books of your company.

Loans to and current accounts with your (1) subsidiary companies (less provision for doubtful accounts), £3,303,896, and (2) associated companies (less provision for doubtful accounts), £3,528,391, show an increase of £1,397,883. This increase is due to expansion in the businesses of our subsidiary and associated companies.

Investments in British Government securities and other investments, at cost or under, £47,509, show a decrease of £227,719 on September 30th last.

LARGER STOCKS.

Stocks of leaf, manufactured goods and materials at cost, or under, now stand at £8,808,580, or an increase of £2,539,090. This is chiefly due to the increase in the purchase of leaf tobacco to meet increasing business. The stocks of leaf, manufactured goods and materials have been carried at cost or under as in previous years.

Sundry debtors, less provision for doubtful debts, £2,429,735, shows a decrease of £1,922,840. This decrease is chiefly due to the short term deposits, £2,250,000, appearing under this heading last year having been absorbed in the development of our businesses.

Cash at bankers, in transit and at call, £1,172,188, shows a decrease of £1,584,633. This decrease is mainly accounted for by the increased requirement of our business, as previously mentioned, for stocks of leaf, etc.

Turning to the liabilities side of the balance sheet, the issued capital of 4,500,000 preference shares remains the same, but the issue of ordinary shares is increased from 23,540,236 to 23,574,036, an addition of 33,800 shares. This is due to the issue of shares to certain directors under a resolution passed at a meeting held on June 21, 1926. The new six per cent. second cumulative preference shares were not issued during the year under review.

Creditors—that is, subsidiary companies, £1,570,949; associated companies, £1,489,800, and other creditors, £4,672,378, making a total of £7,733,127, represents an increase of £2,008,761 on the figure at which it stood last year. The greater portion of these balances consists of provision for payment of taxation due to British, Dominion and foreign Governments, and moneys deposited by your subsidiary and associated companies.

The item of reserves for buildings and machinery now stands at £550,000, an increase of £25,000.

Premium on ordinary shares issued stands at £576,558, an increase of £16,900. This increase is due to the premium received on the shares issued to directors previously mentioned.

Provision for redemption of coupons now stands at £60,239, an increase of £1,276.

Special reserve has increased from £1,921,511 to £1,924,014, an increase of £2,503. As your chairmen have stated in speeches in previous years, this account was created in which to carry profits of a capital nature.

YEAR'S PROFITS.

This brings me to the last item—namely, profit and loss account. The accounts show a net profit for the year, after deducting all charges and expenses and providing for income tax, of £6,357,772, a decrease of £205,787. I will deal with this item later.

Last year we carried forward a balance of £4,736,173, out of which we paid a final dividend of 1s. 8d. per share (free of income tax), amounting to £1,961,686, which left us with a disposable balance of £2,774,486, from which is to be deducted £1,166,269, the book value of the shares of Tobacco Securities Trust Co., Ltd., distributed to you in accordance with the extraordinary resolution of October 29, 1928, leaving an amount of £1,608,217. To this must be added to the profits for the year as previous mentioned, £6,357,772, less the preference dividend of £225,000, and the four interim dividends paid on the ordinary shares for the year amounting to £3,927,714, leaving a disposable balance of £3,813,275, out of which the directors recommend the allocation of the sum of £100,000 to an employees' benevolent fund, and the distribution on January 17 of a final dividend (free of British income tax) on the issued ordinary shares of 1s. 8d. per share, amounting to £1,964,503, leaving £1,748,772 5s. 3d. to be carried forward.

DISTRIBUTION TO SHAREHOLDERS.

With regard to the decrease in the net profits, I would point out that it is not caused by a shrinkage in the actual profits of your company or your company's subsidiary and allied companies. You will remember that a substantial portion of your company's holdings in certain of those companies was sold to Tobacco Securities Trust Company, Ltd.

In October, 1928, you approved of the distribution to the shareholders of one ordinary share and one deferred share in Tobacco Securities Trust Company, Ltd., for every eight ordinary shares held by them, and, as you know, Tobacco Securities Trust Company, Ltd., paid a dividend of 16 per cent. (less income tax) on its ordinary shares and a dividend of 2.742d. (less income tax) on its deferred shares for the year ended October 31st last. Therefore if it is your pleasure to agree to your directors' recommendation as to the final dividend, any shareholder who has retained his shares in Tobacco Securities Trust Company, Ltd., will have received dividends from the two companies which would be equivalent to a total dividend at the rate of 26.821 per cent., free of tax, on his holding as at October, 1928, or an increase of 1.821 per cent. over the previous year's dividend.

Results for the year under review in nearly all parts of the world, were, I am glad to say, very satisfactory. This is greatly due to the good management and efficiency of the boards of directors of the subsidiary and associated companies and the loyalty of their respective staffs, and I am sure that you will join with me in congratulating them on the successful results they have achieved.

CURRENT YEAR'S BUSINESS.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that your business for the first three months of the current year continues to be satisfactory.

I now beg formally to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet for the year ended September 30, 1929, including the payment on January 17th instant of a final dividend of 1s. 8d.

per share upon the issued ordinary shares, free of British income tax.

I may also mention that the directors have declared for the year 1929-30 an interim dividend of 10d. per share, free of British income tax, also payable on January 17th, so that the shareholders will receive on that date 2s. 6d. per share.

Mr J. D. Gilliam (one of the deputy-chairmen) seconded the resolution, and, in the absence of any questions or comments, it was carried unanimously.

TRANSVAAL AND DELAGOA BAY INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

The ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders was held in Johannesburg, on Tuesday, December 3, 1929.

The Chairman (Mr S. C. Black), in the course of his speech, said :—The realised net profit, after making provision for depreciation, Government and other taxes, amounts to £81,663 7s. 11d. We brought forward last year £108,559 10s. 2d., making, together, £190,222 18s. 1d. Deducting the interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share paid on June 7th last, £20,812 10s., and the sum of £10,000 placed to reserve fund, we bring forward a balance of £159,410 8s. 1d. to the credit of profit and loss account. We recommend payment of a final dividend of 3s. 6d. per share which, with the interim dividend mentioned, brings the dividend for the financial year to 5s. per share=25 per cent. free of Union of South Africa ordinary income tax. The financial position, it will be seen, is thoroughly sound. Cash and equivalent assets, *less* sundry creditors, amount to £233,277 1s., compared with £229,266 17s. last year.

Turning to our two producing collieries, the Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Collieries and the Douglas Colliery, Ltd., you will observe that their joint production was £864,303 tons, which is 9,204 tons better than the previous year. The increase is due to an expansion in the internal demand of the country. The arrangement concluded with the Douglas Colliery to work certain outlying portions of your company's property, near the workings of that colliery, is of mutual benefit. The Douglas Colliery's cash and equivalent assets on June 30, 1929, after paying a like dividend as in 1928, viz., 17½ per cent., aggregated £95,199 6s. 4d. Machinery and plant have been maintained in a state of high efficiency, and some few additions were made. The provision for depreciation is ample. The width of the seams in both collieries and the superior quality of the coal show no change.

LOURENCO MARQUES.

I am pleased to say that this important town at last shows signs of progress and that building operations are being undertaken in many parts, but chiefly in the central or business quarter. We have watched developments for many years, but did not feel justified in spending money on buildings while we were doubtful of an adequate return. The time has now arrived when we think it safe to change this policy, and we have decided in the first place to erect a substantial building on our "H" Block on the Avenidas da Republica and Aguiar. It will comprise a fine kinema theatre —which has been leased in advance for a number of years on satisfactory terms—and offices and shops which, facing two prominent streets, should command fair rentals. The building is to be completed next year, and we look forward to its proving a profitable investment.

The narrow gauge railway line laid across our concession ground from the town to Marraquene will be relaid with rails of the normal gauge of the main line, viz., 3 ft. 6 in. A deviation to suit the traffic demands was mutually agreed to, and when the new railway is completed it should have a considerable influence on the future value of our 2,500 acres freehold land, adjoining the township of Lourenço Marques.

Farm properties show an increase of 5,518 acres in freehold compared with last year's schedule. The greater portion thereof is comprised in the farm Hernhouse, in the Rustenburg District, which we acquired at a reasonable price. It is contiguous to our large land holding in that district called the "Two Rivers Estate," and squares off its south-westerly boundary, the whole making a fine compact block of 74,800 acres.

Notwithstanding the dry season and lateness of the rains, we reaped some 255 bales of cotton. The railway terminus at Middelwit Station, which was opened for general traffic in August last, brings the estate within 50 miles of the line of railway, and will make for speedier and cheaper transport.

THE MANHATTAN SYNDICATE OF MASHONALAND, LTD.

Our land holding is unchanged and of increasing value, as there is fair inquiry for good land and prices are likely to advance.

The South African Phosphates Exploration Syndicate, Ltd. (Northern Transvaal).—I referred to our participation in this undertaking at our last meeting. Sufficient development work has now been accomplished, and it is proposed to form a public company in the near future. Some valuable disclosures of the phosphate-bearing lodes were made of late, which give promise of a high percentage product when a plant is erected to deal with it on a commercial scale. We have taken a participation in an emerald prospecting venture in the Leydsdorp District of the Northern Transvaal. Work is proceeding on the company's claim holding and encouraging specimens of crystals have been found.

The report and accounts were unanimously agreed to.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the 4 days ended January 4, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	6,800	From Revenue	10,552
Interest, &c., on Debt	5,617	Increase in Debt	2,314
Sinking Fund	190		
Sundries	230		
Increase in Balances	29		
	12,866		12,866

The ordinary revenue for the four days to January 4, amounted to £10,551,900, as compared with £14,891,700 in the corresponding five days last year. Income tax and super tax were lower at £2,547,000 and £1,880,000, against £3,665,000 and £2,610,000 respectively. Customs amounted to £2,220,000, as compared with £2,242,000, and Excise to £458,000, against £823,000. Ordinary and special receipts were nil, as compared with £104,500, and £1,650,000 respectively. The National Debt was increased by £2,314,200, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 10,250	Public Dept. Advances	— 3,100
Treasury Bills	+ 19,478	Bank of England Advances	— 24,240
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Sundries	— 124
	+ 29,778		— 27,464

The Floating Debt was reduced by £7,925,000 to £849,690,000.

Financial Year, 1929–30, April 1 to January 4.

	£		£
Expenditure	601,108,679	Revenue	429,026,047
		Decreases in balance	3,645,199
		Amount borrowed	168,437,433
	601,108,679		601,108,679

Estimates for Financial Year, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	204	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	832	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	221	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,253	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	111	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	385	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	261	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	773	681	600
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	360	361	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,094	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	788	700	799
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	28	37	50
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,628	7,665	7,500	7,683
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	103	120	108
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,768	7,620	7,791

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Jan 5, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Jan. 4, '30.	Movement 10 days ended Dec. 31, '29.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	5,750,000	...	...	— 24,240,000
Advances by Public Deptmts.	26,240,000	37,050,000	50,030,000	— 3,100,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	784,200,000	700,295,000	799,660,000*	+ 19,415,000
Total Floating Debt	816,190,000	737,345,000	849,690,000	— 7,925,000

* Includes £23,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on January 3, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £63,480,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £98 19s., and above in full; Tuesday to Saturday, at £98 18s. 9d., about 52 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £36,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Nov. 1	45,000,000	104,935,000	5 15 8·33
Nov. 8	45,000,000	69,150,000	5 13 9·82
Nov. 15	45,000,000	71,555,000	5 9 2·92
Nov. 22	45,000,000	65,485,000	4 16 8·14
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9 67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Revenue and Other Receipts.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Jan. 4, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Jan. 5, 1929.	Four Days Ended Jan. 4, 1930.	Five Days Ended Jan. 5, 1929.
Ordinary Revenue.	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—					
Income Tax	239,500,000	77,887,000	79,078,000	2,547,000	3,665,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	17,000 000	17,750,000	1,880,000	2,610,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	59,530,000	61,100,000	830,000	740,000
Stamps	31,000,000	17,480,000	20,880,000	200,000	420,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	580,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	190,000	170,000	...	...
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	172,097,000	179,558,000	5,457,000	7,435,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	93,007,000	92,646,000	2,220,000	2,242,000
Excise	130,550,000	98,858,000	104,558,000	458,000	823,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	191,865,000	197,204,000	2,678,000	3,065,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	2,997,824	2,829,067	1,237,000	1,272,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	8,700,000	7,500,000	150,000	300,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,010,000	920,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	24,483,965	21,357,557	1,029,872	1,065,284
Miscellaneous :					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,348,745	11,782,631	...	104,455
Special Receipts	26,000,000	19,523,513	30,300,946	...	1,650,000
Total Ordinary Revenue.	746,300,000	429,026,047	451,452,201	10,551,872	14,891,739
Self-Balancing Revenue.					
Post Office	58,110,000	43,200,000	42,300,000	850,000	1,300,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	8,247,176	8,166,933	...	104,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	51,447,176	50,466,933	850,000	1,404,000
Total		480,473,223	501,919,134	11,401,872	16,295,739
Other Receipts.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,120,000	8,130,000	190,000	190,000
(c) For other Issues :					
By Treasury Bills		2,433,509,000	2,075,781,000	51,643,000	54,910,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64		75,800,280	...	10,250,000	...
By National Savings Certificates		29,800,000	29,850,000	650,000	750,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34		26,300,972	4,610,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances		535,375,000	458,605,000	3,690,000	7,595,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		120,054	122,717	6,195	8,076
		3,595,325,446	3,181,082,558	77,831,067	79,748,815

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1929. £	1928. £			
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total			3,601,577,970	3,187,405,183	77,831,067	79,748,815

Expenditure and Other Issues.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 4, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 5, 1929.	Issues Four Days Ended Jan. 4, 1930.	Issues Five Days Ended Jan. 5, 1929.
Ordinary Expenditure.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	278,000,256	277,534,647	5,617,027	7,073,210
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	7,686,185	8,433,890	213,891	302,676
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	3,417,426	3,197,396	16,000	163,429
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,376,892	1,672,900	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	367,534,000	273,074,628	257,831,502	6,800,000	6,940,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	696,034,000	564,555,387	548,670,335	12,646,918	14,479,315
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	36,553,292	40,901,992	190,000	753,400
Self-Balancing Expenditure.					
Post Office	58,110,000	43,200,000	42,300,000	850,000	1,300,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	8,247,176	8,166,933	...	104,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	51,447,176	50,466,933	850,000	1,404,000
Total		652,555,855	640,039,260	13,686,918	16,636,715
Other Issues.					
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,120,000	8,130,000	190,000	190,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928		2,241,000	3,825,000	130,000	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28 Repayment of Amounts Borrowed		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills		2,334,105,000	1,818,535,000	32,165,000	58,655,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates		34,400,000	31,450,000	600,000	500,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	82,762,476	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		29,409,505	...	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		45,506	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		522,395,000	588,465,000	31,030,000	3,945,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
		3,598,970,645	3,185,013,146	77,801,918	79,926,715

Balances in Exchequer—	Jan. 4, 1930. £	Jan. 5, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,017,992	1,951,110	...	...	— 74,242	— 210,303
Bank of Ireland	589,333	440,927	2,607,325	2,392,037	+ 103,391	+ 32,403
Total			3,601,577,970	3,187,405,183	+ 29,149	— 177,900

Treasury, January, 6, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, January 8, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	362,921,772	Other Government Securities	234,083,361
In Banking Department	46,139,365	Other Securities	10,431,484
		Silver Coin	4,470,053
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	149,061,137
	£409,061,137		£409,061,137

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	69,885,618
Rest	3,503,660	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	17,210,657	Discounts and Advances	£15,081,971
Other Deposits—		Securities	15,284,733
Bankers	£75,701,298		30,366,704
Other Accounts	35,574,069	Notes	46,139,365
	111,275,367	Gold and Silver Coin	153,775
7-Day and other Bills	2,732		
	£146,545,416		£146,545,416

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

Both Departments.	Amount Jan. 8, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	362,921,772	− 6,860,809	− 6,596,015
Public deposits	17,210,657	+ 4,860,519	+ 6,216,050
Bankers' deposits	75,701,298	*− 34,595,728	+ 8,210,051
Other deposits	35,574,069	− 1,948,734	− 1,239,347
Seven-day bills	2,732	+ 372	− 1,538
Total, outside liabilities	491,410,528	− 38,544,380	+ 6,589,201
Capital and rest	18,056,660	+ 53,099	+ 6,066
Government debt and securities	314,984,078	− 11,506,004	+ 12,603,108
Discounts and advances	15,081,971	− 27,088,631	+ 395,614
Other securities	25,716,217	− 2,992,638	− 423,937
Silver coin in issue department	4,470,053	− 3,131	− 715,107
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	149,214,869	+ 3,099,123	− 5,264,411
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	46,293,097	+ 9,959,932	+ 1,331,604
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	36%	+ 13 11/16 %	− 2 11/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	30 11/16 %	+ 4 1/4 %	− 1 13/16 %

Date.	Issue Department.		Banking Department.			Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
	Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.		
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Nov. 20	392,103,434	355,086,839	15,340,173	58,544,923	38,544,908	165,226 in	6
27	394,712,194	354,556,744	17,432,949	58,219,448	38,200,325	2,568,435 in	5½
Dec. 4	393,725,605	361,085,989	8,002,907	58,620,463	37,497,753	995,323 out	5½
11	397,006,947	365,158,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,477,426 in	5½
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5

Date.	Issue Department.		Both Depts.	Banking Department.				
	Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1929.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Nov. 20	246385575	8791121	132830637	27 11/16	62498618	8108161	21843957	37743798	33 1/4
27	244743704	10432762	135581905	28 1/16	57703618	15263821	17880406	40825161	35 1/16
Dec. 4	244744435	10431977	134269209	28 1/16	60428618	9622606	18730735	33183220	31 1/16
11	244234017	10942367	137434418	29 1/16	60663618	8827605	19470351	32276330	31 3/16
18	244248529	10929370	140734339	29 1/16	65143618	10629732	20565519	29036211	27
26	244637515	10841360	146027587	29 11/16	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746	22 7/16
1930.									
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746	25 1/16	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165	22 1/16
8	245098463	10431484	149214869	30 1/16	69886615	15081971	15284733	46293097	36

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1929.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to December 25	39,365,515	1,858,320	3,038,072	44,261,907
Week ended Jan. 1, 1930	715,366	29,238	49,473	794,077
Week ended Jan. 8, 1930	790,897	47,632	76,910	915,439
Total for year 1929	935,854	53,401	85,691	1,074,946
Total for year 1928	1,120,639	59,389	94,666	1,274,694
Increase or decrease in 1929	− 184,785	− 5,988	− 8,975	− 199,748
	= 16·4%	= 10·1%	= 9·5%	= 15·7%
Total to date, 1930*	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1929	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

* 7 days against 8 days in 1929.

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of December.			Total Week ended January 4.	
	1928.	1929.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,892,000	10,651,000	−10·4	3,743,000	3,024,700
BRADFORD	5,547,000	4,456,000	−19·6	...	...
BRISTOL	4,642,000	4,798,000	+ 3·3	1,100,000	890,000*
DUBLIN	...	...		6,987,100	7,053,000
HULL	3,571,000	3,437,000	− 3·7	1,047,400	1,007,200
LEEDS	3,903,000	3,908,000	+ 0·1	1,347,800	1,371,700
LEICESTER	3,772,000	3,159,000	−16·2	1,227,900	961,500
LIVERPOOL	32,836,000	30,798,000	− 6·2	7,977,600	6,935,100
MANCHESTER	58,622,000	52,931,000	− 9·7	14,060,300	13,374,800
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,643,000	6,199,000	−28·2	1,826,800	1,653,800
NOTTINGHAM	2,491,000	2,566,000	+ 3·0	809,200	769,700
SHEFFIELD	3,612,000	4,043,000	+11·9	1,484,400	1,445,554
Total	139,531,000	126,946,000	− 9·0	...	...

* Jan. 1 to Jan. 4.

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Roumania appeared in the *Economist* of December 21; Canada and Egypt in December 28; Sweden, Poland, Russia and Latvia in January 4.

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

RESOURCES.	Jan. 10, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,631,670	2,882,810	2,821,640	2,857,050	2,929,350
Total bills discounted	876,550	737,040	762,780	632,420	567,520
Bills bought in open market	477,100	309,410	354,940	392,210	319,170
Total U.S. Govt. securities	239,240	533,270	485,040	510,590	484,840
Total bills and securities	1,602,710	1,589,470	1,612,540	1,547,520	1,384,320
Total resources	5,242,910	5,624,460	5,472,280	5,458,450	5,320,280
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,745,260	1,926,020	1,989,160	1,909,720	1,836,850
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	2,404,680	2,408,220	2,320,120	2,355,260	2,367,250
Total deposits	2,452,240	2,439,130	2,375,210	2,413,680	2,422,300
Capital paid in and surplus	401,220	424,540	425,160	447,910	447,300
Total liabilities	5,242,910	5,624,460	5,472,280	5,458,450	5,320,280
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	66·3%	69·3%	67·6%	69·6%	72·9%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Jan. 10, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.
Total bills discounted	281,560	176,170	197,720	171,760	131,180
Bills bought in open market	131,620	118,030	173,830	191,750	152,340
Total U.S. Govt. securities	64,650	237,380	225,040	239,210	215,260
Total bills and securities	477,830	536,080	601,080	609,860	506,320
Deposits — Member bank — reserve account	950,930	1,007,380	945,780	985,790	956,070
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	67·0%	65·5%	58·9%	60·5%	67·4%

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

ASSETS.	Dec. 14, 1928.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.
Gold coin and bullion	8,021	7,850	7,878	7,879	7,679	7,715
Subsidiary coin	95	95	96	85	78	80
Bills discounted	8,765	7,762	7,548	8,386	7,963	7,863
Investments	804	850	850	851	596	612
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,526	8,123	7,848	9,270	8,909	8,433
Government deposits	2,007	2,096	2,163	1,714	1,051	1,522
Bankers' deposits	5,511	4,728	4,776	4,695	4,759	4,691
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	49·0%	51·9%	52·4%	48·9%	50·5%	50·8%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 14, 1928.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.
Total securities	21,73,01	32,98,23	33,00,01	32,87,38	33,01,51	33,28,31
Loans	19,68,66	7,63,62	7,50,19	7,43,23	7,46,99	7,49,67
Cash credits	23,24,14	21,89,43	21,89,59	22,82,89	22,36,72	23,38,47
Inland bills	10,84,06	4,44,44	4,60,32	5,10,34	5,25,25	5,71,94
Foreign bills	38,97	29,96	26,48	34,55	38,43	33,07
Dead stock	2,85,55	2,84,65	2,84,45	2,84,35	2,83,96	2,84,09
Bal. with other banks	15,68	9,37	13,75	4,08	24,56	2,56
Cash	11,48,47	25,14,04	26,31,98	24,18,88	18,93,55	16,38,71
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,17,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits	75,19,33	83,53,84	84,75,23	83,85,00	78,79,25	77,73,21
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	994	985	977	908	1,050	913
Advances in London	906	1,019	966	946	898	952
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	114	71	99	27	179	20

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 4, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.
Gold	32,679,040	41,248,434	41,387,667	41,668,420	42,433,625
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	13,546,570	7,190,720	7,291,164	7,249,143	7,098,821
Bills discounted	18,416,417	18,792,856	18,789,542	18,705,367	18,738,391
Commercial bills discounted at home	4,547,486	7,793,129	7,218,579	8,611,951	7,872,703
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552
Other advances	2,325,886	2,629,440	2,543,144	2,521,380	2,688,760
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,442,182	2,683,313	2,945,503	2,429,983	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	64,182,903	66,904,038	67,149,395	68,570,806	70,288,004
Public deposits	11,934,160	12,980,823	11,977,384	11,737,412	11,076,291
Private deposits	5,807,774	6,648,382	6,997,305	7,295,726	6,675,164
Other liabilities	2,167,610	2,616,201	2,863,067	2,366,395	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,331	2,247,145	2,264,664	2,283,116
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	155,273	390,781	405,737	405,587
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,678,447	2,100,752	2,190,460	2,848,393
Silver and other coin	81,766	100,609	96,858	89,111
Notes of other German banks	8,151	14,147	14,740	3,979
Advances	176,069	108,579	97,981	250,630
Investments	92,299	92,558	92,558	92,469
Other assets	530,015	664,805	603,323	563,167
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,930,069	4,588,925	4,579,047	5,043,677
Other daily maturing obligations	816,051	402,053	448,354	755,170
Other liabilities	298,238	286,002	296,524	293,209

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Jan. 3, 1929.	Dec. 12, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
Gold	(b)	903,727	1,123,260	1,146,255	1,175,184	1,175,149
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	614,929	564,972	561,818	577,709	613,104
Silver and other coin		...	2,168	2,203	...	...
Securities	697,600	672,189	795,582	784,270	816,110	869,497
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,393,099	2,684,050	2,656,538	2,684,922	2,786,611
Current accounts	112,125	134,985	172,731	167,428	190,491	196,896

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 9, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.
Gold	163,092	434,556	447,493	447,483	447,472	447,465
Silver	8,436	21,895	23,599	24,534	25,451	24,374
Home Bills discted.			60,124	60,194	59,310	70,683
Foreign Bills	153,504	438,836	219,464	219,574	218,703	219,861
Loans and advances in current acct.			85,699	85,619	94,072	110,999
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	855,442	829,451	818,489	823,353	852,023
Deposits	5,016	56,040	20,709	29,236	29,292	33,328

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Jan. 5, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.
Gold	22,971	169,669	166,900	166,800	168,800	168,700
Silver	29,785	21,977				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	162,775	159.900	156,000	152,500	156,800
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	311,405	298.400	291,600	288,800	291,000
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	69,312	44,000	42,800	39,500	38,600

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold	171,175	533,028	561,261	561,246	581,832	594,987
Silver	18,350	45,794	27,623	27,698	26,060	23,551
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	254,376	293,421	296,381	307,468	352,989
Discounts	...	217,811	106,426	106,884	120,078	149,367
Advances	103,000	82,681	62,944	54,265	61,639	75,091
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	952,645	898,958	886,991	945,908	999,185
Deposits	33,750	195,508	123,447	149,026	124,575	200,381

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 20, 1928.	Nov. 20, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,051,900	5,189,300	5,189,400	5,189,400	5,190,200
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,923,700	5,233,400	5,166,900	5,149,700	5,140,900
Other cash	110,100	205,300	198,100	203,100	203,900
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,494,500	3,858,800	3,887,100	3,864,000	3,864,600
Advances	1,610,500	1,267,800	1,306,300	1,182,000	1,277,400
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,224,900	897,500	896,900	896,900	896,900
Government securities	1,039,000	1,099,700	1,106,100	1,057,500	1,069,700
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,821,000	16,720,600	16,828,200	16,593,800	16,595,000
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,454,600	1,465,100	1,425,100	1,463,600	1,571,800
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·07%	56·38%	55·82%	56·32%	55·94%

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,873	146,663	146,653	146,651
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	40,698	43,123	58,778	58,472
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8.816	9,283	25,404	25,404	26,956
Discounts and loans	76,911	272,298	235,895	236,255	239,660
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	315,539	314,358	326,546	317,722
Deposits at sight	7,188	92,172	70,842	70,900	87,944

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,755	172,513	172,486	172,453	172,404
Loans & discounts	88,470	94,595	92,381	102,384	107,146	123,276
Debtors abroad	24,102	112,359	84,938	84,044	72,107	77,599
Securities	11,988	34,758	33,207	36,663	44,053	37,637
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	360,157	352,907	371,880	369,844	367,456
Deposits	6,698	52,945	29,987	35,324	34,137	57,547

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Jan. 5, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,118	2,564,910	2,565,393	2,565,942	2,565,876
Silver	728,600	696,753	708,490	709,737	705,053	702,531
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,139,310	2,250,885	2,217,000	2,313,805	2,370,114
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,420,104	4,377,780	4,366,703	4,432,554	4,490,360
Deposits	477,500	1,009,766	964,545	951,605	929,536	1,014,077

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

ASSETS.	Dec. 26, 1928.	Dec. 4, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 24, 1929.
Coin and bullion	9,500	9,595	9,519	9,307	9,179
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	291,740	353,001	342,218	334,807	331,957
Discounts	249,656	308,712	316,459	337,465	354,213
Government loans	1,713,716	1,765,054	1,753,969	1,745,068	1,742,181
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,976,184	1,961,088	1,958,063	1,972,699	2,001,033
Deposits	73,376	83,949	82,409	99,107	97,759

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	342,592	224,147	222,919	233,859	237,714
Other foreign exchange†	385,917	326,525	324,995	331,925	334,169
Bills discounted	208,078	274,397	297,833	288,198	305,634
Gov. Debt	116,470	109,439	109,439	109,438	108,649
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	1,067,363	1,001,708	1,029,969	1,013,224	1,094,362
Deposits	56,473	103,767	96,402	121,127	63,927

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	201,082	162,747	162,747	162,749	162,749
Drafts and notes	54,003	39,314	38,636	38,729	39,092
Silver coin and bullion	792	8,325	8,516	8,382	7,911
Inland bills, warrants and securities	417,411	296,825	289,633	292,334	329,494
Advances to the Treasury	97,244	88,551	88,551	88,551	87,543
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	513,461	428,253	427,652	427,056	500,599
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	240,814	134,503	133,026	135,928	98,263

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

RATIONALISATION

STATESMEN, Economists, Industrialists, and Trade Union Leaders have stressed the dire need for rationalising our great basic industries. Why does the Rationalisation Movement progress so slowly? The answer is plain. There has been no effective rationalising force. Everyone has been waiting for this force to appear from within the industries themselves, but it is now clear that there is little chance of rationalisation from within.

Where are we to look for such a force?

The answer is given in the January issue of "*The Banker*" in a fully reasoned argument that the banks, acting in co-operation, have the power and the leadership which are required to bring the plans of rationalisation into operation with the greatest expedition.

The importance of this article can hardly be overstressed, and it should be read by all who are concerned by the decline of British industry.

"*The Banker*" will be sent post free to any address for 2/6 on application to The Publisher, 20, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,193,499	1,258,695	1,258,395	1,258,373	1,258,398
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,509,853	1,995,284	2,040,142	2,174,873	2,259,505
Discounts and advances ...	483,169	956,769	889,826	903,593	1,010,915
State notes debt balance...	4,097,510	3,779,852	3,778,789	3,774,466	3,761,082
Other assets	1,776,442	885,310	885,497	1,085,232	1,390,628
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation...	8,465,908	7,310,688	7,263,780	7,362,350	8,229,512
Check account balances ...	829,728	780,841	803,018	1,024,403	674,845
Other liabilities............	338,212	311,785	313,257	337,190	313,577

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 8, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 22, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold	91,015	95,106	95,222	95,315	95,470
Other coin and notes	17,805	18,263	18,481	18,982	18,890
Foreign credits	230,255	292,213	291,897	289,422	266,620
Bills	1,470,503	1,274,790	1,254,312	1,231,828	1,287,529
Government advances	4,201,609	4,191,377	4,191,377	4,191,377	4,153,085
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	5,528,170	5,727,914	5,554,824	5,551,415	5,817,966
State credits	227,825	205,901	205,900	205,900	205,900
Deposits	1,179,328	1,456,521	1,609,472	1,645,671	1,510,532

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928.	Nov. 23, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,493,132	1,555,826	1,555,465	1,557,246	1,557,904
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,430,462	1,428,028	1,318,273	1,246,019	1,165,444
Discounts and advances ...	1,357,144	1,603,458	1,583,300	1,478,404	1,726,627
Advances to the Treasury..	3,781,214	3,508,192	3,505,368	3,505,368	3,505,367
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up............	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,149,756	1,150,580	1,152,223	1,184,355	1,192,384
Bank notes in circulation ..	4,057,647	3,906,209	3,900,280	3,694,228	3,552,729
Sight liabilities............	3,778,287	2,248,218	2,143,848	2,160,669	2,152,120
Deposits............	472,427	440,636	738,062	385,552	372,581

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold............	552,997	635,930	637,035	638,108	639,648
Gold exchange............	4,615,240	4,549,212	4,482,276	4,387,592	4,308,773
Other foreign exchange......	1,700	1,894	2,007	1,594	2,266
Bills discounted............	52,669	109,211	117,210	122,238	147,529
Advances	47,676	160,355	158,477	160,090	160,863
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up............	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,700,808	5,173,184	5,148,726	5,051,957	5,193,456
Deposits and current accounts............	2 089,609	1,635,450	1,636,940	1,691,419	1,453,931
Foreign exchange liabilities	948,207	1,885,223	1,857,031	1,822,676	1,854,765

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914.	Dec. 22, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold............	35,091	304,594	302,653	302,321	301,916
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	739,760	655,580	657,480	666,419
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	306,614	345,590	344,470	345,557
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,558,338	1,420,643	1,382,048	1,430,114
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,548,607	1,360,757	1,354,725	1,388,135
Deposits at notice	21,225	406,154	182,622	159,991	200,340

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 23, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.
Gold coin and bullion	6,218	6,373	6,378	6,379	6,385
Net foreign exchange	25,631	18,932	18,952	20,001	20,537
Subsidiary Estonian coin............	412	441	491	503	325
Home bills discounted	15,185	15,205	14,980	15,111	15,341
Loans and advances	16,740	13,124	12,362	12,757	*12,657
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	38,919	35,159	33,406	33,684	36,241
Sight deposits and current accounts....	20,688	15,125	15,853	15,900	14,059
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities...	53·43%	50·32%	51·42%	53·20%	53·52%

* Includes Ekr. 8,623,174·93, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold	34,265	34,866	34,890	35,044	35,075	35,079
Silver	4,363	3,853	3,803	3,768	3,767	3,776
State Treasury coins	1,843	1,698	1,679	1,670	1,672	1,653
Foreign currency............	43,621	66,705	69,260	73,993	74,689	76,210
Discount and credit	91,492	90,656	87,427	87,104	84,611	85,837
Liabilities.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350
Banknotes in circulation......	84,774	104,919	100,999	97,208	94,821	94,829
Deposits	80,382	81,038	85,856	91,387	93,552	96,444

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, June 30,1914	Dec. 15, 1928.	Nov. 23, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,121,308	1,124,796	1,125,893	1,124,540	1,121,988
Discounts......	41,740	738,818	674,871	684,874	675,296	670,725
Advances	70,540	90,146	75,213	83,977	75,031	75,237
Liabilities.						
Notes	362,270	1,290,559	1,210,562	1,346,290	1,239,769	1,252,664
Govt. deposits	87,340	509,368	602,988	582,080	541,450	527,149
Other deposits	11,440	365,434	390,314	289,534	405,470	432,773

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Oct. 15, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Coin and bullion....	2,269	3,123	2,743	3,068	2,738	3,000	2,747
Of which gold coin	7	10	10	10	10	12	12
Danzig subsidiary coin............	2,262	3,103	2,733	3,058	2,728	2,988	2,735
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes.........	18,242	12,645	15,801	14,011	15,596	12,895	16,660
Bills of exchange...	21,952	21,886	22,365	20,391	22,465	20,927	21,742
Loans	560	50	540	190	60	170	685
Foreign exchange	18,647	13,895	12,500	12,178	11,710	12,999	12,433
Other bals. on dem'd	1,070	960	1,014	1,260	809	995	798
Securities	3,448	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810
Liabilities.							
Capital paid up....	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	39,416	34,070	38,199	33,723	38,121	34,130	37,797
Deposits on demand	3,636	3,388	1,744	2,155	998	1,824	3,398

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 7, 1928.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.
Gold at home	60,519	63,295	63,297	63,281	63,289
Gold abroad............	503,541	442,394	439,678	410,011	408,908
Discounts and advances............	8,608	57,930	54,445	72,144	74,208
Liabilities.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	323,062	322,266	321,948	330,069	334,707
Deposits	134,209	177,415	172,755	144,072	147,495
Drafts	19,936	2,967	2,969	2,969	2,969
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Jan. 2, 1930	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 6, 1930.	Jan. 7, 1930	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5½% Dec. 12, 1929)......	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4½-⅝	4 5/16	4¼-5/16	4 3/16-¼	4 1/16-⅛	4 1/16-⅛	4⅛
3 months' do.	4½-⅝	4 5/16	4¼-5/16	4⅛-3/16	4 1/16-⅛	4 1/16-⅛	4⅛
4 months' do.	4½-⅝	4⅜	4 5/16	4⅛-3/16	4 1/16-⅛	4 1/16-⅛	4⅛
6 months' do.	4⅝	4⅜	4 5/16	4 5/16	4 1/16-⅛	4 1/16-⅛	4⅛
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	4 3/16-¼	4 5/16-⅜	4¼-5/16	4 3/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16-3/16
3 months'‡............	4½	4 5/16	4¼-5/16	4⅛-3/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	4-4⅛
Loans—Day to day	2½-3	2¾-4	2½-4	3½-4	3½-4	3½-4	3½-4
Short	4	3½-4	3½-4	3½-4	3½-4	3½-4	4
Deposit allowances: Bank	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Discount houses at call......	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1929.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Dec. 19	4½	4 13/16	4 13/16	4⅝	5 5½	5 ⅝	5 6
24	3 5½	4⅝	4 11/16	4⅝	5 5¼	5 ⅝	5¼ 6
1930.							
Jan. 2	4	4½ ⅝	4½ ⅝	4⅝	5	5½	5¼ 6
9	4	4 ⅛	4 ⅛	4 ⅛	5	5½	5½ 6

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Jan. 10, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.
New York ...	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85½-9/16	4·87 15/16-8	4·87 13/16-·87⅞
Montreal......	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86¼-⅜	4·93¼-½	4·92½-4·92¾
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·05-10	123·90-·92	123·90-·92
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·40-½	20·43½-¾	20·39½-·39¾
Amsterdam ...	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·08¼-½	12·09⅜-⅝	12·08⅞-·09⅛
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·89¾-90¼	34·88½-9	34·92¾-·93¼
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·68-73	93·21-3	93·10-·12
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·20-½	25·13½-14	25·13-·13½
Oslo............	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19-½	18·20 ½	18·20¾-·21¼
Stockholm.....	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·13¾-14¼	18·13¾-4	18·14¾-·15¼
Copenhagen ..	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·18-½	18·20¼-¾	18·20 ·20½
Madrid.........	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	29·70-72	36·60-5	39·43-·48
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	4·50	109½-110	108⅛-⅜	108¼-108⅜
Vienna	schilgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·45-49	34·64-7	34·60-·64
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24·02(a)	163⅝-⅞	164¾-5	164⅜-164⅝
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276-½	275-½	274¾-275¼
Budapest	pengo to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·80-83	27·84-·88	27·82-·86
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	805-10	817-820	817-819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669-74	673-6	670·676
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾-5¼	374¾-5¼	374⅞-375⅛
Constantin'ple	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	995-1003	1040-50	1020—1035
Moscow.........	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42-·44	†9·47½-·49½	†9·48-·50
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16-7/16	43⅜-½	43 5/16-43 7/16
Helsingfors ...	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅝-⅞	194-¼	193¾-194
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48⅛-9⅛	48⅛-9⅛	48⅛-49⅛
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·08-18	18·17-24	18·17-·24
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·10-20	25 23-30	25·23-·33
Alexandria ...	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16-9/16	97 7/16-9/16	97 7/16-97 9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 11/32-13/32	45¾-⅞	45-45⅛
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅞-29/32	5⅝-7/16	5 5/16-5⅜
Montevideo ...	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50⅝-51⅛	46¼-⅜	45⅝-45⅞
Valparaiso ...	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·65	39·80	39·82
Lima	Eng. to Per £1	90 days	par	19¾% prem.	nom.*	nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32-1/10	1/5 15/16-1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32-1/5 15/16
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32-1/10	1/5 15/16-1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32-1/5 15/16
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32-1/10	1/5 15/16-1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32-1/5 15/16
Hong Kong ...	ster. to dollar	T.T.	—	2/0¼-15/16	1/7⅞-1/8 1/16	1/7⅝-1/7⅞
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	—	2/7¼-⅞	2/1¼-2/1⅜	2/0 1/16-2/0 3/16
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅝-⅞	2/3 11/16-2/3 13/16	2/3 11/16-2/3 13/16
Kobe.........	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 17/32-19/32	2/0⅛-2/0 3/16	2/0 1/16-2/0⅛
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	23½-24	10·10-·20	10·00-·25
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅝	1/10⅝	1/10⅝

* 31st Dec. † Rate for previous day. ‡ Pence to escudo.
(a) An official stabilisation at 2·90-3·03 dollars to 100 krone, i.e., approximately 164½ krone to £. (b) Pence to dollars.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam ...	Nov. 15, 1929	5	4½	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 19, 1928	4	3½
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Berlin	Nov. 2, 1929	7½	7	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Budapest	Nov. 4, 1929	8	7½				
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen ...	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Stockholm ...	Dec. 12, 1929	5½	5
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7				
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
New York Federal Reserve ...	Nov. 14, 1929	5	4½	Vienna	Dec. 7, 1929	8	7½
				Warsaw	Nov. 15, 1929	9	8½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½	Irish	Dec. 12, 1929	6	5½

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT RATES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Jan. 9, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	4½	4½	6	6	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	5	5	...	...	4⅝
Bank acceptances:—		Selling Rates.				
Members—eligible, 90 days	5	4	4	4	...	4
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days ...	5	4	4	4	...	4
Ineligible, 90 days............	5⅝	4½	4½	4½	...	4⅝
Commercial accept. 90 days.	5½	5½	5	5	...	5

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Jan. 9, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.
London— 60 days............	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80 11/16	4·83⅜	4·83 7/16	4·83
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85¼	4·88 5/16	4·87 15/16	4·87
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 11/16	4·87½	4·87 5/16	4·86⅝
Paris ....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90 15/16	3·94½	3·93½	3·93
Brussels.......... "	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·895	14·00½	13·99½	13·945
Switzerland..... "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·2475	19·46	19·42½	19·38
Italy .... "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅛	5·23⅜	5·23¼	5·23⅛
Berlin............ "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·77	23·96	23·88	23·875
Vienna .... "	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·07	14·08	14·08	14·08
Madrid.......... "	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	16·315	13·61	13·37	12·42
Amsterdam ... "	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·105	40·37½	40·34½	40·26
Copenhagen ... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·67	26·84	26·81	26·735
Oslo .... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·66	26·84	26·81	26·73
Stockholm ..... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·735	26·98	26·91	26·825
Athens .... "	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29½	1·30½	1·30½	1·295
Montreal ...... "	Can. Cents for $1	100	½ dis.	...	4·93½	1 1/16 dis.
Yokohama ..... "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·62	49 1/16	49 1/16	49·10
Hong Kong..... "	Cents for H. Kong$	...	50·10	...	...	39·30
Shanghai ...... "	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	63·50	...	...	48·25
Calcutta......... "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·43	...	...	36·33
Buenos Aires .. "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	42†	...	...	109·45
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·90	11·15	11·00	10·90
Valparaiso ... "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·03	...	...	12·03

† Cents for 1 peso, par level 42·54 cents.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·56
Venezuela............	Bolivares to £......	25·25	"	25·52
Colombia (Bogota)......	Pesos to £1.........	5	"	5·04
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £......	4·8665	"	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	"	10·10
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem
Demand	1½% dis.	[illegible] "	1/16% dis.	⅛ to 3/16% "
30 days............	1¾% "	[illegible] "	½% "	[illegible] "
60 days............	2¼% "	[illegible] "	1⅛% "	[illegible] "
90 days............	3⅛% "	[illegible] "	1⅜% "	[illegible] "
120 days............	3⅜% "	1⅛% "	2 1/16% "	—

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	98⅝	98⅝	...	...	102¼	102¼
Demand	97	97	98	98	100⅞	100⅞	101 11/16	101¾
30 days	96 7/16	96 7/16	...	...	100¼	99¾	101¼	101¼
60 days	95⅞	95⅞	...	...	99 11/16	99¼	100 11/16	100¾
90 days	95 1/16	95 1/16	...	...	99½	98¾	100⅜	100⅜

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to January 4, 1930, were £24,060,000, of which £14,560,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £9,500,000 transferred from the paper currency reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended January 9, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		To—	
France	14,240	Poland	1,703
Argentine Republic.........	755,000	Germany	78,370
British West Africa	26,445	Netherlands	2,043
British South Africa.........	1,246,131	France	991,491
Other Countries	75	Austria............	20,200
		British India	30,457
		Other Countries	589
Total declared value of imports	2,041,891	Total declared value of exports	1,124,853

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow:—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
Jan. 3	Sovs. from abroad ...	922,011	Jan. 3	Bars sold............	12,011
	Sovs. released	250,000	" 4	....	Nil
	Bars bought	4,742	" 6	Bars sold............	1,712
	For. coin bought	5,123	" 7	Sovs. for export.........	2,000
" 4	Sovs. from abroad ...	150,772	" 8	Sovs. for export.........	30,000
	Bars bought	23,882		Bars sold............	8,596
	For. coin bought	10	" 9	Bars sold	3,445
" 6	Sovs. from abroad ...	1,251,244		Sovs. for export.........	2,000
" 7	Bars bought	535,500			
" 8	....	Nil			
" 9	Bars bought	20,906			
	Sovs. from abroad	3,964			
	Total	3,168,154		Total	59,764

Net arrivals, £3,108,390.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on January 8, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £145,960,084 on the 1st instant (as compared with £145,848,399 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £7,946,231 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. Gold from South Africa to the value of about £772,000 was offered in the open market yesterday and was disposed of at 84s. 11d. per fine ounce. France took £100,000, the Home and Continental trade £96,000 and India £35,000, whilst the Bank of England secured the balance of about £536,000. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £3,088,955 for the week under review. Receipts amounted to £3,143,274, which included £1,824,000 in sovereigns from Argentina, £500,000 in sovereigns and £535,500 in bar gold from South Africa, and £250,000 in sovereigns released. Of the withdrawals, amounting to £54,319, £32,000 was in sovereigns taken for export.

SILVER.

The week has seen silver prices decline to a still lower level, with activities confined mainly to China and the Indian Bazaars. The weakness of the Shanghai exchange when the market opened after the New Year holidays led to further heavy sales of silver on China account and from 21⅜d. quoted on the 2nd instant prices fell so quickly that by the 6th instant 20⅝d. and 20 9/16d. for cash and two months' delivery were reached before the market found support. At this level there was a fair demand from the Indian Bazaars for silver for immediate delivery and this was responsible yesterday for a little more steadiness in the cash quotation, which recovered to 20 11/16d.; with sales of forward delivery by China continuing, however, the two months' quotation was depressed to 20½d. The establishment of a premium on cash delivery has been an interesting feature of the week as hitherto cash silver had not commanded a premium since May 15th of last year, when, however, it was only 1/16d. The last occasion on which it was as much as 3/16d. was on June 5, 1928. More pressure by China on a poorly supported market caused another sharp decline of ⅜d. to-day, bringing quotations to 20 5/16d. and 20⅛d. for the respective deliveries.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 30th ultimo to mid-day on the 6th instant:—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
France............	75,773	Latvia	80,000
U.S.A............	12,890	Germany	42,732
Mexico............	71,019	British India............	175,771
British India	70,007	Other countries	5,136
Other countries	12,736		
	£242,425		£[illegible],639

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Dec. 31.	Dec. 22.	Dec. 15.
Notes in circulation	17,941	17,919	17,911
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,805	10,813	10,862
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,222	3,222	3,222
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,733	3,718	3,676
Securities (British Government)	181	166	151

The stock in Shanghai on the 4th instant consisted of about 86,000,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 8,120 silver bars, as compared with about 85,600,000 ounces in sycee, 126,000,000 dollars and 7,620 silver bars on the 28th ultimo.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Jan. 3	84 11½	21 5/16	21 5/16	Jan. 11, 1924	32 15/16
„ 4	84 11½	20 15/16	20 15/16	„ 9, 1925	32 3/16
„ 6	84 11½	20⅝	20 9/16	„ 8, 1926	31 13/16
„ 7	84 11	20 11/16	20⅛	„ 7, 1927	24 15/16
„ 8	84 11½	20 5/16	20⅛	„ 5, 1928	26 11/16
„ 9	84 11½	20 13/16	20½	„ 10, 1929	26 7/16

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that their sub-branch at Castle Cary has been converted into a full branch.

The National Provincial Bank announce that daily attendance is now given at their branch at The Nook, Anstey.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at Cambridge Road, Churchtown.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that agencies will be opened on January 13 at New Amianthus Mine and Kaapsche Hoop, near Nelspruit, Transvaal.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 621, Mansfield Road, Sherwood.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that after a service extending over 45 years, Mr H. S. Eltenton, a joint general manager of the bank, has retired on pension. Mr A. S. Tawell, an assistant general manager, has been appointed a joint general manager, and Mr R. Norman Smith—manager of the City office—an assistant general manager.

Mr Edward Ralphe Douro Hoare has been elected a director of the Provincial Bank of Ireland in succession to Mr Walter S. M. Burns, deceased.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa, Ltd., announce that Lord Brabourne has been elected chairman of the company.

Mr C. M. Hill has been appointed to the board of British Drug Houses, and Mr Ralph K. Harvey and Mr Roger M. Harvey have retired from the board.

Mr E. Jolliffe has been appointed chairman and managing director of Bertram and Company, Ltd., and Sir Edwin Cornwall, Bart., D.L., J.P., and Sir Alfred James Hawkey, J.P., have also been appointed to the board.

Mr William Simons, general manager of Cardiff and Dowlais Works has been elected a director of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd.

It is announced that Mr J. W. England and Mr C. F. Entwistle have joined the board of the Decca Record Company, Ltd. Sir George Fowler, owing to his approaching departure for the Far East, has, with regret, tendered his resignation from the board, and the directors have reluctantly accepted same.

BANKS.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.—The Report covers the first full year of operation of the Anglo-French Banking Corporation, and shows a net profit of £65,846. The profits are being applied in completely writing off preliminary expenses, stamp duty, installation, etc., as well as all furniture and fittings. Out of the balance tax liabilities are fully provided for, and £10,000 is set aside as the beginning of a reserve fund. Total liquid items amount to over £2 million, of which cash in hand, at short notice and deposits due within seven days, £1,200,000. Proportion of liquid items to total of current, deposit and other accounts about 75 per cent. Deposits increased over £1,100,000 as compared with last year. Acceptances more than doubled since last balance sheet. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, January 16th, at 12.30 p.m.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS BANK, LTD.—With reference to the recent announcement of the establishment of the Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank, Ltd., which, as from January 1, 1930, has taken over the business in this City of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino, the Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank, Ltd., notify that the following gentlemen have consented to join the board as resident directors:—The Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bt., G.B.E., C.M.G., M.P.; the Rt. Hon. Thomas Wiles, P.C.; Mr Frederick George Sale; Mr William John Woolrich.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—Resources in excess of two billion dollars are shown for the first time by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York in the statement of conditions as of December 31, 1929. The following is a summary of the statement:—The company has *deposits, including outstanding cheques* of $1,309,289,553, an increase of $33,256,669.13 over September 27, 1929, the date of the last published statement; *undivided profits* totalling $32,636,023, which reflects a gain of $3,827,030.87 since September 27, 1929; a *capital* of $90,000,000, and a *surplus fund* of $170,000,000, give the company a *total capital, surplus and undivided profits* of $292,636,023. The statement shows *total resources* of $2,017,119,331 as of December 31, 1929, an increase of $158,462,786 over September 27, 1929, the date of the last statement.

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.—Cable advice from New York states that all existing high records in American banking are exceeded with the publication by the National City Bank of New York of its statement of condition as of December 31, 1929, showing total resources of $2,206,241,170, against $1,847,705,548 on December 31, 1928, and $2,062,400,220 the previous high level recorded last June. Deposits total $1,649,554,260, against $1,349,024,386 a year ago and $1,470,891,893 last June. Total capital funds stand at $239,650,233, compared with $166,993,905 a year ago and $235,260,406 at end of last June.

GOVERNMENT, &c.

REFUNDS OF INDIAN INCOME TAX.—The Government of India have decided, pending further examination of the legal position, to resume the grant of refunds under Section 48 of the Indian Income Tax Act, in respect of dividends payable only outside British India, *i.e.*, by companies resident outside British India whose profits have been taxed in British India. The grant of refunds in such cases has been suspended since August 28, 1929, on the view that such dividends cannot be held to be income, profits or gains accruing or arising in British India. Claims that have been rejected on this ground will now be dealt with in Bombay as expeditiously as possible, and allowance for the interval of suspension will be made, if necessary, in reckoning the time limit in respect of fresh applications that have been delayed for this reason. Forms of claim and printed instructions may be obtained by claimants on application to the High Commissioner for India (Accounts Department), 42, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.—An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held in February, when the position as at 31st January, 1930, will be fully reviewed.

NER-SAG, LTD.—The report for year ended September 30, 1929 shows that a large portion of the loss of £28,645 was due to the necessity of cancelling certain contracts made by the previous board. Included in this figure, there are also losses entailed in disposing of properties which were not required in the business. The suspense accounts are subjects of litigation. Cash on deposit amounts to £98,830. On current account, £16. On hand, £62. A debit balance of £42,908 is carried forward.

NER-SAG (OVERSEAS), LTD.—The first accounts which cover the period from July 14, 1928, to September 30, 1929, show a net loss of £17,727. This includes a loss of £2,937 in German trading, a loss of £11,349 on realisation of assets. Companies formed by the old board in America and Germany have been closed. Deposit account with National Provincial Bank, Ltd., and interest accrued amounts to £45,425. Cash in hand amounts to £8.

TURNER AND NEWALL, LTD., AND RHODESIAN AND GENERAL ASBESTOS CORPORATION.—Turner and Newall, Ltd., announce that as certificates representing 75 per cent. of the issued capital of the Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation, Ltd., have been lodged with the District Bank, Ltd., as assented shares, the offer for exchange will become operative. The offer remains open till January 14, 1930, and the remaining shareholders of Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation, Ltd., are requested to send in their certificates to the District Bank, Ltd., 75, Cornhill, London, E.C. 2, before that date.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

August 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Aug. 31, 1928. £
Pref. shares	1,000,000	
Ord. shares	2,000,000	+500,000
Red. notes	...	−525,000
Bills payable	550,000	−240,000
Creditors	735,074	−114,853
Reserve	1,400,000	+ 50,000
Profit and loss	436,949	− 24,708
Share Prem. Res.	250,000	+250,000
Employees' Prov. Fund	102,631	+102,631
Div. Prov.	20,833	+ 20,833
Total	6,495,487	+ 18,903

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Aug. 31, 1928. £
Land, buildings, &c.	435,045	−867,728
Investments	1,305,233	−228,702
Debtors	909,473	+333,600
Stock	3,645,790	+771,043
Bills receivable	...	− 1,765
Cash	199,946	+ 12,455
Total	6,495,487	+ 18,903

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Jan. 3, 1930. (c) Week ended Jan. 4, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Jan. 5, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate — weeks 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,733	203	191	137	328	531	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	3,734	201	197	118	315	516	...	...	...	...	...
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	316	335	222	557	873	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	6,360	308	332	207	539	847	...	...	...	...	...
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	448	453	252	706	1,154	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	6,952½	446	465	253	719	1,165	...	...	...	...	...
Southern	2,175	270	67	36	103	373	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	2,175	263	68	32	100	363	...	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·3	...	...	4·1	37·4	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	59	32·0	...	...	3·9	35·9	...	...	...	...	...
†Und'grn'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	304	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	279	...	...	...	...	...
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	44	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Northern b	562	11·3	...	...	12·7	24·0	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	562	11·7	...	...	14·2	25·9	...	...	...	...	...
Great Southn b	2,187	22·6	...	...	37·3	59·9	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	2,187	23·3	...	...	39·3	62·6	...	...	...	...	...

† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1929.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1929.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.		Rs.	
Assam Bengal	36 weeks	Dec. 7	1,217	4,48,000	− 27,777	1,48,94,356	− 7,49,905
Barsi Lt. Ry.	37 weeks	14	202	62,300	+ 11,400	17,49,600	+ 82,200
Bengal & N.Western	37 weeks	14	2,080	7,30,385	− 63,356	70,16,662	− 2,00,043
Bengal-Nagpur	34 weeks	Nov 30	3,085	17,96,000	− 33713	5,99,03,925	+ 27,71,529
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	39 weeks	Dec. 28	3,031	23,67,000	− 216000	8,29,81,000	− 16,13,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	37 weeks	14	3,121	19,17,000	+ 19,680	6,52,80,785	+ 14,52,888
Nizam'sGuaran'd.(a)	37 weeks	14	1,167	5,26,969	+ 36,174	158,90,131	+ 20,57,721
†Bohilk'd&Kumaon	37 weeks	14	572	1,55,256	+ 14,189	12,28,639	− 24,823
South Indian	36 weeks	7	2,351	11,78,387	+ 1,396	4,60,31,212	+ 37,69,755
ARGENTINE (a).				£		£	
Argentine N.E.	27 weeks	Jan. 4	753	16,800	+ 2,100	426,600	− 4,600
Argentine Trans'dn.	27 weeks	4	111	4,472	− 777	122,001	+ 2,331
B.A. and Pacific	27 weeks	4	2,806	150,000	− 20,000	3,957,000	− 330,000
B.A. Central	27 weeks	5	...	12,345	− 1,465	346,863	− 29,495
B.A. Gt. Southern	27 weeks	4	4,875	271,000	− 43,000	6,087,000	+ 139,000
B.A. Western	27 weeks	4	1,926	90,000	− 10,000	2,276,000	− 272,000
Central Argentine	27 weeks	4	3,319	218,000	− 58,000	6,467,000	− 647,000
Cordoba Central	27 weeks	4	1,218	50,000	− 12,000	1,703,000	− 193,000
Entre Rios	27 weeks	4	789	35,300	− 2,400	702,800	− 72,200
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	27 weeks	Jan. 4	1,374	43,839	− 15,566	1,320,191	− 71,594
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	27 weeks	Jan. 4	273	29,055	− 4,133	784,750	− 19,115
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	27 weeks	4	311	6,465	− 2,494	169,274	+ 753
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	27 weeks	4	185	3,197	− 1,749	87,268	− 5,940
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	27 weeks	4	211	2,482	− 578	71,668	− 3,058
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	51 weeks	Dec. 21	19548	4,521,498	− 941374	254,102,545	−15,185,467
Canadian Pacific	52 weeks	31	15209	4,550,000	−1012000	209,275,000	−19,764,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	1 week	Jan. 4	1,016	16,000	− 800	7,900†	− 4,600
Leopoldina	1 week	4	1,856	36,560	− 2,949	20,454†	− 367
Leopoldina Termni.	1 week	4	Mirs.	342,000	+ 17,000	195,000†	+ 9,000
San Paulo	1 week	5	153½	31,696	− 14,413	...	...
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	1 week	Jan. 5	804	28,950	− 10,590	15,010‡	− 16,210
Nitrate (½-monthly)	52 weeks	Dec. 31	413	26,500	− 16,032	813,624‡	− 50,569
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	40 weeks	Dec. 20	608	12,159	+ 362	258,074	+ 16,282
Gt. Southn. of Spain	52 weeks	28	104	Ps. 125657	+ 10,237	6,381,927	− 186,255
Mexican Railway	26 weeks	31	483	$351,900†	+ 5,300	5,834,100	− 171,300
Paraguay Central	26 weeks	28	274	3,670	+ 280	109,280	− 9,600
Salvador	27 weeks	Jan. 4	100	3,616	− 1,180	99,155	− 5,263

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.
(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
† Receipts for 10 days. ‡ Jan. 1 to Jan. 4. ‡ Jan. 1 to Jan. 5.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1929.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1929.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	52 weeks	Dec. 31	329	98,997	− 4,659	4,520,572	− 116,622
B. Aires Lacrose	27 weeks	Jan. 5	...	12,530	− 1,049	308,184	− 28,012
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	4	13	3,211	+ 135	...	...
Chatham & District	4 days	4	35½	Rs. 77,114	− 34,638	...	...
Egyptian Markets	51 weeks	Dec. 26	15	1,091	− 3	58,986	− 6,538
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	49 weeks	12	...	1,628	− 440	85,737	− 264
Liverpool Corp.	51 weeks	24	...	954	+ 57	86,818	+ 2,078
L.C.O. Tramways	40 weeks	Jan. 4	124	30,898	+ 1,855	1,209,067	+ 16,607
Madras Electric	39 weeks	1	166	77,600	− 4,132	3,305,057	+ 35,908
	52 w'ks	Dec. 31	...	Rs. 50,043	+ 3,726	10,54,503	+ 5,974

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
South Behar	2½%*	...	...	...	...
BANKS.				%	%
Banco de Chile	4½%	...	...	...	...
Barclays { "A"	...	...	...	10	10
Barclays { "B" and "C"	...	...	...	14	14
District { "A"	...	...	...	18½	18½
District { "B"	...	...	...	10	...
Lloyds { "A"	8½%†	...	...	16½	16½
Lloyds { "B"	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Manchester and County	...	...	...	16½	16½
Martins	8%†	Jan. 30	Less tax	16	16
Midland	9%†	Feb. 1	...	18	18
Munster and Leinster	7%*	...	Tax free	...	...
National Provincial	9%†	Jan. 31	Less tax	18	18
Provincial Bank of Ireland	7½%†	Feb. 1	...	14½	14½
Queensland National	2½%*	Feb. 13	Quarterly	...	...
Westminster { £4	10%†	...	...	20	20
Westminster { £1	6½%†	...	...	12½	12½
Williams Deacon's "A"	6½%†	Feb. 1	Less tax	13½	13½
Do. do. "B"	6½%†	Feb. 1	Less tax	12½	12½
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Bogaseki Plantations	3%*	Jan. 15	Less tax	...	...
Bogawantalawa Tea	5%*	Jan. 22	Less tax	...	...
Bogawantalawa (Malay) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	6	5
Java United Plantations	3%*	Jan. 15	Less tax	...	...
Langen (Java) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	6
MINING.					
Angola Diamond	5%*	...	Free of Portuguese taxes.	...	...
Ashanti Goldfields	40%†	Jan. 31	...	65	55
Electrolytic Zinc of Australia	6%*	Mar. 6	...	...	...
Poderosa	5%*	Jan. 9	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Associated London Properties	2½%*	Jan. 9	...	...	...
Bartholomew	10%*	...	...	...	...
Bullcroft Main Collieries	2½%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Cardinal Investment (Def.)	10%†	...	Less tax	16	16
Charterland & Gen. Exploration and Finance	...	Jan. 14	...	5	7½
Crossley (John) and Sons	...	...	...	5	...
Deuchar (Robert)	...	...	Tax free	10	10
English Sewing Cotton	5%*	Feb. 10	...	...	...
Fanti Consolidated Invest.	...	...	...	18½	12½
Gerrard Wire Tying Machines	5%*	Jan. 10	Less tax	...	...
Hoare and Company	9%*	Jan. 30	...	...	...
Hollins Mill	2½%*	...	...	5	5
Houlder Line	...	...	...	10	10
Hover (John)	...	...	Less tax	25	25
Liebig's Extract of Meat	...	...	Tax free	16	16
Linoleum Manufacturing	7½%*	Jan. 31	Tax free	...	...
Lloyd and Yorath	5%†	...	...	7½	10
London and Edinburgh Shipping	...	Feb. 1	...	6/6 p.s.	...
London Produce Clearing House	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Michael Nairn and Greenwich	...	...	...	12½	12½
New York and General Trust	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Price Brothers	50cuts.*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Randall (C. W.)	...	...	...	190	235
Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries	...	...	...	15	20§
River Plate & Gen. Invest. Trust (Def.)	12%†	Feb. 1	Less tax	20	20
Roberts (J. F. and H.)	...	...	...	12½§	12½§
Solignum	7½%*	Jan. 8	...	...	...
Southampton and South of Eng. Royal Mail Steam	3%†	...	Tax free	6	7
Speaight	...	...	...	2½	2½
Tokatea	1½%*	Feb. 1	...	...	...
Transvaal & Delagoa Bay Invest.	...	...	Free of S. African tax	25	25
United States Trust of Scotland (Def.)	7%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
United Tobacco (South)	...	...	...	20	20
Wells' Watford Brewery	2½%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...

§ Bonus 5%. ‖ New shares.

OIL OUTPUTS.

ANGLO-ECUADORIAN OILFIELDS, LTD.—The production for December is cabled as 14,338 tons.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.—The results for December are:—Production of oil, 33,530 tons; deliveries, 36,290 tons.

ATTOCK OIL.—Production for December, 22,670 barrels.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—Production of crude oil by this company for the month of December amounted to 38,627 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—Production for November:—Venezuela, 177,571 barrels; Trinidad, 40,870 barrels; total, 218,441 barrels. Shipments for November:—Venezuela, 170,442 barrels; Trinidad, 4,541 barrels; total, 174,983 barrels. Production for the week ended December 4th:—Venezuela, 37,515 barrels; Trinidad, 9,366 barrels; total, 46,881 barrels. Conservation plant closed down during week for annual overhaul. Production for the week ended December 11th:—Venezuela, 37,041 barrels; Trinidad, 10,057 barrels; total, 47,098 barrels. Production for the week ended December 18th:—Venezuela, 36,361 barrels; Trinidad, 9,982 barrels; total, 46,363 barrels. Production for the week ended December 25th:—Venezuela, 36,185 barrels; Trinidad, 12,923 barrels; total, 49,108 barrels. Production for the week ended January 1, 1930:—Venezuela, 38,238 barrels; Trinidad, 13,434 barrels; total, 51,672 barrels.

DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE.—Output for November, 3,505 tons. First well at Piscuri is steadily producing 75 tons daily.

(*Continued on page* 94.)

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Anglo-French Banking Corp.	Dec. 31	2,133	46,528	48,661	...	...	...	*46,471	2,190	2,132	...
Breweries.											
Deuchar (Robert)	Sept. 30	17,536	33,368	50,904	13,685	7,500	10†	10,000	19,719	30,074	10
Financial Land, &c.											
North Queensland Mortgage and Investment	Sept. 30	625	5,486	6,111	...	4,292	7	1,000	819	5,905	7
Rubber, &c.											
Braunston (Malay) Rubber	Sept. 30	6,402	5,729	12,131	...	5,070	6	...	7,061	1,454	5
Langen (Java) Rubber Ests.	Aug. 31	11,668	14,246	25,914	...	12,500	10	...	13,414	9,359	6
Oil.											
Apex (Trinidad)	Sept. 30	119,374	263,148	382,522	...	262,500	52½	...	120,022	240,829	35
Shipping.											
Houlder Line	Dec. 31	70,654	128,065	207,719	12,375	44,000	10	115,000	36,344	174,520	10
Textiles.											
Rayon Manufacturing (1927)	Nov. 30	*Dr. 10,971*	*Dr. 15,786*	*Dr. 26,757*	...	...	...	...	*Dr26,757*	*Dr10,971*	...
Roberts (J. H. and F.)	Nov. 30	26,055	47,645	73,700	5,000	31,250	12½	12,000	25,450	48,065	12½
Trust.											
Cardinal Investment	Dec. 31	5,723	(*b*)30,005	(*b*)35,728	7,200	15,360	16	5,000	(*b*)8,168	32,084	16
Ever Ready Trust & Finance	Dec. 31‡	...	(*a*)24,122	24,122	...	...	...	9,536	14,586	...	...
Great Northern Investment	Nov. 30	2,873	68,896	71,769	31,022	37,255	9‖	...	3,492	53,160	8
Other Companies.											
British Tobacco (Australia)	Oct. 31	7,658	1,011,307	1,018,965	95,507	894,790	11	...	27,668	916,506	10
Kia-Ora	Sept. 30	...	25,949	25,949	...	...	...	20,949	5,000	...	...
Liebig's Extract of Meet	Aug. 31	255,823	371,126	626,949	50,000	320,000	16†	...	256,949	344,863	16†
Nairn (Michael) & Greenwich	Dec. 31	44,730	231,136	275,866	...	219,829	12½	...	56,037	226,819	12½
Ner-Sag	Sept. 30	*Dr. 14,262*	*Dr. 28,645*	*Dr. 42,907*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.42907*	*Dr.25084*	...
Ner-Sag (Overseas)	Sept. 30	...	*Dr. 17,726*	*Dr. 17,726*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.17726*	...	...
Photomaton Parent Corpn.	Nov. 15§	...	*Dr. 97,558*	*Dr. 97,558*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.97558*	...	...
Provincial Newspapers	Nov. 30	...	159,967	159,967	78,464	40,000	5	30,000	11,503	...	...
Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries	Sept. 30	88,557	204,549	293,106	...	204,726	15†	...	88,380	273,260	20†
Victoria Palace	Nov. 5	1,885	15,511	17,396	...	18,000	15	*Dr. 2,000*	1,396	21,848	20

† Free of income tax. ‡ For period from November 14, 1928, to December 31, 1929. (*a*) After writing £11,040 off preliminary expenses. § For period from March 16, 1928, to November 15, 1929. (*b*) Subject to Directors' additional remuneration. ‖ 9 per cent. for year on 480,000 "old" ordinary stock, and 9 per cent. p.a. for three months on "new" ordinary stock. * Including £32,607 written off preliminary expenses, and £3,864 written off cost of installations, furniture, &c.

(*Continued from page* 93.)

HAMILTON'S OIL CONCESSIONS (ROUMANIA), LTD.—Production for month of December, 1929, 5,600 tons= 39,200 barrels. Total production for year 1929, 69,320 tons, as compared with 48,789 tons for 1928.

HECTOR WHALING, LTD.—Catch report to December 29, 1929 :—

	Season 1928-29	Season 1929-30
Number of expeditions reporting	Three	Four
Catch for week ending December 29, 1929, in barrels of oil	10,500	8,300
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	56,800	74,800

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL CO., LIMITED.—Production for the week ended November 30, 1929, was 308,000 barrels. For week ended December 7, 1929, 299,000 barrels. The production for the week ended December 14, 1929, was 294,000 barrels. Production for the week ended December 21, 1929, was 311,000 barrels.

SERVICE PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ending December 29, 1929, was 1,225 tons (8,575 barrels).

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LTD.—Output of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of December was 70,150 tons.

TAMPICO OIL, LTD.—The output on the company's properties in Mexico during November was 20,491 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,537 barrels.

THE DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE, LTD.—Production for December, 3,756 tons.

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA.—The total production during November was 120,673 barrels, or about 17,239 tons.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.—Oil produced in December, 39,700 tons; oil purchased in December from other companies, 47,050 tons.

VENEZUELAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LIMITED.—Production for week ended December 7th, 7,935 barrels (1,134 tons). Production for the week ended December 14th, 10,854 barrels (1,551 tons). Production for the week ended December 28, 12,934 barrels (1,848 tons). Production for the week ended January 4, 12,603 barrels (1,801 tons).

VIKING WHALING.—Output 41,500 barrels of whale oil to end of 1929.

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS.—Production for the week ended January 4th was as follows :—Bolivar district, 118,331 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,238 metric tons; total, 124,569 metric tons.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	November, 1929. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	December, 1929. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	84,500	141,025	52,566	76,500	127,085	41,213
City Deep	87,500	99,318	15,749*	96,000	102,316	8,290*
Consolidated Main Reef	59,000	94,324	15,052	57,000	88,854	12,116
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	221,000	298,145	70,916	215,000	292,076	70,786
Durban Roodepoort Deep	40,500	58,145	4,693	40,300	56,862	4,466
East Rand Proprietary	143,300	165,497	12,013	143,000	162,608	12,051
Geduld Proprietary	83,000	113,687	45,510	83,500	114,749	45,937
Geldenhuis Deep	66,000	63,281	3,349	63,000	62,560	4,313
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,000	9,425	1,235	6,100	8,263	1,004
Government Areas	202,000	384,497	230,202	196,000	373,033	220,145
Kleinfontein, New	51,300	49,434	7,067	51,700	51,601	8,961
Langlaagte Estate	79,000	111,991	30,067	72,500	110,103	30,029
Meyer and Charlton	16,800	19,145	2,509	17,200	19,149	2,683
Modderfontein B.	69,000	105,693	47,107	69,500	105,822	47,638
Modderfontein Deep Levels	44,200	99,560	64,893	42,800	96,475	62,706
Modderfontein East	68,500	86,311	16,833	66,500	82,964	16,057
Modderfontein, New (£4 shares)	147,000	309,021	181,828	147,000	308,536	181,312
New State Areas	76,000	144,910	65,083	74,000	142,539	65,310
Nourse Mines	59,500	72,760	5,103	56,400	71,174	5,017
Randfontein Estates	213,000	214,672	27,574	208,000	212,692	27,603
Robinson Deep	77,700	90,094	15,536	76,000	83,467	11,549
Rose Deep	59,000	51,414	3,504	58,000	51,238	3,056
Simmer and Jack	75,400	80,454	6,270	77,800	83,592	7,625
Spring Mines	67,700	136,845	62,493	65,500	130,913	58,396
Sub-Nigel	24,400	83,243	25,117	25,700	88,807	28,635
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	13,150	20,101	2,539	13,700	19,476	2,715
Van Ryn	40,000	40,179	4,037	41,500	39,984	4,007
Van Ryn Deep	62,000	104,587	42,125	58,000	105,366	42,113
Village Deep	57,000	64,390	5,037	58,000	64,331	5,536
West Rand Consolid'td	87,000	96,846	19,016	90,000	98,277	20,012
West Springs	67,700	78,901	18,213	63,500	75,914	17,039
Witwatersrand Deep	36,000	33,504	6,473*	42,300	40,828	150
Witwatersrand Knight's	52,500	49,726	4,029	53,000	50,655	4,522

* Loss.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Mild climatic conditions prevailed over the United Kingdom during the past week, and winter crops are developing rapidly, following an early and favourable start. A spell of colder weather is now desired to harden the plants against probable frosts. Trading in native wheat continues quiet, though light available supplies at the principal markets tend to keep values steady. On the import market, a moderate inquiry was dealt with, several cargoes being sold to Portugal, while United Kingdom millers are obliged to enter the market from time to time. India and Japan also made further purchases of Australian varieties. Prices, however, marked a downward tendency under increased offers from both Argentina and North America, though United States and Canadian sellers do not evince any desire to press sales. A feature was the re-entry of Russia as an exporter, and offers of prompt and early loading assisted the decline. Reports vary regarding the quantity available for export, and if any appreciable volume is shipped during the next two months the position of North American holders would become somewhat difficult in disposing of large surplus stocks. A certain quantity of the better qualities may be exported for financial reasons, particularly as the rye crop is in excess of home requirements, but the outlook is rather complicated by reports of Russian buying in Canada, presumably for seed purposes, and by inquiries for flour on United Kingdom markets. Meanwhile, European purchases are confined to immediate needs, and at the moment there is little to support any upward movement. Italy is practically out of the market, and France figures as an exporter to the United Kingdom and near Continental countries, while German purchases are withheld owing to the uncertainty arising regarding import taxes. Flour ruled easier in sympathy with wheat and trade generally moved on quiet lines. Feeding stuffs were depressed and only saleable at lower prices, though consumption of maize seems to be improving both here and on the Continent. Business however, is insufficient to stabilise prices, and competitive offers of barley militates against a recovery for the present.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex-ship, 55s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 54s. 3d.; No. 3, 53s. 3d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 52s.; No. 5, 49s.; No. 6, 42s.; No. 2 hard Winter, 49s.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 46s. 6d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 47s. 9d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 48s. 3d.; Australian, 50s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 9s. 7d.-9s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet and easier. London straight run, 42s. per sack for country deliveries, and 41s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 39s.-42s.; Buffalo, 39s. 9d.-41s. 6d.; Australian, 36s. 6d. ex-store. On c.i.f. terms Manitoba top patents, January-February, 39s. 6d.-40s. 6d.; export ditto, 37s.-38s.; Australian, 34s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £7 5s. per ton.

Maize.—Further declined. Plate, landed, 30s.; ex-ship to arrive, 28s. 9d.; January-February, 28s. 6d.; February-March, 29s.; new, April-May, 29s.; May-June, 28s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £7 10s.; white, £6 17s. 6d. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Dull. Californian old, landed, 36s.-43s.; new, ex-ship, 37s.-46s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex-store, 37s.-43s.; Chevalier, 40s.-45s.; Australian, 41s.-42s.; Smyrna, 40s.-42s. per 448 lbs.; Algerian-Tunisian, ex-ship, 26s.-27s. 6d. as to sample; No. 2 Federal American, landed, 25s. 9d.; Danubian, landed, 26s. 9d.; Black Sea, January, ex-ship, 24s.; Persian ditto, 23s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 8s. 6d.-14s. 6d.; feed, 7s. 3d.-8s. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Easier. Plate, landed, 18s. 3d.; ex-ship, to arrive, 17s. 3d.; black Plate, landed, 18s.; Chilian white, landed, 24s. 3d.; ditto tawny, 20s.; German, landed, 21s.; ex-ship to arrive, 19s. 9d.; mixed Canadian feed, 16s. 6d.; South Russian, 18s. 3d. per 320 lbs. English, 7s. 4d.-7s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to January 4	Qrs. 151,162	Qrs. 74,850	Qrs. 109,912	Qrs. 178,693
18 weeks to January 4	4,646,346	4,870,534	4,313,930	6,600,897
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 5	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 11 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1929.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Dec. 28	133,319	141,466	20,376	9 6	8 8	7 0
1930.						
Jan. 4	151,162	181,686	28,874	9 6	8 10	7 0
Jan. 2, 1926	199,247	147,076	26,146	12 5	10 10	9 4
Jan. 1, 1927	257,648	286,150	65,717	11 10	10 7	8 2
Jan. 7, 1928	109,912	173,929	32,835	9 10	11 1	9 4
Jan. 5, 1929	74,850	161,335	34,120	9 5	9 11	9 1

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1928 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Jan. 9, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	122	122½	140½	148⅝	141½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	116½	126⅜	130½	128½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,567,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 863,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 76,331,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports that the year in the South Yorkshire coalfield has opened with moderately good prospects, and the tonnage being shipped is substantial. The booking of new contracts, however, is quiet for the moment, but prices of best steams are maintained at 18s. 6d. f.o.b. The demand for both industrial and house coal is none too brisk, and is below the average of this period of the year. The supply of coke continues to increase and consumption is maintaining former levels. Blast furnace sorts sell at about 17s. at ovens. Trade in small fuels is somewhat restricted.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: The majority of the pits resumed working at the beginning of the week, and production is now in full swing again, and on a satisfactory scale. The market is, however, still very idle, and prices have scarcely been tested so far, although the tendency is definitely easier than in the final weeks of the old year. The quotations ruling for shipping business are about the following (all f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 16s. 6d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 9d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s. 6d.-15s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 16s. 6d.-17s.; doubles, 16s.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 16s.; third-class steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 18s. 6d.; doubles, 16s. 6d.-17s.; singles, 14s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 15s.; secondary steam, 14s. 3d.; trebles,

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ANNUAL REVIEW

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18s.; doubles, 16s.; singles, 14s. 9d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 17s.; doubles, 16s.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—Inactive conditions have prevailed this week on the Cardiff coal market. The colliery companies are well sold, but tonnage arrivals have been disappointing, and the market has been unable to absorb the current outputs, with the result that stocks are accumulating and prices easier in those cases where they have been above the minimum schedule. The collieries are now working under the allocations made under the output and price regulation scheme which became operative as from the beginning of the New Year, and for the first quarter the authorised production of bituminous coal is approximately just over 10 million tons. Administrative difficulties are already being experienced, and applications for readjustments are numerous. The Italian State Railways have placed the first of their contracts for South Wales coals under the Hague Coal Agreement, and they involve the supply during the present year of at least 800,000 tons of large Monmouthshire and Rhymney Valley locomotive grades. It is understood that the collieries obtained their scheduled minimum prices for the whole of the business. The following are the current approximate quotations :—Best Admiralties, 20s. to 20s. 3d.; seconds, 19s. 9d. to 20s.; best drys, 20s. 6d. to 21s.; Black Veins, 19s. to 19s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; best small steams, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein large, 27s. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 44s. to 46s.; French nuts, 45s. to 47s.; stove nuts, rubbly culm, 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d.; foundry coke, 35s. to 37s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 28s. 6d. to 28s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange :—The iron and steel markets have scarcely had time to settle down again after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Nevertheless, the New Year has opened with encouraging prospects for the British steel works. The shipbuilding industry on the North-East Coast anticipates a fairly prosperous period, and the British steelmakers will, of course, benefit to a considerable extent by the demand for shipbuilding material which should make itself felt early in the New Year. The demand from the engineering industry also gives promise of expanding. Trading in the more general descriptions of iron and steel, however, is not so active. Although business in pig iron has been quiet, it will probably improve shortly as the time approaches for contracts to be renewed. It is understood that some alterations in prices may be made at the end of January, and that these are scarcely likely to be in a downward direction. Considerable enquiries have been in the market for semi-finished material, but so far have not materialised into much business. They show, however, that the industry expects a better demand for iron and steel than was experienced in the latter part of last year. The Continental manufacturers are holding to the prices fixed in December, and consumers in this country appear more willing to pay the rates demanded. The actual tonnage of business placed, however, has not been large. There has also been a certain amount of enquiry for finished materials, but this branch of the trade for the time being is rather quiet.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—The prospects at the moment indicate a rather quiet month, taken as a whole, with the distribution of trade and work more mixed than in the past. Firms which possess good sales organisations and can afford to spend money on travellers to seek trade abroad are doing well, but the firms who rely upon business coming in of itself are short of work and likely to remain so. Local unemployment figures are high. They have been swollen owing to the closing of large departments under rationalisation schemes. A large number of open-hearth furnaces are idle, but several are expected to resume next week. Trade in the best tool steels is steady. There is a large output of special steels required in modern engineering practice, and Sheffield is still doing well in motor requisites. The position of the tool and cutlery trades has been improving over a long period following reorganisation to eliminate waste and to cheapen production. Great strides have been made in bringing these ancient crafts up to date.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—Business is not yet in full swing at the works in the West of Scotland, but it is expected that the beginning of next week will see most of the plants in operation. Locomotive engineers, structural engineers, carriage and wagon builders and, indeed, the bulk of the engineering trades are beginning the year with a considerable amount of work on hand and the prospects for future employment are fairly good. Steelmakers have also a good amount of work on hand with which to start the year. Considerable disappointment is felt in the Mossend district of Lanarkshire by the decision of Messrs. Beardmore to close their works there. The plant has been idle for some eighteen months, but the workers in the district had been hopeful of a re-start being made soon. Sheet makers have an accumulation of orders sufficient to keep going for some little time, but bookings for forward delivery are not satisfactory. In the galvanised sheet trade things are quiet and prices very keenly cut.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—In the South Wales iron and steel trade the outstanding event of the week has been the announcement of the formation by Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., and Baldwins, Ltd., of a new company to take over and operate as from the beginning of the present year the coke ovens, blast furnaces, steel works and heavy steel rolling mills of the two companies situated mainly at Cardiff, Dowlais, Margam and Port Talbot. The new company will have a capital of £5 million; it will control upwards of 600,000 tons of pig iron and about the same quantity of steel ingots (equivalent to between one-third and one-fourth respectively of the total output of South Wales and Monmouthshire), and the chairman will be Sir John Field Beale (chairman of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold's, Ltd.) and the vice-chairman, Sir W. Charles Wright (chairman of Baldwins, Ltd.). The directorate of the Ebbw Vale company has been reconstructed and steps are being taken to suspend operations at the few remaining operating branches of this company's iron and steel works. The position in the tinplate trade is satisfactory, with prices steady and the works well employed. There has been no change in quotations, except in foreign imported bars, which are firmer at £5 5s. per ton.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Market opened dull and easier following lower Eastern cables, but subsequently values marked some recovery on a renewal of buying interest. Dealings, however, were attended by a good deal of irregularity for forward dates, the market being rather sensitive and the outlook uncertain, depending largely on the amount of support, also the result of efforts made to balance supply, and demand by regulating output. Shipments from the Straits during December amounted to 8,849 tons, against 10,228 in the previous month. Total supply, 13,374, against 11,961. Total deliveries, 10,850, against 12,153; and visible supply 27,926, against 25,402 tons. Standard cash sold £174 10s. to £178 12s. 6d. and £176 10s.; three months, £177 10s. to £182 15s. and £179 15s. Sales in the East were reported at £179 10s. to £179 2s. 6d., £183 10s. and £181 ton c.i.f. terms.

COPPER values marked an upward trend and a fair demand was reservedly met, with slight irregularity at times. Standard cash sold at £70 to £71 12s. 6d. and £71 7s. 6d.; three months, £69-£70 10s. and £69 15s.

LEAD.—A dull market, but rates were generally maintained as sellers refrained from pressing. Good soft foreign pig, January, sold £21 7s. 6d. to £21 11s. 3d.; February, £21 10s.; March, £21 10s. to £21 11s. 3d.; April, £21 10s. to £21 12s. 6d. ton.

SPELTER firm, with a moderate business passing, but closed weak. January, sold £19 8s. 9d. to £19 15s. and £19 10s.; February, £19 17s. 6d. to £20 1s. 3d. and £19 16s. 3d.; March, £20 2s. 6d. to £20 6s. 3d. and £20 5s.; April, £20 3s. 9d.-£20 8s. 9d.-£20 3s. 9d.; May, £20 6s. 3d. ton.

ALUMINIUM quiet. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

ANTIMONY quiet and tendency easier. English regulus, £45 to £52 10s.; China ditto, spot, £31; January-February, £26 15s. to £27 5s.; crude, January-February, £18 10s. to £19 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—January-February, £27 5s. to £27 10s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—January-February, 50 per cent., 4s.; 60 per cent., 5s. per unit.

WOLFRAM slow. Chinese, January-February, 35s.; Burmese, ditto, 30s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER quietly steady. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. bottle.

TIN PLATES maintained. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 9d. to 19s. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, January 8th.

Spot sales from December 23rd until to-day (inclusive), are 45,000 bales, of which 26,220 are American, 5,700 Brazil, 500 Argentine, 5,100 Peru, 2,950 Egyptian, 2,850 African, 1,000 East Indian and 680 sundries. Imports for the same period are 213,457 bales, of which 139,369 are American, 24,152 Brazil, 974 Argentine, 7,468 Peru, 25,456 Egyptian, 3,222 African, 12,079 East Indian, and 737 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 9·42; Egyptian Sakel, 14·35; Uppers, 10·52; Brazil Fair, 9·07; Peru, G.F. Mod-Rough, 10·50; smooth, 10·07; East African G.F., 10·32; and West African Middling, 10·32. In the latter days of the old year, optimism carried prices 15 to 20 points higher than those ruling on December 21st. Since then poor trade advices have caused a decline and to-day values are about the same as on December 21st. Owing to the holidays trade was very restricted and the only feature liquidation of the January position. During the last two or three days the near positions have increased in strength owing to trade "calling" and switching of hedges into more distant deliveries. The New York Cotton Exchange Service has estimated the world's consumption of American cotton during November at 1,164,000 bales, against 1,349,000 bales in October, and 1,339,000 bales in November, 1928, and 1,419,000 bales in November, 1927. The total consumption for four months ending November, 1929, is estimated at 4,857,000 bales, against 5,083,000 bales in 1928 and 5,684,000 bales in 1927. The decline in consumption is largely due to the slackening of business following the New York stock market fall and the larger use of outside growths in European countries. It has been announced that the U.S.A. Federal Farm Board has approved the formation of a $30,000,000 cotton corporation and also intimated that it may not advance loans to farmers next season on the basis of 16 cents if acreage is increased. The markets continue to drag; there seems but little disposition to sell, and the buying power is very limited. Until such time as reports are received of new crop prospects and ideas of acreage are formed the situation seems to be a stalemate.

MANCHESTER, January 8th.

There has been some increase in the amount of inquiry in yarn and piece-goods, but sellers have complained of offers being very low, and not much progress has been made in the way of booking orders. Buyers are not afraid of any upward movement in values just at present, and commitments are restricted. There is rather less anxiety with regard to the political situation in India, but the possibility of an increase in import duties checks trade development. A miscellaneous business has been done, chiefly for Calcutta and Karachi in light bleaching descriptions. Demand for China continues to be adversely affected by low exchange rates and very limited clearances are reported at the auctions in Shanghai. Occasional sales have been put through for Egypt, the Near East and South America, but the minor markets as a whole have not given any general support. Some manufacturers are becoming more anxious about work for immediate execution. A slack feeling has prevailed in the yarn market. The prices ruling in American counts are worse than for a long time back. No increased activity can be recorded in Egyptian numbers.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1929.			1930.	Corresponding Date.	
	Dec. 18.	Dec. 21.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 8.	1929.	1928.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	9·37	9·34	9·42	9·42	10·49	10·63
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian ..... per lb.	14·10	13·95	14·15	14·35	18·90	17·70
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13½	13½	15½	15½
,, 40's weft ..... per lb.	14½	14½	14½	14½	16½	16½
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23½	23½	23½	23½	27½	27½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	23 7½	23 9	23 9	23 9	26 0	25 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 4½	26 6	26 6	26 6	28 3	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	15 6	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb.	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	14 0	14 0

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THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—There is still no sign of increased activity in any section of the wool textile industry, but conditions are certainly no worse than they were before the holidays. The outstanding feature is the lack of confidence, and although most traders agree that wool is now on a very reasonable level, few care to risk bulk buying so long as there appears to be any possibility of a further decline. Inquiries for tops and yarns suggest that a fair amount of business is being held in the background, and it seems certain that a considerable covering movement will develop immediately the raw wool market shows signs of hardening. The position may be a little clearer towards the end of the month when values have been tested in the Colonies and in London. Meanwhile there is a general tendency to restrict buying to the covering of immediate requirements, and it is significant that in practically all cases deliveries are wanted very quickly. No one seems to be carrying much stock, and this augurs well for the free movement of commodities when confidence is restored. Most of the large topmakers are quoting unchanged prices, though there and there concessions can be obtained by firms willing to sell forward on the chance of cheaper wool being obtainable. Consumption in all countries is restricted, and although in some quarters the outlook is viewed with more hopefulness than was possible a few weeks ago, no one expects any pronounced and rapid expansion in demand in the near future.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The commencement of the second half of the selling season in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa has enabled another test of raw material values to be made. Judging from the sales at Sydney and Christchurch, prices do not seem to have varied a great deal compared with those ruling before Christmas. Sydney is apparently a fairly firm market for all good wools, but ordinary and inferior merino fleece is somewhat irregular. Japan is still the principal supporter of the Sydney market, and no doubt the competition of buyers for that country is exerting a beneficial effect upon prices, though her takings up to the Christmas recess were considerably less than during the first half of the previous season. Whether Japan makes up for this reduction in purchases at a later date remains to be seen, but the support that is now being given will be welcome, not only in Sydney but also at Melbourne and Geelong. It would be a good thing if Japan could compete in South Africa. Sydney has been the best selling centre in Australia this season, largely due to the buying on Japanese account. The sale at Christchurch last Monday passed off most creditably, with prices fully equal to the market value of tops in Bradford. The low prices ruling in South America have unmistakably reacted upon New Zealand wool. Buyers are not keen enough to operate at Buenos Aires and Monte Video to influence prices in an upward direction. This can hardly be expected in face of very unsatisfactory conditions in manufacturing centres, though the present reasonable cost of wool should contribute something to the revival of demand among ultimate consumers. The probability is that current values will continue for several weeks. Mr George Whitaker, who was re-elected president of the British Wool Federation, made some trenchant remarks at the annual meeting of that organisation about the charge brought against Bradford by Australian and New Zealand selling interests of deliberately attempting to depress prices. Nothing could be further from the truth, and Mr Whitaker's statement has the support of the entire trade.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

All things considered, the turnover this week in leather has shown an improvement on that of last week, and, generally speaking, the outlook is better than it was this time last year. Market hides and skins have improved in value since the holidays, and although prices at some of the sales held so far in the North were unchanged, the tendency, if anything, is upward. Best ox and heifers are now selling at from 7¼d. to 6½d., and seconds at from 6½d. to 6¼d. With calf skins inclined to be scarce, the trend of values is upwards and prices for bests range from 6⅞d. to 11½d. Business in connection with imported hides is slow, and in most instances any alteration in values has been in buyers' favour. The exception to this is in connection with the South American market for frigorific hides, where a fair amount of business has been transacted on account of United States tanners at higher prices. This week Argentine ox have changed hands on the basis of 8 15/16d., with light ox selling at 8d., and Montevideo ox at 9 3/16d. The Liebig Company will sell 20,000 Colon ox hides by inscription to-day (Wednesday). With an easier tendency in regard to dry River Plates, rather more interest is being taken in these goods. B.A. Americanos have changed hands at 9½d. and Inservibles at 5⅞d., while summer-haired Sierra Cordobas have sold at 8d., and M.V. Americanos at 10½d. A limited amount of business has been put through in connection with Cape hides, which have realised 9⅞d. and 8⅞d. for first and seconds drys, and 8⅜d. and 7⅜d. for dry-salted. The United States market is cabled as steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 16 cents. Considering the state of the sole-leather market during most of December last, the amount of business transacted this week has been satisfactory. Shoe manufacturers have been making inquiries for suitable stocks to meet their needs, and, although in the majority of cases orders are for small parcels only, a steady trade is being done. The repairing section appears to be active: orders for bends for this class of work have been more frequent and for larger quantities. A certain amount of liveliness has also been experienced in connection with offal, and certain weights in both bellies and shoulders are in rather short supply. Prices generally are steady at recent rates, but here and there very slight advances have been obtained. Upper leathers have not moved so well as bottom stock, and although fair deliveries have been made, quite a proportion of the goods sent out was in connection with orders placed towards the latter end of last year. Day-to-day inquiries are received for small parcels of box and willow calf, as is also the case with black and brown glacé kid. Semi-chrome leathers are inquired for, but at unsatisfactory figures. A shade better business has been done in connection with patent leather, but the bulk of the inquiry is for the cheaper grades. Shoe manufacturers have now got back to more or less normal working, and some of them are quite satisfied with the holiday sales. Orders are coming through for filling up lines, and inquiries for spring goods are being received.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, January 8th.

The jute trade has begun the New Year with no brighter prospects. Trade is very dull and a declining tendency on the part of Calcutta goods has practically stopped all business. The Calcutta mills continue to work their extra six hours per week, and the over-production is adversely affecting all commodities in the jute trade. There seems to be little hope of any improvement until the Calcutta mills signify their intention to revert to a shorter working period, but they seem to be determined to carry out their intentions to depress prices to such an extent that competitors will be driven out of the trade. At the present ruling rates for goods, they themselves must be losing heavily. The opinion of those outside India is that the Calcutta mills might easily have been content with the profits they were making of anything from 40 to 120 per cent. They have unfortunately increased their production in a season when the jute trade should have received all the encouragement possible, as, when general trading throughout the world is bad, the jute trade is one of those which suffer most. Apart from speculative operations, little interest is being taken in the raw material. Prices have been steadier, but without creating any real impression, and an easier tendency has again set in. Consumers' demand is of small account. The value of Daisee assortment is £26 to £26 10s., and for Tossa assortment business could be done at round about £28, January-February. White jute is quite nominal at from £32 10s. for First Marks and £29 10s. for Lightnings. Some cheap sales of spot Daisee have been recorded recently. Jute yarns are very quiet, and there is little or nothing being done to test prices. A few small quantities of common 8-lb. cops have been purchased at 2s. 10d. and 8-lb. spools at 2s. 11d., which are the best spinners can hope to obtain. Twist is not so firm and the rate of 5½d. has been broken for 3-ply 8 lb., while sacking yarns have been sold at less than 3⅝d. for 24-lb. weft and 4⅜d. for 8-lb. chains. Rove continues at £27 for 48 lb. and £17 for 200 lb. Fine yarns keep steady, and carpet qualities are nominal at from 4⅝d. for 14-lb. warp. Business in jute cloth is confined to the merest trifles. A few widths outside of the 40 in. goods are being bought at comparatively higher rates than those prevailing for the 40 in. makes, which are quoted at 3⅞d. for 10½-oz. 40 in. and 2⅞d. for 8-oz. Anyone with a good order would obtain a concession. Linoleum hessians are dull, and heavy goods are receiving little or no encouragement. The lowest prices quoted for Calcutta hessians are 23s. 9d. for 10 oz. and 19s. 6d. for 8 oz., January-March shipment.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Quiet conditions prevail in the markets, and the volume of business done is small. The trade has bought linseed oil fairly freely for near delivery. With the prospects of better supplies prices are a shade easier, and business in raw oil on spot ex Hull is reported up to £43 15s.; January delivery is quoted £43, and January-April, £42. A little more interest has been shown in cotton oil, purchases of crude Egyptian, ex Hull having been made at £28 10s. on spot and £28 5s. forward, with sellers now asking above these figures. Other seed oils are quiet, and in certain cases rather lower. In the oilseed section, Plate linseed on spot has eased to £19 15s., with new crop from January to March shipment about 20s. below that figure. The shipment of the new Argentine crop is proceeding slowly. The quantity now on passage to Europe is 83,800 tons (including 8,100 tons from India), or 16,500 tons more than a week ago. A year ago the total was 168,700 tons. Cotton seed is quiet on spot, but steadier forward, with black Egyptian held for £8 10s. January loading. Demand for oil cakes and meals is rather better at the reduced prices.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Business in spot parcels was conducted quietly, trade buyers in general now being in possession of fair stocks after recent liberal purchases. No change however, was made in quotations. Cables from Cuba report that the Selling Agency for the island is getting into touch with representatives of American refiners in order to get rid of the balance of the old crop. In the event of business resulting, price obtained will not be divulged. Some eight

factories in the United Kingdom devoted to working up home-grown roots, have definitely closed for the season, and the remaining nine will finish in the next week or two. This should help to relieve any pressure of supplies likely to arise, though fairly liberal quantities of home-grown granulated have been recently consigned to London warehouses. Raw sugars dull. Continental parcels still quiet, with business reported in Czechoslovakian granulated, April-June shipment, at 10s. 2½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. The market in India fails to revive, in fact, quietness governs all Far Eastern markets. Verification of this is forthcoming in indicated Java shipments for last month of 201,000 tons, as against 291,000 in December 1928. Terminal sections generally quiet. Of raw, February delivery, sold 6s. 8½d. to 6s. 9d.; May, 7s. 9⅜d.; August, 8s. 3⅜d. to 8s. 4½d. and 8s. 3⅝d.; December, 8s. 6d. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending January 4th totalled 223,106 tons, against 105,430 last year. Cuban receipts last week totalled 13,064 tons, against 16,262 last year; exports, 28,159, against 37,778; stocks, 166,144, against 102,822.

COFFEE.—The chief feature is still strength of demand for all really fine liquoring qualities and in which Costa Rica and Kenya mainly figure. Full to rather dearer prices were secured. Medium and common grades, however, mostly neglected. Fine bold colory Kenya reached 159s. 6d. Good bold Costa Rica, 145s. 6d.

COCOA.—Spot market quite, and small sales include good fermented Accra spot, at 44. Accra, F/F, January-March, sold 38s. 9d.; February-April, 39s. 3d. f.o.b. Afloat Continent sold 41s. 6d. c.i.f. Terminal section manifested some irregularity. January sold 43s. 6d. to 44s. and 43s. 9d.; May, 43s. 10½d.; July, 44s. 4½d. to 44s. 6d.; September, 45s. 1½d.

TEA.—Indian sales were resumed on Monday last, and during the week, 57,154 packages were offered. Competition opened very quietly, but improved later, and all fine tippy teas also those possessing autumnal flavour cleared at firm to dearer rates. Useful medium ruled firm. Low medium and common grades maintained a fairly steady position. Ceylon auctions of 30,683 packages, came to a generally firm market, though some irregularity was observable in bidding. Leaf teas proved the weakest feature, being frequently 2d. to 1d. down under lack of sufficient export support. Java sales irregular and easier; 14,922 packages offered.

RICE.—Complete stagnation still holds sway in the market, and prices, especially for Burma grain, disclose marked weakness. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, 14s.; new crop, January, 12s. 1½d.; February, 12s. Spanish oiled, February-March, 15s.; Italian, 17s. 3d.; Fancy Blue Rose American, 20s.; extra ditto 20s. to 20s. 6d. c.i.f. No. 3 Burmah to the Levant, double bags, January, 12s. 3d.; February, 12s.; S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 9d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, February-March, to Europe, 12s. 3d. Siam Super, January-February, 15s. 6d. Californian nominal.

BROKEN RICE.—Quiet. Burma, 1A, February-March, 11s. 6d.; B1, 11s.; A2, 10s. 9d.; B2, 10s. 3d. Saigon 1 and 2 mixed, 10s. 6d. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN.—Market dull. Burma January-March, £5 3s. 9d.; March-April, £5 6s. 3d.

BEANS.—There is no appreciable revival in trade. Madagascar buttners per "Eugene Grossos," sellers, 28s. 3d.; afloat steamer "Clan Macindoe," sellers, 27s. 9d.; November-December, 27s. 4½d.; December-January, 26s. 9d.; January-March, 26s. 6d. c.i.f. Other descriptions unaltered. Ohtenashi, March-April, quoted 23s. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 13s. 9d.; December-January, 13s.; January-February, 12s. 9d. c.i.f. London. Danubian, hand-picked, spot, 27s. to 27s. 6d.; January-February, 23s. 6d., c.i.f. London. To Glasgow, North African, January-February, 9s. 1½d. to 9s. 3d. c.i.f.; Chinese horse, afloat, 8s. 9d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—A dull market again in force. Japanese afloat, 16s. to 16s. 6d.; November-December, 16s. 6d.; December-January, 16s. 6d.; January-February, 16s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Dutch steady but quiet. Marrowfats, prompt, quoted 18s. 6d.; small blues H.P., 12s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s. 6d. Karachi nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, January old, 57s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 60s. Tasmanian, A grade, new, February-March, 68s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper in fair request and market steadier with regard to forward positions. Lampong, January-March, buyers, 10⅞d.; March-May held for 11d. Muntok, white, January-March sold 1s. 3⅝d.; March-May, 1s. 3¾d. lb. Tellicherry, January-March, sellers, 109s. Aleppy, 104s. cwt. c.i.f. London stocks on the week, 7 tons higher for black and 2 down regarding white. Black, 1,333, against 1,261 same time last year, and white, 1,466, against 281. Cloves dull on former terms. No change to note in the position of tapioco. Sago flour weaker, with sales in January-February to the United Kingdom at 12s. 1½d. c.i.f. and further sellers. Ginger steady.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady with a fair demand. Pyrgos, quoted, 38s -38s. 6d.; Amalias, 38s. 6d -40s.; Patras, 41s -45s; Gulf, 44s -53s.; Vostizza, 54s.-65s.; small ditto, 51s.-57s.; Australian, 38s.-45s. Sultanas quiet. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 35s.-52s.; Cape, bleached, 35s.-40s. Dates maintained. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 14s.-14s. 6d. Raisins: Valencia quiet of sale. Quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs quiet. Layers, spot, 35s.-45s.; genuine, 32s.-40s.; good average, 28s.-30s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market remains firm for Californian plums, with improving inquiries for all sizes, but other descriptions quiet and without material change. Plums: Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 72s 6d; 40's-50's, 67s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 63s. Apricots: South African new crop Royal, 55s.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.-77s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, extra choice, 87s. 6d.; fancy, 92s. 6d.; extra, 102s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 60s.; extra choice, 65s.; fancy, 67s. 6d.; extra, 72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 110s.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P.G., Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 115s.-135s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s., new crop, c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 140s.; Barcelona, 132s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts, quoted, 150s. ex-wharf London.

CANNED GOODS, &c.

Demand for Californian fruits is slow to open out, but an early improvement is anticipated, as retailers' stocks will need replenishing following a fairly extensive clearance prior to the holidays. Meanwhile prices are maintained. Singapore pines move off slowly, both for spot and shipment parcels, but Hawaiian are firmly held and South African steady on limited supplies. Italian tomatoes quiet of sale at late rates.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon steady and red talls reservedly offered, but trading somewhat restricted. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s. 6d.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-37s. Japanese crab firm for fancy qualities at 97s. 6d.-100s. Lobsters quiet of sale, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines steady, especially for the better grades. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market quiet but prices firm, with only limited supplies of ox tongues available; lunch tongues tend dearer, and higher prices are ruling for tinned hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market occasionally the turn easier. Condensed, Dutch, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 39s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 23s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 50s. English full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 42s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 24s. 6d., carriage paid. Powders, 26 per cent. butter fat, full cream, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 74s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 96s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 28s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 43s.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 41s. 6d., all per cwt. All Dutch prices are nett, ex-store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of March, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 9d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market quiet, especially for manufacturing grades. Jamaica, ivory white, set, 57s. 6d.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s. San Domingo, quoted, 50s.-55s. for fine grades, with manufacturing sorts at 42s.-44s.

LORD BEAVERBROOK
AND
EMPIRE TRADE
[*By HARTLEY WITHERS*]

THE MARKET'S REVIVAL
AND MONEY PROSPECTS

THE REVIVAL IN
RAND GOLD SHARES

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	53	3
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	9	6
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	8	10
Oats, " "	7	0
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	30	0
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 40 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt. 12 6	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 4 0	5	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 6	6	2
Argentine chilled hinds... 5 0	5	6
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6 8	7	8
N.Z. frozen " 4 8	5	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 9 0	10	0
BACON— **OTHER FOODS.**		
Irish .....per cwt. 103 0	120	0
Danish..... 99 0	110	0
Canadian..... 92 0	103	0
Dutch 90 0	101	0
HAMS—Irish..... 0 0	0	0
Canadian..... 0 0	0	0
American 91 0	112	6
BUTTER— Nominal		
Irish creamery per cwt.		
Australian 144 0	162	0
New Zealand 154 0	182	0
Danish..... 176 0	178	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt. 96 0	98	0
New Zealand 83 0	87	0
English Cheddars 90 0	116	0
Dutch 51 0	98	0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt. 43 0	47	0
Trinidad 60 0	65	0
Grenada 48 0	54	0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt. 140 0	150	0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 150 0	180	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 120 0	143	0
Kenya, bold sizes 112 6	157	0
Colombian, mid to fine... 110 0	125	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120 20 0	22	0
Danish..... 18 0	20	0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs. 0 0	0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes 10 0	16	0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300 8 0	32	0
360 7 0	21	0
504 7 0	15	6
Lemons, Naples.... boxes 0 0	0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes 8 0	11	6
" ..... cases 11 0	30	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1 0 0	0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls. 22 0	30	0
" (var.) boxes 9 0	12	0
" Tasmanian boxes 0 0	0	0
" W. Australian 0 0	0	0

FRUIT *(continued)*—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	6	3	8	0
case 5s.	8	0	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	78	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	0	55	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	10	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	67	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	75	0	110	0
Mace..... per lb.	3	0	3	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	21	3	24	9
Java, *white, c.i.f. India,* Jan.-Mar.	11	1½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	26	0	26	6
Crushed.....	24	9	25	3
Granulated.....	22	9	23	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	21	7½	22	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	2½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	2½
Orange Pekoe	0	11	2	7
Broken Orange.....	0	9½	2	10½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10-11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— **TEXTILES.**	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	9·42
Sakellaridis, *f.g.f.*.....	14·35
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	10	0	0
Pernau HD	57	0	0	0
Slaneta Medium 1st sort....	64	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	54	0	56	0
Manila, Jan.-Mar. "J2"...	35	10	0	0
N.Z., Aug.-Oct.			nom.	
Sisal African, Jan.-Mar...	34	10	36	10
Mexican, Nov.-Dec.	38/15/0		43/2/6	
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton Jan.-Feb.	27/7/6		0	0
Feb.-Mar.	27/15	0	0	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	13	9	15	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	s.	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	23	
" Lincoln hog, washed	15½	
Queensland, scd, super cmbg.	33	
N.S.W. greasy, super "	17	
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50-56	17	
Crossbred 40-44	12½	
Tops—		
Merinos 70's	34	
" 64's	32	
Crossbred 48's	18½	
" 46's	18	

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	6
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box 18		9	19	0

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/5/0		83	15
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard 71/12/6			71/15	0
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	23	0	0	0
Soft Foreign 21/11/3			21/12	6
Spelter G.O.B. 19/15/0			20/7/6	
Tin—English ingots ...179	10		180	0
Standard cash 178/7/6			178/12/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	11	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... *ton*	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac .... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .... per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Jan.-Feb.	22/7/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea Dec.-Jan.	21/5/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	16	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.		
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	9	0	10½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	5½
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9½	1	1½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	44	15	0	0
Rape, refined	42	6	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	31	15	33	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	5	12	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Jan.-Feb.	18/17/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Jan.	22/11/3		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	4½	0	6
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	15	0	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	19	0	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	19	0	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	19	0	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	10	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	0	0
African "	0	6	0	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	6
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	6
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	9
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	6

Californian white, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, dark amber, 50s.-55s.; medium, 55s.-65s.; light, 65s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

Market weaker, as buyers adopted reserve and lower cables came to hand from the U.S.A. and Singapore. Standard sheet, spot, and January, sold 7⅛d. to 7 7/16d.; February, 7⅛d.; March, 7 11/16d. to 7⅝d.; April-June, 7⅜d. to 7¾d.; July-September, 8¼d. to 8 1/16d.; October-December, 8⅜d. to 8 5/16d. London landings last week totalled 3,055 tons, deliveries 699, so that stocks increased 2,356 tons to 56,616, which compare with 21,953 last year. Liverpool stocks increased 379, landings amounting to 621, deliveries 242, and stocks 19,438, against 2,953 same time last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Buyers again reserved and prices manifested a weaker tendency. Meantime, arrivals into Calcutta are increasing and quality improving. Firsts, January-February, continent, quoted, £27 7s. 6d.; February-March, sellers, £27 15s.; and April-March, quoted, £28 5s. Lightnings, February-March, £25 10s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—A quiet and rather featureless state of affairs continues in the market for Manila qualities, but, with no pressure to sell, prices for the main part ruled unaltered. J No. 2, January-March, quoted, £35 15s.; K, £32 5s.; L No. 1, £30 5s.; L No. 2, £27 10s.; M No. 1, £27 10s.; M No. 2, £25 10s.; G, £37 5s. c.i.f. Total receipts for last year are in the region of 1,600,000 bales, but adjustment is to follow. This constitutes a high level record, and beats previous record year of 1923 by about 113,000 bales. Receipts last week cabled 28,000 bales, against 25,000 last year and 27,000, 1928. Estimates for next week, 25,000, and week after, 25,000. Manila shipments during last week, 7,000 bales to the United Kingdom, 5,000 continent, 8,000 U.S.A., and 9,000 to Japan and other countries. African sisal meets a fair demand, as prices are relatively cheaper than those current for competing Mexican. No. 1 f.a.q., January-March, quoted, £36; good marks, £36 10s.; No. 2, £35 and £35 10s. c.i.f. respectively. Mexican: Good white, £38 15s. to £39 12s. 6d.; special, £41 5s. to £42 2s. 6d.; and special brushed, £42 5s. to £43 2s. 6d.

SHELLAC.—A dull market continues. Fair T.N., spot, 147s. 6d.; March, 136s.; May, 138s. cwt.

COPRA.—General quietness continues and prices ruled barely steady. Straits sundries, January-February, Rotterdam, quoted, £22 7s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies, £22 6s. 3d.; Ceylon, £23 17s. 6d. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, January February, £21 6s. 3d.; smoked, South Sea, £21 5s., sellers; sun-dried ditto, £21 10s.; hot-air dried and plantation Rabaul, £21 15s. Palm kernels, February-March, Hamburg, £16 15s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 20s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3½d.; Java, 2s. 9½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—January 8.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 8	7 0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 8	10 0
Short Horns	6 0	6 4	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	6 6	6 10	Ewes	5 4	5 8
Devons	7 0	7 4	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	10 0	10 8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—January 8.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	4 0	5 0
" " whites.....	3 0	3 6
Bedford King Edward.....	4 0	...
" " whites.....	3 0	...
Essex King Edward.....	3 6	4 0
" " " whites	2 6	3 0

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Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY this week has been definitely more usable, and on Tuesday as much as 5 per cent. had to be paid, though by the following day the rate had relapsed to just over 4 per cent. The cause lay in heavy withdrawals on Government

account. Wednesday witnessed the end of the fortnight's "grace" allowed to motorists in respect of license duties, while income tax payments are already taking a fair amount of money off the market. In addition there are the payments of the final call on the new Conversion Loan, which amounted, according to the last revenue return, to £16 million on the week, and there remains a further £60,000,000 to be paid.

* * * *

This payment would be a serious matter for the market were it not for the fact that it is likely to be balanced by corresponding repayments of existing debt. Approaching maturities of short-term debt are likely to release £30,000,000 within the next few weeks, while this week and next Treasury bill maturities will exceed issues by £15,000,000. Thus, to some extent, as the Treasury takes funds off the market with one hand, it will restore them with the other. This does not mean that no stringency is to be anticipated, as lenders will naturally be cautious as and when these big transfers on and off the market are taking place.

* * * *

Once more Bank rate has remained unchanged at 5 per cent., and early this week the prevailing feeling was that in failing to reduce its rate to 4½ per cent. last week the Bank had missed its opportunity. Since then the principal foreign exchanges have moved against London, and on Thursday this week the dollar was $4.86\frac{15}{16}$, the franc Frs. 123.92, and the mark Mks. 20.38. On Tuesday £398,000 of the gold available in the market was taken by France, and after satisfying India and the trade the Bank only got £341,965. It is only fair to add that Tuesday's price was 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce, which shows that the Bank did not feel it necessary to bid up to its limit, but in spite of this fact and in spite of this week's reductions in the Dutch and German bank rates, the international position does not patently call for an immediate reduction in the Bank of England rate.

* * * *

With the failure of Bank rate to fall, discount rates have risen a little, and the three months' market rate on Wednesday was $4\frac{1}{16}$-$4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. The gap between Bank rate and market rate remains wide, and some attempts have been made to raise the latter. The difficulty is that the supply of Treasury bills and of Continental trade bills is now dwindling, while the presence of heavy maturities means that there is a keen replacement demand for bills.

	Dec. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2. 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	5	5½ (Dec.12,'29)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Discount ∫ Call	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Houses ⌊ Notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$4\frac{11}{16}$-¾	$4\frac{5}{16}$	$4\frac{1}{16}$	$4\frac{1}{16}$-⅛	...

This week's Bank return reveals several interesting changes. Tuesday's gold purchases and the arrival of £1,000,000 in sovereigns—it is believed from Australia—mainly account for the increase of £1,439,472 in the Bank's gold stocks. A further reduction of £10,978,857 in the note circulation, representing the completion of the return of the Christmas notes, explains the rise of £12,418,329 in the banking department's reserve. The fall of £5,410,067 in discounts and advances possibly represents maturities of short bills discounted at the Bank in preparation for the end of the year, while the Treasury operations discussed above amply account for the increase of £7,600,178 in public deposits, and the decline of £8,630,505 in Government securities. As a result of all these changes, bankers' deposits fell by £11,343,163.

NEW YORK.

Money remains easy and Federal Reserve statements show that there has been the usual January contraction in continuing systems, discounts falling off 125 millions. Circulation has dropped 54 millions, while reserves are up 49 millions. The ratio, at 75.4, is up 2.5 on the week and 8.9 on the year. Similar changes have occurred at the local bank. The small increase in brokers' loans indicates that this situation is stabilised. Meanwhile, Wall Street is watchfully waiting for indications as to the business outlook. Steel production has improved, with the industry at 65 per cent. to 70 per cent. of capacity, but prices remain somewhat ragged.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Markets were less active, profit-taking following the modest gains of the previous week, while gilt-edged stocks reflected the harder conditions of the money market. Activity in Undergrounds was a feature of the Home Railway market. Industrials were irregular, with a decreased volume of business. Rubber shares showed a certain "psychological" hardening on Dutch proposals for restricting the output of the commodity. Little interest, public or professional, was displayed in the oil share market. Kaffirs were dull on the subsidence of French buying activity.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The principal markets are still marking time. Export business in coal remains active, but there is no great volume of forward contracts and prices in some districts have a downward tendency. The anthracite market is strong. The demand for iron and steel is not yet showing the improvement for which makers hoped, though there is a shade more activity in certain classes. Raw cotton is a slightly better market, and more interest has been shown overseas in Manchester goods, but the increased turnover in yarn has been at very low prices. Business in the wool textile trades is still being withheld for fear of a further decline in prices. The improvement in the hide and leather trades is maintained. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are in poor demand. Wheat has again fallen.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Considerable activity marked the earlier part of the week, but conditions became quieter later on. Sterling was erratic against some of the principal exchanges, and the tendency was rather against us. New York declined from 4.87¼ to $4.86\frac{15}{16}$ after being down to $4.86\frac{11}{16}$, and later up to 4.87. Montreal lost ½ at 4.92¼, after 4.91¾. Paris was two points worse on balance at 123.92 after being as low as 123.90¼. Brussels lost 3½ at 34.95¾. Milan was firm and steady, gaining a little on balance at 93.05 after 92.95. Madrid was again irregular, but improved, with the announcement of Government investigation and defensive measures, from 40.20 to 36.50. Amsterdam depreciated with the lowering of the Bank rate from $12.08\frac{7}{8}$ to $12.10\frac{7}{8}$. Berlin showed a similar tendency earlier and for the same reason, and depreciated from 20.39½ to 20.41, but recovered later to 20.38. Switzerland depreciated steeply from 25.13 to 25.16¼ with the retransfer of Swiss funds abroad after the close of the end of the year transactions. The South American currencies were again irregular, Rio being especially erratic, but gaining $\frac{3}{32}$d. on balance at $5\frac{7}{16}$d. The rupee was steady at 1s. $5\frac{61}{64}$d., and the yen gained $\frac{1}{32}$d. at 2s. $0\frac{7}{32}$d. In the futures market, fluctuations were frequent and pronounced, especially in the reichsmark and the dollar. Paris was weaker at 2½ and 6 centimes premium, a considerable decline on last week. Brussels was at rather wider discounts of 2 and 4 centimes. Amsterdam, from ⅛ cent discount and par last week, went to ½ cent and 1½ cent, premium in each case. Berlin was erratic but practically unchanged on balance at 2¾ and 7 pfennigs discount. Silver prices rose with Indian and Chinese demand by $\frac{9}{16}$d. to 21⅜d. for spot and by ⅜d. to 20¾d. for forward. The Chinese silver exchanges improved in sympathy, Hong Kong gaining ⅝d. at 1s. 8d. and Shanghai a penny at 2s. 1d.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

We have pleasure in announcing that our Intelligence Branch has recently been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., the British counterpart of the well-known and old-established American investment service. A new company has been formed under the title of Moodys-Economist Services Ltd. Requests from our readers for economic, statistical or other information will in future be handled by the new company, which will have at its disposal the records both of the Economist Intelligence Branch and of Moody's Investors Service, Ltd.

BANKS AND BUSINESS.

Mr. J. H. Thomas had something of real significance to say to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce last week. After dealing with the causes of the slow rate of British industry's recovery in recent years, and pointing out the limitations of Government action and the danger lest expenditure in the form of doles should have the effect of sapping the forces of enterprise and initiative, the Lord Privy Seal went on to say that the Government intended to revive the commercial diplomatic appointments abroad that had been given up some years ago and to create certain new posts, in addition to sending overseas more trade missions similar to that which had recently been to the Argentine with Lord D'Abernon. But his most important announcement was on the subject of finance. Prefacing his remarks with a tribute to the work of the Governor of the Bank of England in steering the country through its post-war difficulties, he told his audience that he had been discussing with financial authorities the question of assistance to industry in reorganising itself and modernising its plant and equipment. As a result, he was able to make the following carefully prepared statement:—

"In considering the steps that might be taken to produce a better employment position by improving the organisation and equipment of British industries, I have found that a feeling exists that manufacturers are handicapped in bringing about the necessary reorganisation and re-equipment by the fact that the long-continued trade depression has pushed them to the limits of the credit which they can reasonably expect to obtain from their bankers or which the bankers can reasonably be expected to provide. As a result of consultations which I have had, I am now in a position to state that the City is deeply interested in placing industry upon a broad and sound basis and ready to support any plans that in its opinion lead to this end. Those in the City who have been studying this matter are convinced that a number of our important industries must be fundamentally reorganised and modernised in order to be able to produce at prices which will enable them to compete with the world. Industries which propose schemes that, in the opinion of those advising the City, conform to this requirement will receive the most sympathetic consideration and the co-operation of the City in working out plans and finding the necessary finance. In the case of individual undertakings the City will be similarly ready to help, provided that the scheme under discussion fits in as part of the general plans for the industry in question as a whole and gives reasonable promise that the changes will enable the undertaking to become an effective unit in combination and co-operation with other similar undertakings."

This declaration Mr Thomas described as an open invitation to industry to come forward with real schemes of reorganisation and as an intimation that the whole forces of British finance were prepared to stand behind industry in a forward move.

This pronouncement, which will certainly be considered by the leaders of British industry with great care, should undoubtedly act as an incentive to hasten a process which has been going on in recent years with painful slowness. But before we build too optimistic hopes upon it, or assume that it means immediate reform, it is important to analyse the situation and consider what *rôle* finance has played and can play in relation to industry.

At the outset there is a question of fact. To what extent is it the case that industrial stagnation is due to concerns having reached the "limits of credit" to which Mr Thomas referred? It is frequently asserted that the fault lies primarily with those who are in charge of industry to-day; that they have not shown the imagination, the will, the capacity for leadership or the experience of the methods of big business that is necessary; and that if really promising schemes had been forthcoming at almost any time during recent years, the means of financing them would have been found. There is a great deal of truth in this view. The inbred conservatism of British employers, adhering tenaciously to methods which have served them well in the past, and with an insufficient first-hand acquaintance with either methods or markets overseas, has been and remains the greatest obstacle to rapid change. The obstinate individualism of the coal owners is unfortunately not an isolated phenomenon, but is a more or less serious handicap that has to be overcome in every branch of trade. We have no doubt that there are many among the younger generation who have the required capacity; but it is still much too difficult for them to force their way to the head of affairs through the obstacles of tradition and heredity.

But the banks also have something to answer for. Well-designed as it is for dealing with the business of short-term commercial credits, the British banking system in its industrial loans policy has suffered from the absence both of appropriate mechanism and of what may be termed "constructive vision." Looking back over the history of the past decade, it is now fairly obvious that the process of reconstruction would have been much farther forward if the banks had faced their losses and allowed many concerns, which they have been keeping alive in the vain hopes that things would right themselves, to go out of business. We fully realise that drastic action would have involved hardship to workpeople and brought down upon the banks much unpopularity and criticism; but if the purge of bankruptcy had been more freely used, the conditions of the country would now unquestionably be in a much more healthy condition. If the banks now find themselves with their credit-giving power extended to its maximum, and with embarrassing commitments in many branches of industrial activity, it is largely the result of the view they have taken of the post-war situation as a whole and in this country in particular, combined with acute competition between themselves. It is well known that certain promising schemes of reorganisation have had to be abandoned owing to the difficulty, not merely of overcoming the special interests of individual firms or companies, but of reconciling the conflicting claims of the various banks. Hitherto the banks have been extremely cautious in using their influence to promote reorganisation and, even in such action as they have taken, they have been guided rather by the desire to secure their own position as creditors than to consider in a broad way the efficiency and future of the industry concerned.

The statement of Mr Thomas implies that a way will be found to reconcile conflicting banking interests; that some common viewpoint will be adopted; and that in spite of heavy existing commitments means will be found of furnishing fresh capital resources for industry. This deduction raises two further very interesting issues.

The first is: How far can, and should, the banking world take the initiative in promoting rationalisation? In the United States, the growth of many great concerns—for example, the Carnegie Steel Company, from which the United States Steel Corporation ultimately sprang, and Mr Ford's colossal enterprise—was in no way due to the initiative of financiers. On the other hand, probably a much larger number of giant enterprises are in great degree the creation of financial brains. It is also the case that in Germany and on the Continent generally banks have taken an active part, not only in promoting enterprises, but in guiding their destinies as going concerns. British banking has developed along a different tradition, owing to the fact that commerce has played so much larger a *rôle* in our economic life than in that of any other country. British banks have no highly organised industrial departments comparable with those of European banks, and one of the tasks that must be faced if the City of London is to take an active interest in industry is to find the necessary personnel and to develop the technique that will be required.

The case for financial initiative is that an outsider can weigh up the situation as a whole better than those in the business, who often cannot see the wood for the trees; that frequently heads of firms and directors of companies have a vested interest in preserving their situations; that if nothing is done the banks, in common with the rest of the community, suffer; and, finally, that the financiers have the indispensable means of smoothing the way. At the same time, the powerful weapon of financial pressure must

be used with great discrimination. The building up of great business units is a process which has often, unfortunately, been attempted for quite improper financial motives, and has ended in disaster. And, even when designed with the best of motives, a financial reconstruction may come to grief if it is not based on a sound technical foundation. While it is undoubtedly the case that waiting for the industrialists themselves to move has involved undue delay, it is none the less essential that industrial considerations alone must determine the size, form and character of the new organisations, and that the necessary experience and knowledge must be supplied from the ranks of industry. If the new move is towards a more intimate collaboration between the industrialist and the financier, well and good; there cannot be anything in the nature of a purely "financial" dictatorship.

The second question is as to the *rôle* of the Bank of England. It was freely rumoured that Mr Thomas's statement was to be made on behalf of the Governor, and, in a subsequent comment, the Lord Privy Seal revealed that it had the approval of the Bank of England, though he also intimated that it had a more general backing than that of Mr Norman alone. In one sense the business of refinancing rationalised industries (*i.e.*, inasmuch as it calls for new long-term capital) is not strictly the function of either the Bank of England or the joint stock banks, though both—by their experience and influence in the financial field—can be helpful. In a wider sense the problem of evolving the "finance of rationalisation," of collaborating with industry in reconstruction, and even guiding the flow of capital is a banking responsibility. But it is a problem which falls within the province of the joint stock banks, not of the Bank of England. The primary function of a central bank is to control currency and credit, and Mr Thomas should not expect the Bank of England to compete in any way with other institutions in banking business.

No indication has been given of the form in which the City will give effect to its undertaking; presumably, the eventual establishment of some corporation or organisation in which all the chief City institutions will be interested is contemplated. It is known that last November a private company was registered under the title of the Securities Management Trust, whose directorate includes Mr Montagu Norman and whose constitution resembles that of an investment trust with wide consultative functions. This concern, established under the auspices of the Bank of England, might play a useful part in providing a link between industry and the new capital market, and might well be the parent of a larger institution in which all interested sections of our financial organism would participate. The Bank of England may appropriately undertake the task of intermediary in bringing other institutions into collaboration. But Mr Norman is beyond doubt likely to recognise that it is undesirable for the Bank of England to be too directly concerned in the development and administration of plans that may involve the fate of many individual concerns. It is of the first importance that the central bank should maintain, and that the City should have complete confidence that it will always maintain, absolute impartiality in its dealings, whether with banks or industrial concerns. A great step is gained if we have the assurance that banking co-operation will be available for the end in view, but, except in so far as public utilities or other enterprises of a necessarily monopolistic kind are concerned, it would savour too much of dictatorship if either the Government or a semi-public institution such as the Bank of England were closely associated with the practical application of the plan.

Much remains to be done before the house of British industry is in order and our methods and equipment are fit for their task and abreast of those of our competitors. Labour conditions, technique and personnel have to be overhauled and adjusted to new needs—a task which requires the co-operation of labour and a long period of freedom from industrial strife. In the process, there will remain the problem of unemployment, for the absorption of labour may be slow and much displacement and rearrangement necessary. Mr Thomas has yet to show that he has envisaged means of dealing with this, his special, task. But it is to his credit that he has put into the forefront the fundamental importance of correcting underlying conditions, and we heartily welcome the new impulse that has been given to the essential task of industrial reconstruction.

THE NAVAL CONFERENCE.

The London Naval Conference opens on Tuesday with a single item on its agenda, "The reduction and limitation of war vessels on the basis of mutually accepted strength." That definition, given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, is sufficiently wide to cover any proposition that may be advanced, and sufficiently limited by its closing words to dispose of the suggestion that any one of the participating Powers is being required to discard its own instruments of security while possible enemies retain theirs.

The Conference is, in some respects, anomalous. Though convened to deal with essentially technical questions of tons and guns and "effective ship-life," it is to consist exclusively of politicians; and, although an existing political agreement—the Kellogg Pact—has been officially declared to be the starting-point of the discussions undecided political issues, such as the freedom of the seas, are to be rigorously banished from them. Whether that arrangement can be strictly maintained may be questioned. Already an interchange of Notes has taken place between France and Great Britain concerned mainly with political issues, and the possibility of the discussion of some kind of Mediterranean Pact has been conceded. All that is entirely wise, for any attempt to stereotype the Conference in advance would be disastrous.

But however that may be, the main purpose of the Conference will be to effect an agreement whereby the fleets of the five Powers concerned shall be reduced to a fixed level and kept there. What that level shall be remains to be decided. It must, of course, represent what Mr MacDonald calls "mutually accepted strength." No State can have reduction forced on it, or see its naval power fixed at any level but one which it freely accepts. But reduction as well as limitation there is to be, according to the Prime Minister, and, in his reply to the French Note, he declares that Great Britain is contemplating a substantial reduction in all types of naval vessels. That statement, clearly, is not to be pushed too far, for the 50 cruisers with which the Board of Admiralty is ready to content itself compare with 54 figuring in the Dilke Return for 1930, issued by the Admiralty itself last week, and the tonnage of 339,000 which that 50 is understood to represent is so close to what the British cruiser fleet amounts to to-day that the right term to use here is limitation or stabilisation rather than reduction. That fact has to be considered in the light of the Japanese view that the Anglo-American agreement on cruisers sets the figure too high, and President Hoover's declaration that no level to which other Powers are willing to reduce will be too low for the United States, provided, of course, that the Washington ratio, or some other agreed relationship, between the fleets is preserved.

The conclusions finally reached by the Conference will no doubt represent something falling far short of total success and going a good deal beyond total failure. Total failure would mean the breakdown of all attempts at reduction or limitation by agreement. Total success would mean approval of a convention providing, briefly, for the complete abolition of capital ships, the complete abolition of submarines, the limitation of cruisers at a level lower than has so far been contemplated, and the restriction of destroyers to a figure consonant with the conditions caused by the abolition of submarines. That total success, it may be conceded, has small prospect of being realised. Two of the five Powers taking part in the Conference—France and Japan—are opposed to the abolition of submarines. Three of the five—Great Britain, the United States and Japan—are assumed to be opposed to the abolition of capital ships. Here, however, some distinction must be drawn between official opinion and public opinion, and, since the capital ship is the type regarding which the prospects are most

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hopeful, and regarding which, also, the policy of our own country may be a determining factor, some examination of the capital ship situation is called for.

The case for abolition on financial grounds is overwhelming, and though Mr Snowden is not a delegate to the London Conference it would be astonishing if his influence were not thrown into the scale against any perpetuation of this type. New vessels like the 30-35,000-ton post-war capital ships would cost little short of £10,000,000 apiece, and the annual maintenance of the capital ships now in commission ranges from £450,000 a year downwards. If the Washington Treaty provisions stand, new construction of capital ships will begin next year. Those provisions, we trust, will not stand. The British Admiralty is understood to have agreed in the first instance to a reduction in size from a maximum of 35,000 to one of 25,000 tons; there is little doubt that at the Conference itself the figure could be driven considerably lower; and there should be no great obstacle to agreement deferring new construction.

We are glad to gather from Mr MacDonald's remarks on Wednesday to the journalists who have assembled in London to describe the progress of the Conference that the Government will propose that up to 1936 there should be no battleship replacement, and that after that date, if it is felt that replacement is necessary, the new vessels should have both a lower tonnage and a lower gun calibre. But is it necessary to assume that the capital ship is to survive at all? All the balance of argument in recent public discussions of the capital ship question is in favour of its non-survival. Of the three Powers most affected, Japan has never moved from her Coolidge Conference attitude of willingness to accept any agreement which means a reduction of expenditure on armaments, and the United States has indicated, in the words of President Hoover already quoted, that no level which other countries will accept is too low for America. Hence a British proposal for the abolition of capital ships should logically find support in the United States and Japan. Total abolition would to some extent alter the balance of aggregate naval strengths between the five Powers (*e.g.*, France has six battleships and Italy four), but it would be no more difficult to work out *de novo* the future ratio of fighting fleets with the 10,000-ton vessel as the maximum permitted unit, than with the issue complicated by the existence of capital ships, whose chief *raison d'être* is in any case to fight one another, and on whose strategic merits as the so-called "core" of battle-squadrons expert naval opinion is completely at odds. Given the abolition of the capital ship, the question of gun calibre on 10,000-ton vessels would clearly have to be reconsidered separately in the light of the right accorded to Germany by the Treaty of Versailles to mount 11-inch guns on the 10,000-ton "Ersatz Preussen" type, but the difficulties here are by no means insuperable.

As to cruisers, if the tentative Anglo-American agreement is to stand, and the figures of the other fleets to be brought into relationship with the two largest, there is little satisfaction for the advocates of reduction. The parity which is to be established by 1936 on the basis of 339,000 tons, represented by 15 large cruisers and 35 smaller ones, for Great Britain, and 285,000 (or 315,000) tons, represented by 18 (or 21) large cruisers and 15 or more smaller ones, for the United States, means that for the next five years the United States will be steadily building 10,000-ton cruisers and we shall be steadily building smaller ones—from 5,000 to 6,000 tons—and both fleets will be distinctly more efficient in 1936 than they are to-day. That, no doubt, constitutes limitation, but it is not a very striking example of reduction as commonly understood.

The other problems the Conference will have to face, notably the incompatibility between Italy's claim for absolute equality with France and France's claim to equality in the Mediterranean alone, cannot be discussed in detail here. They cannot be resolved on the basis of technical considerations alone. The ultimate deciding factor in the naval, as in the whole armaments issue, is the world's sense of security; and an encouraging lead has been given by Mr Alexander with his declaration that the signature of the Kellogg Pact reconciled not merely the Government but, it would appear, the Board of Admiralty itself, to a reduction of Great Britain's cruiser demands from 70 to 50. With talk of a Mediterranean understanding in the air, it may well be found before the Conference closes that the political questions, whose exclusion was considered to be necessary, have forced themselves in by more than one door.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

Our latest survey of British industrial profits is based on the reports of some 420 companies which have been forwarded to us during the three months ended December 31st last. It affords tangible and welcome evidence of a check to the declining tendency of earnings suggested by the reports published during the second and third quarters of last year. The net profits of the 420 companies, after payment of debenture interest, amount in the aggregate to £33,404,593, an increase of £455,695, or 1.4 per cent., as compared with the net profits of the previous financial years. The following table summarises the results of our last four quarterly surveys:—

NET PROFIT (AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.)

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in		Increase (+) or Decrease (−).	
		1928.	1929.		
		£	£	£	%
First quarter	454	58,965,712	59,869,638	+ 903,926	+1·5
Second quarter	639	78,662,794	78,079,238	− 583,556	−0·7
Third quarter	257	24,039,327	23,327,747	− 711,580	−3·0
Fourth quarter	420	32,948,898	33,404,593	+ 455,695	+1·4
	1,770	194,616,731	194,681,216	+ 64,485	+0·0

The quarterly figures do not cover watertight periods, since the interval between the making up of a year's accounts and their publication varies considerably from company to company. For the most part, however, the reports issued during the past quarter relate to financial years ending between June 30 and September 30, 1929. The next table shows the quarterly fluctuations in net earnings shown by our surveys over the past seven years:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
First quarter.....	+41·4	+ 8·7	+ 9·1	+7·6	−4·0	+15·2	+1·5
Second quarter .	+22·1	+ 3·0	+11·1	+8·3	−5·7	+ 1·3	−0·7
Third quarter ..	+65·2	+ 2·3	+ 4·8	+2·8	+2·4	+ 9·7	−3·0
Fourth quarter .	+11·4	+13·3	+ 6·4	+3·8	+0·3	+ 3·1	+1·4
Year	+30·6	+ 6·6	+ 8·7	+6·3	−3·0	+ 7·2	+0·0

The rising trend of industrial profits, which was interrupted three years ago, after the coal stoppage of 1926, appears to have been brought to a halt last year. Lest this feature occasion disappointment in view of the rise in industrial productivity of something like 5 to 10 per cent., revealed by the Board of Trade's quarterly indices last year, it should be pointed out, firstly, that part of the latter increase should duly be reflected in company reports published during the next few months; and, secondly, that losses sustained by a small number of companies, in abnormal circumstances, have had a disproportionate effect on the aggregate earnings shown above. For example, the net loss of £2,063,682 shown in the last accounts of British Cement Products and Finance can scarcely be regarded as reflecting the trend of British industrial earnings as a whole. Were the results of this one company omitted from our calculations, the figures for the fourth quarter of 1929 would show a rise of 8.5 per cent. and those for the whole year a rise of 1.2 per cent., as compared with those of the corresponding periods of 1928. Even as the figures stand, only a minority of industrial groups showed a decline in profits in their last quarter's reports, as the next table shows:—

NET PROFITS (AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &C.)

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in Quarter Ended December 31.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		1928.	1929.				
		£	£	£	%	£	%
Breweries	46	3,357,924	3,627,100	269,176	8·0	...	...
Hotels, restaurants, etc.	10	454,929	391,412	...	...	63,517	13·9
Iron, Coal and Steel.....	33	807,128	1,473,966	666,838	82·6	...	...
Land, Mortgage, etc.....	24	1,785,798	2,120,703	334,905	18·7	...	...
Motor and Cycle	15	607,790	782,858	175,068	28·8	...	...
Nitrate	5	13,960	166,518	152,558	1092·8	...	...
Oil	6	798,227	838,524	40,297	5·0	...	...
Rubber, &c.	87	886,515	1,034,057	147,542	16·6	...	...
Shipping.....	9	1,658,084	1,775,278	117,194	7·0	...	...
Shops and Stores	6	1,058,864	1,182,611	123,747	11·7	...	...
Tea	10	249,518	271,596	22,078	8·8	...	...
Telegraphs, &c. .	2	27,311	32,416	5,105	19·1	...	...
Textiles	9	285,563	230,578	...	...	54,985	19·3
Tramways.....	5	138,231	131,803	...	...	6,428	4·6
Trusts	30	1,984,310	2,142,082	157,772	7·9	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	123	18,834,746	17,203,091	...	...	1,631,655	8·6
Total	420	32,948,898	33,404,593	455,695	1·4	...	...

The textile group does not on this occasion include sufficient companies to give its results a truly representative character. The largest group of all, "Miscellaneous Companies," would have shown an increase of 3.7 per cent. but for the unfortunate results of the single company referred to above. It is, therefore, legitimate to regard the reports of the last quarter as affording a gratifying indication of improving earning power in the majority of the industries. The recovery was most marked in certain "depressed" trades, such as iron, coal and steel, though in this case, as in other industries, such as shipping, rubber plantation and nitrate production, whose profits were previously at a low level, the general position as regards earning power still leaves much to be desired.

In the next table we set out the distribution of profits during each of the past four quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
1929.	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
First quarter ...	59,869,638	36,336,626	60·7	10,896,063	18·2	12,636,949	21·1
Second quarter	78,079,238	47,216,888	60·4	18,006,913	23·1	12,855,437	16·5
Third quarter	23,327,747	14,368,539	61·6	4,159,124	17·8	4,800,084	20·6
Fourth quarter	33,404,593	22,054,466	66·0	5,356,375	16·0	5,993,752	18·0
	194,681,216	119,976,519	61·2	38,418,475	19·8	36,286,222	19·0

The last column includes the net increase in balances carried forward as well as special allocations to reserve. On the whole, the percentage of earnings distributed in dividends has tended to rise during recent periods, the proportion of total profits "left in the business" during 1929 being 19.0 per cent., as compared with 22.3 per cent. in 1928.

Similar figures for each group are set out below:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve &c.	
	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
Breweries	3,627,100	1,872,563	51·6	653,839	18·0	1,100,698	30·4
Hotels, restaurants, &c. ...	391,412	189,289	48·4	160,683	41·0	41,440	10·6
Iron, coal and steel	1,473,966	629,822	42·7	242,040	16·4	602,104	40·9
Land, mortgage, &c.	2,120,703	1,164,780	54·9	345,041	16·3	610,882	28·8
Motor and cycle	782,858	564,953	72·2	74,866	9·6	143,039	18·2
Nitrate	166,518	11,096	6·7	Nil	...	155,422	93·3
Oil	838,524	596,368	71·1	Nil	...	242,156	28·9
Rubber, &c. ...	1,034,057	752,971	72·8	28,039	2·7	253,047	24·5
Shipping.....	1,775,278	841,961	47·4	442,899	25·0	490,418	27·6
Shops and stores	1,182,611	663,203	56·1	300,600	25·4	218,808	18·5
Tea	271,596	223,975	82·5	15,755	5·8	31,866	11·7
Telegraphs, &c.	32,416	8,766	27·04	8,766	27·1	14,884	45·9
Textiles	230,578	90,386	39·2	119,733	51·9	20,459	8·9
Tramways	131,803	80,632	61·2	Nil	...	51,171	38·8
Trust Comp'nies	2,142,082	1,129,454	52·7	613,530	28·7	399,098	18·6
Miscellaneous...	17,203,091	13,234,247	76·9	2,350,584	13·6	1,618,260	9·5
Total	33,404,593	22,054,466	66·0	5,356,375	16·0	5,993,752	18·0

Directorial conservatism was best exemplified by the nitrate, telegraph, iron, coal and steel, and tramway companies, which "reserved" one-third or more of their total earnings. At the other end of the scale stand the textile, hotel and tea companies, which, with those of the "miscellaneous" group, paid out approximately nine-tenths of the year's earnings in dividends.

In the next table we give the ratios of net profits and of the amounts "reserved" to the total ordinary and preference capital:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.		Carried to Reserve &c.	
1929.	£	£	%	£	%
First quarter	537,360,324	59,869,638	11·1	12,636,949	2·3
Second quarter ...	783,972,918	78,079,238	9·9	12,855,437	1·7
Third quarter.....	209,191,686	23,327,747	11·2	4,800,084	2·3
Fourth quarter ...	323,129,955	33,404,593	10·3	5,993,752	1·9
	1,853,654,883	194,681,216	10·5	36,286,222	1·9

Taking the annual average of the quarterly figures, the ratio of net profits to capital in 1929 works out at 10.5 per cent., in comparison with 11.1 per cent. in 1928, 10.5 per cent. in 1927 and 11.8 per cent. in 1926. The ratio of amounts "reserved," 1.9 per cent., contrasts with 2.5 per cent. in 1928, 1.8 per cent. in 1927 and 2.8 per cent. in 1926. The average rates of interest and dividend paid on the nominal value of debenture, preference and ordinary capital in each quarter of the last four years are summarised below:—

AVERAGE RATES PAID.

	On Debenture Capital.				On Preference Capital.				On Ordinary Capital.			
	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1st quarter	4·65	4·80	4·78	4·89	5·4	5·1	5·3	5·4	10·9	10·4	11·3	10·9
2nd ,,	5·14	5·30	5·43	5·10	5·8	5·9	6·0	5·9	11·7	11·8	10·0	9·8
3rd ,,	5·02	4·98	4·90	4·88	4·8	5·2	5·4	6·0	10·5	10·2	10·7	10·3
4th ,,	5·05	5·19	5·04	5·29	5·4	4·9	4·9	4·7	10·8	10·1	10·3	10·6
Year ...	4·96	5·08	5·02	5·15	5·4	5·3	5·4	5·5	11·1	10·8	10·6	10·5

The average rate of dividend paid on ordinary capital has tended to decline on the whole over recent years. That paid on preference capital, however, remains relatively steady, while the rate of interest on debentures has risen in the last four years from 4.96 per cent. to 5.15 per cent.

The concluding table shows the average rates paid during the past quarter in various industrial groups, together with the average rate on ordinary capital shown in our analysis for the corresponding period of 1927:—

	Debenture Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Interest.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Dividend.	Rate of Div. a Year ago.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	%
Breweries.....	16,262,119	4·9	11,092,782	5·9	14,268,904	13·1	14·8
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	2,291,145	4·2	2,713,303	5·9	2,720,404	6·9	8·4
Iron, coal and steel.....	14,980,572	5·7	18,464,291	1·3	34,582,315	1·8	1·2
Land, mortgage, &c. ...	11,171,630	4·4	7,835,010	4·5	13,879,436	8·4	11·2
Motor and cycle	75,807	5·0	1,980,113	3·8	3,996,640	14·1	16·2
Nitrate	67,250	6·3	Nil	...	2,089,000	0·5	0·9
Oil.....	435,417	7·0	Nil	...	7,952,846	7·5	8·7
Rubber, &c.....	938,967	6·5	657,928	4·3	11,862,071	4·4	4·3
Shipping.....	10,350,320	4·8	8,604,425	5·1	7,927,343	10·6	9·3
Shops and stores.....	1,958,400	5·6	3,400,000	8·8	5,465,937	12·1	11·5
Tea	76,390	4·7	265,910	5·9	1,025,089	21·8	22·6
Telegraphs, &c.	216,200	5·9	136,975	6·4	523,950	7·2	2·4
Textiles.....	1,668,622	6·4	2,137,043	5·6	2,161,995	4·2	5·0
Tramways.....	256,100	5·8	Nil	...	1,686,609	4·8	4·2
Trusts	11,381,268	4·7	14,520,075	4·2	12,848,377	8·8	7·3
Miscellaneous	15,801,384	5·2	43,438,474	5·4	84,892,715	15·6	16·3
Total.....	85,931,591	5·3	115,246,329	4·7	207,883,626	10·6	10·3

Few striking changes are shown, nine groups having paid a slightly lower, and seven a higher rate of ordinary dividend in 1929 than in 1928.

Our figures suggest on the whole that the marked decline in industrial share values on the Stock Exchange during the past year has not been inspired by any significant change for the worse in the earning power of British companies. The concerns included in our survey are, however, in the great majority of cases old-established companies, whose shares seldom rose to more than a moderate extent during the so-called Stock Exchange boom; but were subsequently depressed, partly in sympathy with the calamitous decline in the share values of new and untried speculative concerns (whose results do not appear to any significant extent in our tables), and partly as a result of forced selling by holders whose speculative experiments in other markets had been unfortunate. When "mushroom" concerns are excluded, it is clear that industrial earnings as a whole have, in fact, been stable to a high degree.

GERMANY'S INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

(BY A GERMAN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE course of events during 1929 in Germany does not allow of a clear verdict on the economic state of the country. For, while exports have reached record figures and the staple industries have been fully employed, Germany has passed through a series of financial disturbances accentuated by an acute shortage of capital and by a number of sensational crises. Throughout 1929 the steady rise in German exports was continued; during certain months they exceeded those of Great Britain and ranked second in the world after the United States. The year's balance of foreign trade has been favourable for the first time since the war, with the exception of the year 1926 (that of the British coal stoppage). An analysis of the figures shows that the increase lay mainly in manufactured goods, which now form nearly three-quarters of the total German exports. The expansion of exports was, generally speaking, a natural reflection of the retarding of the influx of foreign credits and the increased outflow of money for the service of previous loans. But it should be noted that "high pressure" in foreign business has also been necessitated by the depressed state of internal consuming power; and a significant tendency is the increase in exports of means of production. For example, the engineering trades, which had raised their productive capacity to cope with the needs of German industrial modernisation, were forced by the falling-off in the home demand to seek more vigorously markets abroad.

A considerable part of the exports was, however, only made possible by the artificial raising of home prices through industrial cartels—in other words, the German consumer paid highly for the pleasant aspect of export figures. For instance, the domestic price of iron is, roughly, 30 per cent. higher than the world price, and it has recently been calculated that, during the last five years, the iron cartels have loaded the German public with an extra burden of 1,500,000,000 marks to make good the loss on exports. It may be said here that about 20 per cent. of German production is estimated to be included in monopolistic cartels. None the less, the export figures prove that German industry is well able to compete internationally and that the enormous capital invested in rationalisation has, on the whole, not been unprofitable to the country.

The productive capacity of industry generally has steadily grown. In Ruhr coalmining, production per man-shift has increased from 102 in 1925 (100 equals the highest figure for 1913) to 120 in 1928 and to 134 in 1929. In the iron-producing industry electric-power installations have risen to 18.7 h.p. per worker, compared with 11.1 h.p. in Britain and 17.5 h.p. in the United States. The cotton industry has increased the number of spindles between 1927 and the middle of 1929 by about 8 per cent., in addition to the considerable substitution of improved machinery. The modernisation of industrial plant has, however, in many cases exceeded the limits of demand to be reasonably expected for some time. The criticism, widespread in Germany, that rationalisation has been overdone is, perhaps, premature. Still, if productivity has risen high, profits have not followed suit. An inquiry into 1,065 undertakings with a working capital of 7,000,000,000 marks, recently published by the *Reichsverband der deutschen Industrie*, shows that even in the record year 1927 the average share yield of industrial companies (excluding some of the largest concerns) was only 4.2 per cent., after allowing about 4.5 per cent. for interest on foreign borrowings. No such complete statistics are available for a later period, but the impression from published figures is that, since 1927, profits in general have considerably decreased.

Partly for this reason and partly because of the prohibitive cost of fresh capital, "technical" rationalisation has on the whole come to a standstill. The general optimism of the "fat" years, 1925-27, led to elaborate programmes of plant extension, modernisation of machinery and perfection of processes which involve large capital investments over a number of years. The tendency to rationalise with the imagined certainty of drawing improved profits was not confined to the large and stable-concerns, but carried away many lesser undertakings, and even a large part of agriculture. It may be rash to conclude that any really considerable part of the 5,000,000,000 marks long-term and of the 7,000,000,000 marks short-term foreign capital invested in Germany during that wave has been misapplied. But it has been seriously questioned by many authorities whether the increase in efficiency justifies the terrible burden of vast indebtedness which it has loaded on the whole of German industry and agriculture. These doubts refer, of course, only to "technical" rationalisation, which requires extensive investment of capital. "Administrative" rationalisation, which costs little or nothing and effects immediate economies, is being vigorously continued in Germany. The outstanding example during the year was the fusion of the Deutsche Bank and Disconto Gesellschaft, the chief purpose and effect of which was economy in administration.

An important factor, contributing to the arrest of industrial expansion, has been the further rise in labour costs. The average wage for unskilled labour per hour had risen from 44.2 pfennige at the beginning of 1924 to 81.2 pfennige at the beginning of 1929, while during those five years the cost of living rose only from 125.9 to 153.1 per cent. of pre-war cost. During the last year wages have further risen to 83.7 pfennige for unskilled labour and from 108.1 to 111.2 pfennige per hour for skilled labour, while the cost of living has remained

constant and wholesale prices in certain industries have decreased. So far, the labour market has remained materially unaffected by recent industrial changes. At the end of the year the number of unemployed in receipt of relief was 1.3 millions, an increase of 200,000 on the figure for the same date in 1928, but roughly 360,000 new recruits have been added to the labour market during 1929.

An outstanding feature of the year has been the favourable condition of the coal industry. The report on German coalmining, recently published by the State Committee of Economic Inquiry, concludes that since 1927 profits have steadily risen and cost of production declined. In November, 1927, the average trading profit on coal, coke and briquettes in the Ruhr district was 0.19 marks per metric ton; for December, 1928, the profit on coal alone has been calculated on the basis of the Committee's figures at 1.30 marks per ton; and during the last year a further increase has taken place. Such favourable results were not attained in the other German coal-mining districts, but the depression suffered by some of these during the previous years has been definitely overcome during 1929. At the end of the year the coal output in the Ruhr district had increased by 23 per cent. since the end of the previous year, while coke and briquette output had risen by about 50 per cent.

Looking at the industrial situation as outlined above, it is difficult to understand the intense pessimism pervading the German business world. Political and financial events have been largely responsible for this state of mind. The revival last summer of the old Reparations uncertainties produced nervousness not yet wholly allayed. During the Experts' Conference in Paris, Germany was rudely reminded of the frail state of her financial system by the sudden withdrawal from Berlin of large foreign short-term holdings. The resulting brief currency crisis was soon overcome by emergency measures, but left a serious psychological after-effect. Confidence in the stability of the mark was severely shaken in Germany itself. The abnormal state of the world's money markets reacted with more than usual force on Germany, because a vast short-term indebtedness to foreign lenders makes her markets highly sensitive. The shortage of capital in 1929 became critical, since the supply of fresh foreign credits was insufficient. Savings fell off sharply, for reasons which were mainly psychological; for the same reasons, much German capital was left or sent abroad. On the average, the cost of money has risen during the year by one-half per cent. in spite of the recent relaxation in the international money tension. This figure does not, however, indicate the full force of the capital scarcity, which was accentuated by the incursions of the State and municipalities into the home money market. The extravagant borrowing policy of the latter was stopped towards the end of the year after violent public criticism, but their floating debt has been allowed to mount up to about 2,000,000,000 marks; and only after the second acute crisis in December was a reform introduced which is designed to put the finance of the State on a more stable basis.

To some extent the outlook for 1930 is clouded by the financial inheritance from last year. On the other hand, the prospect of easier money throughout Europe is encouraging, and though there is a certain amount of scepticism whether the Young Plan for Reparations will prove capable of ultimate fulfilment, a successful end to the Hague Conference will do much to promote in Germany a greater feeling of economic security. Confidence in the technical efficiency of German industry is great, and though belief in the merits of rationalisation is tempered with realisation that the process creates problems as well as solving them, there is no reason to conclude that the course of Germany's post-war reconstruction has suffered more than a temporary check.

THE YEAR'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

At the half-year, the trade returns indicated a definite, though modest, improvement on the trade of the first half of 1928. The figures for the complete year suggest that this has, on the whole, been maintained, but though they contain some very encouraging elements, they are not wholly satisfactory. The aggregate figures, which are shown in the first table, are a little disappointing:—

Calendar Year.
(000's omitted.)

	1929.	Inc. or dec. on 1928.		Inc. or dec. on 1927.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	1,221,591	+ 25,993	+ 2·1	+ 3,250	+ 0·3
British exports	729,555	+ 5,976	+ 0·8	+ 20,474	+ 2·9
Re-exports	109,742	− 10,542	− 8·8	− 13,211	−11·0
Total exports	839,297	− 4,566	− 0·5	+ 7,263	+ 0·9
Excess of imports over total exports	382,294	+ 29,134	+ 8·5	− 4,013	− 1·0

The rise of nearly £26 million in imports was very widely spread over all groups of commodities, and the only conspicuous exceptions were raw cotton, hides and skins, and leather manufactures. It was accompanied by a small, but definite, improvement in domestic exports, and a decline of £10½ million in re-exports, of which over £7½ million was due to diminished re-exports of rubber. This was accompanied by a rise of some £5 million in rubber imports, and a consequent heavy increase in stocks. Total exports were over £4½ million lower than in 1928, but it must be borne in mind that wholesale prices averaged nearly 6 per cent. less in 1929 than in 1928, so that the physical volume of exports compared more favourably than their value with that of the previous year.

The next table compares retained imports and exports, by economic classes, with those of 1924 and 1928:—

	1924.		1928.		1929.	
	Retained Imports.	Exports.	Retained Imports.	Exports.	Retained Imports.	Exports
	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.
Food, drink and tobacco	541·2	57·0	503·4	54·3	510·2	55·7
Raw materials and articles *mainly* unmanufactured	323·8	106·5	268·2	70·1	285·3	79·1
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	266·0	618·9	291·8	578·9	305·5	573·8

When allowance is made for the fall of some 20 per cent. in prices which has occurred since 1924, these figures appear more satisfactory than they might seem at first sight. The rise in the figure of retained imports of manufactured goods is fairly evenly distributed and is substantial in iron and steel, non-ferrous metal manufactures, electrical goods, machinery, chemicals, oils and fats, leather and vehicles. In considering this increase, however, it should always be borne in mind that many imported articles returned as in the category of "manufactures" are, in fact, materials destined to be worked up in British factories. Moreover, when allowance is made for alteration of prices, the physical volume of retained raw material imports, which were £17 million higher in value last year than in 1928, probably exceeded considerably the volume of 1924.

The more detailed table which follows shows the changes during the last five years in our imports of certain principal foods and raw materials:—

Some Leading Imports.
Quantity (000's omitted.)

	1924.	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Wheat cwts.	117,421	96,854	110,436	103,577	111,769
Beef cwts.	13,611	13,741	14,464	13,324	12,667
Sugar cwts.	35,095	42,302	32,913	38,611	42,225
Raw cotton centals	15,777	18,942	15,483	15,076	15,384
Sheep and lamb's wool centals	7,603	7,269	8,220	7,793	8,136
Raw silk lbs.	5,241	4,761	3,662	3,923	4,686
Flax, hemp and jute tons	339	336	400	332	352
Iron ore tons	5,927	4,382	5,235	4,495	5,755
Wood and timber, sawn, soft loads	5,137	4,993	6,026	4,605	5,221
Rubber centals	1,457	1,958	3,246	2,443	3,952
Crude petroleum galls.	464,363	569,082	664,810	498,002	487,634
Wood pulp tons	1,228	1,235	1,431	1,283	1,638
Hides, wet and dry cwts.	1,806	1,854	1,532	1,503	1,173

The increased imports of sugar correspond to a real increase in consumption and are suggestive of greater prosperity. Several raw materials, including iron ore and wood pulp have improved to a level above that of 1927, and even raw cotton was imported to a slightly greater quantity in 1929 than in 1928 despite the dispute in the textile industry last summer. Hides, on the other hand, show a very heavy fall. On the whole the 1929 figures in this list compare favourably with those of 1924.

Among the principal exports shown in the table below the most striking development is shown by coal, the figures of which are discussed in a Note of the Week:—

Some Leading Exports.
Quantity (000's omitted.)

	1924.	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Coal tons	61,651	50,817	51,149	50,052	60,267
Pig-iron and ferro-alloys tons	600	559	331	455	545
Railway material tons	370	421	729	610	487
Total iron and steel manufactures tons	3,851	3,731	4,196	4,261	4,379
Textile machinery tons	104	123	119	125	127
Total machinery tons	463	516	512	566	562
Cotton yarns lbs.	163,056	189,532	200,465	169,207	166,637
Cotton piece goods sq. yds.	4,443,959	4,435,618	4,116,883	3,866,500	3,671,687
Wool tops centals	411	320	420	344	327
Woollen tissues sq. yds.	164,740	132,174	130,914	128,339	108,185
Worsted tissues sq. yds.	56,843	47,302	39,980	42,111	47,281
Linen piece goods sq. yds.	110,786	83,694	73,911	66,135	71,540
Boots and shoes doz. pairs	998	986	990	1,079	1,006
Leather cwts.	327	316	433	403	366
Paper and cardboard cwts.	4,757	4,989	4,317	4,539	5,047
Locomotives tons	24	30	27	41	40
Motor cars and chassis No.	15	29	36	33	43

Iron and steel manufactures have continued the slow but steady improvement of recent years, though exports of railway material again declined. Except for worsted tissues, all the principal cotton and wool exports showed a decline, but linen piece-goods recovered much of the ground lost in 1928. Leather and boots and shoes have not made a very good showing on the year, but both paper and motor-car exports were considerably greater than at any time during the last five years. Towards the increase of nearly 10,000 in exports of motor cars and chassis, Australia, which took over a quarter of our total exports in this class, contributed over two million. Exports of touring cars to New Zealand rose from 2,126 to 3,731, and to the Irish Free State from 3,457 to 6,045. The steady increase in our exports of motor cycles continued during 1929.

The movement of gold, shown in the following table, was the greatest since 1920:—

Movements of Bullion and Specie.

	Gold.		Silver.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1922	34,542,157	44,838,292	10,099,890	13,235,269
1923	43,986,655	57,434,355	9,611,855	11,687,714
1924	35,791,664	49,419,607	13,931,746	12,422,661
1925	41,460,892	49,674,766	10,612,558	12,161,255
1926	30,547,498	27,188,223	11,198,113	10,957,801
1927	32,404,512	29,060,010	7,173,051	7,145,577
1928	47,800,890	60,523,701	10,205,998	9,187,712
1929	62,411,414	77,572,219	8,332,817	9,109,762

Net exports to France amounted to £32,972,000, to Germany £18,450,000, and to the United States £7,850,000. The excess of imports over exports of merchandise, coin and bullion in 1929 was £366,356,000, or nearly £8 million more than in 1928.

Apart from the unsatisfactory showing of the principal textile industries, the figures for overseas trade in 1929 suggest a fairly general, but hardly-won, improvement. Except in the case of coal, no striking developments occurred, but on balance the trend was slowly upward. Until this cautious advance is extended to the cotton and wood textile trades, however, it will be impossible to regard the statistics of overseas trade with more than a very qualified degree of satisfaction.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

(By a Correspondent.)

Much publicity has recently been given to the large programmes of expansion and renewal undertaken by the great American railways as a means of tiding American production over a difficult period. Such a policy is not new, and has been pursued in Great Britain very energetically during the last few years; but embarkation on a programme of this nature in the United States was made more difficult in that an element of instability existed, owing to the expected publication of a Consolidation Plan by the Interstate Commerce Commission, as provided for by the Transportation Act of 1920. As recently as December 7th Mr Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, stated publicly that:—

"Our immediate problem has been made more difficult of solution by the uncertainty resulting from the still unsettled status of railroad consolidation as provided for in the Transportation Act. The policy of consolidation of railroads as outlined in the Act did not originate with the railroads, nor was it recommended or urged by the railway executives as a whole. The idea originated with Congress itself and the legislation concerning consolidation was enacted from the standpoint of the public interest and not from the narrow or selfish standpoint of the railways. While the tentative plan was published in 1921, the Inter-State Commerce Commission has not yet published the final plan as required by the Act."

Actually the new plan was adopted by the Commission less than forty-eight hours later, and became public information on December 12, 1929.

Those who have followed American railroad finances during the last ten years will recall that Professor W. Z. Ripley, of Harvard, drew up an earlier report soon after the passing of the Act upon which the Commission based its tentative plan, made public on August 3, 1921. The new plan is, in reality, the original plan of 1921—altered beyond recognition as a result of the opposition with which it met—and is introduced with the statement that "the Commission does now proceed to prepare and adopt a plan as hereinafter set out for such consolidations of the railway properties of the continental United States into a limited number of systems" as required by certain sections of the Interstate Commerce Act. For several years the Interstate Commerce Commission had asked that Congress should amend the Act, to eliminate the provision that a plan should be prepared by it, and the Fess Bill, at present pending in the Senate, would have effected this desired object. Failing, however, to achieve its wish, the Commission last summer set about the formation of a plan which is to be regarded in part as a *ballon d'essai*, but is nevertheless likely to prove the basis upon which consolidation will take place, if it takes place at all; and any scheme of consolidation which runs directly across the lines of this new plan is not likely to meet with the approval of the Commission.

There are about sixty large and important railways in the United States, in addition to a large number of terminal lines and many smaller lines, mainly of local importance and often financially weak. The plan, which has not attempted to assign to any system about two hundred terminal railways, has split up the remainder into twenty-one systems, which include two of Canadian ownership. The British investor is probably most concerned with the railways in so-called trunk-line territory, that is to say, between New York, Chicago and St. Louis; therefore, these lines, such as the Pennsylvania and the New York Central, may be discussed first. It is in this area that the consolidation moves, mainly for position, have attracted the greatest attention during the last four years.

The history of the present situation is very complicated and indistinct, but in general the Pennsylvania has not disclosed its hand, though it controls; through stock ownership, the Lehigh Valley and the Wabash Railroads, acquired nearly two years ago from the Delaware and Hudson, which had been attempting to build up a fifth New York-Chicago system in addition to the Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Baltimore and Ohio and the Nickel Plate-Erie groups. These last three systems had been popularly supposed to favour a four-system plan for

this territory, but the Commission's new plan definitely sets up a fifth Lehigh Valley-Wabash system, which would give a continuous mileage from New York to the Missouri River, serving Kansas City and Omaha, and thereby attaining more westerly mileage than any of the other four trunk-line territory systems. Admittedly such a line would be weaker than its competitors, in spite of the Lehigh Valley's universally recognised efficiency; this has been realised, for the plan gives this system the Norfolk and Western, now controlled by the Pennsylvania, and the Seaboard Air Line, by which it would reach to Savannah and Florida.

With the exception of the Norfolk and Western, the Pennsylvania system is almost unaltered, as is the New York Central system, with its Michigan Central, Boston and Albany and " Big Four " sections, though the important Virginian, a coal line, is added to it. To the Baltimore and Ohio are added the Reading and the Central of New Jersey Railroads, with which it already works very closely, as well as the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh, and the Chicago and Alton. The fifth eastern system, built up by the Van Sweringens of Cleveland, and commonly known as the Nickel Plate, already consists of the Erie, the Chesapeake and Ohio, as well as the Père Marquette Railway, while the Commission has added to these the very wealthy Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and the Bessemer and Lake Erie. Two systems are suggested for New England, the one formed around the Boston and Maine, and covering the area north of Boston, though it also includes the Delaware and Hudson; the other has the New York, New Haven and Hartford as its nucleus.

The large eastern carriers will thus have important interests in the South, through ownership of the Pocahontas coal lines, such as the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Norfolk and Western, not to speak of the Seaboard Air Line. The remaining southern lines are grouped around the Illinois Central, the Southern and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroads. The first of these, with its present controlled lines, remains virtually as it exists to-day, except for the addition of the " Cotton Belt," while the Southern is to lose its controlled line, the Mobile and Ohio, though it will receive strength from the acquisition of the Florida East Coast Railway. The Atlantic Coast Line system is, in reality, an Atlantic Coast Line-Louisville and Nashville group, and should be able to hold its own with the other two southern systems at least as satisfactorily as it does to-day. In brief, the separation of the Mobile and Ohio from the Southern is the most important feature in the plan as regards this area, and it is difficult to see what good reason calls for the transfer of this line, in company with the Chicago and Eastern Illinois, to the Chicago and North Western group, whose interests have always centred in the Middle West, except as a means of strengthening the latter against its competitors, namely, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific (now commonly known as the Milwaukee), and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. Both these latter remain as the parent company of one of the new systems, while the other large group in this area is the Great Northern-Northern Pacific, which would seem to show that the application for consolidation of these two large carriers from the twin cities to the Pacific coast met with favour in the eyes of the Commission. It will be appreciated that the Burlington has been for many years controlled by these lines jointly, and it forms their link with Chicago. It will be interesting to see how the Commission proposes to deal with this case of joint control by non-competitive properties, for in such a case the Anti-Trust Laws could hardly be operative. As was to be expected, the other three important Transcontinental lines, the Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fé, each form a system of their own; to the first-named is added the Kansas City Southern, and to the last-named the Chicago Great Western.

Two further large systems will remain in the south-west, one consisting of the present Missouri Pacific system with many small additions, and the other a combined Rock Island-Frisco group, with the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific and the St. Louis-San Francisco as parent companies. The Missouri, Kansas and Texas has been allocated, in the plan just published, to the Burlington group, while the St. Louis South Western is to join the Illinois Central system. These changes are of considerable importance, as the influence of these two large systems will be extended into south-western territory, where the progress of development has been rapid during recent years.

Naturally, much criticism will be experienced in carrying out a plan of such enormous scope, and even the Commissioners themselves are not unanimous. Mr Eastman, while partly concurring, questions the real need for consolidation when railroad service is as good as it is at present; many of the lines, financially weak in 1920, have since become strong, either by development of the territory they serve, or by financial reorganisation. He also points out that a railroad system can be so large and so extensive that its executive cannot maintain adequate personal touch, so that it loses as much by its size as it gains in the standardisation and strength which that very size brings to it. Mr McManamy, now chairman of the Commission, and an old railway employee, voices much the same sentiment.

That large railways should serve more than one territory is regarded as of doubtful advantage, for each territory has its own classification of freight and rate structures, hence such a situation would make far from easy the regulation of charges to obtain a fair return upon property investment. While innumerable difficulties must be overcome before the plan is likely to take effect, it is probably the most important landmark in American railway history since 1920, if one excepts the O'Fallon valuation decision, also of 1929, for it shows the alignment upon which consolidation policy is most likely to be built, and brings back into practical politics the intention expressed in the Transportation Act.

Notes of the Week.

After the Recess.—Though the limelight, concentrated during the past few days on the Hague, may be turned in coming weeks on St. James' Palace rather than on Westminster, Parliament reassembles on Tuesday after the Christmas recess with a programme of work which is as important as it is contentious. The original time table planned by the Government has been seriously deranged by the protracted debates in the Commons on the Unemployment Insurance Bill, whose Committee stage in the Lords will begin on Tuesday, and the congestion of business threatens to become formidable. Apart from the fact that a number of major measures to which the Government is committed are still waiting to be considered —notably, the Bills to amend the Trade Disputes Act and to ratify the Washington Hours Convention, and the promised Factories and Slum Clearance Bills—progress with the Traffic Bill is likely to prove slow, and Supply will call between now and the Budget date for much of Parliament's working time. Above all, there is the ill-conceived Coal Mines Bill, a measure whose many imperfections are calculated to prolong the Committee stage to an extent difficult as yet to estimate. How far the amendments which the Government's draughtsmen have produced in an endeavour to meet the devastating criticisms launched by Sir Herbert Samuel and other Opposition speakers in the Debate on the Second Reading will succeed in removing the measure's more glaring defects remains to be seen. In any case, having embarrassed themselves with a pledge to the miners whose fulfilment requires, in fact, that Parliament should face the complex and intractable problem of securing by legislation the voluntary or enforced assent of an unwilling industry to achieve its rationalisation, the Government cannot complain if Parliament insists on having ample time in which to fulfil this difficult task. There must be no question of allowing a bad Bill to pass for lack of time to give due consideration to its amendment, even if the Third Reading has to be postponed until after the Budget.

Lord Grey and Liberalism.—In Lord Grey's speech to the Liberal Council on Tuesday we find much with which sound and enlightened political opinion of all shades should find it easy to agree. Detached as the *Economist* is from party considerations, we trust that Lord Grey's emphasis on the fatal effects of tariffs as the great drawback to the expansion of trade will command the attention which it deserves. In passing from commendation of the Government's foreign policy, accompanied by statesmanlike observations on the problems of Egypt and India, to a well-timed warning as to the dangers of parties outbidding each other in the race for expenditure —a race in which the Government have already shown disquieting signs of taking an unenviable lead—Lord Grey was expressing views which all who have the country's interests at heart should be ready to endorse. It is questionable, however, whether the insistence of the speech on the continuance of certain regrettable controversies within the ranks of the Liberal Party can be regarded as in the true service of the public interest. The tasks which confront the two Opposition parties during the next few months of Parliament in regard both to the Coal Mines Bill and to our future tariff and taxation policy, are so important and call for such clear thinking and careful consideration that we should have thought that the paramount need for Liberalism is to determine the alignment of a future united policy rather than to dissipate its energies in personal animosities which, if time cannot heal them, are at least of minor importance in comparison with the magnitude of the public issues with which all parties are concerned.

Progress at the Hague.—An agreed settlement is well in sight at the Reparations Conference. For a time it was thought that Dr. Schacht's action, which is dealt with in another Note of the Week, would have delayed or even prevented agreement, but the storm proved to be thunder without the deluge. Strong speaking by Mr Snowden, who asked the German delegation whether they really preferred to be left with the Dawes Plan still in operation, may have contributed to the advance. At any rate, the decisions reached on the outstanding points have been on the whole in favour of the creditor Powers. Germany agrees to make payment in full in foreign currencies on the 15th of the month, as the creditors declared had been understood at Paris, and also, in the event of a moratorium, to pay the amount postponed immediately upon the termination of the period of postponement. On the other hand, the request of the creditors for security on the assigned revenues, which was really quite hostile to the spirit of the Plan, has been tacitly dropped. Agreement has been reached between the French and German delegations on the " sanctions " question. Two declarations will be embodied in the final protocol, one by the chief creditor Powers and one by Germany. The first declares that the signatories are content to rely on the machinery provided by the Plan to ensure the faithful carrying out of the Plan; if, however, it were believed that Germany intended to default deliberately, then " the creditor Power or Powers which might regard themselves as concerned would submit to the Permanent Court of International Justice the question whether the German Government had committed acts revealing its determination to destroy the new Plan," and, in the event of an affirmative decision by the Court, would " resume their full liberty of action." The German Government, for its part, while regretting that an eventuality which it regards as impossible should have been contemplated, agrees that such a resumption of liberty of action would be legitimate. In this agreement two points call for notice: firstly, that no mention is made of Article 430 of the Treaty of Versailles, which embodies the right of reoccupation of the Rhineland, and, secondly, that independent action by one or several of the creditor Powers is obviously contemplated. If such a contingency as is here provided for did arise, the political situation might be highly dangerous, but it is, to say the least, extremely unlikely. One or two further points remain to be negotiated, notably the assurance demanded by France that the immediate mobilisation of annuities will in no way be hindered by Germany, but the chief obstacle to final success is the problem of non-German Reparations. The Little Entente, it is said, will not sign the Young Plan Protocol until this problem is solved. Discussions have been going on all the week among the Powers directly concerned, and the way to solution is a little clearer. An attempt is being made to detach the Hungarian Optants' case from the mass of claims in respect of commercial transactions, imperial and church property, and so on, but it is proving extremely difficult to agree upon figures. Even if the separation can be made the question of Hungarian annuities after 1943 must be tackled *de novo*. The work of the committees which are dealing with other outstanding questions, including the Bank for International Settlements and the Trust Agreement, has meanwhile proceeded steadily to a conclusion.

Dr. Schacht's Petard.—Dr. Schacht's letter to the Organising Committee of the Bank for International Settlements, indicating that the Reichsbank's participation was conditional on the character of the political settlement to be reached at the Hague, created considerable excitement, for the whole scheme of the Young Plan, as well as the documents prepared by the Organising Committee of the B.I.S., assumes the active co-operation and the direct participation of the Reichsbank in the new institution. The abandonment of the Agent-General's supervision, and the acceptance of the word of Germany that she will do her best to pay, imply that the institution controlling Germany's credit and currency—from whose General Council the foreign members are to be removed under the Plan—will play its part to facilitate the scheme, and it may be doubted whether other central banks would have accepted the responsibility that would have rested on them under any other conditions. But it was quickly recognised that the matter was one between Dr. Schacht and his Government, and the German delegates at once made it clear that Dr. Schacht could not be allowed to thwart the will of Germany to see the obligations of the Young Plan substituted for the much heavier burdens of the Dawes scheme. At first it was suggested that an alternative institution, such as the Reichscredit-Gesellschaft or a group of banks, should take the place of the Reichsbank, and the Government at once undertook that it would find some such alternative, Dr. Schacht having made it clear that he would be willing for the Reichsbank to act as agent for the B.I.S. and for the German Government and otherwise carry out the duties assigned to it in the plan. But this solution did not fully meet the case, and the German delegates then arranged with the delegates of the creditor Powers to alter the new bank law which is about to be passed, placing an obligation on the Reichsbank to participate in the organisation of the B.I.S. in all the ways contemplated in the statutes—the chief are that it should subscribe capital and that its Governor should sit upon the Board with two other directors named by him. Dr. Schacht immediately recognised that he must bow to this pressure, and it is not expected that the work of the Conference will suffer any further delay. It is not possible at the moment to anticipate what the relations of Dr. Schacht with his Government —or even with his directorate—will be as a result of this incident. It may be taken for granted that if he remains he will in fact co-operate fully with the B.I.S., in the designing and creating of which he has indeed played a very considerable part. But it is to be regretted that as a result of his action he has inevitably increased the tendency for the Government to strengthen its control over the Reichsbank. From his own personal point of view, though he has effectively repudiated responsibility for the Young Plan as interpreted at the Hague, he has lost in prestige and exacerbated the opposition to his financial power.

The League Council at Work.—The 58th session of the Council of the League of Nations has been chiefly occupied with current business of minor public interest. The date of the conference on a tariff truce was fixed; reports on small minority questions have been approved; the promotion of the international circulation of newspapers, and the " secrecy " of telegrams regarding opium smuggling transactions were discussed; that old soldier, the Hungarian Optants dispute, was dismissed for a while as the matter has been under discussion at the Hague. On the report of the Mandates Commission, Mr Henderson asked for a small commission to investigate the respective rights of Jews and Moslems at the Wailing Wall. The matter has given rise to some difficulty because the Permanent Mandates Commission expressed the view that the British proposal, by conferring on the Commission powers vested exclusively in the Commission for Holy Places, was not in conformity with the Mandate. Mr Henderson, however, emphasised the urgency of the problem, and the desire of the British Government that the Commission should be strictly limited in its scope; and in the end the Council approved the suggestion, leaving to Great Britain the choice of members of the Commission. Committees have been set up by the Council on the ratification of general conventions and on the amendment of the Covenant to accord with the Kellogg Pact. The British attitude on the latter question, as expressed by the Prime Minister last September and again by Mr Henderson this week is that the right of private war which the Covenant allows under certain circumstances has been abolished by the Pact of Paris, and that it is undesirable to leave the members of the League under two different sets of obligations. That is not quite an exact formulation of the position, since the rights under the Covenant are permissive and not obligatory. If by some other treaty such permission is renounced, there is no legal necessity for altering the instrument by which it is conferred; as a measure of psychological emphasis, however, upon the importance of the Kellogg Pact in international relations the British proposal is well conceived. If the Covenant is brought into line with the Pact then perhaps a much needed effort will be made to bring the Pact into line with the Covenant by the adoption of machinery to discover and declare where self-defence begins and what is " war as an instrument of national policy."

A Truce in Tariffs.—The Council of the League of Nations has fixed February 17th as the date of the conference on a tariff truce. Mr William Graham's proposal that such a conference should be held has received the support of every Government in Europe, with the exception of Albania, which has not replied. But that can scarcely be taken as a measure of the support forthcoming for the plan of a truce itself. The recent tendency of tariffs has been strongly upward, and the conference will not be helped by being almost entirely European. One of the latest countries to agree to be represented is Japan, but the British Dominions have been in open opposition all along—a rude commentary on the optimism of those who hope to obtain a reduction of Dominion tariffs against British goods in exchange for a wall of anti-foreign duties levied by the Mother Country. The Dominions are plainly more addicted to Protection than ever. The Empire Free Traders are themselves stiff in opposition to the proposal of a two years' truce in tariffs, on the ground that it would tie the hands of a British Government which desired to bargain either with foreign countries or with the Dominions. This opposition rests on the fallacy that tariff manipulation can ever result, in the long run, in a profitable bargain; on the contrary, experience has always shown that retaliation is the outcome, and it is grossly foolhardy to expect that such an addition to our overseas markets as the Empire is likely to afford us could compensate for the loss of foreign markets which Protection would entail. Great Britain has everything to gain from a tariff truce. The very opposition to the suggestion, and our own post-war experience, show the vital importance of checking the fatal tendency of tariffs to move upward. How difficult it is to lower them is sadly illustrated by the action of the board of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which (by 14 votes to 7) has asserted its opposition to the removal of the silk and McKenna duties on the ground that we cannot afford " disturbance " to trade. Thus the traditional home of Free Trade (lapsing into a short-sighted and mistaken view which we deplore) vindicates its former arguments by showing how hard it is to turn back from the primrose path of Protection. Not tariffs at home but a reduction of those abroad is what Manchester and the whole of British trade require. No effort should be spared by the Government to make the forthcoming conference a success. It has a chance if the Ministers of Finance or Commerce in the participating countries see fit to attend, and Mr Graham has set a good example by announcing that he will himself head the British delegation. One obstacle in the path of success is the failure of Czechoslovakia and Poland to sign the Convention for the abolition of import and export prohibitions. Their signatures alone are required to bring the Convention into force, and in the Council this week Mr Henderson made a strong appeal to the two Governments to adhere as soon as possible. We trust that the response will be prompt and favourable.

Egypt and the Treaty.—The Speech from the Throne on the occasion of the opening of the Egyptian Parliament, a week ago, referred to the proposed treaty with Great Britain in language that left nothing to be desired. The British proposals were spoken of as being dictated by a spirit of amity and conciliation, and negotiations, with a view to a solid and honourable accord, were described as imminent. The words chosen by the Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, wear, intentionally or not, an air of studied cordiality, and it seems clear that the Wafd, now that it is in full control of Parliament, is prepared to enter the coming negotiations in a reasonable spirit. The difficulty is, as so often in these cases, that Nahas Pasha may feel it necessary, as a matter of political prestige, to extract better terms from Mr Henderson than his predecessor, Mahmoud Pasha, secured. That will not be very easy, for, quite apart from the fact that the British Foreign Secretary described the draft agreement he discussed with Mahmoud Pasha as representing the utmost he could offer, there is, in fact, little or nothing more that a British Government could reasonably concede. Neither is there anything more that Egypt either genuinely needs or seriously desires. If it had been possible for Mr Henderson to offer direct to Nahas Pasha what, through force of circumstances, he had to offer to Mahmoud Pasha first, Nahas Pasha would no doubt have accepted it with alacrity and hailed it as a considerable diplomatic victory. Now what is necessary is to find some concessions which will be sufficiently matters of form for Great Britain to be able to grant them without real sacrifice and sufficiently matters of substance for Nahas Pasha to be able to claim that he has secured better terms than Mahmoud did. Such adjustments have been effected before this in the history of diplomacy.

Prospects in Poland.—The declaration of policy by the new Polish Prime Minister, M. Bartel, indicates a change for the better in the Parliamentary situation. The late " Government of Colonels " regarded the Seym as simply a necessary nuisance—and necessary only because Marshal Pilsudski had for some reason stopped short of abolishing it. M. Bartel is in some respects a Pilsudski man. If he had not been he would not have been invited to return to office. But he is at the same time distinctly a Parliamentarian, and his purpose will clearly be to avoid the kind of crisis which led to the recent adverse vote and the consequent downfall of the Switalski Cabinet. The two tasks immediately before deputies are the adoption of the Budget and the amendment of the Constitution with a view to giving more power to the executive. The Budget will be dealt with by the appropriate committee, and the Government should have no difficulty in getting it through. As to the Constitution, a committee of the Seym has a Government draft and an Opposition draft before it, and the elaboration of a new document on the basis of the two proposals will continue. Discussion will be lengthy, and in the end the Bartel Cabinet will have to choose between accepting the committee's conclusions and laying before Parliament a new Constitution of its own. By that time the general political situation may have evolved in one direction or the other. There is every indication that M. Bartel will ride the Seym with as easy a rein as possible. He has no Governmental majority behind him, and will certainly not go out of his way to raise issues calculated to provoke a straight vote between Government and Opposition. Altogether the political sky in Poland is clearer, though while Marshal Pilsudski holds the stage it is never likely to be cloudless.

A Banker on Rationalisation.—The Hon. Rupert Beckett, deputy chairman of the Westminster Bank, used the occasion of his inauguration as President of the Manchester and District Bankers' Institute to refer at some length to the attitude of the British banks towards the rationalisation of industry. After pointing out some of the implications of rationalisation, including the writing off of existing superfluous assets and the need of the new combine for fresh financial resources, he gave it as his opinion that the banks would not only have to forego some portion of the advances made by them to individual firms in the past, but would also be asked to provide initial working capital for the new combine. Here Mr Beckett held that the banker was up against a difficulty. On the one hand, he had to preserve a due proportion between advances and deposits, and he emphasised this point by recalling that already the proportion has substantially exceeded 50 per cent. On the other hand, the success or failure of the rationalised concern must depend on its control, on the technical more than on the financial side; and here the banker was being asked to decide on information which usually was incomplete. Mr Beckett was clearly anxious to respond sympathetically to demands for help in connection with rationalisation, but he apparently considered that the extent to which the English banking system was based on deposits repayable on demand or at short date made it difficult for the banks to make long-term advances as was the practice in Germany. Again, he quoted figures showing that the proportion of capital to deposits was higher in German than in English banks, and this, too, rendered it easier for German banks to participate in industry. In short, his main thesis was that under the present system British bankers were near to saturation point as regards loans and advances. He admitted that the prosperity of the British banks was bound up with the legitimate developments of industry, but there he stopped. How far the British banking system can be developed to meet the changing needs of industry without sacrificing its present safety and elasticity is a question that is rapidly becoming one of the most important before the country to-day.

India's Economic Development.—The keynote of the important paper recently read by Sir Basil Blackett before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts was appreciation of the great potentialities of India. After reminding his hearers that British India is no more to be regarded as an economic unit than is the Continent of Europe, though one is obliged for convenience' sake to speak of it in this way, and is partly justified in so doing by the existence of a single government and a single tariff, Sir Basil Blackett proceeded to examine the causes of India's extreme poverty. Dismissing, as baseless, the prejudiced view sometimes put forward, that it is due to arrested political and economic development as a consequence of British rule, he attributed it broadly to the fundamental conservatism of India's social system and to the indifference to material progress which has its origin in religious causes. From the time of Lord Curzon onwards, however, the Government of India has set itself actively to encourage a better-balanced economic organisation, and statistics of production and consumption show the substantial progress of India's wealth since 1900. That India's external trade has grown by only 49.1 per cent. since 1913, while that of the world has increased 66.2 per cent. is regarded by Sir Basil Blackett as a sign, not of India's backwardness, but of her increasing self-sufficiency. In contrast to the fear expressed from time to time in some quarters that the growing industrialisation of India and the East in general constitutes a threat to the prosperity of older manufacturing countries, Sir Basil Blackett takes sound, long-sighted views. " The next few decades," he said, " may in all probability see the rapid growth in the world of a small number of large economic units, consciously moving towards more intimate economic union. There is no need to picture these units as mutually hostile and antagonistic. Even if they seem to be competitive, their differentiation may well be regarded as little more than a reasonable division of labour with a view to better economic results, valuable in helping mankind to avoid excessive standardisation, and part of the process of advance towards peaceful co-operation throughout the world." Sir Basil Blackett is anxious to see Indian co-operation secured with that goal in view. Among the great immediate needs which he outlines, in order that India's vast potential resources may be developed to the advantage of herself and the world, are closer co-operation between British and Indian business men, more capital, and, above all, the abandonment of what he calls " mediævalism " and the adoption of such Western methods and standards as are capable of the profound modification necessary to adapt them to Indian religious conditions and to enable India to profit by them while yet retaining her essential individuality. The results of the impingement of the West on India are slow to mature. It is doubtful, as Sir Basil Blackett remarked, if 20 million out of her 320 million inhabitants are aware of the passing of the Government of India Act of 1919, and the emphasis laid recently by Earl Russell—at the cost of a needless storm in the political teacup—on the length of the road towards her full economic and political development yet to be travelled by India indicated not " reactionary opinion " but a simple sense of reality. As recent history in Afghanistan has proved, attempts to accelerate injudiciously the modernisation of Eastern countries may have unexpected and unwelcome results. None the less, the economic Westernisation of India is a process which, however slow it may be, should ultimately bear fruit in kindling among the masses desire for an ampler and better material life. Given the awaking of that desire as a condition precedent, and given India's willingness to draw on England's assured goodwill for the help and co-operation which she needs and is likely to need, then India's economic growth may yet surprise the world by its rapidity.

December Overseas Trade.—The last month of 1929 was by no means satisfactory in respect of overseas trade, as the following table shows:—

MONTH OF DECEMBER.
(000's omitted.)

	1929.	Inc. or dec. on December, 1928.		Inc. or dec. on December, 1927.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	106,575	+ 5,123	+ 5·0	+ 1,166	+ 1·1
British exports	58,430	− 1,964	− 3·3	− 404	− 0·7
Re-exports	7,938	− 1,142	− 12·6	− 2,372	− 23·0
Total exports	66,367	− 3,106	− 4·5	− 2,776	− 4·0
Excess of imports over total exports.	40,208	+ 8,230	+ 25·8	+ 3,844	+ 10·1

Of the increase of over £5 million in imports, as compared with the previous December, £3.3 million was spread over manufactured articles and there was a rise of only £0.3 million in the raw materials class. British exports were 3.3 per cent. less than in December, 1928, the principal falls occurring in textiles, vehicles and oils. The substantial fall in re-exports, as compared with the preceding December, occurred principally in the raw

materials class. Textile materials, hides and skins, rubber, timber and minerals were the chief contributors to this decline. The figures for the twelve months ending December 31st are discussed in a leading article.

British Coal Exports.—The trade returns for 1929, a general survey of which will be found in a leading article, enable an interesting comparison to be made between annual exports of British coal in the past three years and the corresponding results in the year preceding the 1926 stoppage:—

AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPORTS.

	Thousand tons.	Value per ton f.o.b. s. d.
1925	4,235	19 10
1927	4,262	17 10
1928	4,171	15 7
1929	5,022	16 2

Up to the end of 1928 the policy of price-cutting bore no fruit in a larger volume of shipments, but in 1929, after the stimulus given to demand by the abnormal frost in February-March and the consequent dislocation of Continental coal traffic, British exporters have won back a substantial proportion of lost ground, while average prices have shown a firmer tendency. The course of trade with our principal foreign markets is indicated in the following table:—

AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPORTS.

Destination.	Tonnage.				Value per ton f.o.b.			
	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
					s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Scandinavia (a)	605	492	366	498	17 2	15 9	13 10	14 1
Germany	347	353	447	460	15 6	14 8	13 3	13 9
Holland	127	193	203	260	17 2	15 5	13 10	14 2
Belgium	207	186	188	345	16 8	15 3	12 11	13 7
France	853	772	755	1,087	19 9	17 4	15 5	15 11
Italy	568	566	552	591	20 4	18 7	16 0	16 11
S. America (b) ...	351	400	398	420	23 4	20 1	17 5	17 11
Spain.....	146	197	156	149	21 10	19 4	16 7	18 1
Egypt	164	183	182	189	21 10	18 9	16 2	16 6

(a) Norway, Sweden Denmark. (b) Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina.

It will be seen that in 1929 the greatest increase occurred in sales to France, Belgium and Scandinavia. Purchases by the last-named market, however, were still much smaller than in 1925, despite a reduction of 3s. 1d. per ton in average prices, and it is significant that recovery of lost trade with Italy, South America, Spain and Egypt, is relatively slow. The figures disclose a curious absence of visible relation between the movements of price and volume of sales.

The Quarter's Shipbuilding.—The shipbuilding returns for the last quarter of 1929, issued this week by Lloyd's Register, disclose an increase in the volume of work in hand which is somewhat surprising in view of the acute depression which has ruled since October in the cargo-freight market. The total tonnage under construction in the world at the end of the year amounted to 3,111,000 tons (as compared with 2,817,000 on September 30th), of which 1,738,000 tons represented motor-ships and 1,350,000 tons, steamers. In British yards 499,000 tons (against 360,000 tons in the previous quarter) were returned as "commenced," and 473,000 tons as launched. Launchings abroad amounted to 370,000 tons, and commencements to 477,000 tons, in comparison with 301,000 tons in the September quarter. To a large extent the revival in the shipbuilding industry's activity is the immediate result of substantial orders for new tankers placed during the autumn, there being now 628,000 tons of this class of vessel building in the world, as compared with 401,000 tons three months ago. With reference, however, to the improved competitive power of British shipbuilders, it is interesting to note that of the 1,560,000 tons now under construction in British yards—a figure which compares with 1,448,000 tons at the end of September, and 1,243,000 tons a year ago—161,000 tons are intended for the Dominions, 243,000 tons for Norway, and 253,000 tons for other foreign shipowners or for sale.

Iron and Steel Production in December.—Owing largely to the Christmas holidays, but partly also to a definite recession, steel production in December, at 661,200 tons, was the lowest for any month of the year, production in November having been 815,000 tons, and in the previous December 683,100 tons. The production of pig iron, which is a continuous process, and therefore unaffected by holidays, showed a slight rise from 631,400 tons in November to 643,000 tons in December, but the rise was due to the extra working day. Comparison with October, the previous 31-day month, shows a decline of 45,700 tons; and the number of furnaces in operation declined by one during the month to 162. The December production brought the total for the year to 7,579,500 tons of pig iron and 9,654,700 tons of steel. In the case of pig iron this is the highest total since 1920, and, in the case of steel, the highest since 1917. The following table gives the production of pig iron and steel and imports and exports in each quarter of 1929 compared with 1928:—

UNITED KINGDOM PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL

	Production.		Imports.	Exports.
	Pig Iron.	Steel Ingots and Castings.		
1928:—	(In thousands of tons.)			
1st Quarter	1,703·9	2,181·9	842·3	1,058·5
2nd ,, ...	1,718·3	2,104·8	700·0	1,069·2
3rd ,, ...	1,560·7	2,032·8	675·9	998·0
4th ,, ...	1,627·2	2,200·2	677·7	1,135·6
Total	6,610·1	8,519·7	2,895·9	4,261·3
1929:—				
1st Quarter	1,674·0	2,399·4	586·4	1,151·4
2nd ,, ...	1,923·9	2,483·3	753·4	1,089·4
3rd ,, ...	2,018·5	2,406·0	721·5	1,033·5
4th ,, ...	1,963·1	2,366·0	755·3	1,105·1
Total	7,579·5	9,654·7	2,816·6	4,379·4

Imports of iron and steel in December amounted to 256,400 tons, compared with 250,400 tons in November and 183,600 tons in December, 1928; the total imports for the year amounted to 2,816,600 tons. Imports of pig iron, though still less than 5 per cent. of the total, are apparently growing. Having averaged 7,300 tons per month in the first eight months of the year they have averaged 14,700 tons in the last four months, most of the increase being due to imports from India. Exports of iron and steel in December amounted to 332,000 tons, and were 50,700 tons less than in November. This brings the total for the year to 4,379,400 tons, which is the highest total since 1923, when exports, stimulated by the Ruhr occupation, amounted to 4,317,500 tons. Exports of pig iron in December amounted to 34,700 tons, and for the year to 455,600 tons. Excluding pig iron, exports of other iron and steel products are practically equal to exports in 1913.

The South-West England Electricity Scheme.—The South-West England and South Wales Electricity Scheme, published on January 13th, is the final regional scheme issued by the Electricity Commissioners and completes the national "grid." The area covered by it includes the whole of South Wales, the counties of Hereford, Monmouth, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Wiltshire, and Southampton; parts of the counties of Berkshire, Gloucester, Oxford and West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. The few districts which remain outside the range of the national scheme are already adequately served by large single undertakings. The South-West England scheme is by far the largest in area, and covers about 17,234 square miles, whereas the areas covered by the preceding schemes range from between 5,000 and 9,000 square miles. Its population density is, moreover, comparatively small; at the last Census the average density was about 350 persons per square mile, compared with an average density of about 810 per square mile for the other schemes. The consumption per head of the population is

a little more than 85 units per annum, compared with an average of 172 units for the whole country. The task of developing this area will, therefore, necessitate heavy capital expenditure on transmission, and an adequate return to this capital may conceivably be postponed for a considerable time. The actual expenditure to be incurred by the board up to 1937 will amount to £4,163,484 for transmission lines and sub-stations and £764,450 for the standardisation of frequency. A further £1,934,360 is to be spent by the owners of existing selected stations on extensions, bringing the total expenditure by 1937 up to £6,862,294. The extensions after 1937 are to amount to 382,500 kw. at a cost of about £5.2 million, bringing the grand total for the scheme to about £12,000,000 for the next 12 years. In addition to the difficulties caused by the sparsity of population, is the fact that at present there exist 165 authorised undertakers in the area, owning between them 107 public generating stations of an estimated average capacity of 3,000 kw.; that is, considerably below the minimum capacity for economic operation. Of these, six stations are to be selected, these being Portishead (Bristol Corporation), Upper Boat (South Wales Power Company), Newport, Cardiff, Southampton and Hayle (Cornwall Power Company), while two new stations will be built, one at Southampton Water and the other in South Wales. Eleven other stations will operate under temporary arrangements, independently of the scheme. The estimated savings in capital expenditure to the undertakers resulting from the scheme will be in the neighbourhood of £1,400,000 up to the year 1937. These savings will result, according to estimates, in a fall in the price of current from 0.418d. per unit in 1931 to 0.380d. in 1936, a figure which is equal to that for North-West England and Mid-East England. The area covered by the scheme includes the mining and industrial centres in South Wales, the shipping centres at Portsmouth, Southampton and Bristol, and a vast amount of rural territory in the surrounding districts. These differences in the nature of the area to be served increase the difficulties in the task of distribution. An examination of the map of the scheme shows that the transmission lines have skirted the fringes of the area they are intended to serve. The connection between Southampton and Bristol, running through Salisbury and Bath, projected in the first annual report of the board, has not been carried out, in spite of the undoubted value of this line as a nucleus for developing the area of Wiltshire and Dorset. Other important areas which have not been touched are the whole of North Devon and the greater part of South Wales, except Glamorganshire. The scheme, therefore, in view of the area to be covered, appears singularly unenterprising, and seems to have failed to make full use of the opportunities afforded to it as a pioneer in electrical supply development.

Milk Prices.—The uneasiness felt by the public at the time of the publication of the 1929-30 contract between the London dairymen and the milk producers will be in some degree set at rest by the latest report of the Food Council. The details of the agreement differed very much from those of the preceding contract. In 1928-29 milk was divided into two classes, "liquid" and "manufacturing" milk. This year it is divided into three classes, based on the degree of variation between the quantity actually supplied by the producer and the quantity estimated by him at the beginning of the year as his probable daily delivery. It is therefore very difficult to compare the effects on producer, distributor and consumer of the two contracts, and as far as Class III. is concerned it is impossible, since the illustration appended to the 1928-29 agreement did not allow for such wide variations as it permits. Milk bought in this class is, however, an unimportant part of the London trade, and the Food Council, in undertaking the difficult task of comparison, feels justified in leaving it out of account. The conclusion drawn from the results of the comparison are:—First, that while the apparent reduction in price, under the 1929-30 agreement to producers in classes I., II. and III. is ½d., ½d. and ¾d. per gallon respectively, there is an increase of approximately 0.034d. in Class I. when the effect of the new terms is taken into consideration, and a decrease of only 0.102d. in Class II.; second, that if effect is given to the announcement by United Dairies, Ltd., that "unless anything unforeseen arises, the retail price of milk in London will be 1d. per quart cheaper for one month next summer," retail prices in 1929-30 will be the same as those recommended by the Food Council for 1928-29, and London producers who buy direct from producers in Class I. and II. will be involved in a reduction of their margin varying approximately between 0.222d. and 0.333d. per gallon, which amounts to from 66 to 100 per cent. of the reduction recommended for the preceding season.

The United States and Haiti.—President Hoover's recommendation to Congress that a commission be sent to Haiti, with a view to the formulation of a more definite policy, coincided with disturbances in Haiti which dramatically illustrated the need for such measures. For a century before the American occupation in 1915, the Government of Haiti had been as unstable and inefficient as may be expected when a population descended from imported negro slaves attempts to govern itself according to the democratic political system of France. There was certainly a case to be made out for American intervention, but it is difficult to defend the manner of that intervention, which, according to a special information bulletin of the Foreign Policy Association, was accompanied by the exercise of influence in the presidential election of 1915, the suppression of the National Assembly, the forcing on Haiti of a new constitution and the control of the Press. During the term of office of President Dartiguenave the Haitian authorities persistently resisted what they regarded as encroachments by the United States officials on powers not conceded to them by the treaty of 1915, but on the expiry in 1922 of his term of office he was succeeded by President Borno, who has co-operated cordially with the United States authorities, and has been by them in turn supported against Haitian opposition. Under this *régime*, it is generally conceded, order has been restored, an excellent system of communications established, an efficient public health service instituted, and great progress made in financial reorganisation. On the other hand, the Haitians contend that the development of their educational system has been hampered and that their foreign trade has declined under American control. The American defence against the allegation of failure to develop the educational system is that the native is trying to insist on a type of cultural education for which he is unsuited, and that their method of concentrating on technical instruction is in the true interests of the peasant population. The principle underlying this argument is also at the root of the fundamental defect of the American administration. Believing that the Haitians are inefficient and untrustworthy, the United States officials have conducted their efficient but complicated system of administration with little attempt to educate the natives politically, so that on the termination of the occupation in 1936 the Haitians will be left in charge of a complex machine without any trained mechanics to operate it. While some Americans view this situation without alarm, and others, as a council of despair, advocate immediate withdrawal before the natives are further demoralised, an intermediate view is well expressed by the *New Republic*, an American journal of liberal views:—

> "There is no time to lose if we are to evacuate the country by 1936. General Russell should be removed immediately in favour of a civilian of broad sympathies and tact; the Marine brigade should be withdrawn; the present system of administration should be radically organised so as to give greater responsibilities to Haitian officials; the Haitian Legislature and National Assembly should be restored. As long as the United States remains in control it should see to it that elections are fairly held. It may well be that the Haitian Government will ask the United States, after its withdrawal, to continue the collection of Customs. But the American people should make sure, if we undertake this task, that it is at the genuine request of the articulate portion of the Haitian people. . . ."

It is unlikely that the proposed committee of inquiry will go the whole way with this programme, but it is to be hoped that its findings will be along similar lines.

Profits in Canada.—The November issue of the Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia contains an original analysis of variations in Canadian corporation profits. The aim has been to portray, not the fluctuations in the actual profits of a given group of companies, but the varying "profitableness" of industry; thus changes due to the issue of new capital or to reorganisation of capital have been eliminated by the construction of chain indices from 125 reports. Net earnings were taken as the sum of bond interest, dividends on preferred and common stock, and surplus carried forward. It is difficult to see why reserve allocations and payments of preferred interest arrears were expressly excluded, since, with the exception of sinking funds against expiration of leases, etc., these payments have to be made out of net earnings; their exclusion obviously diminishes the amplitude of the variations, because in a year of good profits heavier allocations are made to reserves and interest arrears are paid off on preferred stocks. The compiler of the indices notes that as so large a proportion of Canadian industry takes the form of small private enterprises the results must be to that extent imperfectly representative of Canadian profits as a whole. The following are the summarised figures:—

Year.	Total net Earnings.	Common Dividends plus Surplus.	Dividends on Common Stock.	Surplus Carried Forward.
1920	98·0	129·3	96·2	154·9
1921	51·5	21·2	92·9	*deficit*
1922	81·3	79·6	89·3	54·8
1923	96·6	100·4	96·3	112·0
1924	91·3	90·5	92·1	86·9
1925	107·8	103·1	106·8	94·2
1926	125·7	126·5	116·3	152·1
1927	143·2	141·5	140·4	142·4
1928	161·4	165·2	158·6	178·8

In each case 100 = the mean of the period 1922-26. It must be remembered that these are chain indices, and that therefore the "mean" in this case is not an average profit but an average of what are already index numbers. Apart from the growing prosperity of Canadian industry, the most notable feature of this table is the steadiness of common dividends, which were conspicuously less variable than aggregate net earnings. The compiler of the analysis proceeds to make some very interesting statistical comparisons between these figures and other industrial indices. Noteworthy is the fact that "variations in the aggregate of common dividends and surplus agree more closely with variations of employment than with variations in either the volume of production or the volume of business." *Most important*, too, is the extremely close correlation between variations in the average rate of dividend and variations in the average price of common stocks. Indeed, if the respective indices are plotted in terms of "one standard deviation from the mean," the two curves almost coincide, but as statisticians well know this only indicates that changes take place in the same direction and bear roughly the same proportion to one another; in fact, if the curves are plotted in the ordinary way it is plain that prices of common stocks have been advancing more rapidly than common dividends. It will be highly interesting to observe the effect of the stock market break on these valuable figures.

The Canadian Exchange Situation. — Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—*Some light has now been thrown* upon Canada's relations to the gold standard which have been arousing critical comment abroad. On December 24th the *Toronto Mail and Empire* printed a despatch from its Ottawa correspondent showing that whereas on November 30, 1928, Canada's gold reserve had stood at $88,302,485, it had on November 30, 1929, fallen to $62,827,668, which is a decline of $25,474,817. Now the law prescribes that there should be a gold reserve of 10 per cent. against the deposits in the Post Office savings and Dominion savings banks, which on November 30 amounted to $25,837,536; on this account, therefore, a gold reserve of $2,582,753 was necessary. The Dominion note issue on November 30th was $211,577,626, and of this total $90,150,000 had been advanced to banks, leaving a sum of $121,427,626, for which the following statutory gold reserve should have been provided; 25 per cent., or $12,500,000 for the first 50 million dollars' worth of Dominion notes, and 100 per cent., or dollar for dollar, on the $71,427,526 worth of notes issued above the 50 million dollar limit. Therefore, on November 30th the gold reserve requirements were as follows:—

	$
For postal and Government savings deposits	2,582,753
For first 50 million Dominion note issue	12,500,000
For the balance of the Dominion note issue	71,427,626
Total	86,510,379
Amount of gold reserve	62,827,668
Gold deficit	23,682,711

The Government, therefore, admits by its own official figures that its gold reserve is more than 23½ million dollars, or nearly 27 per cent. below the statutory requirements, which were designed to keep Canada's note issue on a gold basis. The Finance Minister can expect an attack from the Opposition on this subject as soon as Parliament meets, but meanwhile the remedy is in the Government's own hands. It can either go into the market and buy enough gold to make up the deficiency or it can force a reduction of the note issue until the statutory requirements are conformed to. Mr Dunning, the new Finance Minister, evidently intends to rely upon the latter policy, and probably entertains the hope that sales of grain will release bank credits now immobilised, for in his first address since he assumed his new office he intimated that the Government intended to pay off a Dominion issue of 20 million dollars which matures on February 21st.

Indian Imports from the United Kingdom.—We discussed, a few weeks ago, a speech by the Senior British Trade Commissioner in India, in which he examined the British position in the Indian market. Detailed figures illustrating this position are now forthcoming in the latest report* on Indian trade. The percentage distribution of Indian imports by countries of origin has undergone substantial changes during the past few years, as the following table shows:—

IMPORTS.

Country of Origin.	Per cent. of Total. 1913-14.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
United Kingdom	64	48	48	45
Japan.....	3	7	7	7
United States	3	8	8	7
Java	6	6	6	7
Germany	7	7	6	6
Australia	1	1	1	3
Belgium	2	3	3	3
China	1	1	2	2

Ground has been lost by this country in the supply of nearly all India's principal imports. In 1928-29 India imported 67,15,16 thousand rupees' worth of cotton goods, which, though much less than in the preceding year, still formed 26½ per cent. of her total imports. The United Kingdom's share in that part of this trade, which consists of piece-goods, was 97 per cent. before the war and fell from 78 per cent. in 1927-28 to 75 per cent. in 1928-29. On the other hand, the United Kingdom has since 1925-26 been ousting Japan as a source of Indian imports of cotton twist and yarn. In 1925-26 their percentages were, United Kingdom 31, Japan 65; in 1926-27, 41 and 54; in 1927-28, 39 and 32, and in 1928-29, 53 and 17. As far as iron and steel are concerned, the United Kingdom has been holding her own of recent years as an exporter to India. The subjoined table illustrates changes in the position:—

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	United States.	Germany.
1913-14 ...	60	17	*a*	2	20
1920-21 ...	70	10	*a*	16	2
1925-26 ...	55	26	5	3	8
1926-27 ...	48	30	4	3	9
1927-28 ...	57	26	4	1	7
1928-29 ...	56	29	5	2	6

a Less than 1 per cent.

A similar analysis of the imports of machinery shows insignificant changes in the shares of countries other than Great Britain and the United States, but whereas these were 90 and 3 per cent. respectively in 1913-14 they were respectively, in 1928-29, 76.5 and 11.3 per cent. Imports of motor-cars from the United Kingdom are growing, but not as rapidly as those from the United States and Canada. Out of a total of 19,567 in 1928-29, 3,645 came from this country, 7,943 from the United States, and 6,568 from Canada. In hardware our principal competitor is Germany, whose share of India's imports has risen to 32 per cent. from 18 per cent. pre-war, while the United Kingdom share has fallen from 57 to 36 per cent. The remaining figures further illustrate the fact that the position of the United Kingdom in the Indian market is very much less satisfactory than before the war, and is still being challenged by several countries whose competition is serious. The causes and the possible remedies for this state of affairs were discussed in the speech already referred to.

* *Review of the Trade of India in* 1928-29. (Calcutta) Government of India Central Publication Bureau, No. 2188. 5s.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—The balance sheet of this institution, dated November 30, 1929, reveals several interesting changes in comparison with a year ago. Deposits, it is true, are virtually unaltered, but there have been substantial increases on the liabilities side of the account in respect of letters of credit and balances due to banks and banking correspondents abroad. This last item in particular has increased from £10.0 to £14.9 million, and it is conceivable that foreign bankers have lately been induced by the depreciation of the Canadian dollar to let their balances with their Canadian agents accumulate rather than withdraw them and incur an appreciable loss on exchange. As regards the Bank of Commerce's assets, cash is £1.4 million higher at £27.6 million, but loans and discounts inside Canada have risen from £64.4 to £70.3 million and call and short loans outside Canada from £16.2 to £21.6 million. Other Canadian banks have had a similar experience during the year covered by the accounts, and it is clear from these net increases over the whole year that the expansion in Canadian business and also in business on Wall Street during the first ten months of the year had at the end of the year not yet been neutralised by the set-backs experienced first on Wall Street and then in Canadian business during the final six weeks. To judge the full measure of the Wall Street slump and its reactions upon business both in Canada and the United States, we must await the bank results of the current year.

Bank of New South Wales.—The outstanding features of the annual report for the year ended September 30th last was the fall of £199,118 to £994,825 in the net profit, and the payment of the usual 10 per cent. dividend without the bonus of 2½ per cent. which was declared for the three previous years. A summary of the accounts for 1928 and 1929 appear below:—

	Sept. 30, 1928. £	Sept. 30, 1929. £
Capital.....	7,500,000	7,500,000
Reserve Fund.....	5,900,000	6,150,000
Balance forward.....	168,654	163,478
Total assets.....	88,982,585	90,806,297
Liquid assets	87,757,585	89,356,297
Cash holdings	15,285,983	11,193,049
Loans and bills discounted	51,353,368	59,427,960
Deposits	64,514,555	66,056,052
Notes in circulation	633,262	584,091

The reduction in the dividend was not unexpected, as the year was a bad one owing to the industrial depression in Australia during 1929. The industrial situation of the country is reflected in three items in the balance sheet, viz., the slight increase of £1,541,497 in deposits, the growth of £8,074,592 in bills discounted and advances, and the decrease of £2,074,566 in investments. The percentage of liquid assets to liabilities has fallen from 122.7 per cent. to 120.9 per cent. The greater part of the chairman's speech was occupied in dealing with the effect of the recent Australian strikes on the country as a whole.

New Life Assurance Business.—Returns have been published during the past week by seven more offices of the new business results achieved during 1929. They are as follows:—

Office.	1928.	1929.
Alliance	2,922,678	3,026,938
Life Association	725,670	1,133,890
London Assurance	1,746,180	1,978,653
Scottish Amicable	1,267,028	1,235,026
Scottish Life.....	1,241,384	1,339,441
Scottish Widows	3,173,220	2,899,000
United Kingdom Provident	3,109,870	3,335,080

Five of these offices have succeeded in increasing their totals while two show declines. Of the latter the Scottish Widows' figure is some £270,000 less than in 1928, but the 1929 total is still well above the level of 1927. The decline in the case of the Scottish Amicable, though small, is the second successive decrease reported by this office. The most spectacular increase is that recorded by the Life Association, but here comparison is vitiated by the fact that the 1928 total is in respect of a broken period of nine months.

Friends' Provident and Century Life Office.—It has been announced by this company that in respect of the five years ended December 31, 1929, a reversionary bonus at the rate of 42s. per cent. per annum compound will be allotted to all with-profits policies then in force. This announcement is made in advance of the publication of the results of the valuation, and no figures are, therefore, yet available, but the fact that the rate of bonus exceeds by 6s. that declared for the preceding quinquennium is a sufficient indication of the directors' confidence in the outcome of the valuation. Moreover, an interim bonus payable in respect of claims occurring before the next valuation has been declared at the same rate, viz., 42s. per cent. per annum compound. Coupled with the announcement of the rate of bonus is the intimation that valuations will in future be made triennially instead of quinquennially. Consequently the next valuation will be due to take place as at December 31, 1932, and will therefore coincide with the centenary of the office, a circumstance which will give rise to pleasurable anticipations of a special distribution to mark that event.

The United Kingdom Provident Institution.—Periodical valuations by this institution are made triennially, and the last triennium ended on December 31, 1929. A preliminary announcement has just been made as to the rates of bonus to be declared in respect of that triennium, and these, together with the corresponding rates in the preceding valuation period, are set out below:—

	1924 to 1926.	1927 to 1929.
Whole Life Assurances:	%	%
Temperance section	40/–	45/–
General section.....	37/–	41/–
Endowment Assurances:		
Temperance section (original term 25 years or over).....	39/–	43/–
Do., do., under 25 years	37/–	41/–
General section, all terms	37/–	41/–

These bonuses will be calculated on the sums assured, and existing bonuses, and are therefore compound. The rates now declared represent increases varying from 4s. to 5s. per cent. over the corresponding rates declared at the preceding valuation three years ago.

At a meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, to be held in the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, at 5.15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st, Mr. Barnard Ellinger, C.B.E., will read a paper on "Japanese Competition in the Cotton Trade."

A meeting of the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5th, at which Sir W. Clare Lees, O.B.E., will speak on "Some Aspects of the Question of Trade with South America."

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—SHARE MARKET—BUSINESS—MONEY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, January 3.

THE share market is still continuing its indecisive movements on a small volume of trading. Smart little rallies have occurred from time to time with the shorts evidently finding a small amount of stock available on recessions; on the other hand, advances are curbed by profit taking, liquidation of stale holdings and by renewed short selling. Existing positions are well defended, but on the other hand buying is unhurried. Meanwhile, the year-end expressions of opinion on the business outlook recognise the sharpness of the recession that has already occurred, and generally take the view that a recovery will begin in the spring or the autumn. The magnitude of the setback is illustrated by the situation in the steel industry, where output during December probably did not amount to much more than 50 per cent. of capacity, compared with a peak rate of 100 per cent. reached during the summer. During the last week of the year the rate was probably not much above 40 per cent., as that week reflected the effects of year-end shutdowns and of consumers' desire to reduce stocks to a minimum at the end of the year. The steel trade feels more optimistic now, however, and expects operations to reach 60 or 65 per cent. of capacity during the near future. This activity will be based on current consumption and not on any desire to accumulate stocks. Demand from the automobile industry is increasing gradually as the motor makers are getting into production on new 1930 models. Structural steel business is excellent, and there is an ample supply of railroad business on the books. Prices are holding up fairly well; there is weakness in a few directions but no sign of a general decline. If steel prices can be maintained during the next month or six weeks, the trade will feel increased confidence in the outlook.

The customary late December tightening in the money market brought a 6 per cent. rate on the Stock Exchange, which to-day gave way to a 5 per cent. quotation. Further easing of this kind of money is expected soon, as the return flow of funds to this centre generally goes on during the early part of January at a rate greater than that at which the Reserve Bank can dispose of its government stocks without injuring the market for them. Part of the ease will probably be temporary. As to the longer-term outlook for money, anticipations are somewhat conservative. For one thing, gold exports, which are expected to go moderately further, will act as a check on ease. For another, the customary reduction in the volume of outstanding paper eligible for rediscount with the Reserve banks and so available as reserve against circulation, will tend to reduce the amount of "free gold" in the hands of the system. There is some difference of opinion as to whether as much as another $200,000,000 gold could be spared under existing circumstances. Aside from the assistance that the Reserve banks might give to a tendency towards easier money, which will be limited by the "free gold" position, any further progress towards a comfortable money position would have to come from liquidation of member bank loans on securities. These loans expanded rapidly during the share market panic and the subsequent reduction has left them at about the level existing before the break. The position of the large banks is quite strong in this respect; but there are many small institutions throughout the country that have probably lent almost to the limit of their capacity on collateral, on which the margin is not great. These loans are as a rule backed by assets or general credit rating in addition to the specific collateral pledged and their liquidation is not likely to be forced. At the same time the existence of these loans will probably continue to curb rallies for a while; and the gradual paying off of these loans will undoubtedly absorb some of the capital that might otherwise find its way into the new issues market. In fact, these loans are one reason why a conservative view is being taken of the prospects of the bond market.

This week's Federal Reserve statements are complicated by the holiday demands for currency and the year-end settlements. With the passage of Christmas trade circulation has fallen and reserves have increased. Discounts have fallen sharply; and increases in bills and governments purchased in the open market reflect the Reserve banks' willingness to help the market. The total volume of credit being extended is moderately down. Further contraction will be shown by the statements of the next few weeks. An increase of $96,000,000 in brokers' loans reflects year-end transactions.

FRANCE.—REPARATIONS—REVENUE—BANK STATEMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, January 5.

FRENCH opinion is now confident that a satisfactory agreement will be reached at the Hague, and that Dr. Schacht has received a definite quietus, so far as any possibility of his acting as a German financial dictator is concerned. In non-official circles attention is closely focussed on the preparatory steps that are being taken for the launching of the first part of the great international loan to be issued for the purpose of mobilising the "unconditional" portion of the German reparation payments. In reliable quarters here it is stated that there is every probability that the first portion of the big loan will be issued during May next, and the amount is asserted to have been provisionally fixed at 1,000,000,000 Swiss francs, or £40,000,000. This is a small proportion of the capitalisation of the "unconditional" part of the German payments, which is fixed by the Plan itself at 660,000,000 marks a year, though this has been slightly altered by the Hague Protocol of last August. When the total of the initial amount to be offered is divided between London, New York, Paris, Berlin and the other centres in which it is to be offered simultaneously, the several amounts allocated must necessarily be comparatively small. The policy to be adopted, apparently, is to utilise this first issue as a kind of test loan, with a view to securing a reverberating success that shall result in a favourable reception for the subsequent offers. Considered opinion here regards it as quite possible, in view of the present general financial situation of the world, that the whole of the "unconditional" portion of the annuities will be successfully placed within the next four years. Rates of interest at present under discussion are reported as from 5½ to 6 per cent. The issue price, it is stated, will be a trifle below par.

It will be recalled that by far the greater proportion of the "unconditional" part of the German annuities are to come to France in reimbursement of the cost of reconstituting the devastated regions. Out of each "unconditional" annual payment of 660,000,000 marks (which will be equivalent to about one-third of each of the first 37 annual reparation payments), France should receive about 500,000,000 marks. The immediate transformation into cash, by means of the pending international loan (or loans), of the German future "unconditional" payments, would permit of the reduction of the French national debt by between 45,000,000,000 and 50,000,000,000 francs of capital (after allowing for various readjustments of interest, etc.), and also substantially relieve future Budgets of recurrent debt service burdens. The enormous effect the successful flotation of the "unconditional" part of the German payments will have on the whole French financial situation is too obvious to need comment. The transformation, at the same time, of so large a proportion of the German political debt into a purely commercial once, due to holders belonging to every country in the world, instead of merely to the French Government, may be expected to have an even more important effect on the future prospects of European peace as a whole.

The revenue returns for the last month of the year prove to be as satisfactory as those of its predecessors. The total yield in December from all budget sources (exclusive of the Postal Department and of the yield from tobacco and the special taxes diverted to the Caisse d'Amortissation) was 3,934,870,000 francs, of which 3,842,433,000 francs was obtained from "normal and permanent" sources (as against 3,564,661,000 francs in December, 1928, and 3,274,922,000 francs in 1927). The increase was partly due to the recent general rise in commodity prices, which naturally improved the yield from all *ad valorem* duties. In a note attached to the return the Finance Minister states that the yield for December was 449,000,000 francs in excess of Budget estimates, and thus brought the total excess revenue for the year to 6,605,000,000 francs. The Minister adds that 5,882,000,000 francs of this total has already been absorbed by supplementary expenditure already voted or to be voted, and that the balance may possibly be required for other similar projects. M. Chéron points out that the 5,882,000,000 francs of surplus revenue already utilised includes cover for the taxation relief granted during 1929, 1,000,000,000 francs for frontier defences, 1,500,000,000 francs towards the cost of the programme of productive national public works, 687,000,000 francs for increasing the pay of the State's civil and military servants, 300,000,000 francs for sufferers from public calamities, 156,000,000 francs for increasing military pensions for disablement, 118,000,000 francs for improving the food of the army and navy, and various other similar items.

The total yield for the twelve months was 47,780,000,000 francs in respect of the General Budget, in addition to which the Caisse d'Amortissement revenue amounted to 7,812,000,000 francs. "Direct Taxation" (which in French fiscal terminology comprises practically nothing but revenue from income tax) yielded during the year 13,900,000,000 francs, representing 82 per cent. of the demand notes served. The Caisse d'Amortissement, on its part, in addition to assuring the service of the National Defence Bonds, was able during the year to extinguish Rentes representing a capital value of 5,000,000,000 francs, and substantially to stimulate the Rente market. Perpetual Three per Cents. are now around 89, seven other Rente issues are above par (in some cases substantially so), and the 1918 Four per Cents. are expected soon to join them. All these factors are admirably favourable to the joint movement by the Government and the Bank of France to bring still lower the cost of both long and short-term money, and to restore to this country the financial prestige which she shared with Great Britain down to the 1870 *débacle*.

Last week's Bank statement, which brings the situation down to January 3rd, contains several new high record figures of more than ordinary interest. The total note circulation is returned at 70,288,000,000 francs, an increase of 1,718,000,000 francs on the week. This unusually large increase has excited some surprise, as three of the seven days of the week were after the close of the year and outside the period when extra supplies of currency would normally be required. The gold reserve shows an increase of 765,000,000 francs on the week (or well over £6,000,000), and is returned at 42,433,625,000 francs, or nearly 47 per cent. more than was shown in the first weekly statement after legal stabilisation. A decline of 1,398,000,000 francs in the total volume of creditor current accounts (including those of the

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Treasury and the Caisse d'Amortissement) probably explains the bulk of the increase in the note issue. In the result, the proportion of gold cover for the Bank's sight engagements (although the total of these is shown as some 300,000,000 francs higher) stands at 47.96 per cent., against 47.26 per cent. on December 27th.

The index figures representing wholesale prices at the end of December is returned by the Statistique Générale as 588, as against 596 at the end of November, and 100 (gold) in July, 1914. The French paper franc figure, translated into pre-war gold terms, works out at 119, therefore, as compared with November figures of 134 for Great Britain, 147 for the United States, 135 for Germany, 127 for Italy, 120 for Belgium, 140 for Switzerland. The detailed figures are as follows:—

	Articles.	End of months of Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
General index figure	45	602	596	588
French products.....	29	624	627	621
Imported products.....	16	563	540	530
Foodstuffs	20	558	555	546
Raw materials	25	640	632	625

The figure representing the cost of living of a Paris workman's family of four persons (food, heating, lighting, clothing, rent and sundries) is returned for November as 565, as compared with an average figure of 519 throughout 1928, and 100 in 1913. The effect of the recent upward movement in rents is seen from the fact that the figure representing the cost of housing, which averaged 287 in 1928, is now 350. The Paris gold index figure works out at between 111 and 112 for the cost of living by this class of the people, as against 113 in Vienna, 167 in Great Britain, 153 in Germany, and 149 in Italy.

SWEDEN.—DISCOUNT RATE—EXCHANGE RESERVE—INTEREST POLICY—TRADE—STOCK EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, January 3.

DECEMBER brought at long last the discount reduction which would have been fully justified in October, and has been daily expected since then. Thanks to the generally favourable economic developments in Sweden throughout 1929—making it in some respects a record year—the money market has been almost constantly buoyant. The gradual tightening, which has been the outstanding feature in the international capital market, has influenced the Swedish situation only in a very slight degree. The explanation is that the instability evidenced on the international money markets and stock exchanges has caused a diminution of capital export from Sweden which, without such a deterrent, would no doubt have shown a substantial increase over the preceding year. Hence, it may even be questioned whether the raising of the Swedish discount rate to 5½ per cent. from 4½ per cent. at the end of September (at which figure it had stood since August, 1928) was really called for. But it is highly probable that the extremely high rates in London and New York would otherwise have given an added impetus to capital investments abroad, which the Riksbank did not deem desirable, more particularly in view of the approaching maturity of the American dollar loan of 73 million kronor on Decem-

ber 15th. It became, however, clear at a very early stage that no occasion existed for retaining the 5½ per cent. rate, since the trend of the international money markets had changed after the New York crisis. Notwithstanding this, the Riksbank maintained its rate until December 12th, on which date the third successive reduction of the London rate forced the Riksbank to take similar action. This was only a half-measure, however, as it applied only to the discount rate, whereas other rates were left unaltered. Not until Christmas Eve was information received that all rates were to be reduced to the level which had obtained before the September increase.

It is obvious that this somewhat rigid discount policy must have left some very marked traces on the money and exchange markets during December. In anticipation of the discount reduction the private banks naturally limited their rediscounting at the Riksbank as much as possible and realised instead their foreign holdings. There was all the more reason to do this in view of the magnitude of these holdings, which, again, was due to the favourable balance of payments. The result was that the Swedish kronor rose to an unduly high level. This tendency is usually discernible in the month of December, but this year it was more marked than usual. The Riksbank exchange reserve, which had already reached the record figure of 221 million kronor at the end of the third quarter and in October and November had grown further to 232 and 255 millions, jumped in December to 266 million kronor, notwithstanding the disbursement of 54 millions for the U.S.A. loan and five millions for gold purchases. If these transactions had not taken place the reserves would thus have reached 325 million kronor, as against a previous maximum, already unnecessarily large, of 263 millions at the end of 1927. The bank could not avoid accepting these large offers, as otherwise it would have been forced to allow the quotations for foreign currencies to drop below their gold points. The purchase of gold referred to above affords a good illustration of the position, which is still more plainly shown by the exchange quotations for the leading gold currencies. Sterling was forced down to 18.09 (par=18.159) and dollars to 3.70⅝ (par=3.731).

The governors of the Riksbank have taken the initiative in bringing about a more uniform interest policy by the banking institutions in the country. Competition in recent years for the people's savings has been so severe as to create a variation in interest rates, which has been very trying for borrowers. On the one hand the local savings banks and the Post Office Savings Bank have been able to attract most of the fresh savings and capital by means of the high deposit interest they are able to offer, thanks to their low overhead charges and to the ease with which they can place money at profitable rates, particularly in the building industry. On the other hand, the influx of deposits to the private banks has fallen off considerably because their costly organisation, and lately also the Riksbank discount policy, have left them powerless to take up effectively the challenge of the savings banks. It is true that this has to some extent been possible by means of extended differentiation between interest rates, but the result has been an unnecessary lightening of the loan market and an invasion of this market by the savings banks, which can hardly be said to be qualified for such activities. Clearly, steps to prevent a further development in this direction are of the utmost importance. And the Riksbank's efforts are already showing results, for, at the same time as the private banks reduced their rates at the behest of the Riksbank, both the Post Office Savings Bank and the local savings banks followed their example. It remains to be seen how consistently this new policy will be maintained in the future.

The abnormally mild weather has continued, and the usual marked seasonal movements in production and export have in consequence not been so apparent. Exports have continued on a considerably more extensive scale than is usual at this time of the year, with the result that production in the staple industries has naturally been greater than would otherwise have been the case. There is as yet no statistical evidence of this fact, but the statistics for November speak very clearly. In that month, as in October, no effects of the American crisis were visible. On the contrary, *Svensk Finanstidningen's* index of production continued to rise from 134 in October to 137. This increase applied to all branches, including iron and steel, which in previous months had reflected the international setback in the iron and steel market. The average index of production for January-November was 135, while during the years 1925-1928 it rose comparatively slowly from 105 to respectively 108 and 113 in 1926 and 1927, and sank in 1928, the year of the labour dispute, to 106.

The month of November usually discloses an excess of imports. Last November, on the other hand, there was an active balance of seven million kronor, so that the first eleven months of the year show an export surplus of 35 million kronor, the most favourable result since the war. The November developments were due primarily to forced exports, but also to a cutting down of imports, due to reduced demand for grain as a result of the favourable harvest.

Developments on the Stock Exchange continued to contrast with the above favourable situations, principally under the influence of the American crisis. This influence extended, however, only to Swedish stocks quoted in the international market, as was inevitable, whereas the majority of the purely domestic stocks showed remarkable steadiness. The total decline in the value of shares on the A list during the last three months amounted to 228 kronor, 256 kronor and 63 million kronor respectively. Of these amounts domestic stocks amounted to 39 million kronor in October and 15 million kronor in November. December, on the other hand, showed an improvement of seven million kronor. These movements are, to a certain degree, symptomatic of the whole of the past year. The course of quotations in the year 1929 showed, indeed, a decline of 583 million kronor in the values of A list shares, but since Kreuger stock alone fell by 676 million kronor, the remainder, in fact, rose by 93 million kronor. It is interesting to compare these figures with those of 1928. The market value of the A list shares rose by 818 million kronor in all, of which 359 million kronor fell to the Kreuger concerns and 459 million kronor to other securities. This shows that the Stockholm Stock Exchange was able in a really admirable manner to keep a cool head amidst the violent exaggeration of international speculation. In the same way the course of quotations for purely domestic undertakings undoubtedly affords material for a safe and objective judgment of the situation. In spite of the fact that 1929 was in many respects a record year, there was no speculation tending to discount the improvement, probably owing to a clear anticipation of a slowing down or a stoppage in the almost uninterrupted expansion of recent years.

NORTHERN IRELAND.—SHIPBUILDING—LINEN INDUSTRY—AGRICULTURE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELFAST, December 31.

THE tonnage of ships launched from the Belfast shipbuilding yards during 1929 was 144,977 tons, as compared with 78,538 tons in 1928. The output from Messrs. Harland and Wolff's yards comprised ten vessels, aggregating 91,077 tons, as against thirteen vessels, aggregating 78,181 tons, in 1928. The tonnage launched by this firm in 1929 was the highest for any year since 1919. The two largest vessels launched were the White Star liner "Britannic" (26,730 tons) and the Union Castle liner "Winchester Castle" (19,800 tons), and sister ships to both these vessels are expected to be launched in 1930. The principal factor in nearly doubling the output from the Lagan shipyards in the past year, however, has been the resumption of activity by the reconstituted Workman, Clark (1928) firm. Only one small sludge steamer, of 357 tons, was launched by this firm in 1928, but in 1929 seven vessels were launched with a gross tonnage of 53,900. Prospects for 1930 are considered quite good, and Messrs. Harland and Wolff have sixteen vessels on hand or on order, apart from the vessels launched in 1929, but not yet completed. Messrs Workman, Clark have six ships on the stocks.

The year in the linen trade has been comparatively uneventful. A development of some importance, however, has been the inauguration of an Irish Linen Guild, which aims at standardising certain popular classes of linens and making them known to the public through a widespread publicity campaign. In nearly all branches of the trade competition continues to be very severe, and an influential delegation of Irish and Scottish linen merchants visited the United States during the year to study market conditions there. There has been a considerable reduction in the price of both Irish and Continental flax as compared with last season, and yarns also have fallen in price. This reduction in the cost of raw material has engendered a fairly hopeful outlook for the future, at least so far as the better classes of linen goods are concerned. In the case of coarser linens and cheap fancy goods, Continental competition is expected to continue to be serious. In this connection a Belfast newspaper recently published an estimate that 78 per cent. of the looms available for fine linen are at work, but that probably not 50 per cent. of the looms for coarse linen are working.

Farmers have enjoyed an excellent season so far as weather conditions and yields of crops are concerned, but prices have shown a serious fall in the case of the three principal sale crops—potatoes, flax and oats. The heavy production of potatoes in Great Britain in 1929 has drastically curtailed the outlet for Northern Ireland potatoes, a large quantity of which are normally shipped to Lancashire and South Wales. During the first ten months of 1929 only 122,230 tons of potatoes were exported from Northern Ireland ports, as compared with 193,735 tons in the corresponding period of 1928. During December prices of some varieties of potatoes were ruling as low as 25s. per ton. Flax was selling at around 72s. to 75s. per cwt., as compared with 95s. to 100s. per cwt. a year ago, while the price of oats is about 6s. 6d. per cwt., as against 8s. per cwt. a year ago.

The agricultural depression in Northern Ireland appears to be quite as severe as in England and Wales. A recently published report upon the agricultural statistics of Northern Ireland shows that the index level of agricultural prices (base year 1923) was 89 in 1928, whilst the English agricultural index number, calculated to the same base, was 94. The value of the principal classes of agricultural produce sold off farms (or consumed in farm households) is estimated to have declined from £14,671,000 in 1925 to £13,456,000 in 1928, entirely owing to the fall in prices, for the volume of the agricultural output appears to have increased slightly during these years. There has, however, been no corresponding decline in the cost of the farmers' raw materials, and the index figure for agricultural requisites in 1928 was 101 (base year 1923). In the case of agricultural wages it is estimated that there has been a decline from £2,030,000 in 1925 to £1,875,000 in 1928 in the amount paid. Rates of wages have fallen about 1s. 6d. a week during these years, while the number of labourers employed (permanent and casual) has fallen from 39,951 in 1925 to 34,737 in 1928. With the fall in prices the burden of land annuity payments has become increasingly felt. The amount of land annuities paid by farmers in 1928 was £667,000. For the most part these annuities were fixed several decades ago, when the general level of prices was much lower than it is to-day. Nevertheless the decline in prices which has taken place since 1921 has meant that, so far as the present generation of farmers is concerned, the payment of the annuities has required an increasing proportion of the receipts from the sale of produce raised on the average farm.

CANADA.—WEATHER—UNEMPLOYMENT—BUSINESS—GRAIN MARKETS—RAILWAY EARNINGS—PARLIAMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, December 30.

THE winter so far has brought an exceptionally heavy snowfall to Eastern Canada, and in some districts it is already as heavy as the aggregate fall for last winter. During the week ending December 19th a blizzard swept Central Canada for four successive days almost without interruption, causing great damage. Undoubtedly many people in the West are experiencing a hard winter, as not only is there a substantial volume of rural poverty owing to the shortage of the last crop, but unemployment in the Western towns and cities is really acute. When Mr Heenan, the Minister of Labour at Ottawa, issued a statement to the effect that he saw no need for calling a conference of the business and labour leaders of the country to discuss remedies for the employment situation, it evoked a flood of protests from the West, where the local authorities declined to share his cheerful optimism about the situation. There have been in Winnipeg, Vancouver and elsewhere demonstrations of the unemployed which the police had to disperse, and these men declared that their families were destitute and would starve unless they were given work or supplies of food. The situation in the East is less serious than in the West, but it is bad enough, and a severe strain is being placed upon the resources of relief organisations. It is notorious that the employment index published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics takes little or no account of the large body of unskilled labour which finds employment in Canada's natural industries like agriculture and lumbering, but this index for September, on the base 1926=100, is given as 119.1, as compared with 124.6 for November, and notes appended assert that the seasonal curtailment recorded at the beginning of December was on a larger scale than in most of the last ten years and extended to all the provinces. Many of the unemployed are British immigrants, and several contingents of them, who were deemed unlikely ever to succeed in Canada, have been deported home at the public expense. They expressed almost unanimous delight at escaping from the Dominion, and the experiences of the past year have been generating throughout Canada a growing sentiment against State-aided encouragement of immigration.

Business conditions remain decidedly uneven. Merchants, however, report that, while there has been a great slump in the demand for luxury goods, due undoubtedly to the stock market losses sustained by the wealthier elements of the community, general Christmas trade has been more satisfactory than they anticipated. There has been a good demand for groceries, clothing and household equipment, and the trade in Christmas gifts showed no material reduction. In the industrial field there has been in many lines a gradual contraction of operations; a lessened demand for the motor plants and other establishments which use iron and steel has resulted in a curtailment of iron and steel production, but the heavy railway orders placed or planned by the railways will help to keep some plants busy through the winter. The December reports about building construction are also encouraging, as they estimate the value of contracts already placed during the month at 32½ million dollars, which, although 28.2 per cent. below the November figure, is an increase of 72.1 over the parallel figure for December, 1928. No solution has been reached in the controversy about the price of newsprint. The newspaper publishers of Canada and the United States are still declining to sign contracts at the higher price of $60, and, as the International Paper Company, which is tied by its low price contracts with the Hearst interests, finds itself unable to co-operate with the other Canadian newsprint mills and the Mersey Pulp and Paper Company, whose new plant at Tidewater in Nova Scotia has just come into operation, is playing a lone hand and cutting prices, the chances of success for the demand for a higher price are thought to be receding. The output of the industry shows no decline, but, until prices can be raised, the returns at least for mills whose location entails high transport costs to the American market will continue to be unsatisfactory. The carloading figure for the week

ending December 21st, placed at 54,089 cars, registers declines of 3,812 and 7,887 cars respectively compared with the figures for the previous week and the parallel week of 1928.

The wheat pool and its allies have derived great comfort and encouragement from the official figures of the Argentine Government about the local wheat crop and, as a result of it, wheat prices in Winnipeg rose 9 cents last week. The Canadian holders of wheat, while they admit that the Argentine report may have been given an unduly pessimistic tone for the purpose of keeping up prices, a game not unknown in Winnipeg, now believe that all the export wheat available in the world is in the shop window and that unless exporting countries are prepared to exhaust all their normal carryover, European buyers cannot stay out of the Canadian market much longer. Already there have been signs of an improved export demand and it is expected to gain momentum towards the end of January.

The railway earnings continue to be very unsatisfactory. For the first 11 months of the year ending November 30, 1929, the Canadian National railways had net earnings of $53,549,291, which is a decline of $10,421,826, as compared with the parallel period of 1928. During this period the operating ratio had increased from 78.84 to 82.10. The C.P.R. statement for the same period shows an almost parallel decline, net earnings having fallen from $48,537,678 to $39,991,275, a decrease of 8½ millions. However, both Mr Beattie and Sir Henry Thornton have recently made public statements to the effect that the circumstances which have caused this great decline in earnings are wholly abnormal and are unlikely to be repeated next year. Undoubtedly a great deal of grain traffic, which would normally have been carried on the railways this autumn, will be available next spring, and some of the leeway will be made up. Apparently the Government still plans to go ahead with its scheme for the reconstruction of the capital fabric of the Canadian national system. At any rate, Sir Henry Thornton, on his return from his recent visit to England, declared, in an interview, that his discussion with British bondholders, whose co-operation was necessary for the reconstruction, had been thoroughly satisfactory. Meanwhile it is also announced that the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington has approved of a scheme for the consolidation of the American railway holdings of the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways.

The exact date of the opening of the Federal Parliament has not been announced, but the Prime Minister recently intimated that it would not take place before January 31st and February 8th or 15th is looked upon as a probable date. Agreements have been signed with Manitoba and Alberta providing for the transfer of the natural resources of these provinces to their local administrations from Federal control, but negotiations with Saskatchewan proved abortive. No information is available about the report of the Tariff Advisory Board upon the cotton schedule, but there is little expectation of any change in favour of Lancashire in the "empire content" regulation.

Letters to the Editor.

THE PRESS LORDS AND PROTECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In the issue of the *Economist* of January 11 there appears, in an article entitled "The Press Lords and Protection," an astounding pronouncement concerning the tendency of things political and economic in Canada. One need hold no brief for the cause of either Lord Beaverbrook or Lord Rothermere to take issue with this pronouncement.

The following is taken from one paragraph of the article referred to:—

> "Take the case of Canada, 90 per cent. of whose population lives within a hundred miles of the American border, whose trade unions are branches of the American brotherhoods, whose literature, sport, theatres, trains and all the material details of life are American rather than British. Is it thinkable that the increasing tendency in, say, the prairie provinces, for economic intercourse to develop with the great and wealthy nation across the neighbouring border can be checked and the current of economic life diverted eastward to the coast thousands of miles away and across the ocean?"

This statement is so mistaken in its premises and conclusions, so misleading in its inference and in its disposal of Canada, that it will be resented by Canadians from the Maritime Provinces to Vancouver Island. Canada is first and foremost British to the core.

The *Economist* has obviously overlooked many of the problems of the Prairie Provinces, which are singled out in support of its theory. It seems unaware of the Fordney-McCumber Tariff, a veritable tariff wall erected by the United States of America for the protection of its agricultural population and for the exclusion of the products of Canadian agriculture. It seems unaware that those Prairie Provinces have suffered so egregiously under the Fordney-McCumber Tariff in the period of post-war reconstruction that their hopes are now centred in inter-Imperial trade. Canada cannot accept Lord Beaverbrook's proposals—certainly not without drastic modification—but if there were a section of Canada that might, but for an unshakable adherence to the principles of Confederation which stand for the good of the whole, that section would be the Prairie Provinces.

If Canada has been subjected to peaceful penetration by the economic forces of the United States it is because the aggressive and progressive people of that country have perforce been given a clear field by British investors since the war. If Canada's imports from the United States have far exceeded her imports from Great Britain it is largely because the British manufacturer has hitherto been less adaptable to her requirements than the manufacturer of the United States. If British sentiment is to become diluted by disproportionate foreign immigration, it will mean that the post-war generation of Englishmen have lost the sense of romance and adventure and the spirit of the pioneer that inspired their forefathers to build an empire, which is inconceivable. If Canada should so far forget her heritage and traditions as to look southward for her destiny it could be due only to apathy at the heart of the Empire, which is unthinkable.

Canada will remain British and will decline, at the behest of any party, to become an adjunct of the United States of America.—Yours faithfully,

F. S. LONG.

London, January 15, 1930.

[We gladly give publicity to Mr Long's views as to Canadian sentiments, and are interested to note his statement that "Canada cannot accept Lord Beaverbrook's proposals."—ED., *Econ.*]

THE FIVE COUNTIES SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The article on this subject from "A Yorkshire Correspondent" in your issue of January 11th is totally misleading.

Far from being a success this scheme has been a complete failure. It has, for example, diminished the mineworkers' earnings, increased the owners' losses, and arrested the natural growth of the trade in its area.

In Yorkshire a quota scheme has operated since April, 1928, with the result that the Yorkshire miner was only allowed to work 225 days during the whole of 1928; whereas the Scottish miner, free of quota restrictions, was allowed to work 289 days during 1928.

Further, the average earnings for mineworkers in Yorkshire for the same year were only £112 14s. 9d., whereas in Scotland, free of quota restrictions, they were £133 9s. 7d. These are official figures from the Mines Department Annual Report last issued.

As regards owners' losses, also, the effect of the Five Counties' scheme was to increase them in 1928 in excess of those of 1927 by as much as 10.34d. per ton in Yorkshire. In Scotland, on the other hand, free of quota restrictions, the 1928 results show 1d. a ton improvement over 1927. These are again official figures. The non-quota districts also have made the greater comparative increase in output.

Many other similar facts could be given to show that the coal restriction scheme in Yorkshire has been as complete a failure as either the rubber or cotton restriction schemes.

To standardise inefficiency cannot give other than these results.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN PRATT.

The Coal Consumers' Committee,
14-16 Cockspur Street, S.W. 1.
January 13, 1929.

[We are glad to publish Sir John Pratt's criticism of the policy of quota-restriction, a policy to whose dangers we are fully alive. "A Yorkshire Correspondent," however, writes:

"Sir John Pratt's comparison between Yorkshire proceeds in 1928 and in 1927 is—to use his own words—totally misleading, for two reasons. In the first place, at the beginning of 1927 there were four months of exceptionally high prices, due to the shortage caused by the long stoppage. From May onwards, when this artificial condition was removed, results were considerably worse than in 1928. In the second place, the Five Counties scheme operated only for nine months of 1928. It checked the fall in prices, and but for its existence the results for those nine months would have been worse than they were; but the real point is that no one ever expected the main results of the scheme to be apparent until 1929. The true comparison is not between 1928 and 1927, but between 1929 and 1928. In 1928, according to the wages ascertainment figures, there was a loss of 9.7d. per ton in Yorkshire; in 1929 there was a *profit* of 5.7d.—an improvement of 1s. 3.4d. The same figures show that the cost of production was 7¼d. per ton lower in 1929 than in 1928, and 4¾d. per ton lower in 1928 than in 1927. This drop of a shilling a ton has astonished even the promoters of the scheme. It is attributed mainly to the operation of the output quota. Bad districts and seams, formerly kept open on the off-chance of big orders being obtained, have been closed since selling capacity has been fixed, and production has been concentrated in the more economic workings. Sir John Pratt omits to say that much fuller time has always been worked in Scotland than in Yorkshire and the Midlands."—ED. *Econ.*]

THE MOTOR DUTIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have read with my usual interest in the economic views of the *Economist*, but without the least surprise, the article under the heading of the "Motor Duties" in your issue of the 11th. It would certainly be remarkable if the sane and wholesome views of the *Nation* on the subject of the McKenna Duties had been shared by the *Economist*, which has never lost the opportunity of an attack upon those duties by which British industry has been relieved of some of the strain of recent years. It is, however, somewhat odd that the *Economist* should base another assault upon the motor duties on the ground that either a removal of the Customs duties or an imposition of a countervailing Excise duty on the home product would serve to "equalise the conditions of competition"! By what process of reasoning could the reduction of the costs of foreign competitors or the deliberate increase in the price of the British article be called "equalising conditions of competition"? You lay a charge against the duty of failing to secure a larger proportion of the European market. Nevertheless, there is considerable significance in the fact that in 1924 total British exports of vehicles and chassis were 15,659, of a value of £4,869,459, while in 1929 the first six months alone saw 20,913 vehicles and chassis exported to a value of £4,214,834.

It would, indeed, be astounding if any reasonable man were to accept the theory that the immediate reopening of the British market to a flood of foreign imports, manufactured under whatever conditions, would be a help to the export trade of the British manufacturer. By such a reopening, competition of the unfairest kind would be thrust upon him; his home market would be restricted; and his costs of production would go up; unemployment, a portion of the cost of which he would be compelled to bear, would be increased, and in every direction he would be hampered in his endeavour to build up on a solid foundation an industry which has made substantial progress ever since the duties gave him a chance to meet the foreigner on more or less level terms.—Yours faithfully,

P. J. HANNON.

House of Commons,
January 11, 1930.

[Mr Hannon omits mention of the more "significant" fact that between 1924 and 1928 exports of cars from the world's chief producing countries increased, in round figures, from 342,000 to 708,000. His reference to "competition of the unfairest kind" through imports "manufactured under whatever conditions" is a somewhat disingenuous *suggestio falsi*, seeing that the competitor of chief account is the American motor manufacturer, whose labour enjoys conditions to which exception can hardly be taken on the score of low wages. It is precisely because the McKenna Duties (like all measures of tariff protection) have obscured for the British motor industry the need of organisation to "meet the foreigner on more or less level terms" that we advocate their repeal.—ED., *Econ.*]

Books and Publications.

THE FIVE-DAY WEEK.

IN a recent article in the *North American Review* John K. Roskob, formerly chairman of the Finance Committee of General Motors, predicted with glowing enthusiasm the establishment of the five-day week throughout American industry within the next few years. The authors of the present study*, an admirable example of the objective investigation of industrial questions to which the Conference Board is devoting itself, do not endorse this optimistic opinion. They offer, nevertheless, a discriminating welcome to the new industrial practice, but they submit the difficulties as well as the advantages to impartial and detailed examination, and look for only gradual extension of the practice as experience accumulates.

The study is based on information supplied by a large proportion of the firms which have adopted the five-day week. Although the first experiment was made as far back as 1908, the movement did not gain impetus until 1923, since when there has been continuous progress. The number of manufacturing companies now committed to the five-day week is just short of three hundred. They employ altogether nearly 250,000 persons, but this represents under 3 per cent. of the total industrial workers in the States.

The main problem is naturally that of maintaining or increasing productivity without adding to costs or retarding progress towards lower costs. The ability to do this depends on various factors—whether, for instance, the former weekly hours of work are spread over the five days; or whether, if the change involves a reduction in work time, sufficient counterbalancing effects can be secured by improvement of plant or processes, or by the willingness of the workers to concentrate more effort in the five days for the advantage of two days' continuous rest. In some plants Saturday morning work is regarded as uneconomic owing to the cost of starting up for only half a day's output, or because workers tend to be slacker on this day. The question of wages is also important, and demands for adjustment, especially in the case of time-rate workers, have to be faced.

The general conclusion is that on the basis of the experience already gained the advantages appear to outweigh the objections, but whether this would be confirmed by a general extension depends on the circumstances of various types of plant and processes. The benefit of two full days' rest for the workers, as the strain of modern machine production increases, is stressed from the human and social point of view, and though American industrial experience is not always applicable to British conditions, the study offers valuable guidance on a question which will certainly attract increasing attention in this country as rationalisation proceeds.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subseqent issue.]

Industrial Arbitration. By Lord Amulree. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 12s. 6d. net.

This well-documented volume commands particular respect by reason of its author's long experience as an arbitrator. As a former President of the Industrial Court and Chairman of the National Wages Board for railways, Lord Amulree is in a position to illuminate his carefully collected body of facts with an unusual degree of personal knowledge of the subject.

The Economic Life of the Ancient World. By Jules Toutain. (London) Kegan Paul, 68-74, Carter Lane. 16s. net.

This interesting volume gives an account of agriculture, industry and trade in the Mediterranean countries from Homeric times to the downfall of the Roman Empire.

* "The Five-Day Week in Manufacturing Industries." Published by the National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., New York. 1.50 dollars.

The Bread of Britain. By A. H. Hurst. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 2s. 6d. net.

A brief account of the British grain trade by one who has been engaged in it for many years. The purpose of the book is to show that under existing conditions the free flow of grain to the United Kingdom is interfered with. There are statistical tables and a bibliography.

Railroad Purchasing and the Business Cycle. By John E. Partington. (London) Williams and Norgate, 38, Great Ormond Street. 14s. net.

A Brookings Institution publication which analyses for a period of 56 years the time relationship between variations in the volume of railroad purchasing and the appearance of corresponding variations in general business activity.

Ten Years' Life of the League of Nations. Compiled by John Eppstein. With an Introduction by the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C. (London) The May Fair Press, 3-5, Burlington Gardens. 7s. 6d. net.

A beautifully-printed and illustrated account of the League. intended for the general reader who has not time to read a detailed history. Chapters are contributed by Sir Eric Drummond, M. Albert Thomas, Lord Cecil and other individuals whose names are well known in connection with the work of the League of Nations.

Handbook of Labour Statistics, 1929 *Edition.* (Washington) Superintendent of Documents.

In addition to statistical tables, this invaluable work of reference contains summaries of the year's developments under some thirty main headings, including : Apprenticeship, arbitration, child labour, co-operation, employment, housing, industrial health, pensions, insurance, labour productivity, wages and hours, etc.

Beneficial Activities of American Trade Unions. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents.

A full, illustrated account of the achievements of the trade unions of the United States in connection with welfare, unemployment, housing, recreation, co-operation with employers, and the conduct of business enterprises.

History of Wages in the United States from Colonial Times to 1928. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 80 cents.

A most valuable collection of data consisting largely of tables setting out wages in industries and by districts.

Wholesale Prices, 1913 *to* 1928. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 40 cents.

A collection of tables and charts of prices of the principal commodities in the larger cities of the United States.

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Lumber Industry in the United States, 1928. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 15 cents.

A very detailed account of wages and hours of every type of lumber employee in each State.

Statistics of Industrial Accidents in the United States to the end of 1927. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 30 cents.

Proceedings of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the International Association of Public Employment Services. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 30 cents.

NAVAL DISARMAMENT

A Brief Record from the Washington Conference to Date.

By HUGH LATIMER,

Secretary of the Information Service on International Affairs

Preface by PHILIP H. KERR, C.H.

Reviews the Washington Conference and the Five-Power Naval Limitation Treaty, the establishment and work in connection with naval disarmament of the League Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference, the Anglo-French Naval Compromise, 1927-8, the Geneva Three-Power Naval Conference of 1927, the U.S. Naval Construction Bill, 1927-8, the Anglo-American Conversations in 1929, the Invitations to the Five-Power Conference in London, the Replies of the interested Governments ; with essential documents, tonnage tables, and a short bibliography as appendices.

(8vo. viii + 112 pp. 3s. 6d.)

Published by

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, Chatham House, St. James's Square, London, S.W. 1.

Die Zölle Nieder! By Dr. Wilhelm Grotkopp. (Berlin-Grunewald) Verlag Dr. Walther Rothschild. M. 5.

A discussion, in German, of the tariff policy of the Powers. The author advocates European customs union as a step on the way to world economic unity.

Mitteleuropäische Eisenbahnpolitik: Mitteleuropäische Wasserstrassenpolitik: Mitteleuropäischer Postverein. By Elemér Hantos. (Vienna and Leipzig) Wilhelm Braumüller. 4.50, 6.60 and 3.60 Rm. respectively.

These three first volumes in a projected series of publications by the Central European Institute deal with Central European policy in regard to railways, inland transport and postal and telegraphic communications respectively.

Agrarrevolution und Agrarreform in Ost- und Mitteleuropa. By Professor M. Sering. (Berlin) Verlag der Akademie der Wissenschaften. Rm. 1.

A report on the results of two inquiries, one into agrarian changes in Eastern Europe and the other into rural settlement in Germany.

L'Economia e la Finanza delle Prime Guerre per l'Indipendenza d'Italia. By Riccardo Bachi. (Rome) Angelo Signorelli.

This contribution to the economic history of the *Risorgimento* examines the war economics and finance of Italy during the years 1848-1866.

Moneta e Prezzi Nella Russia dei Soviet. By Jenny Griziotti Kretschmann. (Castello) Società Tipografica " Leonardo da Vinci."

An account, in Italian, of money and prices in Soviet Russia.

Prospettive Economiche, 1930. (Milan) Università Bocconi.

Four volumes of this series, dealing with the production of and trade in coal, cotton, wool and hemp respectively, in the principal countries during recent years, are now available. The series, when complete, costs 40 lire.

La Lithuanie en Chiffres, 1918-1928. *Album de Diagrammes.* (London) Lithuanian Legation, 10, Palace Gate.

An illustrated year book with maps, diagrams and statistical tables. The text is in both Lithuanian and French.

Commercial Directory for Siam, 1929. Third Edition. (Bangkok) Ministry of Commerce and Communications.

An illustrated work of reference which is much more than a directory. It includes accounts of the principal industries of Siam and statistics of her foreign trade, as well as lists of importing and exporting firms.

The Canadian Oil Book, 1929. (London) Thomas Skinner and Company, 330, Gresham House. $3.00.

Contains an abstract of the oil and natural gas laws, a directory of directors, and the usual information about the companies engaged in the Canadian oil business.

Practical Secretarial Work. By Henry I. Lee and William H. Barr. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 7s. 6d. net.

A substantial textbook for students preparing for secretarial examinations.

The Trust Accountant's Guide. By A. H. Cosway. (London) Effingham Wilson, 16, Copthall Avenue. 4s.

A useful handbook for the guidance of trustees and their accountants.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2 :—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic and Trade Conditions in Australia to August, 1929. 4s. 6d. net.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries: The Agricultural Output and the Food Supplies of Great Britain. 1s. net.

Report on the Work of the Land Division of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1928. 4s. net.

Royal Commission on National Museums and Galleries: Final Report, Part II—Conclusions and Recommendations relating to Individual Institutions. Cmd. 3463. 2s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE OUTLOOK FOR BREWERY SHARES.

THE 150,000 shareholders in British brewery companies fall into two main groups: those connected with " the trade," who hold their shares for personal reasons, and those outside investors who have been impressed with the consistent post-war earning-power, conservative dividend policy and large reserves of the chief concerns, and are assured that the industry will maintain its position in the future. Like numerous other of the " older " British industries, brewing has shown a significant falling-off in output since the war, only 24,530,000 bulk barrels being produced in England and Scotland in 1928-29, as compared with 34,026,000 bulk barrels in 1913-14. Unlike most other industries, however, " the trade " has so effectively tightened its finances and improved its organisation that its earnings, year in and year out, are considerably above the pre-war level. During the past year, however, brewery share prices have fallen, on the average, by something between 10 and 15 per cent. By comparison with the decline in Stock Exchange prices generally this reduction is not unduly disquieting, but the investor in brewery shares may well ask himself whether it does, in fact, reflect any unfavourable change in the earning power of the leading companies or in the outlook for the whole industry. We propose to discuss this question, taking as the text of our survey the most recent results of four well-known concerns—Guinness, Bass, Mitchells and Watney Combe. The first-named operates in Dublin, but sells a large part of its output in Great Britain, and has many British, as well as Irish shareholders. The other three are all located in Great Britain.

It may be useful to show the profits of these four companies against a " national " background. Accordingly, we set out in the following table the consumption of beer, the estimated national " Drink Bill " and the volume of industrial production in Great Britain for three recent yearly periods, as well as the net earnings of the companies in question. The last three columns of the table show the various amounts in the form of percentages of the 1927 figures :—

	Years to	Amounts.			*1927 = 100.*		
		1927.	1928.	1929.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*
Consumption of beer(*a*) —(standard barrels)	Sept. 30	20,962	20,642	20,435	*100*	*98½*	*97½*
National drink bill (*b*) (Million £)	,,	299·5	287·4	287·7	*100*	*96*	*96*
Volume of British industrial production(*c*) —(per cent. of 1924)	,,	107·5(*d*)	105·3(*d*)	110·2	*100*	*98*	*102½*
Net earnings: Guinness (£000)	June 30	2,265	2,312	2,209	*100*	*102*	*97½*
Net earnings: Bass	Sept. 30	479(*e*)	574(*f*)	543	*100*	*120*	*113½*
Net earnings: Mitchells	June 30	558	626	642	*100*	*112*	*115*
Net earnings: Watney Combe	June 30	1,188	1,213	1,263	*100*	*102*	*106½*

(*a*) Includes foreign imports, but not production of Guinness consumed in Irish Free State.
(*b*) As estimated by United Kingdom Alliance.
(*c*) From Board of Trade's quarterly estimates. (*d*) Calendar year. (*e*) To June 30th. (*f*) Profits fifteen months to September 30, 1928, £717,000; equivalent figures given for 12 months.

The consumption of beer has not kept pace, of recent months, with the increase in national industrial production as a whole. The earnings of the four companies, on the other hand, have shown, with one exception, a rising tendency. Apart from the absorption of other businesses, it would appear, either that these companies have obtained a larger share of a declining national beer consumption, or that they have reduced their working expenses so as more than to compensate for a decline in their total production. Their trend of dividends has been upward, on the whole, during the past three years, as the following table shows :—

EARNINGS AND DIVIDENDS.

	Company and Balance-sheet Date.							
	Guinness (June 30).		Bass (Sept. 30).		Mitchell's (June 30).		Watney Combe (June 30).	
Net earnings (after debenture interest) :	£		£		£		£	
1927	2,264,693		479,360†		558,111		1,188,181	
1928	2,311,601		716,903*		625,946		1,212,929	
1929	2,209,388		542,632		641,903		1,263,460	
	Earned %	Paid %	Earned %	Paid %	Earned %	Paid %	Earned %	Paid %
Ordinary shares (after tax) :								
1927	28·6	28	18·4	15	18·9	15	24·6	17‡
1928	29·2	28	28·3*	25*	21·5	15	25·1	19‡
1929	28·8	28	21·2	20	19·5	15	29·6	20‡
Earnings left in business :								
1927	44,689		76,014		106,434		434,998	
1928	91,601		72,993		174,269		396,038	
1929	13,388		27,504		154,971		414,714	

† Twelve months ended June 30, 1927. * Fifteen months ended September 30, 1928. ‡ Subject to tax.

The growth in absolute earnings did not, last year, in all cases, keep pace with the expansion of capital, so that while shareholders as a whole are receiving more than they were two or three years ago, a somewhat larger proportion of profits is being annually divided. The amount of the year's earnings left in the business by Guinness and Bass last year was relatively small, though in the case of Mitchells and Watney Combe it remained of significant proportions.

The financial position of most brewery companies is, however, liquid, as will be seen from the next table :—

BOOK VALUES AT DATE OF LAST BALANCE SHEET.

	Guinness.	Bass.	Mitchell's.	Watney Combe.
Breweries and plant, licensed properties and agencies	£ 5,728,630†	£ 3,576,725	£ 5,692,836	£ 14,126,270
Holdings in other companies	...	2,707,342	22,002	2,044,990
Other investments	4,400,779	...		686,361
Net working capital* (excluding investments)	3,460,948	2,980,285	1,155,660	555,413
Visible reserves	2,200,000‡	1,480,299¶	1,050,000	1,559,455
Amount used for renewals and depreciation during year	157,479	176,615	?	332,758

* Excess of " quick " assets over current liabilities. † Including goodwill unstated. ‡ Subject to goodwill. ¶ Subject to goodwill, £800,000.

The net working capital of the companies shown, in most cases, bears a high relation to the valuation placed on such fixed assets as breweries, licensed properties and agencies. " Visible " reserves and saleable investments are equal to 137 per cent. of the total " fixed " capital, including holdings in other companies, in the case of Guinness, to 47½ per cent. in Bass, and to 20 per cent. in Mitchells. Messrs. Guinness hold a solid block of over £4,400,000 of gilt-edged securities. Bass and Watney Combe are holding companies on a considerable scale as well as operating concerns, the former having effected a fusion of interest with the Worthington company in 1927 and purchased three other businesses in the following year. For the most part, breweries and other fixed assets appear in the various balance sheets at a conservative valuation, and it is well known that the larger companies have considerable " inner reserves."

In a final table we show the amount of capital outstanding and dealt in on the Stock Exchange, the cover

for fixed-interest stocks, the recent course of prices, and the yield offered to the investor:—

	Amount outstanding.	Par value.	No. of times covered.	Prices. Highest, 1929.	Prices. Lowest, 1929.	Prices. Beginning, 1930.	Yields. On Divs.	Yields. On Earnings.
	£	£					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Guinness—								
6% Pref. stock ...	2,000,000	100	18·4	114 1/8	106 1/2	108	5 11 9	...
Ord. stock	7,500,000	100	...	4 5/8	3 3/4	4 3/16	7 6 0	5 15 9
Bass—								
4½% Mort. Deb. stock	1,230,225	100	13·6	89	80 1/2	80 1/2 xd	5 11 9	...
3½% "B" Mort. Deb. stock	487,201	100	10·4	66 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2 xd	5 15 9	...
5½% Red. Deb. stk.	2,461,460	100	3·6	103 1/2	97	99	5 11 0	...
5% Cum. Pref. stk.	1,360,000	100	7·9	96 1/2	80	81 1/2 xd	6 2 9	...
Ordinary shares	2,235,640	£1	...	5 11/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	6 0 9*	6 8 0*
Mitchell's—								
4% "A" Deb. Bonds	613,400	100	27·2	78	75	76	5 7 3	...
6% "A" Pref. shs.	500,000	£1	21·4	1 1/16	1	1 xd	6 0 0	...
6% "B" Pref. shs.	500,000	£1	10·7	1 1/16	1	1 xd	6 0 0	...
Ordinary shares	2,960,298	£1	...	3 1/16	2 1/8	2 1/8 xd	5 14 3	7 8 0
7% Max. Ord. shs.	538,236	£1	...	1 5/16	1	1 1/16 xd	6 8 0	...
Watney Combe—								
3½% Perp. 1st Mort. Deb. stk.	4,358,702	100	9·5	69	61	64	5 9 0	...
Red. 5½% Deb. 1959 stock	2,500,000	100	4·9	...	...	101	5 8 11	...
5% Cum. 1st Pref. stock	1,684,939	100	13·7	93	78	81 1/4	6 2 9	...
4% Pref. Ord. stk.	3,185,410	100	8·4	69 1/2	59 1/4	63 1/2	6 6 0	...
Deferred ord. shs.	3,185,410	£1	...	5 13/32	2 13/32	2 1/16	7 2 3	10 10 6

* Free of income tax.

Debenture stocks, as a rule, are well covered by earnings, but even at their recent prices, which are not much above the lowest quotations of last year, their yield is under 6 per cent. Preference shares, also well covered, yield from 6 to 6¼ per cent. The return on ordinary shares varies considerably when calculated on the latest dividends, and the contrast, as between the various companies, is even more striking when the yield is expressed as a percentage of last year's net earnings. The investor would seem to base his judgment mainly on the dimensions of the actual dividend distribution, a practice which may be in some respects misleading, in view of the recent tendency to distribute dividends nearer "to the hilt" than before.

The above figures reveal a broadly satisfactory position from the investment point of view. Earnings, on the whole, have been well maintained, and show no sign of a serious setback in the near future. The outlook, however, is affected by two factors, neither of which can be ignored by the conservative investor. In the first place, there is attached to the industry, in the eyes of some observers, a distinct "political risk." At the present moment a Royal Commission is investigating the liquor traffic in Great Britain and its findings must necessarily have some effect on the future of the industry. Whether they will result in the placing of further restrictions on the sale of liquor, or will merely remove various anomalies in the matter of hours of opening, and bring under stricter control the sale of liquor in clubs and other "private" organisations, is a matter on which it is obviously too early as yet to hazard an opinion. Apart from all questions of State control, however, the changing customs and habits of the people present a potential problem of great significance to the brewing industry. The national consumption of beer per head has fallen from 27.76 gallons in 1913 to 16.55 gallons in 1928, and there would seem to be some ground for the assertion that beer consumption is largest in the middle-aged rather than in the younger sections of the community. The *Brewers' Journal*, in a recent issue, pointed out that "whilst periods of severely cold weather have a devastating effect on beer output . . . periods of exceptionally hot weather fail to produce that increased consumption which formerly could be looked for." The *Brewers' Journal* continues as follows:—

> "This brings us to the crux of the matter—namely, the changing customs and habits of the people. Fine weather means the dispersal of our ever-increasing urban population over the rural and seaside districts, and the absorption of vast numbers of those left behind in the multitude of outdoor sports and recreations, the growth of which has been a marked feature of the post-war period, and is likely to progress cumulatively. The increased facilities for travel and recreation unquestionably form . . . 'counter-attractions' to the licensed house."

The measures taken by the brewing industry to combat these changed conditions have been extensive. A series of amalgamations has reduced the total brewery concerns taking out licences in Great Britain from 3,912 in 1913 to 1,502 in 1929. As long ago as 1920 5 per cent. of the breweries turned out 60 per cent. of the total beer produced. The policy of buying licensed properties at high prices has been abandoned. A stricter control is maintained over the financial and trade relations of the breweries with their outside "houses." Freeholds are replacing leaseholds wherever possible, and leases by breweries to landlord tenants are being made for shorter periods and on more profitable terms than heretofore. In these and other ways much that was wasteful in the industry's economic organisation is being eliminated.

The efforts of the trade to counteract the change in national habits, already referred to, are taking, in the main, two forms. Public houses are being rebuilt and enlarged with the object of improving their standard of comfort and rendering them places for the sale of refreshment rather than of liquor only. Advertising by "the trade," which, until recently was on a small and primitive scale, is being more energetically exploited under the leadership of the larger firms, which have adopted modern publicity technique, and claim, in some cases, already to have obtained a response, in sales, not disproportionate to the heavy expenditure involved.

In all probability the industry will be compelled to proceed still further along these lines in the future. To endeavour to meet changed conditions by constructive measures is obviously a better policy than mere passive resistance, and "modernisation," before the war, was quite definitely overdue. An extensive rebuilding and advertising programme, however, will necessitate considerable appropriations from revenue by the chief companies during the next few years. The interests of holders of brewery shares may, therefore, be best served in the long run if the rise in the curve of future dividends lags somewhat behind that of profits, so that a generous proportion of earnings is left in the respective businesses.

"HATRY" SETTLEMENT: THE STOCK EXCHANGE POSITION.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

WITHIN the course of the next few days the four Stock Exchange members who have been working out a scheme for the "Hatry" settlement will have sufficient evidence in their hands to decide whether or not their proposals shall be put into operation. A meeting of jobbers was held last Tuesday, followed by three meetings of brokers on the next day, at all of which the scheme was laid before members, who were circularised later, and asked to state whether or not they were willing to consent to the plan placed before them. The proposals are summarised on page 129 of this issue. They inevitably involve loss of money in greater or less degree, according to the volume of trade which members or firms concerned had transacted in the shares of the Hatry group. The two brokers and the two jobbers who constitute the Committee have devoted much time and skill to the drawing up of the plan, which is designed to enable the Stock Exchange to keep faith with its clients, to obviate the necessity for a string of failures, such as followed the London and Globe Corporation smash, and to do away with the necessity for lengthy litigation. They received promises of substantial financial support before they placed their scheme in front of the members of the House who are interested. The money has been earmarked with the condition that it shall become available only if the scheme goes through. If the latter is rejected, the money offers are withdrawn. It is considered likely that opposition, however natural, to the scheme will give way in the general desire to have the matter settled, even though the method of its settlement is considered, by some people, to be open to grave objection on a variety of grounds. However, it is well recognised that the committee of four in charge of the affair have done their utmost to sift out from the various proposals placed before them a scheme that shall meet the exigencies of what, it is hoped, will prove to be a unique set of circumstances. The danger of creating a precedent is minimised by the expectation that a similar state of affairs will not again prevail, at all events within the experience of the present generation.

In view of the confusion of thought that exists in regard to the matter, it may be of service to set out, as simply as possible, the reasons that have led to the necessity for the provision of so large a sum of money as the £1,000,000 which the committee of four have deemed needful in the circumstances.

Going back to the events of last autumn, it may be recalled that large lines of shares were sold on account of various Hatry companies, for payment at the settling day of September 26, 1929. The sellers, however, asked that payment should be made, in some cases, without awaiting the settlement. Where this course was followed, brokers handed over the proceeds of sales of shares in exchange for the transfer and other deeds, which they expected to deliver in the ordinary way at the settlement for which the shares had been sold. The settlement was, in fact, suspended by the Stock Exchange Committee. The brokers then found that they had paid for shares they could not deliver until a settlement was fixed. Further, they have more than a strong suspicion that some, at all events, of these shares are not valid. The brokers, however, have paid for them, and, if the shares are of no value, they stand to make a total loss, because the Hatry interests for whom they sold the shares, and to whom they paid the money, are in no position to refund it. The sums involved are considerable, and represent a portion of the loss which will fall upon the Stock Exchange. On the other hand, some of the Hatry companies bought shares, and, when the appropriate account day arrived, were unable to pay for them. Brokers had sold shares, on behalf of their clients, to the jobbers in the market. The ultimate buyers being in no position to meet their liabilities, every client concerned—a member of the outside public—looks to his broker for payment of the shares he has sold. The broker, however, is an agent, and, strictly speaking, has no legal responsibility. A jobber might conceivably be unable to pay for large lines of shares, and, if nothing were to be done in order to render assistance, might be hammered, together with a number of other members—a state of affairs which would certainly involve the client in a loss.

The present plan has been evolved to uphold the inviolability of Stock Exchange bargains as regards the public and to ensure that no client shall suffer by reason of the suspension of a settlement after the Hatry collapse. The client may be a shareholder in the Hatry companies, and to this extent he may be a serious loser. Where, however, he dealt in stock or shares through members of the Stock Exchange, for the account-day when settlement was suspended, he will suffer no loss by reason of that suspension, because the Stock Exchange is shouldering the full extent of whatever damage has been wrought. The sum of money that is an integral part of the scheme will form a pool, to which will be delivered the shares good and bad alike. These shares will have to be sorted out, and the pool will be left nursing some shares that may in time become of value, and others which will be worthless from the start. Doubt is expressed as to whether the shares of the Hatry companies which are in the hands of the public are likely to be suspect. It is thought that the great bulk of the shares sold by ordinary clients are genuine, though where these are in companies which have gone into liquidation it matters little whether the certificates are good or bad. The fact which emerges is that the Stock Exchange, through the adoption of this scheme, will keep faith with the public—i.e., with its clients—though this involves a loss running into seven figures. Stock Exchange men having no interest whatever in the Hatry business have come forward and offered to put up large sums in order to preserve the good name of the House in the matter of keeping faith with the public. The issue must remain in suspense until replies have been received from Stock Exchange firms who are asked to give their assent to the scheme, but all the probabilities point in the direction of members, brokers and jobbers alike, consenting to bear the loss which the Hatry collapse has involved.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
January 21.	January 23.

In a somewhat dull and undistinguished week, during which business and prices tended to shade off, Paris failed to sustain its nascent revival of interest in Kaffirs, and Bank rate remained unchanged, attention was centred chiefly on the solid progress made towards a settlement of the "Hatry" impasse. The terms of the proposed scheme, which were made public on Wednesday evening, are summarised in a subsequent "Note," while a "House" correspondent describes their bearings as regards the Stock Exchange and the public in a leading article. The terms do not yet possess definitive force, but the fact of their publication was taken as sufficient evidence of the probability, amounting almost to certainty, of their proving acceptable to all concerned. The early holding of the postponed "Hatry" settlement will remove a damaging weight from the whole Stock Exchange and leave the way clear for such economic factors as may justify a revival of business in the future.

Gilt-edged prices reflected the less favourable turn of the monetary situation, and the emergence of a larger supply of stock. Victory Bonds were demonstrably firm over the week-end and on Monday, but a slight weakening of prices subsequently ensued throughout the list, with a fractional recovery on Thursday. Liquidation of India loans made an unwelcome reappearance. Dullness affected the market for Dominion and Colonial stocks, in which further selling of Australian issues was in progress.

The foreign market was quiet and irregular. Far Eastern issues held their ground with a few early gains, but Brazilians became easier on the less favourable appearance of the exchange. Among European securities, Polish Seven per Cents. were in demand, and French stocks steady. Egyptian Unified came on offer.

Business in home rails was much less active. The traffic figures were unexciting, and a heavy tendency developed in the "group" stocks. An outstanding exception was provided by Underground, all issues being in keen demand on rumours of a high forthcoming dividend and more nebulous impressions of possible London traffic developments in the future. Movements in the foreign railway market were disappointing, the Argentine lines failing to maintain last week's recovery, while, among Brazilians, Leopoldinas were conspicuously dull. Canadian Pacifics, however, had a much stronger tone, rising several points in mid-week.

The Industrial markets were almost featureless in the absence of sustained public interest. While evidences of a gradual revival of investment demand were not absent, the readiness of professional interests to take profits after last week's modest gains was an instructive commentary on conditions on the speculative side. America did not, as a rule, willingly respond to London's efforts to talk various international stocks higher, though International Nickel continued to be absorbed. United Molasses improved, and match shares were consistently firm on Continental support. The publicity given to a dispute between certain directors of Morris and Jones (discussed in an "Investment Note" on page 130) induced weakness in some of the shares of the "Harman group." The shares most closely affected by Mr Thomas's proposals—coal, iron, steel and textiles—were lower rather than higher on balance. Publicity was given to a report that the Royal Mail Company was making an issue of debenture stock, and the shares reacted. Benskins advanced sharply before encountering profit-taking, though breweries as a whole were harder. The recovery in Imperial Chemical was checked. Carreras again lost ground. Harrods were in demand in anticipation of a satisfactory report. The action of the Stock Exchange Committee in prohibiting markings in Phantestra (Renne's Gramophone and Wireless) and Sunfruit Products, following a campaign by outside houses to popularise these shares, was regarded as reflecting the Committee's determination that its facilities should

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	75 7/16	75⅝	+ 3/16	Treasury 5% (B)	101 1/16	101	— 1/16
Do. 4½%, 1914	95½	95⅝	+ 1/8	Canada 4% 1940-60	88	88	...
Do. 5% 1944-64	100 1/16	100 1/16	— 1/32	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100⅛	100⅛	...	India 3½%	61½	59½	— 2
Consols 2½%	54⅛	54⅜	+ 3/16	Do. 4½% 1958-68	70½	79½	— 1⅛
Do. 4%	83 3/16	83 1/16	— 1/8	Australia 5% 1945-75	91	90	— 1
Funding 4%	86 1/16	86⅛	— 1/16	N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	90	88½	— 1½
Victory Bonds 4%	91⅞	93½	+ 1⅛	N. Zealand 5% 1946	100	101	+ 1
Local Loans 3%	62⅛	62	— ⅛				

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	100⅜	99	— 1⅜	French 5%	21⅝	21⅝	...
Argentine 4% Reclss.	83½	83½	...	Do. 4% (Brit.)	20½	19½	— ⅜
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	103	...	German 7%	1 4½	104⅜	+ ⅜
Belgian 7%	110	109⅜	— ⅛	Greek 7% Refugee	102	102	...
Brazil 6½% (1927)	80	80	...	Hungary 7½%	103	103½	+ ⅛
Bulgaria 7½%	86	86	...	Chili 6%	95½	95½	— ⅛
China 5% (1912)	45½	46	+ ⅜	Poland 7%	85½	88	+ 2⅛
Czechoslovakia 8%	110⅛	110⅜	+ ⅛	Mexican 5% (1899)	19	20	+ 1
Egypt Unified 4%	79	78⅛	— ⅜	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	80	82	+ 2

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	62	62	...	Sydney 5½% 1954	91	91½	+ ⅜
M. London 5% 1960-70	95	95	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	90½x	90½	...

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	91½	92½	+ ⅜	B.A.& Pacific Ord.Stk	87	87½	— ⅜
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	13	12⅞	— ⅛	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk	98½	99⅜	+ 1⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	38½	37½	— 1	B.A. Western, Ord.Stk	82	82⅜	+ ⅜
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	56½	56	— ½	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	23	23½	+ ⅜
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	63	65	+ 2	G.W. of Brazil £10	3⅛	3⅛	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	72	74	+ 2	Leopoldina Ord. Stk	51	52	+ 1
Southern Def. Stk.	31	30⅜	— ⅝	San Paulo Ord. Stk	188½	187½	— 1
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	74	74½	+ ½	Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$28⅛	$29⅛	+ 1
Underground Ord. £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	Utd. Havana Ord. Stk	24	23½	— ½
Do. Income Bonds	104	109	+ 5	Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16
Nav. Pacific Com. Stk.	196	203½	+ 7½				
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	85½	83½	— 2				

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	249	249	...	Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13½x	13½	— ⅛
Barclay B. (£1)	2 3/16	2 1/8	+ 1/16	Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16	Hongk. and S.($125).	115½	115½	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16	St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14½x	14 7/16	+ 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 5/16	4	+ 11/16	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 11/16x	3 11/16	+ 1/32

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	18⅜	19½	+ ⅛	Pearl (£1)	12⅜	13½	+ ⅛
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	24	24½	+ ⅛	Phoenix £1 fully pd.	13⅛	13⅜	+ ⅛
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27	27⅛	+ ⅛	Roy. In.£1, with 10/ pd.	8⅛	8½	+ ⅛

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1).	11/16	11/16	...	Powell Duffryn (£1).	5/8	5/8	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16	Stewarts&Lloyds(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/16
Baldwin (4/)	7/16	7/16	...	Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/32
Cory, William (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16	Thornycroft, John(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/8
Dorman, Long (£1)	11/16	11/16	...	*Vickers* (6/8)	7/16	7/16	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...				

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...	Eng.Sewg.Cotton(£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	+ 1/16
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	3/16	3/16	— 1/16	Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	— 1/32	Listers (£1)	1	31/32	— 1/32
Courtaulds	2 1/16	2⅛	— 1/16	Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/8	1/8	...

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16	*General Electric* (£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	— 1/32
British Insulated (£1).	3½	4	+ ⅛	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/32

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'bt & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	— 1/32	*Hydro-Elec. com. stk.*	41½	43⅞	+ 2⅜
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/32
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/8	*Newcastle-on-Ty* (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	11/16	11/16	+ 1/16	Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Continental Stk.	345	350	+ 5	S. Metropolitan Stk.	100	100	...

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	7½% *A Ord.*	76⅛	76⅛	— 1/16	*Canadian Marconi*	7/16	7/16	...
	B Ord.	38	38	...	*Marconi Marine* (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
	5½% *Pref.*	98⅛	99	+ ¼	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2 3/16	+ 1/16	*Rolls-Royce* (£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	...
Ford Motors (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16	Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Leyland (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...	Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/32

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	+ 1/16	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/32
Furness Withy (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	29½	32	+ 2½

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	London Asiatic (2/)	7/16	7/16	+ 1/16
Ceylon Tea & Lnds.(£10)	21⅛	21⅛	...	*Rubber Trust* (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	3 1/16x	3 1/16	...	Lobitos (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/32
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	1/16	1/16	— 1/32
Burmah Oil (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	— 1/16	*Royal Dutch* (£5)	33x	32⅝	— 1/8
Canadian Eagle, no par	1/8	1/8	...	*Shell* (£1)	4 1/16x	4 1/16	— 1/32

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...	*Imperial Tobacco* (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	...
Bras. Traction, no par	$39⅛	$39⅛	...	*International Holdings*	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/16
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 3/16x	5 1/16	...	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	35⅞	36⅛	+ ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	13x	12 7/16	— 1/16	*Kreuger Toll* (kr.100)	25⅜	26⅜	+ 1
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6⅛	6	— ⅛	*Margarine Union* (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	2 7/16	— 1/16	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	11/16	11/16	...	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	16⅜	17⅛	+ ⅜
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	— 1/16	Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 7/16	1 1/16	— 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Turner & Newall (£1)	4 1/16x	4⅛	— 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	+ 1/16	*United Molasses* (£1)	5 1/16	6	+ 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 7/16x	1 7/16	+ 1/16	*Vocalion* (10/-)	5/8	11/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Watney Combe Df.(£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	+ 1/32

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/16	*N'Changa* (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅛	2⅛	— 1/8
De Beers Def. (£2½)	10	9 1/16	— 1/16	*Rhodesian Copper* (5/-)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/32
Brakpan (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16	*Rhodesian Congo Border* (£1)	7⅞	8⅛	+ 1/16
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	46⅛	46	— 1/8
Burma Corp. (*Rs.* 10)	11/16	11/16	+ 1/32	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/16
Burma M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/32	Sub Nigel (10/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...	*Tanganyika* (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	— 1/16	Union Crp.(12/6)fu.pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Lake View & Sta. (4/).	11/16	11/16	— 1/32				
Loangwa (5/-)	11/16	11/16	— 1/32				
London Tin (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/16				

be used only in the public interest. Bank and insurance shares were less active after a firm start. The Midland capital proposal was well received.

The rubber share market, surfeited with bad news regarding the commodity's statistical position, was in a mood to welcome any psychological diversion. A statement that the Dutch growers were considering a workable policy of restriction, and that English representatives were conferring with the Dutch, thus sufficed to give a slightly better tone to numerous shares. Tea shares were idle, with prices a shade lower, where changed. Little interest was taken by insiders or outsiders in the oil share market, the upward trend of American crude production being an unfavourable factor.

Mining shares failed to hold any substantial part of the advance recorded last week, there being an almost general decline with little public interest. Markets opened fairly firm on Monday, Rio Tintos rising sharply on Paris orders, while Wiluna added a fraction on a satisfactory report, but later dropped back. Dividend anticipations helped to keep interest alive in Rhodesians, Bwana M'Kubwa proving a good market on rumours of Anglo-American conversations. Tin shares remained dull, despite the approval of amalgamation schemes by shareholders. Oceana Consolidated continued to decline on uncertainty regarding its holdings. African descriptions subsequently lost ground, though Bwanas and Congo Borders, exceptionally, were firm.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The share market has continued quiet and comparatively uninteresting, but with a rather good undertone. Utilities have proved to be strong features, while coppers have been adversely affected by the December statistics, which reveal a further increase in stocks. In this connection a future sharp reduction in production is anticipated, producers apparently being determined to maintain present prices. Oils have been dull on price cuts in Texas and in mid-continent crude oil. Meanwhile, the bond market has stood up well in the face of new issues during the past week aggregating three hundred and forty millions. In this connection it is noticeable that the best demand is for high-class issues. Great public interest has been exhibited at the automobile shows, but sales have been somewhat lower than a year ago, and manufacturing operations are being only slowly increased. Altogether the present view is that the sharpness of the industrial recession and the hand-to-mouth character of business during the past year suggests the possibility of an early improvement, which may be apparent by March. Meanwhile there is little general inclination to make commitments in the share market, where yields are not particularly generous.

	Jan. 2.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104 7/32	104 11/32	103 31/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111¼	111 13/32	110 15/32
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99 15/32	99½	99 31/32
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101	100⅞	100 23/32
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101¼	101¼	100 15/32
Atchison	220	222	226
Ches. & Ohio	204	205½	212
Erie	57	57¼	59½
Illinois Central	129¼	129	129
N.Y. Central	170	168	171½
Pennsylvania	73⅜	74½	77
Southern Pacific	121	119⅜	121
Southern Rly.	131	133	135
Union Pacific	215	217½	217½
Am. Can.	119⅛	123½	124½
Alleghany Corp.	24⅛	24⅜	26⅛
Amer. Smelting	71⅛	75	73½
Anaconda	72½	79	70⅞
Bethlehem Steel	92½	95⅛	96⅝
Chrysler Motor	35⅝	36⅜	34⅛
Corn Produce	90	90⅛	90½
Eastman Kodak	178	177	180½
Gen. Electric	241½	246	248½
Gen. Motors	40⅜	39⅞	37⅜
Int. Harvester	79	80⅞	81⅜
Montg Ward	47⅜	46⅜	41
Natl. Biscuit	175	182	183⅜
Phelps Dodge	38⅛	42	41
Pullman	84	86½	85
Sears-Roebuck	84⅛	87⅞	84
Studebaker	43⅜	43⅜	41⅞
Un. Fruit	101	103½	102
U.S. Leather	7⅜	9⅜	8⅜
U.S. Rubber	24⅛	25⅞	23⅜
U.S. Steel	167	170⅞	170⅛
Westinghouse	141	148⅜	147⅜
Woolworth	69½	66	68
Worthington Pump	68	70	69
Am. Pow. & Light	84	82⅜	83⅜
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	219	220	220
Electric P. & L.	51	53⅜	55⅞
Int. Tel. Teles.	72	74⅜	73⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	32	34½	35⅜
Radio Corpn.	43⅜	42⅝	38⅛
Utilities P. & L.	31⅜	32	32
W. Union Tlg.	190	210	202
Associated Gas "A"	37⅝	37⅛	41
Mid-Cont. Pet.	...	26⅛	25⅜x
Pan Amer. B.	59	57⅛	56⅛
Sinclair Oil	24⅛	24	23⅜
Std. California	60⅜	60⅛	60⅜
Do. N.J.	65¼	64⅛	62⅛

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Lowest.	1929. Highest.	1930. Beginning of Year.	1930. Jan. 2.	1930. Jan. 9.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	146·0	148·4
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	134·3	134·7
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	202·2	208·4
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	153·0	155·7
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·83%	4·77%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 9).	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 2).	Jan. 8.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 10.	Jan. 11.	Jan. 13.	Jan. 14.	Jan. 15.
170·2	167·4	168·0	170·2	169·7	168·7	169·1	169·3	169·5

CANADA.

The stock market situation in Canada showed no material change during the last weeks of 1929. The public is still shy of speculative operations, and trading is largely confined to the professional element and investment buyers. There was something of a rally in the middle of Christmas week, in sympathy with the upward movement in New York, but the movement was soon followed by a recession. The belief prevails, however, that distress selling has exhausted itself and many stocks have now worked into a good technical position, which offers hopes of substantial recovery before the summer comes. However, the sharp decline in railway earnings is a depressing factor, and falls in the earnings of some leading industrial corporations may have to be reckoned with. The mining market has had an improved tone, but is still far from satisfactory. For the week ended December 26th the Bureau of Statistics "Investors'" Index, on the base 1926 = 100, was placed at 194.0, as compared with 201.9 for the previous week.

	Oct. 31.	Nov. 29.	Jan. 16.
Abitibi Power & Paper	45	3⅜	27½
Asbestos Corp.	4	No bid	2½
Bank of Montreal	320	300	312
Brazilian Traction	49x	41½	39½
British Col. Power "A"	43	38½	39
Calgary Power	170	161	155
Can. Bank Commerce	270	258	268
Canadian Car	25	25½	28⅜
Canada Cement	20½	19½	16½
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	13	13½	11⅜
Canada Power & Paper	26½	23½	15
Can. Steamship Lines	20	16	...
Cockshutt Plow	21½	22	23
Cons. Mining	290	268	256
Dominion Bridge	83x	74	78½
Dom. Textile (New)	82	75	77
Hollinger Gold Mining	5¼	5	4⅞
International Nickel	41	30⅜xd	35⅝
Massey Harris	45½	43	42
Montreal Light	147½	119½	138½
National Breweries	129	124½	118½
Nat. Steel Car	44¼	52½	65½
Port Alfred Pulp	65	No bid	88
Power Corp., Canada	89½	78xd	77
Price Bros.	92	84	78
Quebec Power	73	64½	67
Shawinigan	86	77	80
Southern Can. Power	35½x	34	33
Steel of Canada	47¼	44½	46
Wayagamack Pulp	68	No bid	...
Winnipeg Electric	60	54	53⅞

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Details of the Hatry Scheme.—In a leading article on p. 126 of this issue a Stock Exchange correspondent describes the factors involved, from the point of view of "The House" and the public, in the proposed scheme for the solution of the "Hatry" difficulties. The details, which have been made public this week, were arrived at by an unofficial committee, consisting of two jobbers, Messrs. Claude Lemon and Urling Clark, and two brokers, Messrs F. I. Pitman and F. S. Cokayne, whose firms had had no dealings in Hatry securities. The committee is of the unanimous opinion that the only method of carrying through a settlement, by which all liabilities of the public will be met in full, and the danger of serious trouble minimised, is by the creation of a fund of approximately £1,000,000 for the purpose of taking delivery of all the shares which will have to be delivered and paid for when a settlement in these stocks is fixed. The committee suggests that contributions to this fund should be in the following proportions of the commitments of those concerned:—(1) Selling brokers, 30 per cent; (2) country brokers (who are almost entirely buyers), 40 per cent.; (3) London buying brokers acting for country brokers, 10 per cent.; (4) London buying brokers acting for other clients, 42½ per cent.; (5) dealers, on a sliding scale based on turnover. It is estimated that contributions on these lines will provide approximately £800,000. Voluntary contributions from members of the Stock Exchange and others who have no commitments in the unsettled account have been promised to make up the deficiency of £200,000. The fund is to be vested in trustees (the Royal Exchange Assurance), who, as soon as circumstances permit, will reimburse their contributions to those selling brokers who can satisfy them that they have delivered shares on behalf of the genuine public. Any selling broker who receives from the fund more than the amount advanced is to return to the fund the excess. Should the fund have insufficient valid shares to deliver to buyers, who are prepared to pay the full price of the ticket *plus* stamp, the trustees will have power to make good the shortage at the cost of the fund. If on the completion of these transactions the fund is left with any cash, the latter will be applied in making a rateable distribution to voluntary contributors. The securities concerned are those of the Associated Automatic Machine Corporation (ordinary shares), Corporation and General Securities (ordinary shares), Drapery Trust (preference shares), Far Eastern Photomaton (shares and debentures), Oak Investment (shares), Photomaton Parent (shares), Retail Trade Securities (shares), and Wakefield Corporation 4½ per cent. redeemable stock, 1949-59. The Corporation and General Securities, Oak Investment, and Retail Trade Securities companies are now in liquidation. An application was made in the Chancery Court this week for an order to rectify the share register of the Associated Automatic Corporation, but as the application was an *ex parte* one, the order was refused. This will not delay the completion of the Stock Exchange scheme of settlement, for the committee mentioned above has provided that, in the case of Associated Automatic shares, all certificates must be accompanied by a letter from the registrar of the company certifying their validity. Other documents of title will be accepted, although invalid, provided they are certified by the company on a date subsequent to December 1, 1929. The response of jobbers and brokers to the committee's scheme has so far been eminently favourable, and the plan would appear to have every chance of obtaining acceptance.

Client, Broker and Jobber.—We have recently considered in these columns the respective positions of the three parties to a Stock Exchange "deal"—broker, jobber and client. A Stock Exchange correspondent sums up the main conclusions of the matter as they appear to many members of the "House." He questions whether either the banker or the insurance company can be regarded as ideal factors in the situation from the investor's point of view since the former relies largely

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upon Stock Exchange opinion for his judgment, while the aim of the latter is usually directed to investment which can be expected to produce good results over a longer period of years than the ordinary man thinks it is worth while to trouble about. The insurance company can take a view of what a company's prospects are likely to be in ten or twenty years' time. The average investor, though he may not demand a rise on the day following his purchase, usually hopes that his stock will appreciate within a reasonable time. The man who buys War Loan, for instance, may anticipate that, within the course of the next year or two, the growing ease of money will put up his stock to the neighbourhood of 102 or 103. Though a reasonable client does not expect his broker to be infallible, there are, in fact, numerous people who have few qualms in showing their resentment if the broker's advice should turn out to be wrong. A broker gives his client the best advice possible. He will buy for the client shares which he would like to have for himself, at the cheapest price at which they are obtainable. The client should be prepared to exercise consideration as regards stock, the market supply of which is limited. The broker will go to a jobber, and possibly buy the stock, though the jobber knows well enough that the prospects of his being able to get it within a reasonable time are very slender. If the stock does not come in within what the client regards as a reasonable time, impatience is useless, since neither broker nor jobber can manufacture the stock for themselves, and the jobber's willingness to sell at all, in the first place, was a gesture of grace. The client may complain that, after waiting long and vainly for delivery, his broker will hesitate to buy in the stock unless the client specifically orders this. The reason may be that the broker, knowing quite well that the jobber will be unable to get the stock, is reluctant to involve the latter in needless expense, without satisfying the intentions of the client. To say this, of course, is not to deny that more might be done, in some cases, to hasten delivery of stocks and shares by the broker's bringing judicious pressure to bear in his client's interest. The crux of the matter, concludes our correspondent, is that the interests of client, broker and jobber are identical, and none can benefit, in the long run, at the expense of the others. The client wants to buy his stock as cheaply, and to sell it as dearly, as possible. The broker is anxious that he shall carry out this desire. The jobber, as a business man, is eager to deal in such a manner as to leave with the public the conviction of having been given a perfectly frank and square deal. There are obvious difficulties in reconciling the interests of buyers and sellers, but the rules of the Stock Exchange, as well as its unwritten laws and usages, are framed with the intention of providing protection as well as satisfaction to the clients upon whose business the Stock Exchange depends for its existence.

Further Bank Profits and Dividends.—In an " Investment Note " last week (*Economist*, January 11, 1930, page 79) we discussed the profits and dividends of the leading British banks in respect of 1929. We show below the results of two institutions, Lloyds Bank and the Williams Deacons Bank, complete figures for which were not available when we went to press.

	1927.		1928.		1929.	
	Profits.	Divs.	Profits.	Divs.	Profits.	Divs.
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Lloyds.....	2,475,674	{A, 16⅔ B, 5	2,528,143	{A, 16⅔ B, 5	2,542,084	{A, 16⅔ B, 5
Williams Deacons	310,585	{A, 13⅓ B, 12½	305,340	{A, 13⅓ B, 12½	297,901	{A, 13⅓ B, 12½

Lloyds Bank, like the other members of the " Big Five," showed profits somewhat in excess of those published a year ago. Williams Deacons, on the other hand, revealed a slight contraction in profits, and reduced its " A " dividend. So long as managerial policy, as well as " trading " experience, is a factor reflected in the published statements of earnings of British banks, it is impossible to say which of the two is the more representative of monetary conditions in 1929. We show the distribution of profits, in the two cases, in the next table :—

	Profits.	Dividends.	Contingencies Account.	Premises.	Staff Funds.	Inc. or Dec. in Carry-forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lloyds—1928.....	2,527,143	1,973,886	...	250,000	300,000	+ 4,257
1929.....	2,542,084	1,973,886	...	250,000	300,000	+18,198
Williams Deacons						
1928.....	305,340	253,906	50,000	...	...	+ 1,434
1929.....	297,901	244,141	50,000	...	...	+ 3,760

Lloyds Bank, it will be seen, distributed in dividends some 77½ per cent. of the year's earnings, and Williams Deacons some 82 per cent.

Morris and Jones and Mr Harman.—A circular has been issued by four of the directors of Morris and Jones, Ltd., referring to the policy pursued by Mr M. C. Harman, the chairman. Morris and Jones is a firm of Liverpool provision merchants with a capital of £600,000, which acquired last year the sugar and grocery departments of Lovell and Christmas (Liverpool), Ltd. Mr Harman became a director in 1928, and the management of the company was later placed in the hands of a finance committee, presided over by Mr Harman, and a trading committee. The four directors, in their circular, allege that on the day of the reconstitution of the management the finance committee, " without previous communication to the other directors," sold Government securities realising £138,662, and on the following day purchased eight large blocks of stocks and shares in various companies at a cost of £154,202, practically all of which were securities of companies described as being in the Harman group. Of one block of 40,000 shares it is said that 27,150 are not officially quoted, while serious losses on all the shares are reported to have been incurred. A committee of investigation, which was appointed by the Liverpool directors in October last, has dissolved the finance and trading committees, restored the old board, and appointed an additional director who is a solicitor. The directors signing the circular propose to convene an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of removing Mr Harman and two other directors from the board and appointing a shareholders' committee. Mr Harman, in reply, has asked the shareholders to reserve judgment until they have heard his statement. From a further statement of the four Liverpool directors it is not quite clear whether or not Mr Harman and his supporters on the board have in fact agreed to the holding of an extraordinary meeting. What the Harman group of companies embraces it is difficult to say, but the following is a list of companies in which Mr Harman and his associates are directors, showing the highest prices in 1929 and the present time :—

Name of Company.	Nature of Capital.	Amount.	Highest, 1929.	Present.
		£		
Aurochs Investment	Ordinary stock ..	2,100,000	£30	£25½
	5% Deb. stock...	300,000	£60	£55
Branston Artificial Silk	£1 Ord. shares ...	1,000,000	18/4	3/9
	4/– Def. shares...	360,000	11/9	2/–
British Bank for Foreign Trade	£1 Ord. shares ...	119,500	25/3	17/6
British Rubber & Gen. Trust	£1 Ord. shares ...	299,480	11/–	5/–
Central Oil, Mining & Chemicals Trust	Ordinary stock ..	700,000	£17½	£7
Chosen Corporation.....	"A"£1Ord.shares	496,500	23/3	10/–
Dublin Distillers	Ordinary stock ..	190,000	35½	20
	"A" Ord. shares 5/–	130,000	...	4/6
	4½% Deb. stock..	350,000	55¼	53½
Gas, Water & Gen. Investment	4½% Pref. stock	336,000	25	20
	Deferred stock ...	224,000	24½	22
John Hetherington	£1 7% Pref. shrs.	450,800	18/1½	10/–
	£1 Ord. shares ...	349,571	19/–	4/4½
London Irish Trust	Preference stock	500,000	81	49½
	Ordinary stock ..	200,000	101½	75½
Morris and Jones	£1 Ord. shares ...	300,000	18/–	13/–
	£1 7% Pref. shrs.	300,000	17/10½	10/–
Rock Investment	5% Pref. stock ..	125,000	54	34½
	Ordinary stock ..	125,400	85	70½
	4% Deb. stock...	100,000	62	40½
Kirklees.....	£1 Ord. shares ...	500,000	25/6	18/9
Oceana Consolidated	Ord. shares 5/– ..	976,591	8/–	2/3
Peregrine Investment	Ord. shares 5/– ..	245,252	6/3	6/–
Textile Industrial Trust	£1 Ord. shares (10/– paid)	250,000	20/9	20/–
	6% Deb. stock...	50,000	95	93/–

This month the directors of Rock Investment announced that they had decided to defer payment of the dividends on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock. It has been found in a number of recent instances that where companies are interlocked by the taking-in of each other's shares, a depreciation in the shares of one company may be sufficient to cause depreciation in the shares of the rest. How closely the Harman group is interlocked it is impossible to say. In the case of Oceana Consolidated, shareholders were notified this week that the company had acquired 50,000 Chosen Corporation shares at 12s. 6d., at which price they were offered participation. An independent examination by accountants of the position set up by the necessarily intricate interrelations of a large group of companies may do much to reassure shareholders as to the soundness of the general position.

" Retail Trade Promotions ": John Lewis' Profits.—In an article on " Retail Trade Promotions " on page 76 of our last week's issue the first report of John Lewis and Company, Ltd., was stated to show profits of £95,542, against a prospectus figure of £175,920. The secretary of the company writes to say that the two figures are not, in fact, comparable. The prospectus gave figures for each of the six years ended January 28, 1928, and February 19, 1928, respectively of Messrs John Lewis and Company and T. J. Harries and Company, the two businesses which were being amalgamated. These were stated to be arrived at " after charging all working expenses, including management salaries, repairs and renewals, but before providing for income tax, interest, depreciation and directors' fees." The figure for 1927-28, on this basis, was given as £175,920. The first report of the company, from its incorporation to January 31, 1929, showed these results :—

	£
Profit on trading, after charging all working expenses, including management salaries, and repairs and renewals.....	167,549
Interest receivable, including interest on Peter Jones, Ltd., debentures	11,453
	179,002
Fees paid to directors of T. J. Harries and Co.	2,240
Interest payable.....	41,844
Income tax	20,659
Depreciation reserve	18,717
Balance, being net profit	95,542
	179,002

The net profit figure of £95,542 is, of course, of chief interest to the investor in the company's preference shares, since such charges as interest, depreciation, etc., must be met before arriving at earnings which rank for dividend. For purposes of comparison with the prospectus, however, the relevant figure is clearly the £167,549 profit on trading. We gladly give publicity to this fact, and ask our readers to amend our previous article in this sense—the more so since the effect of the change is to place the company, not among those " whose profits are noticeably less than was estimated in the prospectuses," but among those which approximately " fulfilled their promises." The report, nevertheless, bears out the main contention of our article that, even where entirely sound and profit-earning businesses are amalgamated, and turned into public companies, the early operations under the new *régime* are apt to reveal unexpected difficulties. In this case the completion of the transfer of the Harries business from the vendors proved disappointingly slow, so that the new company was unable to obtain control before October, 1928, when the season was already at its height. The report goes on to state : " Upon a strictly correct comparison, the year's results for the two houses together are less by approximately 10 per cent. than the previous average for a 52-week year in each house that was disclosed in the prospectus." We are also asked to point out that the ordinary shares of John Lewis and Company, Ltd., are all vested in trustees for the benefit of the staff, forming the basis of a co-partnership scheme.

The Amsterdam Stock Exchange in 1929.—The ups and downs of 1929 will long be remembered by all connected with the Amsterdam stock markets, writes a correspondent. Good brokerage profits have been reaped as a result of the heavy turnover brought about by successive boom and slump, while, during the first eleven months of 1929, the proceeds from stamp duty on transactions amounted to 8,242,000 guilders, compared with only 6,990,600 for the corresponding period in 1928, the greater activity being confined almost entirely to industrial shares. The practical desertion of other markets can be explained by the unsatisfactory trend of prices for such products as sugar, tea, tobacco, coffee, rubber, and oil. Moreover, an additional reason for the concentration on industrial stocks is the promising outlook for Dutch industries in general. Exports of industrial products have risen sharply, while the value of new capital put into industry has increased from 52.9 million guilders in 1927 to 161.5 millions in 1928 and 237.4 millions in 1929. Over 190 million guilders was accounted for by only five undertakings, viz. :—Philips, Margarine Unie, Aku, Accoustik, and Artificial Silk. Little interest was taken in bonds yielding a fixed rate, and the diminished foreign call for capital in Amsterdam has undoubtedly contributed to the dullness of gilt-edged securities. During the year bonds have been issued to the value of only 103.5 million guilders, compared with 183.3 millions in 1928. Of this considerably decreased figure no less than 57.7 million guilders were accounted for by municipal and Government loans. The firmer position of the money market in the autumn also exerted a retarding influence on investment enterprise, but the capital market was nevertheless amply supplied.

Cotton Mill Dividends in 1929.—Mr Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has completed his analysis of the stocktaking reports of Lancashire cotton companies for 1929. This shows that for 310 companies the average dividend on ordinary share capital was 1.91 per cent., against 2.30 per cent. in 1928. The directors of 243 out of

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the 310 concerns were not able to declare any dividend during 1929. The ordinary share capital of the 310 companies amounts to £52,722,745. It is also revealed that out of 195 companies, 44 made profits during the year of £411,406, and 151 made losses of £1,062,360. An analysis of the balance sheets of 286 cotton companies shows that 93 have credit balances amounting to £1,969,868, and 193 concerns have debit balances aggregating £10,140,090.

The Copper Position.—Copper shares, especially Rio Tintos, have shown some firmness recently, principally on the improvement in the values of standard copper on the London Metal Exchange.

	Dec. 2, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 14, 1930.
Price of Copper :			
(Standard, cash, per ton)	68/7/6	68/3/9	71/15/-
Share Prices :			
Rio Tinto (£5)	40	42¾	46
Tharsis (£2)	£4⅜	£4⅜	£5
Mount Lyell (£1)	38/3	36/6	36/6
Nanaqua (£2)	17/6	17/6	17/6
Anaconda ($50)	$16	$14 13/16	$15½

The sharp upward movement registered early in January was mainly due to the covering of open positions by bears disappointed that the main selling organisation, Copper Exporters Incorporated, made no reduction in price at the turn of the year, together with the fact that stocks of rough copper showed a further drop at December 31st to about 3,600 tons. Radically, the copper position is unchanged, and continues to present something of a deadlock, for the producers are holding stubbornly to their price of 18 cents, while consumers, believing that insistence upon this price level is not justified, are maintaining a policy of aloofness and buying on a strictly hand-to-mouth basis. European consumption has shown a decline, especially in Germany. In the United States, although the call from the electrical industries keeps up fairly well, the building trade and motor-car makers are not taking the tonnage they were six months ago. Last year, however, saw a new record set up in copper consumption, and some decline in the use of this metal need not be interpreted too pessimistically. Should the Copper Combine find it necessary to reduce their price—and the probability is that they will—mining companies will still be left with a very comfortable margin for distribution to shareholders.

London Tin Syndicate Fusion.—At an extra-ordinary general meeting, on January 13, the shareholders of the Tin Selection Trust adopted resolutions approving of the merger with the London Tin Syndicate. The terms were given in an article in the *Economist* of December 28, 1929, page 1255, but the scheme there outlined has been modified in one respect. It was originally proposed to split the £1 shares of the London Tin Corporation, after the merger, into one ordinary and one 8 per cent. non-cumulative preference share, each of 10s. Under the amended scheme, however, the preference shares will enjoy a somewhat more advantageous position, being entitled to a preferential dividend of 7½ per cent. *plus* participation in one quarter of residuary profits to a total dividend of 10 per cent. At the meeting a shareholder opposed the merger on the ground that it would reduce the element of safety inherent in the " spreading " of a trust company's risks over numerous operating companies, but the majority of those present apparently attached greater emphasis to the increased efficiency and economy in management which might be expected to follow the fusion. In view of an inadvertent misstatement in one place of the earnings of the London Tin Syndicate in 1928-29, we reprint below the table given in our issue of December 28th last :—

(Years to September 30.)	1926–27. £	1927–28. £	1928–29. £
Average capital for year	184,000	383,425	550,000
Net profit (subject to tax)	138,081	193,354	137,035
Ordinary { Earned	75·04%	50·43%	24·92%
Ordinary { Paid	50%	40%	20%
Ordinary { Amount of dividends	84,000	160,000	88,000
Carry forward	29,671	60,432	50,649

The shareholders of the London Tin Syndicate met on Thursday to give effect to the resolution for the splitting of the shares, and a further meeting was proposed to modify the rights of the preference shares as indicated.

Burma Corporation Meeting.—Quiet confidence in the future progress of the company was the note struck by Mr P. E. Marmion in his address to shareholders at the annual meeting of Burma Corporation, Ltd. The chairman asserted that the record production figures of 78,716 tons of refined lead and 7,376,841 ozs. of refined silver were obtained mainly because of the advance made in metallurgical efficiency. Notwithstanding the larger tonnage extracted from the mine, the lead content was only 3.6 per cent. more, and the silver content actually 1.3 per cent. less, than for the preceding year. Concurrently with the great improvement in recovery methods, the cost per unit of metal recovered had fallen to a record low level. During the period under review 511,275 tons of ore had been brought into reserve, against 463,057 tons extracted. In the meantime, steps were being taken to utilise the large tonnage of low-grade ore available by an extension of the capacity of the existing milling plant from 30,000 to 45,000 tons per month. Moreover, exploration carried out during the year had met with definite success in two directions. Old Chinese workings had been discovered in crosscut 3,702 with ore partially intact, due probably to the fact that the nature of the analysis must have presented grave smelting difficulties to the methods in vogue at the time of working. In addition, crosscut 3,302 had in the same manner revealed workings with a large residual deposit of high-grade zinc ore. The chairman reiterated his view that if the decline in silver were to be permanent it must be reflected ultimately in a rise in those non-ferrous metals with which silver is usually found in mineral association. In 1928, not less than 175,000,000 ozs. of silver emanated as an incidence of the production of copper, lead and zinc.

Rand Selection.—From one point of view last year's results may be regarded as disappointing: the employment of a largely increased capital gave a comparatively small expansion in the profits. During the year ended September 30, 1928, 600,000 5s. shares were taken up under option at 17s. 6d. each, bringing in altogether £525,000, and raising the issued capital to £900,000. At £274,000 last year's profits are up by only £28,800.

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The explanation is that the additional funds were invested in interests not of an immediately revenue-producing character—more particularly in the Northern Rhodesian copper industry now represented by shares in the Rhodesian Anglo-American. The portfolio now stands at £2,039,500, as against £1,301,800. Money on loan has fallen from £431,200 to £186,900, while loans with accrued interest figure at £435,300 in place of £14,100. Out of the earnings of 1928-29, dividends totalling 25 per cent. have been provided for, and, after meeting largely enhanced claims for taxation, £83,500 remains to go forward, as against £73,000 brought in. It may be recalled that from 1927-28 profits £100,000 was transferred to reserve—a procedure which involved the non-payment of a balance dividend. On the basis of a 25 per cent. distribution the yield indicated is about 8½ per cent.

Premier Diamond.—In the past financial year this company suffered much more from the prevailing conditions than the De Beers Company, which holds practically all the deferred capital. Owing chiefly to shortage of labour the number of loads washed fell short of the total for 1927-28, while the average yield decreased and costs rose. As a result of these and some minor adverse factors the production of stones, at 738,100 carats, showed a reduction of 65,000 carats. Diamond account figures for £930,300, as against £878,500 for the preceding period, when sales were suspended altogether for a time. On the latter occasion £72,300 was brought in from special suspense account; on the present, the expenses are debited with £39,200 in respect of equipment. The divisible balance for last year figures at £273,300, as against £356,800, the shareholders' proportion of which is 40 per cent., less taxes. In 1928-29 the latter item absorbed £23,500, or £28,100 less than before, but £9,000 is now appropriated for capital purposes. Once again, only the fixed preference dividend is paid, £48,800 going forward, as against £27,800 brought in. Economies are expected to follow the installation of additional power plant. The blue ground in sight above the 610-ft. level is estimated to be 18,000,000 loads. This represents about four years' supply on the 1928-29 scale of operations. The 5s. preferred shares are a rather nominal market at £5. On this basis the yield is 12½ per cent.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies :—Anglo-French Banking Corporation, Cardinal Investment Trust, Burma Corporation, Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Fanti Consolidated Investment, Michael Nairn and Greenwich, Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, and Liebig's Extract of Meat. At the annual meeting of Michael Nairn and Greenwich, Ltd., the chairman admitted that the prosperity of the linoleum industry during the last few years, at least so far as this country was concerned, had been assisted by recent building schemes. Mr Richard Foster, presiding at the meeting of Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, Ltd., said that, as a result of the commercial troubles in Brazil, the amount of wheat ground was approximately 6.6 per cent. less than during the preceding year. The meeting of Burma Corporation, Ltd., is dealt with on the previous page.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The results of the first " trying-out " of the new capital market in 1930 have been inconclusive. The sound preference issue of Messrs E. S. and A. Robinson, last week, was over-subscribed, but the underwriters of the North-West Midlands Joint Electricity Authority offer were reported to have been called on to take up 90 per cent. of the whole. This week the *Ceylon Government* made an issue of £900,000, giving a running yield of £5 1s. per cent. and a redemption yield of £5 1s. 3d. per cent. Its prompt oversubscription suggests that a fair accumulation of money is seeking investment, in the hands of trustees and others. In view of recent events, however, those concerned are insisting that the borrower shall be well-known in the market, and shall have a long-standing record of sound finance to back him in all cases. An issue of £270,000 seven per cent. redeemable and convertible debentures was made by the *Linggi Plantations*. The company is one of the oldest of Malayan producers, its average profits for the last three years covering the debentures more than three times. The issue, with its conversion rights, would seem to take account of the present difficulties of the rubber plantation industry.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to January 11, 1930, £1,585,210.*
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to January 11, 1930, £1,585,210.*

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended January 11, 1930, £200,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to January 11, 1930, *Dr. £3,200,000.*

	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
To the Public.					
Ceylon Government	900,000	...	891,000	45,000	846,000
Linggi Plantations, 7% debs., at par	270,000	...	270,000	...	...
Total offered to Public, week ended Jan. 18, 1930	1,117,000	...	1,161,000	...	...
To Shareholders only.					
Town Investments, 50,000 Ord. £1 at 42s. 6d.	50,000	...	106,250	31,250	75,000
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Jan. 18, 1930...	50,000	...	106,250	31,250	75,000

* Adjusted figure.

Total Offered for Subscription— To date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	3,052,460	3,052,460
1929	43,296,605	30,386,605
1928	...	100,189,539
1927	...	81,308,089
1926	...	24,216,685
1925	...	12,712,665
1924	...	3,823,625
1923	...	31,770,434

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	1,000,000	...	1,075,000
Auto-Rides, 283,750 Shares, 1s. (Jan. 7)...	14,187	4/6	63,840
Total, week ended, January 18, 1930.....	14,187	...	63,840
Total to date, 1930	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total to date, 1929	423,250	...	580,687

Ceylon Government 5 per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1960-1970.—Issue of £1,250,000 5 per cent. inscribed stock at £99 per cent., of which £350,000 has already been placed on the terms of the prospectus, and £900,000 is offered for subscription. A first payment of £2 5s. per £100 stock will be made on August 1, 1930. The stock is a trustee security, and will be issued under the provisions of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance of Ceylon and inscribed in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act, 1877. The loan is raised to meet the cost of the construction or acquisition of certain public works in the colony. It is secured on the general revenue and assets of the Government of Ceylon and is repayable at par on February 1, 1970, but the Ceylon Government has the option of redemption at par on or after February 1, 1960, on six months' notice to stockholders. A sinking fund will be formed for redemption by half-yearly contributions of one per cent. per annum, commencing on or before August 1, 1933.

Linggi Plantations.—Issue at par of £270,000 7 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, convertible later into ordinary shares. The new capital is required to bring the present planted area into full bearing, both as regards rubber and oil palms. Average profits for last three years £87,949, covering interest on whole of the authorised debentures more than three times.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only" with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—**The Scottish Motor Traction Company, Ltd.:** Issued capital, 600,000 £1 6½ per cent. preference shares and 400,000 £1 ordinary shares, fully paid. Incorporated August, 1929, to acquire as a going concern the business of the Scottish Motor Traction Co., established in Edinburgh in 1905.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 145, under the heading "Company News."]

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

The audited Balance Sheet of the Midland Bank, Limited, made up on December 31, 1929, compares as follows with the position shown by the Bank on December 31, 1927 and 1928:—

LIABILITIES.	Dec. 31, 1927. £	Dec. 31, 1928. £	Dec. 31, 1929. £
Capital paid up	12,665,798	13,432,968	13,432,968
Reserve fund	12,665,798	13,432,968	13,432,968
Current, deposit and other accounts	374,375,146	394,591,227	376,703,193
Balances due to affiliated companies	...	...	2,919,564
Profit balance, &c., and dividend payable	1,747,735	1,815,737	1,826,432
Acceptances and confirmed credits on account of customers.....	20,160,494	24,942,269	19,779,218
Engagements on account of customers ...	16,837,100	49,498,865	17,695,148
Total	438,452,071	497,714,034	445,789,491
ASSETS.	£	£	£
Coin, bank notes and balances with the Bank of England	49,763,778	45,440,918	46,918,243
Balances with, and cheques in course of collection on other banks in Great Britain and Ireland	18,641,269	20,247,083	18,375,202
Money at call and short notice.....	27,509,077	27,681,297	21,670,909
Investments.....	35,435,530	36,868,698	32,928,891
Bills discounted.....	49,314,778	63,347,503	58,783,657
Advances to customers and other accounts	206,487,910	214,050,972	210,374,230
Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Co., Ltd.:—Loans on behalf of clients	...	...	164,444
Belfast Banking Co., Ltd.:—Govt. of Northern Ireland guaranteed loans account.....	...	...	1,800,000
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, confirmed credits and engagements	36,997,594	74,441,134	37,474,366
Bank premises.....	7,635,646	8,725,101	8,964,535
Other properties and work in progress for extension of the business	...	...	1,213,349
Capital, reserve and undivided profits of Belfast Banking Co., Ltd. ..... The Clydesdale Bank, Ltd. ..... North of Scotland Bank, Ltd..... Midland Bank Executor & Trustee Co., Ltd.	6,666,489	6,911,328	7,121,665
Total	438,452,071	497,714,034	445,789,491

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Current, deposit and other accounts	337,439,213	+2,357,990
Acceptances & endorsements, &c.....	21,991,928	−2,882,389
"A" shares, £4, fully-paid	3,430,356	...
"B" shares, £1, fully-paid	11,760,811	...
"C" shares, £1, fully-paid	667,050	...
Reserve fund...	10,250,000	...
Total	385,539,358	− 524,399

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash in hand & with Bank of England	51,850,334	+1,437,304
Money at call & short notice...	23,582,200	− 406,200
Balances with other British banks, &c. ...	10,818,386	+ 316,778
Bills discounted.....	36,966,668	−1,291,902
Investments ...	60,010,605	−3,895,715
Advances.....174,454,652		+5,834,177
Liability for acceptances, &c.	21,991,928	−2,882,389
Bank premises	5,864,585	+ 363,548
Total 385,539,358		− 524,399

MARTINS BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
£20 shares, £2½ paid	2,348,890	...
£1 shares, fully-paid	1,811,152	...
Reserve fund ...	3,507,872	+ 50,000
Current, deposit, and other accounts 82,620,494		− 312,387
Note circulation, Isle of Man ...	16,025	− 726
Bank's acceptances	4,077,238	+ 118,138
Endorsements ...	3,106,923	−3,883,018
Unpaid divs. ...	...	− 334,416
Balance of profits	464,935	+ 353,436
Total 97,953,529		−4,008,973

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash 10,332,182		+1,210,234
Treasury Bills ...	3,370,000	+3,370,000
Balances with, and cheques in course of collection, other British banks	3,280,850	+ 286,193
Money at call or notice	5,975,000	+ 554,255
Investments ...17,807,868		−7,296,900
Bills of exchange	3,862,087	+ 159,940
Loans and advances to customers, &c. ...42,246,172		− 354,307
Customers' liability for bank acceptances ...	4,077,238	+ 118,138
Endorsements ...	3,106,924	−3,883,017
Bank premises...	3,198,649	+ 129,932
Items in transit	1,272,754	+1,272,754
Other assets	423,805	+ 423,805
Total 97,953,529		−4,008,973

DISTRICT BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
"A" shares.....	1,896,000	...
"B" shares.....	316,000	+ 316,000
Reserve fund ...	2,000,000	...
Dividend for half-year, subject to tax	189,600	+ 15,800
Balance of profit and loss	189,225	− 136,474
Current deposit, and other accounts 52,240,452		− 14,497
Acceptances ...	1,781,735	− 25,506
Endorsements...	618,734	− 38,903
Total 59,231,746		+ 116,420

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash in hand and in Bank of England	8,063,750	+ 20,290
Money at call and notice	3,857,140	− 866,985
Bills of exchange	5,029,778	− 116,539
Investments ...14,827,230		+ 40,379
Advances in current and other accounts 24,327,283		+1,077,588
Acceptances ...	2,400,469	− 64,409
Bank property	726,096	+ 26,096
Total 59,231,746		+ 116,420

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
"A" shares, fully-paid ...	423,332	...
"B" shares, £7½ with £2½ paid	576,668	...
Reserve fund	890,000	+ 25,000
Deposits, &c.	26,570,013	+ 1,387,976
Bills re-discounted.....	23,001,203	+ 5,474,597
Rebate	443,890	− 78,076
Profit and loss	297,976	+ 812
Total ...	52,203,082	+ 6,810,309

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash	659,417	+ 57,107
Investments	2,911,915	− 293,107
Loans	1,360,007	+ 134,619
Bills discounted	47,141,632	+ 6,901,897
Interest receivable, &c.....	30,111	+ 9,793
Freehold premises	100,000	...
Total ...	52,203,082	+ 6,810,309

Grace National Bank

Hanover Square, New York, U.S.A.

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COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BURMA CORPORATION, LIMITED.

RECORD PRODUCTION AND PROFITS.
STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual general meeting of Burma Corporation, Ltd., was held at the company's office, 104, Strand Road, Rangoon, on Friday, December 20th, at 11 a.m. Mr P. E. Marmion presided, and was supported by Messrs A. T. W. Paine, C. F. Clifton and M. L. Burnet (directors), and H. Ponsford (secretary).

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Once again it falls to me to represent our Chairman (Sir Robert Horne) at the annual general meeting, and to express to you the great regret he feels that the state of his health does not permit of his attendance here to-day.

The year has been one in which great progress has been made in all departments, and that the net earnings of the company have reached a figure never previously attained.

THE MINE.

The tonnage mined was 463,057, an increase of no less than 33,212 over the preceding year, while its average grade was 19.7 ozs. Ag, 22.6 per cent. Pb, 12.9 per cent. Zn and 1.07 per cent. Cu, which is somewhat less than the grade for last year. The ore was mined systematically from all ten operating levels, about 25 per cent. below Tiger tunnel and 75 per cent. above it, and no tonnage within the limits of the stoping areas worked was left in the mine, everything being extracted and railed to the treatment plants.

Since the start of mining operations at Bawdwin no less than 3,115,518 tons of ore have been extracted, and the continuous settlement of the filling over the large areas from which this great tonnage has been removed has imposed a heavy strain on much of the timber placed in the mine from year to year.

Our policy has always been to arrange for the main travelling ways, which constitute the avenues through which the ore is withdrawn and the means by which an adequate system of ventilation is preserved, to be as far removed as possible from the actual stoping areas, so that they will not be subjected to undue stress from this settlement, rendering their cost of maintenance unnecessarily high.

Having regard to the large tonnage of ore still remaining to be extracted from some of the upper levels, it has been considered advisable to provide new travelling ways yet further away from the operating stopes, and drives are being extended in the footwall country rock for this purpose.

In all mines where the size of the deposit is such that it takes years to extract fully the ore from any one level, the maintenance of adequate and safe travelling ways to ensure the complete extraction of the whole ore body is a matter of extreme importance, and the fact that we have found it advisable only now to review the location of some of our early workings after the extraction of over three million tons of ore speaks highly for the system of stoping adopted originally by the mine officials, and for the manner in which it has been conducted over a number of years.

I have had occasion during the last fortnight to examine carefully the underground workings throughout the mine and am pleased to advise that they are in a thoroughly satisfactory condition. A great deal has been done during the year to finalise the work of ventilation in the upper levels, which was entirely disorganised by the unfortunate mine fires, and direct connection with the ventilating fans installed at the surface has now been established in all sections underground.

PRODUCTION.

The production of refined lead at 78,716 tons reached the highest figure yet recorded, and represents an increase of 6,328 tons, or 8.7 per cent., over the preceding year, while the refined silver output at 7,376,841 ounces was also a record, being an increase of no less than 422,176 ounces, of 6.1 per cent.

These record productions were obtained mainly because of the progress made in metallurgical efficiency, for, notwithstanding the larger tonnage extracted from the mine, it contained only 3.6 per cent. more lead and actually 1.3 per cent. less silver than the preceding year. I am sure you will agree that this splendid result represents a great and real advance, for which your general manager and the responsible members of his staff are deserving of the highest credit.

Later on I will explain to you that, concurrently with this great improvement in the recovery of lead and silver, there has been a decline in the cost per unit of metal recovered, which makes the progress all the more real and valuable.

It has been our pleasure to be able to advise you of an increase in the efficiency of your operating plants each year for some time past, and it will be satisfactory for you to know that extensions and improvements to these plants are now in hand, from which we confidently expect to obtain on their completion a still higher degree of efficiency and, I hope, a still lower operating cost.

The tonnage of zinc concentrates fell from 62,195 to 60,180, due mainly to the reduction in the grade of ore milled from 16.1 to 14.1 per cent. zinc, and also partly to an improvement in the grade of concentrates shipped from 49.9 to 51.6 per cent. zinc. The production of concentrates from accumulated tailings was 5,780, against 3,973 tons in the preceding year.

The percentage recovery improved from 54.79 to 56.96 per cent.

The zinc content of the ore developed below Tiger Tunnel level is subject to great variations in grade from different sections of the mine, and generally is lower than the ore reserves above that horizon. Since an increasing tonnage will be mined below Tiger Tunnel in future years the grade of zinc in the ore to be treated is likely to fluctuate rather more than it has in the past.

As forecasted last year, the production of copper matte has been reduced from 12,388 to 10,719 tons, following the reduction in the grade of the ore mined to accord more closely with the reserves available.

There are considerable tonnages of copper ore of a somewhat lower grade available in certain sections of the mine, towards the profitable treatment of which attention is now being directed.

Regular shipments of antimonial lead and copper nickel speiss were made throughout the year, in both of which an increased production was recorded.

METAL PRICES.

Of almost equal importance to the actual production of metals is the price at which they can be realised.

Fortunately, the prices of those metals which concern our revenue remained fairly stable throughout the year, with the exception of copper, which improved very considerably.

The average price of lead was £22 13s. 6d., an increase of £1 4s. over the preceding year, which, together with our increased production, improved our revenue from this metal by no less than £286,000.

Only a slight decline was recorded in the price of silver, the effect of which was more than offset by increased production.

Spelter showed a decline of 12s. 4d. per ton, which, together with our decreased production, adversely affected our revenue to the extent of £57,000.

The price of copper had the very important gain of £14 4s. 3d. per ton, so that, notwithstanding a decline in production of 1,669 tons of copper matte, our revenue from the sale of this commodity was increased by over £50,000.

REVENUE.

The gross result of the sale of the whole of our production at the prices previously mentioned has been to increase our revenue by over £297,000, or Rs. 39,57,000, when compared with the preceding year.

In order that you might have some idea of the monetary value of the improved efficiency in the treatment plants to which I have already made reference, I have calculated that over £160,000 of this increased revenue is due to this cause, which is a striking illustration of the value and proper application to operating conditions of the economic conclusions established by continuous research work.

Situated as we are, far removed from personal contact with other plants operating on similar classes of ore, it is not possible for our technical staff to keep in close touch with world progress in the mining industry without periodical visits to other large mining centres.

It has been our policy, therefore, to arrange for competent members of our staff to pay periodical visits to all the important mining centres throughout the world, and to exchange information with those in charge of similar operating plant.

The result of this policy has had an influence on some of the methods adopted and on some of the plant installed by which our efficiency has been improved, and I have sufficient confidence in the ability of the men we have selected to undertake these visits to cherish the belief that the benefits resulting from their interchange of information have not been entirely one-sided. It gives me great pleasure, in any case, to express my thanks to our Australian, Canadian, American, and Continental friends for the courtesy, kindness and consideration they have always extended on these occasions to members of our staff; exhibiting as this does the international good-fellowship that has always existed among those following the mining profession.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning now to the profit and loss account, you will find that the total operating expenditure is about £8,000 less than the preceding year, notwithstanding the mining and treatment of an additional 33,212 tons of ore. This is equivalent to a decline in the total operating expenditure of almost 8s. per ton of ore mined

and treated, which highly satisfactory result, I am sure you will agree, is further evidence of the real progress made during the year.

Examination of the individual charges shows an increase in mining somewhat in excess of the increase in the tonnage mined; treatment has actually decreased notwithstanding the large increase in tonnage handled; freight, shipping and realisation charges are down because of the lower ocean freights that prevailed; the cost of the staff provident fund has increased and general expenses have declined considerably, following reduced expenditure on ironstone exploration, reports and experimental processes. Rangoon office expenditure remains practically unchanged, while that of the London office shows an increase, mainly in connection with important litigation, to which I will refer later.

The trading account discloses a gross profit of £1,566,733, and after providing for loss on exchange, depreciation, income and super-tax, the net profit resulting from the year's operation is £1,054,842, the highest figure ever recorded by the corporation.

Out of this amount dividends Nos. 12 and 13 were paid, absorbing, with bonuses, £1,015,626, leaving a balance of £39,216 to be added to the carry-forward.

The total of these dividends and bonuses was at the rate of one rupee per share, or 10 per cent., free of both Indian and United Kingdom taxes, and I am sure you will regard it as a matter for congratulation and pleasure that for the first time in the corporation's history the dividends paid for a single year have exceeded one million pounds sterling.

DIVIDEND.

I now pass on to the interesting subject of dividend payment, and I am sure you will all have been pleased to find that we were able to declare for the current half-year a dividend at the same rate as that paid for the first half of last year, notwithstanding the heavy fall in the price of silver and spelter meanwhile.

I drew your attention last year to the great strength of our financial position, and intimated the board's intention to use certain funds conserved from earnings of the past at their discretion for the purpose of equalising dividends.

The aggregate of the reserve fund and profit and loss appropriation account now amounts to Rs. 58 lakhs, equivalent almost to 7 annas in terms of dividend.

Without the reserves, which this conservative policy of ours has created, your position to-day would not be so favourable, for no company unprovided with reserve resources could possibly hope or attempt to maintain the same substantial dividends out of earnings in face of a fall in the prices of silver and spelter, and, to a lesser extent, lead, which, in the aggregate, and in the event of continuation throughout the year, may diminish our earnings by over a quarter of a million pounds sterling.

You will note that, as an offset to the fall in the price of silver and zinc, we were able to record an advance of 250 tons of lead in our output, starting with the month of October, and, in addition, we have the benefit of a substantial decline in the requirements for depreciation, as well as a progressive decline in the unit cost of production.

I would not like you to deduce from anything I have said that, whatever the fall in metal prices, our dividends will remain unaffected at any particular level. My intention is to convey to you that our earnings available for dividends can and will be supported from these funds as occasion may arise, so long as your board is of opinion that it can be done with prudence and proper justification.

SUMMARY OF POSITION.

In endeavouring to give you a complete picture of your company's affairs, my remarks have extended to greater length than intended, but, if asked to summarise the position in a few words, I would say the condition of the mine is sound and the outlook for the maintenance of our strong ore reserve position as favourable as ever. Our treatment plants are in course of extension and, wherever advisable, the latest and most efficient machines are being installed to supplement or replace existing units, and we are confident, when the time arrives for them to go into operation, that our expectations of treating a larger tonnage more efficiently and at considerably lower cost than in the past will be fully realised. All is, therefore, sound and well at the operating centre without any apparent sign of weakness. On the other hand, we all recognise that we are passing through a period of trade depression, which has not been without influence on the demand for metals as well as their prices, a condition which naturally does not leave us free from anxiety. Apart from this unfavourable feature, the general condition of our business is entirely satisfactory, and the strength of the financial position we have built up enables us to envisage the difficult times we are now experiencing with a degree of equanimity and confidence that otherwise would not be possible.

Mr. Clifton seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ANGLO-FRENCH BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

A SATISFACTORY FIRST YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-French Banking Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr F. A. Szarvasy (the Chairman) said that the balance sheet represented the first full working year of the bank and it bore out the expectations he had entertained at the time they had met a year ago. He had foreshadowed then that their young institution would give a satisfactory account of itself, and it was pleasing that, in spite of the abnormal conditions which had prevailed in trade and finance in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe, they had earned a satisfactory net profit, and that the total bad debts incurred during the year only amounted to £720, and that there was hope that they might even recover some portion of that amount.

The net profit, after providing for all outgoings and for rebates and contingencies and directors' remuneration, amounted to over £60,000, and the board proposed to apply that in writing off preliminary expenses and stamp duty, as well as all furniture and fittings, etc., and, after providing for taxation liability, the balance of £10,000 was set aside to form the nucleus of a reserve fund.

The board felt that at that stage of their existence it was preferable to strengthen the bank's international position, rather than make any distribution by way of dividend, but, if they could maintain their steady progress, as he believed they could, they ought to be able in a year from then to propose the distribution of a maiden dividend, after doing full justice to the need for building up reserves. (Applause.)

STRONG LIQUID POSITION.

They had a total of assets of nearly £7,000,000, out of which over £2,000,000 was represented by items of a completely liquid character, partly convertible into cash at call and partly within seven days. The proportion of liquid assets to deposit liabilities figured at somewhere in the neighbourhood of 75 per cent., a very satisfactory percentage. At the date of the balance sheet they had a consignment of gold in transit to this country, which was the first transaction of that nature undertaken by their bank. That deal was now closed and had resulted in a good profit.

A very satisfactory feature of their balance sheet was the growth in deposits, which now amounted to over £2,700,000, an increase of over £1,100,000 during the year. Customers' loans were as yet relatively unimportant, as they had felt that, until their institution was established on a broader basis, they should not seek to engage themselves too actively in that direction.

He had already referred to the imports of gold, which had reached, during the year, £76,000,000, and were taken almost in equal quantities from New York and London. That movement of the precious metal had been possible almost entirely by reason of the facts given, and not, as it was popularly supposed, by the Banque de France selling part of its foreign bill holdings and converting the credits into gold. In those circumstances, and seeing that France had the capacity by reason of ordinary commercial transactions alone to attract further large quantities of gold, it was satisfactory to observe that financial authorities in France wished to open their market to foreign borrowers, and, so far from scenting a menace, both New York and London should welcome the prospect of closer partnership directed, it was hoped, to provide more effective financial leadership in the elimination of needless instability of trade and credit, and the establishment of strong and enduring foundations for a wider diffusion of wealth.

AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT.

One interesting development had taken place when, with the aid of the Banque de France, and several big banking houses in Paris, a new bank had been created with the special object of doing acceptance business, seeing that a similar institution had not hitherto existed in France, but development must go further and the establishment of acceptance houses and institutions similar to English bill brokers must follow, as an active independent and quick moving discount market was just as much an essential constituent of any great monetary centre as the presence of an ample supply of loanable capital. To them the chief interest lay in the effect of that development on their own money market and on their bank in particular.

He held the view that in London they need not look upon that development as a danger, but, on the contrary, if, side by side with New York and London, Paris would become a third monetary centre of the first order, it could only be helpful in giving wider and consequently more regular bases to the big movements of capital which were necessary to secure general economic progress.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

APEX TRINIDAD OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

LOWER PRICES OFFSET BY LARGE PRODUCTION. DIVIDEND OF 52½ PER CENT.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd., was held, on January 16, at Winchester House, London, E.C., Mr Walter Maclachlan (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said :—The oil profits earned during the year amounted to £447,650, to which falls to be added revenue from interest and transfer fees, which brings the total profit to £454,818.

This represents the profit after meeting all production and other charges excepting amortisation of the wells, in respect of which £132,349 is written off, and £9,260 of expenditure in London. The net profit for the year amounts to £313,208, an increase of £66,779 as compared with the previous year.

The directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making a total dividend of 52½ per cent. for the year. As the income tax deducted from our dividends is at the rate of about 2s. in the £, the gross return for the year represents the equivalent of approximately 59 per cent., less full tax at 4s. in the £.

During the year under review a further general fall took place in the market value of oil, with the result that the prices realised from the sale of our production were materially reduced. As compared with the previous year, however, the increase in our production by 119,553 tons served more than to meet the fall in prices, so that our oil profits were increased to the extent of £99,127. As indicating the effect that the continually increasing fall in prices has had upon our profits, I would point out that, had we been able to realise for our last year's output the prices which we obtained three years ago, our profits, instead of being £313,000, would have amounted to well over 100 per cent. on our present capital.

However, in spite of these adverse conditions in the realisation of our production, which are common to all oil-producing undertakings, I think you will agree that we have good reason for considerable satisfaction with the results which have attended our operations for the year under review.

OIL PRODUCTION AND DELIVERIES.

The production of oil for the year was 414,328 tons, as compared with 294,775 tons for the previous years. This production constitutes a further record output, and was obtained from 110 wells. The production for the first three months of the current financial year has been 103,690 tons, thus maintaining practically the average rate of production for 1928-29. The total production of our oilfield up to December 31, 1929, has been approximately 1,800,000 tons, and it is anticipated that during the current year we shall produce about 35 per cent. of the entire oil production of Trinidad.

The oil delivered to Trinidad Leaseholds and that used in our own operations during the year amounted to 414,212 tons.

During the year 36,651 feet were drilled, making a total footage of 206,433 feet. Five wells which had been started prior to October 1, 1928, were drilled to completion, fourteen new wells were commenced and completed, two wells were deepened and again brought into production, and five wells further which had been started were in progress at the end of the year. Of the twenty-one wells which were brought in during the year none were failures, and the incidence of good producers was considerably better than during the preceding year.

AMORTISATION.

In accordance with our plan of amortising the wells in three years, £132,349 has been written off in respect of last year. Up to date, 88 per cent. (representing £682,966) of the total cost of all our wells has been written off under our amortisation plan. As a result, the whole of the wells now stand in the accounts at £95,851, which amount includes £28,881 expended on new locations and unfinished wells not due for amortisation, and the wells which yielded the production for last year, therefore, stand in our balance sheet at £66,970, representing only 82 days' output from our producing wells. The conservative policy in which you have supported us since our amortisation plan was initiated has resulted in the company now holding a very strong position in respect of the extremely valuable reserve which has thereby been created.

As to the outlook for the current financial year, our output is being maintained at practically the same rate as last year, and there is every prospect that the output for this year will not be less than that for the year under review. The continued general over-production, however, makes it difficult to deal with the outlook as regards the realisation of our output, as we are quite unable to make any forecast as to the course of prices. I can only express the hope that early success will attend the efforts for the restriction of output in the United States, upon which the oil industry is dependent for any material improvement in prices.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MICHAEL NAIRN AND GREENWICH, LIMITED.

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

The eighth annual general meeting of Michael Nairn and Greenwich, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, in London, Sir Michael Nairn, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : From the industrial point of view the year 1929 has been a difficult one, but I am glad to say that in our own case the results in the aggregate have proved highly satisfactory, and the profits earned fully justify the payment of the same rate of dividend as we declared last year. The balance sheet now before you calls for no special comment. The amount of dividends paid to the holding company shows a slight increase, and after the payment of a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. less tax for the year, the amount left to be carried forward is £56,037 2s. 4d., as compared with £44,729 15s. 9d. last year. This result has been achieved in spite of the fact that during the whole of the period under review our associated companies have sold their products at a lower price than those which ruled in 1928. The linoleum industry has been very prosperous during the last few years, but I think it only right to say that we have been assisted, at least so far as our own country is concerned, to a great extent by the very large building schemes which have been in operation.

OVERSEAS INTERESTS.

Building on the same scale, however, cannot continue indefinitely, and it is therefore the constant aim of our associated companies not only to maintain their position in the home trade but to secure the largest possible share of the linoleum business in markets beyond the borders of our own country. I should like to remind the shareholders that in addition to our large works at Kirkcaldy and Greenwich we have considerable interests in the manufacture of linoleum in our Dominions and in other countries of the world. These interests have been acquired without asking our shareholders to subscribe one penny in the way of fresh capital, and we value them very highly, both for their present and potential profit-earning capacity.

With regard to the future, while I do not wish to strike a pessimistic note, I am bound to say that I view with real concern the rate at which public expenditure is increasing in this country. It seems to me that, in view of our heavy financial responsibilities as a nation, we should conserve our resources in every possible direction and exercise the strictest supervision over disbursements from the public purse. I have never considered it within my province to make political references at our annual meetings, but I feel bound to emphasise the fact that the industrial prosperity of the country is intimately concerned with the economic policy of the Government. I propose to give you an illustration of what I mean to convey. In my speech last year I referred to the erection at the Nairn works at Kirkcaldy of a new central power plant, which involved a heavy expenditure. It is one of the finest plants in the country, and its installation has been fully justified by the very considerable economies effected in coal consumption. I am afraid, however, that, should the Coal Bill now before Parliament pass in its present form, a proportion of the reduction in costs will be lost by the increase in the price of coal. I respectfully suggest that the Government, in introducing legislation one of the effects of which will be to force the coal industry to increase prices to the consumer in order that that industry may improve its financial position, is turning backwards the hands of the industrial clock and undermining the prosperity of other industries who depend so much upon buying their coal supplies at the lowest possible competitive prices.

"HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF QUALITY."

I might remind the shareholders here that our associated companies really comprise one self-contained unit, which can supply every grade of what our American friends call hard-surfaced floor coverings, from low-price floorcloths to the most expensive inlaid, parquet and marble productions in linoleum, and they are, therefore, admirably equipped from the competitive point of view. Through having interests in common these companies are able to economise in the purchase of raw materials, to share in the results of the work of research, and to take the fullest advantage of the markets of the world. As years go on, competition in the linoleum industry grows no less, but your directors are fully alive to the situation. Everything is being done to maintain and strengthen the position we hold in the trade, not only by the maintenance of the highest possible standard of quality for our goods, but by developing to their fullest extent the productive capacities of all the associated companies both at home and abroad, and at the same time conserving our strongly entrenched financial position, so that I can assure the shareholders that they can look forward to the future with absolute confidence.

Major Sir Robert Spencer-Nairn seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

A RECORD PROFIT.

The sixty-fifth annual general meeting of Liebig's Extract of Meat Company, Ltd., was held on the 16th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr C. E. Gunther (chairman and managing director) said that the profit of £371,000 was the highest in the company's history, and its attainment had been aided by the fresh capital issued during the past year. The full amount of new capital, however, was not available for remunerative employment throughout the period, and, in view of the strong position of the company's reserves and carry-forward, which stood at a total not far short of the ordinary capital, the directors had considered that they would be best interpreting the wishes of the shareholders if they were to forego on the present occasion any allocation from profit to the reserve fund. The directors recommended the maintenance of the dividend at the same total rate of 16s. per share, free of tax, on the increased capital.

EXPANSION OF TURNOVER.

Trade in their principal products had shown a healthy resilience, and a gratifying expansion of turnover had enabled them to counteract to a certain extent the advancing cost of raw materials. The company's business in general had continued to be satisfactory, although results had been affected by abnormally dry conditions on certain of the ranches and estancias, by low market values of produce, notably hides, and by a strike which had impeded the operation of one of their South American factories and the movement of produce therefrom. While hides had declined to the region of pre-war values, the cost of cattle had ruled at a figure considerably in excess of the pre-war range, and in the face of this, and the greatly increased charges in respect of labour, fuel, packing material, transport, taxation, &c., it was a remarkable fact and testimony to what could be achieved by efficiency, combined with a greatly increased turnover and output, that the company's canned meats should be available to purchasers at prices no higher than those of pre-war times. A farming, manufacturing and trading business such as theirs was liable to the ups and downs and the fluctuations inherent to all businesses of a similar nature, and perhaps the company's greatest security rested in the wide ramifications of their business and the fact that, if one branch failed to pull its full weight in any one year, another might be in a position to make good the deficiency.

During the year under review he had paid a visit to their River Plate factories and to some of the estancias, and he found everything going on smoothly and satisfactorily with the exception of conditions ruling at that time in Paraguay. The factories were fully maintained up to the high standard of efficiency required in their business, and this statement would, he was sure, be confirmed by his colleagues, Mr Follett Holt and Mr Alfred Grisar, who had also visited the River Plate factories and estancias since the last meeting. These visits afforded the opportunity of discussing with their colleague, Sir Herbert Gibson, who resided in the River Plate, and with the company's general administration, the many matters affecting their widespread interests in South America.

The climatic conditions during the past year were good on their Rhodesian property, and the cattle were making up the effects of the drought which had prevailed in the previous two years, while prices for all classes of slaughter stock had shown some improvement. Since the close of the financial year they had formed in this country a subsidiary company to take over their factory and business in South-West Africa as from September 1st last. The factory there had been enlarged and improved, and afforded a valuable outlet to the local breeders for the realisation of their surplus cattle, while making useful contributions to the company's supplies.

The first full year's operations of their Uruguayan subsidiary, whose main objective was cattle and sheep farming, had been successful, and it had contributed a satisfactory return on its capital.

PARTICIPATION IN ANTWERP EXHIBITION.

Referring to the fact that Belgium would commemorate in the present year the centenary of its independence by organising twin international exhibitions at Antwerp and Liege, the chairman said that the company owed it to their lifelong connection with the former City to participate therein in a prominent manner. They would have a handsome pavilion in the centre of the Antwerp Exhibition, and their trade activities in the numerous European countries would be suitably dealt with.

Trade in the company's chief products continued to show the most gratifying and encouraging expansion, and the high reputation and goodwill attached to their trade marks—Oxo, Fray Bentos, Liebig, Viandox, and others—had never stood better than they did to-day. Their products were enjoying to a fuller extent than ever the appreciation of their world-wide clientele.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

RIO DE JANEIRO FLOUR MILLS AND GRANARIES, LIMITED.

CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL.

The forty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at River Plate House, London, Mr Richard Foster (the chairman) presiding.

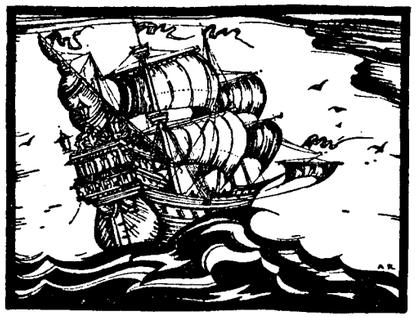
The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that at the termination of his contract as managing director Mr S. C. Sheppard was not prepared, after long years of arduous work in the company's service, to renew it, but had agreed to continue as a director of the company. After dealing at length with the items of the profit and loss account and the balance sheet, the Chairman said that if the shareholders were in agreement with these accounts the board would be able to pay their usual dividend of 1s. 9d. per share, free of income tax (making 3s. for the year), and carry forward £88,380, as against £88,557 last year. No doubt the company could have paid a bonus this year, but no shareholder who knew what the state of trade in Brazil was at the moment, or even any shareholder who had noted Mr Sheppard's and his own remarks during the last few years, would, after hearing what they had to say that day, expect a conservative board to do more than maintain the dividend until such time as the commercial troubles in Brazil showed signs of improvement.

Mr S. C. Sheppard seconded the resolution, and said that there was unfortunately no doubt that Brazil was still passing through a very trying period, at any rate, so far as commercial affairs were concerned. Naturally, the company's trade had suffered. The amount of wheat ground was down by approximately 6.6 per cent., as compared with the preceding year, while the output of the cotton mill fell off slightly under 9 per cent. As a country Brazil was certainly making substantial progress; although the conditions now were difficult, he looked for an improvement in the future.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and the dividend recommended was approved.

The Chairman announced that, after thirty years' service with the company as a director and seventeen years' as their chairman, he had decided to retire from the board, and several shareholders expressed their great regret at his decision.

A resolution was passed to increase the borrowing powers of the company by £250,000, and the proceedings terminated.



ENTERPRISE!

¶ The intrepid enterprise of Columbus over four centuries ago opened up all the possibilities of an undeveloped Continent.

¶ Since then, the enterprise of succeeding generations has resulted in phenomenal development of the vast resources of the New World.

¶ To-day a great and growing volume of overseas trade is transacted annually by the Latin American Republics, and complete facilities for every description of modern banking business are afforded by

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK LTD
117 OLD BROAD ST., LONDON, E.C.2

FANTI CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS.

The annual general meeting of the Fanti Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir Edmund Davis (chairman and joint managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—On July 27, 1929, we carried out our promise to pay an interim dividend; this amounted to 4½d. per share and a bonus of 1½d. per share, namely, £33,750. After deducting this amount and the relative proportion of the directors' and managing directors' percentage of profit, £3,037, and the £30,000 transferred to reserve account, making together £66,787, there is a balance of £78,896 available for allocation. Out of this sum the directors recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 4½d. per share and a bonus of 7½d. per share, equivalent to 1s. per share, less income tax, which will make a total distribution for the year ended December 31, 1929, of 1s. 6d. per share, or 18¾ per cent. (Applause.)

To summarise the position, at December 31, 1929, we will take the investments at the value at which they stand in the books, and the cash and debtors, less creditors, which together amount to £678,896, as compared with £654,022 at December 31, 1928, an increase of £34,874. Taking the investments held on Monday last, the 13th instant, at the market prices on that day where there was a quotation, and the unquoted securities at cost or the written-down value, and our holding of African Manganese debentures at par, the value works out at £984,991. Adding to this the cash and debtors, less creditors, at the same date, the total amounts to £1,014,906, which is equivalent to 15s. 0.4d. per share on our issued capital of £540,000. (Applause.)

Replying to a shareholder, the chairman said that he thought the directors had, on the whole, done very well indeed for the company. (Hear, hear.) Since December 31, 1918, they had paid to the shareholders a total of £710,166 in dividends on a capital of £540,000. He thought that they could claim to have served the company during very difficult times in a very satisfactory manner, and he would like to add that the company had not been hit in any way by groups which had been in trouble during the past year. As far as the future of the company was concerned, he hoped that as a result of the very careful handling of its affairs by the board of directors as at present constituted, they would have a satisfactory balance sheet to present to the shareholders again next year, and he saw no reason to doubt why they should not be able to submit their accounts as promptly as they had done on the present occasion. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

CARDINAL INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of this Trust was held, on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr Gerald T. Moody (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said:—The gross receipts amount to £45,846, comparing with £39,597 for the previous year. The convertible debenture stock ranks for twelve months' interest, whilst we have not had the full advantage arising from the permanent investment of the money it represents; we have preferred to leave money with our bankers or invested in three months' Treasuries rather than buy at inflated prices. Notwithstanding all the adverse features of the year, our net revenue amounts to £30,005, and allows us to recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the deferred stock, making 16 per cent., less income tax, for the year, that £5,000 be appropriated to reserve account, increasing this to £45,000, and that £8,168 be carried forward, as compared with £7,657 brought in. In my observations made at our annual meeting in January, 1929, I predicted that the then current industrial boom would be followed by a period of depression. A few weeks later the beginning of the collapse was heralded by a rise in the Bank rate and the prices of the shares of many mushroom companies crumbled, with the usual aftermath of revealed heavy losses and several grave scandals. To these I would not refer except to say we are quite free from entanglement with any of the notorious parties. The fundamental policy of our company is, and always has been, the wide spreading of risks and this has proved so successful in practice that I have reached the conclusion that Investment Trusts should be so constituted that the articles of association, or better still, the memorandum of association should prohibit the investment of more than 5 per cent.—or even a smaller percentage—of the funds of the company in any one undertaking. We are considering whether we should not make this policy compulsory by asking you to sanction the necessary changes in our articles.

Notwithstanding the persistent fall in price of investment securities throughout 1929 we are in the happy position of being able to assure our stockholders that valuation of our investments as at December 31, 1929, after allowing for the proposed dividend and other allocations, shows a substantial surplus over the issued capital and reserve account. As a supplement to our report we have this year given a complete analysis of the company's investments, 418 in number, which analysis fully bears out the statement already made regarding the spreading of our risks, and relying on this you will be justified if you conclude that at the close of the year into which we have now entered you may expect to receive a statement not less favourable than that we have the pleasure of placing before you to-day. (Hear, hear.)

The report was unanimously adopted.

162 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.417,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/28): Fmk.2,934,742,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended January 11, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	5,600	From Revenue	24,382
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,204		
Sinking Fund	734		
Sundries	383		
Increase in Balances	341		
Decrease in Debt	14,120		
	24,382		24,382

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £24,381,600, as compared with £23,399,400 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was higher at £11,788,000, against £11,306,000, and super-tax at £3,180,000, against £2,930,000. Customs and Excise brought in £1,839,000 and £1,012,000, against £1,828,000 and £1,172,000 respectively. Ordinary receipts were lower at £170,600, against £209,900, but special receipts were higher at £400,000, against £800. The National Debt was reduced by £14,120,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 16,600	Treasury Bills	− 15,207
National Savings Certificates	+ 200	Public Dept. Advances	− 16,050
Sundries	+ 337		
	+ 17,137		− 31,257

The Floating Debt was reduced by £31,255,000 to £818,435,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO JANUARY 11.

	£		£
Expenditure	611,029,800	Revenue	453,407,682
		Decreases in balance	3,304,685
		Amount borrowed	154,317,433
	611,029,800		611,029,800

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929 ...	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture.....	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 11, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt....	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities.....	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	171
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds...	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% *Funding Loan*.....	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds ...	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	600
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	784
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	34
Other Capital Liabilities	654 / 57	8,033 / 46	7,598 / 68	7,558 / 75	7,555 / 98	7,528 / 103	7,500 / 120	7,681 / 108	7,669 / 108
Total Liabilities ...	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,777

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	Jan. 12, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Jan. 11, '30.	Movement Week ended Jan. 11, '30.
	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	19,940,000	37,050,000	33,980,000	— 16,050,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	*780,120,000*	*700,295,000*	784,455,000*	— 15,205,000
Total Floating Debt	800,060,000	737,345,000	818,435,000	— 31,255,000

* Includes £25,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on January 10, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £48,705,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 0s. 1d., and above in full; Tuesday to Friday, at £98 19s. 10d., about 54 per cent., and above in full; Saturday, at £99 0s. 1d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £36,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Nov. 8	45,000,000	69,150,000	5 13 9·82
Nov. 15	45,000,000	71,555,000	5 9 2·92
Nov. 22	45,000,000	65,485,000	4 16 8·14
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	*40,000,000*	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Jan. 11, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Jan. 12, 1929.	Week Ended Jan. 11, 1930.	Week Ended Jan. 12, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—					
Income Tax	239,500,000	89,675,000	90,384,000	11,788,000	11,306,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	20,180,000	20,680,000	3,180,000	2,930,000
Estate, &c., Duties	*81,000,000*	60,260,000	61,890,000	730,000	790,000
Stamps.....	31,000,000	17,980,000	21,530,000	500,000	650,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax.....	1,700,000	10,000	580,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	190,000	190,000	...	20,000
Total Inland Revenue...	412,000,000	188,295,000	195,254,000	16,198,000	15,696,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	94,846,000	94,474,000	1,839,000	1,828,000
Excise	130,550,000	99,870,000	105,730,000	1,012,000	1,172,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	194,716,000	200,204,000	2,851,000	3,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	7,585,468	6,658,067	4,587,644	3,829,000
Post Office (*Net Receipt*)	8,900,000	8,350,000	7,800,000	*Dr.350000*	300,000
Crown Lands.....	1,250,000	1,010,000	920,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,008,387	21,721,269	524,422	363,712
Miscellaneous :					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,519,314	11,992,514	170,569	209,883
Special Receipts	26,000,000	19,923,513	30,301,746	400,000	800
Total Ordinary Revenue.	746,300,000	453,407,682	474,851,596	24,381,635	23,399,395
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office.....	58,110,000	44,550,000	43,100,000	1,350,000	800,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	9,270,532	9,619,933	1,023,356	1,453,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue ...£	80,710,000	53,820,532	52,719,933	2,373,356	2,253,000
Total		507,228,214	527,571,529	26,754,991	25,652,395

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Jan. 11, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Jan. 12, 1929.	Week Ended Jan. 11, 1930.	Week Ended Jan. 12, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund	741,000	1,000,000	741,000	1,000,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928.....	7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,380,000	8,510,000	260,000	380,000
(*c*) For other Issues : By Treasury Bills	2,485,202,000	2,133,335,000	51,693,000	57,554,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64.....	92,400,280	...	16,600,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	30,600,000	30,650,000	800,000	800,000
By *National War Bonds*.....	...	*10*	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	4,610,000	...	...
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances	543,640,000	463,690,000	8,265,000	5,085,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	120,054	122,717	...	...
	3,700,439,437	3,271,553,953	105113991	90,471,395
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1929. £	1928. £		
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513		
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112		
	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total .....£	3,706,691,961	3,277,876,578	105113991	90,471,395

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 11, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 12, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Jan. 11, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Jan. 12, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt.....	304,600,000	281,204,103	279,010,770	3,203,847	1,476,121
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	7,686,185	8,513,890	...	80,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	3,595,998	3,197,396	178,572	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,581,108	1,874,250	204,216	201,350
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	367,534,000	278,674,628	263,001,502	5,600,000	5,170,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	696,034,000	573,742,022	555,597,808	9,186,635	6,927,473
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	37,287,778	41,521,992	734,486	620,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	44,550,000	43,100,000	1,350,000	800,000
Road Fund.....	22,600,000	9,270,532	9,619,933	1,023,356	1,453,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	53,820,532	52,719,933	2,373,356	2,253,000
TOTAL		664,850,332	649,839,733	12,294,477	9,800,473
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,380,000	8,510,000	260,000	380,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928.....		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		8,150,000	8,050,000	400,000	400,000
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed					
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills		2,401,005,000	1,880,175,000	66,900,000	61,640,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates		35,000,000	32,150,000	600,000	700,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	82,762,476	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		29,409,505	...	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917.....		49,506	...	4,000	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid...		546,710,000	605,600,000	24,315,000	17,135,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the *Finance Act, 1908*		...	1,000	...	...
		3,703,744,122	3,275,068,619	104773477	90,055,473
Balances in Exchequer—	Jan. 11, 1930. £	Jan. 12, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,205,668	2,190,031	...	...	+ 188,676	+ 238,921
Bank of Ireland	741,171	617,928	2,947,839	2,807,959	+ 151,838	+ 177,001
Total.....£		3,706,691,961	3,277,876,578	+ 340,514	+ 415,922

Treasury, January 13, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, January 15, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	351,942,915	Other Government Securities ..	234,087,858
In Banking Department ...	58,523,463	Other Securities	10,429,647
		Silver Coin	4,467,395
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue ...	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	150,466,378
	£410,466,378		£410,466,378

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	61,250,615
Rest	3,524,347	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	24,810,835	Discounts and Advances ... £9,671,904	
Other Deposits—		Securities 14,033,836	
Bankers £64,358,135			23,705,740
Other Accounts 36,419,015		Notes	58,523,463
	100,777,150	Gold and Silver Coin	187,963
7-Day and other Bills	2,449		
	£143,667,781		£143,667,781

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Jan. 15, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
Note circulation.....	351,942,915	−10,978,857	−8,739,621
Public deposits	24,810,835	+ 7,600,178	+9,662,476
Bankers' deposits	64,358,135	−11,343,163	−3,191,837
Other deposits	36,419,015	+ 844,946	− 246,744
Seven-day bills	2,449	− 283	− 1,076
Total, outside liabilities	477,533,349	−13,877,179	−2,516,802
Capital and rest	18,077,347	+ 20,687	+ 1,133
Government debt and securities ...	306,353,573	− 8,630,505	+6,541,912
Discounts and advances	9,671,904	− 5,410,067	−3,386,425
Other securities	4,463,483	− 1,252,734	−1,247,983
Silver coin in issue department ...	4,467,395	− 2,658	− 671,429
Coin and *bullion* (*bank's* reserve)...	150,654,341	+ 1,439,472	−3,751,744
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department.....	58,711,426	+12,418,329	+ 4,987,877
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(*a*) Banking department only (" proportion ")	46⅝%	+ 10⅝%	+ 1⅝%
(*b*) Gold stocks to deposits and notes (" reserve ratio ") ...	31⅛%	+ 1⅛%	− ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Nov.27	394,712,194	354,556,744	17,432,949	58,219,448	38,200,325	2,568,435 in	5½
Dec. 4	393,725,605	361,085,989	8,002,907	58,620,463	37,497,753	995,323 out	5½
11	397,006,947	365,158,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,277,426 in	5½
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Nov.27	244743704	10432762	135381905 28⅛	57703618	15263821	17880406	40825161 35⅛
Dec. 4	244744435	10431977	134269209 28⅛	60428618	9622606	18730735	33183220 31⅛
11	244234017	10942367	137434418 29⅛	60663618	8827605	19470351	32276330 31⅛
18	244248529	10929370	140734339 29⅛	65143618	10629732	20565519	29036211 27
26	244637515	10841360	146027587 29⅛	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746 22⅞
1930.							
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746 25⅛	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165 22⅛
8	245098463	10431484	149214869 30⅛	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097 36
15	245102958	10429647	150654341 31⅛	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426 46⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1.....	144,957	5,769	8,781	159,507
Week ended January 8	790,897	47,632	76,910	915,439
Week ended January 15.....	828,940	39,224	62,927	931,091
Total to date, 1930	1,764,794	92,625	148,618	2,006,037
Total, 1929	2,007,574	98,187	157,745	2,263,506
Increase or decrease in 1930.....	− 242,780	− 5,562	− 9,127	− 257,469
	= 12.1%	= 5·7%	= 5·8%	= 11·4%
Total for year, 1929.....	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928.....	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929.....	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1.6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of December. 1928.	1929.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM.....	11,892,000	10,651,000	−10·4	5,066,100	5,349,900
BRADFORD	5,547,000	4,456,000	−19·6	...	...
BRISTOL	4,642,000	4,798,000	+ 3·3	2,279,000	1,948,000
DUBLIN.....	...	...	...	12,080,700	12,023,000
HULL.....	3,571,000	3,437,000	− 3·7	1,703,500	1,594,500
LEEDS.....	3,903,000	3,908,000	+ 0·1	2,092,500	2,017,700
LEICESTER	3,772,000	3,159,000	−16·2	1,868,700	1,590,600
LIVERPOOL	32,836,000	30,798,000	− 6·2	16,500,000	13,388,300
MANCHESTER.....	58,622,000	52,931,000	− 9·7	23,467,900	20,073,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,643,000	6,199,000	−28·2	2,602,400	2,264,100
NOTTINGHAM	2,491,000	2,566,000	+ 3·0	1,423,800	1,458,100
SHEFFIELD	3,612,000	4,043,000	+11·9	2,147,100	2,053,600
Total	139,531,000	126,946,000	− 9·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Canada and Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of December 28 ; Italy, Denmark, Portugal, Danzig, Bulgaria, Greece, Finland, and Lithuania January 11.

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

Resources.	Jan. 17, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,630,570	2,821,640	2,857,050	2,929,350	2,961,050
Total bills discounted	821,820	762,780	632,420	567,620	442,340
Bills bought in open market	481,240	354,940	392,210	319,170	323,350
Total U.S. Govt. securities	238,350	485,040	510,590	484,840	479,060
Total bills and securities ...	1,551,230	1,612,540	1,547,520	1,384,320	1,259,620
Total resources	5,300,970	5,472,280	5,458,450	5,320,280	5,314,670
Liabilities.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,697,300	1,989,160	1,909,720	1,836,850	1,782,370
Deposits—Memberbank reserve account	2,414,550	2,320,120	2,355,260	2,367,250	2,357,650
Total deposits.....	2,472,580	2,375,210	2,413,680	2,422,300	2,403,880
Capital paid in and surplus	402,250	425,160	447,910	447,300	448,040
Total liabilities	5,300,970	5,472,280	5,458,450	5,320,280	5,314,670
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....	67·0%	67·6%	69·6%	72·9%	75·4%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Jan. 17, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
Total bills discounted.....	217,670	197,720	171,760	131,180	70,630
Bills bought in open market	137,810	173,830	191,750	152 340	150,700
Total U.S. Govt. securities	63,690	225,040	239,210	215,260	213,180
Total bills and securities ...	419,170	601,080	609,860	506,320	444,360
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	955,610	945,780	985,790	956,070	969,550
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	70·8%	58·9%	60·5%	67·4%	71·6%

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

Assets.	Dec 21, 1928	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.
Gold coin and bullion.....	7,957	7,878	7,879	7,679	7,715	7,368
Subsidiary coin	83	96	85	78	80	88
Bills discounted	9,669	7,548	8,386	7,963	7,863	8,980
Investments.....	802	850	851	596	612	612
Liabilities.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,965	7,848	9,270	8,909	8,433	8,496
Government deposits	2,445	2,163	1,714	1,031	1,522	1,949
Bankers' deposits	5,143	4,776	4,695	4,759	4,691	4,883
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	47·5%	52·4%	48·9%	50·5%	50·8%	47·4%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 21, 1928.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.
Total securities	21,75,84	33.00.01	32,87,38	33,01,51	33,28,31	33,26,69
Loans	20,12,21	7,50,19	7,43,23	7,46,99	7,49,67	6,86,45
Cash credits.....	24,63,42	21,59,59	22,32,89	22,36,79	23,38,47	23,58,97
Inland bills	11,12.09	4,60.32	5,10.34	5,25.25	5,71.94	6,24,43
Foreign bills.....	37.05	26.48	34.55	38.43	33.07	34.79
Dead stock	2,84,98	2,84,45	2,84,35	2,83,96	2,84,09	2,83,69
Bal. with other banks	20,38	13,75	4,08	24,56	2,56	18,46
Cash	11,03,79	26,31,98	24,18,88	18,93,55	16,38,71	15,77,11
Liabilities.						
Capital paid up.....	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve.....	5,17,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits.....	74,47,75	84,75,23	83,85,00	78,79,25	77,73 21	77,00,33
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	974	977	908	1,050	913	979
Advances in London	902	966	946	898	952	891
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	144	99	27	179	20	138

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 11, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Gold	33,709,295	41,387,667	41,668,420	42,433,625	42,458,382
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	12,543,191	7,291,164	7,249,143	7,098,821	7,201,903
Bills discounted ...	18,430,676	18,789,542	18,705,387	18,738,391	18,729,297
Commercial bills discounted at home...	4,003,679	7,218,579	8,611,951	7,849,651	6,675,522
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552
Other advances ...	2,294,766	2,543,144	2,521,380	2,688,760	2,586,240
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,381,353	2,945,503	2,429,983	3,093,863	3,268,114
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation...	63,153,516	67,149,395	68,570,806	70,288,004	69,346,770
Public deposits	12,107,887	11,977,384	11,737,412	11,076,291	11,304,195
Private deposits	6,088,567	6,997,305	7,295,726	6,675,164	6,369,139
Other liabilities	2,142,992	2,863,067	2,366,395	2,675,204	2,710,907

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,345	2,264,664	2,283,116	2,283,832
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	157,377	405,737	403,587	403,824
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,101,183	2,190,460	2,848,393	2,393,731
Silver and other coin	93,618	96,858	89,111	107,016
Notes of other German banks	19,604	14,740	3,979	13,063
Advances	54,211	97,981	250,630	51,224
Investments	92,278	92,558	92,469	92,608
Other assets	562,480	603,323	563,167	581,883
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,484,184	4,579,047	5,043,677	4,604,679
Other daily maturing obligations	619,300	448,354	755,170	584,513
Other liabilities	299,619	296,524	293,209	295,593

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Jan. 10, 1929.	Dec. 19, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.
Gold	(b) } 232,650	903,899	1,146,255	1,175,184	1,175,149	1,175,182
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad } Silver and other coin		569,396	561,818	577,709	613,104	591,147
		*	2,203	*	*	*
Securities	697,600	656,174	784,270	816,110	869,497	826,389
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,395,427	2,656,538	2,684,922	2,786,611	2,777,744
Current accounts	112,125	104,461	167,428	190,491	196,896	157,296

(b) In thousand francs.
* The Bank, having drawn up its half-yearly balance sheet on Dec. 26, has not published all the figures usually shown in the weekly return.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Jan. 6, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,547	447,483	447,472	447,465	447,455
Silver	8,436	21,763	24,534	25,451	24,374	24,129
Home Bills dscnted.	} 153,504	95,676	60,194	59,310	70,683	72,648
Foreign Bills		219,828	219,574	218,703	219,861	219,271
Loans and advances in current acct.		98,162	85,619	94,072	110,999	94,175
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	834,343	818,489	823,353	852,023	845,978
Deposits	5,016	50,894	29,236	29,292	33,328	23,509

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Jan. 12, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.
Gold	22,971	169,559 }	166,800	168,800	168,700	168,100
Silver	29,785	22,415 }				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	159,626	156,000	152,500	156,800	157,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	311,319	291,600	288,800	291,000	292,100
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	65,803	42,800	39,500	38,600	37,700

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Gold	171,175	517,452	561,246	581,832	594,987	595,005
Silver	18,350	45,089	27,698	26,060	23,551	23,189
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	271,385	296,381	307,468	352,989	355,765
Discounts	...	181,580	106,884	120,078	149,367	129,656
Advances	103,000	78,540	54,265	61,639	75,091	69,760
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	871,696	886,991	945,908	999,185	912,310
Deposits	33,750	215,027	149,026	124,575	200,381	245,549

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 12, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.
Gold	235,796	244,742	244,659	244,629	244,480
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,740	22,740	22,740	22,140
" " Foreign	73,774	51,896	51,896	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	162	162
Bills payable in Sweden†	273,012	283,026	262,890	259,981	229,101
" " abroad	62,449	100,137	110,172	113,821	128,330
Balance abroad	61,717	113,867	104,181	96,005	58,411
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	51,952	65,117	53,524	61,962	48,408
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	463,402	558,092	539,393	542,586	495,772
Government deposits	239,911	263,513	259,319	245,666	226,715
Private deposits	18,218	5,508	8,042	20,481	12,402

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,870	146,653	146,651	146,639
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	35,641	58,778	58,472	48,790
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,233	25,404	26,956	26,934
Discounts and loans	76,911	260,034	236,255	239,660	230,004
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	305,534	326,546	317,722	306,385
Deposits at sight	7,188	81,335	70,900	87,944	78,163

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Jan. 12, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,143	2,565,393	2,565,942	2,565,876	2,566,013
Silver	728,600	698,545	709,737	705,053	702,531	703,698
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,069,767	2,217,000	2,313,805	2,370,114	2,288,627
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,405,500	4,366,703	4,432,554	4,490,360	4,484,145
Deposits	477,500	963,502	951,605	929,536	1,014,077	1,004,355

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	216,938	222,919	233,859	237,714	221,690
Other foreign exchange†	375,306	324,995	331,925	334,169	323,712
Bills discounted	176,070	297,833	288,198	305,634	280,976
Gov. Debt	116,122	109,439	109,438	108,649	108,604
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	967,454	1,029,969	1,013,224	1,094,362	991,545
Deposits	88,158	96,402	121,127	63,927	115,677

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	201,083	162,747	162,749	162,749	162,750
Drafts and notes	48,735	38,636	38,729	39,092	25,421
Silver coin and bullion	794	8,516	8,382	7,911	8,013
Inland bills, warrants and securities	361,579	289,633	292,334	329,494	295,229
Advances to the Treasury	97,201	88,551	88,551	87,543	87,506
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	440,874	427,652	427,056	500,599	440,505
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	251,946	133,026	135,928	98,263	111,940

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,205,304	1,258,395	1,258,373	1,258,398	1,261,441
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,493,926	2,040,142	2,174,873	2,269,505	2,242,367
Discounts and advances	414,466	889,826	903,593	1,010,915	685,392
State notes debt balance	4,094,506	3,778,789	3,774,466	3,761,082	3,754,137
Other assets	1,535,265	885,497	1,085,232	1,390,628	1,242,116
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,453,182	7,263,780	7,362,350	8,229,512	7,264,748
Check account balances	1,531,811	803,018	1,024,403	674,845	1,163,803
Other liabilities	319,977	313,257	337,190	313,577	276,480

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 8, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 22, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.
Gold	91,090	95,222	95,315	95,470	95,541
Other coin and notes	17,812	18,481	18,982	18,890	18,976
Foreign credits	227,011	291,897	289,422	266,620	286,154
Bills	1,446,217	1,254,312	1,231,828	1,287,529	1,287,256
Government advances	4,201,109	4,191,377	4,191,377	4,153,085	4,153,088
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,496,551	5,554,824	5,551,415	5,817,966	5,784,364
State credits	227,825	205,900	205,900	205,900	205,903
Deposits	1,152,620	1,609,472	1,645,671	1,510,532	1,467,140

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.
Gold & gold exchange	15,910,840	15,907,528	15,899,673	15,929,380	15,930,774
Commercial bills	8,918,941	8,809,461	8,854,176	8,974,874	8,850,413
State debt, advances to State, &c.	6,062,510	6,062,510	6,062,510	5,879,691	5,630,510
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	21,387,197	21,434,058	21,175,140	21,331,488	21,150,352
Other sight liabilities	10,124,815	10,131,801	10,072,540	9,882,920	9,389,321

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold	621,079	682,519	682,584	682,637	700,517
Of which held abroad	195,402	161,726	161,726	161,726	179,553
Foreign currencies	713,958	516,983	521,161	520,570	526,148
Bills discounted	640,700	721,017	699,682	689,466	704,220
Loans against securities	95,191	79,262	79,898	79,874	82,909
Reserve fund securities	65,534	74,721	74,693	74,583	74,551
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	94,435	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Notes in circulation	1,295,349	1,366,123	1,285,837	1,261,424	1,340,263
Current accounts	524,142	414,247	479,250	495,084	467,855
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Jan. 16, 1929.	Dec. 1, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,848	27,643	28,089	28,570	28,567
Other precious metals	4,336	3,690	3,556	3,461	3,348
Foreign bank notes	7,803	8,405	8,168	6,785	6,758
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	276	287	288	292	292
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	79,737	117,974	117,899	114,893	114,035
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	109,097	157,540	157,603	153,697	152,574
Balance to which notes may still be issued	903	460	397	303	426

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold coin and bullion	6,380	6,378	6,379	6,385	6,408
Net foreign exchange	25,067	18,952	20,001	20,537	20,782
Subsidiary Estonian coin	515	491	503	325	462
Home bills discounted	14,508	14,980	15,111	15,341	14,484
Loans and advances	17,345	12,362	12,757	12,657	13,088*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	36,433	33,406	33,684	36,241	34,042
Sight deposits and current accounts	23,405	15,853	15,900	14,059	16,187
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·55%	51·42%	53·20%	53·52%	54·13%

* Includes Ekr. 8,732,030·58, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 9, 1929.	Dec. 11, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 25, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,757	23,917	23,925	23,927	23,933	23,934
Silver coin	5,013	4,061	4,076	3,980	6,699	6,725
Balance abroad	68,796	45,304	45,377	46,316	45,108	45,290
Treas. notes and sm. change	9,978	11,519	12,389	10,519	10,319	11,287
Short term bills	86,943	93,220	93,896	94,553	95,478	94,223
Loans against securities	47,734	56,606	56,545	56,428	56,368	52,749
Other assets	12,050	21,121	21,247	21,331	21,489	21,608
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	42,500	47,188	47,408	49,367	49,648	48,791
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Deposits	12,021	14,599	14,745	14,863	14,924	14,995
Current accounts	58,994	58,601	59,641	59,536	59,641	58,806
Government accounts	105,902	95,231	93,322	91,659	93,720	92,664
Other liabilities	13,502	16,957	19,166	18,456	18,289	17,389

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Dec. 22, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,116,609	1,125,893	1,124,540	1,121,988	1,118,709
Discounts	41,740	742,293	684,874	675,296	670,725	675,238
Advances	70,540	90,948	83,977	75,031	75,237	75,057
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,465,903	1,346,290	1,239,769	1,252,664	1,370,338
Govt. deposits	87,340	470,473	582,080	541,450	527,149	499,555
Other deposits	11,440	234,975	289,534	405,470	432,773	393,549

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 14, 1928.	Nov. 22, 1929.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.
Gold at home	60,510	63,297	63,281	63,289	63,281
Gold abroad	480,786	439,678	410,011	408,908	395,949
Discounts and advances	11,318	54,445	72,144	74,208	70,423
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	324,844	321,948	330,069	334,707	334,949
Deposits	107,295	172,755	144,072	147,495	121,388
Drafts	22,256	2,969	2,969	2,969	13,144
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 13, 1930.	Jan. 14, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 5½% Dec. 12, 1929)	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4⅛—3/16	4 3/16—¼	4⅛—3/16
3 months' do.	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛
4 months' do.	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛
6 months' do.	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4 1/16—⅛
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	4 1/16–3/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4 3/16	4⅛
3 months'‡	4—4⅛	4 1/16—⅛	4 1/16	4 1/16—⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4 1/32–1/16
Loans—Day to day	3½—4	3½—4	3½—4	4 —4½	4 —4¾	4 —4¾	4
Short	4	4	4	4	4 —4½	4 —4½	4
Deposit allowances: Bank	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Discount houses at call	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1929. Dec. 24	% 3 5½	% 4¾	% 4 11/16	% 4⅝	% 5 5½	% 5 ⅛	% 5½ 6
1930. Jan. 2	4	4¼ ⅜	4¼ ⅜	4⅜	5	5¼	5½ 6
9	4	4 ⅛	4 ⅛	4 ⅛	5	5¼	5½ 6
16	4	4 1/16 ⅛	4 1/16 ⅛	4 1/16 ⅛	5	5¼	5½ 6

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Jan. 17, 1929.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·84 11/16–85	4·87 1/16–·87¼	4·86 23/32–·86 25/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86⅛–¼	4·92¼–4·92½	4·92⅜–·92½
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124–⅛	123·90–·92	123·90–·93
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·40–½	20·39½–·39¾	34·95½–·96
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·09⅝–¾	12·08⅞–·09⅛	12·11–·11½
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·90½–¾	34·92¾–·93¼	34·95½–·96
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·66–70	93·10–·12	93·05–·07
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21½–22	25·13–·13½	25·16¼–·16¾
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–¾	18·20¾–·21¼	18·21¼–·21¾
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14–½	18·14¾–·15¼	18·13½–·14
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·18–½	18·20–·20½	18·19¾–·20¼
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	29·63–71	39·43–·48	36·73–·78
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	4·50	109⅞–110¼	108⅛–108⅜	108⅛–108⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·48–52	34·60–·64	34·60–·63
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	24·02(a)	163¾–164	164⅜–164⅝	164½–164¾
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276–¼	274¾–275¼	275¼–275¾
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–84	27·82–·86	27·82–·85
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	806–809	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669–674	670–676	670–677
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375¼	374⅞–375⅛	375·375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	995–1000	1020—1035	1020–1050
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–·44	†9·48–·50	†9·46–·48
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–43 7/16	43 5/16–43 7/16
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–3	193¾–194	195¼–195¾
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48¾–49¼	48½–49½	48½–49½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·13–20	18·17–·24	18·17–·24
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·10–20	25·23–·33	25·23–·33
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47⅜–7/16	45–45⅛	44⅝–44 11/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 27/64–29/64	5 5/16–5⅜	5 7/16–5½
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50½–51	45⅝–45⅞	45⅝–45⅞
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·63	39·82	39·81
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19¾% prem.	nom.	nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 3/64–5/64	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Bombay		T.T.		1/6 3/64–5/64	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Madras		T.T.		1/6 3/64–5/64	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0⅛–⅞	1/7⅜–1/7⅞	1/7⅞–1/8 1/16
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	2/7–7/16	2/0 5/16–2/0 9/16	2/0⅜–2/1½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 31/32–15/16	2/3 11/16–2/3 13/16	2/3 11/16–2/3 13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 15/32–17/32	2/0 3/16–2/0½	2/0 3/16–2/0½
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·90–10·10	10·00–·25	10·05–·30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅝	1/10⅝

* 31st Dec. † Rate for previous day. ‡ Pence to escudo.
(a) An official stabilisation at 2·90–3·03 dollars to 100 krone, *i.e.*, approximately 164½ krone to £ (b) Pence to dollars.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 19, 1928	4	3½
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Berlin	Jan. 13, 1930	7	6½	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7†}
Budapest	Nov. 4, 1929	8	7½				
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Stockholm	Dec. 12, 1929	5½	5
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7				
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
New York Federal Reserve	Nov. 14, 1929	5	4½	Vienna	Dec. 7, 1929	8	7½
				Warsaw	Nov. 15, 1929	9	8½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½	Irish	Dec. 12, 1929	6	5½

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Jan. 16, 1929.	Dec. 18, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	4½	6	6	4½	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	5	...	...	4¾	4¾
Bank acceptances:—	—Selling Rates.—					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5	4	4	...	4	4⅛
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5	4	4	...	4	4⅛
Ineligible, 90 days	5⅝	4½	4½	...	4⅝	4⅛
Commercial accept., 90 days	5½	5	5	...	5	5

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Jan. 16, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80⅝	4·83 7/16	4·83	4·82⅞
Cable			4·84 13/16	4·87 11/16	4·87	4·86 13/16
Cheques			4·84¾	4·87 9/16	4·86⅞	4·865
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·905	3·93⅞	3·93	3·92 15/16
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·89	13·99½	13·945	13·93
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·2275	19·42½	19·38	19·34
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅛	5·23½	5·23⅛	5·2325
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·755	23·88	23·875	23·865
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·065	14·08	14·08	14·07
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	16·325	13·37	12·42	13·29
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·055	40·34½	40·26	40·175
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·655	26·81	26·735	26·72
Oslo ,,			26·645	26·81	26·73	26·71
Stockholm ,,			26·72	26·91	26·825	26·82
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅛	1·30⅛	1·295	1·295
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅛ dis.	4·93½	1 1/16 dis.	1⅛ dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·40	49 1/16	49·10	49·1
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H. Kong $	...	49·95	...	39·30	40·5
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	63·125	...	48·25	50·75
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·43	...	36·33	36·30
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	42·05†	...	109·45	109·80
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·92	11·00	10·90	11
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·055	...	12·03	12·4½

† Cents for 1 peso, par level 42·54 cents.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·69
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	10·10
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	¼% dis.	par to ¼% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	3/16% dis.	⅜ to 7/16% ,,
30 days	1⅞% ,,	7/16% ,,	⅜% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2½% ,,	⅝% ,,	1⅛% ,,	7/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	11/16% ,,	1⅝% ,,	7/16% ,,
120 days	3¾% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	98⅝	98⅝	...	...	102⅛	102⅛
Demand	97	97	98	98	100¼	100¼	101 11/16	101⅝
30 days	96 7/16	96 7/16	...	...	100¼	99¾	101¼	101⅛
60 days	95⅞	95⅞	...	...	99 11/16	99¼	100 13/16	100⅝
90 days	95 5/16	95 5/16	...	...	99¼	98¾	100⅜	100⅜

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ended January 11, 1930.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on December 31, 1929 :—

	£	£
In India		Nil
In England :		
Cash at the Bank of England	3,575	
Gold	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills :—Value as on December 31, 1929	9,672,224	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities :—Value as on December 31, 1929	28,171,867	
		40,000,000
		40,000,000

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended January 16, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	*To*—	£
Germany	1,040	Poland	1,700
France	27,564	Germany	125,170
Uruguay	74,716*	Netherlands	30,383
Argentine Republic {	90,540	France	594,283
	35,000†	Austria	18,425
Australia	1,000,000	Switzerland	34,139
Other Countries	1,075	British India	48,862
		Ceylon	1,000
		Other Countries	100
Total declared value of imports	1,159,935	Total declared value of exports	854,062

* Addition, † Deduction } To amend period from 24 December 1929 to 2 January 1930.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow :—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
Jan. 10	Sovs. from abroad...	1,000,000	Jan. 10	Bars sold	29,237
	Bars bought	1,153	,, 11		Nil
,, 11	Bars bought	3,500	,, 13	Bars sold	22,215
	Sovs. from abroad...	9,000		Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 13		Nil	,, 14		Nil
,, 14	Bars bought	341,965	,, 15	Sovs. for export	12,000
	Foreign coin bought	11	,, 16		Nil
,, 15	Sovs. from abroad...	90,000			
,, 16	Foreign coin bought	6			
	Bars bought	1,595			
	Total	1,447,230		Total	65,452

Net arrivals, £1,381,778.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on January 15, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £149,061,137 on the 8th instant (as compared with £145,960,084 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £4,845,178 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. About £907,000 of bar gold from South Africa was available in the open market this week. At yesterday's fixed price of 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce, £398,000 was taken for France, £25,000 for India, and £115,000 for the Home and Continental trade, whilst the Bank of England secured £342,000 at the statutory buying price. There was a net influx of gold of £1,399,602 during the week.

SILVER.

There have been wide movements in prices, which have recovered substantially from the low level reached last week. A break in the panic of selling from China and a continued demand from India for near delivery carried quotations to 20 13/16d. and 20½d. on the 9th instant—a rise of ½d. for cash and ⅝d. for two months' delivery The forward quotation eased 1/16d. the following day, but subsequently China turned a buyer and by the 13th instant prices had risen sharply to 21 7/16d. and 21 1/16d. Some re-selling on China account caused a fall to 21⅛d. and 20 15/16d. yesterday, but on a renewal of buying for the same quarter there was a recovery to 21⅜d. and 20⅞d. to-day. It will be noted that the premium on cash silver has widened during the week from 5/16d. to ½d., and this is due to the consistent demand for silver for early shipment to India. Cash silver had not commanded so large a premium as ½d. since January 24, 1924. America has been rather more active in this market, but has been more inclined to give support. Speculative activity in China renders the outlook uncertain.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 6th instant to mid-day on the 13th instant :—

Imports	£	Exports.	£
Germany	12,600	British India	313,453
Belgium	9,060	Other countries	6,177
France	56,007		
Mexico	49,671		
British India	69,591		
Other countries	2,070		
	£198,999		£319,630

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees.)

	Jan. 7.	Dec. 31.	Dec. 22.
Notes in circulation	17,952	17,941	17,919
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,790	10,805	10,813
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,222	3,222	3,222
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,740	3,733	3,718
Securities (British Government)	200	181	166

The stock in Shanghai on the 11th instant consisted of about 86,500,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 16,380 silver bars, as compared with 86,000,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 8,120 silver bars on the 4th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Jan. 10	84 11½	20 13/16	20 7/16	Jan. 18 1924	33½
,, 11	84 11½	21⅛	20¾	,, 16, 1925	32⅛
,, 13	84 11⅜	21 1/16	21 1/16	,, 15, 1926	31 6/16
,, 14	84 11⅛	21⅛	20 15/16	,, 14, 1927	25⅞
,, 15	84 11⅜	21⅜	20⅞	,, 12, 1928	26½
,, 16	84 11⅜	21 7/16	21 1/16	,, 16, 1929	26¼

NOTICES.

Mr James S. Alexander has resigned from the position of chairman of the board of Guaranty Trust Company of New York.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 201 and 203, Bromley Road, Bellingham, London, S.E.6, and 90 and 92, High Street, Putney, London, S.W.15. New offices have also been opened at Central Buildings, Brynhyfryd, Swansea, and in High Street, Northop, Flintshire.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that Mr H. G. Payton, district manager, Bradford, has been appointed district general manager, Bradford, and that Mr R. A. Rowley-Morris, manager, Sheffield Bank Office, Sheffield, has been made district manager, Sheffield.

THE

STANDARD BANK

OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Governments of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Tanganyika.

CAPITAL Authorised and Subscribed	£10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,500,000
RESERVE FUND	£3,164,170
CAPITAL UNCALLED	£7,500,000
	£13,164,170

Board of Directors.

William Reierson Arbuthnot, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq.
Edward Clifton-Brown, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.
Solomon B. Joel, Esq.
Horace Peel, Esq.
Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
William Smart, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., F.R.S.

Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey, James S. Shiel.
Deputy General Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
Assistant General Managers in South Africa—Francis E. King, Herbert G. Hoey.
London Manager—Bertram Lowndes.
Secretary—T. D. Williams.

Head Office: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET, and 77, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
London Wall Branch: 63, LONDON WALL, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.2.
NEW YORK AGENCY: 67, WALL STREET.
HAMBURG AGENCY.
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-53, SCHAUENBURGER-STRASSE
Over 360 Branches, Sub-Branches, and Agencies in SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE BUSINESS CONDUCTED.

COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

The Bank has over 360 Branches in Africa, and Agents and Correspondents throughout the World. The closest touch with Trade and Industrial conditions is maintained, with special attention to Commercial and Credit Intelligence. This service is available to Exporters, Importers and others wishing to develop trade between South and East Africa, the United States of America and the Continent of Europe.

THE STANDARD BANK MONTHLY REVIEW is sent post free on application. It gives the latest information on all South and East African matters of Trade and Commercial Interest.

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Midland of Western Australia	...	...	...	4	5
Rohilkund and Kumaon	...	...	...	18	18
BANKS.					
Bank of New South Wales	...	...	...	10	10
Canadian Bank of Commerce	...	...	...	13	13
Clydesdale	...	...	...	18	18
Commercial Bank of Australia	7½%*	Feb. 7	...	...	...
Munster and Leinster	7%*	...	Tax free	...	...
National	7%†	...	...	14	14
North of Scotland	9%†	...	Less tax	18	18
Royal Bank of Canada	3%*	Mar. 1	...	...	...
Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolget	...	...	...	18kr.ps.	15krps.
Union Bank of Manchester	...	...	...	16	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Batu Kawan Rubber	...	...	...	2½	Nil
Bila (Sumatra) Rubber	...	...	...	6	Nil
Bordubi Tea	10%†	Dec. 31	Less tax	...	...
Cicely Rubber	5%*	Jan. 23	...	...	...
Garing (Malacca) Rubber	...	Feb. 8	...	7½	Nil
Koomsong Tea	10%†	Dec. 31	Less tax	...	...
Sedenak Rubber	5%†	Jan. 28	...	10	6½
MINING.					
Broken Hill South	1/6 p.s.*	and bonus 6d. p.s.		...	...
Jos Tin	...	...	...	12½‡	12½‡
Rand Selection	...	...	...	25	15
Sungei Way	5%*	Jan. 24	...	...	...
Tekka-Taiping	1½%*	Jan. 31	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
A.B.C. Coupler	5%*	Jan. 23	Less tax	...	...
Adelaide Electric Supply	...	...	...	12	12
Allen-Liversidge	4%*	Jan. 31	Less tax	...	...
Anglo-Amer. Telegraph { Ord.	1½%†	...	...	3⅜	3⅜
{ Def.	...	...	...	1½	1½
Bell and Nicolson	5%†	and bonus 5%		15	15
British Overseas Stores	3%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Charter Trust and Agency	4%†	Feb. 3	...	6	6
Coldstream Investment Trust	2½%*	...	...	...	...
Colombo Commercial	6%†	...	Tax free	14a	17½b
Cork Improved Dwellings	...	...	...	7½	6
Crown Brewing	6½%†	and bonus 7½%		20	20
Culloden Consolidated	...	Feb. 2	...	2½	6¼
Dalmellington Iron	2½%*	Mar. 1	Tax free	...	...
Distiller Co.	7½%*	...	...	...	...
English and New York Trust	5%†	...	Less tax	5	...
Glasgow Alhambra	...	...	...	8	8
Gloucester Rly. Carriage & Wagon	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Lister and Company	2½%†	...	...	5	5
London Scot. Invest. Trust (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Lunt (Richard) and Company	5%†	and bonus 5%		15	15
Metropolitan Trust	13%†	...	Less tax	20	19½
Mid-European Corp.	3%*	Jan. 31	...	...	...
Omnium Investment (Def.)	5%†	...	...	10	10
Phœnix Oil and Transport	2½%*	...	...	...	...
River Plate & Gen. Invest. (Def.)	12%†	...	...	20	20
Scottish United Investors	5%†	...	Less tax	9	8
Sec. Scott. United Investors	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Sec. Scottish Western Invest.	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Selection Trust	2½%*	Feb. 6	Less tax	...	...
Stoddard (A.) and Company	2½%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Symons (S.) and Company	5%*	Jan. 24	Quarterly	...	...
Traction and Gen. Invest. Trust	11%†	...	...	17	16
Wilkinson and Riddell	4%†	and bonus 2½%		10⅔	16c

‡ Bonus 2½%. a Bonus 4%. b Bonus 7½%. c Bonus 4%.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Following the retirement of Mr Hugh Lugton, F.F.A., from the position of actuary, the directors of the North British and Mercantile Insurance have appointed Lieut.-Colonel H. J. P. Oakley, M.C., T.D. (who is a vice-president of the Institute of Actuaries), to be the actuary to the company.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that Mr E. W. Giffard, chairman and managing director of Messrs Barclay Perkins and Company, Ltd., has been elected to a seat on the Court of Directors of the Corporation.

Mr C. E. Lloyd has joined the board of Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd.

The directors of the Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries, Ltd., have elected Mr A. G. Weigall Chairman of the company.

BANKS.

COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—Total assets on December 31, 1929, amounted to $152,526,661, comparing with $97,970,489 on June 29, 1929. Cash during that period rose from $39,319,221 to $57,634,521. Acceptances rose from $2,129,204 to $13,895,587, and loans and discounts from $48,104,644 to $69,415,778. Deposits have risen from $76,589,036 to $101,767,352. The European representative of the bank is P. C. Anderson, 25-27, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2.

(*Continued on page* 146)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Jan. 10, 1930. (c) Week ended Jan. 11, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Jan. 12, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 2 weeks 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
Great Western	3,733	£ 203	£ 209	£ 134	£ 343	£ 546	£ 406	£ 400	£ 271	£ 671	£ 1,077
Do. for 1929	3,734	203	210	132	342	545	404	407	250	657	1,061
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	295	376	276	652	947	611	711	498	1,209	1,820
Do. for 1929	6,360	292	386	290	676	968	600	718	497	1,215	1,815
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956¼	430	541	292	833	1,263	878	994	545	1,539	2,417
Do. for 1929	6,952¾	432	528	310	838	1,270	878	993	564	1,557	2,435
Southern	2,175	273	70	31	101	374	543	137	67	204	747
Do. for 1929	2,175	260	70	36	106	366	523	138	68	206	729
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·0	...	...	4·0	37·0	66·3	...	...	8·1	74·4
Do. for 1929	59	32·1	...	...	3·8	35·9	64·1	...	...	7·7	71·8
†Und'grn'dE.B.c	...	...	...	...	...	305·5	...	...	...	...	492·7
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	272·5	...	...	...	...	444·2
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	44·4	...	...	...	...	72·1
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	37·5	...	...	...	...	61·3
B'l'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·1	...	...	0·6	2·7	3·4	...	...	0·9	4·3
Do. for 1929	80	2·1	...	...	0·9	3·0	3·4	...	...	1·4	4·7
Great Northern b	562	10·1	...	...	13·8	23·9	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	562	10·5	...	...	15·3	25·8	...	...	...	...	...
Great Southern b	2,187	23·8	...	...	40·7	64·5	...	...	...	...	...
Do. for 1929	2,187	22·7	...	...	43·1	65·8	...	...	...	...	...

† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	37 weeks	Dec. 14	1,217	Rs. 4,52,000	+ 3,365	Rs. 1,53,46,356	− 7,46,540
Barsi Lt. Ry.	38 weeks	21	202	60,600	+ 4,700	18,10,200	+ 86,900
Bengal & N.Western	38 weeks	21	2,080	6,93,140	− 62,537	77,46,173	− 2,26,209
Bengal-Nagpur	35 weeks	7	3,085	17,24,000	−1,33947	6,16,27,925	+26,37,582
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	40 weeks	Jan. 4	3,031	23,84,000	−173000	8,53,65,000	−17,86,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	38 weeks	Dec. 21	3,121	20,70,000	+145956	6,73,50,785	+15,98,844
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	38 weeks	21	1,167	5,39,256	+ 48,461	164,29,387	+21,06,182
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	38 weeks	21	572	1,46,398	+ 1,494	13,75,037	− 23,329
South Indian	37 weeks	14	2,351	12,93,854	+137849	4,73,25,066	+39,07,604

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.

ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	28 weeks	Jan. 11	753	£ 14,200	+ 700	£ 440,800	− 3,900
Argentine Trans'dn.	28 weeks	11	111	4,860	+ 409	126,861	− 2,740
B.A. and Pacific	28 weeks	11	2,806	155,000	− 27,000	4,112,000	− 357,000
B.A. Central	28 weeks	12	...	11,786	− 2,253	358,649	− 31,748
B.A. Gt. Southern	28 weeks	11	4,875	284,000	− 41,000	6,371,000	+ 98,000
B.A. Western	28 weeks	11	1,926	95,000	− 15,000	2,371,000	− 287,000
Central Argentine	28 weeks	11	3,319	221,000	− 64,000	6,688,000	− 711,000
Cordoba Central	28 weeks	11	1,218	50,000	− 14,000	1,753,000	− 207,000
Entre Rios	28 weeks	11	789	38,700	+ 1,700	741,500	− 70,500
CUBAN.							
United of Havana	28 weeks	Jan. 11	1,374	£ 51,060	− 43,762	£ 1,371,251	− 115,356
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay	28 weeks	Jan. 11	273	£ 31,951	− 2,209	£ 816,701	− 21,324
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	28 weeks	11	311	7,989	− 1,130	177,263	− 377
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	28 weeks	11	185	3,651	− 1,034	90,919	− 6,974
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	28 weeks	11	211	2,815	− 342	74,483	− 3,400
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	1 week	Jan. 7	19548	$ 3,463,427	−119417	$ ...	$ ...
Canadian Pacific	1 week	7	15209	2,556,000	−815000	...	...
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil	2 weeks	Jan. 11	1,016	£ 19,600	− 2,500	£ 27,500	− 7,100
Leopoldina	2 weeks	11	1,856	32,904	− 3,660	53,358	− 4,027
Leopoldina Termnl.	2 weeks	11	Mirs.	301,000	+ 26,000	496,000	+ 35,000
San Paulo	2 weeks	12	153½	34,764	− 15,290	66,460	− 29,703
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	2 weeks	Jan. 12	804	£ 37,180	− 11,170	£ 52,190	− 27,380
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	52 weeks	Dec. 31	413	26,500	− 16,032	813,624	− 50,569
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Egyptian Delta	40 weeks	Dec. 20	608	£ 12,159	+ 362	£ 258,074	+ 16,282
Gt. Southn. of Spain	1 week	Jan. 4	104	Ps. 120161	− 101	...	...
Mexican Railway	1 week	7	483	$227,200	+ 11,800	...	...
Paraguay Central	27 weeks	7	274	3,520	+ 100	112,800	− 9,500
Salvador	28 weeks	11	100	5,015	− 411	104,170	− 5,674

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
Anglo-Argentine	1 week	Jan. 7	329	£ 80,996	− 5,789	£ ...	...
B. Aires Lacroze	28 weeks	12	...	12,222	− 1,043	320,406	− 29,055
Burnley Corporation	1 week	11	13	£ 3,087	+ 13	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	11	35½	Rs.126040	− 12,516	...	...
Chatham & District	52 weeks	Dec. 31	15	774	+ 178	59,760	− 6,360
Egyptian Markets	52 weeks	31	...	2,648	− 918	89,987	− 1,815
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	52 weeks	31	...	883	+ 185	87,701	+ 2,263
Liverpool Corp.	41 weeks	Jan. 11	124	30,459	+ 2,595	1,239,52‡	+ 19,203
L.C.C. Tramways	40 weeks	8	166	84,801	+ 5,153	3,393,471	+ 43,569
Madras Electric	152 w'ks	Dec. 31	...	Rs. 50,043	+ 3,726	10,54,503	+ 5,974

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Alexander's Discount Co.....	Dec. 31	47,989	132,100	180,089	12,000	115,000	20‡	...	53,089	138,773	20‡
Bank of New South Wales...	Sept. 30	168,653	994,825	1,163,478	...	750,000	10	250,000	163,478	1,355,559	12½
Barclay's Bank	Dec. 31	537,201	2,331,580	2,868,781	...	1666349	10 A and 14 B & C	650,000	552,432	2,301,285	10 A 14 B & C.
Belfast Banking Company	Dec. 31	92,981	116,727	209,708	...	61,600	...	...	148,108	110,800	...
Canadian Bank of Commerce	Nov. 30	62,534	894,088	1,978,803*	...	725,522	13	1,155,654	97,627	706,743	13
Clydesdale Bank.....	Dec. 31	92,420	331,634	424,054	...	234,000	18	100,000	90,054	340,136	18
District Bank	Dec. 31	125,699(*a*)	502,726	628,425	...	379,200	"A" 18½ "B" 10	60,000	189,225	455,132	18½
Manchester and County.....	Dec. 31	72,082	181,225	253,307	...	177,456	16¼	...	75,851	182,681	16¼
Martins Bank	Dec. 31	111,498	836,240	947,738	...	665,606	16	150,000	132,132	825,434	16
Midland Bank.....	Dec. 31	848,563	2,665,042	3,513,605	...	1,934,347	18	720,000	859,258	2,656,554	18
Munster and Leinster.....	Dec. 31†	43,130	88,642	131,772	...	52,500	14 p.a.	40,000	39,272	90,644	14 p.a.
National Discount Co.	Dec. 31	215,644	154,861	395,505	...	144,587	10 "A" 24 "B"	39,076	211,842	175860	10 "A" 23 "B"
North of Scotland	Dec. 31	103,472	277,563	381,035	...	205,380	18	75,000	100,655	234,759	18
Provincial Bank of Ireland	Dec. 31†	36,780	50,794	87,574	...	31,320	14½ p.a.	20,000	36,254	62,011	14½
The National Bank	Dec. 31†	29,290	126,086	155,376	...	105,000	14 p.a.	20,000	30,376	165,868	14
Union Discount of London	Dec. 31	241,607	260,185	501,792	...	212,500	17½§	20,000	269,292	245,365	20‡
Breweries.											
Cornbrook Brewery	Sept. 30	55,351	39,831	95,182	8,937	22,751	10	10,000	53,494	...	...
Crown Brewing Co.	Dec. 31	7,332	33,694	41,026	...	23,846	20	10,000	7,180	34,253	20
Davenport (John) and Sons	Oct. 31	21,142	20,928	42,070	2,875	15,300	25	...	23,895	26,756	25
Canals and Docks.											
Smith's Dock Co.	Sept. 30	22,015	144,153	166,168	10,000	80,000	8	45,000	31,168	85,224	6
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Adelaide Electric	Aug. 31	31,902	331,534	363,436	166,406	60,000	8 Pf O 12 Ord	105,000	32,030	289787	8 Pf O 12 Ord
Financial Land, &c.											
Alto Paraná Development...	June 30	*Dr204,654*	1,386	*Dr203,268*	...	...	...	*Dr38856(b)*	*Dr242124*	*Dr. 2,457*	...
Australian Pastoral Co.....	June 30	41,908	14,364	56,272	...	50,000	5	...	6,272	98,284	8
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Glass, Houghton and Castleford Collieries	June 30	*Dr.56,943*	19,101	*Dr.37,842*	...	...	...	20,000	*Dr57,842*	*Dr37,084*	...
Rubber, &c.											
Batu Kawan Rubber and Coconut	Sept. 30	2,698	3,479	6,177	...	3,375	2½	1,371	1,431	3,006	...
Bila (Sumatra) Rubber.....	Aug. 31	22,577	14,873	37,450	...	10,280	6	2,800	24,370	2,473	...
Ceylon (Bibile) Rubber.....	Oct. 31	*Dr. 3,868*	*Dr. 1,478*	*Dr. 5,346*	...	...	...	*Dr. 500*	*Dr.4,856*	...	...
Majedie (Johore) Rubber....	Sept. 30	773	4,042	4,815	...	...	...	348	4,467	1,427	...
Shipping.											
Burns, Philp	Mar. 30	20,087	249,656	249,743	...	150,000	10	75,000	24,743	...	...
Shops and Stores.											
Stead and Simpson	Dec. 31	42,997	50,699	93,696	9,793	14,000	10	20,000	49,903	55,402	10
Trust.											
Coldstream Investment.....	Dec. 31†	...	8,807	8,807	3,000	2,000	5	2,500	1,307	...	...
New York and General.....	Jan. 3	10,198	43,019	53,217	18,000	21,750	10	...	13,467	25,589	15
River Plate and General Investment	Dec. 31	31,962	78,399	110,361	12,375	55,000	20	5,000	37,986	74,986	20
Other Companies.											
Cork Improved Dwellings...	Dec. 31†	1,104	1,431	2,535	...	1,125	7½ p.a.	177	1,233	1,327	6
Cotton Plantations.....	Aug. 31	*Dr.38,340*	1,734	*Dr.36,606*	...	...	...	...	*Dr36,606*	*Dr11,406*	...
Miller (A.) and Co., Ltd. ...	Oct. 31	6,938	6,432	13,370	2,550	3,825	3	...	6,995	6,335	3
Mulliner's (Holdings).....	Dec. 21	...	13,475	13,475	10,208	2,500	4½	...	767	...	...
Photo-Matik	June 30	...	*Dr.15,068*	*Dr.15,068*	...	...	...	...	*Dr15,068*	...	...

* Including £1,022,180 premium on shares issued during the year. † For six months. ‡ Including bonus of 5 per cent. free of tax.
§ Including bonus of 2½ per cent., free of income tax. (*a*) After capitalising £200,000.
(*b*) Being accumulated loss of the Argentine company, brought into this company's accounts.

(*Continued from page* 145.)

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.—An issue of $2,000,000 new capital is to be made to shareholders on record December 31, 1929, the price of the new stock to be $250 per share and the allotment to be made on December 31, 1929, on the basis of one new share for five old shares. No fractions of shares will be allotted. The allotment notices will be sent out from the general office at Toronto as soon as possible after December 31, 1929.

CENTRAL HANOVER BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, NEW YORK.—The statement of condition on December 31, 1929, shows total assets of $769,258,940, an increase of more than $165,000,000 over the total of $603,900,542 shown at June 29, 1929. Substantial increases are shown in loans and discounts, which rose during the six months from $322,702,782 to $353,204,113, in holdings of United States Government bonds and municipal bonds and in customers' liability account of acceptances, the last-named item advancing from $34,590,660 to $59,790,468. On the liabilities side of the statement, deposits at the close of business on December 31, 1929, amounted to $598,326,397, compared with $463,586,558 on June 29, 1929. Acceptances increased from $35,452,256 to $60,656,808. Undivided profits are shown in the latest statement as $24,117,707, an increase of almost $5,000,000 as compared with $19,153,269 reported six months previously. The capital at $21,000,000 and surplus $60,000,000 remain as on June 29, 1929.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
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GOVERNMENT, &c.

EXTERNAL DEBT OF PARAGUAY.—Tenders of Bonds of the loans of 1886, 1896 and 1915, and of the arrear coupon certificates issued in respect of the 1886 and 1896 bonds for amortisation, were opened on January 7th at the offices of the Council of Foreign Bondholders. Tenders were accepted as under :—Bonds of 1886 and 1896 : Tenders under £48 17s. 6d. per cent. were accepted in full, and those at that price to the extent of 60 per cent. Bonds of 1915 : Tenders under £48 19s. 9d. per cent. were accepted in full, and those at that price to the extent of 18 per cent. Arrear Coupon Certificates : Tenders at and under £89 17s. 6d. per cent. were accepted in full.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-AMERICAN OIL COMPANY, LTD., LONDON, ENGLAND.—Shareholders are reminded that the offer to exchange their shares for shares of Standard Oil Export Corporation, on the basis of one $100 non-voting guaranteed 5 per cent. preferred share of the Standard Oil Export Corporation (callable at 110 at any time after December 31, 1935) for every five 5s. 9d. Anglo-American Oil Company share expires (subject to certain conditions) on January 31, 1930. Full details of the offer, together with necessary forms in connection with same, can be obtained from the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 140, Broadway, New York, U.S.A., or 32, Lombard Street, London, England.

RHODESIAN AND GENERAL ASBESTOS CORPORATION, LTD., AND TURNER AND NEWALL, LTD. (EXCHANGE OF SHARES).—Turner and Newall, Ltd., state that, on the 14th instant, the day on which the offer made to shareholders of Rhodesian and General Asbestos Corporation became operative, the total number of shares assented was over 1,000,000 representing 96 per cent. of the total issued capital. Turner and Newall, Ltd., give notice that, in accordance with the terms of the offer, they have authorised the District Bank, Ltd., to accept deposits of share certificates under the deposit agreement at any time up to and including January 31, 1930.

NEU-FLAME (CANADA), LIMITED.—The directors of International Vacuum Power, Limited, and the directors of Neu-Flame (Parent), Limited, are notifying shareholders that, due to the default of the underwriters of Neu-Flame (Canada), Limited, it has been decided to put that company into voluntary liquidation.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions have been unsettled. Further heavy rains have fallen in some parts of the United Kingdom, and field work has been hampered by the sodden state of the ground. The crop outlook, however, is fairly satisfactory. English wheat continues in light supply and prices are easier, in sympathy with the general situation. On the import market values declined further on liberal offerings and a slow demand. India and Japan have purchased wheat from Australia, while a few cargoes from North America were taken by Portugal, but the general course of trade fails to improve and is the main cause of market depression. Although the exportable surplus is smaller, the Argentine is offering freely at lower prices and steadily forcing the hands of North American holders. Attention is again riveted on heavy stocks in Canada and the United States, and with the possibility of a large crop this year, the difficulty in finding an outlet for surplus supplies is apparently causing a good deal of anxiety. Continental wheat is still plentiful, and a plethora of feeding stuffs at low rates militates to some extent against increased overseas purchases. Fair quantities available from the Southern Hemisphere will be sufficient to cover consumers' requirements for some time ahead until a better estimate can be formed of the international situation. Meanwhile, demand is strictly confined to immediate needs. Flour prices have an easier tendency in sympathy with wheat, and imported descriptions are more readily offered for shipment at reduced prices. Of feeding stuffs, La Plata maize was obtainable at lower rates, as selling pressure and a poor consumptive demand coincided with liberal arrivals and also prospects of a very large Argentine production this year. Barley and oats were neglected, with prices moving in buyers' favour.

Wheat.—Quiet and easier. No. 1, Northern Manitoba, ex-ship, 54s.; No. 2, ditto, 53s.; No. 3, 52s.; No. 4, Manitoba, 51s.; No. 5, 48s.; No. 6, 41s.; No. 2, hard Winter, 48s. 6d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 46s. 9d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 46s. 9d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 47s. 3d.; Australian, 49s. 6d. per 496 lbs. English, 9s. 7d.-9s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet. London straight run, 42s. per sack for country deliveries, and 41s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 39s.-42s.; Buffalo, 39s. 9d.-41s. 6d.; Australian, 36s. 6d. ex-store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, January-February, 39s. 6d.-40s. 6d.; export ditto, 37s.-38s.; Australian, 34s. 6d. per 280 lbs; Argentine low grade, February-March, £7 5s. per ton.

Maize.—Again easier. Plate, landed, 28s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 27s. 6d.-27s., as to position; February-March, 27s. 9d.; new, April-May, 28s. 6d.; May-June, 28s. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 10s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £7 5s.; white, £6 15s. per ton, ex ship.

Barley.—Dull. Californian old, landed, 36s.-43s.; new, ex ship, 37s.-46s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex store, 37s.-43s.; Chevalier 40s.-45s.; Australian, 41s.-42s.; Smyrna, 40s.-42s. per 448 lbs; Algerian/Tunisian, ex ship, 26s.-27s. 6d. as to sample; No. 2, Federal American, landed, 20s. 3d.; Danubian, landed, 26s. 6d.; Black Sea, January, ex ship, 23s. 3d.; Persian ditto, 23s. per 400 lbs.; English malting, 8s. 6d.-14s. 6d.; feed, 7s. 3d.-8s. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Depressed. Plate, landed, 17s. 9d.; ex ship to arrive, 16s. 9d.; black Plate, landed, 17s. 3d.; Chilian white, landed, 24s.; ditto, tawny, 19s. 6d.; German, landed, 20s.; ex ship to arrive, 19s.; mixed Canadian feed, 15s. 9d.; South Russian, 18s. per 320 lbs.; English, 7s. 4d.-7s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to January 11	Cwts. 241,902	Cwts. 219,146	Cwts. 227,205	Cwts. 340,941
19 weeks to January 11.....	4,888,248	5,089,680	4,541,135	6,941,838
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 11 11

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Jan. 4	151,162	181,686	28,874	9 6	8 10	7 0
Jan. 11	241,902	288,703	36,524	9 7	8 7	7 0
Jan. 9, 1926	243,532	222,794	41,260	12 4	10 9	9 3
Jan. 8, 1927	178,693	269,379	45,730	11 11	10 10	8 2
Jan. 14, 1928	227,205	314,858	74,856	9 11	11 4	9 5
Jan. 12, 1929	219,146	332,244	67,210	9 6	10 1	9 1

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	122	125	148⅛	141¼	135½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.....	116⅜	119⅜	130⅞	128¼	124

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,326,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 241,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 78,538,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports a steady day-to-day export demand for coal. Fair tonnages are going away with prices firm at former rates. Owing to the uncertainty of the outlook no great weight of forward business has been placed. Trade in house coal is poor and disappointing. Blast-furnace coke is selling freely at 17s. at ovens, and the output is increasing. Best steams are quoted at 18s. 6d. f.o.b. Humber ports.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—Production at the collieries is now in full swing again, and some activity has now opened up in the market. The trend of prices is, however, definitely downward, both in round coal and washed nuts, although for the moment singles and doubles among the latter are fairly well maintained, as there are one or two good prompt orders held for these qualities. The ruling prices for shipment are approximately the following (f.o.b. district ports) :—Lanarkshire.—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s. 6d.-15s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 16s. 6d.; doubles, 15s. 6d.; singles, 14s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.;

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first-class steam, 15s. 6d.-16s.; third-class steam, 14s.-14s. 6d.; trebles, 17s.-17s. 6d.; doubles, 15s. 6d.; singles, 14s. 6d.-15s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.-14s. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 14s. 6d.; secondary steam, 14s. 3d.; trebles, 17s.; doubles, 15s. 6d.; singles, 14s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 16s. 6d.; doubles, 15s. 6d.; singles, 14s.-14s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Fairly normal conditions have ruled on the Cardiff coal market this week. The docks have been well supplied with tonnage, and outward freight rates continue low. The current volume of inquiry has not been very impressive, but the collieries are exceptionally well stemmed under contracts, and little short time working is reported from the various parts of the coalfield. The anthracite trade remains very active, and the position in the Monmouthshire coalfield has been strengthened by the placing of the contracts of the Italian State Railways for between 700,000 and 800,000 tons over the next seven or eight months. Quotations are nominally unchanged, but for smalls and sized coals they are still in excess of the scheduled figures. The Mines Department returns for the 52 weeks ended December 28th last, give a total output of bituminous and anthracite coal of 48·9 million tons, compared with 44·1 millions in 1928, and with 46·9 millions in 1927; while the Great Western returns of exports give total coal and coke shipments of 29·8 millions, compared with 26·4 and 27·9 million tons respectively. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 20s. 3d. to 20s. 9d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; best small steams, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite best, large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein, large, 26s. to 28s.; machine made cobbles, 44s. to 46s.; French nuts, 45s. to 47s.; stove nuts, 44s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d.; foundry coke, 35s. to 37s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 27s. 6d. to 27s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange. The iron and steel markets have experienced no relief from the quiet conditions which have ruled for the past six weeks. The British steel works have still a fair amount of work in hand, but are working off contracts more quickly than new business is coming forward, except in those works producing shipbuilding material, where specifications as well as new orders are coming in in fair volume. The general demand for iron and steel is disappointing, and complaints on this score are as frequent in Britain as on the Continent. Consumers of pig iron continue to restrict their purchases to hand-to-mouth quantities in spite of reports that prices are likely to be increased at the end of the month. The most active section of the market has been the semi-finished steel department, and considerable inquiries for this class of material have been circulated by British buyers amongst Continental steel makers. Only a proportion of this, however, has materialised into actual business, and reports current on the Continent of large orders having been placed in Luxemburg by British users are not accepted in this country. The strength of the inquiry, however, has created rather better feeling in the market. A revival of business in the finished steel market is long overdue. Unfortunately, however, the situation in some of the most important overseas markets is discouraging owing to economic troubles.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Trade in pig iron is not expanding as quickly as was expected and business has been extremely quiet. In Cleveland iron consumers are taking out the full quantities due to them under contracts, but they hesitate about placing further orders of importance, although it is understood that they have a considerable amount of work to cover for the present quarter. In some cases efforts are being made to secure concessions in prices but without success. Makers are quite firm and at Tuesday's market small sales were made by them at 72s. 6d. for No. 3, although merchants were prepared to shade the price for destinations permitted under their contracts. Other qualities were unchanged, viz.: No. 1, 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron are on a better scale than last month, the clearances to 14th instant being 8,731 tons, against 5,288 tons to December 14th. In hematite business is rather slow, but increased buying is anticipated at any time. There are several inquiries on the market, some for important quantities. Makers quote 79s. for mixed numbers for early delivery and 80s. up to the end of March, but might shade these prices for important business. Second-hand holders are reported to have accepted 6d. to 1s. per ton less for export business. In the steel trade the mills are fairly well off for orders, particularly in the heavy departments, and further business is under negotiation. Bridge builders and constructional works are well employed, and founders have a satisfactory amount of work in hand. Home prices for steel materials under the rebate scheme are: Plates, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; and joists, £8 10s. Iron bars are £10 15s.; galvanised corrugated sheets, 24-gauge, £12 2s. 6d.; black sheets, 21/24-gauge, £9 17s. 6d.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s., all for home use. The ore market is practically idle, and consumers are holding off. Best rubio is nominally 23s. 6d. c.i.f., and the freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early tonnage is 6s. 6d. to 6s. 9d. Coke is still offering somewhat freely and medium furnace qualities are obtainable at 22s. 6d. delivered works. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is now 40, but an additional furnace of large capacity is about to be blown in on hematite at Consett Works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes.—The quietude in the stee industry which manifested itself in December continues and no considerable revival this month is probable. The heavy branches report inquiries and orders as meagre, and the outlook for new bookings uncertain. The past year's overseas trade, as revealed by the Board of Trade returns, were distinctly unfavourable as regards two of Sheffield's most important branches of trade, namely, railway material and special steels. Exports of rails and rolling-stock material have been shrinking continuously since the Armistice, and there was a further decline last year, especially in Indian trade. "Special" steels, which comprise the modern high-speed and alloy-tool steel, fell off considerably, whereas imports were higher. The Penistone steel works of Cammell, Laird & Co., now owned by English Steel Corporation, are to be closed permanently to facilitate the concentration of production under the company's rationalisation scheme. The works comprise six open-hearth furnaces with a capacity of 5,000 tons of steel per week, a large modern tyre mill and a rail mill. The works were established in 1862 to make Bessemer steel, and have afforded employment for from 1,000 to 1,500 persons. Tool makers report increased sales in the home market, but the export trade, except for engineers' tools, is quiet. The year has started in the cutlery branches rather better than twelve months ago. Exports have been declining and imports increasing of la[illegible] Local ironfounding is a quiet trade.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Operations have now been resumed, with very few exceptions, at the works in and around Glasgow. Most of the works report a fair amount of work on hand, but no marked improvement is noted as compared with the position during the closing months of last year. There has been a little more business passing in the pig iron market, and steelmakers find a continued good demand for structural steel, but that for shipbuilding material is somewhat disappointing. Sheetmakers have fairly well-filled order books, but the export demand for galvanised sheets remains unsatisfactory, and prices are keenly cut.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday business in tinplates and bars was reported quiet, with some works in need of orders. Imports of steel bars from Belgium have recently been on an exceptionally heavy scale, and the closing down a few months ago of the steel furnaces and mills of the Ebbw Vale Company has this week been followed by the service of a week's notice on about 300 men employed at the steel mills of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds at Cardiff. Quotations for tinplates are nominally unaltered at between 18s. 9d. and 19s. per basis box, but galvanised sheets are still relatively weak at £12 5s. to £12 7s. 6d. per ton. Welsh tinplate bars are quoted at £6 10s. 0d. per ton, and foreign bars at £5 5s. per ton. Shipments of tinplates were below the average last week, and stocks exceed 200,000 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Generally quiet conditions prevailed in the standard market, and prices declined under freer offers and lower Eastern cable advices, though at the lower level rather better support was forthcoming, which resulted in a recovery. Values, however, continue to fluctuate in an indefinite manner, being influenced to some extent by reports circulating regarding curtailment of production. Meanwhile these measures are being partly carried into effect and should exercise a stimulating influence. At the moment, however, stocks have accumulated, and demand shows no appreciable sign of expansion. The output of tin and tin ore from the Federated Malay States during December, 1929, amounted to 5,849 tons, compared with 5,249 tons in the corresponding period of 1928. Standard cash sold at £175 5s.-£174 5s. and £176 5s.; and three months, £179-£177 5s. and £179 10s. In the East, sales were reported at £182 to £179 12s. 6d. and £180 2s. 6d. per ton c.i.f. terms.

COPPER market slightly irregular, but generally firm, with dealings on a fair scale. A feature was the further extension of the backwardation, at one time standing at 52s. 6d. per ton, but closing 35s. under the cash price. Standard cash changed hands at £71 10s. to £72 and £70 15s.; three months, £69 5s. to £69 10s. and £69 ton.

LEAD firm but dealings somewhat restricted. Good soft foreign pig, January, sold, £21 11s. 3d. to £21 12s. 6d.-£21 10s.; February, £21 12s. 6d.-£21 10s.; April, £21 12s. 6d. to £21 10s. ton.

SPELTER active but values weaker on balance due to excessive offerings. February, sold, £19 12s. 6d.-£19 7s. 6d.-£19 8s. 9d.; March, £19 18s. 9d. to £19 13s. 9d.; April, £20-£19 17s. 6d. and £19 18s. 9d. and £20; May, £20 1s. 3d. per ton.

ALUMINIUM quiet. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

ANTIMONY steady. English regulus, £45 to £52 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £31 5s.; January-February, £27 5s.; Chinese, crude, January-February, £18 to £18 5s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—January-February, £27 ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., January-February, 4s.; ditto, 60 per cent., 5s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM quiet. Chinese, also Burmese, January-February, 34s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER steady. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, January 15th.

There has been a little more activity in the market during the past week, and prices advanced under a more optimistic feeling, and the expectancy that the East Indian crop would be 400,000 bales less than was anticipated a short time ago. The U.S.A. figures of consumption were published to-day, showing 454,000 bales consumed in December, against 544,000 bales for November, 1929, and 534,000 bales in December of 1928. Spot sales for the week 9th to 15th (inclusive) are 37,000 bales, of which 17,560 are American, 7,700 Brazil, 650 Argentine, 6,000 Peru, 1,400 Egyptian, 2,350 African, 270 East Indian, and 1,070 sundries. Imports for the same period are 65,423 bales, of which 23,581 are American, 27,552 Brazil, 458 Argentine, 3,038 Peru, 8,966 Egyptian, 675 East Indian and 1,153 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 9·55; Egyptian Sakel, 14·45; Uppers, 10·57; Brazil Fair, 9·21; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 10·50; Smooth, 10·21; West African Middling, 9·56; and East African G.F., 10·46.

MANCHESTER, January 15th.

The tone of the market has shown some improvement, and sellers have experienced an increased enquiry. Although buyers have been slow in raising offers, a rather larger turnover has taken place. Fluctuations are occurring in raw material rates, but there seems to be less probability of any definite decline in values. Cloth merchants with connections in India have reported more cables making bids, and rather freer operations have occurred in light whites and fancies for Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi. The political situation is considered better, with less fear of serious disturbances. Rather more encouraging advices have been received from China, and a few more transactions have been arranged in bleached shirtings and dyed goods. At the auction sales in Shanghai this week tael returns and exchange showed a rise, and prices for goods hardened. Miscellaneous cloths have attracted rather more attention for the Near East and South America, but Continental demand remains poor. The general prospects for manufacturers seem to be rather brighter. Enquiry in American and Egyptian yarns has continued on a larger scale, and a fair amount of business has been done, but wretched prices have had to be taken, and at the end of next week there is to be a mass meeting of American spinners for the purpose of discussing the state of trade.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1929.		1930.		Corresponding Date.	
	Dec. 21.	Dec. 31.	Jan. 8.	Jan. 15.	1929.	1928.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	9·34	9·42	9·42	9·56	10·69	10·63
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·95	14·15	14·35	14·45	19·20	17·70
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	16	15⅝
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	16⅜	16⅜
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23⅛	23⅛	23⅛	23⅛	28	27⅛
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	23 9	23 9	23 9	23 9	26 3	25 9
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 6	26 6	26 6	28 6	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	15 6	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	14 0	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: In all sections of the industry business continues to be conducted on restricted lines. Lack of confidence in wool values is still very pronounced, but it is hoped that the auctions which open in Coleman Street Wool Exchange next Tuesday will clear the air and enable traders to find a workable basis. It is realised that wool at current rates is very cheap, but users cannot rid themselves of the fear that the raw material may go even lower, and so they continue to buy small weights of tops and yarns just sufficient for immediate requirements. The low level of stocks suggests that a fairly extensive buying movement will develop when confidence is restored, but at present there is an almost complete lack of speculative buying. There is a fair amount of enquiry for merino tops, but offers are low, and mostly based on tops at 2s. 6d. per lb. This is at least 1d. below the price quoted by most topmakers for average tops, though some fairly good orders have been accepted on this basis for delivery about March. Very low offers are lso being made for crossbreds, and the recent decline in

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LONDON, ENGLAND.

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A. H. HEWETT,
Secretary.

OUR OVERSEAS LENDING POLICY.
EXPORTS AS GIFTS
[*By A. M. SAMUEL, M.P.*]

BANK RATE AND THE FRENCH GOLD DEMANDS

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values in New Zealand and in South America has prompted some sellers to accept very cheap prices for forward delivery. Demand for yarns is very poor, and prices continue to move in buyers' favour, especially in standard counts. Wholesale fabric buyers are following events with great interest, and judging from the number of enquiries, a considerable amount of business is likely to come on to the market when buyers feel that values have definitely touched rock-bottom.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Cables received from overseas markets indicate a tendency in buyers' favour, though wool is being taken freely. Competition from Japan is apparently the mainstay in Sydney. It has been stated that Japanese purchases to the end of last year were about 30,000 bales less than for the corresponding period of the previous season, and it is possible that this explains the recent activity. In any case some of the best clips are being taken, and but for this prices would have fallen still more. There is less Continental competition in all Australian selling centres. Germany seems to be unable to buy very freely, probably because buying facilities are being restricted. The limits of home trade buyers are now around 2s. 6d. for good average 64's tops. The sale at Perth this week was almost entirely left to Bradford competition, and it is understood that wool was obtained at very reasonable prices. The first series of London sales will commence next Tuesday, the quantity available being 165,500 bales, compared with 103,200 bales at the corresponding series a year ago. A larger number of buyers have consigned their clips to Coleman Street than for many years past. It is expected that there will be an all-round decline of 7½ per cent. in merinos. It is not likely that buyers will pay more in London than corresponds with the level in overseas markets, where some very cheap wool is being picked up. There is talk in influential quarters of a large part of the current Australian clip being put on one side until the market improves. This was done to advantage in 1925. At the moment prices are dependent upon the revival of confidence among wholesale piece-goods merchants, and as soon as they think the bottom has been touched, an extensive movement in wool, tops and yarns may be expected. It is probable that crossbreds may decline about 12½ to 15 per cent.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

The demand for leather and leather manufactures is better than it was this time last year, and although there is still considerable room for improvement, prospects are brighter than they have been for a long time past. Market hides and skins continue to sell well, and in view of the good inquiry prices in several instances are firmer. This is more noticeable in connection with the lighter weights, which, at the sales held so far this week, have recorded further advances. Calfskins also are scarce and dear; in fact, most users consider their present value to be unwarranted in view of conditions ruling in the leather market. Imported hides, on the other hand, remain quiet, and with the exception of one or two descriptions values show further slight declines. For instance, with only a limited demand for Cape hides, prices have dropped to 9⅜d. and 8⅞d. for first and second drys, with 8¾d. and 7¾d. realised for drysalted. Mombasas have sold at 7½d. for heavies and mediums, with business done in Adis Abebas at 7⅜d. On the other hand, the South American market is firmer in view of the support accorded it by the United States, and Argentine ox have this week been sold on the basis of 9½d., and light ox at 9¼d. Dry River Plates have also been fractionally dearer, but with very little interest taken. B.A. Americanos are quoted nominally at 9½d. In connection with Saladero hides the Liebig Co. sold last week 20,000 Colon ox at prices which ranged from 8$\frac{29}{32}$d. to 8$\frac{31}{32}$d. for heavies and 8d. to 8¼d. for lights. The United States market is cabled as steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 16½ cents. The sole leather market is better, and although actual business in this direction so far has not been large, a fair amount of inquiry for stock is experienced. Light to medium weights in bends of both English and wet-salted descriptions constitute the best part of the call while there is a steady flow of business for most kinds of offal. Stocks of the latter in shoulders are short, and as a large percentage of the supplies coming forward are already accounted for, prices all the time tend towards firmness. Values for most kinds of sole leather are well maintained, although at the Leeds Leather Fair held on Wednesday there was an inclination on the part of tanners to shade prices a trifle to induce firm orders for quantities. Business in the upper leather section consists of a steady day-to-day call for just sufficient to meet immediate needs. Demand still continues to run for the most part on willow calf and black and brown glacé kid, for both of which descriptions of leather full asking prices are being obtained. A slight improvement has been noticed in the inquiry for box calf and medium-grade patent leather. Novelty leathers are not selling well, although there has been a steady small inquiry for suède. Curriers report no improvement in the position, and only limited quantities of waxed kips and splits are asked for. Shoe manufacturers have experienced more movement, and fair orders are now coming along for Spring footwear. In addition to this, there is a regular inquiry for filling-up lines, and, generally, speaking, this section of the trade is fairly well off for business at the moment.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets have had an easier feeling and not much business has been done. Linseed prices have continued to droop, following larger shipments from the exporting countries and the easiness in the grain markets. Crushers have hardly begun to purchase the new Plate seed and apparently are not satisfied that the market has touched a level to justify them in buying extensively in view of the stocks of linseed cake on hand and the modest demand for oil. Current value of Plate on spot at Hull is £18 10s., and for January-February and February-March shipment £18 5s. is quoted. Hamburg crushers have been buyers of January-February at £17 15s., while for bold Bombay to the Continent £21 10s. has been paid for January. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe has advanced to 111,000 tons, or 27,400 tons more than last week. Egyptian cottonseed is neglected and nominally £8 2s. 6d. for black on passage and January and February loadings. Trade in Bombay cottonseed is at a standstill. In the oil section linseed oil is somewhat irregular, but current value for January delivery is £43 10s., for February £42, and March-April £40 per ton naked ex Hull mill. Cotton oils are steady, and crude Egyptian quoted £29 spot and £28 10s. January ex Hull. Other seed oils are quiet and rape oil marked lower. Oil cakes are in only moderate demand.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—There is no improvement to note, in fact, increased weakness was observable in many directions with trade demand at the moment rigidly confined to pressing requirements. Home-grown granulated mostly marked down 3d. There seems to be nothing in the general situation to give the market a lift and ample supplies of raw and refined sugars continue on offer. As far as Continental are concerned, there is a tendency on the part of producers to hold off the market, and price required for 88 per cent. beet is too high compared with 96 per cent. centrifugals. This is due, in part, to the hope gaining ground that the forthcoming Budget will favour exports to the United Kingdom of refined sugars. In the raw terminal section, prices disclosed further slight weakness, but quite a large business resulted. March delivery sold 6s. 5½d. to 6s. 3¾d.; May, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 5½d.; August, 8s. to 7s. 11½d.; December, 8s. 3d. to 8s. 2½d. Cuban receipts last week 17,413 tons, against 113,923 last year; exports, 35,317, against 63,735; stocks, 147,805, against 159,316. Centrals working nil against last season, 151. Stocks of raw sugar in the three principal ports of the United Kingdom for week ending January 11th totalled 236,219 tons, compared with 146,609 at corresponding period last year.

TEA.—Indian sales during the week amounted to 58,590 packages. Fair competition existed for most descriptions and a very steady market prevailed. Common and low medium teas fully maintained. Some invoices from Dooar showing cold weather character were well sought after. Southern Indian sold steadily. Ceylon auctions of 31,000 packages. Fairly active competition was experienced, best liquoring qualities being wanted, and prices for these ruled firm to occasionally dearer. Medium about steady, but plain and common ruled frequently against the seller. Leaf grades for export better supported. Java and Sumatra met a fair demand at easier prices. Of China, there is a fair off-take, Lapsang souchong at 2s. 6d. to 3s.

COCOA.—Only small sales on the spot. Forward steady. Accra, F/F, January-March, sold 39s. 3d.; February-April, 39s. 6d.; March-May, 40s. 6d., f.o.b. Terminal: January sold, 44s. 3d.; March, 43s. 9d. to 43s. 7½d.; May, 44s. 3d.; July, 44s. 9d.

COFFEE.—In auction, a brisk demand ensued for all the finer qualities and in the case of Costa Rica, several shillings advance resulted generally. Kenya sold firmly. Common and medium qualities continue to meet a slow market.

RICE.—Extreme quietness continues in the London centre, but Continental buyers are in the market from time to time for Burma grain. Spanish steadier. Spanish oiled, Januafy-February, quoted, 15s. 9d. c.i.f. London, with Two Stars Burma, January-February, 12s.; Italian, 17s.; Fancy Blue Rose American, 20s.; extra ditto, 20s. to 20s. 6d. c.i.f.; No. 3, Burma to the Levant, double bags, January, 12s. 3d.; February, 12s.; S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 4½d. Saigon No. 1, round grain, February-March, to Europe, 12s. 3d. Siam Super, January-February, 15s. 6d. Californian nominal.

BEANS.—Market dull, and prices weak for butters. Madagascar, per steamer "Mantola," quoted, 38s. to 40s.; per "Eugene Grossos," sellers, 27s. 9d.; afloat steamer "Clan Macindoe," sold at 27s. 6d.; "Clan Chatton," 27s. 6d.; per "Belgrano," 26s. 3d.; November-December, 26s. 9d.; December alone, sold 26s. 4½d.; December-January, sold at 26s. 3d. to 25s. 10½d.; January-March 25s. 6d. c.i.f. Other descriptions unaltered. Ohtenashi, March-April, quoted, 23s. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 14s.; December-January, 13s.; January-February, 13s. c.i.f. London. Danubian, hand-picked, spot, 27s. to 27s. 6d.; January-February, 23s. 6d. c.i.f. London. To Glasgow, North African, January-February, 9s. c.i.f. Chinese horse, afloat, 8s. 9d. c.i.f.

Daily Mail

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1926 . . . 1,740,365
1927 . . . 1,802,255
1928 . . . 1,933,293

1929—1,945,635

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Northcliffe House, E.C.4.

PEAS.—*A dull market continues. Japanese, spot, old, 15s.*; new, 16s.; afloat, 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d.; November-December, 16s. 3d.; December-January, 16s. 3d.; January-February, 16s. 1½d. *February-March, 16s. 3d. c.i.f. London. Dutch steady, but quiet. Marrowfats, prompt, quoted, 18s. 6d.; small blues, H.P., 12s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s. 6d. Karachi, nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, January, old,* 57s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 60s. Tasmanian, A grade, new, February-March, 67s. c.i.f. China, white, hand-picked, December-*January, quoted* 13s. 6d. f.a.q., 10s. 9d. Manchurian, white, December-January, 12s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper dealt in to a moderate extent and market steady. Lampong, January-March, sold 10⅞d.; March-May, 11s. Muntok, white, January-March, changed hands at 1s. 3¾d.; March-May, 1s. 3¾d. to 1s. 3⅞d. Cloves unaltered. Tapioca steady, but trade slow. Sago flour, February-March, to the United Kingdom, sellers, 11s. 10½d.; buyers, 11s. 9d. c.i.f. Ginger unchanged.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady, with rather more inquiry for Greek varieties. Pyrgos, quoted, 38s.; Amalias, 38s. 6d. -40s.; Patras, 41s.-45s.; Gulf, 44s.-51s.; Vostizza, 52s.-63s.; small ditto, 51s.-58s.; Australian, 37s.-42s. Sultanas in quiet request on about former terms. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 35s.-52s.; Cape, bleached, 35s.-40s. Dates sell steadily. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins: Valencia quiet of sale; quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs quiet. Layers, spot, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 30s.-38s.; good average, 27s.-29s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Buyers are showing more interest and the tone remains *firm for most descriptions. Plums, Californian,* new crop, 30's-40's, 72s. 6d.; 40's 50's, 67s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 63s. Apricots: South African, new crop, Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.-77s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 90s.; extra, 100s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.; extra choice, 62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.; *extra, 72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s.* Apples: *Californian, spot,* sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 110s.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 115s.-135s.; *Bitter-Jordan,* new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: India, new crop, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s.; new spot, 1.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, walnuts 40s.; Barcelona, 132s. 6d.; *new crop, French (shelled)*, firm at 150s. ex-wharf London.

CANNED GOODS, &c.

There was rather more inquiry for Californian fruits, though business is still somewhat restricted. *Peaches are firmly held, also* apples and loganberries, the latter being reservedly offered; but apricots and pears were easier inclined. Singapore pines experienced better spot movement *at prices favourable to buyers,* while shipment parcels are held above spot parity. South African and Hawaiian held for full rates. Australian varieties moved off steadily. Italian tomatoes quietly steady.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon steady, but there is still a lack of demand. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s. 6d.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. 6d. Japanese crab firm for fancy qualities at 97s. 6d.-100s., with finer grades in short supply. Lobsters steady, but business restricted, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines in limited demand, but general position unchanged. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market quiet, but prices firm, *and tongues* realised extreme rates on scarcity. Full prices are also ruling for tinned hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market barely steady. Condensed, Dutch, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 38s. 6d.; machine skimmed, ditto, 23s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 50s. English full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 42s. 6d.; machine skimmed, ditto, 24s., carriage paid. Powders, full cream, English roller process, 28 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 82s. 6d.; Dutch roller process, 26 per cent. butterfat, 1-cwt. cases, 74s.; ditto, spray process, 26 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 96s. 6d.; Dutch, machine skimmed, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 28s.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 42s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 40s., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. All Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of March 1930. Stocks available in: Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 6d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remained quiet. Jamaica, ivory white, set, 57s. 6d.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; San Domingo, quoted, 50s.-55s. for finer grades, with *manufacturing sorts at 42s.-44s.; Californian, white, 55s.*; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, dark amber, 50s.-55s.; medium, 55s.-65s.; light, 65s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

A steady market resulted and business proved of fair dimensions. Standard sheet, spot and February, sold, 7¼d.-7⅜d.; March, 7 5/16d.-7⅜d.; April-June, 7¼d. to 7⅜d.; July-September, 7⅜d. to 7 11/16d.; and October-December, 8d. to 8¼d. London stocks increased 2,374 tons on the week. Landings, 3,439; deliveries, 1,065; stocks, 58,990, against 23,016 same time last year. Liverpool stocks, 202 tons higher. Landings, 442; deliveries, 240; stocks, 19,640 tons, against 3,520 last year.

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OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month Ended December 31.		12 Months Ended December 31.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	8,512,209	6,609,694	97,646,183	95,971,665
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	855,359	897,882	9,180,571	9,608,798
C. Meat	8,772,562	9,959,884	109,264,102	113,598,137
D. Animals, living, for food	1,288,814	1,442,618	16,034,355	16,376,347
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	16,684,469	18,779,621	209,528,619	214,168,891
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	6,322,313	6,250,141	71,711,882	67,986,565
G. Tobacco	2,850,218	2,824,041	17,542,997	18,499,941
Total, Class I.	45,285,944	46,763,881	530,908,709	536,210,344
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,141	2,052	39,496	32,890
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	443,544	489,185	5,611,514	5,954,708
C. Iron ore and scrap	312,221	593,356	4,829,009	6,430,245
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,647,468	1,488,661	16,524,523	16,986,078
E. Wood and timber	2,992,466	3,527,499	42,557,904	45,827,975
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	11,162,649	8,988,495	80,786,992	77,305,822
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	4,346,705	5,598,700	63,854,572	63,052,343
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	178,341	203,071	1,899,963	1,903,722
I. Other textile materials	1,558,147	1,774,281	13,982,104	15,218,530
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins and gums	3,368,305	3,404,025	44,603,942	44,043,040
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,604,771	1,382,246	26,051,740	20,431,210
L. Paper-making materials	990,764	1,506,927	10,156,304	13,148,675
M. Rubber	1,243,438	1,173,675	11,824,169	17,273,095
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,039,702	1,070,591	11,955,790	12,019,894
Total, Class II.	30,891,662	31,202,764	334,678,022	339,628,227
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,185	1,791	9,604	17,660
B. Earthenware, *glass*, abrasives, &c.	916,225	1,021,189	10,897,194	11,301,764
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,636,134	2,182,973	24,147,792	24,669,929
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	2,995,516	3,799,728	32,954,198	37,087,325
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	589,947	590,159	7,633,133	8,268,461
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	467,492	720,088	4,710,637	6,505,999
G. Machinery	1,234,665	1,629,491	16,738,244	19,138,340
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	691,635	827,877	8,423,685	9,683,110
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	768,229	963,117	10,733,389	10,932,418
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,153,558	1,294,483	17,279,336	16,223,681
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,019,781	845,698	14,467,414	13,173,286
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,256,116	1,277,956	15,608,412	17,114,513
M. Apparel	1,238,011	1,456,148	19,601,645	19,948,813
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,275,816	1,491,181	15,379,957	16,865,995
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	2,956,933	3,279,265	37,851,121	43,465,365
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,315,969	1,617,038	19,496,276	15,815,550
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,602,306	1,517,932	17,271,394	17,973,821
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	858,818	653,909	9,554,589	10,769,584
S. Rubber manufactures	207,275	296,282	3,345,684	3,757,296
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,206,769	2,312,258	31,712,351	31,669,168
Total, Class III.	24,392,380	27,778,563	317,816,055	334,382,078
IV.—Animals, not for food	377,753	287,049	3,069,025	3,545,842
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	503,710	542,283	9,126,602	7,824,571
Total	101451449	106,574,540	1195598413	1221591062

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.)

	Month Ended December 31.		12 Months Ended December 31.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	402,407	389,587	5,334,910	4,830,490
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	289,495	205,489	3,333,116	3,077,987
C. Meat	152,319	170,354	1,630,008	1,724,148
D. Animals, living, for food	17,422	19,471	172,728	206,132
E & F. Other food and drink	3,066,600	3,312,612	34,423,246	36,262,136
G. Tobacco	671,804	836,662	9,363,537	9,556,327
Total, Class I.	4,600,047	4,934,175	54,257,545	55,657,220
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,238,069	4,138,214	39,058,734	48,616,813
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	152,087	192,668	1,898,821	1,995,351
C. Iron ore and scrap	96,148	81,057	1,103,890	1,501,619
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	213,062	119,553	1,777,608	1,853,219
E. Wood and timber	34,211	27,531	445,980	372,019
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	97,414	83,598	1,382,618	1,150,541
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	1,008,861	543,554	10,282,320	9,621,916
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	4,168	1,933	37,484	28,050
I. Other textile materials	22,101	21,717	540,757	419,853
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	592,774	365,791	5,379,583	5,159,401
K. Hides and skins, undressed	357,983	194,084	3,085,035	2,642,588
L. Paper-making materials	115,850	125,807	1,429,547	1,571,578
M. Rubber	23,835	21,534	255,613	277,972
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	335,227	280,668	3,468,018	3,860,269
Total, Class II.	6,288,790	6,197,709	70,146,008	79,071,189
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	311,349	375,011	3,668,328	4,232,807
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	986,855	1,050,955	13,076,219	14,004,546
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,427,481	5,330,123	66,789,184	68,019,805
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,207,837	1,199,977	16,368,083	18,281,065
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	770,679	715,188	9,137,795	9,332,744
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	922,664	1,173,963	11,629,135	13,177,290
G. Machinery	4,499,244	4,408,195	53,721,526	54,358,673
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	255,701	239,584	2,502,790	3,002,284
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	10,998,734	9,877,504	145,302,215	135,449,008
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	4,041,522	3,568,613	56,897,302	52,883,966
K. Silk and silk manufactures	185,163	170,557	2,406,061	2,167,930
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,399,364	1,990,508	29,466,156	26,869,551
M. Apparel	1,717,723	1,737,830	26,182,837	25,614,459
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	2,030,432	2,577,918	25,410,243	26,625,924
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	1,002,212	636,496	8,955,933	8,598,854
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	572,279	582,551	9,369,946	7,906,800
Q. Paper and cardboard	790,438	809,817	9,292,900	9,809,373
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	5,070,582	4,599,879	47,257,395	50,248,538
S. Rubber manufactures	263,441	249,978	3,444,968	3,404,534
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	3,321,432	3,306,855	37,990,305	39,845,211
Total, Class III.	46,775,132	44,601,502	578,869,321	573,833,362
IV.—Animals, not for food	230,903	207,560	1,999,433	2,025,342
V.—Parcel Post	2,499,457	2,488,890	18,306,782	18,967,854
Total	60,394,329	58,429,836	723,579,089	729,554,967

DISTRICT BANK
LIMITED

Established 1829.

HEAD OFFICE :
Spring Gardens, MANCHESTER
LONDON OFFICES : 75 Cornhill, E.C.3
West End Branch : 46 Old Bond St., W.1
LIVERPOOL OFFICE : 3 Water Street
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT :
13 Spring Gardens, Manchester
2 Castle Street, Liverpool
76 Cornhill, London, E.C.3
TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT :
13 Spring Gardens, Manchester

390 BRANCHES. AGENTS EVERYWHERE

Subscribed Capital £9,796,000 Paid-up Capital £2,212,000
Reserve Fund £2,000,000 Deposits £52,240,452
Total Assets £59,231,746
31st December, 1929

Personal and Business Accounts.
Home Safes Issued. Savings Accounts opened.
Travellers Cheques and Letters of Credit issued payable throughout the British Isles and abroad.
Every description of Foreign and Colonial business transacted.
The Bank acts as Executor and Trustee either alone or with an individual.

The British Steel Industry
A Step Forward

WITH the formation of the English Steel Corporation, Ltd., the British Steel Industry has taken an important step forward in the work of reconstruction and rationalisation.

The English Steel Corporation, Ltd., was formed in January, 1929, by an amalgamation of the steel business and steel manufacturing resources of Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., and Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd.

From Vickers-Armstrongs, the English Steel Corporation have taken over the Vickers Works at Sheffield, the Armstrong-Whitworth Works at Openshaw, and the Drop Stamping Department at Elswick.

From Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd., they have taken over the Cyclops and Grimesthorpe Works at Sheffield and the works at Penistone.

They have also taken over from Vickers, Ltd., the wheel, axle and tyre business of Taylor Bros. & Co., Ltd., at Trafford Park, Manchester.

With these resources the English Steel Corporation is one of the largest steel manufacturing concerns in the World.

The following are the chief manufactures of the Corporation :—

Accumulators, Hydraulic.
Air Ministry Steels, all specifications.
Alloy Steels of every description.
Armour Plate.
Axial Flow Pumps.
Axles, Crank, Forged Steel for Tramway and Railway Rolling Stock. Front and Rear for Automobiles.
Basic Steel.
Boiler and Superheater Drums, High Pressure (Forgings).
Cammell's "Supertough" Steel.
Castings, Steel up to 100 tons. Semi-Steel and Grey Iron up to 120 tons. Aluminium and its alloys up to 2 tons. Brass, Gunmetal, Bronze, &c., up to 2 tons.
Cranes, Heavy, Overhead, Electric or Hydraulic, and turning gears (50 tons capacity minimum).
Crankshafts, Marine and Land Engine Work, Automobile, Aeroplane and Airship.
Drilling Outfits, for Oil and Water Well Drilling, to 8,000 feet.
Drop Forgings, Steel of all descriptions Heavy and Light.
Duralumin and Special Alloy Stampings.
Engines, Pumping for Sewerage, Drainage, &c., Winding for Collieries.
Forging Presses, Hydraulic.
Forgings, Steel, up to 100 tons, including Marine Shafting, Cranks, Turbine, Gear Wheel Rims and Pinions, Hollow Boiler Drums, Loco. Cranks, and Engine Forgings, Automobile and Aeroplane.
Golf Club Heads, in Rustless Iron and Mild Steel.
Hydraulic Machinery : Accumulators. Presses. Intensifiers. Rivetter and Testing Machines. Turning Gears. Wheel Presses.
Hydraulic Pressure Pumps, Steam, Electric, and Belt Driven.
Hydro-Electric Turbines.
Ingots, Blooms, Billets, Bars. In Crucible, Electric, Induction, Basic, and Acid Siemens Steel.
Magnets of all classes, for the Motor, Telephone and Wireless Trades.
Manganese Steel Bars, Castings, and Forgings.
Mining Drill Steel, Hollow and Solid.
Non-Corrosive Steel.
Pelton Wheels and Buckets.
Percussion Tools : Chisels, Drills, Pick Points and Rippers.
Pilger Rolls.
Pressed Steel Frames, and other Pressings.
Pumps : "Gill," Axial Flow, Low Lift Pumps for Drainage, Irrigation, &c. Boving, for general purposes. Centrifugal and Turbine. Pumps for Oil Well Drilling, including Deep Well Pumps. Hydraulic.
Rails and Fishplates, for Permanent Way, Collieries, Quarries Rack Rails.
Rivet Snaps for Hydraulic and Pneumatic Rivetting Machines.
Roll Shells.
Rolls, Cast or Forged Steel.
Rudder Frames.
Rustless and Heat Resisting Iron and Steel.
Springs, Laminated, Coil, and Volute, also Spring Steel.
Steels, Alloy, Special : Cammell's "Supertough," "Vibrac," "Vikro."
Special Turning Tools and Holders.
Steel Sheets, High Grade Carbon and Alloy Steel.
Stern Frames.
Tubes, Weldless Steel (up to 4 in. outside diameter), in high-grade Carbon and Alloy Steels.
Turbine Castings and Forgings.
Turbines, Hydro-Electric.
Tyres : Acid Open Hearth, "Australia" and "Camel" Brands for Locomotives, Carriages, and Wagons.
"Vibrac" Alloy Steel for all parts subject to heavy stresses.
Winding and Hauling Engines, Collieries, and Mines.

The formation of the English Steel Corporation carries a step further the policy of amalgamating like with like which was followed in the formation of Vickers-Armstrongs, and places at the service of world industry resources of technical skill and manufacturing plant almost without equal in the world.

ENGLISH STEEL CORPORATION LIMITED
Vickers Works, Sheffield
London Office : Vickers House, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—	s.	d.		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	52	0		
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	7		
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.	8	7		
Oats, ,, ,, ,,	7	0		
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb.	40	0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	11	10½	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
E.I. flake, fair spot	21	0	0	0
Medium pearl	23	0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.	4	0	4	6
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	5	4	5	10
Argentine chilled hinds	5	0	5	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	6	4	7	4
N.Z. frozen ,,	4	8	5	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	7	8	9	8

OTHER FOODS.

BACON—				
Irish per cwt.	108	0	130	0
Danish	101	0	110	0
Canadian	96	0	106	0
Dutch	93	0	105	0
HAMS—Irish	0	0	0	0
Canadian	0	0	0	0
American	91	0	112	6
BUTTER—				
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal			
Australian	136	0	150	0
New Zealand	146	0	168	0
Danish	168	0	170	0
CHEESE—				
Canadian per cwt.	95	0	98	0
New Zealand	83	0	87	0
English Cheddars	96	0	120	0
Dutch	52	0	98	0
COCOA—				
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)				
ccra f.f., per cwt.	43	0	46	0
inidad	58	0	65	0
enada	48	0	54	0
OFFEE—				
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)				
.I., good to fine, per cwt.	140	0	150	0
osta Rica, good to fine	150	0	180	0
ent. Amer., mid to fine	100	0	135	0
enya, bold sizes	117	0	157	0
olombian, mid to fine	105	0	120	0
GGS—				
English per 120	18	6	22	6
nish	15	6	17	6
IT—				
ges, Californian...bxs.	0	0	0	0
ffa boxes	10	0	16	0
ranges—				
Denia and Valencia				
½ cases 300	7	0	32	0
360	7	0	18	6
504	8	0	12	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0	0	0
Sicilian boxes	7	0	11	0
,, cases	10	0	25	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	20	0	27	0
,, (var.) boxes	9	6	11	0
,, Tasmanian boxes	0	0	0	0
,, W. Australian	0	0	0	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia:—				
case 4s.	7	0	7	6
case 5s.	9	5	10	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	78	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	55	0	56	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	5	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	10	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	67	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good	75	0	110	0
Mace per lb.	3	0	3	9
Nutmegs 65's	1	9	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	9	23	6
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Jan.-Mar.	11	0	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	21	7½	0	0
Cubes	26	0	26	6
Crushed	24	9	25	3
Granulated	22	9	23	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	21	1½	21	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe	0	8	2	3½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	11	3	7
Broken Orange	0	9½	2	10½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10-11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
,, strips	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
,, strips	0	6	1	1

TEXTILES.

COTTON—	d.			
Mid-American per lb.	9·56			
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	14·45			
Yarns, 32's twist	13⅞			
60's twist	23½			
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK per ton	58	10	57	10
Pernau HD	57	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. per ton	53	0	54	0
Manila, Jan.-Mar. "J2"	35	0	0	0
N.Z., Aug.-Oct.	nom.			
Sisal African, Jan.-Mar.	33	10	35	0
Mexican, Nov.-Dec.	38/15/0		43/2/6	
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton				
Jan.-Feb.	27	10	0	0
Feb.-Mar.	27	15	0	0
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton per lb.	13	9	15	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	19	6	21	0
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.	
English Southdown, washed per lb.	22	
,, Lincoln hog, washed	15½	
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	32	
N.S.W. greasy, super ,,	16	
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50-56	16	
Crossbred 40-44	12	
Tops—		
Merinos 70's	33	
,, 64's	31	
Crossbred 48's	18	
,, 46's	17½	

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough	215	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	9	18	10½
METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/5/0		83	15
Sheets (strong)	110	0	0	0
Standard	72	0	72	5
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	23	0	0	0
Soft Foreign	21/11/3		0	0
Spelter G.O.B.	19/5/0		19/17/6	
Tin—English ingots	176	0	176	10
Standard cash	174/17/6		175/2/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	11	0	0
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3¾	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.-Mar.	22/10/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	21/11/3		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	16	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co.	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5¾
West Indian	0	4	0	5¾
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape	0	9	0	10¾
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6¾
Best cow	0	5½	0	5¾
Best calf	0	9¾	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.—per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	10	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	44	10	0	0
Rape, refined	41	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude	34	0	0	0
Palm	31	15	33	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	5	12	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Jan.-Feb.	18/2/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Jan.	22/7/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.	42	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910	82	6	0	0
,, 950	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American per ton	18	0	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	150	0	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. ,,	4	0	12	10
TIMBER—		£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.		19	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 ,,		19	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 ,,		19	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis. ,,		17	10	0
Pitchpine per load		9	0	0
Rio Deals per std.		32	0	0
Teak per load		20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.		0	11	6
African ,, ,,		0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards ,,		0	6	0
Do. Ash ,, ,,		0	6	0
English Oak Planks ,,		0	7	0
Do. Ash ,, ,,		0	6	6

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Sellers asked steady prices, but buyers were rather reserved. Firsts, January-February, Continent, quoted, £27 12s. 6d.; February-March, £27 15s.; March-April, £28 5s.; Lightnings, February-March, £25 12s. 6d.; Hearts, January-February, £22 15s. per ton.

HEMP.—A very quiet market for Manila and any change in prices favoured the buyer. J.2, January-March, quoted, £35; K, sellers, £31 15s.; L.1, £30; M.1, £27; L.2, £27; M.2, £25 5s.; G, £36 10s.; C.2, £28 10s.; C.3, £24 5s. African sisal easy and No. 1 f.a.q., January-March, sellers, £34 10s.; marks, £35; and No. 2, £1 less in each case. Manila receipts last week cabled 24,000 bales, against 22,000 last year and 27,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 26,000, and week following, 28,000. Shipments last week to Europe, 14,000; U.S.A., 10,000; Japan, 3,000; and other countries, 1,000. Mexican: Good white, £38 15s. to £39 12s. 6d.; special, £41 5s. to £42 2s. 6d.; and special brushed, £42 5s. to £43 2s. 6d. Receipts for past two weeks, 22,000 bales; deliveries, 21,000; stock, 53,000.

SHELLAC was a firm market. T.N., spot, 150s.; March 142s.; May, sold, 144s. 6d.

COPRA.—Again reservedly offered and market quite steady. Straits S.D., February-March, to Rotterdam, quoted, £22 10s.; Dutch East Indies, £22 10s.; Ceylon, £24 2s. 6d.; to Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, excluding Padang, January-February, £21 12s. 6d., smoked, South Sea, January shipment, sold, £21 11s. 3d.; sun-dried ditto, quoted, £21 12s. 6d.; for February-March and Plantation Rabaul, also hot air-dried, £21 17s. 6d. Palm kernels, to Hamburg, January-February, £16 17s. 6d. per ton.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 17s. to 22s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £24 10s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3½d.; Java, 2s. 9d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—January 15.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 8	7 0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 8	10 0
Short Horns	6 2	6 4	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	6 4	6 8	Ewes	5 4	5 8
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	...	...

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—January 15.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	4 0	4 6
,, ,, ,, whites	3 0	3 6
Essex King Edward	3 6	4 0
,, ,, ,, whites	2 6	3 0

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

For another week money has remained abundant and bills in short supply. The reasons for the abnormal quantity of money available at this season of the year are firstly, that the Stock Exchange is only issuing about half of its normal requirements of short money, and,

secondly, that heavy repayments now being made by the Treasury almost offset collections in respect of taxes and the final call on the new Conversion Loan. Thus, in addition to the excess each week of Treasury bill maturities over issues, the Government is reported to be buying up the Treasury bonds maturing next May, and this action adds to the amount of money available. The result is that new money this week was quoted at 4 per cent. or even less.

* * * *

Discount rates have remained low, and February and March bills were quoted at 3⅞ per cent., with the three months' market rate at about 3 15/16 per cent. or possibly a shade lower. The shortage of bills persists, and is indeed being accentuated by the steady reduction in the volume of Treasury bills. The market has for so long been accustomed to rely upon Treasury bills as one of its main sources of supply, that now that efforts are being made to reduce the floating debt, it is inevitable that until trade revives and the volume of commercial bills increases, the market should frequently find itself short of bills. Thus the recent change in Treasury policy has presented the market with a new problem which so far it has failed to solve.

* * * *

As matters are, market rate is over a point below Bank rate, and is fractionally below the rate at which the market borrows the bulk of its money. This is an anomalous position that cannot last for long, and it explains the continued rumours of an impending reduction in Bank rate. Once more, however, the Bank refrained from making any change, but it is not easy to understand the grounds of Thursday's decision. It is true that the principal foreign exchanges are hardly as favourable as at the end of the year, and on Tuesday the market gold was divided between France and Germany. Still, the price paid was only 84s. 11d., and the state of the franc and mark exchanges was such that the Bank could have secured all the gold if it had chosen to bid for it.

* * * *

This suggests that the Bank is content with its gold stocks at their present level, and is also content to see discount rates at their present low level, without attempting to exert any pressure upon the market, though the Bank return shows that the Bank is following its neutralisation policy of the past few years. It is possible that the Bank believes that, as the influx of revenue continues, money will gradually become less abundant, and discount rates will rise, but, in view of the considerations stated above, it is not easy to justify so passive an attitude. Besides, if the Bank's existing gold stocks of £151,000,000 are deemed sufficient, there seems to be no reason why Bank rate should not have been reduced.

	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	5	5½ (Dec.12,'29)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Discount ∫ Call	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Houses \ Notice	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¾ (Dec.12,'29)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	4 5/16	4 1/16	4 1/16–⅛	3 7/8–15/16	...

This week's Bank return shows that a further £5,544,000 of notes hav returned from circulation, and, allowing for a small increase of £634,000 in the Bank's gold stocks, the Reserve has risen by £6,178,000, and the Proportion to the fully adequate figure of 51 13/16 per cent. There has been a transfer of nearly £4½ million from Bankers' to Public Deposits. It thus appears that last week payments to the Treasury slightly exceeded disbursements. The rise in the Bank's Reserve has been neutralised by sales of Government securities and further maturities of short bills discounted at the Bank immediately before the end of the year.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Federal Reserve statements show that the usual January contraction in credit is slackening. Reserves are up $17 million, total credit is off $39 million. Circulation is off $43 million, and the ratio is up 0.9 on the week and 7.0 on the year. Meanwhile Member Bank loans on securities are still approximately at the same level as before the break and considerably above that of a year ago, but are falling slowly. The steel industry is operating at between 65 and 70 per cent., but prices continue weakish. Other reports indicate a pick-up in industrial activity, and, in general, business sentiment is hopeful and fairly optimistic.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Despite the welcome news of the fixing of a date for the "Hatry" Settlement, the Stock Markets remained undecided and lethargic in the absence of sustained public interest at home or abroad. Gilt-edged were steady, though some disappointment was expressed at the absence of a reduction in Bank rate. Further realisation of India Loans was in progress. Among Home Rails, interest was centred chiefly on the "London" stocks. Industrial share movements had no feature of interest, except the strength of Imperial Tobacco after an unexpectedly good dividend announcement. Tea and rubber shares were, on balance, a shade firmer, and the oil market broadened on a falling-off in the American crude output, but mining shares were dull, with few exceptions.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Reports this week are not at all encouraging. The weather is unfavourable to trade in house coal and furnace coke, and prices have an easier tendency. Quiet conditions continue in the iron and steel trades, and some uncertainty is caused by the position on the Continent. Very little business has been done in the cotton trade. Wool is cheap, but Bradford still appears doubtful as to whether it has touched bottom, and buying is consequently restricted. The jute trade is suffering from heavy over-production. The hide and leather trades are meeting a steady demand for their products, and shoe manufacturers report a continued improvement in their position. Vegetable oils and oilseeds remain a poor market. Wheat prices are practically unchanged on the week.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The market in Foreign Exchanges was quieter last week as regards the volume of business, but many currencies were erratic, and the tendency in general was against this country. Sterling on New York lost 3/32 at 4.86 23/32, after being 4.86 9/16 on Tuesday. Montreal gained ⅛ at 4.92⅛. Paris was two points better at 123.90, and Brussels improved from 34.95⅜ to 34.93. Milan was rather better at 92.99, against 93.05. The peseta was again very uncertain, in spite of proposed gold shipments and the Government's suggestions for tackling the problem, and declined at one time to over 38.00 from 36.50, but recovered to 37.55. Amsterdam lost ⅛ at 12.11, but was at 12.11⅜ and 12.10 1/16 at different times. Berlin was very erratic, but gained ¾ on balance at 20.37¼; Switzerland also lost ground sharply from 25.16¼ to 25.18 after 25.19. Stockholm was ¾ stronger at 18.13. Copenhagen gained ⅝ at 18.19⅜. The South American exchanges continued their recent irregularity, although Rio was unchanged on balance at 5 7/16d., but Buenos Aires gained 3/16 at 44 15/16, after having touched 45⅛d. Montevideo lost ⅛d. at 45½d. The rupee was steady, but lost 1/64d. at 1s. 5 15/16d., the yen gained 1/32d. at 2s. 0¼d., but Batavia lost ¼ at 12.14¼. In the futures market New York was less in demand at 1/32 cent and 3/32 premium, exactly half last week's quotations. Paris was in short supply at 4 and 7 centimes premiums, against 2½ and 6 centimes last week. Milan was rather weaker at discounts of 12 and 35 centesimi. Brussels went from 2 to 4 centimes discount last week to 1½ and 2½ centimes premium. Berlin was fractionally better for both periods. Silver prices again fell as a result of a resumption of sales by China and the Indian bazaars, which brought down spot by ⅝d. to 20 13/16d., and future delivery by ½d. to 20 9/16d. The China silver exchanges declined in sympathy, Hongkong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 7⅛d. and Shanghai ⅜d. at 2s. 0⅝d.

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATION.

FROM the day on which Mr MacDonald, lacking a clear majority in the House of Commons, consented to form a Government, it has been obvious to the most casual observer of politics that sooner or later a situation was bound to arise in which the position of the balancing Party would become at once important and difficult. Indeed, it is probable that the future historian, when he writes the chronicle of the present Parliament, will prefer to dwell not on the *res gestae* of the Party in office, but on the policies and tactics of the two diversely-motived Oppositions. The destiny of the Government may well be determined less by its own positive acts than by its reactions to the attitude of the other Parties in the House.

It would be premature to infer from the Parliamentary record of the past eight months that Mr MacDonald's Administration is faced, as yet, with a dilemma wherein the choice of issues is decisive and fateful; but events, in our judgment, are shaping towards a climax in which the Prime Minister must choose between two alternatives—to implement realistically his declared intention of regarding Parliament as a Council of State, or to abandon statesmanship and appeal once more to the country on whatever question appears, in the Cabinet's opinion, to have the best chance of evoking mob-prejudice and ensuring the Party's return to power.

In any estimate of political probabilities one factor can be assessed with a considerable degree of certainty. The Conservative Party, or (more accurately) the titular leadership of that agglomeration of divergent opinions, has evidently decided that the winning tactical policy is to give the Government ample latitude to encompass its own downfall. In this decision the basis for calculation is sufficiently apparent. No matter how difficult it be to attack Mr MacDonald's foreign policy (and there is always a chance that the electorate, not realising that even a "successful" Five-Power Conference may entail a considerable increase in expenditure on cruiser construction, will be much disappointed at the financial results of a conclave from which so much is expected), domestic affairs are bound, it is argued, to reflect ultimate discredit on the Party in office. Then, give the Government full rein to fail in reducing unemployment, to squander money on relaxation of qualifications for "benefit," to face the ugly consequences of a syndicalist Coal Mines Bill abhorrent both to consumers of coal and to half the Government's own supporters, and, finally, to produce a Budget which, in the nature of things, will please nobody and may antagonise or alarm thousands—and, hey presto! with a wave of the magic clockwork wand, the old gang, the "safe" Conservative contingent, is swept back to office on a wave of popular revulsion from a "progressive" policy whose "faith" may be attractive but whose "works" are expensive without being efficacious.

Mr Baldwin's calculation—a calculation whose premises have led to the virtual self-effacement, save for Major Elliott's heroic single combats, of the Conservative Opposition on the Floor, and, even more, in the Lobby of the House—may, or may not, be well-conceived from the point of view of strict party politics. From the aspect of the national interest, it is a policy which has little to commend it. The present objective of all who desire the common good, irrespective of differences of traditional Party doctrine, must manifestly be an acceptable solution of the problem presented by minority Government; and in pursuance of that aim we prefer to turn to the speech delivered on Monday by Mr Lloyd George at the National Liberal Club.

Mr Lloyd George's remarks were significant, not so much in themselves, as in relation to the potentialities of the imminent Parliamentary situation. The course of the middle Party, he said, was always difficult, hazardous, and highly responsible. Among the many conceivable lines of action there were two—complete subservience to the Government, and determination to turn the Government out on the slightest tactical opportunity—which were "quite impracticable and quite unpatriotic," inasmuch as one of the country's chief needs at present was a stable administration. The next alternative was co-operation, which meant, not coalition, but "frank consultation beforehand on lines of policy . . . and concession to the views of those whose support was necessary to carry any measures through or to keep the Government alive." He disclaimed any desire to dictate to the Government, and emphasised the view that consultation and concession need not be at the expense of "forfeiting any great principle." Hitherto, he added, the conditions of co-operation had not been fulfilled, since the Government had neither consulted the Liberal Party on policy, nor refrained from attacking its members in their constituencies, nor given any promise that a measure of electoral reform would be introduced. The Liberal Party, therefore, was bound, in the absence of an "honourable understanding" on these lines, to adhere to the policy which it had so far pursued, *i.e.*, to "fall back on independent action, deciding each question entirely on its own merits."

It would doubtless be easy to make too much of the evident implication in this phrase that Mr Lloyd George regards complete independence of action as an unwelcome *pis aller;* but his insistence that, even in the absence of co-operation, the Liberal Party should be inclined to give the Government the "benefit of the doubt," and should be "ready to overlook faults which were not vital, offering every facility to the Government to develop its programme," is obviously significant. Whereas Mr Baldwin's policy is to give Mr MacDonald sufficient rope to hang himself, Mr Lloyd George clearly offers the Government, not a leading-string, but a life-line.

On their response to Mr Lloyd George's not ungenerous, though cautiously worded, *démarche* depends the Government's expectation of life. In this respect the indications are conflicting. Temperamental difficulties in the way of "consultation and concession," though much less in evidence than in 1924, cannot entirely be ignored; the Labour "Left" might well revolt from any formal acknowledgment even of limited co-operation with another Party; and the discovery, on the Second Reading of the Coal Mines Bill, that defeat is not inevitable even if the two Oppositions combine with almost complete unanimity in one Lobby, may tend to make the Cabinet less accommodating than ever to the balancing Party. On the other hand, there appear to be signs of a distinct disposition on the Government's part to meet—in practice, if not in form—the views of Liberal critics. Setting aside the fact that during the past eight months the programme for establishing the "Socialist Commonwealth" has been tacitly shifted to a higher, and still higher, shelf, the amendments which Mr Graham has tabled on the Coal Mines Bill are evidence, at least, of willingness to placate criticism of this questionable measure's worst faults. Similarly, in the case of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, the Government accepted, in a reasonably conciliatory spirit, the amendment—with regard to training for young persons unemployed—on which the Liberal Opposition was chiefly concerned to insist. And, finally, the announcement, made by the Prime Minister in Parliament on Wednesday, that an Economic Advisory Council, absorbing in its functions the existing Committee on Civil Research, is to be constituted, should clearly be regarded as earnest of the Government's desire to approach the country's major industrial and financial problems on other than purely partisan lines.

Whatever the Government's inclinations in this matter may be, there is little doubt, we think, as to the wishes of the great majority of the electorate. On the one hand, an early Election would be highly unpopular; a desire

that the Government shall have "full and fair opportunity" is still general; in its conduct of foreign affairs and in its approach to the problem of armaments the Administration continues widely to command confidence and support; and, further, there is a vast mass of what may be termed moderate, enlightened opinion in the country which would regard it as a real blow to the national interest if blunders or shortcomings in the Cabinet's handling of domestic issues were to lead to a violent reaction from any and every form of "progressive" policy to the pure negations of Labour's predecessors in office. On the other hand, co-existent with these sentiments, there has unmistakably developed during recent months a widespread tendency to regard the Government's future acts, if not its accomplished performance, with considerable nervousness and suspicion. There is a feeling, not confined to any one political Party, that in several issues, such as the problems of coal and unemployment, good intentions have been too much encumbered by past commitments to permit of really sound results, and disquieting signs have been noted of an inclination to fill the *lacuna* between professions and achievements by increasing drafts, for unproductive purposes, on the resources of the Exchequer. Recognising that up to the present the Government has been forced by Parliamentary circumstances to be on its best behaviour, the great majority of the electorate is certainly in no mood to see Mr MacDonald's Administration given a free hand.

In short, we believe that the "national will," so far as that abstraction can be detected, favours Mr MacDonald's continuance in office for a substantial term, provided assurance is forthcoming that the economic and social policy of his Government will be adequately tempered and modified in the light of friendly criticism and helpful suggestions from no matter which quarter of the House. Given acceptance of that condition, in itself neither unreasonable nor derogatory, the Cabinet's expectation of life may exceed (with advantage to the country) the somewhat pessimistic forecasts whose currency in Government circles is a curious feature of the present situation.

THE CONFERENCE STARTS.

Outwardly, at any rate, all the omens surrounding the opening of the Naval Conference have been propitious. The King's presence was clearly gratifying to the foreign delegates; his speech, which was broadcast to the most distant parts of the world, was short, businesslike and constructive; and of the subsequent declarations from or even divergent.

But this, after all, was a formal and ceremonial occasion. The Conference has now settled down to work on different lines, and if some difficulties are being smoothed out in preliminary conversations, others, no doubt, are being, or will be, accentuated. Even at the opening ceremony M. Tardieu and Mr MacDonald threw their emphasis in different directions. The British Prime Minister, while recognising theoretically the interdependence of land, sea and air armaments, on which the French ceaselessly insist, was clear that the three arms must be dealt with separately, and that it was proper to begin with the navies. His French colleague, on the other hand, stressed particularly the doctrine of national needs —which the Americans ruled out so decisively at Washington eight years ago on the ground that a nation's own views and those of its neighbours on that point would never accord—and was studious throughout to treat the London negotiations as simply an episode in the general work of the Preparatory Commission at Geneva. To this view Mr MacDonald would certainly take no exception, but he is clearly anxious not to dwell on it unduly, out of consideration for the susceptibilities of the Americans—who are probably not so susceptible, after all, seeing that they have for three years and more been participating as zealously as anyone in the work of the Preparatory Commission.

From some points of view the new aspect in the situation is public opinion. The recurrence, in speech after speech at the opening ceremony, of the declaration that "the eyes of the world are upon us," or words to that effect, was significant. It would appear that the American delegation in particular, arriving with the idea that the question of capital ship reduction was one for the experts and possibly the financiers, discovered with something of a shock that this was a matter on which the public of Great Britain had already developed decided views. That fact soon made itself felt across the Atlantic, and the hands of those who share the desire attributed to President Hoover himself to see the capital ship abolished or drastically reduced are being correspondingly strengthened. In that connection and in many others the newspaper and the radio look like playing a larger part in this Conference than in any before. The Prime Minister, impelled, no doubt, in part by a recollection of the friendships he made on his recent visit to the United States, has engaged in the rather delicate venture of launching a little propaganda by radio addressed to the people of the United States. His case for the relativity of armaments, which precludes a country from reducing independently of others, was well made. But the comparison between the numbers of ships in the British Navy in August, 1914, and those in commission to-day must be regarded as extremely doubtful wisdom, for it is manifest to everyone, American listeners included, that the British fleet of 1930 is in some ways a more efficient instrument of war than the fleet of 1914.

In any case, it is not in the light of figures of this kind or, at any rate, not wholly in the light of them, that decisions on such major questions will be taken. Some weight must, of course, be attached to what the experts have to say on the functions of capital ships in a national fleet. If navies are to exist at all the opinions of those whose life's business it is to understand navies is not to be summarily dismissed. But the capital ship question stands in a sense by itself. This Conference has to achieve something. The public opinion of all the world demands that. The field in which the hope of achieving is greatest is that of the capital ship. This, too, is accepted by expert and layman alike. Even if it be admitted that some small degree of risk is attached to a reduction of any kind—though that is, in fact, clearly not true if the reductions are proportionate and leave the rival navies in the same relation as before—there is a strong disposition, in this country at any rate, to take that small risk in order that the Conference may succeed instead of failing. It is, indeed, demonstrable to everyone that a successful conference with fewer capital ships means actually more security than a conference fiasco with every capital ship intact. Financial considerations, moreover, cannot be excluded. Mr Snowden is understood, quite naturally, to have made that point very clear to his colleagues. A British Government in the year 1930, most of all a British Labour Government, is expected to send naval estimates down and not up. Yet, even if not a single capital ship is laid down between now and 1936, the mere replacing of cruisers promises to inflate naval estimates by a clear £2,000,000 a year, merely on the basis of the fifty cruisers which the Admiralty is prepared to accept. That, of course, is not the fault of the present Government. It is, indeed, in part the result of a laudable slowing-down of building on the part of the late Government. But it so happens that after 1931 an abnormal number of cruisers will be reaching the twenty years age limit year by year, and if the total of fifty is to be maintained those vessels will have to be replaced, and by ships much more costly than themselves. Any saving, therefore, that can be effected, either by a lengthening of the age of cruisers or by a reduction in the total below fifty—which is unlikely—or by the scrapping of five or six capital ships, whose maintenance costs come to something like £2,000,000 a year between them, is going to be eagerly hailed by the Chancellor and those who share his financial anxieties.

Such a partial cut in the capital ship fleets is by no means impossible. Something of the kind has been suggested independently in America, while Japan—insistent at the opening ceremony of the Conference, as she has been throughout, on the need not merely for limitation but reduction—could hardly refuse to scrap three of her capital ships if Great Britain and America were ready to scrap five. All this, of course, concerns the more technical side of the Conference. So, too, does the controversy between measurement by categories and measurement by total tonnage, regarding which the French and Italian delegations still hold views opposed to those of the other three, though a solution is likely to be found in the bridge built by the French at Geneva in 1927 when they proposed that each country should declare its building programme for a period of years, with liberty for any one of them to transfer tonnage from one category to another on giving a year's notice to the League. The difficulty about that is that it involves the enunciation of a definite building programme by each nation, a plan much disliked by Italy on the ground that *amour propre* would compel her to commit herself to building plans as extensive as France's, in spite of her earnest desire to economise on armaments and use the money for social reform. Italy and France, indeed, show few signs as yet of rapprochement. But the position is by no means hopeless, for it should not pass the wit of some ingenious Englishman or American, even if it passes the wit of ingenious French and Italians, to devise a formula which should dispel the idea of giving France any contractual right to superiority while leaving her free to maintain a larger fleet than Italy chosses to build just as she does in actual fact to-day.

All these problems, however, have their political angle. If differences between Italy and France in North Africa, and still more Italian uneasiness about the Franco-Jugoslav alliance, could be cleared up, the task of negotiating a naval agreement would be sensibly simpler. The elaboration of the much-discussed Mediterranean agreement is, of course, another factor in the problem. The Conference stands so far only on the outer edge of discussions on these points, if, indeed, they are to be discussed seriously at all. The prospects are that they will be, but not, in all likelihood, unless the conclusion of a naval agreement proves impossible without them.

BANKERS' SPEECHES.

The past year has been an exceptional one in financial history and, with the question of the relation between banks and industry very much in the public mind, there are an unusually large number of topics for the bank chairmen to discuss in their annual addresses to shareholders. It is, therefore, particularly to be regretted that Mr McKenna, from whom the public usually gets a particularly interesting and sometimes challenging speech, should have felt that his membership of the Banking Inquiry Committee debarred him from publicly discussing questions of banking policy. This is the more to be regretted since that Committee has taken what we consider the mistaken decision of hearing its evidence in private, so that such discussions as are going on are taking place behind closed doors.

Mr McKenna, however, made such amends as he could by giving an historical retrospect of the banking and currency situation, and of his own bank in particular, over the last hundred years. Some of the details of the history of his own bank are of much interest, but, for the rest, the survey necessarily covered familiar ground. A clear analysis, however, served to throw up into sharp relief the relation between gold and the volume of currency and credit in 1844 and 1929 respectively. According to his estimate, the amount of bullion in the country in the former year, including gold coin in circulation as well as in Bank reserve, was between £50,000,000 and £60,000,000. In recent months it has varied between £130,000,000 and £150,000,000. In 1844 the active circulation of bank notes was just under £30,000,000, while the gold coin in circulation was approximately £40,000,000. That is to say, there was £70,000,000 of the currency in the hands of the public and in bank reserves other than those of the Bank of England. The comparable figure to-day is the £350,000,000 of notes outstanding, *i.e.*, there has been been a five-fold increase in currency. Bank deposits in 1844 were about £211,000,000; to-day the present total for England and Wales is approximately £2,000,000,000—a ten-fold increase. Leaving out the gold coin in circulation at the previous period, non-metallic money has thus increased from a total of £230,000,000 to £2,360,000,000. In other words, a ten-fold expansion of non-metallic money has been reared upon a two-and-a-half-fold increase in the stock of gold in the country. This is, as Mr McKenna pointed out, a conspicuous instance of economy in the use of gold and the beneficial effect of the concentration of banking resources.

In this connection, Mr McKenna pointed out the many important differences between the gold standard system of 1929 and that of 1844 and, in particular, the important fact that monetary policy to-day exercises for short periods an assured ascendancy over gold movements. "We can well imagine what enormous fluctuations in the supply of credit would have taken place during the past five years if the successive inflows and outflows of gold had been allowed to exercise unregulated influence upon the quantity of bank cash. We should have suffered repeatedly the evils of feverish inflation and drastic deflation, and trade would have been the plaything of these tremendous changes in monetary conditions." He drew the conclusion that the development of our monetary machine, despite its less popular appeal, is no less remarkable than that achieved in the physical sciences. It may be added that this note of appreciation of what has been accomplished in recent months by our monetary authorities is struck also by other speakers. For example, the Hon. Sidney Peel, at the meeting of the National Discount Company, after referring to the five changes made in Bank rate in 1929, observed that "We can be grateful to the authorities that we did not have even more."

In this connection, Mr Goodenough, on whom no such restraints were imposed as those which limited Mr McKenna's freedom of speech, also found cause for congratulation in the events of recent months, which, in his view, clearly illustrate the elasticity of our monetary system. Referring to the rise in Bank rate in September, he observed that "the effectiveness of the Bank of England rate should be regarded as amongst the most favourable features during the year. . . . There is cause for genuine satisfaction that our monetary system, which has proved so reliable in the past, when conditions may have been somewhat different, has shown itself again to be entirely effective, and there is no doubt that the prestige of London has been greatly increased by the satisfactory readjustment of the credit position through the operation of the Bank of England rate." It is possible to argue that the unhealthy situation would have been cured sooner if the Bank had raised its rate more promptly instead of trying to maintain a difficult position throughout the summer months. But, whatever answer the critics may make to this question, Mr Goodenough is certainly justified in congratulating the monetary authorities on having weathered an extremely severe storm and come through with enhanced prestige. In dealing with the events leading to the American crisis, and, in particular, with the flow of money into the American boom, the chairman of Barclays contributed the interesting fact that "Neither our bank nor, as I believe, the other banks, allowed their own balances to be dealt with in the manner above referred to, as we felt that our doing so would have prejudiced our own people. . . ."

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Mr Goodenough had something, also, to say on banks and industry. He pointed out that, since the war, the banks have given practical evidence of their desire to help businesses which have been in difficulties. "In very many instances, help given has been justified by results; in other cases, it has proved that it was not financial assistance which was required, but reorganisation to meet the ever-increasing competition." He added, however, that it lies with industry to reorganise itself, such reorganisation not being within the province of the banks. The provision of capital alone will not help, for it merely adds to losses unless businesses are efficiently organised and controlled. This point the chairman of Barclays developed at length in pointing out the different classes of influence which may cause the failure of a business. If fundamental conditions are not satisfactory, the provision of capital merely means throwing good money after bad. In this part of his speech Mr Goodenough did not, however, deal with or discuss one of the major criticisms made against the banks, which is that they have kept alive, or helped to maintain as independent units, concerns which either should have gone out of existence owing to the change in fundamental conditions, to which Mr Goodenough referred, or could only hope to carry on successfully by reorganisation and association with other concerns. Indeed, the charge may be brought against the banks that, by looking into the conditions of their individual customers and standing aloof entirely from the broader question of industrial policy, they have, in fact, proved an obstacle in the way of rationalisation. This is the case for plans such as those discussed last week. Though there can be no question of the banks dictating to industry, the industrial situation calls for a more positive policy on the part of our banking institutions; and we should have liked to have heard Mr Goodenough's comments on methods of realising that policy.

Although, as Mr McKenna pointed out, the hopes of improvement in general trade, with which 1929 opened, were disappointed, Mr Goodenough is justified in directing attention to the fact that, in spite of very great difficulties, the year's exports of British goods show some improvement, a further important step has been taken to improve industrial relations, the production indices show a substantial increase compared with 1928, and the depressed trades, particularly in the latter part of the year, show substantially better figures. Although there are factors—such as the industrial effect of the American slump and low prices due to a surplus of food stuffs and raw materials—there should be a better outlook for industry in the present year.

SUCCESS AT THE HAGUE.

Up to the very last moment it looked as though the adjourned Hague Conference must fail of complete success. It even seemed that the refusal of the Little Entente Powers to sign until agreement had been reached on the Hungarian question would prevent the signature of a final act at all, and that the mountains of statesmanship and expert knowledge which had been in labour at the Binnenhof would have brought forth no more than a *modus vivendi*. But M. Loucheur, Count Bethlen, and the Little Entente representatives sat all night till they were tired of disagreement, and when, on Monday, the fourteen agreements with twelve annexes which constituted the final act came to be signed, it was found that only one reservation had to be recorded, that of Czechoslovakia in regard to the Czech-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunals. This is not a very serious matter compared with the scope of the agreements actually reached.

The most difficult problem that the Conference had to face, and the one whose solution is perhaps its most notable achievement, is that of Hungarian reparations. The fact that Hungary's chief creditors, the Little Entente Powers, are also debtors for Liberation Debt, and that the reparations balance sheet in Eastern Europe is complicated by counter-credits for ceded properties, by relief credits, by claims of dethroned princes and expropriated churches, tangles the issues beyond the possibility of unravelment. As if that were not enough, the comprehensive liquidation of the past necessarily involved a settlement of the Hungarian optants question.

The claims of these optants (i.e., persons who retained their Hungarian nationality, but whose land was confiscated under agrarian laws in neighbouring states) run into very large sums. The initial Hungarian estimate at this Conference was 310 million gold crowns (about £12,400,000). But not only is it impossible to say how many of the claims are well founded; the issue, whether any compensation is due by intrenational law, has never been decided by any tribunal. For eight years all attempts at a settlement of the dispute, including protracted efforts by the Council of the League of Nations, have failed for want either of a principle to govern the trial of the cases or of agreement upon the composition of the tribunal.

The problem which the League Conference had to face was thus twofold. First, a sum had to be found sufficient to meet not only the agrarian but also the commercial, Church and Hapsburg claims; second, the parties must be brought to accept some court or other to adjudge the validity of the claims. In practice, however, the problem resolved itself into finding enough money. Hungary's pre-1943 reparation schedule, if protracted on the same scale until 1966, would have provided most of what was necessary, but not all. In the interest of a general settlement, the Great Powers came forward with a considerable contribution, and, with Hungary consenting to pay on an increased scale after 1943, the gap was bridged. Great Britain, France and Italy have a small net liability towards two funds which are to be set up—one for agrarian claims, one for the rest; the Little Entente Powers forego all participation in Hungary's post-1943 annuities, which are fixed at 13,500,000 gold crowns (£540,000).

The courts for adjudging the claims will be the ordinary Mixed Arbitral Tribunals, reinforced each by two neutral nominees of the Permanent Court of International Justice. It is curious that this is almost precisely the same arrangement as was proposed by Sir Austen Chamberlain two years ago and agreed to by Hungary, though rejected—save on unacceptable terms—by Roumania. The atmosphere of general compromise, and the provision of a sum of money, have worked wonders.

Once that matter was cleared up, the remaining business on the non-German side was not very difficult. Austria, as was expected, is to pay only a small annuity for claims other than reparations. Bulgaria's annuity is to be a compromise between the creditors' demand for 12½ million gold francs and her own offer of 10 million. She is to pay 10 million gold francs (£400,000) for ten years, 11 million for a further ten years, and 12½ million for the last 16 years of the reparation period—an average discounted annuity of about £465,000. Czechoslovakia, who was asked for £550,000 a year in settlement of her Liberation Debt, is to pay only £500,000.

It must be emphasised that this country and the other great Powers (except Italy) are financially very little interested in these settlements. Details of the division of the various payments are not yet to hand, but in any case the "Spa percentages" for Bulgaria give Great Britain only 11 per cent. of the annuities. For Liberation Debt, Italy is the principal creditor, and Greece, among the Eastern European states, is the chief beneficiary from the reparations pool.

As far as German reparations are concerned, the main decisions of the Conference have already been recorded in the *Economist*—the admission of the 15th of the month as the date of German payments, the agreement that a postponed annuity shall be payable immediately upon the expiry of any postponement period and not in instalments, the sanctions declarations approving resumption of full liberty of action by the creditor Powers in the event of a decision by the Permanent Court that a German Government intends deliberately to destroy the Young Plan, the abandonment of the creditors' demand for specific security on the assigned revenues. In addition, Germany has concluded agreements with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as with Italy, regarding sequestrated property. These agreements, like that concluded with this country before the Conference began, provide for the return of property not yet liquidated but the retention of existing surpluses.

One further matter of importance in connection with German Reparations remained to be cleared up at the end of last week, namely the French demand for an assurance that nothing should be allowed to interfere with the mobilisation of the first portion of the unconditional annuities. The position was complicated by the recent Match Loan agreement between the German Government and the Swedish Match Trust, and by the desire of the German Post Office and Railways to float foreign loans. M. Ivan Kreuger travelled to the Hague to assure M. Tardieu that his loan could in no way interfere with the flotation of Reparation bonds, and an agreement was reached allowing the Post Office and Railways to participate to the extent of one-third in the first reparations issue, which is fixed at a maximum of $300 million. Germany undertakes to place no other State loan on the international market until October 31, 1930; if the issue is not made by that date the undertaking is extended till the following March.

The fate of the first mobilisation issue will be awaited with great interest, and in France no doubt with some anxiety. The present yield on the Dawes Loan indicates that borrowers cannot expect better terms than 6½ or even 6¾ per cent. It is doubtful whether, at that rate, the conversion of debt would be profitable to any of the chief creditor Governments, and a large proportion of the unconditional annuities is likely to remain unmobilised.

The time and terms of any reparation bond issue, according to the Trust Agreement between the creditor Powers and the Bank for International Settlements, are to be determined by the Bank. The Trust Agreement, which contains no big surprises, is an instrument whereby the creditors appoint the Bank as sole and joint trustee to receive, manage and distribute the German annuities (including the acceptance of the special long-term deposits from France and Germany, and the special measures to be taken in the event of a postponement of the conditional portion) as provided by the Plan and within the limits of the Statutes of the Bank, and whereby the Bank agrees to undertake these functions. In return, the creditor Governments undertake to remunerate the Bank on a scale which should prove satisfactory to putative shareholders in the Bank.

Throughout, pains have been taken to safeguard the Bank's independence. Article IV (*b*), for instance, provides that the obligations of the Trustee in regard to the balance of the German monthly payments after payment of the Dawes Loan Service shall be only those normally incumbent upon a banker for the execution of a trust agreement, and that in no case shall the Bank permit the accounts or credits of any creditor Government to be overdrawn. On the one hand, the German Government is no party to the agreement; on the other, the Bank discharges its responsibility, as far as reparation questions are concerned, when it has credited to the various Governments the sums due to them. To what extent it will be used by them as a bank for liquidating inter-allied obligations, including war debts and the special guarantees entered into last August, remains to be seen.

Only ratification and the actual setting up of the Bank for International Settlements have to be achieved before the Young Plan is put into operation. It is not too late now for some internal trouble in a Balkan country to invalidate a signature given at the Hague, but the parliamentary support for the Governments of the Great Powers seems secure and their determination to implement the Experts' Plan can scarcely be thwarted now. Thanks to those experts, and to the efforts of technical committees, as well as to statesmen of the stuff of Stresemann, Briand and Snowden, the past, like a shoddy company whose accounts are in disorder, has at last been liquidated.

RE-EQUIPMENT OF BRITISH INDUSTRY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

Anyone who has taken part during the past two or three years in discussions on the problems of rationalisation has speedily become aware of a remarkable diversity of opinion among those actually engaged in the direction of the depressed industries as to the extent of the need for changes in technical organisation and re-equipment. This diversity has been a notable feature of the comments of manufacturers and business men on the announcement of Mr Thomas relating to the provision of new capital for rationalisation. The managing director of an important shipbuilding firm, for instance, expresses agreement with a statement that much of the plant in this industry is obsolete. Another shipbuilder, with an apparently equal claim to speak authoritatively, declares that the industry is generally up-to-date and efficient. Colliery owners and steel masters commit themselves to similarly contrary views, and the man in the street may well feel bewildered as he reads these conflicting assertions.

The truth is that we do not possess adequate data on which to base anything approaching a full and reliable comparison between the present technical equipment of the depressed industries and that of the same industries in other countries which have been reconstructed to a greater or less degree in recent years. No research organisation capable of ascertaining the facts exists in this country. Even if we possessed one, it is doubtful if its staff would be able to gain access to all the sources of information, since—as Sir Josiah Stamp pointed out recently—traditional secrecy and conservatism prevent anyone "from knowing the total position of an industry, or the relation of its parts."

It is possible, nevertheless, to indicate in a general way some of the changes which are necessary if this country is to reach the competitive level dictated by what has already been accomplished on the Continent and in the United States. (To anticipate a certain kind of superficial criticism which is nearly always provoked by a discussion of this nature it may be made clear at the outset that the existence of many modern and highly efficient plants in this country is taken for granted.) Considering, first, the coking and by-product plants, with which both the coal and iron and steel industries are intimately concerned, one may say that here at any rate the urgent need for wholesale replacement is denied by only the wilfully ignorant. The broad facts relating to the most important coking centre—the Durham area—are sufficient to indicate the magnitude of this reconstruction task alone. Out of about thirty plants only two or three are not obsolete, judged by American and German standards. Ten or twelve modern plants would give an equal productive capacity and reduce operative costs far beyond the charges necessary for the new capital and depreciation allowances. The expenditure necessary for these plants would be between four and five million pounds, and probably an equal sum would be needed for the modernisation of the remaining plants in the country.

The necessity for blast-furnace reconstruction on a large scale is also generally admitted, even by those who deny that very much is lacking in the steel-making plants. The majority of the iron furnaces in this country are small and costly to operate. It is possible that, for some time to come, pending a large expansion of production and a much more drastic reconstruction of the whole industry than is yet envisaged, very few furnaces would be built with a daily capacity of 1,200 tons of iron—which now tends to become the standard for new construction in America and Germany—but the range would be extended to between 500 and 900 tons. With this rebuilding must go the provision of elaborate and costly accessory plant, if the full possible economies in production are to be realised.

In steelworks the question of obsolescence and the need for replacement of plant depend, partly, on the present condition of the plant and partly on the conception which is to govern the future organisation of the industry as a whole. In competing countries the advance has been steadily towards the concentration of a large proportion of the total production in units organised for continuous operation at full capacity, with an unchecked, synchron-

ised flow of materials from the coal entering the coke ovens to the loading of the products of the rolling mills. In this process the consumption of solid fuel ceases at the blast furnace. The raw iron passes in huge containers to the mixers and the steel furnaces, and the cost of producing pig iron is eliminated. Coke-oven and blast-furnace gas, separate or in combination, according to the purpose for which it is required, suffices for the steel furnaces, heating pits, and power plants of the whole works. Steel furnaces ranging up to 200 tons capacity— and even larger ones are now discussed—mechanism of the most varied character for automatic or semi-automatic operation at every stage, and highly specialised rolling mills differentiate this type of plant from the older methods of British production. Coal consumption is reduced in the works using high-grade ores to 35 cwts. or less per ton of rolling-mill products, and, in addition, enormous economies in operating costs are achieved.

Rapid wholesale reorganisation on these lines would be impossible at present in Great Britain, but the development of several complete units by the new groups of combined firms is regarded as practicable at points where existing plants are favourably situated for this purpose. The production of special steels at Sheffield, and the modernisation of works at this centre where necessary, would be treated as a separate problem of reorganisation, and in other districts some of the smaller plants would be preserved and improved to serve particular purposes. If evolution on these lines is decided upon by those now organising the large combines in the industry a capital expenditure of many millions can be envisaged.

The Balfour Committee, in its survey of metal industries, published in 1928, was not able to give a detailed estimate of the amount of reconstruction necessary in the coking, iron and steel plants, but its extremely guarded comments on the relative efficiency of British and foreign plants left no room for doubt that a great modernisation effort was regarded as necessary. The aggregate capacity of blast furnaces in this country in 1927 was given as 12,000,000 tons, and that of steelworks at over 12,000,000 tons (as compared with production in 1929 of pig iron 7,580,000 tons and steel 9,654,000 tons). Attention was called to the large proportion of small, old, and hand-charged blast furnaces, as compared with the larger modern furnaces abroad, and to the lack of balance between iron and steel production capacity in the different districts—the North-East Coast area having a large excess of iron, while Scotland, Sheffield and South Wales have an excess of steel capacity. An extensive modernisation of steel plants during the war was noted, but a statistical table relating to 1926 showed that the capacity of 400 out of 632 furnaces was below 55 tons. The point was stressed that, while many individual steel plants were modern and highly efficient, few British works were modern throughout. The continuance of these defects was attributed mainly to the difficulty of obtaining adequate capital for reorganisation, while, as to coking plants, the Committee declared that the British industry remained where the Continental industry was before the war; and attention was directed to the importance of zone or long-distance gas supplies as an essential factor in modern coke-oven organisation if the fullest possible advantages are to be gained from the high capital expenditure involved in installing the newest plants.

Reference to the Balfour Committee's report, however, is a reminder of the rapidity with which official documents dealing with industrial and technical matters tend to become out-of-date for reliable comparative purposes, however valuable they may be historically. This survey of the metal industries, for instance, was based mainly on evidence relating to the conditions of 1925-26, when the comprehensive technical rationalisation of the German coal, coking, and iron and steel plants, and also a far-reaching modernisation of American plants, was only just beginning. The disparity between these and British plants has been greatly increased during the past three years, and the intensity of research abroad suggests that in iron and steel we are still far from the limits of technical progress.

Similarly, in the coal industry, it is clear that much depends on the progress of amalgamation, without which adequate plans for concentration of production and modernisation of plant cannot possibly be prepared and carried through. It will probably always be found both necessary and economic to retain many of the coking plants at the mines. If, where the circumstances are favourable, as in Durham, some parts of South Wales and Scotland, and South Yorkshire, plans are developed for the better utilisation of all the coke-oven products, including regional gas supplies, a large expenditure for entirely new plant in association with coke ovens will have to be provided for. In the sphere of coal-getting merely to bring the majority of the pits which should be retained in production up to the level of the best new and modernised mines will be a task of great magnitude, involving very heavy expenditure on cutting machines, hand implements, haulage mechanism, winding gear, and new buildings and labour-saving layouts at the pit-top. Wider reorganisation of the underground workings which would be made possible by certain amalgamations demands the sinking of new shafts, while progress in the cleaning and grading of coal on the scale required to place the British industry on the average level of its competitors calls for a rapid increase in the number of washing or other forms of cleaning plant, and of modern screening equipment.

Finally, so far as the shipbuilding, textiles, and heavy engineering works are concerned, the variation in conditions is so great that it is impossible to make even the broadest survey of re-equipment needs. From such inadequate indications as are available, however, it is permissible to express the belief that close investigation would reveal in these industries also a very wide scope for technical improvement and cost reduction, calling for capital expenditure on a scale that can only be met by the co-operative mobilisation of all available financial resources.

UNCLE JONATHAN'S OTHER ISLANDS.

A DEPUTATION of Filipino politicians, under the leadership of Señor Roxas, Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, is renewing before the American Senate its annual demand for independence. The principle of self-government, though not of independence, has indeed been conceded by American statesmen of all parties, Presidents Taft, Wilson and Coolidge having committed themselves with greater or less caution to such a policy. The Democratic platform in 1928 stated that " it is now our duty to keep our promise to these people by granting them immediately the independence which they so honourably covet," and the Anti-Imperialist League loses no opportunity of reminding the American Government and Legislature of their obligations. Account must also be taken of the desire of American citizens for " independence for the United States "; and a dislike of Philippine embarrassments strengthened the support of the Jones Bill of 1912, which would have granted independence in nine years, and of the unsuccessful Clarke amendment to the Jones Act passed in 1916. The King Bill now before Congress offers all that the Filipinos demand. It is, however, unlikely to be passed, since the difficult questions of security and of economic relations, so intimately connected with one another, remain unsolved.

The existing system of free trade with the Islands, reluctantly established by the United States in 1913, is unpopular with American producers. Manila hemp, it is true, does not compete with American products, but the American grower of tobacco and beet is adversely affected by $100 million of untaxed cane sugar and $10 million of Philippine tobacco. An entire separation, on the other hand, would cause appreciable losses. The United States enjoys two-thirds of the total Philippine trade, and finds a secure market for her cotton goods, foodstuffs, iron and steel. An independent Filipino Government would no doubt embark on some such campaign of tariff building as commends itself to Indian Nationalists, and much of this trade would be sacrificed. The Filipino attitude, however, is not wholly certain. The Assembly in 1909 voted unanimously against free trade with America, and jealousy of foreign capital and fear of " economic servitude " impede every scheme for agricultural development by the grant of plantation land to American companies or individuals. Yet Señor Roxas and his deputation protest vigorously against the suggestion, put forward at Washington, that each party should resume tariff autonomy. The Filipinos appear, in fact, to desire free entry to the American market together with the right to exclude American goods.

There is, moreover, little doubt that under a Filipino *régime* foreign capital, if admitted, would feel itself less safe. The sudden relaxation of control by Governor Harrison in 1913, when he first assumed office, resulted in a sharp fall in commercial business and foreign trade, and though the peculiar conditions of the war period restored prosperity, the erratic finance of the Philippine National Bank and the wild ventures of Government-owned corporations showed prudent men what was to be expected under the guidance of inexperienced and ambitious politicians.

Though steady progress is being made under American authority, there is insufficient ground for supposing that the lesson of caution and moderation has yet been learned. Illiteracy among the Christian Filipinos, who form 90 per cent. of the population, still exceeds 50 per cent. of those above the age of ten years, and no account is taken in this calculation of 1,000,000 Moros and pagan tribes, for whom exact figures are not available. The revenue devoted to education is four times the amount per head which British India can spare for the purpose, but literacy alone is no guarantee of moral or political balance, and apart from the scandals of Government undertakings during the Democratic period (1913-21) it should be remembered that the salaries of all the more responsible offices were then indiscrimnaitely reduced, that the cost of the Philippine Legislature was more than trebled in eight years, and that a distressing increase took place in the mortality of men and cattle, which has now been corrected by more careful administration.

It is, indeed, highly uncertain whether the Filipinos themselves would rejoice in their liberty. The Muhammadans of Mindanao and Sulu have protested vigorously against it, except on the condition of separation from the other islands, as intended by the Bacon Bill of 1926. The Wood-Forbes Mission in 1921 evoked strong expressions of opinion in this sense, and it is not unlikely that a Filipino Government in Manila would be confronted with an outbreak of violence, and possibly successful rebellion, by the non-Christian tribes. These are at present protected by a special provision that a transfer of their lands is only valid if made with the consent of the Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes, but the removal of this restriction, or the placing of the Bureau in Nationalist hands, would lead to a rapid displacement of illiterate cultivators by educated and commercial-minded citizens of the towns, which could only lead to disorder.

In the event of the American withdrawal, the Filipino Government would presumably be called on not only to maintain internal order, but also to arrange the external defence of an archipelago of 7,000 islands. Liberty is bought at a price, and the payment is continued indefinitely. A taxation of 3 dollars a head, as at present, would not suffice to hold the seas against other interested Powers. Here, too, the Filipinos would prefer to gain the advantages of both worlds, but America has made it abundantly clear that she is not prepared to pay the bill. President Coolidge spoke of " the misapprehension that America, even though she granted full independence to the Islands, would still assume the heavy responsibility of guaranteeing the . . . independence of the Islands." On the other hand, the intrusion of another Power would be unacceptable. The Filipinos, who are Christians, would be uncomfortable under Japanese rule, and America would not be alone in disliking the presence of naval forces at Manila under another flag. The proposal of the Philippine Independence deputation, that the status of the Islands be guaranteed by an agreement between America, Great Britain, France and Japan, provides a possible solution of the problem. The Manila fortifications would presumably be dismantled, and Philippine neutrality in case of war assured, but no such autonomy can, with justice to the non-political mass of peasants, be granted until a stable and honest Government is in a position to maintain internal peace.

Notes of the Week.

The Economic Advisory Council.—The Prime Minister made the interesting announcement in the Commons on Wednesday that the Government has decided to set up an Economic Advisory Council under his own chairmanship. Mr MacDonald gave no information about his scheme except that it would absorb the existing Council of Civil Research and that he hoped to secure for the Council the whole-time services of at least two experienced economists. The constitution and functions of this new organisation cannot, therefore, be discussed in detail until the promised White Paper is issued. In recent years numerous suggestions have been made in this connection, borrowed in many cases from the experience of various foreign countries. There is, for example, the case of Germany, which introduced an Economic Council as part of the Weimar constitution, but has found it expedient in practice to reduce what proved to be an unwieldy body, with powers in some respect challenging those of Parliament, to a smaller and more technical organisation. There is the proposal of the Melchett-Turner Conference for the formation of a National Industrial Council, but for the time being this scheme has reduced itself to a bilateral council of organised employers and employed only, whose personnel has to be adjusted by a complicated mechanism to the existing organisation on the employers' side according to the subject under discussion. Then, at the other extreme, there is the proposal for an Economic General Staff outlined in the Liberal Yellow Book, which would definitely be an organ of Government. Finally, there is already in existence the Committee of Civil Research, which has, in fact, functioned as a method of setting up investigations into a great variety of economic questions, the personnel of its inquiries being drawn either from Government or other sources, as might be appropriate according to the subject of investigation. The fact that the new body is to be called a Council indicates that it will not be a piece of machinery entirely internal to the Government, but will draw upon outside advice. On the other hand, the use of the word " advisory " and the fact that it is to absorb the Committee of Civil Research and to augment its staff suggests that it is intended in some degree to fulfil the function which was laid down for the Economic General Staff in the Liberal Yellow Book of engaging in continuous study of economic problems, completing and co-ordinating statistical and other information, and watching important tendencies at home and abroad. In other words, it is not to serve the specific requirements of any one department, or engage in sporadic inquiries now into this now into that, but is to endeavour to formulate or provide the means of formulating a considered policy having regard to the situation of the country as a whole. We have suffered far too much in recent years from hastily devised expedients alternating with periods of drift. The employment of a permanent staff in constant touch with non-political advisers will, if the politicians are willing to listen, go far to ensure that, whatever Government be in power, there will be greater continuity and stability in our economic policy.

The Week in Parliament.—Legislators' return to work has been signalised this week by activity in the Upper House rather than in the Commons. On Tuesday, the Lords, refreshed by their holiday and roused by tocsins sounded uncompromisingly by Lord Salisbury and Lord Banbury, fell with vigour on the Unemployment Insurance Bill, which emerged from the *mêlée* limited in opera-

tion to a period ending March 31, 1931, and with its famous fourth Clause, defining conditions of eligibility, shorn clean away. Wednesday, on which the Report stage of the Road Traffic Bill was begun, found noble lords again in spirited debating form, the chief modifications made in the measure being the acceptance of amendments providing that the penalty for driving after disqualification should be imprisonment without the option of a fine, and that for "dangerous driving" there should be imposed four, instead of three, months' imprisonment, thus giving defendants the right of trial by jury. By contrast, the proceedings in the House of Commons were uneventful. A Supplementary Estimate of £4,150,000 for the Ministry of Labour, on account of new charges on the Exchequer for transitional benefit, led on Tuesday to a desultory debate on unemployment, in advance of which the Lord Privy Seal had succeeded in answering—without allaying the curiosity of questioners or adding to general enlightenment—a volley of interrogations regarding the progress of employment schemes. With the promise of yet another White Paper the House had to be content. On Wednesday, when the business consisted mainly of the discussion of a private Labour member's resolution (carried by 169 votes to 139) demanding a Select Committee to consider the possibility of earlier meetings (and bed-times) for the Commons, interest centred on the Prime Minister's announcement of the establishment of an Economic Advisory Council, on which we comment above, and on Mr Henderson's statement that he had informed the Soviet Ambassador that a message from the Third International in the *Daily Worker* "was calculated to impede that improvement in the relations between the two countries which the impending negotiations had as their object." The Conservative Opposition was at once surprised and gratified by this indication of a "firm line" on the Foreign Secretary's part, but sensible opinion in the country, which desires very definitely the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty calculated to facilitate much-needed expansion of trade with Russia, may be less inclined to approve of too much fuss being made over peurilities. Manifestly the Government cannot afford to be charged with overlooking breaches of the "no propaganda" agreement, but the furtherance of our commercial interests in the Russian market was, frankly, the *raison d'être* for the interchange of ambassadors, and Mr Henderson, we trust, will not allow that purpose to be obscured by what is relatively trivial and unimportant.

Coal Bill Amendments.—Until the full list of amendments to be lodged by each of the three Parties is known, it is difficult to say what chances the Coal Mines Bill has of being re-cast in a form acceptable to the majority of the House of Commons. So far as can be judged from the amendments tabled by Mr Graham, the Government appear to have endeavoured to meet some at least of the more weighty criticisms levelled at the Bill on Second Reading, though they have clearly been severely restricted within the limits imposed by the fact that the essence of the measure is that it relies predominantly on the coal-owners to operate its provisions. They have not so far made any effort to amplify more specifically the Board of Trade's general power to approve regulation schemes "with or without modifications," or to prescribe in the Bill any rules for the fixing of "standard tonnages" and allocation of quotas. On the other hand, they have decided that the whole part of the Bill relating to the so-called "marketing" schemes shall expire, unless expressly renewed by Parliament, at the end of 1933; while, as regards selling prices at the pithead, an amendment has been tabled providing that reference may be made by any "investigating committee" or other party to an independent arbitrator, whose decision shall be final. One may with reason be somewhat sceptical of the practicability of this amendment, and doubts also arise whether the Government's proposals with regard to amalgamations are likely to operate effectively. In this matter it is proposed that three Commissioners shall be appointed and charged with the dual task of (a) assisting amalgamations proposed voluntarily by coalowners, and (b) promoting amalgamation schemes where none are voluntarily initiated, and imposing them compulsorily on the parties concerned, subject to the right of appeal to the Railway and Canal Commission. The Commissioners' powers, however, have not yet been defined with clarity, and in the absence, so far, of a time limit for the completion of amalgamations, it seems uncertain whether the proposed element of compulsion would in practice not be illusory. Fortunately, a reasonable interval still remains before the Committee stage of the Bill is due to begin, so that there will be full opportunity for detailed consideration of these and all other proposed amendments before Parliament embarks on what is likely to be a difficult and protracted task.

Experts and Statesmen.—Some plain speaking seems to have taken place at a recent private session of the League of Nations Economic Committee regarding the last League Conference on the Treatment of Foreigners. The fact, incidentally, that the conference was held in Paris instead of at Geneva (writes a correspondent), was responsible in part for the virtual failure which had to be registered, for a conference, unless it is of the first order, is lost in the complex life of a great capital, whereas at Geneva it occupies the centre of the stage and developments possible where surreptitious manœuvres pass unnoticed are impracticable under the steady Geneva limelight. But the real cause of the breakdown of the Treatment of Foreigners Conference lay much deeper than that, and it is worth examining, since it springs from a vicious principle which if left unchecked in its application might bring even a Disarmament Conference to destruction. What happened in this particular case was that Governments, as represented at Geneva by their responsible Ministers, agreed on certain principles governing the treatment of foreigners, approved the draft convention which the League's Economic Committee had framed after years of preparation, and then nominated, as delegates to the Conference which was to adopt the convention as an international instrument, officials who made it their business so far to eradicate every element in the convention as to reduce the whole thing to worthlessness. In many cases such an attitude was perfectly natural, for the delegates in question were the men whose obduracy and narrow departmentalism were the very factors which had made an international convention on the fair treatment of foreigners necessary. In just the same way in the past, Governments, through their Ministers, have agreed on certain principles of disarmament and then appointed, as delegates to a conference designed to translate those principles into action, generals or admirals whose first aim and purpose has been to keep the principles from ever being applied at all. The Conference on the Treatment of Foreigners will not have failed in vain if its failure has the effect of driving home the essential truth that when Ministers on behalf of their Governments commit themselves to a policy they must be taken as pledging that Government *ipso facto* to give binding and compelling instructions to any experts to whom the working out of the policy may be entrusted. That principle may be involved in the coming Conference on the proposed tariff truce. It may even be involved in regard to some of the committee work at the London Naval Conference. Its scrupulous observance is an essential condition of success in international co-operation.

Reparation Transfers.—The Agent-General for Reparations, who, of course, continues in office until the ratification of the Young Plan has been completed and the Bank for International Settlements has commenced operations, has issued his third monthly report for the year 1929-30. This interim period, between the close of the Dawes Plan year on August 31st, and the opening of the Young Plan year on April 1st, is actually covered by the Young Plan, but it has been agreed among the Powers concerned that pending ratification Germany shall pay on the Dawes scale, but that the Creditors shall only receive their dues under the Young Plan, the remainder to be contingently credited back to Germany. The period began with a balance in hand, which, with the sums paid in September in completion of the fifth Dawes annuity, totalled Rm. 316,225,639; to this must be added Rm. 3,132,723 gained in interest and exchange differences, including Rm. 514,345 during December. Transfers totalling Rm. 245,330,273 have been made out of this balance, leaving Rm. 74,028,089 as the residue of the Dawes annuities proper. During the first three months of the transition period, Germany paid to the Agent-General Rm. 648,609,315, including Rm. 181,929,238 during December. Only Rm. 493,827,898 of this have been allocated, however, namely Rm. 33,370,755 for the service of the Dawes Loan, Rm. 36,000,000 to the Reserve Fund for Costs of Occupation and the fund for expenses of Commissions and Organisations, as provided in the Hague Protocol, and Rm. 424,457,143 for distribution among the Creditor Powers. Thus at the end of the year there remained contingently at the credit of Germany the sum of Rm. 154,781,418, which had been invested in Treasury Certificates of the Reich (*Reichsschatzanweisungen*) maturing January 31, 1930. As far as the short-term operations of the German Treasury were concerned, the transfer of this sum was only temporary. Interest and exchange differences totalling Rm. 2,258,596 remain unallocated. The allocations must be distinguished from the transfers actually made. The latter totalled only Rm. 323,402,692, leaving Rm. 19,013,230 in the reserve fund for occupation costs, Rm. 5,277,572 in the fund for costs of Commissions, and Rm. 146,134,404 at the credit of the Powers. Great Britain took Rm. 29,601,548 of the total transfers, including Rm. 7,650,677 in December. This is in addition to Rm. 37,069,299 transferred to us during the three months' period out of the fifth Dawes annuity.

British Banking Results.—The publication on Friday of Lloyds Bank balance sheet enables us to summarise below the position of the chief British banks at the end of the year, their position at the end of 1928 being given for comparative purposes. More extended reference to these figures will be made next week. The first table shows deposits, acceptances and cash:—

	Deposits.		Acceptances.		Cash.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.
Barclays	335·1	337·4	24·9	22·0	60·9	62·7
Lloyds	353·6	353·2	60·4	52·2	55·4	57·0
Midland	396·4	381·4	74·4	37·5	65·6	65·3
Nat. Provinc'l	291·2	272·6	19·6	15·2	44·2	41·9
Westminster...	295·3	286·3	26·5	27·6	47·3	46·0
Total	1,671·6	1,630·9	205·8	154·5	273·4	272·9
Coutts	17·7	19·8	0·5	0·4	3·0	3·1
Glyn, Mills ...	35·9	39·5	2·1	2·7	7·4	8·6
Martins	83·4	83·2	10·9	7·2	12·1	13·3
District	52·7	52·6	2·5	2·4	8·0	8·1
Williams Deacon's	32·3	31·8	1·5	1·0	5·2	5·2
Total	1,893·6	1,857·8	223·3	168·2	309·1	311·2

Deposits have fallen in the aggregate from £1,894 million to £1,858 million, while the higher level of money rates ruling in London last year is probably responsible for a sharp decline in acceptances from £223 to £168 million. To some extent, however, this last decline is due to alterations in accounting methods adopted by one bank. Cash remains practically unchanged, a testimony to the neutralisation policy of the Bank of England. The next table deals with the principal earning assets of the banks. Despite the reduction effected during the past few months, advances have risen from £976 to £990 million. This expansion, together with the decrease in deposits, has forced the banks to make appreciable reductions in the remainder of their earning assets. Thus call money has been reduced by nearly £15 million, discounts by nearly £33 million, and investments by just over £18 million.

	Call Money.		Discounts.		Investments.		Advances.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.
Barclays	24·0	23·6	38·3	37·0	58·5	52·7	168·6	174·5
Lloyds	26·8	26·5	49·3	39·6	38·1	37·1	187·2	191·8
Midland	27·7	21·7	63·3	58·8	36·9	32·9	214·1	210·4
National Provincial ..	25·9	19·4	43·5	28·2	37·0	35·8	150·5	156·7
Westminster	34·8	33·2	36·6	32·5	38·4	37·9	149·1	147·4
Total	139·2	124·4	231·0	196·1	208·9	196·4	869·5	880·8
Coutts	1·7	2·1	0·9	1·1	3·8	3·8	10·0	11·3
Glyn, Mills	7·6	7·1	1·6	1·6	7·6	8·4	12·8	14·8
Martins	5·4	6·0	3·7	6·9	25·1	17·8	42·6	42·2
District	4·7	3·9	5·1	5·0	14·8	14·8	23·2	24·3
Williams Deacon's ...	2·9	3·4	3·6	2·4	4·9	5·6	17·6	16·8
	161·5	146·9	245·9	213·1	265·1	246·8	975·7	990·2

The United Dominions Trust.—The City learned with surprise on Tuesday that the United Dominions Trust, Ltd., had been in negotiation with the Bank of England as the result of which the subscription for a new issue of shares has been arranged. The existing capital of the company is £250,000, which will be increased to £750,000 by the creation of 250,000 shares of £2 each, of which £1 will be paid up. The statement does not specifically say that these shares are to be purchased by the Bank of England, but it is understood that this will be the case. The United Dominions Trust is an enterprise whose primary purpose is the financing of purchases on the instalment principle. We gather, however, that its business, which has grown from £1,240,722 in 1925 to £3,826,504 in 1929, excludes the financing of purely "luxury" goods and is concerned rather in engineering products and goods of a capital nature than with articles for domestic use, though these are not entirely excluded. Its method is the discounting of bills for the whole series of payments drawn by the vendor. It is claimed that the business is of direct assistance to the engineering trade, and has a large field available in connection with the growth of electrical light and power in this country. We can well believe that the Bank of England holds the view that a stimulus to trade through the use of credit for such purposes would be of value at the present juncture. We sympathise, however, with those who are asking with surprise how it comes about that the Bank of England is investing its money in a particular private enterprise of this kind on a scale which, though not giving it control or even, except in exceptional circumstances, voting rights, makes it nevertheless a 50 per cent. partner in the business. Moreover, the new "B" shares are not an ordinary marketable investment, for the original holders have undertaken not to sell them without first offering them to the directors to be disposed of to the "A" shareholders. This new partnership is so novel an arrangement and, if it is to be a precedent, opens up such remarkable possibilities that a fuller statment as to the lations of the Bank towards this enterprise is very desirable.

The International Coal Conference.—The results achieved by the Preparatory Technical Conference on conditions of work in coalmines must be regarded as a serious disappointment. Having decided that wage rates are not yet "ripe" for international regulation, the Conference narrowly escaped from an *impasse* which would have left the Governing Body of the I.L.O. with no answer to the question whether the discussion of an hours of work Convention should even be placed on the agenda of the next International Labour Conference. In the end it was resolved to recommend the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the June, 1930, Conference, but no agreement could be reached on any definite figure of working hours which could be put forward as a basis for a Convention. Notwithstanding vigorous opposition on the part of the British Coalowners' representative, the Conference decided that "time spent in the mine" must be calculated on a "bank to bank" basis, this principle being

accepted, however, by the British Government delegate only on condition that the winding time should be reckoned from first man down to first man up. The essence of the difficulty here is that British collieries represent on the whole older workings (involving longer travelling time) than is the case with Continental coalfields, so that an unqualified " bank to bank " calculation would mean that in many pits British miners would be a shorter time at the face than their Continental competitors. This consideration naturally did not appeal to the delegations from other countries, who objected that even the qualified acceptance of the British Government representative implied that in some British mines men would actually work longer than in others, and that differences would prevail even in the same pit, since the first man down might be the last to come up. With this underlying obstacle to agreement confusing the issue, every proposal to affix a figure to working hours was rejected in turn, the nearest approach to a majority (the voting was, in fact, equal) being secured by the motion of the Dutch Government delegate that the hours should be 7¾ per day—for a period to be agreed—and thereafter 7½ per day. Between now and June four clear months remain in which negotiations between Governments, at least, can, and should, continue. The fact that the Preparatory Conference apparently favoured the principle of allowing daily hours to be extended—up to one hour per day—proportionately to the curtailment of work on Saturdays, should render negotiations easier from the British point of view; but the importance of an international Convention is so great, and the opposition on the Continent to the British method of including one winding time only in statutory hours is now seen to be so formidable an obstacle to agreement, that the question arises whether Clause 9 of the Coal Mines Bill before Parliament should not be re-cast on a " bank to bank " basis.

Cotton Trade Problems.—The paper on Japanese competition in cotton textiles, written by Mr Barnard Ellinger and Mr Hugh Ellinger, and read before the Royal Statistical Society on Tuesday by Mr Barnard Ellinger, constitutes an interesting contribution to discussion of the problems of the cotton industry. Mr Ellinger pointed out that such discussion has recently turned for the most part on four advantages which the Japanese industry is alleged to enjoy over that of Lancashire, namely: lower labour costs; closer proximity to the Far Eastern markets; cheaper cotton supplies; and a higher degree of organisation. On the first point, the authors of the paper did not advocate a direct reduction of British wages, but they considered that certain out-of-date wage lists could be revised, with ultimate advantage both to the industry and to the operatives. The differential benefit apparently enjoyed by Japan through her closer contact with the Oriental consumer, especially in China, they attributed partly to a difference in methods of trading, and pointed out that it is open to the British manufacturer to establish closer relations by the choice of appropriate agents. They called attention, however, to the fact that in markets virtually equidistant from Great Britain and Japan, the Japanese have an advantage by reason of their lower freights, and suggested that shipowners should give attention to the possibility of so classifying Lancashire goods as to make possible an adjustment of rates in favour of those grades most subject to Japanese competition. On the question of the price of the raw material, Mr Ellinger stated that the cloths in which Japan directly competes with the United Kingdom contain cotton which costs her from 1d. to 1½d. per pound less than the cotton composing the corresponding British product. This is due to the fact that in spinning the coarsest counts Japan uses 80 per cent. or more Indian cotton, for which she pays, on the average, 1d. a pound less than Great Britain and 2d. or 2½d. less than is paid for American cotton. In order to compete successfully in this class of goods Lancashire must find means for the more efficient buying of Indian cotton, and must equip herself to spin it and to mix it scientifically with other grades. On all these three points Mr Ellinger takes a conservative view of Japan's superiority, and his conclusions as to what Great Britain may learn from her will command a wide measure of agreement. When he turns to the question of organisation he contrasts the Japanese industry, which is closely organised at the core, with that of Great Britain, with a core of over 3,000 unco-ordinated small units, surrounded by a " crust " of close amalgamations, and outside that again rings of individual units bound together by price-fixing agreements and the like. The most urgent task, in his view, is that of organising the " core," and his own very interesting figures show that it is no mean problem. He proposes a prodigious nucleus, for purposes of co-ordination, in the shape of an association of which the existing and proposed amalgamations, chemical and artificial silk interests, shipping, textile machinery, insurance and distributive interests should all be members. This proposal appears to lose sight of the fact that, whereas the vertical organisation of the Japanese industry is the natural consequence of its historical development, the scheme suggested for the British industry would involve the superimposition from without of an artificial vertical organisation on an industry whose natural development has been on lines of horizontal amalgamation. It is at least possible that if Lancashire proceeds wholeheartedly with urgently needed reorganisation on the horizontal lines to which she is committed, the necessary degree of vertical co-ordination will be forthcoming in a more natural manner.

Indian Cotton Duties.—Lancashire traders with India, writes our Manchester correspondent, have been hampered for many months by the uncertain political situation in that country. Dealers in the bazaars have hesitated to replenish supplies of cotton goods and merchant houses in Manchester have not been in the mood to anticipate the future requirements of customers. Another uncertainty, however, has now arisen. There is a distinct fear of an increase in the import duties from the beginning of March. The Bombay millowners are unceasing in their agitation for more Protection. They recognise that competition from Japan is more severe than from Lancashire, and there have been rumours of differential duties by a higher figure on coarse goods than on fine cloths. According to letters recently received from India in Manchester, traders anticipate an increase in the duties of 4 per cent., making 15 per cent. Before 1917 the import duty of 3½ per cent. was met by a similar Excise duty, and India manufacturers received no advantage. In 1917, however, the import duty was raised to 7½ per cent. without any alteration in the Excise duty. There was a further increase in 1921 to 11 per cent. and in 1925 the Excise duty was abolished, so that for the last few years the charge against foreign goods has been 11 per cent. It remains to be seen what will be done, but any trade expansion between Lancashire and India is improbable until a definite decision has been reached.

The Hatry Case.—The first three days of the Hatry trial at the Old Bailey, which were occupied with the Attorney-General's opening speech and with part of the evidence for the prosecution, produced little that was startling or new to the public. As the cross-examination of witnesses by counsel for the defence has not been protracted, and the charges are being concentrated upon three issues of municipal stocks only—omitting the allegations which had been made previously regarding shares in public companies—it is likely that the trial will end some days earlier than was expected. Hatry, Daniels, Tabor and Dixon are severally charged with conspiring with John Gialdini and other persons unknown to forge and utter valuable securities purporting to be bearer scrip certificates relating to part of the authorised issue of Swindon, Gloucester and Wakefield stocks; further, with forging and uttering scrip certificates, with conspiring with intent to defraud, and with causing, by false pretences with intent to defraud, large sums of money and valuable securities to be paid or delivered by various companies, firms, and persons to Austin Friars Trust, Ltd., and to other companies in the Hatry group. All four defendants pleaded " Not Guilty." The Attorney-General said that Gialdini is living in Italy, of which country he is a citizen, and for that reason his return cannot be secured under the terms of the Anglo-Italian extradition treaty. " I should like Gialdini to come back," added Sir William Jowitt. " If he did I should most certainly see that he also was accused of these offences." After describing certain of the companies in the Hatry group, " circling like satellites " round Austin Friars Trust, and the method in which the fraudulent paper is alleged to have been uttered, the Attorney-General summed up the position of the transactions between Corporation and General Securities, Ltd., and the three municipalities. The company paid to the Wakefield Corporation £100,000 of the £422,000 which was owing in respect of the stock issue; in addition, he said, the defendants raised £350,000 on bogus certificates for Wakefield stock. Swindon and Gloucester were owed £250,000 each, in addition to £222,000 and £217,000 respectively alleged to have been raised on bogus certificates. Thus £822,000, owing to the three municipalities, had not been accounted for, and £789,000 had been raised on fraudulent paper purporting to represent their stocks. The evidence of the city treasurer of Gloucester, the borough treasurer of Swindon, and the town clerk of Wakefield, was taken later. The two latter testified to receiving, on September 20th, scrip certificates for registration in excess of the authorised issues. The chief clerk in the issue department of Secretarial Services, Ltd. (secretaries to the Hatry group), stated that he knew of the existence of Gloucester and Swindon scrip in excess of the authorised issue, and several times approached Dixon, Daniels and Tabor upon the matter without receiving any satisfaction. Representatives of the Equitable Trust Company, Messrs Kleinwort, Sons and Company, the Westminster Bank, J. C. im Thurn and Sons, Ltd., Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, the Peterborough Trust, the Porchester Trust, the National Provincial Bank, Messrs. J. Horstman and Company, Messrs J. and J. Reid, Messrs E. P. Parsons and Company, Messrs Crews and Company, and Messrs Cohen, Laming and Hoare, described advances that their firms had made to Hatry companies in the course of the summer upon security of scrip certificates for stocks mentioned in the indictment. A former solicitor to Hatry, under cross-examination, said that Hatry had used a personal fortune of £750,000 to meet the liabilities of the Commercial Corporation of London. Sir Gilbert Garnsey, at the close of Wednesday's session, began his evidence by relating the now familiar story of how the defendants approached him on September 19th with admissions of " irregularities " in the affairs of the companies which he was about to investigate.

The Incidence of Unemployment.—The information furnished by some ten thousand claimants to unemployment benefit, on March 18 and September 16, 1929, has been very fully analysed, and the tabulated results are published in the January *Ministry of Labour Gazette*. It appears that the average duration of each spell of unemployment during the twelve months ending September 16th was eight weeks for men and six weeks for women. For men in coal mining the average duration was sixteen weeks and in other industries seven weeks. Throughout industry, the average number of unemployed periods experienced was 2.4 for men and two for women, and the commonest length of such periods was from one to three weeks. Of the men, about 30 per cent. had been unemployed for less than three months in the year; about thirty for between three and six months, and about forty for over six months. The corresponding approximate percentages for women were 50, 30 and 20. The average number of days of unemployment during the preceding year, for men and women respectively, were, at the March enquiry 140 and 93, and at the September enquiry 141 and 95. In coal mining the figure improved from 214 to 185. Analysis of the information relating to the last spell of unemployment showed that about 60 per cent. of the men and nearly 70 per cent. of the women had been continuously unemployed for not more than four complete weeks. The effect of advancing age on the liability of the individual to unemployment comes out with depressing clearness. The amount of unemployment experienced by men in the 55-64 age groups is over 50 per cent. greater than that in the age group 18-24. The group 35-44 corresponds very nearly to the average. Even more marked is the increase in the length of the last unemployed period towards the higher age groups. Among men of 18 to 24, in the September inquiry, the last spell of continuous employment averaged 7 weeks, as compared with 15 weeks in the age group 60 to 64.

Employment and Cost of Living in December.—During the first half of December employment continued to decline, but there was a slight net improvement in the third week of the month. The influence of the Christmas trade, however, had a smaller effect than in previous years on the total numbers unemployed, this being due partly to the bad weather conditions which prevailed during November and the early part of December, and which affected all outdoor occupations, and partly to a decline in other important industries, notably the textile trades. During the last week of the month there was the usual heavy increase in unemployment due to the discharge of temporary Christmas workers and to the extension of holidays in certain industries. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, among the 12.1 million workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (wholly and partially) at December 16th was 11.1. This compares with 11.0 per cent. at November 25th, and 11.1 per cent. at December 17, 1928. The total number of registered unemployed was approximately 1,341,000 at December 16th, as compared with 1,323,000 at November 25th, and 1,312,000 a year ago. As regards the cost of living, there was a slight decrease during December. At January 1, 1930, the index number of the Ministry of Labour stood at 66 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 67 per cent. at December 1, 1929, and a year ago. For food alone the percentage was 57 at January 1, 1930, showing a drop of 2 per cent., as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The fall in the indices during December was mainly due to reductions in the prices of eggs.

Co-operative Societies and Municipal Loans.—The steadily growing share capital of co-operative societies (writes a correspondent) is causing their committees to look for substantial investments outside their business. Naturally they look first to the Co-operative Wholesale Society and place with its bank a large proportion of the capital that is not wanted in the development of the local business. The rate for fixed deposits is only 4¼ per cent., so that where societies are paying 5 per cent. on their share capital the re-investment is unprofitable. Hence the interest with which the societies are now regarding municipal loans, in which the Northampton, Hull, Bury, Sheffield, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, and other

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societies have placed large amounts during the past year. The growth of share capital has proved larger than is required for the business, hence the necessity of investments outside the movement. This is a development that has been most marked since the war, and one that has every prospect of continuance and extension throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire. In many of the towns in these counties the co-operative societies have been in existence more than half a century, and have spread their branches into all sections of the distributive trade until they cannot find a local outlet for the members' savings. So the committees are looking to municipal loans as being along similar lines of collective ownership.

Soviet Oil in Europe.—Information drawn from Soviet Government sources here (writes our Paris correspondent) indicates that Russian exports of petroleum products into France now are equivalent to 13.8 per cent. of this country's entire consumption, and take third place after the United States and Persia. The Soviet Government Naphtha Syndicate and its French representative, the Société des Produits du Napthe Russe, failed to obtain the import licence now necessary, under recent French legislation, concerning all forms of petroleum, because it does not import its products under its own name. Sales in France are made by contract, either to the Petrofina Française, Desmarais Frères, Lille Bonnières, Colombes, and other French companies, or direct to State departments. More than half the requirements of the French navy in crude petroleum are now met from Russian mazout. The French Russian Naphtha Products Co. also constitutes the channel through which Russian oil enters Belgium, Holland, Spain and their Colonies. Soviet oil imports into France and her Colonies totalled 386,368 tons in 1926-27, 353,849 tons in 1927-28, and 388,859 tons in 1928-29. In other countries the rate of increase has been much higher. Spain, which absorbed 68,649 tons in 1926-27, took 220,317 tons the following year and 304,169 in 1928-29. The total purchased by Holland and Belgium has risen from 79,859 tons in 1926-27 to 113,219 in 1928-29. Soviet exports of oil to Great Britain, which amounted to 381,270 tons in 1926-27, are stated to have risen in 1928-29 to 714,014 tons, and those to Germany from 361,822 tons to 477,000 tons. These totals include motor spirit, lubricating oil and combustible oil.

Sun Life Assurance Society.—It is a very creditable feat for so large a society as the Sun Life to prepare and issue its annual report and accounts so promptly after the close of the year. How large the society is may be judged from the fact that the total balance sheet assets now amount to £42,714,752, compared with £23,111,995 so recently as December 31, 1926. We have on more than one occasion drawn attention to the circumstance that this rapid expansion has been due in large measure to the specialisation by the society in the issue of super-tax saving policies by single premium, 90 per cent. and upwards of which are borrowed at the outset. The 1929 report shows clearly that this feature continues, for the amount received in single premiums last year was £5,340,740, compared with £5,016,980 in 1928. Assuming that the single premiums amounted on the average to 80 per cent. of the corresponding sums assured, these figures mean that more than 40 per cent. of the total new business transacted was in respect of policies in this form. It is at least arguable that although these single premium policies are a legitimate means of saving super-tax, their transaction in such large volume does a positive disservice to the cause of life assurance in general, to the extent that they distract the organisation of the office and the resources of the policyholders from policies carrying insurance protection. The net rate of interest earned on the funds during the year works out at £4 13s. 9d. per cent., compared with £4 15s. 10d. per cent. in 1928, and some part of the explanation for the falling off in interest earnings must again be sought in the fact of the large increase in policy loans. In this connection the balance sheet shows that policy loans have risen during the year from £13¼ million to just over £18 million. Another change in the balance sheet of interest is the large increase in an item which has hitherto remained comparatively stationary, viz., loans on bonds, stock and shares, which has risen during the year from £83,000 to £357,000. A possible explanation of this is that these loans have been made on collateral security as part of the transaction of single premium policies. A complete picture of the changes in the society's investments is presented in the following table:—

Nature of Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928. Amount. £	% of Total Assets.	Dec. 31, 1929. Amount. £	% of Total Assets.
Mortgages and loans	1,218,909	5·27	1,461,128	3·42
Loans on society's own policies	3,716,519	16·08	18,099,324	42·37
British Government securities	8,252,710	35·71	3,320,565	7·78
British municipal securities	1,512,903	6·54	1,034,054	2·42
Colonial Government and municipal securities.....	2,368,027	10·25	4,783,634	11·20
Foreign Government and municipal securities.....	1,850,448	8·01	3,927,015	9·19
Debentures, debenture stocks and preference stocks.....	3,029,269	13·11	8,422,213	19·72
Ordinary stocks and shares	13,654	·06	36,450	·08
Properties, reversions, &c. ...	1,149,556	4·97	1,630,369	3·82
Total assets	23,111,995	100·00	42,714,752	100·00

The feature of this table is the tremendous increase in policy loans, accompanied by the realisation of British Government securities and the reinvestment of the proceeds in debentures, etc., bearing a higher return. Although the total net interest earnings have in recent years been maintained and even slightly increased, it would seem that this process, in face of the fact that over 40 per cent. of the total assets now earn but 5 per cent., has been made possible only by the running off of British Government securities and their reinvestment in higher yielding debentures.

National Mutual Life Assurance Society.—The first Life Office report to be published is again that of the National Mutual, and on this occasion the report coincides with the centenary of the society. Though still above the level of previous years, the new life business shows a decline compared with 1928, the amount being £895,635 as against £906,089. The reduction corresponds approximately to the falling off in the amount received by way of single premiums. In consequence of this reduction the premium income is slightly lower for the year, and this, in turn, has resulted in an expense ratio of 13.1 per cent., compared with 12.9 per cent. The net interest earnings have jumped from £4 14s. 10d. per cent. to £4 19s. per cent., but it is rather a shock to find that this is largely due to the heavy depreciation suffered, amounting to £317,420. This depreciation amounts to 6.02 per cent. of the average total balance sheet assets, and, though substantial, compares favourably with the experience of trust companies over the same period. Part of the explanation for it is to be found in the changes in the balance sheet, which shows that, while British Government securities have declined from £1,414,559 to £593,938, holdings in preference shares have risen by £223,000, and holdings in ordinary shares by £361,000. A more exact comparison is set out below:—

	1928. Per cent.	1929. Per cent.
Mortgages and loans, including loans on society's policies	11.02	12.46
British Government securities	26.48	11.42
Ordinary stocks and shares	13.66	20.98
Other Stock Exchange securities	36.96	42.38
Reversions, properties, etc.	11.88	12.76
	100.00	100.00

Last year was a period of heavy decline in stock market ordinary share values, and although the results of the society's particular investment policy have been unfavourable in 1929, the National Mutual has emerged from the period of the last six or seven years with investment profits probably greatly in excess of the average. An attempt has been made to compare the actual depreciation suffered in 1929 with that which would have been experienced by a hypothetical company that invested its funds in the same proportions, but in the securities included in the *Investor's Chronicle* index. This calculation brings out an aggregate depreciation of 7.48 per cent., a figure substantially in excess of the 6.02 per cent. actually lost by the National Mutual in the same period. After writing off the whole of the depreciation, the surplus on valuation still amounts to the striking figure of £709,507. Accompanying the annual report is the usual report on the valuation by the actuary. From this document the following comparison with the previous year has been extracted:—

	1928. £	1929. £
Trading profits earned during the year	131,890	149,403
Profits on securities	117,555	317,420
Brought forward from previous year	751,246	877,524
	1,000,691	709,507
Allocations—		
To ordinary bonuses to policyholders ...	121,667	129,270
,, Centenary bonus to policyholders ...	—	162,421
,, Pension fund	—	18,417
,, Valuation and centenary expenses, etc.	1,500	13,380
,, Carry forward to next year	877,524	386,019
	1,000,691	709,507

The society has decided to celebrate its centenary and at the same time mark its confidence in the strength of its own position by a special bonus distribution to policyholders costing rather more than one year's ordinary bonus; but whereas the ordinary bonus is maintained at the usual compound rate applicable to policies of all durations and ages at entry, the special distribution has evidently been carefully devised to yield the largest results for the older members. The scale of centenary bonus commences at the low rate of 4s. 6d. per cent. for entrants in 1928, but increases very rapidly to 48s. per cent. for 1922 entrants, to 102s. per cent. for 1916 entrants, and finally to £10 per cent. for all entrants in 1900 and previously. Not only does this represent a very handsome distribution for all policies which have been some little time in force, but its nature is further proof of the society's determination to preserve equity between the various classes of members, and so to maintain the principle of mutuality in the conduct of its business.

Treaty Reinsurances, Limited.—This is one of the strongest of the reinsurance companies, having been founded just after the war by a group of large composite offices, of which the three remaining are the Century, the Phœnix and the London and Scottish. Each of these companies has a representative on the board, and all the policy contracts are guaranteed by the shareholding companies. It is the more disappointing, therefore, to find that Treaty Reinsurances experienced an extremely bad year ended June 30, 1929, and to the extent that this may represent the general experience, the outlook for the accounts of the large composite companies is certainly not encouraging. During the financial year ended June 30, 1927, the company earned an underwriting profit at the very satisfactory rate of 7.4 per cent. In the year following, the ratio had dropped to 1.7 per cent., but in the year now under review there was a substantial loss, equivalent to 4.8 per cent. and amounting to £32,140 on a premium income of £676,000. These figures relate to the fire and general business combined, there being no separate revenue account published. Although the transaction of Marine business was discontinued at the end of 1925, it is curious to find that a sum of £181 was actually collected in premiums on that account during the year to June 30, 1929, and that at that date there still existed a small remaining fund of £291. Allowing for items debited to profit and loss (including the directors' fees of £2,000, now disclosed for the first time in conformity with the new Companies' Act), the underwriting loss is increased to a total of £36,691. The company is justified in maintaining the dividend at the same rate as before, viz.:—25 per cent. free of tax, since the net interest earned on invested funds is sufficient to cover the cost of the dividend nearly two and a half times. The balance sheet is strong, and includes a general reserve fund of £150,000 and a profit and loss credit balance of £26,782, against a capital of only £30,000.

Fire Losses.—With the publication of the statistics of Fire Losses incurred during December, it is now possible to obtain a complete picture of the whole experience of the year 1929. Fire losses in December in the United States showed an improvement as compared with December, 1928, though the corresponding figure for the United Kingdom was still above the level of December, 1928. The result for the year 1929 is a total of $332,426,600 for the United States, an increase of just over 10 per cent. on the corresponding total for 1928, an increase which, large though it is, is probably not incommensurate with the natural growth in property values exposed to fire hazard. Fire losses in the United Kingdom showed a very unfavourable tendency throughout the whole part of 1929, and the final figure for the year is £11,784,000, compared with £8,629,200 in 1928, an increase of nearly 40 per cent. The detailed figures of fire losses during each of the last three years are set out below:—

Year.	United Kingdom (from the *Times*). £	United States of America (from the *Journal of Commerce*, New York). $
1927.....	6,910,200	320,595,600
1928.....	8,629,200	301,267,560
1929.....	11,784,000	332,426,600

The heavy rise in fire wastage in this country is bound to have an unfavourable effect on the forthcoming accounts of the composite offices. Until 1929 the offices had experienced, on the whole, a series of comparatively favourable years, and the underwriting profit for 1928, for instance, worked out at 9½ per cent. It will not be surprising if the profit ratio for 1929 is some two or three points lower than this.

Transvaal Gold Output in 1929.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during December amounted to 851,134 ozs. of fine gold, making the total gold production for 1929, 10,414,066 ozs., as compared with 10,358,596 ozs. for the year 1928. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ...	764,469	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,462
February	704,970	760,617	753,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284
March	761,586	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529
April	743,651	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,907	872,123
May.....	786,564	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598
June	755,309	773,053	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,363	856,029
July.....	754,306	829,437	814,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480
August ...	769,371	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,883	889,601
September	739,504	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553
October ...	795,842	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	888,690
November	780,639	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593
December	778,849	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134
Total ...	9,133,060	9,597,634	9,599,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	April, 1929.	May, 1929.	June, 1929.	July, 1929.	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.
Gold mines	197,412	195,733	192,595	190,031	190,062	190,567	189,739	186,941	184,280
Coal mines	15,900	15,852	15,928	16,914	15,867	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326
Diamond mines	5,554	5,473	5,029	4,845	5,071	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811
	218,866	217,058	213,552	210,790	211,000	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417

There was a further decline in the number of natives employed at the gold mines.

The Jevons Memorial Lectures, to be held during the present term, will consist of four public lectures on "The Relations Between Ethics, Economics and Politics," to be delivered by the Master of Balliol, Mr A. D. Lindsay, on Thursdays, January 30th, February 6th, 13th and 20th, at 5.30 p.m. in the Applied Statistics Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C.2. The lectures are open to the public without fee or ticket.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—MONEY—BOND MARKET—INDUSTRY—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, January 10.

WHILE the share market has been somewhat disappointing to the bulls, the course of financial and business events seems to have started the new year in a normal and not discouraging manner. The anticipated ease in short-term money has arrived, and while part of this ease may be temporary, based as it is on the fact that during the early part of January funds flow back to New York faster than the influx can be offset by Federal Reserve bank sales of securities, no strong stiffening is anticipated. The week's Federal Reserve statements show that the usual January contraction of credit is proceeding. The reserves of the system increased by $95,000,000, most of the gain being in gold holdings, and circulation fell by $73,000,000. The total volume of credit extended by the system declined by $163,000,000. This decrease was accounted for by a drop of $65,000,000 in discounts, which now are $309,000,000 smaller than a year ago, together with a decline of $73,000,000 in bills purchased in the open market and a drop of $26,000,000 in "Governments" similarly purchased. Total reserve credit outstanding was $1,384,000,000 as against $1,602,000,000 a year ago. The week's changes brought an increase of 3.3 in the reserve ratio which, at 72.9 per cent., was 6.6 above last year's level. Changes at the local Reserve bank were of a similar character; but the total credit extended by this bank is $29,000,000 higher than a year ago, and the ratio, at 67.4, is only 0.4 above the level of last year. As for the discount rate, one notices a striking contrast between the comparatively small interest in the subject that is being displayed here and the lively interest that exists in your market. The attitude here may perhaps be explained on the basis of a general feeling that the readjustment in business is proceeding in a normal fashion, that a certain amount of time will be required, and that particularly cheap money is not needed.

Perhaps the best development of the past week is a distinct improvement in the bond market. One of the first signs that liquidation has produced useful results should be, of course, a revival of the bond market. There has been some doubt as to whether further liquidation of bank loans on securities might not be required before the money position would be comfortable and the bond market really good. Present indications suggest that much further waiting may not be necessary. The demand for bonds has been strong and prices have been firm. As might be expected, the demand has been for good bonds rather than the more speculative or higher yielding descriptions. In any event, the bond market is likely to be tested in the next few days by a $150,000,000 issue of thirty-five year American Telephone and Telegraph 5 per cent. debentures at a price fractionally under par. The intention obviously is to price the bonds attractively and to insure an impressive success. It will be recalled that six years ago this company's bankers succeeded in restoring confidence in the bond market by a similar issue, attractively priced. If the present test is successful, the way will be open for a number of other issues that have been in the course of preparation. One factor that should tend to help the bond market is the ending of the period of heavy subscriptions to new share offerings by corporations through issuance of "rights." The break in the stock market, of course, put an end to this sort of thing, at least for the time being; but there was a considerable lag between the creation of the rights and the call for payments on subscriptions.

Business and industrial news is fair. December retail sales in this district were about equal to those of the previous year. There was a considerable transfer of purchasing to cheaper shops, but the aggregate volume was well maintained. Early January reports from chain stores indicate that the same tendency is continuing, with the volume at these stores actually exceeding that of last year. The steel industry is making the expected recovery from year-end "shutdowns." Production for the industry as a whole approximates to 60 per cent. of capacity, and the trade is attempting to judge how much this (and some further anticipated improvement) is due to an abnormal reduction in stocks before year-end inventories. Steel scrap is firmer, but the prices for finished products show no rallying power as yet. The annual automobile show at New York is now under way, and the public seems to be showing considerable interest; but the motor manufacturers are increasing their production cautiously. Altogether, observers realise that the advent of mid-winter can hardly be expected to bring signs of industrial or business revival. Dun's index of commodity prices fell 1.3 per cent. during December, following a decline of 1.2 per cent. during November. The December decline was general, but was most pronounced in farm products.

FRANCE.—HAGUE AGREEMENT—INTERNATIONAL LOAN—CAPITAL ISSUES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, January 22.

THE outstanding event of the week has been the signature of the Hague agreement, which is regarded here as an event of vastly greater importance than it appears to be considered in other countries. For France, the solution of the reparations problem, as arrived at in the Dutch capital, removes the last difficulty in the way of her financial programme, which she is now eager to translate in accomplishment. "France," as the *Temps* puts it, "has obtained (by the Hague decisions) satisfaction on all the points that were of a kind to render her particularly anxious as to the future." Reflection has only deepened the satisfaction felt when the bald terms were first announced. Even the substitution of the right of appeal to the International Court for the famous Clause 430 of the Versailles Treaty is accepted as likely to prove a sufficient guarantee (in view of the other factors of the Young Plan) against any danger of further default by Germany. So far as France is concerned, the plans for the financial liquidation of the war now appear to have been completed and to have no obstacle in the way of their successful application. M. Tardieu and his colleagues are credited with having secured an indisputable success, and the degree of French satisfaction may be gauged from the fact that the support which was given to them by Mr Snowden during the past fortnight at the Hague, "in spite of all that occurred at the beginning of the Conference," is generously acknowledged, both verbally and by the cartoonists.

The arrangements made for the mobilisation of the "unconditional"—or, as the French prefer to describe them, the "undelayable"—portions of the German debt exactly fit in with this country's financial plans, which, it is now becoming more and more clear, have latterly been based largely on the scheme for debt commercialisation which has been arrived at. Information drawn from reliable sources here earlier in the week indicates that the decision to associate the mobilisation of the "unconditional" debt with the supply of the foreign credits which Germany needs for the benefit of her railways, postal department and other internal factors, also meets with general approval. The quotation of the new international bonds on the Paris Bourse, which is already assured, will mark the beginning of the admission to this market of other scrip of German origin (which, it may be recalled, was promised in principle some months ago, subject to a satisfactory settlement of the evacuation, commercialisation and other kindred problems by the Hague Conference). The admission of German securities to the French market will constitute yet another factor in the development of Franco-German *rapprochement*, which both French and German political and financial leaders appear determined to foster by all possible means. It will also assist in bringing to a successful issue the plans for the elevation of Paris into a great international financing centre, the building up of which is expected to receive unusually close attention during 1930 and 1931.

The announcement that the reparation portion of the first of the series of international loans will amount to $200,000,000 (£40,000,000) confirms the forecast published here last week. Enquiries to-day confirmed, also, that the combined $300,000,000 issue will, in all probability, take place in May. The issue price is expected to be around 93 (which is also, it is understood, the figure fixed for the Kreuger loan of 500,000,000 marks to Germany in April through the International Settlements Bank). The nominal interest yield, it is now stated, will be found rather higher than the 5-6 per cent. rate originally forecast here. The American financiers interested are stated to have insisted that this first trial issue shall be at 6 per cent., plus 1 per cent. for amortisation, in order to ensure success in advance. Unconfirmed statements are in circulation that a firm offer has been put forward by an international group to take up the whole $300,000,000. The Morgan group is said to have stipulated that the larger part of the loan shall be offered in Europe, and to have agreed, in such case, to take up $140,000,000 for New York. European banking interests, and especially the Bank of France, are understood to agree fully with this.

Extracts from London newspapers reproduced here, which give the impression that the French may be inclined to throw on British and other foreign investors an unduly large proportion of a loan that will chiefly benefit this country, have been read here with astonishment and regret. The attitude of France to the pending loan is the exact opposite of that with which she is credited. Out of the $200,000,000 of the issue which represents mobilisation of the German reparation debt, about 71 per cent., or $142,000,000 (say £28,400,000), would be allocated to France in respect of her share of the German debt. Should it be decided that, apart from America, the issue should be distributed among the various Allied countries in strict proportion to the direct benefit that would be derived from it by each of them, no doubt whatever need be felt that France would be perfectly capable of absorbing at least $142,000,000, and that, if French investors were left to themselves, such an amount (on anything like the attractive terms set forth above) would be largely over-subscribed. The French view, both official and otherwise, is that the new bonds, if wisely launched, will, in all probability, rank on level terms with the best of the world's gilt-edged scrip. Other things being equal, this country will most probably be found ready to absorb, on its merits, an even larger proportion of the loan than that which might be expected of her. The only objection to this course is that, if French holders secured too large a proportion, the advantages of commercialisation would be largely nullified, as they would find themselves, *vis-à-vis* Germany, almost as ill-protected as the French Government has been under the *régime hitherto* existing, which made Germany's reparation debt to France merely an obligation of one Government towards the other. France's whole policy has been to devise a means whereby she would no longer be far the most prominent creditor of Germany. If a substantial proportion of the new bonds are held in the United States, Great Britain and other countries, the French holders would be proportionately better protected.

Another strong reason why it is desired here that as large a proportion of the loan as possible (subject to the conditions just mentioned) should be held by this country is that the new scrip is being relied upon as an important factor in the development of the French debt extinction policy. Plans are already being developed for the utilisation of the pending issues in connection with the series of important national debt conversion operations foreshadowed for 1930 and 1931, which will mark the real beginning of the debt extinction policy laid down since M. Poincaré resumed power in 1926. According to present plans, subscribers here will be offered the new international bonds in exchange for scrip of one or two of the higher-interest-bearing Rente issues, probably the 1920 6 per cent. (which closed to-night at 103.95) and 1927 6 per cent. (104.45). The double advantage of thus extinguishing public debt and the recurrent interest burden on the Budget, and also transforming a portion of the national debt into a merely commercial obligation is too obvious to need comment.

Banking circles are confident the new reparation bonds will speedily be carried to par, owing to the high yield which is expected to be offered, and that, as far as the portion to be issued in this country is concerned, the success of the operation is a foregone conclusion. Experts who are in a position to speak with authority estimate that it should be possible to mobilise the whole of the German "unconditional" payments within a period of about six years. These, according to the modified figures of the Young Plan, comprise 37 annual payments of 612,000,000 marks, or an undiscounted total of about £1,130,000,000 (in addition to the sums required for the service of the German External Loan, 1924). The value discounted at 6 per cent. is less than half this figure. Whether international financial resources will be capable of absorbing an average of £100,000,000 of the new bonds during each of the next six years remains, of course, to be seen. Much will, in any case, depend on the American situation and on the exact rank which the bonds will permanently assume among "international" securities. According to a recent estimate, the French revenue from investments abroad now exceeds 6,000,000,000 francs a year, and the same authority calculates that the country can now "certainly lend annually several milliards of francs abroad."

The total new issues during December are returned as 1,490,000,000 francs (of which 113,000,000 francs consisted of shares by new companies, 394,000,000 francs of increased share capital by old companies, and 983,000,000 francs of bond issues by the latter). The average rate of interest offered by new bond issues in December was 5 per cent., as against 5.25 per cent. in November, 4.80 in October, and a monthly mean of 6.03 per cent. in 1928. The Crédit Foncier announces its decision to lower its rate of interest on long-term loans to departments and communes from 7.15 per cent. to 6.05 per cent.

HOLLAND.—MONEY—STOCK EXCHANGE—FOREIGN TRADE—CAPITAL ISSUES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, January 16.

THE Amsterdam money market remained amply supplied with credit even after the turn of the year. Owing to the payment of interim dividends by some of the larger concerns, including the Royal Dutch and some of the agricultural undertakings, much money has been released. Call money even dropped to 2 per cent., the rate for "prolongations" touched the low level of 2½ per cent. on the 13th inst., and the private discount rate touched 2⅞ per cent., with the official rate at 4½ per cent. To-day the Bank has reduced its rate to 4 per cent. The trend of the Bank rate during the past year will be clearly seen from the following table of prolongation rates:—

Average.	1926	1927	1928	1929
First quarter	2.74	3.39	3.94	4.78
Second quarter	2.93	3.75	4.05	5.67
Third quarter	2.67	3.48	4.03	4.95
Fourth quarter	3.29	4.61	4.62	4.20
Total for the year ...	2.91	3.85	4.16	4.90

That the position of the Netherlands Bank was strong enough to justify to-day's reduction will be clearly seen from the following figures, which also show that the last reduction of the discount rate in 1929 to 4½ per cent. has had no weakening effect:—

NETHERLANDS BANK.

(In millions of guilders.)

1929.	Foreign Bills.	Sundry Accounts.	Gold Supply.	Total.
January 7th	219.8	37.9	434.5	692.2
April 2nd	33.9	44.3	422.5	500.7
July 1st	175.6	33.9	436.6	646.1
October 7th	195.9	38.3	442.9	677.1
1930.				
January 6th	219.3	37.6	447.5	704.4

Neither on the stock exchange nor on the issues market did the ample supply of money produce any perceptible effect. On the whole business was very quiet.

There was, however, a general increase in foreign trade in 1929. As imports increased to a greater extent than

exports, the import balance was greater than in the preceding year. The figures of the Dutch trade balance for the past six years are given below. As the returns for December, 1929, are not yet available the total for the year 1929 is arrived at by adding the figures for December, 1928.

NETHERLANDS TRADE BALANCE.

1924-1929.

(In millions of guilders.)

	Imports.	Exports.	Import Balance.
1924	2,363	1,661	702
1925	2,455	1,808	647
1926	2,441	1,749	692
1927	2,549	1,900	649
1928	2,684	1,987	697
1929 (estd.) ...	2,747	2,010	737

These figures are not altogether encouraging. In the first place the year 1929 has closed with a record debit balance. It is true the increase compared with 1924 is not very great in itself, but the position becomes more critical when one considers that there has been an increase in the import balance of some 12 per cent. in the space of two years. Compared with 1924 this year's imports have increased by about 16 per cent. Exports, compared with those of 1924, are up by some 21 per cent., thus showing a greater percentage increase than the import or debit balance, but the annual rate of increment has shown during the last two years an alarming tendency to decrease.

The following figures show the part played by manufactured articles: —

	Imports.		Exports.	
	(In millions of guilders.)			
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
Total for 11 months ...	2,475	2,537	1,822	1,845
Manufactures :—				
(*a*) Food and drink ...	158	141	372	345
(*b*) Other manufactures ...	972	1,074	731	803
Total manufactures ...	1,130	1,215	1,103	1,148

In the course of the year a large number of foreign stocks were offered to the Dutch public through introductions on the stock exchange, so that it is not possible to ascertain the amount of capital taken up here. A feature last year was the excess of share issues over bonds. Of the total amount offered, viz., 468.1 million guilders (last year 669 millions), 284.8 (last year 348) were in the form of shares, and 183.3 million (last year 320) in the form of bonds and mortgage bonds. Of this amount 79.8 million was accounted for by municipal and state loans, so that private issues amounted to 103.5 millions. Of the total of the shares issued, 234 millions are for home account and only 50 millions for foreign account. Of the bond issues, 97 million were for home account and 85 million for foreign account. Conversion loans reached more than double the total for last year; namely, 86.1 million compared with 36 million. The lion's share of this amount was that part of the 4½ per cent. Netherlands-East Indies Loan, 1929, which served to redeem the outstanding 65,625,000 guilders 6 per cent. bonds of the 6 per cent. Netherlands-East Indies Loan, 1923.

The Amsterdam issues market was in 1929 far behind what it was in 1928; there was a decline from 669 million in 1928 to 468 million in 1929. In the course of the year wide fluctuations took place in the issues market. The average monthly total was about 39 million, and there was in February a maximum total of 100.8 million, and in August a minimum amount of 6.2 million. Of the aggregate of 468 million 332 million were accounted for by home issues and 136 million by foreign.

As will be seen from the table given below the tendency which was noticeable in 1928 also continued throughout 1929 :—

DUTCH AND FOREIGN ISSUES

(in millions of guilders).

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Dutch ...	354	154	176	162	360	332
Foreign ...	49	143	283	340	309	136
Total ...	403	297	459	502	669	468
	Per cent.					
Dutch ...	87.8	51.8	38.3	32.3	53.8	70.9
Foreign ...	12.2	48.2	61.7	67.7	46.2	29.1

Whereas in the years 1924-1927 foreign issues were gaining ground—the home ratio dropped from 87.8 per cent. in 1924 to 32.3 per cent. in 1927—after 1927 this trend was reversed.

ROUMANIA.—POLITICAL SITUATION—AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK—PETROLEUM INDUSTRY—ECONOMIC SITUATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, January 16.

THE Government is losing popularity. The fairly serious unemployment in the industrial districts and in the towns in general, due to the economic crisis, the unsatisfactory state of agriculture caused by low world prices, the administrative reform combined with the wholesale pensioning of civil servants, the appalling state of credit, aggravated in no small measure by the unfortunate law of the Concordat Preventif—all these circumstances are very effective weapons in the hands of Monsieur Maniu's political opponents. That these conditions are not due to bad administration during the past year, but are rather the consequence of the devalorisation of the currency, with all its attendant evils, and of the mistakes of former Governments, is often not taken into account, and the opposition parties find it easy to sow dissatisfaction. The coming municipal and provincial elections will therefore show a marked diminution in the supporters of the present administration. However, sane judgment will probably prevail, and the Government will not be shaken seriously in its position. After all, the Government must be admired for adhering courageously to its programme of reorganising the country and its resources, in spite of all difficulties. Roumania has need of political peace, and this consideration should for the moment take precedence of all others.

Although the last harvest was very satisfactory as to quantity and quality, the situation of the farmer is unsatisfactory on account of the low level of prices. This reflects naturally on the economic position of the country. In view of the competition of Canada, the Argentine and Russia in the world markets, there is no improvement to be expected in the sale of Roumanian cereals. The only remedy lies in cheaper and better production. Capital is therefore needed to obtain machinery required for more intensive cultivation; cheap credit facilities are wanted to assist the farmer until he has realised his crop. At present agriculture is ruined by usurious charges. The Agricultural Credit Bank, the formation of which has been contemplated for a long time, is most urgently needed, but the scheme is encountering serious difficulties. For the great task which it will have to perform the new bank will require ample funds, and the assistance of foreign capital will have to be called in. As the agricultural land is the ultimate security of the foreign lender, while the Constitution does not permit foreigners to own such land, it is not easy to find a formula for making the investment attractive for the foreign capitalist, and at the same time to obtain the money on terms sufficiently cheap. It is generally asserted here that the farmer should obtain credit facilities on about a 7 to 8 per cent. basis. When it is considered that for the stabilisation loan, with the security of the Monopoly Institute, Roumania had to pay approximately 9 per cent., the difficulties standing in the way of the formation of the Agricultural Credit Bank, with foreign help on the signature of the State only, are obvious.

Petroleum interests have received encouragement from the agreement of the principal refineries regulating the sales in the interior, which was signed towards the end of last year. A similar agreement was concluded in 1927, but came to an end in the following year owing to a divergence of opinion among the companies concerned. During the time of its existence it had a very beneficial effect on earnings. Owing to its termination the companies' activity during 1929 will have been hardly profitable, and dividend prospects are unfavourable. As a matter of fact, it was only dire necessity in view of a disastrous year which made the renewal of the agreement possible. The effects are already noticeable in higher prices of crude oil and petroleum products for internal consumption. The outlook for 1930 is consequently brighter; nevertheless, the dependence of the industry for about 50 per cent. of its production on the precarious conditions of the world markets, and the crushing taxation, of which there seems no immediate prospect of relief, remain discouraging factors. Yet the industry has made good progress during last year. The daily production amounts to 1,500 wagons even now at the slack season.

It is intended to change the law of the Concordat Preventif because of the disastrous effects which this measure has had since the time of its passing in July last. This news comes as a relief to the commercial and financial community. A more equitable treatment of the relations of debtor and creditor, affording better protection for the latter than that given by the present law, can only have a good influence on credit conditions in general. There is no doubt that the law has accentuated the economic crisis which daily claims new victims.

There are difficult months ahead, and no marked amelioration of conditions can be expected until the export of cereals is resumed in spring. A factor of stability will be introduced by the conclusion of commercial treaties on the basis of the new Customs tariff; such treaties with several countries are under discussion now. On the whole, it is believed that the economic depression has reached bottom, and the outlook for 1930 is that, with political stability and a good harvest in the summer, a time of gradual recovery will be inaugurated.

GREECE.—BANKING TROUBLES—BANK OF GREECE—ECONOMIC CRISIS—PUBLIC FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, January 18.

IN consequence of the failure of the Bank of Messinia nervousness prevailed in the Athens Stock Exchange. Bears, profiting by this, caused unfavourable rumours to circulate regarding various companies. Among these companies was the Bank of Industry, of which it was said that as it was an important creditor of the Bank of Messinia, its position, following the latter bank's failure, was difficult. Hence the shares of the Bank of Industry fell heavily, and it was found necessary for the Bank of Greece and the National Bank of Greece to intervene once again in its favour. A joint communiqué issued by these two institutions stated that, after a thorough investigation into the conditions of that bank, they were convinced that its financial situation remained satisfactory, and that the small part of its credit which was frozen was otherwise secured. Consequently, they informed the bank in question that it could rely upon their assistance if required. This statement disposed of the adverse rumours concerning the bank, but it is understood that large withdrawals of deposits were again made from it. Owing to the shock thus suffered for the second time in the course of a few months by the Bank of Industry its projected amalagamation with two other banks, and the formation thereby of a large industrial banks, has been abandoned. The bank will continue its operations as before, and should its further working not prove possible, it might eventually wind up or be absorbed by the National Bank of Greece. A representative of the latter bank and one of the Bank of Greece have been appointed to sit on the board of the distressed bank.

Another bank established in Athens during the war, the Bank of National Economy, found itself obliged, after a period of vegetation, to proceed to a voluntary winding-up. The liquidation of its affairs is being effected by the National Bank of Greece, to which the principal stockholder of the bank and wealthy shipowner, L. Embiricos, has given a guarantee covering any eventual deficit between the assets and the liabilities of the liquidated bank. The annual balance sheet of the Bank of Greece has just been published. As compared with December 31, 1928, the principal changes are as follows:—Bank notes in circulation show a decrease of 496 million drachmas; other sight liabilities in drachmas are lower by 599 millions; liabilities in gold exchange are higher by 753 millions. Gold coins and bullion have increased by 87 millions, but foreign gold exchange, disposable abroad, has declined by 458 millions, while the State Debt is less by 193 millions. The proportion of cover to circulation and sight liabilities in drachmas stands at 46.35 per cent. A year ago it was 54.24 per cent.

After the Industrial Association, both the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Athens and the Commercial Association have in their turn submitted memoranda to the Government with suggestions as to the measures to be adopted in order to face the present economic crisis. The first thing for which everybody asks is cheap credits, —as extensive and as long-dated as possible. It is officially announced that the Government will lend to the Bank of Greece and the National Bank a sum of £400,000, which these two banks will utilise in making loans to various industrial concerns needing assistance. This amount will be taken from the sum of £1,500,000 deposited with foreign banks from the proceeds of the Stabilisation Loan and destined for the payment of Budget arrears. The Greek Treasury has already paid arrears of an equal amount from its ordinary revenue. An application has been lodged with the League of Nations for permission to withdraw the whole sum of £1,500,000, on the ground that the ordinary revenue of the Budget will suffice in future also to pay the remaining arrears. Should this permission be granted, the balance of £1,100,000, together with the accumulated surpluses of the Budget, would be utilised for financing the execution of public works pending the conclusion of a foreign loan. Gross receipts from revenues assigned for the services of the public debt for the first 11 months of 1929 amounted to Drs. 3,873 million, showing an increase of Drs. 135 million over the corresponding period of 1928. The special revenues securing the service of the Refugee Loan of 1924 amounted during the same period to 828 millions, or Drs. 1 million less than in the previous year. Revenues subject to the distribution of the surplus show, at Drs. 203 million, a decline of 9 millions in comparison with the receipts of 1928.

IRISH FREE STATE.—BANK RESULTS—REVENUE—DAIRY INDUSTRY—CORK HARBOUR.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, January 21.

THE accounts of the principal Irish banks at the end of 1929 have been published, and it is possible to review the operations of the banking year. Deposits amount to £176,298,935, a decrease of £553,000 on last year, while advances and bills discounted amount to £95,890,002, an increase of £599,476. Notes in circulation amount to £10,326,712. The proportion of total assets held in

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Capital paid up and Reserves Drs. 1,205,000,000.

cash, investments and advances shows no material change. These figures refer to all the Irish banks, many of which possess numerous branches in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain. No separate figures are published for advances and deposits in the Free State, and one important economic barometer is thus wanting for the statistician. Possibly the most reliable index of this kind available is the Dublin bank clearings. These amounted in 1929 to £247,752,850, a decrease of £3,877,700 on the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure figures for the first nine months of the current financial year are eminently satisfactory, and have given rise to rumours of remission of taxation. The revenue amounted to £16,657,962, an increase of £232,759 on the corresponding period in 1928. The estimated revenue for the year, £23,939,000, will certainly be realised, as the present quarter is the best in the year. The main sources of the increases were Customs duties, motor taxes, and estate duty; while Excise duties, income tax and corporation profits tax declined. Expenditure amounted to £18,044,599, a decrease of £308,464. The apparent deficit is not a matter for alarm, as it is all accounted for by capital expenditure, mainly on the Shannon scheme. At the same time, it is becoming obvious that further borrowing must soon be undertaken, as the floating debt is becoming unduly large. The easier interest rates now prevailing, together with the excellent reputation of the Free State in financial matters, should enable any money that is needed to be raised on very favourable terms.

A largely attended congress of cow-testing associations was held in Dublin this month. There is no part of its agricultural policy to which the Government attaches more importance than the increase of the milk yield of dairy cattle. Dairying is the key industry of the Free State, on which the prosperity of the whole countryside largely depends. Considerable advances have been made in cow testing in recent years, but even to-day the cows under test are only a small percentage of the total dairy cattle, and the Government is attempting by means of subsidies to encourage this progressive and constructive movement in every way. Of the cows actually under test, the average yield increased from 430 gallons in 1912 to 580 gallons in 1928. There are 11,227,000 dairy cows in the country, and a corresponding all-round increase in yield. with milk at 8d. a gallon, would increase the agricultural income by more than £6,000,000, a sum greater than the total amount paid by way of land purchase annuities and local rates. While the policy of the Opposition party is to encourage the farmer to agitate for the removal of these payments, the Government, much more wisely, attempts to help him to increase his real income so that he may discharge his legitimate obligations without feeling them an excessive burden.

An American syndicate, which is said to have command of 60 million dollars for investment in Ireland, is exploring the possibilities of developing Cork harbour. It is suggested that, if facilities were provided for liners to come alongside a jetty instead of discharging their passengers and cargo, as at present, by tender, a large number of American tourists would include Ireland in their European itinerary. An engineer, acting on behalf of the syndicate, is engaged on inspecting possible sites for such a landing stage, and it is thought that some place in the neighbourhood of Queenstown will be found most suitable. Proposals are also being put forward that Cork should be made into a free port. The tractors from the Ford works are exported in ships that have frequently no return cargo, and it is argued that this defect in the transport arrangements of the port could be remedied if shippers were encouraged by the establishment of a free port to make use of the magnificent natural advantages which Cork possesses as a centre of the distributive trade in the British Isles.

Books and Publications.

NAVAL DISARMAMENT.*

THE public enthusiasm with which the London Naval Conference is welcomed undoubtedly exceeds public knowledge of the matters which the Conference is to discuss. It does not need technical knowledge to desire a genuine restriction of naval armaments for the sake of economy and security; it will need some technical knowledge to follow intelligently the progress of the Conference and to appraise its results. For that reason these two books ought to enjoy a wide circulation. They supplement rather than compete with each other, for while Mr Wilson Harris clearly and tersely discusses the issues before the Conference, the Chatham House monograph is a bare history, with only very occasional comments, of attempts at naval disarmament since the war. The reader will find, for instance, the complete text of the Washington Limitation Treaty with its annexed schedules. Mr Wilson Harris also devotes one half of his book to history, but he goes into much less detail than Mr. Latimer and is not afraid to enlighten the tale with his personal views.

When Mr Latimer does allow himself an expression of opinion his theme is much the same as Mr Harris's. "The Washington Conference," he writes, "owed its success largely to the fact that political and technical discussions had been carried on side by side, and the experience of that and later conferences have shown that if one is to come before the other it must be the political questions which are settled first." Insistence upon the new political background created by the Pact of Paris is one of the strongest cards in the hand of those who wish success to the London Conference. But the maxim, "He who wills the end wills also the means," may not hold good where the choice of the means is so difficult, and it is because intelligent public opinion ought to be brought to bear upon the problem of means as well as that of the end in naval disarmament that these books ought to be extensively read.

* "Naval Disarmament." A brief record from the Washington Conference to date. By Hugh Latimer. Preface by Philip H. Kerr, C.H. (London) Royal Institute of International Affairs. 3s. 6d. "Naval Disarmament." By H. Wilson Harris. (London) George Allen and Unwin. 3s. 6d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Greece To-Day. By Eliot Grinnell Mears. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 23s. net.

A study of the present economic problems of Greece, by an author whose interest in ancient Greece and intimate personal knowledge of modern Greece qualify him to write vividly and with authority.

Africa and Some World Problems. By General J. C. Smuts. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 7s. 6d. net.

Consists of the Rhodes Memorial lectures delivered last term and of lectures delivered before the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, the League of Nations Union, and Newnham College respectively. The three last-named were entitled: "Livingstone and After"; "Future Tasks of the League," and "Democracy."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in the Republic of Panama and the Panama Canal Zone, October, 1929. 2s. net; *Republic of Colombia, Commercial Review and Handbook,* July, 1929. 4s. 3d. net.

Civil Estimates: Revised Estimate of the Further Sum Required in the Year ending March 31, 1930, *for Beet Sugar Subsidy, Great Britain.* 1s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

ARTIFICIAL SILK DIFFICULTIES.

SHAREHOLDERS in artificial silk concerns are awaiting the forthcoming reports of their companies with a certain misgiving, in view of the difficult conditions of the industry last year. Prices, which had been reduced in 1928, on the average, by 15 per cent., were again so largely cut as to leave but a small profit-margin on cheap-grade yarns, even to well-established producers. For the first few months of 1929 the output of rayon yarn and waste exceeded demand, if we may regard the excise returns as a fair measure of consumption. Subsequently, for a few months, sales overtook output, but in the last two months of the year production again exceeded demand. On the whole, therefore, no appreciable inroad was made upon the surplus stocks handed over from 1928. The British output of rayon yarn and waste in the last four years has been as follows:—

	Lbs.
1926	26,314,000
1927	40,147,000
1928	54,240,000
1929 (estimated.)	57,700,000

The consumption of artificial silk is still expanding, but production is running ahead of demand. If this condition is unaltered in the future, shareholders in rayon companies cannot remain oblivious to its implications.

It is clear that even the oldest and strongest producers are unfavourably affected by the present state of the industry. How much more difficult must be the position of the smaller concerns, formed during the recent boom and overtaken by depression before production had got well into its stride! The record of some of these flotations is scarcely an encouraging commentary on British company promotion methods. The promoters had two factors in their favour: the speculative enthusiasm of the public in 1928, and the protected nature of the artificial silk industry, which enjoyed a Customs duty of 2s. per lb., against an Excise duty of 1s. per lb. In point of fact, the companies already established were fully able to take care of any reasonable increase in demand. On the one hand, Courtaulds had vast resources and infinite capacity to expand, while on the other British Celanese proposed to produce a large proportion of the acetate silk that the home and export trade in this country could be expected to handle. Among the smaller companies was British Enka, formed at the end of 1925, with strong financial and technical backing, which was working up to a production of 18,000 lbs. per day; Harbens, which was already well established and producing a good quality of yarn, and Branston, which was promoted in 1927 with a prospectus estimate of 4,960 lbs. per day. In spite of this formidable competition—it must have been realised that at any time Courtaulds could cut prices if they wished—nine new companies were promoted between December, 1927, to November, 1928, and budgeted in their prospectuses for an output of 33 tons, or 73,920 lbs. per day, or, say, 22,176,000 lbs. a year! Few people expected that these estimates would be even approximately realised, but the coming into production of these new companies, towards the end of 1928, when the output of the older companies had already been increased, and demand was falling off, tended powerfully to depress the market. In their reports for 1928 the directors of Courtaulds, British Enka and Harbens all tell the same story: that sales were good for the first nine months of the year but in the last quarter the market was disturbed by low offers from the new producers; that stocks increased; and that prices fell by fifteen per cent.

The nine new companies included in the following table have a par capitalisation of £8,593,209. At present market prices their securities are worth to-day no more than £1,956,504—a depreciation of 77 per cent.:—

Company.	Date of Issue.	Prospectus Issue.	Present Issued Capital.	Prices. Highest, 1929.	Prices. Present.
			£		
International Artificial Silk.	Dec., 1927	£200,000 deb.....	57,290	12½	5⅝
		1,180,000 ord. 5/–	614,168	8/-	10½d.
Cellulose Acetate Art. Silk.	Feb., 1928	950,000 ord. £1 ...	950,007	11/3	3/6
		950, 000 def. 1/-...	75,585	3/1½	1/-
Rennes Artificial Silk	Feb., 1928	240,000 ord. 10/-	120,000	7/4½	1/6
		240,000 def. 1/- ...	30,000	2/6	3d.
North British Artificial Silk.	March 1928	345,000 10% pf. ord. £1.	345,000	9/9	5/-
		345,000 def.ord. 1/-	40,000	1/2½	6d.
British Acetate Silk...	April, 1928	1,400,000 ord. £1	1,939,026	8/4½	2/3
		700,000 def. 1/-	109,470	2/10½	6d.
Yorkshire Artificial Silk.	May, 1928	225,000 10% pf. ord. £1.	225,000	No market; in liquidation.	
		450,000 def. 2/-...	77,500		
Allliance Artificial Silk	July, 1928	4,680,000 5/-	1,325,000	3/9½	1/4½
Scottish Amalgamated Silks.	July, 1928	3,700,000 pf. ord. 5/-	1,295,192	2/4½	4½d.
		7,400,000 def. 1/-	534,971	1/1½	4½d.
British Netherlands Artificial Silk.	Nov., 1928	1,400,000 ord. 10/	700,000	No market.	
		1,400,000 def. 1/-	155,000		

Even at the highest prices recorded in 1929 the shares of these ten companies were valued at only £5,677,283, a depreciation of 34 per cent. of their par value. In the next table we show the estimated output of each company, the estimated profits, the results of the first year's operations, and the directors' explanations:—

Company.	Estimated Output.	Estimated Profit.	Profit Realised.	Directors' Explanation.
		£	£	
International Art. Silk	4 tons per day	230,172	1,684 (loss)	Position of artificial silk industry has undergone complete change since the inception of the company.
Cellulose Acetate Art. Silk.	4 tons per day	439,000	11,802 (loss)	Impossible to arrange for the installation of the plant and machinery within the time estimated.
Rennes Art. Silk	1,320 lbs. per day.	93,600	•	...
North British Art. Silk	28,800 lbs. per week.	100,000	...	Factory and production started only on June 28, 1929.
British Acetate Silk ...	50 tons per week by April, 1929.	850,000†	196,300 (loss)†	Company involved in internal disputes mainly in connection with management. Original estimates of expenditure found inadequate. Considerable amount due in respect of calls payable on shares. In addition, certain further processes ...necessitated provision of still further money.
Yorkshire Art. Silk ...	15 tons per week.	120,000	In liquidation.	...
Alliance Art. Silk ...	5 tons per day	650,000	•	Lowestoft factory not yet completed.
Scottish Amal. Silks...	2,688,000 lbs. per annum.	388,000	41,011 (loss)	Operations limited owing to failure of underwriters to meet their obligations.
British Netherlands Art. Silk.	30 tons per week.	247,500	•	...

• First accounts not yet published. † Estimated profit before, and realised profit after, deductions for Income Tax and Depreciation.

Not one of the companies which have so far published their reports has made a profit on its first year's operations. The history of all the new companies, indeed, has been a troubled one. The difficulties of training labour and bringing into operation highly intricate pieces of mass-production machinery have been far greater than was contemplated by the directors. The disappointments of British Enka, which, despite its ample resources and skilled management, has made no profit for its ordinary shareholders from 1925 to 1928, afford a striking example of the risks of the industry.

What is the future outlook for the companies formed during the 1928 boom? A policy of severe price-cutting must necessarily tend, if prolonged, to put many of the

weaker companies out of business altogether. Even the largest producer may be called on to sacrifice a share of its profits under such conditions, but its resources are sufficient to withstand difficulties which to the weaker brethren might be ruinous. It is reported that certain concerns in the trade, including Branston, Kirklees, Rayon Manufacturing and North British, are seeking a basis for amalgamation in order to improve their market position. Out of the nine companies we have considered one has already gone into liquidation. As regards the rest it is not clear how far fresh capital may be required in the near future, the raising of which, in the present state of the industry, and of the new issue market, would be anything but easy. In the circumstances, the absence of conspicuous optimism among shareholders is a phenomenon which may elicit some little sympathy, but needs no elaborate explanation.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
February 4.	February 6.

The Stock Exchange exhibited most of the characteristic features of a period of uncertainty. No large volume of selling was in process, but public interest was lacking, and the volume of business tended to tail off. Much the most noteworthy event of the week was the unanimous acceptance, by Tuesday afternoon, of the scheme for the Hatry settlement, followed, the next day, by the Committee's official announcement of the date fixed for that settlement. At one time odds were laid on a reduction in Bank rate, but neither this expectation nor its non-fulfilment had much effect on prices. Resources awaiting investment were recognised as being of substantial proportions, but the ideas of their controllers as to what constituted "sound" employment remained exacting, and in the meantime the will to speculate was imperceptible either inside or outside the "House."

Dealings in the gilt-edged market were of narrower dimensions than last week, and prices, after sagging slightly, showed little change on balance, though War Loan was dealt in at 101 on Wednesday afternoon in anticipation of a drop in Bank rate. India loans were again realised, especially on Thursday morning, following a press report of an interview with Mr Gandhi. Australian stocks were again a weak feature in a dull Dominion and Colonial market, but Ceylon Five per Cent. scrip was in demand.

Foreign bonds showed appreciable firmness, though business remained on a moderate scale. Brazilians experienced a measurable recovery, and Chinese obtained further support. The successful outcome of the Hague Conference encouraged modest buying of French and Central European stocks.

In the Home Railway market the week's traffic figures on the group lines left little to go for. Attention was chiefly centred on the London lines, partly on prophecies of a forthcoming Underground dividend ranging from 7 per cent. upwards, and partly on reports that negotiations at present in progress, in the matter of London traffic organisation, would have an outcome favourable to stockholders. As regards Foreign Rails, the week was uneventful. The Argentine traffic statements were poor, but the various stocks showed few price changes. Brazilian prices were irregular. The chief features of the market were the quiet strength of Canadian Pacifics, and the emergence of a moderate demand for French railway sterling bonds.

The carry-over in the Industrial markets revealed a very small open position, rates being at approximately the level of a fortnight earlier. America showed a disposition to nibble at a few stocks, such as International Nickel and Brazilian Traction, while the Continent was occasionally a buyer of Swedish Match and Kreuger and Toll, on reported negotiations for the Japanese match monopoly. Dealings in British domestic stocks, however, were lethargic. Gramophones showed unexpected weakness, associated with nebulous rumours of disagreement on "talking picture" policy, or the loss of a lawsuit by the Radio Corporation. British Celanese recovered slightly on the denial of reported new price "cuts," but again became dull. Cables and Wireless "B" had a heavy appearance. The position of outstanding Marconi £1 shareholders, in the light of a statement made by the Communications Company, is discussed in an "Investment Note" on page 181. The week's most satisfactory feature was the Imperial Tobacco dividend announcement, which was well above even the most optimistic of market expectations. Carreras attracted some little attention after going ex bonus. Textile shares remained dull and heavy, Listers report coming as a disappointment. A slight accession of selective interest in brewery shares was lost by mid-week. Among motors, Leyland were bought in expectation that the forthcoming report would announce a resumption of ordinary dividends. Iron and steel shares attracted little attention. Dunlops were flat on Thursday, on the fear that the company would be compelled to write off significant amounts from the year's profits on account of the drop in crude rubber prices. Bank and insurance shares were irregular, and mainly unchanged.

The mildly firmer tone of the rubber share market, following the constitution of a British-Dutch growers' committee to study the situation, was interrupted by the weakness of the commodity on Monday. Our readers will find an analysis of present conditions in the rubber-growing industry on page 180.

The market for tea shares showed some signs of broadening, on the firmer tendency of common teas at the week's auctions. Oils opened quietly, but had a better appearance after the publication of figures revealing a falling-off in the American output. Investment buying of Shells continued, and a steady demand obtained for a time for Anglo-Persians.

Business in the mining markets was on a limited scale throughout the week, inquiry coming almost entirely from professionals. Kaffirs closed slightly better after a dull week, East and West Rand both advancing slightly. Crown Mines were a fraction higher on some London buying, but in the main, Rhodesians were weak, Selection and Bwana M'Kubwa both finishing easier. Tin fell to the lowest level since November, 1922, and share quotations were marked down all round. Ashanti Goldfields were firmer on a good report (discussed on page 184), but Anaconda showed signs of debility on fears that the price of copper could not indefinitely be maintained at the prevailing level.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The share market has continued quiet with rallies curbed by realisations and quiet liquidation, while selling has dried up on declines and shorts have received occasional reminders that it would be easy to oversell their positions. Bears have been operating in coppers on rumours of an imminent reduction in the price of the metal, but actually producers are confident of their ability to maintain the price and are now curtailing production sharply. The strength of nickel shares is based on the smallness of the recession in the business of these companies and reports of much buying from your side. The bond market has been dull after the recent lively activity in new issues. There has apparently been considerable

switching from old into new issues. Rumours of the flotation of German reparations bonds have been received with reserve as it is not believed that any great volume can be floated here. It is considered that this market might take a quarter of any international issue, or, say, 50 millions, but no early offering is anticipated. Foreign bonds are somewhat better, but the demand is still for the best domestic investment issues.

	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 23.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104[11/32]	103[31/32]	103[31/32]
Do. 4½% T. Bds.	111[13/32]	110[15/32]	111
Lib.Ln.3½% '32-47	99¼	99[11/32]	98[31/32]
Do. 4½% '32-47	100½	100[11/32]	100[1/32]
Do. 4½% '33-38	101¼	100[15/32]	100[31/32]
Atchison	222	226	231½
Ches. & Ohio	205½	212	215½
Erie	57½	59½	58½
Illinois Central	129	129	129½
N.Y. Central	168	171½	175½
Pennsylvania	74½	77	78½
Southern Pacific	119½	121	120½
Southern Rly.	133	135	135½
Union Pacific	217½	217½	219
Am. Can.	123½	124½	124½
Alleghany Corp.	24[3/8]	26[1/8]	26[1/8]
Amer. Smelting	75	73½	72
Anaconda	79	70[3/8]	72½
Bethlehem Steel	95½	96[3/8]	98
Chrysler Motor	36[3/8]	34[3/8]	35½
Corn Produce	90½	90½	92½
Eastman Kodak	177	180½	185½
Gen. Electric	246	248½	252½
Gen. Motors	39[3/8]	37[3/8]	40[3/8]
Int. Harvester	80[7/8]	81[3/8]	86½
Montg. Ward	46½	41	45[3/8]
Natl. Biscuit	182	183[3/4]	194
Phelps Dodge	42	41	38[7/8]
Pullman	86½	85	84½
Sears-Roebuck	87[7/8]	84	86½
Studebaker	43[3/8]	41[7/8]	43[3/8]
Un. Fruit	103½	102	102
U.S. Leather	9[3/8]	8[3/8]	9½
U.S. Rubber	25½	23[3/8]	24[3/8]
U.S. Steel	170[7/8]	170½	175
Westinghouse	148[3/8]	147[3/8]	149[3/8]
Woolworth	66	68	68[3/8]
Worthington Pump	70	69	71½
Am. Pow. & Light	82[3/8]	83[3/8]	84½
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	220	220	220
Electric P. & L.	53[3/8]	55[7/8]	55
Int. Tel. Teles.	74[3/8]	73½	70½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	34½	35[3/8]	24[3/8]
Radio Corpn.	42[3/8]	38[3/8]	38[3/8]
Utilities P. & L.	32	32	33[3/8]
W. Union Tlg.	210	202	199
Associated Gas "A"	37[3/8]	41	42[3/8]
Mid-Cont. Pet.	26½	25[3/8]x	25
Pan Amer. B.	57½	56[3/8]	51½
Sinclair Oil	24	23[3/8]	23[3/8]
Std. California	60½	60½	59[3/8]
Do. N.J.	64[3/8]	62[3/8]	62½

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 16.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	148·4	146·8
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	134·7	136·7
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	208·4	210·3
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	155·7	155·2
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·77%	4·85%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 9).	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17).	Jan. 15.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 17.	Jan. 18.	Jan. 20.	Jan. 21.	Jan. 22.
170·2	166·5	169·5	167·5	166·5	167·6	167·7	169·4	169·9

AMSTERDAM.

During the past month the aspect of the Stock Exchange has altered considerably. Though December was extremely calm in comparison with previous months, there was a continuation of the gradual decline in many issues, and even a drop in the call money rate to 1 per cent. failed to bring about an appreciable revival. The following official indices show the heavy fall in prices during the past months:—

(1921-5 = 100.)

	1929.		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Industrials	113	98	99
Banks	119	113	113
Shipping	73	63	61
Others	89	81	82
Colonial	139	126	120
Oil	141	125	126
Total	113	100	100

Not until January, when large amounts of capital were released through the payment of dividends and coupons and the redemption of loans, did the tone on Change become more animated. Industrials showed the greatest liveliness, Margarine Union and Philips leading, while A.K.U. also became prominent after the reduction in the

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest, are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices Jan. 16.	Jan. 23.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	75[1/8]	75[1/8]	...
Do. 4½% 1944	95[3/8]	95[3/8]	+ ¼
Do.5% 1944-64	100[1/4]	100[1/4]	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100[3/8]	100[1/8]	+ [1/32]
Consols 2½%	54[3/8]	54[1/4]	− [1/32]
Do. 4%	83[3/4]	82[15/16]	− ¼
Funding 4%	86[1/2]	86[11/16]	+ [3/16]
Victory Bonds 4%	93½	93[3/8]	+ ⅛
Local Loans 3%	62	62	...
Treasury 5% (B)	101	101[1/4]	+ ¼
Canada 4% 1940-60	88	88	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
India 3½%	59½	57	− 2½
Do. 4½% 1958-68	79½	77	− 2½
Australia 5% 1945-75	90	88½	− 1½
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	88½	86½	− 2
N. Zealand 5% 1946	101	100	− 1

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	99	99½	+ ½
Argentine 4% Becios	83[3/4]	83[3/4]	+ ¼
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	103	...
Belgian 7%	109[3/8]	109[1/4]	− ⅛
Brazil 6½% (1927)	80	83½	+ 3½
Bulgaria 7½%	86	87	+ 1
China 5% (1912)	46	47	+ 1
Czechoslovakia 8%	110[3/4]	111	+ ¼
Egypt Unified 4%	78½	79½	+ 1½
French 5%	21[3/8]	21[1/2]	− [1/32]
Do. 4% (Brit.)	19½	20	+ ½
German 7%	104[3/8]	104½	− [1/32]
Greek 7% Refugee	102	101½	− ½
Hungary 7½%	103½	103[1/2]	...
Chili 6%	95½	95	− ½
Poland 7%	88	90	+ 2
Mexican 5% (1899)	20	23	+ 3
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	82	84	+ 2

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	62	62	...
N. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	91½	91½	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	90½	90½	...

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	92½	92[3/4]	+ ¼
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	12[3/4]	12[5/8]	− ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	37½	37½	...
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	56	55[3/4]	− ¼
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	65	66	+ 1
Met. District Ord. Stk.	74	74½	+ ½
Southern Def. Stk.	30[3/8]	30[5/8]	− ¼
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	74½	73[3/4]	− ¼
Underground Ord. £1	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Do. Income Bonds	109	109	...
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	203½	205½	+ 2
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	83½	82½	− 1
B.A.& Pacific Ord.Stk.	87½	87	− ½
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk	99½	99½	− ¼
B.A.Western.Ord.Stk	82[3/4]	82	− ¼
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	23[1/4]	22½	− 1
G.W. of Brazil £10	3½	3¼	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk	52	51½	− ½
San Paulo Ord. Stk	187½	187½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$29½	$30½	− 1
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk	23½	24	+ ½
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	− [1/32]

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	249	249	...
Barclay's B. (£1)	2[3/8]	2[3/8]x	...
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Lloyds £5, with $1 pd.	3[1/4]	3½	− [1/32]
Midland £1, fully pd.	4	3[15/16]x	...
Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13½	13[1/4]	− [1/32]
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1[1/4]	1[1/4]	− [1/32]
Hongk. and S.($125).	115½	114½	− 1
St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14[1/4]	14[1/4]	+ ¼
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3[7/8]	3[7/8]	...

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	19½	19½	...
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	24½	24½	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27½	27½	...
Pearl (£1)	13½	13½	+ ¼
Phœnix £1 fully pd.	13[3/8]	13[1/4]	+ ⅛
Roy.In.£1,with10/ pd.	8½	8	− ½

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2[3/8]	2[3/8]	...
Baldwin (£)	[1/32]	[1/32]	− [1/32]
Cory, William (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/8]	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Stewarts&Lloyds (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	2[3/8]	2[3/8]	...
Vickers (6/8)	[1/32]	[1/32]	...

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Brit. Celanese, Ord. (10/)	[3/32]	[3/32]	− [1/32]
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3[1/8]	3[1/4]	+ [1/32]
Courtaulds	2[1/8]	2[1/8]	− [1/32]
Eng.Sewg.Cotton (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	+ [1/32]
Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1[1/32]	1[1/16]	− [1/32]
Listers (£1)	[3/8]	[3/8]	− [1/32]
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	[3/8]	[1/32]	− [1/32]

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1[1/32]	1[3/8]	− [1/32]
British Insulated (£1)	4	3[31/32]	− [1/32]
General Electric (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	+ [1/32]
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
City of London (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
County of London (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/8]	...
Hydro-Elec. com. stk.	43[1/2]	44[1/2]	+ 1
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	[3/8]	[3/8]	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	350	377	+ 27
Primitiva (£1)	1[1/32]	1[1/32]	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	100	100½	+ ½

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	7½% *A Ord.*	76½	74	− 2½	*Canadian Marconi*
					Marconi Marine (£1)
	B Ord.	38	36	− 2	Oriental Telephone (£1)
	5½% *Pref.*	99	98½	− ½	

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
Ford Motors (£1)	2[3/8]	2[1/2]	− [1/32]
Leyland (£1)	2[3/8]	2[3/8]	+ [1/32]
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	...
Napier (5/-)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
Singer (£1)	1[1/4]	1[1/4]	+ [1/32]

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	+ [1/32]
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	32	34	+ 2

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Cons.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	21½	21½	...
London Asiatic (2/-)	[1/32]	[1/32]	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	3[3/8]	3[3/8]	+ [1/32]
Attock (£1)	1[1/4]	1[1/4]	− [1/32]
Burmah Oil (£1)	3[1/2]	3[3/8]	+ [1/32]
Canadian Eagle, no par	[3/8]	[3/8]	...
Lobitos (£1)	1[3/8]	1[3/8]	...
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	[1/32]	[1/32]	− [1/32]
Royal Dutch (£5½)	32[1/2]	32[1/8]	− [1/32]
Shell (£1)	4[1/2]	4[3/8]	+ [1/32]

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1[1/4]	1[1/4]	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$39[1/2]	$39[1/2]	+ [1/32]
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5[3/8]	5[1/2]	+ [1/32]
Carreras,"A" Ord. (£1)	12[1/4]	10[1/4]xr	...
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6	5[1/2]	− [1/32]
Distillers (£1)	3[1/4]	3[3/8]x	...
Dunlop (6/8)	[3/8]	[1/32]	− [1/32]
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4[1/2]	4[1/2]	− [1/32]
Harrods (£1)	3[1/2]	3[1/2]	− [1/32]
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4[1/8]	4[1/4]	− [1/32]
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1[1/4]	1[1/4]	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	− [1/32]
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4[1/8]	5[1/4]	+ [1/32]
International Holdings	5[1/8]	5[1/4]	− [1/32]
Inter. Nickel of Can.	36[1/8]	37[1/4]	+ [1/32]
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	26[1/2]	27	+ [1/32]
Margarine Union (£1)	5[1/8]	5[1/4]	− [1/32]
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2[1/4]	2[1/8]	...
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	17[1/8]	17	− [1/32]
Tate and Lyle (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	...
Turner & Newall (£1)	4[1/4]	4[1/4]	+ [1/32]
United Molasses (£1)	6	5[1/8]	− [1/32]
Vocalion (10/-)	[1/8]	[1/8]	− [1/32]
Watney Combe Dl.(£1)	2[1/4]	2[1/8]	− [1/32]

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1[1/2]	1[1/2]	− [1/32]
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9[1/8]	9[1/4]	+ [1/32]
Brakpan (£1)	3[1/4]	3[1/8]	− [1/32]
" *Chartered* " 15/-p.	2[1/4]	2[1/8]	− [1/32]
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	[1/8]	[1/8]	...
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/p	1[1/8]	1[1/8]	− [1/32]
Central Provinces (£1)	3[1/4]	3[1/4]	− [1/32]
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2[1/4]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
Lake View & Star (4/)	[1/8]	[1/8]	+ [1/32]
Loangwa (5/-)	[1/32]	[1/32]	...
London Tin (£1)	1[1/8]	1[1/8]x	...
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2[1/8]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	[1/32]	[1/32]	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	8[1/4]	8[1/4]	...
Rio Tinto (£5)	46	46[1/8]	+ [1/32]
Rosan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1[1/32]	1[1/32]	...
Sub Nigel (10/)	1[1/8]	1[1/4]	− [1/32]
Tanganyika (£1)	2[1/4]	2[1/4]	− [1/32]
UnionCrp.(12/6)fu.pd.	3[1/8]	3[1/4]	− [1/32]

Berlin discount rate. Accoustiks were firm on rumours of an agreement with Western Electric. Rubber shares received considerable attention, on news of further developments in restriction plans, and the proposal of interested parties to visit the Dutch East Indies to obtain Government co-operation. Tobaccos remained firm with small fluctuation. In the mining market, Boetons and Algemeene Exploraites were active on favourable rumours. The money market was very easy, with the contango rate at 2 per cent. and the private discount rate at 2⅜ per cent. The lowering of the official discount rate to 4 per cent. had little effect on the Stock Exchange, but the bond market was firm. Rotterdam headed the list of new issues with 25 million florins 4½ per cent. bonds at 97½ per cent.

	Nov. 15.	Dec. 15.	Jan. 15.
4½% Gov. Bds. 1916	99⅛	99 11/16	100 1/16
4% Bonds, 1916	94½	95	96
4½% Bonds East Indies	95½	95⅝	96⅝
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	97 11/16	99	98 13/16
4½% Rotterdam, 1925	...	97½	98 1/16
Amsterdam Bank	180	179⅜	184⅜
Koloniale Bank	223	216½	217
Ned. Ind. Handelsbank	156	155½	156
Neth. Trading Soc.	165⅜	163⅜	166½
Rotterdam Bank	106½	107½	111
Van Berkels Pat.	214	178½	180
Central Sugar	56⅜	...	63
Shipbuilding Wilton	51	44⅜	...
Dutch Art. Silk	128	100½	98
Margarine Unie	338	312	370x
Knechenmeist Acc.	88	121	127
General Art Silk	138	122	132
Dutch Ford	268	271	268½
Philips Elect. Lamp	485	476	515
Swedish Match	285	283	310
Kreuger & Toll	470	447	483
Intern. Cred. Trad.	279	267	261½
Redjang Lebong	130	125	121
Singkep Tin	189	170	175½
Bolton	159	163	163

	Nov. 15.	Dec. 15.	Jan. 15.
Algem. Explorat.	180	170½	177
Aniem	335	332	346
Ned. Ind. Gas	240½	239	241
Royal Dutch	400	395	399½x
Amsterdam Rub'r	206	168	157½
Deli Batavia	125	101½	92½
East Java	230½	226	229
Hessa Rubber	220	199	187
Serbadiadi Sumatra	146½	125½	113½
Allied Sumatra	62⅞	66	65
Holland Amer. Line	42	41	38½
Royal Packet	216⅜	224½	222
Neth. Shipping U.	193	192¼	189½
Navigation "Nederland"	179½	180	175
Royal Steamship	79⅜	81	84½
Java China Japan Line	105½	101¼	103⅜
Vorstenlanden	147½	148½	147
Trading Co. Amsterdam	580	568	559x
Java Plantations	400	405	396⅜
Neth. India Sugar	235	239	246
Besoeki	365	...	...
Deli Batavia	392	373	374½x
Deli	359	338	340½
Senembah	402	391½	393½x

x Ex-interim dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Hatry Settlement Date.—The Stock Exchange Committee's announcement that the deferred settlement in the Hatry group of securities will take place on February 13th has given unqualified satisfaction, the more so as the date anticipates by about a fortnight that which was regarded in well-informed quarters as probable a short time ago. The Committee has studied the convenience of members by choosing a date midway between the two ordinary February Settling Days. The event is the logical sequel to the acceptance of the plan described in our columns last week, under which the interests of all concerned will be safeguarded. Its acceptance was unanimous, though it is understood that a slight degree of peaceful persuasion hastened this *dénouement*. The removal of the bugbear of a large open position may not be in itself a sufficiently powerful factor to initiate an upward movement in Stock Exchange values, in the absence of sustained public interest. It will, however, remove a harmful psychological influence which, so long as it persisted, would effectually have prevented the development of any such movement.

Vendors' Shares on the Stock Exchange.—The Stock Exchange Committee will be asked to take into consideration on Monday a petition signed by many members. It is suggested that the following Rule should be enacted:—

> The Committee will not allow dealings in shares or securities issued to the vendors, or person or persons, or corporation deriving title under them, credited as fully or partly paid, until after the issue of the company's first annual report; neither will the Committee sanction any dealings in a company's shares or securities should the prospectus allow of any evasion of this rule, but this rule does not apply to reorganisations or amalgamations of existing companies, or to cases where no public shares are issued, or to cases where the vendors take the whole of the shares issued for cash.

A former Rule, rescinded in July, 1926, prohibited dealings in vendors' shares until six months after permission had been given to deal in shares of the same class subscribed by the public. It was found, however, in practice, to penalise mainly those who lacked either the ingenuity or the will to evade its provisions, and was finally abandoned after representations from the provinces. The industrial boom of 1928 offered an irresistable temptation to people of a certain class. Vendors in new companies, in some cases, took large lines of low-denomination shares in part payment of the purchase price, and were frequently able to unload these on the public at a substantial premium, as a result of the amazing appetite that sprang up for gambling in shilling, florin and other shares of small nominal value. The services were sometimes requisitioned of outside firms, who flooded the country with circulars offering the shares in question. It is claimed by those responsible for the present petition that, had the Stock Exchange Rule relating to vendors' shares been in force, some of the scandals connected with these operations would not have occurred, though this is a matter upon which doubt is permissible. An objection to the present proposals is made by some members on the ground that a vendor can, if he wishes, apply for, say, 100,000 shares in his own company, pay a cheque for that amount without having it presented, have the shares allotted to himself, and then deal in them as being "good delivery." In any case, it would seem difficult to prevent a vendor for cash from employing the proceeds through third parties in subscribing for shares. Were he compelled to run market and other hazards for twelve months before disposing of his interest he might conceivably demand a higher purchase price for the assets he transferred to the company, to compensate him for his extra risk. Again, under the proposed rule, circularisers might offer the shares outside the Stock Exchanges, and sell to the public securities which, not being "good delivery," would command a smaller value than those in which permission to deal had been granted. Closer surveillance of market operations, on the other hand, would be beneficial in many respects. There is a good deal to be said on both sides of the question, inside and outside the "House."

Rubber Plantation Industry's Troubles.—The rubber plantation industry, which relinquished a scheme of Government restriction as recently as October, 1928, is now numbered—along with tea, nitrate, tin, copper, coffee, diamonds and oil—among trades either operating or considering plans for "controlling" the market. The industry, as we explained a fortnight ago (see the *Economist*, January 11, 1930, page 83), was gravely affected by last year's unprecedentedly high level of Eastern shipments. Some Malayan estates have recently been yielding as much as 550 to 600 lbs. of rubber per acre. In the earlier months of 1929 a considerable share of the increase was taken up by heavy world consumptoin, but the Stock Exchange collapse in America was followed by a severe contraction of demand from that country, which normally absorbs about two-thirds of the world's rubber. Prices have recently been at their lowest level for seven years. The statistical position is set out in the following table, based on figures compiled from Messrs S. Figgis and Company's *Annual Review*:—

(Quantities in Thousand Tons.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.	*1930* (Estimated.)
Year's shipments, plantation rubber:				
Malaya (including re-exports)	371	409	577	...
Other countries	196	217	256	...
Total shipments	567	626	833	*846*
Year's consumption:				
United States of America	371	441	470	*450*
Rest of world	215	235	325	*380*
Total consumption	586	676	795	*830*
Market stocks (end of year):				
London	66†	20	54	...
Liverpool	2†	3	19	...
America	110†	66	105	...
Prices (ribbed smoked sheet, per lb.):				
Highest monthly average	1s. 8⅛d.	1s. 7⅞d.	1s. 0⅛d.	...
Lowest monthly average	1s. 4⅜d.	8⅜d.	8d.	...

† January, 1928.

The Rubber Growers' Association recently issued a circular which, while declaring that the much-advertised idea of a central selling agency for rubber was impracticable in view of the fact that native growers accounted for as much as 47.6 per cent. of the world's rubber supplies, advocated a closer selling policy among the various groups of British producers. We understand that negotiations to this end are still being carried on, further suggestions having been embodied in a confidential circular during the last few days. The Dutch growers have simultaneously been considering the possibility of adopting some scheme to meet the circumstances. The news that delegates from the Rubber Growers' Association had gone to Holland for joint discussion was sufficient to send up the price of spot rubber from 7d. to 7 9/16d. last week. On Friday, January 17th, it was announced that a joint British-Dutch committee had been established "to study means to ameliorate the position of the rubber producing industry." The anxiety of the Dutch to co-operate with British growers, despite Holland's adamantine refusal to join in the earlier Stevenson Scheme, may be partially explained by the fact that present productivity is demonstrably greater on Malayan estates than on those of the Dutch East Indies. In many quarters in London, however, there is considerable scepticism as to the efficacy of any restriction measures whatever in the present situation. Among the ideas under discussion are a six-day working week (on the model of the scheme which is being adopted in the tin industry), more prolonged cessation of tapping, and the reservation of large quantities of rubber for the purpose of demonstrating its adaptability to new uses. Whether the industry, with its recent experience of the pitfalls of restriction, even on compulsory lines and under State auspices, will be willing again to expose itself to inevitable difficulty and disappointment is doubtful. In the long run, the fact that half the industry cannot possibly be included under any European-inspired scheme must be fatal to any such proposal. Salvation would seem rather to lie in the further reduction of overhead costs which a large output should make possible, and the encouragement of consumption (which in any case should be stimulated by the present level of prices), by the organisation of much more effective propaganda and research. As regards the immediate future, however, much obviously depends on the possibility of a revival of activity in the American automobile industry during the coming spring.

The Nizam's State Railways.—At an extra-ordinary meeting held last Monday the stockholders of H.E.H. Nizam's State Railways authorised the directors to continue and conclude negotiations with the Nizam's Government, in respect of an offer to acquire the undertaking, as on April 1, 1930, for the sum of £8,300,000. The Nizam's Government in any event has the option to purchase the undertaking on January 1, 1934, and Lieut.-Colonel George Huddleston informed the stockholders at the meeting that, under the terms of the contracts, he estimated the amount which would then be payable at under £7,000,000. Of the purchase consideration offered, £4,300,000 is in cash and the balance of £4,000,000 in 5½ per cent. debentures, which are to be repaid at par by three equal annual instalments ending April 1, 1933, and secured on Government of India 5 per cent. rupee loans of a present market value of over £5,000,000. It was explained that the realisation of these securities so as to provide the whole of the purchase consideration in cash "might embarrass the Government of India." If there be added to the purchase consideration the amount estimated to be realised by the sale of the company's reserve investments, £1,800,000, and its share of the 1929-30 net revenue, £300,000, the total amount to be disposed of is approximately £10,400,000. Out of this sum must be provided £4,000,000 for the redemption of the 3½ per cent. and 4 per cent. debentures, £96,000 for a 6 per cent. interim dividend (to be paid on account of the 1929-30 earnings), and about £100,000 compensation to directors and staff. The holders of the £2,000,000 stock of the company should thus receive not less than £310 per £100 stock, valuing the new debenture stock at par, plus the interim dividend of 6 per cent. Though some criticisms have been levelled as to the amount of the compensation to directors, the stockholders were, in general, too well satisfied with the terms of the offer to put forward any serious or widespread objection.

Communications Company Capital: Marconi's Position.—The Imperial and International Communications Company, the operating subsidiary of Cables and Wireless, Ltd., states that, for the purpose of acquiring the communication assets of the Cable and Marconi Companies, and for providing for the purchase price of the Pacific Cable Board's Pacific cable undertaking and West Indian telegraph system and of the Imperial Atlantic Cables, the share capital of the company has been increased from £100 to £30,000,000, divided into ordinary

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CAPITAL ISSUED	£8,125,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	1,875,000
RESERVE FUND	1,000,000
CURRENT AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	31,792,589
CASH IN HAND AND AT BANK OF ENGLAND	3,883,780
MONEY AT CALL AND SHORT NOTICE	3,412,190
INVESTMENTS	6,017,161
BILLS DISCOUNTED	2,374,072
ADVANCES	16,825,826

31st December, 1929.

shares of £1 each. These shares have been allotted as follows:—

	Shares in respect of the transfer of Communication assets. £	Shares in respect of cash provided for the purchase of Government undertakings. £	Total. £
Eastern Telegraph	10,626,608	552,947	11,179,555
Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph	6,533,050	287,957	6,821,007
Western Telegraph	4,724,845	239,333	4,964,178
Marconi's Wireless Telegraph	4,225,517	186,249	4,411,766
African Direct Telegraph ...	330,397	...	330,397
Europe and Azores Telegraph	132,689	...	132,689
Eastern and South African Telegraph	1,414,439	...	1,414,439
West African Telegraph ...	206,105	...	206,105
London - Platino - Brazilian Telegraph	193,481	...	193,481
Pacific and European Telegraph	89,587	...	89,587
River Plate Telegraph	31,928	...	31,928
West Coast of America Telegraph	224,868	...	224,868
	28,733,514	1,266,486	30,000,000

It appears from this table that the Marconi Company has been allotted only 14.7 per cent. of the Communication Company's shares. This seems extraordinary in view of the fact that, in the division of the shares of the holding company, Cables and Wireless, Ltd., it was allotted 14.9 per cent. of the 5½ per cent. preference stock, 37.7 per cent. of the 7½ per cent. "A" ordinary stock, and 65 per cent. of the equity or "B" ordinary stock. It was always assumed that the Marconi Company received a high proportion of the equity stock of Cables and Wireless because the future of this merger lay with the beam wireless services rather than with the cables. The £1 Marconi shareholders, who remained out of the cables-wireless merger, will naturally raise the question whether the earning power of the Marconi wireless services has been correctly valued in the allotment of shares in the Communications Company. It is possible that the management of Cables and Wireless has decided to concentrate chiefly on the development of the cable services for the time being rather than of the beam wireless services, and that the allocation of 14.7 per cent. of the Communication Company's shares represents the present ratio of revenue as between wireless and cable services. But the £1 Marconi shareholders have further cause for anxiety. It will be remembered that the standard revenue of the Communications Company is put at £1,865,000, of which £274,267 will, apparently, accrue to the Marconi Company from its holding of 14.7 per cent. of the share capital. If this figure represents the present earning capacity of the Marconi wireless services, then approximately £231,444 represents the Marconi revenue from manufacturing and patent rights on the basis of the 1928 earnings of £505,711. At the general meeting of the Marconi Company last May, Lord Inverforth anticipated a substantial reduction in the future revenue from patents, as the number of broadcasting patents from which the company has derived such large profits expired last year, or will expire in 1930. In the last two years these royalties, he said, had amounted to about £250,000. If this revenue is to decline, and if the Marconi Company is to receive only £274,267 from its holding in the Communications Company, it will scarcely be able to pay, in future, a 20 per cent. dividend on its ordinary shares, which was only just earned in 1928. It would seem that the £1 Marconi shareholders may be placed in an unenviable position.

Metropolitan Trust.—Apart from a decline of some £175,000 in the value of its investments, this successful company appears to have surmounted the difficult investment conditions of 1929 in satisfactory fashion. Net profits for the year ended January 1, 1930, total £150,794, an increase of £5,278 on last year. Preference dividends take £28,125, while the ordinary shares receive 20 per cent less tax out of 24.5 per cent. earned, against a previous 19.5 per cent. out of 23.5 per cent. earned. The following table sets out the results for the past three years:—

YEAR ENDED JANUARY 1ST.

	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Gross revenue.....	232,058	235,140	240,994
Debenture interest, etc.	88,445	89,624	90,200
Net profit	143,613	145,516	150,794
Brought forward	32,291	52,779	72,670
Pref. dividend			
Amount	28,125	28,125	28,125
Rate %	4½	4½	4½
Ordinary			
Amount earned	*115,488*	*117,391*	*122,668*
Amount paid	95,000	97,500	100,000
Rate % earned	*23·1*	*23·5*	*24·5*
Rate % paid.....	19·0	19·5	20·0
To reserve	...	...	75,000
Carried forward	52,779	72,670	20,339
Investments.....	3,164,543	3,215,945	3,205,479

Though dividends have increased steadily since 1923, there has been no undue depletion of resources, and the directors are now able to advise the allocation of £75,000 to reserve, bringing that item to £625,000, equal to the ordinary share capital, the balance carried forward being less, as a result, by approximately £50,000 than the amount brought in. The investments of the company show a slight reduction at £3,205,479, more than accounted for by a cash increase of £35,000. Of 473 investments, 0.7 per cent. are in British Government securities, 26.7 per cent. in railways, 13.4 per cent. in public utilities, 31.8 per cent. in industrial companies, 17.0 per cent. in trust companies, and 10.4 per cent. in foreign and municipal loans. More than 96 per cent. of the investments have a published quotation. A valuation of the investments, based as far as possible upon the prices current at the date of the balance sheet, shows an appreciation of approximately £725,000 over the book cost of £3,205,479.

African and Eastern.—For the seven months ended May 1, 1929, the African and Eastern Trade Corporation—whose business, with that of the Niger Company and the West African interests of Unilevers, Ltd., is now merged in United Africa, Ltd.—has declared a profit of £74,600, out of which it has paid dividends on its "A" preference shares, and now proposes to pay six months' arrears to December 31, 1928, on the 6 per cent. "B" preference shares. This indicates a satisfactory recovery in earning power, especially as the merger with the Niger Company only took effect from May 1, 1929. For the year ended September 30, 1928, the African and Eastern made a loss of £96,953, or, if the losses of subsidiary companies are included, of £136,720. These losses were due mainly to the operation of the cocoa pool, and, as Sir Robert Waley Cohen explained at the general meeting, were not likely to recur. African and Eastern and the Niger Company are now holding concerns, each having received 6,500,000 shares in United Africa. Margarine Union, on the transfer of its West African interests, received in exchange 1,534,000 ordinary shares in United Africa, with an option on 1,500,000 more at 22s. 6d. The merger of the West African interests of Margarine Union, which took effect from January 1, 1930, undoubtedly improved the earning position of United Africa, especially as the profits earned by the margarine companies have been used to develop their business in West Africa and not to pay dividends. The chairman of Margarine Union, at the recent general meeting, stated that the support of Unilevers would greatly benefit United Africa, since that company would naturally receive preferential treatment for the supply of raw materials, although it would not be given any exclusive rights. The shareholders of African and Eastern should now be able to look forward to the steady restoration of their company's fortunes. The 6 per cent. "B" preference shares, allowing for 18 months' arrears of dividends (of which six months will be paid on February 8th), return a potential yield of 7½ per cent. at the present price of 17s. 6d. The ordinary shares, which have received no dividend since the 1927 distribution of 8 per cent., are at present quoted at 15s. 9d., as against a high level in 1929 of 20s. 10½d.

United Serdang.—The period of uncertainty and difficulty which all rubber growers have been called upon to face has left its mark on the affairs of this prominent plantation company. The directors report that during the year 1929 1,392,160 lbs. of rubber were collected in excess of the exportable allowance, and valued at cost. The average net sale price for the year has been 10.25d. per lb., compared with 1s. 2.28d. in 1928 and 1s. 9.74d. in 1927. This persistent decline is naturally reflected in the accounts. Net profits for the year ended August 30, 1929, stand at only £138,752, as against £163,547 for the preceding twelve months, and £183,185 in 1927. Dividend on shares has declined with earnings, the distribution on ordinary capital having dropped from 22½ per cent. in 1927 to 7½ per cent. for the current period, and earnings from 23.2 per cent. to 9.7 per cent.

YEAR ENDED AUGUST 30TH.

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	183,185	163,547	138,752
Brought forward	61,483	66,594	83,776
Ordinary—			
Amount earned	*183,185*	*163,547*	*138,752*
Amount paid	176,574	126,365	106,745
Rate % earned	*23·2*	*12·9*	*9·7*
Rate % paid.....	22·5	10·0	7·5
To Reserve	...	20,000	20,000
Other allocations	1,500	...	...
Carried forward	66,594	83,776	95,782

A further sum of £20,000 has been set aside for reserve, following last year's precedent, while the carry-forward item exceeds the amount brought in by some £12,000. Largely as a result of the difficult market, the increase of capital effected in February, 1927, in connection with amalgamation schemes, though it resulted in a noticeable extension of acreage, has still not reached its maximum earning power. At a time when marketing is more important than increased production it must inevitably prove to be something of an encumbrance unless it can be applied to measures of rationalisation and the cheapening of output.

A New Security Index.—Our contemporary, the *Financial News*, has broken new ground in the statistical measurement of security values, by the publication of a daily index number of share prices on the London Stock Exchange. As our readers are aware, the Standard Statistics Company of New York publishes a daily index of American common stock prices, but hitherto no index has been available in this country at less than weekly intervals. The new compilation makes no claim to excessive technical refinement. It is based on the quotations of 30 "equity" shares, each of which enjoys a free and active market, and includes four textile shares, six iron and coal shares, three electrical stocks, five foodstuffs, three "distribution," four transport and communication, and five miscellaneous stocks. The average price of each stock over the year 1928 is represented by 100, and the aggregate index number calculated by dividing by 30 the sum of the indices of the individual stocks. The results differ from those of most other indices since they show the peak point of 1929 as occurring, not at about the end of January, but at the turn of April and beginning of May. The index reached its lowest point at the end of December last, when it stood at 86.6, but a partial recovery raised it to 90.5 on January 13th, with a subsequent decline to 89.1 on January 23rd. The compilers of the index will probably find it advisable to broaden its base so as to include, not merely the prices of 1929, but the average of several earlier years, the choice of a "boom" year being open to objection on many grounds, as will become increasingly evident in the future. The index, however, should be of tangible value to all whose interests require them to keep a daily finger on the pulse of the Stock Exchange.

Insurance Share Index.—Particular interest attaches to our insurance share index in view of the general decline in Stock Exchange values during the past year, and the added circumstance that the statistics of fire losses, both at home and in the United States, have indicated a heavy increase in claims. The table below exhibits the history of an investment in 1913 of £1,000 in the ordinary shares of each of 25 leading companies, with an index of the total. Columns have been added to show the values as at December 31, 1928 and 1929. The figures are based on the mean of the highest and lowest prices each year except in the case of the two last columns, which relate to the middle market price on the dates specified:—

SHARE INDEX (1913 = 100).

Office.	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Alliance	1,000	1,323	1,424	1,738	1,675	1,669	1,491
Atlas	1,000	2,361	2,746	3,595	3,532	3,873	3,174
Caledonian*‖	1,000	3,663	3,815	5,254	5,700	6,432	4,655
Commercial Union†.....	1,000	3,867	4,695	5,038	4,545	4,963	4,092
Employers' Liability ...	1,000	2,928	2,825	2,955	2,725	3,063	2,568
Equity and Law	1,000	1,210	1,196	1,725	2,009	2,098	1,942
General Accident.....	1,000	4,200	4,314	5,538	8,133	7,999	7,466
Gresham Fire	1,000	3,476	4,145	5,886	3,333	3,333	2,381
Gresham Life.....	1,000	2,065	2,916	3,852	4,030	4,030	4,152
Guardian‡.....	1,000	2,111	2,215	2,678	2,596	2,628	2,372
Legal and General	1,000	2,746	3,524	5,233	6,536	5,902	5,339
Life Assocn. of Scotland	1,000	1,403	1,584	1,804	1,989	1,896	2,010
London and Lancashire	1,000	3,212	3,625	4,673	4,548	4,769	4,077
London Assurance	1,000	2,159	2,207	2,350	2,126	2,377	1,892
North Brit. & Mercantile	1,000	2,934	3,368	4,467	4,514	4,713	4,013
Northern	1,000	1,683	1,736	2,068	2,011	2,149	1,851
Phœnix	1,000	1,778	1,740	1,937	1,945	1,996	1,742
Prudential**.....	1,000	1,862	1,821	1,995	2,163	2,163	2,038
Royal Exchange§.....	1,000	3,386	3,635	3,481	3,227	3,327	3,019
Royal.....	1,000	2,245	2,425	2,961	2,882	3,011	2,753
Scottish Life.....	1,000	1,736	1,762	2,242	2,680	2,360	2,697
Scott. Union & National	1,000	3,106	3,715	5,032	5,213	5,324	4,658
Sun Fire	1,000	1,627	1,933	2,604	2,853	2,916	2,524
Sun Life.....	1,000	1,733	1,708	2,138	2,237	2,297	2,055
Yorkshire¶.....	1,000	2,157	2,224	3,005	3,041	3,253	2,525
Average.....	1,000	2,439	2,692	3,330	3,431	3,542	3,139

* Caledonian, 1923—£25 shares split into £5 shares; 1 new £5 share at 6 premium for each £25 share. † Guardian, 1917—£10 shares split into 2 £3 shares and 1 £4 preference share each. ‡ Commercial Union, 1927—New shares of £2 10s. offered proportion of 1 share for each 5 held at £16 per share. § Royal Exchange, 1927—New shares £1 offered in proportion of 1 share for each £5 stock held at £6 10s. per share. ‖ Caledonian, 1929—New shares £5—1 new share for every 5 held at £14 per share. ¶ Yorkshire, 1929—New shares £1 offered 1 new share for every 14 £5 shares held at £12 per share. ** Prudential—New shares £1 offered 1 new share for every 4 shares held at £5 per share.

The index as a whole has fallen from £3,542 in 1928 to £3,139 at the end of 1929, or by rather more than 11 per cent. This may be compared with the decline shown in the index published by the *Investor's Chronicle* relating to general business (*i.e.*, to the ordinary shares of miscellaneous industrial companies) which has fallen in the same period by no less than 24 per cent. The comparison supports the view of those who consistently regard insurance shares as the aristocracy of the ordinary share market. As regards individual company's shares four, in fact, show an appreciation during the past year, all being those of life assurance companies, viz.:—Gresham Life, Legal and General, Life Association of Scotland, and Scottish Life. The greatest falls, on the other hand, have occurred in the shares of the Caledonian, which show a depreciation of 27 per cent., the Commercial Union, which have declined by 18 per cent., and the Gresham Fire, by 29 per cent.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Our mining correspondent writes: A fresh and extended stride forward is marked by this, the doyen of West African gold mining enterprises. For the year ended September 30th last the net profit amounted to £203,600, an increase of £40,150 upon the 1927-28 total and of £62,150 upon that for the preceding period. The dividend aggregates have been 65 per cent., 55 per cent. and 50 per cent. respectively. From last year's earnings, £30,000 is allocated to an exploration account, and some smaller sums are set aside for staff pensions, etc. The following table sets out the results for the past three years: —

Year ended September 30.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	141,437	163,440	203,584
Brought forward	111,799	83,236	59,176
Ordinary dividends:			
Amount paid	125,000	137,500	162,500
Earned per cent.	*56·5*	*65·3*	*81·4*
Paid per cent.	50	55	65
Set aside	45,000	50,000	37,000*
Carried forward	83,236	59,176	63,260

* Including £7,000 to Pensions and Benevolent Fund.

Twelve months ago £50,000 was placed to reserve, increasing that entry to £250,000—for the most part embarked in the undertaking. The usual 10 per cent. is written off the fixed assets. Investments at cost figure now at £47,860 in British Government securities, and £31,840 shares in associated companies. The latter item doubtless consists in the main of the company's interest in the Bibiani—a revived enterprise whose development is being attended with moderately encouraging results. Cash, gold and debtors account for £234,000, as against creditors of £60,400 and the £100,000 required to cover the balance dividend of 40 per cent. Although the developments have not borne out the almost sensational promise of eighteen months ago, they have resulted in an expansion in both the quantity and value of the ore reserves, the tonnage being 40,800 up at 590,200, and the value 1 dwt. to the good with 25.2 dwts. Results since September 30th, says the manager, have been good, and "promise important additions to the above figures." Last year's expansion in output was due partly to increase in the tonnage milled, but mainly to an advance in the average value, the latter, at 95s. 1d. per ton comparing with 89s. 2d. for 1927-28. Monthly outputs rose from £36,270 in October, 1928, to £46,050 in September last, the average being £42,000. In view of the favourable mining position it is proposed to increase the monthly production to £47,000-£48,000; possibly more if conditions permit the handling of a larger tonnage. On last year's dividend the yield shown is approximately 10 per cent.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Barclays Bank, Midland Bank, Bank of New South Wales, Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Provincial Bank of Ireland, Alexander's Discount, National Discount, Union Discount of London, Midland Railway of Western Australia, Treaty Reinsurances. The bank chairmen's speeches are dealt with in an earlier article. At the annual meeting of Barclays Bank, Ltd., the chairman told shareholders that the maximum amount which the bank might possibly lose, either directly or indirectly, through the Hatry troubles, was the sum of £330,000. At the Bank of New South Wales meeting, Mr Thomas Buckland, in an interesting review of economic and financial problems in Australia, said that although the wool clip would be considerably lower than last year, the season was opening with promise of good rains, and if industrial troubles could be satisfactorily settled the country might look forward to the speedy end of the present industrial depression.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The only public issue of the week was made by the Central Argentine Railway, which offered £3,000,000 redeemable debentures offering a running yield of £5 11s. 8d. per cent. The issue price offered a "turn" of 1½ per cent. on the current market price of outstanding stock of identical status, and a handsome prospective profit on redemption. It ranks as a high-grade long-dated security, but could probably have been made on better terms some months ago.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to January 18, 1930, £3,052,460.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to January 18, 1930, £3,052,460

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended January 18, 1930, £150,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to January 18, 1930, *Dr. £3,050,000.*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
To the Public.					
Central Argentine Railway	3,000,000	...	2,685,000	30,000	2,625,000
Total to public, week ended January 18, 1930	3,000,000	...	2,685,000	30,000	2,625,000
To Shareholders only.					
Selection Trust, 160,000 Ord. 5/- at par	40,000	...	40,000	20,000	20,000
Tetiuhe Mining, 1,000 8% Reg. Deb. of £100 at par	100,000	...	100,000	10,000	90,000
Commercial Bank of Australia, 500,000 Ord. 10/- at 20/-	250,000	...	500,000	125,000	375,000
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Jan. 18, 1930	390,000	...	640,000	155,000	485,000

Total Offered for Subscription— To date—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
1930	6,527,460	6,527,460
1929	52,463,741	39,553,741
1928	...	104,913,970
1927	...	89,470,654
1926	...	25,438,504
1925	...	14,362,040
1924	...	6,864,625
1923	...	37,808,301

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total, week ended January 25, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total to date, 1929	1,185,750	...	2,990,687

Central Argentine Railway, Ltd.—Issue of £3,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock, 1967-87, at 89½ per cent., ranking *pari passu* with existing similar stock. The stock is repayable at par on May 1, 1987, but the company reserves the right to redeem all or any part of the stock at 102½ per cent. on any interest date after May, 1967, on three months' notice. The stock is secured as a floating charge on the company's undertaking, subject only to the charges in favour of the 4 per cent. and 3½ per cent. debenture and 4½ per cent. annuity. Any holder of the 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock is given the right at any time to exchange his holding into 4 per cent. debenture stock of the company, rendering the security of the two stocks of equal value. Net profits for 1929 amounted to £3,345,197, covering interest on debentures, including present issue, 3.2 times.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only" with a view to Stock Exchange introduction: **Endell Street Estates, Ltd.**: Issued capital, £23,943 7 per cent. debentures, £210,000 7½ per cent. debentures, 75,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid, and 75,000 shares of £1 each, one shilling paid. The company was incorporated in September, 1926, to carry on the business of estate owners.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 205, under the heading "Company News."*]

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PROFIT.
HATRY GROUP TROUBLES—BANK'S MAXIMUM LOSSES.
BOARD'S CONSERVATIVE DIVIDEND POLICY.
ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY—NECESSITY OF BUSINESS EFFICIENCY.
MR GOODENOUGH ON FINANCIAL AND TRADE CONDITIONS.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Barclays Bank, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr Frederick Craufurd Goodenough (the chairman), who was received with cheers, said:—My lords, ladies and gentlemen, I will call upon the secretary to read the notice of meeting and the certificate of the auditors, which appears at the foot of the balance sheet that has been submitted to you.

The Secretary (Mr W. N. Seeley) then read the formal notice convening the meeting and the report of Messrs Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Company and Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company.

The Chairman, proceeding, said:—My lords, ladies and gentlemen,—Is it your pleasure that the report and accounts of the bank for the year ended December 31st last should be taken as read? (Agreed.)

You will observe that reference is made in the report to the deaths which have occurred during the year among the members of our board. We have had the misfortune to lose the following directors—namely, Mr Edward Gurney Buxton, Mr Geoffrey Fowell Buxton, Mr Herbert Gosling, Mr John Edward Mounsey, and Mr James Tuke. All these gentlemen were experienced bankers, and the loss of their services will be very greatly felt.

The following gentlemen have been elected to seats on the board—namely, Mr Francis Lawrence Bland, a local director in our Ipswich district; Mr Lionel Gurney Buxton, who was formerly a local director at Hull, is now our senior director in Paris, and has been until lately an advisory director of the bank; Mr William Macnamara Goodenough, a local director in our Oxford and Birmingham districts; and Mr Quintin Edward Gurney, a local director in our Norwich district. We have also re-elected the Rt. Hon. Earl Peel, P.C., G.B.E., to the seat on the board which he occupied prior to his becoming a member of the late Government.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The profit for the year ended December 31st last, as shown in the profit and loss account, amounted to the sum of £2,331,579 12s. 2d., full provision having been made for all debts which are considered to be bad or doubtful, and which may result in a loss to the bank.

The profit is slightly higher than that of a year ago, and would have been substantially higher had it not been necessary to make special provision out of the profits to meet the loss which we shall incur through the difficulties connected with what is known as the Hatry Group. I propose to tell you quite frankly the extent to which we may be affected. The maximum amount which the bank may possibly lose, either directly or indirectly, through the Hatry troubles, is the sum of £330,000. Our loss cannot exceed that amount, and it may be substantially less. In making this statement I am referring not only to what is known as the Hatry Group and the losses which we shall incur directly through them, but also to indirect losses which may fall upon us through customers to whom we have lent money being themselves involved. We have made full provision for all possible loss. I wish to add that, so far as concerns the securities which were deposited with us, and which were mostly of a high-class character, it would have been quite impossible for us to discover that they were not genuine. The directors feel that in view of the magnitude of the trouble it is fortunate that the total loss which we may incur is, comparatively speaking, moderate in amount. None of our subsidiary banks is in any way affected by the Hatry troubles.

CAUSES OF THE LARGER PROFIT.

The higher profit was due to the increase in the turnover, and to the substantially larger amount of loans to customers, as well as to the somewhat abnormal rates of interest which prevailed throughout almost the whole of the year, the average of the Bank of England rate of discount having been £5 9s. 11d. per cent. as compared with £4 10s. per cent. in the preceding year. After making the appropriations shown in the profit and loss account, the directors recommend the payment of dividends at the same rates as a year ago, and we carry forward the sum of £552,432 2s. 4d., which is slightly in excess of the amount brought forward.

At some previous meeting the hope has been expressed by shareholders that a higher dividend might be paid, and it might possibly be suggested that the larger profit this year would justify an increase. The directors, however, consider that this profit should be regarded as exceptional, owing to the high rates of interest which have been current, and they are of opinion that the conservative policy as regards dividends which has been always adhered to should be continued. There is also the possibility that taxation may have to be increased, in view of the heavy programme of non-productive expenditure to which the country is committed. Having regard, therefore, to these considerations, the directors do not feel justified in recommending an increased dividend.

CURRENT, DEPOSIT AND OTHER ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the balance sheet, the current, deposit and other accounts with the Bank on December 31st last amounted to the total sum of £337,439,213 14s. 9d. This figure includes the deposits kept with us by subsidiary banks, which are shown as a separate item, and to which I will refer later. The total of our deposits shows an increase over the figure at which it stood in the balance sheet of a year ago, being higher than at the corresponding date in any previous year in the history of the bank. There were wide fluctuations, however, in the total amount of our balances during the year, and the average has been considerably lower than the final figure as on December 31st last. These wide fluctuations were due to special causes, but, speaking generally, the normal contraction of credit which would follow the loss of gold was largely compensated for by special operations on the part of the Bank of England, which helped the money market to sustain the pressure that would have taken place otherwise, owing to the loss of gold.

It might be noted that the gold exports between the middle of June and the end of November last effected a reduction of about £28,500,000 in our stock of gold. On the other hand, Government securities in the banking department of the Bank of England rose during that time by £21,500,000. There was a further increase of £24,000,000 by January 1 this year, which was probably due in part to an increase in the Government ways and means advances. The Bank of England also had to provide for the usual market requirements at the end of the half-year. These factors would tend to create an increase of balances with the banks.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The activity in the American stock markets, which had already continued for a long time and had been reflected, to some extent, on the London Stock Exchange, led to a rise in the Bank rate from 4½ per cent. to 5½ per cent. in February last. Previously, gold had left this country for New York, and provided credit in America for banks and others, which they lent at abnormally high rates of interest, or applied in payment for securities purchased. The large conversions of sterling into dollars throughout the first nine months of the year had an adverse effect upon the sterling-dollar exchange. Towards the close of June, further heavy gold shipments occurred, and the outflow continued throughout the succeeding three months, finally necessitating the raising of the Bank rate to 6½ per cent. on September 26th last. There followed an appreciation in the sterling exchange and the retransfer of credit balances and gold to this country and to Europe, restoring the gold holdings of the Bank of England to £150,500,000, the present figure, which is approximately the amount considered by the Cunliffe Committee and the Committee on the Currency and Bank of England Note Issues to give an adequate reserve. I should add that neither our bank nor, as I believe, the other banks allowed their own balances to be dealt with in the manner above referred to, as we felt that our doing so would have prejudiced our own people, but there is no doubt that during the boom many private

persons and others lent money to America for the purposes I have mentioned, and this led to the export of gold. It is easy, therefore, to understand why rates of interest in this country were above the normal level during the year, and why it was necessary to increase the Bank rate to protect our gold position and to adjust credit here in the interests both of industry and of the community as a whole.

INCREASED STOCKS IN AMERICA AND FRANCE.

In the months of January and February the New York Exchange, and again from June to September the New York and Paris Exchanges, fell below the gold export point. It must be remembered that, under the conditions of an abnormally low exchange, such as was at that time experienced, the cost of imports would be greatly increased. Exports also would suffer should such conditions continue for any length of time. The higher cost of imports would affect prices of raw materials, the cost of living, and other costs of manufacture. During the year the net gold exports from this country amounted to about £15,000,000. The receipts and withdrawals of gold by and from the Bank of England were exceptionally heavy, the gold holdings of the Bank, which at the beginning of the year amounted to £153,000,000, having at one time been reduced to £129,000,000. The stock of gold held in the United States of America has been increased during the first eleven months of the year by the equivalent of £45,000,000, the total gold holding in that country at the end of November amounting therefore to $4,366,000,000, or £873,200,000, which is very largely in excess of the minimum statutory requirements in regard to gold in relation to currency.

The Bank of France also has increased its stock of gold by the equivalent of approximately £78,000,000, and its total holding has reached a very large figure, equivalent to about £342,000,000, which, except for the United States of America, is the largest stock of gold held by any country in the world. The ability of France to increase her stock of gold so materially has been due, apparently, in the main to the fact that prior to the legal stabilisation of the franc it had been under-valued in relation to world prices of commodities. It would seem that a policy has been adopted of reducing the cost of financial facilities in Paris, with the object of making Paris more of a European centre for exchange and other financial operations, which will bring her into greater competition with the London money market.

The movements in gold which have taken place last year give rise to the question of whether the gold stocks of the world are being redistributed to the best advantage.

ELASTICITY OF OUR MONETARY SYSTEM.

It seems to me that recent events illustrate clearly the elasticity of our monetary system. The immediate object of the raising of our Bank rate in September was to stop the further outflow of credit, which was operating to our disadvantage, and there followed a rapid rise in the sterling-dollar exchange and the retransfer of credit balances and gold to this country and to Europe.

The fact that customers may desire to transfer large credit balances to other countries in order to secure a high rate of interest for a time establishes the need for the banks to preserve a liquid position. Our holdings of cash, bills, and gilt-edged investments show a satisactory position in this respect. The holding of Government securities, whether in the shape of Treasury bills or of investments, is a great help to the Government in arranging their finance.

The holding of bills, and the lending of money at call and at short notice against bills, are also important in the interests of the country, because these operations, besides affording temporary employment for money, also represent, to a considerable extent, the financing of imports into this country, and, conversely, the balances kept in our hands by our subsidiary banks, to which I have already referred, are used by them largely for the purchase of export bills, payable in the territories in which they operate. The import and export trade of this country is therefore financed in this way.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.

I think that the effectiveness of the Bank of England rate should be regarded as among the most favourable features during the year. There have been many disturbing influences, which have adversely affected business generally, though I am glad to say that many of them may now be regarded as past history. There is cause for genuine satisfaction that our monetary system, which has proved so reliable in the past, when conditions may have been somewhat different, has shown itself again to be entirely effective, and there is no doubt that the prestige of London has been greatly increased by the satisfactory readjustment of the credit position through the operation of the Bank of England rate. The fact that we are able to transact a great volume of trade throughout the world with a relatively small reserve of gold, as compared with that of other countries, proves the cheapness of our monetary system and the efficiency of the Bank of England rate, which can effect expansion and contraction as may be required, while at the same time ensuring a due relation betwen currency, credit, and prices.

THE OUTLOOK.

As regards the immediate future, monetary conditions in the London market should be easier, at all events, for a time. It is difficult, however, to say whether a state of normal equilibrium has been reached or whether we are still liable to suffer from the after effects of the exceptional international monetary disturbances of the past few months.

During the year there has been some improvement in industry and trade, notwithstanding the difficulties arising out of monetary conditions. Exports of British goods show some increase. There have been also many other favourable features. A further stage has been reached towards the settlement of the Reparation problem. Although the wave of speculation in New York was in itself unhealthy and unsound and created a shortage of credit throughout the world so long as it lasted the crash which has resulted should prove to be a benefit, both to America and to the rest of the world, as more money will be released for economic development and for expansion of industry and world trade.

A basis has been arrived at for discussion of industrial problems between the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, the National Confederation of Employers' Organisations, and the Federation of British Industries, and it may be hoped that the possibility of greater co-operation between Capital and Labour has been advanced. In spite of the heavy figures of unemployment, there are, on an average, 250,000 more insured people employed than a year ago. The Board of Trade Index of Production for the third quarter of the year shows an increase of 10 per cent., as compared with the same period for 1928. Coal exports have improved and the output of iron and steel has shown substantially better figures. Much has been done in the industrial world towards reorganisation, and the financial system of the country, which has passed successfully through a very severe test, is capable of co-operating with industry and trade upon sound and progressive lines.

FACTORS CREATING UNCERTAINTY.

There should be a better outlook for industry in the present year, although there are factors which create a great deal of uncertainty.

There has been a further fall in wholesale prices, and there is still a large amount of unconsumed foodstuffs and raw materials which remains to be disposed of. The fall in prices, and the further fall which the realisation of a great accumulation of stocks may produce, may affect the world's purchasing power, as it has done during the past year. Agriculture may also suffer in this country from the fall in prices and the large unconsumed supplies of wheat and other foodstuffs. On the other hand, in the case of raw materials, lower prices should help the costs of manufactures and improve the outlook for industry, provided we can secure markets.

There is also the possible effect upon the world generally of the great losses sustained by America during the year, which may result in a reduction of purchasing power in her home markets, so that America may find it necessary, in the interests of her own industries, to force out her manufactures abroad, possibly at much reduced prices.

BANKING INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

The Government have appointed a Committee "to inquire into banking, finance and credit, paying regard to the factors, both internal and international, which govern their operation, and to make recommendations calculated to enable these agencies to promote the development of trade and commerce and the employment of labour." This inquiry will lead to an investigation of a difficult subject which will be of public advantage.

PROBLEM OF MARKETS AND PRICES.

There has been a considerable amount of progress in the matter of industrial amalgamations upon sound lines and in working agreements, with the object of reducing costs of manufacture, and these factors, always provided they are justified and well devised, should be the means of securing wider markets and an improvement in industry without running an undue risk of greater unemployment or of over-production and an accumulation of unmarketable stocks.

The real problem at the present time is that of markets and prices. Everybody will realise that we must be able to sell as well as to produce. Everybody knows that we cannot import unless we can export. The price at which we can produce and the markets for our production are the two essential factors in our problem. Home markets are, of course, of great importance, but more especially so are foreign markets. The home market will not pay for our imports, and our home market does not offer the same opportunities as the wider home market of America. We need the wider field. We must be able, as far as possible, to pay for our imports by our exports, thus leaving the greater part of our invisible receipts to be applied by the investing public in making those foreign investments which have helped us to develop foreign markets in the past, and to build up, to a great extent, the industry and trade of the country.

It should be understood that the banks themselves do not as a rule make loans abroad for the direct development of markets, but they use their resources for the purpose of financing trade. There is no doubt that industry and trade can be greatly encouraged if the banks help to finance our manufacturers in the execution of their orders from abroad. We can also, by granting acceptance credits, help the purchasers so that they may more readily buy from us.

BANKS' ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY SINCE THE WAR.

It is well to realise the part that has been played by the banks in assisting industry during the very difficult period since the war. The banks in this country have shown an increasing sense of their responsibility. They have recognised more and more that they have a duty not only to their shareholders but also to the community as a whole, and they have appreciated the fact that, in the long run, the interests of the community and the interests of the shareholders are identical. The banks recognise that it is necessary they should be in a strong position, and with the knowledge that good times are frequently followed by bad they have adopted a conservative policy in regard to dividends. Additional profits which they may make in good times are largely applied in creating reserves against contingencies, which may arise when times are bad, so that there is a real continuity and steadiness in the policy of the banks, which are vital to the industrial and financial position of this country and, to some extent, to that of the world.

Since the post-war slump it has been evident to those in touch with the facts that the banks have been anxious to help those businesses which have been in difficulties, and having created reserves in the past they were able to give assistance beyond anything which in normal times which have been regarded as justifiable.

EFFICIENCY OF CONTROL.

In very many instances, help given has been justified by results; in other cases, it has proved that it was not financial assistance which was required, but reorganisation to meet the ever-increasing competition. It lies with industry to reorganise itself, that not being within the province of the banks, and provision of capital is of little value unless a business is efficiently organised and controlled. If the banks should advance further money at a time when the control of the business itself is inefficient, or if the industry as a whole is labouring under more or less permanent difficulties, either natural or artificial, which cannot be overcome, the money advanced by banks under those circumstances would become a loss, and no benefit would accrue either to the industry or to the banks. In many instances, where a business fails to make progress, it may be found that the primary reason for this position is not a shortage of capital, but the handicap of inefficiency as compared with other similar businesses either at home or abroad. In the alternative, it may be due to the ignoring of economic laws or to some alteration of basic conditions. If the difficulty is due to some relative inefficiency, it may be possible to overcome it through reorganisation. It is then that the banks can assist by helping to find the liquid capital that is necessary to such reorganisation when a scheme has been carefully worked out by experts. When, however, there has been a change in basic conditions, or some artificial interference with economic laws, which precludes the possibility of successful operation, if the banks try to help, they are then merely throwing good money after bad.

OVERSEA DEVELOPMENTS.

It is certain that the banks will help industry, but ihdustry must also help itself by placing itself upon a sound basis, both as regards efficiency and costs of manufacture. Through the interests which we have taken in subsidiary banks, and especially through our Dominion bank, we have been able to handle both imports and exports and to extend our own business as well as theirs, besides providing cheap and efficient service for our customers, and promoting commercial intercourse and trade between those countries in which we and our subsidiaries are interested. There is no doubt that, in the past, great benefits have been obtained for our home trade through the policy of the larger banks in opening branches over wider areas. It is equally certain that our foreign trade can also be helped through banking extension, especially in the Dominions.

With regard to our Dominion Bank, the linking up of business between this country and the Dominions, and the co-operation which has taken place between us, have been of great value.

In conjunction with our Dominion Bank, we have established during the year a bank in Canada, in the city of Montreal. We have every reason to be satisfied that this direct link which we have made will be of advantage to many of our customers carrying on business between this country and the great and growing markets of Canada.

The world is moving in the direction of big aggregations of industries, which has been the reason for the amalgamation of banks in this country upon a large scale also, enabling the banking system to bear the financial burden of the war and the period following after the war, without many of the consequences of deflation having fallen directly upon the shoulders of the people. There is no doubt that banking extension should be regarded as a genuine co-operator with industry in this country for the purpose of facilitating the interchange of goods both at home and with foreign markets, although it would be undesirable that we should adopt the foreign system of becoming partners with industry. Great amalgamations of banks have taken place recently in America and in Germany, no doubt with the same objects.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

In the meantime, under the "Young" Plan for Reparation payments, it is intended to establish a new Bank for International Settlements, to be domiciled in Basle, which may have for its object not only the adjustment of payments actually arising out of the war, but also of playing an increasingly important part as a super central bank for the regulation of gold movements and international exchange, which hitherto have been adjusted through the money markets of London and of the other international monetary centres, but of which London had the principal share. If the London market is to maintain its position as the chief exchange centre of the world, it will be all the more essential that it should be the cheapest monetary centre, and that we should be able to transact the world's financial business on even more favourable terms than before, when the position of London was due to the readiness with which we could sell our manufactures in foreign markets and to our carrying trade and the cheapness of our financial services.

CLOSER UNION WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

There is a growing desire at the present time, both in this country and amongst the Dominions and Colonies overseas, to draw more closely together, through the recognition that each can give material help, either industrially, financially, or in the supply of foodstuffs and raw materials, to each other by such a movement. So far as this country is concerned, we cannot be regarded at the present time as an independent economic unit, because we are and must always be in the position of having to purchase largely from overseas so many of the essentials for the maintenance of a great and growing population. We require raw materials for industry, besides the actual necessities of life, and also the markets for our output, all of which the Dominions and Colonies are able to furnish in an increasing degree. On the other hand, they require our purchasing power for their raw materials and foodstuffs, and finance for their development, which, in turn, will attract a greater population and larger markets, and it is therefore becoming increasingly realised that closer economic ties would be of very great advantage to the Dominions and Colonies and ourselves.

Apart from these advantages, there are the ties of kinship and mutual understanding which exist.

QUESTION OF ECONOMIC TIES.

I think, myself, that at the present time more can be perhaps accomplished towards closer union through the extension of existing businesses or the establishment of fresh undertakings having branches both at home and in those other countries, which would provide a growing community of interests and more frequent interchange of the personal element. I believe also that, as a centre for education, especially post-graduate education, London will offer great attractions to the younger generations from the Dominions for the encouragement of study in the sciences, arts, and the great professions.

I think that these steps would be a certain preliminary to closer ties in many ways, including economic ties, although it is probable that, having regard to the general high level of protective tariffs throughout the world, there would be room now for an extension of economic arrangements as between this country and other parts of the Empire. It must be recognised, however, that,

whatever form such arrangements take, England must be the best market for their goods, the best in which they can buy and the best in which to borrow. This position can be reached only through building up a large export trade by means of low costs of manufacture and cheap credit.

BANK'S RESOURCES.

Finally, I may mention that the resources of Barclays Bank and the group of banks which it controls, inclusive of the capital and reserve funds of those banks, but without bringing into account the capital which we hold ourselves, amount to a total figure in excess of £500,000,000.

The staff of Barclays Bank and its subsidiaries now have great opportunities of gaining experience in various parts of the Empire, either through coming from the Dominions to Great Britain or *vice versa*. I cannot speak too highly of the way in which they place the interests of the bank in the forefront, regarding themselves, as they do, as being responsible for the welfare of the business.

I now beg to move :—" That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts at December 31, 1929, duly audited, be received, approved and adopted, and that a final dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the 'A' shares and 14 per cent. per annum on the 'B' and 'C' shares, less income tax, be declared, payable on the 1st proximo to the shareholders registered in the books of the company on December 31st last, making with the interim dividend paid on August 1st last, 10 per cent. for the year on the 'A' shares and 14 per cent. for the year on the 'B' and 'C' shares."

I much regret to say that Sir Herbert Hambling is unfortunately laid up with a bad cold. He intended to have been here to-day as usual, and we all regret his absence and would have been glad if he had been able to be present. As he could not come, he asked me to express his regret, and I now call upon Mr Tuke to second the resolution. (Cheers.)

Mr William Favill Tuke (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution.

SHAREHOLDERS' CONGRATULATIONS.

Sir Alfred Herbert, K.B.E., said he had great pleasure in supporting the motion and in congratulating the directors on a very successful year. As an old and very satisfied customer of the bank he had the greatest pleasure in testifying to the extremely kind, courteous, and businesslike way in which the customers of this great bank were treated. Both from the Head Office and from their Branch in his own city of Coventry he had invariably received the most helpful consideration and the most courteous dealing. For 40 years or more he had been engaged in an industry the function of which was to supply to other engineers the plant and machinery which was essential to the expansion and development of their business. It was impossible nowadays to speak about industry without saying something about Government.

His own conception, for what it was worth, of what industry asked from Government was, first, a condition of confidence and stability that it might not be disturbed by "alarums and excursions," and that it might be allowed to carry on its operations in peace and in security. Secondly, industry asked for the freest possible access to the markets of the world and for at least a fair chance in its own market. They had heard recently some important pronouncements from Government as to the greater availability of capital for the development of industry, and he was sure this would be all to the good, but none the less, in his rather large number of years of industrial work he had never found that there had been any difficulty in getting the necessary capital for the development and expansion of enterprises which in themselves were sound. (Hear, hear.) He himself felt that the most valuable kind of capital that could be held in any business was the capital which that business had been able to save for itself by care, economy, and a conservative policy in dealing with its accounts. He believed that £1 of capital which they themselves had saved was worth as much to them as £2 of capital which they might borrow from outside. (Hear, hear.)

While the air was full of the talk of peace and of the abolition of war it had to be realised that we were in fact engaged in a war of industry. At no time in his recollection had competition from outside been fiercer; at no time had it been less easy to obtain access into foreign markets. He hoped to see in the future a stronger policy adopted. It was extraordinary what good was done by the courage to stand up. He could not help feeling that, as conditions changed, policies must be changed to meet them. There were already signs that we were sitting up and thinking, and he hoped that in the near future there would be shown a greater courage to stand up and maintain our own markets as a means of obtaining freer access to the markets of our surrounding neighbours. (Cheers.)

AN EXCELLENT REPORT.

Mr E. T. Hargreaves said he wished to thank the Chairman for the very able and interesting address with which he had favoured the shareholders, and to say how sorry they all were that Sir Herbert Hambling was not able to be present also to address them. The directors were to be congratulated upon presenting such an excellent report after a year of difficulty. With regard to the dividend, so far as the Chairman was concerned he had always been conservative in his finance, and he (the speaker) entirely approved of the recommendation of the board, hoping at the same time that they might look forward to a larger dividend a little later on. (Laughter and "hear, hear.") He was extremely interested to hear what the Chairman had said with regard to co-operation in industry between employer and employed, which was making some progress and for which the thanks of the nation were due to Lord Melchett and others. With regard to assisting industry there was not the least doubt that the directors of that bank would help wherever it was necessary, and he was perfectly satisfied that, although advances in the balance sheet amounted to such a large sum, they were all amply secured, and that, so far as the bank was concerned, the directors would see that they stuck to good banking business and would continue to give the shareholders the results of which they were all so proud. (Cheers.)

Mr F. Tomkinson expressed his thanks to the directors and the management generally for the very able way in which they had managed the business of the bank during the last very trying year.

APPROVAL OF BOARD'S DIVIDEND POLICY.

Sir Alfred Stephens also congratulated the Chairman on his able speech, which, he remarked, disclosed an unbroken record of prosperity for the bank. He quite agreed with the conservative policy which had been pursued with regard to the payment of dividends. The banks had done a good deal during the past few years for trade. It was often said that they should do a great deal more, but he thought that the people who said that did not realise that the deposit money held by the banks was the money of their customers and that they had to take the very greatest care of it. (Hear, hear.) They were asked to dispense credit with a generous hand, but if they did that without being perfectly sure what would become of the money it would impose a very heavy strain on the banks. He was convinced that Barclays Bank had done its duty most nobly; that it had carried out not only its responsibilities to its shareholders, but, what was far more important, its responsibilities to those who had deposited their money with it. (Hear, hear.)

What was wanted in this country was a greater feeling of security for the future. If they had the feeling that all was going well and they could go on with their industries and set to work at full speed the country would have a chance to regain the position which it had held in the past. One point which should be stressed was that industries should be left to carry out their own work, and that there should be no Government interference with them in any shape or form. (Hear, hear.) That was the only way by which industry could possibly thrive. Taxation had taken far too much out of industry in the past, and he ventured to say that if those engaged in industry in this country were given fair play and fair conditions of competition there was no country in the world which could beat us.

The Chairman thanked the shareholders who had spoken for their expressions of appreciation, and the resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

RE-ELECTION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS.

The Chairman next proposed :—" That Messrs Bertrand Yorke Bevan, Francis Lawrence Bland, Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Hoblyn Warren Bolitho, D.S.O., Messrs Lionel Gurney Buxton, Edwin Henry Galsworthy, Arthur Bevington Gillett, William Macnamara Goodenough, Quintin Edward Gurney, Walter Somerville Gurney, the Right Hon. Earl Peel, P.C., G.B.E., Mr Hugh Exton Seebohm, the Right Hon. Viscount Wimborne, P.C., and Mr Cecil Mercer Woodbridge, the retiring directors, be re-elected directors of the company."

Mr W. Favill Tuke seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Right Hon. Lord Ebbisham, G.B.E., then moved :—" That Messrs Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Company, and Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company, chartered accountants, be reappointed auditors to the company, at the usual remuneration, to hold office until the next annual general general meeting." In doing so he said that these firms for many years had rendered distinguished service to the bank, and he thought the shareholders would agree that they were fortunate in possessing them as auditors. He would like to add his tribute of appreciation of the Chairman's interesting and comprehensive speech, and congratulations on the successful year which the bank had had. The shareholders would have been especially interested in the Chairman's reference to the linking up of business between this country and the Dominions through their Dominion Bank. This further assisted in carrying out the wish, so widely expressed, for still closer union within the Empire. They also warmly sympathised with the Chairman in his belief that London as a centre for education would offer great attractions to the younger generations from the Dominions.

Mr Allen Hepworth seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

VOTE OF THANKS TO GENERAL MANAGERS AND STAFF.

Mr H. E. Seebohm proposed :—" That the cordial appreciation and thanks of the shareholders be given to the general managers and the whole of the staff for the manner in which they have carried out their duties during the past year." He would not try to emulate the speeches of the directors who had proposed a similar resolution in former years, but he would yield to none of them in the sincerity of the thanks that it was the intention of his resolution to convey. One feature of the past year had been the further introduction by banks of what was called the mechanisation of banking—not the mechanisation of bankers, for that would be a disaster; on the contrary, it was to be hoped that the relegation of certain work to machines might actually lessen the chance of any man himself becoming a machine. Of course, he must not disparage the boon of mechanical accuracy, but it was not on accuracy, but rather on other qualities, that he based the resolution which he had the pleasure of moving.

The growth of the great banks had resulted in increased competition throughout the whole field, and he thought that the amassing of men and women in these very large staffs did call more and more for the exercise of qualities such as co-operation and adaptability. Shareholders would, he was sure, realise what unremitting care and discretion and organising ability throughout all the branches were required before a great concern such as Barclays Bank had grown to be could earn for them the profit to which they so confidently looked forward. The directors would vote for this resolution as wholeheartedly as would any of the shareholders. They knew the value of the staff. He would like to say one word more. Seeing that all the business of the bank, before it came to the board, had to pass through the gateway of their two general managers, they must all consider the resolution, comprehensive though it was intended to be, as having very special application to those gentlemen. (Cheers.)

Mr R. L. Barclay, C.B.E., seconded the motion, remarking that the longer he worked with the staff the more he was convinced that they were second to no banking staff in the world. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

MR MITCHELL'S REPLY.

Mr H. T. Mitchell (one of the general managers), who was enthusiastically received, said that it was his pleasing duty, on behalf of the staff of the bank, to express their gratitude for the passing of the vote which had been submitted in such kindly and complimentary terms. That resolution never failed to give them a considerable amount of pleasure, and he thought it was because they recognised that it introduced into the somewhat prosaic and businesslike proceedings a personal note—just that personal touch which stimulated the efforts, fostered the loyalty, and brought out the very best endeavours of those who worked with the directors in the service of the bank. (Hear, hear.) The staff of Barclays Bank were particularly fortunate inasmuch as they knew that they could always look with the utmost confidence to their Chairman and his co-directors, not only for inspiring leadership but also for generous recognition of any efforts they might make in the interests of their institution. They considered themselves doubly fortunate in that they had a still further reward—a reward which they valued most highly—namely, the warm and hearty appreciation of the shareholders. (Cheers.)

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN.

Sir Alfred Herbert, K.B.E., proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for his illuminating speech and for the courteous manner in which he had presided over the meeting.

This was cordially approved, and the Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said he took the resolution to apply to all the members of the board. Shareholders would understand from the remarks he had already made that the past year had not been an easy one for bankers—indeed, it had been a very difficult one—but they might feel satisfied that the bank was in a sound position. (Cheers.)

The proceedings then terminated.

BARCLAYS BANK.

(DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS.)

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—CONTINUED PROGRESS.

INCREASE IN THE DIVIDEND.

The ordinary general meeting of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) was held, on the 21st instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr Frederick Craufurd Goodenough, chairman of the company, presided.

Mr H. R. Bradfield (assistant general manager) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—My lords, ladies and gentlemen,—In accordance with our usual procedure I will refer first to changes which have taken place in the personnel of the bank during the past year. The directors desire to record their deep regret at the death of Mr John Edward Mounsey and Mr James Tuke, who were members of the board, and of Mr Edmond Wodehouse Lucie Smith, who was a local director of the bank in Jamaica.

The directors have much pleasure in informing you that Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, M.L.A. (Union of South Africa), has been elected to a seat on the board, and this meeting will be asked in due course to confirm his election in accordance with the articles of association. The election of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer will serve to strengthen our representation from South Africa, where a considerable proportion of our business is transacted.

We regret to announce that Mr Ernest Hyslop Bell has resigned his membership of the Colonial Bank local board on account of ill-health.

Mr Gerald Robert Macintyre has been appointed a local director in New York, where he was formerly agent.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

If you will refer to the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended September 30, 1929, you will find that the total figures at that date exceeded £73,000,000. Current, deposit, and other accounts amounted to £61,043,262, being an increase on the previous year of £1,367,606.

Cash in hand and at bankers and gold bullion amounted to £11,649,106, showing an increase of nearly £900,000. Bills discounted were £12,564,919, which is nearly £5,000,000 less than the corresponding figure of a year ago. On the other hand, advances to customers amounted to £28,690,099, or an increase of more than £5,000,000

BANK PREMISES.

The "bank premises account" has increased by about £150,000, and now stands at £2,113,437. This increase is largely accounted for by the cost of rebuilding the office in Gracechurch Street, London, which was reopened in September last. The contract for rebuilding the premises in Adderley Street, Cape Town, in accordance with the designs of Sir Herbert Baker, A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., has been placed, and the old building is now being demolished.

Valuations of the bank's premises which have been made give a figure which is in excess of the amount shown in our books, and we have a redemption fund for the small amount of leasehold properties owned by us. You will appreciate that owing to the extension of our business the provision of banking premises is a matter which will require a great deal of money in the future, and we shall find it desirable to write down that account from time to time out of profits.

PROFIT AND DIVIDENDS.

The net profit for the year ended September 30, 1929, after making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, amounted to the sum of £516,593, which compares with £494,822 last year. An interim dividend on the "A" and "B" shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was paid in July last, and it is proposed to pay a final dividend on these shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, making 4½ per cent. per annum for the year, against 4 per cent. for the previous year. The reserve fund has been further increased by £150,000, and has therefore reached the figure of £1,550,000, while the carry-forward has been increased from £130,709 to £137,981.

The bank has not suffered any loss arising out of the troubles in connection with what is known as the Hatry Group.

As the shareholders are aware, the dividend has been gradually increased from 3 per cent. to 4½ per cent. per annum, but they should not assume that increases will be continuous because, as has been stated on previous occasions, the policy of the directors is that of adding in each year a substantial amount to reserves, which, as already mentioned, will include the writing down of the premises account.

BARCLAYS BANK (CANADA).

The application for a charter for the conduct of banking business in Canada was granted, and Barclays Bank (Canada) was

deposits had fallen to £87,000; its cash amounted to £15,000, and balances with other banks to less than £600, while it had borrowed £15,000 from the Union Bank of London. Contrast this position with that of another small local institution which about the same time had deposit and note liabilities of £80,000, and held against them only £1,600 in cash, but had balances of no less than £25,000 with its London agents. It is obvious from these and other similar figures that there was no regularity in the relations between cash and liabilities to the public. Nor were the amounts of these liabilities themselves at all stable.

Finally, of all the banks operating in 1844 which subsequently came into the Midland, not one employed the Bank of England as its London agent. Indeed, in the contemporary list of banks already mentioned the Bank of England is quoted as the London agent of only two provincial institutions. We see, then, in the first place, that the country banks had no immediate reserve connections with the Bank of England, and, secondly, that both their cash holdings and deposit liabilities were subject to wide, rapid, and unassociated fluctuations. It follows from these facts that the Bank of England exercised no more than a very indirect control, if any at all, over the volume of credit, whereas to-day it is the supreme authority in determining the quantity of money available for the use of the public.

BANK NOTE ISSUES.

In the orthodox modern view a necessary attribute of a central bank is the possession of a sole right of note issue. In this respect, again, the arrangements in force to-day differ widely from those of 1844, though the seeds were sown by the Bank Charter Act for the complete monopoly in England and Wales now enjoyed by the Bank of England. The position then was that, while the Bank of England possessed a majority right of note issue effective all over the country, nearly 300 other banks had smaller issues confined mainly to the immediate locality of their operations. The provincial banks derived considerable direct benefit from their circulation powers, quite apart from the utility of the notes as a medium of advertisement. Our own bank did not exercise the right of issue, but among the 40 banks operating in 1844 which eventually joined us no fewer than 30 did so.

Two further points of contrast may be mentioned. In those days gold coin was widely used as currency. To-day no gold is in active circulation, nor, as far as can be foreseen, is it likely to be so used in future. Secondly, a much larger proportion of the country's business was then financed by currency. The total of bank deposits was comparatively small, and the cheque system was still in an early stage of development. The bill of exchange, it is true, was used commonly in domestic business, but, even after making full allowance for this practice, the fact remains that trade was transacted to a far smaller extent on a credit basis than it is to-day.

CURRENCY AND CREDIT, 1844 AND 1929.

The difference between the relative volumes of currency and credit in 1844 and at the present time is important, not only in monetary theory but also in practical banking. To measure exactly the extent of the change is impossible; to make an estimate extremely difficult. Nevertheless, I propose to give a few figures, which, though not as reliable as might be desired, are sufficiently definite and authoritative. Towards the end of 1844 the active circulation of Bank of England notes was about £20,000,000, while other banks had nearly £8,000,000 of notes in issue. The gold coin in circulation has been estimated at approximately £40,000,000. Adding these figures together and ignoring token coin, we arrive at a total of roughly £70,000,000 of currency in the hands of the public and in bank reserves, excluding the Bank of England. The comparable figure at the present time is given by a single item in the Bank of England return, which shows that in the ordinary way there are about £360,000,000 of notes outstanding. When we come to consider deposits we are on much less solid ground. We may place the present total for England and Wales at approximately £2,000,000,000, while the corresponding figure for 1844 has been roughly estimated at about £200,000,000.

It appears, then, that between 1844 and 1929, while the volume of currency has multiplied five-fold, there has been a ten-fold increase in the volume of credit. Moreover, that is not the whole story. Deposits circulate with much greater rapidity than currency, so that not only has the relative numerical importance of credit vastly increased, but the proportionate volume of business financed by credit must have grown in far more striking degree.

From all these facts it follows that the problems of monetary affairs to-day are widely different from those which had to be faced in 1844. The Bank Charter Act, you will remember, was intended to incorporate the general principle that a close, if not quite mechanical, relationship should be maintained between the flow of gold into and out of the country and variations in the volume of notes in circulation. Gold movements were to govern currency fluctuations. Clearly, in view of the changed conditions ruling to-day, this principle is no longer applicable, and, as we all know, has been definitely abandoned in practice. Nevertheless, our modern monetary system still preserves a connection between long period gold movements and changes in the total volume of money as distinct from currency alone.

MONEY AND GOLD RESERVES.

This leads me to one other point of comparison: the quantitative relationship between gold and non-metallic money to-day, as compared with that existing in 1844. We saw a few moments ago that the paper currency in circulation at that time amounted to nearly £30,000,000, while bank deposits were estimated at £200,000,000, making a total of £230,000,000 of money, excluding the gold and token coin in circulation. Nowadays we have about £360,000,000 of paper currency and £2,000,000,000 of deposits, so that roughly speaking the volume of non-metallic money has expanded ten-fold since 1844. Compare this expansion with the contemporaneous growth in the gold stock. It has been estimated that the amount of bullion in the country in 1844, including gold coin in circulation as well as in bank reserves, was between £50,000,000 and £60,000,000. In recent months it has varied between about £130,000,000 and £150,000,000, approximately 2½ times as much as at the earlier date. Upon this doubled or trebled stock of gold has been reared a ten-fold expansion of non-metallic money. We have here a conspicuous instance of economy in the use of gold and the beneficial effect of the concentration of banking resources. Authorities tell us to-day that there is a shortage in the world supply of gold. We should be suffering a veritable famine were it not for the economy practised in this and some other gold standard countries.

GOLD STANDARD DEVELOPMENTS.

The developments during the past century in the use of gold as a monetary basis are indeed striking. Contrary to the general assumption, the gold standard is quite a modern invention, for as late as 1844 Great Britain was the only leading country properly to be described as working upon that system. Almost the whole of the rest of the world was then on a standard of gold and silver combined or of silver alone. Nowadays nearly every important trading country uses gold, nominally if not in practice at the moment, as its sole metallic basis. Since the adoption of the gold standard by Great Britain not only has its sphere of operation been widened, but, as already mentioned, substantial economies have been secured in the use of the metal. Germany made a notable step towards this goal when, in 1875, the Reichsbank was set up and given a degree of elasticity in its note issue hitherto unknown among the leading central banks. The system of holding only a percentage of gold against notes, of which the German scheme was the direct forerunner, has since been adopted nearly all over the world, to the practical exclusion of the fixed fiduciary issue. Coming to recent history, Britain, followed by other countries, has further economised in metallic reserves by adopting a bullion standard, which in effect excludes gold coin from circulation. Finally, the system known as the gold exchange standard received official blessings in the early stages of post-war monetary reconstruction and, although not so widely or permanently adhered to as might be desired, has secured appreciable economy in the use of the world's gold supplies.

GOLD STANDARD PAST AND PRESENT.

These facts remind us that progress is not confined to the physical and mechanical sciences. I have already shown that the operative gold standard of 1930 is a vastly different mechanism from its namesake of 1844, just as the locomotive running from London to Birmingham to-day is a very different machine from the engine which first steamed into Birmingham in 1837. For one thing, our gold stock is now concentrated entirely in the hands of the central institution. The public no longer possesses the right either to have gold coined into sovereigns or to obtain sovereigns in exchange for notes. This mobilisation of gold renders the available supplies of far greater effectiveness for international purposes. Much more important, however, from the standpoint of our economic welfare is the fact that monetary policy exercises for short periods an assured ascendancy over gold movements. Nowadays, in contrast with the old system, imports and exports of the metal are frequently deprived of their natural effect upon the volume of credit. We can well imagine what enormous fluctuations in the supply of credit would have taken place during the past five years if the successive inflows and outflows of gold had been allowed to exercise unregulated influence upon the quantity of bank cash. We should have suffered repeatedly the evils of feverish inflation and drastic deflation, and trade would have been the plaything of these tremendous changes in monetary conditions.

It will be seen, then, that the development of our monetary machinery, despite its less popular appeal, is just as remarkable as that achieved in the physical sciences. I must hasten to add, however, that we are by no means at the end of the road, for progress cannot cease unless it gives place to recession. Let us hope that we shall never be entirely satisfied with the monetary machine as it is. (Hear, hear.) Dissatisfaction becomes a virtue when it provides the motive power to further improvement in our scientific equipment. (Cheers.)

THE MIDLAND BANK, 1847-1929.

I will now resume the story of the development of our own institution by referring to the balance-sheet of the Birmingham and Midland Bank for June 30, 1847, the earliest date for which we have such a statement. The figures provide a most interesting contrast with our position to-day, not only in respect of size but of the relations between the various items. The paid-up capital at that time was £90,000, while the guarantee fund, corresponding to our reserve fund, together with the balance of profit and loss account, came to nearly £39,000. Deposits, in the narrower sense, stood at £139,000, and the net balance on customers' accounts at £22,000. A sum of £9,000 for composition bills—a type of instrument not used to-day—completed the one side of the balance-sheet. Among the assets, cash was shown at rather more than £8,000, and balances with other banks at £26,000. Premises and miscellaneous smaller assets aggregated £10,000. No investments were held, and no entry appeared for advances, since a net figure of current accounts was included in the liabilities. But bills—by far the largest item—amounted to £255,000. Thus the total on each side of the balance-sheet was £299,000. Incidentally, the bank had no branches at that time.

To-day I have to report to you a balance-sheet total far more than a thousand times as large. Our paid-up capital has risen, through new issues and exchanges of shares, from £90,000 to nearly £13,500,000, which is also the amount of the reserve fund. We have over 70,000 shareholders, as compared with 100 in 1847. We conduct our business through more than 2,050 offices covering practically the whole of England and Wales, and in addition are the sole shareholders of three other banks with about 450 offices in Scotland and Northern Ireland. A small, provincial bank has become a vast, nation-wide organisation, whose history is typical of the whole process of evolution in the sphere of finance, as well as in industry and trade. (Cheers.)

THE YEAR 1929.

Now let me turn specifically to the progress recorded in the past year. Parenthetically I may observe that our balance sheet has undergone a number of changes in form, due mainly to the provisions of the new Companies Act. In addition, we have published for the first time a consolidated statement of the liabilities and assets of the Midland Bank and its affiliated companies.

Considering the various items in our own balance sheet, we find that deposits amount in the aggregate to £379,500,000, a fall of £15,000,000 on the year. In explanation of this movement, I would remind you that ours is pre-eminently a traders' bank, and that accordingly our position tends to reflect with particular faithfulness a falling off in business activity. In the earlier months of 1929, when trade was relatively good, our deposits were maintained at a higher level than in the previous corresponding period. The decline was concentrated in the second half of the year, when business as a whole took a decided turn for the worse. A further indication of the course of events is to be seen in the continued downward trend in the proportion of current account balances to total deposits.

Passing on to the next item, acceptances and confirmed credits amount to £19,750,000, as compared with £25,000,000 a year ago. The decline is attributable to the fact that recently money rates in London have been above those in New York. Engagements stand at £17,750,000. At the end of 1928 the figure was £49,500,000, but, as I mentioned a year ago, the exceptionally high total was due largely to special influences. We have, however, made a change in our system of accounts which also materially affects the comparison. Hitherto forward exchange transactions outstanding have appeared in the total of our engagements. We have removed this part of the item and show the figure separately in a note on the balance sheet. Both acceptances and engagements are balanced by a contra entry representing the corresponding liability of the customers on whose behalf we carry out the transactions.

ASSETS.

We come now to the assets. Coin, notes, and balances with the Bank of England stand at £47,000,000. This figure shows an increase of £1,500,000, which, in conjunction with the fall in deposits, raises the cash ratio from 11·5 to 12·4 per cent. The increase in cash is roughly offset by a decline in balances with and cheques on other banks, which stand at £18,500,000. We have reduced money at call and short notice to £21,750,000, and investments and bills discounted to £33,000,000 and £58,750,000 respectively. Included in the last item are about £15,500,000 of Treasury Bills.

These various reductions have enabled us to maintain advances at the 1928 level, despite the decline in deposits. The aggregate of the amounts shown under three separate headings on the balance-sheet is £212,250,000. It is a common notion, to judge from speeches and letters in the Press, that the banks have an inexhaustible power of lending money to industrial enterprises, and that any industry suffering from general depression could be restored to prosperity if only what is termed a more generous policy were adopted by the banks. (Laughter.) A moment's reflection, however, will show that the banks have no inexhaustible fund to draw upon. The sums they lend are balanced by amounts due to depositors, who would certainly not rest content unless confident that their money was being wisely used and could be repaid to them at any time. (Hear, hear.) The important fact to be emphasised is that we continue to keep at as low a level as possible our loans for what may be called financial purposes, so that all the accommodation in our power may be granted to British industry and trade. (Hear, hear.)

THE REVISED BALANCE SHEET.

You will notice that the balance sheet in its revised form shows two separate items covering investments in premises, which include land, buildings and their equipment. The first, described specifically as bank premises and entered at nearly £9,000,000, is almost the same as last year; the second, other properties and work in progress, represents an entry formerly included among other accounts, and amounts to £1,250,000. As offices are completed and occupied for business their book values are transferred from the second item to the first, which, on the other hand, is under a constant process of writing down out of profits. Perhaps I should add that the whole expenditure to date upon the occupied portion of our new head office is already included in the first item. The main part of this building is rapidly approaching completion, and the central management expect to move there in the course of a few months.

The concluding items among our assets relate to investments in affiliated companies, and the figures show little change from a year ago. The Clydesdale Bank has increased its paid-up capital, and in the case of the Belfast Banking Company it is proposed to raise its paid-up capital to £800,000 by the allocation of 10s. a share out of undivided profits. All four of our affiliations, the Belfast, Clydesdale, and North of Scotland Banks and the Executor and Trustee Company, have made sustained progress during the year, and I cannot omit an expression of complete satisfaction with the results of our now long-standing Irish and Scottish connections. (Hear, hear.)

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning to the profit and loss account, the net profits for the year, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £2,665,042, about the same as for 1928. Adding to this sum the balance brought forward, a total of £3,513,605 is available for distribution. The interim and final dividends, both at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, which has been maintained for no less than 26 years, together absorb £1,934,347. It has been decided to place £500,000 to bank premises redemption fund and £220,000 to officers' pension fund, these allocations being the same as in each of the previous two years. We are thus left with a balance of £859,258 to be carried forward.

REASON FOR THE NEW SHARE ISSUE.

Before concluding my commentary on the position and progress of the bank, you will undoubtedly wish me to refer to the forthcoming issue of capital, of which full particulars are given in the report. The reason which has prompted the decision to issue new shares, in the same proportion and on the same terms as on the last occasion, is a very simple one. We feel the scale of our operations has become so vast that the present paid-up capital is too low in comparison with liabilities to customers. The new issue will increase both the paid-up capital and the reserve fund to over £14,000,000 each, which, together with the balance of profit, will raise the shareholders' fund, as shown in the balance sheet, to more than £29,000,000.

I deeply regret that the year just closed, like its predecessor, has taken a heavy toll of our colleagues on the board. Sir James Bell, Sir Edmund Turton, Mr Walter S. M. Burns, Mr Charles Gow, and Mr John Henderson have all been removed from among us. We mourn their loss, as we value their memory, with a deep sense of

gratitude for their great services through some of the most difficult years we have been called upon to traverse.

In the early part of my address I mentioned the retirement of Mr Woolley from active management, and I am sure you would like me to express to him your appreciation of his able and unsparing devotion to the interests of the bank. (Cheers.) We all hope he may enjoy a long retirement and continue for many years to assist us with his counsel and encouragement. Mr Hyde is now sole managing director. Those of us who have the privilege of close association with him know and appreciate his brilliant capacities and outstanding personal qualities. Happily, we can still regard him as a young man; the passage of the years in no way impairs his energy and ability. (Hear, hear.)

I need not remind you, however, that the best possible leadership would be entirely wasted if support were not forthcoming from an adequately trained, capable, and conscientious staff. I have said a good deal on this subject in previous years, so that no further words of mine are needed to convince you how much we owe to our general managers and other head office officials, branch managers, and all members of the staff. You will have an opportunity at a later stage of showing in a separate resolution your warm appreciation of their indefatigable services.

THE FUTURE.

Looking back over the year just ended, I am unable to say that developments in trade and industry have justified the expectations with which it began. The welfare of the people of this country is of the greatest concern to every one of us, and in consequence we cannot view existing conditions with satisfaction. The situation, however, is relieved by a particularly hopeful feature, the stimulus which adversity is giving to our efforts to reorganise and improve our industrial structure. We have passed through a decade of troublous times, but if we emerge from this testing period with improved efficiency and more highly productive and economical machinery our tribulations will not have been in vain. For myself, I entertain no doubt that such will be the eventual outcome, and with this in mind I believe we can face the future with a reasoned measure of confidence. (Cheers.)

The report was adopted, other ordinary business was transacted, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of the National Discount Company, Limited, was held, on the 22nd instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Col. the Hon. Sidney Peel, C.B., D.S.O., the chairman, presiding.

The secretary (Mr Charles H. Gough) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I do not think that even the most unobservant person could describe the year 1929, which we are reviewing to-day, as an uneventful year.

I should describe it myself as one of the most tumultuous in recent financial history. I do not propose to depress you by recalling the numerous events which have combined to disturb the investor in almost every country. Most of these crises, unfortunate as may be their effect on the general tone, do not directly affect the securities in which a company like ours deals, but in so far as they influence the supply of bills or credit in the London money-market, they may have a very important repercussion; they may have, too, a very tangible influence on the price of certain gilt-edged securities which do directly interest us. Last year we have certainly had our full share of storms which do agitate even the Pool of London. The worst has been the disturbance produced by the course of speculation in America. The tempting, almost fantastic, rates for the employment of money caused thereby, attracted so much to that centre as seriously to disturb the money-markets of the world, especially our own This was the worst storm, but by no means the only one; we have had domestic troubles in our own country, which I need not go into.

If we look at the fluctuations in the Bank of England rate during the year we shall get a clear reflection of the commotions of the year. Whereas in 1928 the Bank rate remained without change at 4½ per cent. (indeed it had stood at this figure since April, 1927), in 1929 we had no less than five changes, and I think we can be grateful to the authorities that we did not have even more. On February 7th it rose to 5½ per cent., on September 26th to 6½ per cent., on October 31st it fell to 6 per cent., on November 21st to 5½ per cent., and on December 12th to 5 per cent.

There can be no doubt as to the stormy nature of the year. The question immediately before us is how far we have been able to steer a successful course through these tumultuous seas. I venture to think that the examination of the figures will show that we can congratulate Mr Goldsmith and his assistants on the skill with which they have encountered the troubles and difficulties of the year.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

When I addressed you last year, I mentioned that there were indications of troubles ahead. In view of these indications we had taken in some sail, as shown by the reduced figures of our balance sheet, but I did not think that our profits for the coming year would be increased thereby. Our forecast has proved to be correct. This year our balance sheet shows an increase in totals; I hope we shall be justified in this greater confidence in the immediate future. Our total of bills discounted, after deduction of bills rediscounted, still shows an increase of about £1,500,000 over last year, and we have, in fact, had a larger turnover in bills than for some years past. Our deposits, on the other hand, are correspondingly larger. Our investments are about £300,000 down from last year. Once more we can say that our company, according to the figures of the balance sheet, is in a very sound and liquid position.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning to our profit and loss account we find the gross profits are down by £70,000, but, owing to the smaller amount required for rebate, our actual net profits are somewhat greater than last year. We are able to put £25,000 to reserve fund as against £15,000; £14,076 to pensions fund as against £10,000. This contribution brings the total of that fund up to the round figure of £100,000. We have then left over for appropriation the sum of £356,000 as against a rather smaller amount last year. We are proposing to you to-day to pay the usual dividends, plus a bonus of 2s. instead of 1s. 6d. on each B share.

If any shareholder feels a reluctance to accept our recommendation of an increased bonus, I shall be prepared to justify our action. For the moment I will merely say that, if you accept our proposals, and agree with me that these are good results to have attained in a difficult year, I hope you will give the credit where it is due—to Mr Goldsmith, our manager, and his assistants. We have had some reorganisation of our staff this year, as you will see by a comparison of the front page of this year's report with last year.' This means a certain increase of expenses, which I am certain is proving and will prove money well laid out.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

I should like to pay my tribute to the staff for their excellent and unremitting work. By no means all the names of those who have done the company good service appear in the list of the higher officials on that page.

I have only to add that I am sure you will regret, as we do, the retirement from the board of Mr Walter Heriot. He had been a director of the company for over twenty years. I should like to be able to thank him on your behalf for his valuable services, and to wish him a complete restoration to health. I also regret very much that Mr Petley is unable to be with us to-day owing to illness.

The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Charles D. Seligman seconded the resolution.

Mr J. H. Butterworth said that shareholders ought to be very well satisfied with the results which had been obtained and with the fact that the directors had had the courage to add 6d. to the bonus. (Hear, hear.)

Mr G. A. Christian said that when they saw the great difficulties which financial institutions had had to encounter during the past year they could hardly have expected any increase in the distribution; therefore, that there should be an increase was very much to the credit of the company and a proof of its very able and conservative management. Considering the year through which they had passed, he thought the results were very gratifying to all concerned. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr Frederick W. Green, the dividends as proposed, together with the increased bonus, were approved.

The retiring directors, Mr Frederick W. Green and Mr Charles D. Seligman, were re-elected and the auditors, Mr Francis W. Pixley (Jackson, Pixley and Co.) and Sir Albert W. Wyon, K.B.E. (Price, Waterhouse and Co.), were reappointed.

Mr Vere Herbert Snith, proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, manager and staff for the excellent results of their work during the past year, expressed regret at the retirement of Mr Heriot and suggested that a message should be sent to Mr Petley expressing regret at his illness and a hope for his speedy recovery.

This was seconded by Mr Butterworth and carried unanimously and a brief acknowledgment by Mr Francis Goldsmith (the manager) concluded the proceedings.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR.

MR. THOMAS BUCKLAND'S INTERESTING REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN AUSTRALIA.

At the ordinary general meeting of the Bank of New South Wales, held at the head office, Sydney, on Friday, November 29, 1929, the chairman, Mr. Thomas Buckland, President of the Bank, in moving the adoption of the report, said :—

Gentlemen,—In rising to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet, I shall review the main items and compare them with last year.

The movements taken as a whole are indicative of the conditions affecting us to-day. There is evidence of the marked drop during recent years in the prices of our staples, of the continuation of drought conditions in many districts and of increasing costs and the lack of continuity affecting industry and commerce to the disadvantage of all.

Taking the less important items first, the note circulation in New Zealand shows a small decrease.

Bills payable at £7,284,000 represents a small increase of £84,000.

Bank premises are £225,000 higher and stand at £1,450,000. The increase is largely due to the new head office building, and the new building for our Brisbane branch. Unfortunately the progress of the work on these two buildings has been delayed. We hope to be able to occupy the new premises in Brisbane in about three or four months, and to transfer our Sydney business into the rear portion of the new head office building towards the end of January next. The old building at the corner of George and Wynyard Streets will then be handed over to the contractors to be pulled down in preparation for the front portion of the new structure. The building of this is expected to take three years. We may therefore have to hold three more annual meetings in this room, as the administrative offices will remain in Endeavour House to avoid making a double transfer.

Having dealt with these items, I can best explain the movements under the other headings by showing their relationship to each other and to the conditions at present obtaining.

Deposits, £66,056,000, show the small increase of £1,541,000. This taken with the like experience of other banks is evidence of the slowing-up of our national progress, and a lower capacity to provide for the development of the many and varied industries of the community. It seems necessary to repeat what I said two years ago in this connection. The drain on local funds, as the result of borrowings by Governments and local authorities, appreciably affects the accumulation of deposits. This in turn reduces the funds available for advances, and for that private enterprise upon which our progress and wealth mainly depend. Without a steady and appreciable increase in deposits year by year the banks cannot extend their support to the development of the community. The banks cannot create credit except by resorting to inflation, with its painful aftermath. This leads me to the point I wish particularly to stress. The people as a whole will bring about their own undoing if they pursue the policy of past years with its extravagant and often unproductive expenditures. Such policies with their reduction of output—not necessarily the value of output—must bring hard times and force upon us a lower standard of living. When these are combined with a serious fall in the prices obtainable for our chief staple, wool, and a considerable reduction in the quantity of another, wheat, due to adverse weather conditions, the outlook is hard indeed. The figures of the balance sheet give full support to the position thus outlined.

Advances have increased by £8,074,000, making a total of £59,427,000. When taken with the comparatively small increase in deposits this is a striking testimony to the way in which our customers have found it necessary to lean upon us during the past year, and when it is realised that the experience of the other banks is similar to ours in this department also, it behoves all of us to take stock of our position, both as a community and as individuals. The money for these increased advances has been provided mainly from our liquid assets, Government and other securities, Treasury bills and cash, which show reductions of £2,074,000, £2,000,000 and £4,090,000 respectively. On the other hand, money at short call has increased by £1,220,000, and other items show small increases. Last year our holding of cash was on the high side for this time of the year, so that the reduction is not as important as it may appear at first sight.

These figures will begin to readjust themselves as the proceeds of our produce come to hand and the community accommodates itself to our altered conditions. This readjustment will, however, tend to be slower than in past years. The prices and quantities of our primary products are so much less and the national income so much smaller.

The capital is the same as last year, £7,500,000, and it is proposed to add £250,000 to the reserve fund, making it £6,150,000.

In view of the serious fall in the prices of our staples over recent years, there must follow an appreciable fall in the values of our lands and other assets of the community. Your directors therefore feel that the prudent course is to conserve the resources of the bank. It is proposed to pay the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, but not to pay a bonus on this occasion. The shareholders have had the benefit of four bonuses in succession, or in other words have received in four years dividends which would in the ordinary course have been paid over a period of five years.

This decision will not come altogether as a surprise to you, as I have warned you on each occasion that the bonus is a matter of each year only, and not to be taken as a precedent or an earnest of continuance. In 1927 I asked the newspapers not to include the bonus when stating the rate of return on the quoted prices of our shares. This advice, I regret to say, was utterly disregarded.

Before leaving our own immediate affairs it is desirable that I should draw your attention to the burden taxation is becoming in our own particular case. The bank has paid £350,086 during the year. This is an increase of £55,741 on the amount paid last year and of £79,019 on the year before. Taxation now represents a charge of £4 13s. 4d. per cent. on our capital, a charge which in two years has risen somewhat over 1 per cent.

Turning now to conditions generally, we expect to find some districts having good seasons and some bad in a business covering the large areas we do. The winter in Tasmania has been rather severe. The western parts of Queensland and New South Wales are still drought-stricken, as are the north-western parts of Victoria and the Northern portions of South Australia. Western Australia, generally speaking, is having the best season all round of the Australian States, although the wheat crop will not be as large as was hoped for some couple of months back. While recent rains and cool weather have improved the outlook for the wheat harvest in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the yield will be much below average. The wool clip will be considerably lower than last year, and with the continued fall in prices returns will in most cases do little more than pay expenses. It is cheering to be able to report an improvement in the beef cattle industry, which has suffered so severely for some eight or nine years. As to the future, the season is opening with more promise of good rains, and we look forward in the hope that the long drought will pass from our western areas at no distant date. Could we but settle our industrial troubles and reduce our costs of production to enable both primary and secondary industries to work on a profitable competitive basis with the rest of the world, and secure in their freedom from strife, the present trade depression would soon pass.

The seasons in New Zealand have been good and the country is prosperous. The external trade shows a substantial balance in favour of exports, while Australia's balance is the other way.

Conditions in Fiji are good, despite lower prices for sugar and copra, as are also those in Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

Before concluding, I wish to refer briefly to several matters of current interest.

The reduction in the quantity of our chief exports, due to the drought conditions which have prevailed over many parts of Australia, coupled with the continued fall in values, is having the effect of decreasing Australian funds abroad. These funds are required for the discharge of Government and other obligations, and for the handling of Australia's external trade. Excluding such outside influences as borrowings abroad by Governments and others and the investment of capital from outside in Australian ventures, imports will always adjust themselves to exports, but with a lag—if exports increase imports should increase at a somewhat later date; while the converse is true that imports will decrease following upon a decrease in exports. It would be very unwise to attempt to correct the present position by placing an embargo on imports generally or on specified imports. To do so would in the first instance damage our good trade name, then create injustices among the trading community according to the way in which different sections are placed with regard to their external commitments and further expose individual traders to the risk of damages for breach of contract, etc. On the other hand, should prohibition of imports become effective, we should lose our Customs revenue and ultimately be unable to sell abroad our surplus products—wool, wheat, etc. These products would then become valueless or of little value, as production is far in excess of Australia's capacity to consume, and disaster would be the result.

As against this question of restriction of imports, we have certain sections of the community who have resorted to, or wish to resort to, artificial means of controlling the realisation of their produce. I do not think that any such artificial tampering with the course of marketing will in the end achieve the objects aimed at, but the serious aspect of the case, from our point of view, is that those who have sponsored such schemes have apparently overlooked the question of finance. How is it possible for us to carry over a consider-

ably extended period the product already harvested or shorn, while at the same time we are called upon to finance the growing harvest or clip? In times when money is plentiful it might be possible to go a long way towards achieving this object, but in a period when our loads are already heavy, it is very doubtful whether our financial resources will enable such schemes to be carried through without denying the necessary finance to those in need of it for the current season's requirements. There is another aspect of this question. It is unsound for the producer to become a speculator in his produce.

It has been suggested that proposals are being considered to extend the note issue. It is a feature of any elastic currency system that it should be capable of extension to meet the seasonal requirements of the community from time to time, but it is a very different matter when, either by design or otherwise, reduction in the percentage of gold backing occurs apart from seasonal requirements. If by design, such a movement, when divorced from the genuine trading requirements of the community, becomes inflation, bringing about higher prices with an increased cost of living, which bears most hardly on the workers and those on fixed incomes.

Any such inflation would increase the burden, which is already a heavy one, upon our exports, and consequently our primary industries; while, on the other hand, it would encourage imports. Another effect would be the continued drain of gold until no doubt resort would be had to an embargo on the export of gold. The Australian note would then become inconvertible and the doors would be flung wide open for inflation in its worst form. The proper means to check any such drain would be to raise the interest rates and so preserve the common measure of value we have to-day with all other commercial countries.

Another proposal is that all borrowing by Governments and local authorities should be restricted to the Commonwealth, and that no loans should be raised abroad, a policy with which I agree. To adopt this policy now, however, would restrict all development work in Australia to such proportion of the amount of the annual savings of the Australian community as could be attracted to investment in such loans. To borrow beyond this would create inflation, which has been referred to above, in connection with the note issue. In a partially developed country, such as Australia, it is necessary for a time that capital in addition to the savings of the community should be attracted from outside to enable important schemes of developmental works to be carried on. To refuse absolutely to accept capital from abroad would be to slow up our development suddenly and to limit it to our own capacity to undertake it. The latter is the more desirable course, but, having pursued a policy of external borrowing for many decades, to turn round now and limit borrowing to the funds available in the Commonwealth would be to increase unemployment far beyond the conditions now obtaining. Largely owing to the tremendous wastage of accumulated capital during the war the policies pursued more or less throughout the world during and since then, the supplies of available funds fall short of requirements and rates of interest are tending to harden throughout the financial world. Owing to this there is no doubt that we shall have to pay more for our requirements in the immediate future. Should a policy of borrowing internally be persisted in, the funds so obtained must be withdrawn from the funds in use by the community in its trading and industrial activities, both primary and secondary. It is easy to see, therefore, that the employment given on the one hand would increase the unemployment on the other, while the withdrawal of necessary finance would tend to weaken or destroy a proportion of industries already existing, and the income available for taxation for Government purposes would be reduced over the whole community.

The Loan Council ought to advance warily and not be led away into great additions to public indebtedness, whether internal or external. The economic burden of an internal debt is just as heavy as that of an external debt.

Much is made, and rightly so, of the distinction between borrowing for productive and for unproductive expenditure. I am afraid that much of our so-called productive expenditure is in reality more or less unproductive. "The simple practical rule for productive expenditure is that, after a term of years, the undertaking should repay the original expenditure" in addition to providing interest, depreciation, etc., during the currency of the loan. To the extent that our loans are not fully productive they are a burden to us, and unproductive expenditure tends to leave nothing behind but debt and unemployment.

Our borrowing policies in the past have contributed materially to our unemployment problem. The scale of borrowing has meant inflation, with rising prices and disordered trade. With our arbitrary systems of wage fixing this policy meant higher and yet higher wages. We cannot have continual and general rises in wages and keep the costs of production within economic limits.

Taxation on capital will indirectly affect the wages of labour, and so far tend to lessen the productive power. Taxation is also a feature of the costs of production.

The serious reduction in our national income during recent years must impress everyone with the urgent necessity of reducing the costs of production as well as public and private expenditure. We must realise now that the wastes of war and of unproductive expenditure in the sense I mentioned above can only be made good by greater effort. There is no other way out. Expedients, such as borrowing to provide employment, inflation of the note issue, or the maintenance of high prices by fixing money wages or restricting output, will lead us to harder times and greater difficulties. Expenditures must be reduced. There is abundant evidence in the financial columns of the Press that capital is already having to face the readjustment.

Labour as a rule benefits by falling prices and loses by rising prices.

Are we as a people incapable of facing the position we find ourselves in? Are we able to keep up artificial rates of wages and working restrictions the while repeated applications to the Courts show that real wages—that is, purchasing power—do not follow them? Is it sound to follow the doctrine of high wages for some, while others cannot find employment at that figure? Is it not better for all to work on a lower nominal wage? Could not the readjustment be made by small amounts monthly spread over an extended period, and so reach a sound and profitable basis with as little injury to trade and industry as possible It is imperative that we should be able to produce both in the primary and secondary spheres at a cost enabling us to sell at a profit in competition with the outside world, and, I emphasise, to do so without artificial aids, such as bounties, etc.

The serious increase in taxation is another feature of the high cost of production. This burden is accentuated by the uncertainty, from year to year, in the incidence of taxation and by the administration of the various Acts, which is too often unsympathetic and failing in appreciation of the needs and difficulties of the taxpayers concerned.

The last suggestion I propose to deal with is that the Commonwealth Bank should be made a People's Bank. Those who set this before themselves as their policy do not define the term "People's Bank," but it has a specific meaning in domestic banking. Suffice it to say here that a People's Bank is not a trading bank in the ordinary sense of the term. It is a co-operative institution to assist wage-earners and small husbandry. I take it that what is meant is a trading or commercial bank. We have a population of about six and one-third millions. The trading and savings banks of Australia, and in this connection we include also the Commonwealth Bank, have 2,945 branches with 5,468 agencies, a total of 8,413 points at which banking facilities are offered to the community. This works out approximately at one for every 756 of the population. It can thus be seen that there is no reason to be adduced from the dearth of banking facilities to demand the conversion of the Commonwealth Bank into a People's Bank. On the other hand, it is necessary to point out that, over a period of years, the Commonwealth Bank, in co-operation with the trading banks, has been gradually making progress towards becoming the Central Reserve Bank of Australia, and thus the keystone of the financial arch. Consultations have been had with recognised authorities on this subject, and the principles as laid down by them have ever been kept in the forefront of the board's policy. To alter this policy would be destroy the work of years. The Commonwealth Bank would then become involved in the ordinary vicissitudes of trade, commerce and industry in the same way as the trading banks are. As it could not then fulfil the functions of a central reserve bank, being involved in the same way as the trading banks, and having its assets in the same largely unliquid form as a trading bank must necessarily have, the support of the latter would of necessity have to be withdrawn. The financial position of Australia would then revert to what it was in the first few years of this century, where every bank had to stand on its own feet. Naturally the promoters of the Commonwealth Bank take pride in it, but would it not be an achievement far beyond what its sponsors intended were the present policy accepted and the Commonwealth Bank, with the assistance of the trading banks, allowed to proceed on its way to achieve the great and outstanding distinction of becoming, when the time is ripe therefor, the Central Reserve Bank of Australia.

In conclusion, I wish to express the directors' appreciation of the work of the staff throughout the past year. During that period Mr Oscar Lines, our general manager, retired, and Mr A. C. Davidson was appointed in his place. It is with profound regret that I refer to the untimely death of one of our directors, the late Mr F. B. S. Falkiner, and of one of our auditors, the late Mr W. Harrington Palmer. We wish to place on record the valuable services they rendered to the bank, the former during the eleven (11) years he was a director, and the latter as an auditor for periods extending over the last 27 years, and to express our sympathy with those whom they have left behind in their bereavement. To fill the vacancy on the board Sir Kelso King was asked to join the directorate.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDENDS AND BONUS MAINTAINED.
STRONGEST BALANCE SHEET YET SUBMITTED.
MR. COLIN CAMPBELL'S REVIEW.

The sixty-second ordinary general meeting of shareholders of Alexanders Discount Company, Limited, was held, on the 22nd instant, at the office of the company, 24 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Mr Colin Frederick Campbell, the chairman of the company, presided.

The secretary (Mr A. K. Bruce) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I assume you will take the report as read as usual. (Agreed.)

The year 1929 stands out in marked contrast to that of 1928. In that year we experienced a uniform Bank rate of 4½ per cent. throughout the year. We also witnessed a considerable influx of gold into the Bank of England, and America was a free lender to other countries, and particularly to Europe. In 1929 all this was changed.

CHANGES IN THE BANK RATE.

The Bank rate was raised on February 7th to 5½ per cent., and again on September 26th to 6½ per cent. Fortunately it did not remain at this high level very long, and the rate was reduced on October 31st to 6 per cent., on November 21st to 5½ per cent., and again on December 13th to 5 per cent., at which rate it stands to-day, the average for the year being £5 9s. 11d.

The Bank of England also lost on balance eight millions of gold during the year; at one time the loss was very much greater than this, but substantial sums were received towards the end of the year. America also, instead of being a free lender, became a very persistent borrower.

The question naturally arises as to what was the cause of these great changes, and it is at once apparent that they are inter-related and bound up one with another. The tremendous wave of speculation in the stock markets of America may be said to have created the movement, so that the free balances held in that country were required to meet the demand being made upon her money market by speculators, and not only was this the case, but the high rates obtainable in New York attracted money from this side, which caused a steady flow of money to that centre during the first half of last year.

GOLD ACCUMULATION BY FRANCE.

This was the main reason for the rise in our rate, and was, indeed a quite sufficient one for the action taken, but a further development arose in the steady accumulation of gold by France, who now holds a stock of £341,000,000 against £257,000,000 a year ago. The precise object of this great accumulation is not very clear. but it was made possible by the large balances held abroad by France, which had been increasing for some time. The French Minister of Finance has stated quite recently that France wishes to establish an international money market in Paris, and her desire to accumulate a large stock of gold is doubtless closely related to this project.

Had the conditions in New York continued into the autumn, it is difficult to say what the Bank rate here might have been forced up to, but, as you all know, the stock markets in America completely collapsed in the autumn, and with the collapse went all the great demand for money. The Bank rate here immediately became effective, and we soon heard of gold beginning to come back to London, with a corresponding fall in our discount rates.

What I am saying is all very elementary, but, looking back, it is interesting to see very clearly the cause and effect of conditions that gave us a good deal of thought at the time.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS AT HOME.

With regard to our own business, we have again been obliged to rely on Treasury bills to a great extent, owing to the scarcity of bank and trade paper. Our basic industries continue in a depressed condition, and it is difficult to take a definitely optimistic view. It may be said that coal is looking up in certain districts, and iron, steel, and shipping are probably in a rather better position than they were a year ago, but, on the other hand, the textile trade is worse now than it has ever been. This does not mean that great efforts are not being made to improve matters, but it does show that the process of regaining markets and of establishing new ones is a slow and tedious one.

The troubles that have occurred in London during the past few months in financial and Stock Exchange circles did not, fortunately, affect the discount market, so that there is no necessity to refer to these matters in dealing with our affairs.

The figures issued by the Clearing House are again interesting, the grand total being the enormous one of £44,896,677,000, being an increase of £692,000,000, or 1·5 per cent., over 1928 Unfortunately, the provincial clearings, as distinguished from the town and metropolitan clearings, give some indication of the depression in trade. The total for Bradford shows a heavy decline of 13·3 per cent., Liverpool 5·6 per cent., Manchester 4·8 per cent., and Birmingham 3·6 per cent. The combined total clearing of the eleven provincial centres amounted to £1,599,213,000, a decline of 4·4 per cent.

FEATURES OF THE ACCOUNTS.

If you will turn now for a moment to the balance sheet and profit and loss account in your hands you will notice that the total at £26,067,119 is some £3,700,000 lower than last year, which is largely accounted for by the decrease in our holding of Government securities. Early in the year, owing to the uncertainty of the outlook and the rapid fall in the Bank of England's gold stock, we thought it wise to reduce our holdings considerably and after-events have proved that this policy was fully justified.

The figure of bills rediscounted is also a good deal lower than that of last year. This is due to the higher rates of discount ruling in London during 1929; the average rate having been £5 4s. 4d., against £4 2s. 10d. in 1928. This higher rate undoubtedly discouraged borrowers from making use of London acceptance credits; in fact, those interested in business with France experienced credit arrangements for franc bills to be discounted in France instead of sterling bills in London, owing to the cheaper rates ruling in the former country.

The consequence was that fewer commercial bills came forward for discount, which, together with the cessation of Continental demand during the last few weeks of the year, accounts for the drop in the figure in the accounts before you.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

Our gross profits are practically the same as last year, and, after providing for the dividends and bonus at the same rate as in recent years, we are able to increase the carry forward by about £5,000 at £53,089. Taking the balance sheet as a whole, it discloses a very liquid position, and I venture to think that it is the strongest one that your directors have been privileged to submit to you.

Once again we are greatly indebted to Mr. Newcomb and his staff for the skilful way in which they have handled the affairs of the company in a year which was by no means an easy one to deal with.

THE RESOLUTION.

If anybody has any questions to ask before I propose the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer them. I now beg to propose "That the report and accounts be received, adopted and entered on the minutes, and that dividends for the half-year ended December 31st last be declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the £200,000 preference capital, and at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the £575,000 ordinary capital, both less income tax, and a bonus of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, free of tax, payable on and after the 23rd instant, and that the balance of £53,089 10s. 10d. be carried forward to next account."

Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E.: I have great pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman: If there are no questions, I shall put that resolution to the meeting. Those in favour will please hold up their hands; on the contrary; that is carried unanimously. The next resolution concerns myself.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

Sir Austin Harris: I beg to move "That Mr Colin Frederick Campbell and Mr George Cleverly Alexander be re-elected directors of the company."

Mr Eric Gore Browne, D.S.O.: I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The Chairman: Those in favour; on the contrary; carried unanimously. Then we have to confirm the appointment of

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Mr Frank Newcomb as a director. I have much pleasure in proposing that.

Mr G. C. Alexander: I have great pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman: Those in favour; on the contrary; carried unanimously. I will now ask someone on the other side of the table to move the reappointment of the auditors.

Mr E. D. Spring-Rice: I have pleasure in moving the reappointment of Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company as auditors.

Mr E. B. Baggallay: I should like to second that. I presume it is at the same remuneration as before.

The Chairman: Yes. That has been proposed and seconded. Those in favour; on the contrary; carried unanimously. That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes our business.

The proceedings then terminated.

UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

REVIEW OF MONETARY CONDITIONS.

FAVOURABLE RESULTS.

The seventy-second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Union Discount Company of London, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr Archibald A. Jamieson presided.

The secretary (Mr C. W. Holliday) read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report.

The chairman, after referring to the death of Sir Robert Balfour, Bart., said: I shall now run over the various items in the accounts. Our capital and reserve remain at three millions, the same as in 1928. Our loans, deposits and other liabilities and provision for contingencies at December 31, 1929, were £45,591,127, compared with £45,875,810 in 1928.

Our bills re-discounted were £12,310,529, as against £15,634,655 in 1928. This is a decline of about 3¼ millions, although the stock of bills on hand was a record—£40,263,578. This compares with £39,207,884 in 1928. The rebate on bills discounted showed an increase—£634,033, compared with £585,004 in 1928. Cash on hand, you will see, on December 31, 1929, was £1,328,876.

Our holding of British Government short-term securities, Exchequer bonds, Treasury bonds and other short-dated gilt-edged securities was lower in 1929 than it was in 1928—£7,629,621, as against £8,963,231. Loans on securities, £208,767, compares with £123,230 in 1928. The bills discounted figures were £52,574,107, compared with £54,842,539 in 1928.

DIVIDEND, BONUS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Out of the year's profits, £10,000, you will observe, it is proposed should be used in reduction of freehold and leasehold premises account, now standing in the balance-sheet at £90,000. We ask you to sanction this, and to authorise the allocation of £10,000 again this year to the trustees of the staff provident fund. An interim dividend was paid last July of 15 per cent. per annum, less income tax, and we now ask you to confirm this, also to give us your authority to pay a final dividend to December 31st last at the same rate of 15 per cent. per annum, less income tax, and, in addition, a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of tax, for 1929.

If these suggested appropriations are authorised, there will remain a balance of £269,291 19s. 8d. to be carried forward to the 1930 accounts. The gross profits for 1929, after making provision for contingencies, were £977,122 6s. 1d., compared with £909,203 9s. 11d. in 1928. These were our company's results for 1929, and I think you will agree, keeping in mind the state of credit all over the world—and your company's interests are of necessity of an international character—that these results were favourable.

The chief factor of the financial year 1929 which affected the London discount market was speculation in Wall Street and its effect on European bank rates.

STOCK EXCHANGE SPECULATION IN U.S.A.

The prosperity of the United States of America is essential to world prosperity. A prosperous world is not possible without good trade conditions across the Atlantic, but unsound speculation based upon this prosperity has ramifications which affect the rest of the world.

While the collapse of the Stock Exchange speculative orgy, with its fantastic price-levels, has removed a nightmare and menace to the trade of the world, we all hope that the inevitable progress of the United States of America will continue on lines that will not again injuriously affect the credit systems and price-levels of all other countries.

When the richest country in the world, in search of funds for Stock Exchange speculation, competes abroad and bids higher rates for money than those current there, it must be only a question of time when such action will prove disadvantageous not only to the lenders, but to the borrowers as well. Fortunately this danger has disappeared for the present, but it is by no means certain that it may not return again.

Speculative excesses are common and periodic. In the past, their consequences have been confined almost entirely to the countries in which they occurred. Nowadays, through the interdependence and closer relationship of nations, these outbreaks of excessive speculation tend to become wider in range and more injurious in their results, and the demand for funds to finance such an excess in a country of great world importance must have its reactions throughout the world.

By means of the gold standard money is an easily transferable thing; it can be functioning to-day in London, to-morrow in New York, and the next day in Berlin. Movements of this kind affect rates of exchange and gold stocks.

One nation can injure another by damaging its economic structure Such damage may be equally devastating as war in its results on other nations who, because of its insidious form, are only vaguely conscious of the cause of their adversity, and this condition may come about without any desire or intention to harm, but through lack of understanding and neglect of the responsibility which all the great nations upon the gold standard must bear to one another. The right and wise control by nations of gold itself is a matter of concern to every man, woman and child in every country though few are aware of it.

CONSEQUENCES OF SPECULATION.

The consequences of the recent speculation have not been confined to the citizens of the United States. In Europe, bank rates have had to be put up, and money has had to be borrowed by Governments at abnormal rates. Trade has suffered for the same reason, more especially in those countries where unemployment is so large and tending upwards.

All thoughtful persons welcome every international effort to reduce expenditure on armaments and to promote peace and economy among the nations. Nowadays, the futility of war and its injury to all are generally recognised by mankind. Is it not probable that, under modern conditions of international intimacy, there is a danger of an injury to mankind which arises in a more subtle manner, but which in its ultimate effect may be as injurious as war itself?

If the facts have been fairly stated, it is obvious that the reduction of world expenditure on armaments is not only matter of grave international importance that calls for consideration and settlement by the representatives of the great nations.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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.....

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND LIMITED.

PERIOD OF ABNORMAL CONDITIONS.

CONDITIONS IN FREE STATE AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

MR. RICHARD D. TROTTER'S REVIEW.

The 105th annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Ltd., was held, on January 22nd, at the head office of the bank, No. 8, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C., Mr Richard D. Trotter (the chairman) presided, and the other directors present were: Mr John C. D. Carlisle; the Hon. Sir William H. Goschen, K.B.E.; Mr Robert A. Gradwell, Mr. Henry S. H. Guinness, Mr Edward R. D. Hoare, and Mr Alexander B. Leslie-Melville.

The secretary (Mr Hume Robertson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The report has been in your hands for some days, and you will, I hope, as usual, kindly take it as read.

During the half-year we have lost the services of a very valued colleague in the person of Mr Walter S. M. Burns, who died last month. His wide experience and judgment had been brought to the deliberations of our board for the past fifteen years. We are happy in having secured as his successor Mr Edward R. D. Hoare, whose association with us revives an old connection. His election will come before you later for confirmation.

ABNORMAL CONDITIONS.

Our report covers a period of abnormal conditions which have disturbed trade and finance in Great Britain and throughout the world. The past half-year has been one of considerable difficulty and strain for bankers all over the world, and the closing months have been shadowed by Stock Exchange troubles, which have not yet been entirely surmounted. We do not here concern ourselves with any review of international affairs, but a year that has witnessed five changes in the Bank rate in this country, and a similar number of movements in the Irish Bank rate, must be noted as one of the most eventful since the war.

Although the gross figures of our assets and liabilities do not show appreciable change, the individual items mark fluctuations which invite comment. The net profit for the half-year, while maintaining the level recorded at June last, is lower by £11,200 when compared with the corresponding period of 1928, and is given in the balance sheet at £50,794. I may explain that this is not due to any special reverse in the normal course of our business, and has no connection with the unpleasant developments which have brought the names of various concerns into prominence during recent months. It is our experience that a period of high rates, such as we have had for the greater part of the last half-year, is not advantageous for profits in our business.

NEW CURRRENCY ARRANGEMENTS.

I referred last year to the adverse effect that we anticipated the new currency arrangements in the Irish Free State would have upon our profits. The new conditions have been in operation since May last, and our fears of diminished profits from our circulation have been confirmed. You will see that our notes in issue at 31st ultimo stood at £921,677 against £1,046,863 a year ago, but I have explained on previous occasions that the figures in this connection are not now strictly comparable owing to the changes that have occurred in the working of the circulation of the banks of issue in the Irish Free State under the Currency Act of 1927. In terms of the Act redemption is still proceeding of notes issued by this and other banks under the Act of 1845, and in the Free State these notes and British currency and Bank of England notes are being replaced by our new local issues. This loss of circulation has been accompanied by a large increase in the duty we are called upon to pay in the Irish Free State.

LARGE CASH RESOURCES.

Continuing our analysis of the balance sheet, it is gratifying to note that our deposits show steady expansion as compared with the two previous half-years; and advances at £6,760,000 mark an increase of about £26,000 on the figures for the corresponding period of 1928. Having regard to prevailing conditions, it has been considered prudent to keep our cash resources at a high level, and our total of cash and Treasury bills, at £3,849,000, compares with £2,479,900 a year ago. On the other hand, you will note that investments at £6,189,000 are lower by £1,394,000. As regards the values of the majority of securities, the year has no doubt been one rather of adjustment and reaction, but I can renew the assurance you have had from time to time that the market value of the bank's investments is in excess of the figures at which they appear in our balance sheet. The proportion of liquid assets to liabilities remains at 63 per cent.

After provision for the dividend at the rate of 14½ per cent. per annum, you will note the application of £10,000 to reserve raises the fund to £640,000, which brings us to £100,000 in excess of our paid-up capital of £540,000, and the credit of £10,000 to premises account leaves the total for a time below £200,000, but our expenditure on premises has to be carried further, as certain outlays on buildings are still pending.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

Reports concerning harvest results have been generally favourable from all parts of Ireland, harvesting operations having been conducted under highly satisfactory conditions. While the yield in the case of most crops has been exceptionally abundant, the net results to growers who realised have meant but a narrow margin of profit. Improved conditions of pasturage are producing better yields of milk, and better finish of live stock, the trade in which has shown improvement, especially in the cross-Channel demand for store cattle of suitable quality and condition. The herds throughout Ireland have been happily free from disease, and the export trade has been conducted without interruption. The shipments of cattle from Irish ports show an important increase for last year, with improved prices in recent months, and official returns continue to show increasing numbers for the holdings of live stock both in Free State and Northern Ireland. The importance of the trade is indicated by the total of 883,400 animals shipped during the year.

LINEN TRADE IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

In Northern Ireland we find that a hopeful spirit still pervades the linen trade, and is encouraged by the lower costs of production following reduced prices for raw material, but the benefits which may be expected from the activities of the Linen Guild and of the delegation to the United States and to Canada have probably not yet fully developed, owing to the disturbed financial conditions on the American Continent. There are indications that good results may yet be reached by closer co-operation in certain branches of the trade, and the efforts to accomplish this are, I believe, still progressing.

The Government de-rating schemes in the North of Ireland have brought substantial benefit to the linen trade through relief of rates and a lessening of certain overhead charges, and the remission of rates for textile factories must also prove advantageous. The assistance afforded to the agricultural community through the de-rating of farms will doubtless soon be reflected in improved conditions.

This brief reference to Northern Ireland would, however, be incomplete if I omitted to express gratification at the largely increased output last year in the shipbuilding yards of the City of Belfast. We hope the record for the current year will be equally satisfactory.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY.

During recent months the Government of the Irish Free State has had the good fortune to see the commencement of the supply of electricity from the great electrical works on the banks of the River Shannon. The prospects of the ultimate success of this most enterprising if costly undertaking are, I believe, very encouraging. We must look upon it as evidence of the progressive spirit animating the Government of the Free State. It will be of interest to you to know that at practically all points where the Electricity Supply Board have the current available for us, we are gradually completing the lighting installation of our premises.

Speaking generally, I may say that the financial credit of the Free State is well maintained, and the prices of the loan issues stand high in the Dublin market. It is worthy of note, as an indication I would hope of expanding trade and of commercial development, that the registered tonnage of vessels entering the Port of Dublin last year reached a total of 2,340,000, an increase of 48,500 on the figures for 1928, being, with the exception of one year, a record in the long history of the port.

FACILITIES OFFERED TO CUSTOMERS.

I am glad to be in a position to report that our customers and friends are making a steadily increasing use of the facilities we are now able to afford them through our income tax recovery offices, our trustee and executor department and our foreign exchange organisations. It is pleasant to find that these auxiliary features in our business activities are valued by our supporters, and their introduction into our official routine being justified by results

and by the developing interest of those whom we are in a position to assist.

The position of chief officer in Ireland recently became vacant through the retirement of Mr Samuel D. Budd, who had filled the office through the past 10½ years, which, as you know, have covered a memorable and strenuous time in our history. We part regretfully with the services of one whose conspicuous ability and devotion to duty had marked his career for fifty-seven years, and rendered him a valued officer, whose counsels have been of great service to the board.

Owing to advancing years Mr Budd relinquished the arduous duties which for so many years devolved upon him, and has taken with him our most cordial good wishes for the years to come, which we trust may be many and happy.

NEW CHIEF OFFICER IN IRELAND.

In his successor, Mr Bradshaw, we have an officer who has qualified for advancement by the successful discharge of duty in various capacities, and who brings to his responsible office an extensive knowledge of the bank and its affairs.

I will close my remarks by expressing the appreciation of the board of the work of the inspectors, the managers and the staff at London and throughout the branches.

I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors and relative balance-sheet of the affairs of the bank as at December 31, 1929, already in the hands of the proprietors, be adopted." I will ask Sir William Goschen to second this.

The Hon. Sir William H. Goschen, K.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed the re-election of the directors retiring by rotation, Mr John C. D. Carlisle and Mr J. Harold Pim, F.C.A., which was seconded by Mr A. B. Leslie-Melville and unanimously approved.

The confirmation of the election of Mr Edward Ralphe Douro Hoare as a director of the bank was also unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr Charles Sebag Montefiore, seconded by Mr Edward C. Steward, the auditors, Mr Stuart R. Cooper, F.C.A., and Mr G. Brock, F.C.A., were reappointed.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS.

Mr Charles Sebag Montefiore: Mr Chairman and gentlemen, Before we part I should like from this side of the table to take the opportunity—an opportunity which I have been looking forward to and hoping for—of expressing on behalf of the shareholders an appreciation of our thanks both to you, sir, as chairman, and to your colleagues on the board. The interest with which we have listened to your explanation of the figures in the balance sheet, and also the note of optimism in your speech as regards the outlook of affairs in Ireland tend perhaps to make us forget that this is the result of a year of very hard work and careful supervision in our interests. As you have rightly said, sir, it has been a very difficult year in the City of London for all bankers, and we must count ourselves very fortunate that we have you, sir, as chairman and your colleagues on the board to look after our interests and the interests of the bank, and to give us as satisfactory a statement as you have done to-day. Without delaying you further, I would like o propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors for the careful regard they have had to our interests and for the way in which they have managed the bank during the past year.

Mr W. H. Corker seconded the vote, which was cordially approved.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended January 18, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	7,950	From Revenue	18,682
Interest, &c., on Debt	753	Decrease in Balances	19
Sinking Fund	615		
Sundries	93		
Decrease in Debt	9,290		
	18,701		18,701

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £18,681,500, as compared with £18,098,000. Income tax was higher at £9,903,000, against £8,921,000, but super tax was lower at £1,860,000, against £2,240,000. Customs and Excise brought in £1,547,000 and £6,565,000, as compared with £1,310,000, and £7,186,000 respectively. Ordinary receipts amounted to £29,000, against £91,000, and special receipts to £10,000, against nil last year. The National Debt was reduced by £19,289,700, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Public Dept. Advances	+ 3,950	Treasury Bills	— 26,739
5% Conversion Loan	+ 11,850		
National Savings Certificates	+ 150		
Sundries	+ 1,500		
	+ 17,450		— 26,739

The Floating Debt was reduced by £22,795,000 to £795,640,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30, APRIL 1 TO JANUARY 18.

	£		£
Expenditure	620,441,037	Revenue	472,089,224
		Decreases in balance	3,324,080
		Amount borrowed	145,027,733
	620,441,037		620,441,037

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 18, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	183
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	600
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	757
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	38
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,658
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,768

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Jan. 19, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Jan. 18, '30.	Movement Week ended Jan. 18, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	25,540,000	37,050,000	37,930,000	+ 3,950,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	763,125,000	700,295,000	757,710,000*	— 26,745,000
Total Floating Debt	788,665,000	737,345,000	795,640,000	— 22,795,000

* Includes £19,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on January 17, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £40,730,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 0s. 5d., and above in full; Tuesday, at £99, and above in full; Wednesday to Saturday, at £99 0s. 2d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £28,125,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Nov. 15	45,000,000	71,555,000	5 9 2·92
Nov. 22	45,000,000	65,485,000	4 16 8·14
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Jan. 18, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Jan. 19, 1929.	Week Ended Jan. 18, 1930.	Week Ended Jan. 19, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—					
Income Tax	239,500,000	99,578,000	99,305,000	9,903,000	8,921,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	22,040,000	22,920,000	1,860,000	2,240,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	61,440,000	62,940,000	1,180,000	1,050,000
Stamps	31,000,000	18,180,000	21,730,000	200,000	200,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	630,000	...	50,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	270,000	250,000	80,000	60,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	201,518,000	207,775,000	13,223,000	12,521,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	96,393,000	95,784,000	1,547,000	1,310,000
Excise	130,550,000	106,435,000	112,916,000	6,565,000	7,186,000
Total *Customs and Excise*	250,400,000	202,828,000	208,700,000	8,112,000	8,496,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,149,468	3,248,067	*D3436000*	*D3410000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	8,800,000	8,200,000	450,000	400,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,010,000	920,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,302,387	21,721,269	294,000	...
Miscellaneous:					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,547,856	12,083,474	28,542	90,960
Special Receipts	26,000,000	19,933,513	30,301,746	10,000	...
Total Ordinary Revenue.	746,300,000	472,089,224	492,949,556	18,681,542	18,097,960
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	45,400,000	43,900,000	850,000	800,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	13,946,532	13,715,933	4,676,000	4,096,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	59,346,532	57,615,933	5,526,000	4,896,000
Total		531,435,756	550,565,489	24,207,542	22,993,960
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	1,500,000	2,825,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,760,000	9,070,000	380,000	560,000
(c) For other Issues:					
By Treasury Bills		2,521,308,000	2,176,900,000	36,106,000	43,565,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944-64		104,250,280	...	11,850,000	...
By National Savings Certificates		31,600,000	31,650,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933-35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34		26,300,972	4,610,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances		562,410,000	476,580,000	18,770,000	12,890,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		120,054	122,717	...	...
		3,794,252,979	3,355,387,913	93,813,542	83,833,960
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	1929. £	1928. £			
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total			3,800,505,503	3,361,710,538	93,813,542	83,833,960

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 18, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 19, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Jan. 18, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Jan. 19, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	281,956,914	279,915,796	752,811	905,026
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	7,736,185	8,563,890	50,000	50,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	3,639,424	3,197,396	43,426	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,581,108	1,874,250	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	367,534,000	286,624,628	271,301,502	7,950,000	8,300,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	696,034,000	582,538,259	564,852,834	8,796,237	9,255,026
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	37,902,778	42,026,992	615,000	505,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	45,400,000	43,900,000	850,000	800,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	13,946,532	13,715,933	4,676,000	4,096,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	59,346,532	57,615,933	5,526,000	4,896,000
TOTAL		679,787,569	664,495,759	14,937,237	14,656,026

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 18, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 19, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Jan. 18, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Jan. 19, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,760,000	9,070,000	380,000	560,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	8,150,000	8,050,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920-28	2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed				
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	2,463,850,000	1,940,735,000	62,845,000	68,560,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	35,850,000	32,950,000	850,000	800,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	82,762,476	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	29,409,505	...	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,206	...	700	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	561,530,000	612,890,000	14,820,000	7,290,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-08—				
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000	...	...
	3,797,577,059	3,358,934,645	93,832,937	83,866,026

Balances in Exchequer—	Jan. 18, 1930. £	Jan. 19, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,061,273	2,023,966	...	...	— 145,395	+ 166,065
Bank of Ireland	867,171	751,327	2,928,444	2,775,893	+ 126,000	+ 133,999
Total			3,800,505,503	3,361,710,538	— 19,395	— 32,066

Treasury, January 20, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, January 22, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	346,399,540	Other Government Securities	233,650,589
In Banking Department	64,658,935	Other Securities	10,856,940
		Silver Coin	4,478,371
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	151,058,475
	£411,058,475		£411,058,475

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	57,665,615
Rest	3,545,509	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	29,151,416	Discounts and Advances ... £5,779,566	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 14,878,876	
Bankers ... £59,948,356			20,658,442
Other Accounts 36,011,972	95,960,328	Notes	64,658,935
7-Day and other Bills	3,239	Gold and Silver Coin	230,500
	£143,213,492		£143,213,492

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Jan. 22, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	346,399,540	— 5,543,375	— 8,966,866
Public deposits	29,151,416	+ 4,340,581	+ 12,300,922
Bankers' deposits	59,948,356	— 4,409,779	— 893,509
Other deposits	36,011,972	— 407,043	— 1,468,721
Seven-day bills	3,239	+ 790	+ 667
Total, outside liabilities	471,514,523	— 6,018,826	+ 971,493
Capital and rest	18,098,509	+ 21,162	— 12,871
Government debt and securities	302,331,304	— 4,022,269	+ 7,996,414
Discounts and advances	5,779,566	— 3,892,338	— 4,984,004
Other securities	25,734,816	+ 1,271,333	+ 501,617
Silver coin in issue department	4,478,371	+ 10,976	— 501,418
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	151,288,975	+ 634,634	— 2,053,987
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	64,889,435	+ 6,178,009	+ 6,912,879
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	51 11/16%	+ 5 11/16%	+ 11%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	32½%	+ 11/16%	— 11/16%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 4	393,725,605	361,085,989	8,002,907	58,620,463	37,497,753	995,323 out	5½
11	397,006,947	365,158,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,277,426 in	5½
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,342,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 4	244744435	10431977	134269209	60428618	9622606	18730735	33183220	31 11/16
11	244234017	10942367	13743418	60663618	8827605	19470351	32276330	31 7/16
18	244248529	10929370	140734339	65143618	10629732	20565519	29036211	27
26	244637515	10841360	146027587	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746	22 1/16
1930.								
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165	22 13/16
8	245098463	10431484	149214869	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097	36
15	245102958	10429647	150654341	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426	46 3/16
22	244665689	10855940	151288975	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435	51 1/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to January 8	935,854	53,401	85,691	1,074,946
Week ended January 15	828,940	39,224	62,927	931,091
Week ended January 22	692,074	37,510	60,870	790,454
Total to date, 1930	2,456,868	130,135	209,488	2,796,491
Total, 1929	2,775,406	136,590	218,157	3,130,153
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 318,538	− 6,455	− 8,669	− 333,662
	= 11·5%	= 4·7%	= 4·0%	= 10·6%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1.6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of December. 1928.	Month of December. 1929.	Month of December. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to January 18. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to January 18. 1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,892,000	10,651,000	−10·4	7,598,100	7,937,700
BRADFORD	5,547,000	4,456,000	−19·6	...	...
BRISTOL	4,642,000	4,798,000	+ 3·3	3,686,000	3,151,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	17,292,900	16,939,000
HULL	3,571,000	3,437,000	− 3·7	2,806,600	2,554,400
LEEDS	3,903,000	3,908,000	+ 0·1	3,193,600	3,122,000
LEICESTER	3,772,000	3,159,000	−16·2	2,666,700	2,455,500
LIVERPOOL	32,836,000	30,798,000	− 6·2	25,894,800	20,605,100
MANCHESTER	58,622,000	52,931,000	− 9·7	36,721,900	32,682,600
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,643,000	6,199,000	−28·2	3,916,500	3,654,300
NOTTINGHAM	2,491,000	2,566,000	+ 3·0	2,158,400	2,102,000
SHEFFIELD	3,612,000	4,043,000	+11·9	3,193,300	3,068,400
Total	139,531,000	126,946,000	− 9·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Denmark and Portugal appeared in the *Economist* of January 11; Roumania, Russia and Chile in January 18.

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

Resources.	Jan. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,648,090	2,857,050	2,929,350	2,961,050	2,975,220
Total bills discounted	782,110	632,420	567,620	442,340	433,220
Bills bought in open market	54,220	392,210	319,170	323,350	298,390
Total U.S. Govt. securities	202,030	510,590	484,840	479,060	476,660
Total bills and securities	1,447,390	1,547,520	1,384,320	1,259,620	1,222,800
Total resources	5,125,190	5,458,450	5,320,280	5,314,670	5,202,160
Liabilities.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,660,970	1,909,720	1,836,850	1,782,370	1,739,240
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,358,860	2,355,260	2,367,250	2,357,650	2,359,800
Total deposits	2,397,090	2,413,680	2,422,300	2,403,880	2,414,980
Capital paid in and surplus	402,750	447,910	447,300	448,040	448,190
Total liabilities	5,125,190	5,458,450	5,320,280	5,314,670	5,202,160
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	69·3%	69·6%	72·9%	75·4%	76·3%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Jan. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Total bills discounted	153,160	171,760	131,180	70,630	89,650
Bills bought in open market	120,440	191,750	152,340	150,700	117,240
Total U.S. Govt. securities	27,290	239,210	215,260	213,180	210,800
Total bills and securities	300,890	609,860	506,320	444,360	427,220
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	915,510	985,790	956,070	969,550	952,250
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	80·0%	60·5%	67·4%	71·6%	73·0%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Oct. 31, 1928.	July 31, 1929.	Aug. 31, 1929.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.
Cash and bank balances	515,921	433,058	420,887	482,136	537,665
Bank balances abroad	72,986	136,482	85,411	81,445	121,999
Call and short loans	545,649	577,466	584,130	594,187	520,619
Securities	495,064	469,552	461,926	487,498	487,481
Loans in Canada	1,344,972	1,439,491	1,465,385	1,529,239	1,596,233
Loans abroad	249,067	244,941	238,674	235,119	241,866
Other assets	198,496	195,404	195,896	205,278	204,832
Liabilities.					
Note circulation	190,304	170,113	189,571	196,895	185,086
Deposits—					
Government	139,325	198,612	146,541	158,528	204,003
Public in Canada	2,228,453	2,146,060	2,125,659	2,229,990	2,255,814
Foreign	356,389	431,485	425,742	423,803	423,146
Bank balances—					
Canadian	17,765	12,443	13,080	14,433	24,410
Foreign	86,302	106,975	115,514	133,948	162,448
Bills payable, &c.	116,002	104,538	99,462	117,664	117,704
Capital and rest	256,831	292,942	294,632	296,287	298,704
Other liabilities	4,698	5,418	7,610	4,862	6,256

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

Assets.	Dec. 28, 1928.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27 1929.
Gold coin and bullion	8,070	7,879	7,679	7,715	7,368	7,495
Subsidiary coin	78	85	78	80	88	87
Bills discounted	10,063	8,386	7,963	7,863	8,980	9,733
Investments	673	851	596	612	612	619
Liabilities.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,487	9,270	8,909	8,433	8,496	9,173
Government deposits	2,897	1,714	1,031	1,522	1,949	1,839
Bankers' deposits	5,001	4,695	4,759	4,691	4,883	4,755
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	45·5%	48·9%	50·5%	50·8%	47·4%	45·0%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 28, 1928.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.
Total securities	21,78,89	32,87,38	33,01,51	33,28,31	33,26,69	33,19,67
Loans	21,38,00	7,43,23	7,46,99	7,49,52	6,86,45	7,09,53
Cash credits	26,67,10	22,82,89	22,56,72	23,38,47	23,68,97	25,29,18
Inland bills	12,37,21	5,10,34	5,25,25	5,71,94	6,24,43	5,73,44
Foreign bills	39,93	34,55	38,43	33,07	34,79	29,54
Dead stock	2,84,04	2,84,35	2,83,96	2,84,09	2,83,69	2,83,18
Bal. with other banks	11,66	4,08	24,56	2,56	18,46	3,14
Cash	11,21,64	24,18,88	18,93,55	16,38,71	15,77,11	15,29,18
Liabilities.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,17,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits	78,37,49	83,85,00	78,79,25	77,73,21	77,00,33	77,75,01
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	932	908	1,050	913	979	820
Advances in London	909	946	898	952	891	843
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	90	27	179	20	138	26

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 18, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.
Gold	33,983,468	41,668,420	42,433,625	42,458,382	42,736,925
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,936,638	7,249,143	7,098,821	7,201,903	7,046,119
Bills discounted	18,617,974	18,705,367	18,738,391	18,729,297	18,715,727
Commercial bills discounted at home	3,993,641	8,611,951	7,849,651	6,675,522	6,579,214
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552
Other advances	2,243,936	2,521,380	2,688,760	2,586,240	2,519,213
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,319,287	2,429,983	3,093,863	3,268,114	...
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	62,442,972	68,570,806	70,288,004	69,346,770	68,688,313
Public deposits	12,398,529	11,737,412	11,076,291	11,304,195	10,915,131
Private deposits	6,341,444	7,295,726	6,675,164	6,369,139	7,016,071
Other liabilities	1,936,369	2,366,395	2,675,204	2,710,907	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,282	2,283,116	2,283,832	2,283,777
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	156,208	403,587	403,824	397,672
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,657,162	2,848,393	2,393,731	1,893,771
Silver and other coin	117,667	89,111	107,016	139,601
Notes of other German banks	24,867	3,979	13,063	18,710
Advances	55,681	250,630	51,224	67,859
Investments	92,260	92,469	92,608	92,602
Other assets	561,694	563,167	581,883	578,468
Liabilities.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,080,428	5,043,677	4,604,679	4,187,045
Other daily maturing obligations	609,839	755,170	584,513	543,353
Other liabilities	297,561	293,209	295,593	299,674

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Jan. 17, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.
Gold	(b) 232,650	905,010	1,175,184	1,175,149	1,175,182	1,175,516
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad		546,059	577,709	613,104	591,147	567,339
Silver and other coin		1,836	*	*	*	2,466
Securities	697,600	648,954	816,110	869,497	826,389	809,472
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,365,871	2,684,922	2,786,611	2,777,744	2,750,148
Current accounts	112,125	100,474	190,491	196,896	157,296	137,177

(b) In thousand francs.
* The Bank, having drawn up its half-yearly balance sheet on Dec. 26, has not published all the figures usually shown in the weekly return.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30,1914.	Jan. 14, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Jan. 6, 1930.	Jan. 13, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,544	447,472	447,465	447,455	447,455
Silver	8,436	22,019	25,451	24,374	24,129	24,129
Home Bills discnted.	153,504	80,632	59,310	70,683	72,648	72,648
Foreign Bills		220,227	218,703	219,861	219,271	219,271
Loans and advances in current acct.		97,406	94,072	110,999	94,175	94,175
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	812,742	823,353	852,023	845,978	845,978
Deposits	5,016	49,730	29,292	33,328	23,509	23,509

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914	Jan. 19, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan.11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.
Gold	22,971	159,662	168,800	168,700	168,100	167,400
Silver	29,785	23,101				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	153,106	152,500	156,800	157,600	148,800
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	304,504	288,800	291,000	292,100	286,200
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	63,882	39,500	38,600	37,700	36,100

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold	171,175	482,139	581,832	594,987	595,005	580,530
Silver	18,350	44,619	26,060	23,551	23,189	23,159
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	276,605	307,468	352,989	355,765	362,434
Discounts	...	146,391	120,078	149,367	129,656	107,192
Advances	103,000	59,351	61,639	75,091	69,760	51,844
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	814,012	945,908	999,185	912,310	851,326
Deposits	33,750	183,620	124,575	200,381	245,549	264,790

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,051,900	5,189,400	5,189,400	5,190,200	5,190,100
Foreign bills and balances abroad	6,008,400	5,166,900	5,149,700	5,140,800	5,147,000
Other cash	97,700	198,100	203,100	203,900	197,500
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,721,100	3,887,100	3,864,000	3,864,600	4,318,400
Advances	1,761,000	1,306,300	1,182,000	1,277,400	1,800,700
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,179,900	896,900	896,900	896,900	896,900
Government securities	1,040,700	1,106,100	1,057,500	1,069,700	1,074,000
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	17,291,800	16,828,200	16,593,800	16,595,000	16,916,900
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,244,900	1,425,100	1,463,600	1,571,800	1,676,600
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·76%	55·82%	56·32%	55·94%	54·71%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 19, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.
Gold	235,737	244,659	244,629	244,480	244,446
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,740	22,740	22,140	22,140
" " Foreign	73,774	51,896	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	162	162
Bills payable in Sweden†	226,759	262,890	259,981	229,101	211,557
" " abroad	69,711	110,172	113,821	128,330	128,146
Balance abroad	54,887	104,181	96,005	58,411	57,833
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	66,503	53,524	61,962	48,408	43,839
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	449,612	539,393	542,586	495,772	479,834
Government deposits	235,257	259,319	245,666	226,715	216,597
Private deposits	6,555	8,042	20,481	12,402	8,588

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,868	146,651	146,639	146,632
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	38,673	58,472	48,790	36,283
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,233	26,956	26,934	26,903
Discounts and loans	76,911	259,352	239,660	230,004	228,285
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	297,952	317,722	306,385	297,321
Deposits at sight	7,188	81,086	87,944	78,163	73,782

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

Assets.	Position, May30,1914.	Jan. 19, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,183	2,565,942	2,565,876	2,566,013	2,566,112
Silver	728,600	703,000	705,053	702,531	703,698	707,484
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,985,983	2,313,805	2,370,114	2,288,627	2,209,221
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Liabilities.						
Circulation	901,550	4,348,892	4,432,554	4,490,360	4,484,145	4,444,055
Deposits	477,500	989,084	929,536	1,014,077	1,004,355	976,394

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	201,766	233,859	334,169	323,712	308,251
Other foreign exchange†	365,203	331,925	237,714	221,690	203,010
Bills discounted	155,653	288,198	305,634	280,976	230,763
Gov. Debt	116,118	109,438	108,649	108,604	108,604
Liabilities.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	893,758	1,013,224	1,094,362	991,545	903,701
Deposits	116,991	121,127	63,927	115,677	119,274

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	201,083	162,749	162,749	162,750	162,750
Drafts and notes	55,571	38,729	39,092	25,421	9,684
Silver coin and bullion	790	8,382	7,911	8,013	8,922
Inland bills, warrants and securities	325,726	292,334	329,494	295,229	271,416
Advances to the Treasury	97,210	88,551	87,543	87,506	87,506
Liabilities.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	418,108	427,056	500,599	440,505	399,188
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	253,893	135,928	98,263	111,940	114,610

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,205,752	1,258,373	1,258,398	1,261,441	1,261,547
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,285,766	2,174,873	2,269,505	2,242,367	2,201,968
Discounts and advances	333,456	903,593	1,010,915	685,392	482,933
State notes debt balance	4,090,420	3,774,466	3,761,082	3,754,137	3,745,351
Other assets	1,217,199	1,085,232	1,390,628	1,242,116	973,346
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,856,131	7,362,350	8,229,512	7,264,748	6,577,120
Check account balances	1,516,242	1,024,403	674,845	1,163,803	1,324,368
Other liabilities	321,673	337,190	313,577	276,480	283,235

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 22, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold	91,114	95,315	95,470	95,541	95,607
Other coin and notes	17,867	18,982	18,890	18,976	18,517
Foreign credits	202,690	289,422	266,620	286,154	278,861
Bills	1,498,630	1,231,828	1,287,529	1,286,152	1,244,270
Government advances	4,201,109	4,191,377	4,153,085	4,153,088	4,153,088
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	5,271,215	5,551,415	5,817,966	5,784,364	5,554,192
State credits	227,825	205,900	205,900	205,903	205,903
Deposits	1,286,134	1,645,671	1,510,532	1,467,140	1,634,148

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 30, 1928.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.
Gold and silver holdings	1,493,823	1,555,465	1,557,246	1,557,904	1,568,488
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,266,662	1,318,273	1,246,019	1,165,444	1,307,140
Discounts and advances	1,261,462	1,583,300	1,478,404	1,726,627	1,401,811
Advances to the Treasury	3,781,215	3,505,368	3,505,368	3,505,367	3,505,367
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,149,402	1,152,223	1,184,355	1,192,384	1,201,185
Bank notes in circulation	4,173,017	3,900,280	3,694,228	3,552,729	3,608,643
Sight liabilities	3,424,549	2,143,848	2,160,669	2,152,120	2,231,281
Deposits	472,307	738,062	385,552	372,581	358,350

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Gold	554,426	637,035	638,108	639,648	641,018
Gold exchange	4,624,662	4,482,276	4,387,592	4,308,773	3,986,881
Other foreign exchange	1,910	2,007	1,594	2,266	2,393
Bills discounted	56,350	117,210	122,238	147,529	161,909
Advances	55,758	158,477	160,090	160,863	182,452
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,694,451	5,148,726	5,051,957	5,193,456	5,122,805
Deposits and current accounts	2,161,257	1,636,940	1,691,419	1,453,931	1,489,798
Foreign exchange liabilities	906,354	1,857,031	1,823,676	1,854,765	1,638,080

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 10, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Gold	621,120	682,584	682,637	700,517	700,592
Of which held abroad	195,402	161,726	161,726	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	695,880	521,161	520,570	526,148	506,981
Bills discounted	628,787	699,682	689,466	704,220	684,711
Loans against securities	89,286	79,898	79,874	82,909	80,744
Reserve fund securities	70,114	74,693	74,583	74,551	75,896
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Liabilities.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,190,460	1,285,837	1,261,424	1,340,263	1,215,102
Current accounts	587,428	479,250	495,084	467,855	538,314
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 14. 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Gold	35,091	304,425	302,321	301,916	301,895
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	753,045	657,480	666,419	692,459
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	291,788	344,470	345,557	323,008
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,556,000	1,382,048	1,430,114	1,381,659
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,513,213	1,354,725	1,388,135	1,360,626
Deposits at notice	21,225	456,861	159,991	200,340	198,341

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 7, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,380	6,379	6,385	6,408	6,430
Net foreign exchange	24,204	20,001	20,537	20,782	19,522
Subsidiary Estonian coin	1,071	503	325	462	546
Home bills discounted	14,358	15,111	15,341	14,484	14,371
Loans and advances	16,359	12,757	12,657	13,088	12,469
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	35,277	33,684	36,241	34,042	32,087
Sight deposits and current accounts	23,078	15,900	14,059	16,187	16,063
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·41%	53·20%	53·52%	54·13%	53·89%

* Includes Ekr. 8,491,687·30, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 15, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion...	2,735	2,743	3,068	2,738	3,000	2,747	3,332
Of which gold coin	7	10	10	10	12	12	12
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,728	2,733	3,058	2,728	2,988	2,735	3,320
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	12,323	15,801	14,011	15,596	12,895	16,660	10,922
Bills of exchange...	19,906	22,365	20,391	22,465	20,927	21,742	19,933
Loans	...	540	190	60	170	685	...
Foreign exchange	19,461	12,500	12,178	11,710	12,999	12,433	12,439
Other bals.on dem'd	472	1,014	1,260	809	995	798	979
Securities	3,448	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up...	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	33,043	38,199	33,723	38,121	34,130	37,797	31,180
Deposits on demand	2,574	1,744	2,155	998	1,824	3,398	1,800

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Dec. 29, 1928.	Dec. 7, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,113,052	1,124,540	1,121,988	1,118,709	1,114,645
Discounts.....	41,740	837,038	675,296	670,725	675,238	704,635
Advances	70,540	141,383	75,031	75,237	75,057	88,089
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,773,499	1,239,769	1,252,664	1,370,338	1,632,717
Govt. deposits	87,340	410,168	541,450	527,149	499,555	417,889
Other deposits	11,440	134,399	405,470	432,773	393,549	219,748

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Nov. 30, 1928.	Aug. 31, 1929.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.
Gold	1,571	3,845	4,745	3,724	3,757	3,801
Govt. securities ...	2,084	50,380	41,503	43,757	46,358	45,129
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	2,400	31,443	21,194	25,164	28,045	27,215
Govt. deposits ...	2,315	21,466	17,336	17,186	18,383	20,148
Other deposits ...	2,600	18,145	16,185	16,485	16,865	17,180

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

LONDON RATES.

	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 21, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5½% Dec. 12, 1929)	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4⅛–¼	4⅛–¼	4⅛	4⅛	4–4¼	4	4
3 months' do.	4⅛–¼	4–4¼	4	4	3⅛–4	3⅞–4	3⅞–4
4 months' do.	4⅛–¼	4–4¼	4	4	3⅛–4	3⅛–4	3⅞–4
6 months' do.	4⅛–¼	4⅛–¼	4	4	4	4	3⅞–4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	4⅛	4⅛–¼	4⅛	4⅛	4–4¼	4	4
3 months'‡	4⅛–¼	4–4¼	4	4	3⅛–4	3⅛	3⅞
Loans—Day to day.....	4	3⅞–4	3	2⅞–4	3⅞–4⅛	3⅞–4	3⅞–4
Short.....	4	4	4	4	4	3⅞–4	3⅞–4
Deposit allowances: Bank	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Discount houses at call ...	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1930. Jan. 2	4	4½–⅜	4½–⅜	4⅝	5	5½	5½ 6
9	4	4 –¼	4 –¼	4 ⅛	5	5½	5½ 6
16	4	4⅛–¼	4⅛–¼	4⅛–¼	5	5½	5½ 6
23	3⅝–4	3⅝ –⅛	3⅝ –⅛	3⅝ –⅛	5 5	5½	5½ 6

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Jan. 24, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·84⅛–85	4·86⅜–·86⅛	4·86⅛–·86⅜
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·85⅛–86	4·92⅜–·92½	4·92–·92⅛
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·⅛–¼	123·90–·93	123·90–·92
Berlin.....	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·40½–⅔	34·95½–·96	20·37–·37½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·09⅜–⅝	12·11–·11½	12·10⅜–·11
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·90–¼	34·95½–·96	34·93½–·94
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·65–·9	93·05–·07	92·98·93·00
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·20½–21	25·16½–·16⅔	25·18–·18⅛
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19⅓–⅔	18·21½–·21⅔	18·21½–·21⅔
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14–⅛	18·13½–·14	18·13–·13½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–⅛	18·19½–·20½	18·19½–·19⅔
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	29·68–9	36·72–·78	37·53–·58
Lisbon.....	escudo to £1	T.T.	4·50	109⅛–¾	108⅛–108⅝	108⅛–108⅝
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58⅓	34·51–54	34·60–·63	34·59–·62
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164⅛	163⅜–6	164⅛–164⅜	164⅛–164⅜
Belgrade.....	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276–½	275½–275⅔	275⅔–276½
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–4	27·82–·85	27·82–·85
Bukarest.....	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	806–9	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669–74	670–677	670–677
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–5½	375–375½	375–375⅝
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	991–5	1020–1050	1025—1050
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–·44	†9·46–·48	†9·45–·47
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–⅜	43⅛–43⅜	43⅛–43⅜
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅜–½	195½–195⅔	193½–193⅔
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48⅔–9½	48⅛–49⅛	48⅛–49⅛
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14–21	18·17–·24	18·17–·24
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·10–20	25·23–·33	25·23–·33
Alexandria.....	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97⅛–⅜	97⅛–97⅛	97⅛–97⅛
Buenos Aires ..	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47⅛–⅜	44⅝–44⅞	44⅝–45
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅜–⅝	5⅛–5⅛	5⅛–5⅛
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50½–51	45⅛–45⅜	45⅛–45⅜
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·61	39·81	39·80
Lima.....	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅜% prem.	nom.‡	nom.‡
Calcutta	pence	T.T.	18	1/6⅝–⅞	1/5⅛–1/5⅛	1/5⅛–1/5⅛
Bombay	to	T.T.	18	1/6⅝–⅞	1/5⅛–1/5⅛	1/5⅛–1/5⅛
Madras	rupee	T.T.	18	1/6⅝–⅞	1/5⅛–1/5⅛	1/5⅛–1/5⅛
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0–⅛	1/7⅞–1/8	1/7⅞–1/8
Shanghai	ster. to tael§	T.T.	...	2/6⅜–2/7⅜	2/0⅜–2/1⅛	2/0⅜–2/0⅝
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅝–⅞	2/3⅛–2/3⅛	2/3⅛–2/3⅛
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10⅞–2	2/0⅛–2/0⅛	2/0⅛–2/0⅛
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0⅛d.	†2s. 0⅛d.	†2s. 0⅛d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·75–10·25	10·05–·30	10·10–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅛	1/10⅛

† Rate for previous day. ‡ Pence to escudo. ‡ Nominal = 20½ p.m.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam.....	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4
Athens.....	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6
Berlin.....	Jan. 13, 1930	7	6½
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½
Bucharest.....	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest.....	Nov. 4, 1929	8	7½
Calcutta.....	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen.....	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5
Danzig.....	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7
Kovno.....	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7
Lisbon.....	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve....	Nov. 14, 1929	5	4½
Madrid.....	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Paris.....	Jan. 19, 1928	4	3½
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7‡
Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm...	Dec. 12, 1929	5½	5
Swiss Bank places.....	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Tokio.....	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	Dec. 7, 1929	8	7½
Warsaw.....	Nov. 15, 1929	9	8½
Irish	Dec. 12, 1929	6	5½

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
‡ 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money.....	6	6	6	4½	4½	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	...	...	4½	4½	4½
Bank acceptances :—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	5½	4	...	4	4½	4½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days ...	5½	4	...	4	4½	4½
Ineligible, 90 days.....	5½	4½	...	4½	4½	4½
Commercial accept., 90 days.....	5½	5	...	5	5	5

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80⅝	4·83	4·82⅞	4·82⅝
Cable			4·84⅛	4·87	4·86⅛	4·86⅜
Cheques.....			4·84⅜	4·86⅝	4·865	4·86½
Paris .....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅜	3·93	3·92⅛	3·92⅛
Brussels..... ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·895	13·945	13·93	13·92
Switzerland ... ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·2225	19·38	19·34	19·31½
Italy ..... ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅛	5·23⅛	5·2325	5·22⅝
Berlin ..... ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·75	23·875	23·865	23·86
Vienna..... ,,	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·05	14·08	14·07	14·07
Madrid ..... ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	16·325	12·42	13·29	12·93
Amsterdam..... ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·05	40·26	40·175	40·15
Copenhagen ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·65	26·735	26·72	26·72½
Oslo ..... ,,			26·64	26·73	26·71	26·70
Stockholm..... ,,			26·72	26·825	26·82	26·82
Athens.....	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29⅛	1·295	1·295	1·29⅜
Montreal ..... ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.
Yokohama..... ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·39	49·10	49·1	49·10
Hong Kong ... ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	49·70	39·30	40·5	40⅝
Shanghai ..... ,,	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	62·50	48·25	50·75	50·75
Calcutta ..... ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·42	36·33	36·30	36·31
Buenos Aires... ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·53	109·45	109·80	109·60
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·92	10·90	11	11·20
Valparaiso..... ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·03	12·4⅛	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·69
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	10·10
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	⅛% ,,	⅛% dis.	¼ to ⅜% ,,
30 days.....	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅜% ,,
60 days.....	2⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,
90 days.....	3⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅝% ,,	⅞% ,,
120 days.....	3⅝% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Aust.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Aust.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Aust.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Aust.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	98⅜	98⅜	...	...	102⅛	102⅛
Demand	97	97	98	98	100⅞	100¼	101⅛	101⅛
30 days	96⅞	96⅞	...	...	100¼	99⅜	101¼	101⅛
60 days	95⅞	95⅞	...	...	99⅛	99¼	100⅛	100⅛
90 days	95⅛	95⅛	...	...	99⅛	98⅜	100⅛	100⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to January 18, 1930, were £24,110,000, of which £14,610,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £9,500,000 transferred from the paper currency reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended January 23, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From—	£
France	19,438
Venezuela.....	4,350
British South Africa	558,935
Australia	1,000,000
British Guiana.....	2,456
Total declared value of Imports.....	1,585,179

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. To—	£
Denmark.....	275
Poland	1,703
Germany.....	191,090
Netherlands	2,500
France	15,605
Austria.....	14,325
Switzerland.....	22,140
Morocco	4,000
Argentine Republic	10,000
Nigeria.....	1,000
Kenya.....	4,440
British India	25,920
Other Countries	274
Total declared value of exports	293,272

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow :—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Jan. 17	Sovs. from abroad...	500,000	Jan. 17	.....	Nil
	Bars bought	2,601	,, 18	.....	Nil
,, 18	Sovs. from abroad...	500,000	,, 20	.....	Nil
,, 20	.....	Nil	,, 21	Bars sold	12,016
,, 21	.....	Nil	,, 22	Sovs. set aside	400,000
,, 22	.....	Nil		Sovs. for export.....	2,000
,, 23	Bars bought	12	,, 23	Sovs. for export.....	2,000
				Sovs. set aside.....	100,000
	Total	1,002,613		Total	506,016

Net arrivals, £496,597.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on January 22, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £150,466,378 on the 15th instant (as compared with £149,061,137 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £3,439,937 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. Bar gold from South Africa to the value of £553,000 was available in the open market yesterday and realised 84s. 11d. per fine ounce. The main proportion, viz., £375,000 was taken for France, whilst Germany secured £130,000. Of the balance the Home and Continental trade took £33,000 and India £15,000. There was a net influx of gold of £590,186 during the week.

The anticipated stabilisation upon a gold basis of the currency of Indo-China has now become effective. An official announcement gives the rate of stabilisation as Frcs. 10 to the Piastre: the gold contents of the latter will thus be approximately equal to 9·09737 grains of fine gold.

An order issued on the 15th instant to the Chinese Customs authorities by the Finance Minister of the Nanking Government stated that from February 1st next Customs duties on imports from abroad will be collected on a gold basis. The Haikwan tael is to be no longer used as the unit of calculation and is to be replaced by a new gold unit. This new gold unit will be equal to 60·1866 centigrammes of fine gold equivalent to 19·7265 pence sterling. This important change has resulted from the decline in the value of silver, in consequence of which the value of the Chinese Customs receipts had greatly depreciated in terms of gold.

SILVER.

A somewhat quieter tone has prevailed in the market and although prices have fluctuated the trend has been downward. The demand from China eased, and during the latter part of the week there has been some re-selling from the same quarter. The Indian Bazaars have sold for forward dates but have continued to acquire silver for near delivery, this demand being sufficient to maintain a premium varying from ⅜d. to ½d. on silver for cash delivery. America offered freely at the higher rates, but also gave support as the market declined.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 13th instant to mid-day on the 20th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£
Germany	24,407
France	33,500
U.S.A.	46,300
Mexico	11,348
Canada	38,135
Other countries	15,875
	£169,565

EXPORTS.	£
Soviet Union (Russia)	77,736
Hong Kong	121,875
British India	166,243
Other countries	9,093
	£374,947

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Jan. 15.	Jan. 7.	Dec. 31.
Notes in circulation	17,961	17,952	17,941
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,744	10,790	10,805
Silver coin and bullion out of India...	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,222	3,222	3,222
Gold coin and bullion out of India ...	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,780	3,740	3,733
Securities (British Government)	215	200	181

The stock in Shanghai on the 18th instant consisted of about 86,700,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 15,700 silver bars, as compared with about 86,500,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 16,380 silver bars on the 11th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Jan. 17.....	84 11⅜	21	20¾	Jan. 18, 1924	33½
,, 18.....	84 11⅜	20 15/16	20 11/16	,, 23, 1925	32
,, 20.....	84 11⅜	21 1/16	20 13/16	,, 22, 1926	32
,, 21.....	84 11	21	20⅞	,, 21, 1927	26½
,, 22.....	84 11⅜	20 13/16	20 9/16	,, 19, 1928	26 1/16
,, 23.....	84 10	20 11/16	20 7/16	,, 23, 1929	26 1/16

NOTICES.

Receiving offices of the National Bank of Australasia have been opened at :—Inglewood, in connection with William Street Branch, Western Australia; Newdegate, in connection with Lake Grace Branch, Western Australia; Nedlands, in connection with Subiaco Branch, Western Australia; Holland Park, in connection with Woolloongabba Branch, Brisbane, Queensland.

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
1,414,198 shrs., £20, £5 paid	7,070,990	...
2,249,167 shrs., £1 fully paid	2,249,167	...
Reserve.....	9,320,157	...
Deposits, &c.	285,160,311	– 8,926,268
Notes in circulation in Isle of Man	7,794	– 5,244
Acceptanc's,&c.	27,599,579	+ 1,061,539
Profit and loss	1,184,442	– 45,891
Total	332,592,440	– 7,915,864

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash, notes,&c.	35,467,196	+ 349,603
Balances with other banks.	10,513,477	– 1,682,859
Money at call and notice ..	33,169,823	– 1,643,784
Bills disc'nted	32,501,317	– 4,125,418
Investments ...	37,923,453	– 515,521
Westminster Foreign Bk..	1,080,000	...
Ulster Bank ...	1,911,869	...
Other subsids..	30	+ 30
Advances, &c.	147,350,592	– 1,748,308
Accept'nes, &c.	27,599,579	+ 1,061,540
Bank premises	5,075,104	+ 388,700
Total	332,592,440	– 7,915,864

WILLIAMS, DEACONS BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
£5 shares, £1 pd.	1,562,500	...
£1 "B" shares, fully paid ...	312,500	...
Reserve fund ...	1,000,000	– 350,000
Unpaid divs. ...	119,898	– 9,333
Current deposit and other accounts	31,792,589	– 428,806
Due to subsidiaries	200	+ 200
Acceptances ...	748,547	– 492,740
Endorsements	274,546	– 4,284
Profit and loss	31,225	+ 3,760
Total	35,842,005	– 1,281,203

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash	5,208,318	– 11,247
Money at call & notice	3,412,190	+ 540,816
Investments	5,596,326	+ 654,984
British overseas Bank	333,335	...
Yorkshire Penny Bank	87,500	+ 12,500
Bills discounted	2,374,072	– 1,177,201
Advances	16,825,826	– 817,060
Acceptances ...	748,547	– 492,740
Endorsements	274,546	– 4,284
Bank premises	981,345	+ 13,029
Total	35,842,005	– 1,281,203

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Ord. shares £10 with £5 paid	575,000	...
5% pref. shares	200,000	...
Reserve fund	575,000	...
Loan, deposit and other accounts	19,385,468	– 1,989,125
Bills re-discounted	4,959,832	– 1,707,051
Rebate on bills discounted	240,855	+ 4,747
Balance of profit and loss ...	130,964	+ 5,100
Total ...	26,067,119	– 3,686,329

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash	586,527	+ 16,840
Investments...	3,021,017	– 2,086,028
Bills disc'nted	21,888,919	+ 1,938,241
Loans on security, &c. ...	570,656	+ 321,10
Total ...	26,067,119	– 3,686,329

UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
£5 shrs., £2½ paid	1,250,000	...
Reserve	1,750,000	...
Loans deposits	45,591,128	– 284,682
Bills re-discounted	12,310,529	– 3,324,126
Rebate on bills discounted ...	634,033	+ 49,028
Profit and loss ...	406,792	+ 35,706
Total	61,942,482	– 3,524,074

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash	1,328,877	– 10,252
Investments ...	7,629,621	– 1,333,610
Loans, &c.	208,768	+ 85,537
Bills discounted, &c.	52,574,107	– 2,268,433
Debtors	111,109	+ 12,684
Premises, &c. ...	90,000	– 10,000
Total	61,942,482	– 3,524,074

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Jan. 17, 1930. (c) Week ended Jan. 18, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Jan. 19, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 3 weeks 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	203	217	136	353	556	609	617	407	1,024	1,633
Do. for 1929...	3,734	201	215	136	351	552	605	622	386	1,008	1,615
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	292	410	300	710	1,002	903	1,121	798	1,919	2,822
Do. for 1929..	6,360	296	412	293	705	1,001	896	1,130	790	1,920	2,816
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	431	558	301	859	1,290	1,309	1,552	846	2,398	3,707
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	434	549	316	865	1,299	1,312	1,542	880	2,422	3,734
Southern	2,175	273	73	33	106	379	816	210	100	310	1,126
Do. for 1929...	2,175	266	72	39	111	377	789	210	107	317	1,106
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·6	...	...	4·0	36·6	98·9	...	...	12·1	111·0
Do. for 1929...	59	31·3	...	...	3·8	35·1	95·4	...	...	11·5	106·9
†Und'ngr'ndH.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	300·1	...	...	...	...	792·8
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	271·1	...	...	...	...	715·3
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	43·9	...	...	...	...	116·0
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	37·9	...	...	...	...	99·2
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·0	...	...	0·7	2·7	5·4	...	...	1·6	7·0
Do. for 1929...	80	2·0	...	...	1·0	3·0	5·4	...	...	2·3	7·7
*Great Northernb	562	9·6	...	...	15·2	24·8	19·7	...	...	29·0	48·7
Do. for 1929...	562	10·1	...	...	16·4	26·5	20·6	...	...	31·7	52·3
Great Southernb	2,187	20·9	...	...	42·2	63·1	44·7	...	...	82·9	127·6
Do. for 1929...	2,187	23·0	...	...	47·2	70·2	45·7	...	...	90·3	136·0

* Aggregate 2 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	38weeks	Dec.21	1,217	4,43,000	− 25,063	1,57,89,356	− 7,71,603
Bard Lt. Ry.	39weeks	28	202	57,500	+ 500	18,67,700	+ 87,400
Bengal & N.Western	39weeks	28	2,080	6,91,843	− 73,163	84,38,016	− 2,99,372
Bengal-Nagpur ...	35weeks	7	3,085	17,24,000	− 133947	6,16,27,925	+ 26,37,582
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	42weeks	Jan. 18	3,031	26,10,000	+ 73,000	9,07,47,000	− 14,78,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	39weeks	Dec.28	3,121	19,50,000	− 27,134	6,92,96,155	+ 15,67,080
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	39weeks	28	1,167	5,04,880	− 14,785	1,70,61,443	+ 22,18,573
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	39weeks	28	572	1,42,301	− 657	15,45,189	+ 3,865
South Indian	39weeks	28	2,348	12,57,907	− 6,375	4,99,56,975	+ 40,45,386
				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	29weeks	Jan.18	753	13,200	− 1,000	454,000	− 4,900
Argentine Trans'dn.	29weeks	18	111	5,834	+ 357	132,695	+ 3,097
B.A. and Pacific.....	29weeks	18	2,806	164,000	− 21,000	4,276,000	− 378,000
B.A. Central	29weeks	19	...	13,445	− 329	372,094	− 32,077
B.A. Gt. Southern...	29weeks	18	4,875	300,000	− 20,000	6,671,000	+ 78,000
B.A. Western	29weeks	18	1,926	100,000	− 20,000	2,471,000	− 307,000
Central Argentine...	29weeks	18	3,319	232,000	− 43,000	6,920,000	− 754,000
Cordoba Central.....	29weeks	18	1,218	50,000	− 18,000	1,803,000	− 225,000
Entre Rios.....	29weeks	18	789	40,600	+ 600	782,100	− 69,900
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	29weeks	Jan.18	1,374	52,431	− 55,922	1,423,682	− 171,278
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay.....	29weeks	Jan.18	273	35,740	+ 945	852,441	− 20,379
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	29weeks	18	311	9,419	− 268	186,682	− 645
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	29weeks	18	185	4,108	− 920	95,027	− 7,894
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	29weeks	18	211	3,262	+ 91	77,745	− 3,309
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	2weeks	Jan.14	19580	3,612,907	− 202041	7,076,334	− 321,458
Canadian Pacific ...	2weeks	14	15209	2,575,000	− 861000	5,131,000	− 1,676,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil...	3weeks	Jan.18	1,016	22,500	− 3,000	50,000	− 10,100
Leopoldina.....	3weeks	18	1,856	36,087	− 401	89,445	− 4,428
Leopoldina Termnl.	3weeks	18	Mlrs.	292,000	+ 19,000	788,000	+ 54,000
San Paulo	3weeks	19	153½	33,120	− 9,352	99,580	− 39,055
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	3weeks	Jan.19	804	33,870	− 13,400	86,060	− 40,780
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	2weeks	15	413	30,222	− 12,357	30,222	− 12,357
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Egyptian Delta.....	39weeks	Dec.31	608	13,136	+ 644	271,210	+ 16,926
Gt. Southn. of Spain	1week	Jan.11	104	119,854	+ 3,119	240,015	+ 3,018
Mexican Railway....	2weeks	14	483	$241,600	+ 13,300	468,800	+ 25,100
Paraguay Central...	28weeks	11	274	3,520	− 130	116,320	− 9,630
Salvador.....	28weeks	11	100	5,015	− 411	104,170	− 5,674

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

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.

ARGENTINE (a).

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	2weeks	Jan.14	329	85,839	− 1,709	166,835	− 7,498
B. Aires Lacrose.....	29weeks	19	...	12,222	− 1,273	332,628	− 30,328
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	18	13	3,144	+ 223	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	18	35½	Rs.129155	− 10,231	...	...
Chatham & District	9 days	9	15	1,464	− 24	...	...
Egyptian Markets	9 days	9	...	2,857	− 833	...	...
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	8 days	8	...	1,005	− 19	...	...
Liverpool Corp.....	42weeks	18	124	30,207	+ 1,784	1,269,735	+ 20,989
L.C.C. Tramways...	41weeks	15	166	82,933	+ 3,265	3,476,609	+ 46,799
Madras Electric.....	12weeks	15	...	49,351	+ 561	...	...

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
BANKS.				%	%
Bank of Ireland.....	9%†	...	...	17½	17½
Bank of Montreal	3%*	Mar. 1	Quarterly	...	...
British Mutual Banking	...	...	...	12	12
Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	3%*	Mar. 1	Quarterly	...	...
Commercial of Sydney	5%*	Jan. 24	...	...	...
Erlangers	...	...	...	5	...
Hibernian	6½%†	...	...	12½b	12½b
Standard of South Africa	7%*	Jan. 24	...	...	...
Union of Manchester.....	...	...	Less tax	16	16
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Kalidjeroek Rubber	5%*	Feb. 11	...	...	...
Sedenak Rubber.....	5%†	...	Less tax	10	6½
Taiping Rubber	...	...	...	7	5
Tamiang Rubber	...	...	...	10	6
United Serdang (Sumatra)	...	...	Less tax	7½	10
MINING.					
Ashanti Goldfields	40%†	...	Less tax	65	55
Changkat Tin	1/– p.s.*	Jan. 31	...	...	...
Kent (F.M.S.) Tin	5%*	and bonus 5%		...	...
Tekka.....	4½d.p.s.*	...	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Algemeine Elektrizitaetgesellschaft	...	...	...	9	...
Angus (George) and Company...	...	...	...	5	5
Assoc. Provincial Picture Houses	4%*	Jan. 30	Less tax	...	...
Atlas Electric and General Trust	2%*	Feb. 15	Less tax	...	...
Barratt (W.) and Company	4%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Bell and Nicolson.....	5%†	and bonus 5%		15	15
British Assets Trust	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Capital and National Trust	2½%*	Jan. 31	Less tax	...	...
Cawthra (J.) and Company	5%†	...	Tax free	10	15
Charter Trust and Agency	4%†	...	...	6	6
Civil Service Co-op. Trust.....	2½%†	...	...	5	...
Clarence Hotels (Dublin)	...	...	...	8	8
Craigmillar Creamery	6%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Culloden Consolidated.....	...	...	...	2½	6½
Davenport (John) and Sons' Brewery	...	...	...	25	25
Debenture Corporation	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Delhi Electric Supply.....	4%*	Jan. 31	Less tax	...	...
Dundee Coal	...	...	...	2½	Nil
Fairy Dyes	...	Feb. 7	Less tax	12½	12½
For. and Col. Invest. Trust.....	6%†	...	...	10	10
Fore Street Warehouse	2½%†	Feb. 3	...	5	7½
Freehold and Leasehold Invest.	2½%*	Jan. 31	Less tax	...	...
Glasgow Stockholders' Trust ...	2½%†	...	...	5	5e
Government's Stock, &c. (Def.)	...	...	...	10	10
Guard Bridge Paper	5/– p.s.*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Guardian Invest. Trust.....	6%†	...	Less tax	11	11
Hall (J. and E.).....	5%†	...	...	8½a	8½
Holborn Viaduct Land.....	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Hollins Mill.....	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Hunter, Barr and Co.	2%†	...	...	5	6
Imperial Tobacco	8½%†	and bonus 7½		23	26
Kent (G. B.) and Sons	...	...	Less tax	2	Nil
Larkins (S. C.)	6½%†	and bonus 2½%		12½	12½
Law Debenture Corporation.....	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Leicester Real Property	...	...	Less tax	7½	...
Lloyd and Yorath, Newport.....	...	...	...	7½	10
London Stockholders' Invest. Trust	...	...	Less tax	5½	...
Lunt (Richard) and Company ...	...	...	...	15c	15c
McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh and Co...	6½%†	...	...	17½	17½
Manchester Corn & Produce Exc.	4%†	...	...	8	9
Melbourne Electric Supply	...	...	...	10	10
Meux's Brewery	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Mortgage Co. of the River Plate	...	...	Less tax	18	18
Northern Corporation	...	...	...	16	16
Northern Trust	5%†	...	...	10	10
Omnium Investment.....	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Openshaw Brewery.....	...	...	Less tax	17½	17½
Pawsons and Leafs	3½%†	...	...	6	5
Pratt (J. Alfred) and Company	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Qualcast	5%†	Jan. 31	Less tax	...	...
Read Brothers	9%†	...	...	13	11
Rogers (R. H. and S.)	7½%†	...	...	10½	10½
Romney Trust	4%†	...	...	7	7
Rubens-Rembrandt Assoc. Hotels	3%*	Feb. 1	Less tax	...	...
Second British Assets Trust.....	7½%†	...	Less tax	15	15
S. Metropolitan Gas	3½%†	...	...	6½	6½
Stapley and Smith	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Stead and Simpson	...	...	...	10	10
Steel Developments	3%†	...	Tax free	6	6
Sterling Trust.....	9½%†	...	...	14½	14
Threlfall's Brewery	10%*	Feb. 1	...	...	...
Timothy Whites (1928) (Def.) ...	10%*	...	...	...	...
Timpson (William).....	...	...	...	4½d.p.s.	d ...
Wagon Finance	...	...	...	15	15
Wells' Watford Brewery	2½%*	Feb. 1	...	...	...
Wilkinson and Riddell	4%†	...	Tax free	8	12
Zambesi Exploring.....	5%*	Jan. 31	...	...	...
Zambrene	...	...	Less tax	8	20

a Accounts for 14 months. b Bonus 1 per cent. § In addition, bonus 1s. 6d. p.s. c Bonus 5 per cent. d First report. e 5 per cent. per annum on 9 months' accounts.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LTD.—The African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., officially announce that payment will be made, on February 10, 1930, of six months' dividend, less tax, to December 31, 1928, on the 6 per cent. "B" cumulative preference shares. A general meeting will be held at Liverpool on January 24th, and notices to the shareholders will be posted shortly.

AUSTIN MOTOR COMPANY, LTD.—With regard to 6 per cent. "B" preference shares, the warrants, covering the payment of a further year's dividend on account of the arrears still outstanding on these shares, have been despatched to shareholders. This represents a payment of £75,000 gross, less tax, £60,000 net. It is of interest to note that since April, 1928, the undermentioned payments on account of these arrears have been made to the shareholders: 13/4/28, one year to June 30, 1921, £75,000 gross; 31/12/28, two years to June 30, 1923, £150,000 gross; 1/7/29, one year to June 30, 1924, £75,000 gross; 30/9/29, one year to June 30, 1925, £75,000 gross; 15/1/30, one year to June 30, 1926, £75,000 gross; total, £450,000 gross.

STEEL INDUSTRIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, LTD.—The directors announce a dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum on the cumulative convertible preference shares of the company in respect of the half-year to December 31, 1929. Dividend warrants will be posted to the preference shareholders on January 30, 1930.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Banks.											
Bank of Ireland	Dec. 31	86,093	542,089	628,182	...	411,923	17½	130,000	86,259	564,667	17½
British Mutual Banking ...	Dec. 31	8,575	20,292	28,867	...	14,000	12	6,000	8,467	17,780	12
Hibernian Bank	Dec. 31*	30,023	46,419	76,442	...	36,250	14½p.a.	15,000	25,192	52,284	14½
Isle of Man Bank	Dec. 31	8,470	24,271	32,741	...	10,000	20	12,000	10,741	22,911	19
Lloyds Bank	Dec 31.	490,036	2,542,084	3,032,120	...	1,916,394 / 57,492	16⅔A / 5B	550,000	508,234	2,528,143	16⅔A / 5B
National Provincial Bank...	Dec. 31	865,845	2,189,704	3,055,549	...	1,706,294	18	500,000	849,255	2,108,664	18
Westminster Bank	Dec. 31	552,196	2,160,385	2,712,580	...	1,356,275	20 / 12½§	850,000	506,305	2,148,408	20 / 12½§
Williams Deacon's Bank ...	Dec. 31	27,465	297,901	325,366	...	244,140	13⅓A / 12½B	50,000	31,226	305,340	13⅓A / 12½B
Breweries.											
Fremlins	Sept. 30	...	69,223	69,223	18,851	22,750	7½	10,000	17,622	...	...
Lloyd and Yorath	Nov. 30	10,320	16,222	26,542	3,000	8,130	7½	10,412	5,000	16,309	10
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Melbourne Electric Supply	Aug. 31	...	99,009	99,009	40,000	80,060	10†	*Dr. 21,287*	236	124,042	10†
Financial Land, &c.											
Law Debenture Corporation	Dec. 31	...	68,337	68,337	8,000	40,326	10	20,011	...	70,783	10
Mortgage Co. of River Plate	Dec. 31	99,791	82,365	182,156	15,000	54,000	18	10,000	103,156	85,608	18
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Steel Developments	Dec. 31	3,283	4,997	8,280	...	4,493	6†	...	3,787	4,581	6†
Rubber, &c.											
Culloden Consolidated	Oct. 31	14,125	20,374	34,499	...	5,750	2½	20,000	8,749	21,060	6½
Escot Rubber Estates	Sept. 30	4,562	7,355¶	11,917¶	...	...	...	4,000	7,917¶	1,673	...
Sendenak Rubber Estates...	Oct. 31	17,483	18,823	36,306	...	15,384	10	2,500	18,422	11,791	6½
Taiping Rubber Plantation	Sept. 30	15,188	31,066	46,254	...	20,374	7	5,000	20,880	25,684	5
Tamiang Rubber Estates ...	Sept. 30	14,861	35,356	50,217	...	35,846	10	...	14,371	23,662	6
United Serdang (Sumatra)	Aug. 31	83,776	138,752	222,528	...	106,745	7½	20,000	95,783	163,547	10
Textiles.											
Hollins Mill Company	Nov. 30	23,476	62,346	85,822	49,000	25,000	5	...	11,822	75,417	5
Lister and Co.....	Nov. 30	155,361	13,436	168,797	30,000	71,250	5	...	67,547	101,900	5
Wilkinson and Riddell	Dec. 31	26,834	67,768	94,602	6,500	48,000	10⅝†	15,000	25,102	67,701	16†
Trust.											
Charter Trust and Agency...	Nov. 30	9,702	44,310	54,012	20,000	24,000	6	...	10,012	44,724	6
Debenture Corporation ...	Dec. 31	11,045	148,273	159,318	40,000	80,000	10	25,000	14,318	149,178	10
Govt. Stock & Other Secur.	Dec. 31	...	85,978	85,978	19,425	42,735	10	...	23,818	82,856	10
London Shareholders' Invst.	Dec. 31	...	22,017	22,017	7,920	11,880	5½	...	2,217	...	...
Metropolitan Trust	Jan. 1	72,670	150,793	223,463	28,125	100,000	20	75,000	20,338	145,516	19½
Northern Trust	Dec. 31	222	2,346	2,568	900	1,165	10	...	503	2,309	10
Omnium Investment	Dec. 31	7,904	97,992	105,896	25,289	50,578	10	20,000	10,029	91,329	10
Waterworks.											
Cleveland Water Co.	Dec. 31*	5,197	2,486	7,683	...	3,400	10A / 7B	...	4,283	4,194	10A / 7B
Other Companies.											
Afr. & Eastern Trade Corp.	May 1‡	44,717	74,600	119,317	81,988	...	...	...	37,329	...	...
Angus (George)	Dec. 31	52,469	*Dr. 2,545*	49,924	6,000	21,500	5	...	22,424	25,962	5
Bell and Nicholson	Dec. 31	20,765	50,622	71,387	2,240	30,000	† 15	15,000	24,147	46,728	15†
Crossley (John) and Sons ...	Nov. 30	2,414	16,564	18,978	29,699	11,880	5	*Dr. 25,000*	2,399	2,680	5
Davenports (G. B.), and Brewery (Holdings)	Oct. 31a	...	31,519	31,519	...	8,000	8p.a.	18,369	5,150	...	...
J. and E. Hall	Sept.30‖	7,397	60,379	67,776	10,500	47,600	8½	...	9,676	...	...
Kent (G. B.) and Sons	Sept. 30	1,001	6,091	7,091	4,162	1,200	2	500	1,229	5,223	...
Leicester Real Property ...	Dec. 31	1,872	3,775	5,647	...	2,029	7½	1,000	2,618	2,908	7½
Lennard's Real Property ...	Dec. 31	1,780	28,460	30,240	18,750	11,250	7½	...	240	30,622	7½
Lunt (Richard) and Co. ...	Dec. 31	20,814	28,949	49,763	800	20,100	15	7,000	21,863	28,487	15
Rogers (R. H. and S.)	Oct. 31	13,655	32,199	45,854	3,750	15,750	17½	12,500	13,854	...	...
Stevenson (Hugh) and Sons	Sept. 30	3,748	54,598	58,346	9,000	...	...	37,480	11,866	46,520	...
Timpson (William).....	Dec. 31	...	30,931	30,931	...	...	...	11,054	19,877	...	...

* For six months. † Free of income tax. ‡ For seven months. § 20 per cent. on £4 shares paid to £1; 12½ per cent. on £1 shares. ‖ Fourteen months. ¶ Subject to payment of manager's commission and staff bonus. a For period June 21, 1929, to October 31, 1929.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—The net profit for the year ending September 30, 1928, should read £1,184,943, not £1,355,559 as published in the *Economist* of January 18, 1930

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Captain George J. R. Cooper has joined the board of the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

William Chamberlain has been elected a director of International Paper and Power Company.

We understand that Mr J. H. Tresfon has resigned his seat on the board of N.V. Margarine Unie and Margarine Union, Ltd., as from January 1, 1930.

Mr A. Blackmore relinquished his position as secretary and routine director of the United Steel Companies, Ltd., United Strip and Bar Mills, Ltd., and United Coke and Chemicals, Ltd., on December 31st last.

At a general meeting of the Life Offices' Association, held on January 20, 1930, Mr W. A. Workman, general manager of the Legal and General Assurance Society, was re-elected chairman, and Mr W. Penman, actuary and life manager of the Atlas Assurance Company, Ltd., was re-elected deputy chairman.

The Board of the Peruvian Corporation have elected Mr. William Stephen Eyre to be Deputy Chairman.

BANKS.

BANK OF ITALY NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.—The statement at December 31, 1929, show total resources of $1,055,113,373. The bank's deposits show an increase of $195,800,000 as compared with December 31, 1928.

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY.—The Statement of Bankers Trust Company as of December 31, 1929, show total assets of $817,976,883, an increase of $44,708,016 over the corresponding figure a year ago. With capital $25,000,000, surplus $50,000,000, and undivided profits $32,631,387, the capital structure totals $107,631,387, an increase of $5,244,205 over the corresponding figure of $102,387,182 on December 31, 1928. Deposits on December 31, 1929, are shown at $552,521,900, as against $509,621,859 a year ago. During the same period time and demand loans expanded from $432,804,456 to $461,626,041, an increase of $28,821,584.

THE DOMINION BANK.—The London Office have been advised by the head office at Toronto that the total profits of the bank for the year ended December 31, 1929, amount to $1,522,000, with total assets standing at $154,181,000. These figures both represent new high records in the bank's history, profits for the year 1928 being $1,408,000, with assets at $152,605,000. The immediately available assets exceed 51 per cent. of the public liabilities.

MISCELLANEOUS.

APEX TRINIDAD OILFIELDS.—Oil profits of the year ended September 30, 1929, amounted to £447,650, against £348,523, from which fall to be deducted :—Amortisation of wells, £132,349, and head office expenditure, £2,092, leaving a profit of £313,208, against £246,474. Add balance from previous year £119,374, making £432,582, against which there is chargeable :—Interim dividend of 22½ per cent., £112,500; directors' additional remuneration, £5,625; reserve for income tax in United Kingdom and Trinidad, £36,935, leaving balance to credit of profit and loss account of £277,522. The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, making 52½ per cent. for the year, against 30 per cent., £120,022 against £119,374 to be carried forward.

EDISON BELL, LIMITED.—The twentieth annual report and Accounts show a profit for the year ended September 30, 1929, of £28,145 (last accounts for 15 months showed a profit of £20,158). Adding the amount brought forward and deducting the preference dividend and interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid on the ordinary shares, there is a balance of £19,176, from which the directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and the writing off of £3,000 from expenses of preference share issue, leaving £8,676 to be carried forward. For the last financial period the dividend was 12½ per cent., but that covered a period of 15 months and, in addition, the accounts included £33,139 in respect of the sale of foreign trading interests, of which £20,000 was placed to reserve.

EVER READY TRUST AND FINANCE.—After meeting expenses the revenue account of the Ever Ready Trust and Finance Company for the initial period from November 14, 1928, to December 31, 1929, shows a balance of £43,837, from which is deducted for income tax £8,675, leaving £35,162. The directors have written off preliminary expenses (one-third) £11,040, and transferred to capital reserve account £9,536, leaving £14,586 to go forward. The investments are taken into the balance sheet at cost (£677,100). The market value of the quoted securities as at December 31, 1929, shows a depreciation of £39,090.

FREMLINS LIMITED.—The report for the period ending September 30, 1929, shows a profit, after charging all expenses other than income tax, of £87,655; dividend on preference shares absorbed £18,851; interest paid to vendors pending completion of purchase, £9,744; and transfer to reserves profits prior to incorporation, £10,000; leaving a balance of £49,059. Income tax absorbs £8,688. The directors propose a final dividend of 5 per cent., which, with the interim already paid at the rate of 2½ per cent., represents approximately 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the period concerned. Carried forward, £17,622.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions have enabled farmers in the United Kingdom to resume field work, and fair progress was made with preparations for spring sowings. The course of the grain markets, however, affords little encouragement to lay down a larger acreage this year; growers are dissatisfied with the unremunerative prices ruling, and are also faced by Continental competition. Native wheat was in larger supply at the principal Statute markets, but trade showed no improvement and a weaker tendency resulted. The import market, however, was less depressed, and values showed a moderate recovery from the low levels recently ruling. In the floating and forward cargo section, a good business is reported in Australian sorts to India and Japan, while, on this side, Portugal is filling seasonal requirements, and Germany taking fair quantities from Argentina. North America also experienced a better export movement, principally on U.K. account, which induced Canadian and United States sellers to raise their limits, and it would appear that the policy of the American Farm Board to maintain prices in that country still holds good. Although European demand is slowly increasing, the movement is insufficient to have appreciable effect on large stocks in the northern hemisphere, which still dominate the international situation, and unless trade materially improves in the near future, any upward movement must be difficult to sustain in view of fair competition by southern hemisphere exporters. The recent improvement in demand for Plate maize was maintained, and prices responded to higher first-hand offers, with sellers showing more reserve. Buyers however, are reluctant to follow the advance, while competition from barley and oats is still an adverse factor in the maize position. Little or no interest was evinced in Danubian descriptions, of which practically the whole exportable surplus remains to be shipped, while South African varieties are generally held above the market.

Wheat.—Irregular, but tone steadier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex-ship, 53s.; No. 2 ditto, 52s. 3d.; No. 3, 51s. 3d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 50s. 3d.; No. 5, 47s.; No. 6, 40s.; No. 1 Vancouver, 52s. 6d.; No. 2, 51s. 9d.; No. 3, 50s. 6d.; No. 2 hard Winter, 46s. 9d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 45s. 9d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 46s. 3d.; Australian, 48s. 3d. per 496 lbs. English, 9s. 4d.-9s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Steady. London straight run, 41s. per sack for country deliveries, and 40s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 39s.-41s. 6d.; Buffalo, 39s.-41s.; Australian, 36s. 6d., ex-store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, January-February, 39s. 6d.; export ditto, 37s.-37s. 6d.; Australian, 34s. 3d.-34s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £7 per ton.

Maize.—Firmer. Plate, landed, 28s. 3d.; ex-ship, to arrive, 27s.; February-March, 28s. 3d.; new, April-May, 29s. 3d.; May-June, 28s. 9d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 5s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £7; white, £6 10s. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Dull. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex-ship, 37s.-45s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex-store, 36s.-42s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs.; No. 2 Federal American, landed, 24s. 6d.; Danubian, landed, 25s. 3d.; Black Sea, January, ex-ship, 22s. 6d.; Persian ditto, 22s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 8s. 6d.-13s.; feed, 7s. 3d.-8s. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Quiet. Plate, landed, 17s.; ex-ship, to arrive, 15s. 6d.; black Plate, landed, 17s.; Chilian, white, landed, 24s.; ditto, tawny, 19s. 6d.; German, landed, 20s.; ex-ship, to arrive, 19s.; mixed Canadian feed, 15s. 9d.; South Russian, 18s. per 320 lbs. English, 7s.-7s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to January 18	Cwts. 317,925	Cwts. 233,871	Cwts. 308,706	Cwts. 330,984
20 weeks to January 18	5,206,173	5,323,551	4,849,841	7,272,822
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Jan. 11	241,902	288,703	36,524	9 7	8 7	7 0
Jan. 18	317,925	374,958	55,236	9 7	8 6	6 11
Jan. 16, 1926	374,400	319,557	58,552	12 4	10 5	9 3
Jan. 15, 1927	340,941	458,723	88,970	11 11	10 11	8 3
Jan. 21, 1928	308,706	412,776	82,104	9 11	11 2	9 7
Jan. 29, 1929	233,871	419,853	86,108	9 6	10 3	9 3

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	128½	148⅝	141½	135½	135½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	124½	130½	128½	124	124½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,575,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 249,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 79,588,000 bushels.

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: 5 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2

OVER 2050 BRANCHES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

DIRECTORS

THE RIGHT HON. REGINALD McKENNA, *Chairman*

WILLIAM GRAHAM BRADSHAW, Esq., C.B.E., STANLEY CHRISTOPHERSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairmen*

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The Right Hon. LORD ASHFIELD, London
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Colonel WILLIAM FITZTHOMAS WYLEY, Coventry

FREDERICK HYDE, Esq., *Managing Director*

Joint General Managers: E. T. PARKES, J. G. BUCHANAN, H. A. ASTBURY, A. T. JACKSON, R. W. TAYLOR, G. P. A. LEDERER, H. WRIGHTON

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1929

LIABILITIES	£	s	d	£	s	d
Share Capital Authorised :—						
2,869,079 Shares of £12 each				34,428,948	0	0
2,000,000 Shares of £2 10s. each				5,000,000	0	0
5,771,052 Shares of £1 each				5,771,052	0	0
				45,200,000	0	0
Share Capital Issued :—						
2,869,079 Shares of £12 each, £2 10s. paid	7,172,697	10	0			
1,921,677 Shares of £2 10s. each, fully paid	4,804,192	10	0			
1,456,078 Shares of £1 each, fully paid	1,456,078	0	0			
				13,432,968	0	0
Reserve Fund				13,432,968	0	0
Dividend payable on 1st February, 1930				967,173	13	11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account, as below				859,258	0	2
				28,692,367	14	1
	£	s	d			
Current, Deposit and other Accounts (Including £271,051 5s. 0d. on Public and other Accounts secured as per contra)	376,703,192	19	10			
Balances due to Affiliated Companies	2,919,564	13	7			
				379,622,757	13	5
Acceptances and Confirmed Credits on account of Customers				19,779,217	16	3
Engagements on account of Customers				17,695,148	8	7
The Bank has contracts running for the sale of Foreign Currencies to the value of £24,799,983 2s. 7d. which are covered by purchases to a corresponding amount.						
The total sum paid to Directors as remuneration for their services is as follows :—						
Fees and Income Tax thereon paid by the Bank	£44,301	19	0			
Fees and Income Tax thereon paid by Affiliated Companies to such Directors of those Companies as were also Directors of the Bank	6,714	13	1			
Total	51,016	12	1			
				445,789,491	12	4

ASSETS	£	s	d	£	s	d
Coin, Bank Notes and Balances with the Bank of England				46,918,242	13	10
Balances with, and Cheques in course of Collection on other Banks in Great Britain and Ireland				18,375,201	16	8
Money at Call and Short Notice				21,670,909	7	8
Investments at or under Market Value :—						
War Loan and other British Government Securities (of which £425,436 5s. is lodged for Public and other Accounts)				31,798,351	5	8
British Corporation Stocks				249,497	16	5
Colonial and Foreign Government Stocks and Bonds				169,855	14	7
Sundry Investments				711,185	13	7
Bills Discounted				58,783,656	14	11
				178,676,901	3	4
Advances to Customers and other Accounts				210,374,230	1	1
Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company, Limited :— Loans on behalf of clients				164,444	0	6
Belfast Banking Company Limited :— Government of Northern Ireland Guaranteed Loans Account				1,800,000	0	0
Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances, Confirmed Credits and Engagements				37,474,366	4	10
Bank Premises at Head Office and Branches, at cost less amount written off				8,964,535	7	3
Other Properties and work in progress for extension of the business, at cost less amount written off				1,213,349	5	9
Shares in Affiliated Companies :—						
Belfast Banking Company Limited :— 200,000 Shares of £12 10s. each, £3 10s. paid; Reserve and Undivided Profits				1,448,108	2	6
The Clydesdale Bank Limited :— 100,000 Shares of £50 each, £10 paid; 30,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid; Reserve and Undivided Profits				2,940,654	5	5
North of Scotland Bank Limited :— 163,000 Shares of £20 each, £7 paid; Reserve and Undivided Profits				2,356,655	5	6
Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited :— 200,000 Shares of £5 each, £1 paid; Reserve and Undivided Profits				376,847	16	8
				445,789,491	12	4

Dr. PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, for the Year ended 31st December, 1929 Cr.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Interim Dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, less Income Tax, paid 15th July, 1929	967,173	13	11	**By Balance from last Account**	846,563	6	7
„ Dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, less Income Tax, payable 1st February, 1930	967,173	13	11	**„ Net Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1929, including the sum of £421,104 dividends from the Affiliated Companies, full provision having been made for Rebate, Expenses, and all Bad and Doubtful Debts**	2,666,042	1	5
„ Bank Premises Redemption Fund	500,000	0	0				
„ Officers' Pension Fund	220,000	0	0				
„ Balance carried forward to next Account	859,258	0	2				
	3,513,605	8	0		3,513,605	8	0

R. McKENNA, *Chairman*

W. G. BRADSHAW, S. CHRISTOPHERSON, *Deputy Chairmen*

FREDERICK H. FOX, *Director*

F. HYDE, *Managing Director*

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

In accordance with the provisions of Sub-section 1 of Section 134 of the Companies Act, 1929, we report as follows :—

We have examined the above Balance Sheet in detail with the Books at Head Office and with the certified Returns from the Branches. We have satisfied ourselves as to the correctness of the Coin, Bank Notes and Balances with the Bank of England, Balances with, and Cheques in course of Collection on other Banks in Great Britain and Ireland and Bills Discounted, and have verified the correctness of the Money at Call and Short Notice. We have also verified the Securities representing the Investments of the Bank, and having obtained all the information and explanations we have required, we are of opinion that such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

LONDON, 11*th January*, 1930

WHINNEY, SMITH & WHINNEY, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, *Auditors*

AFFILIATED COMPANIES :

BELFAST BANKING COMPANY LIMITED

THE CLYDESDALE BANK LIMITED

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK LIMITED

MIDLAND BANK EXECUTOR & TRUSTEE CO. LTD.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: The export demand for South Yorkshire hard coal continues moderately good, with prices slightly easier, current quotations being 18s. 6d. f.o.b. The mild weather is responsible for abnormal quietude in house coal. The same influence is affecting adversely sales of blast furnace coke. This is quoted at 17s. 6d. at ovens.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Demand is still running on small lines, and the market has an easier tendency, with nuts of all sizes a weak feature. Treble nuts are at best 17s., while fully 1s. under that is more usual quotation. Current prices for shipping business are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports):—LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 9d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s. 6d.-15s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 16s.; doubles, 14s. 6d.-15s.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 15s.-16s.; third-class steam, 14s.; trebles, 17s.; doubles, 14s. 6d.-14s. 9d.; singles, 14s. 3d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 14s. 6d.; secondary steam, 14s.; trebles, 17s.-17s. 6d.; doubles, 14s. 6d.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.-14s. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 16s.; doubles, 14s. 9d.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.; all per ton f.o.b. Ayr or Troon.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Comparatively quiet conditions have existed this week on the Cardiff coal market. Colliery contract commitments are heavy, and there has been a good supply of prompt tonnage, but there has been little current inquiry, and the market is finding it impossible to absorb the quotas for the first quarter under the output regulation scheme, with the result that stocks are accumulating and work in some of the pits becoming less regular. For practically all descriptions of large coals market quotations are on the basis of the minimum schedule, but for small coals they are still quite firm up to 2s. per ton above the scheduled figures. The quantity of coal shipped at the South Wales docks last week was 631,700 tons, compared with 658,100 tons in the previous week, and 584,604 tons in the corresponding week last year. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 20s. to 20s. 3d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; best small steams, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein large, 26s. to 28s.; machine made cobbles, 42s. 6d. to 45s. 6d.; French nuts, 45s. to 47s. 6d.; stove nuts, 44s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 27s. to 27s. 3d.

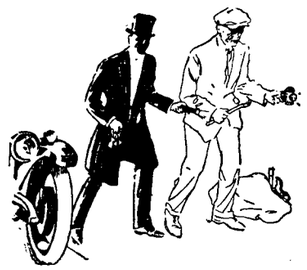
IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of The London Iron and Steel Exchange:—The iron and steel markets over the past week have been disturbed by the cartel negotiations which have been going on among Continental steel makers. The uncertainty as to the outcome of these negotiations has reacted upon most of the export markets, and buying appears to have been held up in consequence. On the whole, however, British steel makers, though not particularly well off for orders, have booked a certain amount of business which has enabled them to face the future with rather more confidence. Nevertheless, complaints are general regarding the smallness of the export demand. The pig iron department continues to receive a steady flow of orders; but imports of Continental iron are reported at cheap prices. Inquiries for semi-finished material have been circulated in fair volume; but much of this appears to have been only for the purpose of testing the market. A number of Continental works have ceased quoting for the time being, and this has led to more business going to the British steelworks. Similar conditions have prevailed in the finished steel department.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes: The demand for Cleveland iron shows little improvement, and during the past week the market has been extremely dull. Consumers are drawing their supplies from contracts made some time ago, and so far show little inclination to enter into fresh purchases of importance, the tendency being to carry on from hand to mouth, and wait further market developments. Makers are not pressing sales, and although there has been some accumulation in stocks recently, the aggregate is not of any great volume, and they look for further buying before long. At Tuesday's market business was again confined to small parcels for early delivery. Makers realised 72s. 6d. for No. 3, but for destinations where merchants can compete they cut this price to some extent. No. 1 was unaltered at 75s., No. 4 foundry 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of all kinds of pig iron to 21st inst. amount to 13,726 tons, against 8,436 tons for the same period of last month. Hematite is only in moderate demand, and although inquiries continue to circulate for important quantities, business matures very slowly. Increased Continental competition is being encountered in different export markets, and home consumers are only buying sparingly at present. Although makers have good contracts on their books, they are anxious for more business, and for early shipment would accept 78s. 6d. for mixed numbers, but for delivery a few months ahead 80s. is asked. This figure would, however, be shaded for good lines. In the steel trade works continue busy, but the demand for sheets is still poor. Prices are unchanged from last week. Dorman, Long & Co., Limited, and The Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Limited, share an order for 10,000 tram rails for the London County Council and the L. M. & S. Railways have placed orders for railway chairs of about £50,000 value among local makers. Cochrane & Co., Limited, have also secured an important order for cast iron pipes for a new water scheme in Aberdeenshire, and an order for 20 large tank engines has been placed with R. Stephenson & Co., Limited, Darlington, by the Central Argentine Railways. In ore consumers are well stocked, and continue to hold off the market. One or two spot cargoes of best rubio were offered last week at below market rates, but for delivery a few months ahead, 23s. c.i.f. Middlesbrough is the nominal quotation. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for prompt tonnage is about 6s. 9d. Coke continues in full supply, and good furnace qualities are now obtainable at 22s. to 22s. 6d. delivered works. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is 40.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: Steel makers are still awaiting the development of a buying movement, as, outside certain special lines, business this month has been confined to hand-to-mouth quantities. There is little disposition to order forward and the apparent absence of confidence is somewhat disconcerting. The output of the Sheffield industries this month has been exceptionally poor, alike in the heavy and light branches. Makers of tool steels and alloy steels are experiencing formidable competition in their home market from Germany and Sweden, as the low prices of this material prove tempting to many users. The present output of open hearth steel in the Sheffield area is about half the available capacity. The North Lincolnshire steel furnaces, however, are working nearly up to capacity. Prices are unchanged as a whole, but easier as regards the cheaper qualities of steel. There is little doing in pig iron, and the local ironfoundries have no considerable amount of work on hand or in prospect. Overseas business is on the quiet side.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Business is not picking up to the extent that was looked for at the beginning of the year. Steelmakers are, however, fairly busy and have a considerable amount of work on hand. During the present week several additional shipbuilding contracts have been placed with yards on the Clyde, including three oil-tanker vessels for the Anglo-Persian Oil Co.—two to be built by Messrs Lithgows, Ltd., at Port Glasgow, and one by the Greenock Dockyard Co., Limited, Greenock. These vessels will be engined by Messrs J. G. Kincaid & Co., Limited, of



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THE CHATWOOD SECURITY

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Limited,
Bankers' Engineers,
SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

Head Office: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3

and over 2,000 Branches in England and Wales.

Chief Foreign Branch: 168, FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Chairman.
SIR HERBERT HAMBLING, BART., Deputy-Chairman.
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE, Vice-Chairman.
General Managers:
EDWIN FISHER. HENRY THOMAS MITCHELL.
Foreign General Manager: WALTER OSBORNE STEVENSON.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1929.

Dr. LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Current, Deposit and other Accounts including Reserve for Income Tax and Contingencies and balance of Profit and Loss	329,097,457 11 9	
Balances in Account with Subsidiary Banks	8,341,756 3 0	337,439,213 14 9
Acceptances and Endorsements, &c., for account of Customers		21,991,927 18 4
Capital:—	£ s. d.	
Authorised—		
1,425,000 "A" Shares of £4 each	5,700,000 0 0	
14,300,000 "B" and "C" Shares of £1 each ...	14,300,000 0 0	
	£20,000,000 0 0	
Issued—		
857,589 "A" Shares of £4 each, fully paid ...	3,430,356 0 0	
11,760,811 "B" Shares of £1 each, fully paid ...	11,760,811 0 0	
667,050 "C" Shares of £1 each, fully paid ...	667,050 0 0	15,858,217 0 0
Reserve Fund		10,250,000 0 0
		£385,539,358 13 1

Cr. ASSETS.	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash in hand, and with the Bank of England			51,850,334 5 9
Balances with other British Banks and Cheques in course of collection ...			10,818,386 9 9
Money at Call and Short Notice			23,582,200 0 0
Bills Discounted			36,966,668 4 8
Investments (Including £641,380 5s. 8d. lodged as security for Public Authority and other Accounts):—			
Securities of, or guaranteed by, the British Government	49,950,066	9 10	
British Dominions and Colonial Government Securities, Bank of England & British Corporation Stocks	2,286,263	2 6	
Other Investments	500,460	6 4	52,736,789 18 8
Investments in Subsidiary Banks:— (at cost, *less* amounts written off)			
The British Linen Bank— £1,237,859 Stock...			3,713,577 0 0
Union Bank of Manchester, Limited— 300,000 Shares of £5 each, £2 10s. paid			1,350,000 0 0
Other Subsidiary Banks— (including fully paid Shares and 500,000 "B" Shares of £5 each, £1 per Share paid up, in Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas)			2,210,237 18 7
Advances:—			
Customers and other Accounts	172,926,487	16 8	
Staff for purchase of Barclays Bank Limited "C" Shares	68,755	17 1	
Balances in account with Subsidiary Banks	1,459,408	10 0	174,454,652 3 9
Liability of Customers for Acceptances and Endorsements, &c.			21,991,927 18 4
Bank Premises and Adjoining Properties (at cost, *less* amounts written off) ...			5,864,584 13 7
			£385,539,358 13 1

F. C. GOODENOUGH, *Chairman.*
HERBERT HAMBLING, *Deputy-Chairman.*
W. FAVILL TUKE, *Vice-Chairman.*
E. FISHER, H. T. MITCHELL, *General Managers.*

J. H. BECKWITH, C. D. CARRUTHERS, *Joint Chief Accountants.*

W. N. SEELEY, *Secretary.*

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

We have compared the above Balance Sheet with the balances on the Books at the Head Office, and with the detailed Returns from the Branches. We have verified the Cash with the Bank of England, the Cash and Bills at the Head Office, the Investments of the Bank and the Securities held against Money at Call and Short Notice. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and we are of the opinion that the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shewn by the Books and Returns of the Bank.

KEMP, CHATTERIS, NICHOLS, SENDELL & CO., PRICE, WATERHOUSE & CO., *Auditors.*

LONDON, *9th January*, 1930.

Greenock. The outlook in the tube trade is somewhat brighter, and there are a number of good enquiries on the market. The position in the sheet trade is unsatisfactory. Both in the black and galvanised trades business is poor, and prices are so keenly cut that there is no margin of profit. It has been found necessary to curtail the working week at some establishments.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: In the tinplate and galvanised sheet trades conditions continued rather quiet, and prices for both products, although nominally unchanged, are easier, while the heavier branches of the industry are adversely affected by exceptionally heavy imports of steel bars from Belgium and France. Last week the local Customs returns showed iron and steel imports totalling 30,203 tons, of which bars alone accounted for 14,669 tons, and further heavy consignments are anticipated. Effect has already been given to the decision to close the steel furnace at the Cardiff Guest, Keen works, and it is feared that it may become necessary to blow out one of the blast furnaces in the district. The minimum price for the Welsh steel bar is £6 10s., but the Belgian bar is selling at 21s. below this price.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market was moderately active, but prices eased on selling pressure combined with lower Eastern advices. Continental demand has slackened off, and little support was forthcoming from America, while consumers here merely operate to fill immediate requirements owing to the uncertainty of the general situation. Standard cash changed hands at £174 5s.-£170 and £172; three months, £177 5s.-£172 15s. and £175 5s. In the East, sales were reported at £179 to £174 17s. 6d. and £177 7s. 6d. ton c.i.f.

COPPER proved a generally quiet market and dealings still attended by a good deal of irregularity, while the backwardation has been maintained. American production for December amounted to 138,000 tons, against 145,000 in the previous month; exports, 35,000 tons, against 38,000; domestic deliveries, 58,000, against 69,000; refined stock, 171,000, against 127,000; and Blister stock, 265,000, against 258,000 tons. Standard cash, sold, £71 15s.-£72 5s. and £71 12s. 6d.; three months, £68 7s. 6d. to £68 15s. and £68 12s. 6d.

LEAD quiet but fully steady as sellers refrained from pressing. Good soft foreign pig, February, sold, £21 11s. 3d.-£21 10s., £21 12s. 6d.; March, £21 10s.; April, £21 11s. 3d. to £21 10s., £21 12s. 6d. May, £21 11s. 3d. to £21 13s. 9d. per ton.

SPELTER in better support and tendency firmer. February, sold, £19 12s. 6d.-£19 16s. 3d. and £20; March, £19 17s. 6d. to £20 2s. 6d.; April, £20 1s. 3d.-£20 7s. 6d. ton.

ANTIMONY firm. English regulus, £45 10s.-£52 10s.; Chinese ditto spot, £32 5s.; January-February, £29. Chinese crude, January-February, £19 ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ore, 50 per cent., January-February, 4s.; 60 per cent. ditto, 5s. per unit c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—January-February, £27 10s. ton c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER maintained. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, January 22.

The market has continued to move within a very narrow compass, the extreme fluctuation being 10 points, with trade calling offsetting any hedging. Speculation is non-existent pending some ideas of the new crop prospects and the acreage likely to be planted. Spot sales for the week 16th to 22nd (inclusive), 38,000 bales, of which 16,870 bales are American; 5,000, Brazil; 250, Argentine; 2,450, Peru; 8,850, Egyptian; 1,750, African; 1,650, East Indian and 1,180 sundries. Imports for the same period are 96,116 bales, of which 36,523 American, 47,152 Brazil, 2,157 Peru, 1,878 Egyptian, 3,246 African, 3,699 East Indian, and 1,461 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 9·47; Egyptian F. G. F. Sakel, 14·55; Uppers, 10·49; Brazil Fair, 9·17; Peru G. F. Mod-Rough, 10·50; G. F. Smooth, 10·17; West African Middling, 9·52; and East African G. F., 10·42.

MANCHESTER, January 22nd.

Conditions in the market during the past week have not improved and in certain sections producers have lost ground. Buyers have provided a fair amount of inquiry, but there has been much hesitation in placing orders. A moderate turnover has taken place in light bleaching cloths for India, most of the transactions being for Calcutta and Karachi. Heavy makes, however, have been slow of sale. There has not been any freer movement for China, and developments are not expected until after the New Year celebrations. Operations for Egypt, the Near East and South America have been confined to small lots and very little practicable demand has been met with for the Continent. Only necessary buying has occurred in home trade fabrics. The prices secured for all kinds of piece-goods have given no satisfaction whatever. A slack state of affairs has prevailed in the yarn market. American and Egyptian counts have been offered freely at cut prices, and the financial position tends to become worse.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1929.	1930.			Corresponding Date.	
	Dec. 21.	Jan. 8.	Jan. 15.	Jan. 22.	1929.	1928.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 9·42	d. 9·42	d. 9·56	d. 9·47	d. 10·54	d. 10·28
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·15	14·35	14·45	14·55	19·15	17·10
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	15⅝	15⅛
,, 40's weft ..... per lb.	14⅛	14⅛	14⅛	14	16⅛	16
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23⅛	23⅛	23⅛	23⅛	28	27
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 6	s. d. 26 3	s. d. 25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 6	26 6	26 6	28 6	27 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	15 6	14 9
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	14 0	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—The Antwerp "Futures" market for tops may be taken as a barometer reflecting trade sentiment, and whereas the quotation last July was 38½d. for the dry-combed type, which is taken as the basis, to-day it is 24d. for all months up to and including August. On the Bradford market oil-combed warp 64's tops were quoted at 40d. at the beginning of July; to-day the quotation, as far as there can be said to be one, is about 30d. Some topmakers may be standing out for a penny more, but there is little or no demand and nothing definite upon which to base quotations. The wool auctions have opened in London with values very much in line with what was expected; wool appears to be "dirt cheap," but always there is the feeling that it may yet be cheaper, and until prices find rock-bottom users everywhere will continue to operate on hand-to-mouth lines and there will be no sustained volume of business to reveal the real position. When the reaction does come it is almost certain to be seen in a more or less sharp upward movement, for it is generally admitted that users are not carrying any big stocks and the majority will endeavour to hit the market at the bottom; this in itself will be sufficient to cause an upward movement in values. Meanwhile traders are seriously alarmed at the continued drop—10d. per lb. in 64's tops in the last six months, 18d. compared with a year ago, and 25d. compared with two years ago. In recent weeks crossbreds have also suffered, though 46's carded tops are only about 7d. down compared with a year ago, or 9d. compared with the quotation ruling in January, 1928.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The chief event in the wool trade this week has been the opening of another series of London sales, and it is no exaggeration to say that what has happened there has had a profound effect upon the industry as a whole. Prices for all qualities of tops have fallen pence per lb. since the last series held in 1929, and values for wool in Australia and elsewhere have undergone further reductions. The problem now is to stabilise prices. The most serious aspect of the present fall is that it is only too likely to involve buyers in further serious losses, and unfortunately spinners and manufacturers are not yet showing the confidence which is indicative of increasing consumption requirements. Spinners are bidding low prices for fine tops, and express determination to leave crossbreds entirely alone. This is due to a desire not to start buying heavily until the bottom point has been touched, and the London sales have presented a very apathetic appearance, neither home trade nor Continental buyers having the pluck to go in heavily. Withdrawals have been numerous, and one can only infer that owners will have to make some further readjustment of limits before the bulk of the wool now being offered can be disposed of. Meanwhile, merino wool offered this series is only commanding bids of 3d. to 4d. per lb. less than was paid for lots from the same mark at the final series of 1929. An equally deplorable state of affairs is revealed in crossbreds, for prices in New Zealand as well as Buenos Aires and Monte Video have undergone further reductions, and slipe halfbred lambs have frequently failed to realise even 16d. in Coleman Street this series; 20 per cent. decline is also having to be faced by those who have sold their greasy clips. Altogether the situation is deplorable in the extreme from the growers' and sellers' point of view, and yet there is little, if any, better prospect for users. The position is entirely due to the failure of ultimate consumers' requirements to develop, and there will be a further keen struggle before trade is placed in a really satisfactory position.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

English cattle hides were unchanged in value at the auctions held so far this week, and a steady demand exists for most descriptions. Calfskins on the other hand are not required so freely, and the tendency is towards lower values. Although conditions in the foreign hide market have been a little better this week there is still a good deal of uncertainty regarding future values, and this is to some extent restricting business. In the South American market further advances have been paid for Argentine ox on account of United States tanners, and these are now selling on the basis of 9 3/16d. Saladeros have come in for more attention and sales have been made of Salto ox at 8⅝d., and Casablanca ox at 8 5/16d. Prices for dry River Plates are more or less unchanged; B.A. Americanos have been sold at 9 3/16d., M.V. Americanos at 10⅛d., while good business has been done in inservibles. African hides are a little irregular as, while some descriptions have been able to maintain later rates, others, such as Capes and Nigerians, are quoted a fraction easier. A fair amount of business is being transacted in

GILBART BANKING LECTURES

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in

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each Friday

on

JANUARY 24th, 31st,

and

FEBRUARY 7th, 14th.

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SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors of this Company will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 12th day of February next, at 12 o'clock noon precisely, to receive the Director's Report and the Accounts of the Company for the year ended the 31st day of December last, to declare a Dividend for the same period, and to elect two Directors and one Auditor in place of those retiring by rotation.

NOTICE IS HEREBY ALSO GIVEN that at such Meeting resolutions will be submitted for the creation and issue of further Ordinary or Preference and Debenture Stock, as authorised by the South Metropolitan Gas Act 1928.

The Transfer Books will be closed for both Preference and Ordinary Stocks on and from the 29th day of January instant until after the Meeting.—By Order,

FRANK DAY, Secretary.

Offices:
709, Old Kent Road, London, S.E. 15.
18th January, 1930.

INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE BANK, INC.

NEW YORK

(Owned by The Manhattan Company)

Statement of Condition as of December 31, 1929

RESOURCES

Stockholders' Liability for Uncalled Subscriptions	$6,250,000.00	
Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	7,342,506.18	
Call Loans Secured by Acceptances	6,000,000.00	
Acceptances of Other Banks	6,445,731.41	
		$19,788,237.59
U. S. Government, State and Municipal Bonds		16,295,131.95
Collateral Loans		9,132,203.42
Loans and Advances		
Due within 30 days	$11,140,934.35	
Due after 30 days	3,370,166.68	
		$14,511,101.03
Other Bonds and Securities		5,930,196.99
Customers' Liability for Acceptances (less anticipations)		95,334,461.36
Customers' Liability under Letters of Credit		9,053,817.18
Accrued Interest Receivable and Other Assets		324,111.12
		$170,369,260.64

LIABILITIES

Capital and Surplus Fully Subscribed	$18,750,000.00	
Capital		$6,250,000.00
Surplus		7,500,000.00
Undivided Profits		4,600,559.97
Due to Banks and Customers		44,371,087.73
Acceptances Outstanding		98,243,981.95
Letters of Credit		9,053,817.18
Reserve for Taxes, Unearned Discount and Other Liabilities		349,813.81
		$170,369,260.64

PAUL M. WARBURG, *Chairman* — F. ABBOT GOODHUE, *President*

THE MANHATTAN COMPANY

NEW YORK

Capital $37,219,306.00
Surplus 74,438,612.00
Undivided Profits 27,455,349.73

As of January 6, 1930

The Manhattan Company group, in addition to the International Acceptance Bank, Inc., consists of the following institutions:

Bank of Manhattan Trust Company, New York;
International Manhattan Company, Incorporated, New York; New York Title and Mortgage Company, New York; American Trust Company, New York;
The County Trust Company, White Plains, N. Y.

PAUL M. WARBURG, *Chairman of the Board* — P. A. ROWLEY, *President* — J. STEWART BAKER, *Chairman of the Executive Committee*

connection with sole leather, and generally speaking prices are on the firm side, with an effort to obtain slight advances here and there. Repairing bends are still the mainstay and this section of the trade is taking up regular supplies. Manufacturers have also been in the market for the lighter averages in bends, in both English and wet salted, and although the amount of business passing under this head is not as large as was hoped for, a regular trade is being done. Medium qualities in some of the dry hide bends have also been sought after, and where the price quoted has conformed to the views of buyers, business has taken place. Both bellies and shoulders continue to be in request, and anything of the right description is easily placed. Upper leathers for the most part are in steady request, the bulk of the business done still being in connection with black and brown glacé kid and willow calf. On the other hand an improvement has been noted in the inquiry for patent leather and box calf, and although price to some extent retards business in connection with certain grades of the former, inquiry is better than for some time past. Heavy upper leathers are not a good line, and what inquiry exists is mainly in connection with waxed splits, kip butts and box sides. Shoe manufacturers are able to report the position as steadily improving, and although the orders coming to hand so far are for small quantities, these are being received in increasing numbers.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, January 22, 1930.

Business in the jute trade is slow, owing to over-production of jute cloth. Values of raw jute have fallen a little during the past few days, but they will require to come down several pounds per ton to enable producers of yarns and cloth to make ends meet. The Calcutta mills continue their policy of working the six hours extra per week, and this is having a demoralising effect on the jute trade in general. Their original intention was to depress prices of cloth to such an extent as to defy competition from other producing centres, which, they allege, are capturing some of their markets, and at the same time discourage native enterprise in the erection of new jute mills in India. Unfortunately, however, they have chosen a season to increase their production when the state of trade throughout the world is poor, with the result that much money is being lost in the making of jute goods, and the Calcutta mills themselves may yet be compelled to supply the incentive for a return to economic conditions of working by again curtailing their output to 54 hours per week instead of the 60 hours now in operation. Rumours have been current that the mills will shortly signify their intention to review their working hours, some reference to which may be made at a meeting of the mills to be held in the course of the next few days. The value of Daisee assortment has come back to £25 10s., threes to £25 and fours to £23 10s.; while Tossa assortment is offered at £27 5s., threes at £26 15s., and fours at £25 10s., January-February shipment. Good First Marks are quoted at £32, and best Lightnings have been sold at £29, same shipment. Prices of jute yarns are mostly nominal in the absence of business to test them. Spinners continue to name 2s. 10d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 11d. for 8-lb. spools. Twist has been sold at 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are quiet at 3¼d. to 3⅝d. for 24-lb. weft and 4 11/16d. to 4¾d. for 8-lb. chains. Rove is nominally unchanged at £27 for 48 lb. and £17 for 200 lb., and fine yarns keep steady. Carpet qualities meet with little interest at 4⅛d. for 14-lb. warp. Cloth orders are very limited and only for the smallest of quantities. Manufacturers are still adhering to their prices, but show willingness to shade them in the case of orders worth taking. The value of 10½ oz. 40 in. is from 3 13/16d. and 8 oz. from 2 13/16d. Linoleum hessians continue very quiet, and business in heavy goods is only possible where considerable concessions are given on the quoted rates. Calcutta goods were firm and dearer all last week, but an easier tendency has again set in, which has destroyed all confidence in the market.

THE KIDDER PEABODY ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION

Established April, 1922.

9, Spring Lane, BOSTON. 11, Wall Street, NEW YORK.

London Agents: BARING BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1929	Dec. 31, 1928
Cash	$2,446,439.64	$1,938,913.24
U.S. Government Bonds	3,812,346.03	4,171,613.23
Demand Loans (Secured by Acceptances)	1,400,000.00	1,300,000.00
Other Bankers' Acceptances	2,145,480.02	2,085,582.41
Notes, Bills and Accounts Receivable	1,939,602.81	1,897,695.10
Bonds	1,871,462.71	1,969,029.50
Stocks	3,370,752.08	3,038,333.19
Real Estate	107,522.20	107,522.20
Customers' Liability—		
On Acceptances	36,685,782.91	28,157,817.32
On Unused Letters of Credit	16,195,943.81	12,609,212.66
	$69,975,332.21	$56,775,219.35
LIABILITIES.		
Capital Stock	$13,500,000.00	$13,500,000.00
Surplus and Profit and Loss	1,733,404.74	1,329,653.36
Acceptances Outstanding (less $441,152.09 in Portfolio)	38,361,606.61	29,194,088.51
Letters of Credit Outstanding	16,195,943.81	12,609,212.66
Bonds	—	17,000.00
Reserves for Taxes, Dividends, etc.	184,377.05	125,264.82
	$69,975,332.21	$56,775,219.35
Other Bankers' Acceptances sold with endorsement of this Corporation	$7,006,946.43	$7,270,593.68

We hereby certify that we have audited the books and accounts of The Kidder Peabody Acceptance Corporation for the period beginning January 1, 1929, and ending December 31, 1929, that we have examined all current assets and have found them and all liabilities and proprietorship accounts as stated.

The accompanying Balance sheet, we believe, to be a true statement of the financial condition of said corporation as of the date named.

(Signed) WALDRON H. RAND & COMPANY,
Certified Public Accountants.

Letters of Credit in Dollars issued jointly with Kidder, Peabody & Co., to Finance Imports, Exports and Domestic Shipments.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—An unhealthy state of affairs continues, as the market is depressed by over-production and lack of confidence on the part of buyers. Prices were again marked down, in some directions substantially, but this so far has led to only a moderate increase in absorption. It would appear rates now ruling are too low to inspire confidence, which has been so badly shaken. Prices in all directions were marked down to-day. Messrs. Tate and Lyle's goods reduced 6d., and in the case of T.L. granulated 9d. Home-grown granulated, 3d. lower. Foreign descriptions for shipment are difficult of sale and prices have a downward tendency. Terminal sections weaker as sellers predominated, but market reacted sharply on rumours of Cuba restricting present crop, and a fair amount of business resulted. Raw, including March delivery, 5s. 6¼d. to 5s. 5½d. and 6s.; May, 6s. 9¾d. to 6s. 9d., 7s. 4½d. 7s. 3d.; August, 7s. 5½d. to 7s. 4½d., 8s. 0¾d., 8s.; December, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 8½d., 8s. 3½d., 8s. 2½d. Two cargoes, Cuban, 96 per cent. afloat, offered at 7s. 3d. c.i.f. U.K. White Java, February-March, to India, 10s. 7½d. c. and f. Cuban receipts last week, old crop, 13,639 tons, against 3,926 last year; new, 2,862, against 109,997; exports, old, 33,200, against 41,530; new, 145, against 22,205; stocks, old, 128,072, against 62,586; new, 2,499, against 96,730. Centrals at work, 125, against 154 same time last year. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending January 18th totalled 236,029 tons, compared with 147,413 last year.

COFFEE.—There was a brisk demand, mostly for all the more attractive liquoring qualities and market ruled very firm. There was rather more attention given to the lower grades.

COCOA.—Only a slow movement on spot. Forward positions firm. Accra F/F, February-April, sold, 40s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal: January, sold, 44s. 6d.; February, 44s. 3d.; March, 44s. 3d. to 44s. 4½d. and 44s. 3d.; May, 44s. 7½d. to 44s. 10½d.; July, 45s. 7½d. to 45s. 9d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week totalled 54,724 packages. All fine autumnal character teas, also tippy grades, met a brisk demand at full rates. Medium about steady, but irregular for plain and thin liquoring qualities with leafy sorts a shade easier. Ceylon sales of 29,010 packages ruled firm to rather dearer for the few finest qualities offered. Otherwise, much irregularity ensued with medium brokens a weak feature. These mostly ½d. to 1d. down from previous auctions. There was rather more export inquiry. Java auctions generally easier.

RICE.—Burma kinds steady at recent slight improvement, but general trade quiet, particularly on United Kingdom account. Spanish quiet, but reservedly offered and firm. Two Stars, January-February and February-March, quoted 12s. c.i.f. Spanish oiled, February, 16s. c.i.f. Fancy Blue Rose, American, 20s.; extra ditto, 21s. to 21s. 6d. c.i.f. No. 3 Burma to the Levant, double bags, January, 12s. 1½d.; February, 12s. 1½d. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 3d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, February-March, to Europe, 12s. 1½d. Siam Super, January-February, 15s. 6d. Californian nominal.

BROKEN RICE quiet. Burma 1A, February-March, 10s. 10½d.; B1, 10s. 4½d.; A2, 10s. 3d.; B2, 10s. Saigon 1 and 2, mixed, 10s .3d. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN dull, and afloat, sellers, at £4 5s.; for shipment, £4 10s. per ton ex ship terms United Kingdom, regarding Burma.

BEANS.—A firmer market for butters, with covering orders still circulating. Spot, new crop, 40s. to 42s. Parcels per "Eugene Grossos," quoted, 29s. 6d.; per "Clan Macindoe," 29s. 6d.; "Clan Chatton," 29s. "Belgrano," 27s. 10½d.; November-December, 29s. 6d.; December-January, 28s.; January-March, 27s. 6d. c.i.f. Other descriptions idle. Ohtenashi, March-April, quoted, 22s. 6d. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 13s. 6d.; January-February, 12s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Danubian, hand-picked, spot, 25s. to 25s. 6d.; January-February, 23s. 6d. c.i.f. London. To Glasgow: North African, January-February, 9s. c.i.f. Chinese horse, afloat, 8s. 9d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—A dull market continues. Japanese, spot, old, 14s. 9d.; new, sold, 15s. 9d.; afloat, sellers, 15s. 6d.; January-February, 16s. 6d.; February-March, 16s. 4½d.; March-April, 16s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Dutch steady, but quiet. Marrowfats, prompt, quoted, 17s.; small blues, H.P., 11s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s. 6d. Karachi, nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, January, old, 57s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 60s. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, February-March, 67s. c.i.f. China white, hand-picked, December-January, quoted, 13s. 6d.; f.a.q., 10s. 9d. Manchurian white, December-January, 12s. c.i.f.

LENTILS dull. Bold Bombay, January-February, nominally 68s. Calcutta Patna, to arrive, 75s. Bombay Patna, nominal c.i.f. (504 lb.).

SPICE.—Pepper in fair support and market firmer with regard to forward positions. Lampong, January-March, sold 11½d.; March-May, 11¾d. Muntok, white, January-March, sold 1s. 4d.; and March-May, 1s. 4⅛d. lb. London stocks on the week, 95 tons regarding black and 56 white, decreases. Stock of black now 1,191, against 1,181 last year, and white, 1,473, against 269. Aleppo, January-March, quoted 107s.; Tellicherry, 110s. cwt. c.i.f. Cloves steady. Zanzibar, spot, 9¾d. to 10d.; April, steamer, sold 8¾d. Tapioca quiet, unaltered. Sago flour, February-March, to the United Kingdom, quoted, 11s. 7½d. c.i.f. Dutch farina, 9s. 9d. f.o.b.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market generally quiet, supplies being adequate for requirements. Pyrgos, quoted, 37s. 6d.-38s.; Amalias, 38s. 6d.-40s.; Patras, 40s.-45s.; Gulf, 44s.-51s.; Vostizza, 52s.-63s.; small ditto, 51s.-58s.; Australian, 37s.-42s. Sultanas in limited demand. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 35s.-52s.; Cape, bleached, 35s.-40s. Dates in fair request at steady rates. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins: Valencia, quiet of sale. Quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs quiet. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 30s.-38s.; good average, 27s.-29s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Californian plums steady and new South African apricots are available. Other descriptions quiet at about late rates. Plums: Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 72s. 6d.; 40's-50's, 67s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 63s. Apricots, South African new crop Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.-77s. 6d. Pears, Californian Lake County, fancy, 90s.; extra, 100s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches, Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.; extra choice, 62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.; extra, 72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 110s.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-135s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s., new crop, c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 140s.; Barcelona, 132s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts firm at 150s. ex wharf London.

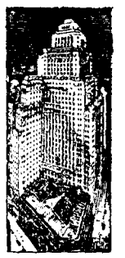
CANNED GOODS, &c.

CANNED FRUITS.—A firm tone governed the market for most descriptions of Californian fruits as remaining stocks unsold are in small compass, but demand fails to expand while confined to immediate needs. Australian varieties move off steadily. Singapore pines steady, but business restricted both for spot and shipment parcels. South African and Hawaiian firmly held. Italian tomatoes experienced a quiet sale on about former terms.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market firm, but demand slow to improve. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s. 6d.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab firm, and fancy qualities, quoted, 97s. 6d.-100s., with lower grades still scarce. Lobsters steady, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines in limited demand, but tone steady. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb. tins, 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm and ox tongues tend dearer. Firm prices are also obtainable for tinned hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market easier. Condensed, Dutch, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 23s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 41s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 24s. Powders: Full cream, English, roller process, 28 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 85s.; Dutch, roller process, 26 per cent. butterfat, 1-cwt, cases, 72s.; ditto, spray, 26 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 96s.; Dutch, machine-skimmed, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 39s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 37s. 6d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. All Dutch prices are nett, ex-store London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. On the grocery side: Full cream,



THE EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK

Incorporated with limited liability in the State of New York, U.S.A. A merger of The Seaboard National Bank and The Equitable Trust Company.

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TOTAL RESOURCES EXCEED $900,000,000

McC. 8

EXPORTS AS GIFTS

By ARTHUR MICHAEL SAMUEL, M.P.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 1927–29.

BANK OF ENGLAND AND HIRE PURCHASE

A STOCKBROKER'S NOTE BOOK

[By AUSTIN FRIARS]

SEE The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review THIS WEEK

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	51	3
Hng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	7
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	8	6
Oats, " "	6	11
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, 280 lb.....	s. 39	d. 0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	12	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
H.I. flake, fair spot.....	21	0
Medium pearl.....	23	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt....	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides	5	4
Argentine chilled hinds...	4	8
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers	6	4
N.Z. frozen "	4	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs....	8	8

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	118	0
Danish.....	106	0
Canadian.....	106	0
Dutch	97	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0
Canadian.....	0	0
American	96	0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	0	0
New Zealand	0	0
Danish.....	170	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0
New Zealand	86	0
English Cheddars	96	0
Dutch	50	0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0
Trinidad	58	0
Grenada	48	0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
B.I., good to fine, per cwt.	140	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	155	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	115	0
Kenya, bold sizes	117	0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	17	6
Danish.....	14	9
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	13	0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	7	0
360	8	0
504	9	0
Lemons, Naples.... boxes	0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	7	6
" ..... cases	8	6
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	18	6
" (var.) boxes	10	6
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0
" W. Australian	0	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia:—				
case 4s.	6	3	7	0
case 5s.	8	0	8	9
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	78	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	55	6	57	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	10
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	66	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	105	0
Mace..... per lb.	3	0	3	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	21	0	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Feb.-Mar.	10	9	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	10½	21	6
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8	1	9½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	1½
Orange Pekoe	0	11	2	2
Broken Orange.....	0	9½	2	8
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1
COTTON— **TEXTILES.**		d.		
Mid-American..... per lb.		9·47		
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....		14·55		
Yarns, 32's twist.....		13¾		
60's twist.....		23¾		
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	57	10	0	0
Pernau HD	56	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Jan.-Mar. "J2"...	34	0	0	0
N.Z., Aug.-Oct.		nom.		
Sisal African, Jan.-Mar...	34	0	35	0
Mexican, Nov.-Dec.....	38/15/0		43/2/6	
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton Jan.-Feb.	26	0	12	6
Feb.-Mar.	27	0	0	0
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	13	9	15	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
WOOL—				
English Southdown, washed per lb.		21		
" Lincoln hog, washed		14		
Queensland, scd, super cmbg.		28		
N.S.W. greasy, super "		13½		
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56		14		
Crossbred 40–44		11		
Tops—				
Merinos 70's		31		
" 64's		29		
Crossbred 48's		14		
" 46's		16½		

MINERALS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
COAL—				
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	7½	18	10½

	£	s.	£	s.
METALS—				
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/5/0		83	15
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard 71/17/6			72	5
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	22	10	23	0
Soft Foreign 21/11/3			0	0
Spelter G.O.B. 19/13/9			20/6/3	
Tin—English ingots ...172	0		172	10
Standard cash 170/17/6			171	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
CHEMICALS—				
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	11
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.-Mar.	22/11/3		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	21/8/9		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	16	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

	s.	d.	s.	d.
HIDES—				
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5¾
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	9	0	10½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	5¾
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3½	2	3½
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	10	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	45	10	0	0
Rape, refined	41	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	31	10	32	15
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	0	12	5
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Jan.-Feb.	18	0	0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Jan.-Feb.	21/17/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	42	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	152	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African " "	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	6	

sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 6d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remained quiet, but prices generally steady, as sellers refrain from pressing. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s. Fine white Cuban, 49s. San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s. Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s. New Zealand, dark amber, 50s.-55s.; medium, 55s.-65s.; light, 65s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

A fair amount of business was effected, but at times prices were subject to some irregularity. Standard sheet, spot and February, sold, 7⅜d. to 7 7/16d.; March, 7½d. to 7 7/16d.; April-June, 7⅜d. to 7 13/16d. and 7 15/16d.; July-September, 8d. to 8 1/16d. and 7 15/16d.; October-December, 8 3/16d. to 8⅜d. and 8½d. To New York, estate sheet, February-March, sold, 7 7/16d. c.i.f. London stocks 617 tons higher on the week, landings being 2,007 tons, deliveries, 1,390, stock, 59,607, against 23,547 same time last year. Liverpool stocks 125 down. Landings, 213; deliveries, 338; stock, 19,515, against 3,505.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Met with but quiet attention, but market proved steady as sellers adopted rather more reserve. Firsts, January-February, Hamburg, quoted, £26 7s. 6d.; February-March, £26 15s.; March-April, £27; April-May, £27 7s. 6d. Lightnings, February-March, £24 17s. 6d.; Hearts, £22 c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila qualities meet a slow market, but prices were without material change. J 2, January-March, quoted, £34; K, £31 5s.; L, No. 1, £29 10s.; L, No. 2, £26 10s.; M, No. 1, £26 15s.; M, No. 2, £25 c.i.f. Sales: K, January-March, at £31 5s.; L, No. 2, and M, No. 1, £26 10s. African sisal steady, and No. 1 f.a.q., January-March, £34; marks, sellers, £35; and No. 2, £1 less in each case. Mexican: Good white, £38 15s. to £39 12s. 6d.; special, £41 5s. to £42 2s. 6d.; and special brushed, £42 5s. to £43 2s. 6d. Receipts last week cabled 28,000 bales, against 32,000 last year and 23,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 28,000, and week following 28,000. Shipments last week from Manila, 7,000 to the U.K., 5,000 Continent, 5,000 U.S.A., 5,000 Japan, and 1,000 other directions.

SHELLAC.—Steady, quiet. Fair T.N., spot, 152s. 6d.; March, 142s. 6d.; May, 145s.

COPRA.—Again sparingly offered and market firm. Straits S.D., January, to Rotterdam, quoted, £22 11s. 3d.; Dutch E.I., £22 11s. 3d.; Ceylon, £24 5s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch E.I., no Padang quoted, £21 11s. 3d.; smoked: South Sea, £21 8s. 9d. c.i.f. Palm kernels, February-March, to Hamburg, £16 18s. 9d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 17s. to 24s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3½d.; Java, 2s. 9d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—January 22.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Irish	...		...		Canadian	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...		Sheep—Downs	8	8	10	0
Short Horns	6	2	6	4	Half bred	...		...	
Herefords	6	4	6	8	Ewes	5	0	5	8
Devons	...		...		Scottish	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...		Lamb—Downs	...		...	

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—January 22.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	4	0	4	6
" " whites.....	3	0	3	6
Essex King Edward.....	3	6	4	0
" " whites	2	6	3	0

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A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

THE repayment, early this week, of £15,400,000 of maturing Exchequer bonds helped to make money extremely easy, and as there is still present in the market much money that is normally employed in the Stock Exchange, and as the clearing banks refrained from

ing, rates for old money ran as low as 3½ per cent. Discount rates also remained low, February bills being quoted at 3⅞ per cent. and March at 3 11/16 per cent., while the three months' market rate on Wednesday was 3¾ per cent., or even "$\frac{1}{32}$ under." The weekly Treasury bill maturities are still £15,000,000 in excess of new issues, and so a further contraction in the supply of bills must be expected.

* * * *

In these circumstances discount rates are likely to remain weak until such time as revenue influx or a revival of Stock Exchange activity draws money off the market. It is not impossible that some Stock Exchange money will disappear next settling day (February 6th) in order to take up stock now being sold in preparation for the special Hatry settlement. Meanwhile the market has ceased to look for any reduction in Bank rate, simply because the principal foreign exchanges would not justify it. The mark is now down to the lower gold point, and on Tuesday Germany took all the market gold available after satisfying the needs of India and the trade. There have also been heavy earmarkings of gold at the Bank, largely on Argentine account. Gold so earmarked is regarded by Argentine law as being lodged at the London Legation, and so is eligible under the recent decree as cover for the Argentine note issue.

* * * *

The fall in the German exchange is thought to result from transfers of French funds from London to Berlin, presumably because of the low level of London rates. The improvement in the dollar is explained partly by European preparations for debt payments and partly by maturities of cotton and grain bills. A third cause is the fact that American stocks are proving attractive at present prices, and it is known that some buying on London account is already taking place. Here again a revival in interest in the London Stock Exchange is needed to counteract this development. These factors are serious arguments against a reduction in Bank rate, and so the present gap between Bank rate and market rate seems likely to persist, at any rate for a little while.

	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	5	5½ (Dec.12,'29)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Discount { Call	3	3	3	3	3½ (Dec.12,'29)
Houses { Notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3¾ (Dec.12,'29)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	4 1/16	4 1/16–⅛	3 15/16–15/16	3⅞	...

The December statements of the nine English clearing banks show that deposits have increased to their highest level since July, but that there has been a sharp fall in acceptances.

	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec, 1929.
Capital and reserves	130·8	130·8	130·8	130·8	130·7
Acceptances	186·1	188·7	203·2	215·2	169·6
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.)	1,758·8	1,754·0	1,764·7	1,751·4	1,773·3
Total liabilities	2,075·7	2,073·5	2,098·8	2,097·4	2,073·6
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	237·2	242·3	247·1	242·0	266·3
Money at call	140·8	145·5	144·9	139·7	139·0
Investments	266·6	266·4	265·5	259·5	260·4
Discounts	225·0	221·7	226·9	230·7	226·7
Loans and advances	981·3	971·9	974·0	973·0	972·7
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	224·8	225·8	240·4	252·5	208·5
Total assets	2,075·7	2,073·5	2,098·8	2,097·4	2,073·6

The assets side of the accounts show that the increase of £21.9 million in deposits is more than balanced by an expansion of £24.3 million in cash. Discounts are lower by £4,000,000, but the remaining earning assets are practically unchanged.

NEW YORK.

The Federal Reserve statements reveal a continued gain in reserves and a contraction of discounts and bill holdings, with Government securities stationary. The circulation is still falling and the System's ratio is up 2 per cent. to 78.3 per cent., a rise of 8.9 per cent. on the year. The total volume of credit outstanding is $313 million lower than a year ago. In general the changes at the New York Bank are similar and some newspapers have been agitating for a lower discount rate. $5 million of gold has been imported from Brazil in the week and $2½ million released from earmark. In addition, about $20 million is coming from Japan. The liquidation of Member Bank loans on securities continues, and altogether it appears that a further easing of money rates is likely.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock markets remained in a dull condition, business being greatly restricted and public interest conspicuously absent, though a slightly firmer tone obtained towards the end of the week. Some selling to meet "Hatry" settlement commitments was reported. Gilt-edged stocks reflected the less favourable monetary outlook, and the falling-due of a heavy payment of Five per Cent. Conversion Loan. India Loans recovered sharply on the reassuring letter of the Secretary of State, and Australian issues were better. Interest in the Industrial markets was largely confined to international stocks. Rubber shares were a trifle harder, but tea shares again declined. The announcement that the Patino interests would co-operate in the tin restriction scheme produced a reasonable recovery in share values.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There is little change since last week. The coal trade is mainly occupied with old contracts, and new business is not abundant. Reports on the iron and steel markets are somewhat conflicting, but there appears to be some slight improvement in certain branches at least. A fall in raw cotton prices has intensified a very unsatisfactory position in Manchester. The situation in the wool textile industries is unchanged, but colonial wools are meeting a slightly better demand. Some anxiety is being felt in the timber trade, but the causes of this do not appear to be very serious. The hide and leather markets remain satisfactory. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are not in very great demand. Wheat prices have fallen.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Quiet conditions prevailed in the Foreign Exchange market last week, the only noteworthy feature being another sudden drop in the peseta. Sterling declined, against the dollar, from 4.86 21/32 to 4.86 9/16. Montreal improved from 4.92⅛ to 4.91⅝. Paris fluctuated a good deal, and lost two points on balance at 123.92, after being at one time 123.88. Brussels lost ½ at 34.93½. Milan gained a point at 92.98. The peseta reacted to the political atmosphere, for after going from last week's level of 37.55 to 37.35, the rate rose suddenly to 38.30 on Tuesday, finally settling down considerably stronger at 36.25. Amsterdam lost ⅜ at 12.11⅝. Berlin fluctuated a good deal, but gained ¾ at 20.36½. Switzerland went from 25.18 to 25.20¾. Stockholm was firmer at 18.12⅜, Oslo gained ½ at 18.21 and Copenhagen improved from 18.19⅜ to 18.18¾. Among the South American exchanges Rio improved after some hesitation from 5 7/16d. to 5⅜d., but Buenos Aires lost 7/16d. at 44½d. after having been over 45d. The rupee was a little weaker at 1s. 5 23/32d., the yen was unchanged at 20s. 4d., but Batavia improved from 12.14¼ to 12.13½. In the futures market one month's dollars were more sought at 3/64 cent premium, but three months were less wanted at the same quotations, against 3/32 cent. premium last week. Francs were again in short supply at rather higher premium of 4½ and 8 centimes. Amsterdam was unchanged, as was one month's Berlin at 2½ pfennigs discount, but three months were ¼ better at a discount of 6½ pfennigs, as against 6¾ last week. Silver prices fluctuated a good deal, and spot lost ⅛d. at 20 9/16, but the forward quotation was unchanged at 20 7/16. The Chinese silver exchanges reacted differently, Hong Kong gaining ⅛d. at 1s. 8d., whilst Shanghai lost ¼d. at 2s. 0⅜d.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

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AMENDING THE COAL BILL.

THE weight of the criticism directed against the Coal Mines Bill during its Second Reading in the House of Commons, and re-inforced by resolutions of protest from important associations of manufacturers and traders, suggested unmistakably that, if the Government were to succeed in carrying their measure through Parliament, it could only be in a form radically altered and modified. From the nature of the Government's own amendments, noted briefly in last week's issue of the *Economist*, it seemed clear that the Cabinet had recognised the necessity of going as far as possible to meet the views of the Opposition parties, and this impression was confirmed both by Mr Graham's conciliatory attitude during Tuesday's Debate on the Money Resolution (agreement to report progress being reached on the basis of an understanding that the resolution would be re-drafted to give wider scope for amendments in the Committee stage) and by the fact that a number of conferences were held this week at Mr Lloyd George's headquarters between the President of the Board of Trade and the Committee of the Liberal Parliamentary Party appointed to draw up the Liberal amendments to the Bill.

At the time of writing we are not aware of the result of these *pourparlers*, nor do we know what amendments the Liberal Party will eventually table. The Government amendments were designed, firstly, to afford ampler protection to the consumer by providing that if a committee of investigation, as established by the Bill, finds that "any act or omission of any persons in respect of their functions under the scheme is having or is likely to have an effect contrary to the public interests," the committee may, failing rectification, refer the matter to a single independent arbitrator, whose decision shall be final; secondly, to secure reconsideration by Parliament of the effect of the scheme at the end of 1933; and, thirdly, to stimulate the process of amalgamation by constituting a Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission. This Commission, whose membership, it was suggested by Mr. Graham in the House on Tuesday, should consist of a chartered accountant, a lawyer and a mining engineer, is "to promote and assist by the preparation of schemes and otherwise" such amalgamations as "appear to the Commission to be in the national interest." It is to be empowered to hold inquiries, and, if owners of collieries which, in its opinion, should be amalgamated fail to initiate an amalgamation scheme, it is to submit the necessary scheme *via* the Board of Trade to the Railway and Canal Commission, which shall treat it as if it had been submitted (by colliery owners) under Part I of the Mining Industry Act, 1926. If a scheme so submitted is confirmed, *i.e.*, made obligatory, by the Railway and Canal Commission, the expenses incurred by the Reorganisation Commission in preparing the scheme are to be recovered from the merger company, and in such amalgamations "the value of any undertaking shall be taken to be of such amount as it is estimated would have been the value thereof if Part I of this Act had not been passed,"—*i.e.*, "quota-rights" are not to count.

So far as they go, these amendments harmonise to a large extent with the views expressed by Mr Lloyd George and Sir Herbert Samuel during the Second Reading Debate, but they manifestly do not succeed in eliminating all the Bill's worst defects. Apart from the fact that the Reorganisation Commission is not charged with the submission of amalgamation schemes *within any specified period of time*, and that reference to the Railway and Canal Commission is a circumlocutory process, it will be observed that Parliament is still asked to delegate to the owners of the collieries statutory power to administer a system of organised restriction of output and minimum selling prices which might be operated to the grave detriment of individual coal producers and of all users of coal. The objectionable permissive powers to make a levy for subsidisation of exports remain, and though the machinery of "investigating committees" is strengthened by the appointment of an independent arbitrator, the establishment of a single individual with the powers of a dictator over every action of an industry is itself open to considerable criticism, and does not solve the difficulty that complaints—*e.g.*, of excessive prices—might take so long to investigate, attempt to rectify, and refer to arbitration, that the remedy would come too late in many cases to help the injured party. Without knowledge of the amendments which the Liberal Party's committee have drafted and have been discussing with Mr Graham, we should expect them to go considerably beyond those tabled by the Government, especially with regard to compulsory amalgamations, consumer's participation in price control, and the establishment of organised marketing syndicates. In fact, Liberal amendments have already been lodged proposing that the House in Committee should have power to consider provisions for the acquisition of mining royalties, and that consideration of Part I of the Bill, as read, be postponed until all new clauses have been discussed.

But whereas the Liberal Party appears inclined to support the reduction of hours in Part II of the Bill, and to endeavour, in Part I, to get such effective "amalgamative" machinery incorporated that the output restriction and price-fixing clauses can either be dropped at once or allowed to lapse after a short period (thus becoming of secondary importance), Conservative amendments have been tabled which seem calculated to place the Government in a position of some difficulty. Considering their source, the amendments are of a remarkable character. Naturally no reference is made to the desirability of compulsory amalgamations or the purchase of royalties by the State, but, through their objections to the frankly syndicalist principles of the Bill, the Conservatives have been led to proposals which involve a striking degree of Parliamentary interference with the conduct of an industry.

The most important of the Conservative amendments are to the following effect:—

(1) That the limitation of daily hours of work should not apply to mines in which the aggregate time below ground of any shift does not exceed 45 hours per week or, alternatively, 90 hours per fortnight.

(2) That both the central scheme and the district schemes shall be laid before Parliament; that the central scheme shall not become operative without an affirmative resolution of both Houses; and that district schemes shall take effect only in the absence of a negative resolution after the lapse of 20 Parliamentary working days.

(3) That coal supplied by mines, controlled by another industrial undertaking, for use as fuel in that undertaking's works shall not be subject to quota-restriction.

(4) That the power to make levies for "facilitating the sale of any class of coal" be abrogated.

(5) That investigating committees, if they find that a consumer has been charged an excessive price, may order the district's executive board (subject to appeal, as below) to pay him compensation.

(6) That a Judicial Commission shall be appointed by the Lord Chancellor, consisting of a judge of the Supreme Court, a chartered accountant, and "a person having industrial and commercial experience," whose legal powers shall be equivalent to those of the High Court, and whose functions, *inter alia*, shall be to give binding awards on (*a*) appeals by any persons against any order made by a committee of investigation under amendment (4) above, or (*b*) appeals by any colliery for a lowering of the fixed minimum price.

Inasmuch as they indicate a distinct departure from the traditional attitude of Conservatism towards the relations between industry and the State, these amendments are significant and interesting. Further, they

appear to us to be in the main well-conceived. There is a good deal to be said for some elasticity in the arrangement of working hours. The levy proposals for subsidising exports have nothing in their favour; "mixed" undertakings should certainly not be penalised by quota restriction of purely "transfer" coal; we prefer a Judicial Commission (though its proposed functions appear to be somewhat circumscribed) to the single arbitrator suggested by Mr Graham; and unless the portions of Part I of the Bill delegating powers of regulating output and fixing prices can be subjected by the House of Commons to much closer statutory definition, it might be necessary for Parliament to retain the right to revise all central and district schemes.

This very consideration, however, exposes one of the grave weaknesses of the Bill. A fortnight ago we expressed a decided view that the Bank of England was not the right body to frame, in detail, schemes of industrial "rationalisation." If this is true of the Bank it is far more true of Parliament. Even in the comparatively simple case of the Railways Act of 1921, Parliament did not attempt to define the terms of amalgamation, but contented itself with laying down what groups were to be formed and the general principles of the scheme, and left detail to be approved by a special amalgamation tribunal. Surely it is desirable that in this Bill Parliament should endeavour, on the one hand, to come to closer grips with the conditions which the schemes must fulfil, and on the other hand to delegate to a body commanding general confidence the task of seeing that these conditions are adhered to in detail, rather than have fresh debates in relation to each scheme.

A further question, however, clearly arises, before the full list of Liberal amendments is known. What will the coal-owners' reactions be if even the Conservative amendments are carried, as many of them deserve to be, and in all probability will be? It could be foreseen that the colliery proprietors would object to the compulsory amalgamation proposals pressed by the Liberal Party and assured, we imagine, of Labour support; but it must be borne in mind that the essence of the Bill, as originally drafted, was that it represented the Government's attempt to "buy off" miners and mineowners alike. The miner was to have a 7½-hour day; the mineowner (to quote the Bill's explanatory memorandum) was to have "schemes . . . operated by the colliery owners themselves." But now the Conservative Party—*quantum mutatus* since the sympathetic days of 1926—proposes not only to make every scheme subject to parliamentary scrutiny, but to place a Judicial Commission over the heads of the mineowners, and expressly to forbid them to recoup themselves for the cost of shorter hours by levying a toll on coal which they think can "stand it" for the benefit of coal exposed to competition.

What understanding, if any, was reached between the Government and mineowners with regard to the maintenance of miners' earnings in the districts now working an 8-hour shift we do not know. Unless the Government were taking a blind leap in the dark, presumably some sort of *entente* on the basis of the original Bill did exist. So far, the mineowners have followed, with regard to the amendments tabled, the reticence of the Tar Baby, but we read with interest in a contemporary, which usually reflects accurately the colliery owners' opinions, that the Conservative amendments would "remove any excuse for increased coal prices to public-utility undertakings or householders," and would "place upon the promoters of the Bill the onus of financing the pledge to reduce hours." That consideration is not one which should weigh with Parliament, but Mr MacDonald may yet find that his pledge has an uncounted cost.

EVENTS IN SPAIN.

General Primo de Rivera has solved the problem of his exit from office by scrambling out of it. For some months past it has been obvious that the end of the present Dictatorship in Spain—though not necessarily the end of Dictatorship—was in sight, and the existing Dictator has been casting about in visible perplexity for the best means, or, indeed, any means, of effecting the transition from unconstitutional to constitutional government.

He need not be blamed for his failure to solve that baffling problem. His successor may not find the difficulties easier of solution. But it could hardly have been foreseen that General Primo's term of office would end quite so abruptly, or as the result of so singular a piece of ineptitude. For the past twelve months—ever since the abortive outbreak at Ciudad Real and the arrest of the former Prime Minister, Señor Sanchez Guerra—signs of discontent with the dictatorship had been growing, and the Dictator himself did not fail to read the omens. What he failed to do was to evolve any settled policy in face of them. He first of all announced a relaxation of restrictions and an acceleration of the return to what President Harding used to call "normalcy." He then recanted, declared that the newly granted liberty, such as it was, had been used as licence, and that the return to constitutionalism must be slowed down again. Later, acceleration was announced once more, with the prospect of partial municipal elections at the beginning of this year. Finally, with startling suddenness, General Primo, stung apparently by continued criticisms of his régime, decided that he would put his popularity to the singular test of seeking a certificate of approval from the heads of the Army and Navy.

This had the incidental, but by no means unimportant, effect of accentuating the military character of the régime and its dependence on generals and admirals. How far the desired vote of confidence was accorded is not known, for before the result of the consultation could be announced King Alfonso, influenced, apparently, by news of threatened military revolts against the Dictatorship, took action that he must long have been contemplating and summoned the Dictator to the palace. General Primo's resignation was handed in the same day, and by Tuesday evening he was Dictator no longer. The climax of the whole strange affair is his issue of a valedictory message in which he explains that, when he decided to consult the seventeen Army and Navy officers, he was not in full possession of his faculties, owing to a nerve crisis.

What emerges from all this is that General Primo, genuinely perplexed as to the method of his exit from office, hit finally on a quite indefensible expedient, for, added to the unwisdom of reliance on the verdict of the Army, was failure to inform either his Cabinet colleagues or the King of the step he was taking. His resignation could in any case not have been long postponed. His attempt to secure support for his new draft Constitution had failed ignominiously. His relations with the Palace were notoriously strained and, what was perhaps in the last resort most important of all, the peseta has been falling steadily and has resisted all attempts to re-establish it.

Interest now centres primarily on the position of King Alfonso and the nature of the régime to be established. It has long been clear that the King was restive under an incubus which he himself created in a moment of stress, but it does not follow that he desires constitutional government pure and simple. He has been credited, indeed, with liking a Dictatorship but disliking the present Dictator. However that may be, the King would appear to have strengthened his position, momentarily at any rate, by taking advantage of General Primo's false move in the matter of the consultation of the Army and acting with swiftness and decision. But the Republican movement in Spain is by no means negligible, and a moment of transition from one Dictatorship to another, or from a Dictatorship to something different, would give it its natural opportunity. So far, however, the country seems quiet, and though there have been Republican manifestations in one or two provincial cities, they have clearly not amounted to much. Another factor in the situation is the Catalan separatist movement, but danger in that quarter may be considerably diminished if, as is rumoured, Señor Cambo, the Catalan leader, is given a place in the new Cabinet.

Much, if not everything, hinges on the personnel and the quality of the Ministers who are to succeed General Primo and his colleagues. What Spain has to fear next to anarchy is government, or attempted government, by the old military committees. Some fear of this appears to be aroused by the fact that the head of the new Cabinet, like the head of the old, is a General. That, however, need not be laboured unduly. General Berenguer, though gravely involved in the Morocco disasters of eight years ago, is a man of considerable force, and his first announcement has been that he has accepted office as a civilian and not as a soldier. He appears, nevertheless, to be seeking his colleagues to some extent from his own Service, for another general is to go to the Home Office in place of that masterful personality, General Martinez Anido, who was to a large extent the brains of the old administration. What Spain probably needs most at this moment is a Cabinet which shall command national confidence by including as many as possible of the leaders of the old political parties. If Señor Cambo, Count Romanones and Señor Sanchez Guerra are prepared to lend their co-operation from a sense of public spirit, an administration can be constructed which will command public respect, even though it continues to act, as it still must for some time, on unconstitutional lines.

The fact remains that the Dictatorship of Primo de Rivera can be succeeded only by an avowedly transitional, not a permanent, Dictatorship. Even the strongest Spanish Liberals have recognised the impossibility of passing from an unrestricted Dictatorship on a Monday to a normal constitution on a Tuesday. So long as a course is now definitely set towards the goal of constitutional government, there will be no complaint if the goal is not attained in a week or a month. It must always be remembered that while one element in the *coup d'état* which raised Primo de Rivera to power in 1923 was the Morocco imbroglio and the King's implication in it, another factor was the universal disgust with the squalid bickerings of party politicians. Public opinion in Spain to-day, no doubt, favours a return to a parliamentary system, and there is no special reason why the constitution of 1876 should not be its basis. If General Berenguer and his colleagues make that their policy, and if at the same time they gradually relax the restrictions which the late Dictator imposed on all expressions of public opinion in Spain, the life of the country should go on sufficiently quietly to give them leisure to elaborate the difficult process of transition.

There are, it is true, several uncertain elements. One is the attitude of the outgoing Ministers, who are not likely, however, to command sufficient following to make them formidable, even if they wanted to make trouble. A second is the attitude of the Army; but this should not cause the new Cabinet grave concern, since, so far as can be seen, the soldiers are more anxious to see the country governed effectively than to govern it themselves. Finally, there is the King. Don Alfonso understands his country's politics through and through. He enjoys being a king and he knows that under certain circumstances he might cease to be a king. General Primo was, at first at any rate, an asset to the monarchy. More recently, as he alienated sympathies himself, he became something of a liability.

The King's wise course to-day, and he is likely to realise it, is to co-operate closely with his new Ministers in their return towards a constitutional government. If that path is followed by King Alfonso and General Berenguer alike, the new administration has a reasonable prospect of weathering the storms that are bound to beset it.

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THE BANK BALANCE SHEETS.

The events of 1929 caused the present series of banking accounts to be invested with an unusual amount of interest. Considering first gold movements, the Bank of England's holdings fell between January and September from £153 to £130 million, and subsequently rose to £146 million. It is common knowledge that the Bank of England neutralised these fluctuations by counter purchases and sales of securities, so as to keep the volume of its own deposits constant, but it remained to be seen if this policy had succeeded in maintaining the joint-stock banks' cash holdings at a constant level and whether the banks had responded by keeping their deposits unchanged. Again it was known that the banks had made efforts to reduce their loans against stocks and shares, and it was hoped that the progress of rationalisation in industries had been accompanied by a writing off of irrecoverable loans by the banks. This imparted some interest to the magnitude of bankers' advances. To mention another point, Mr Beckett, the deputy-chairman of Westminster Bank, recently called attention to the low ratio of British banks' capital and reserves to their deposits, and gave this as one reason why the banks would not make long-term advances to industry or involve themselves in industrial "participations." Finally came the question as to how far the bank balance sheets would reflect the fall in Stock Exchange values during the year, and in particularly the losses arising from the Hatry defalcations.

The following tables have been prepared in such a form as to illustrate some of these points. The first shows the banks' liabilities and assets grouped under their main headings. "Cash" includes coin, notes, balances at the Bank of England, and also those with other banks at home and abroad, and cheques in course of collection. Two banks, unfortunately, still include call money under this heading, and, in general, it is regrettable that only

one bank, Martins, has seen fit to follow the example of Lloyds Bank in amplifying its balance-sheet on the lines of the Cunliffe Committee's recommendations. Lloyds Bank, however, are following the example of the Midland Bank in revealing the percentage of current accounts to total deposits. Their 1928 average is 46.4 per cent. Mr Pease also announced that effect was to be given to the recommendations of the Balfour Committee that the joint stock banks should publish their annual turnover, *i.e.*, the total value of the cheques drawn on customers' accounts. This will render available a most valuable piece of banking information, and it is to be hoped that the other banks will rapidly follow suit.

This table reveals several important facts. The first is that, as summarised above, the joint-stock banks' cash holdings have, in the aggregate, remained unchanged, though those of the "big five" alone are slightly reduced. So far the results are reassuring, but the next fact is more disquieting. Although bank cash is unchanged, deposits have been allowed to fall by some two per cent., and so the banks have failed to follow the Bank of England in maintaining the country's supply of credit. It is true that during the year wholesale prices fell by 7 per cent., and that, therefore, the amount of credit available has relatively increased, but this begs the whole question of whether or not the contraction in bank deposits was a partial cause of the fall in commodity prices.

	Liabilities.						Assets.									
	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Acceptances.		Cash.		Call Money.		Discounts.		Investments.		Advances.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.
Barclays	26·1	26·1	335·1	337·4	24·9	22·0	60·9	62·7	24·0	23·6	38·3	37·0	58·5	52·7	168·6	174·5
Lloyds	25·8	25·8	353·6	353·2	60·4	52·2	55·4	57·0	26·8	26·5	49·3	39·6	38·1	37·1	187·2	191·8
Midland	26·9	26·9	396·4	381·4	74·4	37·5	65·6	65·3	27·7	21·7	63·3	58·8	36·9	32·9	214·1	210·4
Nat. Provincial	18·9	18·9	291·2	272·6	19·6	15·2	44·2	41·9	25·9	19·4	43·5	28·2	37·0	35·8	150·5	156·7
Westminster	18·6	18·6	295·3	286·3	26·5	27·6	47·3	46·0	34·8	33·2	36·6	32·5	38·4	37·9	149·1	147·4
Total	116·3	116·3	1,671·6	1,630·9	205·8	154·5	273·4	272·9	139·2	124·4	231·0	196·1	208·9	196·4	869·5	880·8
Coutts	2·0	2·0	17·7	19·8	0·5	0·4	3·0	3·1	1·7	2·1	0·9	1·1	3·8	3·8	10·0	11·3
Glyn, Mills	1·8*	1·8*	35·9	39·5	2·1	2·7	7·4	8·6	7·6	7·1	1·6	1·6	7·6	8·4	12·8	14·8
Martins	7·6	7·6	83·4	83·2	10·9	7·2	12·1	13·3	5·4	6·0	3·7	6·9	25·1	17·8	42·6	42·2
District	3·9	4·2	52·7	52·6	2·5	2·4	8·0	8·1	4·7	3·9	5·1	5·0	14·8	14·8	23·2	24·3
Manchester and County	2·2	2·2	19·7	18·4	0·6	0·5	5·4†	4·4†	...	...	0·8	0·6	4·2	4·2	11·0	11·0
Union of Manchester	1·4	1·4	18·1	16·8	0·7	0·6	6·6†	5·5†	...	...	0·6	0·5	2·6	2·9	9·3	8·9
Williams Deacon's	3·3	3·0	32·3	31·8	1·5	1·0	5·2	5·2	2·9	3·4	3·6	2·4	4·9	5·6	17·6	16·8
Total	138·5	138·5	1,931·4	1,893·0	224·6	169·3	321·1	321·1	161·5	146·9	247·3	214·2	271·9	253·9	996·0	1,010·1

* Includes "reduction of bank premises" account. † Includes call money.

Acceptances reveal a substantial decline. This is in part due to the decision of the Midland Bank to exclude forward exchange contracts from this item, and it may also be to some extent fortuitous, for the monthly statements of the clearing banks reveal a sudden and inexplicable decline between November and December. Still the higher level of money rates ruling during most of 1929 may have diverted a certain quantity of acceptance business from London. If so the banks, with the Westminster as the chief exception, have had to bear their share of this loss.

Coming now to the banks' earning assets, interest centres on advances, and it must be realised at once that despite the considerations alluded to above, the banks, with one or two exceptions, have not seen fit to reduce their total loans. In so far as the increase in advances represents a growing demand for credit on the part of industry, it is all to the good, but the recent course of commodity prices and trade does not wholly substantiate this optimistic explanation, and it is difficult to resist the belief that there is still much dead wood to be cut away. Several of the Scottish banks show separately their loans against securities, and, as both the Commercial Bank and the National Bank of Scotland record appreciable declines during the past year, it is reasonable to hope that this item has been reduced generally by English as well as by Scottish banks. The main fear is that it has still proved impossible to reduce outstanding and largely "frozen" industrial loans.

As advances have actually increased, the shrinkage in deposits has been balanced by substantial reductions in discounts and investments. The fall of £33 million in the banks' bill holdings is to some extent accounted for by the corresponding reduction during the year of £7.7 million in the volume of Treasury bills outstanding. Clearly, this is not the whole explanation, and it is possible that the shrinkage in the banks' bill portfolio is evidence of a decline in the volume of commercial bills available in London. Such a decline could be explained by such factors as the fall in commodity prices, and the possible loss of acceptance business alluded to above.

The fall off in the banks' holdings of investments is equivalent to one of 6.6 per cent., which is very little greater than the decline in the price of gilt-edged securities during the intervening year. It is thus reasonable to suppose that the fall represents mainly writings-down by the banks in pursuance of their traditional policy.

The final table shows the relation between deposits on the one hand and capital and reserves, cash, and advances on the other hand.

	Ratio to Deposits of					
	Capital and Reserves.		Cash.*		Advances.	
	1928. %	1929. %	1928. %	1929. %	1928. %	1929. %
Barclays	7·8	7·7	18·2	18·6	50·3	51·7
Lloyds	7·3	7·3	15·7	16·1	53·0	54·2
Midland	6·8	7·1	16·6	17·1	54·0	55·2
National Provincial	6·5	6·9	15·2	14·8	53·8	57·4
Westminster	6·3	6·5	16·0	16·1	50·5	51·5
Average	7·0	7·1	16·4	16·7	52·0	54·0
Coutts	11·3	10·1	17·0	15·7	56·5	57·0
Glyn, Mills	5·0	4·6	20·6	21·8	35·6	37·4
Martins	9·1	9·1	14·5	16·0	51·0	50·7
District	7·4	8·0	15·2	15·4	44·0	45·6
Manchester & County	11·2	12·0	27·4	23·9	55·8	59·8
Union and Manchester	7·7	8·3	36·4	32·8	51·9	53·0
Williams Deacon's	10·2	9·4	16·1	16·4	54·5	52·8
Average	7·2	7·3	16·6	17·0	51·6	53·4

* Includes balances with other banks and cheques in course of collection and call money in the case of the two Manchester banks.

Considering cash first, it appears that all the "big five" except the National Provincial improved their cash ratios, but that this movement was not quite so general among the smaller banks. In any case, the 1928 cash ratios were fully adequate, and it is difficult to understand why, in these circumstances, bank deposits are allowed to decline.

For reasons discussed above, the advance ratio for all banks has risen from 51.6 to 53.4 per cent. Judged by past standards, both these figures are high, but the important point in the table is not so much their actual size as the fact that 1929 recorded an increase. It is to be noted that there is a tendency for the smaller banks to operate on a higher cash ratio and lower advance ratio than the "big five." This suggests that one of the advantages of bank amalgamations is that the large institutions can employ safely a greater proportion of their resources.

The capital percentages should be compared with those quoted by Mr Beckett for some of the German banks, namely, the Dresden Bank 8 per cent., the Deutsche Bank 12 per cent., and the Disconto Gesellschaft 16 per cent. The British ratios are clearly on the low side, and there is a strong case to be made out for increasing the paid-up capital of the British banks. Last year the District Bank added £300,000 to its capital, and this year the Midland Bank is offering to its shareholders new shares of £1 at a premium of £1 in the proportion of one new share for every £20 of paid-up capital, the premium to be added to reserve. This, again, is a move in the right direction, but a 5 per cent. increase in the Midland Bank's capital and reserves will only raise their ratio to deposits from 7.1 to 7.5 per cent., whereas Mr Beckett is envisaging something far more comprehensive.

For the effects of the Hatry crisis and the fall in Stock Exchange values reference must be made to other sources than the balance sheets. Mr Goodenough, in his address to Barclays' shareholders, admitted that his bank's losses at the most amounted to £330,000, while Mr. Pease, in his address to the shareholders of Lloyds Bank, said that until outstanding legal questions between innocent parties have been settled, it was impossible to gauge the extent of their loss. He added that they had taken the prudent course of providing in the usual way out of the profits of the past year a sum of £500,000, which, in all probability, would be in substantial excess of the amount actually required. The fact that the Westminster Bank have raised their annual allocation to contingencies from £200,000 to £400,000 may have some connection with these unfortunate events, and, indeed, Mr Tennant made the highly reassuring statement that the bank's contingent fund had increased during the year, notwithstanding these and other losses, some of which may eventually be redeemed. It may, however, be explained in the same way as Williams Deacon's reduction in their final dividend and transfer of £300,000 from reserve to contingencies, namely, by the need of providing for future losses arising out of industrial rationalisation and the consequent sacrifices it will inflict upon all parties concerned. This frank recognition of the implications of rationalisation provides convincing evidence that the bankers are realising that they will have to play their part.

THE HATRY CASE.

With dramatic swiftness the trial of Clarence Hatry came to an end last Friday. Hatry and his three associates pleaded guilty, and no evidence was offered for the defence. Incisively, yet without venom, Mr Justice Avory sentenced the prisoners—on the charges of forging and uttering, fourteen years' penal servitude for Hatry, seven years for Daniels, five years for Dixon and three for Tabor. Each is to serve concurrent terms of imprisonment on the charges of fraud, and of two years' hard labour for conspiracy. Hatry has appealed against his sentence as too severe, and in these circumstances comment upon it would be improper, but in any case the occasion is one neither for sentimentalism nor for vindictive satisfaction at the fate of the transgressors. The general feeling, especially in the City, is relief at the termination of a discreditable episode.

Unfortunately, it is only the criminal side of the Hatry exposure that is over. Hatry himself has still to endure the publicity of bankruptcy proceedings; the Stock Exchange special settlement has to be carried through; the legal position of the three corporations, scrip for whose stock was forged, has to be argued and their financial misfortunes liquidated; Sir Gilbert Garnsey has yet to present his report on the affairs of the Hatry group of companies. It may be that the Italian Gialdini, who chose a convenient date to take a holiday in his own country, will be brought to justice by the Italian authorities. The echoes of the shock which the City of London, and indeed the whole of the western world, received at the end of last September will take long to die away.

Looking back upon the case, one is impressed by the inevitability of the whole tale. Austin Friars Trust, the central sun of the Hatry group, was, according to Sir Gilbert Garnsey, insolvent from the start. Whether this was due to its having shouldered certain of Hatry's obligations arising from the failure of the Commercial Corporation of London—an affair out of which he came with such little credit that his re-instatement in the world of finance is a matter for wonder—or for whatever reason, some big effort had to be made to improve the fortunes of the Trust. Hatry conceived the vast ambition of reorganising the steel industry. He and his associates were not experts in the steel industry; their aim was to make money for their companies and themselves.

The finances of the plan were hopelessly prodigal, and existing shareholders, who were offered either cash or shares in the new merger, eagerly applied for their money. In order to meet these liabilities £4,800,000 was raised by pledging steel shares and in other ways. But £1,500,000 of it, declared Sir Gilbert Garnsey, was used outside the steel scheme. When plans for disposing of the entire interests broke down, at a fateful meeting in June the frauds now exposed were decided upon. There is no need to go into the details of the transactions. It remains clear that the root cause of the Hatry group's difficulties was the improper conversion of that million and a half. Where did it go? Apparently not straight into the pockets of the defendants, though counsel's citation of that fact was rightly described by the Judge as the threadbare plea of every clerk who robs his master to back a horse. The money was used to pay off old liabilities and for purchasing the shares of the group in an effort to support their market value.

Here one touches upon a clue to the origin of the whole trouble as far as the public and the City are concerned. Only under a system of interlocking finance as exemplified in the Hatry group can such large deficiencies be incurred or the wholesale fabrication of share transfers be carried on. Only under such a system is it possible to buttress up the credit of one company by the operations of another in the securities of a third. A great deal of the lost money fell into the pockets of those who sold Hatry shares on a market which had to be artificially supported because companies in the group were borrowing on the security of large blocks of the same shares. Such methods of finance cannot be wholly detected or eliminated, but the banks and the Stock Exchange are plainly faced with the problem of limiting them. Two plans which have been suggested—the closer scrutiny of the prospectuses and finance of new companies before their securities are allowed to be dealt in, and the restriction of permission to deal in vendors' shares until a balance sheet and accounts have been issued—are in the main wisely conceived, and will repay full consideration by the Stock Exchange Committee. The suggestion of a writer to the *Times*, that every company whose securities are dealt in should have an independent and licensed registrar, though very valuable as a line of progress, cannot be contemplated as an immediate reform and, in any case, is designed rather to prevent frauds of a kind which we are unlikely to see again for a long time than to limit a persistent though unfortunate type of company finance. The proposal that

banks should endorse new issues is premature and even dangerous—premature because British banks are without the necessary machinery, dangerous because until excessive competition among the banks can be annihilated the plan might well bring discredit to banks rather than security to investors.

The reflection leads on to the next problem which the case exposes. The long list of lenders who advanced large sums of money on fraudulent security, all within the space of a few days, includes four of the five big banks, while some hints at the share of the banks in the incidental losses are noted in a survey of the bank balance sheets in another column. Admittedly, good faith expected and observed is the key to the greatness of the City of London. Nevertheless, a multiplicity of lenders in acute competition with one another does plainly entail not only the acceptance of business which would be turned down by those less eager to retain a big customer, but also the possibility of raising colossal sums by an aggregation of many loans no one of which is exceptional. The answer that banks only grant loans upon a wide margin of marketable security does not dispel their responsibility for an inflation of credit in undesirable directions, since advances may be used, as apparently in this case, to purchase other securities on which further loans are raised. If competition is to be a stimulus and not a weakness, the banks must look beyond the security to the purpose of loans.

Finally, there is the isolated problem to which the losses of the municipalities demand a solution. It has been declared in one legal opinion that the councillors were personally responsible for a breach of trust in leaving public money on deposit with Corporation and General Securities, Ltd., a company which was not a bank, and which offered no security beyond its previous history and the reputation of its directors. Whether that opinion is upheld or not, town and city councils have had a shocking warning which they will not forget in our generation. But it is doubtful whether the issue of stocks which pledge public credit should in any case be entrusted to a privately-owned corporation. The Bank of England has the machinery, but it cannot be expected to buy up whole issues of stocks and unload them as opportunity presents itself. Even the joint-stock banks could not offer such attractive terms as municipalities have been accustomed to obtain. These reflections, though they point tentatively to the issue of joint municipal loans, and to the proper underwriting of all local corporation issues, do little more than limit the problem. Indeed, no cut-and-dried solution can be expected for any of the difficulties with which the Hatry case has brought the financial world face to face. It is enough that they should not be shirked.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE IN 1929.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

At the beginning of 1929 there were hopes that cotton spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire would experience relief from the severe depression which had existed for several years, but another twelve months have gone without any definite signs of better conditions, and in many respects the past year has been the worst period since the boom of 1919-20. Throughout the year it was impossible for spinners and manufacturers to run their machinery at full stretch. There was a considerable amount of short time and irregular working, with serious unemployment for the operatives. The financial position tended to become worse; cases of "difficulties" increased in number, and there was evidence that trade is still being lost to competitors. The one consolation, indeed, is that the industry is becoming more alive to the gravity of its situation, and that definite attempts are now being made to rationalise the industry. It is recognised that the unit of production in the past has been too small, and two amalgamations, the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., and Combined Egyptian Mills, Ltd., have been formed, which are likely to have a vital effect upon the trade in the near future.

With regard to the raw material, the year opened with the price of American cotton (middling on the spot in Liverpool) at 10.59d. per lb. Rates at first tended to advance, and 11.14d., the highest price of the year, was reached on March 15th, followed by a decline which, with fluctuations, brought the price down to 9.22d. on November 13th. The average price of American cotton during the twelve months was 10.28d. per lb., against 10.90d. in 1928, and 9.52d. in 1927. At the beginning of 1929 the price of Egyptian cotton (fully good fair sakellaridis on the spot in Liverpool) was 19.35d. per lb. The highest price during the year, 19.60d., was registered on March 22nd. The lowest price, 13.95d., was on December 20th and 21st, the quotation on December 31st being 14.15d.

For the season 1928-29 the growth of American cotton was 14,450,000 bales, against 12,956,000 bales in the previous year. The consumption during 1928-29 was 15,076,000 bales. The new crop in the United States is expected to be about 15,000,000 bales. It is extremely likely that the requirements of users throughout the world will be reduced and consumption during this season is estimated at 14,000,000 bales. The Egyptian crop for 1928-29 was 8,035,000 cantars, against 6,091,000 cantars in the previous season. The consumption during the twelve months was 8,024,000 cantars, against 6,714,000 cantars in the previous year. The prospects for supplies for this season are generally encouraging. The latest Government estimate is 7,916,007 cantars, but there is a possibility of the yield being about 8,200,000 cantars.

The export trade in piece-goods was again very disappointing. It will be seen from the table given below that the shipments were smaller than in 1928:—

	Yards.	£
1913	7,075,252,000	97,775,855
1927	4,189,109,600	109,995,715
1928	3,968,198,300	107,298,462
1929	3,764,851,400	99,263,987

Throughout the twelve months demand ran generally on small lots to meet urgent wants, and there were very few occasions when buyers took a hopeful long view of the market and anticipated their requirements. The retail character of the orders available caused much comment, and there never was a time when our customers were more disposed to purchase from hand to mouth. The turnover from India was disappointing, the exports being 1,374,179,000 yards, against 1,541,784,000 yards in the previous year; the bulk of the demand was for bleaching descriptions, chiefly in the lighter styles, while there was further evidence of lost ground in the grey shirting trade. The policy of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce in restricting the import of certain cloths into Calcutta during particular months had the effect of disorganising business. There are distinct signs that this embargo of dealers is resulting in the diversion of trade to other centres, and more mention was made of business for the up-country markets of Delhi and Cawnpore. Uncertainty with regard to political developments in India had a serious effect upon trade activities during the closing months of the year, and the figures of Japanese imports into India continued to cause anxiety in Lancashire.

At the end of 1928 a rather more hopeful feeling prevailed with regard to China trade, but the expected improvement was not realised, and the past year was very discouraging so far as the Far East is concerned. A development which had a very adverse effect upon trade was the decline in the price of silver and the fall in exchange rates. The auction sales in Shanghai were very poor and merchants had to sell at prices which meant a loss. During the last few months there has been freer buying for Egypt, in view of the new tariff, but that market also was quiet, taking the year as a whole, and

demand from the Near East generally was restricted. On certain occasions a fair amount of trade was done for Singapore, but South American buying was irregular, and unfortunate developments took place in Brazil, where, as a result of the market being over-supplied, some serious losses were entailed by merchants. There was no general activity in the Continental market, but a number of manufacturers met with useful support from the British Dominions, especially Australia. The home trade had a fair year.

There was thus considerable irregularity of production in the weaving towns of Lancashire. Some sheds were closed down for an indefinite period, and numerous manufacturers were not able to run all their looms at full stretch. On the whole, output was between 75 and 80 per cent. of full capacity. In connection, however, with the reorganisation of the industry, an interesting experiment was started in Burnley. An arrangement was reached between manufacturers and the trade union for the weavers to take charge of eight looms instead of four, the employers providing additional help for weft and cloth carrying. This experiment met with considerable success. The operatives are enabled to earn higher wages and the manufacturers are satisfied with the increased production.

In the spinning section of the industry, so far as American yarns are concerned, production was from 75 to 80 per cent. of full capacity. Although during the twelve months there was no organised short time, a large amount of machinery was stopped. Competition for orders was severe, and in few instances did the prices ruling cover the costs of production. In March the Master Spinners' Federation recommended that the mills should stop on Saturdays and Mondays during April, thus reducing the working hours from 48 to 35 per week, but the proposal was not supported, and had to be dropped. In December the Masters' Federation decided to recommend all members engaged on American cotton to close their mills for a full week at Christmas. This recommendation was carried out rather irregularly.

With regard to Egyptian yarns, the year opened with loud complaints from spinners that the prices ruling were unremunerative. In February the members of the Bolton Master Spinners' Association decided to curtail production by 33 per cent. for two months. At the end of that period the short time was extended by another month. This curtailment, although not beneficial to the trade as a whole, at least prevented a further collapse of prices. Since then the demand for all kinds of Egyptian yarns has been very unsatisfactory. During the last two or three months more firms have been compelled to restrict output, and at the end of the year it was estimated that total production was not more than 80 per cent. of full capacity.

As will be seen from the following table, shipments of yarn were smaller than in 1928:—

	Lb.	£
1913	210,099,000	15,006,291
1927	200,464,700	23,608,368
1928	169,206,900	22,566,494
1929..	166,636,700	20,753,279

An outstanding event of the year was the formation of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd. The company was registered in January, and according to the latest figures available, 71 companies have joined the Corporation, the machinery amounting to 6,750,000 spindles and 20,000 looms. It is expected that within the next few months the Corporation will control 100 companies, representing 8,000,000 spindles. Another important development was the formation of Combined Egyptian Mills, Ltd. This company absorbed 14 concerns, owning 31 mills in the Egyptian section, controlling 3,000,000 spindles.

In June the employers, both spinning and weaving, made an effort to secure a reduction in the wages of the operatives of 25 per cent. on piece price lists. The claim was strongly resisted by the trade unions, and, despite the intervention of the Ministry of Labour, a lock-out began on July 27th, which lasted for three weeks. Eventually all parties agreed to settle the dispute by arbitration. The Arbitration Board, consisting of Sir Rigby Swift, K.C. (chairman), Sir Arthur Balfour, Sir Archibald Ross, Mr C. T. Cramp and Mr A. G. Walkden, on August 22nd announced that the employers had made out a case for a reduction of wages, the reduction being 12½ per cent. on piece price lists, equal to 6.41 per cent. on current wages. The operatives, especially those in the weaving section, expressed their dissatisfaction with the award of the Arbitration Board. Since then several meetings have been held of the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation, and in October it was decided to make an application for an advance in wages of 25 per cent. in piece price rates, or a rise of 2s. 6d. in the £ on current wages. The employers definitely rejected the demand, and a ballot of the operatives as to whether the claim should be pressed is now taking place.

It cannot be said that the year 1930 has started with any feeling of optimism in Lancashire with regard to the immediate future. The facts of the situation must be recognised, and so far very little has been done to reduce production costs so as to enable Lancashire goods to compete successfully against the products of other countries. This is the problem which faces Lancashire to-day. Unless means can be found whereby goods can be placed in distributing centres abroad at the same prices as competitors', no improvement can be expected. Since standing charges and overhead costs are fairly well fixed, the cost of producing each pound of yarn and each yard of cloth can only be reduced by increasing the output and spreading the charges over a wider basis. A development of this kind can only be achieved by the establishment of a two-shift system, and later by the use of a larger number of automatic looms. With regard to markets abroad, the trade outlook in India and China is far from bright, and in other parts of the world higher tariffs are adversely affecting Lancashire trade. Great things are expected from the amalgamations which are now taking place in the industry. These will certainly result in many economies and more efficient marketing, but it may be some time before these organisations can make any definite impression upon the competition from other countries, and especially from Japan.

THE WALL.

(BY A TRAVELLING CORRESPONDENT.)

Why, that must be it: that white ribbon festooned along the flanks of the blue-grey mountain on our right. What luck that I had awoken at dawn and had idly poked my head out of the corridor window. For, had I slept ten minutes longer, I might have missed the sensation of crossing the line between the two worlds of darkness and light, of barbarism and civilisation. As I gazed at that narrow ribbon up aloft, a few more festoons unfolded themselves, and then suddenly the white line turned at right angles and came rushing down a spur of the mountain straight towards the train, transfiguring itself, as it approached, into a towered and battlemented wall. In an instant, we had shot through a gap cut by the sacrilegious hands of the railway engineer, and our locomotive was whistling as it drew up at the station of Shan Hai Kwan—The Mountain-and-Sea-Gate of "All that is under Heaven" (the outer darkness does not count). Our train was to wait an hour. We hurried out of the station and hired rickshaws.

Should we have time to visit that North Gate which towered above the walled city? As the crow flies, the gate is not so far from the station, but the alleys of Shan Hai Kwan are narrow and circuitous, and on that morning they were infested with parties of Fengtien troops, moving out to the plain beyond the Wall for a military review. They were not unamiable in themselves—those sturdy fellows mounted on equally sturdy Mongolian ponies or leading mules laden with sections of mountain guns; but they were up to no good; and we felt that our quest, though possibly idler, was certainly less mischievous than theirs. One could not conceivably cast these modern Chinese soldiers for the *rôle* of those classic troops, armed with javelin and bow, who once had manned the Wall when the Wall was a military reality. No, these amiable fellows patently belonged to the camp of the barbarians and destroyers.

In the end, we reached the North Gate just in time to climb it, take one glance round, and scramble down again. For the first moment my eye was drawn towards the great Manchurian plain—the region of outer darkness, across which our train had been travelling towards the Wall all night. Then my eye was caught again; and this time held fascinated, by those white festoons high up along the mountain side. Was it just a ribbon, or was it something alive: one of those fabulous titanic "worms" of Teutonic mythology that were supposed to guard buried treasure? What but a live thing could manage to cling to those almost perpendicular slopes? My fantasy was abruptly cut short by the necessity of re-boarding the train.

So here we were, barbarians all, on the point of crossing the threshold of civilisation. "What would your family say? Have you left your conscience behind?" It was just a benevolent Quaker fellow-passenger looking down at me from the door of the wagon-lits coach and reproaching me for buying raw fruit from a Chinese vendor on the platform. But for one instant of bewilderment, as her mild adjuration struck my ears, I fancied that I must be some missing link in that endless chain of barbarian invaders—Khitan and Kiu and Manchu—who had crossed this formidable threshold at their peril and had been inexorably demoralised by a civilisation too subtle and sophisticated for them to master. The next minute, our train moved on, and soon the narrow passage, guarded by the Wall, between the mountains and the sea opened out again into the plain of Chihli, as broad and level as the plain of Manchuria. Yet, all the same, this was another world; for here, inside the Wall, the plain was sown thick with grave mounds. The mounds ranged in scale from tiny grass-grown hummocks of earth to great barrows with hewn stone copings; but all alike trespassed boldly upon the otherwise jealously treasured arable land; and all bore witness to a civilisation in which the dead majority of the race had maintained a dominion over the souls of the living. Yet, even inside the Wall, a new world was jostling the old. The works of the Kailan Mining Administration—a joint Anglo-Chinese concern—were as imposing to the eye as any of the plant which Japanese enterprise has set up in barbarian Manchuria. After that, darkness fell, and when I saw light next morning I was in Peking.

A few weeks later I once more found myself standing on a gate in the Wall—this time high up among the mountains, at the summit of the Nankow Pass. Those ribbon-like festoons, or dragon-like coils, which I had seen from far away, and far below, at Shan Hai Kwan, were now writhing close around me. My eye followed them over ridge and ravine; my feet followed my eye; and I veritably believe that the Wall would have drawn me on—up one gigantic flight of steps and down another and up the next again, and round this corner and then round that—until I might have dropped from exhaustion in the wilderness, if the muleteer had not soberly reminded me that I had a four hours' walk down the pass to accomplish before dark.

No photograph or picture that I have ever seen gives any adequate impression of the way in which the Wall strides across these mountains. For these are not mountains of the form with which we are familiar in our world. So unfamiliar to our eyes are those sugar-loaf peaks and serrated hog's-backs and ridges running in all directions at once, like a choppy sea, that when we find them faithfully portrayed in Chinese landscape painting, we assume that they are creations of the same fantastic imagination that conceived the dragon and the kylyn. And if any western eye did become convinced of their reality, the one thing certain is that the owner of that eye would never dream of attempting to set his impress upon so outlandish a piece of Nature. Even a Roman military engineer, I believe, would have left those mountains alone and have trusted here to Nature to do his work for him. But not so the men who were responsible, two thousand years ago, for the guardianship of "All that is under Heaven." Just as they did not hesitate to delineate that tangled labyrinth of mountains with the brush, so they had the hardihood to trail their great wall across its pinnacles for hundreds and thousands of miles—deftly compelling Nature to serve their human purpose. Two features in the wall strike the barbarian sightseer with awe and admiration: the marvellous skill with which those ancient surveyors took advantage of the contours, and the fineness of workmanship of the masons who carried their plans into effect. Here Ancient China and Nature stand face to face—face to face, yet now no longer alone, for Modern China has established a footing here too. The Chinese-built railway from Peking to Inner Mongolia threads its way up the Nankow Pass, and at the head of the Pass it burrows through a tunnel under the Wall in order to emerge on the upland plain that stretches away northward towards the outer line of defence at Kalgan.

Which will prevail: the old or the new? The railway has not yet driven out of business those trains of pack animals that have plodded up and down the pass from time immemorial. But the survival of the ancient method of transport is apparently due less to the inefficiency of the railway than to the greater facility with which exorbitant dues can be levied on goods carried in bulk by rail than on goods carried, in small parcels, on mule or camel back. (At this moment, coal is actually carried on camel back, in successful competition with the railway, from the mines at the foot of the mountains to Peking. When they opened the city-gate for us before dawn, as we were driving out to the station to take the Kalgan train, we caught one glimpse of a convoy of coal-laden camels, patiently waiting for the signal to file in.) Meanwhile, whatever the reason may be, the pass is still full of life. As we walked down it that afternoon, through the successive fortifications with which each narrow place is bolted and barred, we passed a steady stream of traffic all the time; and at convenient halting places there were tiny booths where, for a few coppers, the weary muleteer could buy a handful of persimmons or as many cups of green tea as his soul desired. So still, through the pass, the mule-track and the railway run side by side—an apt allegory of China herself, as she is to-day.

Notes of the Week.

The Naval Discussions.—The Naval Conference is making a leisurely beginning of its labours. The anxiety of the British and American delegations in particular to avoid any suggestion that they have planned out the Conference in advance and are imposing their will on it has led to hesitations which have left the whole situation fluid rather longer than need have been the case. Mr MacDonald has been a little criticised for not having given the Conference more definite direction, and it does not, in fact, appear that the individual conversations, which began several days before the opening of the Conference, and have continued ever since, have cleared much ground, except in the matter of a compromise between the principle of measurement by total tonnage desired by France and Italy and that of measurement by categories, which the Anglo-Saxon Powers and Japan prefer. The crux of the Conference at the moment is the conflict still prevailing between France and Italy over the relationship of their two fleets. Italy insists on the parity which she secured in the matter of capital ships at Washington in 1922, and which M. Briand was then prepared to accord to her in auxiliary types also, while France is still determined to have parity in the Mediterranean and maintain a certain number of vessels in other seas as well. Private conversations in this field have not made for progress, and the time has pretty clearly come to get difficulties of this kind into the open. That, indeed, is what is likely to happen now that public sessions of the Conference are being resumed. When these initial questions of principle, notably the adoption of some compromise between the total tonnage and categories methods have been settled, the Conference can get down to its real work of actual limitation. The outcome of discussions on this head cannot yet be predicted. In regard to capital ships, the Americans so far seem less prepared for drastic action than the British, though Mr Stimson's broadcast address of last Tuesday suggested a certain approximation to the British attitude. The one virtual certainty is that the beginning of any new battleship construction will be postponed from 1931 to 1936, and for 1936 one may perhaps read the Greek Kalends. In addition, some immediate scrapping, or, failing that, the withdrawal of a number of ships from commission is a distinct possibility. As to cruisers, the Japanese show little sign of abating their claim to a 70 per cent. allowance of whatever cruisers the United States is allotted. The proposed disparity in 10,000-ton cruisers between Great Britain and the United States is proving so embarrassing, since other nations desire to apply their percentages to the higher of the two figures, that the MacDonald-Dawes arrangement may have to be revised in that respect. Meanwhile, the British Government has definitely cancelled orders for two 10,000-ton cruisers, the *Surrey* and *Northumberland*, a decision which, laudable though it is, means actually less than appears, since the British Empire has already built, or building, the whole of the fifteen "Treaty" cruisers allotted to it under the MacDonald-Dawes agreement. It is true that two of these, the *York* and *Exeter*, are of 8,400 tons, instead of 10,000 tons, but they mount 8-inch guns, which puts them in the Treaty cruiser category. There were, therefore, obvious reasons why the *Surrey* and *Northumberland*, projected before the Anglo-American conversations of last summer, should be abandoned, apart from the consideration that the utility of this type of vessel may have to be reviewed in the light of the technical progress represented by Germany's "pocket battleship" of identical tonnage but heavier armament.

Indian Developments.—The much-advertised "Independence Day" demonstrations passed off last Sunday without serious incident, and, though the processions to the seashore at Bombay led to some jostling between the Congressmen and the Communist Trade Unionists, who endeavoured to hoist the Red Flag on the platform, it cannot be said that any new light has been thrown on the situation likely to help Mr Gandhi out of his difficulty in planning a campaign of civil disobedience. Indeed, the only tangible success, if it may be so called, was the fact that a day or two earlier the students of Bombay prevented the Moderates, who wished to co-operate at the round-table conference, from holding a meeting. More importance attaches to the lengthy address delivered by the Viceroy before the Legislative Assembly last Saturday. In this statement he made it clear that no definition, in terms however unequivocal, of the goal to which British policy was tending could of itself provide a solution of the problems that have to be solved before that purpose is fully realised. "The assertion of a goal, however precise its terms, is of necessity a different thing from the attainment of the goal. No sensible traveller would feel that a clear definition of his destination was the same thing as the completion of his journey." He emphasised, however, that it was something gained to know that on both sides the aim was the same. He proceeded to say that the conference which His Majesty's Government will convene could not be one that would proceed by way of a majority vote to the fashioning of an Indian constitution which would be accepted unchallenged by Parliament, with whom ultimate responsibility must rest; and the exact numerical representation of interests, therefore, was of less importance than that sound proposals should be made and the arguments for them clearly presented. It was desirable that an effective voice should be given to the provincial as well as to the all-India point of view, but he had not yet advised His Majesty's Government as to how the Indian side of the conference should be constituted. As to its date, the Government were anxious that it should be held as early as possible, and his reference to the holding of the Imperial Conference in the autumn of this year may be read to mean that the Indian conference may be held at about the same time. He indicated that the elections, which should have been held at the end of last year but were put off, will not be indefinitely postponed, but will be held in time for a new Assembly to meet for the Delhi Session, to be held a year hence. The most significant part of his address, however, was his reference to agitators who desire to attain an immediate goal by resorting to "unconstitutional and unlawful methods of civil disobedience," and who have made public profession of the intention to refuse recognition of India's financial obligations. To all such, as well as to those who regard violence as the speediest and most effective solvent of political problems, he addressed the following solemn warning:—

> It remains my firm desire, as it is that of His Majesty's Government, following the recently professed wish of the British House of Commons, to do everything that is possible for conciliation in order that Great Britain and India may collaborate together in finding the solution of our present difficulties; but it is no less incumbent upon me to make it plain that I shall discharge to the full the responsibility resting upon myself and upon my Government for the effective maintenance of the law's authority and for the preservation of peace and order, and in the fulfilment of this duty I do not doubt that I should have the full support of all sober citizens.

He concluded by an appeal that all who can speak with authority should endeavour to express India's case at the conference with something like unanimity. While some of the Moderates have regretted that the Viceroy should find it necessary to point out the difference between a common objective and the immediate attaining of that objective, the Moslem leaders have appreciated the point that there is no possibility of Moslem rights being voted away by a counting of heads at the conference, while so wise a counsellor as Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has underlined the significance of the last part of Lord Irwin's speech—recognising that, while there is nothing to prevent those attending the conference from urging full Dominion Status, with such safeguards as may be necessary, the measure in which such a demand can be fulfilled must depend upon the unity with which the case is put before the conference.

Law Among Nations.—The approval by the House of Commons on Monday of the Government's proposal to ratify its signature of the Optional Clause of the Statutes of the Permanent Court is an event of some moment, particularly since the process of ratification is in progress in France and Italy also. It is noteworthy that after an amendment by Sir Austen Chamberlain, designed to add to existing British reservations another in regard to maritime law, had been decisively defeated, the motion for actual ratification was adopted without a division. The case against the Chamberlain amendment was that it postulated either the old form of war which, since the signature of the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact, is a definite breach of international law, or else trouble between Great Britain and the United States while the former was engaged in naval operations as an agent of the League against some violater of the peace. In regard to the second contingency, the difficulty really arises from the fact that we might be asked under Article 16 of the Covenant to undertake obligations to which the United States is not a party. So far as the Optional Clause is concerned, since only fellow-signatories of the Clause can require Great Britain to accept the jurisdiction of the Court, and since there is no indication that the United States has the smallest intention of signing it, there is no ground for arguing that our "belligerent rights" at sea could be questioned before the Court at the instance of the United States. If the United States should sign the Clause, the moment, as Sir Herbert Samuel pointed out, would be opportune for discussing and settling once for all various contested questions in the realm of maritime law. Meanwhile, there was substance in Mr Norman Angell's argument that, since the position of the United States is that we take too national a view of sea law, any move towards its internationalisation should be welcomed in that country.

Empire "Free Trade."—If Wednesday's Debate in the House of Commons served no other purpose, it succeeded at least in demonstrating that Lord Beaverbrook's "Empire Crusaders" have been forced, even more rapidly than Joseph Chamberlain's followers in 1903, to admit that Empire "Free Trade" is, for this country, a flagrant misnomer, and that, so far from its being an alternative to Protection, it means Protection unadulterated and unqualified. Originally, it will be recalled, Lord Beaverbrook proposed that, in return for the much-advertised removal of tariff walls within the Empire, Great Britain should join in quietly "ring-fencing" the Empire itself with a tariff on all foreign imports. Discovering, as he might have known, that the Dominions, even if we agreed to tax for their benefit our large foreign imports of food and essential raw materials, would stoutly decline to open their doors to free imports of British manufactures, the chief Crusader has changed his ground. The "new model" is to admit the possibility of interior walls within the "ring-fence" being erected by the self-governing Dominions, and to concentrate on securing freedom from tariffs for British products exported to the non-self-governing Colonies—a crude reversion to mercantilism discredited two centuries ago. In any event, whether the supposed gain, to counterbalance loss of trade with foreign countries, is to be sought in the whole Empire or only in such sections of it as can have "free trade" forced upon them, the fact that the Liberal amendment to Mr Remer's motion in the House on Wednesday—"provided that any such proposals [for developing the Empire as a single economic unit] shall not include additional taxation upon foodstuffs or raw materials"—was rejected by Lord Beaverbrook's protagonist showed up the Crusade in its true colours. It is well that the plain fact should have once more been restated that we cannot give the Empire tariff preference without taxing our food and the primary materials required for our industries. As Mr Lloyd George pointed out, we get seven-eighths of our raw cotton from foreign countries, and a tax imposed for the benefit of cotton-growers in Uganda, Nigeria and the Sudan would cripple Lancashire at one stroke. We are glad, though scarcely surprised, to note Mr Snowden's uncompromising refusal of Government support for proposals which Mr Lloyd George was fully justified in describing as "fantasies." In the course of a debate which, to the manifest relief of Conservatives, was "talked out" with no division, one further point, not strictly germane to the "Empire Free Trade" issue, calls for comment. Referring to Lord Beaverbrook's propaganda with regard to foreign "dumping," Mr Lloyd George admitted that if State-subsidised goods were "dumped" here below cost of production—*i.e.*, for wrecking purposes—in competition with commodities produced here, this was a proposition which ought to be dealt with, not by tariffs, but, if necessary, after careful examination of each case by a competent tribunal appointed by Parliament, by the imposition of an embargo. This remedy is clearly one which should be applied only in the last resort, though the problem of "dumping" is one whose existence must be recognised. It is a problem which was very present to the mind of the World Economic Conference, and which gave rise to the suggestion at a recent meeting of the Consultative Committee that the principles of the Brussels Convention—an international agreement concluded before the war to take the strongest measures against "dumping" of bounty-fed sugar—should be revived. The best hope of dealing with the problem lies in the possibility of international agreement, and, this being so, it is of vital importance that Parliament should not prejudice the position of this country and render the possibility of agreement remote by leaving in the Coal Mines Bill the dangerous and ill-conceived clause giving State sanction to levies, if desired, on home-consumers' coal for subsidisation of exports.

The Economic Advisory Council.—The White Paper setting out the functions and constitution of the Economic Advisory Council, which was promised by the Prime Minister last week, has now been issued in the form of a Treasury Minute, dated January 27th. The paper records the decision of the Government to set up the new council, which will be a standing body reporting to the Cabinet. Its purposes are defined as follows:—

> To advise His Majesty's Government in economic matters.
> To make continuous study of developments in trade and industry and in the use of national and imperial resources, of the effect of legislation and fiscal policy at home and abroad, and of all aspects of national, imperial and international economy with a bearing on the prosperity of the country.

This is, indeed, a wide enough mandate to ensure that neither the Council nor its staff will suffer from want of work. The study of the effects of fiscal policy at home and abroad, for example, is one which alone would keep a considerable staff fully occupied. In order to economise its efforts one of the first tasks of the Council should be to establish close relations with the Economic Section of the League of Nations, which is covering, in a general way, an even wider field. The Minute proceeds to state that the Council, which will be subject to the general direction of the Prime Minister, will keep in touch with the Departments, but "will interfere in no way with the functions or responsibilities of Ministers or of the Departments over which they preside, and it will have no administrative or executive powers." The Prime Minister will be chairman, and its members will include: (*a*) the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Lord Privy Seal (while the present duties are attached to that office), the President of the Board of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture; (*b*) such other Ministers as the Prime Minister may from time to time summon; (*c*) other persons chosen by the Prime Minister in virtue of their special knowledge and experience in industry and economics. The Council may initiate enquiries into and advise upon any subject falling within its scope, including proposals for legislation. It is evidently contemplated that these inquiries may be made by the Council direct or by committees or groups of experts set to work by it, for it is provided that the Chairman "may appoint standing committees and also such committees for special purposes as may be required." Further, the Council is to have prepared a list of persons with industrial, commercial, financial and working-class experience, and persons who have made a special study of social, economic and other scientific problems to assist the Council by serving on committees or in other ways. The reports and work of the Council will be confidential, unless it advises the Prime Minister otherwise. The Council is to have a secretary and at least two assistant secretaries, two of whom will be economists. We understand that one of the economists referred to in the White Paper will be Mr Hubert Henderson, formerly university lecturer in economics at Cambridge and more recently editor of *The Nation*. No formal announcement has, however, yet been made in regard to staff.

Economists at the Bank.—Two interesting appointments have been made this week in continuance of Mr Norman's policy of strengthening the personnel of the Bank of England. Professor Henry Clay, of Manchester University, is to carry out for the Securities Management Trust, recently formed under the auspices of the Bank of England, the organisation and direction of economic research into industry. The second appointment is that of Dr. O. M. W. Sprague, in succession to Dr. Walter Stewart, who is going back to America. It will be recalled that Dr. Stewart, who had formerly been head of the Intelligence Department of the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, and subsequently had been in business in New York, joined the Bank for a period of two years with a twofold object. One was to help it to maintain contact with and understand American opinion, and the other to help in the organisation of the intelligence and statistical services of the Bank. Dr Stewart's appointment has been very successful in both respects. His successor, who comes straight from Harvard, is one of the best known professors of banking in the United States. He recently accepted membership of the League of Nations Committee on the Purchasing Power of Gold, which was appointed last year, and he has acted in an advisory capacity on important occasions and given evidence before many banking inquiries. These two appointments unquestionably strengthen very greatly the resources of the Bank on the economic side, which, in this respect, challenges comparison with the staff of any other central bank in the world. A central bank requires both an international outlook and a thorough understanding of economic questions if it is properly to fulfil its primary functions. There is, however, an aspect of the appointment of Mr Henderson to the staff of the Economic Advisory Council, and of Professor Clay to the Bank which gives us some concern, for these two appointments, as far as the public are concerned, have muzzled two of the leading exponents and teachers of economics in Great Britain. It has for years been evident that the number of first-class people in the economic field is very small. Teaching posts have actually been kept unfilled for lack of suitable and experienced professors, while the scheme two years ago of the London School of Economics to meet the difficulty by bringing over Professor Young from America ended in tragic failure by his untimely death. Our university authorities should take serious note of the important responsibilities which qualified economists are invited to take in increasing measure and at the same time the very small number of persons qualified for the work. Nevertheless, though their places will be difficult to fill, we welcome the association of economists of high standing with the Government and the Bank, for in both cases their presence may be of immense practical importance in guiding economic policy. Whether, however, the Bank's existing staff or its new recruits are competent to advise it on the way in which industry is to be reorganised, is another story. The announcement of the Bank's interest in the United Dominions Trust, Ltd., has given rise to considerable uneasiness as to the way in which the immense resources, power and prestige of the Bank of England are to be used in connection with industrial developments. A clear statement on what is conceived to be the *rôle* of the Bank in this connection is very desirable.

Reparations: An American View.—A Washington correspondent writes:—The American Economic Association devoted one of the three morning sessions of its recent annual meeting at Washington to a discussion of the problem of German reparation payments. Both the budgetary and transfer aspects of the subject were discussed, the latter especially by Professor J. W. Angell, of Columbia University. Pointing out that foreign loans had acted and would necessarily continue to act as an essential element in Germany's capacity to pay, Professor Angell followed Mr Keynes in viewing pessimistically Germany's ability to effect the realignment of its economic forces necessary in order to provide the requisite future export surplus of commodities to take the place of payments from loans (economic services being considered relatively unimportant). Although handsome tribute was paid to the remarkable economic recovery of Germany, whose present equipment was declared as efficient as that of any European country, it was held that the necessary export surplus could not be secured with the rapidity demanded by the Young Plan. The competition of other European countries and the existence of hostile tariff barriers were seen as the principal difficulties in securing this surplus which probably could never be permanently attained save by a lowered standard of living in Germany. The most hopeful solution, it was suggested, would be a change of opinion in the U.S.A. making possible a drastic revision of the whole question of reparation payments, or at least a lowering of the tariff. In the subsequent discussion the feasibility of compelling Germany to accept a standard of living lower than that which she might otherwise attain, and the possibility of a future fall in prices of manufactured goods relatively to agricultural produce were urged as factors which would render advisable a reduction or abolition of reparation payments at no very distant date.

The Left Wing in France.—French political activity is somewhat in abeyance with four members of the Cabinet absent in London, but one extra-parliamentary event of importance is the decision taken by the Socialist Party last Sunday to refuse any active collaboration with the Socialist-Radicals except in a Government in which the Socialists definitely have a controlling voice. The resolution adopted did not indeed confine itself specifically to collaboration with the Socialist-Radicals in particular, but that is obviously the one practical combination of the Left, if any combination is practical at all. There was a considerable minority of another way of thinking, for 2,000 votes were cast in favour of the resolution and 1,500 against it; and a section of the minority declared it would refuse to abide by the decision taken. That suggests at least the possibility of a sufficient access of strength to the Radical-Socialists to warrant M. Daladier, in exceptionally favourable circumstances, in attempting the formation of a Government should opportunity arise. The series of fiascos which marked the attempts of successive Cabinet-makers before M. Tardieu finally got the present administration together emphasises the necessity of counteracting the chaotic results of the group system in France by collaboration between relatively like-minded Parties. The possibility of a reconstitution of the Cartel des Gauches is not entirely disposed of by last Sunday's rather inconclusive vote.

Bankers on Rationalisation.—The chairmen of the Westminster Bank, Lloyds Bank and the National Provincial Bank included in their customary reviews of the events of the past year interesting references to the progress of industrial rationalisation. "Our great basic industries," said Sir Harry Goschen, speaking to the shareholders of the National Provincial Bank on Thursday, "are all clamouring for further supplies of capital to instal new machinery, to bring processes up to date, and to effect such improvements and reorganisation as they confidently hope will enable them to compete successfully in the markets of the world, and where is this capital to come from? No one, I take it, would suggest that the banks should permanently find the money required for capital expenditure and lock up their resources in machinery and bricks and mortar." On the other hand, Sir Harry Goschen gave a welcome to the attempts of the Lord Privy Seal to solve the unemployment problem, and in reference to the steel industry declared his confidence that no efforts will be wanting on the part of British banks to afford the necessary assistance to sound proposals, and that it is only by the provision of the most economic and efficient plant that this industry can successfully exploit to the fullest advantage the natural means at its disposal and compete effectively in the markets of the world. Mr Beaumont Pease, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, took up the same theme in his speech on Friday. He did not think that bankers had the necessary detailed knowledge of the condition of an industry as a whole, or were sufficiently acquainted with its technicalities, to be in a position to say what particular reforms are advisable; what flaws there may be in its technical procedure; or what units are redundant. No doubt banks had an important and useful *rôle* to play in providing the necessary temporary finance for the reconstituted industry if they were satisfied that the position had been sufficiently investigated and that the reforms instituted had reasonable hopes of success. He had no doubt at all that banks would be willing in such an event to do their part. A company such as that recently formed under the auspices of the Bank of England should, he thought, be a useful intermediary in this way between industry and the banks. The chairman of the Westminster Bank, commenting in his speech last Wednesday on the proposal that British banks should co-operate more closely with industry by providing fixed as well as working capital, likewise suggested that the formation of new institutions for this specific purpose was the best way out of the difficulty. His commendation of the work of the

Lancashire Cotton Corporation and the Combined Egyptian Mills Company in reorganising the two great sections of the spinning industry was especially notable in view of the criticism so often levelled against the banks, that especially in Lancashire their own vested interest has been one of the greatest impediments to their efforts towards financial reconstruction. Mr Hugh Tennant further discussed the burden which the monetary difficulties of the past year placed upon trade. The complaint of the trader against the banking system could be answered, first by the negative and counteracting part which London played in the monetary fluctuations of 1929, second by the vast importance in our international trade balance of the "financial industry," which must rank as one of our greatest exporting industries, third by the stimulus which international investments gave to trade, and finally by the unique facilities which London's machinery of international finance provides for the British trader. If London ceased to be a repository for the world's spare resources, the rates paid by British industrialists for accommodation would be appreciably higher.

The Problem of Falling Prices.—Mr Keynes had so much to say in his annual speech to the National Mutual Society on the investment problems of the past year, as well as on the history of the Society—now celebrating its centenary—that he said little about the general situation or future prospects. He devoted, however, a few words to a subject which he has previously discussed, namely, the disparity between falling prices and stationary wages and the extent to which the gap has been or can be filled by improved efficiency. He pointed out that in 1929 the problem had been aggravated, rather than the reverse, since prices had fallen by a further 4 or 5 per cent., while wages were unchanged. In so far as the problem arose as a result of the return to gold, it was local to this country, but in Mr Keynes' view the fall in wholesale prices of materials has now taken on the character of a world-wide disaster. "The storm centres are to be found to-day, in my judgment, neither in Great Britain nor in the United States, but in the great producers of raw materials overseas. For significant signs of recovery or of further deterioration it may not be so important to-day to consider London or New York, as to watch Australia, South America, and Asia, and also Central Europe. For these areas are being reduced to very grievous distress by the combined circumstances of the fall in the prices of their chief products and the difficulty of obtaining funds on the International Loan Market." Mr Keynes added that these events in his opinion are avoidable and remediable, but are to be attributed "to the want of collective wisdom on the part of the Central Banking authorities of the world taken together, and are not now wholly remediable by the isolated action of any single country." In his view the struggle for gold stocks must cease and market rates in financial centres must be reduced "for some time" to a low figure—attainable, in his view, if they all move together—before there can be a general recovery of enterprise and confidence. Mr Keynes is clearly right in thinking that this has now become an international question, and it remains to be seen what contribution can be made towards its solution on the theoretical side by the Gold Committee of the League of Nations and on the practical side by the Bank for International Settlements.

Miners' Hours.—There is on the Order Paper for the Coal Mines Bill a Conservative amendment providing that the maximum working day should not apply to pits where less than 45 hours weekly are worked underground; another amendment desires that the maximum should not apply where the hours do not exceed 90 in a fortnight. In this connection, and also in relation to the international comparisons made at the Preparatory Technical Conference on Miners' Hours at Geneva recently, the following figures given by the Secretary for Mines in a written answer to Sir Herbert Samuel are of special interest.

	Average daily hours underground.		Average time spent underground weekly.	
	hrs.	mins.	hrs.	mins.
Scotland	8	26	48	53
Northumberland:				
Hewers	7	52	43	14
Others	8	22	45	59
Durham:				
Hewers	7	57	44	19
Others	8	27	47	17
Yorkshire	7	59	45	33
Lancs and Cheshire	8	34	49	14
Notts and Derby	8	8	45	53
South Derby	8	32	49	2
Leicester	8	30	47	58
Cannock Chase	8	30	48	28
Warwick	8	29	48	13
South Wales	8	30	49	29
Forest of Dean	8	36	49	1
Somerset	8	31	50	0
North Wales	8	38	49	51
Bristol	8	25	49	30
North Staffs	8	31	48	11
South Staffs	8	19	47	54
Salop	8	28	48	48
Cumberland	8	23	46	11
Kent	7	53	44	13

These figures are based on the International Labour Office reckoning, which counts hours from bank to bank. The British official practice embodied in legislation is to deduct one winding time (roughly half an hour per shift). The practice with regard to Saturday working varies from coalfield to coalfield and even from pit to pit. In Northumberland, as in some Scottish pits, 11 days are worked per fortnight. The Leicester coalfield works 2¾ hours less on Saturdays, but this is exceptional, the majority of coalfields working one or two hours less on Saturdays. Yorkshire, which has a comparatively short working day, reduces it on Saturday by only half an hour.

Production in 1929.—The London and Cambridge Economic Service has published its index of the physical volume of production for the last quarter of 1929. A seasonal increase in that quarter is usual, as the following table shows, but the rise this year is unusually sharp:—

1924=100.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
First quarter	110·8	105·7	108·3
Second quarter	108·1	103·7	111·0
Third quarter	105·9	95·4	108·2
Fourth quarter	107·4	105·2	115·0
Average	108·1	102·5	110·6

The rise is ascribed mainly to an increase in the output of coal and textiles. The indices of both metal groups, contrary to the experience of previous years, have fallen slightly, and that of the food group has declined, owing to a customary decrease in the wheat and flour figure. The average for the year, 110.6, is the highest yet recorded, and this is also true of the group averages of coal, ferrous metal products, chemicals, food and paper. Non-ferrous metals and textiles, though better than in 1928, have not recovered their earlier levels. The corresponding index of the Board of Trade has not yet appeared. It has recently tended to be higher than that of the London and Cambridge Service, owing partly to the inclusion of gas and electricity, and of a separate group for engineering and shipbuilding (both of which indices show more than the average increase over 1924), and partly to a difference in the composition of the chemical group. As the London and Cambridge Service only includes cotton, silk and rayon in its textiles, the textile index is consistently very much higher than that of the Board of Trade, which covers also wool and linen. For this reason it is possible that the Board of Trade index may not show such a large rise in the fourth quarter of 1929 as that registered by the London and Cambridge Service, in which a rise in the textile group played a large part. The great difficulties of selection and weighting, which can only be solved by prolonged experiment, require that any index of this character be interpreted with extreme caution, but other economic barometers, including the *Economist's* indices of business activity, confirm the conclusion that on the whole 1929 compared favourably with its immediate predecessors.

Wheat in 1928-29.—A year ago we characterised the world wheat situation in 1927-28 as "another year of wheat surplus." It was followed by a year in which wheat production even more strikingly exceeded consumption. In 1928-29 the world wheat acreage harvested stood at 7 per cent. above the 1922-27 average; production, thanks to exceptionally high yields per acre, stood at 16 per cent. above average. Prices, though they fell very nearly to the low level of 1923-24, and though they provided meagre reward even for farmers with large crops, were on the whole surprisingly well maintained, and consumption did not advance by any means in proportion to supply. The following table, taken from the December issue of Wheat Studies of the Food Research Institute of Stanford University, shows approximate carry-overs at August 1st.

(Million bushels.)

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
United States	165	135	111	138	142	262
Canada	41	26	35	48	78	104
Canadian in U.S.	3	3	4	5	14	23
Argentina	66	56	61	65	90	120
Australia	38	36	30	34	43	45
Afloat for Europe	42	33	39	46	45	38
U.K. Ports	10	9	4	8	10	6
Totals	365	298	284	344	422	598

Thus for three consecutive years the world has been accumulating wheat reserves which must sooner or later be disposed of. The immense increase in North America, where facilities for wheat storage have been very highly developed, is most notable. Indeed, one of the most striking features of the last crop year was the far greater strength of Canada and the United States, compared with the Argentine, in maintaining the level of prices. On the average, Liverpool prices of Rosafé were conspicuously lower than those of No. 3 Northern Manitoba and No. 2 Winter, wheats with which it competes. In consequence British importers curtailed their purchases of other wheats and expanded their purchases of Argentine in so far as flour standards permitted, 27.5 per cent. of British wheat imports coming from the Argentine, compared with 20.9 per cent. in 1927-28 and only 15.1 per cent. in 1926-27. This factor in the international wheat situation is likely to remain a very strong one, and indeed the history of the first months of the present crop year, especially the opening weeks, during which imports from the Argentine practically displaced those from Canada, indicates that, if anything, it is likely to be reinforced. Argentina had a much increased share in total world trade in wheat, which at 940 million bushels was over 90 million bushels larger than ever before. European countries, many of which themselves had bumper crops, did not import much more than usual, but, with a poor crop turning India into a net importer, extra-European countries took 76 million bushels more in 1928-29 than in any previous year, thanks, no doubt, to the attraction of low prices.

Continental Steel Cartel's New Developments.—The conclusion apparently to be drawn from the result of last Saturday's committee meeting of the Continental Steel Cartel at Luxemburg, writes our Paris correspondent, is that the organisation is about to assume a more aggressive policy. It was decided to create, as from February 1, a provisional organisation to handle steel exports in common in the various foreign markets, to be followed six months later by the establishment of permanent selling agencies. Evidence of the closer working of the various national sections of the cartel is afforded by the recent handing over to the Belgian plants (which were not well furnished with work) of surplus orders in the hands of the German and Luxemburg steelmasters. The bald communiqué issued after the meeting makes no reference to the present position of the overtures made to the British steel industry to give its adhesion to the cartel. Production figures for December show that the French plants are still working to capacity. The month's output of pig iron was 874,000 tons, against monthly averages of 832,000 tons in 1928, 772,000 tons in 1927 and 742,000 tons in 1913 (Alsace-Lorraine plants included). The output of crude steel was 813,000 tons, against monthly averages of 791,000 tons in 1928, 692,000 tons in 1927 and 559,000 tons in 1913.

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Woolcombing Difficulties.—Our Bradford correspondent writes:—In the textile boom after the war, combs, spindles and looms were largely increased in number in the wool trade of Yorkshire. For the last few years it has been impossible to run all of them. There is not enough trade for the machinery, thanks partly to reduced spinning power at home, partly to increased tariffs abroad, and the fact that more countries are making their own goods. Probably two-thirds of the wool combed in this country is treated by two public commission concerns, who during the last few years have found their customers gradually taken from them by private combers, working for lower rates in order to keep machinery going which their own private trade could not employ. A rate war has developed, and the last of several reductions was made at the beginning of January. The public commission firms knew that this reduction would mean a loss unless they could run to 85 per cent. of capacity. They also knew that such an increase in running was impossible, because the trade does not exist for everyone. It was a reduction made with the intention of squeezing the weak financial firms out of existence, both inside and outside the federation, and already in the scramble for work the new tariff has been cut by non-federated firms, notably by one that is being run by a bank and is alleged to have lost £20,000 in the last 12 months. Woolcombers, Ltd., and Messrs Holdens, the big public concerns, both have large reserves invested and, like other combers, having run only 50 or 60 per cent. capacity over the last few years, they have paid dividends out of the interest on investments, profits on combing being non-existent. The rate war has now been carried to such a point that English woolcombing charges are as low as French and German and lower than Italian. They spell nothing but loss, except on full-time running, and it now pays spinners and topmakers who have their own combs, but who cannot run them full time, to give out their wool on commission. Even if this practice were general, it is doubtful if combers could earn dividends without the help of their reserves. It is admitted that by no means all the weak firms are outside the Federation. Rationalisation is impossible because of individual jealousies, but as Sir Josiah Stamp recently pointed out in Bradford, a method now resorted to for the reduction of plant and personnel means that the weakest firm financially, and not necessarily the worst firm technically, goes out of business.

Dangerous Drug Traffic.—There is a fortune awaiting the writer of crook melodrama whose pen can do justice to the material provided in the report, published at the beginning of the present session, of the League Advisory Committee on traffic in narcotic drugs, by the director of the Egyptian Central Narcotics Intelligence Bureau.

Major-General Russell Pasha was offered, in 1929, by the Prime Minister of Egypt, a free hand and unlimited funds to stamp out the traffic which had already turned some 560,000 out of a population of 14 millions into drug addicts. With £10,000 he set up a secret service which, aided by the whole-hearted collaboration of the French authorities in Syria, has already checked the import of hasheesh and exposed two or three of the main sources and distributive channels of narcotics. Speaking before the Advisory Committee, Russell Pasha called attention to the fact that a certain Swiss manufacturer had three times escaped prosecution by producing drugs, the manufacture of which was not covered by the Swiss prohibitive code. In the subsequent discussion M. Carrière was able to assure the committee that this individual, though he retained his licence owing to a constitutional difficulty, had been deprived alike of access to raw materials and of the right to export. All synthetic derivatives of morphine are covered, as Russell Pasha himself realised, by the new Swiss code which comes into force on February 1st. To Russell Pasha's request that the French delegates would inform the committee of the results of the enquiry set up in consequence of the revelations in Alsace, M. Bourgeois replied that legal action was now being taken. He further announced that the French authorities in Syria had destroyed the whole hasheesh crop last year, and announced his readiness to explain in secret session the measures by which the French export of narcotics had been reduced in 1929 to a few kilogrammes. At an earlier meeting of the committee the French delegates had announced that France now refuses to export to countries which have not adopted an import certificate system, and the German and Swiss delegates stated that their respective authorities only authorised export to China on production of import certificates. The French delegates further indicated that France is instituting an enquiry into the question of export to China. Sir Malcolm Delevingre requested that Turkey might be included, and later asked that the attention of the Turkish Government be called to the recent establishment of two drug factories in Turkey, having behind them the resources of a person who had recently been concerned in the illicit drug manufacture on a grand scale in France. The question of limitation of manufacture revealed some differences of opinion, and a subcommittee of ten was appointed to study it between the meetings of the full committee. One of the most encouraging facts which has so far emerged is the willingness and efficiency with which the police of certain countries, especially Switzerland, have helped the efforts of the Egyptian Bureau.

Sun Life Assurance Society: A Correction.—The first column of the table on page 170 of the *Economist* of January 25th should have been headed 31 December, 1926, not 1928.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—TRADE RECOVERY PROSPECTS—SHARE MARKET—MONEY—YEAR'S RESULTS—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, January 17.

PROGRESS, though slight, has been made during the past week toward better prices for securities and higher rates of operation for basic industries. The money market has felt the easing influence of the cessation of the gold efflux, the liquidation of outstanding credit at interior centres, and the return of currency from circulation, consequent partly upon early year factors and partly upon the diminished activity of trade.

Perhaps the most encouraging development has been a considerable increase in steel mill orders and a corresponding rise in production. It is estimated that the larger units of the industry are now running at from 65 to 70 per cent. of capacity. As the old year closed they were down to 40 per cent., and last week's rate was only 60 per cent. In an effort to stimulate orders the mills have made price concessions, but scrap steel is meeting with firmer demand, and that is regarded as an indication of a better market for finished steel. Motor manufacturers are planning increased operations, and they profess to be well pleased with the first of the national exhibitions held here last week.

That is about the extent of tangible evidence of trade recovery. After postponing price reductions, perhaps unwisely, until the New Year, the oil purchasing companies have now posted lower prices for crude throughout the south-west territory, and price-cutting may become even more pronounced before much real progress can be made in cutting down excessive production. So far, curtailment agreements have been a failure. A lively contest is being waged with the copper-producing companies on one side and the large consumers, including the telephone and telegraph companies and other public utility concerns, on the other. First blood seems to have gone to the producers. By withholding copper from the market at under 18 cents a pound they have finally forced a good deal of buying at that figure. However, the lack of consumption last month and the only moderate extent of the decline in output sent stocks on hand to the largest figure for several years. Producers are determined to fight to maintain the price, and under the lead of the Anaconda company further reduction in output is taking place. But it is still an open question whether price cutting can be avoided later on.

Distribution of goods, as indicated by railroad freight loadings, continues lower than in the corresponding period of a year ago, but surveys taken by shippers' associations estimate that the volume which will move in the first quarter will be less than one per cent. lower than that of last year. Cotton consumption figures for December made a rather poor showing, compared with the previous December, and the price of the staple shows little strength in spite of the market operations for the co-operative institutions organised under the auspices of the Federal Farm Board. Foreign trade figures for last month also were smaller than those for November or for December, 1928. Exports fell substantially, while imports, though lower than in the preceding month, were above those of a year ago. Twelve months' results were total exports, $5,248,483,000; and imports $4,400,634,000, leaving an export balance of $847,849,000, compared with $1,036,912,000 in 1928. Taking trade news at its worst, it does not seem that the business recession is particularly severe. Certainly it is less so than had been predicted when the stock market collapsed last autumn. Wall Street is satisfied that spring will bring a fair revival, and confidence throughout the country is reported to be high.

Meanwhile, share market dealings have crept forward, but the volume of trading has been smaller than for a year and a half and the gains have been chiefly among public utility shares, which were thoroughly deflated last year. These shares are now being helped by recent court decisions, which strengthen their claims to rates enabling them to earn a good percentage on capital invested. Pool operations have revived here and there, but their attempts to obtain a public following have generally failed. Prices go up easily enough on a small turnover, but they go down just as easily and the net gain by leading stocks on the year to date has amounted to only two to four points.

Fixed interest-bearing securities, however, look much stronger. At the beginning of the week the market was well tested with a $150 million issue of 5 per cent. American Telephone and Telegraph Company bonds. The offering was over-subscribed and the price quickly went to a premium. The signal was thereby given for other flotations, with the result that the week's offering of approximately $340 million was the greatest since the wartime Liberty Bond flotations. Signs are not wanting that the rush to sell new bonds has hurt the market and prices have turned irregular. But a good underlying demand for investment securities has been disclosed, and, with the prospect for continued ease in money, prices should rise higher.

Call money has been plentiful at 4 per cent., while little demand has developed for time funds at 4½ per cent. Brokers' loans rose $13 million this week, but the gain was chiefly due to payment made on January 15th for approximately $80 million of new shares offered some time ago by the Pennsylvania Railroad and a public utility company. The year-end bulge in loans made direct to customers on stock and bond collateral by member banks of the Federal Reserve system was more than wiped out last week, and liquidation of such collateral and loans is expected to continue. Member bank discounts at the Reserve Banks have receded further and at $442 million are but little more than half the total of last year at this time. Total Reserve Bank credit outstanding declined about $125 million on the week, and is a quarter of a million below that of a year ago, while the reserve ratio stands at 75.4 per cent., compared with 67 per cent. on the same date in 1928.

Annual earning statements of banks, investment trusts and industrial corporations are now being published. The banks, of course, had a highly profitable year, although a few which operate security trading and investment affiliations have had to take some losses. The investment trusts, as anticipated, reveal considerable losses, but shares of most of them are now selling below or close to their "break-up" asset value. Industrial corporation earnings are running ahead of 1928, in spite of an unfavourable fourth quarter, except in those industries which were depressed all the year. Commodity prices, according to the index of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, at 94.2, were down only one-fifth of one per cent. in December and stood 2½ per cent. below a year ago. The average was 96.5 for the year.

FRANCE.—CHAMBER—PARIS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCE—MONEY MARKET DEVELOPMENTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, January 29.

THE Budget continues to occupy the Chamber, but in the absence of M. Tardieu and his principal colleagues in London, progress is slow. Interest for the moment is focused on the problem of whether the national insurance law shall be put into application on February 5, or its practical operation postponed until its many glaring defects can be remedied. M. Loucheur, who is in charge of the measure, as Minister for Labour, insists that the law fixing the date of application must be respected, and in this he has the entire support of the Labour organisations and the Socialist Party, and the tacit approval of many of the Radical Socialists. Opponents of the scheme in its present form (who correspond closely to the Parties forming the present Government's majority) allege that M. Loucheur is coquetting with the Parties of the Left, with the object of overthrowing M. Tardieu and replacing the present Cabinet with a Loucheur-Briand Radical-Socialist combination. As the insurance law has already been the subject of an important amending Act, and is even now undergoing still further modifications, the scheme that will actually be applied will probably be much more modest and less costly than the one crystallised in the original Act.

Strenuous efforts are now being made to carry out the programme laid down by the Bank of France, with the wholehearted support of the Government, for the development of Paris into one of the world's leading financial centres. The psychological atmosphere in French financial circles may be summed up in a phrase contained in an article from a foreign review which is reproduced at length here to-day: "Amsterdam took the place of Venice, London that of Amsterdam; why should Paris not conquer London?" Official circles are mute and refuse to be drawn in regard to this aspect of the situation. It is confidently asserted, however, that large financial operations are being carefully prepared, and are on the eve of being launched. The main reason for hesitation lies in the fact that their success depends on a favourable welcome by the country at large, and for this a buoyant and constantly-improving list of Bourse quotations is indispensable. This accounts for the unusual attention which is being given to the inexplicable apathy that has marked the Paris stock market during the past ten days.

So far as the Bourse itself is concerned, the crying need for radical improvements in the mechanism of the market is keenly recognised. At the annual meeting of the *coulissiers'* syndicate yesterday, proposals were discussed for the extension of trading hours by 50 per cent. Official hours are now from 12.30 to 2.30, or less than half those of London and New York. Both the *agents de change* and the *coulissiers'* associations are in favour of longer hours, but the banks are stated to object to the proposed extension. Preparations are being actively pushed forward for the introduction here of a large number of foreign issues that have never yet been listed in Paris. A start is to be made with several Belgian industrials, and these are to be followed by a number of leading American, German and other active issues. For the American descriptions it will be necessary to organise local trustee companies, who will hold the original scrip permanently and be responsible for all French taxation due on it, individual holders of the securities being given "representative certificates" as proof of ownership.

One of the most important steps taken so far has been the reported decision of the Bank of France to mobilise part of the Caisse d'Amortissement bonds (totalling 5,611,000,000 francs) handed to it, under the Stabilisation Law, in exchange for the mass of derelict "Russian Bonds" which were discounted by the Bank, in respect of French Government advances to the Czar's Government during the war. The mobilisation of these bonds—for which no date has yet been fixed—offers the only means which the Bank possesses of practising, like the Bank of England, the "open market policy," by putting out short-term bonds, when money is superabundant, and buying them in when the contrary is the case. The bonds are to be issued on monthly maturities in denominations of 1,000,000 francs to 10,000,000 francs, and only to important corporations, such as railways and banks. The Caisse d'Amortissement bonds held by the Bank bear no interest. Under the law, the Bank is given power to negotiate the scrip on the market, however, as it may deem fit, "in order to act on the volume of credit and maintain control over its circulation." The Bank, therefore, would itself assume the burden of the interest payable to concerns who take up such bonds, on the ground that it is its duty to accept this sacrifice in view of its obligation to control the market by the most efficacious means at its disposal. The yield is expected to be fixed at slightly under Bank rate (probably at 3 per cent.).

The possibilities attaching to the manipulation of these bonds as the balance wheel of the market scarcely need recapitulation. Behind this lies the fact that, when the Bank decides to utilise its new instrument, it will become possible for gold imports on a large scale to continue indefinitely (other things being equal) without unduly inflating the note issue, and thus artificially increasing commodity prices. The note issue at its present level of 68,688,000,000 francs, cannot be considered excessive, as compared with its pre-war total, in view of the greatly-increased requirements (in which largely increased territory is only one factor). Some nervousness has been felt during the past few months, however, owing to constantly rising commodity price levels—due, it is held, to the abnormal amount of available money—and it is urged that this should be speedily checked. A few months ago, owing to the scarcity of short-term capital, the banks were compelled to call in portions of their foreign balances. That situation has since been entirely reversed, owing to the recent extinction of over 3,000,000,000 francs of Defence Bonds and buying in of Rentes by the Caisse d'Amortissement. At the same time, a further plethora of short-term capital is pending. The Caisse, in order to equalise gradually the monthly maturities of Defence Bonds—which will be exceptionally heavy between now and the end of April—intends during this period to pay off more bonds than it will issue, while also continuing to buy in Rentes. This will reduce its balance at the Bank

by a further 3,000,000,000 francs or more. Simultaneously the Treasury, owing to the extension of the financial year by three months, will receive practically nothing in the form of direct taxation until the new Budget comes into effect in April, and will consequently have to draw largely on its balance at the Bank, which, on January 17th, stood at 7,424,000,000 francs. Private current accounts at the Bank, which now stand at over 7,000,000,000 francs, are also expected to be substantially reduced during the same period. The bond issue now decided upon, therefore, comes very opportunely.

Later in the year, the situation will have changed entirely—according to present indications. The coming mobilisation of the first part of the German "unconditional" payments (although probably most of the French portion of this will be, for all practical purposes, a Rente-conversion issue) will absorb a certain amount of surplus capital. During the second part of the year the Caisse d'Amortissement will resume the policy of issuing more Defence Bonds than it pays off, in order to reconstitute its reserves, while the Treasury, from the resumption of the inflow of direct taxation, will also probably accumulate fresh reserves. By that time, also, it is anticipated, the new French Acceptance Bank (which has now opened definitely for business) will have considerably developed the scope of its operations (although it is generally considered that two years at least will be required before it can come fully into operation). The Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement announces that it has fixed the maximum amount of National Defence Bonds to be issued during 1930 at 28,211,000,000 francs, as against 35,487,000,000 francs during 1929.

SWITZERLAND.—CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES —EMBROIDERY INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, January 14.

THE results of the census of manufactures and factory workers taken last August have now been published. In August there were 8,514 factories under the control of the Federal authorities; they employed 409,083 workers and had 688,610 h.p. at their disposal. The following figures show the increase during the past forty-seven years:—

	Number of Factories.	Workers.	H.P.
1882 ...	2,662 ...	134,862 ...	59,512
1895 ...	4,994 ...	200,199 ...	145,325
1911 ...	7,907 ...	328,841 ...	414,144
1923 ...	7,871 ...	337,403 ...	517,258
1929 ...	8,514 ...	409,083 ...	688,610

The most striking feature is the great increase in the number of factory workers, which was particularly marked during the past six years, when it averaged about 12,000 a year, while it was only 700 during the period 1911-23 in consequence of the serious economic crisis of 1921, when in a single year the number of workers was reduced by about 25,000, and that of factories by nearly 800. The big rise in the number of workers is mainly ascribed to the increased quantity of power at the disposal of Swiss industries. Out of a total of 688,610 h.p. no less than 580,000 h.p. consists of electric power.

Out of a total of 409,083 workers, 147,061 are women, and 34,490 men and women are working at home. The number of workers rose during the past six years, particularly in the clothing, metallurgical, machines and watchmaking industries, while it decreased in the embroidery industry. A curious fact is the big increase in the number of workers in the watchmaking industry —especially in the Chaux de Fonds and Le Locle centres —who are working at home, as was the custom fifty years ago; they prefer family life and the freedom to work at any time during the day and night to factory life and strictly regulated working hours; a consequence of that transformation is the decrease in communism and extreme socialism in these districts.

The classification of Swiss industries according to the number of hands employed is as follows:—

Industries.	Workers.
Watchmaking	48,378
Machines	41,192
Clothing	40,324
Cotton	35,275
Silk and artificial silk	32,118
Wood	26,967

According to the number of factories, the classification is as follows:—

Industries.	Factories.
Wood	1,237
Watchmaking	1,134
Clothing	993
Embroidery	531
Cotton	377
Machines	236
Chemicals	220
Silk and artificial silk	196

Factory workers represent nearly 10 per cent. of the total population, while industry as a whole employs 821,340 persons, nearly 44 per cent. of the population. Directly and indirectly 1,633,000 inhabitants of Switzerland depend on industry for their living, while 1,043,000 depend on agriculture. Switzerland can thus be regarded as an industrial country, and it is likely that her industry will further expand during the coming year as a result of the increasing development of water resources for the production of cheap electric power.

The centenary, at the beginning of the present year, of the introduction into the Swiss Canton Saint Gallen of the first embroidering machine coincides with a serious crisis in the embroidery industry, the development of which had been very important until 1920. A very imperfect embroidering machine was already working in Saint Gallen towards the end of 1828; it had been constructed in Alsace, at Mulhausen, by a certain Heillmann, who later sold two similar machines to the great St. Gallen manufacturer, François Mange. It was then agreed that Heillmann would sell no other machine of that type in Switzerland nor in the neighbouring countries within a strip of territory 50 miles wide. These machines were improved by Mange, but they only reached perfection in 1840 after they had been transformed by Mr Rittmeyer. This was the beginning of the great expansion of the Swiss embroidery industry, which mainly concentrated in Eastern Switzerland. It soon became one of the most prosperous industries in the country, and its products—ranging from handkerchiefs to dress goods and novelty and fancy embroideries—were exported to all countries, especially to America.

Some years ago, there existed 1859 embroidery establishments, operating 23,000 machines and employing some 60,000 hands. Exports reached £17,000,000 in 1919, and £16,500,000 in 1920, but since then they have gradually fallen to £4,300,000 in 1927, £4,200,000 in 1928, and £3,600,000 in 1929. The crisis which began in 1921 and became worse after 1927, may be ascribed mainly to changes in fashion. At the end of 1929 the embroidery industry had only 531 factories working and it employed 8,000 workers. Some of the factories were closed down, others were transformed with a view to turning out other goods, and the fate of that once flourishing industry now seems to be doomed unless some new change in fashion comes and gives it a new impetus, which does not seem very probable.

JUGOSLAVIA.—ECONOMIC REFORMS—FINANCE —BUSINESS PROSPECTS—TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, January 15.

AT the end of its first year the Dictatorship has issued a detailed statement of its work to date and of its future plans. The standard of administration, it is claimed, has improved, while the process itself has been simplified by the division of the Kingdom into nine provinces (banovinas) with considerable autonomous power. Many laws and regulations have been promulgated, of which the most important in the economic sphere are a modern cheque law, and agricultural, stockraising, forestry, foreign trade, and road laws, providing for the complete reorganisation of those branches of economy. Of those ready to be published, the chief are a mining and an electrification law. Provision has been made for agricultural credit by the foundation of the Privileged Agrarian Mortgage Bank, while the erection of many selecting stations for seed and stock, more vigorous education and other measures are to help the productive side of agriculture. Rolling stock has been increased by 1,600 engines, coaches and trucks, and further 3,500 are on order; 1,500 hectares of land have been reafforested; import duties on agricultural necessities have been lowered, and a general tariff reform is contemplated.

Government finance looks decidedly healthier. Receipts for the period April-September were 4,549 million dinars, or including September receipts from State undertakings, about 4,920 millions, against 4,278 millions in 1928. The war debt to France has been settled favourably. The total has been fixed at 1,800 million French francs, for which Jugoslavia is to hand over to France 37 annual sums of an average of 3.5 million gold marks from her share of the reparations. In other words, Jugoslavia is to pay less than half with the additional advantage of having made the payments an integral part of the reparations. A plan for the legal stabilisation of the dinar has been prepared, and, judging from the Premier's declaration that no foreign loan is intended, it is to be carried out with national means. Government securities continue firm, and the quotation at home bourses of the Blair and Seligman loans concluded in U.S.A. has imparted a firmness to these also. Thus, the Blair 8 per cent., the Blair 7 per cent., and the Seligman 7 per cent., which were quoted at New York on November 18th respectively at 80, 71 and 68, were quoted on January 8th at 88, 76.75 and 76; their price at the Belgrade and Zagreb Bourses was one or two points higher.

Finance, in general, is passing through a most interesting phase. In consequence of an active trade balance and the heavy foreign investments in mining and industry the stocks of the National Bank have swollen from 339 million dinars, on December 22, 1928, to 1,767 millions (£6.5 million) at the end of 1929. Savings deposits in the country and current accounts have also greatly increased, while further sums from foreign investments are in process of arrival. Yet comparatively little of this money is flowing into business for the moment as investors apparently prefer to watch their opportunity. Thus, paradoxically enough, a country poor in financial means is suffering momentarily from a plethora of capital. Naturally, this cannot last long. The interest rate, which was 10-16 per cent. in business at the end of 1928, has slackened to 9-14 per cent. at the end of 1929. All industries, and especially mining, textiles, timber, electricity, chemicals, cement, paper, are making plans for extending business and absorbing part of this capital. Private people are thinking of housebuilding to ensure a better return on their money. Banks are making plans for issuing credit to agriculture. In general, both psychological and financial conditions seem favourable to a substantial economic advance in 1930. Several other factors should also contribute to this. The excellent harvest has cheapened food to such an extent as to raise real wages, so that at present no movement for increased wages is likely. The new unified legislation, which has replaced the many different procedures in various parts of the country, allows for better planning and safer calculation in business. With a renewed peasant demand the industrial market has every prospect of expanding.

The trade returns are also good. Exports to the value of 7,143 million dinars have been achieved for the first eleven months in 1929, against a value of imports of 6,995 millions. There is, therefore, a prospect of an active balance for the year of 300 to 350 million dinars, as December is a good month for exports, but an ordinary month for imports. Last year's figures were 5,875 million and 7,286 million dinars respectively for exports and imports, leaving thus a deficit in the trade balance of 1,411 million dinars.

BULGARIA.—HAGUE SETTLEMENT—BANK ACCOUNTS—INDUSTRY—RAILWAYS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, January 22.

AFTER protracted negotiations, the question of Bulgarian Reparations has been definitely settled at The Hague. Part B of the debt is cancelled as well as the balance of occupation accounts due to Great Britain, France and Italy. In settlement of the remaining obligation (Part A) the creditor countries accepted a series of yearly payments comprising one instalment of 5 million gold francs, ten yearly instalments of 10 millions, ten annuities of 11½ millions, and 16 annuities of 12,515,238 gold francs each. Payments are to begin on April 1, 1930, and to end in 1966. The revision clause of Article 122 of the Treaty of Neuilly is abolished, only a kind of transfer provision being maintained. The rights of the Reparations Commission in connection with these payments are to be exercised in future by the Bank of International Settlements. A separate understanding with Roumania puts an end to the much-debated point of Bulgarian property in that country linked up with the question of compensation for war damages to Roumanian property. A lump sum of Lei 110 million to be paid by Bulgaria disposes of the case.

This settlement does not come as a surprise to the public. There is, however, little doubt that the mere fact of the agreement being reached is a great psychological relief to almost everybody, with the possible exception of some politicians and of the nationalists. The ratification by Parliament of the arrangements arrived at will probably be an occasion for part of the opposition, and perhaps also for certain of M. Liaptcheff's followers, to bring about at least a partial reconstruction in the present Cabinet. In any case, the difficult economic situation of the country undoubtedly requires a rapid and decisive end to political discussion and party quarrels for some time. The urgent need for the direction of the whole attention of the active elements in the Government to the reorganisation of public finance, administration and agriculture has become very evident during the acute financial, trade and credit crisis of the last six months. The accounts of the National Bank reflect to a certain degree the changes in the general economic situation caused by the heavy adverse balance of foreign trade and by the widespread commercial crisis resulting from it. On December 31, 1928, the aggregate amount of gold, silver and gold-exchange currencies was Leva 3,746 million, as against notes in circulation and other sight liabilities combined, Leva 7,563 million, *i.e.*, a ratio of 49.53 per cent. The corresponding figures at the close of 1929 are: gold, silver and gold exchange, Leva 2,470 million; notes and sight liabilities, Leva 5,840 million, or a ratio of 42.30 per cent. In order to keep the legal cover at an adequate level, the Bank had to contract the note circulation as much as possible and to curtail rediscount and other credit facilities. From Leva 4,173 million, notes in circulation have been brought down to Leva 3,609 million, as between December 31, 1928, and December 30, 1929. Advances to trade and industry have dropped from 701 to 495 million, the Treasury's debt from 3,735 to 3,505 million, investments from 335 to 273 million. On the other hand, bills discounted and rediscounted show an increase from Leva 588 to 907 million, due initially to an expansion policy in the first six months of 1929, and, later on, to the practical impossibility of withdrawing the facilities granted without completely disorganising trade and industry. The firm attitude of the Bank in this respect has been much criticised in business and political quarters, but it is only fair to state that a further expansion of credit would only have amounted to maintaining artificially a state of overlending, the quick liquidation of which appears to be the only right way out of the present difficulties of the market. Other banks followed suit and credits are being gradually reduced to normal proportions.

This policy had unpleasant effects on the position of a great number of firms. The volume of failures and suspensions of payments considerably increased, as well as the amount of protested bills; between January 1st

and November 30th last year 217,000 bills for Leva 1,780 million have been protested for non-payment, as against 183,000 bills for Leva 1,450 million during the same period in 1928. Trade, industry and banks will suffer losses, as well as foreign creditors for goods sold on credit, but it must be admitted that, in spite of repeated warnings by competent advisers, almost everybody has been lending money or selling on credit without paying due attention to the actual potentialities of the market.

The effects on local industries of the uneasy financial situation have been equally serious. Owing to a relatively large proportion of their working capital being generally tied up for a longer term than is the case elsewhere, the restriction of credits is bringing about an increased recourse to the help of foreign capital, or, in many cases, the closing down of works and liquidation of business. This circumstance deserves earnest consideration, for, although the fact has widely escaped attention both here and abroad, the capital invested in industry represents a very important part of the country's resources. According to the estimates of the National Bank's Statistical Department, there are invested in industry, as share capital, Leva 1,760 million in joint-stock companies only, while the total capital investments are computed at Leva 7,500 million. The position on December 31, 1927, with regard to larger undertakings only, in the chief industries, may be summarised thus:—

Industries.	Number of Undertakings.	Capital in Thousand Gold Leva.
Vegetable oils	15	2,973
Leather	26	4,993
Metals	33	6,531
Tobacco	35	7,868
Ceramics	49	36,040
Wood	19	3,090
Textiles	67	33,860
Flour Mills	41	13,903
Chemicals	27	5,028
	312	114,286

In 1929 there were 82,000 workmen employed in industrial undertakings. The concerns shown in the above table used, in 1927, local raw materials to the value of Gold Leva 60,787,000, foreign raw materials for Gold Leva 31,676,000, accessory materials for Gold Leva 9,950,000, and fuel for Gold Leva 4,326,000. Their total output is estimated at Gold Leva 114,226,000.

There is a substantial increase in number of undertakings and in capital since 1927, and, in certain cases, the output is in excess of local needs. As a consequence of high protective duties, of deficient organisation and dear money, production costs in the great majority of industries are too high to permit of export. Competition in the local market between similar undertakings is growing very keen, both in price-cutting and in selling on easier terms to retail merchants and to the public. A change in the policy of the Government in the direction of limiting protection and the granting of new licences to industrial undertakings is strongly advocated in financial circles. The present crisis will no doubt contribute to readjustment, but official measures appear to be urgently needed.

The legislation recommended by the Financial Committee of the League of Nations in connection with the reorganisation of the railway system has been recently completed by an amendment to the Railways Administration Act. According to the new measure, the annual profits on working are no longer to be allocated exclusively to the construction of new lines, but are to be employed according to a plan to be approved by the Council of Ministers. The amendment will permit of the maintenance of the existing railroads in a better state of repair and of the improvement of the rolling stock, equipment and upkeep of the whole system, which still leaves much to be desired. The present shortcomings in this connection were acutely felt last autumn, when the transport of agricultural produce and coal suffered considerable delay and caused heavy losses. According to the Government's undertaking in connection with the Reconstruction Loan, the reorganisation of the railways will be pursued still further under the supervision of the League of Nations Commissioner in Bulgaria.

INDIA.—BUDGET ANTICIPATIONS—TARIFF PROSPECTS—POLITICAL UNREST.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, January 20.

IT is unfortunate, for many reasons, that a financial position necessitating new taxation should coincide with a period of acute political unrest. It is also clear that, in leaving the Assembly before the new taxes are imposed, Congress legislators, taking a long view, have proved themselves to be shrewd electioneers. As on a previous occasion, the parties outside the Congress will be left to share with the Government the entire responsibility for the new imposts, while Congress politicians reserve to themselves the easier and more congenial task of posing, however impotently, as the champions of wholesale reduction in expenditure, and consequently in taxation. At present, unfortunately, retrenchment is taking the undesirable, but unavoidable, form of drastic curtailments in capital expenditure on productive projects, chiefly, although not exclusively, railways. In effect, the Hindley programme, which contemplated the construction of a thousand miles of new lines per annum, has been scrapped. The case for extension and improvement remains as strong as when the programme was formulated, and endorsed by the Legislature; but the funds required to carry it through are not available and, according to present indications, owing to the deterioration in the political, as well as the financial situation, will not be available during the finance membership of Sir George Schuster. This is, of course, lamentable, not only from the railway standpoint, but because the stream of contracts emanating from the Railway Board represented to many industries the oxygen necessary to health and even life. But what are the financial facts? To assert that the debt-repudiation resolution adopted by the "National" Congress at Lahore represents an idle threat would be correct but would not remove or modify its immediate effects, including the enforced suspension, for an indefinite period, of sterling borrowing, except on terms exceedingly deleterious to India's credit, and to the interests of present holders. It has also to be recollected that, above certain rates, the raising of loans for railway purposes ceases to be profitable.

Inability to borrow in London would occasion less regret and embarrassment if accompanied by ability to borrow on a larger scale in India, but, unfortunately, the deterioration is equal and simultaneous. Bombay, which financially is the right arm of the Government of India, is paralysed as the result of the prolonged depression in the cotton mill industry, and throughout the country holders of Government securities are disgruntled and disinclined to take further risks. Many wealthy Indians, holding large blocks of Government Paper, are selling out to enable them to re-invest the proceeds in countries where political complications, including threats of "repudiation," are not superimposed on the ordinary economic risks. The flight of Indian capital from Swaraj-*cum*-Independence has begun, and will be accelerated by any definite effort to carry the Lahore programme of civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes into effect. Industrial strikes, organised primarily to promote political aims, have cost Indian investors many crores of rupees, and the debt-repudiation resolution is extending the losses to holders of Government securities, already hard hit by economic and financial difficulties, domestic and international.

Failure to balance the budget—if necessary, by imposing new taxation—would depreciate Indian credit still further. New direct taxation, at a juncture when industrial profits are small and trading conditions so generally unsatisfactory, would be inexpedient, inopportune, and probably ineffectual. Economic as well as political considerations point to higher import duties, however lamentable such a step may be, from the point of view both of the British exporter, and of international interests and considerations generally. Not least among these international considerations is the desire and demand, expressed at the Geneva Economic Conference, for a concerted movement in the direction of lower tariffs. In this instance, new indirect taxation is considered necessary, somewhat paradoxically, in order to render existing direct taxation more productive. That is to say, whereas the Bombay cotton mills, under normal conditions, yield approximately three crores of rupees to the Central Government in terms of income tax and super-tax, the present revenue from this source has fallen to little above zero, and the condition of the industry is causing much financial embarrassment to the Provincial Government, and the local authorities, not excluding the Bombay Port Trust. Apart from revenue considerations, the economic rehabilitation of Bombay is also essential and urgent, in order to re-establish financial, and market conditions favourable to the flotation of official rupee securities.

In these circumstances it is all but certain that Sir George Schuster's second budget will include, as one of its most important features, higher import duties on cotton piece-goods, possibly, as in the case of steel manufactures, differentiating in favour of goods of British origin, comprising goods of a class not at present manufactured, or likely in the near future to be manufactured, in Indian mills.

One of the most unfortunate consequences of the financial difficulties now confronting even the most prominent and powerful of the Indian business houses, whose headquarters are located in Bombay, was the recent sale by the Tata interests of a substantial share in the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Companies to American financiers, a transaction which certainly would not have been carried through, except as a last resource.

In relation to the threatened campaign of civil disobedience, including non-payment of taxes, Mr Gandhi, who recognises that "for such an indefinable thing as Swaraj people must have previous training in doing things of all-India interest," is in complete control. He is now engaged in evolving "a workable formula" designed to accelerate the materialisation of Swaraj, while avoiding recourse to violence in any form. The outstanding results of his dominance to date have been the division of the Congress party into numerous warring factions and the complete alienation of the Liberal, Nationalist and Responsivist parties who, in conjunction with the Princes, the Mohammedan leaders, the non-Brahmas, the zemindars, and other influential interests, are anxious to participate in the round table conference, in the hope that it will be possible at that gathering to evolve a scheme carrying India, without recourse to further Parliamentary inquiries, by progressive stages, to Dominion status, or a position approximate thereto.

SOUTH AFRICA.—MINING RESULTS—PHTHISIS COMMISSION—RAILWAYS—PUBLIC FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, January 8.

THE gold-mining companies making returns to the Transvaal Chamber of Mines have announced their dividends to a grand total of £8,413,616, which is a slight drop on the 1928 figure. The Far East Rand still contributes an amount—£7,251,147—much out of proportion to its tonnage, capital invested, and employing capacity, but there is a very slight increase in the proportion from other parts of the Rand. From a profit-making point of view, the Reef divides itself into three roughly equal parts, following closely the geographical division of Far East, East and Central, and West Rand. About two-thirds of the issued capital of the Reef companies yields dividends, but the good dividends are all from the Far East except that of the Crown Mines. The Government's revenue from leases now amounts to about £2,200,000 per annum (or £1,650,000 excluding amounts credited to income tax account). This sum is beginning to assume considerable weight in comparison with the private shareholders' £8,000,000 odd.

Yet another Miners' Phthisis Commission is sitting. Since 1911, there have been four previous Commissions, ten Select Committees, and nine Acts of Parliament. The history of the question has been complicated by the fact that in the past the South African and Nationalist Parties each in turn tried to curry favour with the European labour vote on the Rand. Signs are not wanting that the Government practice of awarding excessive amounts of other people's money to its supporters is now coming to an end. For one thing, the Labour Party no longer counts, and the Afrikander workman votes Nationalist and seems likely to continue to do so. The Government is, to an increasing extent, a partner in the industry, and it has taken to heart the fact that capital can secure and must have a reliable measure of payment. The present Commission evinced a good deal of interest in the suggestion (from the industry's witness, Mr P. M. Anderson) that at least part of the compensation should come from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and not from a separate fund entirely financed by levies on the mines. Of course, the mines would have to provide the money indirectly in any case, but if the Government had to legislate for compensation payable out of money in its own coffers, it is probable that the trend of that legislation would be considerably altered.

In his report on the working of the South African Railways and Harbours for the year ended March 31st last, the General Manager states that during that year revenue had advanced appreciably by £785,891, or 3.11 per cent.; while expenditure had advanced only by 0.53 per cent., or £98,656. The result of the year's working was a net profit of £343,041. The number of passenger trains (542,357), the passenger-train mileage (13,826,162), the number of passengers carried (81,994,517), the goods-train mileage (30,646,429), and some other items all constituted records. The employees numbered 52,526 Europeans and 31,879 non-Europeans. Passenger-train mileage constituted 27.7 per cent. of total train mileage, while passenger revenue was 21.1 per cent. of total revenue. It is pointed out that from 1920 to 1929 the total passenger revenue increased by 3.66 per cent., while passenger train mileage increased by 91.60 per cent. This is attributed in great measure to the liberality of our excursion facilities in this country.

The practice, inaugurated in 1925, of issuing general specifications when calling for tenders for locomotives, leaving manufacturers to tender for their own details, has been found unsatisfactory in practice and, in future, the complete designs will be prepared by the Chief Mechanical Engineer and his staff, who will be required by the Administration to keep themselves informed of current practice. In other parts of his report the General Manager enlarges on the unsatisfactory experience of the Administration with electric traction. As regards the suburban traffic, there has been severe competition from private motor-buses here as elsewhere. As regards electric lines generally, the railway officials complain of the cost of current supplied by the Electricity Commission, whose Salt River station charges 1¼d. per unit for power for the Capetown-Simonstown line. Electrification has involved very heavy capital expense and a substantial increase in running costs. The capital cost of the Salt River power station was £30 per kilowatt, while the Colenso (Natal) station cost £23 10s.

The Government accounts for the year ended March 31, 1929, have just been published, together with the report of the Controller and Auditor-General. The surplus for the year was £1,832,455, and the accumulated surplus on revenue account at that date was £3,122,851. The Union Debt at March 31st last stood at £244,044,512, bearing interest at an average rate of 4.218 per cent. Somewhat under 60 per cent. is repayable in London and the balance locally. The Union's contribution to the League of Nations during the year was £14,707, an assessment at the rate of 15 units. The Auditor-General recommends that there should be a general inventory of all Government land and land rights.

Letters to the Editor.

BANKS AND BUSINESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I am extremely interested in your excellent article on "Banks and Business" in this week's issue of the *Economist*. I most heartily agree that it is not the function of the Central Bank to participate in the financing of the rationalisation of an industry. Such a procedure may be setting up a dangerous precedent. In my view, the financing of rationalisation is a *rôle* of the joint-stock banks. It is true that in the past the joint-stock banks have made loans to industry, but they have not shouldered the responsibility of watching over that loan as do the German banks. Furthermore, they have not trained the personnel to undertake this industrial side of banking, even to the extent of "fathering" the issue, made for the express purpose of reorganisation of the industry.

British banks perform some services better than any other banks in the world, such as cashing of cheques and short-term advances, but they have yet to learn the business of long-term advances. The difficulties now in the way of making long-term advances must be overcome. It is argued that deposits repayable on demand or at short date are the very basis of British banking, but surely the leading joint-stock banks of Britain are capable of setting up machinery to deal with our changing economic system.

I was talking to a leading German banker this week, and I inquired whether Germany had instituted any similar organisation to the Securities Management Trust in order to deal with financial problems of the rationalisation of industry which had been carried out with a measure of success in that country. His reply was that such an institution was unnecessary, as the joint-stock banks undertook the work. The banks' nominees on the reorganised boards of directors made it their business to see that their banks' money was properly utilised.

I hazarded a further question as to what machinery the German Government instituted to cope with her unemployment, which naturally follows any scheme of rationalisation in an industry. His reply was that labour was mobile, and that quite a number of miners who were rendered unemployed, for example, by the closing down of uneconomic pits, found work in the potash industry, where unemployment was not rife. As the coal industry improved these men were reabsorbed.

Mr J. H. Thomas is certainly to be congratulated on trying to arrive at the root causes of our economic ills, and he has put his finger on the real cause by stressing the relationship of bankers and banking to industry, and, as stated elsewhere in your journal, how far the British banking system can be developed to meet the changing needs of industry without sacrificing its present safety and elasticity, is a question that is rapidly becoming one of the most important before the country to-day.—Yours faithfully,

W. TUDOR DAVIES.

6, Pump Court, Temple, E.C. 4.
January 21, 1930.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Open Door and the Mandates System. By Benjamin Gerig. With a Foreword by William E. Rappard. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 10s. net.

A critical account of the evolution of the principle of the Open Door. The texts of three typical mandates are given in appendices, and there is a good bibliography.

Naval Disarmament. By H. Wilson Harris. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street, 3s. 6d. net.

A very timely publication designed to place the reader in a position to follow intelligently the work of the Conference.

The World Crisis of 1914-1918: *An Interpretation.* By Elie Halévy. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 5s. net.

A reprint of three Rhodes Memorial lectures, entitled: "Towards Revolution," "Towards War," "War and Revolution."

The Naval Blockade, 1914-1918. By Lieut. Louis Guichard. Translated and edited by Christopher R. Turner. (London) Philip Allen and Company, Ltd., Quality House, Great Russell Street. 15s. net.

A clear, dispassionate and well-arranged account of the blockade.

Economia e Corporativismo. By N. Massimo Fovel. (Ferrara) S.A.T.E.

An examination, in terms of pure economic theory, of the effect on welfare of an improved distribution of wealth. Signor Fovel believes that the corporative system will lead to such improvement.

A Proposito di un Tentativo di Teoria Pura del Corporativismo. By Carlo Pagni. (Turin) Ditta Fratelli Pozzo.

Signor Pagni refutes, one by one, the contentions of Signor Fovel as expounded in *Economia e Corporativismo.*

The Political Quarterly. January, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 14s.

We welcome this new monthly which, if one may judge by the distinguished names on the list of the editorial board, may be counted on to present a progressive and enlightened point of view. The articles in this first issue include: "The Problem of the Mines," by G. D. H. Cole; "How Far can a Labour Budget go?" by J. Wedgwood; "The Question of High Wages," by J. M. Keynes.

Annuaire de la Société des Nations, 1929. Compiled under the direction of Georges Ottlik. (Geneva) Editions de l'Annuaire de la Société des Nations, S.A. 1, rue de la Monnaie.

A most valuable work of reference, comprising a general article, a bibliography, the text of the Covenant; an account of the constitution of the League and its auxiliary organisations, a history of the League's activities, relevant information concerning each member State, and an account of the relations with the League of each non-member State.

Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1929. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. $1.00.

The fullest source of official statistics relating to the United States.

Die Wirtschaft des Auslandes, 1928. (Berlin) Verlag von Reimar Hobbing. 25 Rm.

A very useful source of statistics of over sixty countries. It covers the usual economic categories and is most convenient for comparative work.

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. The Anti-Trust Laws of the United States. Edited by John G. Hervey. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., Orchard House, Great Smith Street. $2.00.

The papers are grouped under four heads: "Some Aspects of the Laws"; "Application to Specific Industries"; "Some Observations"; "What of the Future?"

Monthly Labour Review, November, 1929. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 15 cents.

Includes, *inter alia,* articles on the average cost of construction of dwellings in principal American cities, and on wage-fixing legislation in the United States.

Economic History, January, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 6s. net.

Among a number of historical articles are two which have particular interest at the moment: "The Localisation of the Cotton Industry," by J. Jewkes, and "Combination in the West of Scotland Coal Trade, 1790-1817," by H. Hamilton.

The Economic History Review, January, 1930. (London) A. and C. Black, Ltd., 4, 5 and 6, Soho Square. 10s. 6d. net.

Includes, *inter alia,* articles on "The Decay of the Ancient World and its Economic Explanations," by Professor Rostovtseff, and "The Industrial Revolution and Discontent," by J. L. Hammond.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Austria, November, 1929. 2s. net.

Reparation Commission: Official Documents XXIIA—Report of the Commissioner for the German Railways (December 14, 1929); *Report of the Commissioner of the Reichsbank* (December 23, 1929), etc. 3s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE PRICE OF NEW CAPITAL.

FOR many years past we have set out in our columns, at annual intervals, details of the average price of various types of new capital—a matter of prime importance to every government, municipality and company desirous of raising money in London, as well as to the investor in gilt-edged and a wide range of fixed-interest stocks. Our review on this occasion may most usefully be regarded as a study of the London capital market under abnormal—and for the most part depressed—conditions.

The story of 1929 falls into three periods: (1) January and the first week of February, when the boom of 1928 reached its climax and exceptionally large amounts of new capital were offered and subscribed; (2) spring and early summer, when considerable offerings were made but seldom subscribed; and (3) the last six months of the year, when the market relapsed into a state of suspended animation, and new issues to the public (as distinct from offers to shareholders) were few and far between. The February rise in Bank rate, which inaugurated some months of dear money, undoubtedly was a factor in bringing the market's "fine, careless rapture" to an end, and inducing the more responsible borrowers to postpone their operations to a more convenient season. It is doubtful, however, whether this would in itself have been powerful enough to bring about the stagnation of the later months, without the additional factor of severe Stock Exchange depression in London, on the Continent, and, more particularly, in America, which effectually stifled the public appetite for speculation both in "new" and "old" securities. We may examine the year's figures in the light of these facts.

Broadly, the total public issues (excluding conversion operations) made in London last year (an earlier analysis of which was given in the *Economist* of December 28, 1929, page 1237) showed a falling-off of 23 per cent. as compared with those of 1928, though their aggregate, in pounds sterling, was 45 per cent. greater than in 1913. Of the whole amount offered, 48½ per cent. took the form of debentures, bonds, etc., 11 per cent. of preference stocks and shares, and 40½ per cent. of ordinary stocks. The proportion of "variable dividend" securities was appreciably greater than in 1928, when these accounted for 30 per cent. of the total issues, and very much greater than in 1913, when ordinary stocks represented only 17 per cent. of the whole, as the following table indicates:—

PUBLIC ISSUES OF NEW CAPITAL IN LONDON.

	Year 1913.	Year 1926.	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Debentures, bonds, &c.	139,920,400	145,180,000	228,958,000	212,817,900	137,670,300
Preference stocks and shares	22,955,600	39,393,200	36,836,600	45,062,600	31,543,400
Ordinary stocks and shares	33,661,300	46,209,400	89,371,400	111,177,600	116,017,600
Total	196,537,300	230,782,600	355,166,000	369,058,100	285,231,300

The influential part played by the ordinary share in present-day capital operations reflects the ever-growing importance of the limited company in London finance. The next table, which classifies borrowers under 29 different headings, shows that last year Government and municipal authorities (whose issues fall entirely into the category of "debentures, bonds, etc.") took less than two-fifths of the total capital raised. The companies of various orders and species, whose issues compose the rest of the table, and were responsible for 62 per cent. of the aggregate offerings of 1929, floated only 16½ per cent. of their total emissions in the form of debentures, 18 per cent. in preference shares, and as much as 65½ per cent. in ordinary shares:—

NATURE OF CAPITAL OFFERED ON THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

	1928.	1929.			
	Total.	Ordinary Stocks or Shares.	Preference Stocks or Shares.	Debentures, Bonds, &c.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
British Govt. loans	83,861,000	...	...	†65,400,000	†65,400,000
Colonial Govt. loans	40,223,000	...	...	26,366,100	26,366,100
Foreign Govt. loans	15,938,900	...	...	3,650,000	3,650,000
Brit. Corporations, &c.	14,871,000	...	...	8,316,000	8,316,000
Colonial Corporations	7,296,100	...	...	3,859,900	3,859,900
Foreign Corporations	4,332,000	...	...	472,500	472,500
British railways	2,080,900	...	...	1,920,000	1,920,000
Colonial railways	Nil	10,200,000	...	...	10,200,000
Foreign railways	3,070,000	...	5,000,000	2,835,000	7,835,000
Australian mines	695,000	12,000	...	...	12,000
South African mines	1,766,000	1,811,585	...	...	1,811,585
Other mines	4,810,300	11,941,635	...	30,000	11,971,635
Explor., Financial, &c.	42,513,700	23,410,604	989,896	3,471,975	27,872,475
Breweries	5,789,900	1,318,125	...	3,028,331	4,346,456
Merch., Importers, &c.	1,117,500	75,355	350,000	...	425,355
Stores and Trading	6,101,000	1,524,281	100,000	2,215,449	3,839,730
Estate and Land	2,817,100	2,487,752	311,470	1,180,000	3,979,222
Rubber	3,125,000	1,119,713	...	955,500	2,075,213
Oil	5,623,400	3,970,855	350,000	...	4,320,855
Iron, coal, steel and engineering	2,413,000	1,037,000	200,000	3,248,800	4,485,800
Elec. light, power and telegraph	15,179,200	9,753,448	450,000	4,825,000	15,028,448
Tramway and omnibus	1,381,700	279,683	...	...	279,683
Motor traction and manufacture	4,623,600	275,674	105,000	...	380,674
Gas and water	1,388,000	1,356,080	...	120,000	1,476,080
Hotels and theatres	14,650,700	2,064,000	625,000	1,322,000	4,011,000
Patents and proprietary articles	8,582,800	5,872,375	1,170,000	65,000	7,107,375
Docks, harbours and shipping	2,900,000	...	544,500	...	544,500
Banks and insurance	9,404,600	4,650,575	...	1,622,500	6,273,075
Manufacturing and miscellaneous	62,502,700	32,856,841	21,347,517	2,766,250	56,970,608
Total	369,058,100	116,017,581	31,543,383	137,670,305	285,231,269

† Five Per Cent. Conversion Loan £67,000,000 less, £1,600,000 net encashments of National Savings Certificates.

We may next show the effective rates paid by Government borrowers of all classes during the past two years, with certain figures for 1913. All rates are shown subject to British income tax, and profit on redemption is allowed for when necessary:—

BRITISH, COLONIAL AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

(000's omitted.)

	† Total for Year 1913.	British Government Loans.		Dominion and Colonial Government Loans.		Foreign Government Loans.		Total.	
		Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Yielding from:									
3½% to 4%	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4% to 4½%	21,329	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4½% to 5%	7,853	86,961	67,000	20,128	6,650	...	...	107,089	73,650
5% to 5½%	11,178	...	...	20,095	19,716	...	...	20,095	19,716
5½% to 6%	6,675	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6% to 6½%	*1,392	...	...	...	...	4,509	1,890	4,509	1,890
6½% to 7%	...	...	...	...	...	9,010	...	9,010	...
7% to 7½%	...	...	...	...	...	980	...	980	...
7½% to 8%	...	...	...	...	...	1,440	...	1,440	...
8%	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,760	...	1,760
Total	†52,437	86,961	67,000	40,223	26,366	15,939	3,650	143,123	97,016
Average yield %	4·77	4·71	5·00	5·02	4·97	6·76	7·21	5·09	5·07

* Includes all borrowing at over 6%. † This total of £52,437,000 includes £26,290,000 by Colonial Governments, at an average yield of 4·15%, and £26,158,000 by Foreign Governments, at an average yield of 5·31%. The British Government was not in the market.

It may come as a surprise to many of our readers that in a year of dear money, when Bank rate averaged a full one per cent. above the level of 1928, Government borrowers *as a whole* paid no higher a rate for long-term

resources than during the previous year. The reason is that such borrowers largely remained outside the market once rates had moved against them. Dominion Government issues, over the whole year, were reduced to not much more than half the dimensions of 1928, while foreign government emissions were negligible. The chief exception to this tendency was the British Government itself, which staged a major long-term borrowing operation in the late autumn, and paid a full 5 per cent.—a higher rate than it had been impelled to offer for some years past.

Turning next to municipal and railway borrowing, the following table shows the average rates offered in the past three years:—

	Amount borrowed in Years			Average Yield.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	%	%	%
British municipalities, &c.	27,114,400	14,871,000	8,316,000	4·96	4·75	4·96
Colonial municipalities, &c.	5,136,700	7,296,100	3,859,917	5·27	5·25	5·19
Foreign municipalities, &c.	5,683,800	4,332,000	472,500	6·68	6·61	6·90
British railways	14,207,500	2,080,900	1,920,000	5·27	5·21	5·36
Colonial railways	4,671,800*	Nil	Nil	6·42	...	...
Foreign railways	2,487,500	3,070,000	2,835,000	5·95	6·34	5·30

* Excluding £2,170,800 Trade Facilities issue of Gedaref Railway and Development 5 per cent. debs. at 100½ which yielded at issue price £4 19s. 3d.

It is doubtful how far the figures in the last column can be regarded as truly representative of market conditions. Borrowings by Colonial and foreign municipalities and by Colonial and foreign railways were too small in number and amount to prevent the average from being unduly influenced by exceptional cases. The rates paid by British municipalities must be read, again, in the light of the " Hatry " revelations. It is well known that the Corporation and General Securities Company (now in liquidation) had obtained a virtual monopoly of issue business in this section of the market, and, by a policy of intensive advertising and " rate-cutting " had appreciably reduced the prevailing yield on new Corporation securities. Apart from the losses of certain municipalities by reason of the irregular dealings of the Hatry group, the market has not yet been tested under " normal " conditions, only one British municipal issue having been made since the " crash."

The average rates offered by industrial borrowers are shown in the next table:—

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BONDS, DEBENTURES, &C.

(EXCLUDING ISSUES GUARANTEED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER TRADE FACILITIES ACT.)

	Year 1913.	Year 1926.	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.
Yielded from—	£	£	£	£	£
3½% to 4% ...	60,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4% to 4½% ...	1,182,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4½% to 5% ...	2,582,000	60,000	167,000	52,500	57,475
5% to 5½% ...	6,852,000	6,922,500	12,077,800	16,265,600	8,569,919
5½% to 6% ...	5,158,000	3,897,500	8,797,900	3,867,000	6,723,331
6% to 6½% ...	9,252,000*	3,337,500	4,332,700	8,173,700	1,303,880
6½% to 7% ...	...	6,529,500	5,189,800	7,795,400	6,445,000
7% to 7½% ...	...	2,331,500	3,568,100	5,517,200	383,250
7½% to 8% ...	...	2,543,700	1,526,000	1,369,000	556,500
8% to 8½% ...	...	2,232,000	74,600	Nil	1,760,000
8½% to 9% ...	...	Nil	2,214,000	Nil	Nil
9%	...	182,500	39,700	122,500	50,000
Total.....	25,086,000	28,036,700	37,987,600	43,162,900	25,849,355
Average yields %	5·5	6·48	6·21	5·75	5·48

* Including all capital yielding over 6 per cent.

For some years the rate on new debentures has been steadily declining. This most significant phenomenon was not arrested last year, when the average yield actually fell slightly below the 1913 figure. As in the case of the groups already considered, however, the figures call for substantial qualification, since the average *quality* of the various borrowers was higher in 1929 than in 1928. Companies with a low borrowing status tended to refrain last year from making issues whose price would, in some instances, have been virtually prohibitive, while even the more solid concerns held their hands when conditions became really tight. Further, many issues in this and other classes were largely left with underwriters in the later months of the year and promptly fell to a discount on the Stock Exchange. Similar observations apply as regards the apparent decline in the average rate offered on preference shares, which largely reflected the progressive elimination from the lists, as the year progressed, of the high-yielding preference shares of new speculative companies with deferred shares of low denomination:—

PREFERENCE STOCKS AND SHARES.

	%		%		%
1913	5·74	1922.....	7·17	1926.....	6·70
1920	8·09	1923.....	6·59	1927.....	6·67
1921	8·39	1924.....	6·27	1928.....	7·37
		1925.....	6·10	1929.....	6·58

The above figures do not take account of any participating rights attaching to particular preference shares after payment of a specified ordinary dividend, since there is obviously no means of calculating the amounts these shares may eventually receive.

The trend of modern investment practice is veering away from the preference share, and last year's figures do not afford convincing evidence of any reversal of sentiment in this respect.

Our final table gives the average Bank rate, the average three months' bill rate, and the rates paid on all Government borrowings and on industrial debentures in 1913, 1920, and in subsequent years:—

	Average Bank Rate.	Average 3 Months' Bill Rate.	Average Rate Paid by all Government Borrowers.	Average Rate on Issues of Industrial Debentures.
	%	%	%	%
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1913	4 15 5	4 7 5	4·77	5·5
1920	6 16 4	6 7 11	6·05	7·92
1921	6 2 4	5 4 3	6·49	8·09
1922	3 13 10	2 13 0	5·65	6·72
1923	3 9 9	2 14 1	5·34	6·4
1924	4 0 0	3 10 9	5·95	6·61
1925	4 11 0	4 2 0	4·82	6·43
1926	5 0 0	4 10 3	6·01	6·48
1927	4 13 0	4 4 10	5·09	6·21
1928	4 10 0	4 3 0	5·09	5·75
1929	5 10 0	5 5 4	5·07	5·48

The table affords convenient data for a summing-up of the conclusions suggested by this survey. Though Bank rate and the market rate for three-months' bills were, on the average, higher in 1929 than in any year since 1921 and 1920, respectively, borrowers at fixed interest, both Government and industrial, paid less for new capital than for some years past. *Short-period* increases in money rates, indeed, have primarily a purgative effect on the *market for long-term capital*. The number of new issues rapidly falls off, many borrowers of first-rate reputation choosing, and of second- or third-rate reputation being compelled, to postpone their requirements to a more convenient season, financing themselves for the time being, if necessary, by short-term loans and advances. The British Government has already stated that its decision to make a major issue when money rates were at their highest was, in its view, largely involuntary. In the absence of this issue, the total emissions in London last year would have been only £218 million, against £369 million in 1928, a falling off of 40 per cent. If the tight conditions of 1929 are protracted far into 1930 the average rates paid will tend steadily to increase, since many long-term borrowers, unable indefinitely to postpone urgent capital expenditure, will choose to pay higher charges for 10, 15 or 20 years to come, rather than wait for a turn in the tide. Happily, there is every indication that in 1930 money market rates, the world over, will be lower than in 1929. A steady revival in new issues should follow. A recrudescence of activity in the more speculative types of issue, which are governed less by considerations of price than by contemporary stock market psychology, must, however, await the advent of more cheerful conditions on the Stock Exchange.

DISCOUNT CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

This Corporation discounts and resells Bankers' Acceptances and approved Bank endorsed Trade Acceptances, deals in United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness, Treasury Notes and other Short Term Government Obligations, and receives funds repayable on demand or at fixed maturity against the security of Bankers' Acceptances, or Government Obligations.

Statement of Condition.

December 31, 1929

ASSETS		
Acceptances:		
On Hand	$5,040,373.66	
Pledged as Collateral	33,813,007.62	
Sold under Re-purchase Agreements	69,063,262.55	
Acceptors' Liability on Endorsed Bills Sold	151,198,155.55	$259,114,799.38
United States Bonds, Treasury Notes and Certificates of Indebtedness at par:		
On Hand	444,300.00	
Pledged as Collateral	9,580,850.00	
Bought and Sold under Re-sale and Re-purchase Agreements	73,368,150.00	83,393,300.00
Deposit with the New York State Banking Department New York State Bond, Par Value $1,000.00, at Cost		985.00
Premium on United States Bonds, Treasury Notes and Certificates of Indebtedness		46,485.10
Interest Receivable Accrued		222,088.15
Interest and Expenses Paid in Advance		109,144.73
Cash in Banks and on Hand		2,628,381.81
		$345,515,184.17
LIABILITIES		
Capital:		
Authorized and Issued—50,000 Shares of $100.00 each		$5,000,000.00
Surplus		3,000,000.00
Undivided Profits:		
Balance as at December 31, 1928	$657,498.57	
Add Net Profits for Year ended December 31, 1929	1,411,361.70	
	2,068,860.27	
Less Dividends	550,000.00	
	1,518,860.27	
Transferred to Surplus	500,000.00	1,018,860.27
		9,018,860.27
Unearned Discount		906,270.82
Reserves:		
Taxes (Estimated), Etc.	166,855.05	
Interest Payable and Expenses Accrued	88,030.49	254,885.54
Loans Payable:		
Secured by Acceptances	32,200,000.00	
Secured by United States Government Securities	6,000,000.00	38,200,000.00
Re-purchase Agreements, Acceptances per contra:		69,063,262.55
United States Government Securities purchased and sold under Re-sale and Re-purchase Agreements, per contra:		73,368,150.00
Due to Banks and Customers		17,199.44
Acceptances Re-discounted and Sold with endorsement, per contra:		151,198,155.55
U.S. Government Deposit Account		
(Subscriptions U.S. Treasury Certificates)		3,238,400.00
Dividends Payable January 2, 1930		250,000.00
		$345,515,184.17

CERTIFICATE OF AUDITORS

We have made an examination of the statement of condition and books of the Discount Corporation of New York, as at the close of business December 31, 1929, and certify that the foregoing statement is in accordance with the books and that, in our opinion, it is properly drawn up so as to disclose the true condition of the Corporation as at that date.

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO., New York, N.Y., January 10, 1930.

DIRECTORS

George W. Davison, *President Central Hanover Bank & Trust Company*
Walter E. Frew, *Chairman of the Board Corn Exchange Bank Trust Company*
John McHugh, *Chairman of the Board Chairman of the Executive Committee The Chase National Bank of the City of New York*
Charles E. Mitchell, *Chairman of the Board The National City Bank of New York*
J. P. Morgan, *J. P. Morgan & Co.*
Gordon S. Rentschler, *President The National City Bank of New York*
Seward Prosser, *Chairman of the Board Bankers Trust Company*
Charles H. Sabin, *Chairman of the Board Guaranty Trust Company of New York*
Ernest C. Wagner, *President*
Albert H. Wiggin, *Chairman of the Board The Chase National Bank of the City of New York*

OFFICERS

John McHugh, *Chairman of the Board.*
Ernest C. Wagner, *President.*
Dudley H. Mills, *Vice-President-Secretary.*
M. Greacen Briggs, *Vice-President.*
Charles W. Belmer, *Treasurer.*
Robert M. Coon, *Asst. Treasurer.*
Edward E. Anderson, *Asst. Treasurer.*
Herbert N. Repp, *Asst. Treasurer.*

DISCOUNT CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: JOHN 0010. OFFICES: FIFTY-EIGHT PINE STREET

FORWARD RATES AND SPECIAL OFFERINGS ON REQUEST.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
February 4.	February 6.

Markets were listless, the absence of any major development chiming in with the mood of the "House," which was, for the time being, surfeited with unfavourable news and saw few bull points on the immediate horizon. The monetary outlook was regarded as being, temporarily, less promising, and no disappointment was expressed at the maintenance of Bank rate. Some slight liquidation was in progress in anticipation of the Hatry settlement, but for the most part prices reflected the absence of public interest rather than any special cause of weakness. A somewhat better tone, however, was observable on Wednesday afternoon. Evidence was also forthcoming that possibilities in the New York market were engaging attention in some quarters.

The Gilt-edged market was less firm than in the previous week, partly as a result of the Bank's loss of gold and the weakness of the sterling-dollar exchange, and partly on realisations to meet the call on Five per Cent. Conversion Loan. The decline in India Loans was sharply checked by the reassuring terms of the letter published by the Secretary of State for India, the tenour of which is given in an "Investment Note" on page 244. Tuesday's sharp rise, however, brought out a good deal of stock, and prices reacted. The downward trend of Australian Government stock was arrested by Mr Fenton's remarks, also discussed in a subsequent "Note," but again the recovery was not fully held.

Business in the Foreign market was on a meagre scale. Brazilians were slightly in demand at the beginning of the week, but became dull subsequently on vague rumours of further impending difficulties in the coffee situation. European loans showed little change. A few Japanese loans were fractionally easier, but Chinese held their ground in an inactive market.

Movements in Home Railways were narrow, with a small volume of dealings. The traffic returns showed increases on the 1929 figures on all lines except the London, Midland and Scottish, but the amounts were too small to affect quotations. Interest in Undergrounds fell off. The Metropolitan final dividend brought the year's total to 4 per cent., against 3½ per cent. for 1928. Foreign railways were neglected, Argentines reflecting the continuance of unfavourable traffic returns. The public subscription of 74 per cent. of the Central Argentine debenture issue was regarded as not unsatisfactory in prevailing conditions, dealings in the stock opening at a small discount.

Business in Industrials was mainly concentrated on international stocks, though American support for these counters was not consistently maintained. International Nickel attracted a fair share of attention, but Brazilian Traction came on offer. United Molasses were sold from the North, possibly in connection with the Hatry settlement. A decline in Turner and Newall was ascribed to sales by former Rhodesian and General Asbestos shareholders. An explanation of the recent weakness in Gramophone was provided by the announcement of a complete break with the company's film interests. The rayon market had a firmer tone, though the support for British Celanese, after the official intimation of a fresh cut in selling prices (described on page 245) was mainly of an inside character. Cables and Wireless showed conspicuous weakness on the revelations of the Post Office's unwillingness to co-operate with the Communications Company in certain directions. Dunlops recovered the previous week's losses. Motor shares derived but slight benefit from Mr Thomas's cryptic remarks on the representations made by the Society of Motor Manufacturers. Imperial Chemical had a slightly firmer tone. Little interest was taken in iron and steel shares, apart from a meteoric movement in N.C. Metal, the shares of which were in short supply. Breweries were a heavy market, and textiles remained out of favour. Match shares were dull on the American decision to raise the duty on imports, but responded to Thursday's favourable news regarding the German monopoly. Insurance shares were steady but inactive, and bank shares irregular, with a slightly downward tendency.

A slight accession of demand was reported from the rubber share market, though buying was generally in small lots. The commodity fluctuated on either side of 7 1/2d., but market sentiment, on the whole, was less pessimistic than last week. Tea shares were pressed for sale in some cases, the commodity market being quiet, with prices ¼d. to ½d. lower. The volume of business in oil shares showed no expansion, but the market leaders were better on investment inquiry.

Depression reigned in the Mining market during the earlier part of the week, and prices were generally on the down grade. Brakpans relapsed in the face of considerable realisation, the feeling being that the December quarterly report contained little to encourage a bullish view of development prospects. Hardly any change was recorded in Finance shares, which, with the exception of Gold Fields, remained firm. Rhodesians, headed by Bwana M'Kubwa, were a harder market after an uneventful week. Ashanti Goldfields were again in demand and Congo Borders developed unexpected strength at the close. The copper share market remained undistinguished, and after registering a slight fall on Monday, Rio Tintos showed no important change. Tin shares rose sharply on an improvement in the price of the metal following the news that Bolivia would participate in the restriction scheme, but fell away on the subsequent recession in the commodity.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 29).	Jan. 23.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 27.	Jan. 28.	Jan. 29.	Jan. 30.
90·5	88·1	89·1	88·8	88·3	88·2	88·1	87·9

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The share market has been somewhat more active and rather strong, partly on account of a change of sides by professional traders, partly in response to indications of improvement in the steel and automobile industries. The United States Steel Corporation's fourth quarter earnings were much better than was expected, bringing the year's net profits up to $21 per share, including about $1 of special income. Coppers have been somewhat better on the expectation that producers will maintain the 18c. price, but the rally was restrained by the realisation that the January statistics will show another large increase of stocks. The effects of current curtailment of output will probably not be apparent in the stock figures for another two months. Public utilities continue a good market, and so do electrical manufacturing and business machine shares. Meanwhile, brokers' loans remain practically stationary. The steel industry, which was working at only 40 per cent. of capacity at the year end, now approximates to 75 per cent., and the volume of business is surprising the trade itself. Automobile manufacturers, also, have been increasing their January output schedules. December railway earnings were about 20 per cent. lower than a year ago, but the total for the year is running about 7 per cent. ahead of the previous year. There is a notable weakness of commodity prices, particularly those of farm products, in spite of the activities of the Federal Farm Board. In this connection, it should be noted that the winter wheat crop appears to be very large and in good condition. Reports putting forward various names for the presidency of the International Bank must be regarded as somewhat premature.

	Jan. 16.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.
U.S 3½% T. Bds.	103 3/32	103 1/32	103 1/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	110 1/32	111	110 1/32
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99 11/32	98 15/32	99 3/32
Do. 4½% '32-47	100 1/32	100 1/32	100 1/32
Do. 4½% '33-38	100 1/32	100 3/32	100 1/32
Atchison	226	231 7/8	236
Ches. & Ohio	212	215 3/8	214 3/8
Erie	59 1/8	58 1/4	57
Illinois Central	129	129 1/4	129 1/8
N.Y. Central	171 1/8	175 3/4	180
Pennsylvania	77	78 1/4	79
Southern Pacific	121	120 1/4	120
Southern Rly.	135	135 1/2	134 1/2
Union Pacific	217 1/4	219	222
Am. Can.	124 1/2	124 3/4	128 1/4
Alleghany Corp.	26 1/2	26 1/4	26
Amer. Smelting	73 1/4	72	73
Anaconda	70 3/8	72 3/8	74 3/8
Bethlehem Steel	96 3/4	98	100 3/8
Chrysler Motor	34 1/4	35 1/4	37
Corn Produce	90 1/4	92 1/4	92 3/8
Eastman Kodak	180 1/4	185 1/2	191
Gen. Electric	248 1/2	252 1/2	72 1/2
Gen. Motors	37 3/8	40 7/8	41 1/8
Int. Harvester	81 3/8	86 1/2	90
Montg. Ward	41	45 3/8	48
Natl. Biscuit	183 3/4	194	204 1/2
Phelps Dodge	41	38 3/4	40
Pullman	85	84 1/2	84 1/2
Sears-Roebuck	84	86 1/2	99
Studebaker	41 1/2	43 3/8	43 1/2
Un. Fruit	102	102	102
U.S. Leather	8 3/8	9 1/4	9 3/8
U.S. Rubber	23 3/8	24 1/2	26 1/2
U.S. Steel	170 1/8	175	182
Westinghouse	147 3/8	149 3/4	157 1/2
Woolworth	68	68 3/8	67
Worthington Pump	69	71 1/2	77 1/2
Am. Pow. & Light	83 3/4	84 1/2	86 1/2
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	220	220	223
Electric P. & L.	55 7/8	55	58 3/8
Int. Tel. Teles.	73 1/2	70 1/2	63 3/8
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	35 3/8	24 3/8	36
Radio Corpn.	38 1/4	38 1/4	35 1/2
Utilities P. & L.	32	33 3/4	33 3/8
W. Union Tlg.	202	199	201 1/2
Associated Gas "A"	41	42 3/8	45 1/2
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25 3/8 x	25	26
Pan Amer. B.	56 1/2	51 1/2	52
Sinclair Oil	23 3/8	23 3/8	24 3/8
Std. California	60 1/2	59 3/8	59 3/4
Do. N.J.	62 1/2	62 1/2	63 3/8

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 23.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	146·8	149·2
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	136·7	137·9
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	210·3	209·1
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	155·2	156·9
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·85%	4·36%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 29.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Jan. 22.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 24.	Jan. 25.	Jan. 27.	Jan. 28.	Jan. 29.
176·4	166·5	169·9	171·6	173·3	174·7	174·4	173·8	176·4

CANADA.

The Canadian stock markets have shown a distinctly livelier tendency since the New Year opened. While there have been considerable fluctuations, the movement of prices has, on the whole, been upward. There has, however, been no recovery of the volume of trading which prevailed before the slump, and the public still remains shy of speculative activities. There is a good deal of surplus capital in the country ready for investment, but its possessors are exceedingly careful in selecting their stocks, and many have reverted to a preference for bonds, which had been abandoned during the late boom. Professional operators are reported to be trying to obtain support for stocks by organised pools, and have met with some success in certain issues, notably International Nickel. Certain power stocks have also been stronger, but Brazilian Tractions remain weak on the unsatisfactory situation of the milreis. Newsprint stocks have been heavy on the failure of the concerted effort of the leaders of the industry to secure higher selling prices during 1930. Distillery stocks are weaker owing to the plans mooted by the Hoover administration for the closing of loopholes on the border through which liquor is imported to the United States. The mining market had a burst of liveliness early in January, but Western oil shares remain depressed.

	Nov. 29.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 30.
Abitibi Power & Paper	3⅜	27⅛	26⅜
Asbestos Corp.	No bid	2¼	2⅜
Bank of Montreal	300	312	315x
Brazilian Traction	41⅞	38⅛	38⅜x
British Col. Power "A"	38⅜	39	38⅜
Calgary Power	161	155	155
Can. Bank Commerce	258	268	265x
Canadian Car	25⅜	28⅜	27⅜
Canada Cement	19⅛	16⅛	16⅛
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	13⅜	11⅜	10⅛
Canada Power & Paper	23⅛	15	13⅜
Can. Steamship Lines	16	...	...
Cockshutt Plow	22	23	22⅜
Cons. Mining	268	256	225
Dominion Bridge	74	78⅛	79⅛x
Dom. Textile (New)	75	77	77
Hollinger Gold Mining	5	4⅝	5⅛
International Nickel	30⅜xd	35⅛	38⅛
Massey Harris	43	42	43
Montreal Light	119⅜	138⅛	135½
National Breweries	124⅛	118⅛	126
Nat. Steel Car	52⅛	65½	90
Port Alfred Pulp	No bid	88	85⅛
Power Corp., Canada	78xd	77	77
Price Bros.	84	78	78
Quebec Power	64⅛	67	66⅜
Shawinigan	77	80	79
Southern Can. Power	34	33	34x
Steel of Canada	44⅛	46	46⅛
Winnipeg Electric	54	53⅛	46⅛

x Ex dividend.

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices Jan. 23.	Closing Prices Jan. 30.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	75⅝	75 3/16	— 7/16
Do. 4½% 1944	95⅜	95½	— 1/8
Do.5%1944-64	100 3/16	100	— 3/16
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100 1/16	100⅛	— 1/16
Consols 2½%	54½	53⅝	— ⅜
Do. 4%	82 1/16	82 1/16	— 1/16
Funding 4%	86 1/16	86⅛	— 1/16
Victory Bonds 4%	93⅜	93⅜	...
Local Loans 3%	62	61⅞	— ⅛
Japanese 6% (1924)	93⅛	99½	...
Argentine 4% Reclas.	83⅞	83⅜	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	102⅝	— ⅛
Belgian 7%	109¼	109¾	+ ⅛
Brazil 6⅛% (1927)	83⅛	83	— ⅛
Bulgaria 7½%	87	90	+ 3
China 5% (1912)	47	47⅜	+ ⅜
Czechoslovakia 8%	111	111	...
Egypt Unified 4%	79⅛	79	— ⅛
French 5%	21⅛	21⅛	...
Do. 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
German 7%	104⅛	105	+ ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee	101⅛	101⅛	...
Hungary 7½%	103⅛	103⅛	...
Chili 6%	95	94⅜	— ⅛
Poland 7%	90	89⅝	— ⅜
Mexican 5% (1899)	23	22	— 1
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	84	82⅛	— 1⅛

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	62	62	...
M. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	91⅛	91⅛	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	90½	90½	...

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	92⅜	92	— ⅜
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	12⅜	12⅛	— ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	37⅛	36⅞	— ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	55⅛	54⅜	— 1
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	66	64½	— 1½
Met. District Ord. Stk.	74⅛	74½	...
Southern Def. Stk.	30⅛	29⅜	— ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73⅜	73¼	— ⅛
Underground Ord. £1	1 3/32	1 1/32	...
Do. Income Bonds	109	108	— 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	205½	205	— ½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	82½	82	— ½
B.A.& Pacific Ord.Stk	87	87	...
B.A.Gt.Stan.Ord.Stk	99½	100	+ ½
B.A. Western,Ord.Stk	82	81½	— ½
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	22½	21½	— 1
G.W. of Brazil £10	3⅛	3⅛	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk	51⅛	52	+ ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk	187½	187½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30⅛	$30⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk	24	24	...
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	249	249	...
Barclay B.(£1)	2 29/32 x	2 15/16	— 1/32
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1⅛	1 1/32 x	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	5⅛	5⅛	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 1/16 x	3 1/16	...
Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13 1/16	13	— 1/16
Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1x	...
Hongk. and S.($125).	114⅜	113⅛	— 1
St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14 1/16	14 1/16	— 1/16
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	— 1/16

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	19⅛	19⅛	...
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	2 4/16	2 4/16	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27⅛	27⅛	...
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	13⅛	...
Phœnix £1 fully pd.	13⅛	13⅛	...
Rov.In.£1,with10/ pd.	8	8⅛	+ ⅛

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	1/16	1/16	— 1/32
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	...
Baldwin (4/)	3/16	3/16	+ 1/32
Cory, William (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	1/16	1/16	— 1/32
Guest, Keen (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/32
Powell Duffryn (£1)	1/8	1/16	— 1/16
Stewart&Lloyds(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Thornycroft, John(£1)	2 1/16	3	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8)	1/16	1/16	...

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/16
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	3/16	3/16	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	— 1/16
Courtaulds	2 3/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton(£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	— 1/16
Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
Listers (£1)	1/16	1/16	— 1/16
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
General Electric (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Hydro-Elec. com. stk.	44⅛	44	— ⅛
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	377	380	+ 3
Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	100½	101	+ ½

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless — 7½% *A Ord.*	74	70	— 4
B Ord.	36	30½	— 5½
5½% *Pref.*	98½	97⅜	— ⅛
Canadian Marconi	1/16	1/16	...
Marconi Marine (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	— 1/16
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Ford Motors (£1)	7½	7½	...
Leyland (£1)	2 3/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Napier (5/-)	2⅛	2 1/16	— 1/16
Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	— 1/16
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	34	34	...

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Cons.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	21⅛	21⅛	— ⅛
London Asiatic (2/)	1/16	1/16	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	3⅛	3 3/16	+ 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Burmah Oil (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	...
Lobitos (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Royal Dutch (£5)	32 1/16	33	+ 1/16
Shell (£1)	4 3/16	4⅛	— 1/16

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Bras. Traction, no par	$39⅛	$41	+ 1⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	...
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	10 3/16 xr	9 1/16	— 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	5⅛	— 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16 x	3⅛	— 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	1/16	+ 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	— 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	— 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	5 1/16	4 15/16	— 1/16
International Holdings	5⅛	5⅛	— 1/16
Inter. Nickel of Can.	37⅛	39 1/16	+ 1 1/16
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	27	27⅛	+ 1/16
Margarine Union (£1)	5 1/16	5⅛	— 1/16
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	17	16⅞	— 1/16
Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	— 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	4⅛	4	— 1/16
United Molasses (£1)	5 1/16	5⅛	— 1/16
Vocalion (10/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Watney Combe Dt.(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.of S.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅞	10	+ ⅛
Brakpan (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	— 1/16
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	5⅛	5	— 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	1/16	— 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...
London Tin (£1)	1 1/16 x	1 1/16	+ 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	8⅛	10	+ 1 1/16
Rio Tinto (£5)	46⅛	46⅛	+ 1/16
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Sub Nigel (10/)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
UnionCrp.(12/6)fu.pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Hatry Case and the Stock Exchange.—The conviction and sentence of Clarence Hatry and his associates, together with the Special Settlement in the Hatry securities—which it is hoped will be accompanied without undue difficulty on February 13th next—bring to an end, so far as the Stock Exchange is concerned, an unprecedented incident in its annals, the recollection of which (though not the lessons to be derived therefrom) the " House " naturally desires to obliterate as quickly as possible. We deal on another page with some of the far-reaching issues involved in the story of the Hatry deals. As regards the narrower but important field of Stock Exchange practice, the incident has illustrated in striking fashion the solidarity of feeling which exists in the " House," and its practical force when mobilised to meet a crisis which affects the honour and public reputation of that institution. The ability of the Stock Exchange Committee to take decisive action in time of emergency has been demonstrated and vindicated. The incident, further, has afforded a fresh example of the reluctance of members to resort to outside litigation on matters which can possibly be settled within the four walls of the " House." Whether the existing machinery of the Stock Exchange is as effective as it might be in checking possible abuses by unscrupulous persons is another matter, and the Committee has been well advised to institute a full inquiry into conditions under which permission to deal is granted. As a Stock Exchange correspondent points out in a subsequent " Note," this question is hedged about with formidable difficulties, but it may be hoped that an appreciable tightening of the present rules will follow the present inquiry. The fundamental difficulty is that the majority of Stock Exchange operations are, and must be, carried out on the assumption that all concerned will act in good faith. In the absence of this understanding, the vast number of dealings which make up a single day's business could not possibly be carried out by the existing *personnel* of the " House " or of the City. The discovery of means of imposing stringent checks on fraud, which would be sufficiently extensive in their operation to close every possible avenue to the able but unprincipled adventurer, without imposing an intolerable handicap on legitimate business, is a problem older than the Stock Exchange itself. The Hatry incident, while affording a *fresh* example of the damage which deliberate bad faith may inflict on the public, may also serve, in the long run, to emphasise the essential part which the factor of " goodwill " must always play in the affairs of the " House."

" Permission to Deal "—A Stock Exchange Inquiry.—The Stock Exchange Committee have decided to institute an inquiry into the conditions under which permission is given to deal in stocks and shares in the " House." The matter came before the full Committee at their meeting last Monday, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent. In the discussion which followed, mention was made of the criticism brought to bear upon the existing arrangements, not only by members, but by responsible people outside the Stock Exchange. The Committee agreed that more might possibly be done to tighten the prevailing regulations, but several members are believed to have emphasised the practical difficulties in the way of reforms calculated to have the desired effect without laying an undue handicap upon legitimate business. If the ordinary run of honest applications for facilities were alone in question, the problem would be comparatively simple, but, unfortunately, the Committee must reckon with the efforts of persons bent upon finding some means whereby its intention to protect the public can be defeated. A Sub-sub-Committee of the Sub-Committee which regularly deals with these matters was appointed and invested with the fullest powers for exploring the whole subject. Evidence will be given by members of the House and by authorities outside the Stock Exchange, and it is assumed that some practicable scheme will be evolved which will either make the present regulations more effective, or replace them with a new set of rules altogether. Mention was made here, a week ago (see the *Economist*, January 25, 1930, page 180) of a petition to the Stock Exchange Committee, under which it was sought to postpone any dealings in vendors' shares until after the issue of a company's first annual report. This matter falls within the purview of the Sub-sub-Committee and is, therefore, referred to a later date, when its suggestions may be found to fall within the proposals that the Committee may advance. The matter has arisen out of the Hatry collapse, and it is reasonable to suppose that for the next year or two the Stock Exchange Committee will have a good deal to do in the way of putting into effect the experience gained through the machinations of the Hatry group. It is becoming, incidentally, more and more apparent that election to membership of the Stock Exchange Committee entails heavy demands upon the time and attention of those sufficiently public-spirited to accept a purely honorary office. Its thanklessness, however, has been mitigated to a considerable extent of late by the appreciation which members of the " House," and of the public, have shown for the manner in which the Stock Exchange Committee have handled the unique crisis that arose out of the Hatry collapse. The coming settlement in Hatry stock and shares should do a great deal to disperse the uncertainties and suspicions that have been rife for the past four months.

India Sterling Securities—Official Statement.—Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for India, has taken the unusual step of issuing to the Press a letter sent in reply to an inquiry concerning the position of India Sterling Stocks. The letter points out that India sterling securities, while issued under the authority of Act of Parliament and charged on the revenues of India, are not guaranteed by the British Government, though, like many other stocks—including those issued by a British Dominion under the Colonial Stocks Acts—they are trustee investments. While disclaiming any undertaking to deal with hypothetical contingencies, the Secretary of State declares that the Government have no intention of allowing a state of things to arise in India in which repudiation of debt could become a practical possibility. He states, further, that it is inconceivable to him that, in dealing with any scheme of a constitutional change in India, Parliament could fail to provide safeguards, should they be needed, against a breach of the condition under which those loans were issued. This statement corresponds in all respects to the views expressed in our Note on " The Position of India Stocks " in the *Economist* of January 11, 1930 (page 79). Its clear official pronouncement, however, proved reassuring to investors whose confidence had been shaken, to some extent, by the terms of the resolution passed at the Lahore Congress early in January. A marked recovery in prices ensued after the publication of the letter, and quotations of India stocks are now, in practically every case, on a yield basis of less than 6 per cent.

PRICES OF INDIA, STOCKS AND LOANS.

	Highest 1929.	Lowest 1929.	Jan. 27, 1930.	Jan. 28, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Yield at Last Price £ s. d.
2½% Stock	51½	44	41½	42½	42½	5 17 9
3% Stock	61⅜	50½	48½	51½	50½	5 17 6
3½% Stock	71½	60	58½	60½	59½	5 16 3
4½% Loan, 1950-55...	92¾	80½	80½	81½	81½	6 1 6
4½% Loan, 1958-68...	92½	80½	79½	81½	81½	5 15 0
5½% Loan, 1932	102	98½	99	99½	99½	5 16 0

We repeat our previous suggestion that investors in these securities should be guided, as regards their estimates for the future, by the financial record and traditions of the Government of British India, and should regard a comparison of this position with that, say, of Canada or Australia, as not entirely irrelevant to the issue. The Secretary of State, indeed, gives a broad hint to this effect in his letter. For reasons we have explained elsewhere, such a comparison will not be unfavourable to India.

Australian Government Stocks.—The course of prices for Australian Government stocks has lately been downward. There is no widespread selling, but buying is absent, and the steady trickle of small sales is sufficient to depress prices to " record " low levels. Yields up to 6½ per cent. can now be obtained from a number of stocks, as the following table shows:—

	Highest, 1929.	Present Price.	Flat Yield. £ s. d.	Redemption Yield. £ s. d.
New South Wales 6%, 1930-40.....	102	97½	6 5 0	6 10 0
Western Australia 5¾%, 1930-40.....	102¾	96½	6 1 6	6 8 0
Commonwealth of Australia 6%, 1931-41 ...	103½	98½	6 4 0	6 8 6
Queensland 6%, 1930-40	102⅝	97	6 4 0	6 8 0
South Australia 6½%, 1930-40.....	102¾	98½	6 12 0	6 13 9
Victoria 5%, 1945-75 ...	99½	85	5 17 9	6 0 0

The economic difficulties of Australia are well known. A general trade depression has followed—to quote the chairman of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank—upon " the restriction of overseas borrowing and the discouragement of capital owing to the high costs of production and the prevalence of industrial strife." The steady flow of borrowed money from abroad, in conjunction with high tariffs, has, over a period of years, been the cause of a continued rise in prices, which in turn has resulted in a continuous rise in wages under the machinery of the arbitration awards. The policy of restricting borrowing from overseas, begun by Mr Bruce, has been followed out of sheer necessity by Mr Scullin. At the present time it would be difficult, if not impossible, to raise new money for Australia in London, even on a 6 per cent. basis, other than by temporary borrowing on bills. Prior to 1929 the Australian Commonwealth and States were borrowing abroad at the rate of about £40,000,000 a year. The figures for 1929 show a heavy reduction. The depression in trade and industry has been accentuated by the continued fall in the world prices of Australia's primary products—wool and wheat. The average price of greasy wool in the year 1928-29 was 17.58d. per lb., as against 20.48d. per lb. in 1927-28. For the current year 1929-30 prices are even lower. At the recent auctions in London, greasy wool has been fetching 15½d. per lb. This fall in prices is expected to involve a decrease of over £20,000,000 in the value of Australian wool exports, which in 1928-29 amounted to over £60,000,000. The total production of wheat for 1929-30 is estimated at about 100,000,000 bushels, against 160,000,000 bushels in the previous year, and exports may not exceed 45,000,000 bushels. Even at last September's sales the prices of wheat were from 35 per cent. to 40 per cent. below those of the previous year. The adverse economic situation has been reflected in the heavy discount in the Australian pound, bankers' buying and selling rates for demand drafts on Australia being £96½-£97⅜ per £100. The Commonwealth Government, which is now responsible for the States' debts as well as its own, has to face this year exceptionally heavy loan maturities amounting to £118,569,000, all of which with the exception of £3,782,000 Queensland Stock, is internal. In view of the trade depression in Australia, it is possible that the Australian Loan Council will seek to meet some of these maturities by borrowing abroad. These are the adverse features of the Australian situation. The brighter side was indicated by Mr J. E. Fenton, Minister of State for Trade and Customs, at the Australia Day Dinner in London this week. Mr Fenton pointed out that the public and private wealth of Australia, with a population of 6,500,000, was between £3,500 million and £4,000 million, as against a total Government debt of over £1,000 million; that the great services of the country (railways, waterworks, electrical, post office, telephones and wireless) were publicly owned; that the number of savings bank accounts open in 1928 was 4,688,000, totalling £220,000,000, or £45 18s. per depositor; that the joint-stock banks held £360 million, or nearly £60 per head; that the value of production from agriculture was £84 million, pastoral £175 million, forestry and fisheries £12 million, minerals £23 million, and manufacturing £168 million. Mr Fenton declared that the present Commonwealth Government was fully alive to the difficulties of the economic situation, and would so order its acts as to ensure a return to normal prosperity as quickly as possible. If the Commonwealth Government gives an earnest of its good intentions by reducing expenditure and borrowing less, it will no doubt receive the financial support it requires to tide over the present period of economic stress. As Mr Scullin has pointed out, Australia has never yet failed to meet all its obligations, and on that point the holders of Australian stocks may base their assurance for the future.

British Celanese Position.—The weakness of British Celanese Ordinary, which stand at 13s. 9d. after touching 136s. two years ago, has been associated with persistent rumours of a fresh " cut " in the company's price list. After a series of unofficial denials, a statement has now been issued to manufacturers and merchants announcing reductions varying from 1s. to 2s. per pound in Celanese yarns, together with various guarantees to and indemnities for buyers in the event of a renewal of the silk Excise duty in the next budget. The company's decision is an instructive commentary on the prevailing conditions in the industry, which we discussed in a leading article last week. A trade correspondent declares that the cut in prices, coming at a time when most customers have already prepared their stocks for the spring, tends to be unpopular among the large weaving concerns. The reductions made on the more important deniers are not large, the " novelty " trade being most affected. Nevertheless, no really substantial increase in turnover can be anticipated during the next few months on account of the general uncertainty regarding the future of the silk duties. The company is probably making economies in production, but its position is not unchallenged as far as acetate yarns are concerned. Apart from the general trade depression, competition from other types of rayon has played a considerable part in bringing about the present reductions, following on the rebates of a substantial nature given to important customers as recently as last October. Multifilament viscose and cuprammonium, both home-produced and imported, have increased in popularity at the expense of acetate yarns in recent months. In the circumstances, the prospects of a dividend on the company's ordinary shares seem no clearer than at the time of the last accounts, and the question of depreciation and the necessity of providing debenture and preference interest remain very much in the picture.

Gaumont-British and Fox Films.—The shareholders of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation may be excused a certain consternation at the recent march of events. As long ago as May last it was stated in a British newspaper that the Fox Film Corporation had acquired, or was about to acquire, an interest in

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Gaumont-British. This statement was officially denied the next day by Colonel Bromhead, the then chairman of the company. Two months later it was announced that a contract had been entered into with Messrs Ostrer Brothers whereby, subject to the articles being amended to provide that every director should be a British subject and that every foreigner who acquired ordinary shares should not be allowed to vote, Messrs Ostrer Brothers would subscribe for the whole issue of 1,316,571 ordinary shares of 10s. at 24s. 6d., although the market price was then 18s. 6d. net. (See the *Economist* of August 10, 1929.) A month later the Bromhead Brothers were forced to resign on the demands of the Ostrer Brothers. It was unofficially stated, in some quarters, that the Fox Film Corporation was behind this deal. At the annual meeting on September 20th Mr C. M. Woolfe, the deputy chairman, stated emphatically that the company was subject to no foreign control whatsoever, either financial or commercial. Then, in December, trouble came upon Mr Fox, who was forced to hand over his control to a committee of trustees. It was stated in the American Press that Mr Fox found himself in a position where the short-term notes he had signed to acquire the Loews (Theatre Circuit) and the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation could not be met. The Gaumont-British Company thereupon declared that the Fox Film Corporation not only had no control of any sort in the company, but had not contracted to buy any shares and, as far as the corporation were aware, had no shares in the corporation. Finally, it was stated in the American Press that the shares allotted to Messrs Ostrer Brothers last September were only 14s. 6d. paid up, 10s. being due on February 2nd, and that the Ostrer Brothers had acted on behalf of the Fox Film Corporation in the transaction. As far as we can judge, the conflicting statements of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation and the American financial Press can be reconciled only on the ground that the new issue of shares to the Ostrer Brothers was intended to be taken up by a holding company in which Mr Fox and the Ostrer Brothers would have joint control. The latest news from America is to the effect that Mr Fox is receiving help from a group of bankers and will be able to meet the call—said to be £700,000—on the Gaumont-British shares.

Inveresk Paper—Chairman's Statement.—In December last the Inveresk Paper Company announced that Mr W. Harrison had resigned the chairmanship and that Mr B. H. Binder of Binder, Hamlyn and Company, chartered accountants, was acting as chairman *pro tem.* The latter gentleman has now issued a letter to the shareholders, dated January 24th last, declaring that the accounts of the company for the year ended December, 1929, will be issued during the next two or three weeks, and will be accompanied by a report embodying the results of his investigation into the affairs of the company and its associates. Mr Binder disclaims any status as a representative of the company's bankers, explaining that, although he accepted the chairmanship on the assurance that the bankers would, for the time being, continue (and in some cases increase) their financial assistance, the request for his services was made by the board of the company itself, on the ground that no one else with the requisite knowledge of the company's affairs was immediately available. The letter also discloses that Mr Binder had, at the time of writing, been unable to see his way to afford facilities for the examination of the company's private documents to a committee which had issued a circular letter asking for the support of the ordinary shareholders, since the necessary evidence as to the representative nature of this body had not been forthcoming. In the meantime, the chairman had sought advice and assistance from four large shareholders, three of whom were associated, respectively, with the Dominion Investment Company, the Century Insurance Company, and the Industrial and General Trust. None of the company's assets would be realised and no new members added to the board before the general meeting. Mr G. Arthur Wingfield, the chairman of the committee of ordinary shareholders referred to, is reported to have intimated that his request for the examination of the accounts would be pressed, and that he was meeting Mr Binder in a representative capacity. A clearing up of the financial circumstances surrounding the whole of the so-called "Harrison" group of companies is clearly urgent in the interests of all concerned. The prospect, however, that the accounts and a report upon them may be published within the next week or two would seem to suggest that those responsible are showing commendable celerity in carrying out their task. Shareholders may, therefore, deem it expedient to reserve their judgment until the relevant documents are before them.

Morris & Jones and Mr Harman.—The dispute between the chairman and the Liverpool directors of Morris and Jones, Ltd., which was discussed in an Investment note in the *Economist* of January 18th, ended in a bloodless victory for the Liverpool directors, when Mr Harman and two other London directors handed in their resignations at the extraordinary general meeting of the company in Liverpool on January 25th. The battle at this meeting had been preceded by a preliminary bombardment of circulars. First the Liverpool directors and then Mr Harman issued statements to shareholders; next, Mr E. Williams, another director, circularised shareholders, asking for proxies for himself as a neutral person, although the Liverpool directors declared that he was a nominee and supporter of Mr Harman; later, another director, Major C. N. Clarke, urged shareholders to send proxies for Mr Harman on the ground that he was "the moving spirit in every sound forward movement," although "he might not have been particularly successful recently in regard to the recommendations on the investment side of Morris and Jones"; and, finally, Mr A. G. R. Williams urged the company's shareholders to vote for Mr Harman. At the extraordinary general meeting, which was marked by some disorder, two resolutions were submitted: (1) to appoint a committee to consider, *inter alia*, the circumstances under which Mr Harman, Major Clarke and Mr A. G. R. Williams, acting as the finance committee, had depleted the funds of the company in taking up certain investments; and (2) to remove these gentlemen from the board. Though Mr Harman, after his resignation, declared the meeting closed, the proceedings continued, and Mr Jones on behalf of the Liverpool directors, described the steps he and his colleagues had taken to wrest financial control of the company from the finance committee. He stated that the trading position of the company was sound, and that its profits for the past six months were in excess of those of any other six months in the last two years. Whether the last has been heard of this matter, time must be left to show.

Phillips Rubber Soles.—The third balance sheet of this concern since its conversion into a public company goes some way to justify the rather cautious attitude adopted by the chairman at the last annual meeting. Net profits show a moderate setback as compared with those of the previous year, which, in turn, were not quite so good as in 1927. The dividend is maintained at 15 per cent. and, as will be seen from the table given below, is earned with an ample margin:—

YEARS ENDED NOVEMBER 30TH.

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Dividends and royalties from subsidiaries	137,318	128,523	117,740
Net earnings	130,777	123,067	115,108
Preference dividend	18,456	18,000	18,000
Number of times covered	*7·1*	*6·8*	*6·4*
Ordinary — *Earned*	*31%*	*29%*	*27%*
Ordinary — Paid	15%	15%	15%
Ordinary — Amount of dividend	54,000	54,000	54,000
To general reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000
To raw materials reserve	...	16,000	...
Written off — Preliminary expenses	24,305	15,695	8,610
Written off — Patents and designs	...	...	10,425
Written off — Investments	...	...	1,388
Increase in carry-forward	...	1,513	3,431

The company is really a holding concern, mainly deriving its income from dividends paid by its subsidiaries, representing the whole of the profits earned by those companies. A start has been made in writing down the item of "Patents and Designs," which, after the allocation of £10,425, will stand at £80,000. Goodwill is included in "Investments in Subsidiary Companies," £354,141, and amounts to approximately £160,000 if the "Investment Reserve" of £48,646 is regarded as an offset. Patents and goodwill together, therefore, figure at about £240,000. It was indicated at the last meeting that the directors intended to make provision for writing down the patents account when preliminary expenses had been disposed of. The latter item disappears with this year's allocation. During its three years' public existence, the company has used more than £120,000 for writing off or placing to reserve, including the carry-forward, while paying £162,000 in ordinary dividends. The footwear business of Wood-Milne, acquired in March, 1927, was stated to have proved a satisfactory and profitable purchase, and shareholders may therefore feel some disappointment that earnings have subsequently receded. There has, however, been a change in the industry recently, competition having become more severe. In view of the depression in the price of raw rubber, the existence of a raw materials reserve is a welcome feature, though the reserve has not so far been drawn upon, stocks having been profitably used at book values. The lower profits in 1927-28 were due mainly to increased expenditure on advertising, and shareholders will no doubt be informed at the forthcoming meeting as to how far the same factor has been responsible for last year's setback. At the present quotation of 35s. the shares yield £8 11s. 6d., after deducting the final dividend of 2s. gross.

New Capital Issues in January.—In the table below we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public or shareholders in January and recent periods:—

(000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
		£	£	£
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769

Monthly Average.	Govt. £	Other. £			
Jan.–Mar., 1928	*28,570*	*16,215*	*7,201*	*4,345*	*56,331*
April–June, 1928	*Dr. 150*	*16,888*	*6,192*	*2,343*	*25,273*
July–Sept., 1928	*Dr. 166*	*9,192*	*3,988*	*2,277*	*15,291*
Oct.–Dec., 1928	*Dr. 300*	*17,612*	*3,672*	*5,140*	*36,124*
Jan.–Mar., 1929	617	18,757	8,797	4,147	32,318
Apr.–June, 1929	*Dr. 83*	15,947	7,858	2,191	25,913
July–Sept., 1929	*Dr. 466*	4,224	2,113	350	6,221
Oct.–Dec., 1929	21,733	5,279	1,557	2,058	30,627
January, 1929	*650*	*14,080*	*24,897*	*2,983*	*42,610*
January, 1930	500	9,033	1,671	2,785	13,989

The year opened quietly as regards new issues, the majority being of non-speculative character. Sales of National Savings Certificates exceeded encashments by £500,000. Other issues in the United Kingdom showed a distinct increase, though the total of £9,033,000 was made up as to £7,000,000 by a single issue, the Central Electricity Board's offer of 5 per cent. stock at 97½. The main issues for employment overseas were the Ceylon Government's loan of £900,000 in 5 per cent. inscribed stock at 99, the Commercial Bank of Australia's issue of 500,000 10s. ordinary shares to shareholders and the offer of £270,000 7½ per cent. debentures at par by the Linggi Plantations. No money was raised in London by foreign Governments, but the Central Argentine Railway offered £3,000,000 in 5 per cent. debenture stock at 98½. Among domestic concerns, E. S. and A. Robinson offered 400,000 £1 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par, while the Hellenic and General Trust issued 44,200 £5 shares at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share.

Tin Restriction.—The Tin Producers' Association made the important announcement this week that the Patino group of Bolivian mines had decided to co-operate with the restriction plans of the British producers. Mr Patino has accepted an invitation to become President of the Tin Producers' Association and to nominate two members to represent his interests on the Council. As the Aramayo Mines of Bolivia, which are under the management of the Guggenheim Brothers, have already announced their intention of supporting the restriction plan, it may be said that Bolivia has joined the restrictionist party. Last week the Nigerian Advisory Council of the Tin Producers' Association unanimously recommended that its members should conserve their production for the first quarter of 1930 to the extent of 30 per cent. It was stated that the great majority of the Nigerian producers, covering 75 per cent. of the production of that colony, had already put this conservation plan into force and that the whole of the Nigerian industry would shortly be restricting. As regards Malaya, it was reported from Singapore, on January 20th, that 69 out of 105 tin dredges in the Malay States were closing down on Sundays in accordance with the scheme put forward by the Tin Producers' Association. Only the Dutch East Indies now remain outside the restriction scheme. The Dutch Colonial Government is being urged by its own nationals to take similar measures with regard to tin restriction and to introduce "free Sundays" in the tin industry. The Dutch East Indies Government is understood to be sympathetic but has not yet committed itself to a policy. Meanwhile the metal market has reflected the success of restriction campaign and, on Thursday, the price of tin closed at £178 2s. 6d., as compared with £174 17s. 6d. on Monday.

MARTINS BANK
LIMITED.

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CAPITAL PAID UP AND RESERVES .. £7,800,045
DEPOSITS, ETC., AT 31ST DEC., 1929 £82,620,493

The Bank has over 560 Offices, and Agents in all the principal towns at home and abroad.

All descriptions of Banking, Trustee and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted. The Bank is prepared to act as Registrar for Public and Corporate Bodies, etc.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Westminster Bank, National Provincial Bank, Martins Bank, District Bank, Williams Deacon's Bank, The National Bank, Hungarian Commercial Bank of Pest, National Mutual Life Assurance Society, Sun Life Assurance Society, Metropolitan Trust, Mortgage Company of the River Plate, African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Sedenak Rubber Estates, Perak River Hydro-Electric Power, and Ashanti Goldfields. Mr. Robert Fleming, presiding at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Trust, said that out of 153 trust companies examined, 101 companies, having a total capital of £167,000,000, did not publish a list of their investments, against 52 companies, with a total capital of £82,500,000, which published such a list. At the meeting of the Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company, the chairman said that, in view of the difficulties with which the tin industry was faced, the company was offering an alternative form of tariff, which should assist the industry, without materially impairing their own revenue. At the African and Eastern meeting, the chairman informed shareholders that the production of oleaginous materials in 1927 amounted roughly to 2,500,000 tons, against 4,000,000 tons, an increase of 60 per cent., in 1929. The bankers' speeches of the week are dealt with in a leading article.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Issues of new capital to the public were larger than for some weeks past, thanks mainly to an offer of £7,000,000 by the *Central Electricity Board*. Both as regards the security behind the issue, and the purposes to which the proceeds will be put, the stock is calculated to appeal to the most conservative of investors, but, unfortunately, it is not, in the present state of the law, a trustee investment, and in view of the large amount involved, the fact that 92 per cent. was left with underwriters was regrettable but not inexplicable. The *Manchester Guardian* issue of debentures, the interest on which is covered more than four time by average profits, will appeal to those requiring a high-yielding, moderately well-covered security with not more than twenty years to run. The *Hellenic and General Trust* was formed two years ago, but gives no figures showing results to a later date than January 31, 1929, and no particulars of the current valuation of its investments.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to January 25, 1930, £6,527,460.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to January 25, 1930, £6,527,460.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended January 25, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to January 25, 1930, *Dr.* £2,950,000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
Central Electricity Board	7,000,000	...	6,825,000	350,000	6,475,000
Hellenic and General Trust	221,000	...	226,525	16,575	209,950
Manchester Guardian and Evening News	300,000	...	300,000	30,000	270,000
Total offered to public, week ended Feb. 1, 1930	7,521,000	...	7,351,525	396,575	6,954,950
To Shareholders only.					
Ceylon Consolidated Estates, £10,000 8% Debs.	10,000	...	10,000	10,000	...
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Feb. 1, 1930	10,000	...	10,000	10,000	...

Total Offered for Subscription—

To date—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
1930	13,988,985	13,988,985
1929	56,520,116	43,610,116
1928	...	116,554,763
1927	...	96,205,780
1926	...	28,710,551
1925	...	17,293,290
1924	...	11,705,125
1923	...	38,107,589

Total Offered for Subscription—

Whole year—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	252,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total, week ended February 1, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total to date, 1929	1,817,450	...	4,813,512

Central Electricity Board.—Issue of £7,000,000 Central Electricity 5 per cent. stock, 1950-70, at 97½, under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, and the Central Electricity Board Borrowing Regulations, 1928. The stock now issued and the interest thereon rank *pari passu* with £3,000,000 Central Electricity 4 per cent. Stock, 1959-89, already issued, and are a first charge on the whole undertaking and the net revenues of the board. The board reserve power to create and issue further stock ranking *pari passu* with the above stocks. The stock will be redeemed by a cumulative sinking fund commencing not later than 1936, to be applied to the purchase of stock when the price does not exceed par. Any stock not previously redeemed will be repaid at par on March 1, 1970, or on any interest date on or after March 1, 1950, at the board's option, after three months' notice.

Metropolitan Water Board.—Issue by tender of £2,000,000 Metropolitan Water Board bills in amounts of £500, £1,000, £5,000 and £10,000, of which £1,000,000 are in replacement of bills falling due on February 9th. The bills will be dated February 8, 1930, and will be payable twelve months after date. Payments in full of amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Bank of England not later than 12 o'clock on February 8, 1930.

Hellenic and General Trust, Ltd.—Issue of 44,200 shares of £5 each at £5 2s. 6d. per share, carrying the right, when fully paid, to receive option certificates entitling bearer to subscribe at any time between May 1, 1930, and July 15, 1933, for additional shares at the price of £6 10s. per share in the proportion of one additional share to every four previously allotted. It is intended later to divide the whole of issued share capital into 5 per cent. preference stock and ordinary stock in equal proportions. The company was incorporated in January, 1928, to invest its funds in Greek Governmental and other enterprises. A first dividend of 3 per cent. was paid in June, 1929.

Manchester Guardian and Evening News, Ltd.—Issue at par of £300,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, 1940-50, being a first charge on the undertaking and assets of the company. The company reserves the right to redeem outstanding debentures on three months' notice, at any time after January 31, 1940, at 102 per cent., and in any case not later than January 31, 1950. The company was incorporated as a limited company in 1907. The present issue will be used to provide additional accommodation to meet the growing needs of the company. Net profits for the year ended March 31, 1929, totalled £65,494.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 274, under the heading "Company News."*]

Grace National Bank
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COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PROFIT.
REVIEW OF INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.
LONDON'S INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL POSITION.
VALUE TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC LIFE.
MR HUGH TENNANT'S REVIEW OF PAST YEAR.

The annual general meeting of the Westminster Bank, Ltd., was held on January 29, 1930, at the head office, 41, Lothbury, London, E.C. 2. Mr. Hugh Tennant (the chairman) presided.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report having been read by the secretary (Mr F. Mytton), the directors' report, the balance sheet, and profit and loss account were taken as read.

The Chairman (who was received with cheers) said: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before passing on to the figures of the balance sheet, I must express my deep regret at the loss of two of our esteemed colleagues, both of whom have had almost lifelong connections with the bank. Mr Sturgis had been a most active director for 45 years, and almost to the day of his death he had continue to share our duties. Colonel Goodden, who was the chairman of Stuckey's Bank at the time of its amalgamation with Parr's Bank, brought with him a unique knowledge of the business and tradition of an old-established and honoured West Country banking firm. On the other hand, I am sure you will all welcome the return of Viscount Goschen to the board on his completing a successful term of office as Governor of Madras. Lord Goschen, as you all know, was chairman of the London County and Westminster Bank from 1909 to 1917, and was a director of the bank until his departure for India in 1924.

I much regret to have to report the retirement of one of our general managers, Mr F. W. Ingall, who has reached the age limit this month. Mr Ingall joined the staff of Parr's Bank in 1881, and after being manager of Bartholomew Lane office for seven years, became a general manager in 1920. He has been a most valuable official of the bank, highly popular both with our customers and with his colleagues, and we shall miss him greatly. I sincerely hope he may long live to enjoy his well-earned leisure.

THE BANK'S BALANCE SHEET.

Coming now to the bank's balance sheet: On the liabilities side our money lodged shows a decrease of over £8 million. When telling you last year that this item had increased by over £13 million I stated that the end of the year frequently showed large money movements up or down of a transitory character. This year the movement happens to have been down. Our average figures, however, throughout the year were several millions higher than those of a year ago, and the employment of this additional money is reflected in our profit and loss account. Our acceptances, endorsements, etc., are about £1 million higher.

Turning now to the assets side of the balance sheet: There is little change in the cash in hand and at call. The bills discounted, however, show a diminution of about £4 million—an ordinary market fluctuation. Our advances to customers are about £2 million less than at December 31, 1928, a small variation which does not call for comment. The item of investments, though not substantially changed in total, shows an increase in "other investments" of about £1 million.

B. I. HOLDING COMPANY, LTD.

In this amount there is one item which calls for remark, viz., a holding of 6 per cent. debentures in an English company—the B.I. Holding Company, Ltd. These debentures are secured on the value of sundry Italian investments. Our participation in this English company originated in a scheme supported by influential interests to maintain the solvency of a small bank in Italy—the Banca Italo-Britannica—whose continued weakness might have had some detrimental effect on the London bill market. We had only an indirect interest in this Italian venture through a shareholding in its parent company—the British Italian Banking Corporation, Ltd.—but, in conjunction with other important financial houses, we felt constrained, in the interests of British credit, to lend our aid in support of the scheme. Our commitment in this connection has been fully provided for; and the investment—written down to the figure of £453,143—is one which we have every hope will ultimately realise a surplus on the value assigned to it.

Shareholdings in subsidiary companies remain at about £3 million, a figure represented by our holdings in the Ulster Bank and the Westminster Foreign Bank. In each case we consider that the figure in the balance sheet is substantially below the intrinsic value.

Our bank premises account now stands in the balance sheet at just over £5 million. We have opened 43 new branches during the year and many other branches have been rebuilt or extended. The rebuilding of our Threadneedle Street office and the expenditure on our head office rebuilding up to date have been entirely written off, but I fear the latter will not be completed for some considerable time yet.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS.

The profits for the past year at £2,160,000 are some £12,000 higher than last year. After reserving £1,356,000 for the payment of a dividend similar to that of 1928, we have allocated £250,000 to bank premises, £200,000 to the officers' pension fund (as in former years), and £400,000 to contingent fund, leaving £506,000 to be carried forward to the next account—about £45,000 less than brought in.

Before, however, leaving the affairs of our bank to deal with the general trade position, I desire to refer briefly to the Hatry case, which, owing to the perpetration of frauds and forgeries of a quite unprecedented character, has attracted much public attention.

We, among other banks, have been victims of these frauds, which were carried out by means of documents which neither banker nor broker nor any member of the public would ever dream of suspecting of being otherwise than genuine.

FACTS ABOUT HATRY TRANSACTIONS.

From reports which have reached me, it appears to be imagined (1) that we advanced money to the companies of the Hatry group, not for the purposes of trade, but to enable them to indulge in gambling transactions; and (2) that no sufficient investigation was made as to the security for the advances, or that advances were made on worthless shares.

Now as to (1); in each case the money was advanced for a perfectly legitimate purpose and no suggestion was made that the advance was required for supporting the share market; and, as to (2), a thorough investigation was made, and we have documentary evidence to prove that, in the absence of fraud, the security was undoubted.

For the purposes of our accounts we have provided for any possible losses we may make, and, thanks to the profitable character of the year's working, our contingent fund is now larger than it was at the beginning of last year. In this connection I should state that, not only have we been in the habit of making very full provisions, but we not infrequently make large recoveries of debts we have previously provided for.

I hope these remarks will enable shareholders to form a better judgment of these unfortunate transactions than was possible from the necessarily imperfect and abridged reports of the preliminary hearings.

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN 1929.

I propose now to turn from the affairs of our own institution to consider some of the broader aspects of the present economic position of our country. Of British industry as a whole, it may at least be claimed that, if no spectacular progress was made in 1929, the general trend was in the right direction—with the important exception of the cotton trade. Though the army of unemployed remained around the disquieting total of 1,300,000, approximately 200,000 more workers were in employment at the end of the year than at the beginning, whilst according to the calculations of the Board of Trade, the national output in the September quarter was no less than ten per cent. above the level of twelve months earlier. I venture to commend to your serious attention the detailed figures of the Board's computations, which are appended.* These are given for the full year 1928 and for the September quarters of 1928 and 1929 (the latter being the most recent issued), together with the average of the first three quarters of 1929 which I have had worked out.

* See Table No. 1.

From the figures in the last column you will observe that while the mining, textile, and leather industries remain depressed, the engineering and shipbuilding trades have increased their output by 21 per cent. during the past five years, the chemical trades by 12½ per cent., the non-ferrous metal trades by nearly 20 per cent., the iron and steel trades by 14 per cent., and the food, drink, and tobacco trades by 6 per cent. Let us remember that last year's share of the recovery was achieved in the face of higher rates for money than in any other year since 1921, depression on the Stock Exchange, and a partially-frozen new issue market in which even the strongest companies found difficulty in satisfying their requirements for fresh capital during the later months of the year. Let us remember, further, that 1929 was marked by a General Election and a change of Government, and that while it witnessed the practical inception of a de-rating scheme which may have far-reaching effects on industry in the future, it afforded no relief from the immediate burden of national taxation. That the country's production advanced despite all these discouraging influences, was a distinctly gratifying achievement which reflects the essential soundness of our financial and industrial structure.

COTTON.

In the cotton trade, the year opened with some promise, but from February onwards the trend of business was distinctly downward, and the general depression of 1929 was even more pronounced than that of 1928. Yarn production has receded to barely two-thirds of the pre-war output; and the volume of piece-goods exported is little more than 50 per cent. of their pre-war scale.

I will not discuss the bearing of hostile tariffs, foreign shipping subsidies, and the occasional embarrassing boycotts which beset our export trade; these impediments are more or less political in character. In face of intense foreign competition it is becoming increasingly difficult for cotton manufacturers in certain grades to work at a profit; and in a trade so diversified, statistics alone show the trend of markets and the measure and character of the displacement of Manchester soft goods. But what concerns us most particularly is, that what I may call the "bread and butter" output from the Lancashire mills is unable, by quite 10 per cent., to compete with world prices. The present position is that while in both the American and Egyptian sections the production of specialities and finer lines can be worked to a profit, the bulk of the medium and lower grades cannot.

The two competitive advantages which Lancashire possesses in the inherited skill of the operatives and a climate specially suitable for cotton spinning are diminishing, owing to the increasing skill of her rivals, now aided by up-to-date textile and "air-humidifying" machinery. It should be borne in mind, however, that both in the re-adjustment of loom arrangements and in the technique of mixing cotton with silk and rayon, much good work has been done during the past year. But without a much greater co-ordination of individual producers, followed by scientific rationalisation, the problem confronting Lancashire will not be solved. To this end the scheme of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation still holds the field. During its year of existence, this corporation has come to an agreement with 75 companies controlling some 7,250,000 spindles and 20,000 looms, and it is understood that possibly 20 more companies will join, bringing the total of spindles up to 10 millions. The development of this project will be watched with considerable interest and its success will be a great stimulus to the cotton industry.

EGYPTIAN SECTION.

The Egyptian section—apart from special and finer lines—has not had a satisfactory year. Here, too, the pressure of increasing foreign competition has made itself felt. This section, however, is better placed to meet the position than the American side, as it has not been exhausted by long depression, and has at once grasped the need of reorganisation. With this objective, a syndicate called the Combined Egyptian Mills, Ltd., was formed in the early part of last year, and now controls over 3,000,000 spindles. Other schemes of a similar nature (embracing the manufacturing side also) are under consideration.

Like the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, the Combined Egyptian Mills company is of too recent origin to have made any effective impression on the difficulties confronting a section of the trade which has been for so long in British hands. The ground lost should not be irrecoverable if all-round efficiency and economy are combined with large-scale production and scientific salesmanship.

OTHER TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

For the wool textile industry the year was one of disappointment, the decline in the price of its raw material, though a factor making for an improved position in the long run, having exercised an embarrassing and restrictive influence for the time being. The newest of the large-scale textile industries, artificial silk—which with its sister industry "natural silk," now affords employment to some 65,000 persons—recorded a fresh advance in output, but at no time in its history was competition so keen or the effect on profits so severe.

AGRICULTURE.

For British agriculture the year was one of extremes—extreme frost in the early months, extreme dryness in the summer, and extreme precipitation in the autumn. The effect of these conditions upon pastures and meadows was decidedly unfavourable, while a satisfactory cereal harvest brought less than its due share of benefit to the farmer, by reason of low market prices. The entry into this country of supplies from abroad under conditions which, in some cases, could by no stretch of imagination be regarded as normal or legitimate, accentuated his difficulties.

COAL.

Last year, I remarked that in its deep depression the coal industry might well have at last come down to a bedrock foundation upon which a solid structure could slowly be built up again. I think that events in 1929 have justified this view. Production during the year totalled about 261 million tons, which bears favourable comparison with 238 millions in 1928 and 251 millions in 1927. Exports are similarly encouraging, as the figures given in the footnote indicate.*

With the Coal Mines Bill now under consideration by Parliament, I feel that I must be sparing in my remarks, although in passing it strikes me as ironical that a Bill introduced by a Socialist Government should be opposed by the Conservatives and Liberals alike mainly on the ground that it is too favourable to the coal owners!

In my view, rather too much stress is being laid upon compulsory amalgamation. Although such a movement may in many instances bring substantial benefits, an up-to-date pit producing, say, 1,000,000 tons per annum, may easily be hampered, rather than helped, by enforced linking-up with other units less favourably placed. This is a danger which, however, rationalisation carried out in its strict interpretation would, of course, overcome. On the other hand, I consider that for marketing purposes some form of co-operation is essential.

IRON AND STEEL.

In spite of all handicaps—and it would be foolish to belittle them—the iron and steel industries are putting up a good fight. In 1929 some progress was made, and markets were being extended both at home and overseas. 1930 opens, therefore, with a degree of sober optimism.

So far as the production of pig-iron and steel is concerned, last year's figures are the best for many years past. Further, it is encouraging to note that whilst world production of these items showed increases of 11½ per cent and 11 per cent. respectively, the figures for the United Kingdom were somewhat higher, at 15 per cent. and 13 per cent. Even so, we were working at much below our full capacity—at about 65 per cent. in the case of pig-iron and 75 per cent. in the case of steel. A most serious factor has been the considerable increases in cost of our raw materials—ore and coke—which are several shillings in advance of last year's prices.

Despite the increased activity, the financial results of most of our leading iron and steel companies have been insufficient to yield any dividend on their ordinary shares. This is in marked contrast with the position on the Continent, where dividends have usually been distributed on an increased scale. Another significant point is the ability of our Continental rivals to provide out of revenue for extensions and renewals, whereas at home sufficient profits are not being earned to enable any such allocation to be made. Rationalisation proceeds but slowly here as compared with abroad, where lower wages, lower overhead charges, and lower taxation operate so advantageously.

SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING.

Though shipbuilding suffered no such set-back as in the previous year, it is a regrettable fact that one in every four of its insured workers remained on the unemployed list. The engineering trades registered a distinct improvement on the whole, especially in the electrical, locomotive and textile branches, while the motor industry, despite the prevalence of strongly competitive conditions, resumed the advance which a year ago had been temporarily checked.

*Exports of Coal.

	Tons.	*Value.*
1927	51,149,193	£45,530,795
1928	50,051,195	£39,058,734
1929	60,266,618	£48,616,813

SHIPPING.

After a not unpromising start, the shipping trade was overtaken by serious depression in the later months of the year, attributable mainly to the decline in shipments of wheat, actual and prospective, from the New World to the Old. This falling-off arose from the relatively large harvests in Europe and the much less satisfactory yields obtained in the great wheat-growing areas overseas. At the same time, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the supply of the world's tonnage is still largely in excess of effective demand. To this condition is due, in the long run, the disparity which exists in many cases between the price of shipping facilities and those of other commodities and services, as judged by pre-war standards.

Outside the domain of industry the year's outstanding achievements were the formulation of arrangements for the final removal of the German reparations question from the dangerous sphere of politics to the more appropriate field of finance, and the liquidation of other outstanding international legacies of the Great War.

This brief recital has revealed many tendencies which may justly be regarded as matters for congratulation. I have purposely refrained from alluding until now to a factor which has proved more particularly reassuring to the City of London—the success with which the financial machinery of this country has withstood a period of the gravest international stress and strain. I need not here recount the various stages of the phenomenal speculative movement in security values in the United States of America, and its reflection, on a smaller scale, on Stock Exchange conditions in every European country. Nor do I propose to dwell upon the causes of the catastrophic break in Wall Street prices last autumn, when American industrial shares lost, on the average, from one-third to one-half of their "paper" values within the space of a few days. The effects of such a movement much necessarily be widespread. British investors have, in their turn, suffered serious loss during the costly though less spectacular Stock Exchange reaction here, which incidentally began at a much earlier date than in America. The numerous failures associated with new and speculative concerns or with particular financiers have been a disquieting feature of the year's history. But, while frankly facing this situation, let us not fail to recognise the important fact that, on the whole, London has emerged very creditably from a most trying ordeal.

LONDON AS AN INTERNATIONAL MONEY CENTRE.

The course of affairs in the sphere of international finance, and the part played by London as an international monetary centre during the past very difficult year, form a topic of such outstanding interest, not merely to the banker, but to the whole world of business, that I propose to select this as the main theme of my address to you to-day. There are two main reasons why I do so. In the first place, it is no exaggeration to say that the year 1929 has been the most critical and testing period for London's position as an international money centre since the outbreak of the Great War. Secondly, the very fact of the strain placed upon London by her successful efforts to maintain that position has given rise in certain quarters to a complaint and to a questioning—a complaint that the interests of British industrial production and trade are being sacrificed in order to maintain London's international position, and a questioning whether the maintenance of that position is sufficiently important to make such supposed sacrifice worth while.

Three stages are necessary to the examination of this problem: First, to review the reasons for the international strain exerted upon London and the way in which London withstood it; second, to assess the value to the economic life of the whole country of the international financial functions which London performs; and finally, to consider what foundation there may be for the complaint and the questioning to which I have just referred. The subject is, of course, a big one, but I will endeavour to lay before you the essential facts and to suggest the conclusions which in my view may properly and confidently be drawn from them.

CAUSE OF STRAIN ON WORLD MONEY MARKETS.

The fundamental cause of the strain to which the money markets of the world were subjected last year must be sought on the other side of the Atlantic. New York, which in preceding years had been an increasingly important partner of Great Britain in financing the reconstruction of Europe, entirely reversed her role. During the greater part of the year, until the abrupt transformation which took place in the autumn, New York persistently drew to herself funds from all other monetary centres. Owing to the intense speculative activity in Wall Street, we witnessed the phenomenon of the country possessing a very large proportion of the world's gold stocks offering the highest rates for money; and the magnet functioned irresistibly. Stock exchange activity in Europe increased the strain. London, in addition to having funds employed in New York, was called upon to make temporary advances to Germany, while France steadily recalled a considerable part of the extensive balances which she had maintained here. The huge drift of funds across the Atlantic, the large-scale repatriation of French balances, and the withdrawal of America as a financier of Germany, together imposed a strain unequalled in recent years; and London, facing her vast international liabilities with a gold reserve only one-quarter of that of the Federal Reserve System, or one-half of that of the Bank of France, was forced to protect her dwindling gold supply by raising Bank rate from 4½ per cent. to 5½ per cent. in February, and again from 5½ per cent. to 6½ per cent. in September. Then came relief of the tension. The bubble of speculation in America and in Europe burst. Wall Street ceased to act as a magnet, and the Bank of England was quickly able to reduce its rate by successive stages to 5 per cent. Nevertheless, it is some evidence of the strain through which London passed that the Bank of England gold reserve, although only £7 million lower on December 31st than on January 1, 1929, had in the meantime fluctuated by as much as £34 million, from the highest point reached in June to the lowest in October.

Glancing back over the year, it is permissible to congratulate ourselves that London's financial machine has emerged from the test with unimpaired credit and enhanced international prestige.

INDUSTRIALIST'S COMPLAINT ANSWERED.

But it is at this point that the industrialist and the trader enter their complaint. What you have been describing, they will say, is exactly what we are grumbling at, namely, that London's efforts to maintain her international position in a time of strain entail sacrifice on our part through the imposition of high rates for borrowed money, which often transform a small profit into a loss, and in some unfortunate industries are the last straw which breaks the camel's back. Now that is the position which I wish to meet.

First and foremost, it is unfair to place upon the British monetary and financial system the responsibility for the damage done by a great international monetary upheaval, which, after all, London did its best to check. Equally unfair is it to lay stress upon domestic sacrifices resulting from a wholly abnormal period, without examining such concrete and lasting benefits as may accrue in normal times.

IMPORTANCE OF LONDON'S INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL BUSINESS.

I doubt whether the general public is aware of the contribution made by London's international financial business to the national income and the wealth of this country. Figures illustrating this contribution must necessarily partake, to some extent, of the nature of guesswork. The Board of Trade, after wide enquiry, have obtained sufficient data to give us a rough picture.* Their experts estimate that in 1928 the earnings of London as an international centre accounted for £65 million out of the £149 million of the balance in favour of this country. In 1927, the figure was put at £63 million out of a total favourable balance of £114 million, while in 1926 Britain's final balance of international payments would actually have shown a large deficit had it not been for the £60 million under this head. Such figures as these, approximate though they are, reveal the very important dimensions of the part played in British economic life by London's international functions.

Let us look at it in another way. Much is constantly and rightly heard of Britain's great export industries, by which is meant those great industries which show a favourable balance in their dealings with the rest of the world. The fact deserves emphasis that the net export balance of what I will call the "financial industry" is between £60 and £70 million per annum. It therefore ranks as one of our greatest export industries.

But these figures tell only one half of the story. The Board of Trade table shows that our "income from overseas investments" totals £285 million a year. This is an essential factor in our trade balance. The securities which yield this income have been accumulated during many past years, as a result of long-term loans by British citizens to foreign countries. The process still continues. London as an international financial centre has played a large part in finding opportunities for such investments, providing the machinery for their emission, filling the gap between the time when the foreign borrowers require the money and the time when the British investor is prepared to furnish it, providing facilities for the *transfer* of such securities, safeguarding holders' interests after their emission, and so on. In practice, this policy has given positive and most important benefits to British productive industry. Foreign borrowers have frequently used a large share of the proceeds of loans in the placing of orders with British manufacturers. Judiciously made, such loans enhance the wealth and *purchasing power* of overseas borrowing countries. That foreign lending may be abused, and in some cases overdone,

* See Table No. 2.

should not detract from a proper appreciation of its invaluable services to the community.

OVERSEAS TRADE AND FINANCIAL FACILITIES.

Even this is not all. Overseas trade—which, let us not forget, is the life blood of this country—calls for complex and specialised financial machinery in which separate but essential parts are played by banks, accepting houses, discount houses, foreign exchange brokers, and others, each with its own connection established in every large centre in the world. Without these facilities overseas commerce might not be impossible, but it would be a far more hazardous and tardy process for the trader. In London's machine of international finance the British trader has at his beck and call facilities more efficacious than those available in any other country.

If we were to awaken to-morrow and find that London had ceased to function as an international centre, it is clear that we should have to face a situation in which British trade and the national wealth would be very much worse off than they are at present. The figures that I have given suggest the scope of the definite losses which would be involved. Is it possible that there could result for British industry any compensating gain?

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS REVIEWED.

It is, of course, utterly inconceivable that London should suddenly abandon her international business, but there are some who appear to think that those who guide our monetary and credit system should concentrate their resources more in the development of British industry, and less in international finance. But it is never quite clear what precise measures critics of the present system would suggest. It cannot seriously be proposed at this stage that Great Britain should abandon the gold standard. For such procedure would not only shatter British credit in every country of the world, but would also lead the world back into that chaos of exchange fluctuations which, in the post-war period, provided one of the most stubborn obstacles to trade recovery. A less impossible suggestion is that steps might be taken to place unofficial but effective obstacles in the way of those who wish to withdraw gold. This covert half-and-half abandonment of the gold standard has indeed been tried by some countries. It is true that if the expedient were adopted here, the national gold reserve might show less fluctuation, but it is certain that foreign institutions would be unwilling to place their temporary floating reserves for short-term investment in London to anything like the present extent. Their willingness to do so now under full gold standard conditions is due to their complete confidence that they can withdraw their balances should need arise, immediately, without condition, and without difficulty, and if they wish it, *in the form of gold*, which is the only universally accepted medium.

Those overseas deposits in London are, in the aggregate, of very large dimensions at any given moment. They go to swell the total fund of credit in the country, in which *all* share, including the manufacturer. The inconvenience caused by the French withdrawal of their balances last year, itself indicates how large those deposits may be. If London ceases to be a repository for the world's spare resources, the rates paid by British industrialists for accommodation may fluctuate less frequently, *but on the average they will be appreciably higher than those now prevailing.*

By what means could British industry be compensated for this damaging result? To this question some thinkers on banking and credit subjects have two answers to make. The first is to suggest what is in reality inflation of credit, with which subject I dealt at some length in my speech to you last year. The second answer is, that the British banks should extend their activities to providing home industry with fixed as well as working capital, and should interest themselves financially in company formations, after the manner of certain, Continental banking systems. There is on definite obstacle which prevents British banks, as at present constituted, from pursuing this line of development. Unlike Continental banks, they are mainly *deposit* institutions, and are not in a position to lock up in long-term industrial investments funds which are, for the most part, liable to be withdrawn practically on demand. It may be argued that this fundamental difficulty should not be allowed to impede the development of any movement likely to be of benefit to the national well-being. It remains to find a way out of the difficulty, and this may perhaps lie in the formation of new institutions for this specific purpose.

LONDON'S FINANCIAL POSITION INDISPENSABLE TO THE NATION.

I have endeavoured in this brief review to lead up to this main conclusion: That in spite of the abnormal conditions of the past year, London's position as an international centre is not only indispensable to the country's international balance sheet, but is also of definite assistance both to overseas trade and to home industry, and that it cannot be replaced by any other system so far devised. Do not suppose for that reason, that any banker imagines the present system is perfect beyond all hope of improvement. Critics may rightly urge that the interests of domestic industry should always be kept to the forefront, especially in times when there is danger of possible over-lending abroad. They may urge, too, that money rates should not be changed more frequently than is absolutely inevitable, and that every effort should be made by co-operation among the central banks to avoid international competition for the world's supplies of gold.

All these subjects will, I believe, receive the increasing attention of British bankers and, one cannot doubt, will be among the important subjects discussed by the Banking Inquiry which has recently been set up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. What that inquiry may recommend I do not venture to forecast, but of one thing I am certain, that their report will take due cognisance of the vast importance to this country of the City of London's international functions, and of the necessity to our economic well-being of maintaining her world-wide credit and prestige.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the Hon. Rupert E. Beckett seconded the resolution.

Mr E. T. Hargraves said that all the shareholders must be indebted to Mr Tennant for his able and interesting address and for the manner in which he had exhaustively dealt with the subjects selected for comment. For his own part, and he was sure the shareholders would agree with him, the address had entirely reassured him, and he was perfectly satisfied that the chairman and his colleagues had exercised wise discretion in giving the shareholders the desired information without going into too much detail. He was quite certain that the total of losses to which their chairman had referred had not been caused by any laxity on the part of any official, but that they arose in circumstances which, in his long experience of 67 years, had never occurred and were not likely to recur during the remainder of his life. As to the point whether the banks might do more than they were doing at present to facilitate industry generally, he quite agreed that it would be undesirable for the banks, in any measure, to follow the plan of Continental banks in becoming partners in industry *qua* industry; it was no part of the banks to find fixed capital. Fixed capital ought always to be found by traders themselves. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co., Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Co., Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., and Messrs. Stead, Taylor and Stead, were reappointed auditors for the year 1930.

Mr Frederick Tomkinson proposed a vote of thanks to the directors for the able manner in which they had conducted the affairs of the bank.

To a vote of thanks to the staff for their admirable work during the past year Mr John Rae (director and chief general manager) responded. Other formal votes were carried, and the proceedings terminated.

TABLE No. 1.—INDEX OF PRODUCTION.

1924 (the first Census of Production since the War) = 100.

Group.	Year 1928.	Sept. Quarter, 1928.	Sept. Quarter, 1929.	Average of First Three Quarters of 1929.
1. Mines and quarries	89·2	83·2	94·4	95·3
2. Iron and steel, and manufactures thereof	102·3	97·4	113·7	114·3
3. Non-ferrous metals.....	119·3	109·9	114·6	119·7
4. Engineering and shipbuilding.....	112·1	107·9	118·3	121·1
5. Textiles	99·9	91·9	91·2	97·5
6. Chemical and allied trades.....	110·3	106·3	117·5	112·5
7. Paper and printing.....	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)
8. Leather and boots and shoes	102·0	90·9	95·2	98·7
9. Food, drink, and tobacco	101·9	105·1	111·8	106·1
10. Gas and electricity.....	126·0(*b*)	(*b*)	(*b*)	(*b*)
Total of manufacturing industries (2–10)*	109·4	104·6	114·4	114·8
Total of all groups (1–10)*	105·5	100·2	110·3	110·8

* Including also various industries not specified above.

(*a*) Adequate information in respect of the paper and printing trades has not up to the present been available. The particulars received, which cover about 40 per cent. of the net output of those trades in 1924, have been included in the general index.

(*b*) No information is available as to the quantities of gas made in each quarter. The provisional figures obtained by the Electricity Commissioners regarding the electrical energy generated by authorised undertakings show that in the first nine months of the present year 7,290 million units were generated, as against 6,395 millions in the first nine months of 1928, and 4,342 millions in the first nine months of 1924. The available data for electricity have been included in the general index numbers.

TABLE No. 2 (from *The Board of Trade Journal*, February 28, 1929).—BALANCES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN THE TRANSACTIONS (OTHER THAN LENDING AND REPAYMENT OF CAPITAL) BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES.

(In million £'s.)

Particulars.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Excess of imports of merchandise and bullion	475	390	359
Estimated excess of Government receipts from overseas*	4	1	13
Estimated net national shipping income†....	120	140	130
Estimated net income from overseas investments	285	285	285
Estimated net receipts from short interest and commission (*i.e.*, from London's services as a money market)	60	63	65
Estimated net receipts from other sources...	15	15	15
Total.....	484	504	508
Estimated total credit balance on items specified above	9	114	149

* Including some items on loan accounts.

† Including disbursements by foreign ships in British ports.

SEDENAK RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

STRONG POSITION.

The ordinary general meeting of Sedenak Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at the registered offices, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, London, Mr Philip C. Turnbull, O.B.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The crop produced during the year is the largest we have ever had, and works out at some 426 lb. per acre on the area actually in tapping.

The average net selling cost for the year was under 9d. per lb., yet, in spite of that figure, the economies effected, coupled with the increased output, permitted a low record of working costs to be achieved, thus resulting in a balance of profit and loss enabling us, as it does, to pay you a dividend of 10 per cent., which must, under all the circumstances, be considered very satisfactory.

At the present time the estate is in really good condition, and is most satisfactorily reported on, both by the manager, in his annual report, and the visiting agent, Mr Menzies.

The overhauling of the factory and machinery was completed during the year, and everything connected with the manufacturing end is now in first-class condition.

Given normal general conditions, the estate should be healthier this year than ever.

The estimates for the current year have been framed with a view to avoiding any loss, if possible, even should rubber continue at its present low level, and it is a cause of congratulation that your company is in such a strong position financially that it will come safely through the present slump. With a reserve fund of £35,000, nearly all of which is invested in Government securities, the position is certainly one of strength, but, of course, we look to higher prices to continue to give us good dividends in the future.

As all estimates of world production and consumption were so wide of the mark in 1929, statistics, unfortunately, are no guide to the future, but I do feel that consumption is increasing at a greater rate than production, and must soon overtake it.

Under the circumstances, you will not be surprised that we have made no forward sales, and your directors prefer to meet the market rather than snatch a small premium by any forward sales commitments that might turn out expensive bargains.

Mr George M. Weekley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors and to the staff at home and abroad.

THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

BRIGHTER OUTLOOK.

The annual general meeting of the National Bank, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at 13 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr J. B. Meers, C.B. (chairman of the bank), said, in the course of his speech: Ladies and gentlemen,—The year 1929 will go down in the history of the financial world as an extremely difficult one. It may be said to have begun in a promising manner, but as it went on it certainly did not uphold its promise, and perhaps the best way to criticise it is to say we are thankful, from a business point of view, that it is finished and done with.

The New Year has certainly opened with a brighter outlook, coupled with a welcome return of confidence. The practical steps being taken to solve our many problems show commendable determination, but I would venture to say, from a banking standpoint, that, in view of previous experience, well-established economic laws must not be lost sight of, as, if they are, they have the unhappy faculty of reasserting themselves and leaving the situation worse than before.

Our net profits at £126,000 for the half-year are less. The main explanation lies in the fact that the National Bank does not benefit by a high Bank rate. The cessation of our note issue in the Irish Free State has also, as I have more than once mentioned, to be taken into consideration. We pay the usual dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum and we place £10,000 in reduction of "Bank Premises Account," and £10,000 to "Contingencies Account," carrying forward £30,376.

You will be pleased to learn, ladies and gentlemen, as your directors are to record, that the *clientele* of the Bank continues to grow—the number of accounts open in our books shows a most satisfactory increase when compared with twelve months ago.

AGRICULTURE.

Reports from Ireland on trade and agricultural conditions are satisfactory and the closing months of the year showed an upward tendency in the prices of live stock and produce. The weather, too, was, on the whole, favourable to agricultural pursuits, crops were abundant and well harvested and the health of live stock was well maintained throughout.

Graziers had a fairly prosperous year with an improved level of prices ruling. The cattle trade received a temporary set-back from the early drought, but an improvement later reasserted itself with advantage to those who held over stocks.

Crops were everywhere excellent in yield and quality, but realised very disappointing prices. Oats fell sharply, due to the competition of subsidised German grain, and barley growers have received little encouragement from the prices ruling for this commodity. There was a decline in the acreage under sugar beet, the results from which crop are reported to have been very satisfactory. Ample supplies of good quality potatoes and well-saved turf and an improvement in the kelp industry brought some comfort to those affected by the collapse of the fishing industry, steps for the revival of which are an urgent national necessity.

The reorganisation of the dairying industry is steadily bearing fruit.

The improvement in the cattle trade has brought some measure of stability to the land market, without, however, any material change in values, save perhaps a slight improvement in the case of small, well-placed holdings. The demand for grazing-land is somewhat more active.

The licensed trade continues under grave disabilities, and the outlook is not encouraging.

INDUSTRY.

In industry the chief feature of interest is the campaign for the reanimation of the linen trade, the future of which seems to be regarded with more optimism than for a long time past. The work on hand and in prospect in the shipyards is satisfactory, and the work in the textile and allied trades generally is increasing. The provision of housing throughout the entire country is giving considerable employment in the building trades.

The total external trade of the country showed expansion for the year with an increase in the adverse balance. The tendency, however, in the later months denoted a fall. Live stock exports increased in practically all branches, but fresh pork, fish and butter exports showed a falling off. An interesting feature is the sharp increase in imports of machinery and motor cars.

With present-day economic problems receiving an ever wider appreciation from agriculturists and others, a gradual change is working itself in the habits and activities of the people, and this process, though slow, is the least likely in the long run to impair its efficacy, since the looked-for new order will be founded upon matured experience, organised efficiency and an intelligent understanding of the factors that go to build up and sustain the social and economic fabric of the country.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT PERIOD.
BANKERS AND THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRY.
NEED FOR PROVISION OF FURTHER CAPITAL.
SIR HARRY GOSCHEN ON THE OUTLOOK.

The annual general meeting of the National Provincial Bank, Ltd., was held on Thursday last, the 30th ultimo, in the Great Hall, Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Sir Harry Goschen, Bt., K.B.E. (chairman of the Bank), presiding.

Sir Alfred Lewis (chief general manager) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—In accordance with my usual custom I propose to commence my remarks to you to-day by amplifying some of the matters touched upon in our report.

It is with much sorrow that we have to record the loss the board has sustained by the death of our friend and colleague, Lord Avebury. John Lubbock, as he was better known to many of us, came of a renowned banking family and bore a name which will always be associated with the welfare of bank officers: originally a partner in Robarts, Lubbock and Company, he became a director of this bank on our acquisition of Messrs Coutts and Company, and we have to deplore the loss, not only of a member of our board, but also of a valued colleague and friend.

We also report with deep regret the loss we, and especially our Northampton local board, have suffered by the death of Mr Charles B. Fisher, who was an influential and well-known figure in the shires.

The numbers of our extraordinary directors have, we are sorry to say, been depleted by the resignation of Col. H. F. Smith, for many years one of the directing factors in Messrs Smiths of Nottingham and also a partner in Messrs Smith, Payne and Smiths.

NEW DIRECTORS.

As announced in the report, your directors have appointed two new directors to seats on the board, whose names will be later on duly submitted to you for re-election. It has given the board much pleasure to express in this way some public proof of the appreciation they entertain for the valuable services Sir Alfred Lewis has rendered the bank as joint general manager and chief general manager for many years. We were fortunate in securing, as a result of the acquisition of the Bradford District Bank, Sir Alfred's services for this institution. Since that time he has laboured without ceasing to combine the best features and traditions of the National Provincial Bank and the Bradford District Bank into one homogeneous whole and to maintain the sound position the bank enjoys His efforts have been crowned with success, and we cordially welcome him as a member of our board.

In electing Captain Evan Cadogan Eric Smith to a seat on the board, we are glad thus officially to retain our connection with one of the oldest and most respected firms of bankers in the country, His father, Mr Lindsay Eric Smith, was an honoured member of our board for many years, and I am confident that his son, who has already made his name in other spheres of business, will prove a useful and valuable colleague.

NEW BRANCHES: BOARD'S POLICY.

Our report shows that the policy of opening new branches wherever favourable opportunities occur, continues in force, and I am pleased to say that our endeavours to encourage thrift and provide facilities for saving among even the youngest of all classes of the community are meeting with the success I venture to think they deserve.

The provision of means for depositing cash at our offices after banking hours, by the installation of night safes, appears to be meeting the convenience of our customers in increasing measure and will be developed as the demand for such facilities becomes apparent.

I think, too, I should not omit to say that we are proceeding with the installation of mechanical aids to our accounting and clerical system, steadily but cautiously, as is found desirable and with due regard to the experience obtained of the constant improvement in the machines placed at our disposal. The initial outlay is, of course, heavy, but the ultimate economies will, we believe, amply justify the expenditure involved.

BALANCE SHEET.

In accordance with the new Companies Act, the balance sheet, which is accompanied by a profit and loss account, is submitted to you in a revised form, but the changes involved are only slight and do not prevent a comparison with previous years.

Our capital and reserves, which show no change, appear in the same manner as before, and, with the balance of profit and loss account, show the total of the bank's paid-up capital and reserves at £19,808,086 18s. 5d. This is followed by the item representing our deposits and other accounts which, at £271,540,937 3s. 9d., shows a decrease, in common with most other banks, from the abnormally high figure at which they stood in last year's balance sheet.

The next line, balances due to subsidiary companies, is an innovation and represents balances in our hands belonging to our two subsidiary companies, Messrs Coutts and Messrs Grindlay. Liabilities for acceptances, &c., appears on both sides of the account as usual.

ASSETS SIDE.

The manner in which our first four items on the assets side of the account are set out is unchanged—these show a reduction in sympathy with the decreased figures of our deposits and the increased total of our advances, which is, perhaps, particularly noticeable in the amount of Treasury Bills as compared with the same date in 1928. This item forms what I may term the compensating balance of our accounts, for if our deposits increase, it is in this form mainly that the money finds a temporary home, and if the demand for advances increases or deposits are withdrawn, it is this hen roost that is primarily robbed to find the necessary funds.

Our investments show, in the aggregate, a small reduction as compared with the figures of last year. Our holding in other banks is set out somewhat differently than in previous balance sheets, but you will notice that the only alterations in the figures are that our investment in Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, which stood at £420,000, has now been increased to £600,000, owing to the shares having been fully paid up, and that we have increased our holding in the Yorkshire Penny Bank by £31,250. Our investments in subsidiary companies are set out separately in accordance with the terms of the Act, but otherwise show no change.

Our advances stand at £156,000,000, an increase of six millions a compared with 1928, which clearly demonstrates, especially in view of the decrease in our deposits, that the bank has again during the past year made every effort to meet the requirements of its customers, thus enabling them, in many cases, to keep their works running and avoid further unemployment. There is nothing owing to us by subsidiary companies.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

On the next page we set forth a separate profit and loss account in the form required by the Act, from which you will see that the profit brought into the account after making provision for rebate and bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £2,224,786 8s. 11d.

I might here refer to the Hatry collapse. The repercussions of such a collapse could not but affect directly or indirectly, at some point or other, a business of the magnitude of, and as wide spread as ours. We have, however, made adequate provision for possible losses out of the year's revenue.

To return now to our own profit figures. From the sum of £2,224,786 8s. 11d., to which I have already referred, has to be deducted £35,082 1s. 4d., the amount of the directors' remuneration, paid by this bank. The total amount of £46,411 10s. 4d., as set out in the Account, includes over £11,000 which, although paid by our two subsidiary companies to their directors who are on our board, has, under the Companies Act, to be shown in our statement.

The balance of net profit brought down from this section of profit and loss to what I may term the appropriation account, amounts to £2,189,704 7s. 7d., and compares with the figure of £2,108,663 16s. 11d. in last year's balance sheet. With the balance of £865,845 8s. 6d. brought forward from last year, we arrive at a total of £3,055,549 16s. 1d. available for the dividends and various allocations, which have been set out on the other side of the account.

THE DIVIDEND.

The dividend paid in July last of £853,147 8s. 10d. has first to be charged and the balance is appropriated to the following accounts: To the pension fund, £100,000; to bank premises, £200,000, against £100,000 last year; and to the contingency account, £200,000; so that, after the deduction of a final dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum for the half-year, amounting again to £853,147 8s. 10d., the sum of £849,254 18s. 5d. remains to be carried forward to next year, as shown in the balance sheet.

I need not emphasise the fact that such a satisfactory result of our operations as is before you, produced during a period of most extraordinary difficulty, could only be achieved by watchful control of our resources and careful management of our business. It has been a year of unremitting labour for the chief general manager and the general managers, and I am sure you will support me in paying tribute to them and also to our managers and staff throughout the country, who, by the loyalty and the efficiency of their united efforts, have contributed to the gratifying results which are before you.

AFFILIATED BANKS.

We follow our usual practice in appending the balance sheets of our affiliated banks, Messrs Coutts and Company, and Messrs Grindlay and Company, Ltd. The figures shown speak for themselves, and indicate the increasing business which is being conducted. Messrs Grindlay and Company, it will be observed, have established a reserve fund of £100,000.

Our foreign auxiliary continues successfully to serve the needs of our customers and connections in the towns in which it is situated in France, Belgium and Switzerland, and shows satisfactory progress.

Many of you will recall references that were made in the press in the early months of the year to difficulties which had arisen with the Banca Italo-Britannica, a subsidiary of the British Italian Banking Corporation, and we regret to say that the position of the Italian subsidiary bank had been seriously imperilled owing to alleged irregularities on the part of the management.

Whilst we were one of the three clearing banks for the British Italian Banking Corporation, we took no part in its establishment, and our direct financial interest was a comparatively small one, namely, £20,000.

In addition to its interest as the holder of the bulk of the capital in the Italian Bank, the parent institution in London was also materially interested on account of the facilities it had afforded the Italian Bank in the ordinary course of business.

THE ITALIAN BANK.

After conferring with the highest authorities both here and in Italy, we and our associates were fully confirmed it was of paramount importance that adequate support should be rendered to the Italian Bank, otherwise more serious losses were likely to eventuate, and British prestige, both in banking and commercial circles, might suffer irretrievable damage. An arrangement was, therefore, reached in which we participated, whereby the position should be safeguarded, and an announcement was made in February of last year, to which we were parties, to the following effect:—

> In view of certain unfavourable rumours in regard to the affairs of the Banca Italo-Britannica, the Italian subsidiary of the British Italian Banking Corporation, we are authoritatively informed that London banks have made such arrangements as will ensure due fulfilment of all the engagements of the Banca Italo-Britannica and the continuation of the business without interruption.

In the reorganisation which ensued we made a substantial contribution, for which due provision has been made by us; and I am pleased to say that, as a result of the efforts of the three clearing banks and others interested, the chairman of the Italian Bank, at the general meeting held in Milan in December last, was able to make a statement to the following effect:—

> That the Italian institution had now passed the crisis in which it had found itself in the early weeks of 1929, and that the balance sheet as on September 30, 1929, would furnish the proof of the correctness of his statement.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT.

The chairman went on to say that he was able to make this declaration because in February last the English group had announced that they had intervened in order to put the Banca Italo-Britannica in a position not only to meet its liabilities, but also to carry on the course of its business without interruption and that this undertaking was accomplished with considerable sacrifices, as a result of which they had been enabled to consolidate and make completely liquid the position of the bank.

He further added that the undertaking then given by the English group, i.e., an undertaking to render the balance sheet of their Bank sound, had thus, as would be seen from the figures, been completely fulfilled. The capital and the reserves of the Bank were intact and they were now in a position, with their own resources, to be able to set out again on the path which was interrupted by the bad faith of others; the path for which the Banca Italo-Britannica was founded and for which it exists.

You will accordingly see that the London banks have completed the task which they undertook in February of last year, and the obligations implied under the announcement already referred to have been fulfilled in their entirety and are at an end, and we hope that with a new board and management the business of the bank may now be conducted in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

FEATURES OF THE PAST YEAR.

In addressing you last year, I ventured to say that one could hardly forecast the probable course of business from one week to another, and I am sorry to say that the past year appears to me to have provided ample justification for that statement.

As you will remember, the year opened with a more confident feeling that better times were in store for the country, but the increase in the Bank rate at the beginning of February to 5½ per cent. in consequence of the persistent demand for gold from America was the first cloud in the sky.

The transfer of money from this country to the United States by American and other institutions, dictated no doubt by the high rates prevailing in New York on account of speculative commitments on the New York Stock Exchange, rather than for the requirements of commercial transactions, engendered a certain feeling of uneasiness, which subsequent events and the ever-growing fever of speculation did nothing to allay.

FORESIGHT OF BANK OF ENGLAND.

Thanks to the foresight of the Bank of England, who no doubt anticipated that, as time went on, still further shipments of bullion might be required, their stock of gold was, at some expense, considerably increased as compared with the beginning of the year, but the shipments to America, a growing demand from Germany and the unprecedented requirements of France for gold, gradually reduced the stock of the precious metal to 130 millions. Some counter action on the Bank's part was clearly needed, and the Bank rate (which in the interest of our trade had for some months been courageously maintained at 5½) was raised on September 26th to 6½ per cent. From that time onwards, the gold situation, although not by any means satisfactory, began to improve; the Bank rate was gradually reduced, until at December 31st it stood at 5 per cent. with a stock of gold of 146 millions.

It is, I think, a matter for congratulation that, in spite of the abnormal conditions prevailing throughout the past twelve months, the Bank of England's holding of gold showed a reduction of only £7,000,000 at the end of the year, compared with the corresponding date in 1928. The gold situation, however, has not been the only subject of pre-occupation during the year.

THE FAR EAST.

The Civil War in Afghanistan early in the year, with all the effects of its possible repercussion on India, was naturally a subject of much anxiety. Constant disturbances in China and the conflict between the Manchurian Government and the Soviet Republic, which arose in July last, dispelled any hope of that expansion of our business with China of which we had a reasonable expectation at the end of last year; while disturbances and political uncertainty in the Near East also contributed to the maintenance of a feeling of tension which has persisted throughout the last twelve months. The impending General Election in this country in the early months of the year had the usual effect of restricting business, perhaps even to a greater extent than has sometimes been the case, owing to the uncertainty of the result and the possible change in Government and in policy.

"UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCES."

Unfortunate occurrences in the business world, both at home and abroad, have played their part too in keeping the nerves of the commercial community in a high state of strain and in restricting the enterprise and expansion of trade which might otherwise have taken place.

On the Continent of Europe business has not been good, and the reports of failures and difficulties have, unfortunately, been rife in many directions. It is a matter for regret that in many cases serious irregularities and undoubted evidence of fraudulent practice have been brought to light and one cannot help wondering whether the inordinate desire to make money quickly, and at all costs, which, unfortunately, has been only too prevalent, has not had some influence in lowering the high moral standard of business integrity both at home and abroad on which we have so far been accustomed to rely.

I trust that what appears to be a lapse from the high traditions of financial and commercial morality may prove to be only a temporary aberration, and that last year's experience will have shown the world at large that the maintenance of a high standard of honour and probity is the primary and the most essential basis of all domestic and international business transactions. This basis of credit, once destroyed, would be hard to restore, and the community must realise that, despite the allurements of possible profits

on a large scale, it is an honourable obligation on their part to see that their engagements bear a reasonable proportion to the means at their disposal.

STOCK MARKETS.

The feverish condition of the stock markets, both at home and in the United States, has been a constant menace throughout the year, and the orgy of speculation in America and the soaring prices of industrial securities in that market attracted many people to what appeared to be an easy way of making money. The disastrous slump which took place towards the end of the year not only dispelled this illusion, but probably caused unpleasant losses in many directions. At the same time a somewhat similar situation was developing in this country, fortunately on a smaller scale, but still carrying in its train material losses to those concerned.

I have endeavoured to give you in a somewhat sketchy form a short account of some of the more outstanding events which have characterised the past year, but the whole period has been one of constant anxiety and has called for the exercise of the greatest possible vigilance and care on the part of your executive officers.

IRON AND STEEL POSITION.

It may almost surprise you, after all I have said, that I am able to record improvement in the position and results of any of our important industries. The fact, however, that during the past twelve months there have been no prolonged or important trade disputes involving protracted stoppages of work has been of material value, and the better understanding between employers and employed, which appears to be slowly but surely permeating the country, has been an important factor in the improved results which have been achieved in some directions.

The production of both iron and steel shows a considerable development as compared with the figures of 1928, and a still more pleasing feature is that our exports of these metals represent an appreciable increase both in the raw and manufactured grades as well as in the more highly finished states, such as hardware, cutlery and machinery. The year's output of British steel of 9,600,000 tons is almost a record in the history of the industry, but even with this production the available steel plant in the country is not approaching its full capacity. It would be idle to pretend that our iron and steel trades are in a prosperous condition, but progress has been made. The reorganisation and amalgamations which have taken place and are still in process of completion, have effected many economies. Much dead wood has been cut out, and I do not think I should be expressing too optimistic an opinion if I say that there are several undertakings which are once again covering their expenses, and that there are some which are actually working at a profit.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED.

There can be, I think, no doubt that we have in this country, and indeed in the most suitable localities, an abundance of the material elements necessary to produce iron and steel on competitive terms with any country in the world. We have labour both skilled and unskilled unequalled by any other people, but while perhaps our machinery for subsidiary purposes cannot be surpassed, the information at my disposal leads me to think that improvements can be effected in the primary processes for economical production of the basic material. How these improvements can be effected is a question for our experts. Whilst financial considerations may here and there present difficulties, I am sure that no efforts will be wanting on the part of British banks to afford the necessary assistance to sound proposals, and I am confident that it is only by the provision of the most economic and efficient plant that this industry can successfully exploit to the fullest advantage the natural means at its disposal, and compete effectively in the markets of the world.

SHIPYARDS.

I am glad to say that our shipyards show an improvement in the volume of work, at all events, on which they are engaged, both the tonnage launched and that under construction showing an increase over last year's figure, and we seem to be holding our own in this direction with the rest of the world. Reports from some districts indicate that the orders in hand justify a certain measure of optimism as to sufficiency of work for some months, and we only hope that the prices at which contracts have been secured may afford satisfactory profits and thus contribute to the resources of our shipbuilders for such further developments as they may find it expedient to make. In this connection we cannot but be impressed with the intense efforts which our Continental rivals are making in the building of larger and more speedy ships for capturing a greater share of the trade of the world.

COAL.

Conditions in the coal industry, judged by the increased tonnage produced and larger exports, appear to be improving, and it is especially gratifying to note that a larger number of men are now employed in and about the mines. It is, however, doubtful whether net profits show any commensurate return, although some collieries appear at last to be more than covering production expenses, and some even to be working at a small profit. The tendency towards combined working and collective selling organisation is a satisfactory feature, and in one instance at all events appears to be showing successful results. Owners and workers seem to be coming closer together in the realisation of the fact that their interests are identical and not antagonistic. It seems almost a pity that this improving situation may again be disturbed by new legislation, and we can only hope that whatever provisions are enacted they may be carried through with the approval of both owners and workers and so foster this growing spirit of co-operation which so vitally affects this most important industry.

TEXTILES.

I am sorry to say that the textile industry again presents a depressing picture. I suppose that 1929 has been one of the worst years that the cotton trade, as a whole, has experienced for a long time. The home trade has been the one bright spot. Some money may have been made by manufacturers engaged on the finest counts and on specialities, but our former great export trade continues to show a most deplorable shrinkage. In many countries production exceeds demand and this, in addition to the handicap of higher costs of production here, intensifies the foreign competition with our manufacturers. In spite of all the assistance and advice which have been freely afforded to interested parties, schemes of reorganisation are only making slow progress amongst those concerned. From reports that reach me, I fear that we are suffering materially from the increased efficiency of machinery installed in foreign undertakings during recent years, and I am assured that we cannot hope to compete successfully in the markets of the world unless lower costs are brought into operation and the latest and most improved means of production are adopted.

WOOL.

Conditions in the wool section of the trade are not much better. Manufacturers of fine worsted goods and spinners of fine yarns may have had a good year, but in practically all other branches, losses rather than profits predominate. Top makers and merchants, in view of the continued fall in wool, have had a bad year. The present price of wool, which is now practically down to pre-war level, would seem to afford more hope for the future, especially as present values would appear to offer little inducement to flock owners to increase their production. Larger Continental production at lower costs continues to handicap this section of our trade, and our exports of tops and yarns show a lamentable decrease in comparison with pre-war days.

The artificial silk industry which had made such progress has, in the last few months, shown signs of depression, and here again over-production, with a corresponding fall in prices, has enhanced the difficulty of carrying on business on a profitable basis.

AGRICULTURE.

Little improvement, if any, is to be recorded in agriculture, in spite of the fact that the conditions as a whole have been favourable. The drought in the early part of the year resulted in a light hay crop in many districts, with correspondingly low prices for stock, owing to the fear of a scarcity of keep for the winter months. Cereal crops, on the other hand, at all events on the heavier lands, were good, and assisted by the fine weather, were harvested in good order and are showing satisfactory yields. The low prices obtainable for all classes of grain can hardly, unless under exceptional circumstances, have enabled farmers to produce at a profit, and this state of affairs is only too clearly reflected in the recent statement that there are a quarter of a million acres less under the plough in 1929 than in the previous year.

Sugar beet has again come to the rescue in many directions, and the yield both in tonnage and sugar content in some districts has proved to be a record one, but the depression which on the whole prevails in the sphere of agriculture continue to be a source of anxiety; drastic and immediate measures are necessary if still further land is not to go out of arable cultivation.

THE OUTLOOK.

It is, indeed, difficult to form an opinion as to the prospects for the year which we have now entered. We are faced with problems

in many directions which demand the greatest care and circumspection for their solution.

Our great basic industries—cotton, iron and steel—are all clamouring for further supplies of capital to instal new machinery to bring processes up to date and to effect such improvements and reorganisation as they confidently hope will enable them to compete successfully in the markets of the world, and where is this capital to come from? No one, I take it, would suggest that the banks should permanently find the money required for capital expenditure and lock up their resources in machinery and bricks and mortar. It never has been the policy of the English joint-stock banks to immobilise their funds in such investments, and I trust it never will be. Their function is to provide money for their customers' current needs, and it is owing to the fact that this has been their guiding light, and to the wise provision for eventualities which they have made from their profits in happier days, that they have been able, even in times of crisis, to assist their clients and at the same time maintain their sound position.

CAPITAL NEEDED.

Capital for permanent investment must be found from the savings of the people, and one is at once faced with the problem, s there a sufficient sum available from this source to meet the demand? It has been true, of course, that savings have shown an accumulation each year, but with the high cost of living, heavy taxation, reduced profits and higher expenses in all directions, are the country's savings at the present time adequate for the purpose? We have been warned that the still further improved social services, unemployment benefits, &c., will again necessitate still higher taxation and also that various duties which now produce revenue will be abandoned. In such an event their contribution to the national revenue must be replaced. No one would wish to see the standard of these services reduced, although now generally on a higher level—in spite of our greater financial sacrifices—than in other countries, but if we are wise we shall cut our coat according to our cloth. Can we have confidence, that under the new conditions for which we have had warnings to be prepared, the savings of the people of this country will provide the still larger sums required for industry? I will not attempt to answer the question, but it is not surprising that many thoughtful people have misgivings on the subject.

Spending and saving are not synonymous terms, and it would almost appear that we are inclined to dissipate our potential capital in unprofitable directions, a continuance of which policy can only result in encroachment on our national wealth.

A PROBLEM.

Have we considered whether even under favourable circumstances our industries can again provide enough work for our ever-growing population to keep the country free from the nightmare of unemployment, and are we offering sufficient inducements as compared with the advantages of existence in this country, to the youth of the operative section of our people to venture their fortunes in lands beyond the seas, as many of our young men in other walks of life have done? The diversion to this object of some of the money spent in other directions, might, I believe, have far-reaching effects.

These are some of the problems it seems to me we have to face at the present time. The situation is, to my mind, too serious to be the play of any political factor. The old saying "the day is always darkest before the dawn," is often a true one, and I believe the difficulties which confront us are not unsurmountable; indeed, some seem to be already in course of solution.

Let us remember that what is true of an individual business is equally true of a nation. A policy of rigid economy, although it might entail the scrapping for a time of idealistic programmes, possibly worthy in themselves, would give substantial grounds for encouragement on which to base our hopes for the future. It may well be also that the circumstances of the time demand that serious consideration should be given to the fiscal policy of the country in order that industry may not feel that it is too severely handicapped in its competition with other countries.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

It may not be inappropriate for me here to say that disregarding all party politics as such, I am sure we all welcome the wholehearted efforts of the Lord Privy Seal in his anxiety to solve the problem of unemployment in this country, and speaking for this bank we welcome any scheme founded on sound economic principles which will contribute to the extension of our overseas trade, without which we cannot enjoy that measure of prosperity which our increasing population, and the necessities of our time, require. It would be fatal, however, if such public intervention were to tempt us for a moment to relax our individual efforts or to induce us to rely on the possibility of State assistance taking the place of personal endeavour. Our future depends in the long run, not on Government ordinances or on conferences and committees, but in the efforts, industry and enterprise of a united people.

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts, as presented, be received and adopted."

Mr Colin Frederick Campbell (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, and, the chairman having replied to shareholders' questions, it was carried unanimously.

The chairman then proposed the re-election of Mr Maurice Otho FitzGerald, Sir Arthur Balfour, Bt., K.B.E., Brig.-Gen. the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., Sir Austin Low, C.I.E., Sir Alfred Edward Lewis and Capt. Evan Cadogan Eric Smith, M.C., as directors.

Mr F. C. Le Marchant seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

On the proposition of Mr F. W. Tanner, seconded by Mr H. C. Scrimgeour, Sir Nicholas Edwin Waterhouse, K.B.E. (of Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company), and Sir William Henry Peat, K.B.E. (of Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company), were reappointed auditors for the current year.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Sir Hugh Bell, Bt., C.B., moved a vote of thanks to the directors, general managers, branch managers, and other officers of the bank for their efficient management and services.

Mr E. T. Hargraves seconded the vote, which was cordially passed, and brief acknowledgments were made by the chairman and Sir Alfred Lewis.

A vote of thanks to Sir Harry Goschen for his able conduct in the chair, proposed by Sir Frederic A. Aykroyd, Bt., and seconded by Mr Cecil Braithwaite, concluded the proceedings.

HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL BANK OF PEST.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

INCREASED PROFITS—DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

The balance sheet for the year 1929—as approved of by the board of directors in their meeting of January 18th—shows, including the amount brought forward from 1928, a net profit of R. 6,009,140.95, against P. 5,805,157.60 last year. Profits already realised on several transactions concluded do not figure in this year's earnings.

The eighty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders will be held on February 4th. The board of directors will propose to the general meeting to distribute a dividend of P. 7, as last year. The sum needed for the dividend is P. 3,500,000 and P. 1,300,000 in 1928, P. 1,200,000 will be added to the reserves. The charity funds of the staff will receive P. 60,000.

INCREASED SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

It deserves to be specially mentioned that savings deposits increased by P. 42,802,002 to P. 137,687,908, against P. 94,885,906 last year. On the other hand, deposits on current accounts decreased from P. 121,637,825 to P. 107,505,685. Creditors figure only with P. 10,657,409 in the balance sheet. This sum represents the reimbursement credits used abroad on behalf of the clients of the bank.

Bills discounted increased from P. 90,434,544 to P. 104,008,842, mortgage loans rose from P. 51,776,189 to P. 58,151,366, and loans to municipalities from P. 6,443,638 to P. 9,927,832.

Deposits with banks and bankers increased from P. 11,386,023 to P. 37,617,979 by P. 26,231,956.

CONSERVATIVE VALUATION OF SECURITIES.

The securities owned by the bank were valued—in accordance with our time-honoured principle—very conservatively. The decline of the prices of security holdings has been fully covered, and thus the silent reserves contained in the portfolio remained unaltered.

INCREASED TURNOVER.

The turnover, as shown on one side of the general ledger, including the turnover of the branch offices, rose from P. 9,282,143,000 in 1928 to P. 12,401,584,000 in 1929. The turnover of the deposit department increased from P. 2,905,003,000 to P. 3,356,467,000, of the cash department from P. 3,449,846,000 to P. 3,551,582,000, and of foreign exchanges and bills from P. 3,681,845,000 to P. 4,239,843,000.

Overhead expenses were about the same as in 1928.

MARTINS BANK LIMITED.

IMPROVED RECORD IN DIFFICULT YEAR.
TRADE FEATURES AND PROBLEMS.
BANKS AND RECONSTRUCTION.
COTTON TRADE DIFFICULTIES.
MR A. ALLAN PATON'S CONFIDENCE IN THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH.

The ninety-ninth annual meeting of shareholders of Martins Bank, Ltd., was held, on Tuesday last, the 28th ultimo, at the Exchange Hotel, Liverpool.

Mr A. Allan Paton, C.B., the Chairman, presided over a large attendance.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report having been read,

The Chairman said : The report and accounts have been circulated and I assume it is your pleasure they should be taken as read. —(Agreed.)

Since our last annual meeting we have suffered a great loss through the untimely death of Sir Aubrey Brocklebank, a deputy-chairman, who was an active and greatly valued member of the board. We regret deeply that he is no longer with us, and that a family connection which has existed since 1833 has been severed.

The vacancy on the board has been filled by the appointment of Mr A. Harold Bibby, of Messrs Bibby Bros. and Company, which we shall ask you to confirm.

I turn now to the balance sheet which is presented in a slightly different form this year, partly in compliance with the new Companies Act and in part furnishing the fuller details suggested by the Cunliffe Committee. In connection with the new Companies Act we propose to revise our Articles and to present them to you in their new form for adoption at a subsequent meeting.

INCREASED PROFITS.

It will be seen from the profit and loss account that the net profit for the year amounts to £836,239, which compares with £825,434 a year ago. Including £111,499 brought forward, the disposable balance is £947,738, out of which the board propose that £100,000 should be applied in reduction of the premises account, which will then stand at £2,198,648, as compared with £2,068,717 after last year's allocation from profits. The board also propose to place £50,000 to reserve, bringing that fund up to £3,507,872, and to pay the usual dividend of 16 per cent. which will absorb £665,607, leaving £132,131 to be carried forward to the next account. In these difficult times we may fairly congratulate ourselves on such results.

I do not wish to detain you for any length of time over the balance sheet, but you will no doubt welcome some explanatory comments, especially of the items which appear for the first time.

SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES.

I would first draw your attention to the substantial amount of our own resources. The capital, reserve fund and profit and loss account together total £8,132,849, from which must, of course, be deducted the half-year's dividend of £332,803, payable on the 30th instant. This will leave the satisfactory figure of £7,800,046.

Current, deposit and other accounts stand at £82,620,493, against £82,932,881 a year ago, while, by a coincidence, loans and advances appear also to be less by about the same amount at £42,246,172 showing a ratio of 51 per cent. to the deposits. Actually, items which are now shown separately, but were formerly grouped under the heading of "Advances to Customers and Other Accounts" amount to £1,696,559, so that in fact the loans have increased by £1,342,253.

Our cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England (which are equivalent to cash) amount to £10,332,181, or a ratio of 12.5 per cent. to our liabilities to depositors. Money at call and short notice and our balances with British banks, plus cheques in course of collection, amount to £8,951,988, and combining this with the cash figures we get a total of £19,284,169, or a ratio of 23.3 per cent. to liabilities.

Balances abroad are with a large number of leading banks and represent funds employed in meeting the foreign requirements of our customers. Our correspondents also keep sterling accounts with us and, on balance, we generally have more foreign funds in our hands than we keep in accounts abroad.

Treasury Bills and British Bills of Exchange are self-explanatory, but I might say that the latter are all of good quality with an early date of maturity.

The item of Colonial and Foreign Bills includes £100,000 India Government Treasury Bills, and a substantial part of the remainder bear the endorsement of first-class foreign banks.

INVESTMENTS.

The decrease in the investments is reflected mainly in the item of Treasury Bills amounting to £3,370,000, in the increase in cash by £1,210,234 and in the larger totals of money at call, etc., by £858,116. Ignoring small variations in other items, the balance is accounted for by the previously mentioned increase in loans and advances and the diminution of £312,388 in the amount due to depositors.

Of the investments themselves I need only refer to the item of £861,953 in respect of Other First-Class Investments. This is largely composed of British railway debenture and preference stocks which have been written down below current values.

Items in transit represent inter-branch transactions which have since been wholly completed.

Other assets comprise items not readily classified under other heads and include our holding of Yorkshire Penny Bank shares valued at £131,250. Properties not in the occupation of the Bank are also included.

Premises have been liberally written down and are worth more than the figure at which they stand, but at the same time we consider it prudent to continue the policy of depreciation. Mention is made in the Report of fourteen new offices which we have arranged to open.

BANKS AND INDUSTRY.

Passing from our purely domestic concerns, I would refer in the first place to the appointment by the Government of a Committee to inquire into Banking, Finance and Credit. In view of much ill-informed criticism bankers generally welcome the appointment of such a committee and will await with interest as well as confidence the result of their deliberations. The frank statements recently made at Manchester by the Right Hon. J. H. Thomas will themselves have helped to dispel the erroneous idea that the banks do not assist trade and commerce as they should.

It is with satisfaction that we learn from Mr Thomas of the willingness of the City to assist in the reconstruction of our depressed industries. The banks are willing to play their part, but it must be remembered that the accepted banking practice precludes any investment of their funds in the capital of industrial undertakings.

The banks can only act as intermediaries between those who undertake a financial reconstruction, and the public who eventually subscribe the necessary capital from their accumulated savings.

If this reorganisation takes place and industry is placed once more on a sound competitive basis, credit will be plentiful and we could hope to see our export trade revive.

With regard to the frequent allegation that the needs of the small trader and manufacturer are not adequately met, I think it useful to repeat an anlysis which has been given from this chair in previous years. The analysis in question shows that out of 31,308 overdrawn accounts on our books at the end of the year no fewer than 26,743 were in debt less than £1,000, while, of the remainder, 3,288 were overdrawn by amounts varying from £1,000 to £5,000.

SPECULATION IN AMERICA.

The year will be memorable for the world-wide difficulties created by the speculative fever in America culminating in the Wall Street collapse last October. The speculation assumed the dimensions of an international problem towards the end of 1928, when Wall Street attracted fluid capital from all parts of the world and America definitely ceased to be a lending country. An outflow of gold commenced from London and the Bank of England raised its rate by stages, until the high rate of 6½ per cent. was imposed in September. It is probable that the determined action of the Bank constituted the first step towards pricking the bubble of speculation. When the reaction came the repercussions were felt in every market, but this country, in spite of its own troubles, stood the strain well.

The position created by the Hatry affair is being straightened out with the help of the banks. We have thought it proper, in the general as well as our own interests, to contribute our proportion to the guarantee fund which has been raised. Failing such help a serious state of affairs might have developed, with widespread reactions on credit in general.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

Gold is flowing into the country, and a specially satisfactory feature is that the French demand, which has been abnormal in consequence of the French banks and private individuals requiring to draw on their foreign balances, appears to have diminished. In spite of statements to the contrary in our Press, it seems clear that it is to the interest of the Bank of France and the French market that high rates should not prevail in other centres and that the policy of the Bank of France is adverse to heavy gold imports which would be a disturbing influence.

An interesting development in connection with the payment of Reparations by Germany has been the projected establishment of a Bank for International Settlements. Precisely how the new Bank will function is not yet clear, but it is hoped that it may be a steadying factor of considerable influence.

EFFECT OF NEW COMPANIES ACT.

In this country, the new Companies Act which came into force on November 1st is a decided step in the right direction and will help to protect unwary investors from the unscrupulous company promoter. Offers for sale and foreign company issues are now governed by the same provisions as British company prospectuses; and the requirement that actual profits, as opposed to an average, shall be disclosed will be salutory.

It is impossible for a bank to guarantee the general soundness of a prospectus, but we ourselves exercise every care before we consent to the use of our name and have declined in a number of cases to act as bankers to proposed issues.

Coming to home trade generally, it is idle to pretend that it is doing anything more than holding its own, and in saying this I cannot include the cotton industry. I wish I could be more optimistic but the trend is too uncertain for me to predict any definite improvement in the immediate future.

THE COTTON TRADE.

So far as the cotton trade is concerned, it is evident that as a whole it has suffered a further reverse during the past year.

From the standpoint of shareholders or proprietors in the cotton industry, results in the American section have been disastrous, since the records of the spinning trade show that on a capital of some £47,000,000 little over 1 per cent. profit has been earned; in the weaving section, excluding those engaged in specialities, it is well known that while a few have made small profits the losses of others have been heavy. The distress in the industry is clearly shown by the published figures of liquidations and bankruptcies. It is recorded that 123 cotton companies have gone into liquidation, of which 51 have been reconstructed or amalgamated; that Receivers have been appointed in 34 cases; and that there have been 54 bankruptcies or deeds of arrangement.

Under the changed conditions which have obtained since the war, the British manufacturer has had to face an increasing competition from countries provided with the most up-to-date machinery and equipment, and employing a class of labour which is not only free from any restrictions but is willing and able to turn out by mass production at low wages the class of goods which satisfies the demands of many of our former markets.

It used to be said that the humidity of the Lancashire climate was always one of the factors which placed us ahead of our competitors, but this no longer holds. Our competitors now have mechanical devices for humidifying, and by cheaper living, longer hours of employment and double shifts, create formidable competition, particularly in India and China.

Our spinners and manufacturers have therefore been faced with a set of circumstances over which they have had no control, and for which they are in nowise to blame, though in the better class of goods there is still considerable scope for those possessing capital and initiative.

HOPES FROM REORGANISATION.

No doubt much can be achieved by reorganisation of the trade generally, which means the scrapping of many of the older methods and the breaking down of some customs and conditions which have grown up during past generations.

In the Spinning section the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., which hopes soon to control some 10,000,000 spindles, has been constituted with the help of the Bank of England and the co-operation of the joint stock banks and is engaged in effecting all possible economies.

The Fine Spinning trade, which hitherto has been normally profitable, has followed to some extent in the wake of the American section, and has even been compelled to resort to short time. In this section also, a relatively small combine has been formed under the style of the Combined Egyptian Mills, Ltd., which we understand has already effected substantial economies.

There have, as yet, been no amalgamations of importance in the Weaving trade, but these are likely to follow in due course. In the meantime individual manufacturers have been attempting to improve their output by making arrangements under which their workers will operate more looms per individual without necessarily increasing their work, leaving ancillary processes to be dealt with by younger and cheaper labour.

If the necessary economies are to be accomplished and the cost of production of the finished article reduced to a figure enabling us to meet foreign competition, it seems obvious that it will also be necessary for the subsidiary trades, i.e., bleachers, finishers, dyers, etc., to come to some arrangement with the spinners and weavers.

A Committee has been appointed by the Government to inquire into the whole position of the Cotton industry, and a report is expected in the near future. This report, when published, will, it is hoped, be sufficiently convincing to bring home both to masters and men the necessity for mutual sacrifice, understanding and effort.

PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTION.

The essentials of manufacturing production as I see them are :—

(1) Management,
(2) Machinery,
(3) Labour.

It is recognised in these days that inefficient management must be changed as speedily as possible; that machinery when worn or obsolete should be replaced out of revenue, for which purpose much more generous allowances ought to be made by the Tax Authorities; and that, equally, if labour is inefficient, in the sense of not giving the highest possible return, it must be improved. If the Trade Unions could be brought to see the wisdom of modifying the restrictions they impose on production the result would be immeasurably beneficial to the whole trade of the country and to the workers themselves.

HEAVY BURDEN OF TAXATION.

As far as Lancashire is concerned, the cheapening of costs in this way, though without a reduction of wages, should go far towards recapturing some of our lost markets, but there is still another serious handicap under which manufacturers are labouring. I refer to the burden of imperial and local taxation, which is heavier in this country than in any other, and is, I fear, in danger of being increased still further. Social services are wholly admirable in themselves, but we are spending more than we can afford, and it is time that expenditure, both national and municipal, was checked. Private persons who overspend are soon overtaken by retribution, and Governments and municipalities are not immune, though the consequences are more remote in their cases and less easily discerned for a time. I feel despondent when I contemplate the enormous outlays of the present day and the apparent absence of any disposition to count the cost.

COAL AND POLITICS.

During the past year the Coal industry of the country has been through a period of great difficulty. When the year commenced the trade was literally fighting for its very existence in the export markets of the world, and it was only by accepting orders at, in many cases, less than cost that the industry was able to combat foreign competition and begin gradually to regain a footing overseas. However, as the year progressed the demand for coal and coke increased, with the result that outputs were increased, and this, with the assistance of the Railway Rate Rebate (Anticipation) Scheme, enabled collieries to reduce their costs to some extent, and the margin between selling price and cost has been steadily reduced until now the industry shows every prospect of again becoming self-supporting and profit-earning.

It is unfortunate that political interference with the trade should again be deemed to be necessary, the Government having introduced a Coal Mines Bill which has passed the Second Reading in the House of Commons. It is to be hoped for the sake of the industry as a whole that the provisions of the Bill will be thoroughly overhauled in Committee.

IRON AND STEEL REVIVAL.

No remarks concerning the coal trade are complete without a reference to the iron and steel trade, as the two industries are so largely interdependent. There has, during the past year been a very welcome revival in the iron and steel trades—a revival which has been assisted by the Railway Rebate Scheme to which reference has already been made. Iron and steel manufacturers are, however, viewing with grave concern the prospect of increased prices of fuel when and if the schemes at present before Parliament become law. A very serious aspect of the proposed Coal Marketing Scheme as it affects the iron and steel trades is the proposal to impose levies on coal used for home consumption to enable the price to foreign buyers to be reduced. Thus, we will not only be subsidising export coal at the expense of the home consumer, but we will also be assisting our foreign competitors to produce iron and steel at a cheaper rate. This will inevitably lead to the dumping of more foreign material into this country, thus reducing the home production of iron and steel and thereby increasing unemployment.

SHIPBUILDING.

During the last few months of 1928 shipbuilding centres were much encouraged by the orders for new tonnage which came in more freely than they had done for a long time previously. Unfortunately the gradual delivery of the new ships may have added to the difficulties of shipowners when the heavy fall in freights occurred in the latter part of last year. While in the early months of the year employment could be found for ships, though not at specially remunerative rates, it is clear that the experience of the closing months made it anything but a good year for shipowners, and it is understood that ships have been laid up recently in considerable numbers.

SHIPPING.

Foreign competition, which has been such a trial to other industries in which at one time we were pre-eminent, has also been a considerable factor in shipping. Since 1914 the world's gross tonnage of steam and motor ships has increased by approximately 20 million tons, and of this amount the increase of the tonnage of Great Britain's mercantile fleet is only about 1,154,000. The tonnage of the rest of the world has been increased in 15 years by nearly 19 million tons, an amount almost equal to the total tonnage of Great Britain, though it ought to be said that British tonnage is more effective than a substantial portion of the foreign tonnage.

In many directions the producer is suffering from the effects of over-production or the possession of facilities for production in excess of the world's power of absorption. Shipbuilding illustrates this as we have many more slips than can profitably be used. During the past three years coal mining has been another example, large numbers of collieries being idle. The same may be said of the cotton and woollen trades. These industries, it must be recognised, have always been largely affected by world conditions, and therefore any plan for restriction of output will be futile in the long run unless it is universal.

WHEAT SUPPLIES.

During the first half of 1929 trading in wheat on the Liverpool Grain Market was on a large scale, the Continent buying very freely. In the second half of the year developments were most unusual, very large quantities being sent to Liverpool owing to lack of demand on the Continent.

The New Year has opened with big stocks in Great Britain and generally good supplies on the Continent. Europe is expected to buy much wheat in America and Canada, but it is probable the demand will not be really heavy, and Argentina and Australia will probably contribute very fair quantities to the international supply. The world's supply of wheat is ample for all requirements and the new winter crops have made a good start.

During the year the milling trade of the country has been rationalised and this should greatly improve the position of millers with regard to the financial results of their industry.

WOOLLEN TRADE FEATURES.

The wool textile industry has had another disappointing year, and conditions have been difficult in all branches of the trade. There have been few bright features and the disheartening experiences of 1929, coming after the difficulties of previous years, have caused depression and lack of confidence. An outstanding feature has been the instability of wool values and the trend has been persistently downwards. Since the upward movement which commenced in 1927 and reached the highest point in March, 1928, prices have steadily declined. In view of this almost continuous fall, the general policy has been to carry light stocks, and with buyers cautious about placing bulk orders hand-to-mouth operations have been general. In most countries demand for wool textiles appears to have been restricted, and throughout the year manufacturing activity has been curtailed, both at home and on the Continent. In addition to lack of stability in prices, the wages dispute in the local industry has created a feeling of uncertainty.

In the export trade certain markets have taken fair quantities of our goods, but other markets, such as the Far East, which formerly provided a profitable outlet for wool products, have again been disappointing. Foreign competition has also increased, and orders have been lost not on account of the superiority of foreign goods but owing to the fact that our competitors were able to offer them at prices below those at which the goods could be profitably manufactured in this country.

AGRICULTURE.

The bulk of our farming customers, who depend more upon their stock than farmers in some other areas, have had on the whole a better experience. In Cheshire, for example, dairy farming is the predominant feature and is not so difficult as in other parts; and in Westmorland the breeding and rearing of cattle is a very essential part of farming operations. In Northumberland, again, sheep farming is the special feature.

Values for dairy cattle have been higher than for the past two years, and sheep and lambs have also commanded good prices.

Most of the crops were above the average and were harvested in good condition.

THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH.

I have been unable to give a very good account of a number of our leading industries, but none the less I do not share the gloomy forebodings of those who persuade themselves that the industrial North is in decay. *The Times* recently published an excellent article on industry in the North, and a leader in the same issue described it as "instinct with self-reliance, and confident, even in adversity, of winning through to success."

I do not myself believe in the alleged transfer of industry to the South on any serious scale. It is true that the lighter trades have tended to settle in the South but, with the exception of motor car manufacture, they do not represent anything like the same amount of employment as our heavy industries.

"NATIONAL PROSPERITY STILL DEPENDS ON THE NORTH."

We have numerous industries other than the older staple ones, and I am satisfied that, generally speaking, national prosperity still depends on the North. I conclude on a note of confidence that our people, while still faced with great difficulties, will in the long run prove themselves equal to meeting the changed conditions of our domestic and export trade.

Before moving the Resolution I would like to express in your name to the General Manager, Mr Shawyer, to our London Managing Director, Mr Bromley-Martin, and to the District General Managers and staff of the bank our appreciation of their loyal and efficient services.

The spirit of loyalty animates the whole staff, and I think you will agree with me that we owe them a debt of gratitude for their services. (Applause.)

I now move "That the report of the directors now submitted and already printed and distributed among the proprietors be adopted."

Lord Colwyn, in seconding, spoke of the growth and progress of Martins Bank, and the position it had now taken in the banking affairs of the country as the "Big Sixth." Referring to the industrial position, he said there was a power and virility in the people of the North which would enable them to overcome the difficulties.

The motion was carried.

Mr W. S. Crichton proposed, and Lord Ebbisham seconded, the re-election of Mr G. E. B. Bromley-Martin, Mr J. H. B. Forster, Mr Edward Paul and Mr W. Peart Robinson as directors, and the confirmation of the appointment of Mr A. Harold Bibby as a director, and this was agreed to.

VOTE OF THANKS.

On the motion of Mr Robert Rankin, seconded by Colonel J. G. Riddick, the thanks of the meeting were accorded to the directors, the committee of management, and to the general manager and other officers of the bank for their valuable services during the year.

Mr A. F. Shawyer, general manager, in reply, expressed his appreciation of the consideration of the directors and committee of management, and warmly acknowledged the able assistance of his head office colleagues, the district managers and the staff generally.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

DISTRICT BANK LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.
FINANCIAL POSITION "EXTREMELY STRONG."
POOR YEAR FOR COTTON TRADE.
SIR CHRISTOPHER T. NEEDHAM'S REVIEW.

The annual meeting of shareholders was held on the 24th ultimo, at the head office, Spring Gardens, Manchester. The Chairman, Sir Christopher T. Needham, presided. The other directors present were :—Mr A. A. G. Tulloch (deputy-chairman), Mr R. Noton Barclay (the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Manchester), Mr F. J. Dickens, Mr R. H. Hodgson, Mr Kenneth Lee, Mr G. L. McKelvie, Sir William Peter Rylands, and Mr Samuel Turner.

Mr Dafforn, the manager, read the notice convening the meeting.

Mr D. Halliday, of Messrs Halliday, Pearson and Company, chartered accountants, read the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said :—

I assume that you will take the report and accounts as read.

I would like to begin my remarks to-day with the reminder that this is the bank's first annual meeting of its second century. It is of special personal interest that Mr R. Noton Barclay, one of our directors, is this year Lord Mayor of Manchester. He has served Manchester as a former president of the Chamber of Commerce and as a Member of Parliament, and in many other ways. In congratulating him on his election to this high office, we know that he will find in it an additional opportunity of giving service to the community.

TRADE REVIEW.

In looking back on the year 1929—an eventful and troublous one—it affords encouragement to note that the industrial production figures of the Board of Trade for the first three-quarters of the year show an increase over those of 1928. Taking 100 as the basis of comparison for the year 1924, when the last census of production was made, the percentages were 110.2, 111.4 and 110.3 for the March, June and September quarters respectively. The estimate for the December quarter is not yet available, but the estimated average number of insured persons shows an increase of about 202,000 for the last quarter of 1929 as compared with 1928. It is clear, judging from all available data, that there was an increase of industrial production during the year 1929 as compared with the year 1928.

With regard to our overseas trade, exports were up by £5,976,000 and imports increased by £25,993,000. The net export of bullion and specie was £15,937,750, and in the aggregate the net adverse visible balance was £366,356,000, or nearly £8,000,000 more than the year 1928. But in comparing the values of our overseas trade it must be remembered that we have witnessed a fall in sterling wholesale prices of 8½ per cent. during 1929, which follows falls of 3 per cent. in 1928, 2 per cent. in 1927, and 5 per cent. in 1926. If we calculate by volume, our exports during 1929 compare favourably with preceding years.

The estimate of invisible exports made annually by the Board of Trade is not yet available. It would, however, appear that the net estimated national income for 1929 from overseas transactions may be about £140,000,000, or about £10,000,000 less than the preceding year. In view of the difficulties of the year—financial, political and industrial—this credit balance of the country's overseas activities may be regarded with moderate satisfaction.

THE COTTON TRADE.

The history of the cotton trade during 1929 is not a cheerful one. The total exports of British goods last year were valued at £729,555,000, of which 18.6 per cent. were cotton textiles valued at £135,449,000, a decrease of £9,853,000 as compared with the year 1928. The trading results of the spinning mills using American cotton were again in the main unprofitable. Production is estimated to have been 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of full capacity, and the demands on the mills using Egyptian cotton were not as great as in the preceding year. It was not a good year for manufacturers of ordinary piece-goods, but producers of specialities in finer goods have shown successful results.

Perhaps the most satisfactory feature to be noted is that, during the past year, definite progress has been made in the effort to put the cotton trade upon an efficient economic basis; there is discernible a fresh outlook upon its problems, and, though the difficulties continue to be great, there is promise of greater enterprise. The Lancashire Cotton Corporation, adumbrated a year ago, came into being during the past year. At our last annual meeting I stated that we intended to support the project, and we have done so. The formation of this corporation, which is largely due to the leadership and help of Mr Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, has not been accomplished without many difficulties which have involved sacrifices. It controls at the present time 75 mills, representing 7,250,000 spindles and 20,000 looms, and additional units will be added. It will thus be an important example of rationalisation.

The word rationalisation is used in many senses; I understand it to mean methods of technique and organisation designed to secure the minimum waste of effort or material. Another amalgamation of mills took effect last year, controlling about 3,000,000 spindles using Egyptian cotton. The formation of these amalgamations clearly marks the breaking away from the old Lancashire traditional unit system, and there is no doubt that opinion in the trade has definitely turned towards the view that the day of the small unit of production has gone. With regard to the present outlook, trading has not yet shown any indications of advance on last year. Conditions in India and the drop in the price of silver are two factors which are at the moment retarding business in the East. There has been no great change in other markets.

TWO MAIN PROBLEMS.

The joint committee of cotton trade organisations which, by the inclusion of the cotton trade unions, became a fully representative body in 1928, has continued its inquiries. There are two main problems before the trade, one relating to the production of the great staple lines where the price of the finished product is the dominating factor, and the other relating to the maintenance of our supremacy in the finer and more diverse types of goods where quality, finish, design, etc., are the chief considerations. To enable Lancashire to recover its trade in the staple lines, it is necessary to give producers the security and economy of full capacity production. It is therefore of the greatest importance to initiate methods which will more effectively co-ordinate the services of spinners, manufacturers, finishers and merchants in the production and distribution of staple lines than those existing at the present time. The Committee of Inquiry which the Government has set up to examine the position and prospects of the cotton industry has already performed a useful function by causing every section of the trade to review its own position. Whatever the recommendations of that committee may be, it cannot be doubted that they will stimulate the development of the work which the joint committee has undertaken.

The British Cotton Industry Research Association has continued its usefulness in dealing with questions requiring a vertical knowledge of the processes of the industry. Its work, partly done in co-operation with the British Cotton Growing Association and the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, has increased its importance as a link between the grower and the spinner. The better buying of cotton, the more economical choice and blending of growths help towards lowering the cost of production. Its work on the improvement in the efficiency and scientific control of processes, and on the adaptation of existing machinery to produce other cloths and for use with various forms of rayon, must prove of increasing value to the cotton trade. Its recent discovery of a new antiseptic will be of considerable advantage to some parts of the industry.

The British Cotton Growing Association reports that it is estimated that increased crops of cotton were produced in 1929 in Nigeria, Uganda, Tanganyika, the Sudan, Nyassaland and Iraq, and it is believed that the total crop will be not less than 439,000 bales. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation has continued its valuable work. The cotton industry will welcome the decision to reduce the levy in aid of the growth of cotton within the Empire from 3d. per bale of 500 lb. of cotton to one penny per bale. The importation direct by the Manchester Ship Canal during the past season totalled 679,816 bales of all growths, an increase of 121,068 bales over the previous season. Much of the credit for this material increase is due to the establishment by the Manchester Cotton Association of the Central Selling Rooms for "spot" and shipment cotton. This development, which was started just over two years ago, is regarded as fully justified.

IRON AND STEEL.

The iron and steel industry shows a great improvement in tonnage over 1928. The production of pig iron during 1929 was 7,579,500 tons, the highest since 1920, and of steel 9,654,700 tons,

the highest since 1917, when under the stimulus of war requirements steel production amounted to 9,716,500 tons. The 1929 figures show increases of 969,400 tons and 1,135,000 tons respectively over 1928. The financial improvement, however, has not been commensurate with the considerable increase in production. Economies obtained from working near to capacity were more than offset by the increased cost of raw materials. Prices, which rose to some extent during the year, were kept down partly by the desire of iron and steel makers to do nothing which would check the increasing demand, and partly by the influence of foreign competition. Imports from the Continent were rather less than in 1928, and amounted to 2,816,600 tons, while exports increased by 118,100 tons, and amounted to 4,379,400 tons. The competition from the Continent is still severe, and is helped by the much lower wage levels abroad and our heavy charges for social services. Taking the wage level of the United Kingdom as 100 per cent., it is estimated that German rates are about 75 per cent., French 50 per cent., and Belgian 45 per cent.

The year 1929 saw an extension of the principle of amalgamation by the merger between the works of Dorman, Long and Company, Ltd., and Bolckow, Vaughan and Company, Ltd., and a further movement towards better economic organisation of the industry by the proposals to combine certain portions of the undertakings of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., and Baldwins, Ltd. The policy of rationalising the steel industry is gaining recognition, and the amalgamations which have taken place help towards this end. The steel makers are endeavouring to expand the demand for their products by means of the British Steel Works Association, which is designed to develop the use of steel constructional work by research of a scientific and technical character and also by the discovery of new uses and application of steel structures of all kinds. A notable step forward in the co-operation of the steelworks is the formation of the British Steel Exports Association for developing export markets, and it is reported that the outlook is most promising in certain overseas markets. Business in the new year has not so far been very active and competition from the Continent appears to be keener. It is not easy to speak of 1930 with any confidence until the result of the Government Coal Bill is known. Should there be an increase in the cost of fuel Great Britain's iron and steel industry must undoubtedly suffer. The shipbuilding trade, which uses so much steel, was busier than in 1928, and we are building at present more than the rest of the world combined. The machine-tool trade was more satisfactory and the electrical engineering trade was most active. Important overseas contracts were executed, and the value of the exports showed a considerable increase. Depression again characterised the textile machinery trade.

COAL.

There was an increased production of coal, and the industry as a whole is in a more favourable position than a year ago. Exports were up by about 10,250,000 tons, with an increased value of £9,558,079. Whilst we at home are having to consider prospective legislation in regard to the industry, it is of interest to recall the meeting at Geneva convened by the International Labour Office at the request of the League Assembly to consider hours, wages, and conditions in the European coal industry. We are reminded that the question is not merely one of national importance but of international importance as well, for at the Geneva Conference held last week there were, in addition to the British, representatives of eight other coal-producing countries of Europe. It is true that the Conference was a technical and preparatory one, with no power to commit the countries taking part in it, but it is a step forward that such a meeting should have taken place at all, and may be the first step towards some sort of agreement at a later date which will limit undue and unfair competition.

BANK RATE.

The variability of the Bank of England discount rate during the past year, when it changed no less than five times, as compared with a steady 4½ per cent. during 1928, is an indication of the perplexity in regard to finance which characterised 1929. The Bank lost 23 millions of its gold during the first nine months of which it recovered during the final quarter of the year about 16 millions. The extraordinary drain of gold from the Bank of England was caused by the Stock Exchange boom in America, where interest rates were very high, and by demands from Berlin and Paris. Accordingly the Bank, owing to the necessity of protecting its stock of gold, which at its lowest point was reduced to £129,100,000, was compelled to advance its rate to 5½ per cent. and then to 6½ per cent. The 6½ per cent. rate had its effect rapidly, and gold began to flow back to London. The Bank was quick to respond in the interest of trade and commerce to the altered situation, and reduced its rate from 6½ per cent. to 6 per cent. on October 31st, to 5½ per cent. on November 21st, and to 5 per cent. on December 12th. The country owes much to the skilful and timely action of the Bank of England during a year of extreme difficulty. One often hears the view expressed that banks welcome high money rates. This is entirely a mistaken idea. The effect of a high Bank rate on trade is soon felt, and the volume of business falls off; confidence is wanting, and no extensions of plant or trade commitments are willingly entered into. It is to the advantage of bankers and traders alike when there is a stable and moderate rate of interest, so that confidence can be maintained and commercial enterprise encouraged.

PROBLEM OF LIMITED SUPPLY OF GOLD.

The business world is coming to realise the great need of stability of price level, the lack of which underlies many of our economic difficulties. The gold standard has been almost universally adopted, and the problem of how best to deal with the world's limited supply of gold is pressing and insistent. It is seven years since the Genoa Conference discussed the desirability of international action, which should aim at the stabilisation, as far as possible, of the purchasing power of gold. Expert scientific knowledge is wanted for the solution of these problems, and investigations are being pursued. A Committee of the League of Nations is engaged in considering the problem of the adequacy of the supply of gold needed to carry on the world's trade and cognate matters. The International Bank, which is to be set up under the Young Plan, will also be concerned in these matters. In a recent speech Mr Snowden expressed the hope that this International Bank will be able to carry out what was wanted in the Genoa resolution, and devise means of international co-operation for the purpose of economising the use of gold and some machinery for preventing the unnecessary transhipment of gold. During 1929 the efflux of gold from this country from causes wholly outside our control reacted to the detriment of our trade and finance, and it is of the utmost importance to see what can be done to counter such ill-effects by means within our own control.

The important Committee appointed at the end of last year by the Chancellor of the Exchequer must also have these problems in mind. The terms of reference are wide :—"To enquire into banking, finance, and credit, paying regard to the factors, both internal and international, which govern their operation, and to make recommendations primarily for the relief of industries, and calculated to enable these agencies to promote the development of trade and commerce and the employment of labour." Whilst the financial experiences of the past year have shown both the stability and elasticity of the English banking system, we welcome this Committee, and it is with pleasure, which I am sure you will all share, that I refer to the fact that Mr Tulloch, the deputy-chairman and a managing director of this bank, is one of its members. Its report will be awaited with great eagerness, for the problems it will consider are of great importance and affect the interests of the whole country.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The problem of unemployment is still one of anxiety for the country, and the statement of Mr J. H. Thomas, in his recent visit to Manchester, that in considering the steps which might be taken to produce a better employment position by improving the organisation and equipment of British industries, support will be given by the City to plans which lead to this end is of interest to Lancashire, as elsewhere. There could not be a more direct incentive towards that reorganisation of industry, the need for which has been admitted, but which has been deferred for lack of means. This bank has already shown its support of the principle of reorganising industry, as in the instance of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, and will be ready and willing, having due regard to the interests of its depositors and shareholders, to take its part in carrying this principle into further effect.

BALANCE SHEET.

I turn now to consideration of the report and balance sheet, which have been circulated. Taking the liabilities side of the balance sheet first you will observe that the issued capital has been increased (in accordance with the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meetings held in March and April last) by the issue of 316,000 "B" shares of £1 each as a bonus to the shareholders in celebration of the centenary of the Bank. To provide the necessary sum for this purpose £200,000 has been transferred from the amount carried forward from last account and £116,000 from certain undivided profits. The paid-up capital of the bank, therefore, now stands at £2,212,000.

Our current, deposit, and other accounts stand at practically the same figure as that of last year, which is, I think you will agree, satisfactory in view of the conditions, both financial and industrial, which have prevailed during the year.

The next small item of £400 has relation to certain subsidiary companies of the bank which were formed some time ago for technical reasons and to facilitate the transfer of securities on behalf of our customers.

ASSETS.

On the assets side cash in hand and at the Bank of England amounts to £8,063,749. Our money at call and short notice shows a diminution as compared with this item in last year's balance sheet. On the other hand, our advances to customers show an increase of £1,077,000. Investments amount to £14,826,830, which is a slight increase as compared with 1928. In spite of the general fall in prices last year, it is satisfactory to be able to state that the market value of the bank's investments remains materially in excess of the book value. Bills of exchange show little variation. It will be observed that the total liquid assets are nearly £32,000,000, or 60.8 per cent. of our liabilities to customers on current, deposit and other accounts. From the point of view of our depositors the position is, therefore, extremely strong. Bank property account has been increased by £26,000. Your directors have decided to follow the more usual practice of charging expenditure on bank premises to this account instead of against profits as hitherto. Bank property account now stands at £726,095, as against last year's figure of £700,000, and is arrived at by the addition of £46,095 in respect of the year's expenditure, less an allocation of £20,000 from profit and loss account.

PROFITS AND ALLOCATION.

The net profits for the year are shown at £510,526 10s. 3d., after payment of all expenses and after providing for bad and doubtful debts and income tax (other than income tax on dividends). In comparing the result of 1929 with that of the previous year we have, as I have already mentioned, adopted a different method of dealing with the expenditure in respect of bank property; we also show the amount of directors' fees separately. Each of these items was formerly included in the expenses of the year. The amount brought forward was £325,698 16s. 10d., less £200,000 which I have alluded to in connection with the issue of bonus shares. Adding the profit for the year, the amount available is £636,225 7s. 1d. The dividends recommended absorb £379,200, leaving a balance of £257,025 7s. 1d., from which fall to be deducted directors' fees, £7,800, appropriations to pensions and annuities fund, £40,000, and to bank property account, £20,000. There remains a balance of £189,225 7s. 1d., which it is proposed to carry forward.

The number of accounts on our books continues to increase, and a large number of savings accounts have been opened during the year.

Before moving the resolution I wish to take this opportunity of expressing the sincere appreciation of the board of the work done by the staff of the bank throughout the past year.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet. This was seconded and carried.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs Halliday, Pearson and Company, reappointed.

The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF THE RIVER PLATE, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The annual meeting of the Mortgage Company of the River Plate, Ltd., was held, on the 27th ultimo, at 52, Moorgate, London. Mr James Anderson (the chairman) said that the net revenue for the year amounted to £82,364, as against £85,607, a decline of £3,243. The result, however, could not be regarded as other than satisfactory in a year which had not been a favourable one for the company from any point of view. In the mortgage business there was not much activity during the year, and this comparative stagnation had been the company's experience for several years past. In December last it was announced that the Argentine Government had closed the Conversion Office, which meant that the country had once again entered into a period of inconvertibility. This reversion to inconvertibility was very disconcerting and disappointing to all British interests in the country.

With regard to the company's investments in London, their valuation at the close of the year showed a considerable increase over the amount at which they stood in the balance sheet. The available profit for the year, after providing for debenture interest, income tax and all charges, amounted to £82,364, which enabled the board to declare a total dividend of 18 per cent. for the year, to place £10,000 to reserve, raising it to £450,000, and to add £3,365 to the carry-forward, raising it to £103,156. The large reserve and balance of undivided profits placed the company in a very strong position, so that they could view with equanimity any temporary set-back in income.

The report was unanimously adopted.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

QUESTION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES INVESTMENTS.

The annual general meeting of the Sun Life Assurance Society was held, on the 28th ultimo, at 63 Threadneedle Street, London, the Hon. Sir William Henry Goschen, K.B.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said that an assurance company needed all the friends it could make, as a large part of its work consisted of obtaining new connections. One had to recognise that life assurance was an intangible article to those who did not really appreciate its value. They in the business knew its virtues, but it was the absence of that knowledge among people in general and the difficulties of the appeal to them that made the progress of their business depend upon the expenditure of great labour. The Society's new business this year had again exceeded that of previous years. The ordinary business had shown a steady expansion; it had again responded to the increasing effort that they put forward in the form of additional outdoor staff and increased branch and agency organisation. Endowment assurance was still by far the most popular form of assurance, and, although they were continually advising proposers to make their assurances mature at a later rather than an earlier age, they were by no means apostles of the whole-life school, with its attendant unfavourable comments that arose out of contracts continuing into advanced old age.

ABNORMAL CLAIMS.

The premium income again showed a large increase, consequent upon the amount and nature of the new business. The claim item was abnormal. The deaths of three of their single premium policyholders, assured for relatively large amounts, caused the amount of claims to appear large; the number of deaths that arose among their ordinary policy-holders had, however, been in excess of those of recent years. Even so, the rate of mortality experienced by the Society was very low, and their without medical examination experience pursued its satisfactory way and caused them no anxiety.

The phases they had passed through in the past year had afforded great opportunities for activity in investments, and when he stated that the total of their purchases and sales during the year had exceeded £11,000,000 the members would appreciate the effort that had been put into the management of the Society's assets.

FINANCING INDUSTRY—A WARNING.

The world of insurance was passing through a time of unrest, but he could at this meeting speak of life assurance only. Enterprise, competition, original ideas, were all welcome so long as they led to healthy development. There was one phase, however, of which he thought offices should beware. Last year he referred to the exhortations that life offices should invest in ordinary shares as distinguished from prior issues at fixed rates of interest. He observed that their friends in the United States had been authorised by their Government Department to invest to some degree in ordinary shares, and after what had happened in recent months one had the thought of wishing them luck and wondering how long the authority would remain. Now, however, they seemed to be getting beyond that, and assurance companies were being called upon to "finance industry." This was assuming the form of taking large interests in certain industrial companies or groups of companies. If this became common, assurance companies would become financing institutions, and the business of assurance would become of secondary importance and exist principally for the purpose of collecting money for use in the industrial financial world. An unduly large part of the assets might well become dependent upon one industry; in the event of such industry not flourishing, large losses might be made, and the officials of the company might be called upon to share the management of an industrial business of which they could have little knowledge. These financial transactions generally ran into comparatively large figures, and, although a few of the largest offices might be able to command the requisite expert knowledge and so face the difficulties, he feared that, if the smaller ones were led to follow suit they would get into matters beyond their control. They had recently had some reminders from the Continent as to what might happen when insurance companies launched out into business that was not insurance, and he thought those responsible should take every care to bear in mind that the primary business of an insurance company was insuring, not financing. Fire and casualty companies were to a very large extent trustees of moneys for widows and orphans, or at any rate of savings for old age, and the companies should not, therefore, invest their moneys in any way that might prejudice the coming beneficiaries.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR'S TRADE.
CONDITIONS IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.
TRADE AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS DURING PAST YEARS.
MR GERARD POWYS DEWHURST'S INTERESTING REVIEW.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited, was held on Thursday, January 30th, in the Board Room, Mosley Street, Manchester, Mr Gerard Powys Dewhurst (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr R. Thorburn) read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts, said :—

With your permission, ladies and gentlemen, I propose to take the report in your hands as read, and with no changes of particular importance during the year to report in the personnel of your board or executive, I will, if I may, turn to the figures of the balance sheet.

As you will notice, in order to comply with the Companies Act of 1929, these are presented in a somewhat different form and more detailed character.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

On the liability side our capital remains the same, but our reserve fund at £1,000,000 shows a reduction of £350,000, to which I will refer later, while our deposits at £31,792,000 are rather lower by some £400,000. Our liability also for acceptances and endorsements on behalf of customers shows a decrease on last year's figures of nearly £500,000, a temporary fluctuation, but caused partly by fall in prices.

Turning to the other side of the sheet, our cash stands higher by a quarter of a million, representing 12·2 per cent. of our deposits. This figure was higher than we anticipated, due to unexpected large sums paid in to credit by our customers on December 31st. Our daily average throughout the year is maintained, as near as possible, at 10·5 per cent.

Balances with other banks are less by £259,000, while our short money at £3,412,000 is higher this time by over half a million.

Commercial and bank bills have remained fairly steady throughout the year, and the actual figure at December 31st is almost the same as in the previous balance sheet—the variation in the total figure is due entirely to our holding, at the end of 1928, an exceptionally large amount (approximately £2,000,000) of Treasury bills. This year, as the sheet shows, we had more money at call and notice, and more invested in Government stocks.

We have made considerable purchases during the year of Short Term Treasury Bonds, and these account for an increase of over £600,000 in our British Government securities. Other investments and properties (other than bank premises) previously included as one item, now appear separately, and call for no comment, while a small increase is to be noted in our shareholding interest in the Yorkshire Penny Bank, representing our quota of that bank's new capital, which we have been glad to take up.

The next item, advances to customers, shows a reduction of some £800,000, compared with last year; the total, at £16,825,000, giving a ratio of 52·9 per cent. to our deposits. This figure is well spread, advances of £1,000 or under representing over 85 per cent. of the total number of our overdrawn accounts.

There is little change to report in our bank premises account, and it is satisfactory to note that the earning capacity of our new branches has, on the whole, fully come up to our expectations.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Passing now to our figures of profit and loss, you will see that, after making the usual provisions, our net profit appears at a total of £297,900, showing a decrease of £7,439. This profit, with the balance of £27,465 brought forward from last year, gives us a total of £325,366 now to be dealt with. This, after transferring £50,000 to contingencies account, enables us to pay a dividend at the rate of 13½ per cent. on our "A" shares and 12½ per cent. on our "B" shares, and to carry forward to next year's account a balance of £31,225, which compares with £27,465 brought into the account.

BANK'S ASSISTANCE TO LANCASHIRE'S STAPLE INDUSTRY.

The reduction of profit shown in our statements for the last two or three years is a direct reflection of the state of affairs in the staple industry of Lancashire. In a number of cases it has not been possible to charge interest, either where mills are working under schemes, or during the transition period pending absorption into new combines or mergers. Such schemes of rationalisation involve also sacrifices from all concerned, including the banks, and to provide for the contingencies arising therefrom the Board has transferred £50,000 from the current year's profits, and £350,000 from the general reserve fund, in addition to sums set aside internally, and if by their action in supporting such schemes the Board can feel that the bank has materially contributed in bringing about the reconstruction of the trade in Lancashire and the betterment of its principal industry, then I trust you will agree the sacrifices called for will not have been in vain.

With regard to the dividend, in view of the foregoing your Board have thought it desirable to reduce the rate by 1¼ per cent. on the "A" shares: obviously their first concern must be the replacement of reserves, and the directors feel sure the shareholders will approve of the prudence of this policy.

PROGRESS IN ALL OTHER DIRECTIONS.

Apart from these particular trading difficulties, I am glad to be able to report that the business of the bank shows gratifying progress in every direction, whether judged by fresh business entertained or new accounts opened, with the result that we can again note this year an increase in the proportionate figures of our bank in the clearing house returns of both London and Manchester.

Quite a feature of the year, too, has been the growing popularity of our home safes, which have evidently come to stay, and have proved a definite attraction to the small depositor.

COTTON INDUSTRY.

As regards the year under review, I am afraid I have little of an encouraging nature to report in regard to the cotton industry. A poor and irregular demand for our productions from the Far East and the Continent has been the experience of most of those engaged in the export side of the trade. Difficulties of trade with India have always increased in times of unrest, and movements such as the non-co-operation scheme and threats of boycott of British goods, the usual weapons of the political agitator, have been much in evidence. This factor, with still keener Japanese competition, and uncertainty with regard to an increase in the import duties, have had their effect on business. Trade, too, with China, hampered by the disorganised state of the country, has been temporarily brought to a standstill by the difficulties of exchange, following the heavy fall in silver, with the result that both spinners and manufacturers on this side have experienced the greatest difficulty in keeping machinery running with anything like regularity, which has led to short time and a considerable degree of unemployment for the operatives. One good feature appears, and that is that this country is assured of an ample supply of its raw material for the season, and it is satisfactory to note that growths of cotton, other than American, form an increasing proportion of our market supplies.

LANCASHIRE COTTON CORPORATION.

It would appear that the method of hand-to-mouth buying on the part of our foreign markets has quite superseded the old custom of seasonal purchases, and in view of the number of producers on this side who are forced to sell without regard to the cost of production, their policy would appear to be justified, and it can only be hoped that the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, when once it gets into its stride, will be able to correct this unfortunate tendency. This company has now been registered and has received acceptance of its proposals from 75 concerns containing 5,388,000 spindles and 19,700 looms. This means a "Federation equivalent" of 7,668,000 spindles, which is very hopeful progress towards the 10,000,000 spindles which the promoters fixed as their goal. High hopes are entertained of the success of this corporation in its efforts to resuscitate a large section of the cotton trade from its present position and regain for this country its lost markets. Considering the financial conditions under which this corporation will be operating, a high standard of efficiency may fairly be expected, and critics of this vast scheme of rationalisation will only be disarmed on proof being afforded that sound administration and economical methods have effected their object in substantially reducing the cost of production.

LOWER PRODUCTION COSTS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

It is in this direction, I feel sure, that the salvation of our trade must lie. For quality, durability and design, the goods we produce can hold their own in foreign markets, but the question of price at the rates ruling in distributing centres abroad must be the deciding factor. Certain improvements in our methods of marketing, distribution and selling, can doubtless be achieved and fresh capital, we have reason to believe, will be available for the reconditioning of plant and installation of the latest machinery, but when all is said and done, and every possible economy is effected, the heavy incidence of taxation still remains upon the industry, with the immediate prospect of a still heavier burden to provide for the proposed increase in the cost of social services, in the shape of pensions and unemployment pay which, in a full year, is estimated to amount to about £21,000,000.

NATION'S BURDEN FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.

Without passing any opinion on the merits of such schemes, which fall with particular weight upon our exporting industries, I merely submit that this country, at present, simply cannot afford them.

It may be instructive to compare our outlay in this direction with that of other countries. The cost of the Government's social services per head of population in this country appear to amount to £3 18s. 6d.,

France to 13s.,
Belgium to 5s. 6d.,
Italy to 3s.,
U.S.A. to nil,

and in each of these foreign countries the rate of taxation has been, or is being reduced, with the definite intention of improving the competitive power of their industries. It would almost seem that economy, to which all parties in the State since the war have rendered lip service, is no longer a live issue in politics.

COAL TRADE.

A certain improvement during the year can, I think, be reported in the coal trade, whether judged by the total output of the pits or the figures of tonnage exported, and we have better reports from our South Yorkshire customers than has been the case since the Coal Strike of 1926. Improvements in methods of working, the policy of mechanisation, and the effects of a longer working day have all contributed to lowering the cost of production and increasing the competitive power of the trade in foreign markets. We must hope that legislation now before the House of Commons, while concentrating particularly on this latter side of the trade, will be able to avoid the disastrous effect of the resultant higher prices of coal to our home industries.

IRON AND STEEL.

Though progress in the iron and steel trade during the year has been slow, it has nevertheless been steady. In Sheffield, where our interests are considerable, and also upon the North-East Coast, a distinct measure of improvement in output and even in marginal profit is to be recorded, whilst in no industry have the possibilities of rationalisation been more carefully explored or results attained on so considerable a scale.

MONETARY CONDITIONS DURING PAST YEAR.

During the year disturbed monetary conditions have been the rule rather than the exception, though it was not until the summer that matters became acute. From then onwards heavy gold withdrawals, mostly on French account, and continued weakness of sterling, necessitated a rise in the Bank rate to 6½ per cent. in September. In the meantime, prices of all stocks and shares on the New York Exchange, financed by money costing an exorbitant rate, had reached such a peak that they bore no relation to dividend yields and a collapse of appalling magnitude occurred in October, with the immediate result that the pressure on the world's money markets being relieved, sterling here appreciated in terms of dollars and gold began to return to London, thus enabling the authorities to reduce the Bank rate to 5 per cent. before the end of the year.

HATRY GROUP COLLAPSE.

A situation of extraordinary difficulty also arose in London as a result of the collapse in shares of certain companies known as the Hatry Group. The Stock Exchange and the financial community generally are to be congratulated on the way the position has been handled, with the view of localising the trouble and avoiding endless litigation. Naturally, Stock Exchange values of gilt-edged securities, as well as industrial shares, have given way in sympathy.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I should like you to join with me in expressing to the executive officers and staff of this Bank our keen appreciation of the services they have rendered during the year. It is in difficult times such as these that we can estimate at its true worth the value of their help and co-operation, and the best evidence I can produce of that is the steady and continued growth of this Bank's business.

I have now pleasure in proposing "that the report and accounts now presented be received and approved and be entered on the minutes of this meeting."

Mr B. G. Wood (the deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Lord Bradbury then moved, and Sir Robert Williams seconded, the re-election of Sir Kenneth Irwin Crossley, Bart., and Mr Percy Ashworth as directors of this company, which was agreed to.

Major Murray Marsden moved and Mr Chapman seconded the election of Messrs Ashworth, Mosley and Company, chartered accountants, as auditors of the company for the year 1930, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr B. G. Wood then took the chair, when, upon the motion of Mr Rowley, seconded by Mr Lewis Orford, "the best thanks of the meeting were tendered to the chairman for his conduct in the chair."

The motion was carried with acclamation and the chairman having briefly responded, the meeting terminated.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LIMITED
ADVANTAGES FROM FUSION WITH MARGARINE UNION.

The annual ordinary general meeting of African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 24th ultimo, in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, Sir Robert Waley Cohen, K.B.E. (chairman of directors), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Since we last met the United Africa Company has entered into an arrangement with the Margarine Union, as a result of which its capital will be enlarged by taking over the businesses which the Margarine Union and their associated companies had established in West Africa. That transaction involves the issue of 1,534,000 shares of the United Africa Company to the Margarine Union, in consideration of which the United Africa Company takes over the whole of the fixed assets of the Margarine Union's associated companies in West Africa, together with some £800,000 worth of liquid assets, valued in accordance with our rule at the market price at the time of transfer after allowing, in the case of merchandise, for age and obsolescence. The capital of the United Africa Company when all these transactions are completed will amount to £15,734,000, of which your share will be £7,100,000. Beyond this, and in connection with the transaction with the Margarine Union, the United Africa Company has given to the Margarine Union an option on 1,500,000 shares at 22s. 6d. per share. In our opinion, most important advantages will follow from these transactions.

The Chairman went on to point out that the suggestion that the recent fall in the prices of oleaginous products might be to some extent attributed to the concentration that had taken place among the interests which were the main consumers of those products was a complete illusion. "Our principal products," he said, "are oils and oilcakes derived from oleaginous seeds and from the palm fruit. They compete with similar products derived from other sources, such as copra, soya beans, whale oil, Indian ground nuts, and other similar materials. The production of those materials in the year 1927 amounted in round figures to 2,500,000 tons; in 1929 it amounted to 4,000,000 tons, an increase of 60 per cent. in two years. No combination, however powerful, could save prices from suffering a decline under such conditions. By the concentration which we have already effected in the West African trade, I think we have been able to save the West African producer from suffering to the full extent the effects of the serious fall which this over-production of raw material has brought about in the world markets for the products with which West African produce has to compete."

The report and accounts were adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

RECORD AMOUNT OF NEW BUSINESS.
THE SPECIAL CENTENARY BONUS.
MR KEYNES ON INVESTMENT VALUES.

The 100th annual general meeting of the National Mutual Life Assurance Society was held, on Wednesday, the 29th ultimo, at the Society's House, 39, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Mr. J. M. Keynes, C.B. (chairman of the Society) said :—Gentlemen : We are celebrating to-day the completion of the hundredth year of the business life of our Society.

Our net new business for the year has fallen a little short of last year's record figures, though it exceeds all years previous to that. The small decline is due, however, only to our having given out during the year more reassurance than we have received back. The new assurance business obtained direct by this office is, in fact, the largest in our history.

Our expense ratio, adjusted so as to exclude the effect of single premiums, is slightly reduced. Our total trading profits for the year, exclusive of appreciation or depreciation on investments, have amounted to £149,403, as compared with £131,890 last year.

For the past year we are repeating the same rate of bonus as in the two previous years for the old series of policies, and giving a bonus of 15s. per cent. compound to the new series. The trading profits of the year are £21,512 in excess of the cost of this bonus.

FALL IN INVESTMENT VALUES.

The most important event of the year has been the fall in the level of investment values—the most notable movement since 1921. For many years we have shown an unbroken series of gains in the capital value of our Stock Exchange securities. I have repeatedly warned you that the time was sure to come when a general downward movement of investment values would wipe out some part of our previous gains. For this reason we have distributed no part whatever of our profits from capital appreciation, holding the view that any distributions made out of this source of profit should be averaged over a period of time. We are now making a special distribution out of these profits, partly because we think that it is time for such a distribution, and partly to celebrate our Centenary Year.

Turning to the actual amount of the depreciation, we have, on the whole, every reason for moderate satisfaction that our losses are not much larger. The capital value of our fund has depreciated by £317,420, or approximately 6 per cent. of its mean value, during the year. This is a substantial loss but, in relation to our previous capital gains, it leaves us in a position of immense financial strength; for, after writing down our securities to their selling value, we are still strong enough to divide out of the remaining balance of capital appreciation a large centennial bonus and to carry forward £386,000.

LOW PERCENTAGE OF LOSS.

But the main test of our investment policy must be made on a comparison with the decline of investment values generally. The indices compiled by the financial press and other authorities indicate that practically every class of investment securities has suffered a severe setback during 1929. For example, if the whole of our funds had been invested in long-dated British Government securities, we should have suffered a depreciation of 5 to 6 per cent., as compared with an actual figure of 6 per cent. on our funds as a whole, and 8 per cent. on our Stock Exchange securities. I should estimate that non-gilt-edged fixed-interest securities have fallen by something like 10 per cent., whilst industrial ordinary shares have fallen by from 20 to 30 per cent., according to the particular selection made by different authorities. In spite, therefore, of our well-known policy of investing in ordinary shares to a greater extent than most insurance offices, we have got through a year in which ordinary shares have suffered a quite exceptional depreciation, with a percentage of loss which is not only far below the fall in ordinary shares generally, but is much less than the depreciation in non-gilt-edged fixed-interest securities, and is only a little greater than that in long-dated British Government securities. The date of our valuation—December 31st last—came almost at the bottom of the decline, and we have already recovered since then an important proportion of the depreciation. After writing off all depreciation, we have earned, on the average of the past nine years, an annual return on our assets (from interest and capital appreciation) of nearly 6¼ per cent. free of income tax.

SPECIAL CENTENARY BONUS.

I now turn to our special centenary bonus. We are distributing to with-profit policyholders an important portion of the accumulated profits from appreciation which have arisen during the past decade and have never been distributed. Members who have entered the society since 1928 are excluded from participation, and other members are to share according to the date at which they took out their policies. Policies taken out in 1920 will receive a special reversionary bonus at the rate of 70s. per £100 assured, policies taken out in 1910 will receive 145s., and policies dating from 1900 or previously will receive 200s. The cost of this bonus will be £162,421, and it will leave us with an undivided surplus of more than double this sum, namely, £386,019, to be carried forward. A special occasion like the present offers an appropriate opportunity for dealing with that part of our accumulated surplus which we can prudently spare, without creating a precedent which might be dangerous, or arousing expectations which it might not be possible to fulfil. Our idea is, however, that, if future circumstances warrant it, the general policy of a special distribution should be considered from time to time, and we shall review the state of our aggregate surplus from this aspect at intervals of not less than five years.

We have prepared an exceedingly interesting history of the course of our affairs during the past hundred years, of which copies have been already sent to the large policyholders.

WAGES AND THE FALL IN PRICES.

It has been my custom at these annual meetings to cast an inquiring eye on the future; but to-day there has been so much to say about the past that I must be brief. I pointed out last year that the disparity of movement between prices and wages since 1924 had faced employers with the task of increasing efficiency by 16 per cent., if they were to hold their own. I ventured to guess that efficiency was, perhaps, increasing at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, with the result that they might have reduced their relative disadvantage from 16 per cent. to 10 per cent. in the four years ending in 1928. Unfortunately the course of events during 1929 has further aggravated their problem instead of mitigating it; for prices have fallen by a further 4 to 5 per cent., whilst wages are unchanged. Moreover, whilst the difficulties in which the return to gold involved our own industries in the period after 1924 were mainly local to this country, the fall in the wholesale prices of raw materials has now taken on the character of a world-wide disaster. The storm centres are to be found to-day, in my judgment, neither in Great Britain nor in the United States, but in the great producers of raw materials overseas. For significant signs of recovery or of further deterioration, it may not be so important to-day to consider London or New York as to watch Australia, South America, and Asia, and also Central Europe; for these areas are being reduced to very grievous distress by the combined circumstances of the fall in the prices of their chief products and the difficulty of obtaining funds on the international loan market.

Between 1921 and 1924 the reaction from the great post-war inflation was practically completed. But since 1924 our wholesale index number has fallen by a further 20 per cent. This rate of fall, lasting over a period of four or five years, otherwise than as a reaction from an immediately preceding inflation, is, I believe, unparalleled in modern economic history. The consequences have already reached the dimensions of a first-class disaster. Nor is it by any means certain that a further movement in the same direction is going to be avoided.

THE STRUGGLE FOR GOLD STOCKS.

I believe that these events, so inimical to the wealth and happiness of the whole world, are avoidable and remediable. But they are to be attributed to the want of collective wisdom on the part of the central banking authorities of the world, taken together, and are not now wholly remediable by the isolated action of any single country. The internecine struggle for gold stocks must cease and the market rates for money in the leading financial centres of the world must be reduced to a really low figure (which presents no difficulties if they all move together)—in the neighbourhood of (say) 3 per cent.—and must remain there for some time, before it is reasonable to expect a recovery of enterprise and confidence throughout the world and the general enjoyment of that measure of prosperity which the ever-increasing achievements of scientific and business technique would make possible, if only the government, or want of government, in international monetary affairs would at last permit.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE METROPOLITAN TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED,
LIST OF SECURITIES.
REASONS FOR NON-PUBLICATION.
MR ROBERT FLEMING'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Metropolitan Trust Company, Ltd., was held on the 29th ultimo, at the company's offices, Gresham House, 24 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr Robert Fleming (the chairman) presided.

The secretary (Mr H. Carlisle) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, I presume that you will, as usual, take the report and accounts as read. (Agreed.)

The year 1929 has been a pretty trying one for a company such as ours, with 473 securities scattered all over the globe and subject to the various influences which the year has carried with it: dear money, the crash in New York, scarcity of gold, and the adverse effect on prices which these and other events, such as the Hatry smash, have caused. We have no interest whatever in any of the concerns whose affairs have been so unfortunately prominent lately, and it is a matter of satisfaction to your directors that we have come through these troublous times with little damage, either to annual revenue or to the Stock Exchange valuation of our securities.

Dealing first with the last of these two main elements in our condition, I would say that last year, referring to the same subject, I said :—

"The excess over book cost last year, 1927, was £675,000; this year, 1928, it is £900,000, being an average increase of 7 per cent. on the whole capital fund.

"We have now for seven consecutive years been able to report an increase in the Stock Exchange value of our funds over that of the preceding year. It may easily be that we have reached a point where the trend of value may run in an opposite direction."

Such has proved to be the case, and our excess valuation this year is £725,000, being £175,000 less than that shown a year ago.

INCREASED DIVIDEND—RESERVE AUGMENTED.

Our revenue account has been well maintained, our surplus beyond the 20 per cent. dividend on the ordinary stock being 4·53 per cent. on that stock, which is 1·05 per cent. more than last year, and we propose to raise the dividend from 19½ per cent. to 20 per cent. We have transferred £75,000 to reserve, raising that account to £625,000, and still have more than £20,000 to carry forward. Our prospect for an equally satisfactory result for 1930 is fair, though we cannot foretell what fresh trouble may arise to affect this result.

I usually mention the amount of old high interest-bearing securities that have matured and been paid off during the year. The amount this year is £119,000. During the past three years we have had no less an amount so paid off than £289,351, and we feared that this might have a bad effect on our total revenue, but through changes and otherwise, that has not proved to be the case. In 1926, with the same capital to work with, we earned beyond the preferred dividend 23·10 per cent. on the ordinary, and for 1929 it was 24·53 per cent., so that, notwithstanding the repayment of these old high rate securities, we more than maintain the surplus.

A QUESTION OF POLICY.

There has been some discussion lately on the question of whether trust companies should publish their lists of investments. As you know, that has not been our practice, nor is it the practice of the majority of trust companies. Mr Carlisle has taken a good deal of trouble to ascertain what companies publish and what do not, and the figures he has brought out and which have been very carefully checked are of a surprising character. We find that, taking 153 companies, 101 companies, having a total capital of £167,014,155, do not publish their lists, as compared with 52 companies, with a total capital of £82,569,249, which do publish. Of the 20 largest companies, 14 do not publish and six publish. This itself is a clear indication that the average shareholder does not look upon publication as something essential to good management, and the further fact that the average price of the ordinary stocks of those which publish is £202 per cent. while the average price of those which do not publish is £270 per cent. is further evidence of the same. I do not mean to say that the non-publication is the cause of this higher price, but at least it suggests that we need not change from our now 31 years' practice.

In our view, publication is not in the best interests of the shareholders. It has been found that in the case of companies which publish their lists shareholders are apt to invest their own money in some securities which they see therein, quite forgetful of the fact that the trust company may, and probably has, made its investment at a very different price from that ruling when the shareholder receives the list, and the company would not, perhaps, make the investment at that time—in fact, it may have disposed of it. In this way these printed lists are somewhat misleading to shareholders. Furthermore, we are of opinion that publication acts detrimentally when the company wishes to realise an investment which, possibly, has not a very active market.

Personally, I feel that the classifications of the investments which we give in the report, coupled with a statement of the value of those investments, give a better impression of the position of the company than would a detailed list of 473 different investments.

I must conclude by expressing our thanks to Mr Carlisle, our secretary and general manager, and to the whole staff for the excellent way in which the business of the company has been conducted during the year.

I will now move: "That the report and accounts, as presented, be and they are hereby received, approved, and adopted and that dividends of £2 5s. per cent., less income tax, on the preferred stock, making with the interim dividend £4 10s. per cent for the year, and £13 per cent., less income tax, on the ordinary stock, making with the interim dividend £20 per cent. for the year, be and the same are hereby declared."

Mr Henry A. Vernet seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Mr Robert Fleming) was re-elected, and on the motion of Mr. Thomson, seconded by Mr. Cater, the auditors (Messrs Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company) were reappointed for the current year.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff terminated the proceedings.

PERAK RIVER HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, LIMITED.
FINANCIAL PROPOSALS APPROVED.

The adjourned third annual general meeting of the Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. Viscount Elibank, D.L. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The important matter with which we have to deal at this meeting is the increased cost which has been incurred on the original scheme and to the plan now proposed for financing both this and the extension of the Malim Nawar steam station. I refer also to the approval which is sought from you to the loan of £850,000 by the Federated Malay States Government, secured by a charge ranking in front of the seven per cent. participating debenture stock.

In order to ensure finality in the construction expenditure, the board have settled with the contractors a final and fixed sum for the completion of the Chenderoh dam and power house buildings, etc. The board have, therefore, done all that they can reasonably do to ensure that the estimated excess cost of £600,000 on the original scheme cannot be further increased.

I should perhaps say a word or two now regarding the further £250,000 which has been spent on extending the Malim Nawar steam station from its originally proposed capacity of 5,000 kw. to its present capacity of 18,000 kw. As you will remember, the debenture stockholders sanctioned the financing of this extension by the issue of a further £250,000 of seven per cent. participating debenture stock. It had been the intention of your board to issue this stock last autumn, but when we were informed in October that we must provide £600,000 instead of £350,000 to complete the original scheme, we felt that it would not be right to issue this debenture stock until we could place before both shareholders and debenture stockholders a definite financial scheme for securing the whole of the money required.

You are now aware how impossible we found it, owing to the adverse monetary conditions in the City, to ensure obtaining the requisite finance by public issue in the ordinary way. After lengthy negotiations, the Federated Malay States Government have agreed to advance the required sum of £850,000 at the low rate of interest of 5 per cent.

ADVANTAGES OF SCHEME.

We have set out at the end of Appendix "A" in the circular of January 7th the advantages to be gained by the adoption of this financial scheme. It is unnecessary for me to labour these, for the lasting benefits to the whole undertaking of cheap money and of smaller annual burdens in interest and redemption obligations are obvious.

The construction scheme, when completed to its present stage of development, will enable an annual output in K.V.A. corresponding to approximately 160,000,000 units per annum to be sold, which compares with 100,000,000 units per annum forecast in our original prospectus. You will have seen from the progress report, Appendix "B" of the circular, that we are already generating at the rate of 74,000,000 units per annum, which is roughly equivalent to 62,000,000 units per annum sold to consumers, so that we are already supplying 60 per cent. of the output originally forecast and this before the water power station has come into commercial operation.

PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION WORK.

In order to bring your knowledge of the progress of construction work up to date, I am happy to inform you that the latest advices received from Perak indicate that the progress anticipated has been fully maintained and everything points to starting trial runs in April.

In conclusion, I would add a brief word regarding the future prospect of our undertaking. In view of the fact that our success is largely dependent on the tin industry, which, for the moment, is in difficulties owing to the heavy fall in the price of the metal due to over-production, we are being asked whether it is not possible for us to make some modification in our tariffs. This question has been investigated most carefully, and as a result we are offering an alternative form of tariff which should assist the tin industry without materially impairing our revenue.

We have not yet by any means tapped the whole of the business available to the company in our concession area. There is prospective business there corresponding to an output of at least 400,000,000 units per annum.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting of the company and a separate general meeting of ordinary shareholders, resolutions were passed altering the articles of association in accordance with the financial proposals of the Board.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND INCREASED TO 65 PER CENT.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C.

Mr Jeremiah Colman, J.P. (the chairman), after expressing regret at the death of Mr C. W. Mann, one of the directors, said that the total profit for the year under review was £203,584, which was £40,144 more than in the previous year. They had already paid an interim dividend of 25 per cent. and recommended the payment of a final dividend of 40 per cent., making 65 per cent. for the year, as against 55 per cent. in the previous year. After making allocations totalling £37,000, they would have £63,260 to carry forward, as compared with £59,176 in the previous year.

The working cost of mining, treatment and general expenses was 39s. 1d. per ton, as compared with 40s. 9d. in the previous year, a saving of 1s. 8d. per ton. Of that amount, however, development had absorbed 1s. 3d., owing to the large footage made, and depreciation, 1d. The remaining 4d. per ton had been paid to the Government by way of royalty and was accounted for by the increase in the value per ton of ore mined.

IMPROVED ORE RESERVE POSITION.

The main feature of general interest in the consulting engineer's report was the improvement in the ore reserve position, which showed not only an increase in tonnage at nearly 600,000 tons, but also an increase in grade—a record for both tonnage and average value. They were able to take advantage of that by the improvements effected during the past year or two in the treatment plant, and were now crushing larger monthly tonnages of higher grade ore. As shareholders would have noticed from the published returns for the past three months, they had been producing successive record outputs and the profits had far exceeded all previous records of the corporation, and that, they thought, would continue.

Another very interesting feature was the good development that had been made in the mine since the end of the financial year. New ore of good width and value had been exposed on three of the bottom levels. He might summarise the position by saying that they had about six years' ore in sight, which should yield very handsome profits, and at the same time they had a reef that was developing well in two directions—up and down.

He thought it would be agreed that the mine was in a very sound position, and that fact was emphasised by the good returns which they had had during the past few months, which touched the highest mark, for both output and profit, ever reached in the history of the corporation. Work was still going on in the construction of the central treatment plant, but progress during the twelve months had been such that they were now able to handle an increased tonnage. Those alterations involved heavy structural work and had been carried out without any stoppage of the plant; in fact, the output had been increased while they were in progress.

In addition to the work at the central treatment plant, a new switchboard had been erected at the power station. The electric mains had been overhauled and a larger mine fan installed at the ventilation shaft. Their new programme of construction included additional bin capacity at the main shaft and more leaching vats at the cyanide plant to deal with increased tonnage. They were also installing another 500-600 h.p. Premier gas-engine at the power station. Again this year practically the whole of their electric power had been produced by the wood-gas plant, the Diesel engine being kept as a standby and only running intermittently.

THE TOTAL POWER CAPACITY.

Two of the older vertical gas engines were being replaced by the new Premier engine. That engine and its dynamo were on order, and, when installed, they would have three of that type with a total capacity of over 1,000 k.w., and, as spares, two of the newer vertical gas engines and the Diesel engine. The total capacity of the plant would be about 1,600 k.w. The cost of power for the year, including all charges and depreciation, was ·776d. per Board of Trade unit, which was a satisfactory figure.

The board proposed to transfer £30,000 to an exploring account, considering it prudent in times of prosperity to build up a fund which would enable them to investigate other propositions within their concession.

Doubtless the proposal to start a benevolent fund and a pension scheme would receive the entire sympathy of the shareholders. Up to the present the record of health at the mines was particularly good, but accidents did happen, and Ashanti was not exactly a health resort. The pensions scheme was a necessary provision to provide a reasonable allowance in old age to the employees. The directors were proposing to set aside £5,000 to form the nucleus of a fund.

The report and accounts were adopted.

162 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.417,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/28): Fmk.2,934,742,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended January 25, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS	£
Supply Services	5,250	From Revenue	23,646
Interest, &c., on Debt	949		
Sinking Fund	1,155		
Sundries	786		
Decrease in Debt	15,078		
Increase in Balances	428		
	23,646		23,646

The Ordinary Revenue for the week amounted to £23,645,900, as compared with £20,686,700 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was lower at £8,670,000, against £9,735,000, but super tax was higher at £2,260,000, against £2,000,000. Customs and Excise brought in £2,552,000 and £1,265,000, against £2,587,000 and £1,178,000 respectively. Ordinary receipts amounted to £95,300, as compared with £278,600. The National Debt was reduced by £15,078,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 7,250	Public Dept. Advances	− 3,200
National Savings Certificates	+ 100	Treasury Bills	− 18,778
		Sundries	− 450
	+ 7,350		− 22,428

The Floating Debt was reduced by £21,985,000 to £773,655,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO JANUARY 25.

	£		£
Expenditure	628,580,886	Revenue	495,735,134
		Decreases in balance	2,896,019
		Amount borrowed	129,949,733
	628,580,886		628,580,886

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 25, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	190	...
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	600
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	738
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	35
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,643
	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,753

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Jan. 26, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Jan. 25, '30.	Movement Week ended Jan. 25, '30.
	£	£	£	£
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	17,890,000	37,050,000	34,730,000	− 3,200,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	758,595,000	700,295,000	738,925,000*	− 18,785,000
Total Floating Debt	776,485,000	737,345,000	773,655,000	− 21,985,000

* Includes £12,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on January 24, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £50,635,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 0s. 8d., about 97 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday to Thursday at £99 0s. 6d., and above in full; Friday and Saturday, at £99 0s. 8d., about 97 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Nov. 22	45,000,000	65,485,000	4 16 8·14
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Jan. 25, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Jan. 26, 1929.	Week Ended Jan. 25, 1930.	Week Ended Jan. 26, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE.	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—					
Income Tax	239,500,000	108,248,000	109,040,000	8,670,000	9,735,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	24,300,000	24,980,000	2,260,000	2,060,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	63,450,000	64,950,000	2,010,000	2,010,000
Stamps	31,000,000	18,640,000	22,320,000	460,000	590,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	630,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	320,000	250,000	50,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	214,968,000	222,170,000	13,450,000	14,395,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	98,945,000	98,371,000	2,552,000	2,587,000
Excise	130,550,000	107,700,000	114,094,000	1,265,000	1,178,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	206,645,000	212,465,000	3,817,000	3,765,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	*9,365,468	4,010,067	*5,216,000	762,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	9,650,000	9,400,000	850,000	1,200,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,190,000	1,120,000	180,000	200,000
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,340,024	21,807,380	37,637	86,111
Miscellaneous:—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,643,129	12,362,025	95,273	278,551
Special Receipts	26,000,000	19,933,513	30,301,746	...	...
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	495,735,134	513,636,218	23,645,910	20,686,662
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	46,250,000	44,700,000	850,000	800,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	14,980,532	19,094,933	1,034,000	5,379,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	61,230,532	63,794,933	1,884,000	6,179,000
Total		556,965,666	577,431,151	25,529,910	26,865,662
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		5,020,000	9,370,000	260,000	300,000
(c) For other Issues:					
By Treasury Bills		2,562,405,000	2,230,778,000	41,097,000	53,878,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64		111,500,280	...	7,250,000	...
By National Savings Certificates		32,600,000	32,650,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34		26,300,972	4,610,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances		582,850,000	479,225,000	20,440,000	2,645,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		120,054	122,717	...	...
		3,889,829,889	3,440,076,575	95,576,910	84,688,662

	1929. £	1928. £			
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—					
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	...
Total			3,896,082,413	3,446,399,200	95,576,910

* It occasionally happens that large collections of duty reach the Exchequer at the end of the week, and the Road Fund share is paid out in the subsequent week; the Exchequer share is then temporarily swollen.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 25, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 26, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Jan. 25, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Jan. 26, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	282,905,953	280,734,236	949,039	818,440
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	8,195,313	9,136,040	459,128	572,150
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	3,937,043	3,589,034	297,619	391,638
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,610,171	1,900,190	29,063	25,940
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	367,534,000	291,874,628	275,747,906	5,250,000	4,446,404
Total Ordinary Expenditure	696,034,000	589,523,108	571,107,406	6,984,849	6,254,572
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	39,057,778	43,540,992	1,155,000	1,514,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	46,250,000	44,700,000	850,000	800,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	14,980,532	19,094,933	1,034,000	5,379,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	61,230,532	63,794,933	1,884,000	6,179,000
TOTAL		689,811,418	678,443,331	10,023,849	13,947,572

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Jan. 25, 1930.	Apr. 1, 1928, to Jan. 26, 1929.	Issues—Week Ended Jan. 25, 1930.	Week Ended Jan. 26, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	5,020,000	9,370,000	260,000	300,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	8,600,000	8,650,000	450,000	600,000
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28	2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed				
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	2,523,725,000	1,999,160,000	59,875,000	58,425,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	36,750,000	33,850,000	900,000	900,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	82,762,476	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	29,409,505	...	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	585,170,000	623,185,000	23,640,000	10,295,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—				
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000	...	...
	3,892,725,908	3,443,402,217	95,148,849	84,467,572

Balances in Exchequer—	Jan. 25, 1930.	Jan. 26, 1929.		
	£	£		
Bank of England	2,344,334	2,113,056	...	+ 283,061	+ 89,090
Bank of Ireland	1,012,171	883,927	3,356,505	2,996,983	+ 145,000	+ 132,000
Total			£3,896,082,413	3,446,399,200	+ 428,061	+ 221,090

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,217,244
CLAIMS PAID - - - - £53,253,248

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, January 29, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued—	£		£
In Circulation	348,017,972	Government Debt	11,015,100
In Banking Department	62,116,575	Other Government Securities	233,694,935
		Other Securities	10,806,329
		Silver Coin	4,483,636
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	150,134,547
	£410,134,547		£410,134,547

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	54,300,615
Rest	3,587,819	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	14,592,859	Discounts and Advances ... £5,500,023	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 13,976,447	
Bankers ... £67,463,302			19,476,470
Other Accounts 35,987,303		Notes	62,116,575
	103,450,605	Gold and Silver Coin	293,621
7-Day and other Bills	2,998		
	£136,187,281		£136,187,281

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Jan. 29, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	348,017,972	+ 1,618,432	− 7,626,452
Public deposits	14,592,859	− 14,558,557	− 4,636,696
Bankers' deposits	67,463,302	+ 7,514,946	+ 9,252,528
Other deposits	35,987,303	− 24,669	− 1,875,314
Seven-day bills	2,998	− 241	+ 1,019
Total, outside liabilities	466,064,434	− 5,450,089	− 4,884,915
Capital and rest	18,140,819	+ 42,310	+ 6,524
Government debt and securities	299,010,650	− 3,320,654	+ 3,660,587
Discounts and advances	5,500,023	− 279,543	− 4,157,204
Other securities	24,782,776	− 952,040	− 1,334,228
Silver coin in issue department	4,483,636	+ 5,265	− 497,588
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	150,428,168	− 860,807	− 2,549,958
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	62,410,196	− 2,479,239	+ 4,076,494
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	52⅜%	+ 1%	+ 3⅛%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	32⅛%	+ ⅛%	− ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 11	397,006,947	365,158,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,277,426 in	5½
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,398,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 11	244234017	10942367	13743418	29¼	60663618	8827605	19470351	32276330	31⅜
18	244248529	10929370	14073439	29⅛	65143618	10629732	20566519	29036211	27
26	244637515	10841360	14602587	29⅛	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746	22½
1930.									
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	14611574	25⅜	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165	22⅛
8	245098463	10431484	14921486	30⅛	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097	36
15	245102958	10429647	15065434	31⅛	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426	46⅜
22	244665689	10855940	15128897	32⅛	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435	51⅛
29	244710035	10806329	15042816	32½	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196	52⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

1930.	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
January 1 to January 15	1,764,794	92,625	148,618	2,006,037
Week ended January 22	692,074	37,510	60,870	790,454
Week ended January 29	712,371	35,154	54,127	801,652
Total to date, 1930	3,169,239	165,289	263,615	3,598,143
Total, 1929	3,601,561	173,423	272,692	4,047,676
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 432,322 = − 12·0%	− 8,134 = − 4·7%	− 9,077 = − 3·3%	− 449,533 = − 11·1%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807 = + 1·6%	+ 27,599 = + 1·5%	+ 39,342 = + 1·3%	+ 691,751 = + 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS

	Month of December. 1928.	Month of December. 1929.	Month of December. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to January 25. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to January 25. 1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,892,000	10,651,000	−10·4	10,147,100	10,242,100
BRADFORD	5,547,000	4,456,000	−19·6	...	...
BRISTOL	4,642,000	4,798,000	+ 3·3	4,775,000	4,150,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	21,591,100	21,554,200
HULL	3,571,000	3,437,000	− 3·7	3,571,600	3,431,400
LEEDS	3,903,000	3,908,000	+ 0·1	4,048,900	3,975,400
LEICESTER	3,772,000	3,159,000	−16·2	3,342,300	3,065,500
LIVERPOOL	32,836,000	30,798,000	− 6·2	34,005,500	28,122,700
MANCHESTER	58,622,000	52,931,000	− 9·7	48,715,300	43,752,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	8,643,000	6,199,000	−28·2	5,312,900	5,008,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,491,000	2,566,000	+ 3·0	2,742,700	2,699,900
SHEFFIELD	3,612,000	4,043,000	+11·9	3,888,500	3,764,600
Total	139,531,000	126,946,000	− 9·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Denmark, Portugal and Lithuania appeared in the *Economist* of January 11; Roumania and Russia in January 18; Poland, Egypt, Japan, Danzig, Canada, Norway, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria in January 25.

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

RESOURCES.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,667,180	2,929,350	2,961,050	2,975,220	2,985,210
Total bills discounted	820,630	567,620	442,340	433,220	406,940
Bills bought in open market	435,610	319,170	323,350	298,390	258,470
Total U.S. Govt. securities	201,770	484,840	479,060	476,660	476,540
Total bills and securities	1,467,040	1,384,320	1,259,620	1,222,800	1,154,380
Total resources	5,093,730	5,320,280	5,314,670	5,202,160	5,062,532
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,645,490	1,836,850	1,782,378	1,739,240	1,701,900
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,390,950	2,367,250	2,357,658	2,359,800	2,307,950
Total deposits	2,437,100	2,422,300	2,403,889	2,414,980	2,369,010
Capital paid in and surplus	403,200	447,300	446,040	448,190	448,350
Total liabilities	5,093,730	5,320,280	5,314,670	5,202,160	5,062,530
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	69·4%	72·9%	75·4%	76·3%	78·3%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.
Total bills discounted	212,910	131,180	70,630	89,650	65,100
Bills bought in open market	115,440	152,340	150,700	117,240	93,708
Total U.S. Govt. securities	26,190	215,260	213,180	210,800	210,800
Total bills and securities	354,540	506,320	444,360	427,220	377,010
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	963,960	956,070	969,550	952,250	931,820
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	77·0%	67·4%	71·6%	73·0%	77·3%

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

ASSETS.	Jan. 4, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,822	7,679	7,715	7,368	7,495	7,394
Subsidiary coin	75	78	80	88	87	81
Bills discounted	9,408	7,963	7,863	8,980	9,733	9,045
Investments	481	596	612	612	619	984
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,505	8,909	8,433	8,496	9,173	9,541
Government deposits	1,553	1,031	1,522	1,949	1,839	1,291
Bankers' deposits	4,809	4,759	4,691	4,883	4,755	4,907
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·0%	50·5%	50·8%	47·4%	45·0%	46·9%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 4, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.
Total securities	21,70,32	33,01,51	33,28,31	33,26,69	33,19,67	33,03,78
Loans	20,50,81	7,46,99	7,49,67	6,86,45	7,09,53	6,92,45
Cash credits	26,16,78	22,36,72	23,38,47	23,68,97	25,29,18	25,93,76
Inland bills	13,30,05	5,25,25	5,71,94	6,24,43	5,73,44	7,89,05
Foreign bills	30,59	38,43	33,07	34,79	29,54	37,58
Dead stock	2,81,45	2,83,96	2,84,09	2,83,69	2,83,18	2,72,83
Bal. with other banks	20,43	24,56	2,56	18,46	3,14	17,28
Cash	10,28,20	18,93,55	16,38,71	15,77,11	15,29,18	12,98,56
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,17,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits	77,12,74	78,79,25	77,73,21	77,00,33	77,75,01	79,37,05
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,001	1,050	913	979	820	820
Advances in London	896	898	952	891	843	723
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	153	179	20	138	26	121

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 25, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.
Gold	33,995,441	42,433,625	42,458,382	42,736,925	42,830,671
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,789,204	7,098,821	7,201,903	7,046,119	6,995,667
Bills discounted	18,632,864	18,738,391	18,729,297	18,718,727	18,721,488
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,051,886	7,849,651	6,675,522	6,555,252	7,515,809
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,652,545
Other advances	2,198,407	2,688,760	2,586,240	2,519,213	2,467,494
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,147,433	3,093,863	3,268,114	2,815,246	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	62,152,593	70,288,004	69,346,770	68,688,313	68,374,617
Public deposits	12,711,842	11,076,291	11,304,195	10,915,131	10,547,932
Private deposits	7,154,613	6,675,164	6,369,139	7,016,071	8,506,492
Other liabilities	1,926,188	2,675,204	2,710,907	2,583,519	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23. 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,176	2,283,832	2,283,777	2,286,459
Of which deposited abroad	85,526	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	163,474	403,824	397,672	399,849
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,548,427	2,393,731	1,893,771	1,807,138
Silver and other coin	137,065	107,016	139,601	160,053
Notes of other German banks	30,635	13,063	18,710	24,704
Advances	40,708	51,224	67,859	51,433
Investments	93,309	92,608	92,602	92,622
Other assets	440,795	581,883	578,468	580,386
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	3,809,254	4,604,679	4,187,045	3,952,553
Other daily maturing obligations	783,141	584,513	543,353	708,698
Other liabilities	184,201	295,593	299,674	298,996

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Jan. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold	(b) 904,985	1,175,149	1,175,182	1,175,516	1,175,556	
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	524,742	613,104	591,147	567,339	543,821
Silver and other coin		1,836	*	*	2,466	2,610
Securities	697,600	653,620	869,497	826,389	809,472	804,732
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,352,182	2,786,611	2,777,744	2,750,148	2,721,563
Current accounts	112,125	101,488	196,896	157,296	137,177	155,420

(b) In thousand francs.
* The Bank, having drawn up its half-yearly balance sheet on Dec. 26, has not published all the figures usually shown in the weekly return.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Jan. 21, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Jan. 6, 1930.	Jan. 13, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,544	447,465	447,455	447,455	446,047
Silver	8,436	22,280	24,374	24,129	24,129	25,770
Home Bills discted.		69,511	70,683	72,648	72,648	63,093
Foreign Bills	153,504	205,484	219,861	219,271	219,271	219,143
Loans and advances in current acct.		99,153	110,999	94,175	94,175	82,712
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	88,959	852,023	845,978	845,978	797,972
Deposits	5,016	47,744	33,328	23,509	23,509	35,816

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914	Jan. 26, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.
Gold	22,971	169,228	168,700	168,100	167,400	169,900
Silver	29,785	22,850				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	148,410	156,800	157,600	148,800	143,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	300,153	291,000	292,100	286,200	279,300
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	61,436	38,600	37,700	36,100	39,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold	171,175	482,095	594,987	595,005	580,530	580,558
Silver	18,350	45,551	23,551	23,189	23,159	24,610
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	189,503	352,989	355,765	362,434	358,672
Discounts	...	135,758	149,367	129,656	107,192	98,813
Advances	103,000	56,037	75,091	69,760	51,844	43,979
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	786,935	999,185	912,310	851,326	830,299
Deposits	33,750	87,514	200,381	245,549	264,790	247,290

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 10, 1929.	Dec. 10, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,052,000	5,189,400	5,190,200	5,190,100	5,189,400
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,945,300	5,149,700	5,140,800	5,147,000	5,009,500
Other cash	131,500	203,100	203,900	197,500	201,100
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,679,000	3,864,000	3,864,600	4,318,400	3,998,500
Advances	1,299,600	1,182,000	1,277,400	1,800,700	1,096,700
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,102,800	896,900	896,900	896,900	896,900
Government securities	1,041,500	1,057,500	1,069,700	1,074,000	1,074,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,882,400	16,593,800	16,595,000	16,916,900	16,510,900
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,257,900	1,463,600	1,571,800	1,676,600	1,658,400
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·57%	56·32%	55·94%	54·71%	55·22%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 26, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan 25, 1930.
Gold	235,711	244,629	244,480	244,446	244,383
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,740	22,140	22,140	22,140
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	162	162
Bills payable in Sweden†	202,125	259,981	229,101	211,557	178,784
" " abroad	69,288	113,821	128,330	128,146	125,938
Balance abroad	55,879	96,005	58,411	57,833	59,148
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	55,192	61,962	48,408	43,839	42,103
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	434,416	542,586	495,772	479,834	460,146
Government deposits	215,281	245,666	226,715	216,597	200,074
Private deposits	7,324	20,481	12,402	8,588	11,882

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are not available as cover for the note issue.

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Jan. 26, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,223	2,565,876	2,566,013	2,566,112	2,566,768
Silver	728,600	707,332	702,531	703,698	707,484	711,111
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,935,586	2,370,114	2,288,627	2,209,321	2,164,696
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,312,483	4,490,360	4,484,145	4,444,055	4,396,997
Deposits	477,500	972,440	1,014,077	1,004,355	976,394	1,023,103

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	196,314	237,714	221,690	203,010	201,108
Other foreign exchange†	361,370	334,169	323,712	308,251	306,179
Bills discounted	132,465	305,634	280,976	230,763	188,031
Gov. Debt	116,118	108,649	108,604	108,604	108,604
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	848,663	1,094,362	991,545	903,701	854,095
Deposits	129,696	63,927	115,677	119,274	122,037

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,551	162,749	162,750	162,750	162,751
Drafts and notes	53,670	39,092	25,421	9,684	9,663
Silver coin and bullion	782	7,911	8,013	8,922	9,719
Inland bills, warrants and securities	315,413	329,494	295,229	271,416	263,539
Advances to the Treasury	97,181	87,543	87,506	87,506	87,506
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	392,525	500,599	440,505	399,188	380,766
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	270,177	98,263	111,940	114,610	120,993

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 22, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930	Jan. 22, 1930.
Gold	91,122	95,470	95,541	95,607	95,658
Other coin and notes	18,164	18,890	18,976	18,517	18,263
Foreign credits	201,752	266,620	286,154	278,861	275,815
Bills	1,379,698	1,287,529	1,287,256	1,344,270	1,220,409
Government advances	4,201,110	4,153,085	4,153,088	4,153,088	4,153,092
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,114,804	5,817,966	5,784,364	5,554,192	5,414,541
State credits	227,827	205,900	205,903	205,903	205,907
Deposits	1,346,443	1,510,532	1,467,140	1,634,148	1,759,172

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold	555,580	638,108	639,648	641,018	635,339
Gold exchange	4,610,923	4,387,592	4,308,773	3,986,881	3,897,490
Other foreign exchange	918	1,594	2,266	2,393	3,086
Bills discounted	57,142	122,238	147,529	161,909	171,272
Advances	55,924	160,090	160,863	182,452	194,435
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,585,045	5,051,957	5,193,456	5,122,805	5,020,046
Deposits and current accounts	2,212,329	1,691,419	1,453,931	1,489,798	1,493,422
Foreign exchange liabilities	919,495	1,822,676	1,854,765	1,638,080	1,667,172

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 8. 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold	35,091	304,062	301,895	301,798	301,615
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	774,660	692,459	692,681	663,702
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	296,303	323,008	323,008	323,208
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,459,335	1,381,659	1,383,105	1,369,756
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,404,666	1,360,626	1,289,323	1,256,675
Deposits at notice	21,225	466,210	198,341	316,380	241,673

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 15, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,341	6,385	6,408	6,430	6,435
Net foreign exchange	23,647	20,537	20,782	19,522	19,049
Subsidiary Estonian coin	633	325	462	546	691
Home bills discounted	14,900	15,341	14,484	14,371	14,778
Loans and advances	16,233	12,657	13,088	12,469	12,189*
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	36,099	36,241	34,042	32,087	31,190
Sight deposits and current accounts	21,602	14,059	16,187	16,063	16,706
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	51·97%	53·52%	54·13%	53·89%	53·20%

* Includes Exr. 8,238,173·40, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 25, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,758	23,927	23,933	23,934	23,936	23,937
Silver coin	4,556	3,980	6,699	6,725	5,690	5,677
Balance abroad	67,206	46,316	45,108	45,290	43,894	42,356
Treas. notes and sm. change	12,553	10,519	10,319	11,287	13,952	14,976
Short term bills	85,756	94,553	95,478	94,223	93,625	93,778
Loans against securities	47,615	56,428	56,368	52,749	53,212	53,625
Other assets	13,899	21,331	21,489	21,608	22,858	21,855
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	42,136	49,367	49,648	48,791	47,052	46,982
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Deposits	12,129	14,863	14,924	14,995	15,087	15,411
Current accounts	56,355	59,536	59,641	58,806	59,077	60,279
Government accounts	104,512	91,659	93,720	92,664	92,638	91,157
Other liabilities	19,040	18,456	18,289	17,389	20,140	19,204

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 21, 1928.	Nov. 29, 1929.	Dec. 6, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.
Gold at home	60,509	63,281	63,289	63,281	63,244
Gold abroad	486,858	410,011	408,908	395,949	395,260
Discounts and advances	16,181	72,144	74,208	70,423	81,379
Liabilities.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	330,287	330,069	334,707	334,949	342,394
Deposits	106,334	144,072	147,495	121,388	125,279
Drafts	29,836	2,969	2,969	13,144	13,144
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Jan. 27, 1930.	Jan. 28, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 5½% Dec. 12, 1929)	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4	4—4⅛	4—4⅛	4—4⅛	4—4⅛	4	4
3 months' do.	3⅞—⅞	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞
4 months' do.	3⅞—⅞	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞
6 months' do.	3⅞—⅞	4	4	4	4	4	3⅞
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	4	4	4	4	4	4	3⅞
3 months'‡	3⅞	3⅞—⅞	3⅞—⅞	3⅞—⅞	3⅞—⅞	3⅞	3⅞
Loans—Day to day	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	3⅞—4	4	2⅛—4	2⅛—4	2⅛—3⅞
Short	3⅞—4	4	4	4	4	4	3⅞—4
Deposit allowances: Bank	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Discount houses at call	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1930. Jan. 9	4	4 ¼	4 ¼	4 ¼	5	5½	5½ 6
16	4	4 ¼ ¼	4 ¼ ¼	4 ¼ ¼	5	5½	5½ 6
23	3½—4	3½ ⅛	3½ ⅛	3½ ⅛	5	5½	5½ 6
30	3½—4	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛	5	5½	5½ 6

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅛	4·84⅛–⅜	4·86⅛–86¼	4·86⅛–⅜
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅛	4 ·86–¼	4·92–92½	4·91⅞–92
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124 ¼–¼	123·90 ·92	123·95–7
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·42¼–½	20·37 ·37½	20·36¼–⅜
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·10¼–½	12·10⅜ ·11	1/·11⅜–13
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·89–½	34·93½–·94	34·93–½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·66–67	92·98 93 00	92 97–9
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21–½	25·18–·18½	25·20½–21
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–½	18·21½–·21½	18·20½–21
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14–½	18·13–·13½	18·12½–⅝
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·18–½	18·19½–·19½	18·18⅜–19½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	30·25–35	37·53–·58	36·90–95,
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109½–110	108½–108⅝	108½–⅝
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·50–53	34·59–·62	34·55–58
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163½–½	164⅛ 164⅜	164⅜–½
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276–½	275½–276½	275½–6½
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·80–84	27·82–·85	27·82–5
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	806–808	817–819	818–19
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669–674	670–677	670–76
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375½	375–375⅛	374⅛–5⅛
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	986–90	1025—1050	1025–35
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–·44	†9·45–·47	†9·447–·46 5
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–⅜	43⅛–43⅜	43⅛–⅜
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅝–¾	193⅛–193⅜	193⅛–⅜
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48⅝–49⅛	48⅛–49⅛	48⅛–9⅛
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–22	18·17–·24	18·19–·26
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·10–20	25·23–·33	25·23–33
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97⅛	97 1/32–⅜	97 1/32–97 3/32	97 1/32–⅛
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47⅛–¾	44⅛–45	44⅛–⅜
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅛–⅛	5 1/32–5⅛	5⅛–⅜
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50⅛–51	45⅛–45⅜	44⅛–5
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·63	39·80	39·80
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	nom.‡	23½% prem.
Calcutta	pence to	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32–⅛	1/5 31/32–1/5 15/16	1/5⅞–31/32
Bombay	pence to	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32–⅛	1/5 31/32–1/5 15/16	1/5⅞–31/32
Madras	rupee	T.T.	18	1/6 1/32–⅛	1/5 31/32–1/5 15/16	1/5⅞–31/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0–⅛	1/7 31/32–1/8 1/32	1/7⅞–1/8⅛
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	2/6½–2/7½	2/0⅛–2/0⅛	2/0⅛–⅜
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 31/32–⅛	2/3 31/32–2/3 15/16	2/3 31/32–⅛
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 31/32–⅛	2/0 1/32–2/0 3/32	2/0 1/32–⅛
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 1/32d.	†2s. 0 1/32d.	†2s. 0 1/32d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·75–10·25	10·10–·35	10·05–·30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅛	1/10⅛

† Rate for previous day. ‡ Nominal = 20½ p.m.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6
Berlin	Jan. 13, 1930	7	6½
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	Jan. 24, 1930	7½	7
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	Nov. 14, 1929	5	4½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½

	Changed.	From %	To %
Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Dec. 12, 1929	5½	5
Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	Jan. 24, 1930	7½	7
Warsaw	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
Irish	Dec. 12, 1929	6	5½

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Jan. 30, 1929. %	Jan. 2, 1930. %	Jan. 8, 1930. %	Jan. 15, 1930. %	Jan. 22, 1930. %	Jan. 29, 1930. %
Call money	7	6	4½	4½	4½	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	...	4½	4½	4½	4½
Bank acceptances :—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5½	...	4	4½	4½	4½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5½	...	4	4½	4½	4½
Ineligible, 90 days	5½	...	4½	4½	4½	4½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5½	...	5	5	5	4½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Jan. 30, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80⅜	4·82⅛	4·82⅛	4·82⅛
Cable			4·84⅛	4·86⅛	4·86⅛	4·86⅜
Cheques			4·84⅛	4·86	4·86⅛	4·86⅜
Paris	cheques		3·90	3·90½	3·92	3·92
Brussels	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90½	3·92⅛	3·92	3·92
Switzerland	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·895	13·93	13·92	13·92
Italy	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·22	19·34	19·31	19·29½
Berlin	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23½	5·2325	5·22½	5·22½
Vienna	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·725	23·865	23·86	23·87
Madrid	Cts. for Austrn. shlg	14·07	14·05	14·07	14·07	14·07
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·97	13·29	12·93	13·13
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·04	40·175	40·15	40·12
Oslo	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·65	26·72	26·72½	26·73
Stockholm			26·63	26·71	26·70	26·70
Athens			26·71	26·82	26·82	26·82
Montreal	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29½	1·295	1·29½	1·295
Yokohama	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.	1⅛ dis.
Hong Kong	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·15	49·1	49·10	49·10
Shanghai	Cents for H.Kong$	...	49·75	40·5	40⅝	39·80
Calcutta	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael		62·85	50·75	50·75	49·30
Buenos Aires	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·41	36·30	36·31	36·20
Rio de Janeiro	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·35	109·80	109·60	111·00
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·92	11	11·20	11·40
	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·055	12·4½	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·70
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	10·10
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. December, 1929.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
Assets.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	38,114	1,650	3,835	41,234	9,103	43,263	3,731	29,948	30,612	3,415	204,905
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	10,878	702	1,750	10,369	2,753	16,093	174	9,005	9,001	1,299	62,024
Items in transit	...	...	...	3,254	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,254
Money at call and short notice	24,673	2,628	7,014	26,702	6,346	22,862	4,184	17,658	28,181	2,905	143,153
Bills discounted	43,715	1,129	1,687	42,604	7,996	56,457	2,325	29,635	40,976	2,503	229,027
Investments	56,389	3,765	8,335	37,417	17,983	31,432	14,540	36,062	38,313	5,969	250,205
Advances to customers and other accounts	173,979	11,430	14,451	200,624	42,816	215,880	16,373	154,146	142,332	17,086	989,117
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,571	543	2,769	54,732	7,015	37,345	42	15,169	28,346	1,094	169,626
Bank premises account	5,722	372	695	7,146	2,388	10,053	782	6,183	5,313	980	39,634
Investments in affiliated banks	5,214	...	...	6,639	...	7,015	...	2,514	3,397	...	24,779
	381,255	22,219	40,536	430,721	96,400	440,400	42,151	300,320	326,471	35,251	2,115,724
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	11·46	8·38	10·66	11·77	11·13	11·50	9·90	11·25	10·95	11·00	11·31
Liabilities.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,433	1,500	9,479	9,320	1,875	73,495
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,458	13,433	1,455	9,479	9,320	1,263	60,188
Current, deposit and other accounts	332,576	19,676	35,969	350,173	81,751	376,189	37,678	266,193	279,477	31,019	1,810,701
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,571	543	2,769	54,732	7,015	37,345	42	15,169	28,346	1,094	169,626
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,476	...	8	...	1,506
Reduction of bank premises account	...	...	208	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
	381,255	22,219	40,536	430,721	96,400	440,400	42,151	300,320	326,471	35,251	2,115,724

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	⅛% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛ to ⅛% ,,
30 days	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
120 days	3⅝% ,,	⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. New Zealand.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	98	98⅛	...	...	102⅛	102⅛
Demand	96⅛	97	97⅛	98	101⅛	100⅛	102	101⅛
30 days	95⅛	96	...	...	10 0⅝	99⅛	101⅛	101⅛
60 days	95⅛	95⅞	...	...	100	99⅛	101⅛	100⅛
90 days	94⅛	95⅛	...	...	99⅛	98⅛	100⅛	100⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending January 25th, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended January 30, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From—	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. To—	£
France	8,569	Poland	1,710
Brazil	40,800	Germany	285,720
Uruguay	23,027	Netherlands	3,149
British West Africa	49,528	France	396,399
British South Africa	479,236	Austria	3,127
Other Countries	1,599	Switzerland	18,800
		Egypt	285
		British India	15,752
		Other Countries	737
Total declared value of imports	602,759	Total declared value of exports	725,679

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow :—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
Jan. 24	Sovs. from abroad	21,881	Jan. 24		Nil
	Foreign coin bought	1,050	,, 25	Bars sold	13,750
,, 25		Nil		Sovs. set aside	100,000
,, 27	Foreign coin bought	5		Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 28		Nil	,, 27	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 29		Nil	,, 28	Bars sold	102,564
,, 30		Nil		Sovs. set aside	550,000
			,, 29	Sovs. set aside	100,000
				Sovs. for export	6,000
				Bars sold	5,152
			,, 30	Bars sold	1,703
				Sovs. for export	2,000
				Sovs. set aside	200,000
Total		22,936	Total		1,085,169

Net withdrawals, £1,085,169.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on January 29, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £151,058,475 on the 22nd instant (as compared with £150,466,378 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,847,840 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. Gold from South Africa to the value of about £480,000 was available in the open market yesterday and was realised at 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce. Trade requirements absorbed only £58,000; Germany secured the remaining £422,000 and this was supplemented by a withdrawal of about £100,000 from the Bank of England, as indicated below. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net efflux of £960,518 for the week under review. Receipts amounted to £22,948, and of the withdrawals amounting to £983,466, £850,000 was in sovereigns "set aside" and £102,000 in bar gold for Germany. It has been suggested that the recent setting aside of sovereigns has been for account of the Argentine; should this be so the matter is, of course, in quite a different category from the "earmarking" of gold on behalf of British Dominions, which is normally only of a temporary nature.

SILVER.

The market has ruled quietly steady during the past week and movements in quotations have been within narrower limits. Operations have been chiefly on account of the Indian Bazaars, who have made forward sales besides further purchases for shipment by this week's steamer, which is due to arrive in Bombay in time for the February settlement. The imminence of the China New Year holidays has tended to restrict business with that quarter; some re-sales have been recorded, but the buying orders have been limited as to price. American operators have both bought and sold, but with little activity. On the 24th instant, the premium on silver for cash delivery was reduced to 1/16d., at which it remained until to-day, when the difference between the two quotations narrowed to ⅛d.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 20th instant to mid-day on the 27th instant:—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Germany	23,176	British India	140,809
France	51,445	Other countries	5,302
U.S.A.	185,781		
Mexico	35,012		
British India	139,354		
Other countries	330		
	£435,098		£146,111

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	Jan. 22.	Jan. 15.	Jan. 7.
Notes in circulation	18,000	17,961	17,952
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,698	10,744	10,790
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,222	3,222
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,860	3,780	3,740
Securities (British Government)	215	215	200

The stock in Shanghai on the 25th instant consisted of about 87,200,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars and 8,380 silver bars, as compared with about 86,700,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars and 15,700 silver bars on the 18th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Jan. 24	84 10½	20 9/16	20⅜	Feb. 1, 1924	33 5/16
„ 25	84 11½	20 11/16	20½	Jan. 30, 1925	32 15/16
„ 27	84 10¾	20⅜	20 7/16	„ 29, 1926	30 11/16
„ 28	84 11¼	20 9/16	20 7/16	„ 28, 1927	26⅞
„ 29	84 11½	20 9/16	20 7/16	„ 26, 1928	26 1/16
„ 30	84 11½	20⅜	20½	„ 31, 1929	26 1/16

NOTICES.

The Lord Forteviot of Dupplin has been appointed an extraordinary director of the Bank of Scotland.

The Hon. Walter D. Gibbs has been appointed a director of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, Ltd.

The directors of the Midland Bank, Ltd., announce that they have elected Mr Robert Alexander Murray, a director of the Clydesdale Bank, Ltd., to a seat at their board.

Mr Walter Osborne Stevenson, foreign general manager of Barclays Bank, Ltd., has been elected a director of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 171, Priory Road, Hornsey, London, N. 8.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at Portland Road, Hove.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at Worcester Park, Surrey; also an office is now open at St. Nicholas, Millbrook Road, Southampton.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch will be opened at West End, Durban.

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
120,000 shares, £25, with £3½ paid	420,000	...
1,972,354 shs., £20, with £4 paid	7,889,416	...
234,000 shares, £5, fully pd.	1,170,000	...
Reserve fund	9,479,416	...
Current, deposit and other accts.	271,540,937	−18,769,316
Acceptances	15,174,189	− 4,389,551
Due to subsidiary cos.	171,400	+ 171,400
Profit and loss	849,254	− 16,591
Total	...306,694,612	−23,004,058

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash and notes	31,626,945	− 2,735,707
Balances and cheques	10,257,758	+ 449,510
Money at call and notice	13,490,496	− 6,507,446
Bills discntd.	28,190,610	−11,357,129
Investments	35,823,629	− 1,152,070
Stk. in Coutts and Co.	2,000,000	...
Shrs. in Grindlay and Co	514,000	...
Shrs. in Bank of British West Africa	120,000	...
Lloyds & Nat. Provincial	600,000	+ 180,000
Yorkshire Penny Bank	218,750	+ 31,250
Advances	156,678,357	+ 6,154,837
Bank premises	6,076,878	+ 322,248
Acceptances	15,174,189	− 4,389,551
Total	...306,694,612	−23,004,058

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	Dec. 31, 1928. £	Dec. 31, 1929. £
Capital paid up	15,810,252	15,810,252
Reserve fund	10,000,000	10,000,000
Profit and loss balance	1,476,980	1,495,178
Current, deposit and other accounts	352,147,420	351,644,965
Notes in circulation (Isle of Man)	4,543	5,839
Acceptances	13,347,012	8,603,470
Endorsements, guarantees, and other obligations	46,994,171	43,622,815
Total	439,790,378	431,182,519

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928. £	Dec. 31, 1929. £
Cash	42,345,128	44,203,999
Balances with other banks in Brit. Isles	13,111,973	12,798,849
Money at call and notice	26,819,228	26,484,815
Balances with banks abroad	2,186,456	4,665,647
Treasury bills	35,355,000	27,180,000
British bills of exchange	9,384,104	8,179,604
Colonial and foreign bills	4,542,368	4,265,673
Short-term Brit. Govt. securities	20,149,488	17,135,696
Other British Govt. Sec'ts.	14,962,469	16,581,905
Indian & Col'l. Govt. secs. and British Corp. stocks	1,586,604	1,179,095
Other invests.	1,410,130	2,237,431
The National Bank of Scot.	2,602,435	2,656,908
Bk. of London & S. America	3,422,695	3,422,695
Indian Premiscs Co.	—	54,502
Lloyds & Nat. Prov. Foreign Bank	420,000	620,000
Loans, &c.	187,145,085	191,752,253
Items in transit	3,669,703	3,910,386
Other assets	3,548,691	4,689,054
Bank premises	6,777,647	6,957,722
Acceptances	13,347,012	8,603,470
Endorsements, &c.	46,994,172	43,622,815
Total	439,790,378	431,182,519

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE AND CO.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Capital	1,060,000	...
Reserve fund	530,000	...
Current, deposit, & other accts.	39,458,633	+3,530,472
Acceptances	2,699,728	+ 618,524
Reduction of premises account	210,000	+ 10,000
Total	43,958,361	+4,158,996

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928 £
Cash	8,639,319	+1,270,667
Money at call and notice	7,051,500	− 568,750
Bills discounted	1,597,753	+ 25,851
Investments	8,430,410	+ 811,536
Advances	14,844,651	+2,001,168
Acceptances	2,699,728	+ 618,524
Premises	695,000	...
Total	43,958,361	+4,158,996

MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
£20 shares, £4 paid	1,092,040	...
Reserve fund	1,092,040	+ 12,040
Unclaimed dividends	1,844	+ 97
Unappropriated profits	164,579	− 8,271
Current, deposit & other accts.	18,281,581	−1,305,946
Acceptances	499,103	− 60,968
Total	21,131,187	−1,363,048

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cash	4,386,989	− 994,762
Bills of exchange	570,558	− 278,525
Investments	4,221,639	+ 13,991
Advances on current accts.	10,952,898	− 42,784
Liability on acceptances	499,103	− 60,968
Bank property, &c.	500,000	...
Total	21,131,187	−1,363,048

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Barranquila Rly. and Pier	2%*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Metropolitan Railway Ord.	2½%†	...	Less tax	4	3½
Do. Surplus Lands	2½%†	...	Less tax	4	3½
Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur	...	...	Tax free	12	12
BANKS.					
Australian Bk. of Commerce	3½%*	Jan. 31	...	...	...
Banque Populaire Suisse	...	...	Free of Swiss tax	6	6
Len & Co.'s Bank	...	...	...	8	...
London Merchant Bank "A"	...	...	Less tax	...	7
"B"	...	...	Less tax	...	5
INSURANCE.					
Indemnity Mutual Marine	14/-p.s.*	...	Half-yearly	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Anglo-Ceylon & Gen. Estates	4%*	Feb. 8	...	...	...
Anglo-Foreign Securities	3%†	...	Less tax	6	...
Garing (Malacca) Rubber	...	...	...	...	...
Indragiri Rubber	5%†	...	...	7½	Nil
Lunas Rubber	...	...	...	10	...
Pabbojan Tea	...	...	...	10	...
Sendayan (F.M.S.) Rubber	10%*	Feb. 12	Less tax	...	...
Takau Rubber	...	...	...	5	2½

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Birmingham Coffee House	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Birmingham Rly. Carriage & Wagon	...	...	...	10	10
Bolding (John) & Sons	...	...	Less tax	17½	17½
Bon-Accord Ice & Cold Storage	...	...	Tax free	4/6 p.s.	4/6 p.s.
Bradford Exchange	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
British Invest. Trust (Def.)	13%†	Feb. 18	Less tax	21	21
Canadian City & Town Properties	...	...	...	4	3½
Cardiff Pure Ice & Cold Storage	...	...	Tax free	4	4
Chapman & Sons	...	...	...	7½	10
City Association	...	...	...	2	4
City Offices	6¼%†	Feb. 28	...	12½	12½
Clarence Hotels, Dublin	...	...	...	8	8
Commercial Gas	3½%†	...	...	6	6
Crompton Parkinson	11½%*	Mar. 31	...	...	...
Devas, Routledge	7½%†	...	...	10	10
Dublin Artisans' Dwellings	3%†	...	Tax free	6	6
Dublin (South) City Market	3/6 p.s.	...	Tax free	7/- p.s.	...
East India Coal	7½%*	...	...	...	...
Eastwoods	5%*	Feb. 1	...	5	...
English & New York Trust	...	...	Less tax	8	8
English Velvet & Cord Dyers	6%†	...	...	6	6
Ewart & Son	25%†	Mar. 1	Less tax	41	41
Fleetwood Estate	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Fore Street Warehouse	2½%†	...	...	5	7½
Four Per Cent. Industrial Dwellings	2%†	Feb. 12	...	4	4
Gane (Pharaoh)	...	...	...	10	...
Grand Canal	2%†	...	Tax free	4	3½
General Funds Invest. Trust	...	...	...	5	5
Glasgow Stockholders Trust	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5¶
Griffiths (William)	...	...	...	12½	12½
Hunter Barr	2%†	...	...	5	5
Imperial Hydro Hotel, Blackpool	...	...	Tax free	15	...
Jones' Sewing Machine	4%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Larkins (S. C.) & Sons	...	...	Tax free	12½‡	12½‡
Lennards	...	...	...	12½	15
Leicester Real Property	...	...	...	7½	7½
Linen Thread	3%†	and bonus	2½% ...	8½	8½
Liverpool Daily Post and Echo	...	...	Less tax	25	25
Liverpool Grain Storage	...	...	Less tax	6	5
Lotus	2½%†	...	...	5	6½
Manchester Palace	7½%*	...	...	...	...
Margate Estates	3%†	...	...	5a	...
Metropolitan Gas of Melbourne	7/6 p.s.*	...	...	...	...
Outram (George)	7½%†	and bonus	7½%...	22½	22½
Owen and Robinson	3%*	Feb. 1	Tax free	...	...
Pawsons & Leafs	3½%†	...	...	6	5
Romney Trust	...	...	Less tax	7	7½
Scottish Assets	4%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Central Invest. Trust	4%†	...	Less tax	6½	6
Seed (Richard)	15%†	and bonus	5% ...	27½	25
Sentinel Waggon Works	...	Mar. 1	Less tax	7½	Nil
Sparrow Hardwick	...	...	...	5	5½
Standard Trust	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Staveley Coal & Iron	2½%*	Mar. 31	Tax free	...	...
Swansea Arcade	...	...	Tax free	20‖	20‖
Temperance Billiard Halls	6%†	...	...	12	12
Ter Investment Trust	4%†	Mar. 15	...	...	...
Town Properties of Bulawayo	5%†	...	...	10	...
U.S. & Gen. Trust	9%†	Feb. 7	...	14	13
Vulcanite	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Watney Combe Reid	8%*	...	...	...	...
Weber and Phillips	7½%†	...	...	12½	15
Westminster Chambers	7%†	Feb. 28	...	13	12§
Westminster Electric	13-12d. p.s.†	Feb. 26	...	1/9·12 p.s.	1/9·12 p.s.
Yorkshire Electric Power	5%†	Feb. 18	...	8	8
Yorkshire Railway Waggon	...	...	...	10	10

a First report. ‡ Bonus 2½%. § On smaller capital.
‖ Bonus 12%. ¶ For period of nine months.

Mappin Stores (Brazil) Limited.—In view of the present political condition, the recent fall in exchange, and the coffee crisis in Brazil, the Board of Directors do not feel justified in recommending the payment of an interim dividend. They state that the result of the company's trading for the first half-year to August 31st last was satisfactory, and the sales were well maintained up to the end of October.

OIL OUTPUTS.

British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd.—Production for December: Venezuela, 163,118 barrels; Trinidad, 50,290 barrels; total, 213,408 barrels. Shipments for December: Venezuela, 170,021 barrels; Trinidad, 75,542 barrels; total, 245,563 barrels. Production for the week ended January 8th:—Venexuela, 35,584 barrels; Trinidad, 11,550 barrels; total, 47,134 barrels. Production for the week ended January 15th: Venezuela, 31,629 barrels; Trinidad, 10,332 barrels; total, 41,961 barrels. Production for the week ended January 22:—Venezuela, 31,248 barrels (cable adds: "Gas collecting, station partially restarted, so expect improvement production this week"); Trinidad, 10,857 barrels; total, 42,105 barrels.

Venezuelan Oil Concessions.—Production for week ended January 11th was: Bolivar district, 120,158 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,132 metric tons; total, 126,390 metric tons. Production for the week ended January 18th was: Bolivar district, 118,979 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,784 metric tons; Total, 125,763 metric tons. Production for the week ended January 25th was:—Bolivar district, 119,718 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,209 metric tons; total, 125,927 metric tons.

Venezuelan Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.—Production for December, 53,163 barrels (7,595 tons). Previous month, 35,378 barrels (5,034 tons). Production for week ended January 11th, 11,873 barrels (1,696 tons). Production for week ended January 18th, 12,617 barrels (7,802 tons). Production for the week ended 25th instant, 10,553 barrels (1,508 tons).

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Jan. 24, 1930. (c) Week ended Jan. 25, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Jan. 26, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 4 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,733	184	225	134	359	543	793	842	541	1,383	2,176
Do. for 1929	3,734	184	218	135	353	537	789	840	521	1,361	2,150
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	284	419	301	720	1,004	1,187	1,540	1,099	2,639	3,826
Do. for 1929	6,360	281	412	294	706	987	1,177	1,542	1,084	2,626	3,803
Lond.Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	421	545	294	839	1,260	1,730	2,097	1,140	3,237	4,967
Do. for 1929	6,952½	418	539	315	854	1,272	1,730	2,081	1,195	3,276	5,006
Southern	2,175	262	74	34	108	370	1,078	283	135	418	1,496
Do. for 1929	2,175	248	72	39	111	359	1,037	282	146	428	1,465
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·9	...	...	4·0	36·9	131·8	...	...	16·1	147·9
Do. for 1929	59	31·1	...	...	3·8	34·9	126·5	...	...	15·3	141·8
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	302·1	...	...	...	...	1094·9
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	269·1	...	...	...	...	984·4
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	44·3	...	...	...	...	160·3
Do. for 1929	...	...	...	...	...	37·8	...	...	...	...	137·0
B'l'f'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·1	...	...	0·8	2·9	7·5	...	...	2·4	9·9
Do. for 1929	80	2·0	...	...	0·8	2·8	7·4	...	...	3·2	10·6
*Great Northernb	562	9·6	...	...	15·6	25·2	29·3	...	...	44·6	73·9
Do. for 1929	562	8·9	...	...	17·6	26·5	29·5	...	...	49·3	78·8
Great Southernb	2,187	21·1	...	...	43·9	65·0	65·8	...	...	126·8	129·6
Do. for 1929	2,187	20·6	...	...	48·4	68·9	66·3	...	...	138·7	205·0

* Aggregate 3 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	39weeks	Dec.28	1,217	4,24,000	+ 18,794	1,62,13,471	− 7,52,694
Barsi Lt. Ry.	40weeks	Jan. 4	202	42,500	+ 9,300	19,10,200	+ 78,100
Bengal & N.Western	40weeks		2,080	7,08,974	− 10,739	91,46,990	− 3,10,111
Bengal-Nagpur	37weeks	Dec.21	3,085	1,733,000	− 325226	6,50,85,925	+22,02,187
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	42weeks	Jan.18	3,031	26,10,000	+ 73,000	9,07,47,000	−14,78,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	40weeks		3,121	18,40,000	− 175426	7,11,36,155	+13,91,654
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	40weeks		1,167	4,88,768	− 12,868	1,75,50,211	+22,05,705
†Rohilk'dd Kumaon	40weeks		572	1,56,034	− 19,162	17,01,223	+ 23,027
South Indian	40weeks		2,348	12,06,175	+ 99,202	5,11,63,150	+41,44,588
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	30weeks	Jan.25	753	13,300	− 1,900	467,300	− 6,800
Argentine Trans'da.	30weeks	25	111	4,765	+ 57	137,460	+ 3,154
B.A. and Pacific	30weeks	25	2,806	170,000	− 20,000	4,446,000	− 398,000
B.A. Central	30weeks	26	...	14,318	− 1,028	386,412	− 33,105
B.A. Gt. Southern	30weeks	25	4,875	284,000	− 43,000	6,955,000	+ 35,000
B.A. Western	30weeks	25	1,926	100,000	− 20,000	2,571,000	− 327,000
Central Argentine	30weeks	25	3,319	226,000	− 66,000	7,146,000	− 820,008
Cordoba Central	30weeks	25	1,218	51,000	− 15,000	1,854,000	− 240,000
Entre Rios	30weeks	25	789	41,300	− 2,500	823,400	− 72,400
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	30weeks	Jan.25	1,374	84,910	−[35,264	1,508,592	− 206,542
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	30weeks	Jan.25	273	35,864	+ 2,057	888,305	− 18,322
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	30weeks	25	311	10,263	+ 990	196,945	+ 345
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	30weeks	25	185	4,364	+ 64	99,391	− 7,830
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	30weeks	25	211	3,013	− 774	80,758	− 4,083
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	3weeks	Jan.21	19580	3,859,324	−264449	10,935,658	− 585,907
Canadian Pacific	3weeks	21	15209	3,120,000	−713000	8,251,000	−2,389,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	4weeks	Jan.25	1,016	22,300	− 4,000	72,300	− 14,100
Leopoldina	4weeks	25	1,856	35,924	− 92	125,369	− 4,520
Leopoldina Termnl.	4weeks	25	Mlrs.	285,000	...	1,073,000	+ 54,000
San Paulo	4weeks	26	153½	41,945	− 8,022	141,525	− 47,077
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	4weeks	Jan.26	804	31,220	− 17,830	117,280	− 58,610
Nitrate (½-monthly)	2weeks	15	413	30,222	− 12,357	30,222	− 12,357
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	40weeks	Jan.10	608	11,667	+ 894	282,677	+ 17,820
Gt. Southn. of Spain	3weeks	18	104	Ps.105,797	− 10,475	345,812	− 7,457
Mexican Railway	3weeks	21	483	$188,700	− 53,900	657,500	− 28,800
Paraguay Central	30weeks	25	274	3,730	+ 300	120,050	− 9,350
Salvador	30weeks	25	100	6,384	− 898	117,596	− 7,387

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

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (c) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	3weeks	Jan.21	329	84,570	− 1,100	251,405	− 8,898
B. Aires Lacrosse	30weeks	26	...	12,440	− 737	345,068	− 31,065
Burnley Corporation	1 week	25	13	2,919	− 30	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	25	35½	Rs.122,616	− 7,557	...	...
Chatham & District	2weeks	16	15	1,058	+ 111	2,522	+ 87
Egyptian Markets	2weeks	16	...	1,881	− 337	4,738	− 1,170
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	8 days	8	...	1,005	− 19	...	...
Liverpool Corp.	43weeks	25	124	30,031	+ 3,158	1,299,767	+ 34,148
L.C.C. Tramways	42weeks	22	166	82,753	+ 2,928	3,569,562	+ 49,687
Madras Electric	12weeks	15	...	49,351	+ 561	...	...

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road. 1927.	Miles of Road. 1928.	Gross Earnings. 1928.	Gross Earnings. Increase or Decrease.	Net Earnings. 1928.	Net Earnings. Increase or Decrease.
			$	$	$	$
Sept.	239,499	240,693	554,440,941	— 9,980,689	180,359,111	+ 1,711,331
Oct.	238,828	240,661	616,710,737	+ 36,755,850	216,522,015	+ 35,437,734
Nov.	239,982	241,138	530,909,223	+ 26,968,447	157,140,516	+ 29,896,691
Dec.	239,286	240,337	495,574,485	+ 27,178,944	138,293,445	+ 48,444,421
	1928.	1929.	1929.		1929.	
Jan.	240,417	240,833	486,201,495	+ 28,853,685	117,730,186	+ 23,678,231
Feb.	242,668	242,884	474,780,516	+ 18,292,585	126,368,848	+ 17,381,336
Mar.	240,427	241,185	516,134,027	+ 10,884,477	139,639,086	+ 7,516,400
Apr.	240,956	240,816	513,076,026	+ 38,291,124	136,821,660	+ 25,937,085
May	240,798	241,280	536,723,030	+ 26,179,817	146,798,792	+ 17,754,001
June	241,243	241,608	531,033,198	+ 28,577,315	150,174,332	+ 22,659,557
July	241,183	241,450	556,706,135	+ 43,884,198	168,428,748	+ 30,793,381
Aug.	241,253	241,026	585,638,740	+ 27,835,272	190,957,504	+ 16,758,866
Sept.	241,447	241,704	565,816,654	+ 9,812,986	181,413,185	+ 2,612,246
Oct.	241,451	241,622	607,584,997	— 9,890,014	204,335,941	— 12,183,372

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month. 1929-30.	Receipts for Month. + or —	Aggregate Receipts. 1929-30.	Aggregate Receipts. + or —
INDIAN.							
Southern Punjab	6 mths	Sept. 30	931	Rs. 11,83,874	Rs. — 62,864	Rs. 67,93,680	Rs. — 650,732
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	11 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	$ 20,204,002	$ — 6354310	$ 240,891,733	$ —12,139,144
			Net	2,975,760	— 4163420	43,127,465	—10,421,827
Canadian Pacific	11 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	16,121,000	— 8238000	194,213,000	—13,734,000
			Net	4,550,000	—2756000	39,992,000	— 8,546,000
BRAZILIAN.							
State of Bahia..	8 mths	Dec. 31	52	£9,179	+ 2,367	42,781	— 16,947
CHILE AND PERU.							
Peruvian Corp..	6 mths	Dec. 31	31066	£159,440	+ 8,674	964,636	+ 59,462
Taltal	6 mths	Dec. 31	174	£14,610	— 3,930	89,648	+ 5,538
URUGUAYAN.							
Midland Uruguay	6 mths	Dec. 31	319	£ 21,489	£ + 3,191	£ 111,915	£ + 6,276
N.-W. Uruguay	6 mths	Dec. 31	113	6,808	— 1,563	38,467	— 1,353
Uruguay North	6 mths	Dec. 31	73	2,872	— 1,171	14,659	— 3,427
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Alcoy & Gandia	12 mths	Dec. 31	33	£ 3,518	£ — 1,371	£ 39,175	£ — 8,226
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a)	5 mths	Nov. 30	Gross	$138,834	— 15,736	686,757	— 53,272
Beira and Mashonaland	1 mth	Oct. 31	763	175,460	+ 13,226	2,073,903	+ 143,360
Bilbao River	12 mths	Dec. 31	15	3,545	+ 574	44,875	+ 9,700
Bolivar	12 mths	Dec. 31	170	10,800	...	134,300	+ 1,100
Colombia Rlys.&c	6 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	26,398	— 20,840	167,315	— 71,110
Costa Rica	3 mths	Sept. 30	188	35,892	+ 849	120,582	+ 3,247
Dorado Railway	12 mths	Dec. 31	70	25,500	— 14,700	437,700	— 63,700
Dorado Bope. Rx.	12 mths	Dec. 31	45	3,900	— 1,700	55,100	— 14,000
International of Central America	11mth	Nov30	Gross	149,280	+ 5,340	1,649,321	+ 57,277
			Net	60,660	+ 6,130	671,298	+ 28,866
La Guaira & Car.	12 mths	Dec. 31	22½	10,965	— 1,025	139,510	— 2,225
Mid. of W. Aust.	5 mths	Nov. 30	277	18,999	— 347	91,329	+ 6,407
Nassjo Oso'sh'mm	9 mths	Sept. 30	...	11,018	— 97	97,289	— 1,792
Rhodesia Rail'ys	1 mth	Oct. 31	1,396	256,420	+ 26,638	...	...
Samana & Sant'go	12 mths	Dec. 31	...	2,370	— 823	33,520	— 7,079
Sante Fe Prov. .	1 mth	Dec. 31	...	175,301	— 5,156	...	...
Zafra and Huelva	11 mths	Nov. 30	112	Ps. 407,269	— 52,542	4,891,985	+ 255,607

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

Barcelona Trac. receipts in pstas.	11 mths	Nov 30	Gross	Ps 9,253,635	+ 945,239	92,575,902	+ 10154004
			Net	Ps 6,137,843	+ 116,252	58,761,541	+ 1,013,099
Barton Transport	3 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	£10,213	+ 273	31,690	+ 2,162
Brazilian Trac. receipts in $..	11 mths	Nov 30	Gross	$4,145,850	+ 447,637	45,366,904	+ 6,265,634
			Net	$2,350,648	+ 174,672	25,811,667	+ 3,050,606
Brit. Columbia Electric, &c..	3 mths	Oct.31	Gross	1,230,278	+ 84,884	4,725,029	+ 294,876
			Net	384,295	+ 16,232	1,519,927	+ 120,223
Burma Electric Supply Co.	4 mths	Nov.30	...	Rs. 62,191	— 4,714	2,49,852	— 25,126
Cape Elec. Tram.	*6 mths	Dec.31	Gross	£35,607	...	...	...
Carthagena and Herrerias Trms.	11 mths	Nov.30	...	£1,350	— 220	12,053	— 361
Catalinas Warehs	1 mth	Dec.31	...	£13,750	+ 1,500	...	...
Cities Service Co.	12 mths	Dec.31	Gross	$5,177,298	+ 1837971	44,786,447	+ 10041850
			Net	$5,043,803	+ 1801504	43,452,387	+ 9,867,921
E. African Power	7 mths	July31	Gross	£11,618	+ 2,294	72,638	+ 10,722
Hellenic Elec...	9 mths	Sept30	Gross	£18,879	+ 2,824	173,273	+ 10,685
Imp. Airways...	7 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	£54,561	+ 18,551	402,030	+ 79,651
International Light&Power	12 mths	June30	Gross	£34,072	+ 962	395,658	+ 6,489
			Net	£8,671	+ 2,197	94,990	— 6,058
Kalgoorlie Elec Tramways ...	1 mth	Sept30	Gross	£1,980	...	...	...
			Net	£448	...	...	...
La Guaira Harb.	1 mth	Dec.31	...	£16,471	+ 2,192	...	...
La Plata Electric	12 mths	Dec.31	...	£10,326	+ 26	116,149	+ 2,603
Madeira-Mamore	6 mths	Dec.31	Gross	Contos 92	— 49	632	— 220
Madras Electric	4 mths	May 31	Gross	Rs. 79,888	— 17,303	321,806	— 67,896
Manchester Ship Canal	11 mths	Nov.30	...	£112,889	— 1,128	1,302,441	+ 19,060
Mogyana Rlys.	10 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Ml. 5400000	+ 339,184	48,920,000	+ 506,755
Para Electric ...	1 mth	Dec.31	Gross	£14,487	+ 127	...	...
			Net	£5,370	+ 361	...	...
Rangoon Electric	11 mths	Nov 30	Gross	Rs.4,68,350	+ 12,850	48,84,803	+ 80,884
			Net	Rs.2,59,125	+ 9,825	25,87,578	+ 78,843
Shanghai Elec..	12 mths	Dec.31	Mex.	$345,415	+ 23,445	4,073,322	+ 370,577
Singapore Trac.	3 mths	Dec.31	...	$129,000	+ 18,000	388,000	+ 57,000
Tokyo Electric	11 mths	Nov.30	Gross	£960,565	+ 106,206	9,510,710	+ 1,075,991
United Electric T. of Caracas	4 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Bol.217,628	+ 6,523	843,485	+ 4,487
Winnipeg Electric	11 mths	Nov 30	Gross	$597,391	+ 44205	5,993,875	+ 393,276
			Net	$228,368	+ 19,059	2,110,583	+ 263,080

* Including motor-buses.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER, 1929.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profits.
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ariston	7,084	...	...	...	...	12,044	700
Ashanti	10,034	...	11,298	...	11,298	49,094	24,442
Associated	3,674	...	...	...	...	6,033	...
Balaghat	4,550	...	2,587	...	...	...	...
Blackwater	2,559	...	...	...	...	4,850	* 541
Boulder Perseverance	4,848	...	...	...	...	£12,679	2,058
Cam and Motor	24,000	...	...	...	...	45,195	16,188
Central Manitoba	3,900	...	...	...	...	$26,238	...
Champion Reef	8,410	22,768	4,836	2,102	6,938	...	...
Chosen Corporation	9,900	...	...	...	...	11,265	1,860
Fresnillo	92,742	...	...	...	...	$89,513	...
Frontino and Bolivia	2,400	...	...	...	...	6,960	...
Globe and Phœnix	6,079	...	...	...	...	...	10,182
Great Boulder	5,395	...	...	...	5,278	...	605
Lena (Jan. 1–15)	...	...	...	...	...	17,349	...
London and Rhodesian (Nov.)	3,224	...	...	...	1,323	5,556	...
Lonely Reef	5,800	16,000	3,053	1,100	4,153	4,037	...
Luipaards Vlei	23,000	...	6,001	...	6,001	...	8,347
Marmajito	910	...	...	...	...	...	3,667
Mayfair	1,000	...	...	...	470	4,498	...
Mysore	17,019	...	8,454	1,507	9,961	1,975	1,243*
Nundydroog	11,072	19,493	5,564	1,367	6,931	...	...
Ooregum	13,544	19,456	5,196	1,041	6,237	...	...
Oriental Consolidated			(Clean	-up.)		...	...
Oriental Consolidated (Nov.)						$103600	...
Pato (20 days to Dec. 31)	18,436	...	...	...	...	$100779	$37,891
Pato (11 dys. to Jan. 10)	...	...	...	...	...	$37,196	...
Rezende	Dredge	No. 1	...	...	...	$16,617	...
Rhodesian Corporation	Dredge	No. 2	...	...	...	$5,764	...
Santa Gertrudis	6,400	...	...	...	...	12,149	5,018
Sherwood Starr	...	...	...	...	...	...	814
Sons of Gwalia	50,816	...	...	...	...	$103802	...
South Kalgurli	4,400	...	...	...	...	9,880	4,015
St. John del Rey	8,724	...	...	...	...	8,987	...
Taquah and Abosso	6,140	...	...	...	...	12,653	...
Waihi†	...	...	...	...	...	42,000	...
Wanderer	8,765	...	...	...	...	14,566	2,198
	21,476	...	7,272	...	2,081	...	...
	10,100	...	...	...	...	8,762	1,034

* Loss.
† In addition, 54,542 ozs. silver produced.

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
TIN.		
Amari (Nigeria)	7	...
Anglo-Burma	19½	...
Anglo-Nigerian	67	Concentrates.
Baba River	2½	Concentrates.
Bangrin	48	...
Batu Caves	31	Est. profit, £1,633.
Batura Monguna	2	Concentrates.
Berenguela	35	Black tin concentrates.
Chenderiang	29½	Est. value, £3,021.
Consolidated Tin of Burma	100	Mixed concentrates.
Daffo	9	...
Ex-Lands Nigeria	65	Concentrates.
Fabulosa	290	Tin barrilla.
Filani (Nigeria)	5½	Concentrates.
Geevor	65	Black tin; amount realised, £6,600.
Gopeng	86	Est. value, £9,265; est. profit, £6,935.
Hongkong	184	Est. value, £18,620.
Idris	38½	Est. value, £3,873; est. profit, £2,105.
Jantar Nigeria	42	...
Jos	26½	...
Kaduna Prospectors	24	...
Kaduna Syndicate	40½	...
Kagera (Uganda)	30	...
Kamunting	73½	Concentrates.
Kassa	19	Est. value, £8,073.
Kay Yew	289	Concentrates.
Kent (F.M.S.)	45	Piculs.
Kepong	37	Est. value, £4,540; est. profit, £2,405.
Kinta	38½	Est. value, £3,872; est. profit, £1,266.
Lahat	16½	Est. value, £4,282; est. profit, £3,075.
Lower Bisichi	6½	Est. value, £1,853; est. profit, £268.
Malaya Consolidated	73	...
Malayan	142½	Est. value, £15,887; est. profit, £6,428.
Malaysian	19	Est. value, £1,867; est. profit, £782.
Naraguta Durumi	18½	...
Naraguta Extended	15	...
Naraguta Karama	27½	...
Naraguta Korot	20	...
Naraguta (Nigeria)	18½	...
Nigerian Consolidated	20	...
Otfin River Gold	7	...
Pahang Consolidated	222	Black tin.
Pangnga River	22½	Est. value, £2,683.
Pattani	90	Piculs.
Penewat (Malaya)	82½	...
Pengkalen	65½	Est value, £7,305; est. profit, £4,025.
Petaling	178	Est. value, £17,733; est. profit, £9,333.
Pusing	...	Est. profit, £215.
Rahman	65½	...
Rambutan	11	Est. value, £1,035; est. profit, £135.
Rantau	50	Est. profit, £2,216.
Renong	108	...
Ribon Valley	15	Concentrates.
Siamese	145½	...
Sione	31½	...
South Bukeru	13	...
South Crofty	68	Black tin; value, £7,657.
Southern Malayan	178½	Est. value, £19,971; est. profit, £11,037
Southern Perak	59½	Est. value, £6,592; est. profit, £2,042.
Southern Tronoh	48	Est. value, £5,180; est. profit, £2,210.
Sungei Besi	53	Est. value, £6,053; est. profit, £2,212.
Sungei Pari	27·4	Concentrates.
Sungei Way	77½	Est. value, £7,700; est. profit, £4,200.
Talping	33	Est. profit, £1,050.
Tanjong	44½	Est. value, £4,923; est. profit, £2,998.
Teja Malaya	35	...
Tekka	45	Est. value, £4,690; est. profit, £2,400.
Tekka-Taiping	31	Est. value, £3,370; est. profit, £325.
Tin Fields of Nigeria	2½	...
Tongkah Harbour	67	...

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Appropriation. Dividend. Ordinary. Amount.	Appropriation. Dividend. Ordinary. Rate.	Appropriation. Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Appropriation. Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Dividend
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
London Merchant Bank ...	Dec. 31	29,316	74,419	103,735	...	47,250	7A 5B	...	31,485	71,845	7A 5B
Union Bank of Manchester	Dec. 31	11,874	126,167	138,041	...	96,000	16	30,000	12,041	176,545	16
Financial Land, &c.											
Canadian City and Town Properties	Oct. 31	1,101	7,033	8,134	...	5,950	1,000	1,184	...	...	...
Rubber, &c.											
Garing (Malacca) Rubr. Ests.	Sept. 30	3,960	7,897	11,587	...	5,728	7½	2,000	3,859	1,409,	...
Takau (F.M.S.) Rubber Ests.	Oct. 31	5,786	3,254	9,040	...	1,947	2½	3,000	4,093	*Dr. 2,071*	...
Shops and Stores.											
Lennards, Ltd.	Jan. 4	21,797	42,568	64,365	15,000	27,344	12½‖	...	22,021	38,940	15
Lotus, Ltd.	Dec. 31	12,401	43,922	56,323	19,600	27,214	5	...	9,509	69,254	6½
Public Benefit Boot Co. ...	Dec. 31	34,718	31,313	66,031	25,142	...	...	5,891	34,998	33,997	12½
Weber (L. & J.) and Phillips	Dec. 31	22,668	19,330	41,998	...	23,250	12½	2,000	16,748	32,835	15
Textiles.											
Ashton Bros. and Co.	Dec. 31	3,405	17,116	20,522	4,320	...	...	14,480	1,721	*Dr.44847*	...
Huddersfield Fine Worsteds	Dec. 31	5,612	23,454	29,066	13,485	6,429	2½	2,500	6,702	38,456	...
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Singapore Traction Co.	Sept. 30	2,540	37,098	39,538	14,000	...	...	22,281	3,357	27,260	...
Sunderland Dist. Omnibus	Oct. 31	2,085	21,607	23,692	...	7,500	10	14,000	2,192	19,866	12½
Trust.											
English and New York Trust	Dec. 31	2,042	33,457	35,499	18,000	12,000	5	...	5,499	17,042	2
Scottish American Invst. Co.	Dec. 31	90,402	264,326	354,728	60,409	164,000	10A 20B	25,000	105,319	234,824	10A 20B
Scottish Central Invst. Trust	Jan. 15	6,440	56,232	62,672	24,000	20,800	6½	10,000	7,872	38,043	6
Scottish United Investors...	Dec. 31	2,961	80,746	83,707	29,250	35,100	9	18,000	1,357	67,032	8
Second Scottish United Inv.	Dec. 15	2,221	36,674	38,895	18,187	12,125	5	6,859	1,724	17,427	5
Sterling Trust	Dec. 31	79,834	159,240	239,074	35,000	101,500	14½	24,022	78,552	131,854	14
United States and General Trust Corpn.	Dec. 31	23,426	108,027	131,453	37,804	56,488	14	25,000	12,161	97,402	13
Waterworks.											
York Waterworks Co.	Dec. 31	16,098	16,255	32,353	3,603	10,800	10* 7*	...	17,950	14,263	10* 7*
Other Companies.											
Devas, Routledge & Co.....	Dec. 31	23,701	14,836	38,537	...	14,000	10	...	24,537	14,720	10
Dublin (South) City Mkt. Co.	Dec. 31†	6,482	4,289	10,771	...	3,500	3½ p.a.	500	6,771	4,022	3½ pa‡
Ewart and Son	Dec. 31	20,752	58,828	79,580	16,112	32,541	41	10,000	20,927	50,847	41
Fore St. Warehouse Co.	Dec. 19	11,683	18,325	30,008	...	17,120	5	...	12,887	26,606	7½
Hackney Furnishg.Co.(1928)	Dec. 31	...	31,217	31,217	15,622	...	...	10,000	5,595	...	...
London Produce Clearg. Hse.	Dec. 31	26,536	35,011	61,547	...	§33,750	15	...	27,797	36,534	15§
Lovey's (John) and Co.....	Dec. 31	5,111	10,064	15,175	3,600	7,000	7	...	4,575	11,519	7
Margate Estates	Sept. 30	...	15,963	15,963	4,000	8,234	8	351	3,378	...	...
McIntyre,Hogg,March & Co.	Nov. 30	38,841	73,889	112,730	12,900	38,325	17½	14,000	47,505	74,994	17½
Outram (George) and Co....	Dec. 31	24,454	186,495	210,949	...	157,720	22½	30,000	23,229	210,389	22½
Pawsons and Leafs	Dec. 28	44,949	18,588	63,537	...	16,560	6	...	46,977	16,215	5
Phillips Rubber Soles	Nov. 30	10,570	105,855	116,425	18,000	54,000	15	30,422	14,003	115,208	15
Pratt (J. Alfred) & Co. (1928)	Oct. 31	...	25,525	25,525	7,500	9,000	10	...	9,025	...	...
Vulcanite Co.	Oct. 31	333	2,015	2,348	1,464	500	5	...	384	...	...
Yorkshire Rly. Waggon Co.	Dec. 31	2,567	33,768	36,335	...	27,500	10	6,300	2,535	35,459	10

* 10 per cent. paid on £10 ordinary shares issued in 1846, and 7 per cent. on £10 ordinary shares issued in 1878 and 1879.
† For six months. ‡ Free of income tax. § 15 per cent. on ordinary share and £56 5s. on each Founder's share.
‖ 12½ per cent. on the old ordinary shares and 12½ per cent. per annum on the new ordinary shares.

Mining Output Statistics—*Continued.*

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
Tronoh	122	Est. value, £13,593; est. profit, £7,382.
Uhu Klang	34½	...
United Tin Areas	20	Concentrates.
COAL.		
Chinese Engineering	105,000	Sales of coal by Kailan Mining Administration. week ended January 18.
Clydesdale (Transvaal)	42,386	...
Dundee	45,773	...
Durban Navigation	53,619	...
Natal Navigation	117,659	...
Tweefontein United	62,287	...
Vereeniging Estates	236,956	...
Wankie	82,919	Coke sales, 10,630 tons.
Witbank	64,661	...
COPPER.		
Bwana M'Kubwa	598	Refined copper.
Indian	233	Refined copper.
Mazapil	815	Metric tons, copper matte; lead concentrates, 503 metric tons; zinc concentrates, 839 metric tons.
Messina (Transvaal)	1,459	Concentrates producing 588 tons copper.
Poderosa	1,815	Metric tons, estimated at 19 per cent. copper.
DIAMOND.		
Crown	9,250	Carats.
Tanganyika	633	Carats.
West African	18,900	Carats.
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Beralt	18	Wolfram.
European and N. African	3,094	Iron ore; 87 tons lead concentrates.
Rhodesia Broken Hill	910	Slab zinc.
Rhodesian & General Asbestos	3,024	...
Tetiuhe	10,800	Ore treated, producing 2,091 tons zinc concentrates; 993 tons lead concentrates.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH, LTD.—For four weeks to December 28, 1929, 22,710, tons of crude ore were treated and produced 4,384 tons of leady concentrates assaying 68 per cent. lead and 27 ounces silver per ton; also 4,389 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 49 per cent. zinc. Decreased output due to Christmas holidays.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION, LTD.—December production of the affiliated tin companies in Malaya:—Larut, 75 tons; Jelapang, 34 tons; Kuala Kampar, 90 tons; Changkat, 95 tons; Rawang, 90 tons; Kundang, 40 tons; Rawang, 90 tons; Kampong Lanjut, 70 tons; Malim Nawar, 28 tons; tot 592 tons. December production of the affiliated tin companies: In the East: Kampar Malaya, 70 tons; Tavoy, 47 tons; Northern Tavoy, 40 tons; Thingandon, 10 tons; Theindaw, 6 tons; Toyo, 30.6 tons; total, 203.6 tons. Nigeria: Associated Tin Mines of Nigeria, 274 tons; Mongu (Nigeria) Tin, 60 tons; Juga Valley, 24 tons; Tin Properties, 28 tons; Junction Tin Mine (Nigeria), 4½ tons; London Tin Syndcate, 251 tons; total, 636½ tons. Cornwall: Wheal Kitty, 45½ tons; Polhigey, 34 tons; total, 79½ tons.

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO, LTD.—Operations for December: Ore treated, 28,140 tons; lead concentrates produced, 3,477 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 4,083 tons. Estimated net smelter returns, $225,206; operating expenses, $133,932; estimated operating profit, $81,274.

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LTD.—Report for four weeks ended December 29, 1929, Iron and Steel Works, Newcastle, N.S.W. Introductory: Principal collieries northern coal-field, New South Wales, remained closed down during period, but operations at iron and steel works were continued on reduced scale; also operations further interfered with and production lessened by Christmas holidays. Coke ovens produced 6,166 tons of coke, 63,120 gallons of tar and 75 tons of sulphate of ammonia. Blast Furnaces (No. 1) produced 9,628 tons of pig iron. Open Hearth produced 13,310 tons steel. Steel Foundry produced 1,885 tons of castings. Iron Knob shipped 23,285 tons of ironstone. Ore raised: 9,035 tons, including 447 tons silicious ore for Broken Hill Associated Smelters. 8,520 tons crushed sulphide ore treated at Sulphide Corporation Mill produced 1,634 tons lead concentrates, assaying 8·4 per cent. zinc, 65·75 per cent. lead, and 48 ozs. silver per ton; also 1,795 tons zinc concentrates containing 3·1 per cent. lead, 5·0 ozs. silver, and 50·5 per cent. zinc. Slimes Flotation Plant treated 12,858 tons residues, producing 1,457 tons oxidised lead concentrates, assaying 39·2 per cent. lead, 17·5 ozs. silver per ton, also 26 tons zinc middlings. 1,997 tons oxidised lead concentrates disintegrated and dispatched Broken Hill Associated Smelters. Despatches zinc concentrates amounted to 1,476 tons.

Onverwacht Platinum, Ltd.—Reduction plant treated 2,615 tons during the month of December. Crude platinum produced is estimated to yield 450 ounces refined platinum and allied metals, equal to 3·442 dwts. per ton milled.

Mount Lyell Mining and Railway.—During the four-weekly period ended January 1st, the mill treated 14,469 tons of ore producing 3,122 tons of concentrates

North Broken Hill, Ltd.—For the month of December the production was as follows: 31,806 tons of crude ore were treated, assaying 14.2 per cent. lead, 8.3 ounces silver per ton, and 10.6 per cent. zinc, producing 6,950 tons lead concentrates, assaying 61.9 per cent. lead, 32.9 ounces silver per ton and 8.2 per cent. zinc; also 5,250 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 48.6 per cent. zinc, 2.1 per cent. lead, and 3.2 ounces silver per ton.

Burma Corporation, Ltd. (Incorporated in India).—During the month of December 35,777 tons of ore were mined, including 144 tons of high-grade ore. 29,500 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 9,965 tons of leady concentrates. 13,337 tons of lead-bearing material, including 2,937 tons of high-grade ore, were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 7,252 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were 6,750 tons refined lead and 607,000 ounces refined silver. Of silver production 35,849 ounces were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Zinc plant produced 4,330 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 8.6 ounces silver, 4 per cent. lead, and 51.7 per cent. zinc. In addition to the above, 900 tons copper matte were produced from the treatment of accumulated smelter by-products and 6,259 tons copper ore. 100 tons of refined antimonial lead and 300 tons of nickel speiss were also produced. Included in the tonnage of refined lead is 141 tons recovered from the smelting of copper ore.

San Finx Tin Mines, Ltd.—Returns for December, 1929: Extracted 2,614 tons; mill crushed, 1,853 tons; yield 10 tons tin concentrates, 6.5 tons wolfram. Estimated value, £1,900; working costs, £2,350; development, £540; construction and equipment, £200.

Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia.—Production during four-weekly period ended January 8, 1930: 4,251 tons zinc, of which 70 tons used at the works. Silver-lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation, containing: 400 tons lead, 49,500 ounces silver.

Sulphide Corporation, Limited.—During the six weeks ended December 28, 1929, 14,237 tons of Central Mine ore were milled at the Central Mine, producing 2,671 tons of leady concentrates (including 99 tons from the de-leading plant) which assayed 49 ozs. silver and 66 per cent. lead, together with 3,340 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 6 ozs. silver, 3 per cent. lead and 51 per cent. zinc per ton.

Working Profit, Transvaal.—The total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of December, 1929, amounted to: Witwatersrand, £1,025,877; outside districts, £32,354; total, £1,058,231. The estimated working profit in November, 1929, was: Witwatersrand, £1,042,308; outside districts, £28,891; total, £1,071,199.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The board of the African Steam Ship Company have elected Mr James Henry Sharrock (chairman of the Liverpool board of Elder, Dempster and Company, Ltd.) to be a director of the company in place of the late Mr G. W. Neville.

McIlroy's Stores (Hanley), Ltd., announce that their registered office has been transferred from 1, Cornhill, E.C. 3, to Lamb Street, Hanley. The transfer office remains at 1, Cornhill, E.C.3.

Mr. John Montague Eddy, C.B.E., has been elected a director of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Limited, and also a director of Buenos Ayres Western Railway.

At a meeting of the Joint Hull Committee, held January 23rd, Mr E. L. Jacobs (underwriter of the Alliance Assurance Company, Ltd.) and Mr F. J. L. Fish, of Lloyd's, were unanimously re-elected chairman and deputy-chairman respectively of the committee for 1930.

Australian Mutual Provident Society announce that Admiral of the Fleet, the Right Hon. Earl Jellicoe, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., has been appointed to a seat on the London board of the society in the place of the late Sir John A. Cockburn.

Mr Colin Skelton Anderson has been elected a director of Messrs Anderson, Green and Company, Ltd.

Mr C. T. Laurence, for many years chief surveyor of the London Assurance, has retired. Mr L. M. Clift has been appointed chief surveyor of the London Assurance in place of Mr C. T. Laurence. Mr Crossley, formerly chief surveyor of the London Assurance and its allied offices at Manchester, has also been appointed sprinkler superintendent of the corporation.

At a meeting of directors of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Mr P. G. M. Mitchell (a director and general manager of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company), was appointed a director of that company.

BANKS.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

	Half-year Dec. 31, 1928. Rs.	Half-year Dec. 31, 1929. Rs.
Net profits past half-year...	40,51,100	40,99,700
Brought forward ...	29,63,100	27,83,500
Total	70,14,200	68,83,000
Dividend 16 per cent. per annum, free of income tax	45,00,000	45,00,000
To reserve fund	5,00,000	5,00,000
To pension fund	3,42,000	3,57,000
To premises account ...	Nil	Nil
Carried forward ...	16,72,200	15,26,200
Total ... ... Rs.	70,14,200	68,83,200

MISCELLANEOUS.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY, LIMITED.—About a year ago £7,487,928 was capitalised, and shareholders were issued one new share for every four shares held. On the capital prior to that capitalisation the distribution represents an increase of 2½ per cent. The net profit is expected to be about £9,105,000. With the amount brought forward £1,169,098, approximately £10,274,000 would be available for distribution. The dividend of 23 per cent. free of income tax, will require £8,611,108, an increase of £813,667. The reserve account will be increased to £4,500,000 by the transfer of £487,000, as compared with £500,000 previously. This would leave £1,176,000 to be carried forward, an increase of £7,000. When the directors announced their intention of issuing the bonus shares, they stated that shareholders should not expect the dividend rate to remain at the same level. In previous years a sum has been put to pensions fund, but this year it is stated that provision has been made for payments to the newly constituted pensions fund.

SWEDISH MATCH COMPANY.—Higginson & Co., Fiscal Agents of the Swedish Match Company, announce that, at a special session of the German Reichstag on Tuesday, the agreement between the German Government, the Swedish Match Company and N. V. Maatschappij Kreuger and Toll in connection with the German match monopoly was ratified. All that is now necessary before the agreement comes into force is the acceptance by the German Reichstag of the Young Plan.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions have been rather unsettled, but a drier spell enabled farmers to push ahead with spring preparations. The progress of winter crops is by no means satisfactory, the plant being thin and uneven on heavy soils owing to excessive moisture. Supplies of native wheat are difficult to place and prices further gave way, adversely affected to some extent by cheap Continental offers. On the import market, dull conditions continue, with scarcely any inquiry for floating and forward cargoes. In these circumstances, prices developed further weakness, being influenced by freer offers, particularly of Canadian grades, the result of Argentine competition and increasing shipments. Private estimates of the Argentine surplus exceed official figures, and consumers' requirements will probably be drawn from the Southern Hemisphere unless North American quotations come more into line with market parity. European consumers are apparently still well stocked, and prospective supplies give little cause for anxiety, although later purchases must necessarily be on a larger scale. These, however, may not be sufficiently weighty to maintain prices in North America, and there appears little prospect of the large Canadian surplus being absorbed unless prices are sufficiently attractive to encourage general buying on a substantial scale. Flour prices declined in sympathy with wheat both for spot and forward deliveries, offers on c.i.f. terms from Canada and Australia being on a reduced basis, without attracting much attention from importers. The market for feeders continues to display a good deal of irregularity, and firmer prices during the early part of the week were not sustained. Consumptive demand for maize fails to improve, and with prospects of a large new Argentine crop together with heavy supplies to come forward from the Danube, buyers adopt a reserved attitude pending further developments in the situation. Barley sells rather better at low rates, but oats are still difficult to sell.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 51s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 50s. 6d.; No. 3, 49s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 48s. 6d.; No. 5, 44s. 9d.; No. 6, 38s.; No. 1 Vancouver, 50s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 49s. 3d.; No. 3, 48s.; No. 2 hard Winter, 46s. 6d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 43s.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 44s. 9d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 45s. 3d.; Australian, 47s. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 11d.-9s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet and easier. London, straight run, 40s. per sack for country deliveries and 39s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 37s. 6d.-39s. 6d.; Buffalo, 38s. 6d.-40s. 6d.; Australian, 36s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, January-February, 37s. 6d.-38s.; export ditto, 35s.-35s. 3d.; Australian, 33s. 9d.-34s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £6 10s. per ton.

Maize.—Easier. Plate, landed, 27s. 3d.; ex ship to arrive, 26s.; February-March, 26s. 9d.; March-April, 27s. 9d.; new, April-May, 27s. 9d.; May-June, 27s. 6d.; white flat African, January-February, 28s. 3d.; No. 4 yellow ditto, 27s. 3d.; ex ship, per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 17s. 6d.; white, £6 7s. 6d. per ton, ex ship.

Barley.—Dull and easier. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 37s.-45s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex store, 36s.-42s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. No. 2 Federal American, landed, 24s.; Danubian, landed, 25s.; Black Sea, January, ex ship, 20s. 3d.; Persian ditto, 20s. 3d. per 400 lbs.; English malting, 8s. 6d.-13s.; feed, 7s. 3d.-8s. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Slow. Plate, landed, 17s. 3d.; ex ship, to arrive, 16s. 3d.; black Plate, landed, 17s. 3d.; Chilian white, landed, 24s.; ditto, tawny, 19s. 6d.; German, landed, 19s.-19s. 6d., ex ship to arrive, 18s.-18s. 3d.; mixed Canadian feed, 15s.; South Russian, 18s. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 8d.-7s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to January 25	Cwts. 310,308	Cwts. 291,230	Cwts. 330,499	Cwts. 304,464
21 weeks to January 25.....	5,516,481	5,614,781	5,180,340	7,577,286
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 9 8	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Jan. 18	317,925	374,958	55,236	9 7	8 6	6 11
Jan. 25	310,308	357,415	56,606	9 6	8 5	6 11
Jan. 23, 1926	352,593	263,174	63,174	12 3	10 5	9 3
Jan. 22, 1927	330,984	470,751	99,600	11 10	11 1	8 5
Jan. 28, 1928	330,499	388,340	96,439	9 11	11 3	9 11
Jan. 26, 1929	291,230	393,327	122,248	9 8	10 3	9 5

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 —

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	128⅞	148⅜	135⅛	135⅜	127⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	124⅛	130⅞	124	124¼	118¼

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,084,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 491,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 80,683,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Coal business is slack, and in all districts the collieries are in need of prompt orders. The tone of the market is easy, with nuts generally weaker than round coal. Current prices for shipping business are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports): Lanarkshire :—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 17s.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s. 6s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 15s. 6d.; doubles, 14s.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 14s. 6d.-15s. 6d.; third-class steam, 13s.; trebles, 16s. 6d.-17s.; doubles, 14s.-14s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 9d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.-14s. Lothians.—Prime steam, 14s. 6d.; secondary steam, 14s.; trebles, 16s. 6d.; doubles, 14s.; singlse, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s. 6d.; trebles, 16s.; doubles, 14s. 3d.; singles, 14s.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Depressed conditions prevail on the Cardiff coal market. Outward freight rates are generally low, but they are not stimulating any inquiries for coal, and prices for most grades have been weak. Owing to the exceptionally heavy extent to which collieries are booked up with contracts, the shipments at the South Wales ports are being maintained at the rate of over 600,000 tons per week, but the demand is equal neither to the capacity of the collieries under their quotas nor of the docks. There has been a loss of working time at some of the pits, while many of the tips at the South Wales ports have been idle this week. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 20s. to 20s. 3d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; best small steams, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; best anthracite large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein, large, 25s. to 27s. 6d.; machine made cobbles, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; French nuts, 45s. to 47s.; stove nuts, 44s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 12s. 6d. to 13s. 3d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 6d. to 26s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of The London Iron and Steel Exchange :—Conditions in the iron and steel trades show some improvement. The Continental steel makers appear be adhering to the prices recently fixed, and buyers are beginning to take more interest in the market. This is particularly the case in the overseas markets, but a similar tendency is noticeable amongst buyers in this country. The British works have received a fair share of the orders, and lately have taken some business which usually goes to the Continent. Nevertheless, conditions in the British steel industry are irregular, and while some works report that they are comparatively well off for orders, others are finding conditions difficult and business scarce. Steady trading conditions prevail in the pig iron market, but consumers show little inclination to buy forward. Most of the transactions reported concern small parcels for comparatively early delivery. Some competition has been experienced from Continental iron, but so far this does not appear to have extended to the inland districts. In the semi-finished steel department there has been a fair amount of inquiry and whilst a fair amount of business has gone to the Continent, some business has been diverted to British works, owing to the conditions prevailing in the Continental markets. The demand for finished steel continues irregular, but the home trade demand appears to be improving somewhat. The enquiry on export account has improved lately.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes: There is practically no change in the market for Cleveland iron. Consumers continue to buy only for their immediate requirements, and do not show any interest in forward business. The easing of coke prices has caused an idea in some quarters that pig iron may become cheaper, but producers do not encourage this, as prices were never adjusted to the high figures for coke which ruled recently. At the weekly market on Tuesday business was on a small scale, and comprised only odd lots of No. 3 by makers for early delivery at 72s. 6d. per ton, but merchants accepted a little less. No. 1 was 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 71s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of all kinds of pig iron to 28th instant amount to 16,421 tons, against 11,708 tons for the same period of December. In hematite there is only a moderate demand. Home consumers are buying very sparingly and export business is restricted owing to Continental competition. For early delivery makers have accepted 78s. per ton for mixed numbers, which is now the current quotation, and for delivery a few months ahead supplies can be secured at 79s. In the steel trade the different plants are well employed, and further orders are expected to be secured. Home prices under the rebate scheme are unchanged: Plates, ¾ in. up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 10s. Iron bars are £10 15s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12; 21-24 gauge black sheets, £9 15s., and heavy steel rails, £8 10s., also for home account. The ore market continues practically idle. For delivery a few months ahead best rubio is nominally 23s. c.i.f., but odd prompt cargoes might be secured at 22s. 6d. The present freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough for early tonnage is about 6s. 9d. Coke is weak and is offering freely at 22s. per ton delivered furnaces for ordinary qualities. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is increased to 42; the large furnace at Consett has begun operations on hematite, and one has also started on "specials" at Dorman's Eston works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—Business in the steel trade continues severely restricted and there is still no sign of buying in bulk. Works are carrying on as best they can with a succession of small orders and have little to count upon for the future. January has been a poor month in all sections of the industry, and February starts with no improvement. Some of the men suspended for the holidays are now, however, dribbling back, and the next few weeks should see some revival. Both home and export demand for quality steels continues poor. Germany and Sweden are competing keenly with similar material at cut prices. Overseas trade generally is quiet. Not much pig iron is being sold or consumed in this district, and as a consequence the expected advance in prices has not materialised. Iron foundries are on short time. A feature of the steel trade is the diminished call for sheets. A fair tonnage of basic steel is being produced in Sheffield and in North Lincolnshire, whereas the superior acid steels are comparatively neglected. Makers of garden tools and tools used in

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

engineering and quarry work report an improved demand. Bright cold-rolled steel is an active trade. The call for steel for electrical engineering is not nearly so brisk as it was last year. The usual New Year lull prevails in the plate and cutlery branches.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In the heavy steel trade, business remains very quiet notwithstanding that Continental prices are slightly stiffer. The arrangement between Messrs Beardmore and Colville is generally regarded as a move in the right direction by members of the industry here, although it is regrettable that meantime a number of workers at Parkhead will be thrown out of employment. The home market for both black and galvanised steel sheets continues satisfactory and there is a slight improvement in the export demand for both, but this is not sufficient to keep plants fully occupied and some are running only part-time. Jobbing galvanisers are fairly busy and sheet-metal workers are exceedingly well employed and have a considerable amount of work on hand.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—In the South Wales iron and steel trade there has been no improvement during the past week. Inquiries for tinplates have been comparatively quiet and prices easier. The associated owners who are parties to the pool are holding out for 18s. 9d. per basis box, but it is reported that makers outside the pool are selling on the basis of about 18s. 6d. Galvanised sheets are also inactive and quotations have been further reduced to £11 15s.-£12 per ton. Business is slow in Welsh tinplate bars, and where the specifications suit the consumption of foreign steel is fairly large. The c.i.f. prices of Belgian bars are round about £5 9s. per ton compared with £6 10s. per ton for the local bar.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—The standard market presented firmer features in view of developments regarding the restriction scheme, which imparted rather more trade confidence, and a good business resulted in forward positions at an irregular advance. Later the improvement was partially lost. Eastern advices were also on a higher basis. Standard cash changed hands at £174 12s. 6d. to £180 10s. and £178 2s. 6d.; and three months, £175 10s. to £183 15s. and £181 5s. In the East, sales were recorded at £177 7s. 6d. to £182 15s. per ton c.i.f.

Copper in fair demand, but market still somewhat unsettled the backwardation being maintained, closing with a firm tone. Standard cash sold at £71 10s.-£72 5s. and £71 15s.; three months, £68 10s., £68 5s., and £68 16s. 3d.

Lead in quiet demand, but values steady. Good soft foreign pig, January, sold £21 12s. 6d. to £21 13s. 9d.; February, £21 11s. 3d.; March, £21 12s. 6d.; April, £21 12s. 6d.; May, £21 12s. 6d.

THE OUTLOOK
FOR THE
RAYON INDUSTRY

HOME RAILS
AND
DEAR COAL

COMING NEW ISSUES

SEE The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review THIS WEEK

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20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Spelter in better demand, and prices firm. February sold £20 1s. 3d. to £19 17s. 6d. and £20 1s. 3d.; March, £20 6s. 3d. to £20 3s. 9d., and £20 6s. 3d.; April, £20 10s. to £20 5s., and £20 10s.; May, £20 12s. 6d. to £20 10s., and £20 12s. 6d.; June, £20 13s. 9d. to £20 15s.

Aluminium quiet. Home trade £95, export £100.

Antimony quietly steady. English regulus, £45 to £53 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £32; February-March, £27 10s.; Chinese, crude, February-March, £18 10s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide.—February-March, £27 10s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore 50 per cent., February-March, 4s.; 60 per cent., 5s. unit c.i.f.

Wolfram quiet. Chinese, February-March, 34s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

Quicksilver firmer. Spot, £23 to £23 5s. per bottle.

Tin Plates quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool, January 29th, 1930.

Very little business has been done during the week, but prices have fallen points, the nearer positions being most affected. The demand from spinners has not been sufficient to absorb the little hedge selling from the South and some selling from Bombay, probably encouraged by the political situation in India. The ginning figures issued last Thursday showed the ginnings to January 16th at 14,188,000 bales against 13,889,000 bales last year and 12,501,000 bales in 1928. Though slightly below the expectation of 14,200,000 bales, the figures had no effect upon prices. Mill news from America is not very encouraging and exports from that country are 600,000 bales behind those of last year, while spinners' takings outside America are over 500,000 bales less up to the present time. The Federal Farm Relief Board is making efforts to bring about reductions in planting acreage for the coming season, but prices will be the greatest influence on the attitude of the farmers. Spot sales for the week 23rd to 29th (inclusive) are 28,000 bales, of which 18,200 are American, 2,800 Brazil, 450 Argentine, 3,250 Peru, 1,450 Egyptian, 1,350 African, 250 East Indian, and 250 sundries. Imports for the same period are 83,290 bales, of which 47,859 are American, 126 Argentine, 921 Peru, 16,445 Egyptian, 1,505 African, 15,532 East Indian, and 902 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 9·23; Egyptian Sakel, 14·40; Uppers, 10·44; Brazil Fair, 8·93; Peru G.F., Mod-Rough, 10·50; Smooth, 9·93; West African Middling, 9·28, and East African G.F., 10·18.

Manchester, January 29th.

Operations throughout the market have again been very restricted, and despite a fair amount of inquiry the sales have not shown any improvement. The attitude of buyers has been somewhat adversely affected by the easier movement in raw material rates, and there is a distinct fear of a further fall in values. Complaints from the weaving towns are increasing and more looms are stopping owing to the scarcity of orders. Only a limited turnover has taken place in cloth for India. Dealers in the bazaars and local shippers are nervous with regard to the political situation. There has not been any development in the offtake for China. Of the minor outlets, South America has been the best, and very little has been done for the Near East and the Continent. Certain special fabrics suitable for the home trade have attracted moderate attention. The depression in the spinning section remains acute. There is some discussion of organised short time, but it is doubtful whether the Masters' Federation will be able to secure adequate support to any proposal. In the meantime the sales in American and Egyptian counts are very poor and stocks are increasing at the mills.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930. Jan. 8.	1930. Jan. 15.	1930. Jan. 22.	1930. Jan. 29.	Corresponding Date. 1928.	Corresponding Date. 1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ...... per lb.	9·42	9·56	9·47	9·23	9·95	10·34
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian .... per lb.	14·35	14·45	14·55	14·40	16·80	18·40
Yarns—32's twist .... per lb.	13⅞	13⅞	13¾	13½	15	15⅞
" 40's weft .... per lb.	14⅛	14⅛	14	13¾	15½	16¾
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ...... per lb.	23½	23½	23½	23	26½	27½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	23 9	23 9	23 6	23 3	25 0	26 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 6	26 6	26 3	27 3	28 3
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 4½	14 3	14 7½	15 3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 10½	13 7½	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: There are all sorts of rumours regarding Government intervention in Australia and South Africa, but so far nothing very definite has been said in either country. All that is known for certain is that in Durban the wool auctions have been temporarily suspended, while at Port Elizabeth and East London business is practically at a standstill owing to the lack of buying orders. It is known that both in Australia and in South Africa the respective Governments are keeping in close touch with the selling interests, and in view of the present

demoralised state of the market it would occasion no surprise if the authorities decided to take action in order *to stop* the fall in values. This action might take the form of State purchase of the unsold balance of the clips, or the imposing of reserves below which wool would not be allowed to be exported. In general, consumers here and on the Continent are inclined to the view that artificial measures would do more harm than good, the opinion being that as values have fallen to such a low level, there is not much prospect of any further material decline, and it would be better for all concerned to allow the market to find its true basis. When once that basis has been found, it seems certain that prices will take a sharp upward turn, as orders will immediately come on to the market. Meanwhile, all quotations for tops, yarns and by-products are nominal, and business has dwindled in all sections of the industry.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(From a Correspondent.)

During the past week public and private cables from Australia have contained the welcome information that the drought is completely broken. Even the western areas of New South Wales and far western Queensland have had good falls. The rain has been so bountiful that it will put millions of pounds into the exchequer of the country, and in the case of pastoralists will provide some compensation for the unsatisfactory prices now ruling for wool. There will be a good clip shorn next July and August. The wool sales have continued in London on rather better lines. Home trade and Continental competition has improved somewhat. Withdrawals have been less numerous, and this alone shows that buyers have rather more confidence. The merino and crossbred offerings this week have been very good, and this has no doubt had something to do with the fact that occasionally rather better prices have been paid. Last Tuesday the clothing of the Eddington brand of scoureds sold up to 35d., whilst the bulk of the combing lots sold around 28d. This shows that the home trade can still buy the best wools. Better prices are needed for ordinary scoureds, but it is something to be able to say that fewer lots are being taken in. Speculators' wools present a sorry picture, and serious losses have had to be faced. At the same time reasonable prices have induced the development of a better buying spirit.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Market hides remained steady at the auctions held so far this week, but there seems to be a feeling that the limit in value has been reached, at any rate for the time being, and any tendency towards change should be in a downward direction. The recent high prices for calfskins have now begun to recede in the face of larger supplies coming on to the market, and further reductions are expected to take place at the auctions held this week-end. Sheepskins are lower in price, in view of the poor state of the wool market. Only a limited demand has been experienced for foreign hides, and prices are again lower. In the South American market frigorifics are slightly weaker, and the last sales of Argentine ox were on the basis of 8 11/16d., with Montevideo ox selling at 9⅜d. A few sales of Saladeros have been made for shipment, while in dry River Plates the limited business passing has been on the basis of 9½d. for B.A. Americanos, and 5 3/16d. for B.A. Inservibles. Cape hides also are quoted lower, sales of drys having been made at 9½d. and 8½d. for firsts and seconds, and drysalted at 8½d. and 7½d. Most descriptions of other African hides are just about steady at late rates. The Chicago market is cabled as steady, with heavy native steers selling at 16½ cents. Business in sole leather continues satisfactory, and although no bulk business is being placed, the regular day-to-day orders that are received keep most firms moderately occupied, and make for an average turnover. Bends suitable for shoe manufacturing purposes are taken up by this section of the trade as required, and in view of the fact that consumers are rather doubtful as to the strength of the market, their commitments are restricted to the least possible requirements. Steady trading is being done in bends suitable for repairing purposes, and here there is a regular flow of small orders coming to hand every day. Bellies and shoulders are fairly easy to sell all the time, and stocks are kept low. Prices all round are fully maintained, and on some lines in certain tannages where there is a shortage the tendency is for values to harden. In the upper-leather market the greater part of the enquiry is for black and brown glacé kid and willow calf. In some quarters a further slight improvement has been experienced in box calf, but for semi-chrome box sides the call is not good, as most buyers want something at a very low price. Patent leathers have improved slightly, while there is a steady if limited call for most descriptions of reptile leathers. The position of shoe manufacturers continues to improve; more orders have come to hand of late, and although some firms are still compelled to work short time, there is a feeling that business will show further improvement in the near future.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The past month has been a most anxious one for operators in the European softwood trade. Last year Russia sent double her December, 1927, exports to the United Kingdom; Finland and Sweden sent more than their usual December quantities, and, in all, imports were some 15,850 standards (of 165 cubic feet) over those for December, 1928, and for the year an increase of 186,790

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standards. Stocks of battens and scantlings are now of very heavy volume, with demand from dock stocks not quite so good as a year ago, but gradually moving upward. Prices on the whole have weakened considerably, owing to the volume of wood on the market and also to the prospect of large and cheap shipments from Russia next June. The building trade is depressed, owing to seasonal conditions, but it is difficult to understand why timber trade and other operators regard its future so pessimistically. Official statistics point the other way, as costs of buildings for which plans were passed last quarter advanced, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1928, by £1·6 million, of which houses account for more, i.e., £1·9 million, and the cheaper and more abundant supplies of timber to come forward this season must, perforce, stimulate the demand. The real, dominating anxiety in the wood trade of this country is concerning the Soviet timber authorities' decision to have their wood marketed this year through the usual agency channels, and not disposed of in one bulk to a consortium of buyers, as were last year's Russian shipments. Shipments are expected to amount this year to 750,000 standards, against 550,000 in 1929. Some people still hope that some understanding will yet be arrived at between importers and shippers, while others are of opinion that it would be better to leave things as they are, and allow the Russian trade *to function normally*. The delay in forward buying, however, is also creating anxiety in Finland and Sweden, and possibly in Russia, though that country seems to have the whip hand. The hardwood market is moving slowly yet steadily. Much more American lumber arrived last month, but the trade would prefer lighter shipments that would help to strengthen the market while stocks are large and demand disappointing. Fewer mahogany logs arrived in 1929, and prices are now very firm for timber of good dimensions and character. Available Indian teak supplies are still said to be short at producing centres; this and conditions of Empire timber production and marketing generally do not give us any great measure of confidence in the Empire as a principal source of supply. Plywood, of which the imports and consumption are advancing rapidly, must be a strong competitor with the solid woods. Stocks are large, and European mills have orders booked well into this year. It may take many years yet, but the development in the timber-producing countries, and especially the British Empire hardwood-producing countries, will bring it about that instead of heavy logs, planks and boards, timber will reach this and other countries in the distant future mainly in the form of flat sheets of plywood—elimination of all waste, great strength, economy in shiproom. Pitwood imports in December were 50,535 loads (of 50 cubic feet) over December, 1928, receipts, yet for the year showed an increase of but 98,350 loads.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets have continued quiet, with very little business passing. Linseed oil has been in fair demand from consumers, and prices have fluctuated slightly, with current value of raw oil for January delivery around £43 10s. per ton naked ex mill, and for February, £41 10s. Cotton oils are in poor demand, and crude Egyptian, ex Hull, lower at £28, with common edible still quoted £31 10s. Other seed oils share the general dullness of the market, and quotations are little changed. In the oilseed section Plate linseed is somewhat lower on the week, but there is little or no disposition to trade nor, in view of the poor demand for oil and cake, for crushers to increase their commitments. Nominal value of Plate on spot, £17 15s., and on passage to Hull, £17 10s., with January-February quoted £17 15s. Shipments of linseed from Argentina are not assuming substantial volume. The quantity on passage to Europe has increased to 154,000 tons, or 24,000 more than a week ago (including Indian, 4,600 tons). Cottonseed remains quiet and is easier. Black Egyptian on passage to Hull reported done at £7 12s. 6d., and for March loading at £7 16s. 3d. A parcel of Bombay cottonseed just arrived at Hull sold at £6 10s., or 20s. below forward prices. Soya beans quiet, and £9 7s. 6d. accepted for January loading to the Continent. Oil cakes and meals are in very disappointing demand.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

Sugar.—The general tone of the market is steady, no change being made in spot quotations, but apart from attending to pressing needs, trade buyers are not interested. Large quantities are available. Cuban authorities leave no stone unturned in order to lift prices, and the 2 cents f.o.b. quoted for 96 per cent. to the U.S.A., in force for a month, will naturally retard business, and which will be governed by quantities of free and "hedge" sugars available on the New York market. There is no improvement in Java kinds. Terminal sections ruled firmer and a fair amount of business resulted. Of raw, March delivery sold 5s. 8¼d. to 6s. 1½d.; May, 7s. 2¼d. and 7s. 3d., combined to 7s. 6d.; August, 7s. 11¼d. to 8s. 2¼d.; December, 8s. 2¼d. to 8s. 4½d. German crystals firmer.

at 10s. 9¾d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Receipts in Cuba of old crop for the week were 26,831 tons, compared with 45 in 1929 and 4,151 in 1928. The receipts of new crop for the week were 68,815 tons, against 199,302 a year ago and 113,462 in 1928. The total receipt of old crop to date amount to 4,326,268 tons, against 4,285,798 last year and 139,859 in 1928. The Cuban exports were: Old crop, 39,400 tons against 15,830 last year; new, 3,627 tons, against 83,326 last year; and the stocks of old crop 115,039, against 37,075 last year and 68,611 in 1928. The stocks of new crop were 64,724 tons, against 349,035 last year and 109,190 in 1928. Central workings, 139 tons, against 157 last year. The stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending January 25th totalled 248,285 tons, against 161,904 last year. On Thursday spot prices advanced 3d.

COFFEE.—A very firm market continues, all good to fine qualities selling with freedom at mostly dearer rates. Common and medium fully steady.

COCOA.—Spot trade small, but prices steady. Forward positions rather irregular. Accra F/F, February-April, sold 40s. 6d.; March-May, 41s. 3d. f.o.b. Terminal: July sold 45s. 9d. to 45s. 6d.; September, 46s. 6d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 56,042 packages. Competition was sustained, and fairly well distributed, resulting in a firm market. Good liquoring teas, particularly autumnals were in strong demand. Ceylon sales of 26,959 packages, and there was a generally good demand for finest and commonest descriptions at prices showing no material change. Owing to variation in quality regarding medium and low medium brokens, rates disclosed irregularity, while frequently ¼d. to ¾d. lower. Java sales about steady.

RICE.—This market shows no improvement. Firmness in the finer American varieties is attributable to manipulation by controlling groups. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, 14s. 3d., with small sales in February-March at 11s. 9d. c.i.f.; Spanish oiled, February-March sellers, 15s. 9d.; American blue rose from 22s. to 23s. c.i.f.

BEANS.—A dull market generally, but prices steady. Madagascar butters, spot, 40s. to 42s. Parcels per "Eugene Grossos" quoted 28s., per "Clan Macindoe" sold at 28s. 3d.; "Clan Chatton" at 28s.; "Belgrano," 27s. 1½d.; November-December, 26s. 6d.; December-January, 26s.; January-March, 25s. 6d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, afloat, 20s. 6d.; February-March shipment, 21s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 12s. to 12s. 6d.; January-February, 11s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 14s. c.i.f. London. Danubian, hand-picked, spot, 25s.; January-February, 23s. 6d. c.i.f. London.

PEAS.—A quiet and rather featureless market. Japanese, spot, old, 14s. 6d.; new sold at 15s. 6d.; afloat, sellers, 15s. 3d.; January-February, 16s. 1½d.; February-March, 16s. 4½d.; March-April, 16s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Dutch steady, but quiet. Marrowfats, prompt quoted, 19s. to 20s.; small blues, H.P., 13s. to 14s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s.; Karachi nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand January, old, 57s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 60s. Tasmanian, A grade, new, February-March, 67s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper continued in demand and a firm market prevailed, forward positions being held with reserve. Lampong January-March buyers, 1s. 0½d.; March-May quoted, 1s. 0⅝d.; Muntok, January-March sold 1s. 4¼d.; March-May, 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 5d. London stocks on the week reduced 45 tons regarding black and 107 white; stocks of black now 1,146, against 1,184 last year; and white, 1,366, against 294. Cloves quiet but steady. Sago flour, also tapioca, held for previous prices. Ginger slow. Cochin to arrive, 55s. cwt. c.i.f. Pimento idle.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market dull. Pyrgos, quoted, 37s. 6d.-38s.; Amalias, 38s. 6d.-40s.; Patras, 40s.-44s.; Gulf, 44s.-48s.; Vostizza, 51s.-63s.; Australian, 37s.-42s. Sultanas in limited demand and common Smyrna only saleable at low rates. Best Australian, however, sell steadily. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 35s.-52s.; Cape, bleached, 35s.-40s. Dates steady. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins: Valencia slow of sale. Quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs quiet. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 30s.-38s.; good average, 25s.-27s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market continues quiet for most descriptions, but late rates were generally maintained. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 72s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 63s. Apricots: South African, new crop, Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.-77s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 90s.; extra, 100s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 112s. 6d.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-130s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. new crop c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 155s.; Barcelona, 147s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts, 145s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS, &c.

CANNED FRUITS.—Market conditions remain steady, but buyers show no disposition to increase purchases. Peaches and apples are inquired for, but apricots move off slowly. New season's prices of Australian fruit are rather dearer for peaches, but apricots are about on a par with last year. Singapore pines quiet of sale both spot and forward, but other descriptions firmly held. Italian tomatoes sell slowly on about former terms.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market quiet and prices barely steady. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab firm and fancy qualities quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d., with lower grades sparingly offered for shipment. Lobsters steady, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate demand and tone steady. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm and ox tongues tend dearer. Lunch tongues in request for both large and small tins, and Danish somewhat reservedly offered at full rates. Large contracts are reported in cooked boned hams for forward delivery.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—A good demand continues at present attractive prices. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s. 6d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 23s. 9d. Full cream milk powders: 26 per cent. butterfat, English roller process, 26 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 85s.; Dutch ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 69s.; ditto spray, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 95s. Dutch machine-skimmed powders: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray, 2 by 56-lb tins, crated, 39s.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 37s. 6d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. On the grocery side: Full-cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 3d. per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull, especially for common grades. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s. Fine white Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s. Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d.. Ukrainian, light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Business was again confined to a narrow compass, the market just now being dull and featureless. Standard sheet, spot and February sold, 7¼d. to 7⅛d.; March, 7 3/16d.-7¼d.; April-June, 7 1/16d.; July-September, 8 3/16d.; October-December, 8 1/16d. to 8 7/16d. London stocks increased 377 tons on the week, landings being 1,853; deliveries, 1,476; stocks, 59,984, against 24,424 last year. Liverpool stocks 548 tons higher on the week; landings, 746; deliveries, 198; stocks, 20,062, against 3,824 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—General quietness again characterised this market and prices proved the turn weaker. Firsts, January-February, Hamburg,

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DECEMBER 31st, 1929.

LIABILITIES:

Capital Paid up	£9,479,416
Reserve Fund	9,479,416
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	272,561,592
Liabilities for Acceptances, Endorsements, Engagements, &c.	15,174,188

ASSETS:

Coin, Bank Notes and Balances with the Bank of England	31,626,945
Balances with, and Cheques in course of collection on other Banks in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and Cheques, Drafts, &c., in transit	10,257,759
Money at Call and Short Notice	19,413,496
Bills Discounted	28,190,610
Investments	39,276,379
Advances to Customers and other Accounts	156,678,357
Bank Premises	6,076,878
Liabilities of Customers for Acceptances, Endorsements, Engagements, &c.	15,174,188

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	50	0
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	6
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	8	5
Oats, " "	6	11
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	27	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 38 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 9	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
R.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt....	3 6	4 6
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides	5 4	6 2
Argentine chilled hinds...	4 8	5 0
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers	6 8	7 4
N.Z. frozen "	4 10	5 6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs....	8 4	9 0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	122	0 135 0
Danish.....	106	0 112 0
Canadian.....	106	0 108 0
Dutch	97	0 107 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0 0
Canadian.....	0	0 0 0
American	105	0 107 6
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	138	0 158 0
New Zealand	144	0 176 0
Danish.....	172	0 174 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0 100 0
New Zealand	87	0 90 0
English Cheddars	94	0 120 0
Dutch	50	0 98 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46 0
Trinidad	58	0 65 0
Grenada	48	0 54 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	140	0 150 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	155	0 190 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	115	0 135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	121	0 162 6
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 120 0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	20	0 22 0
Danish.....	14	6 17 6
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0 0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	10	0 15 0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	6	9 35 0
360	7	6 26 0
504	9	9 15 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	5	6 9 6
" ..... cases	6	8 22 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0 0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	23	0 29 0
" (var.) boxes	10	0 11 0
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0 0
" W. Australian	0	0 0 0

FRUIT (continued)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	5	6	6	6
case 5s.	6	0	8	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	78	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	9	57	0
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	65	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	9	3	6
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	6	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Feb.-Mar.	10	7½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	9
Granulated.....	21	6	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	9	21	1½
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8	2	2
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	0
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	3
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	10
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" stripe	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	9·23
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	14·40
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	56	10	0	0
Pernau HD	54	0	0	0
Slaneta Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Jan.-Mar. " J2 "...	35	5	33	10
N.Z., Aug.-Oct.		nom.		
Sisal African, Jan.-Mar...	33	0	34	10
Mexican, Nov.-Dec.	38/15/0		43/2/6	
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton Jan.-Feb.	26	0	7	6
Feb.-Mar.	26	0	17	6

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	12	6	14	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18½
" Lincoln hog, washed	14
Queensland, sod, super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13½
N.Z., grey., half-bred 50–56	14
Crossbred 40–44	11
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	30
" 64's	29
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	7½	18	10½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/10/0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard 71/16/3			72	0
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	22	10	23	0
Soft Foreign 21/11/3			0	0
Spelter G.O.B. 21/1/3			21/10	0
Tin—English Ingots ...181		10	182	0
Standard cash 180/10/0			180/12/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	11
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.-Mar.	22/12/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	21/10/0		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	16	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5¾
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	9	0	10½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	5¾
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3½	2	3½
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	0
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	10	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	44	10	0	0
Rape, refined	41	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	31/7/6		32/5/0	
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	0	12	5
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Feb.-Mar.	17/12/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19/12/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	42	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	147	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust, M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s. d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African " "	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	6	

quoted £26 12s. 6d., February-March, £27 5s.; March-April, £27 10s.; April-May, £27 15s. Lightnings, February-March, £25 7s. 6d.; Hearts, £22 12s. 6d. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Buyers were more prominent, especially for all all-favoured K grade. This caused sellers to adopt more reserve, and prices manifested a firmer tendency all round. J No. 2, January-March, quoted £33 10s.; K ditto, £31 5s.; March-April, K, sold at £31 10s.; L No. 1, January-March value, £29 10s.; M No. 1 ditto, £26 15s.; L No. 2, £26 10s.; M No. 2, £25 5s.; G, £35; H, £32 10s.; C No. 2, £28; C No. 3, £23 10s. Manila, Maguey No. 2, £27 10s. c.i.f. terms. Manila receipts for the past week totalled 31,000 bales, against 28,000 last year and 30,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 28,000, and week after 29,000. Manila shipments during last week: 6,000 bales to U.K., 4,000 to Continent, 14,000 to U.S.A., 8,000 to Japan, and to other countries 4,000; stocks, 169,000 bales. African sisal steady, and No. 1 f.a.q., January-March, £34; marks, sellers, £34 10s., and No. 2 £1 less in each case. Mexican: Good white, £38 15s. to £39 12s. 6d.; special, £41 5s. to £42 2s. 6d., and special brushed, £42 5s. to £43 2s. 6d.

SHELLAC.—In fair request but easier. T.N., spot, 147s. 6d.; August sold, 145s.

COPRA.—With reserve again marked on the part of holders, prices ruled slightly firmer. A fair demand predominated. Straits, S.D., February-March, to Rotterdam, sold, £22 12s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies, £22 12s. 6d.; Ceylon, quoted £24 5s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, February-March, Padang excluded, February-March quoted, £21 13s. 9d.; smoked, South Sea, £21 10s.; sun-dried, ditto, £21 15s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 15s. to 21s. per 100. C[oir] yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 8d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—January 29.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls		...		...
Irish		...		...	Canadian		...		...
Cambridge.....		...		...	Sheep—Downs	8	8	10	
Short Horns	6	2	6	4	Half bred		...		
Herefords	6	4	6	8	Ewes	5	0	5	
Devons		...		...	Scottish		...		
Leicester runts		...		...	Lamb—Downs		...		

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—January 29.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	6	4	6
" " " whites.....	3	0	3	3
Essex King Edward.....	3	6	4	0
" " " whites	2	6	3	0

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THE MONEY MARKET.

FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT.

THURSDAY'S reduction in Bank rate, though not entirely unexpected, came as somewhat of a surprise in view of the week's gold losses to Germany and the growing stringency of money in London. The week has witnessed heavy revenue collections, with the result that, on Tues-

day and Wednesday, money became very scarce, and, while resort to the Bank was avoided, rates for new money ran in some cases as high as 5 per cent. The following day the Bank gave some relief by buying March bills at 4½ per cent., but more revenue money was taken off the market, and so a certain amount had to be borrowed at the Bank. Discount rates remained low, and, before the reduction in Bank rate, three months' bills were quoted at barely 3⅞ per cent., while, on Thursday afternoon, after the reduction, the rate firmed up to 3 15/16 per cent. Treasury bill maturities again exceeded issues by £15,000,000, and there was a general Continental demand for bills. According to one report, however, the Continental demand is beginning to show signs of falling away, and, with the shortage of money in London, a rise in discount rates is not impossible.

* * * *

The week's gold movements were unusually interesting. A further £400,000 was set aside under ear-mark by the Bank, probably upon Argentine account, and if so, this gold will not be released for several months. The main event of the week was the arrival of approximately £2,000,000 of the Spanish gold. £1,000,000 of this was sold direct to the Bank, but the balance was offered in the market, part of it on Tuesday with £834,000 of Cape gold, and the remainder on Wednesday. On both days, Germany bought all the gold on offer after satisfying the needs of India and the trade, 84s. 10½d. being paid on Tuesday, and 84s. 11d. on the following day. Lately the Bank of England has refrained from bidding for gold at more than its statutory buying price. There is something to be said for letting the gold market operate under natural conditions, so that everyone can see the directions in which gold flows.

* * * *

Probably one of the chief factors that influenced the Bank in its decision to reduce its rate was the reduction made in the French and German rates during the preceding week. The fall in the Banque de France's rate from 3½ to 3 per cent., is of little practical significance in view of the scarcity of Paris bills and the undeveloped state of the Paris market. It is, perhaps, intended more as a demonstration that France has all the gold and money she needs, and that it was time to stimulate French investment abroad. The Reichsbank reduction to 6 per cent. was not unexpected. There have recently been heavy transfers of foreign, especially French, funds to Germany, and these account not only for Germany's recent gold imports, but also for the ability of the Reichsbank to reduce its rate.

	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	5	4½	5 (Feb. 6, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	3	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Discount ⎧ Call	3	3	3	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Houses ⎩ Notice	3½	3½	3½	2½	3½ (Feb.6,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	4 1/16–⅛	3⅞–15/16	3⅞	3 15/16	...

The Bank return reflects mainly the week's revenue influx. Public deposits have risen by £8,701,000, while bankers' deposits have fallen by £13,213,000. These figures illustrate concisely the stringency in evidence in the market this week. Government Securities are down by £4,500,000, but as the net gold influx of £784,000 was almost completely neutralised by an expansion of £673,000 in the note circulation, the reserve is only higher by £111,000.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The New York Reserve Bank has reduced its discount rate to 4 per cent. Federal Reserve statements disclose only minor changes, the System's circulation and discounts showing a moderate decline, and bill purchases a moderate increase. Ratios are little changed, and changes in the gold position are also small, with net imports $1,500,000 on the week and an increase of $2 million earmarked. Japanese gold, however, is still on the way. Bradstreet' and Dun's indices of commodity prices show declines of 1.4 per cent. and 1.1 per cent., respectively, in January. Bradstreet's is 4.5 per cent. down since December 1st, and 11.3 per cent. lower than a year ago. Considerable attention has been attracted by the recent marked weakness in wheat and cotton prices. It is realised that these are part of a world-wide decline in the values of raw materials and foodstuffs.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Interest in the Stock Markets was concentrated mainly on investment securities, more speculative stocks being again conspicuously dull. Gilt-edged were firm before and after the reduction in Bank rate, while Indian Loans continued their recovery. Home Rails were an idle market. Apart from sporadic activity in a narrow range of international stocks, the undertone of the Miscellaneous market remained dull, though a modest rally ensued on the change in Bank rate. Tea shares were in increased demand, and buying of a semi-investment character was intermittently in progress in the oil share market. Rhodesians maintained their activity of the previous week, though the rise in prices tended in some instances to exaggerate the true volume of business.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There is little, if any, improvement in this week's reports. Export trade in coal is falling off without any compensating improvement in the home demand. Little change has occurred in the iron and steel trades, but there is some increase in foreign enquiry for certain classes of steel. Declining cotton prices are adding to the difficulties of Lancashire trade. Wool is being more freely bought, and this movement coincides with the adoption by sellers of a temporary policy of organised restriction. Severe depression is prevalent in the jute trade. Hides are a shade easier, but the leather trades remain active. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are a very poor market. Wheat is again a few points lower.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was rather dull last week, with sterling inclined to be weak against the dollar and certain Continental currencies, while the peseta and the South American exchanges again experienced considerable fluctuations. Thursday's Bank rate reduction had no conspicuous effect in the market. The New York rate fell from 4.86 9/16 to 4.86 11/32. Montreal also went against us, gaining ½ at 4.91⅛. On the reduction in French Bank rate, Paris fell from 123.92 to 124. Brussels was considerably better at 34.90, and Milan gained eight points at 92.90. Madrid, after spasmodic movements, lost 75 points at 37.00. Amsterdam was uncertain at 12.11⅜. Berlin gained ¼ on balance at 20.36½. Switzerland improved from 25.20¾ to 25.19½ after touching 25.21½. Stockholm gained ½ at 18.12¼, but Copenhagen was ¼ worse at 18.19. Constantinople lost 20 points at 10.50. Of the South American exchanges, Rio was unchanged after considerable hesitation at 5⅝d. Buenos Aires was erratic and very weak at 42¼d., a loss of 2¼d. in the week. Montevideo gained ¼d. at 45d. The premiums for 90 days' Lima on London dropped from 23¼ per cent. to 22⅜ per cent. In the Far East the rupee was firmer at 1.5 9/64d. In the futures market dollars went from 3/64 premium to par for either period. Paris was more wanted at 6 and 15 centimes premium against 4½ and 8 centimes premium last week. Brussels went from ½ and 1½ centimes premium to ½ discount for both periods. The silver market twice established new record low levels, but recovered a little at the close with spot at 20d. and forward at 19⅞d., a loss of ⅜d. during the week in each case. The Chinese silver exchanges fell away in sympathy, Hong Kong losing ⅞d. at 1s. 7½d. and Shanghai ⅝d. at 1s. 11¾d.

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Our Intelligence Branch, which has been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., is available to our readers for the supply of economic, statistical and other information, at a charge proportionate to the work involved. Inquiries should be addressed to Moody's-Economist Services, 6 Bouverie Street, London, E.C. 4.

MR BALDWIN'S PANACEA.

THE widespread pessimism with regard to the economic outlook which is so fashionable at the moment, the discontent in the Conservative ranks at the lack of vigorous leadership, and the open revolt of the Empire Free Traders, combined to focus particular attention on the long-awaited pronouncement on policy which Mr. Baldwin made at the Coliseum last Wednesday. The meeting appears to have been an unenthusiastic affair, and the ex-Prime Minister only showed a few glimpses of his fighting form in the criticisms of the Government with which he opened. No doubt any Opposition leader in his place would have attributed to the Government the whole of the deterioration in employment—caused in part by the American slump and the fall in world prices—which has occurred in the nine months since the speaker left office, and like him might have used the slight seasonal hardening of the cost-of-living index as a stick to beat his opponents. Indeed, we would agree that to some extent, though in nothing like the measure suggested by Mr Baldwin, the Labour Party's lack of preparation and the uncertainty of their policy since taking office have been factors in the economic situation. But it was on the positive side that the country had been waiting for Mr Baldwin to offer guidance; and this part of his speech resolved itself substantially into a demand for a free hand to introduce Protection, subject to the important proviso that there should be no food taxes.

The argument used to support this claim was particularly interesting. A week or two ago, in discussing the discordant policies of Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook, one of whom wants food taxes and free competition between Empire industries, and the other high protection for British industries, we observed that to complete the confusion it only required a third party to come forward with the proposal to set up a fighting tariff, which, of course, would cease to protect if by any chance it succeeded in lowering other people's defences. We hardly expected Mr Baldwin to oblige so quickly, but that is what he has done. Throughout the whole of his exposition on the subject Mr Baldwin roused the patriotic fervour of his audience by using the language of warfare. We are to arm ourselves with the modern artillery of a tariff; we have been engaged in target practice with our existing duties; let us equip ourselves with all the machinery of economic war.

Mr Baldwin demands a bargaining weapon. The experience of other countries has, it is true, shown it to be a dismal failure as a means of reducing trade barriers, and Mr Baldwin omitted to mention that this country "shackled" (an odd word to use in describing freedom to buy and sell) by our present fiscal system, has succeeded in getting most-favoured-nation treatment all over the world. But while a bargaining tariff is an intelligible idea which appeals to those who think that competitive armaments make for peace, it is a curious confusion of thought to mix it up with "safeguarding," and to regard such duties as an assistance in negotiating and in drawing up commercial treaties.

The fact of the matter is that the McKenna and safeguarding duties have been the great difficulty which our negotiators have had to overcome in commercial treaty discussions, as, for example, in the Anglo-German negotiations of a few years ago. The conception that safeguarding duties are the minimum rates necessary for the preservation of an essential industry, and the method of imposing them one by one by special inclusion in the Finance Bill, make it impossible either in theory or in practice for our negotiators to use them for bargaining purposes. The doctrine of the famous White Paper under which these duties are imposed, like that of the American tariff, is a purely protectionist one, and in both cases the resulting duties can never be used for purposes of discrimination or bargaining. But perhaps, after all, Mr Baldwin was really thinking not of negotiation but of retaliation, a policy which starts with irritation at other people's tariffs and ends—*vide* Lord Rothermere—in high protection and an attempt to find consolation in the home market. Mr Baldwin's policy, in short, is a free hand to introduce protection under the absurd and haphazard plan of considering the case of each industry separately and without reference to the economic conditions of the country as a whole.

In his desire to regain freedom of action to extend protection without having to encounter the fatal objection of taxing food, Mr Baldwin has definitely thrown over the Empire Free Traders. It is true that he did not mention this plan in so many words, but he pointed out that the fiscal system of the countries of the Empire has radically changed since the days of Mr Joseph Chamberlain's so-called Colonial Offer in 1903. He was not in the least alarmed at the growth of industries in the Dominions, and he had not the slightest intention of interfering with the fiscal autonomy of either the Dominions or India. One day, perhaps, the Empire might become a unity in the sense that the United States is a unit within a single tariff. But that is in the distant future, and in the meantime the only thing to do was to adhere to the mutual preferences which already exist.

But if he will not have Empire Free Trade, neither will he have the tariff truce, for this idea is altogether at variance with his conception of adding to our tariff for the purpose of using it as a means of forcing our way into other people's markets. The man who speaks the language of economic war naturally finds himself up against the protagonist of international agreement and economic peace. It is, however, important to call attention to the fact that Mr Baldwin and his followers, who are waging war against the proposal that will be considered in Geneva on February 17th, speak as though the object of this conference were to stabilise tariffs. It is nothing of the kind. Those responsible for the conference have repeated time and again that the truce is merely a first step to give the necessary time for the negotiation of positive measures designed to remove trade obstructions. Indeed, provision for this purpose is made in the draft convention which will be discussed. The key sentence of the report of the World Economic Conference was that "the time has come to put an end to the increase in tariffs and to move in the opposite direction." The present conference is definitely designed to carry out this programme. The pity of it is that Mr Baldwin did not take the opportunity to use the great influence of this country two years ago to press, as Mr Graham did in September last, for action on these lines.

Amid a good deal that is neither particularly new nor helpful, Mr Baldwin's one contribution, designed no doubt to outflank the Empire Free Traders, was the suggestion that efforts which are now being made to rationalise our industries should be extended and attempted on an Imperial scale. We think this suggestion is thoroughly sound so far as it goes. But it must be subject to a word of caution, that Imperial agreements are not a real alternative to international agreements, and, if they were, might give rise to many dangers. Subject to this qualification, the fostering of Imperial trade is a matter of very great importance, and one of the most useful tasks to which the Economic Advisory Council can turn its attention is to explore the possibilities in this connection before the meeting of the Imperial Conference in the autumn.

With the exception, however, of this modest suggestion, there was nothing in Mr Baldwin's speech with regard either to fiscal policy or any other topic that was not contained in his election programme last May. At a time when national economic policy is in the making, it is regrettable that the Conservative Leader, apart from turning down the unworkable, but politically dangerous, proposals of Lord Beaverbrook, should have so little fresh to contribute. The party's newly-established Research Department must get to work with vigour if Conservatism is to pull its weight in public affairs.

THE WEST ON TRIAL.

THE manner of living which is commonly described as Western Civilisation is on its trial to-day as never before. The social conflicts of Europe and North America are themselves a challenge to that civilisation and a proof that, even within its native home, certain aspects of it are not regarded without misgiving. Yet such doubts have hardly diminished the innocent confidence with which it has been exported wholesale to Asia and Africa; and it is when it is offered to, or imposed upon, non-European peoples that the true test of that civilisation is witnessed. What will be its effect upon the uncounted millions of the East? Will they reject it disdainfully as an alien growth, preferring their own immemorial usages? Will they accept it wholly and passively, force their manners and institutions into our ready-made forms, and become an indistinguishable part of the civilisation which has already conquered three continents? Or will they adopt such parts of it as seem compatible with their own peculiar heritage? And, if so, will the resultant change be for the better or the worse?

This is the great question which Professor Toynbee asks in the latest volume of his annual survey of world history.* There are few men living more competent to answer it; for those who possess a more detailed and intimate first-hand knowledge of the East are seldom endowed with the amazing breadth of historical knowledge which is Professor Toynbee's, and which alone gives the essential requisite of proportion. In this book he carries up to the end of 1928 the general sketch of the Islamic world which he gave in an earlier volume of the same series, and also includes a narrative of events in China during 1928. That portion of the book which deals with European affairs and with those subjects which, while nominally "world affairs," are, in fact, almost exclusively concerned with the relations of the white races among themselves, is devoted, significantly enough, mainly to the questions of armaments and of the prevention of war.

The main sections of the work show the East face to face with its great problem, and, for the moment, painfully uncertain as to how it shall be answered. One thing is clear: the East has ceased altogether to be "changeless," unless, perhaps, in Tibet. Everywhere else it is reacting violently, in some cases in positive fashion, in others in negative, to the "stimulus or virus of Western civilisation." The virus has affected some parts more strongly than others, and its final effects have not anywhere been reached. Thus, the whole East is passing through a period of unexampled transition, but with unequal rapidity; and the first and, so far, almost the only positive result has been to shatter very completely, at least for a time, what unity it formerly possessed. To take the countries of Islam alone, it would be difficult to-day to find a formula embracing Turk and Arab, Persian and Afghan. Only the future will show whether all these nations will develop ultimately along the same lines, or whether the divergencies will increase still further.

Turkey has already deliberately and effectively cut herself off from the main body of Islam. She has proclaimed herself a republic; abolished the Caliphate; disendowed and disestablished established religious institutions; and even turned the weight of ungentle Governmental authority against such outward forms as the national dress and the Arabic alphabet. The substitutes which she has adopted have been in most cases the products of the West: the Latin alphabet, the tall hat, the Parliament. Yet this enormous change, which has been effected with remarkably little opposition, has been carried through in no spirit of subservience towards the West, but rather with a *farouche* nationalism. It is well to remember that the Turks, natives of the Central Asiatic Highlands, are at bottom as strange to Islam as they are to Christ. Their national culture is a thing different from either. Unfortunately, it is also very rudimentary, and Turkey will not find it easy to build up a pure national civilisation worthy, by any standards, of the name.

Turkey has, however, at least achieved what the East seems agreed to regard as the first step towards ultimate salvation. She is completely master in her own house. Although what she makes of her destiny may in some respects be a poor thing, there can be little doubt that those classes in Egypt and Syria who are sufficiently educated to react to the spirit of the age envy her untrammelled independence. One effect of the spread of modern ideas has been to awaken throughout the Middle and Far East a strong political self-consciousness; and, so long as that self-consciousness feels itself limited by foreign control, it has little energy to spare for other matters. The more effective the control, the more violent the reaction. Thus we see Egypt, which enjoys sovereignty, but a somewhat special and limited form of it, occupied almost entirely with the still unsolved problem of Anglo-Egyptian relations. The negotiations, which Professor Toynbee describes in considerable detail, are Parliamentary and diplomatic, but in Syria, a mandated area administered by France, the period under review includes the last echoes of an armed revolt. In each case, however, internal questions have had to give way to the primary problem of national independence.

Both Egypt and Syria have perforce become well acquainted with the external policy of Western Civilisation. The struggle for independence, with its stimulation of national consciousness, has, in Professor Toynbee's opinion, had the effect in both countries of reinforcing their sense of solidarity with the other Arabic-speaking nations, and has diminished the likelihood of their finally losing touch with Islamic thought; but they cannot emerge from their period of tutelage unchanged. One may hope that they will end by combining the best of their own civilisations with the best which Europe has to offer. At present their future is hardly less undecided than that of Turkey.

Persia, on the other hand—another independent State—is managing in an unobtrusive way to get something of the best of both worlds. Her position has greatly improved in recent years. The Capitulations have been abolished, and with them the last vestiges of Western control, to which Persia had, until recently, been subjected. To a large extent she seems to have fought the Western Powers with her own weapons, and it is interesting to note that, like other Middle Eastern States, she has been attracted by the Western Powers in inverse ratio to the aggressiveness and imperialism displayed by the latter. The day clearly seems to be past when a European Power can say to an Asiatic (as was said in a different connection): "We will be your big brother, whether you like it or not." The Shah has consolidated his authority within his country, and has introduced a number of secular reforms on internal lines. Professor Toynbee thinks it possible that Persia, too, will ultimately be lost to Islam; but hitherto the Shah has proceeded cautiously, and has avoided incurring the hostility of organised religion in his country. In other respects, too, he has proved more circumspect than his fellow dictator in Turkey; for, while imposing upon his male subjects the use of round hats with peaks, he has refrained from dictating changes of dress to the Persian women.

At the other end of the pole stand Afghanistan and the Wahhabis. Everybody will remember the unfortunate end of King Amanullah's premature attempts to force Westernisation on his subjects. It is clear that, for the moment at least, Afghanistan will have none of the West. The Wahhabi chieftains have been equally obdurate in their conservatism. Demands put forward by two of them to Ibn Saud in 1928 included the abolition of Customs houses, hospitals, telephones, post offices and motor cars. Professor Toynbee's story closes with the consolidation of Ibn Saud's position by a series of victories over his more recalcitrant chiefs a year ago; and later news foreshadows the establishment of wireless stations throughout Najd-Hijaz and a service of electric trams in Mecca.

Thus it would seem that the onward march of, at least, those mechanical devices for which Western civilisation is conspicuous, is likely to prove irresistible. Half of the great problem can receive but one answer, in the last end.

The other half of the question remains problematical indeed. What use will the East make of such Western institutions as it adopts? It is not without significance that more than one Asiatic country has hastened to take over what is perhaps the most unlovely of all Western products—its headgear. It is an old story how, in North America, the very first innovations to which the White man introduced the Red—firearms and rum—were the instruments of the latter's destruction. A later generation is at least partly aware of the dangers for all the world if this mistake is repeated, and some effort has been made to prevent the wholesale exportation to China of arms which would probably have turned the story of that nation into a tale of sheer destruction. But Europe seems also to be awakening to a further truth: that the very advance of technical skill has made it no longer possible to withhold from the East what it wishes to take. If, then, the dangers attendant on Western progress are to be removed, they must be eliminated, first of all, in the West itself. For this reason, the efforts of Europe and America to limit and reduce armaments, and to abolish war as an instrument of national policy, to which the first part of Professor Toynbee's work is devoted, are, when seen aright, only another aspect of the great world processes which are bringing about the awakening of the Middle East.

* "Survey of International Affairs, 1928." By A. J. Toynbee, assisted by V. M. Boulter. Oxford University Press. pp. XI. + 506. 1929. 21s. net.

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THE FALL OF PRICES.

IN last week's issue of the *Economist* we commented on the references made by Mr J. M. Keynes in a recent speech to the problems and difficulties caused by falling prices. The gravity of such problems is underlined by the further severe decline in the value of many commodities which occurred last month. As will be seen from the following table, our index number of wholesale prices at January 31, 1930, stood at a level 14 per cent. lower than the average for 1927, and 9.1 per cent. below that for the corresponding date a year ago. The fall on the month amounted to 2.5 per cent.

AVERAGE, 1927 = 100.

End of—	Jan. 1929.	October 1929.	Nov. 1929.	Dec. 1929.	Jan. 1930.
Cereals and meat	96·7	94·4	90·6	92·3	89·2
Other foods	89·4	85·0	84·0	83·6	83·1
Textiles	101·3	85·2	83·6	82·6	76·7
Minerals	94·8	94·6	92·4	92·4	92·6
Miscellaneous	91·2	90·7	89·8	89·2	88·0
Complete Index	94·7	90·2	88·3	88·3	86·1

Of the five groups into which our index number is divided, textiles took the lead in last month's downward movement with a fall of over 7 per cent., which brought the figure for this class of commodities to a level 44 per cent. below its average for 1924. Cereals and meat followed with a decline of 3.3 per cent., and the "miscellaneous" group was 1.3 per cent. lower. Minerals and "other foods" on balance showed little change. The month's fluctuations in the price of each of the 58 commodities embraced in the index are shown in the next table. Increases in the price of seven articles—notably imported mutton, bacon, tea, coffee and copper—ranging up to 5.9 per cent. in the last-named—were outweighed by decreases in 29 prices, whereof those for Canadian wheat, rice, maize, beef, American cotton, wool, rubber, and sulphate of ammonia were prominent examples.

In view of the heavy August carry-overs, to which we drew attention a week ago, January's break of 7s. per qr. in imported wheat prices, after their comparative stability during the last four months of 1929, is significant, and suggests that the maintenance of the North American producers' plan of withholding stocks from the market may become a matter of difficulty, and that the Canadian "pools" may be faced with grave losses. Indeed, the history of wheat in recent months illustrates once again in a very forceful manner the insuperable difficulty of trying to stabilise the supply of a commodity which is dependent on the weather, and is produced under the most varied conditions in all parts of the world, and the boomerang effect upon prices which such efforts frequently produce. As the following table shows, other cereals have fallen further in price than wheat, in comparison with a year ago (Argentine maize at the end of January was quoted at 27s. per qr., landed, against 44s. 9d. on the corresponding date in 1929) and wheat, whose price was 48s. 6d. per qr. for No. 2 Manitoba on January 31 (against 50s. 9d. a year ago) is in a somewhat precarious situation, since Europe is still well supplied and Indian crop prospects appear favourable.

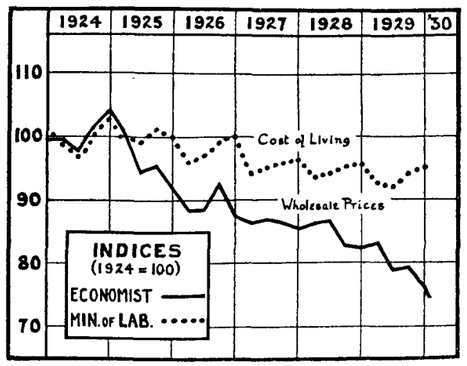
	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.
Wheat—Foreign	−12·6	− 4·4	Flax	− 1·7	−36·7
,, English	+ 1·0	− 0·7	Hemp	− 3·2	− 8·3
Flour	− 5·0	+ 4·1	Jute	− 4·5	−20·3
Barley	− 2·9	−17·9			
Oats	− 1·1	−26·5	Textiles	− 7·1	−24·3
Maize	−12·9	−39·7			
Rice	− 6·0	− 9·6	Pig iron	...	+ 9·8
Potatoes	...	−31·8	Steel rails	...	...
Beef—English	− 6·0	...	Iron bars	...	+ 4·9
,, Argentine	− 6·6	+15·8	Tinplates	...	+ 4·2
Mutton—English	...	+10·6	Coal, Welsh exp.	...	+ 3·9
,, New Zealand	+ 7·2	+ 3·6	Coal, Durham gas	...	+13·6
Bacon, Danish	+ 3·8	+19·8	Coal, household	...	...
			Lead	− 1·1	− 2·1
Cereals and meat	− 3·3	− 7·8	Tin	− 0·8	−19·7
			Copper	+ 5·9	− 7·6
Tea	+ 3·8	−24·3	Spelter	− 0·6	−24·4
Coffee	+ 3·0	+ 5·3			
Cocoa	− 0·8	+ 1·6	Minerals	+ 0·2	− 2·3
Sugar, cane	− 2·2	− 9·4			
Sugar, refined	− 3·3	− 5·4	Timber, English	...	...
Cheese, Canadian	...	− 6·7	Timber, Swedish	...	...
Butter, Danish	− 4·4	− 9·5	Cement	...	...
Coconut oil	− 1·5	−14·1	Hides	...	−15·9
Tobacco	...	+ 2·3	Leather	...	−10·6
			Petrol No. 1	...	+14·8
Other foods	− 0·6	− 7·0	Petroleum oil	...	+14·3
			Fuel oil	...	...
Cotton A.	− 6·0	−14·7	Linseed oil	− 1·1	+50·8
Cotton E.	+ 0·7	−22·6	Tallow	− 0·7	− 4·5
Cotton yarn	− 4·5	−14·5	Rubber	− 5·4	−29·9
Cotton cloth	− 1·9	− 7·3	Soda, crystals	...	...
Wool, English	−19·6	−32·7	Sulphate of ammonia	−11·1	−17·2
Wool, Australian	−21·2	−39·5	Creosote	...	−26·1
Wool tops	−12·9	−42·6			
Silk	...	−16·7	Miscellaneous	− 1·3	− 3·5

On producers the reactions of the fall, not only in cereal prices, but in those of cotton, wool, flax and jute, are bound to be seriously adverse. The slump in grain values, besides causing an acute depression in cargo shipping, has already led to difficulties with regard to Argentina's foreign exchange; unremunerative cotton prices are prompting demands in the Southern States for systematic reduction of acreage; and, as our New Zealand correspondent points out in a later column, the catastrophic drop in revenue from sales of wool will have undoubted repercussions on the importing capacity of the chief wool-producing countries. Wool tops, 64's, were quoted at the end of January at 27d., against 31d. a month ago and 47d. at this time last year. Meetings of wool growers' associations in both Australia and South Africa are being held to consider ways and means of dealing with the situation; and the producers of this commodity seem likely to join the growers of wheat, coffee, tea and rubber and the producers of tin and copper in the movement for one form or another of limitation of sales. As a significant commentary, however, on the effectiveness of such a movement, even temporarily (its disadvantages in the

long run are beyond dispute), it may be pointed out that the section of commodities whose prices, as shown above, have been the firmest during the past year, is the coal, iron and steel group, in which restriction has not been an appreciable factor.

So far as this country is concerned, apart from the fact that our exporting manufacturers will be faced with lessened purchasing power in the hands of primary producers overseas, the problem of falling wholesale prices is complicated by the fact that the cost of living (intimately connected, as it is, with wage-rates) has not proportionately decreased. In the accompanying diagram we have plotted the course of our index number and of the Ministry of Labour's index of the cost of living, the mean figure for the year 1924 being taken as 100 in each case. The growing divergence between the two curves is remarkable, the two major declines in wholesale prices, in January, 1925—March, 1926, and in July, 1928—January, 1930, having been reflected in the cost of living to a comparatively trifling extent. In the six years covered by the diagram the aggregate fall in wholesale prices amounted to approximately 24 per cent., as compared with a drop of only 6.2 per cent. in the cost of living figure.

To some extent this discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that materials, which have greater weight in the wholesale index, have cheapened more than foodstuffs,



but since the beginning of 1925 wholesale food values have themselves declined to a far greater extent than retail food prices. We show below the annual movements on balance of the Ministry of Labour's index of retail food costs and of the mean (" weighted " in the proportion of 13 :9) of the two food groups of the *Economist's* wholesale price index :—

Movement in	Wholesale Food. %	Retail Food. %
1925	− 9·3	− 3·9
1926	− 3·0	− 1·2
1927	− 1·3	− 4·1
1928	− 3·6	− 1·9
1929	− 6·2	− 1·3
Aggregate	−24·6	−11·8

Differences in the composition of the two indices preclude exact comparison, but the divergences in rate of fall are suggestively great.

In the final table we give the latest figures, in comparison with those for earlier periods, of our index number converted to a percentage of the average for 1913:—

AVERAGE 1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	168·5	215·8	214·7	149·3	122·6	166·2
,, 1925	168·4	204·2	194·6	139·8	126·2	160·9
,, 1926	151·7	195·3	152·6	149·8	120·7	149·4
,, 1927	147·6	202·2	157·0	125·1	116·1	143·7
,, 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	115·2	111·2	140·9
,, 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8
End Jan., 1929	142·7	180·8	159·0	118·6	105·9	136·1
,, Dec., 1929	136·2	169·1	129·6	115·6	103·5	126·9
,, Jan., 1930	131·6	168·0	120·4	115·8	102·1	123·7

In 1925, few economists or traders would have ventured the prophecy that within five years prices would have fallen to a level less than 24 per cent. above that of the last pre-war year. To describe the movement, in Mr Keynes' words, as " a world-wide disaster " may be to overstate slightly the gravity of the consequential reactions on aggregate purchasing power, since producers' losses must in the long run be counterbalanced to some extent by gains in the consuming power of those dependent on manufacture for livelihood. But though it is reasonable to expect the attainment eventually of stability (it is difficult, as yet, to foresee at what level), there is no question that the present slump of prices, which reflects a deep-seated maladjustment of supply and demand arising from many causes and intensified by tariff barriers and other protective artifices, augurs ill for the immediate prospects of world trade, while losses on manufacturers' stocks must add to difficulties existing in many industries.

THE TIMBER TRADE IN 1929.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE timber trade will inevitably regard 1929 as a memorable year. It had barely begun when there took place an event of prime importance. This was the formation, in January, of a group to take over the buying of the whole of the Russian exports of red and white sawn wood to this country, which is, of course, not only Russia's best customer, but the largest buyer in the world of the timbers of Sweden, Finland and other countries. This group—which operated under the name of Russian Softwood Import, Ltd.—consisted, after one or two modifications, of 16 timber-importing firms, with both London and the provinces well represented on the board of directors. Financially, these firms were among the strongest in the trade and well able to incur the not inconsiderable element of risk attaching to an experiment of this kind, for an experiment it was. The syndicate, as the group came to be commonly designated, bought the Russian stocks at guaranteed prices. The quantity involved was about 550,000 standards, of an estimated value of £8,000,000, and the deal was the largest in the annals of the British timber trade.

In order that importers outside the scheme should not reap benefit, minimum reselling prices—a revolutionary procedure in the conservative timber trade—were fixed and guaranteed throughout the year, and that all concerned, whether in the syndicate or not, have honoured their pledges, redounds to the credit of the trade. Moreover, the course of events has justified the inaugurators of the new method of central buying, which even its opponents, much as they disliked it, have to admit has been successful. By relieving the market of the threat of a sudden autumn fall in shippers' prices, a regular occurrence of previous years, the scheme brought stability to the market at a critical juncture. At first the project was severely criticised in many quarters, but there was general agreement that, provided the guarantees were fulfilled, a recurrence of the disastrous methods adopted by the Russians in recent years would be averted. One result has been a largely-increased arrival of Soviet timber in Great Britain, namely, 550,000 stardards, compared with 380,000 standards in 1928.

With the removal of the Russian bogey of former years, trading conditions in 1929 became favourable. There has been no great price fluctuation nor any particularly large business. Quotations for Scandinavian timber fell in the spring and again in the autumn, but the import cost has been on a fairly regular basis, while consumption was heavy, much in excess of that in 1928. Further, stocks carried over from 1928 were considerably less than in the preceding twelvemonth, so that importers were not hampered by large holdings of landed goods; and it was evident that they had learnt the lesson taught by 1927, when there was serious over-import. Another favourable factor was the fact that the extremely severe weather experienced in Northern Europe in February and March delayed winter shipments from those Baltic ports which are usually kept open all the year round, thereby enabling stockholders in Great Britain to hold out for the value of their wood.

Importers did not buy as early as usual, for they preferred to wait until the Russian stock notes had been issued. This delayed the bulk of the purchases until the early summer. Meantime, Swedish and Finnish shippers, less dependent on the British market than Russia, effected pretty good sales to Germany, Holland, France and Belgium. Scandinavian exporters had to lower their prices in order to be able to compete with the Soviet timber, though they held out as long as possible. Their f.o.b. values declined by about 10s. per standard on the opening prices; leading Finnish stocks fell to a level of £13 per standard basis for 7 in., and £12 10s. for 2 in. by 4 in., a popular dimension, and Swedish unsorted grade was about £14 10s. basis for 7 in. f.o.b. For both Swedish and Finnish fifth quality a big demand developed, especially for the former variety, and the prices attracted numerous new buyers. As this wood was especially useful for building-trade requirements, a large sale was conducted in the resale of bills of lading on c.i.f. terms.

On the whole, the spot market has been pretty steady throughout, and it was only in the last few weeks that signs of weakness were displayed. At the beginning of 1929, flooring were the reverse of strong. Large stocks were held in the London area, and from the usual liner ports of South Sweden and Norway the basis price was £15 10s. for 6 in., c.i.f. For April/May delivery, Finnish wood was sold at £15 to £15 5s. basis for 6 in., c.i.f. London, and though prime grade Swedish-planed goods were sold at a higher figure, the lower price quoted for Finnish wood encouraged buyers to place their contracts with Finland. Floorings more or less maintained their prices until the last few weeks, when they dropped appreciably—nearly 10s. per standard. Slatings and certain sizes in sawn laths have been weak owing to overproduction, but 2 by 7, 8 and 9 in. and 2½ by 7 in. enhanced their values. Until heavy imports in November caused a reduction in landed figures, 2 by 4 in. were strong. Traders in poles and putlogs also report that the market was good in spite of an increase in the number of shippers.

A disturbing feature of the season was the rapid rise in freights. In the first six months chartering market conditions and rates were considerably firmer and higher than in the second half. From the Baltic, charterers whose requirements for early loading were quite modest, succeeded in securing cheap tonnage. Props charterers were the first to come into the market, and in January took up tonnage at 43s. from South Finland. Soon afterwards 39s. 6d. was paid from Ryovaliniemi for first open water. In April and May the enquiry increased considerably, and rates steadily advanced, while in June a further advance was chronicled, owners obtaining 57s. 6d. from Leningrad to Boston and 52s. 6d. from Kemi to London, still higher figures naturally having to be conceded by South and West Coast importers. Extraordinarily high rates were asked, and paid, from Leningrad, a factor which affected other sections of the freight market. These substantial increases were due to the operations of the Russian shippers, for when their shipments began they secured almost all the available vessels able to transport from 750 to 1,250 standards, with a resultant scarcity of boats. Increased coal shipments also affected the supply of tonnage, and Swedish and Finnish exporters, selling at f.o.b. prices, were obliged to adjust quotations to counterbalance higher freights, thus reducing their profit margin materially.

Although some improvement was shown on the previous year, disappointment is felt in hardwood circles at the restricted trade done. At no time was there any real activity in the demand. A noteworthy feature was the continued limitation in the use of mahogany, for while the superior grades were still in request the poorer qualities were only slowly absorbed, owing to the competition of substitutes and other hardwoods. In spite of this competition, however, prices hardened, and this is also true of teak, for which shippers' prices remain very firm.

In plywood and veneers, trade fluctuated remarkably. Prices soared in the first six months, as demand was exceptionally good, but about June consumption began to decline seriously, until it reached an unusually low level in autumn, for no particular reason beyond a general falling away in trading throughout the country. Stocks at the end of December showed a heavy increase on the corresponding month in 1928, and in spite of the big demand from January to June the year can scarcely be called altogether satisfactory. The after-effects of the fall in prices will affect business in 1930 unless unforeseen factors arise.

From the statistics below, which are taken from the Board of Trade Returns, it will be seen that the total wood imports last year were up on 1928 by about £3½ million, though well below the figure of 1927:—

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	Cub. Ft.	Cub. Ft.	Cub. Ft.	£	£	£
Hewn, hard ...	6,251,817	7,141,394	6,972,550	1,304,833	1,502,933	1,517,442
,, soft.....	319,146	386,439	427,122	1,237,012	1,379,429	1,221,075
Sawn, hard ...	29,846,213	31,562,770	31,825,595	7,463,337	7,929,773	8,074,480
	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.			
,, soft.....	6,025,932	4,605,073	5,221,472	28,239,995	21,435,525	23,765,195
Planed or dressed	688,616	589,470	621,156	4,037,867	3,393,731	3,405,260
Mining timber	2,864,493	2,596,886	2,695,242	5,457,824	4,779,080	5,034,492
Sleepers.....	248,390	261,553	369,109	963,177	1,173,773	1,675,878
Staves.....	104,159	101,416	125,675	739,871	678,081	787,084
Veneers and panel wood	3,803	4,286	4,949	205,703	285,486	347,056
All other sorts	2,718	22	2	17,168	93	13
Totals.....	...	...	...	49,666,787	42,557,904	45,827,975

It is extremely difficult to write of the prospects of 1930. Until the position in connection with the Russian stocks is cleared up, which may not be for several weeks yet, the outlook will remain obscure. The present *impasse* is holding up buying generally, although it is understood that some of the smaller importers have placed with agents a few contracts for moderate quantities of Soviet timber. Fortunately consumption has exhibited signs of expansion, and provided it continues to be good during the spring a steady level of values should be maintained. It seems to be generally agreed, though reluctantly in some quarters, that some form of group purchasing of Russian wood is desirable, and with this end in view a most representative meeting of British importers was held not long ago, at which it was decided to form a new syndicate.

ROAD FINANCE AND MOTOR TAXATION.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE inter-related questions of road finance and of motor taxation are now of sufficient importance for it to be permissible to hope that the authorities will shortly place more complete and up-to-date information on the subject before the public. Official sources are not as illuminating as they might be; the total cost of road maintenance as distinct from road construction is not known; and therefore there is no proper differentiation between expenditure which should be met from income and capital expenditure. Further, the latest figures available for the total cost of all roads relate to the financial year 1926-27.

It is commonly argued that a change in motor taxation is necessary in order to establish the principle of payment for the roads according to the use made of them. This is assumed to be equitable, since it is thought to correspond to the damage inflicted by particular vehicles, but little scientific investigation has been carried out to test the validity of this assumption. The figures on the following page would, indeed, appear to dispose of it altogether, for they show that the total number of motor vehicles registered has more than doubled in a period of six years, while the yield of the motor taxes has more than trebled. The total expenditure on the roads, including expenditure on maintenance, improvement, cleansing and construction, has increased only by some 33 per cent. in six years; the cost of maintenance of the Class 1 and Class 2 roads, which include all the principal motor roads, has actually decreased slightly, a large reduction in the cost of Class 1 roads making up for a small increase in Class 2. This would suggest that the factors regulating the amount of

repair work required on good modern motor roads are independent of the amount of traffic carried on them, possibly depending rather on climatic conditions; while the tendency for the Class 2 roads to settle down to a cost of about £340 per mile, and a further possible tendency for the total expenditure on roads also to settle down to a stationary figure, seems to indicate that, as the standard of the less important roads is improved, their costs also will show the same tendency to stabilisation independently of the growth of traffic—a circumstance which has already been observed in the case of Class 1 roads.

Year.	Expenditure on Roads, not including Expenditure out of Loans, but including Loan Charges.		Cost of Maintenance of Class 1 and Class 2 Roads and Bridges.		No. of Motor Vehicles Registered.		Yield of Motor Taxes (including Petrol Tax for 1928–29 and 1929–30).		Average Cost per Mile of Class 1 Roads.	Average Cost per Mile of Class 2 Roads.
	£		£		£		£		£	£
1922–23	45,142,000	*100*	19,108,000	*100*	976,000	*100*	12,584,000	*100*	640	311
1923–24	46,698,000	*103*	18,678,000	*98*	1,132,000	*116*	14,691,000	*117*	604	315
1924–25	51,763,000	*115*	20,047,000	*105*	1,326,000	*136*	16,485,000	*131*	626	341
1925–26	55,157,000	*122*	19,443,000	*102*	1,537,000	*157*	18,056,000	*143*	592	337
1926–27	56,257,000	*125*	19,095,000	*100*	1,718,000	*176*	21,393,000	*170*	568	330
1927–28	58,000,000*	*128*	19,585,000	*102*	1,889,000	*194*	24,518,000	*195*	565	343
1928–29	60,000,000*	*133*	18,996,000	*99*	2,027,000	*208*	38,340,000	*305*	534	341
1929–30	60,000,000*	*133*	19,000,000*	*99*	2,163,000	*222*	40,800,000*	*324*	†	†

* Estimated. † Not available.

The extent to which road costs are covered by motor taxation and the actual allocation of the motor taxes are shown below:—

Allocation of Motor Taxes.

Year.	Percentage of Road Costs covered by Motor Taxes.	Percentage of Maintenance of Class 1 and Class 2 Roads covered by Motor Taxes.	Road Fund Receipts— Spent on Roads.	Diverted to General Revenue.	Diverted to De-Rating.	Approximate Contributions by Ratepayers to Road Costs (deducting Petrol Tax Receipts).
			£(000).	£(000).	£(000).	£(000).
1922-23	27·9	65·9	12,584	...	...	32,558
1923-24	31·5	78·7	14,691	...	...	32,007
1924-25	31·8	82·2	16,485	...	...	35,278
1925-26	32·7	92·9	7,556	10,500	...	47,601
1926-27	38·0	112·0	5,393	16,000	...	50,864
1927-28	42·3	125·2	19,666	4,852	...	38,334
1928-29	63·9	201·8	21,131	3,922	12,983	25,886
1929-30 (est.)	68·0	214·7	21,150	4,650	15,000	23,850

The ratepayers' complaint that they are subsidising motor transport by providing it with its permanent way, the roads, must be considered in the light of the fact that motor transport is subsidising the rates to the extent of £15,000,000—the proceeds of the Petrol Tax imposed in 1928 to finance the De-rating Scheme. In evidence before the Royal Commission on Transport Sir Gilbert Vyle, ex-President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, submitted, on behalf of the ratepayers, that "the proportion of the expense of road maintenance which should be borne by the ratepayer should not exceed the cost before the time when motor transport became fairly common. . . . The balance should be paid by the State, and this national expense should be met out of motor taxation." He suggested that the basic year for the calculation should be 1910-11, because motor transport had not at that time had any effect in the direction of increasing road costs. This seems equitable and suggests the following calculation:—In 1910-11 the cost of the roads was £16,367,000, all contributed from the rates. After making allowance for increased wages and materials, this expenditure would correspond to £26,000,000 to-day. Actually, the ratepayers, after deducting the £15,000,000 proceeds of the Petrol Tax, which are used to relieve certain classes of ratepayers of their rates, at the present time pay only £23,850,000 towards highway costs. It would seem, then, that there is now no justice in the allegation that motor transport does not pay its fair share towards road costs.

It would be of the greatest assistance in allocating the cost of roads in this way to be able to sub-divide the cost between expenditure on maintenance and on construction; actually, the only sub-division is between "expenditure defrayed out of loans" and "other expenditure." The "expenditure defrayed out of loans" is, of course, purely for constructional or reconstruction work, but the general expenditure may, and undoubtedly does, include many items which a business firm would regard as a capital charge. The expenditure out of loans has been fairly constant in the period under consideration, never having been less than £9,250,000 or more than £11,500,000. This is substantially more than it was during the war and immediate post-war years, with the result that "loan charges," *i.e.*, the interest on loans for road construction or reconstruction, increased from £4,926,000 in 1922-23 to £8,249,000 in 1926-27, and have probably risen higher since then, although no figures other than estimates are available for subsequent years. The proportion of expenditure on road construction to the total expenditure on roads is increasing rather rapidly, partly on account of the demand for more roads by motorists and partly as a result of employment schemes and relief works of various kinds.

The conclusions to be drawn from the available evidence are that motor transport already contributes adequately towards the cost of the roads; that the cost of highway maintenance is likely to become stabilised as all the roads are gradually made suitable for heavy motor traffic (it is already stable for Class 1 and Class 2 roads); and that motor traffic is still expanding fast, so that motorists will increasingly have the right to claim a reduction in taxation in so far as motor taxation is a payment by motor transport to meet the cost of reconstructing the highway system of the country and of maintaining the roads in a suitable condition for modern traffic.

The British policy since the war has been gradually to bring all roads, starting with the most important, up to the standard of motor roads fit for heavy motor traffic. This may be in the best interest of the country's transport, although that seems a little doubtful in the case of many of the "other" roads, and the American system has much to commend it. Under that system traffic censuses are taken as the basis for determining the costliness of the road to be provided, according to the ton-miles run over it per day, and the average yield of taxation per ton-mile. On this basis the British position would be roughly as follows:—Given 2,163,000 vehicles averaging perhaps one ton each in unladen weight, and 10,000 miles per year, and paying £40,000,000 in taxation, the average yield of tax paid per ton-mile would be $\frac{£40,000,000}{2,163,000 \times 10,000} = .44$ pence per ton-mile. This would give the following rough and ready table:—

Per Mile of Road.

Average Traffic (in tons) Per Day.	Justified Expenditure from Motor Taxation.
	£
250	168
500	335
750	503
1,000	670
2,000	1,340
3,000	2,010

At present, of the £60,000,000 spent annually in this country on roads, at least £50,000,000 appears to be in respect of maintenance, allocated approximately as follows:—

£13,630,000 for Class 1 Roads, 25,500 miles, = £535 per mile
£5,370,000 for Class 2 Roads, 15,750 miles, = £340 per mile
£31,000,000 for "Other" Roads, 137,820 miles, = £225 per mile

Judged in the light of comparative traffics—so far as this factor can be estimated—the proportion of our maintenance bill allocated to "other" roads looks excessively high, and the inference is clear that many side-roads are being subsidised by taxing main-road traffic.

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS IN 1929.

Not since 1920, the year of the post-war slump, has the business of life assurance encountered such adverse conditions as prevailed last year. It was a year of heavy depreciation in all classes of Stock Exchange securities, a year in which long-term British Government securities lost some 5½ per cent. of their value and public confidence received a severe shock by financial disclosures whose echoes have not yet died away. Added to this was the continued depression in the iron and steel trades and in the Lancashire textile industry. In face of such a combination of circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the rate of increase in new business should have suffered a check. Disappointment, however, must be tempered by the reflection that there has been an increase—albeit a small one—and not an actual decrease.

Up to date, returns of the volume of business have been published by 30 British offices, and these, together with the 1928 figures for purposes of comparison, are shown in the following table:—

Company.	1928.	1929.	Difference.
	£	£	£
Alliance	2,922,678	3,026,938	+ 104,260
Atlas	3,482,611	3,800,000	+ 317,389
British Equitable	466,164	516,000	+ 49,836
British General.....	405,616	482,131	+ 76,515
Caledonian	1,344,891	1,384,265	+ 39,374
Commercial Union.....	4,105,082	3,976,036	— 129,046
Equitable	1,002,328	960,000	— 42,328
Equity and Law	1,807,749	1,708,219	— 99,530
Friends' Provident	1,567,483	1,617,000	+ 49,517
Law Union and Rock	1,977,388	2,150,000	+ 172,612
Legal and General	7,646,900	7,881,150	+ 234,250
Life Association	725,670	1,133,890	+ 408,220
London Assurance	1,746,180	1,978,653	+ 232,473
London Life.....	2,502,925	2,927,608	+ 424,683
National Mutual	906,089	859,635	— 46,454
Norwich Union.....	8,143,370	7,891,661	— 251,709
Pearl	12,080,366	11,652,887	— 427,479
Phœnix.....	3,043,304	2,950,000	— 93,304
Prudential	17,401,001	17,600,000	+ 198,999
Refuge	6,377,442	6,479,796	+ 102,354
Royal Exchange	2,496,040	2,277,646	— 218,394
Royal London	4,098,075	4,180,000	+ 81,925
Scottish Amicable	1,267,028	1,235,026	— 32,002
Scottish Life.....	1,241,384	1,339,441	+ 98,057
Scottish Provident	2,789,886	3,099,000	+ 309,114
Scottish Widows	3,173,220	2,899,000	— 274,220
Sun Life	15,274,880	16,014,342	+ 739,462
United Kingdom Provident	3,109,870	3,335,080	+ 225,210
University Life.....	160,356	165,133	+ 4,777
Wesleyan and General	969,236	1,149,058	+ 179,822
	114,235,212	116,669,595	+2,434,383

The most cursory glance at the table will reveal how patchy the figures are. Out of the 30 offices represented 20 show increases and 10 decreases, while of those in the former group none shows a striking advance on the 1928 totals. The largest increases are shown by two offices of a very diverse character, though both "mutual" in constitution. An old-established but progressive society, the London Life (a non-commission-paying office), records an increase of £425,000, equivalent to 17 per cent. The Wesleyan and General, a Birmingham office, transacting, in addition to "ordinary" assurances, a large "industrial" business among the poorer classes, has achieved an increase of £180,000, equivalent to nearly 20 per cent. In addition to these, a few offices have succeeded in producing an increase of over 10 per cent., namely, the British Equitable, British General, London Assurance, and the Scottish Provident. A notable slowing up in the rate of increase has occurred in the case of the Legal and General, whose figures hitherto have exhibited a consistently large expansion. The same feature is noticeable also in the case of the ordinary-cum-industrial group (with the exception of the Wesleyan and General already referred to) for, of the three largest, the Prudential and the Refuge totals are only slightly ahead, while the Pearl total has suffered a decline. It should be mentioned that the apparent large increase of the Life Association of Scotland business is due to the fact that the 1928 total is in respect of a broken period of only nine months.

Turning from the particular to the general, the aggregate figures of all the 30 offices are ahead of those for 1928 by only £2,434,383, equal to about 2 per cent. Assuming that these offices can be considered representative of the whole, it is interesting to consider the figures in relation to the total volume of new business during the post-war period. The following figures have been extracted from the official returns furnished to the Board of Trade for the years 1919-1927 and estimated for 1928: —

Year.	New Life Assurance Business transacted by all Offices.	Increase per cent. each year over the previous year.
	£	Per cent.
1919	131,454,363	79·2
1920	146,627,474	11·5
1921	109,243,943	— 25·5
1922	106,302,251	— 2·7
1923	111,750,559	5·1
1924	123,661,009	10·7
1925	130,196,611	5·3
1926	128,915,643	— 1·0
1927	147,825,161	14·6
1928	161,129,425	9·0

The large volume of business transacted during the first two years of the period was, of course, due to the artificial boom conditions then prevailing and represented largely business delayed by the war. The subsequent falling off was severe, but was followed by a gradual recovery, accelerated in 1927 and 1928, and now checked during 1929. The total business, however, is now at a level well above the boom year 1920.

This review of the situation is necessarily limited to considerations affecting the volume of business. An analysis of the quality and of the trading results must perforce wait upon the publication of the annual reports, and more particularly of the valuation reports. So far only two offices, the National Mutual and the Sun Life, have made available their reports of the year's working, accompanied in the former case by a report on the annual valuation. In both cases the trading results appear to be satisfactory. The Sun Life has once again transacted an enormous volume of the now familiar super-tax-saving policies, largely, it is believed, on the basis of five-year term endowments. Such policies are life policies in name only. They contain no element of life risk, and we have already stated our belief that the present dimensions of this type of business are at the least a disservice to life assurance in general.

Meanwhile, the need for life assurance and for the inestimable benefits—mental and material—which it confers continues more strongly than ever before.

The advantages have indeed been lent additional emphasis by the recent slump in the stock exchanges of the

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world. For comparison is at once invited between the results of an endowment assurance policy, combining with life assurance cover a steady yield free from anxiety concerning depreciation, and those of the most attractive Stock Exchange investment with all its inherent uncertainties.

ROUND THE CLOCK IN JAPAN.

(BY A TRAVELLING CORRESPONDENT.)

WHEN I took the train at Kobe it was already dark. I had expected to reach Nara by daylight, for our boat had dropped anchor off Kobe at about 1 p.m. on an October day, and the railway journey from Kobe to Nara should take, at the most, three hours. But I had not reckoned with the "formalities." Everybody with whom we had to deal, in the complicated process of getting on shore—the Health Authorities, the Passport Authorities, the Customs Authorities—had elaborate "formalities" of their own. But the most curious "formality" of all was imposed upon me, not by Japanese officialdom, but by a party of foreign residents who had kindly come down to meet us at the quay. This "South-Sea Barbarian" formality can be stated most simply in the following terms:—"One cannot go from the quay to the railway station without visiting *the* hotel on the way."

It was this hotel-worshipping "formality" that finally defeated my plans. While the Japanese officials were poring over my papers I had laid hands on a Japanese railway guide and had chartered the services of a coolie with a hand-barrow. "And now," I had thought in my innocence, "as soon as my papers have passed muster I have nothing to do but to walk off, with my coolie and his hand-barrow, see my luggage through the Customs, and board the first train that I can catch. The station, they tell me, is only a few hundred yards away." As the official "formalities" went on, I missed the first train in the time-table, and then the second; but I did not lose heart, for I had a third train (and a good fast train, too) in reserve. At last the official "formalities" were over, and I still had forty minutes to spare. But it was at this point that I suffered defeat.

When the Customs examination was over, there were still seventeen minutes left for catching the train: just time enough, said the coolie, if we hurried. So I jumped into a rickshaw, while the admirable coolie trotted alongside with his barrow. But, alas, I was now defeated for the third time, and this time irretrievably. For my kind foreign friends, solicitous for my welfare to the last, had shouted a parting injunction to the rickshaw man that he was to convey me without fail to—*the* hotel. And so, at a sudden parting of the ways, I found myself, to my consternation, being whirled away whither I would not go, while my coolie trotted steadily forward and disappeared down the station road. I expostulated with the rickshaw-man, but in vain. Neither arguments nor entreaties nor imprecations were of any avail. He had been given his instructions, and he knew his duty. He did not let me go until he had deposited me at the gate of the "South-Sea-Barbarians'" temple. In a frenzy of exasperation, I leapt out, paid him off (discovering, in the act, that rickshaw fares in Japan are very high), and started to run on my own legs all the way from that ineluctable hotel to the station. When I reached the station entrance, I found my coolie, with the hand-cart and the luggage, waiting patiently again. Sympathetically, he broke the news that the train had gone three minutes ago; but he was not yet at the end of his resources. Taking a time-table out of his pocket, he set to work to search the scriptures; and, before long, he had worked out a plan of salvation which would bring me to Nara that night after all. True, I was to be saved as by fire; but that was only to be expected when I had let three fair chances of salvation slip by (even though the fault was not my own). The plan was this: I was to sit in the station waiting-room for fifty minutes, take a slow train to Kyoto, wait at Kyoto for an hour and a quarter, and then take another slow train on to Nara—the early paradise where this purgatorial journey would end. I should not reach Nara now until 11.17 p.m. But never mind. At any rate, the last formality at Kobe was over; and I should not be condemned to sleep in *the* hotel to-night. (For all I know, it is a first-rate hotel, but its amenities had been spoilt for me, untasted). . . .

When at last my slow train moved out of Kobe station, I no longer regretted that I was not travelling in an express by daylight. The whole country was lighted up by electricity. Kobe melted into Osaka, Osaka into Kyoto, and still the galaxy of lights stretched on without a break. Was Japan one continuous city? No. When I left Kyoto again, now bound for Nara, I became aware that there was a countryside in Japan too. This time, through the darkness, I could make out, here and there, the dim shapes of woods and hills; and, when I got out of the train at Nara, I found myself driving in the taxi through a country town peacefully asleep. "What was that beast that crossed the road in front of the car just now, with its eyes gleaming in the glare of our headlights? Are we driving out into the wilds?" "O, that is just one of the sacred deer from the deer parks. They are very tame, and wander all over the town." They are tame, indeed. I was afterwards privileged to watch the pretty spectacle of seven hundred of them trooping together from all quarters of the park at their keeper's bugle call. . . .

Next morning, early, I was in the train again, this time with no impedimenta but a knapsack. I now found myself travelling, not through an electrically-lighted city, but through water-logged rice-fields—flat fields on the plain, terraced fields on the hillsides, when the railway began to wind its way up a valley. I changed from steam-train to electric tram and from tram to funicular; and then the terraces ceased and there was nothing around us but forest and mountain. Finally, the funicular, too, came to an end, and I started on the last stage of my journey on foot. It was an hour or so's walk, they told me, from the terminus of the funicular up to the gateway of Koya San.

The footpath zigzagged upwards among the pines which, surprisingly, seemed to grow taller, and not more stunted, as the altitude increased. But I was less interested in the scenery than in my fellow travellers. They were Japanese, every one of them; yet, among them, all types were to be found. There were rich people riding up in carrying chairs and poor people trudging on foot, and fairly-well-to-do people using their own feet with the aid of a hireling (usually a strapping young woman) to push them from behind. There were pilgrims with staff and scrip and palmer's hat (a vast lampshade of plaited straw); and there were tourists, all complete in shorts and alpenstock and rucksack and horn-rimmed spectacles and Tyrolese hat with the proper feather stuck into the ribbon. And the variety of the inner man was as great, I am sure, as the variety of the accoutrements. On that footpath, mediæval piety was rubbing shoulders with modern sophistication. So much engrossed was I in observing this variegated stream of humanity on the way, that I found myself entering the gateway of Koya San before I had realised that I had had quite a stiff climb.

The gateway was the highest point; for Koya San itself lies in a sort of cup, with ridges and peaks enfolding it on every side. I should explain that Koya San is a Buddhist Mount Athos—a little monastic world of its own, with libraries and schools and shops as well as temples. It is a place of extraordinary beauty; for, in this high hollow of the mountains, the giant pine of Japan—*Cryptomeria*, the botanists call it—grows to a stupendous height; and the buildings stand in clearings, with the immense trunks towering up to heaven all round them, as straight as if they had been regulated by plummet and line. The most beautiful part of all was a level stone-paved terrace, driven right through the heart of the forest, and flanked by cenotaphs of all the famous men of Japan (and many of the obscure) through all the ages.

By the time we had slowly paced the length of this terrace to the Hall of the Thousand Lamps and back again, it was growing dusk; and the young monk who had taken charge of me guided me back to my quarters in the temple where I had to spend the night. Conversation was difficult; for I knew only one word of Japanese ("ichijikan," meaning "hour"—the key-word for travelling, but not for small talk), while my guide's English was not nearly so good as that astonishing coolie's. Laboriously, I questioned him about his own career. It appeared he had been educated in a military college, but was now studying Classical Tibetan with a view to taking charge of the Tibetan books in Koya San Library. My knowledge of the Lamaistic form of Mahayana Buddhism was not extensive; but I raked up such crumbs as I could find in my memory and offered them up to my young friend—only to discover that he had no appetite for the subject. "Poor fellow," I thought to myself: "What up-hill work it must be to study Classical Tibetan against the grain! I wonder how you come to be in this galère. Let us try another tack." And aloud I remarked: "Is it true that Japan depends on Manchuria for 80 per cent. of her requirements in coal and iron ore?" Immediately the young man's face lighted up; his English became less halting; and there issued from his mouth statistics and technical terms which left me as cold as my platitudes about the Mahayana had left him. "Oho!" I thought again: "So it is not so far from Kobe to Koya San, after all!" I looked at my watch and noticed that it was now just twenty-four hours since I had landed.

Notes of the Week.

Full Circle.—At a time when the money market had almost given up all hope of a reduction, the Bank of England has reduced its rate to 4½ per cent. Three weeks ago, when the market rate of discount was barely over 4 per cent., a reduction in Bank rate was confidently expected, and when market rate fell below 4 per cent., so that brokers were actually having to pay more for their weekly money than they could earn on their bills, there was a considerable amount of criticism to be heard at the anomalous position which had been allowed to arise. The Bank, however, had to take a wider view than that of the market's technical difficulties. It had already decided to cease bidding for newly arrived gold at more than its statutory buying price, and the moment it did so and allowed gold to move under the influence of natural forces, it became apparent that France and later Germany were able to secure the week's supply of gold. This provided an apt illustration of the fact that both these important exchange rates were nearly, if not quite, at the point where it would be profitable for gold to be taken from the Bank, and inasmuch as the dollar exchange had also fallen during January from over $4.88 to $4.86-$\frac{3}{16}$, or to just below par, it was clear that the international situation at the end of last month hardly justified a reduction in Bank rate. Hence the market had become resigned to the view that a 4½ per cent. Bank rate was unlikely, and that sooner or later money and discount rates would have to adjust themselves to a 5 per cent. basis. So far as money was concerned, the first week of February provided definite evidence that this was taking place, for revenue collection took huge amounts off the market, and on Wednesday last there was some talk of the market having to go into the Bank. Discount rates, however, remained low, as the supply of Treasury bills continued to contract and Continental demand remained weak. It was this last factor, coupled with the recent reductions in the French and German rates, that possibly influenced the Bank in making Thursday's somewhat surprising but welcome decision. And so the wheel comes full circle, and on the same day as a year ago 4½ per cent. gave place to 5½ per cent., the 4½ per cent. rate is restored. The new rate will put an end to an anomalous situation in the discount market, it will ease the burden upon industry and the Exchequer, and will impart confidence to the Stock Exchange and to the new issue market. It shows that the Bank is not over-much concerned with recent foreign exchange fluctuations or gold movements, and that once more it is ready to take a chance in the interests of British trade.

Parties and Economic Policy.—If the intention of the Lord Privy Seal, when he gave an account in Parliament last Monday of his efforts to deal with unemployment, was to depress the House or even to alarm it, he certainly succeeded. No results have yet materialised from his Canadian tour, while some of his schemes, including that for the Lower Thames Tunnel, are being so delayed in preparation that they are unlikely to help the situation for some time to come. Further, he foresaw that the figure of unemployment might jump up by 100,000 by virtue of the new Insurance Bill which would keep people on the register who would otherwise be struck off, and though this does not mean a corresponding increase in actual unemployment, it must emphasise the magnitude of the problem. There are, it is true, counter-considerations, some of which were mentioned by Mr Thomas. There is, for example, the fact that of the 1,400,000 in receipt of benefit, one-half were in work less than a month ago; that two of the most depressed of our trades, coal and iron and steel, distinctly improved towards the end of last year; and that the index of production for the country as a whole, which we published last week, is at a record high level. But, as Mr Thomas rightly pointed out, the very necessary process of rationalisation will not immediately help to solve the problem, but will tend, indeed, to intensify it. The Lord Privy Seal's special task is, therefore, likely to remain difficult and heavy, and frankly—unless work is rapidly speeded up—the steps he has taken will not help to relieve the situation this winter. His own admissions lent force to Sir Herbert Samuel's renewed appeal that the Government should enlist the co-operation of the House as a whole. Fortunately there are signs that in hammering out a comprehensive economic policy, party manœuvring will play a smaller part than hitherto. One reason for this belief is the decision to form an Economic Advisory Council, whose membership and staff are rapidly being arranged, and whose labours will certainly include the consideration of the unemployment problem from all angles. The fortunate settlement of the threatened conflict between the Commons and the Lords, which would undoubtedly have raised party feeling to fever heat, gives ground for hope that our whole policy with regard to industry and the provision of work may be reviewed in the light of "collective wisdom," rather than partisan prejudice. There is, we think, a general feeling that the insurance system, even after all these years of experience and administration, may still be delaying the transfer of labour and its reabsorption into employment, and that the whole subject requires much more thorough reconsideration than was given to it last autumn. The Government, which is strong enough to make benefit conditional on productive work for those who have been out of work beyond a certain period, could, if it liked, make a real contribution to the problem. But the co-operation of the other parties is essential. The conversations that have taken place on the Coal Bill amendments are a welcome sign that the Government is willing to seek such co-operation. We suppose it was inevitable that Conservative critics should seize upon the fact that Mr Graham went so far as to visit Mr Lloyd George, and should try to make mischief by silly talk of "surrender." But if we are to get the best thought of the nation, both in and out of Parliament, on to these difficult questions, it is incumbent upon all to cease talking of party scores. No one comes out of that business better than the President of the Board of Trade, and if these sound methods of dealing are to continue other parties must face the obligation of meeting the Government in the same spirit as that in which it has made its advances.

The Leisurely Conference.—It is not altogether surprising that some impatience is being expressed at the slow progress of the Naval Conference. It is easy, no doubt, to be unduly restive. The direct conversations in progress between the different delegations do appear to be bearing some fruit, and difficult problems will be more readily soluble in consequence when they come to be considered by the Conference as a whole. At the same time, it has to be recognised that, after more than a fortnight of con-

tinuous work, the Conference has reached definite conclusions on nothing, not even on the method by which fleets are to be measured. On this point, indeed, a decision appears to be in sight, for though there are British and French texts in the field, they are quite easily reconcilable, and should, in fact, be reconciled with little further delay. But the main problems before the Conference—the decision regarding capital ships, the questions raised by France's demand for what the other delegations consider an excessive tonnage, Japan's demand for seven-tenths as many large cruisers as the United States, and the whole Franco-Italian parity controversy—still remain to be dealt with. Here too, however, private conversations are paving the way for progress. This is particularly true in the matter of capital ships, where the idea of supplementing a prolongation of the Naval Holiday by the scrapping of a substantial number of existing vessels is gaining ground. The prospect is, indeed, that the present totals of British, American and Japanese capital ships will be reduced from 20, 18, 10 to 15, 15, 9, while a little push from public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic might easily get the numbers down to 12, 12, 7 (or 8). This, after all, is a conference for the reduction, not the perpetuation of naval armaments, and it has always been recognised that the capital ship provides the most hopeful field for definite and visible achievement. The Japanese 70 per cent. demand in cruisers, if persisted in, would cause serious difficulties and upset the tentative arrangements Great Britain and America have already reached. The Japanese, moreover, have insisted so loudly and persistently on this particular percentage as to have made the path of concession a little difficult for them. None the less, some way can be found—one or two ways have, in fact, been suggested—of facilitating a graceful retirement from a position Japan could not continue to occupy without seriously imperilling the success of the Conference; and it is not the way of the Japanese to incur such a responsibility as that. All things considered, the method of slow progress favoured by the Prime Minister, who remains the dominating figure in the Conference, may be said to be justifying itself. So long as the negotiations ultimately succeed it matters nothing whether they last two months or three, or even longer. Great Britain, at any rate, by the wise decision to build no more 10,000-ton cruisers while there is a prospect of the Anglo-American understanding holding good, and by the progressive ideas its delegation is believed to entertain on the subject of capital ships, is doing all that could reasonably be asked of it to contribute to the Conference's success.

Progress in Spain.—News of the fortunes of the new *régime* in Spain is not abundant, but that on the whole is a good sign. General Berenguer has not been able to construct anything like a Cabinet of all the talents. The refusal of Senor Cambo, in particular, to accept the portfolio of Finance was a serious disappointment. The Catalan leader's opportunity will, no doubt, come a little later, when the movement back to constitutional government is further advanced. Meanwhile, as the instrument of a transitional administration, the Berenguer Cabinet should serve well enough. The new Prime Minister is acting with sense and moderation, though he has not so far had the courage to abolish the censorship. Both the Universities and the Army, which caused General Primo de Rivera his chief anxieties, are completely quiet, while the Church appears to be concentrating on perfectly legitimate political organisation with a view to the elections of the near future. The doubtful factors in the whole situation, and in many ways the most important, are the position and intentions of King Alfonso. The King was enabled to exercise a considerable measure of personal rule down to 1923 by reason of the impotence and dissensions of the Cortes, and since that date through the influence he exerted over his nominee, the Dictator. General Berenguer, like his predecessor, is a King's man, but he recognises that the demand of the country is for constitutional government, and under constitutional government, particularly with a far from insignificant republican movement in the field, the King's position cannot be what it was. King Alfonso may adapt himself to the new constitution sufficiently to secure a period of comparatively peaceful development for his country. If, instead, he endeavours to assert himself unduly, the Republicans may become a formidable element in the situation.

Unemployment Insurance and the Lords.—With the acceptance by the Upper House, on Wednesday, of the Government's compromise offer to place a time-limit of three years on the Unemployment Insurance Bill, Miss Bondfield's measure reached port after a voyage whose somewhat stormy final stages had provoked, with little enough solid reason, hasty talk of dissolution and even of a constitutional crisis on the issue of Lords *v.* Commons. The outcome should satisfy reasonable opinion in all parties. Of the two major amendments made by the Lords, one was a new clause in place of Clause 4, providing that a claimant should be disqualified from receipt of benefit " if it be proved that the claimant has refused, and refuses, without reason, to work when employment is found for him, or if it be proved that the claimant is not endeavouring to obtain employment." It may be doubted whether the Lords, in carrying this amendment based on an obsolete rule of the National Union of Railwaymen, really wanted to do more than underline their disapproval of Clause 4, already registered in a vote of rejection leaving a gap in the Bill which had somehow to be filled. The alternative clause still placed upon the officials administering benefit the onus of proving a negative, and the principle, thus virtually conceded, of practically unconditional right to benefit, was given effect more clearly and concisely in the clause which the Commons had passed. At all events, when the Lower House insisted, by 273 votes to 124, on the reinstatement of Clause 4 intact, the Lords, on Monday, without undue reluctance, withdrew this amendment. Their other amendment, however, limiting the operation of the Bill to March 31, 1931, was for a second time sent down to the Commons. Apart from any question of privilege—a point which the Government at first waived and later raised with no great conviction or consistency—this time-limit was manifestly too short to allow the Act to be reasonably tested in practice. If the Commons, however, had simply resisted (without amending) the amendment, the Bill would have passed into the category of measures awaiting the operation of the Parliament Act, and the Government's pledge to reform the administration of Unemployment Insurance would have remained unfulfilled. Wisely, as we think, Mr MacDonald decided to propose a three years' time-limit, which the Commons agreed to on Tuesday without a division, and which the Lords accepted next day. Since the administrative changes in the Bill are of a controversial and, indeed, experimental nature, it is no bad thing that the measure should be subject to revision in the light of three years' experience of its working.

Mr Snowden on Budget Prospects.—Speaking before the Leeds Chamber of Commerce last Friday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a forecast in general terms of the situation which he will have to meet in the next Budget. It was not a very hopeful picture. The weekly revenue returns, he said, indicated that Budget estimates would not be realised. It was impossible to say what would happen with regard to income tax, which is collected mainly in the last two or three months of the fiscal year, but certainly the sources of Estate Duty were not " dying up to expectations," and it was likely that the yield of stamp duties would fall several millions short of the estimates. The cessation of the Stock Exchange boom of 1928 accounted not only for the disappointment in the last item, but partly also, through the decline of stock and share values, for the diminished yield of Estate Duties. On the expenditure side, Mr Snowden stoutly denied the charge of extravagance. " I will sanction no expenditure," he said, " especially at a time like this, which I do not believe to be imperatively necessary. There are many things I should like to do, but we must wait to do many things we should like to do until we are in a position better to afford them "; the country's apprehensions, however, are that Mr Snowden's less economical supporters may persuade him that things they would like to do are imperatively necessary. Mr Snowden also repudiated the assertion that the Labour Government had already incurred heavy new expenditure. The commitments had been, for the most part, previously entered into, and practically the only new expenditure was that incurred under the Unemployment Insurance Act, amounting to £8,500,000 in the current year and about £14,000,000 in 1930-31. The Chancellor went on to repeat some of the criticism of his predecessor's finance which he made in the House of Commons on Christmas Eve. In the last four years there had been raids of capital to the extent of £50 million used as revenue in order to avoid imposing new taxation. Mr Snowden would not be guilty of any such offences against sound finance. While it is impossible to disagree with the Chancellor in his objection to certain of Mr Churchill's financial methods, these remarks, coupled with the probability of a remission of indirect taxation, do not offer a very favourable prospect to direct taxpayers, particularly those with incomes between £1,500 and £2,000, on which, it is rumoured, the Government is casting covetous eyes. Mr Snowden was not sanguine that any considerable reduction of expenditure could be achieved in the immediate future. The limitation of armaments and the conversion of internal war debts offered the most hopeful possibilities. Mr Snowden can hardly offer the recent issue of 5 per cent. conversion loan as an example of the profitable debt operations which he apparently hopes to undertake before long.

The Coal Mines Bill.—The Committee Stage of the Coal Mines Bill began on Tuesday in the House of Commons with a ruling by the Speaker that an amendment in Mr Lloyd George's name, proposing that " the Committee be empowered to consider clauses providing for the acquisition of coal royalties and wayleaves," went beyond the scope of the Bill, and was, therefore, out of order. Two other important amendments had also been tabled by the Liberal Party. The first was that consideration of Part I of the Bill (the " marketing " schemes) should be postponed until the House had disposed of the remainder of the measure, including the new clauses setting up machinery to enforce amalgamations. The second was designed to delete from the " marketing " schemes the provision delegating power to regulate " production " of coal. This amendment, to which the Government could scarcely have been expected to agree—since regulation of output is an essential principle of the Bill and is, in fact, if soundly devised and operated, essential for the preliminary stages at least of the industry's reorganisation—was presumably intended primarily for use as a lever to secure the Cabinet's assent to postponing the discussion of Part I until more time had been given for consideration of its various questionable and difficult clauses. At all events, this object was attained, for Mr Graham himself moved postponement, and after a series of not very impressive complaints from the Conservative benches that in this procedure His Majesty's major Opposition had not been consulted, the House decided, by 276 votes to 131, to pass on to Part II of the Bill dealing with the statutory limitation of working hours. The fact, however, that this section of the Bill consists of a single brief clause did not avail to save the Commons from being entangled in a confused argument on a Conservative proposal that the reduction to 7½ hours should be " permanent," an amendment eventually ruled out of order. Further obstruction followed, and the debate was adjourned with little accomplished. Meanwhile, amendments to Part I of the Bill are piling up like drifts of Vallombrosa's leaves upon the Order Paper. Apart from the Liberal amendment already mentioned, a number of proposals designed variously to increase wages, to compensate " displaced " miners, and to facilitate nationalisation of the mines, have been tabled by members of the I.L.P.; a controversial amendment in Mr Mond's name seeks to define " standard tonnage " as that representing " the present normal producing capacity "; and there are many provisos regarding price-fixing and discrimination between different consumers. The passage of the Bill is clearly going to make heavy drafts on the Government's time.

Miners' Hours at Geneva.—The controversy over the inclusion of the question of miners' hours in the agenda for the next International Labour Conference was settled last Wednesday by a compromise. The British Government representative moved that the question be included, but that the Conference should be invited to bear in mind, in framing a convention, that the question has been raised purely as a European matter. With an amending clause inserted by M. Picquenard, to ensure that all the resolutions adopted by the Preparatory Conference shall also be taken into consideration, this resolution was carried by 15 votes to 5. The amendment met the difficulty of the German Government as to the special conditions which exist in connection with lignite, as these are referred to in one of the resolutions of the Preparatory Conference. The South African employers' representative also supported it, as it was clear that overseas countries would not be unwillingly involved. As the resolution stands it is left to the discretion of the Conference to frame a convention which is only applicable to Europe, or one which could subsequently be extended to include all States. The British employers' representative abstained from voting on the resolution, which was opposed by four other employers' delegates, and by the Swedish workers' representative. That the question is now secure of discussion in June is highly satisfactory.

The Canal Boats Bill.—On January 31st the second reading was carried of the Canal Boats Bill, which provides that on and after January 1, 1931, no child under 15 shall reside in or travel on a canal boat. That part of the discussion of the Bill which turned on questions of health, morals and child labour died of inanition; for though members showed little reluctance to base broad generalisations on a few days' experience of a single barge, few of them had even that qualification for the holding of views. The general consensus of opinion, as expressed both in the Press and in the House, appears to be that physically and morally canal life does not compare unfavourably with that which the same children might expect on land. Intellectually, however, it does present a problem which appears to be almost insuperable. Bringing the mountain, in the shape of floating schools, to Mohamet, appears to be impracticable, so that if illiteracy is not to be tolerated in this country, Mohamet, it seems, will have to go to the mountain. One of the strongest arguments in favour of this course is perhaps that, that under present conditions it is practically impossible for a child brought up on a barge to follow any calling but that of his father. Nevertheless, it seems somewhat drastic, as many supporters of the Bill admit, to forbid all children under fifteen to reside or travel upon a barge. In so far as the problem is purely educational—and we do not believe a case to have been made out on other grounds—there can be no need to

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exclude children under school age, or school children during holidays, from living afloat *en famille*. An amendment in this sense would give effect to the recommendation of the Chamberlain Report, and would be very much less destructive of family life than the Bill as it now stands.

Corporal Punishment.—The suicide in gaol last Monday of a prisoner who had been sentenced to flogging made, not without good cause, an uncomfortable impression on public opinion. Only one argument is now seriously advanced by the advocates of flogging, namely, that persons who commit crimes of violence in cold blood are too brutal to be in the least disturbed by any other form of punishment, and that they can, therefore, only be deterred by the prospect of severe physical pain. The unfortunate man who was sentenced last week had two previous convictions, and his crime on this occasion, robbery with violence of a very cowardly order, suggests that he was an average, though not an extreme specimen of this class of insensible persons. Yet, though the evidence at the inquest goes to show that it was the ten years' penal servitude, imposed in addition to flogging, that weighed most with him (incidentally, if flogging has unique properties as a deterrent, what justifies the infliction simultaneously of a long sentence which is *ex hypothesi* ineffective?), the deliberate infliction of torture as a method of dealing with any class of crime is repugnant to civilised senses. In adopting this course we descend to the level of the criminal himself, and there is not the smallest room for doubt that such a form of punishment must further brutalise its victim. His sentence completed, he emerges into a world of people who indirectly connived at a cruel assault on his person. Is he likely to be less ready than before to commit brutal assaults on theirs for his own profit? The sooner we face the fact that this system is a revolting form of legalised vindictiveness, the sooner are we likely to get a change in the law which will sweep away this relic of the Dark Ages.

Post Office Profits.—The Post Office Commercial Accounts for 1928-29 show a general improvement of the revenue-earning position. The net surplus, after charging interest on capital, is £9,012,764, a considerably larger sum than is recorded for any previous year in the table published with the accounts, which goes back to 1912-13. The surplus in 1927-28 was £7,570,348. These figures do not exactly agree with the sums payable to the Exchequer in each year, since the endeavour to make the accounts, as far as possible, representative of the commercial position of the Post Office services renders it necessary to include a number of adjustments which involve no cash exchange. Income and expenditure are apportioned between postal, telegraph, and telephone services, and it is gratifying to note that all three show a marked improvement. The telephone service produced a surplus of £524,695, compared with £107,391 in 1927-28. Rentals and call fees increased by over £1,500,000; on the expenditure side the chief increases occurred in provision for depreciation and interest, administrative and maintenance expenses remaining practically constant. Thus, that average prime costs were considerably reduced. The same is true of the telegraph service, whose deficit was reduced from £1,380,829 to £757,237. Message fees showed a slight increase, but administrative and traffic costs were reduced by about 9 per cent. The addition of £401,520 to the postal surplus was obtained by an increase of revenue offset by only a very small increase of operating expenditure. The general balance sheet shows fixed assets (land, buildings and plant) totalling £123,054,659, which is £7,603,205 more than at March 31, 1928. Depreciation is charged in the accounts on buildings, plant and engineering stores, as well as interest on the liabilities, so that the accounts represent fairly accurately the position of the Post Office as a commercial concern.

The Cotton Price Fall.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Since a week ago prices for American cotton have declined ½d. per lb. On Wednesday, in last week, the quotation for Middling American on the spot in Liverpool was 9.23d., and on February 5th the figure was 8.76d. It is nearly three years since values were on such a low level. During the last month or two the United States Government has been much concerned at the raw cotton situation. Growers have experienced a poor demand, partly as a result of reduced activity in local mills and partly owing to the increasing use in other parts of the world of foreign cottons. This decline in export demand is indicated by the fact that exports from the United States so far this season are 700,000 bales smaller than at the same time last season. During the last few weeks the Federal Farm Board has been active and has made certain proposals for the purpose of maintaining prices. Assistance has been promised to the Co-operative Associations, and a new organisation has been formed with a capital of 30,000,000 dollars. At the end of last week it was stated that the co-operative associations would start operating on the spot and futures markets within a few days. On the other hand, the Chairman of the Farm Board announced that there was no intention of making large purchases. Owing to uncertainty with regard to the position, liquidation of contracts has begun to bring distinctly lower prices. The Farm Board has urged that the acreage for next season should be reduced from 46,000,000 acres to 40,000,000 acres. Traders, however, believe that acreage plans will depend upon the prices ruling a little later, and there is not much confidence that the Government organisations will be able to influence the intentions of farmers very much. In the meantime there is a tendency to reduce ideas as to world consumption of American cotton this season, and a leading authority has pointed out that at the moment the consumption is on a basis of 14,200,000 bales for the twelve months, whereas the amount used last season was 15,076,000 bales. In Lancashire trade circles there is considerable interest in the increasing use of what are known as outside growths, and extensive purchases have recently been made of Brazilian and Peruvian qualities, whilst there is also a tendency to buy Indian cotton on a freer scale.

Cotton Trade Rationalisation.—It was rather remarkable, writes our Manchester correspondent, that, on Monday last, when Mr J. H. Thomas was saying in the House of Commons that there was a reluctance to face the facts in Lancashire, a most important meeting was being held in Manchester of the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations, and an official policy was outlined for the industry. Lancashire cotton spinners and manufacturers may have been late in realising the urgency of the problem, but there is now undoubtedly a determination to face the facts. It is pointed out that at various times during the last two years the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations has expressed its belief that changes in the present organisation of the industry are desirable, and it has endeavoured to assist reorganisation by such means as were within its power. It is recognised, however, that amalgamations, however large or strongly supported, do not, in themselves, offer a solution of the industry's problems, though they are a necessary first step towards the elimination of loss. The recovery of export trade and a return to normal employment in the industry depend upon a concerted policy and a recognition of the unity and interdependence of all sections of the industry. After very full discussions the Joint Committee has decided against vertical combines and in favour of horizontal amalgamations. There is ground for believing that many of the leaders in the Lancashire trade would like to see progress on the lines of vertical organisations, but it is possible that a development of this description has been found difficult, owing partly to the strong position of the combines in the finishing section of the industry and the improbability of those organisations being willing to enter upon a scheme which would mean a lessening of their power. With regard to the establishment of amalgamations, the Joint Committee decided to authorise the executive to give any assistance that may be required by those who are interested in the formation of stronger financial and economic units in the industry and to invite individuals and firms desiring to participate in such units to apply to the offices of the Committee for information. It was, therefore, resolved that a Trade Development Sub-Committee should be appointed to deal with this branch of the work of the Joint Committee. According to an official announcement the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., has decided this week to increase its capital again by the issue of £375,000 ordinary shares, £78,529 preference shares, and £85,000 deferred shares. This increase is to provide for the acquisition of a further ten mills with an equipment of 950,000 spindles. The Corporation now controls 39 mills, with about 3,500,000 spindles and 5,200 looms, the issued capital being about £2,200,000. In considering the question of further amalgamations in the cotton industry it must be remembered that the Lancashire Cotton Corporation represents largely the absorption of bankrupt concerns and cannot be considered a scheme of voluntary combination. On the other hand, in the weaving branch of the industry, there are a large number of private firms, and, despite the depression of the last few years, some of them have not done badly. In any scheme of combination the personal factor is bound to be prominent. Quite recently there have been informal discussions between some leading manufacturers in the Burnley district whether something can be done to stop the cut-throat competition which has been so severe in recent months. It is understood that, so far, not much progress has been made with regard either to price-fixing for standard cloths or to an amalgamation of interests. Many people in the industry are convinced that production costs will not be sufficiently reduced to meet world competition by amalgamation, and it is urged that relief will only come when this system of eight looms instead of four to a weaver is more generally adopted or some method is applied whereby there can be greater use of automatic looms.

Shipbuilding in 1929.—In a recent issue (*Economist*, January 18th, page 114) we commented on the increased activity of the shipbuilding industry during the closing months of last year. The annual summary of output, issued this week by Lloyd's Register, shows that in 1929, as compared with 1928, there was an increase in the tonnage launched in the world of about 94,000 tons, of which 77,000 tons were accounted for by Great Britain. Production figures for the past four years, in comparison with averages for 1909-13 and 1922-25, are analysed in following table:—

TONNAGE OUTPUT.

Period.	Tons Launched (000's).			British Percentage.	Output as per cent. of 1909-13.		
	U.K.	Abroad.	World.		British.	Foreign.	World.
Average 1909-13...	1,522	967	2,489	*61*	100	100	100
,, 1922-25...	1,050	1,087	2,137	*49*	69	112	86
1926.....	640	1,035	1,675	*38*	42	107	67
1927.....	1,226	1,060	2,286	*54*	80	110	92
1928.....	1,446	1,253	2,699	*54*	95	130	108
1929.....	1,523	1,271	2,793	*54·5*	100	131	112

Of the vessels launched in this country 1,056,000 tons were steamers and 464,000 tons motor vessels, whereas abroad motor tonnage amounted to 802,000 tons, or nearly two-thirds of the total. Only 39 per cent. of the total tonnage launched in the world was designed exclusively for coal burning. Approximately 17 per cent. of the tonnage launched in British yards was built for owners resident abroad, as compared with a percentage of 20.2 in 1928 and over 22 in 1909-13. With regard to foreign countries, Japanese output rose from 104,000 to 164,000 tons, Dutch from 167,000 to 187,000, American from 86,000 to 126,000, and Italian from 59,000 to 71,000 tons. The output of Swedish yards was maintained at 107,000 tons, but production in Denmark fell from 139,000 to 111,000 tons, and Germany from 376,000 to 249,000 tons. The largest vessels launched during the year were the British-built motor ship "Britannic" and the turbine steamer "Empress of Japan," followed by the French motor ship "Lafayette" and the turbo-electric liner "Pennsylvania," built in the United States.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—A further substantial fall in "tramp" shipping freights took place in January, our index number, based on average quotations for the month, working out at 94.4, as compared with 100.3 a month ago, a decline of 5.8 per cent. A year ago the January figure of the index number was 127.5. The following table summarises recent movements of the index, the average figures for 1913 being added in the case of each group for purposes of comparison:—

AVERAGE 1898-1913=100.

	Average, 1913.	Jan., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.
European Waters	110·0	119·2	124·9	117·3	104·2
North America	113·1	128·6	96·9	95·5	94·2
South America	123·4	125·2	97·6	94·6	95·1
India	106·3	123·7	110·7	109·0	99·8
Far East and Pacific	117·4	126·2	91·6	93·4	85·2
Australia	127·9	142·4	94·4	91·7	88·1
Total	116·3	127·5	102·7	100·3	94·4

The essential cause of the slump in rates continued to be the restriction of grain demand, consequent on the renewed weakness of wheat and maize prices. In spite of the laying up of a large number of vessels unable to find employment, tonnage was offered in all directions at rates which fell, under the stress of competition, to figures representing heavy losses on the voyage. Quotations from India were notably weak, and, with the exception of charters for South American discharge (in which case an even more pessimistic view was taken than a month ago of future prospects of homeward employment), outward coal freights, particularly for short voyages to the Continent, also registered heavy falls. The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	89·4	−14·6	South America—outwards	107·1	+ 3·2
Bay—outwards	110·1	−29·3	South America—homewards	83·1	− 2·1
Bay—homewards	130·6	− 9·7	India—outwards	115·8	− 2·1
Mediterranean—outwards	100·0	− 8·8	India—homewards	83 9	−16·3
Mediterranean—homewards	105·8	− 1·5	Far East, etc.	85·2	− 8·2
North America	94·2	− 1·3	Australia	88·1	− 3·6

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for January works out at 81.2, as compared with 86.2 in December and 109.6 a year ago. Freights are now lower than at any time since 1910.

The Deep Sea Fisheries.—A very valuable and substantial addition to the food supplies of the country continues to be made by the fishing industry of Great Britain, which, last year, landed not only increased quantities, but derived, roughly, a corresponding financial advantage. In other words, an increase of over a million cwts. in weight was accompanied by an income of over a million sterling in value. In addition to the landings by British-owned trawlers, there were, as usual, landings by foreign-owned vessels and imports from abroad, bringing the grand total of value up to nearly £25½ million in wet fish alone. The particulars taken from the returns

of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are as under:—

	Weight (in cwts.).		Value.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
British caught.				
England and Wales	13,443,625	14,287,099	13,183,830	14,443,992
Scotland	6,603,770	6,774,390	4,658,100	4,672,494
Shell fish	...	...	429,312	378,195
	20,047,395	21,061,489	18,271,242	19,494,681
Foreign landings ...	1,460,548	1,276,056	1,371,411	1,096,989
Imports	1,977,887	2,090,314	3,589,224	3,833,326

It will be noted that there was a substantial increase in the landings of British-caught fish in England and Wales, and a relatively small increase at Scottish ports. Landings by foreign-owned fishing vessels were somewhat less than in 1928, and represented 6.4 per cent. of the total landings of wet fish throughout Great Britain. The average first-hand value of all kinds of British-caught fish (including herrings) landed in England and Wales, was 20s. 2¼d. per cwt., as against 19s. 7¼d. per cwt. in 1928, and in Scotland 13s. 8¾d., against 14s. 1¼d. The principal kinds of fish were cod and haddock, these being followed at a distance by hake, plaice and whiting. Prime fish showed some increase, but the total is relatively very small, the shortage in this respect having to be made up by imports from the Continent. The Greenland Coast continues to be explored for halibut, the fish being caught by lines from a number of small boats and kept in good condition on the parent ship by means of the brine-freezing process. Small steam trawlers are now fishing off Bear Island to increase the supply of haddocks and cod for the curing industry. The herring season at English ports produced slightly larger supplies which brought rather more money, the average being 8s. 10¾d. per cwt., against 8s. 2½d. per cwt. in 1928. The export of wet fish from Great Britain in 1929 amounted to 1,481,826 cwts., equal to 7 per cent. of the total landings, having a f.o.b. value of £1,354,014, as against 1,413,497 cwts. and £1,219,744 in 1928. Our exports also included "cured or salted" (principally herrings), 6,797,567 cwts. valued at £6,551,175, as against 6,286,911 cwts. and £6,324,406. Our imports from abroad consisted of "cured or salted" (not canned), 580,437 cwts. valued at £1,049,190, as against 753,304 cwts. and £1,193,771; and canned fish to the value of £7,385,365, as against £7,443,410.

An American Banking View.—Mr Albert H. Wiggins, the chairman of the Chase National Bank, has much of interest to say in this year's report to his shareholders. The Wall Street crash he ascribes bluntly to the violent speculation which preceded it, which, in its turn, was due to the cheap and excessive credit available to speculators for several years. Urging that sound financial policy has to be fought for, and that business men and farmers must support bankers in the fight, he insists that an alternation of excessive speculation and sharp breaks does not help business, and that agriculture gains nothing by getting deeply into debt in periods of cheap money. Having added his quota to the volume of controversy now raging in America around the causes of the autumn break, Mr Wiggins goes on to discuss the business and monetary outlook. On the former, he admits that a moderate business recession, already in evidence before the break, has gone further as a result, but holds that the business situation is strong, morale is good and no crisis is possible because the business community has very little "quick debt." Inventories, too, are moderate and must be regularly replenished. On the monetary situation he is of opinion that there is enough gold in the world to do the legitimate business of the world at comfortable rates of interest, but that there is not enough to finance speculators on the recent Wall Street scale, or to justify extremely cheap money. Later on, he states that the general world money market situation is tight. This leads him to argue that, while America can still draw in gold if her rates are high enough, if rates go low she will lose gold. He concludes this section of his report with an allusion to France, as the only great country outside the United States in possession of surplus gold. France, he claims, has an extraordinary opportunity for profitable service to the rest of the world, and he welcomes the recent signs that she is growing ready to take it. An authoritative American expression of this kind on the general monetary situation is extremely timely, and it is only necessary to add that if, as we suggest elsewhere, the real need is a better distribution of the world's gold stocks, the opportunity lies with America herself, even more than with France.

The Indemnity Mutual.—The year 1929 was remarkable for a series of exceptionally heavy gales and severe weather, and was regarded as a bad marine underwriting year. Nevertheless, the accounts of the Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Company, Ltd.—the first of the marine companies to issue its report—show that the company has emerged satisfactorily from the first year's experience of 1929 account. The premium income again shows a large reduction from £458,000 to £378,000, and after meeting the claims and expenses there remains a balance to be carried forward equivalent to 57 per cent. of the premiums, compared with 55 per cent. of the corresponding premiums a year previously. So great and well recognised, however, is the time elapsing between the happening of the event and the intimation of the claim, that 1930 and subsequent years may yet bring to light heavy claims attributable to the 1929 account. The 1929 report shows the final results of the 1928 underwriting account, for the company adopts the marine form of accounts, that is to say, it closes each year's underwriting account after two years' experience by a transfer to suspense account. A summary of the results of the last five closed accounts is set out below:—

Year.	Premium Income	First and Second Year Claims.	Expenses.	Transfers to Suspense to close Account.	Surplus + or Deficit −.
	£	£	£	£	£
1924.....	750,229	650,048	33,995	68,076	− 1,889
1925.....	613,170	550,256	32,106	61,366	− 30,558
1926.....	611,516	548,762	31,587	166,167	−135,000
1927.....	630,100	562,737	32,116	35,246	...
1928.....	458,016	346,711	33,505	77,800	...

It will be observed from the above table that the company has, at any rate, succeeded in arresting in each of the last two years the heavy losses incurred in previous accounts. The dividend is maintained at the same rate as in 1928, viz., 28s. per share and costs £75,040, this amount being covered by interest earnings of £81,000. The share capital of the company is held by the Northern Assurance Company.

Overseas Correspondence.

FRANCE.—DISCOUNT POLICY—REPORT OF BANQUE DE FRANCE—FOREIGN TRADE—CAPITAL ISSUES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, February 5.

THE Bank of France announcement last Thursday of a reduction of the discount rate from 3½ per cent. (at which it had stood since January 19, 1928) to 3 per cent., and of the rate for advances on securities from 5½ per cent. to 4½ per cent., came as a complete surprise to most people, and particularly to the Bourse, where reports that such steps were contemplated had been discredited the day before. The surprise was chiefly due to the fact that the Bank, although no official announcement had appeared to this effect, had allowed, without contradiction, circumstantial statements to appear generally in the Paris Press for nearly a week indicating that the mobilisation was imminent of a portion of the Caisse d'Amortissement bonds that were passed to it at the moment of the stabilisation of the franc, and which, as explained here last week, it was understood were to be used for the double purpose of furnishing employment, as and when necessary, for

what might be an inadvisable volume of surplus floating capital, and for keeping the note circulation within desirable limits. It is now clear that the Bank's apparently sudden change of policy was due to the fact that the revenue authorities placed insuperable obstacles in the way of the mobilisation of the bonds. These instruments are non-interest bearing, and the Bank's plans for utilising them were based on the belief that, as they were not to be used for profit-making purposes but in the public interest, they would be exempt (like Rentes and other essentially public issues) from taxation. The revenue authorities insisted that, in the absence of any specific law on the point, the bonds must be subject to the same taxation as all other issues not enjoying specific exemption. This proved fatal to the scheme, as the Bank, while willing to sacrifice the interest payable to those organisations who would take up the bonds, naturally could not see its way also to shoulder the 18 per cent. income tax to which the coupons would be subjected.

The plan of lowering the discount rate and the rate for advances on securities, which was substituted for the bond issue, will largely result, it is held, in attaining the objectives the Bank had in view. Its immediate effect was a marked improvement in sterling exchange, promptly followed by a resumption of the outflow of available capital to London and other more attractive centres of employment. A renewal of heavy gold imports, involving the creation of further supplies of francs, has thus been, for the time being, removed, and with it the nervousness that has latterly prevailed as to an artificial inflation of commodity prices. After the Bank's announcement the private discount rate, which earlier in the week had stood at 3¼ per cent., was brought down to 2⅞ per cent., and day-to-day money from between 2½ per cent. and 2¾ per cent. to 2½ per cent. On Tuesday the rate for day-to-day money was raised to 3 per cent., owing to heavy demands for settlements of debitor accounts.

In the annual report of the Bank of France, which was made public after last Thursday's annual meeting, the Governors offered what is nothing more or less than a reply to the criticisms that have been voiced in other countries as to their policy in connection with the heavy gold imports that characterised the second half of 1929. After setting forth in detail "the circumstances that from July onwards combined to reverse the tendency of the exchange and to maintain it constantly in favour of France during the rest of the year," the report states:—

"The great increases (of gold, from 36,616,000,000 francs to 41,622,000,000 francs) from which we benefited during the second half of the year was, therefore, only the natural consequence of the international monetary situation.

"From June to December we carried out no direct exchange of currency instruments against gold. We confined ourselves to accepting across our counters gold which was offered to us from foreign sources, in exchange for francs, without intervening at any moment on the exchange market for the purpose of accelerating these imports of the metal.

"The Bank, therefore, in no way hampered the free play of the market under the *régime* of the gold standard. It will not depart from this attitude, whatever may be the orientation of the movements of capital.

"When the time comes, under the pressure of a rise in the exchange rates of foreign currency, for gold to be demanded at our counters, instead of being offered, we shall allow it to pass out of our possession, in execution of the monetary law, as freely as we have allowed it to enter."

The Bank's total gold reserve down to January 24th is returned as 42,830,670,000 francs (£345,500,000), or an increase of over £9,820,000 since the end of 1929, and of £50,000,000 (over 17½ per cent.) since December 31, 1928.

The report shows that the total Caisse d'Amortissement bonds (replacing the Russian Government bonds discounted by the Bank during the war), which were handed to the institution on the passing of the Stabilisation Law, amounted to 5,930,000,000 francs. During 1929 318,447,000 francs were extinguished (as to 288,797,000 francs from the portion of the Bank's amortisation fund, legalling allotted to this purpose, and as to 29,650,000 francs by the Budget annuity of 1 per cent. of the total of the bonds existing). During the week ending January 24th a further 159,000,000 francs were extinguished. The report states:—"We did not have to make use during the past year of the power given us under the Stabilisation Law to negotiate these bonds on the market. We shall not fail to make use of this power when the monetary situation appears to render necessary re-absorption of francs." This declaration may have been drafted before mobilisation of the bonds was rendered temporarily impossible by the attitude of the revenue authorities. It is believed that, if it is found possible to include in the pending Finance Bill a clause exempting the bonds from income tax, their mobilisation may be expected early in the financial year beginning April 1st.

With the publication of the December figures the complete foreign trade returns for 1929 are now available. The comparative details are as follows:—

Imports,	1928 Frs.	1929 Frs.	Inc. or Dec. Frs.
Foodstuffs	12,540,524,000	13,178,103,000	+ 637,579,000
Raw materials ...	32,981,735,000	35,159,792,000	+ 2,178,057,000
Manufactured goods	7,913,293,000	9,946,729,000	+ 2,033,436,000
Totals	53,435,552,000	58,284,624,000	+ 4,849,072,000
Exports			
Foodstuffs	6,241,212,000	6,068,576,000	− 172,636,000
Raw materials	13,070,230,000	12,564,065,000	− 506,165,000
Manufactured goods	32,063,287,000	31,439,707,000	− 623,580,000
Totals	51,374,729,000	50,072,348,000	− 1,302,381,000

So far as raw materials are concerned, the increase of 2,178 millions in the entries is a healthy factor, due to a steady increase in domestic industries and a constant expansion in the home market, territorially enlarged by the return of Alsace-Lorraine and economic domination over the Saar area. In 1913 there was a deficit balance of about 7,700,000,000 francs, which was not regarded as abnormal, and which corresponded to nearly 19 per cent. of the imports, the present deficit being about 14 per cent. of them. Import tonnage in 1929 was 10,107,000 tons greater, while exports were 1,237,000 francs less, the drop being due to decreased raw material exports; foreign sales of manufactured goods being 1 per cent. more in tonnage, although 2 per cent. less in value. These percentages suggest that French export prices have now reached the limit of compression, and that further inflation of manufacturing costs by increased taxation, such as is expected to arise from the application of the national insurance plan, will check French competition in the export market. The fact that French imports include German reparation deliveries in kind suggests that the adverse balance is, in any case, less serious than the figures would imply. Meanwhile, in order to render the country more independent of foreign producers, plans are developing for the recruiting of still larger contingents of foreign labour, particularly for the collieries, and for the revision upwards of certain tariff schedules which are regarded as at present insufficient to protect the motor car and similar industries against foreign competition in the home market.

The phenomenally large total of new capital issues, which amounted last year to over 15,000,000,000 francs, continues unabated. The total offers officially recorded during the week ending January 25th were 391,500,000 francs, divided between three new registrations (11,000,000 francs), nine companies issuing additional share capital (52,000,000 francs), and bond issues by twelve old companies (328,500,000 francs). For the week ending last Saturday the total new offers registered amounted to 587,000,000 francs, divided between three new companies (40,000,000 francs), six old companies issuing additional shares (34,000,000 francs), and ten old companies making new or additional bond issues (513,000,000 francs). These massive increases of capital are, of course, due to the necessity for refinancing arising from the stabilisation of the franc at one-fifth of its former value. The paralysis that has characterised the Bourse during the greater part of the past twelve months has been largely due to this large volume of new issues, and it is now being asked whether saturation point is not dangerously near.

BELGIUM.—STOCK MARKET—FAILURES—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, January 26.

THE events which occurred during the last months of 1929 on the Belgian stock market turned this period into the most gloomy one of its history. The National Bank of Belgium share index, which stood at 124 in June, 1928, has dropped to 75. It should be noted that non-speculative shares, as, for example, those of the National Railways Company, Ltd., enter into the calculations of this average; for certain speculative stocks the fall amounted to from two-thirds to three-fourths of the highest recorded quotations. The movement shown below in prices of representative shares of companies which are still in a sound position is striking:—

	Highest, 1928.	Lowest, Dec., 1929.
Katanga (ord.)	178,000	55,400
Géomines	27,500	4,000
Minerva Motors	4,000	650
Crédit Général du Congo	790	130
Barcelona Traction	3,000	1,050

In consequence of this slump speculators generally have suffered heavy losses, which have led, in a certain number of cases, to insolvency. Nevertheless, these failures have not shaken the credit of the market, and the great banks have not been affected.

The recent fall in stocks caused the failure of a cork business, namely, the Compagnie Industrielle du Liège, known as the C.I.L., and that of the "Banque Chaudoir." It is anticipated that in both cases creditors will be paid, while shareholders will have their holdings written down. The C.I.L., incorporated in 1927, began brilliantly. Its 500-franc nominal shares were publicly issued at 1,500 francs, and rose quickly to 18,000; afterwards the shares were allotted in fifths, and an increase of capital was effected by the payment of 2,000 francs per fifth. This company, which had always been the subject of a certain uneasiness in many quarters, entered, at the end of 1929, into engagements manifestly in excess of its financial capacity, and the shares are now quoted at 360 francs.

On December 24th the "Banque Chaudoir," domiciled at Liège, went into liquidation. The paid-up capital is 40 million francs, but, according to the present state of affairs, net assets will return 7 millions only, if they be normally liquidated. The bank had been entrusted with 30 million francs deposits and held advances from banks amounting to 25 millions. It now appears that the bank has been very badly managed. Besides, substantial loans are alleged to have been granted to managing directors, who have incurred heavy losses through Stock Exchange speculation.

The board of directors, which was composed mainly of very honourable politicians, failed in watchfulness, and will suffer heavy losses. The responsibility of the managing directors seems more serious, since their doings have been the subject of vehement complaint, and legal proceedings have been instituted. At any rate, the C.I.L. and the "Banque Chaudoir" were unsound undertakings, the collapse of which can only relieve the general plight.

December is thought to have witnessed the worst of the depression in stocks. In accordance with the general hope, January has brought notable progress towards consolidation. Nevertheless, vigorous advance is not yet to be expected, since speculative syndicates are, in general, too heavily burdened, and many holders of leading shares are still too deeply in debt to the banks. In order to repay these advances there is bound to be heavy selling.

Nevertheless, it is felt that stocks have undoubtedly fallen to levels at which buyers will be forthcoming, at least for purposes of long-term investment. Dividends disbursed in 1929 total 3,500 million francs, against 2,900 millions in 1928; and, unless there should be an industrial crisis of an entirely unexpected severity, the amount must increase this year. On the basis of market quotations the average yield of Belgian stocks is at present about 3½ per cent., despite the very big number of enterprises which have not yet attained full development.

Since the publication of a balance sheet which met with public favour, quotations of Banque de Bruxelles shares show a remarkable advance. The resignation handed in by Mr Despret, chairman of the company, has not made a bad impression, and in certain quarters it is asserted that this measure was requested by the board of directors itself.

The world-wide industrial stagnation and the losses suffered from speculation are slackening trade and giving rise to complaint throughout the country. The extraordinarily mild winter, in conjunction with the reaction in the metallurgical and glassware industries, has diminished the demand for coal, and led to the anticipation of a decrease in the prices of certain qualities. Nevertheless, unemployment has prevailed only in the diamond and textile industries, and has been, in general, without perceptible influence on the soundness of the economic position. In the other trades the situation in January is slightly better than in December, though the improvement may be only seasonal. The House Rents Bill, as outlined in our last letter, has now passed into law; the Taxation Reform Bill is still before Parliament.

SWEDEN.—CHECK TO INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION—STOCK EXCHANGE—STRENGTH OF WOODPULP INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, February 3.

THE effects of the autumn crisis in America are now becoming visible in Sweden, though the symptoms have varied and are in some cases difficult to interpret. As our most important export industries have a relatively long period of manufacture and operate on contracts which sometimes cover several years, the effects of the crisis will only appear gradually here. Nevertheless, it is already possible to point to certain facts which can scarcely be regarded as other than symptoms of a setback.

It is difficult to diagnose the reduction of exports in December. A considerable export surplus had been expected, and, under similar conditions in December, 1928, there was an active trade balance of 36 million kronor. Contrary to all expectations, however, there was last December an excess of imports of 2 million kronor. This is to be explained, in part, by larger imports, but it is also true that exports declined. Even allowing for the effect of forced exports in the autumn, this decline must be regarded as a symptom of trade recession.

This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that the volume of production showed a tendency to decline in the last month of the year. From 134 in October and 137 in November the index number of production of *Svensk Finanstidning* fell to 130 in December (1923-24=100). It is true that, towards the end of the year, there is a seasonal slackening in production, but it is not usually so pronounced. This must be interpreted as a symptom of decline, especially in view of the reduced employment in the iron and steel industry, which primarily explains the fall in the December index number. The iron and steel industry is the one which was most clearly influenced by the international situation, as was to be expected. According to *Svensk Finanstidning*, its increased production during the years 1927-29 is indicated by the index numbers 100, 114, and 138. Last year the curve rose to 152 in August, after which the decline set in. With the exception of November it declined without interruption, until in December the index number reached 135. Further, the upward movement in the mechanical engineering industry ceased in 1929, and a drop in the export value from 258 million kronor in 1928 to 245 million kronor occurred. The setback is not perhaps very serious, but its relation to the trade situation is emphasised when the figures for certain sections of the engineering industry are considered separately. Thus, while the telephone industry has maintained its export position, ball-bearing shipments have increased by 8 per cent., and the motor industry is able to report a 14 per cent. improvement in 1929, the electrical industry finds its export trade reduced by 26 per cent.,

and separators by 29 per cent. And the tendency implicit in these movements is rendered yet more ominous by certain much-heralded cases of output restriction. The most notable of these took place at the S.K.F. ball-bearing works, where 600 employees were given notice. This may, it is true, be partly accounted for by progressive rationalisation of production making possible a productive increase per labour unit; but it is, nevertheless, impossible to shut one's eyes to the fact that these measures are symptomatic of a turn in the tide of trade.

The attitude of the Stock Exchange during January is also illustrative of this general trend. True, the usual optimism engendered by the advent of a new year was in evidence for the first few days of the month, and a marked improvement has taken place in Kreuger stocks. But the latter was merely a reaction against the excessive fall in these shares towards the end of last year, and has mainly been dictated by rises on foreign stock exchanges. For the bulk of industrial securities January has been a month of complete stagnation. Banks have improved, of course, since the declaration of dividends, of which several show increases. The total impression of the Stock Exchange dealings in January was uncertain and irregular. The aggregate value of the shares quoted has risen, but only to the extent of the Kreuger improvement, hence the view is left unimpaired that speculators have adopted a policy of wait-and-see in relation to developments in the near future.

Finally, the effect of the Russian timber policy on the Swedish sawmill industry, though not directly connected with the international situation, is working in the same direction. The market at present is adopting a waiting attitude, and sales to date amount to only about 300,000 standards.

When it comes to measuring the degree of the virtual retrogression that has taken place it is necessary, however, to avoid exaggerating its import. For it can confidently be said that the general economic position in Sweden continues sound and satisfactory. The woodpulp industry is working to capacity, which means that production in 1930 will, in all likelihood, exceed last year's record figure by 5 to 10 per cent. The price level in this industry is, on the whole, very firm, and the greater part of the estimated output for the year has already been sold. The outlook for the paper mills, on the other hand, is not quite so good, owing to the uncertainty as to the results of the pending wages negotiations. The market for kraft paper must be regarded as declining, but the Swedish newsprint mills are well supplied with orders—so much so, in fact, that they are disinclined for the moment to commit themselves further. In so far as can be judged from the January shipments of iron ore, the position is most satisfactory, constituting a seasonal record. Taking the position as a whole, a reversal of the consistently upward tendency of the last few years is in evidence, but this does not as yet amount to anything like a serious setback, notwithstanding the fact that unemployment increased in December by 23 per cent. The increase over the previous month was somewhat greater than usual, yet even so the total figure is 35 per cent. below that of a year ago. There is nothing in the situation at present to indicate the approach of anything in the nature of a slump, the signs point rather to a temporary lull, of which it is difficult to judge whether it will be of a short or relatively long duration.

AUSTRIA.—UNEMPLOYMENT—BUILDING—INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSSION—STOCK EXCHANGE

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, February 1.

THE serious deterioration in general economic conditions, reflected in an increase of unemployment to over 300,000, and the poor prospects of immediate improvement are engaging the attention of Parliament, and it is expected that the Government will make concrete proposals as to the manner in which it intends to deal with the crisis. It is easier to set up a comprehensive programme than to carry it out, especially in view of the lack of means. The investment loan is still hovering at an uncertain distance,

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and the issue of the housing bonds, destined to animate public and private building enterprise during the present year, is also held up. The Government, it is true, has requested that investments be made as quickly as possible out of cash in the public funds, as far as this is possible. The Vienna Municipality has given several contracts, but the means at hand for this purpose are considerably more slender this year than last, as are also those of the Ministry of Finance. The taxable resources of the population are exhausted, and, in spite of severity in collection, taxes are coming in but slowly. Building activity is to be specially promoted this year, and the international easing of money conditions has helped in this connection. First mortgages, which for a long time were obtainable only with difficulty, are now offered more freely, and from Switzerland in particular there is interest in the placing of money on the basis of 7½ to 8 per cent. for first mortgages. Owing to the activity in the building trade, a not inconsiderable diminution of unemployment may ensue within the next few weeks. Another cause of unemployment is the disappearance of numerous banks, which in recent years have been too largely involved with industrial concerns that are now cutting down or entirely ceasing activity. To mention only one example, it is intended thoroughly to reorganise the big Mautner textile concern, which formerly belonged to the Bodencredit-Anstalt, and to reduce output by at least one-third. The contraction of the automobile industry has been mentioned on former occasions. The Alpine (iron works) has already dismissed workers. In view of the mildness of this winter and the fact that stocks on hand are considerable, the coal industry is also employing fewer men. The index figure of crude-iron production fell from 72.1 in November to 45.2 in December, that of crude-steel production from 73 to 53. The paper industry, which for a long time was very busy, now has to face marketing difficulties, and fresh attempts are being made to create a further cartel. An improvement is recorded on the leather market, as the shoe factories have received some large orders and prices have stiffened.

The easing of the international money market is gradually benefiting Austria. The influx of foreign credits, which are, however, only on short terms, is resulting in a great reduction in the call on the National Bank. Within the first three weeks of January the bill portfolio of the National Bank dropped from 305 to 188 million schillings; the fiduciary circulation has now been under a milliard schillings for several months; the cover has gone up by leaps and bounds to 69.2 per cent. For these reasons the National Bank was in a position to reduce its rate to 7 per cent. and seems to be contemplating a further modification by one-half per cent. in the not distant future. The lowering of the discount rate to

7 per cent. was perhaps deliberately timed to coincide with the return of Federal Chancellor Schober from the Hague, in order to demonstrate to the public the importance of the relief from reparations and the possibility of engaging immediately in negotiations for a loan. In spite of the reduction in the Bank rate and the desire of the banks to pay to depositors only 4½ per cent. on call money, money is still as tight as ever. The medium-sized and smaller firms have the utmost difficulty in obtaining credits, and the disappearance of the medium-sized banks, which are able to handle lesser clients, is being felt sorely. The big well-established enterprises can get any amount of credit. The tightness of money is further enhanced by the impossibility of raising fresh capital. It is true that the security market has recovered somewhat, and the index figure for industrial shares went up from a low-water mark of 93.4 to 101.5 within the six weeks preceding the middle of January. Since that time a further slight advance has been made. Individual securities, which had been dragged down in consequence of the collapse of the Bodencredit-Anstalt, now show important advances. For instance, State Railway shares have risen from 20 to 30 schillings. This means a rise of 50 per cent. within a few weeks, but the first quotation was a low one, as a result of executive sales. It is hoped that certain secured pre-war rentes, namely, those made out in silver value, will be valorised. The confidence of the public in investment values is being regained very slowly. Moreover, during the time of disquiet in domestic political affairs big purchases were made in foreign investment securities. It is anticipated that State loans, provincial loans and also the housing obligations will shortly be issued, so that the material available will be greatly augmented.

The balance of foreign trade has not improved, and the deficit for the past year amounts to 1,084 million schillings. Serious complaints are being made about economic relations with Germany; Austrian exports to Germany are receding, while German dumping into Austria continues. Further, the trade-treaty negotiations are not proceeding rapidly, as concessions are being made reluctantly by the German representatives. The endeavours of the farmers to get trade treaties revised as quickly as possible, though for a time supported by industry also, are not now so zealous, as the moment is not regarded as favourable. A fresh agreement has been arrived at between the Austrian National Bank and the State, subject to the approval of the general meeting and of Parliament. It has been decided to extend the charter of the Austrian National Bank until December 31, 1957. On the other hand, the share of net profits of the National Bank, which accrues to the State Finance Department, will be raised considerably for the future. Furthermore, the State debt to the National Bank, though as heretofore reduced each year by the State's share of the net profits, will pay no interest; up to the present it has paid 2½ per cent.

CANADA.—PARLIAMENT—ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY—STOCK EXCHANGE IRREGULARITIES—UNEMPLOYMENT—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, January 14.

THE meeting of the Federal Parliament has now been definitely fixed for February 20th, and politicians are beginning to drift into the Capital. Mr King has announced no further steps in connection with the reorganisation of his Ministry since he brought Mr Crerar, the former Progressive leader, into his Cabinet, but he is seeking for someone to replace Mr Robb, the late Finance Minister, as representative of the English-speaking Protestants of Quebec, and is publicly pledged to restore the weight of Quebec's influence in the councils of the Cabinet which was weakened by the loss of Mr Robb. The Ministry may be considerably embarrassed if the Hoover administration carries out its project of trying to close the loopholes on the border through which the liquor traffic is conducted. The measures suggested for this purpose include the employment of a force of 10,000 armed men and 1,000 machine guns, and an increase in the number of ports of entry. The Canadian Government will almost be compelled to duplicate these ports of entry on this side, a process which would entail heavy expense, and public opinion, knowing the capacities of American prohibition officers for reckless fusillades, will demand strong Canadian patrols to keep peace and order on the border. There loom up for the session also some highly controversial issues such as the legislation for the nationalisation of broadcasting services and the reorganisation of the capital structure of the Canadian National Railways.

The session may also see some interesting developments in connection with the St. Lawrence Waterway. Last week the Prime Minister, in replying to a deputation of the Canadian Chambers of Commerce which made representations to him upon the subject, went further than ever before in committing himself to support of the scheme by saying "the sooner the waterway is completed the better." He has now arranged that the postponed conference with the administrations of Ontario and Quebec about their rights over water powers on the St. Lawrence and other rivers shall take place on January 20th, and if current rumours are correct, that the engineers of the Federal Government and of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario have reconciled their differences about their competing plans for power development of the St. Lawrence and agreed upon a common scheme, the chances of a successful outcome for the conference will have been greatly improved. It is also stated that Premier Taschereau, of Quebec, hitherto a resolute opponent of the waterway, has now modified his attitude, and if the King Government can reach an agreement with the two provinces about water powers, the road will be cleared for the resumption of negotiations with Washington.

A considerable sensation was created throughout Canada by the arrest, on February 10th, of the two senior partners of the well-known brokerage firm of Solloway and Mills. The past year has witnessed a steady subsidence of the great mining boom which had generated a tremendous fever of speculative activity throughout the Dominion since 1925, and there has also been a disastrous decline in the prices of the shares of many companies which were floated in connection with the oil fields of southern Alberta. There had developed throughout the Dominion a deep suspicion of the ethical standards and methods of a ring of brokerage houses which had their headquarters in the Standard Mining Exchange of Toronto and specialised in mining and oil shares. The *Financial Post of Toronto* took the lead in a campaign of exposure in which it made definite charges of stockmarket manipulations of a very discreditable character, backed by concrete evidence about specific cases. The Attorney-General of Alberta, under the powers conferred by the drastic Security Frauds Prevention Act, instigated an investigation, as the result of which Mr Mills and Mr Solloway were arrested. This is apparently only the preliminary step in a concerted move to clean up the situation. (Further arrests have since been reported.—*Ed., Econ.*) The provincial administration of Manitoba has launched an investigation into the affairs of the Winnipeg office of Solloway and Mills and another important brokerage firm, and the Attorney-General of British Columbia has announced that his Government is ready to pass legislation modelled on the lines of Alberta's Security Frauds Prevention Act. There is also to be a conference in Ottawa of provincial authorities, and it is expected that every province will fall into line with stiff legislation to check the present irregularities, which had, as the *Financial Post* alleged, completely destroyed confidence in Canada's mining industry and were bidding fair to perform the same disservice for the infant oil industry. It was feared that the arrests would adversely affect the mining markets, but these have, on the contrary, moved sharply upwards, presumably through the feeling that the public is henceforth likely to get a fairer deal from the brokers.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' latest index number of wholesale prices (1926=100) showed a virtually stationary situation, the index for December being 96.2, as compared with 95.8 for November. Eighty quotations were lower, 44 were higher and 378 remained unchanged. Such rise as took place was due chiefly to a gain in the agricultural product items. The Bureau's unemployment index, on December 1st, stood at 119.3, which is a fall of, roughly, 5 points from the previous month, but is still 2.6 higher than the figure for December 1, 1928. However, in labour circles complaint is made that the unemployment compilations of the Bureau are quite illusory, as they take account only of limited classes of workers.

Certainly the unemployment situation is exceedingly serious in many cities. Mr McBride, lately Mayor of Toronto, declared recently that unemployment conditions in that city were the worst that he had known in twenty-five years, and social service workers state that during Christmas week relief had to be given to between 7,000 and 8,000 families. Conditions are nearly as bad in Montreal and Winnipeg, for the local authorities are almost at the limit of their available resources for coping with the problem. The Federal Government has, so far, resisted a great deal of pressure to accept some responsibility for the unemployed, claiming that the problem is constitutionally outside its jurisdiction, but Mr Brownlee, the Premier of Alberta, has challenged this stand, declaring that an investigation in Alberta has revealed that 75 per cent. of the people securing public relief in that province were immigrants who had been brought to that country within the last five years through the agency of the Federal Government. He points out that objections which the province of Alberta raised last year to the influx of certain classes of immigrants were disregarded, and maintains that as long as the Federal Government controls immigration policies it must accept responsibility for the fate of immigrants who cannot obtain work.

Since the New Year began there has been no material change in business conditions, but retailers have been experiencing the usual post-holiday dullness and have been trying to stimulate business by forced sales. In the industrial field conditions remain uneven and there is a recession in certain lines of production. Both manufacturing and distributing business are unlikely to show any substantial gains until outdoor work is resumed with the advent of spring. The carloading figure for the week ending January 4th, placed at 44,310 cars, shows a gain of 2,806 cars, compared with the previous week, but a decline of 1,796 cars compared with the figure for the parallel week in 1928. The latest trade returns covering the twelve months ending November 30, 1929, indicate that British export trade is not holding its own in Canada against American competition. In this period British exports to Canada, valued at, roughly, $196½ million, showed a gain of little more than $6 million, but in the same period American exports to Canada rose from $815 to $902 million. As the result of the grain blockade, moreover, there was a sharp decline in Canada's exports to Britain, which fell from $459 to $309 million.

NEW ZEALAND.—WOOL PRICES—BUSINESS OUTLOOK—UNEMPLOYMENT—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, December 12.

THE opening wool sales of the season have given New Zealand something of a shock. Some recession in prices was expected, but the values realised were lower than the most pessimistic had anticipated. The average price for the Christchurch sales in November, 1928, was over £23 per bale. In 1929 the corresponding average was £14 2s. 6d. per bale, which represents a decline of about 38 per cent. Comparing December sales for this year and last, the *Mercantile Gazette* quotes the fall in average prices per lb. as follows:—

	1928. Dec. d.	1929. Dec. d.
Extra fine crossbred, 48/50	17¾	11¾
Fine crossbred, 46/48	16¼	11¼
Medium crossbred, 44/46	15½	11
Coarse crossbred, 40/44	15	10¾

Should the present level of prices continue throughout the season, the fall in the total value of wool can scarcely be less than 33 per cent., which means a reduction of more than £5 million in the value of wool exports. Moreover, decline in prices is not confined to wool, where it is most severe, but is spread over all the leading exports. London prices for butter for the first week in December are 165s. per cwt., as compared with 179s. last year, and for cheese 91s., as against 97s. 6d. last year. It is expected that freezing companies will pay about 8d. per lb. for lamb this season, as compared with 10d. last year. Since there is little chance of a big upward swing in prices during the main export season, extending to May, a pronounced decline in total export values may be regarded as certain, despite some increase in quantity.

Meanwhile, internal trade continues its recovery from the low activity of the past two years. A marked increase in imports reflects expanding local demand. Both the railways and coastal shipping are handling larger volumes of business, and rapidly increasing registrations of motor vehicles indicate expansion of road traffic. The growth of bank advances suggests that less hesitation is being shown in using funds for local business purposes. A big expansion of loans from the State Advances Office has stimulated building activity, and land transfers, mortgage registrations, totalisator receipts, and savings bank business all show decided improvements. Bankruptcies are lower than a year ago, the balance of immigration is more favourable, and the trade union unemployment figures are better.

It appears practically certain that internal trade will remain good throughout the summer. But the signs of impending decline are unmistakable. Export values are contracting rapidly, while imports are increasing, and it is quite possible that the balance of overseas trade may become definitely adverse by the middle of 1930. Following the change in the trade balance, the bank returns also are becoming less favourable. For the first half of November, 1929, as compared with 1928, free deposits are practically the same at £22 million, fixed deposits have risen from £29.3 to £30.7 million, and advances have risen from £47 to £52.8 million. These movements indicate that the balance of payments is already decidedly against the country, and, if expenditure on imports continues to increase and receipts from exports to decline, as appears practically certain, some restriction of credit and a consequent recession of domestic business is inevitable. New Zealand is now passing through a phase very similar to that which occurred in the 1925-26 export season, and similar results are to be expected. Experience has shown, however, that local business is very slow to react to changes in the credit situation, and the adjustments in internal trade will almost certainly be less severe than in external trade.

The Government fulfilled its promise made early in October last to absorb the unemployed within five weeks. The total number who applied for work was approximately 8,000, out of a working population of over 600,000. Of these about half refused to accept relief work away from the towns; but the remaining half were given employment, mainly at forestry and road and railway construction. It appears now that the policy adopted was merely to provide temporary relief, and that few of the men are likely to be retained after Christmas. Little has been done to explore, and practically nothing to remove, the basic causes of unemployment, which many people consider are to be found largely in the State fixation of wages and working conditions by the Arbitration Court; and the unemployment situation is likely to be worse before next winter is over.

Parliament is now in recess, but a by-election, caused by the resignation of the Hon. T. M. Wilford, who has been appointed High Commissioner for New Zealand in London, resulted in a victory for the Labour candidate. Mr Wilford's appointment is popular. He is a barrister who has been prominent in public life for many years, and is regarded as the father of the House, having represented the same constituency continuously for a longer period than any other member. The keenest gratification has been expressed throughout the Dominion upon the appointment of Lord Bledisloe as Governor-General, and his

arrival is anticipated with much interest. During recent years New Zealand has studied, stimulated and made appreciable progress in the improvement of farming methods, and is a little proud of the quantity and quality of its produce. The farmers, who are largely responsible, are keen to make further progress. They know something of Lord Bledisloe's work and interest in agriculture, and they look to him as a leader who may show them roads to further improvement, and who may possibly learn something of interest himself. The appreciation of the new Governor-General is, however, tinged with regret for the old, as Sir Charles Ferguson has been exceptionally popular, and has given sterling service to the Dominion during his five years of office.

HONG KONG.—CURRENCY SITUATION—DIVERSION OF TRADE TO SHANGHAI—PRICES LEVEL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONG KONG, December 21.

THE currency of Hong Kong is in a curious position and the developments of recent months have given rise to a problem for which no satisfactory solution has yet been found. The legal tender of the Colony is the silver dollar, either British or Mexican, but for all practical purposes the coinage has been supplanted by the notes issued by three of the foreign banks established here. These notes circulate throughout South China, and by reason of their portability and their unquestioned backing they have been in increasing demand, especially of recent years, when incessant civil warfare has rendered the currency of the neighbouring provinces more and more unreliable. The coincidence of this demand with a shifting balance of trade between Hong Kong and South China resulted in the notes acquiring a greater value than the silver which they represented, and a few months ago they rose to a premium of nearly 20 per cent. above their par value. For many years past the banks of the Colony have declined to receive silver dollars except at the ruling rate of discount *vis-à-vis* notes, and all financial transactions, including payment of Government taxes, have been subject to payment in bank notes. Invisible exports, especially remittances from overseas Chinese, play an important part in the trade of Hong Kong, and with a marked decline in imported manufactures from gold-using countries, the local banks have had the utmost difficulty in obtaining cover to meet drawings from centres inside China. Owing to this lack of cover the banks maintained the rate of exchange at a higher level than the parity of bar silver and were protected in so doing because the import of silver bullion was impracticable so long as the currency of the Colony was on the basis of the bank note.

The steady rise of the Hong Kong dollar in relation to the currency of South China is believed to have diverted a good deal of business from Hong Kong to Shanghai, where the currency has been kept in close relationship with the fluctuations in the price of bar silver. A Canton merchant wishing to buy a case of piece goods found that he would have to pay from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. more in Hong Kong than he would in Shanghai for the very same cloth. Moreover, in Shanghai there were still stocks of goods imported before the new Chinese Customs tariff came into force early in the present year, and such goods could be shipped to Canton without paying further duty. Goods from Hong Kong, on the other hand, would be subject to the higher scale charged under the new tariff, and despite the extra freight from Shanghai there was undoubtedly an appreciable advantage in purchasing from Shanghai rather than from Hong Kong. In the case of the exporter from South China, his produce would yield more in Shanghai by reason of the lower level of sterling exchange. The very existence of Hong Kong depends upon its ability to handle trade between South China and the outside world, as well as between South China and the other provinces. When, therefore, it became apparent that business was being diverted the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting held in September, asked the Government to intervene with a view to bringing back the Hong Kong dollar to parity with silver. As Chinese merchants generally had been speculating upon an early return to a normal rate of exchange for Hong Kong notes, the appeal to Government was by no means disinterested. A few weeks after the appeal was made rumours of Government action brought out a big demand for sterling and within a few days the rate of exchange dropped from 1s. 11½d. to 1s. 9¼d. On October 24th the banks of the Colony announced that they would "receive and pay out Mexican and British dollars on the same basis as the notes of the issuing banks." With the rate as 1s. 9d. it was profitable to import silver dollars, which could be laid down at about 1s. 8d., and there was a rush to the Royal Mint in London and to the Bombay Mint where British dollars are also coined. During the past week or two silver dollars have been steadily arriving in the Colony and there are large quantities en route.

The influx of this specie will not affect the demand for notes, which are still at a premium, because silver dollars are no longer acceptable in the hinterland. All that will happen, so far as one can see, will be a steady accumulation of silver dollars in the vaults of the banks until the rate of exchange falls to the point where it no longer pays to import silver. The demand for notes will, presumably, continue. At present the Colony's note circulation exceeds $70 million and the issuing banks have no inducement to increase their note issue, for in addition to the cost of printing, registration and loss of interest there is an annual tax of 1 per cent. The Government are at present considering the removal of this tax, at any rate in respect of circulation in excess of the normal figure, and if they decide on remitting the tax the banks will be in a position to issue notes freely, thereby releasing the currency from an artificial situation. While uncertainty as to the future of the tax on circulation prevails, the banks are reducing their exchange operations to a minimum, for with the import trade practically at a standstill, owing to the political struggle in the neighbourhood of Canton, there is no cover to set off against the purchase of gold currencies, or in other words there is no counter-balance to the incessant demand for Hong Kong notes.

There have been previous occasions when the Hong Kong currency has required adjustment, but probably none which have been marked by such acute trouble as the present crisis. The chaotic conditions prevailing in South China are, of course, largely responsible and it is to be feared that a recurrence of the trouble will always be possible so long as the currency of the hinterland lacks any firm basis. The only satisfactory remedy is the adoption by China of a gold currency, but although Dr. Kemmerer is reported to have pressed this remedy upon the Nanking Government there seems little prospect of its being accepted. Hong Kong is, therefore, faced with the problem of acting as the intermediary between the gold-using countries of the world and an already sorely impoverished territory, whose people are called upon by the continued fall in silver to meet an advance of 15 per cent. in the price of foreign manufactures. The import trade of this Colony has never properly recovered from the boycott of four years ago and is therefore in no fit condition to bear the extra burden thrown on it by the drop in sterling exchange. There seems little hope of a recovery in the price of bar silver and every possibility of a further decline, so that there is nothing for it but to adjust local prices to the new level of exchange. Such adjustment in a time of financial depression means a severe curtailment of demand and the diversion of trade from those lines where quality counts and has to be paid for.

Books and Publications.

THE INTERNATIONAL BANK.*

DR. EINZIG'S book gives a fair picture of the antecedents of the Bank for International Settlements, the scope envisaged for it by the Young Plan experts and by the Bank Organisation Committee, and of some of the benefits and dangers which may be expected from its establishment. As the author indicates, the Bank is the outcome of two quite separate tendencies: the tendency to closer co-operation between Central Banks and the tendency to adjust Reparations to realities. Neither of these forces by itself would have sufficed to found the Bank; their combination was therefore necessary.

Dr. Einzig writes convincingly and ingeniously of the possible beneficial activities of the Bank. Governments (he instances the case of Spain among others) will turn, he thinks, to the new Bank for assistance in stabilising their currencies, though it is probable that in such operations the B.I.S. will act only as intermediary. As regards its dangers, he has two dominant fears—politics and inflation; or perhaps only one—inflation caused by politics. It is necessary to distinguish between the direct powers of credit expansion belonging to the Bank itself and those which it can only exercise indirectly through Central Banks. The Bank itself is more likely to create no credit at all than too much, since it can only create credit in the currency of its country of domicile, and any excessive creation of Swiss francs could presumably be prevented by the National Bank of Switzerland under the Veto Clause of the International Bank's Statutes. Dr. Einzig's argument that because the Bank (bound as it is to maintain most of its assets in the form of paper of prime liquidity) is not affected as commercial banks are by a cash ratio limit, it can therefore expand credit almost indefinitely by means of advances and counterbalancing deposits, is hopelessly illogical, since the restriction upon the nature of the assets means that advances cannot exceed a fraction of the holding of bills and exchange, the acquisition of which is limited by the Bank's cash resources. Again, there is no reason to suppose that the other Central Banks individually will be any more disposed to inflate on the basis of balances at the International Bank than they are under the present possibilities of the gold exchange standard. General expansion, if undertaken in concert to counteract a shortage of gold, would not necessarily be harmful.

The best parts of the book are those dealing with the determination of the rates which the Bank will charge for accommodation and on the possibility of economising gold movements. In practice it is probable that the Central Banks will largely effect settlements with each other, not by earmarking gold, but by the transfer from one to another of their balances with the International Bank. The powers of the Bank itself in "rationalising the gold standard" will be strictly limited, not only because it cannot be allowed to share in the scramble for gold, but because it is forbidden to issue notes and, as Dr. Einzig convincingly shows, cannot have a general published discount rate. Nevertheless, we can reassure ourselves that an institution which has been attacked on the grounds at once of its vast powers and of its incapacity of doing anything will probably confound both types of critic.

* "The Bank for International Settlements." By Paul Einzig. London: Macmillan and Company. 7s. 6d.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Farm Export Debenture Plan. By Joseph S. Davis. Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California. $3.00.

An exposition and thorough discussion of the export debenture proposal, as applied both to wheat and to other commodities. There are chapters on foreign experience of similar devices and on the possible reactions of foreign Governments to the adoption of the plan by the United States.

The Economics of the Coal Industry. By R. C. Smart. (London) P. S. King, Orchard House, Great Smith Street. 12s. 6d.

To the literature of the coal industry, representing for the most part the labour of politicians and economists, is now added a very welcome treatise by a mining engineer. That the book, which is illustrated by photographs and diagrams, is strong on the technical side, is by no means to imply that the economic aspects are neglected. There is a valuable chapter on the coal industry in Europe.

The Present Position of the British Coal Trade. By Professor J. H. Jones. (London) Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace. 1s. 6d.

The text of the paper read before the Royal Statistical Society last November. A full report of the discussion is also reprinted.

Economic Democracy. By Robert S. Brookings. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 6s. 6d. net.

The sub-title of this book is "America's Answer to Socialism and Communism." It consists principally of reprints of addresses and papers on various contemporary problems.

International Labour Review. January, 1930. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d. net.

Includes an account of the thirteenth session of the International Labour Conference; the first of a series of articles on working conditions in a rationalised industry, dealing with the Bata system; a study of the relation of working hours to climate; and the third article in the coal mining wages and hours (1927) series.

Prospettive Economiche, 1930. By Giorgio Mortara. (Milan) Università Bocconi. 50 lire.

Three more volumes in this series, on maritime transport, iron and copper, are now available.

Annali di Economia. (Milan) Università Boccina, Via Solferino, 13.

Includes articles by Filippo Tajani on "The Wages Incentive," and Secondo Spinelli on "The Post-war Foreign Trade of Italy in Relation to the Fluctuations of the Lira."

The South and East African Year Book and Guide for 1930. Edited by A. Samlee Brown and G. Gordon Brown. (London) Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Ltd., 3, Fenchurch Street. 2s. 6d.

A reference book specifically commended by its compilers to business men, sportsmen, tourists, migrants and invalids. It contains an atlas, including harbour plans; articles on the principal events since the publication of the last edition; a bibliography; and a wide range of classified information.

The Economic Record, November, 1929. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 5s. net.

Articles in this issue include: "Local Body Indebtedness in New Zealand"; "Theories of Population and their Application to Australia"; "Consumers' Co-operation in New South Wales"; and "The Drift to the Towns."

Report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the year ended December 31, 1928. *Part IV.* (Albany) Insurance Department.

Covers assessment, life and casualty associations, fraternal benefit societies and co-operative fire insurance.

Mid-Monthly Supplementary List. By subscription only, 42s. per year.

Gives interesting statistical information of unquoted securities in which dealings are marked, including mines, on the Stock Exchange.

1929 *Financial Notes.* Subscription, one guinea.

Monthly and Yearly Highest and Lowest Prices, with Diary of Principal Events in 1929. Price 2s. 6d.

The above three books are published by Messrs F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Cyprus: Memorial from the Greek Elected Members of the Legislative Council, together with the Reply returned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Cmd. 3477. 6d. net.

Post Office Commercial Accounts, 1928. 9d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in China to September 1, 1929. 2s. 6d. net; *Economic Conditions in Cuba, November*, 1929. 1s. 9d. net.

Civil Appropriation Accounts: 1928. 8s. net.

Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act; Accounts for 1928. 2d. net.

Report of the Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation and Merchant Shipping Legislation, 1929. Cmd. 3479. 9d. net.

Civil Services: Supplementary Estimate, 1929. 6d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

SOME INVESTMENT TRUST RESULTS.

THE knowledge that security prices suffered a wholesale depreciation last year—ranging from 10 per cent. in the case of fixed-interest stocks (except gilt-edged) to between 20 and 30 per cent. in the case of ordinary shares—is not exactly a "bull" point for the market in investment trust stocks. Indeed, the impression appears to be abroad that not only the "equity" stocks, but also the debenture and preference stocks of investment trust companies are a less desirable purchase at the present time than they appeared to be, say, twelve months ago. This attitude on the part of the investing public is understandable but hardly logical, since the intrinsic security of the best investment trust stocks is unaffected by temporary market fluctuations. An investor normally buys these stocks because he knows that certain tried principles are followed by sound British trust companies in the investment of their capital funds and in the distribution of their profits. It may not be out of place to reiterate these principles.

In the first place, trust company funds are invested so as to ensure the greatest possible spreading of risks. This is achieved, under British investment trust practice, by investing not more than 1 or 2 per cent. of the capital in any one security or undertaking; by placing, say, 50 per cent. of the capital in bonds and debentures, and the balance in preference shares and ordinary shares in varying proportions; and by distributing holdings in each class geographically and by groups of trades or industries. This scientific distribution of risks acts as an insurance against the normal fluctuations of the stock markets. In the second place, the British investment trust company does not distribute its earnings up to the hilt, but applies a portion of its profits each year to reserve. At the same time, capital profits realised on the "turnover" of investments are not distributed, but reinvested. The strength of the old-established British trust companies lies in the fact that, over a long period of years, they have been paying out in dividends only a proportion of their earnings, and that, apart from the large visible reserves so created, they have also built up very large "internal" reserves by writing down the book value of their investments out of capital profits.

These conservative practices constitute the underlying security of well-managed British trusts. A general depreciation in security values is precisely the situation which these companies have been designed to meet. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that such old-established concerns as the Metropolitan Trust and the Army and Navy Investment have been able to increase their dividends in respect of 1929 in spite of the depreciation in securities. The following analysis of the income and disbursements of these and two other old-established companies brings out the conservatism of British trust company finance:—

Company and date of Balance Sheet.		Income after Tax.	Available for Ordinary.	*Per cent. earned (subject to Tax).*	Per cent. paid (subject to Tax).	Added to Reserve.	Carried forward.
		£	£			£	£
Metropolitan Trust (Jan. 1).	1928	232,058*	115,488	*23·1*	19·0	...	52,779
	1929	235,140*	117,391	*23·5*	19·5	...	72,670
	1930	240,993*	122,668	*24·5*	20·0	75,000	20,338
Army and Navy (Nov. 30).	1927	70,776	38,890	*24·3*	15·0	14,745	16,466
	1928	74,700	42,513	*26·6*	16·0	16,361	17,017
	1929	76,162	44,259	*27·7*	17·0	17,000†	17,075
Foreign and Colonial (Jan. 10).	1928	155,742	83,052	*18·9*	10·0	27,000†	45,529
	1929	165,166	76,755	*14·4*	10·0	22,700	45,638
	1930	186,607	89,667	*14·9*	10·0	30,000‡	45,754
Governments Stock and Other (Dec. 31).	1927	124,781	59,771	*15·5*	10·0	20,921	102,415§
	1928	131,052	63,432	*14·6*	10·0	22,639	74,774§
	1929	136,779	66,553	*15·6*	10·0	23,818	97,413§

* Subject to tax. † Including writing down of investments.
‡ For writing down investments. § Revenue Reserve Fund.

The forthcoming reports of other old-established trust companies will doubtless disclose the same satisfactory results. The formation of new trust companies has, however, been proceeding apace during the last four years, and it may be well to examine the figures disclosed by some of the later entrants to this field. The following table, accordingly, sets out the achievements of four companies formed between 1925 and 1928:—

Company and Date of Balance Sheet.		Income after Tax.	Available for Ordinary.	*Per cent. earned (subject to Tax).*	Per cent. paid (subject to Tax).	Added to Reserve.	Carried forward.
		£	£			£	£
Stockholders' Investment (Oct. 31).	1927	40,556	14,643	*9·8*	6·0	3,635	2,583
	1928	54,146	15,536	*8·1*	7·0	3,000	2,639
	1929	75,389	22,783	*9·5*	7·0	5,000	4,432
Glasgow Stockholders (Jan. 2).	1929*	32,054	7,181	*4·5*	5·0†	...	1,138
	1930	59,555	27,406	*12·2*	5·0	5,000‡	2,470
English & New York Trust (Dec. 31).	1928	33,614	8,041	*6·7*	5·0	...	2,042
	1929	60,458	15,458	*6·4*	5·0	...	5,499
London and Strathclyde (Aug. 31).	1929§	49,323	8,143	*5·1*	5·0	...	695

* 13 months. † For 9 months. ‡ *Plus* £1,330 written off issue expenses.
§ 16 months.

These companies, naturally, cannot be expected to show results of the same order as those of the older companies until they have had time and opportunity to build up a strong reserve position. On the whole, they may claim to have made a fair start. The question arises, however, of the extent to which they, as compared with the older companies, are likely to have suffered serious depreciation in the value of their investment holdings as a result of last year's Stock Exchange depression. Their financial position naturally renders them more vulnerable to attack from this quarter than does that of the older concerns. Companies formed between 1925 and 1927 may still show some appreciation in the capital value of their investments, but those established in 1928 and 1929 are much more likely to have "bought at the top" and suffered a loss on their present holdings. The following table contrasts the position of the old and new concerns in this respect:—

Company.	When formed.	Ordinary Capital.	Reserve Account.	Investments.	Surplus or Deficiency on Investments.	Date of Balance Sheet.
Companies formed before 1925:—		£	£	£	£	£
Metropolitan Trust.....	1899	625,000	625,000	3,205,479	+ 725,000	Jan 1, 1930.
Army and Navy	1887	200,000	312,285	1,326,738	(*a*)	Nov. 30, 1929.
Foreign and Colonial ...	1879	750,000	472,700	3,531,898	(*a*) (*b*)	Jan. 10, 1930.
Governments Stock and Other	1871	534,187	97,413	2,206,344	"Worth more" than balance sheet figure.	Dec. 31, 1929
Companies formed 1925 and later:—						
Stockholders' Investment	1925	300,000	50,000	1,507,532	(*c*)	Oct. 31, 1929.
Glasgow Stockholders	1927	280,000	25,000	1,342,896	— 120,219	Jan. 2, 1930.
English and New York...	1928	300,000	...	1,027,647	— 50,739	Dec. 31, 1929
London and Strathclyde	1928	200,000	...	893,769	— 13,300	Aug. 31, 1929.

(*a*) Not stated. (*b*) £30,000 used for writing down investments.
(*c*) Market value exceeds balance sheet valuation *after deducting reserve account.*

It goes without saying that the recently-formed investment trust companies cannot as yet offer the same security as the old-established, but the investor should appreciate that the prior charges of the young as well as the old trusts, which follow conservative principles of investment, are well covered, both as to interest and to assets, for the reason that these companies invest their funds to establish an adequate revenue, not to make capital profits. The debenture stock of the older trusts is generally covered from four-and-a-half to five-and-a-half times by profits and from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half times by net assets, while earnings on the preference stock are covered from two-and-a-half to three times. The corresponding stocks of the newer companies are less well covered, but compare favourably in this respect, nevertheless, with those of much older companies in other industries. Investment trust debentures, being as a rule closely held by the conservative type of investor, frequently yield less than 5½ per cent., and preference stocks less than 6 per cent. As regards ordinary stocks, the investor may be advised to concentrate his attention on the yield on earnings rather than on dividends:—

Name.	High. 1928.	High. 1929.	Present. Price.	Earned. %	Divs. %	% Yield on Earnings.	% Yield on Divs.
Army and Navy Investment	333	365	350	27·7	17·0	7·90	4·86
Foreign and Colonial...	208	218	176	14·9	10·0	8·76	5·87
Governments Stock and Other	199½	273	217½	15·6	10·0	7·34	4·75
Stockholders' Investment	157½	157	117½	9·5	7·0	8·33	6·12
Glasgow Stockholders	...	168½	130	12·2	5·0	9·57	3·93
English and New York	144	136	102½	6·4	5·0	6·43	5·00
London & Strathclyde	...	...	134½	5·1	5·0	3·87	3·75

This table suggests that even if the security markets remain depressed for some time, the present dividends obtainable from the old-established investment trusts are well covered and firmly established. The course of security values during the next few months will, of course, be of moment for all investment trust stockholders. If the tendency of security prices should be downward for another year or so, investment trust companies would probably be called upon to apply out of their profits increasingly large amounts to reserve to meet the depreciation on their holdings. This might prevent the old-established from increasing their dividends and probably cause the newly-established to reduce their dividends. But if the stock markets recover before the year is out, large appropriations out of profits to reserve will not be necessary, and dividends will once again automatically increase with the increase in earnings. Stock Exchange depression must inevitably affect *all* investors. Holders of sound investment trust securities have, however, the consolation of knowing that their stocks are less liable to depreciation than those of almost any other form of business enterprise—a result due partly to the basic methods of trust company finance, which are the best form of assurance as yet devised against a general fall in investment values, and partly to the strong reserve position which the best companies have built up by a consistently conservative dividend policy in past years.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
February 18.	February 20.

Business up to noon on Thursday showed the same features—or absence of features—as in the previous week: paucity of business, a gradual recession of prices, and a general absence of enterprise, individual and collective. The reduction of Bank rate, while producing no significant change in the undertone of the "House," strengthened gilt-edged stocks, reinforced the specialised activity of Rhodesians, and caused a mild recovery in numerous "depressed" industrial counters. On the whole, liquidation, which has been the bane of business for months past, appears to be slowly drying up, and once next week's "Hatry" settlement is over, it may be less difficult to discern whether a slow recovery in values, or a continuance of quiet conditions is to be expected in the near future.

After a slow start, a fair volume of investment demand for gilt-edged securities was in evidence. The market

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	75⅛	75⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	95½	95½	+ ⅛
Do.5% 1944-64.....	100	100⅛	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	100⅝	101⅛	+ ⅛
Consols 2½%	53⅝	54⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4%	82⅛	83⅛	+ ⅛
Funding 4%	86⅛	87	+ ⅛
Victory Bonds 4%.....	93⅛	93⅜	+ ⅛
Local Loans 3%.....	61½	62⅛	+ ⅛
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924) ..	99½	99⅝	+ ⅛
Argentine 4% Becisa..	83⅛	83⅛	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43..	102½	102⅜	...
Belgian 7%	109½	110	+ ½
Brazil 6½% (1927). ...	83	83	...
Bulgaria 7½%	90	90	...
China 5% (1912)	47½	48⅜	+ 1⅛
Czechoslovakia 8%....	111	111½	+ ⅜
Egypt Unified 4% ...	79	79	...
Corporation Stocks.			
L.C.C. 3%	62	62x	+ ⅜
W. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk...	92	92⅜	+ ⅜
L.N.E., Def. Stk.....	12⅛	12⅛	— ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk...	36⅜	36⅛	— ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	54⅜	54⅛	— ⅛
Metropol'an Cons. Stk	64⅛	64	— ⅛
Met. District Ord. Stk.	7½	7½	...
Southern Def. Stk. ...	29⅜	30⅜	+ ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73⅛	73⅛	+ ⅛
Underground Ord. £1...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds..	108	107	— 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	205	206½	+ 1½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	82	81	— 1
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	249	249	...
Barclay B. (£1).....	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1⅛x	1⅛x	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛x	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19½	19½	— ½
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	24½	24½	— ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27⅛	27⅛	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1).	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	2⅜	3	+ ⅛
Baldwin (4/).....	⅛	⅛	— ⅛
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅜	— ⅛
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1½	1⅜	— ⅛
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	⅜	⅜	— ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)...	3⅛	3⅛	...
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅜	— ⅛
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅜	+ ⅛
British Insulated (£1).	3⅜	3⅜	— ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅜	1⅜x	...
City of London (£1) ..	1⅜	1⅜	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	— ⅛
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	380	375	— 5
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless — 7½% *A* Ord.	70	64	— 6
B Ord.	30½	31	+ ½
5½% *Pref.*	97⅜	96½	— 1⅛
Motors.			
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	— ⅛
Ford Motors (£1).....	2½	2⅝	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	2⅞	2⅜	+ ⅛
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛
Furness Withy (£1) ...	1⅜	1⅜	— ⅛
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Cons.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	21½	21½	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	3⅝	4⅛	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅜	1⅛	— ⅛
Burmah Oil (£1).....	3⅜	4⅛	+ ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅜	⅜	...
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅜	+ ⅛
Bras. Traction, no par	$41	$39½x	...
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅜	5⅜	...
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9⅛	9⅜	— ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	6⅛	+ ⅜
Distillers (£1).....	3⅜	3⅜	...
Dunlop (5/8)	⅜	⅜	+ ⅛
Gramophone Co. (£1)...	4⅜	4⅜	— ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	2⅜	— ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1).....	4⅜	4⅜	— ⅛
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	— ⅛
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	10	10	...
Brakpan (£1)	3⅛	2⅝x	...
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p...	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)....	⅜	⅜	...
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1⅛	1⅛	...
Central Provinces (£1)	3	3⅛	+ ⅛
Ind. Cons. (£1).....	2⅞	2⅜	+ ⅛
Lake View & Star (4/).	⅜	⅜	+ ⅛
Langwa (5/-)	⅛	⅜	+ ⅛
London Tin (£1)	1⅜	1⅝x	...
Rise or Fall.			
Treasury 5% (B) ...	101	101⅛	+ ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	88	88	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
India 3½%	59	60½	+ 1½
Do. 4½% 1958-68..	80½	81⅜	+ 1⅛
Australia 5% 1945-75	85	86½	+ 1½
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	85	85⅜	+ ⅜
N. Zealand 5% 1946	100	100	...
French 5%	21⅛	20⅝	— ½
Do. 4% (Brit.).....	20	20⅛	+ ⅛
German 7%	105	104⅜	— ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee ..	101⅛	101⅛	...
Hungary 7½%	103½	103⅛x	+ ⅛
Chili 6%	94½	94⅛	— ⅜
Poland 7%	89⅜	89	— ⅜
Mexican 5% (1899)	22	22	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	82½	82	— ½
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	91½	88	— 3½
Berlin 6% Ster.	90½	90½	...
B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	87	85½	— 1½
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk	100	98	— 2
B.A.Western, Ord.Stk	81½	79½	— 2½
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	21⅛	19	— 2⅛
G.W. of Brasil £10 ...	3½	3½	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk	52	50½	— 1½
San Paulo Ord. Stk ...	187½	186½	— 1
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30½	$30½	...
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	24	25	+ 1
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Lobitos (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	+ ⅛
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	— ⅛
Royal Dutch (£3½).....	33	33	...
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅜	+ ⅛
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅜	4⅜	...
International Holdings	5⅛	5⅛	+ ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can..	39⅞	41⅛	+1⅛
Kreuger & Toll(kr.100)	27⅛	30⅛	+ 2⅜
Margarine Union (£1)	3⅜	3⅜	+ ⅛
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅜	2⅜	...
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	15⅞	17⅛	+ 1⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1) ...	1⅞	1⅞	...
Turner & Newall (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
United Molasses (£1)	5⅛	5⅜	— ⅛
Vocalion (10/-)	⅜	⅜	— ⅛
Watney Combe Dt.(£1)	2⅜	2⅜x	...
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅞	3⅛	+ ⅛
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	⅛	⅛	— ⅛
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1).....	10	14½	+ 4½
Rio Tinto (£5)	46½	46½	...
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1⅞	1⅞	...
Sub Nigel (10/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Tanganyika (£1)	2⅛	2	— ⅛
UnionCrp.(12/6)fu.pd.	3⅜	3⅜	...

was not too well supplied with stock, and those dealers who were at pains, on Wednesday, to cover their positions in view of a possible decline in Bank rate, had some cause for congratulation. Five per Cent. War Loan maintained a small premium on Five per Cent. Conversion Loan, rising to 100 7/16 after Thursday's Bank rate announcement. India Loans continued last week's recovery, and Australians further improved. The public subscription of 5½ per cent. of the Brighton Loan was better than the market anticipated, the stock opening at only ⅜ discount. Steady absorption continued of the Central Electricity Loan, which rose from 1¾ to 1 discount.

The Foreign market hardened after a dull opening, Japanese issues being in demand on rumours of a Swedish Match Loan, while Chinese showed a better tendency. Europeans gained a fraction in a few instances. Brazilian bonds were quiet, but showed no evidence of further liquidation.

Home Railways were surprisingly idle, in view of the imminence of dividend declarations, which, by general agreement, are likely to be higher than those of a year ago. The traffic returns continued to exhibit no feature, good or ill, on which the market could concentrate, and, apart from the firmer tendency which naturally followed the Bank rate announcement, only Southern Deferred and North-Eastern Second Preference showed evidence of public interest. Undergrounds were quiet and unchanged. Among Foreign Railways, Argentines were weak, the exchange position again provoking unfavourable comment. Leopoldina was also on offer, despite the more satisfactory maintenance of revenue.

Though the reduction in Bank rate gave a mild fillip to business, the industrial markets were for the most part in cheerless condition. America was an intermittent buyer of Columbias and International Nickels, but British domestic stocks came on offer in numerous cases—partly on fears regarding the trade and budgetary outlook and partly owing to the imminence of the "Hatry" settlement. Cables and Wireless were particularly depressed, for reasons described in an "Investment Note" on page 312 of this issue, though some of the marking-down was in the nature of a precautionary measure by dealers with a fair amount of stock on their books at higher figures. A partial recovery occurred on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. The Continent continued to absorb Swedish Match and Kreuger and Toll. Tobacco shares were dull on budgetary fears, and brewery shares easier. The news that short-time was being put into operation stimulated further selling of Courtaulds. This company's dividend prospects are discussed on page 313. Dunlops enjoyed a sizeable recovery, and Imperial Chemical, after a recurrence of dullness, went better on Thursday. Among motors, Leylands were firm on hopes of an ordinary dividend payment this year, though a reaction followed. Ford Motors gained ground following the publication of a Press article describing the progress of operations on the Continent. The textile share market remained under the influence of the unsatisfactory trade outlook. English Electric weakened after the announcement of a drastic reorganisation scheme (set out on page 312). Among shipping shares, Cunards were in demand. Iron and steel shares attracted little or no interest. N.C. Metals reacted after last week's rise. The enhanced dividend and one-in-three scrip bonus of H.P. Sauce had been anticipated, and the shares failed to hold their first rise following the announcement. Unilevers were steady. Insurance shares had a slightly downward trend, but banks held their ground in a quiet market.

Changes in rubber share values were trifling, business being on the smallest of scales in the absence of any definite trend in the price of the commodity. The market for tea shares, however, was broader, despite the further decline in the price of Ceylons at the week's sales. Oil shares responded to satisfactory news regarding the progress of "conservation" in America, Anglo-Persian and Burmah being bought from the provinces. Phœnix Oil and Transport rose on good production figures, and V.O.C. Holding on the bringing in of new wells.

Following the initial impetus provided by last week's activity in Northern Rhodesians, sporadic activity was witnessed in the mining markets. Congo Border showed little change at its new high level, while no appreciable selling movement was recorded in Loangwa or Bwana M'Kubwa. N'Changa continued to be a strong feature, and Chartered rose before the announcement of an increased dividend. Tin shares were irregular, despite the Tin Producers' announcement, on which we comment in a "Note" on page 311. Australians declined, and De Beers deferred fell away in the absence of any improvement in prospects. A feature was the sharp advance of Globe and Phœnix on the publication of further news regarding developments in the lowest level of the mine. West Rand were firm on a record return for the past month, but East Rand were less stable. Ashanti Goldfields advanced further after the meeting, but Brakpan continued its steady downward trend.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Feb. 5).	Jan. 30.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 3.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 5.	Feb. 6.
90·5	86·8	87·9	87·7	87·4	86·8	86·8	87·0

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The share market, which had been increasingly active and strong, showed signs of profit-taking after the reduction in the Bank of England rate was announced. It is evident that there has been a considerable increase in professional operations and some renewed speculation by the public. One bullish factor is the sharp improvement in steel-mill operations, which now average slightly better than 75 per cent. of capacity. This recovery, however, has not benefited steel prices. Another factor is the more cheerful feeling in the automobile trade, but it must be realised that the increase in production represents cars for dealers' stocks. The public attitude towards new purchases remains to be determined, and it is also understood that the used-car situation is still bad. Altogether there is a disposition to feel that the share market has been travelling rather fast, although the cut in discount rate may give support to further bull activity. Conservative observers point out that it is uncertain whether the recovery in steel production is a mere rebound from the abnormally low activity of November and December, or is the beginning of sustained improvement. In any event, it is questionable whether the improvement in general business is as good as the recent course of the share market would suggest. Coppers are slightly better, in sympathy with the general market tendency, and it is expected that producers will be able to maintain the price of the metal for the months immediately ahead. January statistics of output, however, are expected to be rather bearish. The reduction in discount rate is believed to be justified by the condition of world trade and the general tendency of money rates, but there has been less than the usual interest aroused by the change.

NEW YORK.

	Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.
U.S 3½% T. Bds.	103 1/32	103 1/32	104 1/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111	110 31/32	110 31/32
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	98 18/32	99 1/32	99 1/32
Do. 4½% '32-47	100 1/32	100 1/32	101 1/32
Do. 4¼% '33-38	100 18/32	100 18/32	101 1/32
Atchison	231 7/8	236	235 3/8
Ches. & Ohio	215 1/2	214 7/8	224 1/4
Erie	58 1/4	57	60
Illinois Central	129 1/4	129 1/8	129
N.Y. Central	175 7/8	180	183
Pennsylvania	78 1/2	79	80 1/2
Southern Pacific	120 1/2	120	122
Southern Rly.	135 1/2	134 1/2	133 1/2
Union Pacific	219	222	220
Am. Can.	124 1/4	128 1/2	132
Alleghany Corp.	26 1/8	26	31 1/8
Amer. Smelting	72	73	76 1/2
Anaconda	72 3/8	74 3/8	78 1/2
Bethlehem Steel	98	100 1/8	100 3/8
Chrysler Motor	35 1/2	37	40 1/2
Corn Produce	92 1/2	92 3/8	97
Eastman Kodak	185 1/2	191	190 1/2
Gen. Electric	252 1/2	72 3/8	77
Gen. Motors	40 7/8	41 3/8	43 7/8
Int. Harvester	86 1/8	90	88
Montg Ward	45 1/8	48	45 1/2
Natl. Biscuit	194	204 1/2	208
Phelps Dodge	38 7/8	40	40 3/8
Pullman	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
Sears-Roebuck	86 1/2	93	96 1/8
Studebaker	43 1/8	43 7/8	46 1/8
Un. Fruit	102	102	101
U.S. Leather	9 1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2
U.S. Rubber	24 1/2	26 1/2	24 1/2
U.S. Steel	175	182	183
Westinghouse	149 3/8	157 1/4	164 3/8
Woolworth	68 1/8	67	67
Worthington Pump	71 1/2	77 1/2	83 1/2
Am. Pow. & Light	84 1/2	86 1/2	91 1/2
Am. Tel. & Tg.	220	223	229 1/2
Electric P. & L.	55	58 1/2	60 1/2
Int. Tel. Teles.	70 1/2	63 1/2	66
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	24 1/2	36	37 1/2
Radio Corpn.	38 1/2	35 1/2	37 1/2
Utilities P. & L.	33 1/2	33 1/2	35 1/2
W. Union Tlg.	199	201 1/2	212
Associated Gas "A"	42 1/2	45 1/2	46 1/2
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25	26	25 1/8
Pan Amer. B.	51 1/2	52	54
Sinclair Oil	23 1/8	24 1/8	24 1/2
Std. California	59 1/2	59 1/2	60 1/2
Do. N.J.	62 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 30.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	149·2	153·6
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	137·9	138·7
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	209·1	213·7
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	156·9	160·8
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·36%	4·56%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Feb. 5.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Jan. 29.	Jan. 30.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 1.	Feb. 3.	Feb. 4.	Feb. 5.
183·8	166·5	176·4	177·9	180·2	181·4	179·8	181·4	183·8

PARIS.

The course of the Paris market during the month of January has revealed merely the normal continuation of the movement begun in the second fortnight of December. The extreme narrowness of the market has brought about a rise in many descriptions, especially during the first half of the month, but clients have been few, and the Paris Bourse has experienced a remarkable stagnation of business. The stability which at first resulted from the total absence of activity later developed into a slight regression, the highest point being reached before the selling of the 15th. The extreme firmness of "rentes" is indicated by the fact that 3 per cent. perpetual stock has for the first time passed 90 francs, and the 4 per cent. 1918 stock 100 francs.

"Valeurs à Terme":	Dec. 31.	Jan. 31.
Banque deFrance	24,690	25,575
Banque Algérie	16,050	16,750
Paris Pays Bas	3,100	3,170
Union Parisienne	2,205	2,240
Cie. Algérienne	2,390	2,425
Comptoir Nat.	2,045	2,055
Crédit Commer.	1,580	1,601
Crédit Foncier	5,720	5,640
Crédit Lyonnais	3,290	3,225
Suez	20,590	20,990
C. de F. Nord	2,520	2,555
C. de F. Santa Fé	2,780	2,835
Soc. Lyon. Eaux	3,545	3,720
Parisienne Elect.	2,955	3,250
Gén. Electricité	3,395	3,690
Littoral Médit.	1,385	1,432
Elect. Nord Fr.	1,140	1,215
Courrières	1,748	1,700
Mines de Lens	1,455	1,440
Penarroya	1,102	1,110
Dives	2,600	2,685
Htab. Kulmann	1,180	1,150
Phosph. Gafsa	1,013	1,021
Pechiney	3,660	3,645
Air Liquide	2,175	2,090
Caout. Indo-Ch.	809	882
"Valeurs à Terme":	Dec. 31.	Jan. 31.
Citroën	1,200	1,135
Norvég. Azote	2,380	2,160
Hotchkiss	2,179	2,315
"Valeurs au Comptant":		
Union-Vie	2,265	3,070
Urbaine Seine	1,770	1,950
Union Mines	1,595	1,670
Indo-Chine	4,735	5,450
El. Loire Centre	635	714
Dollus Mieg	10,900	10,800
Chatillon-Comm.	4,950	5,515
Denain & Anzin	3,185	3,215
Alsac. Construct.	2,725	2,975
Rhône-Poulenc	3,450	2,995
St Gobain Chauny	6,875	6,600
Givet	8,800	9,800
Kali Ste Thérèse	16,500	17,100
Rosario	25,900	25,900
J. Damoy	1,452	1,610
Pollet Chausson	2,725	3,000
S. Fr. Viscose	20,500	17,250
Ass. Generale Vie	5,480	6,275

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Marking of Bargains.—Considerable comment was aroused a few weeks ago by the action of the Stock Exchange Committee in ordering that the record of dealings in Sun Fruit Products and in Phantestra shares should not appear in the daily lists published by the Stock Exchange. This removal of publicity from the prices of the two companies' shares, declares a Stock Exchange correspondent, was held to be a strong hint that the Stock Exchange Committee were in possession of information suggesting that the machinery of the "House" was being utilised in a manner unlikely to prove profitable to the public. No ban was placed upon dealings in the shares, which continued without intermission and are still going on, although the prices at which bargains take place are not recorded in the Stock Exchange lists. The Committee's order reflected no imputation upon the companies themselves. The withdrawal of permission for the marking of bargains, however, aroused no little surprise, and in some quarters there was a disposition to criticise the Committee's action as being arbitrary. On the other hand, it appeared obvious to everybody that the Stock Exchange Committee would not have taken a step of this kind unless they had had strong reasons for doing so. It is common knowledge that two lists are published every day under the authority of the Stock Exchange Committee, one being reserved for stocks and shares which have received an official quotation, while the other is a record of bargains in securities which have not received a quotation in the Official List. The latter was instituted upon the reopening of the Stock Exchange in January, 1915, after the House had been closed for five months following the outbreak of war. At that time, when it was essential that track should be kept of dealings in stocks and shares, in order to prevent enemy sales in this country, the name of the seller and the distinctive numbers of bearer shares were required to be furnished, though these demands soon fell into disuse. In course of time, the necessity laid upon Stock Exchange members to mark every bargain was also waived, and to-day the recording of a bargain is at the discretion of the member, either broker or jobber, concerned; the daily records being no guide to the actual volume of business transacted. When, however, it is desired to give the appearance of activity in any stock or shares, one of the most telling methods is to get a good many bargains done during the day, and to have each of these marked in the Stock Exchange list. The more interest that is quickened in the minds of the public, the more easy, naturally, it is for people to sell shares of which they desire to rid themselves. The Stock Exchange Committee are therefore taking formal powers to enable them to remove any security from the record of the Official or Unofficial List. The authority already exists, but the Committee have passed a rule this week that will incorporate it into the other rules, and which will provide that a security may be removed from the record on the authority of the chairman, the deputy-chairman, or two members of one of the sub-committees. While upon the subject, reference may be made to the special marks that are placed against bargains in respect of transactions outside the ordinary course. A double asterisk distinguishes a bargain done at a special price. The seller of, say, three "Chartered" shares does not expect to obtain the same price as he would for a marketable number of shares, and the bargain is distinguished by the special sign. A triangle—popularly known as the "motor-mark"—placed against a price, refers to a bargain with or between non-members, e.g., a bargain done by a broker between two clients, or a bargain done, on account of a client, with a member of a provincial Stock Exchange. A third mark is a circle with a line through it, which indicates that the bargain was done during unofficial hours or on the previous day. This is used in cases where a bargain has been done in the "Street" market, or after 3.30 p.m. in the "House," or in cases of forgetfulness to mark a bargain done within official hours. The Stock Exchange slips for marking bargains provide separate columns for each of the three "special" cases alluded to above, but it frequently happens that bargains are inadvertently placed in the wrong column. The desirability of allowing special bargains to be marked at all, in view of the misunderstanding to which such marking constantly gives rise, is often challenged by members, brokers and dealers alike.

Tin Restriction.—We referred in the *Economist* last week to the progress made in the restriction campaign of the Tin Producers' Association, and, in particular, to the co-operation of the Bolivian companies and the acceptance by Don Simon Patino of the Presidency of the Tin Producers' Association. The Council of the Association this week announced that its recommendations with regard to the stoppage of work over week-ends and for one whole week in January and February, are now assured of sufficient support from tin producers all over

the world to justify their adoption by all members of the Association. In other words, tin restriction is a *fait accompli*. We understand that the important tin dredging companies in the Federated Malay States have already closed down for the period from January 25th to February 10 as a voluntary measure of restriction. The Tin Producers' Association further state in their announcement that a very large number of the Chinese-owned hydraulic enterprises have agreed to institute "a regular system of weekly suspension." In regard to Nigeria, as working hours in that field were already restricted and but few of the mines were working on Sundays, an alternative method of restricting output on a tonnage basis, calculated to effect a result at least equal to that obtained under the Malayan scheme, has been devised by the Nigerian Advisory Council, approved by the Association, and already put into operation. We understand that this scheme brings down the output of Nigeria, in effect, by about 20 per cent. As regards Bolivia, the Tin Producers' Association declare that a still more substantial curtailment is being effected in accordance with the plans elaborated by several very large producing interests representing the greater part of the mining industry in that country. We understand that restriction on a tonnage basis varies from about 15 per cent. in the case of the Patino mines to 50 per cent. in the case of the Aramayo-Guggenheim group. As regards the Dutch East Indies, we quote the following from the Tin Producers' Association's announcements:—"Satisfactory conversations are proceeding with the interests responsible for the production of tin in the Dutch East Indies, which is already regulated." In the smaller producing fields—Cornwall, Australia, South Africa and the Belgian Congo—operating companies have supported the recommendations of the Tin Producers' Association. These arrangements are the outcome of something approaching a crisis in the industry. Production has been running at a high level, and if the reaction in business in America persists, a state of under-consumption may obtain for some time. Last year, according to the estimates compiled by the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation, world production of tin exceeded world consumption by over 5,000 tons, and in the normal course of events an excess of supply this year of over 10,000 tons might have been looked for. Restriction of output is a policy frequently advocated, but seldom successful in the long run. So long as it is regarded as a temporary measure by the tin industry, so long as it is followed and observed by the whole of the world's producers and not merely by the British section, so long as it avoids the errors of the ill-fated rubber restriction scheme, having nothing to do with the manipulation of market prices, but aiming only at the working of short time, and so long as the breathing space it affords is used for the consideration of more permanent measures for putting the industry on its feet, it may serve its purpose as a temporary expedient. In these conditions, the scheme is up against a very severe test.

Cables & Wireless and the Post Office.—The continued liquidation in the stocks of Cables and Wireless has caused anxiety among investors. The extensive fall in values since last year is shown in the following table:—

	Highest. 1929.	End. 1929.	Present Price.
5½% Pref.	99	96	95½
7½% "A" Ord.	90½	76½	63
"B" Ord.	104	37½	31

Fresh liquidation broke out on the publication of an article in *The Times* on January 30th, which charged the Post Office with showing unwillingness to collaborate with Cables and Wireless, Ltd., in the development of the beam wireless system, which the latter had taken over. It is contended that the G.P.O., instead of making use of the beam wireless, has experimented with a long-wave system supplemented by inland connections by arrangement with the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and its European subsidiary, the Standard Cable and Telephone. This system is to be employed for communications with America and Canada, while, for the Argentine, cable telephone lines are used to Paris or Berlin, from which Continental wireless companies supply the long-distance service. Sir Robert Donald, in a subsequent letter to *The Times* of February 3, declared that the Post Office had refused to make use of the beam stations of Cables and Wireless, Ltd., for telephonic communication with the Dominions, and had instead made an alliance with an American combine (the American Telephone and Telegraph), which contemplated laying a telephone cable between Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Northern Ireland at a cost of about £3,000,000, and giving the cable constructional work to Germany. In commenting upon the allocation of shares in Imperial and International Communications Co., the operating subsidiary of Cables and Wireless, and in particular upon the small proportion (14.7 per cent.) allocated to the Marconi Co., we suggested in the *Economist* of January 25th that it was possible that the management of Cables and Wireless had decided to concentrate chiefly on the development of cable services for the time being, rather than on beam wireless. In any case, it now appears certain that the estimates of the earnings of Cables and Wireless will have to be revised, since it has been suggested that the standard revenue of the Imperial and International Communications, Ltd., which was fixed at £1,865,000, is not likely to be earned in the first year. Why the standard revenue of the Communications Co. was fixed at this figure if it was not likely to be earned is incomprehensible, especially as provision was made in the reorganisation of Cables and Wireless for a reduction in rates if profits were in excess of £1,865,000 (50 per cent. of the excess having to be passed on to the consumer), but no provision was made for any increase in rates if profits failed to reach £1,865,000. While there is no question but that dividends on the 5½ per cent. preference stock of Cables and Wireless will be amply covered, the market, which had variously estimated the earnings on the 7½ per cent. "A" ordinary stock at 5 per cent. to 6 per cent., is now inclined to revise its estimates down to between 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. The persistent selling of Cables and Wireless A and B stocks suggests that the first report of this combine is likely to disappoint the outside interests, and, in particular, those unfortunate Marconi £1 shareholders who have elected to stay outside the combine.

English Electric Reconstruction.—Despite its creditable achievements on the technical side, the English Electric Company has been in financial difficulties for some years, the directors having prepared the shareholders for a drastic reorganisation, at a fitting time, when presenting their balance sheet for 1927. Subsequent economies have cut down overhead expenses and increased operating efficiency, but the company has been unable to earn its debenture interest, and has been compelled to borrow from its bankers and to reduce working capital to meet interest and sinking fund payments. Intangible assets, such as goodwill and discount on debentures, stand in the balance sheet at as much as £882,000, while other more productive assets are definitely overvalued. Extra-ordinary meetings have now been called for February 25th next, when a scheme will be put forward for reducing the issued capital by £1,755,000 and obtaining, through Messrs. Lazard Brothers and Company, Ltd., some £750,000 of new money to enable all bank overdrafts to be liquidated and provide a substantial sum for re-equipment. The scheme inevitably involves heavy sacrifices from the preference and ordinary shareholders, while making important modifications in the rights of the convertible debenture-holders, as is shown by the following summary:—

Stock.	Amount as per Last Balance Sheet. £	To be Received in Exchange.
5½% Sinking FundConvrt. Debentures.	701,000	Principal unaffected, but ultimate repayment date extended from 1940 to 1960; prior charges limited to £125,000.
6% Convertible Debenture Stock.	1,329,916	For every £100: £35 6% deb. stock.*; £50 6½% £1 preference shares.; £15 ordinary £1.
6% Cum. £1 Pref. Shares.	983,565	For every £1: 10s. 6½% preference, cumulative *after* 4 years. All arrears cancelled.; 2s. 6d. ordinary.
Ordinary	1,664,023	Every £1 written down to 3s. 4d.

* Conversion rights cancelled; repayable at 103 per cent. at three months' notice; total limited to £750,000.

The scheme has a number of noteworthy features. The convertible debenture-holders are, in effect, asked to give up their prior rights as regards 65 per cent. of their capital, but in compensation are given slightly higher *preferential* rights in respect of half their holding, plus a share of about 15 per cent. in the "equity" of the business. The £1 preference shares are written down by 7s. 6d. and lose 3½ years' arrears of dividend, but as regards the *residuum* are given a slightly higher preferential rate (non-cumulative for the time being) and approximately 9 per cent. of the equity. The ordinary shareholders make a nominal sacrifice of five-sixths of their capital and a real sacrifice of their share in the equity, which is reduced from 100 per cent. to approximately 21 per cent. The association of a well-known City financial house with the scheme is a welcome feature. Control will, of course, pass to the Lazard interests, which will hold 55 per cent. of the voting power. The present directors have given an undertaking to resign in favour of Lazard nominees, if called upon, and it is definitely intended to reconstruct the board. Control is, however, to remain in British hands, and the association with Lazard's is expected to bring fresh business to the company. The fact that the new capital will rank not in front but behind the existing debentures and preference shares will be given due weight by existing shareholders when adjudicating on the scheme. The plan endeavours, with some ingenuity, to deal as equitably as possible with the interests of all concerned in an admittedly unpleasant contingency, and, as the probable alternative is eventual liquidation, with insufficient assets fully to cover even the convertible debenture stock, its acceptance would seem to be in the best interests of the share and debenture holders.

Courtaulds' Dividend Prospects.—There is general agreement, writes a rayon correspondent, that the forthcoming dividend of Courtaulds will be on conservative lines, and that earnings will show a reduction. So far as Great Britain is concerned, production has increased only to a small extent, while prices have been substantially reduced. In the United States, on the other hand, it is possible that, after allowing for a substantial price reduction, increased turnover combined with lower costs of production will bring total profits almost up to the previous year's level. On the Continent, where Courtaulds have increased their interest of recent years, the return may not be as large as last time. In 1928 the income from the American Viscose subsidiary was understood to be well above the actual amount paid in dividends by Courtaulds, and if these earnings have been reduced only to a small extent, the rate of dividend might be maintained. The company's finances are strong enough to bear a reduced allocation to reserves, but such a policy would be quite contrary to the practice of the board, whose conservatism is not inappropriate in a trade where considerable fluctuations in profits may be looked for in the future. Other factors may also impel the board to act with caution. Rayon prices still lack stability, both in Great Britain and on the Continent, and though the outlook is brighter than it was twelve months ago, so far as the large companies are concerned, present conditions are not conducive to the placing of large forward orders by consumers. Again, uncertainty as to the retention of the Silk Duties in the coming Budget is a factor making for caution. Though Courtaulds would probably be less seriously affected than any other company by the removal of the duties, a period of unsettlement would inevitably follow such a change. Any prolongation of uncertainty, however, might have regrettable effects on an industry in which short time is becoming pronounced.

Rhodesian Market Activity.—After some weeks of stagnation, Northern Rhodesian mining shares developed unexpected activity at the end of last month, Rhodesian Congo Border reaching a level considerably in advance of the highest for 1929. The recent course of prices is set out below:—

	Jan. 27.	Jan. 31.	Feb. 6.
Rhodesian Congo Border	8½	12½	14½
N'Changa	1⅝	2⅝	3¼
"Chartered"	40/3	42/1½	41/10½
Loangwa	5/10½	6/10½	6/9
Bwana M'Kubwa	21/3	23/6	23/-

The *raison d'être* of the movement was the receipt of a cable giving details of the extension of the "new discovery" at N'Changa. The two boreholes N.E. 8 and N.E. 16 put down by Rhodesian Congo Border to the west of N'Changa appear to have yielded outstandingly good assays, the former averaging 10.25 per cent. copper for 73 ft. and the latter 13.04 per cent. for 25 ft. before operations were suspended, while for short distances a metal content as high as 31 per cent. was recorded. The direction and consistency of the lodes has, moreover, suggested to optimistic minds the possibility that the whole area enclosed by the boreholes Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 16 would be found to contain ore of exceptional richness. At the same time a subsidiary impetus was given to Bwana M'Kubwa by new information relating to the probable continuity of the N'Kana and Mindola ore bodies. Whatever the actual developments behind the "boomlet," the market was to some extent caught napping, dealers being short of stock. Reports that two big buyers were in competition, coupled with the fact, which is no secret, that the public's holding of Congo Border shares is very limited, would seem to throw doubts on the permanence of this revived interest.

London Gas Companies.—The reports of the Gas Light and Coke Company and the South Metropolitan Gas Company were made available this week. Although the amount of coal used showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. and 4.1 per cent., respectively, the Gas Light Company had to pay 1.2 per cent. more for its coal, while the South Metropolitan saved 5.7 per cent. in this respect. Each company's sale of by-products showed a falling off amounting to between 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. The Gas Light Company increased its sales of gas by three per cent., the revenue from gas sales rising from

SECURITY FIRST

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON.

£8,171,786 to £8,463,738, allowing an increase in dividends from £5 11s. per cent. to £5 12s. per cent.

Years ended December 31.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net revenue	1,736,989	1,853,520	1,845,716
Interest on debentures, mortgages, &c.	445,143	431,874	467,386
Special purposes fund	...	50,000	50,000
Balance for dividends	1,291,846	1,371,646	1,328,330
4% preference dividend	166,281	166,281	161,281
3½% maximum dividend	91,000	91,000	91,000
Ordinary dividend, amount	942,635	1,037,285	1,044,417
" " rate per cent.	(£5/0/8)	(£5/11/0)	(£5/12/0)
To redemption fund	35,000	40,000	40,000
Increase or decrease in carry forward	+ 56,930	+ 37,080	− 8,368

No new capital was issued during the year, but £42,335 of ordinary stock and £181,315 of debenture stock were redeemed. The special deposit with the bank has been replaced by a temporary loan of £225,000. Parliamentary sanction has been obtained for the company's purchase of the undertakings of the Grays and Tilbury Gas Company and the Pinner Gas Company, the purchase taking effect on January 1, 1930. At their present price of 18s. 10½d. the company's shares yield £5 18s. 8d. per cent. The South Metropolitan's net profit rose by just over one per cent. Gas sales during the year increased by 4.14 per cent. to £3,228,101, while sales of by-products dropped 3.9 per cent., the cheaper coal producing a smaller quantity of by-products:—

Years Ended December 31.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net revenue	563,338	595,240	609,689
Interest on debentures, &c.	148,987	153,069	160,376
Balance for dividends	414,351	442,171	449,313
Preference dividend	...	30,000	30,000
Ordinary dividend	413,118 (6¼%)	413,118 (6¼%)	419,368 (6¼%)
Increase or decrease in carry forward	+ 1,233	− 947	− 55

No expenditure was effected out of reserves last year, the latter rising by £48,013 to £420,536. The cost of repairs was again heavy owing mainly to gasholder and purifier replacements. Plant for the production of Coalite on a large scale is to be installed at West Greenwich, and plant for producing low temperature fuel at East Greenwich.

London Power Company.—The report in twelve lines of the London Power Company, stating briefly that the output of the stations during the year increased by 23.46 per cent. from 593,915,537 units to 733,238,288 units, and the kilowatt demand by 11.45 per cent. from 242,700 to 270,700, and that the effective plant capacity at the end of the year totalled 355,000 kilowatts, hardly does justice to the importance of the undertaking. The company took over the generating stations of the following London companies:—Brompton and Kensington, Central Electric, Charing Cross, Kensington and Knightsbridge, London Electric, Metropolitan, Notting Hill, St. James and Pall Mall, and Westminster—all of which have bound themselves to take from the company all the electricity they require until 1971 (excepting the Metropolitan, which has bound itself to take for at least ten years all the electricity which it may require for its London area), at which date the undertakings are to be handed over to the Joint Electricity Authority. The constituent companies hold the ordinary capital of the London Power, which consists of £50,000 in £1 shares carrying a fixed dividend of 6 per cent. The investing public is interested in the debenture stock, of which £13,748,400 was outstanding on December 31, 1929, the last issue—£3,000,000—having been made in February, 1929. The results for the last three years are shown in the following table:—

Yrs. to Dec. 31.	Total Receipts. £	Generation, Repairs, etc.* £	Sinking Funds. £	Debenture Interest. £	Ord. Div. £
1927 ...	1,725,253	1,200,254	217,038	304,961	3,000
1928 ...	1,651,864	999,961	271,740	377,163	3,000
1929 ...	1,953,447	1,062,652	316,643	571,152	3,000

* Including rents, taxes and special allocations.

The sinking fund and debenture interest were only just covered in 1929, but the investor must bear in mind that each of the constituent companies has agreed that, if the receipts of London Power on revenue account for any year are insufficient to meet the charges payable, it will provide a part of the deficiency equal to the proportion that the amount paid by it for electricity purchased during the year bears to the total amount for electricity supplied by the company during that year. The London Power Company's 5 per cent. debenture stock is at present quoted at 99, having been as high as 103 in 1929 and 104 in 1928.

Rylands and Sons.—This large firm of manufacturers and warehousemen again shows highly creditable results in view of the prevailing depression in the Lancashire textile industry. Dividends, maintained at 8 per cent. subject to tax, are on this occasion comfortably covered by earnings, whereas last year it was necessary to draw on the carry-forward item to the tune of £26,000.

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31.

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net revenue	237,630	199,351	225,907
Brought forward	32,639	45,248	18,995
Preference dividend	96,438*	96,687*	96,000*
Rate % (less tax)	8	8	8
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*141,192*	*101,664*	*129,907*
Paid £	128,583*	128,917*	128,000*
Earned %	*7·1*	*5·1*	*7·4*
Paid %	6·4*	6·4*	6·4*
Carried forward	45,248	18,995	20,902

* Free of tax.

In accordance with the Companies Act, 1929, a statement is attached to the balance sheet to the effect that the profits of subsidiary companies are included in the profit and loss account only to the extent of dividends received or declared, but as these are not given separately, it is impossible to judge to what degree the improvement in the parent company's position is due to the trading of subsidiaries. The balance sheet again reveals a satisfactorily liquid position. Investments in British Government and corporation stocks total £1,747,516, and are equal to fully one-third of the total assets. Cash is depleted by £35,000 and stocks by £85,000, but against this must be set a new loan to subsidiary companies of £160,000. The present price of the £1 ordinary shares is £1 3s., which, allowing for a final dividend of 4 per cent., gives a yield of £7 2s. 3d. per cent., less tax.

De Jersey and Company's Suspension.—The announcement of the suspension of payments by De Jersey and Company, Ltd., has come as an unpleasant surprise to Manchester business circles. The company is 100 years old and for many years before its registry in 1913 (as a private company with an authorised capital of £2,000,000, of which £1,200,000 was issued in 650 ordinary shares and 550 preference shares of £1,000, fully paid), it was one of the leading shippers of textiles and textile machinery. The firm had an intimate and thorough knowledge of the Russian market and was primarily responsible for negotiating the orders placed by the Russian Textile Machinery Syndicate. Like many other exporting houses in Lancashire, however, it has recently experienced difficult times. For a number of years the Russian market was closed and, although considerable orders have been received from that quarter by British firms for textile machinery during the past two or three years, these have not compared in value with the orders received from India, China or Japan. The publicity given to several large Russian orders considerably magnified their importance and obscured the difficulties of concerns like De Jersey, which specialised in the Russian market. A further indication of the unenviable position of companies with large Russian interests is the announcement that the engineering firm of Clayton and Shuttleworth is to be put into liquidation, after being operated for seven months by a receiver. In this case the company's Russian claims amount to £301,843, exclusive of 14 years' interest.

Linoleum Merger.—The shareholders of Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd have been asked to sanction the terms of the proposed amalgamation with the Linoleum Manufacturing Company, by which the latter concern absorbs the former under the new style of "Barry and Staines Linoleum, Ltd." As set out in a preliminary memorandum dated August 28 last, for every ordinary £1 Barry, Ostlere share an ordinary £1 share of the Linoleum Company is to be issued, to be followed by a 40 per cent. bonus from capitalised reserves. In addition, 10 Linoleum £1 6 per cent. preference shares, credited as fully paid, are to be issued for every £10 6 per cent. preference share of Barry, Ostlere. The new ordinary shares will receive all dividends (other than a distribution, on or about January 31st, of 7½ per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares already issued), while the Linoleum Company is to receive all future dividends of Barry, Ostlere, other than the ordinary interim dividend of 11⅛ per cent. payable on January 31st, and the preference dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable for the half-year ended January 31st. The offer is conditional on acceptance by holders of 90 per cent. of the issued capital of Barry, Ostlere, or any smaller percentage the Linoleum Company may accept. As the whole of the present share capital of the Linoleum Company has been issued, it will be necessary for the board to seek powers to increase the authorised capital of the company by an amount sufficient to cover both the exchange and the bonus shares to be issued to shareholders of Barry, Ostlere. The two companies have hitherto produced linoleum, for the most part, of different grades, so that to some extent their business is complementary. The merging of interests and administration, however, will effect important economies, from which, it may be hoped, the public as well as shareholders will benefit.

United Fruit Company.—This company, always the first of the large American corporations to issue its annual report, has suffered less than many concerns with large shipping interests, as a result of the "controlled" sources of a large portion of its freights. It has shared in the worldwide depression in the sugar industry, but is one of the few sugar producers to show a profit on its operations last year. Its output of sugar, 1,801,277 bags, was the largest ever produced. Its refining subsidiary, the Revere Sugar Refinery, melted 354,282,591 lbs., against 361,120,180 in the previous year, but specially low producing costs partly compensated the company for lessened sales of refined sugar and the lower prices obtained. Cacao output and sales were less remunerative. Its profits from the banana trade were reduced by floods in Costa Rica early in the year, but the total shipments from tropical areas were 58,121,054 stems, a gain of 2,607,235, as compared with 1928. After payment of insurance, taxes, and allowing $9,785,646 for depreciation, net income available for dividends was $17,802,992, the equivalent of $6.78 a share, compared with $20,606,393 in 1928 and $19,671,340 in 1927. The trend of earnings has been slightly downward in recent years, but surplus account and cash in hand have steadily increased. In lieu of the extra dividends of $3,749,920 paid in 1928 and $3,749,215 paid in 1927 out of earnings of previous years, the company in 1929 paid a dividend in stock at the rate of one-twentieth of a share, while maintaining the regular rate of $4 on the no par value stock, and carrying forward $7,433,563:—

(Million of dollars.)

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Depreciation	...	7,934	9,324	9,876
Total net income	19,511	19,621	20,606	17,803
Cash dividends	9,998	†10,000	†10,000	10,369
Carried forward	9,513	9,622	10,607	7,434
Surplus, December 31st	76,156	81,029	87,885	90,319

† Not including dividends paid out of earnings of former years, $3,749,920 in 1928; $3,749,215 in 1927.

Nearly every item of the company's fixed assets increased during the year. Improved and unimproved acreage rose from 2,477,285 acres to 2,865,656, while total owned and chartered ship tonnage increased from 372,187 to 394,962 gross tons. Appropriations for capital expenditure dropped, however, to $9,768,367, about half the sum set aside in the previous year. The company's purchase of the properties and steamships of the Cuyamel Fruit Company has removed a large competitor, and the resulting economies should tend to increase earnings in 1930.

Siemens Debenture Issue.—The issue of participating debentures by the Siemens combine has given rise to an interesting discussion in Germany, writes a correspondent. Siemens and Halske have obtained from Dillon, Read and Company, New York, in connection with the Deutsche Bank and Disconto Gesellschaft, a loan on somewhat unusual terms. The issue is one of debentures running over 1,000 years. The American part of the issue amounts to $14,000,000 nominal at a price of 233 per cent., representing a gross value of about $32,000,000. The holder may give notice after 75 years; the company may give notice after 12 years; the price of repurchase is to be determined by the average New York quotations of the previous six months, to which will be added a premium graded down from 15 per cent. in 1942 to 5 per cent. in 1960, after which it will disappear. In every case, however, the price of issue, viz., 233 per cent., is to be the minimum price of repurchase. The German part of the issue is based on the value of fine gold and amounts to 10,000,000 marks; it will be offered to shareholders at 175 per cent. The conditions of the German scrip are substantially the same as those of the American. The total gross yield of the loan to Siemens will be about £7,700,000; it is believed that the bulk will be used for obtaining a financial interest in concerns which are the company's best present or potential customers—a method of sales promotion already largely in use in the electro-technical industry. The debentures are to participate in the company's profits to the same extent as the ordinary shares, but a minimum dividend of 6 per cent. on the nominal value is guaranteed. As a protection against possible depreciation through future increase of capital, it is laid down that holders of debentures shall be offered new debentures similar to the present ones on the same terms as new shares are offered to shareholders. From a purely financial point of view, the new Siemens debentures are almost equal to ordinary shares; they are, indeed, somewhat similar to the American type of voteless share. In Germany the tendency has been for some time for foreign credits to take the form of debentures approaching the character of shares as closely as possible, the most recent example being the I.G. Farbenindustrie loan. In view of the present state of the international capital market, ordinary debentures have, of course, little chance of finding sufficient demand at a reasonable rate of interest, while the issue of shares abroad holds all the dangerous possibilities of control by foreign interests. Possession of the Siemens debentures, however, will not carry any participation in the administration or, as in the case of the A.E.G., allow the holders to delegate a representative to the board. In this way, although the amount of the American debentures alone far exceeds the total share capital of the concern, Siemens have excluded the possibility of foreign control and, at the same time, pro-

tected the dominating position of the Siemens family in the firm. An interesting prospect now arises for the future grouping of the international electro-technical industry. The A.E.G. has for some time been in close co-operation with the (American) G.E.C., while Siemens has been known to have friendly relations with the American Westinghouse Corporation. It is now assumed that the General Electric will use the influence on the general policy of the Siemens concern which it will undoubtedly derive from the purchase of the debentures, to smooth over the tension between the two great German electro-technical groups. If any co-operation should thus be brought about between Siemens and the A.E.G., which have a combined annual turnover of roughly £72,500,000, and a combination in international business be effected between the two German groups and the American General Electric, which has an annual turnover of about £90,000,000, the trio would have a combined power far in excess of all the other world groups put together. Whether matters will thus develop and whether the fourth large group—Westinghouse (with an annual turnover of about £50,000,000)—will eventually be included in some sort of agreement, must be left to conjecture.

San Francisco.—In view of the absence of any increase in the dividend, writes our mining correspondent, it may have come as a surprise to shareholders to find that last year's earnings on the part of this Mexican enterprise substantially exceeded those of the preceding period. The explanation lies in the treatment of a somewhat increased tonnage, for a relatively higher revenue. To what extent the latter feature is due to the recovery in the price of lead, and to what extent to other factors, does not appear, and is scarcely ascertainable from the report. Although the dividend for the past year is the same as that in respect of 1927-28, the instalments were 15 per cent. interim and 22½ per cent. final, as against 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. previously. The conservatism shown on the latest occasion is attributable to the difficulties with which the company was faced in November as a result of the shortage of power. To guard against a repetition of this, and to supplement the existing supply, a steam-driven electric power plant was erected on the property; it came into operation on December 1st. The vendors accepted payment in some 23,000 shares taken at 36s. each—a very advantageous arrangement for the 'Frisco:—

YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Net profits	320,029	283,130	333,589
Brought forward	114,885	129,122	125,260
Ordinary shares:			
Earned £	*320,029*	*283,130*	*333,589*
Paid £	300,792	281,992	286,285
Earned %	*42·6*	*37·7*	*43·7*
Paid %	40·0	37·5	37·5
Other allocations	5,000*	5,000*	...
Carried forward	129,122	125,260	172,564

* Directors' commission.

The financial position shown by the balance sheet is a strong one—but not quite so strong as might be inferred at first sight, as the £171,770 required to cover the final dividend falls to be deducted. Allowing for this, the surplus of cash and cash assets amounts to about £211,000. Despite the curtailment of development due to shortage of electrical power, the fully developed ore reserves, at 1,458,900 tons, are up by 63,900 tons; the partly blocked out tonnage indicates a decrease. The total of 1,894,500 represents about six years' supply for the mill. At the current price of 24s. 6d. for the 10s. shares the yield works out at 15 per cent. Allowance is therefore made by the market for the probable effect upon profits of the setback in lead and the renewed fall in zinc and silver—the former to the lowest level for about 30 years and the latter to the lowest on record.

Company Registrations in 1929.—The annual compilation of Messrs Jordan and Sons shows that while the aggregate nominal capital of new companies registered at Somerset House last year, £229,568,122, was higher than in any year since the period of inflated values of the post-Armistice boom, and exceeded the 1928 total by £9,061,996, the Stock Exchange depression caused a marked slowing down in registrations during the second half of the year. Between January and June the total nominal capital registered by new companies was over £152,000,000, but between July and December only a further £77,000,000 was registered. As usual, public companies, though representing but a minority in numbers, accounted for much the largest part of the total capital. Last year 623 public companies were registered with an average capital of £250,500, and 8,049 private companies with an average capital of £9,100. The progress of rationalisation in British industry was attested by the registration of numerous concerns formed to amalgamate existing companies, the most noteworthy of which were the Imperial Smelting Corporation, with a nominal capital of £7,500,000, the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, with £5,000,000, and four companies formed in connection with the reorganisation of the Armstrong Whitworth interests. Messrs Jordan express the view that the coming into force of a new Companies Act on November 1st probably acted as a brake on activity in company promotion during the final months. It remains to be seen, however, whether this factor will militate to any appreciable extent against the activity of the promoter when the wheel has gone full circle, and market conditions are once more favourable.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Lloyds Bank, Canadian Bank of Commerce, London Merchant Bank, Sterling Trust, United States and General Trust, Standard Trust, United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations, Phillips Rubber Soles, and Hackney Furnishing Company (1928). At the meeting of United Serdang Rubber Plantations, Mr Eric Miller declared that the native smallholders were again squandering their bark reserves at a very rapid rate, and that, when they came to the end of the tappable bark on the lower panels of their trees, there must be a pronounced falling off in production. Sir George Touche, presiding at the meeting of the Sterling Trust, Ltd., expressed disappointment that the Argentine authorities had found it necessary to suspend the smooth working of the Caja de Conversion as soon as its gold reserves had begun to be drawn upon in the first phase of momentary financial depression. At the first annual meeting of the Hackney Furnishing Company the chairman said that the company had a chain of twenty shops, mainly falling into the category of good-class provincial stores.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The only public issue of the week, the *Brighton Corporation* loan, has a special interest as the first British corporation issue to be made, since the "Hatry" *débâcle*, by the old-established and conservative house which was accustomed to handle this business before the advent of the Corporation and General Securities Company, now in liquidation. The stock is a trustee issue, secured on the revenue of a populous and wealthy borough, with a high reputation as a borrower and a population reputed to be a loyal supporter of "home" issues. The authorities, however, would seem to have been disinclined to pay, for some years to come, a rate of interest reflecting tight market conditions which may well be ephemeral, the price at which the stock was offered being undoubtedly high, judged by current market conditions. Underwriters were, in fact, left with 48½ per cent. of the total, but the steady absorption of the stock in the market may be confidently looked for in the near future.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale

Net total recorded, January 1 to February 1, 1930, £13,988,985.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to February 1, 1930, £13,988,985.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended February 1, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to February 1, 1930, *Dr. £2,900,000.*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
To the Public.					
Brighton Corporation	1,100,000	...	1,094,500	55,000	1,039,500
Total offered to public, week ended Feb. 8, 1930	1,100,000	...	1,094,500	55,000	1,039,500
To Shareholders only.					
Crittall Manufacturing, 125,000 Ord. £1 at 25s.	125,000	...	156,250	62,500	93,750
Durban Roodepoort Deep 325,642 10/- at par	162,821	...	162,821	162,821	...
National Mortgage and Agency Co. of N. Zealand, 125,000 "B" Ord. £1 at 35s.	125,000	...	218,750	62,500	156,250
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Feb. 8, 1930	412,821	...	537,821	287,821	250,000

Total Offered for Subscription— To date—	Including Conversions. £	Including Conversions. £
1930	15,671,306	15,671,306
1929	66,510,374	52,935,823
1928	...	124,132,239
1927	...	101,694,785
1926	...	33,821,791
1925	...	19,113,622
1924	...	24,949,955
1923	...	40,320,648

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total, week ended February 8, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Total to date, 1929	2,116,450	...	5,206 321

Brighton Corporation.—Issue of £1,100,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1950-60, at 99½ per cent. Principal will be repaid at par on July 1, 1960, or on or after July 1, 1950, on three months' notice at the option of the Corporation. Trustees are authorised to invest funds in this stock. The rateable value of the Borough of Brighton is £1,504,380, and a rate of 1d. in the pound is estimated to produce £6,150. The total outstanding net debt on January 1, 1930, was £5,122,301, including £731,527 temporary borrowing to be repaid out of this issue.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and rubber company statistics will be found on page 330, under the heading "Company News."]

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

THE GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY.

LIABILITIES.	Dec. 31, 1929. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Capital		−172,736
Net revenue	815,546	− 14,554
Redemption fund	20,000	...
Reserve fund	155,405	+ 4,559
Special purposes fund	647,009	+ 34,270
Depreciation fund	112,989	+ 3,197
Int. on deb., &c.	183,521	− 5,439
Unclaimed divs.	3,756	...
Cons'mrs' deposits	46,332	− 631
Creditors, &c.	2,582,773	+ 98,846
Officers' guarantee, &c., funds	165,924	+ 7,406
Officers' superannuation fund	548,115	+ 33,688
Co-partners' pension fund	392,852	+123,542
Co-partnership bonus, &c.	102,462	+ 26,971
Officers' insurance society, &c.	100,798	+ 1,097
Benevolent fund	1,667	...
War memorial fund	68,406	+ 1,943
Temporary loan	225,000	+225,000
Total	6,072,555	+267,159

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1929. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Capital	663,259	+663,259
Cash	190,970	+ 28,257
Deposit with banks	...	−550,000
Stores	1,804,348	− 28,692
Debtors	3,413,978	+154,335
Total	6,072,555	+267,159

RYLANDS AND SONS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
8% cum. pref., £1	1,500,000	...
Ord. shares, £1	2,000,000	...
Reserve fund	250,000	...
Insurance contingency fund	350,000	...
Staff fund	216,204	− 2,904
Deposit accounts	271,326	+ 58,654
Creditors	391,948	+218,970
Profit and loss	132,902	+ 303
Total	5,112,380	−162,917

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Properties	880,856	+ 51,283
Stocks	875,690	− 83,749
Debtors	1,096,398	−210,691
Due by subsidiary companies	160,902	+160,902
Investments—		
British Govt. securities, British railways and corpn. stocks	1,747,516	− 47,596
Shares in subsidiaries	158,625	+ 1,507
Cash and bills	192,393	− 34,573
Total	5,112,380	−162,917

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year
BANKS.				%	%
Banco de Peru y Londres	6%†	...	...	12	12
Bank of New South Wales	2½%*	Feb. 27	Quarterly	...	...
Bank of Nova Scotia	...	...	...	16	16
Banque Co-operative Suisse	...	...	...	5½	5½
Credit Suisse	...	...	...	8	8
Industrial Bank of Japan	3%*	...	...	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Queensland	...	...	...	12½	12½
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Bas Lias Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	6
Toerangie Rubber and Produce	...	...	Less tax	7½	8
Val D'Or Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	Nil
MINING.					
Kampar Malaya Tin	7½%*	Feb. 28	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Bent's Brewery	5%†	and 5%	bonus	15	15
Bovril (Def.)	8%†	...	...	13	13
Bradbury Greatorex	3%† and	bonus 6	% ...	12	12
Braby (Frederick)	5%*	Mar. 1	Less tax	...	...
Brewery and Com. Invest. (Def.)	4%*	Feb. 15	Less tax	...	...
British Land	...	...	...	7½*b*	6*c*
Canadian Car and Foundry	44c. p.s.	Feb. 28	Quarterly	...	...
Cardiff Gas Light	3%†	...	...	6	6
Carlton Trust	...	...	Tax free	6	10
City of Aberdeen Property	...	...	...	8½	8½
City of Buenos Ayres Trams.	...	...	Less tax	5	5
City of London Real Property	1½%*	Mar. 10	Quarterly	...	...
Clarkson's Old Brewery	10s.p.s.*	...	Tax free	...	...
Commercial Gas	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Consett Spanish Ore	10%*	Feb. 15	Less tax	...	...
Constable Hart	6%*	Feb. 15	Less tax	...	...
Crockers	...	...	...	3	3
Fairy Dyes	...	...	...	12½*a*	...
Fife Coal	...	...	Tax free	8	3
Fleming Reid	5%†	and bon	us 5%	15	15
Foreign and Colonial Invest.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Foster Porter	...	...	...	5	10
Gen. Consol. Invest. Trust	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
General Funds Invest. Trust	...	...	Less tax	5	5
General Hydraulic Power	4½%†	...	...	7	7
Guardian Investment	...	...	Less tax	11	11
Hart and Levy	7%†	...	...	10	10
Hayes Candy and Company	5½%†	...	...	8	8
Heritable Securities and Mtge. Invest.	...	...	...	9	9
Holborn and Frascati	4%† and	bonus 4½	% ...	12½	12½
H.P. Sauce	...	...	Less tax	30	...
Imp. Hydro. Hotel, Blackpool	...	...	Tax free	15	15
Improved Wood Pavement	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Lamot	5%*	Feb. 6	Less tax	...	...
London Pavilion	...	...	Tax free	6*e*	6*e*
London Power	...	...	...	6	6
London Property Invest. "A"	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Trust "B"	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Lovibond (John) and Sons	3½%†	and bon	us 2½%	10	7½
Maidenhead Brick	...	...	...	90	56
Maidstone Gas	4%*	Feb. 12	Less tax	...	...
Manchester Corn Grocery	4%†	...	Less tax	8	9
Manchester Royal Exchange	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Merchants' Trust	9%†	...	Less tax	14	14
Mercantile Investment	...	...	...	16½	16
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Gas	...	Feb. 27	Less tax	5½	5½
Newport (Mon.) Gas (Cons. Stk.)	2½%†	...	...	5	5
North of Ireland Paper Mill	4½d. p.s.†	...	Tax free	4½	4½
Premier Investment	5%†	...	...	10	10
Read Brothers	...	...	Less tax	13	11
Rly. Debenture and Gen. Trust	5½%†	...	...	9	8
Rly. Share Trust and Agency	6%†	...	...	10	9
Royal Exchange, Glasgow	...	...	Less tax	6	7
Royal Exchange (Leeds)	7%†	...	Less tax	12*d*	12*d*
Rylands and Sons	4%†	...	...	8	8
Scottish Reversionary	...	...	...	6	6
Second American Trust	2½%*	...	...	...	...
Second British Assets	7½%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Shanks and Co.	...	...	...	10	10
Sheffield Billposting	...	...	...	20	...
Shrewsbury Gas Light	2½%*	Mar. 1	Less tax	...	...
Smith (Stephen)	5%*	Mar. 1	...	...	...
Southampton Gas Light	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
South Metropolitan Gas	...	...	...	6½	6½
South Suburban Gas	...	...	...	6½	6½
United Grain Elevators	3½%†	...	...	8½	8½
Wampoe Tobacco	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
West Hamp. Water "A" & "B"	2½%*	Feb. 28	Less tax	...	...
Westinghouse Brake	...	...	Less tax	8	10
Woolley, Sanders	...	...	...	2½	10
Yorktown (Camberley) Gas	...	...	Less tax	6½	...

a Company formed in 1928 and during first period same rate. *b* Bonus 1½ per cent. *c* Bonus 1 per cent. *d* In addition, bonus 5s. p.s. *e* Bonus 2s.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED.

INCREASED NET PROFITS.
MONETARY CONDITIONS—EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BANK RATE.
PROVISION FOR HATRY LOSSES.
BANKS AND THE REORGANISATION OF INDUSTRY.
MR. J. BEAUMONT PEASE'S REVIEW.

The seventy-second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Lloyds Bank, Limited, was held on the 31st ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr J. Beaumont Pease (chairman of the bank) presided.

The auditors' report having been read by Sir Gilbert Garnsey, K.B.E.,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report, said :—During the past year death has robbed us of two of our colleagues, Mr. W. S. de Winton, who was a director of the bank for nearly twenty years, and Viscount Younger of Leckie, who joined the board when the National Bank of Scotland became affiliated with us in 1918, and we have elected in their places Mr Robert K. Blair, who is chairman of the National Bank of Scotland, and Sir Alexander R. Murray, C.B.E., who has had a distinguished business career in India and elsewhere.

Our director Mr R. H. Brand has been appointed as a member of the important and influential Committee which has recently been formed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inquire into banking, finance and credit. We welcome the formation of this Committee, as it should not fail to produce much valuable evidence and throw light on the general banking system of the country, and I hope it will dispel many of the misconceptions which are held in different sections of the community as to the functions and usefulness of the banks and the services which they render to the public.

Another interesting item has been the appointment of our former colleague, Lord Bledisloe, to the high office of Governor-General of New Zealand.

A face which we miss to-day is that of Mr W. H. Cooper, who, as secretary of the bank, has for the past nine years been a familiar figure at our annual general meetings. He retired in June last, after 42 years' service. Mr G. H. Chattaway has been appointed secretary of the bank in his place.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The balance sheet and profit and loss account having been circulated with the annual report to all shareholders, I assume it is your wish that we should take them as read. (Agreed.) You will have noticed that the alterations in our balance sheet necessitated by the new Companies Act are quite trifling. We have always given full particulars of our shareholdings in our two subsidiary banks, the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., and the Bank of London and South America, Ltd. We now have to show our balances in account with our subsidiaries; we have to state how their profits have been disposed of; and the fees received by our directors have also to be quoted.

Taking the liabilities side of our balance sheet first of all, our capital and reserve remain unaltered.

We have at the present time about sixty-five thousand shareholders on our books, and it may interest you to know that for some years past we have had an independent audit of our share registers made by our auditors, who, after examining all transfers and old certificates lodged with the bank, give us week by week a certificate to the effect that all new share certificates laid before the board for sealing are correct. (Hear, hear.)

The two great factors in the earning power of our bank are its total resources of capital, reserve and deposits, and the prevailing value of money. With the latter I shall have to deal when I come to discuss the profit and loss account. As regards the former, it is satisfactory to be able to report that throughout the year our current, deposit and other accounts, as you will have seen from our monthly published figures, have been consistently at a higher level than in 1928 . The average for the year is four million pounds higher than for the preceding twelve months, but payments on behalf of our customers for the 5 per cent. Conversion Loan cause our balance-sheet figure of £351,644,000 to be half-a-million less than a year ago.

TIME DEPOSITS AND CALL MONEY.

Some interest has recently been awakened in the varying ratio of time deposits to call money. We agree with the view that the fullest publicity should be given to any reliable data which may reflect the general trend and activity of trade, and we have, as you know, taken a lead in making our balance sheet as informative as possible. We therefore have pleasure in giving the figures for this bank in the hope that they may throw light upon the periodic fluctuations of credit and employment. While it is undoubtedly the fact that as trade slackens a tendency sets in to transfer call money on to time deposit, and that with the revival of activity the reverse process takes place, it would be a mistake to regard this as a cause rather than a symptom of the condition of trade.

At the same time, there are other influences continually operating which it is not easy to eliminate. For instance, the fall in bank deposits due to the ingathering of taxes in the early part of the year has a much more pronounced effect upon current account balances than upon deposits. The general level of money rates also appears to have a bearing upon the subject. However, for what they may be worth, we give our figures for the past quarter of a century. I will not weary you by reading them. The salient points are that the proportion of current account money falls from 1902 to 1907, and then remains fairly steady till 1914. There is a steep rise through the war period, followed by a quick fall in 1920 and 1921, since when, except for a slight recovery in 1923-24, the curve has fallen steadily away and is now at its lowest point. These variations have a considerable effect upon the bank's profits.

Yearly Averages of Current Account Credit Balances Expressed as Percentages of Total Deposits.

1902	58.2	1916	55.9
1904	56.6	1917	58.1
1904	56.1	1918	60.6
1905	56.0	1919	60.7
1906	53.6	1920	56.7
1907	51.5	1921	50.7
1908	52.0	1922	49.7
1909	51.8	1923	51.5
1910	51.5	1924	51.0
1911	51.0	1925	49.6
1912	51.1	1926	48.6
1913	51.6	1927	47.4
1914	49.9	1928	46.4
1915	52.5		

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BALFOUR COMMITTEE.

While we are on the subject of statistics, I might remind you that, among the many excellent recommendations of the Balfour Committee on Industry and Trade, was one to the effect that the joint-stock banks should publish their annual turnover—that is, the total value of the cheques drawn on customers' accounts—as it was thought that this would give more guidance than the Clearing House figures. You will be interested to know that arrangements have been made to give effect to this recommendation as from January 1.

Our acceptances, which, under the influence of a steady 4½ per cent. Bank rate, showed a marked upward tendency throughout 1928, fell away during the first half of last year, and have not since recovered. A period of cheaper money should bring renewed expansion in this class of business.

Our endorsements, guarantees and other obligations, in which are included our forward exchange contracts, show a reduction of three million pounds. Practically all nations have now returned to a gold standard in one form or another, and we welcome the recent decision of Japan in this connection. Spain, it is true, has not yet overcome all her difficulties, and the recent defection of the Argentine Government is a retrograde step. Foreign exchanges have

became much more stable than they were a few years ago, and some fall in our forward exchange business might have been anticipated. In fact, however, we find that our customers continue to make full use of the facilities which we are able to offer them to protect their trading commitments with foreign countries.

LIQUID ASSETS.

On the assets side, our cash in hand and with the Bank of England, together with the balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the British Isles (the latter, of course, becoming cash in a day or two) stand at £57,000,000, which is 16.1 per cent. of our total deposits.

Our money at call and short notice, £26,500,000, of which about one-fifth is lent upon fortnightly loans to the Stock Exchange, is 7.5 per cent. of our deposits.

Taking these three items ,together we have £83,500,000, equal to 23.6 per cent. of our deposits in a most liquid form.

Our balances at call and short notice with banks abroad, which a year ago stood at a little over £2,000,000, are at the moment £2,500,000 higher.

Our next most liquid asset is our bills. We have continued our policy of taking all approved bills offered to us for discount by our own customers, and filled up our portfolio with Treasury bills. Thus we had on December 31st Treasury bills amounting to £27,000,000 and commercial bills £12,000,000, of which £4,000,000 were Colonial and foreign bills.

Our investments are all valued at market price or under, and out of a total of £37,000,000, £17,000,000 is in Treasury bonds and other short-term British securities and £16,500,000 in other British Government securities.

The value of our holding in the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., has been increased approximately by the sum of £50,000, which that bank transferred to its reserve fund out of the profits of their last financial year. It will be observed that nothing is included for goodwill. The Bank of London and South America, Ltd., shares are still valued at £8 10s. per share.

ADVANCES.

Our loans and advances stand at £191,750,000, which is £4,500,000 more than a year ago. Throughout the year we have experienced a keen demand for accommodation, and on two occasions during the year the total advances for the ten London clearing banks have for the first time exceeded £1,000,000,000. Unfortunately, as was recently pointed out in *The Times*, this is no indication of the tendency of trade, but it is largely the result of the continued depression in some industries, which has prevented them from reducing their loans, and the comments made in the same paper as to the sympathetic treatment by the banks are amply borne out by our own knowledge and experience. (Hear, hear.)

Our annual analysis of overdrafts classified according to trades shows little of outstanding interest this year. Out of thirty-one groups, eighteen show increases and thirteen decreases, the variations upwards or downwards being quite small.

Agriculture retains its place at the head of the list as regards the amount lent, though a slight decrease is noticeable spread over a large number of branches. This is probably attributable to advances which our customers have received from the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Foodstuffs and tobacco, building trades, theatres and hotels are groups in which continued activity is indicated. An increase in advances on imported corn is due to heavy shipments of wheat. Local authorities are borrowing less. Cotton advances reflect the general depression in the cotton industry. Shipping is also down, although we are happy to know that many of our shipyards are now more fully engaged than they have been for some time past.

Advances to stockbrokers are £200,000 up. Having regard to the prominence which has been given to the immense amount of bank credit used in America for Stock Exchange speculation, the very moderate amount of our advances to stockbrokers is a proof of the safe principles on which banking in connection with Stock Exchange business in this country is conducted. (Hear, hear.)

OTHER ASSETS.

As regards the remaining items on the assets side of the balance sheet, £54,501 relates to a small subsidiary of ours in India which owns some of our banking premises there; items in transit consist mainly of articles in course of post, which, on the day following the date of the balance sheet, will become debits to customers' accounts, and will consequently go either to diminish current, deposit and other accounts, or to increase loans and advances. Other assets and accounts include certain freehold and leasehold properties not at present used for banking business, but purchased to provide for further extensions, together with securities in course of realisation, written down to a very safe value, and impersonal accounts, such as our stock of stamped cheques.

BANK PREMISES—NEW HEAD OFFICE.

Bank premises at £6,957,000 show an increase of £180,000 on the year. During the past twelve months we have opened eight new branches in London and 43 in the country.

Our new head office premises are approaching completion, and I think we may all be proud of the stately and beautiful building which faces Lombard Street and Cornhill, into which I hope we may enter about mid-summer. These new premises have been very carefully designed so as to afford the utmost convenience and economy of internal arrangement under the most comfortable modern working conditions, and it will be a relief to us, after these many years of inconvenience and wasteful discomfort, to have our head office and City office centralised in one home, which will, I hope, provide for the steady and almost automatic growth of the bank for many years to come. (Hear, hear.) Shareholders will recollect that we made provision a few years ago for the estimated cost of this new building in setting aside from realised profits on investments a sum which, we hope, may not be materially exceeded.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Let us now turn to our profit and loss account. It has been necessary to provide a larger amount than usual for bad and doubtful debts. A disquieting feature of the year has been noticeable throughout the greater part of the world. In Germany, Italy, France, America, and in other countries, a number of failures have taken place among banking and financial houses, as also in commercial concerns, due not so much to ordinary business difficulties, but to irregularities committed by individuals at the head of the respective businesses, whether in collusion with others or not, but without the knowledge of the general body of their colleagues. We in this country have not been immune from this phenomenon, though I am happy to think that, generally speaking, the high integrity of British character in business dealings is recognised as being pre-eminent in the world. (Hear, hear.)

HATRY GROUP ADVANCES.

You will expect me to refer at some length to what has been termed the Hatry case, and I should wise to do so, in view of the grotesque reports as to the extent and manner in which we are supposed to have been involved.

Fantastical figures of imaginary losses incurred by us have been freely bandied around, extending from £1,000,000 to some very much larger figures. Let me relieve your anxiety at once and at the same time put an end, I hope, to these wild stories. We have not a single penny invested in any company connected with the Hatry group, nor in any of their Corporation securities—(hear, hear)—but we acted as bankers to some of the companies, and, in common with other banks, we made advances to them almost entirely against what we believed to be Trustee securities, or good Stock Exchange securities outside the group, or against guarantees. These advances were made either to help municipal finance or in the belief that we were assisting the rationalisation of industry, and in no case for the furtherance of Stock Exchange operations.

Any securities of the group in our possession were lodged by way of margin only, and we should suffer little loss but for the fact that many of the municipal and other securities are now challenged as having been fraudulently issued or dealt with. Some very important and difficult questions of law as between innocent parties have arisen in consequence, which will have to be settled by the Courts, and, until that has been done, it is impossible to say exactly what our loss may be. We have, however, taken the prudent course of providing in the usual way out of the profits of the past year a sum of £500,000. We are quite satisfied that in no case is there any reasonable possibility of that amount being exceeded. (Hear, hear.) On the contrary, we believe that it will be substantially reduced.

BANCA ITALO-BRITANNICA.

I must specifically mention another matter which has come to light during the past year. Early in 1929 it came to the knowledge of the British Italian Banking Corporation, Ltd., in which company we and other banks were shareholders, that its subsidiary, the Banca Italo-Britannica, had incurred serious losses through grave irregularities which had taken place in Italy. After full discussion of the position by the banks and other institutions interested, the conclusion was unanimously reached that, although we were under no legal liability, it was the duty of the shareholders, and particularly of the shareholding banks, in the interests of British banking throughout the world, to come to the assistance of the Banca Italo-Britannica and to provide that those depositors and others who had entrusted funds to them should not suffer any loss—(hear, hear)—and an announcement to that effect was made in the Press on February 22, 1929.

A scheme was then formulated under which full provision was made for the losses incurred by the Banca Italo-Britannica through the irregularities above mentioned, and the balance sheet of that bank was put in order.

Reorganisation of a comprehensive nature has in the meantime been effected, and, as a result, the chairman of the bank in Italy was enabled at the annual general meeting held in Milan to announce that the task of the British group had been completely fulfilled.

It is yet too early to estimate what may be our share of such total loss as will fall to be divided among the banks interested, but out of our own ample contingency fund we have thought well to provide an amount which will, even in the worst possible circumstances, be fully sufficient to meet any demands made upon us. Apart from this, everything has been covered by the ordinary profits of the current year.

I have been more than usually informative with you on this subject of bad debts, partly because I believe in frankness for frankness' saks, and partly, as I have already pointed out, to remove various false conceptions. (Hear, hear.)

PROFIT AND ALLOCATIONS.

Apart from these matters, banking conditions throughout the year have been very difficult, and, at the same time, very interesting. Considered solely with a view to gross profits, 1929 has been a good banking year. It may not be out of place, however, to point out that a high Bank rate does not necessarily mean increased profits to bankers. In Scotland, for instance, where rates are agreed between the banks, the margin of profit between the lending rates and the borrowing rates was 8s. 3d. per cent. less in 1929 than in the preceding year. I am glad to be able to say that, in spite of the larger provisions to which I have referred, we are in the happy position of being able to bring in a net profit of £2,542,083, which is £13,941 more than a year ago. (Hear, hear.) The usual interim dividends were paid for the half-year ended June 30th last; we have placed £250,000 to the bank premises account and £300,000 to staff superannuation fund, these allocations being the same as last year; and, if you agree to the final dividends which we recommend, we shall have a balance of £508,234 to carry forward in our profit and loss account, an increase of £18,198. (Hear, hear.)

ORGANISATION.

With the rearrangement of our general management, under which Mr F. A. Beane and Mr G. F. Abell were appointed chief general managers, and Mr R. A. Wilson, Mr S. Parkes, and Mr S. P. Cherrington promoted to the position of joint general managers of the bank, a comprehensive scheme of staff training is being oragnised, and it is hoped that under it a more efficient system for the recognition of exceptional talent and consequent promotion will gradually evolve. This should provide additional encouragement in the future to those who enter the service of the bank, but it will naturally be some time before all the advantages and benefits of such a change will be apparent. We always desire service in our bank to be an attractive profession. It offers great prizes which are open to all, and we realise that one of the secrets of success in an institution like ours lies in a contented staff, in good team work, and also in individual effort. (Hear, hear.)

It will be interesting, while I am dealing with this subject, to inform shareholders that members of our staff obtained first and second places in all England in the final examination of the Institute of Bankers, and also won the Beckett Memorial Prize, the Whitehead Prize for Practice and Law of Banking, the Gwyther Prize for French, and the George Rae Prize. (Hear, hear.)

It is the policy of this bank steadily to proceed with the mechanisation of such part of the book-keeping work of the bank as can profitably be dealt with by the remarkably efficient ledger-posting and other calculating machines which are now available. This change is being made with all due caution, for, based on experience which is being acquired, it is anticipated that the special machines will be subject to continued improvement.

INDIA.

Our Indian branches continue to make steady progress. Their business is self-contained, and makes little or no call on our resources on this side.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

Perhaps the most interesting, but in some ways a disturbing, feature of the past year has been the movement of gold, and a recent return shows us how exceptional and large this has been. We saw in the early part of the year large shipments to the United States of America, which were used to finance the stock markets there, where very high rates of interest were obtainable, and which necessitated the first rise in our Bank rate to 5½ per cent. on February 7. For a short time this rise checked the outflow, but it commenced again towards the beginning of June, not only in the same direction, but also in the direction of Germany, and during that month £4,000,000 in gold was taken by the United States of America and £2,500,000 by Germany.

This in itself was serious, but in July commenced what proved to be the largest and most persistent demand that we have had to meet—namely, from France. This continued intermittently until the end of the year, and very nearly £35,000,000 is the total amount of our gold shipments in that direction. The rise in our Bank rate to 6½ per cent. on September 26th seemed to exercise the desired check on the German and American exchanges, but did not affect the French demand, which seems to arise from causes other than those of pure exchange or the value of money. It was only at the end of October, when the inflated stock markets in America began to show signs of crumbling, that the relief came, enabling the Bank of England to reduce its rate to 6 per cent. on October 31st, to 5½ per cent. on November 21st, and again to 5 per cent. on December 12th. Since then a moderate flow of gold to this country has occurred, and what is equally important is that the Continental demand has been largely satisfied from sources outside London, and the net efflux for the year had been reduced at the end of December to some £8,000,000.

EFFECTIVENESS OF BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.

Once again the effectiveness of the Bank of England rate as a regulator of the international money situation has been clearly demonstrated, and one cannot help feeling that the recent measures of control by that institution must commend themselves to all unprejudiced observers; but it is none the less disturbing to realise how seriously the position over here can be affected by a widespread gamble in other parts of the world, a contingency to which I suppose we may always be subjected, although the recent lesson may have salutary results for some time to come.

It must, however, always be borne in mind, as is well pointed out by our colleague Mr W. W. Paine, in his excellent little book on Banking, that, although a high Bank rate may in a measure hamper trade, a much greater and more pressing evil would result from allowing our stock of gold to be depleted beyond the danger point—namely, the risk of bringing down our whole credit structure, depreciating our currency and intensifying adverse foreign exchange—which would do infinitely greater and more immediate damage to our trade and commerce than is done by a temporarily high Bank rate.

BANKERS AND INDUSTRY.

We hear to-day a great deal about rationalisation, and in some quarters there seems to be a certain amount of blame levelled at the banks that they are not using their influence and power to enforce amalgamations and reconstructions, and generally to assume functions which at present they only exercise to a limited extent. No doubt there is a great deal to be done by some industries in this direction, ad if I may say so, a great deal of spade work is at present in progress. We can ask ourselves how far can the banks assist; how far do their functions extend; and what is the form of influence they can usefully exert where any steps should appear to them to be desirable? How far can they legitimately press their customers in this direction; is their judgment likely to be better than that of those who have been brought up in the business concerned; and would not the ultimate responsibility for lack of success of any such schemes suggested by the banks react upon them?

My own answer to these somewhat difficult questions is definitely that it is not the function of individual banks, or even of banks as a whole, if that were a practical possibility, to initiate the reorganisation of industry, or to try to dictate the steps which should be taken in this direction. In the case of a particular company a banker may have very definite knowledge that all is not well with its affairs, and there have been many cases in recent years where distinguished bankers have served on reorganisation committees and have assisted in evolving schemes for the improvement of the business in question, and banks have followed this up by financial help in the reconstitution.

RÔLE OF THE BANKS.

But I do not think bankers have the necessary detailed knowledge of the condition of an industry as a whole, or are sufficiently acquainted with its technicalities, to be in a position to say what particular reforms are advisable; what flaws there may be in its technical procedure; or what units are redundant. These points should be left to the industry itself or to technical experts, called in for the purpose, to determine. No doubt banks have an important and useful *rôle* to play in providing the necessary temporary finance for the reconstituted industry, if they are satisfied that the position has been sufficiently investigated and that the reforms instituted have reasonable hopes of success. I have no doubt at all that banks will be willing in such an event to do their part.

A company such as that recently formed under the auspices of the Bank of England should prove a most useful intermediary in this way between industry and the banks. As to the nature of the financial help which a bank should give, there is no clear-cut division between liquid capital, such as seasonal advances, which all are agreed it is within the function of banks to supply, and fixed capital, which in the ordinary course is subscribed by the investing public. There is an intermediate class of capital for which it is not always easy to state the proper source. I do not think, however, that anyone who realises the nature of English banking and the fiduciary position of bankers to the public for the repayment of money left in their hands would lightly advocate the investment of bank deposits in anything which was of doubtful liquidity. (Hear, hear.)

POST OFFICE ROBBERIES.

A disquieting feature of recent times has been the numerous robberies of currency while in charge of the Post Office, and these seem to be becoming more frequent as time goes on. The Post Office assumes no responsibility in this respect, and banks and the public generally have suffered heavy losses from this cause. Some communications have taken place over a number of years between bankers and the Post Office authorities on this subject, and no doubt serious consideration has been given to the best methods of removing this blot on the administration of a public service, but nothing so far seems to have materialised, and the risk of entrusting money to the care of the Post Office is as great as ever. At the least it surely ought not to be beyond the powers of the authorities to institute a system of insurance which, for a much smaller premium than that charged by an outside institution which has no control over the transport of the money, would at any rate protect the public from the risk of total loss. (Hear, hear.)

GENERAL TENDENCIES.

In regard to trade and prospects generally, I am not going to indulge in the easy but dangerous luxury of prophesying. I do not, however, see any reason for being pessimistic. The desire of us all is to see our industries more active and our people more fully employed. As leaders of all parties have expressed their belief that the question of unemployment ought not to be regarded as a political or party one, perhaps it may be permissible for me to point out the sharp contrast which seems to exist between our methods and those of other countries in this very difficult and complex question.

In America, whither we are so often bidden to turn for guidance in these matters, we find a strict adherence to the principle that prosperity is closely allied to a high level of purchasing power. In conformity with this belief, leaders of major industries in the United States, when confronted with a probable fall in the general capacity for consumption in consequence of the recent Stock Exchange crisis, have agreed together to avoid any fall in the level of wages; indeed, in some cases there has been an actual increase, while the Government, with the same object in view, has announced a large remission of income tax. A similar reduction of taxation has taken place in Germany.

In this country, on the other hand, we are faced not only with large additional expenditure on the part of the Government, involving us in a probable greater burden of taxation, but also with a higher cost of coal, the raw material of all industries. It is not for me to say whether these things can be avoided, but undoubtedly they will delay the recovery of trade and the improvement in the number of unemployed.

THE RESOLUTION

I now beg to move: "That the report just taken as read be received and adopted, and that, in accordance with the recommendation of the directors therein, a dividend be declared for the half-year ended December 31st last on the paid-up capital of the company at the rate of 16¾ per cent. per annum on the "A" shares, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the "B" shares, payable, less income tax, on and after February 1, 1930."

The resolution was seconded by Sir Austin E. Harris, K.B.E., the deputy-chairman, and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and Messrs. Price Waterhouse and Company were reappointed auditors for the year 1930.

Votes of thanks to the directors for their services during the past year, to the general managers and staff for their excellent work, and to the Chairman for presiding were carried unanimously, and the proceedings then terminated.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

ASSETS REACH NEW HIGH TOTAL OF $801,000,000. PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOMINION RESOURCES.

The sixty-third annual meeting of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was held in Toronto on Tuesday, January 14, 1930.

GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

Mr. S. H. Logan, the general manager, in the course of his address, said:

We have again had the good fortune to experience a very satisfactory year, both in growth of assets and in profits. Our total assets at $801,000,000 are the highest in our history, showing an increase for the year of over $56,000,000. The net profits, $5,066,229, were 27 per cent. greater than in the preceding year.

Comparing the principal figures of the balance sheet before you with those of last year, our total deposits, including bank balances, stand at $637,000,000, as against $611,000,000, an increase of $26,000,000. Advances under the Finance Act show an increase of $7,000,000. Total gold and Dominion notes at $77,000,000 compare with $69,000,000, an increase of $8,000,000. Other cash assets at $58,000,000 are only slightly lower than the figure of a year ago. Total securities at $77,000,000 are $16,000,000 below last year, the reduction being necessitated by increased commercial loans. Call loans in Canada at $55,000,000 are practically unchanged. On the other hand, call loans outside Canada at $105,000,000 show an increase of $26,000,000, all due to greatly increased deposits outside Canada. Our total quick assets at $372,000,000 represent 50.4 per cent. of our total liabilities to the public and over 46 per cent. of our total liabilities.

Current loans in Canada stand at $342,000,000, an increase of $28,000,000, and loans outside Canada are about the same as last year.

From the banking standpoint the past year was characterised throughout by great business activity and a strong demand for bank credit. The outstanding financial feature was the continuation of the Stock Market speculation of the past three years, terminating in the spectacular collapse of security prices in October and November. Throughout the entire period of rapidly declining values our call-loan margin requirements, both within and outside Canada, were always adequately maintained, and we have not found it necessary to write off a single dollar from any of our call-loan accounts.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Sir Thomas White, vice-president, acting in the absence of the president, Sir John Aird, now on a world tour, said, in the course of his address:—

The past year, taken as a whole, while not quite attaining to the high record of the previous year in sustained commercial and industrial activity, must be regarded as among the most favourable in our history. Under the stimulus of three years' general prosperity, of an extensive development and building programme, and of an unprecedented quantity of farm products for export, new records were established in industry and trade during the winter and spring.

Mining is now one of the main supports of our economic structure. The value of all minerals, about 60 in number, produced in 1929, is provisionally estimated at $303,000,000, or about 10 per cent. higher than that of the preceding year.

With the improvement of conditions in Europe and the establishment of sterling exchange upon a permanently firm basis, we may reasonably hope to see a much greater participation in these opportunities by British capital, whose flow was necessarily interrupted during the war and the period of its financial aftermath.

With opportunities such as ours, prosperity is largely dependent upon a state of mind. Surely we are abundantly justified in making the keynote of the New Year confidence in our country, in ourselves, in our courage and enterprise, and in the destiny, under Providence, of this great and growing Dominion as one of the most-favoured nations of the world.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journa with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C. 4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

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STERLING TRUST, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Sterling Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 4th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Sir George A. Touche, Bart., presided in the absence, through indisposition, of Baron Emile d'Erlanger, and read the speech prepared by that gentleman, in the course of which he said that a satisfactory feature of the accounts was the open reserve of £450,000, which was equal to over 50 per cent. of the ordinary share capital. With regard to the investments, notwithstanding the great fall in prices which had characterised the year 1929, the market valuation on December 31st last exceeded by some 3 per cent. the book price of £4,904,762 and the contingent fund of £300,696. He thought they had good reason to congratulate themselves on having passed practically unscathed through a year so full of political and financial vicissitudes, and on showing such a strong financial position. The total income amounted to £281,695, and the net profit to £159,240. Seeing how strong was the balance-sheet position and how satisfactory the revenue account, the directors thought they could safely recommend an increase from 14 per cent. to 14½ per cent. in the dividend on the ordinary stock.

GENERAL POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

With regard to the general position and outlook, there were, in certain directions, signs of progress. Many countries had by hard and persistent endeavours balanced their Budget and had stabilised their currency and returned to the gold standard. In this connection it was disappointing to see a great country like Argentina, so rich and financially so strong, suspend the smooth working of the Caja de Conversion as soon as its affluent gold reserves began to be drawn upon in the first phase of momentary financial depression. He looked forward with confidence to a day, near at hand, when those responsible for the finances of Argentina would banish their illusory fears and reopen the Caja, for there was nothing that would so tend to materialise these fears, and to bring about a fall in the exchange, than a prolonged suspension of the natural functions of the gold standard. His confidence had been increased by the information that arrangements had been made by which notes were issued in Argentina against deposit of gold in London.

In France he had met many men who thought that we in England looked with envy and jealousy upon the enormous stocks of gold and foreign currency which she had accumulated in recent years. It was not a subject for envy, but a subject for rejoicing that France had so rapidly recovered and found herself to-day in so strong a financial position. It was to be hoped that this great treasure of gold, vastly in excess of internal requirements, would not be sterilised, but would in a reasonable measure be used as a basis for supplying the legitimate credit requirements of other necessitous and deserving countries. Neither a Dawes nor a Young Plan, nor any other which human foresight could devise, would function if the hand of credit was not liberally extended. He would further say that we must, with discrimination, and as far as our means permitted, continue to lend money to the world at large, for this was essential to maintain and stimulate our foreign trade and exports. As regarded foreign loans, it would, he believed, be wise to give preference to those contracted for public works and the materials for which would be purchased in England.

HOME AFFAIRS.

Turning to home affairs, it would be idle to pretend that we were not faced with very serious difficulties. It would, however, be fatal to give way to the wave of pessimism generally prevailing. We must once more stand shoulder to shoulder in the economic crisis as we had done in the clash of arms, and preserve the country from the risk of falling into the depths of internal apathy and discord. Taxation had reached the high-water mark; any further burdens would cripple industry and commerce, kill incentive and thrift, and would permanent reduce the resources upon which any Government must rely in the task of improving the lot of the masses. The only remedy he could see to the present situation was the modern re-equipment, rational, co-ordination, and financial reconstruction of our basic industries, so as to place them in a position of equality with—nay, of superiority to—competitive countries. Such an industrial reconstruction required the co-operation of all classes, and of the best brains to be found in each and every case—employers, employed and finance. He felt confident that, if the numerous and powerful investment trust and similar companies of this country could be satisfied that the industrial problem was being seriously and intelligently tackled, they would not hesitate to co-operate to the best of their ability and power in the industrial reconstruction of our country.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE UNITED STATES AND GENERAL TRUST CORPORATION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND INCREASED TO 14 PER CENT. ISSUE OF NEW CAPITAL.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the United States and General Trust Corporation, Limited, was held on the 6th instant, at the Registered Office, Gresham House, 24 Old Broad Street, London, Mr M. Balfour, M.C., chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. Carlisle) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the reports and accounts said: The revenue again shows an increase over that of the previous year, due to a large extent no doubt, to our having had a full year's use of the new capital issued during 1928. The gross revenue of £189,277 1s. 9d. compares with £168,439 13s. 9d. last year, and represents nearly 7 per cent. on the book cost of the investments. As the nett revenue of £70,223 3s. 10d. is equivalent to approximately 17½ per cent. on the deferred stock, and as we do not anticipate a diminution in the current year, we are able to propose a final dividend of 9 per cent., making 14 per cent. for the year, against 13 per cent. for the previous year. We carry forward £12,161 5s. 3d., equal to 3 per cent. gross on the deferred stock.

We also state in the report that a valuation of the investments shows a surplus of approximately £400,000 over the balance sheet figure. This surplus shows a diminution of approximately 5 per cent. over that prevailing last year, but it must be remembered that we have been passing through a period of abnormal depression and shrinkage in values, and, as I pointed out at last year's meeting, the rise in prices could not be expected to continue indefinitely.

STOCK MARKET CONDITIONS.

The past year has been an eventful one, witnessing an all-round decline in prices culminating, in the autumn, in a Bank Rate of 6½ per cent., and the collapse in the United States.

Here, after a meteoric rise extending over a period of two or three years, during which stocks as a whole reached levels out of all proportion to their earnings or dividends, and during which the machinery of credit the world over was at times strained to breaking point, a severe relapse occurred, resulting in panic conditions. This brought to a conclusion a state of affairs not only financially dangerous to the whole world, but in other respects demoralising, as quite a large proportion of the population both in this country and the United States began to think that they could see their way to an assured income merely by speculating in securities.

Investment stocks now stand on a basis where the yield bears some sort of relation to the value of money, which latter over a period of time must be the chief determining factor in the regulation of prices.

In London, whilst it has been shown that the decline in representative securities was no less severe, it has been less apparent, as the process was a much more gradual one; in New York it occurred in a few weeks or even days.

Despite these conditions, an abnormally high Bank Rate, a General Election, and the serious financial developments well known to all of us of a certain group in London, I think it is generally admitted that London as a financial centre has acquitted itself creditably.

Touching on the financial difficulties to which I have just alluded, unfortunately the word "trust company" has figured rather prominently therein, and it has been brought to one's notice that investors, on occasions, have confused in their mind the class of business done by a company whose operations are those of company finance and promotion with that of the better known class of trust company, whose business is strictly that of investment. The all too common use of the word "trust company" is to be deplored, as certain concerns who adopt this title carry on a business which is entirely foreign to that of a company such as ours. I might add that we neither have, nor ever have had, directly or indirectly, any interest in the securities of the group that failed.

TERMS OF NEW ISSUE.

From the balance sheet you will see that we have a small amount of unissued capital, amounting to nearly £90,000. This we propose to offer shortly to holders of the existing deferred stock in the form of new preferred and deferred shares, representing an allotment of approximately 15 per cent. of their holdings. The preferred will be issued at par, and the deferred at 200 per cent., in the proportion of 60 per cent. of the former and 40 per cent. of the latter, which, after putting a value of, say, 90 per cent. on the preferred, is equivalent to 215 per cent. for the deferred. The shares will be payable by instalments running to June next, and will carry 5 per cent. interest on the amount paid up, after which they will be converted into stock and rank for the final dividend in respect of the last six months of this year.

Mr F. H. Ramsden seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

UNITED SERDANG (SUMATRA) RUBBER PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.

RUBBER PRODUCTION AND ABSORPTION.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of the United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held, on the 4th instant, at Winchester House, London, Mr H. Eric Miller (chairman of the company) presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the chairman said that the net profit for the year amounted to £138,751. They proposed to transfer £20,000 to reserve account, making it £100,000, and to pay a dividend of 7½ per cent. The rubber crop to be harvested during the current financial year was estimated at 7,200,000 lb. The tapping systems in force were very conservative, and should ensure the maintenance of fully adequate bark reserves. Under no circumstances would any undue pressing for crops be permitted.

Of their current crops they had sold to date just over 1,400,000 lb. at an average net price of 1s. 1.49d. per lb., equivalent to 1s. 2.7d. per lb. London landed terms. The co-operative selling scheme formulated by the Rubber Growers' Association had their strong support

A year ago I submitted estimates of production and absorption of rubber for 1929 showing that production was likely to be less than 700,000 tons, and that everything pointed to absorption during 1929 being well over 700,000 tons. Absorption was, in fact, 800,000 tons during 1929, and actual production amounted to 840,000 tons, against my estimate of just under 700,000 tons. In my estimate of 700,000 tons I allowed for a production of 120,000 tons from the native smallholdings in Malaya, whereas they have actually turned out something like 200,000 tons. The estimate was based on an average yield of 300 lb. per acre, whereas the amount of rubber the smallholders produced averages no less than 470 lb. per acre.

It is perfectly clear from this that the benefits which accrued from enforced resting during the years of restricted exports in the improvement of bark reserves were even greater than the advocates of the restriction policy claimed they would be. It is likewise evident that the native smallholders are again squandering their bank reserves at a very rapid rate, and that when they come to the end of the tappable bark on the lower panels of their trees there must be a pronounced falling off in the production from those areas. I cannot say just when the contraction in output from the native smallholdings now being over-tapped will come, but it must be imminent before we are through 1930.

COMPETITION IN PRODUCTION COSTS.

What has been going on in the native areas of Malaya is true in a modified degree of part of the estimate areas where bark reserves had been well built up during restriction and have been somewhat freely dipped into since restriction came to an end. I desire not to overstate the point to which I am drawing attention, but ample bark reserves and favourable climatic conditions during 1929 have enabled estates in Malaya and Ceylon particularly to give yields which one may fairly claim are somewhat higher than can be maintained year in year out from those areas. There has been keen competition to show the lowest possible cost of production and a subconscious pressing for crop. I have thus explained why estimates of production made a year ago have been generally exceeded, and in addition to the prospective decline in Malayan smallholders' outputs I look for a moderate decline on estates from the high yields of 1929, except where bark consumption has been definitely conserved in spite of all temptations.

There had been no surprises during the year in connection with output from the native areas in the Netherlands East Indies. The price level in the market would continue to be the most important factor in influencing production from that part of those areas the tapping of which depended on the hiring of imported labour. Until the price of rubber was well over 1s. per lb. there was not much inducement for hired labour to come in. If the price of rubber did rise well above 1s. there were large areas of young rubber likely to be brought into tapping. It was not a bad thing to have a reserve which might help to prevent the price of rubber from again going to too high a level.

As to probable consumption in 1930, he thought that a fair picture to present to them was that production and absorption should about equal one another. In that event world stocks could not be far from their maximum now. It seems to him, therefore, that it should be possible for British and Dutch producers to raise the market price of rubber to a reasonably remunerative level by curtailing production to only a moderate extent. Without whole-hearted support on the part of the Dutch, it seemed to him that nothing could be done by voluntary agreement.

When they contrasted the position of the industry to-day, when consumption was 800,000 tons per annum, with its predicament in 1922, when consumption was 400,000 tons per annum, there was much solid comfort to be found to offset the present depression, which, in his judgment, need be of a temporary character if a little common sense was applied all round. It was to be hoped that it would prevail in the discussions between Dutch and British.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

LONDON MERCHANT BANK, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS DESPITE DIFFICULTIES.

The fifty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the London Merchant Bank, Limited, was held, on the 6th instant, at 38 Lombard Street, London.

Mr Edward H. Tootal, who presided, said in the course of his speech: When I was addressing you last year there were indications which justified expectations of a gradual improvement in trade. These have, however, not been borne out by events; on the contrary, 1929 will be remembered for some time to come in commerce as a year of uneven and often difficult trade, and in finance as a period during which persistent liquidation of securities took place with a consequent heavy depreciation of values. Moreover, the year witnessed extensive movements of gold which caused more frequent changes in discount rates than for a considerable time past.

Against these factors may, perhaps, be placed the important progress made in dealing with the Reparations problem, the handling of which will, by the definite adoption of the Young Plan, be entirely transferred to the business field. The creation in connection therewith of the Bank for International Settlements constitutes an interesting departure, and its working will be followed with keen interest.

The main financial event of the year was the collapse of the American boom, following upon a prolonged period of inflated share prices during which exceptionally high rates of interest were paid in New York for Stock Exchange call loans. These excessive rates drew a good deal of money away from Europe to the detriment of the exchange and gold positions, and, as a consequence, the Bank of England raised its rate in February to 5½ per cent. By the end of September a further rise to 6½ per cent. became necessary which accomplished its purpose in a comparatively short time, so that after intermediate reductions to 6 per cent. and 5½ per cent. respectively, a 5 per cent. rate was again established in December. I may say that we have just heard that the Bank rate has been reduced to-day to 4½ per cent. (Hear, hear.)

The financial troubles in America and Europe also were a contributory cause to the fall in prices of staple commodities which, in many instances, show substantial declines, though it should be observed that in general stocks in the hands of merchants and manufacturers were not unduly high. World crops, always an important factor, were good on the whole, in some cases even excessive, and the prices of a number of agricultural and tropical products have reached a level at which they are hardly remunerative. This state of affairs is not in the general interest, however desirable a low cost of living, based on cheap prices of prime necessities, may be. As a more balanced condition of trade between the regions producing foodstuffs and raw materials on the one hand and manufacturing countries on the other is conducive to general prosperity, readjustments of the volume and cost of production of the agricultural and plantation industries should, in the long run, prove beneficial all round.

As regards the home and foreign trade of Great Britain, the figures of production for 1929 so far published—namely, for the period January to September—show an increase over the preceding year. In viewing the relative figures in conjunction with the volume of British production, it is fair to assume that a greater proportion than formerly of our production and imports has, during recent years, been employed in one way or another in the extension and improvement of industrial equipment, which should be helpful in increasing exports later on.

Abroad, the prosperous condition of some countries stood in marked contrast with the less satisfactory position of others. The high level of industrial activity in the United States during the first half-year was followed by a decline of business. Turning to Continental affairs, France, where employment remained regular and plentiful, had a prosperous year. In Germany, industrial production during 1929 was well maintained on the whole, notwithstanding the continued shortage of loanable capital which made itself felt in divers ways.

In conclusion the chairman said that, with regard to the figures, the net profit was £74,419 against £71,845, and they were paying dividends of 7 per cent. on the "A" shares and 5 per cent. on the "B" shares, both less tax. It was satisfactory that at the close of a very difficult year they were able to show increased earnings.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HACKNEY FURNISHING COMPANY (1928), LIMITED.

EXTENSION OF HIRE PURCHASE BUSINESS.

The first annual general meeting of the Hackney Furnishing Company (1928), Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London, Mr A. E. Somers (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: On the debit side of the profit and loss account you will see that from the gross profit of £51,000 odd there have to be deducted items amounting to £12,667 13s. 6d.

Of the £38,000 now brought down, the directors have used £7,150 in writing down formation expenses and fixtures and transport. But to this figure must be added the amount of £2,496 8s. 10d. shown on the same side in the balance sheet. You will notice that the formation expenses have, therefore, been reduced by £7,838 15s. 3d. in all.

Returning to the profit and loss account, you will see that from the balance of £31,217 carried down, two preference dividends have been paid, and a transfer of £10,000 made to general reserve, the balance of £12,595 being carried forward.

NEW BUSINESSES PURCHASED.

Three businesses were purchased at Edinburgh, Glasgow and Leeds, on the lines indicated in the prospectus, comparatively little being paid for goodwill, each business being taken over as a going concern at almost asset value.

It was only during the last three months that our forward policy came to fruition in the acquirement of six further important branches at Bradford, Leicester, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Southend and Wolverhampton.

Your company has now a chain of 20 shops, only two of which can be said to fall outside the category of first-class important provincial stores.

The experience of the opening of these six shops has demonstrated unquestionably to your board the enormous value of the Hackney Furnishing Company's goodwill, which, I may recall to your attention, stands in the balance sheet at only £20,800.

In my opinion, if this amount had stood at five times the present figure it would still inadequately represent the cash value of the enormous goodwill we have in this business; a business which has been established nearly fifty years and which has spent over one-and-a-half million pounds in advertising during this period.

The branches opened in these six important towns consisted of premises taken over on long leases, at reasonable rentals, in important positions in the towns. No sums were paid for premiums or for goodwill, and the success has been instantaneous and indisputable.

ADDITIONAL FINANCE ARRANGED.

To revert to the question of policy, you will see that our balance sheet shows a loan of £100,000 from our bankers, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that to finance the company's turnover during 1930 a further £100,000 will be available for the company's use.

In these days, when money and markets are still suffering from the "Hatrified" feeling, I feel we are entitled to be gratified at this indication of outside, and by no means uncritical, confidence in the company's future.

I have tried to be as frank as possible in regard to this, our business. We are confident that the turnover figure which we have set ourselves for 1930 is well within our reach, and unless anything untoward happens we feel that 1930 is likely to be the normal year referred to in the prospectus. That being the case, I hope to face you in 1931 with a balance sheet not only satisfactory, but gratifying. I feel, however, that I should warn you that even in those circumstances it does not follow that large dividends can be looked for, because in a business of this kind, more than perhaps in any other, the advantage of pursuing a cautious and in some respects conservative policy must be obvious. In our intention to wipe off the paper assets which still exist, and to allow ample sums for depreciation and for the building up of general reserve, I feel sure we shall meet with your commendation, for it will enable you to rest confident in the continued prosperity of the company.

I have shown you in rather a summarised form the manner in which the business has grown during the first year of its existence. If I were at liberty to divulge actual figures and details of the business done by your company, I think you would be even more impressed, but I think you have seen sufficient to convince you that there was a real need for an amalgamation of this kind which would unify and extend the hire purchase business already done by a number of enterprises working separately and in a small way.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

PHILLIPS RUBBER SOLES, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The third ordinary general meeting of Phillips Rubber Soles, Limited, was held, on the 6th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr Walter W. Phillips, who presided, moved the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ended November 30, 1929, and said that the net profit for the year was £115,107. That was about £8,000 below the profit for the previous year, but the directors believed that but for the exceptionally dry weather which prevailed from January onwards the net profit would have been at least equal to that of the previous year. The figure approximated very closely to the average net profit shown in the prospectus when the company was formed three years ago, namely, £116,850. That indicated a sound and steady business. After adding the amount brought forward from the previous year, and deducting income tax, preference dividend for the year and interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid on the ordinary shares, there was a balance available of £80,425.

The chairman then briefly dealt with the items in the balance sheet and explained that the directors had arranged to convert the £150,000 holding in 5 per cent. War Loan into an equal amount of 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, and, referring to the appropriation account, he stated that the directors recommended writing off the balance of preliminary expenses, £8,610, writing £1,388 off 5 per cent. War Loan investment to reduce it to par value, and writing £10,425 off patents and designs, placing to general reserve a sum of £10,000 and paying a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, which required £36,000. That would leave a balance to carry forward of £14,002, an increase of approximately £3,500 as compared with the previous year. The balance of net profit after providing for all dividend on preference shares was equal to 27 per cent. on the ordinary share capital.

A SATISFACTORY RECORD.

During the three years since the incorporation of the company the general position had been strengthened by allocation to reserves, etc., of over £100,000—without including the £16,000, raw materials reserve—which he felt would be regarded as a very satisfactory record for the three years.

The business was being maintained in first-class order, and he fully believed the company should be able to maintain and increase its trade against all competition. The company's product, "Durata," had made substantial headway during the past year and had won golden opinions for its excellence and realiability. Nevertheless, he was convinced that for health, comfort and durability the ideal combination for the public to wear was leather-soled shoes with Phillips rubber soles and heels attached.

Mr Arthur Whittaker had retired from his position of managing director at the termination of his period of service, and Messrs A. J. Drywood and J. Cunningham had been appointed joint managing directors in his place. He thanked Mr Whittaker for his efforts to promote the success of the company, and stated that he had the fullest confidence that the company would also be well served by the gentlemen who had succeeded him.

TRADE OUTLOOK.

As regards the trade outlook, shareholders would no doubt appreciate that the profitable results of the company's business were linked up with the general state of trade and employment in the country, but the directors were optimistic that, if this was reasonably satisfactory, the turnover and profits during the current year would be at least equal to those of the past year. So far only ten weeks of the financial year had passed, but during that period their aggregate sales had shown a slight increase over those of the corresponding period of the previous year. He could assure the shareholders that everything would be done by the directors and staff with a view to making 1930 a very successful and profitable year. There was a general spirit of optimism in the business, which continued to be very sound and active.

He was pleased to say that the company's relations with all their workpeople were extremely satisfactory, and the directors heartily appreciated the excellent service rendered by the staff and workpeople of the company and its subsidiaries during the year.

Mr John Cunningham, in seconding the resolution, referred to the "Phillips Employees' Benefit Trust" and stated that that had been established through the generosity of the chairman, Mr W. W. Phillips, without any cost whatever to the shareholders, and that it consisted of investments of a present market value of about £40,000, largely in shares in the company.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and a final dividend of 10 per cent. was declared on the ordinary shares.

THE STANDARD TRUST, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the Standard Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 3rd instant, at 25-31, Moorgate, London.

Mr Alfred Shepherd, W.S. (Chairman of the company), who presided, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the conditions ruling during the year 1929 had not been without anxiety to those responsible for the management of trust companies. As an example of the disturbed conditions he might instance the numerous changes in the minimum rate of discount of the Bank of England. Never since 1914 had there been so many changes in the Bank rate in one year. Trust companies such as theirs, however, had been able to stand the shock of the abnormal times without serious hurt.

Their income from investments had risen from £85,448 in 1928 to £111,210 at the close of the 1929 accounts, due to a large extent to further funds from the new issues being employed. The net profit of £57,009 available for dividends was equal to over 2¾ times the amount required for payment of the preference dividend, after which there was a balance of approximately £36,900, equal to 15 per cent. on the ordinary stock. The final dividend on the ordinary stock, now recommended, making 10 per cent. for the year, would leave approximately £12,500, out of which the directors had transferred to the superannuation fund a sum of £571, and to capital reserve fund £10,000, leaving a balance of £1,878 to increase the amount brought in from last year. The capital reserve fund was applied in writing down the cost of the investments before arriving at the figure at which these appeared in the balance sheet. The valuation of their quoted investments at the close of the accounts showed them to be of a value some £5,000 in excess of the amount appearing in the balance sheet. In other words, the valuation showed the ordinary stock, general reserve and the amount carried forward to be more than intact.

Unsettled conditions continued, but he trusted that normal conditions might soon prevail. In the meantime, with a revenue position as shown in the year's accounts, they could afford to bide their time.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the dividends recommended approved.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended February 1, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS	£
Supply Services	6,351	From Revenue	21,899
Interest, &c., on Debt	13,743	Decrease in Balances	651
Sinking Fund	455		
Sundries	90		
Decrease in Debt	1,911		
	22,550		22,550

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £21,899,200, as compared with £30,118,400 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and super tax were lower at £17,296,000 and £2,480,000, against £17,462,000 and £3,440,000, respectively. Customs brought in £1,657,000, against £1,803,000, and Excise £823,000, against £817,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £18,500, as compared with £19,700, but special receipts were nil, as compared with £3,500,000. The National Debt was reduced by £1,911,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 36,000	Treasury Bills	— 20,021
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Exchequer Bonds	— 15,640
Public Dept. Advances	+ 11,700	Treasury Bonds	— 14,000
	+ 47,750		— 49,661

The Floating Debt was reduced by £8,310,000 to £765,345,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30, APRIL 1 TO FEBRUARY 1.

	£		£
Expenditure	649,220,073	Revenue	517,634,356
		Decreases in balance	3,546,984
		Amount borrowed	128,038,733
	649,220,073		649,220,073

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Feb. 1, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	226
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	586
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	718
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	47
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,641
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,751

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	Feb. 2, '29. £	Mar. 31, '29. £	Feb. 1, '30. £	Movement Week ended Feb. 1, '30. £
Advances by Bank of England	18,170,000	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	25,790,000	37,050,000	46,430,000	+ 11,700,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	780,940,000	700,295,000	718,915,000*	— 20,010,000
Total Floating Debt	824,900,000	737,345,000	765,345,000	— 8,310,000

* Includes £123,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on January 31, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £38,220,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 1s. 1d., about 73 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday, at £99 1s. 4d., and above in full; Wednesday to Saturday, at £99 1s. 1d., about 73 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £27,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Nov. 29	45,000,000	53,630,000	4 14 10
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 1, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 2, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 1, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 2, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	125,544,000	126,502,000	17,296,000	17,462,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	26,780,000	28,420,000	2,480,000	3,440,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	66,470,000	66,230,000	3,020,000	1,280,000
Stamps	31,000,000	18,870,000	22,900,000	230,000	580,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	640,000	...	10,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	370,000	330,000	50,000	80,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	238,044,000	245,022,000	23,076,000	22,852,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	100,602,000	100,174,000	1,657,000	1,803,000
Excise	130,550,000	108,523,000	114,911,000	823,000	817,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	209,125,000	215,085,000	2,480,000	2,620,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,336,468	3,864,067	*Dr.5029000*	*Dr.146000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	11,000,000	10,600,000	1,350,000	1,200,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,190,000	1,120,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,343,699	21,880,092	3,675	72,712
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,661,676	12,381,732	18,547	19,707
Special Receipts	26,000,000	19,933,513	33,801,746	...	3,500,000
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	517,634,356	543,754,637	21,899,222	30,118,419
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	47,100,000	45,500,000	850,000	600,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,083,532	20,226,933	6,103,000	1,132,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	68,183,532	65,726,933	6,953,000	1,932,000
Total		585,817,888	609,481,570	28,852,222	32,050,491

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 1, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 2, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 1, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 2, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928..	7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	5,310,000	9,680,000	290,000	310,000
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills	2,605,114,000	2,318,388,000	42,709,000	87,610,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	147,500,280	...	36,000,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	33,600,000	33,650,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds	...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	18,710,000	...	14,100,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	607,090,000	528,415,000	24,240,000	49,190,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	120,054	132,325	...	9,608
	4,022,922,111	3,624,346,602	133091222	184270027

	1929. £	1928. £		
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—				
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513		
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112		
	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total £	4,029,173,635	3,630,669,227	133091222	184270027

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 1, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 2, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 1, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 2, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	296,649,378	295,958,083	13,743,425	15,223,847
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	8,245,313	9,186,040	50,000	50,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	3,950,543	3,589,034	13,500	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,636,783	2,201,979	26,612	301,789
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	372,945,000	298,225,278	282,707,906	6,350,650	6,960,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	609,707,295	593,643,042	20,184,187	22,535,636
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	39,512,778	47,079,342	455,000	3,538,350
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	47,100,000	45,500,000	850,000	800,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,083,532	20,226,933	6,103,000	1,132,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	68,183,532	65,726,933	6,953,000	1,932,000
TOTAL		717,403,605	706,449,31	727,592,18	728,005,98
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		5,310,000	9,680,000	290,000	310,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure— Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		8,600,000	8,650,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28 Repayment of Amounts Borrowed		2,040,000	774,432	...	...
Redemption of Debt— Treasury Bills		2,586,455,000	2,064,470,000	62,730,000	65,310,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates		37,700,000	34,700,000	950,000	850,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off		15,640,000	...	15,640,000	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	123,658,491	...	40,896,015
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		43,409,505	25,900,000	14,000,000	25,900,000
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		597,710,000	646,305,000	12,540,000	23,120,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08— Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
		4,026,468,095	3,627,794,218	133742187	184392001

	Feb. 1, 1930. £	Feb. 2, 1929. £			
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England	2,236,921	2,068,401	...	— 107,413	— 44,655
Bank of Ireland	468,619	806,608	2,705,540	2,875,009	— 543,552 — 77,319
Total £			4,029,173,635	3,630,669,227	— 650,965 — 121,974

The Bankers Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, February 5, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	348,690,421	Other Government Securities	233,601,194
In Banking Department	62,093,444	Other Securities	10,924,481
		Silver Coin	4,459,225
		Amount of *Fiduciary Issue*	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	150,783,865
	£410,783,865		£410,783,865

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	49,894,613
Rest	3,607,008	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	23,294,173	Discounts and Advances £5,602,697	
Other Deposits—		Securities 13,914,631	19,517,328
Bankers £54,250,174		Notes	62,093,444
Other Accounts 36,226,901	90,477,075	Gold and Silver Coin	428,241
7-Day and other Bills	2,370		
	£131,933,626		£131,933,626

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

Both Departments.	Amount, Feb. 5, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	348,690,421	+ 672,449	— 8,828,814
Public deposits	23,294,173	+ 8,701,314	+ 14,942,835
Bankers' deposits	54,250,174	— 13,213,128	— 14,250,687
Other deposits	36,226,901	+ 239,598	— 776,721
Seven-day bills	2,370	— 628	— 268
Total, outside liabilities	462,464,039	— 3,600,395	— 8,913,655
Capital and rest	18,160,008	+ 19,189	— 8,696
Government debt and securities	294,510,907	— 4,499,743	— 5,870,417
Discounts and advances	5,602,697	+ 102,674	— 3,111,400
Other securities	24,839,112	+ 56,336	— 705,403
Silver coin in issue department	4,459,225	— 24,411	— 529,791
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	151,212,106	+ 783,938	+ 1,294,660
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	62,521,685	+ 111,489	+ 10,123,474
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	54⅝%	+ 2¼%	+ 8⅜%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	32⅝%	+ ⅛%	+ ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,465,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Dec. 18	244248529	10929370	140734339 29⅛	65143618	10629732	20565519	29036211 27
26	244637515	10841360	146027587 29⅛	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746 22½
1930.							
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746 25⅛	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165 22⅛
8	245098463	10431484	149214869 30⅛	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097 36
15	245102958	10429647	150654341 31⅛	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426 46⅛
22	244665689	10855940	151288975 32¼	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435 51⅛
29	244710035	10806329	150428168 32¼	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196 52⅛
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106 32⅛	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685 54⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to January 22	2,456,868	130,135	209,488	2,796,491
Week ended January 29	712,371	35,154	54,127	801,652
Week ended February 5	800,842	42,371	67,659	910,872
Total to date, 1930	3,970,081	207,660	331,274	4,509,015
Total, 1929	4,462,469	215,151	341,340	5,018,960
Increase or decrease in 1930	— 492,388 = 11·0%	— 7,491 = 3·5%	— 10,066 = 2·9%	— 509,945 = 10·2%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807 = 1·6%	+ 27,599 = 1·5%	+ 39,342 = 1·3%	+ 691,751 = 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month o. January. 1929.	1930.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to February 1. 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	27	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,309,000	11,940,000	— 2·9	14,189,500	13,937,700
BRADFORD	5,172,000	4,559,000	— 11·8	...	...
BRISTOL	5,717,000	5,120,000	— 10·4	6,213,000	5,262,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	27,172,800	25,762,500
HULL	4,351,000	4,141,000	— 4·8	4,637,900	4,325,900
LEEDS	4,792,000	4,940,000	+ 3·0	5,515,100	5,262,000
LEICESTER	3,818,000	3,511,000	— 8·0	4,404,000	3,640,300
LIVERPOOL	38,762,000	31,981,000	— 17·4	43,121,001	35,437,400
MANCHESTER	59,045,000	54,405,000	— 7·8	64,592,200	56,764,300
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,217,000	6,057,000	— 2·5	7,009,400	6,628,900
NOTTINGHAM	2,993,000	2,999,000	+ 0·2	3,465,300	3,263,100
SHEFFIELD	4,552,000	4,454,000	— 2·1	5,363,600	4,680,900
Total	147,728,000	134,107,000	— 9·2	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Portugal and Lithuania appeared in the *Economist* of January 11; Roumania in January 18; Egypt, Danzig, Japan and Canada in January 25; Hungary, Chile and Spain in February 1.

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

	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
RESOURCES.					
Total gold reserve	2,663,920	2,961,050	2,975,220	2,985,210	2,976,560
Total bills discounted	851,620	442,340	433,220	406,940	381,420
Bills bought in open market	410,740	323,350	298,390	258,470	295,790
Total U.S. Govt. securities	200,090	479,060	476,660	476,540	477,840
Total bills and securities	1,471,580	1,259,620	1,222,800	1,154,380	1,167,240
Total resources	5,102,150	5,314,670	5,202,160	5,062,532	5,079,760
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,646,310	1,782,370	1,739,240	1,701,900	1,683,480
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,386,280	2,357,650	2,359,800	2,307,950	2,338,850
Total deposits	2,438,140	2,403,880	2,414,980	2,369,010	2,389,300
Capital paid in and surplus	403,960	448,040	448,190	448,350	448,430
Total liabilities	5,102,150	5,314,670	5,202,160	5,062,530	5,079,760
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	69·3%	75·4%	76·3%	78·3%	78·0%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
Total bills discounted	195,130	70,630	89,650	65,100	54,720
Bills bought in open market	103,730	150,700	117,240	93,700	109,560
Total U.S. Govt securities	26,190	213,180	210,800	210,800	211,940
Total bills and securities	325,050	444,360	427,220	377,010	383,370
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	948,520	969,550	952,250	931,820	956,480
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	78·8%	71·6%	73·0%	77·3%	76·5%

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

ASSETS.	Jan. 11, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,667	7,715	7,368	7,495	7,394	7,198
Subsidiary coin	84	80	88	87	81	94
Bills discounted	9,118	7,863	8,980	9,733	9,045	8,463
Investments	481	612	612	619	984	934
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,673	8,433	8,496	9,173	9,541	8,475
Government deposits	1,827	1,522	1,949	1,839	1,291	1,612
Bankers' deposits	4,752	4,691	4,883	4,755	4,907	4,679
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·0%	50·8%	47·4%	45·0%	46·9%	47·0%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 11, 1929.	Dec. 13, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Total securities	21,64,01	33,28,31	33,26,69	33,19,67	33,03,78	32,98,75
Loans	18,29,43	7,49,67	6,86,45	7,09,53	6,92,45	7,43,76
Cash credits	26,82,31	23,38,47	23,58,97	25,29,18	25,93,76	26,66,68
Inland bills	12,47,01	5,71,94	6,24,43	5,73,44	7,89,05	6,26,62
Foreign bills	19,20	33,07	34,79	29,54	37,58	38,99
Dead stock	2,81,65	2,84,09	2,83,69	2,83,18	2,72,83	2,80,00
Bal. with other banks	34,44	2,56	18,46	3,14	17,28	14,77
Cash	11,61,36	16,38,71	15,77,11	15,29,18	12,98,56	13,38,93
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50
Total deposits	75,74,88	77,73,21	77,00,33	77,75,01	79,37,05	78,37,34
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,022	913	979	820	820	787
Advances in London	900	952	891	843	723	727
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	259	20	138	26	121	109

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 1, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold	34,004,022	42,458,382	42,736,925	42,830,671	42,921,007
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	12,435,796	7,201,903	7,046,119	6,995,667	6,983,711
Bills discounted	18,164,725	18,729,297	18,719,727	18,721,488	18,779,871
Commercial bills discounted at home	4,081,916	6,675,522	6,555,252	7,491,321	5,830,960
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,811,552	8,652,545	8,652,545
Other advances	2,339,440	2,586,240	2,519,213	2,467,494	2,578,059
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,737,397	3,268,114	2,815,246	2,645,764	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	63,866,999	69,346,770	68,688,313	68,374,617	70,338,986
Public deposits	12,398,794	11,304,195	10,915,131	10,547,932	10,172,143
Private deposits	5,658,540	6,369,139	7,016,071	8,506,492	7,130,424
Other liabilities	1,968,963	2,710,907	2,583,519	2,375,909	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,182	2,283,777	2,286,459	2,297,050
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	152,216	397,672	399,849	397,094
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,783,054	1,893,771	1,807,138	2,052,835
Silver and other coin	121,478	139,601	160,053	136,186
Notes of other German banks	8,277	18,710	24,704	4,152
Advances	101,864	67,859	51,433	169,601
Investments	93,320	92,602	92,622	92,617
Other assets	480,783	578,468	580,386	606,014
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	284,205	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,453,891	4,187,045	3,952,553	4,653,242
Other daily maturing obligations	422,929	543,353	708,698	356,844
Other liabilities	186,361	299,674	298,996	303,067

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 9, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.
Gold	(b)	905,104	1,175,182	1,175,516	1,175,556	1,176,619
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	536,514	591,147	567,339	543,821	542,009
Silver and other coin		*	2,466	2,610	2,776	
Securities	697,600	672,991	826,389	809,472	804,732	816,061
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,419,343	2,777,744	2,750,148	2,721,563	2,768,152
Current accounts	112,125	71,023	157,296	137,177	155,420	100,892

(b) In thousand francs.
* The Bank, having drawn up its half-yearly balance sheet on Dec. 26, has not published all the figures usually shown in the weekly return.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Jan. 28, 1929.	Jan. 6, 1930.	Jan. 13, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 27, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,540	447,455	447,455	446,047	439,532
Silver	8,436	22,913	24,129	24,129	25,770	26,421
Home Bills discnted.	153,504	62,376	72,648	72,648	63,093	59,313
Foreign Bills		203,229	219,271	219,271	219,143	217,117
Loans and advances in current acct.		97,666	94,175	94,175	82,712	81,513
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	782,727	845,978	845,978	797,972	786,778
Deposits	5,016	44,423	23,509	23,509	35,816	33,655

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Feb. 2, 1929.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,996	168,100	167,400	169,900	169,800
Silver	29,785	22,734				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	142,760	157,600	148,800	143,100	140,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	300,088	292,100	286,200	279,300	277,200
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	60,186	37,700	36,100	39,000	39,900

SWISS NAT NAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold	171,175	482,021	595,005	580,530	580,558	559,892
Silver	18,350	45,471	23,189	23,159	24,610	24,437
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	184,653	355,765	362,434	358,672	378,087
Discounts		154,944	129,656	107,192	98,813	93,308
Advances	103,000	63,109	69,760	51,844	43,979	42,185
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	839,838	912,310	851,326	830,299	889,946
Deposits	33,750	66,622	245,549	264,790	247,290	188,471

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 20, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,052,000	5,190,200	5,190,100	5,189,400	5,189,500
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,875,000	5,140,800	5,147,000	5,009,500	4,934,500
Other cash	141,100	203,900	197 500	201,100	202,500
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,623,200	3,864,600	4,318,400	3,998,500	3,838,500
Advances	1,113,400	1,277,400	1,800,700	1,096,700	876,100
Credits with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,160,000	896,900	896,900	896,900	851,400
Government securities	1,080,000	1,069,700	1,074,000	1,074,000	1,053,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,464,000	16,595,000	16,916,900	16,510,900	16,308,100
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,411,200	1,571,800	1,676,600	1,658,400	1,778,300
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·98%	55·94%	54·71%	55·22%	55·06%

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 22, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,866	146,639	146,632	146,633
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	31,196	48,790	36,283	30,315
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,934	26,903	26,898
Discounts and loans	76,911	259,784	230,004	228,285	227,530
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	296,724	306,385	297,321	295,172
Deposits at sight	7,188	75,321	78,163	73,782	69,196

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,205,810	1,258,398	1,261,441	1,261,547	1,261,575
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,111,259	2,269,505	2,242,367	2,201,968	2,115,925
Discounts and advances	286,588	1,010,915	685,392	482,933	478,193
State notes debt balance	4,085,980	3,761,082	3,754,137	3,745,351	3,744,415
Other assets	1,164,479	1,390,628	1,242,116	973,346	849,184
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,493,113	8,229,512	7,264,748	6,577,120	6,271,592
Check account balances	1,576,740	674,845	1,163,803	1,324,368	1,356,873
Other liabilities	345,716	313,577	276,480	283,235	310,405

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 2, 1929.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.
Gold	235,690	244,480	244,446	244,383	244,240
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,140	22,140	22,140	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	162	162
Bills payable in Sweden†	214,261	229,101	211,557	178,784	184,841
" " abroad	64,174	128,330	128,146	125,938	123,158
Balance abroad	60,265	58,411	57,833	59,148	61,396
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	71,446	48,408	43,839	42,103	61,831
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	492,808	495,772	479,834	460,146	526,425
Government deposits	191,266	226,715	216,597	200,074	170,318
Private deposits	3,842	12,402	8,588	11,882	2,202

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,715	172,486	172,453	172,404	172,337
Loans & discounts	88,470	90,005	102,384	107,146	123,276	102,381
Debtors abroad	24,102	92,412	84,044	72,107	77,599	102,657
Securities	11,988	35,023	36,663	44,053	37,637	30,256
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	336,349	371,880	369,844	367,456	346,789
Deposits	6,698	28,645	35,324	34,137	57,547	34,513

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	199,124	221,690	203,010	201,108	204,160
Other foreign exchange†	365,674	323,712	308,251	306,179	311,583
Bills discounted	165,210	280,976	230,763	188,031	237,621
Gov. Debt	116,118	108,604	108,604	108,604	108,604
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	965,200	991,545	903,701	854,095	980,693
Deposits	52,663	115,677	119,274	122,037	53,059

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold	91,157	95,541	95,607	95,658	95,759
Other coin and notes	18,506	18,976	18,517	18,263	18,757
Foreign credits	198,482	286,154	278,861	275,815	275,750
Bills	1,378,129	1,287,256	1,244,270	1,220,409	1,202,214
Government advances	4,201,146	4,153,088	4,153,088	4,153,092	4,151,099
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,193,595	5,784,364	5,554,192	5,414,541	5,585,766
State credits	227,864	205,903	205,903	205,907	203,914
Deposits	1,164,522	1,467,140	1,634,148	1,759,172	1,527,913

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,497,499	1,558,488	1,559,061	1,559,646	1,561,664
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,033,235	1,307,140	1,191,448	1,028,485	924,205
Discounts and advances	1,317,803	1,401,811	1,362,147	1,284,562	1,246,468
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,271	3,505,367	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,309	1,201,185	1,231,216	1,241,049	1,241,415
Bank notes in circulation	3,877,993	3,608,643	3,699,125	3,510,206	3,401,316
Sight liabilities	3,459,090	2,231,281	1,872,392	1,814,910	1,859,855
Deposits	472,340	358,390	358,264	342,445	341,748

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929	Dec. 23, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold	556,492	639,648	641,018	635,339	635,913
Gold exchange	4,473,152	4,308,773	3,986,881	3,897,490	3,836,570
Other foreign exchange	1,708	2,266	2,393	3,086	2,788
Bills discounted	55,523	147,529	161,909	171,272	175,529
Advances	60,461	160,863	182,452	194,435	194,306
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,474,969	5,193,456	5,122,805	5,020,046	4,916,899
Deposits and current accounts	2,212,329	1,453,931	1,489,798	1,493,422	1,559,580
Foreign exchange liabilities	919,495	1,854,765	1,638,080	1,667,172	1,636,630

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 20, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.
Gold	621,168	682,637	700,517	700,592	700,681
Of which held abroad	195,402	161,726	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	671,493	520,570	526,148	506,981	489,252
Bills discounted	636,510	689,466	704,220	684,711	675,497
Loans against securities	98,235	79,874	82,909	80,744	79,715
Reserve fund securities	69,801	74,583	74,551	75,896	75,896
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000
Reserve funds	100,000	100,000	100,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,149,410	1,261,424	1,340,263	1,215,102	1,161,534
Current accounts	607,167	495,084	467,855	538,314	540,992
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 30, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,750	23,933	23,934	23,936	23,937	23,940
Silver coin	4,578	6,699	6,725	5,690	5,677	5,793
Balance abroad	66,559	45,108	45,290	43,894	42,356	42,555
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,660	10,319	11,287	13,952	14,976	14,322
Short term bills	85,217	95,478	94,223	93,625	93,778	94,164
Loans against securities	47,613	56,368	52,749	53,212	53,625	53,802
Other assets	14,440	21,489	21,608	22,858	21,855	20,696
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	43,121	49,648	48,791	47,052	46,982	47,503
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Deposits	12,161	14,924	14,995	15,087	15,411	15,489
Current accounts	54,709	59,641	58,806	59,077	60,279	63,302
Government accounts	103,827	93,720	92,664	92,638	91,157	87,112
Other liabilities	18,836	18,289	17,389	20,140	19,204	18,689

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Dec. 16, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,886	28,089	28,570	28,567	28,567
Other precious metals	4,319	3,556	3,461	3,348	3,414
Foreign bank notes	7,983	8,168	6,785	6,758	6,392
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	276	288	292	292	295
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	76,536	117,899	114,893	114,035	112,332
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	106,505	157,603	153,697	152,574	150,027
Balance to which notes may still be issued	495	397	303	426	973

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold	35,091	303,933	301,798	301,615	301,518
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	742,552	692,681	663,702	702,816
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	300,673	323,008	323,208	322,930
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,408,423	1,383,105	1,369,756	1,330,980
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,382,305	1,289,323	1,256,675	1,212,450
Deposits at notice	21,225	406,026	316,380	241,673	284,467

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 23, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,263	6,408	6,430	6,435	6,439
Net foreign exchange	22,936	20,782	19,522	19,049	19,164
Subsidiary Estonian coin	698	462	546	691	620
Home bills discounted	15,001	14,484	14,371	14,778	15,055
Loans and advances	16,499	13,088	12,469	12,189	12,723*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	36,035	34,042	32,087	31,190	33,495
Sight deposits and current accounts	21,311	16,187	16,063	16,706	15,484
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	50·91%	54·13%	53·89%	53·20%	52·27%

* Includes Ekr. 8,279,170·98, guaranteed by the Government.

LONDON RATES.

	Jan. 30, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 3, 1930.	Feb. 4, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5% Feb. 6, 1930)	5	5	5	5	5	5	4½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	3⅞—4
3 months' do.	3 15/16	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3 29/32—15/16	3 15/16—4
4 months' do.	3 15/16	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4
6 months' do.	3 15/16	4	4	4	4	4	3 15/16—4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	3 15/16	4	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	
3 months'‡	3⅞	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—4
Loans—Day to day	2½—3¼	3½—4	3½—4	3½—4	4—4½	4—5	3⅞—15/16
Short	3¼—4	4	4	4	4—4½	4—4½	4—5
Deposit allowances: Bank	3	3	3	3	3	3	3½—4½
Discount houses at call	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
At notice	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3¼	3
							3¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Jan. 16	4	4 1/16 ⅛	4 1/16 ⅛	4 1/16 ⅛	5	5¼	5½ 6
23	3¾—4	3⅞ 15/16	3⅞ 15/16	3⅞ 15/16	5	5¼	5½ 6
30	3½—4	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	5	5¼	5½ 6
Feb. 6	3½—4¼	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	4½	4½ ¾	4¾ 5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·85 9/16–11/16	4·86 17/32–19/32	4·86 13/16–·86 15/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·86⅝–86⅞	4·91⅝–11/16	4·91 ·91¼
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·18–23	123·95–7	124·00–·04
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46–½	20·36½–¾	20·36½–·36¾
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·12–⅛	12·11⅝–13	12·11⅞–·12⅛
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·89¾–90½	34·93–½	34·90–·90½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·70–80	92·97–9	92·90–·92
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23½–¾	25·20¾–21	25·19½–·20
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–¾	18·20½–21	18·20¾–·21½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–½	18·12½ ¾	18·12½–·12¾
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–¾	18·18¾–19½	18·19–·19½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	31·10–20	36·90–95	37·32–·35
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109½–110	108½–⅝	108⅛–108⅝
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·53–58	34·55–58	34·53–·55
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–4⅛	164⅜–½	164¼–½
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276–½	275¾ 6¼	275¾–276¼
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–4	27·82 5	27·81–·85
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	804–7	818–19	817–820
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	669–74	670–76	670–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–5¼	374¾ 5¼	374¾–375¼
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	980–5	1025–35	1043—1050
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–·44	†9·447–·465	†9·45–·47
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–⅜	43 5/16–7/16	43 3/16–43 7/16
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–3¼	193⅜–⅝	193⅜–193⅝
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–9½	48½–9½	48½–49½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·12–22	18·19–·26	18·20–·27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·23–33	25·23–·33
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–⅛	97 7/16–⅜	97 7/16–97 9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 7/16–½	44½–9/16	42 1/16–42 3/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 27/32–29/32	5⅝–11/16	5 11/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50½–51	44½–5	43½–44
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·62	39 80	39·78
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19¾% prem.	23¼% prem.	22% prem.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 3/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 3/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 3/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 15/16–1/5 31/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0–⅛	1/7⅝–1/8⅛	1/6⅞–1/7½
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	2/6¾–2/7 1/16	2/0½–⅝	1/11½–2/0
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3¾–27/32	2/3 11/16–13/16	2/3 11/16–2/3 13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10½–15/16	2/0 7/32–¼	2/0 7/32–2/0 9/32
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2s. 0 5/16d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·90–10·10	10·05–·30	10·15–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6
Berlin	Feb. 4, 1930	6½	6
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	Jan. 24, 1930	7½	7
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	Feb. 6, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Jan. 1, 1930	5	4½
Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	Jan. 24, 1930	7½	7
Warsaw	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
Irish	Feb. 6, 1930	5½	5

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Feb. 6, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	4¾	4¾	4½	4½	4½
Bank acceptances:—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	4	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	4	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4
Ineligible, 90 days	5⅜	4⅜	4½	4½	4½	4⅜
Commercial accept., 90 days	5½	5	5	5	4¾	4¾

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Feb. 6, 1929.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80 11/16	4·82¾	4·82 7/16	4·82⅝
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85⅛	4·86⅝	4·86⅝	4·86 7/16
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 27/32	4·86¼	4·86 5/16	4·86 3/16
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90 9/16	3·92¼	3·92 3/16	3·92 3/16
Brussels "	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·895	13·92	13·92	13·925
Switzerland "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23	19·31½	19·29¾	19·29
Italy "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23½	5·22¾	5·22¾	5·23
Berlin "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·725	23·86	23·87	23·865
Vienna "	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·05	14·07	14·07	14·07
Madrid "	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·86	12·93	13·13	13·15
Amsterdam "	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·04	40·15	40·12	40·095
Copenhagen "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·65	26·72½	26·73	26·72
Oslo "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·635	26·70	26·70	26·69
Stockholm "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·715	26·82	26·82	26·82
Athens "	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29⅛	1·29⅛	1·295	1·295
Montreal "	Can. Cents for $1	100	¼ dis.	1⅛ dis.	1 1/16 dis.	15/16 dis.
Yokohama "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·45	49·10	49·10	49·15
Hong Kong "	Cents for H.Kong$	...	49·25	40⅜	39·80	39·10
Shanghai "	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	62·50	50·75	49·30	48·20
Calcutta "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·34	36·31	36·20	36·20
Buenos Aires "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·30	109·60	111·00	114·00
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·93	11·20	11·40	11·40
Valparaiso "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·055	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·70
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	"	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	"	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	"	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	"	10·10
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	¼% dis.	par to ¼% pm.	¾% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% "	3/16% dis.	⅝ to 9/16% "
30 days	1⅞% "	9/16% "	¾% "	7/16% "
60 days	2½% "	¾% "	1¼% "	5/16% "
90 days	3⅛% "	15/16% "	1¾% "	3/16% "
180 days	3⅞% "	1⅛% "	2 5/16% "	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	98	98	...	...	102⅝	102⅝
Demand	96½	96½	97⅝	97⅝	101¼	100⅝	102 3/16	102
30 days	95 15/16	95 15/16	...	...	100⅝	100⅛	101¾	101⅝
60 days	95⅜	95⅜	...	...	100 1/16	99⅝	101 5/16	101¼
90 days	94 13/16	94 13/16	...	...	99½	99⅛	100⅞	100⅞

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to February, 1930, were £24,190,000, of which £14,690,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £9,500,000 transferred from the paper currency reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended February 6, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
Germany	254	Poland	3,406
France	12,674	Germany	1,276,950
Spain	2,000,000	France	10,354
British West Africa	2,117	Austria	2,050
British South Africa	826,710	Morocco	2,000
Australia	40,000	Kenya	1,700
		British India	18,293
		Other Countries	1,645
Total declared value of imports	2,881,755	Total declared value of exports	1,316,398

GOLD MOVEMENTS

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Jan. 31	Bars bought	56	Jan. 31		Nil
	Sovs. from abroad	40,000	Feb. 1		Nil
Feb. 1		Nil	" 3	Bars sold	13,688
" 3		Nil	" 4		Nil
" 4	Bars bought	1,000,000	" 5	Sovs set aside	200,000
" 5		Nil	" 6	Bars sold	6,837
" 6	Bars bought	7,487		Sovs set aside	100,000
	Total	1,047,543		Total	320,525

Net arrivals, £727,018.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on February 5, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £150,134,547 on the 29th ultimo (as compared with £151,058,475 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £3,771,768 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. In addition to the £827,000 of South African bar gold, about £307,000 bar gold, forming part of a shipment of £2,000,000 from Spain, was offered in the open market yesterday. At the price realised, 84s. 10⅞d. per fine ounce, there was a keen demand from Germany, about £1,065,000 being taken for that country. The balance of about £69,000 was divided between the Home and Continental trade (£49,000) and India (£20,000). £1,000,000 of the gold from Spain was received by the Bank of England yesterday, as indicated below. The balance of about £680,000 was dealt with in the open market to-day and was secured for Germany at 84s. 11d. per fine ounce. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £622,665 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £1,040,056, which included £1,000,000 in bar gold from Spain and £40,000 sovereigns from Australia. Of the withdrawals, amounting to £417,391, £400,000 was in sovereigns "set aside."

SILVER.

The market has been poorly supported, and, with supplies freely offered, prices have declined sharply, a new low record being established yesterday, when quotations reached 19 13/16d. and 19 13/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively.

On the reopening of the Shanghai market after the China New Year holidays the exchange showed weakness, nevertheless yesterday and to-day some buying orders have been received from this quarter. Their demand for silver for shipment being satisfied for the time being the Indian Bazaars have proved disposed to sell, and, with supplies forthcoming from other quarters, demand—being confined mostly to covering operations by bears—has been inadequate to withstand the pressure. America has continued rather inactive but has made some sales here during the week.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 27th ultimo to mid-day on the 3rd instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
France	53,618	British India	357,782
U.S.A.	120,541	Other countries	10,040
Mexico	58,396		
Canada	30,691		
Other countries	246		
	£263,492		£367,822

The stock in Shanghai on the 4th instant consisted of about 89,600,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars and 18,640 silver bars, as compared with about 87,200,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars and 8,380 silver bars on the 25th ultimo.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Jan. 31	84 11½	20	19⅞	Feb. 8, 1924	33⅝
Feb. 1	84 11½	20⅛	20	" 6, 1925	32¼
" 3	84 11½	20 1/16	20 1/16	" 5, 1926	30 11/16
" 4	84 10⅞	19 15/16	19 13/16	" 4, 1927	27¼
" 5	84 11	20	19⅞	" 2, 1928	26 5/16
" 6	84 10½	20⅛	19 15/16	" 7, 1929	25 13/16

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

BANKS.

CHASE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK.—During 1929 the National Park Bank, the Garfield National Bank, and the American Express Company became amalgamated with the Chase Bank. Total resources on December 31st at $1,714,829,447 showed a gain of $284,521,210 over the preceding year. Deposits amounted to the record figure of $1,248,218,351. Capital, surplus and undivided profits, excluding the $101,216,619 capital, surplus and undivided profits of its security affiliate, Chase Securities Corporation, whose stock is held share for share by shareholders of the Chase National Bank, amounted to $241,346,145. During the year the capital of the bank was increased from $60,000,000 to $105,000,000. Net profits after all charges amounted to $18,304,171.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.—The net profits of the Bank of Nova Scotia for 1929 amounted to $2,761,117 (against $2,535,519 for 1928), out of which four quarterly dividends of 4 per cent. have been paid (the same), absorbing in all $1,600,000. After deducting Dominion Government tax on note circulation, $100,000, contributing $110,000 (against $100,000) to officers' pension fund, and writing $400,000 (against $300,000) off bank premises account, the carry-forward is increased from $914,726 to $1,465,843. The balance sheet shows a total of $274,241,373 (against $279,503,065). Deposits are at $212,487,129, against $205,737,395. Current loans and discounts in Canada are $102,339,213 (against $89,685,059) and current loans and discounts outside Canada at $20,643,117 (against $21,160,454), while call loans in Canada amount to $32,376,948 (against $34,462,410), and call loans outside Canada to $12,763,039 (against $11,997,375). Investments are at $37,209,630 (against $49,891,359).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.—The net profit for the year ended December 31, 1929 (including the carry forward of £28,611 from the previous year), amounts to £724,343, against £644,200 for 1928 (including a carry forward of £28,308 from 1927). At the annual general meeting, to take place on February 28th, the board will recommend the allocation of £20,000 to the pension fund and £40,000 to the reserve fund for the extension of the head office premises in Basle; they further propose to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. as for the preceding year, to place £80,000 to the reserve fund and to carry forward £40,770. The reserve fund, including the amount now carried forward, will thus reach a total of £2,080,000, *i.e.*, 32½ per cent. of the paid-up capital of £6,400,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CINZANO, LIMITED.—In accordance with the terms of issue 124,721 7½ per cent. cumulative convertible preference shares were converted on November 30th into 118,782 "A" ordinary shares. The capital now outstanding is £330,464 preference, £1,363,597 "A" ordinary, £300,000 "B" ordinary.

HALL TELEPHONE ACCESSORIES (1928).—The net profit from the year's working to December 31, 1929, amounts to £40,365, against £30,094 last year. Adding the brought forward of £4,631, there is £44,996. After providing for the interim dividend of 4 per cent. (less tax), paid in July, 1929, £5,376, setting aside for general and patent reserves and income-tax reserve £22,200, and paying additional remuneration to the directors of £1,950, there remains £15,471. The directors recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, together with a bonus of 2 per cent., less tax, which will absorb £10,752, making 12 per cent. for the year, against 10 per cent. last year, leaving to be carried forward £4,719. The report says all the expenses of last year's issue of 56,000 shares have been written off out of share premium account. Meeting, Winchester House, London, February 10th, at 12 noon.

MAIDENHEAD BRICK AND TILE COMPANY.—The net profit for year ended September 30, 1929, was £29,192, comparing with £11,650 for preceding year. The ordinary dividend is raised from 56 per cent. to 90 per cent. for the year. The carry-forward is raised from £1,031 to £1,398. The general reserve has been increased from £3,695 to £37,109 by the addition of share premiums and profit at new works to date of purchase, less acquisition expenses and issue of new shares. Meeting, River Plate House, London, February 10th, at 12 noon.

WIGGINS, TEAPE AND CO. (1919), LIMITED.—A provisional agreement has been entered into between (1) Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919), Ltd., and (2) Portals (John Allen and Sons), Ltd., and their associated companies, W. Howard and Son, Ltd., and Roughway Paper Mills, Ltd., for a fusion of interests. Colonel Wyndham Portal, D.S.O., M.V.O., will, in due course, join the board of Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919), Ltd. This announcement does not refer to Portals, Ltd., who will carry on their business at their mills at Laverstoke and Overton as heretofore. With reference to the suggestions that Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919), Ltd., may be making a public issue of shares to finance these acquisitions, the directors of that company beg to state that they do not propose making a public issue for the time being as these asquisitions are being carried through in the main by an exchange of shares.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Jan. 31, 1930. (c) Week ended Feb. 1, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Feb. 2, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 5 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	176	219	131	350	526	969	1,061	672	1,733	2,702
Do. for 1929...	3,734	177	223	137	360	537	966	1,063	658	1,721	2,687
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	282	440	288	728	1,010	1,469	1,980	1,387	3,367	4,836
Do. for 1929...	6,360	286	419	295	714	1,000	1,463	1,961	1,379	3,340	4,803
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	412	544	291	835	1,247	2,142	2,640	1,432	4,072	6,214
Do. for 1929...	6,952¾	413	542	321	863	1,276	2,143	2,623	1,516	4,139	6,282
Southern	2,175	252	80	75	115	367	1,330	363	170	533	1,863
Do. for 1929...	2,175	242	35	41	116	358	1,279	357	187	544	1,823
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·5	...	...	4·2	35·7	163·3	...	...	20·3	183·6
Do. for 1929...	59	29·9	...	...	4·0	33·9	156·4	...	...	19·3	175·6
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	289·1	...	...	...	...	1384·0
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	262·2	...	...	...	...	1246·6
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	42·5	...	...	...	...	202·8
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	37·3	...	...	...	...	174·3
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·9	...	...	0·8	2·7	9·4	...	...	3·2	12·6
Do. for 1929...	80	1·8	...	...	0·8	2·6	9·2	...	...	4·0	13·2
*Great Northernb	562	10·1	...	...	18·4	28·5	39·3	...	...	63·0	102·3
Do. for 1929...	562	10·3	...	...	19·6	29·9	39·7	...	...	68·9	108·6
Great Southernb	2,187	21·0	...	...	41·9	62·9	86·8	...	...	168·7	255·5
Do. for 1929...	2,187	22·7	...	...	46·6	69·3	89·0	...	...	185·3	274·3

* Aggregate 4 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	40weeks	Jan. 4	1,217	4,25,000	+ 7,561	1,66,38,471	− 7,45,133
Barsi Lt. Ry.	41weeks	11	202	52,700	− 4,300	19,62,900	+ 73,800
Bengal & N.Western	41weeks	11	2,080	7,13,697	− 8,888	98,60,687	− 3,18,999
Bengal-Nagpur ...	40weeks	4	3,085	16,51,000	− 406001	6,91,31,529	+ 22,71,827
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	43weeks	25	3,031	25,25,000	− 11,000	9,32,72,000	− 14,89,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	41weeks	11	3,121	18,37,000	− 139928	7,29,73,155	+ 12,51,726
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	41weeks	11	1,185	5,35,149	+ 25,377	180,85,360	+ 22,31,082
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	41weeks	11	572	1,64,972	+ 29,813	18,66,195	+ 52,840
South Indian	41weeks	11	2,348	11,86,100	− 22,459	5,23,49,250	+ 41,67,047
† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.							
ARGENTINE (a).							
				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E........	31weeks	Feb. 1	753	17,600	+ 1,900	484,900	− 4,900
Argentine Trans'dn.	31weeks	1	111	5,223	− 824	142,683	+ 2,330
B.A. and Pacific......	31weeks	1	2,806	178,000	− 12,000	4,624,000	− 410,000
B.A. Central	31weeks	2	...	13,968	− 746	400,380	− 33,851
B.A. Gt. Southern...	31weeks	1	4,875	310,000	− 30,000	7,265,000	+ 5,000
B.A. Western	31weeks	1	1,926	105,000	− 15,000	2,676,000	− 342,000
Central Argentine...	31weeks	1	3,319	227,000	− 63,000	7,373,000	− 883,000
Cordoba Central.....	31weeks	1	1,218	50,000	− 13,000	1,904,000	− 253,000
Entre Rios...........	31weeks	1	789	39,900	− 2,600	863,300	− 75,000
CUBAN.							
				£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	31weeks	Feb. 1	1,374	93,186	− 29,900	1,601,778	− 236,442
URUGUAYAN.							
				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	31weeks	Feb. 1	273	36,785	+ 1,323	925,091	− 16,999
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	31weeks	1	311	9,168	+ 545	206,113	+ 890
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	31weeks	1	185	5,004	+ 469	104,395	− 7,361
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	31weeks	1	211	3,153	− 912	83,911	− 4,995
CANADIAN.							
				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	3weeks	Jan.21	19580	3,859,324	− 264449	10,935,658	− 585,907
Canadian Pacific ...	4weeks	31	15217	4,170,000	− 803000	12,421,000	− 3,445,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	5weeks	Feb. 1	1,016	21,200	− 4,300	93,500	− 18,400
Leopoldina...........	5weeks	1	1,856	43,266	+ 6,431	168,635	+ 1,911
Leopoldina Termnl.	5weeks	1	Mlrs.	303,000	+ 9,000	1,376,000	+ 63,000
San Paulo	5weeks	2	153½	44,505	− 9,195	186,030	− 32,127
CHILEAN.							
				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	5weeks	Feb. 2	804	34,400	− 13,070	151,680	− 71,680
Nitrate (½-monthly)	4weeks	Jan.31	413	33,103	− 10,964	63,325	− 23,321
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta......	40weeks	Jan.10	608	11,667	+ 894	282,877	+ 17,820
Gt. Southn. of Spain	4weeks	25	104	Ps.121,883	− 7,387	467,695	− 14,844
Mexican Railway....	4weeks	31	483	$359,000	+ 500	1,016,500	− 28,300
Paraguay Central...	30weeks	25	274	3,580	+ 230	123,630	+ 9,100
Salvador..............	31weeks	Feb. 1	100	6,933	− 3,170	124,529	− 10,557

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	4weeks	Jan.28	329	79,867	− 4,345	331,272	− 12,943
B. Aires Lacroze.....	31weeks	Feb. 2	...	12,528	− 468	357,596	− 31,533
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	1	13	2,810	− 46	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	1	35½	Rs.120053	− 5,585	...	...
Chatham & District	3weeks	Jan.23	15	1,077	+ 63	3,599	+ 150
Egyptian Markets	3weeks	23	...	1,859	− 867	6,597	− 2,037
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	8 days	8	...	1,005	− 19	...	...
Liverpool Corp.......	44weeks	Feb. 1	124	29,312	+ 1,916	1,329,080	+ 26,064
L.C.C. Tramways....	43weeks	Jan.29	166	82,929	+ 4,410	3,642,691	+ 54,057
Madras Electric......	‡4 weeks	31	...	Rs. 44,960	+ 2,355	94,311	+ 2,916

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

RUBBER COMPANY STATISTICS.

Name.	Financial Year Ends.	Share and Paid.	Shares Issued.	Highest and Lowest, 1929.	Total Div. % for Fin'l Year.	Acres Planted Rubber	Acres in Reserve	Last Published. Average Selling Price.	Cost f.o.b.	Cost all in.	Last Financial Year's Output.	Output Oct., 1929.	Output Nov., 1929.	Output Dec., 1929.
		£									Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Allied Sumatra	Dec. 31	1	1,400,000	20/7 12/9	5	21,884	21,959	0/9·83	0/6·40	...	3,696,056	395,656	364,445	417,644
Ampat	Sept. 30	2/0	700,050	5/3 2/4	5	2,476	3,960	0/10·97	...	0/6·77	649,365	74,580	59,827	77,043
Anglo-Dutch	Dec. 31	1	2,350,350	44/3 29/6	10	31,442	129,426	0/9¾	0/6·99	...	9,314,063	1,052,000	1,131,500	...
Anglo-Java	Mar. 31	2/0	7,386,750	5/3 2/6	5	31,124	7,787	0/9·68	...	...	10,337,536	934,900	868,200	974,400
Anglo-Johore	Dec. 31	1/0	1,500,000	1/0½ 0/4½	7½	1,439	525	1/1·84	0/10½	...	346,000	47,000	38,000	48,000
Anglo-Malay	Dec. 31	1	412,507	28/1½ 13/1	4	5,660	2,710	0/9·65	0/8·50	0/9·96	1,266,946	146,659	117,629	155,059
Ayer Kuning	Dec. 31	1	140,000	53/9 28/3	12½	3,142	2,230	0/10·3	...	0/7·07	817,919	87,000	82,000	99,000
Badek	Dec. 31	1	123,208	48/9 23/9	10	3,112	...	1/10·03	0/6·42	...	988,047	111,539	98,650	121,634
Bah Lias	Oct. 30	1	351,213	45/0 21/3	6	8,012	8,654	1/0·64	0/8·04	...	1,575,627	155,107	124,686	145,428
Bandar Sumatra	July 31	1	99,847	38/3 18/9	7½	2,392	1,334	0/9·41	0/7·70	...	753,000	80,000	69,500	74,500
Banteng (Selangor)	April 30	1	99,000	40/0 23/0	15	1,886	333	0/10·10	...	0/6·11	908,578	98,000	85,000	101,000
Batang Consol	Dec. 31	2/0	2,458,840	2/0 0/11½	Nil	2,671	...	0/9·48	0/5·55	0/7·81	857,394	106,796	90,147	121,628
Batu Tiga	Dec. 31	1	221,666	41/3 22/6	10	6,156	758	0/10·44	0/7·12	0/8·67	...	217,000	180,500	247,000
Bekoh Consol.	June 30	2/0	2,993,007	2/3 0/9	5	2,672	616	0/9·19	0/3·2	0/4·81	1,167,297	98,488	82,591	112,777
Bertam Cons.	Mar. 31	2/0	3,340,000	6/3 3/8	12½	9,077	5,542	0/9·35	0/4·55	0/5·78	3,070,618	316,509	320,756	375,782
Besoeki	Dec. 31	1	110,000	47/6 27/6	15	2,037	1,131	1/0·14	0/6·32	...	660,333	69,000	71,000	89,000
Bikam	Dec. 31	2/0	1,885,000	3/3 1/6	7½	3,110	1,704	0/9·21	0/7·61	0/9·7	711,200	100,300	89,700	102,000
Biting	Mar. 31	2/0	750,000	2/0¾ 0/9½	Nil	982	67	0/8·75	0/5·49	...	234,603	22,700	28,000	31,000
Bradwall	Dec. 31	1	90,000	42/0 20/3	7½	2,789	359	0/8·88	0/5·73	0/7·23	639,500	63,000	50,500	64,500
Brooklands	June 30	2/0	1,750,000	6/0 2/9	15	4,944	...	0/10·47	0/7·14	...	1,525,770	132,400	126,000	...
Broome	June 30	1	135,000	21/3 13/6	5	1,803	220	0/10·56	0/4·75	...	300,916	64,000	57,000	70,000
Bukit Kajang	June 30	1	175,000	38/9 20/0	5	4,735	583	0/9·01	0/5·93	0/6·60	1,218,638	122,710	114,075	141,879
Bukit Mertajam	Mar. 31	2/0	3,000,000	5/1½ 2/5½	10	7,374	3,841	0/10·10	0/5·5	0/6·75	2,363,726	...	228,082	258,395
Bukit Selangor	Mar. 31	2/0	2,330,881	1/7¾ 0/9½	Nil	2,468	856	0/11·12	0/7·27	0/8·56	845,369	73,749	72,758	86,213
Bukit Sembawang	Dec. 31	2/0	3,339,550	2/6 0/11½	Nil	5,870	...	0/8·39	0/7·04	...	1,578,299	...	...	144,621
Castlefield	June 30	2/0	1,000,000	8/0 3/9	15	3,324	152	0/9·16	0/5·14	0/6·39	1,324,683	103,990	93,168	116,000
Ceylon (Para)	Dec. 31	2/0	700,000	12/3 5/3	10	3,446	325	0/9	0/6·67	0/8·59	1,118,147	146,697	130,591	145,805
Ceylon T. Plant., Ord.	Dec. 31	1	376,000	6 3/16 95/0	40	5,165	13,511	0/8·28	0/8·18	...	1,437,437	...	...	...
Chembong (1920)	Mar. 31	2/0	2,782,694	1/10½ 0/11¼	5	2,662	162	0/10·48	0/6·93	0/8·89	1,009,168	97,300	93,300	119,700
Chersonese (F.M.S.)	Dec. 31	2/0	2,700,000	3/6 1/10	8½	2,449	...	0/9·35	0/6·43	...	625,936	75,300	75,500	...
Cheviot	Dec. 31	2/0	2,000,000	4/6½ 2/9	10	4,033	1,124	0/11·71	...	0/6·09	1,141,000	145,000	135,000	160,000
Cicely Ord.	Mar. 31	2/0	1,334,312	8/3 4/0	22½	5,020	715	0/11·70	0/5·30	...	1,482,090	182,548	158,779	...
Consolidated Malay	Dec. 31	2/0	750,000	8/4½ 3/11½	16⅔	3,509	1,525	0/9·36	...	0/8·29	1,006,664	126,000	114,000	146,000
Dennistown	Dec. 31	2/0	1,678,820	2/2½ 0/9½	Nil	3,512	239	0/8·28	0/6·33	0/7·23	567,310	...	82,508	83,755
Djember	Dec. 31	1	164,496	42/6 20/1½	10	3,108	3,442	0/8·51	...	...	950,776	76,500	...	...
Eastern Produce Ord.	Dec. 31	1	333,000	5 5/32 78/9	35	3,246	4,375	0/8½	...	...	647,134	89,680	74,970	88,300
F.M.S. Rubber Plntrs.	Dec. 31	1	210,000	45/7½ 27/6	10	5,878	1,925	0/9·72	0/6·01	...	1,513,700	218,250	190,220	283,950
Gadjah	April 30	2/0	350,000	7/7½ 2/9½	15	2,023	6,622	0/10·54	0/5·74	0/7·14	520,590	40,000	47,000	42,000
General Ceylon	Dec. 31	1	305,000	41/0 23/9	10	4,160	2,708	0/8·86	...	...	1,342,805	175,176	179,001	...
Glen Bervie	Sept. 30	1	85,069	39/0 20/0	5	2,264	50	0/8·14	...	0/6·52	738,566	75,000	72,000	76,000
Glenshiel (1919)	Dec. 31	1	175,000	22/1½ 11/0	7½	2,123	139	pft.	per lb.	0/5·26	699,637	69,918	64,607	76,428
Golconda Malay	Dec. 31	1	113,000	35/0 21/1½	10	2,199	61	0/9·14	0/6·39	0/6·58	728,131	87,444	81,174	94,689
Golden Hope	Dec. 31	1	280,720	34/4½ 20/3	10	7,043	2,828	0/9·92	0/8·05	...	1,434,240	198,487	166,426	244,519
Grand Central	Dec. 31	1	1,225,000	32/4½ 16/0	5	16,098	5,660	0/11·62	0/7·82	0/9·48	4,291,995	605,387	582,733	627,766
Hewagam	Dec. 31	1	240,000	17/9 10/0	6	2,756	600	0/9·68	0/7	...	1,030,067	136,600	124,500	140,208
Highlands & Lowlands	Dec. 31	1	309,481	45/0 26/0	10	5,396	1,434	0/9·42	0/6·65	...	1,642,674	157,200	138,500	183,000
Inch Kenneth	June 30	1	30,000	60/6 25/0	7½	1,481	199	0/9·57	0/7·41	0/8·53	441,446	38,020	32,310	45,000
Insulinde	June 30	2/0	1,211,820	2/11½ 1/0	5	2,339	10,613	0/10·3	0/5·15	0/6·45	573,011	54,300	49,400	64,700
Java Amalgamated	Dec. 31	1	185,000	37/9 20/0	17½	3,920	...	0/9·89	...	...	1,288,475	129,700	128,800	...
Java Rubber Plant	Dec. 31	2/0	699,660	5/10½ 3/0	15	2,159	187	0/11·10	0/7	...	613,866	66,400	71,600	...
Java United	Dec. 31	1	150,000	47/0 27/6	15	2,320	3,500	1/0·8	0/9·3	...	595,438	70,000	76,000	88,000
Jeram	Mar. 31	1	112,500	35/7½ 20/0	10	3,054	...	0/9·19	0/5·58	...	711,637	77,300	71,400	88,632
Jong-Landor	June 30	1	89,500	44/9 25/0	12½	2,342	358	0/10	0/5·40	0/6·83	1,106,464	92,116	77,160	99,205
K.M.S.	June 30	1	169,554	31/9 17/6	10	3,518	1,017	0/11·81	0/5·87	0/6·26	1,022,599	97,600	106,430	120,000
Kali Glagah	Mar. 31	2/0	985,100	4/6½ 1/11½	15	3,870	...	0/9·08	0/4 apx.	...	793,960	62,900	75,100	83,300
Kali Java	Dec. 31	2/0	668,147	3/0 1/4½	4	1,027	1,024	0/8·09	...	...	269,470	20,500	21,500	40,700
Kampong Kuantan	Dec. 31	2/0	660,499	8/0 4/0	25	2,593	688	1/1·72	0/7	0/8·75	800,000	88,000	84,000	89,000
Kamuning Rub. & Tin	June 30	2/0	2,010,000	4/3 2/0	12½	3,304	500	0/9·76	...	0/5·87	1,543,336	152,000	145,000	169,000
Kawie (Java)	Mar. 31	2	750,000	7/3¾ 3/7½	20	2,266	223	0/9·93	...	...	975,865	69,500	77,900	100,200
Kepitigalla	Mar. 31	2/0	1,375,000	2/4 0/10	Nil	2,826	680	0/9·60	0/8·09	...	698,579	82,204	75,611	72,871
Kepong (Malay)	Dec. 31	2/0	1,180,000	8/3¾ 4/11½	27½	5,115	511	1/0	...	...	1,686,276	182,760	169,385	...
Kinta Kellas	Mar. 31	2/0	1,300,000	5/3 3/0	10	3,559	779	0/8·87	0/5·98	...	1,014,100	110,200	95,490	122,110
Klanang Produce	Dec. 31	2/0	870,000	7/3 3/0	15	2,578	...	0/9·17	0/5·74	0/6·62	848,181	96,533	99,582	117,908
Kuala Selangor	Dec. 31	2/0	775,000	6/3 3/10½	12½	1,953	...	0/8·92	...	0/5·90	695,417	87,380	82,348	85,975
Labu (F.M.S.)	Dec. 31	1	235,000	45/0 28/9	10	4,266	1,302	0/11·70	0/5·42	0/5·87	1,250,000	181,000	154,000	182,000
Lanadron	Dec. 31	1	360,000	27/6 13/0	5	5,391	6,310	0/10·64	0/7·69	...	1,130,117	100,383	92,854	116,418
Langen	Aug. 31	1	125,000	40/0 21/3	10	3,070	1,287	0/9·07	0/6·07	...	1,037,517	85,072	81,254	91,907
Langkat Sumatra	Dec. 31	1	123,971	29/4½ 13/0	4	2,854	...	0/9·16	0/8·18	...	598,000	67,000	58,000	...
Langkon N. Borneo	Mar. 31	2/0	1,093,680	1/9 0/6	Nil	1,633	10,264	0/9·21	...	0/9·80	340,000	33,000	33,000	...
Laras	Mar. 31	2/0	3,003,920	4/9 2/1	2½	9,498	11,515	1/9·17	...	...	2,771,624	...	...	...
Ledbury	Dec. 31	1	108,600	41/6 25/0	10	2,431	556	0/10·12	0/8·01	...	587,944	71,500	62,460	76,370
Linggi Plant. Ord.	Dec. 31	1	560,000	38/6 22/4	7½	11,516	4,534	0/10·01	0/6·32	...	2,890,800	312,000	280,000	360,000
London Asiatic	Dec. 31	2/0	4,920,869	6/4 3/7	15	12,940	7,072	0/10·89	0/6·77	...	3,642,952	453,800	413,000	507,200
Lumut	Sept. 30	1	211,482	58/9 35/7½	22½	3,759	148	0/10·02	0/4·70	0/5·72	1,410,440	120,200	113,450	123,500
Malacca Ordinary	Dec. 31	1	541,613	47/9 23/1	7½	21,430	10,222	0/10·17	0/6·83	0/7·33	4,763,404	617,000	547,000	688,000
Malayalam Plan.	Mar. 31	1	1,789,508	37/9 23/10½	12	18,095	34,947	0/9·82	0/7·15	...	3,886,468	596,009	627,794	614,189
Mendaris (Sumatra)	Dec. 31	1	430,862	28/1½ 15/0	5	6,441	6,326	0/9·47	0/7·07	...	2,117,305	214,708	182,856	240,113
Merlimau Pegoh	Dec. 31	2/0	5,902,795	4/10 2/1	5	10,587	...	0/9·69	...	0/6·62	2,722,162	...	256,000	309,700
Mount Austin	Mar. 31	1	600,000	28/9 15/0	6	11,303	598	pft.	per lb.	0/4·11	2,622,967	275,138	242,236	287,471
Nagolle	Dec. 31	1	185,141	21/10 11/3	4	2,023	218	1/4·60	...	...	585,577	78,775	76,676	99,040
Nordanal (Johore)	Dec. 31	1	280,000	19/4½ 10/0	5	3,086	1,163	pft.	per lb.	0/4·84	749,769	65,500	57,000	74,000
North Hummock	Mar. 31	1	240,000	24/0¾ 11/4½	3	3,276	809	0/8·40	0/6·15	0/6·88	917,874	...	...	105,949
Pataling	Dec. 31	1	225,007	26/3 15/6	10	2,146	519	0/10·53	0/9·09	...	653,330	79,560	71,780	84,550
Perak Rubber Plant	Mar. 31	2/0	890,000	4/4 2/7	10	1,775	350	0/8·53	0/5	...	717,072	90,600	78,500	95,500
Pernambang	Dec. 31	1	448,591	19/6 9/4½	Nil	5,431	3,137	0/9·16	0/8·86	...	1,268,506	182,226	193,204	224,105
Port Dickson	Mar. 31	2/0	2,464,633	3/6 1/6	6	4,483	114	0/9·87	0/6·34	0/6·75	1,356,873	172,000	145,000	190,000
Prye Rubber, &c.	Mar. 31	1	99,247	15/6 6/6	5	1,166	2,842	0/9·59	...	...	265,026	25,861	28,849	...
Rangoon Para	Dec. 31	1	187,551	13/6 5/4½	Nil	2,692	514	0/9·49	...	0/9·26	622,095	85,000	76,000	...
Rani (Travancore)	Dec. 31	1	275,000	19/10 11/3	3½	3,937	1,457	0/10·34	0/7·65	...	1,298,290	151,560	154,150	150,010
Rembau Jelei	Dec. 31	1	400,000	36/6 20/0	10	6,423	1,822	1/0·6	0/7·67	...	2,140,986	268,106	221,234	200,578
Rubana	June 30	1	330,000	25/0 17/3	10	4,537	131	pft.	per lb.	0/6·70	1,713,737	145,000	134,000	141,500
R. Estates of Johore	Dec. 31	1	187,500	21/3 12/0	5	2,647	1,917	0/10·10	0/7·82	...	738,662	68,713	57,088	70,598
R. Estates of Krian	Dec. 31	2/0	1,200,000	2/10½ 1/4½	5	1,721	36	0/9	0/5·54	...	554,347	64,500	70,438	79,823
Sampang	Dec. 31	2/0	730,000	4/0¾ 2/0	5	1,807	1,125	0/11·17	...	0/10·09	413,912	54,000	...	...
Sapong Rubber, &c.	Dec. 31	1	120,000	44/4 22/6	10	3,254	16,746	1/3·36	0/10·37	...	839,280	78,000	71,000	78,000
Seafield	Dec. 31	1	200,000	31/10½ 17/0	10	2,579	408	...	0/6·59	0/9·2	932,000	103,108	101,215	107,444
Seaport	June 30	1	187,500	23/9 12/9	6	1,937	...	0/8·87	0/6·20	...	750,000	72,000	58,000	80,000
Sedenak	Oct. 31	1	153,843	36/3 18/6	6½	3,445	2,939	0/11·09	0/7·62	0/8·42	902,529	...	...	141,670
Selangor	Dec. 31	2/0	1,200,000	4/7½ 2/3	8½	2,646	...	0/10·85	0/6·38	0/7·16	664,800	67,424	60,331	68,192
Sempah	Mar. 31	1	127,910	20/1½ 7/0	Nil	1,997	37	0/9·40	0/9·60	...	404,083	43,904	46,426	...
Sendayan	Sept. 30	1	250,000	32/0 17/0	2½	4,699	556	1/1·85	...	0/9·66	914,739	143,000	139,000	194,000
Sennah	Dec. 31	1	600,000	48/1 23/9	5	7,606	...	0/10·66	...	...	2,609,131	223,619	203,925	232,186
Serdang Central	Dec. 31	1	88,478	35/0 18/9	10	1,815	581	0/10·66	0/8·48	...	406,000	36,000	39,000	...
Seremban (1920)	Dec. 31	1	400,000	11/3 6/0	Nil	3,117	121	0/8·37	0/8·31	...	743,788	72,620	...	81,114
Sialang	Jan. 31	1	300,000	45/0 22/0	10	6,819	2,515	0/10·72	0/7·78	...	2,039,059	199,837	183,090	202,908
Singapore Para	June 30	2/0	2,386,666	2/0¾ 0/10½	4	3,553	458	0/10·44	0/6·92	0/7·46	994,336	103,959	90,140	109,549
Straits Rubber (1919)	Dec. 31	1	1,050,000	27/6 15/0	7½	10,298	1,683	profit	per lb.	0/6·61	3,044,209	328,500	316,500	366,800
Sumatra Consolidated	April 30	1	125,000	32/1 13/6	3½	2,282	1,763	0/9·61	0/5·67	...	515,328	52,000	47,200	47,800
Sumatra Para	June 30	2/0	1,999,335	5/4 2/8	10	4,942	...	0/9·32	0/5·12	...	1,540,921	147,000	138,000	151,000
Sungei Choh (1920)	Dec. 31	1	200,000	22/9 14/9	3	2,469	96	0/8·4	0/6·24	...	655,900	91,270	80,100	99,340
Sungei Salak	Dec. 31	1	100,000	50/0 32/6	6	3,395	778	0/9·77	0/6·52	0/7·20	1,008,400	127,000	126,000	159,000
Sungkai-Chumor	June 30	2/0	998,546	4/3¾ 2/2½	7½	2,276	139	1/1·8	0/9·98	...	773,436	82,079	73,765	84,938
Taiping	Sept. 30	2/0	2,910,636	2/7 1/1½	5	3,584	1,634	1/2·05	0/6·39	...	824,839	119,000	113,000	136,000
Tambira	Dec. 31	1	59,833	42/6 26/3	5	4,024	13,426	0/11·99	0/11·71	...	340,360	57,500	130,000	58,100
Tandjong	June 30	1	250,000	47/6 24/9	10	6,151	2,237	0/9·67	0/7·88	0/10·13	1,684,663	131,000	130,000	151,000
Telogoredjo	Dec. 31	1	595,219	54/0 28/0	6	27,905	31,478	0/10·57	0/7	...	3,303,733	301,700	370,001	409,878
Tremelbye	Mar. 31	1	276,000	19/4½ 8/4½	4	2,826	...	0/9·5	0/6·13	0/7·46	878,561	84,309	75,078	88,259
United Serdang	Aug. 31	2/0	14232725	6/1 3/3	10	30,545	35,402	1/2·28	0/9·13	...	5,168,031	671,205	619,265	703,577
United Sua Betong	Dec. 31	1	500,000	88/9 48/9	15	22,113	13,517	0/10·89	0/6·52	0/6·75	4,337,855	617,000	544,000	714,000
United Sumatra	Dec. 31	2/0	2,200,000	3/5 1/6	10	3,841	5,439	0/9·6	0/5·88	...	863,495	89,123	85,659	91,632
United Temiang	July 31	2/0	2,000,000	3/11¾ 1/9	6	4,507	1,963	0/10·72	0/7·44	0/7·83	1,087,792	108,000	96,000	123,000
Waterfall	Sept. 30	2/0	3,351,480	2/3 1/2	Nil	7,031	162	0/9·56	...	0/8·32	2,266,469	211,000	187,000	241,700
Way Halim	Mar. 31	2/0	517,615	3/6 1/7½	6	1,328	4,158	0/8·9	0/6·40	...	390,489	37,000	46,000	51,000

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Preference. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
City of London Brewery.....	Dec. 31	26,919	196,585	223,504	71,815	94,347	20P.O.	30,000	27,341	180,574	20P.O.
Lovibond (John) and Sons .	Sept. 30	22,848	14,318	37,166	3,025	5,250	10	3,250	25,641	9,709	7½
Financial Land, &c.											
London Property Investment Trust	Dec. 31	1,462	12,461	13,923	...	10,947‡	{ 6A 5B }	1,469	1,507	...	...
Gas.											
Cardiff Gas Light and Coke	Dec. 31	14,746	43,625	58,371	...	41,950	6	500	15,921	44,287	6
Commercial Gas Co.	Dec. 31	45,406	114,479	159,885	...	124,397	6	...	35,488	116,458	6
Gas Light and Coke Co.	Dec. 31	158,658	1,378,330	1,536,988	166,281	1,135,417	{ 3⅛§ 5⅝§ }	90,000	145,290	1,421,645	{ 3⅛§ 5⅛§
Newport (Mon.) Gas Co.	Dec. 31	409	13,951	14,360	...	13,700	5	438	222	10,905	...
Southampton Gaslight	Dec. 31	8,827	32,269	41,096	...	32,387	5	7,000	1,709	41,113	5
South Metropolitan Gas Co.	Dec. 31	2,461	479,412	481,873	30,000	419,368	6½	30,000	2,505	442,171	6½
South Suburban Gas Co.....	Dec. 31	38,373	54,819	93,192	...	100,346	6½	*Dr. 7,719*	565	94,568	6½
Wandsworth, Wimbledon & Epsom District Gas	Dec. 31	30,462	77,940	108,402	10,000	81,674	...	...	16,728	81,225	...
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Imperial Hydropathic Hotel Co. (Blackpool)	Nov. 30	11,605	14,042	25,647	...	9,903†	15	5,000	10,744	16,033	15†
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Spencer (Melksham)	Sept. 30	*Dr. 77,475*	*Dr. 3,530*	*Dr. 81,005*	...	...	...	...	*Dr81,005*	*Dr.5,412*	...
Nitrate.											
New Paccha and Jazpampa	June 30*	*Dr. 8,977*	*Dr. 707*	*Dr. 9,684*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 9,684*	...	...
Rubber, &c.											
Ampat (Sumatra) Rubber	Sept. 30	2,947	3,835	6,782	...	...	...	...	6,782	6,300	5
Sendayan (F.M.S.) Rubber Co	Sept. 30	7,591	20,761	28,352	...	12,500	5	5,000	10,852	5,224	2½
Stoughton (Perak) Rubber	Sept. 30	3,540	14,615	18,155	...	13,000	10	1,500	3,655	8,480	5
Textiles.											
Emmotts and Wallshaw ...	Dec. 31	*Dr. 6,908*	*Dr.11,660*	*Dr.18,568*	...	...	...	...	*Dr18,568*	*Dr.6,938*	...
English Velvet & Cord Assn.	Dec. 31	20,917	57,882	78,799	10,594	34,810	8	15,000	18,395	66,693	8
Rylands and Sons	Dec. 31	18,994	225,908	244,902	96,000	128,000	8	...	20,902	199,351	8
Trust.											
Central Bahia Railway Trust	Dec. 31	2,902	31,646	34,548	...	31,491	{ 4A 1½B }	...	3,057	31,632	{ 4A 1½B
City of Aberdeen Property and General Invest. Trust	Dec. 31	1,458	5,788	7,247	1,350	3,604	8½	1,500	792	6,347	8½
Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust.....	Jan. 10	45,638	117,987	163,625	30,560	57,312	10	30,000	45,753	101,175	10
General Funds Investment Trust.....	Jan. 15	767	11,495	12,262	4,064	4,064	5	3,000	1,134	...	...
Glasgow Stockholders Trust	Jan. 2	1,138	32,020	33,158	14,615	9,743	10	6,330	2,470	16,245	5
Greyhound Racing Assn. Trust.....	Dec. 31	3,267	87,519	90,786	69,693	19,894	10	...	1,199	67,621	...
Guardian Investment Trust	Jan. 20	16,913	77,882	94,795	18,000	44,000	11	...	17,795	77,122	11
Romney Trust.....	Dec. 31	9,497	28,165	37,662	10,000	14,000	7	5,256	8,406	19,429	7
Second British Assets Trust	Dec. 31	16,672	66,112	82,784	17,901	35,961	15	...	28,922	60,556	15
Traction and General Investment Trust.....	Dec. 31	35,798	85,958	121,758	27,758	39,750	17	11,736	42,509	74,432	10
Waterworks.											
Sunderland & South Shields Water Co.	Dec. 31	39,277	67,716	106,993	1,094	53,022	7½	...	52,877	69,667	8
Whitby Waterworks.....	Dec. 31	1,555	3,515	5,070	855	1,532	{ 7½ 5¼ }	700	1,983	2,022	{ 7½ 5¼
Other Companies.											
Bradbury, Greatorex and Co.	Jan. 3	52,634	83,199	135,833	13,000	43,560	12	15,000	64,278	84,259	12
Craigton Cemetery Co.	Dec. 31	615	3,680	4,295	...	1,600	4	2,000	695	2,951	4
Crockers, Ltd.....	Dec. 31	4,686	10,007	14,693	4,250	5,550	3	...	4,893	11,213	3
Foster, Porter and Co.	Dec. 31	8,507	15,046	23,553	...	15,000	5	...	8,553	16,854	10
Hall Telephone Accessories (1928).....	Dec. 31	4,631	38,415	43,046	...	16,128	12	22,200	4,718	30,094	10
Hart and Levy	Dec. 31	3,174	33,262	36,436	10,800	22,500	10	2,000	1,136	32,207	10
Maidenhead Brick and Tile	Sept. 30	1,031	28,842	29,873	16,031	12,444	90	...	1,398	10,895	56
Manchester Corn, Grocery and Produce Exchange ...	Dec. 31	995	17,219	18,214	...	15,744	8	...	2,470	18,359	9
North of Ireland Paper Mill	Dec. 31	18,661	8,687	27,348	...	4,000	3⅛†	...	23,348	17,503	7½d.
Read Bros.	Dec. 31	9,706	27,569	37,275	9,200	18,200	13	...	9,875	21,940	11
Royal Exchange Co. (Leeds)	Dec. 31	3,707	5,054	8,761	...	4,640	17	250	3,871	5,176	14
Wembley Stadium	Dec. 31	4,310	25,964	30,274	26,287	...	...	...	3,987	10,289	...

* 18 months. † Free of income tax. ‡ Includes payment on Founders shares. § Maximum.

OIL OUTPUTS.

ANGLO-ECUADORIAN OILFIELDS.—The production for January is cabled as 14,805 tons.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended January 29th :—Venezuela, 34,837 barrels; Trinidad, 10,627 barrels; total, 45,464 barrels.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LTD.—The production of the Peruvian Company for December is 29,847 tons. The production of the Peruvian company for January is cabled as 28,815 tons.

TAMPICO OIL, LTD.—The total production on the company's properties in Mexico in December was 20,926 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., was 1,569 barrels.

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA.—Production in December was 129,349 barrels, or about 18,479 tons.

HECTOR WHALING LIMITED.—Catch report to February 2, 1930.

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting	Three	Four
Catch for week ending January 12, 1930, in barrels of oil.....	6,400	7,300
Catch for week ending January 19, 1930, in barrels of oil	6,200	9,200
Catch for week ending January 26, 1930, in barrels of oil.....	4,700	11,100
Catch for week ending February 2nd in barrells in oil.....	3,700	7,700
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	88,200	117,000

Note—Two expeditions suspended fishing during move to South Shetland.

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£
January	207,021	206,094	217,027	195,481
February	194,556	195,996	196,649	191,786
March	197,908	213,708	204,000	200,435
April	219,984	204,876	206,234	203,780
May	209,331	207,818	200,130	203,798
June	221,560	223,418	218,745	204,603
July	213,500	207,448	206,877	196,016
August	209,982	199,860	214,077	196,528
September	204,187	193,646	201,625	190,354
October	211,680	197,501	182,032	198,308
November	215,982	200,481	201,689	195,386
December	202,836	208,016	189,319	197,884
Total Gold	2,508,527	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,374,359

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions have not been altogether favourable for agricultural operations in the United Kingdom, spring preparations being difficult on heavy land owing to excessive moisture, though fair progress was made on lighter soils. A spell of cold and dry weather is desired to facilitate ploughing and also check the rapid growth of winter cereals. Supplies of native wheat were on a lighter scale at the principal provincial markets, but prices marked a further downward tendency following the decline in foreign descriptions. On the import market, business fails to show any appreciable expansion, though some interest was shown for Canadian grades, which were more freely offered at again lower prices. The demand generally for overseas wheat, however, is by no means brisk and insufficient to support values. The reduced Argentine estimate had no effect on this side, and with increased offerings from Russia prices steadily declined. The weight of surplus supplies in North America and Canada in particular is still the chief factor, and while the latter variety is held for such a high premium on competing descriptions, European purchases of Canadian wheat will necessarily be restricted and cheaper kinds favoured. Although Southern Hemisphere supplies are much reduced, there will be sufficient to provide fair competition for some weeks ahead, when new crops will begin to attract attention. Meanwhile, available supplies are ample for present small requirements, and buyers generally adopt a reserved attitude pending further developments in the situation. Flour values have generally followed the course of wheat, and forward offers of Canadian more freely made at reduced prices, though without obtaining much response from importers. Feeding stuffs moved off slowly, and the market for Plate maize weakened under prospects of a record new crop and liberal supplies to come forward from the Danube. Russian barley is still pressing at low rates, and oats were also easier owing to lack of demand.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 50s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 49s. 3d.; No. 3, 48s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 47s. 6d.; No. 5, 44s. 3d.; No. 6, 37s. 3d.; No. 1 Vancouver, 49s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 48s. 3d.; No. 3, 47s. 6d.; No. 2 hard Winter, 45s.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 41s. 6d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 43s. 6d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 44s. 6d.; Australian 45s. 9d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 11d.-9s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet. London straight run 40s. per sack for country deliveries, and 39s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 37s.-39s. 6d.; Buffalo, 38s.-40s.; Australian, 35s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba, top patents, January-February, 37s. 6d.-38s.; export ditto, 35s.-35s. 3d.; Australian, 33s. 9d.-34s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £6 10s. per ton.

Maize.—Easier. Plate landed, 26s. 6d., ex-ship to arrive, 25s. 3d.; February-March, 25s. 9d.; March-April, 26s. 9d.; new April-May, 26s. 9d.; May-June, 26s. 6d.; No. 4 yellow African, ex-ship, 26s. 6d., per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 12s. 6d.; white, £6 2s. 6d. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Dull and weak. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex-ship, 37s.-45s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex-store, 36s.-42s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. No. 2 Federal American landed, 22s. 6d.; Danubian landed, 23s. 6d.; Black Sea, January, ex-ship, 20s. 6d.; Persian ditto, 20s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 8s., 12s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 9d.-7s. 3d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Weaker. Plate landed, 16s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 15s. 6d.; black Plate landed, 16s. 3d.; Chilian white, landed, 23s.; ditto tawny, 18s.; German landed, 19s.; ex-ship to arrive, 17s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 14s. 9d.; South Russian, 14s. 6d.-16s. 6d. as to quality, per 320 lbs. English, 6s.-7s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to February 1	Cwts. 275,466	Cwts. 327,012	Cwts. 335,937	Cwts. 289,882
22 weeks to February 1.....	5,791,947	5,941,793	5,516,277	7,867,168
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 4	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Jan. 25	310,308	357,415	56,606	9 6	8 5	6 11
Feb. 1	275,466	357,366	55,429	9 4	8 4	6 9
Jan. 30, 1926	270,479	292,736	75,837	12 1	10 3	9 2
Jan. 29, 1927	304,464	417,198	93,664	11 10	11 1	8 3
Feb. 4, 1928	335,937	353,027	103,125	9 10	11 0	10 0
Feb. 2, 1929	327,012	348,650	118,507	9 10	10 4	9 7

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	128⅜	148⅜	135⅛	127⅛	125⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	124⅛	130⅞	124⅛	118⅛	114⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,278,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 194,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 81,217,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports that the export trade in South Yorkshire steam coal is not quite so good as it has been, and buyers are obtaining rather easier quotations. The demand for industrial fuel has fallen off and the house coal market is disappointing. The present output of the pits is, however, being absorbed fairly promptly.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—Export business has fallen to very small proportions, and buyers abroad, being well stocked, are delaying the placing of further orders in hope of securing yet additional concessions in prices. At the moment the outlook appears to favour such expectations, as the collieries are unable to dispose of outputs and have resorted to short-time working in some areas. Lanarkshire splints, navigation coals and washed pearls are about the only qualities finding a ready market. Shipment prices (f.o.b. district ports) are approximately : LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 17s.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 15s.; doubles, 13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 14s.-14s. 6d.; third-class steam, 13s.; trebles, 14s.-15s.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 13s. 9d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 14s. 6d.; secondary steam, 14s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 9d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Increasing Interest in South American Markets

Estd. *1862*

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Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Throughout the present week the Cardiff coal market has presented a patchy appearance. Demand has been unevenly distributed, with general conditions unfavourable, except, perhaps, in Monmouthshire, where the recent orders placed by the Italian and Egyptian State Railways are maintaining a fairly active market. Other large coals, however, are dull and abundant, while the operations of middlemen are causing a certain amount of irregularity among sized coals. Freights continue very weak, and the volume of idle tonnage is accumulating. In order to prevent congestion owing to the presence of unemployed vessels the Great Western Railway Company have issued an order prohibiting the admission into their South Wales docks of vessels other than those coming to load or discharge cargoes. Owing to their heavy contract commitments the pits are working fairly regularly and shipments at the South Wales docks last week totalled 603,900 tons, compared with 657,700 tons the previous week, and 557,881 tons in the corresponding week last year. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; best small steams, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 38s.; Red Vein large, 24s. 6d. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. 6d. to 46s.; stove nuts, 43s. 6d. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 12s. to 13s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 3d. to 26s. 6d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Although business in some branches of the steel trades remains quiet, general conditions are more active than of late. Irregularity in working is still a feature of the British steel industry, and a lack of confidence in the home market is restricting buying to small quantities for near delivery. The export demand has improved and a good business is reported from the Far East in steel plates. Business with Canada also has been on an encouraging scale, and some attractive orders have been booked. The position in the pig-iron market remains steady and the threatened advance in prices at the end of January did not take place. In Scotland competition from Continental and Indian pig iron is still felt. The demand for semi-finished materials has improved slightly, but there has been a scarcity of any important orders. The Continental steel makers, however, have maintained the fixed prices recently agreed upon. In the finished steel department there has been an improved inquiry from the overseas markets, but with the exception of the orders referred to above only a moderate proportion of this has materialised into actual business. The fact that overseas buyers are showing much more interest in the market is regarded as an encouraging sign, as export business has been indifferent for some time past.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron continues extremely dull. Home users are buying small lots for early delivery, but there is an almost entire lack of forward business and consumers do not show any indication at present of coming on the market to purchase ahead. Stocks in the hands of producers are increasing to some extent, but they are not causing inconvenience and no encouragement is given to the idea held in some quarters that prices may be reduced. The weekly market on Tuesday was again quiet, with business on a restricted scale. A few small orders were placed with makers for early delivery at 72s. 6d. per ton for No. 3, but merchants accepted slightly less where their contract conditions with makers allowed them to compete. No. 1 was 75s., No. 4 foundry 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron for January totalled 16,656 tons, against 12,619 tons in December and 21,518 tons in November. Hematite is a weak market. Producers have a fair number of contracts on their books made some time ago, but new business of importance does not come to hand so far. Transactions by makers during the week have been only small at 78s. for mixed numbers for early delivery and 78s. 6d. a month or two ahead. Merchants are in command of a fair amount of iron, and as they have a free hand in regard to export, have shaded makers' prices by 6d. to 1s. per ton to secure business. In the steel trade a moderate amount of new work is coming to hand in different departments. The sheet trade, however, does not show any improvement. Prices are generally unchanged from last week, except that galvanised corrugated sheets of 24-gauge are 2s. 6d. lower at £11 17s. 6d. There is no movement in the ore market and consumers are still holding off. Best rubio remains nominally 23s. c.i.f. for delivery over a few months, but odd prompt cargoes can be secured at 22s. 6d. The freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for prompt tonnage is about 6s. 9d. Coke is in full supply and is now obtainable at 21s. 6d. delivered works for ordinary furnace qualities. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is unchanged at 42.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: February has opened with slackness in most branches of local trade, although there are a few notable exceptions. In the lighter sections of the steel trade overseas business continues sluggish, and the demand for sheets has not recovered from the recent setback. In all departments buyers appear to be holding back, and the hand-to-mouth character of the trade is not conducive to remunerative working. The Derbyshire heavy cast pipe foundries are fairly well supplied with work. The depression of the pig iron branch is as acute as ever, and proposals to increase further the prices of foundry sorts have been dropped for the time being. The local output of open-hearth steel remains as before, but producers have little work booked forward, and the outlook is not so certain as they would like it to be. The railway section of the steel trade is suffering from the continued absence of waggon building for private uses. This trade has been almost at a standstill for a couple of years. The number of surplus waggons, however, is dwindling, and will soon disappear. Tool and cutlery makers report that turnover was less than a year ago.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: There is no change in the position this week in the iron and steel trades in the West of Scotland. Business on the whole remains very quiet, and makers of heavies and semi raw materials are finding it very difficult to secure sufficient work to keep plants running. There is an unusual amount of depression in the foundry and light steel castings trades, and in many cases operations are being carried on for only a few days per week. Some sections of the tube trade are also experiencing a very poor demand, but generally makers have well-filled order books at the moment. Sheetmakers are not yet finding any improvement in the bookings for export, any business on offer being at prices too low to induce sales. The home trade in both black and galvanized sheets is quite satisfactory.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday there were apprehensions that the contemplated restriction on the output of tin would react on prices, and accordingly quotations for tinplates were firmly maintained at from 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per basis box. There were inquiries from the Far East, but other trades were comparatively quiet. Odd sizes were in demand by home consumers at scheduled rates, and wasters were firm and in short supply. Galvanized sheets were unchanged at from £11 15s. 0d. to £12 per ton, and tinplate bars at £6 10s. 0d. for the native make, and £5 9s. 0d. for imported material. Shipments of tinplates last week totalled 161,394, compared with 155,345 boxes in the corresponding week last year, and stocks totalled 104,550, compared with 124,644 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Tin market irregular. After a weaker opening caused by some selling pressure, combined with lower Eastern cables, values recovered on a better demand. Standard cash changed hands at £175 15s.-£178 to £175 17s. 6d.; and three months, £179-£177 12s. 6d., £181 and £179 12s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £180 15s, to £179 15s. and £180 10s. ton c.i.f.

COPPER in fair support, and prices firmer on reserved offers. Standard cash sold at £72 to £74 5s.; three months, £68 15s., £69 7s. 6d. and £69 10s.

LEAD.—Market steady, but dealings somewhat restricted. Good soft foreign pig, February, sold at £21 11s. 3d.; April, £21 11s. 3d.; and May, £21 12s. 6d. to £21 11s. 3d.

SPELTER fairly active, but prices irregular, and tendency easier, on liberal offerings. February sold £19 17s. 6d. to £19 11s. 3d.; March, £20 3s. 9d. to £19 17s. 6d.; April, £20 5s. to £20 2s. 6d.; May, £20 8s. 9d. to £20 5s.; June, £20 10s. ton.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

ANTIMONY dull. English regulus, £42 10s. to £50; China ditto, spot, £31 10s. to £32; February-March, £27 10s.; China, crude, February-March, £18 5s. per ton.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—February-March, £27 10s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—60 per cent., February-March, 5s.; 50 per cent. ditto, 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM quiet. Chinese, February-March, 34s. per unit c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER maintained. Spot, £23 to £23 5s. per bottle.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

ZINC OXIDE steady. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton as to quality, delivered U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, February 5th.

Cotton has continued to decline, owing to the absence of demand from the trade, which has gone from bad to worse, and at the moment it would appear that only lower prices would bring about any improvement in cotton. It must not be forgotten that America, as the principal producer of cotton, has this season to a great extent lost its place. A plentiful crop in other parts of the world having resulted in very competitive prices, as the following table shows:—

	March.	July.	October.
Close, Wednesday last	9·00	9·17	9·22
Close to-night	8·50	8·70	8·79
High prices for week	9·00	9·17	9·22
Low prices for week	8·41	8·60	8·70

Spot sales for the week January 30th to February 5th (inclusive) are 25,000 bales, of which 14,630 American, 3,150 Brazil, 100

Argentine, 3,200 Peru, 1,320 Egyptian, 1,700 African, 500 East Indian, and 400 sundries. Imports for the same period are 52,996 bales, of which 41,903 American, 50 Argentine, 1,354 Peru, 2,291 African, 188 East Indian, and 7,210 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·76; Egyptian Sakel, 13·95; Uppers, 10·19; Brazil Fair, 8·46; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·75; Smooth, 9·46; West African Middling, 8·81; East African G.F., 9·71.

MANCHESTER, February 5th.

The outstanding event in the market this week has been the further fall in raw cotton prices, and to secure orders spinners and manufacturers have had to grant concessions to buyers. A very unsettled feeling has prevailed, and the conditions at the moment are against activity, there being a fear of a further decline in prices. India has provided a restricted inquiry in piece goods, and the contracts arranged have been for small quantities. According to mail advices, dealers in the bazaars are feeling rather acutely the depreciation in the value of stocks. The New Year holidays in China have interfered with trade negotiations, and the further decline in exchange rates has resulted in very little being done. There are reports of local merchants re-selling goods in Manchester. A miscellaneous business has been done for Egypt, East and West Africa and South America, but demand for the Continent remains poor. Some reports from the home trade are rather better. There is still a tendency for weaving production to be reduced. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have been very irregular when tested.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Jan. 15.	Jan. 22.	Jan. 29.	Feb. 5.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 9·56	d. 9·47	d. 9·23	d. 8·77	d. 9·93	d. 10·28
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·45	14·55	14·40	13·95	17·10	18·15
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13½	13⅝	13¼	13¼	15	15½
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	14½	14	13⅝	13½	15½	16
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23¼	23¼	23	22½	27	27
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 23 9	s. d. 23 6	s. d. 23 3	s. d. 23 0	s. d. 25 0	s. d. 26 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 6	26 3	26 0	27 0	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 4½	14 4½	14 3	14 1½	14 7½	15 3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	13 0	13 0	12 10½	12 9	13 7½	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: At a conference in Melbourne to-day it was decided to spread out the unsold balance of the clip, and continue the auctions to the middle of August. It was also agreed to withdraw from the auctions all wool which fails to receive bids equal to prices ruling during the second half of January. Action on these lines has been expected for some time past, and if the selling interests had adopted this policy immediately after the opening of the London wool auctions, they would have had a good deal of support. But the markets both in London and in the overseas centres have improved considerably during the last ten days, and not a few traders now think that matters would have righted themselves automatically if the sales had been continued without further restrictions. Antwerp futures, which were quoted at 23¾d. on January 23, are to-day up to 25½d., thus reflecting the improved tone. Moreover, there has been a considerable amount of business in tops, especially merinos, during the last week, the firmer tendency in the raw material market having induced spinners to operate with more freedom than they have shown for many weeks. The immediate effect of the new policy adopted by the selling interests may be seen in still further business in tops and yarns, for users everywhere will know that if wool is not to be allowed to come on to the market in bulk, there will be little prospect of lower prices. It remains to be seen whether the move is a good one, but it does seem a pity to introduce further restrictions just at a time when business shows signs of reviving and confidence seems to be returning.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The first series of London sales closed last Thursday with values around five per cent. higher than at the opening. After the first week, when the market was more or less demoralised, the trade began to feel that values were at the bottom, and competition improved considerably. Scoured merinos have sold distinctly better, often making up to 2d., and in a few cases even 3d. more than was bid earlier in the series. Fine quality merinos have made good prices, particularly 70's to 80's from New South Wales. There has been a good show of new clip greasy crossbreds from New Zealand. Halfbreds have sold up to 14½d., and though prices must have been disappointing for pastoralists, they have been better than those ruling recently in Dominion selling centres. Those who have bought should find that the wool is a profitable investment. Slipes have not been too plentiful, but during the closing week the quantity was larger, and this did not prevent a five per cent. improvement in values. Good halfbred lambs have probably been the cheapest of anything, although towards the finish 16d. to 17d. has been paid for specially clean wool of good 58's quality. Scoured crossbreds have been somewhat scarce, and these have sold fairly well. The Capes have been only a moderate show, although it is some years since such a large quantity was catalogued. Buyers remarked upon the depreciation in the quality of the Midland clips from the Cape Province. The Free State wools maintained an excellent standard, but it is to be hoped that Cape farmers will not go in for producing heavier fleeces of a lower quality. Taking the sales as a whole, the close has partly compensated for the disastrous opening, and the general opinion now is that there will be no further fall.

HIDES, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Although a fairly good demand continues to be experienced for domestic hides and skins there is an easier tendency in regard to prices, and a feeling that lower values may be expected. Sheepskins are a very poor sale in view of the state of the market for wool and here again reductions must be expected. Imported hides have all recorded lower figures, and as a result a fair amount of trading has been done on account of tanners here in England. On the Continent, however, business in hides is very quiet indeed, and for the time being at any rate there seems to be no hope of an improvement. With less competition from America in the Frigorific market, prices for Argentine ox have dropped to 8 7/16d., while Anglo-Uruguay ox have changed hands on the basis of 8⅜d. Sales of Saladero hides have been made in Salto ox at 8⅜d. and Bovrils at 7 15/16d. With the lower prices now being asked for dry River Plates it is possible better business will mature; so far, however, only small sales have been made in B. A. Americanos at 8⅜d., Inservibles at 5d., and Sierra Cordobas at 9⅞d. An appreciable amount of business has been done in Capes at from 9d. to 5¼d. for the four selections of drys, while dry-salted 20/30 have been sold at 8d. and 7d. for firsts and seconds. The American market is cabled as weak, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 15 cents. Business with tanners and merchants of sole leather continues fairly satisfactory, and although nothing in the way of large orders are received there is a steady day-to-day call for most descriptions, which makes for quite a respectable turnover. Manufacturers of footwear continue to take up supplies of the light to medium weight bends suitable for this class of trade, and stocks for the most part are held for full asking prices. The repairing section also are steady buyers of bends in the weights and selections needed for this purpose; in fact, at the moment this branch of the industry is considered as good as any to cater for. Bellies and shoulders usually can be disposed of readily; the difficulty seems to be to get sufficient of this class of stock, as the majority of tanners are fairly well sold forward. The call for upper leathers centres in the main on black and brown glacé kid, with a steady inquiry for willow calf. Box and patent leathers account for a fair amount of business, but not so much as the former descriptions, while there has been more inquiry going around for suède. Semi-chrome box sides continue to receive the attention of shoe and boot manufacturers, but the difficulty all the time is the price at which the goods are wanted. Shoe manufacturers appear to be fairly well placed for business, and although in some quarters expectations have not been realised a better inquiry is to be noticed for goods for the spring trade.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, February 5th.

Disappointment has once again been experienced by members of the jute trade. An advance in the prices of both raw jute and Calcutta goods created hopes of an impending improvement in business all round, but a return to a quieter tendency in Calcutta has caused the market to lapse into the state of inactivity, which has now prevailed for so many months past. Spinners and manufacturers are badly in need of orders, and any business that is passing is generally at prices under those quoted for yarns and cloth. Buyers have found that it has paid them to purchase in a hand-to-mouth manner, and, though prices of products are inadequate to meet the cost of spinning and weaving, only small lots are being bought to meet immediate requirements. Curtailment of output continues to increase, and it is thought that there will be no return to more prosperous times until the Calcutta mills signify their intention to revert to working 54 hours per week, which they increased to 60 hours on July 1st last year. The extra quantity of five million yards per week thrown on the market by this measure is not being absorbed. Owing to depression of trade throughout the world, the demand for jute goods is insufficient even to meet former production. Prices of raw jute advanced 10s. to 15s. per ton, but values have again slipped back to some extent. Good First Marks went up to £32 15s., but could be bought again at £32 5s., and best Lightnings at £29 5s., February-March. Daisee assortment rose to £26 5s., and Tossa assortment to £27 17s. 6d., but the respective rates are now £26 and £27 10s., February-March. Spinners are showing very little interest now in the further purchase of requirements for the present season. Though continuing to quote 2s. 10d. for common 8 lb. cops, and 2s. 11d. for 8 lb. spools, spinners have been quietly accepting business in small quantities at 2s. 9d. and 2s. 10d. respectively. All other yarns are more or less nominal in price, with little or nothing doing to test them. Cloth continues on dull lines, and business is confined to the merest trifles. Market quotations are from 3⅜d. to 3 13/16d. for 10½ oz. 40 in. hessians, and 2⅜d. to 2 13/16d. for 8 oz., but the rates accepted vary greatly according to the width and weight wanted. Narrow goods are worse off than the wide widths. Linoleum hessians are slow, but some good orders have been entered for sackings, both narrow and wide, at prices, however, which manufacturers do not care to repeat. There is no sustained demand for Calcutta goods, and sellers find it impossible to maintain prices.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Very quiet conditions prevail in the markets for oilseeds, and oils and prices have displayed further weakness. Linseed oil is in improving supply, but is in only moderate demand, consumers being more interested in forward positions, which are at a substantial discount. Raw oil on spot is quoted £43 10s. per ton, naked ex Hull mill. February delivery at £41 5s., and April-May £39 10s. Cotton oil is in poor request and lower, crude Egyptian offering at £26 15s., and common edible at £30 10s., ex Hull. Other seed oils with barely an exception have an easier tendency. In the oilseed section there is very little demand for linseed and values are barely steady. Plate on spot is quoted around £17 5s., and for shipment to May, £17 12s. 6d., but there are no buyers. Indian linseed is also quiet and nominal. The quality of linseed on passage to Europe has increased to 160,600 tons, or 6,700 tons more than a week ago. Cotton seed is quiet, and only a few small sales by second holders are reported. Egyptian shippers not offering. Current value of black Egyptian is £7 10s. spot and February loading, and of Bombay £6 10s. on spot. The demand for oilcakes and meals is very poor.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—The market is again dull, and apart from filling up one or two gaps, trade buyers are not interested, but no change was made in prices of spot goods. As far as the United Kingdom is concerned, the commodity is still shackled and likely to remain so until its fiscal fate is known at the forthcoming Budget. Outside the U.K. there is marked lack of confidence owing to the abundance of supplies. Prices for raws in American markets slipped back owing to offers of duty free sugars being on an extended scale, so that any advance asked by the Cuban agency passes unnoticed. Affairs in Java fail to mend, and this is expressed in estimated shipments thence to all parts for last month of 138,000 tons, which compare with 213,000 for corresponding period last year. Raw refining sugars dull. Terminal sections easier, in sympathy with lower American cables, but a fair amount of business resulted in raw. March delivery changed hands at 6s. 3d.; May, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 2½d.; August, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 8½d.; December, 7s. 11½d. Business done in Polish crystals, February-March, to India, at 10s. c. and f. terms. White Java, February-March, to Calcutta, sellers, 10s. 6d. c. and f. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending February 1st totalled 255,575 tons, against 173,272 at same time last year. Cuban receipts last week, old crop, 16,231 tons, against nil last year; new, 136,520, against 188,144; exports, old, 15,281, against 16,118; new, 2,386, against 72,139; stocks, old, 115,942, against 19,754; new, 196,245, against 457,157 in 1929. Centrals at work total 149, against 160 same time last year. Mr. F. O. Licht has revised his estimate of the European crop, and now gives it at 8,339,000 tons, compared with previous total of 8,415,000 tons and an out-turn of 8,467,000 tons last season. Germany placed at 2,050,000 tons, against 1,965,000 tons, France, 910,000 tons, against 870,000 tons; Poland, 910,000 tons; against 900,000 tons; Italy, 445,000 tons, against 450,000 tons; Spain, 225,000 tons, against 240,000 tons; and England, 310,000 tons, against 290,000 tons previously. The Russian figure is 1,075,000 tons against 1,200,000 tons.

COFFEE.—The chief feature during the week was a sustained demand for all the finer qualities and which fetched full to dearer prices. Fancy bold blue Costa Rica sold to 181s. Medium and common grades slightly irregular.

COCOA.—A moderate quantity in auction, offered on Tuesday last, revealed a scarcity of buyers apart from Grenada qualities. These met a fair sale at about steady rates. Fine red sold 53s. to 53s. 6d.; good, 52s.; good dark red Trinidad sold 65s. Forward positions quiet and easier. Acera, F/F, London contract, March-May, quoted 41s. 3d. f.o.b. Terminal: March sold, 43s. 10½d. to 44s.; May, 44s. 6d. to 44s.; December, 45s. 3d.

TEA.—Of Indian qualities, 55,387 packages were offered during the week. Demand proved generally quieter which led to a good deal of irregularity. Finest tippy kinds quieter, and many parcels failed to reach selling limits. Plain and light liquoring teas mostly from ½d. to ¾d. lb. lower. Medium to fine leaf teas were fairly well supported by the export trade. Ceylon auctions of 27,852 packages also came to a somewhat quiet market, which proved irregular and frequently lower. Low medium and medium broken pekoes were a weak feature of the sale, and sometimes ½d. to 1d. easier. Java sales quiet and mostly easier.

RICE.—Market largely nominal, as buyers are still very reserved. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, 14s., with February-March, 11s. 6d. c.i.f. Spanish oiled, February-March sellers, 15s. 9d. American blue rose from 22s. to 23s. c.i.f. No. 3 Burma to the Levant, double bags, February, 11s. 7½d. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 1½d. Saigon No. 1 round grain February-March to Europe, 12s. Siam Super, January-February, 15s. 6d. Californian nominal.

BEANS.—Butters and most others slow and prices easier. Madagascar butters spot, London quoted, 41s. to 42s.; parcels per "Eugene

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

24 Lombard Street, E.C.3.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Subscribed	1,350,000
Paid-up	775,000
Reserve Fund	575,000

Notice is hereby given that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on DEPOSIT are from this day REDUCED as follows:—At call, to TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT.; at seven or fourteen days' or longer notice, to TWO-AND-THREE-QUARTERS PER CENT. Money received for fixed periods at special rates.

The Company discounts approved bank and mercantile acceptances and grants loans on negotiable securities.

F. NEWCOMB, Manager.

6th February, 1930.

BRITISH LINEN BANK.

(London Office.)

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS at this Office will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. until further notice.

JAMES FORREST, Manager.
WILLIAM FINDLAY BLACK, Deputy Manager.

Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.
6th February, 1930.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS at the London Offices, 30 Bishopsgate, E.C.2, and 16/18 Piccadilly, W.1, will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. until further notice by advertisement.

J. W. JOHNSTON, Manager, Bishopsgate.
C. D. ALLISON, Manager, Piccadilly.

6th February, 1930.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS at the London Offices of this Bank, at Nos. 60 and 62 Lombard Street, E.C.3, and Kingsway Branch, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.2, will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. until further notice by advertisement.

A. W. RUSSELL, Manager, Lombard Street.
J. O. DAVIDSON, Manager, Kingsway.

6th February, 1930.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank on DEPOSITS at seven days' notice at this Office and Metropolitan Branches will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. per annum from this date until further notice.

JOHN J. MEAGHER, Manager.

20 Birchin Lane, E.C.3.
6th February, 1930.

MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

The Joint General Managers announce that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS at seven days' call at the Head Office and London Branches will be TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. until further notice.

5 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.
6th February, 1930.

WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

Until further notice the RATES OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches will be as follows:—

TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. on DEPOSITS subject to seven days' notice, and TWO PER CENT. on DEPOSITS at call.

JOHN RAE, Director and Chief General Manager.

41 Lothbury, E.C.2.
6th February, 1930.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The General Manager announces that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS at the City Office, 3, Bishopsgate, E.C., Drummonds' Branch, Charing Cross, S.W., and 64, New Bond Street, W., is TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. until further notice.

6th February, 1930.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament. Affiliated with Lloyds Bank, Ltd.)
London Office: Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS at this Office will be TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. per annum for money at seven days' notice.

T. C. RIDDELL, Manager.

6th February, 1930.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST on DEPOSITS with the London Office and the London Branches of this Bank, subject to seven days. notice, will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. per annum from this date until further notice.

G. BROMLEY-MARTIN,
London Managing Director.

Temporary address during re-building:
12-14 Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.
6th February, 1930.

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED.

(London Office.)

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSIT at this Office will be TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. per annum until further notice.

G. R. WILSON, Manager.

30 Lombard Street, E.C.3.
6th February, 1930.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

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

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed at the Head Office and London Branches of this Bank on DEPOSITS repayable at SEVEN DAYS' notice is this day REDUCED TO TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. PER ANNUM.

E. FISHER, H. T. MITCHELL, } General Managers.

6th February, 1930.

THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS with the London Offices of this Bank at 62 Cornhill, E.C.3, and 1 Regent Street, S.W.1, will be TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. per annum from this day until further notice.

JOHN THOMSON, Manager.

62 Cornhill, E.C.3.
6th February, 1930.

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED.

The Chief General Managers announce that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by the Bank upon DEPOSITS at its Metropolitan Branches is REDUCED to TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. for money at seven days' notice.

Head Office, E.C.3.
6th February, 1930.

The Chase National Bank

of the City of New York

Statement of Condition at Close of Business December 31, 1929

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Due from Banks	$467,276,600.50	Capital	$105,000,000.00
Loans and Discounts	884,694,456.75	Surplus	105,000,000.00
U. S. Government Securities	164,987,261.02	Undivided Profits	31,364,145.14
Other Securities	57,577,539.26	Reserved for Taxes, Interest, etc.	1,672,368.72
Real Estate	21,501,353.17	Dividend Payable January 2, 1930	3,937,500.00
Redemption Fund—U. S. Treasurer	386,825.00	Deposits	1,248,218,351.70
Customers' Acceptance Liability $120,557,033.13		Due to Federal Reserve Bank	50,000,000.00
Less amount in Portfolio 2,714,377.38	117,842,655.75	Circulating Notes	7,461,900.00
Other Assets	562,756.19	Acceptances $124,553,238.55	
		Less amount in Portfolio 2,714,377.38	121,838,861.17
		Acceptances, Bills, etc., Sold with Endorsement	40,304,711.30
		Other Liabilities	31,609.61
	$1,714,829,447.64		$1,714,829,447.64

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HENRY W. CANNON
ALBERT H. WIGGIN, *Chairman of the Board*
JAMES N. HILL
DANIEL C. JACKLING, *President, Utah Copper Co.*
CHARLES M. SCHWAB, *Chairman, Bethlehem Steel Corp'n*
NEWCOMB CARLTON, *President, Western Union Telegraph Co.*
FREDERICK H. ECKER, *President, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.*
CARL J. SCHMIDLAPP, *Vice-President*
GERHARD M. DAHL, *Chairman, Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Corp'n*
REEVE SCHLEY, *Vice-President*
H. WENDELL ENDICOTT
JEREMIAH MILBANK
HENRY OLLESHEIMER, *Vice-President*
ARTHUR G. HOFFMAN, *Vice-President, The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. of America*
F. EDSON WHITE, *President, Armour & Co.*
ALFRED P. SLOAN, JR., *President, General Motors Corp'n*
MALCOLM G. CHACE
THOMAS N. McCARTER, *President, Public Service Corp'n of New Jersey*
ROBERT L. CLARKSON, *Vice-Chairman of the Board*
AMOS L. BEATY
JOHN McHUGH, *Chairman of the Executive Committee*
WILLIAM B. S. GRISWOLD, *Vice-President, W. & J. Sloane*
HENRY O. HAVEMEYER, *President, Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal*
L. F. LOREE, *President, The Delaware & Hudson Co.*
THEODORE PRATT
ROBERT C. PRUYN, *President, National Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Albany, N. Y.*
SAMUEL F. PRYOR, *Chairman of the Executive Committee, Remington Arms Co., Inc.*
FERDINAND W. ROEBLING, JR., *President, John A. Roebling's Sons Co.*
EARL D. BABST, *Chairman, American Sugar Refining Co.*
FRANCIS H. BROWNELL, *First Vice-President, American Smelting & Refining Co.*
JAMES T. LEE, *Vice-President*
ANDREW W. ROBERTSON, *Chairman, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.*
HALSTEAD G. FREEMAN, *Chairman of the Executive Committee and President, Chase Securities Corp'n*
CHARLES SCRIBNER, *Chairman, Charles Scribner's Sons*
RICHARD DELAFIELD
CORNELIUS VANDERBILT
THOMAS F. VIETOR, *Chairman, Commercial Factors Corp'n*
JOHN G. MILBURN, *Carter, Ledyard & Milburn*
VINCENT ASTOR
JOSEPH D. OLIVER, *Chairman, Oliver Farm Equipment Co.*
LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, JR., *Carter, Ledyard & Milburn*
DAVID M. GOODRICH, *Chairman, The B. F. Goodrich Co.*
EUGENIUS H. OUTERBRIDGE, *President, Harvey & Outerbridge, Inc.*
KENNETH P. BUDD, *William Iselin & Co.*
FRANK L. POLK, *Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Gardiner & Reed*
GEORGE M. MOFFETT, *Vice-President, Corn Products Refining Co.*
CHARLES S. McCAIN, *President*
THOMAS I. PARKINSON, *President, The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States*
HARVEY C. COUCH, *Director, Electric Power & Light Corp'n*
CLARENCE DILLON, *Dillon, Read & Co.*
RALPH C. HOLMES, *President and Director, The Texas Corporation*
GEORGE H. HOWARD, *President, The United Corporation*

Office of London Representative:
14 Cornhill, E. C. 3

Office of the Paris Representative:
1, Boulevard Haussmann

Office of Berlin Representative:
Unter den Linden 57

Office of Rome Representative:
Piazza Mignanelli, 3

THE UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED

39 Cornhill, E.C.3.

Capital paid-up	£1,250,000	£3,000,000
Reserve Fund	£1,750,000	

Notice is hereby given that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on DEPOSIT are this day REDUCED as follows:—At call, from THREE PER CENT. to TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT.; at seven and fourteen days' notice, from THREE-AND-ONE-QUARTER PER CENT. to TWO-AND-THREE-QUARTERS PER CENT.

Treasury, Bank and first-class Trade Bills Discounted. Money received on deposit for fixed periods or at call. Enquiries invited.

ROBERT CALLANDER WYSE, Manager.

6th February, 1930.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital	£2,153,335
Paid-up Capital	1,000,000
Reserve Fund	890,000

Notice is hereby given that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on DEPOSIT are REDUCED as follows:—

To TWO-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. per annum at call.

To TWO-AND-THREE-QUARTERS PER CENT. at seven and fourteen days' notice.

FRANCIS GOLDSMITH, Manager.

35 Cornhill, London, E.C.
6th February, 1930.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by the Bank at its Head Office, Bishopsgate, and London Branches, is this day REDUCED to TWO-AND-ONE-HALF PER CENT. for money placed on DEPOSIT at seven days' notice.

A. E. LEWIS, Director and Chief General Manager.

A. McCLELLAND,
E. CORNWALL,
G. H. WHITEHURST,
F. WALLER,
A. S. TAWELL,
} Joint General Managers.

15 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.
6th February, 1930.

Grossos," 29s. 6d.; "Clan Macindoe," 29s. 9d.; "Clan Chatton," 29s., per "Belgrano," 28s. 6d.; December-January, 26s. 6d.; January-March, 26s. c.i.f. *Ohtenashi* afloat, 20s. 6d.; February-March shipment, 21s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 12s. 6d.; January-February, 13s.; new crop, March-April, 14s. c.i.f. London. Danubian hand-picked, spot, 25s.; *January-February*, 23s. 6d. c.i.f. London. To Glasgow, North African, January-February, 9s. c.i.f. Chinese horse, spot, Glasgow, 8s. 6d. c.i.f.

PEAS remain very quiet; prices barely upheld. Japanese, spot, old, 14s. 6d.; new, 15s. 6d.; afloat, sellers, 15s. 3d.; January-February, 15s. 10½d.; February-March, 15s. 10½d.; March-April, 16s. c.i.f. London. Dutch marrowfats prompt, quoted 15s.; small blues, H.P., 10s. 9d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s. Karachi nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, January, old, 57s. 6d.; *new crop, March-April*, 60s. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, February-March, 67s. c.i.f. China, white, hand-picked, December-January, quoted 13s.; f.a.q. 9s. 6d. Manchurian white, December-January, 11s. c.i.f.

LENTILS dull. Bold Bombay, January-February, nominally 68s. Calcutta Patna to arrive 75s. Bombay Patna nominal c.i.f. (504 lb.).

SPICE.—Pepper continued in demand and market manifested firm features. Lampong, January-March, sold 1s. 0½d.; March-May, 1s. 0½d.; Muntok, white, January-March, 1s. 4½d.; March-May, 1s. 4⅝d. to 1s. 4¾d. London stocks of black 18 tons down on the week, and white by 116. Stock of black now 1,128 tons, against 1,153 same time last year, and white 1,250, against 309. Tellicherry, February-April, quoted 118s.; Aleppy, 116s. c.i.f. Cloves quietly steady, also tapioca and ginger. Sago flour, February-March, to the U.K., 11s. 7½d.; March-April, 11s. 6d.; April-May, 11s. 4½d. c.i.f. Dutch Farina, prompt, 9s. 1½d. f.o.b.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market slow. Pyrgos, quoted, 37s.-38s.; Amalias, 38s.-40s.; Patras, 40s.-44s.; Gulf, 44s.-58s.; Vostizza, 51s.-60s.; Australian, 37s.-40s. Sultanas inactive. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 35s.-50s. Dates steady. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins quiet. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs steady. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 29s.-38s.; good average, 25s.-27s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Trade demand fails to expand, but late rates were generally maintained. Plums: Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 72s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 63s. Apricots: South African new crop Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.–77s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 90s.; extra, 100s.; Australian, Stocks 55s. week e... Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s.6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 112s. 6d.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-130s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s., new crop, c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 155s.; Barcelona, 147s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts, 145s. ex-wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUIT.—Californian fruits met with quiet attention, but there is no pressure to sell and prices remained steady. Australian new pack prices are reasonable compared with Californian, and business is expected to open out in the near future. Singapore pines move off slowly despite fairly attractive prices, but South African and Hawaiian firmly held. Tomatoes in slow request, trade being below normal for the time of year.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market steady, but trade still restricted. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab firm, and fancy qualities quoted, 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters steady. Halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate demand, and best quality scarce. Portuguese clubs, *quarters*, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm, and ox tongues realise full rates on limited offerings. Lunch tongues sell readily and Danish reservedly offered at firm rates, while cooked boned hams experienced a good demand for forward delivery.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS. — Market fairly steady, with a good trade passing. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s.; full cream, sweetened, 56 lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 23s. 3d. Full cream milk powders, English, roller process, 28 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 85s. Dutch ditto, 26 per cent. butterfat, 1 cwt. cases, 70s.; Dutch spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 95s.; Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 27s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, created, 39s. 6d.; ditto, 1 cwt. cases, 38s., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex-store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle 3s. per cwt. extra, Liverpool 6d., Manchester 1s. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. basis per case, usual packing.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

INCORPORATED IN CANADA WITH LIMITED LIABILITY.

HEAD OFFICE: TORONTO.

STATEMENT OF THE RESULT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE BANK for the Year ending 30th November, 1929.

Balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account brought forward from last year			£62,534	15	10
Premium received on new shares issued during the year			1,022,180	2	9
Profits for the year ending 30th November, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts			1,041,006	1	0
			£2,125,720	19	7

These have been appropriated as follows:—

Dividends Nos. 168, 169, 170 and 171, at 12 per cent. per annum	£664,359	10	7
Bonus of 1 per cent., payable 1st December	61,162	14	9
Dominion and Provincial Government taxes and tax on bank-note circulation	133,561	12	11
Donations and Subscriptions	13,356	3	4
Transferred to Pension Fund	51,281	14	1
Written off Bank Premises	82,191	15	7
Transfer to Reserve Fund	1,022,180	2	9
Balance carried forward	97,627	5	7
	£2,125,720	19	7

GENERAL STATEMENT, 30th November, 1929.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
Notes of the Bank in circulation		£7,197,131	1 2	Gold and Silver Coin	£6,758,387 0 1		
Deposits not bearing interest	£29,197,208 9 10			Dominion Notes	9,040,548 15 0		
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	86,557,699 4 1					£15,798,935	15 1
		115,754,907	13 11	United States and other Foreign Currencies	£179,459 7 6		
Balances due to other Banks in Canada		257,505	4 7	Notes of, and Cheques on, other Banks	5,042,469 17 4		
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United States, the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries		14,937,941	2 3	Balances due by other Banks	6,618,939 11 2		
Advances under the Finance Act		5,136,986	6 0			11,840,868	16 9
Bills Payable		1,850,869	5 1	Government and other Public Securities		13,813,230	6 3
Letters of Credit outstanding		6,912,467	17 8	Railway and other Bonds and Stocks		1,987,224	14 1
		£152,047,808	10 8	Call and *Short Loans on Bonds, etc.*		32,884,325	17 10
Dividends Unpaid		1,336	7 2	Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the Circulation Fund		256,849	6 3
Dividend *No. 171* and bonus, payable 1st December		242,910	6 0			£76,561,434	15 6
Capital Paid up	£6,122,878 15 4			Other Current Loans and Discounts		75,914,082	15 6
Reserve Fund	6,122,878 15 4			Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit as *per contra*		6,912,468	14 0
Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account	97,627 5 7			Non-current Loans (estimated loss provided for)		417,547	2 9
		12,343,384	16 8	Real Estate and Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank		800,061	2 8
				Bank Premises and other Assets		4,029,845	9 8
		£164,635,440	0 1			£164,635,440	0 1

W. T. WHITE, Vice-President. S. H. LOGAN, General Manager.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have examined the above statement of assets and liabilities as at November 30th, 1929, and compared it with the books at the Head Office and with the certified returns from the branches. We have checked the cash and verified the securities and investments of the Bank at the chief office in Toronto and at several of the principal branches at the close of business on November 30th, 1929.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we required, and are of the opinion that the transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank, and we certify that, in our opinion, the above statement discloses the true condition of the bank, and is as shown by the books of the Bank.

TORONTO, 20th December, 1929.

C. S. SCOTT, F.C.A., of C. S. Scott and Co.
D. McK. McCLELLAND, F.C.A., of Price, Waterhouse and Co. } Auditors.

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the Bank was held on Tuesday, January 14th, 1930, at 12 o'clock noon.

The Bank has 800 Branches throughout the Dominion of Canada and in Newfoundland, the United States, the West Indies, Mexico, and Brazil.

CHARLES CAMBIE, Manager.

LONDON OFFICE: 2 Lombard Street, E.C.3.

A. R. PHIPPS, Assistant Manager.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce buys and sells Sterling and Currency Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on Canada, Newfoundland, the United States, the West Indies, Mexico, and Brazil; issues Commercial and Travellers' Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques; collects Drafts, Coupons, etc.; and conducts a general banking business with these countries and with all parts of the world.

THE INFLUENCE
OF THE
LOWER BANK RATE

RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

THE RUBBER OUTLOOK

SEE
The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review
THIS WEEK

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price **6d.**, or from

The Publisher:
"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"
20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

GILBART BANKING LECTURES

By
Mr. ALFRED FRANK TOPHAM, K.C.

REPORTS OF THESE LECTURES APPEAR in

The Financial News

On FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th and 14th.

Copies are obtainable from all NEWSAGENTS OR BOOKSTALLS
PRICE 2d.

Or direct from THE PUBLISHER,
THE FINANCIAL NEWS,
20, Bishopsgate, LONDON, E.C. 2.

PRICE THREEPENCE PER COPY
(Including postage).

THE SERIES OF FOUR ISSUES (Including the first two reports, published January 24th and 31st).
BY POST - ONE SHILLING.

To HOLDERS of RECEIPTS evidencing the deposit of

Anglo-American Oil Company Ltd.

Share Warrants to Bearer with GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY of NEW YORK, 32, Lombard Street, London, England, under the Offer of Standard Oil Export Corporation dated 6th November, 1929.

The Offer of exchange made by Standard Oil Export Corporation, as outlined in the letter of said Company dated 6th November, 1929, has been declared operative as Anglo-American Oil Company, Limited, shares in excess of the necessary two-thirds of each class, both Voting and Non-Voting, have been deposited under the terms of the said Offer.

To receive the five per cent. Guaranteed Non-Voting Preferred Stock of Standard Oil Export Corporation and/or cash to which holders of the above Receipts are entitled under the terms of said Offer, they should surrender such Receipts accompanied by the necessary form of deposit duly completed, on and after 7th February, 1930, at the office of

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
OF NEW YORK,
32, Lombard Street, London, E.C. 3

The basis of exchange is as follows:—

For each
5-5/9 (five and five ninths) shares of Anglo-American Oil Company, Limited, £1 par value as represented by your Receipts

There will be delivered
1 (one) share of Standard Oil Export Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, 5 per cent. Guaranteed Non-Voting Preferred Stock, $100 par value.

No fractional shares of the Export Corporation will be issued in connection with this exchange.

Any Anglo-American Oil Company, Limited, shares as represented by your Receipts, offered in exchange which are not divisible by 5-5/9 will be paid for in cash (American dollars) at at the rate of $18 per Anglo-American Oil Company, Limited, share. Dollar payments to be made for such fractions by Guaranty Trust Company of New York, London Office, may be converted into sterling at the current rate of exchange on the day the payment is so made.

Receipts surrendered for exchange **must be accompanied by the necessary Form of Deposit,** which can be obtained on application to Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 32, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY
OF NEW YORK,
Depositary.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	48	6
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	4
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	8	4
Oats, " " "	6	9
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	26	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 38 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 6	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 9	5	0
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	7	8
N.Z. frozen " 4 10	5	6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 8 0	9	8

		Nominal	
BACON— OTHER FOODS.			
Irish .....per cwt.	118	0 133	0
Danish.....	103	0 110	0
Canadian.....	104	0 108	0
Dutch	94	0 105	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0	0
Canadian.....	0	0 0	0
American	100	0 108	0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.			
Australian	140	0 156	0
New Zealand	144	0 172	0
Danish.....	172	0 174	0
CHEESE—			
Canadian .....per cwt.	94	0 100	0
New Zealand	88	0 91	0
English Cheddars	95	0 120	0
Dutch	50	0 98	0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46	0
Trinidad	65	0 68	0
Grenada	48	0 54	0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	140	0 150	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	155	0 190	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	115	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes	121	0 162	6
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 120	0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	21	0 23	0
Danish.....	15	0 18	6
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0 0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	10	0 15	0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia			
½ cases 300	7	3 28	0
360	8	0 19	0
504	10	0 18	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	6	6 10	0
" ..... cases	8	0 18	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	20	0 40	0
" (var.) boxes	10	0 11	0
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0	0
" W. Australian	0	0 0	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	5	6	6	6
case 5s.	6	6	8	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	78	0	84	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	55	3	57	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	0½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African.....	65	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	9	3	6
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	9	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Feb.-Mar.	10	7½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	1½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	6	26	0
Crushed.....	24	3	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	10½
Home Grown (prompt)	21	0	21	4½
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8	2	5
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	3	1
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	7
Broken Orange.....	0	9	3	6½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·76
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·95
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	56	0	0	0
Fernau HD	52	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0

HEMP—	£	s.	£	s.
Italian F.C. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Feb.–april "J2 "..	32	10	0	0
N.Z., Aug.–Oct.			nom.	
Sisal African, Jan.–Mar...	33	0	34	10
Mexican			nom.	

JUTE—	£	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton			
Feb.–Mar.	27	2	6
Mar.–April	27	5	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	12	6	14	0
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18
" Lincoln hog, washed	14
Queensland, scd, super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	14
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	32
" 64's	30
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	7½	18	10½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/10/0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard 72/17/6			73	0
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	23		0	0
Soft Foreign 21/10/0			21/11/3	
Spelter G.O.B. 19/11/3			20/5/0	
Tin—English ingots. ...178/0/0			178/10/0	
Standard cash 176/17/6			177	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	11
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½

	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3

	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.–Mar.	22/7/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	21/5/0		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	6½
Cape	0	6	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7½	0	9
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	5½
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	4	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	0
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	10	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	44	5	0	0
Rape, refined	40	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	30	10	32	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	0	12	5

Oil Seeds—Linseed—	s.	d.	s.	d.
La Plata, p. ton new— Feb.-Mar.	17/6/3		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19/7/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	42	9	0	0

MINERAL OILS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	

Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	32	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0

ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	15

RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0

SHELLAC—	£	s.	£	s.
TN Orange ... per cwt.	142	6	0	0

SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African " "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	6

HONEY.—Market remains dull. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s.; Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d.; Ukrainian light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Business is still very sluggish and the market seems to have quite forgotten how to improve, under stress of liberal production. Standard sheet, spot and February sold, 7½d. to 7⅝d.; March, 7⅝d.; April, 7⅝d.; April-June, 7 11/16d. to 7 13/16d.; July-September, 8 1/16d. to 8 3/16d.; and October-December, 8 5/16d. to 8 7/16d. London stocks increased 476 tons on the week. Landings, 2,154; deliveries, 1,678; stocks, 60,460 tons, against 25,413 last year. Liverpool stocks, 165 down; landings, 233; deliveries, 398; stocks, 19,898 tons, against 4,106 last year. Total Straits shipments for last month approximate to 52,000 tons.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Dull and lower was the text of the Calcutta cables. The London centre disclosed similar features, and meantime trade in most jute manufactured goods fails to revive. Firsts, January-February, Hamburg quoted, £26 12s. 6d.; February, March, £26 17s. 6d.; March-April, £27 2s. 6d.; April-May, £27 10s. Lightnings, February-March, £25 10s.; Hearts, £22 10s.; Daisee assortment, £23 15s.; Tossa, £25 15s. Hamburg stocks, 31st ultimo, 90,158 bales, against 135,416 same time last year, increase of 5,068 on the fortnight. Afloat to Hamburg, 88,225; ditto, Antwerp and Rotterdam, 17,475. Arrivals at Hamburg, January 15-31st, 54,332 bales.

HEMP.—Quietness was again the salient feature respecting Manila parcels, but prices remained without essential change J2, February-April, quoted, £32 10s.; K, £31; L1, £29; L2, £26; M1, £26 5s.; M2, £24 10s.; G, £33 5s.; H., £31 10s.; C2, £27; C3, £22 10s.; S1, £42 10s.; S2, £40 10s.; S3, £37 10s. c.i.f. African sisal, No. 1, f.a.q., February-April, £34; marks, £34 15s. c.i.f. Mexican nominal pending definite offers from the other side and where, apparently, close study to the position is being given. Receipts last week cabled 27,000 bales, which compare with high level record same time last year of 51,000 and 27,000 in 1928. Estimate next week, 34,000; week following, 31,000. Shipments last week: 8,000, U.K.; 5,000, Continent; 8,000, U.S.A.; 8,000, Japan; and other countries, 1,000. Stocks now 167,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Market dull and weaker. Fair T.N., spot, 142s. 6d.; March sold, 133s.; May, 137s.; August, 140s.

COPRA.—A dull and uninteresting market. Straits S.D., February-March, Rotterdam sellers, £22 7s. 6d.; Ceylon, £23 17s. 6d.; smoked, South Sea, to Marseilles, £21 5s.; sun-dried, ditto, £21 10s. c.i.f. Palm kernels slow of sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 14s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5½d.; citronelle, Ceylon. 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—February 5.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Irish	...		...		Canadian	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...		Sheep—Downs	8	8	10	0
Short Horns	6	0	6	4	Half bred	...		...	
Herefords	...		...		Ewes	5	4	5	8
Devons	...		...		Scottish	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...		Lamb—Downs	...		...	

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—February 5.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	4	0
" " " whites.....	2	6	3	0
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	3	6
" " " whites	2	6	...	

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY, though still usable, has been a little more plentiful this week. It is true that on Wednesday rates ran up to 4¾ per cent., but next day, when it was expected that heavy Excise payments would deplete the market, rates receded to 4½ per cent., and the market was able to repay the Bank its borrowings of the preceding week without having to go into the Bank once more. The week's Bank return reveals a turnover of approximately five millions from Public to Bankers' deposits. This is probably the key to the slight easing in conditions, and presumably last week Government disbursements, in the form of Treasury bill maturities—which once again are £15,000,000 in excess of issues—and for other purposes,

were in excess of revenue actually turned over to the Treasury's account with the Bank. It should, incidentally, be borne in mind that taxes when paid are first of all banked by the collector at one of the joint-stock banks, and that it is only subsequently that they find their way into the Public Deposits at the Bank.

* * * *

Discount rates were quoted Wednesday at 3⅞ per cent., or possibly a shade lower, but the following day 3 15/16 per cent. was mentioned, the slightly higher tendency reflecting the higher short loan rates of 4½ per cent. It is generally agreed that the Continental demand for bills is falling away, while Stock Exchange houses are not renewing the Treasury bills they bought last autumn in order to find an outlet for unemployed funds. As money is likely to remain usable until the end of the financial year, it is not to be expected that discount rates will fall below the present level. The reduction in Bank rate to 4½ per cent. means that weekly fixtures are now 3½ per cent., so that the market now has a margin of ½ to ⅝ per cent. or more upon which to operate.

* * * *

Perhaps the most important development of recent weeks has been the rise in the French exchange from the lower gold point to Frs. 124.20, or practically to par. The explanation was heavy French short loans to Germany, and these also account for the depreciation of the pound against the mark, which this week, as in previous weeks, enabled Germany to secure all the available market gold. A few days ago it became clear that Germany had absorbed all the French money she could, and rates offered fell to 4¾ per cent. This explains the reaction in sterling to Frs. 124.15, and probably its recent slight recovery against the mark.

	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	5	4½	4½	5 (Feb. 6, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	3	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Discount Houses { Call	3	3	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Discount Houses { Notice	3¼	3¼	2¾	2¾	3¼ (Feb. 6, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3⅞–15/16	3⅞	3 15/16	3⅞–15/16	...

The January statements of the nine English leading banks show that deposits have fallen by £5.8 million since December, and acceptances by £5.2 million. Advances are £3.6 million lower.

	Jan., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.
Capital and reserves.........	130·8	130·8	130·8	130·7	130·5
Acceptances	232·4	203·2	215·2	169·6	164·4
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.).........	1,809·6	1,764·7	1,751·4	1,773·3	1,767·5
Total liabilities	2,172·8	2,098·8	2,097·4	2,073·6	2,062·4
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	255·1	247·1	242·0	266·3	248·0
Money at call.................	145·1	144·9	139·7	139·0	139·9
Investments	274·3	265·5	259·5	260·4	259·6
Discounts	274·2	226·9	230·7	226·7	242·9
Loans and advances	956·1	974·0	973·0	972·7	969·1
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	268·0	240·4	252·5	208·5	202·9
Total assets	2,172·8	2,098·8	2,097·4	2,073·6	2,062·4

Comparing the latest figures with those of a year ago, deposits have fallen by 2.3 per cent., cash by 2.8 per cent. Investments are lower by 5.3 per cent., and bills by 10.7 per cent. Advances, however, are 1.4 per cent. higher.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is easier with further reductions in discount rates, and it is expected that the majority of the Reserve Banks will come down to the 4 per cent. level. The week's statement of the System indicates no important changes in the situation, and the Reserve ratio is slightly higher at 77.9 per cent. Trade is slowly reviving. The steel industry is now on a 79 per cent. operating basis, and motor production during January, while below that of a year ago, was substantially larger than during December, with the output of low-priced cars the principal feature.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The strength of high-grade investment stocks was in sharp contrast to the dull conditions prevailing in the more speculative markets. The success of the India Government and Hastings Corporation loan issues was reflected in a firmer tendency throughout the market for gilt-edged and prior charge stocks. The Home Railway dividends, for the most part, surpassed expectation, but produced no rise in quotations. International stocks were quiet. Apart from a fresh break in Royal Mail stocks, the industrial markets had no outstanding features. Rubber shares improved with the commodity, and tea shares were harder. Oils, however, were neglected. A fair business was done in Rhodesians, but Kaffirs attracted little interest.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

What little change has occurred has been in the direction of improvement. Home trade in coal is poor, and overseas inquiries by no means satisfactory, but there is still a fairly active export business being done from South Wales. The iron and steel trades have not experienced the hoped-for revival, though some sections are fairly active. Fluctuations in raw material prices have been disadvantageous to the cotton trade, but there are nevertheless faint signs of improvement in Manchester. Though the position in the wool textile industries remains uncertain the prospect of stable wool values seems slightly less remote. Hides are slightly weak, but the leather and shoe trades remain satisfactory. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are a better market. Wheat has more than regained the level of a fortnight ago.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange Market was only moderately active last week. A certain amount of irregularity prevailed, and the peseta was again very erratic, whilst the tendency of sterling was weak, especially agains[illegible] dollar. The New York rate declined steadily fro[illegible] to 4.86 7/32, and was at one time as low as 4.86⅛. [illegible] improved from 4.91⅛ to 4.90. Paris at one [illegible] ciated to 124.20 from 124 last week, but [illegible] to 124.15 at the close. Brussels gaine[illegible] half points at 34.88½, Milan lost a point at [illegible], and Madrid broke badly and declined from [illegible]7.00 to 38.55. Amsterdam rose in our favour from 12.11¾ to 12.12¾. Berlin fluctuated rather widely and closed ¼ worse at 20.36½, after touching 20.35¾ and 20.37½. Switzerland was again hesitant, but on balance lost ¼ only at 25.19¾. Stockholm lost a point at 12.13¼. Oslo was unchanged at 18.21, but Copenhagen was appreciably better at 18.16⅝, against 18.19 last week. The South American currencies were the subject of some attention from the Continent, Rio being weaker at 5 15/32d., against 5⅝d. last week. Buenos Aires showed a firmer tendency at 43⅛d., against 42¼d. last week. In the Far East the rupee and yen were steady and firm at 1s. 5 59/64d. and 2s. 0¼d. respectively. In the forward markets dollars were less wanted at discounts of 1/32 cent and 3/32 cent, against par for both periods last week. Paris was stronger at slightly higher premiums of 7 and 18 centimes. Madrid was a shade weaker at 5½ and 16 centimos premiums. Amsterdam was firmer at premiums of 1⅛ and 2¼ cents, as was Berlin at narrower discounts of 2 and 6 pfennigs, a gain of ½ on last week in each case. Silver prices advanced by 3/16d. for both spot and forward at 20¼d. and 20⅛d. respectively on Indian and China buying and less persistent offerings. The China silver exchange reacted differently, Hongkong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 7d., whilst Shanghai gained ⅜d. at 2s. 0⅛d.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

Our Intelligence Branch, which has been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., is available to our readers for the supply of economic, statistical and other information, at a charge proportionate to the work involved. Inquiries should be addressed to Moodys-Economist Services, 6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4.

THE TARIFF TRUCE.

NEXT Monday will see the opening of the Conference at Geneva on the tariff truce. There has been in this country so much confusion of thought—based, to a considerable extent, on misunderstanding—with regard to the objects of the Conference that it is worth while to recapitulate a few facts about its purpose and composition. In the first place, the intention of the proposal made by Mr Graham and adopted at the League Assembly in September last is not to stabilise tariffs at their existing level, but to afford a temporary respite from increases or threatened increases of tariffs, in order to create a stable atmosphere for pursuing the aim of negotiating for a reduction of tariffs—the objective set before the League by the World Economic Conference. In this connection Dr. von Schubert, the rapporteur on this subject, reminded the Council, at its recent meeting, that the question of further action was not to be left in abeyance, but that the forthcoming Conference itself would have on its agenda the question of drawing up " a programme of subsequent negotiations for facilitating economic relations by all practicable means and especially by reducing hindrances to trade." The Economic Committee which is preparing the work of the Conference has not attempted to outline the principles of this further action to which the parties will bind themselves, as this will depend upon the attitude of the States taking part. The rapporteur, however, in a further word of explanation, states that these subsequent negotiations for further action are, under the Assembly resolutions, to be limited to the States which conclude the truce and such other States as these may, by common agreement, invite. " At a later stage, however, a final diplomatic conference will take note of the results of the negotiations referred to, examine them, and supplement them if necessary. To this Conference, all States, without distinction, will be invited."

This question of further action is of very great importance, particularly for Great Britain and countries which are on a low-tariff basis. Since 1927 much has been done to facilitate trade; a great network of commercial treaties has sprung up; many of the more vexatious obstructions and exceptional measures have been removed; and, if the Imports and Exports Prohibition Convention receives the necessary ratifications, the chief countries of the world will undertake not to revert to such obstructions. But little headway has been made by the Economic Committee in securing any general lowering of tariffs, and this for two reasons. Firstly, it was difficult to negotiate while existing tariffs were liable without notice to sudden movements, which created a constantly changing situation; and, secondly, the Economic Committee consists of experts, and, though they have done admirable work, they are necessarily to a large extent tied by the policy of their Governments. The truce attempts to meet the first difficulty, but though it will an advantage to the low-tariff countries to be safeguarded against further increases of tariffs, they will no doubt insist that, before the convention is concluded, they must have some assurance that the proposed further negotiations will take place, and will at least have exchanged views on the lines on which such further steps should be taken.

As to the second point, the rapporteur makes the following comment:—

" Although the importance of the principles laid down by the World Economic Conference and the great value of the Economic Committee's work are beyond all question, experience has shown that the work of experts, however distinguished, suffers from certain limitations which can only be overcome by a certain stimulus from more responsible quarters. .

" I am, therefore, glad to inform you that a considerable number of Governments intend to be represented at the Conference by the Ministers concerned.

" I am sure that, not only at this first Conference, but in the long subsequent period of important and difficult negotiations, it is essential that the Ministers concerned in the different countries should arrange to keep as closely in personal touch with the economic work of the League as Ministers for Foreign Affairs do with its political work. . . ."

In this connection Dr. von Schubert explained that Belgium would be represented by her Minister of Foreign Affairs, Great Britain by the President of the Board of Trade, Spain by the Minister of National Economy, and Poland by the Minister of Industry and Commerce. The coming together of the Commerce Ministers is a matter of great significance, as anyone will realise who reflects on the important results that have followed from the personal contact of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at Geneva. The report of the rapporteur also emphasises the significant fact that the Conference will be mainly a European affair. All the European members of the League, except Albania, from whom no reply has been received, have accepted the invitation to the Conference. But Japan and Cuba are the only non-European countries which are participating in the fullest sense, though two other countries outside Europe are sending observers.

The attitude that will be adopted in this country towards the Conference will clearly be determined by our various fiscal opinions. The last election showed that a large majority of the electorate share our view that, even in a world of tariff-protected countries, free trade is a necessity for Great Britain. With a small territory containing, except for coal, very modest resources of raw material, but with a unique geographical island situation, we have built up and maintained a position in which our overseas trade is a far greater proportion of our total activity than is the case with any other leading country in the world. Recently-published figures show that this country exports about £13 2s. of manufactured goods per head per year, a figure which is four times as great as the corresponding figure per head in the United States, and is more than double the corresponding figures for Germany and France. Other countries' tariffs are, indeed, a barrier to trade, and it would be a very valuable assistance to this country if they were lowered or removed. But if they are not constantly raised they gradually cease to be as obstructive as might at first sight appear, owing to the tendency of prices within the barrier to rise; and, in any case, protected countries have not been more successful—as a rule they have been very much less successful—than ours in overcoming other tariffs. Those who take this view are not in the least afraid of, but see considerable advantages in, a temporary suspension of tariff activity with a view to negotiating further reductions. We might add that if, as seems to be the case, the European nations are being driven by force of circumstances to endeavour to find some appeasement of the tariff situation, it is very important that we should be in the discussion, firstly, in order that our influence, which is unquestionably great, should be used to prevent the discussion stopping short at a mere stabilisation of tariffs, and, secondly, that the arrangements made should be such as to enable us to enter all markets in the future, as in the past, on the most favourable terms.

On the other hand, the extreme protectionist followers of Lord Rothermere would abandon all the principles which have hitherto guided our commercial diplomacy, fondly believing that we can find employment for all our people by exploiting our own home market. This idea is largely based on an entirely false analogy with the United States. The latter possesses an area equivalent to 19.9 acres per head, including therein very great natural agricultural and mineral resources; Britain has 1.29 acres per head, of which a significant proportion consists of mountain and moor. In these circumstances a self-contained Britain would be desperately poor. To argue: America has a high tariff, America is rich, therefore if Britain had a high tariff Britain would be rich, is as false as would be the precisely opposite conclusion that might be drawn from the premises: Russia has the most restrictive tariff system of any in the world, and Russia is poor.

The doubts as to the wisdom of the tariff truce, however, come rather from those who have a hankering after a system of retaliation and bargaining, and would like to see us take some action that they think would force down other people's tariffs. If it were certain that by imposing a tariff for six months or a year we could compel a general reduction of tariffs, most free traders would agree that it would be worth facing the dislocation and the difficulties that would be involved. The trouble is that there is no evidence in the history of tariffs to show that there is the slightest ground for this belief. On the contrary, " fighting " tariffs, like competitive armaments, have always tended to raise the tariffs of other countries. This competitive idea has underlain the whole upward trend of tariffs in the past decade against which the World Economic Conference so strongly protested. Moreover, if the " fighting " policy fails to achieve its object quickly, it creates vested interests and rapidly develops into a purely protectionist tariff—so hard to remove when once established—and in fact ceases to be an elastic implement for effective bargaining. The universal concession of most-favoured-nation treatment to British trade is the strongest argument against adopting a policy of retaliation.

The effect of the World Economic Conference has definitely checked the upward trend of tariffs, and in the past year the only important increase was in the Australian tariff. Bilateral tariff treaties have played an important part in bringing about this comparatively satisfactory result, but they are a very niggling method of getting any real reduction, and nothing substantial is likely to be done unless the discussions include several nations at a time. The preliminary condition for this is that while negotiations are taking place none of the parties should make an increase and endeavour to obtain what they conceive to be fresh bargaining ground. It is to our advantage that these negotiations should go forward, and Mr Graham will be serving the true interests of this country if, as a result of this Conference, he can secure a lowering of the trade barriers of Europe.

THE HALF-SPEED CONFERENCE.

How much real progress the Naval Conference has made in the past ten days is to some extent a matter of opinion, but there is no question that many of the issues have been considerably clarified. The British and American delegations have issued a general statement of their attitude, and it is understood that the Japanese are on the point of doing so. These documents make it clear that the Anglo-American agreement, worked out last summer, is now complete in every detail, though the figures provisionally accepted must be subject always to the overriding reservation that they are dependent on the consent of the other Powers at the Conference to restrict their fleets, not necessarily to a cast-iron ratio, but to dimensions which conform broadly with the accepted ideas of their relationship to the naval strengths of Great Britain and the United States.

A feature of the Anglo-American agreement is the decision of the United States to content herself with eighteen 10,000-ton cruisers, instead of the twenty-one for which the Big Navy party has been pressing, a reduction countered by a larger allowance of 6-inch gun cruisers than the Americans have hitherto desired to build. These, however, are details. The central fact is that the two countries have reached complete agreement on a system of parity which is ingeniously armour-plated against all criticism by the arrangement that each country has the option to duplicate the fleet of the other, ship by ship and gun by gun, if it so desires. An essential and, so far as it goes, a welcome feature of the arrangement is the proposal for a certain limited scrapping of capital ships. On the question how far this process should be carried, the American memorandum is non-committal, stipulating simply the achievement of parity between Great Britain and the United States in 1931 by a reduction of the battleship fleets of both countries. The British proposals in this respect are cautious. The date they fix is eighteen months after the ratification of the London agreement (which might mean as late as 1933) and they propose to " scrap down " only to a 15, 15, 9 figure (as against the present 20, 18, 10). There is nothing very heroic about this, particularly in the light of the hopes expressed on both sides of the Atlantic before the Conference met that the complete abolition of the capital ship in its present form might be agreed.

The British memorandum does, indeed, contain some hesitant passages on total abolition, expressing doubts as to the utility of the battleship and hopes for an agreement by which it would in due time disappear altogether from the fleets of the world. If in due time, why not now? Relief from the maintenance cost of capital ships would be singularly welcome to Mr Snowden, and opinion, both in this country and in America, is clearly ready for much more drastic action than is involved in scrapping within the next couple of years five elderly vessels, four of which have already been withdrawn from fleet service and are in use as a training squadron. This restricted proposition leaves the Government open to the criticism that it is endeavouring to abolish the submarine, which many lesser nations regard as a valuable defensive weapon, while declining to discard an arm in which Great Britain is particularly strong. Signor Grandi, the Italian Foreign Minister, used this argument with much force at this week's plenary session of the Conference and his proposal that the abolition of submarines should be accompanied by the abolition of capital ships raised an issue which the Conference can profitably discuss. It is quite true that such a proposal involves little sacrifice on the part of a nation possessing no capital ships of account, but Italy has discarded her capital ships deliberately, and if she is prepared, in consideration of the abolition of the battleship, to abolish submarines—in which, rightly or wrongly, she has a firm belief—her attitude is commendable.

It is probably too late now to hope for the total abolition of the battleship at this Conference, but the scrapping could, at any rate, go lower than the 15, 15, 9 suggested by the British memorandum. There is reason to believe that if the memorandum had not been hurried out in response to the unexpected American statement the 15, 15, 9 figures would not have been included, for there is a strong feeling among a section of the British Delegation that scrapping ought to be carried to at least the 12, 12, 7 level, if not lower. In this connection it is unnecessary to do more than mention what an American paper justly describes as the "grotesque suggestion " of the United States Delegation that, in order to achieve what that delegation considers a more ideal parity, America should scrap four of her older ships instead of the intended three and proceed to build a new battleship of the same size as the " Rodney " and, no doubt (as embodying the latest lessons in construction) exceeding the British ship in fighting power. The reception everywhere given to that proposal has already expelled it from the realm of practical politics. The extension of the naval holiday from 1931 to 1936, as regards capital ships, is now assured, and since no new construction will be undertaken till nearly six years hence, and in all probability not then, there is more to be lost than gained by deciding now (as the British memorandum proposes) the size and gun calibre of the ships to be built in a problematic future.

With regard to other types of vessel, the Conference has been proceeding steadily with its spadework. The long controversy between the measurement of fleets by total tonnage, and their measurement by separate categories of ships, has been virtually, though not yet formally, settled on the principle of limitation by categories with a certain restricted right of transfer of tonnage from one category to another. This marks a real advance, in view of the difficulties which the opposition of views on this subject have raised in the past. The submarine debate, on the other hand, gave little ground for satisfaction. It revealed, what was already known, that the United States has changed its views since the Washington Conference, and is now in favour of abolition. The Italian Delegation, though it made a case for the submarine as a weapon of value to the lesser navies, was ready for abolition if other Powers concerned were ready equally.

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France, however, has not moved an inch towards abolition, and the defence of the submarine by M. Leygues, the Minister of Marine, was almost aggressively emphatic. Japan ranged herself with France, though with more moderation of expression. The abolition of the submarine at the London Conference can, therefore, hardly be expected, though a proposal to that effect has gone to a sub-committee, together with proposals, in which France joins, for the preparation of a treaty subjecting the submarine to the same rules of warfare as apply to surface vessels. Mr Stimson, the American Secretary of State, has hailed the general identity of views on this point as a great achievement, but it does not appear to amount to more than consent by France to ratify the Root resolutions of 1922, which she signed at that time and which the other Powers concerned both signed and ratified.

Thus, while the Conference is by no means standing still, it would be idle to disguise the fact that none of the difficulties (except the controversy about the measurement of tonnage) outstanding before the delegates reached London have yet been composed. France, judging by the figures her delegates are understood to have laid before the Prime Minister, entertains ideas of naval development which may seriously affect the figures on which the Anglo-American agreement is based, particularly in regard to those craft designed for fighting submarines. Japan stands immovable on her claim for seventy per cent. of the American allowance in large cruisers, and her Government can pretty clearly not yield on that point before the General Election of February 20th, even if they are prepared to compromise afterwards. And as between the Italian claim for absolute parity with France and the French claim for parity in the Mediterranean alone, no approach to an adjustment has been made. Optimism need not be abandoned, but it must be of a restrained and long-range type.

WORLD GOLD DISTRIBUTION.

THE downward trend of commodity prices has inevitably brought into prominence the question of whether the world's monetary gold stocks are sufficient to finance the world's normal volume of business at the present level of prices. The fear of a gold shortage was no doubt in the minds of many of the experts who formulated the conception of the Bank of International Settlements as a world central bank. It was certainly the cause of the recommendations of the Genoa Conference for co-operation between existing central banks, and at the present day is the force behind the investigations now being conducted by the Financial Committee of the League of Nations. Finally, it is a fear that finds expression in much of the ill-considered criticism of the gold standard that is heard in business circles to-day.

Without in any way attempting to anticipate the verdict of the League's Financial Committee, it may serve a useful purpose to marshal some of the evidence. The following table (for which acknowledgment is due to Mr Joseph Kitchin) shows good production during the past sixteen years:—

GOLD PRODUCTION.

(In millions of pounds at 84s. 11½d. per fine oz.)

Year.	Transvaal.	The Rest of the Empire.	British Empire.	Foreign Countries.	World.
1914.....	35·7	20·8	56·5	33·9	90·4
1915.....	38·6	22·0	60·6	35·8	96·6
1916.....	39·5	20·0	59·5	34·0	93·5
1917.....	38·3	17·8	56·1	30·2	86·3
1918.....	35·8	15·2	51·0	28·0	79·0
1919.....	35·4	14·7	50·1	24·9	75·0
1920.....	34·7	13·4	48·1	20·9	69·0
1921.....	34·5	12·9	47·4	20·6	68·0
1922.....	29·8*	14·8	44·6	20·9	65·5
1923.....	38·9	14·5	53·4	22·1	75·5
1924.....	40·7	15·3	56·0	25·0	81·0
1925.....	40·8	15·3	56·1	24·9	81·0
1926.....	42·3	15·3	57·5	24·5	82·0
1927.....	43·0	15·6	58·6	23·9	82·5
1928.....	44·0	15·4	59·4	24·1	83·5
1929(est.)	44·3	15·3	59·6	23·9	83·5

* Output temporarily reduced by strike of white miners.

When allowance is made for the disturbed history of the period, it must be conceded that production was maintained with a fair degree of consistency. The most serious shrinkage was in the years immediately following the war, which was a time when the price of gold was low in relation to its production cost. To-day Transvaal production is higher than in 1914, and the decline in total gold output must be ascribed to other goldfields.

The total gold production during these sixteen years was £1,292,000,000, while the estimated increase in the monetary gold stocks of the world was £757,000,000, demands of India and the trade largely accounting for the difference. This monetary increase of £757,000,000 compares with an approximate estimate of £1,579,000,000 for the monetary gold stocks of these countries in 1913, namely at the beginning of the period. This is equivalent to an increase of 47.9 per cent. during the whole period, or to an average of 2.4 per cent. (compound) per annum.

Gold held by central banks and Treasuries is estimated at £965,000,000 in 1913, thus leaving a difference of £614,000,000, representing gold held by other banks and in circulation. Gold stocks held by central banks and Treasuries in 1929 amounted to approximately £2,078,000,000. This leaves only £258,000,000 for monetary gold held by other banks and the public, the difference of £356,000,000 between this last figure and the

corresponding 1913 figure representing the extent of the intervening concentration of monetary gold in the vaults of the banks. The increase in the central banks' and Treasuries' stocks between 1913 and 1929 was £1,113,000,000. This equals 115.4 per cent., or 4.9 per cent. (compound) per annum.

All these calculations raise several important questions. The usual assumption by economists is that an increase in the volume of money of 3 per cent. per annum is needed to keep pace with industrial development and the growth of population. Now, the increase in the world's stocks of monetary gold alone is, as shown, the inadequate figure of 2.4 per cent. per annum; but, as " money " should be interpreted in the widest sense of the term, it is necessary to include bank and currency notes and also bank deposits, whose basis is not the world's total monetary gold stocks, including gold in circulation, but is the gold held by central banks and Treasuries. The actual rate of increase in their gold holdings is, as said, 115.4 per cent., and their annual increase 4.9 per cent.—a figure which is more than adequate. In fact, the difference between these last increases and the theoretical increase of 3 per cent. per annum is sufficient to justify a rise in world gold prices of 34.3 per cent., which is comparable with the increase that has actually taken place.

This last conclusion probably proves far too much, for the reasons why gold prices are 30 per cent. above their pre-war level are not nearly so simple as this. In addition to the concentration of gold in the vaults of central banks, which, perhaps, is the salient lesson of the above calculations, regard must be paid to the increases in note issues and to the general pyramiding of credit, which was one of the main consequences of the war. It is not only true that the central banks have during the past sixteen years succeeded in building a larger quantity, absolutely and relatively, of the world's monetary gold stocks into the foundations of the credit system; they are also making each ounce of gold support a bigger volume of credit than they did before the war.

A further point that has become of the utmost importance is the maldistribution of the world's monetary gold stocks which was brought about by the war. Thus, as the following table shows, the United States gold stocks increased during the war from £392 to £520 million, and have subsequently risen to about £800 million. This, it can be urged, represents genuine gold inflation far beyond the 35 per cent. rise in prices which represents the position in America to-day. This increase in American gold stocks has taken place at the expense of other countries, whose stocks have, in some cases, fallen, in others remained stationary, and, in very few cases, expanded to a degree commensurable with the aggregate increase in world monetary gold stocks. Thus, to keep pace with America other countries have, apart from emergencies created by the war, had to increase their note issues, pyramid their credit, and, in short, introduce all the familiar devices for economising their monetary use of gold.

This argument can be carried a stage further. Rightly or wrongly, national prestige is demanding the gradual abandonment of any practice that possesses the taint of inflation; but, so long as many countries are deprived of what, on a pre-war basis, is their proper share of the world's stocks, their return to the narrow path of monetary rectitude must involve one of two things. Either they must add to their existing gold stocks, and so intensify the " scramble " for gold which has been so much in evidence during the past few years, or they must be content to witness a steady decline in their internal price-level. In either case, a fall in world prices must eventually be anticipated, and, to complete the argument, it is here that the cause of the present downward trend of world prices must be sought.

Now what, if any, is the evidence behind this line of thought? It is to be found in the following tables. The first deals with the absolute distribution of the world's gold stocks, the figures being extracted from publications of the Federal Reserve Board and from other sources.

(£000,000.)

	Gold in Banks and Treasuries and in circulation. End 1913.	Gold in Central Banks and Treasuries. End 1913.	End 1919.	End 1927.	End 1928.	End 1929.
United States	392	266	520	818	770	800
France	304	140	143	196	258	336
Great Britain	150	35	120	152	153	146
Germany	184	57	54	92	134	112
Japan	17	13	72	111	111	109
Spain	19	19	97	103	102	102
Argentine	59	53	69	109	125	91
Italy	55	55	41	49	55	56
Netherlands	13	12	53	33	36	37
Belgium	16	12	11	20	26	34
Russia	211	162	?	20	19	31
Switzerland	9	7	20	20	21	24
Australia	15	4	24	22	22	18
Poland	...	...	...	12	14	16
Java	2	2	14	15	14	14
Sweden	6	6	15	13	13	13
Austria and Hungary	52	52	9	9	12	11
Denmark	4	4	13	10	9	10
South Africa	8	8	7	8	8	8
Czechoslovakia	...	...	...	6	7	8
Norway	2	2	8	8	8	7
Other countries	61	56	65	103	105	85
Total	1,579	965	1,355	1,929	2,022	2,078

The second table is confined to those countries that hold between them the major portion of the world's monetary gold. It shows the actual share, on a percentage basis, of these countries and of the rest of the world:—

Country.	1913. (a)	1913. (b)	1919.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	9·5	3·6	8·9	7·9	7·6	7·0
France	19·5	14·5	10·5	10·2	12·7	16·2
Germany	11·7	5·9	4·0	4·8	6·6	5·4
United States	24·8	27·6	38·4	42·4	38·0	38·5
Argentine	3·7	5·5	5·1	5·7	6·2	4·4
Japan	1·1	1·3	5·3	5·8	5·5	5·2
Other Countries	29·7	41·6	27·8	23·2	23·4	23·3

1913: (a) Gold in banks and treasuries and in circulation.
(b) Gold in central banks and treasuries.

Regarding these two tables together, there is no doubt that America has gained inordinately at the expense, mainly, of England and Germany. The second table suggests that the recent French acquisitions are not wholly disproportionate, but right through the table the French proportion is extremely high in relation to her population and general economic needs. Our own share, most of which before the war was in circulation, is cut from 9.5 to 6.8 per cent. In view of our duties as banker to the world, we can fairly claim that we have been badly treated. If it be objected that the Bank of England's share has more than doubled, and that, therefore, we have no legitimate ground of complaint, the answer is that to-day the Bank's gold has to support a much bigger internal note issue than it had to before the war.

The vital point is that America and France, who even before the war had large percentages in comparison with their needs, have in one case gained enormously, and in the other case have largely restored recent losses at a time when England and Germany had, on the basis of pre-war figures, the prior claim. In short, the maldistribution to-day is intensified, and so there is urgent need for determining how far it is responsible for the apparent shortage of gold and downward trend of world prices. In view of the absence of any real proof to the effect that hitherto the world's monetary gold stocks have proved inadequate for their purpose, this question is one that should be carefully and comprehensively examined by those who to-day are investigating the main problem.

A final but most important point is that even if gold production should so far have proved adequate to the world's monetary needs, there is no guarantee that it will continue to do so, and, in fact, there is good ground for supposing that the rate of increase in the world's monetary gold will fall away appreciably within a very few years. This renders it all the more essential that such gold as exists should not only be used as economically as possible, but should also be distributed equitably in accordance with the legitimate needs of every centre. These are the real problems awaiting solution to-day if a future decline in world prices is to be avoided.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS AND OUR CAPITAL OVERSEAS.

THE investment trust company plays an important and increasing part in the investment of British capital both at home and abroad. Distinguished from the majority of American investment trusts by the fact that the latter are interested in special lines of securities and regard capital appreciation as profit, and distinguished from " financial trusts " for similar reasons, the British investment trust holds a peculiar place in the world's financial structure. It is true that the lure of capital appreciation, even if undistributed, stimulates the creation and enlargement of investment trusts when Stock Exchange prices are moving upwards, but the primary preoccupation of investment trust directorates and shareholders is with yield per annum, which, calculated on cost prices, is, if anything, likely to diminish during a period of Stock Exchange inflation.

The operations of investment trust companies are in themselves a miniature reflection of the course of British capital investment, other than purely speculative ventures. Variations in the attractiveness of investment in any part of the world are sensitively recorded in the holdings of investment trusts, details of which are thus of great interest outside the comparatively limited scope of the trusts themselves. Last year we published a table showing the geographical distribution of the investments of such companies, 26 in number, as issued information on this point. The figures for 1928 have now been revised, and a new column added for 1929, in the following table:—

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANY INVESTMENTS.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Great Britain	34·5	35·3	34·9	34·0	32·4	34·5	36·7
British Empire	10·5	11·3	10·6	11·4	11·6	10·6	10·3
U.S.A.	17·7	14·1	13·4	12·8	12·8	10·6	9·9
Argentine	12·4	12·2	11·5	11·0	11·1	10·1	8·3
Other parts of South America	11·2	12·1	12·2	12·4	10·7	10·7	9·7
Mexico and Central America	5·1	4·8	4·5	3·9	3·5	3·4	3·1
Europe	4·5	5·3	7·9	9·6	13·2	15·9	17·2
Rest of the World*	4·1	4·9	5·0	4·9	4·7	4·2	4·8
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

* Includes in some cases international companies.

The total book value of the investments covered by these figures is about £70 million, and it is fair to assume that the tendencies which they disclose would not be falsified if we could obtain figures for all investment trusts. The absolute figures should be regarded with greater suspicion, but the trend is beyond doubt. One word of warning must first be given. These percentages refer to book values, that is to say, cost prices less an allowance for depreciation; whatever sum is available year by year for the writing down process is not, of course, distributed uniformly among the book values of the various investments, but is divided up according to the sale value and prospects of each particular holding. Thus the proportion in any given geographical area can fall while the aggregate book value remains the same, and yet no funds are actually withdrawn from that area. The effect of this is that the figures anticipate slightly the actual movements of capital. If investments in one part of the world are depreciating more rapidly than the average, before long the nominal or cost value of those investments will certainly be reduced, if only by the slow process of redemption.

Bearing this in mind, we can examine the tendencies reflected in the table. Most notable is the fact that the percentage of investments in Great Britain was higher in 1929 than in any of the preceding six years. Several causes, no doubt, combined to produce this effect. New overseas borrowing in London fell off in 1928, and even more in 1929, from the level of earlier years. Foreign governments and municipalities had practically no recourse to the London issue market last year, and only exceptional activity in the Rhodesian mining market prevented the total of overseas issues from falling to the low level of 1925, when the embargo was in force. While trust company funds were becoming available both by new flotations and by the redemption and sale of Latin-American investments, the concentration of speculation, first on " shilling share " issues and then on American securities, left many sound if unexciting bargains at home. It is early yet to say how the world's capital markets will settle down after the Wall Street collapse, but if the above analysis is correct the upward movement of the percentage of investment trust holding located in this country is likely to be retarded.

It is, at first sight, odd to find the percentage in the United States continuing to fall, even in a year when Wall Street was drawing a large volume of international funds both for long- and short-term investment. Incidentally, no particular twelve months can be assigned to the interval between the columns of figures; the 26 companies made up their balance sheets at a number of different dates, the " average " of which was about the middle of the year. Thus the Wall Street boom will be reflected as much in the 1930 figures as in those for 1929. However, there is no reason why the boom should retard the fall in the American percentage, since the high prices obtainable by realisation were probably much more attractive to investment trust companies than was the possibility of a quick turn on new purchases.

The exchange of investments between Latin America and Europe continued undiminished. Investment trusts have been, no doubt, large holders of the shares and stock of South and Central American companies recently purchased by United States interests. At the same time, there is a constant repatriation of funds from all parts of the world through the process of amortisation and redemption. The greater attractiveness of Europe, as compared with Latin America, for these funds records at once the growing economic stability of the former and the advance of United States financial influence over the rest of the American Continent. Part of the decline in the Latin-American percentage is also due, no doubt, to the fact that diminishing confidence in the financial power of the Latin-American republics, whether justified or not, has required investments in those countries to be written down by more than the average amount. Probably the slight fall in the British Empire percentage is to be accounted for in the same way. A further factor has contributed to the astonishing and uninterrupted rise in the European percentage, namely, the resale of dollar blocks of international issues. Lists of investment trust company holdings include very large blocks of the New York issues of reconstruction and other European loans, which have frequently been at an appreciable discount below the sterling issues.

It is natural that these tendencies should be underlined in the figures for new investment trusts. Four of those whose first annual accounts refer to dates in 1929 published particulars of the geographical distribution of their capital. The aggregate percentages are as follows:—Great Britain, 32.3; British Empire, 16.1; U.S.A., 14.6; Argentina, 5.9; other South America, 7.3; Mexico and Central America, 1.4; Europe, 18.7; and the rest of the world, 3.7. From these figures it is perfectly plain that for new investment of a non-speculative kind Europe is much more attractive than Latin America. Both the British Empire and the United States appear to have tempted the new companies rather than the old. As regards the United States, this may be due to a less conservative policy adopted by the newcomers; as regards the

British Empire, a downward tendency which causes the existing bondholder to write down his investments presents to the new investor an opportunity for a bargain. If all the 30 old and new companies are combined together, the percentage for the British Empire is 10.6, exactly the same as for the existing companies in 1928.

IRON AND STEEL IN 1929.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

It has already been noted in the *Economist* that Great Britain's production of steel in 1929 exceeded that in any previous year except 1917; that exports of iron and steel were higher than in any post-war year; and that the production of pig iron was higher than in any post-war year except 1920. Yet by all other criteria the iron and steel industry remains one of the depressed industries of the country, and the Government's concern regarding it is patent from the fact that one of its first acts was to appoint yet another Committee (a sub-committee of the Civil Research Committee of the Cabinet) to inquire fully into the industry's position and prospects.

As a commentary on the situation, it may also be observed that the ordinary shares of the principal iron and steel companies are now quoted in most cases at much less than 50 per cent. of their par value, and in practically every case at several shillings per share less than at this time last year. While some part of this decline is undoubtedly due to the Stock Exchange collapse at the end of last year and the fears of the investing public as to the effect that the Coal Mines Bill may have on the competitive power of " heavy " industry, it is undoubted evidence of the difficulty which the industry is experiencing in earning profits under present conditions.

The following table summarises the salient data illustrating the industry's progress during the last three years, in comparison with the position in 1913:—

	Furnaces in blast.	Board of Trade Price Index.		Production.		Imports.	Exports
		Iron and steel.	All commodities.	Pig-iron.	Steel ingots and castings.		
				(In thousands of tons.)			
Average monthly:							
1913	338	100·0	100·0	855·0	638·6	185·9	414·1
1927	168	120·0	141·4	607·7	758·1	367·2	350·0
1928	143	112·3	140·3	550·9	710·4	241·3	355·1
1929	159	114·2	136·5	631·6	804·6	234·7	364·9

Since 1927 our imports of iron and steel have undergone a marked decline. Comparison, moreover, of quantities and values shows that the value per ton of imports in 1929 was about £8 15s. (against £8 6s. in 1928 and £7 2s. in 1913), whereas the value of exports (£11 2s. per ton in 1913) was approximately £15 11s. in 1928 and £15 10s. last year. That is to say, not only do our imports normally take the form of less highly finished goods than those we export, but the fact that since 1913 the average value of our exports per ton has increased by 40 per cent., as compared with an increase of 23 per cent. in the value per ton of imports suggests that there has been an increasing tendency for our exports to take more highly finished forms.

The improvement in production in 1929 was due to two main causes—an improvement in the shipbuilding position, and the great activity in the iron and steel works on the Continent. With regard to shipbuilding, the operation of the Rebate Scheme, introduced a few years ago, led to the increased demand for steel for the shipyards being met for the most part from British steel works. As regards the second factor, the activity in Continental works was for the most part such as to preclude them from increasing their exports to Great Britain as our demand increased. The total imports of iron and steel in 1929 were actually little less than in 1928, but, owing to the increased home demand, they would have been much higher save for the fact that the Continent was working practically up to capacity for its home markets and for markets other than Great Britain, so that it had no margin from which to increase its exports to this country.

This is one of the reasons why iron and steel makers are dissatisfied with the results of 1929. They feel that such improvement as occurred (in spite of the increased output steel production in 1929 was no higher than 75 per cent. of capacity) was not the result of a definite improvement in competitive power but was largely adventitious; and an industry which has to wait until its competitors have full order books before beginning to fill up its own is in a thoroughly unsatisfactory position. The other reason for dissatisfaction has already been referred to—the lack of profits in the industry. This was due primarily to the fact that the cost of raw materials rose considerably. The increased production of pig iron, for instance, involved the consumption of about 1¼ million tons more coke than in the previous year, while the requirements of coke for export and for other industrial purposes also increased. As it is not possible to expand the production of coke quickly—in fact, at times blast furnaces were actually handicapped by a shortage of coke—the price of coke naturally rose, in some districts by as much as 6s. per ton, during the year. The price of iron ore, both home and imported, was also higher, but while these factors meant an inevitable increase in the cost of production of pig iron and steel, it was impossible to increase iron and steel prices in proportion to the increased costs. The Board of Trade's index number of iron and steel prices (1913 = 100), which was 112.5 in January, 1929, never rose above 115.3 (in October). The financial results of the steel industry in this country, therefore, have not been at all commensurate with the improvement in production, while on the other hand the increased activity on the Continent was accompanied by increased profits.

The Continental works mostly paid substantial dividends in 1928-29, after making ample allowance for reserves and depreciation and re-investing a proportion of the gross profits in extension of plant. Moreover, where a Continental firm's resources are not sufficient fully to finance the desired extensions, there is generally no difficulty in securing the necessary money, as the industry has become a regular dividend payer. Capacity both for pig iron and steel production on the Continent is therefore continually increasing. While the iron and steel demand in Britain is sufficient to keep the steelworks fully employed if the demand be met from home sources, the lower prices quoted for Continental semi-products result in a large part of the demand for that class of iron and steel being met from foreign sources. So far, therefore, from Great Britain expanding her capacity, it is in many cases impossible to find the money to keep the existing plant up to date.

The iron and steel industry is making considerable efforts to reduce costs of production by technical improvements and fuel economy. The movement in the direction of amalgamations has continued, and obviously provides possibilities of economies when the mergers are between sound firms possessing the same class of raw materials and manufacturing similar products, as in the case of the Dorman, Long and Bolckow, Vaughan merger on the north-east coast, and the arrangements now being negotiated between Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and Baldwins in South Wales. Geographical considerations will probably prevent the movement going so far in this country as in the United States or Germany, for, whereas in Germany for instance, 80 per cent. of the production of iron and steel is concentrated in the Ruhr, no district in this country produces more than 30 per cent. of the country's pig iron output or 25 per cent. of the steel output.

But other measures of co-operation have been taken by the steel makers which do not depend upon geographical considerations. The " British Export Committee," which had been functioning for about eighteen months, has developed into the " British Steel Export Association," comprising practically all the firms in the heavy steel trade, and having for its object the centralising of the selling of plates, sections and joists in export markets. A " British Steelwork Association " has also been formed by leading firms engaged in the manufacture of structural steel or in constructional engineering " to promote and develop the production and use of structural steel and steel work, etc." These corporate activities cannot fail to have beneficial effects on the industry, but it must not be forgotten that corporate action of this kind is equally open to our competitors, and has, in fact, been taken by them. Propaganda on behalf of the increased use of steel is undertaken in the United States, France and Germany, while after many years of effort it seems that Germany's advocacy of international selling syndicates as the natural corollary of the International Steel Cartel is at length on the point of succeeding. At any rate, an export office has been established to distribute export orders between the different countries. True, the office is only a temporary one, and is to operate for six months only, but in the meantime a special commission is studying the problem, and it is hoped that the International Selling Syndicates will have been formed before the six months expire.

The outlook for 1930 is therefore not too favourable. It has already been stated that much of the improved production of 1929 was due indirectly to the great activity of Continental works; but a decline began to set in on the Continent in the autumn, although it was not until November 1st that the first reduction in output decreed by the International Cartel was intended to apply. This restriction, which has been continued since that date, amounts to 10 per cent. of output, and, although not observed at first, it has been officially continued since November 1st, and is likely to apply for some time. The International Cartel is also strengthening its organisation. The original agreement was to terminate on April 1, 1931. It was, however, open to any country to give notice before May 1, 1929, of withdrawal on October 31, 1929. No notice to terminate the agreement was given last year, but negotiations took place with a view to modifying the existing regulations largely to satisfy Germany's demand for more equitable treatment and to expand the functions of the cartel. One direction in which they are expanding is in the formation of export selling arrangements referred to above.

The outlook for the British iron and steel industry is also obscured by reason of the Government's Coal Mines Bill. The reduction in working hours proposed in the Bill must inevitably increase the cost of coal, and unless means can be found whereby coal prices for the iron and steel industry shall not be increased it is clear that the industry's competitive power must be still further handicapped.

THE HAGUE FINAL ACT.—I.

The Final Act of the Hague Conference, and the agreements of which it takes note, fill a very bulky official volume. The agreement with Germany alone has twelve annexes, and it is followed by agreements with Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, a convention with Switzerland, arrangements for distributing the annuities among the Creditor Powers and for mobilising the German annuities, and a number of other agreements and exchanges of letters. To have drawn up, negotiated and signed these highly technical documents within the space of little over a fortnight is a remarkable achievement, not only of the delegates, but also of the committee of lawyers and of Sir Maurice Hankey and the secretariat of the Conference. The various agreements regarding German reparations are summarised below.

The German Accord.

Art. I.—The Experts' Plan of the 7th June, 1929, together with this present agreement and the Protocol of the 31st August, 1929 (all of which are hereinafter described as the New Plan) is definitely accepted as a complete and final settlement, so far as Germany is concerned, of the financial questions resulting from the war. By their acceptance the Signatory Powers undertake the obligations and acquire the rights resulting for them respectively from the New Plan. The German Government gives the Creditor Powers the solemn undertaking to pay the annuities for which the New Plan provides in accordance with the stipulations contained therein.

Art. II declares that the payment in full of the New Plan annuities is accepted as a final discharge of all the liabilities still remaining undischarged. Art. III deals with outstanding accounts, including the liquidated property accounts; liquidation is to cease as from the date of the acceptance of the Young Report, the existing surpluses being subject to special agreements.

Art. IIIa.—The signatory Governments recognise that the accounts between the Reparation Commission and Germany relating to transactions prior to the period and the Dawes Plan, together with all accounts involving credits to Germany, either now or in the future, against the original capital debt are henceforth obsolete and without practical effect and declare them closed in their present condition.

By Art. IV the Bank for International Settlements (B.I.S.) takes over those functions of the Reparation Commission which still remain. Art. V states that the annuities mentioned in the Agreement include the Dawes Loan Service but not the Germano-American annuities.

Art. VI.—The Contracting Parties recognise the necessity, with a view to putting into force the New Plan, of the constitution of the Bank for International Settlements.

To the latter, by Art. VII, will be delivered the Debt Certificate of the Reich and the Certificate of the German Railway for its special obligation.

Art. VIII.—With a view to facilitating the successful working of the New Plan the German Government declares spontaneously that it is firmly determined to make every possible effort to avoid a declaration of postponement and not to have recourse thereto until it has come to the conclusion in good faith that Germany's exchange and economic life may be seriously endangered by the transfer in part or in full of the postponable portion of the annuities. It remains understood that Germany alone has authority to decide whether occasion has arisen for declaring a postponement as provided by the New Plan.

Art. IX refers to the amendment of the German Bank and Railway Laws, Art. X to the fiscal and political immunity of the International Bank, Art. XI to the Trust Agreement, Art. XII to the system of deliveries in kind. Art. XIII confirms the priority of the service of the Dawes Loan and the continuance of the securities and rights attached to it. Art. XIV declares that the solemn undertaking of the German Government replaces all existing controls, special securities, pledges or charges, except the security for the Dawes Loan, the assigned (but not controlled) revenues, and the Certificate of the German Railway. Art. XV provides for final arbitration by a tribunal composed of an American chairman, two neutrals, a national of Germany and a national of one of the Creditor Powers. The rules of procedure of this tribunal are contained in Annex XII. The final clause declares that:

The New Plan will come into force and will be considered as having been put into execution on the date on which the Reparation Commission and the Chairman of the Kriegslastenkommission have agreed in reporting:

(1) The ratification of the present Agreement by Germany and the enactment of the German laws in accordance with the relative Annexes.

(2) The ratification of the present Agreement by four of the following Powers, that is to say, Belgium, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan.

(3) The constitution of the Bank for International Settlements and the acceptance by the Bank of the undertakings by it for which the present Agreement provides, and also its receipt of the Certificate of the German Government and the Certificate of the German Railway Company.

Then follow the Annexes. The first contains the exchange of declarations regarding the possible voluntary default of Germany, which has already been published; Annex II provides measures of transition. Sums paid by Germany during the transitional period in excess of her new annuities will be reimbursed, together with the net interest actually earned.

The Annuities.

Annex III contains the debt certificate of the German Reich. The table of annuities (payable by equal monthly instalments on the 15th of each month) corresponds to that in the Young Report. Section II contains the transfer provisions.

Except for any period in which the transfer of the postponable portion of the annuity is suspended, the monthly payments of the Reich must be made in currencies other than the reichsmark.

These currencies are to be so far as possible those preferred by the B.I.S. Exception to the clause is allowed to the extent of the sums due for deliveries in kind under

the Reparation Recovery Acts, or for administrative expenses incurred in Germany.

Sums paid in currencies other than Reichsmarks into the Annuity Trust Account shall be calculated in terms of Reichsmarks at the average of the middle rates (Mittelkurs) prevailing on the Berlin Bourse during the fifteen days preceding the date of payment.

Section III provides for the attachment of separate coupons to the debt certificate for the mobilisable and the postponable portions of the annuities. (Parts A and B respectively.) Section IV deals with mobilisation, which can take place only upon the request of the B.I.S.

The Bank will, as far as possible, make every effort to secure that loans will not be issued without granting to Germany an appropriate right of anticipated redemption. Germany shall have the right to redeem all or any part of the not yet mobilised annuities (Parts A and B of the coupons) on the basis of 5½ per cent. discount.

Section V of Annex III embodies the provisions for postponement of transfer, the general outline of which was incorporated in the Young Plan. The employment, whether for investment or deliveries in kind, of the Reichsmarks deposited on account of postponed portions shall be subject to agreement between the Reichsbank and the B.I.S.

Sec. VI.—The German Government undertakes during the period up to March 31st, 1966, to maintain at the B.I.S. a non-interest-bearing deposit equivalent to 50 per cent. of the average deposit remaining in the Annuity Trust Account, but not exceeding 100 million Reichsmarks.

The remainder of the third annex deals with collateral guarantees, which are provided for in detail in Annex XI, and with the formal discharge of the obligations. A form of annuity coupon is appended.

Reichsbahn and Reichsbank.

Annex IV comprises the Certificate of the German Railway promising to pay, as a contribution to the reparation annuities, a Reich tax of 600 million Reichsmarks *per annum*. Annex V contains the amendments to be made in the Reichsbank law in conformity with the Young Plan. The change of greatest general interest is the following addendum to Art. 21 of the law.

All functions confided to and obligations imposed on Central Banks in general or any one such Central Bank specially by the New Plan will be performed in Germany by the Reichsbank. All functions confided to and obligations imposed on Presidents of Central Banks in general or any one such President personally by the New Plan will be performed in Germany by the President of the Reichsbank.

By Annex Va, amendments to the Reichsbank law which may affect the provisions of Annex V must be submitted to the B.I.S. Annex VI contains the necessary amendments in the Railway Law, and Annex VIa describes the procedure to be followed for subsequent modifications thereof. Annex VII is a deed of assignment by the Reich Government of the Customs duties and the tobacco, beer and spirit taxes by way of collateral guarantee.

The Bank of International Settlements.

Annex VIII is the form of trust deed for the transfer of reparations by the B.I.S. The French text alone is authentic. The Bank holds the certificates of the Reich and of the Railway; it accepts the annuities and transfers them to the accounts of the creditor governments; it invests the Reichsmarks deposited when transfer of any portion is postponed, and calls the Special Advisory Committee in such an event; it must authorise and become agent for any projects of mobilisation. By Art. IV (e) the sums allocated from the annuities will remain without interest in the national subdivisions of the Annuity Trust Account up to the equivalent of the following minimum amounts: for France, Rm. 68,037,500; for Great Britain, Rm. 26,587,500; and lesser sums for the other creditors, totalling Rm. 125,000,000. For all these and other services under the Trust Agreement, the Bank is to be paid a commission of 1 per mille on the actual payments received from Germany.

Among the documents noted in the Final Act is a Convention between the Governments of Germany and of the chief Creditor Powers for the one part and the Swiss Government for the other part, incorporating the Charter and Statutes of the B.I.S. The latter have already been published in their draft form, from which they have been but little amended; the Charter secures immunity for the Bank from stamp and registration duties on its documents of incorporation and liquidation and on any first issue of its shares, from all taxes upon its capital, reserves or profits, whether distributed or not, and from all taxes upon agreements in connection with mobilisation loans and upon mobilisation bonds; the non-Swiss employees and administrators of the Bank are exempt from all taxes upon their remunerations and salaries.

Charter, para. 10.—The Bank, its property and assets, and all deposits and other funds entrusted to it, shall be immune in time of peace and in time of war from any measure such as expropriation, requisition, seizure, confiscation, prohibition or restriction of gold or currency export or import, and any other similar measures.

The Charter further provides that the supplementary law required for any amendment of the "reserved articles" of the statutes will only be passed by agreement between the Swiss and the other signatory governments. In view of the provisions of the Swiss Constitution, the Convention is entered into for a period of 15 years only.

Deliveries in Kind.

Annex IX of the German Agreement contains the new regulations for deliveries in kind. The Experts Report provided, it will be remembered, a gradually diminishing ten-year schedule for these deliveries. The Trust Agreement provides that the Bank shall place these quotas to separate accounts of the Creditor Powers, and shall act as paying agent for deliveries in kind.

Art. II, 7.—Each creditor is responsible for the utilisation of its quota for deliveries in kind. In principle . . . . each Power is required to obtain approval for contracts providing for payments of which the total is sufficient in any given year to absorb the quota of that Power for deliveries in kind.

The Article then provides for the postponement of antedating of the quotas under certain conditions. Article III concerns a German undertaking to facilitate so far as possible commercial contracts for deliveries in kind. Arts. IV, VII and VIII deal with the organisation both for approval of contracts and for payment. Arts. V and VI refer to the appended lists, A and C, of commodities which may not, or may only up to a certain percentage, be delivered as reparation payments in kind, and for certain direct payments even upon admitted deliveries. These clauses are the result of Mr Graham's demand for safeguards against certain kinds of deliveries which were injurious to British trade. Art IX contains the all-important prohibition of re-exportation.

93. Each Creditor Power undertakes, as far as possible, to prevent the commodities which it receives from Germany as deliveries in kind from being re-exported during five years.

The remaining Articles of the Annex deal with infractions and frauds, arbitration, temporary provisions, and the revision of the regulations.

Annex X is an agreement for amending the method of administering the German Reparation (Recovery) Act, 1921. The sterling equivalent of 23.05 per cent. of each annual quota of deliveries in kind is to be paid to the British Government under the terms of the Act. These transfers rank *pari passu* with deliveries in kind. Annex Xa is a comparable agreement between Germany and France.

Miscellaneous Provisions.

After the agreements with the non-German debtors comes an arrangement for carrying out the "Concurrent Memorandum" of the Experts' Report regarding the benefit to be received by Germany from any reduction of the net outward war debt payments of the Creditor Powers. There follows an arrangement between the Creditor Powers accepting the division of the German annuities as proposed in the Young Plan, subject to the undertakings entered into at the Hague last August. Great Britain is to receive an additional Rm. 102,000,000 out of receipts in respect of the last five months of the Dawes Plan (in order to cover out-payments); Italy and Greece are also to participate, the other debtors sacrificing sufficient to make up these payments. The French and Italian war debts to Great Britain are to be paid on the 15th of each month instead of half-yearly. Provision is made for the payment by France, Belgium and Italy of the annuities which they guaranteed to Great Britain in response to Mr Snowden's demand for a closer approximation to our Spa percentage.

Finally, there are appended an arrangement as to the financial mobilisation of the German annuities and certain letters regarding the German-American debt agreement and the tariffs of the German Railway Company. The terms of the agreement for issuing a maximum of $300 million of reparation bonds, one-third of the proceeds to be handed to Germany, have already been noted in these columns. The documents conclude with a declaration regarding transitory provisions signed by the President and the Secretary of the Conference.

If it should be impossible to put the New Plan into execution, the present Agreement shall become null and void and the amounts withheld through its application shall be paid to the Creditor Governments within four months.

The non-German Reparation and Liberation Debt settlements will be summarised next week.

Notes of the Week.

The Reichstag and the Young Plan.—The Bill for the Enslavement of the German People, as the German Nationalists have dubbed the Bill to ratify the Young Plan, came before the Reichsrat last week and the Reichstag on Tuesday, along with four attendant Bills for the alteration of the Reichsbank and Railway Laws and for the ratification of the American reparation settlement and of the liquidation and other subsidiary agreements signed at the Hague. The Reichsrat, after being invited to compare the present value of the Young Plan annuities, 34 milliard gold marks, with the offer made by Germany in 1921 to pay 50 milliard gold marks less previous payments, adopted the Bills by 48 votes to 6. Though the Government majority was never in doubt, the debate in the Reichstag has been protracted but most unexciting. Herr Hugenberg, the Nationalist magnate, broke the parliamentary silence which he has maintained since 1922 in order to denounce the Bills, but his speech was not otherwise notable. Herr Curtius, the Foreign Minister, who lucidly defended the Bills, emphasised the failure of the Nationalists to offer any alternative policy whatever. Another Nationalist critic, Dr. Hoetsch, described the Young Plan as a closely-meshed net of international capitalism which was to be cast by the International Bank over a whole continent for two generations. To this Dr. Wirth replied that it was the concern of Europe as a whole, rather than of Germany especially, that the former was committed for so long a period to the New World through the worst of all wars. The most interesting contribution to the debate was the description by the Minister of Finance, Dr. Moldenhauer, of what would happen if Germany demanded a moratorium. The Creditor Powers would forthwith declare a moratorium for their payments to America, and the whole matter would then have to be fundamentally reconsidered. The report of the Special Advisory Committee of the B.I.S., though not binding on Germany, would be drawn up with the co-operation of German representatives and would have such weight that no nation concerned would reject it. The most doubtful point in this forecast is the suggested ability and willingness of the Creditor Powers to suspend payments to America. Whether such a moratorium were declared or not, it is perfectly plain that any fundamental revision of the Young Plan settlement must depend on the attitude towards war debts adopted by the United States, and it is as well that Germany should realise that fact.

The Pope and Russia.—The Pope has published a protest against the anti-religious campaign which the Soviet Government is now carrying on throughout the territories of the U.S.S.R.; and he has announced his intention of celebrating a special mass on March 19th in order to express the feeling of Christians outside Russia about this extirpation of the Russian Church. It is noteworthy that, in this document, His Holiness asks the entire Christian world, and not only the members of his own communion, to join him in his supplications. And in an earlier passage of the letter he writes of "our dear Russian people." Thus the Pope takes his stand as the champion of a non-Catholic Christian people against a persecuting Government; and, in doing so, he is no doubt consciously carrying on the long tradition of the Vatican in its dealings with the Orthodox Church. In Western Christendom the Papacy has been above or aloof from the sovereignty of secular Governments ever since the eighth century, when it successfully repudiated the authority of the Iconoclastic Emperors of Byzantium. In Orthodox Christendom the State has always managed to keep the Church in that position of subservience to which the first Constantine intentionally reduced it when he made the Church the junior partner of the Imperial Power. The Iconoclasts destroyed as many ikons as the Bolsheviks and forced their long-suffering Orthodox subjects into an uncongenial mould for a century. Muhammed the Conqueror turned the Oecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople into an agent of the Ottoman Empire for the administration of the "Rayah"; and generations of Patriarchs accepted investiture (in the name of the Trinity!) at the Padishah's hands. Peter the Great knocked "the Old Believers" on the head and abolished the Patriarchate of Moscow—placing the Orthodox Church in the Russian Empire under the control of a secular board called the Holy Synod. In all these trials, such members of the Orthodox Church as have ventured to stand up against the might of the secular arm have looked to Rome as the champion of ecclesiastical liberty, from eighth-century Theodore of Studium onwards. To the Protestant mind this aspect of the Roman Church is unfamiliar; but then the Protestants shook off the yoke of the Papacy at the price of reverting to the condition of the Orthodox Christians and permitting the State to reimpose its own yoke on their necks. To the eyes of the State-ridden Orthodox the Vatican appears in quite a different guise; and the Vatican, on its part, has always been alive to the possibility of enlarging its domain at the expense of the Orthodox Churches. Since the later Middle Ages there have been communities of "Uniates"—ex-Orthodox Christians who have accepted the supremacy of the Pope without being required to give up their traditional Orthodox ritual. Is the remnant of the Orthodox Christian world destined to become Uniate now? It is strange to reflect that, before the war, the Russian and Ottoman Empires were the two strongholds of the Orthodox faith. How different the picture is to-day! At this moment Orthodoxy is virtually extinct in Turkey, and is in process of being extinguished in the U.S.S.R. Post-war Jugoslavia, Greater Roumania and Albania are part-Catholic, part-Orthodox countries, in which Catholicism may eventually gain the upper hand. The only purely Orthodox countries left in the world now are Bulgaria and Greece; and Bulgaria, ever since her conversion, has been led by purely political considerations to play continually with the idea of union with Rome. The "inter-ecclesiastical" situation just now is full of interesting possibilities; and while we do not doubt that the Pope is speaking from the heart, it would be difficult to believe that considerations of high ecclesiastical policy are altogether absent from His Holiness's mind.

The Economic Advisory Council.—On Wednesday night, in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister announced the names of the staff and of the non-Ministerial members of the Economic Advisory Council. Mr Thomas Jones, deputy secretary of the Cabinet, will act as the Council's secretary, and the staff will include

Mr H. D. Henderson, lately editor of *The Nation*; Mr A. F. Hemming, formerly assistant secretary to the Committee of Civil Research; Mr H. V. Hodson, a member of the staff of the *Economist*; and Mr. C. G. Clark, of the School of Social Science, Liverpool University. On the Advisory Council, economic theory is various represented by Mr J. M. Keynes, Mr G. D. H. Cole and Mr R. H. Tawney; different industrial interests find their spokesmen in Sir John Cadman, chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Sir Arthur Balfour, late chairman of the Committee on Industry and Trade, Sir Josiah Stamp, chairman of the L.M.S. Railway, and Sir Andrew Duncan, chairman of the Central Electricity Board, the two last-named being also directors of the Bank of England; and Labour is represented by Mr Ernest Bevin, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr W. M. Citrine, secretary to the General Council of the Trades Union Congress. As representatives of banking there will be Mr Ernest Debenham, director of Lloyds Bank, and Sir Alfred Lewis, chief general manager of the National Provincial Bank; and the Council is completed by Sir William McLintock, the well-known chartered accountant, Sir Daniel Hall, director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Sir William Hardy, director of the Food Investigation Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Mr W. R. Blair, director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Thus the Council is a very representative one, and as a corporate body they should be able to give very valuable advice to the Government of the day. For the purpose of assisting and guiding the investigation work of its expert staff it is a rather large body, but it may be assumed that certain of its members will devote more of their time to this side of its activities than their colleagues. There is ample and urgent work awaiting it, and we wish it every success in the important task that has been entrusted to it.

Omnibuses Bill.—A further little bout in the desultory and ineffective duel between the House of Lords and the House of Commons was staged on Friday last, when the Omnibuses Bill came up for second reading in the lower House. This is a private member's Bill, enabling local authorities already authorised to operate passenger transport services, tramways, trolley vehicles and motor omnibuses to provide and run omnibuses both within and without their own districts. The principle is practically the same as that of Part V of the Road Traffic Bill, which was deleted by the House of Lords before the Christmas recess. Mr Scurr, in moving the Bill, claimed that it would entail real economy in the expenditure of local authorities upon private bill legislation. The principle of the Bill had the unanimous support of the Association of Municipal Corporations. Colonel Ashley desired the House to reject the Bill. He fulminated against the "Socialistic and extravagant tendencies" of local authorities, but weakened the force of this argument by a rather tepid comparison between the Omnibuses Bill and Part V of the Road Traffic Bill, which at least subjected the local authorities to the Traffic Commissioners in these matters. The comparison was doubtful, because Colonel Ashley, as president of the Anti-Socialist Union, no doubt feels it his duty to dislike both measures, though how a logical extension of existing powers which Colonel Ashley, when in office, himself regarded as legitimate can be described as an unwarrantable extension of Socialism, it is difficult to imagine. The Minister of Transport, in reply, did not quite succeed in explaining why he should support this Bill rather than promise instead to restore Part V, which presumably he prefers. The general intention of the Government was either to instruct the Committee upstairs that it had power to reincorporate Part V of the Road Traffic Bill, or to secure that both the Road Traffic Bill and the Omnibuses Bill were considered by the same Committee upstairs, and to instruct the Committee that it had power to amalgamate the two Bills. Mr Scurr's Bill received a second reading by 203 votes to 118.

Overseas Trade in January.—The trade returns for January are at first sight extremely disappointing. As the following table shows, comparing last month with January, 1929, imports have fallen by 12.6 per cent., British exports by 12.9 per cent., and re-exports by 16.7 per cent. Even allowing for the 9.1 per cent. fall in prices registered during the year by the *Economist* index numbers, these changes show that some contraction in volume has taken place:—

MONTH OF JANUARY.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Inc. or Dec. on January, 1929.		Inc. or Dec. on January, 1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	101,854	−14,692	−12·6	+1,460	+1·5
British exports	58,262	− 8,617	−12·9	−1,480	− 2·5
Re-exports	8,174	− 1,637	−16·7	−2,133	−20·6
Total exports	66,436	−10,254	−13·4	−3,613	− 5·2
Excess of imports over total exports	35,418	− 4,438	−11·1	+5,074	+16·9

Fortunately there is an explanation, in part, for this apparent regression. It is that January, 1929, happened to be an unusually good month of the year. Imports at £116.5 million were the best of all the twelve months, while British exports at £66.9 million were only exceeded in May, and then by a mere £500,000. The monthly averages for the whole of 1929 were imports £101.8 million and exports £60.8 million, and this affords the clearest proof of the abnormal character of the January figures. Bearing this fact in mind, the latest results are not too unsatisfactory. Retained raw material imports have fallen from £33.8 to £26.3 million, but this last figure compares with a monthly average for 1929 of £23.8 million, so that, allowing for the fall in prices, the January, 1930, figure is far from unsatisfactory. Details of the principal exports are given below:—

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.
(Quantity.)

		Month of January.		
		1928.	1929.	1930.
Coal	tons	3,904,700	4,472,631	5,493,410
Railway material	,,	63,807	51,635	43,597
Total of iron and steel	,,	332,185	421,191	351,846
Textile machinery	,,	10,842	11,618	9,060
Total machinery	,,	50,176	52,175	56,219
Cotton yarns	lbs.	14,894,200	16,923,900	13,156,500
Cotton piece-goods	sq. yds.	337,406,100	379,342,300	313,183,000
Wool tops	centals	28,025	31,245	27,197
Woollen tissues	sq. yds.	13,105,200	12,424,600	9,695,100
Worsted tissues	,,	3,813,900	6,138,300	4,394,000
Linen piece-goods	,,	7,693,000	6,411,200	6,539,200
Jute piece-goods	,,	16,525,400	11,139,100	11,274,800
Boots and shoes	doz. prs.	83,830	76,450	77,777
Leather	cwts.	40,636	27,016	22,657
Locomotives	tons	1,903	4,218	4,475
Motor-cars and chassis	number	2,673	4,258	3,211

The increase, for the second year in succession, in the coal exports is most encouraging. Elsewhere textiles are bad, and machinery and iron and steel sufficiently unsatisfactory for it to be useful to remember the abnormal character of January of last year. The essential point to remember is that it is unsafe to dogmatise overmuch from the results of a single month. It is still early to determine how 1930 is going to shape.

More Views on Rationalisation.—On Wednesday Mr W. L. Hichens, chairman of Cammell, Laird and Company, Ltd., addressed the Manchester Statistical Society on Rationalisation. He excluded vertical combination, which had been tried and which had made real rationalisation—amalgamation of firms doing a similar class of business with the object of securing greater efficiency and economy in production—more difficult. Rationalisation must also be distinguished from price-fixing associations or cartels. Turning to the question of the unemployment which rationalisation might cause in the short run, Mr Hichens said that the incidence of unemployment in the lower grades would be altered, more men working full time and correspondingly more being wholly unemployed. By the time the marked improvements in layout and equipment had been made, it was reasonable to suppose that there would be an equivalent in increase in orders. But the unemployment would be more severe both in the early and later stages for the higher grades. The shipbuilding and steel industries were examples of those where productive capacity had far outrun consumption. It was futile to sit still and do nothing in the hope that in a short time demand would catch up and disproportion would thus automatically be adjusted. When the equilibrium had been deliberately restored, expansion might again become possible, but it must be based on modern plant adapted for modern needs. Strong financial backing was essential. "Unless the Bank of England and the big joint-stock banks are prepared to undertake this necessary work," added Mr Hichens, "I believe the Government will sooner or later be obliged to intervene and provide help. I should regard this as a highly dangerous step, but a policy of drift may make it inevitable. If, however, a committee were appointed by the Government for the steel industry and were to co-operate with the leaders of that industry and with the banks, I believe this country would, within a comparatively short time, regain the leading position in the world, which it is rapidly losing." Professor Henry Clay, supporting a vote of thanks, said that it was in the world market that a correlation between supply and demand was needed, and that contraction of capacity on the part of this country might only present the Continental steel works with an opportunity to expand.

Cotton Trade and Tariffs.—*It cannot be denied*, writes our Manchester correspondent, that among people engaged in the cotton industry there is increasing interest in the tariff question, and many people who hold Free Trade views are becoming concerned at the trend of events. The change in the situation is largely due to the many cases of foreign countries raising their import duties on cotton goods, and the question is being asked whether something cannot be done to counteract this movement. Also, from time to time, there are reports of cotton yarn and piece-goods from foreign countries competing in Lancashire against the home products. At the end of last week it was announced that the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce had received a resolution which had been passed by the Europe and United States Section of the Chamber, in which it was stated that the proposal respecting the conclusion of a tariff truce was viewed with great anxiety, and the section protested to the Board of Trade against the adoption of any such proposal. The Board of the Chamber did not object to this resolution being submitted to the President of the Board of Trade, but pointed out that no opinions have been officially recorded on the subject by the Board itself. This matter was raised at the annual meeting of the members of the Chamber on Monday last, and from the body of the hall there was a protest against the directors allowing the resolution of the Europe and United States Section to go forward. Another interesting development this week has been that at the ordinary monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations the draft report for last year was submitted for approval. It made reference to the fact that the trade depression was partly due to the higher tariffs of foreign countries against Lancashire goods. A member of the Committee raised a discussion on this point and ultimately it was decided to appoint a special committee of the Federation to inquire into the effect of tariffs upon the Lancashire cotton trade. Free Traders who were present at the meeting were somewhat impressed by the remarks of certain spinning employers, and undoubtedly there is increasing resentment against the higher import duties of foreign countries, and a desire in many quarters to see if something cannot be done to guard our interests. It was agreed that the committee should be appointed by the President and Vice-Presidents, and it is expected that the names will be announced within the next few days. It is recognised that the committee will have to hold numerous meetings and examine a large amount of evidence before it will be in a position to issue any report and recommendations. It must be acknowledged that many people who are discussing these problems to-day are not aware of the real facts relating to Free Trade and Protection. In a vague sort of way it is argued that this country should have some power to negotiate when other countries propose to raise their tariffs against us. It might be desirable, therefore, that before anything further is done in the matter, that those interested should be informed in an elementary way of the facts on which the principles of Free Trade are based. Undoubtedly this eagerness to take action is largely due to the severe trade depression in Lancashire, and the feeling that something should be done to find means whereby the present difficulties can be reduced.

Imperial Trade.—The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a most interesting report on Empire Trade,* based mainly on the publications of the Economic Section of the League of Nations, supplemented from other sources, in which it is shown that, between 1913 and 1927, the trade of the Empire, corrected as far as possible for price changes, expanded by 27.5 per cent., as compared with a growth of 20 per cent. in world trade. Since 1927, however, the growth has not kept pace with that of the rest of the world. If the Empire be treated as a unit and figures of inter-Imperial trade excluded from the world total, Empire foreign trade is shown to have increased from 18.86 per cent. of world trade in 1913 to 20.28 per cent. in 1927. If Continental Europe be treated in the same way, its external trade appears approximately comparable with that of the Empire, but the trade between the countries of Europe is probably about 50 per cent. greater than that between the countries of the Empire. A further analysis suggests that the Empire is, on balance, an importer of goods, since its aggregate share, including inter-Imperial trade, of the world's imports amounted in 1927 to 30.81 per cent., against 28.05 per cent. of world exports. In comparing trade between Empire countries with trade between them and the rest of the world, re-exports must be eliminated from the former to avoid double counting. The result is shown in the table below:—

	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.
		Million £.		
Inter-Imperial trade	421	829·5	772	743·5
Empire-foreign trade	1,292	2,237	2,118	2,312
Total	1,713	3,006·5	2,890	3,055·5
Ratio of inter-Imperial to total Empire trade	24·6%	29·7%	26·7%	24·3%

Thus the value of foreign trade, which is about three times that of trade within the Empire, has been increasing in proportion to the total, especially during the last three years, but this is partly due to a change in trade practice involving a reduction in *entrepôt* trade in favour of direct shipments. The trade of the Oversea Empire has advanced more rapidly than that of the United Kingdom, as the following table shows:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Million £.			
	United Kingdom.	Empire Overseas.	United Kingdom.	Empire Overseas.
1913	659	468	525	491
1927	1,095	962	709	1,041
1928	1,075	979	724	1,074

Imports into overseas Possessions rose between 1913 and 1928 from 30 per cent. less than those of the United Kingdom to only 9 per cent. less, while exports, from 7 per cent. less, became 40 per cent. greater than those of the United Kingdom. This change would probably be accentuated if allowance could be made for price changes. Canada and New Zealand have experienced particularly rapid growth, whereas South Africa has only just kept pace with the world as a whole, and Australia, India and the United Kingdom have failed to do so. The relative importance of Empire and foreign markets to Empire

* "A Memorandum on the Trade of the British Empire, 1913 and 1925-1928." H.M. Stationery Office, 70-232-13. 6d. net.

countries is illustrated by the following table of percentages of the trade of the overseas Empire:—

	Percentage of Imports from			Percentage of Exports to		
	1913.	1925.	1927.	1913.	1925.	1927.
United Kingdom	44·2	38·0	36·1	41·2	38·5	36·8
Other parts of Empire ...	11·5	13·5	13·1	10·6	9·6	10·7
Foreign countries	44·3	47·5	50·8	48·2	51·9	52·5

A similar analysis for the United Kingdom shows that the percentage of her imports which came from the Empire was 20.5 in 1913, 29.3 in 1925 and 27.0 in 1927; corresponding percentages of exports were 37.2, 43.4 and 46.1. This includes trade with the Irish Free State in the two later years. Inter-Imperial trade still converges in the United Kingdom, and goods imported to or exported from this country are well over 80 per cent. of the total.

Automatic Looms in Lancashire.—Not long ago Mr Andrew Naesmith, the general secretary of the Weavers' Amalgamation, expressed the opinion that weavers in a few years' time would probably be running considerably more looms than the two to four they are running to-day. The Amalgamation is now asked to ratify an important agreement concluded last week, under which weavers employed by concerns operating automatic looms have waived their demand for a fixed limit to the number of looms which a weaver shall be required to attend, in consideration of an offer of proportionately higher rates of pay. Automatic looms so far represent only 5 per cent. of Lancashire's total loom equipment, but they are being tried out in a number of mills. It is of interest that, in addition to several British-made automatic looms, some Italian looms have been installed recently, and the Japanese Toyoda loom is being tried by at least one manufacturer. It is claimed that this loom is particularly suited for Lancashire mills, large numbers being used in Japan, our chief competitor for the Indian trade. Clear proof that the Lancashire cotton trade realises that a change of machinery and methods is necessary if it is to regain its position is afforded by the fact that the mills are trying out the various kinds of automatic looms, and in some cases, when they have found certain types of automatic looms unsatisfactory, have actually replaced them by others.

Cotton Trade Short Time.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Lancashire cotton spinners who use American cotton are making another effort to organise short time in the mills. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations has decided to take a ballot of the members on a proposal for a curtailment of production equivalent to 13 hours' stoppage per week during the eight weeks commencing March 3rd. For the scheme to be effective the proposal will have to be supported by members owning 80 per cent. of the spindles affected. The voting papers have to be returned not later than February 24th. It is urged by the committee that immediate steps should be taken to arrest the shrinkage in margins, which have become absurdly low. It should be pointed out that during the past twelve months a large number of mills in Lancashire have been entirely stopped, and the output of yarn has only been from 75 to 80 per cent. of full capacity. If this organised curtailment of output is carried, however, it will mean that numerous mills that are now running full time will have to work 35 hours a week instead of the usual 48. Despite the deplorable state of trade there is some doubt in trade circles as to whether the necessary majority of votes will be obtained. It is recognised that organised short time is not a solution of the difficulties which present themselves, and numerous spinning employers wish to make their own running arrangements.

Iron and Steel Production in January.—The reactions on the British iron and steel industry of the decline in activity in Continental countries are apparent in the January figures of production and foreign trade. The number of blast furnaces in operation declined by three to 159; the production of pig iron was maintained at about the rate ruling in December, and amounted to 650,000 tons; while steel production amounted to 771,100 tons, a figure higher than the December production, which was affected by the Christmas holidays, but some 44,000 tons lower than in the shorter month of November. Pig-iron production is still considerably higher and steel production slightly higher than in January, 1929, but in January last year production was on a rising curve, whereas at the moment the curve of output is declining. The effects of the Continental decline are, however, even more clearly seen in the import figures, for imports of iron and steel in January amounted to 310,300 tons, which is 50,000 tons higher than in any month last year, and is also higher than in any month since October, 1927. Imports of pig iron continue to rise, and amounted to 22,900 tons. Imports of Belgian pig iron have increased, but a substantial proportion of the imports now consist of pig iron from India, which is finding an outlet in the British market to compensate for the decline in exports to Japan. The biggest increases, numerically, compared with December, occurred in the imports of semi-finished steel—billets, blooms and slabs, rising from 51,600 tons to 72,800 tons, and sheet and tinplate bars from 40,500 tons to 56,800 tons. Imports of scrap iron and steel at 23,600 tons show a notable increase, and for the first time for many years are not exceeded by the exports. Exports of iron and steel amounted to 351,800 tons, compared with 332,000 tons in December and 421,200 tons in January, 1929.

The Plight of the Wheat Pools.—The severe fall in American wheat prices which occurred in January has created a grave situation among the wheat-holding institutions of Canada and the United States. No doubt rumours have been far worse than facts, but the trouble has been serious enough to justify official interference. Last week, at the request of the Manitoba Wheat Pool Board, the Provincial Government of Manitoba stated its willingness to guarantee advances to the wheat pool to the extent of 15 per cent. over and above the advances made by the lending banks, and announced that the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta were taking similar action. Later, the president of the Canadian Bankers' Association stated on behalf of the Association that the banks were standing behind the wheat pool and were prepared to ensure the orderly marketing of wheat and to prevent forced liquidation. It is now announced that the United States Federal Farm Board will immediately advance $10 million to the newly-formed Grain Stabilisation Corporation out of a revolving fund provided for it by Congress and will lend it whatever additional sums may be required for its operation to support prices. The aim of the Stabilisation Corporation is to maintain cash prices in Chicago at the level of 118c. a bushel or better. The present situation arises from the determination of the wheat pools to hold back supplies in the hope of a rise in prices in the New Year. Handicapped as they have been by the existence of large carry-overs and new crops in most parts of the world, they could not prevent a sharp though spasmodic fall of prices in January. As the following table shows, the decline has been arrested in the present month.

NEW YORK SPOT WHEAT PRICES.

	Cents per Bushel.	
1930.	No. 2 Hard Winter.	No. 2 Manitoba.
Jan. 2	137¾	155⅛
Jan. 9	135½	151
Jan. 16	129⅝	141¼
Jan. 23	130¾	144⅜
Jan. 30	123½	135
Feb. 6	122⅝	135⅜
Feb. 8	123	136⅛
Feb. 10	124	137

Strong criticism has appeared in Canadian newspapers of the policy of wheat pools and even more of the action of the Government in supporting that policy during recent months. The suggestion has been made in some quarters that the Dominion Government should take over the whole crop as in the war years. While there is little prospect of any such measure, the governmental support given to wheat-holding organisations, both in Canada and the United States, is quite as important and instructive to wheat-importing countries as the need for such interference. The end of the business is difficult to foresee. No large increase in European demand seems to be impending, and existing supplies are so enormous that if the early crop reports are favourable, prices may sag still further.

After the Break.—Mr Mitchell, in his address last month to the shareholders of the National City Bank of New York, took an optimistic view of the Wall Street collapse and its probable consequences. The break itself he explained by a reference to the previous annual report of the bank, dated nearly a year before, which stated that, "the danger, if there be one, must lie in the possible credit strain. Experience teaches that the danger to every period of prosperity lies in the development of overconfidence and a consequent tendency towards unwise use of credit. If this present period of prosperity is halted, it will be by the same old cause, and we are bound to guard against it." Now that the "if" has become an accomplished fact, and, so far as Wall Street is concerned, "prosperity" has been more than "halted," it is reassuring to see that Mr Mitchell is not unduly perturbed. He alludes to the strength of the banking system, and to the world fall in Stock Exchange prices and in interest rates, and also to the present outflow of foreign money from New York—a movement which he welcomes as tending to restore international equilibrium, and which he expects to continue. He concludes by claiming that "the past year has cleared itself, with difficulties, to be sure, of the dangers that menaced it from its very start." He is of opinion that business organisation is not incapacitated nor is the physical wealth of the country impaired. Industry and trade are more adequately financed than ever, no serious disturbance of commodity prices has occurred, the decline of interest rates is favourable to enterprise and there exists a general feeling of confidence. The only feeling of doubt left is whether events will not show that the difficulties to which Mr Mitchell alludes will not prove more serious than he seems to think. He admits that the New Year has begun with a somewhat diminished business activity, and, even remembering America's notorious power of recuperation, it seems difficult to believe that the consequences of a major collapse on the stock markets will be surmounted as easily or as quickly as Mr Mitchell anticipates.

Brazilian Exchange.—A Rio de Janeiro correspondent writes:—In consonance with the Monetary Reform Law of December, 1926, and the controlling influence of the Bank of Brazil's operations on the exchange market, the value of the Brazilian milreis was maintained with commendable stability for practically three years, *i.e.*, up to early December last. However, keen observers foresaw that the sequel of diminished coffee prices would inevitably be reduced export values, and a comparative paucity of bills on the exchange market, which would consequently engender a weak tendency in exchange rates. For some reason, which has not been explained to the public, the Bank of Brazil ceased to operate on the exchange market here in November last, and during December refused even to furnish cover for collections in the hands of other banks. This attitude appears unfortunate, for the natural inference was lack of resources and exhausted credits, the combined influence being expressed in marked weakness of the milreis. Sight transactions early this month were actually executed at $5\frac{3}{16}$d., thereby show a precipitate contraction in the value of Brazil's currency of over 10 per cent., a most serious factor for all who have liquid financial assets in this country. It seems obvious that such a collapse in the exchange market might well have been avoided by a more frank policy on the part of the Government in connection with the gold reserves in the "Caixa de Estabilizaçao." Two previous actions by official departments had already created apprehension on the part of the banks and public; firstly, the intimation that it would be considered an unpatriotic act to withdraw any gold from the "Caixa," although free export and import are prescribed by law; and, secondly, the accumulation by the Bank of Brazil of the major part of the gold notes emitted by the "Caixa," the bank's holding being estimated at over 500,000 contos out of a total of 860,000 contos. In these circumstances it is now satisfactory to observe that the Bank of Brazil, acting on behalf of the Federal Government, shipped on January 15th to New York bankers, the Guaranty Trust Company, $5,000,000 U.S., and it is understood that further successive shipments up to $20,000,000 U.S. will be made to the same destination. The purpose of these operations is primarily to meet Brazil's current foreign obligations, but simultaneously they are having an uplifting effect on exchange, the sight rate now quoted being 5⅛d. Encouraged by these official shipments several foreign banks are also effecting similar transactions, amounting already to $3,000,000 U.S. The total diminution observed in the reserve of the "Caixa de Estabilizaçao" up to January 18th was somewhat less than £1,500,000, with a corresponding contraction in the currency medium of nearly 60,000 contos de réis. The official statistics just published regarding Brazil's overseas trade disclose a favourable balance for 1929 up to the end of October last of £7,315,000, compared with one of £8,350,000 for the first ten months of 1928. The reduction occurred mainly during October last, diminished coffee values accounting for a contraction in exports of approximately one million sterling. Coffee shipments do not manifest any expansion of note, but prices have latterly appreciated by about 10 per cent. over the low-water mark recorded last month.

Recovery in Zinc.—After a long spell of weakness, accentuated by the dissolution of the Zinc Cartel on December 31st last, the London spelter market, writes a correspondent, has latterly shown signs of an improvement. Turnover has been heavy compared with that in other metals, while among consumers of the metal there has been ample evidence of returning interest for delivery as far ahead as June. Statistically the situation is nothing to boast about, for stocks in this country at January 31st showed a further big increase of 6,075 tons, while reserves on the Continent are also large. Output all over the world is very heavy, and since no scheme for limitation now exists, there is not much chance of any reduction in this direction. Fortunately, the American position, which has weighed so heavily on the London market, looks much healthier, and values have advanced slightly on better buying. Any considerable advance in spelter prices is very unlikely, but the removal of artificial barriers to production is encouraging buyers to cover their forward requirements.

National Provident Institution.—The accounts and report for the year ended November 20, 1929, disclose a substantial decline in the volume of new business, the figures being £1,215,234, compared with £1,511,950. The reason for this is to be sought largely—though not entirely—in a falling off of single-premium business, as a result of which the premium income has declined from £863,635 to £717,095. Ever since the war the new business of the National Provident has hovered round about the present total. The proportion of expenses and commission to premium income last year worked out at 12.7 per cent., compared with 12.4 per cent., and the net rate of interest earned was £4 14s. 6d. per cent., compared with £4 14s. 2d. per cent. Included in the report is the interesting announcement that the Institution has decided to fall into line with the majority—and incidentally to anticipate the provisions of the Insurance Undertakings Bill—by changing the financial year to accord with the calendar year. In addition, it has been decided to ask the sanction of the members for an alteration of the rules to permit of periodical valuations and distributions of profit being made triennially in future instead of quinquennially. the

first of such investigations to take place on December 31st next in respect of the period from November 20, 1927. The reduction in the interval between valuations will be welcomed, for there is now little, if anything, to justify the maintenance of a quinquennial period. A number of offices have already adopted the triennial period, viz., the Atlas, Caledonian, Friends' Provident and the United Kingdom Provident, and some two or three have even instituted an annual valuation.

Legal and General Assurance Society, Ltd.—A notable revision of premium rates charged for whole life and endowment non-profit assurances is announced by this society. The life business of the society is unique in that in 1919 it was decided to cease the issue of with-profit policies and to rely entirely on non-profit assurances. Notwithstanding this limitation, the society has actively developed its connections in new fields, such as group insurances, and in temporary assurances for redemption of building society loans, and in consequence has succeeded in showing a very striking expansion. The old and the new rates of premium are compared below:—

WHOLE LIFE ASSURANCE.

Age at Entry.	Old Rates per £100. Sum Assured. £ s. d.	New Rates per £100. Sum Assured. £ s. d.
20	1 8 0	1 6 0
30	1 16 4	1 14 1
40	2 10 8	2 7 2
50	3 14 8	3 10 1

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE.

Age at Entry.	Term.	Old Rates per £100. Sum Assured. £ s. d.	New Rates per £100. Sum Assured. £ s. d.
25	30	2 10 0	2 8 6
35	30	2 15 0	2 12 6
25	25	3 1 8	3 0 4
35	25	3 5 4	3 3 6
35	20	4 2 8	4 2 0
45	15	5 19 8	5 17 1

The principle has also been introduced of granting a differential rate of premium for large policies. This takes the form of a reduction on the above rates of 1s. per cent. for sums assured in excess of £500, and a further 1s. per cent. for sums assured in excess of £1,000. It will be seen that the reductions for whole life assurances for sums assured in excess of £1,000 range from about 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. on the old premiums, the reductions for endowment assurances being rather less.

National Mutual of Australasia.—The report for the year ended September 30, 1929, of the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia presents some points of especial interest. The amount of new business transacted for the last complete year again shows an increase, the comparative figures being £9,807,845 and £9,868,350. The increase recorded on this occasion is very much smaller than previously, due to a falling off in single premium business and to a reduced volume of pure endowment policies. The report makes no specific mention of that portion of the total business transacted in this country, and the latest information as to this is contained in the Board of Trade returns for the year ended September 30, 1927, which shows that for that year 25 per cent. of the total business was attributable to the United Kingdom. The expense ratio is moderate, the figure being 14.6 per cent., compared with 13.8 per cent., in the preceding financial year. The gross rate of interest earned remains at about the same level as previously, viz., £5 14s. 3d. per cent., but the net rate of interest has declined from £5 10s. 11d. per cent. to £5 6s. per cent. This change in the situation is likely to be a permanent feature, since it is due to recent legislation in Australia imposing Federal income tax on the Mutual Life companies. In the case of the National Mutual of Australasia, the amount paid in rates and taxes has in consequence increased from £52,000 to £126,000 in a year. The difference hitherto existing in favour of the Australian life offices in the matter of rate of interest is therefore now reduced to very small proportions. The balance sheet shows no important changes in the distribution of the assets, which consist as to 27 per cent. of Government securities and as to 12 per cent. of other Australian Stock Exchange securities. The Australian life offices must undoubtedly have suffered heavily in the general economic crisis through which Australia is now passing. A representative stock, such as Commonwealth of Australia 5 per cent. stock, 1945-75, declined in value from 99 on September 30, 1928, to 94 on September 30, 1929, and is now worth only about 87½. Thus, in little more than sixteen months the company may well have suffered a depreciation not far short of 12 per cent. on 39 per cent. of its total assets.

Industrial Life Assurance Bonuses.—With the publication of announcements this week by the Pearl and Britannic, the bonuses for 1929 of the whole group of industrial-cum-ordinary offices are now made known. The occasion is a suitable one for reviewing the course of bonuses in this group of offices:—

Year.	Britannic.	Pearl.	Prudential.	Refuge.	Wesleyan & General.
1913	32/-	32/-	36/-	34/-	32/-
1920	24/-	25/-	20/-	26/-	20/-
1925	40/-	40/-	42/-	40/-	40/-
1926	42/-	42/-	44/-	42/-	Whole Life. 48/- / Endow. Ass. 42/-
1927	42/-	42/-	44/-	44/-	48/- / 42/-

	Whole Life.	Endow. Ass.				
1928	42/-	46/-	50/-	46/-	44/-	48/- / 42/-
1929	42/-	46/-	50/-	46/-	44/-	48/- / 42/-

Before the war the rates of bonuses declared had reached a uniformly high level, and the foregoing table shows clearly the remarkable recovery achieved from the low level to which bonuses had fallen just after the war. As regards the 1929 rates, it will be observed that in every case they show no change compared with 1928.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during January amounted to 882,801 ozs. of fine gold, as compared with 851,134 ozs. produced during December. In January, 1929, the output amounted to 876,452 ozs. of fine gold. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ...	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,452	882,801
February .	760,617	753,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284	...
March	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529	...
April	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,907	872,123	...
May.....	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598	...
June	777,063	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,363	856,029	...
July.....	629,437	818,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480	...
August ...	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,863	889,601	...
September	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553	...
October ...	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	868,690	...
November	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593	...
December	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134	...
Total ...	9,597,634	9,589,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066	...

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	May, 1929.	June, 1929.	July, 1929.	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.
Gold mines	195,733	192,595	190,031	190,062	190,567	189,739	186,941	184,280	190,663
Coal mines	15,852	15,928	15,914	15,867	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326	15,288
Diamond mines	5,473	5,029	4,845	5,071	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811	5,889
	217,058	213,552	210,790	211,000	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417	211,840

There was an increase in the number employed at the gold and diamond mines.

Forthcoming Lectures.—The following courses of lectures, to which the public are admitted free, are announced by the University of London:—"La Monnaie et le Change—Facteurs Quantitatifs et Facteurs Qualitatifs," by M. le Professeur Albert Aftalion, at the London School of Economics, March 10th and 11th, at 5 p.m.; "Some Recent Researches in the Theory of Statistics and Actuarial Science," by Professor Dr. J. F. Steffensen, at University College, Gower Street, on March 12th, 13th and 14th, at 5.30 p.m.; "Social Development in Germany during the Last Ten Years," by Professor E. Lederer, at the London School of Economics, on March 17th, 19th and 20th, at 5 p.m.; "Legal Administration in Egypt," by Sir Maurice S. Amos, K.B.E., at the London School of Economics, on March 12th, at 5 p.m.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—SHARE MARKET—INDUSTRY—COPPER—MONEY MARKET—PRICES—NAVAL CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, January 31.

A MORE cheerful tone has prevailed in Wall Street during the past week, partly on account of strength in the share market that carried prices to new high average levels for the year, and partly on account of encouraging industrial news. Another bullish factor was the annual report of the United States Steel Corporation, which showed unexpectedly good results for the fourth quarter, and which disclosed that $21.18 a share has been earned on the common shares. Of this latter sum approximately $1.24 was on account of special credit adjustments not credited to the earnings of any particular quarter. The net income was the largest for any peace-time year, and the earnings per share were particularly gratifying in view of the increase in shares outstanding during 1929 on account of the retirement of funded debt and of the acquisition of the Columbia Steel Company. Publication of the report was followed by a movement that carried the corporation's shares up to 184⅝, or to more than 25 points above the minimum since the end of last year. Utilities have continued to be consistently good, and shares of tobacco and agricultural implement companies have been distinctly strong. Altogether the share market has shown a disposition to broaden and become more active; but the volume does not compare with that prevailing during the bull campaigns of the past few years. Public interest in the market no doubt is increasing; but professionals still furnish most of the motive power, and brokers' loans advanced only $4,000,000 during the past week.

The bullish industrial news included reports from the steel industry placing the average for operations at about 75 per cent. of capacity. The trade has been surprised at the sharpness of the recovery in activity. The present rate compares with an average of less than 60 per cent. in December and with a low rate at the end of that month of about 45 per cent. It is noticeable that this improvement has not been attended by a stiffening in steel prices; and it is possible that the industry is having a rebound from year-end shut-downs rather than the beginning of a sustained recovery. Nevertheless, the improvement appears genuine; and it is encouraging. In the automobile industry the good news includes large-scale operations at the Ford factories and an increase in production schedules by Chevrolet. These makers of low-priced cars are going ahead faster than they intended a few weeks ago. It is possible, of course, that this increase merely represents heavier stocking by dealers; but, on the other hand, it seems probable that the dealers would not take cars from the manufacturers on a larger schedule unless inquiries from customers were encouraging.

There is little new development in the copper situation, where the producers are curtailing production sharply with what appears a firm intention of maintaining the 18 cent price, and where buyers of the metal, seeing large stocks in the hands of producers and refiners, are refusing to commit themselves in advance. As two or three months must pass before the effects of curtailment at the mines are reflected in the stocks of refined metal, the January and February statistics will probably reveal further material increases in stocks. In these circumstances copper shares have fluctuated within a comparatively narrow range, liquidation curbing occasional rallies that come from short covering. Oils remain dull, although it is possible that the recent cuts in mid-continent crude will not be maintained, other large purchasing companies having refused to follow the lead of the subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

Short-term liquid loans continue to be available at low rates (and the bill rate has just been reduced an eighth), while the longer-term and less liquid forms of borrowing remain relatively expensive. The banking reports show that liquidation is continuing. The member banks' loans on securities are declining consistently now, and the volume of Federal Reserve credit at the disposal of the member banks continues to decrease. As at January 29th the Federal Reserve System was extending credit aggregating $1,154,000,000, which represents a decrease of $68,000,000 on the week and one of $313,000,000 on the year. Circulation fell and reserves rose on the week, and the reserve ratio of 78.3 per cent. compared with 76.3 the week before and with 69.4 a year ago. Similar changes occurred during the week at the local Reserve Bank; but in the case of this institution the volume of credit extended is, at $377,000,000, $23,000,000 larger than a year ago. The ratio here is 77.3 per cent., as against 77.0 a year ago. There has been some talk of a lower discount rate, and the street was interested in the fact that this week's meeting of the governors of the Reserve Bank was an unusually prolonged one. It was assumed that the question of a lower rate was under discussion. Meanwhile, gold is coming into the country, the weekly report showing imports of approximately $5,000,000 from Brazil and releases of $2,500,000 from earmark. In addition, approximately $20,000,000 worth of the metal is on its way from Japan.

Weakness in commodity prices has been a noticeable feature of the past week. Wheat and cotton both have fallen to the lowest prices of the year and are substantially below the levels of a year ago. In this connection there has been some comment to the effect that weakness in raw materials and foodstuffs throughout the world is marked and may be significant. Notice is also taken of the number of commodities in which price controls are being maintained or attempted. Some observers draw the inference that the general trend of commodity prices, over a period of years, is downward.

A moderate amount of interest is being taken in the Naval Conference. If the public lacks ardour in this direction it is not for lack of general sympathy with the aims of the Conference. Rather it is a reflection of the prevailing apathy and, possibly, of a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the European attitude toward our affairs during the past few months.

FRANCE.—TREASURY SURPLUS—DEBT EXTINCTION—REPARATION BONDS—PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, February 12.

THE annual Budget duel between the Finance Minister and the Finance Commission of the Chamber is now approaching its climax. M. Chéron is in the unfortunate situation of a Chancellor of the Exchequer with a revenue yield of well over £53,000,000 more than Budget estimates, who is faced with admittedly well-justified demands for large remissions of taxation and extra expenditure which it is difficult to stigmatise as unnecessary, but who believes he has the best of reasons for requiring the money for other and distinctly productive purposes.

A few days ago M. Chéron laid the whole situation before the Finance Commission in a statement which filled several newspaper columns. From this it is shown that the 1930 Budget, as balanced, provides for estimated

expenditure totalling 49,250,000,000 francs and estimated revenue of 49,565,000,000 francs. With this scanty estimated surplus of 315,000,000 francs the Minister bluntly insists that, as a matter of strict duty, "neither further reductions of taxation nor additional expenditure must be asked for." His opponents, however, point to the fact that the Treasury is not only lavishly supplied with ready money, but is every year receiving much more revenue than it needs, and actually hoarding it and multiplying it by investing it. M. Chéron, in response to the criticisms offered under this head, has now revealed the exact situation of the Treasury. Its total liquid resources on January 31st, he states, totalled 19,400,000,000 francs (composed of its current account at the Bank of France, 7,980,000,000 francs; at the Bank of Algeria, 959,000,000 francs; at the State Bank of Morocco, 510,000,000 francs; and a stock of foreign exchanges totalling 10,120,000,000 francs). The existence of this latter item has been known for some time, but its amount has never hitherto been disclosed. This mass of nearly £100,000,000 has been accumulated from excess of revenue over expenditure, from German reparation payments awaiting utilisation under the Budget and from "various Treasury operations since 1926." These operations, as is known, took the form of short-term loans to American and other banks prior to the Wall Street crash, which brought 450,000,000 francs to the Treasury in interest.

M. Chéron found no difficulty in showing why these liquid assets should not be distributed, either to compensate for taxation or in additional expenditure. First, the Treasury will need 5,000,000,000 francs as "working capital," to allow for the ebb and flow of revenue. Secondly, all realised surpluses must, under the constitutional law of 1928, be handed over to the Caisse d'Amortissement for debt extinction purposes. As the exact amount of such surpluses cannot be known until the year's accounts have been closed (which usually means some years after any given year's end), the money must remain in the Treasury account at the Bank. Out of the surpluses realised during the past three years, 1,909,000,000 francs have been handed to the Caisse d'Amortissement on account of the 1926 surplus, and a further 2,000,000,000 francs is to be paid to it this year. (Authority to secure power to make this payment was obtained at Monday's Ministerial Council.) A further sum of 1,500,000,000 francs out of the Treasury surplus has already been allocated, under the 1929 Budget, to pay for frontier defence works, increase civil service pay, and provide relief for *sinistrés*. Another 1,500,000,000 francs from the same source has already been voted, to complete the 5,000,000,000 francs required for the programme of national public works sanctioned in December. Owing to the extension of the financial year, the Treasury will require to keep in hand an extra 1,300,000,000 francs, it is estimated, although, as M. Chéron stated in December, this extension will involve no actual loss of revenue, but merely formal modifications in book-keeping. Other sums will be required for the payments that have to be made under the Dawes Plan and in connection with the setting up of the Bank for International Payments, etc. All this will absorb over 17,000,000,000 francs out of the 19,400,000,000 francs of liquid resources held by the Treasury, and much of the balance will probably be absorbed by supplementary expenditure. "Consequently," M. Chéron concluded, "the Minister of Finance, in economising his assets, for which he has been reproached, has not been guilty of hoarding, but has merely placed the Treasury in a position to meet its obligations."

Dealing with the debt situation, M. Chéron declared that the internal debt, which amounted four years ago to 289,600,000,000 francs, has now been reduced to 267,000,000,000 francs and its character "profoundly changed" by consolidations. The floating debt, which totalled 93,500,000,000 francs, is now only 38,800,000,000 francs. The irredeemable debt has been reduced from 101,700,000,000 francs to 98,500,000;000 francs, and the medium and short-term debt from 41,700,000,000 francs to 22,200,000,000 francs. The total of the redeemable debt alone has risen, owing to the consolidation of part of the floating and short-term debt. The debt represented by pensions is proving a steadily increasing burden, owing to demands for bringing the scale of these allowances into accord with the change in the value of the franc. The credits required for pensions, which in 1920 amounted to 5,623,000,000 francs, will amount in 1930 to 9,794,000,000 francs, and calls for further revisions upwards are constantly being made. The policy of debt extinction which is being pursued will relieve the 1930 Budget by 350,000,000 francs. If this policy is continued at its present rate, it will be possible to undertake in 1931 and 1932 conversion operations covering 125,000,000,000 francs of debt, which should very appreciably relieve future Budgets.

Inquiries in authoritative quarters here confirm the impression that the issue of the $100,000,000, which it is expected will be allotted to this country, out of the $300,000,000 of international German reparation bonds that are to be offered in May, may prove much more difficult to arrange than had been anticipated. This may explain why so much reticence is being observed as to the issue price, the interest rate to be fixed and other points. No doubt is entertained as to the capacity of the Paris market to absorb at least $100,000,000 of the bonds, but this will naturally largely depend on the terms. The Government's difficulty in regard to the pending loan is that French fiscal law imposes a 25 per cent. income tax on the yield from all categories of foreign bonds, under which heading the reparation issue would apparently come, although from some points of view this would be purely a French issue. One of the basic suggestions in regard to these bonds is that they shall be capable of being negotiated at the same price all over the world, irrespective of the particular market in which they may have been originally issued. Any modification of the issue price, or the net yield from the French section of the issue, in order to bring the bonds into harmony with the exceptional conditions prevailing here, however, would seem to render them unnegotiable in any other market. If the new bonds, on the other hand, were to be issued exempt from the 25 per cent. tax imposed on other foreign issues here, holders of the latter would strongly object to such discrimination; while any attempt to raise the issue price in this country above that fixed for the bonds in London, New York and the other markets, would seem likely doubly to prejudice the chances of success here.

The January wholesale price index of the Statistique Générale is 574 (July 1914 = 100), as against 588 in December, 637 in December, 1928, 640 in December, 1927, and 854 in July, 1926, the highest figure reached. The detailed recent comparative figures are as follows:—

	Articles.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
General index figure	45	596	588	574
French products	29	627	621	604
Imported products	16	540	530	520
Foodstuffs	20	555	546	524
Raw materials	25	632	625	618

Reduced to gold, the French figure for January works out (in round figures) at 117.

ITALY.—DUCE'S ECONOMY PROPOSALS—TREASURY ACCOUNTS—STOCK EXCHANGE FAILURES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, February 6.

A VERY significant speech was made by Signor Mussolini at a meeting of the 92 mayors (*podestà*) of the municipalities which are the seat of provincial administrations. The speech was focussed on the high tax pressure and the necessity of economies in the State and local finances. At any cost, he said, the tax burden must be diminished. The first tax to go is the octroi, or Customs duty levied on goods entering cities. Italy, said Signor Mussolini, shared with Paris and Greece the unwelcome privilege of these mediæval relics of the barriers which divided boroughs and counties. To achieve reduction of the tax burden we must reduce expenditure. After the large public capital investments of the years 1922 to 1929 we must begin in 1930 to slow down the pace of progress. All public works not absolutely necessary must be suspended. All expenditure for pure embellishment of cities must cease.

That the burden of taxation is high in Italy is only too true. Calculations by Professor Mortara in the new (1930) issue of *Prospettive Economiche* (the best private Italian annual survey of economic conditions) confirm the Prime Minister's utterance. Mortara's estimate of the proportion of public State and local revenue to national income is 25 per cent. for Italy, 23 per cent. for Great Britain, 20 per cent. for Germany, 20 per cent. for France. But his calculations of the national income lead to the conclusion that the average annual income per head amounts to about £24 for Italy, £86 for Great Britain, £50 for Germany, and £45 for France. Clearly, it is not the same thing for a man with an income of £24 to pay a fourth part of it to public bodies as it is for one whose income is £86.

That Signor Mussolini's warning in favour of economies is timely is evidenced by the results of the first half of the current fiscal year (July 1st to December 31, 1929), which closes with a deficit of 217.9 million lire, against a surplus of 22 million in the same period of 1928. This figure is not necessarily serious, as the deficit was mainly due to the falling of the wheat duty, owing to the good 1929 harvest. But the most careful scrutiny is required of the Treasury account, which, for the said half-year, can be summarised as follows (in million lire):—

	Million lire.	
Cash at June 30, 1929	2,352·0	
Deduct: Payments since June 30 in respect of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1929, 2,926·9 million lire; *less* surplus of receipts over payments in respect of the current fiscal year's effective revenue and expenditure, 1,458·2 million lire	1,468·7	
		883·3
Add: Excess of new debts over debt payments, 26·3 million lire; excess of Treasury floating debts over credits, 1,331·6 million lire	1,357·9	
Cash at December 31, 1929	2,241·2	

Thus it appears that the cash was maintained at the old level only by the generous deposits of various public administrations, such as the Postal Savings Banks, Social Insurance Funds, State railways, etc., which happened to have superabundant money lying at their credit in the usual Treasury current account. These temporary deposits are not permanent debts, as they appear to have taken the place of Treasury Bills, of which no more have been issued since the compulsory funding of November, 1926; and it must be noted that the first half of the year is always remarkable for big borrowings on account of the arrears of previous years. But all the same, the Prime Minister's warnings about the necessity of slowing the pace of expenditure were hailed with relief by taxpayers.

If Stock Exchange quotations could be regarded as a true mirror of the economic situation, we should say that we are entering into an era of optimism. A certain number of securities have risen substantially, so that the New York slump of last October seems already forgotten. A good impression was made by the announcement that the Fiat workshops are operating again at capacity as from February 3. In those industrial fields for which we have figures of production the indices show an increase. Production of rolled iron and steel has increased from a monthly average of 151,859 tons for 1928 to 165,884 tons in the first eleven months of 1929. That of artificial silk rose from 2.9 million tons in the first eleven months of 1928 to 2.9 in the same period of 1929. Failures, however, continue to be numerous; in the second half of 1929 they rose from a minimum of 864 in August to 1,084 in December, exclusive of 146 small failures.

POLAND.—AGRICULTURAL CRISIS—UNEMPLOYMENT—PROTESTED BILLS—FOREIGN TRADE—FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, February 7.

THE crisis through which Polish agriculture is at present passing is in the forefront of public discussion. The present conditions are intimately connected with the decline in the prices of agricultural products all over the world, but the position is accentuated by special local complications.

First of all, the decline of the price of rye, which is Poland's most important cereal, is greater than that of other agricultural products. Secondly, the stocks which were carried over from the previous crop were exceptionally heavy. The greatest difficulty, however, is caused by the unsettled credit situation. Since the war Polish agriculture has had no long-term credits worth mentioning. The amount of loans obtained on mortgage by rural estates is to-day only a fraction of that before the war. In consequence, the rural proprietor has been obliged to resort to short-term credits, which were granted to him on usurious terms. It is alleged by people whose knowledge of rural conditions is reliable that the interest on rural loans varies between 2 per cent. and 10 per cent. monthly, and even reaches 15 per cent. As long as prices were high the farmer could, though not without difficulty, make both ends meet. But since prices began to fall it has been impossible for him to pay his debts, and bankruptcy is inevitable. It is reported that properties are exposed to forced sales for debts which amount to one-twentieth and even less of their value. To save himself from bankruptcy, the landowner throws more cereals on the market than in years when prices were high, so that a paradoxical situation has arisen, in which the fall of prices does not check the supply, but, on the contrary, stimulates it. At the same time, the decline of prices has no influence on consumption, which does not increase. This is due to the fact that while farm prices are exceedingly low, retail prices in the towns remain stationary.

The abnormal situation which has been created is illustrated by the following table:—

INDEX OF PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.
1927 = 100.

	Jan.	June.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Farm prices ...	87·1	75·2	57·8	57·9
2. Wholesale Prices	89·5	84·3	84·5	80·2
3. Retail prices in Warsaw ...	101·8	109·5	101·2	102·1

While farm prices have declined in comparison with 1927 by 42.1 per cent., retail prices are higher than two years ago. Thus, as the farmer does not succeed by lowering the price of his products in attracting the home consumer, the decline is accentuated. The producer is now beginning to throw not only cereals, but also other articles, such as meat, eggs and butter, on the market, and it is feared that the disastrous situation will be accentuated by a collapse of the prices of these products.

Poland has been trying to improve the situation by a convention with a German concern stabilising the price of rye. The task seemed easy, because the only competitors on the market were Poland and Germany. But during the last fortnight Russia has appeared as a third competitor, so that the plan has been partly thwarted.

Efforts are being made to settle the difficult credit situation. About 300 million zlotys would be necessary to transform the ruinous short-term into long-term credits. Agriculture plays such an important *rôle* in the economic life of Poland that necessarily all other branches of the economic system of the country are affected. The number of unemployed increased from 126,000 at the beginning of December to 186,000 at the end of the year, and at present more than 200,000 are unemployed.

Much light on the difficulties through which Poland is passing is thrown by the great increase of protested bills. During the second half of 1929 they amounted on the average to 115.2 million zlotys monthly, as compared with 56.6 million during the same period of 1926. While in

December, 1928, 6.9 per cent. of the total were protested, the percentage reached 11.7 at the end of last year. Figures published by the Bank of Poland show that the conditions of payment were most unsatisfactory in the textile district of Lodz and in the rural districts.

The crisis has contributed to a diminution in the excess of imports over exports, as may be seen from the figures below (million zlotys):—

(Million zloty's.)

Year.	Imports.	Total Exports.	Balance.
1926	1,541·5	2,246·4	+ 704·9
1927	2,896·5	2,515·1	− 381·4
1928	3,362·2	2,508·0	− 854·2
1929	3,112·6	2,813·4	− 299·2

This development is due to increased exports and smaller imports. The exports of food products have increased by 188 million zlotys, of raw materials and manufactured goods by 108 millions.

The Budget for 1930-31 estimates revenue at 2,943 and expenditure at 2,934.7 million zlotys.

HUNGARY.—HAGUE AGREEMENT—FINANCE—BANK RATE—FOREIGN TRADE—BUSINESS OUTLOOK—TARIFF TRUCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, February 9.

THE settlement at the Hague has been favourably received. Business men and financiers are at last relieved from the uncertainty brought about by the reopening of the Reparations question, which was thought by Hungarian public opinion to have been settled in 1924, when the League of Nations reconstruction scheme was put into operation. Count Bethlen gave a short account in Parliament of what happened at the Hague, and his exposition, pending the final agreement which is being discussed now in Paris, was endorsed by a great majority. There is little doubt that the settlement at the Hague is advantageous for Hungary, in spite of the fact that she was obliged to agree to pay on accounts other than Reparations an annuity of 13,500,000 gold crowns (£560,000) from 1944 to 1966. On the other hand, Hungary will enjoy complete financial sovereignty after the ratification of the Hague Agreement, and Count Bethlen was authorised by the Great Powers to state in Parliament that they will facilitate Hungary's endeavours to issue a State Loan on their money markets, when conditions will permit its flotation. It should be remembered that Hungary has not contracted any foreign loan since the League Reconstruction Loan of 250,000,000 gold crowns (£10,000,000), issued and subscribed mainly in London and New York in 1924. Another advantage of the Hague Agreement is that the long-protracted dispute of the Hungarian Optants has at last been settled in a fairly satisfactory way. The two funds set up under the Hague scheme are now being discussed in detail under the chairmanship of M. Loucheur in Paris. It is to be hoped that the elimination of the claims and counter-claims arising out of the interpretation of the Trianon Treaty by the Hague Agreement will contribute to a better understanding between Hungary and the States of the Little Entente.

The budget for 1930-31 is in preparation and it is rumoured that considerable economies will be made in expenditure. There is, indeed, an imperative need for the most rigorous economy because the receipts of the Treasury are declining, while expenditure is still growing. In the first five months of the present fiscal year (July-November, 1929), the budget deficit amounted to 28.7 million pengös (£1,000,000) owing to the depressed economic conditions prevailing in the second half of the past year. It seems, however, that the worst period has been passed and it is expected that the budget deficit will be made good in the second half of the fiscal year.

The National Bank reduced its discount rate from 7½ to 7 per cent. on January 25th, and it is confidently expected that it will be further reduced if the favourable trend of the international money market is maintained. Short-term money is abundantly offered at low rates from London and elsewhere, but what Hungary needs at present are not short-term loans but the placement of mortgage bonds, mainly of an agricultural character. Unfortunately, there is little evidence so far of any inflow of long-term loans, but it is hoped that the low rates of money prevailing in London and in New York will permit at no distant date the placement of such bonds. Some of the leading commercial banks have already published their balance sheets and, in spite of the difficult economic conditions of 1929, they are all able to show slightly increased profits, and dividends are maintained.

Foreign trade returns for 1929 have just been published and are satisfactory beyond expectation. The adverse balance of trade which amounted to 370.3 million pengös (£13,300,000) in 1928, was reduced to 22.8 million pengös (£800,000) in 1929. The decrease of the deficit is mainly due to the increase of exports, which rose from 818.7 million pengös to 1,042.2 million pengös (£37,500,000). On the other hand, imports declined from 1,189 millions in 1926 to 1,065 million pengös in 1929. The fall of imports is explained by the scarcity of money, as no foreign funds were available in the second half of 1929 with which to stimulate the import of foreign goods. The increase of exports is mainly due to agricultural commodities, which are responsible for more than four-fifths of the Hungarian export trade. It is significant that Hungary was able to counteract the absence of foreign funds in 1929 with increased merchandise exports and thus to maintain about the same standard of production in the difficult year 1929 as she did in 1927 and in 1928, when production and trade were abundantly stimulated by foreign credits.

The Hague Agreement and the lower money rates have completely changed the gloomy economic and financial outlook so characteristic of the end of the past year. There is, indeed, an optimism which is perhaps somewhat exaggerated on the assumption that foreign money will flow into the country too abundantly. The warning of the wise and much respected President of the National Bank, Dr. Popovics, against the sanguine expectation from foreign borrowing was, therefore, very timely. He emphasised that in contracting of foreign loans the fact should not be overlooked that the rate of interest is still too high and capital investments should be effected from foreign funds only if the returns allow a safe margin for their interest and amortisation. The Prime Minister, Count Bethlen, fully endorsed the view of Dr. Popovics and stated that the Government will not contract any loan or sanction municipal borrowing unless its productivity is secured. The Stock Exchange is firm. Quotations have risen on the whole by 10 to 15 per cent., as against the low level at the end of 1929.

The Hungarian delegation to the Tariff Truce Conference will be headed by Dr. Bud, Minister of Commerce and Economic Affairs, who will endeavour to convince the Geneva Conference that the interests of the small agricultural countries are not sufficiently safeguarded by the aims of the Conference. Dr. Bud will ask for equal treatment, that is to say, for an agricultural tariff truce and for the complete abolition of the veiled prohibitive measures of some European industrial States, such as the unwillingness to conclude veterinary agreements, disadvantageous railway and shipping freights, contingents and all sorts of internal regulations which at the present time hamper the export of cereals and animal products and thus diminish the purchasing power and the share in world trade of the smaller agricultural countries.

CANADA.—BUSINESS—UNEMPLOYMENT—BROKERAGE SCANDALS—WATER-POWER CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, January 30th.

BUSINESS is now facing mid-winter conditions, and the quietude which normally prevails at that time has been accentuated this year by the effects of the short Western crop and the stock market débacle. Wholesale trade is fair, but retailers complain of rather dull business, which they have been attempting to stimulate by special sales. The manufacturing industry remains very uneven. The curtailment of operations of the automobile, farm implement and other plants has adversely affected the iron and steel industry, but the boot and shoe and clothing factories remain active. Lumbering operations are being curtailed owing to a lessened demand, but the newsprint industry continues to show a high record of production. In December its output, at 230,000 tons, was less than in October and November, but it was 10.3 per cent. larger than in December, 1928. Building permits issued in December were 3.2 per cent. less in value than in December, 1928, and will probably continue to show a recession, but there is the prospect of a substantial programme of new construction in spring.

The unemployment situation has grown worse in the past fortnight. There have been demonstrations of the unemployed at Vancouver and elsewhere, and at Winnipeg on January 29th representatives of the four Western Provinces held a conference on unemployment. Resolutions were passed insisting that the Federal Government assume some responsibility for the solution of the problem and suggesting the appointment of a Royal Commission. Mr Bracken, the Premier of Manitoba, has joined Premier Brownlee, of Alberta, in demanding help from the Federal Government, but the latter has not committed itself further than to declare that if the provinces unite in asking for help to cope with the unemployment problem they will give the request sympathetic consideration. Railway earnings are still suffering from the grain situation, but the carloading figure for the week ending January 18, at 55,819 cars, showed a gain of 4,070 cars compared with the previous week, although it was 2,373 cars below the figure for the parallel week of 1929. The wheat pools and their allies are understood to be very much disappointed at the course of the wheat market in January, as they expected a sharp upward turn in prices which has not materialised.

The campaign for a thorough clean-up of the unsatisfactory situation which has been disclosed in the mining and oil exchange is proceeding vigorously with the wholehearted commendation of the public. More than half the nine provincial Governments are now conducting investigations by special auditors into the books of brokerage houses, and a substantial number of arrests have been made as the result. On January 30th a group of leading brokers in Toronto had warrants issued against them. The *Vancouver Sun* has demanded that the Federal Government co-operate with the provinces in carrying out a complete purge of what it describes as "an intolerable situation." It holds that the Federal Government is involved because the mails have been used by brokers for fraudulent purposes. It is also understood that wholesale evasion of the Federal tax on transfers of mining shares has been revealed by the investigation of brokers' books, and that the Ministry of National Revenue has already collected a large sum from brokers who had evaded the levy. The Ontario Government has signified its willingness to participate in the conference suggested by the *Vancouver Sun*.

The long-delayed conference between the King Ministry and the provincial administrations of Ontario and Quebec, on the subject of their respective water-power rights, was held at Ottawa on Friday, January 24th. As far as the St. Lawrence waterway was concerned, comparatively little progress was made, and the conferees devoted themselves to a preliminary exploration of the general problem of water powers; each side submitted its views, and it was agreed that they should be allowed some time for the careful study of each other's position. Both the Federal Government and the two provinces are, in due course, to submit a written statement of their views and demands, and thereafter another conference will be held. It is now expected that the negotiations will take some time, as there are many difficulties to be smoothed out. The Federal Government does not wish to embark upon the business of developing or to obstruct the provinces in doing so, but it will not abandon its constitutional claims to at least partial ownership of such water powers on navigable waters. The conference made headway in regard to the power project at the Carillon Falls, which are situated on the Ottawa River between Ottawa and Montreal. Plans for their development were submitted some years ago to the Federal Parliament, but had to be abandoned through opposition from various quarters. However, according to an announcement made by Premier Ferguson at the conclusion of the conference, an agreement was virtually achieved about the development of these water powers. The plan proposed is that it should be jointly undertaken by the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario and a private corporation called the National Hydro-Electric Company, which is understood to be controlled by the Shawinigan Company of Montreal. The National Hydro-Electric Company is the holder of power rights there under the terms of an old lease granted in 1911, and it has the support of the provincial administration at Quebec, which declines to imitate the example of Ontario and develop power under a system of public ownership. The plan contemplates a 60-foot head scheme which will secure the development of 200,000 horse power, to be equally divided between the two provinces, Quebec's share going to the National Hydro-Electric Company and Ontario's portion to the public-owned Commission. The rights of the Federal Government in regard to navigation are to be protected by canal works, and the Federal Government also expects to derive a revenue of $150,000 per annum from the project. On this point some objections are raised by Ontario, which thinks that, if the Federal Government's navigation rights are protected, it should not claim any revenue. As soon as a compromise is achieved the work will be proceeded with. One important aspect of this arrangement is that, if the Carillon scheme is proceeded with immediately, it will meet most of the immediate needs of Eastern Ontario in regard to power and will lessen the demand for the immediate construction of the St. Lawrence waterway and the ancillary power projects. At the conclusion of the conference the Prime Minister said that, for the time being, there could be no further negotiations or communications with the United States about the St. Lawrence waterway, and Mr Ferguson, the Premier of Ontario, declared that he was still in favour of an all-Canadian scheme as far as it was humanly possible.

Preparations for the opening of the session of the Federal Parliament on February 20th are going steadily ahead in Ottawa. It is still uncertain whether the Government will undertake any comprehensive measure of tariff revision during the approaching session, but it has now available a large amount of data compiled by the Tariff Advisory Board. The latter completed the lengthy hearings upon the iron and steel schedules last week, and is now engaged in framing a report for the Government. There is known to be a sharp division of opinion in the Cabinet upon the fiscal question.

JAPAN.—GOLD STANDARD—DEPRESSION—FOREIGN TRADE—BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—BANKS AMALGAMATIONS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, January 13.

JAPAN returned to the effective gold standard on January 11th. During the seven weeks which have elapsed since notice of this measure was given, business experienced exceptional dullness. Dealings in the stock market were extremely limited. Many branches of our staple industries curtailed operations or increased the rate of curtailment. Foreign trade was not very active. The December trade returns show that imports and exports were 21 per cent. and 8 per cent. respectively lower than in the corresponding month of 1928. Imports in the first ten days of this month, as compared with the same period of January last year, fell off by 38 per cent., and exports by 24 per cent. The downward movement of commodity prices was rapid. The Bank of Japan's wholesale index number registered a further substantial drop of 2.9 per cent. during December. As business was so slack, the needs of year-end settlements put no marked pressure upon the money market. The Bank return shows that both the note issue and advances at the close of last year were 140 and 186 million yen lower than those of a year ago, and after the turn of the year both of them rapidly contracted. The immediate business outlook after the stabilisation of the currency is far from cheerful. Revival of trade will be discouraged by the setback of American prosperity, the recent sharp fall of silver prices, and a real overvaluation of the yen on the

exchange markets. A possible dissolution of the Diet, which will meet next week after the New Year recess, may also prove another factor adverse to the recovery of business.

The foreign trade figures for last year are, on the whole, very satisfactory. The 1929 returns show that, as compared with the preceding year, imports at 2,216,157,000 yen rose by 19,847,000 yen, and exports at 2,148,551,000 yen advanced by 176,596,000 yen, the import excess over exports being 67,606,000 yen, as against 224,360,000 yen. Large individual increases in imports were recorded by machinery, raw cotton, ammonium sulphate, oil-cake, and iron and steel, while heavy declines were recorded by sugar, woollen and worsted yarns and manufacture, timber, rice, beans, and raw wool. On the export side cotton manufactures, raw silk, and silk fabrics advanced substantially, while sugar alone on the whole list recorded an appreciable fall. But the trade with China was slightly disappointing. Japan's imports from China during 1929 amounted to 365,616,000 yen, and exports to her were 525,886,000 yen, showing an export balance of 160,270,000 yen. As compared with the preceding year, both imports and exports show decreases of 10.9 millions and 4.9 millions respectively, while the favourable balance is 6 millions higher. Korea's trade returns for 1929 disclose that imports totalled 107,767,000 yen, and exports 35,773,000 yen, showing an adverse balance of 71,994,000 yen, as against 86,002,000 yen in 1928. Formosa's imports during last year amounted to 64,541,000 yen, and exports to 33,188,000 yen, an excess of imports over exports totalling 31,353,000 yen, as against 24,438,000 yen in the preceding year. The adverse balance on the visible trade figures for the whole year 1929 of Japan, including Korea and Formosa, thus amounted in the aggregate to 170.9 million yen, as compared with 334.8 millions in 1928 and 293.6 millions in 1927.

According to the tentative estimate of the balance of payments in 1928, lately published by the Treasury, Japan owed 162.6 million yen, as against 141.3 millions in 1927, in her international transactions. While the import excess of merchandise and net Government payments made abroad totalled 371.2 million yen, or 29.7 millions higher than in 1927, the official estimate of invisible exports was put at 208.6 millions, or only 8.2 millions higher. Invisible items, on balance, are set out below in comparison with the preceding year:—

THE OFFICIAL CALCULATION OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS IN 1927 AND 1928.

(In Million yen.)

	1927.	1928.
Excess of imports of merchandise including that of Korea and Formosa	289·0	333·0
Net Government's payment made abroad	52·5	38·2
Total	341·5	371·2
Net income from overseas investments and business and emigrants' remittance	38·6	37·0
Net national shipping income	132·4	138·3
Foreign tourists' expenditure, &c.	17·0	15·2
Others	12·2	18·1
Total	200·2	208·6
Excess of expenditure over income	141·3	162·6

The official calculation of invisible exports for last year is not yet available. But, according to the private estimate of the chairman of the Yokohama Specie Bank, the 1929 merchandise excess of imports of 170.9 million yen was reduced to 40.4 millions by net invisible items, Japan's income from international transactions, including capital movements, amounting to 443 millions and expenditure to 302.5 millions. The excess of expenditure over income, however, was more than offset by errors and omissions, and the balance might even show a definite movement in her credit, in the chairman's opinion.

The bank amalgamation movement is going on. During last year the number of ordinary commercial banks was reduced by 95 and that of savings banks by 2 by way of merger, according to the statistics of the Treasury. Fifty-one more banks ceased to exist owing to bankruptcy, withdrawal of licences and other causes. The total number of Japanese banks at the end of 1929 was 1,006, as against 1,151 a year ago.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(*It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.*)

Central Banks. By C. H. Kisch and W. A. Elkin. With a Foreword by the Rt. Hon. Montagu C. Norman. Third edition. (London) Macmillan and Company, St. Martin's Street. 18s. net.

This third edition of one of the most useful recent books on banking has been brought thoroughly up to date and includes details of the important changes in the monetary legislation of the United Kingdom, France, and Italy. The number of central banks whose constitutions are summarised has been increased to thirty-two.

The Meaning of Money. By Hartley Withers. Fifth edition. (London) John Murray. Albemarle Street. 6s. net.

This text book, which has smoothed the path of many a student of monetary theory, has now been revised in accordance with the radical changes in the monetary situation which have taken place since it was first published.

Imperial Economic Unity. By Lord Melchett. (London) George G. Harrap and Company, Ltd., 39-41, Parker Street. 2s. 6d. net.

The first six chapters deal generally with Customs barriers, economic grouping and Imperial Preference. Then follow nine chapters, each dealing with a separate group of commodities; and two concluding chapters, which are principally devoted to the question of markets for British manufacturers.

The Liberal Year Book for 1930. (London) The Liberal Publication Department, 42, Parliament Street. 2s. net.

Includes a record of post-war General Elections; an analysis of the last General Election and of recent bye-elections; articles on parliamentary procedure; election law; State pensions; world fleets; and statistics of major political interest.

The Newspaper of To-Morrow. By Harold Herd. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d. net.

A seventy-page booklet on trends in modern journalism.

The Theatre, Music Hall and Cinema Companies Blue Book, 1929-30. (London) Redway, Mann and Company, Ltd., 14, Clifford Street, New Bond Street. 2s. net.

A list of public amusement companies with the usual financial information about each.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Miscellaneous No. 4 (1930): *Agreements concluded at the Hague Conference, January*, 1930. Cmd. 3484. 3s. net.

Miscellaneous No. 3 (1930): *Agreement between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the German Government in regard to the Liquidation of German Properties.* Cmd. 3486. 3d. net.

List of Commercial Treaties, etc., with Foreign Powers. January 1, 1930. 1s. 9d. net.

Reports of the Imperial Economic Committee: Thirteenth Report—A Memorandum on the Trade of the British Empire, 1913 *and* 1925 *to* 1928. 6d. net.

Miscellaneous No. 2 (1930): *Memorandum on the Position at the London Naval Conference*, 1930. Cmd. 3485. 2d. net.

Unemployment Fund Account, 1928: *Receipts and Payments for year ended March* 31, 1929. 2d. net.

Home Office: Workmen's Compensation—Statistics of Compensation and Proceedings in Great Britain during year 1928. Cmd. 3481. 9d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Survey of Economic Conditions in Morocco, 1928-29. 2s. 6d. net.

Accounts Relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom, January, 1930. 3s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE COST OF BOOM FINANCE.

In a recent series of articles we have investigated the position of numerous companies promoted during the new issue boom of 1928. Safety glass, films, gramophones, artificial silk—group after group has revealed the same depressing picture of promises unfulfilled, difficulties under-estimated, and capital lost. The majority of the companies in question have already ceased to claim any measure of public attention. The Stock Exchange is concerned not with the dead but with the living, while the unfortunate subscribers have probably, by this time, written off the greater part of their holdings. Such a course of events, unfortunately, is by no means unprecedented. Every boom in the annals of the Stock Exchange has had its aftermath, and every resulting change in the law for the better protection of the investor has been followed in due course, by a fresh period of activity, a newly extemporised promotion technique, and a further series of losses. It may well be asked whether so obviously wasteful a process is inevitable, or whether its constant recurrence argues some constitutional defect in London's new issue machinery.

Some idea of the loss falling on the investor in recent "bubble" concerns may be obtained from an examination of the following table, in which we summarise the results of our calculations as regards fifty-one new companies formed in 1928:—

Industry.	Number of New Companies examined.	Par Value of Shares.	Market value at Highest Prices of 1929.	Market value after Slump of 1929.	Total Loss suffered by Shareholders (Col. 3 *less* Col. 5).
(1)	(2)	(3) £	(4) £	(5) £	(6) £
Safety glass.....	7	1,192,240	1,905,384	376,716	815,524
Films	12	2,322,200	2,265,607	613,255	1,708,945
Gramophones ...	23	3,965,000	5,246,614	1,826,000	2,139,000
Artificial silk ...	9	8,593,209	5,677,283	1,956,504	6,636,705
Total.....	51	16,072,649	15,094,888	4,772,475	11,300,174

In these four groups alone some £11,000,000 of capital has been lost. Some of the companies, it is true, may "make good" in the future, but others will inevitably be forced into liquidation. Shareholders would, therefore, be unwise to count on any significant future appreciation, on balance, in the capital value of their investments. Subscribers to the 51 issues shown in our table have thus lost, on the average, approximately 14s. 1d. of every £1 they invested. Our computations, however, cover but a small part of the field of speculative promotion. The reader may make his own additions and adjustments in respect of the host of patent companies, the "parent and offspring" flotations, the "Hatry" enterprises, and the groups of concerns associated with the names of brilliant but unfortunate financiers. The investor's total losses have evidently run into many millions of pounds.

It may be argued that all securities, new and old, suffered during last year's slump. But the decline in "old" company shares was on so strikingly smaller a scale than in "new" shares that the two will not bear comparison. In the table at the bottom of this page we contrast the fall which occurred last year in representative securities which have been in existence for at least six years, with the decline in the value of the shares included in our previous table.

"Established" British securities, on the average, lost rather more than a fifth of their value (measured from the "peak") during last year's slump. Values in the five groups which made the worst showing in the *Investors' Chronicle* index depreciated by more than a third of their "peak" figure. Their losses, however, were moderate indeed by comparison with the 65 per cent. to 80 per cent. depreciation in the shares of the "new" companies. We may add that our original selection was entirely unbiassed, every new prospectus issue falling within each industrial category being automatically included in our table.

"Established" company shares, in fact, largely remained outside the scope of the boom of 1926 to 1928, British experience in this respect differing significantly from that of America, where record industrial prosperity and profits acted as a stimulus to rising industrial share values, which was lacking in Great Britain. The following table offers an illuminating contrast between the experience of the two countries in this respect, the indices chosen affording as close a comparison as is possible:—

MOVEMENTS IN ORDINARY SHARES OF ESTABLISHED COMPANIES.

	America. (Standard Statistics Index: "337 Industrials.")	Great Britain. (*Investors' Chronicle* Index: "All Business.")
Year 1926, Average	100	100
"Peak" of 1929	218	127
End of 1929	151	97

"Established" industrial shares in America more than doubled in value between 1926 and the peak of 1929, and, even after the slump, were half as high again as in 1926. "Established" industrials in Great Britain rose by little more than one-fourth between 1926 and 1929, and, after "deflation," were actually, on balance, below the level of 1926. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the so-called "boom" in established British industrial stocks was largely non-existent, since the growth of industrial profits was insufficient to provide an economic or even a psychological basis for such a movement. The *terrain* of the boom was, in fact, the new capital market. But if the profits of old-established concerns, of proved earning-power, with a definite status in their respective industries, were insufficient to justify a period of abnormal Stock Exchange activity and capital expansion, how much less promising was the outlook for new and untried con-

EXTENT OF SLUMP IN OLD AND NEW CONCERNS.

(Prices at end of 1929 compared with highest prices of that year.)

Established Concerns (*Investors' Chronicle* Index).				New Company Flotations (*Economist* Computations).	
Securities in General.		Security Groups showing Heaviest Declines.			
Groups.	Decline from "Peak" of 1929.	Groups.	Decline from "Peak" of 1929.	Groups.	Decline from "Peak" of 1929.
	%		%		%
"All Business"	23·7	"Miscellaneous Business"	35·7	Safety Glass	80·2
"Speculative" (tin, tea, rubber, oil, &c.).....	21·5	"Chemicals"	35·7	Films	72·9
"All Securities"	21·3	"Shipping"	35·9	Gramophones	65·2
		"Newspapers"	36·3	Artificial Silk	65·6
		"Silk"	38·4	Total, 51 New Companies	68·4

public utilities and high-priced railroad stocks. The general run of industrials are not making much progress, apart from certain favoured groups, including tobaccos and electrical manufacturing. It is agreed that the pace of the share market is now faster than the business improvement warrants, but the autumn knockdown was more severe than the business recession, and prices are now discounting hopes of a further recovery in trade, which, if not realised, may conceivably bring another setback. Bond prices are firming up, but demand from investors and banks all over the country for new bonds is still lacking, as a result, partly, of the loaded-up position. Gilt-edged bonds, which appeal to savings banks and insurance companies, convertible stocks or other issues with special features are going well, and it is believed that substantial amounts, both of domestic and foreign flotations, are merely awaiting the advent of broader demand. Though copper production during January was somewhat lower stocks are higher, but the full force of the curtailment was not felt until towards the end of the month. Producers are confident of maintaining the metal at 18 cents, and the shares are marking time while the situation is becoming gradually healthier. With the formation of the new grain stabilisation corporation wheat and cotton are steadier, the first effect of which took the Treasury by surprise and hastened on the issue this week of $50,000,000 in Treasury bills, which were intended for issue on the March 15th tax date to supply funds for grain purchase.

	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	103 7/32	104 1/32	104 7/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	110 9/32	110 11/32	111
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99 3/32	99 7/32	99 3/32
Do. 4½% '32-47	100⅝	101 6/32	100 31/32
Do. 4½% '33-38	100 19/32	101 21/32	101 1/32
Atchison	236	235½	235
Ches. & Ohio	214⅞	224¼	234¼
Erie	57	60	62
Illinois Central	129¼	129	130
N.Y. Central	180	183	188
Pennsylvania	79	80½	82½
Southern Pacific	120	122	122⅝
Southern Rly.	134½	133½	132
Union Pacific	222	220	230½
Am. Can.	128½	132	144½
Alleghany Corp.	26	31⅝	32⅝
Amer. Smelting	73	76½	75
Anaconda	74⅜	78¼	75½
Bethlehem Steel	100⅜	100⅝	100⅜
Chrysler Motor	37	40⅞	38⅛
Corn Produce	92⅜	97	96⅝
Eastman Kodak	191	190½	191½
Gen. Electric (New)	72⅞	77	77½
Gen. Motors	41⅛	43⅜	43⅜
Int. Harvester	90	88	90⅜
Montg. Ward	48	45½	42
Natl. Biscuit	204½	208	206½
Phelps Dodge	40	40⅜	40½
Pullman	84½	84¼	84⅜
Sears-Roebuck	99	96½	92½
Studebaker	43⅞	46⅜	44⅜
Un. Fruit	102	101	100
U.S. Leather	9¼	8⅞	8⅜
U.S. Rubber	26¼	24⅜	27⅜
U.S. Steel	182	183	184⅜
Westinghouse	157½	164⅝	172⅜
Woolworth	67	67	64½
Worthington Pump	77½	83½	83½
Am. Pow. & Light	86½	91½	95⅜x
Am. Tel. & Tg.	223	229½	231
Electric P. & L.	58⅜	60⅛	65½
Int. Tel. Teles.	63⅜	66	66⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	36	37⅛	41
Radio Corpn.	35½	37⅛	41⅜
Utilities P. & L.	33⅜	35¼	36⅛
W. Union Tg.	201½	212	211
Associated Gas "A"	45½	46½	44½
Mid-Cont. Pet.	26	25⅜	25⅛
Pan Amer. B.	52	54	54
Sinclair Oil	24⅜	24½	23⅜
Std. California	59⅜	60¼	59⅛
Do. N.J.	63⅜	63⅛	62⅛

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc. of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print, the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 6.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	153·6	156·9
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	138·7	141·0
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	213·7	225·2
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	160·8	165·2
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·56%	4·47%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Feb. 5.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Feb. 5.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 7.	Feb. 8.	Feb. 10.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 12.
183·8	166·5	183·8	181·7	180·5	181·7	181·1	182·1	*

* Stock Exchange Holiday.

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Feb. 6.	Feb. 7.	Feb. 8.	Feb. 10.	Feb. 11.	Feb. 12.	Feb. 13.
Stock Exchange—Shares (Thous.)	3,709	3,385	1,658	3,160	‡3,312	*	3,661
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	10,032	11,237	6,043	8,312	7,543	*	11,672
Curb—Shares (Thous.)	1,070	955	589	964	936	*	1,111

* Holiday.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Home Railway Dividends.—Three of the four group railways announced their final dividends for 1929 on Wednesday last. All showed, as expected, an increase on the 1928 figures, that of the London Midland and Scottish being slightly below and those of the Great Western and the Southern slightly above market expectations. The total dividends for the past five years are shown below:—

	Stock.	Dividends. 1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929
		%	%	%	%	%
L.M.S.	Ord.	6	3	4½	3½	4½
G.W.R.	Ord.	7	3	7	5	7½
S.R.	Def.	3½	1½	2	2	2½

The reception of the announcement was a significant commentary on the cautious attitude of the market towards railway stocks. After a slight upward movement, prices receded on Wednesday, finishing lower on balance. It will be seen that present prices are considerably below the highest point touched last year, when railway prospects were by no means as satisfactory as at present. The yields shown approximate to those commonly associated with speculative stocks and are in every case from 2 to 2½ per cent. higher than a year ago:—

	Highest and Lowest Prices. 1927. High.	1927. Low.	1928. High.	1928. Low.	1929. High.	1929. Low.	Present Price.	Yield at Present Price.*
L.M.S. Ord.	79½	67	76⅝	49⅝	59	47⅜	52½	£ s. d.
G.W.R. Ord.	97½	83	103¼	77⅝	90⅜	78½	91⅜	9 0 0
S.R. Def.	45½	34⅜	40	29	34¼	27½	30½	8 12 6
								8 18 7

* After deducting final dividend.

It would seem that the market is taking a pessimistic view as regards the maintenance of earnings in 1930 at last year's level, having regard to the possibility that higher dividends may cause the railway workers to demand, in part at least, the reinstatement of the 2½ per cent. deducted from wages and salaries since August, 1928; that the Coal Bill, if passed, may seriously affect that part of railway revenue which showed the largest increase last year; and that British trade as a whole may not maintain the rate of increase registered in 1929. Making due allowance for these factors, however, last year's results clearly show that railway operation is more efficient and economical than at any time since the "grouping" system was carried into effect. Following on the economies achieved in 1928 and earlier years, the London Midland and Scottish apparently "saved" in various ways something over £1,600,000 last year, the Great Western over £500,000, and the Southern about £250,000. Though 1929 could not by any stretch of imagination be described as an abnormally active year for British trade, two of the four trunk lines came within sight of earning their standard revenue under the Railways Act, and it cannot be supposed that all the economies of rationalisation have been exhausted. Whether the railways are well advised to distribute increased net earnings "up to the hilt" is another matter. The prospect of recurrent fluctuations in dividends has an unsettling effect on the market for railway stocks, and a policy of distributing only such amounts as the companies were confident of maintaining for some years to come, and using any balance to form a reserve for equalising dividends, might be the best policy both for companies and stockholders.

Australian Government Stocks.—Official Announcement.—In an "Investment Note" in the *Economist* of February 1st last we discussed the position of Australian Government stocks. Since that date several noteworthy events have occurred. The Federal Prime Minister, Mr Scullin, and the chairman of the Australian Loan Council, Mr Theodore, issued a joint statement on February 6th, stating that the possibility of Australia postponing its interest payments to overseas investors or failing in any way to meet its national obligations was unthinkable. With regard to the loans maturing this year, which total £118,000,000 (of which nearly £115,000,000 is internal) Mr Scullin and Mr Theodore declared that it had always been the policy of Australia to deal with internal obligations without recourse to external markets, that that policy would be followed during the present year, and that it was the opinion of the Loan Council and of the banks that these operations could and would be satisfactorily carried out without any assistance from the overseas money markets. The final test of the situation, they added, was to be found in the integrity of the Australian people, which had never been questioned, and they ventured to express the opinion that holders of Australian securities in London would be making needless sacrifices by selling their holdings at the prices then ruling. This hint has apparently been taken, for Australian Government stocks made a notable recovery on the publication of this statement. The economic crisis, however, remains, and the difficulty of remitting funds to this country from Australia has had to be met by the shipment of gold. Sir Robert Gibson, the chairman of the Commonwealth Bank, announced on February 7th that the bank was shipping immediately to London £7,000,000 of gold for the purpose of building up reserves to meet overseas obligations. This shipment brings the total gold shipped from Australia since July to over £17,000,000. Sir Robert Gibson pointed out that these movements were designed, not to provide credit for further importations, but solely to meet accrued or accruing obligations. "That the financial position overseas is difficult, indeed serious," he said, "the board has no desire to minimise. . . . An unfortunate set of circumstances has synchronised so as suddenly to create a very serious embarrassment. . . . The Bank Board, however, has no hestitation in saying that, despite all difficulties, Australia is sound at the kernel and will surmount her difficulties and meet her obligations." Another event of importance has been the decision of the Loan Council further to reduce the loan programme for the present year, which had already been cut from the average of £43,000,000 down to £30,000,000. The Government is to report to the Loan Council the maximum saving it can effect in the programme for new works, and the position is to be reviewed again this month. These events may be taken as evidence that Australia is doing her best to protect the interests of her creditors, and Australian stocks will emerge from the present depression with, we trust, enhanced reputation and security.

Boot and Shoe Results.—British boot and shoe company shares are, as a rule, solidly held, earnings and dividends showing relatively narrow annual fluctuations. The experience of the last twelve months, however, has not been entirely true to type in this respect. Home conditions showed no great change, but export trade did not maintain the advance recorded in 1928, shipments of boots and shoes showing a drop of 7 per cent. in number and 5 per cent. in value. The following table contrasts the past two years' results of eight representative concerns:—

	1929. Net Profits.	1929. Ord. Div.	1929. Net Profits.	1929. Ord. Div.	Ordinary Shares (£1, unless otherwise stated). Present Price.	Yield %.
	£	%	£	%	£	£ s. d.
Freeman, Hardy & Willis.*	240,624	20 P.O. 20 D.O.	270,865	20 P.O. 55 D.O.	†	...
Lennards	38,940	15	42,568	12½	1⅝	6 11 1½
Lotus	69,254	6½	43,922	5	14/9	6 15 7
Public Benefit Boot	33,997	12½	31,313	...	†	...
Randall (H. E.)	37,558	15	35,365	15	42/9	7 0 4
Sears (J.) & Co.	216,003	22½	314,580	22½	1⅛§	3 16 6‡
Stead and Simpson	55,402	10	50,699	10	†	...
Weber (L. and J.) and Phillips	32,835	15	19,330	12½	⅛‖	11 2 2½

† Not listed. * Now controlled by J. Sears and Co. ‡ Free of income tax. § 5s. shares. ‖ 10s. shares.

Five of the eight companies recorded a decline in profits last year, and four reduced their dividends. In at least two cases, however, this reduction followed an increase of capital. The Public Benefit Boot Company, which passed its deferred dividend, wrote off as much as £38,194 from the value of its stocks, a policy recommended by the new members of the board, who represent holders of 98 per cent. of the deferred shares. The two largest companies, however, substantially increased their earnings. Over 99 per cent. of the issued ordinary capital of Freeman, Hardy and Willis was acquired by J. Sears and Company in December, 1928, the profits of the two businesses last year exceeding the figures for any of the years set out in the prospectus published last February. The turnover of J. Sears had been increasing for some time before the Freeman, Hardy acquisition and the operation would seem to have been eminently profitable. The earnings of many British shoe companies reflect retail selling as well as manufacturing conditions, numerous concerns owning extensive "chain" shops. Competition at home and abroad is, on the whole, increasing in intensity and although the majority of companies in the industry have a consistent record of steady profits and conservative finance for many years past, the question of further amalgamations may assume increasing importance in the near future.

The Volume of Stock Exchange Bank Clearings.—There is no precise means of ascertaining the volume of business passing through the London Stock Exchange, but an interesting light on this matter is afforded by the data given in the annual statement of the London Bankers' Clearing House. The total amount of bills, cheques, etc., paid at the Clearing House during 1929, excluding Stock Exchange settlement days, showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. over the 1928 figure, but the increase for settlement days in 1929 as compared with 1928 amounted to only 0.2 per cent. This result apparently reflects an increase in non-Stock Exchange clearings and a decline in Stock Exchange clearings. This conclusion is confirmed by comparison of the 1929 figures with those for 1928 and 1927. The statement gives the average clearing on settlement days and the total clearing on these days for each year. By deducting the latter from the grand total for the year, and dividing by the number of non-settlement working days (counting Saturdays as half-days), the following results are obtained:—

(000's omitted.)	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Average for Stock Exchange settling days	165,850	184,473	184,944
Average for non-settling days	139,149	147,322	157,424
Increase on settling days:			
Amount	26,701	37,151	27,520
Per cent.	*19·2*	*25·2*	*17·5*

The impressive dimensions of the total clearing for which, on this showing, Stock Exchange business is

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responsible, would appear almost certainly to be considerably below the true figure, for the amount of Stock Exchange clearings on other than settlement days is of large proportions. In the ordinary way all transactions in the gilt-edged market are done for cash, and consequently little more than a normal day's turnover falls to be settled on account days. "Differences" between members, again, are usually collected on the Wednesday preceding the account day; while on the Friday and Monday following the settlement late cheques come in from clients. The latter subsequently pay into their bankers the cheques they have received for stock sold, and an appreciable amount of delayed stock is delivered. In considering the relation between the volume of clearings in connection with Stock Exchange business, and the actual volume of that business, it should also be remembered that (1) the figures include transactions on the money market in connection with the settlement; but (2) do not show transactions closed within the account or "contangoed"; while (3) a client's purchase or sale will often result in the passing of two cheques—one between broker and client and one between broker and jobber. Against the last qualification may be set the fact that in many cases the cheque between broker and client represents only the balance of more than one deal, while the broker will usually read through on a "Ticket" to another broker for the delivery or taking up of stock. Despite all these qualifications the increased turnover of the Clearing House on account days is of more than passing interest, and if the Clearing House could see its way to reveal the dimensions of the total clearings on *each* settlement day, at the end of the week concerned, the figures would be found useful in many respects.

Canadian Pacific Railway.—The rumour, many times denied, that the stock of the Canadian Pacific Railway would be split has at last been confirmed. If the Canadian Parliament grants the requisite authority the ordinary capital of the company, which consists of 3,300,000 shares of $100, including the issue of 300,000 shares in April last, is to be divided into 13,200,000 shares of $25 each. Mr E. W. Beatty, president of the company, has explained that this action is dictated by a desire to place the shares within the reach of investors of moderate means and thus increase the number of shareholders, particularly in Canada. The immediate effect of the announcement was to cause something closely resembling a gamble in the shares, the "bears" being heavily routed. On Wall Street the shares were hoisted from 201 to 224¼ and in London from 206½ to 232½, despite the fact that President Beatty had also declared that no change in the 10 per cent. rate of dividend was contemplated. The shares have now relapsed to 221½ in London. The range of prices in the latter centre in 1928 and 1929 has been as follows:—

1928		1929	
Low.	High.	Low	High.
205	254	194½	273

The earnings of the company for 1929 will probably show a considerable decline as compared with those of 1928 on account of some reduction in rates, the short crops and the withholding of wheat from the market by the Canadian Wheat Pool. Estimates of 1929 earnings vary from under $10 per share to $12 per share, against $15 in 1928. If it should prove that the company has only barely earned the 10 per cent. dividends it has paid on its ordinary stock for a long period of years the market may take a more sober view of the value of the new $25 shares.

Metropolitan Railway.—Results for 1929 reveal a considerable improvement on the previous twelve months' figures. Working receipts increased by £20,504 and working expenses declined by £44,906, the excess of receipts over expenditure being £552,952, against £491,937 for 1928. Gross revenue has risen from £826,695 to £890,770, while net revenue, after deducting all fixed charges, is £686,860, as compared with £619,656. This increase has made possible the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary capital of 2¾ per cent., as against 2¼ per cent., making 4 per cent. for the year and absorbing £303,147.

Year ended December 31st.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Working receipts	1,826,369	1,606,966	1,627,470
Working expenditure	1,262,187	1,116,424	1,071,518
Net receipts	564,182	490,542	555,952
Miscellaneous receipts	274,680	336,153	334,818
Dividends from Surplus Lands Stock	95,733	99,034	102,335
Miscellaneous charges	33,633	46,083	46,255
Debenture interest, &c.	299,353	259,990	259,990
Net profit	601,609	619,656	686,860
Brought forward	22,211	42,782*	24,901†
Preference dividends	359,996	363,297	366,598
Ordinary dividends £	227,360	265,253	303,147
Ordinary dividends %	3	3½	4
To reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000
Carried forward	26,464	23,888	32,017

* Including £16,318 sundry special additions.
† Including £1,013 sundry special additions.

A sum of £10,000 has again been placed to reserve account, and £32,017 is carried forward, against £23,888 brought in. According to the announcement of the surplus lands committee, the interim dividend on the surplus lands stock was 1½ per cent., which, with a final dividend of 2⅜ per cent., makes 3⅞ per cent. for the year, compared with 3¾ per cent. for 1928, and absorbs £102,335 against £99,034.

Harrods.—The preliminary dividend announcement of this great departmental store reveals a further increase in net profits, the amount of £834,188 for the twelve months ended January 31st last exceeding by £59,032 the earnings for 1928, which, in turn, showed an improvement of £53,405 on the results for the previous year. This year's profit includes the final dividend of £44,865 for 1928-29 on the shares of D. H. Evans and Company, which were acquired by Harrods in 1928. The directors recommend the usual final dividend on ordinary shares of 15 per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 5 per cent. already paid, a total for the year of 20 per cent., less tax, the same rate as for the past two years. Earnings were equivalent to 24.1 per cent.

Year Ends January 31st.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
Net profits	721,751	775,156	834,188
Brought forward	104,805	113,556	116,033
Preference dividend	300,000	300,000	300,000
No. of times covered	*2·4*	*2·6*	*2·8*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*421,751*	*475,156*	*534,188*
Paid £	383,000	442,679	*
Earned %	*22·0*	*21·5*	*24·0*
Paid %	20·0	20·0	20·0
Reserve	25,000	25,000	50,000
Other allocations	5,000	5,000	*
Carried forward	113,556	116,033	149,699

* Information not yet available.

The special reserve account is being increased by £50,000, as against £25,000 last year, while the sum of £149,699 is carried forward, compared with £116,033 brought in. The company has a remarkable record of prosperity, and boasts a steady increase in net earnings, dividends earned and dividends paid, since 1922. Its subsidiaries continue to make steady progress, the preliminary statement of Dickins and Jones, Ltd., 95 per cent. of whose ordinary capital is held by Harrods, showing a profit of £129,367, as against £125,632 last year. At the present price of 3 9/16 the ordinary £1 shares of Harrods give a yield of £5 17s. per cent., allowing for a final dividend of 3s. per share.

Maple's.—The net profits of this large furnishing business show a drop of £52,318 at £274,741, following the previous year's fall of £27,011. The ordinary shares have earned only 11.9 per cent., compared with 14.8 per cent. in 1928 and 16.3 per cent. in 1927, and the dividend, reduced from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent., is not fully covered:—

Year ends December 31st.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	354,070	327,059	274,741
Brought forward	60,796	61,783	48,935
Preference dividend	60,000	60,000	60,000
Number of times covered	*5·9*	*5·4*	*4·6*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned, £	*294,070*	*267,059*	*214,741*
Paid, £	270,000	270,000	225,000
Earned %	*16·3*	*14·8*	*11·9*
Paid %	15·0	15·0	12·5
To reserve	18,083	4,907	...
Other allocations	5,000	5,000	5,000
Carried forward	61,783	48,935	33,676

As usual, £5,000 has been placed to Staff Benevolent Fund, but there has been no allocation to reserves, and the amount of £33,676 carried forward is less by £15,259 than the amount brought in. As a result of the rebuilding of the Tottenham Court Road frontage, a re-valuation of the company's freehold and leasehold properties became necessary, and the resulting appreciation has been utilised in writing down the goodwill of the company from an unstated amount to £50,000. Investments stand at £91,931, as against £252,941 this time last year, while cash is up from £166,108 to £233,963. The balance sheet remains satisfactorily liquid, available assets covering current liabilities over six times. At the present price of 1 25/32 the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of £7 5s. 6d., less tax, allowing for a final dividend of 10 per cent.

Imperial Tobacco Company.—The dividend of 23 per cent., free of tax, declared by the Imperial Tobacco Company for the year to October 31, 1929, on its increased capital, exceeded market expectations. The accounts reveal an increase in net profits of £367,392, following last year's improvement of £371,909. The ordinary capital has been increased by a 25 per cent. bonus of over seven and a half millions, with a consequent decrease in the percentage earnings from 29.2 per cent. to 24.3 per cent. A distribution on ordinary shares of 23 per cent., free of tax, absorbs £8,619,594, as against last year's payment of 26 per cent., absorbing £7,787,441. The following table sets out the results for the past three years:—

Year ends October 31.	1927. £	1928. £	'1929. £
Net profits	9,227,797	9,599,706	9,967,098
Brought forward	821,378	959,042	1,169,098
Preference dividends:			
"A" 5 per cent.	272,759	272,759	272,759
"B" 6 per cent.	315,628	315,628	315,628
"C" 10 per cent.	263,822	263,822	263,822
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*8,375,588*	*8,747,497*	*9,114,889*
Paid £	7,487,924	7,787,441	8,619,594
Earned %	*28·0*	*29·2*	*24·3*
Paid %	25*	26*†	23*
To reserve	500,000	500,000	487,925
Other allocations	250,000	250,000	...
Carried forward	959,042	1,169,098	1,176,468

* Tax free. † Plus capital bonus of 25 per cent.

A sum of £487,925 is placed to general reserve account, following previous allocations of £500,000 each year. As foreshadowed by the directors when the bonus shares were issued, no allocation has been made this year to Pensions Fund, a Contributory Pensions Fund having been instituted last May, the setting up of which is reflected in the balance sheet by the elimination of the item "Provision for Pensions," etc., which at October 31, 1928, amounted to £3,141,015, and by a reduction in Government and other securities from £12,939,952 to £9,862,441. At the present price of 4 23/32, the ordinary £1 shares give a yield of £4 16s. 9d., free of tax, allowing for the final dividend of 16s.

Two Investment Trusts: Guardian and British Investment.—Two of the older investment trusts have published their reports within the last ten days—the Guardian and the British Investment, which were formed as long ago as 1888 and 1889 respectively. Both show the usual increase in earnings and maintain their dividends at the 1928 rate. The Guardian applies £15,000 in writing down its securities, which stand in its balance sheet at £1,796,201. A complete list of its holdings is given in the report, but no mention is made of their present market value. The British Investment Trust does not find it necessary to apply anything to reserve as the valuation of its investments at market prices on January 1, 1930, showed an amount of £900,000 in excess of the book value of £6,713,191. An analysis of the results of these two companies over the past three years is given in the following statement:—

Company.		Income after Tax.	Avail. for Ord.	Per cent. Earned. (Subject	Per cent. Paid. to tax.)	Applied to Reserve.	Carried Forward.
Guardian— Ord. cap., £500,000 (Jan. 20)	1928	108,886	57,069	14·2	11·0	12,000	15,791
	1929	111,038	59,122	14·7	11·0	14,000	16,913
	1930	110,329	59,882	14·9	11·0	15,000	17,795
British Investment— Def. Ord. Cap., £1,000,000 (Jan. 1).	1928	341,497	193,707	26·9*	21	...	107,557
	1929	342,261	194,492	27·0*	21	...	150,849
	1930	367,545	209,556	26·2	21	...	192,405

* On £900,000 del. ord. capital.

This table reveals the useful margin between earnings and dividends paid. Debenture interest and preference dividends are covered 4 and 2.4 times respectively in the case of the Guardian and 4.4 and 2.5 times respectively in the case of the British Investment. The balance sheet of the Guardian shows that the debentures are covered by net assets 2.4 times and the preference stock 1.4 times, while that of British Investment shows that the debenture stock is covered 2.8 times and preference stock 1.7 times. The ordinary stock of the Guardian is valued in the market at 210 to yield 5.2 per cent. on

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dividends and 7.1 per cent. on earnings, and the deferred stock of the British Investment at 422 to yield 5.0 per cent. on dividends and 6.2 per cent. on earnings.

Bovril.—The report for 1929 shows that the company has experienced another "record" year. Trading profit was £20,689 greater at £603,197, and £19,430 more was received in dividends on investments. Administration charges, however, were £16,056 heavier and £11,525 more was paid on debentures and notes, net earnings being £12,295 greater at £329,820. The same rates of dividends were paid as for 1928, and after increasing the reserve fund by £60,000 to £1,220,000, £4,820 was added to the amount carried forward. The reserve fund and undivided profits are still £1,118,368 less than the intangible assets, goodwill and trade marks, though the company has doubtless large inner reserves:—

Years ending December 31st.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	360,524	366,898	390,718
Interest on debentures	22,500	22,500	22,500
Interest on notes	16,492	26,873	38,398
Net earnings	321,532	317,525	329,820
Preference dividends	60,000	60,000	60,000
No. of times covered	*5·3*	*5·3*	*5·5*
Ordinary dividends	75,000	75,000	75,000
No. of times covered	*3·3*	*3·4*	*3·4*
Deferred { *earned*	*18·6%*	*18·2%*	*19·4%*
Deferred { paid	13%	13%	13%
Deferred { amount	130,000	130,000	130,000
To reserve	64,507	60,000	60,000
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	− 7,975	− 7,475	+ 4,820

Properties, goodwill and trade marks, shares and debentures in subsidiary companies and investments in associated companies are shown this year as separate items, the total being £190,735 greater at £3,223,518. Stocks are £183,620 lower at £1,772,003, and debtors show a decrease of £30,895 at £896,830. Creditors have increased by £54,902 to £595,556. The deferred shares, at their present price of 37s. 1½d., yield £7 per cent.

Greyhound Racing Profits.—The boom of 1927 in greyhound racing shares is now no more than a memory. The hopelessly inflated concerns having been largely eliminated, with the inevitable scandals, the "industry" has settled down to comparatively stable and humdrum operations, and those companies whose tracks are situated in large centres of working-class population, and whose initial finance was reasonably conservative, are earning moderate profits. We show below the results of two companies which have recently published their reports for 1929:—

	Year.	Gross Profit.	Expenses, &c., written off.	Preference Dividend.	Ordinary Dividend. Amount.	Ordinary Dividend. Rate.	Carried Forward.
		£	£	£	£	%	£
Greyhound Racing Assn. Trust	1928	68,809	1,188	64,354	...	...	3,267
	1929	89,819	2,301	69,693	19,894	10	1,199
Wembley Stadium	1928	143,945	139,635	...	...	...	4,310
	1929	129,888	103,924	26,287*	...	...	3,987

* Preference dividend paid for period from August 30, 1927, to August 31, 1929, at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum.

The Greyhound Racing Association Trust now holds 98 per cent. of the issued capital of the Greyhound Racing Association, which operates tracks at the White City, Harringay, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Leeds. These were originally held on short leases, but the company has recently purchased the freehold of the Harringay track and is in course of acquiring that of the Birmingham track. Public attendances in 1929 showed an increase of over 10 per cent. The Trust is dividing its profits up to the hilt, the payment of 8.8 per cent. on the participating preference shares, and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, for 1929 being decidedly generous, since preliminary expenses and underwriting commission still stand at £57,112 in the balance sheet, and the company has no reserves. The £1 preference shares, which were quoted last year as low as 2s. 4½d. now stand at 9s. 3d., and the 1s. ordinary shares, after being dealt in at 1½d., stand at 8d., the respective yields being £18 16s. and £15 per cent. These high figures should be read in conjunction with last year's dividend policy, and the possibility that the company may have to incur further expenditure for the acquisition of the freeholds of its remaining leasehold properties. The Wembley Stadium Company, whose track is situated in the grounds of the former British Empire Exhibition, held 131 greyhound meetings and 34 "Speedway" meetings last year, the attendance apparently having risen, since approximately as many persons were present during the 12 as during the previous 16½ months. The company has written off all but £4,000 of its preliminary and issue expenses and is steadily redeeming its debenture stock. Arrears of preference dividend have now been paid off down to August 31, 1929, and if expenditure shows a further reduction, and attendances are maintained, the shilling ordinary shareholders may be within sight of a dividend next year. It is too early as yet confidently to declare that greyhound racing has ceased to be a craze and has become a permanent "industry." Recent experience on the more popular tracks, however, goes some way to suggest that a more or less regular *clientèle* has acquired the habit of attendance. Another year's experience may enable the stock market to assign the shares a definite status among speculative market counters.

Associated Anglo-Atlantic Winding-up.—The announcement that, in view of the severe depression in its investments, the Associated Anglo-Atlantic Corporation, Ltd., has presented a petition for winding-up, has been received with resignation, but not with surprise, in the City. The company was the outcome of Mr H. S. Horne's conviction that certain British industries might be raised from depression to prosperity by new and expert managements, who would introduce "new and revolutionary ideas," with influential financial support. Mr Horne's schemes, however, were prejudicially affected by last year's depression on the Stock Exchange, and his resignation, last November, from one of the largest of his concerns, British Cement Products Finance Company, was followed by the revelation that the company had suffered a loss of £2,018,578. The Associated Anglo-Atlantic was the central financing agency for the "Horne" group. It was inaugurated six years ago with a capital of £400,000, subscribed privately, the shares being introduced to the Stock Exchange in 1927, when the issued capital was brought up to £1,000,000 in 900,000 ordinary shares of £1 and 2,000,000 1s. deferred shares. For 1927, 10 per cent. was paid on both classes, while for 1928, 15 per cent. and 55 per cent. was paid, respectively. The company's holdings (including, *inter alia*, shares in Ship Canal Cement, British Cement Products, Anglo-Newfoundland Devt. Company, Carmelite Trust, Anglo-Foreign Newspapers, British Columbia Power Corporation and the British Oil Shipping Company) were stated by Mr Horne, in the meeting last March, to be valued at prices materially below their worth—a pronouncement on which this week's development affords a gloomy commentary. It would seem that only a thorough examination, by a competent outside authority, of the books of *all* the "Horne" companies can be expected to reveal the actual position of the group at the present moment.

National Mining.—This enterprise, brought out under very influential auspices—writes our mining correspondent—has proved disappointing in the extreme. In little more than three years from the date of registration (October, 1919) the shares were cut down from £1 to 8s., a loss of some £700,000 requiring to be extinguished. In all, three dividends totalling 2s. 1½d. have been distributed—6d. of this amount representing an interim payment on account of 1928. Much to the disappointment of the shareholders—whose hopes had naturally been whetted—there was no final. Of the £159,200 profit shown by the accounts, £90,500 fell to be written off

investments. For last year an operating loss of £12,800 was supplemented by £82,200 depreciation. To meet this position the profit and loss credit balance of £621,950 is appropriated, together with the remaining £50,000 of the reserve account, leaving a credit of £20,000 to go forward. Securities with market quotations figure at their book value of £316,500; other investments, including advances for subsidiary companies, at £1,002,900. The auditors report themselves unable to determine the value placed on the investments or the advances. The directors intimate that further depreciation may have to be provided for. Against cash and debtors totalling some £28,000, there are loans and creditors for £124,500. Obviously, further resources will have to be provided if the company is to resume operations, or even to continue the procedure lately followed of merely "nursing" the assets. The latter include a substantial participation in Roumanian oil undertakings, also shares in gold, copper and tin mines. In most cases the profit-earning stage is still some way ahead. Nothing is stated in the report as to the Chemical and Metallurgical Corporation—a concern in whose inception the National Mining took a very prominent part, and whose shares have also descended to a low price.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—British and Hungarian Bank, Gas Light and Coke Company, South Metropolitan Gas, Wandsworth Wimbledon and Epsom District Gas, Timothy Whites (1928), and San Francisco Mines of Mexico. At the Gas Light and Coke meeting the chairman said that an order for coke ovens had been placed, and the plant would carbonise 1,200 tons of coal per day. The Earl of Denbigh, presiding at the annual meeting of San Francisco Mines, said that, in view of the continued shortage of rain, hydro-electric energy could obviously not be depended upon for the further expansion of the business, and the company was considering whether it would be better to contract for a supplementary supply of power, or to add to its own thermal plant.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Last week's fall in Bank rate has come opportunely for long-term borrowers, and though conditions remain unfavourable for any but the highest class of issue, the reception of the week's offerings has been, on the whole, of encouraging omen. *The India Government Loan* terms were regarded as decidedly generous to subscribers, the flat yield being approximately 6½ per cent. on a Trustee security. The decision to issue a short-dated stock probably reflects the Indian Government's view that in two or three years' time a further issue may be placed on more advantageous terms. The loan was heavily "stagged," large applicants receiving about 14½ per cent. and applicants for £100 or under, allotment in full. The *Hastings Loan* which offered subscribers a flat yield of £5 1s. per cent. was also a Trustee stock, offered by a borrower of deservedly high reputation. The issue was subscribed about one-and-a-half times over, the larger applicants receiving about 70 per cent. The *British Automatic Company's* debenture stock offered a flat yield of £8 8s. 5d. per cent., this unusually high figure being an echo of the "Hatry" crisis, the company, though an old-established profit-earning concern, having been associated early last year with a unit of the "Hatry" group. This association has now been terminated without, it is understood, having prejudiced the company's earning position.

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ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to February 8, 1930, £15,671,306.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to February 8, 1930, £15,671,306.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended February 8, 1930, *Dr. £50,000.*
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to February 8, 1930, *Dr. £2,950,000*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Government of India	6,000,000	...	5,940,000	300,000	5,640,000
Hastings Corporation	750,000	...	742,500	37,500	705,000
British Automatic	250,000	...	237,500	25,000	212,500
Total offered to Public, week ended Feb. 15, 1930	7,000,000	...	6,920,000	362,500	6,557,500
To Shareholders only. Dominion Gramophone Records, £17,000 Debs. at 97½	17,000	...	16,575	1,700	14,875

Total Offered for Subscription— To date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	22,557,881	22,557,881
1929	72,300,979	58,726,428
1928	...	129,710,207
1927	...	104,911,535
1926	...	38,457,373
1925	...	21,792,362
1924	...	26,624,955
1923	...	47,371,123

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	1,014,187	...	1,138,840
Greek Exchanged Refugees Indemnity Loans, 1926 and 1928 (£9,940,693)	†8,399,891	84½	8,399,891
Total, week ended February 15, 1930	8,399,891	...	8,399,891
Total to date, 1930	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1929	2,991,450	...	6,565,071

† Taken at price of 84½.

Government of India.—Issue of £6,000,000 6 per cent. Bonds at £99 per cent. in denominations of £50, £100, £200, £500, £1,000 and £5,000. The issue is a trustee security, made under the provisions of the East India Loans Act, 1923, and will be repayable at par on June 15, 1932, but the Secretary of State for India reserves to himself the right, on giving three months' notice, to extend the date of payment to June 15, 1933, in which case redemption will take place at 101.

Hastings Corporation.—Issue of £750,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1947-1967, at £99 per cent. The stock will be repaid at par on April 1, 1967, but the corporation will have the option of redeeming the same at par at any time on or after April 1, 1947, on giving three months' notice. The stock and the interest thereon are secured on all the rates and revenues of the corporation. The rateable value of the County Borough of Hastings is £645,878, and a rate of 1d. in the £ produces £2,575. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock.

Aldershot Gas, Water and District Lighting Company.—Issue by tender of £100,000 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock (or such amount as will realise the net sum of £92,470). Minimum price, £93 per £100. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31, 1929, was £60,428, covering interest on the loan capital, including the present issue, 3.1 times.

British Automatic Company.—Issue of £250,000 8 per cent. debenture stock at 95 per cent., repayable at par on July 1, 1940. The stock will be secured by a floating charge on the undertaking and assets of the company. Power is reserved to redeem the stock, or any part thereof, by drawings on any interest date at par on three months' notice. The company was incorporated in November, 1887, to provide and operate automatic machines.

Particulars of the following have been issued for information only, with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—
Petroleum Corpora —Issued capital 10,000,000 common shares without nominal or par value. The company was incorporated in January, 1929, in Delaware, to acquire stocks of representative oil companies.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest company dividends and profit and loss figures, balance sheet summaries, shorter notices, output statistics, and traffic returns, will be found on page* 382 *under the heading "Company News."*]

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY.

RECORD YEAR'S OUTPUT.

SIR DAVID MILNE-WATSON'S REVIEW.

The two hundred and twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Gas Light and Coke Company was held, on the 7th instant, at the chief office of the company, Horseferry Road, Westminster, London, Sir David Milne-Watson, LL.D., D.L., the governor of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Galbraith) read the notice convening the meeting. The report and accounts were taken as read.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The year under review has been a record one in the company's experience, a greater quantity of gas having been sold than in any previous year. This was largely due to the prolonged spell of cold weather which we had at the beginning of 1929.

There was an actual increase in sales of gas over the previous year of 4½ per cent., representing a quantity of over 2,000,000,000 cubic feet, and we had a record day's output on February 15th of over 240,000,000 cubic feet. I am glad to say that, notwithstanding the abnormal demand, we were able to give a satisfactory supply of gas during the whole period.

You will see that the revenue from gas went up by £292,000; and rentals of meters, stoves, and automatic fittings increased by £65,000. The only weak spot on that side of the account is to be found in residuals. Although coke gave us an increased revenue of £67,000, the other products fell away by over £134,000, tar and its products accounting for the bulk of this. The fall in the tar receipts is a very serious matter for the company, and one which is receiving our most careful consideration.

To summarise, the net result of the year's working is that, after paying the full statutory dividend for the June half-year and contributing £50,000 to the special purposes fund, there remains a balance of £815,000, out of which we are enabled to declare the usual dividends on the Four per Cent. Consolidated Preference stock and the Three and a Half per Cent. Maximum stock, and the statutory dividend of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock. This, together with the contribution of £20,000 payable in respect of the redemption fund, will absorb £670,000, and leave £145,000 to be carried forward to the credit of the current year's accounts—a slight decrease on the amount brought forward from the year 1928.

NEW TYPES OF CARBONISING PLANT.

We have put in hand the installation of coke ovens, to which I referred last year. The order for the plant was placed last July with Messrs Koppers, of Sheffield, and it should be working in two years' time. The ovens will carbonise 1,200 tons of coal per day, and will embody in their construction all that is best in coke-oven practice. The plant is being erected at Beckton, and it is being so laid down that, should experience show that further installations are desirable, extensions can readily be undertaken. Other makes of carbonising plant are also receiving every attention; last month we put into operation a large installation of continuous vertical retorts, and we shall shortly have several benches of intermittent verticals at work. The policy of the board ensures that new types of plant, as they are proved capable of reducing manufacturing costs, are quickly adopted, and in this way the whole plant of the company is maintained in a highly efficient state.

WATERLESS GASHOLDERS.

The gasholders of the waterless type which we first brought into use last year have given every satisfaction; they worked through the very severe weather last February without giving any trouble. The largest we have ordered is the one that has just been completed at Southall. It has a capacity of 8,000,000 cubic feet and is 300 feet high. I was much attracted by the appearance of a 15,000,000 waterless holder in New York, and we are adopting a similar style of painting for this new holder at Southall. We hope to make what is undoubtedly a fine engineering structure also pleasing to the view.

"GLOCO"—A NEW SOLID SMOKELESS FUEL.

The low temperature plant at Richmond was put into action last March, and since then has worked continuously. The smokeless fuel produced has been placed on the market under the name of "Gloco." It lights very easily, burns freely, and gives a bright and cheerful fire. We have received many letters expressing appreciation of its qualities as a fuel, over 8,000 tons having been sold. To keep the plant working at full capacity 3,000 tons have to be sold every month. We are, therefore, hoping that a greater number of those who still prefer open fires will take advantage of the opportunity that is now afforded them of using a fuel which will give the warmth and comfort they desire, without distributing smoke and soot.

The tar oils obtained in the process have not proved so valuable or so marketable as was anticipated, and our research departments are giving serious consideration to this side of the problem.

It is too early yet to say much about the commercial value of the process, but I think I might say that, so far as gas making is concerned, we have formed a not very favourable opinion of the low temperature process as compared with the high temperature processes usually adopted by gas undertakings. On this matter, however, a full report will be made later on.

I am glad to say that our research laboratories at Fulham, Watson House, and elsewhere, are very actively engaged on investigating the many problems which arise with regard to the manufacture and use of gas and residuals, and they are helping the company very materially in their solution.

EDUCATION FOR BUSINESS.

In view of all that is being said just now about education for business, I am sure you will be glad to know that we are taking active steps to encourage our employees of all ranks to secure the best possible technical training and general education. (Cheers.) No less than two thousand of them, of all ages, are now receiving help and advice as to suitable courses of instruction at technical colleges and other institutes providing evening classes. We believe that the keenness shown is symbolic of the live spirit animating all the officers and men of the company from the highest to the lowest, and I am sure you will agree that the training provided will be a great help to the company, not only now, but in the future, by ensuring that we have growing up a class of fully-trained and qualified men.

HELPING TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT.

As you are all aware, the Government, in an attempt to deal with the unemployment problem, undertook to make a grant towards the cost of raising money for schemes approved by them which could be put in hand immediately, instead of having to follow a normal course and be dealt with as time and circumstances permitted. The company, with the object of rendering as much assistance as possible in this direction, put forward certain schemes for consideration in connection with work which would have to be undertaken, not immediately but in the future, and three of them were accepted.

The work is now in hand, and consists of the erection of gasholders at Harrow, Battersea, and Beckton, a number of new mains, and the installation of plants at practically all our works for the extraction of moisture from the gas before it leaves the works. For a period of years, according to the particular circumstances of each description of work, the company will receive a grant to cover the interest on the money so expended.

AMALGAMATIONS.

The amalgamation of the Grays and Tilbury and Pinner Gas Companies became an accomplished fact on January 1st. These two amalgamations, while not immediately adding much to our gas output, provide us with a large new area which, combined with our present area, extends from Windsor to the outskirts of Southend-on-Sea—with the exception of one small intervening space which is supplied by the Romford Gas Company—a distance of sixty miles, and increase the territory of the Gas Light and Coke Company from 265 to 459 square miles.

While on this subject, I should just like to say a word of welcome to our new director, Mr Fooks, who joined the board on the amalgamation with the Grays and Tilbury Gas Company. I am sure that we shall find him a very useful and agreeable colleague. (Cheers.) I am glad to say that the amalgamations have started very happily, and I feel sure that the employees of the two companies that have come over to us will soon settle down and find themselves comfortable in their new surroundings, as I am glad to say has been the experience of the officers and men who have come to us from other companies previously amalgamated.

CAPITAL POWERS.

The authorised capital of the company will now be over £40,000,000, of which all but some £3,000,000 has been issued. Under the provisions of our Act of 1926 the borrowing powers of the company were fixed at a sum which was equal to one-half of the share capital then existing. By the Gas Undertakings Act of 1929 the company may borrow up to half of the aggregate amount of the paid-up share capital for the time being, including any premiums paid in respect thereof. The effect of this will be to give the company further borrowing powers in respect of premiums paid on the share capital.

The Gas Undertakings Act, 1929, which was passed by the late Government, will be of considerable advantage to the gas industry generally, though there is still need for further legislation before the industry can be regarded as being in a position to meet modern business requirements. It is hoped that before very long, though it cannot be looked for this session, legislation will be introduced to enable the industry to develop on a proper business basis.

HOLBORN EXPLOSION.

You will remember that the last time I addressed you I briefly referred to the Holborn explosion, which had only just occurred. We thought it well, in view of the Commission's findings, to get into touch with the Post Office. After some negotiation it was agreed that the company and the Post Office should each bear half the cost of compensation to third parties. I am glad to say that already a very large number of claims have been settled, the cost of which is included in the sum of £35,000 already referred to. There are some claims yet to be settled, and naturally there will be something more to add to the cost, but I am sure you will be relieved to know that the loss, though a grievous one, is not calculated to hurt the company seriously.

With regard to the future prospects of the company, I may say that we are every day increasing the outlets for the sale of gas by the installation of large numbers of appliances, and, providing a winter is not unusually mild, as this one has so far been, we shall in due course reap the reward.

THE COAL BILL.

The question which is causing us the most anxiety at the present moment is the Government Coal Mines Bill. I have on more than one occasion called attention to the vices inherent in Part I of this bill, but it is a matter of such grave importance to our industry and to the country that I have no hesitation in referring again to this measure at some length. The gas industry is largely—indeed, almost entirely—dependent upon coal for the manufacture of gas. It is true that oil in considerable quantities is purchased for carburetting water gas, but in the year 1928, to take the latest figures that are available, carburetted water gas only amounted to, say, 15 per cent. of the total gas manufactured in this country. You will see, therefore, how vitally important is the question of coal supplies and coal prices to the industry.

The accusation is levelled against us that we, as an industry, are paying an unfair price for our coal, but it needs no lengthy argument to show that this accusation is without foundation. Gas coal, like any other coal, is bought in the open market, and the prices paid are the market prices. If anybody is to blame, it is not the buyers, but the sellers, for selling coal at an unremunerative price. It is quite impossible for the buyer to be both buyer and seller. How can a buyer of coal, having come to agreement upon price with a colliery, go to his board and say "I have bought coal at "x" shillings, but I find that this is not a remunerative price for the colliery, and I therefore propose to pay more."

A MONOPOLISTIC TRUST.

It is not, however, as we all know, the selling price of coal that has induced the Government to introduce the Coal Mines Bill. It is their decision to shorten the miners' hours of work which has forced them, as wages are not to be reduced, to placate the coal-owners by enabling the latter to obtain higher prices for their coal. To achieve this result the Government are, in effect, forcing the coal industry to convert itself into a monopolistic trust, and have so framed the measure that no effective control over the owners, nor any real safeguard for the consumer, can be devised.

When I spoke the other day protesting against this bill, I was attacked by a colliery owner, who said that I ought to have known better. I ought not, he stated, to have attacked the bill because the gas industry, which I represent, was itself really a trust. Such a statement is entirely misleading. There is no comparison between the statutory position of the gas industry and that proposed under the Government Bill for the mining industry. The gas industry is strictly limited as to the dividends it can distribute. As you know, under the sliding scale, if we increase the price of gas we must decrease the dividend. This altogether prevents the exploitation of the public by gas undertakings.

BUYER DEFENCELESS.

Such check, however, is wholly lacking in the coal trust proposals, and the public is, to all intents and purposes, left defenceless. That is the crux of the whole matter; the gas industry is so controlled that it cannot abuse its powers; the coal industry is to be enabled to take advantage of a statutory monopoly to squeeze high prices from coal users, free from any restrictions as to the dividends it can pay, and without any guarantee that the extra money it is taking from coal consumers will be applied in making the industry more efficient.

In the past Governments have always looked with suspicion on trusts, and have endeavoured to put a check on their operations. Here we have the spectacle of a Government deliberately setting up a trust, and at the same time making no provisions—or, at any rate, no adequate provision—for ensuring that the trust does not abuse its power.

DIFFERENTIAL INJUSTICE TO GAS.

This trustification will adversely affect all coal consumers in this country—domestic and industrial—but the gas industry most of all. The spokesman both of the Government and of the coal industry have unequivocally stated that the gas industry must pay more for its coal. Part I of the bill enables the coalowners to levy taxation upon any section of the community, not merely for the purpose of recouping the coal industry for the increased costs of production due to shortened hours, but also for subsidising the export of coal. But the matter does not end there, for the coal-owners can weight the scales in favour of their own fuels (household coal and coke-oven coke) as against our fuels (gas and gas-works' coke).

Part I of the bill is both bad and unfair. It will increase the cost of living. It will prejudice the manufacture of British-made goods by supplying foreign rivals with cheaper coal. It permits the coalowners to impose indirect taxation upon such classes of the community as they think fit. The coal industry, the foreign manufacturer, and the oil companies alone will reap the benefit.

There are 36,000,000 people enjoying the benefit of gas in this country. There are some 113,000 persons directly employed by the gas industry, and immense numbers indirectly employed. These are heavy responsibilities, and I have no hesitation in saying that, faced as we are with this partisan measure, it is the bounden duty of one and all to leave no stone unturned to ensure the rejection *in toto* of Part I of this bill. (Hear, hear.)

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

TIMOTHY WHITES (1928), LIMITED.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the holders of the 7½ per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares in Timothy Whites (1928), Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, London, for the purpose of considering a resolution increasing the capital of the company from £1,500,000 to £2,000,000 by the creation of 476,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 480,000 deferred ordinary shares of 1s. each.

Mr Philip E. Hill (the chairman), who presided, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—My letter of the 31st ultimo, I hope, fully explains the objects of this meeting. Since I have the pleasure of meeting you in October last, events, insofar as they relate to the acquisition of additional properties and development generally, have progressed much more rapidly than I had anticipated they would do, and we have been able to make a considerable number of advantageous purchases, possibly influenced by the restriction of credit and the temporary shortage of money. However, I am sure you will agree that, when favourable opportunity presents itself, the advantage should be taken.

CONTEMPLATED DEVELOPMENTS.

The expansion we have contracted for and contemplate up to the end of the company's financial year in July next will utilise a sum of approximately £500,000. The issue we are now proposing will produce about £535,000.

Further developments will probably be financed by the creation of mortgages on the property owned by the Property Company, and I am hoping that, when the time for that arrives, it will be possible to obtain such mortgages at a very much cheaper rate than those prevailing at the present time.

It is proposed to issue the preference shares at 20s. 6d. and the deferred shares at 2s., and any portion of the proposed capital not applied for by the shareholders will be taken by the directors and their friends. The form of application for shares will be posted on Wednesday.

The resolution was unanimously approved, and, at an extraordinary general meeting of the company, a similar resolution was also unanimously approved.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY.

MORE CONSUMERS—INCREASED SALES OF GAS.

DR. CARPENTER ON THE COAL PROBLEM.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Metropolitan Gas Company was held on the 12th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Dr. Charles Carpenter, D.Sc., M.Inst.C.E. (the President), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The first paragraph of the report informs you of the progress made during the past year in the number of our consumers and in our sales of gas. I ought to say at once, however, that there is no co-relation between the two sets of figures. The increase in the number of consumers has been almost entirely the result of building activities in the south-east area of our district, where new estates are being laid out on land which was until recently pasture with some tillage. Of these new houses, some 3,500 were comprised in the schemes of public housing authorities, the remainder being constructed by private enterprise.

It will be remembered that in laying out these estates a much larger area of vacant land per unit of inhabitant is taken than that ruling generally all over London, and it must follow that the cost of providing roads, sewers, water and gas is proportionately increased. In this respect, therefore, we cannot hope that our new consumers will be as profitable to us as our older ones, since the capital costs for mains and services per therm sold must be perforce higher. I might, in passing, remind you that the opposite policy is operating in Central London, where so many houses, each occupied by one family, are being pulled down to make place for blocks of flats.

LOW TEMPERATURE CARBONISATION.

This will, perhaps, be a convenient stage for me to refer to what we are doing in the matter of low-temperature carbonisation. As regards the "coalite" plant, the contractors are well forward with the construction of this; the retorts have been delivered, and the late summer should see the completion of the work in anticipation of next winter's requirements. As regards what is known as the K. S. G. Plant, there have been certain mechanical troubles arising in the operation of this which were rather disturbing. We have carbonised about 2,300 tons of coal in the apparatus, and the yields therefrom have been promising. I can, indeed, go so far as to say in regard to most of the low-temperature carbonising schemes that, simply as processes, there appears no reason why they should not be successful. But whether they can be operated as economic successes is not yet clear. Much will depend upon the utilisation of the tars produced by the process.

With regard to our other primary products, ammonia, which once figured so largely in our revenue account, only brought us in the relatively small amount stated. The market for tar reached bottom during the year, and there are now signs that a reaction, though slight, has set in.

Two years ago you authorised an application to Parliament for an increase of our capital powers. The Bills duly became law, but owing to an oversight a year ago you were not asked to authorise the issue of that capital as and when required. That omission you are now asked to rectify, as the time is approaching when an issue will have to be made.

The recommended dividend on the year's working is the modest one of 6½ per cent. The amount added to the 5 per cent. allowed on our ordinary capital under the basic rate arrangement is in round figures £83,874, and a similar amount is therefore automatically paid over to the trustees of the co-partnership fund. It is also proposed to replace to the extent of £30,000 our recent drawings upon the special purposes fund for meeting extra charges in respect of purifier and gas-holder repairs, and our endeavour will be to build up this fund as soon as possible more nearly to the limits prescribed and contemplated by our Acts.

THE MOST SERIOUS MATTER—COAL.

I have so far left untouched the most serious of all the matters with which we are face to face to-day. The late Lord Oxford aptly described coal as the "life blood" of the nation, and that is especially true of that part of the nation comprised by the gas industry. Of the 245 millions of tons raised in this country, it uses but 16½ millions, a disproportion which constitutes a great handicap in making its voice heard effectively compared with the organisation which speaks for practically all the proprietors of collieries on the one hand, or the union which voices the aspirations of all the employees in them on the other. No reference to the coal question would be complete without including that of hours, and I must say a word or two with regard to that before I come to the most important part of the subject to which I desire to direct your attention this afternoon. The primary duty of a trade union, the one that comes first and foremost before all others, is the finding of, and the maintenance of its members in, employment; that necessity is ever paramount in its leaders' minds, and no one can wonder, least of all those who have had to face the spectre of unemployment, even with the relief given to-day by mutual insurance, that the avoidance of unemployment and the provision of regular work is the direction towards which their leaders first look for the amelioration of their members' status.

REDUCTION IN MINERS' HOURS.

Of all methods of achieving this none is more popular with them than the reduction of hours. It is so simple a process. Assume there is available work to be carried out which needs, say, forty thousand hours' work in one month. With a normal working of fifty hours per week, work would be available for 200 men. But 220 could be employed if the week were reduced to one of forty-five hours. Little fault could be found with such a policy directed towards a seven-and-a-half or even a seven-hour day for the coal industry if other nations followed suit, and that of course depends on how far labour discussions in Geneva crystallise into accomplished facts. As a buyer of coal, therefore, I am not greatly concerned in the matter of miners' hours, always provided their relationship is recognised to those current in other coal-producing countries. No one who knows anything about a miner's life can fail to be sympathetic with him in his endeavours to minimise its disabilities.

MARKETING SIDE.

I pass now to the marketing side of coal. It has been seriously suggested, and I say seriously because I understand the view has been accepted in Government circles, that—I quote letters in the Press of two or three weeks since—"Gas producers have been using coal under cost for many years past owing to the foolish competition of gas coal pits," and again, "It is now well known to the majority of the public that for some years past gas companies have obtained supplies of fuel at prices very much lower than the cost of production." And again, "Gas companies are stated to have formed buying rings by which they have played off one colliery against another." Finally, the President of the Board of Trade is reported to have stated that "all parties recognised that they could not continue to sell coal to public utility enterprises like gas, electricity, railways, &c., either at a loss or at an unremunerative level." So far as London is concerned those statements are ill-founded. I have been closely associated for the past twenty-five years with the purchase of the gas coal required by this company, and I can unhesitatingly say it has never been a member of any buying ring or other like organisation. It has always bargained separately and independently for its supplies of coal.

QUESTION OF A FAIR PRICE.

But it is said of us, "You have not paid a fair price for your coal." What is a fair price, and how can it be tested? We have gone, through our agent, on to the Coal Exchange and paid within a few pence of the price we were asked, after, of course, the bargaining inseparable from all such matters. Some twenty-five years or so ago we interested ourselves in the output of a new colliery in Durham, the district from which we mainly draw our supplies. We as users worked sympathetically with them as producers in their efforts to turn out coal suitable for gas production, and we have been customers of that colliery ever since. A few weeks ago it declared a dividend of 7½ per cent. Does that support the suggestion that we have bought under the cost of production?

I have been associated for some sixteen years with a company engaged in the supply of gas to some important cities on the Continent. The prices it has paid for Durham coal have been on the whole easier rather than harder as compared with London purchases. Is it suggested that this undertaking, too, has been paying less than the cost of production for its coal supplies abroad? Finally, let me quote the statement placed before the Samuel Commission on behalf of the coke-oven owners to the effect that the average price at which coal was delivered, including carriage to coke ovens, for the period January 1 to October 31, 1925, was eleven shillings and sixpence per ton. To make the comparison on all fours, the cost of leadage, averaging about another shilling, should be added. But the difference remains sufficiently startling. During the same period the cost of our own supplies delivered at the port of shipment was eighteen shillings and elevenpence. It is no business of mine if a colliery undertaking forms a subsidiary company to erect and work coke ovens, but I have cause for complaint if it supplies that company with coal at a price below the market value and desires to make up the difference by charging me more.

The report and accounts were adopted, the creation and issue of further stock was approved, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the president, directors and staff.

WANDSWORTH, WIMBLEDON AND EPSOM DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND SUCCESS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Wandsworth, Wimbledon and Epsom District Gas Company was held, on the 11th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr Frank H. Jones (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The secretary (Mr W. H. Cromarty, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: It has been a year of some progress and, I think I can say, of some success. To add nearly 3,000 new customers to our 91,000 existing on January 1, 1929; to have a 4½ per cent. increase in the sale of gas during the year; to have an additional 6,600 appliances of different kinds using gas, and to have laid over twenty miles of mains I hope will satisfy you that your staff are doing their work efficiently and well.

The Bill giving the company further powers, about which I told you at this time last year, is now an Act of Parliament, and I am glad to say that during its travel from our extraordinary meeting last February until it received the Royal Assent in the summer, there was practically no alteration in it. That was very gratifying to all of us who were responsible for its inception. From January 1st this year the sliding scale ceases to govern our selling price and dividends. A basic price and tripartite division of profits is to be made. The new system should add to the prosperity of the company. The consumer, the stockholder and the worker are each very closely interested in the economical working of the undertaking, and the system encourages economy and efficiency much more than the old sliding scale did.

The report mentions the reason for our extraordinary general meeting which is to follow this meeting. At that meeting you will have explained to you, and will be asked to sanction, an amalgamation between this company and the Kingston-on-Thames Gas Company. If you are satisfied and approve the agreement which we have made with our neighbour, it will have two definite advantages, of which, indeed, I think there are several. The consumers of gas in the Kingston area will at once get a reduction in the price of gas, and I hope and believe that the addition of this new business will help to cheapen the cost of the production of gas in the whole area.

POINTS FROM THE ACCOUNTS.

As usual, I do not propose to go through the figures in the accounts in great detail, but there are just a few salient points which I will mention. No capital has been raised during the past year. A net £88,913 has been added to capital expended. The gross expenditure during the year was £812,000, against £821,000 last year. Receipts for gas are up, but the receipts for rentals of stoves, meters, etc., are down, owing to certain adjustments of charges which we have made. Our charges for the hire of meters and stoves have sometimes been criticised, but we have always watched them very carefully, and I am not prepared to criticise the charges made by our neighbours. We have made certain reductions and we have brought all our various apparatus into line, so that like is charged for like. Our charges to-day may appear to be somewhat higher than those of some companies, but, as we see it, we cannot charge less, because we have to pay interest on capital and we have to pay for repairs and many other things.

Now we come to the bad point. Our residuals are down by £22,000, and that is the only thing that worried me when I first saw the figures. If we had not had that £22,000 drop we should have had a wonderful balance sheet. I am glad to say that some of our residuals are doing better this year.

You will see that we have got to take something over £13,000 out of the carry-forward in order to pay the full dividend. Selling gas as cheaply as we do, it is impossible to estimate exactly year by year what the exact figure will be, but I should like to tell you what has happened during the past four years. Twice we have had a surplus—that is, we have made more profits than we wanted for all our capital charges—and twice we have had a deficit, but during those four years £140,000 odd has been written off for depreciation, £38,000 has been added to the special purposes fund, bringing it from under £2,000 to £39,000, and the carry-forward to this year's account is £16,700 as against, four years ago, £7,687. That, ladies and gentlemen, explains why we cannot always be exact. The cheaper your gas is, the less you have to play with.

You must remember that we are in a more difficult position than most companies because very nearly half of the gas sold by this company is sold 1d. per therm more cheaply than that of any of our neighbours.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting resolutions were unanimously passed approving the amalgamation with the Kingston-on-Thames Company.

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO.

A VERY SATISFACTORY YEAR.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the San Francisco Mines of Mexico, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, K.C.V.O., presiding.

Mr J. H. Jennings, F.C.I.S., on behalf of the secretaries (Union Corporation, Ltd.), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: As we figure it, we were favoured to the extent of about 2 per cent. by metal prices. The ore milled rose only from 300,010 to 307,450 tons, but our total revenue rose from £650,084 to £709,198, and our operating profit from £366,316 to £415,267, owing principally to improved terms for our lead concentrates, and higher recovery of metals. Charges were rather smaller at £81,678, against £83,186, resulting in a net profit of £333,589, against £278,130. In view of the considerable amount of capital expenditure which is in prospect, it was considered prudent to maintain the dividend for the year at 3s. 9d. per share instead of increasing it. There is an undivided surplus of £47,305, which results in the amount carried forward being increased from £125,260 to £172,565. On the whole, we have had a very satisfactory year.

CONTINUED SHORTAGE OF RAINS.

The fears expressed at the last annual meeting as to the effect of a continued failure of rains were unfortunately justified, and in anticipation of the position we set about the erection of the second-hand thermo-electric plant to which I then referred. The power supply company is erecting a thermo-electric plant at Torreon to augment the hydro-electric energy available, and we are now considering whether it is better to contract for a supplementary supply or to add to our own thermal plant. It is clear that we cannot depend upon hydro-electric energy for the further expansion of our business.

The results for the first four months of the current financial year have been disappointing. Owing to the power shortage, which was exceptionally felt in October and November, the ore milled for the period was 94,010 tons, as against 103,000 tons in the corresponding period of the previous year, and the operating profit fell to $295,000, as compared with $635,000 for the corresponding period. This was due not merely to the diminished power, but also to the drop in metal prices.

"A LONG AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE."

The combined blocked-out and partly blocked-out ore reserves, totalling 1,894,500 tons, show practically no increase for the year, this being due to the lack of power. Fortunately the condition of affairs in regard to stoping faces is now so good that the rate of development may temporarily be safely reduced, and, in fact, there is no longer the necessity to spend so much on development, as the ore reserve position, although actually representing over six years for the present mill, is very much stronger than the bare figures would indicate. In the past, the San Francisco Vein south of the North Shaft has been the backbone of the mine, but the other veins that have been opened up are increasingly showing their influence, so that while 58 per cent. of the reserves now apply to the San Fancisco Vein and 14½ per cent. to the Footwall Vein, the remaining 27½ per cent. applies to other reefs such as the Madrones, Brown, and Bronces. The development of the Brown Vein at the 7th Level has been the feature of recent work. I think we can be satisfied that the San Francisco mine, laterally and in depth, continues to give us every encouragement to assume a long and prosperous future.

In view of this strong position it is intended to increase the mill from a capacity of 300,000 to 500,000 tons per annum, and preliminary work with this in view is now in hand. The additional capacity can deal with either sulphide or oxdised ores, as the conditions may dictate. We have a considerable quantity of oxidised ore which such an enlarged mill could treat without interfering with the metallurgy of our sulphide ore. The oxidised ore amounts, so far as our calculated ore reserves go, to 332,000 tons in the San Francisco Mine, but, including the portions of that mine which are at present inaccessible and the newly-worked vein from which the oxidised portions have not yet been removed, the quantity should be considerably greater. There are, in addition, important reserves in the Clarines Mine. When we proceed with this extension of the plant it will not be possible to fully utilise it from the outset, as it is essential to reorganise and enlarge the transport arrangements from the mines, but the increased capacity available will at any rate enable us, in the meantime, to improve our metallurgy, even apart from the treating of additional tonnage.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BRITISH AND HUNGARIAN BANK, LIMITED, BUDAPEST.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

INCREASED PROFIT.

The final accounts have been stated in the meeting of the board of directors, February 8, 1930.

The following are the main balance-sheet items as of December 31, 1929. The respective figures for 1928 are quoted in parenthesis :—

PROFITS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Gross profits, P. 8,150,089.66 (P. 7,287,211.26); net profits, P. 3,482,618.92 (P. 3,477,339.46).

As last year, 14 per cent. dividend will be paid therefrom, *i.e.*, P. 7 per share, being altogether P. 2,520,000. The new shares will be entitled to dividend only from 1930 on.

Allocations :—To reserve fund, P. 250,000 (P. 250,000); to clerks' pension fund and pension reserve fund, P. 325,000 (P. 300,000). Balance carried forward to 1930, P. 172,161 (P. 164,225). Several hundred thousand pengó more taxes have been paid than the year before.

BALANCE SHEET.

Own capital, P. 40 million (P. 31.5 million). Deposits and creditors, P. 132 million (P. 121 million). Own dollar and pound sterling mortgage bonds outstanding, P. 11.3 million (P. 11.4 million). Cash in hand, P. 12.4 million (P. 7.5 million). Bills, P. 63 million (P. 61.3 million). Bills discounted, P. 315 million (P. 285.1 million). Advances on securities quoted on the Stock Exchange and on produce, P. 7.1 million (P. 8.7 million). Debtors, P. 65.1 million (P. 53.6 million). Sinking fund mortgage loans, P. 12.6 million (P. 12.7 million). Total of balance, P.196.3 million (P. 173.3 million).

PROPOSED ABSORPTION OF THE ANGLO-INTERNATIONAL BANK OF BUDAPEST.

During the same meeting the board of directors decided to submit to the annual ordinary general meeting a proposal concerning absorption of the Anglo-International Bank, Ltd., Budapest, by the British and Hungarian Bank, Ltd. Further, the board of directors will propose that, as a delegate of the Anglo-International Bank, Ltd., London, the managing director of that institution, H.E. Peter Bark, G.C.V.O., late Minister of Finance of the Russian Empire under the Tsar, be elected a new member of the board of directors.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended February 8, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS	£
Supply Services	10,114	From Revenue	32,810
Interest, &c., on Debt	3,419	Decrease in Balances	15
Sinking Fund	495		
Sundries	298		
Decrease in Debt	18,499		
	32,825		32,825

162 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.417,000,000.

TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/28): Fmk.2,934,742,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £32,809,600, as compared with £31,047,600 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was higher at £20,096,000, against £18,469,000, but super-tax was lower at £3,510,000, against £4,160,000. Customs and Excise were lower at £2,159,000 and £1,077,000, against £2,293,000 and £1,179,000 respectively. Ordinary receipts brought in £35,900, as compared with £42,600, while special receipts amounted to £2,630,000, against £1,959,000. The National Debt was reduced by £18,499,300, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
5% Conversion Loan	+ 5,817	Treasury Bills	— 20,210
Sundries	+ 15	National Savings Certificates	— 50
		Public Dept. Advances	— 3,500
		Treasury Bonds	— 571
	+ 5,832		— 24,331

The Floating Debt was reduced by £23,705,000 to £741,640,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO FEBRUARY 8.

	£		£
Expenditure	663,545,738	Revenue	550,443,970
		Decreases in balance	3,562,326
		Amount borrowed	109,539,442
	663,545,738		663,545,738

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Feb. 8 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	232
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	586
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	698
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	43
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,623
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,733

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Feb. 9, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Feb. 8, '30.	Movement Week ended Feb. 8, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	17,640,000	37,050,000	42,930,000	— 3,500,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	791,190,000	700,295,000	698,710,000*	— 20,205,000
Total Floating Debt	808,830,000	737,345,000	741,640,000	— 23,705,000

* Includes £28,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on February 7, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £47,105,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 1s. 0d., about 65 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday, at £99 1s. 3d., and above in full; Wednesday to Saturday, at £99 1s. 0d., about 65 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £26,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Dec. 6	45,000,000	51,465,000	4 15 11·74
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 8, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 9, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 8, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 9, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	145,640,000	144,971,000	20,096,000	18,469,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	30,290,000	32,580,000	3,510,000	4,160,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	68,110,000	67,400,000	1,640,000	1,170,000
Stamps	31,000,000	19,420,000	23,620,000	550,000	720,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	640,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	450,000	400,000	80,000	70,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	263,920,000	269,611,000	25,876,000	24,589,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	102,761,000	102,467,000	2,159,000	2,293,000
Excise	130,550,000	109,600,000	116,090,000	1,077,000	1,179,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	212,361,000	218,557,000	3,236,000	3,472,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,396,468	3,949,067	60,000	85,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	11,900,000	11,500,000	900,000	900,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,190,000	1,120,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,415,374	21,880,092	71,675	...
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,697,615	12,424,374	35,939	42,642
Special Receipts	26,000,000	22,563,513	35,760,746	2,630,000	1,959,000
otal Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	550,443,970	574,802,279	32,809,614	31,047,642
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	48,100,000	46,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,380,532	20,651,933	297,000	425,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	69,480,532	67,151,933	1,297,000	1,425,000
Total		619,924,502	641,954,212	34,106,614	32,472,642
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,790,000	774,432	2,750,000	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		5,600,000	9,990,000	290,000	310,000
(*c*) For other Issues :					
By Treasury Bills		2,650,204,000	2,388,008,000	45,090,000	69,620,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64		153,317,590	...	5,817,310	...
By National Savings Certificates		34,450,000	34,650,000	850,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34		26,300,972	18,910,000	...	200,000
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances		617,240,000	532,630,000	10,150,000	4,215,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares		4,899	5,733	4,899	5,733
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		129,672	132,325	9,618	...
		4,121,989,552	3,732,169,977	99,068,441	107823375

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1929. £	1928. £			
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112			
Total			6,252,524	6,322,625	... ...
			4,128,242,076	3,738,492,602	99,068,441 107823375

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Feb. 8, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Feb. 9, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 8, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 9, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	300,068,424	299,278,613	3,419,046	3,320,530
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	8,245,313	9,595,233	...	409,193
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,248,162	3,861,415	297,619	272,381
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,636,783	2,201,979	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	372,945,000	308,339,278	289,353,906	10,114,000	6,646,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	623,537,960	604,291,146	13,830,665	10,648,104
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	40,007,778	47,699,342	495,000	620,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	48,100,000	46,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,380,532	20,651,933	297,000	425,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	69,480,532	67,151,933	1,297,000	1,425,000
TOTAL		733,026,270	719,142,421	15,622,665	12,693,104

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Feb. 8, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Feb. 9, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 8, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Feb. 9, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	5,600,000	9,990,000	290,000	310,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	8,600,000	8,650,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28	4,790,000	774,432	2,750,000	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed				
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	2,651,755,000	2,123,835,000	65,300,000	59,365,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	38,600,000	35,450,000	900,000	750,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off	15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	127,606,504	...	3,948,013
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	43,980,623	25,990,787	571,118	90,787
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	611,360,000	676,840,000	13,650,000	30,535,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—				
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000	...	...
	4,125,551,878	3,735,486,122	99,083,783	107691904

Balances in Exchequer—	Feb. 8, 1930. £	Feb. 9, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,008,579	1,988,873	...	— 228,342	— 79,528
Bank of Ireland	681,619	1,017,607	2,690,198	3,006,480	+ 213,000 + 210,999
Total			4,128,242,076	3,738,492,602	— 15,342 + 131,471

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, February 12, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	348,003,176	Other Government Securities	233,598,596
In Banking Department	62,933,375	Other Securities	10,924,838
		Silver Coin	4,461,466
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	150,936,551
	£410,936,551		£410,936,551

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	44,711,563
Rest	3,626,235	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	17,937,246	Discounts and Advances £7,963,260	
Other Deposits—		Securities 14,513,308	
Bankers £59,083,652			22,476,568
Other Accounts 35,481,738		Notes	62,933,375
	94,565,390	Gold and Silver Coin	562,668
7-Day and other Bills	2,303		
	£130,684,174		£130,684,174

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Feb. 12, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	348,003,176	— 687,245	— 4,694,830
Public deposits	17,937,246	— 5,356,927	— 1,698,433
Bankers' deposits	59,083,652	+ 4,833,478	+ 883,775
Other deposits	35,481,738	— 745,163	+ 955,818
Seven-day bills	2,303	— 67	— 2,394
Total, outside liabilities	460,508,115	— 1,955,924	— 6,467,700
Capital and rest	18,179,235	+ 19,227	— 9,397
Government debt and securities	289,325,259	— 5,185,648	— 4,076,594
Discounts and advances	7,963,260	+ 2,360,563	— 2,483,389
Other securities	25,438,146	+ 599,034	— 740,149
Silver coin in issue department	4,461,466	+ 2,241	— 521,799
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	151,499,219	+ 287,113	+ 1,344,844
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	63,496,043	+ 974,358	+ 6,039,674
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	56¼%	+ 1¼%	+ 6¼%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	32½%	+ ⅛%	+ ⅝%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1929.	£	£	£	£	£		%
Dec.26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5 333,308 in	5
1930.							
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Dec. 26	244637515	10841360	146027587	29 13/16	67123618	22300076	17735120	26453746	22 7/8
1930.									
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746	25 11/16	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165	22 15/16
8	245098463	10431484	149214869	30 1/16	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097	36
15	245102958	10429647	150654341	31 1/16	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426	46 3/16
22	244665689	10855940	151288975	32 1/4	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435	51 1/16
29	244710035	10806329	150428168	32 1/4	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196	52 1/16
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106	32 3/16	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685	54 3/16
12	244613696	10924838	151499219	32 1/2	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043	56 1/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

1930.	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
January 1 to January 29	3,169,239	165,289	263,615	3,598,143
Week ended February 5	800,842	42,371	67,659	910,872
Week ended February 12	781,925	35,874	60,449	878,248
Total to date, 1930	4,752,006	243,534	391,723	5,387,263
Total to date, 1929	5,320,540	250,673	399,456	5,970,669
Increase or decrease in 1930	— 568,534	— 7,139	— 7,733	— 583,406
	= 10·7%	= 2·8%	= 1·9%	= 9 8%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1 3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month o. January. 1929.	Month o. January. 1930.	Month o. January. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to February 8. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to February 8. 1930.
Number of Working days	27	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,309,000	11,940,000	— 2·9	17,169,900	16,976,900
BRADFORD	5,172,000	4,559,000	— 11·8	...	...
BRISTOL	5,717,000	5,120,000	— 10·4	7,358,000	6,494,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	32,197,600	30,809,400
HULL	4,351,000	4,141,000	— 4·8	5,587,100	5,214,400
LEEDS	4,792,000	4,940,000	+ 3·0	6,473,200	6,267,000
LEICESTER	3,818,000	3,511,000	— 8·0	4,431,200	5,305,700
LIVERPOOL	38,762,000	31,981,000	— 17·4	51,720,700	43,620,100
MANCHESTER	59,045,000	54,405,000	— 7·8	73,312,400	70,860,600
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,217,000	6,057,000	— 2·5	8,556,800	8,300,000
NOTTINGHAM	2,993,000	2,999,000	+ 0·2	4,209,100	4,051,100
SHEFFIELD	4,552,000	4,454,000	— 2·1	6,590,401	6,075,984
Total	147,728,000	134,107,000	— 9·2	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Bank of Portugal appeared in the *Economist* of January 11; Egypt, Danzig and Canada in January 25; Spain in February 1; Denmark, Jugoslavia and Russia in February 8.

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

Resources.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,896,220	2,975,220	2,985,210	2,976,960	2,974,980
Total bills discounted	903,950	433,220	406,940	381,420	381,910
Bills bought in open market	391,060	298,390	258,470	295,790	276,080
Total U.S. Govt. securities	177,170	476,660	476,540	477,840	478,560
Total bills and securities	1,481,250	1,222,800	1,154,380	1,167,240	1,147,840
Total resources	5,143,940	5,202,160	5,062,532	5,079,760	5,112,970
Liabilities.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,659,780	1,739,240	1,701,900	1,683,480	1,682,440
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,372,620	2,359,800	2,307,950	2,338,850	2,307,660
Total deposits	2,421,580	2,414,980	2,369,010	2,389,300	2,388,870
Capital paid in and surplus	404,160	448,190	448,350	448,430	448,370
Total liabilities	5,143,540	5,202,160	5,062,530	5,079,760	5,112,970
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	69·8%	76·3%	78·3%	78·0%	77·9%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Feb. 14, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
Total bills discounted	252,690	89,650	65,100	54,720	79,300
Bills bought in open market	94,600	117,240	93,700	109,560	89,690
Total U.S. Govt securities	18,670	210,800	210,800	211,940	212,350
Total bills and securities	365,960	427,220	377,010	383,370	387,590
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	947,150	952,250	931,820	956,480	942,920
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	76·7%	73·0%	77·3%	76·5%	76·1%

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

Assets.	Jan. 18, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930	Jan.. 17, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	8,429	7,368	7,495	7,394	7,198	7,155
Subsidiary coin	102	88	87	81	94	103
Bills discounted	8,010	8,980	9,733	9,045	8,463	8,731
Investments	294	612	619	984	934	826
Liabilities.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,197	8,496	9,173	9,541	8,475	7,944
Government deposits	2,335	1,949	1,839	1,291	1,612	2,218
Bankers' deposits	4,807	4,883	4,755	4,907	4,679	5,198
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	53·1%	47·4%	45·0%	46·9%	47·0%	48·2%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 18, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.
Total securities	21,62,50	33,26,69	33,19,67	33,03,78	32,98,75	33,15,66
Loans	18,20,86	6,85,45	7,09,53	6,92,45	7,43,76	8,13,25
Cash credits	26,35,97	23,68,97	25,29,18	25,93,76	26,66,68	28,28,99
Inland bills	13,17,21	6,24,43	5,73,44	7,89,05	6,26,62	6,44,99
Foreign bills	18,37	34,79	29,54	37,58	38,99	41,92
Dead stock	2,82,35	2,83,69	2,83,18	2,72,83	2,80,00	2,79,88
Bal. with other banks	39,53	18,46	3,14	17,28	14,77	22,98
Cash	11,57,84	15,77,11	15,29,18	12,98,56	13,38,93	13,56,37
Liabilities.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	75,37,57	77,00,33	77,75,01	79,37,05	78,37,54	81,44,17
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	967	979	820	820	787	829
Advances in London	896	891	843	723	727	723
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	293	138	26	121	109	174

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 8, 1929.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold	34,018,098	42,736,925	42,830,671	42,921,007	42,931,049
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	12,302,943	7,046,119	6,995,667	6,983,711	6,978,660
Bills discounted	18,208,245	18,713,727	18,721,488	18,779,871	18,777,089
Commercial bills discounted at home	4,836,061	6,555,252	7,491,321	5,865,759	6,398,696
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,811,552	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545
Other advances	2,314,091	2,519,213	2,467,494	2,578,059	2,578,449
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,586,659	2,815,246	2,645,764	4,274,564	2,874,788
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	63,101,466	68,688,313	68,374,617	70,338,986	69,429,473
Public deposits	12,645,691	10,915,131	10,547,932	10,172,143	10,051,343
Private deposits	6,429,493	7,016,071	8,506,492	7,130,424	7,189,057
Other liabilities	2,143,175	2,583,519	2,375,909	2,413,963	2,521,402

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,729,111	2,286,459	2,297,050	2,325,941
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	140,295	399,849	397,094	393,837
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,707,182	1,807,138	2,052,835	1,959,967
Silver and other coin	119,634	160,053	136,186	138,328
Notes of other German banks	17,052	24,704	4,152	14,082
Advances	44,405	51,433	169,601	54,753
Investments	93,172	92,622	92,617	93,277
Other assets	469,409	580,386	606,014	502,744
Liabilities.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	319,608	319,608	319,608
Notes in circulation	4,236,122	3,952,553	4,653,242	4,380,954
Other daily maturing obligations	501,314	708,698	356,844	451,011
Other liabilities	140,428	298,996	303,067	208,568

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.
Gold	(b)	905,029	1,175,516	1,175,556	1,176,619	1,176,641
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	532,101	567,339	543,821	542,009	520,896
Silver and other coin		1,702	2,466	2,610	2,776	2,731
Securities	697,600	677,530	809,472	804,732	816,061	794,697
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,391,325	2,750,148	2,721,563	2,768,152	2,769,562
Current accounts	112,125	104,843	137,177	155,420	100,892	79,861

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30,1914.	Feb. 4, 1929.	Jan. 13, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 27, 1930.	Feb. 3, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,535	447,455	446,047	439,532	437,019
Silver	8,436	22,514	24,129	25,770	26,421	27,298
Home Bills discted.		59,426	72,648	63,093	59,313	52,204
Foreign Bills	153,504	205,657	219,271	219,143	217,117	211,308
Loans and advances in current acct.		108,348	94,175	82,712	81,513	112,414
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	808,052	845,978	797,972	786,778	824,025
Deposits	5,016	38,599	23,509	35,816	33,655	20,190

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May30,1914	Feb. 9, 1929.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb.1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,794	167,400	169,900	169,800	168,900
Silver	29,785	21,182				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	145,443	148,800	143,100	140,100	140,100
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	303,516	286,200	279,300	277,200	283,100
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	57,105	36,100	39,000	39,900	32,100

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. January, 1930.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
Assets.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	35,986	1,658	3,450	38,705	8,432	41,204	3,420	30,203	29,105	3,290	195,45
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	9,187	644	1,287	8,052	2,271	12,795	182	8,047	9,350	1,061	52,87
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,324	919	...	...	...	...	...	3,24
Money at call and short notice	24,881	2,624	3,527	29,805	5,831	19,435	4,290	22,795	27,786	3,205	144,17
Bills discounted	50,408	1,625	1,526	40,898	6,543	63,256	2,265	29,405	46,378	2,873	245,17
Investments	52,887	3,787	9,893	36,926	17,768	31,452	14,970	36,308	37,924	6,022	247,93
Advances to customers and other A/cs.	174,312	11,549	15,820	196,672	43,449	211,809	16,250	155,211	143,490	16,808	985,37
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,083	462	2,914	50,141	7,331	37,040	45	15,350	27,987	1,089	164,44
Bank premises account	5,863	372	695	7,006	2,206	10,218	799	6,090	5,095	981	39,32
Investments in affiliated banks	7,274	...	...	6,687	...	7,122	...	2,514	2,992	...	26,58
	382,881	22,721	39,112	417,216	94,750	434,331	42,221	305,923	330,107	35,329	2,104,59
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	10·75	8·18	10·02	11·34	10·57	11·12	9·05	11·11	10·26	10·48	10·82
Liabilities.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,433	1,500	9,479	9,320	1,875	73,495
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,508	13,433	1,455	9,479	9,320	1,000	59,975
Current, deposit and other A/cs.	334,690	20,259	34,397	341,259	79,735	370,425	37,785	271,615	283,472	31,365	1,805,002
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,083	462	2,914	50,141	7,331	37,040	45	15,350	27,987	1,089	164,442
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,436	...	8	...	1,466
Reduction of bank premises a/c.	...	...	211	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
	382,881	22,721	39,112	417,216	94,750	434,331	42,221	305,923	330,107	35,329	2,104,591

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,852	580,530	580,558	559,892	559,901
Silver	18,350	45,653	23,159	24,610	24,437	24,126
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	186,952	362,434	358,672	378,087	365,248
Discounts	...	146,010	107,192	98,813	93,308	92,343
Advances	103,000	63,603	51,844	43,979	42,185	41,976
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	802,682	851,326	830,299	889,946	849,171
Deposits	33,750	85,041	264,790	247,290	188,471	200,289

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930
Gold, coin and bullion	5,052,100	5,190,100	5,189,400	5,189,500	5,189,500
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,729,400	5,147,000	5,009,500	4,934,500	4,905,000
Other cash	170,200	197,500	201,100	202,500	207,700
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,581,200	4,318,400	3,998,500	3,838,500	3,592,800
Advances	1,229,500	1,800,700	1,096,700	876,100	1,120,100
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,102,800	896,900	896,900	851,400	803,700
Government securities	1,041,700	1,074,000	1,074,000	1,053,000	1,054,900
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	16,589,500	16,916,900	16,510,900	16,308,100	16,328,800
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,444,800	1,676,600	1,658,400	1,778,300	1,711,800
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·76%	54·71%	55·22%	55·06%	55·04%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 9, 1929.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold	235,610	244,446	244,383	244,240	244,129
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,140	22,140	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	162	157
Bills payable in Sweden†	214,861	211,557	178,784	184,841	165,054
" " abroad	58,907	128,146	125,938	123,158	120,180
Balance abroad	55,539	57,833	59,148	61,396	63,723
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	51,839	43,839	42,103	61,831	54,975
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	464,831	479,834	460,146	526,425	495,252
Government deposits	190,733	216,597	200,074	170,318	172,884
Private deposits	9,934	8,588	11,882	2,202	3,434

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,860	146,632	146,633	146,627
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	31,678	36,283	30,315	30,090
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,903	26,898	26,897
Discounts and loans	76,911	267,533	228,285	227,530	232,920
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	298,980	297,321	295,172	297,954
Deposits at sight	7,188	77,478	73,782	69,196	71,419

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	198,862	203,010	201,108	204,160	204,484
Other foreign exchange†	359,420	308,251	306,179	311,583	311,771
Bills discounted	143,936	230,763	188,031	237,621	208,628
Gov. Debt	116,069	108,604	108,604	108,604	108,558
Liabilities.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,281	9,283
Notes in circulation	906,060	903,701	854,095	980,693	910,634
Deposits	84,095	119,274	122,037	53,059	94,676

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö.

(000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,551	162,750	162,750	162,751	162,751
Drafts and notes	53,760	25,421	9,684	9,663	18,308
Silver coin and bullion	783	8,013	8,922	9,719	9,861
Inland bills, warrants and securities	315,413	295,229	271,416	263,539	293,406
Advances to the Treasury	97,181	87,506	87,506	87,506	87,506
Liabilities.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	392,525	440,505	399,188	380,766	476,247
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	270,177	111,940	114,610	120,993	62,578

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K.

(000's omitted).

Assets.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,001	1,261,441	1,261,547	1,261,575	1,261,694
Balance abroad and foreign currency	2,009,514	2,242,367	2,201,968	2,115,925	2,038,843
Discounts and advances	184,032	685,392	482,933	448,193	364,253
State notes debt balance	4,084,445	3,754,137	3,745,351	3,744,415	3,742,762
Other assets	945,993	1,242,116	973,346	849,184	689,759
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,115,338	7,264,748	6,577,120	6,271,592	6,922,998
Check account balances	561,673	1,163,803	1,324,368	1,356,873	406,634
Other liabilities	314,427	276,480	283,235	310,405	387,257

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 30, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	15,899,673	15,929,380	15,930,774	15,522,585	15,003,330
Commercial bills	8,954,176	8,974,874	8,850,413	8,691,552	8,555,050
State debt, advances to State, &c.	6,062,510	5,879,691	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	21,175,140	21,331,488	21,150,352	20,493,468	20,168,979
Other sight liabilities	10,072,540	9,882,920	9,389,321	9,634,882	9,399,410

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,499,021	1,559,061	1,559,646	1,561,664	1,564,464
Balances abroad and foreign currencies ...	2,990,057	1,191,448	1,028,485	924,205	874,975
Discounts and advances ...	1,344,985	1,362,147	1,284,562	1,246,468	1,226,549
Advances to the Treasury..	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up ...	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves ...	1,164,427	1,231,216	1,241,049	1,241,415	1,245,642
Bank notes in circulation ..	3,897,683	3,699,125	3,510,206	3,401,316	3,260,361
Sight liabilities ...	3,398,975	1,872,392	1,814,910	1,859,855	1,886,480
Deposits ...	471,891	358,264	342,445	341,748	334,605

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1940.
Gold ...	558,189	641,018	635,339	635,913	643,834
Gold exchange ...	4,734,735	3,986,881	3,897,490	3,836,570	3,827,189
Other foreign exchange ...	1,330	2,393	3,086	2,788	2,842
Bills discounted ...	56,502	161,909	171,272	175,529	183,118
Advances ...	95,619	182,452	194,435	194,306	193,626
Debt to the State ...	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up ...	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation ...	5,514,306	5,122,805	5,020,046	4,916,899	4,907,255
Deposits and current accounts ...	2,239,390	1,489,798	1,493,422	1,559,580	2,070,659
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,130,744	1,638,080	1,667,172	1,636,630	1,140,795

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold ...	621,257	700,517	700,592	700,681	700,904
Of which held abroad ...	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies ...	685,189	526,148	506,981	489,252	473,094
Bills discounted ...	638,007	704,220	684,711	675,497	684,449
Loans against securities ...	89,059	82,909	80,744	79,715	79,101
Reserve fund securities ...	69,241	74,551	75,896	75,896	75,939
Liability of the Treasury...	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital ...	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000	150,000
Reserve funds ...	100,000	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation ...	1,222,106	1,340,263	1,215,102	1,161,534	1,246,742
Current accounts ...	553,799	467,855	538,314	540,992	453,834
Government accounts ...	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold ...	35,091	303,765	301,615	301,518	301,439
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	737,103	663,702	702,816	721,861
Finnish and Foreign Government securities ...	21,826	300,673	323,208	322,930	322,930
Discounts and loans ...	105,151	1,396,172	1,369,756	1,330,980	1,307,940
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ...	123,941	1,430,689	1,256,675	1,212,450	1,258,988
Deposits at notice ...	21,225	360,724	241,673	284,467	260,374

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Jan. 7, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion ...	6,267	6,430	6,435	6,439	6,437
Net foreign exchange ...	22,523	19,522	19,049	19,164	19,478
Subsidiary Estonian coin ...	763	546	691	620	701
Home bills discounted ...	15,089	14,371	14,778	15,055	15,013
Loans and advances ...	16,779	12,469	12,189	12,723	12,806*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ...	35,133	32,087	31,190	33,495	32,260
Sight deposits and current accounts ...	22,306	16,063	16,706	15,484	17,022
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities ...	50·12%	53·89%	53·20%	52·27%	52·58%

* Includes Ekr. 8,221,176·94, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 6, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins ...	23,762	23,934	23,936	23,937	23,940	23,938
Silver coin ...	4,700	6,725	5,690	5,677	5,793	6,525
Balance abroad ...	66,587	45,290	43,894	42,356	42,555	42,679
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,653	11,287	13,952	14,976	14,322	14,884
Short term bills ...	85,241	94,223	93,625	93,778	94,164	94,543
Loans against securities ...	45,643	52,749	53,212	53,625	53,802	54,372
Other assets ...	18,732	21,608	22,858	21,855	20,696	20,038
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ...	43,142	48,791	47,052	46,982	47,503	46,746
Capital paid up ...	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve ...	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve ...	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Deposits ...	12,450	14,995	15,087	15,411	15,489	15,709
Current accounts ...	53,132	58,806	59,077	60,279	63,302	63,859
Government accounts ...	109,851	92,664	92,638	91,157	87,112	86,464
Other liabilities ...	16,571	17,389	20,140	19,204	18,689	21,029

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold ...	34,288	35,044	35,075	35,079	35,088	35,098
Silver ...	4,406	3,768	3,767	3,776	4,079	4,029
State Treasury coins ...	1,858	1,670	1,672	1,653	1,666	1,676
Foreign currency ...	43,018	73,993	74,689	76,210	76,190	82,383
Discount and credit ...	82,082	87,104	84,611	85,837	83,182	83,663
LIABILITIES.						
Capital ...	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve ...	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350
Banknotes in circulation ...	83,642	97,208	94,821	94,829	92,348	96,443
Deposits ...	71,475	91,387	93,552	96,444	95,758	96,484

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	Jan. 12, 1929.	Dec. 21, 1929.	Dec. 28, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,115,265	1,118,709	1,114,645	1,109,054	1,111,393
Discounts ...	41,740	722,374	675,238	704,635	668,100	643,950
Advances ...	70,540	75,418	75,057	88,089	76,241	74,662
LIABILITIES.						
Notes ...	362,270	1,298,902	1,370,338	1,632,717	1,509,993	1,253,408
Govt. deposits	87,340	428,186	499,555	417,889	397,578	453,426
Other deposits	11,440	392,994	393,549	219,748	267,302	496,410

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 11, 1929.	Dec. 20, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.
Gold at home ...	60,523	63,244	63,226	63,220	63,233
Gold abroad ...	462,929	395,260	403,065	403,841	385,619
Discounts and advances ...	47,195	81,379	90,686	94,347	98,355
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	334,270	342,394	345,981	354,459	343,588
Deposits ...	110,864	125,279	126,262	131,753	125,976
Drafts ...	30,540	13,144	13,144	12,061	10,705
Paid-up capital ...	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 11, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5% Feb. 6, 1930) ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3⅞—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3 15/16	4—4 1/16	4	4
3 months' do. ...	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3 29/32—15/16	3 29/32—15/16	3⅞—15/16
4 months' do. ...	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3 15/16—4	4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4
6 months' do. ...	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	4	4	3 15/16—4
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months' ...	3⅞—4	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	4	4	4
3 months'‡ ...	3⅞—15/16	3 15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3⅞—15/16	3 27/32—⅞
Loans—Day to day ...	4—5	3½—¾	2¾—3½	3½—4½	3½—5	3½—4¾	4—4½
Short ...	3½—4½	4 —4½	3½	3½	3½	3½	4½
Deposit allowances: Bank	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discount houses at call ...	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
At notice ...	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1930. Jan. 23	3¾—4	3⅞ 15/16	3⅞ 15/16	3⅞ 15/16	5	5½	5½ 6
30	3½—4	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	5	5½	5½ 6
Feb. 6	3½—4½	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	4½	4½ ¾	4¾ 5
13	4½	3⅞ 15/16	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	4½	4¾	5 5¼

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Feb. 14, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
New York ...	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 3/32–11/32	4·86 11/16–·86 13/16	4·86 7/16–·86½
Montreal ...	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·86⅝–⅞	4·91 ·91½	4·90⅛–·90⅜
Paris ...	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124¼–5/16	124·00–·04	124·14–·16
Berlin ...	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·45¾–·46¼	20·36¼–·36¾	20·36¼–⅜
Amsterdam ...	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11⅜–⅞	12·11⅞–·12⅛	12·12⅛–·12⅜
Brussels ...	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·92½–93	34·90–·90½	34·89–·89½
Milan ...	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·78–83	92·90–·92	92·89–·92
Berne ...	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23⅛–⅜	25·19½–·20	25·19⅝–·20⅛
Oslo ...	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19⅛–⅜	18·20⅞–·21¼	18·19⅝–·20⅛
Stockholm ...	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15½–16	18·12¼–·12¾	18·13–·13½
Copenhagen ...	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–20	18·19–·19¼	18·15⅝–·16⅛
Madrid ...	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	30·19–95	37·32–·35	38·55–·65
Lisbon ...	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109½–110	108⅛–108⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna ...	schilgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·53–6	34·53–·55	34·51–·55
Prague ...	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164	164⅛ ⅜	164⅛–⅜
Belgrade ...	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276½–277	275¾–276¼	275¾–276¼
Budapest ...	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–87	27·81–·85	27·81–·85
Bukarest ...	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	810–813	817–820	817–820
Sofia ...	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	670–675	670–675	669–675
Athens ...	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–5¼	374¾–375¼	375–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	983–88	1043–1050	1005
Moscow ...	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·43–·45	†9·45–·47	†9·45–·47
Warsaw ...	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 3/16–7/16	43 3/16–43 7/16	43 3/16–7/16
Helsinfors ...	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193	193⅜–193⅝	193¼–½
Kovno ...	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49½	48½–49½
Reval ...	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–25	18·20–·27	18·20–·27
Riga ...	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·23–·33	25·20–·30
Alexandria ...	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16	97 15/32–17/32
Buenos Aires .	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 21/32–23/32	42 1/16–42 3/16	43–43½
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅞–29/32	5 21/32	5 11/32–13/32
Montevideo ...	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50½–51	43½ 44	43¾–44¼
Valparaiso ...	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·59	39·78	39·78
Lima ...	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	22% prem.	22% prem.
Calcutta ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/32	1/5 31/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Bombay ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/32	1/5 31/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Madras ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/32	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Hong Kong ...	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅞–2/0 1/16	1/6⅞–1/7⅛	1/6⅞–1/7⅛
Shanghai ...	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	...	1/11½ 2/0	2/0–2/0⅛
Singapore ...	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅞–2/3 31/32	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 13/16–15/16
Kobe ...	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 11/32–13/32	2/0 7/32–2/0 9/32	2/0¼–2/0 9/32
Manila ...	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	2s. 0 3/16d.	†2s. 0 3/16d.	†2s. 0 3/16d.
Mexico ...	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·90–10·05	10·15–·35	10·15–·40
Siam ...	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅝	1/10⅝

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam ...	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4	Oslo ...	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens ...	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris ...	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia ...	Feb. 10, 1930	5½	5	Prague ...	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade ...	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria ...	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin ...	Feb. 4, 1930	6½	6	Reval ...	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels ...	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga ...	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Bucharest ...	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome ...	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Budapest ...	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Sofia ...	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta ...	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Stockholm ...	Jan. 1, 1930	5	4½
Copenhagen ...	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Swiss Bank places ...	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Danzig ...	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Tokio ...	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors ...	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Vienna ...	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Kovno ...	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Warsaw ...	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
Lisbon ...	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish ...	Feb. 6, 1930	5½	5
New York Federal Reserve ...	Feb. 6, 1930	4½	4				
Madrid ...	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Feb. 13, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money ...	7½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	4¾	4½	4½	4½	—
Bank acceptances:—		Selling Rates.				
Members—eligible, 90 days ...	5½	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4	—
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days ...	5½	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	4	—
Ineligible, 90 days ...	5⅝	4½	4½	4½	4⅜	—
Commercial accept., 90 days ...	5½	5	5	4¾	4¾	—

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Feb. 13, 1929.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
London— 60 days ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80⅜	4·82 7/16	4·82⅝	4·82½
Cable ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85⅝	4·86⅝	4·86 7/16	4·86 7/16
Cheques ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85	4·86 1/16	4·86 1/16	—
Paris ... cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9025	3·92 7/16	3·92 1/16	3·91⅝
Brussels ... ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·90	13·92	13·925	13·93½
Switzerland ... ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·22½	19·29¾	19·29	19·30
Italy ... ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·22⅞	5·22¾	5·23	5·23⅜
Berlin ... ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·705	23·87	23·865	23·875
Vienna ... ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shlg	14·07	14·05	14·07	14·07	14·07
Madrid ... ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·68	13·13	13·15	12·61
Amsterdam ... ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·02	40·12	40·095	40·09½
Copenhagen ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·66	26·73	26·72	26·78
Oslo ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·665	26·70	26·69	26·72
Stockholm ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·72	26·82	26·82	26·82
Athens ... ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅛	1·295	1·295	1·2975
Montreal ... ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	1/16 dis.	1 1/16 dis.	15/16 dis.	⅞ dis.
Yokohama ... ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	45·25	49·10	49·15	49·37½
Hong Kong ... ,,	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·90	39·80	39·10	—
Shanghai ... ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	62·20	49·30	48·20	—
Calcutta ... ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·30	36·20	36·20	—
Buenos Aires ... ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·30	111·00	114·00	—
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·90	11·40	11·40	11·10
Valparaiso ... ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·055	12·00	12·00	—

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador ...	Sucres to £ ...	24·3325	Sight London	24·70
Venezuela ...	Bolivares to £ ...	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota) ...	Pesos to £1 ...	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua ...	Cordobas to £ ...	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador ...	Colones to £ ...	9·73	,,	9·98
Bolivia ...	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T. ...	...	½% dis.	par to ½% pm.	¾% prem.
Demand ...	1½% dis.	⅜% ,,	1/16% dis.	¼ to 1/16% ,,
30 days ...	1⅞% ,,	9/16% ,,	½% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days ...	2⅜% ,,	¾% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16% ,,
90 days ...	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	3/16% ,,
120 days ...	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 5/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T. ...	...	...	98	98	...	...	102⅜	102⅜
Demand	96½	96½	97⅝	97⅝	101¼	100⅝	102 3/16	102
30 days	95 11/16	95 11/16	...	...	100⅝	100⅛	101¾	101⅝
60 days	95⅝	95⅝	...	...	100 1/16	99⅝	101 3/16	101¼
90 days	94 13/16	94 13/16	...	...	99½	99⅛	100⅞	100⅞

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to February 8, 1930, were £24,215,000, of which £14,715,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £9,500,000 transferred from the paper currency reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on January 31, 1930:—

	£	£
In India ...		Nil
In England:		
Cash at the Bank of England ...	503	
Gold ...	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills:—Value as on January 31, 1930 ...	8,229,755	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities:—Value as on January 31, 1930 ...	29,617,408	
		40,000,000
		40,000,000

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended February 13, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To—*	
Germany ...	118	Poland ...	1,726
France ...	10,981	Germany ...	1,559,620
Venezuela ...	4,500	France ...	20,300
Irish Free State ...	12,800	Austria ...	10,925
British West Africa ...	33,939	Netherlands ...	3,388
British South Africa ...	990,800	Switzerland ...	13,700
Australia ...	26,022	British India ...	1,270
Other Countries ...	178	Straits Settlements ...	1,500
		Other Countries ...	202
Total declared value of imports ...	1,079,338	Total declared value of exports	1,612,631

GOLD MOVEMENTS

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Feb. 7	Bars bought ...	1,636	Feb. 7	Bars sold ...	11,965
,, 8	...	Nil		Sold for export ...	4,000
,, 10	Sovs. from abroad ...	12,800	,, 8	Bars sold ...	1,727
,, 11	...	Nil	,, 10	Bars sold ...	1,714
,, 12	Foreign coin bought ...	8	,, 11	...	Nil
,, 13	Sovs from abroad ...	25,000	,, 12	Bars sold ...	1,721
			,, 13	...	Nil
	Total ...	39,444		Total ...	21,127

Net arrivals, £18,317.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. write on February 12, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

On the 6th instant the Bank of England lowered its official rate of discount from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £150,783,865 on the 5th instant (as compared with £150,134,547 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £3,122,450 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. Gold from South Africa to the value of about £991,000 was offered in the open market yesterday. The price realised was 84s. 10⅞d. per fine ounce, at which £893,000 was secured for Germany. £20,000 was taken for India, £30,000 for Home trade and £48,000 for Continental trade. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net efflux of £106,033 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £21,931, and of the withdrawals, totalling £127,964, £100,000 was in sovereigns "set aside."

SILVER.

Prices have shown some fluctuation and the feature of the week was a sharp rise on the 8th instant of ⅜d. for cash and 5/16d. for two months' delivery, which carried quotations to 20 7/16d. and 20¼d. This was due to a keen demand from China falling on a day when there was a marked absence of selling. The demand was not maintained, for the high level proved attractive to sellers and prices subsequently showed a tendency to sag. The Indian bazaars have made purchases without being active, but America has shown more interest in the market, having offered freely during the week. The Continent has contributed moderately to supplies and there has been some re-selling on China account. The tone of the market is fairly steady for the moment, but at the same time there are no indications of resistance sufficient to withstand any pressure of selling.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 3rd instant to mid-day on the 10th instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Germany ...	9,625	British India ...	605,109
Belgium ...	6,503	Germany ...	32,195
France ...	48,088	Egypt ...	11,220
British India ...	45,848	Other countries ...	4,288
Canada ...	21,748		
Other countries ...	434		
	£132,246		£652,812

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Feb. 7.	Jan 31.	Jan. 22.
Notes in circulation ...	17,994	18,021	18,000
Silver coin and bullion in India ...	10,605	10,662	10,698
Silver coin and bullion out of India ...	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India ...	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India ...	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government) ...	3,885	3,885	3,860
Securities (British Government) ...	277	247	215

The stock in Shanghai on the 8th instant consisted of about 89,800,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars, 22,120 silver bars and 5,000,000 Saigon dollars, as compared with 89,600,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars and 18,640 silver bars on the 4th instant.

Statistics for the month of January last are appended:—

	Bar Silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two mos. delivery.	Bar Gold per oz. fine.
Highest price ...	21⅝d.	21⅛d.	84s. 11½d.
Lowest price ...	20d.	19⅞d.	84s. 10d.
Average price ...	20·896d.	20·681d.	84s. 11·27d.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Feb. 7.....	84 11½	20 1/16	19 15/16	Feb. 15, 1924	33⅞
„ 8.....	84 11½	20 1/16	20¼	„ 13, 1925	32 3/16
„ 10.....	84 11½	20 1/16	20⅜	„ 12, 1926	30 13/16
„ 11.....	84 10⅞	20 1/16	20 1/16	„ 11, 1927	26½
„ 12.....	84 11¼	20⅛	20⅛	„ 9, 1928	26½
„ 13.....	84 11¼	20⅜	20¼	„ 14, 1929	25¼

NOTICES.

The Midland Bank announces that, during the period of the British Industries Fair, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, a special office will be open daily at Stand No. 1 in Block 2D of the Main Building.

The West End office of the National City Company has removed to more commodious premises at 11, Waterloo Place, London, S.W. 1. Telephone, Regent 5628.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of new sub-branches at Tuckton Road, Tuckton, Bournemouth, and at Jerrold Parade, London Road, North Cheam.

A branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has been opened at Fort Victoria (Southern Rhodesia) and the agency at Nchanga (Northern Rhodesia) has now been converted into a sub-branch.

A new branch of City Bank Farmers Trust Company has been opened at 43, Exchange Place, New York.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that agencies have been opened at Mlanje and Luchenza, near Blantyre, Nyasaland.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch in Henleaze Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

The directors of the Westminster Bank announce the retirement of Mr F. W. Ingall, a joint general manager of the Bank, after 48 years' valued service. They have appointed as his successor Mr John Harris, at present an assistant general manager.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening of a new branch at 26, High Street North, East Ham, E. 6.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., will open a temporary office in the British Industries Fair ground at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, during the period of the Fair, from the 17th to 28th instant.

The sub-branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), at Tweeling (Orange Free State), has been converted into a full branch; also, the agency at White River, under the control of Nelspruit (Transvaal), has been converted into a sub-branch.

A branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Ltd., has been established at Moonee Ponds, a suburb of Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, Australia.

The National Provincial Bank, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 229, Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, to be known as the Addiscombe Branch.

The directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that Sir Roderick Roy Wilson has been appointed to a seat on the board, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr J. F. Finlay.

CENTRAL HANOVER

BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE
70 Broadway,
New York.

Commercial and
Foreign Banking

London Representative
C. Noël Hume
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Complete Fiduciary
Service Personal and
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Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits Over
One Hundred Million Dollars.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., give notice that in order to prepare the dividend warrants due March 1, 1930, on Wolverhampton Corporation 3 per cent. Redeemable Stock, 1924-54, the books will be closed from February 15, 1930, to February 28, 1930, inclusive.

The option to holders of Five per cent. Conversion Loan to convert an exual amount of Five per cent. War Loan into Conversion Loan expires to-day.

BANKS.

MOSCOW-NARODNY BANK.—The Moscow-Narodny Bank has just celebrated its tenth anniversary. The turnover of the bank has increased from £70,000,000 for 1924 to £280,000,000 for 1929, and the balance-sheet total has risen from £2,391,629, as on December 31, 1924, to £8,089,724, as on June 30, 1929. On December 31, 1919, the total resources of the bank were £250,000 of paid-up capital, and the balance-sheet total was £633,523; on June 30, 1929, the total resources of the bank were £1,001,259, of which paid-up capital represented £845,000, reserves £135,000, and undivided profits £21,259. For the last four and a half years the co-operative organisations of the U.S.S.R. have been granted credits for exports from U.S.S.R. of over £21,000,000. The bank paid its shareholders for 1928 a dividend of 6 per cent., and for the last five years has accumulated reserves amounting to £140,000. It has branches in Paris, Berlin, and is represented in New York. It does business with English, American, French, Swiss, Belgian, German, Canadian and Indian banks, and pays special attention to the development of its business relations with co-operative and labour banks of various countries.

	June 30, 1928.	December 31, 1928.	June 30, 1929.
	£	£	£
Deposits	898,331	1,152,795	817,155
Correspondents.....	418,322	642,921	655,777
Doc. credits and acceptances.....	2,647,518	1,753,835	2,709,827
Cash	621,896	603,953	474,546
Money at call, &c.	200,000	325,000	325,000
Bills	927,057	1,094,562	1,425,781
Advances	2,143,145	2,242,938	2,524,082

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-AMERICAN OIL COMPANY.—The offer of exchange made by Standard Oil Export Corporation, as outlined in the letter of said company dated November 6, 1929, has been declared operative as Anglo-American Oil Company, Ltd., shares in excess of the necessary two-thirds of each class, both voting and non-voting, have been deposited under the terms of said offer. To receive the five per cent. guaranteed non-voting preferred stock of Standard Oil Export Corporation and/or cash to which holders of the above receipts are entitled under the terms of the said offer, they should surrender such receipts accompanied by the necessary form of deposit duly completed, on and after February 7, 1930, at the office of Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 32, Lombard Street, London, E.C. 3.

BOLSOVER COLLIERY COMPANY.—The net profit for 1929 was £201,514 against a loss of £17,632 for 1928. The ordinary dividend is raised from 1½ per cent. to 3¾ per cent. less tax. The sum of £50,000 is put to reserve. The carry forward is £43,835.

COOK, SON AND CO. (ST. PAUL'S), LIMITED.—The profit for 1929 amounted to £156,183, as compared with £195,663 for 1928. The ordinary shareholders receive a dividend of 2½ per cent. for 1929, against a 5 per cent. distribution for 1928. The carry-forward is increased from £11,425 to £40,473. Cash stands at £144,940, against £210,139. Stocks are at £507,654, against £586,334. The company has £744,282 invested in British Government securities. Other investments are £72,640 also 2½ per cent. consolidated stock £24,380, and ordinary shares in John Howell and Company, at cost, £169,803.

OLYMPIA, LIMITED.—The first report for year 1929 shows a net revenue of £101,750. Deduct interest on first mortgage £13,716, directors' fees £2,398, and provision for taxation £11,500, leaving £74,136. Less interest on purchase price from January 1st to June 18th, 1929, £21,986. Proportion of profits prior to incorporation put to reserve £12,067, making net profit from period of incorporation to date, £40,082. Preference dividend absorbed £14,412. The dividend on the ordinary shares at 11 per cent. per annum absorbed £11,866. The carry-forward is £13,809. An issue of 450,000 7 per cent. cum preference shares £1, and 900,000 ordinary 5s. shares at par is to be made soon, the proceeds to be ultilised to repay the amount advanced by the bank and in paying the balance of the cost of alterations and extensions.

WM. FRANCE, FENWICK AND COMPANY.—The profit for 1929 amounted to £58,574, which compares with £38,802 for 1928. The ordinary dividend is raised from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. for the year. A transfer of £15,639 is made to reserve, against no allocation a year ago. The carry-forward is raised from £10,518 to £10,853. Cash has risen from £43,106 to £75,010, but British Government securities at cost have been reduced from £130,966 to £50,912. Meeting Cannon Street Hotel, February 19th, at 2.30 p.m.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Feb. 7, 1930.
(c) Week ended Feb. 8, 1930.

	Miles Open.	Week ended Feb. 9, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 6 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	176	224	134	358	534	1,145	1,285	806	2,091	3,236
Do. for 1929...	3,734	182	219	138	357	539	1,148	1,282	796	2,078	3,226
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	286	389	273	662	948	1,755	2,369	1,660	4,029	5,784
Do. for 1929...	6,360	288	388	286	674	962	1,751	2,349	1,665	4,014	5,765
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	410	565	293	858	1,268	2,552	3,205	1,725	4,930	7,482
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	419	569	329	898	1,317	2,562	3,192	1,845	5,037	7,599
Southern	2,175	251	65	25	90	341	1,581	428	195	623	2,204
Do. for 1929...	2,175	250	70	34	104	354	1,529	427	221	648	2,177
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·8	...	...	4·1	35·9	195·1	...	...	24·4	219·5
Do. for 1929...	59	30·3	...	...	4·0	34·3	186·7	...	...	23·3	210·0
†Und'rgr'nd E.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	288·4	...	...	...	...	1672·4
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	264·6	...	...	...	...	1511·2
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	41·5	...	...	...	...	244·3
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	37·4	...	...	...	...	211·7
B'ff'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·8	...	...	0·6	2·4	11·2	...	...	3·8	15·0
Do. for 1929...	80	1·7	...	...	0·8	2·5	10·8	...	...	4·8	15·6
*Great Northernb	562	11·0	...	...	11·3	22·3	50·3	...	...	74·3	124·6
Do. for 1929...	562	9·4	...	...	14·2	23·6	49·1	...	...	83·0	132·1
Great Southernb	2,187	23·0	...	...	45·5	68·5	109·8	...	...	214·2	324·0
Do. for 1929...	2,187	21·1	...	...	48·9	70·0	110·1	...	...	234·2	344·3

* Aggregate 5 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	40weeks	Jan. 4	1,217	4,25,000	+ 7,561	1,66,38,471	− 7,45,133
Barsi Lt. Ry.	42weeks	18	202	51,700	− 11,700	20,14,600	+ 62,100
Bengal & N.Western	42weeks	18	2,080	7,25,143	+ 26,786	1,05,81,955	− 2,96,088
Bengal-Nagpur ...	41weeks	11	3,085	18,94,000	− 129926	7,10,25,529	+ 21,41,901
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	44weeks	Feb. 1	3,031	26,88,000	+ 170000	9,59,60,000	− 13,19,000
Madras, & S. Mahr.	42weeks	Jan. 18	3,121	16,37,000	− 279709	7,46,10,155	+ 9,72,017
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	42weeks	18	1,185	5,10,069	+ 297	185,95,429	+ 22,31,379
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	42weeks	18	572	1,59,350	+ 4,245	20,25,545	+ 57,085
South Indian	42weeks	18	2,348	10,90,924	+ 33,740	5,34,40,174	+ 42,00,787

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.

				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.....	32weeks	Feb. 8	753	15,100	+ 100	500,000	− 4,800
Argentine Trans'dn.	32weeks	8	111	5,395	+ 389	148,078	+ 2,719
B.A. and Pacific....	32weeks	8	2,806	173,000	− 22,000	4,797,000	− 432,000
B.A. Central	32weeks	9	...	13,270	− 1,423	413,650	− 35,274
B.A. Gt. Southern...	32weeks	8	4,875	312,000	− 31,000	7,577,000	− 26,000
B.A. Western	32weeks	8	1,926	209,000	− 80,000	7,582,000	− 963,000
Central Argentine...	32weeks	8	3,319	50,000	− 18,000	1,954,000	− 271,000
Cordoba Central....	32weeks	8	1,218	38,900	− 100	902,200	− 75,100
Entre Rios.....	32weeks	8	789				
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	32weeks	Feb. 8	1,374	102,732	− 26,027	1,704,510	− 262,469
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay....	32weeks	Feb. 8	273	35,869	+ 4,285	960,960	− 12,714
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	32weeks	8	311	9,421	+ 595	215,534	+ 1,485
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	32weeks	8	185	3,922	+ 275	108,317	− 7,086
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	32weeks	8	211	3,415	− 265	87,326	− 5,260
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	4weeks	Jan.31	19580	5 886 411	− 769709	16 822 069	− 1 355,616
Canadian Pacific ...	5weeks	Feb. 7	15217	2,905,000	− 407000	15,326,000	− 3,852,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	6weeks	Feb. 8	1,016	21,200	− 3,100	114,700	− 21,500
Leopoldina.....	6weeks	8	1,856	39,499	+ 2,762	208,134	+ 4,673
Leopoldina Termnl.	5weeks	1	Mile.	329,000	+ 32,000	1,705,000	+ 95,000
San Paulo	6weeks	9	153½	35,080	− 7,980	222,110	− 40,107
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	6weeks	Feb. 9	804	30,220	− 14,060	181,900	− 85,740
Nitrate (½-monthly)	4weeks	Jan.31	413	33,103	− 10,964	63,325	− 23,321
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	41weeks	Jan.20	608	11,015	+ 993	293,892	+ 18,813
Gt. Southn. of Spain	5weeks	Feb. 1	104	Ps.128,329	+ 4,520	596,024	− 10,324
Mexican Railway....	5weeks	7	483	$234,300	− 16,200	1,250,800	− 44,500
Paraguay Central...	31weeks	1	274	4,190	+ 50	127,820	− 9,050
Salvador.....	32weeks	8	100	7,332	− 206	131,861	− 10,763

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	5weeks	Feb. 6	329	84,446	− 65	415,718	− 13,008
B. Aires Lacroze.....	32weeks	9	...	12,746	− 895	370,342	− 32,428
Burnley Corporation	1 week	8	13	3,050	− 12	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	8	35½	Rs.117299	− 10,616	....	...
Chatham & District	4weeks	Jan.30	15	1,038	+ 68	4,637	+ 218
Egyptian Markets	4weeks	30	...	2,259	− 89	8,856	− 2,126
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	4weeks	29	...	799	+ 90	3,495	+ 312
Liverpool Corp.....	45weeks	Feb. 8	124	28,719	+ 688	1,357,799	+ 26,753
L.C.C. Tramways....	44weeks	5	166	82,460	+ 3,759	3,725,854	+ 57,968
Madras Electric.....	14weeks	Jan.31	...	Rs. 44,960	+ 2,355	94,311	+ 2,916

* Including motor ‡buses. ‡Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Beira	...	...	...	1/9 p.s.	1/6 p.s.
Canadian Pacific.....	2½%*	Apr. 1	Quarterly	...	...
Great Western	4½%†	...	...	7½	5
London Midland and Scottish....	2½%†	...	...	4½	3½
Metropolitan	...	...	...	3½	4
Nizam's Guaranteed State	6%*	Mar. 7	...	...	...
Southern (Def.)	...	...	...	2½	2½
Southern Punjab	6%*	and bonus	4%	16	16
Underground Electric (d)	5%†	...	Less tax	8	7
BANKS.					
Banque Federale (Zurich).....	...	...	...	8	...
City Savings Bank of Budapest	8%†	...	...	12	...
Comptoir D'Escompte de Geneve	...	...	...	7	7
Union Bank of Switzerland	...	...	...	7	7
INSURANCE.					
Prudential, "A"	...	...	...	94½	94½
"B"	...	...	...	1/- p.s.	1/- p.s.
New Zealand.....	11d. p.s.	...	...	...	...
MINING.					
Fresnillo	25 cents p.s.*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Kuala Kampar Tin	3d. p.s.*	Feb. 28	...	...	...
Petaling Tin	5%†	...	...	60	...
Renong Tin	7½%*	Feb. 25	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberdeen Combworks	...	...	Less tax	4	6
Average Trust.....	...	...	...	10	10
Anderson's Royal Polytechnic....	6½%†	...	...	9	10‡
Australian Agricultural.....	2/- p.s.*	Mar. 5	Tax free	...	...
Bluemel Bros.	1/6 p.s.†	and bonus	6d.	2/6 p.s.	...
Blundell, Spence and Co.	...	...	...	4	5
Bolsover Colliery	...	...	Less tax	3½	½
Boston (Lincolnshire) Water ...	4%†	...	...	8	8
Bristol Tramways and Carriage	6%†	...	...	10	7
British Assets Trust	10%†	...	Less tax	20	20
British Investment Trust (Def.)	...	...	...	21	21
British S. Africa	...	Mar. 7	...	13½	10c
Bursledon Brick	6%*	Mar. 15	Less tax	...	...
City and International Trust ...	2½%*	Mar. 1	...	...	...
Consolidated Signal	...	...	Less tax	12	17½
Constantinople Land & Building	...	...	...	4½	4½
Cook, Son and Co.....	...	...	...	2½	5
Copestake, Crampton and Co....	...	...	...	3½	2
Daily Mirror Newspapers	7½%*	Mar. 6	Less tax	...	...
Eastbourne Pier	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Edinburgh Securities	...	...	Less tax	6	6
East Surrey Gas, "B"	...	...	Less tax	5½	...
East Worcestershire Waterworks	5%*	...	...	...	...
Field, Sons and Co.	...	...	...	7½	...
Four per Cent. Indust. Dwellings	2%†	...	Tax free	4	4
France (Wm.), Fenwick	4%†	Mar. 1	...	6	5
Freeman, Hardy and Willis ...	...	...	...	55	20
Friary Holroyd & Healy's Brew.	6%*	Feb. 15	Less tax	...	...
Gerrard (J.) and Sons	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Gray (William C.)	...	...	...	10	10
Griffiths (William).....	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Guinness (Arthur)	15%*	...	...	...	...
Harrods	15%†	...	Less tax	20	20
Holden (Isaac) and Sons.....	6d. p.s.*	Mar. 1	Tax free	...	...
Hoods	...	...	...	15s	12½
Knight (John).....	...	...	...	20	20
Lee and Green	...	...	...	12½	12½
Lewis's (Def.)	...	...	...	12½	12½
London Electric Supply.....	5%†	...	Less tax	9	9
London Necropolis	...	...	Less tax	7	6½
Metropolitan Electric Cable	...	...	Tax free	10	...
Olympia.....	...	...	...	11§	...
Perry and Co.	7½%†	...	...	10	7½
Phillips (J. and N.)	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Premier Investment	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Quebec Power	$1p.s.*	Apr. 15	Quarterly	...	...
Randall (H. E.)	...	...	...	15	15
Redfern's Rubber Works	5%†	...	...	7½	5
Rochdale Canal	1%*	...	...	...	...
Scottish Wagon	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Shawinigan Water and Power ...	$1*	Apr. 10	Quarterly	...	...
Sheffield Gas	3½%†	...	...	6½	6½
Smart Brothers	...	...	...	15	13
Smithfield Markets Elec. Supply	5%†	...	Less tax	8	8
Stocal Enamels	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Sunbeam Pressworks	...	Feb. 10	...	10	...
Sunday Pictorial Newspapers ...	1/3 p.s.*	Mar. 6	Less tax	...	...
Surplus Lands.....	...	...	...	3½	3½
Trade Indemnity	...	...	...	6	6
Union Commercial Invest.	5½%†	...	Less tax	8	8
United Grain Elevators	...	...	Tax free	8½	8½
Wakefield Gaslight.....	4%†	...	...	6½	6½
Westminster Chambers Assoc. ...	7%†	...	...	13	12½
Whitworth and Mitchell	7½%*	Feb. 21	...	...	...
Winterbotham, Strachan & Playne	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Yeast-Vite (Def.)	...	...	...	15	7½

a Includes bonus 2½%. *b* Bonus 5%. *c* Bonus 1½%.
d The dividends of the companies in this group for 1929 show no change as compared with 1928.
‡ In addition, bonus 4 per cent. § First report.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED LIMITED.—The directors are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend on the deferred ordinary shares for the year ended September 30, 1929. For preceding year a dividend of 7½ per cent. was paid.

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL.—Production for the two weeks ended December 28, 1929, and January 4, 1930, was 308,000 barrels and 306,000 barrels respectively. The production for the week ended January 11, 1930, was 285,000 barrels. Production for the week ended January 18, 1930, was 259,000 barrels. The production for the week ended January 25, 1930, was 253,000 barrels. The production for the week ending February 1, 1930, was 251,000 barrels.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LTD.—Production of the Steaua Romano Company, Bucharest, for January was 71,890 tons.

TRINIDAD CENTRAL OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for December quarter: Tabaquite, 4,824 barrels; Guapo, 26,740 barrels.

DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM.—January production, 3,508 tons.

THE VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS.—Production for the week ended February 1st was:—Bolivar district, 121,013 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,690 metric tons; total, 127,703 metric tons. Production for the week ended February 8th was: Bolivar district, 125,253 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,331 metric tons; total, 131,584 metric tons.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY (OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

October 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Oct. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Oct. 31, 1928. £
"A" cum. pref. shares	4,959,249	...	Land, &c.	4,969,692	+ 47,028
"B" non-cum. pref. shares	5,260,469	...	Goodwill, &c.	9,422,582	...
"C" 10% non-cum. pref. shs.	2,638,218	...	Investments (ass. companies)	10,261,398	+ 397,619
Ordinary	37,492,625	+7,540,928	Stock in trade	29,340,736	− 1,154,697
Creditors, &c.	14,092,278	− 536,550	Debtors	6,739,806	+ 133,035
Bills payable	...	− 2,000	Investments	10,062,441	−3,077,511
Provision for pensions, &c.	...	−3,141,015	Cash	4,426,579	− 339,982
General reserve	4,500,000	− 7,000,000	Loans to ass. companies	1,320,998	+1,320,998
Profit and loss	7,601,393	+ 465,129			
Total	76,544,232	−2,673,510	Total	76,544,232	−2,673,510

BOVRIL, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Cum. pref. shares	1,000,000	...	Freeholds and Leaseholds	241,508	+190735
Cum. ord. shares	1,000,000	...	Goodwill and Trade Marks	2,414,323	
Deferred shares	1,000,000	...	Shares & debs. and amts. due by subsid. coys.	204,552	
Debenture stock	500,000	...	Investments in associated coys.	373,135	
5½% 8-year notes	255,000	− 44,850	Plant & furniture	40,755	− 1,729
5½% Notes	400,000	...	Stock in hand	1,772,003	− 183,620
Sundry creditors	595,556	+ 54,902	Trade debtors, &c.	896,830	− 20,895
Bills payable	...	− 30,000	Cash	252,405	+ 70,381
Reserve	1,160,000	+ 60,000			
Reserve for debts, &c.	1,500	...			
Profit and loss	283,455	+ 4,820			
Total	6,195,511	+ 44,872	Total	6,195,511	+ 44,872

MAPLE AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Pref. shares	1,000,000	...	Cash	233,963	+ 67,855
Management shrs.	200	...	Bills, &c.	3,378	− 2,567
Ord. shares	1,800,000	...	Sundry debts	1,359,754	− 213,357
3½% deb. stock	500,000	...	Stocks, &c.	858,306	− 884,372
4% deb. stock	500,000	...	Freeholds and leaseholds	2,141,905	+ 957,946
Reserve	650,572	+ 4,907	Horses, vans, &c.	47,169	− 3,341
Trade creditors	50,813	+ 41,098	Plant, &c.	46,340	+ 5,138
Sundry creditors	158,312	− 118,720	Investments	331,931	+ 78,990
Profit and loss	218,676	− 65,166	Goodwill	50,000	+ 50,000
Res. for building, &c.	68,784	+ 68,784			
Prov. for div. on B shares	89,889	+ 89,889			
Deb. int. and pref. div.	35,500	+ 35,500			
Total	5,072,746	+ 56,292	Total	5,072,746	+ 56,292

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JANUARY, 1930.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profits.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Associated of W. Australia	4,353	...	...	...	...	7,570	...
Balaghat	3,250	...	2,303	...	2,303	...	...
Blackwater	1,364	...	...	...	...	5,790	1,064
Boulder Perseverance	5,262	...	...	...	...	12,019	219
Central Manitoba	4,343	...	...	...	...	$33,553	...
Champion Reef	7,700	21,814	4,577	1,014	5,591	...	...
Frontino	1,480	...	...	...	...	6,653	...
Globe and Phœnix	6,022	...	...	...	5,797	...	12,022
Lena (Jan. 16–31)	...	...	...	...	1,646	6,913	...
Lonely Reef	6,000	15,400	2,940	1,200	4,140	...	8,289
Luipaard's Vlei	23,000	...	5,851	...	5,851	...	1,537
Marmajito	862	...	...	...	...	3,274	...
Mysore	17,205	...	8,356	...	8,356	...	...
Nundydroog	11,500	17,624	5,679	1,274	6,953	...	...
Ooregum	13,511	19,489	5,320	911	6,231	...	...
Oriental Consolidated	Clean-	up	...		...	$97,635	...
Oroville (25 days to Feb. 4)	...	...	...	...	...	$32,397	...
Rezende	6,400	1,260	...	...	2,722	11,646	5,511
Rhodesian Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	...	804
Sherwood Starr	4,800	...	...	...	...	11,184	5,072
Sons of Gwalia	12,554	...	...	...	...	11,119	...
South Kalgurli	7,316	...	...	...	...	15,029	3,036
St. John del Rey	...	...	...	...	...	44,300	...
Taquah and Abosso	8,810	...	...	...	...	14,633	2,230
Wanderer	12,040	...	...	...	3,017	12,692	3,388

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
TIN.		
Aramayo	240	In addition, 244,000 ozs. silver.
Asam Kumbang	622	Piculs; net value, $34,407.
Ayer Hitam	50½	...
Bangrin	59½	...
Batu Caves	26	Est. profit, £1,050.
Berenguela	33	Black tin concentrates.
Bisichi	122	...
Chenderiang	27⅞	...
Consol. of Burma	100	Mixed concentrates.
Daffo	6	...
Ex-lands Nigeria	55	...
Filani (Nigeria)	4½	Concentrates.
Geevor	65	Black tin; amount realised, £6,900.
Gopeng	77½	Est. value, £7,900; est. profit, £5,660.
Hongkong	137	Est. value, £13,300.
Ipoh	31	Est. profit, £502.
Jantar	35	...
Jos	21⅝	...
Kagera (Uganda)	25	...
Kampong Kamunting	943	Piculs; net value, $53,758.
Kamunting	89½	Est. value, £9,450.
Kent (F.M.S.)	33	Est. value, £3,195; est. profit, £1,325.
Kepong	40	Est. value, £4,039; est. profit, £1,702.
Kinta	30	Est. value, £3,162; est. profit, £1,062.
Kinta Kellas	53½	Est. value, £5,950; est. profit, £4,450.
Lahat	14½	Est. value, £1,572; est. profit, £75.
Lower Bisichi	6½	...
Malaya Consolidated	59	...
Malaysian	24½	Est. profit, £1,552.
Malayan	148½	Est. value, £16,331; est. profit, £8,389.
Naraguta Durumi	21	...
Naraguta Extended	10	...
Naraguta Karama	29½	...
Naraguta Korot	13	...
Naraguta (Nigeria)	21	...
Nigerian Consolidated	18	...
Offin River	8½	...
Pahang	222	Black tin.
Pangnga River	32	Est. value, $3,733.
Penawat	77	...
Pengkalen	51	Est. value, £5,400; est. profit, £2,070.
Petaling	202½	Est. value, £19,600; est. profit, £11,783.
Puchong	368	Piculs; net value, $20,915.
Pusing	...	£243 gross profit.
Rahman	65½	...
Rambutan	10½	Est. value, £1,015; est. profit, £225.
Rantau	31	Est. profit, £583.
Renong	93	...
Siamese	138	...
Sione	31½	...
South Bukeru	15	...
Southern Malayan	172½	Est. value, £18,786; est. profit, £10,713.
Southern Perak	63½	Est. value, £7,446; est. profit, £3,296.
Southern Tronoh	54	Est. value, £6,050; est. profit, £3,164.
Sungei Besi	48	Est. value, £5,156; est. profit, £1,641.
Sungei Kinta	33½	Est. profit, £1,745.
Sungei Way	83½	Est. value, £8,300; est. profit, £4,600.
Taiping	24	Est. profit, £816.
Tanjong	38½	Est. value, £4,165; est. profit, £2,205.
Teja Malaya	15½	...
Tekka	42	Est. value, £4,210; est. profit, £2,230.
Tekka-Taiping	31	Est. value, £3,230; est. profit, £155.
Temoh	37½	Est. profit, £2,342.
Thawbawleik	752	Piculs; net value, $48,188.
Tongkah Harbour	50	...
Tronoh	107	Est. value, £12,051; est. profit, £6,046.
Ulu Klang	17½	...
Ulu Yam	280	Piculs; net value, $14,800.
Yarde Kerri	8	...
COAL.		
Clydesdale (Transvaal)	44,072	...
Dundee	47,338	...
Durban Navigation	57,589	...
Natal Navigation	127,434	...
Singareni	65,066	...
South African	63,126	...
Tweefontein United	66,827	...
Vereeniging Estates	249,004	...
Wankie	86,828	Coal sales; coke sales, 8,293 tons.
Witbank	71,472	...
COPPER.		
Bwana M'Kubwa	612	Refined copper.
Indian	243	Refined copper.
Messina (Transvaal)	1,724	Concentrates produced yielding 641 tons copper.
DIAMOND.		
West African	20,500	Carats.
Crown	8,394	Carats.
Tanganyika	631	Carats.
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Lydenburg Platinum	3,630	Tons milled; 786 ounces of platinum group metals won.
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,502	Slab zinc.
Tetluhe	2,293	Zinc concentrates; 1,151 tons lead concentrates.

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LTD.—Report for four weeks ended January 26, 1930, Iron and Steel Works, Newcastle, N.S.W. Coke ovens produced 6,785 tons of coke, 63,859 gallons of tar, and 85 tons of sulphate of ammonia. Blast furnaces (No. 1) produced 9,611 tons of pig iron. Open hearth produced 13,709 tons of steel. Blooming Mill produced 13,160 tons. Iron Knob shipped 26,292 tons of ironstone. Broken Hill: Crude ore raised, 8,276 tons, including 414 tons oxidised despatched Broken Hill Associated Smelters. Crushing Plant treated 8,220 tons sulphide ore, which yielded at Sulphide Corporation Mill 1,440 tons lead concentrates, assaying 8·3 per cent. zinc, 65·1 per cent. lead, 47·5 ozs. silver per ton; also 1,710 tons zinc concentrates, containing 3 per cent. lead, 5·7 ozs. silver, and 50·3 per cent. zinc. Slimes Flotation Plant treated 8,900 tons residues, producing 1,168 tons lead concentrates, assaying 39·5 per cent. lead, 17 ozs. silver per ton, also 43 tons zinc middlings. Despatches oxidised lead concentrates amounted to 1,829 tons.

THE MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.—During the four-weekly period ended January 29th the mill treated 17,071 tons of ore, producing 3,671 tons of concentrates.

MAZAPIL COPPER COMPANY.—Production for January:—Copper matte, 861 metric tons; lead concentrates, 451 metric tons; zinc concentrates, 613 metric tons.

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO, LTD.—Operations for January: Ore treated, 27,660 tons; lead concentrates produced, 3,716 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 3,699 tons. Estimated net smelter returns, $196,370; operating expenses, $140,962; estimated operating profit, $55,408. *Office Note.*—The return includes a minus adjustment of $19,886, being excess of valuations of products over realisations in respect of previous months.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Electric Light, &c.											
Fife Tramway Light, &c.	Dec. 31	5,849	71,654	77,503	24,000	16,000	4	12,217	25,286	53,564	4
London Power	Dec. 31	...	348,749	348,749	...	3,000	6	345,749	...	306,327	6
St. James and Pall Mall	Dec. 31	112,377	70,346	182,723	7,000	52,900	1/6·949 p.s.	22,361	100,462	103,852	1/6.949 p.s.
Yorkshire Electric Power	Dec. 31	78,232	341,084	419,316	77,904	160,000	8	100,000	81,412	310,070	8
Financial Land, &c.											
Electrical and Industrial Investments	Dec. 31	17,939	23,798	41,737	6,000	14,000	7	...	3,798	22,148	6
Gas.											
Croydon Gas	Dec. 31	23,078	122,664	145,742	9,000	75,521	5 7	27,000	34,221	122,680	5 7
Kingston-upon-Thames	Dec. 31	9,635	16,837	26,472	...	17,798	7	...	8,674	17,126	7
Malton Gas	Dec. 31*	2,820	1,816	4,636	...	1,560	6½	...	3,076	425	6½†
Portsmouth Gas	Dec. 31	45,902	33,021	88,923	...	46,026	5 8	4,798	38,100	34,115	5 8
Southend-on-Sea Gas	Dec. 31	25,100	28,822	53,922	6,800	16,498	6¾ 6⅝	500	30,124	24,602	6¾ 6¼
Wakefield Gas	Dec. 31	1,748	10,944	12,692	1,125	9,841	5 6½	...	1,726	10,931	6½ 5
York Gas	Dec. 31	10,096	17,144	27,240	1,600	16,800	5	...	10,840	17,285	5
Rubber, &c.											
Bah Lias Rubber	Oct. 31	52,280	26,098	78,378	...	17,560	5	10,000	50,818	26,091	6
Buloh River Rubber	Sept. 30	...	*Dr. 1,159*	*Dr. 1,159*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.1,159*	...	...
Lamlah Rubber	Sept. 30	*Dr. 4,235*	*Dr. 1,234*	*Dr. 5,469*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 5,469*	*Dr.3,426*	...
Toerangi (Sumatra) Rubber, &c.	Oct. 31	24,032	17,353	41,385	...	13,397	7½	5,000	22,988	18,091	8
Val d'Or Rubber	Oct. 31	9,896	6,473	16,369	...	4,403	5	772	11,194	*Dr. 81*	...
Wampoe Tobacco & Rubber	Oct. 31	5,007	4,967	9,974	...	4,375	2½	...	5,599	3,727	2½
Shipping.											
France (Wm.), Fenwick & Co.	Dec. 31	10,517	58,574	69,091	6,600	36,000	6	15,638	10,853	38,802	5
Shops and Stores.											
Freeman, Hardy and Willis	Dec. 31	102,456	270,865	373,321	45,000	225,625	20‡ 55§†	...	178,125	240,624	20‡ 20†§
Randall (H. E.)	Dec. 28	55,316	35,365	90,681	5,100	24,750	15	5,000	55,832	37,558	15
Sears (J.) and Co.	Dec. 31	129,996	314,580	444,576	160,396	125,156	22½†	25,000	134,024	216,003	22½†
Textiles.											
Linen Thread	Sept. 30	185,354	269,549	449,903	55,000	93,500 85,250	8½†	...	188,653	263,862	8½†
Tramways and Omnibus.											
Bristol Tramways, &c.	Dec. 31	3,786	129,231	133,027	20,000	98,750	10	10,000	4,278	77,871	7
City of Buenos Ayres Trams	Dec. 31	1,345	71,156	72,501	...	62,000	5	10,000	501	69,769	5
Tyneside Tramways, &c.	Dec. 31*	68	*Dr. 1,783*	*Dr. 1,715*	...	...	...	*Dr. 1,800*	85	*Dr.2,531*	...
Trust.											
Average Trust	Dec. 31	574	2,378	2,952	350	1,500	10†	250	852	2,054	10†
British Investment	Jan. 1	150,849	269,556	420,405	60,000	168,000	21	...	192,405	248,492	21
National Dom. & Gen.	Dec. 31	1,347	10,355	11,702	4,200	6,136	8	...	1,366	...	...
Power Securities Corpn.	Dec. 31	14,869	79,924	94,293	28,000	28,000	7	20,000	18,923	85,239	7
Railway Debenture and Gen.	Jan. 15	14,025	103,125	117,150	29,250	58,500	9	15,000	14,400	96,790	8
Railway Share Trust, &c.	Jan. 15	20,386	128,016	148,402	49,500	60,000	10	15,000	23,902	120,816	9
Waterworks.											
Chester Waterworks	Dec. 31*	7,797	5,725	13,522	1,571	2,688	6p.a.	...	9,263	5,978	6
South Staffordshire Works	Dec. 31	19,516	130,608	150,124	55,684	60,567	7	10,000	23,873	122,301	7
Other Companies.											
Blundell, Spence & Co.	Oct. 31	7,047	21,943	28,990	8,180	13,062	4	...	7,748	27,634	5
Bolding (John) & Sons	Dec. 31	15,842	20,877	36,719	1,400	14,000	17½	3,500	17,819	21,950	17½
Bovril	Dec. 31	71,135	329,820	400,955	60,000	205,000	7½o.s. 13d.s.	60,000	75,955	318025	7½o.s. 13 d.s.
British Wagon	Dec. 31	11,018	27,195	38,213	...	15,600	8½	10,000	12,613	30,253	...
Cook, Son & Co. (St. Paul's)	Dec. 31	11,425	147,740	159,165	85,312	33,380	2½	...	40,473	193,663	5
Gray (William C.)	Dec. 31	29,247	73,684	102,931	15,000	29,667	10	10,263	48,000	89,859	10
Griffiths (William) & Co.	Oct. 31	22,618	18,367	40,985	...	17,532	12½	...	23,453	17,514	12½
Hayes Candy & Co.	Dec. 19	13,132	21,440	34,572	10,400	10,024	8	...	14,148	18,158	8
Imperial Tobacco (G.B. & I.)	Oct. 31	1,169,098	9,967,098	11,136,196	852,208	8,619,594	23†	487,925	1,176,469	9,599,706	26†
Larkin's (S. C.) & Sons	Dec. 31	14,999	37,395	52,394	3,000	18,750	12½	16,000	14,644	37,683	12½
London Necropolis Co.	Dec. 31	985	3,540	4,525	...	3,729	2½	...	796	...	...
McLaren (Wm.)	Dec. 20	91	1,727	1,818	3,600	...	...	*Dr. 5,000*	3,218	4,698	2
Olympia Limited	Dec. 31	...	52,150	52,150	14,412	11,862	11	12,067	13,809	...	...
Pharaoh Gane & Co.	Dec. 31	4,391	27,227	31,618	7,464	5,950	10	12,000	6,204	4,122	10
Philips (J. & N.)	Dec. 31	30,977	133,161	164,138	101,500	22,000	4	10,000	30,638	149,281	5
Radiovisor For. and Colonial	Dec. 31	...	*Dr. 5,232*	*Dr. 5,232*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 5,232*	...	...
Redfern's Rubber Works	Dec. 31	10,595	13,899	24,494	9,000	6,000	7½	...	9,494	12,491	5
Robertson's Automatic Variable Speed Gear	Oct. 31	...	*Dr.14,508*	...	...	...	...	...	*Dr14,508*	...	...
Scottish Waggon	Dec. 31	1,371	21,749	23,120	...	20,160	10	2,000	1,654	20,716	10
Sentinel Waggon Works	Dec. 31	740	71,620	72,360	25,500	11,250	7½	33,327	2,283	23,381	...
Sparrow, Hardwick & Co.	Dec. 31	17,455	26,854	44,309	14,000	10,000	5	5,000	15,309	32,569	5½
Westinghouse Brake, &c.	Sept. 30	13,228	102,292	115,520	...	72,487	8	30,000	13,033	144,883	10

* Six months only. † Free of Income Tax. ‡ Preference Ordinaries. § Deferred Ordinaries.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Drier climatic conditions enabled farmers to resume field work and facilitate ploughing operations which have been retarded by excessive moisture. Winter wheat is making satisfactory progress, though condition is still indifferent on low-lying lands. Supplies of native wheat at the principal provincial markets continue restricted, but demand fails to improve and prices generally displayed a drooping tendency. On the import market, the tone was a shade steadier following improved American and Canadian cable advices, resulting from further measures taken in both countries to finance surplus stocks in order to maintain prices. Therefore, no undue pressure to sell arises from the northern hemisphere, while both Argentine and Australian growers are reluctant to offer new supplies with any degree of freedom at present values. Although European requirements are gradually increasing, the demand is not yet sufficient to impart stability to the market, and little confidence is shown by importers at the present level of values, particularly for Canadian descriptions, which are still held for a substantial premium on competing grades. Shipments are moderately larger, but in view of reduced needs of importers generally it is extremely doubtful if surplus supplies in the northern hemisphere can be absorbed this season. The demand for flour proved quiet, and bakers continue to purchase only for immediate requirements, with prices the turn in buyers' favour both spot and forward parcels. The steadier tone for wheat was reflected in feeding stuffs, though consumptive demand is still poor. The recent decline in Plate maize occasioned by lower Argentine exchange and depressed freight rates appears to be arrested for the time being. The outlook, however, is very uncertain and buyers adopt a reserved attitude in face of excellent new Argentine crop prospects, and increased competition to be met by large Danubian shipments in the spring. Barley and oats ruled steady, but largely nominal, owing to paucity of trade demand.

Wheat.—Steady. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex-ship, 50s.; No. 2 ditto, 49s.; No. 3, 48s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 47s.; No. 5, 44s.; No. 6, 36s. 6d.; No. 1 Vancouver, 48s. 9d.; No. 2 ditto, 47s. 9d.; No. 3, 46s. 9d.; No. 2, hard Winter, 44s. 6d.; No. 2 mixed, Durum, 41s. 6d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 42s. 6d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., 43s. 6d.; Australian, 44s. 9d. per 496 lbs., English, 8s. 7d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet. London straight run, 38s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries; and 37s. 6d. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 36s. 6d.-39s.; Buffalo, 37s. 6d.-39s. 6d.; Australian, 35s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms Manitoba top patents, February-March, 36s. 6d.-37s.; export ditto, 34s.-34s. 6d.; Australian, 31s. 6d.-32s. 6d.; French, prompt, 26s.-28s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £6 10s. per ton.

Maize.—Again firmer. Plate landed, 28s. 3d.; ex-ship to arrive, 27s.; February-March, 27s. 3d.; March-April, 27s. 6d.; new April-May, 27s. 6d.; May-June, 27s. 3d.; No. 4 yellow African, ex-ship, 28s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s.; white, £6 2s. 6d. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Steadier. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new ex-ship, 37s.-45s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, ex-store, 36s.-42s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. No. 2 Federal American landed, 22s. 6d.; Danubian landed, 23s. 6d.; Black Sea January, ex-ship, 21s.; Persian ditto, 21s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 8s., 11s. 10d.; feed, 6s. 9d.-7s. 3d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Dull. Plate landed, 16s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 15s. 6d.; black Plate landed, 16s. 3d.; Chilian white, landed, 23s.; ditto, tawny, 17s.; German landed, 19s.; ex-ship to arrive, 17s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 14s. 6d.; South Russian, 14s. 6d.; 16s. 6d. as to quality, per 320 lbs. English, 6s.-7s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

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COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to February 8	Cwts. 222,941	Cwts. 263,661	Cwts. 307,295	Cwts. 270,876
23 weeks to February 8	6,014,388	6,205,454	5,823,572	8,138,044
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 2	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Feb. 1	275,466	357,366	55,429	9 4	8 4	6 9
Feb. 8	222,941	244,538	42,742	9 2	8 2	6 7
Feb. 6, 1926	304,818	235,762	64,347	11 10	10 0	9 2
Feb. 5, 1927	289,882	360,036	91,325	11 10	11 2	8 3
Feb. 11, 1928	307,295	274,511	91,445	9 9	10 11	10 1
Feb. 9, 1929	263,661	262,339	101,222	9 10	10 5	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 11, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	132⅛	148⅛	127½	125½	128⅞
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅛	127⅛	130⅞	118⅛	114⅛	119

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,180,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 98,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 82,145,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: The export coal trade has been shrinking ever since the year started, and prices have eased about a shilling a ton. The winter season has been one of the poorest for years in the house coal trade, and the industrial demand is not at all strong. The coke market has almost gone to pieces, and there is practically no sale for such fuel on the open market. Sellers would gladly take lower prices to secure an order.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Business has not improved to any appreciable extent. Though the colder weather has helped the home trade a little, export and shipping markets generally are still poor. London is, however, a good buyer of certain qualities of nuts, especially pearls, which are one of the few firm spots in the market. Prices are not thoroughly tested, owing to the meagre business passing, but the tendency is definitely easy nearly all round. Approximately the ruling prices for shipping business are the following (f.o.b. district ports) :—Lanarkshire: Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s.-13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 14s.-14s. 6d.; third-class steam, 12s. 6d.-12s. 9d.; trebles, 14s.-14s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 9d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. Lothians.—Prime steam, 14s.; secondary steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 9d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Although there is a dearth of inquiry on the Cardiff coal market, the shipment of coal continues active. The returns of the Customs authorities for January give a larger total than in any other month since October, 1923. The exports to foreign destinations amounted to nearly 2½ million tons compared with only just over 2 million tons in the corresponding period in 1929, while the weekly returns during the present month have exceeded an average of 600,000 tons. The proportion of trade arranged directly between colliery companies and foreign consumers is now far greater than it was in pre-war years. Colliery stems are well filled for some time ahead, but at the moment prompt tonnage is scarce. Production is being maintained, and for the first four weeks under the output regulation scheme it has exceeded that in the corresponding period last year by over 400,000 tons. Still, for prompt supplies quotations for all large coals were ruling at the minimum schedule figures, and sized coals are also in need of prompt business, but other smalls are scarce and strong. Current approximate quotations are as follows :—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 19s. to 19s. 3d.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; best steam smalls, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 24s. 6d. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. 6d. to 46s.; stove nuts, 43s. 6d. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 12s. to 12s. 9d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 9d. to 26s.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of The London Iron and Steel Exchange :—The tendency for business in iron and steel to improve which was noticeable recently, has not been maintained. This is the more disappointing as at this period of the year the spring demand should be well in evidence. In the pig iron section of the market demand has become restricted, and pig iron is being put into stock at some of the furnaces. This to a large extent reflects the poor trading conditions which are being experienced by consumers such as foundries, forges, &c. Nevertheless, prices are being held at recent levels. The demand for semi-finished steel is also quieter than of late. Recently, inquiries totalling a considerable tonnage were circulated in the market; but a large proportion of this seems to have been for the purpose of testing the price position and a comparatively small amount resulted in actual business. Consumers seem to be buying only sufficient material to meet their immediate requirements, and this is particularly noticeable amongst users of Continental steel. On the other hand, the Continental makers are holding their recently fixed prices, and in some cases have retired from the market for a time. The position, so far as finished steel is concerned, continues irregular. Some of the British works are fairly well off for orders, whilst others find a difficulty in keeping their plants steadily occupied. The Continental steelmakers also report a quiet demand. In spite of encouraging inquiries which developed a week or two ago, good business with overseas markets has not come up to expectations.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes: The quietness that has characterised the market for Cleveland iron for some weeks past is unrelieved, and a gloomy view is taken of the immediate prospects. Consumption of iron at producer's own steel works and foundries is reported to be on a somewhat reduced scale, and with no expansion in the outside demand stocks at the furnaces are increasing. Producers up to now have maintained a firm front in regard to prices, but it is understood that they have just recently made a special cut in order to secure some of the Scotch trade in competition with Continental iron, which for some time past have been obtainable at much below Cleveland prices. During the past week only odd lots of iron have been purchased from makers by local and inland consumers at 72s. 6d. per ton for No. 3, and the business transacted at Tuesday's market was of a similar nature, although merchants accepted a trifle less. No. 1 remained at 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 71s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron are below those of last month, the clearances to 11th inst. being 5,579 tons against 7,219 tons to January 11th. In hematite business is disappointing, and orders coming to hand are only of small volume. Home consumers show little inclination to enter into forward purchases, and export business continues very restricted on account of Continental competition. Makers have orders on their books extending over several months, but current requirements do not absorb the whole make and stocks are being added to at most works. Makers now quote 78s. for mixed numbers for delivery over a month or two, but they would accept a trifle less for substantial business. Merchants have cut this price for such orders as they can handle. In the heavy steel trade new business is only quiet, but there are important orders still to execute under old bookings. The sheets trade continues very depressed and the price for 24-gauge galvanised corrugated is again lower. Prices for home consumption under the rebate scheme show no change, viz., steel plates, ⅜ in. up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 10s. Outside the rebate arrangement, iron bars are £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £11 12s. 6d., and 21-24-gauge black sheets, £9 15s. The ore market remains idle. Best Bilbao rubio is nominally 22s. 6d. for prompt and 23s. for delivery a few months ahead. The rate of freight, Bilbao-Middlesbrough for early loading is about 6s. 6d. Coke is offering freely at 21s. 6d. delivered furnaces for good medium qualities, and this price might be shaded. The number of furnaces in blast in the district remains at 42.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: The position of the iron and steel industries does not mend and depression is general. Forward buying almost ceased early in December and has not yet been resumed. Consumers lack confidence in the future and will not commit themselves beyond week-to-week requirements. Many small orders are, however, being placed. Present conditions have led to intense price-cutting, with the result that much of the business being booked is barely remunerative. Several of the heavy steel forges are busy on ships and special work. Further orders have come in for drums for high-pressure boilers forged hollow by the new process. There is a good demand for twist drills. The market for steel scrap continues stagnant and export buying is easier. The depression in pig iron has deepened and the foundries are generally quiet. Association prices are being maintained but business transactions are few and unimportant. Demand for cutlery and plate shows some sign of reviving.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: The iron and stee business in the West of Scotland remains very quiet. Steelmakers are keeping plants in operation fairly well employed, but the business, though steady, is not growing, and this notwithstanding that Continental competition both in heavy and semi-raw materials is not so keen at the moment. In the galvanised sheet trade the home demand is highly satisfactory, but there is still very little export business and prices are low for any orders placed. The home demand for black sheets is also good, and for export business is more satisfactory as regards both price and tonnage. During the week the Ailsa Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., have received an order from the General Steam Navigation Co. for a single-screw steamer having a deadweight capacity of 1,600 tons; the engines also to be supplied by the builders. This vessel is being fitted with special cold-storage equipment.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Stable conditions prevail in the South Wales tinplate market, and prices are being firmly maintained up to 18s. 9d. per basis box. There are better inquiries from the Far East, Australia and the Continent, as well as from the home market. Negotiations are in progress for the inclusion of three independent firms into the marketing organisation of the South Wales Tinplate Corporation, and it is anticipated that when they are concluded over 70 per cent. of the sales of the industry will be centralised. Galvanised sheets are still weak and quotations this week have further receded to £11 12s. 6d.-£11 15s., or £2 per ton less at the corresponding period last year. Local steel bars are unaltered at £6 10s., but foreign bars are obtainable at £5 9s. per ton.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—In the standard market, values pursued a downward course owing to lack of support and weaker Eastern advices. Sellers, however, were reluctant to press, and moderate sales were attended by slight irregularity. Reports that Dutch interests did not view the restriction scheme with favour imparted some reserve on the part of buyers, and the market is still somewhat unsettled. Shipments from the Straits during January amounted to 8,238 tons, compared with 8,849 tons in December last. Total supply, 11,883 against 13,374; total deliveries, 11,026 against 10,850, and visible supplies 28,783 against 27,926 tons. Standard cash sold at £175 10s. to £174 2s. 6d.; three months, £178 10s.-£176 12s. 6d. Sales in the East were reported at £180 5s. to £178 15s. c.i.f. terms. Exports from British Malaya during January totalled 7,856 tons against 9,290 tons in December last. Foreign imports of tin ore into the Straits Settlements amounted to 4,681 tons.

Copper.—Market irregular and easier, especially for near positions, with a fair trade passing. Standard cash, sold, £74 15s.-£75 and £71 17s. 6d.; three months, £69 15s.-£70 and £69 2s. 6d.

Lead steady but inactive. Small sales include good soft foreign pig, February, at £21 12s. 6d. to £21 13s. 9d.; April, £21 11s. 3d.; May, £21 11s. 3d. per ton.

Spelter in good demand, but rates barely steady on liberal offerings. American production for January, 51,133 tons, compared with 48,590 during December; shipments, 40,462, against 34,389; stocks, 87,933, against 77,262 tons. February, sold, £19 13s. 9d. to £19 12s. 6d.; March, £19 18s. 9d. to £19 15s.; April, £20 2s. 6d. to £19 17s. 6d.; May, £20 2s. 6d. to £20 1s. 3d.

Antimony steady, with a better demand. English regulus, £42 10s. to £50; Chinese ditto, spot, £31; February-March, £26 10s.; Chinese, crude, February-March, £18 per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide, February-March, £26 10s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore, 50 per cent., February-March, 4s.; 60 per cent., 5s. per unit c.i.f.

Zinc Oxide dull. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton as to quality, delivered United Kingdom.

Copper Sulphate quiet. Spot, £26 15s. to £27 5s. ton.

Wolfram steady. Chinese, February-March, 32s. 6d.; March-April, 32s.; Burmese, spot, 36s. 6d.; February-April, 32s. per unit c.i.f.

Aluminium maintained. Home trade, £95 ; export, £100 ton.

Quicksilver quiet. Spot, £22 15s. to £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

Tin Plates steady. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 7½d. to 18s. 10½d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

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THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, February 12th.

Prices on the week have witnessed a sharp decline of 47 points, followed by a rise of some 30 points, the net balance showing a loss of 19 points.

	March.	May.	October.
Noon Wednesday last	8·52	8·63	8·80
Noon to-day	8·34	8·44	8·61
High prices of the week	8·56	8·67	8·83
Low prices of the week	8·06	8·16	8·35

The selling in the beginning of the week under review was due to some stale long liquidation and speculative short selling on poor trade advices and the belief that the Farm Board in America was selling actual cotton and replacing with futures. Government interference has been fatal, and the decline in price has failed to stimulate trade demand. After a drop such as we have seen since the beginning of the year, a reaction could only be looked for and this has been brought about by some short covering. This season's crop of outsiders has been a large one and of good quality, and as the cotton is cheaper it has been freely used in place of American. The American Cotton Service (late Garside) yesterday estimated the January consumption in America at 590,000 bales against 454,000 bales in December and 668,000 bales in January last year. Spot sales for the week, 6th to 12th (inclusive), are 19,000 bales, of which 9,750 are American, 1,850 Brazil, 300 Argentine, 3,050 Peru, 1,780 Egyptian, 670 African, 1,200 East Indian, and 400 sundries. Imports for the same period are 59,321 bales, of which 25,822 are American, 17,150 Brazil, 1,025 Peru, 8,884 Egyptian, 1,488 African, 4,584 East Indian and 368 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·62; Egyptian Sakel, 13·55; Uppers, 10·14; Brazil Fair, 8·32; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·50; Smooth, 9·32; West African middling, 8·67; and East African G.F., 9·57.

MANCHESTER, February 12th.

The wider fluctuations in raw material prices continue to have a disconcerting influence upon trade in the market, and although in certain quarters there has been rather more inquiry, sellers have not been successful in booking orders of any importance. It is stated that cloth clearances in Calcutta have recently improved. Buying continues to take place in light fabrics for that outlet on a moderate scale. There has been a little more demand in printing styles for Bombay and jaconets have been in request for Madras. There is rather less anxiety with regard to the political situation, but there remains a fear of an increase in the import duties. The auction sales have been resumed in Shanghai after the holidays and on Tuesday last there was a good inquiry, the position in dyed goods being better than for greys and whites. Merchants continue to be hampered by the low rate of exchange. Bleached shirtings have been sold for Egypt and finishing qualities have been in request for South America. There does not seem to be any move towards greater activity for the Continent On the whole, home trade demand has been better than shipping, and clearances throughout the country rather tend to improve In American and Egyptian yarns there has been considerable irregularity in quotations when tested. Some spinners have sold a little more freely, but the general position is still very poor.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930. Jan. 22.	1930. Jan. 29.	1930. Feb. 5.	1930. Feb. 15.	Corresponding Date. 1928.	Corresponding Date. 1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 9·47	d. 9·23	d. 8·77	d. 8·62	d. 10·24	d. 10·48
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·55	14·40	13·95	13·55	17·40	17·95
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13⅜	13⅛	13⅛	13	15⅛	15⅛
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	14	13⅜	13⅛	13⅛	15⅜	16
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23½	23	22½	22	27	26½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 23 6	s. d. 23 3	s. d. 23 0	s. d. 23 0	s. d. 25 0	s. d. 26 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 6	26 3	26 0	26 0	27 3	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.....	14 4½	14 3	14 1½	14 1½	14 9	15 3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	13 0	12 10½	12 9	12 9	13 7½	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: There has been a tendency to revert to the old hand-to-mouth policy during the past week and the turnover in both tops and yarns has been smaller. The wool position appears to worry a good many users at home and abroad, and not a few are disposed to resent the restrictions imposed by the Australian selling interests. The malcontents argue that wool should be marketed freely, and they contend that the big weight still to come on to the market is a menace to the trade. Others believe that the extension of the selling season and the fixing of reserves will tend to stabilise the market, but it must be admitted that even those who profess to see in the new policy a means of escape from the present deadlock are not very confident. In the meantime more encouraging reports are being received from the primary markets, and under the influence of good general competition values show a hardening tendency. In Bradford quotations for tops are certainly steadier than they have been for many months, but it is difficult for sellers to make more money for any quality. If the Australian stabilisation scheme had the effect of bringing out more business in piece-goods, something in the nature of a sustained buying movement might be expected, but at present cloth buyers are still inclined to play for safety, and users everywhere are desperately afraid of being caught with stock in the event of a relapse in the market.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The outlook for wool has been improved by recent events. The last series of London sales having closed with values fully 5 per cent. above the opening level, contributed to the development of confidence. The part played by the home trade is shown in the fact that the quantity purchased by that section was larger than at any series during 1929, while Continental purchases were smaller; 65,000 bales is, no doubt, a fair quantity to carry forward to the next series, arranged to commence on March 18th. This quantity included 45,000 bales not offered, but the situation has improved so much that, even recognising this carryover and the fact that the auctions were curtailed by three days, there is now less cause for concern about the future of values. Credit must be given to home trade buyers for the way in which they have helped to save the situation, though no doubt even these would have been unable to do anything towards the recovery if there had not been some definite requirements to provide for. The net result of the recent buying movement in wool, and the increased turnover in tops is to leave the top market firm at around 2s. 6d. for good 64's, and all that is needed to maintain this level is a steady development of manufacturing requirements. The news received from overseas markets is encouraging. There does not seem to have been any improvement in values in South Africa, but Bradford is credited with further activity in Sydney, the offerings having included some wools of average top-making style. Prices have not shown any advance, but there has been some broadening of competition. Buyers at Melbourne have revealed their confidence by paying enhanced prices, and values have probably passed the lowest point. The efforts made by Australian selling interests to stabilise values have met with the approval of the majority of users, for it was felt that a great deal of harm was being done by the persistent decline. There are difficulties associated with the extension of the selling season, but taking a definite stand on the question of selling price was justifiable.

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HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Domestic hides are slightly weaker; at the sales held in the north reductions of ½d. per lb. have been registered, and with the poor condition of most of the supplies now coming on to the market it is expected that lower prices will rule at the auctions during the week-end. Calfskins are scarce, but with the demand for these slightly less, values have again shown an easing tendency. With the lower prices ruling for wool, sheepskins continue to drop in value, and there is every prospect of further reductions in the near future. Foreign hides have again moved in favour of buyers on the whole, and although orders have been put through on account of the home trade there is no life in Continental business and the utmost difficulty is experienced in effecting sales. The South American market for frigorifics is just a fraction firmer; Argentine ox have changed hands on the basis of 8⅝d. for United States tanners, with sales of light ox-made at 7½d. and Montevideo ox at 8⅜d. The prices realised on Leibig Colon ox showed a decline on average of about four per cent Dry River Plates have been easier, and business has been done in B.A. Americanos at 8¾d., B.A. Inservibles at 5½d., and M.V. Americanos at 9⅜d. An appreciable amount of business has been done in Capes, which have commanded from 8⅜d. to 5½d. for the four selections, while dry-salted have changed hands at from 8d. to 7d. for the two first selections. The American market is cabled steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 14½ cents. Business in sole leather continues to move on satisfactory lines, although here and there a slight setback is considered to have taken place. Generally speaking, however, the position is unchanged; tanners receive regular day-to-day orders, and prices for most descriptions remain firm. Shoe manufacturing wants are not large, and business is mainly centred on medium to light bends of a fairly decent tannage, stocks of which are not large. Common dry hide bends are the weakest spot in the market, and here possibly supplies might be obtained below asking prices. The repairing trade seems to be fairly well occupied, and business on account of this section is being put through all the time. Bellies and shoulders are wanted all the time, except perhaps the medium weights in the former, where a slight falling off in the inquiry has been noticed. In the upper leather section steady trade is taking place in connection with black and brown glacé in the medium and cheap selections, while a regular day-to-day call is experienced for box and willow calf; the best part of the inquiry being in connection with the latter. Patent leather continues to show improvement, while there has been further development in connection with the inquiry for suede leather for shoe purposes. Reptile and imitation reptile skins are moving a little better, and hopes are entertained for a larger business in the near future. Curriers report trade as slow, while shoe manufacturers have experienced an improvement in the number of orders coming to hand for footwear.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

A better tone has developed in the market for linseed crushers, both here and on the Continent, having bought freely in near positions after holding aloof for some time. Plate on passage and February shipment to Hull was done at as low as £17 last week, and this seems to have been sufficient inducement to consumers to fill their immediate requirements. Generally, the market is firmer, and the value on spot has advanced to £17 15s., and February shipment to £17 13s. 9d. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe is now substantial, and at 174,300 tons, is 13,700 tons more than a week ago. Cotton seed has continued very quiet, and easy business again being largely of a re-sale character, although Alexandrian shippers have shown more disposition to meet the market. Business in black Egyptian is reported at £7 8s. 9d. for March, and £7 10s. for April loadings, while current value on spot and passage is £7 10s., with Sakellaridis 5s. per ton less than black. There is no trade in Bombay cotton seed, as values are too high. Linseed oil is in fair demand and steady current value being £43 15s. on spot, and £42 15s. for February delivery per ton naked ex Hull mill. Cotton oils are rather steadier, but demand is poor. Crude Egyptian is quoted £27, and common edible £30 5s. ex Hull. Other seed oils are quiet, and show but little change. Demand for oilcakes and meals is disappointing.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—A very dull market continues, and abstention from buying on the part of distributors and manufacturers, not only in the United Kingdom, but also American centres, is depressing the general position of the commodity. Prices for spot goods, almost without exception, were reduced 3d., and forward granulated by the same amount. Total Java shipments for last month were quite in line with estimate, viz., 138,000 tons, against 213,000 at same time last year. British India took 76,000 tons, against 90,000 last year; Port Said, nil, against 24,000; United Kingdom, nil, against 9,000; Singapore, etc., 13,000, against 14,000; Japan, 10,000, against 16,000; China, 31,000. against 38,000; Levant, 6,000, against 7,000; Scandinavia, nil, against 6,000; and others, 2,000, against 9,000. Home-grown granulated reduced 1½d. Raw refining sugars remain very dull; 500 tons Peruvian 96 per cent., February, to Liverpool, sold 7s. 6d. c.i.f. terms. Terminal sections easier and business conducted quietly. Of raw, March delivery sold 6s. 1½d. to 6s.; May, 7s. 2½d.; August, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 8½d.; December, 8s. 0⅜d. to 8s. Imports into the United Kingdom last month totalled 163,686 tons, as compared with 249,486 same time last year; home consumption, 128,765, against 152,533; stocks, 324,450, against 295,200; and stocks of home-grown, 137,950, against 61,000. Cuban receipts for past week, old crop, 15,778 tons, against nil last year; exports, 38,168, against 13,865; stocks, 93,524, against 4,963. Receipts of new crop last week, 165,257 tons, against 266,347 last year; exports, 19,275, against 125,830; stocks, 341,334, against 596,192. Centrals, 151 tons, against 163. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending February 8th amounted to 249,551 tons, compared with 178,942 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—The London spot market continues to show some irregularity. A good many parcels realised full prices, but in other directions weakness prevailed. Progress at public sales proved quiet. Fine bold Costa Rica sold 161s.; Kenya, 149s.

COCOA.—Business on the spot market is still on a limited scale and prices barely maintained. Forward positions dull and easier. Accra, F/F, March-May, London contract, quoted, 40s. f.o.b. terms. In the terminal section, March delivery sold 43s. to 42s. 6d.; May, 43s. 6d. to 43s. 1½d. and 43s. 3d.; July, 44s. to 44s. 1½d., and later, 43s. 10½d.

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

(Values)

	Imports. Month Ended January 31. 1929.	Imports. Month Ended January 31. 1930.	Exports. Month Ended January 31. 1929.	Exports. Month Ended January 31. 1930.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—	£	£	£	£
A. Grain and flour	8,350,691	6,509,148	382,184	398,086
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	1,103,463	779,279	288,595	239,021
C. Meat	9,353,364	8,507,511	165,471	153,575
D. Animals, living, for food	1,372,246	1,608,467		
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	20,488,544†	18,218,570†	8,806	13,436
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	7,234,725†	5,644,423†	2,590,404	2,950,649
G. Tobacco	1,657,906	1,656,905	791,479	856,070
Total, Class I.	49,565,939	42,924,303	4,226,939	4,610,837
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,080	3,849	3,475,676	4,710,268
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	561,120	515,647	181,369	194,736
C. Iron ore and scrap	530,430	535,528	151,840	79,628
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,546,127	1,510,722	192,196	77,364
E. Wood and timber	3,056,766	2,951,863	39,742	23,974
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	11,974,724	7,517,856	151,491	66,759
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	8,183,369	6,635,722	1,045,367	582,204
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	210,016	291,913	1,490	1,371
I. Other textile materials	2,503,813	1,950,613	14,566	28,838
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	3,822,547	2,903,173	457,484	446,556
K. Hides and skins, undressed	2,562,511	1,971,452	355,733	196,139
L. Paper-making materials	1,277,059	1,125,170	118,177	127,763
M. Rubber	1,702,414	1,237,903	24,658	18,912
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,211,042	981,597	435,595	342,811
Total, Class II.	39,144,018	30,133,008	6,645,384	6,897,323
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	441	3,759	410,206	427,728
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	980,069	922,787	1,213,453	1,139,416
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,072,965	2,442,623	6,419,834	5,471,358
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	3,133,322	3,154,593	1,578,554	1,231,171
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	675,840	518,880	844,883	711,058
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	441,441	743,877	950,862	1,166,606
G. Machinery	1,627,372	1,514,406	5,077,573	4,456,173
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	847,744	934,584	216,179	204,982
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	912,774	850,517	13,820,585	10,914,027
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,442,829	1,254 682	5,596,682	4,482,477
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,153,708	1,034,381	192,552	166,903
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,394,276	1,408,117	2,376,057	2,101,483
M. Apparel	1,387,442	1,566,091	2,093,672	1,897,872
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	1,533,188	1,259,061	2,230,262	2,172,831
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	2,958,962	4,594,892	782,993	847,533
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,345,099	1,149,476	617,754	436,658
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,446,679	1,624,878	804,156	835,275
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	663,241	496,913	4,937,597	3,141,225
S. Rubber manufactures	288,199	332,003	291,450	254,506
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,483,325	2,157,649	3,387,243	2,613,321
Total, Class III.	26,788,916	27,964,169	53,842,638	44,672,603
IV.—Animals, not for food	242,674	273,556	201,383	193,869
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	804,141	558,622	1,963,263	1,887,846
Total	116,545,688	101,853,658	66,879,607	58,262,478

† Duty on Tea repealed as from April 22, 1929, inclusive. Figures transferred from Group F to Group E.

TEA.—Quantity of Indian brought to auction during the week totalled 53,968 packages. After a decidedly quiet opening, bidding improved as the sales progressed, and, after manifesting certain irregularity, prices were ultimately very little changed. Some southern invoices showed a slight improvement in quality, and this was reflected in prices secured. Ceylon sales of 25,253 packages attracted generally good competition, and though slight irregularity was observable at times, there was no essential change to note on balance. Good medium leaf and broken teas well competed for, especially the former, owing to export support accorded. Java and Sumatra auctions met with fair competition and rates obtained proved generally steady.

RICE.—Market largely nominal, as buyers are still very reserved. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, 14s.; with February-March, 11s. 4½d. c.i.f. Spanish oiled, February-March, sellers, 15s. 9d. American blue rose from 22s. to 23s. c.i.f. No. 3, Burmah to the Levant, double bags, February, 11s. 3d. S.Q. to Cuba, 11s. 10½d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, February-March, to Europe, 12s. Siam Super, February-March, 15s. 4½d.

BROKEN RICE.—Quiet. Burma 1A, February-March, 10s. 10½d.; B1, 10s. 4½d.; A2, 10s. 3d.; B2, 10s. Saigon 1 and 2 mixed, 10s. 7½d. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN.—Market dull. Afloat, sellers, at £4; for shipment, February-March, £4; July-December, £5 per ton ex ship terms.

BEANS.—Butters quiet, and prices rather unsettled. Spot lots, old, 30s. to 34s.; new, per "Clan Macindoe," 34s. to 35s. ex wharf. Parcels per "Eugene Grossos," 30s. 6d.; "Clan Chatton," 30s. 6d.; per "Belgrano," 29s.; "Clan Macneil," 28s.; January-March, 26s. 9d. c.i.f. "Ohtenashi," afloat, 21s. 6d. to 22s.; February-March shipments, 21s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 12s. 6d.; February-March, 12s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 13s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Danubian, hand-picked, spot, London, 23s. 6d.; February-March, 23s. To Glasgow: North African, January-February, 8s. 9d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—A firmer market, demand becoming keener on colder weather and improved position of Dutch varieties. Japanese, spot, old, 15s.; new, 15s. 6d.; afloat, steamer "Diomed," sold at 15s. 9d.; January-February, 16s. 3d.; February-March, 16s. 3d.; March-April, 16s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, quoted, 15s. 6d.; small blues, hand-picked, 12s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, January-February, 57s. Karachi, nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, February-March, old, 57s.; new crop, March-April, 58s. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, February-March, 66s. 6d. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper again in demand, and market hardened, though assuming a quieter tone subsequently. Black Lampong, spot, quoted, 1s. 0½d.; Tellicherry, 1s. 2d.; Aleppy, 1s. 2d.; Muntok, white, 1s. 5d. Lampong, January-March, sold, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 0⅞d.; March-May, 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1⅝d. Muntok, white, January-March, done, 1s. 4⅝d.; March-May, 1s. 5d. lb. London stocks of black underwent almost no change on the week at 1,126 tons, against 1,141 same time last year. White reduced 31 to 1,219, against 359 last year. Tellicherry, February-April, quoted, 127s.; Aleppy, ditto, 125s. cwt. c.i.f. Cloves steadier inclined. Forward, Zanzibar, 8¾d. to 8⅝d. as to position. Sago flour, February-March, to the United Kingdom, 11s. 6d.; March-April, 11s. 4½d.; April-May, 11s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch farina, prompt, 9s. f.o.b. Ginger very dull at the moment.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market disclosed rather more inquiry, but trade still lacks activity and trend of prices easier. Pyrgos, quoted, 36s.-37s.; Amalias, 38s.-40s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 43s.-48s.; Vostizza, 51s.-60s.; Australian, 36s.-39s. Sultanas quiet. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates steady. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins in small supply, but trade restricted. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs steady. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 29s.-38s.; good average, 25s.-27s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Trade requirements are still somewhat restricted, buyers showing no disposition to increase their purchases, but late rates were maintained, as no selling pressure is felt. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 72s. 6d.; 50's-60's 63s. Apricots: South African, new crop, Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 67s. 6d.-77s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 90s.; extra, 100s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 112s. 6d.; Mogador, 110s.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-130s.; bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. new crop c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 155s.; Barcelona, 147s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts, 145s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUIT.—Trade generally fails to expand and with available supplies quite adequate for requirements prices for Californian descriptions exhibited slight irregularity and weakness. Stocks of Australian move off steadily, but so far buyers evince little interest in the new pack. Singapore pines steady on spot, but buyers still indifferent regarding shipment parcels despite reduced qualities held by packers. Available supplies of South African are in small compass, and new pack quotations are expected to be on a higher basis. Italian tomatoes in slow demand on former terms.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market still quiet but undertone steady. Alaska, red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab firm, and fancy qualities quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters in quiet demand but stocks light. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in fair demand, especially of best quality. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm, especially for ox tongues on restricted offerings. Lunch tongues sell well and Danish packers offer reservedly at full rates, while business is proceeding steadily in cooked hams for forward delivery.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market fairly steady and trade demand was maintained. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 23s. Full cream milk-powders: English roller process, 28 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 95s.; Dutch ditto, 26 per cent. butterfat, 1-cwt. cases, 69s.; Dutch spray, 26 per cent. butterfat, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 92s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk-powders: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 39s.; ditto 1-cwt. cases, 37s. 6d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remains quiet. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s. Fine white Cuban, 49s. San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s. Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. Ukrainian, light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

RUBBER.—With sustained inquiries and reserve still marked on the part of sellers, a firm market resulted. Standard sheet, spot and February sold, 8d. to 8 1/16d.; March, 8⅛d.; April-June, 8⅛d. to 8 5/16d.; July-September, 8 3/16d.; October-December, 8 1/16d. to 8¼d. To New York, estate sheet, February-March sold, 7¾d.; March-April, 8d. c.i.f. London stocks increased 1,022 tons on the week. Landings, 2,710; deliveries, 1,688; stocks, 61,482 against 25,413 last year. Liverpool stocks 137 down: Landings, 175; deliveries, 312; stocks, 19,761 against 4,106.

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	48	0
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	9	2
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	8	2
Oats, " " "	6	7
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 36 6	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11	4	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23	0	24
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3	0	4
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5	8	6
Argentine chilled hinds... 4	9	5
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7	0	7
N.Z. frozen " 5	0	5
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 8	0	9

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	110	0 133 0
Danish.....	103	0 110 0
Canadian.....	104	0 106 0
Dutch	93	0 103 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0 0
Canadian.....	0	0 0 0
American	96	0 108 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	136	0 154 0
New Zealand	142	0 170 0
Danish.....	176	0 178 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0 100 0
New Zealand	87	0 91 0
English Cheddars	95	0 124 0
Dutch	50	0 98 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 2s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46 0
Trinidad	65	0 68 0
Grenada	48	0 54 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
B.I., good to fine, per cwt. 140		0 150 0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 155		0 180 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 115		0 135 0
Kenya, bold sizes 121		0 162 6
Colombian, mid to fine... 105		0 120 0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	20	0 23 0
Danish.....	15	0 19 0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0 0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	11	0 18 6
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ¼ cases 300	7	6 39 0
360	8	9 17 0
504	11	0 16 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	7	0 9 6
" ..... cases	8	6 14 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0 0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	19	0 44 0
" (var.) boxes	9	6 15 9
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0 0
" W. Australian	0	0 0 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	6	0	6	6
case 5s.	7	0	6	9
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	78	0	84	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	56	0	58	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	5	0	0
Black Lampong	1	0½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	63	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	65	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	9	3	10
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	10	2	0
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	3	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Feb.-Mar.	10	5½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	3
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8	2	2
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	7
Orange Pekoe	0	11	2	3
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	11½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.

	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·62
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·55
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	56	0	0	0
Pernau HD	52	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort....	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Feb.–April " J2 "..	32	0	0	0
N.Z., Aug.–Oct.		nom.		
Sisal African, Jan.–Mar...	32	10	34	10
Mexican		nom.		

JUTE—	£	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton			
Feb.–Mar.	26	17	6
Mar.–April	27	0	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	12	0	13	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18
" Lincoln hog, washed	13½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	14
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	32
" 64's	30
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	1½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	7½	18	10½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/10/0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard	74/5/0		74	10
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	22	15	23	0
Soft Foreign 21/13/9			21/11/3	
Spelter G.O.B. 19/13/9			20/3/9	
Tin—English ingots. ...175/10/0			176/0/0	
Standard cash	174/7/6		174	10

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	11
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	11	6	12	6
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.–Mar.	22/1/3		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	20/15/0		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5½	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	6
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	4	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	10	1	2
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	44	10	0	0
Rape, refined	39	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	27	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	30/5/0		31/7/6	
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	0	12	5
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Feb.-Mar.	17/13/9		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19/10/0		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	42	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	8½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	132	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	6

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Calcutta became firmer, while influential buying of futures was reported, to which the London market slightly responded. But business just now is very professional, and trade in all jute-manufactured goods reduced to a minimum. First, January-February, Hamburg quoted, £26 12s. 6d.; ditto, February-March sold, £26 17s. 6d.; February-March to Antwerp at £27; March-April, usual ports, quoted £27 2s. 6d.; April-May, £27 7s. 6d. Lightnings, February-March, £25 5s.; Hearts, £22 5s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila qualities in better request and market steadier as sellers adopted reserve. J2, February-April quoted, £32; K, January-March buyers, £31 5s.; February-April and March-May, £30 15s.; June-August, £31 5s.; L1, February-April quoted, £28 15s.; M1, £28 15s.; M2, £24 10s.; H, £31 10s. Sisal unaltered. No. 1, f.a.q. African, February-April, £33 10s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 34,000 bales against 34,000 last year and 28,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 35,000, and week after 33,000. Shipments last week from Manila, 23,000 bales to U.K. and Continent, 12,000 U.S.A., 2,000 Japan, and other countries 2,000. With an adjustment, local stock now stands at 177,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—A dearer market. Fair T.N., spot, 132s. 6d.; March, 122s.; May, 125s., and August sold, 129s.

COPRA.—Remains very quiet to Northern European ports, and Marseilles steady. Straits F.M.S., February-March, to Rotterdam, sold £22 1s. 3d.; Ceylon quoted, £23 10s.; Dutch East Indies, £22 1s. 3d. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch E.I., February-March, £21; smoked South Sea, £20 15s.; sun-dried ditto, £21 7s. 6d.; P.R. and H.A.D., £21 12s. 6d.; Manila, £21 7s. 6d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 14s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3½d.; Java, 2s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—February 12.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Irish	...		...		Canadian	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...		Sheep—Downs	8	6	9	8
Short Horns	6	0	6	4	Half bred	...		...	
Herefords	...		...		Ewes	5	0	5	6
Devons	...		...		Scottish	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...		Lamb—Downs	...		...	

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—February 12.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	4	0
" " " whites.....	2	6	3	0
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	3	6
" " " whites	2	6	...	

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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THE MONEY MARKET.

THE market is now passing through a quiet period, and, apart from foreign exchange and gold movements, little of note occurred this week. Money has been definitely easier, and on Wednesday day-to-day loans were quoted at 3½ per cent., or the same as weekly fixtures. Discount

rates were fractionally lower than in the preceding week, 3 13/16 and 3 7/8 per cent. being variously mentioned for three months' bills. March and April bills were called 4 per cent., and the six months' rate 3 7/8 per cent.

* * *

Once more the Bank failed to secure any of Tuesday's Cape gold, of which £910,000 was on offer in the market, and, after satisfying Indian and trade needs, £870,000 was bought by Germany at 84s. 10 3/4d. The same night the second consignment of £2,000,000 in gold bars arrived from Spain. £500,000 was offered in the market the following day, and again bought by Germany, the price, however, rising to 84s. 10 7/8d. The balance of £1,500,000 was also taken by Germany on Thursday. The price realised was 84s. 11d. per oz., thus showing a further slight advance. Next week and the week after gold arrivals from the Cape will include on each occasion £250,000 in sovereigns, which will automatically pass into the hands of the Bank. There is also £7,000,000 of gold now on its way from Australia. Hence, despite recent German purchases and the present strength of the dollar exchange, there is no reason for anticipating any immediate inroads into the Bank's gold stocks.

* * * *

Among the foreign exchanges, the mark and the dollar have now replaced the franc as the danger point. The strength of the mark is not easy to understand, as a short time ago the Berlin market was supposed to have been saturated with foreign loans, and unable to absorb any more. A possible explanation is continued short-term borrowing by German municipalities, who find it easier to get accommodation abroad than at home, but such an explanation is of a very tentative character.

* * * *

The causes of the relapse of sterling against the dollar to under $4.86 can be stated more definitely. One reason is that the French Government are believed to be making certain debt preparations, while a moderate amount of French money is being re-transferred to New York for investment there. This makes the pound gain ground against the franc, but lose it against the dollar, and incidentally explains the rise in the Paris exchange to above par. The adverse movement in the New York exchange, however, is believed to be due to a further cause, and that is a transfer of investment money from British to American securities.

	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	5	4½	4½	4½	5 (Feb. 6, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	3	2½	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Discount (Call	3	2½	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Houses (Notice	3½	2¾	2¾	2¾	3½ (Feb.6,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 7/8	3 15/16	3 7/8–15/16	3 13/16–7/8	

The most interesting movement in the week's Bank return is a contraction of £2,422,000 in the note circulation, which is mainly responsible for the increase of £2,562,000 in the Reserve, and for raising the Proportion to the high figure of 61⅜ per cent. The Reserve ratio of gold to outside liabilities, which in some ways is the more representative figure, is 33⅜ per cent., which is still low in comparison with accepted central banking standards. A reduction of £3,230,000 in Discounts and Advances represents market repayments to the Bank on February 13th, while there is very likely some connection between the steady reduction in the volume of outstanding Treasury Bills and the contraction of £6,129,000 in Government securities and of £4,066,000 in Public Deposits.

NEW YORK.

Money rates were unchanged, with the call rate a shade firmer at 4½ per cent. This week's Reserve statement contains little of interest, with no important alteration in any item, the ratio being 78.5, compared with 77.9 and 70.8 a year ago. Brokers' loans were up 44 millions, bringing the total to 150 millions above the recent low point. A gain of 7.4 millions in gold was recorded on the week as a result of shipments from South America, and a total of 25 millions now in from Japan, with another 50 millions expected. The steel industry's operating rate is up to 82 per cent., but the improvement is slowing down, and only a slight gain in motor output is expected during February, with the industry running on one-third of capacity. Employment in January was 1.8 per cent. below the December figure, but a slight gain occurred in February.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The tone of the stock markets was dull and hesitant, apart from a slight accession of interest in mid-week, coinciding with distinctly firm conditions in New York. The rise in gilt-edged stock was arrested by the fall in the New York exchange, and the offer of a number of high-priced new trustee issues. Home rails recovered after further liquidation. A fair business, of a selective character, was done in international stocks, but domestic industrial shares were affected by the publication of unfavourable annual reports by more than one large concern. Rubber shares were marked up on an international decision to suspend tapping in May next, but tea shares were idle and oils depressed by reductions in crude prices in America. Business in the mining markets was restricted, Rhodesian coppers, though still the most active section, failing to maintain the whole of the preceding week's activity.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The prospects for the spring are still uncertain. New orders for coal are not forthcoming, and the outlook is far from encouraging. There is no essential change in the position of the iron and steel trades, though there is some sign of improvement in the semi-finished section. The cotton industry is better supplied with orders, but uncertainty as to the future course of raw material values is hampering business. A similar situation obtains in Bradford, though there seems to be some hope of a sounder basis for wool prices. Depression in the jute trade remains unchanged. The hide and leather trades are steady, and some shoe manufacturers are well placed for orders. The oilseed and oil markets are fair. Wheat has declined sharply.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Irregularity, with only moderate activity, again characterised the foreign exchange market last week, the features being the weakness of sterling against the dollar, further wide fluctuations in the peseta, and the Paris rate moving above parity for the first time for a considerable period. The New York rate declined from 4.86 7/32 to 4.86 after 4.85⅞. Montreal gained 1⅛ at 4.88½. Paris depreciated steadily from 124.15 to 124.25, while Brussels lost 1½ at 34.90. Milan gained 6 points at 92.85. Madrid went from 38.55 to 38.80, but was at one time 40.40. Amsterdam, after hesitation, gained ¾ at 12.12. Berlin was unchanged on balance at 20.36½. The Scandinavian currencies were all very firm, Stockholm improving from 18.13¼ to 18.12⅛, Oslo from 18.21 to 18.18⅜, Copenhagen from 18.16⅜ to 18.16⅛, and Helsingfors from 193⅜ to 193¼. Constantinople was again weaker at 10.70 offered. Of the South American exchanges, Rio gained 1/16d. at 5 17/32d. Buenos Aires was again weak, and lost 1 3/16d. at 42 5/16d., as was Montevideo, at 43⅜d., a decline of ⅛d. In the Far East the rupee lost 1/44d. at 1s. 5 29/32d., but the yen gained 1/32d. at 2s. 0 9/32d. Batavia was rather weaker at 12.12⅜. In the futures market the dollar was again at a discount of 1/32 cent for one month and ⅛ cent for three. Paris was quoted at considerably higher premiums of 14 and 27 centimes. Brussels went from one and two centimes discount to par for both periods. Pesetas were rather stronger at 6 and 14½ centimos premium. Amsterdam was less wanted at lower premiums of ⅞ cent and 2 cents. Silver prices declined steadily as the result of continuous selling from China and the Continent in the absence of any real support, and spot declined by 11/16d. to 19 15/16d. and forward by ⅜d. to 19 13/16d. The China silver exchanges fell away in sympathy, Hongkong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 6⅛d. and Shanghai ⅜d. at 1s. 11¾d.

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THE NEW PARTY AND ITS POLICY.

THE decision of Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere to start a new political party to push their policy of Protection, independently of existing organisations, is an event of political importance. It is true that the history of previous attempts by great papers to mould politics to their liking is not encouraging; but Lord Beaverbrook has undoubtedly aroused interest by his persistent appeal to Imperial sentiment in this country, and as the noble lords are in a position to endow their enterprise with ample funds and to supply the material requirements of an active propaganda, the new movement, as the *Times* sadly admits, is likely to be a serious embarrassment to Conservatism. For the new party, so Lord Rothermere tells his readers, will, at the next election, contest half the seats of the country, "concentrating especially upon the South of England" (the exporting industries of the Midlands and North are, wisely, to be given a wide berth), and candidates are invited to come forward on the promise of having their expenses paid.

In an adventure of this kind, Press magnates have a great advantage over serious politicians who have had to deal with the Dominions and foreign countries, and may again have the responsibilities of office, for Press propaganda can be carried on without a really definite programme; a popular newspaper need not reply to criticism, however destructive, unless it chooses; and it can change its ground as occasion may serve. But the original differences between Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook, as we pointed out in the *Economist* of January 11th, were so marked that, before a joint offensive could be launched, it was necessary to arrive at least at an apparent agreement.

The political story of the week really opens with Mr Baldwin's speech at Belfast, on Sunday last. Starting from the self-evident proposition that, on fiscal questions, his followers were all at sixes and sevens ("the Unionist Party was the only party in which they found every shade of fiscal opinion") Mr Baldwin went on to explain that "whoever led the party must have as his principal object a policy which would bring a greater number of the party together in harmony, and the extremists must act as they think fit." He, therefore, rejected the idea of a "general" tariff in favour of his idea of safeguarding industries according to their various needs on what he described as "business grounds"; for a "general" tariff (which he seems to regard as a flat rate of duty on all imports—a system which exists nowhere in the world) would afford too much protection to some and too little to others. On the other hand, he rejected Empire Free Trade as a great, but impractical, ideal, though he believed that freer trade between members of the Empire was a hopeful direction in which to start towards making the Empire a unit; one day we might reach such a condition of affairs that "we may spread like a blessing all the works here in England, in Scotland, in Canada; and that, whether we be masters or workmen, we shall think no more of emigrating within that area than we think of emigrating from Yorkshire into Lancashire."

This halting conclusion—so reminiscent of Mr Balfour in 1904—was not to the liking of the Press peers, and, on Tuesday, the new party was launched by Lord Beaverbrook under the official name of the United Empire Party, but apparently to be known in the *Daily Mail* as the "Party of Prosperity." Lord Rothermere's adhesion was loudly announced, with full details of the campaign, in all his Press organs on the following day. The terms of the alliance are that Lord Rothermere accepts food taxes. "Hitherto," he writes, "I have hesitated to commit myself to proposals for the taxation of food which Lord Beaverbrook regards as essential to the great scheme he has unfolded. During my recent visit to America my secretariat and I have devoted great pains to the consideration of this aspect of the Imperial question, and I have come to the conclusion that, wisely imposed and carefully applied, taxes upon foreign foodstuffs may achieve the results which every true patriot desires." He goes on to say that such taxes can be so applied as to benefit the farmer and increase trade between Britain and the rest of the Empire "without in any way increasing the price of food to the workers in our great industrial centres." Further, he declares that the Empire to-day is producing such a surplus of food which it cannot sell that there is "enough of every description to make up any shortage there may be in our home-grown supplies."

Somewhat inconveniently for Lord Rothermere, the Civil Service, pursuing the even tenor of its way, has just produced a valuable little Blue Book setting out the actual facts regarding our food supply.* They show that this country was fed before the war and in recent years from the following sources:—

SOURCES OF BRITISH FOOD SUPPLY.

	Pre-War. £ millions	Pre-War. %	Post War. £ millions	Post War. %
Home supply.....	136·2	*43·3*	250·9	*39·3*
Imported from—				
British sources	55·6	*17·7*	138·1	*21·6*
Foreign sources.....	122·6	*39·0*	250·0	*39·1*
Total	314·4	*100*	639·0	*100*

To-day, 8s. in the £ spent on food is paid for home produce, 8s. for foreign produce, and 4s. for Empire produce—the latter having very slightly increased at the expense of the home producer as compared with the situation before the war. The food tax policy means that 8s. worth of food bought from foreign countries is to be taxed—out of every pound spent—in the hope that this supply will be replaced from home or Empire sources.

No juggling with statistics could prove that there is to-day a sufficient surplus of food produced in the Empire to make good the loss of supplies from foreign countries, and the change in the source of supplies that would be needed is on so large a scale that it could not possibly take place without the stimulus of a sharp and sustained rise of prices. What is true of food is true in varying degrees of our chief raw material requirements. Mr Lloyd George in the House recently made extremely effective use of the case of cotton, but similar considerations apply with regard to such important commodities as iron ore, timber, oil, copper, wool, silk and many other products. In all these cases there is some Empire production which could demand protection against foreign supplies. In short, not only is Empire Free Trade an impracticable policy owing to the definite refusal of the Dominions to accept it, but, even if it could be introduced in the form Lord Beaverbrook proposes, it would raise both the cost of living and the production costs of every industry in the country.

If Lord Rothermere's contribution to the concordat is to swallow food taxes, Lord Beaverbrook has taken on board a great deal of heavy cargo in the shape of a high, and preferably a prohibitive, tariff against all foreign manufacturers; subsidies to the British farmer; and a high-handed policy towards India (presumably also to the non-self-governing colonies), designed to compel these markets to admit British goods free and to tax those from other countries. As regards the general tariff proposal, figures given in an article elsewhere in this issue will serve to show the large volume of trade which would be affected. Lord Rothermere seems to imply that, if only we could keep out foreign manufactured imports, there would be such a great expansion of sales in the home market by British producers that it would keep our factories fully employed. This conception is quite fantastic. In the first place, when we have eliminated from our imports of so-called manufactures the items in the list which are really raw materials, and the manufactures which we import from the Empire, and have subtracted from the balance the value of the raw materials which would have to be imported if the goods were made here, the resulting total is a very modest sum. Even if British industries

* The Agricultural Output and the Food Supplies of Gt. Britain. (H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. net.)

could fill the gap, which in many cases is impracticable, the work would be no sort of a substitute, from the employment point of view, for the loss of export trade which such a policy would involve.

Lord Rothermere, whose admiration for the United States is unbounded, should surely realise that the British market is not sufficiently large to ensure the possibility of production on the greatest possible scale, which has contributed so much to America's advancement. There is evidence, however, that he does not seriously think that these foreign manufactures will, in fact, be displaced by British goods. The new Party, he announces, stands above all for the reconstruction of British agriculture, for, if Lord Beaverbrook's food taxes fail to restore prosperity to agriculture and at the same time provide cheap food for the urban population, " then subsidies to the farming industry must be provided *from the funds raised by taxing foreign manufactured goods.*" So these accursed goods are to come in after all. The hypothesis reveals the complete illogicality of this programme, which is simply a full-blooded policy of protection, including food, with an option offered to the self-governing Dominions to come in on a Free Trade basis and compulsion on other parts of the Empire to do so.

Meanwhile, the problem of stimulating British trade remains. It is common ground that Empire trade has not only great possibilities of expansion, and also that we have special opportunities, as compared with other countries, of sharing in it. On the other hand, we cannot play fast and loose with our great foreign trade. As Sir Alan Anderson pointed out to the Chamber of Shipping on Thursday, in an interesting comparison of our trade with France and Australia, if we can exploit sentiment in the one case we must exploit contiguity in the other. While Mr Graham is wrestling at Geneva with the problem of seeking for a modification of European tariffs, the Federation of British Industries have made a serious attempt, which we examine in a " Note of the Week," to consider how we can develop Imperial trade. It is significant that, among the practical proposals made by this organisation, is the suggestion to hold an Imperial trade conference modelled on the World Economic Conference of 1927, to be followed by a standing organisation and continuous work on the Geneva model. On these lines, rather than in the fantasies and fallacies of the new party's ostentatious programme, is the basis for a sound Imperial economy policy to be sought.

CHINA STILL IN TROUBLE.

China is unmistakably still in trouble, after all. During the latter half of the year 1928 it looked as though she were successfully struggling out of the Slough of Despond. The evacuation of Peking by the Northern War-Lords in June of that year completed the political unification of the old provinces, inside the Great Wall, under the Kuomintang flag; and the process was carried an important stage further when that flag was hoisted in Manchuria in the last days of December. Simultaneously, symptoms of reconstruction appeared. A few days after the fall of Peking an economic conference of private business men was held at Nanking under the auspices of Mr Soong, the able Finance Minister of the Kuomintang Government. A few days after the formal recognition of that Government in Manchuria a conference for the reorganisation and disbandment of the Army was attended by Generals Chiang Kai-shek, Feng Yü-hsiang, and Yen Hsi-shan, by members of the Kwangsi Faction, and by a representative of Marshal Chang Hsüeh-liang, who was reigning (and still reigns) in his father, Chang Tso-lin's, stead at Mukden. Even when the Kwangsi Faction tried conclusions with the Nanking Government in the early summer of last year, 1929, their rapid and complete defeat at the hands of General Chiang Kai-shek increased the Nanking Government's prestige without exhausting its resources.

The turn for the worse came thereafter, with the breach between Chiang and Feng. The civil war between them last autumn was costly and indecisive; and Feng's withdrawal to his home province of Shensi, which looked like a negative success for Chiang, was more than offset by a crop of mutinies against Chiang in December—one at Pukow, just across the River Yangtse, opposite Nanking. The Nanking Government escaped destruction then by the skin of its teeth; and for a few weeks it lay low. Latterly, however, it has re-entered upon its fixed course of reunifying China under its authority; and this policy is now threatening to bring Chiang into conflict with Yen Hsi-shan, the prudent and long-lived " model tüchün " of Shansi, who obstinately sat on the fence while Chiang and Feng were at grips with one another last October. The latest news is that Yen has telegraphed to Chiang proposing that they should both resign and should travel abroad together. Chiang is reported to have rejected the suggestion, and some of Chiang's supporters have telegraphed to Yen reproaching him, more in sorrow than in anger, for having made so unpatriotic a suggestion. The upshot is that Yen has secured the *beau rôle* for himself.

A correspondent, who has recently visited China, writes that, during the last six months, the Nanking Government in general and Chiang Kai-shek in particular, have fallen very greatly in public esteem. " Nowadays, Chinese ' intellectuals ' speak of Nanking with contempt and even hatred; and the only consideration that seems to restrain them from declaring open war upon it is the shrewd reflection that almost any change of *régime* is likely to be a change for the worse. The fetish of unity has lost its hold upon their imaginations; peace is the panacea for which not only the non-political ' intellectuals,' but the entire Chinese nation, outside ' political circles,' really craves. And if peace can only be secured by the sacrifice of unity, it matters little to them.

" With this current of opinion, which is running strongly now throughout the country, the politicians and military commanders seem strangely out of touch. Perhaps they are just ignoring it. Perhaps they calculate that in the long future, as in the recent past, they can ignore deep popular desires with impunity. And yet, surely, the force that carried the Kuomintang to victory a year or so ago was just such a current of popular feeling as that which has begun to run against them to-day. Can they set their faces against it with impunity? That is not a question which can be answered by a mere foreign observer. Probably the Kuomintang politicians do not really know that answer themselves. Time alone will reveal it."

Meanwhile, the idea of democracy has been flouted in rather a startling way by a majority of the members of the Standing Committee of the Central Executive Council of the Kuomintang. This Committee, if its acts are reported correctly, has recently thrown out a " bill of rights " which had been designed to safeguard individual liberties —and this on the rather formal ground that the country is now deemed to be in " the stage of tutelage," the second of the three stages through which the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen pronounced that China would have to pass before the Revolution would be complete. This reference to the letter of the dead master's law is certainly not hypocritical, for Sun Yat-sen holds the same place in the political theology of the Kuomintang as Marx and Lenin hold in the tenets of the Russian Communist Party. The worshippers are in a state of mind in which verbal inspiration seems self-evident and in which texts have astonishing power. Nevertheless, this doctrinaire reverence for the sanctity of " the stage of tutelage " does very patently redound to the personal advantage of those in whose hands the tutorial authority has been placed by the wheel of fortune, which spins round rather erratically in times of revolution. On this account, the Committee's action seems likely to arouse serious opposition; and, indeed, it has been challenged promptly by no less a person than General Chiang Kai-shek, the commander-in-chief of the Kuomintang armies. By striking this posture, Chiang places himself in a favourable middle position between the " reactionary " right wing of the Kuomintang and the left, which is now in exile and therefore in unnatural temporary alliance with some of Chiang's military rivals. Chiang is too good a strategist not to take full advantage of the interior lines. It looks as though the politicians have offered him an opening for attempting a kind of Cromwellian dictatorship, on the plea that he is a truer and more honest exponent of the popular will than the parliamentarians.

Thus the witches' cauldron boils up again and again, with a baneful effect upon the lives of a population that is estimated to amount to one-quarter of the human race. At this juncture comes the news that an agreement for the rendition of the British leased territory of Wei-hai-wei has been negotiated and initialled by the British Minister in China and the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs. At first sight it seems a pity to merge this comfortable little enclave of Chinese territory in the boiling, spluttering mass; but on second thoughts the policy seems to be the right one. These foreign bites out of the Chinese cherry are anomalies. The neighbouring leased territory of Kiaochao—first German, then Japanese—has been " rendited " already. Lord Balfour has publicly promised that we will " rendite " Shanghai—and this eight years ago, at the Washington Conference of 1921-2. The fulfilment of such a promise cannot be postponed indefinitely. It would not be honourable, and it would not even be feasible, for the Chinese inhabitants of the territory are now well aware that rendition, sooner or later, is a certainty; and their eyes naturally turn more and more away from their present rulers to their rulers of the future, whom it is prudent to placate in good time. Thus it is to be hoped that this time the rendition of Wei-hai-wei will at last be carried through. And yet, policies and principles apart, we cannot help feeling for the people. For it is no joke to be under the tutelage of the Kuomintang in the second period of Dr. Sun's plan of national salvation.

SHIPOWNERS AND SHIPBUILDING.

The annual meeting of the Chamber of Shipping was held this week in circumstances which could not fail to give a somewhat dismal colour to the proceedings. " The past year," in the words of the Chamber's Report, " has been one of deep disappointment. The promise of better trade offered by the small but steady improvement in freights in 1928 was not fulfilled. . . . To-day freights are actually below pre-war level. . . . They have fallen 28 per cent. in twelve months. This decline has extended to nearly all trades, with the result that even new ships have been taken straight to the buoys, and some owners have a large proportion of their fleets laid up." The reference to " freights," it should be understood, applies not to the rates charged by regular liners, to which Conference agreements give a certain degree of stability, but only to the " open market " quotations for whole-cargo charters. Even with this qualification, however, the situation of shipowners is, temporarily at least, one of serious difficulty. Sir Arthur Sutherland, who succeeds Sir William Currie as President of the Chamber, illustrated the unremunerative character of current charter rates by showing in his presidential address that, after deducting loading and discharging expenses, grain is now being carried to Europe from the Plate at 1¼d., and from Australia at 1d. per 100 ton-miles, and though he expressed hopes of a recovery later in the year—adding significantly, " If only we could get rid of obstacles to trade revival created by tariff barriers and uneconomic conditions which restrict production, we should have more confidence "—he admitted that at the moment " the fortunes of the shipping industry seem to be at their lowest ebb."

In attempting to estimate the bearing of the present freight depression on the industries ancillary to shipping, it is important to determine its causes. Two factors are discernible: a sharp contraction in one form of demand, whose effects are likely to be transient, and an increase in supply—*i.e.*, of tonnage—whose results in the shape of a renewed disequilibrium may well be more lasting. The salient feature in the history of cargo shipping last year was the failure of the normal autumn demand for tonnage to transport North American wheat. The large August carry-overs, the plentiful European crops, the rapid accumulation of heavy importers' stocks, and the threatened collapse of grain prices, which led to the curtailment of exports by the Canadian " pools," all combined to disorganise the flow of cargoes for homeward tonnage. The diversion of numerous vessels from the North Atlantic to the Plate and other loading centres extended the glut of cargo space over the whole market; the instability of commodity prices after the Wall Street collapse was an added element tending to restrict shippers' demands; tonnage began to move homewards in ballast; and at the end of the year freights, even in the outward coal trade, whose improvement had up to then augmented the earnings of " tramp " shipping, shared the general *débâcle* under pressure of " unfixed " vessels seeking employment. From 94.8 in July (against 93.7 in July, 1928) the *Economist* index number of whole-cargo freights (1913 = 100) had fallen by December to 86.2, as compared with 113.2 a year ago; and though the volume of laid-up tonnage in this country on December 31st was only 23,000 net tons greater than at the end of 1928—the wide margin between differential and prime costs of operation is a factor which impedes quick adjustment of fluctuations in the freight market—large numbers of vessels have since been withdrawn from commission.

Restoration of a more normal flow of sea-borne grain is unlikely in the nature of things to be long deferred; and since shipowners, in placing orders for new tonnage, are obviously concerned less with immediate demand than with prospective demand a year ahead, there would be no grounds for fearing that the present violent slump in cargo freights might have serious repercussions on shipbuilding and, indirectly, on demand for steel, were it not that, even before the autumn collapse, there were signs that tonnage output had been proceeding at a rate beyond the freight market's capacity for absorption. Despite larger coal exports and an active Baltic timber season, the margin of improvement shown by the *Economist* freight index in comparison with a year ago had narrowed from 11 per cent. in January to 1 per cent. in July; from the spring onwards there were reports of increasingly keen competition between augmented liner services; and the Report of the Chamber of Shipping expresses the consensus of opinion in the industry that at least " the larger size of cargo vessel appears to have been overbuilt."

Two years ago (*Economist*, January 28, 1928) we expressed the opinion that on an average for 1928-33 the world's demand for new merchant shipping would not exceed 2¼ million tons per annum. As may be seen from the following comparative table, both in 1928 and 1929 output has substantially exceeded that estimate:—

Tonnage Output.

Period.	Tons Launched (000's).			Output as per Cent. of 1909–13.		
	U.K.	Abroad.	World.	British.	Foreign.	World.
Average—						
1909–13	1,522	967	2,489	100	100	100
1922–25	1,050	1,087	2,137	69	112	86
1927	1,226	1,060	2,286	80	110	92
1928	1,446	1,253	2,699	95	130	108
1929	1,523	1,271	2,794	100	131	112

In one respect, encouragement is to be derived from the foregoing figures. Though output in foreign countries

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last year showed an increase of 31 per cent. as compared with 1909-13, whereas British production just equalled the pre-war average, the recovery in output since 1922-25 has been much more marked in this country than abroad. The competitive power of British shipbuilders has greatly improved since 1925, and though an increase in Continental costs has been an important contributory factor in this improvement, it is satisfactory to note that at the end of 1929 the British proportion of the total tonnage under construction was 50.2 per cent., as compared with 42.7 per cent. four years ago. Though policies of " nationalism " in shipbuilding, expressed in various forms of subsidisation—*e.g.*, in Italy, France, and the United States—make it unlikely that we shall regain the pre-war proportion of 57 per cent., the building of half the world's merchant tonnage is no mean achievement. The question is: Can world output be maintained at a rate 12 per cent. higher than in the period of rapidly-expanding trade immediately before the war, or is a reaction, affecting different countries in varying degrees, to be expected?

The Report of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, also issued this week, reinforces the Chamber of Shipping's conclusions as to recent over-building by drawing attention to the " marked degree of under-employment " of existing tonnage. When tankers are deducted from the total output, the expansion in the world's production of vessels available for the carriage of passengers and cargoes other than bulk oil becomes even more striking, the figures being 1.74 million, 2.05 million, and 2.47 million tons launched in the past three years. The large increments of 1928-29 (wastage by loss and demolition has averaged only 1.2 millions annually for all classes of tonnage over the past four years) were calculated to put the freight market—temporary fluctuations apart—to considerable strain (the net increase between June, 1928, and June, 1929, in efficient ocean-going non-tanker tonnage was 3 per cent.); and, save in the case of the United States, where the influence of the Jones-White Act bounties was reflected in a large increase in tonnage under construction, the second half of 1929 saw signs already of incipient recession in shipbuilding activity. Work in hand rose, it is true, from 2,838,000 tons on June 30th to 3,110,000 tons on December 31st (the British figure rising from 1,454,000 to 1,560,000 tons), but this increase was due wholly to the commencement of work on numerous oil-tankers. Excluding this special type of vessel, tonnage under construction in the United Kingdom fell during the second half of 1929 by 121,000 tons, and world construction (excluding the United States) declined by 59,000 tons. Not only so, but in this country, as on the Continent, the volume of contracts placed, but for which work had not been begun, was substantially smaller at the end of 1929 than a year ago.

While it is unlikely that the British shipbuilding industry will revert to the extreme depression of 1922-25 (its recent successes in securing contracts from abroad, notably Norway, encourage better expectations than that), the present world-wide slump in freights suggests that orders for new cargo tonnage will be scarce for some months ahead, and though pure " replacements " should make up perhaps 4 million tons for the world's yards in the next two years, the volume of contracts above that minimum is likely to be small unless the shipping position radically improves. The shipowning concerns which consistently take long views and aim at the maintenance of a high standard of efficiency in their fleets, find their resources seriously depleted to-day by trading losses. Though the brunt of the depression is falling on " tramp " vessels, even the strongest lines are feeling the pinch; and the adverse fortunes of the great Royal Mail combine are eloquent testimony to the financial strain of a prolonged period of surplus capacity.

In these circumstances the shipbuilding industry is likely to find the need of eliminating its own surplus capacity insistent. Even last year, with an output as great as in 1909-13, only 55 per cent. of the available berths in British yards were ever in use; and the maintenance of plant so far in excess of conceivable requirements, the uneconomic spreading of work over a large number of semi-employed yards, and the unnecessary strength of the aggregate managerial personnel consequently employed by the industry, are a grave addition to costs. The industry is alive to the advantage of greater concentration of work, but the existence in many cases of " frozen " loans on physical assets of little present earning power is a factor which involves considerable difficulties. A comprehensive inquiry into the possibilities of rationalisation in the shipbuilding industry might be a useful item in the Economic Advisory Council's programme of work.

THE DIRECTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE Trade and Navigation Accounts for January contain the usual statistics of our trade with individual countries during the years 1927-29, and these are further analysed in the *Board of Trade Journal* for February 13, with comparative figures for 1913. In all those of the tables below in which the figures are grouped under the headings " British " and " foreign " countries, trade with the Irish Free State is omitted, and Palestine, the Sudan, South-West Africa, Tanganyika, Nauru and Western Samoa are treated as foreign countries for the sake of comparability with 1913.

The first table shows the percentage distribution of our trade as between British and foreign countries:—

Class of Trade.	1913. Per cent.	1927. Per cent.	1928. Per cent.	1929. Per cent.
Imports from:—				
Foreign countries	75·13	73·13	73·00	73·88
British countries	24·87	26·87	27·00	26·12
British Exports to:—				
Foreign countries	62·82	57·44	58·04	59·00
British countries	37·18	42·56	41·96	41·00
Re-exports to:—				
Foreign countries	87·58	88·92	88·21	87·19
British countries	12·42	11·08	11·79	12·81

The proportion of our imports which came from the Empire in 1929 was less than in any of the last five years, though greater than in 1913. The proportion of our exports consigned to British countries was less than in either of the two preceding years, but greater than in 1925 and 1913. A steadily increasing proportion of re-exports, on the other hand, has gone to the Empire.

The next table, which, like the preceding one, is based on the Board of Trade analysis, shows the percentage distribution of our trade by continents:—

Class of Trade.	Europe. Per cent.	Africa. Per cent.	Asia. Per cent.	North America. Per cent.	South America. Per cent.	Oceania etc. Per cent.
Imports:						
1913	40·53	6·10	12·71	23·86	9·06	7·74
1927	37·01	7·16	13·45	24·19	9·59	8·60
1928	36·66	7·85	12·29	24·08	10·10	9·02
1929	37·45	7·49	12·75	22·94	10·34	9·03
Exports (British produce):						
1913	34·64	9·87	25·20	11·99	9·59	8·71
1927	30·27	11·99	23·58	13·15	8·93	12·08
1928	29·93	11·83	23·63	13·95	9·66	11·00
1929	31·30	11·76	22·50	13·81	9·60	11·03
Exports (imported merchandise)						
1913	56·02	3·31	2·48	32·26	1·97	3·96
1927	68·27	3·51	2·63	21·30	1·31	2·98
1928	66·46	3·84	2·48	22·96	1·49	2·77
1929	68·57	4·29	2·67	19·76	1·76	2·95

The upward tendency in the percentage of imports from Europe, which has occurred in recent years but was checked in 9128, continued in 1929, though the proportion has not yet reached its pre-war level. Exports to Europe, which are also below the pre-war proportion, increased

substantially in 1929, and re-exports to that continent, which were already very much higher than in 1913, increased very sharply in 1929. The following table shows our trade with individual European countries:—

TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia	40,271	21,052	21,576	26,506	18,103	4,509	2,716	3,767
Finland	...	15,895	13,240	14,946	...	3,234	3,601	3,363
Estonia	...	2,249	2,272	2,497	...	672	601	464
Latvia	...	6,001	5,748	5,461	...	1,151	1,293	1,496
Sweden	14,213	25,259	22,050	25,704	8,220	9,654	9,712	10,548
Norway	7,437	12,923	12,013	14,151	6,147	7,455	7,928	9,858
Denmark	24,053	49,997	53,061	56,228	6,061	9,802	9,770	10,680
Poland	...	8,101	5,781	6,922	...	5,319	5,253	4,505
Germany	80,998	59,916	63,726	68,790	41,307	41,879	40,947	37,120
Netherlands	27,913	61,912	58,722	60,368	22,794	30,631	32,236	31,862
Belgium	23,426	46,995	43,876	44,289	13,528	16,904	17,595	20,187
France	49,498	69,900	67,232	63,441	32,396	30,159	32,065	38,711
Switzerland	11,070	14,411	14,361	13,720	4,212	7,545	7,921	6,403
Portugal	3,895	5,465	4,692	5,421	6,055	8,332	8,329	8,145
Spain	15,976	22,090	21,784	22,080	9,728	12,390	11,728	13,826
Italy	8,131	16,861	15,815	16,884	14,640	13,621	14,439	16,123
Austria	7,706	2,427	2,319	2,767	4,481	2,420	2,706	2,522
Hungary		410	568	720		967	1,000	1,059
Czechoslovakia	...	9,294	8,189	6,676	...	1,835	2,168	2,101
Greece	2,202	3,136	3,262	2,754	2,537	4,752	4,877	4,947
Roumania	2,037	2,408	1,763	2,966	1,947	2,682	2,989	2,321
Turkey in Europe	1,165	1,232	1,285	810	2,414	2,403	2,016	2,196
Other European countries	74	1,942	2,039	2,327	568	2,989	3,232	3,466
Total	320,065	459,876	445,374	466,428	195,138	222,005	225,122	235,670

From this it appears that the most conspicuous contributors to the increase in our European imports last year were Russia, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, while France was a very marked exception and imports from Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Greece declined slightly. The increased proportion of our exports which went to Europe was principally due to increased exports to Belgium, France, Spain and Italy, and a substantial part was played by exports of coal. Germany, Holland and Switzerland, among others, imported less from us.

The other most marked change in the geographical distribution indicated above is the diminution in the proportion of our imports from and re-exports to North America. This was very largely due to reduced shipments of wheat from Canada. Exports to Canada, on the other hand, have more than maintained the great improvement shown in 1928. As the following table of non-European foreign countries shows, our imports from the United States were higher than in 1928, though not as high as in 1927:—

TRADE WITH OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Turkey in Asia	4,251	1,758	1,370	1,459	5,291	778	722	628
Egypt	21,395	23,681	26,337	23,565	9,805	12,564	11,186	12,576
Iraq	...	1,699	1,727	1,643	...	3,680	2,681	2,426
Persia	430	9,453	9,045	9,149	725	2,244	1,629	2,261
China	4,672	12,123	11,974	12,218	14,845	9,690	15,724	14,030
Japan	4,389	8,165	8,734	9,134	14,783	15,246	14,688	13,631
United States	143,854	202,666	190,826	197,850	30,478	46,787	47,947	46,826
Cuba	3,675	6,608	10,240	7,810	2,214	2,099	1,649	2,027
Mexico	1,880	5,524	2,369	2,702	2,333	2,200	2,800	2,538
Columbia	1,089	2,354	2,276	2,109	1,693	3,458	3,654	3,241
Peru	1,378	8,224	6,710	6,496	1,488	2,087	1,954	2,007
Chile	5,359	7,462	9,104	10,504	6,010	5,183	5,128	9,196
Brazil	10,008	4,480	4,685	7,297	12,465	14,389	16,034	13,383
Uruguay	2,749	4,581	7,026	5,650	2,916	2,862	3,106	3,723
Argentine	42,485	76,496	76,789	81,419	22,641	26,992	31,210	29,071
Other foreign countries (non-European)	9,540	16,530	17,428	15,841	7,215	10,167	10,677	11,856
Total	257,154	391,804	386,640	394,846	134,800	160,426	170,789	169,420

Imports from Egypt, Cuba and Uruguay declined as compared with 1928; those from the Argentine (reflecting large grain purchases), Brazil and Chile were higher. The most marked changes in our exports to this group of countries were an increase in those taken by Chile and declines in exports to Brazil and the Argentine. Asia took a smaller proportion of our exports, owing partly to small declines in our sales to Japan and China, and still more to a heavy decline in our exports to India, which appears in the following table of trade with Empire countries:—

TRADE WITH THE EMPIRE.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish Free State	...	43,247	45,147	45,084	...	36,200	35,080	36,086
West Africa	5,174	11,467	11,458	11,388	6,601	14,690	14,827	12,316
South Africa	12,495	21,324	24,146	25,307	22,185	30,312	31,503	32,538
India and Ceylon	56,218	82,483	78,246	78,097	74,458	90,920	89,862	84,151
Straits Settlements	15,880	16,577	10,167	14,193	5,836	11,405	11,434	12,272
Malay States	3,574	5,089	2,262	3,471	...	3,358	3,853	3,294
Australia	38,065	52,814	54,463	55,935	34,470	61,232	55,725	54,371
New Zealand	20,338	46,549	47,274	47,717	10,838	19,608	19,288	21,396
Canada	30,488	55,152	57,143	46,420	24,795	29,250	34,466	35,008
West Indies	2,116	4,487	5,344	5,342	2,339	4,528	5,111	5,044
Other possessions	7,168	27,472	27,935	27,363	13,785	25,147	26,719	27,989
Total, British countries	191,516	366,661	363,585	360,317	195,307	326,650	327,668	324,465

From the next table, which shows re-exports to various countries, it appears that the heavy decline last year was fairly general, though it was most conspicuous in the case of the United States and in a less degree of Germany, France and Italy. Russia and the Netherlands show slight increases:—

RE-EXPORTS.
(000's omitted.)

	1913. £	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Russia	9,591	6,781	2,085	2,799
Sweden	1,014	1,029	1,239	1,156
Norway	518	504	449	471
Denmark	590	767	782	830
Germany	19,823	27,538	26,392	23,271
Netherlands	5,160	4,972	5,017	5,357
Belgium	7,436	8,807	10,382	9,237
France	12,072	18,675	18,776	17,726
Italy	1,012	2,247	2,121	1,583
China	165	120	135	117
Japan	297	232	267	210
United States	30,222	21,463	22,096	16,512
Irish Free State	...	9,366	9,641	10,221
South Africa	1,861	1,531	1,604	1,574
India and Ceylon	1,528	1,526	1,405	1,362
Australia	3,359	2,566	2,286	2,115
Canada	3,512	2,110	2,563	2,503
Other countries	11,415	12,719	13,043	12,698
Total	109,575	122,953	120,283	109,742

Almost the entire fall in our re-exports to the United States was due to diminished exports of rubber.

The most striking fact which emerges from an examination of these returns is the steady growth of our trade with foreign countries, and more especially with Europe, as compared with our trade with the British Empire. Too great care cannot be exercised in interpreting statistics of this kind—for example, the Continental distribution of our trade has been to some extent affected by the policy of the Canadian wheat pool, and our re-export returns are directly influenced by the vicissitudes of rubber—but the tendency is too persistent to be dismissed as a statistical accident. Moreover, it is confirmed by the League of Nations' analysis of world trade, which suggests that the best market for the highly finished manufactured products of European countries is found in other European countries. Trade of this character, between countries all engaged in the same lines of production, but specialising individually along lines so subtle that A's exports to B often differ from her imports from B only by some very fine shade, is a delicately adjusted affair. Any attempt artificially to force it into different channels involves stepping where angels might reasonably fear to tread.

GERMAN STEEL AND COAL RATIONALISATION.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE annual reports of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke A.G., commonly known as the German Steel Trust, contain information of the greatest importance to all students of the methods and achievements of rationalisation in the heavy industries. The report for the year ending September 30th last, just published, is specially interesting, as it includes a general survey of the planned rationalisation programme which, after three and a half years of intensive effort, is now almost completed.

The scope and significance of this rationalisation effort will be better understood if the circumstances in which the trust was formed, and the magnitude and intricacy of the administrative and management problems involved in the undertaking, are recalled. Following the reconstitution of the Steel Works Union after the French occupation of the Ruhr, and the renewal of regulated production, the principal firms found themselves, in 1925, in an exceedingly difficult position. The total steel production for that year, 9,800,000 tons, was 2,500,000 tons below the comparable 1913 figure, with a vastly increased productive capacity. Short-time working, high overhead costs, financial embarrassment, lack of liquid capital, low wages, and a twelve-hour day for a large number of the workers were general conditions. The Thyssen, Rhein-Elbe Union, Phœnix, and Rheinstahl concerns decided on the formation of the trust as the most effective means, in their respective circumstances, of carrying through drastic reorganisation, and the trust was formally constituted in the spring of 1926. The Krupp, Kloeckner, Hoesch, Guttehoffnungshütte, and Mannesmann concerns decided to carry out similar measures independently, while co-operating with the trust in the cartel organisations. The share capital of the trust was and remains £40,000,000. American loans amounting to just under £30,000,000 were arranged for reconstruction and other purposes. The plant brought under unified control included 48 coal mines, nearly 100 blast furnaces, 150 steel furnaces, and a great complex of rolling mills, ore mines in Germany and abroad, and other accessory works. Closing down of redundant, unremunerative, and unfavourably situated works proceeded without delay, and simultaneously concentration and specialisation of production was planned.

The new plant installed in three years includes 573 coke ovens of the latest type (replacing 717 taken over in 1926), new steel furnaces of 150 and 200 tons capacity, automatic rolling-mill equipment, and one 1,200-ton blast furnace. By closing mines and reorganising underground workings the coal-winding units have been reduced from 48 to 32, while the total raising capacity has been increased by new haulage and pithead equipment to cope with the higher output at the coal face following comprehensive mechanisation. On all this work a total of £15,000,000 has been expended in three years—over £13,000,000 in the first two years and about £1,500,000 in the year covered by the new report.

The technical results reported are remarkable. In the second half of this last year the average daily coal output from the 32 winding units was 93,300 tons, as compared with 77,300 from the old 48—an increase of 21 per cent. The total output in 1928-29 was 27,242,000 tons, against 26,454,000 in the preceding year, this being 22.83 per cent. of the total production of the Ruhr. To continued technical improvements is attributed a further notable increase in the average output per man per shift (all workers) to 1,327 kilogrammes (just over 26 cwts.), as compared with 1,235 kilogrammes in the preceding year, an increase of nearly 2 cwts. The Ruhr average in March, 1929, was 1,261 kilogrammes (24¾ cwts.). In 1913, with a 8½-hour underground (now 8 hours bank to bank), the Ruhr figure was 18.6 cwts. This fell to 16.8 in 1924, and came back to 18.6 in 1925. The latest trust figure of 26 cwts. compares with 23.18 cwts. for Yorkshire in the September, 1929, quarter (roughly, the same working time), and 21.40 cwts. average for Great Britain, with half an hour longer working time in many districts.

The production of raw iron fell from 6,518,000 tons in 1927-28 to 6,007,000 tons in 1928-29, and that of raw steel from 6,945,000 to 6,419,000 tons, this being attributed in the report to the lock-out of a month in November, 1928, to the hold-up of export traffic on the Rhine for many weeks in the late winter, and to a fall in trade during the summer. Exports increased by 77,000 tons, but the proportion of sales in the home market to exports fell from 67 to 63 per cent.

All the reports have been reticent about the productive economies achieved in the steel plants, but a broad indication of the effect of concentration and increased mechanisation is given by the personnel figures. In the first six months of the trust's operations steel output was at the rate of 5,078,000 tons a year, with a corresponding low iron production, and a total number of 89,000 workers in the iron and steel plants. Last year, with an increased steel production of 1,400,000 tons (in eleven months, allowing for the lock-out), the number of workers was 89,631. In the interval a large proportion of the workers have had the eight-hour day restored. Wages have risen substantially. The average payment last year, including youths, women, and allowances to invalids, was £128 (for eleven months' work), as compared with £123.10 in the preceding full year, and £118 in 1927, when it was reported that, since the formation of the trust, the wage bill had increased by 44 per cent., while the number of workers was only 6 per cent. higher.

The financial results, as disclosed by the balance sheets, have been almost uniform since the spurt given by the British coal stoppage in 1926. A dividend of 6 per cent. has been paid in each of the three years. The net profit of £2,600,000 last year varied but slightly. Depreciation, £4,170,000, was a little less, and in the three years a total of £14,000,000 has been placed to this account. Interest on loans was £1,700,000, taxes just over £3,000,000, and social services £2,850,000. The mines and works were valued on September 30th at £68,600,000, or £8,000,000 more than at the end of 1927. Reserve has remained at £4,000,000 during the three years. The total loans stood at £25,000,000, this being £1,000,000 less than two years ago.

Reconstruction work during the past year has been mainly concentrated on the utilisation of gas, the aim being the complete operation of all the steel works and finishing plant beyond the coke-oven stage with blast-furnace and coke-oven gas for heating and power. A gas net is being developed for this purpose, and the majority of the finishing plants are now linked up. The total coke-oven gas production last year was 3,673 milliard cubic metres, and the almost complete elimination of waste is reported. During the year the trust contributed 82 million cubic metres to the mains of the Ruhr Gas Company, whose long-distance supplies are now being rapidly developed. It is noted in the report that, as a result of the work of the extended research organisation, the proportion of quality steels produced is steadily increasing, and that an acceleration of this tendency is aimed at.

The report also refers briefly to a subject which is becoming increasingly prominent in German industrial discussions—the need for the restoration of national capital resources. The new slogan, supplementing that of rationalisation, is "*Eigenkapitalbildung.*" The trust directors declare that, unless comprehensive measures are taken to achieve this purpose, involving drastic national economy and a transformation in taxation and financial policy, continued rationalisation on borrowed foreign money at high cost will now produce only greater indebtedness and unemployment instead of increased competitive power. What seems to be foreshadowed is a new stage in German effort to rise from the ashes of the war. The shortage of national capital in 1924-25 has persisted. Vast foreign loans have been used to finance rationalisation and national and communal enterprises such as electrification. Now a concentrated effort is apparently to be made to liquidate the foreign indebtedness out of the economies resulting from the reorganisation and technical perfection of the industrial machine. This, in conjunction with the sharp check on foreign borrowing for public enterprises and services, may for a time create new and great difficulties, limiting the upward movement of wages, increasing unemployment, and to some extent reacting adversely on industrial production generally. If it develops it will be a phase worthy of careful study.

THE HAGUE FINAL ACT.—II.

The Non-German Settlement.

THE task of the adjourned Hague Conference, in so far as German reparations were concerned, was the comparatively simple one of bringing into force an agreed scheme. With regard to the Succession States of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, on the other hand, the problem had to be tackled *ab initio* with the guidance of no principles beyond those of consolidating all war obligations and of

reducing claims to the limits of capacity to pay. The technical committee on non-German reparations, which sat in Paris between the two meetings of the Hague Conference, received little publicity, and it is time that the value of its work was recognised, along with that of the delegations of the smaller Powers at the Hague, who worked night and day to secure an agreed settlement. The fruit of their labours, as it appears in the documents of the Hague Final Act, is summarised below.

Austria.

The first of the attached non-German agreements is that with Austria, who is given practically a clean slate.

Art. I.—The financial obligations of Austria arising under any provision of the Armistice of the 3rd November, 1918, of the Treaty of St. Germain and any Treaties or Agreements supplementary thereto, shall be finally discharged by the payments, deliveries and cessions made by Austria up to the date of the coming into force of this Agreement, subject to the provisions of Art. IV. . . .

(Art. IV provides that arrangements already signed between Austria and any other signatory Power remain unaffected; the sums involved in this exception are quite small.) Art. II terminates the relationship between Austria and the Reparation Commission. By Art. III all claims and counter-claims arising out of the war or the Treaty are reciprocally waived. Art. V provides that the liquidation of sequestrated Austrian property shall cease. Art. VI cancels the claims of Austria against Germany, Hungary or Bulgaria, or of any of the latter against Austria, under various Articles of the Peace Treaties.

Art. VII.—Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the arrangements made in connection with the guaranteed Austrian Loan of 1923, in connection with Austrian Relief Bonds and in connection with the obligations arising under Art. 203 of the Treaty of St. Germain. . . . .

Art. VIII provides for arbitration by the Tribunal mentioned in the German Agreement, an Austrian nominee taking the place of the German member.

Bulgaria.

It will be remembered that by an agreement signed at Sofia in 1923, the Bulgarian reparations debt was divided into two parts, a schedule of payments being imposed for Part A, while Part B, against which counter-claims for ceded property, etc., were to be adjusted, was not claimable till 1953. By Para. I of the new Agreement, the Creditor Powers waive their right to Tranche B; furthermore, Great Britain, France and Italy waive their claims in respect of occupation costs.

Art. 2.—The Creditor Powers accept in full and complete satisfaction of the total amount of Tranche A of the Bulgarian reparation debt which remains unpaid at this date the annuities expressed in gold francs fixed in the following Schedule of Payments, the gold franc as defined by Art. 146 of the Treaty of Neuilly :—

	Gold francs.
1st April, 1930	5,000,000
1st April, 1930, to 31st March, 1940—10 annuities of	10,000,000
1st April, 1940, to 31st March, 1950—10 annuities of	11,500,000
1st April, 1950, to 31st March, 1966—16 annuities of	12,515,238

The annuities are payable half-yearly. The system of transfer postponement already in force for Bulgarian reparations is applicable. The special security provided for in the 1923 Protocol is retained, but the prior charge established by the Treaty of Neuilly on all the assets and revenues of Bulgaria is abolished. A debt certificate will be delivered to the B.I.S. (or, in default, some other trustee), which will take over so far as is necessary the functions of the Reparation Commission and of the inter-Allied Commission in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Government remains responsible for all its obligations to the nationals of the Creditor Powers, but, with the exception of claims subject to previous special agreement, all Bulgarian claims against the Creditor Powers are cancelled. There are provisions corresponding to Arts. V, VI and VIII of the Austrian Agreement above.

Hungary.

The accord with Hungary is not a final text but a basis, definitive in itself, for a detailed agreement to be elaborated by a committee now sitting in Paris. If the Committee is unanimous its texts shall be final; if not, the decision of France, Great Britain and Italy shall be accepted. Annexe I is a general agreement between the Creditor Powers and Hungary. The preamble declares that both Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Jugo-Slavia for the one part, and Hungary for the other, reserve their attitudes on the questions of principle and law.

Arts. I to VI provide for the constitution of an Agrarian Fund with legal identity which shall take the place of the defendants in all agrarian claim cases. Art. VII provides that no payment shall be made till the total amount of the judgments has been notified. The total distribution shall then not exceed the sum in the Agrarian Fund. By Arts. VIII and IX mixed arbitral tribunals are not competent to pronounce on questions of principle, but only to grant compensation in cases where a qualified Hungarian national has been expropriated by virtue of agrarian legislation. The Mixed Arbitral Tribunal will be completed (Art. X) by the appointment of two neutral nationals by the Permanent Court of International Justice, which, by Art. XII, is recognised as court of appeal.

Annexe II deals with the creation and working of the Agrarian Fund. Art. I fixes the capital of the Fund at 240 million gold crowns, the reduced total of claims presented by the Hungarian delegation. The final amount of the capital of the Fund shall (Art. IV) assure the service of the interest, at 4 per cent., and sinking fund of the bonds created.

Art. V.—The annuities available to the fund are the following :—

1. As from 1944, 6,100,000 gold crowns paid by Czechoslovakia, Jugo-Slavia and Roumania by means of the sums received in respect of the special claims.

2. From 1931 to 1943 the annuities paid by Hungary representing the shares of France, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal, Japan and Belgium.

3. Annuities paid by Great Britain, Italy and France, of which the maximum amounts are found below :—

1931-1932—Nil.
1933 to 1943—3,600,000 gold crowns,

of which 40 per cent. will be paid by France, 40 per cent. by Italy, and 20 per cent. by Great Britain.

1944 to 1946—2,280,000 gold crowns,

payable in the same proportions.

These latter annuities shall be reduced, if necessary, in order to take account of the diminution of the final amount of the capital of the fund.

Annexe III provides on similar lines for Fund B, out of which Hungarian commercial, ecclesiastical and Hapsburg claims will be met. The nominal capital of the Fund will be 100 million gold crowns.

Art. II.— . . . For the first 13 years, from 1931 to 1943, the 3,000,000 gold crowns necessary shall be paid under the following conditions :—

20 per cent., or 600,000 gold crowns, by Great Britain.
40 per cent., or 1,200,000 gold crowns, by France.
40 per cent., or 1,200,000 gold crowns, by Italy. . . .

Art. IV.—During each of the 23 years from 1944 to 1966 the maximum payments to be made to the Fund shall amount to 7,400,000 gold crowns per annum. They shall be charged against the 13,500,000 gold crowns which Hungary has undertaken to pay as from 1944 during 23 years in respect of the special claims.

Next follows an agreement regarding the annuities payable by Hungary. The present schedule of payments up to 1944 is maintained; in addition, Hungary undertakes to pay, on account of special claims and as a complete and final settlement of all war obligations, a constant annuity of 13,500,000 gold crowns from 1944 to 1966. These annuities are to be paid unconditionally. Further provisions bring the agreement into line with those, quoted above, with Bulgaria and Austria.

Czechoslovakia.

The agreement with Czechoslovakia, the only net debtor on account of Liberation Debt, is extremely short.

Art. I.—In complete and final settlement of her debt arising out of the Agreement of 10th September, 1919, to the other Powers having a credit on reparation account . . . . Czechoslovakia shall pay 37 annuities of 10 million gold marks.

The other two articles make the B.I.S. trustee for transfers and define the finality of the Agreement.

The Division of the Annuities.

Finally, there is appended an arrangement among the Creditor Powers for the division of the above non-German annuities. Art. I declares that debt in respect of ceded properties is discharged. Art. II divides the Czechoslovak annuity as follows:—France, 3,187,854 gold marks; Great Britain, 1,384,519; Italy, 3,146,632; Belgium, 418,816; Japan and Portugal, 51,920 each; and Greece, 1,758,339 gold marks. Art. III distributes, from the reparation payments of Bulgaria and Hungary up to 1943, to Greece 76.73 per cent., to Roumania 13 per cent., to Czechoslovakia 1 per cent. on both Bulgarian and Hungarian payments, and to Jugo-Slavia 5 per cent. on the Bulgarian payments and 2 per cent. on the Hungarian payments, the balance being distributed between the other Creditor Powers proportionately to the modified Spa percentages. (This gives Great Britain less than 2 per cent. of the total.) Greece comes out easily the best. Apart from her share of German reparations, namely, £350,000 a year to 1965 and £485,000 thereafter, and the non-German annuities mentioned above, she is to receive, by Art. IV of the distribution agreement, the undistributed liquid assets realised by the Reparation Commission in pursuance of the Treaty of Neuilly, and the whole of the payment of 5 million gold francs (£200,000) to be made by Bulgaria on April 1, 1930. The statesmanship of M. Venizelos has received a goodly reward.

Notes of the Week.

The Fall of the French Government.—Last Monday, February 17th, the French Government was defeated in the Chamber on a vote of confidence. The issue was the vexed question of how wives' and husbands' incomes should be reckoned for purposes of income tax—a question about which we most of us feel more strongly than we do about naval parity. The personal and partisan considerations which led to M. Tardieu's fall are described in our Paris correspondent's weekly letter. The Naval Conference has had nothing to do with this event in French domestic politics—unless it be true that the Government behaved more truculently to the Chamber than it might have done otherwise, in the belief that, so long as the Conference was sitting, its own life was secure. On the other hand, the fall of the Ministry in Paris has had an important bearing upon the course of events in London, which are described in another Note, by postponing vital decisions on the French demands. It is unlikely that so great a change could be made in the political complexion of the Government as to alter in any valuable measure the French naval attitude, but whatever the composition of the next French delegation, its hands will have been enfeebled by a political crisis which would seem to an English politician excessively frivolous. Many-partied government never more clearly betrays its weakness than when it turns out the only apparent stable administration in the middle of two important international conferences. As we go to press there is no more likely candidate for the Premiership in the field than M. Tardieu himself, but even if he returns, and even if agreement can be reached at London, the delegates will have less guarantee than ever that France will ratify.

A Naval Interlude.—The Naval Conference decided on Wednesday to go into recess for a week while France was getting a new Ministry on its feet. The adjournment has the additional advantage of enabling the Japanese Delegation to discover whether the Government it represents has the electorate's approval or not. By the time the Conference reassembles a new French Government and a new Japanese Government, or the old one re-elected, should be in existence and at work. The Conference can then make something in the nature of a fresh start, and on the whole it needs it. Some of the pessimists of last week-end may a little have overdone their *rôle*, but on any balanced view of the situation grounds for optimism were, and still are, far to seek. The issue of the French memorandum, with its indication that the Big Navy programme of 1924 will be carried out regardless of any reductions accepted by other Powers in London, leads logically to the conclusion that to hold a conference at all is in that case obviously futile. France did, however, imply that on one condition alone she might modify her programme. That condition is the conclusion of a new treaty of guarantee to provide for France's safety in the Mediterranean. The Americans, through the mouth of Senator Robinson, have immediately intimated that the United States would never involve itself in such an entanglement. That is not necessarily a fatal objection. The Powers concerned with the Mediterranean—and no Power is more concerned with conditions in that sea than Great Britain—could quite well conclude a security pact among themselves if they chose, but they are extremely unlikely so to choose unless France really means that in reliance on such a pact she is prepared to reduce her naval figures by, say, a third. If that prospect were opened up, there might be something to be said for, at any rate, discussing a proposal which would mean little more than giving definition to obligations which could in any case hardly be evaded by loyal members of the League of Nations or loyal signatories of the Kellogg Pact. At present, however, there is little disposition anywhere outside the French Delegation to consider a new security pact at all. France's apprehensions, indeed, have given the Italians the opportunity, in a memorandum their delegation issued on Wednesday, to observe a little pointedly that the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact should be enough in themselves to open the door to a substantial measure of disarmament, and that it is by disarming that League members and Kellogg signatories can show what value they attach to pledges. In her general attitude Italy, like most of the other countries represented at the Conference, stands precisely where she did when her delegates came to London, except—and it is a notable exception—that Signor Grandi has twice declared his country's readiness to discuss sympathetically the abolition of the capital ship, provided that all nations are prepared to fall into line. Generally speaking, the process of convergence has yet to begin, and it is fully time it did. The prospects would be more cheerful if there were a likelihood of some change of front on the part of the new French delegates, whoever they may be. But it has to be recognised frankly that the chances of that are small.

Parties and their Leaders.—The past week has been enlivened by utterances in the political arena of a vigour, not to say asperity, in phraseology the more pungent in that they have been addressed in two instances to quondam friends. Lord Beaverbrook has proclaimed that his new party's campaign is launched against the "timidity, compromise, and shortsighted expediency" of the generalship of the old political parties—in other words, of Mr Baldwin—while Mr MacDonald, leaving it to his parliamentary private secretary to dub the House of Peers a "miscellaneous congregation of human freaks," has underlined his resignation from the I.L.P. with the bitter comment that the organisation "has lost both its grip on Socialism and its sense of the meaning of 'Comrade.'" The Prime Minister's severance of his connection with a group whose "flashy futilities" he was denouncing in 1928 is little more than a formal avowal of a breach whose existence has for some years been open and undisguised. Whether the Left Wing—*feu MM. les camarades* Maxton, Wheatley and Kirkwood—have it in them to form a Fifth Party (though expulsion from the Labour Party of a group characterised by the official leader as "henceforth good for nothing," would be a logical, if improbable, sequel) we take leave to doubt. The noble lords behind the Fourth Party now in the field command weightier artillery, and though sympathisers in the ranks of official Conservatism will hesitate, we imagine, before they openly secede from their old allegiance, the possibilities of disruption in the larger Opposition party cannot be overlooked. It would be ironical if the effects of a movement, whose electoral success would almost certainly mean a clear majority for Labour in the House, were to be offset by a formal, and equally wrecking, schism in the Labour Party itself.

The Left-ward Trend in Spain.—Spain is still "side-slipping" towards the Left—an involuntary, automatic trend rather than a deliberate movement of conscious public opinion. All the same, this trend may go far, and there is a feeling in the air that the retirement of General Primo is only the prelude to more momentous changes. In all government offices there is a general post. Exiles are returning, the famous Rector of the University of Salamanca, Señor Unamuno, at their head, The Fascist Press in Italy, which at first affected to make light of the counter-Fascist revolution in Spain, is now openly lamenting. Meanwhile, there are other symptoms which are less satisfactory. The Army has been extorting concessions from the new Government; and in Madrid, as well as at Barcelona, there has been rioting which the police have not suppressed without the use of force. Barcelona may be expected to be the storm-centre; for it is the focus both of the Catalan national movement and of the Spanish labour movement, which has a syndicalist tradition and is prone to violence. The Catalan problem is the more serious problem of the two. General Primo's *régime* abolished the very modest institutions of local self-government which the Catalans had succeeded in obtaining from previous governments at Madrid. Naturally the Catalans will now demand the restoration of these institutions, with some increment. How much increment will content them? That mainly depends upon how ready the present Government at Madrid may be to meet the Catalan aspirations half-way. If General Berenguer shows himself statesmanlike and sympathetic, the Catalan question may be settled in perpetuity by some form of limited autonomy. After all, political separation is not in the interests of Catalan industry, which at present enjoys the advantages of the Spanish market behind a high tariff wall. Nevertheless, the Government at Madrid would be rash to rely upon the operations of "enlightened self-interest" in the Catalan mind; for history demonstrates that such considerations have never consoled nationalists for the frustration of their political aims. Unless General Berenguer is very prudent just now, the Catalan party of independence is likely to gain the upper hand; and in the present state of Spain, they would have more opportunity of getting their way than they have ever had since they were abandoned by their allies at the close of the war of the Spanish Succession, more than two centuries ago. If that happened the political map of South-Western Europe might become as unstable as the map of Eastern Europe is already. An independent Catalonia would be a dangerous aggravation to the competition between France and Italy for the hegemony of the Western Mediterranean. Developments in Spain deserve watching closely.

The Metropolitan's Reply to the Pope.—The controversy over the question of alleged religious persecution in the U.S.S.R. is now following the course that is regularly taken by all controversies to which the Soviet Government is a party. The facts are being increasingly obscured by a cloud of unverified and probably unverifiable assertions and counter-assertions on the two sides; and these declarations are showing their true colours as the usual acts of belligerency in the never-ending war of words between the Socialist and the Capitalist churches militant here on earth. In fact, we must not expect the truth to emerge from this *mêlée* any more than it has ever emerged from the historic *mêlées* between Protestants and Catholics or between Christians and Muhammedans. Last week we commented on the Pope's protest. Since then, the Archbishop of Canterbury has protested in Convocation; Mr Henderson, in the House of Commons, has expressed the British Government's "concern," and has announced that the British Ambassador at Moscow has been asked to send a report (surely an invidious and inherently impossible task); Monsieur Rykov, the President of the Council of People's Kommissars, has informed the Society for Gas and Aerial Warfare in Moscow (are not all weapons lawful in holy wars?) that in the U.S.S.R. there is no religious persecution at all; and, finally, Tass, the official news agency of the Soviet Government, has published, in the form of question and answer, the upshot of an alleged interview with the Metropolitan Sergius, the acting head of the Patriarchal Church of Russia. This rather piquant document at once raises any number of nice points of what the Germans call *Quellenforschung*, or analysis of historical "sources." How much is Sergius? How much is Tass? And even if we may assume that, in some paragraphs at least, the voice is the voice of the Metropolitan himself, how much allowance have we to make for his specific reaction to these particular interviewers? If he had been interviewed confidentially by the Pope and the Archbishop instead of being interviewed publicly by representatives of the Soviet Government Press, would he have sung to a different tune? At any rate, he would scarcely have declared that the closing of churches had been done "not on the initiative of the authorities but at the request of the population, and in some cases even by the decision of the churchgoers themselves"—a statement which reminds us of a declaration once made by a Greek High Commissioner: "The Turks are so *malins* that they burn their own villages in order to bring discredit on the Greek Army." Nor, we think, would he have remarked that "the Pope in his manifesto proved himself to be in one camp with the British landlords and the Franco-Italian magnates." All the same, a study of Byzantine history suggests the surmise that the sallies against his ecclesiastical colleagues—or rivals—may have been the rare genuine pieces of the Metropolitan's alleged utterance. To a Byzantinist, there is something familiar and convincing in the picture of an Orthodox prelate who licks the secular hand that has just given him a hiding and bites the Catholic and Protestant fingers that are being extended over his head in a perfunctory gesture of protection and patronage. *Odium ecclesiasticum* is one of the strongest passions in this world; and it would not be at all surprising to learn that Sergius genuinely regarded the Catholic and Anglican *démarches* as insincere. Moreover, even if he took a less cynical view, he might justly say: "Save me from my friends." For though we personally do not question the Pope's or the Archbishop's sincerity, we do feel inclined to doubt their wisdom. Is it wise to protest against persecutions when there is no prospect of being able to follow up the protest by effective action on the victims' behalf? Too often, in such circumstances, a protest relieves the feelings and eases the consciences of those who indulge in it—at the price of drawing down the persecutor's wrath upon his victim in still greater measure than before. If anyone questions this proposition, let him study the tragic history of the Armenians.

Industrialists on Empire Trade.—While interest politically has been concentrated this week on the emergence of a Fourth Party, based on a conception of Imperial development with which we deal in a leading article, the possibility of increasing trade within the Empire has also been the subject of pronouncements by important business associations. The Annual Report of the Chamber of Shipping, referring to the restrictive effects of high tariffs within the Empire, emphasises the need of "an increased willingness to trade" and suggests that, in the British Commonwealth, "it is the duty of each State, subject always to the safeguarding of its own essential economic life, to do everything possible, without reference to any exact bargaining equivalence, to promote the prosperity of the Commonwealth as a whole." This admirable, if slightly vague, principle is commended by shipowners to this year's Imperial Conference, whose Preparatory Committee in this country has been furnished by the F.B.I. with a lengthy report of the Federation's conclusions with regard to the economic relations between Great Britain and the Dominions. The report starts from the wholly commendable premise that "greater reciprocal interchange of commodities" within the Empire would be to the advantage of all concerned. Lord Beaverbrook's "Empire Free Trade" policy is not advocated "as a concrete and practical proposition"; and the fact is

frankly recognised that the same desire for industrial expansion prevails in many of the Dominions as in the foreign countries which are striving to make themselves self-supporting behind a tariff barrier. The Committee might have added that the incidence of Dominion tariffs on British goods is, in many cases, much higher than the tariffs of several European nations. In these circumstances the Federation recommend:—

(i) That the Imperial machinery for consultation upon economic questions should be improved, and taken out of the political field. An Imperial Trade Conference should be convened, composed of chief Government officials concerned with trade, representatives of industrial capital and labour, and delegates of commerce, finance, shipping and agriculture, whose functions should be to explore the lines of sound Imperial economic policy and to ascertain what further advantages, on what terms, the Dominions are prepared to give British trade.

(ii) That an Imperial Economic Secretariat should be established, to act as a permanent secretariat to the Imperial Conference, whose agenda should be prepared on each occasion by a preliminary meeting of the Imperial Trade Conference.

(iii) That existing Preferences granted by Great Britain to the Dominions should not be disturbed.

(iv) That more should be done to make Empire sources of supply known to purchasers in this country, and that the possibility of the better organisation of the distribution and sale of Empire products should be explored.

(v) That further financial facilities should be provided by H.M. Government for the furtherance of Imperial air transport.

(vi) That an Empire College for Dominion students should be established in London.

To these six proposals is added the suggestion that steps should be taken to "rationalise" the Empire's industrial production and to dissuade the Dominions from continuing industries which are "economically unsound" in the sense that they require "exaggerated protection." In this task we wish the F.B.I. every success, though the Committee no doubt fully realised that it was here running into a very pretty controversy. Indeed, there are in the programme, which contains many excellent features, several such debatable points. Whether the scheme for an Empire College is really well conceived we have some doubts. Young men from the Dominions should certainly be brought here, but they should not be segregated. We should like to see this plan in fuller detail. With their insistence, however, on the advantage of a Trade Conference we are in complete sympathy, and we thoroughly endorse their regret that "better machinery exists, in connection with the Economic Section of the League of Nations, for discussing economic problems with foreign countries than is the case with our sister-nations of the British Empire." This flaw in Imperial organisation might well be rectified.

Parliament and the Banks.—In spite of Sir John Ferguson's disclaimer that his motion did not in any way cut across the functions of the Banking Committee, it is not very clear why he thought fit to bring before the House of Commons on Wednesday a motion which, after eulogising the banks, advocated the appointment of a standing committee of bankers and business men to advise the Government on all questions affecting the relations between finance and industry. As a late general manager of Lloyds Bank, he is well qualified to speak on banking matters, and it perhaps is just as well—particularly since the Macmillan Committee is unfortunately taking its evidence in private—that the case for the big banking amalgamations should be presented once more to the country. The debate, however, was somewhat academic, for while the supporters of the motion were concerned to prove the advantage of bank amalgamations, it seems a fair reply that the movement has already proceeded as far as it can, and that little, if any, further scope for combination exists. On the other hand, the proper relation between banking and industry is far too wide a question to be discussed adequately on a private member's motion, and must engage the attention, not only of the Banking Committee but also of the Advisory Economic Council, which must consider the position from the industrial standpoint.

The Limits of Taxation.—Concern at the weight of taxation and its effects upon productive enterprise has been voiced this week both in the House of Commons, where Mr Henry Mond, introducing a private member's motion on Wednesday, urged that the process of redistributing wealth by direct taxation might lead to a disastrous impoverishment of industry's capital resources, and in a manifesto issued by the F.B.I. In the Federation's statement attention is directed to the desirability of leaving industry with the maximum of accumulated resources to finance re-equipment and development. The complaint is made that successive Chancellors, in framing the Budgets of recent years, have taken no account of "The cumulative effect of the burden of taxation on a decade of industrial depression accompanied by a falling price level," which has added greatly to the real burden of debt and other charges. The disorganisation of the commodity markets consequent on the Wall Street depression will, it is suggested, be reflected in a decline in next year's industrial profits subject to income tax, whose net produce per penny of the normal rate is estimated to have declined appreciably since 1925-26; and, in the Federation's opinion, "the present volume of our national production is insufficient to provide the sums at present being expended—and under contemplation—by the State on unreproductive purposes without grave injury to our national productive forces." The implications of this statement are grave, and there seems to us to be still further work either for the secretariat of the Economic Advisory Council or for the experts attached to the Bank of England to do in making a serious attempt to gauge the amount of new capital required to finance the rationalisation of British industry and its relation to the current volume of corporate and individual savings.

Employment and Cost of Living in January.—The state of employment during the first three weeks of January showed some improvement as compared with the usual decrease which occurred in the last week of December. At the end of January, however, the numbers of those in employment were only slightly above the figures for the end of the previous month, a decline in employment having taken place in most industries between the middle of December and the end of January. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, among the 12.1 million workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed at January 27th was 12.6, as compared with 11.1 per cent. at December 16th and 12.2 per cent. a year ago. The number of registered unemployed at January 27th was approximately 1,534,000. This compares with 1,341,000 at December 16th and 1,434,000 at January 28, 1929. With regard to the cost of living during January, the index number of the Ministry of Labour dropped 2 per cent. during the month. At February 1st the index stood at 64 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 66 per cent. at January 1st and 65 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the index registered 54 per cent. at February 1st, as against 57 per cent. a month ago and 56 per cent. a year ago.

The Road Traffic Bill.—On Tuesday the Road Traffic Bill came up for second reading in the House of Commons, and received it without a division. The Bill does not divide the House on party lines, though the announcement of the Minister of Transport that steps would be taken to amalgamate the Omnibuses Bill with it threatens at least one close party division in Committee. Indeed, such opposition as was voiced on Tuesday, being directed chiefly against the abolition of the speed limit for private cars, came from members of all parties. Dr. Salter said that if that provision of the Bill were allowed to stand he and some of his colleagues in the Labour Party would be obliged to vote against the third reading. Support for abolition was also forthcoming from all sides, including the Opposition Front Bench, and Mr Morrison made out an excellent case. The Government had to deal with a situation in which the law was neither

observed, respected nor supported by the general body of public opinion. The police were in an impossible position. A law must either be obeyed or it must be altered, and, presented with the alternative of abolishing the speed limit or raising it to, say, 35 miles an hour, the Government had decided upon the former, since a legal maximum would inevitably come to be regarded as a reasonable speed under all circumstances. Ten miles an hour would be a dangerous speed in some cases, and so far from excusing the motorist who drove too fast the Bill stiffened the penalties to which he was liable. The Minister of Transport hoped that magistrates would not be too lenient in clear cases; we had got to get to the point of imprisonment with some drivers. The compulsory insurance proposals of Part III, he thought, provided a workable scheme with the least possible interference with the business of ordinary motor insurance. The insurance companies had assured him that premiums would not be raised merely on account of this legislation, but if in fact claims were increased and juries gave heavier damages, knowing that an insurance company would pay, the position would have to be reconsidered. Colonel Ashley suggested that this Part should be enacted for three years only. Several suggestions for amendment in Committee were offered by other speakers. The provision, for instance, that drivers of commercial or public service vehicles must be at least 21 came in for some criticism. Earl Winterton's proposal that the Minister should be empowered to make orders for uniformity of police signals throughout the country is very valuable in view of the confusion with regard to such points as turning left-handed when the policeman's hand is raised. Practically no criticism was forthcoming for the most revolutionary section of the Bill, that which creates twelve licensing authorities for road passenger services in place of the present heterogeneous local control or absence of control.

Ex-German Property.—The Government have published as a White Paper* the agreement reached with the German Government last December regarding the liquidation of sequestrated German property, together with an exchange of Notes on the subject. This agreement is mentioned in the Hague Final Act, but is not incorporated in it. Fulfilment is given to the recommendation of the Young Committee of Experts that as from the date of acceptance of their report the Allied Governments should make no further use of their rights to seize, retain or liquidate German property, rights and interests in so far as not already liquid or liquidated or finally disposed of. The Agreement provides (Articles 1 and 2) that unliquidated property shall be released and handed over or retransferred to the original owners or to the persons deriving title through them. It is scarcely necessary to reiterate our criticism of an arrangement whereby a few fortunate persons in no way more meritorious than those whose property has already been disposed of receive their former possessions back in full. The inability of the German Government to pay 100 per cent. compensation to the others is, however, not our concern. By Article 4 of the Agreement, owners of unliquidated property may elect to have their property sold by the administrator and to take the proceeds instead. There will be charged against released property or the proceeds thereof "the legal costs and other expenses incurred in connection with the said property." The Agreement comes into force, after exchange of ratifications, on the same date as the Experts' Plan; however, an accompanying Note states that it is the intention of the Government to date the suspension of liquidation from September 1, 1929. The Note also states that the British Government intends to waive its claims before United States Courts to certain German-owned American securities. The Agreement is "a final settlement of all questions and claims relating to the retention and liquidation of German property rights and interests or the proceeds thereof." Thus, although the realised surplus is not directly mentioned, the Agreement in fact authorises its retention, and an unfortunate page of post-war history is turned.

* Cmd. 3486. H.M. Stationery Office. 3d.

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Charing Cross Bridge.—In spite of persistent Press opposition from disgruntled adherents of other schemes, the Charing Cross Bridge Bill promoted by the London County Council received the overwhelming support of the House of Commons on Wednesday, when the second reading was carried by 230 votes to 62. Sir William Davison and Sir Michael Conway, who were protagonists for the opposition, proved no match in argument with two successive Ministers of Transport, supported by London members drawn from all three political parties. The opposition case suffered for want both of detailed argument and of agreed alternative. Sir William Davison reiterated the now familiar contention of writers to the *Times*, that great lengths of viaduct would cut off South London from future development, that a Southern embankment would be blocked, and that practically the whole of professional opinion was against the London County Council's proposals. Sir Michael Conway, who hinted that this might be his last speech in the House, attacked the scheme from the point of view of town planning, and for its failure to provide five things: a "splendid square" on the north side, through routes from north to south and east to west, the relief of traffic in the Strand, relief of the "site famine" on the north side, and payment for the whole scheme by increased site values on the south. The House was less impressed by these visions than by the lucid expositions of practical possibilities to which they were treated by Sir Walter Greaves-Lord, Colonel Ashley and Mr Herbert Morrison. The weakening of Waterloo Bridge made a new bridge imperative, and considerations of navigability determined that it should occupy approximately the site of Hungerford Bridge. The proposal of the Royal Commission for a double-decker rail and road bridge was rendered out of date by the consent of the Southern Railway to move to the south side, where the terminus would possess excellent communication by 'bus and Tube with all parts of London. A high-level bridge was essential in order to avoid further congestion on the Embankment. Those being the ingredients of the problem, the London County Council, acting throughout in co-operation with the Ministry of Transport, had secured the best possible technical advice, and after long consideration had decided that the present plan was the best. More than 30 alternative schemes had been examined and rejected. Dealing with the position of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the Minister of Transport said that Sir Edwin had signed the lay-out plan jointly with the engineers, and had stated his confidence that the bridge and approaches were capable of distinguished expression in their architectural treatment; he would give evidence in Committee on behalf of the Bill. Mr Harris's motion, "that it be an instruction to the Committee to insert clauses, or to obtain an undertaking from the promoters to secure by competition or otherwise designs for the bridge and architectural treatment of the viaduct," was agreed to without a division.

Savings Bank Deposits.—An extraordinarily interesting and timely paper upon fluctuations in savings bank deposits was read recently to the Manchester Statistical Society by Mr T. S. Ashton, Reader in Currency and Finance to Manchester University. The first portion of his paper was historical, and in this section Mr Ashton traced the growth of the savings bank movement, its early vicissitudes, and the effect upon the volume of deposits of such factors as the rise in real wages, the counter-attractions of Consols in the years before the war and of savings certificates during recent years, and the war-time currency inflation. Even allowing for these influences, investigation showed that there was a remarkably close correlation between the annual increases of deposits and the state of employment, though, in post-war years at least, the annual increment in deposits has hardly kept pace with the interest earned on existing deposits, a fact which suggests that there has been little scope or inclination for " purposive thrift " as distinguished from the failure or forgetfulness to disturb the automatic accumulation of interest. Such a deduction is confirmed by the general state of trade and employment, and the low level of wages in many industries, which leave little margin for deliberate saving. The second half of the paper deals with the distribution of savings, so far as it can be ascertained from the paucity of data available. As is to be expected, savings conform to the well-known distribution curve, and Mr Ashton used this fact to demonstrate how misleading it is to calculate the average sum standing to the credit of each depositor. Thus in one bank where the deposits amounted to £16 per head for every inhabitant of the district covered by the bank, analysis showed that 60 per cent. of the deposition with balances of not more than £10 each held only 4.3 per cent. of the funds, and that the " mode," equivalent to 35.3 per cent. of the funds, fell within the £50—£100 range. In other words, " a relatively small number of richer depositors are responsible for the bulk of the savings." From these results, which will come as more of a surprise to the general public than to the statistician, Mr Ashton is led to agree that manual workers do not control the bulk of the deposits, and that " a wave of unemployment might sweep away their treasure without leaving any very deep mark on the aggregate of savings." The real lesson of the paper is that those who find comfort in the increase in savings bank deposits at a time when trade is depressed and unemployment is severe are basing their faith on a very insecure foundation.

Automatic Looms in Lancashire.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—A further important move is announced in the direction of extending the use of automatic looms in Lancashire—a development referred to in last week's issue of the *Economist*. It is reported that the directors of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., have decided to equip with automatic looms the weaving shed near Preston formerly owned by Messrs. G. and R. Dewhurst, Ltd. It is understood that five different kinds are to be purchased, 50 of each type, making 250 in all. The idea is to carry out experiments with the object of finding which type of loom is most suitable for the Lancashire trade. The several kinds will be tested under similar conditions, and it is expected that the corporation will be able to secure valuable information for further developments. This decision has been very favourably received in Lancashire, as leading authorities contend that the amalgamation of firms which is now going on will not be sufficient to deal with the situation unless there are changes in production methods in the spinning mills and weaving sheds.

Anglo-International Bank.—This bank, which was formed in 1926 to take over the Anglo-Austrian Bank and the British Trade Corporation, has just issued its accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929. Last year was admittedly a difficult period, especially for banking institutions whose connections are mainly with the Continent, for they had to cope not only with difficult trading conditions, but also with the consequences of the Wall Street boom and slump. In these circumstances, the bank has done very well to increase its profits from £103,000 to £118,000, and also to add to the liquidity of its position. The decision not to pay a dividend, but to use the profits for building up reserves, is undoubtedly wise. As regards the balance sheet itself, the principal changes are contractions in acceptances, from £3.1 to £2.6 million; in deposits, from £5.1 to £4.4 million; and in advances, from £4.4 to £3.8 million. These changes are not easy to understand, but they do not possess the same significance as in the case of a bank operating purely in Great Britain. To mention but one possibility, if the bank last December had to pay higher rates to secure deposits than it would earn on advances made through its usual connections, it would naturally be disposed to let deposits run off. The margin between rates sought for deposits and those obtainable on advances is in this class of banking so fine that a small change one way or the other may quite easily have an appreciable effect upon the total of both items.

Scottish Life Assurance Company, Ltd.—Once again the normal course of the figures of this company are disturbed by single premium assurances. The volume of new business in 1929, at £1,339,441, shows an increase of almost £100,000 over that for the preceding year, and, although this relatively large total has been inflated by single premium business, the amount of such business last year was on a slightly smaller scale than in previous years. The net rate of interest earned is somewhat higher at £4 15s. 10d. net, but the expenses are also higher, the adjusted ratio being 16.3 per cent., compared with 16.0 per cent. This adjusted figure has been obtained from the figures in the revenue account on the assumption that the expenses attributable to single premium business amount to 4 per cent. of the single premiums. The year 1929 marks the completion of four years of the current quinquennium, and the next valuation is due to be made as at December 31, 1930. It is, therefore, of interest to compare the progress during the current quinquennium with the corresponding figures for the whole of the preceding quinquennium:—

Years.	Average new business per annum. £	Average premium income. £	Average net rate of interest. £ s. d.	Average adjusted expense ratio. %
1921–25.....	852,257	413,705	4 14 1%	15·5
1926–29.....	1,153,883	550,125	4 15 5%	15·6

Thus, in spite of the disturbing element of single premium assurances, the figures show a marked expansion compared with five years ago, and it is clear that the interest profits at any rate will be on a larger scale than previously. The year 1930 will complete the half century of the company's existence, and it seems not unlikely that the opportunity will be taken to mark the occasion by some special distribution to the policyholders and to the shareholders.

Scottish Temperance and General.—In order to comply with the new Companies Act, insurance companies are now compelled to disclose details of their interests in subsidiaries. Accordingly, in the accounts for the year 1929 of the Scottish Temperance and General Insurance Company, Ltd., there appears an item of £20,000 representing the company's holdings in the Holding Trust, Ltd. The disclosure is a reminder that five years ago the company mutualised itself by the purchase of its own share capital, which was thereupon transferred to this subsidiary company created for the purpose, and at the same time future dividends were limited to a maximum of 5 per cent. The balance sheet also shows that the company has made a loan to the Holding Trust amounting to £233,000, though the purpose for which this loan has been granted is not stated. The new business for the year 1929 shows an increase from £1,210,194 to £1,221,840, but since the new premiums include single premiums of £153,000, as compared with £64,000 in the preceding year, it is clear that the small increase is due to single premium business and that the ordinary business of the company has declined. Interest earnings are maintained at a high level, and work out at £4 17s. 7d. per cent. net, compared with £4 17s. 5d. per cent. net. The expense ratio shows a reduction from 13.7 per cent. to 12.6 per cent., though the reduction is due largely to the increased single premiums received during the year.

Overseas Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.—TARIFF TRUCE CONFERENCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, February 19.

THE Tariff Truce Conference, or as it is now officially and more comprehensively described, the Conference for Concerted Economic Action, opened this week under the Presidency of Count Moltke, a former Danish Foreign Minister. Thirty States are represented, including from overseas only Colombia, Peru, Japan and Turkey, with observers from the United States of America, Brazil, China, Cuba, Persia and the Dominican Republic. It is thus largely a matter of European concern, and is frankly so regarded. It is the first time that Ministers of Commerce have come directly into contact (as the Tenth Assembly desired) in making this renewed effort to get some progress towards the reduction of tariff and trade barriers.

A considerable part of the speeches so far made in the preliminary general debate has been devoted to dissipating misunderstandings which have existed in some countries as to the objects in view. It was by no means the intention to negotiate a tariff truce for the purpose of stabilising duties at their present level—such a result, as the President of the Board of Trade said this morning, would be disastrous—but merely to provide an appropriate environment for a programme of negotiations "with a view to the conclusion of collective agreements for facilitating economic relations by all practical means, especially by reducing tariffs." As Mr Graham said, the only alternative confronting Europe and a very large part of the world was that of increased tariffs. A breakdown of the efforts which this Conference was beginning would give encouragement to those countries which have so far proceeded on a free trade basis to join in a tariff campaign.

The Belgian Foreign Minister (M. Hymans) took the same view, that failure would certainly lead to a tariff war and aggravate existing difficulties. It is a curious paradox that the very existence of the renewed tariff controversy in England is regarded by some countries, not particularly anxious for tariff reductions, as in some degree a menace, and it was perhaps well that Mr Graham made a reference, mild though it was, to the possible effect of failure on English public opinion. England is the biggest market for several European Powers, including France and Germany; and, though Germany is in favour of a more sensible economic organisation of Europe, France, despite M. Briand's ideas of a United States of Europe, has been hesitant about the tariff truce and the subsequent negotiations. With her faith in the efficacy of tariffs and her knowledge of the value of the English market to her, she may perhaps be disturbed by the possible consequences to which Mr Graham alluded.

It is early yet to see what the developments of the Conference may be, and how far the idea of closer economic co-operation in Europe will proceed. The outlook has been somewhat clouded by a speech of Signor Bottai, which seems to strike a blow at the basis of the Conference, if not to question the usefulness of the League itself. Signor Bottai expressed frank scepticism as to the value of further negotiations, and delivered a considered attack on the system of multilateral agreements. He questioned the usefulness of a multilateral agreement from which most of America and other important countries would stand aside, and he defended with some asperity the view that bilateral agreements are the only effective instruments of progress. The crux of his speech lay in his statement that a temporary stabilisation of tariffs would be injurious to countries which " were in the process of creating an economic structure suitable to their essential requirements." The effect of this speech seems likely to be a more decisive grouping of States friendly and States unfavourable to the purpose of the Conference.

Behind much of the discussion lies the complication of the most-favoured-nation treaties. The European States, unless they can devise a way out of it, will not unnaturally be a little reluctant to agree to a general lowering of tariffs while the most-favoured-nation treaties compel them, so long as these treaties last, to extend similar reductions to States outside Europe which are not prepared to make any equivalent reductions. In other words, they will not be very ready to reduce their tariffs if it means being swamped by American products, a danger which may increase as the internal American market reaches saturation point.

An interesting contribution to the debate was made by the German Minister of Trade and Commerce, M. Schmidt, who warned the Conference against the fresh tariff wave which was threatening Europe. He asserted that, since July, 1929, only thirteen out of twenty-seven European countries had not raised their duties, while of these thirteen all except six were proposing to do so. In all other European countries further increases were to be expected. Though Germany had recently increased the duties on crude aluminium, boots and shoes, and certain kinds of toys, the thirty tariff increases in the German supplementary tariff of December last were balanced by reductions in 106 items. Germany had, as far as possible, complied with the Economic Conference's recommendations of autonomous lowering of tariffs. In Germany, as well as in other countries, industry and agriculture were pressing for increased Customs duties on many articles, and the general position fully justified the League's idea of a Customs truce. While he felt that the prospects of concluding a collective treaty regarding a Customs truce had somewhat diminished, he nevertheless emphasised the great importance of the Conference, particularly from the European point of view. If they succeeded in removing obstacles to trade in Europe and in extending the internal European market and increasing their purchasing power, the benefits would be shared by countries outside Europe who sold their raw materials or finished commodities to European countries. By this means, one of the preliminary conditions essential to economic recovery would be fulfilled, namely, the extension of markets and increased output, resulting in the raising of the standard of living for the masses.

There is some reluctance among delegates to participate in the general debate; many of them are disposed rather to watch the proceedings for the time being, and Mr Graham's definite suggestion that a committee should be immediately appointed to consider the methods by which negotiations should proceed may be a little premature. Perhaps a change of Government in France may lead to fresh instructions, and fresh delegates, who will be enabled to support the policy generally initiated last September by their own Foreign Minister.

UNITED STATES.—MONEY MARKET—FOREIGN TRADE—PRICES—INDUSTRY—SHARE MARKET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, February 7.

THE reduction of the New York Federal Reserve Bank's discount rate from 4½ to 4 per cent., which was followed quickly by similar action at Chicago and reduction from 5 to 4½ at Cleveland, Dallas and Minneapolis, did not come as a surprise to the financial district, especially after the reduction in the Bank of England rate. There had been comparatively little public discussion of the change before the event. Some comment had appeared in newspapers to the effect that a cut in the rate was indicated by financial and business circumstances, and that there was no reason for delay. There were also some grounds for thinking that the directors of the New York bank had voted the

reduction at the previous week's meeting, and that the Federal Reserve Board in Washington had refused to approve the change. But, after the event, the general comment was simply that the bank's action was merely one step in a general world-wide movement toward lower rates that is a natural consequence of the collapse of speculation in the world's markets. Meanwhile, the week's Federal Reserve statements, while showing that a reduction in discount rates was justified, disclosed no striking changes in condition. For the System as a whole, circulations and discounts for member banks continued to fall; the latter item now amounts to only $381,000,000, as compared with $851,000,000 a year ago. The total volume of credit extended by the System amounted to $1,167,000,000, as compared with $1,471,000,000 a year ago; and the corresponding figures for the reserve ratio are 78.0 and 69.3 per cent. Gold reserves are $313,000,000 larger than a year ago. At the New York bank discounts amounted to only $54,000,000 and total credit extended to $383,000,000, as against $325,000,000 a year ago. The ratio was 76.5, as against 78.8 per cent. last year.

A feature of the money market has been the large increase during the last six months of 1929 in the volume of bills outstanding. The total was $1,732,000,000 on December 31st, compared with $1,282,000,000 on December 31, 1928, and with $982,000,000 on December 31, 1928. The largest increase was shown in bills based on goods stored in or shipped between foreign countries. Part of the comparative slowness of money rates to ease in January is attributed to the large supplies of bills that were in bill dealers' hands at the end of the year and the need for devoting funds to the repayment of indebtedness at the Reserve banks on account of these bills.

Foreign trade statistics show that the shrinkage of both exports and imports continued in December. Imports, valued at $311,000,000, were the smallest for any December since 1923. Lower prices were in part responsible for the shrinkage; but the influence of the reaction in world trade was plainly evident. As for commodity prices, publication of the Dun and Bradstreet indices showed that the decline that began in autumn continued during January. The former index fell 1.1 per cent.; the latter 1.4 per cent. The Bradstreet index on February 1st stood 4.5 per cent. below the level of December 1st and 11.3 per cent. below the level of February 1, 1929. The month's decline affected both raw materials and manufactured articles, and price movements in February have continued to be downward, with the weakness in wheat and cotton very striking.

The feature of industrial news is the continued good activity in the steel industry, where the rate of operations has risen to slightly above 75 per cent. The rebound in this industry from the low December level has exceeded expectations; but it is noted that further declines in steel prices have occurred despite it. In the automobile industry the introduction of many new models during January has confused the situation somewhat; but it is clear that the motor makers have recovered appreciably from their extreme pessimism of November and December. Production schedules of low-priced cars have been increased. It is realised, however, that cars are being manufactured largely for dealers' stocks, and the strength of consumer buying remains to be disclosed. The used-car position admittedly is as bad as, or worse than, at any earlier time, and there has been some talk of manufacturers helping dealers by "junking" used cars. Manufacturers are also alive to the necessity of not overburdening dealers with new cars. The building situation also reflects the general condition of business, with residential construction off about 50 per cent. from January a year ago, and with the best support coming from public utility and public works construction. Mortgage money continues difficult to obtain, with the mortgage banks and loan associations at the limit of their resources. Building experts, however, anticipate that 1930 will furnish about the same aggregate volume of building as 1929. They count on an early deficiency being made up during the latter half of the year. Railway car-loadings are showing a seasonal increase, but are at the lowest levels, for corresponding weeks, since the end of the great post-war depression. The general position suggests a business reaction, in which certain industries have made a turn, while others are continuing their declines.

Strength in the share market, that has carried average prices above the December and January high levels, and has produced a considerable increase in volume, is at once a result of greater optimism and a creator of optimism. Professional operations on the bull side have been coupled with a moderate renewal of public speculation. At the moment there is a disposition to feel that the improvement in the share market has attained a rather rapid pace and that it is better than the improvement in business. Reductions in money rates have helped the rather sluggish bond market, and have also stimulated the share market; but the further course of the latter will be considerably influenced by developments in the automobile industry. At the moment there are no indications of an early revival in the foreign bond market.

FRANCE.—POLITICS—CAPITAL ISSUES—MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, February 19.

THE fall of the Tardieu Cabinet may be attributed directly to the fact that the last General Elections created a Chamber without a clearly defined majority of any kind. On balance, the outcome of the elections was slightly in favour of the Right, thanks to the prestige enjoyed by M. Poincaré, but the margin was small, and every Cabinet was bound to be at the mercy of the Radical Left. This section of the Chamber, generally known as the Loucheur group, consists of 51 members, who occupy a remarkable strategic position immediately on the frontier between the Left proper and the various parties who constitute the Right and so-called "Centre" sections. In these circumstances no French Ministry can hope for a long life which does not either include leaders of the Radical Left as hostages, or have the tacit support of that Party, which forms, in any case, the largest group in the Chamber. The Grand Committees of the Chamber, being constituted on a basis of proportional representation of the various groups, the Radical Socialists (115) and the Socialists (100)—with the more or less reliable support of the Independents of the Left (20), the Republican Socialists (19) and the French Socialist Party deputies (14)—can usually secure the chairmanships and the practical domination of the principal commissions (including the all-important Finance Commission), which count for so much in French Parliamentary practice. The effect of this system is, from the British point of view, something approaching chaos. Every Government with an unstable majority—which has been the rule of late years—is inevitably faced with a struggle with commissions whose conclusions are largely antagonistic to the Cabinet's own views; and coherence and continuity of policy are alike impossible. This, and M. Tardieu's unfortunate attack of *grippe*—which made it impossible for him to continue (like M. Poincaré) by sheer personal magnetism to maintain his majority around him—is the explanation of the present Ministerial crisis.

M. Chéron, directly he ceased to have M. Tardieu behind him and was called on to fend for himself, lost his grip and, as one financial newspaper puts it, "began to handle the national finances like a distinguished but limited accountant rather than a statesman of foresight." In financial and industrial circles there has been a loud outcry for many months past that excessive taxation alone is preventing advantage being taken of the existing remarkably favourable conditions, and all the facts seem to justify this view. M. Chéron's defence, in spite of the enormous accumulated liquid resources at the Treasury, was that the scanty relief accorded during last year was all he could grant, and his personal unpopularity in the Chamber has been such that in all probability he would have suffered a fatal set-back before Christmas but for the prolongation of the financial year until April 1. The immediate and direct cause of his and his leader's fall, however, was the outcome of purely party political warfare, apparently with the object of bringing about a return of M. Briand to power, with a majority extending much further towards the Left. The actual blow was delivered by 17 deputies belonging to M. Loucheur's Radical Left group of 51, who split away from the rest of the group and voted against the Government, which was defeated by a majority of five. The 17 rebels were led by M. Daniélou, a former Under-Secretary, who has for many years been one of M. Briand's closest associates. At the time of writing it is impossible to foretell the solution of the crisis.

The Budget, amid the welter of party under-currents, is admittedly in a parlous situation, with barely five weeks before the opening of the new financial year. Demagogy has been rampant during the past week's discussion, and amendments involving extra expenditure of some 60,000,000,000 francs have been, or will be, formally proposed, while concessions made by the Finance Minister, in view of the temper of the House, must already have more than swallowed up his estimated surplus of 315,000,000 francs. The National Insurance scheme, which should have come into operation on February 5, has been postponed for a further three months, but it is still doubtful whether it can be made workable by that date. M. Loucheur, whose handling of the measure has been the subject of bitter criticism from nearly all sections of opinion, now stands second only to M. Chéron in unpopularity with the business community.

The flood of increased capital issues shows no sign of abatement. Total issues of new capital in 1929 were 15,256,000,000 francs (say £123,000,000), of which 7,448,000,000 francs were increased share capital by old concerns and 6,796,000,000 francs bonds issued by the same class of companies, the amount of new registrations during the year being only 1,011,500,000 francs. The total issues in 1929 were 50 per cent. more than in 1928 and over 14 times the amount in 1913. The January issues totalled 1,313,000,000 francs, exclusive of railway bond issues, figures for which are not yet available. All weekly records have been beaten by the total announced on February 17, which amounted to 1,323,000,000 francs, of which 1,199,600,000 francs are in bonds. The average rate of interest offered on bonds issued in January was 5 per cent., against a mean of 5.40 per cent. in 1929 and of 6.03 per cent. in 1928. The past week's total has been swollen by offerings of 300,000,000 francs 5 per cent. bonds by the Finnish Central Land Bank, 175,000,000 francs 4½ per cent. bonds by the Messageries Maritimes shipping company, 90,000,000 francs 4½ per cent. bonds by the Compagnie Transatlantique, and 225,000,000 francs 4½ per cent. bonds by the Compagnie Générale d'Electricité, the latter being a conversion issue. The Petrofina oil concern is also making an issue of 100,000,000 francs additional share capital in 500-franc shares at 750 francs.

Meanwhile the Bourse is suffering severely from the absence of the average investor, and business is almost at a standstill. The amount of capital awaiting investment continues abnormally high, as was shown by carrying over rates at Saturday's mid-monthly settlement, which were officially fixed at 1⅞ per cent., as against 3½ per cent. on January 31 and 3⅝ per cent. on January 15. A good deal of business was actually done at 1¾ per cent. Sharp modification of these abnormal rates is to be expected, for it is difficult to see how lenders can be satisfied with returns below at least 2 per cent. Day-to-day money remains at 2½ per cent.

The marketing of the crops has enabled agriculturists to repay advances received from the banks, and the latter are now seeking short-term employment for exceptionally large sums. Substantial proportions of these resources are being transformed into foreign exchange, for operations in London and other foreign centres. The existence of the present plethora of available cash here is expected to foster the advance of the dollar and the mark above gold point, and reverse the situation that existed in the latter half of 1929 in regard to gold movements. Sterling rates in Paris are now at such a level that no further gold withdrawals from London are likely. The mark to-day went to 610, which is considered here as gold export point. The dollar, which was quoted 25.57¼ at to-day's opening, closed at 25.58¼, or well above gold export point, which is considered here as 25.57½. In both these cases, therefore, Paris may shortly be called upon to export gold. Whether, in this eventuality, the Bank of France will decide to send out gold or sell exchange is unknown, but it is considered probable that the policy of exporting gold will be followed, in which case there may be a certain amount of tightness here, which may appreciably modify present tendencies.

HOLLAND.—CAPITAL ISSUES—MONEY—NETHERLANDS BANK—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, February 12.

THE new year has made a favourable beginning. More abundant supplies of money on the Amsterdam market led to a further reduction in the discount rate of the Netherlands Bank and to a revival in the new issues market and the stock markets. Particularly in the early weeks of 1929 released capital was in search of re-investment. Debentures were in favour; and, as a consequence of the rise in fixed-interest-bearing securities, a number of new issues were placed on the market.

The radical changes which have taken place in the money and stock markets during the last few months are illustrated in a striking fashion by the course of the Dutch issues market during the past month. Of the issues subscribed for in the Netherlands during January, amounting to a total of 43.8 million guilders, no less than 43.7 million guilders were subscribed for debenture issues, irrespective of conversions. Compared with that amount, the shares issues, a total of only 125,000 guilders, sink into insignificance. If the abundance of money continues for some time it is to be expected that extensive issues of debentures will be made during the next few months, though it is hardly likely that they will be so predominant as last month. New capital taken up for domestic and foreign issues of shares and debentures in January is summarised in the following table:—

	Shares (guilders)	Debentures (guilders)	Total (guilders)
Domestic	125,000	38,228,762	38,353,762
Foreign	...	5,525,000	5,525,000
	125,000	43,753,762	43,878,762

A factor of interest for our issue market is the possibility that the acceptance of the Young Plan may result in endeavours on the part of Germany to avail herself of the French capital market.

A number of public authorities in Holland have rightly taken advantage of the present favourable opportunity to provide for their credit requirements or to convert loans outstanding at higher rates. The abundance of money on the Amsterdam market can best be illustrated by the course of the "prolongation" rates, which averaged 2.88 in January, 1930, as compared with 3.92 in December, 1929, and 4.48 in January, 1929. The highest rate of the month was 4⅜, and 2 was the lowest. Market rates of discount also show a similarly steep decline, as a result of which there was a large margin as compared with the official rate of the Netherlands Bank. This was reduced on January 16th to 4 per cent. At first it appeared as though the exchange market might suffer. Both the German mark and the French franc were quoted above the gold export point; gold in considerable amounts was sent to the Banque de France; and sterling and dollar rates also stiffened. The position of the Nether-

lands Bank consequently underwent a temporary weakness, as is apparent from the following table:—

(In million guilders).

1930.	Gold—Coin.	Gold—Bullion.	Foreign Bills.	Sundry Accounts.
January 6th	65·0	382·4	219·2	37·5
January 13th	65·0	382·4	219·4	33·2
January 20th	65·0	381·0	219·1	24·3
January 27th	65·0	374·5	217·1	24·0
February 3rd	64·9	372·0	211·3	22·8
February 10th	64·9	372·0	211·5	22·3

The circumstances which prevailed in the exchange market last week are expressed in the unchanged stocks of gold and bills, while the sundry accounts on the debit side of last week's statement of the Netherlands Bank did not show any change worth mentioning. Aided by the reductions in discount rates abroad, the guilder was able to maintain its parity without recourse to assistance from the Central Bank.

According to the official statistics, the value of Dutch imports and exports for the years 1926-29 were:—

(In millions of guilders.)

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Imports	2,441·9	2,548·9	2,683·9	2,752·3
Exports	1,749·2	1,899·7	1,986·2	1,989·5
Import balance	692·7	649·2	697·7	762·8

During these four years the value of imports has increased continually and to the extent of 310,400,000 guilders. The value of exports has increased by 240,300,000 guilders. The first half of 1929 was more favourable than the last six months of that year, considering that the value of our exports is usually much greater in the second half of the year than in the first half. The weight of merchandise imported and exported during 1925-29 (in metric tons) was as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.
1925	25,398,193	12,336,338
1926	28,347,142	15,822,354
1927	28,618,769	14,338,018
1928	29,850,925	15,725,219
1929	30,988,919	16,301,164

Approximately one-third of the weight of the imports and over one-third of the weight of the exports consists of coal. While the production of coal in the Netherlands increased from 10,920,004 tons in 1928 to 11,612,702 tons in 1929, the imports of coal into the Netherlands increased from 8,759,801 tons in 1928 to 9,618,406 tons in 1929, and our export of coal and the bunker coal for foreign ships declined from 6,068,020 in 1928 to 5,594,606 tons in 1929. As a result, the amount of coal available for Holland was 13,611,785 tons in 1928 and 15,636,502 tons in 1929.

The value of the imports from the six countries specified in our monthly table of imports, export and transit traffic was as follows for the years 1926-29:—

IMPORTS INTO THE NETHERLANDS.

(In million guilders.)

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Germany	667·7	654·2	730·3	842·1
Belgium	270·5	267·4	299·9	283·0
Gt. Britain	231·1	246·2	252·5	257·6
France	113·1	124·0	120·8	113·1
U.S.A.	258·0	268·4	265·7	272·2
Dutch E. Indies	144·4	116·5	140·0	138·0

The value of exports from the Netherlands to these six countries for the years 1926-29 was as follows:—

EXPORTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS.

(In million guilders.)

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Germany	380·8	465·8	467·7	455·6
Belgium	143·6	154·8	172·1	204·3
Gt. Britain	483·1	452·6	431·9	408·1
France	82·8	129·8	122·5	117·2
U.S.A.	79·6	65·1	69·0	70·8
Dutch E. Indies	127·8	136·3	175·4	172·3

The increase in the imports from Germany is a very striking feature, the value in 1929 being almost 112 million guilders more than in 1928. In view of the fact that the total imports in 1929 are only 68.4 million guilders larger than in 1928, it is evident that German imports into this country have largely increased at the expense of imports from other countries. In 1925 Germany exported merchandise to Holland to the value of 594 million guilders, and in 1929 to the value of 842 millions, representing an increase of 248 million guilders, or approximately 42 per cent. Taking the same period, the value of our exports to Germany was 469 million guilders in 1925 and 455.6 millions in 1929. Germany's share in the value of the total imports into Holland increased from 27.2 per cent. in 1928 to 30.6 per cent. in 1929. December was a poor month for export, and the year 1929 as a whole was not particularly favourable. The fact that the decline in exports came in the second half of 1929, and during the month of December in particular, provides little hope of improvement for the first few months of 1930.

SWITZERLAND.—NATIONAL BANK REPORT—PUBLIC FINANCE—FOREIGN TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, February 16.

THE Swiss Government has just approved the accounts of the Swiss National Bank, which show for 1929 a net profit of £272,441, slightly higher than that of 1928. The sum of £20,000 will be employed in paying a dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent., while £69,424 will be paid into the Federal Treasury and the remaining £183,017 distributed among the Cantons. The annual report of the National Bank shows that Swiss currency remained steady throughout the year, and that its value was generally higher than that of foreign currencies on the Swiss market. In 1929 the circulation of banknotes was higher than during 1928, averaging £34,240,000, as against £32,720,000 the previous year, and the metallic reserve averaged £31,240,000, compared with £28,920,000 the year before.

The report remarks that economic conditions in Switzerland were, on the whole, satisfactory during 1929. For the first time the accounts of the Confederation in 1928 showed a surplus of £9,480,000, and another surplus is expected in 1929 as a result of the increased yield of Customs duties, stamp duty, and of the various Federal services. The public debt, which totalled £79,480,000 at the end of 1928, was reduced to £75,400,000 during 1929, thanks to the payment of an instalment provided for by the plan for the redemption of the debt, and to the repayment of the U.S.A. loan of 30 million dollars at 5½ per cent. issued in 1919. The Government has decided to launch in March next on the Swiss market a loan of £10,000,000 at 4½ per cent., which will be used for converting or repaying the Federal loan of £12,000,000 at 5½ per cent. which is to be repaid on September 1, 1930. The remaining £2,000,000 will be reimbursed by the Federal Treasury out of the fund created a few years ago for the repayment of loans.

Good news for the taxpayer has just arrived from Berne: there will be no renewal of the Extraordinary War Tax levied for the purpose of repaying the debts incurred during the war for the mobilisation and upkeep of the Swiss Army. That tax, levied both on capital and income, yielded about £4,086,540 up to 1928; another instalment—which is expected to produce nearly £1,600,000—is to be paid between 1928 and 1932; and this will be the last of a tax which was very heavy and unwelcome.

Though the report of the National Bank says that economic conditions were satisfactory in 1929, a depression was felt towards the end of the year in consequence of the New York slump and as a result of over-production in some countries and of big drops in the prices of goods on several markets. It was particularly felt by some exporting industries, and there was a continuous decline in export figures during the last quarter, while, on the other hand, the home market remained comparatively

active. The effect on exports of the depression is shown by the following figures:—

	£ million. 1928.	1929.
First quarter	20·7	19·8
Second quarter	20·0	20·6
Third quarter	20·7	21·4
Fourth quarter	23·8	22·4

The depression has not yet reached its lowest point, and exports in January, 1930, totalled £5,885,705, compared with £6,155,676 last year. Imports, on the other hand, aggregated £8,326,363, as against £8,485,110 in January, 1929. During the same month imports from Great Britain reached £480,880, compared with £560,425 in 1929, and exports to her £812,916, as against £843,641 the previous year. Conditions do not seem to have improved, trade is slack, several watchmaking factories are working short time, two or three have been compelled to close down, unemployment is growing, and the lack of snow for winter sports had a bad effect on the tourist industry.

The foreign trade returns for the year 1929 as a whole were not very satisfactory, though differences from the previous year are not on the whole very great. The year began under good auspices, but the value of exports, which began to dwindle in July, never exceeded the 1928 figures from that time onwards. Imports during the year totalled £111,353,930, as against £109,787,213 in 1928, an increase of £1,566,717. There was a large increase in the imports of rubber, all minerals and raw materials, motor cars and machines, and chemicals, while a big drop was recorded in the imports of raw cotton, wool and silk. On the other hand, exports aggregated £84,178,184, compared with £85,377,430 the previous year. Though this is a decrease of £1,199,246 on the 1928 figure it is higher than in any other year since 1922. While there was an increase in the exports of ready-made clothing, copper goods, machines, watches, chemicals and dyes, there was a large fall in the exports of leather, cotton, silk and aluminium goods.

The adverse balance, which was £24,409,783, or about 22.2 per cent. of imports, in 1928, rose to £27,175,746, or nearly 24.4 per cent. in 1929. As a matter of fact, that adverse balance, though very heavy, is entirely made good by visible exports, which left an estimated profit of about £33,000,000 last year. According to official estimates, the income derived from foreign securities held in Switzerland totalled nearly £19,000,000; the tourist and hotel industry—which had a record season in 1929, when over four million tourists visited Switzerland—left a profit of about £9,000,000; while insurances, banking, transit trade and the exportation of electric power left a surplus of nearly £6,000,000. The exports of the four principal industries were as follows:—

	£ million. 1928.	1929.
Cotton	10·6	9·3
Silk	13·4	11·9
Machines	9·3	9·6
Watches	12·0	12·3
	45·3	43·1

There was no great difference in regard to commercial exchanges with the five principal countries, as shown below:—

IMPORTS.

	£ million. 1928.	1929.
Germany	24·9	27·9
France	19·6	19·5
U.S.A.	9·7	11·6
Italy	7·9	8·1
Britain	9·1	6·7

EXPORTS.

	£ million. 1928.	1929.
Germany	15·4	14·2
Britain	12·2	11·5
U.S.A.	7·8	8·3
France	6·2	7·2
Italy	5·6	6·3

In regard to imports, Britain held in 1929 the fifth place, while she had the fourth in 1928; as regards exports, she retains the second place she had previously. There has been an increase in imports from the U.S.A., mainly due to big wheat purchases, and a rise in exports to France and Italy, following the commercial agreements concluded with those countries in the preceding year. Trade with Great Britain showed a considerable decrease in 1929; imports from her totalled exactly £6,712,800, as against £9,055,300 in 1928, a drop of £2,342,500. This drop may be partly ascribed to the lack of enterprise on the part of British manufacturers. While German, French, Italian and U.S.A. traders send commercial travellers to Switzerland, where they also have numerous agents, British manufacturers send only a few commercial travellers and they have a small number of agents in the country. The consequence is that they are losing many opportunities for selling their goods, though there are undoubtedly many openings for British goods on the Swiss market, particularly for cutlery, pottery, machines, textiles and paper goods. Exports to Britain aggregated £11,523,900, compared with £12,239,800 in 1928, a decrease of £175,900. Imports from other parts of the British Empire were £6.02 million, against £7.11 million in 1928, and exports £5.88 million, against £6.50 million. The British Empire, as a whole, remains one of the best clients of Switzerland, as it supplies nearly one-ninth of her imports and purchases about one-fifth of her exports.

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GREECE.—ECONOMIC COUNCIL—BANKERS' MEMORANDUM—SHIPPING—FOREIGN TRADE—PUBLIC FINANCE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, February 15.

A BILL has been brought before Parliament for the establishment of a Supreme Economic Council. The Council's object is to study and report upon the economic problems of the country, with a view to their better solution. Its organisation is framed along the lines laid down by the French expert M. Salvador, with some amendments. It is to act in an advisory capacity, and will consist of fifty-two members. Of these, twelve will represent agriculture, ten industry, nine trade and the banks, nine technical equipment, five the consumers, five the sciences and art, and two Greek economic organisations abroad. The members are to be elected by the appropriate organisations and are to be appointed by Decree on the proposal of the President of the Ministerial Council.

After repeated consultations with the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet, and in reply to a questionnaire submitted to them by the Minister of National Economy, the principal bankers of Athens handed to the Government some days ago a memorandum setting forth their opinion on the present economic situation, its causes and its remedies. Though they admit that Greece is passing through an economic crisis, they find no ground for anxiety. On the contrary, they think that the steady determination of the Government to help the situation, and the sincere collaboration of the banks will contribute, if nothing unforeseen happens, to avert any possible danger and to improve the economic organisation of the country. They suggest various administrative and fiscal measures which should, in their opinion, be adopted to this end. The institution of a special

economic organisation to deal with industry, on the same lines as that already provided for agriculture, is suggested, together with the systematic formulation by the Government of an industrial and commercial policy. For themselves, the bankers declare that they are granting every possible facility to industry and trade in a spirit of co-operation, and that, notwithstanding their diminished power, for which the State is partly responsible, they are helping to lay down a comprehensive programme for placing industry on a sound basis, and giving it the necessary financial support. It is understood that the Government will adopt and shortly put into effect most of the bankers' suggestions.

The growing importance of Greece as a market for automobiles and oil is revealed by the following figures, published in a weekly financial paper. Imports of motor cars and trucks during the last nine years amounted to: 1,309 in 1923, 2,866 in 1924, 3,461 in 1925, 1,824 in 1926, 2,941 in 1927, 3,588 in 1928, and 3,530 during the first nine months of 1929. Oil imported shows also a substantial increase: 7,946 tons in 1923, 14,842 in 1924; 24,275 in 1925, 23,465 in 1926, 28,509 in 1927, 35,476 tons in 1928 and 28,001 tons for the first nine months of 1929. To cope with the increasing demands of trade, a special organisation will be formed for the import and distribution of oil, in which English capital will perhaps participate. Entrances of ships in Greek ports in the foreign trade during 1929 amounted to 3,531, of a net capacity of 5,528,416 tons. Of these 1,086 ships, with a tonnage of 1,052,925 tons, carried the Greek flag; 987 ships, of 2,051,620 tons, were under the Italian flag; and 387 ships, of 823,561 tons, carried the British flag. Imports of merchandise in 1929 totalled 2,774,698 tons, of a value of 13,275,531,000 drachmas, and exports 748,743 tons, valued at 6,985,196,000 drachmas, leaving a net commercial deficit of 6,290,335,000 drachmas, compared with an adverse trade balance of 6,127,047,000 drachmas in 1928. Exports of currants and tobacco have fallen in 1929 owing to the reluctance of buyers, but it is expected that the deficit in the export of these two articles will be made up in the course of this year. First in the list of importers comes the United States, with exports to Greece of a value of 2,091 million drachmas; next, the United Kingdom, with a value of 1,663 million drachmas, and then Germany, with 1,249 million drachmas, and France, with 902 million drachmas.

Revenue for the first nine months of the financial year 1929-1930 amounted to 6,863.4 million drachmas, against 8,087 million drachmas assessed, and 9,855.3 million drachmas estimated for the whole year. The yield of taxes is considered satisfactory and conforms to the estimates. Expenditure for the same period amounted to 6,314.8 million drachmas, against liabilities undertaken of 9,861.6 million drachmas and credits granted of 10,437 million drachmas. Revenue assessed corresponds to 85.8 per cent. of the estimates for the whole year, and revenue collected to 77 per cent. of the total assessed. The corresponding figures for the same period of the preceding year were 90.80 per cent. and 85 per cent. respectively. Gross receipts for 1929 from revenues assigned for the Public Debt reached the new record figure of 4,231 million drachmas, showing an increase of 167 million drachmas over the receipts for 1928. Those specially assigned for the service of the Refugee Loan of 1924 show, at 903 million drachmas, an increase of 11 million drachmas, as compared with receipts for the previous year. Receipts subject to the distribution of the surpluses, however, while higher by 196 million drachmas than the minimum estimate of the Law of Control, are lower by 8 million drachmas in comparison with those of 1928.

SOUTH AFRICA.—POLITICS—ECONOMIC DEPRESSION—NATIVE LABOUR—WOOL PRICES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, January 29.

THE second session of the sixth Parliament of the Union opened on January 18th. The political atmosphere is no longer satisfactory from the Government point of view, and the economic position is causing some temporary anxiety in all quarters. The European population of South Africa is known to take a possibly undue interest in politics, while at the same time a considerable proportion are even more lacking than most democracies in real grasp of political and economic principles. Having elected a strong Government they expect that Government to achieve economic miracles, sometimes with weapons chosen, not by the statesmen or the experienced official, but by the ordinary voter.

The Pact is showing greater and greater signs of old age. The two wings of the Labour Party are becoming increasingly independent in their flutterings, except when they oppose one another with unusual violence. The "extreme right" wing of the Nationalist Party is becoming more concrete. Reports from Capetown suggest an uneasy consciousness amongst the more responsible Nationalists that their party draws an unduly large measure of support from the less productive section of the population. On close practical acquaintance, certain portions of the economic and sociological programme have come to look less promising even to the politician of true Nationalist faith. The results of the by-elections in two rural constituencies were not comforting to the Government; Bethal—Mr Tielman Roos's late seat—was lost to the South African Party by a majority of fifty, while Stellenbosch remained Nationalist by a majority of fourteen. Both these were South African Party seats until very recently, but the Nationalists have acquired the habit of regarding all country seats once won as safe. Many of these disquieting symptoms are recognisable as the normal fate of parties after several years of power, but the worst of them (from the Government's point of view) are the fruit of political inexperience, of tactlessness towards opponents whose co-operation could have been valuable, and of certain fundamental weaknesses in the Pact position—weaknesses which experienced political critics foresaw when the Pact assumed power.

General Hertzog's prophecy of depression seems likely to be fulfilled, in the sense that there is a quiet time in store in the immediate future. The markets for most of South African products are depressed, in most cases through causes outside local control, except in so far as our costs of production are high. On the other hand, there is no doubt that a period of moderate depression is likely to force local opinion to consider courses which experience may indicate as sound, but which conflict with certain local prejudices. There are no serious indications, however, of fundamental or permanent unsoundness in the economic position of the country; and periods of depression offer better opportunities for the far-seeing and careful investor than do periods of inflation.

The position in regard to native labour is still uncertain. The 1928 Convention with the Province of Mozambique is now seen, even by Government supporters, to have been one of their less happy efforts. Article I of that Convention precludes the recruiting for Reef mines of natives from Portuguese territory north of latitude 22 degrees south. It now appears that British Governments and populations in South Central Africa are unlikely to look with favour on any migration of their native subjects to the Rand. It is reported from Pretoria that efforts are to be made to revise the Convention in that regard.

The present price of wool is about 7d. per pound, but the quotation is practically nominal at the moment. About 60 per cent. of this year's clip has been sold at higher prices, but the balance is practically unsaleable; it includes the bulk of the Free State clip, which is just reaching the market. The decline in money receipts (and incidentally in the national income) is estimated at £7,000,000. The present price is about pre-war level, but of course production costs, especially land values, have risen in 16 years.

Letters to the Editor.

ROAD FINANCE AND MOTOR TAXATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your correspondent's article on road finance, in the *Economist* of February 8, contains several wrong assumptions and false deductions. In the first table, setting forth the expenditure on roads and their maintenance costs, it should have been pointed out—

(*a*) That "expenditure on roads" excludes police regulation in connection with arterial road works carried out by the Ministry of Transport mainly for the relief of unemployment in the Metropolitan area.

(*b*) That the figures shown as "average cost per mile" represents only "ordinary maintenance and repairs." If a mile of concrete road on which £80,000 was spent requires £500 per annum for "ordinary maintenance and repair," the cost is not merely £500 per annum.

In the second table, purporting to show the allocation of motor taxes, the suggestion is made that the petrol tax is a contribution to road costs in reduction of the ratepayers' burden, and in this table the rates expended on roads are reduced by deducting £15,000,000 for the petrol tax. While local rates have been reduced for the benefit of certain industries and the loss broadly made good out of petrol taxation, the reduction is applied to *all* rates and not only highway rates. The payment of a subsidy on export coal financed by reductions of general rates on, say, the docks in Poplar and made good by State grants out of the petrol tax, does not affect the burden of highway rates in that borough.

In the next place, your correspondent's calculation of ton-mileage, for the purpose of reckoning the "justified" expenditure from motor taxation, appears to involve the curious assumptions (*a*) that 2,163,000 motor vehicles, which apparently include (though the writer omits to say so) 700,000 to 800,000 cycles, weigh unladen 2,163,000 tons; (*b*) that the average mileage—lorries, 'buses, private cars, cycles, etc.—is 10,000 per annum; (*c*) that the ton-miles (presumably excluding the weight of the vehicles) by a happy coincidence are equal to the unladen weight multiplied by mileage, *i.e.*, that the aggregate weight multiplied by distance conveyed of all the persons and things carried by motor cycles, beer lorries, 'buses, taxis, private cars of all types and motor tractors, is the same as the unladen weight of the vehicles multiplied by mileage run whether empty or loaded.

Finally, your correspondent gives the following comparison of allocation of maintenance:—

Class (1) Roads ...	£13,630,000,	or £535 per mile.
Class (2) Roads ...	£5,370,000,	or £340 per mile.
Other Roads ...	£31,000,000,	or £225 per mile.

These figures are stated to show "the clear inference" that many side roads are being subsidised by taxing main-road traffic.

The first two figures are for "ordinary maintenance and repair," and the third apparently represents the balance of the local authorities' road expenditure other than loan charges. The third, therefore, includes expenditure on building and improving Class (1) and (2) roads where the work is performed by local authorities out of road fund grants. "Other roads" would apparently include the non-loan part of the expenditure on a new bridge over the Thames. It may be added that 83 per cent. of the Metropolitan area roads are in the "other road" class, which is by some feat of arithmetic subsidised by the unfortunate users of 17 per cent.—Yours faithfully,

RAILWAYMAN.

London, February 12, 1930.

[Our correspondent writes:—

(*i*) The cost of police for traffic control was naturally not included in "Expenditure on Roads," and the taking of this into account would not materially affect the argument. According to the latest Statistical Abstract, the increase in the authorised strength of the police force in Great Britain between 1913 and 1928 was 3,632, and from the Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary for England and Wales it can be calculated that the average annual cost of a policeman in 1928 was £349. Thus, even if it be assumed that all of this increase was due to motoring (a questionable assumption) the adjustment in this respect would not amount to more than £1,300,000. Expenditure in connection with work on arterial roads, carried out by the Ministry of Transport, mainly for the relief of unemployment in the Metropolitan area, was also excluded from "Expenditure on Roads," because this is in respect of improvements and new constructions, and is analogous to expenditure out of loans. As a matter of fact, it only amounted to £859,045 in the last year for which the figures are available.

(*ii*) It was not necessary to include a capital charge in the costs per mile of road because the object of these figures was to show that the wear and tear on the roads has not increased in proportion to the increase of traffic, and the conclusion was drawn that the cost of *highway maintenance* is likely to become stabilised, "as all the roads are made suitable for motor traffic"—that is to say, when capital expenditure ceases. The capital charge was, of course, included in the total expenditure on roads when comparing this expenditure with total motor taxation.

(*iii*) Whether the proceeds of the petrol tax, as they are passed over to the local authorities, are credited to all the departmental accounts or solely to the Highways Account is purely a book-keeping matter. The only logical account to credit is the Highways Account, and any other procedure involves virtual misappropriation. The whole of the petrol tax goes to the local authorities, ratepayers being relieved accordingly, and in an economic analysis of the position of motor taxation *vis-à-vis* road costs, it can only be considered that the petrol tax is a direct contribution to the road costs. Nobody who has read the 1928 Budget Speech can have any doubts on this point.

(*iv*) The 2,163,000 vehicles are divided between the various classes as follows, and the average weight of each class of vehicle, obtained from a careful calculation by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, based on the last Census of Road Vehicles, is appended:—

		Average unladen weight (tons).
Private cars	981,000	1.25
Goods vehicles ...	315,000	2.0
Hackneys	98,000	2.0
Miscellaneous vehicles	37,000	2.0
Motor cycles ...	732,000	0.13
	2,163,000	1.027

It is generally accepted in the motor trade that the average annual mileage of the private car and motor cycle is about 8,000 miles, and that of commercial vehicles, while more uncertain, is about 15,000 miles, so that 10,000 is a fair average for all vehicles.

(*v*) The ton-miles refer to unladen weight multiplied by miles, and there is no suggestion of the "happy coincidence" to which reference is made. It is impossible to take the question of load into consideration, and the omission to do this does not affect the argument, unless there is evidence to show that the relation of load to unladen weight differs between vehicles using one class of road and another. If any such difference does exist, it will certainly be that relatively heavier loads are carried on the better roads, so that the inclusion of load would strengthen the argument.

(*vi*) From available information it is not possible to ascertain the amount of non-loan expenditure on improvements and new constructions, but I am informed by the Ministry of Transport that it is not usual for this type of expenditure to be met otherwise than out of loans, and that the cases where capital expenditure is made out of ordinary revenue are not considerable. There is no reason, therefore, to adjust this approximate allocation of maintenance. The fact that the proportion of "other roads" is higher in the Metropolitan area than elsewhere does not alter the case in the least.—ED., *Econ.*]

SIR,—In all forms of land transport the main item of expenditure is the construction and maintenance of the permanent way, not the cost of pushing or pulling a vehicle along it. If we look at the accounts of a railway company, as being the only undertaking which pays all the costs incidental to transport, we find that the capital account is made up mainly of the cost of its track and stations; and a large proportion of its annual expenditure is absorbed by the maintenance, lighting, policing and so on of the track. In the case of motor vehicles the cost of the permanent way falls on the ratepayer, but the owners of motor vehicles pay certain taxes, the yield of which is allocated to the improvement and maintenance of roads.

Whether the motorist's contribution should be regarded as taxation in the ordinary sense is a question which has not been settled; it has hardly been discussed. One might argue that it resembles the Compensation Levy paid by the licensees of public houses; no one, except perhaps the publican himself, would call this levy a tax. So far as the motorist's contribution comes back to him in the form of better roads, it might be called a compulsory subscription to a roads improvement association. Individual taxpayers have no right to dictate to

Parliament how their particular contribution shall be spent. If one looks at the accounts of a motor-owning concern, *e.g.*, of a big firm which delivers its goods by road, one sees certain items, such as wages, depreciation, cost of petrol and lubricant, and so on, set out separately. Licences are usually lumped with other small charges as sundries. Yet the licence duty, together with the petrol tax, is the payment made by the motor owner for the permanent way, without which his vehicle would be useless. His contribution to the cost of road repair and construction ought to be his chief separate expense. When compared with the annual cost of road maintenance, the motorist's contribution appears substantial, but the accounts of highway authorities say nothing about the capital charge for their roads except when there are charges for widenings and new roads. The roads of England might be regarded as a valuable national property comparable to railways. Their capital cost cannot be put at less than that of the railways, and might be a great deal more—an annual charge of £50 million is a moderate estimate.

So far we have only considered payments made by the motorist towards the cost of road repair; why should he not be asked to pay for the use of the roads, just as a seller in a municipal market pays rent for the space which he occupies, or as one pays charges according to scale for hiring a town hall? We now come to the taxation of the various classes of motor vehicles. These are divided roughly into three classes:—(1) Private cars, taxed according to an arbitrary definition of horse-power; (2) hackney vehicles (omnibuses, coaches and taxis), taxed according to seating capacity; and (3) commercial vehicles, taxed according to weight. The first class is fair enough, though possibly the heavier and faster cars ought to pay a super-tax; the second class presents several anomalies, the chief being that the smaller vehicles are charged more for seats than the larger, whereas it is clear that the larger vehicles have a greater "ability to pay," and do proportionately more damage. The third class, divided into several categories, presents anomalies so amazing that they must be seen—*e.g.*, in *Whitaker's Almanack*, pages 525-6—to be believed. It is almost incredible that there should be a maximum tax of £60 for a hard-tyred lorry weighing 5 tons unladen, but no maximum weight. Moreover, three heavy trailers may be drawn by a lorry on payment of an extra £6. Thus, as Mr Sherrington says, we have a railway train let loose in our streets. Fortunately it makes so much noise that people are warned to get out of its way. Farmers, of course, pay less than ordinary persons, with a maximum of £10 if they use tractors or of £25 if lorries. Showmen, also, enjoy specially low rates of tax, on the ground, perhaps, that what they gain on the swings they lose on the roundabouts.

The ordinary commercial vehicle pays £10 a year if it weighs 10 cwt., £15 if it weighs 15 cwt., and £20 if it weighs 20 cwt. After this point the tax per cwt. diminishes, as if the income tax were lower on incomes above £1,000 a year; moreover, there is a 20 per cent. reduction for pneumatic tyres. The writer of "Road Finance and Motor Taxation" (the *Economist*, February 8th, page 292) talks of British policy being to bring all roads up to the standard of motor roads "fit for heavy motor traffic." This is an admission that the heavy vehicles are responsible for the heavier charges on the ratepayer. Therefore they should themselves be made to pay a heavier contribution. Each successive ton should be charged at a higher, not a lower, rate than the last, and the weight of the trailer should be added to that of the tractor for taxation purposes. As things are, the Treasury appears to encourage the use of the heaviest and the most destructive vehicles. On economic grounds it is desirable that heavy traffic should be carried by the railways, not on the roads, except at each end of the journey.—Yours faithfully,

RATEPAYER.

Cambridge, February 12th, 1930.

GERMAN WHEAT IMPORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The reference in the *Economist's* "Commercial History" Supplement (page 5) to the influence of imported German wheat is timely. The unimportance, on the one hand, of the total received and the seriousness, on the other, of its effects on distribution are sufficiently indicated, but perhaps I may be allowed to add a word by way of clue to why farmers have been so angered locally. Take two specific markets at which the German wheat has appeared—Canterbury and Lynn. At these the average weekly sale of English wheat is 300 and 500 quarters respectively. At either, a German tender of 1,000 quarters (less than 1 per cent. of London's need, as Mark Lane in 1929 took 114,000 quarters weekly) would quite possibly hang up all local wheat sales for two or even three weeks. Now the farmer, accustomed to treat wheat as cash, has felt very much as if confronted with R/D on his cheque. If imported wheat were allowed a sale only at some half-dozen great port markets—including, naturally, London—assimilation would take place without friction, and, indeed, in the case of the useful soft German wheat, with advantage.—Yours faithfully,

MARK LANE.

London, February 17, 1930.

Books and Publications.

GENERAL SMUTS'S LECTURES.

ONE of the principal intellectual treats of the past autumn was supplied by the addresses which General Smuts delivered during his all too brief visit as Rhodes' lecturer at Oxford and on various other occasions, and Mr Humphrey Milford has done the many students of General Smuts's opinions a real service in reprinting the text of these addresses in a handy permanent form.* General Smuts is at once one of the outstanding intellects and leading statesmen of our day, and his surveys of three great current problems—Africa and the question of colour; Peace; and Democracy—are permeated by breadth of vision, imagination and practical experience to an extent which few contemporaries indeed are capable of rivalling. Not that on all occasions he faces up quite squarely to all the implications of the tangled facts in the complex problems he discusses; now and again he descries a reef, describes it, and sheers off like an adroit sailor before it grazes his keel. But generally and broadly his analysis is piercing and helpful; and if the same broad idealistic spirit as he displays inspires all those who have to deal with these contentious and fateful problems, there are good grounds for hoping that time will solve them in the right way.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Weetman Pearson, First Viscount Cowdray. By J. A. Spender. (London) Cassell and Company, Ltd., La Belle Sauvage, Ludgate Hill. 21s. net.

A very interesting account of the lifework of a great engineer. Incidentally the book derives topical value from the sidelights it throws upon the development of Mexico.

Survey of American Foreign Relations. 1929. By Charles P. Howland. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Lane. 24s. net.

The 1929 survey covers the Carribbean, international organisation, and immigration. It amounts to a recent history of each of the subjects covered, and ends, for the most part, with 1928.

Principles of Politics. By George E. G. Catlin. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 18s. net.

A discussion, with the subtitle "An Essay Towards Political Rationalisation," of the familiar problems of political theory.

Memorandum on Public Finance. 1926-1928. (London) League of Nations, 16, Northumberland Avenue. 10s.

Reviews the financial situation of fifteen countries, and constitutes a first instalment of the League's invaluable annual survey.

Statistics of the Iron and Steel Industries (1929). (London) National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, Caxton House, Tothill Street. 5s. 5d. post free.

An unrivalled source of iron, steel and coal statistics of the principal producing countries. It includes production, foreign trade, and, in some cases, also capacity, number of furnaces in operation, materials consumed, etc., while for the United Kingdom there is much more detailed information. There is also a section on tariffs.

The Stock Exchange Year Book for 1930. Compiled and published by Thomas Skinner and Company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street. 50s. net.

Contains the usual full particulars of all companies listed on the London Stock Exchange, a directory of stockbrokers and an article on the Companies Act, 1929.

* "Africa and Some World Problems." By General J. C. Smuts. London: Oxford University Press (Mr Humphrey Milford.) Price, 7s. 6d. net.

The Mining Year Book. 1930. Compiled by Walter E. Skinner. (London) Walter E. Skinner, 15, Dowgate Hill. 20s. net.

Covers 1,584 companies, including some whose shares are not dealt in on the London Stock Exchange. Includes production statistics, financial particulars of companies, a glossary, and a directory of directors and of mining engineers.

The Discount Market in London. By H. W. Greengrass. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 6s. net.

Discusses the organisation and recent development of the money market from the point of view of the bill broker.

The Banker. February, 1930. (London) Financial Newspaper Proprietors, Ltd., 20, Bishopsgate. 2s. 6d. net.

Includes editorials on "Mr Thomas and the City," "The Hague Conference," and "Rationalisation."

The Whole Duty of a Director. By Albert Crew. Second Edition. (London) Gee and Company (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 7s. 6d. net.

Those of our readers who are fortunate enough to be in a position to use such information will find this well-documented little book on the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of directors very concise and convenient.

Company Law. By Albert Crew. Third Edition, revised by the Author and W. G. H. Cook. (London) Butterworth and Company (Publishers), Ltd., Bell Yard, Temple Bar. 7s. 6d. net.

A useful text-book for commercial students and business men. It contains the text of all the relevant Acts and the essential points of many leading cases, and is very efficiently indexed. A selection of examination questions is appended.

Vocational Education in Agriculture. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 14, Great Smith Street. 5s.

An International Labour Office publication which surveys the situation in thirty-two countries and discusses various special problems.

Annual Report of the Director of the Mint for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1929. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 65 cents.

A most valuable source of monetary statistics of the United States and other countries.

Monthly Labour Review, December, 1929. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 15 cents.

Includes articles on "Union Wage Rates in 1929" and "History of Wages from Colonial Times."

Building Permits in the Principal Cities of the United States in 1928. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 20 cents.

Contains a wealth of statistics on housing in the United States.

Care of Aged Persons in the United States. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 70 cents.

An extremely full survey of homes, institutions, annuities, and pension schemes of all kinds provided by private individuals, public authorities and voluntary organisations.

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Hosiery and Underwear Industries, 1907 *to* 1928. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 15 cents.

Handbook of American Trade Unions. 1929 edition. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 30 cents.

Contains a summary of the history, objects, membership qualifications, constitution, etc., of each union.

Bulletin of the British Library of Political and Economic Science, December, 1929. Edited by B. M. Headicar. (London) London School of Economics, Houghton Street. 6d.

Includes a bibliography on the judicial and legislative powers of administrative authorities.

Encyclopædia of the Social Sciences. Volume I. Edited by Edwin R. A. Seligman. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 31s. 6d. net.

This first of a series of fifteen volumes contains a number of introductory articles and covers the alphabet as far as "All.". It appears likely to prove a valuable work of reference over a wide field.

Types of Economic Theory. By Othmar Spann. Translated from the German by Eden and Cedar Paul. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 10s. 6d. net.

A critical history of economic theory.

Die ideengeschichtliche Entwicklung des Einkommensteuerproblems in Frankreich. By Dr. Franz Rompe. (Leipzig) Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft M.B.H. Mks. 12.

A contribution to French financial history and to the history of the income tax in general.

Efficiency and Scarcity Profits. By C. J. Foreman. (London) Cambridge University Press, Fetter Lane. 18s. net.

The purpose of the book is "to aid in bringing economic principles into harmony with the concrete facts of the industrial world."

Anglo-Irish Trade in the Sixteenth Century. By Ada Kathleen Longfield. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 12s. 6d. net.

A detailed and well-documented history of one aspect of Irish economic history in the Tudor period.

Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution. 1750-1850. By Ivy Pinchbeck. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 15s. net.

A scholarly contribution to English economic history.

A History of the English Corn Laws. 1660-1846. By Donald Grove Barnes. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 15s. net.

Supplies a much fuller historical background to the regulation of the corn trade than has hitherto been available.

Public Assistance. By Geoffrey Drage. (London) John Murray, Albemarle Street. 15s. net.

Reprints of letters and articles by the author which constitute, in his own words, "A history of the struggle for economy and efficiency in the sphere of public assistance."

Economic History of Europe. By Melvin M. Knight, Henry Elmer Barnes and Felix Flügel. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 18s. net.

Fills a long-felt need for an elementary but comprehensive text-book. About a quarter of the book is devoted to the Middle Ages. In the modern section, special chapters are given to England, France, Germany and Russia.

Zeitgemässe Reformen der deutschen Sozialversicherung. By Dr. H. von Waldheim. (Berlin) Carl Heymanns Verlag.

A critical history and discussion of social insurance in Germany.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Trading Accounts and Balance Sheets, 1928. 2s. 6d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Venezuela. November, 1929. 9d. net.

Third Edition. Thoroughly revised. With important additions.

CENTRAL BANKS

A study of the Constitutions of Banks of Issue, with an Analysis of Representative Charters. By C. H. KISCH, C.B., and W. A. ELKIN. With a Foreword by the Rt. Hon. MONTAGU C. NORMAN, D.S.O., Governor of the Bank of England. **18s. net.**

THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

By PAUL EINZIG, D.Sc., Pol. & Econ. (Paris), author of "International Gold Movements," etc. **7s. 6d. net.**

Saturday Review: "Dr. Einzig's book, the first and only one on the subject, is invaluable. It is short, clear, neither too hot nor too cold, contains appendices reproducing all the relevant official documents, and should be widely read before the Organization Committee reassembles on February 22."

BRITISH BUDGETS

Second Series—1913-14 to 1920-21. By Sir BERNARD MALLET, K.C.B., and C. OSWALD GEORGE, B.Sc. (Econ.) **20s. net.**

Bankers' Magazine: "Sounder and more interesting books on British Budgets have never been published."

Observer: "We owe a debt of gratitude to Sir Bernard Mallet for this second series of 'British Budgets.'"

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD., LONDON, W.C. 2.

The Stock Exchange.

INDIA AND THE INVESTOR.

INVESTMENTS in India have to be considered under three heads—Government, municipal and trade. Until recent months, India Government stock had for so long been valued in the market on a yield basis of 5 per cent. or less that it must have come as a shock to many investors last week to find £6,000,000 worth of 6 per cent. India bonds, repayable in 1932 or 1933, issued at 99. There is no doubt that this particular issue could have been made on a 5¼ per cent. basis. It was heavily "stagged," it was more than 6 times over-subscribed and it now appears that the Bank of England was prepared to accept these bonds as "floaters," that is, as equal security to British Treasury bonds for borrowing purposes. Nevertheless, it may have been desirable to make a clearer distinction between the borrowing status of the India Government and that of the British Government than was suggested by the Stock Exchange official list. Let us briefly consider where the former ranks. In the first place, a political risk in varying degree must be recognised as attaching to India Government stocks. India loans, while issued on the authority of the Secretary of State for India, under Acts passed by the British Parliament, are not guaranteed by the Imperial Government, and are secured on the revenues of India alone. Holders of these loans, however, have the assurance of the Secretary of State that the Labour Government has no intention of allowing a state of things to arise in which the repudiation of debt could become a practical possibility. A widespread campaign of civil disobedience, such as was envisaged at the recent Lahore Congress, might affect the collection of taxes, but its consequences would fall, mainly, on the revenues of the Provinces rather than those of the Central Government, since the largest contribution to the latter is made by customs duties, which nothing short of a complete boycott of foreign goods could seriously upset.

Apart, however, from political contingencies, the India Government has a fairly heavy crop of maturing loans, mostly internal, to meet during the next seven years, as the following table shows:—

	Sterling Equivalent. £
6% Rupee Bonds, 1930	21,962,115
6% ,, ,, 1931	8,480,587
6% ,, ,, 1932	14,617,500
5½% Sterling Loan, 1932	20,632,054
5% Rupee Bonds, 1933	16,091,865
4½% ,, ,, 1934	19,484,895
5% ,, ,, 1935	3,544,935
4% ,, Conversion Loan, 1931-6	7,425,090
4% ,, Loan, 1934-7	14,653,437
	£126,892,478

To provide for the maturities of the 6 per cent. Bonds, 1930, 1931 and 1932, a 5 per cent. Rupee Loan, 1939/44, and a further issue of 5 per cent. Bonds, 1935, were made in June last year but had a lukewarm reception. Until an alteration is made in the income-tax law of India, under which Indians escape liability on interest and dividends received from abroad, so long as these are not transferred to India for three years, it is not to be expected that Indians will subscribe generously to internal rupee loans on which income tax is deducted at the source. This law, in effect, tends to perpetuate India's dependence on the London capital market for urgent and indispensable financial accommodation.

It should be remembered, further, that the Indian Government is carrying out a development programme which calls for heavy capital expenditure for railway and irrigation purposes. At the present time severe curtailment of the capital programme has been entailed by the difficulty of raising new money at home or abroad on favourable terms—at a moment when there is a tight squeeze in the central budget between expenditure and revenue from existing taxation, accentuated, as at home, by the problem of repaying maturing savings certificates. For example, the scheme for constructing 1,000 miles of new railway line each year has been scrapped. But the Government cannot neglect its opportunities of acquiring revenue-producing lines under the terms of its various contracts. Last year it exercised its option to purchase the Southern Punjab Railway and the following options for railway purchases fall due in the next seven years:—

	Contract Determinable.	Value of Ord. Stock at par or Market Price. £
Assam Bengal	Dec. 31, 1931	1,500,000
Bengal and N. Western	,, 1932	7,650,000
Rohilkund and Kumaon	,, 1932	940,000
Bengal Dooars	,, 1933	660,000
Shahdara (Delhi)—Saharanpur	,, 1934	292,500
Madras and S. Mahratta	,, 1937	5,500,000

That the Government will be anxious to exercise some of these options is obvious seeing that the Indian State-owned railways are not merely solvent but contribute each year to the relief of taxation, besides making provision for reserves to meet less favourable times.

We may conclude that, having regard to the present loan programme and the state of Indian politics in these days of Mr Gandhi's influence, it was probably a wise policy on the part of the India Government to make sure of getting a favourable response to the recent issue of £6,000,000 6 per cent. bonds by offering definitely generous terms. Nevertheless, the credit of India should command a lower interest yield than 6 per cent. Its total debt of about £718,000,000 (inclusive of the recent issue of bonds), or £2.25 per head of its 319,000,000 population is small in relation to its actual and potential wealth. Moreover, about £580,372,500, or 80 per cent. of the whole, according to expert estimate, has been contracted for productive purposes—for the most part for railways and irrigation—which are not only remunerative but are steadily developing the wealth-producing capacity of the the country. At the moment, Sir George Schuster, the Finance Minister, is compelled to propose additional taxation to balance the budget, but it is clear that the public debt of India should not, in the future, tend to present difficult problems of finance, or to become burdensome to the Indian taxpayer.

A comparison between the present market prices and yields of India Government stocks and those of a year ago is shown in the next table:—

	Feb., 1929. Price.	Yield. £ s. d.	Feb., 1930. Price.	Yield. £ s. d.
India 3½% Perpetual	70	5 0 0	60	5 18 6
,, 4½% 1950-55	91½	4 19 3 / 5 5 9*	83½	5 7 9 / 5 16 6*
,, 5½% 1932	101	5 8 11 / 5 2 6*	99	5 11 0 / 6 5 0*
E. Indian "B" Annuities	19½	5 4 6	16¾	6 1 6*
Gt. Indian Peninsular 4% irred. deb.	80	5 0 0	64	6 5 0

* With redemption.

Turning our attention, next, to the municipal debt, with which we may include the Port Authority debentures, it may well be that the market prices of these stocks will be more sensitive to the chances and changes of the political situation than those of the India Government loans. Some of the Corporations—Calcutta for example—are not only under the control of Indians, but under the influence of the Congress. On the other hand, experience has shown that control by Swaraj of a corporation's affairs does not necessarily involve inefficient and prodigal administration. The Port Authority debentures possibly offer better security than the municipal corporations, seeing that the Port Commissioners are required to provide for the service of these loans out of the dues levied on shipping—which are not likely to be affected by political disturbances—but we may remark in the case of Bombay that the prolonged slump in the cotton-mill industry is causing some embarrassment to the Bombay Port Trust.

Finally, with regard to commercial and industrial investments in India, the investor's judgment has been affected by the consideration that, while India's leading industries, cotton, jute and tea, cannot (with the possible exception of cotton) be described as depressed, their standard of prosperity is not as high as it was a year or two ago. The jute mills are suffering from the reduced consuming power of their biggest customer—the sugar industry—while the tea growers are feeling the effects of over-production of the coarser varieties. These conditions are not by their nature permanent. Many of the best Indian tea gardens have their remedy—finer plucking—in their own hands, and have used it effectively more than once in the past. As regards jute, the conservatism of past financial policy even now invests certain shares with a definite appeal. In some cases, accumulated resources exceed the issued capital many times, and yields are high, while, as jute mill shares are for the most part in Indian hands, although the policy and management of the mills is European, the industry will perhaps be less subject to "political" influences than certain other trades.

Apart from these industries, the investor has an interesting field for his consideration in India's coal, iron and steel, hydro-electric power, oil and mining concerns. Indian coal mines have lately shown improved profit-earning capacity, and the future holds definite promise for the iron and steel industry, which for some years has enjoyed the doubtful benefits of a tariff. The great Tata enterprise, in which American interests have now secured a holding, is possibly the cheapest producer of steel in the world. The shares of utility companies—comprising tramway and electric light and power undertakings—are, possibly more subject to political influences, but this factor should be regarded with due reference to their indispensability to India in the future, under any *régime*.

Among Indian mining enterprises, the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company and the much larger undertaking of the Burma Corporation are both meeting adverse times, the first by reason of the fall in the price of manganese ore, following increased output from the Russian mines and reduced demand from the iron and steel industry, and the second by reason of the fall in silver, lead and zinc prices, particularly silver, which has hitherto accounted for a large share of the profits of the Burma mines. There remains the vast industry of the Burmah Oil Company—covering crude oil production and refining, candle-making, kerosene and petrol distribution, and tin-plate making—which, since the stabilisation of kerosene prices in the Indian markets in 1928, has been steadily increasing its profits. The prospect of an increased dividend and of the capital appreciation of the company's holding in companies outside India (Anglo-Persian Oil and Shell Transport) renders the position of its shares, from the investor's point of view, the more interesting.

It is estimated that the total investment of British capital in India amounts to not less than £700,000,000. This is not an unduly large sum in relation to her potential economic resources. Sir Basil Blackett, in a recent paper, declared that if India were in a state of development comparable with that of the nations of Europe or the United States, her vast and unhampered home market could not fail to place her in the forefront of economic wealth. The economic interests of Great Britain and of the British Empire were, he urged, in no way divergent from those of India. The more prosperous and progressive India became, the better for this country, both as a great trading nation and as the political centre of a great Empire. Sir Basil's far-sighted view may serve as a text for the British investor.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE HATRY SETTLEMENT.

(BY A STOCK EXCHANGE CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Hatry settlement may now safely be considered at an end. The Stock Exchange and the public are awaiting the permission of the Stock Exchange Committee for dealings to begin again in the shares of the "Hatry" companies which have not gone into liquidation—Associated Automatic and Photomaton. The past week has seen stock delivered, differences agreed upon and paid, and the "pool" so busily engaged that its staff has been unable to leave until eleven at night or later. The pressure has now relaxed, however, and only the rounding off of various minor details now remains. One of the most threatening accounts which has menaced the Stock Exchange for the past fifty years has thus become a matter of history. It will always be quoted as an amazing feat in that it produced no failures in the Stock Exchange or any such widespread losses as arose, for instance, out of the London and Globe smash of Whitaker Wright's time.

There is a disposition to attribute the recent stagnation in Stock Exchange markets to the influence of the Hatry affair. The latter has certainly contributed to the caution existing in the minds of speculative investors, but many other factors are operating at the moment to check initiative and bullish sentiment. When the Hatry collapse occurred, last September, and the four principal members of the group gave themselves up to the police, the Stock Exchange undoubtedly feared, upon examination of the position, that there would be widespread trouble, the provinces being known to have a very substantial stake in the business and to have been badly hit. Efforts were made to straighten out the position in order to obtain a general view of the real dimensions of the trouble. The Stock Exchange Committee took the exceptional step of calling for returns from members of the London Stock Exchange of the names of clients with whom dealings had been transacted, and there was a demand in the House that, in cases where it could be proved that Hatry and his companies were both buyers and sellers, the bargains should be cancelled. This was but one of the many proposals carefully examined by the Stock Exchange Committee which, in the event, was found impracticable.

Matters dragged on, in spite of the Committee's incessant work, and after a time it became clear that unless something were done to bring matters to a head there would be lawsuits innumerable, calculated to extend over a lengthy period. A well-known member of the House summoned a meeting of interested persons, and a committee was formed to draw up a scheme to help to obviate the difficulties, but this committee lasted for a few days only, and matters again fell into suspense. The chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee, seeing that some definite action was imperatively required, himself approached a few of the leading members of the House, who took the matter in hand, and after an immense amount of labour succeeded in evolving the scheme finally adopted. The chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee, Mr Archibald Campbell, and four of his fellow-members on the Committee, were elected as a special committee to co-operate and work with the other, unofficial, committee of four members—two brokers and two jobbers—in whose hands was placed the task of formulating the details of the final plan. It was impossible for the Stock Exchange Committee themselves to undertake the task, for the reason that several of the proposals were diametrically opposed to Stock Exchange Rules. It was

not so much a matter of adapting the Rules as of abrogating them. Irony reached its peak in the fact that some of the crucial meetings of the unofficial committee, called to discuss proposals that were in flat defiance of Stock Exchange Rules, were held in the stately room assigned to the Stock Exchange Committee.

It was an essential feature of the plan that agreement should be secured from practically all those affected by it, and at one time it looked as though the whole scheme might be wrecked by lack of cohesion amongst those to whom its stipulations applied. Good humour and commonsense prevailed, however, and the scheme duly became operative. It called for financial support, amongst other things, to the extent of over £800,000 from members of the Stock Exchange, this money being put into a pool and utilised for the payment to clients of the money due to them through the sale of stocks on the end-September, 1929, settlement, and for the provision of good shares to purchasers who otherwise might have received forged documents. The substantial nature of the amount involved is an inadequate indication of the work and of the difficulties faced by the sub-committee and the unofficial committee. For some time past the unprecedented number of two or three committee meetings has taken place almost every day. In spite of the intricacy of the issues involved and the heavy losses voluntarily shouldered by Stock Exchange members, criticism of the arrangements has been slight. It is probable that a plan will be decided upon next week for testifying the appreciation of Stock Exchange members of the efforts of those of their number who have so successfully laboured to solve the problems of the Hatry settlement.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
March 4.	March 6.

The Account made an unsatisfactory start. Unfavourable monetary developments, and the issue of a number of new trustee stocks arrested the upward tendency of gilt-edged securities, and although the tone of New York was firm, on the whole, British industrial share values were affected by the political situation, Budgetary qualms, and the issue of a number of disappointing company reports. By the middle of the week, however, certain markets showed signs of an oversold position, and Wednesday's business had a better tone, though the volume of dealings failed to increase. Conditions subsequently became patchy, the week's events, in short, once again failing to throw light on the question as to when the long-awaited recovery in values was likely to begin.

The fall of the New York exchange below $4.86, and Germany's purchase of the gold from the Cape and Spain, had an adverse effect on British Government stocks, measurable declines occurring throughout the list. India stocks were again on offer. An appreciation of the position of India securities, in the light of political and financial possibilities, will be found in a leading article on page 416 of this issue. Dominion and Colonial stocks were steadier than for some time past. The new Nigeria Fives opened at ⅝ discount. Brighton scrip was dealt in at ¼ premium and Hastings Fives at ¼ discount.

The Foreign market was one of the firmest spots in the "House." Substantial gains were recorded by Brazilians, following an improvement in the milreis, in anticipation of next month's sinking fund purchases. The Brazilian situation is reviewed on page 421. Excellent revenue figures stimulated buying of Greek bonds, and Turkish Unified were better on more hopeful views of the maintenance of debt payments. Chinese loans, however, showed an easier tendency.

Home rails opened with fresh liquidation, such factors as the favourable Great Western report being entirely ignored. A smart rally, however, was initiated in the North, in mid-week, and became fairly general on

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices Feb. 13.	Closing Prices Feb. 20.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	76 7/16	76½	– 1/16
Do. 4½% 1944	96⅜	96½	– ⅛
Do.5% 1944-64	100 11/16	100⅝	– 1/16
War Loan 5% 1929-47	101½	101½	...
Consols 2½%	54¼	53⅞	– ⅜
Do. 4%	83 5/16	83½	– 1/16
Funding 4%	87 5/16	87½	– 1/16
Victory Bonds 4%	94½	92 3/32x	– ⅛
Local Loans 3%	62⅜	62⅜	– ⅛
Treasury 5% (B)	101 1/16	101½	– 1/16
Canada 4% 1940-60	88	88	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
India 3½%	59⅜	58½	– 1⅛
Do. 4½% 1958-68	83	80½	– 2½
Australia 5% 1945-75	91	90½	– ½
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	88½	88	– ½
N. Zealand 5% 1946	101	100	– 1
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)	99½	100	+ ½
Argentine 4% Becise.	83½	84	+ ½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	103	...
Belgian 7%	110½	110½	...
Brazil 6½% (1927)	82½	82½	...
Bulgaria 7½%	90	89	– 1
China 5% (1912)	49	47½	– 1½
Czechoslovakia 8%	112	112	...
Egypt Unified 4%	78½	78½	...
French 5%	20⅜	20 1/16x	...
Do. 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
German 7%	105½	105½	...
Greek 7% Refugee	102	102	...
Hungary 7½%	101	101	...
Chili 6%	94	94½	+ ½
Poland 7%	90½	91	+ ½
Mexican 5% (1899)	22	22	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	82½	82½	...
Corporation Stocks.			
L.C.C. 3%	62x	62½	+ ½
M. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	88	88	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	90½	91½	+ 1
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	91⅜	92	+ ½
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	11⅜	11⅛	– ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	34	34	...
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52⅜	52	– ⅜
Metropol'an Cons. Stk.	64	64⅜	+ ⅛
Met. District Ord. Stk.	74½	74½	...
Southern Def. Stk.	30⅜	31½	+ 1⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73	73½	+ ½
Underground Ord. £1	1 3/16	1 3/16	– 1/16
Do. Income Bonds	109	108	– 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	221½	219	– 2½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	82	82½	+ ½
B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk	84½	84½	...
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	96	94	– 2
B.A.Western, Ord.Stk.	75½	74½	– 1
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	18⅜	18	– ⅜
G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	50	49⅜	– ⅝
San Paulo Ord. Stk	183½	183½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30⅛	$32⅛	+ 2
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	26	25	– 1
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1 1/16	– 1/16
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	249	248½	– ½
Barclay B. (£1)	2 3/16	2⅛	– 1/16
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1 3/16	1 3/16	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	4	4	...
Nat. Prov. £20,£4pd.	13½	13⅜	– ⅛
Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1 1/16	...
Hongk. and S.($125)	$115½	$116⅛	+ 1
St. of S. A.£20,£5 pd.	14⅛	14⅛	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅜	3 3/16	– 1/16
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19½	19	– ½
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	24½	24	– ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27⅜	27½	– ⅛
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	12⅜	– ⅛
Phœnix £1 fully pd.	14½	13⅞	– ⅛
Roy.In.£1,with10/ pd.	8⅛	8	– ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅜	¼	– 1/16
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Baldwin (4/)	3/16	3/16	+ 1/16
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	– 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅜	⅜	– 1/16
Guest, Keen (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	– 1/16
Powell Duffryn (£1)	1/16	1/16	– 1/16
Stewarts&Lloyds(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Thornycroft,John(£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	...
Vickers (6/8)	1/16	⅛	– 1/16
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– ⅛
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	1/16	1/16	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅜	3 1/16	– 1/16
Courtaulds	2 1/16	2⅛	– 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton(£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	– 1/16
Fine Cott.Spinn.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	– ⅛
Listers (£1)	1/16	1/16x	...
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	– 1/16
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	– 1/16
Hydro-Elec. com. stk.	42	43½	+ 1½
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1/16	1/16x	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	375	360	– 15
Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
S. Metropolitan Stk.	101	101	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless 7½% *A Ord.*	63	62	– 1
B Ord.	30	30	...
5½% *Pref.*	95⅛	96½	+ ⅛
Canadian Marconi	1/16	1/16	...
Marconi Marine (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	– 1/16
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Motors.			
Dennis (1/)	2	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	2⅜	2 1/16	– 1/16
Leyland (£1)	2⅜	2 1/16	– 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	– 1/16
Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/16
Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	– 1/16
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	– 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	22⅛	25	+ 2⅛
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	+ 1/16
Cons.Tea & Lnds.(£10)	21⅜	22½	+ ⅛
London Asiatic (2/)	1/16	⅛	+ 1/16
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅛	4 1/16	– 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	– ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	1/16	– 1/16
Lobitos (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	– 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	– 1/16
Royal Dutch (£3½)	32⅜	31 1/16	– 1⅛
Shell (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	– 1/16
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
Brit. Traction, no par	$38	$38⅛	+ ⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 1/16	5⅛	– 1/16
Carreras,"A" Ord. (£1)	9⅛	8⅞	– ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6 1/16	6⅛	– 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	– ⅛
Dunlop (6/8)	1/16	⅛	– 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	– ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16	4	– 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	– 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	3⅛	3 1/16	– 1/16
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	14⅛	15	+ ⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	45⅛	43⅝	– 1½
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Sub Nigel (10/)	1 1/16	1 1/16x	...
Tanganyika (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6)fn.pd.	3⅛	3 1/16	– 1/16
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9 1/16	9⅛	– 1/16
Brakpan (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/16
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16	– 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	1/16x	...
Buena M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1⅛	1⅛	– 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	– 1/16
London Tin (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

OLYMPIA LIMITED

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1908 to 1917.)

CAPITAL :

Authorised.		Issued or Proposed to be Issued.
£1,000,000	in 1,000,000 7 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£850,000
£500,000	in 2,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 5/- each	£425,000
£1,500,000		£1,275,000

The Subscription Lists will open on Monday next for an

ISSUE AT PAR

of

450,000 7% Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each

and

450,000 Ordinary Shares of 5s. each.

DIRECTORS :

PHILIP ERNEST HILL, 15, King Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1 (Chairman, Covent Garden Properties Company, Limited), Chairman.
LEO FREDERIC ALFRED D'ERLANGER, Park House, Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7 (Director, Erlangers Limited).
CLAUD FRANCIS GODDARD, of Messrs. Goddard & Smith, Auctioneers and Estate Agents, 22, King Street, St. James's, London, S.W.1.
PAUL STANLEY MAY, Surveyor (late Senior Partner of Messrs. May & Rowden, Auctioneers and Estate Agents), Polebrook, Hever, Kent.
LOUIS NICHOLAS, 55 & 56, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, Chartered Accountant.
REGINALD GARDINER HEATON, Gays House, Holyport, Berks (Director of International Horse Show, Limited), Managing Director.

The Prospectus will show that :

Olympia holds a unique position as the recognised centre for Trade Exhibitions in Europe.

Since its acquisition in April last, extensive alterations have been made. These include the erection of an imposing four-storey edifice known as "Empire Hall," extensive workshops, the construction of a large car park and a bridge providing direct connection with Addison Road Station.

Profits for the past seven years have been as follows :—

Year to 31st December, 1923	£70,816
,, ,, ,, ,, 1924	£57,285
,, ,, ,, ,, 1925	£77,830
,, ,, ,, ,, 1926	£67,007
,, ,, ,, ,, 1927	£81,940
,, ,, ,, ,, 1928	£90,760
,, ,, ,, ,, 1929	£100,381

Net profit for 1930 is estimated at £142,500, and when the new "Empire Hall" is finally completed, the net profit is estimated at £162,500 per annum.

The estimated income for 1930 is sufficient to cover the Preference Dividend practically twice, leaving a balance available for the Ordinary Shares equivalent to over 13½ per cent. per annum, or 18 per cent. when the new "Empire Hall" is completed.

The Preference Capital issued and now to be offered for subscription is covered twice by net assets (valued at **£2,254,432**) apart from Goodwill. No sum is included in the Company's Balance sheet for Goodwill.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the :—

BANKERS :

COUTTS & CO., 440, Strand, W.C.2; 15, Lombard Street, E.C.2., and Branches.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, 15, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, and Branches.
ERLANGERS LIMITED, 4, Moorgate, E.C.2.

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RITCHER & CO., Austin Friars House, London, E.C.2.
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CRICHTON BROS. & TOWNLEY, 13, Castle Street, Liverpool.

And from

QUADRANT TRUST LIMITED,

55-56, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

the publication of a batch of good traffic returns. The fact that the latter afforded comparison with a period of 1929 when traffic was interrupted by severe frost was, apparently, overlooked in some quarters. Undergrounds attracted no more than moderate interest, though receipts again made a gratifying showing. Among foreign railways, Argentines made a partial recovery after early liquidation, on the improvement in the exchange, though the omens as regards current earning capacity remained adverse. Canadian Pacific had an uneventful week, closing with slight change.

Apart from a fair amount of activity, in mid-week, in "international" stocks, the tone of the industrial markets was uncertain. Brazilian Traction and International Nickel were strong under Transatlantic influence, but did not hold their gains on Thursday. As regards domestic stocks, the week opened under depressing auspices for textiles, the reports of Courtaulds and Bradford Dyers (discussed on pages 422 and 423 respectively), both disclosing lower earnings and dividends, having an unfavourable effect on market psychology. Courtaulds, however, later became harder on supporting orders, but other rayon stocks remained under a cloud.

The favourable report of Leyland Motors (dealt with on page 423) had been discounted, and the conservative distribution policy of the directors proved an inducement to profit-taking. Tobacco shares were fairly steady after an uncertain start, but breweries attracted limited interest. Metropolitan Electric were in demand on an increased dividend. Little interest was taken in coal and steel shares. Cunards were the best feature in a quiet shipping share market. No fresh liquidation of Royal Mail issues was encountered. Imperial Chemical, however, again came on offer, on nebulous rumours of a contemplated increase of capital. Among shops and stores, Harrods were easier, but John Barker improved on the satisfactory profit figures. Bank shares showed few movements, but insurance shares had a slight downward trend.

Rubber share prices were marked up, after the Amsterdam decision in favour of a tapping "holiday" during May, though business failed to attain large dimensions. Business in the tea share market was negligible, and prices showed few measurable variations. The outlook for tea and rubber is discussed in a "Note" on page 422. Oil shares were depressed by two separate factors—reductions in American crude prices, and a pending issue of £5,000,000 of 7 per cent. preference shares by the "Shell" Company. All the leaders lost ground, though a partial recovery occurred in mid-week—in which, however, "Shells" had no part.

The Mining markets again displayed only desultory activity. Rhodesian shares were fairly lively, but less consistent than during the previous week. Rhodesia Katanga was a strong spot, and Congo Border touched the record level of 15½. Bwanas, however, declined, and though "Chartered" were active on the report, their gains were not held. Kaffirs were harder after a dull opening, the Anglo-American Corporation dividend of 2s. 3d. creating a good impression. With copper down to £69 15s., Tintos were sold from Paris, the price falling by 22s. 6d. before a recovery set in. Tin shares lost ground at first on the absence of any recovery in the metal, and the better tone attained at the close was confined to one or two descriptions. Mysore were sold on a reduced dividend, and Santa Gertrudis weakened after a mid-week spurt.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Feb. 13.	Feb. 14.	Feb. 17.	Feb. 18.	Feb. 19.	Feb. 20.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,236	1,205	1,599	1,171	1,160	1,120
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	850	967	1,205	896	926	892
Commercial and Industrial*	2,114	1,978	2,305	1,997	1,939	1,760
Banks, Insurance and Financial	517	535	609	478	467	467
Mines (including Nitrate)	555	535	640	506	502	420
Oil	168	176	223	187	161	140
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	228	233	288	193	266	471
Total	5,668	5,629	6,871	5,428	5,421	5,270

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Feb. 20).	Feb. 13.	Feb. 14.	Feb. 17.	Feb. 18.	Feb. 19.	Feb. 20.
90·5	84·1	86·1	85·7	85·5	84·7	84·9	84·1

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Shares were reactionary and underwent the first sizeable decline this month on a weakened technical position and a suspicion that the rally had outrun any visible business recovery. Fresh anxieties created a continued decline in wheat, cotton and other commodities. The Bureau of Labour commodity price index for January is 93.4, a decline of ¾ per cent., and the lowest since April, 1922. Average prices still remained near the best levels since the autumn break, but little real progress has been made during the past three weeks, and the trading volume was only moderate despite slowly growing public participation and evidence that, since the banking group came in to support, stock has ceased to burden the market. The best advances were scored by high-grade stocks and particularly by the steel, public utility and tobacco groups. Mining shares were depressed, and a further gain was recorded in copper metal stocks for January, while some addition is expected this month. Rubbers proved to be a trifle better on reports of the duties restriction plan, while tobaccos were stimulated by the ever-mounting cigarette consumption. Utilities are earnings well and benefiting from the lower prices of materials. Rail shares had a dull appearance, January earnings statements running 66 per cent. under a year ago, while there has been a continued decline in freight traffic, which is now the lowest since 1923. Bonds have been better, but there is still no broad market, and bankers were inclined to caution in the matter of new issues. Recent flotations of a sound type were well received.

	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104¼	104¼	104¼
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	110¹⁄₃₂	111	110³⁄₃₂
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99¹⁄₃₂	99¼	99⅜
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101¼	100³⁄₃₂	100⅝
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101⅜	101⅛	101¼
Atchison	235⅜	235	233
Ches. & Ohio	224¼	234¼	227
Erie	60	62	58⅜
Illinois Central	129	130	128
N.Y. Central	183	188	181
Pennsylvania	80¼	82⅜	82
Southern Pacific	122	122⅜	123⅛
Southern Rly.	133¼	132	129⅛
Union Pacific	220	230½	220½
Am. Can.	132	144⅜	134⅜
Alleghany Corp.	31⅜	32⅜	30⅜
Amer. Smelting	76½	75	70¼
Anaconda	78¼	75½	71¼
Bethlehem Steel	100⅜	100⅜	99½
Chrysler Motor	40¼	38⅛	37¼
Corn Produce	97	96⅜	94
Eastman Kodak	190¼	191½	201
Gen. Electric(New)	77	77⅛	71½
Gen. Motors	43¼	43⅜	41⅞
Int. Harvester	88	90⅜	90
Montg. Ward	45½	42	42⅜
Natl. Biscuit	208	206⅜	204
Phelps Dodge	40⅜	40½	38⅜
Pullman	84½	84⅜	82⅜
Sears-Roebuck	96½	92½	86½
Studebaker	46⅜	44⅜	42⅞
Un. Fruit	101	100	89
U.S. Leather	8⅞	8⅜	8½
U.S. Rubber	24½	27⅜	26
U.S. Steel	183	184⅞	181½
Westinghouse	164⅜	172⅜	171½
Woolworth	67	64½	61⅜
Worthington Pump	83½	83½	81
Am. Pow. & Light	91½	95⅜x	92⅜
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	229½	231	231
Electric P. & L.	60⅜	65½	60½
Int. Tel. Teles.	66	66⅜	69½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	37½	41	38
Radio Corpn.	37½	41¼	43⅜
Utilities P. & L.	35¼	36⅜	36⅜
W. Union Tlg.	212	211	209
Associated Gas "A"	46½	44½	41⅞
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25⅜	25½	24
Pan Amer. B.	54	54	51⅜
Sinclair Oil	24½	23½	22⅜
Std. California	60⅜	59⅜	56⅜
Do. N.J.	63⅜	62⅜	58⅜

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 13.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	156·9	157·6
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	141·0	144·6
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	225·2	233·3
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	165·2	167·5
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·47%	4·46%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Feb. 5.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Feb. 12.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 14.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 17.	Feb. 18.	Feb. 19.
183·8	166·5	*	182·2	181·4	179·4	180·3	180·2	178·2

* Stock Exchange Holiday.

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Feb. 13.	Feb. 13. (a)	Feb. 15.	Feb. 17.	Feb. 18.	Feb. 19.	Feb. 20.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	3,661	1,693	3,283	3,283	3,795	3,478	3,654
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	11,672	4,591	8,750	8,750	13,738	9,294	10,950
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,111	471	817	817	808	942	976

(a) 2-hour session.

AMSTERDAM.

AT the opening of the New Year hopes were entertained in Amsterdam Exchange circles that the worst had been seen. A number of buying orders made their appearance, and, being principally for investment descriptions, soon caused the market, and particularly the debenture market, to assume a firm appearance, accompanied by brisk trading. The improvement, however, was of very short duration, for the advance in prices soon came to a standstill, and the month of February has so far been characterised by extreme dullness. In spite of the lack of business, however, prices have not sagged to any considerable extent, although more speculative descriptions, such as Margarine Unies and Philips, have not maintained their highest quotations. The idle tendency in the Amsterdam Exchange has continued in spite of the fact that the New York market has been fairly firm the last few weeks, the stimulus usually exerted on the Amsterdam market by New York having become decidedly less pronounced.

	Dec. 15.	Jan. 15.	Feb. 15.
4½%Gov.Bds.,1916	99⅛	100⅛	100⅜
4% Bonds, 1916	95	96	96⅛
4½% Bonds East Indies	95⅞	96⅝	97⅛
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	99	98⅜	98
4½% Rotterdam, 1925	97⅛	98⅛	97⅜
Amsterdam Bank	179⅜	184⅜	195
Koloniale Bank	216¼	217	220
Ned.Ind. Handelsbank	155½	156	154½
Neth. Trading Soc.	163⅜	166½	173
Rotterdam Bank.	107½	111	113⅜
Van Berkels Pat.	178½	180	169
Central Sugar	...	63	58½
Shipbuilding Wilton	44⅜	...	...
Dutch Art. Silk	100½	98	91
Margarine Unie	312	370x	328½
Kuechenmeist Acc.	121	127	120½
General Art Silk	122	132	116
Dutch Ford	271	268½	268½
Philips Elect. Lamp	476	515	453⅜
Swedish Match	283	310	315
Kreuger & Toll	447	483	553
Intern. Cred. Trad.	267	261½	262⅜
Redjang Lebong	125	121	118
Singkep Tin	170	175½	198
Bolton	163	163	178

	Dec. 15.	Jan. 15.	Feb. 15.
Algem. Explorat.	170½	177	184
Aniem	332	346	320½
Ned. Ind. Gas	239	241	228
Royal Dutch	395	399½x	390½
Amsterdam Rub'r	168	157½	173
Deli Batavia	101½	92½	113½
East Java	226	229	242½
Hessa Rubber	199	187	201
Serbadjadi Sumatra	125½	113½	127½
Allied Sumatra	66	65	84
Holland Amer. Line	41	38½	35½
Royal Packet	224½	222	224½
Neth. Shipping U.	192½	189½	185
Navigation "Nederland"	180	175	177
Royal Steamship	81	84½	84½
Java China Japan Line	101½	103½	101½
Vorstenlanden	148½	147	153
Trading Co. Amsterdam	568	559x	573½
Java Plantations	405	396½	409
Neth. India Sugar	239	246	257
Besoeki	...	...	...
Deli Batavia	373	374½x	394
Deli	338	340½	358½
Senembah	391½	393½x	406

x Ex-interim dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Outlook for Brazil.—The Brazilian economic situation has been the subject of recent market comment in view of the considerable decline in quotations for Brazilian Government and State securities, though more active conditions have obtained during the last few days:—

	Highest, 1928.	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Present Price.	Yield, allowing for final Redemption.
					£ s. d.
Brazilian Govt.:					
4%, 1889	65	63	45¼	52	8 7 0
5% Funding, 1914	91	90	72	76	6 14 3
7½% (Coffee Security)	110	108½	100½	104	7 8 0
6½% Sterling Loan, 1927	102½	102¼	79½	82½	8 8 0
State Loans:					
Bahia 5%, 1904	75	63	52	52	9 12 3
Rio Janeiro 7% Sterl., 1927	104¼	102¼	86¼	86¼	8 4 6
San Paulo 8%, 1921	114	110½	88	93½	9 5 0
San Paulo Coffee Inst. 7½%	107½	105	78½	82½	9 5 0
San Paulo, Bank of State of, 6% "A"	98½	95½	71½	72½	9 5 6

Brazil, though potentially the wealthiest State of South America, is as yet only at the beginning of the task of developing her immense resources. For many years she has been accustomed to borrow large amounts abroad each year, and her requirements for some years to come, in one form or another, are estimated to be not less than £35 million annually. Last year, however, high international money rates and the disinclination of the American investor to buy foreign bonds rendered the raising of fresh long-term loans by Brazil largely an impossibility. Though the internal budgetary position has markedly improved under Dr. Washington Luiz' Presidency, recurrent deficits having been replaced in the last three years by moderate surpluses, the market has been concerned rather with the fact that the national export balance has fallen to one-sixth of its dimensions six years ago, and is admittedly below the amount required to meet Brazil's external obligations. The milreis, which was stabilised just under 6d. in 1926, has recently fluctuated well below this figure, and the measures announced to combat this situation have not impressed outside observers as being completely effective. The key of the present position is to be found in the coffee situation. Brazil produces over three-fourths of the world's coffee, the commodity accounting for nearly 70 per cent. of her total exports. For the last 4½ years the commodity has been "controlled" by the Coffee Institute of the State of San Paulo, which operates on lines set out in the *Economist* of November 2nd and December 7th last (pages 829 and 1094). "Coffee defence" is not purely a post-war measure—it was practised as long ago as 1907-08, and again towards the end of the war. So long as large and small coffee crops alternate, those who favour the Institute's policy may make out a case for its operations. Unfortunately, during each of the last three seasons unusually large crops have been harvested in Brazil. Prices have fallen precipitately, and the stocks of coffee held by the Institute have risen to ominous proportions. A possible crisis was averted towards the end of last year by a seven months' credit of £2,000,000 from three well-known financial houses,

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accompanied by an increase in the permitted daily entries of coffee. The outlook for the next few months depends largely, therefore, on whether or not the expectations held in some quarters, that the crop for 1930-31 will show a large decline, are borne out. A frost would doubtless alter the whole situation, as it has done in the past, though a large increase in plantings has occurred in recent years. International conditions, again, may be more favourable to international borrowing operations this year than last. Brazil's ability successfully to float long-term issues abroad must, however, depend to some extent on the development of the coffee situation, and possibly on the outcome of next month's Presidential elections.

Home and Underground Railway Accounts.—Three of the four "group" railways and the "Underground" group have published their accounts during the last few days, the reports of the London and North Eastern being alone unavailable as we go to press. We hope to present our readers, during the next two or three weeks, with our usual detailed analyses of the railway figures. In the meantime, the following table summarises the results for the past three years on the "trunk" systems:—

(000's omitted.)

		Railway Gross Receipts.	Railway Expenditure.‡	Miscellaneous Income (net).†	Ordinary Stock. Earned for Dividend.	Ordinary Stock. Paid. Amount.	Ordinary Stock. Paid. Rate.	Carried forward.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£
London, Midland & Scottish.	1927	77,817	61,457	*Dr. 327*	4,581	4,522	4½	59
	1928	73,870	58,942	*Dr. 229*	3,432	3,332	3½	159
	1929	73,195	58,163	*Dr. 249*	4,337	4,284	4½	212
Great Western.	1927	31,783	25,011	291	2,927	2,372	7	58
	1928	30,486	24,476	110	2,160	2,123	5	105
	1929	31,028	24,309	255	3,301	3,220	7½	186
Southern.	1927	23,603	19,204	767	1,964	2,009	5 Pref. 2 Def.	106
	1928	23,019	18,447	801	2,039	2,009	5 Pref. 2 Def.	136
	1929	22,993	18,175	725	2,193	2,167	5 Pref. 2½ Def.	162
London and North-Eastern.	1927	56,727	46,110	19	154	159	¾ Pref.	40
	1928	54,113	43,331	*Dr.96*	92	106	¼ Pref.	27
	1929	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* Not available at time of going to press.
† Road transport, steamboats, canals, docks, hotels, parcels service, &c.
‡ The savings effected by the 2½ per cent. deduction from directors' fees, wages and salaries, from August, 1928, are not shown in these figures as regards the L.M.S. and the G.W.R., but are so shown in the other two cases.

The most significant feature, from the point of view of the stockholders, is the extent of recent reductions in expenditure. The London Midland and Scottish figures, under the latter head, are shown before allowing for the 2½ per cent. deducted from salaries, wages and fees since August, 1928, which saved the company £418,000 in 1928 and £1,089,000 in 1929. On the Great Western, whose expenditure figures are drawn up on the same basis, the 2½ per cent. deduction saved the company £181,000 in 1928 and £473,000 in 1929. The Great Western also benefited by the improved situation at its docks, the net receipts of the latter being £544,000 last year, against £389,000 in 1928. Economies on the other systems were also of gratifying proportions, but the figures in these cases are shown after, not before, allowance has been made for the cut in salaries and wages. The arrangement of railway capital is such that the benefits of economies are more or less automatically "passed on" to the ordinary stockholders, to whom their continuance is at least as crucial a matter as the extent of year-to-year fluctuations in gross receipts. The results of the Underground Railways for the last three years are shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

Year.	Traffic Receipts.	Expenditure.	Miscellaneous Receipts (net).	Earned for Dividend.	Common Fund. Paid. £	Common Fund. Paid % (average).	Carried Forward.
1927	13,951	11,287	978	1,030	922	4·66	414
1928	14,942	12,046	1,053	1,173	1,127	5·69	461
1929	15,098	12,288	1,080	1,150	1,127	5·69	484

Full particulars of the dividends paid on the various stocks of the Underground Combine will be found on page 435.

Tea and Rubber Prospects.—Recent developments in the tea and rubber plantation industries have been of considerable interest to investors. Though the price of tea and tea share quotations have recently been fairly steady, the world situation in the industry still leaves room for uneasiness. Stocks of tea in London at the end of last month were estimated to be not far short of 300,000,000 lbs. against 251,000,000 lbs. a year earlier. That surplus supplies of approximately 50,000,000 lbs. have not had a more depressing effect on the market is due less to increased British consumption, following the removal of the Customs duty (which has so far produced little in the way of positive results), than to the careful "feeding" of the market by sellers of India and Ceylon teas. These interests are, in effect, carrying a large share of the burden of surplus stocks, in contrast to the policy of sellers of Java and Sumatra varieties, who press their wares for sale immediately they reach the market. The result, as is pointed out by a prominent Mincing Lane firm,* is that while tea stocks as a whole show an increase of 16 per cent. on last year's figures, those of Ceylon are up by only 3 per cent. and those of India by 12 per cent., while the Java and Sumatra figures show a rise of no less than 91 per cent. Meanwhile two possible avenues for future action are being explored. Negotiations for the purchase of several million pounds of tea by Russia have been in progress for some time, but curtailment of the next year's crop by growers, either voluntarily or of necessity, appears at the moment more likely to eventuate. The outlook is governed by the continued demand of the market for really good tea and the over-abundance of all other varieties, particularly of low to good medium standard. Unfortunately, statistics of recent production suggest that whenever climatic influences favour high yields an abundance of the lower qualities is likely to be experienced. The position is made more difficult by the tendency for a larger proportion of the steadily increasing output of the Dutch East Indies to come to London, as a result of Holland's retention of a tea duty equal, at present prices, to 75 to 90 per cent. of the selling price of the commodity. Tea is remarkable on account of the extraordinary variations between the produce of one country and another or even one district and another—a factor involving a more than average danger of divided counsels. Whether Java and Sumatra will come into any scheme for restriction is an open question. Economic conditions, however, may induce producers in India and Ceylon—particularly the former—to follow a policy effectively practised at critical periods in the past—to "pluck fine" and thus produce less tea of indifferent quality and more of outstanding merit, the demand for which is as keen to-day as at any time in the history of the trade. As regards the rubber outlook, the announcement that Dutch, French, Belgian, Swiss and German producers have agreed, at a meeting on February 19th, to suspend rubber tapping during the month of May, 1930, may be welcomed as an indication of Dutch willingness to co-operate in matters affecting the policy of the rubber industry, but scarcely for any other reason. It is stated that the British rubber producers are to make their decision on the plan within a few days. That they will agree to come in is, however, by no means a foregone conclusion, and without them the plan will probably fall to the ground. Nearly half the acreage under rubber in the East is in native hands, and it is difficult to see any attraction in a plan which promises European growers a month during which everything is going out and nothing is coming in, without any guarantee that the results will be sufficient to have any material influence on the world situation.

Courtaulds.—The preliminary dividend and profit announcement of Courtaulds for the financial year ended December 31st last confirmed the worst expectations of the market. The directors remark that the reduction in trading profit is accounted for by the unsatisfactory state of business in this country. This is the only explana-

* Messrs. Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson, in *The Rubber and Tea Quarterly*, February, 1930.

tion they offer for a 28 per cent. drop in earnings and a reduction in dividends from 15 per cent. to 10 per cent., tax free. Net profits total £3,743,828, a reduction of £1,427,169 on last year and £842,093 on 1927, when the ordinary capital was only half the present figure of £24,000,000. Percentage earnings have dropped from 34.9 in 1927 to 13.9 for the past year, while dividends have been correspondingly cut from 25 per cent. to the present distribution of 10 per cent. The following table sets out the comparative figures for the past three years:—

	Year ended December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Ord. capital	12,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000
Net profit	4,585,921	5,171,997	3,743,828
Brought forward	1,036,798	1,222,719	1,394,716
Preference dividend	400,000	400,000	400,000
Rate	5	5	5
No. of times covered	*10·1*	*12·9*	*9·4*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*4,185,921*	*4,771,997*	*3,343,828*
Paid £	3,000,000	3,600,000	2,400,000
Earned %	*34·9*	*19·9*	*13·9*
Paid %	25·0*	15·0*	10·0*
Reserve	1,000,000	1,000,000	...
Other allocations	...	...	1,651,856†
Carried forward	1,222,719	1,394,716	686,688

* Free of tax. † To writing down Continental investments.

The usual allocation of £1,000,000 to reserve has not been made, a sum of £1,651,856 being set aside instead for the purpose of writing down the Continental investments of the company. Meanwhile, the silk duties are regarded as the key to the situation for the next twelve months, and all eyes are turned on the Chancellor. The ordinary shares, which in 1928 touched 9⅛, fell after the announcement from 2 21/32 to 2 7/16, and have since dropped further to 2 5/16. At that price they give a yield of £4 9s. per cent. free of tax, or £5 11s. 3d. per cent. gross, allowing for a final dividend of 6 per cent., tax free.

Bradford Dyers' Association.—The continuance of depressed conditions and low output in the great textile industries of this country is reflected in the disappointing results of the Bradford Dyers. Net profits for the year, at £271,100, are down practically to the low level of 1926, and represent less than half last year's profit of £551,023. Percentage earnings have fallen from 19.6 to 6.5, and the reduced ordinary dividend of 8⅓ per cent. is not fully covered:—

	Year ended December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profits	428,429	551,023	271,100
Brought forward	478,629	563,022*	376,851*
Preference dividend £	125,000	125,000	125,000
Rate %	5	5	5
No. of times covered	*3·4*	*4·4*	*2·2*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*303,429*	*426,023*	*146,100*
Paid £	217,036	244,166	183,747
Earned %	*13·9*	*19·6*	*6·5*
Paid %	10	11¼	8⅓
Reserves	...	356,028	...
Other allocations	...	10,000	...
Carried forward	565,022	378,851	339,204

* After deduction of directors' fees, £2,000.

The results are the more disappointing in view of the not unreasonable hope, entertained at one time, that last year's recovery, following a good year in 1927, indicated a real return to prosperity. In the circumstances, the allocation of £356,028 in 1928 to sundry reserve funds has not been increased, and the carry-forward item is less by £37,647 than the amount brought in. The balance sheet remains fairly liquid, available assets at £753,215 exceeding current liabilities by £260,298. Cash, debtors and creditors all stand at considerably reduced figures, while an increase of £870,888 in investments is offset by a reduction of over £1 million in properties. At the present price of £1 5/16, the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of £6 7s. per cent., allowing for a final dividend of 10d. per share.

Selfridges.—The accounts of this great departmental store for the year ended January 31, 1930, show an increase in net trading profit of £4,895 to £481,312, omitting results from branches which were included in the year's profits for 1928. Net revenue, after deduction of debenture interest, income tax and depreciation on fixed capital, but before writing down investments, totals £385,338, compared with £393,124 for the previous twelve months. The percentage earnings on the ordinary capital reveal a corresponding decline from 27.2 to 26.2, but the distribution is maintained at 20 per cent., less tax, absorbing £150,000.

	Year ended January 31, 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	380,578	393,124	385,338
Brought forward	143,431	148,950	146,937
Preference dividend*	189,059	189,032	188,499
No. of times covered	*2·0*	*2·1*	*2·0*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*191,519*	*204,092*	*196,839*
Paid £	150,000	150,000	150,000
Earned %	*25·5*	*27·2*	*26·2*
Paid %	20·0	20·0	20·0
To reserve	25,000	...	...
To writing down investments	10,000	10,000	15,000
Other allocations	1,000	46,105	31,002
Carried forward	148,950	146,937	147,774

* Including dividend on Staff Participating shares.

No addition has been made to reserve account, which stands at £425,000 in the balance sheet. An amount of £15,000 is written off investments in subsidiary companies, as against a previous £10,000. Under the arrangement by which the company guarantees 25 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares of William Whiteley, Ltd., the sum of £31,002 has been paid out in respect of the year 1929, which compares with last year's contribution of £46,105. This connection may be a valuable source of profit in the future, but at present its benefits, from the Selfridge point of view, are mainly indirect. The balance carried forward is very slightly increased to £147,774, while the balance sheet offers no noteworthy alteration in any item.

Profits of the Motor Industry.—The reports of three motor manufacturing companies, published this week, reflect the uneven conditions prevailing in the industry. The year 1929 was an active period, the number of new cars turned out showing an increase of 12½ per cent. and the number of commercial vehicles of no less than 35 per cent. The overseas trade returns tell the same story, exports of British motor cars, parts and accessories, which in 1928 declined from £10½ million to £9 million, last year rising to £10¾ million. The table given below, however, shows that the industry includes concerns making handsome profits and others which are only just paying their way:—

	Leyland Motors. (Sept. 30.)		Crossley Motors. (Oct. 31.)		Willys Overland. Crossleys. (Dec. 31.)	
Paid-up capital: Preference ...	£ 200,000 (6% Cum.)		£ ...		£ 600,000 (6% Cum. Part. Pref. Ord.)	
Ordinary ...	750,000 (7½% Cum.) 900,000		550,755		50 000	
	1928. £	1929. £	1928. £	1929. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net earnings ...	405,999*	559,374*	120,711§	2,025	50,329	21,585
Pref. dividends	76,800†	324,600‡	...	...	36,000	36,000
Ordinary paid %	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
To reserves ...	...	120,000	80,000	...	...	...
Carried forward	44,573	159,347	3,680	5,705	80,791	66,376

* After tax. † Eight years' arrears on 6% Pref. ‡ Current year's dividend on 6% Pref., and 7 years' arrears on 7½% Pref. § Including £111,507 profit from sale of investments.

The recent progress of Leyland Motors, which in six years has succeeded in wiping out a debit balance of £998,710 and repaying £391,800 of preference dividend arrears, entirely out of revenue, is creditable to all concerned. The company's earnings last year (adding back income tax) were equal to approximately 66 per cent. of its ordinary capital, apart from preference arrears. The more optimistic section of the market had hoped that the company would pay off this year all its remaining preference arrears, but the directors have wisely chosen to use £120,000 of the year's profits as the foundation of a strong future reserve, the balance of the arrears being left for payment when cash resources permit—probably within the next few months. The ordinary shares are quoted at 56s. 3d. Crossley Motors, like Leyland Motors, has a considerable interest in the production of commercial vehicles, amounting possibly to one-half of its total production. The company has spent a good deal of money recently in designing and developing new models. Satisfactory progress has been made and demand continues to increase, but on the private car side competition is keen and has been aggravated, in the company's case, by " the general political situation and financial stringency." The meagre profits of £2,025 was arrived at after carrying forward in suspense £24,036 of expenditure applicable to omnibus and commercial vehicle designing. With the exception of a 5 per cent. dividend for 1926, no payment has been made on the company's capital since 1921. Willys Overland Crossley —a promotion of the 1919 boom—has similarly been affected by conditions in the touring car trade, last year's earnings falling short by some £14,416 of the amount paid on the preferred ordinary shares. The latter have received regular dividends since 1927, after five years' arrears had been cancelled, but the ordinary have received no payment since the company's inception, and certificates of indebtedness to the amount of £250,000 are outstanding, repayable under specified conditions out of profit. In view of the state of the market, the private car section of the motor industry would appear to have more to fear from the possible removal of the McKenna Duties than the commercial vehicle section.

Further Investment Trust Results.—Two of the most successful of the old-established investment trusts have published their reports during the past week—the Mercantile Investment and General Trust, formed in 1884 which has now a share capital of £3,500,000 and a loan capital of £3,000,000, and the British Assets Trust, formed in 1898, which now has a share capital of £2,625,000 and a loan capital of £2,025,000. A substantial increase is recorded in the earnings of the British Assets Trust (which include the dividends received from its holding in the Second British Assets Trust), but the dividend is maintained at 20 per cent. Only a slight increase in net profits is shown by the Mercantile Investment, although the final dividend is increased by ½ per cent. to 11½ per cent., making 16½ per cent. for the year. The following is an analysis of the profits and distributions of these two companies :—

	Net Rev. after Tax.	Avail. for Ord.	% Earned	% Paid (subject to tax).	Applied to Reserve.	Carry Forward.
Mercantile Investment :	£	£			£	£
January 31, 1928	293,023	233,023	19·4	Int. 5, Final 10	100,000	36,319
,, 1929	310,911	250,911	20·9	Int. 5, Final 11	50,000	45,229
,, 1930	317,009	257,009	21·5	Int. 5, Final 11½	50,000*	54,239
British Assets :						
January 15, 1928	148,798	86,239	30·8	Int. 10, Final 10	19,198†	38,874
,, 1929	186,304	107,714	33·6	Int. 10, Final 10	55,000†	27,588
,, 1930	209,671	126,071	37·0	Int. 10, Final 10	47,000	38,659

* Excluding £250,000 sh. premiums to reserve.
† Excluding £100,000 sh. premiums to reserve in each year.

In addition to the transfer of £50,000 to general reserve, the directors of the Mercantile Investment have credited the sum of £250,000, being the premiums on the issue of shares made in March last, to the capital reserve account. With a general reserve of £750,000, the total reserves shown in the balance sheet now amount to £1,000,000. A list of investments held by the company is enclosed with the report, but no mention is made of their present market value. The directors of the British Assets Trust merely state that the value of the assets show a substantial surplus over the amount at which the investments stand in the balance sheet. The directors propose to issue 85,000 new ordinary shares of 5s. each at par to the ordinary shareholders, and these will be allotted as nearly as possible in the proportion of one new share for every 20 shares held. Some dissatisfaction has been felt in the market that the directors did not see fit to increase the cash dividend. The new issue of shares has been made on the meanest of bonus terms. The present market price of Mercantile Investment and General ordinary stock is 319, to yield 5.17 per cent., as against a high level of 350 last year, while that of the British Assets 5s. shares is 35s., to yield 2.86 per cent., as compared with a high level of 45s. 3d. last year.

British South Africa Company.—The substantial increase in the earnings of the British South Africa Company (" Chartered ") for the year ending September 30, 1929, was apparently due to the higher profits realised on the sale of shares. The company, besides owning the mineral rights in Northern and Southern Rhodesia, has taken large interests in some of the mining companies—in particular the Northern Rhodesian copper companies—and it may be assumed that it has taken advantage of the " boom " in Rhodesian copper shares to make a handsome profit on some part of its holdings. Reports are attached from the consulting mining engineer and the Rhodesian Anglo-American, the company's consulting engineers for Northern Rhodesia, which deal in a cautiously optimistic fashion with the progress of the Northern Rhodesian copper mines. An analysis of the profits of the " Chartered " Company is shown below. It will be seen that there was an increase in dividends and interest, which included the dividends of 10 per cent. free of tax from the Rhodesian Railways Trust, and in the mining royalties. On the other hand, there was a loss on the company's estates of £19,831, explained by the fact that conditions prevailing in Southern Rhodesia during the early part of the season affected adversely both the quality and yield of the fruit crop :—

	(Years to September 30th.) 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Ordinary capital (in 15s.).....	6,570,377	6,570,377	6,570,377
Interest and dividends.....	391,238	417,618	424,013
Profits on sale of investments	122,591	86,858	456,485
Mining royalties, etc., less expenses	85,380	93,260	107,883
Estates revenue, less expenses.....	*Dr. 9,472*	34,450	*Dr. 19,831*
Other revenue, less expenses	9,036	8,397	2,483
	617,717	640,583	971,123
General expenditure in London and South Africa	90,802	70,663	117,226
Profit to balance sheet.....	526,915	569,920	853,897
Brought forward.....	523,250	524,535	544,186
Disposable balance	1,050,165	1,094,456	1,398,083
Dividend	525,630	550,269	711,360
% *earned*.....	*10·0%*	*10·80%*	*16·24%*
% paid	10%	10%	13½%
Carry forward.....	524,535	544,187	686,723

In the balance sheet the company's investments stand at £6,264,212, as compared with £6,332,272 a year ago. The market value of the quoted investments are said to be largely in excess of the book value of £5,952,614. The surplus of current assets (including the company's quoted investments) over current liabilities amounts to no less than £5,373,000. The increased profits of the company have enabled the directors to increase the bonus from the year of 13⅓ per cent., against 10 per cent. in the previous year. The increased distribution gives a yield of £5 1s. 8d. per cent., less tax, at the present market price of 41s. (cum 2s. div.) for the 15s. shares.

Montgomery Ward Results.—For the first time since the change of management which followed the post-war depression, Montgomery Ward and Company published a poor annual report. Disappointment is the more keen as gross sales of the company's stores reached a new high level, and the company's large competitor, Sears, Roebuck, had a very fair year. A few years ago both the great houses began to experiment with retail stores, as a development of their old system of shipping goods from central distributing warehouses on mail orders. The experiment proved satisfactory, and Montgomery Ward outdistanced its competitor, having, during the past two years, placed in operation 532 chain and department stores. Retail store sales accounted for about 23 per cent. of total gross sales in 1928, and no less than 43 per cent. last year. The 1929 net profit of $13,434,935 was the equivalent of only $2.60 a share on the common shares, after payment of Class A dividends, being 40 cents a share under the regular annual dividend requirement. However, the company at its last quarterly meeting paid the regular rate. The president blames the mail order business for the poor results, but in view of the extremely rapid growth of the chain stores, the unfamiliarity of the management, and the poor selection of sites in some instances, it would seem that allocations for writing-down the accounts of the new stores—and of inventory values at the year-end—were also a factor in the reduced profit.

(000's omitted.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$
Net sales	186,683	214,350	267,325
Costs, interest, depreciation	171,564	194,779	252,821
Net income	15,119	19,571	14,504
Federal taxes	1,992	1,867	1,070
Net profit	13,127	17,704	13,434
Class " A " div.	1,428	1,428	1,428
Common div.	4,544	5,673	10,441
Exp. and premiums.....	...	685	371
Carried forward	7,155	9,917	1,195

From a balance-sheet standpoint the company's position at the end of the year was much stronger than at the beginning. More than $37,000,000 in cash and call loans was on hand, and the ratio of current assets to current liabilities was 11 to 1, as against a little less than 5½ to 1 at the end of 1928. The company sells merchandise to one-third of the families of the United States, and it has a great field for further expansion. Its problem is mainly one of consolidation of effort and more effective management on the " store " side, and it should be capable of satisfactory solution.

Shipping Share Values.—Conditions in the freight markets last year were not conducive to activity in shipping shares, and although a slight revival of interest has lately been witnessed in such shares as those of the Cunard Company, the trend of quotations continues to be downward. We show below the average quotation of seven representative ordinary shipping shares during the last five years :—

AVERAGE QUOTATIONS OF SEVEN ORDINARY SHIPPING SHARES.
(1924 = 100.)

Average, 12 end-month quotations :		End of each month :	
1924	100·0	1929 (*contd.*) :	
1925	93·6	April	98·6
1926	87·0	May	97·6
1927	101·3	June	96·3
1928	100·0	July	92·3
1929	95·2	August	92·6
End of each month :		September	93·2
1929 :		October	88·7
January	105·2	November	83·7
February	105·9	December	84·9
March	103·0	**1930 :**	
		January	82·8

Shipping share values declined during 1925 and 1926, recovered again in 1927, and reached their " peak," so far as recent history is concerned, in February of last year. The subsequent decline was due partly to the general fall in security values, partly to adverse conditions in the shipping trade and partly to the severe break in Royal Mail issues, as a result of causes peculiar to that very large and important group. For the last-mentioned reason the index exaggerates the real extent of the decline in values as a whole. The outlook for shipping shares should be read in the light of the review of the industry's prospects which will be found on page 397 of this issue of the *Economist*. One proviso, however, needs to be made; namely, that as the majority of the constituent companies of the above index are " liner " concerns their earnings may continue to show a relatively greater degree of stability than those of certain of their " tramp " colleagues and competitors.

Exploration Company.—After the writing down of its capital in 1916 by 10s. per share to meet depreciation on investments, this mining-finance enterprise for thirteen years—with only one interruption—has made distributions to its shareholders. From 1925 to 1928 inclusive the rate was 12½ per cent., a bonus of 6¼ per cent. being also disbursed in respect of 1927. Now depreciation once again spoils the picture. For 1929 the net profit came out at £35,100, or only a little less than in 1928, after £25,000 had been set aside for depreciation; but the latter on the present occasion amounts to £75,000, after appropriation of the reserve of £100,000 set up in past years. Accordingly no distribution can be recommended. Of investments totalling £375,000—principally mining interests in mixed industrials—72 per cent. have Stock Exchange quotations. The liquid cash assets amount to fully £62,000. In view of the past history of the company and of the difficult nature of the times through which it has lately passed, it would seem worth while for the shareholders to exercise patience. The 10s. shares, of which 750,000 are in issue, stand at 6s. 6d.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies :—Scottish Life Assurance, Railway Debenture and General Trust, Railway Share Trust and Agency, South Suburban Gas, Bah Lias Rubber Estates, Imperial Tobacco Company, and Bovril. At the Scottish Life Assurance meeting the chairman said that one lesson to be learned from the events of the past year in London, New York and elsewhere, was the attraction of life assurance as an investment. Presiding at the annual meeting of the Imperial Tobacco Company, Lord Dulverton said that the year had been marked by a steady expansion of trade, and tobacco grown within the Empire had continued to sell freely at competitive prices.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Though the London new issue market remains virtually closed to industrial concerns desirous of raising capital in the form of ordinary shares, the last reduction in Bank rate has stimulated applications from high-grade borrowers whose plans had presumably been held up by the stringency prevailing during the latter part of 1929. Apart from a small high-yielding debenture issue by *Buchanan Estates*, three issues of trustee stocks were made during the past week, the total of new money involved being nearly £5½ million. The *Metropolitan Railway Company's* debentures offered a yield of £5 6s. 10d. per cent., after the first interest payment, and obtained prompt subscription. Both the *Nigeria Government* and the *Hull Corporation* issues, however, took the form of 5 per cent. stock issued at 99, and were considered somewhat dear in view of prevailing market conditions. The terms offered, indeed—5 per cent. stock at 99—are tending to become, for the time being, a " standard rate " for trustee issues, the recent Hastings loan having been made on the same yield basis. Though the machinery of issue is invariably in strong hands, the fact that the Nigerian loan was left as to 77 per cent. with the underwriters, is an indication of the possible effects of such a policy.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to February 15, 1930, £22,557,881.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to February 15, 1930, £22,557,881.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended February 15, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to February 15, 1930, *Dr. £2,850,000.*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Hull Corporation	1,500,000	...	1,485,000	75,000	1,410,000
Nigeria Government	2,650,000	...	2,623,500	132,500	2,491,000
Metropolitan Railway	2,000,000	...	1,310,000	100,000	1,210,000
Hull Corporation	1,500,000	...	1,485,000	75,000	1,410,000
Buchanan Estates, £50,000 6½% 1st Mtge. Debs. at 96½	50,000	...	48,250	2,500	45,750
Total offered to Public, week ended Feb. 22, 1930	6,200,000	...	5,466,750	310,000	5,156,750
To Shareholders only.					
Birmingham Rly. Carriage, 272,744 new Ord. £1 at 30s.	272,744	...	409,116	409,116	...
British Rubber Estates of Java, £120,000 7% Convert. Debs. at par.....	120,000	...	120,000	12,000	108,000
Metal Coating, 100,000 5s. at par	25,000	...	25,000	25,000	...
Petroleum Storage & Finance, 35,637 Ord. £1 at par	35,637	...	35,637	8,909	26,728
United States & General Trust, 53,910 5% Cum. Pref. £1 at par	53,910	...	53,910	8,086	45,824
Ditto, 35,940 Def. £1 at £2.....	35,940	...	71,880	5,391	66,489
Whites (Timothy) (1928), 476,000 7½% Cum. Pref. Ord. £1 at 20s. 6d.	476,000	...	487,900	59,500	428,400
Do., 476,000 Def. 1s. at 2s.....	23,800	...	47,600	23,800	23,800
Total to Shareholders only, week ended Feb. 22, 1930...	1,043,031	...	1,251,043	551,802	699,241

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
To date—	£	£
1930	29,375,674	29,375,674
1929	78,967,979	65,393,428
1928	...	134,768,207
1927	...	111,910,709
1926	...	51,083,969
1925	...	28,782,546
1924	...	27,707,730
1923	...	53,675,018

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	369,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Petroleum Corporation of America, 6,750,000 Cum. Shares, No par	...	$21\frac{3}{8}$	...
Total, week ended February 22, 1930.....	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1929	4,628,450	...	8,356,487

Nigeria Government.—Issue of £4,650,000 5 per cent. Inscribed stock, 1950-60, at £99 per cent., of which £2,000,000 has already been placed on the terms of the prospectus. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The loan is raised to meet the cost of construction of bridges, railways, etc., in the colony. It is secured on the general revenues and assets of the Government of Nigeria, and the principal will be repaid at par on February 1, 1960, but the Government reserves the right to redeem at par on or after February 1, 1950, on giving six months' notice. The Public Debt of the colony on December 31, 1929, amounted to £23,559,210.

Metropolitan Railway Company.—Issue of £2,000,000 3½ per cent. "A" debenture stock at £65½ per cent. The stock will rank from July 16, 1930, *pari passu* with the existing "A" debenture stock of the company. The stock is one in which trustees are authorised to invest. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31, 1929, exclusive of the revenue from surplus lands, was £844,515, covering interest on debenture stocks, including the present issue, 2.6 times.

Hull Corporation.—Issue of £1,500,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1941-61, at £99 per cent. Repayable at par on August 1, 1961, but the Corporation reserve the right to redeem at par on any half-yearly interest date on or after August 1, 1941, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the city is £1,532,190, and a rate of 1d. in the £ will produce £6,800. The gross annual revenue of the city is approximately £1,200,000. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock.

West Hampshire Water Company.—Issue by tender of 1,000 £10 5½ per cent. preference shares. Minimum price £9 15s. per share. Also 1,000 £10 ordinary "B" shares ranking for a maximum dividend of 7 per cent. with existing similar shares. Minimum price £11 5s. per share. The company was incorporated in 1893 to supply the Borough of Christchurch, part of the Borough of Bournemouth, and adjacent places with water.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only," with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—

General Refractories, Ltd Issued capital, £80,000 in 160,000 shares of 10s. each. The balance of 140,000 shares remains to be issued. Incorporated March 10, 1900, to carry on the business of Brick and Tile Manufacturing.

PENDING ISSUES.

"Shell" Transport and Trading.—It is understood that the "Shell" Transport and Trading Company propose shortly to issue five million 7 per cent. second preference shares at 25s. per share, to yield £5 12s. per cent.

Olympia.—An issue will be made on Monday next of 450,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 and 450,000 ordinary shares of 5s. each of Olympia, Ltd. Profits for the past year amounted to £100,381.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 435, under the heading "Company News."]

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS.—The results for the month of January are: Production of oil, 34,760 tons; deliveries, 32,250 tons.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—The production of crude oil by this company for January was 37,514 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended February 5th: Venezuela, 36,134 barrels; Trinidad, 10,598 barrels; total, 46,732 barrels. Production for January: Venezuela, 149,565 barrels; Trinidad, 48,373 barrels; total, 197,938 barrels. Deliveries for January: Venezuela, 149,324 barrels; Trinidad, 76,218 barrels; total, 225,542 barrels. Production, Venezuela and Trinidad, for six months ending January 31, 1930 (first half of financial year), 1,352,079 barrels, as against 1,221,332 barrels for corresponding period of preceding year. Production week ended February 12, 1930:—Venezuela, 37,538 barrels; Trinidad, 12,095 barrels; total, 49,633 barrels.

HECTOR WHALING.—Catch report to February 9, 1930.

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting ...	Three	Four
Catch for week ending February 9th in barrels of oil	6,300	11,100
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	94,500	128,100

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA.—The total production during January amounted to 107,003 barrels, or approximately 15,286 tons.

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL.—The production for the week ended February 8, 1930, was 281,000 barrels.

ROYAL DUTCH-SHELL GROUP.—The total production of crude oil of the Royal Dutch-Shell Group and of the companies in which this group is interested during the year 1929, compared with 1928, was:—

	1928. Kg. tons.	1929. Kg. tons.
Netherlands East Indies	3,971,045	4,746,400
Sarawak	751,092	759,700
Egypt	268,461	271,500
Roumania	705,854	852,400
Mexico (Corona)	528,979	363,300
Mexico (Aguila)	893,681	1,698,100
Venezuela (Caribbean)	2,040,759	2,329,400
Venezuela (V.O.C.)	5,084,580	6,470,700
Trinidad	65,187	102,700
U.S.A.	7,703,090	7,532,700
Argentine	50,773	14,900
	22,063,411	25,141,800

SERVICE PETROLEUM.—Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ending January 5th was 1,105 tons (7,735 barrels). Production for the week ending January 12, was 1,189 tons (8,323 barrels). Production for the week ending January 26th was 1,144 tons (8,008 barrels). Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ending February 2nd was 1,081 tons (7,567 barrels).

SERVICE PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—Production from the company's wells at Gura-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ended February 9th was 1,093 tons (7,651 barrels).

TAMPICO OIL.—The total production on the company's properties in Mexico during January was 20,553 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,541 barrels.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS.—Oil produced during January, 32,100 tons; oil purchased in January from other companies, 40,000 tons.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY (OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND), LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.

STEADY EXPANSION OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Imperial Tobacco Company (of Great Britain and Ireland), Ltd., was held at Bristol, on the 18th instant, the chairman, Lord Dulverton, presiding. The attendance was so large that a second room was requisitioned for shareholders, and the speeches transferred there by microphone and amplifiers.

Mr R. J. Sinclair (secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The first item on the assets side of the balance sheet—lands, buildings, plant and machinery at cost, less amounts written off—amounts to £4,969,691, an increase of £47,028 during the year. The increase represents the amount spent on additions at our various branches to land, buildings and plant, less the amounts provided for depreciation.

Goodwill, patent rights and trade marks remain at £9,422,581, being the cost (as reduced by the sale of goodwill of export business in 1903), less amounts written off. As I have said before, this is a very conservative figure having regard to the extent of the company's business, the profits earned and the great commercial value of our brands and trade marks.

INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES.

Investments in subsidiary and associated companies total £10,261,398, an increase of £1,450,364, which is mainly accounted for by the acquisition of new six per cent. preference shares in the British-American Tobacco Company. As noted on the balance sheet, the market value of the investments in associated companies is largely in excess of the book value; this, as you are aware, is mainly due to the company's holding in the ordinary shares of the British-American Tobacco Company and its subsidiary, Tobacco Securities Trust, Ltd. I would remind you that this holding represents our interest in the overseas trade in our brands.

We have been asked on occasion to state precisely what that holding is, or what is its market value to-day. Its actual value is, of course, very considerable, but it cannot be measured by market quotations, and I cannot conceive it to be in the interests of the company that we should endeavour more closely to define it, and it is, of course, as a revenue-producing item reflected in our profit and loss account.

Loans to and current accounts with subsidiary and associated companies amount to £1,320,998, an increase of £268,253.

STOCK-IN-TRADE.

Stock-in-trade, including leaf in transit and advances to branches abroad for purchase of leaf, etc., amount to £29,340,736, a decrease of £1,154,697. The amount of this item is frequently subject to what I may term accidental fluctuation, in that the date at which our accounts are made up falls in the middle of the buying season. It so happens that at that particular date this year the unspent balance of money sent over to America for the purchase of leaf was less than on the corresponding date last year. This does not mean that we are reducing our stocks, nor has there been any material variation in the price we have paid for our leaf as compared with last year.

With our increasing trade, increasing demands have been made on our stocks, which will be reflected in gradually-increasing purchases. It is one of the points of strength of our company that our leaf stocks are very large and are most carefully bought, and the policy which has brought about this position is one that we shall most certainly maintain.

The debtors, after making ample provision for discounts to be allowed an doubtful debts, amount to £6,739,805, an increase of £133,034.

The investments in Government and other securities, taken at cost or market value, whichever is lower, amount to £9,862,441, a decrease, as compared with last year, of £3,077,511.

The Corporation loans not officially quoted remain at the same figure as last year—namely, £200,000.

Cash at bankers and in hand amounts to £4,426,579, a decrease of £339,982.

ORDINARY CAPITAL.

Turning to the other side of the balance sheet, it will be seen that the ordinary share capital issued now amounts to £37,492,625, an increase of £7,540,928 during the year, of which £7,487,925 was allotted fully paid as a bonus to ordinary shareholders at the rate of one share for every four shares held (in accordance with a resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on February 19th last). The difference is represented by allotments at par under certain restrictions and conditions to various individuals actively engaged in the management of the company and its branches. This is in pursuance of a policy which has in the past been fully approved by our shareholders and which has been found of great benefit to the company.

The deposits by and current accounts with subsidiary and associated companies, totalling £451,700, form new items in the balance sheet, the corresponding figures in previous accounts having been included with the ordinary creditors.

Creditors, provision for taxation and bonus to customers, estimated capital liability under dividend guarantees, amounts set aside for obligations to pension fund, reserve for contingencies (including fluctuations in the value of leaf tobacco stocks), employers' liability, marine and other accounts, amount to £13,393,410. The reserve for contingencies included in this total has been diminished during the year by transfers to the pension fund and to the widows' and orphans' benefit account. The last-mentioned account stands as a separate item in the balance sheet at £247,167.

The general reserve, which at October 31, 1928, stood at £11,500,000, has been reduced by the amount of the share bonus authorised in February, 1929, and increased by a transfer from profit and loss account of £487,925, resulting in a balance of £4,500,000.

The last item in the balance sheet is the profit and loss account, particulars of which will be found on pages 10 and 11.

YEAR'S PROFIT.

The net trading profit and interest and dividends on investments and loans (including very substantial amounts derived from dividends on capital employed outside the United Kingdom), after fully providing for all charges, depreciation of property and plant, bonus to customers, taxation and £10,000 for directors' fees, amount, with the item of transfer fees, etc., to £9,967,098, an increase of £367,393 as compared with the previous year. After transferring £487,925 to the general reserve account, there remains a balance of profit for the year of £9,479,173.

The addition to this balance of the undivided profit brought from last year—namely, £1,169,098—gives an amount to be dealt with of £10,648,271.

Out of this total the dividends upon the three classes of preference shares have been provided.

Upon the ordinary shares an interim dividend of 7 per cent., free of tax, was paid on September 2nd last, and it is now proposed, with your consent, to declare a final dividend of 8½ per cent. and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, both free of income tax, being a total for the year of 23 per cent.

The service rendered to the company by its employees during the past year has been in every way admirable. We have a most efficient and a most loyal body of workers, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I ask your endorsement of the decision of your directors to make, as on many previous occasions, a gift to staff and workpeople over and above their ordinary salary or wage. Under this gift each person who has been in receipt of a salary or wage from the company during the year ended October 31, 1929, or any part of it, and either still remains in the service of the company to-day or has left the company's service through no fault of his (or her) own, will receive a sum equivalent to 16 per cent. of the total salary or wage received by him (or her) during the said twelve months or lesser period.

EMPIRE TOBACCO.

It is generally our practice on these occasions briefly to review the past year's trading and to say a word as to future prospects.

The year under review has been, I think, comparatively uneventful, but it has been marked by steady expansion of our trade and a further strengthening of the position of our most important brands.

Assisted by the low selling price made possible by the preferential duty, tobacco grown within the Empire continues to sell freely. The public have now the opportunity of buying Empire tobacco in every form.

As to the future—unless anything unforeseen should occur to check the present tendency towards increased consumption, I see no reason why our trade should not continue to expand. Competition in the trade is keen. We are out to meet competition and we derive benefit from its stimulus.

Fortunately, I think, the commodity with which we are concerned is one of which our shareholders can show their appréciation in the most practical way—by smoking our brands and recommending others to smoke them. We are sending to each shareholder this year a small list giving the names and retail prices of selected brands, and with that list are enclosed examples of two of our latest introductions—"Three Castles" Medium and "Bachelor."

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROSPERITY.
RECORD TOTAL OF NEW BUSINESS.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Life Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 18th instant, in Edinburgh, His Grace the Duke of Atholl, K.T., D.S.O., presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report for 1929 said :—

At a time such as this, when there is pessimism in various quarters in regard to the trade of the country, it is gratifying to be able to record continued prosperity in our own business. It is all the more satisfactory because the year 1929 was by no means uneventful. It witnessed at its commencement an epidemic of influenza, later on a General Election, with a change of Government, and, subsequently, financial trouble in London, as well as a financial crash in New York. It might not, therefore, have been surprising if our new business had been adversely affected; but the excellent work of the company's representatives surmounted these difficulties, and resulted in a record total of new business.

NEW ASSURANCES.

The new assurances granted during the year amounted to £1,388,000, and of that amount £49,000 was reassured with other companies, leaving a net new business of £1,339,000, which is very nearly £100,000 above the total of 1928, which, in itself, constituted a record. The net new premiums were £177,000. Of this £138,000 were in respect of assurances amounting to £192,000 effected by single premiums; the larger number of these assurances carried with them a debt, but by no means all, because it is satisfactory to state that single premiums to the extent of nearly £55,000 were paid in full, representing assurances of £82,000.

The total life premium income (net) amounted to £581,000. The annual premium income, apart from single premiums, has increased by £12,000. The interest on the life funds, after deducting income tax, reached £270,000. This represents a net rate (that is after deducting income tax) of £4 15s. 10d. per cent., as compared with £4 15s. per cent. in 1928. The fact that, throughout the current quinquennium, we have been able to earn, on the average, distinctly more than 4¾ per cent. is an important factor in the success of the company, because, in our actuarial valuation, we base the calculations on a rate of only 3 per cent. The claims by death amounted to £161,000. Measured by the most correct actuarial method, known technically as the "Death Strain" Method, the ratio of actual claims to expected claims represented 58 per cent. This is actually a point lower than in the previous year, although we, like all insurance companies, experienced a heavy death rate during the time of the influenza epidemic. The ratio of expenses of management, including commission, to premium income was 13.4 per cent., as compared with 12.7 per cent. for the previous year. The increase is due in great measure to two causes; first, the increase in the new business, with its relative expenses, and second, the reduction in the single premiums received during the year. The addition to the life funds was virtually £400,000, and on only one occasion has that increase been exceeded. At the end of the year the funds amounted to £5,975,000. The gross income of the company from all sources amounted to £952,000 and the total outgo was £559,000.

VALUE OF INVESTMENTS.

While it is at a quinquennial investigation that we are chiefly concerned with the value of our investment, still, in view of recent events in the City of London, it may not be amiss to state that our position is most satisfactory. All our securities, including those lodged with our bankers, have, as usual, been examined by the auditors, and reported to be in order. Notwithstanding the fall in market prices which has taken place, the value of the investments at December 31st, based on the low prices which prevailed at that date, is very substantially in excess of the value at which they appear in the balance sheet.

LIFE ASSURANCE AS AN INVESTMENT.

In conclusion, I may say that it appears to me that one lesson to be learnt from the events of the past year in London, New York, and elsewhere, is the superiority of life assurance as an investment. Many who in the past have waved it aside on the ground that they could do better with their money have seen their investments dwindle in value, sometimes to the vanishing point. Very different is the position of those who have had the foresight to entrust their savings to an institution such as ours, where they have had the satisfaction of seeing their assurances increase year by year through bonus additions, even throughout the darkest periods of war, and throughout some still darker financial periods in peace.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., chairman of the board, seconded, and the report was adopted, with the declaration of a dividend of 18 per cent., less tax.

RAILWAY DEBENTURE AND GENERAL TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD FIGURES.

The fifty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Railway Debenture and General Trust Company, Ltd., was held, on the 20th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr Richard S. Guinness (the chairman) said that the financial disturbances of the past year had made little impression on the company's revenue, and he was able to submit accounts showing that the revenue from investments constituted a record in the history of the company. The revenue had increased by about £7,600, the amount available for distribution being £103,125. The earnings available on the ordinary stock were equal to 12 per cent., against 11 per cent. in the previous year, and they had increased the dividend from 8 per cent. to 9 per cent., while placing the same amount (£15,000) to reserve.

At the beginning of 1929 a gradual fall in prices began in the stock markets, and this was accentuated later by the strain upon the money market, due mainly to the unprecedented speculative movement in the United States, which created a flow of remittances to that country. The fall affected all classes of securities, and became more marked in the autumn, when the irregularities in the Hatry group of companies were disclosed, followed soon after by the collapse in Wall Street. This company, he was glad to say, had no interest in any of the so-called Hatry companies, nor in any of the issues with which they were connected, and had therefore had no direct losses. Of course, it had not been possible to escape from the general fall in values which had taken place all over the world, but as the company's average cash investment was about £5,600 in any one security, stockholders would agree that they had no cause for anxiety. There was a drop of just over 5 per cent. on the valuation as made at January 15, 1929. This, he thought, was less than the average fall on gilt-edged securities—a clear evidence that the company's invested funds were well and wisely distributed. There was a small depreciation on the investment but this was covered several times by the reserve account.

At the present time the company held 73 per cent. of its invested funds in prior charges, 14 per cent. in preference shares, and 13 per cent. in ordinary shares, so that 87 per cent. of its holdings were in fixed interest-bearing securities. Any improvement in the market for high-class investments should quickly readjust the small depreciation he had indicated.

The report was unanimously adopted.

RAILWAY SHARE TRUST AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

CLASSIFICATION OF INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

The forty-first ordinary general meeting of the Railway Share Trust and Agency Company, Ltd., was held, on the 20th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr Richard S. Guinness (the chairman) said that the abnormal features which had characterised the stock markets during the past year had made little difference to the accounts submitted. There was an increase in income of about £7,600, and the directors were again able to recommend an increase of 1 per cent. in the ordinary dividend to 10 per cent., to increase the sum placed to reserve from £12,500 to £15,000, and to increase the amount carried forward by £3,500. The revenue received and the rate of dividend were record figures. Although it was extremely difficult to forecast, in these days of abnormal markets and political troubles in so many parts of the world, the directors were confident that at least the present revenue should be maintained in the coming year.

An analysis of the company's holdings showed that their average cash investment was about £4,000. In round figures, 44 per cent. of their total funds were invested in Great Britain, 30 per cent. in North and South America, 16 per cent. in the Continent of Europe, and the remaining 10 per cent. in other countries.

In his speech of two years ago he had referred to the flotation of many new concerns formed to carry on investment trust business, and said that so long as cardinal principles were maintained they could look forward to continued success for the old-established trusts as well as for the newcomers. The success which had attended their own class of company, however, had been the cause of the formation of quite another class of company, which had adopted in many cases the word "Trust" in its title when the promoters had no intention of transacting the business that the name implied should be carried on. The disclosures of the past year emphasised the fact that the time had certainly come when some regulations should be made to prevent unscrupulous trading upon the reputation which others had built up by years of care and to lay down such definition of an Investment Trust Company as would be fair to all parties concerned and enable the companies complying therewith to be officially quoted in a separate classification.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BAH LIAS RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL GROWERS.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the Bah Lias Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held yesterday in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 2/4 Idol Lane, E.C.

Mr H. Eric Miller (chairman of the company) said that the financial position was particularly good. After writing off £6,400 as depreciation of mature areas, the net profit for the year was £26,097, and, adding the unappropriated balance from last year, they had £78,378 at their disposal. The directors proposed that £10,000 be transferred to special cultivation reserve account, and that a dividend of 5 per cent. be paid, less income tax, leaving a balance of £50,817 to be carried forward. The rubber crop to be harvested during the current financial year was estimated at 1,580,000 lb., out of which the company had sold to date 99,893 lb. of a special grade at an average net price of 1s. 1·76d. per lb., equivalent to 1s. 2·92d. per lb., London landed terms.

You will have seen in the papers this morning the welcome announcement that, at a meeting of Dutch, French, Belgian, Swiss and German rubber producers held in Amsterdam yesterday, a proposal to stop tapping completely during the month of May this year was adopted almost unanimously.

This proposal was agreed upon by the British-Dutch Liaison Committee at their meeting in London on the 7th inst., and, now that we know that our friends on the Continent are almost unanimously in favour of this simple step to reduce the accumulation of surplus stocks of rubber, I hope and believe that British producers will give their wholehearted support to it. The Board of this company and of the other companies with which I am associated certainly will. We have plenty of cultivation work which can be usefully pushed forward during this tapping holiday, and we intend to do as much of it as we possibly can. Personally, I feel that this step towards real co-operation amongst rubber growers of different nationalities opens up the definite prospect of a more rational conduct of the industry. Producers and manufacturers alike have felt the disastrous effects of extreme price fluctuations not once but several times, and all should consistently work to bring about greater stability in the price of our commodity at a reasonable level, for that is undoubtedly the surest means of encouraging the healthy expansion of consumption throughout the world.

The report was unanimously adopted.

SOUTH SUBURBAN GAS COMPANY.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

The annual ordinary meeting of the South Suburban Gas Company was held, on the 12th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr Charles Carpenter, D.Sc. (the chairman), said that after taking £7,718 from the reserve fund they had a balance of £50,738, which, after payment of the dividend at the same rate as before, left £565 to be carried forward. The real strength of the undertaking was shown very clearly in the report. The true test both of their working and of their stability was the price at which they sold their gas. Those who followed the working of the company through the medium of the accounts would remember that they had brought into the year's account a substantial balance of £37,800. With that in mind, they had decided that the time had come to reduce the price of gas, which was, in their opinion, at a point higher than would encourage extension of business.

There had been one complication in 1929 which they had not forecast, and that was the considerable fall in the value of residual products. It was true that they had carbonised a little less coal, but residuals had returned £27,500 less than in the corresponding period. The difficulties of the year arising from the price reduction were apparent from the accounts, but he thought it would be agreed that it was the right course to adopt. In the present year's working they anticipated an improvement in all these respects.

In all other respects their progress had been satisfactory. The sales of gas, excluding Northfleet, had increased by 5·93 per cent., and a substantial number had been added to their consumers and to appliances sold or hired. The taking over of the Northfleet company, besides proving a good investment, had been almost a necessity. Their present average price over the whole area of their supply was 9·06d. per therm.

With regard to by-products, they had shared in the improved demand for coke, and the average price obtained was good. In tar they had not done badly, but ammonia was disappointing, mainly owing to the increase in the production of the synthetic product in most civilised countries.

In conclusion, he referred to the Coal Mines Bill, saying that they did not grudge improved conditions for miners, but there were some provisions in the Bill which he would be sorry to see pass into law, particularly with reference to the bringing about of amlgamations of well-managed collieries with ill-equipped ones.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

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BOVRIL, LIMITED.

RECORD SALES.
PROBLEM OF WORLD'S CATTLE SUPPLIES.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of Bovril, Ltd., was held, on the 19th instant, at River Plate House, London, the Chairman, Lord Luke, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the gross profit, they would notice, was shown after advertising had been deducted.

Advertising was considerably larger, but as their additional sales were many times the amount of the extra advertising, they had no cause of complaint.

Not only did the sales of Bovril in 1929 surpass all previous records but the increase was at an accelerated pace. The year showed a larger increase over its predecessor than had been achieved in any previous year with the one exception of 1919, when conditions were abnormal. They had been restricted with regard to overseas sales in 1914-1918, and went forward with a bound when the restriction was removed.

One of the problems with which this country would be faced in the not far distant future would be that of securing adequate supplies of first quality beef. In a few years, when the United States entered the South American market as a buyer, thereby reducing British supplies from that source, this country would have to fall back on either increased home or oversea British production.

EMPIRE BEEF SUPPLIES.

It was important, therefore, that serious steps should be taken to increase the quantity and improve the quality of the beef the Dominions could in future spare for us, especially in Australasia and South Africa, as it was only in the Southern hemisphere that suitable pasturage was available.

What he wanted to draw attention to was that, though the Argentine would still take the very best bulls from here, a market must be found for bulls from this country, which, though of equally good blood, would not fetch four, or even three, figures. It was worth our while to see that they went to Australasia and South Africa, and it was worth the Dominions' while to try to obtain them.

£34,000,000 was some years ago earmarked for emigration and development. Would it not be possible to allocate at least £100,000 a year from that fund to buying from our breeders more of their bulls, and then, having made the purchase, to allot them for payment in four years without interest to New Zealand, Queensland, West Australia, New South Wales, Cape Colony, Rhodesia, &c.? It would then rest with those countries, with their great pastoral areas, to import the bulls and organise the distribution to their own cattle breeders through the local graziers' and breeders' associations.

OVER 300,000 HEAD ON ARGENTINE ESTATES.

The Argentine estates of Bovril, Ltd.'s herd had been gradually creeping up in size as well as quality—the last record sent home showed the stock to be 310,000, which he thought must be the largest herd under one ownership in the Argentine. The numbers on the Bovril Australia estates were considerably smaller, though the area of land was so much greater than the Argentine holding.

He had told them at the last meeting that each year since the war had shown an increase in the export of Bovril, and again, he could say that in 1929 oversea sales had exceeded 1928 and its predecessors. They had every reason to be pleased with their world-wide sales progress.

A considerable number of people had written to them—usually in a strain of surprised indignation—asking why they could not now obtain Bovril at the depots of one of the multiple shop catering companies. The reason was very simple. They did not consider that they would be justified in paying the exorbitant sum required as the price of retaining Bovril on the menu.

It might interest them, also, to know that Bovril was in regular use in more than 3,000 hospitals and public and private nursing institutions in Great Britain and Ireland.

Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., F.R.S., said he had been recalling that an Irish gentleman, who, like their chairman, Lord Luke, was interested in hospitals and charities, upon one occasion when appealing for funds for a special hospital, said: "Ladies and gentlemen, most public institutions have their ups and downs, but unfortunately, in the case of this hospital, the downs have been in the ascendant."

Well, it must, he thought, be satisfactory to them that day to realise that in the case of the public institution with which they were concerned (that is to say, Bovril) the ups had been in the ascendant, for the consumption of Bovril last year was higher than it had ever been before. Its praises were in all men's mouths and in all women's also. It grew steadily in public favour.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended February 15, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	9,950	From Revenue	27,249
Interest, &c., on Debt	639		
Sinking Fund	615		
Sundries	190		
Decrease in Debt	15,679		
Increase in Balances	176		
	27,249		27,249

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £27,248,800, as compared with £24,977,332 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and Super tax were higher at £16,410,000 and £3,240,000, against £14,809,000 and £2,960,000 respectively. Customs brought in £1,866,000, as compared with £1,529,000, and Excise £1,170,000, against £2,335,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £287,700, against £28,400, and special receipts to £1,294,100, against £50. With six more weeks to run to the close of the financial year, revenue stands at £577,692,800, as compared with £599,779,600, and expenditure at £674,939,400, against £658,052,800. The accounts to date, therefore, show a deficit of £97,246,700, as compared with a deficit at this time last year of £58,273,200. During the week the National Debt was reduced by £15,678,900, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 100	Treasury Bills	− 20,274
5% Conversion Loan	+ 100	Sundries	− 405
Public Dept. Advances	+ 7,800		
	+ 5,000		− 20,679

The Floating Debt was reduced by £15,470,000 to £726,170,000.

Financial Year, 1929–30, April 1 to February 15.

	£		£
Expenditure	674,939,445	Revenue	577,692,761
		Decreases in balance	3,386,141
		Amount borrowed	93,860,543
	674,939,445		674,939,445

Estimates for Financial Year, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Feb. 15 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	232
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	586
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	359
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	678
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	48
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,608
	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,718

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	Feb. 16, '29. £	Mar. 31, '29. £	Feb. 15, '30. £	Movement Week ended Feb. 15, '30. £
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	16,640,000	37,050,000	47,730,000	+ 4,800,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	773,825,000	700,295,000	678,440,000*	− 20,270,000
Total Floating Debt	790,465,000	737,345,000	726,170,000	− 15,470,000

* Includes £32,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on February 14, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £42,905,000. For bills at 3months, dated Monday, at £99 1s. 1d., about 72 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday, at £99 1s. 4d., and above in full; Wednesday to Saturday, at £99 1s. 1d., about 72 per cent., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Dec. 13	40,000,000	44,715,000	4 15 9·67
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,405,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 15, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 16, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 15, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 16, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	162,050,000	159,780,000	16,410,000	14,809,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	33,530,000	35,540,000	3,240,000	2,960,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	69,340,000	69,120,000	1,230,000	1,720,000
Stamps	31,000,000	19,800,000	24,470,000	380,000	850,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	640,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	540,000	500,000	90,000	100,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	285,270,000	290,050,000	21,350,000	20,439,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	104,627,000	103,996,000	1,866,000	1,529,000
Excise	130,550,000	111,310,000	118,425,000	1,710,000	2,335,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	215,937,000	222,421,000	3,576,000	3,864,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,437,468	3,991,067	41,000	42,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	12,600,000	12,100,000	700,000	600,000
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,190,000	1,120,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,415,374	21,884,000	...	3,908
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,985,296	12,452,747	287,681	28,373
Special Receipts	26,000,000	23,857,623	35,760,797	1,294,110	51
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	577,692,761	599,779,611	27,248,791	24,977,332
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	49,100,000	47,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	210,000	207,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	70,690,532	68,358,933	1,210,000	1,207,000
Total	826,810,000	648,383,293	668,138,544	28,458,791	26,184,332

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 15, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 16, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 15, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 16, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,790,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues :				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	5,900,000	10,250,000	300,000	260,000
(c) For other Issues :				
By Treasury Bills	2,692,855,000	2,433,456,000	42,651,000	45,448,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	153,417,590	...	100,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	35,350,000	35,650,000	900,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds	...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	18,910,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	637,230,000	542,500,000	19,990,000	9,870,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares	4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	129,672	132,325	...	...
	4,214,389,343	3,814,932,309	92,399,791	82,762,332

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1929. £	1928. £			
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	... ...
Total			4,220,641,867	3,821,254,934	92,399,791 82,762,332

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Feb. 15, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Feb. 16, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Feb. 15, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Feb. 16, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	300,707,131	300,126,757	638,707	848,144
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	8,245,313	9,972,983	...	377,750
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,248,162	3,892,843	...	31,428
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,826,783	2,201,979	190,000	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	372,945,000	318,289,278	293,653,906	9,950,000	4,300,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	634,316,667	609,848,468	10,778,707	5,557,322
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	40,622,778	48,204,342	615,000	505,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,100,000	49,100,000	47,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	210,000	207,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	70,690,532	68,358,933	1,210,000	1,207,000
TOTAL		745,629,977	726,411,743	12,603,707	7,269,322
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		5,900,000	10,250,000	300,000	260,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		9,000,000	9,050,000	400,000	400,000
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28		4,790,000	774,432	...	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed					
Redemption of Debt—		2,714,680,000	2,186,605,000	62,925,000	62,770,000
Treasury Bills					
Principal of National Savings Certificates		39,400,000	36,200,000	800,000	750,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off		15,460,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	128,406,504	...	800,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		626,550,000	687,710,000	15,190,000	10,870,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		5,135,424	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—					
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments		4,899	5,733	4,899	5,733
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
		4,217,775,484	3,818,611,177	92,223,606	83,125,055

Balances in Exchequer—	Feb. 15, 1930. £	Feb. 16, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,029,764	2,101,150	...	...	
Bank of Ireland	836,619	542,607	2,866,383	2,643,757	+21,185 +112,277
					+155,000 −475,000
Total			4,220,641,867	3,821,254,934	−176,185 −362,723

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, February 19, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	345,580,773	Other Government Securities	233,599,941
In Banking Department	65,390,738	Other Securities	10,924,483
		Silver Coin	4,460,476
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	150,971,511
	£410,971,511		£410,971,511

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	38,581,563
Rest	3,653,974	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	13,871,221	Discounts and Advances £4,732,768	
Other Deposits—		Securities 16,293,348	
Bankers £59,167,021			21,026,116
Other Accounts 34,416,671		Notes	65,390,738
	93,583,692	Gold and Silver Coin	666,989
7-Day and other Bills	3,519		
	£125,665,406		£125,665,406

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Feb. 19, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	345,580,773	− 2,422,403	− 6,238,291
Public deposits	13,871,221	− 4,066,025	− 1,204,997
Bankers' deposits	59,167,021	+ 83,369	− 6,527,741
Other deposits	34,416,671	− 1,065,067	− 2,716,578
Seven-day bills	3,519	+ 1,216	− 1,315
Total, outside liabilities	453,039,205	− 7,468,910	− 16,688,922
Capital and rest	18,206,974	+ 27,739	+ 4,138
Government debt and securities	283,196,604	− 6,128,655	− 8,655,978
Discounts and advances	4,732,768	− 3,230,492	− 7,323,315
Other securities	27,217,831	+ 1,779,685	− 961,710
Silver coin in issue department	4,460,476	− 990	− 531,343
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	151,638,500	+ 139,281	+ 787,562
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	66,057,727	+ 2,561,684	+ 7,025,853
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	61 11/16 %	+ 5%	+ 11 11/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 11/16 %	+ 11/16 %	+ 1 3/16 %

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110,297,026	37,522,803	21,022 out	5
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Jan. 1	244831464	10695352	146115746 27 1/16	81658618	42170602	18013503	36333165 22 1/16
8	245098463	10431484	149214889 30 1/16	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097 36
15	245102358	10429647	150654341 31 1/16	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426 46 1/16
22	244665689	10855940	151288975 32 1/16	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435 51 1/16
29	244710035	10806329	150428168 32 1/16	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196 52 1/16
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106 32 1/16	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685 54 1/16
12	244613696	10924838	151499219 32 1/16	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043 56 1/16
19	244615041	10924483	151638500 33 1/16	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727 61 1/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to February 5	3,970,081	207,660	331,274	4,509,015
Week ended February 12	781,925	35,874	60,449	878,248
Week ended February 19	700,663	34,208	58,052	792,923
Total to date, 1930	5,452,669	277,742	449,775	6,180,186
Total to date, 1929	6,067,168	284,739	455,765	6,807,672
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 614,499	− 6,997	− 5,990	− 627,486
	= 10·1%	= 2·4%	= 1·3%	= 9·3%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of January.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to February 15.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	27	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,309,000	11,940,000	— 2·9	20,339,700	19,115,600
BRADFORD	5,172,000	4,559,000	—11·8	...	...
BRISTOL	5,717,000	5,120,000	—10·4	8,785,000	7,712,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	36,838,600	35,429,800
HULL	4,351,000	4,141,000	— 4·8	6,519,100	6,057,400
LEEDS	4,792,000	4,940,000	+ 3·0	7,349,500	7,185,100
LEICESTER	3,818,000	3,511,000	— 8·0	5,353,500	6,161,000
LIVERPOOL	38,762,000	31,981,000	—17·4	60,604,700	51,088,300
MANCHESTER	59,045,000	54,405,000	— 7·8	92,042,800	82,978,600
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,217,000	6,057,000	— 2·5	10,357,500	9,867,600
NOTTINGHAM	2,993,000	2,999,000	+ 0·2	4,862,700	4,672,100
SHEFFIELD	4,552,000	4,454,000	— 2·1	7,504,800	6,947,500
Total	147,728,000	134,107,000	— 9·2	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Egypt, Danzig and Canada appeared in the *Economist* of January 25; Denmark in February 8; Italy, Norway, Austria, Lithuania and Chile in February 15.

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

RESOURCES.	Feb. 21, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,681,110	2,985,210	2,976,560	2,974,980	2,977,520
Total bills discounted	864,980	406,940	381,420	381,910	376,940
Bills bought in open market	355,640	258,470	295,790	276,080	281,060
Total U.S. Govt. securities	172,590	476,540	477,840	478,560	480,620
Total bills and securities	1,403,280	1,154,380	1,167,240	1,147,840	1,152,900
Total resources	5,107,100	5,062,532	5,079,760	5,112,970	5,124,290
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,651,600	1,701,900	1,683,480	1,682,440	1,656,160
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,318,640	2,307,950	2,338,850	2,307,660	2,315,410
Total deposits	2,361,020	2,369,010	2,389,300	2,388,870	2,390,920
Capital paid in and surplus	404,590	448,350	448,430	448,370	448,520
Total liabilities	5,107,100	5,062,530	5,079,760	5,112,970	5,124,290
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	70·8%	78·3%	78·0%	77·9%	78·5%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Feb. 21, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930,
Total bills discounted	181,730	65,100	54,720	79,300	88,790
Bills bought in open market	70,360	93,700	109,560	89,690	85,360
Total U.S. Govt securities	16,310	210,800	211,940	212,350	216,630
Total bills and securities	268,400	377,010	383,370	387,590	403,020
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	917,400	931,820	956,480	942,920	946,080
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	83·1%	77·3%	76·5%	76·1%	75·1%

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

ASSETS.	Jan. 25, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,840	7,495	7,394	7,198	7,155	7,535
Subsidiary coin	107	87	81	94	103	107
Bills discounted	8,423	9,733	9,045	8,463	8,731	8,960
Investments	804	619	984	934	826	588
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,125	9,173	9,541	8,475	7,944	7,831
Government deposits	1,915	1,839	1,291	1,612	2,218	2,324
Bankers' deposits	5,079	4,755	4,907	4,679	5,198	5,092
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	50·3%	45·0%	46·9%	47·0%	48·2%	48·7%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 25, 1929.	Dec. 27, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.
Total securities	21,52,58	33,19,67	33,03,78	32,98,75	33,15,66	33,11,97
Loans	15,48,26	7,09,53	6,92,45	7,43,76	8,13,25	7,36,47
Cash credits	27,27,21	25,29,18	25,93,76	26,66,68	28,28,99	28,79,97
Inland bills	13,37,69	5,73,44	7,89,05	6,26,62	6,44,99	7,20,57
Foreign bills	20,10	29,54	37,58	38,99	41,92	37,32
Dead stock	2,82,48	2,83,18	2,72,83	2,80,00	2,79,88	2,79,88
Bal. with other banks	30,26	3,14	17,28	14,77	22,98	33,13
Cash	12,44,57	15,29,18	12,98,56	13,38,93	13,56,37	15,73,03
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	75,60,06	77,75,01	79,37,05	78,37,34	81,44,17	84,30,48
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	921	820	820	787	829	888
Advances in London	867	843	723	727	723	727
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	208	26	121	109	174	246

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.
Gold	34,026,595	42,830,671	42,921,007	42,931,049	42,947,184
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,794,958	6,995,667	6,983,711	6,978,660	6,978,420
Bills discounted	18,273,609	18,721,488	18,779,871	18,777,089	18,791,890
Commercial bills discounted at home	3,967,089	7,491,321	5,865,759	6,398,696	6,012,920
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545
Other advances	2,325,002	2,467,494	2,578,059	2,578,449	2,511,431
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,504,164	2,645,764	4,274,564	2,874,788	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	62,619,795	68,374,617	70,338,986	69,429,473	69,072,414
Public deposits	12,687,784	10,547,932	10,172,143	10,051,343	9,779,601
Private deposits	5,700,836	8,506,492	7,130,424	7,189,057	7,338,115
Other liabilities	2,013,002	2,375,909	2,413,963	2,521,402	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,728,910	2,297,050	2,325,941	2,351,014
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	100,354	397,094	393,837	401,566
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,446,569	2,052,835	1,959,967	1,719,719
Silver and other coin	125,364	136,186	138,328	153,837
Notes of other German banks	23,471	4,152	14,082	16,828
Advances	78,284	169,601	54,753	78,248
Investments	93,170	92,617	93,277	93,277
Other assets	544,577	606,014	502,744	504,978
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	319,608	319,608	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,077,262	4,653,242	4,380,954	4,166,354
Other daily maturing obligations	467,171	356,844	451,011	502,237
Other liabilities	153,870	303,067	208,568	156,989

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914. (b)	Feb. 14, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.
Gold	232,650	906,091	1,175,556	1,176,619	1,176,641	1,178,303
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad		493,790	543,821	542,009	520,896	534,095
Silver and other coin		1,662	2,610	2,776	2,731	2,884
Securities	697,600	698,003	804,732	816,061	794,697	791,562
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,382,352	2,721,563	2,768,152	2,769,562	2,763,316
Current accounts	112,125	104,943	155,420	100,892	79,861	94,763

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Feb. 11, 1929.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 27, 1930.	Feb. 3, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,551	446,047	439,532	437,019	437,023
Silver	8,436	22,484	25,770	26,421	27,298	27,191
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	66,828	63,093	59,313	52,204	52,456
Foreign Bills		198,269	219,143	217,117	211,308	211,528
Loans and advances in current acct.		93,261	82,712	81,513	112,414	82,590
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	784,770	797,972	786,778	824,025	795,727
Deposits	5,016	42,513	35,816	33,655	20,190	20,593

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Feb. 16, 1929.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,902	169,900	169,800	168,900	169,300
Silver	29,785	20,227				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,667	142,845	143,100	140,100	140,100	134,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	302,138	279,300	277,200	283,100	278,600
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	59,229	39,000	39,900	32,100	32,400

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,774	580,558	559,892	559,901	560,911
Silver	18,350	46,111	24,610	24,437	24,126	23,748
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	180,192	358,672	378,087	365,248	358,909
Discounts	...	131,044	98,813	93,308	92,343	84,527
Advances	103,000	59,763	43,979	42,185	41,976	38,515
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	786,333	830,299	889,946	849,171	822,348
Deposits	33,750	84,545	247,290	188,471	200,289	219,040

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 16, 1929.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold	235,546	244,383	244,240	244,129	244,061
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,140	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	162	157	157
Bills payable in Sweden†	208,748	178,784	184,841	165,054	171,282
" " abroad	67,983	125,938	123,158	120,180	119,084
Balance abroad	56,308	59,148	61,396	63,723	60,514
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	52,631	42,103	61,831	54,975	55,274
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	461,098	460,146	526,425	495,252	488,613
Government deposits	194,779	200,074	170,318	172,884	179,133
Private deposits	2,085	11,882	2,202	3,434	1,821

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Feb. 9, 1929.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,277	2,566,112	2,566,768	2,567,387	2,516,941
Silver	728,600	706,761	707,484	711,111	713,303	709,364
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,897,817	2,209,221	2,164,696	2,193,486	2,179,447
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,374,520	4,444,055	4,398,997	4,410,497	4,461,361
Deposits	477,500	988,675	976,394	1,001,326	1,001,326	971,434

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

ASSETS.	Jan. 30, 1929.	Jan. 8, 1930.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,343	8,786	8,864	8,822	8,903
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	304,419	330,931	316,723	308,868	312,991
Discounts	253,775	364,544	366,215	358,827	361,148
Government loans	1,722,864	1,739,775	1,725,226	1,717,175	1,719,321
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,943,635	2,043,335	2,012,195	1,984,953	1,971,897
Deposits	59,274	105,252	107,368	120,343	107,627

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,467	162,750	162,751	162,751	162,643
Drafts and notes	56,157	9,684	9,663	18,308	25,576
Silver coin and bullion	779	8,922	9,719	9,861	9,703
Inland bills, warrants and securities	318,562	271,416	263,539	293,406	257,361
Advances to the Treasury	93,143	87,506	87,506	87,506	82,937
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	453,723	399,188	380,766	476,247	441,907
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	227,424	114,610	120,993	62,578	78,467

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,303	1,261,547	1,261,575	1,261,694	1,261,762
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,938,955	2,201,968	2,115,925	2,038,843	2,007,126
Discounts and advances	163,353	482,933	448,193	364,253	373,676
State notes debt balance	4,080,745	3,745,351	3,744,415	3,742,762	3,738,833
Other assets	900,870	973,346	849,184	689,759	689,790
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,820,218	6,577,120	6,271,592	6,922,998	6,562,371
Check account balances	711,922	1,324,368	1,356,873	406,634	733,258
Other liabilities	319,539	283,235	310,405	387,257	295,136

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 8, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 22, 1930	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold	91,209	95,607	95,658	95,759	95,827
Other coin and notes	18,193	18,517	18,263	18,757	18,688
Foreign credits	192,593	278,861	275,815	275,750	305,612
Bills	1,387,175	1,244,270	1,220,409	1,202,214	1,187,443
Government advances	4,201,148	4,153,088	4,153,092	4,151,099	4,147,101
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,237,883	5,554,192	5,414,541	5,585,766	5,566,208
State credits	227,868	205,903	205,907	203,914	199,916
Deposits	1,049,468	1,634,148	1,759,172	1,527,913	1,649,239

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	15,522,585	15,003,330	14,704,225	14,262,634	14,160,013
Commercial bills	8,691,552	8,555,050	8,603,016	8,657,291	8,649,757
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	20,493,468	20,158,979	20,154,084	19,767,435	19,717,004
Other sight liabilities	9,634,882	9,399,410	9,361,249	9,096,770	9,095,434

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,449,824	1,559,646	1,561,664	1,564,464	1,565,758
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,948,418	1,028,485	924,205	874,975	779,302
Discounts and advances	1,323,821	1,284,562	1,246,468	1,226,549	1,214,760
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,597	1,241,049	1,241,415	1,245,642	1,246,962
Bank notes in circulation	3,896,015	3,510,206	3,401,316	3,260,361	3,337,567
Sight liabilities	3,314,390	1,814,910	1,859,855	1,886,480	1,658,677
Deposits	471,628	342,445	341,748	334,605	332,078

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold	558,294	635,339	635,913	643,834	644,662
Gold exchange	4,678,642	3,897,490	3,836,570	3,827,189	3,707,147
Other foreign exchange	1,057	3,086	2,788	2,842	2,824
Bills discounted	55,942	171,272	175,529	183,118	179,868
Advances	70,139	194,435	194,306	193,626	189,218
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,490,150	5,020,046	4,916,899	4,907,255	4,910,193
Deposits and current accounts	2,205,277	1,493,422	1,559,580	2,070,659	1,934,089
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,145,219	1,667,172	1,636,630	1,140,795	1,108,470

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 10, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1929.
Gold	621,361	700,592	700,681	700,904	700,953
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	694,779	506,981	489,252	473,094	467,498
Bills discounted	650,822	684,711	675,497	684,449	676,126
Loans against securities	87,893	80,744	79,715	79,101	79,214
Reserve fund securities	69,244	75,896	75,896	75,939	82,155
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	450,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,200,164	1,215,102	1,161,534	1,246,742	1,208,149
Current accounts	626,322	538,314	540,992	453,834	483,800
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Feb. 16, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 16, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,885	28,570	28,567	28,567	28,581
Other precious metals	4,240	3,461	3,348	3,414	3,396
Foreign bank notes	7,971	6,785	6,758	6,392	6,406
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	276	292	292	295	295
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	78,628	114,893	114,035	112,332	113,323
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	108,258	153,697	152,574	150,027	151,011
Balance to which notes may still be issued	742	303	426	973	989

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Feb. 8, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31. 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold	35,091	303,606	301,518	301,439	301,280
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	743,013	702,816	721,861	754,941
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	304,254	322,930	322,930	322,430
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,470,988	1,330,980	1,307,940	1,336,796
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,432,876	1,212,450	1,258,988	1,247,407
Deposits at notice	21,225	428,946	284,467	260,374	315,247

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 7, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,267	6,435	6,439	6,437	6,443
Net foreign exchange	23,462	19,049	19,164	19,478	18,775
Subsidiary Estonian coin	737	691	620	701	727
Home bills discounted	14,790	14,778	15,055	15,013	15,230
Loans and advances	15,501	12,189	12,723	12,806	12,189*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	34,560	31,190	33,495	32,260	31,633
Sight deposits and current accounts	21,756	16,706	15,484	17,022	16,732
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·78%	53·20%	52·27%	52·58%	52·14%

* Includes Ekr. 7,880,665·90, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Jan. 26, 1929.	Jan. 4, 1930.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930	Jan. 25, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,114,676	1,109,054	1,111,393	1,124,135	1,089,977
Discounts	41,740	737,914	668,100	643,950	647,082	656,792
Advances	70,540	89,448	76,241	74,662	74,776	74,936
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,355,018	1,509,993	1,253,408	1,231,501	1,347,113
Govt. deposits	87,340	450,145	397,578	453,426	457,079	470,084
Other deposits	11,440	335,621	267,302	496,410	497,668	351,783

LONDON RATES.

	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 17, 1930.	Feb. 18, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 5% Feb. 6, 1930)	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3 7/8—4
3 months' do.	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—4	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—29/32	3 27/32—7/8	3 13/16—7/8
4 months' do.	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 7/8—15/16	3 13/16—7/8
6 months' do.	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3 7/8—15/16	3 13/16—7/8
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16—4	3 15/16	3 7/8—4
3 months'‡	3 27/32—7/8	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—15/16	3 7/8—29/32	3 7/8	3 13/16
Loans—Day to day	4—4 1/2	3 1/4— 1/2	3 —3 1/2	3 1/2— 4	3 1/4— 4	3 —3 1/2	3—1/2
Short	4 1/2	3 1/2— 3/4	3 1/2— 3/4	3 1/2— 3/4	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2—4
Deposit allowances: Bank	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Discount houses at call	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
At notice	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4	2 3/4

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Jan. 30	3 1/4—4	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16	5	5 1/4	5 1/4 6
Feb. 6	3 1/2—4 1/2	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	4 1/2	4 1/2 3/4	4 3/4 5
13	4 1/2	3 7/8 15/16	3 15/16 4	3 15/16 4	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 5 1/4
20	3 1/2	3 13/16 7/8	3 13/16 7/8	3 13/16 7/8	4 1/2	4 3/4	5 5 1/4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Feb. 21, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86 2/3	4·85 5/16—3/8	4·86 3/16—·86 1/4	4·86—1/16
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86 2/3	4·87 1/8—1/4	4·90 1/8—·90 3/8	4·88 1/4—3/8
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124 1/4—5/16	124·14—·16	124·25—·27
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·44 1/2—·45	20·36 1/2—3/4	20·36 1/2—·3/4
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11 5/8—7/8	12·12 3/8—·12 7/8	12·12 1/4—·1/2
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94 1/2—95 1/2	34·89—·89 1/2	34·89—·1/2
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·58—63	92·89—·92	92·83—·85
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23 1/4—3/4	25·19 3/4—·20 1/4	25·19 1/2—·20
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 1/4—3/4	18·19 3/4—·20 1/4	18·18—1/2
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15 3/4—16 1/4	18·13—·13 1/2	18·11 3/4—·12 1/4
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 3/4—20 1/4	18·15 3/4—·16 1/4	18·16—1/2
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	31·22—25	38·55—·65	38·85—·90
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109 1/2—110	108 1/4—3/8	108 1/4—3/8
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58 1/2	34·53—56	34·51—·55	34·49—·53
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164 1/4	163 5/8—7/8	164 1/4—3/8	16·4—1/2
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/4	276—1/2	275 3/4—276 1/4	27·6—1/2
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83—86	27·81—·85	27·78—·82
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	813—815	817—820	817—20
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	672—676	669—675	669—75
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374 3/4—375 1/4	375—375 1/2	375—1/2
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	982—986	1005	1075 sellers
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42—·43	†9·45—·47	†9·438—·457
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16—7/16	43 5/16—7/16	43 5/16—7/16
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192 1/2—193	193 1/4—1/2	193—1/2
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48 1/2—49 1/2	48 1/2—49 1/2	48 1/2—49 1/2
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15—22	18·20—·27	18·20—7
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	25·15—22	25·20—·30	25·20—·30
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 15/32—17/32	97 15/32—17/32	97 7/16—9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 3/32—5/16	43—43 1/2	42—1/2
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 7/8—29/32	5 11/32—11/32	5 1/4—5/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50 1/4—3/4	43 3/4—44 1/2	43 1/4—3/4
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·59	39·78	39·78
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19 5/8% prem.	22% prem.	22% prm. nm.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/10 5/16—11/32	1/5 29/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 7/8—15/16
Bombay		T.T.		1/10 5/16—11/32	1/5 29/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 7/8—15/16
Madras		T.T.		1/10 5/16—11/32	1/5 29/32—1/5 15/16	1/5 7/8—15/16
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11 29/32—2/0 1/16	1/6 7/8—1/7 1/4	1/6 3/4—1/7 1/4
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	2/6 5/16—2/6 11/16	2/0—2/0 1/2	1/11 1/2—2/0
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 13/16—2/3 15/16	2/3 25/32—13/16	2/3 11/16—25/32
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 5/16—11/32	2/0 1/2—2/0 9/16	2/0 1/2—9/16
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 3/16 d.	†2s. 0 3/16 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·75—10·25	10·15—·40	10·10—·30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10 3/8	1/10 3/8

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Feb. 10, 1930	5½	5	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Feb. 4, 1930	6½	6	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Budapest	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Stockholm	Jan. 1, 1930	5	4½
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Vienna	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Warsaw	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	Feb. 6, 1930	5½	5
New York Federal Reserve	Feb. 6, 1930	4½	4				
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	6½	4½	4½	4½	4	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	4½	4½	4½	—	4½
Bank acceptances :—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5½	4½	4½	4	—	3½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5½	4½	4½	4	—	3½
Ineligible, 90 days	6	4½	4½	4½	—	4½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5½	5	4½	4½	—	4½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80	4·82⅛	4·82¼	4·82
Cable			4·85 5/16	4·86 7/32	4·86 7/32	4·86
Cheques			4·84 15/16	4·86 7/32	—	4·85⅝
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9025	3·92 7/32	3·91⅝	3·91 15/16
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·925	13·93½	13·915
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·22½	19·29	19·30	19·27½
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·3375	5·23	5·23⅛	5·23
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·72	23·865	23·875	23·84
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·07	14·07	14·07
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·50	13·15	12·61	12·46
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·015	40·095	40·09¼	40·065
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·645	26·72	26·78	26·745
Oslo ,,			26·65	26·69	26·72	26·71
Stockholm ,,			26·70⅜	26·82	26·82	26·80
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·2925	1·295	1·2975	1·295
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅛ dis.	⅛ dis.	¼ dis.	⅛ dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·95	49·15	49·37½	49·10
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·50	39·10	—	38·15
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	61·95	48·20	—	48·00
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·33	36·20	—	36·20
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·55	114·00	—	116·50
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·88	11·40	11·10	11·40
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	—	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·70
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·98
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	¼% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛ to ¼% ,,
30 days	1⅛% ,,	⅜% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅜% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	½% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅞% ,,
120 days	3⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying.		London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	97⅛	97⅛	...	...	103⅛	103⅛
Demand	96	96	97⅛	97⅛	101⅛	101⅛	102 1/16	102⅛
30 days	95 7/16	95 7/16	...	...	101⅛	100⅛	102⅛	102⅛
60 days	94⅞	94⅞	...	...	100 7/16	100⅛	101⅜	101⅛
90 days	94 7/16	94 7/16	...	...	100	99⅛	101⅛	101⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending February 15, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended February 20, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From—	£
Belgium	463
France	15,644
Spain	2,000,000
Brazil	42,160
British West Africa	41,714
British South Africa	902,563
Other Countries	820
Total declared value of imports	3,003,364

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. To—	£
Poland	3,410
Germany	726,940
France	20,743
Austria	10,250
Netherlands	2,023
Switzerland	15,400
British India	29,452
Ceylon	1,000
Kenya	5,500
Total declared value of exports	814,718

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follow :—

1930. ARRIVALS.	£	1930. WITHDRAWALS.	£
Feb. 14	Nil	Feb. 14	Nil
,, 15 Bars bought	8	,, 15 Bars sold	8,608
,, 17	Nil	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 18	Nil	,, 17 Bars sold	1,719
,, 19	Nil	,, 18	Nil
,, 20		,, 19	Nil
		,, 20	
Total	8	Total	12,327

Net withdrawals, £12,319.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. write on February 19, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £150,936,551 on the 12th instant (as compared with £150,783,865 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,969,764 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. £883,000 of gold from South Africa was offered in the open market yesterday and was disposed of at 84s. 10⅝d. per fine ounce. Germany was again a keen buyer and secured £841,000, the small balance being acquired for the Home and Continental trade (£32,000) and India (£10,000). To-day, in addition to about £40,000 African gold, about £500,000 of bar gold from Spain was available, out of the £2,000,000 shipped from there on the 15th instant. Germany was the only buyer and the whole amount was secured for that quarter at 84s. 10⅞d. per fine ounce. Movements of gold, as announced by the Bank of England, show a net influx of £12,681 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £25,008, which consisted of sovereigns from Australia.

SILVER.

China has been the chief factor in the market this week and inquiry from this quarter carried quotations to 20⅜d. for cash and 20¼d. for two months' delivery on the 13th instant. At this level, however, the market proved rather overstrained and, following substantial re-sales by China, there were two successive falls of 3/16d., prices reaching 20d. and 19⅞d. for the respective deliveries on the 15th instant. The market has since ruled rather quiet, but reacted slightly on renewed demand from China, which, however, was only temporary, prices receding to-day to 19 15/16d. and 19 13/16d. owing to lack of support. Although American operators were substantial sellers at the higher prices touched at the beginning of the week, they have been less active and more inclined to buy on the declining rates. The Continent has continued to sell moderately, whilst the Indian Bazaars have both bought for early delivery and sold forward.

The difference between the cash and two months' quotations narrowed yesterday to 1/16d., but a difference of ⅛d. was re-established to-day.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 10th instant to mid-day on the 17th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Germany	17,351	Hong Kong	39,583
France	40,716	British India	205,626
U.S.A.	22,793	Other countries	3,165
British India	29,694		
Other countries	3,554		
	£114,108		£248,374

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Feb. 15.	Feb. 7.	Jan. 31.
Notes in circulation	18,014	17,994	18,021
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,621	10,605	10,662
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,872	3,885	3,885
Securities (British Government)	294	277	247

The stock in Shanghai on the 15th instant consisted of about 89,900,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars, 20,950 silver bars and 5,000,000 Saigon dollars, as compared with 89,800,000 ounces in sycee, 128,000,000 dollars, 22,120 silver bars and 5,000,000 Saigon dollars on the 8th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward		Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.			d.
Feb. 14	84 11½	20 3/16	20 1/16	Feb.	29, 1924	33 7/16
,, 15	84 11½	20	19⅞	,,	27, 1925	32⅜
,, 17	84 11½	20	19⅞	,,	26, 1926	30 9/16
,, 18	84 10 15/16	20 1/16	20	,,	25, 1927	26 9/16
,, 19	84 10 15/16	19 13/16	19 13/16	,,	23, 1928	26½
,, 20	84 11	19 13/16	19 11/16	,,	21, 1929	25 13/16

NOTICES.

It is announced that Mr W. J. Woolrich, one of the resident directors of Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank, Ltd., has been elected vice-chairman of that bank.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 43 Portman Square, London, W.1, and at 1 and 2 The Market, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex. Facilities for day and night banking are now available at 355 of the 2,050 offices of the Midland Bank, the service being in operation at 71 branches situated within the London postal area and at 284 branches in various important provincial centres.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that sub-branches have been opened at Gunnerside, Yorks., and Low Row, Yorks.

Mr Alan Ross has been appointed trust officer of the Grace National Bank in New York.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of new branches at 323 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E.10, and also at 3 Stoneleigh Parade, Cheam Common Road, Worcester Park.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 178 High Street, Cheltenham.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Messrs Thomas Skinner and Company announce that the "Stock Exchange Year Book," 1930, will be published on February 25th.

The governor and committee of the Hudson's Bay Company announce that Mr H. B. Lyall has accepted a seat on the Canadian committee.

BANKS.

S. JAPHET AND COMPANY.—The balance sheet of S. Japhet and Company, Ltd., merchant bankers, as at December 31, 1929, shows the proportion of liquid assets to liabilities is 78 per cent. (compared with 74 per cent. last year). Advances to customers have decreased about £185,000, while the figure of acceptances for customers has declined by about £340,000. The reserve account has been increased to £700,000, so that capital and reserve now total £2,000,000.

INSURANCE.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—The total new business written by the society during 1929, in its ordinary and industrial departments amounted to £19,491,831. Details are as follows: Ordinary, gross, £15,107,915; industrial, £4,383,916.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"STOCK EXCHANGE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE."—The 1930 edition of the "Stock Exchange Official Intelligence" will be published on March 25th. The "Official Intelligence" is the only work of its kind that is published by the Stock Exchange.

CABLES AND WIRELESS, LIMITED.—It has already been announced that it is not possible for Cables and Wireless, Ltd., to publish its audited balance sheets and revenue accounts to December 31st in each year until about the following midsummer, owing to the time which must elapse before it can get in the accounts to the close of the year from its branches and subsidiary companies all over the world. The directors cannot give individual stockholders information which they do not give to the general body of stockholders, whilst to publish any anticipation of results based on incomplete data would be undesirable.

SWAN AND EDGAR, LTD.—The net profit for the year ended January 31, 1930, amounts to £138,146, against £101,488, which, added to balance brought forward of £12,113, against £11,987, makes a total of £150,259, against £113,475. Deducting interest on mortgage £16,500 (same), depreciation on plant, fixtures, etc., £17,963, against £13,596, directors' fees £1,950, against £1,807, and leasehold sinking fund £1,450, against £1,505, together £37,863, against £33,408, there remains a balance available of £112,396, against £80,067. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, against 4 per cent., absorbing £62,500, against £50,000, to write off preliminary expenses the sum of £25,000, against £17,954, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £24,896, against £12,113.

LEWIS'S LTD.—For the year ended February 1st last, a profit is recorded of £773,991, as against £707,324, an increase of £66,667 over the previous year. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 8¾ per cent., less tax, on the 12½ per cent. cumulative participating, preferred ordinary shares, making a full 15 per cent. for the year. This dividend will be paid on April 10th next. The directors also recommend that £10,000 be placed on the reserve for staff pensions, as last year, and that the sum of £175,621 be placed to the other reserves, an increase of £50,620 over the previous year. £17,179 will be carried forward to next year's accounts, as against £57,259 brought in. The balance of £308,437, less tax, is to be paid to Lewis's Investment Trust, Ltd., as sole holder of the deferred shares of the company. The annual meeting will be held in the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, February 27th next, at noon.

JOHN BARKER AND COMPANY, LTD.—A net profit, subject to final audit, of £468,685, for the year ended January 31, 1930, was secured after providing for all administrative and working expenses, including taxation, directors' fees and debenture interest (against £444,901 for the previous year). It is proposed to pay the usual half-yearly dividends on the 5½ per cent. and 6 per cent. preference shares, together with a balance dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year, being the same as distributed for the last ten years; to place £125,000 to reserve for rebuilding and modernisation of premises; £10,000 to employees pension and benevolent fund; while £35,000 is to be written off goodwill and £25,000 off fixtures, fittings and furniture in view of the company's rebuilding programme. A balance of £297,254 will remain to be carried forward, against £291,010 brought in. It is also proposed to apply the sum of £67,000 out of rebuilding and modernisation reserve to write off the book value of certain properties involved in rebuilding.

THE UNDERGROUND DIVIDENDS.—The dividends declared by the Underground Railways group for the year 1929 were declared on February 13th. The dividends and amounts to be carried forward are shown below :—

	1928 Final. %	1928 Total. %	1929. Final. %	1929. Total. %	Carried forward. 1928. £	Carried forward. 1929. £
Cent. Lon. Ord.	2½	5	2½	5		
Do. Pref. Ord.	2	4	2	4	105,053	108,151
Do. Def. Ord.	6	6	6	6		
City & S.L. Ord.	2½	5	2½	5	36,179	37,708
London Electric Ord.	2½	5	2½	5	177,152	186,784
London General Omnibus	4½*	8*	4½*	8*	97,356	103,036
Metropolitan District	2½	5	2½	5	44,768	48,108
Underground Ordinary Shares	4	7	5	8	262,504	265,950

* Tax free.

With regard to Central London Railway, the holders of assented stocks are entitled in respect of the year 1929 to an additional dividend of *approximately* 0·4 per cent. in excess of the guaranteed dividend of 4 per cent. per annum. The Associated Equipment Company is again paying a dividend for the year of 8 per cent., tax free, and the amount carried forward is £207,843, as compared with £201,261 brought in. The London and Suburban Traction is unable to recommend payment of the dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares. The North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company is maintaining its dividend rate at 10 per cent.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	December, 1929. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	January, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	76,500	127,085	41,213	82,000	134,153	43,612
City Deep	96,000	102,316	8,290*	99,000	105,176	5,455*
Consolidated Main Reef	57,000	88,854	12,116	59,300	89,187	12,074
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	215,000	292,076	70,786	228,000	309,022	73,727
Durban Roodepoort Deep	40,300	56,862	4,466	41,700	59,200	4,900
East Rand Proprietary	143,000	162,608	12,051	147,000	168,371	10,064
Geduld Proprietary	83,500	114,749	45,937	85,000	116,191	46,753
Geldenhuis Deep	63,000	62,560	4,313	66,000	66,253	5,231
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,100	8,263	1,004	6,200	8,881	817
Government Areas	196,000	373,033	220,145	210,000	400,792	236,633
Kleinfontein, New	51,700	51,601	8,961	52,200	50,671	4,407
Langlaagte Estate	72,500	110,103	30,029	81,500	116,790	33,001
Meyer and Charlton	17,200	19,149	2,683	17,500	19,150	2,170
Modderfontein B.	69,500	105,822	47,638	71,500	108,896	48,101
Modderfontein Deep Levels	42,800	96,475	62,706	45,900	100,730	64,747
Modderfontein East	66,500	82,964	16,057	70,000	87,800	17,534
Modderfontein, New (£4 shares)	147,000	308,536	181,312	155,000	317,394	189,180
New State Areas	74,000	142,539	65,310	78,000	148,185	70,046
Nourse Mines	56,400	71,174	5,017	54,500	70,482	4,053
Randfontein Estates	208,000	212,692	27,603	204,000	216,679	27,125
Robinson Deep	76,000	83,467	11,549	80,500	88,310	13,636
Rose Deep	58,000	51,238	3,056	58,500	51,879	2,856
Simmer and Jack	77,800	83,592	7,625	73,800	82 749	6,532
Spring Mines	65,500	130,913	58,396	70,000	143,387	66,020
Sub-Nigel	25,700	88,807	28,635	27,400	90,811	30,163
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	13,700	19,476	2,715	15,000	19,997	2,021
Van Ryn	41,500	39,984	4,007	42,000	41,185	4,024
Van Ryn Deep	58,000	105,366	42,113	62,000	105,948	42,124
Village Deep	58,000	64,331	5,536	57,000	65,142	5,393
West Rand Consolid'td	90,000	98,277	20,012	90,000	98,342	20,032
West Springs	63,500	75,914	17,039	66,300	59,221	17,773
Witwatersrand Deep	42,300	40,828	150	42,300	39,708	1,708*
Witwatersrand Knight's	53,000	50,655	4,522	56,000	53,405	6,249

* Loss.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Feb. 14, 1930. (c) Week ended Feb. 15, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Feb. 16, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 7 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	180	216	137	353	533	1,325	1,501	943	2,444	3,769
Do. for 1929...	3,734	176	187	124	311	487	1,324	1,469	920	2,389	3,713
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	285	417	298	715	1,000	2,040	2,786	1,958	4,744	6,784
Do. for 1929...	6,360	273	378	294	672	945	2,024	2,727	1,959	4,686	6,715
Lond.,Mid.& Scot.	6,956½	411	555	316	871	1,282	2,963	3,761	2,040	5,801	8,764
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	399	535	321	856	1,255	2,961	3,727	2,166	5,893	8,854
Southern	2,175	251	73	34	107	358	1,832	501	229	730	2,562
Do. for 1929...	2,175	233	67	39	106	339	1,762	494	260	754	2,516
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·7	...	...	4·1	35·8	226·8	...	...	28·5	255·3
Do. for 1929...	59	29·3	...	...	4·0	33·3	216·0	...	...	27·3	243·3
†Und'rgr'nd&N.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	288·2	...	...	...	...	1960·6
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	244·1	...	...	...	...	1755·3
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	41·3	...	...	...	...	285·6
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	33·4	...	...	...	...	245·1
B'l'f'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·8	...	...	0·7	2·5	12·9	...	...	4·5	17·4
Do. for 1929...	80	1·7	...	...	0·7	2·4	12·5	...	...	5·6	18·1
*Great Northernb	562	9·4	...	...	14·5	23·9	59·7	...	...	88·8	148·5
Do. for 1929...	562	9·2	...	...	15·6	24·8	58·3	...	...	98·6	156·9
*Great Southernb	2,187	22·0	...	...	47·7	69·7	131·8	...	...	261·9	393·7
Do. for 1929...	2,187	20·9	...	...	45·6	66·5	131·0	...	...	279·8	410·8

* Aggregate 6 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	42weeks	Jan. 18	1,217	4,28,000	− 30,544	1,75,02,471	− 7,81,080
Barsi Lt. Ry.	43weeks	25	202	49,400	− 9,700	20,64,000	+ 52,400
Bengal & N.Western	43weeks	25	2,080	9,19,757	+ 175387	1,15,01,712	− 1,20,701
Bengal-Nagpur ...	42weeks	18	3,085	16,35,000	− 31546	7,26,60,529	+ 18,26,440
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	45weeks	Feb. 8	3,031	26,19,000	+ 213000	9,85,79,000	− 11,06,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	43weeks	Jan. 25	3,121	17,61,000	− 280259	7,63,91,007	+ 7,11,610
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	43weeks	25	1,185	5,58,432	+ 48,660	1,91,53,861	+ 22,80,039
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	43weeks	25	572	1,65,916	+ 22,723	21,75,104	+ 63,451
South Indian	42weeks	18	2,348	10,90,924	+ 33,740	5,34,40,174	+ 42,00,787
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	33weeks	Feb. 15	753	14,900	+ 600	514,900	− 4,200
Argentine Trans'dn.	33weeks	15	111	4,885	− 440	152,963	+ 2,279
B.A. and Pacific.....	33weeks	16	2,806	180,000	− 14,000	4,977,000	− 446,000
B.A. Central	33weeks	16	...	14,038	− 826	427,688	− 36,100
B.A. Gt. Southern...	33weeks	15	4,875	230,000	− 10,000	7,867,000	− 36,000
B.A. Western	33weeks	15	1,926	95,000	− 5,000	2,856,000	− 372,000
Central Argentine...	33weeks	15	3,319	220,000	− 50,000	7,802,000	− 1,013,000
Cordoba Central....	33weeks	15	1,218	51,000	− 6,000	2,005,000	− 277,000
Entre Rios.....	33weeks	15	789	37,700	+ 400	939,900	− 74,700
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	33weeks	Feb. 15	1,374	108,154	− 19,949	1,812,664	− 282,418
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	33weeks	Feb. 15	273	36,754	+ 9,852	997,714	− 2,862
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	33weeks	15	311	8,479	+ 1,751	224,013	+ 3,236
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	33weeks	15	185	4,730	+ 1,545	113,047	− 5,541
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	33weeks	15	211	3,688	+ 196	91,014	− 5,064
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	5weeks	Feb. 7	19580	3,921,539	+ 454333	20,743,608	− 1,809,949
Canadian Pacific ...	6weeks	14	15217	2,898,000	− 528000	18,224,000	− 4,380,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	7weeks	Feb. 15	1,016	21,100	+ 700	135,800	− 20,800
Leopoldina.....	7weeks	15	1,856	39,489	+ 6,096	247,623	+ 10,769
Leopoldina Termnl.	7weeks	15	Mirs.	301,000	+ 12,000	2,006,000	+ 107,000
San Paulo	7weeks	16	153½	43,190	+ 14,607	265,300	− 25,500
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	7weeks	Feb. 16	804	31,960	− 5,330	213,860	− 91,070
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	6weeks	15	413	26,125	− 13,575	89,450	− 36,896
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	41weeks	Jan. 20	608	11,015	+ 993	293,892	+ 18,813
Gt. Southn. of Spain	6weeks	Feb. 8	104	Ps.122,159	+ 6,157	718,183	− 4,167
Mexican Railway....	6weeks	14	483	$266,700	+ 2,000	1,517,500	− 42,500
Paraguay Central...	32weeks	8	274	3,910	− 160	131,730	− 9,210
Salvador.....	33weeks	15	100	6,830	− 1,067	138,691	− 11,830

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

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	6weeks	Feb. 11	329	86,381	− 2,351	502,099	− 15,359
B. Aires Lacroze.....	33weeks	16	...	12,702	− 494	383,044	− 32,922
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	15	13	2,732	+ 154	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	15	35½	Rs.122,746	− 3,330	...	...
Chatham & District	5weeks	6	15	1,041	+ 50	5,678	+ 268
Egyptian Markets	5weeks	6	...	2,010	− 187	10,866	− 2,313
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	5weeks	5	...	807	+ 72	4,302	+ 383
Liverpool Corp.....	46weeks	15	124	28,279	+ 2,248	1,386,079	+ 29,002
L.O.O. Tramways....	45weeks	12	166	79,772	+ 3,773	3,805,843	+ 61,718
Madras Electric.....	16weeks	15	...	Rs. 49,195	+ 6,554	1,43,506	+ 9,470

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Central London	2½%†	...	...	5	5
City and South London	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Great Northern (Ireland)	...	...	...	3	3
London Electric	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Mersey	...	...	...	½	½
Metropolitan District.....	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Oldham and Guide Bridge	...	...	...	4½	4½
Underground Electric	5%†	...	...	8	7
INSURANCE.					
Scottish Temperance	...	...	...	5	5
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Namunakula Tea	5%*	...	...	...	...
MINING.					
Champion Reef Gold	...	Mar. 15	Less tax	1/3 p.s.	1/- p.s.
Kinta Kellas Tin	5%*	Mar. 5	Less tax	...	...
Mysore Gold	1/- p.s.†	Mar. 29	Less tax	1/9 p.s.	2/3 p.s.
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Allied Dairies	...	...	...	7½	7½
American Trust Co.	8%†	...	Less tax	14	13
Anglo-American Corp. of S. Africa	...	Mar. 26	...	22½	2½
Associated Equipment	4%†	...	Tax free	8	8
Barlow and Jones	...	...	Tax free	10	12½
Barnet District Gas	...	...	...	7	7
Barnsley Brewery	5%*	Mar. 4	Less tax	...	...
Bent's Brewery	5%†	...	...	10‡	10‡
Birmingham Rly. Carriage	...	...	...	10	10
Bluemel Bros.	...	...	...	2/- p.s.	2/-psf.
Boddingtons' Breweries	5%† and bonus		5% ...	15	15
Bradford Dyers	10d.p.s.		...	1/8p.s.	2/3 p.s.
Briggs (Hy.) Sons & Co.	6d.p.s.*	Feb. 19	Less tax	...	...
Bristol and S. Wales Rly. Waggon	...	...	Less tax	10	10
British American Tobacco.....	10d.p.s.*	Mar. 31	Tax free	...	...
British Land	...	...	...	6g	6h
British Tabulating Machine	5%†	...	Tax free	10b	10b
Brown Brothers	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Burnell and Co.	...	...	...	7	10
Cassell and Co. (Holdings)	...	...	Tax free	8½§	...
Charrington Gardner Locket ...	5%*	Feb. 18	...	...	...
Chiswick Electricity Supply ...	8½%†	...	Less tax	16	16
City Offices	15/- p.s.†	...	Less tax	30/-p.s.3	0/-p.s.
Civil Service Co-operative Trust	...	...	Less tax	5§	...
Clarke Chapman	8%†	...	...	11	10
Coats (J. and P.).....	9d.p.s.*	Mar. 31	Less tax	...	...
Dolton Bournes and Dolton	7½%†	...	...	10	10
Drage's.....	...	...	Less tax	62½	62½
Edinburgh and Canad. Invest....	...	...	Less tax	5½	5½
E.N.V. Engineering	7½%†	...	...	12½	...
European Gas	3½%†	...	Tax free	5½	5½
Fisher and Ludlow.....	12½%†	...	Less tax	20	20
Fleming Reid and Co.	5%† & bonus 5%		...	15	15
Gandy Belt Manufacturing	11%†	Apr. 1	Less tax	15	15
Hoeganaes-Billesholms Aktiebolaget	...	...	...	5	3
International Invest. Trust (Def.)	5%†	...	...	10	10
Holborn and Frascati.....	...	...	...	12½	12½
Isle of Man Steam Packet	...	...	...	6	6
Isle of Thanet Elec. Supply	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Kelsall and Kemp	...	...	...	2½	7½
Kidderminster Electric Lighting	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Lancashire Shipping	...	...	Less tax	6½	6½
Langham Hotel	5%† & bonus 2½%		...	12½	12½
London General Omnibus	4½%†	...	Tax free	8	8
Manchester Bonding Warehouses	2/4 p.s.†	and bonus 1/6 p.s.		4/6 p.s.	...
Manchester Commercial Building	10d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	1/4 p.s.	...
Manchester Ship Canal	...	...	...	3½	3½
Mather and Platt	5%† & bonus 5%		...	15	15
Matlock Gas	...	...	...	8 3/16	7½
Metropole Hotels (Dublin)	...	...	...	7	...
Metropolitan Electric Supply ...	7%†	...	...	10	9
McCrae and Drew	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Morgan Squire & Co.	...	...	...	10§	...
Morris (B.) and Sons	4%†	...	...	6½	7
National Mtge. & Agency of N.Z.	...	...	Tax free	7½e	7½e
North Central Wagon	6%*	...	Less tax	...	...
North Metropolitan Electric.....	...	...	...	10	10
Norwich Electric Tramways.....	2½%*	Feb. 22	...	...	...
Octagon Brewery	...	...	...	18½	18½
Perry & Co.....	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	7½
Planters' Stores and Agency ...	...	...	Less tax	30	30
River Plate Trust { "A"	13%†	...	...	24	24
River Plate Trust { "B"	5%†	...	...	9	9
Rotherham (Jeremiah)	5%†	...	...	9	9
Scarborough Gas	...	...	...	5½	5
Sec. Edinburgh & Dundee Invest.	3%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Selincourt and Sons	...	...	...	14	10
Sheffield Gas	...	...	...	6½	6½
Slazengers	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Smithfield Markets Elec. Supply	5%†	...	...	8	8
South Staffordshire Mond Gas...	...	...	Less tax	1	1
Spencer, Turner and Boldero	4½%†	...	...	7	8
Staveley Trust.....	2½%*	Mar. 10	...	...	...
Swan and Edgar.....	...	...	...	5	4
Union Commercial Investment...	...	...	...	8	8
United States Debenture	9%†	...	Less tax	15	15
United Turkey Red	3%†	...	Less tax	6	10
Variety Theatres	5%†	...	Less tax	8	8½
Wheen (Richard) and Sons	...	...	...	1	1
Winterbottom Book Cloth.....	...	...	...	20	22½
Winterbottom Strachan & Playne	...	...	...	10	10
Woolcombers	...	...	Less tax	2/3 p.s.	3/3psf

‡ In addition, bonus 1s. p.s. § First report. b Bonus 3d.
e Bonus 2/- p.s. f Bonus 1/- p.s. g Bonus 1½%. h Bonus 1%.
* Bonus 6d.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bent's Brewery	Dec. 31	35,693	82,910	118,603	16,800	24,000	15	22,000	55,803	42,566	15
Boddingtons' Brewery	Dec. 31	17,596	70,022	87,618	16,500	49,500	15	5,000	16,618	72,902	15
Meux's Brewery.....	Dec. 31	75,998	205,208	281,206	21,622	124,531	15	7,000	128,053	201,664	15
Octagon Brewery	Dec. 31	10,071	14,630	24,701	2,000	6,563	27½	5,800	10,338	13,951	18½
Canals and Docks.											
Manchester Ship Canal	Dec. 31	16,498	379,503	396,001	237,137	131,298	3½	...	27,566	355,890	3½
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Smithfield Markets Electric	Dec. 31	2,508	8,073	10,581	...	4,800	8	3,000	2,781	13,779	8
Westminster Electric Supply	Dec. 31	29,022	161,292	190,314	24,750	110,824	1/9·12d.	29,166	25,574	157,654	1/9·12
Financial Land, &c.											
Exploration Co.....	Dec. 31	43,264	35,061	78,325	...	...	...	...	78,325	61,261	12½
Nat. Mort. & Agency (N.Z.)	Sept. 30	15,567	30,860	46,427	...	31,250	12½†	...	15,177	42,756	12½†
Gas.											
Barnet District Gas	Dec. 31	27,519	39,334	66,853	...	36,585	7	2,000	28,268	44,932	7
Bournemouth Gas & Water	Dec. 31	54,648	87,534	142,182	26,348	50,710	{ 7B 9B }	10,000	55,124	96,294	{ 7 8¾
Gloucester Gas Light.....	Dec. 31	4,467	15,419	19,886	...	11,962	5	...	7,924	13,034	5
Ipswich Gas Light	Dec. 31	13,948	18,030	31,978	1,435	14,905	{ 6·34 c.s. 5 R.S. }	...	17,072	18,390	{ 6¼ 5
Liverpool Gas	Dec. 31	105,528	174,556	280,084	42,000	139,971	6	...	98,113	206,535	6
Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas	Dec. 31	50,482	143,981	194,463	27,314	110,796	5⅜	...	56,353	145,782	5⅜
Rossendale Union Gas	Dec. 31*	7,357	4,523	11,980	...	4,594	...	...	7,386	5,097	...
Scarborough Gas.....	Dec. 31	1,522	19,880	21,402	3,688	13,876	5⅞	10	3,828	17,367	5
Sheffield Gas	Dec. 31	83,294	78,438	161,732	...	86,848	6½	...	74,884	84,169	6½
South Shields Gas	Dec. 31	14,057	14,952	29,009	...	{ 14,268 690	{ 8½ 5¾ }	...	14,051	14,964	{ 8½ 5¾ }
South Staffords. Mond Gas	Dec. 31	15,094	9,046	24,140	4,950	3,371	1	...	15,819	9,392	1
Swindon United Gas	Dec. 31	5,426	5,963	11,389	567	3,233	5½	...	7,589	11,120	5½
Tottenham and District Gas	Dec. 31	43,520	84,535	127,055	11,362	71,317	6⅝	...	44,376	78,210	6⅝
Tunbridge Wells Gas	Dec. 31	25,710	17,109	43,819	868	13,885	{ 7·2 5 }	2,500	26,566	12,592	{ 13½ 11½ 10¾ }
Walton - on - Thames and Weybridge Gas.....	Dec. 31	5,357	5,420	10,777	720	4,691	{ 12A 9B }	...	5,366	5,076	{ 11A 8B }
Watford Gas and Coke	Dec. 31	6,308	18,082	24,390	...	15,346	{ 8 6½ }	...	9,044	15,532	{ 8 6½ }
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Holborn and Frascati	Dec. 31	16,638	46,790	63,428	7,500	29,000	12½	10,000	16,928	49,555	12½
Langham Hotel	Dec. 31	27,988	12,257	40,245	...	10,773	12½†	4,000	25,472	12,367	12½†
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Bolsover Colliery	Dec. 31	34,781	201,514	236,295	62,500	79,960	3¾	50,000	43,835	*Dr17,632*	1½†
Burnell and Co.	Dec. 31	11,062	13,044	24,106	9,568	3,500	7	...	11,038	25,863	10
Motor and Cycle.											
Bluemel Bros.	Sept. 30	6,238	17,262	23,500	4,200	11,250	12½	600	7,450	21,230	15
Crossley Motors	Oct. 31	3,680	2,025	5,705	...	...	...	...	5,705	120,711	...
Leyland Motors	Sep. 30	44,573	559,374	603,947	324,600	(a) ...	...	120,000	159,347	405,999	...
Willys Overland Crossley ...	Dec. 31	80,791	21,585	102,376	36,000	...	...	...	66,376	50,329	...
Rubber, &c.											
Ratanui Rubber	Sept. 30	2,889	5,684	8,573	...	...	...	5,000	3,573	*Dr. 2,071*	...
Shipping.											
Isle of Man Steam Packet ...	Dec. 31	15,032	34,417	49,449	...	36,000	6	...	13,449	35,501	6
Shops and Stores.											
Gamages (West End)	Jan. 31	*Dr. 32,183*	2,910	*Dr. 29,273*	6,150	...	...	...	*Dr35,423*	...	...
Lewis's, Limited.....	Feb. 1	57,260	773,466	830,726	278,625	323,125	Def.	211,797	17,179	706,799	...
Maple and Company	Dec. 31	48,935	274,741	323,676	60,000	225,000	12½	5,000	33,676	327,059	15
Rotherham (Jeremiah)	Jan. 15	72,709	60,284	132,993	10,000	54,000	9	...	68,993	64,068	9
Selfridge and Co.	Jan. 31	146,937	415,339	562,276	178,000	{ 150,000 10,499	{ 20 Ord 12 Stf }	76,002	147,775	418125	{ 20 Ord 12 Stf. }
Spencer, Turner & Boldero	Jan. 15	41,165	40,634	81,799	10,800	31,955	7	...	39,044	51,013	8
Textiles.											
Barlow and Jones	Dec. 31	55,060	100,034	155,094	31,130	40,000	10†	15,000	68,964	101,825	12½†
Bradford Dyers	Dec. 31	376,851	271,100	647,951	125,000	183,746	8½	...	339,205	551,023	11½
British Acetate Silk.....	Sep. 30	...	*Dr196,338*	*Dr196,338*	...	...	...	...	*Dr196338*	...	...
Fleming, Reid and Co.	Dec. 31	53,434	139,687	193,121	8,400	84,000	15	...	50,721	145,485	15
Henry (A. and S.) and Co.	Nov. 30	170.370	‡ *Dr.5,009*	165,361	5,000	...	...	...	160,361	14,451	...
Kellsall and Kemp.....	Dec. 31	58,010	16,209	74,219	22,400	9,250	2½	50,000	42,569	64,760	7½
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Lancashire United Transpt.	Dec. 31	...	47,933	...	...	...	...	47,933	...	12,555	...

* For half-year. † Free of Income Tax. ‡ Including suspense items—surplus £155,738. (a) Including arrears.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS—*continued.*

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Trusts.											
British Assets Trust	Jan. 15	27,588	209,671	237,259	83,600	68,000	20	47,000	38,659	186,304	20
General Investors and Trustees	Jan. 31	3,502	80,966	84,468	14,256	53,856	17	12,000	4,356	88,175	17
Mercantile Invest. & General	Jan. 31	45,229	333,560	378,789	60,000	214,550	16½	50,000	54,239	310,911	16
Premier Investment	Jan. 31	17,503	122,908	140,411	43,250	56,250	10	20,000	20,911	102,892	10
Union Commercial Invest.	Jan. 31	3,373	52,329	55,702	22,500	24,000	8	5,000	4,202	46,216	8
Waterworks.											
East Worcestershire	Dec. 31*	4,546	4,721	9,267	545	3,662	10p.a.	...	5,060	3,664	10
Newcastle and Gateshead Water	Feb. 1	38,702	138,714	177,416	55,253	76,170	{ 9 / 6 3/10 }	...	45,993	137,755	{ 9 / 6 3/10
South Essex Waterworks	Dec. 31	44,983	67,683	112,666	13,925	{ 33,695 / 6,856‡ }	{ 10, 7, / 6, 5 }	...	58,190	61,375	...
Tendring Hundred Water	Dec. 31	12,183	14,993	27,176	138	14,404	7½	...	12,624	14,315	7
Woking Water and Gas	Dec. 31*	7,109	7,228	14,337	...	7,054	{ 10 / 7 }	...	7,283	8,040	{ 10 / 7
Other Companies.											
Allied Dairies	Feb. 2	1,199	15,430	16,629	1,468	9,600	7½	4,000	1,561	15,799	7½
Birmingham Railway Carriage, &c.	Dec. 31	28,974	67,411	96,385	4,800	57,458	10	...	34,127	60,977	10
Borax Consolidated	Sept. 30	233,517	60,983	294,500	44,000	36,000	6P.O.	5,825	208,675	207,548	7½
Bristol and S. Wales Rly. Waggon	Dec. 31	5,056	14,109	19,165	...	15,000	10	...	4,165	...	...
City Offices Co.	Dec. 31	1,303	35,122	36,425	1,299	26,392	6 7/11	7,500	1,234	34,772	30/-p.s.
Consolidated Signal Co.	Sept. 30	674	25,126	25,800	10,375	14,584	12	...	840	31,678	17½
Copestake, Crampton & Co.	Dec. 31	1,565	23,787	25,352	...	24,000	3¾	...	1,352	21,609	2
Crossley Brothers	Dec. 31	125,300	60,341	185,641	28,238	...	...	...	157,403	56,813	...
Fisher and Ludlow (1920)	Dec. 31	11,782	37,590	49,372	7,000	16,000	20	7,500	18,872	37,312	20
International Lighting	Dec. 31	...	1,300	1,300	883	...	...	367	50	1,165	...
Knight (John)	Nov. 30	55,839	180,987	236,826	125,000	60,000	20	...	51,826	175,003	20
Liverpool Daily Post, &c.	Dec. 31	41,958	263,716	305,674	10,000	175,000	25	100,000	20,674	270,720	25
Morris (B.) and Sons	Dec. 31	2,446	18,402	20,848	7,000	8,734	6½	3,150	1,964	15,581	7
Moss' Empires	Dec. 31	66,334	103,680	170,014	19,151	73,297	15	16,136	61,430	117,378	15
Perry and Co.	Dec. 31	24,789	32,373	57,162	12,035	12,829	10	...	32,298	29,139	7½
Selincourt and Sons	Dec. 14	29,792	63,600	93,392	17,500	35,000	14	2,650	38,242	50,878	10
Smithfield Animal Products	Dec. 31	8,529	4,939	13,468	...	5,980	5	...	7,488	...	...
Vyse, Sons and Co.	Nov. 30	14,996	28,219	43,215	10,875	17,400	12	...	14,940	33,463	11
Wharncliffe Dwellings Co.	Dec. 31	763	6,113	6,876	2,700	1,800	3	1,500	876	5,972	3
Yeast Vitæ	Dec. 31	10,961	58,028	68,989	26,400	7,200	15	14,600	20,518	55,495	7½

* For half-year. ‡ Arrears of dividend on Ordinary 1861 stock, equal to a dividend of 8 per cent. thereon.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BRADFORD DYERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Pref. shares	2,500,000	...	Properties, &c.	3,735,621	– 1,011,062
Ord. shares	2,239,557	+ 69,194	Stocks	354,059	+ 4,751
4% deb. stock	1,453,750	...	Sundry debtors	547,429	– 62,065
Int. accrued	29,075	...	Investments and loans	3,159,322	+ 870,888
Int. outstanding	773	+ 2	Cash	201,849	– 121,336
Sundry creditors	463,069	– 146,039			
Investments, contingency fund	100,000	– 150,000			
Reserve for equalisation fund	217,036	+ 81,388			
Reserve fund	500,000	+ 188,886			
Profit and loss	495.020	– 362,253			
Total	7,998,280	– 318,822	Total	7,998,280	– 318,822

THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

September 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £
Ord. shares (15s. fully paid)	6,570,377	...	Cash	113,136	+ 95,212
Creditors	239,282	– 162,141	Loan	130,000	...
Staff reserve	203,300	+ 3,492	British, Colonial, Indian & Foreign Govt. and Municipal stks., bonds, & Notes.	1,062,107	– 458,506
Reserve account	3,991,045	– 24,931	British, Colonial, & Foreign Railway and other securities	1,389,606	+ 21,877
Profit and loss	1,398,083	+ 303,627	Shares, debs., and interests	3,812,500	+ 368,569
			Debtors, less res.	621,113	– 4,031
			Estates, &c.	564,579	– 15,011
			Moveable assets	138,475	– 3,329
			Mineral rights, &c.	4,570,571	– 14,734
Total	12,402,087	+ 120,047	Total	12,402,087	+ 120,047

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL COMPANY.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Temporary loan	148,220	– 195,470	Capital account balance at debit	233,741	– 145,338
Unpaid interest, &c.	107,481	+ 1,064	Cash	241,566	+ 43,126
Amount due to railway clearing h'se	207,654	– 3,429	Stock and materials	94,016	+ 3,927
Superannuation fund	63,827	+ 22,072	Traffic accounts	244,754	– 35,659
Accounts payable	159,642	– 39,160	Accounts receivable	58,178	+ 1,337
Liabilities accrued	40,827	+ 3,822	Miscellaneous accounts	97,461	– 17,427
Miscellaneous accounts	11,148	– 6,757	Suspense accounts	24,456	– 7,249
Insurance fund	2,440	+ 174	Investments	181,831	– 41,250
Dredging insurance	7,303	+ 2,010	Amounts paid towards extinguishment of 2nd debentures	58,364	+ 4,747
Renewal fund	14,053	+ 3,910	Discount, &c., 6% debentures	66,929	– 2,910
Ship Canal cranes	8,770	+ 4,000			
Reserve for contingencies	133,930	...			
Balance for dividends	396,001	+ 11,068			
Total	1,301,296	– 196,696	Total	1,301,296	– 196,696

SELFRIDGE AND CO., LIMITED.

January 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £
Ord. shares	750,000	...	Purchase consideration, &c.	3,289,736	+ 73,686
Staff ptg. shares	96,097	...	Fixtures, &c.	175,332	– 3,282
Pref. shares	1,300,000	...	Vans, &c.	67,121	+ 4,213
10% pref. ord.	1,000,000	...	Stocks	512,071	– 29,962
5% Debentures	256,400	– 7,000	Debtors	386,389	+ 4,042
Interest on debs.	4,274	– 116	Managing director's account	47,345	+ 47,345
Reserve fund	425,000	...	Investments in subsidiary cos.	711,467	– 43,747
Mortgages	504,841	+ 69,972	Payments in advance	22,897	+ 4,597
Creditors	495,349	– 38,093	Cash	84,839	– 5,736
Accs. with allied & subsidiary cos.	79,555	+ 22,355			
Taxation reserve	20,833	+ 2,577			
Accrued dividend on pref.	67,074	– 376			
Div. on ord. shares	150,000	...			
Profit	147,774	+ 837			
Total	5,297,197	+ 51,156	Total	5,297,197	+ 51,156

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

A spell of dry and seasonable weather over the United Kingdom during the past week proved of great benefit to the wheat crop, while enabling farmers to make up arrears in ploughing. Native wheat is still difficult to vend, despite light supplies at the principal markets, and prices tend easier in sympathy with the international situation. The recent improvement of imported varieties has not been maintained despite additional financial strength in Canada and the United States. In fact, values have since pursued a downward course owing to the indifference of European importers and cheaper offers from Argentina. The absence of European demand is the chief factor in the situation and resulted in a depressed market. Consequently Canadian sellers have been forced to materially reduce their quotation, though same are still much above the parity of competing grades. Larger and attractive offers from the Argentine, helped by easy rates of exchange, provided keen competition to North American grades, and prospects of marketing the Canadian surplus this season do not appear hopeful, especially in view of reports that the result of the conference here with the Canadian Pool Authorities was unsuccessful. In this case, pressing offers from the Dominion appear likely, as it would not be desirable to carry large quantities over into the next cereal year. Shipments were of moderate extent, with non-European countries taking a fair proportion. Flour prices ruled easier in sympathy with wheat, forward offers being more freely made, both of Australian and North American grades. Of feeders, prices are also steadily receding for maize in view of increased offers by Argentine shippers and weakness of wheat. Consumptive demand, however, is rather better, while stimulated by colder climatic conditions. Danubian varieties were neglected, though chartering is proceeding for March-April to North Europe. Barley and oats quiet, and without new feature.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex-ship, 46s.; No. 2 ditto, 45s.; No. 3, 44s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 43s.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 42s.; No. 6 ditto, 35s.; Rosafe, 63¼ lbs., 39s. 9d.; Barusso, 63¼ lbs., 40s. 3d.; Australian, 43s. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 7d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet and easier. London straight run, 38s. per sack for country deliveries, and 37s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 36s.-38s.; Buffalo, 36s. 6d.-38s. 6d.; Australian, 33s. 6d. ex-store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, February-March, 36s. 6d.-37s.; export ditto, 34s.-34s. 6d.; Australian, 30s. 6d.-31s.; French, prompt, 26s.-28s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £6 per ton.

Maize.—Easier. Plate, landed, 26s. 3d., ex-ship; arrived, 25s. 3d.; February-March, 25s. 6d.; March-April, 26s.; new, April-May, 26s.; May-June, 25s. 9d.; No. 4 yellow African, ex-ship, 26s. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s.; white, £6 5s. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Dull. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex-ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Danubian, landed, 23s. 6d.; Black Sea, ex-ship, 20s. 6d.; Persian ditto, 20s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 8s.-11s. 10d.; feed, 6s. 9d.-7s. 3d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Slow. Plate, landed, 16s. 3d.; ex-ship, to arrive, 15s. 3d.; black Plate, landed, 16s.; Chilian white, 22s.; ditto tawny, 16s. 6d.; German, landed, 18s.; ex-ship to arrive, 16s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 14s. 6d.; South Russian, 14s. 6d.-17s., as to quality, per 320 lbs. English, 6s.-7s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to February 15	Cwts. 217,170	Cwts. 277,114	Cwts. 277,908	Cwts. 289,058
24 weeks to February 15	6,232,058	6,482,568	6,101,480	8,427,102
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 0	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Feb. 8	222,941	244,538	42,742	9 2	8 2	6 7
Feb. 15	217,170	235,368	40,470	9 0	8 0	6 5
Feb. 13, 1926	291,201	199,495	73,486	11 10	9 9	9 2
Feb. 12, 1927	270,876	322,522	106,391	11 10	11 1	8 4
Feb. 18, 1928	277,908	258,515	96,199	9 6	10 10	10 3
Feb. 16, 1929	277,114	234,598	88,772	9 9	10 3	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 11, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	134⅞	148⅝	125½	128⅞	116⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅛	128⅜	130⅞	114⅝	119	110½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,971,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 209,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 82,874,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes : The coal situation continues to grow worse. The tonnage sold for export tends to fall off every week, and prices are again easier. The industrial and domestic demand is also poor. It is difficult at the moment to sell blast-furnace coke, at any rate on the open market, and producers are prepared to cut their prices to tempt new business.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes : Conditions in Scottish coal trade show no improvement. With only a few exceptions, these including navigation qualities, prime splint in Lanarkshire, and pearls, practically all coals are pressed for sale, with market still weak. There has been a fair demand lately for certain qualities of smalls for the London market. Shipping prices are approximately as follows (all f.o.b. district ports) : Lanarkshire.—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s.-13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 14s.-14s. 6d.; third-class steam, 12s. 6d.-12s. 9d.; trebles, 14s.-14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 13s.; pearls, 13s. 6d. Lothians.—Prime steam, 14s.; secondary steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 9d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 14s. 6d.; doubles, 13s. 6d.; singles, 13s. 6d.; pearls, 13s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes : There has been no improvement this week in the state of business on the Cardiff coal market. The dearth of inquiry has been, if anything, more pronounced, and even in the Monmouthshire area, where work has been very busy since the beginning of the year and where outputs have been increasing, colliery owners are fearing stoppages next week unless they are better supplied with tonnage. In these circumstances, prices for large coals would doubtless be falling but for the marketing

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scheme, under which sales under the minimum schedule are punishable at the rate of 2s. 6d. per ton. Small coals, however, are being well maintained at prices substantially in excess of the schedule and they continue in fairly active demand. Shipments at the South Wales docks continue good; last week they totalled 613,600 tons compared with 644,600 tons the previous week and with only 283,007 tons in the corresponding week last year, when traffic was partly suspended owing to the severe frosts of that period. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 18s. 9d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 9d. to 18s. 3d.; best small steams, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; cargo smalls, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 24s. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; French nuts 44s. 6d. to 46s.; stove nuts, 43s. 6d. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 9d. to 12s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; foundry coke, 35s. to 37s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. to 25s. 3d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—While some of the British steelworks have enough work in hand to keep them moderately well employed for a time the absence of fresh orders is causing concern. In the home trade there is usually a period of quiet trading immediately before the Budget, and this year it seems to have set in earlier than usual. In the pig-iron department the demand has dwindled and in some districts iron has been put into stock. Nevertheless, the official prices are maintained and in the aggregate a fair business has been transacted. In Scotland, however, the home makers are finding conditions difficult owing to the import of Continental and Indian iron. In the market for semi-finished materials the British works have experienced a somewhat better demand, and apparently less business is now passing to the Continent. Last week some substantial buying of Continental finished and semi-finished materials took place in anticipation of an advance in the official prices. There has been a fair amount of inquiry for finished steel; but generally export business leaves much to be desired.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Business in Cleveland iron continues on a very small scale and transactions are still confined to odd lots for immediate requirements. Consumers are less disposed than ever to place orders of importance at present prices, and if this policy is maintained makers may not be able to hold out. Buyers contend that with the substantial fall in coke, pig iron is too high and that a reasonable reduction should be made. Makers, on the other hand, argue that costs of production hitherto have been too high to allow an economic profit on production and that they are entitled to any benefit now obtainable on raw materials. Some business was recently taken from Scotch consumers at a specially cut price, and the Scottish branch of the National Light Castings Association are now inquiring for 10,000 tons foundry iron from different districts, including Cleveland. This business will probably be settled this week, and it is hoped that part, at any rate, of the order will come here, but Continental competition will be keen, and as this iron has been selling recently at several shillings below Cleveland delivered at Grangemouth, the prospects for this district are doubtful. On Tuesday makers adhered to their price of 72s. 6d. for No. 3 and secured a few small orders on home account at this figure, but no business on export account was reported. No. 1 was 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron to 18th instant total 9,681 tons, against 12,226 tons to same date in January. The hematite position shows very little change. A few moderate orders are coming to hand for early delivery, but there is no buying of volume so far and stocks in makers' hands are increasing to some extent. Makers continue to quote 78s. for mixed numbers for delivery over two or three months, but for good lines would accept a little less. In the steel trade some departments are well employed but in others demand has fallen off. Overhead, however, there is still a considerable tonnage of old orders to work off. The demand for sheets continues poor, but there is a little more inquiry about and trade shows signs of developing. Prices of different materials are unchanged from last week. There is no change in the ore market and consumers are still holding off. Best rubio is nominally 22s. 6d. for early delivery and 23s. for forward. The freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough for early tonnage is about 6s. 6d. Coke is being pressed for sale and good medium qualities are now obtainable at 21s. delivered works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: The position of the trade in pig iron and crude steel materials fails to improve, and there has been some further decline of activity on the week The depression is reacting on prices. Scrap merchants report that users refuse to buy forward, and few contracts have been placed over a period of three months. The value of basic scrap has declined nearly 10s. per ton since November. Output of blast furnaces and steel furnaces is now in excess of demand, with the result that material is going into stock at a number of plants. Confidence in the trade is now at a low ebb. The depression is less acute in specialty finished steels, but sales are not equal to the corresponding period of last year. Nevertheless, a considerable weight of alloy and other special steels is being taken by the motor and general engineering trade. The tool trade is also quieter, and makers of cutlery and plate report very poor order books alike on home and export account.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Conditions in the iron and steel trades in Glasgow and the West of Scotland generally show no improvement. The pig-iron market remains quiet and prices are unaltered. The increase in the prices of Continental steel agreed to last week have not had any noticeable effect on the demand for British material and in practically every department buyers are holding off. Steel makers are able to maintain output on the same scale as during the past month or two, but there has been some falling off in the demand for structural sections recently. The position in the bar-iron trade and also in re-rolled steel bars is unchanged. Tube makers are fairly well employed at the moment. In the sheet trade things are still quiet and during the present week the number of mills in operation has been further reduced. Prices for black sheets have been fairly well maintained, but for galvanised sheets there have been further cuts, as low as £11 10s. f.o.b. having been accepted for 24-gauge galvanised and corrugated.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Comparatively quiet conditions have ruled this week in the South Wales tinplate market, and prices have widened and weakened from a range of 18s. 7½d.-18s. 10½d. to 18s. 3d.-18s. 9d. The lower price is being quoted by manufacturers using foreign steel, of which the imports recently have been on a larger scale than at any period since the early months of 1927. Belgian bars are quoted at £5 9s., compared with £6 10s. for the Welsh tinplate bar. It is anticipated that with the conclusion of pending agreements with five local units the control of the South Wales Tinplate Corporation over the sale of tinplates will be increased to 54·4 per cent. of the total output, and to 61 per cent. of the output of the mills at present represented in the South Wales Tinplate Pooling Scheme. Galvanised sheets continue a weak market and quotations this week have been as low as £11 10s. per ton for corrugated bundles, compared with £13 per ton at the corresponding period last year. Shipments of tinplates last week at Swansea totalled 137,843 boxes, compared with 89,002 boxes the previous week, but owing to increased supplies received from works stocks are 183,218 boxes, compared with 174,844 boxes the previous week.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Market opened firmer while assisted by fair buying orders and higher Eastern advices, but later dealings were somewhat restricted, and with sellers more in evidence values displayed irregularity. Standard cash, sold, £174 12s. 6d.-£173 5s. and £175; three months, £178-£176 5s. and £177 17s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £178 5s.-£179 10s. c.i.f. terms.

COPPER.—A moderate turnover resulted, and market generally displayed steady features. Standard cash, sold, £70 10s.-£69 15s. and £70; three months, £68 5s.-£68 10s. and £68 and £68 15s. per ton.

LEAD.—Market quiet, and with sellers more in evidence prices on balance were barely steady. Good soft foreign pig, February, sold, £21 12s. 6d.-£20 13s. 9d.; March, £21 1s. 3d.-£20 10s.-£20 13s. 9d.; April, £21 10s.-£21 3s. 9d.; May, £21 11s. 3d.-£21 1s. 3d. and £20 11s. 3d.; June, £21 11s. 3d.-£21 2s. 6d. ton.

SPELTER in fair support, but with sellers to the fore an easier tone resulted. March sold £19 10s.-£19; May, £19 18s. 9d.-£19 8s. 9d.; June, £20-£19 13s. 9d. per ton.

ALUMINIUM dull. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER quietly steady. Spot, £22 15s. per bottle.

ZINC OXIDE dull. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton as to quality delivered United Kingdom.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., February-March, 4s.; 60 per cent., 5s. per unit c.i.f.

ANTIMONY tends easier. English regulus, £42 10s. to £50; Chinese ditto, spot, £31; February-March, £26 5s.; ditto, crude, £17 10s. ton.

WOLFRAM maintained. Chinese, February-March, 32s.; Burmese, spot, 36s.; February-April, 32s. per unit c.i.f.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, February 19th.

Spot sales for the week 13th to 19th (inclusive) are 29,000 bales, of which 12,880 are American, 5,200 Brazilian, 2,000 Peruvian, 2,720 Egyptian, 4,930 African, 400 East Indian, and 870 sundries. Imports for the same period are 102,800 bales, of which 48,055 are American, 23,664 Brazilian, 1,472 Peruvian, 21,109 Egyptian, 8,264 East Indian, and 236 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·57; Egyptian Sakel, 13·53; Uppers, 10·25; Brazil Fair, 8·27; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·50; Smooth, 9·27; West African Middling, 8·62; and East African G.F., 9·62.

MANCHESTER, February 19th.

At the end of last week there was increased activity in the market, and more orders were booked in yarn and piece goods. During the last day or two, however, demand has fallen off and the attitude of buyers has been affected by the decline in raw material rates. There is still much fear of lower values. Inquiry in cloth for abroad has expanded. Increased sales have been arranged for India, especially in light bleaching descriptions. The bulk of the buying has been for Calcutta, but fair activity has shown itself for Karachi. Less satisfactory news has been received from China, and the Shanghai market is now described as depressed owing to unrest. New business on this side has been very limited. A fair miscellaneous business has been done for Egypt, certain African markets and South America. Buying for the home trade has been fairly encouraging. Production in weaving centres remains very irregular. Since a week ago the sales in American and Egyptian yarns have been rather larger, but spinners have had to accept very poor prices. There is a tendency to reduce production in the American section.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Jan. 29.	Feb. 5.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 19.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	9·23	8·77	8·62	8·57	10·37	10·43
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·40	13·95	13·55	13·55	17·90	17·90
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13	13	15½	15½
,, 40's weft ..... per lb.	13¾	13¾	13¼	13¼	16	16
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	23	22½	22	22	27½	26½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	23 3	23 0	23 0	22 10½	25 6	25 9
36 in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 3	26 0	26 0	25 9	27 9	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 3	14 1¼	14 1½	14 0	15 0	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37¼ yds., 16 by 15, 8¼ lb. ...	12 10½	12 9	12 9	12 7½	13 9	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: The market is all "on edge" and susceptible to every passing breeze. The efforts being made in the primary markets to bring about stabilisation are regarded with a good deal of suspicion in some quarters. The wool trade expert, Mr. Harry Dawson, asserts that "we can no more govern the economic position in wool by artificial means than we can alter the law of gravitation." On the other hand, an equally well-known expert, Mr. William Hunter, a past president of the British Wool Federation, is strongly in favour of the Australian policy of limiting offerings and fixing reserves. "A stabil sing influence such as Australia is establishing," he says, "is bound to act for good, because it will put wool on its relative national and international basis." Many users here and on the Continent are whole-heartedly in favour of unrestricted selling, on the grounds that the big weight of unsold wool will have to come on to the market sooner or later. Most spinners and manufacturers are therefore playing for safety and restricting their purchases to the bare minimum. There is an entire lack of bulk business, and although quotations for tops and yarns show little change, the tendency is in buyers' favour for practically all qualities. There are numerous inquiries, but offers are very low, and few top makers are prepared to sell forward on the chance of a further fall in prices. There is a fair amount of seasonal activity in the piece goods trade, but here, also, buyers are unwilling to operate freely on forward account, the bulk of the business being in small quantities for quick delivery.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The chief test of wool values is now being made in overseas markets, and it is evident that there is sufficient demand to maintain prices on a healthy level. Competition in Sydney at auctions held within the past week has been good; all sections of buyers have operated, and this has been accompanied by a hardening tendency in prices. It may be assumed that any determination shown not to sell wool for which satisfactory prices cannot be realised is partly due to the interest the Australian Government is likely to take in this policy. The situation in New Zealand seems to be more complicated, as some of the big growers are determined to hold their clips, and evidently believe that current prices for crossbred wool will be maintained if not actually improved. Though manufacturing conditions in this country and on the Continent are not good, the possibility of continued buying without any reaction in values is strengthened by the fact that this season a good deal of the wool is still in the hands of the Colonial selling end of the trade. Excellent rains have fallen in various important wool-growing areas in Australia. Pastoral prospects must have been greatly improved thereby, and with good clips to offer, and opportunities for increasing the flocks, growers will be in a better position for offering wool at around the present level of values.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Further reductions have been recorded in prices for English hides at the auctions held in the North during the earlier part of this week, and from a survey of the general position it is more than likely that this condition will be in evidence at the sales to be held over the week-end. Calfskins are rather more steady, and up to the time of writing prices are unchanged. The market for imported hides has also steadied itself somewhat, with the result that, except for one or two descriptions, prices are about the same level as those last reported. A fair amount of business has been put through on account of English tanners, but the Continental trade is so dull as to make even small sales a difficult proposition. Most of the trade being done in frigorifics is on account of the United States, although a little more interest has been shown by Europe in kips. Sales of Argentine ox have been made on the basis of 8¾d., while Montevideo ox have changed hands at the equivalent of 8¾d., and cows at 7¾d. In dry River Plates business has been done in B.A. Americanos at 8⅜d.; Inservibles at 5d.; and Sierra Cordobas at 9¼d. African hides are slightly easier on average, business in first and second dry Capes having been put through at 8⅜d. and 7⅜d. respectively and 8d. and 7d. for dry-salted 20-30 lbs. With a more steady tone prevailing in the Australian market, further sales have been made of dry-salted Queensland meats 30-40 lbs. at 7⅜d. The Chicago market is cabled as steady, with prices unchanged. In the sole-leather market a fair amount of business has again been put through and prices for most descriptions are firm. In certain directions a slight feeling of weakness is apparent, but it is only in lines which are hanging fire that any concessions are possible. Light bends have been taken up by shoe manufacturers in limited quantities, while the repairing section has been in the market for medium to heavy weights. Offal in both bellies and shoulders has experienced a satisfactory sale, and the call is such as to keep the market clear of anything in the way of accumulations. Upper leathers move steadily, with best part of the inquiry for black and brown glacé kid. Willow calf is also a good selling line, while the call for box seems to be better. There has also been a slight improvement in the demand for certain grades of patent leather, while reptile skins and novelty leathers for the shoe trade have made further headway. Shoe manufacturers are better placed for orders.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: February 19th.

Dull times are still being experienced in the jute trade and all producers complain of a lack of orders. The Calcutta mills are making no move to improve the outlook. Veiled satisfaction seemed to be expressed by the chairman of their association at the annual general meeting held recently, because of the prevalence of short time in Europe. The mills believe that their present policy of depressing the jute trade will ultimately prove beneficial to themselves. The statement is made that the exports of jute goods from the Continent of Europe increased by 57 per cent. during the years 1924 to 1928, while those of United Kingdom increased by 12½ per cent. in the same period. A considerable decline in the exports from these producing countries took place during the year 1929, mainly through world-wide bad trading conditions. Prices of raw jute continue to fluctuate only very slightly. The value of Daisee assortment is £25 10s.; threes, £25; and fours, £23, February-March shipment; while Tossa assortment rules at £27; threes, £26 10s.; and fours, £25. Little interest is being displayed by spinners here now in any quality of fibre, owing to the lack of demand for jute yarns. First Marks and Lightnings are quite nominal at £32 and £29 respectively, February-March.

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Jute yarns are not being tested and a nominal situation prevails. Business has been done in the merest trifles of hessian descriptions at 2s. 9d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 10d. for 8-lb. spools, and no buyer would now pay more. Yet there are some spinners who continue to quote 2s. 10d. and 2s. 11d. respectively. Twist is quiet at round about 5d. for 3-ply 8-lb., and sacking yarns are from 3½d. for 24-lb. weft and 4½d. for 8-lb. chains. Rove is quieter at £16 10s. done for 200 lb., and £26 10s. might not be refused for common spins of 48-lb. Fine yarns are quiet but steady, and carpet qualities are neglected at 4½d. for 14-lb. warp. Manufacturers complain that orders for jute cloth are only for the smallest of quantities to satisfy immediate requirements. Buyers are offering ridiculously low prices, which are being refused, but in some cases concessions on the quoted terms are being given. The rate for 10½-oz. 40-in. is 3 $\frac{11}{16}$d. to 3¾d., and for 8-oz. from 2 $\frac{11}{16}$d. to 2¾d., the wider widths commanding the higher figure. Calcutta goods have remained fairly steady during the past week owing to a better demand from speculators. On spot, 22s. has been done for 10-oz., and 8-oz. is quoted at 21s.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Rather quieter conditions again prevail. Consumers of linseed, both here and on the Continent, appear to have satisfied their immediate requirements when prices were in their favour and are now content to wait for an improvement in the demand for the oil and cake products before purchasing further. Plate linseed has lost something of the recent advance and is quoted £17 11s. 3d. on spot, passage and February shipment. Some interest has shown itself in Bombay linseed, for which £19 12s. 6d. has been paid for March-April. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe has increased to 184,400 tons, or 10,000 tons more on the week. About one-third of the new Argentine seed available for export has already been shipped. Egyptian cottonseed has a better tone. Re-sale parcels having been cleared off the market, shippers are again offering. Business is reported in black Egyptian at £7 8s. 9d. on passage and £7 10s. February loading, and this about remains the value. In the oil section, linseed oil is in fair demand from consumers, current value being £43 10s. per ton naked for oil on spot, £42 7s. 6d. February and £40 10s. March-April. Cotton oil is firmer and crude Egyptian quoted £28 and common edible £31 spot. Other seed oils are about unchanged.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Business in spot parcels has drifted into the doldrums. No change was made in quotations. Once again the market was faced with a rumour from New York that the United Kingdom had purchased a very large quantity of Cuban raws, but the gargantuan quantity named led to its being discredited in the London centre. Terminal markets slightly unsettled at times, with moderate sales. Of raw, March delivery sold 6s. 3d.; May, 7s. to 6s. 11½d. and 7s.; August, 7s. 5½d. to 7s. 4½d. and 7s. 5½d.; December, 7s. 10½d. to 7s. 9¾d. Cuban receipts last week: Old crop, 9,976 tons, against nil last year; exports, 28,126, against 3,292; stocks, 75,343, against 1,615. Receipts of new, 161,457, against 235,532; exports, 10,463, against 119,865; stocks, 491,281, against 710,630. Centrals, 154, against 163. Stocks of raw sugar in the three principal ports of the United Kingdom for week ending February 16th totalled 252,388 tons, against 165,547 last year.

COFFEE.—The dull tone which recently set in continues. Only small absorption takes place on the spot, and prices almost without exception are weaker. A few fine lots are steady, but, speaking generally, rates are distinctly easier on the week.

COCOA.—There is only a retail movement with regard to the spot market, while general quietness attended by weakness characterised forward positions. Accra, F/F, March-May, Liverpool contract, sold 37s. 9d. to 38s., and April-June 38s. 6d. to 38s. 9d. f.o.b. Terminal, March delivery, sold 42s. 3d.; May, 42s. 6d.; and July, 43s. 3d. to 43s. 1½d.

TEA.—Public sales of Indian during the week amounted to 53,430 packages. There was quite a good demand for most descriptions, and though prices at times manifested slight irregularity, no essential change occurred in any given direction. A few fine invoices possessing autumnal flavour were keenly competed for. Only commonest proved a weak feature. Ceylon auctions of 22,423 packages elicited active competition at full to dearer prices, but any advance was, in most cases, attributable to improved quality. Export orders being in evidence, leaf teas were quite a strong feature. Only the very low descriptions failed to command increased attention. Java and Sumatra sales met with good competition at firm to dearer rates. China sorts selling steadily at a full range of prices.

RICE.—Business continues of retail proportions, and trend of prices easier for most descriptions. A minor reduction has been made in previous estimate of quantity available for export from Burma. This now stands at 3,050,000 tons, against 3,100,000 previously. Two stars, Rangoon, spot, London, 13s. 9d.; February-March, 10s. 10½d. c.i.f. Spanish oiled, February-March, sellers, 14s. 9d. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. No. 3 Burma to the Levant, double bags, February, 11s. S.Q. to Cuba, 11s. 6d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, February-March, to Europe, 11s. 10½d. Siam Super, February-March, 15s. 3d. Californian nominal. Landed last week, 11 tons; delivered, exclusive of the quantity ex ship, 49 tons; stock, 2,641 tons, against 3,445 tons at this time last year.

BROKEN RICE quiet. Burma, 1A, February-March, 10s. 10½d.; B1, 10s. 4½d.; A2, 10s. 3d.; B2, 10s. Saigon 1 and 2 mixed, 10s. 7½d. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN dull, and afloat sellers at £4; for shipment, February-March, £4; July-December, £5 per ton, ex ship terms.

BEANS.—Market quiet, but steady. Madagascar butters, spot, 35s.; parcels per "Eugene Grossos," 32s.; "Clan Chatton," 30s. 6d.; per "Belgrano," 30s.; "Clan Macneil," 29s. 6d.; January-March, 29s. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 22s. 6d.; afloat, 21s. 3d.; February-March shipment, 21s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 12s. 6d.; February-March, quoted 12s.; new crop, March-April, 13s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 22s. 6d.; February-March, 22s. To Glasgow, North African, February-March, 8s. 9d. c.i.f. Chinese horse, spot, Glasgow, 9s. c.i.f.

PEAS met a quiet market, and prices favour buyers. Japanese, spot, old 15s., new 15s. 9d.; afloat, steamer "Diomed," quoted 15s.; February-March, 15s. 6d.; March-April, 15s. 6d., c.i.f. London. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, quoted 15s. 6d.; small blues H.P., 12s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, February-March, 55s. Karachi nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, February-March, old, 57s.; new crop, March-April, 58s. Tasmanian A grade, new, February-March, 65s. c.i.f. China white, February-March, quoted f.a.q. 9s. 6d. Manchurian white, February-March, 11s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper elicited but quiet support, but prices ruled tolerably steady. Lampong black, January-March, sold, 1s. 1¼d.; March-May, 1s. 1⅜d. Muntok white, January-March quoted, 1s. 5⅜d.; March-May, 1s. 5½d. lb. London stocks of black reduced 22 tons on the week at 1,104; white, 22 tons lower at 1,195. Tellicherry, February-April, quoted 135s.; Aleppy, ditto, at 135s. cwt. c.i.f. Cloves steady. Zanzibar, spot, 9½d., and December-February, sold, 9d. c.i.f. Sago flour, tapioca and desiccated coconut unaltered. African ginger, spot, 60s., and business in February-April at 40s. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market generally steady with moderate inquiries. Pyrgos, quoted, 36s. 6d.-37s.; Amalias, 37s. 6d.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-48s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s.; Australian, 36s.-39s. Sultanas quiet. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-80s.; Greek, 42s.-75s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates steady. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins quiet of sale. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs dull. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 29s.-33s.; good average, 23s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Business marked slight improvement and with stocks in manageable compass the general tone remained firm. Plums: Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 70s.; 40's-50's, 63s. Apricots: South African new crop Royal, 55s.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-75s. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 112s. 6d.; Mogador, 110s.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-130s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. new crop c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 155s.; Barcelona, 147s. 6d. New crop French (shelled) walnuts, 140s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Supplies of Californian descriptions are adequate for requirements, trade being still somewhat restricted. Prices, however, remain steady, as there is no undue pressure to sell. Australian varieties also move off quietly. Singapore pines show a rather better movement for shipment parcels, but spot business fails to expand. South African and Hawaiian held for full rates. Tomatoes quietly steady.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Demand rather more active and market steady. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab firm and fancy qualities quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters: Trade dull, but stocks small. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in fair demand, but supplies of best quality are by no means plentiful. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm, especially for ox tongues on restricted offerings. Lunch tongues sell readily and 6's marked an advance of 5s.-10s., while large contracts are proceeding for cooked hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS — In fair demand at about late rates. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 22s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 23s. Dutch full cream milk-powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 69s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 88s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk-powders, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 37s., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum, 1-ton lots. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 3d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remains quiet and offers of manufacturing grades freely made. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s. Fine white Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s. Californian,

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	44	6
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	9	0
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	8	0
Oats, " "	6	5
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	26	6
Flour, Lon. stan ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 36 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.10 10½	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23	0	24
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3	0	4
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5	6	8
Argentine chilled hinds... 4	8	5
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6	8	7
N.Z. frozen " 5	4	5
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 8	4	10

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	108	0	131
Danish.....	101	0	108
Canadian.....	102	0	104
Dutch	90	0	101
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0	0
Canadian.....	0	0	0
American	96	0	108
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal		
Australian	134	0	150
New Zealand	148	0	168
Danish.....	170	0	172
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	92	0	100
New Zealand	85	0	89
English Cheddars	95	0	120
Dutch	49	0	95
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0	46
Trinidad	65	0	68
Grenada	48	0	54
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	134	0	145
Costa Rica, good to fine...	150	0	175
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	115	0	135
Kenya, bold sizes	121	0	162
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0	120
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	18	0	21
Danish.....	14	0	17
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	10	0	18
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	8	0	35
360	10	0	20
504	12	0	18
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	7	0	9
" ..... cases	8	0	19
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	22	0	39
" (var.) boxes	9	9	16
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0	0
" W. Australian	0	0	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :— case 4s.	6	0	6	6
case 5s.	7	6	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	78	0	84	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	55	9	58	0
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	5½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	1½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort,per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	60	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	9	3	10
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	10	2	0
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Feb.-Mar.	10	3	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	9	21	3
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	7½	2	2½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	2
Orange Pekoe	0	11	4	0
Broken Orange.....	0	9½	2	5½
TOBACCO— (Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf.....	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·57
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·55
Yarns, 32's twist.....	13½
60's twist.....	23½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	55	10	0	0
Pernau HD	52	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Feb.-april "J2 "..	32	0	0	0
N.Z., Aug.–O-t	nom.			
Sisal African, Feb.–Apr,	34	0	35	0
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£	s.	d.	
Feb.–Mar.	26	12	6	
Mar.-April	26	12	6	
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	12	0	13	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	20	0	21	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18
" Lincoln hog, washed	13½
Queensland, scd, super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super	13½
N.Z., gsy., half-bred 50"-56	14
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	32
" 64's	30
Crossbred 48's	16½
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215	0	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	6	18	9

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper,Electrolytic, ton	83'10'0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard	70	0	70/2/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	22	15	0	0
Soft Foreign	21	5	21/6/3	
Spelter G.O.B. 18/16/3			19	10
Tin—English ingots. ...	175/5/0		175/15/0	
Standard cash	174 5 0		174/7/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	10½
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac .....per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	27	0	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Feb.–Mar.	22/2/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea Jan.	21/0/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5
Cape	0	5½	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	6
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	4	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9½	1	1½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	2	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	43	15	0	0
Rape, refined	39	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	27	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	29/5/0		30/10/0	
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	12	0	12	5
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Feb.-Mar.	17/8/9		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19'7/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	0	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	18	0	21	10
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	8½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	127	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—		£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8	per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7	"	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4	"	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis..	"	17	0	0
Pitchpine	per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals	per std.	32	0	0
Teak	per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs	c. ft.	0	11	6
African "		0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards...	"	0	6	0
Do. Ash "		0	6	0
English Oak Planks	"	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	"	0	6	6

white, 55s.; light amber, 50s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. Ukrainian, light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

A generally active and buoyant market predominated, in which outside interests figured largely as there was an optimistic feeling respecting the outcome of the meeting between British and Dutch planters to adopt restrictive crop measures. Standard sheet, spot, and February, sold 8 3/16d. to 8 5/16d.; March, 8½d. to 8 3/16d.-8½d.; April-June, 8 7/16d. to 8 9/16d.; July-September, 8 11/16d. to 8 13/16d.; October-December, 8 15/16d. to 8 9/16d.; January-March, 9⅜d. London stocks increased 1,177 tons on the week, landings being 2,216 tons; deliveries, 1,039; stocks, 62,659 tons, against 24,757 last year. Liverpool stocks 84 down. Landings, 166; deliveries, 250; and stocks, 19,677, against 4,086 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A dull market again ensued, and prices manifested further slight weakness. Firsts, January-February, Hamburg, quoted £26 2s. 6d.; February-March sold £26 10s.; March-April, £26 12s. 6d.; April-May quoted £26 17s. 6d. Lightnings, March-April, quoted £25; Hearts, £22; Daisee assortment, £24; Tossa, £25 12s. 6d. c.i.f. Hamburg stocks increased 5,000 bales on the fortnight to 95,300, arrivals first half of present month being 15,250 bales.

HEMP.—Business at the moment is very sluggish regarding Manila grades, but sellers do not press, which helps to maintain quotations. J No. 2, February-April, quoted £32, K ditto, £31; L No. 1, £29; L No. 2, £26; M. No. 1, £26; M No. 2, £24 10s.; H, £31 10s.; G £32 15s.; C No. 2, £27 5s.; C. No. 3, £22 15s.; S No. 1, £42 10s.; S No. 2, £40 10s.; S No. 3, £37 10s. c.i.f. African sisal firmer with sellers of No. 1 f.a.q. February-April, £35 10s.; and good marks £36 10s.; No. 2 f.a.q., £33 15s.; marks £34 5s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 31,000 bales, against 41,000 last year and 27,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 33,000 and week following 33,000. Shipments last week, 3,000 bales to U.K./Continent; 5,000, U.S.A.; 5,000, Japan; and other countries, 1,000. Stocks, 194,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—A quiet market. T.N. spot, 127s. 6d.; March, 115s.; May, 117s.; August, 125s.

COPRA in fair demand and prices steady. Straits sun-dried, February-March to Rotterdam quoted £22 2s. 6d. Dutch East Indies ditto, £22 2s. 6d. Ceylon £23 5s. Sun-dried, South Sea, £21 5s. Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £21 10s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, February-March quoted £21 2s. 6d. F.M. Straits, £21 10s. Smoked, South Sea, £21. Manila F.M. at £21 3s. 9d. buyers.

PALM KERNELS quiet. February-March, Hamburg, quoted £15 15s.; March-April, £15 17s. 6d.; April-May, £15 17s. 6d.; May-June, £16 c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 14s to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £42 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £19 10s. to £26; cinnamon leaf oil, 5d.; for shipment, 4s.4d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3½d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—February 19.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 8	7 2	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 6	10 0
Short Horns	6 0	6 6	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 0	5 6
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	...	...

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—February 19.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	4 0
" " " whites.....	2 6	3 0
Essex King Edward	3 0	3 6
" " " whites.....	2 6	...

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A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has only been in moderate supply, and rates ranged from 3½ to 4 per cent. The main feature, however, was the fall in discount rates from 3¾ to just under 3½ per cent. This has brought the period of stability that lasted since the reduction in Bank rate early in the

month to an abrupt end, and has once more made the margin between Bank rate and market rate wider than 1 per cent. Hence it is not surprising that, just as was the case seven weeks ago, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the market was looking for a reduction in Bank rate.

* * * *

The Bank, however, decided to make no change in its rate, and it must be admitted that there is no real ground at present for a reduction. This week's fall in discount rates is to some extent due to a special cause, namely, that the Treasury bills issued on February 21st were largely secured by French and American buyers. The market consequently found itself short of bills, and the resulting competition to buy up such bills as were available easily explains the fall in discount rates. The continued influx of revenue and of cash payments for the new Conversion Loan are likely to take more money off the market, which is already finding money none too plentiful, and on these grounds a market rate of under 3½ per cent. does not seem likely to last for long.

* * * *

Once again the balance of bar gold available in the market on Tuesday, after satisfying the needs of India and the trade, was secured by Germany, the price paid being 84s. 11d. £250,000 of this week's Cape gold, however, came in the form of sovereigns, and these automatically went to the Bank. The same thing will happen both next week and the week after, so that the Bank is sure of a further £500,000 within the next fortnight. A development of much greater importance is that this week some gold shipments were made from Paris to Germany. In the aggregate they were of small dimensions, but they are of significance, both in showing that the German demand for gold need not fall wholly upon London, and, more important still, that France is willing to part with her gold.

* * * *

It seems fairly clear that the post-war "scramble" for gold has now come to an end, and that central banks at least are not disposed to welcome further additions to their stocks. The Bank of England two months ago ceased to bid for gold in the market, the Banque de France has for long let it be known that it does not want more gold and is prepared to lose it, and there is reason to believe that the Reichsbank is not wholly pleased with the present flow of gold to Germany. Finally, the American Reserve Banks do not want gold, and the fall of sterling to under $4.86 a few days ago probably caused as much apprehension in New York as in London, and its subsequent recovery was just as welcome.

	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4½	4½	4½	4½	5 (Feb. 6, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2½	2½	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Discount { Call	2½	2½	2½	2½	3 (Feb. 6, '30)
Houses { Notice	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	3½ (Feb. 6, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 15/16	3 7/8–15/16	3 13/16–7/8	3 7/16	

Partly owing to a reduction of £4,142,000 in the Bank's holdings of Government securities, and partly to a somewhat mysterious decline of £3,424,000 in Other Securities, Bankers' Deposits have fallen by £8,453,000 to the low level of £50,714,000. This means that the market is short of money, and were it not for the corresponding shortage of bills, a position of some stringency would probably have arisen. The Bank return confirms the view that the present low level of discount rates may not persist.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Month-end settlements are not disturbing the money market, and $500,000,000 dividends and interest will be available for reinvestment in the next few days. The Reserve statement shows a drop in discounts greater than the increase in bill holdings. Total credit is down $14 millions, and the reserve ratio is 78.8 per cent. Gold from South America and Japan continues to come in, and about $10 million were received this week. The selection of McGarrah and Fraser is liked, and it is understood that McGarrah will be chosen President of the International Bank. J. H. Case has been elected to succeed McGarrah as chairman of the local Board and Reserve agent. There is a growing demand in some trade sections for the Reserve to pursue a more vigorous easy-money policy, but it is probable that Washington wishes to go slowly.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Interest in the stock markets was confined mainly to high-grade investments. Second thoughts on the new Conversion issue were not unfavourable, and Gilt-edged stocks advanced appreciably under the lead of War Loan Fives. Little change was made in Home Railway prices, despite the hopeful review of the Great Western chairman. In the industrial markets the chief features were sales of Cables and Wireless on the Post Office's announcement of its decision against the "Beam" system, and a sharp rise in Austin Motors, following an unexpectedly favourable dividend announcement. Rubber shares declined with the commodity, the tea share market was idle, and, apart from Paris buying of Rio Tinto, the mining markets remained largely out of favour.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Reports from the coal districts are gloomy and prices weak. There is a shade more buying in the iron and steel markets, especially in the sheet trade, but forward contracts are not yet forthcoming. Raw cotton has touched a new low level for the season, and this, coupled with poor advices from the Far East and a quiet home demand, has left the Manchester outlook far from hopeful. The wool textile trades are still in a state of uncertainty. Timber stocks are expected to be satisfactorily reduced in the near future. The hide market is inclined to weakness and sole leathers are in poor demand. Upper leathers remain strong. The state of the shoe manufacturing industry is very uneven. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are quiet. Wheat declined on the week, but is now firmer.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Moderate activity and a general tendency to irregularity marked transactions last week. Sterling held its own against the dollar after some hesitation, and the Paris rate reached the highest level recorded since stabilisation. New York went from 4.86 to 4.86⅛, having been at one time below 4.86. Montreal depreciated from 4.88½ to 4.88⅞. Paris lost two points at 124.27, after touching 124.31. Brussels gained a point at 34.89. Milan was considerably better at 92.74 and Madrid fell away, after continued uncertainty and irregularity, from 38.80 to 39.50. Berlin lost ¼ at 20.36¾, after some slight irregularity, and Switzerland gained ¾ at 25.19. The Scandinavian exchanges all moved against this country. Stockholm was very firm, and gained 1⅛ at 18.11, Oslo improved from 18.18⅜ to 18.17½ and Copenhagen from 18.16⅛ to 18.16. The South American currencies were erratic, but rather less so than of late, Rio being unchanged on balance at 5 17/32d., and Buenos Aires at 42 5/16d. Montevideo gained ⅛d. at 43⅛d. In the Far East the rupee lost 1/32d. at 1s. 5 7/8d., but the yen was firm and unchanged at 2s. 0 7/32d. Batavia gained ¼ at 12.12½. In the futures market the dollar was unchanged at discounts of 1/32 and ⅛ cent. Paris was more wanted at 15 and 28 centimes premium, a rise of a centime on last week's quotations in each case. Madrid showed no change for one month at 6 centimos premium, but was considerably firmer on three months at 18½ centimos premium against 14½ last week. Berlin was ¼ better in each case at 1¾ and 5¾ pfennigs discount. The silver market established new low levels again last week, and prices closed 1/16d. lower with spot at 19¾d. and forward at 19⅝d., as a result of India, China and the Continent all selling in a volume too great to be affected by small buying from the States. The China silver exchanges reacted in sympathy, Hong Kong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 6¾d., whilst Shanghai lost ½d. at 1s. 11¼d.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include an index of electricity production, and a series of indices of British trade activity.

DEFEATISM OR ACHIEVEMENT?

There are two elements always at work in the early phases of a trade recession. On the one hand, there is what may be termed the material factor—the familiar sequence of over-production, losses on immobilised stocks, curtailment of output, and increased unemployment—involving restriction of purchasing power and diminished volume of turnover; on the other, there is the influence of loss of confidence. The presence of this second element is particularly noticeable in the record of commercial and industrial developments in this country since the beginning of the year. In the light of all the available evidence, a detailed examination of which will be found in our usual Monthly Supplement published with this issue of the *Economist*, there can be little doubt that British trade has experienced an appreciable setback, whose effects are to be found not only in additions to the numbers unemployed, short time in many branches of manufacture and depleted order-books, but in less obvious, though equally significant, symptoms of depression such as declining cable traffic and a striking fall in the volume of general advertising matter carried by the daily Press. The trade cycle, in fact, has clearly taken a downward turn; but the most casual observer of the situation could not fail to be impressed by the depth of the psychological depression into which the country seems already to have fallen, without much regard either to the causes of the material reaction or its probable duration.

In business circles the popular scapegoat is the forthcoming Budget; apprehensions of increased taxation are cited as a prime factor in retarding trade and stifling enterprise. More generally, doubts with regard to the effects of the Coal Mines Bill and uncertainty as to the alignment of the Government's whole future policy are held responsible for the absence of the requisite confidence in our industrial progress. In addition, there is the calculated pessimism of interests bent on justifying claims to protection by tariff; and the dismal chorus is swelled by a large chain of newspapers whose noble proprietors demand that England should discern in her imminent bankruptcy and downfall the necessity for swallowing their particular panacea. Discounting, however, all forebodings which are not disinterested in motive, the impression remains that the country as a whole is set in a frame of mind almost, one might say, deliberately "bearish" of our prospects. Emphasis is laid on every unfavourable factor in our position—the growth of competing industries in hitherto non-industrialised countries overseas, and our handicaps in the shape of much antiquated plant, dear cost of living and high "sheltered" wages—while not only is the extent of our recovery since the war belittled, but the possibilities of renewed expansion, based on a forward policy of constructive rationalisation, are tending to be viewed in a spirit of apathy and discouragement. It is as though England, having long ago lost faith in Samuel Smiles, had ceased, as a result of the present setback, to believe either in her luck or in herself.

This being so, it is pertinent to consider carefully whether the present lack of confidence has any warrant. Let us state at once that in our view pessimism is being quite unjustifiably overdone. We have no desire to minimise the gravity of the unemployment problem; and the trade reaction, coming not as the aftermath of a boom in this country, but as the sequel to nine years of hardly-won and very moderate recovery, is a serious disappointment to hopes already long deferred. At the same time, there are features in the situation, as we see it, which entitle this country—on one condition—to take a rationally optimistic view of the future.

In the first place, when the distinctively inflationary boom of 1920 collapsed, the world's credit system was badly strained; currencies in a dozen countries were threatening chaos; the long and painful path of deflation had to be trodden; and the political stability of Europe was dangerously precarious. These events upset and imposed obstacles to international commerce, and hastened a new orientation of world trade; and the nation most dependent on overseas trade suffered in an exceptional degree. The present recession is fraught with none of these abnormal adverse factors. In the second place, we have the consolation to-day of knowing that the setback is not peculiar to this country, or significant of loss of ground by British industry in the competitive race, but is unmistakably a world-wide phenomenon. "Over-production" is a term which begs many questions, but there is no need to quarrel with its use in application to the position of a large number of primary products towards the end of 1929. Though monetary influences during the spring and summer may have played a part in preparing the way for a downward turn in the trade cycle, just as losses in the Wall Street slump finally precipitated a break in many commodity prices, the central fact is that last autumn a surplus of supply over recent average demand reached simultaneously over a wide range of foodstuffs and raw materials a point at which lower prices were inevitable. The fall of prices, curtailing the purchasing power of producers of such important commodities as wheat, sugar, coffee, rubber, wool and tin—to name only a few of the "distressed products"—was bound to have a rapid effect on the volume of international trade; and though the disequilibrium between demand and supply is a passing phase (prolonged rather than mitigated by artificially withholding stocks from sale), its indirect repercussions on highly industrialised areas have been already serious. Our misfortunes, as witness the rapid increase of unemployment in the United States, Germany and other manufacturing countries, are by no means unique.

Far, indeed, from its being the case that our competitive power deteriorated during the past twelve months, the weight of evidence favours the conclusion that British industry, after losing ground relatively to its competitors between 1923 and 1928, last year progressed to an extent greater than that achieved by most industrial countries. Measured in terms of indices (1924=100) British production rose in volume between 1928 and 1929 from 105 to 111; our net raw material imports from 101 to 113; our total foreign trade turnover from 106 to 112; and our consumption of coal and electricity combined from 105 to 111. Although the absolute level of 1924 was not high enough for us to be complacent over the present position, last year's advance was sufficiently striking to enable us to face a recession without foolish and feeble talk of "national decline."

England's imperative need to-day may be summed up in three words—courage, vision and determination. We have endeavoured to direct attention to such elements of comfort and assurance in the situation as we can discern. In so doing we have had in mind that rational optimism does depend, as we have said, on one condition—England's ability to throw off the malaise of economic defeatism whose symptoms are disquietingly visible. It is a distemper which takes various forms. There are those whose mistrust in our industrial future, coupled with desire to cheat the tax collector, is being expressed in a quiet "flight from the pound"; some evince their disbelief in our capacity by proposing that we should secure a tiny "sheltered" home market at the cost of throwing up the sponge in the foreign trade essential to our present population's standard of life; others—and in their ranks one may fairly include the majority of the Privy Council, of the bankers and industrialists, and of the trade union leaders throughout the country—are defeatists in the sense that the courage is lacking to push forward, even at a risk, bold and enterprising plans.

In our present situation, "safety first" is a counsel of despair; there is no salvation in caution which "looks" until senescent legs can no longer "leap" at all. Traditionalism is a heavy brake on the progress of

every effort to modernise and reconstruct our industrial and commercial organisation. But the greater the severity of the present trade recession, the greater becomes the need for enterprise in carrying reconstruction through, however painful the process of rationalisation may be in its immediate and direct results on interests affected. And the heavier the prospective burden of direct taxation, the less reason have those possessed of wealth, either in capital or brains, to draw back from the risks of the arena. Defeatism in the form of manual workers' " ca' canny " is not the worst danger to our future national achievement. Those who profess that their " enterprise " is deadened because reward is so heavily mulcted by the fisc would do well to bear in mind that taxation becomes a burden greater or less onerous to a nation in proportion as the national productivity diminishes or expands. There is little need to point the moral for the individual, whether he considers the national interest or his own.

THE PACT AND THE COVENANT.

SINCE all the States Members of the League of Nations have become parties to the Pact of Paris, they find themselves bound by two international instruments, each of which is concerned with the prevention of war, but each of which approaches the problem from an angle of its own, independently of the other. In such circumstances, it is natural and proper to take stock of the two commitments with a view to making sure, not merely that they are compatible (as indeed they are already), but that they shall be in some kind of positive co-ordination with one another. Accordingly, last September, the Assembly of the League, during its Tenth Session, invited the Council to appoint a committee to report on " the amendments in the Covenant of the League which are necessary to bring it into harmony with the Pact of Paris "—with a view to action being taken in the matter at the eleventh regular session of the Assembly next autumn. The Council duly appointed the committee, and the committee is meeting at Geneva this week.

To deal with a very technical question rather broadly, one may say that the Covenant and the Pact, as they respectively stand at present, differ from one another in two distinct respects. The range within which war is banned is narrower in the Covenant than in the Pact; for whereas the Pact absolutely renounces war as an instrument of national policy—allowing it only as an instrument of international policy (*e.g.*, in execution of the Covenant) or in self-defence—the Covenant does permit a resort to war as an instrument of national policy in certain circumstances after a period of delay which may run to as long as nine months. On the other hand, the Covenant goes deeper than the Pact, inasmuch as, within the limits within which it does ban war, it provides specific alternative means for the settlement of international disputes and specific sanctions in case one of the parties to a dispute goes to war in violation of the Covenant's terms; whereas the Pact merely lays down that the settlement of disputes " shall never be sought except by pacific means." The British Government has put forward certain draft amendments to the Covenant which would have the effect of enlarging the range within which war is banned, so as to make the Covenant co-extensive with the Pact in that respect, but this without touching the existing procedure for the pacific settlement of disputes or the existing obligations upon members to enforce certain sanctions against Covenant-breaking States. Thus the general effect of the British amendments would be to make the existing sanctions of the Covenant applicable to the wider range of embargo upon war which is at present enacted, not in the Covenant, but in the Pact.

The British Government's view is that this extension of commitments is theoretical rather than practical; and that the burden of sanctions, though greater in bulk, will be not of greater total weight if its amendments are adopted, because (if one may pursue the metaphor) the reduction in the likelihood of war will reduce the " specific gravity " of sanctions proportionately. On the other hand, certain critics are maintaining that the extension of commitments will be not only practical but substantial as far as the British Empire is concerned, and, in particular, that it will increase the danger that our obligations, under Article 16 of the Covenant, may involve us in a conflict with the United States over the old question of " neutral rights at sea." Under Article 16, of course, we are bound to use our sea power in order to impose the sanction of an international economic boycott upon a Covenant-breaking State.

On the general point we cannot take these critics very seriously, because we never felt that the famous " gap " in the Covenant was as important in practice as it looks on paper. Under the Covenant as it stands, in an international dispute, if the Council of the League (excluding any representatives of the parties themselves) fail to attain unanimity, either party is at liberty to use war as an instrument of national policy after a final three months' delay. Under the proposed amendment this licence is to be withdrawn. But then, how many States would ever really have availed themselves of it? Surely, if one looks at the contemplated situation in its concrete setting, it becomes evident at once that " the broad road which leadeth to destruction " would pass through that ready-made gap very seldom indeed. Almost always the State which was determined, in the last resort, to go to war in pursuit of some national policy would prefer to take the consequences of driving a coach and horses (or, shall we say, a fleet of tanks?) straight through the bulwark which the Covenant, as it stands, is intended to set up. Of course, by so doing, it would be deliberately making itself a Covenant-breaker, and incurring the penalties to which Covenant-breakers are subject, instead of waiting to wage its " private war " as a legitimate and unpenalised belligerent. But, in the calculations of General Staffs and Cabinet Councils, this drawback would scarcely weigh in the balance against the advantage of taking the prospective enemy State by surprise; for in private wars waged, as instruments of national policy by one State, or group of States, against another, the value of getting in the first blow is nowadays so supreme that nothing can really make up for the surrender of it.

For this reason we believe that, even under the Covenant as it stands, there would rarely be a private war in which both belligerents were technically acting within their rights under the Covenant, and in which the other parties to the Covenant were therefore absolved from applying sanctions against one or other belligerent. Almost every war would prove, in practice, to be a war between a Covenant-breaker and his victim—that is, a war in which " the burden of sanctions " would have to be borne by the other States Members of the League. If this argument is correct, then the British Government is justified in its thesis that the burden of sanctions will not be increased in practice by amendments to the Covenant which have the effect of extending the existing sanctions of the Covenant to the wider range of cases covered by the Pact.

Incidentally, this would dispose of the second criticism —a specifically British criticism—that the proposed amendments would seriously increase the likelihood of our coming into conflict with the United States over the question of " neutral rights at sea." We do not question the seriousness of this risk to which Great Britain is specially subject. Our contention is that it is already virtually as great under the Covenant as it stands as it would be under the Covenant if amended along the lines proposed. We may, perhaps, comfort ourselves by reflecting that, if the premium of risk which we contribute towards the pooled security of the League is definitely higher, on this account, than that of other members, our interest in general security is also definitely greater than that of any other member, since there is no other member that has so many possessions and interests scattered all over the world or that is so dependent upon foreign trade and foreign services like shipping or investments that are apt to be depreciated or destroyed by wars waged anywhere between any parties.

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Anyhow, we must console ourselves as best we can, since we are committed to the Covenant and nobody contemplates the possibility of our denouncing that commitment. At the same time, there is no sane Englishman who would not be anxious, consistently with the national honour, to reduce the danger of a clash between Great Britain and the United States to a narrower compass; and it is worth considering whether this might not actually be the effect of amending the Covenant in accordance with the British Government's draft proposals.

This is really a psychological question, which may be put as follows: Supposing the Covenant is amended so as to become co-extensive with the Pact, will the American people be more likely or less likely to take umbrage at the application of sanctions against a Covenant breaker, involving the question of " neutral rights at sea," than if the Covenant is left as it stands? It would be natural to suppose that they would feel less objection to measures taken in support of a Covenant amended into conformity with a Pact which their own Government had begotten—and this even if the American dislike of "sanctions," in principle, remained unabated. There is, however, one school of English publicists which delights in portraying the American leviathan as an inhumanly irrational and arbitrary creature—a kind of caricature of the Semitic Jehovah at his worst moments—and these critics are now lifting up their voices in warning. " You must not assume," they say, " that the American people would hesitate to oppose the execution of a Covenant amended into harmony with the Pact, simply because the Pact is a product of American statesmanship. You forget that the Covenant, as it stands, has the same origin. And if President Wilson's work was rejected by his countrymen, why should you expect the work of Professor Shotwell and Mr Kellogg to fare any better at their hands?"

To this argument there is one obvious reply: The Treaty of Versailles was never ratified by the United States; the Pact of Paris has been. All the same, we agree with these critics that it is desirable, before any amendment to the Covenant is finally enacted, to explore the American point of view in regard to the implementation of the Pact by States members of the League. And we would draw attention again to a point which we made at the beginning of this article. There are two respects in which the Covenant at present differs from the Pact: the range within which war is banned and the existence of sanctions. It would be possible to make the Covenant co-extensive with the Pact in range by banning war as an instrument of national policy altogether, and at the same time to leave the sanctions of the Covenant applicable only to those wars which are banned by the Covenant as it now stands. This may not be logical, yet it might prove to be the easiest working compromise between the " pro-sanctions " and the " anti-sanctions " schools of thought.

BANKS AND INDUSTRY IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY.—I.

(BY A BANKING CORRESPONDENT.)

THE chairmen of the " Big Five " have made their annual speeches and, with the exception of Mr McKenna, whose position as a member of the present Banking Committee imposed silence in this respect, all touched on the burning question of the relation of banks to industry. Their views were remarkably unanimous. They repudiated the suggestion that the banks had not granted sufficient facilities to industry, and rightly pointed out that it was not the function of the banks to find the permanent funds required for capital expenditure. Mr Goodenough restated the view so often expressed by bankers in England that it lies with industry to reorganise itself, this question being outside the province of the banks, and Mr Beaumont Pease also refused to entertain the idea that banks should dictate the steps to be taken towards reorganisation. While it is difficult to quarrel with any of these views *per se*, the cumulative effect was rather that of a general repudiation of responsibility, and suggested a disinclination on the part of bankers even to reconsider their position in this issue, notwithstanding the widespread feeling that there is a gap in the British financial system which in some way or other ought to be bridged.

An article published in the *Economist* last November dealt with a number of differences between the banking systems in England and Germany which have been the subject of considerable misunderstanding. The so-called Continental system of banking, and particularly the system prevalent in Germany, is popularly believed in England to involve large long-term investments in industry, and English banks have rightly pointed out that as deposit banks, the bulk of whose assets are obtained as current or short-term deposits from their customers, they cannot take the responsibility of tying up their funds in this way. What is not generally realised is that the German banks have of recent years been developing very much on the lines of the English deposit banks, without ceasing, however, to play a leading part in industrial organisation and issue business. The German system has, in fact, become quite different from that in many other Continental countries, such as Austria, Belgium, etc., and, as indicated in the article above referred to, there is no very considerable difference between the investment of banking assets in England and Germany. The German system is admittedly by no means perfect, and it is absurd to suggest that it should be transplanted to England, where the conditions are quite different. Nevertheless, just as there are numerous aspects of the English system of banking—particularly in regard to short-term commercial credits and the handling of cheques and current banking transactions in general—from which the German banks can and do learn, so there are a number of features in the organisation of industrial

banking and issue business in Germany which are worth study by progressive bankers in this country.

A well-known British industrialist once gave it to the writer as his considered opinion that the reorganisation of German industry and its recovery from the catastrophic depression of 1925-26 would have been impossible but for the close co-operation between banks and industry. This co-operation was a natural consequence of historical developments in Germany, while the opposite view taken by English banks is due, as indicated in an article on "Banks and Business" in the *Economist* of January 18th, to the fact that commerce has played so large a part in British economic life. British industry was developed by independent industrialists who provided their fixed capital themselves, and who rarely had recourse to the mechanism of the London issue market. The banks' relations with industry were mainly confined to providing current finance for the trade arising out of the activities of the industrialists. The banks were thus never called upon to handle industrial issue business. In Germany, on the other hand, the public issue market played a much larger part in industrial finance; and since this business mainly passed through the hands of the banks, bankers were obliged in the interests of the customers who had bought issues backed by their name to exercise a closer supervision over, and to play a certain part in, the direction of industry. Their attitude in this respect may be compared to that of the great merchant banking houses which did the foreign issue business in London and generally exercised a certain control over borrowers. An additional cause of the influence exerted by German banks over industry was that before the war they worked with a much larger proportion of capital and reserves—funds at their free disposal and not subject to calls by depositors—than is the case to-day, and they were thus in a position to make long-term advances to their industrial clients and to invest in equities, with the idea of floating these investments at some considerably later date. Although they do this to a far lesser extent to-day, their hold on the issue business and their general influence on the conduct of industry remains.

In England, joint-stock bankers consider "investment banking" so far outside their province that they repudiate responsibility for prospectuses under which their name appears, and in giving investment advice generally confine their recommendations to War Loan or some similar gilt-edged security. In Germany, on the other hand, the large banks take the lead. Industrial organisation and reorganisation, however, is on its financial side largely a question of investment banking, and experience in two highly-developed industrial countries, Germany and America, goes to show that a connection, or at any rate close co-operation, between commercial and investment banking is of great value to industry. The principal American banks, indeed, excluded by legislation from engaging directly in issue and financing business, have created so-called "security companies," to carry out the type of transaction in question. The security companies work closely together with their parent banks so that the net effect is somewhat similar to that of the German system.

It is impossible here to go fully into the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems. There is no doubt, however, that the German system has proved its value during the difficult period of industrial reorganisation through which Germany has been and is still passing. The regrouping of industrial units in many important industries has been undoubtedly due to banking initiative, and the necessary new long-term financing has been found through new issues at home and abroad backed by the names and standing of the leading banks. All those who have experience of industrial reorganisation, and large amalgamations in particular, know that one of the main obstacles to be overcome lies in the conservatism, inertia and obstruction of individual business men. Obviously one of the most powerful weapons that can be used here is the power to call in credits, and while this weapon has been used very sparingly, the knowledge that it is held in reserve is almost always sufficient. In this connection it may be said, as was emphasised by Mr Goodenough and Mr Beaumont Pease, that neither in England nor in Germany is it the function of the banks—who lack the specialised knowledge required—to work out the actual schemes of reorganisation. They can, however, put pressure on industries in difficulties to get schemes worked out by the best available brains, and when those schemes have been worked out they can use their influence to force them through. This, it is true, means taking responsibility, and possibly being blamed if the schemes are a failure. But in a period of industrial development and change such as we are passing through to-day it is very doubtful whether those whose function it is to grant credits to industry can avoid such responsibility in any case, and whether the blame attaching to a policy of "wait and see" will not be greater than that attaching to initiative, even if that initiative is not always successful.

The connection between investment and commercial banking, which is one of the principal features of the German system, has another aspect which deserves special attention after the Hatry crash and the collapse of the 1929 speculative issue boom. The issue market in Germany is very largely controlled by the banks; and unless supported by one or more D-banks, or at any rate one of the leading private banks, no important issue has a chance of being successful. The general public invest mainly through their banks, and in any case have been educated to expect the name of a substantial bank or syndicate of banks on an issue prospectus. The banks take full responsibility for their issues, and keep in permanent touch with the issuing companies, generally through representation on the board—a system which will be dealt with fully in a subsequent article. One finds in England the best analogy in the attitude of the merchant banks towards their issue business, but, owing to the peculiar history of the London issue market, this business has scarcely ever had to do with the financing of British industry.

Of recent years a crop of so-called "trust companies" and finance houses have sprung up to fill the gap in the City system, but they have not the permanent interest in the well-being of their industrial customers, nor have they for the most part the standing and financial backing, to enable them to play anything approaching the part played by the leading joint-stock and private banks in industrial finance in Germany. Compare, for instance, the "United Steel" deal of the Austin Friars Trust—an ill-fated transaction with private profit alone as its object—with the flotation of the "Vereinigte Stahlwerke" in Germany, backed by all the leading banks. It is sometimes urged that banks which do both credit and issue business may use their names and standing to unload frozen credits in the shape of unpromising issues on their investment clients. Here, however, a check lies in the fact that the banks must maintain their reputations; and, therefore, when industries are in difficulties, they are obliged to make certain to the best of their ability that reorganisation has been thoroughly carried out and offers good prospects before approaching the public. In any case, the connection between the two types of business guarantees the permanent interest of the issuing houses in their industrial customers, since every credit banker of necessity wishes his customers to be prosperous.

The following conclusions may at this stage be drawn from a study of these aspects of German banking. Co-operation between the commercial and investment sides of industrial banking is an aid to industrial reorganisation. This co-operation, let it be said in parenthesis, need not necessarily be carried out by using the same organisation for both types of business. The organisations dealing with industrial investment banking should, however, be of first-rate standing and should have the support and co-operation of the leading commercial banks. The industrial issue market should—like the foreign bond market in London—be dominated by institutions of this kind, and the public should be educated to expect first-rate banking names on prospectuses, names which should never appear unless they really mean something. All this, from the standpoint of purely commercial banks, need not involve any important change in the principles on which they invest their assets or in their liquidity. But the most essential lesson is the value of an active industrial policy, conceived on broad lines, and backed by co-operation instead of competition between the banks themselves. This feature of co-operation between the banks, as organised in Germany, will be the principal subject of the succeeding article.

THE CANADIAN WHEAT CRISIS.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE crisis in the Winnipeg grain market which developed early in February had its origin in the price war which has been waged during the last six months between the holders of Canadian wheat on the one side and European importers on the other. On the Canadian side the chief protagonists are the Western co-operative wheat pools, who, with 140,000 members, to-day control 55 per cent. of the wheat crop of Western Canada. When it became plain that the prairie wheat crop of 1929 was of very modest dimensions (the latest estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place it at 279,000,000 bushels, as compared with 522,000,000 bushels in 1928 and a five-year average of roughly 400,000,000 bushels), the pools determined upon a policy of holding up their wheat stocks for a price higher than European buyers felt justified in paying. In this policy they were able to secure the co-operation of a number of important private grain and elevator companies who were normally their bitter antagonists, but it is an open secret that one of the largest private grain operators in the West declined to take part in the holding arrangement. The pool officials and their allies held the view that not only did the condition of world supplies justify a higher price than was available in September, when the Canadian crop was coming on to the market, but that the quality of that crop, owing to its high average of grades and unusually good protein content, should enable it to command a premium price over competing wheats.

The wheat-holding interests of Canada, knowing that there was a substantial volume of wheat still available from the last Argentine crop, had no serious expectation that their policy would yield any great fruits before the end of 1929, but they were serenely confident that the month of January would see other supplies well on the way to exhaustion and a strong buying demand materialising from Liverpool and other grain trading centres of Europe. Meanwhile, their policy had inflicted a very serious dislocation on the economic life of Canada. The earnings of all the railway companies suffered a severe curtailment, as did the revenues of both lake and ocean shipping companies; business firms catering for the Western trade were afraid to make commitments and place orders with manufacturers; and, as a consequence of a tremendous fall in exports, which are usually high in the last quarter of the year through the outflow of the wheat crop, a favourable trade balance was transformed into an unfavourable one.

Accordingly, the wheat-holding interests had to face considerable criticism from different quarters, but their spokesman continued to predict success for their policy. Acute disappointment, however, was experienced as the days passed by in January, and the European buyers, having contrived to pick up supplies of wheat from Argentina, France, Germany and other countries, showed a stubborn obduracy and kept out of the Canadian market. Wheat prices sagged steadily downward, and at the end of last month the banks, which had advanced very large sums to the pools and the private grain firms, became nervous about the situation and began to call for further security. Simultaneously, an important grain firm, the Electric Grain and Elevator Company, became involved in serious financial difficulties, and a well-known bank, from whom it had borrowed heavily, stepped in and—under the authority of Section 88 of the Bank Act—seized the pledged grain in the elevators belonging to the company.

It transpired that part of the grain which had been seized did not actually belong to the embarrassed company, being merely held by it in storage in trust for farmers and milling interests. The latter appealed to the Board of Grain Commissioners, who took immediate action under powers conferred upon them by the Grain Act and impounded all the wheat in these elevators. The difficulties of this company soon became common property, and the disquietude which was aroused produced a real crisis in Winnipeg in the opening days of February. What exactly took place has not been fully revealed, but the seriousness of the *impasse* is not difficult to appraise in view of the fact that, on February 5th, the provincial governments of the three prairie provinces took the drastic and unprecedented step of announcing that they would guarantee advances made by the banks to the pool.

Up to this point the public had been more or less kept in the dark about the situation, but the Press then began to carry front-page stories about the grain crisis in the West, and members of the King Government, as well as the President of the Canadian Bankers' Association, felt it necessary to issue reassuring statements to the effect that the crisis had been surmounted and that there need be no further fear of a wholesale collapse of the wheat market. Undoubtedly, the action of the provincial governments had at first the effect of halting the downward trend of prices, and towards the middle of February they showed an upward tendency, helped by reports that European buyers had taken options on substantial quantities of Canadian wheat, and, therefore, were interested in preventing any further serious price decline.

But whatever wheat has been purchased for Europe it will only be a comparatively small proportion of the 221,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat which were in store in Canada and the United States on January 31st, and impartial observers do not foresee any prospect of marketing more than half these stocks before July 1st, when the new crops of 1930 begin to be available. Selling pressure, at least upon the pools, is bound to increase rather than diminish, for apparently the pools have not yet made to their members the final payment for the crop of 1928, and the latter also expect a second payment on the 1929 crop on March 1st to provide funds for their spring seeding operations. Thus the pool directors must find money in the near future in order to meet their obligations, or they cannot fail to lose prestige with their members. And even as things are, they will have to explain why they embarked upon a policy which, unless there is a swift upturn in prices, must entail very substantial losses in a year when they could ill be afforded.

The crisis, even if it results in no disastrous setback to Western Canada, promises to have unfortunate repercussions in various directions. During the first half of February there has been in progress over the Atlantic a cross-barrage of recriminatory exchanges between the Canadian holders of wheat and British importing interests. The former are making the accusation that a boycott of Canadian wheat has been deliberately organised in Great Britain, and the *Manitoba Free Press*, the most influential paper in Western Canada, on February 8th delivered a bitter editorial attack upon what it described as the "milling trust of Great Britain," which it charged with deliberately manipulating the grain markets of the world in order to extract huge profits for itself at the joint expense of the Canadian grain grower and the British consumer. From Britain, on the other hand, there have come cabled despatches quoting extracts from the British Press and statements from grain merchants to the effect that the Canadian pools and their allies have been engaging in an unjustifiable gamble in an effort to hold up grain prices and increase the cost of living for a community struggling with grave economic difficulties. Altogether a very unpleasant controversy has developed, which will not help Imperial relations or schemes for the stimulation of inter-Imperial trade, and the healing hand of time may be required for its effects to pass away.

The fortunes of the King Ministry may also be affected in a considerable measure. It is involved in at least partial responsibility for the situation which has come to pass. For one thing, the Finance Department exercises many of the powers of a central reserve bank and only

with its co-operation could the banks have extended the generous line of credit which they have given to the grain-holding interests; if the Finance Department had chosen to call a halt to this credit, it would not have been given and it would have been necessary to sell wheat long ago. Furthermore, Mr E. B. Ramsay, the Chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners, who is the Government's chief grain official, at least twice issued statements declaring that the policy of holding wheat was wise and proper in order than an equitable price should be secured to maintain the living standards and purchasing power of the prairie farmers. Again, at least two members of the King Cabinet in public speeches strongly endorsed the policy and predicted its certain success. Accordingly, Conservative papers are now beginning to make party capital out of the situation, and the *Ottawa Journal*, the Conservative organ in the capital, in its issue of February 8th, severely criticised the Dominion Government for failure to draw upon its knowledge of world markets and " warn the pool of the danger of its course."

Nothing is quite so certain as that the Conservative opposition will endeavour, when Parliament meets, to fasten some responsibility for the crisis upon the King Government and to persuade the farmers of the prairies that their interests have been grossly mismanaged. Furthermore, the King Government may discover that a policy of tariff revision by way of a substantial increase in the British preference is liable to be much less popular in Western Canada than it would have been if the idea had not been disseminated that the prairie farmers are being penalised by the hard-hearted selfishness of British grain importers.

THE ARGENTINE EXCHANGE.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE recent spectacular decline in Argentine exchange, coupled with marked weakness in the London quotations for the leading Anglo-Argentine railway stocks, came as an unpleasant surprise to those numerous persons who, at the beginning of 1929, envisaged a prolonged period of financial and economic prosperity in Argentina. It is obvious that the closure of the Conversion Office was bound to affect the exchange, coming, as it did, at a moment when the Republic, in common with most of the world, was facing over-production of all its exportable wares, meat alone excepted; but it is not quite so easy to understand why the sharp revulsion of feeling should have affected railway shares. These are held almost in their entirety by proprietors non-resident in Argentina, well informed as to the actual state of business there, and possessing clear statistical evidence of the inherent strength of their investments. There is, admittedly, a psychological factor to be taken into account, and everything goes to show that, contrary to the usual practice, this intangible influence has been far stronger abroad than in Argentina itself.

The closure of the " Caja de Conversion," with the consequent cessation of gold exports, has been regarded by Argentina as a logical sequence to the somewhat heavy specie shipments made during the latter half of 1929, whereas both in Europe and the United States the Presidential order is generally considered retrograde and dangerous. Argentina regards all gold leaving the country as " lost," forgetting that the 70 millions shipped to New York in January-October, 1929, were but the natural reflex corresponding to the admittedly excessive gold imports of 1928. In January, 1929, the Conversion Office held $504,675,000 gold, as against this year's figure of $427,416,000, but the gain in specie secured from abroad during 1927-28, roughly, $132,000,000 gold, was ample both to demonstrate Argentina's inherent financial soundness and to give her, in popular parlance, " a margin to come and go upon " when, as has happened, reduction in export values and a flood tide of imports made it essential for the bankers to obtain cover for their drawings by means other than those embodied in the purchase of bills. For not only were imports of manufactured goods heavy during 1929, but the incidence of their payment fell largely within the last quarter of that year—a time when both wheat and wool were being shipped overseas unsold, in the hope of an early market improvement. Thus one may say that the position when Dr. Irigoyen, or his Cabinet, gave the order of closure, was neither better nor worse than it had been at any stated moment during last year.

The closure of the Conversion Office was, indeed, a retrograde step, which has, with unexpected promptitude, defeated its own object. Argentina's listed obligations, national, provincial, and municipal, are not excessive, nor have they been added to since the election of Dr. Irigoyen as President. None the less, taking public and private commitments, and including both fixed interest and varying earnings of bonds and shares, Argentina must remit abroad annually some 200 million dollars gold, and for this sum cover must be found. With wheat and wool being poured into consuming markets that were already glutted — a condition of affairs that precluded prompt disposal and the consequent negotiation of bills based on such shipments—gold export was the natural solution. It was indeed the " syphonic " connection between what Argentina had to pay and what she expected eventually to receive for her produce. Once that connection was broken, the position, translated into terms of her exchange, became artificial. For if at the end of October, 1929, the Argentine gold dollar stood at 47½, nothing that has since taken place warrants the present fall to 43d., a depreciation of 9 per cent. Of all the South American Republics, Argentina alone may be said to be free from grave disabilities, other than those incidental to her own precipitate flight from the free gold standard so recently re-established. And the pity of it is that, with a promise of smaller crops in 1930, and a notable reduction of imports, the natural tendency of the Argentine market to correct its own errors by the ordinary processes of finance and trade should be practically nullified by the well-meant, but ill-contrived, efforts of an official world wholly unacquainted with rudimentary economic axioms.

It is claimed that exporters, receiving more dollars for their drafts on foreign purchasers, will be able to pay better prices to producers. Yet, even admitting for the moment that this is so, is it not plain that all remittances must suffer? And, even granting that the various foreign industries established in the Argentine, receiving Argentine paper dollars as their profits, will perforce have to bear the brunt of converting such profits into foreign currency, what of the obligations payable abroad and therefore calling for a larger sum in Argentine paper? Ocean freights, the service of all external debts, payment for goods invoiced in the terms of foreign currencies—all these are obligations which must minimise, if they do not wholly counterbalance, the suppositious gains which the producer is told will come his way.

The discount of £5,000,000, more or less, in Argentine Treasury Bills, placed in London at the disposal of the Banco de la Nacion Argentina, and considered by it as gold on deposit with the Conversion Office against which it may withdraw paper to an approximate amount of sixty million paper dollars (the first instalment of the authorised extraction of $200,000,000 paper), is, in a sense, but a red herring across the trail. It illustrates rather the chaotic position of the Argentine money market, unable to control demand for credit by means of an official discount rate, and it certainly has no relation to the main problem, which dates back, as has been shown, to the excessive imports of gold made in 1927-28. Argentina's danger lies, therefore, in the direction of a managed currency which has been " temporarily " deprived of its chief counterpoise, and the anxiety of all who know her position best turns upon the interpretation which the word " temporary " may have when used in this connection.

BRITISH COMPANIES ABROAD.—I.

IN spite of the impetus given to America by the war, Great Britain is still the largest creditor nation in the world. New issue figures afford only partial evidence of our leadership in this respect. Purchases and sales of existing securities are immeasurable factors affecting our total of over £4,000 million invested abroad, and, largely for that reason, the problem of discovering with any degree of certainty and precision the amount of British capital in the Empire and in foreign countries defies the ingenuity of statisticians. Nevertheless, some parts of the total may be ascertained with reasonable accuracy, and for the past year or more the *Economist* has been pursuing, in co-operation with Sir Robert Kindersley, a detailed investigation into British capital overseas.

We are now able to publish some interesting results with regard to the capital of companies registered in Great Britain and operating overseas. They contribute about one quarter to the grand total of exported British capital. If we exclude all companies liquidated or in liquidation, companies with a total capital of less than £30,000, and all companies (such as oil concessionaires in Russia) which have been expropriated or are otherwise without tangible assets, the nominal total of the share capital is some £819.9 million, and of the loan capital £322.0 million, divided among 1,716 companies. The figures for companies which did not furnish returns are taken throughout from the 1929 edition of the Stock Exchange Official Intelligence. Otherwise, the figures may be taken as referring to the year 1929. The smallness of the average size, compared with great corporations like the Argentine railways or the oil amalgamations, is chiefly due to the large number of comparatively small plantation companies. Thus the 744 rubber, tea and coffee companies accounted for only about 15 per cent. of the total share capital.

All the companies included in the totals were operating entirely or almost entirely overseas, and thus an important section of capital, invested in companies operating only partly overseas, is excluded. The distinction is sometimes very difficult to draw, particularly regarding shipping and telegraph companies. In these two groups, only those concerns have been included whose ships were permanently located in foreign or Imperial waters, or whose telegraph lines lie entirely in foreign countries or the Colonies and Dominions.

Information has been tabulated regarding 532 companies, having a total share capital of £334.1 million and loan capital of £138.7 million, a sample quite large enough to give reliable results. We are extremely grateful to the boards and the secretaries of these companies for furnishing so much valuable information. The results, tabulated according to the groups in the Stock Exchange Official Intelligence, are as follows:—

BRITISH COMPANIES OVERSEAS.

	Share Capital.			Loan Capital.		
	Total Amount Paid up.	Proportion British Owned.	Amount British Owned.	Total Amount Outstanding.	Proportion British Owned.	Amount British Owned.
	£'000.	%	£'000.	£'000.	%	£'000.
Dominion & Colonial rails	26,111	95·5	24,940	46,381	90·3	41,890
American rails	805	99·4	800	805	*	*
Foreign rails	207,468	98·9	205,230	146,119	97·7	141,770
Breweries	6,791	99·9	6,780	1,403	*	*
Canals and docks	1,490	98·2	1,460	1,467	*	*
Commercial & industrial	56,271	93·3	52,490	23,902	98·8	22,810
Electric lighting & power	12,567	56·7	7,220	9,792	78·5	7,690
Financial, land & investment	103,000	95·0	97,800	31,313	98·3	30,780
Gas	8,343	90·5	7,550	2,250	100·0	2,250
Iron, coal and steel	9,128	70·4	6,430	2,216	100·0	2,216
Mines	95,018	87·9	83,560	4,927	90·7	4,470
Nitrates	12,320	84·5	10,410	3,255	99·9	3,250
Oil	106,111	91·9	97,510	12,001	98·0	11,760
Rubber	86,886	93·3	81,070	4,786	99·7	4,770
Shipping	9,847	86·2	8,490	3,826	100·0	3,826
Tea and coffee	37,618	98·6	37,090	2,430	99·9	2,430
Telegraphs & Telephones	8,419	48·7	4,100	1,766	99·7	1,760
Tramways & Omnibuses	27,123	33·3	9,030	20,516	96·2	19,740
Waterworks	4,624	98·1	4,540	2,831	99·4	2,810
	819,940	91·4	746,500	321,986	95·6	307,730

* Insufficient information; the general average has been applied.

" British residents " include companies registered in Great Britain. Where, however, a company is a subsidiary of another also included in the list, that part of its capital which is held by the parent concern is omitted in order to avoid double counting. The proportions thus obtained, if applied to the various groups, give a total British-held proportion of £1,054.2 million, or 92.3 per cent. of the grand total, share and loan capital combined.

The foreign and colonial participation is very unevenly divided among the groups. The greater part of it is either local holding, chiefly in mines, iron and steel companies, and public utilities, or United States investments in South American public utility companies. If we take the public utility companies as a single group (canals and docks, electric lighting and power, gas, telegraphs and telephones, tramways and omnibuses and waterworks), we find that out of a total *share* capital of £62,566,000 only £33,900,000 was still held by British residents, or some 54 per cent. Less than one-half of the share capital of telegraph and telephone companies, and only one-third of that of tramway companies, were registered in British names. The lowest percentage under the head of loan capital was recorded by a public utility group, electric lighting and power.

These public utility figures reflect, to some extent, " local " as well as American holding. Residents in the Dominions and in Europe have especially been buying up the shares of their own lighting companies. The 30 per cent. of iron, coal and steel shares held overseas is chiefly accounted for in this way, and mining companies registered in the Union of South Africa are considerable holders of securities of British registered African mines. Much of the capital of these South African companies is undoubtedly held by Britishers, but if we are to avoid double counting we must reckon it under a different section of British capital overseas.

It will be observed that the proportion British-held is considerably higher for debentures than for shares, and this is even more striking with regard to separate groups than with regard to the grand totals. Indeed, only two groups, Dominion and Colonial railways and foreign railways, recorded a lower debenture than share percentage; this may have been due to some aberration in the information available, but as the latter was peculiarly ample it was more probably due to the high international standing of these railway securities, which has made them such an excellent investment for those who require a good margin of safety but who are not restricted to Government and corporation securities. Apart from those two groups, it is clear that the absence of speculative interest and of controlling rights militates strongly against the international resale of debenture securities, which are rarely listed in overseas bourses. Preference shares are likewise appreciably less mobile than ordinary shares.

A further element which our figures reflect is the holding, particularly of plantation company shares, by employees, or former employees, of the company itself, who may be only temporarily living abroad. The term " Residents in Great Britain " is not so inclusive as " British subjects," and if subjects of the British Empire abroad were added the proportion still " British held " would appear much larger. Residence, however, is the tax test, and in connection with the balance of trade, to which all these statistics must be related, is apt because the interest or dividends paid to residents overseas are probably either never brought home or are " re-exported."

On the whole, the results are notable for the small proportion which has been sold outside this country. Many of the securities included were issued long ago, and the stream of resales to abroad must in the nature of things be stronger than that of repurchase of securities once exported. The special—and perhaps transient—influences playing upon public utility concerns may be set on one side. Even with utility securities included, only 7.7 per cent. of the capital of British companies overseas has left British hands; excluding them, the proportion falls to 5.5 per cent.

Notes of the Week.

French Politics and the Naval Conference.—Since we last went to press a new French Ministry has been constituted and defeated and a new French delegation to the London Conference has found itself bereft of authority before it has had time to jump into a taxi and drive to the Gare du Nord. The Cabinet of M. Chautemps was formed on the evening of Friday, the 21st; it fell on the evening of Tuesday, the 25th. We refrain from prophesying what may have happened before the present issue of the *Economist* is in readers' hands. M. Chautemps was overthrown by his predecessor's refusal to co-operate with him, and by the hostility of the Right and the Centre to a Ministry which leant upon Socialist support. The forces that have made and unmade this four days' Government are entirely partisan and personal. No concrete issue of either domestic or foreign politics has been in question. Meanwhile, in London, so far as formal meetings are concerned, the Naval Conference remains necessarily at a standstill. It could hardly do otherwise in the absence of the French, for there could be no greater mistake than to pursue the general work of the Conference during the period of Cabinet reconstruction in France. There is no great reason to regret the delay in itself, and still less to base pessimistic predictions on it. Whether the Conference resumes a week sooner or a week later is of little ultimate consequence. In point of fact, conversations on certain points which do not directly concern the French—such as the Japanese ratio in relation to the United States—are being pursued. This interval in the Conference's labours naturally provides an opportunity for some survey of the actual prospects. The outlook may be described as overcast, but in no sense hopeless. The main difficulty is still France's statement of her requirements. A good deal may depend on whether the new French Prime Minister, whether he be M. Tardieu or someone else, comes himself to London. Nothing could be worse than a repetition of the arrangement which went far to wreck the Genoa Conference, when M. Poincaré sat in Paris at the end of a telephone wire and persistently vetoed every concession his chief delegate, M. Barthou, was prepared to make after reasoned discussion with other delegates. Though M. Briand may be more tractable as a negotiator than M. Tardieu, it will not help to have M. Briand as chief delegate unless he happens to be Prime Minister himself. Whatever may be the ultimate outcome of the Conference, it is unlikely that it can end in open and complete failure. The Anglo-American agreement is something already achieved, and there can be little doubt that the Japanese figures will, after further discussion, be accommodated with it. Such a Three Power Agreement would be well worth while in itself, though there is no ground at present for abandoning all hope of a Five Power arrangement. It is quite true that the actual execution of the French naval programme would make it difficult for this country to maintain her restricted estimates in respect of certain classes of vessels, particularly cruisers and destroyers. But the French fleet as it exists to-day causes anxiety to no one. It would be quite possible to conclude a Three Power Agreement on the basis of the Anglo-American figures, subject to the provision (for which the Washington Treaty provides a precedent) that, in case of the undue expansion of some fleet not affected by the treaty, the signatories would meet to reconsider their position. This is by no means the only method of securing tangible results. Another way would be to reach provisional conclusions, which could be developed further at Geneva in discussion with other Powers, such as Germany and Spain, whose building programmes have a definite bearing on the armaments of the London Conference Powers.

The New Conversion Loan.—At the end of last week the Government sprang a surprise upon the City by announcing the issue of a further block of 4½ per cent. 1940-44 Conversion Loan. The primary object of the issue is to deal with £55 million of the 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds maturing next May, and holders of these bonds are invited to exchange into the new loan at the rate of £105 10s. of Conversion Loan for £100 of Treasury Bonds. Cash applications, however, were also sought, the issue price being 95. Allowing for the profit on redemption and other factors, the total yield works out at between £5 0s. 2d. and £5 3s. 1d. per cent., according to whether the loan runs the full term or is repaid in 1940. The flat yield is £4 14s. 9d. per cent. Thus, despite the three reductions in Bank rate that have intervened, the Government have, if redemption terms are taken into account, secured nothing in comparison with the cost of the much-criticised 5 per cent. Conversion Loan of last December, while the saving on the flat yield basis is only just over ¼ per cent. It is clear that fluctuations in short money rates have comparatively little effect at present upon long-term rates, and on this score the Chancellor can claim to be acquitted of the charge of undue precipitancy made against him last December. From a psychological aspect, however, there is much to be said for getting the words "5 per cent." out of the prospectus for a British Government loan, and this is the main advantage of the new loan over its immediate predecessor. The final, and perhaps the most important, point of interest is that, in issuing this new loan, Mr Snowden is obviously pursuing his declared objective of reducing the floating debt. The immediate advantages to the nation are not apparent, for the replacement of Treasury bills, which can now be sold at well under 4 per cent., by long-term debt issued on a 4¾ per cent. basis will certainly not permit of any immediate economy. On the other hand, when it is recalled that as recently as last September the difficulty the Bank had in selling the week's quota of Treasury bills was a principal cause of the rise in Bank rate to 6½ per cent., it will be realised that the margin between the two figures just quoted may not be an excessive price to pay for the advantage accruing to the nation from a floating debt of a more manageable size. It is true that, if the supply of Treasury bills is going to be steadily reduced, the money market will be faced with the problem of a shortage of bills, which is already making itself apparent; but within reasonable limits the nation can fairly ask the market to find its own solution to that problem.

Progress of the Coal Bill.—On Tuesday the House of Commons in Committee embarked on the first of the more controversial parts of the Coal Mines Bill. The sections of the measure providing for the limitation of the statutory working day to 7½ hours (the miners' members, unfortunately, declined to accept any elasticity in the shape of a weekly maximum), and for the establishment of a National Industrial Board, had been passed without serious opposition before Mr Graham's visit to Geneva last week. There remained the new "amalgamation" proposals and the whole of Part I, which the Government had consented to postpone until the new clauses had been considered. The Reorganisation Commission got through with surprisingly little obstruction or criticism from the Conservative benches, and with the comfortable margin of 269 votes against 115 on the final division. An unsatisfactory obscurity in the clause defining the Commission's powers and functions was cleared up, and the probable rate of progress in amalgamation accelerated, by the acceptance of a Liberal amendment providing clearly that in cases where the Commissioners consider a merger to be desirable, they should inform the mineowners concerned, and if the latter—within a time limit approved by the Commission—fail to submit an amalgamation scheme, the Commissioners shall then, but not till then, frame a scheme themselves. The opportunity thus afforded for voluntary schemes (albeit under indirect stimulus) should be of value. Some doubts, however, may be felt whether the Government is wise in not excluding from the scope of compulsory amalgamation with other mines the pits belonging to, and supplying coal for use by, undertakings not solely or primarily engaged in coal production. The House agreed with Mr Graham that the Commissioners must be trusted to have common sense, but Parliament cannot

divest itself of responsibility for mistakes made under delegated authority, and though in some cases it might be an intolerable objection if a pit belonging to a "mixed" undertaking were left in the middle of an amalgamated group, there might be serious disadvantages, as Mr Runciman, Major Nathan and other speakers pointed out, in breaking up or obstructing by a purely "mining" amalgamation the working of a successful "vertical" combination. This point might well be reconsidered in the Report stage. In any case, the passage of the "amalgamation" clauses put a very different complexion on the Bill, and on Thursday, when a critical division took place on a Liberal amendment proposing that the power to regulate "production" should be deleted from the central and district Schemes, Mr Graham secured a majority of Government votes in favour of what he insisted was an essential element in a measure whose object was not only to achieve the eventual reconstruction of the industry, but to enable it to prevent a further fall in prices, and to pay for the cost of the shorter working day, which Parliament had decided to impose, during the transitional period before the full fruits of amalgamation were enjoyed. Mr Lloyd George's speech on the evils of quota restriction would have been convincing had the amalgamation clauses not been already inserted in the Bill; but temporary regulations on an admittedly enormous volume of surplus capacity, coincidentally with the rationalisation of industry on the lines proposed by the Liberal Party itself, is not the same thing as stereotyping the *status quo*, and Mr Bevan, one of the miners' members, carefully pointed out that in Westphalia, where the greatest degree of "concentration" had been achieved, the process had been based on a quota system regulated by a compulsory cartel. In a number of details the quota clauses of the Bill can probably be improved in Committee, but it would have been a pity if the Bill, which, in its remodelled form, does represent a serious attempt to rationalise the coal industry, had been killed out of hand on Thursday night.

The Tariff Truce.—Our League correspondent writes:—The Tariff Truce Conference has reached a difficult stage. About sixteen or seventeen States have expressed themselves as favourable in principle to the truce, but some of them make reservations, either depending upon which other States join in or upon exceptions in one form or another. It would, of course, be worse than useless to attempt to call a halt in tariff rises if it is accompanied by exceptions which interest each State. As against this support in principle, there is the direct opposition of Italy, Spain and Portugal, though Italy has since said she would be prepared to consider collective agreements if so conceived as to make it possible for countries not represented at this Conference to participate. The Conference appears to be departing a little from its original purpose, which was to endeavour to arrive at an agreement on a tariff truce and to determine the programme of subsequent negotiations. It seems now to be engaged upon a consideration of the substantive problems rather than of a programme of negotiations, although a certain degree of overlapping is inevitable. The situation at present is that some Ministers have left, with a request from the President that they should return by the time the committees have completed their work. Three sub-committees are now sitting; one is examining the articles of the draft convention immediately or remotely concerning exceptions; another is examining the articles concerning trade hindrances; and the third is examining the articles concerning the relation of the draft truce convention to bilateral most-favoured-nation treaties. Mr Graham has suggested, with regard to the future programme of negotiations, that there should be a series of conferences by groups of commodities. Hitherto the efforts in this direction have not been very promising, but it may be that better results can be obtained along this line if the Ministers themselves enter into conference instead of leaving it to their officials. It is not easy to say whether that would be preferable to efforts on a general European or even on a limited European scale, to reach tariff reductions and freer trade by, so to speak, global negotiations. Negotiations by categories or groups of commodities are inclined to be more complicated in matters of this kind, and for such negotiations to be really successful it will be essential to await the conclusion of the League's work on the unification of customs nomenclature. Some more light will undoubtedly be thrown on this in the course of the work of the committees, which has hardly yet begun.

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Sir Robert Horne and Protection.—Sir Robert Horne gave an address on the political situation at the Constitutional Club on Wednesday which was interpreted by some as a bid for the succession to Mr Baldwin's leadership and by others as an attempt to bridge in his own way the schism between the orthodox and the heretics. This point may be left to the gossips to decide. We are more concerned with Sir Robert's case for Protection. He based his speech upon all the old assumptions and trotted out all the old arguments. Because you can increase employment in a particular trade by giving it protection, therefore you can increase employment all round by protecting everything. In spite of the unanimous opinion of the Balfour Committee to the contrary, it is to Sir Robert a monstrous thing that we should import goods from countries where wages are lower than our own. Like other recent speakers, he talks as though trade were a form of war, and the fact that we import is a sign of our defenceless position. It is, of course, a sign of purchasing power, and in as much as we are importing without either borrowing from abroad or breaking the exchange, it is proved that we are paying for these goods by the exports of our industries, the services of our shipping or of our commercial community. If every speaker on this subject would murmur to himself, before he begins, that "trade is not war but a process of exchange, that in time of peace our neighbours are our customers and that their prosperity is a condition of our own well-being," we should at least have some common ground on which to start; and we could then proceed to the further point which Sir Robert discussed, namely, whether it is practicable or desirable that we should deliberately endeavour to divert the present current of trade, even at some sacrifice to ourselves, into Empire channels. This brings us to the point on which Sir Robert joined issue with an article printed in the *Economist* of July 20th of last year, in which we discussed the question of Britain's economic position *vis-à-vis* Europe and the Empire respectively. Sir Robert represented us quite fairly as holding the view that it is impossible for Great Britain to be either entirely within the economic orbit of the Empire or entirely within that of Europe. We agree with Sir Robert that it will be a very long time before a complete customs union in Europe is reached. It will be at least as long before there is such an organisation of the Empire, and in practice we have to consider how best we can secure outlets for our trade taking the world as we find it. As regards Europe, our argument was that we cannot disinterest ourselves from a continent adjacent to us to whom we sell one-third of our exports. Moreover, as we showed last week, while the proportion of our exports to the Empire has of recent years been slowly falling, the proportion going to Europe has risen. It is true that the proportion of our exports which goes to the Empire is higher to-day than it was before the war, but a more complete analysis leads to the conclusion that was put before the World Economic Conference by the British delegation,

namely, that while our exports to the Empire have grown, they have not grown so fast as the purchasing power of the countries of the Empire. In other words, we have not been holding our own in Empire markets. On the other hand, while, owing to the comparative stagnation of European economic life, our exports to Europe have not been rising very fast, we have succeeded in maintaining or actually improving on our proportion of the trade of Europe which we held before the war. It is to the interest of this country to encourage agreement in Europe which will reduce the existing high barriers and thus develop its prosperity, and it would even be to our benefit if Europe ever achieved the very difficult task of creating a zollverein, provided the single general tariff wall around it were a low one—which would, of course, mean our entry into these markets on better terms than at present. If there were a possibility that the world would one day be divided into three great economic units with high protective tariffs between them, it would be a different story. But for reasons which we have frequently given such a prospect is the wildest fantasy.

The Post Office and Wireless Telephony.—The Postmaster-General informed the House of Commons on Wednesday that the Government had decided not to utilise for the Post Office's wireless telephony services the beam stations leased to the Imperial Communications Company, but to concentrate instead on the Government's transmitting station at Rugby with its complementary receiving station at Baldock. According to a lengthy statement subsequently issued by Mr Lees-Smith, two independent experts, whom the Cabinet consulted, had reported that both the Marconi system and the Rugby system were capable of providing efficient long-distance services to the Dominions and foreign countries, but that, as regards future development, the Rugby system, which has lower aerial masts, would give equally satisfactory results with a smaller expenditure of money. Also, by grouping the services at one centre a smaller number of lines would suffice—786 miles of telephone circuit if the four services to India and the Dominions were worked through Rugby and Baldock, as compared with 4,910 miles if the I.C.C. stations were used. The company had asked a minimum rental of £40,000 per annum for the use of their beam stations, plus a royalty of 10 per cent. on the gross receipts above a certain figure; and an estimate of the cost of operating the same service from Rugby showed a saving on the above figure in the neighbourhood of £20,000 a year. The Postmaster-General referred in his statement to suggestions made in some newspapers that the Government had an obligation, in view of the recommendations of the Imperial (Wireless) Conference, to use the beam telegraph stations for telephone purposes. The Post Office, he said, had the right to use the stations, but it was not the intention either of the Conference or of the late Government to impose any such obligation. Finally, Mr Lees-Smith had little difficulty in disposing of the somewhat grotesque criticism that, in co-operating with the American telephone service, as it is bound to do in the working of an Anglo-American telephone service, the Post Office is "preferring to deal with foreign interests." The whole issue is involved in such highly technical considerations that it is difficult for the non-expert to take sides in the controversy between the Post Office and the I.C.C. If the Government have been well advised by their experts, the case for the present decision appears to be convincing on the grounds of greater economy and equal efficiency. The suggestion has been made that competition between an independent Post Office radio-telephony service and the wireless telegraph services of the I.C.C. would be injurious to Imperial interests. We are inclined to think that this argument cannot be seriously supported.

The Foreign Relations of Austria.—The Austrian Chancellor, Herr Schober, has been doing well for his country—to judge by the progress which Austria has made, under his auspices, in her relations with her two most powerful neighbours, Italy and Germany. He began by tackling the problem of Austro-Italian relations, which was the harder problem of the two; for here an ancient national feud had been aggravated by the sudden reversal of fortune at the end of the Great War, which placed a Tyrolese population under Italian rule, and then, by the establishment of the Fascist *régime* in Italy, which was followed by systematic and ruthless measures of "Italianisation" in the annexed Tyrolese territory. The first step taken here was the negotiation of an Austro-Italian pact of friendship and arbitration. After that, Herr Schober put an end to the irredentist propaganda which had been going on in Austria with the countenance of the authorities. His third step was to pay an official visit to Rome; and now, during his visit this week to Berlin, comes the welcome news of an answering gesture from the Italian side. Signor Mussolini has given an amnesty to all Italian subjects of South Tyrolese nationality who were serving sentences for political offences. This is good as far as it goes. Let us hope that it will be followed before long by a mitigation of the "Italianising" policy which has set the Southern Tyrolese in opposition to the Italian Government. Meanwhile, this week, Herr Schober has been visiting Berlin in order to discuss with the German Government one aspect of Austro-German relations. The problem of Austro-German relations is, of course, quite different from the problem of relations between Austria and Italy. Between Austria and Germany political feeling since the peace settlement has been fraternal. And if the mutual desire of the two peoples had free play Austria might have been admitted into the German Reich at any time during the past twelve years. The political problem here is created entirely by the opposition of third parties—primarily France and secondarily Italy, Czechoslovakia and Poland. On the other hand, if this foreign opposition had ceased and the *Anschluss* had been accomplished under the economic conditions at present prevailing, it seems probable that union with Germany would have been followed by a certain disillusionment in Austria; for the union might at first have aggravated rather than alleviated Austria's economic difficulties. The truth is that the economic relations between countries, unless they are deliberately taken in hand, are apt to go their own way, oblivious of political considerations. And since the war the trade between Austria (a small and relatively inefficient country) and Germany (a large and highly efficient country) has worked out distinctly to Germany's advantage. The main concrete object of Herr Schober's visit to Berlin this week has been to prepare the ground for the negotiation of an Austro-German commercial treaty which will give Austria a rather better economic bargain than she has obtained hitherto in her commercial dealings with Germany. As a result of the Austrian Chancellor's visit, this object seems likely to be achieved.

The Japanese General Election.—The policy of the Minseito (Liberal) Government in holding a general election at this time has been justified by the outcome. Mr Hamaguchi has been returned to office with an absolute majority of 80 over all other parties, and of 99 over the Seiyukai (Conservative) Party, whereas in the late Diet he had to carry on the Government with a minority of 60. The fact that he was able to do so showed, of course, that public opinion was behind him; and this public opinion is reflected in the composition of the new Diet more accurately than it was in that of the late Diet. The Naval Conference was not an election issue; nor, indeed, was any other question of foreign policy. For, in Japan, as in Great Britain, there is nowadays a substantial continuity in the conduct of foreign policy as between successive ministries. This is so even in regard to Japanese policy towards China—the most important and the most contentious of all the foreign affairs with which a Japanese Ministry has to deal. The way in which Mr Hamaguchi's predecessor in office, Baron Tanaka, handled the Tsinanfu incident and the *Anschluss* of Manchuria to the Kuomintang showed very clearly that a reversion to the policy of 1915 (the year of the famous Twenty-One Demands) is now out of the question. In the field of foreign affairs, the variations of policy that are open to any Japanese Ministry have come to be rather narrowly limited—though these variations are still sufficiently important to make it desirable in Japan, as in Great Britain, that the Conservative Party should not be in power. The point of general interest in the present election results is the approximation towards a two-party system in Japan at a time when that system has been breaking up elsewhere, even in its old strongholds, Great Britain and Belgium. The tendency in Japan comes out clearly from the figures:—Minseito, 273 seats; Seiyukai, 174 seats; Labour, 5 seats; Other groups, 9 seats; Independents, 5 seats. The discomfitures of Labour and of the Independents are significant. That of the Independents is certainly a healthy sign; for the successful candidates who have sat under that name seem often to have shown themselves somewhat mercenary when it came to the question of who was to count upon their support; and when they were numerically strong enough to hold the balance between organised parties, they made Japanese Parliamentary politics a good deal less representative of Japanese public opinion than they ought to have been. The set-back to Labour is marked by the defeats of Mr Abe, the Leader of the Social Democrats, and Mr Suzuki, the President of the Federation of Labour. It is to be hoped that the Japanese working-class finds itself genuinely represented in the new Diet by others besides the five members who are formally Labour men; for there is a great and growing class here, with serious problems of its own, which must find means of expressing and pursuing its legitimate wants through constitutional channels if it is to refrain from looking to unconstitutional methods. The Japanese police are remarkably sensitive to the possible spread of "dangerous thought." The best antidote to it is a healthy political life in which Parliament really fulfils in practice the functions assigned to it in constitutional theory.

Mr Snowden on the Budget.—Speaking in his constituency on Saturday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted the possibility of a deficit in the national accounts for the current financial year. If there were a deficiency, he said, the Labour Party would not be responsible for it. The last Budget had been a fraudulent Budget. "The estimates of revenue were put at a figure beyond reasonable expectation, and the expenditure had been put down at a figure reduced beyond all reasonable expectation." Mr Snowden certainly has to face a difficult situation. According to the latest official return, ordinary revenue is £22½ million behind last year's figure, whereas Mr Churchill budgeted for a drop of only £12 million, as compared with actual receipts in 1928-29. Ordinary expenditure is £15½ million up so far. Mr Snowden did not mince words in his description of his predecessor's finance, but he might have added that the method of carrying over each year's surplus to a Suspensory Fund, instead of using it to redeem debt, is betrayed as unsound as soon as a deficit occurs and there is nothing to set against it. The Chancellor proceeded to drop hints about his expectation of continuance in office. Having taken up a duty and a responsibility, he said, he wanted to see it through. He could not see it through in one session of Parliament, or in two. It would take him three years to bring back the finances of the country to the condition in which they were when he left them five years ago, and he wanted an opportunity of doing that. If this is not bluff on Mr Snowden's part, it discredits the rumours that the Labour Government intends for tactical reasons to go to the country at a relatively early date.

Mr Churchill's Chauvinism.—The atmosphere of a Navy League meeting is heady air for an ex-First Lord of Mr Churchill's temperamental proclivities; and when desire to make party capital by attacking the Government on any and every issue leads to appeals being made to "Jingo" prejudice and suspicion, the results are wholly deplorable. In his speech on Wednesday Mr Churchill saw fit to arraign the Government for being alone among the Powers in presenting "an aspect of squeezability, of shuffling retreat, of precipitately proferred concessions" in the matter of reducing naval armaments. Mr MacDonald's proposals, he said, meant a "definite abasement" of our position on the seas of the world. Other nations were demanding larger navies; arithmetical parity with the United States would represent real naval inferiority for Great Britain; the Kellogg Pact had no bearing on strategic problems, and was a poor substitute for more cruisers. In short, Mr Churchill's contribution to the furtherance of international amity was a speech whose burden was praise of armaments for armaments' sake. Of this mischievous nonsense it should be enough to say that the speaker represents in this issue a negligible fraction of the country's opinion.

Production in 1929.—Industrial activity last year, as reflected in the Board of Trade index of production, was 5.8 per cent. greater than in 1928 and 4.5 per cent. greater than in 1927. As the quarterly figures indicate (those of the London and Cambridge Economic Service have been added for comparison) production was more steadily maintained in 1929 than in 1928:—

1924 = 100.

	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.
Board of Trade—				
1928	109·3	103·6	100·2	108·4
1929	110·4	111·9	110·6	113·5
London and Cambridge—				
1928	105·7	103·7	95·4	105·2
1929	108·3	111·0	108·2	115·0

There was no decline in the second quarter of 1929 corresponding to that in 1928, and the decline in the third quarter was slighter, with a subsequent recovery to a much higher level than in the preceding year. The second table shows the figure for the respective groups in each of the last three years and in the last quarter of 1929:—

Group.	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	Year 1929.	1929 Dec. Quarter.
1. Mines and quarries	94·3	89·2	96·6	100·3
2. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	110·0	102·3	114·0	112·2
3. Non-ferrous metals.....	116·9	119·3	120·5	123·0
4. Engineering and shipbuilding	115·2	113·1	120·9	119·6
5. Textiles	101·6	99·9	98·5	100·7
6. Chemical and allied trades.....	105·2	110·3	112·5	111·5
7. Paper and printing.....	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)
8. Leather and boots and shoes	107·7	102·0	98·5	97·9
9. Food, drink and tobacco	99·7	101·9	106·0	105·7
10. Gas and electricity	119·7	126·0	135·7(*b*)	(*b*)
Total of manufacturing industries (2–10)*	109·9	109·4	115·3	116·9
Total of all groups (1–10)*	106·8	105·5	111·6	113·5

* Including various industries not specified above.
(*a*) Not fully available. Returns received included in general index.
(*b*) Not available. Provisional estimate included in general index.

Over the year as a whole the greatest improvement is shown by the mining and iron and steel industries. The output of coal was about 8 per cent. greater in 1929 than in 1928. Electrical engineering, shipbuilding and marine engineering are mainly responsible for the improvement in group 4. The improvement in the boot and shoe industries was more than offset by a decline of nearly 13 per cent. in the index for leather. Improvements in the linen and silk industries outweighed the decline in cotton and wool to a surprising extent, and in the December quarter the textile index rose by 9.3 points over the preceding quarter. The chemical index, though better on the year, compared very unfavourably in the last quarter with its level of 118.5 in

the September quarter and 115.1 in the last quarter of 1928. The London and Cambridge figures for the whole years 1927 to 1929 are 108, 102.5 and 111, showing a similar trend but a more marked drop in 1928. In detail, however, the movements of this index differ from those of the Board of Trade index. The level of its differently composed chemical group, for example, is the highest recorded, and its textile index, which does not include wool, is higher than at any time since the first quarter of 1927. Both indices agree, however, that 1929 was a year of greater and steadier activity than its predecessor, and that the last quarter of 1929 was the best in the period which they cover.

Organising the International Bank.—The arrangements for the establishment of the International Bank are proceeding according to plan. This week both Federal Chambers in Switzerland have taken the necessary steps to provide for the granting of the Charter to the Bank, and a meeting has been held at Rome attended by the heads of the five leading European banks of issue, together with a representative of the Governor of the Bank of Japan, at which the composition of the board was determined. The names of the German delegates are not yet announced, as the new Reichsbank Law, which will put the necessary pressure upon Dr. Schacht to participate, has not yet been passed. The representatives at this meeting decided to invite Mr Gates McGarrah, chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Mr Leon Fraser, a New York lawyer, and former general counsel for the Dawes Plan, to be the American directors, and it is understood that Mr McGarrah will be appointed president of the bank and chairman of the board. The fact that the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been nominated may cause some surprise in view of the feeling in some quarters of America that the Federal Reserve Bank should not be drawn into too close an association with the new International Bank. But these nominations would obviously not have been made unless it had been ascertained that they were acceptable in America. Indeed, Mr McGarrah has announced his acceptance of the nomination, and has paid a farewell visit to Mr Hoover before leaving for Europe. As he will be resident in Europe, he will resign his position on the Federal Reserve Bank. Mr McGarrah, who is a member of the Transfer Committee under the Dawes Plan, is known to those concerned with international affairs as a banker of the highest standing. To undertake the primary responsibility for inaugurating and carrying through its initial difficulties so great an experiment as this International Bank, might have been thought a task to tax the energies of a much younger man than Mr McGarrah. But the new president will have at his right hand very powerful support in Mr Leon Fraser, and it is an asset of the greatest importance that the bank should be guided by a man whose presence ensures the closest contact with the Federal Reserve System. The nominees of the other five central banks represented will be as follows:—

Great Britain ...	Mr Montagu Norman and Sir Charles Addis;
France	M. Emile Moreau, Governor of the Bank of France, Baron Brincard, President of the Crédit Lyonnais, and the Marquis de Vogüé, President of the Suez Canal Company;
Belgium	M. Franck, Governor of the Bank of Belgium, and M. Emile Francqui, Belgian financier, who were both members of the Young Committee;
Italy	Signor Stringher and Signor Beneduce, Professor of Political Economy and a member of the International Bank Organisation Committee;
Japan	Mr Tanaka, London representative of the Bank of Japan, and Mr. Nohara, London manager of the Yokohama Specie Bank.

It will be remembered that the statutes provided for the possibility of appointing directors from other countries than the seven founder Powers. But the original directors will presumably prefer to wait until their own numbers are complete and the bank actually established before taking steps to co-opt additional members of the board.

Cotton Trade and Short Time.—The members of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation who use American cotton have decided against organised short time. A fortnight ago it was decided to take a ballot on the proposal to curtail production by 13 hours per week—*i.e.*, that the mills should run 35 hours instead of 48—for eight weeks from March 3rd. At the beginning of this week it was announced that the ballot showed 58.82 per cent. in favour, 16.14 per cent. against, and no replies from 25.04 per cent. According to the rules of the Federation, no organised short time can be put into force without the support of members owning 80 per cent. of the spindles, and, in view of the result of the ballot, the committee decided to take no further action. Owing to repeated reports of severe trade depression in Lancashire, especially in the American spinning section, some people outside the industry may be surprised at the voting; but the fact of the matter is that spinning employers have realised for some time that organised curtailment of output is not a remedy for the difficulties which face the trade. Some surprise has been expressed in trade circles at the large number of members who did not vote, but it is understood that many firms did not want to vote against the proposal, yet at the same time could not support it, so that they did not return the voting paper.

Cotton Trade Co-operative Enterprise.—At the end of last week the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations announced that arrangements had been made for the formation of the British Cotton Textile Association. The aim of this new organisation is to make a further effort to increase Lancashire's trade in bulk standard cotton goods, and the movement will have the support of all sections of the trade, including the operatives. The Association will facilitate and supervise the co-operation of firms in the different sections; it will translate the work of the various sub-committees of the Joint Committee into increased trade for Lancashire by bringing it to the notice of those most likely to be interested and by arranging for the production of chosen cloths by syndicates working under its auspices. One of the chief aims will be to secure economies incidental to mass production. It is urged that the scheme will present the most efficient and economical way of restoring the former strength of Lancashire in meeting the world's demand for cheap standard goods, and for this purpose it will treat all the processes and services involved as part of a single transaction, beginning with the purchase of raw cotton and only ending with the goods in the final state, ready for the consumer. This further effort towards co-operation in the Lancashire cotton trade has been well received, and it is understood that in the near future a definite attack will be made upon a particular foreign market with a standard cloth produced under the joint auspices of spinners, manufacturers and merchants.

Another Wheat Slump.—The official action of the Canadian provincial governments and of the United States Federal Farm Board to support wheat holding organisations, which we recorded a fortnight ago, has not succeeded in raising the level of prices. Our forecast that they would sag still further has, in fact, been fully justified. No vigorous export demand has manifested itself in North American markets, and the sellers' position naturally grows weaker day by day as storage space becomes filled up and interest charges grow more formidable. The following table illustrates the recent movement of prices:—

NEW YORK SPOT WHEAT PRICES.

	Cents per Bushel.	
1930.	No. 2 Hard Winter.	No. 2 Manitoba.
January 2nd	137⅜	155⅛
,, 16th	129⅜	141½
February 6th	122⅝	135⅝
,, 13th	125	137½
,, 18th	119½	129⅞
,, 19th	115⅞	126½
,, 20th	114½	123⅞
,, 21st	114½	127½
,, 24th	108½	121¼
,, 25th	107⅞	121
,, 26th	108½	121½

The rally which occurred at the end of last week on a bout of European buying lapsed entirely on Monday, when several big American holders are reported to have sought to cut their losses. A conference of the Premiers of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan was held on Saturday to discuss the wheat situation and the form of legislation embodying the promise of support to the pools, but it is doubtful whether governmental interference or the pools themselves can alter the consequences of world-wide over-supply of wheat. It is remarkable that although the 1929-30 crop was much smaller than that of the preceding year, the visible supply, according to *Bradstreet's* latest estimate, is now 369,960,000 bushels, against 313,301,000 bushels a year ago. The course of prices now depends principally on the forecasts of the new crop. If they are notably favourable, it is difficult to see how prices can even be maintained at their present level.

Reparation Payments in January.—The Report of the Agent-General for January shows that the balance of the fifth Dawes annuity was further reduced by Rm. 9,142,498 (less gains by interest and exchange amounting to Rm. 500,378) to Rm. 65,385,969. No part of the sum transferred, which was almost exclusively required for deliveries in kind, was taken by Great Britain. On account of the transition period annuity, Rm. 182,488,526 was paid by Germany in January, raising the cumulative total paid since September 1, 1929, to Rm. 831,097,841. Allocations from the January contribution for the service of the Dawes Loan and for distribution to the creditor Powers on the Young Plan scale, in accordance with the Hague Protocol of August, totalled Rm. 113,495,379. The sum remaining to the credit of Germany, contingent upon final acceptance of the Young Plan, was raised to Rm. 223,774,565. These figures exclude interest and exchange differences. Transfers in January from the current annuity totalled Rm. 146,112,779, including Rm. 8,329,450 for Great Britain, reducing the balance available for future transfer to Rm. 137,807,806.

German Film Industry.—A German correspondent writes:—There has been an interesting development in the situation in the German film industry described in an article in the *Economist* of December 14, 1929. At that time it was announced that the Commerz und Privat Bank had purchased on behalf of the Reich Government the majority of shares in Emelka, the second largest film concern in Germany. The reasons for this remarkable deal were mainly political; the Nationalist campaign against acceptance of the Young Plan was then in full swing, and when the Emelka shares suddenly came into the market the Government had reason to fear that they might pass into the hands of Herr Hugenberg, the Nationalist leader, and thus be added to his already formidable array of film and newspaper interests as a further political weapon. But while the purchase of the Emelka shares was considered unavoidable as a way out of a threatened emergency, few people believed that the Reich would retain this commitment after the political crisis had passed. A number of offers of purchase from both home and foreign interests were reported to be under consideration, but at a board meeting of the Emelka last week it was revealed that none of these offers would be accepted at present. Thus it would seem that the Government is really prepared to embark actively upon the strange enterprise of film production, though it is not yet known in what way and by which department it will exercise its control, nor whether any estimate for this commitment will be introduced into the Budget. At the board meeting a thorough reorganisation was decided on; Press reports state that arrangements have been made for Mr Dupont to become director of production for the company; the change-over to the "talkies" is to be accelerated, and previous losses are to be written off with more courage than has hitherto characterised balance sheets in the film industry. The accounts for the first half of 1929 which were laid before the meeting show a net loss of nearly £50,000 on the production side, in addition to a net loss of nearly £20,000 in the theatre business. Presumably the Government considers the risk of future losses a fair price for the political advantage of controlling a large part of film production and exhibition throughout the country.

Pearl Assurance Company, Ltd.—The results of the usual annual valuation in both the Ordinary and Industrial Life Branches of this company are set out below:—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Ordinary Branch.			
Surplus earned during year	662,638	837,363	980,508
Brought forward from previous year	67,934	73,798	113,113
	730,572	911,161	1,093,621
Allocations:—			
To Policyholders' bonus	504,572	617,375	684,132
,, Shareholders' account	126,143	154,344	171,033
,, Investment reserve fund ...	...	...	135,196
,, Staff pension fund	26,059	26,329	26,905
,, Carry forward to next year	73,798	113,113	76,355
	730,572	911,161	1,093,621
Industrial Branch.			
Surplus earned during year	252,552	359,334	1,004,895
Brought forward from previous year	82,685	86,296	96,959
	335,237	445,630	1,101,854
Allocations:—			
To Policyholders' bonus	...	...	506,671
,, Shareholders' account	175,000	275,000	340,000
,, Investment reserve fund ...	...	...	64,804
,, Staff pension fund	73,941	73,671	73,095
,, Carry forward to next year	86,296	96,959	117,284
	335,237	445,630	1,101,854

In the Ordinary Branch the reversionary bonus is maintained at the same rate as previously, viz.: 46s. per cent., calculated on the sums assured. The extraordinary increase in the surplus shown as having been earned in the Industrial Branch is the result of years of effort devoted to strengthening the basis of valuation. These measures have now been completed and the present surplus is the first fruits. The chairman's promise, in his speech at the last annual meeting, has been implemented, and a measure of profit-sharing for the policyholders has been inaugurated by the distribution of approximately one-half of the surplus earned. The sum distributed is being allotted to policies effected prior to 1923 in the form of a reversionary bonus equal to 16s. for whole life assurances subject to weekly premiums of 1s., and to 12s. for endowment assurances with weekly premiums of the same amount. In the Fire and General Branch the profits, as might have been expected, are on a reduced scale, but, nevertheless, together with interest earnings, contribute an aggregate sum of £47,757 to the shareholders' account. Since the end of 1928 the paid-up capital has increased by £280,000 to £1,060,000. Notwithstanding this, the rate of dividend has been maintained at approximately the same rate, viz.: 50 per cent., but the cost has increased from £298,000 to £476,000. In spite of a larger amount received in the form of single premiums, the new life business in the Ordinary Branch has declined from £12,080,000 to £11,653,000, but the Industrial Branch total has been slightly increased from £20,434,000 to £20,603,000. The expense ratio in the Ordinary Branch works out at 14.7 per cent., and in the Industrial Branch at 34.2 per cent., while the net interest earnings in the two branches combined represented £4 15s. 2d. per cent. on the average mean fund, compared with £4 15s. 11d. per cent. in 1928. The certificate

as to the basis of values of the Stock Exchange securities in the balance sheet is in the following form:—

"The values of Stock Exchange securities are determined under the Articles of the Company, by the Directors. Due allowance has been made for accrued interest, and the book values of these securities (which have been compared with the middle market prices as at 31st December, 1929) stand in the aggregate considerably below cost price."

The inadequacy of a statement in this form is scarcely worthy of a company of the size and standing of the Pearl.

Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association.—In the report just issued for the year 1929 the Association claims to have made steady progress and a record increase in funds of over £600,000. New policies for a total of £1,941,000 were issued, as compared with £2,273,214 in 1928. Although the volume of new business shows a large reduction, it is only fair to point out that 1928 was the last year of a quinquennial period and a year, therefore, which customarily produces increased new business. Actually the 1929 total compares favourably with the average new business for the period 1925-29. The expense ratio—*i.e.*, the ratio to the premium income of the expenses of management plus commission—works out at 13.6 per cent., compared with 14.5 per cent. in 1928, while the rate of interest is £4 16s. 8d. per cent. net, compared with £4 12s. 2d. per cent. net in 1928. Here again, it is necessary to say that the particular method of calculating the interest factor—a method common to all life offices—produced an artificially low rate in 1928. The balance sheet is interesting principally because it shows a further substantial increase in the amount invested in ordinary stocks and shares. At the end of 1925 the ordinary shareholdings stood at £225,000; at the end of 1928 this item had grown to £717,000; while the 1929 total has further risen to £1,013,000, or 14 per cent. of the total balance sheet assets. The Provident Mutual is thus now a strong advocate of the ordinary share investment policy, though it is understood that it confines itself largely to the ordinary shares of railway and other public utility companies. In view of the heavy depreciation last year in ordinary shares, it would be interesting to know if the new purchases were effected in the early part of the year before the slump or in the late autumn after the slump. Last year the chairman stated, in the course of his speech, that, apart from the investment reserve fund of £160,000, the market values of the Stock Exchange securities exceeded the book values by the sum of £320,000.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—SHARE MARKET—INDUSTRY—WHEAT STABILISATION CORPORATION—MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, February 14.

DURING the past week Wall Street has been impressed with the contrast between a continuance of strength in shares and the pronounced weakness in commodity prices throughout the world. The share market has not been as buoyant as during the few weeks preceding; but the undertone has remained firm, despite rather general expectations of a "technical reaction." The market has had the support of the reduction in discount rates throughout the Federal Reserve system, the 4½ to 5 per cent. basis having been replaced by 4 to 4½. It also has had the assistance of continued bullish news from the steel industry, where production has increased further to close on 80 per cent. of capacity. On the other hand, it has not escaped attention that wheat and cotton have fallen to the lowest prices for the year, and to levels substantially below those existing a year ago. Thus there has been the spectacle of a distinctly encouraging upswing in steel output (and in that of automobiles) coinciding with a continued weakness in commodity prices that might be taken as forecasting a period of depression. In these circumstances a very considerable diversity of opinion as to business prospects exists, but the general frame of mind is hopeful.

The optimists take the view that the pick-up in steel indicates that the corner has been turned, and that other industries will soon fall in line. The more conservatively inclined point out that there are some reasons for thinking that the extent of the rebound in steel production may be misleading. They argue that stocks of steel products, and of steel in the various processes of manufacture, were reduced to abnormally low proportions at the end of 1929, so that a certain amount of replenishment on this account would be natural. They also point out that the steel industry may still be running on a part of its old momentum. In this connection, however, it may be noted that the unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation increased 51,000 tons in January, and at 4,468,000 tons were the highest for any month-end since January, 1926. The increase on the year amounts to about 360,000 tons. The railroads continue to be the steel industry's best customers, but agricultural implement companies are running at close to capacity, and the automobile industry increased its requirements during January. The building industry is poor in the residential department, but its activity is sustained by public works and public utility construction. Output of structural steel is large—somewhat larger, it appears, than current lettings of contracts for this kind of material. The higher rate of activity in steel has steadied steel prices, but has done no more than that.

Automobile production during January was about 300,000 cars and trucks, as compared with 125,000 in December and with about 425,000 in January, 1929. The increase in output has been in the low-priced cars, chiefly in Fords and Chevrolets. The high-priced cars have been selling poorly, and few of the medium-priced makes are doing as well as a year ago. Then there is the question how well the cars that are being made for dealers' stocks will sell to consumers. It must, however, be admitted that the manufacturers are anxious not to overload dealers, who are struggling with the used car problem, and that the large production in January must to some degree, at least, reflect the response that dealers are having from their customers. Chrysler earnings for 1929 amounted to $21,902,000, as compared with $30,991,000 in 1928, when earnings from the Dodge properties were included only from August 1st to the end of the year. In contrast to the low-priced field, where prices were reduced early in the year, there have, recently, been a number of price advances in the medium and high-priced ranges.

Copper statistics for January revealed another increase in stocks, despite a further reduction in output. Stocks of refined in the hands of North and South American producers stood at 203,000 tons on February 1, and the January increase of 32,000 tons compared with one of 45,000 tons in December. Stocks of blister were 269,000 tons, the increase here during January amounting to only 1,400 tons. North and South American production in January amounted to 132,000 tons, as compared with 138,000 in December and with 157,000 in January, 1929. If the curtailment that became operative on January 15th had been effective during the whole month, January production would have been 126,000 tons. Shipments during January meanwhile increased to 100,000 tons from 93,000 in December. Thus production has been reduced substantially but not enough to meet the still subnormal rate of shipments. At present the producers give every indication of a firm intention of maintaining the 18 cent price. They believe that as the spring demand for the metal materialises and as the business revival gathers strength, shipments will overtake production and the stock position will be strengthened.

A fair rally in cotton and wheat coincides this week with the formation of the Farm Board's Wheat Stabilisation Corporation. The corporation proceeded to buy cash wheat on several markets, and its demand for funds forced the Treasury to make an unexpected offer of $50,000,000 in bills dated February 18 and maturing May 19. Bids for these bills were to be received up to February 14. The Treasury had evidently expected to carry on until the March 15th tax date without financing. Meanwhile there is considerable comment on the ineffectiveness of the Board's earlier attempts to support wheat prices by offering to lend money to co-operative associations on the basis of $1.25 a bushel of wheat. There is some speculation as to whether the Board has in mind the fathering of a cotton stabilisation corporation. The whole business is much disliked in conservative quarters. At the same time, the decline in wheat prices has to some extent turned the farmers against the Farm Board and the Co-operatives.

This week's bank statements are devoid of striking changes. Having lowered its discount rates, the Federal Reserve system is evidently inclined toward further watchful waiting. There are further evidences that the stresses within the system are considerable, and that prompt action by the regional banks is hindered by the board at Washington.

FRANCE.—POLITICS—REVENUE—FOREIGN TRADE—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, February 26.

M. CHAUTEMPS'S ill-advised decision to form a Ministry dependent on the support of the Socialist Party (after M. Tardieu had rather naturally refused to co-operate with the combination who had kicked him downstairs) resulted in a disaster last night, when the new Ministry came before the Chamber for the first time and was defeated by 15 votes on a division in which 569 out of a total strength of 597 deputies voted. The Loucheur Radical Left group, four of whose members (including M. Loucheur himself) had seats in the new Cabinet, was again sharply divided, 25 of the 51 voting against the Ministry, 20 for, and six abstaining. The outstanding factor in the brief debate was the attitude of M. Franklin-Bouillon's little group of 15 members, the Social and Radical Left, whose strenuous leader insisted that, in view of the very slight superiority of the Moderate half of the Chamber over the Left wing, as the result of the 1928 elections, it was useless for either to continue to manifest an intransigeant attitude, except at the cost of general chaos. M. Franklin-Bouillon urged both main sections to bury the hatchet and constitute a Ministry of Concentration, relying on the whole of the centre groups, and barring only the extremists at either end. This would be to reconstitute the situation that prevailed under M. Poincaré's recent Ministries, until the Radical Socialists, as the result of a vote taken at the end of their Angers Party Congress, compelled M. Herriot and his three Radical Socialist colleagues to withdraw from the Cabinet.

To the impartial observer this would appear to be the only possible solution of the present chaotic situation. From the international point of view it would ensure continuity of policy, so far as France is concerned, as M. Briand would almost certainly remain at the Quai d'Orsay. On the other hand, it would leave French policy at the naval disarmanent conference exactly as it was when M. Tardieu was seized with his unfortunate attack of *grippe*. M. Chautemps's declaration of policy yesterday made it clear that the Radical Socialist Ministry stood absolutely four-square with their predecessors on the French memorandum of December 20th, and everything confirms that whatever Cabinet may now be formed will take the same line. The President of the Republic this morning, in accordance with practice, summoned M. Tardieu, as the head of the principal Opposition group that brought about the late Government's defeat, and invited him to form a Ministry. M. Tardieu, with characteristic tact, postponed definite acceptance until he had consulted M. Poincaré, whom all parties recognise as the one statesman best fitted to take charge in present circumstances. M. Poincaré was compelled to decline, from the fact that his state of health will prevent any return to activity for some months yet, whereupon M. Tardieu formally accepted the task. It is generally believed to-night that before mid-day to-morrow he will have succeeded in forming a Cabinet that will be assured of a stable majority, and that it will be found possible after all to complete the Budget discussion before the new financial year begins on April 1st.

In present circumstances it is difficult to see how the Budget can be got through without being to a large extent recast. The demand for much more liberal reduction of taxation has now become so general and insistent, particularly in view of the country's economic outlook at present, that relief can only be accorded by a further substantial scaling down of proposed expenditure, unless the accumulated reserves of the Treasury are to be utilised for the purpose in view.

The probability of gold exports from this country in the near future, which was foreshadowed here last week, was confirmed by the fact last Saturday, when a small parcel of about £250,000 was withdrawn from the Bank of France and consigned to Berlin. The exchange rate for the mark has stood at 610 in Paris for the past two or three days, however, and this level, although it represents gold export point as accepted here, is insufficient to make further withdrawals on German account profitable. The dollar exchange, although it reached gold export point (25.57½) a few days ago, has since strengthened and closed to-night at 25.57, after 25.57½, which leaves gold movements from Paris to New York again impracticable. United States financial leaders are stated to regard a possible influx of French gold with some alarm. Mr Harrison, the Governor of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, is said to be on his way to Europe for conferences in regard to the gold problem with both the Bank of France and the Bank of England.

The revenue continues to increase. The January return shows a total yield of 4,469,984,000 francs, of which 4,420,158,700 francs were from normal and permanent sources (exclusive of the revenue from the Postal Department, and from the tobacco monopoly and the special taxes applied to debt extinction purposes through the Caisse d'Amortissement), as against 4,250,000,000 francs in January, 1929, and 3,412,000,000 francs in January, 1928. The fact that the January yield exceeds appreciably the average of the previous twelve months points to a practical certainty that it will furnish the Treasury with a substantial surplus over expenditure, even taking into account the recent reductions of taxation.

The foreign trade returns for January show total imports of 4,778,000,000 francs, and exports of 3,714,000,000 francs, representing an adverse balance of 1,063,000,000 francs on the first month of the year, following a deficit of 8,212,000,000 francs for the twelve months of 1929. These totals include German reparation payments in kind. Imports in January were 345,000,000 francs less than in January, 1929, although 900,000 tons more in bulk, this increase in tonnage being due to larger imports of raw materials (which were 950,000 tons larger, but 229,000,000 francs less in value). Imports of manufactured goods were 66,000 tons greater and 217,857,000 francs larger in value, while foodstuff entries were lower by 333,500,000 francs and 121,847 tons. Exports of foodstuffs were 51,000,000 francs and 46,150 tons larger and of manufactured goods 100,000,000 francs and 25,000 tons larger. Exports of raw materials fell off by 139½ millions and 165½ thousand tons. While imports had a value of 345,000,000 francs (or 7 per cent.) less, exports were 15,000,000 francs larger. French foreign trade, on which there has been an adverse balance for about two years, now appears to have more or less returned to what was its normal situation before the war. In January, 1913, there was an adverse balance of 1,450,000,000 francs (present currency), which corresponded to about 40 per cent. of the imports. Last month's adverse balance was equivalent to about 20 per cent. of the present volume of imports.

Production continues on the up-grade. The general index figure for December (1913=100) is returned as 144, as against 143 in November, and a mean of 127 throughout 1929. The motor car industry is given a figure of 613, against 598 in November; rubber as 962, against 957; paper industry, 121, against 116; leather, 105, against 103; engineering and textiles being unchanged. The only declines are in the metallurgical industry (which has dropped three points to 130, owing to

the 10 per cent. production cut order by the European Steel Cartel as from November 1st), and in extractive industries (129 to 126). January and February production figures in certain industries are not expected to be as good. The revenue from the tourist industry is reported to have been about 1,000,000,000 francs less during 1929 than in 1928, and the winter season this year is considerably below the average, owing to the unsettled financial situation in the United States and Great Britain. This has had a directly adverse effect, especially on the Paris region.

GERMANY.—PUBLIC FINANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT FUND—GERMAN-POLISH TREATY—MUNICIPAL LOAN—BANK AMALGAMATION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, February 25.

THE acute crisis in the Reich's finances at the end of the year was met temporarily by a credit granted by the banks, and subsequently by the sale of Treasury certificates. Since then efforts have been concentrated on the placing of the finances on a healthy basis in the 1930-31 Budget. If the necessary liquidity of the national treasury's finances is to be secured, it is urgently necessary to reduce the floating debt, which still amounts at the end of each quarter to some 1,700 million marks. The Reich is to receive in the coming summer the first instalment of the Kreuger Loan (roundly 200 millions), and the Minister of Finance may possibly succeed in discounting the second instalment. The budget for 1930 also contains an extraordinary amortisation fund of 450 million marks, required by a law enacted in December at Dr. Schacht's instigation. Hence the floating debt will be reduced in the course of the fiscal year 1930-31 by at least 650 and possibly by 850 million marks.

This will be sufficient if it be carried through. But if it is to be carried through, it will be necessary to make quite certain that the 1930-31 budget is balanced. The Minister of Finance, Herr Moldenhauer, seems to have been conservative in his estimates of receipts and expenditures, and the result is that despite the reduction of the reparation payments under the Young Plan, a considerable amount of new taxes will have to be imposed. The Minister's original plan was as follows:—

Increased expenditures and decreased receipts as compared with budget of 1929.	Mn. marks.	Resources.	Mn. marks.
Payments to amortization fund	450	Savings under Young Plan	700
To cover 1928 deficit	154	Special credits for unemployment insurance	250
Contribution to unemployment insurance	250	Miscellaneous savings	80
Reduced tax receipts	230	Increased taxation	370

The Finance Minister's negotiations with the parties upon which he depended to assure his programme encountered great difficulties from the beginning. The present coalition, which includes the parties from the German People's Party to the Socialists, is at bottom still merely an experiment, although it has been in existence for almost two years. It has hitherto been held together by the necessity of achieving a new regulation of the reparation question. Now that this has been reached through the Young Plan, the right and left wings are tending apart. The budget problems, therefore, disclose themselves as a dangerous political issue—and this is especially so because no one appears hitherto to have had the ability and courage to set financial reform before the German people as an imperative task, and thus to rouse public opinion to political activity in aid of the Government's efforts. In order to reduce the political difficulties it was decided at the outset to include the sum for covering the 1928 deficit in the contribution to the amortisation fund.

The Minister had desired to raise the special credits for unemployment insurance by a sort of forced loan from the State invalid and old-age insurance departments. The plan was bitterly opposed by the Socialists, and, in fact, it did create misgivings. For the supplementary payments for unemployment insurance may not be made by borrowing, and, moreover, the sums would have been withdrawn from housing, which has been largely dependent on credit from the insurance organisations. All that is left of this plan is that the insurance department will voluntarily buy a part of the preferred German railway shares held by the Reich—which receives an option for their repurchase— and the money thus secured is to be used for unemployment insurance. There has been some consideration of a plan to leave it to the unemployment insurance department itself to cover its remaining deficit and to see how it can balance its own budget for the coming years. But the Socialists oppose this also, and it is doubtful whether any progress can be made along this way.

It is also doubtful whether the Minister of Finance can gain the support of a majority of the Cabinet and the Reichstag for all his proposals for economies as compared with the expenditures in 1929. But at best, despite the elimination of the deficit of 1928, the sum of roundly 300 millions will have to be covered by new taxation. An increase of the tax on beer is to bring 180 millions of this, an increase of taxes on tea and coffee 50 millions. How the remainder is to be raised is still not clear. The Socialists are demanding an " emergency sacrifice " by payers of income tax, since they are unwilling to have the budget put on a sound basis merely through taxes on articles of consumption. But the German income tax is already so high that a reduction is necessary for the formation of new capital. More can be said in favour of a special contribution by the civil service officials to the unemployment insurance funds, since the deficit in the budget is in considerable part due to the salary increases granted in 1927. The negotiations concerning the financial problems are adversely handicapped by the fact that the fate of the coalition depends on them, and that, gladly as the parties on the wings would shake off responsibility, it is impossible to see how any other coalition could be formed.

Another source of trouble for the Government is the treaty with Poland. Poland, taking advantage of every possible legal technicality, has expropriated German property in the ceded districts in a particularly ruthless manner, and in many cases practically without any compensation, since the property was sold for a song. This has given risen to large German claims for indemnity, but the Poles will not acknowledge them. The Hague Court of Arbitration took up for consideration these disputes and other German claims for indemnity for property connected with the cession of territory, but it has as yet reached no decision concerning the typical cases. The Young Plan, as will be recalled, contemplated that Germany should reach an agreement with Poland in these matters. After wearisome negotiations the two governments reached an agreement under which Poland abandoned the right to make further expropriations, which would assure the existence of about 12,000 German settlers in Poland, and Germany for her part surrendered her claims for indemnity for former expropriations and other legal claims.

Strong opposition to this treaty is now being shown in the Reichstag, nor does this come merely from the German National opposition, but from all parties, and especially from the German People's Party and the Centre. Nor is this opposition based merely on sentimental grounds, but on very grave doubts as to whether responsibility can be assumed for the surrender by Germany of such important and well-founded claims in view of the Reich's financial situation. The Government has thus far maintained its position that the treaty must be disposed of together with the Young Plan, but it is doubtful whether it will be able to carry its point.

The City of Berlin desires to raise a 45-million credit from a consortium of large German banks for carrying out urgent building plans. The conditions are anything but favourable. The interest rate will be about 9½ per cent. The city pledges its holdings of shares of the Deutsche Gasgesellschaft (German Gas Company). At the same time, 8 per cent. Municipal Treasury certificates, payable on October 1, 1933, will be issued at a subscription price of 95½. The proceeds of these certificates are to be handed over to the consortium and to be regarded as an advance repayment of the bank credit, which is otherwise to run until July 1, 1931. The Berlin City Council has approved the issue, but it has still to be approved by the State authorities.

Germany's two largest mortgage banks—the Preussische Central-Bodenkredit-A.G. and the Preussische Pfandbriefbank—have just decided to combine. The amalgamation was prepared for months ago, but this is only the fourth case of a fusion of mortgage banks for 30 years. The Preussische Pfandbriefbank has already taken over two other banks, the Roggenrentenbank, which was founded in the inflation period, and, a year ago, the Preussische Hypothekenaktienbank, which was controlled by Ivar Kreuger. When the fusion took place Kreuger retained a qualified minority of 25 per cent., and it is to be assumed that he retains it in the combined bank. The new institution will have a share capital of 36 million marks and 27 millions of liquid reserves, though before the two banks had, respectively, 25 and 18.2 millions of stock. But the main stockholders of the Pfandbriefbank already possess about 8 millions of the Centralbodenkredit, and thus the new institution can, with a smaller capital, handle a circulation of almost a thousand million mortgage bonds and municipal obligations. This means an increase of its earning power. Both banks pay dividends of 12 per cent.

ROUMANIA.—INTEREST PROBLEM—MORTGAGE CREDIT—NATIONAL BANK—COMMERCIAL TREATIES—TREASURY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, February 20.

AN active campaign is being carried on against the high rate of interest charged in Roumania at present. Resolutions condemning this practice are passed by the chambers of commerce, and by the unions of commercial, industrial and other bodies interested in the question. The disastrous effect of these charges on commerce and industry, and on the whole economic life of the country, cannot be denied, but it is striking that so far no practical solution of the problem has been found. The Government has now stepped in, and has asked the large banks of Bucharest and the provinces not to charge more than 18 per cent. per annum. As a matter of fact, the principal banks have not charged more than this rate for some time, several of the Bucharest institutions have even reduced their charges to an average of 16 per cent. Nothing has been gained, therefore, by this step of the Government. The high rates to which objection is taken are charged by the small banks, and it must not be overlooked that a considerable proportion of the rates applied by them is represented by the risk which they incur in granting the loans. The insecurity of the economic conditions prevailing in this country at the moment justifies these heavy rates to some extent at least. Competition has already brought down the interest rates of the principal banks on the better class business which falls to them; competition will eventually reduce the charges of the smaller banks.

A plan to relieve the critical situation of mortgaged property has been suggested by the Government to the principal banks. A Temporary Mortgage Credit Institute is to be formed for the purpose of taking up abnormal mortgages at a reduced rate of interest and of facilitating their transfer to the rural and urban land banks and to the proposed Agricultural Credit Bank. It is to have a duration of three years with the option of extending the period to six. The capital of 250 million lei is to be subscribed by the large banks; additional resources are to be found by the issue of bonds in the internal market for an amount not exceeding 500 million lei. It cannot be said that the scheme is greeted enthusiastically by the banks who will be called upon to subscribe the capital. The bonds, which are to be guaranteed by the State, will be exempt from all taxes and will have to be issued on about a 9 per cent. basis; this will mean that loans can-

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not be granted much below 13 or 14 per cent. Besides, the placing of the bonds will not be an easy matter. It will be interesting to watch the development of the scheme.

The National Bank has closed the year 1929 with a net profit of 188 million lei, against 191 million lei for 1928. After appropriating certain amounts to reserves and other funds, in accordance with the statutes, there remains sufficient to pay a dividend of 480 lei per share of 3,000 lei. As an interim dividend of 150 lei was paid in August last, and 84 lei must be deducted for taxes, there will be a final distribution of 246 lei per share. The gross profit amounted to 958 millions, the general expenses and amortisations to 770 millions, against 689 millions and 537 millions respectively in the previous year.

Discounts on December 31, 1929, amounted to 8,765 million lei, comparing with 9,286 millions on December 31, 1928. The difference of 521 millions is represented by a fall of the discounts in the central institution of 1,527 millions and an increase of the discounts in the provinces of 1,006 millions. The discount rate is now 9 per cent., to which figure it was reduced from 9½ per cent. on November 26th last. The average circulation during 1929 amounted to 20,393 millions against 21,160 millions in 1928. The proportion of the total stock to the liabilities was 30.10 per cent.; the lowest figures during the year were 33.42 per cent. and 26.48 per cent. in March. The report lays stress on the success of the stabilisation of the lei, which is now assumed to be safe. The change from the state of immobilisation in which the bank found itself before the introduction of this measure to the normal function of an issuing bank has practically been completed during the year.

On March 1st the term expires during which commercial treaties should have been concluded in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Tariff of last summer. As it has not been possible to come to an agreement with the various countries, the period has been prolonged to May 1st. It is particularly in the discussions with Germany that difficulties have arisen on account of the raising of the German import taxes on agricultural produce, principally barley. Germany has always been one of the chief buyers of Roumanian barley, and the increase of the German import tax on this article has hit the Roumanian producer very hard. This is to be deplored in view of last year's rich barley crops. The question is of the greatest importance for Roumania, as the country has already suffered severely from Canadian and Argentine competition and is further menaced by possible Russian exports.

The legislation against income tax evasion is bearing good fruit. The number of income tax declarations handed in in Bucharest alone is 50 per cent. larger than last year. A considerable increase in the yield of this tax can be expected. Treasury receipts in the new year are said to progress very well. If expectations are realised there is hope that in August next a reduction of taxes may be made by the Minister of Finance. The importance of such a measure cannot be exaggerated. Removal of the additional taxation introduced in the course of last year would cause considerable relief to trade. The success experienced by Roumania at the Hague Conference with regard to payments under the Young Plan and Eastern Reparations has caused considerable satisfaction and means a welcome gain for the

Roumanian Exchequer. Good results have also been obtained by the realisation of petroleum concessions. The policy of disposing of these concessions in accordance with the provisions of the new Mining Law is actively pursued by the Government. On the whole, Roumania's finances are at present in a healthier condition than they have been for a long time past, and one of the principal foundation stones for economic recovery has thereby been laid.

Meanwhile, present conditions are still very difficult. As was expected, the economic crisis is beginning to affect the banks. The trouble has started in Timisoara, where the important provincial bank, the Banca Timisana, was obliged to close its doors, happily only temporarily owing to the intervention of the National Bank. Difficulties are also being experienced in Jassy, and it is not unlikely that other centres will follow suit. The responsible circles, however, are well aware of the perilous situation, and it may be assumed that timely measures, such, for instance, as the amalgamation of small institutions under a strong lead, will avert serious danger.

CANADA.—PARLIAMENT—BROKERAGE SCANDALS—RAILWAY DEVELOPMENTS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, February 11.

THE Federal Parliament is due to reassemble on February 20th. The King Government will not be in any danger of defeat on the floor of Parliament, but it can expect to be pressed hard by the Opposition, who are in a militant and confident mood and feel that the tide of public sentiment is now definitely running in their favour. It is still uncertain whether Mr Dunning, the new Finance Minister, will undertake any comprehensive measure of tariff revision. In a speech delivered at Regina on February 6th, he proclaimed himself a low-tariff man and declared that the Liberal policy would be to keep the tariff as low as possible with proper regard for the interests of the producers, consumers and industry generally. He also argued that a general increase in the tariff would offer no panacea for the ills from which Canada is suffering, and pointed out that high protectionist countries like the United States and Australia had at present relatively a worse problem of unemployment than the Dominion. The Liberal Press has strongly commended his speech, but Conservative papers have derided it as fresh evidence of the impotency of the King Government to deal with the situation which will be created by the passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill. The *Montreal Gazette* characterises the speech as an attempt to hold western Liberal support, but regards it as a serious matter for the Dominion as a whole, and especially for the great industrial provinces of Ontario and Quebec, that the Finance Minister should take such a nebulous line. The Conservatives are certain to raise the tariff issue soon after Parliament meets, and other questions, which will provide material for sharp controversy will be the Government's plan for the control of radio broadcasting, the proposed ban upon liquor exports to the United States, the reorganisation of the capital structure of the Canadian National Railway and the revision of the system of soldiers' pensions. There are also likely to be interesting debates upon the report of the special conference which has recommended a series of adjustments to bring the legal arrangements of the British Commonwealth into greater conformity with the constitutional position affirmed by the resolutions of the Imperial Conference of 1926.

On February 10th there opened in Toronto a conference of the attorney-generals of six provinces which are interested in the brokerage scandals, and two others, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, sent notification that they would accept any recommendations made by the conferees. Colonel W. H. Price, the Attorney-General of Ontario, presided, and some chartered accountants, who had been making investigations into the books of the brokerage houses involved in the scandals, gave an account of the results of these investigations and offered suggestions about amendments which were necessary to meet the situation. Spokesmen of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Standard Mining Exchange and the Vancouver Stock Exchange presented their case, and later on representatives of the banking interests will be heard. The chief aim of the conference is to secure uniform legislation throughout the Dominion which will prevent "bucketing" and illegal short selling by brokers. For this purpose not only will such Security Frauds Preventions Acts as different provinces have on their statute books be amended, but there will have to be amendments to the Companies Acts of all the provinces, the Dominion Companies Act and the Criminal Code. For changes in the latter two statutes the co-operation of the Federal Government will be necessary. Another matter which is to be discussed is the adoption of the "Loan Post" system of the New York Stock Exchange, under which stock loaned between brokers must be posted as collateral in any short selling transaction. Another projected reform is that before an issue can be listed for trading on the board of an exchange, ninety per cent. of the stock must be in the hands of the public. Meanwhile, a number of the brokers who were arrested appeared for a preliminary hearing before a magistrate in Toronto and were all remanded, the bail being reduced in some cases.

Last week the Canadian Pacific Railway made the important announcement that its stock is to be split four to one if the necessary parliamentary authority can be secured; each holder of a share with a present par value of $100 will be given four shares of a par value of $25. Application has been made at Ottawa for the necessary legislation and, while it will almost certainly go through, there may be considerable opposition on the floor of Parliament. Undoubtedly one of the chief motives for the move is to make C.P.R. stock more accessible to investors with modest resources, and the hope is that by attracting a number of these throughout Canada, the company may acquire for itself the support of a greater body of popular opinion than it has hitherto been able to command. It is confronted nowadays with extremely keen competition from the State-owned Canadian National system and the latter has undoubtedly secured a lot of extra business from the fact that the whole body of taxpayers was interested in reducing its deficits and easing the drain upon the Federal Treasury. Futhermore, during the approaching session the question of the reorganisation of the capital structure of the Canadian National system is likely to come before Parliament, and the supporters of the principle of public ownership, who have considerable strength in Parliament, will press for a scaling down of the swollen capital of the C.N.R. to manageable dimensions on which it will have a prospect of earning interest. Such financial surgery would mean that the Federal Government would have to lump into the National Debt a substantial part of the obligations for which the C.N.R. is now responsible, and the proposal will provoke sharp controversy. The Canadian Pacific and its political friends will certainly oppose it and, if a bitter fight develops, it will be to the advantage of the corporation to have as much interested public support as possible behind it.

The directors of the C.P.R. have just shown practical evidence of their faith in Canada's economic future by announcing an improvement programme for 1930 which will involve the expenditure of more than 50 million dollars. Of this sum about 14½ million dollars will be expended on new equipment or the conversion and improvement of existing equipment, 3½ million on hotels, and 3 millions on its telegraph system; 17½ millions will be devoted to the provision of additional railway facilities of which 10 millions will be spent in the West and 7½ millions in the East. In addition, there will be the normal expenditure for maintenance work, which will exceed 9 million dollars. This huge programme will benefit a variety of industries which supply railway equipment of different kinds and, once the actual work can be undertaken on the arrival of spring, it will absorb a great deal of labour.

IRISH FREE STATE.—TARIFF TRUCE—FREIGHTS—MILLERS' RATIONALISATION SCHEME—OVERSEAS TRADE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, February 23.

MR MACGILLAN, Minister for Industry and Commerce, has made an important statement on the fiscal policy of the Government, in answer to a suggestion by the Opposition that the Free State should not have sent a delegate to the Tariff Truct Conference. The Free State, he pointed out, is the only British Dominion represented at the Conference because it is the only one situated in Europe, and it cannot therefore assume an air of detached indifference to what its European neighbours are doing. Ample steps are being taken to develop industries catering mainly for the home market by the policy of selective protection administered by the Tariff Commission, but the prosperity of the export industries, especially the Ford tractor works, depends on the capacity of the Free State to conclude suitable trade agreements with other countries. The Free State delegates are present at the Conference principally in the capacity of observers, and, while anxious to do everything possible to further the cause of international solidarity, they have strict instructions not to tie the hands of their Government in regard to the imposition of further duties.

A public meeting was held in Dublin last week to protest against the high local and cross-channel freights on cattle. It was pointed out that the cost of transport has failed to fall with the decline of prices of agricultural exports, and that it is therefore tending to become an increasingly onerous item in the farmer's expenses of production. Much sound sense was shown at the meeting by farmers, who are much more intelligent than the politicians whom they elect to represent them. One speaker pointed out, quite rightly, that a substantial reduction in freights would afford a much greater relief to Irish agriculture than the de-rating of land or the proposed compulsory use of a certain proportion of home-grown feeding stuffs. The general conclusion arrived at was that the problem could be solved only by co-operative action on the part of farmers themselves, who should organise a cross-channel service of their own. Such a scheme would, of course, encounter numerous difficulties, the principal ones being the provision of return cargoes and lack of facilities for landing in Great Britain.

Negotiations are rumoured to be proceeding between the Irish Flour Millers' Association and the British Millers' Mutual Association for an arrangement by which the Free State millers should copy the British "rationalisation" scheme. The basis of such an arrangement would appear to be the limitation of the output of the Irish mills at a level computed on their output during the last three years, and the closing of the smaller, less efficient mills. The precise details of the benefits which the Irish millers would receive in return for these concessions will not be disclosed until at least three-quarters of the Irish Flour Millers' Association signify their assent to the scheme, but it is believed that there will be no difficulty in getting the assent of this proportion. Public opinion is, meanwhile, anxious regarding the possible effects of such an arrangement on employment in the Irish mills and on the price of flour. Mr MacGilligan has stated on behalf of the Government that "no agreement arrived at privately within the industry can in any way diminish either the power or the right of the Government to propose such measures for the safeguarding of the public interest as future developments might warrant," and has hinted at the possibility of a tribunal of inquiry with power to take evidence on oath.

Imports amounted in 1929 to £60,221,000, an increase of £1,846,000 over 1928, and exports to £47,128,000, an increase of £1,605,000. The adverse balance is thus £13,093,000, an increase of £241,000. The substantial increase in exports is largely accounted for by tractors manufactured at the Ford works in Cork. The value of the tractors exported in 1929 was about £1,000,000. The Free State is greatly indebted to Mr Ford for having demonstrated that it is possible to build up a great manufacturing export industry in Ireland with Irish labour, and also for having shown that an adverse trade balance is capable of being reduced in ways other than the restriction of imports—the remedy so dear to protectionist hearts. An interesting fact disclosed by the trade statistics is that direct trade between the Free State and foreign countries is rapidly expanding. While by far the greater part of our exports still go to Great Britain, exports to the United States, Germany, France, Australia, Finland and many other countries are showing signs of substantial development. A large part of the imports in 1929 was made up of machinery and electrical goods in connection with the Shannon scheme. The import of motors is increasing, and the Free State now buys over twenty per cent. of all motors exported from Great Britain. No doubt the Imperial preference given to British cars is very effective in directing demand to British manufactures.

Letters to the Editor.

THE NAVAL CONFERENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The difficulties of securing a real advance towards achieving something beyond a temporary or mere reduction in armaments through the Naval Conference are immense. Nevertheless, is it not possible to make a beginning in the creation of some arrangement or procedure which will enable us to get clear of the vicious circle of competing armaments?

Security is, in the main, what nations are most desirous of obtaining. You quote France, for example, in your "Notes of the Week" as having implied "that on one condition alone she might modify her programme. That condition is the conclusion of a new treaty of guarantee to provide for France's safety in the Mediterranean." Should we not approach the whole question from a different standpoint, introduce the spirit of Locarno, and, in a practical manner, formulate a policy which will guarantee security and, therefore, go a long way towards ensuring the peace of the world?

It appears to me there are two ways of doing this. One method would be by a mandate of the Powers to allocate to certain countries the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order and the prevention of aggression in particular seas. The other way which suggests itself would be through the agency of an international navy or police force responsible to the League of Nations or Council of the Powers. If either of these methods was adopted a feeling of security would be encouraged in the minds of the various peoples, with the result that disarmament would follow. I suggest, therefore, before the Conference closes, that a committee of representatives of the various delegates might be appointed to draw up a scheme for consideration on the lines suggested.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

D. M. MASON.

34, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W. 7.
February 22, 1930.

Books and Publications.

WORLD TRADE AND TARIFFS.

IN view of the present Tariff Truce Conference at Geneva, Dr. Grotkopp's work* is a valuable and timely contribution to a profoundly difficult and important problem, and should prove extremely useful in presenting a clear outline of the points at issue, the difficulties to be faced, and the benefits to be achieved, even by a partial realisation of the results aimed at. The book is clear and concise; it contains a large amount of very relevant data in small compass; and the short summaries of conclusions reached at various stages as the argument proceeds should prove very acceptable to the busy reader and student.

The author looks chiefly to the League of Nations as the direct instrument by which any reforms in trade

* "Die Zölle neider! (Down with the Tariffs!) Wege zur europäischen Wirtschaftseinheit." By Dr. W. Grotkopp. 1930. Dr. Walther Rothschild. Berlin-Grunewald.

policy in the way of reduced tariffs can be achieved, but the indirect forces of public opinion must ultimately decide the degree of success with which that instrument can be used; and from this point of view his book should be widely read and closely studied. In the main, it adheres very closely to facts, so far as these are definitely discoverable, and to logical deductions based thereon. Dr. Grotkopp's conclusion that within the course of the next five or ten years it will be possible, by means of tariff truces and ultimately more or less comprehensive zollvereins, to attain almost complete free trade between the constituent parts of Europe, and even to include other parts of the world, is perhaps too hopeful. Nevertheless, the wildest and most visionary hopes are sometimes realised. The present tendency among most civilised nations towards ever higher protective tariffs cannot be looked upon as permanent, and may indeed even now have reached its zenith preparatory to a gradual decline.

It is, in any case, of the utmost moment to examine carefully all the signs and portents that may indicate a saner trade policy among the nations, and Dr. Grotkopp gives us a useful survey, in the first place, of the present position of the more important countries in regard to tariffs. One indubitable fact stands out clearly enough: protectionist tendencies are not quite so strong or so universal as might at first sight have been imagined. There are powerful forces and interests on the side of free trade, not only in England but in some of the other countries of Europe, and these are to be found, not only in academic circles, but also among industrialists and traders, and in a large measure also among politicians and statesmen.

In his analysis of the effective forces ranged on the protectionist side the author gives first place to the agricultural interests—especially in France, Germany and the U.S.A., but not in England. Agriculture, of course, is of much smaller account in this country than in other countries of Europe and in America, and, apart from that, it is much less strongly organised politically. Other powerful influences on the tariff side are certain manufacturing interests, and, owing to the peculiar circumstances arising during and after the war, the rise and persistence of the "key industry" idea. The use of tariffs as a source of national revenue is perhaps now a secondary consideration to that of protecting industry and agriculture, but it has at times played a leading *rôle* in tariff policy. It is an interesting commentary on the importance of other sources of revenue to-day to find that in France tariffs provide only 5 per cent. of the national revenue (18 per cent. before the war); in England 13 per cent. (18 per cent. pre-war); U.S.A. 15 per cent. (44 per cent. pre-war); Germany 5.8 per cent. (15.8 per cent. pre-war). England's few import duties bring in a much greater share of the national revenue than the hundreds of duties levied under the French tariff.

Among the forces making for free trade the author includes the mercantile elements, banking and shipping interests, and consumers' associations; and one can hazard the prediction that, in proportion as the consumers' interests become better organised throughout the world—and some progress in this direction is apparently being made—free trade forces will become stronger. In the second part of his book Dr. Grotkopp describes the various practical methods by which a tariff truce could be made possible, under the various forms of commercial or trade agreements, zollvereins, international cartels and combines, and other methods. He concludes with a brief survey of the conditions under which a definite European convention for tariff reduction might become practical politics, say, about 1935 or a little later.

NOW READY.

THE
DISCOUNT MARKET
IN LONDON

By H. W. GREENGRASS, Cert.A.I.B. A descriptive survey of the organization and recent development of the London Money Market, from the point of view of the discount broker. An interesting and informative book for all interested, actively or otherwise, in finance. Demy 8vo, cloth, 195 pp. 6s. net.

Of a Bookseller, or

PITMAN'S, Parker St., Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Economic Development of Post-War France. By William F. Ogburn and William Jaffé. (London) Humphrey Milford, Amen House, Warwick Square, E.C.4. 30s. net.

A valuable study of a remarkable achievement. The book is liberally equipped with statistics that are not conveniently accessible elsewhere.

The Public Finances of Post-War France. By Robert Murray Haig. (London) Humphrey Milford, Amen House, Warwick Square, E.C.4. 27s. 6d. net.

Valuable as general reading alike to the student of French politics and to the student of public finance, this volume is packed with statistics which make it a most convenient work of reference.

London Life in the XVIIIth Century. By M. Dorothy George. (London) Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Company, Ltd., Broadway House, Carter Lane, E.C. 7s. 6d. net.

An indispensable book for the economic historian. It is a most absorbing account of the subject, very fully illustrated from contemporary sources. Chapter and verse are given for every statement, but the references are conveniently relegated to the end of the book.

Economic Trends in Soviet Russia. By A. Yugoff. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. (London) Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street, W.C.1. 12s. 6d. net.

The author has been at great pains to evolve accurate statistics from the welter of contradictory material available, and his dispassionate discussion of the subject is a welcome contribution to a subject upon which reliable information is so much desired.

Russian Co-operation Abroad. Foreign Trade, 1912-1928. By N. Barou. Foreword by Sir Thomas Allen. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., Orchard House, Great Smith Street. 2s. 6d.

An account, with the appropriate statistical tables, of Russian foreign trade during the last six years. The "1912" of the title is somewhat misleading.

The Soviet Union in Reconstruction. By Louis Segal. (London) Blackfriars Press, Ltd., 32, Furnival Street. 1s. net.

A brief outline of the Five Year Plan.

Russia's Socialist Triumph. By Andrew Rothstein. Second edition. (London) Communist Party of Great Britain, 16, King Street. 2d.

An exposition, in pamphlet form, of the Five-Year Plan.

Rumania's New Economic Policy. By Virgil Madgearu. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 14, Great Smith Street. 5s.

A concise account of the recent economic reforms in Rumania, by one of their principal promoters.

The Indian Cotton Textile Industry. By M. P. Gandhi. (Calcutta). The Book Company, Ltd., 4-3B College Square. 6s. net.

A monograph on the history of the Indian cotton industry, which is a useful aid to the understanding of the international cotton problems of to-day.

Provincial Finance in India. By Pramathanath Banerjea. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street.

A useful account, based on official sources.

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Monograph on Common Salt. (London) Indian Chamber of Commerce, 85 Gracechurch Street. 3s. 6d.

A history of the salt industry and salt revenue in India, compiled with a view to providing background for discussion of the salt duty question.

America Conquers Britain. By Ludwell Denny. (London) Alfred A. Knopf, Ltd., 37, Bedford Square. 12s. 6d.

The thesis of this unusual book is that war between the United States and Great Britain, far from being unthinkable, is a by no means remote possibility that must be faced. The author believes that the best safeguard lies in compelling people to face the facts of the economic displacement of the older country by the new, and he tells the story in the language, though by no means in the spirit, of a typical American "booster."

Unsolved Problems: National and International. By John S. Hecht. (London) Jarrolds Publishers, Ltd., 34, Paternoster Row. 16s.

Part I is devoted to the problem of wages; Part II to that of international trade.

Corso di Politica Economica Internazionale. By Vincenzo Porri. (Torino) Libreria Scientifica Giappichelli.

An Italian treatise on the theory of international trade.

Die Staatseinnahmen aus Steuern und Zöllen im Deutschen Reich und im Auslande. (Berlin) Verlag von Reimar Hobbing, S.W.61. Rm. 12.

A remarkably valuable collection of detailed revenue statistics for Germany, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Austria and the United States, in the years 1925-28.

Fairplay's Annual Summary of British Shipping Finance, 1930. (London) "Fairplay," 51-56, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, E.C.2. 10s. 6d.

An indispensable book of reference to people who are interested in the finance of shipping companies. In addition to share quotations and information about individual companies, there are earnings statistics over a period of twenty-six years, tables of prices, etc.

The Municipal Year Book, 1930. (London) The Municipal Journal, Ltd., Sardinia House, W.C. 2.

A remarkable work of reference on every aspect of local government in 1929. There is also a directory of municipal and county council authorities and their officers.

The Japan Year Book, 1930. (London) Azakami and Company, 6, Denmark Street, Charging Cross Road. 32s. 6d. net.

Contains a full background of history, geography, currency, politics and administration, etc.; a fully classified provision of economic and statistical fact, and chapters on the arts, sport, medicine and other matters of interest to the foreign observer of Japan.

Chapters in the History of Book-keeping, Accountancy and Commercial Arithmetic. By David Murray. (Glasgow) Jackson, Wylie and Co., 73, West George Street. 21s.

A substantial volume of historical scholarship, which gives an account of book-keeping and accountancy in seventeenth and eighteenth century Scotland and elsewhere in Roman and Mediæval times. There are also several chapters on early writers on book-keeping in various countries.

The History of the National Mutual Life Assurance Society, 1830-1930. Compiled by Robert Finch, assisted by Alfred Roberts. With a Foreword by J. Maynard Keynes. (London) National Mutual Life Assurance Society, 39, King Street.

An interesting history, very beautifully printed.

Report of the Superintendent of Insurance of the Dominion of Canada for the year ended December 31, 1928. *Vol. I. Insurance Companies other than Life.* (Ottawa) Department of Insurance.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Part I, 1930. (London) Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace, W.C.2. 7s. 6d.

Contains reprints of two papers, with the discussions which followed, namely: "The Present Position of the British Coal Trade," by Professor J. H. Jones, and "Money and Index Numbers," by R. G. Hawtrey.

The Round Table. March, 1930. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 5s.

Includes articles on "The Kyoto Conference"; "India and the Viceroy's Pronouncement"; "An Impression of China," and "Crime in the United States."

Europa-Wirtschaft. February, 1930. (Berlin-Grunewald) Verlag Dr. Walther Rothschild. 1 Mark.

A new German monthly whose purpose is to keep its readers informed of all events bearing on the reconstruction of Europe, and to promote European co-operation.

Annali dell' Istituto di Statistica. (Bari) Stabilimento Arte Grafiche, Cressati.

Includes an article on population by Corrado Gini, and one on changes in income distribution in Bari from 1914 to 1927.

Rubber and Rubber Shares. Compiled by Gow, Watson and Stanton, Ltd., 13, Rood Lane, London, E.C. 3. 2s.

A handbook for the investor which incorporates a simple but ingenious system of valuing shares.

The Communist Manifesto. With an introduction and explanatory notes by Professor D. Ryazanoff. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. (London) Martin Lawrence, Ltd., 26, Bedford Row, W.C.1. 15s.

Readers to whom an understanding of the Manifesto of Marx and Engels is necessary will undoubtedly find this commentary a valuable aid.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Countries Overseas during the period ended September 30, 1929. 5s. 6d. net.

Road Fund: Accounts, 1928. 3d. net.

Consolidated Fund: Abstract Account, 1928. 3d. net.

Army: Supplementary Estimate, 1929.

Twelfth Annual Report of the Minister of Pensions, April 1, 1928, *to March* 31, 1929. 6d. net.

Police: Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary for the year ended September 29, 1929. 9d. net.

East Africa: Report of the East African Guaranteed Loan Committee, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1926-29. Cmd. 3494. 4d. net.

Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies: Part 3—*Industrial and Provident Societies.* 3s. net.

Civil Estimates and Estimates for Revenue Departments: Statement of Excesses, 1928. 1d. net.

Navy Appropriation Account, 1928. 2s. net.

JOHN MURRAY

TARIFF WALLS
A European Crusade
By SIR CLIVE MORRISON-BELL, Bt., M.P.

"Highly original. This striking little book, of great interest, written clearly and with humour; it tells a warning tale."—*Daily Telegraph.*

"A notable contribution to the employment question."—*Sunday Referee.* Illus. 7s. 6d. net.

THE MEANING OF MONEY
By HARTLEY WITHERS

"Not only has much of the matter been re-written or eliminated, but several new chapters have been inserted. Mr. Withers has succeeded in condensing within rather less than 300 pages a very great deal of useful information."—*The Financial Times.* Fifth Edition, Thoroughly Revised. 6s. net.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
By GEOFFREY DRAGE

The history of the struggle for economy and efficiency in the sphere of Public Assistance in which the author has been engaged for the last 17 years. The letters which the volume contains have been described in *The Times* by an historian as "a most terrible indictment of national policy." 15s. net.

ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

The Stock Exchange.

THE OUTLOOK FOR HOME RAILWAY STOCKS.

THE net earnings of the four " group " railways of Great Britain showed an increase last year of nearly 9 per cent., as compared with those of 1928, and all the four companies have increased their ordinary dividends. Depression in the Home Railway market, however, has proceeded to such lengths that ordinary stocks can now be purchased to give a yield of 8½ to 9½ per cent.—a range more appropriate to new and speculative " patent " or mining enterprises than to indispensable public utility concerns in a great industrial country. It may be well, therefore, to examine the financial results of last year's railway operations to discover what light they throw on the unsatisfactory state of the market.

Our first table summarises the receipts and expenditure of the four trunk railways last year, as compared with 1928:—

	London Midland and Scottish Railway.	London and North Eastern Railway.	Great Western Railway.	Southern Railway.	Total Four "Group" Railways.
	(£000.)	(£000.)	(£000.)	(£000.)	(£000.)
Railway Receipts:—					
1929	73,195	55,561	31,028	22,993	182,777
Compared with 1928	*−675*	+1,448	+542	*−26*	+1,289
†*Railway Expenditure:*—					
1929	58,163	43,283	24,309	18,175	143,930
Compared with 1928	*−778*	*−48*	*−168*	*−272*	*−1,266*
•*Ancillary Businesses:*— Receipts:					
1929	8,466	7,734	5,156	3,514	24,870
Compared with 1928	+78	+423	+114	+17	+632
•*Ancillary Businesses:*— Expenditure:					
1929	8,715	7,613	4,900	2,740	23,968
Compared with 192 8	+98	+206	*−32*	+44	+316
‡*Net Revenue from all sources:*—					
1929	17,175	13,061	8,199	6,548	44,983
Compared with 1928	+904	+1,783	+1,142	+154	+3,983

• Including road transport, steamboats, canals, docks, hotels, collection and delivery service.
† Saving effected by 2½ per cent. deduction from salaries, wages and fees since August, 1928, reflected in these figures, in case of L.N.E.R. and S.R., but not in L.M.S. or G.W.R. The amounts in question, which are included in "Net Revenue from all sources," were: L.M.S., 1928, £419,000; 1929, £1,089,000; G.W.R., 1928, £181,000; 1929, £473,000.
‡ Including joint lines, and miscellaneous receipts, *less* charges.

It will be seen that while two of the four companies showed a falling off in railway receipts last year, and two an increase, all four made fresh substantial savings in expenditure. Reference to the detailed accounts shows that while all but the London, Midland and Scottish carried a larger number of passengers than in 1928, gross receipts from this source showed a further decline, owing to the increased use of cheap fare facilities. Falling passenger revenue is thus the price which the railways are being called upon to pay for competition with road transport. If the prospect promised merely an indefinite prolongation of such competition, the outlook for the stockholder would be anything but cheerful, but conditions in this respect have been profoundly modified by the railways' acquisition of road transport powers in 1928 and their policy of obtaining interests, under these powers, in a network of road transport services during 1929.

The most valuable set-off to the fall in passenger revenue last year was not receipts from the carriage of general merchandise, which showed only a slight rise (on the London, Midland and Scottish, a slight decline), but a marked change for the better in the revenue obtained from the transport of a single commodity—coal. Broadly speaking, about 18 per cent. of British gross railway receipts are derived from this one commodity. Last year's recovery was due less to conditions in the coal trade as a whole than in the coal *export* trade, and its beneficial effects were more marked on the North Eastern and the Great Western (where export coal accounts normally for as much as 25 per cent. and 45 per cent. of the total coal traffic receipts, respectively) than on the Midland and Scottish (where the proportion is not much higher than 10 per cent.). The so-called " Five Counties Scheme," indeed, with its virtual subsidisation of export at the expense of domestic coal, tended to worsen rather than to improve the position of the London, Midland and Scottish, which, in addition, bore the brunt of continued depression in Lancashire and the Clyde Valley.

The further reduction of expenditure was a crucially important factor in the final position. Broadly speaking, of the £1,096,635 additional dividend received by the ordinary shareholder on the Great Western this year, as compared with last, about 60 per cent. may be regarded as attributable to increased gross receipts, and no less than 40 per cent. to savings in expenditure, including wages and salaries. On the London Midland and Scottish, of £952,024 extra ordinary dividends, the whole was due to savings in expenditure, in the absence of which shareholders would probably have faced a *reduction* of from ½ to ¾ per cent. in dividends. To what must these economies in expenditure be chiefly ascribed ? It is clear that the 2½ per cent. deduction from wages, salaries and fees, agreed upon as from August, 1928, has made a material contribution. In its absence, expenses would have been higher last year by nearly £1,100,000 on the Midland and Scottish (equivalent to 1.15 per cent. on the ordinary capital), and by nearly £500,000 (1.1 per cent. on ordinary capital) on the Great Western. A second source of economies in expenditure is the increase in efficiency, contingent on the progressive rationalisation of the railways which the " grouping " system, laid down by the Act of 1921, has made possible. A year ago we gave figures showing that, in the absence of grouping, ordinary stockholders on many famous post-war lines might not under contemporary conditions be receiving any ordinary dividends whatever. The economies of rationalisation are by no means exhausted, but they were less striking in 1929 than in 1928, and were, naturally, greater on the Midland and Scottish and the North Eastern—which amalgamated many widely varying pre-war railway systems—than on the Great Western and the Southern—which were much more coherent units from the start.

Our next table compares net revenue, and revenue available for ordinary dividends, during each of the past three years and in 1923, the first year after " grouping " came into legal operation:—

RAILWAY REVENUE.
(000's omitted.)

	Net Revenue (before Debenture Interest).				Year's Revenue available for Ordinary Dividends.			
	1923.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1923.	1927.	1928.	1929.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
L.M.S.R.:—								
Amount	18,629	17,311	16,271	17,175	6,465	4,581	3,432	4,337
Per cent. of 1923	*100*	*93*	*87½*	*92*	*100*	*71*	*53*	*67*
L.N.E.R.:—								
Amount	13,185	11,268	11,278	13,061	2,502	154	90	1,325
Per cent. of 1923	*100*	*85½*	*85½*	*99*	*100*	*6*	*3½*	*53*
G.W.R.:—								
Amount	7,678	7,824	7,057	8,199	3,243	2,927	2,160	3,301
Per cent. of 1923	*100*	*102*	*92*	*107*	*100*	*90*	*66½*	*102*
S.R.:—								
Amount	6,092	6,220	6,394	6,548	2,181	1,964	2,039	2,193
Per cent. of 1923	*100*	*102*	*105*	*107½*	*100*	*90*	*93½*	*100½*
Four Groups:—								
Amount	45,584	42,623	41,000	44,983	14,391	9,626	7,721	11,156
Per cent. of 1923	*100*	*93½*	*89½*	*98*	*100*	*67*	*53½*	*77½*

The Midland and Scottish is earning appreciably less, and the North-Eastern slightly less than in 1923, despite the increased efficiency and lower working costs of both companies. The Great Western and the Southern, on the other hand, show a gain on balance, though not of very striking dimensions. Our next table shows that no company is paying as high a rate of dividend on its ordinary capital to-day as during the first year after grouping, but whereas in 1923 no railway fully earned its ordinary dividend, recent payments have been adequately covered, while the North Eastern has this year created a favourable precedent by placing £500,000 of earnings to general reserve. With this exception, division of profits " up to the hilt " is still the rule on British railways:—

RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

	Rate of Dividend Paid.				Increase or Decrease in Reserves and Carry Forward.			
	1923.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1923.	1927.	1928.	1929.
L.M.S.R.:—	%	%	%	%	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Ord.	7	4½	3½	4½	− 199	+ 59	+100	+ 53
L.N.E.R.:—								
Preferred	5	¾	¼	¾	− 509	+ 12	− 13	+554†
Deferred	2½	Nil	Nil	Nil				
G.W.R.:—								
Consolidated	8	7	5	7½	− 153	+ 46	+ 46	+ 82
S.R.:—								
Preferred	5	5	5	5	− 247	− 45	+ 30	+ 26
Deferred	3½•	2	2	2½				
Four Groups	...	...	...	..	−1,108‡	+ 72	+163	+715

• 3½ per cent. paid also on "A" Ordinary.
† £500,000 to General Reserve.
‡ Further amounts were taken from reserves for the payment of dividends in 1924-26.

It is doubtful how far the policy of generous dividend distribution is in the best interests of the railway stockholders in the long run. Admittedly, the financial policy of the railways in other respects may be, in many cases, conservative, and the railways, for " strategic " and other reasons may prefer austerely to treat such items as renewals and replacements than to make considerable additions to general reserves each year out of profits. But their present dividend policy, taken in conjunction with the capital structure of the railways—which in other industries would be regarded as decidedly " top-heavy "—tends to throw on ordinary stockholders the entire burden of fluctuations in annual receipts. The results of 1929, and their bearing on the question of railway earning-power in the future, will be further discussed in a subsequent article.

INVERESK PAPER.

THE report for the year to December, 1929, issued by the directors of the Inveresk Paper Company, is distressing, but might have been much worse. Profits fell from £317,452 to £181,795. Expenses showed a substantial increase, chiefly on account of the interest on heavy bank loans, while dividends and interest from investments and loans were £116,000 less than in 1928, chiefly on account of the more conservative dividend policy adopted by the subsidiary companies, which retained about £110,000 of profits instead of distributing up to the hilt. If the full year's preference dividends are charged (only six months dividends have actually been paid on both the 6½ per cent. first and 7 per cent. second preference shares) the earnings on the ordinary shares work out at 2.7 per cent., as against 28.4 per cent. in the previous year. In spite of this unfortunate decline in profits, an interim dividend of 12½ per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares in July, when Mr William Harrison was chairman. The directors " profoundly regret that the estimate of profits submitted to the board by the ex-chairman, Mr William Harrison, to justify the declaration of the interim dividend, proved to be erroneous." The circular issued to the shareholders in September last, expressing the opinion that the profits for the year would show a substantial increase over those of 1928, was based on this erroneous estimate.

An analysis of the last three years' results is given below:—

	Issued Ord. Cap.	Net Profit after deb'nture Int. and Tax.	Avail. for Ord. Shares.	Earned.	Paid.	To Reserve.	Carried Forw'd.
				%	%		
1927•	1,000,000	257,762	227,732	43·0‡	int. 12½ final 22½	4,838	95,439
1928	1,300,000	317,462	229,799	28·4	int. 12½ final 12½	Nil	124,199
1929	1,300,000	181,795	28,195†	2·7	int. 12½ final nil	Nil	67,001

• 13 months.
† After charging full year's dividends on preference shares.
‡ Per annum on ordinary capital ranking for dividend during the year.

With the directors' report is issued a long circular to the shareholders by Mr B. H. Binder, who was appointed chairman when the bank concerned insisted on the resignation of Mr. William Harrison. We quote the following words from Mr Binder's report:—

" The present position is largely due to the policy of indiscriminate expansion initiated by Mr William Harrison and loose business methods on his part. He committed the company to transactions without previous consultation with the board. . . . The purchase of shares in companies manufacturing esparto paper, supplying esparto grass or purchasing in large quantities esparto paper (such as Illustrated Newspapers, Ltd.) can be rightly deemed the natural expansion of the company's enterprise, but it is difficult to reconcile with the normal expansion of a company manufacturing esparto paper the investment of large sums of money in the purchase of shares in daily newspaper companies (United Newspapers, controlling the *Daily Chronicle* group and various provincial newspapers), and in a real property company (Inveresk House), or in the launching of a weekly newspaper (*Britannia*). . . . A collective letter from the directors to Mr Harrison, protesting against his exercising exceptional executive functions, not having the desired effect, his resignation from the chairmanship was insisted upon in December last. He declines to resign from the board, and it therefore remains for the shareholders to decide at a general meeting whether it is not inimical in the company's interest for him to act as a director."

Mr William Harrison has replied to Mr Binder's pertinent criticisms in an equally voluminous circular to shareholders. He denies that the present position of the company is due to a policy of indiscriminate expansion, and declares that, with the sole exception of the *Daily Chronicle* acquisition, there is no purchase of an established business which cannot be justified by results. He protests against a proposal to amalgamate United Newspapers (1918), Ltd., Daily Chronicle Investment Corporation, Ltd., and Provincial Newspapers, Ltd., alleging that too favourable terms are being given to Sir Thomas Catto and his group for putting up half the £250,000 required to develop the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Sunday News*. This, however, is obviously a risky business, for, even according to Mr Harrison, there are certain to be heavy losses in the first two years under the development scheme which he himself launched. Further, Sir Thomas Catto and his friends have not only suffered from the passing of the dividend on the second preference shares which they hold in the Daily Chronicle Investment Company, but have seen the two provincial papers which were the safest profit-earning assets of United Newspapers (1918), Ltd., transferred to Provincial Newspapers on terms under which a substantial proportion of the profits which they continue to earn has failed to return to the *Chronicle* group and been swallowed up elsewhere. These are some of the complications in the situation. One fact, however, is clear, namely, that under Mr Harrison's chairmanship and control, the company has got into an extremely difficult and tangled position from which only prudent finance and management can rescue it. Mr Binder declares that, although the company's investments have brought a number of paper mills under one group, the full benefits from such grouping do not appear to have been obtained. There has been competition within the group as well as with outside competitors, and a lack of cohesion as regards supplies of raw materials.

Further, the unpleasant fact remains that the company has loans and bankers' overdrafts for £1,151,954; that its investments will require to be written down, and some of them—for example, that in the Daily Chronicle Investment Corporation—will need patient and careful handling. The technical management of the company, however, is in capable hands, and in Mr Binder's opinion it should be possible to secure better results from the various enterprises when general trading conditions improve.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
March 4.	March 6.

The extreme conservatism of sentiment associated with the later stages of a prolonged downward movement in prices, was again in evidence on the Stock Exchange. The gilt-edged market alone showed even a superficial appearance of activity, industrial shares, with a few exceptions, continuing the slow but steady downward trend which characterised the month of February as a whole. Budget fears bore heavily on the market, and the less favourable industrial outlook prevented many of the more favourable company reports, made public during the wek, efrom exercising their normal effect on quotations.

The first effect of the unexpected offer by the Government of a new 4½ per Cent. Conversion Loan was the downward adjustment of the existing stock and the 4½ per Cent. War Loan, but the gilt-edged market quickly gathered strength under the lead of Five per Cent. War Loan. The movement was most pronounced on Wednesday, when rumours were current of American buying, associated, in some quarters, with the pending arrival of Governor Harris, of the Federal Reserve Bank. Further support was given to India loans, the new sixes rising to 1½ premium. Australian loans were steady after early dullness.

Expectations of increased business in the Foreign market were scarcely borne out by events. European bonds obtained fair support, and Turkish Unified reflected a more favourable view regarding the Turkish Government's financial intentions, but Brazilians were inclined to sag. Some disquietude was caused by the returns of tenders for the amortisation of the Argentine 5 per cent. Internal Gold Loan of 1909, but the explanation was subsequently given that the Government had bought bonds held in the Argentine.

No substantial changes occurred in Home Railway prices, though the market was a shade better on the cautiously hopeful review of prospects by the Great Western chairman, and the publication of a satisfactory week's batch of traffic returns—the latter, however, again affording comparison with a "frost-bound" week of 1929. Argentine railways lost ground on a reaction in the peso, and Brazilians were irregular. Canadian Pacific shed a further portion of their recent rise.

The industrial markets were quiet and dull, apart from a few special features owing their origin to unexpected—and not always welcome—developments. The Inveresk report, and its *sequelae*, revealed an even more complicated state of affairs than the market had anticipated. The position is discussed on page 469. The Postmaster General's announcement on the "Beam" position stimulated fresh selling of Cables and Wireless, two or three fairly large lines even of the 5½ per Cent. preference coming on offer. The Post Office's statement of its case was found fairly convincing, but much criticism was heard of the handling of the matter from the outset. The pessimistic tenor of the Courtaulds report served still further to depress the artificial silk market. The Austin Motor profit statement, on the other hand, greatly surpassed anticipation, and the ordinary shares rapidly doubled in value. A certain amount of investment support was forthcoming for tobacco shares, but breweries were irregular. The Match group was steady on the Swedish Match agreement with the Danzig Free State. Electrical shares made a fair showing, Johnson and Phillips being prominent. Internationals reflected moderate New York interest, after a quiet opening. With the Coal Mines Bill again before the House of Commons, at a vital stage of its career, iron and steel shares naturally attracted little public interest. Banking and insurance shares were dull at the outset, but had a harder tone in mid-week.

Rubber shares had an easier tendency, in sympathy with the course of prices for the commodity. The Rubber Growers' Association on Monday decided to support the scheme for a cessation of tapping in May, but America refused to follow London in putting up the quotation for rubber, and a reaction ensued throughout the market. Tea shares had a slightly better tone, but business remained on a small scale. The oil share market opened with considerable selling, but on Tuesday Paris became a buyer, and the leading stocks closed firm. The V.O.C. share proposals would have been more favourably received had they been unaccompanied by the announcement of a new capital issue.

The mining share market was out of favour this week, business being decidedly attenuated. Little change was recorded in Finance descriptions, though Rand Mines moved up the turn on Paris buying. Kaffirs closed slightly harder and Mozambique were a good market on reports of new oil discoveries. Tin shares were little affected by a further decline in the metal, though Renong improved a trifle, and London Tin remained firm. Northern Rhodesians strengthened after a weak opening and Congo Border moved up to 14⅞, while N'Changa also improved. Paris interest added a fraction to "Chartered," and copper shares, which at first were largely deserted, improved later on home and Paris inquiries, and Rio Tinto registered an appreciable gain. De Beers moved up on slight demand, but were unable to hold the rise.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Feb. 20.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 25.	Feb. 26.	Feb. 27.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,120	1,152	1,522	1,217	1,209	1,140
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	892	963	1,117	927	931	927
Commercial and Industrial*	1,760	1,579	1,989	1,731	1,672	1,982
Banks, Insurance and Financial	467	521	578	470	493	492
Mines (including Nitrate)	420	428	552	523	463	448
Oil	140	159	163	160	154	166
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	471	266	344	236	168	187
Total	5,270	5,068	6,265	5,264	5,090	5,342

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Feb. 27).	Feb. 20.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 25.	Feb. 26.	Feb. 27.
90·5	82·5	84·1	84·1	83·7	83·2	82·8	82·5

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

There is evidence of a slight setback to trade recovery, and feeling is growing that the coming month will see less than the usual seasonal improvement. The steel industry has dropped to 80 per cent. of operating capacity, and motor manufacturers are running about 65 per cent. Railroad traffic is improving somewhat, but earning statements for the last month are about 23 per cent. under those of a year ago. Mr Hoover's statements on the subject of economy are generally disliked as they are felt to be inconsistent. The prospect of higher taxation is discouraging, and public statements by the Government cause a suspicion that it is whistling to keep up its courage. The progress of the Tariff is slow. The Farm Board is criticised, as, after dropping below a dollar per bushel, the Chicago market recovered 12 cents per bushel as the direct result of buying with Board money. Approximately 25,000,000 bushels were bought. In the best quarters these activities are disliked, as eventually they do the farmer more harm than good. The Canadian wheat pool is quoted as an example, and the Farm Board is believed to have little hope of really accomplishing anything. The announcement of the liquidation of the balance of banking consortium stock, bought to arrest the decline last autumn, was without effect on the market. Bankers made a million or so profit, though they had not attempted to do more than come out even. After a moderate decline wheat and cotton stocks are rallying. Coppers are quiet; metal

stocks on hand in February are expected to show a further rise, but no immediate drop in price is anticipated. The oil situation grows worse, with output up and price-cutting in both crude oil and gasoline spreading. Utility shares are firm, and tobaccos, theatres and foods are rising. Foreign investment buying is believed to be an important factor.

	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104⅛	104⅛	104⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111	110⅞	111⅛
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99⅜	99⅜	99⅛
Do. 4¼% '32-47	100⅝	100⅜	100⅝
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101¼	101⅜	101⅛
Atchison	235	233	228
Ches. & Ohio	234½	227	231
Erie	62	58½	59⅜
Illinois Central	130	128	128½
N.Y. Central	188	181	183
Pennsylvania	82½	82	82½
Southern Pacific	122⅜	123½	123¼
Southern Rly.	132	129½	128
Union Pacific	230½	220½	227½
Am. Can.	144⅜	134⅜	141
Alleghany Corp.	32⅜	30⅜	31½
Amer. Smelting	75	70⅜	71½
Anaconda	75½	71½	73½
Bethlehem Steel	100½	99½	100⅜
Chrysler Motor	38½	37½	38⅞
Corn Produce	96⅜	94	94
Eastman Kodak	191½	201	219
Gen. Electric (New)	77½	71⅜	74
Gen. Motors	43⅜	41⅜	43
Int. Harvester	90⅜	90	91½
Montg. Ward	42	42½	44½
Natl. Biscuit	206½	204	209

	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.
Phelps Dodge	40½	38⅜	38⅜
Pullman	84⅜	82⅜	82½
Sears-Roebuck	92½	86½	89½
Studebaker	44⅜	42⅜	43½
Un. Fruit	100	89	91½
U.S. Leather	8⅜	8½	8
U.S. Rubber	27⅜	26	26⅜
U.S. Steel	184⅞	181½	182½x
Westinghouse	172⅜	171½	181½
Woolworth	64⅜	61⅜	65
Worthington Pump	83⅜	81	81
Am. Pow. & Light	95⅜x	92⅜	95
Am. Tel. & Tg.	231	231	237½
Electric P. & L.	65½	60½	65⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	66⅜	69½	68⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	41	38	40⅜
Radio Corpn.	41⅜	43⅜	48
Utilities P. & L.	36⅜	36⅜	37½
W. Union Tlg.	211	209	213⅜
Associated Gas "A"	44½	41⅞	40⅞
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25⅛	24	24½
Pan Amer. B.	54	51⅜	52⅜
Sinclair Oil	23½	22⅜	24⅜
Std. California	59⅜	56⅜	59⅜
Do. N.J.	62⅜	58⅜	59⅜

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	157·6	152·8
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	144·6	142·1
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	233·3	228·7
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	167·5	163·1
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·46%	4·65%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Feb. 5.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Feb. 19.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 22.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 25.	Feb. 26.
183·8	166·5	178·2	175·0	177·0	*	175·1	175·8	179·6

* Holiday.

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Feb. 20.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 22.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 25.	Feb. 26.	Feb. 27.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	3,654	2,562	*	2,315	2,628	3,011	3,305
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	10,950	8,858	*	7,745	8,180	8,756	10,392
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	976	629	*	631	647	727	886

* Holiday.

CANADA.

The stock markets have attained a much healthier condition during the past month. The technical position has undergone improvement, and, although there has been considerable irregularity, the general tone has been one of steadiness, and at intervals the market has even been strong. The volume of trading, however, remains far below last year's dimensions, and the public, which has had a severe lesson, is clearly determined to play for safety in its stock market operations. There has, however, been a steady stream of investment buying of good stocks and pools have even been able to generate some speculative enthusiasm, particularly in International Nickel, as a result of glowing reports regarding developments at the Frood mine. The splitting of the shares of the Canadian Pacific Railway was also a bullish

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices Feb. 20.	Closing Prices Feb. 27.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	76⅛	75⅛	− ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	96⅛	94⅛	− ⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64	100⅝	101⅛	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	101⅛	102⅛	+ ⅛
Consols 2½%	53⅞	54	+ ⅛
Do. 4%	83⅛	83⅜	+ ⅛
Funding 4%	87⅛	87⅛	+ ⅛
Victory Bonds 4%	92⅜x	92⅜	...
Local Loans 3%	62⅜	62⅛	+ ⅛
Treasury 5% (B)	101⅛	101⅛	+ ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	88	89	+ 1
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	100	...
India 3½%	58⅛	59⅛	+ 1⅛
Do. 4½% 1958-68	80⅛	82	+ 1⅜
Australia 5% 1945-75	90⅛	90	− ⅛
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	88	88⅛	+ ⅛
N. Zealand 5% 1946	100	100	...
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)	100	99⅜	⅛
Argentine 4% Recles.	84	84	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	102½	− ½
Belgian 7%	110⅛	110⅛	...
Brazil 6½% (1927)	82⅛	81⅞	− ¼
Bulgaria 7½%	89	89	...
China 5% (1912)	47⅛	47⅛	...
Czechoslovakia 8%	112	111⅜	− ⅛
Egypt Unified 4%	78⅛	77⅛	− ½
French 5%	20½x	20½	...
Do. 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
German 7%	105⅛	105⅛	...
Greek 7% Refugee	102	102	...
Hungary 7½%	101	101	...
Chili 6%	94⅛	93	− 1⅛
Poland 7%	91	90⅜	− ⅝
Mexican 5% (1899)	22	20	− 2
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	82½	82	− ½
Corporation Stocks.			
L.C.C. 3%	62⅛	62	− ⅛
W. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	88	88	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	91⅛	91⅛	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	92	91½	− ½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	11⅜	10⅜	− 1
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	34	35	+ 1
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52	51⅝	− ⅜
Metropol'an Cons. Stk.	64⅜	64⅜	− ⅜
Met. District Ord. Stk.	74⅛	74⅛	...
Southern Def. Stk.	31⅛	31	− ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73½	73½	...
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds	108	107½	− ½
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	219	215	− 4
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	82½	81½	− 1
B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk	84⅛	85	+ ⅛
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	94	94	...
B.A.Western,Ord.Stk.	74⅛	74⅛	...
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	18	18	...
G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk	49⅜	49	− ⅜
San Paulo Ord. Stk	183⅛	183⅛	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$32⅛	$32⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk	25	22	− 3
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	248½	248½	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	− ⅛
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A $1	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
Lloyds £5, with $1 pd.	3⅛	3	− ⅛
Midland £1, fully pd.	4	4	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13⅛	...
Comcl.Bk.of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1⅛	...
Hongk. and S.($125).	$116½	$113½	− 3
St. of S. A. £20, £5 pd.	14⅛	14⅝	+ ⅛
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19	19	...
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	24	23	− 1
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27⅛	27	− ⅛
Pearl (£1)	12⅛	12⅛	− ⅛
Phœnix £1 fully pd.	13⅛	13	− ⅛
Roy. In. £1, with 10/ pd.	8	7⅞	− ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3⅛	3	− ⅛
Baldwin (4/)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Stewarts&Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Vickers (6/8)	⅜	⅜	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Brit. Celanese, Ord. (10/)	⅜	⅜	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Courtaulds	2⅜	2⅛	− ⅛
Eng. Sewg. Cotton (£1)	2⅛	1⅞	− ⅛
Fine Cott. Spinn. (£1)	1½	1½	...
Listers (£1)	⅜x	⅜	− ⅛
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	⅛	⅛	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
British Insulated (£1)	3⅜	3⅜	− ⅛
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅞	1⅞	+ ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
City of London (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Hydro-Elec. com. stk.	43⅛	43⅜	+ ⅛
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅜x	⅜	− ⅛
Imp. Continental Stk.	360	365	+ 5
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅜	− ⅛
S. Metropolitan Stk.	101	98x	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless — 7½% A Ord.	62	55½	− 6½
Cables and Wireless — B Ord.	30	24	− 6
Cables and Wireless — 5½% Pref.	96½	94½	− 1⅞
Canadian Marconi	⅜	⅛	+ ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	...
Motors.			
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	1⅜	− ⅛
Ford Motors (£1)	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	− ⅛
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Napier (5/-)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Singer (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	− ⅛
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25	25	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
Cons. Tea & Lnds. (£10)	22½	23	+ ½
London Asiatic (2/)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅜	⅜	− ⅛
Lobitos (£1)	1⅞	1⅜	− ⅛
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	...
Royal Dutch (£3½)	31⅜	31⅜	+ ⅛
Shell (£1)	4⅜	4⅜	− ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit. Traction, no par	$38⅛	$38⅛	− ⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	3⅛	5⅜	− ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9	9	+ ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6⅛	6	− ⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅜	3⅛	− ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4	4	...
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅜x	4⅜	...
International Holdings	4⅛	5	+ ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Con.	38⅛	39⅜	+ ⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	29	29⅛	+ ⅛
Margarine Union (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅜	2⅛	+ ⅛
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	16⅛	16⅛	− ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅜	− ⅛
United Molasses (£1)	5⅛	5	− ⅛
Vocalion (10/-)	⅛	⅜	+ ⅛
Watney Combe Dl. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Mines.			
N'Changa (£1 with 17/6 pd.)	3⅛	3	− ⅛
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	15	15	...
Rio Tinto (£5)	43⅛	44⅛	+ ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
San Nigel (10/)	1⅛x	1⅛	...
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Union Crp. 2/6 fu. pd.	⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅛	9⅛	+ ⅛
Brakpan (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
"Chartered" 15/Lp.	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅜x	⅜	− ⅛
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/	1⅛	1⅛	...
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛

factor, which took the stock of the corporation up more than 20 points. The stocks of companies manufacturing railway equipment have benefited by the generous programme of new construction and equipment work announced by the Canadian Pacific Railway, but forecasts of a diminution of construction programmes in other industries have adversely affected the stocks of companies which cannot rely upon railway orders. Newsprint stocks sagged steadily after the New Year, on depressing earning estimates, but some recovery has recently been visible. Public utility stocks have been reasonably strong, but the distillery stocks remain weak pending a decision on the proposed ban upon liquor exports to the United States. The Bureau of Statistics "Investors" Index of industrial common stocks (1926=100) was, for the week ended February 6th, 205.1, as compared with 206.4 for the previous week.

	Jan. 16.	Jan. 29.	Feb. 27.
Abitibi Power & Paper	27½	26¾	30
Asbestos Corp.	No bid		2½
Bank of Montreal	312	315x	310
Brazilian Traction	38¼	38⅝x	36½
British Col. Power "A"	39	38¾	37
Calgary Power	155	155	155
Can. Bank Commerce	268	265x	264½
Canadian Car	28⅞	27⅞	27
Canada Cement	16½	16½	17⅜
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	11⅜	10½	9⅜
Canada Power & Paper	15	13⅝	13½
Can. Steamship Lines	...	...	17
Cockshutt Plow	23	22¾	19⅜
Cons. Mining	256	225	230½
Dominion Bridge	78½	79¾x	74½

	Jan. 16.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 27.
Dom. Textile (New)	77	77¼	67
Hollinger Gold Mining	4⅞	5½	5½
International Nickel	35½	38⅛	39½xd
Massey Harris	42	43	33¾
Montreal Light	138½	135½	135⅝
National Breweries	118½	126	28
Nat. Steel Car	65½	90	70
Port Alfred Pulp	88	85½	80
Power Corp., Canada	77	77	72
Price Bros.	78	78	78
Quebec Power	67	66½	63
Shawinigan	80	79	75½
Southern Can. Power	33	34	31
Steel of Canada	46	46½	46½
Winnipeg Electric	53⅞	46½	42⅝

x Ex dividend

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Protecting the Investor.—The possibility of making the new issue market a safer place for the legitimate investor in time of activity is engaging the attention of many responsible people inside and outside the Stock Exchange. One of the most valuable contributions to the subject for some months past was contained in a paper read at Edinburgh on Friday by Mr O. R. Hobson, Editor-in-Chief of the *Financial News*. To protect the investor against the notorious evils of "boom" company promotion—reckless flotations, "group finance," weak underwriting and deliberate concealment of unfavourable developments—Mr Hobson believes that the Press, the Law and the Stock Exchange must co-operate. In spite of (or, possibly, because of) his long experience as a financial journalist, Mr Hobson's view of the "power of the Press" is modest. A responsible newspaper, he declares, can, and should, draw a line between "tipping" based on knowledge and "tipping" based on market rumour, but commercial considerations limit its effective action in certain other directions. Company law, again, may be fairly effective in the rôle of *Nemesis pede claude*, if its provisions are duly and promptly enforced. Astute promoters, however, will always tend to discover new avenues for parting the investor from his money much more quickly than the Law can discover means of closing them. The Stock Exchange, Mr Hobson believes, is likely to be a far more effective agency for protecting the investor, since without its *imprimatur* the speculative promoter's wares cannot satisfactorily be marketed. The Committee, he suggests, should tighten up their regulations regarding "permission to deal" in many different ways, and members of the House whose conduct "falls below the highest standard of professional integrity" should be more severely dealt with. Whether this last requirement could be enforced without making invidious distinctions, however, is an open question, since optimism is neither criminal nor "bad form." The most provocative part of Mr Hobson's paper, indeed, is concerned with the case for the revision of the constitution of the Stock Exchange, and the imposition of severer qualifications for membership. The question raises many complicated issues, but its courteous presentment, in the present instance, will ensure its being seriously and sympathetically considered by those concerned. At the same time, the City might go further, and consider the possibility of reorganising the whole new issue system, so as, eventually, to take the initiative out of the hands of the irresponsible individual promoter, and to replace him by more far-seeing and reputable financial institutions.

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The Post Office and the "Beam" System.—In the House of Commons on Wednesday last the Postmaster-General announced that the Government had decided to conduct overseas wireless telephony by concentration at the Post Office stations at Rugby and Baldock rather than to utilise the facilities offered by the Imperial and International Communications Company. The main points of the Postmaster-General's statement are discussed in a "Note of the Week" on page 456 of this issue. Both the "A" and "B" stocks of Cables and Wireless were weak before and after the announcement. The secretary of Imperial and International Communications had, in fact, circulated a notice, a few hours before the Postmaster-General's statement, to the effect that the company had received no intimation of the Government's decision—of which, presumably, the company first learned when the announcement was made in the House. Press statements had appeared the same morning accurately forecasting the Post Office's declarations, and as these reports undoubtedly affected the market for Cables and Wireless shares, it would seem that a "leakage" of information occurred, which, in the circumstances, was particularly regrettable. The market's pessimism somewhat overstresses the importance of "Beam" telephony as a factor in the combine's earning position, the rental proposed being in the neighbourhood of only £45,000. The situation would, however, wear a more formidable aspect if developments on the *cable* side were found, for any reason, to fall short of expectation.

Oil Developments.—The threat of fiercer competition in the oil industry, following on the continued over-production of crude oil and gasolene, is causing the large oil groups to strengthen both their organisations and their cash resources. The Standard Oil group is paying attention to its marketing machinery, while the Royal Dutch Shell group is adding to its already large cash resources. The Standard Oil Company of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company propose to amalgamate, though the merger is being opposed in the United States under the anti-trust laws. The Vacuum Oil Company markets lubricating oils in practically every country in the world, and the Standard Oil Company of New York is a large exporter of petrol and kerosene to the European and Eastern markets. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey not long ago formed the Standard Oil Export Company to amalgamate the export trade of its subsidiaries, including its British subsidiary, the Anglo-American Oil Company. The Royal Dutch-Shell group, in its turn, is proposing to merge the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Limited, and the V.O.C. Holding Company, Ltd., which holds 99.9 per cent. of the former's capital. There is obviously no purpose in keeping the two companies distinct, seeing that V.O.C. Holding Company holds no oil shares outside its investment in the Concessions Company. There will be a share-for-share exchange between the two companies—the preference shareholders of the Holding Company taking preference shares and the ordinary shareholders ordinary shares in the Concessions Company with identical rights. To provide funds for the further development of the properties the Concessions Company will offer 1,800,000 ordinary shares, the shareholders of the Holding Company having the right to take one such share at par (ranking for dividend from January 1, 1930) for every three held, whether preference or ordinary. Finally, the Shell Transport and Trading Company, the junior partner of the Royal Dutch-Shell group, issued this week 5,000,000 7 per cent. second preference shares of £1 at 25s. per share, bringing its capital up to £34,421,361—£300,000 in 5 per cent. first preference, £10,000,000 in 7 per cent. second preference and the balance in ordinary shares. The prospectus states that the Royal Dutch-Shell group controls a production of 25,000,000 tons of crude oil a year, which it refines and markets, a fleet of tank steamships of over 2,000,000 tons, and a world-wide marketing organisation, and that it placed orders in Great Britain last year for material of all kinds of a total value of £7,375,000. Since 1897 the company has paid over £66,000,000 in tax free dividends to its shareholders. The company is deservedly popular with investors, and the comparatively low yield of £5 12s. per cent. offered by the new second preference shares should be duly regarded in the light of the company's past achievement and present position.

White Star Line.—An announcement has been made by the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, as trustees for the 6½ per cent. preference shareholders of the White Star Line. The corporation have informed underwriters of the 1927 issues of these preference shares that, after an interview with the chairman of the White Star Line, they are authorised to state that the results for the past year will be practically identical with those for 1927 and 1928, both of which were fully up to the average estimates given in the offer for sale in 1927. This statement is somewhat ambiguous, seeing that there was considerable difference between the White Star earnings of 1927 and those of 1928, and that Lord Kylsant added, according to the corporation's statement, that, in common with other shipping concerns, the current year's receipts of the White Star were not up to the average. In 1927 the preference dividends were covered 1.6 times on earnings of £255,744, and in 1928 1.2 times on earnings of £323,768. The British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation remark that, in these circumstances, there should be ample margin for payment of the preference dividends, apart from the fact that these dividends are guaranteed by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Such announcements are reassuring up to a point, but shareholders can scarcely be in a position to form a comprehensive estimate of the position until the full accounts are presented. There are £5,000,000 6½ per cent. preference shares in existence, the issues being made in 1927 at 21s., and last year they changed hands as high as 23s. 9d. At the present time they are quoted at 10s. 3d., having been as low as 7s. 6d. this month.

Further Investment Trust Results.—Two more old-established investment trust companies have published their reports—the Merchants Trust and United States Debenture Corporation. Both companies were formed in 1889. The Merchants Trust, which has a share capital of £1,625,000 and a loan capital of £1,580,000, reports that its investments, on January 31st last, had a market value in excess of the book figure of £3,612,091. Nevertheless, the company, as usual, applied £10,000 out of profits to writing down securities, the general reserve account standing at £260,000. A complete list of the 495 investments is given with the report, together with a geographical classification, showing that 32.78 per cent. were held in Great Britain, 10.12 per cent. in the Colonies, and 19.57 per cent. in the United States. The United States Debenture Corporation, which has a share capital of £2,050,000 and a loan capital of £1,207,500, reports a depreciation, on January 31st, of £34,000 in its investments of £4,348,270. This depreciation represents less than 1 per cent. of the invested funds, and, to meet it, an amount has been taken from capital reserve. To maintain the reserve fund at the figure of £1,060,656 an appropriation of £34,000 was made to revenue reserve from the net profits. The investments number 862, but no list is given with the report. The geographical classification shows that 49 per cent. of the investments are in Great Britain, 13 per cent. in the Colonies, and only 6 per cent. in the United States of America. The following is an analysis of the profits and distributions of these companies in the last three years:—

	Net Rev. after Tax.*	Avail. for Ord.	% Earned. (subject	% Paid. to tax).	Reserve.	Carried Forward.
Merchants Trust:	£	£			£	£
January 31 1928	198,178	104,145	16·0	13	10,000	88,079
,, 1929	204,619	106,419	16·3	14	10,000	93,498
,, 1930	208,077	109,877	16·9	14	10,000	102,375
U.S. Debenture Corp.:						
January 31 1928	195,500	89,009	21·2	15	...	80,191
,, 1929	231,120	123,632	†15·1	15	...	88,599
,, 1930	269,896	163,846	20·5	15	34,000	68,445

* Before deb. int.
† Calculated on capital increased to £1,000,000, but interest at 5½ per cent. was paid in respect of 475,000 new ordinary shares from dates of instalments.

The present market price of Merchants Trust ordinary is 260, yielding 5.38 per cent., and that of the United States Debenture Corporation 242, yielding 6.20 per cent. Last year these stocks reached 278 and 303 respectively.

LIETUVOS BANKAS
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KAUNAS, LITHUANIA
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BALANCE SHEET
December 31st, 1929.
Litas = 0.150462 grams of fine gold (0.10 U.S.A. Dollars

ASSETS.

1. Gold reserve	35,079,117.44
2. Silver coins	3,776,708.—
3. State Treasury coins	1,653,231.21
4. Foreign currency	78,477,425.42
5. Loans and discounts	84,138,799.24
6. Other assets	13,223,781.12
	216,348,057.43

LIABILITIES.

1. Capital	12,000,000.—
2. Reserve capital	1,350,000.—
3. Bank notes in circulation	94,828,948.—
4. Deposits	99,550,957.90
5. Other liabilities	6,868,156.53
6. Profit for 1929	1,750,000.—
	216,348,057.43

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
for the Year ending December 31st, 1929.

Expenses, depreciation and other write-offs	8,218,521.06
Net profit	1,750,000.—
	9,968,521.06
Gross profit for 1929	9,968,521.06

J. PAKNYS, *Vice-Governor.*
J. MASIULIS, I. MUSTEIKIS, V. STATKUS, } *Directors.*
B. MINIATAS, *Chief Bookkeeper.*

At the annual meeting of stockholders of the Lietuvos Bankas, held February 15th, 1930, 7 p.m., at the Bank's offices, Kaunas, presided over by Mr. J. Tubelis, reports of the Directors, of the Advisory Board and of the Auditing Committee were presented. The reports were by motion unanimously carried, ordered received and filed. It was further voted to pay to the stockholders 10 per cent. dividend.

London Canadian Investment Corporation.—The first report of this company (formed in Canada in May, 1928, under the auspices of Wood, Gundy and Company with well-known British investment trust directors on its board) is of interest as showing how a Canadian investment trust company, managed on orthodox lines, has fared in the slump in the American and Canadian markets. The company has an issued capital of $4,000,000 in 5 per cent. preferred shares and 350,000 common shares of no par value. In addition, there are $6,000,000 of 4½ per cent. debentures, which were issued at the time of the company's formation. Few trust companies have had the advantage of capital obtained at so cheap an average rate as 4½ per cent. Since its formation the company realised profits on the sale of securities of $1,062,069, which have been transferred to investment reserve, in accordance with British trust company practice. After taking into consideration the investment reserve, the market value of the securities at December 31, 1929, showed a depreciation on book value of 5.43 per cent. The net revenue for the period from May 8, 1928, to December 31, 1929, amounted to $100,626, which gave a satisfactory margin in excess of bond interest and preferred dividend requirements. This revenue took no account of dividends accrued but not yet paid, or of stock dividends received. The investments of the corporation were divided as to 21.74 per cent. in bonds, 15.63 per cent. in preferred stocks, 58.94 per cent. in common stocks, and 3.69 per cent. in cash and call loans. The geographical distribution of the investments was as follows:—Canada, 40.4 per cent.; United States, 30.89 per cent.; British Empire (excluding Canada), 7.98 per cent.; foreign (excluding United States), 20.72 per cent. The chairman, at the general meeting of the corporation, stated that the investments since December 31st last had appreciated by $295,000, reducing the net depreciation in market value of securities to 2.69 per cent.—a reassuring development.

Mather and Platt.—The accounts of this northern engineering firm for the year ended December 31st last may be regarded as another milestone on the road to prosperity. Profits, which declined steadily from the "peak" of 1921 until 1927, recovered to the extent of £8,000 in 1928, and have now almost regained the 1924 level at £228,398. Percentage earnings on the ordinary capital cover the dividend payments of 15 per cent., tax free, for the first time for five years, and at 15.3 per cent. compare favourably with the 13.2 per cent. earned for 1928.

Year ended December 31	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	192,036	200,610	228,398
Brought forward	164,458	131,945	106,006
Preference dividend	20,000	20,000	20,000
Rate per cent.	5	5	5
No. of times covered	*9·6*	*10·0*	*11·4*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*172,036*	*180,610*	*208,398*
Paid £	204,549*	204,549*	204,549*
Earned per cent.	*12·6*	*13·2*	*15·3*
Paid per cent.	15*	15*	15*
Other allocations	...	2,000	...
Carried forward	131,945	106,006	109,855

* Free of tax.

Some £2,000 was voted last year to the employees' benefit fund at the general meeting, and the item may recur this year. No addition has been made to reserve account, which figures in the balance sheet at £250,000, the last allocation of £50,000 having been made in 1923. Certain changes appear in the balance sheet in pursuance of the new Companies Act, the item of £939,418, which last year represented fixed capital, trade investments and goodwill, now appearing under three separate heads, which together account for £974,103. The total amount representing "sundry creditors" and "loans to subsidiaries," which last year were shown as one item, has dropped from £284,126 to £264,683. The present price of the ordinary £1 shares is 2$\frac{5}{16}$, which, allowing for a final dividend of 10 per cent., gives a yield of £6 16s. per cent., free of tax.

H.P. Sauce.—The accounts have shown increased profits each year since the company became a public one in December, 1924. The dividend is now raised to 30 per cent., as compared with 25 per cent. on the last two occasions, and, in addition, a capital bonus of one new share for each three is to be distributed:—

Years ended December 30th.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profits after depreciation and income tax	150,649	153,171	159,526
Preference dividend	14,560	14,560	14,560
Number of times covered	*10·3*	*10·5*	*10·9*
Ordinary: *Earned, before Tax*	*56·7%*	*57·75%*	*60·4%*
Ordinary: Paid less tax	25%	25%	30%
Ordinary: Amount of dividend	60,000	60,000	72,000†
To reserve fund	81,997	75,000	60,000
Depreciation trustee securities	...	...	9,443
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	− 5,908	+ 3,611	+ 3,522

† Plus capital bonus, one share in three.

A conservative policy has been pursued in the distribution of profits, considerably less than 50 per cent. of net earnings, since the present company's inception, having been paid away in dividends. The effect is seen in the strong balance-sheet position, surplus liquid assets, including £507,236 in trustee securities, totalling £516,781 after payment of the dividend, as compared with a present issued capital of £560,007 and a balance-sheet total of £992,387. The stipulated policy of the Board was not to pay a dividend exceeding 25 per cent. until the goodwill and trade marks item of £156,997 had been eliminated, which was accomplished in 1927 by a transfer from the accumulated reserve fund. The latter account is brought up to £185,000 by this year's allocation from profits and, after the appropriation for the capitalised bonus, will be £85,000. Last year's earnings were equivalent to over 45 per cent. on the enlarged capital, and if the dividend is maintained at 30 per cent., the shares will yield nearly £6 10s. per cent. at the relative *ex* dividend and bonus price of the present quotation of £6 8s. 9d.

Austin Motors Dividend.—The Austin Motor Company has issued an announcement to the effect that on March 31st all arrears of dividend will be paid on the 6 per cent. "B" preference shares. Hitherto no allocation has been made since June 30, 1926, and the distribution required to bring payments up to date will take £262,500 gross. In addition a first dividend of 20 per cent. is to be paid on the 1,500,000 preferred ordinary shares, taking £150,000 gross, and a dividend of 20 per cent. on the 600,000 5s. ordinary shares, taking £30,000 gross. The total amount represented by these payments is £442,500 gross, or £354,000 after tax. The past twelve months have clearly seen a far-reaching improvement in the affairs of the Austin company. In 1928 the total amount earned for dividend was only £243,025. The results are the more remarkable in view of the intensity of competition prevailing last year in the private-car trade, and the invasion of the "Baby" car market by the wealthiest British producer. The 5s. ordinary shares jumped from 7s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. on Thursday, after the announcement, and were subsequently dealt in at 15s. 3d.

S.T.D. Motors Capital Scheme.—The scheme of capital reconstruction foreshadowed at the last general meeting of S.T.D. Motors, Ltd., has now taken definite shape, and reserves which have been built up in the past to prepare for "the inevitable losses resulting from the stabilisation of the franc at 124.21 to the £" will be used to write down the ordinary capital to one-third of its book value. The present capital of £3,300,000, made up of 1,900,000 £1 preferred ordinary shares and 1,400,000 £1 ordinary shares, is to be reduced to £2,370,261, divided into 1,900,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each, 5,392 ordinary shares of £1 each, and 1,394,608 ordinary shares of 6s. 8d. each. The reduction is thus effected by cancelling paid-up capital which has been lost or is unrepresented by available assets, to the extent of 13s. 4d. per £1 ordinary share issued. At the same time, each of the 5,392 unissued ordinary shares of £1 each will be divided into three ordinary shares of 6s. 8d. each, and the company's capital will be increased to £3,300,000 by the additional creation of 2,789,216 ordinary shares of 6s. 8d. each. Preference shareholders have, therefore, for once in a way, little reason to be dissatisfied with the terms offered them. Arrears of preference dividend dating back to September, 1926, are to be funded, and certificates issued to creditors carrying cumulative interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Application will be made for the quotation of these certificates on the Stock Exchange, so that they may become a marketable security. They will be redeemable from time to time out of available profits by purchase in the open market, by tender, or by drawings.

The Outlook for Copper.—While the price of Rio Tinto has lately fluctuated more or less in sympathy with the movements of standard copper prices, Rhodesian issues have been among the very few markets of the Stock Exchange which have shown even moderate activity. How far the latter movement, however, is influenced by the immediate outlook for copper is doubtful. For months past, users of the metal have pursued a strictly hand-to-mouth policy, writes a trade correspondent, and particularly during November, December and January they drew heavily upon stocks and substituted scrap for virgin metal whenever possible. Though this policy has been met to some extent by curtailment of production, its result is seen in the steady increase of stocks of refined copper across the Atlantic. At the end of last year this total had trebled the lowest point touched, and was up to 170,000 short tons, but during January there was a further addition of 30,000 short tons of refined copper and 4,000 tons of blister, bringing the grand total up to about 470,000 short tons. Not for years has such a huge tonnage of copper been seen above ground, and but for the grip on the situation exercised by the Incorporated Exporters, a reduction in price would have long since occurred. It is now nearly a year since electrolytic copper was "pegged" at 18 cents in New York (equivalent to about £84 on this side), while average costs of production are mostly below 10 cents per pound. Having maintained the present price for so long, and survived what will probably prove to be the worst statistical position recorded for many years, it is unlikely that the American producers will bow to the popular clamour for cheaper copper, more especially as they are understood to be sceptical of the power of a lower quotation to induce purchasing. Consumers are at last being compelled to abate their attitude of aloofness, and buying during February has been on a much more generous scale. With this encouragement, strengthened by a cut in mine output, it seems quite possible, concludes our correspondent, that 18 cents will be maintained throughout the present year. This view, it should be added, is not shared by all well-informed observers in the market.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Underground Electric Railways of London, Great Western Railway, Southern Railway, Manchester Ship Canal, Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, Pearl Assurance, General Investors and Trustees, English Electric, City Offices, Borax Consolidated, Leyland Motors, Selfridge and Company, Maple and Company, and B. Morris and Sons. At the Manchester Ship Canal meeting the chairman said that the tonnage using the port of Manchester during 1929—6,344,000 tons of sea-borne traffic—had only once been exceeded in the history of the company, in 1926, when the traffic was abnormally affected by large imports of coal arising out of the coal stoppage. Presiding at the general meeting of Leyland Motors, Ltd., Mr J. H. Toulmin informed shareholders that considerable attention had been given by the technical experts of the company throughout the year to the question of heavy oil engines and exhaustive tests were being made. At the Great Western meeting the chairman declared that the company had contracted for a large part of its fuel for some months to come. At the Underground meeting, Lord Ashfield described the economic effects of the rapid growth of London.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The week's new capital issues, though few in number, have been of undoubted investment interest. The *British Government's* offer of 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan came as a surprise to the market, but was more warmly welcomed than its predecessor, the more so as the Treasury did not, on this occasion, deem it necessary to effect any preliminary "placing" of the loan. The issue is discussed in detail in a "Note of the Week" on page 454 of this issue. The "*Shell*" *Transport and Trading Company's* ability to obtain immediate subscription of a large line of new second preference shares at a price yielding subscribers no more than £5 12s. per cent., is a tribute to the high regard in which the company is held. Further comment on this issue, and its relation to general financial developments in the Royal Dutch-Shell group, will be found on page 472. The preference and ordinary shares of *Olympia, Ltd.* (whose issue was doubtless timed to coincide with the holding of the British Industries Fair in the company's new "Empire Hall"), were reasonable speculative propositions. The unexpected synchronisation of the offer with that of the Government's Conversion Loan was, from the company's point of view, unfortunate, underwriters being required to take up 40 per cent. of the issue. The underwriters' share of last week's Hull Corporation Loan was 85 per cent.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to February 22, 1930, £29,375,674.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to February 22, 1930, £29,375,674.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended February 22, 1930, £250,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to February 22, 1930, *Dr. £2,600,000.*

To the Public.	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
Olympia—Cum. Pref.	450,000	...	450,000	56,250	393,750
—Ord.	112,500	...	112,500	56,250	56,250
Shell Transport and Trading	5,000,000	...	6,250,000	625,000	5,625,000
Total offered to public, week ended March 1, 1930	5,562,500	...	6,812,500	737,500	6,075,000
To Shareholders only			None.		

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One Hundred Million Dollars.

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
To date—	£	£
1930	36,438,174	36,438,174
1929	82,250,529	68,675,978
1928	...	144,167,729
1927	...	116,656,331
1926	...	53,271,455
1925	...	30,295,871
1924	...	27,849,075
1923	...	57,153,799

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1930	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1929	5,694,700	...	9,616,104

Conversion Loan.—Issue of 4½ per cent., Conversion Loan 1940-44, at £95 per cent. Redeemable at par on July 1, 1944, or on any half-yearly interest date on or after July 1, 1940, at the option of the Government, at three months' notice. The loan is a trustee security, ranking *pari passu* with the 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44, already existing. Holders of 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, due May 15, 1930, may surrender their holdings, in whole or in part, and receive therefor 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44, at the rate of £105 10s. Conversion Loan for each £100 nominal of 5½ per cent. Treasury Bonds surrendered.

"Shell" Transport and Trading Co.—Issue of 5,000,000 7 per cent second preference shares of £1 each at £1 5s. per share. The proceeds of the present issue are required for the future development of the company's business. Profits for the year ended December 31, 1928, totalled £5,447,894, covering dividends on the 7 per cent. preference shares, including the present issue, 7.6 times.

Olympia, Ltd.—Issue at par of 450,000 7 per cent. Cumulative preference shares of £1 each, and 450,000 ordinary shares of 5s. each, to provide for the costs of the extensions and improvements to Olympia. The company was incorporated in April, 1929, to acquire the property known as Olympia. Net profits for the year ended December 31, 1929, were £100,381, covering dividend on preference shares, including the present issue, 1.7 times.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 491, under the heading "Company News."]

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE ATTOCK OIL COMPANY.—Output for January, 21,778 barrels.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—The production of crude oil by this company for January was 37,514 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended February 19:—Venezuela, 35,487 barrels; Trinidad, 11,116 barrels; total, 46,603 barrels.

HECTOR WHALING, LTD.—Catch report to February 23, 1930:—

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting ...	3	4
Catch for week ending February 23, in barrels of oil	3,700	9,300
Total catch to date, in barrels of oil	102,400	144,800

THE VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS.—Production for the week ended February 22nd was:—Bolivar district, 123,378 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,393 metric tons; total, 129,771 metric tons.

Grace National Bank

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DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
RAILWAYS.					
Buffalo and Lake Huron	5/- p.s.	Mar. 7	Less tax	...	...
Isle of Man Steam Packet	...	...	...	6	6
Natal-Zululand	1%*	Mar. 12	Less tax	...	...
BANKS.					
British Linen	...	...	...	16	16
Gotcborgs	...	...	...	10	...
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	...	...	8	8
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Gedong (Perak) Rubber	...	...	...	5	Nil
Hope Tea	5%*	Feb. 28	...	...	...
MINING.					
Consolidated Mines Selection	...	...	Less tax	2/- p.s.	...
North Broken Hill	2/- p.s.*	and bon	us 6d.	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberdeen Combworks	...	...	...	4	6
Arnott and Co.	...	...	Tax free	8/- p.s.	9/-p.s.
Blackwell Colliery	...	...	Tax free	2½	2
Booth (James) and Co.	...	Mar. 14	Tax free	15	15
Brown Brothers	7½%†	...	...	10	10
British and Allied Investments	5%*	Mar. 1	Less tax	...	...
Cable Telephone & Gen. Trust	...	...	Less tax	6	4
Cairn Line	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Caledonian Trust	8½%†	Mar. 14	Less tax	16	15
Cannock and Co.	4%†	...	Less tax	8	8
Cavendish House (Cheltenham)	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Cerebos	...	...	Tax free	25	30
Chiswick Electricity	8½%†	...	...	16	16
Ciro Pearls	...	...	...	25	...
Clifford (Charles) and Son	...	...	...	10c	10c
Cork Gas Consumers	4%*	plus sup	plementary	2/- p.s.	...
Cotton (John)	...	...	Less tax	40	40
Cory (Horace) and Co.	...	...	...	2½	7
Cowans, Sheldon and Co.	5%*	Mar. 6	Less tax	...	...
Crittall Manufacturing	6d. p.s.*	Mar. 8	...	...	...
Culter Mills Paper	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Davis and Timmins	12%†	...	...	20	20
Farnham Gas and Electricity	3½%†	...	...	7½	...
Friars Investment	...	...	...	5½	5
Gallaher	...	...	Less tax	6½	...
General Hydraulic Power	...	...	...	7	7
Grand Canal	2%†	...	Tax free	4	...
Grayson, Lowood and Co.	3%*	...	...	...	...
Hampton Court Gas	3½%†	Mar. 1	Less tax	7½	7½
Harrison, Barber and Co.	5½%†	...	...	8	9
Hartlepool Gas	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Hawkes (O.C.) { "Old"	4%†	...	...	5	10
Hawkes (O.C.) { "New"	...	...	...	2½	...
Heath (Samuel) and Sons	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Herrburger Brooks	5%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Hill, Evans and Co.	...	...	Tax free	15	15
Holt Brewery	6%*	...	Less tax	8½	8½
Home and Colonial	15%	...	...	25	25
Hooper, Struve and Co.	...	...	...	3d. p.s.	Nil
H.P. Sauce	...	...	...	35	30
Hughes-Johnson Stampings	5%*	Feb. 28	...	...	...
Hugon and Co.	7½%†	...	...	10	10
Hydro-Electric Securities	50 cts.*	Mar. 14	Quarterly	...	...
Illinois Car and Equipment	10 cts ps*	Mar. 31	...	...	...
International Investment (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Kellner-Partington Paper Pulp	...	...	Tax free	7½	7½
King Line	3%†	...	...	6	6
London & Thames Haven Oil	5%† and	bonus	5%	15	15
London United Laundries	5%*	Mar. 20	...	...	...
Mather and Platt	5% and	bonus 5	%	15	15
Meadow Dairy	...	...	...	30	30
Merchants' Trust	9%	...	Less tax	14	14
National Gas Engine	...	...	...	7½	7
Northampton Electric Light	6%†	...	...	10	9
Oakey (John) and Sons	10%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Oldham Brewery	...	...	Tax free	32/-p.s.	32/- ps
Property and Estates	...	...	...	5a	5b
Reckitt and Sons	...	...	...	22½	21½
River Plate Trust "A"	13%†	...	Less tax	24	24
"B"	5%†	...	Less tax	9	9
Robinson (Peter)	7%†	...	...	12	12
Salt Union	...	...	...	2/6 p.s.	2/6 p.s.
Samnuggur Jute	20%†	...	...	30	30
Scottish Northern Investment	...	...	...	15	15
Scottish Western Investment	10%†	Mar. 14	Less tax	19	18
Settle, Speakman and Co.	...	...	Less tax	6	5
South Shields Gas	...	...	...	5¾	5¾
Spratt's Patent	7½%†	Mar. 22	Less tax	12½	12½
Stephens (Henry C.)	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Swedish Match	...	...	...	15	15
Taylor Walker	...	Apr. 4	...	12½	10 5/12
Titaghur Jute	20%†	...	...	30	30
Todd, Burns and Co.	...	...	...	5	5
Twin City Rapid Transit	...	...	...	4	2
Victoria Jute	20%†	...	...	30	30
Waste Heat and Gas Electrical	5½%†	...	...	8	...
Wharncliffe Dwellings (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	3	3
Witbank Colliery	2½%*	Apr. 3	...	...	...

a Plus bonus 10%. *b* Plus bonus 15%. *c* Plus bonus 5%.

VICKERS, LTD.—The following final dividends for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, will be paid to the holders of the preferred stock and preference shares of the company, who are registered in the books of the company on Saturday, March 8, 1930: 2½ per cent. on the preferred 5 per cent. stock (less income tax), 2½ per cent. on the 5 per cent. preference shares (less income tax), 2½ per cent. on the cumulative preference shares (free of income tax). Payment will be made on Friday, April 4, 1930. The transfer books of the company relating to these issues will be closed from Monday, March 10th, to Saturday, March 15, 1930, inclusive.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF HAVANA.—Owing to the serious and unexpected decrease in the traffic receipts the earnings will not be adequate to provide the amount required for the payment of the final dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock in respect of the year ending June 30, 1930.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

PEARL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

SOUND PROGRESS DURING PAST YEAR.
GOOD RESULTS IN ALL BRANCHES.
INCREASE IN FUNDS OF NEARLY FIVE MILLIONS.
MR GEORGE TILLEY'S REVIEW.

The sixty-sixth annual general meeting of the Pearl Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on Thursday, the 27th ultimo, at the registered offices, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1. Mr George Tilley (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr W. N. Proddow, F.C.I.S.), having read the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before reviewing the progress of the company during the past year, I regret to record that we have lost an old and valued friend by the death of Mr J. T. Bonny, which occurred last September. He entered the service of the company nearly sixty years ago. In 1909 he was elected to the board, and when, in 1924, his failing health made it necessary that he should relinquish active participation in the work, he took with him into his retirement the respect and goodwill of everyone connected with the company. He will be remembered as amongst those who, in earlier years, laid the foundations upon which the "Pearl" has been built, and those of us who were his colleagues and friends will not forget those high qualities of mind and character which made his life an example to all those associated with him.

You will notice that our president, Mr G. Shrubsall, is not here to-day. He has asked me to express his regret for this absence, which is due to his being on the high seas. I am sure you equally regret this absence which, I am pleased to say, is not necessitated by any reason of ill-health. We hope to welcome him as usual at our next meeting.

In commenting on the operations of the Pearl Company in any year one is always brought to consider the various currents of social, commercial and economic forces which surround and influence the results obtained. Recent history in these respects has not recorded a very helpful tendency for insurance, which is a far-seeing and sober provision for, and protection against, the adverse results of calamity and misfortune.

CONDITIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

The past year was marked by the deflation or collapse in value of the capital and stocks of many doubtful concerns, accompanied by considerable losses to investors.

Throughout the greater part of the year a long-continued period of optimism regarding security values in America led to a constant drain of money from this country, among others, for use there in financing speculation, with the result that rates of interest were forced up in this country to the detriment of our trade and industry.

The collapse of the inflationary movement in America was severe, and led to a prompt repatriation of money, with consequent reduction in the Bank rate of interest, changes which should ultimately enure to the benefit of our industries.

Notwithstanding the conditions referred to, I am pleased to once again be in a position to report sound progress for the company, and I am hopeful that the conditions under which business will be conducted in the coming year will be more favourable. In a more orderly progression increased impetus should be given to the growing recognition of the claims of life and endowment assurance as an unrivalled medium of investment.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

This branch continues to show a vigorous and healthy expansion. During the year we have issued 40,308 policies, assuring sums of £11,652,887, and carrying annual premiums of £626,414. As a result of this new business the annual premium income of the branch shows an increase of £365,525, and the total premium income established a new record in exceeding £5,000,000 per annum.

Mainly by reason of a very serious epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year, our normal claim rate was considerably exceeded. Thus, if you turn to the revenue account of the branch you will note that the claims by death total £530,989, which is an increase over the corresponding total for the previous year of £76,943. An increase of this nature does not, however, perturb us. Our experienced rate of mortality is well within what we expect, and variations upward, even of a severe character, are amply provided for and, indeed, form a basis for the acquisition of further business.

Of the other items shown in the revenue account of this branch, cash surrenders of policies and bonuses show an actual reduction as compared with the total of the previous year. Variations in the amounts under this heading are often looked at as a more or less reliable barometer of the state of trade and commercial activity. The reduction in question may well be a reflection of the slight, though, we think, undoubted, tendency to improvement in this direction last year.

BONUS.

As a result of his valuation of this branch, the actuary reports a surplus of £1,093,621, and the directors, acting on his recommendation, are again declaring a bonus of £2 6s. per cent. of the sum assured on all policies entitled to full participation. I would once again direct your atteention to the steady and continuous increase that has taken place in the bonuses granted to our policyholders. The record is:—

1923	£1 16 0
1924	2 0 0
1925	2 0 0
1926	2 2 0
1927	2 2 0
1928	2 6 0
1929	2 6 0

The rate of bonus we are now granting places us well to the forefront of all competitors in this respect, and renders a "Pearl" with-profit policy a most desirable investment. We have every expectation of at least maintaining this bonus in the years to come.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

Any comparisons that can be made in this, and to a less extent the ordinary branch, are vitiated by the fact that in 1928 we had what we term a 53-week year. The explanation of the term is the falling of that number of Mondays in the year, and, as we receive our weekly accounts dated for Monday, in such a year an extra week's business falls to be dealt with. Bearing this in mind, the record of the year in this branch is a very good one. I have informed you in each of the past few years of the position of the great number of our policyholders who found difficulty in maintaining their premium payments, consequent on the trouble in the coalfields of the year 1926. Year after year since, we have relaxed our normal rules in their favour, have kept their policies on our books although they were heavily in arrears with premiums, have paid claims upon such policies as qualified for benefit by the death of the assured, and have gradually brought the great bulk of them up to a state of normality. A satisfactory reflection of this may be seen in the item of industrial branch outstanding premiums in the balance sheet, which stands at £137,832, or only slightly over 2 per cent. of the premium income. The premium income of this branch has attained the figure of £6,656,349, and shows an increase of £165,456. The amount of the claims paid on death, which exceeded two and a-quarter million pounds, is an unusually high figure, being influenced by the epidemic of influenza to which I have already referred.

FIRE BRANCH.

The premium income in the fire branch during the year amounted to £498,126. Losses incurred, including provision for all losses outstanding, and after deducting the amounts recoverable under reinsurance, accounted for £264,065, being 53 per cent. of the premiums. Commission and expenses of management amounted to £216,454, or nearly 43½ per cent. of the premiums. The premium reserve has been adjusted on our usual basis of 40 per cent. of the year's income, and the account shows a surplus, including interest, of £35,168, of which £22,000 has been carried to the profit and loss account, and the balance of £13,168 to additional reserve. No part of the underwriting profit has been withdrawn from the account, for, as you will notice, the amount transferred is not even as large as the net interest on the fire funds.

The fire insurance fund at the end of the year was £547,193, and the account is, therefore, in an even stronger position than before.

Since I last had the pleasure of addressing you we have established a branch in Australia for the transaction of fire and accident business, in addition to certain agencies in other parts of the world, and, as a result of the opening up of these new territories and the expansion of our organisation in the home field, I trust that from

now onwards we can rely upon presenting you with an account showing a steadily increasing income.

ACCIDENT BRANCH.

Premiums in the personal accident, employers' liability and general accident accounts were £150,964, a considerable advance on the previous year's figure of £118,125. Claims paid and outstanding, less recoveries under re-insurance, amounted to £68,544, being 45.4 per cent. of the premiums. Commission and expenses of management were £49,328, that is, 32.6 per cent. of the premiums. After the adjustment of the premium reserve, the surplus, with the interest, is £26,403, of which £13,000 has been transferred to the profit and loss account, and the balance of £13,403 to additional reserve. The accident funds amount to £170,718.

The growth of the premium income of the accident branch will doubtless be gratifying to you, and, although we could not expect a repetition of the very favourable claims experience of the previous year, the experience of 1929 was quite good. In the accident branch, as in the fire branch, we are cautiously extending our operations in the foreign field, and the results in this respect are justifying our expectations.

INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE ACT, 1929.

Among the more important events of the year affecting the business of the company was the passing of the Industrial Assurance and Friendly Societies Act, 1929. The origin of, and the reasons necessitating, this Act are curious and deserve mention. Life assurance companies are in the habit of granting on the lives of children, policies which provide for the payment of a capital sum upon the attainment of a fixed age, such as 14 or 21, and such policies are very popular with parents in that they supply a ready means of accumulating a sum to provide for education or some advantageous start in life for their children. The policies usually contain a clause providing, in the event of the death of the beneficiary, for the return of the whole or a part of the premiums paid. From time to time a doubt had been expressed as to whether such a return of premiums was the payment of an assurance on death within the meaning of the Friendly Societies Acts, which Acts impose a limit on such payments in the case of industrial assurance companies and friendly societies, and, in consequence, when the Industrial Assurance Act of 1923 was under debate, Mr Alexander, M.P. for Hillsborough, moved the insertion of a clause which would remove all doubt. This clause was opposed by the then Solicitor-General on the ground that it was unnecessary, and it was stated, in effect, that the payment referred to, that is, the return of premiums, was in order and did not offend against the Acts governing these payments. The Industrial Assurance Commissioner, acting in his judicial capacity as arbitrator between policyholders and the offices, began to have doubts on this point, and he initiated proceedings to test the legality of a payment such as described, which proceedings resulted in the conviction of the office concerned, with the imposition of a fine.

These returns on death where they exceeded the statutory limits which may be paid on the death of a child under 10 years of age were thus, in effect, declared to be illegal, although the policies were beneficial in character and were issued in good faith by the industrial assurance offices on assurances given in Parliament by responsible officers of the Crown.

To rectify this injustice the introduction and passing of the Act of 1929 was secured, after a long and difficult struggle by the offices concerned, but the Act went further than a simple rectification of the impossible position in which we were placed. It takes its place as another addition to the list of enactments governing our business, and introduces further complexities into its administration.

We endeavour to carry out every ordinance imposed on us by Parliament in the spirit as in the letter, and our success in impartng to thousands of employees throughout the country an understanding of the meaning of these various enactments is evidenced by the extraordinarily few cases of complaint that are brought against us.

INVESTMENT AND INTEREST.

The funds of the company, as shown in the balance sheet, amount to £58,464,241, and show a growth of nearly five millions sterling. Of the assets, which comprise Stock Exchange securities, over 40 per cent. are invested in British Government securities, and, if the combined group of Government, provincial and municipal securities be taken, the proportion is nearly 80 per cent. The gross interest yield on these funds again shows a slight increase in both the ordinary and industrial branches of the company, a fact satisfactory in itself, and particularly so to your directors, as a tangible result of the care and attention they have devoted to this most important subject.

RESERVE FUNDS.

In the balance sheet you may have noted that we have certain reserve funds, namely, a contingency fund of £100,000, and investment reserve funds of £164,804 and £235,196 in respect of the ordinary and industrial branches respectively, the total of these being £500,000. Heretofore the investment reserve funds were amalgamated, but we think it better to divide them into separate funds in accordance with their origin, one for each of our major branches of business. Further than that we have, as stated in the report, reinforced them by the substantial additions of £135,196 in the ordinary branch and £64,804 in the industrial branch, thereby bringing each investment reserve fund up to £300,000 in amount, and giving a grand total of investment reserves and contingency funds of £700,000. This additional safeguarding of our position was determined on partly because of the troubled financial history of the past year; not that it had become necessary by reason of anything that we have experienced, but rather as a further safety margin against the possibility of anything unforeseen which may happen in the future.

FINANCE.

In connection with our investments a report appeared recently in the Press stating that this company was joined with others as defendants in an action brought by the Gloucester Corporation, with reference to the loan which they issued through the Corporation and General Securities, and you may be anxious to know whether this implies any loss to us. As the action in the Court is actually pending, it would be improper for me to comment at length on the case, but I wish to assure you that the purchase of the security in question, amounting to £20,000, was perfectly in order; it is registered in the books of the Gloucester Corporation, and we hold the certificate under their corporate seal.

We feel some little grievance in that, by reason of legal procedure and formalities, we are put in the position of defendants when we should be, if anything, plaintiffs, since payment of dividend due has been withheld pending the hearing of the action.

PROFIT SHARING.

In my speech last year I stated that your board contemplated the inauguration of a scheme whereby policyholders in the Industrial Branch should be accorded a definite share in profits. I then proceeded to a reasoned argument showing that such a development of policy was clearly indicated, not only as a plain duty towards our policyholders, but also by reason of the great advantages which may be expected consequent on its adoption.

I recalled to your recollection that on two previous occasions similar considerations had influenced your directors, with the result that in the year 1906 the sums assured in this branch were increased by substantial bonuses varying from 5 to 7½ per cent. of the sums assured, and again in 1926, when a similar distribution was made averaging an increase in sums assured of 11 per cent., and involving a total increase of over £9,000,000. These generous distributions have been of great value, not only to the recipients, but to the company, in the enhancement of its reputation for liberal treatment of policyholders, and in the attraction of an ever-increasing circle of new policyholders.

Much thought and time have been devoted during the past year by your directors and management in the formulation of a definite scheme of profit distribution to policyholders as an instrument in the general policy of the company, but no completely satisfactory scheme has yet been evolved. We are, however, for this year, moving towards our goal by allocating out of the profits of the year a sum in excess of half a million pounds for the purpose of increasing the sums assured to the extent and in the manner stated in the report.

SCHEME EXPLAINED.

The method we have adopted in this distribution deserves some attention. It is novel in that it is calculated upon the premium paid by the policyholder instead of on the sum assured. The reason for this is that in this branch sums assured are calculated in reference to pennies or multiples thereof paid in premiums, and, as a consequence, are rarely a conveniently round amount, whereas in Ordinary Branch assurance the premium is calculated by reference to £100 of assurance. A method of distribution based on one penny of premium therefore has the merit that a policyholder can more easily understand an addition of 1s. 4d. in respect of a penny premium than he could a percentage of the odd number of pounds and shillings for which he may be assured. Further than this, the method is easily and economically dealt with administratively at Head Office, and it has the merit of being at least as equitable in its broad effects to different classes of policyholders as any of the methods commonly in use which we have examined.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

There is one branch of our operations which cannot be included in our accounts, but which represents a vast amount of work of national importance, and to which I would like to make brief reference. I refer to National Health Insurance, in the administration of which our staff is associated with the National Amalgamated Approved Society. The extent of our participation in the work of that society may be measured by the fact that the Pearl staff are now introducing annually between 50,000 to 60,000 new entrants, and last year made 1,295,206 payments in respect of the various forms of insurance benefit, representing a sum of over £800,000. I include in these figures the disbursements in respect of maternity benefit, an adjunct of National Insurance which is rightly regarded as being of primary importance. These payments numbered 40,375 and totalled in amount over £86,000.

The figures of benefits are of substantial magnitude, but it is important that we should look beyond and behind the figures and appreciate what they represent in the alleviation of suffering, the restoration of health and their beneficial effect upon the welfare of the insured classes. Very valuable work is being done, and we regard it as both a duty and a privilege to contribute what we can through the society towards making the National Insurance Scheme of maximum benefit to the community.

I am glad to say that our relations with the society continue to be of a most cordial nature; through our representatives on the committee of management we take an adequate share in the administration of its affairs. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to add our congratulations to the many our good friend Sir Thomas Neill has received on the occasion of the presentation of his portrait to him by the staff of the society. As chairman, Sir Thomas occupies with distinction a very onerous office to which he has brought gifts of character and ability which have earned for him an outstanding position in the insurance world, and we hope that for many years to come he will be spared to guide the great organisaion with which his name is so closely associated.

EXTENSION OF CHIEF OFFICE.

Prior to the removal, in the year 1914, of the chief office to our present premises, our experience had been that, notwithstanding very optimistic views as to the probable growth of the company, and in consequence a practical realisation of the need for accommodation capable of expansion, we had never been sufficiently optimistic, and the housing of our staff was a constant source of concern. In the preparation of the plans for our present offices we endeavoured to look far ahead, and although ground was secured and provision made for ultimate completion of the approved design, it was considered that the building as erected would meet our requirements almost indefinitely. Well, ladies and gentlemen, we were yet again not sufficiently sanguine, and it has now become necessary that we undertake further building and provide additional accommodation. The eastern frontage of the office is now in process of being extended, and we hope that when you meet us again next year the building will be sufficiently advanced to enable you to view the accommodation it will provide, and also, we feel sure, to agree with us that from an architectural point of view it will prove an acceptable addition to London's commercial buildings.

PENSION FUND.

This fund stands in the balance sheet at £897,859, an increase on the total shown last year of £88,619, and we are allocating to it from our profits a further sum of £100,000. This fund is being steadily built up the addition of interest earned upon the moneys invested, as well as by the annual contribution from profits, and each successive year with a growth in the average age of the staff, it meets increasing charges for the support of those whose work is necessarily terminated by the disabilities of age. I feel assured now, as always, of your hearty sympathy and support for our policy of allocating substantial grants towards the pension fund.

SURPLUS OF THE LIFE FUNDS.

The total surplus for the year from the life funds amounts to £2,195,475, and this has been dealt with as follows: To policyholders, £1,190,803; to staff pension fund, £100,000; to investment reserve funds, £200,000; to profit and loss account, £511,033; while £193,033 is carried forward.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

In addition to profits from the life funds, there has, during the year, been carried to this account from the fire and other branches a total of £35,000, and the balance of the account at the end of the year amounts to £137,210. This, with the addition of the amounts transferred from the life branches, totals £648,243, out of which it is proposed to pay £246,963 as a final dividend to the ordinary shareholders.

The report was adopted, other ordinary business was transacted and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.
INCREASED DISTRIBUTION.
THE BRIGHTON LINE ELECTRIFICATION.

The annual general meeting of the Southern Railway Company was held, on the 27th ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Brigadier-General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., C.B.E. (the chairman), said that receipts from railway working showed a decrease of £27,000, there being a falling off in passenger train traffic receipts of £165,000, an increase in goods train traffic receipts of £145,000, and a decrease in miscellaneous receipts of £7,000. The electrification of their suburban lines had again come to their assistance in regard to passenger train receipts; in fact, the increase in traffic in the electrified area was progressing at a pace which had considerably exceeded all expectations.

After mentioning the benefit they had derived from the abolition of the railway passenger duty, he said that the working expenditure as a whole showed a decrease of £273,000, against a reduction in receipts of £27,000, and there was therefore an increase in net revenue under the heading of "Railway" of £246,000. Net receipts from steamboats showed a decrease of £45,000. To sum up, the net receipts under the head of "Railway working" had increased by £246,000, while the net revenue from other businesses had decreased by £27,000, giving a net increase from railway and ancillary businesses of £219,000. As a result of the satisfactory increase in the amount for disposal, they were able to recommend that the dividend on the deferred ordinary stock should be increased from 2 per cent. to 2½ per cent. and the amount carried forward from £136,000 to £162,000.

AN ANXIOUS YEAR.

The year had been an anxious one. Serious financial troubles on both sides of the Atlantic had done nothing to lessen the feeling of distrust and pessimism which existed, and the crushing load of taxation was not made easier to carry by the knowledge that it might be increased. The number of motor licences issued was going up every day, and in the circumstances it was satisfactory that they had been able not only to hold their own but even to increase their distribution and their carry-forward.

If the Coal Mines Bill was passed in its present form, it was certain to have a serious effect upon the prices at which coal would be sold to consumers in this country. He was glad to say that they had made contracts up to the end of 1931 at prices very little in excess of those they were now paying. The amount of the reduction in their salaries and wages bill due to the satisfactory arrangement with the trade unions amounted in 1929 to £300,000, and it had been agreed that the deduction should remain in force until May 16, 1930.

ELECTRIFICATION OF BRIGHTON LINE.

The decision to electrify the line from London to Brighton and Worthing had only been arrived at after long and careful consideration. They had had to decide not only the type of motor and the type of carriage, but they had also had to decide on the system to be worked. They were anxious to maintain the Pullman cars on the Brighton section, and special arrangements would have to be made. One of the most important points was whether the new trains should be worked by electric locomotives or on the multiple unit system. They had decided on the latter, treating that phase of their electrification rather as an extension of suburban electrification than as a main line electrification.

The steam-train mileage that would be discontinued amounted to about 1,972,000 miles per annum. They proposed to substitute for that an electric train service with a mileage of about 4,921,000, thereby providing an increase in the train service of 150 per cent. The total cost of the whole scheme, including the re-signalling of the line from Purley to Brighton, was estimated at £2,700,000. In order to cover the increased cost of the additional mileage and to provide for depreciation and interest on capital, it would be necessary to increase their traffic receipts by 6 per cent. They were confident that that result would be achieved and they would be very much surprised if it was not achieved in the first year of working.

They had come to an understanding with many of the large omnibus companies under which both sides would work to their mutual benefit, the total sum invested in those companies up to the end of the year being £1,038,000. They had every reason to expect a good return upon the money invested. They were in negotiation with other companies and, if those arrangements fructified, they would have obtained an interest in every one of the large omnibus companies operating throughout their territory. They had also arrived at an understanding with Imperial Airways. Should the company wish to run air services, they would be operated by Imperial Airways.

The report was adopted and at a subsequent Wharncliffe meeting Parliamentary Bills were approved, including one dealing with the Charing Cross scheme.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

IMPROVED RESULTS.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES.

The annual general meeting of the Great Western Railway was held, on the 26th ultimo, at Paddington, London, the Right Hon. Viscount Churchill, G.C.V.O., in the chair.

In submitting the accounts the chairman said that the company's liquid resources were ample to finance not only the present overdraft on capital account, but also the projected expenditure, so that the issue of new capital was not contemplated. The company had carried about 1,250,000 more tons of merchandise traffic, 5,250,000 more tons of coal and coke, and 1,300,000 more passengers than in 1928, and while the goods and coal traffic accounted for increased receipts, the passenger train receipts showed a drop of £278,000 due to the policy of extending cheap fare facilities to stimulate the development of passenger travel.

Expenditure on locomotive repairs and partial renewals was higher than last year, but this was largely due to greater mileage, and the expenditure in connection with superannuation, benevolent funds, pensions, &c., also showed a large increase, due to the circumstances which he had explained on a previous occasion. There were two items of railway expenditure which were new, namely, their payments in respect of the Railway Freight Rebates Fund, and in respect of the deficiency in the Railway Freight Rebates (Anticipation) Fund. The net receipts from railway and ancillary businesses amounted to £6,975,262, as compared with £6,119,372, an increase of £855,890.

The net revenue for the year amounted to £8,198,644, which, after meeting debenture interest and other charges, enabled a dividend of £4 15s. per cent. for the half-year to be paid on the ordinary stock, making £7 10s. per cent. for the year. Referring to the Railway Rates Rebates Scheme arising out of de-rating, the chairman said that in the case of export coal the average rebate allowed was equivalent to about 6½d. per ton, a reduction of about 30 per cent. off the railway rate, and there was no doubt that this had been of material assistance to the coal industry in its efforts to regain lost markets.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

He stated that the capitalised value of the railway passenger duty which was repealed by the Finance Act, 1929, was, under the arrangement with the Government, being expended on the renewal of 100 locomotives, the equipment of Roath Dock, Cardiff, with shipping appliances capable of dealing with 20-ton wagons, the provision of a concentration yard at Acton, where a very large volume of traffic was exchanged with other railway companies, and of additional warehouse accommodation at South Lambeth depot. Alluding to the large amount which the company would be spending on capital account during the next few years—principally in respect of new works which were being undertaken with financial assistance from the Government under the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929, the chairman said it had long been recognised that the railways of this country must continue to incur expenditure on capital account if they were to keep pace with modern requirements and deal with the problems of transport in an efficient manner, but the situation in recent years, as affecting the railways, had been one of abnormal difficulty, and with the unsettled outlook which had confronted the company, they had been reluctant to embark on capital expenditure on a large scale.

When, however, the railway companies were asked by the Government through the Lord Privy Seal, Mr. J. H. Thomas, whether they could put forward any proposals for assisting the Government in their schemes for the relief of unemployment, the companies intimated that, with adequate financial assistance from the Government to safeguard the position of the shareholders, schemes involving an expenditure of at least £30,000,000 could usefully be undertaken on new works, which ultimately should prove remunerative. The outcome of the discussions was the passing of the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929, under which the railway companies, in common with other authorities, were eligible to receive financial assistance from the Government for a period not exceeding fifteen years, in respect of the interest charges on expenditure incurred on schemes approved by the Government.

COMPANY'S SCHEMES.

The Great Western schemes were the first to be considered by the Government Committee. So far thirty schemes, involving a capital expenditure of about £6,150,000, have been put forward. Most of them had been approved, and eighteen commenced.

Dealing briefly with some of the more important schemes, the chairman said the proposed alterations at Paddington Station included the provision of a new parcels depot for down-line traffic and the reconstruction of Bishop's Road Station. The construction of a new parcels depot would also enable some much-needed improvements to be carried out at the east end of the station, and by reconstructing Bishop's Road Station the company would be able to divert a considerable number of local trains from Paddington, where additional accommodation was required for long-distance trains. The enlargement of Bristol Temple Meads Station had been under consideration on many occasions, and during recent years great difficulty had been experienced in working traffic through this station. Practically all the property required for future extensions had been purchased, but the company did not feel justified at the time in spending the large amount of capital necessary to provide the additional facilities required. As, however, the Government were prepared to afford the financial assistance which was considered necessary to safeguard the position of the shareholders until the work might be expected to become remunerative, it was felt that the opportunity of proceeding with the proposed improvements should be taken. The quadrupling of the line between Olton and Rowington Junction, a distance of 9¼ miles, was under consideration prior to the war, and as the major portion of the land required had been purchased, it was thought desirable to offer to complete the work on certain terms which have been accepted by the Government.

CARDIFF AND SOUTH WALES.

At Cardiff the scheme provided for the remodelling and enlargement of Cardiff general station, the quadrupling of the line from Newtown, Cardiff, to near Ely, and the construction of a new carriage shed. Under normal conditions in the coal industry, the running lines through Cardiff station were heavily occupied, and coal trains were seriously delayed. During the summer months and holiday periods considerable difficulties were also experienced owing to insufficient platform accommodation and the absence of convenient storage sidings. The quadrupling of the line between Cogload Junction and Norton Fitzwarren was necessary to enable the increased volume of traffic passing to and from the West of England to be dealt with efficiently. The reconstruction and enlargements of the goods depot at Wolverhampton was desirable for dealing with the increasing volume of traffic, and the modernisation of their locomotive repair shops would enable substantial economies to be effected. The deviation line at Westbury and Frome was to eliminate two-speed restrictions which adversely affected the working of express trains to and from the West of England.

The largest, and perhaps most important scheme which the company had put forward to the Government was for additional and improved facilities at the South Wales Docks. This scheme, which entailed a capital expenditure of about £2,000,000, was now under consideration by the Government Committee, and it provided for the construction of a new entrance to the docks at Swansea, the extension of the North and South piers at Port Talbot, and the completion of the programme for fully equipping all the docks with appliances capable of dealing with 20-ton wagons.

Swansea was the only large port in South Wales dependent on a single entrance, and it was generally recognised that this drawback militated against the development of the port which served the anthracite coalfield, the metal trades, and the Anglo-Persian Oil Refineries. Recently, owing to the absence of a second entrance, it was necessary to close the dock to vessels over a certain size, in order to carry out some essential repair work. The traders suffered serious inconvenience through this, and the Chamber of Shipping, the Swansea Chamber of Commerce, and other important bodies had strongly urged the company to make application to the Government for such financial assistance as might be necessary to provide improved facilities, and to obviate any risk of the dock having again to be closed for repairs. The extension of the North and South Piers at Port Talbot was under consideration in 1914, and the improvements now contemplated would enable larger vessels to be accommodated at that port.

TERMINAL FACILITIES AT PORTS.

The completion of the programme for providing shipping appliances at all the ports capable of dealing with 20-ton wagons was in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Mineral Transport. This committee recommended, *inter alia*, that financial assistance should be accorded to all schemes designed to further the use of 20-ton wagons by providing improved terminal facilities at docks, and as their recommendations had recently been approved by the Government, it was anticipated that in the near future 20-ton wagons would be adopted as the standard for export trade.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the bill submitted to the special general meeting was approved.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL COMPANY.

DIVIDENDS MAINTAINED—INCREASED CARRY-FORWARD.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Ship Canal was held, on the 27th ultimo, in the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester.

Mr W. C. Bacon (Chairman of the Company) presided, and in the course of his address, said: I am pleased to meet you again and to present what I hope you will agree is a satisfactory report for last year. The year under review has been a most eventful year, and great efforts have been made in every direction towards re-establishing the trade of the country. I need not enter into detail. You will all have carefully followed the methods which are being employed to improve the cotton trade and restore the prosperity of our staple industry. It is to be hoped that the strenuous efforts which are being put forward will eventually be successful, and regain for us our prominent position in the world's trade.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 1929.

As you are all well aware of the depressed state of trade in this district throughout practically the whole of last year, I am sure you will agree that it is gratifying that the tonnage—6,344,000 tons of sea-borne traffic—using the port of Manchester in 1929, has only once been exceeded in the history of the company, and that was in the year 1926, when the traffic was abnormally affected by the large imports of coal arising out of the unfortunate coal strike in that year.

The net receipts of the whole undertaking, Ship Canal, Bridgewater Canals, and working of railways, amounted to £854,225, and miscellaneous receipts to £47,779, making a total of £902,004, as shown in account No. 8. Deducting from this miscellaneous charges, chief rents, wayleaves, rent on elevators, docks and transit sheds, together amounting to £105,250, there remains a net revenue for the year of £796,754, as compared with £761,352 for 1928—an increase of £35,402.

The dividends, as you are aware, are the same as last year, but whereas in 1928 the carry-forward was reduced by £12,545, this year the carry-forward is increased by £11,068, which means an improvement on the year of £23,613.

When so many other companies have had to reduce their dividends, although I should have been very glad if we could have done better, I am sure you will regard it as not unsatisfactory that we have been able to maintain last year's dividends and to increase the carry-forward.

PROSPECTS.

As regards the prospects of our own undertaking. In spite of the present conditions of trade and the unavoidable difficulties arising therefrom, there are some encouraging features.

There is the steady increase in traffic to which I have already referred, and particularly the increase last year. I see no reason why the weight of traffic for the current year should not at least equal that of the past year—indeed there are certain trades to which we have every reason to look for an increase.

Nothing phenomenal, however, can reasonably be expected until there is some general tendency towards better trade conditions. Under the stringent conditions existing at present, we find both shipowners and traders clamouring for decreased charges. As stated in the report, reductions were made in the company's charges as from October 1st last, and we were glad to have the opportunity of making substantial concessions in order to pass on the benefit arising under the De-rating Act of 1929. Every endeavour was made to distribute the reductions fairly; in fact, partly from the stress of competition and also in the hope of increasing and consolidating the trade of the port, the reductions in charges already sanctioned amount to more than the relief which the company have received under the De-rating Act. It is hoped and believed that this policy will ultimately benefit the company, although it may mean some slight temporary reduction in net revenue.

CURRENT YEAR.

We have begun this year well. January shows an increase of £641 in gross receipts. This, of course, seems a small figure, but it should be borne in mind, having regard to the reductions in charges arising out of de-rating, that for the first nine months of the year decreases are to be expected and, up to a point, can be incurred without any reduction in net revenue.

Speaking generally of the present state of trade of the country, it seems to me that too many people are looking to the Government to get them out of their difficulties. My own view is that the best way the Government can help is to interfere with trade and trade conditions as little as possible. Both individuals and companies should realise that they must work out their own salvation and not rely on the efforts of Governments or others.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE UNDERGROUND.

CONTINUED EXPANSION—TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan District Railway Company, the London Electric Railway Company, the City and South London Railway Company, the Central London Railway Company, the London General Omnibus Company, Ltd., the Metropolitan Electric Tramways, Ltd., the London United Tramways, Ltd. the South Metropolitan Electric Tramways and Lighting Company, Ltd., the London and Suburban Traction Company, Ltd., and the Underground Electric Railways Company of London, Ltd., were held, on the 27th ultimo, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Right Honourable Lord Ashfield, who presided, said in the course of his speech: The traffic for the year 1929, as measured by the number of passengers carried, shows some small advance upon that for 1928. The total number of passengers carried by railway, tramway and omnibus amounted to 2,175 millions. The tramways carried 9 per cent. of this total, the railways 18 per cent., and the omnibuses 73 per cent. These figures bring out in a forcible manner the predominance of the omnibuses within your group of companies. If I look further afield at the whole of the traffic carried by local agencies in Greater London, I find that the omnibus share amounts to about 53 per cent. of the whole, so that this predominance is complete and it is also unique, for nowhere else in the capital cities of the world can the omnibus show anything approaching so substantial a share in the fostering of local movement. During last year the passengers carried by the railways increased by 7 per cent., those carried by the tramways increased by 4 per cent., and those carried by the omnibuses by just over 1 per cent.

A SATISFACTORY FEATURE.

Perhaps the most satisfactory feature is the increase in the traffic carried by the tramways. It has been the habit in recent years to depreciate the value of the services rendered by tramways in the carriage of passengers, but we have found that if steps are taken to bring the standard of comfort of the tramcars up to that customary upon the railways and omnibuses, and that if steps are taken to increase the general speed of operation of the tramways, the passengers carried by the tramways will increase in numbers, proving that tramways serve to deal effectively and economically with considerable volumes of traffic upon the streets. The average speed of operation of our tramways has now turned 10 miles per hour, which, having regard to the growing congestion of the streets, is a not unsatisfactory figure; indeed, as good a record as may be found anywhere. Owing to the predominance of the omnibuses, the increase in the total volume of traffic carried for the year is just over 2 per cent., and I must admit this compares badly with the increases of recent years, which have reached 7 or 8 per cent. In the two preceding years we recorded a growth in the number of passengers carried exceeding 100,000,000 in the year, but this last year this growth has fallen to approximately 49,000,000.

SEVERE WEATHER.

The principal cause of this decline was, without doubt, the exceptionally severe weather of January and February, coupled with the widespread influenza epidemic. From the losses of those early months, the summer made but a poor recovery. But if last year started ill, by comparison this year starts well, for the advance that was noted at the close of last year is consistent, and continues into this year. But I should warn you that the increases in traffic now shown upon the published weekly returns include for the first time the results for the omnibuses formerly belonging to the London Public Omnibus Company and that some allowance (about two-fifths of the total increase) should be made for this fresh factor.

OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

There has been a falling-off in the average receipt per passenger carried by the omnibuses during the year which has also mitigated against the largeness of our fortunes. Even a quite small change in the average receipt per passenger, when multiplied by the millions of passengers that we carry, makes an appreciable difference. The fall in this case was only three-hundredths of a penny, but if the 1929 passengers had been carried at the 1928 average receipt, instead of at the lower receipt, the gain would have been close upon £200,000. In spite of this one adverse factor, the traffic receipts for 1929 amounted in the aggregate to £17,300,000, an increase of £200,000 over 1928, or 1·2 per cent.

So far as expenditure is concerned, the Omnibus Company had to face an enhanced cost for petrol. Our contribution in petrol tax for the year 1929 amounted to £380,000, in itself a serious abstraction of our funds, and entirely apart from the amount which we paid in respect of licensed vehicle duty, amounting to £435,000, so that under these two heads alone the omnibuses contributed to the revenues of the State during last year a sum of £815,000, or almost 7½ per cent. of their gross revenue. No other form of transport makes a like contribution. Except for this one factor, costs were generally lower during the year.

The average wage paid to our employees throughout this group of companies amounted to £4 3s. 7d. per week, an increase of 1s. 3d. over 1928, so that we can honestly claim not only to have sustained, but even advanced the standard of living of our 45,000 employees, for during the year 1929 the cost of living fell somewhat below that of 1928.

INCREASING EFFORT.

Everywhere that you may look within our undertakings, you will find increasing effort. It is impossible for me to put before you all the figures that would illustrate this. Our accident record, as compared with 1928, has fallen, and in relation to the work performed is indeed the best record that we have so far had. If you take one element in that record, the number of fatalities which have occurred in connection with our transport undertakings, whatever may be the cause, amounted in 1929 to 117 only, out of a total of approximately 1,500 occurring on the streets of London alone. Only one fatal accident occurred for almost every two and a half million car miles run.

I need hardly add that we cannot be held to blame for these fatalities, for in all but two accidents we were entirely exonerated from blame by the coroner's juries which inquired into their circumstances. Our expenditure on the settlement of claims has fallen to the lowest level that we have so far obtained. The delays on the railways are down to four minutes per 10,000 car miles run. This is another record, and is mainly due to the greater care and attention which has been paid to our rolling stock.

NEED FOR FURTHER RAILWAYS.

London is indeed remarkable as a metropolis, for in spite of the depression in trade and of the falling birth rate, it continues to grow all the while. It has always been the place in which the wealth of the country is spent, though it is rapidly becoming as well the place in which the wealth of the country is gained. The Londoner can scarcely understand the gloomy prognostications, the pessimistic forecasts which from time to time fill our newspapers and periodicals. London requires more underground railways. So far as private enterprise is concerned, no one can allege that we have not faithfully discharged our task to the limits of our strength. There may come a time when underground railways will have to be found and provided by public authorities just as roads are now found and provided.

The report and accounts were adopted.

GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 27th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr Gerald T. Moody (the chairman) said that the gross revenue was less than in the previous year by some £2,000, and the net revenue by about £7,200, of which a considerable part was to be attributed to additional interest paid on debenture stock. Nevertheless, they had earned more than 21 per cent. on the ordinary stock, and the directors had no misgivings in recommending a final dividend on that stock of 11 per cent., less tax, making a total distribution of 17 per cent. actual for the year. They also recommended that £10,000 be carried to reserve account, increasing it to £275,000, that £2,000 be added to staff superannuation fund, and that £4,356, be carried forward, compared with £3,502 brought in.

The fall in revenue was without doubt to be attributed indirectly to the whirlpool of speculation to which he referred at the previous annual meeting, not that the company had directly or indirectly had any interest in the group whose affairs had been occupying the attention of the courts, but because, in view of the impending collapse of the Stock Exchange boom, the directors had considered it wisest to abstain from participating in syndicates and in underwriting. At the close of the accounts on the 31st ultimo they had upwards of 50 per cent. of the ordinary stock represented by cash, Treasury bills, and British Government securities.

Throughout the year they had been playing for "safety first," and no doubt stockholders would agree that the policy had been more successful in their case than in that of an eminent politician. The valuation on January 31st last showed, after providing for liabilities, dividends and other allocations, a substantial surplus over the issued capital and reserve account, but the aggregate value was not so satisfactory as it was a year ago. Fortunately, the company, in following conservative methods, had accumulated a reserve account of £275,000, and, as this sum had paid income tax, the gross appropriation was really £343,750, or exactly 86.8 per cent. on the ordinary stock. In the future it might not be necessary or even desirable to make such large contributions to that account or to so generously increase the staff superannuation fund, which had now reached a substantial aggregate, so that stockholders need not anticipate any reduction in their dividend.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

PROSPECTS OF A RECORD BONUS.

The 106th annual general meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society was held, on the 27th ultimo, at 15 St. James's Square, London.

Mr Francis E. J. Smith (the Chairman) said that as to their net new business, although below that of 1928, the total of over £1,700,000 would, up to two years ago, have been hailed as a record, and it exceeded by nearly £400,000 the average figure for the last complete quinquennium. The number of policies issued had been practically identical with that of the previous year, but there had been a decrease in the average sum assured, reflecting undoubtedly the difficult conditions ruling throughout the year.

They continued to receive a very substantial amount of new business from their connections with the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, and, as there was an equally important flow of business in the reverse direction, the usefulness and value of such a liaison to both companies would be appreciated.

The vast bulk of their new business had taken the form of simple whole-life or long-dated endowment assurance contracts, and in these days, when there was an undoubted tendency to short-dated contracts, emphasising the investment rather than the protective aspect of life assurance, that was particularly gratifying.

He had often referred to the advantages conferred by a carefully selected with-profit whole-life policy or endowment assurance. Such a policy offered three advantages. It increased the value of the estate of the assured in the event of early death to an extent out of all proportion to the premiums paid; it reduced the liability to pay income tax, and it was a care-free gilt-edged investment which steadily appreciated in value.

TRADING RESULTS.

They had received in 1929 a smaller sum by way of single premiums, a decrease which reacted directly upon their total premium income and to some extent upon their expense ratio. The net rate of interest which they had earned remained at the highly satisfactory level of £4 16s. 9d. per cent.—a fact which augured well for their 1931 bonus. Claims by death had been heavier than usual, but in character they had been good while in volume they represented only 68 per cent. of the amount anticipated and provided for.

Surrender payments in 1929 had been heavy—a fact which was not surprising in view of the monetary conditions ruling during the year. None the less, it was remarkable that in spite of enhanced outgo their life assurance fund showed an increase of no less than £424,539, and exceeded at the end of the year, for the first time in their history, £10,000,000. In less than 10 years that fund had increased by more than 50 per cent.—ample evidence of the vitality of the Society.

Mortgages on property out of the United Kingdom, standing at £512,000 odd, gave them a very satisfactory yield; all were thoroughly well secured on house property in or near Toronto and represented the fruit of their C.M. and G. Canadian Investments, Ltd. With the cash remitted to Canada for further investments—£10,000 odd—they had now almost reached their self-imposed limit, for the board had long ago decided not to invest more than approximately 5 per cent. of their total assets in that particular way.

While their Indian and Colonial securities showed small expansions, "Other debentures and debenture stocks" had grown from £250,000 to £400,000. A new feature in their balance sheet was the preference and ordinary stocks of an investment trust company. In spite of the fall in prices during the year, their Stock Exchange securities were worth £73,681 in excess of their book value.

They had quite recently formed a new subsidiary, the Clerical, Medical and General Investment Trust, Ltd. It had been found by experience that by spreading risks widely a most effective means could be created whereby a higher return for money could be obtained with safety.

BONUS PROSPECTS.

In the report the directors had expressed their complete confidence that the bonus to be declared a year hence would be a record one. He wished to make clear the main grounds upon which their confidence rested. They knew that mortality had been consistently favourable, and that the backbone of the remainder of their profits consisted of interest. The surplus disclosed in 1926 had enabled them to declare record rates of bonus and to make important additions to their reserve strength. Since 1926 not only had the average rate of net interest increased, but it had been upon a broader basis of reserves. That increasing scale of prosperity compelled the belief that the optimism which the directors had expressed would be entirely justified.

The report and accounts were adopted.

LEYLAND MOTORS, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR.
GOOD POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of Leyland Motors Limited was held at the head offices of the company at Leyland, Lancashire, on Wednesday, February 26, 1930, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr J. H. Toulmin, J.P. (the chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr T. Phillips-Conn) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report and the accounts for the year ended September 30, 1929, said:—

Ladies and gentlemen,—As you have had the directors' report and accounts before you for some days, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read.

FURTHER PROGRESS.

The accounts for the year ended September 30, 1929, which are submitted for your consideration to-day, disclose the result of a further steady advance by your company, and the board feel confident that you will find the position a satisfactory one.

INCREASED PROFIT.

The gross profit is £758,295 and the net profit (after making full provision for income tax, depreciation and all contingencies) is £559,373, an increase of £153,375 on the profit of £405,998 for the previous year. It may be of interest to you to know that this constitutes a record profit since the inception of the company.

DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION.

One entry makes its reappearance in the profit and loss account after an absence of a considerable number of years. Provision has been made for the additional remuneration payable to the three full-time directors in accordance with Article 84(A) of the company's articles of association. This remuneration is not payable until the remainder of the arrears of the dividends on the 7½ per cent. preference shares have been paid, but it is evidence of the Company's return to prosperity that the provision is necessary.

The directors' fees, amounting to £795 17s. you will no doubt consider a very small sum. This item only covers the fees paid to myself for the year and those paid to Mr Walker for part of the year. Mr Thorold did not, on account of his absence, receive any fees.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

You will observe, if you examine the balance sheet, that the financial position has been considerably strengthened. The amount owing to creditors at September 30th last was £438,346 and this figure included a very considerable sum by way of provision for income tax and contingencies, but did not include anything for our bankers. Twelve months previously we owed to creditors £871,819, including a considerable bank overdraft.

At the same time the total of debtors and stock-in-trade was £320,000 less than it was twelve months previously and the cash at the Bank and in hand amounted to £302,644.

Your directors have now given effect to a suggestion that has been made at these meetings on former occasions by setting aside a sum of £5,000 to establish a pensions and benevolent fund. It is our intention to add to this fund from time to time so that we may be enabled to deal adequately with suitable and deserving cases.

The subsidiary company which we control is Leyland Motors (South Africa) Limited. The formation of this separate company was rendered necessary by the regulations of the South African Government. No outside money is invested in the company; so far as our organisation is concerned, it is considered a depot exactly like our other overseas depots.

DIVIDEND POSITION.

With regard to dividends, you are all aware, of course, of the position. The dividends on the 6 per cent. preference shares have now been paid up to December 31st last, and consequently the holders of these shares are not present at our meeting to-day. The dividends on the 7½ per cent. preference shares have been paid up to December 31, 1927, and we shall pay off the remainder of the arrears as soon as our cash resources will allow us with safety to do so. It is quite true that at September 30th last we had over £300,000 in cash, but out of that amount we have distributed £229,800 in dividends and we have also paid a very large sum for income tax.

Since we met here last year we have distributed £324,600 in cash to the preference shareholders.

Your directors are firmly of the opinion that the stability of your company must be still further strengthened by the conservation of its liquid assets and by the creation of adequate reserves. We have, therefore, recommended to you the setting aside, out of the year's profits, to a general reserve fund, the sum of £120,000.

Land and buildings, plant and machinery and tools and equipment, which are for the first time shown separately in the balance sheet in accordance with the requirements of the new Companies Act, have been maintained in a high state of efficiency.

FULL ORDER BOOKS.

The output is constantly increasing and the reputation of our vehicles has never been higher. The new range of goods models has steadily gained in favour, whilst the passenger models, both four-cylinder and six-cylinder, have continued to attract buyers who are determined to have the best. The works are fully employed and our order book is still in a very satisfactory condition as we have received more orders since September 30th last up to the present time than we did in the corresponding period last year.

EXPORT POLICY.

Your directors are aware of the importance of the overseas markets as an outlet for our increasing productions. I am glad to inform you that several members of the Board, and some of our higher officials, have visited various countries during the year and have studied, at first hand, the needs and the possibilities of the markets in these countries, and we look forward with confidence to an increasing trade generally overseas.

HEAVY OIL ENGINES.

Considerable attention has been given by the technical experts of the company throughout the year to heavy oil engines, and a number of different types have been tested and exhaustive tests and experiments are proceeding.

TROJAN INTEREST TERMINATED.

References have appeared in the press from time to time regarding the Trojan car. As you are aware, the Trojan car was manufactured and sold by us under a licence from Messrs Trojan, Ltd., of Croydon. This licence has now been surrendered and your company is no longer concerned in any way with the production or sale of Trojan cars or vehicles. The Kingston works are now being utilised for the production of our own chassis and bodies.

MCKENNA DUTIES.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without making an observation on the McKenna duties and the possibility of the withdrawal of those duties. Having regard to the present position in the United States, your directors view with considerable trepidation the possibility of the removal of the tariff on heavy vehicles and cars imported into this country. In our opinion, the removal of the tariff would inevitably deal a severe blow to the whole motor industry and would add, still further, to the already serious unemployment in this country. We trust, however, that the Government will decide the question by having regard only to the needs of industry.

RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR.

It is with regret that I have to refer to the retirement from the board of Mr W. J. Thorold, but I wish to express our appreciation of the valuable assistance he has given us in the past. Mr Thorold's business in the United States and Canada has grown to such an extent as to make it impossible for him to be in England and he has therefore asked up to accept his resignation. He has written assuring the company of his good wishes and has promised to continue to help us in every way possible in Canada.

The board elected Mr Walter Davies, who has been known to many of you for a long period, to fill the vacancy created by Mr Thorold's retirement.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

Finally, I am exceedingly glad to state once more that the relationship between the management and the employees has continued to be most cordial and I wish, on your behalf and on behalf of the directors, to thank all the 6,000 employees of the company for their co-operation and excellent service during the past year.

The chairman then moved the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts as at September 30, 1929. The motion was duly seconded, and, after the chairman had replied to certain questions put by individual shareholders, was carried by the meeting.

The formal resolutions were passed confirming the payment of the half-yearly dividends on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares and arrears of dividend to December 31, 1927, upon the 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares.

Mr Walter Davies, who was appointed a director of the company by the directors, and who retired in accordance with the Articles of Association, offered himself for re-election and was re-appointed.

Messrs Geo. A. Touche and Company and Messrs Davies and Crane were reappointed joint auditors to the company.

The proceedings then terminated.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.

HEALTHIER POSITION—HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of Borax Consolidated, Limited, was held on the 26th ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Leven and Melville (the chairman) said that the company had had a bad year from the profit-making point of view, and as a consequence the directors were, for the first time in 31 years, or since the formation of the company, not able to recommend a dividend on the deferred ordinary shares. They had considered it advisable in October last to inform the shareholders as to the position, being also led to that course by a number of unauthorised statements in the Press as to impending agreements. He was glad to say that competitive sellers had for the most part relieved the strain by quoting higher prices than those of the last six months of the company's financial year, and, while there were still some disturbing elements, there was a reasonable prospect that the improvement could be maintained.

The balance of profit and loss account, £160,624, was only about half that of the previous year, and it was evident from the figures that this had not fully covered the prior charges.

THE CURRENT YEAR.

As to the current year, the industry was in a much healthier condition, but it had had a bad time, and could not be expected to make a miraculously quick recovery. The company had to clear off old contracts at unremunerative prices before they could benefit by the very moderate increase which had taken place. The directors hoped for some further increase, but they realised that prices should be kept at such a level as would best foster enlarged industrial uses. There was a good prospect of borax finding new outlets. Their trouble had been a too large production of borax from various sources in comparison with the demand. The opening of new outlets would, therefore, help to solve the difficulties consequent upon over-production, leading to cut-throat competition and, consequently, no reasonable margin of profit.

During the past year the company had been in a state of reorganisation, but with the increasing demand which was certainly taking place—their sales of borax to date being ahead of last year—with a saving in distribution expenses and the cutting out of every expense capable of reduction, and a moderate recovery of prices, and with the advantages of low costs due to the new mineral, the directors looked to being able to show again a satisfactory profit and loss account.

PREDOMINANT POSITION.

It would appear from the values set upon their shares that some undue pessimism must exist as to the position of the company. They should look back upon its record of 30 years, during which a large amount had been earned without a set-back. They had had declining profits for a year or two, and had had a bad year in 1929, but the position did not appear to call for so drastic a decline in values.

The company still had a predominant position in a growing industry; they had enormous reserves of raw material in their mines, and their works in various countries were up to date. That at Wilmington, California, was the largest borax refinery in the world and was equipped with the most modern plant for economical production, and they had a very fine worldwide organisation for the distribution of their goods. They had also a freehold property on Searles Lake of large potential value, containing the brines from which potash and borax were being produced, and available, should they at any time determine to proceed with its exploitation. In view of all that, it certainly seemed that the fall in values was overdone, and that the prospects of the business were not as bad as the values set upon the company's shares indicated.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE CITY OFFICES COMPANY, LIMITED.

FREEHOLD OF PALMERSTON HOUSE ACQUIRED.

The ordinary general meeting of the City Offices Company, Ltd., was held, on the 25th ultimo, at Palmerston House, 34 Old Broad Street, London, Mr E. M. Rodocanachi (chairman) presiding.

Mr W. E. A. Norman, A.S.A.A. (general manager and secretary), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The past year has again been a good one for this company, notwithstanding the many financial troubles in the second half of last year.

The future of business this year will depend to a great extent on the Budget. If the Chancellor is ill-advised enough to increase direct taxation, either by increasing income tax or surtax or death dues, he will seriously retard any recovery in trade and industry. It does seem to be most regrettable that Mr Snowden, following in the footsteps of Mr Churchill and guided by the present Permanent Officials of the Treasury in this matter, should refuse to consult the bankers of the City of London on financial questions. Surely it stands to reason that men who have spent their lives in studying financial questions should be able to give valuable advice, even to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being. The Bank rate has now been reduced to 4½ per cent., and that should greatly assist trade and industry.

In the early part of last year we were able to buy the freehold of the small remaining portion of Palmerston House, and I can congratulate the shareholders on now owning the freehold of the whole of Palmerston House. Your board is now carefully considering the future of Palmerston House. In a few years it should be possible to offer the site on the market for a new building, and as our site is about 30,000 ft. super you will realise that it is very valuable. The Cecil Hotel has been sold for a million and a half, and I understand the area there to be about 90,000 ft. super. Our site, in the centre of the City, should be even more valuable, *pro rata*.

Having reviewed the salient items in the accounts, he observed that the directors on this occasion had been extra cautious in the matter of the dividend—30s. per share, less tax, for the year—and, instead of increasing the dividend, had decided to put £4,000 to the equalisation of dividend fund, against £2,000 for the previous year.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

FINANCIAL REORGANISATION SCHEME APPROVED.

Meetings of the holders of debentures, debenture stock and shares in the English Electric Company, Ltd., and also an extra-ordinary general meeting of the company were held, on the 25th ultimo, at Kingsway Hall, London, W.C., to consider a financial reorganisation scheme.

Mr W. L. Hichens (chairman of the company), addressing the extra-ordinary general meeting of preference and ordinary shareholders, said that it had been apparent since the heavy losses disclosed in the balance sheet for 1927 that the financial reorganisation of the company must be undertaken at the appropriate moment. The most urgent need at that time was to reduce the fixed charges, and, as the result of economies, losses had been reduced from £123,000 in 1926-27 to £33,000 in 1928.

It was clear that the company was over-capitalised, and the result of the scheme was to write down the existing capital by £1,755,000. The scheme would result in a reduction in charges for interest and sinking fund from £182,000 to £72,000 per annum. As regarded the provision of new machinery, the new capital of £750,000 which Messrs Lazard Brothers would provide, was sufficient not merely to liquidate the indebtedness of the company to its bankers, but also to enable important improvements to be carried out, resulting in reduced costs. Another necessity for success was a bigger turnover, and that required unquestioned financial stability. That was secured under the scheme.

With regard to the financial aspect of the scheme, as the new preference shares would be buttressed by the £750,000 of new ordinary shares which Messrs Lazard Brothers would subscribe, and assuming that the new ordinary shares might reasonably be expected to yield in course of time a satisfactory return, it was a fair inference that the new preference shares would in time have a market value at least equal to their nominal value.

The resolutions were carried without dissent by the requisite majority at all shareholders' meetings. The meeting of the holders of the 5½ per cent. sinking fund first mortgage debentures was adjourned for three weeks in the absence of a quorum. At the meeting of the holders of the 6 per cent. convertible debenture stock the resolutions were approved on a show of hands by the necessary majority, but, to comply with the requirements of the Court, a poll was taken, the result of which will be announced later.

MAPLE AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

TURNOVER MAINTAINED IN ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

The fortieth annual general meeting of Maple and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 27th ultimo, on the company's premises, Tottenham Court Road, London.

Mr C. C. Regnart, who presided, said that the period under review had opened normally, and gave promise of their usual successful results until the end of August, when, first the American slump and then the Hatry crash, came in rapid succession. In a business such as theirs which, although extensively engaged in the manufacture and supply of household furniture and other goods always in demand, had also a very important and profitable luxury side, the effects were immediate. Another factor which had to a large extent interfered with the normal flow of orders was the very unsatisfactory political and industrial state of the country generally.

Notwithstanding those handicaps, however, there was a bright side to the picture, and although their profits were appreciably smaller, the total turnover for the whole year, including foreign branches and factories at home and abroad, had practically been maintained at the same level as in 1928. All things taken into account, the results as a whole were therefore satisfactory.

GOOD PROGRESS WITH NEW BUILDING.

In regard to their new building, good progress had been made. Their show windows in Tottenham Court Road had always been of the greatest value to the business, and under the new conditions would become doubly so.

The whole scheme when completed would give them 31 new windows in Tottenham Court Road and, together with those in Euston Road and Gower Street, a total of 60, undoubtedly the largest window display of furniture in the world, and when completed they would have the finest entrance hall in London. The main central block had been entirely rebuilt, which, taken together with the provision of new lifts, would in every way add to the comfort of their customers.

Of the item of sundry book debts and debit balances, less reserves, standing at £968,980, a large sum was represented by hire purchase accounts.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the final dividend of 10 per cent., making, with the interim payment, 12½ per cent. for the year, was approved.

B. MORRIS AND SONS, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—GOOD PROSPECTS.

The annual meeting of B. Morris and Sons, Limited, was held on 26th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr W. Somers L. Schuster (the chairman), after comparing the figures in the balance sheet with those of the previous year, said their profit on trading at £20,429 showed an increase of £1,652 and the item of interest was higher by £648. During the past year trading had been most difficult for the smaller outside firms and the advertising campaign had been intense. The company, as far as their capital account was concerned, was in a very liquid position, as their stock of tobaccos, debtors, cash, and investments amounted to over £231,000 and their creditors were only £7,149.

Mr A. J. May (managing director) said: Last year was certainly a bad trading year, and the fact that we show a reasonable profit is something to be thankful for. The company is in a very sound financial position. Very shortly we are introducing new lines of cigarettes, tobaccos, and cigars, and we shall make every effort to increase our turnover this year. We are always trying to improve the business, but these new lines are a little better than anything we have done previously, and I think there is a very good chance of successful sales resulting.

Cigar consumption in this country remains stationary, but we are getting our share of the trade, and I hope this year we shall get more. We have had for many years a small export trade in cigars with Australia, and although Australia has always imposed substantial protective duties on cigars we have, by sacrificing a portion of our profit, been able to maintain our business there and keep a number of cigar workers fully employed here. Now the Australians have made their tariff prohibitive, and also eliminated the preference that we had over cigars manufactured outside England. I am afraid that that trade is lost temporarily, and in consequence our workers are now out of employment.

We produce many types of cigars, of varying qualities, and we have a large sale for a full-size Corona to-day, which is made entirely from Empire-grown tobacco. The brand of this cigar is the "Las Cruzana Corona," and they retail at 6d. each.

There is not much else I wish to say, except to impress upon you that I am optimistic as to the company's prospects, and no effort will be spared by all connected with your company to show an improvement in our profits.

The report was unanimously adopted.

SELFRIDGE AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS—PROGRESS DURING 21 YEARS.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of Selfridge and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th ultimo, at the company's store, Oxford Street, London, Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr A. H. Youngman) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he was pleased to be able to present a very agreeable report of the past year's business. The profit shown was, all things considered, the best in their history, and the entire condition of the business, even as viewed from an intermural standpoint, was most excellent.

With their approaching anniversary—March 15th—this business became 21 years old, and in this attainment of their majority it was perhaps well to look back over those busy years. During those 21 years the feelings of the public towards the business of retail distribution had shown an extraordinary change. The great distributing house had won a position equal in prestige and dignity, and often superior in opportunity, to any other financial, commercial or professional activity to which man could direct his attention. All this had been done by serious, thoughtful, fearless work. It had not come by chance. It was instead a harvest grown from seeds of determination, of careful judgment, of continual energy, of the real, genuine love of work and accomplishment, and of earnest and undeviating attention to business detail.

21,000 EMPLOYEES.

During these years the house of Selfridge had grown with almost each succeeding year. They started 21 years ago with 1,100 employees, whereas the number in this individual business was now between 4,000 and 5,000—the past year had shown the heaviest pay-roll in their history—while in the entire Selfridge businesses there were 15,000 on their rolls. The premises had been added to continually, and further necessary additions were in contemplation. From a totally unknown firm some 21 years ago they now numbered among their many thousands of well-satisfied, permanent customers names from every part of London and from every town or district of Great Britain as well. The returns had increased continually, the past year having shown the highest of any.

GROWTH IN PROFITS.

The profits had shown equal progress. In the first year they were £6,100; the second, £36,200; the third, £50,200; the fourth, £104,000; the fifth, £131,500; the sixth, £134,800; the seventh, £150,200; the eighth, £225,100; the ninth, £258,700; the tenth, £322,800; the eleventh—the boom year of 1919—£372,400; and this year, £481,312. If the profits of all the Selfridge businesses, including those of the provincial branches, were added together, the total would exceed the £900,000 mark. Floor area was vital to the development of a business like theirs, and they were forced to feel that the selling capacity of the premises at Oxford Street had nearly been reached. If the buying public had more money to spend the company's returns would automatically increase, but all over Europe the same condition existed. The public had not the money to spend, so while the management would strive to increase the business in every way possible, greater selling space was its pressing need.

162 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.417,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/28): Fmk.2,934,742,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

The chairman then dealt with the balance sheet, and said that the least agreeable item on the sheet this year was the charge of £31,002 to make good the guarantee to shareholders of Wm. Whiteley, Ltd. It had been a little more difficult than they anticipated to bring that fine old business up to the mark which they had set for it, but they would surely and without any possible question finally accomplish it.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Government of this country would establish a lead to all others by reducing to the extreme minimum the art of simple government and correspondingly reduce the costs of governing. We were, all over the world, being over-governed, and at a continually increasing cost.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the dividends as recommended were agreed to.

The formal business having been transacted, a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended February 22, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	6,300	From Revenue	25,952
Interest, &c., on Debt	879		
Sinking Fund	1,404		
Sundries	469		
Decrease in Debt	16,663		
Increase in Balances	237		
	25,952		25,952

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £25,952,300, as compared with £26,351,200 in the corresponding week last year. Income and Super tax were at £13,120,000 and £2,600,000, against £13,967,000 and £2,060,000 respectively. Customs brought in £2,059,000, as compared with £3,050,000, and Excise £6,290,000, against £5,734,000.

With five more weeks to run to the close of the financial year, revenue stands at £603,645,100, as compared with £626,130,800, and expenditure at £683,992,100, against £668,364,600. The accounts to date, therefore, show a deficit of £80,347,000, as compared with a deficit at this time last year of £42,233,800.

During the week the National Debt was reduced by £16,663,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 250	Treasury Bills	— 20,813
Public Dept. Advances	+ 3,900		
	+ 4,150		— 20,813

The Floating Debt was reduced by £16,925,000 to £709,245,000.

Financial Year, 1929–30, April 1 to February 22.

	£		£
Expenditure	683,992,062	Revenue	603,645,107
		Decreases in balance	3,149,412
		Amount borrowed	77,197,543
	683,992,062		683,992,062

Estimates for Financial Year, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Feb. 22 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt...	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities.....	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	232
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,264
National War Bonds...	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan.....	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds ...	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	586
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	658
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	52
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,591
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities ...	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,701

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Feb. 23, '29.	Mar. 31, '29.	Feb. 22, '30.	Movement Week ended Feb. 22, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	21,740,000	37,050,000	51,630,000	+ 3,900,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	752,915,000	700,295,000	657,615,000*	— 20,825,000
Total Floating Debt	774,655,000	737,345,000	709,245,000	— 16,925,000

* Includes £20,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on February 21, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £59,005,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday, at £99 1s. 7d., about 36 per cent., and above in full; Tuesday, at £99 1s. 10d., and above in full; Wednesday to Friday, at £99 1s. 7d., about 36 per cent., and above in full, and Saturday, at £99 1s. 3d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1929.	£	£	£ s. d.
Dec. 20	40,000,000	44,235,000	4 16 0·55
Dec. 27	45,000,000	67,110,000	4 12 0·61
1930.			
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
Feb. 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 22, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 23, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 23, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	175,170,000	173,747,000	13,120,000	13,967,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	36,130,000	37,600,000	2,600,000	2,060,000
Estate, &c., Duties ...	81,000,000	71,490,000	70,910,000	2,150,000	1,790,000
Stamps	31,000,000	20,530,000	24,920,000	730,000	450,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	760,000	...	120,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	620,000	570,000	80,000	70,000
Total Inland Revenue...	412,000,000	303,950,000	308,507,000	18,680,000	18,457,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	106,686,000	107,046,000	2,059,000	3,050,000
Excise	130,550,000	117,600,000	124,159,000	6,290,000	5,734,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	224,286,000	231,205,000	8,349,000	8,784,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,437,468	3,991,067	...	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	11,400,000	11,200,000	*Dr1200000*	*Dr900,000*
Crown Lands	1,250,300	1,190,000	1,120,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,420,274	21,887,500	4,900	3,500
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	8,986,449	12,459,443	1,153	6,696
Special Receipts	26,000,000	23,974,916	35,760,797	117,293	...
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	603,645,107	626,130,837	25,952,346	26,351,196
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	51,100,000	49,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	...	...
Total Self - Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	72,690,532	70,358,933	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total		676,335,639	696,489,740	27,952,346	28,351,196

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Feb. 22, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Feb. 23, 1929.	Week Ended Feb. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 23, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,830,000	774,432	40,000	...
Road Fund	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928..	7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928.....	5,900,000	10,450,000	...	200,000
(c) For other Issues :				
By Treasury Bills.....	2,734,932,000	2,475,489,000	42,077,000	42,033,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	153,417,590	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates	36,350,000	36,650,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
By National War Bonds	...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	18,960,000	...	50,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	651,870,000	554,540,000	14,640,000	12,040,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares.....	4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	129,672	132,325	...	...
	4,300,098,689	3,898,606,505	85,709,346	83,674,196

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1929. £	1928. £		
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513		
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total ..... £			4,306,351,213	3,904,929,130	85,709,346	83,674,196

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Feb. 22, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Feb. 23, 1929.	—ISSUES— Week Ended Feb. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Feb. 23, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	301,586,534	300,927,194	879,403	800,437
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	8,690,627	10,107,983	445,314	135,000
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,269,162	3,908,843	21,000	16,000
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,829,683	2,202,247	2,900	268
Supply Services (excluding Post Office).....	372,945,000	324,589,278	301,681,956	6,300,000	8,028,050
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	641,965,284	618,828,223	7,648,617	8,979,755
Sinking Fund.....	50,400,000	42,026,778	49,536,342	1,404,000	1,332,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	51,100,000	49,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	72,690,532	70,358,933	2,000,000	2,000,000
TOTAL		756,682,594	738,723,498	11,052,617	12,311,755
OTHER ISSUES.					
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		5,900,000	10,450,000	...	200,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928.....		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		9,000,000	9,050,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28		4,830,000	774,432	40,000	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed					
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills.....		2,777,570,000	2,249,540,000	62,890,000	62,935,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates.....		40,150,000	36,900,000	750,000	700,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off.....		15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	128,906,504	...	500,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919.....		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid..		637,290,000	694,650,000	10,740,000	6,940,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917.....		5,135,424	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—					
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments		4,899	5,733	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
		4,303,248,101	3,902,197,932	85,472,617	83,586,755

Balances in Exchequer—	Feb. 22, 1930. £	Feb. 23, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,067,493	2,052,591	...	...	+ 37,729	— 48,559
Bank of Ireland	1,035,619	678,607	3,103,112	2,731,198	+ 199,000	+ 136,000
Total ..... £			4,306,351,213	3,904,929,130	+ 236,729	+ 87,441

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,217,244
CLAIMS PAID - - - £53,253,248

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, February 26, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	346,812,165	Other Government Securities ..	233,598,190
In Banking Department ...	64,514,661	Other Securities	10,924,646
		Silver Coin	4,462,064
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue ...	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	151,326,826
	£411,326,826		£411,326,826

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	34,441,563
Rest	3,705,755	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	11,987,053	Discounts and Advances ... £4,716,355	
Other Deposits—		Securities 12,868,859	
Bankers £50,713,918			17,585,214
Other Accounts 36,231,367		Notes	64,514,661
	86,945,285	Gold and Silver Coin	652,412
7-Day and other Bills	2,757		
	£117,193,850		£117,193,850

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Feb. 26, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	346,812,165	+ 1,231,392	— 5,441,050
Public deposits	11,987,053	— 1,884,168	— 1,979,840
Bankers' deposits	50,713,918	— 8,453,103	— 6,326,383
Other deposits	36,231,367	+ 1,814,696	— 430,323
Seven-day bills	2,757	— 762	+ 1,350
Total, outside liabilities	445,747,260	— 7,291,945	— 14,176,246
Capital and rest	18,258,755	+ 5,781	+ 2,392
Government debt and securities ...	279,054,853	— 4,141,751	— 9,462,334
Discounts and advances	4,716,355	— 16,413	— 3,637,154
Other securities	23,793,505	— 3,424,326	— 1,265,247
Silver coin in issue department	4,462,064	+ 1,588	— 532,840
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve) ...	151,979,238	+ 340,738	+ 723,721
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	65,167,073	— 890,654	+ 6,164,771
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only (" proportion ")	65 18/32 %	+ 4 13/32 %	+ 11 4/32 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes (" reserve ratio ") ...	34 31/32 %	+ 1/32 %	+ 1 3/32 %

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the " Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Jan. 8	245098463	10431484	149214869 30 1/32	69885615	15081971	15284733	46293097 36
15	245102958	10429647	150654341 31 1/32	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426 46
22	244665689	10855940	151288975 32 1/32	57666515	5779566	14878876	64889435 51
29	244710035	10806329	150428168 32 1/32	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196 52
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106 32 1/32	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685 54
12	244613696	10924838	151499219 32 1/32	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043 56
19	244615041	10924483	151638500 33 1/32	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727 61
26	244613290	10924646	151979238 33 1/32	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073 65

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to February 12	4,752,006	243,534	391,723	5,387,263
Week ended February 19	700,663	34,208	58,052	792,923
Week ended February 26	720,627	33,247	51,244	805,118
Total to date, 1930	6,173,296	310,989	501 019	6,985,304
Total to date, 1929	6,811,594	318,053	508 958	7,638,605
Increase or decrease in 1930......	− 638,298	− 7,064	− 7,939	− 653,301
	= 9·4%	= 2·2%	= 1·6%	= 8·6%
Total for year, 1929..................	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928..................	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929......	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of January.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to February 22.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	27	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM............	12,309,000	11,940,000	− 2·9	22,768,800	21,240,200
BRADFORD	5,172,000	4,559,000	−11·8	...	...
BRISTOL	5,717,000	5,120,000	−10·4	10,285,000	8,924,000
DUBLIN......................	...	...	...	41,467,200	39,888,900
HULL	4,351,000	4,141,000	− 4·8	7,446,300	6,874,000
LEEDS........................	4,792,000	4,940,000	+ 3·0	8,419,700	8,270,300
LEICESTER	3,818,000	3,511,000	− 8·0	6,039,200	6,828,600
LIVERPOOL	38,762,000	31,981,000	−17·4	68,423,000	58,437,400
MANCHESTER............	59,045,000	54,405,000	− 7·8	104,775,400	94,110,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,217,000	6,057,000	− 2·5	11,645,900	11,217,300
NOTTINGHAM	2,993,000	2,999,000	+ 0·2	5,452,300	5,248,100
SHEFFIELD	4,552,000	4,454,000	− 2·1	8,312,700	7,793,200
Total	147,728,000	134,107,000	− 9·2	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Egypt appeared in the *Economist* **of January 25; Denmark in February 8; Chile in February 15; Reichsbank, Roumania, Russia and Poland in February 22.**

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

RESOURCES.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2 686,850	2,976,560	2,974,980	2,977,520	2,989,630
Total bills discounted	952,480	381,420	381,910	376,940	342,780
Bills bought in open market	334,080	295,790	276,080	281,060	299,310
Total U.S. Govt. securities	166,400	477,840	478,560	480,620	482,750
Total bills and securities ...	1,463,030	1,167,240	1,147,840	1,152,900	1,138,520
Total resources	5,166,590	5,079,760	5,112,970	5,124,290	5,147,300
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,653,970	1,683,480	1,682,440	1,656,160	1,637,090
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,367,250	2,338,850	2,307,660	2,315,410	2,345,860
Total deposits..................	2,412,970	2,389,300	2,388,870	2,390,920	2,407,980
Capital paid in and surplus	405,660	448,480	448,370	448,520	448,750
Total liabilities	6,165,590	5,079,760	5,112,970	5,124,290	5,147,300
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined..................	69·9%	78·0%	77·9%	78·5%	78·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930,	Feb. 27, 1930.
Total bills discounted.........	222,390	54,720	79,300	88,790	58,400
Bills bought in open market	66,630	109,560	89,690	85,360	76,840
Total U.S. Govt. securities ..	15,320	211,940	212,350	216,630	217,260
Total bills and securities.....	304,340	383,370	387,590	403,020	365,150
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	959,850	956,480	942,920	946,080	985,270
Ratio of total res. to dep.and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	81·5%	76·5%	76·1%	75·1%	78·2%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Nov. 30, 1928.	Aug. 31, 1929.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1930.
Cash and bank balances ...	556,277	420,887	482,136	537,665	495,609
Bank balances abroad	81,697	85,411	81,445	121,999	94,029
Call and short loans.........	526,531	584,130	594,187	520,619	531,947
Securities	488,291	461,926	487,498	487,481	475,370
Loans in Canada	1,361,129	1,465,385	1,529,239	1,596,233	1,576,245
Loans abroad	239,325	238,674	235,119	241,866	241,319
Other assets	197,932	195,896	205,278	204,832	219,436
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	186,631	189,571	196,895	185,086	187,004
Deposits—					
Government	127,395	146,541	158,528	204,003	205,313
Public in Canada	2,249,718	2,125,659	2,229,990	2,255,814	2,181,938
Foreign	383,331	425,742	423,803	423,146	453,598
Bank balances—					
Canadian	16,754	13,080	14,433	24,410	13,463
Foreign	91,611	115,514	133,948	162,448	135,488
Bills payable, &c..............	118,488	99,462	117,664	117,704	132,328
Capital and rest	258,754	294,632	296,287	298,704	300,795
Other liabilities	7,194	7,610	4,862	6,256	9,847

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

ASSETS.	Feb 1, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion.........	8,119	7,394	7,198	7,155	7,535	7,914
Subsidiary coin	101	81	94	103	107	105
Bills discounted	8,835	9,045	8,463	8,731	8,960	9,107
Investments......................	721	984	934	826	588	749
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,392	9,541	8,475	7,944	7,831	9,156
Government deposits	2,220	1,291	1,612	2,218	2,324	1,740
Bankers' deposits	5,394	4,907	4,679	5,198	5,092	5,178
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	46·7%	46·9%	47·0%	48·2%	48·7%	48·2%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 1, 1929.	Jan. 3, 1930.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Total securities	21,44,40	33,03,78	32,98,75	33,15,66	33,11,97	32,64,08
Loans	17,33,27	6,92,45	7,43,76	8,13,25	7,36,47	7,71,57
Cash credits	29,10,51	25,93,76	26,66,68	28,28,99	28,79,97	30,13,85
Inland bills............	13,00,86	7,89,05	6,26,62	6,44,99	7,20,57	7,15,89
Foreign bills	37,72	37,58	38,99	41,92	37,32	43,68
Dead stock	2,82,19	2,72,83	2,80,00	2,79,88	2,79,88	2,79,79
Bal. with other banks	14,05	17,28	14,77	22,98	33,13	18,25
Cash	11,68,01	12,98,56	13,38,93	13,56,37	15,73,03	16,35,80
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,27,50	5,27,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits.........	78,23,08	79,37,05	78,37,34	81,44,17	84,30,48	86,15,97
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	869	820	787	829	888	821
Advances in London	914	723	727	723	727	726
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	106	121	109	174	246	133

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 22, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
Gold	34,037,604	42,921,007	42,931,049	42,947,184	42,960,343
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,538,871	6,983,711	6,978,660	6,978,420	6,967,761
Bills discounted ...	18,283,146	18,779,871	18,777,089	18,791,890	18,751,548
Commercial bills discounted at home...	5,238,627	5,865,759	6,398,696	5.992,663	...
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545
Other advances ...	2,263,008	2,578,059	2,578,449	2,511,431	2,488,990
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,147,734	4,274,564	2,874,788	2,674,621	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	62,505,668	70,338,986	69,429,473	69,072,414	68,872,261
Public deposits	12,299,992	10,172,143	10,051,343	9,779,601	9,703,875
Private deposits	6,884,626	7,130,424	7,189,057	7,338,115	8,046,775
Other liabilities	1,948,703	2,413,963	2,521,402	2,358,624	...

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Feb. 21, 1929.	Jan. 30, 1930.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
Gold	(b)	906,105	1,176,619	1,176,641	1,178,303	1,178,517
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	474,121	542,009	520,896	534,095	535,069
Silver and other coin		1,617	2,776	2,731	2,884	3,054
Securities..............	697,600	708,367	816,061	794,697	791,562	786,785
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	934,150	2,368,620	2,768,152	2,769,562	2,763,316	2,742,693
Current accounts ...	112,125	98,258	100,892	79,861	94,763	100,835

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Feb. 18, 1929.	Jan. 27, 1930.	Feb. 3, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 17, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,549	439,532	437,019	437,023	437,013
Silver	8,436	22,252	26,421	27,298	27,191	27,116
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	66,816	59,313	52,204	52,456	51,660
Foreign Bills		166,385	217,117	211,308	211,528	205,792
Loans and advances in current acct...		105,212	81,513	112,414	82,590	83,416
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	775,128	786,778	824,025	795,727	785,698
Deposits	5,016	28,560	33,655	20,190	20,593	18,158

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Feb. 23, 1929.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,704	169,800	168,900	169,300	169,500
Silver	29,785	21,517				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	141,662	140,100	140,100	134,000	131,400
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	299,926	277,200	283,100	278,600	274,800
Deposits and bills payable	11.250	52,360	39,900	32,100	32,400	33,700

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,675	559,892	559,901	560,911	560,924
Silver	18,350	45,697	24,437	24,126	23,748	23,304
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad.........	...	174,501	378,087	365,248	358,909	352,888
Discounts	...	143,001	93,308	92,343	84,527	81,306
Advances	103,000	61,976	42,185	41,976	38,515	39,865
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	275,926	780,279	889,946	849,171	822,348	811,794
Deposits	33,750	86,923	188,471	200,289	219,040	211,937

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 10, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,058,500	5,189,400	5,189,500	5,189,500	5,189,700
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,765,900	5,009,500	4,934,500	4,905,000	4,872,500
Other cash	196,000	201,100	202,500	207,700	209,700
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,504,200	3,998,500	3,838,500	3,592,800	3,417,500
Advances..........................	1,129,800	1,096,700	876,100	1,120,100	980,500
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,102,800	896,900	851,400	803,700	803,700
Government securities	1,041,800	1,074,000	1,053,000	1,054,900	1,053,300
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,393,100	16,510,900	16,308,100	16,328,800	16,085,400
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts.........	2,575,400	1,658,400	1,778,300	1,711,800	1,794,300
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·17%	55·22%	55·06%	55·04%	55·35%

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 1, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,856	146,627	146,629	146,625
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	31,834	30,090	29,882	28,942
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,897	26,344	26,344
Discounts and loans	76,911	261,480	232,920	226,863	226,761
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	291,984	297,954	292, 18	289,267
Deposits at sight	7.188	88,091	71,419	63,926	66,902

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

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Feb 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb 15 1930	Feb. 22, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,359	2,567,387	2,516,941	2,517.092	2,517,198
Silver.................	728,600	713,062	713.303	709,364	709.314	712,076
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,798,891	2,193,486	2,179,447	2,122,131	2,083,952
Spanish 4% stock..	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,294,282	4,410.487	4,461,361	4,444,346	4,401,321
Deposits	477,500	1,025,991	1,001,326	971,434	955,384	956,936

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.
Gold..................................	235,460	244,240	244,129	244,061	243,962
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	162	157	157	157
Bills payable in Sweden†	195,309	184,841	165,054	171,282	160,603
" " abroad	78,386	123,158	120,180	119,084	112,259
Balance abroad	45,935	61,396	63,723	60,514	69,117
Advances made on government securities and bonds†...........	47,917	61,831	54,975	55,274	47,379
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	442,974	526,425	495,252	488,613	468,551
Government deposits..............	192,558	170,318	172,884	179,133	175,826
Private deposits....................	4,182	2,202	3,434	1,821	4,297

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 13, 1929.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,377	8,822	8,903	8,863	8,848
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8.577
Balances abroad	323,900	308,868	312,991	312,129	299,299
Discounts	251,709	358,827	361,148	363,914	365,049
Government loans	1,745,990	1,717,175	1,719,321	1,719,705	1,706,930
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,902,020	1,984,953	1,971,897	1,973,330	1,939,083
Deposits	49,266	120,343	107,627	75,148	65,177

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion ...	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange.........	204,095	201,108	204,160	204,484	201,634
Other foreign exchange† ...	360,476	306,179	311,583	311,771	309,388
Bills discounted	123,690	188,031	237,621	208,628	199,388
Gov. Debt.....................	116,069	108,604	108,604	108,558	108,558
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital.................	43,200	43,200	43,200	43.200	43,200
Reserve fund.................	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation.........	882,230	854,095	980,693	910,634	873,500
Deposits......................	93,788	122,037	53,059	94,676	117,634

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion..................	204,437	162,751	162,751	162,643	162,631
Drafts and notes.........................	51,372	9,663	18,308	25,576	20,206
Silver coin and bullion	773	9,719	9,861	9,703	10,073
Inland bills, warrants and securities...	292,108	263,539	293,406	257,361	232,674
Advances to the Treasury	92,398	87,506	87,506	82,937	82,937
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation........................	418,894	380,766	476,247	441,907	410,141
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	232,369	120,993	62,578	78,467	80,823

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,206,310	1,261,575	1,261,694	1,261,762	1,261,797
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,842,243	2,115,925	2,038,843	2,007,126	2,005,801
Discounts and advances ...	161,753	448,193	364,253	373,676	318,289
State notes debt balance...	4,076,770	3,744,415	3,742,762	3,738,833	3,738,334
Other assets	895,614	849,184	689,759	689,790	657,007
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation...	6,450,622	6,271,592	6,922,998	6,562,371	6,248,455
Check account balances ...	879,355	1,356,873	406,634	733,258	960,444
Other liabilities	324,166	310,405	387,257	295,136	291,907

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold	91,251	95,658	95,759	95,827	95,884
Other coin and notes	18,422	18,263	18,757	18.688	18,743
Foreign credits	194,510	275,815	275,750	305,612	292,073
Bills	1,369,079	1,220,409	1,202,214	1,187,443	1,175,729
Government advances	4,201,152	4,153,092	4,151,099	4,147,101	4,145,093
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,142,995	5,414,541	5,585,766	5,566,208	5,464,216
State credits	227,873	205,907	203,914	199,916	197,909
Deposits	1,168,663	1,759,172	1,527,913	1,649,239	1,706,412

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,500,423	1,561,664	1,564,464	1,565,758	1,566,892
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,851,664	924,205	874,975	779,302	773,825
Discounts and advances ...	1,334,241	1,246,468	1,226,549	1,214,760	1,238,404
Advances to the Treasury..	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up...............	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,553	1,241,415	1,245,642	1,246,962	1,252,108
Bank notes in circulation ..	3,849,068	3,401,316	3,260,361	3,337,567	3,310,077
Sight liabilities..............	3,259,258	1,859,855	1,886,480	1,658,677	1,748,415
Deposits......................	471,370	341,748	334.605	332.078	321,227

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 31 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold................................	35,091	303,500	301,439	301,280	301,185
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	723,463	721,861	754,941	761,314
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	322,930	322,430	322,430
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,469,649	1,307,940	1,336,796	1,294,539
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,435,704	1,258,988	1,247,407	1,269,272
Deposits at notice	21,225	398,652	260,374	315,247	274 917

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold............................	558,728	635,913	643,834	644.662	645,582
Gold exchange................	4,520,811	3,836,570	3,827,189	3,707,147	3,674,588
Other foreign exchange......	1,710	2,788	2,842	2,824	2,642
Bills discounted..............	56,329	175,529	183,118	179,868	176,473
Advances	69,373	194,306	193,626	189,218	184,906
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491	3,596,491
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up...............	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,430,809	4,916,899	4,907,255	4,910,193	4,892,985
Deposits and current accounts.........................	2,113,702	1,559,580	2,070,659	1,934,089	1,923,351
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,134,776	1,636,630	1,140,795	1,108,470	1,128,299

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 23, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,228	6,439	6,437	6,443	6,447
Net foreign exchange	22,886	19,164	19,478	18,775	18,093
Subsidiary Estonian coin..................	786	620	701	727	733
Home bills discounted	15,142	15,055	15,013	15,230	15,419
Loans and advances	15,762	12,723	12,806	12,189	13,078*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	34,345	33,495	32,260	31,633	31,431
Sight deposits and current accounts....	21,005	15,484	17,022	16,732	16,959
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities...	52·59%	52·27%	52·58%	52·14%	50·71%

* Includes Ekr. 8,013,637·07, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 22, 1930.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,771	23,937	23,940	23,938	23,942	23,948
Silver coin	4,748	5,677	5,793	6,525	6,466	6,227
Balance abroad	69,703	42,356	42,555	42,679	42,993	43,187
Treas. notes and sm. change	12,281	14,976	14,322	14,884	15,321	14,553
Short term bills	83,203	93,778	94,164	94,543	93,909	94,328
Loans against securities......	46,675	53,625	53,802	54,372	54,050	52,830
Other assets.....................	19,609	21,855	20,696	20,038	13,697	14,190
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	42,433	46,982	47,508	46,746	46,150	46,829
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,017	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,661	3,662
Special reserve.................	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,518	15,411	15,489	15,709	15,732	15,847
Current accounts...............	62,792	60,279	63,302	63,859	64,043	64,988
Government accounts.........	104,987	91,157	87,112	86,464	87,750	86,868
Other liabilities	16,087	19,204	18,689	21,029	12,524	10,557

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Dec. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31. 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Gold	34,302	35,075	35,079	35,088	35,098	35,155
Silver	4,391	3,767	3,776	4,079	4,029	4,068
State Treasury coins	1,858	1,672	1,653	1,666	1,676	1,673
Foreign currency..............	40,378	74,689	76,210	76,190	82,383	80,343
Discount and credit	81,197	84,611	85,837	83,182	83,663	84,762
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,553
Banknotes in circulation......	81,585	94,821	94,829	92,348	96,443	94,840
Deposits	71,118	93,552	96,444	95,758	96,484	98,149

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 14, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion...	2,860	2,738	3,000	2,747	3,332	3,125	3,413
Of which gold coin	8	10	12	12	12	12	12
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,852	2,728	2,988	2,735	3,320	3,113	3,401
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes.........	11,726	15,596	12,895	16,660	10,922	13,969	12,779
Bills of exchange...	21,712	22,465	20,927	21,742	19,933	20,481	18,872
Loans	...	60	170	685	...	...	20
Foreign exchange	689	11,710	12,999	12,433	12,439	13,883	11,429
Other bals.on dem'd	3,403	809	995	798	979	5	24
Securities	...	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,810	2,703	2,703
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up....	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,503	7,500
Notes in circulation	32,914	38,121	34,130	37,797	31.180	36,281	31,012
Deposits on demand	2,453	998	1,824	3,398	1,800	1,333	1,842

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	Feb. 2, 1929.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,113,234	1,111,393	1,124,135	1,089,977	1,071,685
Discounts......	41,740	749,890	643,950	647,082	656,792	670,578
Advances	70,540	89,982	74,662	74,776	74,936	74,793
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,405,060	1,253,408	1,231,501	1,347,113	1,406,118
Govt. deposits	87,340	466,951	453,426	457,079	470,084	437,579
Other deposits	11,440	276,079	496,410	497,668	351,783	234,839

LONDON RATES.

	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 24, 1930.	Feb. 25, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 6% Feb. 6, 1930)	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3⅞—4	3⅞	3 13/16—⅞	3 13/16	3 11/16	3 9/16—⅝	3½
3 months' do.	3 13/16—⅞	3 25/32—13/16	3¾—13/16	3 11/16—¾	3 9/16—⅝	3½—9/16	3⅝—[illegible]
4 months' do.	3 13/16—⅞	3 13/16	3 13/16	3¾	3⅝	3 9/16	3⅝—[illegible]
6 months' do.	3 13/16—⅞	3 13/16	3 13/16	3¾	3⅝	3 9/16—⅝	3⅝—[illegible]
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	3⅞—4	3⅞	3 13/16	3 13/16	3 11/16	3 9/16—⅝	3½
3 months'‡	3 13/16	3 13/16	3 25/32	3 11/16—¾	3 9/16—⅝	3½—9/16	3 7/16
Loans—Day to day.........	3—3½	3—3½	3—3½	3½—4	3½—¾	3½—¾	3¾—4½
Short.........................	3½—4	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½—4½
Deposit allowances: Bank	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Discount houses at call ...	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
At notice	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Feb. 6	3½-4½	3 11/16 4	3 11/16 4	3 11/16 4	4½	4½ 2	4½ 5
13	4½	3 13/16 1/16	3 13/16 4	3 13/16 4	4½	4½	5 5½
20	3½	3 13/16 1/16	3 13/16 1/16	3 13/16 1/16	4½	4½	5 5½
27	3½-4½	3 13/16 1/16	3 13/16 1/16	3 13/16 1/16	4½	4½	5 5½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86½	4·85½-9/16	4·86-1/16	4·85-15/16
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86½	4·87 3/16-1/8	4·88 1/16-1/8	4·88 3/16-1/4
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·23-28	124·25 ·27	124·26-·28
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·44 3/8-45 1/2	20·36 1/4-3/8	20·36 3/4-7
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11 1/16-1/8	12·12 1/16-1/8	12·12 3/16-1/4
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·93 1/2-3/4	34·83-1/4	34·88 1/2-89
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·63-68	92·83 ·85	92·74-6
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23-1/2	25·19 1/2-·20	25·19-1/2
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16-1/2	18·18-1/2	18·16 3/4-17 1/2
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 1/2-19 3/4	18·11 1/2-12 1/2	18·10 3/4-11 1/4
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20 1/2-20 3/4	18·16-1/2	18·16-1/2
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	31·95-98	38·85-·90	39·63-8
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109¼-110	108¼-3/8	108¼-3/8
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·50-54	34·49-·53	34·50-4
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163 3/4-164	16·4 1/2	164-1/2
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276 1/2-3/4	27·6-1/2	275 3/4-6 1/2
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·84-87	27·78-·82	27·79-·83
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	815·818	817-20	817-19
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	672·675	669-75	669-75
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374 3/4-375 1/2	375-6 1/4	374 1/2-5 1/2
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	983-986	1075 sellers	1095 sellers
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42-·44	†9·438-·457	†9·438-·457
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 1/4-43 3/8	43 3/16-1/8	43 3/16-1/4
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192 1/4-193	193-1/4	195-1/2
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48 1/2-49 1/2	48 1/4-49 1/4	48 1/4-49 1/4
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15-25	18·20-7	18·20-·27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15-25	25·20-·30	25·20-·30
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97¼	97 11/16-17/32	97 1/4-3/8	97 1/4-3/8
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 3/16-11/32	42-1/2	42 11/32-13/32
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 7/16-1/2	5 1/2-9/16	5 11/32-3/8
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50 1/4-3/8	43 1/2-3/4	43 1/2-3/4
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·58	39·78	39·78
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19 3/8% prem.	22% prm.nm.	27 1/2% prem.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6-6/16	1/5 15/16-16/16	1/5 31/32-32/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6-6/16	1/5 15/16-16/16	1/5 31/32-32/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6-6/16	1/5 15/16-16/16	1/5 31/32-32/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11 1/2-2/0 3/8	1/6 1/2-1/7 1/2	1/6 1/2-1/7
Shanghai	ster. to taels	T.T.	...	2/6 1/2-2/7 1/8	1/11 1/2-2/0	1/11-1/11 1/2
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 1/2-2/3 1/2	2/3 11/16-1/8	2/3 11/16-2/3 13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 3/8-1/10 1/2	2/0 1/16-1/8	2/0 3/16-1/4
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2/0 1/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·75-10·05	10·10-·30	10·15-·30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10 1/2	1/10 1/2

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Jan. 15, 1930	4½	4	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Feb. 10, 1930	5½	5	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Feb. 4, 1930	6½	6	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	Mar. 13, 1929	6	7
Budapest	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Stockholm	Jan. 1, 1930	5	4½
Copenhagen	Dec. 24, 1929	5½	5	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Vienna	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Warsaw	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	Feb. 6, 1930	5½	5
New York Federal Reserve	Feb. 6, 1930	4½	4				
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Feb. 27, 1929.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	4½	4½	4	4½	4½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	4½	4½	—	4½	4½
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	4⅛	4	—	3½	3½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	4⅛	4	—	3½	3½
Ineligible, 90 days	6	4½	4⅜	—	4½	4½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅜	4⅜	4⅜	—	4⅜	4⅜

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Feb. 27, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80 5/8	4·82½	4·82	4·82⅛
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85 11/16	4·86 1/32	4·86	4·86
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 31/32	—	4·85⅛	4·85 11/16
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc		3·90⅜	3·91⅝	3·91 1/16	3·91
Brussels	Cents for 1 Belga		13·885	13·93½	13·915	13·92⅛
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc		19·30	19·22¼	19·30	19·27½	19·285
Italy	Cents for 1 lire		5·263	5·235	5·23⅛	5·23	5·23⅛
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark		23·31	23·71	23·875	23·84	23·845
Vienna	Cts. for Austrn. shiz		14·07	14·05	14·07	14·07	14·07
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta		19·30	15·235	12·61	12·46	12·35
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder		40·195	40·02	40·09¼	40·065	40·06
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner		26·80	26·64	26·78	26·745	26·755
Oslo	Cents for 1 kroner		26·80	26·645	26·72	26·71	26·725
Stockholm	Cents for 1 kroner		26·80	26·70¼	26·82	26·80	26·80
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma		1·297	1·2925	1·2975	1·295	1·29⅛
Montreal	Can. Cents for $1		100	¼ dis.	⅜ dis.	⅜ dis.	⅛ dis.
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen		49·85	44·90	49·37½	49·10	49·15
Hong Kong	Cents for H.Kong$		...	48·85	—	38·15	38·00
Shanghai	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael		...	62·20	—	48·00	47·50
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee		36·50	36·33	—	36·20	36·16
Buenos Aires	Gold Pesos for $100		103·65	104·70	—	116·50	117·50
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis		32·42	11·87	11·10	11·40	11·25
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso		12·125	12·07	—	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·70
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·55
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·93
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	1/16% dis.	par to 1/16% pm.	3/16% prem.
Demand	1 1/16% dis.	3/16% ,,	1/16% dis.	1/16 to 1/8% ,,
30 days	1 1/16% ,,	2/16% ,,	2/16% ,,	2/16% ,,
60 days	2 1/16% ,,	3/16% ,,	1 1/16% ,,	1 2/16% ,,
90 days	3 1/16% ,,	4/16% ,,	1 3/16% ,,	1 4/16% ,,
120 days	3 3/16% ,,	1 1/16% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	97⅛	97⅛	...	...	103⅛	103⅛
Demand	96	96	97⅛	97⅛	101 3/16	101 3/16	102 1/16	102⅛
30 days	95 7/16	95 7/16	...	...	101⅛	100 5/8	102⅛	102⅛
60 days	94 7/16	94 7/16	...	...	100 7/16	100 5/8	101 1/16	101⅛
90 days	94 7/16	94 7/16	...	...	100	99 5/8	101 1/16	101 1/16

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending February 22, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended February 27, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	*To*—	£
France	3,457	Poland	1,704
Venezuela	2,438	Germany	3,200,880
British South Africa	1,035,183	France	9,677
Other Countries	341	Austria	11,600
		Netherlands	2,131
		Switzerland	15,400
		British India	15,751
		Other Countries	900
Total declared value of Imports	1,041,419	Total declared value of exports	3,258,043

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Feb. 21	Bars bought	5	Feb. 21	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 22		Nil	,, 22	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 24	Sovs. from abroad	250,000	,, 24		Nil
,, 25		Nil	,, 25		Nil
,, 26	Sovs. released	100,000	,, 26		Nil
	Bars bought	1 656			
,, 27	Sovs. from abroad	30,000	,, 27		Nil
	Total	381,661		Total	4,000

Net arrivals, £377,661.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on February 26, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £150,971,511 on the 19th instant (as compared with £150,936,551 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,934,804 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. £1,480,000 of bar gold, being the balance of the shipment from Spain, was offered in the open market on Thursday last, and the whole of this amount was secured by Germany at 84s. 11d. per fine ounce. In the open market yesterday £786,000 of bar gold from South Africa was available, and was realised at 84s. 11d. per fine ounce. There was again a good demand from Germany, and about £711,000 was secured for that country. The Home and Continental trade requirements amounted to £55,000, and £20,000 was taken for India. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £347,661 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £351,661, which included £250,000 in sovereigns from South Africa and £100,000 sovereigns "released."

SILVER.

The market has developed an easier tone. Although China has worked both ways, re-selling from this quarter, together with offerings from India and the Continent, have served to depress prices still further. Following a decline on the 20th instant to 19 13/16d. and 19 11/16d.—the lowest rates hitherto reached—prices re-acted the next day to 20d. and 19 7/8d., following a demand from China. This, however, was not maintained, and subsequent movements were gradually downwards, the prices quoted to-day 19 3/4d. and 19 5/8d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively, constituting new low record prices for silver. The Indian Bazaars have bought for shipment by this week's steamer, and America has both bought and sold, without, however, exerting pressure in either directions.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 17th instant to mid-day on the 24th instant:—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Germany	18,127	British India	49,680
France	68,182	Other countries	7,970
U.S.A.	39,428		
Mexico	148,000		
British India	92,086		
British West Africa	12,475		
Other countries	17,671		
	£395,969		£57,650

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	Feb. 22.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 7.
Notes in circulation	18,115	18,014	17,994
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,722	10,621	10,605
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,872	3,872	3,885
Securities (British Government)	294	294	277

The stock in Shanghai on the 22nd instant consisted of about 90,700,000 ounces in sycee, 129,000,000 dollars, 21,640 silver bars and 6,300,000 Saigon dollars, as compared with about 89,900,000 ounces in sycee, 127,000,000 dollars, 20,950, silver bars and 5,000,000 Saigon dollars on the 15th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Feb. 21	84 11¼	20	19 7/8	Feb. 29, 1924	33 7/16
,, 22	84 11¼	19 15/16	19 3/4	,, 27, 1925	32⅜
,, 24	84 11⅜	19⅞	19¾	,, 26, 1926	30 9/16
,, 25	84 11	19 13/16	19 11/16	,, 25, 1927	26 9/16
,, 26	84 11⅜	19¾	19⅝	,, 23, 1928	26¼
,, 27	84 11½	19 11/16	19 9/16	,, 27, 1929	26⅛

NOTICES.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 132 Victoria Street, Bristol, and at 9, Walnut Road, Chelston, near Torquay, Devon.

Mr Daniel B. Grant has been appointed a vice-president of the Guaranty Trust Company, of New York, and also of the Guaranty Company, of New York.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 13 School Road, Tilehurst.

Barclays Bank Limited announce that they have opened sub-branches at Cottenham, Cambridge, and Histon, Cambridge, both attached to Cambridge local head office.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Mr George Heath, director of George Heath, Ltd., of Birmingham, and Rootes, Ltd., London, has joined the board of the Robertson Automatic Variable Speed Gear Company, Ltd.

Mr William Herbert Peak, O.B.E., late managing director of the Marconiphone Company, Ltd., has joined the board of the Oliver Typewriter Manufacturing Company, Ltd.

Liebig's Extract of Meat Company, Ltd., announces that Mr Eastman Bell has been elected to a seat on the board.

MISCELLANEOUS.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.—With regard to rumours current that the company is contemplating making either a preference or a debenture issue, the directors wish it to be known, in the interests of the shareholders, that there is no truth whatever in these rumours. The company is closing its books for 1929 with a satisfactory increase in earnings over 1928, and has ample cash resources for all its requirements.

P. AND O. AND TANGIER.—The P. and O. Company has received advices from Messrs M. H. Bland and Company, of Gibraltar, that, although some contraction in the Bland Line sailings will, until further notice, occur, the passenger services to and from Tangier, connecting at Gibraltar with the outward and homeward P. and O. mail steamers on Tuesdays and Fridays respectively, will be maintained as heretofore.

BIECKERT'S BREWERY COMPANY (1900), LTD.—On March 6 next stockholders will be asked to approve the scheme mentioned at the last annual meeting. Preference stockholders will be repaid at par, together with interest of 5 per cent. to the date of liquidation. The remaining assets will belong to the holders of £610,000 of ordinary stock. Cerveceria Bieckert has recently been formed to acquire all the brewery assets in Argentina, the company being $5 (£1) shares. Present holders of ordinary stock will receive 10 $1 shares in this company for every £10 held in Bieckert's Brewery Company (1900). Bieckert's Brewery Investment Company, with a capital of £612,000, will be formed to acquire the investment assets of the Brewery Company, holders of ordinary stock will receive one new £1 share for every £1 already held in the brewery concern, accounting for £610,000 of the capital.

THE DUTCH FORD MOTOR COMPANY IN 1929.—At the general meeting of shareholders of the Dutch Ford Motor Company, at Rotterdam, the chairman, Mr August Philips, stated that only 10 per cent. dividend was declared, because large reserves were necessary for the new factory-building. The financial year, which closed on October 31st, will, in the future, end on December 31st. The earnings during the past year are:—Gross earnings, 3,730,024 florins; working expenses, 697,087 florins; depreciation, 1,167,646 florins; nett earnings, 1,865,291 florins; dividend, 10 per cent. The earnings of the Ford Motor Company, of Holland, amounted, in 1925, 1,890,160 florins; in 1926, 1,225,829 florins; in 1927, 875,962 florins; in 1928 (10 months), 965,593 florins; in 1929, 1,865,291 florins.

ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY.—Extra-ordinary meetings of the preference and ordinary shareholders and the debenture stockholders were held on February 25th. The resolutions were carried by the requisite majority without dissent at all the shareholders' meetings. The meeting of the 5½ per cent. debentures was adjourned for three weeks in the absence of a quorum. At the meeting of the 6 per cent. convertible debenture stock, the scheme was approved on a show of hands by the requisite majority, but to comply with the requirements of the Court, a pool was taken, the result of which will be made known later.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY.—The first annual report of the Ford Motor Company, covering the period from incorporation to December 31, 1929, shows profits of £1,013,507, after making ample provision for depreciation, less £195,000 for income tax. A dividend of 10 per cent. is proposed on the £7,000,000 ordinary capital, which before deduction of tax will absorb £700,000. The carry-forward is £258,507. These results do not include dividends for 1929 receivable from affiliated companies, each of which have traded successfully. A reserve has been established of £811,736, and out of this fund it is proposed completely to write off patents, designs, etc., £350,000, goodwill £250,000 and preliminary expenses £68,324, leaving the reserve at £143,412. Meeting, Hotel Cecil, W.C., March 7th, noon.

HOME AND COLONIAL STORES.—The latest Home and Colonial accounts compare with 1928 as below:—

	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	454,090	576,265
Additional from Meadow Dairy	...	87,920
Brought in	128,260	131,940
To reserve	45,410	105,370
Carried forward	131,940	140,510
Ordinary dividend and bonus	250,000	395,245
Ordinary capital	1,000,000	1,580,975

Meeting, Winchester House, March 7th, at noon.

LONDON BRICK COMPANY AND FORDERS.—The following table shows a comparison of results for the past year with 1928

	1928. £	1929. £
Total revenue	334,430	426,525
Brought in	218,670	220,000
Available	553,100	646,525
Fees	1,100	3,525
To gen. depreciation	125,000	150,000
Pref. dividend	32,000	32,000
Ord. dividend amount	175,000	240,000
Ord. dividend rate per cent.	20	20
Forward	220,000	221,000

Meeting, Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C., March 7th, at 12 noon.

SWEDISH MATCH COMPANY.—A preliminary report for 1929 shows net profits of Kr. 54,242,103, against Kr. 48,961,568 for 1928. Including the amount brought in from 1928, there will be Kr. 64,229,908 at the disposal of the general meeting, as against Kr. 55,645,463 for the previous year. The board will propose a dividend for 1929 of 15 per cent., which is the same as for the previous year. This company has concluded an agreement with the free City of Danzig whereby monopoly rights for the manufacture and sale of matches in Danzig City and Territory are transferred to the Swedish Match Company for thirty-five years. The company will pay the city 1,000,000 Danzig gulden (£40,000) and certain annual fees, and will take over from the city $1,000,000 6 per cent. Bonds at 93 per cent. The agreement will come into force when ratified by the Danzig Diet.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Feb. 21, 1930. (c) Week ended Feb. 22, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Feb. 23, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 8 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	180	217	132	349	529	1,505	1,718	1,075	2,793	4,298
Do. for 1929...	3,734	179	199	144	343	522	1,503	1,668	1,064	2,732	4,235
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	288	424	293	717	1,005	2,328	3,210	2,251	5,461	7,789
Do. for 1929...	6,360	270	364	313	677	947	2,294	3,091	2,272	5,363	7,657
Lond.,Mid.& Scot.	6,956½	425	559	310	869	1,294	3,388	4,320	2,350	6,670	10,058
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	411	523	862	1273	3,372	3,372	4,250	2,505	6,755	10,127
Southern	2,175	256	74	38	112	368	2,088	576	266	842	2,930
Do. for 1929...	2,175	236	68	43	111	347	1,998	562	303	865	2,863
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·9	...	...	4·1	36·0	258·7	...	...	32·6	291·3
Do. for 1929...	59	30·0	...	...	4·0	34·0	246·0	...	...	31·3	277·3
†Und'rgr'nd E.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	290·0	...	...	...	...	225·1
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	257·8	...	...	...	...	2013·1
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	41·4	...	...	...	...	327·0
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	35·9	...	...	...	...	281·0
B'l'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·7	...	...	0·7	2·4	14·7	...	...	5·3	20·0
Do. for 1929...	80	1·6	...	...	0·8	2·4	14·2	...	...	6·4	20·5
*Great Northernb	562	9·1	...	...	15·5	24·6	68·8	...	...	104·2	173·0
Do. for 1929...	562	9·5	...	...	15·3	24·8	67·8	...	...	113·8	181·6
*Great Southernb	2,187	21·2	...	...	44·4	65·7	153·1	...	...	306·3	459·4
Do. for 1929...	2,187	20·3	...	...	41·7	61·9	151·2	...	...	321·5	472·7

* Aggregate 7 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	43weeks	Jan. 25	1,217	4,61,000	− 6,849	1,80,17,662	− 7,33,738
Barsi Lt. Ry.	43weeks	Feb. 1	202	49,100	− 2,700	21,13,100	+ 49,700
Bengal & N.Western	44weeks	1	2,080	8,78,265	+ 163098	1,23,79,977	+ 42,397
Bengal-Nagpur ...	42weeks	Jan. 18	3,085	16,35,000	− 315461	7,26,60,529	+ 18,26,440
Bombay, Bar.,& C.I.	46weeks	Feb. 15	3,031	25,53,000	+ 153000	10,11,26,000	− 9,53,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	44weeks	1	3,121	17,75,000	− 260177	7,81,66,007	+ 4,51,433
Nizam's Guarantd.(a)	44weeks	1	1,189	5,38,684	+ 21,607	1,97,81,135	+ 23,90,236
†Rohilk'd& Kumaon	44weeks	1	572	1,72,118	+ 27,337	23,47,222	+ 90,788
South Indian	44weeks	1	2,348	12,40,169	+ 36,147	5,60,96,766	+ 42,77,157

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.

				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.....	34weeks	Feb.22	753	14,100	− 500	529,000	− 4,700
Argentine Trans'dn.	34weeks		111	4,898	− 855	157,861	+ 1,424
B.A. and Pacific.....	34weeks	22	2,806	182,000	− 23,000	5,159,000	− 469,000
B.A. Central	34weeks	23	...	13,095	− 1,309	440,783	− 37,409
B.A. Gt. Southern...	34weeks	22	4,875	287,000	− 37,000	8,154,000	− 73,000
B.A. Western	34weeks	22	1,926	90,000	− 15,000	2,956,000	− 387,000
Central Argentine...	34weeks	22	3,319	225,000	− 68,000	8,027,000	− 1,081,000
Cordoba Central....	34weeks	22	1,218	52,000	− 18,000	2,057,000	− 295,000
Entre Rios.....	34weeks	22	789	30,200	− 10,400	970,100	− 85,100
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	34weeks	Feb.22	1,374	105,901	− 25,664	1,918,565	− 308,082
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay.....	34weeks	Feb.22	273	37,716	+ 6,229	1,035,430	+ 3,367
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	34weeks	22	311	9,581	+ 1,386	233,594	+ 4,622
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	34weeks	22	185	3,926	− 279	116,973	− 5,820
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	34weeks	22	211	3,388	+ 290	94,402	− 4,774
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	6weeks	Feb.14	19580	4,140,981	− 732427	24,884,589	− 2,542,376
Canadian Pacific ...	7weeks	21	15217	2,933,000	− 454000	21,157,000	− 4,834,000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil..	8weeks	Feb.22	1,016	£ 20,600	£ − 1,200	£ 156,400	£ − 22,000
Leopoldina.....	8weeks	22	1,856	37,811	− 809	285,434	+ 9,960
Leopoldina Termnl.	8weeks	22	Mlrs.	295,000	+ 11,000	2,301,000	+ 118,000
San Paulo	8weeks	23	153½	42,751	+ 15,298	308,051	− 10,202
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	8weeks	Feb.23	804	£ 32,530	£ − 5,350	£ 246,390	£ − 96,420
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	6weeks	15	413	26,125	− 13,575	89,450	− 36,896
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Egyptian Delta.....	43weeks	Jan.31	608	£ 12,520	£ + 351	£ 306,412	£ + 19,164
Gt. Southn. of Spain	7weeks	Feb.15	104	Ps.104,496	− 15,900	822,679	− 20,068
Mexican Railway....	7weeks	21	483	$263,100	− 900	1,780,600	− 43,400
Paraguay Central...	34weeks	22	274	3,540	− 1,060	139,730	− 10,310
Salvador.....	34weeks	22	100	7,220	− 883	145,911	− 12,713

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	7weeks	Feb.18	329	83,091	+ 1,978	585,190	− 13,381
B. Aires Lacrosse....	34weeks	23	...	12,030	− 1,002	395,074	− 33,924
Burnley Corporation	1 week	22	13	2,647	− 22	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	22	35½	Rs.124,752	− 4,466	...	...
Chatham & District	7weeks	20	15	990	+ 144	7,632	+ 497
Egyptian Markets	6weeks	13	...	2,091	− 163	12,957	− 2,476
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	7weeks	19	...	772	+ 145	5,828	+ 569
Liverpool Corp.....	47weeks	22	124	28,292	+ 1,098	1,414,372	+ 30,101
L.C.C. Tramways....	46weeks	19	166	79,556	+ 5,911	3,885,599	+ 67,589
Madras Electric.....	16weeks	15	...	Rs. 49,195	+ 6,554	1,43,506	+ 9,470

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road. 1927.	1928.	Gross Earnings. 1928.	Increase or Decrease.	Net Earnings. 1928.	Increase or Decrease.
			$	$	$	$
Oct.	238,828	240,661	616,710,737	+ 36,755,850	216,522,015	+ 35,437,734
Nov.	239,982	241,138	530,909,223	+ 26,968,447	157,140,516	+ 29,896,691
Dec.	239,286	240,337	495,574,485	+ 27,178,944	138,293,445	+ 48,444,421
	1928.	1929.	1929.		1929.	
Jan.	240,417	240,833	486,201,495	+ 28,853,685	117,730,186	+ 23,578,231
Feb.	242,668	242,884	474,780,516	+ 18,292,585	126,368,848	+ 17,381,336
Mar.	240,427	241,185	516,134,027	+ 10,884,477	139,639,086	+ 7,516,400
Apr.	240,956	240,816	513,076,026	+ 38,291,124	136,821,660	+ 25,937,085
May	240,798	241,280	536,723,050	+ 26,179,817	146,798,792	+ 17,754,001
June	241,243	241,608	531,033,198	+ 28,577,315	150,174,332	+ 22,659,557
July	241,183	241,450	556,706,135	+ 43,884,198	168,428,748	+ 30,793,381
Aug.....	241,253	241,026	585,638,740	+ 27,835,272	190,957,504	+ 16,758,860
Sept.....	241,447	241,704	565,816,654	+ 9,812,986	181,413,185	+ 2,612,246
Oct.....	241,451	241,622	607,584,997	− 9,890,014	204,335,941	− 12,183,372
Nov.	241,326	241,695	498,316,925	− 32,805,074	127,163,307	− 30,028,982

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month. 1929-30.	+ or −	Aggregate Receipts. 1929-30.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Southern Punjab	6 mths	Sept. 30	931	11,83,874	− 62,864	67,93,680	− 650,732
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	18,987,240	− 4613804	259,878,973	−16,752,948
			Net	1,934,616	− 2899671	45,052,080	−13,321,497
Canadian Pacific	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	15,518,000	− 5574000	209,731,000	−19,308,000
			Net	3,153,000	− 4,000	43,144,000	− 8,530,000
BRAZILIAN.				£	£	£	£
State of Bahia..	9 mths	Jan. 31	52	£9,141	+ 1,328	51,922	− 15,819
CHILE AND PERU.							
Peruvian Corp..	7 mths	Jan. 31	31066	£149,919	− 5,093	1,114,555	− 54,369
Taltal.....	7 mths	Jan. 31	174	£14,930	− 3,320	104,578	+ 2,218
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Midland Uruguay	7 mths	Jan. 31	319	23,191	+ 212	135,106	+ 6,488
N.-W. Uruguay	7 mths	Jan. 31	113	5,957	− 943	44,734	− 1,986
Uruguay North	7 mths	Jan. 31	73	2,660	− 107	17,319	− 3,320
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Alcoy & Gandia	1 mth	Jan. 31	33	4,105	− 1,070	...	...
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a)	6 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	129,535	− 8,404	1,005,807	− 136,796
Beira and Mashonaland	1 mth	Nov. 30	763	155,671	+ 1,508	...	...
Bilbao River	1 mth	Jan. 31	15	3,004	+ 80	...	...
Bolivar	1 mth	Jan. 31	170	10,900	+ 50	...	...
Colombia Rlys.&c.	7 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	22,758	− 13,798	190,073	− 84,908
Costa Rica	5 mths	Nov. 30	188	30,856	− 1,614	192,706	− 8,701
Dorado Railway	1 mth	Jan. 31	70	27,800	− 13,000	...	...
Dorado Rope. Ex.	1 mth	Jan. 31	45	3,000	− 3,100	...	...
International of Central America	12mh	Dec 31	Gross	148,758	− 46,569	1,798,080	− 735,577
			Net	64,279	+ 31,900	735,577	+ 60,766
La Guaira & Car.	1 mth	Jan. 31	22½	11,450	− 3,050	...	...
Mid. of W. Aust.	6 mths	Dec. 31	277	21,914	− 3,463	113,242	+ 2,944
Nassjo Osc'sh'mm	9 mths	Sept. 30	...	11,018	− 97	97,289	− 1,792
Rhodesia Rail'ys	1 mth	Nov. 30	1,396	241,823	+ 40,973	...	...
Samana & Sant'go	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	2,220	− 696	...	...
Sante Fe Prov. .	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	167,444	− 20,210	...	...
Zafra and Huelva	12 mths	Dec. 31	112	Ps. 391,783	− 1,461	5,273,768	+ 254,141

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

Barcelona Trac. rcpts. in pstas.	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	Ps9 599,299	+ 933,014	102,175,201	+ 11087018
			Net	Ps6,604,377	+ 449,454	65,365,918	+ 1,462,753
Barton Transport.....	4 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	£9,354	+ 378	41,044	+ 2,540
Brazilian Trac. receipts in $..	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	$3,984,311	+ 310,768	49,351,215	+ 6,576,402
			Net	$2,241,295	+ 133,026	28,052,962	+ 3,183,632
Brit. Columbia Electric, &c..	5 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	1,255,522	+ 27,117	7,251,473	+ 400,835
			Net	321,236	− 100,948	2,267,640	+ 10,750
Burma Electric Supply Co.	5 mths	Dec. 31	...	63,485	+ 903	...	...
Cape Elec. Tram.	7 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	£40,052	...	...	...
Carthagena and Herrerias Trms.	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	£1,077	+ 345	...	...
Catalinas Warehs	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	£8,700	+ 2,550	...	...
Cities Service Co.	12 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	$5,402,363	+ 2009245	46,795,692	+ 11553559
			Net	$5,255,681	+ 1901342	45,413,729	+ 11337383
E. African Power	9 mths	Sept. 30	Gross	£8,685	+ 1,281	92,939	+ 14,588
Imp. Airways...	9 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	£33,311	+ 12,474	474,220	+ 103,574
International Light & Power	12 mths	June 30	Gross	£34,072	+ 962	395,658	+ 6,489
			Net	£8,671	+ 2,197	94,990	− 6,058
Kalgoorlie Elec Tramways ...	1 mth	Sept. 30	Gross	£1,980	...	...	...
			Net	£448	...	...	...
La Guaira Harb.	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	£18,914	+ 3,823	...	...
La Plata Electric	12 mths	Dec. 31	...	£10,326	+ 26	116,149	+ 2,603
Madeira-Mamore	7 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	Contos 135	− 30	818	− 250
Madras Electric	4 mths	May 31	Gross	Rs. 79,888	− 17,303	321,806	− 67,896
Manchester Ship Canal	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	£116,420	+ 641	...	...
Mogyana Rlys.	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	Ml.4535000	− 195,217	59,035,000	+ 987,749
Para Electric ...	2 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	£14,556	+ 528	29,043	+ 655
			Net	£5,442	+ 947	10,812	+ 1,308
Rangoon Electric	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	Rs.4,99,060	+ 42,940	53,83,863	+ 1,23,824
			Net	Rs.2,41,956	+ 1,636	28,29,534	+ 80,479
Shanghai Elec..	1 mth	Jan. 31	Mex.	$363,400	+ 44,180	...	...
Singapore Trac.	4 mths	Jan. 31	...	$139,000	+ 24,000	527,000	+ 81,000
Tokyo Electric	1 mth	Dec. 31	Gross	£946,842	+ 31,750	...	...
United Electric T. of Caracas	4 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Bol.217,628	+ 6,523	843,485	+ 4,487
Winnipeg Electric	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	$641,362	+ 55,098	6,635,237	+ 448,374
			Net	$252,336	+ 27,267	2,362,919	+ 290,347

* Including motor-buses.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Anglo-International Bank	Dec. 31	20,532	117,695	138,227	...	...	...	110,000	28,227	103,085	...
British Linen Bank	Jan. 15	74,772	325,954	400,726	...	160,000	16	150,000	90,726	330,040	16
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Charing Cross Electricity — West End	Dec. 31	79,706	170,210	249,916	18,000	84,510	8·15	59,822	87,584	179,699	8·02
Charing Cross Electricity — City	Dec. 31	18,227	144,526	162,753	18,000	49,000	10 / 7	95,753	...	158,213	10 / 7
Chiswick Elec. Supply Corp.	Dec. 31	2,654	51,022	53,676	...	24,000	16	15,848	3,828	40,442	16
Elec. Distribution of Yorks.	Dec. 31	21,904	96,482	118,386	...	77,229	9	17,500	23,657	78,281	9
London Elec. Supply Corp.	Dec. 31	25,437	195,277	220,714	41,952	62,937	9	68,993	46,832	161,497	9
Metro. Elec. Supply Co.....	Dec. 31	87,149	338,937	426,086	22,500	150,000	10	168,840	84,746	329,489	9
Mid. Counties Elec. Sup. Co.	Dec. 31	56,765	218,669	224,344	84,000	112,000	7	...	4,578	190,100	6½
Northampton Electric	Dec. 31	9,690	64,455	74,145	2,625	54,750	10	7,000	9,770	52,679	9
Financial Land, &c.											
Assets Company	Dec. 31	723	3,290	4,013	...	3,200	8	...	813	2,151	5
River Plate Trust Loan, &c.	Dec. 31	212,087	323,188	535,275	75,000	210,000	24B / 9A	25,000	225,275	339,303	24A / 9B
Gas.											
Bishop's Stortford, &c., Gas	Dec. 31	5,380	8,239	13,619	1,636	6,371	7·1 / 6·5	134	5,478	10,329	...
Dover Gas	Dec. 31	7,082	9,928	17,010	...	7,875	8½	...	9,135	8,296	7½
Hartlepool Gas and Water...	Dec. 31	15,148	32,516	47,664	...	29,280	5	...	18,384	30,310	5
Hastings & St. Leonards Gas	Dec. 31	16,028	21,294	37,322	...	23,166	7 / 5½ / 6·4	1,000	15,156	...	...
Leyland Gas	Dec. 31*	2,667	1,574	4,241	871	1,228	6p.a.	...	2,142	1,666	6
Rhymney and Aber Gas ...	Dec. 31	616	12,200	12,816	957	10,780	7	...	1,079	10,414	7
Wolverhampton Gas	Dec. 31	91,099	23,233	114,332	5,903	12,272	5½ / 3½	30,058	66,099	23,091	5½ / 3½
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Jones (R. E.)	Oct. 31	36,715	23,322	60,037	...	...	...	7,116	52,921	38,997	...
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Davis and Timmins	Dec. 31	21,316	24,915	46,231	6,500	14,000	20	4,192	20,819	23,997	20
Mather and Platt	Dec. 31	106,006	228,398	334,404	20,000	204,549	15†	...	109,855	241,520	15†
Motor and Cycle.											
Guy Motors	Sept. 30	63,491	66,213	129,704	...	51,924	15	15,000	62,780	60,263	15
Rubber, &c.											
Gedong (Perak)	Oct. 31	2,716	5,486	8,202	...	3,040	5	3,000	2,162	561	...
Ipoh Rubber	Oct. 31	628	2,664	3,292	...	...	...	2,000	1,292	318	...
Shipping.											
British Oil Shipping	Dec. 31	7,731	30,481	38,212	...	...	...	35,966	2,246	45,111	10
Cairn Line of Steamships ...	Dec. 31	21,931	8,092	30,023	...	24,000	5	...	6,023	45,972	5
Fairwater Shipping	Dec. 31	329	3,300	3,629	...	...	...	2,122	1,507	330	...
Neville Shipping.....	Dec. 31	*Dr. 2,793*	2,852	2,793	...	...	...	...	59	*Dr. 1,998*	...
Shops and Stores.											
Home and Colonial Stores...	Jan. 4	131,942	664,182	796,124	129,000	395,244	15 c.o. / 25 ord.	26,000	140,510	454,092	15co / 25 ord.
Saxone Shoe	Dec. 31	16,603	82,898	99,501	24,700	47,500	12½	10,000	17,301	82,616	15
Wallis (Thomas) and Co. ...	Jan. 31	2,559	34,454	37,013	16,000	14,000	7	3,000	2,013	30,486	7
Textiles.											
Courtaulds	Dec. 31	1,394,716	3,743,827	5,138,543	400,000	2,400,000	10†	1,651,856	686,687	5,171,997	15†
Jackson and Steeple	Dec. 31	*Dr. 18,542*	*Dr. 1,816*	*Dr. 20,358*	...	...	...	...	*Dr20,358*	*Dr10,175*	...
Woolcombers	Dec. 31	60,567	74,396	134,963	15,750	45,000	11¼	...	74,213	78,213	16¼†
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Dublin United Tramways...	Dec. 31	13,785	48,852	62,638	30,600	...	...	20,000	12,038	12,458	4
London & Suburban Tractn.	Dec. 31	36,137	10,480	46,617	...	...	...	...	46,617	10,141	...
South Met. Elec. Tramways	Dec. 31	11,139	57,651	68,790	12,000	15,000	5	30,000	11,790	26,491	5
Tilling & Brit. Auto. Tractn.	Dec. 31	22,926	192,017	214,943	20,000	160,000	10	10,000	24,943	167,206	10
Trusts.											
British and German	Dec. 31	19,076	80,347	99,423	54,299	26,500	8	...	19,524	52,298	7
Cable, Telephone & General	Dec. 31	1,050	35,909	36,959	28,693	4,560	6	...	3,706	26,202	4
Civil Service Co-operative...	Jan. 31†	...	1,082	1,082	...	1,021	5p.a.†	...	61	...	...
Edinburgh & Canad. Invest.	Jan. 15	2,804	12,176	14,980	5,000	5,500	5½	3,000	1,480	...	...
Friars Investment Trust.....	Feb. 15	9,306	35,408	44,714	...	28,781	5½	10,000	5,933	43,794	5
International Investment...	Jan. 31	3,870	70,796	74,666	21,600	32,000	10	16,729	4,337	67,105	10
Merchants Trust.....	Jan. 31	93,498	142,377	235,875	32,500	91,000	14	10,000	102,375	138,919	14
United States Debenture ...	Jan. 31	88,599	221,596	310,195	57,500	150,000	15	34,000	68,445	182,820	15
Utilities and General	Dec. 31	3,170	25,448	28,618	10,000	12,000	6	3,500	3,118	...	...
Waterworks.											
Bristol Waterworks	...	53,907	137,024	190,931	49,612	77,118	6½	10,000	54,201	143,865	6½
Colne Valley Water Co. ...	Dec. 31	20,040	42,475	62,515	12,737	27,343	10 / 7	10,000	12,435	33,288	10 / 7
Luton Water	Dec. 31*	12,755	5,167	17,922	...	4,455	4p.a.	...	13,467	5,670	4
Sutton District Water	Dec. 31	13,239	37,596	51,835	7,188	25,289	10 / 7	6,000	13,358	31,618	11 / 7

* For six months only. † Free of income tax. ‡ Period from October 8, 1928, to January 31, 1920.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS—*continued.*

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Preference. Amount	Dividend. Ordinary. Amount.	Dividend. Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Dividend.
Other Companies.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Aberdeen Combworks Co. ...	Dec. 31	2,156	2,190	4,346	...	4,000	4	...	346	6,502	60 / 1½D
Anty-Sag Parent and Co. ...	Dec. 31	...	*Dr. 7,911*	*Dr. 7,911*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 7,911*	...	...
Artizans, Labourers, &c. ...	Dec. 31	31,352	150,984	182,336	42,500	84,415	6	25,000	30,420	147,765	6
Barrow, Hepburn and Gale	Dec. 31	*Dr131,297*	*Dr244,487*	*Dr355,784*	...	...	...	...	*Dr355784*	*Dr84,817*	...
Bowater (W. V.), and Sons	Dec. 31	9,966	42,741	52,707	16,000	9,623	8	14,000	13,084	41,674	7½
Brit. Oil Lighting & Heating	Dec. 31*	...	*Dr. 17,851*	*Dr. 17,851*	...	...	...	...	*Dr17,851*	...	...
Brit. United Shoe Mfg. Co.	Dec. 31	198,394	411,465	609,859	23,458	259,200	15	...	327,201	...	...
Brown Bros.	Dec. 16	27,235	70,086	97,321	13,500	30,000	10	20,000	33,821	69,606	10
Cerebos, Ltd.	Nov. 30	79,087	213,231	292,318	...	150,000	30†	50,000	92,318	177,326	30†
City Safe Deposit & Agency	Dec. 31	3,682	5,745	9,427	1,299	1,875	7½	2,500	3,753	5,181	7½
Clifford (Charles)	Dec. 31	44,773	14,983	59,256	1,800	9,000	15	...	39,196	12,826	15
Corona Wines	Oct. 9	...	*Dr. 16,950*	...	...	...	...	...	*Dr16,950*	...	...
Cory (Horace) and Co.	Dec. 31	319	4,350	4,669	2,750	2,500	2½	*Dr. 1,000*	419	...	...
Cotton (John)	Oct. 31	505	26,442	26,947	5,600	15,840	40	4,168	1,339	25,497	40
Culter Mills Paper Co.	Dec. 31	24,294	25,697	49,991	...	10,500	10	15,573	23,918	28,085	10
General Hydraulic Power Co.	Dec. 31	7,420	89,988	97,408	2,500	56,000	7	33,000	5,908	91,113	7
Harrison, Barber and Co. ...	Dec. 31	2,024	11,307	13.331	...	10,400	8	...	2,931	11,967	9
Hooper, Struve and Co. ...	Dec. 31	1,010	5,709	6,719	4,000	625	1¼	1,000	1,094	5,080	...
H.P. Sauce	Dec. 31	44,480	159,526	204,006	14,560	72,000	30	69,443	48,002	153,172	25
India Tyre and Rubber Co. (Great Britain)	Dec. 31	2,826	130,426	133,252	27,753	23,100	27½	40,500	39,899	30,945	17½
Inveresk Paper	Dec. 28	92,006	181,795	273,801	76,800	130,000	12½	...	67,001	407,452	25
London Brick Co. & Forders	Dec. 31	220,000	423,000	643,000	32,000	240,000	20	150,000	221,000	333,330	20
Nathan (Joseph) and Co. ...	Sept. 30	26,883	65,378	92,261	35,000	16,000	8P.O.	9,000	32,261	61,217	...
National Gas Engine	Dec. 31	22,449	76,620	99,069	12,000	45,000	7½	17,500	24,569	72,440	7
Oakley (John), and Sons ...	Dec. 31	5,137	45,019	50,156	6,000	31,360	12½	10,000	2,796	48,731	12½
Oxford and Shipton Cement	Dec. 31	*Dr. 6,657*	*Dr. 37,930*	*Dr. 44,587*	...	...	...	...	*Dr44,587*	*Dr. 6,657*	...
Shepherd (William), & Sons	Sept. 30	...	15,484	15,484	5,625	592	7½†	7,000	2,267	9,344	...
Sorbo Rubber-Sponge Prod.	Sept. 30	*Dr. 7,778*	5,719	*Dr. 2,059*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 2,059*	...	...

* Period from October 12, 1928, to December 31, 1929. † Free of income tax.

THE INVESTOR'S OPPORTUNITY

(FIRST ARTICLE)

BANK RATE PROSPECTS

L.M.S. ANALYSIS

THE CABLE-WIRELESS POSITION

SEE

The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review

THIS WEEK

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"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"

20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

THE INVERESK PAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 28, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 29, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 29, 1928. £
7% cum. pref. ...	1,349,135	...	Properties	197,862	+ 16,342
6½% cum pref. ...	1,499,952	+ 5,298	Plant	204,182	— 1,335
Ord. shares, £1 ...	1,299,906	+ 7,262	Stock of paper, &c.	107,814	+ 26,340
Loan from subsidiary company	2,009	+ 2,009	Debtors	69,008	— 4,877
Reserve fund ...	1,848,971	— 2,209	Investments at cost	6,237,246	+ 798,215
Bills payable	24,497	+ 12,293	Insurance prems. unexpired	...	— 3,684
Creditors and outstanding charges	77,105	+ 20,964	Loans to associated cos.	438,535	— 139,622
Bank loan	1,151,954	+ 542,514	Cash and bills receivable	16,537	— 310,320
Profit and loss ...	67,001	— 158,226	Dividends	49,346	+ 49,346
Total	7,320,530	+ 429,905	Total	7,320,530	+ 429,905

LEYLAND MOTORS, LIMITED.

September 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Sept. 30, 1928. £
6% Cum. Pref. £1	200,000	...	Properties.....	1,049,214	+ 4,056
7½% Cum. Pref. £1	750,000	...	Investments at or under cost	4,023	— 3,243
Ord. shares £1 ...	900,000	...	Stocks	948,111	— 153,516
Bills payable.....	...	— 1,388	Debtors.....	457,804	— 186,124
Bank overdraft....	...	— 871,820	Bills receivable ...	62,838	+ 7,348
Unclaimed divs....	1,562	+ 1,407	Cash	302,645	+ 290,798
Creditors.....	438,346	+ 438,346			
Capital surplus ...	20,580	...			
Pensions fund.....	5,000	+ 5,000			
Profit and loss	509,147	+ 387,774			
Total	2,824,635	— 40,681	Total	2,824,635	— 40,681

COURTAULDS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec., 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Ord. shares (£1)	24,000,000	+12000000	Freehold properties, etc.	6,814,087	+ 220,769
5% cum. prf.(£1)	8,000,000	...	Stock-in-trade .	2,340,281	+ 56,378
Creditors & current liabilities	3,750,380	— 925,978	British Govt. stks. and other investments .	9,810,882	— 77,382
Capital reserve	766,426	+ 252,088	Investments in & advances to artificial silk and allied cos.	23,243,324	—3,247,151
Special reserve	2,061,349	+ 864,106	Debtors	730,119	— 561,868
General reserve	6,000,000	—2,000,000	Cash	3,766,149	+2,131,441
Profit and loss	2,126,687	—1,668,029			
Total	46,704,842	—1,477,813	Total	46,704,842	—1,477,813

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR JANUARY, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ariston	8,051	...	...	...	...	13,658	2,591
Chosen Corporation....	11,240	...	...	...	...	11,227	1,223
Fresnillo	90,989	...	...	...	...	$80,301	...
Great Boulder	7,632	...	...	...	...	21,151	252
La Noria	14,154	...	...	...	...	$7,000	...
Lena (Feb. 1–15).....	...	...	...	...	970	4,074	...
Oriental Consolidated (Dec.)	20,048	...	...	...	...	$103570	...
Santa Gertrudis.....	49,328	...	...	...	...	$109990	...
Waihi*	22,244	...	...	...	7,889	...	...

* In addition, 47,335 fine ounces silver.

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Amari	6	...
Anglo-Burma.....	15	...
Idris Hydraulic	32¾	Est. value, £3,138; est. profit, £1,375.
Kaduna Prospectors.....	26	...
Kaduna Syndicate.....	40	...
Teja Malaya (1st half of Feb.)	14½	Dredge No. 1.
Zaaiplaats	26	Est. profit, £1,888.
COAL.		
Chinese Engineering	66,000	Sales by Kailan Mining Administration, week ended Feb. 8.
Chinese Engineering	91,000	Sales by Kailan Mining Administration, week ended February 15.
COPPER.		
Namaqua	169	...
MISCELLANEOUS.		
European and N. Africa	1,832	Iron ore; 83 tons lead concentrates.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION, LTD.—January production of the affiliated tin companies:—Larut, 42 tons; Jelapang, 34 tons; Kuala Kampar, 75 tons; Changkat, 55 tons; Rawang, 100 tons; Kundang, 23 tons; Rawang Concessions, 70 tons; Kampong Lanjut, 60 tons; Malim Nawar, 30 tons; Kramat, 14 tons; Kampar Malaya, 55 tons; total, 558 tons. Burma: Tavoy, 25 tons; Thingandon, 8 tons; Theindaw, 4 tons; Northern Tavoy, 40 tons; total, 77 tons. Cornwall: Wheal Kitty, 40 tons; Polhigey, 31 tons; total, 71 tons. Japan: Toyo, 27½ tons. Nigeria: London Tin Corporation, 270 tons; Associated Tin, Nigeria, 200 tons; Juga Valley, 20 tons; Tin Properties, 17 tons; Junction Tin Mine (Nigeria), 6 tons.

ONVERWACHT PLATINUM, LTD.—The reduction plant treated 2,850 tons during the month of January, 1930. The crude platinum produced is estimated to yield 452 ounces refined platinum and allied metals, equivalent to 3.172 dwts. per ton milled.

FABULOSA MINES CONSOLIDATED.—Our production of tin barrilla for the past month was 3,916 quintals of 46 kilos, approximately 177 tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Dry and seasonable climatic conditions have prevailed over the United Kingdom during the past week and farmers were able to make good some arrears of spring work. The rapid growth of winter crops has been arrested and reports as to condition of cereals are now couched in a more favourable vein. Despite the limited offerings of native wheat at the principal Statute markets, demand fails to improve, and prices continue on the easy side. On the import market, the recent heavy declines in values attracted buyers, and a good business resulted both to the United Kingdom and Continent, particularly in Plates and the lower grade Manitobas. Portugal has purchased about 30,000 tons of Plate wheat for March shipment, while Italy continues to absorb Australian on passage. The market, however, is still dominated by the North American situation, and pressure on the part of Canadian sellers proved a feature, though acute competition was forthcoming from Argentina for European custom. At the moment, prices are steadying up again, mainly due to buying operations by the Farmers' National Grain Corporation in the United States, which influenced higher offers from both Chicago and Winnipeg. Importers, however, refused to follow the upward trend in face of a heavy statistical position, so that the market has again relapsed into a quiet state. Although fairly substantial quantities of overseas wheat will be needed by European consumers before next domestic harvests, the immediate need is by no means pressing. France still figures as an exporter, and liberal supplies of wheat and flour have been shipped of late to the United Kingdom. Flour prices have not followed the full declines in wheat, although shipment offers were on a lower basis. The main obstacle is the difficulty in selling offals, despite the very low rates ruling, which militates against any substantial reduction in flour. Dull conditions prevailed for feeding stuffs, and regarding Plate maize, the small inquiry was chiefly centred on new crop positions, now that prices are on a par with current supplies. Barley and oats continued neglected.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 44s. 9d.; No. 2 ditto, 43s. 9d.; No. 3, 42s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 41s. 6d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 40s.; No. 6 ditto, 32s. 9d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., arrived, 38s. 9d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., ex ship, to arrive, 39s. 6d.; Australian, 42s. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 2d.-8s. 5d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Dull. London, straight run, 37s. per sack for country deliveries and 36s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 34s.-37s.; Buffalo, 35s.-37s.; Australian, 32s. 6d. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, February-March, 34s. 6d.-35s.; export ditto, 34s.-34s. 6d.; Australian, 30s. 6d.-31s.; French prompt, 25s. 6d.-27s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, February-March, £6 2s. 6d. per ton.

Maize.—Easier. Plate, landed, 26s. 6d.; ex ship, arrived, 25s. 3d.; February-March, 25s. 6d.; March-April, 25s. 6d.; new, April-May, 25s. 6d.; May-June, 25s. 3d., per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s.; white, £6 5s. per ton, ex ship.

Barley.—Inactive. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s., as to sample; Chilian, brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs.; Danubian, landed, 23s. 6d.; Black Sea, ex ship, 20s. 6d.; Persian, ditto, 20s. 6d. per 400 lbs.; English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 3d.-6s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Dull and weak. Plate, landed, 16s. 3d.; ex ship, to arrive, 15s. 3d.; black Plate, landed, 16s.; Chilian white, 22s.; ditto, tawny, 16s. 6d.; German, landed, 17s.; ex ship, to arrive, 15s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 13s.; South Russian, 14s. 6d.-16s., as to quality, per 320 lbs.; English, 5s. 6d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929–30, 1928–29, 1927–28, 1926–27:—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to February 22	Cwts. 227,903	Cwts. 324,562	Cwts. 258,268	Cwts. 292,000
25 weeks to February 22	6,459,961	6,807,130	6,359,748	8,719,102
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 9	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 9 4	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Average Price per Cwt. Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Feb. 15	217,170	235,368	40,470	9 0	8 0	6 5
Feb. 22	227,903	233,785	44,007	8 9	7 11	6 4
Feb. 20, 1926	292,461	195,378	77,689	11 10	9 5	9 0
Feb. 19, 1927	289,058	258,649	83,384	11 10	11 1	8 3
Feb. 25, 1928	258,268	196,977	75,728	9 4	10 9	10 3
Feb. 23, 1929	324,562	219,459	63,561	9 9	10 4	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

NEAREST FUTURE.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Feb. 27, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Feb. 11, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	130½	148⅜	128⅞	116⅜	114
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	123¼	130⅞	119	110½	105⅞

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,709,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 262,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 84,164,000 bushels.

BARCLAYS BANK

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THE COAL TRADE.

COAL.—Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The position is again worse and prices for export have eased a further sixpence per ton. Bookings on overseas account are rather meagre, and the home trade is not at all satisfactory. Coke is a flat market, and blast-furnace sorts can be bought as low as 15s. at ovens. Furnace owners are taking reduced tonnages.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The market is still dull. Supplies are in excess of demand, coal is accumulating, and prices continue to droop. Prices for shipment may be put at the following (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 16s.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; steam, 14s.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 14s.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 13s.; pearls, 12s. 6d.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 18s.-19s. 6d.; first-class steam, 14s.; third-class steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 13s. 6d.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 13s.; pearls, 13s. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 14s.; secondary steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 13s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 9d.; singles, 13s.; pearls, 13s. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 14s.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 13s.; pearls, 13s. 3d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Except in the market for anthracite coals there has been no material change this week in the position of the Cardiff coal markets. The dearth of new business continues, and notwithstanding heavy contract commitments, many of the collieries are finding it difficult to maintain regularity of work. Operations under the marketing scheme are virtually in abeyance pending the fate of the Coal Mines Bill, and in a statement issued this week by the group of minority collieries who are contesting the Government measure it was stated that the scheme "after about three months' experience has proved almost impossible to work." The Great Western Railway Company is reported to have declined to renew its contracts with South Wales colliery companies at the prices tendered under the marketing scheme, and has actually purchased some Yorkshire coal. Quotations for all grades of large coal are nominally unchanged, and those for smalls are firmly maintained. The demand for anthracite is active and shipments are increasing. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 18s. 9d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; best Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d.; cargo smalls, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 24s. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 43s. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 9d. to 12s. 6d.; foundry coke, 35s. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex-ship, 24s. 3d. to 24s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Trade in iron and steel is still below the normal for the time of year. There has been slightly more activity in the home market, and the buying has been of a general character. The position of some of the British steelworks, however, so far as orders are concerned, is causing concern owing to the small tonnage of new business which is coming forward to take the place of contracts which are being completed. In the pig-iron department, which for some months has been comparatively better off than the other iron and steel markets, business has been slow this year; but, nevertheless, prices are being maintained, although in some districts iron is being put into stock. Buying of semi-finished steel is also confined principally to near requirements, and few consumers care to commit themselves forward to any extent. The stabilisation of prices by the Continental works has diverted a little business to British makers, but consumers of this class of material, for the most part, are not well placed as regards orders, and are not experiencing the anticipated demand for their finished products. Overseas buying has been quiet for some time, and although now and again there has been a slight spurt of activity, this has soon died down. Economic conditions abroad are not favourable to an active export trade at the moment; but the belief is growing that overseas stocks are light and that foreign buyers must shortly come into the market.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Trade in Cleveland iron continues on the same restricted lines as have ruled for some time past, and there are no immediate signs of improvement. Consumers refuse to buy more than is actually required for their immediate needs at present prices, and makers so far decline to make concessions notwithstanding the fact that coke is now obtainable at about 3s. per ton below the top figure reached a few months ago. No business has resulted to this district in connection with the offers recently invited by the Scottish Light Castings Association, and it is understood that they have decided to defer buying altogether for the present. In any case the prospects of securing even a portion of the business for Cleveland iron was considered to be very poor, with Continental and other irons offering at so much less. The business reported at Tuesday's weekly market by makers was of a hand-to-mouth nature, at the unchanged figure of 72s. 6d. for No. 3; No. 1 was 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 71s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron to 25th instant amount to 15,473 tons against 15,776 tons for the same period of January. The hematite trade does not improve. Business is confined to small quantities, mostly on home account, for which makers have realised 78s., but for larger quantities they would accept 77s. 6d. for delivery over a few months. There is very little new demand from the Continent at present, but moderate shipments are being made against old contracts. In the heavy steel trades most mills are busily employed on contracts in hand, but new business coming to hand at the moment is not of great volume. The sheet trade is showing some slight improvement and indications of better business are noticeable. Prices for steel materials for home consumption under the rebate scheme are unchanged, viz.: Plates, ¾ in. up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 10s. Other quotations are: Iron crown bars, £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £11 15s., and 21-24 gauge black sheets, £9 15s., also for home use. In ore the position is unaltered. With ample supplies on hand and large quantities to receive under contracts, consumers are not making further purchases. Best Bilbao rubio is nominally 22s. 6d. c.i.f. for early delivery, and the current freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough for prompt loading is about 6s. 6d. For delivery ahead the nominal quotation is 23s., as freights are likely to rule higher in the Spring. The supply of coke is in excess of demand and prices are weak. Good furnace qualities are offering at 21s. delivered works, and a trifle less would be accepted for good lines. The number of furnaces in blast in the district remains at 42.

The depression in most sections of the iron and steel industry continues as acute as before. Consumers generally have reduced their deliveries of raw materials, and stocks are beginning to accumulate at the furnaces. There is practically no forward buying. Prices are unchanged but weak. The steel trade has few cheerful features. Suppliers of scrap state that deliveries are on a reduced scale, and there has been no forward buying for three months. To-day's value of basic scrap is 10s. below the price last year down to November. Exports of scrap have declined, while imports have increased. The depression is particularly noticeable in the commoner basic grades of steel. Rather more acid steel is being melted in Sheffield this week. Export demand for steel is sluggish. A good deal of the work is on hand in the steel forges and foundries, mostly for shipbuilding and special engineering jobs. The tool branches, while not actually slack, are feeling the influence of the general setback of the country's trade, with the result that the orders are mainly for small quantities. Demand for cutlery and electro-plate is poor.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Purchases of pig iron continue to be on a small scale, as purchasers are evidently only providing for their immediate needs, and holding off in anticipation of a fall in price. While steelmakers are still keeping plants steadily employed, there is no decided increase in bookings for forward delivery. In most branches of the iron and steel industry the position is much the same as reported a week ago. Local structural engineers have secured a little more business within the past week, and there is some improvement in the demand for galvanised sheets for export. Prices are stiffer, to-day's price for export lots of galvanised and corrugated sheets in fair quantities being £11 15s. per ton for 24-gauge, f.o.b. Glasgow. In the black sheet trade the demand is fairly good, and there has been an increase in the number of mills in operation during the present week as compared with a week ago.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Business in the tinplate trade is still moderately active, but outputs apparently are in excess of the immediate absorbing capacity of the market, and prices have again ranged from 18s. 3d. to 18s. 9d. per basis box, compared with 18s. to 18s. 3d. at the corresponding period last year. Shipments continue fairly satisfactory, and stocks at the end of last week totalled 207,076 compared with 260,319 boxes at the corresponding period in 1929. Galvanised sheets are still suffering from lack of support, and prices have further declined to £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s., which represents a drop of £2 2s. 6d. per ton during the past twelve months. Reports are current of the intention of makers to re-establish a minimum limit. Bars are unchanged, but both tin and spelter are a shade lower than they were a week ago.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market presented dull features, and prices further gave way on selling pressure combined with lower Eastern cables. Standard cash changed hands at £173 5s. to £170 10s. and £171 5s.; three months, £176 to £173 10s. and £173 15s. In the East, sales were reported at £177 17s. 6d. to £175 5s. and £176 ton c.i.f.

COPPER displayed slight irregularity, but prices fairly steady on balance, as sellers refrained from pressing. Standard cash sold at £69 10s. to £69 12s. 6d. and £69 5s.; three months, £68 15s. to £68 12s. 6d. to £68 15s. and £68 12s. 6d.

LEAD.—Liberal dealings were recorded, but supplies proved excessive and a weaker market resulted. Good soft foreign pig, February, sold at £21 3s. 9d. to £19 15s.; March, £21 to £19 18s. 9d.; May, £21 to £19 10s.; June, £20 ton.

SPELTER.—Easier on liberal offerings, but business was on a fair scale. February, sold £19 1s. 3d. to £18 6s. 3d.; March, £19 to £18 8s. 9d.; April, £19 3s. 9d. to £18 15s.; May, £19 7s. 6d. to £18 17s. 6d.; June, £19 7s. 6d. to £19 1s. 3d. ton.

ANTIMONY steady. English regulus, £42 10s. to £50; China ditto, spot, £30 15s.; February-March, £26; March-April, £25 15s.; China, crude, February-March, £17 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—February-March, £26 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., February-March, 4s.; 60 per cent. ditto, 5s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM quiet. Chinese, February-March, 31s. 9d. Burmese spot, 36s. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM maintained. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £22 15s. per bottle.

ZINC OXIDE dull. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton as to quality, per ton, delivered United Kingdom.

TIN PLATES steady, with moderate inquiries. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, February 26th.

Values are about 20 points lower than a week ago, and a new low price-level for the season was seen yesterday when the March position was traded in below 8d. per lb. A little short covering has taken place, but there has been very little trade buying. The cotton representative on the Farm Board is reported to have said that cotton might sell as low as 10 cents if last season's acreage be again planted. The Board is reported to hold at least 1,000,000 bales of spots and futures, and this fact has been encouraging to bears. The sentiment of the market at the moment is against cotton. Spot sales for the week 20th to 26th (inclusive) are 24,000 bales, of which 10,940 bales are American, 3,700 Brazil, 210 Argentine, 4,900 Peru, 1,600 Egyptian, 1,980 African, 500 East Indian, and 170 sundries. Imports for the same period are 39,647 bales, of which 29,826 bales are American, 2,210 Brazil, 736 Peru, 360 Egyptian, 3,517 African, 1,791 East Indian, and 1,207 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·44; Egyptian F.G.F. Sakel, 13·35, F.G.F. Uppers, 10·16; Brazilian Fair, 8·04; Peru Good Fair Mod-Rough, 9·50, Good Fair Smooth, 9·14; East African Good Fair, 9·49, and West African Middling, 8·49.

MANCHESTER, February 26th.

Trading in the market has again been under the influences of a falling tendency in raw material rates, and owing to the uncertain outlook with regard to future values buyers have not been in the mood to operate with any freedom. Although prices are much more attractive than for a long time back, there is a fear of a further downward movement. In cloth for India a miscellaneous business has been done, but there is a good deal of nervousness as to what may happen to the import duties this week-end, and merchants have restricted their commitments. News from China has been very unsatisfactory. It is reported that at the auction sales in Shanghai demand is dragging and prices falling, the clearances being very poor. A sorting-up business has been done for Egypt, the West Coast of Africa and South America. Demand for the home trade has been rather quieter. There are indications of more looms running out of work in the near future. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have favoured buyers and limited operations have occurred from day to day. Despite the low prices ruling, it is difficult for spinners to prevent further loss of ground.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Feb. 5.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 19.	Feb. 26.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·77	8·62	8·57	8·44	10·36	10·71
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·95	13·55	13·55	13·55	18·00	18·15
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13½	13	13	12½	15½	15½
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13½	13½	16	16½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22½	22	22	22	27½	26½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	23 0	23 0	22 10½	22 7½	25 9	25 9
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 0	26 0	25 9	25 3	27 9	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.....	14 1½	14 1½	14 0	13 10½	15 1½	15 0
39 in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 9	12 9	12 7½	12 6	13 10½	13 9

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—The wool textile industry as a whole continues to suffer from a general feeling of uncertainty. Although much better reports are coming from the primary markets, indicating that wool is moving freely at firm prices, users, both in the West Riding and on the Continent, are alarmed at the big supply of wool still to come on to the market, and they persist in their policy of only buying for current requirements. The fear of a further fall in values keeps them from buying far ahead, and in all sections there seems to be a strong determination to avoid carrying stock. In the circumstances it is not surprising to find a slack market in which marked irregularities in prices are in evidence. The larger topmakers realise that wool cannot be bought to make tops at prices now ruling in Bradford, and many prefer to await developments rather than make further concessions. Moreover, few believe that values will fall much below to-day's level, but it is a more difficult matter to convince users. There are inquiries for most qualities of tops, but prices are invariably on a low level. Similarly, inquiries for yarns suggest that manufacturers are not at all anxious to buy except at cheap rates, and as weak sellers are to be found quotations frequently show wide discrepancies.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The Sydney and Melbourne sales have been continued under satisfactory conditions. All reports indicate firm values, a slight hardening tendency being seen here and there. Cables from Melbourne received last Monday stated that wool was selling on a basis of 2s. 4½d. for decent 64's delivered and combed Bradford. This is a very reasonable price, but we understand it is fully as much as can be made there for the combed article. Trade seems to have fallen off during the past fortnight, and the steady fall in Antwerp "futures" indicates rather less confidence in that centre. So long as wool continues to sell as well as at present, we think it policy for growers and sellers to meet the market. There will be enough wool available for all requirements for the remainder of this year. The paramount need is increased consumption. The

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policy adopted with regard to the stabilisation of values, nevertheless, deserves support, for the prices now ruling cannot satisfy either Australasian or South African growers. Some consolation should be found in the fact that at its present cost wool is an attractive proposition, and that strenuous endeavours are being made to increase the output of partly and fully manufactured goods. Some success has been achieved towards the reduction of overhead charges, though the contention of spinners and manufacturers is that their costs are still higher than on the Continent, which makes it very difficult to compete in either home or foreign markets.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Hides from domestic cattle continue to realise lower figures, and at the sales held in the North this week a further reduction of ¼d. per lb. has been recorded on all classes. The general opinion is that bottom has not yet been touched, and with supplies more than sufficient to meet present requirements there will be a further fall in values over the week-end. Calfskins are just about steady in value, but a weaker tendency all the time is in evidence, as is also the case with sheepskins. The position of imported hides has again become unsatisfactory, and the drop in prices during the past week has resulted in tanners taking no larger supplies than are required for immediate needs. This has brought about a feeling of uneasiness all round, and unless an improvement in the demand sets in, further concessions will have to be made to induce business. In the frigorific market sales of Argentine ox have been made on the basis of 8d., light ox at 7⅞d., and Montevideo ox at 8 3/16d. Saladero hides are very quiet, and apart from a sale of Salto ox at 8d. nothing of importance has been done. Small business is being transacted with the Continent in connection with dry River Plates on the basis of 8⅜d. for B.A. Americanos, 5d. for Inservibles, and 9½d. for Cordoba Sierras. The demand for Cape hides is not so good, and drys have changed hands at 8⅜d. and 7⅜d. for firsts and seconds, with dry-salted selling at 7⅜d. and 6⅜d. Australians also are a shade easier. The Chicago market is cabled as steady, with best heavy native steers selling at 14 cents. Business in connection with sole leather keeps up fairly well, and although most of the orders coming to hand are for just sufficient to cover immediate requirements, the total usually results in a fair turnover. Demand from the repairing section of the trade has perhaps not been quite so good as of late, but a steady regular business is being done in light bends of medium to good quality for shoe-manufacturing purposes. There appears to be no increase in the consumption of dry hide bends, and whatever orders for these are going the rounds of the trade are keenly competed for. Shoulders and bellies sell well, particularly the latter in certain substances. Prices for most descriptions are unchanged, and the general tendency of tanners is to abstain from asking higher figures in the hope that this will make for an improvement in the demand. The call for upper leather is satisfactory on the whole, and the bulk of the inquiry continues to be concentrated on brown glacé kid, together with willow calf, both of which descriptions are being moved off in regular decent-sized parcels. Improvement has been experienced in the demand for some of the better grades of patent, while here and there suede calf has come in for more attention. Semi-chrome leather are quiet, and even where sales are effected they are usually at very low figures. Reptile skins and novelty leathers move off regularly, but the demand for these is not large. Shoe manufacturers report an improvement in the number of orders for spring goods coming to hand, but are of the opinion that the majority of the larger buyers are withholding the placing of their bulk business until the last moment. This does not make for uniformity of working, with the result that some firms are still compelled to resort to short time.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Imports of sawn deals, battens and boards in January declined by some 27,480 loads (of 50 cubic feet) compared with the first month's import of 1929, and planed and dressed woods showed a falling-off of 15,490 loads, both decreases being helpful to a largely-stocked spot market. The sawn wood receipts would have been much lower but for the heavy and final month's shipments of the 1929 season from Russia, which in volume far outweigh those of each of her principal competitors, Finland and Sweden. The spot demand over the past month has been good, but generally values are weak, with little trade between merchants, who are generally well supplied. Consigned goods offered for forced sale must be proving unremunerative to their shipper owners. Deliveries from docks for consumption purposes have been very satisfactory compared with the early weeks of 1929, and with still further improvements as meteorological conditions become more favourable for outside work the present large stocks should be well worn down by the end of April, when preparations will be in progress for the opening of the new season's shipments.

Provided nothing untoward occurs this year the building industry should have a busy time. The improvement in the volume of building contracts towards the end of 1929 has been followed by still more satisfactory returns in January. In other industries also there seems to be a change, if but slight, for the better, and this may become more pronounced as confidence grows. Some people are of opinion that if industry were left to fend for itself, and not be "mothered" so much, it would soon become more stable. According to official reports from Russia, only 650,000 standards are to come forward from that country this year, and not 750,000 standards, so that the 200,000 standards suggested increase compared with 1929 in the export to the U.K. has been cut down by a half, owing, it is said, to the mild weather in Russia this winter and the expected increase in the domestic demand. Thus half the battle is over, so far as additional supplies are concerned. Before the above announcement, however, many importing houses, including some of the largest, agreed to buy in bulk, through a company of which they will be shareholders, and into which all importers are invited. In early January the Russian authorities expressed their disapproval of selling their timber in bulk this year, but the impression prevails that very shortly, if they have not done so already, the leaders of the two parties—importers and shippers—will work in unison with the object of keeping the British market steady during the whole season.

Hardwoods in log form are arriving more sparingly compared with the opening weeks of 1929, and prices are firm generally. There is a little more movement in British Indian logs, but less in Canadian. Hardwood lumber supplies from the U.S.A. are much heavier, and shippers' quotations show disparity, which does not inspire confidence amongst buyers. Slight increases also are noted in Canadian and Indian sawn hardwood imports, and receipts again increased from Poland. Less plywood has come into the country this year compared with the early weeks of 1929. This is but temporary, as although stocks are large here orders are booked up well ahead in producing centres, and the consumption is ever on the increase.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Generally quiet conditions rule in the markets for oilseeds and their products. Linseed is again easier and demand here is very meagre, although the Continent has been a buyer to some small extent. Plate on spot has dropped to £17 5s., and for shipment April is quoted £17 2s. 6d. Bombay linseed for February-March shipment has been done at £19 5s.; March-April at £19 2s. 6d.; and April-May, £19 1s. 3d. to the north Continent, and these figures about represent current values. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe, at 165,800 tons, is 18,600 tons less than last week. Egyptian cottonseed is quiet and buyers holding their hand in view of recent purchases and a large exportable surplus in Egypt. Current value of black on spot and afloat is around £7 12s. 6d., and for shipment, £7 7s. 6d. In the oil section, linseed oil on spot is in better supply and cheaper at £42 per ton naked ex Hull mill and March steady at £40 10s., and April-August, £39 6s. Cotton oils are in rather poor supply, current quotations of crude Egyptian being £28 and common edible £31 ex Hull prompt. Rape and castor oils are easier. Prices of oil cakes have been marked down 10s. to 20s. per ton in order to stimulate trade and reduce stocks.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Trade demand fails to revive and as far as the U.K. markets are concerned, affairs are held in check pending the Budget. Certain weakness in the New York centre, occasioned by liquidations of the March position was partly reflected in the London Terminal sections. Apparently, there is more inquiry for British granulated on export account. Russia figures in this, and tonnage has been booked prompt loading from London to South Russia. Very slow markets result in Java, but holders there manifest no disposition to press for business. Continental kinds dull. Raw refining sugars meet a poor demand from British refiners. 250 tons Peruvian, 96 per cent. afloat, Liverpool, sold 7s. 1½d. c.i.f. Terminal sections slightly irregular and easy, but quite a fair amount of business was effected. Of raw, March delivery sold 6s. 3d. to 6s. 1½d. and 6s. 2½d.; May, 6s. 9¾d.; August, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 2½d. and 7s. 3d.; and December, 7s. 8½d. Of white, August delivery changed hands at 10s. Cuban receipts for the past week: Old crop, 2,858 tons, against nil last year; exports, 28,592, against nil; stocks, 47,400, against 1,615; new crop, 175,713, against 232,886; exports, 13,808, against 123,458; stocks, 651,911, against 818,978. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending February 22nd totalled 238,103 tons, against 153,396 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—There was rather more tone in the spot market during the week. This was marked in the case of the finer qualities, which sold with fair freedom at full rates. On the other hand, however, ordinary grades were difficult to sell, even though sellers were willing to grant a further price concession.

COCOA.—A very dull and depressed market, with financial complications recorded in America. Sales in spot goods still unimportant. Accra, F/F, March-May, sold, 37s. to 35s.; April-June, 37s. to 36s. f.o.b. old contract. Terminal: March, sold, 41s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.; May, 41s. 3d. to 40s. 9d.; December, 43s. 6d. to 42s. 9d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 50,475 packages. Apart from some irregularity, quite a firm market

predominated, competition being well sustained and fairly evenly distributed. Attractive tippy teas also those with pronounced autumnal flavour were eagerly sought after, while clean common mostly cleared at higher prices. 27,423 packages Ceylon were brought under the hammer, and with further improvement marked in quality, quite a buoyant market was evidenced. Prices disclosed an irregular advance of ½d. to 1d. lb. There was a good inquiry for China sorts during the week, especially Keemuns, in the region of 1s. 7d. to 2s., and these are now in small supply. Java and Sumatra auctions firm to dearer with good competition accorded most qualities.

RICE.—Very quiet. Only retail sales at about late rates. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, quoted, 13s. 9d., with a small business in February-March shipment at 10s. 9d. c.i.f. London/Continent. No. 3 ditto, to the Levant, quoted, 10s. 10½d. c.i.f. double bags. Spanish oiled, February-March, sellers, 14s. 9d. to 15s. 9d. as to quality. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q., to Cuba, 11s. Saigon No. 1, round grain, February-March, to Europe, 11s. 8d. Siam Super, February-March, 15s. 3d.

BEANS.—Market very firm for butters, which are in sustained request, partly on American account. Others remain comparatively slow. Madagascar butters, afloat steamer "Clan Chatton," quoted, 34s. 6d.; "Clan MacNeil," 33s. 6d.; "Bourbonnais," 33s. 3d.; "Belgrano," 33s. 6d.; "Ravenfjord," 32s. 9d.; January-February sold at 32s. 9d. to 33s. c.i.f. London. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 22s. 6d.; afloat, 21s. 3d.; February-March shipment, 21s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 11s. 6d.; February-March, quoted, 12s.; new crop, March-April, 13s. c.i.f. London.

PEAS.—A dull and uninteresting market was again experienced. Japanese old crop, spot, London, 14s.; new, 15s. 3d.; spot, Liverpool, 16s. 6d. Parcels per steamer "Lahore," afloat, to London, sold, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 3d.; February-March, sellers, 14s. 9d.; March-April, 14s. 9d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 16s.; small hand-picked blues, 11s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, March, 55s.; Karachi, nominal, c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1, New Zealand, February-March, old, 57s.; new crop, March-April, 58s. Tasmanian A grade, new, February-March, 65s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper received fair attention and a firm tone prevailed. Lampong, also black Singapore, spot, London, quoted, 1s. 1¼d.; March-May, sold, 1s. 1⅜d.; Muntok, white, January-March, quoted, 1s. 4¼d.; March-May, buyers, 1s. 5d. London stocks of black reduced 13 tons on the week to 1,091, against 1,234 last year, and white 79 tons lower at 1,116, against 460. Tellicherry, spot, 1s. 2d.; Aleppy, 1s. 1½d.; Muntok, spot, 1s. 5½d. lb.; Tellicherry, February-April, 134s.; and Aleppy, 132s. cwt. c.i.f. Cloves firm, quiet. Zanzibar, spot, 9¾d.; February-March, 9½d. Sago flour, also Dutch Farina, unaltered. African ginger, spot, 55s.; February-April, 38s. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady, but generally quiet. Pyrgos quoted 36s.-37s.; Amalias, 37s. 6d.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-48s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s.; Australian, 36s.-38s. Sultanas quiet. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates sell steadily. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins quiet of sale. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 45s. Figs dull. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 28s.-33s.; good average, 23s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—There is a steady demand for apricots at steady rates, of plums, large sizes meet with attention, but the smaller counts are difficult to move, owing to high selling limits. Other descriptions without material change. Plums, Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 70s.; 40's-50's, 67s. 6d.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 50-60's, 52s. Apricots, South African new crop, Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 62s. 6d.-72s. 6d. Pears, Californian Lake County fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches, Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples, Californian spot, sliced extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds firm, and shipment prices rapidly advancing, owing to damage to the coming crops, which is definitely confirmed from Spain. Mazagan, 112s. 6d.; Mogador, 110s.; P.G. Sicily, 125s.; Majorcas, 112s. 6d.-130s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 37s. 6d., new crop c.i.f. Sweet, spot, 75s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 137s. 6d. New crop, French (shelled) walnuts, 140s. ex-wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUIT.—Business in Californian fruits fails to expand as consumers anticipate new pack prices being on a lower basis, compared with current supplies. Australian varieties move off slowly at about late rates. Fair supplies of Singapore pines are available, but spot trade quiet. Shipment parcels are firmly held. South African scarce, on spot, while new pack prices fail to attract. Italian tomatoes in ample supply, with trade below normal for the time of year.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon in fair demand, and market firm. Alaska red talls quoted 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab firm and fancy qualities quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters realise full rates. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines steady, with Portuguese in demand. Clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Market firm, especially for ox tongues on limited offerings, but trade restricted. Lunch tongues sell readily at the recent advance, also cooked hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market fairly steady, with a good demand. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 36s. 9d.; machine skimmed ditto, 21s. 9d. full cream, sweetened, 56 lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d.; English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 41s.; machine skimmed,ditto, 23s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 68s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 87s. 6d.; Dutch machine skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto 1 cwt. cases, 37s. 6d.; all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex-store, London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum 1 ton lots. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 19s.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 3d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remains dull, especially for the lower grades. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 41s.; Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d.; Ukrainian, light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Business was conducted on quiet lines and prices disclosed slight weakness. Sheep, spot and March sold, 8¼d. to 7 15/16d.; April, 8¼d. to 8d.; April-June, 8⅛d. to 8 3/16d.; July-September, 8 5/16d. to 8 7/16d.; October-December, 8⅞d. to 8 11/16d. London stocks, 66 tons higher on the week. Landing, 1,821; deliveries, 1,755; stocks, 62,725; against 25,005 last year. Liverpool 27 up: Landings, 333; deliveries, 306; stocks, 19,704, against 4,157 same time last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A generally quiet market resulted, but prices ruled fairly steady. First, February-March, to Hamburg, sellers, £25 10s.; March-April, Antwerp, sold, £25 15s.; Hamburg, buyers, £25 10s.; April-May, sellers, £25 12s. 6d. Lightnings, March-April, £24 5s.; Hearts, £21 10s.; Daisee assortment, £23 5s.

HEMP.—Manila more reservedly held, as buyers showed more desire to operate. J2, February-April, quoted, £31; K, March-May, sold, £30 5s.; L1, quoted, £28 10s.; M1, February-April, sold, £25 15s., and ditto, March-May, at £25 5s. to £25 10s. African Sisal No. 1, f.a.q., February-April, sellers, £35; marks, £35 10s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 27,000 bales, against 50,000 last year and 21,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 34,000, and week following 33,000. Shipments last week: 15,000 to the U.K.; 6,000, Continent; 9,000, U.S.A.; 4,000, Japan; and 6,000 other countries. Stock now 180,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Quiet but steady. T.N., spot, 125s.; March, 115s.; May, 119s.; August, 123s.

COPRA.—Was a dull and further depressed market. Straits S.D., February-April, Rotterdam, sellers, £21 10s.; Dutch East Indies, £21 10s.; Ceylon, £22 10s.; sun-dried, South Sea, £20 15s.; smoked ditto, to Marseilles, sold, £20 10s. to £20 7s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies quoted at £20 12s. 6d.; Manila, £20 10s.; Palm kernels, March-April, to Hamburg, quoted £15 2s. 6d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 14s. to 28s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon, bristle, £19 to £25; cinnamon leaf oil, 4s. 10d.; for shipment, March-April, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—February 26.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 6	6 10	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep Downs	8 4	9 8
Short Horns	6 0	6 4	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 0	5 8
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 8	12 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—February 26.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	4 0
,, ,, ,, whites	2 6	3 0
Essex King Edward	3 0	...
,, ,, ,, whites	2 3	...

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	6
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	9
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	11
Oats, " " "	6	4
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	26	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt. 10	9	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 6	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 10	5	2
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	7	8
N.Z. frozen " 5 0	5	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 8 4	10	0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	108	0 131 0
Danish.....	101	0 108 0
Canadian.....	102	0 104 0
Dutch	90	0 101 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0 0
Canadian.....	0	0 0 0
American	96	0 104 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	132	0 148 0
New Zealand	146	0 166 0
Danish.....	172	0 174 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0 100 0
New Zealand	82	0 87 0
English Cheddars	95	0 124 0
Dutch	44	0 95 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46 0
Trinidad	64	0 66 0
Grenada	48	0 54 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	134	0 145 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	150	0 175 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	115	0 135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	121	0 162 6
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 120 0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	15	0 18 0
Danish.....	12	0 14 0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Californian...bxs.	0	0 0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	12	0 19 3
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	8	0 38 0
360	9	0 21 0
504	12	0 17 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	6	0 9 0
" ..... cases	8	0 15 6
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	23	6 42 0
" (var.) boxes	9	6 15 0
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0 0
" W. Australian	0	0 0 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia:—				
case 4s.	6	0	6	6
case 5s.	7	6	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	78	0	84	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	56	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	5½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	1½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	9½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	55	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	9	3	10
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	11
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Mar.–April	10	3	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	9	21	3
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8	2	4
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	3½
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	3
Broken Orange.....	0	8½	3	0½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	6	1	1

COTTON— TEXTILES.

	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·44
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·55
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	22

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	55	10	0	0
Pernau HD	52	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	58	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Feb.–April "J2"...	31	0	0	0
N.Z., Aug.–Oct.		nom.		
Sisal African, Feb..–Apr,	33	10	35	10
Mexican		nom.		

JUTE—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
Mar.–April		25	15	0
April–May		26	0	0
SILK—				
Canton ..... per lb.	12	0	13	6
Tussah	6	0	9	0
Japan	19	0	21	0
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	17	6	20	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18
" Lincoln hog, washed	13½
Queensland, scd., super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	14
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31
" 64's	29
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	16	9	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0

IRON AND STEEL—	£	s.	£	s.
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215	0	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	6	18	9

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/10/0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard 69	10		69/12/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	21	15	0	0
Soft Foreign 20/3/9			20/0/0	
Spelter G.O.B. 18/6/3			18/8/9	
Tin—English ingots.... 172/5/0			172/15/0	
Standard cash 171/5,0			171/7/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	10½	1	10½
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	27	0	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Mar.–April	21/11/3		0	0
Smoked South Sea Mar.–April	20/10/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5½	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Capes...	0	7½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	5½	0	6
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	9	3	9
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	1
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	1	1	10
Bellies from DS do.	0	7	0	9
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9½	1	4½
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	42	10	0	0
Rape, refined	39	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	29	5	30	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	11	10	11	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Feb.-Mar.	17/2/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	18/12/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	15	21	5
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	8½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8¾	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	127	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African " "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	6

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A course of three lectures on "Some Recent Researches in the Theory of Statistics and Actuarial Science" will be given by Professor Dr. J. F. Steffensen (Professor of Actuarial Science in the University of Copenhagen, and Corresponding Member of the Institute of Actuaries, London) at University College, London (Gower Street, W.C. 1), on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 12th, 13th and 14th, at 5.30 p.m. At the first lecture the chair will be taken by Mr. A. Levine, M.A. (President of the Institute of Actuaries).

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February, 1930.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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Vol. CX. SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1930. No. 4,515.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

FOUR PER CENT.

MONEY this week was distinctly usable. The payment of railway dividends temporarily immobilised a certain amount, estimated at some nine or ten millions, while the clearing banks seemed to be making up more hea

than has been customary during recent weeks. The result was that, prior to the reduction in Bank rate, 4 per cent. was charged for old money, while rates for new money at times ran up to 4½ per cent., or even higher. Short bill rates were a trifle firmer in sympathy, but the three months' " market " rate stood at 3⅝ per cent. on Wednesday, or a little lower than a week ago.

* * * *

The reduction in Bank rate, followed by similar movements in Sweden, Denmark, and Holland, is extremely welcome to the money market, simply because it again brings Bank rate and discount rates into line with each other. Prior to the reduction, the market was having to pay 3½ per cent. for its weekly money, which forms the bulk of its supplies, and with bill rates down to 3⅜ per cent. brokers were working at a loss. The fall in Bank rate automatically brings the rate on weekly fixtures down to 3 per cent., and while discount rates have still to settle down, it seems unlikely that they will change much in comparison with those ruling during the last days of the 4½ per cent. Bank rate. Hence brokers should once more have an adequate margin in hand between loan rates and discount rates.

* * * *

This week's Cape gold consisted of £250,000 sovereigns and £1,091,000 bar gold. The former automatically went into the Bank, and is the principal cause of the increase of £311,000 shown by this week's return in the Bank's gold stocks. The bar gold was sold at 84s. 11⅛d. per ounce, and after satisfying Indian and trade demands, the remainder, amounting to £990,000, was secured by an " unknown buyer," generally believed to be the National Bank of Belgium. The immediate gold outlook is considered favourable. Another £250,000 in sovereigns will reach the Bank next week, while the £7,000,000 gold on its way from Australia will shortly arrive. Moreover, no central bank to-day is anxious to obtain fresh gold. The German exchange is now above the gold point; the franc is at a rate where Paris is more likely to lose than to gain gold; and the New York rate, which lately has given rise to some anxiety, improved on Thursday to 4.86$\frac{3}{32}$. The anticipations of a reduction in the Federal Reserve rate, which accounted partly for this movement, were not fulfilled; but it seems unlikely that a lower rate in New York will be long delayed.

	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4½	4½	4½	4	4½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2½	2½	2½	2	2½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Discount { Call	2½	2½	2½	2	2½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Houses { Notice	2¾	2¾	2¾	2½	2¾ (Mar. 6,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 7/8 – 15/16	3 15/16 – 7/8	3 7/16	3 5/16	...

No sign of this week's stringency is to be found in the Bank return, for bankers' deposits have increased on the week by £12,981,000, while public deposits are £4,312,000 lower. The Bank, too, has added £4,166,000 to its holding of Government securities, which should have eased the position. The apparent contradiction between the greater ease suggested by the Bank return and the shortage of money that actually existed confirms the view that the stringency was due to clearing bank callings and to the temporary immobilisation of funds caused by dividend payments.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Call money stands at 3½ per cent., and there has been a decline of ½ per cent. in rates for time money and commercial paper. Three reductions in the bill rate this week have brought 90-day bills to 3⅜ per cent. In view of this, and considering the Bank of England reduction, there were expectations of a lower Reserve discount rate; but there is still some fear in Washington lest speculation should be unduly stimulated, and our lower open-market rate in any case lessens the danger of drawing gold from your side. This week's statement of the Reserve System reflects end-of-month operations, with a drop of $28 millions in bills and only a nominal gain in Government securities. The System's total credit is $60 million down to only $1,078,000,000. The repayment of $38 million of member bank borrowings—now only a third of their volume a year ago—the easy positions of the member banks, and the continued gold imports from Japan and South America, all combine with slack business to account for our lower interest rates.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Markets were quiet at the outset, but showed improvement, particularly in the investment sections, before and after the announcement of the reduction in Bank rate. Gilt-edged stocks were consistently firm, apart from some selling of India Loans on the inauguration of Mr Gandhi's " disobedience " campaign. Home Rails recovered part of their recent losses after going ex-dividend. Business in industrial shares was patchy, although the decline of prices during the last few weeks was arrested. Rubber shares were dull on the recession in the price of the commodity, but tea shares reflected the firmer tone at the week's auctions. Oil shares were firmer on better news from America, but depression in the mining markets was emphasised by a further decline in base metal prices.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

It is difficult to find encouraging signs in the condition of markets this week. Reports from the coalfields are anything but cheerful. In the principal iron and steel markets orders are still failing to come forward in satisfactory volume, but output is fairly well maintained so far. Cotton prices still tend downwards and business in Manchester is unsettled. Rumours of increased confidence in the wool trade do not appear so far to have produced any effect on the wool textile industries. Low prices in the jute trade are not attracting buyers in any volume. The hide and leather markets are scarcely changed. Vegetable oil and oilseeds are tending downwards.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dullness characterised the Foreign Exchange markets during the past week, the volume of turnover being comparatively small. Sterling was steady against the dollar and a new record of depreciation was recorded in the Spanish Exchange. New York ranged between 4.85⅞ and 4.86, with forwards quoted $\frac{1}{32}$ and ⅛ cents discount for one and three months until the close, when 4.86$\frac{3}{32}$ was quoted for spot. Montreal improved to 4.88$\frac{1}{16}$, as against 4.88¾ a week ago. Paris also improved steadily and was quoted 124.21 at the close. Brussels remained unchanged at 34.89. Spain depreciated from 39.80 to the record highest rate of 42.10, later rallying to 41.20. Berlin was in good demand throughout at 20.36⅝, as also was Switzerland, which fell away to 25.15½. The Scandinavian currencies showed no change except Stockholm, which was at one time as low as 18.10. Milan was again weaker at 92.80. Amsterdam continued steady at 12.12½. Among the South American Exchanges Buenos Aires improved to 42⅝d., but fell away to 42$\frac{5}{16}$d. at the close. Rio was better at 5$\frac{19}{32}$d. In the Eastern Exchanges Japan was better at 2s. 0$\frac{5}{16}$d. and rupees remained at 1s. 5⅞d. In the forward market Paris was quoted at premiums of 10 and 20 centimes for one and three months, consequent upon the fall in the spot exchange. Spanish pesetas were in strong demand at 7 centimos premium for one month and 22 for three months. Amsterdam was 1 and 2 cents premium and Swiss forwards were somewhat more offered at premiums of ½ cent and 1¼ cents. In the silver market new low levels continued to be established, and on March 4th 18⅛d. for spot and 18⅛d. for forward were the prices quoted. The announcement of the imposition of an import tax on silver by India was the chief bear factor. An improvement to 18$\frac{15}{16}$d. and 18$\frac{9}{16}$d. occurred at the close, but the market continues weak. The silver exchanges naturally reflected this weakness, and Hong Kong was 1s. 6¼d. and Shanghai 1s. 11¼d.

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THE PRESS LORDS' "VICTORY."

To allow political opponents or rivals the chance to cry " Victory " over sixpence, when they have demanded the moon, is a stratagem as old as human vanity; and in the speech which he delivered on Tuesday to the National Union of Conservative Associations, and which gave so dramatic a turn to the Press Lords' campaign, Mr Baldwin showed himself to be no mean judge either of tactics or character. With considerable astuteness he devised (or agreed, it may be, to provide) a convenient exit for those who had rushed headlong after the Empire Crusade but were now alarmed at the prospective results of splitting the Conservative Party; and though no reference in his speech was made to the United Empire Party, he carefully afforded means whereby the Chief Crusader might " save face."

In his speech, a few weeks ago, at the Coliseum, Mr Baldwin had declared definitely that he would not make food taxes an issue at the next General Election. That declaration, which brought the Beaverbrook-Rothermere combine into the field with threats of scores of anti-Baldwin candidates, he repeated on Tuesday—with one important qualification. As soon as he was returned to power, he said, he would summon an Imperial Conference to devise means of closer economic co-operation within the Empire, and to discuss unconditionally (as any such conference could obviously do) the possibility of extension of fiscal reciprocity. If, in the process of discussion, it emerged that food taxes were a necessary part of such co-operation, he would be prepared to submit the proposal to a referendum. In other words, Mr Baldwin will not rule out food taxes from his discussions with the Dominions, but he will not stake the fortunes of his party on asking for a mandate for them, nor, if he can help it, will he allow them to become an election issue.

The sequel has been curious. Whatever view we may take of the value of the referendum as a constitutional right, it is certain, as Mr Baldwin well knows, that on a popular vote any proposal to tax food would emphatically be rejected. Nevertheless, the protagonists of the Empire Party have hailed the declaration as a sign of " conversion " to their policy, and Lord Beaverbrook, at all events, appears to be making haste to demobilise his separate organisation. " The Empire Crusade asked nothing more of the politicians than that," declared the *Daily Express* on Wednesday morning; and in the evening its stable-companion, the *Evening Standard*, was urging the Crusaders to recognise that their task now was to make Mr Baldwin's " way easy " towards the achievement of his " practical plan " for realising the United Empire Party's aim.

What deductions are to be drawn from this preposterous humbug? So far as Lord Beaverbrook is concerned, it is clear that this week has been the climax in the precipitate decline of the so-called " Empire Free Trade " conception. The first stage was when Lord Beaverbrook regretfully recognised that the Dominions were not in the least likely to accept in any circumstances—with or without food taxes—complete free trade. In order to justify the title of his campaign he retreated to the idea of an economic unity between Britain and the non-self-governing Dominions. Now that he accepts Mr Baldwin's plan, he is free, in theory, to go on advocating food taxes without any official ban on his advocacy, but in the realm of practical politics, as distinct from " some day " referenda, food taxes have virtually been abandoned; and the quiet burial, which we foresee, of the original " Imperial " idea, is calculated to damp regrettably the enthusiasm irresponsibly aroused for the cause, commendable in many ways, of Empire unity.

What, then, is left? Though John Brown's body, in Crusader's dress, lies a-mouldering, it does not follow that his soul, in even more questionable fiscal shape, will not go marching on. On this point it is worth considering what the other noble lord has to say. If food taxes have gone, except in the fantastic form of a referendum, safeguarding remains. After welcoming Mr Baldwin's " conversion " to the United Empire Party, and patting him on the back for changing his opinions like the Duke of Wellington, Peel, Gladstone and even Lord Oxford, the *Daily Mail* assumes that in lifting the ban in this curious way upon food taxes, Mr Baldwin has swallowed the whole of Lord Rothermere's policy. In doing so, it uses some very significant words. It observes that, in regard to unemployment and " the ever-growing invasion of our home market by imports of foreign goods which we ought to make here," Mr Baldwin emphasised the value of safeguarding. " *He appeared to use this word when what he really meant was protection.* That is certainly what Conservatism and intelligent opinion throughout the country is looking for. *In the future Mr Baldwin could well afford to drop such camouflage. . . .*" In other words, having disencumbered himself from food taxes, Mr Baldwin is expected to go out for the full programme of the protection of manufactured goods.

For this plain speaking we are grateful to Lord Rothermere. It would clear the air to get rid of words which appear to mean something different from the policy of whole-hogging Protection, but are really precisely the same. And it is towards such a policy, if we read the signs aright, that the Conservative Party will tend more and more to be driven by the influence of a transmuted " Crusade "—now visibly true lineal descendant of the Tariff Reform League—in which Lord Rothermere bids fair to become the dominant partner.

At this point other considerations also arise. Though Mr Baldwin has not deigned to refer to Lord Rothermere's policy at any point, that policy, unlike the distant and romantic fantasy of a Free Trade Empire, deals in a spirit of out-and-out reaction with immediate and difficult questions, such as the position of India, the House of Lords, the Palestine Mandate and other questions very near the surface of the political sea. Whether the weapon of the new party, whose main plank collapsed a little too quickly for Lord Rothermere's purposes, will remain in being, we cannot say, but Lord Rothermere's campaign undoubtedly represents those forces tending to drive Mr Baldwin and the Conservative Party from its more liberal leanings and to restore in it the forces of extreme Conservatism.

It remains to be seen how far Lord Beaverbrook is prepared to follow his noble partner in pursuance of a policy begotten of a vendetta against the Conservative leader, and leading from the abandonment of Palestine and Prussianism in India to a crazy dream of a semi-fascist England. The controller of the *Daily Express*, we fancy, has fewer millions to his credit than the ruler of the Associated Press. Regarded as " feature copy," from the point of view of the popular daily, high politics are cloying food for readers, and " circulations " may indicate to Lord Beaverbrook's attentive eye the advisability of a change of " stunt." If this be what the future holds for the Empire Party—no longer united, imperial, or a party—nothing will be there for tears.

Indeed, apart from the fiscal issue itself, the most important feature of this episode in our political history is the test which it will afford of the extent to which public opinion can be influenced by the irresponsible propaganda of one or two men in control of linked newspaper combines. Experience of elections in recent times has shown that the influence of the popular Press is much less than might be assumed from mere figures of net circulation measured in millions; but the suppression of inconvenient news—carried in one case to the extent of omitting all reference to an important pronouncement by the Conservative leader on the main issue—the distortion of facts, and the absurd exaggeration of promised support, have been carried to such lengths as to give an entirely false impression to the readers of a chain of journals.

numbering nearly half the electorate. The attempt to manufacture mass opinion by such methods is a real danger to the political life of a democracy, one of whose chief needs is a fair and disinterested daily Press.

The only satisfaction in an unpalatable business is to record the honourable decision of Mr Gerald Barry to resign the editorship of the *Saturday Review*, a distinguished journal whose recent prestige owed much to his conduct of its columns, rather than submit to the indignity of having to accept responsibility for a leading article, inserted by order of the proprietor, acclaiming in Lord Beaverbrook's policy (which the *Saturday* had attacked in its previous issue) the salvation of Conservatism. If the power of the Press is to be prostituted in the interests of policies on which masses of the electorate can be denied even the means to pass fair judgment, the political future of England is dark; and the moral of this ugly instance of an abuse of the rights of ownership of the mechanism of "opinion" should be taken to heart by the reading public, and remembered when the next instalment of the Press Lords' propaganda is launched.

FRANCE AND THE NAVAL CONFERENCE.

Last Sunday, March 2nd, another French Ministry was formed—this time by M. Tardieu once again—and, on Wednesday, the new President of the Council obtained in the Chamber a larger majority than even the most sanguine of his supporters had expected. The ministerial declaration appears to have received a cold reception in the Senate, and Wednesday's session in the Chamber was marked by stormy hostility on the part of the extreme Left; but, on a division, a vote of confidence in the Government was carried by a majority of 316, against 263 votes. On the whole, it looks as though M. Tardieu now has a chance of surviving for some time, and since M. Poincaré—the only French statesman who could be certain of forming a really stable government in this Chamber—has definitely refused, for reasons of health, to resume office, this measure of qualified stability is probably all that France can hope for in the present circumstances. The new Ministry is weakened in some ways by the dropping of M. Loucheur, who may have proved not to fit into M. Tardieu's scheme, but who is a personality that counts for much in French industry and finance as well as in French politics. On the other hand, though the new Government is rather of the Right Centre than of the Left Centre, M. Tardieu has been successful in obtaining important adhesions from the ranks of the Radical Left. If all the promises which he has secured are loyally honoured, he may contrive to remain in office for the life of the Chamber, though questions of taxation —the dangerous ground on which M. Tardieu's Ministry came to grief the week before last—are a potential cause of yet another crisis.

What effect is M. Tardieu's return to office likely to have upon the fortunes of the Naval Conference in London? If the French had ever had their hearts in the Conference, they might have felt some embarrassment, if not compunction, at having kept four other nations waiting upon the vagaries of French internal politics; and in that case the French delegation might have been expected to return to London in a more conciliatory mood. Actually, French opinion seems to have hardened; and there is a tendency in the French Press to represent the French memorandum as being the country's last word. Monsieur Tardieu will lead the delegation again; but it is rumoured that he will spend fewer days of the week in London, and more in Paris, than before. The watchword is that he is needed at home, and that the first claim on a French Prime Minister's time and energy is to attend to the delicate business of parliamentary politics. An international conference which France neither initiated nor particularly desired must take second place.

This is not very promising; and the best that can be said is that the new French delegation is likely to represent the opinion of the Chamber and the country on the naval question effectively; so that, whatever stand the delegation may take, we shall at least know that—for good or evil—its acts are likely to be endorsed. There is no significance in the replacement of Monsieur Leygues at the Ministry of Marine by Monsieur Dumesnil, who drafted the report on naval estimates for this year's Budget. The Chamber may dislike some of the taxation which Monsieur Tardieu's last Minister of Finance proposed, but there seems to be no disposition in France, as there is in the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Italy, to seek retrenchment along the line of reductions in naval strength. The naval question has not been a matter of controversy in the recent French political crisis. The controversy, as far as it went beyond certain concrete questions of taxation, ranged round personal and party rivalries in the present and the past. The only overt reference to naval matters during the crisis seems to have been Monsieur Léon Blum's rather vague and timid plea for reductions on the day when Monsieur Chautemps met the Chamber; and this gesture of Monsieur Blum's appears, rather significantly, to have contributed to the defeat of the Ministry which he was by way of supporting.

Nevertheless, even if the French remain intransigent, it is already clear that the Conference will not have met in vain. The inevitable interruption in the work of the Conference owing to the temporary non-existence of a French delegation encouraged the opponents of agreement in the United States to lift their voices—though it was obvious that the cause of the delay was quite extraneous to the Conference itself, and could not be taken fairly as an indication that it was failing. Nevertheless, on the Friday of last week (February 28th), Senator McKellar made a speech in the Senate at Washington in which he urged President Hoover to recall the American delegation from London. This challenge was taken up on Sunday, on the wireless, by Senator Borah, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and by Mr Adams, the Secretary of the Navy. Senator Borah urged that "in the great battle for humanity, Americans should be the last to quit the field." Mr Adams declared that "we are here, as the British papers put it, to sit till we settle," and made the point that "it does not cost as much to keep this whole delegation in commission as it does one of the smallest cruisers."

The vigour of these replies is welcome; and so is the volume of public support which has rallied to the Administration. In the United States, public opinion on current political events makes itself felt through mass bombardments of letters and telegrams—joint or individual—addressed to members of the House of Representatives and to Senators and to the President himself; and during the last few days a bombardment of this kind has begun. The largest and most formidable missile that has been shot so far is an appeal for "reduction, not mere limitation, of armaments" which has been signed by 1,200 distinguished American men and women and been telegraphed to the delegation in Paris. The signatories urge the acceptance of "the principle of joint conference in the case of disputes which otherwise might lead to war." In American politics, such demonstrations count for a great deal; in the Senate, there is already a perceptible change of tone; and the reassuring message issued to the American Press on Thursday by Mr Stimson is an indication of the need felt by the American delegation to respond to the agitation at home.

Meanwhile, in London, the time has not been lost. Apart from certain important technical matters on which work has been going forward, there has been a thorough discussion of the problem of cruiser ratios between the American and Japanese delegations; and sufficient progress appears to have been made to render the conclusion of a three-Power agreement, at any rate, probable. But between a three-Power and a five-Power agreement there is a difference, and one that especially concerns the British Empire. For the United States and Japan, it is almost a matter of indifference what navies may be afloat in the Channel or in the Mediterranean. It is far from being so for the States Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations; and in any three-Power agreement which we might succeed in making with the United States and Japan, the French and Italian factors would have to be taken into account. From Italy we need expect no serious obstacles. As long as she secures parity with France, she seems inclined to set the absolute figures for her requirements reasonably low. It is only the French memorandum that threatens to raise the absolute figures of all naval strengths all round. Perhaps a three-Power or even a four-Power agreement can be secured in which the French demands are momentarily left out of account and an agreed set of ratios is translated into absolute figures on the much lower scale which the four other Powers seem, on the whole, prepared to adopt. A proviso could then be inserted that, if some other Power shows signs of building on a scale which threatens to upset the balance, the parties to the agreement should assemble in conference, on the motion of any one of them, to consider what steps they should take. If such an agreement, with such a proviso, were concluded between the United States, Great Britain, Japan and Italy, we hardly think that France would deliberately evoke the special four-Power conference which, we suggest, might be held in reserve—as a measure of "security"—by the other four Powers.

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THE INDIAN BUDGET.

It has always been the tradition of those in charge of India's finances to ensure a balanced budget; and in deciding this year, at the risk of being criticised for imposing fresh taxation in a time of trade depression, to adhere firmly to the canons of sound finance, Sir George Schuster was fully justified on two main considerations. Firstly, sufficient damage had been done to India's credit by irresponsible talk at the Lahore Congress to make it particularly desirable that her finances should be given a foundation whose solidity is above suspicion. Secondly, at a stage when India, in the Finance Member's own words, "stands at the threshold of a new constitutional advance," there would have been grave and obvious objections to a finance policy which failed to establish a real surplus, from regular sources of revenue, in the central Budget.

The budgetary problem which Sir George Schuster had to face was not devoid of difficulty. Although India has enjoyed a succession of good monsoons, industrial depression—particularly in Bombay—has had an adverse effect on the yield of direct taxation. Central Government expenditure, other than military, has had a slightly upward tendency, and the encashment of Savings Certificates —with accrued interest for which, as in England, due provision was not originally made—has been a growing embarrassment. A year ago the Finance Member indicated that in his next Budget the need for additional taxation might have to be boldly faced, and in his present Budget speech he stated that on a review of the past three years he had reached the conclusion that normal growth of revenue had definitely failed to fill the gap made by the final remission, under Sir Basil Blackett's *régime*, of the Provincial Contributions.

The year 1928-29 had closed not, as expected, with a surplus of 30 lakhs, but with a deficit of 106 lakhs, against which the whole of the then available balance standing to the credit of the Revenue Reserve Fund amounted to only 74 lakhs. Revised estimates for 1929-30 indicated a net deterioration on all budget heads of 66 lakhs, while the transfer (for which provision had been made in the last Budget) of 90 lakhs from the Revenue Reserve Fund could not be made, since that fund had been exhausted on account of the 1928-29 deficit. To fill the gap thus caused there was a windfall of 156 lakhs, representing the sum held in suspense in the German Liquidation Account; but for the forthcoming year 1930-31 the Budget estimate showed a prospective deficit on the basis of existing taxation of 410 lakhs, made up as follows:—

	Lakhs.
Deficit estimated on last year's basis (90 lakhs), *less* net improvement on main revenue heads (5 lakhs)	85
Deterioration in main commercial departments, railways, posts and telegraphs	99
New administrative services (including civil aviation 24.5 lakhs)	146
Net addition to interest on deadweight debt	107
Special provision for accruing interest on Savings Certficates	88
Increase in provision for reduction, etc., of debt	27
Total	552
Less—	
Reduction of military expenditure	80
Economies in civil estimates	62
Net deficit	410

In order to help the Burmese cultivator it is proposed to lower the export duty on rice from 3 annas to 2 annas 3 pice per maund at a cost of 30 lakhs, and the resulting deficit of 440 lakhs is to be met by the following new taxation:—

Kerosene.—Excise duty is raised from 1 to 1½ annas, the import duty being reduced from 2½ to 2¼ annas.

Sugar.—Import duty is raised 1½ rupees per cwt.

Income Tax.—Super-tax is raised one pie in the rupee on incomes of Rs. 15,000 and upwards, with a corresponding increase in super-tax on all grades other than the flat rate on companies.

Silver.—The old import duty of 4d. per ounce on silver is re-imposed, subject to full rebate on re-exports.

Cotton.—The import tariff on cotton piece-goods is raised from 11 per cent. to the general tariff rate of 15 per cent. An additional protective duty of 5 per cent. will be levied on non-British plain-grey cotton piece-goods for three years.

From these sources Sir George Schuster estimates that the gain to the Budget for 1930-31 will be:—Kerosene, 35; sugar, 180; income tax, 70; silver, 100; and cotton, 125 lakhs—leaving a surplus estimated at 70 lakhs. Moreover, as the indirect taxes operate from March 1, a surplus of 35 lakhs is expected in 1929-30 as an offset to the deficit of 32 lakhs realised in the closed accounts for 1928-29. Borrowing in the forthcoming year is to be restricted to a loan in India of 23½ crores, of which 16.1 crores are to be utilised for redeeming outstanding loans, principally 1930 bonds.

In the course of his Budget speech the Finance Member announced the willingness of the Government of India, so far as sales of surplus silver were concerned, to co-operate with other interests in considering the possibility of joint action for the regulation of sales in accordance with world demand. As regards sugar, he thought that, in view of the present low world price, the increased import duty would not be seriously felt at present by the consumer; and in the case of kerosene he claimed that the proposed changes (which, incidentally, will prejudice to some extent the preferential position of the Burma Oil Company in the Indian market) should not result in increased prices.

From many points of view, including that of the interests of Great Britain, the most important and controversial of the new tax proposals is that concerning cotton goods. Referring to a message which had been addressed by the British Government to the Government of India, conveying an appeal that consideration should be given to the reactions of higher import duties on the export trade of Lancashire, Sir George Schuster was at pains to point out that the inviolability of the Fiscal Autonomy Convention—"an integral part of the Consti-

tution of India "—was unreservedly recognised by His Majesty's Government. In adhering to its proposal to raise the duty on piece-goods to the general tariff rate of 15 per cent., the Government of India had felt bound to give first place to the interests of India. Revenue was needed, and the Customs was the chief available source.

To this thesis no objection can legitimately be raised in this country; the appropriate ratio between indirect and direct taxation is a matter for India herself to decide, and the growing competition from up-country mills may prevent internal prices rising by the full amount of the new duty. But when the Finance Member passed from the question of revenue to that of affording the Bombay mills, in the emergency of their present depression, "an immediate relief and an immediate stimulus," his proposals are more open to criticism. The "additional" duties have evoked strong protests from Japanese exporters, who have pointed out that Japan buys more from India than she sells, and has refrained, so far, from putting a high tariff on Indian pig iron. As between Japanese and Lancashire mills, the ultimate effects of the proposals, which may well be to drive Japan to concentrate more on fine goods, in view of the minimum per lb. provided in the new tariff, are not strictly India's concern; but in his endeavour to satisfy the demands of the Bombay millowners for protection greater than that afforded in fact by the general tariff (theoretically and formally a "revenue" tariff only), and at the same time to soften the blow for Lancashire by preferential treatment, Sir George Schuster has taken the serious step of short-circuiting the Indian Tariff Board. The Board, which has hitherto been a valuable safeguard for the consumers' interests, is to review the effects of the additional "protective" duty before the end of the three years' period fixed at present as the limit of its operation; but we do not agree with the Finance Member's *dictum* that "the proper time for a tariff board inquiry would be when progress in reorganisation and rationalisation made it possible to assess the ultimate prospects of the industry." Apart from the question whether rationalisation is not more likely to be retarded than stimulated by protection, and the equally questionable implication that no duty up to 15 per cent. can be defined as "protective," this imposition of an immediate duty, without reference to the Tariff Board, is an unfortunate precedent.

With this reservation, Sir George Schuster may be congratulated on a sound and statesmanlike Budget, which should do much both to restore confidence in Indian securities and to provide a solid basis for future administrative purposes. Fresh taxation is never palatable, but at India's present stage of development to starve beneficial services would be the worst of false economies. In this connection, Sir George pointed out, "there was the consideration that the Central Government, after the constitutional revision, would inevitably have to relinquish some sources of revenue to the provincial governments, in whose hands the real nation-building services lay." Indeed, the Finance Member referred to the criticism that the 1919 reforms had failed to achieve their full effect owing to the lack of adequate funds in the control of the provinces. Whatever recommendations the Statutory Commission may make in their Report on this matter, the Finance Member was clearly right in the exercise of his office to emphasise the "paramount importance of creating reserves" to strengthen India's financial resources at a critical juncture in her political history.

RAILWAY FINANCES.—I. RECEIPTS.

In a leading article in the Stock Exchange section of last week's issue we reviewed the accounts for 1929 of the four British railway groups. All of them made economies in expenditure, and two enjoyed an increase in receipts, which was very largely the result of the improvement in the coal export trade. We propose now to analyse more closely the gross receipts, the main categories of which are shown in the following table:—

GROSS RECEIPTS.
(000's omitted.)

	Passenger Trains.		Freight Trains (excluding Livestock).		Total Railway Receipts (including Livestock).		Total Gross Receipts (including ancillary businesses).	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
London Midland and Scottish	29,780	28,723	42,538	42,997	73,870	73,195	82,258	81,661
London and North Eastern	19,585	19,097	33,413	35,367	54,112	55,561	61,424	63,295
Southern	17,134	16,969	5,498	5,656	23,019	22,993	26,517	26,507
Great Western	13,059	12,781	16,832	17,654	30,486	31,028	35,528	36,184
	79,558	77,570	98,281	101,674	181,487	182,777	205,727	207,647

Passenger train receipts, which include the revenue from mails, parcels, excess luggage and goods by passenger train, were lower in each case. Freight train receipts were higher, and, on the London and North Eastern and the Great Western, the increase was more than enough to offset the decline in passenger train revenue. A by no means negligible revenue, worth from £3½ million in the case of the Southern Railway to £8½ million in that of the London Midland and Scottish, is produced by ancillary businesses in the form of hotels, steamboats, road services, docks, harbours and wharves, canals, and parcels collection and delivery. Both the London Midland and Scottish and the London and North Eastern substantially increased their revenue from road transport, but that of the Great Western declined. As the two companies mainly concerned with coal exports, the London and North Eastern and the Great Western both increased their revenue from docks, harbours and wharves. Other changes in these non-railway items were of no special significance.

The second table shows passenger receipts in more detail. Season ticket traffic has been excluded throughout for the sake of clearness. Gross revenue from this traffic fell in three of the four groups: London Midland and Scottish, £3.1 million to £2.9 million; London and North Eastern, £2.3 million to £2.2 million; and Great Western, £9.0 million to £8.8 million. The Southern Railway alone enjoyed an increase of season ticket revenue, from £2.6 million to £2.8 million.

*PASSENGER TRAFFIC.
(000's omitted.)

	Total Number carried.		Receipts.		Average Fare per Passenger.		Coaching Train-Miles.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
			£	£	s. d.	s. d.		
London Midland & Scottish	318,514	315,748	19,850	18,865	1 2·96	1 2·34	88,625	89,306
London & North Eastern	199,920	213,613	12,488	12,064	1 2·99	1 1·55	60,130	62,195
Southern	202,067	208,838	11,995	11,707	1 2·25	1 1·45	48,325	50,650
Great Western	131,026	132,339	8,986	8,781	1 4·46	1 3·92	38,923	39,311
	851,527	870,538	53,319	51,417	1 3·03	1 2·18	236,003	241,462

* Excluding season ticket traffic.

On all four groups there was an increase in the coaching train mileage, and only on the London Midland and Scottish was there a decline in the number of passengers carried. This was particularly marked in short journeys, and is partly attributable to the Lancashire cotton stoppage during the holiday season. Each of the other groups carried more passengers than in 1928, though there was a decrease in revenue in every instance, owing to the more general use of week-end tickets and similar facilities. There are signs, however, that these facilities have opened up new "markets" for railway transport in certain districts. The decline in the average fare per passenger amounted to nearly 1½d. on the London and North Eastern in spite of the fact that this was the only group which carried a larger number of first-class passengers than in 1928. Apparently this increase is accounted for mainly by short-distance travellers, since the average first-class fare fell from 6s. 4.31d. to 5s. 10.26d., whereas in no other group did it fall more than 2d., and on the Great Western it rose by nearly 4d.

Freight traffic receipts, as indicated in our last article, clearly reflect the fact that the industrial improvement last year occurred principally in the export section of the coal industry:—

FREIGHT TRAFFIC (LIVESTOCK EXCLUDED).
(000's omitted.)

	Tonnage.		Receipts.		Average Receipt per Ton.		Freight Train-Miles (in relation to Receipts).	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
			£	£	s. d.	s. d.		
London, Midland & Scottish	143,505	149,333	42,538	42,997	5 11·14	5 9·10	52,495	53,125
London & North Eastern	136,831	150,983	33,413	35,367	4 10·61	4 8·22	38,599	40,597
Southern	16,895	17,760	5,497	5,656	6 6·09	6 4·44	6,934	7,087
Great Western	75,311	81,815	16,832	17,654	4 5·64	4 3·79	21,994	22,686
	372,542	399,891	98,280	101,674	5 3·31	5 1·04	120,022	123,495

The increase in revenue was much greater in the London and North Eastern and Great Western groups, which carry the bulk of this traffic, than in either of the others, in spite of a heavy increase in the freight tonnage of the London Midland and Scottish. As the chairman of the last-named company explained, the recovery in tonnage occurred in the low-rated traffic, while the high-rated classes continued to suffer from road competition. This is reflected in a decline of about 2d. in the average rate per ton. In no case has the number of train-miles run increased in as great a proportion as the tonnage carried. In so far as this indicates better-filled trains and not an increase in short hauls, it is a satisfactory sign of greater economy in working.

The remaining table shows the distribution of freight traffic among the main groups and the percentage which the receipts from each group forms of the total from the three categories:—

FREIGHT TRAFFIC (LIVESTOCK EXCLUDED).
(000's omitted.)

	Merchandise.†		Coal, coke and Patent Fuel.		Other Minerals and Merchandise.‡	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
London Midland and Scottish—						
Tons*	21,214	20,966	65,453	69,413	25,717	26,426
Per cent. of total receipts	*52·5*	*51·1*	*31·9*	*33·0*	*15·6*	*15·9*
London and North Eastern—						
Tons*	20,303	20,734	72,581	82,422	22,472	24,333
Per cent. of total receipts	*46·6*	*44·0*	*37·6*	*40·0*	*15·8*	*16·0*
Southern—						
Tons*	3,623	3,513	2,102	2,368	2,286	2,271
Per cent. of total receipts	*58·2*	*55·2*	*26·8*	*30·1*	*15*	*14·7*
Great Western—						
*Tons**	9,979	10,160	41,106	45,588	9,332	9,869
Per cent. of total receipts	*49·4*	*47·1*	*35·2*	*36·8*	*15·4*	*16·1*
	55,119	55,373	181,242	199,791	59,807	62,899
	50·3	*48·2*	*34·1*	*35·9*	*15·6*	*15·9*

* Originating on the company's lines.
† Classes 7–21.
‡ Classes 1–6.

This analysis, like all the others, is dominated by the coal situation. In every case the proportion of the total revenue derived from the fuel group has risen, and in the case of the Southern Railway, which is beginning to feel the benefit of the exploitation of the Kent coalfields, this is the only category in which the tonnage has not declined. In all cases the proportion of revenue derived from merchandise has fallen, and on all lines except the Great Western the actual receipts from this group were lower. Not only is road competition naturally the most severe in this class, but also the depression in the textile industries has deprived it of a large volume of high-rated traffic. Since it is on this group that the railways depend for about half their gross revenue from freight traffic and for something not very much less than a quarter of their total gross receipts, it is clear that in default of a marked recovery in the output of our manufacturing industries the possibilities of economies in railway working are of great immediate importance. With this side of the railway accounts we shall deal next week.

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GREAT BRITAIN'S FOOD.

We referred briefly in a recent article to a report* published last month by the Ministry of Agriculture, which has attracted very much less attention than it deserves. Its value is threefold: It provides a census of agricultural production which forms a pendant to the Board of Trade census of industrial production; it throws light on changes since the war in an important part of our standard of living; and last, but by no means least, it provides a storehouse of cold facts which may be used with salutary effect in the heated controversy now raging over the sources, actual and to be desired, of our food supplies.

The census of agricultural production relates to the average of the four agricultural years beginning 1924-25, but the general trend of production and prices during those years is reflected in the following table, showing the estimated value of agricultural and horticultural produce sold off farms:—

VALUE OF PRODUCE SOLD.
£ million.

	1924–25.	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.
Livestock and livestock products	192·9	190·6	177·0	183·7
Farm crops	68·2	54·7	57·1	57·8
Fruit, vegetables, flowers, &c.	25·1	25·5	21·7	24·7
Total	286·2	270·8	255·8	266·2

The results of the inquiry into agricultural production in these four post-war years, compared with those of the Agricultural Census of 1908, show that net output increased by 77 per cent., from £108,600,000 to £191,700,000. The corresponding increase in the net output of industries covered by the Census of Production Act was from £675 million in 1907 to £1,604.5 million in 1924. Thus the contribution of agriculture to the total has fallen from 13.9 per cent. to 10.7 per cent. A rather rough estimate of numbers engaged in agriculture and horticulture in Great Britain places them at 1,280,000 in 1925, as against 1,400,000 in 1908. The corresponding figures for industry were 6,687,000 in 1907 and 7,613,000 in 1924, so that the proportion of people occupied in agriculture has fallen from about 17½ to 14½ per cent. Net output per person employed has risen from £77.6 to £149.8, an increase of 93 per cent., which is a lower rate of increase than in any other industrial group except mines and quarries (43 per cent.) and iron and steel (89 per cent.). The average increase over all groups except agriculture and mines and quarries was 124 per cent.

It is evident that, whether considered from the point of view of the value of its output, of the employment it affords, or of its produce per head of persons employed, British agriculture is not holding its own. It has fallen from first to third place in respect of numbers employed, and from a strong third place in respect of output it has fallen to a weak fourth, supplanted by textiles and challenged by the food, drink and tobacco group. Its position is not merely weaker than it was, it appears to be still declining.

* *The Agricultural Output and the Food Supplies of Great Britain.* (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. net).

That this downward movement is far from being attributable to any decline in the demand for the products of agriculture appears from the following table, in which the average *per capita* supply of certain staple foods, and the proportion of expenditure on them, in the two periods 1905-09 and 1924-27, are compared:—

	Average Supply per Head.		Proportion of Estimated Total Value (including Duties).	
	Pre-war.	Post-war.	Pre-war.	Post-war.
			Per cent.	Per cent.
Wheat flour..... lbs.	208	207	12·2	10·7
Meat (including rabbits and lard)..... lbs.	144·9	147·1	38·6	33·7
Fish ..... lbs.	43·7	41·9	3·3	3·8
Poultry ..... lbs.	3·9	3·7	6·6	6·8
Eggs* ..... No.	111	116		
Milk, fresh† ... galls.	19·5	20·0		
,, condensed and powder ... lbs.	(*a*)	8·1	21·5	21·7
Butter ..... lbs.	15·8	15·4		
Cheese ..... lbs.	8·7	9·5		
Margarine..... lbs.	5·0	12·4		
Potatoes ..... lbs.	189	192	4·8	6·7
Other vegetables... lbs.	(*a*)	(*a*)		
Fruit and nuts .... lbs.	74	101	5·7	8·3
Sugar ..... lbs.	80	86	7·3	8·3
Cocoa ..... lbs.	1·1	2·6		

(*a*) Not available. * In shell only.
† Including cream consumed in farm households.

A slight decrease in the consumption of fish appears, from the rise in expenditure on that item, to have been due to higher prices. The only other perceptible fall is a decline in the consumption of butter in favour of margarine, the consumption of which has more than doubled. Expenditure on vegetables, fruit and nuts has risen substantially, and the table gives a general impression of a definite rise in the standard of living. Except to the very limited extent that exotic products, such as cocoa and tropical fruits, may have met a potential demand for products that could have been grown at home, it is therefore impossible to argue that there is anything wrong with the market for the products of British agriculture.

It remains to see from what sources the growing demand for foodstuffs in this country has been met, and here the report acquires an unusual degree of topical interest. The table below shows the proportions of the main items in our food supply which come from home, Empire and foreign sources in the two periods under consideration, 1905-09 and 1924-27.

SOURCES OF FOOD SUPPLY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

	Pre-war.			Post-war.		
	Home Production.	Empire Imports.	Foreign Imports.	Home Production.	Empire Imports.	Foreign Imports.
Foodstuffs normally produced in Great Britain:	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wheat flour	20·0	27·9	52·1	15·0	43·4	41·6
Meat (inc. rabbits and lard).....	52·0	17·0	31·0	44·3	17·2	38·5
Poultry and eggs.....	45·7	17·1	37·2	49·8	13·7	36·5
Dairy produce	47·6	21·6	30·8	48·7	25·4	25·9
Vegetables.....	72·3	7·7	20·0	70·3	7·2	22·5
Raw fruit	57·7	14·1	28·2	44·0	17·6	38·4
Total of above ...	47·2	19·1	33·7	44·1	21·5	34·4
Fish.....	78·5	8·4	13·1	61·3	7·7	31·0
Total (inc. fish)....	48·4	18·7	32·9	44·9	20·9	34·2
Foodstuffs not normally produced in Great Britain:						
Fruit and nuts.....	...	8·2	91·8	...	19·0	81·0
Margarine.....	...	18·6	81·4	...	38·2	61·8
Sugar	...	5·2	94·8	6·2	23·3	70·5
Cocoa	...	38·5	61·5	...	88·5	11·5
Grand total	43·3	17·7	39·0	39·3	21·6	39·1

From this it appears that, as far as those foodstuffs which are the produce of British agriculture and horticulture are concerned, foreign imports have done little more than keep pace with the growth of consumption. In so far as British output has failed to do so, the gap has been almost entirely filled by Empire products. Exceptions to this are meat, fruit and vegetables; but, as far as wheat is concerned, the Empire has expanded its contribution at the expense even more of the foreign than of the home producer. Home produced poultry and eggs have expanded at the expense of imports of all kinds, and home and Empire dairy produce have made great headway against that imported from non-British countries. This greatly complicates the task of those who would tax foreign foods, since competition between foreign and British produce is not apparently so keen in most cases as competition between home and Empire goods.

In the food-tax movement, by which the Press Lords hope to force an Imperial breakfast, lunch and dinner table upon every Briton, the two most important objectives are wheat and meat, which together form not very much less than half our total expenditure on food. Now, in the years 1926-28 we imported an average of 104 million cwts. of wheat annually, of which 51 million cwts. came from the Empire and 53 million cwts. from foreign countries; Canada sent an average of 36 million cwts., Australia 11 million and India 3 million; 30 million cwts. came from the United States, 19 million from the Argentine, and practically all the rest was spread thinly over a large number of foreign countries. If we are to eat only Imperial bread, over 50 million cwts. more must be provided by Canada, Australia and India, unless some new wheat-producing country can be developed within the Empire. But last year Canada found wheat prices so little to her liking that her contribution fell to a round 27 million cwts., whereas her *pro rata* share under a system of Imperial self-sufficiency would have been nearly 75 million cwts. The price that would be necessary to bridge this gap would send wages, and consequently production costs, to a level which would fatally handicap Great Britain in the struggle to sell her manufactures in the markets of the world.

Meat presents a different problem. Almost half our consumption still consists, as it did before the war, of beef, and in the beef trade the most important development of recent years has been the steady growth in our net imports of chilled beef (from 133,000 tons in 1909 to 519,000 tons in 1927) at the expense of the frozen product. That is why the foreign proportion of our beef imports has risen so sharply, since chilled beef comes almost entirely from the Argentine, while at present our Australian imports are practically all frozen. The transport of chilled beef from Australia, if not a physical impossibility, would be a very costly proposition. A more serious check still to any project for substituting Australian for Argentine beef is the frequency of severe drought in Australia, which renders the possibility of a substantial increase in the cattle population of the Commonwealth extremely problematical.

There is a further difficulty. Writing in *The Times* the other day, Sir William Haldane called attention, not for the first time, to the fact that the entry of the United States on to the world beef market as an importer has deflected all the Canadian beef supply from Great Britain and is making steady inroads in the exportable surpluses of South America and Australasia. This movement began in 1927, and in these days of "baby beef" there should have been some sign by now of an increased output in those countries if the supply were at all elastic. But Sir William Haldane quotes statistics to show that herds are actually declining in those countries. If the beef producing countries of the Empire cannot respond to the sharp stimulus of a heavy, and presumably permanent, American buying movement, what response can we expect to the offer of the protection of a tariff wall?

The minor foods are, for the most part, taking care of themselves. Home production of poultry and eggs is a growing proportion of consumption, and dairy produce is coming increasingly from home and Empire sources. Fruit and vegetables, on the other hand, are coming increasingly from foreign sources. Geographical considerations play a large part here, as many of these goods are too perishable to come from any but neighbouring countries except at a cost greater than they would bear. If Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere get a chance of poking their umbrellas into the delicate mechanism of international trade we do not envy the task of the political and economic mechanics whose business it will be to get that intricate machine back into working order when they have done with it.

THE PRUDENTIAL.

FOR the first time for ten years the dividend on the "A" shares appertaining to the life branches of the Prudential Assurance Company's business has not been increased; but there is no evidence in the report and accounts of any falling off in the remarkable prosperity of an institution whose national importance is illustrated by the simple fact that there are now in existence over 26,000,000 Prudential life policies, assuring in the aggregate a sum of £660,000,000. Approximately one-half of the total population of this country is insured in the Prudential. Again, the total assets of the company now amount to £229,000,000, this representing an increase on the year of no less than £9,000,000, and the total income is £43,000,000.

Turning now to the detailed figures of the year's working, the following table shows the course of the total new life business during the past five years in the ordinary branch and industrial branch respectively:—

Year.	Ordinary Branch. New Business. Sums Assured.	Industrial Branch. New Business. Sums Assured.
	£	£
1925	14,641,970	47,583,623
1926	14,924,208	45,349,654
1927	16,941,000	53,735,678
1928	17,401,001	58,511,995
1929	17,606,949	63,182,236

The new business in both branches has again registered an increase, though the advance in the industrial branch is very much greater than in the ordinary branch. In face of the gradually changing character of industrial life business, the industrial total is a very large one, for, apart from the adverse effect of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Act on industrial business, there is a growing tendency to effect in the ordinary branch policies which a generation ago would undoubtedly have been effected as industrial branch policies. The main sources from which the company's surplus is earned are the excess of expenses reserved in the valuation over and above the amount absorbed, and the excess of the net rate of interest earned over and above that assumed in the valuation, which, in the case of both branches, is now 3 per cent. The actual experience of the company during the last five years in regard to expenses and interest is shown below:—

Year.	Expense Ratio. Ordinary Branch.	Expense Ratio. Industrial Branch.	Net Rate of Interest. Ordinary Branch.	Net Rate of Interest. Industrial Branch.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1925	11·7	26·59	4 15 4	4 19 6
1926	11·0	25·90	4 14 3	5 8 3
1927	11·2	25·47	4 14 8	5 9 0
1928	10·8	24·89	4 16 6	5 7 7
1929	10·4	24·79	4 19 7	5 9 11

In every respect the 1929 figures show an improvement over those for 1928, the improvement being particularly marked in the rate of interest. The differences in the respective rates of interest earned by the ordinary branch and the industrial branch are at first sight curious, but are explained by the fact that these branches are assessed for income tax as separate entities and according to different methods. The reduction in the industrial branch expense ratio is now necessarily much less spectacular than was the case some years ago. The present expense ratio compares with over 40 per cent. in 1920, and the saving represented by the difference now amounts to an additional profit on the present premium income of nearly £3,000,000 per annum.

The usual annual valuation of liabilities in both branches has been made on the same bases as formerly, and the results of the valuations of the last three years are compared below:—

Ordinary Branch.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Surplus earned during the year from trading	2,868,073	2,884,124	3,203,959
Capital profits	...	...	51,490
Brought forward from previous year	192,523	194,889	201,743
	3,060,596	3,079,013	3,457,192
Allocations:—			
To Bonuses to policyholders	2,130,396	2,365,902	2,477,808
,, Investment reserve fund	500,000	250,000	500,000
,, Shareholders a/c	235,311	261,368	273,471
,, Carried forward to next year	194,889	201,743	205,913
	3,060,596	3,079,013	3,457,192
Industrial Branch.			
Surplus earned during the year	5,203,614	5,444,404	5,739,419
Brought forward from previous year	259,256	264,847	276,572
	5,462,870	5,709,251	6,015,991
Allocations:—			
To Bonuses to policyholders	2,916,667	3,265,306	3,316,062
,, Investment reserve fund	500,000	250,000	500,000
,, Common contingency fund.....	250,000	250,000	250,000
,, Special contingency fund	366,667	483,333	483,333
,, Bonuses to outside staff...	500,000	520,408	528,497
,, Shareholders account ...	664,689	663,632	651,529
,, Carried forward to next year	264,847	276,572	286,570
	5,462,870	5,709,251	6,015,991

The increase in the surplus in each branch has been notably greater in 1929 than in 1928, and the reason for this is no doubt largely to be found in the big forward jump in the rate of interest earned. In the ordinary branch the bonus to policyholders has been maintained at the same rate as in 1928, viz., a reversionary bonus of 50s. per cent. for whole life assurances and 46s. per cent. for endowment assurances, calculated in both cases on the sums assured. The industrial branch bonus is allotted at different rates and by a different method for pre-1928 policies and post-1922 policies. For post-1922 policies a simple reversionary bonus of 34s. per cent. has been declared, the same rate as last year, and all such policies therefore share in bonus on the same basis as ordinary branch policies. For pre-1923 policies the bonus is allotted at rates varying according to the number of years' duration. The rates have again been increased somewhat for policies of short duration, while the period for which they are guaranteed has been extended for a further year to 15 years, i.e., to March 1, 1945.

The company's general branch is concerned with fire, accident and marine business, and the results for 1929 appear on the whole to have been rather less favourable than for 1928, which itself was hardly satisfactory. The detailed results of the underwriting are set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
Underwriting profit:—	£	%	£	%
Fire	18,481	2·4	6,909	0·8
Employers Liability (Home)	8,901	11·2	1,774	1·9
Employers Liability (Irish Free State) ...	386	50·5	451	66·4
Miscellaneous	28,359	8·6	16,720	3·7
Marine	61,665	16·8	102,970	44·0
Sinking Fund	11,054	...	12,742	...
Sickness and Accident	33,593	...	44,211	...
Investment and exchange profit.....	220	...	101,681	...
Fees	3,315	...	4,491	...
	41,872	...	71,289	...
Less:—				
Corporation profit tax	...	...	...	...
Income tax	8,735	...	40,135	...
Total net surplus ...	33,137	...	31,154	...
Net interest earnings	93,320	...	112,913	...
Dividend	66,667	...	66,667	...
	26,653	...	46,246	...
Total net increase in surplus assets	59,790	...	77,400	...

The results in the fire department are not unexpected in view of the heavy claims known to have been universally experienced. The loss in the marine department represents interest and capital profits left in the account, but it is none the less disappointing to find that the retention of so large a sum in the account should have been considered necessary. Although the total net increase in the surplus assets is nearly £20,000 greater than in 1928, this result has been achieved only by taking credit for capital profits, amounting to over £100,000, on investments realised. The combined results in all departments have enabled the directors to maintain the dividends at the same rates as for 1928, namely, 94 per cent. on the "A" shares and 25 per cent. on the " B " shares, free of income tax in both cases. At the present prices—£21¾ for the "A" and 38s. for the " B "—the yields on these dividends are £5 8s. per cent. gross and £3 6s. per cent. gross respectively.

As we have said, this is the first occasion for ten years in which the "A" shares' dividend has not been increased. Since the published accounts fail to supply the reason, it is interesting to speculate if the general depression in investment values has induced a sense of caution. It is noticeable in this connection that allocations to the investment reserve fund have been raised from £500,000 to £1,000,000, and the fund now amounts to £10¼ million. The balance sheet itself affords evidence of considerable activity during the year, notwithstanding the huge figures involved. Increases have occurred of £2,400,000 in home mortgages, of £4,090,000 in loans on stocks and shares (mostly in the industrial branch) and of £2,770,000 in debentures. British Government securities have been realised to the extent of £9,525,000, but ordinary shares have risen by £4,400,000. The constitution of the balance sheet assets is now as follows:—

	£
Mortgages and loans	39,790,000
British Government securities	57,850,000
Ordinary shares	27,289,000
Other Stock Exchange securities	86,078,000
Properties and ground rents	8,360,000
Reversions and miscellaneous assets	9,203,000
	228,570,000

The certificate appended to the balance sheet makes it clear that, apart from the investment reserve fund, the market values of the assets are in excess of the book values. But, clearly, the hidden reserve must have been greatly reduced by last year's depreciation which, in the case of the Prudential, holding as it does £171 million of Stock Exchange securities, may well have been £8 million. The financial strength of the Prudential remains, however, enormous, and there are few things more certain in this uncertain world than that the onward progression in the disbursements for dividend will soon be resumed.

Notes of the Week.

Bank Rate at 4 Per Cent.—Another stage in the downward trend of money rates was reached on Thursday, when the Bank of England lowered its discount rate from 4½ to 4 per cent. The country has thus definitely re-entered the region of " cheap money," for it is not since the autumn of 1925 that the Bank rate has been as low as 4 per cent., and then the rate, whose justification at the time was questionable, remained in force only for two months. The motives actuating this week's reduction are patent. The recession alike in Stock Exchange activity and in world trade made short money more plentiful; falling wholesale prices have suggested the need of all possible monetary correctives; and producers are badly in need of a psychological stimulus such as central banks can give them by reducing their rediscount rates. Judged on narrower and more technical grounds, the Bank of England can justify its action by pointing to the recent rise in the franc exchange, the steadiness of the dollar, and the cessation of German gold purchases. It knows that there is no conscious demand from abroad for gold, and that foreign central banks have recently been adding to their gold stocks only because their statutes force them to buy such gold as is offered to them. In so far as its own gold stocks are concerned, once the £7,000,000 now on its way from Australia arrives, they should be more than ample for all immediate and prospective needs. Finally, the money market had already seen its own rates fall to levels consonant with the new Bank rate, so that the Bank's decision put an end to a period of anomaly and confusion. Lower rates were announced on the same day by the National Banks of Holland, Denmark and Sweden, though not—as had been expected—by the New York Federal Reserve Bank. A cable from our New York correspondent, which will be found on p. 502, suggests that the Washington authorities are nervous lest an impetus should be given to renewed Stock Exchange speculation; but it seems doubtful if a downward move in the New York rate (particularly in view of the decline in that centre's open-market rates) will be long delayed. Gradually a phase of world-wide cheap money seems likely to be reached.

Parliament and the Tariff Truce.—Last Tuesday's debate in the Commons on Mr Graham's part in the Tariff Truce Conference, now proceeding at Geneva, was interesting chiefly in the degree to which it revealed the essentially protectionist attitude of the Conservative Party. In their insistence that a breathing space for the negotiation of lower tariffs would be " a bad bargain for this country to enter into at any time," and in their expressions of glee at the prospect that the conference might fail to achieve all that its supporters hoped, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister and other Conservative speakers showed clearly that their professed objection to Great Britain's hands being " tied by the truce " in any discussion of economic co-operation with the Dominions, was not the real mainspring of their attitude. Desiring tariffs for tariffs' sake, they were out to attack any proposal which appeared to place an obstacle in the way of their attaining that deplorable ideal. In his reply, Mr Graham developed much the same broad arguments as he had used with admirable effect when the conference opened at Geneva a fortnight ago. Tariff retaliation, he said, could only mean a considerable duty over a wide range of imported commodities such as would reduce this country's volume of trade and seriously aggravate unemployment. The Government had no idea of allying this country with a European bloc either against the Empire or against the United States. They refused to be parties to economic discrimination of any kind, and were simply seeking the maximum agreement they could obtain on tariff reduction. He had found at Geneva a desire to recognise that economic nationalism had gone too far, and, as the Economic Conference of 1927 had pointed out, was strangling international trade. Although one country was definitely against the truce, and another was unsympathetic, he still hoped they might get a formal agreement on terms which would allow them to proceed with detailed negotiations for lowering tariffs progressively and as rapidly as they could. The widespread desire to exclude agricultural commodities admittedly presented difficulties, but he was hopeful that good results might be attained in relation to particular large groups of products like iron and steel, machinery and plant, or textiles. If the conference succeeds in paving the way to fruitful negotiations on these lines, it will not have been held in vain.

The Coal Bill.—The Government's very proper decision not to force the House to discuss vital points in Part 1 of the Coal Mines Bill at a late hour of the night has meant that more time will have to be allotted to this measure, and it has been agreed that two days next week shall be given for the completion of the Committee stage, with a further two and a half days for Report and Third Reading. The progress made last Wednesday was slow. Much time was spent on amendments of no great substance, and the only important phase of the debate was that relating to a Conservative amendment designed to exclude from the provisions of Part 1 all the coal supplied to the iron and steel industry. Mr Graham objected that the quota plan, which the House had in principle endorsed, was possible only if its scope included all pits; and the amendment was defeated by 269 to 161 votes. The position, however, of mixed undertakings deriving their fuel from pits whose output is transferred to associated works, and not sold in the open market, presents problems of great difficulty, as the experience of the German coal kartel has demonstrated. Rigid application of a single uniform quota to such concerns is open to serious objection, and the Government will do well, when the question comes up again on Clause 3 of the Bill in connection with the district schemes, to consider how far a desirable amount of elasticity can be given to the quota plan in this respect.

Politics and Religion—" Salade Russe."—The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked that Sunday, March 16th, shall be observed in all churches within their provinces as a day of prayer on behalf of those who are suffering oppression in Russia through loyalty to their religious beliefs. The Evangelical Free Churches in England appear to have chosen the same date; and the Pope has already asked Roman Catholics to join him in an intercession on March 19th. This action on the part of various ecclesiastical authorities—some " established " and others " disestablished " from the British Government's point of view, but all possessing adherents in the ranks of the British Army and Navy—confronted the Government with a problem. What should be done, on those dates, by Army and Navy chaplains in religious services which are part of the routine of Army and Navy discipline? If the request of the various religious authorities were complied with at official services conducted by ecclesiastics who are at the same time public servants of the Government, it might be claimed that such action would constitute a political act on the British Government's part—an act of official unfriendliness towards a foreign country with whom we are officially on good relations — and the Soviet Government would have reason to complain. The terms of the Army Council's order on the other hand, that intercessory prayers for Russian subjects should not form part of " religious services in the Army . . . in view of the political character which the controversy has assumed," were assailed in the House of Commons on Tuesday on the grounds (*a*) that they interfered with the expression of a deep religious feeling approved by the heads of the religious bodies concerned, (*b*) that it is not the business of the military authorities to lay down what intercessions should be made at services conducted by their chaplains, and (*c*) that the reference to politics begged a question which the advocates of intercessory prayers do not admit even to be open. The Government satisfied its critics by explaining that the embargo did not apply to voluntary services and the Prime Minister expressed his readiness to consult with the leaders of the other parties on how to overcome certain difficulties of detail, entailed by the fact that soldiers of some sects attend compulsorily places of worship where the bulk of the congregation is civilian. With regard to the debatable question of the bearing of political prejudice on the religious aspects of this issue, it is noticeable that some of the most distinguished representatives of the Church of England—for instance, the Bishop of Gloucester and the Bishop of Durham—have publicly emphasised the importance of keeping the religious intercession on behalf of Christians in Russia completely disentangled from political action and the danger of allowing a genuinely religious movement to be made the cloak for a political manœuvre. To an entirely detached observer it would appear that, unhappily, this entanglement has already taken place; but it is still not too late for the mischief to be undone. It can only be undone by the private initiative of the churches themselves; but the Government has at least kept the ground clear for them.

The Drift in Spain.—More than ever it appears that the retirement of the Marquis de Estella was the beginning, and not the end, of a rather deep political convulsion in Spain. As we have noted already, public dissatisfaction with the late *régime* has been tending, since the self-elimination of the dictator, to concentrate against the King, who still remains as a visible target; and a sensational shot was fired in this direction by a former Conservative Prime Minister, Señor Sanchez Guerra, in a speech which he delivered at Madrid on Thursday, February 27th. In this speech Señor Guerra did not go so far as to declare for a republic; but he did assert quite openly that the King, in giving his sanction to the dictatorship, had violated the constitution. Such a pronouncement, made publicly and deliberately and coming from such a quarter, has naturally given Spanish public opinion a further impulse towards the left. But, perhaps, the most powerful effect of Señor Guerra's speech upon the political situation in Spain will prove to be the indirect effect of the reaction which it seems to have produced in General Berenguer's Government. The delivery of the speech was followed by a collision between the crowd and the police in the streets; there have been sporadic demonstrations since; and the Government has been unwise enough to initiate restrictive measures which are likely to conjure up the very dangers which they are intended to avert. The fact is that General Berenguer's Government could only hope to succeed in their extremely difficult task if they could persuade the Spanish people to regard them as sincere liquidators of the dictatorship and restorers of a constitutional *régime;* whereas they seem actually to be drifting, through sheer timidity, into the dangerous and hardly tenable position of ministers whose first concern is to defend the Throne, even if that means a reversion to dictatorial methods. They have now refused permission to Don Melquiades Alvarez, the leader of the Reformists, and to Señor Lerroux, the leader of the Republicans, to hold meetings and address their supporters. They have refused permission for the holding of a national agrarian congress. And the holding of a general election for the Cortès (the constitutional parliament of Spain) seems to be further off than ever. This is not the way to save the Monarchy from a fall or the country from a revolution.

King Faisal and King Abd-el-Aziz.—At the beginning of last week King Faisal-al-Hashimi of Iraq and King Abd-el-Aziz al-Saud, of Najd and Hijaz, met on board a British warship in the Persian Gulf, under the auspices and in the presence of the British High Commissioner for Iraq. The meeting was cordial, and it accomplished practical results, for the two rulers were accompanied by their respective ministers and advisers, and these succeeded in negotiating a comprehensive protocol, regulating the relations between the two countries, before the meeting broke up. This achievement represents a considerable triumph for British diplomacy, as was handsomely acknowledged by the Arab parties themselves; and we stand to be rewarded by finding our whole position in the Middle East greatly simplified. For both these Arab kingdoms are in treaty relations with Great Britain; and if there had been a serious clash between them, which we had failed to avert, we should have been much embarrassed. The trouble between Najd and Iraq began in 1921, when they became immediate neighbours as a result of Ibn Saud's conquest of the intervening Arab kingdom of Jabal Shemmar. Since that year incidents have abounded. Najdi tribesmen have raided Iraq; Shammar refugees in Iraq have raided Najd (in spite of the Iraq Government's loyal efforts to restrain them); and Najd has demanded the removal of certain police posts constructed by the Iraq Government on the border between the Desert and the Sown, though these posts lay a long way to the right side of the boundary upon which the two Governments, under British mediation, had agreed. Thus the relations between Najd and Iraq had remained bad in spite of the treaty signed at Muhammarah on May 5, 1922, the protocol signed at Uqair on December 22nd of the same year, the agreement signed by Ibn Saud and the late Sir

Gilbert Clayton at Bahrah on November 2, 1925, and the abortive negotiations between the same two persons at Jiddah in the summer of 1928. The difficulty in the relations between Najd and Iraq is inherent; for, since the dawn of history, the hungry steppe-dwellers have constantly coveted the rich alluvial soil of Mesopotamia, and have taken possession of it whenever political opportunities occurred. During the last ten years the problem was aggravated because Ibn Saud's marches on the Iraq side were governed by a "wild man," Faisal ad-Dawish, who was recalcitrant towards his own master. This situation was cleared up last year, when Ad-Dawish twice rebelled against Ibn Saud and was twice defeated—taking refuge, after his second defeat, in Iraq and being interned by the British Air Force in garrison there. There still remained the dynastic feud between the two kings—a rivalry of 150 years' standing, which was turned into an apparently mortal feud in 1925-6, when King Abd-al-Aziz invaded and conquered the Hijaz and caused first King Faisal's father Husain and then his brother Ali to lose the throne of the ancestral patrimony of the Hashimi House. King Faisal's present reconciliation with the family enemy is an act of great broadmindedness and magnanimity. At last the horizon seems clear and the summary of the new protocol, as telegraphed to London, indicates that the thorniest points have been grasped and dealt with. The instrument is reported to provide for the establishment of a permanent frontier commission similar to the commission appointed under the tripartite treaty of 1926 between Iraq, Turkey and Great Britain to look after the Mosul frontier. In regard to the maintenance of Iraq police posts in the desert, Najd is reported to have accepted the Iraqi point of view; and it has been arranged that, if full agreement on this subject is not reached within six months, the dispute is to be settled by a court of arbitration whose award Ibn Saud has pledged himself to accept in advance. We may hope that a tiresome chapter in recent Middle East history has now been closed.

The Balance of Payments.—The current issue of the Board of Trade Journal contains the usual annual estimate of our balance of foreign payments on account of revenue transactions in 1929, with revised figures for 1928. The details, which are admittedly only estimates subject to a considerable margin of error, are given below:—

Balances of Income and Expenditure in the Transactions (other than the Lending and Repayment of Capital) between the United Kingdom and All Other Countries.

Particulars.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	In million £'s.		
Excess of imports of merchandise and bullion	390	358	366
Estimated excess of Government receipts from overseas*	1	15	22
Estimated net National Shipping Income†	140	130	130
Estimated net income from overseas investments	285	285	285
Estimated net receipts from short interest and commissions	63	65	65
Estimated net receipts from other sources...	15	15	15
Total	504	510	517
Estimated total credit balance on items specified above	114	152	151

* Including some items on loan accounts.
† Including disbursements by foreign ships in British ports.

The balance on bullion transactions was one of £16 million exports, but it must be remembered that the 1928 figures excluded an export of £18.4 million which had been pledged as security for a loan some years earlier. The merchandise import balance of £382.3 million was £30.6 million higher than in 1928, owing to an increase in imports and decrease in exports. On Government transactions, consisting mainly of receipts and payments in respect of loans between governments, reparation receipts and receipts on account of Indian home charges, the excess of receipts was seven million more than last year; the increase was mainly in reparation payments. The estimated income from shipping, which is only "net" from the national point of view and bears no relation to profits, is put at the same level as that of 1928, as it is believed that the relatively high freights early in the year must, on balance, have at least offset the subsequent low level. The estimate of net income from overseas investments for 1929 involves additional complications as compared with 1928, since, on the one hand, British securities have been growing more popular in the United States, while, on the other hand, the Stock Exchange collapse in New York has probably led to some bargain-hunting there by British investors. Further, many companies reduced their dividends in 1929, so that the Board of Trade has adopted the familiar statistical practice of assuming that unascertainable items on opposite sides are of equal weight, and has left its estimate unchanged. In connection with short interest and commissions, it is perhaps surprising that no change is made in the estimate, since it is pointed out that high money rates in New York must have been profitable to British lenders. The last item, which includes, among other things, emigrants' remittances and tourist expenditure, has also been left unchanged, though it is recognised as a doubtful, and probably a conservative estimate. On balance, therefore, the amount available for investment abroad was scarcely changed from last year.

The Civil Estimates.—The first impression on the taxpayer made by the Civil Estimates for 1930-31 is one of considerable discomfort, for including the revenue departments, but not the Post Office, they total £307.8 million, comparing with original estimates for the preceding year of £250.5 million, and with final estimates (including supplementaries) of £261.1 million. As it is extremely unusual for a Government to get through the year without presenting supplementary estimates, it seems fairest to compare £307.8 million with £250.5 million, and on this basis the estimates show an increase of £57.2 million. These figures, when analysed in the light of the appendix to the estimates which shows the main increases and decreases, are not quite so alarming as they originally appear, because much of the growth of expenditure is due to the fact that the coming financial year is the first to bear the full burden of de-rating, which accounts for £30 million of the increase. Moreover, £15 million of that apparent addition is merely a bookkeeping operation, as it will be balanced by the forthcoming disappearance from Consolidated Fund charges of £15 million hitherto paid under this last head in the shape of Exchequer contributions to Local Taxation Accounts. Against the remaining £15 million there is available, if the Chancellor decides to use it, the balance of the Rating Relief Suspense Account, amounting to £20 million, though Mr Snowden no doubt realises that this is in reality a "reserve" item in the internal balance sheet, and is therefore non-recurring. Subtracting this £30 million, for de-rating from the original increase of £57 million, there remains £27 million, of which £11 million represents the difference between last year's original and final estimates. The balance, £16 million, is made up as follows:—Next year's cost of the 1929 Pensions Act, £5 million; that of the 1929 and 1930 Unemployment Insurance Acts, £6.5 million; that of the fresh Education grants, £2.8 million; various grants for Development purposes, Agriculture and Forestry, £3.2 million, representing some of Mr Thomas's efforts to cure unemployment, and (most deplorably) including an extra £1,150,000 for the beet-sugar subsidy; and miscellaneous grants to Housing, Health and Unemployment Insurance and Old Age Pensions, £2.7 million. These make £20.3 million, and deducting certain savings, such as £2.1 million in respect of War Pensions, the final figure of £16 million is reached. Thus, of the £57 million increase, £11 million represents the margin for supplementary estimates, £30 million gross (£15 million net) represents the full cost of de-rating, and £16 million is new expenditure, part of which in its turn will probably show a further increase in subsequent years when its full burden is felt. Meanwhile the revenue returns to date suggest that revenue for 1929-30 will fall appreciably short of Mr Churchill's very optimistic forecasts.

Naval Estimates.—In view of the growth of expenditure shown by the Civil Service Estimates, it is the more satisfactory to find in the Navy Estimates for 1930 a reduction of £4,126,000, the net total being £51,739,000, against £55,865,000 last year, and £57,300,000 for 1928-29. The explanatory memorandum issued by the First Lord of the Admiralty shows that the decrease is due mainly to the reductions which the Government have made in the shipbuilding programmes of 1928 and 1929. As already announced from time to time in Parliament, seventeen vessels altogether have been cancelled in the programmes of these two years, including four cruisers (three of the 10,000-ton type, armed with 8-in. guns), four torpedo boat destroyers, five submarines, one submarine depôt ship, two sloops and one netlayer. The revised 1929 programme of construction consists only of one 6-in. gun cruiser, one destroyer leader, four destroyers and five minor vessels; and the provision for new construction is reduced to £5,603,481, as compared with £8,621,626 a year ago. Had the full programmes of 1928 and 1929 been put into effect, the First Lord points out that the new construction provision in these estimates must have been in the neighbourhood of £10,000,000, so that the retrenchment represents in all a saving of over £4,000,000. As to future shipbuilding, the Government have very properly decided not to formulate any proposals until the results of the Naval Conference have been fully considered; and a decision whether the three submarines of the 1929 programme not yet definitely cancelled are to be proceeded with is also deferred until the Conference has been concluded. Apart from expenditure on new construction, the explanatory memorandum states that, whereas last year's vote provided for 99,800 officers and men as the maximum number to be borne during the year, the number to be reached by April 1, 1930, is 97,050, which is expected to fall to 94,000 by April 1, 1931. For the ensuing year the net saving on pay is £254,000, offset in part by the automatic growth of the non-effective votes. With regard to the Singapore Base, Mr Alexander states that it has been found "that it would not be economical to retard the work contracted for"; and there is an increase of £200,000 in expenditure under this head. The estimates are a welcome evidence of the Government's determination to economise on armaments within the limits imposed by considerations of national security, but it must be pointed out that a serious element of uncertainty is imported into this section of next year's Budget by the warning given in the explanatory memorandum that, after the Naval Conference, "if necessary, a supplementary estimate will be presented" to cover both the suspended 1929 submarines and a possible new construction programme for 1930.

Our Index Number.—The slump in wholesale prices continued last month with undiminished severity, our index number at the end of February recording a further decline of over 2 per cent. The latest figure, as may be seen from the following table, is nearly 12 per cent. lower than a year ago:—

AVERAGE, 1927 = 100.

	Feb. 1929.	Nov. 1929.	Dec. 1929.	Jan. 1930.	Feb. 1930.
Cereals and meat	101·2	90·6	92·3	89·2	85·4
Other foods	88·5	84·0	83·6	83·1	83·0
Textiles	99·9	83·6	82·6	76·7	74·7
Minerals	96·4	92·4	92·4	92·6	90·5
Miscellaneous	91·4	89·8	89·2	88·0	87·0
Complete Index	95·6	88·3	88·3	86·1	84·2

The heaviest decline during February occurred in cereal prices, wheat, barley, oats and rice all cheapening substantially. Meat was dearer, and among "other foods" a fall in the value of coffee was balanced by a rise in the price of cocoa. After the violent slump of the previous month, wool quo

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	U.S.A.	Canada
Average, 1909-13	690	197
Average, 1924-28	848	433
1928......	930	567
1929......	807	294

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	Total.	
1928.	1927.	1928.
13	110	113
08	99	103
94	99	93
20	109	116
19	111	118
94	97	95
02	102	98
08	105	108

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Wheat—Foreign
" English
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Oats
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Potatoes
Beef—English
" Argentine
Mutton—English
" New Zealand
Bacon, Danish
Cereals and meat
Tea
Coffee
Cocoa
Sugar, cane
Sugar, refined
Cheese, Canadian
Butter, Danish
Coconut oil
Tobacco
Other foods
Cotton A.
Cotton E.
Cotton yarn
Cotton cloth
Wool, English
Wool, Australian
Wool tops
Silk

	1924.
U.S.A.	149·0
Canada	76·0
Argentina ...	26·7
Australia ...	14·7
Total	266·4

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are as follows:—

	1928-29
Initial stocks	142
New crop	915
Total supplies ...	1,057
Net exports	147
Seed requirements.	88
Consumed for food	511
Feed, waste and errors	49
Stocks at end......	262
Total disappearance	1,057

Date.	Cereals and Meat.
Average, 1924	168·5
" 1928	152·9
" 1929	143·0
End Feb., 1929	149·3
" Jan., 1930	131·6
" Feb., 1930	126·0

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commodities in each group indicate that foodstuffs are now 43 per cent., and materials only 10 per cent., higher than in the pre-war year.

A Wheat Forecast.—An interesting survey of the wheat situation in the first four months of the present crop year, August to November, 1929, is contained in the January issue of "Wheat Studies" (published by the Food Research Institute of Stanford University, California). The year began with extremely large carry-overs in the principal centres, and although the crops harvested in the chief exporting countries were small, that is likely to be offset by a decline of import requirements, thanks to the excellent wheat, rye and feed grain crops of Europe. The following table shows wheat production in the principal producing areas:—

(Million bushels.)

	U.S.A.	Canada.	Europe.*	India.	Argentina.	Australia.	World.*
Average, 1909-13	690	197	1,347	352	147	90	3,004
Average, 1924-28	848	433	1,267	329	247	144	3,475
1928	930	567	1,408	291	340	160	3,915
1929	807	294	1,411	318	200	112	3,380

* Excluding Russia.

Though the Canadian crop was very small, its quality appears to be excellent. The relatively large European crop is attributable more to high yield per acre than to high acreage, the yield being particularly high in France, Italy and Spain. Both in the United States and Canada farmers marketed their wheat early, driving cash prices to unusually wide discounts below futures. Thanks to that fact and to heavy sales by the Argentine, stocks of wheat in Canada at the end of November, at 222.8 million bushels, were 38.7 million bushels more than at the same time in 1928, and far higher than in any previous year. Figures for net exports of wheat and flour from the principal exporting countries in August-November are given below:—

(Million bushels.)

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
U.S.A.	149·0	35·2	104·8	126·1	74·4	66·5
Canada	76·0	123·9	109·3	112·9	189·5	69·9
Argentina ...	26·7	20·3	7·8	21·7	39·5	73·0
Australia ...	14·7	12·2	6·8	12·2	17·7	14·5
Total	266·4	191·6	228·7	272·9	321·1	222·9

The unusually small total is as interesting as the high proportion shipped from the Argentine. In these circumstances the wheat pools of Canada held out for a rise in prices in the New Year, and if they are doomed to disappointment it is only on account of the heavy inward carry-overs and the good crops in importing countries. Wheat prices in the first four months of the crop year were well below the general post-war average, though better, outside Europe, than in 1928. The review in "Wheat Studies" contains the following tabular forecast of developments in the wheat situation during the current year:—

(July-June for U.S.A., August-July for Others).

(Million bushels.)

	U.S.A.		Canada.		Argentina.		Australia.	
	1928-29	1929-30	1928-29	1929-30	1928-29	1929-30	1928-29	1929-30
Initial stocks	142	262	78	104	90	120	43	45
New crop	915	807	567	294	307	200	160	112
Total supplies ...	1,057	1,069	645	398	397	320	203	157
Net exports	147	180	406	210	224	170	109	70
Seed requirements.	88	90	45	45	23	24	14	14
Consumed for food	511	515	44	44	61	63	31	31
Feed, waste and errors	49	70	46	20	−31	3	4	4
Stocks at end.....	262	214	104	79	120	60	45	38
Total disappearance	1,057	1,069	645	398	397	320	203	...

Upon this estimate, with its reduction of Canadian exports to one-half, the reviewer predicted that international cash wheat prices would be maintained in the New Year at about $1.38 a bushel (British parcels), an expectation which was certainly not realised.

Shipbuilding Rationalisation.—An important and promising step towards the rationalisation of the shipbuilding industry is marked by the registration of National Shipbuilders Security, Ltd. The chief objects of the new company, which will have a nominal capital of £10,000, but will be empowered to borrow up to £3,000,000, are stated in the memorandum of association to be:—

(1) To assist the shipbuilding industry by the purchase of redundant and/or obsolete shipyards, the dismantling and disposal of their contents, and the resale of the sites under restrictions against further use for shipbuilding.

(2) To enter into contracts with shipbuilders and others for the payment to the company of any sum or sums of money for the advancement of the purposes of the company.

(3) To purchase, take on lease or otherwise acquire shipyards, workshops, docks (graving or otherwise), factories, wharves or any other conveniences for the building, repairing or docking of ships or vessels of any kind, and to sell, dispose of or deal with and turn to account the same in such manner as may be thought fit.

Attention was recently directed in these columns (*Economist*, February 22, page 398) to the urgent need of eliminating surplus capacity in the shipbuilding industry and concentrating production in the more efficient yards. The present plan, as distinct from the alternative policy of promoting mergers (the capital loss in subsequently extinguishing the less efficient components representing a charge on the future revenues of the amalgamated concern) is based on the principle that it should pay shipbuilders, while retaining existing independence of management, to contribute jointly to the cost of "buying out" and dismantling redundant units. As the break-up value of the yards acquired is likely to be appreciably less than the price which will have to be paid to their owners as an inducement to sell, the remaining yards will have to make up the cost of the difference from economies gained by working more nearly at full capacity. The scheme thus bears a resemblance to that attempted unsuccessfully in 1928 by the Scottish mineowners, whose efforts towards eliminating surplus pits were frustrated by a counterbalancing expansion of output from the mines remaining in production. Given broad views and readiness to co-operate for the common interest, the shipbuilding "purge" should have better results, but though we welcome the plan as an interesting experiment whose objects are indisputably sound, it remains to be seen how far the new company can succeed in purchasing "uneconomic" yards without paying inflated prices. A merger gives complete control over assets amalgamated; Shipbuilders Security, Ltd., though support is said to be promised from a large majority of the concerns in the industry, will have no compulsory powers over the "unwanted" or—still more important—their creditors. The success of the scheme will clearly depend on the degree to which the joint-stock banks are prepared to work in conjunction with the new company and to use their position as creditors in the interests of the industry's collective future prosperity.

London's Transport Problems.—At the meeting of the Underground Railways, on Friday of last week, Lord Ashfield had much of general interest to say with regard to the problems of London traffic. Having referred to the remarkable growth of industry and population in the Greater London area, he emphasised the magnitude of the demand for increased traffic facilities which this growth was entailing. The resources of the Underground Group did not grow at the same rate as the possibilities of traffic, and though, so far as private enterprise was concerned, his companies had faithfully discharged their task to the limits of their strength, the lag between the demand for service and the production of service constituted the real traffic problem of London. "There may come a time," he said, "when underground railways will have to be found and provided by public authorities, just as roads are now found and provided." He went on to emphasise once again the point which he has made more than once before, that "the construction of such railways leads to the creation of land values, which escape entirely the burden of contributing to the agency which has created them." He regretted that the tentative solution embodied in the Bills promoted in

Parliament last year had been rejected by the Government, but he disclaimed any desire to be dogmatic as to the way in which the London traffic problem should be solved. Mr Herbert Morrison, the present Minister of Transport, had stated that "the end in view can be fully achieved, and the public interest can be fully safeguarded only if existing sectional financial interests are consolidated by the substitution of a single and simple form of public ownership for the complicated network of separate interests, private and municipal." Further, the Minister had declared that their intention was "to provide for the principle of commercial management of a self-supporting consolidated transport system." They had appointed Sir William McLintock to investigate the situation and he had undertaken to give Sir William all the information he might require "provided it is regarded as confidential, and, as the lawyers say, without prejudice." If the interests of shareholders, staff and passengers were equitably provided for, he was ready, without any sort of political bias, to co-operate with this or any other Government in any scheme which provided for the consolidation of services on efficient lines. If Mr Herbert Morrison, on whom the responsibility for evolving the scheme now rests, fails to work out a satisfactory solution of an admittedly difficult problem, it will not be for lack of broad views or readiness to co-operate on the part of the chairman of the Underground Group.

World Trade, 1926-28.—The League of Nations annual *Memorandum on World Trade and Balances of Payments* is now divided into three volumes instead of the former two. Volume I,* which deals only with trade balances, is now published and contains some very interesting analyses. The trade of the world is given in millions of dollars, as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1926	32,117	29,770	61,887
1927	33,740	31,308	65,048
1928	34,475	32,233	66,708

Although growth has been substantial, it was at a lower rate in 1928 than in 1927, and this position is altered only to a negligible extent when various adjustments are made for price changes and other misleading elements. The difference between total imports and total exports is a matter not only of insurance and freight, but also of middlemen's commission, produce of fisheries, and incompleteness or undervaluation of returns. The following table of percentage distribution of trade by Continental groups shows that the share of Europe, which amounts to over one-half, is increasing, while those of Asia and Oceania are declining slightly:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
Group.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Europe(*a*)	53·3	55·9	56·5	45·5	47·3	47·3
North America(*b*).....	17·0	15·7	15·6	20·2	19·3	20·2
Caribbean(*c*)	2·2	2·0	1·9	2·9	2·8	2·5
South America	5·4	5·3	5·5	6·3	6·8	6·9
Africa.....	4·1	4·4	4·5	4·2	4·5	4·7
Asia(*d*)	14·9	13·7	13·3	17·7	16·3	15·4
Oceania	3·1	3·0	2·7	3·2	3·0	3·0

a Including U.S.S.R. *b* Canada, U.S.A., Newfoundland, Greenland, St. Pierre et Miquelon. *c* Mexico to Panama, both inclusive, and West Indies. *d* Excluding Asiatic Russia.

From the figures of absolute amounts it appears that Europe alone has a heavy balance of imports, the three American groups have a substantial export surplus and the trade of the remaining groups is approximately balanced. Europe's excess of imports, adjusted for freights, middlemen's profits and errors of valuation is estimated at $3,200 million. It is suggested that the invisible exports which balance this may be: $1,200 million interest on foreign investments, $800-900 million shipping receipts, $300 million receipts from tourists, $300 million emigrants' remittances, and $500 million covering capital borrowings, banking operations, insurance services and other commissions. From the more detailed European figures emerges the interesting implication that the increased demand for manufactured goods, which has been noticeable, comes mainly from European countries and especially from those which are highly industrialised. The growth in world trade, expressed as a percentage of trade in 1926, is shown in the table below:—

* League of Nations (Geneva). 4s.

Group.	Imports.		Exports.		Total.	
	1927.	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.	1928.
Europe	110	114	109	113	110	113
North America.....	97	98	101	108	99	103
Caribbean.....	98	93	100	94	99	93
South America	103	111	115	120	109	116
Africa.....	110	117	111	119	111	118
Asia	96	96	97	94	97	95
Oceania	104	95	100	102	102	98
Total	105	107	105	108	105	108

The heavy fall in imports into Oceania was wholly due to the decline in Australian imports. Asiatic exports contracted mainly as the result of the fall in the prices of rubber, sugar and silk. The trade of the British Empire, which amounted to 28.6 per cent. of the trade of the world in 1928, grew by only 2 per cent., as compared with a growth of 8 per cent. in world trade. Even when allowance is made for the difficulties attending the comparison, and for the fact that the heavy fall in rubber prices plays a large part in reducing the later figure, it remains evident that Empire trade is developing at a slower pace than that of the rest of the world. This circumstance is very largely attributable to the contraction of Australian trade.

P.O. versus I.C.C.—The controversy between the Post Office and the Imperial Communications Company, on which we commented in a "Note" last week, has been carried a stage further by the publication of correspondence which passed between the company and the secretary to the Cabinet Wireless Telephony Committee last January, and of a letter which the company has now addressed to the Prime Minister, with an appeal that the question whether the company's wireless stations should be used for the Post Office overseas telephony services should be re-examined in public by an authoritative body, such as a Select Committee of the House. While we are still of opinion that the financial importance to the company of the disputed telephone business is apt to be exaggerated, the Postmaster-General has not given any convincing reason for the refusal of his Department to accept the company's proposal, made in the January correspondence now published, that its system and that of the Rugby station should be subjected to comparative working tests under identical conditions. The company's complaint that it has been left in the dark as to the questions put to the wireless experts called in by the Cabinet's Committee and the basis on which their conclusions were reached, is not without substance. From the point of view of Imperial interests it would be unfortunate if a company such as the I.C.C., whose status is in many ways analogous to that of a public concern, should continue to feel, rightly or wrongly, that it has suffered injustice at the hands of a Department of H.M. Government; and it is to be hoped that no feeling of *amour-propre* on the part of the Postmaster-General will prevent him from acceding to the not unreasonable request that the technical and financial merits of the two telephonic systems should be re-examined in a way which will satisfy the I.C.C. that its claims have not been turned down without proper and impartial consideration.

German Concessions in Russia.—German-Soviet trade relations, writes a correspondent, are at present severely strained as a result of the reported obstruction by the Soviet authorities of the activities of the Deutsch-Russische Saatbau A.G. (Drusag), a German agricultural concession. Some years ago the German Government invested considerable capital in the firm with the proclaimed object of promoting German-Soviet relations. The Drusag has since been very successfully developed; its production of selected seeds and raising of breeding cattle have made it the agricultural backbone of the North Caucasian districts. The firm had recently arrived at a profit-earning stage, and were about to use their right to export a percentage of their profits to Germany. But since the Moscow Government announced its intention of putting an end to the New Economic Policy, the Drusag has been subjected to numerous restraints. The

manager of the concession, Dr. Dittlow, and his assistant, Dr. Weimert, were accused of petty offences and heavily fined. A letter sent by Dr. Dittlow to the German Ambassador in Moscow was intercepted, and the courier, a German employee, arrested; a second letter, carried by the wife of the original courier, was similarly intercepted and its bearer arrested. Meanwhile, the local tax authorities suddenly seized the typewriters and motor-cars of the firm, declaring the land rent, which was only due on March 1st, to be already in arrears. At the same time, the trade unions have claimed a contribution amounting to 3 per cent. of their salaries from all German employees as from 1927 for the support of the Factory Workers' Council, in spite of the fact that the Germans do not participate in this organisation. The position of the firm was rendered still more difficult by bureaucratic obstacles which were placed in the way of the sale of a large contingent of cattle. German circles allege that all these measures are part and parcel of a concentrated effort to involve the Drusag in financial difficulties in order to make it impossible for the firm to fulfil the concession contract. Reported utterances of Soviet district officials are taken to prove the intention of the authorities to appropriate the concession's workings. On the other hand, the Moscow authorities deny the allegations, and disclaim all intention of embarrassing the concession. The Berlin Foreign Office has up to now dissociated itself from the Press attacks, but public feeling is becoming so strong that tension between the two countries can no longer be denied, particularly as the Soviet determination to harass foreign concessions has been made evident in a number of other cases. It seems that two motives prompt the Soviet action apart from general policy: in the case of concessions producing industrial goods for mass consumption the Soviets have lost a good deal of interest since the development of their own State factories; in other cases it is the transfer of profits abroad which is inconvenient to the Soviets but cannot be prohibited without violating the contracts. Both these reasons contributed to the arbitrary closing down of the flourishing Austrian textile concession, B. Altmann. The difficulties placed in the way of the Lena Goldfields are another case in point. German feeling has been aggravated further by a recent campaign of the Soviet trade Press criticising the business methods of German industrialists. On the Soviet side, the blow to the Russian match trade by the granting by the German Government of a monopoly to the Swedish Match Trust (which has since been followed by a similar arrangement on the part of the Dantzig Free State) is considered to be cause for resentment, as is also the provisional German-Polish agreement on rye exports. The key to the situation may perhaps be found in a recent speech of Rykow on foreign concessions in Russia, in which he said: "We need foreign capital but we do not need foreign capitalists."

Lancashire Cotton Corporation.—The Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., which was formed at the beginning of last year, continues to absorb more mills and from time to time it is necessary for the directors to authorise an increase in the capital. This week there has been an increase of £309,250, divided into £270,000 ordinary shares, £8,000 preference shares and £31,250 deferred shares for the purpose of absorbing five companies. The shares will be allotted to creditors and shareholders as soon as the liquidators of the several companies have completed their figures. The companies concerned possess about 720,000 spindles. The Corporation has now actual control of 42 companies, operating about 4,200,000 spindles. The issued capital is now £2,499,196.

Scottish Widows' Fund.—Although swollen by a large increase in single premium business, the total new business for 1929 of the Scottish Widows declined from £3,173,220 to £2,899,759, a circumstance due, no doubt, to the fact that 1928 was productive of an unusually large influx of business on account of the then forthcoming quinquennial bonus distribution. Nevertheless, the 1929 total is still well above the level of that secured in 1927. The society has the advantage of a very large premium income over which to spread its overhead charges, and the expense ratio works out, therefore, at a low figure, being only 11.2 per cent. for 1929, compared with 11.8 per cent. in 1928. The rate of interest earned is slightly higher, having risen from £4 13s. 6d. per cent. net to £4 14s. 9d. per cent. net. The balance sheet, when compared with that for 1928, shows evidence of a good deal of activity during the year. The principal movements have been a further substantial reduction in British Government securities from £9,572,000 to £8,360,000, with increases particularly in holdings of debentures and preference stocks and of foreign Government securities. Ordinary shares have also risen from £393,000 to £719,000, though they still represent a very small proportion of the total balance-sheet assets now amounting to almost £30,000,000. Two matters of special interest affecting the society were referred to in the course of his speech by the chairman at the annual meeting held this week. In the first place, in alluding to the exceptionally difficult financial conditions prevailing last year, he stated that, these notwithstanding, the depreciation suffered on the Stock Exchange securities in 1929 amounted to less than 4 per cent. of their value. Since the society's holdings of Stock Exchange securities amount to approximately £24 million, this statement means that the amount of the depreciation in 1929 was approximately £900,000—a moderate figure both absolutely and in comparison with investment indices. The chairman also announced an impending revision of the rates for whole life with-profits assurances, and that in a downward direction. The society's whole life with-profits assurance rates of premium have for many years been rather above the average, and this, combined with the more favourable experience both in regard to interest and mortality, makes some adjustment desirable. It is stated that the interests of existing policyholders still paying premiums at the old rates will be safeguarded by means of an adjustment in the reversionary bonuses allotted to their policies. The announcement is accompanied by a declaration of faith in whole life assurances as compared with endowment assurances in the following terms:—

> "For far too long the fundamental purpose of life assurance has been largely obscured by the popularity of a form of assurance whose chief attraction is the satisfactory manner in which it fulfils all the requirements of a thoroughly safe investment. I need not tell you that all we and others have said regarding the advantages of endowment assurance as a means of investing small annual savings still holds good, but we feel strongly that there is a distinct danger of too much attention being given to this alluring form of assurance and too little to the family provision aspect, which, after all, is the real origin and purpose of life assurance."

Clerical, Medical and General.—The annual accounts of this life assurance society include, as is customary, a complete list of the Stock Exchange securities held. Contrary to the general trend, British Government securities have been increased during the year by the purchase of £160,000 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds 1932-34. Increases have also occurred under the heading of Debentures and Colonial Government and Municipal securities. Although capital profits and losses are not given effect to in the accounts, their amount is stated and, for last year, worked out at £122,000. This represents a loss of some 4 per cent. on the average value of the Stock Exchange securities, which, in the light of the conditions of last year, must be regarded as moderate. As to the remainder of the assets, United Kingdom mortgages have declined, rather unexpectedly, by £250,000, but Canadian mortgages have increased by £113,000, and now amount to just over £500,000. These Canadian mortgages are arranged through the medium of a subsidiary company established in Canada called the Clerical, Medical and General Investments, Ltd., and the chairman, in his speech, stated that the board have decided not to invest more than approximately 5 per cent. of the society's total assets in these Canadian mortgages, *i.e.*, £500,000 at the present time. The new business in 1929 has registered a large decline, from £2,027,955 to £1,700,842. The expense ratio is slightly higher, 15.1 per cent., compared with 14.7 per cent. in 1928. The rate of interest earned was £4 16s. 9d., compared with £4 17s. 5d. per cent. The year 1930 will mark the completion of the first quinquennium in the society's second hundred years of existence. In this connection the directors express in the report their confidence that the bonus to be declared a year hence will be a record, and point to the fact that the average net rate of interest earned during the current quinquennium has been £4 16s. 3d. per cent., compared with £4 12s. 9d. per cent. during the whole of the preceding quinquennium.

Refuge Assurance Company, Ltd.—With its chief office situated at Manchester and the bulk of its connections centred in the Midlands and North, the Refuge has been particularly exposed to the effects of the industrial depression. Considered in the light of these circumstances the 1929 report is a satisfying document. The new business both in the ordinary branch and in the industrial branch has registered an advance, in the ordinary branch from £6,377,442 to £6,479,796, and in the industrial branch from £16,952,369 to £17,711,086. The combined rate of interest earned on both funds worked out at £5 3s. 1d. per cent. net, against £5 2s. 10d. per cent. net in 1928. The expense ratio was 15.6 per cent., against 16.1 per cent. in the ordinary branch, and 37.1 per cent., against 37.3 per cent., in the industrial branch. It must again be stated that the expense ratios experienced by the Refuge are high, both absolutely and relatively. In connection with the industrial branch the chairman made the interesting statement that despite the fact that the premium income is more than doubled since the war it is collected by only three-fifths of the number of agents, while the head office staff has been decreased by one-tenth. While fully acknowledging the efforts made in this direction, it is obvious the company is still open to strong criticism on the ground of its heavy rates of expense. The figures relating to the sums assured in force are given in the report and since wastage by lapses and surrenders is an important element in this class of business, it is interesting to observe the extent of this factor in 1929. After allowing for the claims it appears that surrenders and lapses in 1929 were responsible for a wastage in the ordinary branch of sums assured for £974,000, equivalent to approximately 15 per cent. of the total new business for the year. Not unnaturally the wastage from this cause in the industrial branch is much greater and apparently amounted to sums assured equal to £9,880,000, equivalent to over 55 per cent. of the new business for the year. The results of the usual annual valuation made on the same bases as formerly are as follows:—

	1928.	1929.
Ordinary Branch:—		
Surplus earned during the year.....	1,077,630	1,089,490
Brought forward from previous year...	726,447	725,592
	1,804,077	1,815,082
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	880,636	924,532
„ Shareholders account	97,849	102,726
„ Investment reserve fund	100,000	250,000
„ Carry-forward next year	725,592	537,821
	1,804,077	1,815,082
Industrial Branch:—		
Surplus earned during the year.....	567,024	467,092
Brought forward from previous year...	37,571	44,715
	604,595	511,807
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	407,728	164,842
„ Shareholders account	52,152	47,274
„ Investment reserve fund	100,000	250,000
„ Carry-forward to next year.....	44,715	49,691
	604,595	511,807

In the ordinary branch a reversionary bonus of 44s. per cent. simple has again been declared, and for the second time an amount has been voluntarily set aside in the industrial branch for distribution to policyholders, though it is noticeable that the allocation on this occasion is for a much reduced amount. The distribution has again been utilised for the purpose of increasing the benefits under various tables in order to bring them into line with those now offered under the current and more favourable prospectus. The rate of dividend has been maintained at 50 per cent. on the company's capital of £300,000.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.—INDUSTRIAL RECESSION—PRICES—SHARE MARKET—MONEY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, February 21.

DEVELOPMENTS of the week have done little to clarify the trade situation and sentiment generally is a shade less optimistic. From a statistical standpoint there is little to support the idea that trade is recovering and that the remainder of the year will bring further improvement. Key industries are rather uneven. The best performance continues to be given by the steel industry, which has raised its operating rate to 82 per cent. of capacity this week. However, the rate of gain since the beginning of the month has slowed down markedly, and consumers who had been counted on to increase their orders are not doing so. Railroad buying is the main influence, but it seems to be near the peak. Motor trade takings of steel have been a disappointment, and current orders do not suggest that the industry will do much better next month than it has this month. Last year the steel trade reached its highest rate of operation in May, but normally March is the best month. It is now fairly certain that steel is going to have no better than an average year.

Automobile production in February is running slightly ahead of January, but the rate of output is at only about one-third capacity for the industry. High-priced motor-car makers are feeling a considerable slump, the largest sales being made by cheap car manufacturers, with Ford expecting to turn out about a third of all the cars made this year. The most serious drawback to the motor trade is the used-car problem, which is worse than it has ever been. Quite possibly the public will buy almost as many cars this year as last year, but low-priced vehicles will be favoured as well as second-hand machines. At the moment, sentiment around Detroit is relapsing from the convalescence which it experienced early this month.

The building industry is showing no improvement as yet. Contracts let and permits issued for new construction in January and so far this month are well below a year ago, in spite of easier money. However, with the coming of spring some improvement should be shown, and public construction works are going forward. Distribution of goods, as measured by railroad traffic, is the lowest since 1923, and railroad earnings are feeling the loss. January earning statements are now being published, and they show a falling-off of approximately 50 per cent. from a year ago.

Commodity prices continue to fall, and the extensive drop in wheat and persistent weakness in cotton are causing some anxiety, although perhaps less attention is given here to falling commodity prices than on your side. It is doubtful if business is suffering much from lower prices, except in so far as hesitation is caused, but much further deflation would do a great deal to upset confidence. Commodity prices, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, dropped three-fourths per cent. in January, the decline coming principally in farm products. At 93.4 the

index compares with 94.2 for December and with 97.2 for January of last year, a decline of nearly 4 per cent. Wholesale prices are now the lowest for eight years. A comparison by groups follows:—

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES.

	Jan., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.
All commodities	97·2	94·2	93·4
Farm products	105·9	101·9	101·0
Foods	98·8	98·6	97·2
Hides and leather products	113·6	107·4	105·1
Textile products	96·4	90·4	89·4
Fuel and lighting materials	82·5	81·3	79·9
Metals and metal products	103·6	102·1	101·2
Building materials	96·6	96·2	90·2
Chemicals and drugs	95·9	93·6	93·0
House-furnishing goods	96·6	97·3	97·3
Miscellaneous	80·5	79·8	78·7
Raw materials	96·7	95·0	94·0
Semi-manufactured articles	97·3	94·3	93·0
Finished products	96·5	93·9	93·3
Non-agricultural commodities	94·9	92·1	91·4

Unemployment, while decreasing, is greater than a year ago. The Bureau of Labour's general index for employment in manufacturing industries was 90.2 for January, as compared with 91.9 per cent. in December and 95.2 per cent. in the same month last year. However, the Bureau notes that, since January, there has been a small but sustained increase in employment.

The operations of the Farm Board to date have been a disappointment to friends of the scheme. Farmers themselves, while depressed by the fall in prices of their products since the Board was constituted, never looked to it for much help. It is doubtful what the Board could do to improve the situation, and students of the situation feel that the less the Board does now the better off the farmers will be in the long run. The experience of the Canadian wheat pool has done nothing to build up hope in artificially controlled markets. If the Board spends money enough for the purchase of wheat it conceivably will support prices for a while, but that would only serve to aggravate the malady of over-production later on.

Views on the business position are of three kinds. One is that bottom has been touched and that improvement will be continuous from now on. This view is held by bankers and business men; it is belittled by the economists. Number two is that Government expenditure for construction, seasonal improvement and the general feeling of confidence is creating a "hump" in the business line which will be followed by another dip before the year is out. Thirdly, there is the idea that no real improvement is to be expected before autumn. Economists, who look mainly to statistics, are divided on the two latter views. Bankers and others who rub shoulders with business men throughout the country are inclined to be more optimistic, and do not believe the recession will deepen.

At the moment the share market has turned irregular, and is this week going through its first recession of importance in over a month. Public participation is rising slowly, and the week brought a further gain of $44 million in brokers' loans. The position probably has become overbought for the present, and, so far as can be ascertained, the advance has outdistanced business recovery. Apparently the market is discounting hopes of trade revival; certainly it is not reflecting merely such improvement as is now visible. Stocks have, nevertheless, some factors in their favour. It may be confidently assumed that the banking consortium has at last disposed of the remainder of its shares bought for support purposes last autumn, and that load is consequently off the market. Moreover, a good deal of money from Europe is now seeking our securities, as well as rising home investment demand. If, of course, the spring proves to be a disappointment for trade, the market may have to go through another setback. Bonds also are improving, but new capital issues are not rising much, if any, the total for this week being $85 million, against $160 million in the preceding week.

March 1st financial settlements are not expected to disturb the money market to any extent. A 4½ per cent. rate probably will not be exceeded for call money, and 3½ per cent. doubtless is the lowest likely to be seen for some time. Later in the year another drop in the Federal Reserve Bank discount rate is anticipated, but the Board at Washington is reluctant to do anything which might encourage stock speculation, even at the risk of withholding a needed stimulant from trade. This week's statement for the System shows an increase of only $2 million in reserve credit outstanding, and the reserve ratio has risen to 78.5 per cent.

FRANCE.—NEW CABINET—FINANCIAL PROGRAMME—MONEY—INDUSTRY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, March 5.

M. TARDIEU, in spite of the refusal to co-operate—admittedly due to personal animus—of the Socialistic-Radical group, has succeeded in forming a veritable "concentration" Cabinet, embracing practically all the Centre groups. The new Ministry appeared before the Chamber to-day and secured a majority of 53 votes. The outstanding features of the Ministry are the presence in it of two prominent members of the Radical-Socialist Party in the Chamber (M. Dumesnil, who takes the Ministry for Marine; and M. Falcoz, Under-Secretary for Public Works), and three leading members of the same Party in the Senate (MM. Marraud, Education; David, Agriculture; and Rio, Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Marine); and the holding of six other portfolios, including those of Finance, Postmaster-General and the Air, by members of the Radical Left, or Loucheur group, whose split led to the successive defeats of both M. Tardieu and his would-be successor, M. Chautemps. MM. Dumesnil and Falcoz were formally expelled from the Radical-Socialist Party yesterday, but it is already known that, whatever may be the feelings of MM. Herriot, Daladier and the other "die-hards" of the group, the support of a fair number of other members of their party is henceforth assured to M. Tardieu. The removal of M. Loucheur, who is expected to figure among the anti-Tardieu section in future, leaves the way open for a final remodification of the National Insurance Scheme designed to render it practicable (both financially and otherwise) for coming into operation on July 1.

The country generally has welcomed the new Ministry as likely to meet its immediate needs, while M. Tardieu's success, both tactically and in regard to his choice of his men, is regarded even by his opponents as constituting a further marked personal triumph. The business world is showing increasing satisfaction in regard to the importance M. Tardieu has attached, in forming his Ministry, to the problem of financial and economic development. Four portfolios have been allotted to finance alone. M. Paul Reynaud, the new Finance Minister, is one of the leaders of the younger section of the Nationalists. He is a specialist in international economic relations, has travelled much, particularly in Germany and Mexico, and is a strong advocate of close economic *rapprochement* between France and Germany as the best means of preserving peace between them. M. Reynaud is only 45, but seven years before the Young Plan was ever heard of he was the advocate in the Chamber of the policy of binding French and German interests together as the preliminary step towards a sentimental *rapprochement*. While M. Raynaud's special function as Finance Minister will be to deal with foreign financial problems, that of M. Germain Martin, Minister for the Budget, will be to devote himself to the technical realities of the coming finance Bills. He also is of the younger and modern school, for he is still well under 50. He won a high reputation in the financial and economic section at the Quai d'Orsay during the war, and did well as Postmaster-General in the last Briand and the first Tardieu Cabinets. The two Under-Secretaries have for some time been recognised as among the Chamber's coming men. M. Francois Poncet, who fills the newly-created post of Under-Secretary for National Economy, will form the connecting link between the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Colonies, Public Works and Labour in the cause of national economic development, which is to form an outstanding feature of the new Ministry's programme.

The customary Ministerial declaration of policy, which was read in both Houses this evening, proved to be a characteristically Tardieu document, which may be summed up as an appeal to Parliament to drop party squabbles and get on with the country's business. The new Cabinet's programme is for the Chamber to vote the Budget as quickly as possible—it should have gone to the Senate by March 1—and then take in hand (1) the application of the plan for improving the country's economic equipment (already sanctioned), and (2) a whole series of "massive reductions of taxation designed to relieve production and trade." Further, before the end of the present session, a comprehensive scheme of fiscal reform is to be presented, designed "to correct the crying inequalities of a fiscal system which has too often been elaborated from day to day under pressure of circumstances." For the purpose of clearing up the muddle in which the Budget has been placed owing to recent party squabbles, M. Tardieu proposes the short and simple course of taking as the basis of discussion the proposals of the Chamber Finance Commission as they stand, and leaving further taxation relief to be dealt with in a separate measure. This method commends itself to common sense, if the Budget is to be ready for application by the end of March. The postponement of the coming into effect of the promised taxation relief—which, it is hoped, may become effective at the end of the first quarter of the new financial year—may thus compensate to some extent for the expected deficit accruing from the present quarter (due to the extension of the past financial year). This, it is estimated, will amount to about 2,500,000,000 francs, owing to the fact that, while expenditure during the three months will remain normal, the revenue belonging to the current three months of the expiring financial year will be appreciably lower, from the fact that the yield from direct taxation at this period is practically nil. So far as the Budget itself is concerned, much will depend on the attitude taken by the Finance Commission of the Chamber. The possibility of delay, necessitating a resumption of the vicious system of monthly votes on account (*douzièmes provisoires*), lies in the fact that, owing to the play of the group system, the Socialist Radical and Socialist Parties are in a majority in the Commission, and may refuse to facilitate progress in view of their refusal of M. Tardieu's recent proposals for a truce in party warfare.

Money remains abundant and cheap, in spite of a large outflow of unemployed capital to foreign centres where higher rates prevail. Day-to-day money rates to-day were 2½ and 3 per cent., and the private discount rate remained unchanged at 2⅝ per cent. For last Friday's settlement purposes the official rate ruling in the Parquet for carrying over money was 1¾ per cent., as against 1⅞ per cent. a fortnight before. In the Coulisse the rate remained at 5 per cent., as on February 15. Carrying over charges for Bank of France shares were 30 francs, and for Credit Foncier scrip 10 francs, and equally low in many other instances. During the week the rate for the mark in Paris has again touched gold export point, but on no occasion dropped so low as to render further outflows of gold to Germany profitable.

Last night, prior to the new Ministry's appearance before the Chamber to-day, M. Tardieu, the Ministers of Finance and for the Budget and a number of high officials of the Finance Ministry had an important conference with representatives of the leading banks to discuss the measures necessary "to restore the French market to its place as an international financial centre." The experts laid before the Ministers proofs of the excessive burden of many of the existing taxes on securities and Bourse operations, and opinions were exchanged as to the best methods for remedying the evils complained of.

Iron and steel production figures for January show fractional declines under both headings, due to the coming into practical operation of the 10 per cent. cut in output agreed upon, as from November, by the countries forming part of the European Steel Cartel. The total output of pig iron for the month was 876,000 tons, against 879,000 tons in December and 904,000 tons in January, 1929. The output of steel was 804,000 tons, against 812,000 tons in December and 842,000 tons in January, 1929. The slowing down which is affecting certain industries has left the French metallurgic producers untouched, and plants are still working to capacity. Internal prices remain firm, but it is reported that forward orders show a tendency to diminish, which accounts for the special efforts now being made by Continental producers in general to pay still greater attention to the export markets, and to push forward the organisation of common selling agencies in each foreign market. The dissolution of the entente between the Continental phosphorous iron producers, owing to disagreement between its members regarding the division of the export markets, is considered particularly unfortunate, in view of British efforts to develop export trade.

GERMANY.—FINANCIAL PROBLEM—ECONOMIC SITUATION—UNEMPLOYMENT—PRICES—MONEY—CAPITAL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, March 5.

THE Government parties still find it impossible to agree on a method of bringing the finances into order. Yet the only point of difference now is in respect of a still uncovered deficit of 100 million marks in the unemployment insurance. The Socialists insist firmly on their proposal to meet this deficit by an "emergency sacrifice" to be made either by all payers of income taxes, by persons in the higher income classes, or by civil service officials and employees with fixed salaries. The German People's Party rejects this proposal with equal decisiveness, while the Centre supports the Socialists' demand but insists that in any case the financial problem must be solved before the Young Plan is accepted. It is this which constitutes the crucial difficulty. On Sunday and Monday it was generally believed that the Finance Minister was about to resign, and that the German People's Party would withdraw from the coalition. But since nobody knows how, after such a collapse of the present Government majority, any other could be formed and the Young Plan steered through Parliament, the negotiations among the parties were not broken off. It is hard to imagine that an issue of no very serious importance could shipwreck a Government that has overcome greater obstacles.

The new quarterly report of the "Institut für Konjunkturforschung" indicates that, in this institute's opinion, Germany has nearly reached the low point of her economic depression. From 1927 up to last autumn Germany's economy suffered a comparatively moderate decline. True, the bitter winter of 1928-29 and the credit crisis brought on by political events in the spring dealt a heavy blow to production. But the army of the unemployed was reduced in the course of the summer more rapidly than even optimists had expected, export trade appeared to be compensating in part for the lessened domestic demand, and although the uncertainty in the credit situation became greater, this appeared—except as to some branches of business, among them the textile industry—rather in the light of a desirable clarifying process than a dangerous unsettling of affairs. Strong support was afforded German economy at that time by the favourable situation of the iron and coal production of Western Germany, which was better employed and made higher profits in 1929 than in 1928.

But in the autumn the economic decline was intensified in a critical manner, and since the beginning of the year the situation has become very much worse. Despite the mild winter, building operations have come to an almost complete standstill, since the difficulty of securing credits increased to an intolerable point. With the economic depression in most other countries exports have fallen off, and the period of prosperity in the iron and coal industry has come to an end. As a result, the unemployment figures have reached a new high record. On January 31st they totalled 3,200,000, and to this figure must be added 1,300,000 workers on short time. A full quarter of all industrial labourers are without any employment whatever, and if one counts also those working on short time it brings the figure up to a third of all industrial employees. The production index of the

" Institut für Konjunkturforschung " dropped from 109.8 in June and 101.3 in October to 95.9 in January, as compared with 100 for 1928. The price development is most interesting.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDICES.

	(1913 = 100.)				(1926 = 100.)	
	Materials for Production.		Goods for Consumption.		Free Prices.	Regulated Prices.
	Raw Materials.	Finished Goods.	Raw Materials.	Finished Goods.		
1929.						
January	137·0	137·7	153·4	174·7	101·9	104·6
April	137·4	137·6	151·2	173·0	99·7	104·8
July	139·1	138·7	145·0	171·4	96·9	104·9
October	138·2	139·6	136·5	169·5	95·1	105·3
1930.						
January	136·7	139·5	129·2	168·4	90·4	105·0

These figures show that there has been a considerable drop in prices for goods for consumption, but not for materials for production. " Regulated " prices are the prices for those wares that are controlled by a cartel or other monopolistic agreement. The great difference between the price movements of the " free " and the " regulated " prices shows the great efficacy of these agreements in Germany. It can safely be assumed that the stability of the regulated prices increases the downward pressure on the free prices. The decline in the price for raw materials is very striking, and in the case of raw materials for consumption it has almost reached the proportions of a collapse. And Germany's economic life is affected not only by the shifts of the country's own economic situation; the international raw material crisis exercises a strong influence. This would assuredly be made still more apparent by the figures given above if these included the statistics for February. At the beginning the drop of the international prices for raw materials probably intensified the depression in Germany for the reason that it brought a reduction in the value of old stocks on hand, and possibly also placed difficulties in the way of export to countries that export raw materials. But in the long run the reduced expenditures for raw materials cannot but lessen the burden on Germany's economic life and favour its recovery.

The money market has gained greatly in liquidity in the course of the depression. A large part of this is naturally due to the liquidity of the international money market. That foreign currency is flowing in in considerable amounts evidences the high level of the Reichsmark. But the smaller demands for credit from domestic sources also help to ease the situation. The rates for daily money maintained themselves at from 4 per cent. to 6 per cent. during February, and a temporary stiffening at the last moment was merely due to inadequate preparations for the month-end settlements. The situation of the Reichsbank has become easier, although the last report does not make this clearly apparent, since—as is always the case at or immediately after the end of February—it is, for technical reasons, not typical. The cover, in gold and foreign currencies, of the note circulation, amounted to 70.1 per cent. up to the end of the month, and then dropped to 59.9 per cent. The Reichsbank's holdings of gold increased by 146,000,000 marks from the end of January to the end of February. Of this increase, 20 millions came from Paris and the rest from London.

The easing of the money market has as yet had little effect on the market for long-term capital. This alone explains why the progress of the depression was not checked by a better supply of credit. The " Institut für Konjunkturforschung " points to the fact that, in other countries as well, the easing of the money market has been more pronounced than the easing of the capital market. Long-term loans in Germany are greatly hampered by the uncertain credit position. From January, 1929, to January, 1930, the daily number of bankruptcies has increased almost a third. But the capital market, too, shows signs at least of the beginnings of recuperation.

BELGIUM.—BANK REPORTS—INDUSTRIAL SET-BACK—AGRICULTURE—EMPLOYMENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, March 1.

THE reports, just issued, of the big Belgian banks are valuable for the light they throw on the general business trend, and for the forecasts of the future they embody. Financially, 1929 was in general a good year. It was especially so in banking, which enjoyed a particularly large revenue from current transactions, on account, *inter alia*, of the considerable margin between the rates paid on deposits and the interest obtained on loans. On the other hand, the revenue from new issues was very much less plentiful than previously, and the banks have even in a few cases suffered losses from the insolvency of clients.

In the reports of the National Bank of Belgium and the Société Générale de Belgique, as well as in official declarations to the general annual meetings of both companies, the fact was emphasised that Belgian costs have reached parity with those of foreign industries, and that great caution in estimating the future must be exercised. The fact can no longer be ignored that the period of exceptional profits is over, and that to-day many industries are struggling to keep from losing ground. Warnings are being delivered in high places against excessive public expenditure. Manufacturers dare not protest much in public against additional social charges, but they are, nevertheless, very uneasy as to the effect on their competitive power of the measures now contemplated. A Bill now before Parliament will extend family allowances over all Belgian industries; a second Bill, which the Government has framed under the inspiration of the German system and of the Bill recently voted in France, is intended to enforce compulsory insurance against illness and invalidity. A third measure under consideration concerns annual holidays with pay for all workmen. Manufacturers remark that these additional charges will have to be shouldered in a period of probable economic depression, and, that, on the other hand, the standard of life of Belgian workmen has improved considerably since the war, and is actually comparable with the standing of the working classes of the other industrial countries.

The returns of the big banks once more show the enormous power wielded by the banks in directing and controlling the economic activity of Belgium. The country is indebted to them in part for the speedy post-war industrial restoration and for the impetus of recent years; but public acknowledgment of this is mixed with a certain feeling of distrust.

This year will be fertile in anniversaries for Belgium. It is in celebration of the centenary of her independence that two international exhibitions will take place, one in Antwerp and the other at Liége, and 1930 is also the eightieth anniversary of the foundation of the National Bank of Belgium, the charter of which was granted on May 5, 1850. Business people are afraid that this jubilee year will not be as favourable as had been hoped, as uneasiness about the economic situation has not disappeared, rather the contrary. There is no actual crisis, but depression is extending more widely. In metallurgy there is some recovery; the diamond industry is in a less bad position and is operating at 60 per cent. of normal output. Partial unemployment prevails in the glassware industry; the textile industry is still depressed. In the Belgian Congo there is a real commercial crisis. Belgian agriculture is no longer enjoying the favourable situation by which it has recently been characterised. This industry has been severely hit by the fall in sugar prices; and as the result mainly of dumping from France wheat cultivation is not very profitable. Nevertheless, the position is not serious, and the " Boerenbond " (League of Agriculturists) have not in their recent publications given way to a pessimistic tendency. The prices obtained for eggs, bacon and butter and the income from cattle raising are fairly profitable. Horse breeding gives rise to complaint; the effects of the growing use of motor traction have been keenly felt, and the prices are very low. In short, Belgium has lost the preferential position she has had recently and no longer enjoys the brilliant prosperity of the years 1928-29. On the other hand, there is still little unemployment, and hands dismissed in certain industries easily find employment in the coal mines.

NORWAY.—BANK RESULTS—INDUSTRY—FOREIGN TRADE—UNEMPLOYMENT—BOURSE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TRONDHJEM, February 28.

AT the recent annual meeting of the Committee of Deputies of the Norges Bank, the President, Mr Rygh, characterised the past year as a period of decided progress and stabilisation, although the general decline on the world markets during the latter half of the year brought some uncertainty into the situation. In his remarks bearing upon the future line of economic policy to be followed, he emphasised the fact that it had been, and would still be, the aim of the Norges Bank to keep the discount rate as low as possible, with due regard to all interests concerned. He called attention to the necessity of following up the good results which were reached during the past year, and pointed out the chances now awaiting our trade and industry in the form of a favourable situation on the money market. The result of the activities of the Norges Bank during 1929, as shown in its balance sheet, clearly reflects the process of liquidation that has been going on, and probably will continue during the present year. As a consequence, the net profit of the Bank has been reduced by some 3 million kroner, but the dividend is maintained at 8 per cent. as for several years past. Most of the bank reports for 1929 show satisfactory results, at any rate when allowance is made for the somewhat unfavourable interest conditions that prevailed last year. This is especially true of the savings banks, which are obliged to invest a considerable part of their resources in fixed interest securities.

The general industrial outlook is promising, especially in view of the fact that labour peace will be secured in those branches where agreements were due to expire this year, or where regulation was to take place on or before July 1st, according to the official price index. As to the former group, including among others the textile and foodstuffs industries, the parties have agreed to maintain the present wage scales, while in the latter group, consisting chiefly of the iron, mineral, canning and milling industries, the employers have decided not to demand the reduction of wages which they would be entitled to put into effect according to previous agreement. This arrangement includes about 50,000 workers, and is, consequently, of very far-reaching importance. Of special interest in connection with industrial developments is the fusion that has just been announced between the Lilleborg Fabriker (Soap Factories) and the De Nordiske Fabriker (De-No-Fa) (Oil Factories of Fredriksstad). Lilleborg's share capital will be increased by 100 per cent. and the new capital, which will then aggregate 6 million kroner, will be taken up wholly by the De-No-Fa at a rate of 150 per cent. The old capital will be converted into 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares, which will be placed on an equal footing with the new shares. Fifty per cent. of De-No-Fa's share capital is now held by Messrs Lever Brothers, while Lilleborg own 70 per cent. of the remaining half, in addition to which the latter firm has also bought one-half of the share capital of the A/S Brödrene Lever, Oslo.

According to foreign trade returns for January, the value of imports amounted to 80.9 million kroner, 7.7 millions in excess of the figure for the same month last year. At the same time the value of exports has risen by 3.5 million kroner, from 60.3 million kroner in January last year to 63.8 million kroner this year. The excess of imports over exports consequently amounts to 17.1 million kroner, against 12.9 million kroner last year. Of the import items, the most conspicuous is the import of ships, which has risen by 12.3 million kroner, compared with January, 1929.

Reports from the various labour exchanges, as at January 15th, show an increase of about 500 unemployed persons, compared with the situation as at December 15, 1929, the figure being now 22,550. Compared with the same month last year, however, there is a decline of about 1,800, and the decrease in December, 1928, amounts to about 5,500. The cost-of-living index of the Central Bureau of Statistics, as at February 15th, shows a reduction of 1 point, while the wholesale price index has been reduced by three points from the preceding month. The Bank rate reductions that have already taken place in London and New York, and the possibilities of further reductions in the near future, have not failed to influence bonds quotations on the Bourse, where dealings have taken place at rising prices. Both banking and shipping shares, and also whaling shares, have been firm, while industrials are somewhat irregular.

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TURKEY.—CURRENCY REGULATIONS—THREATENED TREASURY DEFAULT—STATE BANK.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 26.

DESPITE prolific legislation and the enactment of hurried, last-moment measures by the National Assembly, the position of Turkey is steadily going from bad to worse, and nobody knows what may happen if the agricultural situation turns out to be as bad in 1930 as it has been for the past three years. Of this, fortunately, there are as yet no indications, but, owing to the mild weather so far experienced, vegetation is, on the whole, very forward, and the winter has still to run its course.

By an unprecedented concourse of circumstances, a position has arisen which is seriously hampering the activities of the mercantile community. The break in the value of the Turkish lire towards the end of last November and the vigorous intervention of the fiscal authorities which ensued, have rendered operations in the foreign exchanges a singularly delicate and difficult matter. Relative stability has been imparted once again to the national currency, but at what cost the following projected Treasury regulations will show. It must be borne in mind that this Ordinance has been drawn up in the conviction that the trouble with the Turkish currency is attributable in great part to the machinations of malevolent persons both in this country and abroad, and to the speculative operations of fishers in troubled waters. A draft law now lying on the table of the House, entitled " A law for the preservation of the Turkish currency," provides, *inter alia*, for the following contingencies: Banks and other establishments which prove refractory to the provisions of this Ordinance are liable to prosecution, to withdrawal for a period of from 15 days to two years of permission to operate, and to the imposition of fines varying between 500 and 1,000 liras. Banks and other establishments which persist in engaging in reprehensible practices will be closed for good, and the same penalty will

be inflicted on all their branches. Bank managers, bank clerks and all other persons contravening the decisions of the Council of Ministers in any circumstances whatever will be liable, on conviction, to the penalties laid down in Sections 358 and 359 of the penal code (imprisonment of from three months to five years and fines running from 50 to 500 Turkish pounds). The law in question is to remain in force for a period of three years from the date of its promulgation.

These drastic legislative measures give the uncomfortable impression of a vigorous attempt at enforcing stability of the national currency with a big stick. To the growing restiveness of the harassed trader must now be added the very natural nervousness of the bank manager and of his head of exchange. That there may have been individual cases of outside speculators slipping in and out to take their profit when the lira was fluctuating fitfully some few months ago is highly probable. But to argue, from those premises, that serious banking establishments—some whose names are household words in overseas mercantile communities—have been indulging in wholesale speculative deals at so critical a juncture in the economic history of this country is to overlook, if not completely to ignore, the veritable source of the evil which lies at the root of the whole trouble. If the exact nature of that evil is not appreciated in this country, its essence, at all events, is understood in financial circles abroad, the truth being that the heavy Treasury purchases carried out on a weak and exiguous exchange market for public works developments should have been materially restricted some two years ago instead of only now. They might even, at that period, have been suspended altogether, as has now became necessary, until such time, at least, as the country's adverse trade balance and the generally unfavourable economic situation have been restored to the normal by natural causes and remedies. It will be readily understood that the various restrictions and prohibitions now in force or still being contemplated, have had a very baneful effect on trade in general, even on that section of it which is still sound and more or less normal, and that, as a consequence, many business houses are entering into voluntary liquidation.

To add still further to the confusion, the recent announcement of the Minister of Finance, that Turkey may not be in a position to meet her next coupon liability to foreign bondholders a few months hence, has introduced into the sphere of State finances that undesirable element of uncertainty and suspense which, unfortunately, already characterises the atmosphere of the money, exchange and produce markets. The occurrence foreshadowed does not appear, in its essence, to be a threatened default by reason of the depletion of the coffers of State, but an understandable reluctance to come on to the market for the requisite exchange wherewith to remit cover for account of the bondholders. To put the whole matter in a nutshell, events have led the Government into an *impasse*. Either the Treasury must honour its signature, purchase exchange and see the value of the national currency rapidly decline, or it must default. The Turkish Government are unquestionably faced by a serious dilemma from which snap-legislation is scarcely likely to extricate them. That their credit has been seriously affected already is reflected in the heavy drop in Unified Bonds, which have lost over 50 points on this market since the Minister made his ominous announcement.

Although legislative measures are to be proceeded with immediately after the Bairam festival, which falls due a week hence, with a view to the early establishment of the State Bank, it has not yet been revealed whence this institution's working capital is to come. Up to three days ago, it was anticipated that a portion at least of the necessary funds would be provided by the Ottoman Bank group, but, since then, the negotiations between the bank's delegates and the Treasury officials at Angora have been abruptly broken off. The pourparlers were held up in the first instance by the question of the quota of capital to be contributed by the Government and the foreign syndicate respectively. This difficulty was apparently overcome and the negotiations were resumed. A deadlock was reached finally, however, over the demand set up by the foreign group to be invested with power to inspect every quarter the records of budgetary revenue and expenditure kept at the Treasury. This claim, as the price of foreign participation, was immediately rejected by the Turkish Ministry on the grounds that it was incompatible with the dignity of an independent State, and that it was too reminiscent of methods resorted to by foreign financial groups in the old days of the capitulary *régime*. There matters rest. The semi-official press are making much of the point that a State bank, as a national institution, should unquestionably be built up with national resources exclusively. This probably inspired statement leads one to wonder why the Ottoman Bank was approached at all if the Government can put up the requisite funds. If the Government cannot do so, there will then probably be an appeal to the nation on patriotic grounds. Any appeal of this kind—if appeal there is to be—would come at a very awkward and inopportune moment.

HONGKONG.—SIR CECIL CLEMENTI—NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS—TEXTILE IMPORTS—STOCK EXCHANGE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HONGKONG, February 1.

By the departure of Sir Cecil Clementi for the Straits Settlements, Hongkong has lost a Governor whose services have been of inestimable benefit to the Colony as well as to British prestige in the Far East. Arriving in Hongkong at the height of the anti-British boycott, Sir Cecil at once set himself to the task of restoring harmony with Canton, and the cordial relations which exist to-day, not only between the British and Chinese in this Colony, but also between the Hongkong Government and the Canton authorities, are the result of his untiring labours. His profound knowledge of the language, culture, and people of China has been a great asset in winning Chinese goodwill, and his policy has been carried out without any suggestion of subordinating British interests. The whole-hearted tributes paid to Sir Cecil Clementi by press and public must have mitigated his keen regret at leaving the Colony where he has spent no less than eighteen years of his official career.

In the face of strong disapproval on the part of the Nanking Government, the Chinese New Year's Day has been widely observed with all the customary enthusiasm. The official adoption of the Gregorian calendar and the elaborate ceremonies held in Nanking and the provincial capitals on January 1st have made no impression on the public. The Commissioner of Police in Nanking has been dismissed from office because of his failure to suppress the celebrations of the lunar New Year, and the Maritime Customs, which were closed for the first three days of January, with the intention of ignoring the Chinese New Year, were, after all, forced to close during the festival, although the latter was disguised by the euphemism "Spring holidays." But, while the Chinese cling to their time-honoured New Year's Day, they have ceased to regard the previous day as the occasion upon which all financial obligations must be brought to a final settlement. No longer does the dealer feel bound to choose between payment in full or bankruptcy, and each year sees more and more outstanding debts brought forward into the new account. The complaint of bad trade has persisted for several years, and the prospects of a change for the better grow steadily worse. Customs statistics continue to record an annual increase of trade, but there can be little doubt that much business is being carried on at a loss. Piracy, brigandage, irregular taxation and currency depreciation are as troublesome as ever, and to these must be added the extra strain on the import trade by reason of the deplorable slump in the price of bar silver, and the consequent revision of the system of Customs revenue, which amounts to a surcharge.

So far as Hongkong is concerned, the fall in exchange does not appear to be paralysing imports to the extent which was feared. In piece-goods the restricted buying of recent years has left the market in a comparatively healthy state, and such stocks as remain in the godowns have been brought in at rates of exchange 25 to 30 per cent. above the present level. The buying season for woollens, for shipment July/August, has certainly been

delayed by the headlong fall in exchange, but now that the New Year festival is over dealers are coming forward with firm offers. Owing to the severe drop in the value of raw wool Bradford is able to quote prices which are not very far above dealer's ideas, despite an eighteenpenny dollar, and already some substantial orders have been booked. No doubt there will be several regular lines which will prove difficult to negotiate, but in such cases the market will probably be content to take a lower quality. The fact remains, however, that stocks are low and demand exists, and it is to be hoped that low exchange will not prove an insuperable obstacle to the booking of new business. Fancy cotton piece-goods, which have been arriving from Manchester during the past month, have already started to go into consumption and sales of stock goods, remaining over from previous seasons, have been effected at satisfactory prices, which indicate a firm market. Much, however, depends upon the political situation in the interior, and while Canton and the surrounding districts are quiet, fresh trouble is looming up in Kwangsi and the important distributing centre of Wuchow may once again be cut off from Hongkong.

Restricted trade and low exchange have brought about easy money conditions in Hongkong, and a mild boom on the Stock Exchange has already set in. Share values are being pushed up regardless of dividend returns, and as the Chinese are becoming more and more familiar with Stock Exchange operations, it is only too likely that their natural proclivities for gambling will create an unhealthy situation, such as that which existed in 1925, and lead to disastrous losses.

Letters to the Editor.

ROAD FINANCE AND MOTOR TAXATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I was much impressed by your correspondent's article on "Road Finance and Motor Taxation," and have been interested in the subsequent correspondence on the subject.

"Ratepayer's" view that a rent should be charged for using the roads appears to me to be unreasonable. The roads have evolved from bridle paths and cart tracks, and have been gradually improved through the ages to cope with new types of traffic. Until the period of motoring they must be regarded in the light of common land, being owned by the community at large, and the community having free use of them. At the advent of motoring there could have been no question of charging a rent for the use of the roads. They were in the nature of a bequest from previous generations, to be maintained and improved and passed on to succeeding generations. The birth of motoring, however, gave rise to an unprecedented expenditure on roads, some of which must be regarded as capital expenditure; for it involved purchase of lands and laying of completely new and expensive road surfaces.

The motorist should be charged a share of the costs of maintenance and of capital expenditure, and as the latter is met almost exclusively out of loans, this means that he should be charged a share of interest on the loans, and of the repayments, as and when they are made. Beyond this it is difficult to see what charge can reasonably be made to the motorist.

In showing that present motor taxation more than covers the increased cost of roads due to motoring, your correspondent took into account the amount of "Loan Charges," and as these include, as well as interest, repayments of capital and payments into sinking funds, he proved conclusively that the motorist was being over-charged.

If "Ratepayer's" scheme of charging a rent for using the roads were initiated, the motorist would benefit under it at least to the same extent as he paid. The value of the roads before motoring days he shares equally with the rest of the community, so that a rent charge in respect of this would not effect any transfer of wealth between motorist and ratepayer, and in respect of the increased value of the roads since motoring days, the motorist would be entitled to receive rent to an amount representing the extent to which he is financially responsible for improvements and maintenance, and as this responsibility is, in fact, roughly equal to his share in the use of the roads, his contribution in rent would be roughly equal to his claim on the rent fund.

"Ratepayer" seems to think that the railways are a model of land transport from which all deductions concerning land transport should be made. Because the chief expenditure of the railways is a capital charge, he suggests that it should be the same with all other forms of land transport. No one would suggest this in the case of transport by the "tank" or by pack-horse, and in this respect the motor comes somewhere between these and the railways. It does not possess the flexibility of movement of a "tank," and it needs a better and wider road surface than the pack-horse, but it has infinitely more flexibility of movement than the railway train and does not need such an expensive permanent way, nor so many bridges, tunnels, stations, etc. Moreover, the motor was fortunate enough to be able to make use of the existing roads, while at the same time improving them for the pre-motoring users. In fact, it has many natural advantages over the railways, and for many kinds of transport is superior to the railways, and had the steam engine and motor vehicle been invented at the same time, it is unquestionable that much less would have been spent on the railways and much more on the roads. The problem of to-day is to attain the proper equilibrium between the two modes of transport so that all transport is being done in the most economical way possible.

In conclusion, I should like to refer to the letter from "Railwayman." One does not know, of course, whether "Railwayman's" desire to increase motor taxation is the official desire of the railway companies, but if so, does it mean that the object of the railways in obtaining their almost monopolistic interest in road transport is, not to carry out the proper co-ordination of rail and road transport, but rather to stunt the natural growth of the latter in an effort to divert as much traffic as possible back to the railways and maintain an artificial value of railway capital?

24 Taviton Street, W.C.1. F. J. POWER.
February 26th, 1930.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Markets of Empire. By W. H. Willson. (London) Effingham Wilson, 16, Copthall Avenue. 7s. 6d. net.

Deals with the opportunities for British products in various parts of the Empire. Each section is reinforced by useful statistical tables.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Report of the British Economic Mission to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. 1s. net.

Forty-first Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission, 1929. Cmd. 3497. 3d. net.

Air Services Appropriation Account, 1928. 2s. net.

Army Appropriation Account, 1928. 2s. net.

Public Accounts (Army Votes, 1928). 1d. net.

Air Votes—Supplementary Estimate, 1929. 2d. net.

Civil Estimates for Year ending March 31, 1931. *Class VI—Trade and Industry.* 3s. net.

Report of the Medical Research Council for the Year 1928-29. Cmd. 3496. 3s. net.

Civil Estimates and Estimates for Revenue Departments, 1930. 3d. net.

Navy Estimates, 1930. 10s. net.

Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty. Explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1930. Cmd. 3506. 3d. net.

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The Stock Exchange.

ARGENTINA AS A BORROWER.

When last we reviewed the status of Argentine investments (the *Economist*, May 11, 1929) we were at pains to point out that while Argentine Government stocks were rated highly among foreign securities, they were not to be regarded as immune from the risks attaching to even the best investments of their class—in short, that "an agricultural nation must expect to meet bad as well as good times arising out of circumstances largely beyond its control, however well its activities may be spread." If the investor did not appreciate this truism at the time, recent events have furnished him with ample opportunity to do so, for Argentina has been called on to face the consequences of bad times much more speedily than appeared possible when those words were penned.

The root of Argentina's present trouble is the slump in world values of wheat and wool, her failure to dispose of a significant proportion of last season's large wheat crop through lack of demand from Europe, and the poor crops of wheat and linseed harvested this season. In Liverpool there has been an unprecedented accumulation of Argentine wheat, and in the last quarter of 1929 both wheat and wool were being shipped from the Argentine unsold owing to the congested state of the European markets. This trouble has occurred, unfortunately, at a time when Argentina has been compelled to foot the bill in respect of very heavy imports of manufactured goods in the first nine months of 1929. In December last, the Government effectively stemmed the export of gold obtainable from the Conversion Office by suspending the exchange of gold against presentation of paper. The inevitable result has been a sharp fall in the Argentine dollar, which has reached 42 5/16d., against a par value of 47.57d.

Argentina's unexpected departure from an entirely unfettered gold standard, to which she returned in August, 1927, occasioned considerable surprise and criticism. The gold reserves of the Conversion Office are still extremely strong, amounting to about £85 million, or 77 per cent. of the existing note issue, and although the country lost £34.8 million of gold in 1929, it had, in fact, gained £34.7 million in 1927-28. The Argentine authorities may urge by way of palliation—though scarcely of justification—of their policy that their country does not possess effective machinery for controlling fluctuations in currency requirements. Heavy speculation in the exchange may doubtless have been an additional factor in the decision of the Government to take drastic action. Nevertheless, their policy has generally affected Argentine credit in the foreign gold markets, as the following table shows:—

	High, 1929. Price.	Red. Yield %.		Mar. 5, 1930. Price.	Red. Yield %.	
Gov. 4% Rescission Red. 1943 ...	88½	£5	5 0	84½	£5	14 0
„ 5% Intern'l 1909, Red. 1945	97¼	£5	5 0	92	£5	16 0
Port of the Capital 5% Red. 1949	97¾	£5	4 0	90¾	£5	17 0
Buenos Ayres, Province of, 3½%, Red. 1974	62	£5	18 0	57½	£6	8 0
Buenos Ayres, City of, 5%, 1909 Red. 1946	97	£5	5 0	90¾	£5	18 0

It has been seriously questioned in some quarters, of recent weeks, whether a redemption yield of over 6 per cent. is not a more reasonable return to expect from Argentine Government stocks, having regard to economic possibilities, than the 5¼ per cent. redemption yield basis on which they were quoted a year ago. [The yield in the New York market was always about ½ per cent. higher.] In the first place, the national debt of Argentina has been increasing at a somewhat rapid rate. The next table will show that, since 1923, the external debt (excluding that of the provincial governments) has more than doubled, while the total of external, internal and floating debt has increased by nearly 23 per cent.:—

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DEBT.
In Millions of paper pesos (= ·44 of gold peso).

	External.	Internal.	Floating.	Total Million $	Total Million £
1923	539	777	875	2,191	191·0
1924	687	836	747	2,270	198·0
1925	833	911	485	2,229	194·4
1926	888	957	397	2,242	195·5
1927	1,104	1,052	446	2,602	227·0
1929*	1,119	1,152	415	2,686	234·3

* At June 30th.

An increase of over 100 per cent. in external debt in six years can be judged only by reference to the extent to which the new money has been put to productive uses. It is natural that a new country with exceptional natural wealth should import capital for its development. The next table shows that, although the Argentine export trade, 65 per cent. of which consists of wheat, maize and other cereal crops and linseed, has doubled since 1913, it has not progressed greatly since 1923:—

ARGENTINE OVERSEAS TRADE.
(In millions of gold pesos).

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
1913	519	496	+ 23
1924	1,011	829	+ 182
1925	868	877	− 9
1926	792	822	− 30
1927	1,009	857	+ 152
1928	1,030	901	+ 129
1928 (Sterling equiv.) in million £) ...	204·1	178·6	+25·5

These figures should not obscure the fact that the *invisible* balance of payments as distinct from the *visible* returns of trade in merchandise, is adverse to Argentina. An estimate of the balance of payments of the country has been made by Señor Carlos A. Tornquist, the eminent Argentine banker, in his annual review of the economic position of his country. The following are his figures for the Argentine economic year ended September, 1928:—

	Million £.
Interest on external debt	12·7
Railway dividends	15·6
Other dividends on foreign capital	7·5
Foreign residents' remittances	6·7
Travellers	3·9
Cedulas and Securities imported	2·0
Total	48·4

These outgoings, totalling over £48 million, set against the favourable visible balance of trade of £25.5 million, leave an unfavourable invisible balance of £22.9 million in 1928, which was increased to £52.7 million by the net import of £29.8 million of gold. This debit balance of £52.7 million was met partly by foreign borrowings, £7.1 million of which Señor Tornquist traced to banking credits, and £20.2 million to new capital issues, while he was unable specifically to determine the balance.

Argentina, indeed, is bound to be a heavy borrower for some years to come. Apart from fluctuations in national prosperity, to which any country relying mainly on the export of primary products is peculiarly susceptible, the time is still distant when Argentina's own annual savings will provide all the capital required for developing the economic resources of her admittedly rich domain. Her Government finances, however, are on a satisfactory basis. In the 1929 budget total of $705 million paper pesos (which allowed for a surplus of $1 million paper pesos), 48 per cent. of revenue was accounted for by import duties, 21 per cent. by revenue duties and miscellaneous taxes, 21 per cent. by State enterprises and only 10 per cent. by direct taxation. Of the total expenditure of $704 million paper pesos, about $217 million was required for the service of the national debt. The latter figure represents by no means a negligible proportion of the whole, but the proportion is not sufficiently high to disturb the tax-paying community. It is likely, however, to receive more attention at a time when low prices for wheat and wool have significantly reduced the contemporary national income or when inclement climatic conditions have diminished the total volume of the national output, than in comparatively favourable years, such as Argentina has, until quite recently, experienced.

The "bad times" from which Argentina is now suffering are doubtless temporary and look worse because of the very prosperous years immediately preceding, but they serve to illustrate the risks attendant upon investment in the debt obligations of an agricultural nation. Whether borrowing and increased production in Argentina have been exactly proportionate to each other in the last ten years is another question, to which events in the comparatively near future may provide an answer. On the nature of that answer depends the possibility of Argentina's ability to raise new money in the capital markets of the world at a price of less than, say, 6 per cent. The Province of Buenos Aires, whose credit is on a different basis, recently accepted an offer from a group of American bankers for a loan of $8,000,000 U.S. in the form of 6½ per cent. bonds at 90. The test may come shortly, seeing that the Argentine Government recently borrowed £5,000,000 from London bankers in the form of 5¾ per cent. Treasury bills repayable at the end of this year.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
March 18.	March 20.

The new Account, like its immediate predecessors, opened under dull auspices, synchronising with the publication of higher Civil Service estimates, which emphasised the market's fears of increased taxation in the next Budget. Monetary prospects, however, improved consistently as the week progressed, and the investment sections showed an encouraging accession of firmness, which was accentuated after the announcement of the Bank of England's decision on Thursday. Some slight amount of bear covering took place in industrial shares, and the reduction in Bank rate was naturally reflected in Thursday's prices; but, as a whole, although the downward trend of prices of recent weeks was arrested, the tone remained apathetic, and there was no evidence to suggest that cheaper money had produced any fundamental change for the better in the general situation.

Only a moderate business was done in Gilt-edged at the beginning of the week, though prices were fully maintained. By Wednesday afternoon, however, expectations of a reduced Bank rate had become more general, Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan being a feature. Thursday's news caused a marking up throughout the list, Funding Loan being particularly firm. The Indian Budget disclosures and the opening of Mr Gandhi's campaign depressed India loans, but selling appeared to have run its course by mid-week. Dominion and Colonial stocks were steady, though dealings were on a small scale. The result of the South Africa loan came as a disappointment to the market, where this borrower had always been well regarded. Recent Corporation issues continued to be slowly but steadily absorbed.

The outstanding feature of the Foreign Market was an improvement in Brazilians, the effect of prospective Sinking Fund purchases being reinforced by favourable news regarding the elections. A moderate demand was again in evidence for European loans, though prices showed only fractional changes. Japanese Bonds were in moderate demand.

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	75⅛	75⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	94⅛	95⅛	+ 1⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64	101⅛	101⅛	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102⅛	102⅛	+ ⅛
Consols 2½%	54	53⅞x	+ ⅛
Do. 4%	83⅜	83⅜	+ ⅛
Funding 4%	87⅛	88⅛	+ ⅛
Victory Bonds 4%	92⅜	92⅜	...
Local Loans 3%	62⅛	62⅛x	+ ⅜
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924) ..	99¾	99¾	...
Argentine 4% Bonds..	84	84½	+ ½
Austrian 6% 1923-43..	102½	102½	...
Belgian 7%	110½	110¼	− ¼
Brazil 6½% (1927). ...	81½	82	+ ½
Bulgaria 7½%	89	88	− 1
China 5% (1912)	47⅛	47⅛	...
Czechoslovakia 8%....	111¾	111½	− ¼
Egypt Unified 4% ...	77⅛	77	− ⅛
Corporation Stocks.			
L.C.C. 3%	62	62	...
E. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk...	91½	89x	+ 2½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.....	10⅜	10⅜	+ ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk...	35	35¼	+ ¼
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	51⅛	51x	+ 1⅛
Metropol'an Cons. Stk.	64⅛	62⅜x	+ 1
Met. District Ord. Stk.	74⅛	72⅛x	+ 3
Southern Def. Stk. ...	31	30⅛x	+ 2⅜
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73⅛	71⅞x	+ 1
Underground Ord. £1...	1⅛	1⅛x	+ ⅛
Do. Income Bonds..	107⅛	107⅛x	+ 3
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	215	209½x	− 3
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	81⅛	81⅛	− ⅛
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	248½	248½	...
Barclay B. (£1).....	2⅜	2⅛	− ⅛
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3	3	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	4	3⅞	− ⅛
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19	19	...
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	23	23	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27	27	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1).	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	3	3	...
Baldwin (4/).....	⅛	⅛	...
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)....	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit. Celanese, Ord.(10/)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)....	3⅛	3⅛x	...
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
British Insulated (£1).	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
City of London (£1) ..	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅞	⅞	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	365	360	− 5
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless 7½% *A Ord.*	55⅛	58½	+ 3
B Ord.	24	27	+ 3
5½% *Pref.*	94⅛	92½x	+ ⅜
Motors.			
Dennis (1/)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Ford Motors (£1).....	2⅞	3	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
Cons. Tea & Lnds. (£10)	23	25	+ 2
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4⅛	4	− ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1).....	4⅛	3⅞	− ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	...
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Bras. Traction, no par	$38⅛	$40⅛	+2⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅜	5⅜x	+ ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9	9	...
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6	5⅜	− ⅛
Distillers (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Dunlop (5/8)	⅜	⅜	− ⅛
Gramophone Co. (£1)....	4⅛	3⅞	− ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3⅜	+ ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1).....	4	4⅛	+ ⅛
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1⅜	1⅛	− ⅛
De Beers Def. (£2½)....	9⅛	9⅛	− ⅛
Brakpan (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p...	2⅛	2	− ⅛
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)...	⅜	⅜	− ⅛
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/p	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2⅛	2⅛x	...
Lake View & Star (4/).	⅜	⅜	...
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	...	1⅛	...
Treasury 5% (B)	101⅛	101⅜	− ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	89	87x	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	99	− 1
India 3½%	59⅛	58⅛x	− ⅛
Do. 4½% 1958-68..	82	81	− 1
Australia 5% 1945-75	90	90⅛	+ ⅛
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	88⅛	86⅛x	+ ⅛
N. Zealand 5% 1946	100	101	+ 1
Foreign Government Securities.			
French 5%	20⅛	20⅜	+ ⅛
Do. 4% (Brit.).....	20	20	...
German 7%	105⅛	105⅜	+ ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee ..	102	102⅛	+ ⅛
Hungary 7½%	101	100⅞	− ⅛
Chili 6%	93	92½x	+ 2⅛
Poland 7%	90⅜	90⅛	− ⅛
Mexican 5% (1899)	20	19	− 1
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	82	83	+ 1
Corporation Stocks.			
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	88	88	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	91⅛	91⅛	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
B.A. & Pacific Ord. Stk	85	85⅛	+ ⅛
B.A. Gt. Sthn. Ord. Stk.	94	94⅛	+ ⅛
B.A. Western, Ord. Stk.	74⅛	74	− ⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	18	18	...
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	3	3	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	49	48⅜	− ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk....	183⅛	183⅛	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$32⅛	$32⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	22	18	− 4
Beira Rlwy. no par.	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Banks.			
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13⅛	...
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1	− ⅛
Hongk. and S. ($125).	$113⅛	$108x	...
St. of S. A. £20, £5 pd.	14⅜	14⅛	− ⅛
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Insurance.			
Pearl (£1).....	12⅛	12⅞	+ ⅛
Phœnix £1 fully pd....	13	13	...
Roy. In. £1, with 10/ pd.	7⅞	7⅞	− ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Powell Duffryn (£1).	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1) ..	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Thornycroft, John (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Vickers (6/8)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Electrical Manufacturing.			
General Electric (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Hydro-Elec. com. stk...	43⅛	46⅛	+ 3⅛
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Newcastle-on-Ty (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	98x	98x	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Canadian Marconi...	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.			
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅞	2⅛	− ⅛
Napier (5/-)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Singer (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Shipping.			
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	...
Royal Mail Ord. Stk..	25	25	...
Tea and Rubber.			
London Asiatic (2/)..	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Oil.			
Lobitos ($1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Royal Dutch (£5½).....	31⅛	31⅛	+ ⅛
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
International Holdings	5	5⅛	+ ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can..	39⅞	39⅛	+ ⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr. 100)	29⅛	29⅛	− ⅛
Margarine Union (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅜	2⅜	...
Swed. Match, B (kr 100)	16⅛	16⅛	− ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
United Molasses (£1)	5	4⅞	− ⅛
Vocalion (10/-)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Watney Combe Dl. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Mines.			
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	3	2⅛	− ⅛
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1).....	15	14	− 1
Rio Tinto (£5)	44⅛	43⅛	− ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Sub Nigel (10/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Union Crp. (12/6) fu. pd	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛

Liquidation of Home Rails ceased early in the week, and with the advent of a few buyers prices became noticeably harder before the stocks (except North-Eastern) went ex-dividend on Thursday. The traffic returns were again favourable, though comparison with 1929 continued to be vitiated by last year's "frost" factor. Underground were again conspicuously satisfactory, but the stocks failed to hold the whole of an early advance. Among foreign rails, Argentines were steadier on a small turnover, the general expectation that the forthcoming interim dividends would be maintained offsetting the depressing traffic returns. Havanas were again on offer on the passing of the preference dividends, but Antofagastas improved on a few small buying orders. Canadian Pacific was unfavourably affected by the continued decline in receipts.

The Industrial markets opened with a continuance of the apathy which had characterised business in earlier weeks. The carry-over revealed a decidedly small open position. Subsequently, however, Mr Baldwin's speech was taken as a bull factor, and a modest amount of inquiry for some of the better class shares induced some bear covering in mid-week. The Bank rate announcement tended to strengthen stocks which had previously shown a firmer tendency, rather than to improve values as a whole, and Thursday's tone was somewhat irregular after a first spell of tentative marking-up following the announcement. International Nickel were freely dealt in on both sides of the Atlantic before the publication of the report (discussed in an "Investment Note" on page 530), but subsequently encountered profit-taking. In other directions New York was an uncertain quantity, business in Internationals being confined largely to Hydro-Electrics and Brazilian Traction. Cables and Wireless recovered a part of last week's losses, and bear closing induced a partial rally in Courtaulds before the meeting. Little business was done in breweries, and tobacco shares were again influenced by budgetary fears, though a stronger tendency intervened before the end of the week. Dunlops came on offer, and Turner and Newall were lower on forced selling from the provinces. Mr Baldwin's pronouncement was seized upon as a reason for putting Newspaper shares better. Imperial Chemical showed a slow, but steady, improvement. Ford shares rose sharply on the report (discussed on page 528), and Guys were higher on a good profit showing, but the remainder of the motor share market suffered from scattered selling. Bank shares lost ground and Insurance shares, though steadier, were largely neglected.

Dealings in rubber shares dwindled to small dimensions, though prices showed only a slight decline. The spurt in the commodity, after the Rubber Growers' Association's acceptance of the May no-tapping proposals, had entirely subsided by the beginning of the week, and quotations resumed their mid-February level. Anglo-Dutch developed unexpected weakness, with a moderate recovery on Wednesday. Tea again had a firmer tendency at the week's auctions, and share prices were higher when changed, though no appreciable volume of outside demand was experienced. The oil market opened with London a bear, on provincial selling and the unfavourable result of the "Shell" issue, and New York a bull, on well-informed expectations of a decline in crude output. Ultimately, the latter tendency triumphed, and prices became firmer, with a few exceptions, of which V.O.C. was the most noteworthy. Attocks rose sharply on rumours of a coming favourable statement regarding developments at depth.

Depression in the mining markets was emphasised by a further fall in metal prices. Silver touched a new low level, the shares of Santa Gertrudis and Burma Corporation weakening in sympathy. Tin had fallen to £161 12s. 6d. by Thursday, but the share market paid more attention to the satisfactory interim dividend announcements of several leading companies, and quotations remained steady. Rhodesians were firm at the opening, and Roan Antelope and Bwana M'Kubwa strengthened on encouraging quarterly reports, but many issues reacted later to the general lethargy, and Congo Border were marked down to 14 on Thursday, after touching 13½. Tintos were offered from Paris, but firmed up later. Sub Nigel were a strong feature on Johannesburg demand, while Globe and Phœnix added a fraction on rumours of good developments.

"Financial News" Daily Bargain Index.
(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Feb. 27.	Feb. 28.	Mar. 3.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 5.	Mar. 6.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,140	1,055	1,644	1,183	1,174	1,239
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	927	856	1,005	829	809	920
Commercial and Industrial*	1,982	1,974	2,263	1,879	849	930
Banks, Insurance and Financial	492	501	594	491	446	500
Mines (including Nitrate)	448	567	549	471	423	514
Oil	166	208	284	161	209	188
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	187	172	220	188	168	188
Total	5,342	5,333	6,559	5,202	5,078	5,479

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"Financial News" Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Stocks (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Feb. 27.	Feb. 28.	Mar. 3.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 5.	Mar. 6.
90·5	82·0	82·5	82·7	82·0	82·0	82·5	82·7

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The forward movement of shares has been resumed, despite less favourable trade statistics, on the idea that the beginning of a business recovery is not far distant. The week's rise of $94 million in brokers' loans is indicative of increasing public interest. The majority of industrial shares are now at new high levels for the year, but increasing irregularity is shown among erstwhile market leaders, such as United States Steel, and the railroad group is doing little. Sugar shares, including beet and Porto Rican companies, have rallied, the Senate adopting a higher tariff schedule. Strength is best sustained in the tobacco, amusement, public utility and electrical manufacturing groups, where earnings are expected to be up to or above last year's level. The steel industry shows a further decline of 2 per cent. in operating capacity, now 78 per cent., and only moderate progress is being made in the motor trade, while unemployment is admitted at three million by the Department of Labour. It is believed, however, that a steady reduction is now in progress, as the warmer weather permits building operations and other outdoor work to be begun. The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce estimates the February automobile output of this country and Canada to be 358,300 cars, against 287,477 in January and 497,705 a year ago; but motor shares are dull. The bond market is strong and more active, all Government issues now standing at par or higher. The progress of the tariff is slow, but little notice is taken of labour disturbances.

(By Cable.)

	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.
U.S 3½% T. Bds.	104[21]	104[21]	105[2]
Do. 4½% T. Bds.	110[16]	111[16]	112[16]
Lib.Ln.3½% '32-47	99[8]	99[16]	99[8]
Do. 4½% '32-47	100[16]	100[8]	101[16]
Do. 4½% '33-38	101[4]	101[16]	101[8]
Atchison	233	228	235
Ches. & Ohio	227	231	231
Erie	58[8]	59[4]	59[4]
Illinois Central	128	128[4]	128[4]
N.Y. Central	181	183	186[4]
Pennsylvania	82	82[4]	82[8]
Southern Pacific	123[4]	123[4]	122[4]
Southern Rly.	129[4]	128	125
Union Pacific	220[8]	227[4]	223[4]
Am. Can.	134[8]	141	140[8]
Alleghany Corp.	30[8]	31[4]	32[8]
Amer. Smelting	70[4]	71[4]	75[8]
Anaconda	71[4]	73[4]	74[2]
Bethlehem Steel	99[4]	100[8]	100[8]
Chrysler Motor	37[8]	38[4]	38[8]
Corn Produce	94	94	94
Eastman Kodak	201	219	217
Gen. Electric(New)	71[4]	74	78[8]
Gen. Motors	41[2]	43	42[8]
Int. Harvester	90	91[4]	94[8]
Montg. Ward	42[8]	44[4]	46
Natl. Biscuit	204	209	219
Phelps Dodge	38[4]	38[8]	37x
Pullman	82[8]	82[8]	82[4]
Sears-Roebuck	86[4]	89[8]	89[8]
Studebaker	42[8]	43[4]	42[4]
Un. Fruit	89	91[4]	95[4]
U.S. Leather	8[4]	8	8[8]
U.S. Rubber	26	26[8]	27[4]
U.S. Steel	181[4]	182[4]x	182[4]
Westinghouse	171[4]	181[4]	193
Woolworth	61[2]	65	64
Worthington Pump	81	81	100[8]
Am. Pow. & Light	92[8]	95	103
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	231	237[4]	239[4]
Electric P. & L.	60[4]	66[8]	71[4]
Int. Tel. Teles.	69[4]	68[4]	68[4]
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	38	40[8]	43
Radio Corpn.	43[8]	48	48[8]
Utilities P. & L.	36[8]	37[4]	38
W. Union Tlg.	209	213[8]	213[4]
Associated Gas "A"	41[4]	40[4]	44[8]
Mid-Cont. Pet.	24	24[4]	26[4]
Pan Amer. B.	51[8]	52[4]	53
Sinclair Oil	22[8]	24[4]	24[4]
Std. California	56[4]	59[4]	60[4]
Do. N.J.	58[4]	59[4]	62[8]

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 27.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	152·8	156·1
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	142·1	142·3
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	228·7	234·7
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	163·1	166·3
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·65%	4·55%

Daily Average of 50 Industrial Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Feb. 5.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Feb. 26.	Feb. 27.	Feb. 28.	Mar. 1.	Mar. 3.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 5.
183·8	166·5	179·6	178·6	180·5	181·9	180·8	182·5	181·1

Total Dealings in New York.

	Feb. 27.	Feb. 28.	Mar. 1*.	Mar. 3.	Mar. 4.	Mar. 5.	Mar. 6.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	3,305	3,202	1,807	3,627	3,450	3,709	3,345
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	10,392	9,427	4,937	8,119	8,188	9,722	12,946
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	886	800	591	892	1,087	1,258	785

* 2-hour session.

PARIS.

During the month of February, the Paris Bourse continued to undergo the same experience as in the second half of January. Successive interventions by the banks having so far failed to restore any appetite for investment business, the markets rapidly atrophied and prices continued to crumble. Transactions during February were so few and far between that the smallest purchases or sales caused considerable variations in quotations, giving the market a nervous aspect, though, correctly speaking, apathy was its dominant note. Even "rentes" were affected. The political crisis which occurred in the second fortnight of February caused further uncertainty, and depressed the market. Normally the decline in prices following the heavy selling at the end of January would have brought in many buyers, but in point of fact the response on "change" was negligible.

"Valeurs à Terme":	Feb. 2.	Mar. 3.	*"Valeurs à Terme":*	Feb. 2.	Mar. 3.
Banque deFrance	24,425	25,150	Citroën	1,150	1,062
Banque Algérie	17,050	17,000	Norvég. Azote	2,180	1,893
Paris Pays Bas	3,175	2,930			
Union Parisienne	2,260	2,130	Hotchkiss	2,325	2,270
Cie. Algérienne	2,435	2,310			
Comptoir Nat.	2,040	2,010	*"Valeurs au Comptant":*		
Crédit Commer.	1,618	1,560			
Crédit Foncier	5,660	5,680	Union-Vie	3,050	2,835
Crédit Lyonnais	3,235	3,140	Urbaine Seine	2,060	2'000
Suez	20,850	19,925	Union Mines	1,675	1,628
O. de P. Nord	2,580	2,570	Indo-Chine	5,500	5,005
O. de P. Santa Fé	2,870	2,735	El. Loire Centre	719	655
Soc. Lyon. Eaux	3,820	3,620	Dolfus Mieg	10,850	10,665
Parisienne Elect.	3,390	3,315	Chatillon-Comm.	5,650	5,520
Gén. Electricité	3,830	3,570	Denain & Anzin	3,300	3,125
Littoral Médit.	1,469	1,401	Alsac. Construct.	3,000	2,800
Elect. Nord Fr.	1,245	1,145	Rhône-Poulenc	3,025	2,850
Courrières	1,734	1,682	St Gobain Chauny	6,800	4,745x
Mines de Lens	1,460	1,416	Givet	9,790	9,300
Penarroya	1,096	1,029	Kali Ste Thérèse	17,100	18,830
Dives	2,690	2,540	Rosario	25,510	24,100
Etab. Kulmann	1,152	1,103	J. Damoy	1,638	1,605
Phosph. Gafsa	1,005	977	Pollet Chausson	3,020	3,005
Pechiney	3,675	3,530			
Air Liquide	2,115	2,035	S. Fr. Viscose	17,300	16,400
Caout. Indo-Ch.	895	880	Ass. Generale Vie	6,375	6,150

x Ex dividend.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....
Address .....
.....

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Stock Exchange Committee.—Notices are now exhibited in the Stock Exchange, writes a "House" correspondent, announcing that on Thursday week, March 20th, a ballot of members will be held for the appointment of a Committee of thirty members to be called "the Committee for General Purposes," to hold office for twelve months from March 25th next. "The names of the persons on the existing Committee willing to serve again, and of all new candidates, their proposers and seconders, shall be publicly exhibited," according to Rule 1 in the Stock Exchange book, "in like manner during three business days previously to such a ballot being held." The method of election is governed by the Deed of Settlement, in which it is laid down that every member of the Stock Exchange shall have a vote, and shall give a single vote to each of the thirty men he wishes to see elected. If he votes for less than thirty, or if he gives more than one vote to a single candidate, his list is disqualified. Obviously, however, it is practically impossible for every one of thirty men to be personally known to each of 4,000 electors. In practice, a member of the Stock Exchange usually knows, more or less intimately, about ten of the proposed Committee, has a vague idea of another ten, and has no practical knowledge of the remainder. The younger a member, the less likelihood of his being able to judge as to the fitness of any particular candidate. Many endeavours have been made to alter this system of voting, but the only means of doing so would be to effect a change in the Deed of Settlement, and this is a matter, not for members as such, but for the proprietors of the Stock Exchange. The position affords a striking example of the disadvantages of dual control of the Stock Exchange by members (as such) on the one hand and by member-shareholders on the other. The duties of Stock Exchange Committee-men have been increasing so rapidly of late that it is not always an easy matter to persuade hard-working and experienced members who would make excellent committee-men to accept nomination for a thankless and exacting office. During the past five months—*i.e.*, since the Hatry crisis—it has been nothing unusual for Stock Exchange Committee-men to serve on ten to twelve committees per week. The General Committee sit on Monday, but out of their work spring many side issues. A year ago, one of the older members of the Committee said: "Now we shall have a quiet time." Never was fair hope more unkindly frustrated. Some kind of relief is frequently proposed, one suggestion being that a small number of paid men should sit on the Committee, and give up the whole of their time to the more mechanical work with which the Committee must deal. A Committee-man's office at present is purely honorary. He gets his lunch for nothing, and has the right to enter the Stock Exchange at times when it is closed to the ordinary member. He has no other privileges, though, possibly, a philosophic member might regard his liability to be taken to task, and roundly reproached inside and outside the "House," as tending to relieve the monotony of life. It may be that, at the next election, certain of the present members will resign. Whoever comes in, however, will find the work more arduous than ever before, except during part of the war period. It may be hoped that the public, as well as members of the Stock Exchange, will give due recognition to that fact.

General Store Profits.—The accounts of the leading London shops and stores for the past year reveal a satisfactory state of affairs. Sales, as a whole, have been more than maintained and expenses, for the most part, reduced. The following table shows the results for 1928 and 1929 of seven London stores and one provincial concern (Messrs Lewis's, of Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham). The total profits of the eight

companies were £3,008,941 last year, against £2,910,565 in 1928:—

	1928.		1929.		Ordinary Shares (£1, unless otherwise stated).	
	Net Profit.	Ord. Div.	Net Profit.	Ord. Div.	Present Price.	Yield %.
	£	%	£	%	£	£ s. d.
Barker (John) and Co...	444,901	20	468,685	20	3⅝	6 5 5
Harrods	775,156	20	834,188	20	3⅝	5 16 4
Lewis's	706,799	15 P.O.	773,466	15 P.O.	2⅝ P.O.‡	6 6 3
Maple and Co. ...	327,059	15	274 741	12½	1⅞	7 0 4
Selfridge and Co. ...	418,125	20	415,339	20	†	...
Swan and Edgar ...	101,488	4	138,146	5	⅝	5 3 2
Wallis (Thomas) and Co.	30,486	7	34,454	7	⅝	8 0 0
Whiteley (William)...	106,551	10*	69,922	10*	2⅛	8 13 9

† The ordinary shares are not quoted.
‡ The preferred ordinary shares are given, all the ordinary capital being held by Lewis's Investment Trust, Ltd.
* See text below.

One large company, Maples, has recorded a decline in profits, for reasons which are not stated in the balance sheet, but may not be unconnected with the interruption to normal business involved in the rebuilding of the company's Tottenham Court Road frontage—an operation which should, of course, have beneficial reactions on future earning power. In any case, the company is more "specialised" than any of the others in the list, and may have been affected to some extent by the activity of other furniture houses in pushing "hire purchase" business. William Whiteley served more customers than in 1928, but business "has become more difficult" in certain departments, and Messrs Selfridge have again been called upon to make up the ordinary dividend to the guaranteed level of 25 per cent. The profits of the other six companies increased, last year, in the aggregate, by £187,323, or 7 per cent., though only in one case, Swan and Edgar, were dividends raised. It is doubtful, however, how far these results reflect increased working-class, as distinct from middle-class expenditure, though it is natural to expect the increase of nearly 6 per cent. in industrial activity, and the rise of 200,000 in the number of insured workers in employment last year to be reflected in retail purchases. Whether the outlook for the next few months is equally promising is, however, an open question. The decline of 9 per cent. in wholesale commodity prices last year has not yet been adequately reflected in retail prices. The total stock-in-trade of Lewis's, Selfridge, and Thomas Wallis, at the date of the last balance sheets, was valued at £1,008,723, a decline of 6¼ per cent., as compared with the total a year earlier. The total stock-in-trade of Harrods and William Whiteley, on the other hand, at £1,355,550 showed an increase of 3¾ per cent. Were the companies to find it necessary to write down their stocks of saleable goods to an appreciable extent, a year hence, the result might not be sufficiently formidable to involve an absolute decline in profits, but it might prevent their expansion at a rate comparable with that of the past twelve months.

Australian Finance.—We last discussed the position of Australian Government stocks in the *Economist* of February 15th, when we took cognisance of the efforts of the Australian Loan Council further to reduce its loan programme. It is now reported that at a meeting on February 21st the Loan Council agreed that the future loan programmes of the various States should be reduced to a basis which could be financed mainly in the Australian instead of the overseas markets. It was also agreed that reductions should be made which within twelve months would bring the rate of expenditure down to one-half the level of the financial year ending in June next. To achieve this object immediate steps were to be taken to reduce the current rate of expenditure and Governments were to frame their loan programmes for the next financial year to conform with the new policy. The net loan expenditure of the Commonwealth and States during the financial year ending in June may be put at about £44,000,000, so that the loan programme for next year will total about £22,000,000. The Loan Council added that £10,000,000 of sinking fund moneys were being used in the current year for the redemption of Australian debt. This sum should increase in subsequent years, and should greatly assist future borrowing on the reduced scale. This announcement will be welcomed by investors in Australia. At a recent conference of premiers, Mr Scullin, the Prime Minister, stated in his opening speech that fundamentally the position of the Commonwealth was sound, although the present outlook might cause "temporary misgivings." The latest figures of subscription to the Australian £10,000,000 Conversion Loan total over £12,000,000, including over £3,000,000 in cash.

Ford Motor Company.—This company has a capital of £7,000,000, of which £4,200,000 is held by the Ford Motor Company of America. In the prospectus announcing the public issue of 2,800,000 shares of £1 at par in December, 1928, the company gave no estimate of future profits. It merely gave figures of the profits earned in the past four years by the companies acquired—namely, Ford Motor (England), Henry Ford and Son, of Cork, and the subsidiaries in France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Finland. These average profits were equivalent to over 13 per cent. (£910,000) on the new company's capital of £7,000,000. They were derived principally from assembling and marketing, and only to a limited extent from manufacture, and were, of course, concerned with the old "Model T." The first report of the new company for the period ended on December 31st disclosed net profits, after depreciation, of £1,013,507, which include £104,512 in respect of profits of affiliated companies earned prior to their reorganisation and received by way of dividends and premium on sales of shares, but do not include dividends receivable from these affiliated companies in respect of trading in the year 1929. These profits are equivalent to 14.48 per cent. (before taxation) on the ordinary share capital of £7,000,000. Income tax requires £195,000, and a 10 per cent. dividend, less tax, is paid, leaving £258,507 to be carried forward. A reserve has been established of £811,736, but it is not clear how it has been secured. Out of this reserve it is proposed to write off the whole of patents and goodwill (£350,000 and £250,000 respectively) and all the preliminary expenses (£68,324). The balance sheet shows a surplus of cash and bills over debts of £2,950,337. Land and buildings stand at £571,540, plant at £301,468, and investments in and loans to affiliated companies at £4,169,109. The net assets work out at £1 2s. 9d. per £1 share. It should be understood that the profits have been derived from the assembling and marketing of the Ford "Model A" cars in Great Britain, and not from manufacturing (except as regards the manufacture of tractors at Cork). The report states that good progress has been made with the erection of the new factory at Dagenham, in Essex, and that plant and tools requisite for the manufacture of tractors have been installed at Cork and are in full production. A point on which the market would welcome definite information is the extent of the earnings of the affiliated companies which have not been brought into the Ford trading account. The report states that the Continental companies, with the exception of the Italian, have been reorganised during the year, and 40 per cent. of each company's interest has been disposed of in the country where it has been incorporated (excepting that the company's remaining interests in the Swedish and Finnish companies have been invested in the Danish company). It is also stated that each of the affiliated companies has traded successfully during the year. The Dutch subsidiary, for example, earned good profits and has been able to write off all preliminary expenses and a part of the goodwill and to pay a 10 per cent. dividend. Ford Motor shares are at present quoted at £3 cum dividend, to return a yield of nearly 3½ per cent. The shares, after the issue in December, 1928, rose at one time to 4 9/16.

Midland Counties Electric Supply.—The value of the investor's "equity" in the progressive electrification of Great Britain is well shown by the accounts of this prosperous company, which in eight years has increased its capital by £2,000,000 in seven instalments. Net profits

for the year ended December 31st last totalled £218,668, against £190,100 in 1928 and £168,050 in 1927. In spite of the fact that new capital cannot at once achieve its full earning power, percentage earnings on ordinary shares have risen progressively for the last three years. This year the distribution on the ordinary shares has increased from 6½ per cent. to 7 per cent. out of 8.4 per cent. earned.

Financial year ends December 31.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit ...	168,050	190,100	218,668
Brought forward ...	4,023	4,106	5,676
Preference dividend...	71,341	78,000	84,000
Rate per cent. ...	6	6	6
Ordinary capital :			
Earned, £ ...	*96,709*	*112,100*	*134,668*
Paid, £...	77,341	88,495	112,000
Earned per cent. ...	*8·0*	*8·2*	*8·4*
Paid per cent. ...	6·5	6·5	7·0
To reserve...	12,500	15,000	16,177
Other allocations ...	6,785	7,035	7,589
Carried forward ...	4,106	5,676	4,578

A further allocation of £16,177 is made to reserve, bringing that item to £60,000. In addition, £7,589 is set aside for debenture redemption, and issued debenture stock totalling £375,000 now stands at £298,220. Cash is down from £152,519 to £15,836, and the debts from other companies, which, last year, amounted to £170,556, have apparently been paid. On the other hand, investments have risen from £3,823,815 to £4,356,439, while the premium on the last issue of £250,000 ordinary £1 shares has been added to the investment reserve account, which stands at £169,609. At the present price of 28s., the £1 ordinary shares give a yield £5 5s. 6d. per cent. allowing for a dividend of 7 per cent.

Lamport and Holt.—The investing public has little direct concern in Lamport and Holt, as the ordinary capital is held predominantly by Elder, Dempster and other members of the Royal Mail group, and interest on the two issues of cumulative preference shares has been in arrear since June 30, 1925. Investors will regard the report and accounts for the year to December 31st last rather as a sidelight on the Royal Mail position; and the picture presented is not reassuring. Profit, after debenture interest, is given as £35,583, against £27,041 in 1928, but this figure is struck before providing for depreciation and losses of subsidiaries, for which the company proceeds to set aside £95,200 and £10,538 respectively, after bringing in £50,000 from reserve. The new Companies Act has added enormously to the informative nature of the balance sheet. A year ago the assets side included the laconic entry: "Ships and Shipping Investments, £7,159,527," out of a balance-sheet total of £8,150,458. On this occasion, the splitting-up of the conglomerate into its constituent items reveals that the company's investments in its chief subsidiary—the Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company, which provided no depreciation last year on its fleet and wharf properties—stands at £2,440,117 (cost, £3,000,000, less reserve £559,883), while the parent has made loans to this and other subsidiaries ("less amounts written off and reserve") amounting to £905,083. Investments and loans to shipping companies—presumably to other members of the Royal Mail group—at cost, account for a further £2,671,270, but an illuminating note shows that the value, at December 31st last, of such of these investments as had a market quotation, was no more than £1,000,090, against a balance-sheet "cost" figure of £2,003,256. The auditors' report points out that "the investments in subsidiary companies and the general investments (the latter appear at £834,289) are included at their book values, which are considerably in excess of their present values under existing conditions." If, for argument's sake, the £6,875,319 of assets to which this remark applies be taken at two-thirds of their book value, and the company's vessels (shown at cost, less 5 per cent. per annum depreciation) at their present book value, approximately 77 per cent. of the £2,240,000 ordinary capital appears to be unrepresented by any existing assets. The actual position is, of course, unascertainable without inside knowledge of the finances of the whole group, but one thing, at least, is certain: that Lamport and Holt is not making any contribution, directly or indirectly, to the current earnings of the Royal Mail Company.

Inveresk Meeting.—The meeting of the shareholders of the Inveresk Paper Company was a stormy affair, but ended with an agreement betwen Mr Binder, the chairman, and Mr William Harrison, the ex-chairman, to co-operate. After these two gentlemen had delivered their speeches, Mr Harrison's solicitor announced that they had agreed to shake hands, bury the hatchet, forget the past, and to work together in the shareholders' interests. This statement was greeted with considerable applause from the shareholders present, the supporters of Mr Harrison being in strong force. Mr Binder did not attempt to reply in his speech to Mr Harrison's attack on the scheme for the amalgamation of Provincial Newspapers, Ltd., Daily Chronicle Investment Corporation and United Newspapers (1918), Ltd., except to clear Sir Thomas Catto's name, which had unnecessarily been introduced. This scheme of amalgamation, Mr Binder declared, was now dead. Although alternatives had been discussed, no practical decision had been reached. The company's banks were continuing their support for the time being, but the question of finding further funds to complete the newspaper programme remained to be solved. The place for its consideration, Mr Binder rightly pointed out, was the board room, not the rostrum. The investments, which stood in the balance sheet at a book value of £6,638,000 had, Mr Binder declared, a present value of less than £4,800,000. It was evident, he said, that some assets might have to be sold in order to lighten the burden of bank overdrafts of £1,151,954. The company's troubles, he added, were mainly financial. A large number of properties were sound and only required to be relieved of financial burdens to yield satisfactory dividends. Viscount St. Davids, on behalf of a large number of preference shareholders, remarked that before the company was out of its troubles it would be necessary to create debentures, that the preference shareholders would consent to such an issue, but that if the issue had to be made before July 1st, he would ask that their voting powers should come into force at once. The present position of the preference shareholders was that on July 1st, if the preference dividends remained unpaid, they would be entitled to vote and they would then out-vote the ordinary shareholders. A resolution for the adjournment of the meeting was lost and the report and accounts were finally carried. How Inveresk Paper will get out of the hands of the banks and into an independent and sound financial position naturally remains no less a problem with Mr Binder and Mr Harrison working together than before. The Stock Exchange, however, takes a more hopeful view of the outlook, the £1 ordinary shares, which earned 2.7 per cent. last year, having advanced to 11s.

Anglo-Foreign Newspapers. — Sir Robert Donald, chairman of the Anglo-Foreign Newspapers, Ltd., has a deservedly high reputation as a journalist. His speech at the extraordinary general meeting of his company,

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INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

HEAD OFFICES: LIVERPOOL AND LONDON.

which had been called so that shareholders might receive a statement of the position without waiting for the annual general meeting later in the year, was probably the finest piece of journalism that has ever appeared in company meeting reports. The company's position, however, is anything but a happy one. It was formerly under the auspices of the Carmelite Trust and Associated Anglo-Atlantic (now in liquidation), two finance companies of the Horne group. The shareholders subscribed £1,312,500 on a prospectus which gave no details of the properties acquired or to be acquired. Some of the troubles of the company, according to Sir Robert Donald, were pre-natal. Plans had been made by the two parents, Carmelite Trust and Associated Anglo-Atlantic, to apply a large part of the capital to certain " interlocking " transactions—including an investment of £500,000 in Carmelite Trust shares acquired from the Associated Anglo-Atlantic and the purchase of certain options from Carmelite Trust for £145,000. These transactions altogether absorbed £720,000, or more than half the capital subscribed. After paying the preliminary expenses, the amount remaining was only £680,000. Investments were then made in certain shares of the Rothermere group (some of them acquired from Carmelite Trust at the ruling market prices) and some other marketable securities at a cost of £528,559, and later in certain trade and technical papers, at a cost of £396,000, which, we understand, now include a controlling interest in Industrial Newspapers, Ltd. Sir Robert Donald explained that, while he was engaged upon negotiating for newspaper properties, he became dissatisfied, and offered a letter of resignation to the chairman in June. The result was the appointment of a Committee of the Board to handle negotiations. The independent directors, however, finding it impossible to obtain full information about the management of the company's affairs, became more and more dissatisfied. They arranged for an accountant to investigate the position in October, and became convinced that it was advisable to separate from the Horne group. Finally came the bankruptcy of Mr H. S. Horne and the removal of the company's offices from the City to Westminster under the " independent " directors' management. There is a large sum in dispute with Carmelite Trust, arising out of certain purchases made for the company by that trust. The revenue of the company Sir Robert estimated at £46,000 from subsidiary newspaper companies, and £20,000 from investments; a total of £66,000, against a total annual expenditure of £16,000. Although the operations of the first year would show a considerable loss, the company was now paying its way. Bank loans amounted to £140,200, and, in addition, there was a sum due to the Carmelite Trust of £141,956. against which there would be a substantial offset. After making full allowance for depreciation of the company's investments, the net assets amounted to £751,422, or 57 per cent. of the company's capital. Other properties were being acquired which were full of promise. On the whole, Sir Robert Donald was fully entitled to the shareholders' vote of confidence for a frank and illuminating speech.

International Nickel.—The report of the International Nickel Company of Canada for the twelve months to December 31, 1929, is, despite the exhaustive nature of its figures and comments, a difficult document to interpret, for three reasons. The results for the first time show the effects of the merger with Mond Nickel; the company is still in the development stage, though it is pushing forward with an ambitious programme with considerable energy; and the year's trading experience is not necessarily fully representative of possible conditions in 1930. In the first three quarters of 1929, sales at times actually exceeded production, but in the last quarter, shipments of nickel from the Port Colborne refinery fell off by 20 per cent., though foreign business and sales from the Huntington works held up remarkably well. Over the whole twelve months $1.47 was earned per common share, against $1.05 in 1928, and dividends were paid aggregating ninety cents per share.

Years Ended December 31st.	(Thousand $) 1928. (International Nickel of Canada only.)	1929. (International Nickel and Mond Nickel.)
	$	$
Capital—		
7% Cum. pref.	8,912	27,628
Common, no par (13,758,208)	46,909	57,361
Debentures of British subsidiaries	...	7,627
Ten-Year Notes	1,800	1,500
Total income (after expenses, ordinary repairs, and maintenance)	16,707	31,154
Net profit	12,399	22,236
Preferred dividends	557	2,041
Common — Earned per share	$1·05	$1·47
Common — Total dividend	4,331	12,376

Developments proceeded apace last year, approximately $1,400,000 being expended in Great Britain and nearly $30,000,000 in Canada. To complete the company's programme, further expenditure of $1,250,000 and $10,000,000 respectively is envisaged. Monthly output from the Frood mine reached 37,600 tons in December last, and, it is hoped, will attain at least 4,500 tons daily by midsummer and 6,000 tons by the end of this year. The company has now proved, on its various properties, ore reserves of 202,620,000 short tons. The Frood high-grade ore, and the reserves at other mines now being worked, indicate a life at the present annual rate of nickel consumption of 25 years. This estimate, however, does not take into consideration the possibility of lateral extensions and probable Frood ore below 3,000 feet, or the large reserves in other mines and in the upper Frood levels. The average grade of proved ore below the 1,400-foot level in the Frood mine runs: nickel, 2.39 per cent.; copper, 3.62 per cent.; a total of 6.01 per cent. The company has on its books 14,119 preferred shareholders and 54,241 common shareholders. Future expansion is necessarily taken into account in the present price of $40⅝ per share, but immediate prospects must depend on whether world consumption of nickel maintains last year's increase of 16 per cent.—which, in its turn, is contingent on an early revival of activity in the larger metal-consuming industries.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—Although the total operating expenses rose by 4.65 per cent. in 1929, the total revenue was 3.63 per cent. higher, and operating profit $580,929 greater at $64,848,742. Freight ton-miles increased from 20,243 millions to 20,657 millions, more than offsetting the decline in passenger miles from 768 millions to 728 millions. Some 9,038,071 passengers were carried, the total being 1,219,925 less than in the previous year. Joint facility rents, other rents and interest were heavier, and the net profit, consequently, $333,023 lower at $28,767,908, a decrease of 1.14 per cent. After paying the 4 per cent. preference dividend, and increasing the ordinary dividend to 6½ per cent., $11,045,597 of the year's profit was added to the surplus, which now stands at $16,039,570.

	Years ended December 31. 1928.	1929.
	$	$
Net earnings	29,100,931	28,767,908
Dividend on 4% preferred stock	2,354,528	2,354,528
Common stock — *earned*	12·43%	10·30%
Common stock — paid	6%	6½%
Common stock — amount	12,911,275	15,367,783
Increase in surplus	13,835,128	11,045,597

During the year the ordinary capital was increased to $256,295,434 by the issue of 411,077 $100 shares at par, the money being partly utilised in replacing obsolete rolling stock. The increased mail revenue was due to increased rates. The ordinary shares are secured by net tangible assets of $1.44 per each dollar paid up. At their present London price of 121 the $100 shares yield £5 7s. 5d. per cent.

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY FOR 1929.

Measured by the number of telephones added to the national network, by the amount of money expended for growth and service improvement, and in other particulars with respect to service, 1929 was a record year in the history of the Bell System according to the annual report of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in which President Walter S. Gifford tells the 469,801 stockholders the results of operations for twelve months ended December 31.

The number of stockholders increased 15,205 during the year and the average number of shares of capital stock outstanding was 13,113,746. Net earnings per share available for dividends were $12.67. The corresponding figure for 1928 was $12.11 per share.

For the System as a whole, the report says, " The revenues from local exchange service increased $47,000,000 or 7.3 per cent. over the previous year, and revenues from toll and long-distance service increased $45,000,000 or 14.5 per cent. The increase in total operating revenues was $95,000,000 or 9.8 per cent.

" The total plant and other assets at the end of the year amounted to $4,228,000,000 and the net earnings were at the rate of 6.8 per cent. on the cost of plant and other assets. Over one-half of the present telephone plant of the Bell System has been constructed during the last five years.

" About 900,000 telephones—the largest number in any year—were added. To provide for growth and to improve service, $588,000,000 was spent on construction of new telephone plant and $45,000,000 on construction of new manufacturing facilities. These expenditures of $633,000,000 were the largest in any one year and furnish a basis for still further progress. It is expected that the expenditures for 1930 will be over $700,000,000."

The report emphasises the extension and improvement of service. During the past five years the average time required for completing a long-distance connection has been cut from 7.5 minutes to 2.4 minutes, and in 1929 more than 70 per cent. of the long-distance calls were handled while the calling subscriber remained at the telephone.

Since 1926 there has been a series of reductions in long-distance rates, two occurring within twelve months and each resulting in a saving to telephone users of approximately $5,000,000 annually. In about three years, the charge for a New York–San Francisco call has been reduced from $16.50 to $9.00, and a Chicago–New York call from $4.65 to $3.00.

The average elapsed time between receipt of a customer's order and the installation of service has been reduced in five years from 4.7 to 2.7 days, and the proportion of customers' orders currently subject to delay because of lack of facilities has been reduced from 10 per cent. to 2 per cent.

At the end of the year there were more than 20,000,000 telephones inter-connected in and with the Bell System and practically any one of these can be connected promptly not only with any other telephone in the United States, but with 9,000,000 others in Canada, Cuba, Mexico and Europe.

Two additional short-wave transatlantic radio telephone channels were added during the year, making one long-wave and three short-wave channels now available. Work is being pushed on the transatlantic telephone cable which will " not be subject to the inherent uncertainties of radio." Ship-to-shore service was inaugurated to and from the steamship Leviathan, and it is expected in due course that this service will be extended to other steamships.

Successful demonstrations of two-way plane-to-ground telephony have resulted in requests for this equipment from air transport companies and Government departments. Such telephone communication for navigational purposes will add greatly to the safety and efficiency of transportation by air.

The number of employees, including the manufacturing division, increased 59,000 to a total at the end of the year of 454,000. Due to growth and turnover it was necessary to train 175,000 new employees. Approximately 90,000 of the employees are stockholders.

It is stated by Mr. Gifford that the business of Electrical Research Products, a subsidiary of the Western Electric Company, is limited to making arrangements for the commercial use of such contributions to the progress of electrical science as modern high-speed submarine telegraph cables and the recording and reproduction of sound for use in connection with phonographs and talking motion pictures by concerns operating in the fields in which they are applicable. " The American Telephone and Telegraph Company neither directly nor indirectly, through Electrical Research Products or otherwise, owns any stock in any motion picture enterprise or any other commercial undertaking operating in these fields."

" While the business of Electrical Research Products is of great importance in its own field, its earnings obviously cannot be a material factor in an enterprise of the size of the Bell System."

Western Electric Company's new plant at Point Breeze, Baltimore, Maryland, was put in operation and provision made for large additions to the plants at Hawthorne (Chicago) and Kearny, New Jersey.

New Capital Issues in February.—In the table below we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public or shareholders in February and recent periods:—

(000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769

Monthly Average.	Govt. £	Other. £			
Jan.–Mar., 1928	*28,570*	*16,215*	*7,201*	*4,345*	*56,331*
Jan.–Mar., 1929	617	18,757	8,797	4,147	32,318
January, 1929 ...	*650*	*14,080*	*24,897*	*2,983*	*42,610*
February, 1929 ...	*950*	*22,427*	*372*	*1,760*	*25,509*
January, 1930 ...	500	9,033	1,671	2,785	13,989
February, 1930 ...	350	13,034	9,065	Nil	22,449

The figures for February show a decided improvement over those of the previous month, the total sum raised being £8,460,000 more than in January, and only £3,060,000 short of the figures for February, 1929. Sales of National Savings Certificates exceeded encashments by £350,000. The British Government also announced the issue of a 4½ per cent. conversion loan, but at the time of going to press the amount involved is unknown. There was an increase of £4,001,000 in other issues for employment in the United Kingdom, the Shell Transport and Trading Company's issue of £5,000,000 7 per cent. second preference shares, at 25s. per share, which involved £6,250,000, representing nearly half the total of £13,034,000. Other important home issues included the Metropolitan Railway's issue of £2,000,000 in 3½ per cent. debenture stock at 65½ and the Hull Corporation's £1,500,000 in 5 per cent. redeemable stock at 99, of which 85 per cent. was left with the underwriters. No money was raised by any foreign government or industry during the month. The chief overseas flotations were the Indian £6,000,000 6 per cent. 1932/34 bonds at 99 and the Nigerian £2,650,000 5 per cent. 1950/60 inscribed stock at the same price. Only two companies offered their new issues to the public, namely, the Shell Company and the Olympia Company, which offered 450,000 £1 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par, and 450,000 5s. ordinary shares at par. The month closed with the announcement of the South African Government's *intention to raise* £6,000,000 in London during March.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following meetings:—London, Midland and Scottish Railway, Anglo-International Bank, Prudential Assurance, Refuge Assurance, Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society, Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association, National Provident Institution, Midland Counties Electric Supply, Metropolitan Electric Supply, Inveresk Paper, Courtaulds, and Spencer, Turner and Boldero. At the annual meeting of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, the chairman said that, in pursuance of the policy of the rapid elimination of gas lighting as the normal form of illumination, the board had authorised the conversion from gas to electric lighting of 2,250 coaches, and the work of conversion was proceeding at the rate of about 20 vehicles per week. Presiding over the meeting of the Midland Counties Electric Supply Company, Mr G. Balfour said that the units sold during the year aggregated 165,602,000, an increase of 24 per cent. over the output for 1928. At the meeting of the Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association the chairman said that, though it was the policy of the board to invest a large proportion of the assets in long-dated or irredeemable securities, it was a duty to members to earn as high a rate of bonus as was consistent with prudent finance, and part of the company's funds were, therefore, invested in securities of a less rigid type.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The capital market remains "difficult," and it is clear that a number of recent borrowers, including many of the highest status, have appreciably over-estimated its capacity. Last week's "Shell" issue, which was closed on the first day, was nevertheless left as to 82 per cent. with underwriters, for a single reason—that its price was too dear. This week the *South African Government* made an attractive issue of 5 per cent. stock at 98½. South Africa is a popular borrower, whose existing debt is very largely represented by profit-earning public assets. The terms, moreover, were more favourable to the investor than those of any South African loan since 1921. Nevertheless, underwriters were called on for about half their total engagements—the large amount, £6,000,000, rather than the price, being responsible. The remaining issue of the week, *Cinzano*, took the form of an offer for sale of shares in an international vermouth-producing enterprise. The company's business connections are well established, but voting power is so arranged that control remains with "inside" interests.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to March 1, 1930, £36,438,174.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to March 1, 1930, £36,438,174.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended March 1, 1930, £200,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930, *Dr.* £2,400,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Union of South Africa.....	5,250,000	...	5,171,250	262,500	4,908,750
Cinzano.....	575,000	...	575,000	71,875	503,125
Total offered to public, week ended March 8, 1930	5,825,000	...	5,746,250	334,375	5,411,875
To Shareholders only.					
Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon, 272,744 Ord. £1 at 30s.....	272,744	...	409,116	68,186	340,930
British Assets Trust, 85,000 Ord. 5s. at par.....	21,250	...	21,250	21,250	...
Total to shareholders only, week ended March 8, 1930 ..	293,994	...	430,366	89,436	340,930

Total Offered for Subscription—

To date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	42,814,790	42,814,790
1929	91,502,950	77,893,730
1928	...	153,838,410
1927	...	118,153,831
1926	...	56,991,580
1925	...	32,697,876
1924	...	28,766,305
1923	...	58,956,203

Total Offered for Subscription—

Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1930.....	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
Total to date, 1929.....	6,552,650	...	11,647,041

Union of South Africa 5 per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1945–75.—Issue of £6,000,000 5 per cent. stock at £98 10s. per cent., repayable at par on July 1, 1975, the Government of the Union of South Africa having the option to redeem the stock, in whole or in part, at par, on or after July 1, 1945, on three months' notice. The Government of South Africa will comply with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, so that trustees may invest in this stock. The loan is raised for railways, harbours, irrigation, land settlement and other public works.

Cinzano, Ltd.—Offer for sale of 575,000 Class "A" ordinary shares of £1 each at par. The company was incorporated in 1927 to take over interests in Cinzano companies in different parts of the world. The shares now offered for sale have been acquired from the Holding Italiana S.A., of Turin. Profits for 1929 totalled £198,429, against £114,556 in 1928, and allowed payment of 9 per cent. on ordinary capital.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only," with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—**Lewis's Investment Trust, Ltd.** Issued capital, £2,350,000, divided into 1,175,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 1,175,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. Incorporated in July 1929, to acquire deferred ordinary shares in Lewis's, Ltd., and provide a financial instrument for the development of a number of other businesses under the same control.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

LONDON MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY COMPANY.

NET REVENUE AND DIVIDEND INCREASED.
LARGE REDUCTION IN EXPENSES.
RECEIPTS AFFECTED BY INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION.
ROAD TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
SIR JOSIAH STAMP ON THE OUTLOOK.

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company was held at Euston Station, London, N.W. 1, on Friday, February 28, 1930.

Sir Josiah Charles Stamp, G.B.E., Chairman of the Company, presided.

The Chairman: I will now ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The Secretary (Mr Owen Glynne Roberts) read the notice.

The Chairman: Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have followed the method adopted last year, and received by you with approval, of issuing a condensed statement of financial results for the general use of the stockholders, leaving those who may be specially interested on particular points to ask for the full statements.

Will you follow while I go over the broad features of the business of the year.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR'S WORKING.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The losses in Passenger Traffic Receipts for the year were severe, partly offset by improvements in Mineral and Coal Traffic. Shortly, the receipts were:—

	Worse. £	%	Better. £	%
Passengers	1,154,000	5.0	—	
Parcels, Mails, etc.	—		97,000	1.4
Merchandise (Classes 7 and over)...	360,000	1.6	—	
Minerals, etc. (Classes 1 to 6) ...	—		203,000	3.1
Coal, Coke, etc.	—		616,000	4.5
Live Stock	53,000	6.1	—	
	£651,000	0.9	—	—

Generally, our receipts were affected adversely by the continued depression of trade in the heavy and textile industries in the area covered by the L.M.S. system. While on the year the volume of unemployment of the whole country showed a *decrease* of 3 per cent., there was actually an increase of 7½ per cent. in the North-Western area. In Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding) and Lanarkshire, mainly areas peculiar to the L.M.S., there arises about 40 per cent. of the unemployment in the whole of Great Britain. This inevitably reacted on our traffic receipts as regards both Merchandise and Passengers.

The excessive depression in trade in the area of this Railway is also reflected in the Bankers' Clearings. The Metropolitan Clearing for 1929 showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. over 1928, but Liverpool, Manchester and Bradford taken together decreased over 6 per cent. The shrinkage in the case of Bradford was as much as 13.3 per cent., a sad commentary on the state of the wool textile industry, whereas the other eight large centres not so completely identified with the L.M.S. showed a decrease of 1.15 per cent. only. Again, in shipbuilding the tonnage launched on North-East Coast during 1928 was 90,000 greater than upon the Clyde. In 1929 it was 180,000 greater; there was a lesser output on the Clyde of 40,000 tons, whilst the North-East Coast increased by 50,000.

Apart from this general cause, the Passenger receipts were further adversely affected by road competition and steps were taken to counter it by the extension of cheap fares, but while there were only 2 per cent. fewer passengers, the receipts were 5 per cent. less. What they would have been had reductions in fares not been made it is difficult to say, but the loss of volume, notwithstanding these reductions, indicates that diminished charges were not the main cause of the decline and, in fact, our passenger department can point to large blocks of new traffic in particular areas attracted by special fares. In Lancashire our losses were particularly severe, a contributory factor being the stoppage in the cotton trade at the height of the holiday season. There is again a noticeable reduction in the short distance traffic, although this traffic has the lowest fares, and I will later refer to the steps we are taking to share in this diversion to the public roads where we are permitted by Parliament to do so.

The receipts from Parcels and Mails traffic conveyed by Passenger Trains show a general improvement, and now represent nearly one-fourth of the passenger train receipts.

Merchandise receipts (excluding the heavy or mineral classes) declined, and in this connection I would again draw attention to the severe depression in trade in the manufacturing areas of Lancashire, Yorkshire (West Riding) and Lanarkshire, where extensive unemployment exists. Further, an analysis of the business done shows that the high rated traffics most susceptible to road competition have suffered most. On the other hand, many of the low rated traffics improved and the traffic which is collected or delivered by the Company's cartage arrangements was substantially greater and its volume was the highest since amalgamation. This traffic has been materially increased by the extended railhead distribution and container facilities which have developed rapidly.

The Mineral Classes show a welcome improvement, and the loss in iron ore traffic in 1928 was more than recovered last year, a decrease of 532,000 tons against 1927 being turned into an increase of 700,000 tons over 1928.

In considering the improvement in the coal receipts it is necessary to bear in mind that the striking expansion last year was mainly in the export trade, which improved by 20 per cent., compared with an improvement of 4 per cent. in the home trade, and as only 9 per cent. of our own coal receipts are from exports, our share was relatively small compared with other railways dealing more with export coal.

The de-rating allowances paid by the Government through the medium of railway charges on certain classes of traffic are not deductions from railway receipts, as the rebates are paid out of a central pool into which is paid the relief of rates. There is no evidence of any marked improvement in the selected traffics conveyed by us except iron ore, and the Company's interest in export coal, the main traffic to which rebates apply, is, as mentioned, small.

RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

Against the loss in receipts there is the substantial reduction of £780,000 in working expenses, which are seen in the summary statement accompanying the report. It must be remembered that this follows a reduction of £2,500,000 a year ago, and is quite apart from the 2½ per cent. deduction from salaries, wages, etc.

There was a reduction of £610,000 in operating expenses.

The reduction in operating expenses is a general one, an exception being locomotive coal, which cost £65,000 more. As we ran 2,200,000 more miles the saving is even more marked than would appear from the reduction of £610,000, and the Board are most appreciative of the very great support they have had from all grades. It is not a mere stinting of outlay regardless of reactions, but part of a continuous survey of all our operations with a view of ensuring that each is conducted in the most economical manner consistent with the fullest efficiency and safety, and without falling short of meeting reasonable public demands. As indicating the growth of these demands in one direction I would again refer to the diminished size of goods consignments which are loaded or unloaded by our station staff. Each year since amalgamation the average weight of such consignments has fallen. To those who talk indiscriminately of larger goods wagons I would point out that in handled traffic we carry 390 consignments for each 100 tons, compared with 347 in 1923. Notwithstanding this, each year since 1925 the cost per ton has been reduced by improved methods and appliances.

There is an increase in maintenance over 1928 which is entirely in Rolling Stock. 1928 was specially low because of an abnormal quantity of Locomotive renewal work, and the severe frost in the early part of 1929 caused considerable damage to carriages, especially paint work, which represented about £80,000 of abnormal cost.

It will be seen from the tabular statement attached to the report that the repair position has been further improved upon for all classes of stock, and it has never been in better condition. The reduction in time taken to pass rolling stock through the shops has

been striking, and the resultant increase in stock has given us the means to provide adequately for large developments of traffic. It would be false economy to let down the standard of efficiency of our stock because of depressed traffic, and it is in times of depression that overhaul is most desirable, constituting in fact an outlay on behalf of the future. It is in this direction rather than by reduction of maintenance efficiency and adding to reserves that the Board have proceeded, and I mention this in reply to certain friendly critics who suggest that we should set aside monies to general reserve. The amount charged to the expenditure of the year and credited to renewal provisions is £5,250,000—not a haphazard figure, but arrived at in great detail on scientific lines.

The Renewal and Maintenance Funds were charged in the year with £6,500,000 in respect of the non-capital portion of new work, and now stand at just under £20,000,000. The outlay on new works met by these funds, and that met out of capital, has not only contributed greatly to the efficiency of the undertaking, but has incidentally been of great value to the industry of the country in a time of difficulty. It has totalled £50,000,000 in the period since amalgamation.

The continuous reduction of the salaries and office expenses in General Charges has been referred to at several of these meetings. In 1922, immediately prior to amalgamation, they totalled £961,000, and in 1929 £589,000, a reduction of nearly 40 per cent., there being a further reduction in 1929 of £24,000. This is an easily isolated example of the steady fruition of the economies resulting from fusion of administrative staffs.

With these reductions in expenditure the Net Railway Receipts show an increase of £104,000

And I now come to the other income.

Road Motor Transport show a loss of £6,000

but this is mainly attributable to the fact that the services are new and are not yet fully established. As the report indicates, by far the greater part of our interests in road services will be as shareholders in Road Companies, and these do not affect the returns for 1929.

In Steamboats there is a very satisfactory improvement of £85,000

and the net receipt of £193,000 is by far the best result we have had. The Irish Services, generally, have shown marked improvements.

Canals and Docks, together, are better by £25,000
but Hotels and Catering are less by £31,000
and Collection and Delivery by £97,000

There has been a large growth in carted traffic which, as I explained a year ago, is not directly remunerative.

Joint Lines are better by £31,000

The other Accounts are all better, and I need mention only Rents £52,000

a steadily improving figure due to the efforts to obtain new income from railway curtilages, and Interest items £68,000

to which the freeing of cash resources through the reduction of stocks of stores by a further £1,100,000 has materially contributed.

The only other item I need mention is the increased effect of the 2½ per cent. deduction from Fees, Salaries and Wages for a whole year, as against 4½ months in 1928 ... ... £670,000

I have been asked to say whether the policy of the Board is to distribute to the Shareholders an increase which is admittedly not on a permanent basis, and the answer is an emphatic "Yes." It was originally stated to be given by special deduction from the normal payments for wages and salaries in order to contribute aid to dividend paying revenues, and it has so been treated. That is one of the reasons why the amount has been isolated in our accounts, and not confused with normal expenditure.

In these circumstances the Board feel that it is due as a part of the dividend as it becomes available.

The summation of these figures is a Net Revenue for the year of £17,175,000, or more by	£904,000
and adding the increased amount brought in	£100,000
the additional amount available for ordinary Stock, prior charges being practically the same, is	£1,004,000
out of which the board recommend an increase of the dividend from 3½ per cent. to 4½ per cent., absorbing...	£952,000
and carrying forward £212,000, or more by	£52,000

and at the close of my remarks I shall ask you to adopt that recommendation.

In the summary statement sent you there are one or two new figures which will be of interest to you.

At the foot of page 3 you will see that an approximate analysis is given of the disposal of the receipts of the year from all businesses showing the relative weight per £ of the chief divisions of outgoings, and the figures speak for themselves. Of course, the Coal and other purchases (4s.) also include a large proportion paid in wages, in addition to the sums paid direct by the Railway, viz. :—10s. 9d., and to dispose of an inquiry from a stockholder I may mention that the 4s. 3d. for interest and dividends includes debenture interest.

On page 4 we give an analysis of the number of holdings in each class of the Company's stocks. It is of interest to note that in the fixed interest and prior stocks the majority of holdings are in the "£400 and upward" classes; but in the ordinary stock, which bears the main burden of fluctuations in industrial fortunes, well over 50 per cent. of the holdings are under £300. The total number of accounts is about 300,000. In this connection it is interesting to observe that the pay roll covers 249,000 people, in 1921 it covered about 285,000, and in 1923 268,000—an important index of the progress of reorganisation.

The Balance Sheet shows that our liquid resources have been well maintained, and I have already mentioned the further large reduction of £1,100,000 effected in stock of stores and materials. The last item, "Road Motor Suspense Account," is in respect of omnibus undertakings purchased by the Company, which will not be wholly retained by them, but will form part of undertakings in which we will have a joint interest. The profits from these undertakings will accrue to the new Companies, and have not been brought into our Net Revenue.

ADMINISTRATION.

You will have noticed from the Report that Mr James Hamilton Houldsworth has resigned from the Board. Mr Houldsworth was a Director of the old Caledonian Railway Company and came on to this Board at the amalgamation. We, in London, shall miss his charming personality, but the Company will not lose the benefit of his experience and advice as he will remain a member of the Scottish Local Committee.

The Board have appointed the Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., and Major Glyn, M.P., to two of the existing vacancies.

Mr Runciman's wide experience will be of the utmost value to the Company, and it is perhaps unnecessary for me to refer to Major Glyn, who was a Director of the Caledonian Railway and has been a member of the Scottish Committee for some time with untiring zeal in the Company's interests.

There have been several retirements from the ranks of the higher administration.

Mr Evans, Vice-President, unfortunately found it necessary to retire through ill-health; he has recently had to undergo a serious operation, from which, however, we understand he is recovering satisfactorily. Mr Clower, Chief Officer for Labour and Establishment, with his imperturbable patience and tact, had won a unique position, especially in his pioneer work in welfare and co-operation, for which the Proprietors owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr Gee was Chief Accountant of the London and North Western Railway Company before succeeding to that position with this Company, and has rendered faithful service over a long number of years.

Mr Evans' position as Vice-President for Railway Traffic Operating and Commercial Section has been filled by the transfer of Mr Quirey, who has been succeeded as Vice-President for Finance and Service Departments by Mr W. V. Wood, while Mr G. L. Darbyshire and Mr E. Taylor have succeeded Mr Clower and Mr Gee respectively.

It is with very great regret that I have to refer to the death, in March last, of Mr R. W. Reid, who was Vice-President for Works and Ancillary Undertakings. Mr Reid was a young man of brilliant attainment and proved worth, and by his death the Company suffered a well-nigh irreparable loss.

After very careful consideration your Directors have appointed Sir Harold Hartley, C.B.E., F.R.S., to succeed him, and also to act as Director of Scientific Research.

As you are aware, at the head of the several Engineering Departments we are fortunate in having chief officers each being at the very forefront of his own particular branch of the profession, and we are confident that Sir Harold Hartley's special experience and qualities, in collaboration with them, and as their General Manager, so to speak, will be of the greatest service to the Company.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

The process of amalgamation of the railways brought into one system a number of scientific laboratories engaged in the testing of materials, metallurgical investigations and kindred scientific work, and the late Mr Reid did excellent work in rearranging the functions of these various laboratories and reorganising them. I have for some time been greatly impressed by the possibilities of research, having regard to the large quantities of materials of all kinds used by us and the immense variety of processes involved. Some months ago I appointed a Committee to consider the suitability of our present arrangements to their present task, and the scope for further research upon definite and co-ordinated lines, and particularly the relationship existing between experimental testing in the shops, the laboratory work and the work of the outside research associations with which we are affiliated. On this Committee I had the help of some eminent men in the scientific field and in the world of industrial research. The report of the Committee was gratifying from the point of view of the excellence of the work now being done by our scientific staff, and the arrangements in the laboratories. They were favourably impressed by the high standard attained in the work and by the large amount of research in improving existing processes and developing new methods. But they confirmed our view that considerable scope existed for further intensive directed research, and recommended the appointment of an officer with special attainments, for co-ordinating the work and securing the necessary contacts between the Railway and Associations or Industrial Laboratories, together with the assistance of an Advisory Committee. We are now well on the way to carry out the recommendations of this Committee, and the present personnel of the Advisory Committee, who will meet from time to time to consider the programmes of research and their progress, will be, under Sir Harold Hartley as Chairman, Sir Harold Carpenter, F.R.S., Professor of Metallurgy in the Royal School of Mines; Sir Herbert Jackson, K.B.E., F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Director of the British Scientific Instrument Research Association; Mr W. Rintoul, Joint Research Manager of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Dr. Frank Smith, C.B., C.B.E., F.R.S., Secretary of the Royal Society and Secretary to the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, together with certain of our own technical officers. These gentlemen have all a very cordial interest in the development of research along the lines I have indicated, and I have to express my deep appreciation to them for their willingness to assist and the public spirit they have shown.

REMISSION OF GOVERNMENT PASSENGER DUTY.

It will be remembered that 1929 Budget proposals included the remission of Railway Passenger Duty, subject to the expenditure by each of the Railway Companies of a sum equivalent to the capitalised value of the duty paid in 1928 upon schemes of development and improvement—preferably such as would benefit the heavy industries—which would not, in the ordinary course, be embarked upon at the present time.

The capitalised value of our proportion of the duty is £2,400,000, and a list of works to be undertaken by the Company has been agreed. These schemes include :—

(*a*) The building of 30 "Garratt" Locomotives for heavy coal trains;
(*b*) The building of 25 mixed traffic engines;
(*c*) Remodelled and improved Goods and Passenger Station accommodation (mainly the former);
(*d*) Additional traffic siding accommodation;
(*e*) Additional and improved running facilities and safety appliances;
(*f*) Strengthening of railway bridges to make them suitable for heavier engines;
(*g*) Accelerated conversion of a large number of passenger carrying vehicles from gas to electric light;
(*h*) Improvement of coal shipping appliances at various ports.

The schemes, taking into account the benefit of the remission of Passenger Duty, will be remunerative.

DEVELOPMENT (LOAN GUARANTEES AND GRANTS) ACT, 1929.

Under this Act grants are made to assist public utility undertakings in the carrying out of works calculated to promote employment. So far as the Railway Companies are concerned these grants take the form of an interest payment spread over a period (not exceeding 15 years) on the Capital portion of approved schemes; the extent to which the expenditure is calculated to promote employment in the United Kingdom and to the probability of the expenditure not otherwise being incurred in the near future are material points.

A number of schemes have been submitted, and those already approved, are :—

(1) Electrification of the Wirral Railway.
(2) Widening and electrification between Dagenham and Upminster, and the provision of two new Stations between Barking and Dagenham; this is a portion of our L.T. & S. Line which runs through the Becontree Housing Estate of the London County Council.
(3) Widenings :—
  (*a*) About 1¼ miles long between Broadholme and Ambergate on the Company's Derby to Manchester Line; and
  (*b*) About 1 mile long at Mirfield on the Company's L. & Y. Line between Halifax and Wakefield.
(4) Additional marshalling siding accommodation at Crofton Junction on the Company's L. & Y. Line near Wakefield for dealing with the increasing traffic from the Yorkshire Coalfield.
(5) Acceleration of conversion of coaching stock from gas to electric lighting.

Up to the present, schemes involving a total expenditure of approximately £1,800,000 have been approved by the Treasury, the portion of this amount which will rank for grant of interest at various rates and for various periods being approximately £1,450,000.

Further schemes, amounting in total to between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 are under consideration, and only such proposals will be put forward as will, with the assistance to be obtained from the Treasury, be remunerative to the Company.

Schemes submitted do not include those in which reconstruction is to be met out of our large Capital Renewal Funds, nor those in which Parliamentary Bills have yet to be promoted, so that the range of possible immediate assistance is more limited than is usually supposed.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRANSPORT.

I referred last year to the nature of the evidence which had been given on behalf of the Railways.

The Railway Companies were asked to give further evidence regarding the progress made in co-ordinating rail and road traffic since the Companies obtained their Road Transport powers, and in December last I gave evidence on the position of the Companies generally; at the same time expressing our views on other evidence affecting railway matters.

The Commission have not yet completed their labours, but have issued two interim reports, the first dealing with the control of traffic on roads, and the second with the licensing and regulation of public service vehicles; the latter question having received early attention by the Government in the Road Traffic Bill which they have introduced in Parliament.

ROAD TRAFFIC BILL.

This Bill is mainly based upon the recommendations contained in the Royal Commission Report, but it also proposed (in part 5) to grant extensive powers to Municipal Authorities to operate road transport undertakings. This part of the Bill was rejected by the House of Lords.

The other provisions of the Bill are generally considered reasonable, and with regard to the licensing and regulation of Road vehicles and services, follow the suggestions made to the Royal Commission by the Railway Companies.

RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT.

A year ago I outlined the policy of your Board and their proposed action to establish the Company in the Omnibus business of the country, consistent with the full powers conferred by Parliament under the Road Transport Act, 1928. This policy has been steadily pursued, the primary object being to attain as between the Railway and the established road services the fullest measure of collaboration, and the encouragement of the development of each form of transport on complementary lines for the benefit of both classes of undertaking and the travelling public.

During the year, over the whole field of the Company's operations we have succeeded in reaching such arrangements for co-operation by way of a substantial interest in the principal Omnibus Companies, as well as in the omnibus services of a number of Municipalities in the Company's territory. In other cases where circumstances have been favourable to such a course, the Company has acquired a number of Omnibus concerns, either wholly or in joint ownership with the London and North Eastern and Great Western Railway Companies.

The Company's nominees are being elected to the Boards of these Omnibus Companies, and also on the Joint Standing Committees, which have been, or are being, set up to deal with matters of mutual interest.

These partnerships and acquisitions representing an interest in over 5,000 omnibuses and forming part of a scheme of co-ordination as between railway and road travel, which have been announced in the Press from time to time, are summarised in the Report, and, as they take effect, in the main, as from January 1, 1930, the results of working are not reflected in the Accounts for 1929.

The new relationship between the Railway and Omnibus undertakings is necessitating continuous review of the circumstances where the railway and road services are on common or adjacent routes, with a view of producing, as far as possible, harmony of interest and economy of resources with opportunities for the exchange and development of business, without detriment to public requirements. The process must be gradual, but each month should witness some new benefit from the policy pursued.

One of the more important of these benefits will be the elimination of inconvenient, superseded, and, therefore unremunerative railway services, together with the substitution of road services for local trains of little earning value.

In the carriage of merchandise traffic by road, the difficulties encountered are more pronounced owing to the wider range of interests involved, and the diverse ownership of goods transport vehicles, which stand out in marked contrast to the road passenger vehicles, but the policy of operating railway road vehicles where expedient continues to be developed.

In the main, the traffic carried throughout by road represents short distance business, which traders require to be collected and delivered on the same day.

Regular road transport goods services, which cater mainly for miscellaneous traffic, have also been established, and the Company's radial collection and delivery services, together with railhead depot and distribution facilities, are increasingly demanded by traders.

RAILWAY RATING.

The Government have introduced a Railway Rating Bill which proposes to set up a central authority for England and Wales, which will apportion between the various local rating bodies the rateable valuations for the railways as a whole, and it is hoped this will provide a satisfactory solution of a problem which has been a source of trouble and expense for many years.

CONTAINERS.

I have referred in previous years to the railway container which the Company has persistently encouraged. It has now passed the experimental stage, and taken its place as an established means of transport from door to door for certain classes of traffic.

As a means of providing new, and safeguarding old, business, our early expectations have been fully realised, and the carriage value of container traffic is now approximately £200,000 per annum, a large proportion of which has been secured from road or water competition, or held against such competition.

To meet the steady increase in this method of transport, further orders for containers have been placed, which, on completion, will make the total stock 2,546.

Apart from the success obtained in the home trade, the use of containers for the transport of continental traffic is becoming important, and our containers are now in regular service for the conveyance of express parcels traffic and registered luggage between Basle, Paris, Dunkerque and our system.

STAFF.

Last year I made reference to the Agreement entered into with the Trade Unions in July, 1928, under which Railway employees —and you will recollect that the Directors also participated in this arrangement—contributed 2½ per cent. of their total earnings towards meeting our heavy decreases in revenue. The Trade Unions gave notice to terminate the Agreement on November 12, 1929, and as a result of further negotiations, it was agreed that the deduction should continue until May 12, 1930, and that until November 12, 1930, both the Companies and the Trade Unions should be debarred from asking for a general revision in rates of pay or conditions of service.

I also referred a year ago to the extension amongst our own employees of the spirit of co-operation which has been manifested in varying degrees in our great industries generally. I am pleased to say that the opinion I formed last year that a substantial advance on the right lines had been achieved, has been strengthened by the experience of the past 12 months. At all meetings of Local Departmental Committees discussion takes place on the question of co-operation with the Company's Officers in advancing the interests of the business through increased efficiency, or economy in methods of work. In regard to the activities of the Company in combating road competition, I have recently taken the opportunity of issuing to each member of the staff a Circular, setting out what has been done by the Company in securing a share of the omnibus business of the country since Road Powers were obtained in 1928, and urging a continuance of the effective help which has already been afforded to the Company by all sections of the staff.

LOCOMOTIVES.

As regards new development, I may say that the three "Garrett" Locomotives, to which attention has been previously drawn, provided for experimental purposes, proved satisfactory, and a further 30 engines of this type have been ordered for working the heavy mineral and empty wagon trains to and from London, now handled by two engines. In addition to saving one set of men per train, they will displace 68 old freight tender engines.

As regards Repairs, the rationalisation of the works, to which I have previously referred, is now yielding even more striking results. I spoke two years ago of 12 days as the new record time for a locomotive out of traffic for heavy repairs, and can now report that this has been halved. At one time, at Crewe for example, men spoke of months, where they now break records in hours. Thus, a particular type in 1920 took two-and-a-half months, in 1925 five-and-a-half weeks, in 1927 12 days, and in 1930 47 working hours. This remarkable result, which, so far as I know, has not been beaten anywhere in the world, is only possible through a high level of co-operation between management, foremen and workmen. You will have seen from the statistical statement that the number of engines under or awaiting repair has fallen from 1,958 to 554 in six years, and this reflects the great progress made from a technical and organisation point of view.

The Carriage and Wagon Works are also holding their place as foremost exponents of modern factory methods.

Experiments are in progress, following the success of the "Royal Scot," with much higher boiler pressures, designed in the interests of research into fuel consumption.

The extended experiments conducted with a four-coach train driven by an internal combustion engine using heavy oil have been completed, and although the running costs were materially less than those of a steam train, the reduction was more than counterbalanced by the annual charges, including interest and maintenance. In view of the use by foreign countries of the Diesel Oil Electric Engine, the question is being further explored.

STEEL SLEEPERS.

Public attention has been much directed of late to the subject of the use of steel sleepers.

Many of you know that the experimental adoption of steel sleepers on the railways in this country dates back 50 years, but so far as the lines embraced in the L.M.S. Group are concerned, these early sleepers have, with few exceptions, been taken from the track and put into sidings or scrapped, the results and experience of them having demonstrated that certain disadvantages, as compared with wooden sleepers, were associated with their use.

More recently the question of steel as opposed to the wooden sleeper has forced itself prominently to the front by reason of :—

(*a*) The threatened shortage of Baltic timber;

(*b*) The depressed condition of the British steel industry;

and in common with the other Railway Companies, your Board has authorised further substantial tests to be made.

The question is not, of course, wholly one of the reduction of unemployment, and must remain essentially an economic one, involving consideration of the comparative costs and lives of steel and wood sleepers, and other comparative suitabilities in view of the growing developments in track circuiting and other electric track appliances designed for still further ensuring safety and the general problem of electrification.

When the results of research, and deliberations by the British Railway Technical Officers with the representatives of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers are known, we shall be in a better position to decide the future policy as to their extended use.

HIGH CAPACITY WAGONS.

In view of the utility and efficiency of high capacity wagons on the Continent, the developments in this country in connection with super electrical power stations, and large gas undertakings, and the importance of obtaining definite working data to determine the practical and financial economy by their adoption, we provided, experimentally, thirty 40-ton self-discharging vehicles fitted with vacuum brake for the conveyance of coal in full trains from the coalfields to the Company's Stonebridge Park Generating Station.

The vehicles are at present in service from Derbyshire Collieries, and three trains conveying 400 tons of fuel, with a gross weight of 580 tons are run weekly, and have proved advantageous both from a working and unloading standpoint. The round trip, colliery to colliery, occupies about 36 hours only.

THIRD CLASS SLEEPERS.

After taking into account a small element of transfer from First to Third Class, the new arrangement has been fully justified by the receipts. Since the introduction of Third Class Sleepers, which has not entailed additional trains, the demand has steadily grown.

LIGHTING OF TRAINS.

In pursuing the policy of the rapid elimination of gas lighting as the normal form of illumination, your Board have authorised, in addition to the normal programmes, the conversion from gas to electric lighting of 2,250 coaching vehicles under the arrangements agreed with the Government in connection with the "Remission of Passenger Duty" and Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929, schemes, to which I have already referred.

The work of conversion is proceeding at the rate of about 20 vehicles per week.

COAL MINES BILL.

The provisions of the Coal Mines Bill at present before Parliament are of vital interest to us, not only as large consumers but also as Transport Agents, by reason of the effect upon industry generally of any increase in cost.

Various estimates of the increase in coal prices for home consumption as a result have been given, and if they are in any measure correct, it may form a material additional burden. For example, taking 2/6 per ton for illustrative purposes, the first cost of this on the annual coal bill of your Company, including payments for material affected by coal prices, would be £950,000. There are only three ways of dealing with this increase in expenditure, namely, by taking it out of Railway profits and dividends, by increasing freight rates, or by reducing wages.

The various issues raised by the Bill and the constant series of amendments are receiving very careful consideration.

PARLIAMENTARY PROMOTIONS.

Your Directors have decided to seek powers to construct new railways, of a total length of 4½ miles from our lines at East Ham to the lines of the Port of London Authority near Customs House Station. These railways would give us additional and improved access to the docks of the Port of London Authority, particularly those of more recent construction, a very necessary matter, having regard not only to the probabilities of still further Eastward extensions of those docks, but also to the increasing road transport competition for dock traffic and the improved facilities which are being afforded such competition, such as by the proposed expenditure of £2,518,000 on the construction of the new Victoria Docks Road—further road works being under contemplation.

The Bill also seeks the necessary powers to enable the carrying out of a number of other works, including several widenings of line to ease congested traffic sections, strengthening of bridges, etc. The great bulk of the expenditure on these proposals in the Bill is upon works in respect of which the Company will be assisted, either in connection with the remission of Passenger Duty, or under the provisions of the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act, 1929.

TILBURY-DUNKERQUE SERVICE.

This Company has, naturally, a great interest in the progress made by the new cross channel service, Tilbury-Dunkerque, run by the French Company Alsace Lorraine Angleterre in connection with our system.

It is now possible, in the light of experience of the new service during the past two years, to record a continued and steady increase in the carryings. All heads of traffic in 1929 show expansion, averaging well over 30 per cent. above 1928, and our anticipations are being confirmed.

This position has been secured by maintaining an uninterrupted service, and acceleration of the Continental services and through connections.

The introduction of Customs facilities for the examination of registered baggage at St. Pancras instead of Tilbury, and the employment of containers have further enhanced the popularity of the service.

MAIN LINE ELECTRIFICATION.

Electrification has been engaging the attention of the Government, and you will be aware that in view of the progress which is being made towards widespread availability of high tension electrical energy, they have appointed a Committee of three, Lord Weir, Chairman, Sir Ralph Wedgwood, and Sir William McLintock, to consider and report upon the economic and other aspects of the electrification of the railway systems in Great Braitain, with particular reference to main line working.

It is not the intention, however, that the inquiry shall in any way interfere with, or delay any particular schemes of suburban, or other electrification which may be otherwise under consideration. While it is easy to over-state or over-estimate the possibilities of main line electrification, we propose to assist the Committee in every way possible to arrive at sound conclusions upon the prospects.

It is more hazardous than ever to indulge in prophecy as to the industrial prospects of the country on which the fortunes of our Company are so greatly dependent. We are handicapped by three important factors: first, unexampled depression in the staple trades; second, severe road competition selecting particularly the more highly rated traffics which have in the past made an important contribution to net receipts; and third, a range of rates and fares round about 50 per cent. higher than before the War, against a range of labour costs greatly in excess of this figure. We have fought these handicaps by the economies of re-organisation and constant overhaul of operations and processes. So effective have these been that a revival of trade in our area that may seem merely fractional on the national figures as a whole, would suffice to restore a more attractive return upon the Company's Ordinary stock.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now beg to move "That the report now read, with the statements of accounts, be received and adopted."

I shall ask the Deputy Chairman to second that resolution, and then I shall be pleased to hear any comments which shareholders may desire to make.

Mr E. B. Fielden, M.P. (deputy-chairman), seconded the resolution.

SHAREHOLDERS' REMARKS.

Mr Walter Spyer criticised the size and remuneration of the board, and asked by whom the number of directors and the amount of their remuneration was fixed. He thought that there was some scope for economy there.

Sir Ernest Moir commented upon the appointment of Sir Harold Hartley to be vice-president for works and ancillary undertakings on the ground that, though the gentleman might be a brilliant scientific man, it was unwise that he should be appointed over the heads of technical officials who had risen from the ranks of the company. He did not think that that would add to the feeling of *esprit de corps* among the staff.

Mr E. C. McAdam congratulated the directors and all the employees who had contributed to the flow of economy during the past year. The stockholders hoped, he said, that they would be able to repeat those congratulations in future years. He trusted that the board would not rest content with what they had achieved, as there must be many more economies which could be effected. He proceeded to point out where, in his opinion, further economies were possible, particularly in connection with canals, docks, and the collection and delivery of goods. He criticised the small reduction which had been effected in the number of employees on the wages list in comparison with the large reduction in the amount of passenger and goods traffic. The company was not a philanthropic society, and it should be run on a practical business basis. He had given notice of a resolution which he wished to propose with regard to the superannuation fund, but had been informed by the chairman that it was out of order.

Mr John Hedges said that, in his opinion, a good deal of economy might be effected by closing down branch lines which did not pay. He also thought that they could do with fewer directors.

Sir William Fry said that he was opposed to the practice of some shareholders in attending the annual meetings of the company and attacking the administration of the undertaking in such a way as to run the risk of damaging the value of the interests of thousands of shareholders who were unable to attend. Many matters which might properly be the subject of written communications sent to the technical officers of the company were ventilated at the meetings to the detriment of the undertaking as a whole. He knew perfectly well that they possessed a board of directors of which any company might be proud.

Miss Budge supported the remarks of Mr McAdam, and expressed dissatisfaction with the dividends which had been paid to the stockholders ever since the amalgamation. She wished to know whether the board had made contracts for the supply of coal at lower prices than they were likely to get it at in the future.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the size of the board had been fixed by statute. Their remuneration had been fixed by resolution of the stockholders, but the board had voluntarily accepted the 2½ per cent. reduction previously referred to. With regard to the appointment of Sir Harold Hartley, he did not agree that civil engineers could not serve under anyone but a civil engineer. Sir Harold would be vice-president over a technical department, not in the capacity of an engineer, but as an administrator and general manager, and the board were satisfied that, by reason of the great experience which Sir Harold Hartley had had in dealing with industrial matters, the reorganisation of factories and other things, in addition to his high scientific attainments, they had made a wise choice. With regard to coal contracts, they had always made their coal contracts ahead, and they had some running into 1931 at prices which, in the circumstances, would compare very favourably indeed with those of 1929. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed the payment of the dividends as recommended.

This resolution was also seconded by the Deputy-Chairman and unanimously approved.

The retiring directors and auditor were re-elected and the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

BONUS TO ORDINARY BRANCH POLICYHOLDERS MAINTAINED AT £2 4s. 0d.

FURTHER ALLOCATIONS OF PROFITS TO INDUSTRIAL BRANCH POLICYHOLDERS.

INCOME EXCEEDS £10,775,000.

FUNDS £45,945,704.

The sixty-sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the Refuge Assurance Company, Limited, was held, on the 3rd instant, at the Chief Office of the company, Oxford Street, Manchester.

Mr J. Wilcock Holgate (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr John W. Moss) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which were taken as read, said :—Gentlemen, before referring to the accounts it is perhaps desirable that I should make some reference to the general trading conditions in this country, a matter with which, by the nature of our business, we are brought into the closest contact at every point. It cannot be said that the hope of improvement to which expression was given a year ago by so many—and in which I myself shared to some extent—has been realised in any substantial degree. It is true that some important branches of our trade, including coal, iron, and steel, have shown signs of slight improvement in certain areas; but the great textile industries upon which so much depends in this part of the country, where we conduct a very considerable proportion of our business, are in a substantially worse position now than twelve months ago, and success has not yet attended the many determined attempts to restore to the great exporting trades of Lancashire and Yorkshire that prosperity which is so essential to the many thousands whose employment and livelihood depend on this world trade. The figures of unemployment, always a reliable barometer of the condition of trade, are at present far from encouraging, and constitute a striking indication of the urgent need for improvement in industrial conditions generally; and I regret to say that—without in any way expressing a view as regards safeguarding our industries, or the tariff question generally; matters, perhaps, unsuitable for discussion at a meeting of this character, but which are, I believe, exercising the minds of increasing numbers of our people at the present time—I do not see how the atmosphere of confidence inseparable from sound trading conditions can be restored until at least some indication is forthcoming that an end is approaching with respect to the excessive national and local expenditure and consequent excessive taxation which have constituted such an oppressive burden on our industries during recent years.

The industrial conditions to which I have referred have been accompanied during the past twelve months by two further factors, which combine, I think, to distinguish 1929 as a year of a quite exceptional character for those engaged in the business of life assurance.

In the first place, there occurred in the early part of the year a serious increase in mortality generally, due principally to the prevailing influenza epidemic, an event naturally of considerable importance to a company with connections so widespread as are those of the Refuge. This increase was reflected at once in our claims experience, and caused our claim rate to mount to a figure which, in our post-war experience, has been exceeded only by that occasioned by the similar visitation which occurred in the winter of 1918-19. I propose to make some further remarks on this subject when dealing specifically with the mortality experience of the company during the year.

The second and equally disturbing feature of the operations covered by the last twelve months appears in the exceptional conditions which prevailed in the financial world during the year. It is not my intention to deal with the subject in detail at this stage; my remarks will fall more properly under the head of investments. I desire only to state that the results of our financial activities during 1929 are such as we may justly regard with a considerable degree of satisfaction.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

Coming now to the report, you will observe that progress has been maintained in every field of the company's activities; and when it is considered how adverse were the conditions, both industrial and financial, under which this progress was secured, I think you will agree that it is a significant indication of the strength and vitality of your undertaking.

The total premium income amounted to £8,657,185, an increase of £322,058 over that of the previous year, and the total net interest income was £2,122,339, showing an increase under that heading of £157,387. Our total funds now stand at £45,945,704, showing an increase of £3,079,444. The amount paid in claims by death or maturity during the year was £4,503,058—a figure which represents the payment of approximately £15,000 each working day—and the total sum paid under this head since the inception of the company is now £61,480,654. The aggregate surplus shown by the valuation of the two branches of the company's business is £2,326,889, which includes £770,307 brought forward from the previous valuation. After the transfer of £500,000 to the investments reserve funds, an amount which, having regard to existing conditions, it has been deemed prudent to add, and which brings the amount of those funds up to £1,600,000, it is proposed to allocate £1,089,377 to the policyholders, and £150,000 to the shareholders, the balance of £587,512 being carried forward. It is interesting to observe that of the payment to shareholders, more than two-thirds of the amount—*i.e.*, £102,726, is contributed by the ordinary branch, the industrial branch providing the remaining £47,274.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

The basic function of a life assurance company is the provision of immediate financial assistance and protection in the event of death; and to-day it is recognised that our own and similar undertakings are performing a valuable service in bringing before the insuring public the benefits resulting from the making of such provision. These benefits were of unusual value in the industrial branch during 1929, the amount paid in respect of claims by death being £1,825,679, showing an exceptional increase of £288,756 over the corresponding figure for the preceding year. This increase is due, in part, to the increases in the sums assured consequent on the operation of the scheme set up last year whereby a portion of the surplus was allocated to policyholders, and for which, of course, provision was already made, and also to the fact that our claims experience in 1928 was very light; but in the main the influenza epidemic in the earlier part of the year must be held responsible.

The new business consisted of 934,991 policies, assuring the sum of £17,711,086. The premium revenue was £4,739,174, an increase of £106,392 over the corresponding figure for 1928, and the net income from investments, after deduction of income tax, was £745,435, showing a net yield of £5 3s. 7d. per cent. on the entire assets of the branch, both invested and uninvested, the corresponding figure for each of the two preceding years being £5 3s. per cent. The death claims, as I have already said, amounted to £1,825,679, and £315,830 was paid to policyholders under matured endowment assurances. The expense ratio for the year was 37.11 per cent., showing a slight increase on the corresponding figure for the preceding year, and the claim ratio was 45.18 per cent., as compared with 38.70 per cent. in 1928 and 40.87 per cent. in 1927. The industrial branch fund now amounts to £14,236,542, having increased by £1,013,984 during the year.

In a comparison of the increase in the premium income for 1929 with the corresponding figure for the preceding year, it is necessary to have regard to the fact that in 1928 there occurred an additional weekly account, making a total of 53 weekly accounts in that year, as against the normal 52 applicable to 1929.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH VALUATION.

The valuation of this branch has again been made on the basis of the English Life Mortality Table No. 8 Males, with interest at 3 per cent. for all classes of policy except adult single whole life assurances by weekly premiums, and infantile whole life assurances by weekly premiums not exceeding one penny, which are valued at 3½ per cent. As regards these policies, the valuation has been further strengthened, the percentage thrown off the office premiums before valuation varying from 35 per cent. upwards, and providing in every case a net positive liability. The remaining policies, including the whole life assurance by monthly premiums, have again been valued on a strict net premium basis.

The resulting surplus is £511,807, which includes £44,715 brought forward from the preceding year. The sum of £250,000 is transferred to the investments reserve fund, and in pursuance of the policy introduced a year ago it is proposed to set aside £164,842 for allocation amongst the policyholders in this branch. From the remainder it is proposed to allocate to the shareholders the sum of £24,774, and to declare a dividend of 7½ per cent., absorbing £22,500, the balance of £49,691 being carried forward unappropriated. It will be noted that the total proportion of surplus allocated to the shareholders represents rather less than 1 per cent. of the premium income in this branch for the year.

The number of industrial branch policies at the valuation date was 6,338,070, assuring the sum of £88,256,178, and the average duration of the policies was ten years and eight months.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS TO POLICYHOLDERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

I do not think any one circumstance connected with the company occasioned me more pleasure than the announcement I was privileged to make in my address to you a year ago, that we had then reached a stage in our progress which enabled us to allocate to our policyholders in the industrial branch a very large sum as a first step toward bringing up the benefits of our older members to the latest and most favourable scale. It is very gratifying to report that, despite the prevalent adverse conditions, we are this year in a position to set aside a further sum for this purpose, and it is proposed, as I have already said, that the sum so allocated to our policyholders in the industrial branch shall be £164,842; notwithstanding that policies in this branch are in form non-profit. The effect of this second allocation is to complete the process of putting all our policies in the industrial branch permanently on the latest and most favourable scale of benefit, with the exception of whole-life policies under Tables 1, 2, 3, and 12, 13, 14, in respect of which the additions to the sums assured under the original contracts to bring them up to the 1927—the latest, and much improved—scale of benefits will be made in respect of claims by death occurring between to-day and March 1 of next year.

I think you will agree that this result is a very happy fulfilment of the hopes I expressed a year ago that we should be able to increase still further the benefits we offer to policyholders in this company, an ambition which, of course, it is our intention continuously to pursue.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

In the difficult conditions prevailing to-day, and no less amongst that class of the community which normally assures in the ordinary branch than amongst that from which our industrial branch policyholders are drawn, the increased new business which we are able to report is a result we may justly regard as eminently satisfactory. You will be glad also to observe that the expense ratio for the year, at 15.58 per cent., shows a decrease on the corresponding figure for 1928. The number of policies issued in the year was 50,454, assuring the sum of £6,479,796, the annual premiums payable thereon being £441,079 and the single premiums £170,518. The premium revenue for the year was £3,918,011, an increase of £215,666 over that of the previous year, and the net income from interest, after deduction of tax, was £1,376,904. The net rate of interest earned on the entire assets of the branch, invested and uninvested, was £4 15s. 2d. per cent., as compared with £4 15s. 8d. per cent. in respect of the previous year. Payments under the head of claims amounted to £2,361,549, of which £815,854 was paid in respect of deaths, and £1,545,695 to policyholders under matured endowment assurances. You will observe that the amount of the claims by death shows an important increase over the corresponding figure for 1928, due to causes to which I have already referred. The number of deaths so occurring was, however, well within the expectation.

The ordinary branch fund now amounts to £29,340,254, showing an increase during the year of £1,663,220.

ORDINARY BRANCH VALUATION.

The ordinary branch has again been valued by the OM table of mortality in conjunction with interest at 3 per cent. Only the net premiums, corresponding to the ages at entry, have been taken into account, and on this stringent basis the result of the valuation reveals a surplus of £1,815,082, which includes the sum of £725,592 brought forward from the previous year. Of this surplus, the sum of £250,000 is transferred to the investments reserve fund, and from the remainder it is proposed to maintain the reversionary bonus at the present figure of £2 4s. per cent. on with-profit policies, absorbing £924,535, and to allocate £102,726 to the shareholders, the balance of £537,821 being carried forward unappropriated. You will observe that the amount carried forward is materially less than was the case last year, but the difference is considerably more than accounted for by the unusually large amount transferred this year to the investments reserve fund.

The total number of ordinary branch policies existing at December 31, 1929, was 540,554, assuring the sum of £63,646,002, including bonus additions of £6,587,801.

MORTALITY.

If it is true that the proper study of mankind is man, then the proper study of a life assurance company is mortality; and in this connection the past year has been of the greatest interest. Since the exceptionally severe epidemic of influenza which occurred in the winter of 1918-19 there have been similar outbreaks of lesser intensity in 1922, 1924, 1927 and 1929. In each case the epidemic arose early in the year, and reached a climax about the end of February, the outbreak of 1929 being exceptional, not only in its severity, but in its persistence, normal conditions not being resumed until the end of May, five months after the first signs became evident. In this connection, and as affording an illustration of the intimate and widespread contact of the company with the general life of the community, it is interesting to record that the curve representing the progress of our claim ratio during the period in question reproduces very closely the characteristics of the curve representing the progress of the death-rate per 1,000 of "107 county boroughs and great towns" of England and Wales, but deferred a week or a fortnight throughout its course. This may be explained as representing the short period elapsing between death and the payment of the claim, and provides a striking example of the operation in practice of one of the first principles of this company—prompt payment of claims, a principle to which the Refuge has throughout its history endeavoured to give effect.

You will remember that in my address last year I referred to the effect of meteorological conditions upon our claim rate, and I made the statement that what is usually termed "seasonable" weather is not necessarily accompanied by a diminution in the number of our death claims. It is rather curious how immediately our recent experience has provided a justification of these remarks. Both the wintry weather of the opening months of the year and the hot dry summer were accompanied in the case of this company by a claim rate above the normal; whilst the heavy rains and unusually mild conditions which set in early in November exerted a most beneficial effect on our mortality experience.

INVESTMENTS.

I now come to the matter of the investments of the company; and, having regard to the numerous and, in some respects, very exceptional adverse influences of the year, you will no doubt regard my observations on this subject as being of more than usual importance.

As you are all no doubt aware, the year 1929 has been marked by a series of financial events, both at home and abroad, which might certainly, and fortunately, be described as without parallel in recent times.

I need not take you through the whole of the financial history of the twelve months. I will only allude to two of the outstanding events. At home, the greatest sensation of the year was caused by the Hatry crash; and, in this connection, I am pleased to inform you that this company was not interested either in any of the Hatry group of companies, or, fortunately, in the fraudulent scrip which was issued by those companies. Abroad, perhaps the most important event was the slump in American securities in the late autumn, and I am glad to say that here again we escaped all but the favourable consequences of this débâcle, in that our direct holding of American securities at the time of the fall amounted to less than one-third of 1 per cent. of our total investments, and those were of a comparatively non-speculative character. These are facts which I think afford reason for considerable satisfaction. They do not, however, as you may well realise, indicate that, unlike all other financial institutions, we have by any means escaped the consequences of the serious and almost general depreciation in the value of investments which occurred during the year under review. This depreciation, based on market values, amounts to 3⅝ per cent. of our total funds, and it is, perhaps, some comfort to reflect that, had the whole of our funds been invested as to one-half in long-dated and the other half in comparatively short-dated British Government securities, the result as regards the amount of depreciation during the year would have been less favourable to the company than actually has been the case. Before I leave this question, I am pleased to state that, prior to transferring the sum of £500,000 to the investments reserve funds, those funds were very considerably more than sufficient to cover all our depreciation as at December 31st.

The invested funds of the company as at December 31st last amounted to £44,907,561, showing an increase during the year of £3,617,478. This increase in the amount of the investments is larger

than the actual increase in funds, for the reason that we commenced the year with an exceptionally large bank balance, which has, during the year, been absorbed by investment. The principal increases during the year in the amounts of our investments under their respective classifications are as follows :—

	£
Railway and other debentures and debenture stocks—home and foreign	859,706
Indian and Colonial Government securities	688,827
Railway and other preference and guaranteed stocks ...	503,546
Mortgages on property within the United Kingdom ...	449,544
British Government securities	395,112
Railway and other ordinary stocks	294,965
Loans on the company's policies	239,073

The amount of interest (less income tax) has, for the first time, exceeded £2,000,000, the exact figure being £2,122,339. This shows a net yield on the combined life assurance funds of £5 3s. 1d. per cent., against £5 2s. 10d. last year and £5 2s. 11d. in 1927. Similarly the net yield on the total assets, invested and uninvested, is £4 17s. 11d., against £4 18s. in 1928 and £4 18s. 1d. in the preceding year. I am sure you will agree that the ability of the company to maintain these net yields is most gratifying, and, I hope, affords some indication of the attention given to this very important phase of the company's business.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

This company, as you are aware, through its membership of the National Amalgamated Approved Society, plays an important part in the operation of the national scheme of health insurance. On behalf of the society, the company administers the national health insurance of a membership of 655,000, an increase of nearly 5,000 as compared with the corresponding figure in respect of the previous year. In the course of the year 1,328,474 payments of benefit were made, amounting to £829,101, including £78,609 in respect of maternity benefit. In the preceding year the corresponding payments of benefit numbered 1,234,000, amounting to £759,941. The number of new members admitted to the "Refuge" section of the society was 42,142.

I referred a year ago to the serious and increasing number of claims on the sickness funds of societies throughout the country, which constituted so disturbing a feature of national health insurance at that time, and I announced that the management of the National Amalgamated Approved Society had set up a scheme of sickness visitation designed to eliminate those claims which could not be justified on medical grounds, and which were antagonistic to the interests of the general body of insured members. This scheme has been in operation during the last twelve months, and has been attended by a considerable measure of success, as may be gathered from an examination of the figures I have just read. Whilst fully securing the interests of genuine claimants, the system sets up an immediate supervision over all claims submitted, and ensures that no claim is allowed to persist which is not in accordance with the basic principles of the scheme of national health insurance.

I am glad to observe that the subject of maternal mortality is at last attracting a great deal of public interest. It is a most serious consideration that, whereas the infantile mortality rate has fallen steadily for many years, there has been no such decrease in the rate of maternal mortality, which is as high now as it was 30 years ago. Nor does the matter rest there. It is a fact that there exists also a great deal of female sickness consequent on and directly attributable to the incident of childbirth; and the means to be adopted to secure an improvement in this respect constitutes a problem of peculiar importance to approved societies.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the experience of the National Almalgamated Approved Society is such as to justify us in the belief that amongst the approved societies' membership the maternal mortality rate is very much less than amongst the population generally. So far as the membership of the National Amalgamated Approved Society is concerned, one of the reasons to which this result may be attributed is the extent to which our members take advantage of the specialist treatment and advice to be secured at the different ante-natal clinics and maternity and child-welfare centres up and down the country; and it is improbable that our experience differs materially from that of other approved societies. It seems, therefore, that a most promising line of advance towards the solution of the problem lies in the direction of a further extension of the system of clinics providing expert ante-natal and post-natal advice, coupled with the provision of adequate cash benefits, such as it is the aim of the approved societies to provide.

SURVEY.

In these days such terms as "rationalisation" and "reorganisation" are commonplaces in their application to industry, in the sense that only by some such radical operation may prosperity be restored, and it appears to me that we are entitled to take some credit for the fact that reorganisation, in the case of this company, takes a very different form, and is, in fact, a process which is continually at work. Year by year we have adjusted our methods to suit current conditions, and we have never hesitated completely to remodel, if necessary, any phase of our work, if by so doing we could avail ourselves of modern ideas, methods or machinery.

As a direct result of the operation of these principles, we have the fact that our industrial branch premium income, though more than double the corresponding pre-war figure, is now collected by three-fifths the number of agents, whilst over the same period the staff employed at chief office has decreased by one-tenth. From the policyholder's point of view the success of the system is evident from the fact that never—even during the war—have we decreased the benefits we offer for a given premium. On the contrary, we have made successive increases, as will be seen from the following table, which serves also to illustrate the value to our policyholders of that portion of the substantial allocation of surplus made in respect of each of the last two years, increasing the benefits under adult whole life assurances by weekly premiums. As already stated, claims under such assurances, arising by death before March 1st next, will be paid on the 1927 scale of benefits shown below, whatever the scale under which the policy was originally issued.

SUM ASSURED.

Payable at Death for a Weekly Premium of One Penny.

Age at entry.	1887 scale. £ s.	1910 scale. £ s.	1923 scale. £ s.	1927 scale. £ s.
11 ...	10 0 ...	10 17 ...	12 19 ...	15 6
30 ...	6 3 ...	6 12 ...	6 19 ...	7 18
45 ...	3 14 ...	4 1 ...	4 2 ...	4 9
60 ...	1 18 ...	2 2 ...	2 2 ...	2 4

These successive increases in benefit in the industrial branch, to which the numerous increases in the reversionary bonus provide the counterpart in the ordinary branch, have not occurred haphazard, but constitute the logical outcome of the policy of careful management and continuous attention to expense which has secured since 1920 a reduction of over 12½ in the figure representing the industrial branch expense ratio, which now stands, as I have already said, at 37.11 per cent. of the premium income for the branch.

In conclusion, I am glad to add that the attitude of the public towards the company, as expressed in their contact with members of our Field Force, continues on the cordial footing to which we have become accustomed. For this happy state of affairs we are greatly indebted to our men in the field, upon whom rests the responsibility of establishing and maintaining that element of personal contact between policyholder and company which is so valuable an asset in business life to-day, and to which we attach a very great importance.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

My last observation brings me to a subject which I think I must always have been approached with pleasure by my predecessors in the chair, as it is now by me. I refer to our officers and staff, both at the chief office and in our branches; and I take this opportunity of paying a very warm tribute to the energy and enthusiasm which have characterised their work during a period which, in many respects, repeated the difficulties of the preceding years. In the face of these difficulties the progress which has been achieved entitles us, I think, to regard the year under review as one of success, and I am sure you will desire me to express your sincere appreciation of the efforts of all who have contributed to this gratifying result.

The relations between the management and all grades of the staff continue on the cordial footing which has become a Refuge tradition, and to which we attach a very great value. We are greatly indebted to our various staff associations for their helpful collaboration throughout the year in the discussion and solution of those difficulties which arise from time to time, and which may so easily mar the smooth working of an organisation such as ours; and we desire to put on record our appreciation of this spirit of helpful co-operation, which has been in the past, and will, we hope, continue to be in the future, so great an asset to the company.

Gentlemen, I have now much pleasure in moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts.

The report and accounts were adopted.

Messrs William Eber Thornton and James Proctor Green were reappointed directors of the company.

Messrs Walton, Watts and Company were reappointed auditors.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROGRESS IN EVERY BRANCH.
SIR EDGAR HORNES' REVIEW.

The annual general meeting of the Prudential Assurance Company, Ltd., was held on Thursday, March 6, 1930, at the Chief Office, Holborn Bars, London, Sir Edgar Horne, Bart., the chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary, Sir George May, K.B.E., having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: In the report of your directors for the 81st year of the company's existence you have once again a record of continued progress in every branch of the company's business.

In the general branch the combined premium income for 1929 from all sections other than marine was £1,611,455—that is, £225,325 more than for the year 1928.

GENERAL BRANCH.

In common with the general experience our fire losses have been heavier than in recent years, the combined loss ratio for the fire, accident, employers' liability and miscellaneous classes being 50·6 per cent. of the premium income during 1929, as compared with 47·3 per cent. for 1928, thus showing an increase of 3·3 per cent.; since, however, the proportion of premium income absorbed in expenses fell by ·8 per cent.—*i.e.*, 40·6 per cent. for 1929 as against 41·4 per cent. for 1928, the total outgoings show a net increase of only 2·5 per cent.

MARINE BUSINESS.

Last year I dealt with the new arrangements which we had made for the underwriting of marine risks as from January 1, 1929. In pursuance of our agreement with him, Mr G. Garfield Sharman has written on our behalf a restricted amount of such business, the premiums received being £58,379 and the claims amounting to £12,523.

Although our agreement with the Royal Exchange Assurance in respect of this class of business terminated on December 31, 1928, they had necessarily to accept during 1928 a number of risks commencing during 1929 and for which premiums amounting to £175,675 were paid in that year. The total marine premiums received during 1929 thus amounted to £234,054, whilst the total claims were £417,091. The fund at the end of the year was £601,059.

Unhealthy conditions persist in the marine market, and we still adhere to the policy of restricting the amount of marine business written for us, but we believe that in due course this section of our business will make its contribution to the profits of the company.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

The total amount of premiums received in this branch for the year was £11,713,684, that is £65,163 less than the corresponding figure for 1928, but as the single premiums received were less by £97,041, the income from premiums other than single premiums increased by £31,878.

In this branch the number of policies in force is 1,054,138, securing sums assured and accrued bonuses to an aggregate amount of £187,547,449, or approximately one-eighth of the total ordinary life business in force in the British Isles.

Group schemes of death benefits and of pensions are being viewed with increasing favour by employers and the Prudential is taking its part in meeting and stimulating the demand for them.

The average amount of life assurance per head of the population is still far too small, a very large proportion having most inadequate protection and a great number none whatever. This neglect appears to be even more marked amongst those classes of the community which enjoy relatively large incomes and to which ordinary rather than industrial assurance is applicable. The duty of every married man to make suitable provision for his wife and to ensure that his children enjoy the security of a good education and a fair start in the battle of life seems to be lost sight of and I wonder sometimes if wives and mothers appreciate their position and dependency.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

In the industrial branch the total payments to our policyholders amounted to some £12,500,000, in addition the reserves which we hold to ensure the due payment of claims in the future arising under our existing policies were increased by about £4,000,000, so that during the year approximately £16,500,000 has been paid to or set aside for the use of our policy-holders in this branch.

The premium income for the year was £17,385,175, an increase of nearly £250,000 over that for 1928.

In this branch we have now more than twenty-five millions of policies in force securing maximum sums assured with accrued bonus amounting to over £470,000,000, but, although these figure show that a proportion of the industrial population realise the duty of providing for their dependants, the amount of the provision is only a small fraction of that required.

The mortality, more particularly during the first quarter, was exceptionally heavy, and had the effect of increasing the death claims paid by the company by nearly £1,000,000 in excess of those paid in 1928.

The average duration of the whole-life premium-paying policies in force in this branch is 18 years, which must be a rather surprising fact to those whose impression of industrial policies is that they are invariably lapsed after payment of premiums for a short period only. Circumstances compel holders to lapse their policies in some cases, but we safeguard their interests so far as possible by granting free policies after one year's premiums have been paid. In this connection I may refer to the Industrial Assurance and Friendly Societies Act, 1929, which affects us mainly with regard to certain endowment policies issued on the lives of children under age 10. Under the provisions of this Act, cash surrender values are granted after payment of one year's premium, and this provision is extended to policies lapsed after December 31, 1923, provided application is made before May 10, 1930. Should there be any of our policyholders who have lapsed policies to which the Act applies and who have not yet claimed their surrender values, they should do so without delay. To those whose policies are in force, and they form the great bulk, I would point out that they will be acting in their own best interest by maintaining them until maturity, and so obtaining the large bonuses which are being given under our profit-sharing scheme.

APPROVED SOCIETIES.

The four Prudential Approved Societies operating in Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the year 1929 paid to or on behalf of their members benefits under the National Health Insurance Acts amounting approximately to £5,198,600; making a total of over £48,982,000 since the inception of National Health Insurance in July, 1912.

Included in the amount paid during the year is a sum of £556,873 expended on treatment benefits granted as a result of the surpluses disclosed at the valuations of the societies. Of that sum, £358,691 was spent on dental treatment and dentures. Other treatment benefits provided for members were hospital, convalescent home, ophthalmic, nursing treatment, and the provision of medical and surgical appliances where necessary.

By the distribution of these sums in this way, we feel that our societies are not merely assisting in the administration of insurance against loss of health, but that they are taking a large and important part in the prevention and cure of sickness.

SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR.

As a result of the valuation of the company's assets and liabilities in the respective branches, the surplus that has emerged is in total £9,742,691, made up as follows :—

	£
Industrial branch.....	6,015,991
Ordinary branch	3,457,192
General branch.....	269,508

DISTRIBUTION.

In accordance with our articles of association, these amounts have been dealt with as follows :—

Description.	General Branch.	Ordinary Branch.	Industrial Branch.
	£	£	£
Allocated as bonus to participating policyholders	...	2,477,808	3,316,062
Transferred to profit and loss account for dividend and bonus to holders of "A" shares issued before November 21, 1929	16,667	273,471	651,529
Transferred to profit and loss account for dividend to "B" shareholders.....	50,000	...	...
Bonus to members of outdoor staff	...	...	528,497
Total surplus distributed...	66,667	2,751,279	4,496,088
Investment reserve fund	...	500,000	500,000
The common contingency fund ...	...	...	250,000
The special contingency fund.....	...	...	483,333
Additional reserves.....	84,895	...	...
Total to reserves	84,895	500,000	1,233,333
Transferred to profit and loss account for income tax	37,000	...	...
Carried forward	80,946	205,913	286,570
Grand total	269,508	3,457,192	6,015,991

SHAREHOLDERS.

The dividend and bonus to holders of "A" shares are the same as declared last year, but, in accordance with the terms of issue, the new "A" shares do not participate in our profits until next year.

The dividend on the "B" shares is also at the same rate as last year, and you will remember that your board thought it proper to warn you then that a rapid increase in the rate was not to be expected.

POLICY HOLDERS.

In both the industrial and ordinary branches the same rates of reversionary bonuses have been declared for 1929 as for 1928, that is to say in the industrial branch a rate of £1 14s. per cent. of the sum assured by all participating policies issued since January 1, 1923, whilst in the ordinary branch £2 10s. per cent. has been added to the sum assured under whole life policies and £2 6s. per cent. in the case of endowment assurances. In the industrial branch the bonus on policies issued before 1923 range from 11 per cent. to 70 per cent. according to duration, and the period for which these rates have been guaranteed is increased from 14 years to 15 years except in respect of policies issued in the Irish Free State, where the guarantee is for one year only. Cash surplus to a total amount of more than £19,000,000 has been allocated to our industrial branch policies since the inception of our profit-sharing scheme.

EXPENSE RATIO.

The expense ratio has been continuously reduced from 40·5 per cent. in 1920 to 24·79 per cent. in 1929. This, together with the increased rate of interest and the modification in the basis of assessment for income tax in the industrial branch, has enabled us to give to policyholders in this branch increased benefits, the extent of which is illustrated by the following table, which also shows the amounts distributed to the shareholders from the industrial branch :—

Year.	Sum Assured at Age 11 for a Weekly Premium of 1d.	Net Amount to Shareholders from the Industrial Branch.	Cash Allocated to Policyholders.	Rate of Reversionary Bonus Declared.	Free Policies Granted.
	£ s.	£	£		
1920 ...	10 5	318,083	Nil	...	After 5 years' premiums paid.
1921 ...	10 5	441,303	200,000	...	" " "
1922 ...	10 5	489,562	500,000	...	" " "
1923 ...	12 0	501,526	906,650	£1 5% vesting after 15 years	" " "
1924 ...	14 10	616,930	1,719,301	£1 10 " 15 "	" " "
1925 ...	14 12	647,282	2,097,737	£1 10 " 10 "	" " "
1926 ...	14 12	652,448	2,500,000	£1 10 " 5 "	After 3 years' " "
1927 ...	14 12	664,689	2,916,667	£1 12 " 5 "	" " "
1928 ...	14 12	663,632	3,265,306	£1 14 vesting immediately	After 1 year's " "
1929 ...	14 12	651,529	3,316,062	£1 14 "	" " "

Bonuses on Claims on Policies issued before 1st January, 1923, have been paid at rates varying from 2½ per cent. to 70 per cent.

This shows how the increasing prosperity of the company has been devoted for the most part to increasing the benefits granted to our policyholders. It is not unfair to compare these results with those that are being obtained by the remaining policyholders in the Post Office life assurance scheme, who will not in any circumstances share in profits, even if any are made. You will remember that the Post Office ceased to transact new business last year. We offered to take over all the existing policies and to give the policyholders all the benefits to which they were entitled and, in addition, bonuses similar to those which Prudential policyholders receive; our offer was not accepted but is still open.

OUTDOOR STAFF.

The amount of surplus profits allocated to the outdoor staff under the distribution of profits scheme has increased from £227,642 in March, 1924, to £528,497 this year and we are continuing the procedure adopted last March of reserving a portion for distribution quarterly in order to encourage a steady influx of remunerative additions to the company's industrial branch premium income. Some objection to this arrangement has been raised by those interested, but, in view of the material growth of the amount to which our representatives are entitled, it is considered that the new method of distribution is wise and equitable from every point of view.

In this country the Prudential agent is becoming increasingly the friend and adviser on insurance matters of the many families upon whom he calls week by week, and it is very gratifying to find that the pecuniary position of our employees on the outdoor staff is steadily improving year by year.

Further points with regard to our expenses which I would like to make clear are that they include adequate provision for pensions and our contributions to charities. The staff pensions are provided for under a scheme whereby the pension fund is held under the control of trustees. The assets of the pension fund are therefore not included in our balance sheet, as they are held strictly in accordance with the terms of the trust deed.

INVESTMENTS.

The past year has been a most eventful one in the investment world. During the early months, boom conditions continued, but with the approach of the General Election, the rise in prices was checked and it was not long before market values in practically every section became adversely affected. The downward movement was accentuated, firstly, by the Hatry sensation, and, later, by the American crash, which occurred just after the raising of our Bank rate to 6½ per cent., the highest figure for about eight years. These happenings naturally had far-reaching effects and exercised a most depressing influence on all markets generally, and one from which they have not yet recovered The experiences of 1929 have shown how essential it is to pursue a conservative course in the distribution of profits and the necessity for building up ample reserves to provide for such catastrophes as those we have recently witnessed. In this connection I think we can congratulate ourselves on what I may call our post-war policy. We have been subject to a certain amount of criticism occasionally for building up our reserves as we did, but the present situation completely justifies the lines on which your directors have acted. Estimates have been made by various authorities as to the average fall in market prices during the year 1929 and we are satisfied that our depreciation is, in any case, below the average of insurance companies. You will, however, by reference to our total funds, realise what a tremendous strain we have undergone. It gives me much pleasure, therefore to be able to assure you that there is still a satisfactory margin between the market value and book value of our investment without recourse to the reserve funds, as shown in the balance sheet.

It is customary at our annual meeting to comment on the distribution of our investments and I may point out therefore that our funds are now held as follows :—

United Kingdom	68 per cent.
India and the Colonies ...	10 per cent.
Foreign countries	22 per cent.

Dealing with our Stock Exchange securities only, the percentages are as follows :—

Government and municipal	54 per cent.
Debentures and bonds	20 per cent.
Guaranteed and preference stocks...	10 per cent.
Ordinary stocks and shares	16 per cent.

With conditions such as we have had there has been no difficulty in obtaining a remunerative rate of interest on our surplus funds, which have been invested during the year to give a gross return of approximately 6½ per cent.

NET YIELDS ON ORDINARY AND INDUSTRIAL BRANCH LIFE FUNDS.

A year or so ago, in discussing the net yield shown on our ordinary branch and industrial branch life funds, I suggested that there were signs that they were approaching a "peak," and further increases could not therefore be indefinitely relied upon. Whilst still holding this view, it is satisfactory to know that the rates have once more improved, the figures now being :—

Ordinary branch £4 19s. 11d. per cent., an increase of 3s.

Industrial branch £5 9s. 11d. per cent., an increase of 2s. 4d.

It has more than once been pointed out that these percentages do not represent the rates at which our funds have been invested, but are the net yields based on the actual assurance funds, and are the measure of the surplus interest earned when compared with the valuation rate of 3 per cent.

You will see from the company's accounts that effect has been given to the alterations rendered necessary by the Companies Act, 1929.

GENERAL SURVEY.

It will be seen from the figures for the year 1929 that the Prudential continues to progress although the general economic conditions of the country have not yet shown that improvement for which we have for some time been hoping. We believe that such improvement will eventually take place, but precedent to its accomplishment a new spirit of confidence and enterprise in the country must arise. The revival of industry requires a very large outlay of capital, which will not be forthcoming until the present uncertainty as to the course of future legislation is removed.

The insurance industry in this country, during a time of very great difficulty, has been one of the few which have shown continuous growth, and it is recognised as an absolutely safe avenue for the investment of savings. To mention this fact may seem unnecessary, but it is generally overlooked that conditions have been very different over a great part of Europe. The more thrifty of the population who had sought the protection of life assurance had the mortification of seeing their life cover practically disappear owing to depreciation of currencies. Over a large portion of the Continent the result has been a loss of faith in the security offered by life assurance, and, although currencies have now for some time been more stable, confidence is but slowly being re-established. With such recent and bitter experience before them, those who want to assure their lives are naturally looking for proper safeguards that their savings shall not again be reduced in value, and the security afforded by British insurance companies is eagerly sought.

In our own Colonies and Dominions conditions are different; life assurance there, as here, has the highest reputation for soundness and financial security, and we may expect in the next few years a much greater relative increase in population and wealth than is probable in this country.

DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA AND CANADA.

It was with these considerations in view that your directors obtained in November last your authority to increase the capital of the Company in order that the life business of the Prudential may be developed abroad as opportunity offers. As you know, we had previously started business in India, and I am happy to say that our activities there have developed favourably, the volume and quality of the business exceeding our expectations. In addition, steps are being taken to start life business in Canada, where we have for some years had an office for the transaction of fire business. The question of the best procedure to adopt with regard to developing our business on the Continent is also receiving our careful consideration, and in due course we hope to see valuable connections established there.

In thus broadening the basis of our operations for the future there is no suggestion that ample scope does not exist for further development at home; we shall continue to exert every endeavour in that direction, and I am confident that the Prudential will in the future, as in the past, lead the way amongst British life offices.

LIFE ASSURANCE AND DEATH DUTIES.

Although the attitude of Somerset House is not encouraging, I should like once more to put forward the view that it would be very much in the interests of the country and also, I think, of the Treasury itself, if they would agree that life assurances earmarked for the purpose of paying death duties were not added to the aggregate of the estate so far as they were employed for that particular purpose. An enormous encouragement to make suitable provision would be given in all those cases where the partition of estates or the sale of works of art would otherwise be inevitable. The celerity with which estates could be wound up and the economy both to the Treasury and the successors would be considerable, while the very large additional income which insurance companies thus secured would enable them to supply still greater assistance in promoting the prosperity of the State. Such a step would remove the only valid objection to an ideal method of turning what is now a capital tax into a charge on revenue by the payment of periodic premiums under the policy. In suggesting an alleviation of the effects of a tax on capital, such as death duties, it is interesting to note the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said in a recent speech that the country must pay its way, but that he would not use capital to meet current and recurrent expenses.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOSPITALS.

You will be interested to know that the scheme which we inaugurated some years ago for assisting the voluntary hospitals of the country by annual subscriptions for the support of beds and cots to be named after the company has proved a great success, and has met with ready and general acceptance by hospitals both in London and the provinces.

At the present time 404 hospitals have taken advantage of the offers we have made to them. The name of The Prudential appears over 268 beds and 425 cots, and the number is being added to week by week.

I have shown you that in the past the Prudential has always increased the benefits it gives to its policyholders as and when opportunity occurred. It is our intention still to pursue that policy and, in addition, to continue to improve our organisation, and so to extend the scope of our activities that all connected with the company—whether as policyholders, members of the staff, or shareholders—may have additional reasons to be satisfied with their interest in the Prudential.

The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Frederick Schooling, F.I.A. (deputy chairman), in seconding the motion, said that the industrial branch revenue account showed that the claims by death had amounted to £5,529,005; in 1910 the death claims paid were £2,529,301. The increased outgo under this head had thus been substantial, but not more so than would be expected considering the growth of the company. A striking feature, however, was the amount paid in matured endowments. During 1929 these amounted to over £5,000,000, which compared with £53,000 in 1910. The reduced expense ratio had enabled them to give the excellent reversionary bonus of £1 14s. per cent. in the industrial branch, and those to whom the payment of annual, half-yearly or quarterly premiums in the ordinary branch was not convenient could be recommended with confidence to consider the endowment tables in the industrial branch.

He believed the idea was still prevalent in some quarters that the Prudential only catered for the small assurer. That idea was fallacious, since every year a substantial proportion of the ordinary branch new business was made up of policies for £500 or more. Last year, for example, they issued 8,751 policies for at least £500 each, the aggregate sum assured being £7,176,649 and the average £820, a result which in no small measure was due to the rate of bonus they were able to declare.

VIEWS OF SIR WILLIAM PLENDER.

Sir William Plender, Bt., G.B.E., said that the balance sheet presented disclosed assets aggregating £228,000,000, an increase over 1928 of £9,300,000; but large as was this figure, it was small compared with the amount of the aggregate dealings in the purchase and sale of securities during the year which passed before the auditors and his firm.

The valuation made by the actuary had revealed a surplus from the life business, excluding the sum brought forward from 1928, of nearly £9,000,000, and after the allocation of £1,733,000 to investment reserves and contingency funds, would permit of £5,793,000 being distributed by way of bonus to the participating policyholders of the ordinary and industrial branches, and £528,000 to the members of the outdoor staff. He had been much interested in seeing the table in the report which showed that, since the initiation of the profit-sharing scheme 22 years ago, industrial branch policyholders and the outdoor staff had been allotted bonuses amounting to no less than £23,560,000. This was a great achievement, and it should bring home both to the industrial branch assured and to the outdoor staff the fact that their interests were well served by the company. Further interesting facts were the low expense ratio and the satisfactory rates of interest earned upon the combined life funds and on the new investments made last year.

A few months ago he was in Canada. Much was said to him about the progress of that great Dominion, and it was abundantly evident that it had a future of illimitable possibilities. But remarks were occasionally heard which pointed to the belief that England was not in some respects as alert as her children overseas, and when he told the Canadian people that an institution at home had over 27,000,000 life policies in force and completed an annual valuation of each risk by the middle of February, and announced during that month the individual bonuses, they were not a little surprised. He told them it was the Prudential, which, though 81 years old, was still virile, progressive and unrivalled. (Hear, hear.) They marvelled at the organising skill which enabled such results to be accomplished, and admitted that even they, with all their mechanical contrivances and restless energy, could not equal such an achievement. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks were accorded with acclamation to the chairman and directors, as well as to the management and indoor and outdoor staff, for their services during the past year, and the proceedings terminated.

PROVIDENT MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

FURTHER PROGRESS—RECORD INCREASE IN FUNDS.

The annual general meeting of the Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association was held, on the 5th instant, at the offices, 25–31, Moorgate, London.

Mr Owen Hugh Smith (the chairman) said: Gentlemen, the association continues to progress and to prosper. The premium income was £873,000, an increase on that of the previous year of £34,000. This does not include any business on the single premium plan, under which nearly the whole of the single premium is advanced by the office. We have never issued a single policy on this plan. Our funds have increased during the year by £616,000, which is the largest increase in the history of the association. This remarkable increase in our funds has occurred in a year when the new business has been lower than in the previous year. The large distribution of surplus made in 1928 naturally attracted an exceptional volume of new members in that year.

The ratio of expenses to premium income has fallen to 13.6, as compared with 14.5 in the previous year. This is, with one exception, the lowest in our history. The net rate of interest earned on our funds has risen to £4 17s., which is, with one exception, the highest we have ever recorded. It is indeed remarkable that both these ratios, which measure such important factors in our profit-earning power, should in this one year be almost the best on record.

INVESTMENT OF THE FUNDS.

I now come to what is, perhaps, the most important duty imposed on your board, and that is the investment of the funds of the association. The principles which should guide those responsible for the investment of life assurance funds are quite rightly the subject of much discussion and criticism in the Press and elsewhere. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of these problems, because the whole fabric of life assurance is built on the earning power of money. We invest our funds to meet our obligations. Every time we issue a life policy we enter into an obligation to pay a sum of money at some unknown date in the future. Our primary and paramount duty, therefore, is so to invest our funds as to enable us to discharge these liabilities, most of which will not mature for many years hence. A large proportion, therefore, of our assets are held in the form of long-dated or irredeemable securities which can be counted upon to produce a steady flow of interest yield. By this policy we endeavour as far as it is practicable to marry our liabilities to our assets.

But apart from this, our first duty, to meet our liabilities as and when they occur, we have also a duty to our members, secondary and subordinate to the first, to earn as high a rate of bonus for them as is consistent with prudent finance. This bonus, unlike the sum assured, is not a fixed liability. It results from the surplus earning power of the Association. It is reasonable, therefore, that to provide a benefit of a less rigid and more elastic character we should invest part of our funds in securities of a less rigid type. Consequently, we have for many years invested a limited proportion of our funds in ordinary stocks, and you will see from the balance sheet that we have continued this policy during the past year. Forty years ago we had 20 per cent. of our funds invested in ordinary stocks; last year the corresponding percentage was 14, which includes many investments, technically classed as ordinary stocks which are essentially different in character, such as gas companies' stocks carrying maximum rates of dividend.

VALUE OF THE ASSETS.

During the past year there has been a general fall in market values on the Stock Exchange, and several groups of companies have come to grief. I am glad to be able to tell you that the association has never had any interest, either direct or indirect, in any of those concerns. The fall in the market value of our investments is 3.3 per cent. of the mean fund, which contrasts with a fall of 6.4 per cent. on long-dated British Government securities. It has been our consistent practice not to bring into revenue any profits on securities realised or appreciated in value, with the result that, notwithstanding the fall to which I have just referred, the market values of our assets exceed the values in the balance sheet by a substantial sum without taking into account the investment reserve fund of £160,000.

In conclusion, I have again to report that the usual actuarial investigation has been made as at December 31st last. It is clear from this that we have fully maintained for the first two years of this quinquennium the high profit-earning power which enabled us to declare a record bonus two years ago. We have therefore had no hesitation in continuing the interim bonus at this rate.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ANGLO-INTERNATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS IN YEAR OF EXCEPTIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Anglo-International Bank, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, G.C.B. (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr J. Back) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: At the two previous meetings I mentioned that the process of liquidating the affairs of our predecessors was bound to be protracted, in view of their widespread international interests, but I am happy to be able to report that much progress has been made during the past year. I may here mention that we have recently entered into an agreement with the British-Hungarian Bank, whereby they take over our Budapest branch. We have thus taken a further step in carrying out the policy we have adopted of developing our relations with Central Europe through the medium of local banking connections, instead of through branches of our own.

THE PAST YEAR.

The year has been one of exceptional difficulty. At the commencement of the year, the continued boom on the New York Stock Exchange was attracting considerable funds from Europe to America at high rates of interest. This, apart from diverting money which would normally have been employed on the London market, and causing a rise in interest rates, had an unfavourable effect on the sterling-dollar exchange, and in February the Bank rate was increased from 4½ per cent. to 5½ per cent., and eventually, in September, to 6½ per cent. This proved effective, so that it was possible gradually to reduce the Bank rate until, in December, it stood at 5 per cent., although there was still a demand for gold from Germany and France. In fact, the ability of the Bank of France to increase their gold stocks, which amounted, at the end of the year, to the equivalent of no less than £342,000,000, was a particular feature of the year. The general uncertainty of outlook which prevailed throughout the year naturally entailed a restriction of normal business activities, and the adoption of a policy of caution. This policy is reflected in the figures contained in the present accounts, as compared with those submitted to you at our last meeting.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the principal items in the report and accounts, which are in your hands, the cash in hand and with bankers, money at call, and balances with bankers abroad, amount to £731,000. If to this be added the British Government Securities and Treasury Bills, our immediately available cash resources are brought up to a total of £1,396,000. Other investments, which are valued at market or purchase price, whichever is lower, have been reduced from £750,000 to £645,000, if we include the small item of £15,000 under the heading of investment in subsidiary company, which we are now showing separately, to comply with the new Companies Act. The bulk of our investments is made up of our holdings in banks of first-class standing on the Continent.

As regards the acceptance branch of our business, there is, this year, a contraction in the figures for outstanding acceptances and guarantees from £3,147,000 to £2,567,000. Similarly, the item advances to customers and other accounts has been reduced from £4,438,000 to £3,811,000, including the item advance to subsidiary company, while, on the other side of the balance sheet, deposits are lower. At the same time, we have maintained a higher percentage of liquidity.

Despite the contraction in the balance-sheet figures, we are able to show an increase in current profits, which, for the period under review, amount to £117,695. This amount, together with the sum brought forward from 1928, brings the total standing to the credit of profit and loss account to £138,227. Of this total your directors propose, in order further to strengthen the position of the bank, to place £100,000 to contingency reserve and £10,000 to premises amortisation, carrying forward the balance of £28,227 2s. 4d.

I would add that, although some of the events of 1929 must eventually have a beneficial effect, conditions are likely to remain unsettled for some time to come. A great deal has been done in recent years, notably by the League of Nations, towards the settlement of international questions, and the stabilisation of monetary conditions, but some time must still pass before really satisfactory economic relations between the various countries are finally established. Viewing the situation as a whole, your directors feel it advisable to continue to exercise caution in the development of the bank's position.

The Chairman having dealt at length with conditions in Europe, concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, which were unanimously adopted.

THE SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

REVISION IN RATES OF PREMIUM.

NEW PROSPECTUS TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY.

The 116th stated annual meeting of the Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society was held in the society's office, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, March 4, 1930, A. W. Robertson Durham, Esq., C.A., F.F.A. (chairman of the ordinary court of directors), presiding.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, expressed his regret—which would be shared by all present—that the president, Lord Strathmore, was unable to be present and take the chair.

The Deputy-Manager and Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the 115th stated annual meeting, held on March 5, 1929, which were approved; and the report and accounts were taken as read.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts the Chairman, after referring to the changes which have taken place in the directorate and to the new business, said:—The investment of the society's large accumulated funds is a matter which receives the unremitting attention of your directors, and the manner in which they are invested is shown in the balance sheet. Following the course that has been indicated in the speeches in recent years, there has been a further reduction in the amount invested in British Government securities, although the sum so invested still remains at the large total of £8,359,606. The year under review has been a particularly difficult one in the financial world. Owing to high money rates, there have been opportunities for investment at remunerative rates of interest, but, on the other hand, there has been a corresponding depreciation in almost all classes of securities.

MARKET VALUE OF SECURITIES.

My predecessor told you last year that the market values of our securities showed a considerable surplus over the balance-sheet figures, and pointed out the importance of this inner reserve as a buffer against possible depreciation of prices in the future. He probably hardly realised at the time how soon the truth of this statement was to be brought home to all those responsible for the investment of funds. I am glad to be able to tell you, however, that, notwithstanding the all-round fall in the value of Stock Exchange securities, the values brought out by our stringent valuation made on the basis of the market selling price as at December 31st last, as compared with those of December 31, 1928, show the small depreciation of less than 4 per cent. on the values of these securities. A substantial margin remains in hand in the difference between the market values and the balance-sheet figures, so that we are still in a very strong position to face the vicissitudes of the future.

RATES OF PREMIUM REVISED.

There is another matter of special interest to which I wish to refer. Your society is shortly to issue a new prospectus, and it will be found that some of the rates of premium have undergone a revision. Changed conditions since the war, including rates of interest and also mortality, in respect of which the society has investigated its own experience, have indicated that the rates for whole-life with-profit assurances are relatively high. These rates have over important sections of the table been generally reduced. In order that holders of whole-life with-profit policies effected at the old rates may not suffer any injustice on this account, it has been decided that at future distributions of surplus an adjustment will be made in the reversionary bonus allotted to these policies. A corresponding adjustment will be made in the intermediate bonus on such policies which become claims or are surrendered before the date of the next investigation.

ADVANTAGES OF WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCE.

In this connection I want to draw the members' attention to a special leaflet which is being sent to them with the annual report.

For far too long the fundamental purpose of life assurance has been largely obscured by the popularity of a form of assurance whose chief attraction is the satisfactory manner in which it fulfils all the requirements of a thoroughly safe investment. I need not tell you that all we and others have said regarding the advantages of endowment assurance as a means of investing small annual savings still holds good, but we feel strongly that there is a distinct danger of too much attention being given to this alluring form of assurance, and too little to the family provision aspect, which, after all, is the real origin and purpose of life assurance. So keen were our ancestors on making adequate provision for their dependants that they practised "candle-end saving" economy in order to provide the necessary premiums. Unfortunately, there is not the same keen appreciation of the privileges of whole-life assurance to-day. Nevertheless, there are signs of an awakening, and evidence is not wanting of a swing of the pendulum in the direction of whole-life assurance. The special leaflet to which I have just referred deals with this vital question, and I commend it to the serious notice of the members and other connections of the society.

In conclusion, I would repeat that we are a mutual society of members insuring each other, and, as such, one of the outstanding examples of co-operative enterprise in its best form. In no way can the success of this enterprise be furthered more effectively than by the introduction of new members by the existing members. We appeal, therefore, to all the members to continue the good work of co-operation by bringing the society to the notice of their friends and putting them in touch with one of our branches.

The directors' report, together with the accounts as audited, were adopted unanimously.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS AND PROSPECTS.

The ninety-fourth annual meeting of the National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance was held, on the 28th ultimo, in London.

The Hon. Vicary Gibbs (the chairman) said that during the past year they had transacted a satisfactory amount of new business, policies having been issued for over £1,200,000. Taking the two years 1928 and 1929 together, they showed a substantial increase over the new business transacted in the first two years of the last quinquennium, and as their renewal premium income had increased by over £15,000 it would be understood that the purpose of new business had been amply met.

Referring to the financial stringency experienced last year, the chairman said that the Hatry frauds and American and general speculation only affected their securities through the consequent rise in the value of money. It would be best to take as a basis for comparison the date of their last valuation of assets and liabilities—namely, November 20, 1927. The Bank rate ruling at that time was 4½ per cent., and there was then a difference in their favour of £541,000 between the market value and book value of their Stock Exchange securities, the book value being £5,100,000. On November 20th last the Bank rate was 6 per cent., although it was reduced to 5½ per cent. the following day. The market value of the Stock Exchange securities at that date was £5,648,000, or £417,000 in excess of the book values, amounting to £5,231,000. In other words, there was roughly a shrinkage in value in the two-year period of only 3 per cent., and this shrinkage was rapidly disappearing.

At their next meeting they would have before them the results of the valuation that would be made at the end of this year. They had in hand now sufficient profit to enable them to declare a bonus at the end of the year at the same rate as they did in 1927. Consequently, he could not anticipate that the 1930 bonus declaration would be anything but entirely gratifying. The board had decided to increase the interim bonus payable by 5s. per cent. on the sum assured in respect of claims arising on and after March 1 under whole life policies, by death, or endowment assurance policies by survival.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the proposed alterations in rules were approved.

SPENCER, TURNER AND BOLDERO, LIMITED.

The thirty-sixth annual general meeting of Spencer, Turner and Boldero, Ltd., was held, on the 27th ultimo, at 18 Duke Street, Lisson Grove, London.

Mr John Boldero (the chairman) first referred to the great loss which the company had sustained in the death of its managing director, Mr Henry John Turner. Proceeding to deal with the report, he said that, considering the generally adverse conditions of trade, and some disappointments in two of their minor departments, they had come through the somewhat troubled waters of the past year in good style and with the flag flying high. A year ago he ventured to speak of the period then under review as "a good average year." The past 12 months had not been so good, judged by the figures, and, in explanation, he would remind shareholders of the gradual, but persistent, fall in prices of the goods handled by the company.

The net profit for the year was £40,633, and, with £41,164 brought forward, there was an available total of £81,798. The directors recommended a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, making 7 per cent. for the year, and £39,043 remained to be carried forward.

In connection with the accounts the chairman pointed out that the total reserve funds as shown in the balance sheet stood this year at £169,072, as compared with £157,661 in the previous accounts; also that among their assets they had Gilt-edged investments standing at £90,758 and cash to the amount of £45,696.

The report was unanimously adopted.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED EXPANSION DURING THE YEAR. INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Midland Counties Electric Supply Company, Ltd., was held, on the 3rd instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr George Balfour, J.P., M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Wm. C. Bryden, C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he was glad to be able to report continuation of the progress of the business of the subidiary companies owned by their company. It was gratifying to know that notwithstanding the very rapid growth of capital expenditure their forecast of previous years had proved correct, namely, that they should by the development of the business due to previous expenditure, be able to overtake the service of new capital year by year before it could reach the production stage. With an expenditure of something like £400,000 per annum in recent years largely for providing services in new territory each year, it was no small achievement to be able not only to maintain but to increase the dividend so as to provide a moderate return on the shareholders' capital, notwithstanding the fact that the money spent could not produce any substantial return during the year in which it was expended.

PROGRESS SINCE 1919.

Summarising the progress of the company, he said that in the year 1919 they had £847,500 invested in properties, and in 1929 that had grown to £4,340,800, of which about 88 per cent. was in electric light and power property. Compared with the movement of capital the trading balances had grown from £48,391 in 1919 to £349,209 in 1929, of which £340,000 was from electricity supply.

With regard to the power and lighting properties, the units sold during the year aggregated 165,602,000, an increase of 24 per cent. over the output for 1928. The output for 1929 was more than three times that of 1924. In 1919 the unit output was 9,784,000, and in 1929 it was 165,602,000. The development of their business in new areas and the growth of business in districts previously served had resulted in an additional 5,604 consumers being connected during the year, bringing the total number of consumers now supplied from the company's mains up to 26,181. In 1919 the number was 2,567. The total load connected to the plant was now 125,180 kw., an increase of 19,880 kw. as compared with the previous year.

Extensions to the transmission and distributing systems involving the provision of 118 miles of extra high tension lines and 135 miles of low tension distributors had been brought into operation during 1929. They now owned 746 route miles of extra high pressure line and 598 route miles of low tension line. Supplies had been made available during the year in 46 parishes in rural districts, and altogether they were now affording supplies in 3 boroughs, 26 urban districts, and 180 parishes.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

During the year, 250,000 ordinary shares had been issued at a premium of 6s. per share. That exhausted the authorised capital and, as the continual expansion of the undertakings meant the continual absorption of fresh capital, shareholders would be asked to authorise increasing the capital by £500,000 to £4,500,000.

With regard to the accounts, the available balance was £158,578, and it was proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares. He was a bold man who ventured to forecast results in these times of industrial uncertainty, but, having regard to the business contracted for, the extensions of their transmission and distributions in hand, and to the natural growth of the business, they should be able to look forward to steady growth, and that indication was warranted by their present returns.

If the Coal Mines Bill was passed in its present form, it was very probable that the cost of coal would be increased, as it had been clearly indicated that public utility undertakings would have to pay more for their coal and pass the additional cost on to the public. Whatever legislation was sound and necessary they must accept and take the rough with the smooth, but he could hardly believe that that artificial attempt to readjust industry could be of any benefit to the country.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

At a subsequent extra-ordinary general meeting resolutions were unanimously passed increasing the capital of the company from £4,000,000 to £4,500,000 by the creation of 500,000 new shares of £1 each.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, staff and employees concluded the proceedings.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

The forty-third ordinary general meeting of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, Ltd., was held, on the 5th instant, at Winchester House, London.

The Secretary (Mr A. J. G. Beaumont) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, Mr George Balfour, M.P. (the chairman), said that the accounts submitted recorded the continuation of the progress which the directors had reported for several years in succession. This progress amply justified the policy they had adopted of keeping all the plant and mains right up to date, and, in particular, their policy of rapid extension and absorption in the western area. In 1924 they sold in that area 27,600,000 units as against 117,300,000 units sold last year, and the receipts for the same years were £193,017 and £488,794 respectively.

The constantly increasing amount payable in rates did much to stop the cheapening of the supply. The company had made, and were about to make, reductions in price, but the question could be more comprehensively dealt with were it not for the uncertainty and magnitude of increasing rates. As an indication of the burden, he might say that, whereas in 1924 the Metropolitan Company and its subsidiaries paid about £27,000 in local rates, last year—only five years later—they paid over £58,000. This was a matter which more directly interested the consumer, as every penny saved in rates would pass over to the consumer and not in any manner benefit the shareholders. This question had, so far as the power supply side of their business was concerned, become more important and pressing since the passing of the De-rating Act.

The company made a considerable reduction in price in 1928, and as a result the consumers benefited last year to the extent of £71,000 as compared with the previous year. They were going steadily forward to do the best they could for their consumers, and further reductions would be made to take effect from the end of the current quarter. Meantime, it was of interest to record that to-day their average price was exactly one-half the average price in 1924. The gross receipts amounted to £974,591, an increase of £113,363 over the previous year. The balance on revenue account was £348,200, and the directors recommended a further dividend, making a total of 10 per cent. for the year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

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COURTAULDS, LIMITED.

CONDITIONS IN THE RAYON INDUSTRY.
EFFECT OF SILK DUTIES UNCERTAINTY.
SITUATION IN AMERICA AND ON THE CONTINENT.
SUBSTANTIAL TECHNICAL PROGRESS.
GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.
MR SAMUEL COURTAULD ON DIVIDEND POLICY.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of Courtaulds, Ltd., was held, on the 6th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr Samuel Courtauld (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr E. Kettle) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Ladies and gentlemen, I will now submit to the meeting that the directors' report and balance sheet, circulated among the ordinary shareholders, be taken as read. (Agreed.)

I will now move: "That the report of the directors dated the 14th February, 1930, and the balance sheet of the 31st December, 1929, now submitted, be, and the same are hereby received and adopted, and that a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the year ended the 31st December, 1929, of 6 per cent., free of income tax (making with the interim dividend already paid 10 per cent. total for the year, free of income tax) be declared and paid to holders of ordinary shares on the register at the close of business on the 14th February, 1930."

It is three years since I last came before you and explained the reasons for a marked falling-off in the earnings of this company. I am putting it this way intentionally, because, to-day, it seems to be assumed, and, indeed, it has been publicly stated, that this is the first time for many years that Courtaulds have experienced a decline in profits, and the present set-back, of a kind which all developing industries must encounter from time to time, is spoken of as something unheard of. I will now merely draw your attention to the fact that for 1926, as compared with 1925, our trading profits declined from £5,111,000 to £3,840,000; for 1929, as compared with 1928, they declined from £5,171,000 to £3,743,000—not very dissimilar figures, you will agree. However, I shall return to this point later.

CAUSES OF DECREASED PROFITS.

The two principal causes for our decrease in profits are matters of common knowledge. They are firstly the growing uncertainty about the future of the English silk duties, which began to make itself felt about the time of the last General Election, and, secondly, the set-back to American industry caused by the Wall Street collapse. The first cause has been by far the more important so far as we are concerned, and, as mentioned in the directors' report, the main fall in our profits has occurred in this country. I will, therefore, deal with the English position first.

As I am now going to touch on matters which have a political side, and as I am concerned to give only such facts as I can see, and to make only such deductions as I honestly believe in, and as I am concerned above all to avoid any exaggerated bias or any suspicion of a partisan attitude, I will begin by being perfectly fair and say that the uncertain fate of the artificial silk duties, although it is by far the greatest, is not the only difficulty with which our English business has had to contend throughout the year.

OVER SUPPLY AND PRICE CUTTING.

It would be idle to ignore the unsatisfactory conditions which have prevailed all over Europe; over-supply and consequent price-cutting were much in evidence in England as well as on the Continent in the previous year, and, as I said at our last meeting, we could not expect to regain a stable condition of trade in a moment. Still, at the end of 1928, when prices had been recently readjusted, and the rapid rise of production by home competitors was coming to an end, there were distinct signs of returning confidence, bringing with them the promise of better business for us. As a matter of fact, according to official returns, English production of rayon yarns only increased by 4 per cent. in 1929, so it cannot be said that increasing output was an important factor in causing trade conditions to get so much worse during the year. We believed that, by Christmas, we should have a period of steady, if gradual, improvement to look back upon, provided that no Government action, or inaction, shook the foundation of the commercial position.

THE SILK DUTIES.

You may say that we should have foreseen a change of Government, and, following that, the upset of the silk duties; at any rate we warned you of the serious consequences which we felt sure would follow the second event. Frankly, we did not expect that a Labour Government would take any action which could only result in an immediate increase of unemployment: still less did we expect them to make precedent an excuse for keeping an important industry in a state of paralysis by refusing to declare their intentions. More realistic treatment of urgent industrial problems was one benefit at least which we hoped would follow the accession of a Labour Government to power. For our part, if the duties were to be—or are to be—removed, we would far sooner have met the blow at the earliest possible moment and taken what steps we could to meet the new conditions before uncertainty and apprehension had driven large sections of the consuming industries away from the use of rayon.

At the present time the total weekly hours worked in our factories have been reduced by over 33 per cent., as compared with a year ago, and wages and production have fallen in proportion, but even so, our stocks of yarn show no diminution as the fall in sales does not appear to be fully arrested. Our present output is actually less than half of what it would be if the whole of our plants, including the second Wolverhampton unit, were working at full capacity. This is the state to which we have already been brought, mainly as the result of political uncertainty.

REMOVAL OF DUTIES A FIRST-CLASS CALAMITY.

I told you last year what I thought would be the result of the actual withdrawal of the protection afforded to English rayon manufacturers by the existing duties, and I have seen no reason to modify my opinion since then; that is, that their removal would be a first-class calamity to all those engaged in the industry. I believe that it would be followed by many weaker producers disappearing from the field altogether, and that so far as Courtaulds are concerned it would definitely put an end to any hope of further expansion in this country and very probably result in a permanent shrinkage.

If the duties are to go you may rely upon our putting up a very strong fight against the foreign competition which will follow, and with our large uunits of production, high standard of quality, and proximity to our chief market, we shall have certain advantages which cannot be taken away from us. Nevertheless, the low rates of wages paid by Continental competitors much outweigh these advantages. It is still a fact that in several competing countries the rate of wage is less than half of ours, and in many qualities of rayon yarns this represents a saving to the foreigner of more than the 1s. per lb. which is the amount of protection we now have, and, other things being equal, would ensure him a very handsome profit while forcing us to sell at or under cost.

LOWER WAGES OR LESSENED EMPLOYMENT.

I am pleased to be able to say that I have never had occasion to accuse our workpeople, male or female, of any lack of goodwill, skill or industry—(applause)—in fact, I hold them to be better workers than any others to be found in Europe. Nevertheless, it is mathematically impossible for any conceivable degree of skill to make up for more than a small fraction of the extra wage cost. I have no hesitation in making this assertion, for the unique position we occupy in being intimately acquainted with the working of factories which operate on practically identical lines in several different countries gives us the surest possible guidance in forming a judgment. It is, therefore, difficult to resist the conclusion that without some measure of protection we shall be faced with two alternatives: either a lowering of wages or a permanent curtailment of production—that is to say, the abandonment of important sections of the business with consequent lessening of employment, and the concentration upon qualities of output which embody a comparatively small labour factor. We have hitherto refused to

consider reductions of wages, because we felt that our profits warranted the payment of a high scale, but without some degree of protection it is difficult to see any other alternative than the equally disagreeable one which I have just referred to.

Those who adhere rigidly to the old Free Trade school may say that the present state of affairs has been caused by the original imposition of the duties having fostered unhealthy expansion, but I would submit that the powers that be should look at things as they are and not concern themselves too much with ancient history at such a critical moment. (Hear, hear.) There are many thousands of people dependent upon this industry for their living to-day; it is useless to argue, as some people will, that they should have been employed in some other trade, or that they should have emigrated, because they are in fact now with us, and they stand in imminent danger of being thrown into the ranks of the unemployed.

GOVERNMENT POLICY.

Whilst I am on this subject, may I say that the present deplorable position could not conceivably have arisen had the Government been composed of business men or paid due attention to business interests. (Applause.) Any commercial man of experience could have foreseen that a threat of repealing a duty a year hence would infallibly have the effect of a general paralysis upon the industry concerned, resulting, as the critical day approached, in an almost complete standstill, with a consequent enormous increase in unemployment. I do not wish it to be understood that I am criticising the present Government in particular; how often do we find in Budget debates in the House of Commons that decisions are taken in a comparatively few minutes, and upon imperfect information, in matters affecting the vital interests of hundreds of employers and the very livelihood of tens—if not hundreds—of thousands of workpeople.

I feel that it is high time, in this great commercial country, that large questions affecting industry should cease to be treated in this summary fashion or be made the sport of party politics—(hear, hear)—and that our statesmen should recognise them as one of the chief, if not the chief, among objects of governmental concern.

NATIONAL VALUE OF RAYON YARN.

Then there is another point I should like to put forward for consideration beyond these walls. Rayon yarns produced in this country are nearly 100 per cent. British from the initial raw materials upwards, and this cannot be said of any other thread or fibre used by the great textile trades. The cost of our own average viscose thread, analysed according to the cost of its constituent parts, is 85 per cent. English; 10 per cent. may be attributed to the cost of the pulp, which is frequently, and may be always, an Empire product; only 5 per cent. is at present necessarily foreign in origin. On the other hand, a raw silk thread is 100 per cent. foreign; in the case of a cotton thread of an average quality about two-thirds of the ultimate cost is accounted for by the imported raw cotton and only one-third is expended in England; and the same thing is true of many qualities of worsted and linen. Any Government, present or future, which is concerned to attack unemployment and the adverse balance of imports, would do well to realise that the manufacture of rayon yarn has a national value under these two headings to a degree which is not true of any other textile. (Hear, hear.)

RETURN ON CAPITAL.

As I wish to make it perfectly clear that in my belief this industry is not in a position to withstand any heavy shocks to-day, I can show you another side of the picture which will reinforce what I have already said. Our own English rayon branch in 1929 only earned about 9 per cent. gross upon the money which has actually been sunk in it, and the rate since the end of the year must be lower than this, and this is in spite of the fact that we have the largest units—and therefore almost certainly the lowest costs—and realise the highest average selling prices of all the spinners of viscose yarn in this country. It is, of course, true that through our depreciation policy in past years we have written off a proportion of the capital expenditure on plant and buildings—but no more than we have believed to be necessary, although some manufacturers may appear to hold a different view—and therefore the position is rather better for us to-day than it would be if all the capital expenditure was of recent date.

The profit which is equivalent to this 9 per cent. is arrived at after making all depreciation allowances for the year but before the payment of income tax. When the income tax upon these English earnings and the income tax upon our investment income are added together it appears that, excluding the payment of excise duties, Courtaulds' contribution to the national exchequer in respect of 1929 will amount to a great deal more than the whole net profit yielded by their industrial operations in England, and there is food for serious thought in the fact that, as things are to-day, it would actually be a financial advantage for this company to become domiciled abroad instead of retaining its domicile in this country.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

I have now said nearly all I can about the state of business in England, and it is really quite impossible to forecast the future at all closely without knowing what the Budget will contain. It is quite certain, however, that 1930 cannot under any circumstances be a very successful year for the English rayon trade, for even if the duties are retained, it is hardly possible that the very serious loss of profit for the first four months can be recouped by any expansion in the rest of the year. I must also ask you to note that all I have said about last year's difficulties and the present uncertain outlook of our yarn-producing branch applies with even greater force to our weaving branch, which at present is working only half time, with, I regret to say, the prospect of still further reductions in view.

POSITION IN AMERICA.

I will now say something about America. We are informed that the Viscose Company made steady progress for the first ten months of the year, with a gradually increasing output, which actually amounted to about 50 per cent. of the total American production of rayon yarns; and there was some reduction of the manufactured stocks with which 1929 started. Then, as you know, at end of October the Wall Street collapse gave a far-reaching shake to national confidence; the upward curve was suddenly reversed; sales were severely curtailed, and the loss of two months' growing trade adversely affected the expected balance of profit for the year; consequently it was no use looking to America for any increased income to offset our loss of English profit; even so, the dividends received from that country account for much more than half of our total profits for the year.

The present American outlook is not very clear; the first wave of depression seems to have passed, and there is evidence of a return towards normal trade conditions—at any rate, among manufacturers of the staple fabrics which consume the larger part of the Viscose Company's output, for the luxury trades do not appear to be making the same recovery. But another factor we have to consider is the growth of competition among the American producers of rayon yarns; there will probably be a large increase of output during 1930, and the recent check to consumption may be found to have resulted in letting production get ahead of it. If this is the case, salesmen will have a difficult period to face, though they do not expect the industry to be thrown into a state of chaos such as has prevailed on this side of the Atlantic.

SITUATION IN EUROPE.

I now come to the Continent of Europe and our interests there. I need not tell you that 1929 did not witness any improvement in the Continental rayon industry; that much is evident from the fall in share values. Production continued to grow rapidly, increasing by about 34,000,000 lbs., or 19 per cent., during the year, and price-cutting was keener than ever, resulting, as always, in a general unsettling of markets and a frightening away of consumers. The only satisfactory feature of the situation is that Continental producers at last seem to be realising that such a game is not worth playing, for if continued it can only result in ultimate loss to all.

Certain agreements and fusions of interests have already been made which should result in some elimination of overlapping and wasteful competition, but the field has not yet been fully covered, and there are further difficulties to be overcome before we can say that the outlook is settled. I need hardly tell you that we have taken what part we could in helping to bring about a better state of affairs. Courtaulds have hitherto always stood for conciliation, agreement and ordered growth.

This brings me to the subject of our own Continental commitments. Owing to the over-production and price-cutting which I have noted, it is, we believe, true to say that little, if any, profit was made by anyone in the Continental rayon industry during 1929, and as regards the factories in which we are directly concerned, at Calais and Cologne, this was no disappointment to us, as they were too recently started to justify the expectation of profits accruing at such an early date. The other companies, however, in which we are interested to large amounts as shareholders, suffered heavy falls in the prices of their shares, bringing the book values of these investments far below the prices which we paid for them, even though these prices were themselvss far below the highest point reached by these shares. Consequently, when we followed our invariable and the only sound practice of writing down all our quoted investments to market prices at the end of the year, we found that we had very heavy sums to write off.

REASONS FOR MAKING CONTINENTAL INVESTMENTS.

Now I have no doubt that some of you have asked why we ever made these investments. If they were to be regarded merely as financial speculations or valued merely by the probable direct yield from them, there would be some justification for doubt, although we might claim that every expansion in a business of this nature is necessarily a speculation, and that, though we may sometimes have guessed wrong, yet we have often guessed right. But these investments were never regarded by us in this way; we acquired very important holdings, coupled with certain rights and obligations, in two large European rayon companies, with the main object of helping to stabilise world markets, and postpone, if we could not finally avert, the chaotic position in which unregulated competition has now after all reduced the industry on the Continent.

We should naturally have liked these investments to have earned us handsome dividends, but we did not count upon these, and we were even prepared to face such a writing-down of values as has actually occurred, for we believed that even so we should be substantially better off on balance. This belief I hold to have been justified, for the steps which we took in January, 1927, to prevent a wide market collapse continued to make themselves felt beneficially for about two years, and there is no doubt that they played a very important part in producing the satisfactory results which we laid before you for the two years prior to 1929. Moreover, these investments, which in our opinion are now valued upon a solid basis, represent a series of alliances which should prove of inestimable worth to us in future negotiations, especially in the event of this country being laid open to attack by Continental importers through the removal of the artificial silk duties. (Hear, hear.)

GROUNDS FOR CONFIDENCE.

As I have already kept you a long time endeavouring to give you a true picture of the difficulties which are naturally uppermost in all our minds, I will now mention more briefly the grounds which we have for confidence. In the first place we have made continued and substantial technical progress during the year, specially towards the simplification of methods, with important possibilities in the way of reduced costs. I need say no more about these except that they will undoubtedly add to our competitive strength and, though we do not flatter ourselves with the possession of a monopoly of brains, under anything like fair conditions we shall not fear a trial of strength with anybody. (Hear, hear.)

Then as to our financial methods, in spite of reduced earnings we have continued to write down our plants at the usual rates of depreciation as hitherto, whether they have been in full work or not, so that our present-day costs of production will reap the full benefit of this.

BOARD'S DIVIDEND POLICY.

Now, finally, I am going to try to meet two lines of criticism to which we have been subjected—one, that we should have put ourselves in the position of being able to equalise dividends by distributing less liberal dividends in the past, and the other that we should have distributed a higher dividend this year and should not have written our special losses out of profits. It is evident that these two criticisms are to some extent mutually destructive, and they bring us back to this: that you cannot please everybody, unless everybody wants the same thing. (Laughter.)

To those who think that we should have declared a lower dividend last year and that the declaration which we did make raised false hopes as to the future I would reply as follows. We had frequently been found fault with in the past for being illiberal to our shareholders, and for adding to what were called unnecessarily large reserves. Last year we had exceptionally satisfactory profits to deal with. We started by adding £1,000,000 to general reserve, and then we gave our shareholders the direct benefit of the remainder, believing that they are entitled to a higher-than-average rate of distribution after an exceptionally good year, and feeling that anyone who is not wilfully blind must realise that an industry which has been expanding at such a prodigious rate as this is necessarily speculative in character, and that downs must be expected as well as ups.

At the same time we did our best to avoid raising undue future expectations by clearly warning our shareholders to expect reduced profits in 1929. I said at our last meeting that the "*very best* we could hope for" was that profits would not diminish, and I gave substantial reasons for showing how unlikely it was that even this maximum of possible good fortune would be attained. I cannot believe that the majority of our shareholders would like dividends to be kept down to such a low level that any possible decline from one year to the next would be for ever ruled out.

NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL RESERVES.

Other critics have suggested that we should have paid a higher dividend this year and written down our Continental investments out of general reserve, or alternatively that we should have set apart a portion of the general reserve for the equalisation of dividends, and drawn upon that. Now I will point out that we have actually drawn £700,000 from last year's carry-forward towards the writing-off of these investments and the payment of the dividend, which in principle, though not perhaps in amount, comes to what these people desire. But the underlying reasons for not taking from general reserve in one form or another are two. In the first place we believed that the declaration of a dividend higher than 10 per cent. for the year would have been definitely misleading, for it would have indicated, we thought, that the period of difficulty through which we were passing was merely temporary, and encourage hopes of an earlier revival than we think to be likely.

COMPETITION.

The second reason is this. We cannot rule out the possibility that the real fight is yet to come, and it would be folly to deplete our reserves in advance of that event. (Hear, hear.) I said earlier that Courtaulds had hitherto stood for conciliation and agreement. Up to the present we have believed that it has paid us—and also benefited the whole industry—to uphold a steady level of prices, even if it involved putting some restriction upon the expansion of our output. Lately, however, we have begun to feel that our forbearance has sometimes been taken improper advantage of, and that others have sought to advance their frontiers or stake out claims while we have held our hand. We do not intend to look on at this for ever, for if we did we might find that the whole of our territory would be taken from us. At any rate, we feel that under present circumstances a large reserve of liquid resources may prove to be the most potent argument for a conclusion which will give us the position to which we are entitled. (Hear, hear.)

DIFFICULTY OF STABILISING DIVIDENDS.

To return to the question of the stabilisation of dividends, I think it is necessary to reiterate what I have often tried to establish in the past. The world's output of rayon yarn, which was a comparatively small thing before the war, has been multiplied nearly six times since 1922, the first year of which I have comprehensive statistics, and now exceeds 400,000,000 lbs. per annum, which is four times the world output of raw silk. All the time new discoveries have been made and technique has constantly been changing. Now it is idle to say that an industry in this condition of rapid growth and rapid change is not highly speculative in character, or to compare it with manufactures which have had a mature life of a hundred years or so. This being so, I repeat that it seems to me impossible to guarantee stabilised dividends without fixing them at an unduly low level.

No one regrets more than we do that the shares of our company have been made a gambling counter, but from the nature of the case we can neither guarantee a steady level of earnings nor immunity against occasional losses. It is, therefore, impossible to prevent fluctuations in the price of our shares, and no stabilisation of dividends would stop this, for, after all, it is not the amount distributed, but the amount earned and the value of the assets which are the paramount factors in determining the true value of a share—(Hear, hear)—coupled, of course, with the view taken of future prospects; and of these we have always endeavoured to give you the most sober and carefully-balanced estimate.

EXPECTATIONS FOR 1930.

Now, what I have said cannot have been very encouraging, and may, perhaps, have seemed rather involved, as I have touched on so many problems. I will, therefore, endeavour to give you a summarised view of our expectations for 1930. I must ask you to note that I am not able to take into account the effects of a possible economic world crisis, which some people think we may have to face before long. Certainly, it is true that there must be underlying causes for the general depression which is affecting the whole of European trade to-day, and it is equally certain that these general causes are beyond the control of those who are directing this industry.

Leaving this out of account, the probabilities seem to be as follows. At the best it hardly seems likely that we shall avoid some further diminution of our English profit this year. In America, also, there seems reason to fear a shrinkage, though not

to anything like the same extent as we are threatened with here if the duties are abolished. On the Continent no considerable profits are to be looked for at an early date. On the other hand, it is most unlikely that we shall have to face a writing down of assets on any scale comparable with what has recently occurred. With these views before you you will no doubt be able to grasp the possibilities and probabilities as well as we can do ourselves.

Now, I have kept you a long time, so I will not go through the balance sheet item by item. It is made out in the new form required by the Companies' Act, and is quite easy to understand, and, after what I have said, I hardly think that any more detailed explanations are necessary.

I will ask the deputy-chairman, Mr Stanley Bourne, to second the resolution. (Applause.)

Mr Stanley Bourne (deputy-chairman) seconded the resolution.

The chairman then invited questions.

SHAREHOLDERS' QUESTIONS.

Mr D. A. Thomas said that he had written to the directors asking for certain information, but had been unable to obtain it. He considered that all the shareholders had a right to obtain information regarding their undertaking in order that they might get an idea of what the future of the company would be. He had also asked for permission to go over the company's works at Wolverhampton and Coventry, but had been refused that permission. When he was in America he had been allowed to go over many works, and he thought that he ought to have the same privilege in this country. He understood that about half their dividends came from the profits of the Viscose Corporation in America. He would like to know whether that was correct.

Mr Savory: I should like to ask what is to-day's market value of the company's investments in Government securities at present standing in the balance sheet at £9,810,882. I ask this because in 1921 the company held £4,000,000 in Government stocks which were valued at the low market price then ruling, when War Loan was quoted about 82 and Conversion 3½ per cent. about 62; apparently these stocks are still valued at these prices. If this is the case, I respectfully suggest that when so much has this year been written out of profits off the value of the Continental investments, our holding in gilt-edged securities might have been written up to to-day's market value.

THE AMERICAN VISCOSE CORPORATION.

I should also like to ask what profit was made last year by the American Viscose Corporation. In asking this question I am fully aware that the same question has been put to you at previous meetings, but you have informed us that it is not in the interest of the shareholders that the information should be given. In view of the fact, however, that this information is public property in America, I cannot see why the English shareholders should not also be told. In the Senate at Washington last month Senator Wheeler read out the profits of the Viscose Company for the three years 1926, 1927 and 1928, and he gave them as $27,609,050, $29,051,180 and $31,645,901. It appears to me that when all the depressing factors are brought forward, the shareholders should be given some better idea as to the value of the American investment, as otherwise many English shareholders are scared out of their holdings owing to their not having this information.

I notice that investments in and advances to subsidiary companies are this year valued at £18,363,758, whereas at the end of 1927, and also, I believe, last year, the American Viscose Corporation alone was valued at £18,557,248. May we take it that the American Viscose Corporation has now redeemed the balance of its preferred capital, or have you written down the value of this investment?

May I suggest that this year, if profits are sufficient, instead of a sum being placed to the reserve fund, the directors start a dividend equalisation fund. Your dividend policy seems to be something like a switchback railway, and if you could set aside sums to a dividend equalisation fund so that when you increase the dividend shareholders can feel satisfied that the increased dividend will be maintained in the future, it would greatly benefit them and would also remove the ordinary shares from the speculative category into which they have been brought by the dividend policy.

Mr Mason said that he would like to draw attention to the item of "Balance for the year, including interest and dividends on investments and after charging depreciation of buildings, plant, etc., and expenses of management, and providing for contingencies." He would like to have that item analysed in order that the accounts might be more intelligible. With regard to the item of investments, the directors knew what their value was, but that item was no help to him in forming an opinion of what his shares were worth. He knew he would be told that it was not in the interests of shareholders that such information should be disclosed, but he considered that that was a completely worn-out tale, and he was tired of it.

CONFIDENCE IN THE BOARD.

He had much faith in the ability of the chairman and his co-directors. They had been through a very trying year, and it was highly probable that they had still further troubles ahead, but he had not the slightest doubt that they would emerge from them triumphantly. His fervent wish was that the chairman and his colleagues might have good health, and then he was convinced that things would be all right with the company.

He would like to know whether they had paid a visit to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain their views as to the effect of a removal of the silk duties. In his (the speaker's) opinion, such removal would be madness. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Disney asked whether it would be possible for the meeting to pass a resolution protesting against the possible withdrawal of the silk duties.

Mr Price said that the chairman had referred to severe price-cutting which was taking place between the company and its competitors. He would like to know what the policy of the board was in that matter. Was it feasible to open negotiations with their competitors and arrange something in the nature of a stabilisation of prices? He understood that many other companies were agreeable to adopting that course, and he believed that the position was that it only needed the goodwill of Courtaulds to bring about such a state of affairs. Surely it would be beneficial to everyone concerned.

RETAIL TRADE.

Mr Rumbold said that he would like to say a few words with regard to the retail trade. The value of the goodwill of the name of Courtauld was enormous, but he did not think that much use was being made of it so far as the customer was concerned. In fact, he thought that that goodwill was being depreciated. When ladies went into a shop and asked for artificial silk they got it, but if they asked whether it was Courtaulds no one could tell them whether it was or not. (Hear, hear.)

It was true that Courtaulds did advertise in certain papers certain names of their products, but the name of Courtaulds did not appear. He wished that steps might be taken to advertise the name of the company to a greater extent.

Mr Howard, supporting the previous speaker, said that since the last meeting he had consulted upwards of 1,000 ladies, and they had all told him that they had been unable to obtain Courtaulds' goods. He would suggest that some easily remembered name should be adopted their products, as was the case with some of their competitors.

Mr Morris said that he thought that a good deal of the falling off in the company's profits was accounted for by the fact that acetate silk was to a very great extent interfering with the sale of viscose, and he would like to know whether the manufacture of the company's acetate silk, which had recently been commenced, was giving satisfaction. He regretted that Courtaulds had not recognised the possibilities and potentialities of acetate silk six or seven years ago, when they would not have had anything like the competition which they were meeting to-day.

He had seen it stated publicly in print that Courtaulds were no longer the largest manufacturers in Great Britain in regard to length, weight, or quality of output, and he would like to know whether that was true or whether the company still remained the premier company.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman: If there are no other questions, I will try to answer those which have already been put. Mr Thomas wants to know whether he can visit our English works. Without knowing whether Mr Thomas has any direct business connection with us, I cannot answer that; but our rule is that no one visits our works unless they have business to do there. It may seem hard, but when you think that we have 70,000 shareholders, how can we possibly prevent all kinds of people going into our works and picking up information if we allow any shareholder to go? (Hear, hear.) When Mr Thomas goes to America he goes as a stranger, and I suppose with credentials and introductions, and gets shown their works. I venture to say that no works in America would allow 70,000 shareholders to go through. (Hear, hear.) Mr Thomas also asked some other questions about the American company which were also asked by Mr Savory. Mr Savory asked one thing about the market value of our Government securities. We have always stated on our balance sheet, I think, that these securities are valued either at or under cost, whichever is the lower. We do not write them up, and we do not write them down unless they go below what they stand at in our books. These Government securities some time ago did hold a large hidden reserve, but there has been a large fall in Government securities, as in everything else, and although there is still a small surplus in that figure, it is nothing like what it was a year or two ago. However, they are still somewhat above to-day's market price.

Then Mr Savory wants to know a good deal about the American Viscose Corporation's figures, and so on, and quotes some figure given by Senator Wheeler in the Senate. Those figures I have seen myself, and I have examined them. They are only an estimate, and I must tell you that they are extremely inaccurate. They are miles from the truth in most respects, and I believe they were challenged by a Republican Senator on the other side. Senator Wheeler made some fantastic statements about the cost price of viscose yarn which were not, I suppose, 50 per cent. or 100 per cent. within the truth. His other figures are absolutely valueless for anyone who wants to form any idea of the profit.

VALUE OF AMERICAN INVESTMENTS.

As to the valuation we place upon the American investments, two years ago we stated the figure at which we valued them. I think it was £18,500,000. That was stated by us in our report, I believe. Since then the preferred stock has been sold, and since them the Canadian company has been incorporated. Those, however, are relatively small things. The vast proportion of that figure—perhaps 80 per cent. or 90 per cent.—is still accounted for by the American shares. They have not been written down. The American ordinary stock we hold stands at the same value to-day as it did two years ago. I might perhaps refer a little to this question that we always get—this hoary question—about the American investment, and I am afraid that some of my answers will also be hoary. I should like to say that we do not resent this question. It is perfectly natural that shareholders should want to know all they can about their investments, and I must ask you to believe that we fully realise our responsibility in administering this large investment for you. But we are still of opinion that it is to your best interests to withhold financial details. (Hear, hear.) I think we can also maintain that the past history of the American investments justifies this.

It would be perfectly easy for us to give you the whole of the figures, and it would be pleasant for us to do it here because it would put a stop to this distrust and also reduce our load of responsibility. At the same time, it would be utterly wrong for us to do so from a business point of view. Very many people, especially our competitors, would give a great deal to know these figures, and when they got them you may be quite sure they would not use them to our advantage. None of our important competitors issue figures which will tell you anything at all. We are always examining their balance sheets, and would only like to know. No single company of any importance gives the information you wish us to give. Most of these companies are linked up with other companies. They are subsidiaries of other companies. Many of them are private companies. There are no reliable statistics going about or figures to be got from balance sheets at all; and, of course, they do not publish their profits. If we gave away all you ask for it would simply amount to giving away the plan of your defences to the enemy. I must adhere to our previous practice of not giving any figures. At the same time, I might refer to one or two previous statements I have given, which may help you a little. Mr Thomas was not quite right. I said that much more than half of our profit this year came from America, which is the fact.

AMERICAN RESERVES.

Then as to the American reserves, some people think they have enormous, fantastic reserves in America. I think that at a previous meeting I stated that the policy of the American directors in regard to reserves was just about on a par with our policy here. You may infer what they put to reserve from what we would consider reasonable in their circumstances—and you know what we do. (Laughter.) At the same time, I do not want you to think there is any mysterious hidden treasure there. The reserves, we believe, are what are reasonable for a company in that position. Business is business on both sides of the Atlantic, and not a fairy tale anywhere.

Another thing: we stated when we last revalued the American assets that the valuation we put on the shares was fully covered by our share of the solid assets. That means that there is no water in them, and I think we stated that there was a little bit to spare. (Laughter.) I would like you to understand that there is nothing extraordinary there. The position is the same to-day. I think this ought to enable you to form some kind of view as to the worth of those investments, but I cannot give you any more detailed figures.

Mr Savory also said—though I cannot agree with him—that our dividend policy has been mainly responsible for the speculation in our shares. The opportunity for speculation is given by the fluctuation in profits, which we cannot stop. I think the responsibility for it probably lies with people whose interest it is to foster speculation; it certainly is not ours.

Mr Mason said he could not make out from the balance sheet what the profit was. On the first page of the report we state that the trading profit was £3,743,827, which, of course, is after payment of income tax. I am much obliged to Mr Mason for his kind expression of trust, and hope we shall continue to keep that trust. He asks if we have been to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The answer is "No," because the Chancellor would not see us. (Laughter.) In all fairness, however, I must say we have seen other Government officials; we have seen the Chancellor's Secretary, and I believe the Chancellor is fully acquainted with our views, although we were not allowed to state them to him in person.

Mr Disney makes the interesting suggestion that this meeting should pass a resolution to the Chancellor, but I am afraid, knowing the Chancellor's temperament and political complexion, it would be of no use at all.

Mr Price asks about price-cutting and negotiations. We continually negotiate about price-cutting, but perhaps Mr Price will know what I mean when I say that we only negotiate with what we call solid people who have something to offer and who are likely to be an important factor in the business. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Rumbold raised very interesting questions about Courtaulds' name and goodwill in the retail trade. He is there touching on questions which I personally do not know much about, because I am not on the commercial side of the business, but I think I can say this: this interesting and difficult question continually has our attention.

POLICY.

The next shareholder who spoke—Mr Howard—compared our policy with Celanese policy. There are various things one could say about that. Our biggest customers are the wholesale trade who are manufacturers of stockings and all kinds of things, and even as far as our woven goods are concerned we send them to the wholesale and do not deal with the retail direct. Those manufacturers mostly have their own trade-marks and goodwill, and the most suicidal thing we could do would be to alienate them. We have to consider that first, and whether we can with them evolve a policy of advertising which will bring our name forward without hurting their interests. We have to consider their interests first. We are investigating the question of special trade-marks and so on.

A Shareholder: May I suggest that when when you actually go into the retail trade you should do it thoroughly?

The Chairman: But we are not in the retail trade. I might point out that a very small percentage of our rayon yarn is used by our own weaving branch, and some of those goods are advertised, but by far the bigger part is sold by us in the form of yarn and always goes through the hands of other manufacturers.

Mr Howard: Could you possibly suggest that it might be for the advantage of the company if the wholesalers had the word "Courtaulds" on their advertised goods? (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman: I would not say more than that is the kind of question we have been investigating recently. Mr Howard says: "Why not follow Celanese policy?" but as to following their policy, would you like us to follow their policy in making profits? (Laughter.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The chairman referred to the appointment to the board of Mr John Coldbrook Hanbury-Williams and moved his election as a director. Mr Hanbury-Williams, he said, had youth, strength and energy, and they expected him to be of great assistance to them on the commercial side.

Mr S. Bourne (deputy-chairman) seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously adopted.

The chairman then moved that Mr S. Bourne, Mr S. A. Courtauld and Sir Thomas Latham, Bt., be re-elected directors.

Mr G. J. Bell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr L. Denny, seconded by Mr H. P. Lawson, Messrs W. Elles-Hill and Company and Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company were reappointed joint auditors.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

INVERESK PAPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

POSITION AND OUTLOOK.
THE NEWSPAPER INTERESTS.
MR B. H. BINDER'S VIEWS.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Inveresk Paper Company, Ltd., was held on the 4th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, and adjourned to the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr B. H. Binder, F.C.A. (the chairman), said that he had hoped that it would not be necessary to add much to the full report sent to the shareholders, but they had received circulars from Mr Harrison and Mr Wingfield, and it would be necessary to refer to some of their statements. The proxies lodged by shareholders and the support promised by those present at the meeting were overwhelmingly in his (the chairman's) favour and assured that the resolutions which he would later on propose would be carried. In July next voting rights would be acquired by the whole of the Preference shares if, as at present appeared to be likely, their dividend was not paid before then; in that event the voting control of the company would pass to the Preference shareholders, and he had received assurances of support from large holders of those shares.

MR HARRISON'S STATEMENTS.

Mr Harrison had included in his circular a long letter which he had written to him (the chairman) on February 15th, regarding a proposed scheme for the fusion of three companies connected with daily newspapers in which the Inveresk company was largely interested. Various ideas had been explored to put matters on a permanent and sound basis, in particular some amalgamation of the newspaper companies, which seemed the only feasible method to relieve the Inveresk company of serious financial obligations in connection with those newspaper companies, which had heavy floating liabilities, and to enable the Inveresk company to retain its equity interests. Thefurgent necessity for providing new money was the main consideration.

The details of the scheme recently discussed had always been subject to adjustment, but, as unanimity was impossible on the lines on which they were working, all parties had withdrawn it. That scheme was therefore dead. Nothing very definite or practical had yet been substituted, and the finding of further funds was still a problem to be solved.

"DAILY CHRONICLE" AND "SUNDAY NEWS."

Referring to the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Sunday News*, the chairman said that those two newspapers had, in the past, made substantial profits over a long period of years and, if their financial position was put right, there was no reason why they should not, in their new and more attractive form, again become profitable.

The company's troubles were mainly financial. A large number of the properties were sound and only required to be relieved of financial difficulties to enable them to remain valuable investments and to yield satisfactory dividends. He had been in conference for some time with direct representatives of very large holdings of each class of shares in the company and had considered with them methods for bringing about an improvement in the state of the company's affairs. All were agreed that the company had valuable assets, which, with their present capable technical management, and under improved administration, could be made more valuable.

THE BOARD.

With regard to the board, Messrs Smith and Faichen did not seek re-election, it being proposed that their technical knowledge should be utilised on a special technical management committee for the paper mills. A temporary sales advisory committee had already been set up and a purchasing committee, previously in existence, had been made more effective. In place of the two retiring directors it was proposed to elect Mr Allan Hepworth and Mr W. C. Thorne, who had had a wide and successful commercial experience and were both ordinary shareholders.

As regarded his (the chairman's) position, in October last he had been appointed financial adviser by the board, and when Mr Harrison resigned the chairmanship he had been asked by the board to take the chair and had agreed to do so temporarily. On December 18, 1929, he had been unanimously appointed director and chairman.

The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr A. W. Gotch Berrill seconded the resolution.

MR HARRISON'S REMARKS.

Mr W. Harrison, LL.B., said that it had been his privilege for six years to lead the company as its chairman, and he was glad, at that late hour, to see for the first time the olive branch held out to him and some evidence of fair play towards himself. During the last three or four months he had suffered greatly, but he was perfectly willing, in the interests of the shareholders, to bury the hatchet, let bygones be bygones, and begin afresh to rebuild and rehabilitate that great undertaking. (Applause.) He proceeded to trace the course of events in connection with their newspaper interests until the financial crises in London and New York had finally prevented the issue of capital which had been designed to ease the financial position.

He described how he had been unexpectedly confronted with a demand for his resignation from the position of chairman, and complained that since that time, in spite of his intimate knowledge of the business, he had not been consulted. The thing which had pained him most was that he had been accused of purchasing interests without proper investigation and without regard to their intrinsic merits. After all, everyone was liable to make mistakes, and they would not make any money unless they did. If there was any minute of the board showing any written protest against anything which he had done up to December 31, 1929, let it be produced!

It was no use getting hot-headed or indulging in personalities. They were in the hands of the banks for the time being. The company possessed assets of great value, and they ought to protect them.

ATTITUDE OF PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDERS.

Viscount St. Davids said that he represented a large number of first preference shares and he could state that the holders of those shares would agree to having an issue of debentures placed in front of them in order to help save the company, provided they were immediately given votes, and he also understood that the holders of the second preference shares would adopt a similar attitude. (Applause.) He recommended all shareholders to pull together and support the chairman.

Mr C. Stanley Crosse (solicitor for Mr Harrison) said that he was able to announce that Mr Harrison and Mr Binder had agreed to shake hands and bury the hatchet. (Loud applause.) They had agreed to forget the past and to work in the shareholders' interests and in those interests alone.

The chairman said that he understood that Mr Harrison had taken great exception to certain words in his report. Those words had been put in to indicate his (the chairman's) views at the time and had never been intended to reflect upon Mr Harrison's personal character. (Hear, hear.)

After some further discussion, the report and accounts were adopted, a resolution for the adjournment of the meeting, proposed by Mr G. Arthur Wingfield, having been lost on a show of hands, A poll was demanded. Mr. Wingfield's motion was defeated at the poll, the actual result of which was:—

For the resolution	139,659
Against the resolution.....	673,846
Majority against resolution	534,187

The formal business was duly transacted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended March 1, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS	£
Supply Services.....	5,883	From Revenue.....	21,405
Interest, &c., on Debt	5,027	Decrease in Balances	568
Sinking Fund.....	1,946		
Sundries	757		
Decrease in Debt	8,361		
	21,973		21,973

The revenue for the week amounted to £21,405,000, as compared with £25,033,100 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and super-tax were lower at £14,335,000 and £2,110,000, against £17,248,000 and £2,410,000 respectively. Customs were higher at £2,210,000, against £1,877,000, while Excise brought in £1,193,000, against £1,219,000. Ordinary receipts amounted to £17,000, as compared with £19,600. With four more weeks to run to the end of the financial year, the deficit on the year's accounts stands at £72,554,300, as compared with £31,710,000 last year. During the week the National Debt was reduced by £8,361,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 200	Treasury Bills	— 12,061
Public Dept. Advances	+ 4,000	Sundries	— 500
	+ 4,200		— 12,561

The Floating Debt was reduced by £8,035,000 to £701,210,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30, APRIL 1 TO MARCH 1.

	£		£
Expenditure	697,604,363	Revenue	625,050,064
		Decreases in balance	3,717,756
		Amount borrowed	68,836,543
	697,604,363		697,604,363

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30.

	£		£
Expenditure.....	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund.....	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929 ...	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture.....	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 1 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt...	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities.....	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	223
5% Conversion Loan...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	320†	...
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2178†
National War Bonds...	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan.....	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds ...	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	586
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	646
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	56
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,583
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	110
Total Liabilities ...	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,693

* Includes debt to American Government.
† Allowance has been made for conversion of £88½ millions 5 per cent. War Loan into 5 per cent. Conversion Loan.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Feb. 23, '29.	Mar. 2, '29.	Mar. 1, '30.	Movement Week ended Mar. 1, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	21,740,000	26,140,000	55,630,000	+ 4,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	752,915,000	738,725,000	645,580,000*	— 12,035,000
Total Floating Debt	774,655,000	764,865,000	701,210,000	— 8,035,000

* Includes £46,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on February 28, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £51,765,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 2s. 11d., about 67 per cent., and above in full; and Saturday, at £99 3s. 2d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
Jan. 3	40,000,000	63,480,000	4 5 11·16
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,705,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
Feb. 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
Feb. 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Mar. 1, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Mar. 2, 1929.	Week Ended Mar. 1, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 2, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	189,505,000	190,995,000	14,335,000	17,248,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	38,240,000	40,010,000	2,110,000	2,410,000
Estate, &c., Duties ...	81,000,000	72,830,000	72,980,000	1,340,000	2,070,000
Stamps	31,000,000	21,160,000	25,610,000	630,000	690,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	780,000	...	20,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	700,000	600,000	80,000	30,000
Total Inland Revenue...	412,000,000	322,445,000	330,975,000	18,495,000	22,468,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	108,896,000	108,923,000	2,210,000	1,877,000
Excise	130,550,000	118,793,000	125,378,000	1,193,000	1,219,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	227,689,000	234,301,000	3,403,000	3,096,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,437,468	3,991,067	...	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	10,800,000	10,500,000	*Dr600000*	*Dr700000*
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,280,000	1,190,000	90,000	70,000
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,420,274	21,966,990	...	79,490
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	9,003,406	12,479,089	16,957	19,646
Special Receipts	26,000,000	23,974,916	35,760,797	...	...
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	625,050,064	651,163,943	21,404,957	25,033,136
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	52,800,000	51,200,000	1,700,000	1,700,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	74,390,532	72,058,933	1,700,000	1,700,000
Total		699,440,596	723,222,876	23,104,957	26,733,136
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928..		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928.....		6,070,000	10,870,000	170,000	420,000
(*c*) For other Issues:					
By Treasury Bills.....		2,794,026,000	2,529,866,000	59,094,000	54,377,000
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944-64		153,417,590	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates		37,250,000	37,530,000	900,000	850,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933-35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34		26,300,972	18,960,000	...	...
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances		668,400,000	568,080,000	16,530,000	13,540,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares.....		4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		129,672	172,293	...	39,968
		4,399,897,646	3,994,566,609	99,798,957	95,960,104

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	1929. £	1928. £			
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	... ...
Total .....£			4,406,150,170	4,000,889,234	99,798,957 95,960,104

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 1, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 2, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 1, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 2, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	306,613,174	306,322,931	5,026,640	5,395,737
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	9,140,052	10,107,983	449,425	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,566,781	4,181,224	297,619	272,381
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,839,528	2,228,720	9,845	26,473
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	372,945,000	330,472,595	308,712,434	5,883,317	7,030,478
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	653,632,130	631,553,292	11,666,846	12,725,069
Sinking Fund.....	50,400,000	43,972,233	51,320,609	1,945,455	1,784,267
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	52,800,000	51,200,000	1,700,000	1,700,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,590,532	20,858,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	74,390,532	72,058,933	1,700,000	1,700,000
TOTAL	.....	771,994,895	754,932,834	15,312,301	16,209,336

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 1, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 2, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 1, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 2, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	6,070,000	10,870,000	170,000	420,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	9,500,000	9,550,000	500,000	500,000
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28 Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	2,848,725,000	2,318,115,000	71,155,000	68,575,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	40,850,000	37,550,000	700,000	650,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off	15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	129,156,504	...	250,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	649,820,000	703,790,000	12,530,000	9,140,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—				
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments	4,899	5,733	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—				
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000	...	...
	4,403,615,402	3,997,942,268	100367301	95,744,336

	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 2, 1929.		
	£	£		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,031,149	2,134,359	...	...	− 36,344	+ 81,768
Bank of Ireland	503,619	812,607	2,534,768	2,946,966	− 532,000	+ 134,000
Total £			4,406,150,170	4,000,889,234	− 568,344	+ 215,768

Treasury, March 3, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 5, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—			
In Circulation	347,295,975	Government Debt	11,015,100
In Banking Department	64,305,798	Other Government Securities	233,574,129
		Other Securities	10,944,046
		Silver Coin	4,466,725
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	151,601,773
	£411,601,773		£411,601,773

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	38,631,563
Rest	3,723,818	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	7,674,949	Discounts and Advances £6,840,871	
Other Deposits—		Securities 15,103,832	
Bankers £63,694,475			21,944,703
Other Accounts 35,921,849		Notes	64,305,798
	99,616,324	Gold and Silver Coin	688,425
7-Day and other Bills	2,398		
	£125,570,489		£125,570,489

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Mar. 5, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	347,295,975	+ 483,810	− 7,792,226
Public deposits	7,674,949	− 4,312,104	− 608,066
Bankers' deposits	63,694,475	+12,980,557	− 489,050
Other deposits	35,921,849	− 309,518	− 1,374,268
Seven-day bills	2,398	− 359	− 347
Total, outside liabilities	454,589,646	+ 8,842,386	− 10,263,957
Capital and rest	18,276,818	+ 18,063	+ 9,895
Government debt and securities	283,220,792	+ 4,165,939	− 7,465,162
Discounts and advances	6,840,871	+ 2,124,516	− 3,538,540
Other securities	26,047,878	+ 2,254,373	+ 665,857
Silver coin in issue department	4,466,725	+ 4,661	− 377,617
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	152,290,198	+ 310,960	+ 461,400
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	64,994,223	− 172,853	+ 8,253,626
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	60½%	− 5 1/16%	+ 8 3/16%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 11/16%	− 1/16%	+ 1 1/16%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank-	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,972	690,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Jan. 15	245102958	10429647	150654341 31 1/16	61250615	9671904	14033836	58711426 46
22	244665689	10855940	151288975 32 1/16	57665615	5779566	14878876	64889435 51
29	244710035	10806329	150428168 32 1/16	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196 52
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106 32 3/16	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685 54
12	244613696	10924838	151499219 32 3/16	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043 56
19	244615041	10924483	151638500 33 1/16	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727 61
26	244613290	10924646	151979238 34 3/16	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073 65
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198 33 1/16	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223 60

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to February 19	5,452,669	277,742	449,775	6,180,186
Week ended February 26	720,627	33,247	51,244	805,118
Week ended March 5	896,549	38,374	62,735	997,658
Total to date, 1930	7,069,845	349,363	563,754	7,982,962
Total to date, 1929	7,648,130	358,637	575,698	8,582,465
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 578,285 = 7·6%	− 9,274 = 2·6%	− 11,944 = 2·1%	− 599,503 = 7·0%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807 = 1·6%	+ 27,599 = 1·5%	+ 39,342 = 1·3%	+ 691,751 = 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of February. 1929.	Month of February. 1930.	Month of February. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 1. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 1. 1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,233,000	10,037,000	−17·9	26,286,900	23,873,100
BRADFORD	5,058,000	3,913,000	−22·6	...	...
BRISTOL	5,445,000	4,747,000	−12·8	11,607,000	10,010,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	46,002,800	44,365,500
HULL	3,818,000	3,332,000	−12·7	8,414,100	7,614,400
LEEDS	4,540,000	4,108,000	− 9·5	9,823,200	9,256,500
LEICESTER	3,593,000	3,048,000	−15·1	6,900,200	7,556,800
LIVERPOOL	34,080,000	30,359,000	−10·9	120,148,300	105,911,100
MANCHESTER	55,589,000	49,233,000	−11·4	113,378,700	101,365,400
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,374,000	6,199,000	− 2·7	13,391,900	12,843,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,651,000	2,500,000	− 5·6	6,104,500	5,781,600
SHEFFIELD	4,437,000	3,951,000	−10·9	9,672,700	8,595,700
Total	137,818,000	121,427,000	−11·8	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of January 25; Denmark in February 8; Roumania in February 22; Lithuania, Greece, Canada, Danzig and Spain in March 1.

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

RESOURCES.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,682,840	2,974,980	2,977,520	2,989,630	2,995,520
Total bills discounted	989,170	381,910	376,940	342,780	308,620
Bills bought in open market	304,640	276,080	281,060	299,310	271,200
Total U.S. Govt. securities	162,960	478,560	480,620	482,750	486,140
Total bills and securities	1,467,030	1,147,840	1,152,900	1,138,520	1,078,190
Total resources	5,123,780	5,112,970	5,124,290	5,147,300	5,035,620
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,666,570	1,682,440	1,656,160	1,637,090	1,641,430
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,350,500	2,307,660	2,315,410	2,345,860	2,315,190
Total deposits	2,402,540	2,388,870	2,390,920	2,407,980	2,349,110
Capital paid in and surplus	406,510	448,370	448,520	448,750	449,000
Total liabilities	5,123,780	5,112,970	5,124,290	5,147,300	5,035,620
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	69·7%	77·9%	78·5%	78·8%	79·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.
Total bills discounted	270,610	79,300	88,790	58,400	39,680
Bills bought in open market	65,690	89,690	85,360	76,840	65,090
Total U.S. Govt. securities	13,640	212,350	216,630	217,260	222,380
Total bills and securities	349,930	387,590	403,020	365,150	337,350
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	922,240	942,920	946,080	985,270	932,450
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	77·3%	76·1%	75·1%	78·2%	78·9%

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 8, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,603	7,198	7,155	7,535	7,914	7,884
Subsidiary coin	102	94	103	107	105	107
Bills discounted	8,688	8,463	8,731	8,960	9,107	8,111
Investments	694	934	826	588	749	849
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,690	8,475	7,944	7,831	9,156	8,326
Government deposits	1,510	1,612	2,218	2,324	1,740	1,359
Bankers' deposits	5,033	4,679	5,198	5,092	5,178	4,785
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·4%	47·0%	48·2%	48·7%	48·2%	52·4%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 1, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Total securities	21,44,40	32,98,75	33,15,66	33,11,97	32,64,08	32,24,09
Loans	17,33,27	7,43,76	8,13,25	7,36,47	7,71,57	8,85,49
Cash credits	29,10,51	26,66,68	28,28,99	28,79,97	30,13,85	30,59,42
Inland bills	13,00,86	6,26,62	6,44,99	7,20,57	7,15,89	7,37,56
Foreign bills	37,72	38,99	41,92	37,32	43,68	45,75
Dead stock	2,82,19	2,80,00	2,79,88	2,79,88	2,79,79	2,80,17
Bal. with other banks	14,05	14,77	22,98	33,13	18,25	3,90
Cash	11,68,01	13,38,93	13,56,37	15,73,03	16,35,80	12,09,40
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,27,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	78,23,08	78,37,34	81,44,17	84,30,48	86,15,97	83,16,27
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	869	787	829	888	821	752
Advances in London	914	727	723	727	726	730
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	106	109	174	246	133	27

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 1, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.
Gold	34,063,147	42,931,049	42,947,184	42,960,343	42,855,470
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,473,971	6,978,660	6,978,420	6,967,761	6,955,712
Bills discounted	18,383,875	18,777,089	18,791,890	18,751,548	18,798,135
Commercial bills discounted at home	4,235,415	6,398,696	5.992,663	6,547,081	5,269,757
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545
Other advances	2,404,732	2,578,449	2,511,431	2,488,990	...
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	4,047,720	2,874,788	2,674,621	2,633,544	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	64,226,373	69,429,473	69,072,414	68,872,261	71,116,069
Public deposits	11,566,738	10,051,343	9,779,601	9,703,875	8,767,349
Private deposits	5,885,015	7,189,057	7,338,115	8,046,775	5,772,767
Other liabilities	2,060,734	2,521,402	2,358,624	2,378,901	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 2, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,728,933	2,351,014	2,410,200	2,444,389
Of which deposited abroad	85,626	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	90,386	401,566	398,793	383,802
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,888,919	1,719,719	1,620,478	1,965,003
Silver and other coin	114,352	153,837	164,377	137,866
Notes of other German banks	7,244	16,828	20,948	3,542
Advances	297,247	78,248	54,694	323,306
Investments	93,170	93,277	93,277	93,277
Other assets	470,718	504,978	511,850	484,925
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,553,026	4,166,354	4,004,503	4,722,430
Other daily maturing obligations	525,560	502,237	615,809	468,522
Other liabilities	169,987	156,989	168,278	151,231

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 6, 1930.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.
Gold	(b)	906,207	1,176,641	1,178,303	1,178,517	1,178,703
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	490,128	520,896	534,095	535,069	547,595
Silver and other coin		1,543	2,731	2,884	3,054	3,131
Securities	697,600	738,468	794,697	791,562	786,785	808,045
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,432,417	2,769,562	2,763,316	2,742,693	2,798,343
Current accounts	112,125	75,122	79,861	94,763	100,835	92,076

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Feb. 25, 1929.	Feb. 3, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 17, 1930.	Feb. 24, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,548	437,019	437,023	437,013	437,006
Silver	8,436	22,143	27,298	27,191	27,116	27,071
Home Bills discted.	153,504	73,713	52,204	52,456	51,660	51,177
Foreign Bills		166,994	211,308	211,528	205,792	200,708
Loans and advances in current acct.		98,599	112,414	82,590	83,416	79,057
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	775,868	824,025	795,727	785,698	782,666
Deposits	5,016	31,489	20,190	20,593	18,158	23,474

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,600	559,901	560,911	560,924	560,934
Silver	18,350	45,185	24,126	23,748	23,304	21,686
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	180,719	365,248	358,909	352,888	343,839
Discounts	...	169,554	92,343	84,527	81,306	78,012
Advances	103,000	71,328	41,976	38,515	39,865	42,002
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	842,929	849,171	822,348	811,794	893,120
Deposits	33,750	76,736	200,289	219,040	211,937	128,504

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Mar. 2, 1929.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,335	168,900	169,300	169,500	169,400
Silver	29,785	21,142				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	138,164	140,100	134,000	131,400	136,200
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	302,085	283,100	278,600	274,800	275,800
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	46,890	32,100	32,400	33,700	30,800

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,058,600	5,189,500	5,189,500	5,189,700	5,189,800
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,724,400	4,934,500	4,905,000	4,872,500	4,786,400
Other cash	207,900	202,500	207,700	209,700	219,000
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,421,200	3,838,500	3,592,800	3,417,500	3,292,200
Advances	1,084,100	876,100	1,120,100	980,500	988,000
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,077,800	851,400	803,700	803,700	803,700
Government securities	1,042,400	1,053,000	1,054,900	1,053,300	1,053,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	15,940,800	16,308,100	16,328,800	16,085,400	15,716,000
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,618,100	1,778,300	1,711,800	1,794,300	1,981,100
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	57·17%	55·06%	55·04%	55·35%	55·43%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 2, 1929.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Gold	235,363	244,129	244,061	243,962	243,949
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	749	157	157	157	157
Bills payable in Sweden†	219,740	165,054	171,282	160,603	183,856
" " abroad	83,985	120,180	119,084	112,259	104,715
Balance abroad	40,223	63,723	60,514	69,117	78,181
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	65,192	54,975	55,274	47,379	63,781
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	503,941	495,252	488,613	468,551	538,618
Government deposits	175,823	172,884	179,133	175,826	160,161
Private deposits	4,851	3,434	1,821	4,297	3,079

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 22, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,853	146,629	146,625	146,622
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	31,086	29,882	28,942	28,742
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,344	26,344	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	261,080	226,863	226,761	224,634
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	293,666	292,018	289,267	289,215
Deposits at sight	7,188	87,642	63,926	66,902	66,282

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.
Coin and bullion	10,273	8,903	8,863	8,848	8,797
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	331,616	312,991	312,129	299,299	283,553
Discounts	257,879	361,148	363,914	365,049	360,898
Government loans	1,753,432	1,719,321	1,719,705	1,706,930	1,691,278
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,878,755	1,971,897	1,973,330	1,939,083	1,903,500
Deposits	60,949	107,627	75,148	65,177	72,318

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	203,804	204,160	204,484	201,634	198,204
Other foreign exchange†	359,487	311,583	311,771	309,388	306,558
Bills discounted	126,525	237,621	208,628	199,388	193,043
Gov. Debt	116,066	108,604	108,558	108,558	108,558
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	858,280	980,693	910,634	873,500	840,748
Deposits	119,501	53,059	94,676	117,634	137,579

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,431	162,751	162,643	162,631	162,629
Drafts and notes	46,777	18,308	25,576	20,206	27,968
Silver coin and bullion	773	9,861	9,703	10,073	10,457
Inland bills, warrants and securities	291,282	293,406	257,361	232,674	232,227
Advances to the Treasury	92,351	87,506	82,937	82,937	82,937
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,758	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	391,978	476,247	441,907	410,141	379,300
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	255,645	62,578	78,467	80,823	146,612

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 22, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.
Gold	91,302	95,759	95,827	95,884	95,962
Other coin and notes	18,484	18,757	18,688	18,743	18,425
Foreign credits	189,107	275,750	305,612	292,073	291,340
Bills	1,362,476	1,202,214	1,187,443	1,175,729	1,156,270
Government advances	4,201,152	4,151,099	4,147,101	4,145,093	4,143,094
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,090,197	5,585,766	5,566,208	5,464,216	5,389,532
State credits	227,873	203,914	199,916	197,909	195,910
Deposits	1,155,514	1,527,913	1,649,239	1,706,412	1,867,645

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K.

(000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,310	1,261,694	1,261,762	1,261,797	1,261,810
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,859,277	2,038,843	2,007,126	2,005,801	2,011,013
Discounts and advances	162,012	364,253	373,676	318,289	261,734
State notes debt balance	4,071,968	3,742,762	3,738,833	3,738,334	3,735,758
Other assets	875,116	689,759	689,790	657,007	662,077
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,417,920	6,922,998	6,562,371	6,248,455	6,101,807
Check account balances	975,026	406,634	733,258	960,444	1,034,410
Other liabilities	343,190	387,257	295,136	291,907	316,753

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted)

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,501,913	1,564,464	1,565,758	1,566,892	1,568,212
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,003,153	874,975	779,302	773,825	717,490
Discounts and advances	1,352,030	1,226,549	1,214,760	1,238,404	1,267,616
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,271	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,359	1,245,642	1,246,962	1,252,108	1,251,268
Bank notes in circulation	3,824,931	3,260,361	3,337,567	3,310,077	3,211,208
Sight liabilities	3,256,655	1,886,480	1,658,677	1,748,415	1,795,871
Deposits	471,205	334,605	332,078	321,227	320,760

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 20, 1929.	Jan. 20, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.
Gold	621,418	700,681	700,904	700,953	701 004
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	683,960	489,252	473,094	467,498	455,139
Bills discounted	640,856	675,497	684,449	676,126	670,321
Loans against securities	87,188	79,715	79,101	79,214	77,547
Reserve fund securities	69,243	75,896	75,939	82,155	83,531
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	450,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,157,847	1,161,534	1,246,742	1,208,149	1,165,249
Current accounts	649,117	540,992	453,834	483,800	553,039
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Mar. 1, 1929.	Jan. 16, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 16, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,885	28,567	28,567	28,581	29,080
Other precious metals	4,340	3,348	3,414	3,396	3,298
Foreign bank notes	8,942	6,758	6,392	6,406	6,517
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	277	292	295	295	295
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	77,556	114,035	112,332	113.323	115,809
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	108,365	152,574	150,027	151,011	153,580
Balance to which notes may still be issued	635	426	973	989	1,420

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30.1914.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22. 1930.
Gold	35,091	303,363	301,280	301,185	301,056
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	698,378	754,941	761,314	759,680
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	322,430	322,430	321,409
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,519,389	1,336,796	1,294,539	1,350,800
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,441,057	1,247,407	1,269,272	1,268,129
Deposits at notice	21,225	398,049	315,247	274 917	359,121

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 23, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,228	6,437	6,443	6,447	6,448
Net foreign exchange	23,229	19,478	18,775	18,093	18,244
Subsidiary Estonian coin	703	701	727	733	725
Home bills discounted	15,279	15,013	15,230	15,419	15,585
Loans and advances	15,312	12,806	12,189	13,078	12,725*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	35,936	32,260	31,633	31,431	33,838
Sight deposits and current accounts	20,352	17,022	16,732	16,959	15,062
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·32%	52·58%	52·14%	50·71%	50 49%

* Includes Ekr. 8,099,528·42, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 27, 1929.	Jan. 29, 1930.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,771	23,940	23,938	23,942	23,948	23,948
Silver coin	4,733	5,793	6,525	6,466	6,227	5,946
Balance abroad	70,923	42,555	42,679	42,993	43,187	45,404
Treas. notes and sm. change	10,688	14,322	14,884	15,321	14,553	12,362
Short term bills	82,023	94,164	94,543	93.909	94,328	94,452
Loans against securities	46,589	53,802	54.372	54,050	52,830	53,704
Other assets	13,260	20,696	20,038	13,697	14,190	13,745
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	44,360	47,508	46,746	46,150	46,829	48,586
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17.010	17.017	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3.662	3,661	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,612	15,489	15,709	15,732	15,847	15,905
Current accounts	62,628	53,302	63,859	64,043	64,988	66,283
Government accounts	102,403	87,112	86,464	87,750	86,858	84,388
Other liabilities	8,812	18,689	21,029	12,524	10,557	10,228

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	Feb. 16, 1929.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,114,443	1,089,977	1,071,685	1,048,747	1,039,185
Discounts	41,740	732,414	656,792	670,578	659,144	661,875
Advances	70,540	74,888	74,936	74,793	74,750	74,456
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,229,358	1,347,113	1,406,118	1,197,784	1,151,046
Govt. deposits	87,340	528,992	470,084	437,579	492,385	502,260
Other deposits	11,440	389,014	351,783	234,839	357,616	387,382

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 1, 1929.	Jan. 10, 1930.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold at home	60,683	63,233	63,235	63,224	63,222
Gold abroad	444,947	385,619	362,719	343,936	393,400
Discounts and advances	71,419	98,355	96,462	90,958	103,219
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	343,267	343,588	340,648	337,203	343,576
Deposits	115,435	125,976	115,708	82,857	160,336
Drafts	30,540	10,705	11,909	13,849	16,009
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Feb. 27, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 3, 1930.	Mar. 4, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4½% Mar. 6, 1930)	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛ – ⅜	3⅛ – ⅜	3⅛ – ⅜	3⅛	3⅛
3 months' do.	3⅜ – ½	3⅜	3⅜ – ⅜	3⅜ – ⅜	3⅜ – ⅜	3⅜ – ⅞	3⅜ – ½
4 months' do.	3⅜ – ½	3⅜ – ½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜ – ⅞	3⅜ – ½
6 months' do.	3⅜ – ½	3⅜ – ½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜ – ½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛	3⅜ – ½	3⅜
3 months'	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅜ – ⅛	3⅜
Loans—Day to day	3⅜ – 4½	3⅜ – 4½	3⅜ – ½	3⅜ – 4½	3⅜ – 4½	3⅜ – 4½	3⅜ – 4
Short	3½ – 4½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½ – 4
Deposit allowances: Bank	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½ – 4
Discount houses at call	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2
At notice	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾	2
							2½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1930.							
Feb. 13	4½	3⅞ – ½	3⅛ – ¼	3⅛ – ¼	4½	4⅝	5 5⅛
20	3½	3⅛ – ¼	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	4½	4⅝	5 5⅛
27	3½–4½	3⅜ – ⅛	3⅜ – ⅛	3⅜ – ⅛	4½	4⅝	5 5⅛
Mar. 6	3½–4	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	3⅛ – ⅛	4	4½	5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·85⅛ – ⅜	4·86 – ⅛	4·86 ⅛ –86⅜
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·88–88⅛	4·88⅜ – ⅝	4·88⅛–88⅜
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124 ⅜ – ½	124·25–·28	124·20–·22
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·45– 45½	20·36½–7	20·36½–·36⅝
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11–11½	12·12⅜–½	12·11⅜–·12⅜
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95½–95⅝	34·88½–89	34·88⅛–·88⅜
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·65–70	92·74–6	92·78–·82
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·22⅜–23½	25·19–½	25·14½–·15
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–19⅜	18·16⅜–17½	18·17–·17⅜
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–16⅜	18·10⅜–11½	18·11½–·12
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20½–20⅜	18·16–¼	18·16½–·16⅝
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	32·95–33·00	39·63–8	39·75–·85
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	109–109½	108⅛–⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna	schilgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·50–55	34·50–4	34·49–·52
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163⅜–164	164–¼	114–114⅜
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276½–¾	275⅝–6½	275½–276
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·82–87	27·79–·83	27·80–·82
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	815–818	817–19	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	673·675	669–75	669–673
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374⅜–375¼	374–5¼	375–375¼
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	983–988	1095 sellers	1115 sellers
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–·44	†9·438–·457	†9·43–·45
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43¼–43⅜	43⅛ – ¼	43⅛ – ¼
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192½–193	193–⅛	193–193⅛
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48⅛–49⅛	48⅛–49⅛	48⅛–49⅛
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–22	18·20–·27	18·20–·27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·20–·30	25·20–·30
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97⅛	97 11/16 – 13/16	97 ⅞ – 98	97 ⅞ – 98
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 ⅛ – 3/16	42 11/16 – 13/16	42 11/16 – ¾
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 3/32 – 5/32	5 1/16 – 3/32	5 5/32 – 3/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50 1/32 – 3/32	43 ⅛ – ¼	43 ⅛ – 44
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·46	39·78	39·82
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19 3/32% prem.	27 1/32% prem.	27 1/32% prem.
Calcutta	pence	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32
Bombay	to	T.T.		1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32
Madras	rupee	T.T.		1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32	1/5 31/32 – 2/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0⅛–⅜	1/6½–1/7	1/6–1/6⅛
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6⅜–2/7½	1/11–1/11⅛	1/11–1/11⅛
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅛ – ⅛	2/3⅛–2/3 15/16	2/3⅛ – ⅛
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10–1/10 1/2	2/0⅛ – ⅛	2/0⅛ – ⅛
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 3/16 d.	†2/0 1/16	†2s. 0 1/16 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·75–10·25	10·15–·30	10·15–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅛	1/10⅛

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 6, 1930	4	3½	Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Feb. 10, 1930	5½	5	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Feb. 4, 1930	6½	6	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6½ / 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9				
Budapest	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Stockholm	Mar. 6, 1930	4½	4
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Vienna	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	Jan. 31, 1930	8½	8
New York Federal Reserve	Feb. 6, 1930	4½	4	Irish	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Mar. 6, 1929.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	4½	4	4½	4½	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7½	4½	—	4½	4½	4½
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅜	4	—	3½	3½	3⅜
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅜	4	—	3½	3½	3⅜
Ineligible, 90 days	6	4⅜	—	4¼	4¼	4¼
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅜	4½	—	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Mar. 6, 1929.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80	4·82	4·82⅜	4·82 3/16
Cable			4·83 3/16	4·86	4·86	4·86 1/16
Cheques			4·84 1/16	4·85⅛	4·85 11/16	4·85⅜
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9025	3·91 1/16	3·91	3·91¼
Brussels	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·875	13·915	13·92⅜	13·91⅜
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·22½	19·27¾	19·285	19·31½
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·2325	5·23	5·23⅝	5·23⅜
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·70	23·84	23·845	23·84
Vienna	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·07	14·07	14·07	14·08
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·78	12·46	12·35	11·70
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·02	40·065	40·06	40·05½
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·635	26·745	26·755	26·74
Oslo			26·645	26·71	26·725	26·725
Stockholm			26·69	26·80	26·80	26·82
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·2925	1·295	1·29⅝	1·29⅝
Montreal	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅜ dis.	1/16 dis.	⅛ dis.	⅛ dis.
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·15	49·10	49·15	49·20
Hong Kong	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·90	36·15	38·00	37·10
Shanghai	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	62·40	48·00	47·50	48·00
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·34	36·20	36·16	36·16
Buenos Aires	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·70	116·50	117·50	116·70
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·82	11·40	11·25	11·25
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	11·99

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·66
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·50
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·93
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	⅛% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛% ,,
30 days	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...
120 days	3⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,		

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. New Zealand.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	97⅛	97⅛	...	...	103⅛	103⅛
Demand	96	96	97⅛	97⅛	101¼	101⅛	102 11/16	102⅛
30 days	95 7/16	95 7/16	...	...	100 5/16	100⅛	102⅛	102⅛
60 days	94⅝	94⅝	...	...	100 5/16	100⅛	101 11/16	101⅛
90 days	94 5/16	94 5/16	...	...	100	99⅝	101⅛	101⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930, were £24,715,000, of which £15,215,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £9,500,000 transferred from the Paper Currency Reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 6, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—	
France	5,811
Brazil	51,930
British West Africa	36,513
British South Africa	1,340,152
Australia	30,000
Other Countries	22
Total declared value of imports	1,464,428

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
To—	
Poland	3,425
Germany	148,760
Netherlands	6,448
France	20,333
Austria	20,500
Egypt	1,000
Bombay via other Ports	42,422
Other Countries	850
Total declared value of exports	243,738

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Feb. 28	Bars bought	23	Feb. 28		Nil
Mar. 1	Foreign coin bought	10	Mar. 1	Bars sold	1,703
Mar. 3	Sovs. from abroad	250,000		Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 4		Nil	,, 3	Bars sold	5,163
,, 5		Nil	,, 4		Nil
,, 6	Sovereigns from abroad	30,817	,, 5		Nil
			,, 6		Nil
Total		280,850	Total		8,866

Net arrivals, £271,984

Messrs. Samuel Montagu & Co. write on March 5, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £151,326,826 on the 26th ultimo (as compared with £150,971,511 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,579,489 since April 29, 1925, when an effective gold standard was resumed. Gold from South Africa to the value of £1,091,000 was available in the open market yesterday. Germany was again in the market, but was outbid by an undisclosed buyer (rumoured to be Belgium), who secured £990,000 at the fixed price of 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce. Of the balance, India secured £35,000, the Home trade £20,000, and the Continental trade £46,000. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £271,167 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £280,033, which included £250,000 in sovereigns from South Africa and £30,000 in sovereigns from Australia.

SILVER.

Silver prices have fallen heavily during the week. Following the news received on the 28th ultimo of the proposal contained in the Indian Budget to impose an import duty on silver of 4 annas per fine ounce, there was a sharp decline to 19⅛d. and 19 1/16d., a drop of 9/16d. in the cash and ½d. in the two months' quotation. Prices continued to fall until yesterday, when 18⅝d. and 18½d. were quoted for the respective deliveries, but hesitation on the part of sellers to-day caused a reaction to 18 11/16d. and 18 9/16d.

China has been a heavy seller, but America has also offered freely, and the market found little support except for Indian Bazaar buying to cover bear sales. Recent shipments to India having considerably reduced stocks, a demand for silver for immediate delivery raised the premium on cash silver to ½d. on the 3rd instant; this eased to ¼d. yesterday, but was increased to ⅜d. to-day.

The rumour has been current that the Chinese Government are also contemplating the establishment of an import duty on silver, but as yet there has been no official confirmation.

Events of the week have created a feeling of depression and the outlook, whilst not encouraging, must be considered uncertain.

No fresh Indian Currency Returns have come to hand.

The stocks in Shanghai on the 1st instant consisted of about 91,600,000 ounces in sycee, 132,000,000 dollars, 19,000 silver bars and 6,300,000 Saigon dollars, as compared with about 90,700,000 ounces in sycee, 129,000,000 dollars, 21,640 silver bars and 6,300,000 Saigon dollars on the 22nd ultimo.

Statistics for the month of February last are appended:—

	BAR SILVER per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two mos. delivery.	BAR GOLD per oz. fine.
Highest price	20 7/16d.	20½d.	84s. 11½d.
Lowest ,,	19⅛d.	19 1/16d.	84s. 10½d.
Average ,,	20·008d.	19·878d.	84s. 11·22d.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Feb. 28	84 11½	19⅛	19 1/16	Mar. 7, 1924	33⅛
Mar. 1	84 11½	19	18 15/16	,, 6, 1925	32⅛
,, 3	84 11½	18 15/16	18 15/16	,, 5, 1926	30⅛
,, 4	84 11½	18⅛	18½	,, 4, 1927	25⅝
,, 5	84 11½	18 15/16	18 15/16	,, 1, 1928	26⅛
,, 6	84 10½	18⅛	18 15/16	,, 7, 1929	26 1/16

NOTICES.

Mr Francis L. Patten has been appointed a director of the Dominion Bank (Canada).

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that branches of the bank are now open at 59, High Street, Barnet, Herts.

Branches of the National Bank of Australasia, Ltd., have been opened at Ann Street, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, Queensland; Bathurst Street, Sydney, New South Wales; and Hurstville, New South Wales.

A branch of Martins Bank, Ltd., has been opened at 88, Wigmore Street, London, W. 1.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that sub-branches of the bank are now open at 172-174, Deansgate, Manchester.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening of a new branch on March 3rd at 301, High Street, West Bromwich.

New branches of Commonwealth Bank of Australia have been opened at Collinsville, Queensland, and Victoria Street, Melbourne.

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
BANKS.				%	%
Banca Commerciale Italiana ...	...	...	...	13	13
Credito Italiano	...	...	...	8	8
Dominion.....	3%*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Eastern	...	...	Less tax	9	9
Goteborgs	...	...	...	10	...
Svenska Handelsbanken	...	...	...	12	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Bandjarsarie (Java) Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Cheviot Rubber	...	Apr. 5	...	10	10
Gula-Kalumpong	...	...	...	7½	7½
Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber	...	Apr. 5	...	10	10
Mapalagama Rubber	...	Apr. 9	Tax free	6½	6½
Kombok (F.M.S.) Rubber.....	...	...	...	10	7½
Kramat Pulai	5%*	Mar. 13	Less tax	...	...
Tangoel Rubber	3%*	Mar. 15	Less tax	...	...
MINING.					
Balaghat Gold	6d. p.s.†	Mar. 27	Less tax	...	...
Malayan Tin	10%*	Mar. 15	Less tax	...	...
Nundydroog	1/9 p.s.†	Apr. 3	Less tax	2/6 p.s.	2/– p.s.
Rawang Concessions	1/– p.s.*	Mar. 28	...	...	...
Southern Malayan	7½%*	Mar. 14	Less tax	...	...
Southern Perak	5%*	Mar. 13	Less tax	...	...
Temoh Tin	1/– p.s.	Mar. 25	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
American Trust	8%†	...	Less tax	14	13
Automatic Telephone Manuftg.	6½%†	and bonus	2½%	12½	12½
Bournemouth Markets Ice	14%†	...	...	20*a*	...
British Tobacco (Australia)	3%*	Mar. 31	...	...	...
Canada Iron Foundries	...	...	...	3	...
Cannock and Co.	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Chamberlain, King and Jones ...	12½%†	...	...	15	15
City of London Elec. Lighting....	...	...	...	10	10
City Property Invest. Trust (Def.)	9%†	...	...	14	14
Clayton Dewandre	...	...	Less tax	2½	...
Clyde Valley Electric Power *d* ...	5%†	...	Less tax	8	...
Cockshutt Plow	37½ cents p.s.*	May 1	...	...	...
Courage and Co.	...	...	...	25	25
Dundee Floorcloth	...	...	...	20	20
East End Dwellings	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Ecuadorian Corporation	6cts.p.s.*	Apr. 1	...	...	...
Enfield Cable	...	...	...	25	20
English and Scottish Investors	2%*	...	...	...	...
Evans (D. H.)	15%†	...	...	25	25
Evans, Sons, Lescher and Webb	...	...	...	5	Nil
Fife Coal	...	...	Tax free	8	3
Foster (M. B.) and Sons	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	9½
Gorringe (Fred.)	...	...	...	12½	15
Grimsby, Hughes	...	...	...	8	8
Hadfields	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Harris and Sheldon	7½%†	...	...	10	12½
Hellenic and General Trust	3½%†	...	Less tax	6½	Nil
Hemel Hempstead Patent Brick	7½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Hine, Parker and Co.	7½%†	and bonus	2½%	12½	12½
Hoffmann Manufacturing	6%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Imperial Tobacco of Canada ...	1¾%	Mar. 28	...	...	...
International Automatic Tele. ...	6½%†	and bonus	2½%	12½	12½
" " (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Isle of Thanet Electric Supply ...	3%†	...	...	4	4
King Line	...	...	...	6	6
Lancashire Dynamo and Motor	...	...	...	5	5
Law Land	5%†	...	...	9	11
Lea Bridge District Gas	...	...	...	8½	...
Leyland Gas	...	...	...	6	6
Lincoln Wagon and Engine	5%†	...	Less tax	10*b*	10*b*
London and Thames Haven Oil	5%†	and bonus	5%	15	15
Lonsdale (J. and J.)	...	...	...	2/6 p.s.	3/6 p.s.
Marconi International Marine ...	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Maritime Insurance	3%†	Mar. 15	Less tax	6	6
Martinez, Gassiot and Co.....	9d. p.s.*	...	Less tax	...	...
Mooney (J. G.) and Co.	15%†	and bonus	7½%	22½	20
Moor Line	...	...	...	5	Nil
N. British Locomotive	...	...	...	2½	2½
Pennsylvania Water and Power	$1*	Apr. 1	Quarterly	...	...
Reid (W. B.) and Co.	...	...	...	12	8
Richmond Park Laundry	10%†	...	Less tax	17½	...
Rickett, Cockerell and Co.	2½%*	Mar. 8	Less tax	...	...
Rivet, Bolt and Nut	...	...	Less tax	8	10
Royal Brewery, Brentford	6½%†	and bonus	2½%	13	12½
Scot. Eastern Invest. Trust (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	7½	7
Scottish Iron and Steel	...	...	...	6	5
Scottish Tube	...	...	...	2½	Nil
Sec. Scottish Invest Trust	10%*	...	...	...	...
Shanghai Waterworks Fittings	...	...	...	10	8
Shropshire, &c., Elec. Power "A"	4%†	...	Less tax	8	8
" " " "B"	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Slazengers	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
South African Gold Trust	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Stoneware (1928)	5%†	...	...	10	...
Story and Co.	...	...	...	15	15
Swears and Wells	...	...	...	16½§	17½
Switzer and Co.	...	...	Tax free	8	8
Tarapaca and Tocopilla Nitrate	...	...	...	5	...
Taylor Walker	1/– p.s.†	and bonus	6d.	2/6 p.s.	2/1 p.s.
Tennant Brothers	5%*	Mar. 20	Tax free	...	...
Third Guardian Trust	2½%†	...	...	5	...
Torquay Tramways	5%†	...	Tax free	9	9
Trade Indemnity	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Turney Brothers.....	...	...	...	6	10
United Carlo Gatti	7%†	...	Tax free	11	12½
United Glass Bottle	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
United Tobacco Cos. (South) ...	6d. p.s*	Mar. 31	Free of S. African tax.	...	...
Wankie Colliery	...	Mar. 11	Less tax	5	5
Ward and Goldstone	3½%*	...	...	...	...

‡ Tax free. § Period 16 months. *a* Plus bonus 1s. p.s. *b* Plus bonus 3s. p.s. *d* In addition, new shares receive 8.9293d. p.s. less tax.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Feb. 28, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 1, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Mar. 2, 1930. (000's omitted.)					Aggregate 9 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.)				
		Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	186	219	138	357	543	1,691	1,937	1,213	3,150	4,841
Do. for 1929...	3,734	185	209	142	351	536	1,688	1,877	1,206	3,083	4,771
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	295	436	290	726	1,021	2,623	3,646	2,541	6,187	8,810
Do. for 1929...	6,360	295	404	317	721	1,015	2,588	3,495	2,589	6,084	8,672
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	434	555	309	864	1,298	3,822	4,875	2,659	7,534	11,356
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	431	519	346	865	1,296	3,803	4,769	2,851	7,620	11,423
Southern	2,175	263	83	44	127	390	2,351	658	311	969	3,320
Do. for 1929...	2,175	248	74	49	123	371	2,246	636	352	988	3,234
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·0	...	...	4·3	36·3	290·7	...	...	36·9	327·6
Do. for 1929...	59	30·4	...	...	4·2	34·6	276·4	...	...	35·5	311·9
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	294·2	...	...	...	...	2544·8
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	261·1	...	...	...	...	2274·2
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	41·7	...	...	...	...	368·7
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·8	...	...	0·8	36·0	...	...	...	...	317·0
Do. for 1929...	80	1·7	...	...	1·1	2·6	16·5	...	...	6·1	22·6
*Great Northernb	562	9·2	...	...	18·1	2·8	15·9	...	...	7·4	23·3
Do. for 1929...	562	10·3	...	...	18·4	27·3	78·0	...	...	122·3	200·3
*Great Southernb	2,187	24·2	...	...	47·3	28·7	78·1	...	...	132·2	210·3
Do. for 1929...	2,187	24·1	...	...	49·1	71·5	177·3	...	...	353·6	530·9
						73·2	175·3	...	...	370·6	545·9

* Aggregate 8 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or –	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or –
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	44weeks	Feb. 1	1,217	Rs. 4,51,000	Rs. – 20,675	R. 1,84,68,662	Rs. – 7,54,413
Barsi Lt. Ry.	45weeks	8	202	60,400	+ 18,600	21,73,500	+ 68,300
Bengal & N.Western	45weeks	8	2,080	7,66,530	– 26,457	1,31,46,507	+ 15,940
Bengal-Nagpur ...	43weeks	Jan.25	3,085	19,45,000	– 62,466	7,49,32,069	+ 20,90,514
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	47weeks	Feb.22	3,031	25,23,000	+ 123000	10,38,19,000	– 6,60,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	45weeks	8	3,121	18,16,000	– 220169	7,99,82,007	+ 2,31,264
Nizam'sGuarantd.(e)	45weeks	8	1,185	4,53,013	– 107885	2,02,44,148	+ 22,92,351
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	45weeks	8	572	1,54,705	+ 130	25,01,927	+ 90,918
South Indian	45weeks	8	2,348	12,64,637	+ 40,069	5,73,61,403	+ 43,17,226

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (e) Total receipts of all lines.

				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.....	35weeks	Mar. 1	753	13,900	...	542,900	– 4,700
Argentine Trans'dn.	34weeks	Feb.22	111	4,898	– 855	157,861	+ 1,424
B.A. and Pacific.....	34weeks	22	2,806	182,000	– 23,000	5,159,000	– 469,000
B.A. Central	34weeks	23	...	13,095	– 1,309	440,783	– 37,409
B.A. Gt. Southern...	35weeks	Mar. 1	4,875	293,000	– 26,000	8,447,000	– 99,000
B.A. Western	35weeks	1	1,926	95,000	– 30,000	3,051,000	– 417,000
Central Argentine...	35weeks	1	3,319	222,000	– 78,000	8,249,000	– 1,159,000
Cordoba Central.....	35weeks	1	1,218	51,000	– 16,000	2,108,000	– 311,000
Entre Rios.....	35weeks	1	789	30,200	– 3,700	1,000,300	– 88,800
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	35weeks	Mar. 1	1,374	108,406	– 24,051	2,026,971	– 332,133
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay.....	35weeks	Mar. 1	273	39,355	+ 6,590	1,074,785	+ 9,957
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	35weeks	1	311	9,898	+ 1,235	243,492	+ 5,857
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	35weeks	1	185	4,546	+ 193	121,519	+ 5,627
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	35weeks	1	211	3,960	– 137	98,362	– 4,911
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	7 weeks	Feb.21	19580	4,107,395	– 659497	28,991,984	– 3,201,873
Canadian Pacific ...	8 weeks	28	15217	2,913,000	– 1016000	24,320,000	– 6,004,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	9 weeks	Mar. 1	1,016	19,000	– 2,700	175,400	– 24,700
Leopoldina.....	9 weeks	1	1,856	33,120	– 6,782	318,554	+ 3,178
Leopoldina Termnl.	8 weeks	Feb.22	Mira.	295,000	+ 11,000	2,301,000	+ 118,000
San Paulo	9 weeks	Mar. 2	153½	36,937	– 8,118	344,988	– 11,252
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	9weeks	Mar. 2	804	29,530	– 11,280	275,920	– 107,700
Nitrate (½-monthly)	8 weeks	Feb.28	413	15,516	– 19,522	104,966	– 56,418
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	45weeks	Feb.10	608	†9,699	– 544	316,111	+ 18,62
Gt. Southn. of Spain	8weeks	22	104	Ps.118,795	– 3,688	941,474	– 23,756
Mexican Railway....	9weeks	28	483	$273,500	– 8,100	2,054,100	– 51,500
Paraguay Central...	34weeks	22	274	3,540	– 1,060	139,730	– 10,310
Salvador.....	35weeks	Mar. 1	100	6,872	– 1,231	152,783	– 13,944

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
† Receipts for 10 days.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or –	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or –
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	8weeks	Feb.25	329	83,055	– 2,014	668,245	– 15,395
B. Aires Lacroze.....	34weeks	23	...	12,030	– 1,002	395,074	– 33,924
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	Mar. 1	13	2,691	– 14	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	1	35½	Rs.133,287	+ 4,164	...	...
Chatham & District	8weeks	Feb.27	15	989	+ 121	8,621	+ 618
Egyptian Markets	7weeks	20	...	2,012	– 224	14,969	– 2,700
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	8weeks	26	...	984	+ 195	6,811	+ ‡763
Liverpool Corp.....	48weeks	Mar. 1	124	28,440	+ 950	1,442,813	+ 31,051
L.O.O. Tramways....	47weeks	Feb.26	166	79,601	+ 2,512	3,969,359	+ 72,928
Madras Electric.....	18weeks	28	...	Rs. 37,165	+ 1,365	1,80,671	+ 10,835

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Reid (W. B.) and Co.	Dec. 31	39,760	33,405	73,165	...	27,600	12	6,710	39,855	21,510	8
Tadcewsbury & Wem Brewery	Dec. 31	14,892	13,359	28,251	3,975	...	...	...	24,276	22,841	...
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Isle of Thanet Electric	Dec. 31	6,204	59,074	65,278	16,920	6,000	4	34,000	8,358	54,589	4
Kens. & Knightsbridge Elec.	Dec. 31	10,664	52,130	62,794	5,500	25,375	1/7·1811	29,796	2,123	53,136	1/7·181
Financial Land, &c.											
Cavendish Hse. (Cheltenham)	Jan. 31	2,909	31,535	34,444	12,000	15,000	15	4,400	3,044	19,778	15
Law Land	Dec. 31	13,047	76,694	89,741	14,907	30,150	9(*s*)	28,700	15,984	81,514	11(*t*)
Gas.											
Brighton & Hove Gen. Gas	Dec. 31	77,417	66,738	144,155	9,400	51,944	7½ 6¾	3,735	79,076	77,034	7½ 6¾
Woking District Gas	Dec. 31¶	7,118	3,112	10,230	1,141	2,385	10 7	500	6,204	3,767	10 7
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Fife Coal	Dec. 31	80,694	189,897	270,591	16,712	97,951	8†	75,000	80,928	55,572	3†
Motor and Cycle.											
Ford Motor	Dec. 31	...	1,013,507	1,013,507	...	560,000	10	195,000	258,507	...	...
Shipping.											
King Line	Dec. 31	40,259	24,002	64,261	...	24,000	6	...	40,261	24,032	6
Lamport and Holt	Dec. 31	30,418	35,583	66,001	...	...	...	55,738	10,263	53,018	...
Shops and Stores.											
Evans (D. H.) and Co.	Jan. 31	36,206	110,092	146,298	12,000	75,048	25	9,809	49,441	93,273	25
Harrods	Jan. 31	108,533	834,188	942,721	300,000	443,021	20	50,000	149,700	775,156	20
Pim Bros.	Jan. 31	917	5,130	6,047	5,500	...	...	...	548	3,680	...
Swears and Wells	Jan. 31§	18,813	124,189	143,002	22,642	57,540	16½‖	27,709	35,111	104,537	17½
Whiteley (William)	Jan. 31	91,070	88,422	179,492	22,500	3,557 41,865‡	Mgnt. 25	20,500	91,070	126,551	Mgnt. 20
Textiles.											
Wolsey	Dec. 31	70,088	131,821	201,909	75,000	50,000	5A 100B	...	76,909	167,818	7½A 150B
Trusts.											
American Trust	Jan. 31	4,143	60,767	64,910	17,100	32,480	14	12,562	2,768	48,865	13
South African Gold Trust ...	Dec. 31	22,293	82,470	104,763	25,785	63,640	15	...	15,338	97,228	15
Other Companies.											
Booth (James) & Co. (1915)	Dec. 31	6,761	70,323	77,084	8,665	36,375	15†	20,000	12,044	66,123	15†
British Metal Corpn.	Dec. 31	25,184	195,039	220,223	54,000	90,000	10	50,000	26,223	204,452	10
Clayton Dewandre	Dec. 31	...	16,694	16,694	...	3,500	2½	9,276	3,918	...	...
Drages	Dec. 31	83,739	146,016	229,755	32,000	92,000	15p.o. 62½ Or.	...	105,755	145,068	15po 62½ ord.
Dundee Floorcloth & Lino.	Jan. 31	13,048	18,011	31,059	1,919	18,484	20	...	10,655	27,925	15
East End Dwellings	Dec. 31	1,968	26,375	28,343	2,000	8,072	5	14,000	2,271	24,543	7½
Evans, Sons, Lescher and Webb	Dec. 31	2,792	22,754	25,546	11,606	4,947	5	6,078	2,913	12,229	...
Faulder (Henry) and Co. ...	Dec. 31	296	*Dr. 12,836*	*Dr. 12,540*	625	...	...	*Dr. 10,612*	*Dr13,165*	5,515	...
Kellner - Partington Paper Pulp	Dec. 31	11,328	99,905	111,233	30,000	68,273	7½†	...	12,960	109,601	7½†
Lincoln Wagon and Engine	Feb. 1	16,082	27,341	43,423	...	19,500	16	10,000	13,923	29,338	25
Lonsdale (J. and J.) and Co.	Dec. 31	14,259	60,004	74,263	16,000	37,687	12½	5,000	15,576	81,116	17½
Slazengers	Dec. 31	12,769	24,969	37,738	6,000	15,174	7½	3,424	13,140	24,543	7½
Stephens (Henry C.)	Dec. 31	9,304	80,756	90,060	14,000	41,600	8	27,500	6,960	...	...
Switzer and Co.	Jan. 31	11,002	12,646	23,648	1,500	8,000	8	3,100	11,048	12,366	8
United Glass Bottle Manftrs.	Dec. 31	42,660	146,750	189,410	35,986	31,052	7½	77,826	44,546	104,055	5

(*s*) Also 2 ordinary shares for each 100 ordinary shares held. (*t*) Also 2 preference shares for each 100 ordinary shares held.
† Free of income tax. ‡ The total dividend charge was £112,500, the balance of £70,635 being paid by Selfridge and Co. under their guarantee. § For sixteen months. ‖ Actual percentage paid. ¶ For six months only.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Ord. shares (£1)...	2,245,035	+ 245,035
Cum. pref. (£1) ...	1,750,000	...
5% deb. stock ...	298,220	– 7,580
Accrued interest ..	5,965	– 151
Creditors.....	2,655	– 3,856
Unclaimed divs....	812	+ 179
Owing to subsidiary.....	...	– 9,000
Reserve	60,000	+ 23,728
nvestment res....	169,609	+ 66,875
Profit and loss ...	158,578	+ 22,407
Total	4,690,874	+ 337,637

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Investments in subsidiary co.'s, shares and debs. at cost.....	4,340,794	+ 516,979
Advances, &c.	318,600	– 58,304
Investments at cost	15,644	+ 15,644
Cash	15,836	– 36,682
Total	4,690,874	+ 337,637

HARRODS, LIMITED.

January 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ord. shares.....	2,214,848	+ 1,452
Pref. shares.....	4,000,000	...
Deposits, &c.	1,121,510	+ 8,135
Sundry creditors	1,215,644	– 136,119
Reserve	1,000,000	...
Special reserve ...	23,565	+ 23,565
Pension funds.....	77,627	+ 3,199
Dep. funds	...	– 317,351
Unclaimed divs....	5,249	– 988
Profit and loss ...	631,927	+ 8,884
Total.....	10,290,370	– 409,223

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Property & goodwill, &c.	90,000	...
Sundry leaseholds	212,880	– 73,825
Freeholds	3,988,347	+ 210,573
Plant, &c.....	730,285	– 242,883
Horses, vans, &c.	25,006	– 771
Sundry debtors ...	1,234,072	– 33,130
Investments	2,520,685	+ 2,034
Stocks	1,077,657	+ 35,713
Unexpired insur.	16,805	– 2,107
Cash	394,633	– 304,827
Total.....	10,290,370	– 409,223

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The Great Britain office of the Canada Life Assurance Company has received advice from their head office in Toronto that their general manager, Mr T. G. McConkey, died on January 22nd.

BANKS.

THOS. COOK AND SON (BANKERS), LTD.—The principal items from the balance sheet of this private banking company for the year ending October 31, 1929, are set out below, with corresponding figures for the previous year. Current, deposit and other accounts have increased by £156,246, and the total amount, 43 per cent., is represented by cash on hand at bankers and in transit, and money at call and short notice, while a further 31 per cent. is held in the form of British Government Treasury Bills. £10,000 has again been added to the reserve fund, making a total of £110,000.

Liabilities.

	1928.		1929.
Capital—250,000 shares of £1 each (10s. paid)	£125,000	...	£125,000
Reserve Fund	£100,000	...	£110,000
Current, Deposit and other Accounts ...	£2,912,815	...	£3,069,061

Assets.

	1928.		1929.
Cash and Currencies on hand and at Bankers	£532,970	...	£504,389
Remittances in Transit	£343,109	...	£340,390
Money at Call and Short Notice ...	£512,643	...	£490,507
British Government Treasury Bills ...	£890,000	...	£950,000
British, Colonial and Indian Government Securities	£326,808	...	£388,070
Advances to Customers and Other Accounts	£250,573	...	£290,234
Indian Treasury Bills	£117,057	...	£199,231

RUBBER, &c.

THE BRAUNSTON (MALAY) RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.—The twentieth annual report and accounts shows that the rubber sold for the year ended September 30, 1929, amounted to 515,207 lbs. (against 355,248 lbs. in the preceding year), resulting in a profit of £5,728 (against £1,454), although the average price realised was reduced from 10.52d. to 9¼d. per lb. With the amount brought forward there is a total available profit of £12,130 from which the directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. (last year 5 per cent.), £7,060 to carry forward (last year £6,402).

TELOGOREDJO UNITED PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.—The directors have decided to curtail the production for 1930 by 10 per cent., thereby reducing the production figure to 4,250,000 lbs., or thereabouts. The directors state that the matter has been discussed with both English and Dutch interests similarly concerned, and have reason to think that there will be other companies which, in their own interests, will adopt a like policy. Should this be the case, general production must be appreciably reduced, which will react on the price of the commodity and enable sales to be effected at a real profit instead of at a price merely covering the cost of production or with a fractional margin over.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY.—At the adjourned meeting of of the 6 per cent. debenture stockholders of the English Electric Company, Ltd., Mr W. L. Hichens, the chairman, announced the result of the poll, which was as follows:—For the resolution, 769,401; against the resolution, 9,100. The chairman declared the resolution carried by the requisite majority as an extra-ordinary resolution.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S LAND SALES.

	For Quarter ended January 31,		Year.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
Farm lands—				
Acres	86,063	40,348	318,362	243,583
Sold for	£198,000	£80,400	£765,600	£507,400
Town lots—				
Sold for	£6,595	£750	£12,965	£21,540
Total receipts (gross)...	£244,100	£152,600	£631,700	£509,300

NEISNER BROTHERS, INC.—We are advised by cable from New York that this variety chain stores have placed their common stock on a $1.60 annual dividend basis, payable quarterly from April 1, 1930 (to shareholders of record March 15th). The company reports earnings for the year 1929 at $4.18 on present outstanding common stock, amounting to 206,215 shares. This compares with the 1928 figures, when the company earned $5.10 on 125,000 shares. The additional number of shares outstanding are accounted for by a bonus distribution of 60 per cent., no new shares having been issued for cash. This company has been associated in the management for the past year of British Home Stores, Ltd., in England, and we understand important developments in this latter company are foreshadowed during the next twelve to eighteen months, when it is expected the company will have many new large stores in operation.

RICHARD THOMAS AND COMPANY.—At a meeting of Preference shareholders, held on January 22, a resolution was put and declared carried unanimously, appointing Messrs George Cursons, J.P., Harold Jeans, and W. H. Charles, F.S.A.A., with power to add to their number, as a committee for the protection of the rights and interests of the preference shareholders. The resolution also invited the preference shareholders to contribute towards the expenses of the committee in varying amounts according to the number of shares held, but not exceeding £5 in any instance.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Another week of fine dry weather over the United Kingdom enabled farmers to push ahead with field work, and excellent progress was made in preparing the ground for spring crops. In these circumstances, the seeded area is expected to be quite up to average, despite the unsatisfactory level of prices obtained this season. Winter cereals present a healthy appearance; the recent cold spell is checking rapid growth; oats in particular are showing up well. Offerings of native wheat on the principal statute markets are exceedingly small, and with prices marking a further decline, growers are afforded little encouragement to bring supplies forward. On the import market, United Kingdom millers purchased freely of Canadian and Plate qualities in near positions at the lower level of prices recently ruling, but on immediate wants being covered the market again relapsed into a quiet state. Continental inquiries were not much in evidence, as stocks on hand are apparently sufficient for present needs, but orders were circulating more freely from Mediterranean countries, and part cargoes of Australian were booked to Italy. The International situation is still largely influenced by large surplus holdings in the Northern Hemisphere, and buying operations on a fairly extensive scale by the Farm Board Corporation in the United States proved unsuccessful in raising prices on a higher level, as the movement was not followed on this side. Canadian sellers show more disposition to press sales, but in market circles it is thought that the effort has been left too late, and that there is little prospect of large available supplies being absorbed this season. Liberal quantities, however, will be needed by importers before the next domestic harvests become available, and a favourable opportunity arises to facilitate exports from the Dominion, provided prices are sufficiently attractive. Of feeding stuffs, a fair consumptive demand continues for Plate maize, and owing to reduced supplies coming forward, near positions command a premium. New crop loadings, however, tended easier on favourable preliminary estimates and competitive offers of European varieties. Flour prices were unaltered but tendency weaker, the market being disturbed by acute competition in the milling industry, and it was reported that sales have been made at considerably under recognised list prices.

Wheat.—Easier following the recent decline in forward offers. No. 1, Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 44s. 6d.; No. 2, ditto, 43s. 6d.; No. 3, 42s. 3d.; No. 4, Manitoba, 41s. 6d.; No. 5, ditto (Atlantic shipment), 40s. 3d.; No. 6, ditto, 32s. 6d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 40s.; No. 2, hard winter, 42s.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., arrived, 40s. 3d.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 40s. 9d.; Australian, 42s. 9d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 2d.-8s. 5d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Dull and tendency easier. London straight run quoted 37s. per sack for country deliveries, and 36s. London area, but business reported done under these prices. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 34s. 6d.-37s. 6d.; Buffalo, 36s.-38s.; Australian, 32s. 6d. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, March, 34s.-35s.; export ditto, 31s. 6d.-32s. 6d.; Australian, 30s.; French, prompt, 25s. 6d.-27s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, March-June, £6 2s. 6d. per ton.

Maize.—Firmer for near positions. Plate, landed, 27s. 3d.; ex ship, 26s. 3d.-26s. 6d.; March-April, 26s. 3d.; new, April-May, 26s. 3d.; May-June, 26s. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 7s. 6d.; white, £6 2s. 6d. per ton ex ship.

Barley.—Quiet. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample; Chilean brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Danubian, landed, 23s. 6d.; Black Sea, ex ship, 20s.; landed, 21s. 3d.; Persian, ex ship, 20s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 3d.-6s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Weak. Plate, landed, 15s. 9d.; ex ship to arrive, 14s. 9d.; black Plate, landed, 15s. 9d.; Chilian white, 22s.; ditto tawny, 16s. 6d.; German, landed, 17s.; ex ship to arrive, 15s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 13s.; South Russian, 14s. 6d.-16s. as to quality, per 320 lbs. English, 5s. 6d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to March 1	Cwts. 212,459	Cwts. 312,567	Cwts. 252,969	Cwts. 257,674
26 weeks to March 1	6,672,420	7,119,697	6,612,717	8,976,976
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 9 6	s. d. 11 10

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Feb. 22	227,903	233,785	44,007	8 9	7 11	6 4
Mar. 1	212,459	193,343	48,105	8 7	7 11	6 2
Feb. 27, 1926	276,693	198,858	69,356	11 10	9 5	8 11
Feb. 26, 1927	292,000	222,972	89,837	11 10	11 2	8 3
Mar. 3, 1928	252,969	168,217	75,839	9 6	10 8	10 4
Mar. 2, 1929	312,567	183,167	74,491	9 9	10 4	9 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	128⅜	148⅜	116⅜	114	111
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	121¼	130¼	110⅛	105⅞	106½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,412,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 297,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 84,712,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: Conditions in the South Yorkshire coal industry still tend to grow worse. There has been a gradual contraction of exports from the beginning of the year, accompanied by a shrinkage of prices. Quotations have receded another sixpence this week. Inland sales of house and industrial fuel are considerably below the average for the time of year. The market for blast furnace coke remains stagnant, as users have not placed any contracts for a long period, and prices are down about 1s. 6d. per ton, or even more from the level of December.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: There has been no improvement, nor any sign of it, in the position on the Cardiff coal market. The shipments from the South Wales ports last week totalled only 554,300 tons, compared with 588,000 tons in the previous week, and with 640,350 tons in the corresponding period last year, while this week there have been days when as many as 23 tips have been idle. Not only are inquiries scarce, but in several instances contractors have not lifted a ton under orders placed last year, while cases have been reported to-day where merchants have intimated their willingness to cancel contracts on an indemnity basis of 2s. 6d. per ton. Under these conditions stoppages are increasing, and it is feared that several of the pits that were re-opened last year will be again closed down. The Portuguese State Railways have placed an order for 120,000 tons of small coals, on the basis of 14s. f.o.b., and the Egyptian State Railways are in the market for 250,000 tons of large coal for delivery between May and September. The coal [illegible]dit for the South Wales coalfield for the three months ended [illegible]st January showed a credit balance of £484,454, equivalent to [illegible]94d. per ton, compared with a loss in the previous three months of [illegible]8d. per ton. Current market conditions give little hope of an [illegible] satisfactory audit for the three months ended April. Owing [illegible]gular working of the pits costs are increasing, while prices [illegible]ls have recently shown weakness for the first time for [illegible]. A break in large coal prices is being prevented by the [illegible]edule.

[illegible]ng are the current approximate quotations: Best [illegible]s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 18s. 9d. to [illegible]ins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to [illegible]n Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 14s. 6d. [illegible]go smalls, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; coking smalls, 14s. 6d. [illegible]xcite best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, [illegible]; machine made cobbles, 43s. to 45s.; French nuts, [illegible]ove nuts, 42s. 6d. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 3d. to [illegible]oke, 36s. to 38s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, [illegible]d. to 25s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

[illegible]xtract the following from the weekly report of the London [illegible]nd Steel Exchange: Current business in iron and steel has [illegible]disc[illegible]ell below the normal for the time of year. The situation [illegible]duri[illegible] the British steel industry is concerned does not improve, [illegible]mills[illegible]ough a certain amount of inquiry has been received of late [illegible]60 h[illegible]omparatively small proportion of it has materialised into [illegible]July [illegible] As a consequence, works are running irregularly, and [illegible]situati[illegible]ases the steel manufacturers are finding a difficulty in [illegible]the re[illegible]eir plants employed. In the pig-iron department the [illegible]industr[illegible]s shrunk considerably of late, and stocks are accumu[illegible]there [illegible]hough not sufficiently seriously to embarrass the pro[illegible]now q[illegible] factor which may have considerable bearing upon the [illegible]shipm[illegible]n this department, however, is the decision of the foreign [illegible]fibre, [illegible]producers' entente which has maintained Continental [illegible]prepa[illegible] some time, to withdraw restrictions as regards export [illegible]of re[illegible]d to allow the members to quote individual prices. As [illegible]Aug[illegible]uence, offers at much cheaper rates than for a long time [illegible]Aug[illegible]en received in this country. In the semi-finished steel [illegible]De[illegible]ment business has been slow; but the British producers have obtained a certain amount of business, principally for prompt or near delivery. Consumers, however, seem to be well covered for the time being. The demand for finished steel has not improved, and both British and Continental works appear short of orders. The fixing of prices by the Continental Steel Cartel has to some extent resulted in buyers curtailing their forward purchases, and there is talk of the Cartel further reducing its production.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes: Extreme dullness still prevails on the market for Cleveland iron and the volume of business passing is reduced to a minimum. Producers are making a firm stand against conceding any reduction in prices and consumers pay current figures only in cases of absolute necessity and for such quantities as are needed to carry them on from week to week. No change in the position occurred at the weekly market on Tuesday and business was again on very restricted lines at 72s. 6d. for No. 3 for early delivery, but there was nothing doing forward. No. 1 remained at 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. The clearances of pig iron and manufactured materials for last month, compared with January, are as follows:—

	January, 1930.	February, 1930.
Pig iron	16,656	16,168
Manufactured iron.....	3,812	1,404
„ steel	51,003	48,019
	71,471	65,591

This month, to 4th inst., the clearances of pig iron total 3,780 tons, against 630 tons to February 4th. Hematite is a weak market. Only small quantities on home account are being purchased, export demand having fallen away considerably owing to Continental competition. Mixed numbers are now offering by makers at 77s. 6d. per ton for delivery over a few months, and this price would be shaded for substantial business. Merchants are prepared to accept less than makers' prices for export and also for home destinations where their contract conditions allow them to compete. The steel trade is very quiet as far as new business is concerned, but most mills are still well employed on old contracts. Prices for different materials are unchanged from last week, except that galvanised corrugated sheets, 24-gauge, are higher at £12 to £12 5s. In the ore market consumers are still holding off, but sellers are weaker in their ideas of prices. Best Bilbao rubio is now offering for early delivery at 22s. per ton c.i.f., and tonnage Bilbao/Middlesbrough is obtainable at 6s. to 6s. 3d. Coke is offering very freely and the price is again lower at 20s. 6d. delivered works for ordinary furnace qualities.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: There are still no signs of a buying movement in the iron and steel trade, and it cannot be said that the position is any better than last week. Most depart-

THE INVESTOR'S OPPORTUNITY
(SECOND ARTICLE)

INFLUENCE OF THE LOWER BANK RATE

SOUTHERN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS ANALYSED

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE SHARE VALUES

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The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review
THIS WEEK

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price 6d., or from

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ments report severe stagnation as regards the booking of new business and the tonnage on makers' books is rapidly dwindling. Nor are the inquiries coming in at present such as inspire hopes of activity in the near future. Production of open-hearth steel has not, however, been curtailed, and in North Lincolnshire full employment of plants is reported. The steel sheet rollers are badly off for orders. There is a moderate inquiry for steel forgings and castings for ships. Engineers' requirements have fallen off considerably this year, except in the electrical department. Activity has eased somewhat in the machine tool trade. Some of the overseas markets are buying Sheffield products on a decreased scale. A general improvement is anticipated after the Budget secrets are revealed. Iron and steel prices are weak, but not quotably changed. The market for steel scrap is as flat as ever.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Business in the pig iron market remains very quiet, with a continued absence of buying on anything like a large scale. Steelmakers are able to keep plants going, but at the majority of the works new business is coming in very slowly. Contracts placed with Clyde yards during the week include one placed with Messrs Denny and Brothers, Ltd., of Dumbarton, for a cargo vessel by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Co.; and The Greenock Dockyard Company, Ltd., of Greenock, have received an order for a motor tanker of about 10,000 tons deadweight from the British Tanker Company, Ltd., of London. The engines for the latter will be supplied by another Greenock firm, Messrs John G. Kincaid & Company, Ltd. The demand for re-rolled steel bars shows some improvement. Sheetmakers are somewhat better off for work this week, a considerable tonnage having been placed with local sheetmakers for early delivery, and there has been a slight increase in the number of mills in operation. Prices are firmer, and to-day's price for 24-gauge galvanised and corrugated sheets is £12 2s. 6d. f.o.b.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: General conditions in the South Wales steel and tinplate industries remain practically unchanged, and confidence in the future outlook is maintained. Quotations for tinplates are ruling at the same figures as last week, namely, from 18s. 3d. to 18s. 9d. per basis box, while galvanised sheets are firmer at from £11 7s. 6d. to £12 5s. 0d. per ton, compared with £11 7s. 6d. to £11 10s. per ton the previous week. Prices of bars are unaltered. Shipments of tinplates last week were over 20,000 boxes greater than in the previous week, and stocks have been slightly reduced.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The market developed increased weakness on liberal offerings and lack of adequate support, and was further influenced by lower Eastern advices. Later movements were attended by some irregularity, but the downward movement was not arrested. Standard cash changed hands at £168 to £163 2s. 6d.; three months, £170 10s. to £163 15s. In the East, sales were reported at £173 10s. to £168 2s. 6d. c.i.f.

COPPER in slow demand and prices moved in buyers' favour, offerings being in excess of requirements, but later values partially recovered. Standard cash, sold, £68 10s. to £67 10s.; three months, £68 2s. 6d. to £67 2s. 6d. and £67 16s. 3d.

LEAD easier on liberal offerings, but a fair business done. Good soft foreign pig, March, sold, £19 13s. 9d. to £19 2s. 6d.; April, £19 15s. to £19 5s.; June, £19 12s. 6d. to £19 15s. and £19 2s. 6d. ton.

SPELTER in moderate request, and with holders pressing, the tone was easier. March, sold, £18 7s. 6d. to £18 10s. and £18 1s. 3d.; April, £18 13s. 9d. to £18 3s. 9d.; May, £18 15s. to £18 7s. 6d.; June, £19 to £19 2s. 6d. to £18 13s. 9d. ton.

ANTIMONY quietly steady. English regulus, quoted, £42 10s. to £48 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £30 10s. to £30 15s.; March-April, £26. Chinese, crude, March-April, £17 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE, March-April, £26 ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., March-April, 3s. 9d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM weak. Chinese, March-April, 31s. 3d.; Spanish, prompt delivery, 33s. 3d. to 33s. 6d. Burmese, spot, 36s. per unit.

ALUMINIUM maintained. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

ZINC OXIDE quiet. Spot, £29 to £36 as to quality per ton, delivered United Kingdom.

QUICKSILVER steady. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

TIN PLATES barely steady. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 7½d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, March 5th.

The downward trend of prices continues and a new low point was reached to-day when May were quoted at 7·94d. and July 7·99. Closing prices to-day, May 8·00, July 8·05; closing prices Wednesday last, May 8·15, July 8·23; high price of the week, May 8·29, July 8·36; low price of the week, May 7·94, July 7·99. The tone of the market is very nervous and very little resistance has been shown to belated long liquidation. No confidence has been felt in the action of the Farm Board to sustain prices, especially in view of the good crop of outsiders this year. Spot sales for the week February 27th to March 5th (inclusive) are 27,000 bales, of which 14,820 bales are American, 4,050 Brazil, 2,700 Peru, 1,620 Egyptian, 1,850 African, 1,100 East Indian, and 860 sundries. Imports for the same period are 66,015 bales, of which 14,693 bales are American, 12,567 Brazil, 1,395 Peru, 10,916 Egyptian, 1,039 African, 24,147 East Indian, and 1,258 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·28; Egyptian Sakel, 13·75; Uppers, 10·02; Brazil Fair, 7·88; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·50; Smooth, 8·98; West African Middling, 8·33; and East African G.F., 9·33.

MANCHESTER, March 5th.

The tone of the market has continued unsettled and although in some quarters inquiry has been fairly extensive trade has not shown any real expansion. Buyers are still afraid of lower values and there is determination in most directions to operate with caution. A disturbing factor has been the increase in the duties on cotton goods entering India. Light bleaching cloths and fancies have been sold in moderate quantities for Calcutta and Karachi, but grey shirtings remain decidedly dull. There is no probability of trade on freer lines for China in view of the further drop in silver, and business has been at a low ebb. Shippers to the Near East have provided occasional orders and some trade has been done for the West Coast of Africa and South America. It is reported that some of the home trade houses are not taking deliveries very well. In American and Egyptian yarns there has been much irregularity in prices. Sales of any importance have been quite isolated and spinners cannot improve their position.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Feb. 15.	Feb. 19.	Feb. 26.	Mar. 5.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·62	d. 8·57	d. 8·44	d. 8·28	d. 10·56	d. 11·01
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·55	13·55	13·55	13·75	18·90	18·55
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13	13	12⅞	12½	15⅝	16
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13½	13	16½	16½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	22	22	21½	28	26½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 23 6	s. d. 22 10½	s. d. 22 7½	s. d. 22 3	s. d. 26 0	s. d. 25 10½
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	26 0	25 9	25 3	25 0	28 0	28 1½
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 1½	14 0	13 10½	13 9	15 1½	15 1½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 9	12 7½	12 6	12 4½	14 0	13 10½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—All markets continue to be more or less depressed, and are waiting for something to turn up. The news from overseas is stimulating topmakers to maintain quotations with a fair measure of firmness. At the same time it is possible to buy both merino and crossbred tops at a fraction under values ruling a good fortnight ago. We do not say that the market is weak, but there is some disposition to sell even if a fraction less has to be taken. As low as 2s. 3d. has recently been accepted for an ordinary 64's top, but a better article still commands 1d. more. Wool can not be picked up on this basis in Australia in fact, out of Melbourne, which this season has provided reasonable wool, the cost will be 2s. 4½d. for good average The resumption of sales in New Zealand also shows continues to sell freely, although topmakers are not f business at all profitable. It is rather significant that tops are procurable at one price, and while 15½d. quotation, some spinners say they can buy at 1 it is not so much the price that concerns the majority of the trade as a marked absence of important new b is only a hand-to-mouth turnover, and this is due belief that there is nothing as yet to warrant higher

ed, 27s. 3d.; ew, April-May, e meal, £7 15s. white, £6 2s. 6d.

42s.; new, ex 48s.; Chevalier, s. per 448 lbs. 20s.; landed, malting, 7s.-

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The auctions are being continued in Australia this reported firm values at Sydney and Perth, though impression that, apart from fine merinos, prices are here slightly on the easy side. In any case, there is no more than is likely to appear at a time like the present. There faction to be derived from the fact that the bulk of the selling steadily, all sections apparently being willing buyer shows that the raw material is wanted, and that in spite pessimistic expressions, many buyers are not without fidence in the future. The Perth sale last Tuesday came the level of prices current in other centres, no sale ha held there since January 14. The prices current are by great, and if wool cannot be consumed at to-day's confidence that is now being shown is very much mispla understood that average 64's tops made out of wool Perth will cost around 2s. 4d. A cable was received las by the British Wool Federation from the Wool Buyers' A asking for demands for increased offerings at Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth to be supported. Evidently the Ass had complained that selling brokers were not submitting s wool in these centres, though no complaint was made about and Brisbane. The Continental section of buyers were of the

ive, 14s. 9d.; to tawny, ; mixed quality,

IN.

ome-grown 1927–28,

1926–1927.

Owts.
257,674
8,976,976

s. d.
11 10

opinion, and on Tuesday the Federation sent a cable to the effect that its importing members were prepared to give their support to the Buyers' Association in Melbourne. It is to be feared that if more wool is not offered, similar action will be taken to that at Wellington. There should have been a three days' sale at Melbourne last week, and another either at Melbourne or Geelong this week. There is nothing to indicate any advance in values, and if growers are willing to sell, frequent auctions should be held at other places besides Sydney. The trade recognises that so far Sydney and Brisbane are doing splendidly in the way of offering wool, but others have not been putting forward their full quota.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Market hides were again slightly easier on average at the auctions held in the North, and although the declines in values were not quite so pronounced as compared with those of the past week or so, the conditions ruling in the leather industry at present do not hold out much hope of higher prices being realised for the time being. Calfskins were fairly steady in face of a satisfactory demand for these goods. Business in connection with imported hides still continues dull, and although a limited amount of business has been done with tanners here in England this week, certain descriptions have again made lower figures. In the South American market what sales that have occurred in connection with Argentine ox have been on account of the United States, who have taken supplies on the basis of 8d., with light ox sold at 7⅞d., and Montevideo ox at 8¼d. Second Argentine ox and cows have changed hands at 6 9/16d. and 6⅜d., respectively. Any change that may have occurred in connection with dry River Plates has been in favour of buyers, B.A. Americanos being quoted at 8⅜d., and M.V. Americanos at 9¼d. B.A. Inservibles have sold at 5d. and River Plate summer-haired at from 6½d. to 7¼d. African hides are slightly weaker, Capes having changed hands at 7⅜d. and 6¾d. for first and second dry-salted, and 8⅛d. to 6½d. for drys. Mombasas have not been inquired after, but a fair business has been done in unbathed Adis Abebas heavies at from 6¾d. to 6⅞d. The Australian market is weaker with small business taking place, while latest cable advices from the United States report the market as steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 14 cents. No expansion has been experienced in the demand for sole leather, and trade continues on steady lines, with a regular if limited day-to-day call for most descriptions. In bends, manufacturers' requirements are chiefly concerned with light to medium weights in wet salted, while the repairing section continues to take up the selections suitable for the class of business they do. Although the demand for dry hide bends is not good, fair numbers of the better-class tannages are being moved off. Bellies and shoulders are about the best feature of the market, and anything of a substance to meet immediate requirements is not long in finding a purchaser. Prices remain unchanged; generally the market is firm for all descriptions, and where there is anything suggesting a concession on quotations, it is usually in the hope of obtaining a larger order than is immediately in view. A steady moderate trade characterises the position of the upper leather market, with the bulk of the inquiry still centered upon willow calf and glacé kid. The cheaper grades in the latter are most in request, but here and there an improvement is noticed in the inquiry for better skins. A slightly better trade has been done in box calf, while the turnover in regard to patent has been rather more. Semi-chrome leathers are still a slow sale, and in order to effect business low prices have to be accepted. Reptile ins move steadily, but business in this direction is not up to ectations. Improvement has been noticeable in the call for particularly in some of the lower grades. Shoe manufacturers the position as moderately satisfactory; orders for spring o still on the small side, but it is hoped that as the season some of the larger buyers of footwear will be in the r larger quantities.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: March 5th.

in the jute trade remains stagnant. Prices of all es are very low and attractive, but the requirements of of jute goods are being met by the purchase of only antities in a hand-to-mouth manner. Production is in f demand, with the result that stocks of unsold goods at suming centres are large. Spinners and manufacturers in dee and on the Continent of Europe are steadily curtailing r production by decreasing the number of working hours and putting off machinery, but though the latest figures from Calcutta disclose the fact that stocks of hessian cloth at that centre increased during the month of January by 27½ million yards, the Calcutta mills still give no indication of diverting from their policy of working 60 hours per week, which were increased from 54 hours from July 1st last. The jute trade is anxiously watching the political situation in India, as, should any trouble arise at the mills there, the result may bring about important developments in the jute industry. Prices of the fibre have declined since last report, but there is at the moment a steadier tendency. Best First Marks are now quoted at £29 10s. and best Lightnings at £27, March-April shipment. Some transactions have been recorded in new crop fibre, though ploughing has only just begun. It is reported that preparations for the new crop are being retarded owing to a lack of rain. Best first marks in a short group have been sold for August shipment at £30 10s. and best lightnings at £29, and for August-September lightnings have been done at £28 10s. and £28. Daisee has touched the lowest point since 1923, when offered at £24 for assortment on Saturday last. The cheaper sellers have now, however, withdrawn, and £24 10s. is wanted for Daisee assortment, £24 for threes and £22 for fours, while Tossa assortment is offered at £25 17s. 6d., threes at £25 7s. 6d., and fours at £24, March-April. Prices of jute yarns are very indefinite in the absence of business to test them. While spinners continue to name 2s. 9d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 10d. for 8-lb. spools, buyers claim that offers of 2s. 8d. and 2s. 9d. respectively would be accepted. Spinners are emphatic in their declaration that they would rather curtail their output further than submit to lower terms, which would only accentuate the loss already being made. Twist is round about 5d. for 3-ply 8-lb., with some spins obtainable at less. Sacking yarns are steady at 3½d. for 24-lb. weft and 4½d. for 8-lb. chains. Rove is improved and spinners will not sell further at less than £17 for 200-lb. and £27 for 48-lb. Carpet yarns and fine qualities are quiet and mostly nominal. Manufacturers declare that they are making a loss of ¼d. per yard of hessian cloth sold meantime, therefore they have no incentive to go on producing. The quoted rates for hessians are 3⅜d. for 10½-oz. 40-in. and 2⅝d. for 8-oz. Linoleum hessians are dull, as also are heavy goods. Calcutta fabrics have ruled about unchanged during the period under review, though business has been very quiet.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Conditions in the markets do not improve. On the contrary, the downward tendency has become accentuated, and prices generally are lower. In regard to linseed, Indian shippers have offered freely at ruling rates, and a fair business appears to have been done, while Plate linseed has been neglected, and has fallen very sharply in value. Plate, on spot, has dropped to £16 12s. 6d., and for forward shipment, £16 17s. 6d. has been paid to Hull for April-May. Bold Bombay to the Continent has been done at £18 13s. 9d., May-June. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe is now 151,900 tons, as against 165,800 tons last week, and this is predominantly Argentinian. Cottonseed has been a lifeless market. Egyptian shippers showing little disposition to concede anything but late business has transpired in black Egyptian to Hull at £7 5s. on passage and to April. In the oil section demand for linseed oil continues on quiet lines, and prices have further receded, raw oil or spot ex Hull declining to £40 5s. while for March £38 10s. is quoted, and for April-August £38 2s. 6d. Cotton oils are not so steady, and crude Egyptian has fallen back to £28, with common edible quoting £31 5s. The demand for linseed cakes is better, but generally the demand is below normal for the season of the year.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—General quietness continues, and no sustained or appreciable broadening is anticipated until the advent of the Budget. British refined marked a reduction of 3d. to 6d. as to description and Anglo-Scottish granulated 1½d., but this failed to stimulate demand to any extent. Raw refining kinds steadily held, though quiet after recent liberal absorption. Russia is a potential buyer, as prices are so much lower than obtain for their native sugars for home consumption. Foreign refined dull. Czecho granulated, April-June, to the U.K., quoted 9s. 3d.; July-August, 9s. 5½d.; November-December, 9s. 7½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Java markets very slow, and white, March-April, to Calcutta, quoted 9s. 10½d.; July-September, 10s., and October-December, 10s. 1½d., c. and f. terms. Polish crystals, 8s. 6d. f.o.b. Danzig. Terminal markets steady, and quite a fair amount of business was effected in raw. May delivery, sold 6s. 6⅜d. to 6s. 8½d.; August, 7s. to 7s. 1½d.; December, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 7½d. White, March, 8s. 6⅜d. Stocks of raw sugar in the three principal ports of the United Kingdom for week ending March 1st totalled 232,655 tons, compared with 152,755 at corresponding period last year. Cuban receipts last week: new crop, 161,347 tons, against 242,759 last year; exports, 21,447, against 113,124; stocks, 791,447, against 947,380. Receipts of old sugar, 750, against nil; exports, 24,217, against nil; stocks, 23,942, against 1,615. Centrals, 155, against 163.

COFFEE.—The market can only be described as very quiet during the greater part of the week. A few fine liquoring qualities met with fair patronage at steady rates, but medium and ordinary continued to move off slowly and rates favoured the buyer. Most kinds of foreign cleaned were comparatively neglected.

COCOA.—The small and unimportant transactions in spot goods were at unchanged prices. Forward positions, after being steadier, assumed a quieter tone. Accra, F/F, March-May, sold 37s., and April-June, 37s. 9d. to 37s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal: March sold, 41s. to 41s. 3d.; May, 41s. 4½d. to 40s. 9d.; July, 42s. to 41s. 4½d.; September, 43s. to 42s. 10½d.; and December, 43s. to 42s. 9d., and again at 43s.

TEA.—At public sales of Indian during the week, 51,915 packages were brought forward and met with active and well-distributed competition which resulted in quite a buoyant market. All finest autumnal teas made high averages. Good medium to fine, mostly ½d. to 1d. dearer; useful common, about ½d. up; commonest showed but little change. Ceylon sales of 22,889 packages accorded exceptionally brisk support and prices ruled higher in all directions, mostly ½d. to 1½d. In the case of finest teas, these advanced 1d. to 2d., and medium brokens from 1d. to 2½d. Java and Sumatra sales met with active competition at ½d. to 1d. advance. There is quite a good inquiry for China kinds, especially Keemuns, from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 2d.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	9
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	7
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	11
Oats, " " "	6	2
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	27	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.10 9	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 10	5	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6 8	7	8
N.Z. frozen " 5 2	5	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 8 0	10	0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt. 116	0 137	0
Danish..... 108	0 114	0
Canadian..... 110	0 0	0
Dutch 97	0 107	0
HAMS—Irish..... 0	0 0	0
Canadian..... 0	0 0	0
American 96	0 100	0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian 126	0 144	0
New Zealand 140	0 160	0
Danish..... 168	0 170	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt. 94	0 100	0
New Zealand 82	0 84	0
English Cheddars 95	0 124	0
Dutch 48	0 92	0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt. 43	0 46	0
Trinidad 64	0 66	0
Grenada 48	0 54	0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
B.I., good to fine, per cwt. 134	0 145	0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 150	0 175	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 115	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes 110	0 157	0
Colombian, mid to fine... 105	0 120	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120 13	0 15	0
Danish..... 11	0 13	0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa(pagoda)bxs. 12	0 17	0
Jaffa ..... boxes 10	0 16	3
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia		
½ cases 300 8	0 38	0
360 8	6 24	0
504 12	0 18	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes 0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes 6	9 11	0
" ..... cases 8	0 15	6
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1 0	0 0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls. 0	0 0	0
" (var.) boxes 9	0 16	0
" Tasmanian boxes 0	0 0	0
" W. Australian 0	0 0	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	5	0	6	6
case 5s.	5	6	7	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	78	0	84	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	55	0	57	0
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	5½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	1½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	10	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	50	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	65	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	6	3	3
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	9	1	11
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.i.f. India, Mar.-April	9	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	0	25	6
Crushed.....	23	9	24	3
Granulated.....	21	3	22	1½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	3	20	6
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	5
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	8½
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	5
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	10
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·28
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·75
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	21½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	56	0	0	0
Pernau HD	51	10	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	58	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	52	0	53	0
Manila, Mar.-May "J2"..	29	15	0	0
N.Z., Aug.-Oct.			nom.	
Sisal African, Feb.-Apr,	32	10	34	10
Mexican			nom.	

JUTE—	£	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton		24	12	6
Mar.-April		24	12	6
April-May		24	17	6

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	18	0	20	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	18
" Lincoln hog, washed	13
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	14
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31½
" 64's	28½
Crossbred 48's	16½–17
" 46's	16 –16½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	17	0	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	7½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83/10/0		84	5
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard	67/2/6		67/7/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	21	0	0	0
Soft Foreign	19/13/9		0/0/0	
Spelter G.O.B.	18/7/6		18/18/9	
Tin—English ingots ...	163	15	164	5
Standard cash	162	15	162/17/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	9	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3½	1	3

	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3

	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	27	0	27	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Mar.–April	21/0/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea Mar.–April	19/10/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5½	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	4½	0	5
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	9
Bellies from DS do.	0	6½	0	8½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	9	1	4
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	10

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	0	0
Rape, refined	39	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0
Palm.....	28/17/6		30

	£	s.	£	s.
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	11	5	11	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	16/17/6		0	0

Calcutta, per ton—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Apr.-May.	18	0	0	0
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	6	0	0

MINERAL OILS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		21/12/6	
Cylinder	14/5/0		42/0/0	

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Fuel—				
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0

	£	s.	£	s.
ROSIN—				
American.....per ton	17	15	21	5

	s.	d.	s.	d.
RUBBER—				
Plantation Sheet per lb.	7	8	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0

	£	s.	£	s.
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	130	0	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	6

RICE.—Market without further marked change, but trade is quiet in all directions. Two Stars, March-April, small sales made at 10s. 7½d., c.i.f. terms. No. 3 ditto, to the Levant, quoted 10s. 10½d. c.i.f. double bags. Spanish, oiled, February-March, sellers, 14s. 9d. to 15s. as to quality. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 11s. Saigon No. 1 round grain, March-April, to Europe, 11s. 3d. Siam Super, March-April, 15s. 1½d.

BROKEN RICE quiet. Burma 1A, March-April, 10s. 6d.; B1, 10s. 4½d.; A2, 10s. 1½d.; B2, 10s.; Saigon 1 and 2 mixed, 10s. 3d.; Siam C1, 9s. 6d.; C3, 9s. 3d. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN dull, and afloat sellers at £3 12s. 6d.; for shipment, March-May, £3 15s.; July-December, £4 10s. per ton ex ship terms.

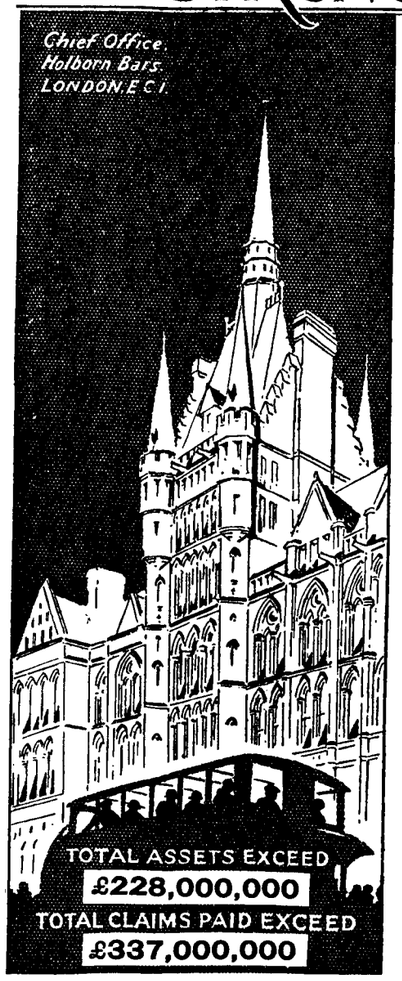
BEANS.—There is a steady inquiry for butters, but other kinds remain rather difficult of sale. Madagascar butters, per "Clan Chattan," quoted 37s. to 38s. landed terms; "Clan MacNeil," 35s. 6d.; "Bourbonnais," 34s. 6d.; "Bolgrano," 35s. 6d.; "Ranenfjord," 34s.; February-March, at 34s. 3d. c.i.f. London; "Ohtenashi," spot, London, 22s. 6d.; afloat, 21s. 6d.; March-April shipment, 21s. 6d. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, ex store, 11s.; February-March, quoted 11s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 12s. c.i.f. London. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 22s. 6d.; February-March, 22s.

PEAS.—A quiet, but steady, market continues. Japanese old crop, spot, London, 14s.; new, 15s.; spot, Liverpool, 16s. Parcels per steamer "Altai Maru," afloat to London, sold, 13s. 6d.; February-March, sellers, 14s.; March-April, 14s. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s. 6d.; small hand-picked blues, 10s. 9d., f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, March, 55s. Karachi, nominal c.i.f. Maples quiet: No. 1 New Zealand, February-March, old, 57s.; new crop, March-April, 58s. Tasmanian A grade, new, February-March, 65s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper met a quiet demand and prices in forward positions proved slightly weaker. Lampong, January-March, quoted 1s. 1⅛d.; March-May, 1s. 1⅛d.; May-July, 1s. August-October, 11⅜d.; Muntok, white, January-March, 1 March-May, 1s. 4⅜d.; April-June, sold, 1s. 4⅜d.; May-July 1s. 4⅛d.; August-October, 1s. 2⅞d. c.i.f. London stock week reduced 95 tons, black now amounting to 1,0 1,193 same time last year; white, 1,102, against 495. January-March, quoted 132s. cwt. c.i.f. Cloves quie Zanzibar, spot, 9¼d.; March-May, 9⅛d. c.i.f. Sago German, Polish and Dutch Farina, unaltered. Tap quiet. African ginger, spot, London sold, 47s. 6d., wit February-April at 35s. cwt. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady, with a passing. Pyrgos quoted, 36s.-37s.; Amalias, 37s. 6d.-39 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s.; Australian, Sultanas quiet. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Crota 75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates steady. Ha spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s. 9d.-14s. Raisins Valencia, quarter-boxes, 40s.-45s. Figs quiet. Layers, 32s.-40s genuine, 26s.-33s.; good average, 23s. Of evaporated fruits, a better demand was dealt with for plums, and there was also a better movement in peaches. Apricots, however, remained quiet, and other descriptions without material change. Plums, Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 70s.; 40's-50's, 67s. 6d.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 52s. Apricots, South African, new crop, Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears, Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches, Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples, Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-69s.; Canadian, 64s. Almonds, quiet and occasionally the turn easier. Mazagan, 110s.; Mogador, 107s. 6d.; P. G. Sicily, 122s. 6d.; Majorcas, 110s.-130s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels, Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 37s. 6d.; new crop, c.i.f. Sweet, spot, 75s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 137s. 6d. New crop, French (shelled) walnuts, 140s. ex-wharf London.

THE STRONGHOLD OF THRIFT



THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE Co. Ltd.

EXTRACTS FROM THE EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1929

ORDINARY BRANCH

New Sums Assured	£17,606,949
Total Sums Assured and Bonus	£187,547,449
Premiums Received	£11,713,684
Payments to Policyholders	£11,102,120
Policyholders' share of profits	£2,477,808
Reversionary Bonus	£2 10s.% Whole Life Assurances; £2 6s.% Endowment Assurances

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH

New Sums Assured	£63,182,236
Total Sums Assured and Bonus	£471,457,356
Premiums received	£17,385,175
Payments to Policyholders	£12,454,111
Policyholders' share of profits	£3,316,062
Reversionary Bonus	£1 14s.%

GENERAL BRANCH

Premiums Received	£1,845,509
Payments to Policyholders	£1,180,020

PAYMENTS TO POLICYHOLDERS IN 1929 : £24,736,251

The PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUIT.—Spot demand for Australian continues restricted, and little interest so far is manifested in new pack, while business in Californian is restricted to immediate requirements. Singapore pines quiet, at late rates, with adequate supplies available, while forward quotations tend easier. African and Hawaiian steadily held.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon in quiet demand, but market steady. Alaska red, talls, quoted 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab, in small supply and fancy qualities, quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters quiet of sale. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines steady. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Market quiet, but ox tongues realise full rates on limited offerings. Lunch tongues firm, and most sizes reservedly offered. Cooked boned hams sell well at full rates.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—A steady demand continues at occasionally easier prices. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 36s. 3d.; machine skimmed, 21s. 3d.; full cream, sweetened, 56 lb. drums, two in a crate, 52s. 6d. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 41s.; machine skimmed, 23s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat. Roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 66s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 83s. 6d. Dutch machine skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1 cwt. cases, 37s.; all per cwt. All English prices basis, carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex-store, London–Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of April, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum 1 ton lots. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 19s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 1½d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remains dull, and manufacturing grades tend easier. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white, Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 46s.; manufacturing, 40s.; Californian, white, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d.; Ukrainian, light ambers, 45s.-49s. 6d.; whites, 49s. 6d.-52s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Market fairly steady but quiet. Sheet, spot and March, sold, 7 9/16d. to 7½d.; April, 7 11/16d. to 7⅞d.; April-June, 7 13/16d. to 7 15/16d; July-September, 8 1/16d. to 8d.; October-December, 8 5/16d. to 8¼d. London stocks increased 1,658 tons on the week, landings being 2,816; deliveries, 1,158; stocks, 64,383, against 25,441 last year. Liverpool stocks, 989 tons higher. Landings, 1,204; deliveries, 215; stocks, 20,693, against 4,255 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A quieter market prevailed and prices gave way, as sellers were more aggressive. Firsts, February-March, Hamburg, £24 5s.; March-April, usual ports, £24 10s.; April-May, sold, £24 12s. 6d.; Lightnings, March-April, quoted, £23 7s. 6d.; Hearts, £20 15s. sellers.

HEMP.—A dull tone continues for Manila parcels and prices meantime mark a drooping tendency, though sellers do not unduly press for business. J 2, March-May, quoted, £29 10s.; K, £29; L 1, £27 10s.; L 2, £24 5s.; M 1, £24 10s.; M 2, £23 10s. Sisal unaltered. No. 1, f.a.q., African, March-May, £33 10s., and good marks £34 c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 33,000 bales, against 44,000 last year and 28,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 34,000, and week after, 33,000. Shipments from Manila last week, 7,000 to the United Kingdom; 5,000 to Continent; 9,000, U.S.A.; 7000, Japan, ; and 2,000 other countries, stock being 184,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Quiet. T.N. spot, 127s. 6d.; March, 117s.; May 119s.; August, 123s.

COPRA.—Market steadier, an improved demand being met with more reserve. Straits S.D., April, Rotterdam, sold £21; Dutch East Indies ditto, quoted, £21; Ceylon, £22 2s. 6d.; South Sea, sun-dried, £19 15s.; plantation Rabaul, £20; hot-air dried, £20. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, February-March, £19 16s. 3d.; smoked, South Sea, £19 10s.; Manila, £19 10s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 14s. to 28s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon, bristle, £19 to £25; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 9d.; for shipment, March-April, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 3d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—March 5.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 0	6 10	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 4	9 8
Short Horns	6 0	6 4	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 0	5 6
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 0	11 8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—March 5.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	4 0
" " " whites	2 3	3 0
Essex King Edward	3 0	...
" " " whites	2 3	2 6
Arran Chief	2 0	2 6

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

SELECTED LAND & PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED.

Authorised Capital - - £100,000

divided into

180,000 Ordinary Shares of 10/- each

and

40,000 Deferred Shares of 5/- each.

The holders of the Ordinary Shares are entitled to 60 per cent., and the holders of the Deferred Shares to 40 per cent., of the profits which, in respect of each year, shall be distributed as dividend.

On a winding-up the holders of the Ordinary Shares are entitled to preferential repayment of capital. Surplus assets (after repayment of capital to Deferred shareholders) are to be divided as to 60 per cent. amongst the holders of Ordinary Shares, and as to the balance of 40 per cent. amongst the holders of Deferred Shares.

AN ISSUE will be made next week of:

100,000 Ordinary Shares of 10/- each at par.

The Prospectus will show that:—

(1) The Company has acquired valuable freehold properties ripe for development at Whitton, Twickenham, and South Harrow, upon which the building of upwards of one thousand houses and shops has been commenced. At Whitton the Southern Railway is building a new Station, on the Windsor-Hounslow Loop Line, actually adjoining the property. Whitton Station is thirty minutes from Waterloo. The South Harrow property, which is already laid out in roads, is served by the District Railway (South Harrow Station), and Northolt Park Station (L.N.E.R.). The Twickenham Estate consists of valuable frontages, principally main road, and is within five minutes of Strawberry Hill Station, Southern Railway.

(2) The properties have been independently valued by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley.

(3) There are no promotion or intermediate profits.

(4) A careful estimate of profit shows earnings on the shares offered, over the next three to four years, of an aggregate of approximately 67 per cent., without taking into consideration the possibilities of a large area of land under option at Whitton, comprising 107½ acres.

(5) The auditors' report shows that during the 21 months, ended December 31st, 1929, the average rate of profit earned on **all** capital employed, including loans, was 32·3 per cent.

Copies of the Prospectus and forms of application will be obtainable from the Brokers:

Messrs. COLEGRAVE & CO.,
3, Throgmorton Avenue,
London, E.C., and Stock Exchange,

or the Registered Offices of the Company:

146, Bishopsgate,
LONDON, E.C. 2.

THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Baltimore, Md., February 28, 1930.

To the Stockholders of

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY:

To promptly inform you of the results obtained from the operation of your property for the year ended December 31, 1929, the President and Directors submit herewith a condensed income statement, compared with the preceding year, together with balance sheet, as of December 31, 1929, and certain other general information which it is thought will be of interest.

The Annual Report in the customary form will be prepared and forwarded later to those stockholders who have or may advise the Secretary of the Company of their desire to receive a copy.

The net income for the year available for dividends and other corporate purposes, after the payment of interest, rentals, taxes and other fixed charges, was.....$28,767,908. This is a decrease of only $333,023, compared with 1928, in which year was earned the largest net income in the history of your Company.

After paying the 4 per cent. dividend upon the Preferred Stock, there remained .....$26,413,380 equal to $11·24 per share on the average amount of common stock outstanding during the year. Quarterly dividends at the annual rate of 6 per cent. were declared on the common stock for the first six months of the year, and at the annual rate of 7 per cent, for the last half of the year. The total dividends declared on the common stock amounted to .....$15,367,783, leaving a surplus from the operations for the year of .....$11,045,597. The total accumulated surplus of your Company on December 31, 1929, was .....$114,468,786·22

Your Company increased its capital by the issue and sale of $41,107,700 additional common stock at $100·00 per share to its stockholders as of June 20, 1929. This sale not only provided funds necessary for additions and betterment to the property, but increased the ratio of capital stock to total capitalisation, thereby placing the Company in a better credit position. The ratio of stock to total capitalisation is 36·41 per cent. and the ratio of funded debt is 63·59 per cent.

During the year there was an increase in investment in road of		$15,293,860
and in real estate of		2,367,735
New equipment was acquired at a cost of	$14,560,820	
and old equipment retired in the amount of	7,408,929	
Resulting in a net increase in Investment in Equipment of		7,151,891
Total increased investment in property used in transportation service		$24,813,486

The additional equipment consisted of one heavy freight locomotive, one gas-electric car trailer and 100 steel-underframe caboose cars built at our Company's shops: and there were purchased fifteen all-steel baggage cars, ten all-steel baggage and mail cars, 100 all-steel express cars, 2,675 all-steel box cars, 1,700 all-steel hopper cars, 700 all-steel gondola cars and certain miscellaneous pieces of equipment.

Eighty-seven locomotives, eleven passenger train cars, 6,314 freight-train cars, 864 pieces of work equipment and fourteen pieces of miscellaneous equipment, no longer suitable for modern and efficient service, were retired during the year.

On June 16, 1929, a new passenger train, known as the "Columbian," was inaugurated. This is a special feature train, operating between Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. The equipment includes a Colonial Diner, an Observation-Parlour car and Club-Lounge car, in addition to the regular Pullman equipment, as well as individual seat coaches that offer Parlour Car comfort without extra cost.

There was a decline in volume of traffic for the last three months of the year. Notwithstanding this, the revenues increased as follows:—

Freight revenue	$8,273,958
Mail revenue	1,618,953
Express revenue	226,530
Miscellaneous revenue	54,158
Total	$10,173,599
The decline in passenger traffic continued throughout the year, the loss in such revenue having been	1,573,504
Net Increase	$8,600,095

The increase in mail revenue is due to increased compensation paid by the Government, the revenue for the year 1929 including not only the increased current rates, but an adjustment paid by the Government in July of $1,331,824 covering the period May 9, 1925, to July 31, 1928.

The increase in freight revenue was 4·2 per cent., as compared with an increase of 2·05 per cent. in revenue-ton miles, while passenger revenue decreased 6·64 per cent., as compared with a decrease of 5·2 per cent. in revenue passenger miles.

The property is in good physical condition, and has been well maintained, there having been a very liberal maintenance programme, as indicated by an increase in maintenance expenses of $6,883,767, or 9·26 per cent., when compared with 1928.

Transportation expenses increased $529,082, or only 0·64 per cent., notwithstanding an increase in operating revenues of over 3·00 per cent.; an increase in tons of revenue freight handled of 4·71 per cent., and an increase in revenue-ton miles of 2·05 per cent. As a result of this better performance, transportation expenses required but 33·80 cents o each dollar earned in 1929, as compared with 34·81 cents in 1928.

The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenues in 1929 was 73·58 per cent., as compared with 72·86 per cent. in 1928. The increase is due to additional maintenance.

The Management again commends the Baltimore and Ohio service to the shareholders, and through them, to the general public. Your co-operation is solicited so that a greater proportion of the traffic moving to and from the territory served by your Company may be secured. The interest and assistance manifested by the shareholders in the past has been most helpful, and it is hoped you will take advantage of every opportunity to continue this co-operation.

DANIEL WILLARD, President.

INCOME ACCOUNT.

	1929.	1928.	Inc. or Dec. Amount.	Inc. or Dec. %
	$	$	$	
Revenue from freight transportation	205,489,402	197,215,444	8,273,958	4·20
Revenue from passenger transportation	22,138,627	23,712,130	*1,573,503	*6·64
Revenue from mail, express and other transportation service	17,790,747	15,891,107	1,899,640	11·95
Total Railway Operating Revenues	245,418,776	236,818,681	8,600,095	3·63
Maintenance of Way and Structures	29,418,140	26,895,746	2,522,394	9·38
Maintenance of Equipment	51,765,468	47,404,095	4,361,373	9·20
Traffic	5,948,432	5,748,601	199,831	3·48
Transportation	82,958,813	82,429,731	529,082	·64
General	8,250,057	7,958,369	291,688	3·67
Miscellaneous	2,229,124	2,114,326	114,798	5·43
Total Railway Operating Expenses	180,570,034	172,550,868	8,019,166	4·65
Transportation Ratio	33·80%	34·81%	...	...
Total Operating Ratio	73·58%	72·86%	...	...
Net Revenue from Railway Operations	64,848,742	64,267,813	580,929	·90
Taxes	11,965,798	11,638,718	327,080	2·81
Equipment, Joint Facility Rents, &c.	3,698,834	3,241,378	457,456	14·11
Total Charges to Net Revenue	15,664,632	14,880,096	784,536	5·27
Net Railway Operating Income, as defined in Transportation Act of 1920	49,184,110	49,387,717	*203,607	*·41
Other Income—Rents, Dividends on Stock and Interest on Bonds owned	8,427,835	7,378,325	1,049,510	14·22
Total Income from all sources	57,611,945	56,766,042	845,903	1·49
Deductions for Interest and Rentals	28,024,557	26,997,767	1,026,790	3·80
All Other Charges against Income	819,480	667,344	152,136	22·80
Total Deductions from Income	28,844,037	27,665,111	1,178,926	4·26
Balance of Income available for dividends and other Corporate purposes	28,767,908	29,100,931	*333,023	*1·14
Dividends declared:—				
Preferred Stock—4 per cent.	2,354,528	2,354,528	...	...
Common Stock—6% to June 30, 1929, and 7% from July 1, 1929	15,367,783	12,911,275	2,456,508	19·03
Total Dividends	17,722,311	15,265,803	2,456,508	16·09
Leaving a Surplus, after all charges and dividends declared, of	11,045,597	13,835,128	*2,789,531	*20·16

* Decrease.

STATISTICS.

	1929.	1928.	Inc. or Dec. Amount.	Inc. or Dec. %
Revenue Passengers Carried	9,038,071	10,257,996	*1,219,925	*11·89
Revenue Passenger Miles	728,586,197	768,550,062	*39,963,865	*5·20
Average Miles per Passenger	80·61	74·92	5·69	7·59
Average Rate per Passenger Mile (cents)	3·039	3·085	*·046	*1·49
Tons of Revenue Freight Handled	108,602,048	103,714,942	4,887,106	4·71
Revenue Ton Miles	20,657,869,061	20,243,199,084	414,669,977	2·05
Average Miles per Ton	190·22	195·18	*4·96	*2·54
Average Rate per Ton Mile (mills)	9·95	9·74	·21	2·16
Revenue Tons per Train Mile	871·92	868·28	3·64	·42
Freight Train Miles per Train Hour	11·47	11·43	·04	·35

* Decrease.

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31, 1929.

ASSETS.		$
Investment in Property used in Transportation Service		894,281,621
Road	$634,709,871	
Equipment	259,571,750	
Investment in Separately Operated Companies, including Miscellaneous Physical Property		94,153,366
Investment in Sinking Funds and Deposits account Property Sold		736,112
Investment in Other Companies		49,553,307
Total Investments		1,038,724,406
Current Assets		73,434,024
Cash	$19,389,021	
Other	54,045,003	
Deferred Assets		5,210,210
Total Assets		1,117,368,640
LIABILITIES.		$
Capital Stock Outstanding		315,168,615
Preferred	$58,863,181	
Common	256,295,434	
Premium on Capital Stock		3,355,721
Long Term Debt		556,804,622
Mortgage Debt	$478,745,472	
Equipment Obligations	71,623,200	
Capitalised Leaseholds	6,435,950	
Current Liabilities—Traffic and Car Service Balances, Accounts and Wages Payable, Interest and Dividends Matured and Unpaid, Unmatured Dividends Declared, and Other Current Liabilities		31,608,063
Liability for Provident Funds and Other Deferred Items		9,772,838
Accrued Depreciation—Equipment		70,160,425
Reserve for Taxes, Insurance, Operation, &c.		16,039,570
Surplus		114,468,786
Total Liabilities		1,117,368,640

ROAD OPERATED AND EQUIPMENT.

Total Miles of Road Operated		5,658
Total Miles of All Tracks Operated		11,104
Locomotives	Steam 2,349	
	Electric 13	
	Other 2	
		2,364
Passenger Train Cars		1,732
Freight Train Cars		102,072
Tugs, Barges and Other Boats		178
Work Equipment		3,104

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

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32, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

STRINGENT conditions prevailed early in the week, and on Tuesday, when several of the clearing banks were calling, a small amount had to be borrowed at the Bank. The continued influx of revenue was probably the main reason for this stringency, and the latest

revenue returns show that heavy collections were made during the most recent week. New money on Wednesday was 4 per cent., with old money at 3½ per cent., but rates eased appreciably the following day.

* *

Last week's reduction in Bank rate to 4 per cent. caused only a small narrowing of the gap between Bank rate and the market rate of discount, for this week the latter has been as low as 3 per cent. This has inspired talk of yet another reduction in Bank rate, but at the moment this seems unlikely, especially as there was a particular cause of this week's low bill rate. This was that the March 7th Treasury bill issue was missed by the market, and subsequent purchases to replace the week's maturities forced down discount rates. The Treasury bills in question were bought partly on French and American account, and it is believed partly by the London clearing banks. If this suggestion is correct, it is an explanation of the Tuesday callings by some of the banks.

* * * *

This week's Cape gold again went to an "unknown buyer," the price paid being 84s. 11d. per oz. There is little doubt that the actual destination of this gold is Switzerland. Thus the Bank of England was only able to secure the £250,000 that came from South Africa in the form of sovereigns, though on Thursday £300,000 of earmarked sovereigns were released. Next week and the following week no sovereigns are coming, and the bar gold for the two weeks will only amount to just over £1,000,000. On the other hand the £7,000,000 in sovereigns known to be on the way from Australia will arrive very shortly, while this week the shipment of a further £2,000,000 was announced. It is also believed very strongly that other shipments will follow. The Bank's gold stocks are already £152,623,000, so that, with the Australian gold, they will be fully adequate.

	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6. 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4½	4½	4	4	4½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2½	2½	2	2	2½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Discount ∫ Call	2½	2½	2	2	2½ (Mar. 6,'30)
Houses ⎩ Notice	2¾	2¾	2½	2½	2¾ (Mar. 6,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 13/16–7/8	3 7/16	3 5/16	3 1/16	...

The Bank return reveals a rather surprising increase of £3,152,000 in the note circulation. Bankers' deposits have fallen by £4,693,075, and this alone is evidence of this week's stringency. The increase of £1,119,000 in discounts and advances shows that only a small amount had to be borrowed at the Bank.

* * * *

The February statements of the nine English clearing banks show that, since the preceding month, deposits have fallen by £53.3 million, cash by £13.4 million, and discounts by £24.6 million. Advances have risen by £3.1 million.

	Feb., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.
Capital and reserves.....	130·8	130·8	130·7	130·5	130·5
Acceptances	230·8	215·2	169·6	164·4	159·8
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.).....	1,773·4	1,751·4	1,773·3	1,767·5	1,714·2
Total liabilities	2,139·0	2,097·4	2,073·6	2,062·4	2,004·5
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	240·5	242·0	266·3	248·0	234·6
Money at call.....	133·4	139·7	139·0	139·9	125·7
Investments	270·8	259·5	260·4	259·6	255·3
Discounts	260·2	230·7	226·7	242·9	218·3
Loans and advances	967·5	973·0	972·7	969·1	972·2
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	266·6	252·5	208·5	202·9	198·4
Total assets	2,139·0	2,097·4	2,073·6	2,062·4	2,004·5

Compared with February of a year ago, bank "cash" has contracted by 2.5 per cent., and deposits by 3.3 per cent. Investments have fallen by 5.7 per cent, while advances have risen by 0.5 per cent.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—There was a reduction from 4 to 3½ per cent. in the Federal Reserve discount rate, the delay of a week in making the change being due to the slow movement of the Washington board. The Reserve statement shows another drop in bill holdings, but maturities have been heavy. The discounts system is down 40 millions, and is now at only 226 millions. The total Reserve credit is 30 millions lower and the reserve ratio is up at 80.8 per cent. Gold is still arriving from Japan and South America, about 100 millions net having been received since the first of the year. Little change has occurred in the industrial situation, steel industry operations being slightly lower at 75 per cent. Oil shares have improved a trifle on an increase in the California crude oil price and reduction in mid-continent output. Motor shares are a bit firmer on hopes of April sales. Amusement issues have reached new high levels, and there is an expectation that a Columbia Victor merger will be arranged. Public utilities are holding back on the renewed investigations of the State Control Board. Rails have been retarded by poor earning statements.

THE SHARE MARKETS.

The share markets had a slightly harder tone, but interest was centred predominantly on fixed-interest stocks of high status. Gilt-edged were consistently firm, the new Four and a Half per Cent. Conversion Loan opening at a premium, and other recent trustee issues continued to be well absorbed. Home rails were quiet after attracting moderate investment buying, and Argentinas were marked down on the interim dividend statements. Some activity occurred in International stocks, and industrial share values, with a few exceptions, were fully maintained. Rubber shares were dull, and oils attracted meagre interest, despite better transatlantic news. The outstanding feature of the mining markets was the firmness of tin shares, following a sharp recovery in the price of the metal.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Trade in general has scarcely held its own this week. In spite of favourable freights, the demand for coal is highly unsatisfactory and prices are weakening. Inquiries maintain some hope of a revival in the iron and steel trades, but little business is actually passing. Raw cotton prices have continued to fall, but the consumption figures published on Wednesday were decidedly bullish. The position in both the cotton and wool textile trades remains thoroughly unsettled. The hide, leather and footwear trades are fairly steady. Oilseeds and vegetable oils, especially linseed, are in poor demand.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The outstanding features of the foreign exchange market during the past week were the strength of sterling against the dollar after the reduction in the Bank rate to 4 per cent., and a severe break in the German exchange. The New York rate rose from 4.86 3/32 a week ago to 4.86⅜, and closed steady, though somewhat under the best at 4.86 7/32, with forwards at 1/32 cent and 1/16 cent discount for the one and three months periods. Montreal was steady at 4.88⅛. Paris was again lower at 124.24, but Brussels improved to 34.88½. A distinct appreciation in Spain, though not wholly maintained, took the rate to 39.35 at the close, as against 41.20 a week ago. The resignation of Dr Schacht signalised the commencement of a rapid depreciation of the German mark to 20.43½; a subsequent rally to 20.38⅝ occurred at the close, as against 20.36¾ a week ago. Switzerland was erratic, closing at 25.13¼, an improvement of 2¼ cts. on the week. Milan depreciated to 92.80, while Amsterdam was steady at 12.12⅜. In the South American exchanges Buenos Aires was weak at 41 15/16, but Rio showed distinct improvement at 5⅛d. Among the Eastern currencies, Japan was better at 2s. ⅜d. In the forward market Paris was in better demand for three months ahead at 22 centimes premium, and Spanish forwards were in good demand at last week's prices. Forward Amsterdam was slightly more offered at ⅞ cent and 1⅞ cents premium, while the premium on forward Switzerland disappeared, business being done at par. Berlin forward fluctuated considerably, and closed at 1⅜ pfennigs and 5½ pfennigs discount, for the respective one and three months periods. Silver continued erratic, and with considerable demand for spot supplies. On account of bear covering, the close was better for spot at 19¼d., but forward delivery continued weak at 18 3/16d. Hong Kong was 1s. 6½d. and Shanghai 1s. 11⅝d.

FRANCE AND "SECURITY" AT SEA.

This week, events in the Naval Conference have been moving fast, and much of the ambiguity in the situation has been "cleared up"—if that phrase is appropriate to a situation which, though far from hopeless, is still obscure. The attitudes of both the British and the American Governments towards suggestions for some kind of political understanding, as a matrix for a technical agreement, have now been made public. President Hoover dare not commit the American Delegation to agreeing to an understanding, even for the limited purpose of joint consultation between the parties, in the event of circumstances arising which seemed to threaten the foundations on which the tonnage agreement would be built, Though we may understand, we none the less regret this decision. In respect of the limited but still vast area of the Pacific, in which four out of the five naval Great Powers were interested, the United States did go this length at the Washington Conference; and the Four Power Pact, which was concluded then, made possible that measure of limitation of naval strength which was there and then agreed upon. It is a pity that the United States should halt at this half-way point—and no doubt American and French friends of peace are feeling that it is also a pity if Great Britain is unwilling to supplement and complete the Rhine Pact by a Mediterranean Pact on the lines of Locarno.

But on this point Mr MacDonald has been as explicit as Mr Stimson has been in rejecting a consultative pact. In refusing "a Mediterranean Locarno," Mr MacDonald is correctly interpreting the prevalent current of British public opinion. Although the assumption of naval obligations towards France and Italy in the Mediterranean would substantially raise the premium paid for peace-insurance by Great Britain, this might, indeed, be good business. The British Government justified Locarno to the British nation by submitting that, under present conditions of land-warfare, the Rhineland was the real military frontier of Great Britain, and it might equally be argued that the Mediterranean is our vital line of maritime communications. But frankly, opinion in this country has not been impressed by the attitude hitherto adopted by France. All the efforts that have been made by other nations, and in particular by Great Britain, to reassure her by Locarno Agreements, by Pacts and the like seem to have been brushed aside as of little account, and grave doubt is felt whether even an undertaking in regard to the Mediterranean would be followed by a really adequate reduction of armaments. Any proposal from France would have to be really far-reaching if it is to remove the prevailing scepticism as to France's military policy, which seems to be built up on the mixed motives of fear and ambition.

For the present, therefore, we must take it that the possibility either of a Mediterranean Locarno or of a Five-Power Pact for consultation without any regional limitation has to be ruled out of the reckoning. This being so, what can we still hope to see accomplished? We do not hope for very much from the Anglo-French investigation of figures—exhaustive and conscientious though these may be. As far as that goes, it is good news that Mr Dwight Morrow has been taking part in these discussions, and this not as a mere passive "observer." If anybody can coax such investigations into bearing fruit it will be this eminent American diplomatist, who has succeeded in settling the quarrels between the Mexican Government and American Big Business and between the Mexican Government and the Catholic Church. This time, however, we fear that Mr Morrow may be up against an even less tractable problem than those which he has solved so brilliantly. Even under his auspices, haggings over figures between French and British experts cannot be expected to do much towards releasing the world from the burden and menace of competitive naval armaments. The best news of the week is that some progress has apparently been made in conversations concerning Franco-Italian relations, for the crux of the Conference—the root of French intransigeance—is the rivalry between France and Italy in the basin of the Western Mediterranean. If this difficulty could be overcome by a direct understanding *à deux* between the two Powers directly concerned, then the prospects of the Conference would not only improve at once but would become really promising.

What is this Franco-Italian problem? The best point of departure for a study of it is to examine the demand which Italy has put forward for naval "parity" with the strongest naval Power on the European Continent. That means, of course, with France, and France has, so far, shown herself unwilling to follow the lead which Britain gave when she accepted "parity" with the United States. These two problems of "parity" have many points of similarity. In both cases a younger naval Power is claiming the right to come abreast of an older naval Power and to remain abreast of her. In both cases, the older naval Power has objected, partly for the sentimental reason that she is the older Power, and partly on the practical ground that she has greater or more important or more vulnerable assets to defend with her naval strength than her younger rival has, and that, therefore "mathematical parity" (Mr Churchill's phrase) spells strategic inferiority for her. The argument of the British Admiralty about the British Empire's need for a larger number of light cruisers, in order to protect longer lines of maritime communication, is too familiar to English readers to need enlarging upon. It is a precisely similar argument *vis-à-vis* Italy, that is causing the French delegation at the present Naval Conference to make what seem to the rest of us fantastic demands for tonnage in cruisers and destroyers and submarines.

Apart altogether from the fact that France borders on two seas, whereas Italy touches only one, both France and Italy have territorial possessions on the African shores of the Western Mediterranean. But that bare fact is the whole extent of the likeness. For consider: the African possessions of France are immense and productive; those of Italy are narrow and barren. French Africa is a source of military "man-power" on which France depends for fighting in Europe; Italian Africa is a drain upon Italian "man-power," and if this drain were stopped, the fighting strength of Italy in Europe would be increased. Hence, in a European war, it would be a deadly blow to France if the Italian Navy were to prevent the transport of French colonial troops from the African to the European shores of the Western Mediterranean, whereas it would put Italy at no military disadvantage if the French Navy were to prevent the transport of Italian troops from the European to the African shores of the same sea. The French Admiralty's conclusion is that "mathematical parity" of naval strength between France and Italy would place France at Italy's mercy; and conversely that strategic parity between the two Powers would require that France should have a sufficient margin of auxiliary craft to protect her maritime lines of communication against a possible Italian attack.

It will be seen that the technical problems of Franco-Italian and Anglo-American naval parity are remarkably similar. Unfortunately, the political backgrounds are not equally so; for, as between France and Italy, nobody can venture to assert that war is "unthinkable." Still it is worth remembering that the solution of the less difficult Anglo-American problem was reached by discussions *à deux* between the British and American Governments. It is not too much to hope that similar discussions between the French and Italian diplomatists might succeed in clearing the air in the Western Mediterranean sufficiently to enable our London Conference to go forward with better prospects of success than it appears to have at this moment.

BUDGET PROSPECTS.

A YEAR ago we wrote that Mr Churchill, in his Budget for 1929-30, might ride for a fall, relying either on a return to power or on leaving an uncomfortable legacy to his successor. Since then the fall of Mr Churchill has duly taken place, and Mr Snowden has never tired of bewailing the discomfort of his inheritance. Yet legacies, like other troubles of this life, have to be dealt with and not deplored, and, in view of the anxiety with which the nation is now looking at its household accounts, it is of interest to consider how bad the position actually is.

The basis of any forecast for the new financial year must be the results of the year now drawing to its close, and while the last few weeks of the year may upset to some extent previous calculations, expenditure and revenue to the end of February can provide a fairly reliable guide, when compared with the corresponding position in previous years. The first table deals with revenues that cover the three-year period 1927-30:—

(000,000's omitted).

	1927-28.		1928-29.		1929-30.	
	To Mar. 10th.	Complete year.	To Mar. 9th.	Complete year.	To Mar. 8th.	Budget Estimate.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income tax	222·0	250·6	203·8	237·6	204·1	239·5
Super tax	48·8	60·6	43·3	56·2	42·0	58·0
Estate duties	72·6	77·3	74·2	80·6	73·9	81·0
Stamps	23·6	27·0	26·8	30·1	22·3	31·0
Other inland revenue	2·3	2·6	1·4	2·5	0·7	2·5
Inland Revenue	369·3	418·1	349·5	406·9	343·0	412·0
Customs	104·5	111·6	111·6	119·0	111·5	119·9
Excise	130·2	139·2	126·5	134·0	119·9	130·6
Motor vehicle duties (Exchequer share)	4·9	4·9	4·0	4·2	4·5	4·7
Total tax revenue	608·9	673·8	591·6	664·1	578·9	667·2
Non-tax revenue	85·6	92·5	83·3	94·0	72·4	79·1
Total ordinary revenue	694·5	766·3	674·9	758·1	651·3	746·3

When the results to date are compared with the final results for 1927-28 and 1928-29, allowance being made for the discrepancy of a day in dates, it looks as though tax revenue may fall perhaps £12 million short of Mr Churchill's estimate. Non-tax revenue is peculiarly difficult to forecast, but it looks as though the estimate will be realised. Taking all factors into account, it is difficult to arrive at a conclusion more optimistic than that total ordinary revenue seems likely to be in the neighbourhood of £734 million, as compared with an estimate of £746.3 million—a deficiency of, say, £12 million.

The next table shows for the same period the course of expenditure:—

(000,000's omitted.)

	1927-28.		1928-29.		1929-30.	
	To Mar. 10th.	Complete year.	To Mar. 9th.	Complete year.	To Mar. 8th.	*Budget Estimate.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
National Debt Int.	308·9	313·8	307·5	311·5	306·8	304·6
Other Cons. Fund services	18·0	24·4	17·2	23·1	16·9	23·9
Supply services	326·2	359·0	316·3	347·0	341·8	372·9
Total, ordinary expenditure	653·1	697·1	641·0	682·2	665·5	701·4
Sinking Fund	62·8	65·0	51·9	57·5	44·5	50·4
Grand total	715·9	762·1	692·9	739·7	710·0	751·8

* Including Supplementaries.

The interest on the National Debt seems likely to exceed the estimate by some £6 million. In this case, as the sum of the interest and sinking fund is fixed at £355 million, we must proceed on the assumption that the sinking fund will receive no more than has already been placed to its credit—*i.e.*, £44 million. On this basis, and assuming that the Supply Services spend the whole of their votes, including supplementary estimates, total expenditure, including debt interest and sinking fund, seems likely to reach the full £752 million, of which £44 million will be all that is available for the Sinking Fund. As Mr Snowden's statutory obligations in this connection amount to £50 million, it is evident that the fixed amount of £355 million for debt service is inadequate.

The final results for the year may be summarised thus:—

PROBABLE RESULTS OF BUDGET FOR 1929-30.
£ (000,000's omitted.)

Revenue	734·0
Expenditure other than debt redemption	708·0
Sinking Fund	44·0
Deficit	18·0

Thus, the margin between revenue and expenditure, other than debt redemption, is likely to be £26 million. In order to redeem £50 million of debt under his statutory sinking funds, Mr Snowden must, therefore, borrow £24 million, of which £6 million are required to make good short-payments on his sinking fund.

The preceding results, together with the estimates of next year's expenditure, which have now been published, enable us to form some opinion of the Budget problem for next year. Inland Revenue for the present year is likely to yield somewhere about £400 million, but, in view of the setback in trade, business profits, and Stock Exchange activity, it is likely that Mr Snowden will take a conservative view of next year's yield. It may be that his department will not venture to count on more than £390 million. Customs, Excise and Motor Duties are likely this year appreciably to exceed £250 million. It is doubtful whether that figure will be exceeded under the less favourable circumstances of 1930-31. These two items give a total tax revenue of £640 million, which, with a non-tax income at this year's figure of £79 million, makes a probable revenue for 1930-31 on the existing basis of taxation of £719 million. If Mr Snowden ventures to budget again for this year's revenue the total will be £734 million.

As regards expenditure we are on surer ground. Excluding the Post Office, the Civil Service and Revenue Department estimates total £308 million, and the Fighting Services £110 million. The service of the National Debt may for the moment be kept at £355 million, though it is to be hoped that Mr Snowden is recognising the inadequacy of this figure. The sum of £15 million, formerly payable to local authorities, now disappears from other Consolidated Fund charges, leaving a residuum of only £8 million. Thus we arrive at a grand total for ordinary expenditure and sinking fund of £781 million.

If we must assume that the trade setback will reduce revenue on the present basis of taxation by £15 million, this means the substantial deficit of £62 million, and even on this year's revenue the deficit will be £47 million. These are very serious figures. They leave no margin for the remission of direct taxation, and in fact it is difficult to see how Mr. Snowden is going to raise this money. It is true that he has one windfall to hand in the shape of the £20 million in the Rating Relief Suspense Account, but apart from its inadequacy it is a capital reserve which can only be used in one year. For the rest, he must rely upon additional taxation, and this at a time when the burden upon the country is already so heavy that any further increase may not only seriously militate against the chances of an early recovery from the present setback, but may even defeat its object of raising fresh revenue. This is the real problem that Mr Snowden is having to solve to-day.

BANKS AND INDUSTRY IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY.—II.

(BY A BANKING CORRESPONDENT.)

CO-OPERATION between German banks in new issue and industrial business, and in most questions of industrial reorganisation, is largely due to the development of the so-called "Konsortial" system. The majority of important German firms, public authorities, etc., are not financed by a single bank, but by a banking syndicate. These syndicates generally comprise one or more D-banks and a number of private or provincial banks. All issue business is carried out by the syndicate, and it also plays an important part in credit business. The principal members of the syndicate keep the banking accounts of the company. While the majority of current advances (overdrafts, acceptance credits, etc.) are granted by the banks individually, most really large credits, particularly those with a duration of six months and over, are granted by the syndicate as a whole. Each member has a certain quota, and, in the case of a syndicate credit, would be expected to advance a proportional amount. It is rare for a bank to refuse to take up its quota, as in that case it would run the risk of exclusion, which would involve losing issue and other profitable business. This, of course, tends to consolidate the syndicate.

The result of the system is that, in all the really important banking and financial transactions carried out by an undertaking, the banks work together. Even in the case of credits which they have granted individually, it is quite customary for them to exchange information, and, indeed, it has been suggested that a regular inter-bank credit control organisation should be created. This confines their competition largely to internal rivalry, within the syndicate, for quotas or for the leadership. While it is quite common for a new bank to be admitted to a syndicate either at the request of the company or at that of the banks, it is exceedingly rare for a company to abandon one syndicate for another. It may be argued that a company thus loses the advantage of a choice between varied suitors for its favour, but, if it works with a strong banking syndicate, it can reckon on valuable support in difficult times and on the satisfactory placing of its issues.

The principal members of the banking syndicate of a company are, as a rule, represented on its board of directors. A German board of directors, however, differs fundamentally from its English counterpart. It is known as the "Supervisory Board" (*Aufsichtsrat*), and, as its name implies, has no executive functions. The managing directors (*Vorstand*) are entirely independent of the board, and directly responsible to the shareholders. The board has merely consultative and supervisory functions. It is entitled to demand information on the conduct of the company's business; it receives confidential reports; it must, as a rule, approve important financial transactions, such as debenture issues; and it is required to endorse the annual report and accounts. It is, as a rule, much larger than an English board, and meets only two or three times a year. Thus it is not strictly correct to describe the representation of banks on supervisory boards as "participation in the direction of industry." The representatives of the banks act as expert financial advisers and at the same time as liaison officers between the banks and their customers. They do not have time, nor are they qualified to do more than this except in special circumstances.

It is the practice in German banks for most of the principal officers, managing directors, heads of departments, managers of large branches, etc., to be delegated to the boards of a certain number of companies. The number of boards of which each individual officer is a member depends on circumstances, but some leading bankers are on the boards of as many as a hundred companies. This representation is kept more or less independent of the current work of the bank. For instance, the usual business negotiations between a company and its bank are not necessarily conducted by the delegate to the board. He will, however, be kept currently informed, and is asked his opinion. He is expected to keep in permanent touch with the company and to watch its development. In his capacity as member of the board he will receive current confidential reports, which are, as a rule, sent out fairly often, auditors' reports, details regarding balance-sheet valuation, etc. He will also keep in touch with his banking colleagues on the board, the representatives of the other banks in the syndicate.

The possibility of continually watching the development of their customers is an important element of security for the banks. They do not receive information only when matters are really bad. Owing to this present contact, they are in a position to make their influence felt considerably before this stage is reached, and to initiate and suggest reorganisations, amalgamations, and similar remedial measures much earlier than English banks, which can interfere, and, as a rule, are informed only when matters have got really serious. Acting, as they do, in the capacity of financial advisers they can make suggestions without arousing resentment, and their experience of conditions in other industries and in different firms in the same industry naturally stands them in good stead. In England, on the other hand, there is often a tendency to look upon interference by the banks as a disgrace, as a sign of potential insolvency—a frame of mind which is certainly not conductive to permanent confidential relations between bankers and their customers. Incidentally the confidential relations between bankers and their customers in Germany find apt expression in the fact that many companies hold their shareholders' meetings and board meetings in rooms placed at their disposal by their banks.

It is sometimes urged, in criticism of the German system of industrial banking, that it brings about such a close connection between the interests of a bank and those of its industrial customers that the bank can no longer remain unbiassed in granting credits, and tends to tie up its funds more than under the English system. This argument is based on a precisely similar fallacy to that advanced by certain critics of English banking. These maintain that English banks do not extend sufficient credit facilities to their industrial customers, and state that, under the German system, a more liberal credit policy is ensured. Neither statement is substantiated by the facts. As far as Germany is concerned, the shortage of capital has compelled the banks to be extremely conservative in granting facilities and to insist, as a rule, on considerably stricter requirements in respect of security than are asked in England. They have been quite unable, even had they been willing, to provide funds to carry old customers who were just keeping their heads above water and hoping against hope for better things, as many English banks have done. Circumstances have compelled them to ration credits fairly strictly and to adopt a deliberate policy of favouring the most efficient. They have had to put up with very severe criticism from those who went under, but, on the whole, the policy has played a beneficial part in the rationalisation of industry.

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THE WOOL TEXTILE SITUATION.

An American economist some years ago, referring to the importance of group psychology in the trade cycle, remarked of boom periods that it is hard to find a silent man in a cheering crowd. To-day, in the wool textile industry, the person difficult to find is the optimist. A long series of disappointments and difficulties, aggravated by a protracted deadlock over wages and the recent slump in raw material values, has resulted in depression becoming a habit of mind; and, in their evidence before Lord Macmillan, sitting as a Court of Inquiry into the wage dispute, the employers put forward, as their considered view, the pessimistic conclusion that there were "only two alternatives: a substantial reduction of wage rates, or the bleeding to death of the industry."

In his Report,* issued at the end of last week, Lord Macmillan agreed with the employers that a reduction of wages is imperative, and found that "in present circumstances and upon its present basis the industry is in a most unsatisfactory if not an actually dangerous position." His recommendations as to the extent of the wage-cut to be applied—roughly, 9 per cent. of current rates—and the effect of this proposal on earnings are discussed in a Note on p. 581, but, apart from the question whether wool workers' wages should be regarded as "high" or "low" in relation to the cost of living or to earnings in other industries, Lord Macmillan was forced to conclude that the industry at present has not the ability to pay current rates out of its proceeds; and a sample inquiry into the accounts of representative concerns in different branches of the trade convinced him that "during the past five years the financial position of the industry has become progressively worse, and has now reached a really critical stage."

The crux of the situation lies in the export trade. The home market has failed to regain the volume of pre-war years, but competing imports, as the following table shows, are not a serious factor in comparison with the pre-war position:—

Net Imports of Woollen and Worsted Goods.

	Average 1909-13.	1924.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Woollen and worsted yarns million lbs.	28·5	17·8	18·0	17·8	20·3
Woollen and worsted tissues, million sq. yds.	71·3	27·1	35·6	38·1	33·8

A rough calculation on the basis adopted last year by the Committee on Safeguarding indicates that in 1929 British production of woollen and worsted tissues amounted to about 400 million square yards, against 443 million in 1924, and 550 million in 1912, and home consumption to 279 million square yards, as compared with 252 million in 1924, and 398 million in the pre-war year. Thus the ratio of retained imports to British production, which was 13.1 per cent. in 1912, amounted last year to only 8.5 per cent.—a figure showing an increase as compared with 6.1 per cent. in 1924, but not suggestive of lack of ability on the part of British firms to hold an adequate proportion of the home market.

The picture presented by statistics of exports is less agreeable:—

Exports.

	British Exports.			Continental Exports.*		
	Tops.	Yarns.	All Tissues.	Tops.	Yarns.	All Tissues.
	Mn. lbs.	Mn. lbs.	Mn. Sq. Yds.	Mn. lbs.	Mn. lbs.	Mn. Sq. Yds.
1924	41·1	65·9	233	...†	84·3	119
1925	32·0	57·4	188	53·9	84·3	115
1926	33·6	47·3	169]	76·8	99·1	119
1927	41·9	69·1	180	89·2	141·4	125
1928	34·4	66·0	179	86·0	128·2	132
1929	32·7	63·6	163	80·2§	121·0§	130§

* Exports from Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany and Italy.
† Belgian figures not available.
§ Estimated for Italy.

It is clear from the foregoing figures that the chief wool textile producing countries on the Continent have gained ground very substantially in the export markets, since 1924, at the expense of Great Britain; and though the catastrophic decline in the value of wool, which has brought down the price of 64's tops from 43d. a year ago and 55d. in March, 1928, to 28½d. per lb. to-day, is causing a temporary restriction of demand affecting all European producing countries, the striking contrast between the trend of British exports and that of our chief competitors' sales abroad during the past five years is disquieting.

In submitting to Lord Macmillan their case against a reduction of wage rates, the workers' representatives suggested that the economic condition of the industry could be adequately improved by other means. A large number of small firms, they considered, should be eliminated, and production should be concentrated in bigger units, by allocating separate classes of goods, as far as possible, to particular plants. A centralised body of employers should be established for the purpose of making long-term arrangements with the wool growers and of bringing pressure on distributors to pass on to the consumer the benefit of lower prices. New machinery, in their opinion, was required in many mills; dyeing charges and the profits of the large clothiers represented a heavy burden on the industry; and duplication of salesmen involved a considerable element of waste.

The employers, who asserted somewhat surprisingly that the benefits of de-rating amounted to no more than one-half of 1 per cent. in the cost of cloth, submitted to the Court that "infinite variety was an essential requirement of the industry," and that bulk production was already carried to the limit of its usefulness. Existing machinery was adequate; salesmanship was satisfactory; over-capitalisation was not a material factor; and though competition might be diminished and weak sellers eliminated by "rationalisation," the result of that process "would merely be to raise the average price and would thus be of little avail in view of the fact that the industry was already unable to sell its product because of its being too dear." Out of total costs of production, starting with wool on the sorting board and finishing with the piece of cloth in London, materials, including dyes, accounted for 50 per cent., and wages for over 32 per cent. In the latter element economies had to be sought.

Lord Macmillan was naturally not in a position to pass a considered judgment on the possibility of improving the structure and organisation of the whole wool textile industry. He had, in fact, to rest content with the finding of last year's Safeguarding Committee that the industry was conducted with "reasonable efficiency." Given the present critical situation, it is difficult to demur to his conclusion that lower wage-rates are necessary; but his comment that "the controllable proportion of the total cost of production represented by charges other than those for raw material and wages is too small for an adequate cure to be discoverable in this field for the difficulties of the industry," is open to criticism. Rationalisation can achieve economies, not only in "other charges," but in labour costs as well, without necessarily reducing rates of wages; and, in any case, it is hard to believe that a 9 per cent. cut in wages can make all the difference between disaster and success for the wool textile trade. A strong representative central association to co-ordinate the various sections of the industry, to examine the need for re-equipment and the possibility of eliminating surplus capacity, and to deal with the important questions of "finishing" costs and distributors' margins, is badly wanted. It is to be hoped that, if Lord Macmillan's recommendations on the wage issue are adopted by both sides, the way will be open for employers and employed to join in the formation of such a body.

* Cmd. 3505. H.M. Stationery Office. 6d. net.

RAILWAY FINANCES.—II. EXPENDITURE.

Last week we examined the gross receipts of the four railway groups in 1929 and found that in the aggregate they were nearly £2 million higher than in the preceding year, in spite of a fall in the passenger receipts of every group. Examination of the expenditure of the railways presents much more difficulty, owing to the inadequate treatment of wages in their otherwise excellent analyses of costs. In the various abstracts which set forth the detailed items of expenditure under such heads as

"maintenance of rolling stock," "traffic expenses," and so on, various categories of wages are shown separately, but there are many items, such as repairs and renewals in the companies' shops, which must entail a heavy labour cost of which no indication is given. Nor is the total wages bill directly indicated. A still more serious obstacle at present to a comparison of the railways' position is their failure to adopt a uniform treatment of the 2½ per cent. cut* in wages and salaries which is in force until next May. In the accounts of the London and North Eastern and the Southern groups its effect is shown, as would be the case with any ordinary wage reduction, in lower general expenditure. The other two groups, regarding it as in the nature of a temporary gift from their employees, show it on the income side of their accounts, retaining on the expenditure side all wage payments as though they had been made at standard rates. As they do not give any indication of the proportions in which it is allocated as between different sections of their activities, this completely invalidates comparison between the accounts of the four groups.

The first table shows the total expenditure, including that on ancillary businesses, as given by the railways themselves. The figures in italics represent the result of our deduction of the amount saved in wages by the railways which do not allow for this in their accounts:—

Expenditure.
(000's omitted.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.	Inc. or Dec. in 1929.	
	£	£	£	£	%
London, Midland and Scottish	70,300	67,559	66,878	− 681	−1·1
Adjusted for wages cut	...	*67,140*	*65,789*	*− 1,351*	*−2·0*
London and North Eastern	53,666	50,738	50,896	+ 158	+0·3
Southern	21,906	21,143	20,914	− 229	−1·1
Great Western	30,016	29,408	29,209	− 199	−0·7
Adjusted for wages cut	...	*29,227*	*28,736*	*− 491*	*−1·7*
Total	175,888	168,848	167,897	− 951	0·6
Adjusted total	...	*168,248*	*166,335*	*− 1,913*	*−1·1*

If the expenses on railway working be taken alone, the reduction as compared with 1928 was £778,000† on the London Midland and Scottish; £48,000 on the London and North Eastern; £168,000† on the Great Western; and £272,000 on the Southern. Except in the case of the Southern Railway, the reductions are very much less than those effected in 1928, as was foreshadowed in the statement of Sir Josiah Stamp a year ago, to the effect that expenditure in 1928 had been brought down to a level which might be considered the new standard. These figures do not yet reveal the full extent of the economies which are being effected by rationalisation, for the railways are evincing growing appreciation of the importance of productive capital outlay, and much of their capital expenditure during the past year is calculated to yield economies in running costs in the future.

About 90 per cent. of railway expenditure and nearly 80 per cent. of total expenditure occurs under the three heads analysed below. This table takes into account the full economies, including those realised from the wage cut, which have been effected by the London and North Eastern and the Southern Railways:—

Principal Items of Railway Expenditure.
(000's omitted.)

	Maintenance of Ways and Works.		Maintenance of Rolling Stock.		Locomotive Running and Traffic Expenses.		Total Engine Miles.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
London and N. Eastern	£ 5,988	£ 6,015	£ 8,502	£ 8,939	£ 25,361	£ 25,072	168,564	175,339
Southern	3,392	3,474	2,900	2,917	10,063	9,895	70,635	72,959

Economies were in both cases concentrated on locomotive running and traffic expenses. In view of the increase in the total number of engine miles, especially on the London and North Eastern, these economies are more substantial than might appear at first sight, and expenditure was reduced from a percentage of 46.87 of total receipts in 1928 to 45.13 per cent. in 1929 on the London and North Eastern and from 43.71 to 43.03 per cent. on the Southern.

The corresponding table for the other two groups shows only the economies achieved in *personnel*, in organisation and in technique, since the effect of the wage reduction is not included:—

Principal Items of Railway Expenditure.
(000's omitted.)

	Maintenance of Ways and Works.		Maintenance of Rolling Stock.		Locomotive Running and Traffic Expenses.		Total Engine Miles.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
London Midland & Scottish	£ 7,762	£ 7,675	£ 10,053	£ 10,289	£ 35,510	£ 34,894	230,798	233,013
Great Western	4,019	4,046	4,082	4,116	13,721	13,667	95,434	97,770

The London Midland and Scottish, though it ran over two million more miles, achieved, wage reduction apart, a saving of £610,000 on locomotive running and traffic expenses, in spite of an increase of £65,000 in the cost of locomotive coal. Its ratio of expenditure under this head to total receipts was reduced from 48.07 to 47.67 per cent., and that of the Great Western from 45.01 to 44.05 per cent. The abnormal weather of last spring had some adverse effect on expenditure for maintenance, both of ways and works and of rolling stock. The increase in expenditure on rolling stock is regarded by the railways, in particular by the London Midland and Scottish, as equivalent to the building up of a hidden reserve, since outlay which might legitimately have been made out of capital is debited to the current expenditure of the year. The ratio of total expenditure (once more, not allowing for wage reduction, on the London Midland and Scottish and the Great Western) to total receipts was:—London Midland and Scottish, 79.46; London and North Eastern, 77.9; Southern, 79.05; Great Western, 78.84. The biggest reduction is shown by the London and North Eastern, whose ratio fell from 80.08 in 1928, and the smallest by the London Midland and Scottish, on which it was already only 79.79 in 1928.

The part played by the coming into operation of the Local Government Act, 1929, in improving the position of the railways, is difficult to determine, since not only was its application confined to the last quarter of the year, but also, as its benefits are passed on in the form of freight rebates, its effect should appear not on the expenditure side of the account, but in an unascertainable increase in traffic. Undoubtedly, some of the improvement in the coal export traffic may be attributable to this measure.

In view of the importance of wages and fuel in the expenditure of the railways, it would be interesting to have an exact analysis of the part they play. As already indicated, they are not separately distinguished under all the headings of the railway accounts, but in the group "locomotive running" and "traffic expenses," which form about half the total, wages and salaries are separately shown for all except minor items, so that an examination of these groups gives a fair idea of the general movement of these two important elements in railway costs. In the table below, expenditure on wages and fuel respectively is shown as a percentage of total locomotive running and traffic expenses, but it must be remembered that the miscellaneous items excluded, such as cleansing, lubricating and lighting of vehicles, also include an unspecified labour cost. Wages have been omitted in the case of the London Midland and Scottish and the Great Western,

* The total amounts involved in 1929 were: L.M.S. £1,089,018; L.N.E.R. £821,508; S.R., £300,000; G.W.R., £473,030.
† These figures do not reflect the saving from the 2½ per cent. cut in wages and salaries.

as for the reason already given, their inclusion would be misleading.

LOCOMOTIVE RUNNING AND TRAFFIC EXPENSES—MAIN ITEMS.
(000's omitted.)

	Wages and Salaries.			Fuel.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
London Midland and Scottish	...	...	...	6,485	5,796	5,797
Percentage of expenditure....				*17·6*	*16·3*	*16·6*
London and North Eastern....	19,299	18,739	18,483	5,049	3,973	4,150
Percentage of expenditure....	*71·3*	*73·9*	*73·7*	*18·6*	*15·7*	*16·6*
Southern	6,724	6,575	6,427	2,620	2,187	2,146
Percentage of expenditure ...	*63·1*	*65·7*	*64·9*	*24·6*	*21·8*	*21·7*
Great Western	...	...	...	2,364	2,065	2,028
Percentage of expenditure....	...	...	...	*16·7*	*15·1*	*14·8*

Since the wages and salaries shown in the above table constitute between 31 and 37 per cent. of the total expenditure of each railway, their movement is significant. The London and North Eastern, even allowing for the 2½ per cent., only reduced its wage bill in these groups by just over a quarter of a million, presumably owing to the great increase in traffic, since a more detailed examination of its accounts shows that savings on the wages of those sections of the staff whose number is not immediately affected by the volume of traffic were partly balanced by increases in those sections of the wage bill which vary directly with the traffic. The comparative smallness of the net reduction, therefore, is a reflection of better business.

Had it been possible to include the figures of the other two groups in the same table, it would have been seen that, even without the 2½ per cent. reduction, the London Midland and Scottish effected a saving of half-a-million, which was fairly evenly distributed over the various components. The Great Western, however, before allowance is made for the 2½ per cent., shows a small all-round increase. In this connection it is noteworthy that the Great Western is the only group in which "General Charges" have gone up, and that the rise is due to an increase in superannuation and benevolent funds.

The item "fuel" includes electric current, and also the whole expenditure under an undifferentiated heading "fuel, lighting, water, and general stores," but the bulk of the expenditure under this heading is on coal. It is, however, an interesting commentary on the progress of electrification that over one-quarter of the fuel bill of the Southern and nearly one-fifth of that of the Great Western (partly owing to its ownership of sections of the tubes in the West London suburbs) is for electric current. This, no doubt, helps to explain the fact that, in spite of higher coal prices, and an increase in train miles worked, these two lines have slightly reduced their expenditure on fuel, while that of the London and North Eastern has risen and that of the London Midland and Scottish has remained stationary.

The general impression given by these returns is that economies in running expenses resulting from grouping have spent their first impetus and must necessarily be effected more gradually in future. Capital expenditure, to which a special incentive has been given by the Loan Guarantees and Grants Act, and by the conditions attached to the repeal of passenger duty, will be dealt with in our final article.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN CANADA.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE fourth session of the Sixteenth Federal Parliament of Canada has now opened, and the chief speculation in the lobbies of Parliament is whether or not it will be the last. The King Government has now weathered three sessions without ever being in serious danger of defeat, and its parliamentary position can be reckoned impregnable; but there is evidence of a distinct swing of public opinion in favour of Conservatism, and the shrewder Liberals are not blind to the grave perils which lie ahead, because they are well aware that the path of the King Government has been greatly smoothed in recent years by Canada's participation in the general economic prosperity which has been vouchsafed to the whole North American continent. Now, however, a variety of factors have combined to produce a definite business recession. Agriculture had a very bad year in 1929, the drought reduced the volume of the crops, and now the grain marketing crisis threatens a further reduction in farming revenues. The newsprint industry is still in difficulties; the mining industry has been hard hit by the brokerage scandals; and unemployment in most of the cities is severe. All these circumstances make for a disgruntled and querulous electorate, and opponents of the Government, who charge it with maladministration, are getting an attentive hearing.

The King Ministry is, therefore, definitely on the defensive, and is seeking for policies which will revive its waning fortunes. The Speech from the Throne outlined a very modest programme of legislation, and the chief measures foreshadowed concerned the recapitalisation of the Canadian National system, the control of radio broadcasting, the consolidation of the Grain Act, and a revision of the soldiers' pension plan. There was a strange silence about the tariff, although it is the issue which the Conservatives are attempting to keep in the forefront, and the silence is interpreted as indicating that the Government has not yet made up its mind upon its policy. The final form of the Smoot-Hawley Bill is still uncertain, but it promises to inflict serious penalties upon a variety of Canadian interests. Liberal propagandists strive to prove that the aggregate damage threatened to Canadian trade is not large, but it is sufficiently serious in prospect to have created a widespread feeling of resentment throughout Canada against what is regarded as American fiscal selfishness. The Conservative politicians and papers have, naturally, been doing their best to exploit this sentiment, and they have been taking the line that a body blow against the economic life of Canada is imminent, and that some defensive economic strategy through the medium of higher tariffs is the most urgent need of the hour. Furthermore, the Conservatives contend that they are the only party willing and able to undertake the necessary reprisals and that, therefore, the national interest demands their return to power at the earliest possible date.

The King Government cannot, in the state of public sentiment, afford to disregard this campaign, and they are aware that they must find ways and means of meeting the popular demand for a vigorous fiscal policy. The tone of the Liberal Press, and utterances of the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues, suggest that the Government is contemplating a measure of tariff revision whose fundamental feature would be a substantial increase in the British preference. Such a policy offers possibilities of substantial political dividends, but it would also involve some risks. It would be popular in ports like Vancouver and Halifax, and it would please the farmers; but it would be very unpalatable to Quebec, whose manufacturers, owing to their geographical position, suffer more from British competition than do their brethren in Ontario and the West. Since they have never had any enthusiasm for the British preference, and have repeatedly agitated for its abandonment or curtailment, they would strongly dislike its augmentation, and their views would certainly find expression in Ottawa through French-Canadian Liberal members. The King Government is more dependent than ever upon the saving strength of the Quebec Liberal bloc, and must move warily before it embarks on tariff policies which will offend it. What Ministers probably want to do is to postpone any serious tariff revision for this session in the hope that the Imperial Economic Conference, which has been fixed for next September, may yield them material for an attractive tariff policy.

But, apart from the tariff, there promises to be no lack of material for sharp controversy during the session. The Government has, so far, not disclosed its hand about its plan for the recapitalisation of the Canadian National Railways, and it is understood to be contemplating the merits of three alternative schemes. But, whatever plan is proposed, it is quite certain that the political friends of the Canadian Pacific Railway will have considerable criticism to offer of a measure which must, if it is to accomplish anything, involve the transfers of some of the C.N.R.'s present financial burdens to the general national debt. Again, the King Government is more or less committed to implement the findings of a report of a Royal Commission which investigated the radio and broadcasting situation and recommended a plan of national control by the Federal Government, tempered by a certain measure of provincial autonomy in regard to programmes. The scheme has many merits and commands substantial support, but it has also evoked vigorous opposition. The opponents of the principle of public ownership dislike it, and the owners of existing broadcasting stations have been conducting a strenuous campaign against it under the leadership of *La Presse* of Montreal, the most influential French-Canadian paper, which the King Government can scarcely afford to offend.

When the measure amending the Canada Grain Act comes up for discussion there will be a grand assize on the whole grain marketing situation. Already two western members have filed resolutions asking, in the one case, for a searching investigation of the trading methods of the Canadian grain exchanges, and, in the other, for a termination of the practice of optional trading in grain. The Conservatives will not miss the opportunity of charging the Government with responsibility for the policy of holding wheat for higher prices, which has so far proved completely disastrous, and cost the western farmers millions of dollars. Legislation will also be introduced to transfer the natural resources of three western provinces from Federal to Provincial authority, and Mr Bourassa threatens to raise the question of the inadequate protection secured for the Catholic minorities in the agreements concluded with the Provinces of Manitoba and Alberta.

The King Government will certainly not bless him for raising this religious issue at Ottawa, as it has already emerged in the country and is causing Ministers more worry than any other question. It was a revolt of Protestant Liberals, who were dissatisfied with the ascendancy exercised by the local Roman Catholic hierarchy over the late Liberal administration in Saskatchewan, that terminated last June the long Liberal control of that province, and the fires of religious prejudice which were then kindled have spread to other provinces. There is now in existence a Canadian replica of the American Ku Klux Klan, which has branches in every province west of the Ottawa river, and is carrying on a persistent campaign of propaganda, partly directed against the Roman Catholic Church and partly against the political domination exercised by French Canada at Ottawa. The anti-Catholic agitation has recently received fresh momentum from the attitude taken by the Roman Catholic hierarchy towards the proposal to divest Parliament of some of its responsibilities for divorce by the establishment of a divorce court for Ontario, while there have been fierce protests throughout Quebec at educational legislation proposed by the new Government of Saskatchewan, which will tend to diminish Roman Catholic influence in educational matters. As a result, there is in progress throughout the Dominion a solidification of Protestant sentiment which, at a general election, would certainly operate to the benefit of the Conservative Party.

On the other hand, the emergence of this religious controversy will help to keep intact the Liberal *bloc* in Quebec, and as Ontario for the same reason will give the Conservatives a large majority, the real battleground of the next election promises to be the three prairie provinces, where all the seats save one are at present held by Liberals or Progressives. The political experts are all agreed that the Liberals must prepare themselves for substantial losses in these regions, but it is doubtful if the Conservatives will make many gains because the western farmers are still suspicious of the merit of their high protectionist policies. The Progressive Party, although shorn of its former Parliamentary strength, is still alive, and, since it always secures a stimulus from low prices for farm products, it might increase its strength to 30 or 35 at the next election, and hold a decisive balance of power in the next Parliament.

There is no sign that Lord Beaverbrook's United Empire Party has aroused any serious interest in Canada. Its programme has received warm commendation from two papers only of high standing, the Toronto *Globe* and *La Presse*, and the comments of other papers have ranged from critical analysis to ironic condemnation. It has also been rejected as impracticable by Mr Beatty, the president of the C.P.R., and, during the debate on the Address in Parliament, no speaker thought it worth mentioning. The cold fact is that, while Canada and the other Dominions might appreciate the free preferential entry of their food products into the British market, they are not ready to offer to scrap their own protectionist systems, and they discern no prospect of the United Empire or any British party securing a mandate for food taxes. There is, however, throughout Canada some uneasiness about the present situation in respect to Imperial relations, and a feeling that the nationalist idea has been pushed too far. The Conservatives' devotion to local protectionism prevents them from challenging the King Ministry openly on this particular issue, but they will exploit it in various ways at the next election. This event cannot be delayed beyond eighteen months, and certain signs are interpreted as indicating that the King Ministry may decide to appeal for a new mandate either at midsummer or in the late autumn.

Notes of the Week.

The Government's Defeat.—The process of subjecting the Coal Mines Bill to salutary amendment led on Tuesday to the Government's first defeat in the House. The proposal to permit a levy on coal for the purpose of "facilitating the sale" of particular classes—in plain words, subsidising exports—was riddled by volleys of devastating criticism from both the Opposition parties. This "inverted form of Protection," based on the strange principle of favouring foreign, at the expense of home, consumers, and calculated inevitably to provoke retaliation on the part of every other coal-producing country in Europe, found few friends to defend it. Mr Graham, palpably uncomfortable in pleading a cause which ran counter to the strong recommendations of the World Economic Conference and his own attitude at Geneva, could do little more than ask that the coalowners should be trusted not to abuse the powers which he had agreed to give them. The House was not prepared to approve a thoroughly vicious principle in the hope that the evil begotten might be "only a very little one"; and the offending section was deleted from the Bill by 282 votes to 274. Apart from causing the usual flutter of excitement over a division in which the Government is worsted, the result has no great political significance. The levy proposal was extraneous to the main purpose of the Bill and should never have been incorporated in it; but there was no shadow of reason why the Government should regard its excision as a vote of no confidence. Indeed, other amendments were moved on Tuesday whose adoption would have greatly improved the Bill; and the Government's success in resisting them was due more to luck than merit. With the single qualification that scope might thereby be given for unfair subterfuges in declaring the direction of sales, there is much to be said for the amendment moved by Mr Clement Davies excluding from the operation of the quota all coal produced for export. Another amendment, proposed by Major Nathan, that mines belonging to industrial undertakings should be freed from restriction of output needed for the concern's own use, deserved a better fate than rejection. Asked to defend the economic absurdity of compelling a firm to buy coal "outside," because its own pits are prevented from raising the coal required, and available, Mr Graham had no real answer. He persuaded the House that the Liberal proposal to make the establishment of voluntary marketing syndicates part of the Bill was premature at the industry's present stage of organisation; but very proper dissatisfaction at giving the owners complete *carte blanche* as to the method of fixing "standard tonnages" was allayed only by Mr Graham's promise to endeavour to frame wording designed to bring the standard into close relation with present-day output. The Bill seems likely to leave

The Education Estimates.—The estimates for the current financial year may be summarised in the following table:—

Group.	1929. £ (000).	1930. £ (000).	Increase (+) or Decrease (−). £ (000).
Grants to L.E.A.'s	39,213	42,626	+ 3,413
Grants to Non-L.E.A.'s	1,657	1,847	+ 190
Pensions (net)*	— 75	134	+ 209
Other expenditure (net)	891	889	— 2
Net total	41,686	45,496	+ 3,810

* Less contributions from teachers and employers.

A memorandum issued with the estimates dissects this increase of £3,810,000 in a different way, £2,124,000 being ascribed to the "development and normal growth" of the education services and the remaining £1,686,000 to the changes brought about by the Local Government Act of 1929. Of this last sum £720,000 represents an annual payment, known as the "Residue Grant," to Local Education Authorities, formerly made out of the Consolidated Fund and now transferred to the Board of Education's vote. Thus the apparent increase of £3,810,000 must, from the taxpayers' standpoint, be reduced to £3,090,000. It should be added that in subsequent years this sum so transferred will amount to £807,000. The remaining £966,000 of the £1,686,000 is due to the reduction made by de-rating in the net total rateable values of hereditaments liable to education rates, and in the need of the Exchequer to make up the resulting loss to local authorities. Thus this sum should be regarded as part of the financial assistance given by the State under the de-rating scheme to certain classes of ratepayers. The increase of £2,124,000 due to the normal growth of education will arouse mixed feelings in the heart of the "progressive" taxpayer. He is rightly inclined to regard money spent on education as money well spent, but the state of the national finances makes him scrutinise with the utmost care the way in which public money is being spent, even when the object is a worthy one. The increase of £190,000 in grants to other than local education authorities represents in the main additional help given to secondary school pupils and to the training of teachers. The expansion in the needs of the local education authorities is due to a variety of causes, of which the principal is the increase of 1,250 in the number of full-time teachers. It is churlish to criticise such an increase when the difficulties under which many overburdened teachers are labouring are borne in mind, but the cost of educating an elementary schoolchild has already risen from 95s. 2d. in 1913-14 to 235s. 4d. in 1927, 250s. 7d. in 1929, and—so the Board estimates—to 260s. 6d. for 1930 and there are obvious limits to such an expansion. In short, the country is probably near the point where it will have to weigh carefully the claims of an enlightened education policy, with all its moral and material advantages to the nation, against the urgent claims of the taxpayer.

The Army Estimates.—The estimates for 1930-31 are £40,500,000, a figure which compares with original estimates for 1929-30 of £40,545,000 and with adjusted estimates (including supplementaries) of £41,105,000. In interpreting the new year's estimates two facts must be taken into account. The first is that the 1930-31 estimates now presented include the cost of the troops in China, an item which hitherto has appeared in the form of a supplementary estimate. The other is that the War Office now has to bear the cost of maintaining the forces formerly employed on the Rhine and paid for under the Versailles Treaty by Germany. Part of this new cost had to be borne by the War Office in 1929-30, and a supplementary estimate for £560,000 had therefore to be presented a short time ago. The new financial year has to bear the full burden, amounting to £950,000. Allowing for these facts, it is fair to compare the new year's estimate of £40,500,000 with the old year's adjusted estimate of £41,105,000. The difference represents a saving of only £605,000, and while the Army Council apparently regard that figure as a measure of the care with which they have scrutinised each item of expenditure, the taxpayer will hardly be jubilant about so meagre a reduction.

The Air Estimates.—The net total of Air estimates laid before Parliament for the coming financial year is £17,850,000, as against £16,960,000 for the year now drawing to its close. As the following table shows, "true" gross estimated expenditure has increased from £20,013,100 to £21,073,800:—

	1929.* £ (000).	1930. £ (000).	Increase (+) or decrease (−). £ (000).
True gross expenditure	20,013	21,074	+ 1,061
Less super-cut	...	150	150
Gross estimate	20,013	20,924	+ 911
Less Fleet Air Arm grant	1,067	1,267	+ 200
Less other appropriations-in-aid	1,986	1,807	— 179
Net expenditure	16,960	17,850	+ 890

* Includes Supplementary Estimates.

The "super-cut" of £150,000 represents an overhead deduction to discount possible under-spending. It is spread over all the votes and is not specifically allotted to any one vote. Last year's super-cut was £650,000, but experience has shown that this was too large. It may be added that the super-cut only appears in the original estimates for the year, and is subsequently absorbed as the figures are revised. That explains the absence of the super-cut for 1929 in the above table. The use of such an accounting device is in any case open to question. Coming to the actual estimates, a memorandum which accompanies them states that they allow for a broad continuity of air policy and do not prejudice the outlines of the Home Defence schemes, but that for the coming year the approved increases of the R.A.F. are of small dimensions, and are designed to demonstrate once more the Government's desire to avoid disastrous competition in air armaments. The main feature of the 1930 programme, therefore, will be the consolidation of existing home units. The increase in some of the service votes is held to be consistent with this policy, and, indeed, to be mainly consequential on existing commitments. The net increase in the civil aviation vote amounts to £89,000. This represents mainly subsidies to Imperial Airways, Ltd., for a weekly service to India and daily services on certain routes in Europe, and an initial payment in connection with an Imperial air service to South Africa.

International Cotton Statistics.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations has this week published the half-yearly statistics of consumption and stocks throughout the world. With regard to consumption, the feature of the returns is the decline in American cotton; for the half-year ended January 31st last the amount used was only 7,083,000 bales, against 7,463,000 bales in the previous half-year and 7,613,000 bales in the six months ended January 31, 1929. On the other hand, there has been a striking increase in the consumption of East Indian cotton, the amounts for the last three half-years being 2,985,000 bales, 2,604,000 bales and 2,574,000 bales. An appreciable increase has also shown itself in the use of "sundry" cottons, the amounts for the last three half-years being 2,632,000 bales, 2,455,000 bales and 2,184,000 bales. These sundry cottons are not specified, but for some time now there has been increasing use of Brazilian, Peruvian and African qualities. The consumption of all kinds of cotton throughout the world during the last three half-years has been 13,202,000 bales, 13,014,000 bales and 12,868,000 bales. Thus, during the past half-year, compared with the same six months in the previous season, there has been a decline of 7 per cent. in the world consumption of American cotton, but an increase of 16 per cent. in the consumption of other kinds of cotton. These figures go to prove that growers in the United States are losing their supremacy as suppliers of cotton. With regard to stocks, the mills of the world held 4,931,000 bales of all kinds of cotton on January 31, 1930, against 5,294,000 bales on January 31, 1929. It is significant that world mill stocks of American cotton at the end of last January were 2,742,000 bales, as against 2,958,000 bales a year earlier. The recent decline in the price of American cotton is undoubtedly largely due to the falling off in consumption and the continuance of the poor demand. Exports from the United States total 900,000 bales less than at the same time last season. The price of American cotton in Liverpool is now 1½d. a pound lower than at the beginning of the year and over 3d. a pound cheaper than a year ago. The authorities in America are endeavouring to arrange for a reduction in the acreage this spring, but it is not expected that the decline in the area under cultivation will be important. The International Federation has also published some interesting statistics relating to the amount of short time worked in the cotton mills of the world during the half-year ended January 31st last. This information is given in the form of spindle-hours stopped in each country, calculated in weeks of 48 hours. The figure for Great Britain is given as 7,092 weeks, but is exceeded by Austria with 8,191. Canada is given as 4,735, Norway 4,406, Brazil 4,233, Italy 3,930, Japan 3,091, Switzerland 2,903, Russia 2,650, Germany 2,356, and China 2,130. It is evident from these statistics that the depression in the cotton industry is world-wide.

Wool Textile Workers' Earnings.—We discuss in a leading article the general grounds on which Lord Macmillan based his finding that a reduction of wages is necessary in the wool textile industry. The present wage system is highly complex. For time workers there is added to a base rate, firstly, 10 per cent., and secondly, 72.5 per cent. "cost-of-living" bonus. Since December, 1922, the minimum weekly wages of time workers in the manufacturing departments have been: men in scheduled occupations, 54s. 10d.; men in unscheduled occupations, 52s. 8d.; women, 32s. 3d. For these grades Lord Macmillan proposes a reduction of the 10 per cent. addition to 5 per cent., and of the "cost-of-living" addition from 72.5 to 64 per cent. The reduction in full-time weekly earnings would be 9.249 per cent., or 5s. 1d., 4s. 10½d., and 3s., respectively, in the three classes given above. In the case of piece workers, whose system of percentage additions is even more complicated, Lord Macmillan recommends an effective reduction of 8.766 per cent. The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the employers, who had asked for reductions ranging from 15.23 to 18.47 per cent., and it seems probable that the operatives will also agree to the finding. Lord Macmillan's suggestion that, in considering the relation between current and pre-war earnings, regard should be had to the "greatly expanded social services" at the wage-earners' disposal, begs a rather large question, but the operatives agreed with the employers that rates of wages had increased since the war by a substantially greater percentage than the cost of living figure. In this industry, as in others, the difficulty is that short-time working results in unduly low earnings even when rates per hour are a heavy burden on production costs.

British Car Production in 1929.—The current issue of *The Motor Trader* contains the results of the annual survey which that journal makes of the output of the British motor industry. Production in 1929 is stated to have amounted to 180,426 cars, as compared with 154,495 in 1928, 161,920 in 1927, and 107,000 in 1924. Five firms alone accounted for nearly 90 per cent. of last year's output. An interesting analysis of car-production in h.p. categories yields the following results:—

NUMBER PRODUCED.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
10 H.P. and less	38,992	50,586	73,289
12 and 14 H.P.	102,081	78,967	67,399
16 H.P.	11,220	12,398	24,758
18 H.P. and over	9,627	12,544	14,980

The inference to be drawn from the foregoing figures is that demand for cars in this country is tending to divide sharply into two lines. The "medium" powered car is rapidly giving place to more powerful vehicles at one end of the scale, and to the "baby" type (with the lowest tax) at the other. Average prices of British cars in the 18-26 h.p. class have fallen from £649 in 1927 to £557 in 1928, but—power for power—still compare unfavourably with those of American makes.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—The general level of whole-cargo shipping freights, as measured by our index number, was 5.8 per cent. lower in February than in the previous month, when the same rate of decline was recorded. The current index figure is 28.3 per cent. below that of a year ago, and 23.4 per cent. lower than the average for the last pre-war year. The following table summarises recent movements of the various group indices:—

AVERAGE 1898–1913 = 100.

	Average, 1913.	Feb., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan. 1930.	Feb., 1930.
European Waters	110·0	122·7	117·3	104·2	98·1
North America	113·1	125·1	95·5	94·2	92·6
South America	123·4	121·5	94·6	95·1	95·5
India	106·3	117·4	109·0	99·8	93·4
Far East and Pacific	117·4	122·0	93·4	85·2	78·9
Australia	127·9	136·2	91·7	88·1	75·7
Total	116·3	124·1	100·3	94·4	89·0

Outward coal freights to South America had a firmer tendency in consequence of the further violent fall in homeward quotations from that quarter; elsewhere coal rates declined. Grain chartering was still on a very small scale, there being no signs of any appreciable revival in European demand for wheat. Business in miscellaneous cargoes such as ore, timber, sugar, and nitrate was scarce, and liner services by offering low rates for "parcels" continued to make heavy inroads into the "tramp" vessels' market. The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	80·1	— 9·3	South America—outwards	120·4	+13·3
Bay—outwards	105·4	— 3·7	South America—homewards	70·5	—12·6
Bay—homewards	125·8	— 4·8	India—outwards	111·6	— 4·2
Mediterranean—outwards	95·7	— 4·3	India—homewards	75·2	— 8·7
Mediterranean—homewards	100·3	— 5·5	Far East, etc.	78·9	— 6·3
North America	92·6	— 1·6	Australia	75·7	—12·4

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for February works out at 76.5, as compared with 81.2 in January, and 106.7 a year ago.

Progress of Krupps.—The Krupp report for the year ending September last supplements the record of the steel and coal rationalisation programme and results of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke A.G. It notes the completing stages of a similar comprehensive and costly technical reorganisation, and it is particularly interesting for its revelation of a financial policy so conservative that it could only be adopted by a family concern owned by wealthy members. For the second year in succession the dividend is passed, although the net profit, at £345,000, was one million marks more than in 1927-28. In the preceding year a substantial contribution was made out of the net profit to the pension fund, and £200,000 was carried forward. From the £545,000 thus available at the end of the past year £95,000 is carried forward, and £450,000 is placed to a special depreciation account in respect of the re-equipped works and new plant. The explanation given is that this reconstruction has had to be undertaken at a cost which does not offer the possibility of a remunerative return in the conditions likely to prevail in the future. Hence the decision to write it down immediately out of the gains of a good year. For ordinary depreciation £690,000 was allocated, taxes took £780,000, social insurances £600,000. The firm's own benefit funds received £265,000.

and interest and miscellaneous charges £262,000. Loans were shown at just over £4,000,000 at the end of September, £150,000 less than two years earlier. When the gold mark accounts were resumed in 1924 after the inflation the share capital was put down at £8,000,000, and it remains at that amount. The book value of the works and plant is shown at just under £10,000,000, which is £550,000 less than in 1925, although the works have been largely reconstructed and extended since that date. For instance, during the past two years a new blast furnace and associated plant has been erected at Essen-Borbach. The Krupps concern is one of the few "vertical" organisations which appears to be managed with a high degree of success. It is specially notable that the profit last year was mainly derived from the stainless and other high-grade steels and manufacturing departments, which include agricultural machinery, locomotives, heavy motor vehicles, cash registers, and the more modern commercial machines. The production of coal, 8,001,000 tons, was just above the previous year's level, and 400,000 tons over 1913. Iron production at 1,292,000 tons, raw steel at 1,587,000 tons, and rolling-mill products at 1,159,000 tons were all below the 1927-28 tonnages. The great change in the organisation of the works since the war is indicated by the fact that, while the production of iron and steel is only a few thousand tons above 1913, the rolling-mill products have jumped from 834,000 tons to 1,159,000 tons. The report state that, with the starting of the new blast furnaces, the Essen works are placed on a new and long-planned foundation, that important economies in production are anticipated, and that the plant associated with the blast furnaces will make possible important improvements in the power economy of the works, presumably by the provision of larger and better quality gas supplies. During the year a new forge press has been installed to meet the utmost demands for the new types of heavy machines and high-pressure work. The continued rationalisation of the Rhinehausen ironworks is noted, but the reorganisation of the coal mines is reported to be virtually completed. The firm now employs altogether 68,000 persons, apart from 21,000 engaged in the works of subsidiaries and commercial organisations. The general picture presented by the report is in sharp contrast to the state of affairs during the first intense rationalisation measures, when the total number of workers fell to under 50,000, and the employees at the Essen works were reduced from over 40,000 in 1920 to 18.000.

Eastern Banking and Silver.—The latest report of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank affords a striking illustration of the effects of the fall in the price of silver to record low levels during the course of last year. In compiling the sterling portion of their balance sheet the directors very properly base it on the rate of exchange current on December 31st, this being the day on which the accounts are made up. At the end of 1928 the exchange was 2s. 0½d. for the Hong Kong dollar, but by the end of 1929 it had fallen to 1s. 7½d., and the effects of the 20 per cent. fall in the sterling value of dollars, which in a sense are the bank's stock-in-trade, are to be found all through the balance sheet. Some of these effects are illustrated in the following brief table:—

	End 1928. $ mn.	*End 1929.* $ mn.	*End 1928.* £ mn.	*End 1929.* £ mn.
Notes	48·4	64·9	4·9	5·3
Current accounts	376·2	434·9	38·0	35·3
Fixed deposits	171·8	219·9	17·4	17·9
Cash	100·0	125·8	10·1	10·2
Investments	117·1	129·4	11·8	10·5
Discounts, loans, and credits	268·5	335·6	27·1	27·3
Bills receivable and items in transit	192·2	235·9	19·4	19·2

This table makes it clear that the expansion in the dollar value of these items is almost entirely the effect of the depreciation of the dollar, for their sterling equivalent is unchanged. Unfortunately, the uncertainties of the past year, of which the shifting value of the dollar was probably not the least, made a commensurate increase in the bank's profits out of the question. Their actual growth in dollars was only from $13,430,000 for 1928 to $14,148,000 for 1929, and expressed in sterling they fell from about £1,350,000 to about £1,150,000, or by £200,000. This has entailed a reduction of the cash bonus from £2 to £1 per share, making this year's total distribution to the shareholders £7 per share, absorbing £1,120,000, as against £8 per share, absorbing £1,280,000, for 1928. These results are an apt measurement of the extent of the losses inflicted upon bankers and equally upon traders with the Far East by the fall in the price of silver, which, it is only fair to add, is an event entirely beyond their control.

United Kingdom Provident Institution.—The annual report for 1929 of the Institution is accompanied by a report by the Actuary on the triennial valuation for the years 1927, 1928 and 1929. The results of this valuation and of the two preceding triennial investigations are as follows:—

	1921–1923. £	1924–1926. £	1927–1929. £
Surplus earned during triennium *from normal sources* of profit, *i.e.*, interest, mortality and expenses, &c.	675,752	1,361,641	1,512,186
Add appreciation on securities written up	1,198,479	nil	nil
	1,874,231	1,361,641	1,512,186
Deduct depreciation on securities written down	nil	126,544	nil
	1,874,231	1,235,097	1,512,186
Add brought forward from previous valuation	37,423	160,822	148,206
Total amount available	1,911,654	1,395,919	1,660,392
Allocations:			
Bonuses to policyholders	1,450,832	1,247,713	1,435,508
Transfer to investment contingency reserve	300,000	...	...
Carried forward to next valuation	160,822	148,206	224,884
	1,911,654	1,395,919	1,660,392

At the end of 1923 the securities were revalued on the basis of their then market values and, from the appreciations thus brought to light, a sum of £300,000 was set aside for an investment contingency reserve. Since that time the securities have been valued on the principle of writing off depreciation but of taking no credit for appreciation. Thus, in the triennium just ended, although no figure appears in respect either of appreciation or depreciation, the necessary writing off has been accomplished by utilising £200,000 from the investment contingency reserve. The valuation of liabilities has been maintained on the same basis as formerly and, since the rate of interest assumed is only 2½ per cent., the basis is a very stringent one indeed. The rates of reversionary bonus declared as the result of the valuation have already been announced and it is sufficient now, therefore, to say that they range from 41s. per cent. per annum compound to 45s. per cent. per annum compound, these rates representing increases varying from 4s. per cent. to 5s. per cent. over the corresponding rates declared at the preceding valuation. As regards the year 1929 it is pleasing to see that the new business has taken an upward turn, having been increased from £3,109,870 to £3,335,080, though the increase secured has been due partly to a larger volume of single premiums and partly, no doubt, to anticipations as to the coming bonus distribution. It is interesting to observe that the amount paid under death claims in 1929 was £622,000, comparing with only £485,000 in 1928. It is clear that mortality has been less favourable to the institution than previously and the reports so far published of other life offices appear to indicate a not dissimilar experience. The net rate of interest earned last year was £4 11s. 11d. per cent. Although this represents an advance on that for 1928 it is still substantially lower than that of any other mutual life office. The ratio of commission and expenses to the premium income worked out in 1929 to 12.4 per cent., *compared with* 12.5 per cent. in 1928.

The Australian-Canadian Trade Treaty.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—The hearing by the Tariff Advisory Board of the application of the dairying interests of Canada for increased protection, which had for its objective the denunciation of the trade treaty concluded with Australia in 1925, produced a great deal of interesting evidence, but did not materially advance the cause of the opponents of the treaty. For one thing, they were unable to make out any very strong case against it, and for another their application was opposed by the spokesmen of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, which fears that the general agrarian case against protectionism would be weakened by any special protective concessions to the dairy farmers. It was disclosed in the hearing that the real grievance of the Canadian dairyman is against New Zealand, which automatically secured the benefit of the Australian treaty. Two years ago, when Canadian dairymen protested to Ottawa that the bonus of 6 cents per pound paid on Australian butter exports under the Paterson scheme gave rise to unfair competition, the Canadian Government imposed a special dumping duty of 3 cents per pound. Since that time imports of Australian butter, which faced a duty of 4 cents per pound, have been almost negligible, but there has been a heavy inflow of New Zealand butter, which, being liable to no dumping duty, only pays at the rate of 1 cent per pound. The Australians, therefore, consider themselves unfairly treated in the Canadian market, and apparently intimation has reached Ottawa that the Australian Government would not be unsympathetic to an adjustment of the terms of the treaty which would put their dairymen on an equal footing with their New Zealand competitors. So it is understood that negotiations are to be opened with Australia for an amendment of the treaty which will bring the rate on butter up to the ordinary British preferential rate of 4 cents per pound, and in that event the Canadian Government would withdraw the anti-dumping duties. The spokesman of the dairying interests declared that such an adjustment, which would undoubtedly mitigate the severity of the competition of New Zealand butter, would secure an abatement of their agitation against the treaty until at least the new rates had been given a fair trial. Business interests in British Columbia have been working hard to save the treaty from denunciation, as it is proving beneficial to them.

Britannic Assurance Company, Ltd.—Reviewing the salient features of the year, the chairman, in his speech at the annual meeting, placed in the forefront the effects of the influenza epidemic which raged in the early months of 1929. It appears that in the industrial branch claims by death absorbed, in 1929, £970,000, compared with only £820,000 in 1928, and, of the increase of £150,000, over £130,000 is attributed directly to the results of that epidemic. In one week alone the Britannic had to meet no less than 4,364 death claims for a sum assured amounting to £37,000. The accounts show that the business has made good progress. In the ordinary branch the new business has been maintained at about the same level, viz., £2½ million, but in the industrial branch has been increased from £6,807,482 to £7,630,297. The expense ratio worked out at 13.4 per cent. in the ordinary branch and 36.1 per cent. in the industrial branch, being slightly higher in each case than the 1928 figures. The interest earnings, however, have registered a substantial advance, the net rate of interest having been increased from £5 1s. 11d. to £5 5s. per cent., and the chairman ascribed this principally to advantageous purchases towards the end of last year of large additional holdings of ordinary shares. The balance sheet indicates that investments in ordinary shares have been increased during the year by £355,000 to £1,547,000, equivalent to nearly 9 per cent. of the total balance sheet assets. The usual annual valuation of the liabilities has been made in each branch, and the results are as follows:—

	1928. £	1929. £
Ordinary Branch		
Surplus earned during the year	237,709	289,602
Brought forward from previous year	61,327	96,073
	299,036	385,675
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	182,667	201,130
„ Shareholders account	20,296	22,239
„ Investment reserve fund	...	45,000
„ Carried forward to next year	96,073	117,306
	299,036	385,675
Industrial Branch—		
Surplus earned during the year	350,237	423,525
Brought forward from previous year	54,513	104,750
	404,750	528,275
Allocations—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	...	50,000
„ Shareholders account	100,000	200,000
„ Staff pension fund	100,000	...
„ Investment reserve fund	...	90,000
„ Written off cost of British Legal	100,000	75,000
„ Carried forward to next year	104,750	113,275
	404,750	528,275

The ordinary branch reversionary bonus has been maintained at the same rate as for 1928, viz., 42s. per cent. A modest amount has been set aside in the industrial branch for the first time for policyholders and will be utilised for the purpose of paying bonuses at varying rates on policies becoming claims between January 1, 1930, and March 31, 1931. The investment reserve fund, it will be noticed, has been credited with £135,000 on this occasion, against nothing in 1928, and now amounts to £500,000; and in this connection the chairman stated that the market value of the assets is still in excess of the book values apart from the investment reserve fund. A further £75,000 has been written off the cost of acquiring the British Legal business, leaving this asset in the balance sheet at a reduced figure of £75,000, which will, no doubt, be finally extinguished in the current year.

Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association.—Mr Owen Hugh Smith, in his annual speech at the meeting held this week, devoted himself largely to considerations affecting financial policy, and justified his action, quite rightly, on the ground that the investment of the funds forms the most important duty imposed on the board. In the management of the investments the Provident Mutual relies upon an investment policy designed to match the assets with the liabilities. The argument is that, since the liabilities incurred are of a deferred nature falling due over a series of years in the future, therefore the investments should be made as far as possible in securities redeemable in like fashion. While this policy is adhered to so far as the investment of the reserves of the sums assured is concerned, the Association has for some time past invested a considerable portion of the remaining balance of the funds in ordinary shares, and, at the present time, some 14 per cent. of the total funds are invested in this way. The events of 1929 have provided a stringent test of this policy, and it may be said with truth that the results have been entirely satisfactory. At the end of 1928 there was a hidden reserve in the book values of the investments amounting to £320,000, in addition to which there was an investment reserve fund amounting to £160,000. Mr Owen Hugh Smith disclosed that the capital loss during 1929 amounted to 3.3 per cent. of the total mean fund, *i.e.*, equal to about £225,000. Thus the hidden reserve still stands at a figure of just under £100,000, and the investment reserve fund is preserved intact. A loss of 3.3 per cent. during such a year as 1929 is not only moderate in itself, but is approximately only one-half of the depreciation suffered by any representative index of British Government long-term securities.

The Maritime Insurance Company.—This old-established company, centred in Liverpool, transacts marine business only, and, since 1924, has been controlled by the Scottish Union and National by virtue of its ownership of the share capital. In view of this association it is unfortunate that the accounts are presented in so unintelligible a form. The underwriting account is drawn up on the model common to fire insurance, but, having regard to the well-known time-lag in marine claims, this form precludes intelligent analysis by an outside critic. The chief fact which emerges from the account for 1929 is that the transfer to profit and loss has been maintained at the same figure as in each of the last two years, viz., £15,000. Out of this sum £10,000 has been allocated as provision for special contingencies of an unstated character. The dividend remains the same as before, viz., 6 per cent., but interest earnings would have permitted the declaration of as much as 13 per cent. without trenching upon underwriting profits. From the balance sheet it is clear that the company is in an extremely strong position. Two years ago £400,000 of reserves were capitalised in order to wipe out the liability on the share capital. In spite of this there is now a general reserve fund of £200,000 and a profit and loss account balance of £228,000 against the capital of £500,000.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Industry — Tax Prospects — Money — Mergers — Security — Gold Movements.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 1.

FROM a business standpoint the first two months of the year were both an encouragement and a disappointment. Marked improvement in the steel industry during January stimulated the hope that the bottom of the business recession was reached and that recovery would be continuous, although gradual. The motor industry also gave signs of better times a month ago. However, after further gain, at a diminishing rate, early in February, the steel trade last week had its first setback since the beginning of the year, and the operating rate is at about 80 per cent. of capacity, compared with virtually full rate a year ago. Ordinarily March is the peak month in steel, but this month is unlikely to show any great improvement over February.

Railroad buying continues heavy, and the building construction industry is expected to increase its orders as the weather opens up, but motor buying has slackened. In fact, the motor business seems to be at the lowest point that it has been at this season for a good many years. Judging by available output reports and steel shipments, the industry as a whole is not running at more than 65 per cent. Instead of preparing for heavy sales this month the leading manufacturers are increasing their efforts to rid their dealers of used cars, the number on hand being estimated at 1,250,000. It is planned to devote $15,000,000 to the junking of at least 400,000 used cars in the next twelve months. The bulk of the sales are going to Ford, Chevrolet and other cheap cars, but no talk is heard of price-cutting.

While the fall of commodity prices is not viewed with the same alarm here as on your side, the country generally and the financial community in particular was considerably disturbed by the sharp break in wheat prices and the further decline in cotton this week. After March deliveries had sunk to below a dollar a bushel on the Chicago market, a drop of approximately 60 cents a bushel since the Farm Board took up its duties last July, a sudden rally developed on news that the Board was buying. Prices recovered about 15 cents a bushel, and the situation is now easier. The chairman of the Farm Board, Mr Legge, admits that the board has bought or contracted for 25,000,000 bushels. Mr Legge said that the future of the market was anybody's guess, and it is believed that, while willing to do what he can, he has no great hopes of ultimate benefit to the farmers through the Board's operations. Temporary stability can be given the market if the Board decides to use enough money, but it has no means of curtailing production, and its future policy is obscure. The immediate effect on trade may not, nevertheless, be great. Farmers have disposed of most of their wheat, their income for 1929 was fully up to the average, and the surplus is being carried by speculators, the Farm Board, millers and allied organisations.

President Hoover has not helped matters much by his statement warning Congress of a 40 per cent. rise in taxes if pending appropriation bills were passed in their entirety. Democratic Congressmen and the Republican progressive element joined in accusing the President of attempting to fix the blame in advance for higher taxes which may come next year. The 25 per cent. reduction on some categories of income recently voted by Congress to apply to 1929 incomes was decided upon as a gesture to offset the business slump and the stock market break, and was scarcely consistent with Hoover's plans for greatly increasing Government expenditure on public works. Tax receipts on both the March 15th and the June 15th collection dates are virtually certain to fall below those of a year ago. Meanwhile, the struggle over the Tariff Bill continues, with the farm group holding the balance of power and blocking some of the proposals made by eastern manufacturing interests for higher rates. Tariff increases demanded by rural politicians will doubtless be voted, and it looks as though the flexible clause will be retained. It is unlikely that a Bill can be agreed upon for another two months. Only mild interest is taken in the Naval Conference, and even in Wall Street the week's developments regarding the Bank for International Settlements have failed to make much of a stir.

The selection of Gates McGarrah and Leon Fraser as the American members of the board was expected and met with general approval. Mr McGarrah, who presumably will be president, has made it clear that the new bank's relations with the Federal Reserve Bank will be, at least to begin with, much the same as those obtaining between the Reserve and the European central banks. "As far as maintaining close relations with the Federal Reserve Bank is concerned," he said, "its relations will be about as close as those now maintained with the Bank of England and the Bank of France."

Suggestions from London that Governor Harrison, during his London visit, may arrange for the purchase of British Government securities by the New York Reserve Bank are not understood here. It is pointed out that the Reserve Banks have no authority to buy foreign Government obligations, though, of course, they may and do purchase foreign bills. This week's Reserve System statement indicates that the Reserve authorities are not pursuing more vigorously their cheap money policy; on the other hand, they are maintaining cheap money. Declining currency circulation, gold imports and the purchase of about $20 million in bills (for the account of the Reserve Bank, incidentally) and the Government securities offset in part the reduction of $34 million in member bank borrowings. Member bank borrowings are now only $342 million, a drop of $610 million from a year ago, and the member banks throughout the country are steadily reducing their loans on securities as well as commercial loans. March settlements are usually heavy, and last year they brought a jump to 12 per cent. in call money. This time the rate weakened to 4 per cent. and time funds also declined ¼ per cent. to 4¼ per cent. The money situation is summed up by the Reserve Bank in its March bulletin as follows:—

"Notwithstanding the decline in money rates, and the fact that the position of member banks with respect to indebtedness is more comfortable than at any time since 1927, there have been few indications of any pressure of surplus funds seeking investment, and the weekly reports received from member banks have indicated up until the third week of the month a further contraction, rather than expansion, of bank credit."

An interesting industrial development is the agreement between the Standard Oil Company of New York and the Vacuum Oil Company to merge into a $900,000,000 corporation, to be known as the General Petroleum Corporation. Both companies were formerly units of the old Standard Oil Company, which was dissolved by court decree in 1911 as a violation of the anti-trust laws. The Government plans to bring a "friendly" suit to test the validity of the union, but the fact that it is attempted reveals the changed attitude of the country toward industrial combinations. The merger was arranged to meet growing competition from the Royal Dutch-Shell organisation, and the Vacuum Company's lubricating oil business, and widespread marketing facilities will help to round out Standard as a world factor in the oil trade.

In accordance with its plan for railroad consolidations, drawn up in compliance with the Transportation Act of 1920, the Interstate Commerce Commission approved the proposed merger of the Great Northern Railway with the Northern Pacific into a 15,000-mile system, although refusing to sanction continuance of ownership by those roads of the Burlington system. A union of the two Northern lines was attempted in 1901, but was blocked by the Supreme Court.

The progress made by security markets in February was obviously in anticipation of trade recovery rather than a reflection of it. Investment buying has been a factor, but nevertheless professional operations for the rise have been considerable, and Wall Street is sceptical of much further progress from this point. It was learned during the week that the banking consortium headed by J. P. Morgan and Company had dissolved, having sold the remainder of the shares bought last autumn to ameliorate panicky conditions in the market. The group originally subscribed about $240 million and used somewhat over $100 million. This stock was sold at a slight profit, perhaps just over $1 million, although no profit was aimed at.

The country gained $48,500,000 net in gold in February, of which $34,000,000 came from Japan, the bulk of the remainder from Brazil. As much more is expected from Japan and a moderate amount from South America during the next month or so.

FRANCE.

Budget — Caillaux's View — Trade Returns.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, March 12.

THE Chamber is slowly proceeding with the Budget for 1930-31, but whether it will be able to complete its work in time for the measure to be passed into law before April 1st, the beginning of the new financial year, is not yet certain. Both the Premier and the Minister for the Budget, M. Germain Martin, insist that, if it is humanly possible on their part, resort to *douzièmes provisoires* shall be avoided, but the outlook is not promising. M. Chéron's original estimates provided for a surplus of some 122,000,000 francs, but this has already been swallowed up by additional expenditure which has been voted without any corresponding increase of revenue. The revelation by M. Chéron, in one of his last speeches in the Chamber, that the Treasury possesses liquid resources of about 20,000,000,000 francs resulted in such an overwhelming volume of demands for reductions of taxation and increased expenditure that the estimates had been completely upset, even before the first Tardieu Cabinet fell. On February 5th M. Chéron submitted to the House a balance providing for estimated revenue of 49,565,000,000 francs and expenditure of 49,443,000,000 francs. By February 15th the Finance Commission and the Chamber between them had reduced revenue to 48,655,000,000 francs and increased expenditure to 49,349,000,000 francs, equivalent to a deficit of 694,000,000 francs. Other demands made by the Finance Commission down to the same date would have brought total estimated expenditure, had they been granted, to 50,223,000,000 francs, and would have implied an estimated deficit of 1,565,000,000 francs. Since then confusion has become worse confounded. M. Chéron proposed to avoid adding to the existing taxation by taking 560,000,000 francs from German reparation payments to compensate for loss of revenue due to the prolongation of the present financial year (instead of 1,000,000,000 francs, as first proposed). This the Finance Commission afterwards increased to 1,150,000,000 francs. Yesterday the Commission decided to recommend that the amount to be taken from the German payments for the benefit of the Budget should be increased to 1,840,000,000 francs. Exactly what the position of the Budget balance is at present, no one appears to know. The *Temps* to-night remarks that "the Finance Commission would be rendering a real service by making known what the situation of the Budget is to-day."

In a remarkable article published this morning in *Le Capital*, M. Caillaux throws a curious light on the methods which he alleges are adopted in connection with the preparations of French Budget estimates. It is the custom, he states, for demands for credits to be inflated to a figure substantially larger than that actually required, in respect of given items of proposed expenditure. The unexpended balance, after the close of the financial year concerned, remains in the hands of the Treasury until such time as the accounts for the Budget year in question are definitely closed. This, as a rule, represents a period of several years, during which the non-employment of artificial "surpluses" of this kind is entirely ignored and the amounts in question lie in accounts that are inactive. (As a matter of fact the accounts of the Budget for 1914 were not closed until some two or three years ago, as mentioned in the *Economist* at the time. The whole of the Budgets for the years 1922 to 1929 are still in the form of what is known as "provisional accounts," none of them having yet been definitely closed.) As a concrete instance of the practice in question, M. Caillaux assets, on information which he describes as "certain," that the credits opened in respect of pensions exceeded by nearly 2,000,000,000 francs the amount really required; or, in other words, that instead of asking the taxpayers for 7,000,000,000 francs to meet the cost of pensions, those responsible demanded 9,000,000,000 francs, the unrequired balance of which is still lying idle. M. Caillaux expresses the opinion that the practice of artificially inflating expenditure in this way is due to the fact that the Finance Minister, overwhelmed by crushing Parliamentary work, is compelled to leave the task of drawing up the estimates to his permanent officials. "To extract from the taxpayers, as has been done since July, 1926, three or four milliards a year more than is indispensable to balance the Budget," M. Caillaux concludes, "is a veritable spoliation of the people." Even more forceful is his statement that, "at the Ministry of Finance at present nobody knows where he is."

Official returns of new issues of capital during February show that these totalled 3,261,000,000 francs (£26,300,000), against 1,313,000,000 francs in January, exclusive of the customary emissions of railway bonds (which last year averaged about 300,000,000 francs a month). The month's issue of bonds alone totalled 2,790,000,000 francs (or nearly 86 per cent. of the whole), which sets up an entirely new high monthly record for these descriptions. The previous high record was one of 1,622,000,000 francs in October last, as compared with a monthly average of 567,000,000 francs in 1929 and of 298,000,000 francs in 1928. The average rate of interest offered for bonds during February was 4¾ per cent., against 5 per cent. in January and December, a mean of 5.36 in 1929 and of 6.3 per cent. in 1928. The average yield from other forms of issues with fixed yield during February was 3.77 per cent., against a mean of 4.89 per cent. in 1929 and 5.33 per cent. in 1928; and that from issues with variable yield was 2.98 per cent., against a mean of 2.70 per cent. in 1929 and of 2.72 per cent. in 1928. The index figure representing quotations on the Paris Bourse of 300 issues of variable revenue is returned for February as 479 (on the basis of 100 in 1913), against 496 in January, an average of 507 in 1929 and of 415 in 1928. Insurance company issues (15) are given the index figure of 1,050 for February (against a mean of 650 in

1928); banking issues (30) one of 343, against 323 in 1928; foreign issues (17) dealt in here, one of 588, against a mean of 659 in 1928.

The widespread depression in industry throughout the world, owing to declining prices and other causes, does not appear to have affected this country, and industrial production is well maintained. The general index figure representing production levels in the principal industries during January is returned unchanged at 144, as compared with a mean of 139 during 1929 and of 127 in 1928 (base: 100 in 1913). Engineering trades advanced 3 points in January, to 162; extractive industries 6 points, to 132; leather, 8 points; paper, 10; and motor-car production, 26, to 639. Metallurgical output fell off 4 points, to 126; building 3, to 137; and rubber trades 24, to 938. Railway receipts fell off in January from 289,000,000 francs to 276,000,000 francs, and the average daily number of trucks loaded from 66,300 to 64,300. Incoming cargoes, however, totalled 4,753,000 tons (against 4,560,000 tons in December, and a monthly average of 3,868,000 tons in 1928), and outward-bound tonnage totalled 3,699,000 tons (against 3,649,000 tons in December, and a monthly average of 3,868,000 tons in 1928). There is still a shortage of labour in certain industries, notwithstanding the presence of over 3,000,000 foreign workers in the country. Unemployment continues to be microscopical, the total number of workers "on the dole" throughout the country in the week ending March 1st having been 1,651. The number of workers seeking employment through the labour bureaux during the same week but sent away unsatisfied was 13,027, while jobs left vacant through lack of labour totalled 14,121. The number of foreign labour units entering the country during the week was 2,715, the vast majority of whom were absorbed by the coal and iron mines, metallurgical works and construction undertakings.

Coal production returns for January indicate a total output of 4,998,000 tons in the 26 working days (with an effective labour force of 302,363 units), as compared with 4,465,000 tons in December (24 working days), with 301,425 units employed. The average daily output was 192,236 tons, against 186,070 tons in December, 1928, and 174,152 tons in January last year. The output of metallurgical coke by the colliery plants was 414,797 tons, against 397,460 tons in January, 1928.

The general index figure for wholesale prices at the end of February is returned by the Statistique Générale as 574 (on the basis of 100 as representing prices of similar commodities in 1913), or at exactly the same figure as at the end of January, when prices showed a drop of 14 points as compared with the figure for December. The figure for French domestic products, which fell off 17 points in January, is marked up 7 points on the month to 611, while that representing prices in France of imported commodities, which dropped 10 points in January, is returned at 509, or a further drop of 11 points. The general figure for foodstuffs is returned at 523, or a point lower, although meats are 20 points higher and sugar and coffee 4 points dearer; vegetable foods having gone down 10 points. All raw material figures are returned lower. The index figure for retail prices in Paris, which at the end of January stood at 609, is returned for the end of February at 589, against 602 in February, 1929, and 522 in 1928.

GERMANY.

Dr. Schacht's Resignation. — Dr. Luther — Discount Rate. — Money Market. — Bourse.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, March 11.

THE resignation of Dr. Schacht as president of the Reichsbank occasioned as much general surprise as have many of his earlier actions. What moved him to resign is not quite clear even to his intimate friends. The step was taken immediately after the Reichstag committee had accepted the Young Plan and the Hague protocols. Dr. Schacht gives as the reason for his action his difference of opinion with the Government regarding the decisions reached at the Hague. He believes that the second Hague Conference not only did not improve the result reached at the first conference, but made it worse. He protested against the decisions of that first conference in his well-known memorandum of December 5th. Now he renews his protest in the strongest possible form by resigning.

Except for the initial shock to the Bourse, the repercussion was surprisingly weak. In the last few months Dr. Schacht has created much opposition, and the bitterest among his opponents regarded his departure as a triumph. But, despite all this, his retirement means a serious loss for Germany's public life. For, no matter what opinion one may hold as to some of his actions, his is a personality of colour and character, of courage and ideas, and Germany's public life is not so rich in interesting personalities that the departure of one of the most interesting of these will not leave a gap. In the last analysis, Schacht is a victim of the Paris Reparations Conference. Opinion is divided as to whether his tactics there were correct from the beginning, or whether he could have achieved more than he did achieve. But in any event, he signed the Young Plan only under protest. He saw plainly that it would come far from fulfilling the perhaps exaggerated hopes with which he had come to the conference. He did not return to Germany in triumph, as he had perhaps hoped, but full of resignation and bitterness. His position was not rendered easier by the fact that the other delegate, Dr. Vögler, withdrew just before the signatures were affixed to the Plan, and that industry for the great part stood behind Vögler. That made him doubly sensitive to the fact that the subsequent negotiations among the Governments, instead of bringing changes in Germany's favour, made the Plan worse in some respects. Snowden's attitude with regard to the liquidated property made an especially deep impression on Schacht.

He was treated with every honour by the German Government. No one reproached him with the relative failure at Paris. But the Government, for its part, was found wanting in its handling of finance. It will be recalled that Dr. Schacht's memorandum of December 5th demanded a radical financial reform as a condition precedent for the fulfilment of the Young Plan. Schacht forced this demand through before Christmas by making his co-operation in solving the Government's monetary difficulties dependent on the formation of an amortisation fund for the floating debts. The result was the overthrow of Dr. Hilferding, the Minister of Finance, and his Secretary of State, Popitz. The Reichstag submitted within 24 hours to the dictate of the president of the Reichsbank. Schacht stood on the pinnacle of his power.

Two weeks later this position was lost. Schacht had refused to go to The Hague as a member of the German delegation to the second conference. He was besought to go at least as an expert adviser. He went to The Hague, and caused a sensation for the whole world by at first refusing to enter the directorate of the Bank for International Settlements; whereupon the Government, with quick decision, compelled him to submit by announcing that a law would be enacted making his participation legally compulsory. Schacht's prestige was severely shaken at home by this action, and was also lessened abroad. There is no doubt that he considered resigning even while at The Hague. That he did not do so at that time was probably due not only to consideration for the Government, but also to the hope that the Reichstag would reject the Young Plan.

Since the last Hague Conference little had been heard of him. He kept carefully in the background, and the Government undertook no reprisals against him. He came to the front once more with his protest against appointing Quesnay as director-general of the Bank for International Settlements—a step which, of course, was taken in agreement with the Government. Moreover, he had seen himself in the agreeable position of being able to reduce the discount rate three times in the last few weeks. The "Schacht case" seemed to have been forgotten. But now he himself has made it a live issue by his unexpected resignation. For the present he intends to withdraw to private life. But no one believes that he will long be contented with the simple life of a farmer, no matter how much he may believe it himself.

The general council of the Reichsbank has named Dr. Hans Luther as Schacht's successor. The choice has encountered remarkably little adverse criticism. For Luther, although a director of the Gemeinschaft Deutscher Hypothekenbanken, has never had anything to do with practical banking. He was head mayor of Essen, then Minister in charge of food supplies, Minister of Finance and Chancellor. As Minister of Finance he balanced the German budget in 1923 and thus really stabilised the mark, and in 1924, together with Stresemann, he signed the London Agreement which put the Dawes Plan into effect. As Chancellor he signed the Locarno Pact. Luther was overthrown in 1926 on the flag question, but only a few months later he was already regarded in steadily widening circles as a coming man, especially after he became leader of the movement for a reform of the structure of the Reich.

Luther is a member of the German People's Party, but not a member of Parliament. His choice as Schacht's successor is a symbolic act. There was definite purpose in the selection of a man with whose name, together with Schacht's, the stabilising of the German currency will be connected in history, and who furnishes every guarantee to the whole world that he will assure the independence of the Reichsbank and the stability of the German currency. But Luther is much more obsessed than Schacht by political enthusiasms, and where Schacht has been reproached with interfering in political affairs it is hard to see how Luther, who is still of a youthful temperament despite his 51 years, can be induced to keep his hands out of politics. In the circumstances it can hardly be assumed that he will remain head of the Reichsbank for a long time to come. It is more likely that he will again play a political part in one of the next Cabinets, whether as Chancellor or Minister of Finance, and that he will before very long be succeeded in his new post by a banker.

The Reichsbank reduced its discount rate on March 7th from 6 to 5½ per cent. Just as in England, so in Germany, the lowering of interest rates is proceeding by degrees, and the Reichsbank is slowly feeling its way in order not to lose to too great extent its contact with the rates of the open markets. The last changes of discount rates were:—January 12, 1929, from 7 to 6½ per cent; April 25, 1929, 7½ per cent.; November 2, 1929, 7 per cent.; January 13, 1930, 6½ per cent.; February 4, 1930, 6 per cent.; March 7, 1930, 5½ per cent. The last reduction of the discount rate was based on a somewhat different ground than the earlier ones. From the end of December, 1929, to the end of January, 1930, the bank's total assets —discount, treasury bills and advances—dropped from 3,191 million to 2,315 million marks, but at the end of February it amounted to 2,382 millions. This figure corresponds almost exactly to that of the preceding year, and the note circulation is almost as large as at the same time last year, when the discount rate was 6½ per cent. A heavier demand for credits is also to be expected in the coming weeks as a result of the usual seasonal recovery at the beginning of spring. That the Reichsbank, despite these facts, nevertheless decided upon a further reduction of the rate, is due to three reasons. First is consideration for the economic depression in Germany, which makes it desirable to stimulate business. Then the further reductions of discount rates abroad—in London and Amsterdam—increased the disparity between the German and foreign rates. The third and most important reason has to do with this second reason, which the Reichsbank also emphasises in its official statement, namely, the fact that the last few weeks have brought a large inflow of gold and foreign currency. At the end of December the bank's holdings of gold and of drafts payable in foreign currencies, which can be exchanged for gold at any time, amounted to 2,687 million marks, at the end of January to 2,694 millions, and on March 7th to 2,864 millions (2,811 millions on March 7, 1929). More than 60 per cent. of the note circulation is covered by gold and foreign bills, a further increase appears unnecessary, and further receipts of gold from England are not desired. In reducing its discount rate the Reichsbank followed a policy of co-operation with the banks of issue.

The German private banks followed suit by reducing their interest rates for loans by ½ per cent. But the association of all the large banks has decided not to reduce interest paid on deposits, but to encourage saving by maintaining the former rates. The German banks now pay 3 and 3½ per cent. on deposits subject to withdrawal daily.

The Berlin Bourse, which remained stagnant throughout the last few weeks despite all political and economic happenings, had an eventful day on Friday, March 7th. The parliamentary crisis, the delay in ratifying the Young Plan and also the steadily increasing economic depression have, as a result of the sharp downward movement of prices last year, not caused any sharp drop, but merely a slow crumbling of quotations. But the sudden happenings of March 7th had a different result. The report of the resignation of the President of the Reichsbank brought extensive short selling to which no resistance was offered, and within an hour Reichsbank shares lost 15 per cent., Saltdetfurth 13 per cent., Siemens 12 per cent., I.G. Farben 5 per cent., etc. The following days brought a calmer feeling, and the losses were largely made good. The Bourse has become convinced that Dr Schacht's resignation will bring no change in the policy of the Reichsbank and no immediate consequences for Germany's economic and financial life.

SWEDEN.

Foreign Trade — Production — Prices — Agriculture — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, March 3.

AGAINST the background of general depression which has indisputably characterised the economic life of the greater part of the world since the autumn, and which is also visible in Sweden, it must be said that the two first months of 1930 have revealed an unexpectedly favourable development. The statistics of foreign trade in January are very interesting from this point of view. In the first place, the volume of foreign trade was unusually great for the season, largely owing to the unusually mild winter. They also show that in most cases there was a very good market for the main articles of export. Finally, they show that industry in general was not only busily engaged during January, but also that there are signs of continued activity, since imports of industrial raw materials and semi-manufactures were considerable. The total imports rose to 116 per cent., and exports to 103 per cent., of the corresponding totals in the preceding year, which were themselves high as a result of similar conditions. The passive balance of Kr. 25 million was quite normal for the time of the year, as there is always an excess of imports during the winter months, owing to the cessation of shipping facilities in northernmost Sweden.

As regards the most important commodities, exports of pulp rose by 17 per cent., paper and cardboard by 12 per cent., and iron ore by 37 per cent. As these industries work on long-dated contracts and, therefore, feel the effects of depression comparatively late, this result is perhaps not surprising, but the much more sensitive mechanical engineering industry shows throughout a very satisfactory position. Whilst the electrical and motor industries maintained their export position, shipments of ball-bearings increased by 15 per cent., of separators by 25 per cent., and of telephones by 39 per cent. Especially marked is the improvement in separators, which, throughout the previous year, showed very poor figures. It should also be mentioned that the export of matches increased by 26 per cent. In timber there was a setback of 16 per cent., which is a clear sign of the waiting attitude of the market. Similarly in the reduction of 15 per cent. in the iron and steel industry we can perceive the effects of the depression.

The general activity, of which most of these figures are evidence, is seen still more clearly in the figures of production. *Svensk Finanstidning's* index of production, which embraces the most important branches of industry, rose, in January, to the highest point on record, 151

(1923-4=100). Even if the figure is relatively high, owing to the fact that it is based on a limited number of commodities, yet the tendency is very illuminating. At the end of last year the figure fell from 137, in November, to 130, in December. It need scarcely be pointed out that the high figure in January is primarily due to pulp. Production in this industry reached 232 per cent. of the 1923-24 figure, though the figure for iron ore, with 217, was not far behind. It should also be emphasised that employment in the majority of the other industries represented in the index number was remarkably good and considerably surpassed that of last year. A pronounced exception, however, is timber, in so far as sawn goods fell to 91 per cent. of the 1923-24 figure, as compared with 102 in December and 104 in January last year. The outlook in this industry is now considered brighter, however, as it appears that the shipments from Russia will by no means reach the figures stated. Finally, the reduction of output in the iron and steel industry, which set in at the end of last year, has not continued, but production has been fully maintained and even exceeds the January figure for 1929.

The activity which is disclosed by these figures in most of the staple industries is particularly notable in view of the fact that the fall in prices in the world markets has been quite as marked in Sweden as elsewhere. The official Swedish price index number fell last year from 145 in February to 134 in December, and continued its downward course in January this year to 131. The downward movement did not, however, cease then, and, although the official index for February has not yet been computed, it is certain that a drop at least equal to that in January, and probably greater, will be shown for the month. The evidence on which this is judged is found in the weekly index of raw material prices calculated by the *Svensk Finanstidning*, which has recorded a very substantial decline. Whereas in December the average was 121, the index for January was 118, and in February it dropped successively to 114 and to 112, the latter figure being reached on February 27th. It should be noted here that industrial raw materials, which last year moved slowly downwards, last month contributed in a very large measure to the fall in the price level, although foodstuffs, and primarily cereals, did in the last few weeks set the pace of the decline. Hence, Sweden, like many other countries, is now going through a serious agricultural crisis, which since last autumn has been the primary consideration in political circles. The present Conservative Government have sponsored a highly contentious bill which aims at assisting agriculture, partly by increasing the grain duties and by statutory prescription as to the percentage of Swedish wheat to be used by the flour millers, and partly by State grants for building silos and storing grain. Even if temporary measures for aiding agriculture are generally accepted as sound and needful, such an out-and-out protectionist programme has a very meagre chance of being accepted by a Riksdag in which the Conservatives are in a minority. As, moreover, the industrial advance in Sweden since the war has proceeded on Free Trade lines, a *volte face* of this kind might easily have fatal consequences for the principal Swedish export industries.

In the money market the first two months of the year have passed without anything noteworthy occurring. The turn of the year gave rise to no complications, and, as usual, a diminution of credit requirements marked the early part of the year. In December and January figures published by the Bank Inspection show a reduction of 72 million kronor, against 28 million kronor a year ago, and an actual credit increase of 29 millions two years ago. This is largely due to the present ample supply of foreign currency, which caused the banks, particularly in December, to effect very substantial realisations. The turn of the year always brings a change-over in this direction, as the balance of payments, simultaneously with the trade balance, veers round to passive. The deterioration of the payment balance in January went no farther than to 45 million kronor, however, which is close to the normal for that month. In this connection attention should be paid to the fact that, not only did trade show a passive result of 25 million kronor, but capital movements between Sweden and foreign countries resulted in an export surplus of 13 millions. This notwithstanding that bank claims abroad show the seasonal record balance of 538 million kronor for January, as against 475 million kronor a year ago. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Swedish exchange has been unusually high this year. The supply of foreign currency has, on the whole, been equally ample in February, and the Riksbank reserves for that month constitute a record. The quotations for the leading foreign currencies in Stockholm are all below par, with the exception of German marks, and this at the time of year that normally is one of weakness for the Swedish krona. This circumstance has given rise to criticism against the Riksbank for not following the latest discount reduction in London and New York.

FINLAND.

Money Market — Production — Employment — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, February 24.

THE turn of the year brought about an appreciable easing in the previous stringency of the money market. Though this improvement is partly a seasonal phenomenon, it points to the fact that the lowest point has already been passed.

The accumulation of savings is still very slow. The increase in deposits in the joint stock banks for January was only 33 million marks, compared with 183 and 206 millions in the previous two years, and deposits in the savings banks grew by only 6 million marks during the same month, as against 38 and 105 millions in the preceding years. This is due, of course, to smaller earnings and greater unemployment. Actual saving has, however, probably not fallen off nearly as much as deposit business in the financial institutions would seem to indicate. At the same time, the credits of the joint stock banks were reduced in January by 26 million marks, whereas they rose 35 and 161 millions in the same months in the two previous years. The difference between the credits and deposits of the joint stock banks was consequently reduced by 59 million marks to 2,026 millions, compared with 1,997 millions a year ago, and 2,356 millions at the end of November last. The position of the joint stock banks towards foreign countries did not undergo any particular change in January, but, on the other hand, the banks were able considerably to reduce their re-discounted bills at the Bank of Finland.

The improved state of the money market made itself felt to a higher degree in the position of the Bank of Finland. The total credits of the bank were reduced during January by 74 million marks, and during the first fortnight in February by a further 13 millions, chiefly owing to a fall in bills re-discounted from 550 million marks at the end of December to 462 millions on February 15th. This item stood at 677 million marks at the end of 1928. At the same time the foreign balances of the Bank of Finland grew from 670 million marks at the end of 1929 to 744 millions in the middle of February. The improvement in the position of the Bank is clearest in the advance in its cover percentage. The ordinary cover was only 51.7 per cent. of the bank's total liabilities, payable on demand at the end of 1928, but had already risen to 60.8 per cent. at the end of 1929 and to 66.3 per cent. by February 15, 1930.

The large number of bankruptcies, the multitude of protested bills and the dullness of the Stock Exchange indicate that times are still hard. The reduction in the note circulation and in clearing business are clear signs of the weaker pulse of economic life. The state of the money market should be affected by the altered possibility of obtaining foreign long-term loans. An agreement was signed early in February between the Central Bank for the Co-operative Credit Societies and a syndicate composed chiefly of French banks for a bond loan of 300 million French francs at a nominal rate of 5 per cent. for a term of 30 years. The borrowers have, however, in addition, to pay the taxes due to the French State. The proceeds of the loan are to be employed partly for redeeming short-term credit and partly for loans to assist agriculture.

The building industry is at a low ebb, and the textile, leather and metal trades, besides other branches supplying the home market, are going through a bad time. The principal exporting industries also are finding their markets unsatisfactory. The sawmills especially are having trouble owing to Russian competition. However, the work of developing industry goes on, and a considerable amount of new construction is being undertaken, particularly in the chemical pulp industry. The labour situation was made still worse by the winter setting in late, so that work in the forests could not be begun at the usual time. The number of unemployed registered at the municipal employment bureaux amounted to 12,751 at the end of January, compared with only 4,731 a year before. In the first weeks of February, however, there was a small reduction.

Foreign trade, which had been adverse during the last two years, especially in 1928, showed exceptionally gratifying results in January, 1930. Whereas the balance of trade usually shows a surplus of imports for that month of 150-300 million marks, the value of exports in January last was about 10 million marks larger than the value of imports. This is partly a result of the heavy imports in December last, but at the same time it indicates a clear tendency towards a more favourable balance of trade.

JAPAN.

Price Decline — Money Market — Foreign Trade — Crops.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, February 12.

THE first month of the effective gold standard was marked by a more rapid fall in the general level of prices, a heavier decline in trade turnover and in the demand for credit, growing unemployment, and an increase of labour disputes. The downward movement in commodity prices was greatly accelerated during last month. The Bank of Japan's wholesale index number for January registered a substantial drop of 1.8 per cent., as against December last, reducing it to 201.4, or 13¼ per cent. lower than a year ago, and a little more than 60 per cent. above the pre-war level. Out of 56 products 35 participated in the decline. The trade depression was intensified, and the contraction in foreign trade was particularly heavy. The immediate trade outlook is not bright, in view of the sharp fall in the price of silver and the break in American prosperity.

In 30 days after the removal of the embargo the Bank of Japan lost 60.6 million yen of its gold holdings, and the note circulation contracted to 1,197.7 millions which, as compared with the corresponding date of 1929, is 205 millions lower. Despite the gold efflux and the contraction in the note issue, no fundamental turn in the monetary trend has been in evidence, and money rates have remained almost unaffected, the slowing down of trade and business having neutralised the effects of the Bank's loss of its gold holdings. With a falling market the numbers out of work have risen sharply and the movement for wage reductions has seriously set in. Trade disputes have naturally arisen in great numbers, though exact official figures are not yet available. The issue centred primarily upon the proposed wage cuts and dismissals.

Foreign trade figures for last month are extremely disconcerting. The January returns show that, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, imports fell by 58.4 million yen, or 24 per cent., and exports by 35.9 millions, or 20 per cent., the total turnover being thus 94.3 millions, or 22 per cent. lower. The contraction of both imports and exports is spread widely over the whole list, but the decline in imports is largely accounted for by raw cotton, beans, iron and steel, timber, raw wool, and wheat flour, while raw silk, wheat flour, cotton goods, and sugar are chiefly responsible for the falling off in exports. Trade with China is also discouraging. Imports from and exports to the neighbouring republic during last month are respectively 6 millions and 18.6 millions lower than a year ago.

The rice crop for 1929 was revised by the final report of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry recently published, the year's actual yield being placed at 59,725,000 koku, an increase of 1,353,000 koku upon the previous estimate. In comparison with 1928, the yield is lower by 577,000 koku (0.96 per cent.), but is 750,000 koku (1.27 per cent.) above the five years' average. The total value at the ruling price is 1,642.5 million yen, or a decrease of some 200 millions upon the preceding year. The actual cocoon crop for last year is finally put at 102,093,000 kamme, valued at 654,995,000 yen in the report of the same Department, as against 93,849,000 kamme at 551,679,000 yen. Thus the farmers' loss of revenue from rice has been offset to the extent of only a little more than by the gain in silk.

Books and Publications.

THE CONVERSATIONS AT MALINES.*

THE documents of the four meetings between representatives of the Catholic and Anglican Churches, in 1921-25, have just been published by Lord Halifax, who was one of the prime movers on the Anglican side. The most interesting document is a memorandum in French, by a writer whose name is not made public, which was read aloud at the last meeting by the late Cardinal Mercier. This document surveys the conditions on which reunion might be considered acceptable from the Roman side; and it is inspired by the same largeness of view as has been shown by the Roman Church in admitting certain Oriental congregations to union with itself at various times between the fourteenth century and the present day. Consciously following these precedents, the author of the anonymous memorandum shows intransigence on one point and one only: the supremacy of the Pope. In return for the acknowledgment of this, he is willing to make far-reaching concessions in every other part of the field: local church government, canon law, rites and discipline. He envisages the transformation of the Archbishop of Canterbury into a Roman Patriarch, governing the whole Catholic Church in England, and he explicitly accepts the logical corollary, that is, the extinction of the present Roman dioceses in this country. This statesmanlike document did not lead at the moment to positive results; the conversations at Malines were abortive; but we regard these conversations, and the documents which they evoked, as signs of the times which hereafter, in retrospect, may appear to be of greater historical importance than they appear to many people to-day. The settlement to which the anonymous writer looks forward presupposes two previous events: the disestablishment of the Church of England and a definite and permanent schism between its Evangelical and Catholic wings; and both these events have come well within the range of possibility since the rejection of the new version of the Prayer Book by Parliament.

These possibilities open up interesting vistas of new "inter-ecclesiastical" relations. The Roman Church, reinforced even by one wing only of the ex-Protestant Episcopalian Church in England, might be-

*"The Conversations at Malines, 1921-25." Philip Allan & Co. Price 3s. 6d.

come a greater power in the world as a whole than it has ever been at any time in its history; for the lead given by the hypothetical action of the Anglo-Catholics in England would probably be followed by the Catholic-minded wings of the (non-established) Episcopalian Churches in the other English-speaking countries. After that, the remnants of the Orthodox and other Oriental Churches (Jacobites, Gregorians and Nestorians) could hardly hold out; and the Pope would find himself at the head of a Church extending into every corner of the world and comprehending all Christians except the Protestant Evangelicals. In self-defence, the Evangelicals would probably form a counter-union. Indeed, the traditional fissiparous tendency of these sects has already shown symptoms of being reversed in Canada and in Scotland. Thus, in both the Protestant and the Orthodox worlds, we should see the end of the official connection between Church and State; and all the Christian Churches would fall into line with Jewry and Islam by becoming universal organisations, transcending the limits of States, nationalities and races.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Functions and Operations of Central Banks. By M. H. de Kock. (Johannesburg) Juta and Company, Ltd. 5s.

A useful booklet written with special reference to the South African Reserve Bank.

Lehrbuch der Finanzwissenschaft. By Dr. Bruno Moll. (Berlin) Verlag von Reimar Hobbing.

A monumental work of German scholarship which should be of great value to the student of the theory of public finance.

Manuel Elémentaire d'Economie Politique. By P. Boninsegni. (Paris) Pichon and Durand-Auzias, 20, Rue Soufflot.

A French text-book of economic theory. The English beginner must not build too great hopes on the inclusion of the title of the word "Elementary."

Balance Sheets. By Philip Tovey. Second edition. (London) Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street. 3s. 6d. net.

A most useful popular guide.

Meetings. By F. D. Head. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd. 5s.

A new edition of a recognised book of reference on procedure at company meetings.

The Economic Journal, March, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 6s. net.

Includes articles by Professor Macgregor on "The Coal Bill and the Cartel," and by Professor Cannan on "The Problem of Unemployment."

The Nineteenth Century. March. (London) Constable and Company, Ltd., Leicester Square, W.C.2.

Includes articles on "The Coal Mines Bill," by Sir Richard Redmayne; "Slum Clearance," by Mr E. D. Simon; and a very interesting article on the activities of Clarence Hatry and the lessons to be drawn from them, by Mr E. D. Davenport.

NOW READY.

THE
DISCOUNT MARKET
IN LONDON

By H. W. GREENGRASS, Cert.A.I.B. A descriptive survey of the organization and recent development of the London Money Market, from the point of view of the discount broker. An interesting and informative book for all interested, actively or otherwise, in finance. Demy 8vo, cloth, 195 pp. 6s. net.

Of a Bookseller, or

PITMAN'S, Parker St., Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2.

Empire Review, March, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd.

Includes an article by Mr Amery on "Mr Baldwin's Speech and After."

The Ratio Controversy in India. A Retrospect. By Sir Johangir C. Coyajee. (Calcutta) The Book Company, Ltd., College Square.

A retrospect of the controversy over the exchange ratio of the rupee.

Indian Affairs. March, 1930. (London) Edson, Ltd., 8-9, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. 2. 5s.

The first issue of a new quarterly on the lines of "Foreign Affairs" but devoted exclusively to India. It contains a varied and interesting collection of articles on Indian social and economic problems.

L'Agriculture de la Roumanie pendant la Guerre. By G. Jonesco-Sisesti. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 5s.

L'Occupation Ennemie de la Roumanie et ses Conséquences Economiques et Sociales. By Gr. Antipa. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 6s.

Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, these two volumes cover a phase of vital importance to Roumania's economic history.

Le Ravitaillement de la France Occupée. By Paul Collinet and Paul Stahl. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 4s. 6d.

Another addition to the Carnegie Endowment series.

Osterreichs Landwirtschaft. (London) Austrian Legation, 18, Belgrave Square.

A booklet, in German, on Austrian agriculture.

The Recall of Public Officers. By Frederick L. Bird and Francis M. Ryan. (London) Macmillan and Company, St. Martin's Street. 17s. net.

A study of the operation of the recall in California.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Army Estimates, 1930. 6s. net.

Memorandum of the Secretary of State for War relating to the Army Estimates for 1930. Cmd. 3499. 2d. net.

Seventy-Second Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Inland Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1929. Cmd. 3500. 2s. net.

Report by a Court of Inquiry concerning the matters in dispute regarding Wages in the Northern Counties Wool Textile Industry. Cmd. 3505. 6d. net.

A Study of the Factors which have operated in the past and those which are operating now to Determine the Distribution of Women in Industry. Cmd. 3508. 9d. net.

General Annual Report on the British Army for the year ending September 30, 1929. Cmd. 3498. 2s. 6d. net.

Markets and Fairs in England and Wales. Part V, Welsh Markets; Part VI, London Markets; and Part VII, Final Review. 6d. net.

Civil Estimates for year ending March 31, 1931. *Class IV—Education.* 1s. 3d. net.

Memorandum on the Board of Education Estimates, 1930. Cmd. 3501. 6d. net.

Air Estimates for year 1930. 4s. net.

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for Air to accompany Air Estimates for 1930. Cmd. 3509. 3d. net.

Colonial Reports: No. 1472. *Hong Kong.* 1928. 1s. 6d. net.

Civil Estimates for the year ending March 31, 1931: Class III, Home Department, Law and Justice. 2s. 6d. net; Class VIII, Non-effective Charges (Pensions). 9d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

BUILDING societies are outside the orbit of the Stock Exchange, but their operations directly interest a considerable body of investors, large and small. After a period of comparatively placid evolution for nearly a century-and-a-half, apart from a couple of failures which reflected discredit on individuals but not on the movement, the latter has developed with phenomenal rapidity since the war. The total assets of the building societies of Great Britain increased from £77 million in 1919 to £268 million in 1928, while the amount advanced each year on new mortgages rose from under £16 million in 1919 to £52 million in 1926, £56 million in 1927 and £59 million in 1928. The total for 1929 may have been as much as £70 million. Indeed, it is clear that a significant proportion of the total savings by individuals in Great Britain last year was attracted to the building societies. This result is the more striking since it was achieved in a year when wholesale commodity prices declined by 10 per cent., when Stock Exchange security values fell by something like 25 per cent., the deposits of the English joint-stock banks declined by £38 million, and the total emissions of new capital in the London market fell off by £84 million.

The reasons for the contemporary popularity of the movement are not far to seek. A yield of, say, 5 per cent. on building society shares, withdrawable at comparatively short notice, is attractive to the small investor, who can obtain only 2½ per cent. from the Post Office Savings Bank, and only £4 2s. 9d. per cent. from National Savings Certificates if he is prepared to leave his money untouched for ten years. The yield appeals to the larger investor because, being net (income tax is paid by the societies, usually at a "compounded" rate of 1s. in the pound), it is at least 1 per cent. higher than can be obtained from Gilt-edged securities. Investment in a building society involves no brokerage or taxation, carries no risk of market depreciation, and, by general admission, is well secured. The making of advances on long-term mortgage on house property is a specialised business, by no means immune from risk, but the best societies have built up a technique and tradition which have, in the past, largely eliminated the speculative aspect and given a gratifying solidity to their operations. Borrowers are carefully chosen, advances are limited to a percentage of the market value of the mortgaged property which affords the society satisfactory "cover," and the loans, in practice, become largely self-liquidating.

There are over a thousand building societies in existence with average assets of £260,000 each, but the total includes over forty societies with assets of more than a million pounds (the largest being the Halifax, with £59 million, and the second largest the Abbey Road, with £19 million), while at the other end of the scale are a number of societies with less than £1,000 of assets. The following table shows the progress made by five representative institutions in London and the provinces during the last three years:—

(000's omitted.)

		Halifax.†	Abbey Road.	Leeds.	Burnley.	Woolwich.
		£	£	£	£	£
Due to shareholders (excluding interest)	1927	37,160	7,042	6,143	4,410	4,394
	1928	44,517*	11,338	7,015*	5,144	6,304
	1929	49,377*	16,885	7,999*	5,921	9,242
Due to Depositors (excluding interest)	1927	8,360	767	2,033	801	348
	1928	7,949*	612	2,676*	806	631
	1929	8,000*	1,185	3,340*	897	676
otal mortgages utstanding	1927	38,763	7,578	7,853	4,583	5,425
	1928	40,571	10,897	8,827	5,338	7,806
	1929	44,783	18,010	10,626	6,336	10,898
Total assets	1927	46,981	8,252	8,728	5,586	5,772
	1928	54,155	12,585	10,174	6,376	8,236
	1929	59,394	19,167	12,002	7,277	11,403

* Including interest.
† For 1927 and 1928 the joint results are given of the Halifax Permanent and the Halifax Equitable, now merged in the Halifax Building Society.

Recent progress has been phenomenal, particularly in the case of the London societies, which pay a higher rate of interest to shareholders and depositors and charge a higher rate to borrowers than their provincial colleagues. This phenomenon is significant, not merely as a reflection of the boom in residential property in the Greater London area, and the more rapid advance of post-war prosperity in the South than in the North of England, but also as representing a potential source of friction within the movement. It is alleged by some spokesmen that the London societies have "invaded" the territory of the provincial institutions by offering higher rates on shares and deposits, based on the appreciably higher charges which borrowers in the London area are willing to pay. Some of the London societies also pay commission for the introduction of new borrowers. The rate has never been published, but from internal evidence may, in certain cases, be something up to 1 per cent. of the principal of the mortgage.

That the principles followed by building societies in granting mortgages have in the past been conservative is suggested by the extremely low ratio of defaults. The following table shows for the societies already mentioned the proportion of mortgages foreclosed or upwards of twelve months in arreas in proportion to the total outstanding:—

	No. of Mortgages Outstanding.	No. in Possession or over 12 Months in Arrears.	Amount of Mortgages Outstanding.	In Possession or Over 12 Months in Arrears.	
				Amount.	% of Whole.
			£	£	
Halifax	118,560	None	44,783,385	None	...
Abbey Road	30,260	None	18,010,248	None	...
Leeds	23,030	1	10,626,287	1,625	0·015
Burnley	17,533	3	6,335,914	1,863	0·029
Woolwich	21,305	16	10,897,751	11,190	0·103

In none of the five societies is more than 0.1 per cent. of the total in default—a result which affords tribute to the care with which the societies' *clientèle* has been chosen. How far the general impression is correct that the building societies obtain their members, both investors and borrowers, predominately from the working classes is an interesting question. The average investment of shareholders in the five societies whose figures have been discussed, at the end of last year, was £228, but there is some reason for assuming that the "law" of distribution which obtains in the case of most savings institutions is not altogether inapplicable to the building societies. This "law" was summed up by a recent official body* as follows:—"In any savings bank four-fifths of the deposits are in one-fifth of the accounts." External evidence supports the view that the excellent facilities and vigorous propaganda of the societies have attracted a good many middle-class and comparatively wealthy investors, who before the war would have looked mainly to the Stock Exchange for the placing of at least part of their resources. The *borrowing* members of the societies are, however, mainly persons of moderate means. Of the total mortgage advances of the five societies of £90½ million (excluding amounts in default) some 82 per cent. was in respect of mortgages on which not more than £1,000 was outstanding, the average debt in this group being £372. In the case of the remaining 18 per cent. of the total mortgages, the average loan was £1,844. On the whole, it may be said that while the societies appear to attract, in the main, the small investor, there is one side of their business which is by no means of negligible importance and cannot by any computation be brought under the heading of small investment.

* The Committee on Municipal Savings Banks.

Without endorsing the claim made by some spokesmen of the movement, that building society "securities" should be made trustee investments, it may be admitted that the movement has much to teach the Stock Exchange in the way of effective advertisement of its facilities. The available evidence suggests that the smaller investors, in particular, have taken due note of the fact that while millions of pounds have been lost by subscribers to new commercial companies during recent Stock Exchange booms, subscribers to building societies have not lost one penny of their capital.

There is, however, a conservative school of thought, both inside and outside the movement, which, while welcoming the evidence of virility and progress which the last few years' experience has furnished, is inclined to regard the present rate of expansion as showing "boom" symptoms. Holders of these views are impressed with the possibility that some societies may be tempted to invest in mortgages of less than traditional soundness. The results of such a development might not immediately be apparent, since many societies have substantial internal reserves, and properties in "default" do not reach the schedules until payments are at least twelve months in arrear. On the other hand, if, owing to a decline in general money rates or any other reason, a number of societies were compelled in the future significantly to reduce their rates to investors, a shrinkage of funds might ensue, and the withdrawal facilities of some societies might be put to a severe test. If new mortgage advances were simultaneously restricted the effect on property values might be disquieting. Without necessarily endorsing these views, we are doubtful whether the movement can continue indefinitely to find *safe* new mortgage investments at the rate of the last two or three years. Whether it may be driven (possibly against its inclination) to invest a somewhat larger proportion of its resources in other directions (possibly along semi-investment trust lines), or to seek new fields for mortgage investment, it is as yet too early to say. Some of the most progressive leaders of the movement have already envisaged the possibility of co-operation in the work of slum clearance, possibly under the auspices of the national or local authorities. While, however, the movement is scarcely likely to show an indefinite expansion on the lines of the last few years, it may be concluded that its place among the major investment interests of Great Britain is a permanent one.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket. March 18.	Account. March 20.

The "House" was slightly more cheerful than of late, members being inclined to pay less attention to unfavourable outside factors, such as the decline in the February trade returns, and the publication of dismaying Public Estimates, and more attention to the admittedly favourable monetary outlook. The volume of dealings showed no measurable expansion, but ordinary share values maintained a faintly perceptible upward trend. Interest, however, was centred mainly on the market for gilt-edged and other fixed-interest securities of the highest class. The strength of these securities, the favourable opening price of the new Conversion Loan, and the steady absorption of recent Home Corporation issues afforded welcome evidence that the steadily declining tendency of short-money rates was, at long last, finding some reflecting in the trend of long-term rates.

Though business was not on a large scale, British Government stocks were consistently firm, the favourable money position and the expectation of the early arrival of gold from Australia assisting market sentiment. Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan was singled out for attention early in the week. The new Conversion Loan opened at a premium of $\frac{1}{8}$, rising to $\frac{3}{16}$, on Thursday, when it was known that subscriptions had been larger than had been anticipated. The over-

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subscription of the Southampton loan strengthened the Home Corporation market, despite the knowledge that further issues were pending. India loans were unaffected by the start of Mr Gandhi's march, the new Six per Cents. showing further appreciation. Dominion and Colonial stocks were moderately active, last week's South African Loan being steadily absorbed. Commonwealth stocks were dull, despite the good response to the Australian Internal Conversion Loan.

The outstanding feature of the foreign market was the strength of Brazilian bonds on the firmness of the milreis, but an unexpected reaction occurred on Thursday, marking down being general. Greek loans were in intermittent demand. Among Far Easterns, Chinese were better in anticipation of a favourable announcement regarding the coupon on the 1912's, which falls due at the end of this month. Turkish Unified were better on rumoured negotiations for a loan from Swedish Match.

The week's Home Rail traffic figures were disappointing, affording comparison with the first week of "normal" conditions after last year's severe frost. The stocks encountered profit-taking, Great Westerns being most affected. The reduction in the interim dividends of B.A. Western and Central Argentine coincided with weakness in the Argentine Exchange, and further unsatisfactory gross traffics. Great Southerns held their ground, but other stocks were marked down. Antofagastas showed further dullness, and Leopoldina did not hold on early gains.

Business in the Industrial markets showed no large expansion, but a better tone prevailed in the absence of further cold douches such as the Courtauld speech. A moderate demand was in evidence for internationals, Nickels gaining ground, while Hydro-Electrics were bought after the report, which came fully up to market expectation, though the large contribution to profits made by the realisation of investments was looked at askance in some quarters. Molasses and Unilevers, on the other hand, came on offer. Substantial but premature reports of a merger agreement between Gramophone and Columbia encouraged a mild burst of speculative activity, which tailed off as the week progressed. A fair business was done in electrical shares. Selected motor shares were active on the Austin figures and the doubling of the Tilling-Stevens dividend. Dunlops continued firm, market forecasts of a 15 per cent. dividend gaining support. The unexpected increase in Stewarts and Lloyds deferred distribution produced a slight accession of interest in "heavy" engineering shares. Profit-taking followed the publication of the Pinchin Johnson report and share bonus (dealt with in an "Investment Note" on page 596). Breweries were steady, but a steady trickle of pre-budgetary selling depressed the value of tobacco shares. Cables and Wireless were harder. Insurance shares were firm on selective investment buying, but bank shares were consistently inactive.

The rubber share market was dull and featureless, the commodity falling steadily but persistently. Stocks of rubber in the East showed a further increase in February. Tea shares were marked up in a few instances, but little business was done. The oil share market remained deaf to the blandishment of news from America suggesting the continuance of a lower level of output than a year ago, though prices improved, in mid-week, in a few instances, the Eagle issues coming into prominence on bear closing in Paris. The mining share market, with one or two exceptions, failed to attract marked attention. Kaffirs registered a fairly general decline, though Union Corporation and Rand Mines showed an improvement at the close. Rhodesians had a quiet week, N'Changa, Rhodesia Katanga and Bwanas being all easier on balance. After a weak opening, Tintos advanced sharply on an improvement in copper prices, and remained an active market despite offers from Paris. A recovery in silver brought an appreciable gain to Burma Corporation, while Santa Gertrudis and Mexican Corporation also rose, and 'Frisco Mines were a strong feature. Tin rallied sharply on the news of the Dutch adherence to restriction (described in an "Investment

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation, or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	75⅝	77	+ 1⅛	Treasury 5% (B)	101⅜	101⅛	−3/16
Do. 4½% 1944	95 11/16	96⅛	+ 1/16	Canada 4% 1940-60	87x	87x	...
Do. 5% 1944-64	101 1/16	101⅛	+ 1/16	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	99	99	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102 1/16	102 1/16	...	India 3½%	58½x	58½	...
Consols 2½%	53 3/16x	54⅛	+ 1/16	Do. 4% 1958-68	81	80⅞	− ⅛
Do. 4%	83 3/16	84⅛	+ 1/16	Australia 5% 1945-75	90½	90½	...
Funding 4%	88⅛	89	+ 1/16	N.S.Wales 5% 1925-55	86½x	85½x	− 1
Victory Bonds 4%	92⅜	92 5/16	− 1/16	N Zealand 5% 1946	101	101	...
Local Loans 3%	62 1/16 x	62⅛	+ 1/16				

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	99⅜	100	+ ⅛	French 5%	20⅜	20⅜	...
Argentine 4% Bonds	84½	83	− 1½	Do. 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	102½	102½	...	German 7%	105⅛	106	+ ⅛
Belgian 7%	110½	110⅜	+ ⅛	Greek 7% Refugee	102½	102½	+ ⅛
Brazil 6½% (1927)	82	85½	+ 3½	Hungary 7½%	100½	101½	+ ⅛
Bulgaria 7½%	88	89	+ 1	Chili 6%	92½x	93	+ ⅛
China 5% (1912)	47½	49½	+ 2	Poland 7%	90½	90½	...
Czechoslovakia 8%	111½	111⅛	...	Mexican 5% (1899)	19	18	− 1
Egypt Unified 4%	77	76⅛	− ⅛	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	83	88½	+ 5½

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	62	62	...	Sydney 5½% 1954	88	88	...
E. London 5% 1960-70	96	96	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	91½	91	− ⅛

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	89x	87½	− 1½	B.A. & Pacific Ord. Stk	85½	85	− ½
L.N.E., Def. Stk.	10⅜	10	− ⅜	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk	94⅜	94⅛	...
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	35½	34½	− 1	B.A.Western,Ord.Stk	74	72	− 2
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	51x	50½	− ½	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	18	17½	− ½
Metropol'an Cons. Stk.	62⅛x	62½	− ⅛	G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	72⅛x	72½	...	Leopoldina Ord. Stk	48⅛	49½	+ ⅜
Southern Def. Stk.	30⅛x	30½	− ⅛	San Paulo Ord. Stk	183½	180½	− 3
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	71⅛x	71½	− ⅛	Int. Blys. Cent. Am. no par	$32½	$31½	− 1
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛x	1⅛	...	Utd. Havana Ord. Stk.	18	17½	− ½
Do. Income Bonds	107½x	107	− ½	Beira Rlwy. no par.	1½	1 3/16	− 1/16
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	209½x	209	− ½				
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	81½	79⅛	− 1½				

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	248½	248½	...	Nat. Prov. £20,£4 pd.	13½	13½	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1	...
Barcl.(Dom. &c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Hongk. and S.($125)	$108x	$106½	− 1½
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3	3	...	St. of S. A. £20,£5 pd.	14 1/16	14⅜	+ 5/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3½	3½	...	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 3/16	3 3/16	...

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	19	19½	+ ½	Pearl (£1)	12⅞	12⅝x	...
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	2 3/16	2 3/16	+ 1/16	Phœnix £1 fully pd.	13	13⅛	+ ⅛
Lon. & Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27	28	+ 1	Roy. In. £1, with 10/ pd	7⅛	8	+ ⅛

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	1/16	1/16	...	Powell Duffryn (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3	2 15/16	− 1/16	Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 3/16	1 5/16	+ 1/16
Baldwin (£1)	1/16	1/16	...	Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...	Thornycroft, John (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	1/16	1/16	...	*Vickers* (6/8)	11/16	11/16	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16				

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	− 1/16	Eng. Sewg. Cotton (£1)	1 3/16	1 5/16	+ 1/16
Brit. Celanese, Ord. (10/)	11/16	11/16	...	Fine Cott. Spinn. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16x	3 1/16	...	Listers (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16	Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	...

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16	*General Electric* (£1)	2 1/16	2 3/16	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 3/16	3 3/16	...	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	1 3/16	1 5/16	+ 1/16

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	*Hydro-Elec. corn. stk.*	46⅛	48⅛	+ 1⅛
City of London (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...	Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...	*Newcastle-on-Ty* (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	7/16	7/16	...	Primitiva (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	360	355	− 5	S. Metropolitan Stk.	98x	98	...

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	7½% *A Ord.*	58⅛	59⅛ + 1⅛	*Canadian Marconi*	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
	B Ord.	27⅛	27 1/16 + 1/16	*Marconi Marine* (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
	5½% *Pref.*	92 1/16x	93 1/16 + 1	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...	*Rolls-Royce* (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Leyland (£1)	2 3/16	2 3/16	...	Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 3/16	2 1/16	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	− 1/16	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25	23⅛	− 1⅛

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	− 1/16	London Asiatic (2/)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Cons. Tea & Lnds. (£10)	25	24½	− ½	*Rubber Trust* (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	− 1/16

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	4	3 15/16	− 1/16	Lobitos (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	...
Attock (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	1/16	1/16	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	3 3/16	3 1/16	− 1/16	*Royal Dutch* (£5½)	31⅛	31⅛	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	1/16	1/16	...	*Shell* (£1)	4 3/16	4 3/16	...

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	*Imperial Tobacco* (£1)	4 3/16	4 1/16	− 1/16
Bras. Traction, no par	$40 1/16	$40 1/16	+ 1/16	*International Holdings*	5½	6⅜	+ 1/16
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 3/16x	5 1/16	− 1/16	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	39⅛	40⅛	+ 1⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9	9	...	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr.100)	29⅛	29⅛	+ ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	5⅛	+ ⅛	*Margarine Union* (£1)	3 1/16	3	− 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Dunlop (6/8)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	16⅛	16⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	3⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/16	Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3 3/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Turner & Newall (£1)	3 3/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16	*United Molasses* (£1)	4⅛	4 3/16	− 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛	*Vacuum* (10/-)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16	Watney Combe Dt. (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16

Mines.

Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16	*N'Changa* (£1 with 17/6 pd.)	2 3/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅛	9 1/16	− ⅛	*Rhodesian Copper* (3/-)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Rexpan (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	− 1/16	*Rhodesian Congo Border* (£1)	14	14⅛	+ ⅛
"Chartered" 15/Lp.	2	1 15/16	− 1/16	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	4 3/16	4 3/16	+ 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/p	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Sub Nigel (10/)	1 3/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛	*Tanganyika* (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2 1/16x	2 1/16	− 1/16	Union Crp. (12/6 fu. pd.	3 3/16	3 1/16	− 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16				
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...				
London Tin (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16 + 1/16					

Note" on page 595), and on Thursday touched £171 7s. 6d.—a gain of £14 as compared with last week's low point, though the improvement was not maintained. Tin shares were firmer in sympathy.

"Financial News" Daily Bargain Index.
(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Mar. 6.	Mar 7.	Mar 10.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 12.	Mar. 13.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,239	1,258	1,595	1,314	1,297	1,264
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	920	814	1,164	870	959	878
Commercial and Industrial*	930	844	2,225	1,740	1,949	1,935
Banks, Insurance and Financial	500	541	667	561	510	490
Mines (including Nitrate)	514	599	589	525	566	596
Oil	188	185	182	160	164	208
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	188	145	284	154	139	169
Total	5,479	5,386	6,706	5,324	5,584	5,540

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"Financial News" Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Stocks (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Mar. 6.	Mar. 7.	Mar. 10.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 12.	Mar. 13.
90·5	82·0	82·7	83·1	83·1	83·3	83·4	83·3

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Share markets were irregular, with interest shifting into stocks with the best prospects, but pools were still striving to interest the public in speculation with some measure of success. There was a further increase this week of 137 millions in brokers' loans. Much of the gain, however, was due to subscription payments of 80 millions of new stock offered some time ago and maturing on Tuesday. Opinion as to stock prospects remains very mixed. There is a general admission that prices are well ahead of a trade recovery, but it is believed that the cheap money policy of the reserve banks will help to stimulate a revival, and the yields of good stocks are higher than the interest charges for carrying on margin dealings. Bonds appear to be more active than for many months, and prices are the highest of the year, with Government issues leading. New financing is on the increase, and most issues are going well. Bankers here do not expect the Reparations loan before June 1. The Treasury offer of $450 million of certificates was doubly oversubscribed, since the rate was attractive and the banks were desirous of obtaining Government deposits. An extra 50 millions were placed, due entirely to the Farm Board's demand for cash, and Congress appropriated another 100 millions in addition to the original 150 millions. Many people are becoming seriously concerned at the prospect of a rising debt and, possibly, of greater taxation if the tendency of the Board to spend money on piling up a wheat surplus continues.

(By Cable.)

	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104⅛	105⅛	106⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111⅛	112⅛	113
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99⅛	99⅛	100⅛
Do. 4¼% '32-47	100⅛	101⅛	101⅛
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101⅛	101⅛	101⅛
Atchison	228	235	233
Ches. & Ohio	231	231	226
Erie	59⅛	59¼	58
Illinois Central	128½	128½	128
N.Y. Central	183	186¼	182½
Pennsylvania	82½	82⅝	80⅞
Southern Pacific	123½	122½	120½
Southern Rly.	128	125	125½
Union Pacific	227½	223½	223
Am. Can.	141	140⅜	142½
Alleghany Corp.	31⅛	32⅛	30⅞
Amer. Smelting	71⅛	75⅛	71⅜
Anaconda	73⅛	74⅝	72⅛
Bethlehem Steel	100⅛	100⅜	100⅛
Chrysler Motor	38⅛	38⅜	38
Corn Produce	94	94	93⅛
Eastman Kodak	219	217	226
Gen. Electric (New)	74	78⅛	76⅛
Gen. Motors	43	42⅜	44⅜
Int. Harvester	91⅛	94⅛	92
Montg Ward	44⅛	46	44⅛
Natl. Biscuit	209	219	216
Phelps Dodge	38⅛	37x	37⅛
Pullman	82⅛	82⅛	82
Sears-Roebuck	89⅛	89⅜	89⅜
Studebaker	43⅛	42⅛	42⅛
Un. Fruit	91⅛	95⅛	92
U.S. Leather	8	8⅛	8⅛
U.S. Rubber	26⅜	27⅞	26⅞
U.S. Steel	182⅛x	182⅛	180⅜
Westinghouse	181¼	193	186⅛
Woolworth	65	64	64⅜
Worthington Pump	81	100⅛	111
Am. Pow. & Light	95	103	105
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	237⅛	239⅛	239⅛
Electric P. & L.	66⅛	71⅛	76⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	68⅜	68⅛	68⅛
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	40⅞	43	45⅛
Radio Corpn.	48	48⅜	51⅜
Utilities P. & L.	37⅛	38	37
W. Union Tlg.	213⅜	213⅛	210⅛
Associated Gas "A"	40⅞	44⅜	43
Mid-Cont. Pet.	24⅜	26⅛	28⅞
Pan Amer. B.	52⅛	53	55
Sinclair Oil	24⅞	24⅛	27⅛
Std. California	59⅛	60⅛	63⅜
Do. N.J.	59⅛	62⅜	66⅜

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	156·1	159·4
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	142·3	142·4
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	234·7	240·0
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	166·3	169·2
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·55%	4·43%

Daily Average of 50 Industrial Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Mar. 11.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Mar. 5.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 7.	Mar. 9.	Mar. 10.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 12.
185·6	166·5	181·1	183·3	183·6	183·7	184·8	185·6	183·3

Total Dealings in New York.

	Mar. 6.	Mar. 7.	Mar. 8*.	Mar. 10.	Mar. 11.	Mar. 12.	Mar. 13.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	3,345	3,635	1,687	3,986	2,628	4,463	3,490
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	12,946	12,491	5,918	10,915	6,820	13,404	16,646
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	785	866	535	899	584	1,013	863

* 2-hour session.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Home and Foreign Investment.—Much public interest has been aroused by a circular, signed by Mr O. T. Falk, and sent to the clients of the firm of which he is a member. The circular, which was deliberately drafted in dogmatic form, expressed a very pessimistic opinion of the industrial future of this country, and, therefore, suggested selling the shares of almost all industrial companies operating at home; saw little hope of a revival of the American bond market, and, therefore, recommended selling Government and other bonds of almost all the financially weaker countries of the world; suggested that there was no assurance that currency stability would be maintained, and, therefore, recommended investing a large part of any fund in the strongest currency in the world, namely, the American dollar; and, generally, advised investment in the United States and Canada rather than elsewhere. We need hardly say that, though there is force in many of Mr Falk's arguments, his conclusion, which has been propounded in a slightly varied form by Lord Rothermere, is not one which we endorse. It may be that over a period of years the share index in the United States will rise more than that of British or European investments, but there are other considerations. On the one hand, there is a risk in buying American securities, arising from the lack of detailed knowledge by the British investor of the American market. On the other hand, the resistance to depression that has been shown by many gilt-edged and other British securities should not be overlooked. The ordinary English investor is at least as likely to lose money by plunging into the American market as by purchasing carefully selected investments at home. The episode, however, has raised a very different question. Even if the views expressed in the circular had been sound, it is suggested that they ought not to have been expressed, since, if they were generally acted upon, the very decline which they envisaged would be precipitated. Undoubtedly a flight from the pound, stimulated by such advice as this, would have bad reactions in this country. Our actual capital cannot, it is true, be exported, and every seller must find a buyer for his stock; but a heavy slump in British securities, together with the effect upon the exchanges and upon the money market which would result from a large outward movement, would undoubtedly make it difficult for our industries to finance themselves or to get new capital except at exorbitant prices. In extreme cases—for example, in anticipation of war—everyone would agree that such an action would be unpatriotic, and the Government would be justified in intervening to stop it; and at all times there may be forms of investment which are undesirable. But our economic position in the world has been built up on the basis of a free capital market, and a glance at any analysis of new issues in recent years will show that, far from an excessive proportion of our capital having gone abroad, the London market is supplying more than ever before to home industry; and it is notorious that, in addition, there has been a substantial inflow into this country of money from other countries. There is an ebb and flow in this matter, but there is no suspicion either now or in the recent past of a crisis resulting from unwillingness to invest at home. In the circumstances, it would be absurd to say that those whose business it is to advise on investment should not faithfully express their views. In our opinion the particular comments in this circular were far too sweeping; but the views which it contains have frequently been expressed in private and acted upon by large investment concerns. For our part, we think it is all to the good that such opinions should be brought into the open where they can be publicly debated. The unfortunate part about this affair is that a circular which makes such wide generalisations has been given publicity which will bring it to the notice of those who have not facilities to act upon it with the necessary discrimination, and who may be frightened out of safe investments for exceedingly risky ones.

Subscription of New Government Loans.—In reply to a Parliamentary question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given revised figures of the result of the Five per Cent. Conversion Loan issue last year. Cash subscriptions were £155,325,000 and conversion applications £80,372,000—a total of £235,697,000. The latter figure represented the maximum amount of Five per Cent. War Loan which might have been converted into the new loan under the terms of the option given to subscribers. Actually only approximately £88,500,000 was so converted—a disappointing result, which leaves the gigantic bulk of the Five per Cent. War Loan very much as before. The abnormal market conditions of the last four months, and, possibly, the fact that interest on Conversion Loan, unlike that on War Loan, is deducted at the source, may have mitigated against widespread acceptance of what, on a long view, was in many respects an attractive option. The net result is that the Treasury has still to make its first effective inroad into the mass of the Five per Cent. War Loan—a task which cannot indefinitely be postponed. The result of the Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan issue was announced by Mr Snowden on Thursday. Total cash applications amounted to £60,800,000, while conversions aggregated £32,000,000, the former amount being well in excess of market anticipation.

A Strange Capital Proposal.—Accompanying the 1929-30 report of Swan and Edgar is a circular asking shareholders to express their opinion on a suggestion that they should convert part or whole of their holdings into 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares, with priority in a winding-up, but no voting rights. The company's earnings have increased from 4.2 per cent. to 8.2 per cent. of its ordinary capital during its three years of existence under its present auspices, but preliminary expenses of £75,000 remain to be written off, and goodwill stands at £230,953. Shareholders who decided to "convert" 100 per cent. of their holdings into preference shares would give up entirely their share in the equity of the company's future expansion for a dividend below the actual present earnings of their shares. They should be quite clear as to the effect of the "writings-off" which the company proposes to effect in the future. These allocations will not represent so much money *lost* to the shareholders; they will have precisely the same effect as ordinary appropriations to reserve, increasing *pro tanto* the working capital of the company and the value of the ordinary shareholders' equity. The proposed preference capital would, however, be limited to 50 per cent. of the issued capital of all classes. If *all* the ordinary shareholders converted 50 per cent. of their holdings, therefore, the position as regards voting power, etc., would be unchanged. But holders, before expressing their opinion, should ask what the Drapery Trust intends to do with its own holding of shares. Not only is the latter substantial, but the Trust has an option on the £350,000 of unissued capital of Swan and Edgar at 25s. a share until February, 1932. If the latter forbore to exchange any large part of its shares for preference shares, every such conversion on the part of other holders would tend to increase the proportion of the total voting power, and the equity of the company, controlled by the Trust. The scheme, in short, has a number of extraordinary features, and shareholders may be advised to await next Wednesday's meeting for fuller details.

Tin Restriction.—The Tin Producers' Association announce that producers with a normal output of 137,799 tons of metallic tin a year are curtailing, or have agreed to curtail, their output to the extent of 24,096 tons, and that an aggregate curtailment of 30,000 tons per annum should not be unobtainable. These figures take into account producers representing practically the whole of the output of the Dutch East Indies and Bolivia. It is certainly important that the Dutch East Indies Government has agreed to limit the output of Banka to a maximum of 22,000 tons of metal a year (the rate last year), while the Billiton Company, in which the East Indies Government has an interest, is limiting its output to the average production of the three preceding years (which implies a definite reduction as compared with 1929). The output of Banka and Billiton represents more than 95 per cent. of the total production of the Dutch East Indies. That restriction has started in good earnest is shown by the lower supply figures for February:—

In Tons.

	F.M.S.	Unfed. M.S.	Straits Imports*	Banka Shipments	Total Eastern Production
January, 1930 ..	6,128	214	3,370	1,402	11,114
February, 1930	4,768	200 (est.)	2,986	694	8,648

* Including imports of ore for smelting from the Dutch E. Indies, Siam, Borneo, Sumatra, Japan and China.

Whether a curtailment of even 30,000 tons will be sufficient to bridge the gap between demand and supply cannot, of course, be determined at this stage. The estimates of the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation gave

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the following figures for world production and consumption last year:—

	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Supplies.		
Production of Federated Malay States	61,935	67,040
Production of Unfederated Malay States	2,499	2,326
Other imports to Straits Settlements	31,953	35,124
Total Straits Supplies	96,387	104,490
Banka shipments	14,229	13,376
Australian shipments	1,180	824
Standard arrivals	22,698	28,867
Other United Kingdom actual and prospective supplies	24,735	24,829
Total Supplies	159,229	172,386
Consumption.		
Total U.S.A.	81,530	94,316
Other countries	71,072	71,584
Total World Consumption	152,602	165,900
Excess of Supplies	6,627	6,486

The deliveries of tin in the United States show a considerable falling off this year, the figures for January and February this year being 5,815 tons and 4,940 tons, as compared with 8,795 tons and 6,750 tons respectively a year ago. It is idle to speculate upon the probable 1930 consumption, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that if a curtailment of 30,000 tons in output is reached, any excess of supply over demand this year will not run into very large figures. There has been some recovery in the price of tin this week from the low level of £159 per ton, which it reached last Friday, but on ehas to go back to 1922, when the price of tin averaged £160 a ton, to find quotations similar to those ruling to-day.

Courtaulds and the Rayon Outlook.—Mr Samuel Courtauld, at the general meeting of his company, took a conservative, not to say pessimistic line for which shareholders were doubtless well prepared. Mr Courtauld declared that the removal of the silk duties would be a first-class calamity, while in the artificial silk industry in general over-supply and price-cutting were in evidence throughout Europe. British production of rayon yarns in 1929 increased by 4 per cent., while Continental production increased by about 19 per cent. As regards the outlook for Courtaulds, even if the silk duties were retained, it would hardly be possible to recoup the serious loss of profits of the first four months of this year by any expansion in the rest of the year. On the Continent price-cutting was still severe, although certain agreements and fusions of interest had recently been made which should result in some elimination of overlapping and wasteful competition. Mr Courtauld defended the company's Continental investments, which have had to be written down by £1,651,856, on the ground that they represented a series of alliances which should prove of great worth in negotiating for trade agreements and control of prices. On the whole he looked to the future with confidence, having in view the substantial technical progress which the company had made and the great financial strength which it had attained, but he could not hold out any hope of material improvement in the profits for 1930. Without imputing special motives to Mr Courtauld this depressing picture may well have been somewhat overdrawn. Mr Courtauld's reference, for example, to the American Viscose Company's pursuance of the same policy as the present company in regard to reserves, must surely have implied that, if half the company's net profits were derived from the American subsidiary, the total net *earnings* of Courtaulds for 1929 were really in the neighbourhood of £4,000,000 or 16.6 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary share capital. The dividend rate of 10 per cent., tax free, would therefore seem to be well covered.

Pinchin Johnson.—The accounts of these large paint and varnish manufacturers reveal a further advance in net revenue. Dividends are maintained at 30 per cent., less tax, absorbing £331,189, against £283,495 in 1928. As a result of last year's bonus share distribution, which allotted one new ordinary share for every three held on March 14, 1929, percentage earnings on the increased capital have dropped from 42.2 to 32.2, against a dividend of 30 per cent.:—

Year ends December 31—	1927.	1928.	1929.
Net profit	262,942	354,325	381,532
Brought forward	30,571	52,273	80,103
Preference dividend	26,000	26,000	26,000
Rate %	6½	6½	6½
No. of times covered	*10·0*	*13·6*	*14·7*
Ordinary capital—			
Earned (£)	*236,942*	*328,325*	*355,533*
Paid (£)	160,240*	233,495*	331,189*
Earned %	*44·4*	*42·2*	*32·2*
Paid %	30·0	30·0	30·0
To Reserve	55,000	67,000	20,000
Carried forward	52,273	80,103	84,446

* Free of tax.

The directors have again decided to capitalise a portion of the reserve fund—which stands in the balance sheet at £898,413—by the issue of one new ordinary share for every ten, an increase which may bring earnings and dividends in closer correspondence. The business of the company has been extended by the acquisition of a majority interest in another important Australian undertaking, and certain Continental interests have been consolidated. Both these undertakings have earned satisfactory profits, which are not shown this year in the balance sheet. At £2 7/10 the 10s. ordinary shares give a yield of £6 8s. per cent., allowing for a final dividend of 2s.

Austin Motor Company.—The year 1929 was a very satisfactory one, the trading profit being £436,146 greater at £1,297,446 and the net profit £309,873 higher at £605,848. Of the increase of £126,223 in administration charges £122,177 represented an additional provision for income tax, while mortgage interest was £26,860 less. The 7 h.p. "Baby" car is now being manufactured in England, America, France and Germany, and this model has doubtless made a material contribution to the improved figures:—

	Years ended Dec. 31. 1928. £	1929. £
Net earnings	295,975	605,848
Brought forward	115,639	59,664
Preference dividend	119,000*	14,000
Rate per cent.	59½*	7
"B" preference dividend	180,000†	390,000‡
Rate per cent.	18†	39‡
Preferred ordinary	...	120,000
Rate per cent.	...	20
Deferred ordinary	...	24,000
Rate per cent.	...	20

* 8½ years' arrears of dividend to December 31, 1928.
† 3 years' arrears of dividend to June 30, 1923.
‡ 6½ years' arrears of dividend to December 31, 1929.

The 7 per cent. preference dividend was covered 43.3 times by last year's earnings. The directors took the opportunity of paying the arrears on the "B" preference shares, which dated back to June 30, 1923. Had the holders of the "B" preference received only a normal year's dividend the amounts earned on the preferred and deferred ordinary shares would have been 70.9 per cent. and 120.6 per cent. respectively. After paying the dividends and carrying £46,060 to the sinking fund, £71,452 was carried forward. Cash in hand was £180,275 higher, while creditors decreased by £244,075 and accrued charges by £109,416. During the year £48,142 of debenture stock were redeemed, and £46,060 was added to the sinking fund. The year's results are distinctly creditable to all concerned.

William Hollins.—The profits for 1929 show a decrease of more than 25 per cent. as compared with 1928, and are the lowest since 1923, when £108,122 was earned. The dividend, which last year was raised to 8½ per cent., has now reverted to the 7½ per cent. rate paid for each of the preceding six years:—

	Years ended December 31st. 1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	139,435	153,446	114,847
Preference dividend	18,000	18,000	18,000
Number of times covered	7·7	8·5	6·38
Ordinary *Earned*	*10·5%*	*10·66%*	*7·6%*
Ordinary Paid	7½%	8½%	7½%
Ordinary Amount	86,673	107,950	95,250
To General Reserve	25,000	25,000	Nil
Increase in carry forward	9,761	2,496	1,597

No comment is made in the report on the lower profits, but to some extent they may be a reflection of the general fall in the value of textile materials. The fire at the Via Gellia Mill in March last may also have been a contributory influence. Stocks figure this year at £806,070, as compared with £909,430 in 1928. Debtors are some £20,000 higher at £316,611 and creditors remain practically unchanged. A continued satisfactory feature of the accounts is the strong liquid position; surplus quick assets, after providing for dividend requirements, amount to £1,012,916, as compared with total assets of £2,087,801. In 1929 a sum of £82,567 was expended on new buildings and machinery, making a total of over £300,000 provided for this purpose out of the company's resources during the last four years. The shares are quoted around par, as against 26s. a year ago.

British Metal Corporation.—Despite the fact that metal prices have fallen heavily throughout the year in almost every market, the wide interests of this company have enabled the directors once more to report a satisfactory profit. Though down nearly £10,000 on last year, the net revenue, at £195,039, covers preference dividend three and a half times, and allows the payment of 10 per cent. on the ordinary capital, the same as last year, out of 15.6 per cent. earned for dividend. The following table sets out the results for the past three years:—

	Financial Years ended Dec. 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
Net profit	195,454	204,452	195,039
Brought forward	23,278	24,732	25,184
Preference dividends £	54,000	54,000	54,000
Rate %	6	6	6
No. of times covered	*3·6*	*3·8*	*3·6*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*141,454*	*150,452*	*141,039*
Paid £	90,000	90,000	90,000
Earned %	*15·7*	*16·7*	*15·6*
Paid %	10	10	10
To reserve	50,000	60,000	50,000
Carried forward	24,732	25,184	26,223

The sum of £50,000 is set aside as allocation to reserve, bringing that item to £550,000, while the carry-forward is only slightly increased at £26,223. This is the last balance sheet to be published before the fusion of interests with Henry Gardner and Company, under the name of Amalgamated Metal Corporation, comes into effect. Shareholders of the British Metal Corporation were offered one preference share of the new company for each old preference share, and two new ordinary shares in exchange for each old ordinary share, while ordinary shareholders of Henry Gardner were offered eight new ordinary shares in exchange for every five previously held. The proposal was accepted by the holders of 97 per cent. of the ordinary and preference shares of the British Metal Corporation, and the directors report that the arrangements for amalgamation will shortly be completed.

First Co-operative Investment Trust.—We have had occasion in the past (see the *Economist* of October 5 and October 12, 1929), to criticise the investment policy of the Co-operative Investment Trust, of which Mr Emil Davies is chairman. We find proof in the annual report of the First Co-operative Investment Trust, published this week, that our criticism did not err on the side of severity. For the half-year ended July 31, 1929, this Trust reported that the depreciation on its investments was more than covered by its reserves and carry forward. The report for the year ending January 31, 1930, however, shows a depreciation on the book cost of investments (taking quoted securities at middle market prices, and unquoted securities on the basis of the best information available) of no less than 18.1 per cent. After allowing for investment reserve of £40,000, entrance fees reserve of £21,055, and an appropriation out of profits this year of £10,000, this depreciation is reduced to 14.1 per cent. This is a serious loss. The First Co-operative Trust was formed in 1924, and the index for "all securities," compiled by *The Investor's Chronicle*, shows an appreciation of 6.9 per cent. in values between the end of 1923 and January 27, 1930. As regards dividend policy, Mr Emil Davies admitted in the August issue of the Trust's organ, *The Rainy Day*, that, "by distributing income up to the hilt, or nearly up to the hilt, we render it almost impossible to build up reserves adequate to the capital," and concluded by saying that "with a view to adding to the reserves the directors propose to aim at dividends of 6½ per cent. per annum." The interim dividend for the first half of the year to January 31st last was 3 per cent., and the dividend for the last half was 2½ per cent., making 5½ per cent. for the year. The report states that the investments, excluding loans, number 664. The management of such a large number of securities calls for extraordinary skill and care. It is gratifying to find that some improvement can already be detected in the distribution of the holdings. The proportion of bonds to the total holdings has increased, as compared with a year ago, from 34.65 per cent. to 47.29 per cent., while that of preference shares has been reduced from 23.60 per cent. to 18.94 per cent., and that of the ordinary shares from

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41.75 per cent. to 33.77 per cent. Moreover, the percentage of public utility holdings has increased from 5.33 per cent. to 13.32 per cent. Issued capital has risen from £1,555,268 to £1,651,396 8s., but income has fallen from £59,678 in the first half of last year to £48,299 in the second half. This may be, in part, the result of selling high-yielding but speculative securities for "safer" but less remunerative investments. As regards the difficulty of allowing members to obtain repayment of their ordinary shares, which, obviously, could not take place at par in view of the existing depreciation on investments, we understand that the Trust has offered facilities for bringing buyers and sellers together, and has continued to make loans to members against shares where it has been shown that hardship would otherwise be involved. This is probably the most the Trust can do in the circumstances, but it falls below the high ideals claimed for investment trust practice under co-operative principles, which were so strongly insisted upon when the Trust was launched.

New Scottish Investment Trusts.—In connection with the leading article which appeared in the *Economist* of February 8th, on "Some Investment Trust Results," we have received certain interesting figures from a correspondent, showing how the recent investment trust companies formed in Scotland have fared in the general reaction which has overtaken the security markets. The figures are taken from the last published accounts of each company and the year of the company's formation is given in brackets after the company's name:—

RESULTS RECENTLY DECLARED BY SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES.

	Invested Funds.	Depreciation. Amount.	Depreciation. % of Book Value.	Bank Overdraft.
	£	£		£
1. Accounts closed on September 30th—				
Second Great Northern (1928) (Glasgow).....	2,252,246	37,264	1·7	1,154,983
2. Accounts closed on October 31st—				
Scottish International Trust (1927) (Edinburgh).....	719,198	33,986	4·7	170,194
Dundee & London Trust (1927) (Dundee)	659,676	22,561	3·42	9,000
3. Accounts closed on November 15th—				
Scottish Allied Investors (1928) (Glasgow)	801,200	92,240	11·5	102,907
4. Accounts closed on November 30th—				
Aberdeen, Edinburgh & Dundee (1928) (Aberdeen)	493,042	Amount not disclosed.		60,852
Scottish Consolidated Trust (1927) (Glasgow)	1,424,178	64,944	4·6	Nil
Second Scottish Eastern Investment Trust (1927) (Edinburgh) ...	1,062,131	37,344	3·5	Nil
5. Accounts closed on December 15th—				
Second Scottish United Investors (1928) (Glasgow)	1,343,722	119,703	8·9	74,680
6. Accounts closed on January 2nd, 1930—				
Glasgow Stockholders Trust (1927)	1,342,896	120,219	9·0	16,935

As regards the trend of prices in the security markets, it may be recalled that November 13th was the day of New York's worst slump. November was, therefore, probably the most unfavourable period for valuing a company's investments. Since that date appreciable improvement has been shown in New York, as will be apparent from the average yield of fifty industrial common stocks compiled by the Standard Statistics Company Inc. of New York, which, at November 14, 1929, was 5.23 per cent., and on March 6, 1930, 4.43 per cent.

American Telephone and Telegraph.—This company, which owns the "Bell" system, has a virtual monopoly of telephonic communication in the United States. Owing to the complicated system of subsidiary company accounting, and the shadowy line separating expenditures charged to capital account from those deducted from earnings, the actual net profit shown varies considerably according to the manner of accounting. There is no doubt, however, that profits are fully keeping pace with the increasing capitalisation. The principal sources of revenue are dividends from operating subsidiaries, including the Western Electric, which manufactures all the equipment used, as well as the general electrical appliances sold to the public. Earnings derived from operation of long distance lines under contract with associated companies, *plus* interest and miscellaneous receipts, however, make up nearly as large a total as is paid in dividends. On the basis of these revenues (amounting last year to $275,695,907, a gain of 17 per cent.), the company reported, after deducting expenses, depreciation, taxes and interest, net income available for dividends of $116,378,771.

(Thousand dollars.)

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Net income	116,990	128,615*	143,170	166,190
Dividends paid.....	86,496	97,380	103,821	116,379
Carried forward.....	30,494	79,174†	39,349	49,811
Earnings per share	$11·95	$11·76	$12·11	$12·67

* Not including $47,938,865 special dividend paid by Western Electric on profits accumulated over a period of years on business outside the telephone system.

† Including Western Electric special dividend.

Actual earnings, including the undivided equity in subsidiary income, amount to a much larger figure than the $12.67 shown, estimated at $1 a share for 1929, and account, in part, for the high market value placed on the stock. Since 1921, the company has maintained a $9 annual dividend rate, which, it is believed, will not be increased, though this could be effected by the simple process of increasing dividends paid by subsidiaries or by obtaining a larger proportion of new capital from low interest-paying bonds instead of by fresh share issues. The company, however, has for many years obtained its new capital largely through sales of shares to stockholders carrying "rights" averaging a net addition to their real income of about $3 annually. For 1930 new capital expenditure of $700 million is envisaged, and a new stock or convertible bond issue is expected in the near future. The company's long-term debt is now only 31 per cent. of its total capital liabilities.

Hydro-Electric Securities.—The annual report of this corporation for the year ended December 31st last reveals a remarkable leap in profits. Net revenue for 1929 has increased from $1,794,702 to $6,893,863, an advance of $5,099,161. A large proportion of the increase is, however, accounted for by sales of investments at a favourable time, income from this source totalling $4,121,478, as against $610,311 for the preceding year. Profits from other sources amount to $2,772,385, compared with $1,184,391 for the previous twelve months. Dividends on the class "B" preferred stock take $1,000,000, compared with last year's $332,520, and the common shares, which before received no allocation, this year take $852,129, or $1 per share. According to the report, the corporation's investments, which were valued at $79,194,233 at December 31st last, show at that figure an advance of $35,436,435 over their original cost price, and since the date of valuation this appreciation has further increased. The report is fully up to market expectations, but in view of the large part played by receipts from what must necessarily be regarded as an abnormal source, the year's results do not afford a very satisfactory guide to future possibilities.

South African Gold Trust.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Although the payment of a final dividend of 2s. per share brings the total distribution for the past year to 15 per cent., as in 1928, the earnings showed a setback, £80,000 being received from the operating company, the New Gold Trust, against £90,000. Last year's profits of this concern, at £179,800, showed only a small falling-off; and an expansion to £47,100 in the amount required for depreciation on investments was more than counterbalanced by reduction in the sum needed for taxation. Moreover, the appropriation to reserve is £25,000, against £30,000—raising that fund to £75,000. Consequently the cut in the dividend from 9½ per cent. to 8 per cent. is chiefly attributable to the carrying forward of £16,300, or £12,700 more than brought in. Investments at cost figure at £970,400, a shrinkage of £65,500; loans at short call have jumped from £17,300 to £165,500. Altogether, therefore, it would appear that the directors have been anxious to build up a liquid position. At the last annual meeting the question of publication of a list of investments was referred to in terms which suggested such a procedure to be unlikely. On the present occasion, however, a schedule is supplied of the company's principal holdings. They comprise interests in oil and artificial silk companies, gold and silver mines shares. On the basis of the past two years' dividends South African Gold Trust shares, at $1\frac{5}{16}$, yield fully 12 per cent., allowing for the amount included in the price.

Modder B.—The details of operations for 1929 reveal the satisfactory feature that a renewed decline in the value of the ore crushed was almost counterbalanced by reduction in working costs. Consequently, the working profit showed only a small shrinkage, and the company was able to maintain its dividend at the rate which had prevailed for the three preceding years. Somewhat increased amounts were required under the headings of taxation and miners' phthisis, with the result that the credit balance was drawn upon to a moderate extent.

Year ends December 31.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore milled (tons).....	804,000	830,000	836,000
Yield per ton (dwts.)	7·7	7·5	7·2
Costs per ton	18/2	18/3	17/3
Profit per ton	14/8	14/–	13/9
Ore reserves (tons).....	2,273,320	1,814,800	1,445,400
Value (dwt.)	7·4	7·5	7·3
Total working profit (£)	588,800	580,280	574,560
Net profit.....	524,732	514,530	507,616
Brought forward.....	408,715*	401,520*	389,323*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned (£)	*524,732*	*514,530*	*507,616*
Paid (£)	560,000	560,000	560,000
Earned %	*74·9*	*73·5*	*72·5*
Paid %.....	80	80	80
Carried forward.....	373,447	356,050	336,939

* Including forfeited dividends and credit on capital account.

In view of the intimation as to the position of the mine given by the consulting engineers in their 1928 report, it is no matter for surprise that the ore reserves should display a substantial falling off both in quantity and grade. It is again emphasised that "the areas remaining to be proved (on the Main Reef leader) are small and of doubtful value." The results of prospecting on the South Reef have been "very disappointing." Earnings during the current year are expected to be maintained on the 1929 rate. The cash position is strong—a surplus of £336,900, against an outstanding liability of £119,500 in respect of miners' phthisis. Nevertheless, the 5s. shares appear fully valued at current quotation of 14s. 6d.

Distribution of Stockholdings on the L.M.S. Railway.—The abridged statement of the accounts of the London Midland and Scottish Railway for 1929, submitted to stockholders, gives an analysis of the distribution of holdings of the company's capital. The company has 298,182 separate stockholders—a total exceeding by 49,114 that of the company's employees—and the average holding is, apparently, £1,384. The actual number of holdings is 376,776, some individuals having holdings in more than one stock.

NUMBER OF HOLDINGS OF L.M.S. STOCKS.

Holdings.	4% Debenture.	4% Guaranteed.	4% Preference.	4% Preference. 1923.
£1—£100	4,929	3,012	13,273	11,731
£101—£200	6,130	3,781	11,160	11,059
£201—£300	5,306	3,203	8,796	6,804
£301—£400	4,518	2,762	7,132	5,492
£401—£500	4,528	2,953	7,266	4,462
£501—£1,000	12,313	7,295	18,290	9,093
£1,001 and upwards ..	19,536	9,505	24,805	8,061
	57,260	32,511	90,722	56,702

	Ordinary.	5% Red. Deb.	5% Red. Pref.
£1—£100	26,579	2,985	3,393
£101—£200	19,778	5,584	6,117
£201—£300	13,481	250	1,401
£301—£400	9,163	286	480
£401—£500	8,914	467	671
£501—£1,000	17,895	647	1,332
£1,001 and upwards ..	18,290	758	1,110
	114,100	10,977	14,504

Of the total holdings, 17.5 per cent. are for nominal amounts of £100 or less, 43.0 per cent. of £101 to £500, 17.7 per cent. of £501 to £1,000, and 21.8 per cent. of over £1,000. In the case of the older debenture, guaranteed and preference stocks, which have a large "trustee" ownership, the largest number of holders, in the groups shown in the table, is to be found in the "£1,001 and upwards" category. In that of the ordinary stock the "£1 to £100" group, and in those of the newer stocks the "£101 to £200" group, include the largest number of holders. The difference between the pre-war and post-war stocks in this respect throws an interesting light on recent investment tendencies.

THE
STANDARD BANK
OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Governments of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Tanganyika.

CAPITAL Authorised and Subscribed £10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP £2,500,000
RESERVE FUND £3,164,170
CAPITAL UNCALLED £7,500,000
£13,164,170

Board of Directors.
William Reierson Arbuthnot, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq.
Edward Clifton-Brown, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
Solomon B. Joel, Esq.
Horace Peel, Esq.
Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
William Smart, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., F.R.S.
Sir Roderick Roy Wilson.

Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey, James S. Shiel.
Deputy General Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
Assistant General Managers in South Africa—Francis E. King, Herbert G. Hoey.
London Manager—Bertram Lowndes.
Secretary—T. D. Williams.

Head Office: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET,
and 77, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
London Wall Branch: 63, LONDON WALL, E.C.2.
West End Branch: 9, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.2.
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Over 370 Branches, Sub-Branches, and Agencies in SOUTH, EAST and CENTRAL AFRICA.

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The Bank has over 370 Branches in Africa, and Agents and Correspondents throughout the World. The closest touch with Trade and Industrial conditions is maintained, with special attention to Commercial and Credit Intelligence. This service is available to Exporters, Importers and others wishing to develop trade with South, East and Central Africa.

THE STANDARD BANK MONTHLY REVIEW is sent post free on application. It gives the latest information on all South, East and Central African matters of Trade and Commercial Interest.

Canadian Pacific Earnings.—The setback to Canadian prosperity in the later months of 1929 is reflected in the cabled figures of receipts and expenditure of the Canadian Pacific Railway. For the first time for several years gross railway and steamer earnings declined by 8 per cent., and total net income available for dividends (after deducting fixed charges and pension fund) by 14 per cent.:—

	1927. $	1928. $	1929. $
Gross earnings: Railways and lake steamers	201,145,751	229,039,297	209,730,955
Working expenses	161,630,180	177,344,845	166,586,411
Net earnings	39,515,571	51,694,452	43,144,544
Special income	11,876,560	12,677,683	15,232,220
Total income	51,392,131	64,372,135	58,376,764
Fixed charges	15,378,867	15,308,698	16,149,003
Surplus	36,013,264	49,063,437	42,227,761
To pension fund	600,000	750,000	750,000
Available for dividends	35,413,264	48,313,437	41,477,761

Dividends on the preference stock have taken $4,674,790 and on the common stock $30,750,000, the surplus carried forward being $6,052,971, against $14,892,257 a year ago. At 210¼xd the common stock yields £4 17s. 6d. per cent. A year ago the price was 252 x.d.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Hungarian General Creditbank, Britannic Assurance, Scottish Provident Institution, Trade Indemnity Company, British and German Trust, River Plate Trust Loan and Agency, Skefko Ball Bearing, British Metal Corporation, Ford Motor, Harrods, and Joseph Nathan and Company. At the British and German Trust meeting the chairman, referring to the new International Bank, said it was to be hoped that it would ultimately lead to a more concerted monetary policy throughout the world, which would eliminate the necessity of frequent changes in Bank rates, with their resultant adjustments in the volumes of internal circulation, cost of production and wage standards. Presiding at the annual meeting of British Metal Corporation, Mr C. V. Sale said that tin was an outstanding example of the ill-effects of unrestrained competition. As a result of the cycle: low prices, scarcity, high prices, over-production, heavy stocks and low prices, tin sold in 1927 at £320 per ton, was offered to-day at £164 per ton. At the meeting of the Ford Motor Company the chairman said that contracts had been placed to the value of over £1,400,000, while payments in respect of work done amounted to approximately £390,000.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The fourth British corporation loan of the year—that of the *Southampton Corporation*—was the largest so far, and was offered on the same terms which had proved initially unattractive to the public in the case of its predecessor. Last week's decline in Bank rate, however, and a change for the better in that incalculable quantity, public appetite, were reflected in the oversubscription of the loan, applicants for large amounts receiving only 60 per cent. The remaining issue, *Sackville Estates*, was a real property proposition of more than average merit. Nearly 70 per cent. of the issue had, however, been taken firm.

Grace National Bank

Hanover Square, New York, U.S.A.

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Special Representative

148 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to March 8, 1930, £42,814,790.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to March 8, 1930, £42,814,790.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended March 8, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to March 8, 1930, *Dr. £2,300,000.*

	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability £
To the Public.					
Southampton Corporation	1,650,000	...	1,633,500	82,500	1,551,000
Sackville Estates	107,640	...	107,640	53,820	53,820
Total offered to Public, week ended March 15, 1930	1,757,640	...	1,741,140	136,320	1,604,820
To Shareholders only.					
Cape Asbestos, 25,000 Pref. £1 at 32s. 6d.	25,000	...	40,625	15,625	25,000
Ditto, 25,000 Ord. £1 at 27s. 6d.	25,000	...	34,375	12,500	21,875
Petaling Tin, 140,000 Shares of $1 at $5 ($ = 2s. 4d.)	16,333	...	81,665	81,665	...
Total to Shareholders only, week ended March 15, 1930	66,333	...	156,665	109,790	46,875

Total Offered for Subscription— To date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	44,812,595	44,812,595
1929	97,911,270	84,332,050
1928	...	155,555,110
1927	...	130,493,081
1926	...	63,507,780
1925	...	40,183,403
1924	...	30,670,655
1923	...	70,967,616

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	9,414,078	...	9,538,731
General Refractories, 160,000 Ord. shares 10s. (Feb. 18)	80,000	10/7½	85,000
Total week ended March 15, 1930	80,000	...	85,000
Total to date, 1930	9,494,078	...	9,623,731
Total to date, 1929	8,341,657	...	14,911,198

Southampton Corporation.—Issue of **£1,650,000 5 per cent.** redeemable stock, 1947-1967, at £99 per cent. Repayable at par on March 31, 1967, if not previously cancelled by purchase in the open market or by agreement, but the Corporation may redeem at par at any time on or after March 31, 1947, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the County Borough is £1,266,738, and a penny rate is estimated to produce £4,950. The outstanding debt of the Corporation is £3,689,787. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock.

Weston-super-Mare Gaslight Company—Issue by tender of £30,000 6 per cent. redeemable preference stock, to be redeemed at par on January 1, 1940. Minimum price, par. The net revenue of the company in 1929, after deduction of debentures, totalled £17,345, covering dividend on preference stock, including the present issue, 5.1 times. The present issue is to pay for the extension of works and plant rendered necessary by the constantly increasing demand for gas.

Sackville Estates, Limited.—Issue of **107,640 shares of £1** each at par. No part of the issue has been underwritten. The company was incorporated in England in 1893 to acquire and develop a freehold estate which now consists largely of warehouse property. The present issue is for the purpose of repaying bankers in connection with the purchase of all the shares in Kendal-Sinclair Estates, Ltd.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 618, under the heading "Company News."]

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
January	206,094	217,027	195,481	194,953
February	195,996	196,649	191,786	—
March	213,708	204,000	200,435	—
April	204,876	206,234	203,780	—
May	207,818	200,130	203,798	—
June	223,418	218,745	204,603	—
July	207,443	206,877	196,016	—
August	199,860	214,077	196,528	—
September	193,646	201,625	190,354	—
October	197,501	182,032	198,308	—
November	200,481	201,689	195,386	—
December	208,016	189,319	197,884	—
Total Gold	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,374,359	—

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S SURVEY OF PAST YEAR'S RESULTS.
HEAVY TOLL OF INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.
SUBSTANTIAL SUM ADDED TO INVESTMENT RESERVE.

The sixty-fourth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Britannic Assurance Company, Ltd., was held on Friday, March 7th, at the chief offices, Broad Street Corner, Birmingham, Mr J. A. Jefferson, F.I.A. (chairman), presiding.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr F. A. Powell, A.C.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

Mr Jefferson, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—I presume I may, as on previous occasions, take the directors' report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some days now, as having been read. (Agreed.)

SALIENT FEATURES.

It has been my custom before dealing with the figures of the company to review as briefly as possible the salient features of the year to which the accounts refer. The first feature that would naturally come to one's mind is the influenza epidemic which was raging just about twelve months ago, and you will probably remember that, at our last annual meeting, I informed you of the drain on the company's resources caused by these epidemics, stating that at the time of the meeting our death claims in the industrial branch were £35,000 in excess of those of 1928. I also well remember that in 1927, in my reference to the epidemic of 1926, I appealed to the medical profession, pointing out the enormous scope that lay before them in the direction of investigating the cause, prevention and, naturally, the remedy of this oft-recurring disease. It will no doubt bring home to you the effect of these scourges when I tell you that the figure of £35,000 mentioned had, in the following seven weeks, increased to £131,000. Normally, of course, we expect our claims to increase as the business grows, and a reference to the accounts will show that in the industrial branch our death claims for 1929 exceeded those for 1928 by practically £150,000, and of this increase over £131.000 was incurred during the epidemic. In one week alone, namely, the tenth week of the year, we had to meet no less than 4,364 death claims for a sum assured amounting to £36,969—by a long way the highest figures in the company's history. In this connection may I also draw your attention to the words of Sir Thomas Neill in his last annual report of the National Amalgamated Approved Society, in which he expressed the hope "that the serious character of the last epidemic of influenza will so have impressed the Minister of Health and those responsible for the health of the country that, while the statistics are available, a committee will be set up to inquire where the weight of the illness has been, whether the treatment has been equal to the needs, and what, if any, improvements in methods of treatment can be recommended to protect the community as far as possible against a similar visitation Please do not think your directors are complaining at having to pay these claims, because, as we have so often stated, our business consists of having to pay just claims, but it is because of our unique position that we are able to see and have practical experience of the enormous drain these epidemics inflict on the country as a whole.

ENDOWMENT POLICIES.

The next outstanding event which followed very closely on the influenza epidemic was the passing of the 1929 Industrial and Friendly Societies Act, which was given Royal Assent on May 10th last. So much misunderstanding of the true position appears to exist that I feel it my bounden duty to you, as shareholders, and also to the holders of our 4,000,000 policies, to explain as briefly as possible exactly what led up to the position in which we found ourselves last year. For years all companies and societies had been in the habit of issuing endowment policies on the lives of children, that is, policies providing for the payment of a sum of money on the survivance of the child to a given age, or for the return of premiums in event of earlier death. We always considered this class of business to be perfectly legitimate, and that the return of premiums on the death of a child could be ignored in considering the statutory limitations imposed by Parliament on the sum assured that could be paid on the death of a child under ten years of age. Our views had, on more than one occasion, been confirmed by the powers that be, whose assurances on the matter were sufficient to remove any doubt that might exist regarding the legality of these contracts. However, when the Industrial Assurance Act, 1923, was before Parliament, those acting on our behalf suggested an amendment that would have removed even the slightest possibility of doubt, but, on the very distinct assurance that same would be quite unnecessary, the amendment was withdrawn. Imagine, therefore, our astonishment when we learned that, based on a decision of a magistrates' court at Merthyr Tydfil against one of the friendly societies, all these policies, numbering many hundreds of thousands, issued in perfectly good faith, were to be deemed illegal. That such far-reaching consequences should follow from such a decision may strike you as remarkable, but, after prolonged conferences and consultations, it was found that the only practicable way to remedy this most unsatisfactory state of affairs was to seek new legislation, and the irony of the whole position is that this new legislation would have been absolutely unnecessary if the simple amendment to which I have referred had been accepted in 1923.

FREE POLICY PRIVILEGES.

Time does not permit me to go into further details, but I must refer to one point because of its bearing on the figures with which I deal later. I refer to the cash surrender value and free policy privileges which were imposed upon the offices by the new Act. These were of an unprecedentedly generous character, and they affect existing as well as future contracts, and come into operation after only twelve months' premiums have been paid.

May I point out that the purely ordinary life offices always have been able and are still continuing to issue similar policies on the lives of children, free from any restrictions either as to the amount assured or the conditions governing cash surrender values and free paid-up policies.

You will remember the pleasure it gave me last year to make a preliminary announcement that we were considering some scheme of bonuses to our clients in the industrial branch. The directors considered many schemes, and, finally in August, we launched what we believed to be a logical and at the same time a simple scheme, under which policies, with certain few exceptions, which, becoming claims by death or maturity prior to March 31st of this year, have a cash addition to the sum assured varying from 5 per cent. for policies ten years in force to 20 per cent. for policies forty years or more in force. During the period the scheme was in operation last year the cost was over £11,000, and you will notice that, out of this year's surplus, we have allocated the sum of £50,000 to carry on the same scheme until March 31, 1931. Although we have committed ourselves for one year only, that is simply characteristic of our usual cautious policy, and if we did not believe that we could continue some such scheme as a permanent feature we should not have introduced it at all.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

Since our meeting of last year I am very proud indeed to inform you that I have been elected president of the National Amalgamated Approved Society—a society with which my late father was so closely connected, and who had so much to do with its formation. Having myself been associated with the society since its inception, I have had the great satisfaction of seeing its registered office staff grow from a solitary typist to its present total of 1,530.

Since the Insurance Act came into force in 1912 our agents have been actively engaged in this work of National Health Insurance; recruiting new members, collecting contribution cards and paying the members' benefits under the Act. This has been of very great service to the compulsorily insured persons who are also policyholders of the company, and to-day our representatives are serving over 340,000 insured members of the National Amalgamated.

During 1929 our representatives paid to these members no less than 663,621 benefit payments in respect of sickness, disablement and maternity benefits—amounting in all to a total of £424,922—representing an average payment of £1 5s. per member. You will see, therefore, that your company, although primarily engaged on life assurance, is also taking no mean part in the great work of National Health Insurance.

HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME.

On several occasions I have referred to our house purchase scheme, and it may interest you to know that during the year under review we completed 768 cases for a total amount advanced of £355,000. From this you will see the average amount advanced per case is over £450, and once again I submit that we are doing excellent work

in this connection in helping to create a body of small capitalists—a feature which, I think you will agree, is very desirable in the interests of the nation. Since the scheme was launched—namely, in 1908—we have made advances in nearly 8,500 cases; and, of course, you must remember the hiatus caused by the war and the shortage of houses which followed for some years. Of these cases, approximately 3,500 have been repaid. This number includes many where the premature death of the mortgagor liquidated the debt in terms of the scheme and left the widow in full and unencumbered possession of the house. In many cases the mortgage was repaid by the borrower surviving the maturity date of the policy—thus enabling him to enjoy the fruits of his early thrift.

EFFECTS OF THE HATRY CRASH.

I can well imagine you are all expecting me to say something on another matter of great importance affecting our results for last year, namely, the financial position as affected by the unfortunate Hatry crash and the heavy deflation which occurred on the collapse of the American markets following the reckless gambling there. These occurrences, as you can well understand, seriously affected the market values of securities of every class, and no financial institution escaped their effect. Further, the depression caused by these occurrences was at its worst at the close of 1929, *i.e.*, the very time as at which we are required to revalue our Stock Exchange securities. Under such circumstances, it affords me very great pleasure to assure you that this company came through the ordeal remarkably well, thanks to the conservative policy which we have pursued in past years. I notice at some recent annual meetings statements have been made as to the effect on the values of the company's securities of the widespread depreciation following these occurrences, and I am glad to be able to assure you that the depreciation we experienced did not even encroach upon our special reserves. The fact that we have added a substantial sum to our investment reserve fund is a step taken purely as a precaution against any possible similar occurrence in the future. As was to be expected, there has been a substantial improvement in the values of securities during the few weeks of the present year which have already elapsed, and I find that this is represented by a sum of over £100,000 so far as the assets of this company are concerned.

A GENERAL SURVEY.

Taking a general survey of the accounts, I think you will agree our figures show that, despite the adverse circumstances to which I have already referred, we have had quite a successful year, and, on referring to my remarks last year, I see I stated that 1929 held out brighter prospects for us than we had had for some years past. I think the report we are now considering confirms those views, and in this connection I might say that our industrial debit for 1929 shows the largest increase made since the boom year of 1920, and is, in fact, 50 per cent. greater than our debit increase for 1928. I have often stated that a company like ours can be likened to a very sensitive barometer in that its progress indicates the economic conditions of the working classes, whose financial position is, in turn, dependent on the prosperity of the country generally. If this be accepted as a fact, then all I can say is that our results, as also the results of our friendly rivals which have already been published, show clearly that matters are not altogether bad in the old country, and, frankly, my own view is that we all require to cultivate a more optimistic outlook, and to have greater confidence in the future. At any rate, I am still an optimist, and I venture to say that, satisfactory as 1929 was for us as a company, I believe that the year 1930 will be a still better year.

INTEREST YIELD.

I would like to refer to the matter of our interest yield, both in this branch and the industrial branch. Our gross interest yield in the ordinary branch was £5 15s. 6d. per cent., which shows an increase of 3s. 6d. per cent. over the previous year, and in the industrial branch the yield was £5 14s. 7d. per cent., showing an increase of 4s. 1d. per cent. I am, of course, very pleased to report these increases, but I should like to explain how they have arisen. In the first place, during 1928 I purchased a considerable amount of ordinary shares, which brought no income into that financial year, as, of course, one does not take into account accrued interest on ordinary stocks as one does with fixed-interest-bearing securities. In the second place, the serious depression that existed in the latter half of the year on the Stock Exchange gave me opportunities of investing our surplus funds at very much better rates than had appertained for some years past.

Referring very briefly to Mr Murray Laing's valuation of the ordinary branch, you will notice that we have, out of the surplus disclosed, transferred £42,000 to the investment reserve fund.

We have again maintained our rate of reversionary bonus of £2 2s. per cent.—the cost being just over £200,000, and you will note we have carried forward the substantial sum of £114,000. Your directors, guided by Mr Laing, feel that it is wise, in the interests of our policyholders, to carry forward approximately one-half of the cost of the bonus, and this is in addition to the £50,000 contingency fund, which we still maintain.

In regard to the ordinary branch business of the British Legal, you will note a surplus is disclosed of just over £7,000, inclusive of some £2,500 brought forward from 1928. Out of this surplus we have transferred £3,000 to the investment reserve fund, and carried out our contract under the amalgamation agreement to provide a bonus of £1 per £100 sum assured to the with-profit policyholders, and have carried forward a balance of just over £3,000.

EXPENSES RATIO.

On the matter of expenses there is a slight increase as compared with last year—the ratio being 36.09 per cent. for 1929, as compared with 35.94 per cent. for 1928. The increase is very slight, and is more than accounted for by the fact that our new business costs have risen from 8.39 per cent. to 8.80 per cent., but this latter is a feature we do not regard with any regret in view of the fact that I have already been able to report such a satisfactory increase in our debit.

You will notice that out of the surplus disclosed by Mr Laing's valuation we have written £75,000 off the cost of acquiring the British Legal Assurance Company, which leaves only £75,000 still to be dealt with, and I have not the slightest doubt that this item will entirely disappear from our next balance sheet, and I am sure we can all congratulate ourselves on the manner in which we have been able to deal with this item.

The sum of £80,000 has been transferred to the investment reserve fund, and, as already stated, £50,000 has been allocated to the bonus scheme for Britannic policies.

As a result of the various transfers to investment reserve fund, amounting in all to £135,000, this fund now stands at the very substantial figure of £500,000.

In the general branch you will notice our premium income now amounts to £65,189, as compared with £52,644 last year. Whilst the growth is not rapid, it is quite substantial, and, moreover, as the premium income steadily increases year by year so will our profits from this branch increase. Our relations with the British General, I am glad to say, are still of the most cordial nature.

FEATURES OF THE BALANCE SHEET.

As is my usual custom, I would now like to draw your attention to a few of the more interesting features of the balance sheet.

Our mortgages on property have increased by £267,000, and this is mainly on account of our house-purchase scheme, to which I have already referred.

British Government securities as at December 31st last actually show a slight decrease, but at the present moment there is a considerable increase under this heading as we invested a quarter of a million in the new conversion loan issued in November last.

The three classes of Indian and Colonial securities have increased by over £240,000, as we still have great faith in our Colonies.

There is a small increase in our foreign Government and municipal securities of approximately £80,000. The major portion of our surplus funds has been invested in the three classes of debenture, preference and ordinary stocks—the total amount being over three-quarters of a million, of which approximately £400,000 was invested in ordinary stocks, and here again may I say that the very greatest possible care is taken with regard to the selection of these investments, and it is mainly due to our holdings in ordinary stocks that I have been able to report to you such a satisfactory interest yield.

Before closing you will allow me to take this opportunity of offering my personal thanks to my colleagues on the board, the staff at chief office and the field staff generally throughout the country for their loyal co-operation during a year which has not been without its difficulties. When a board of directors has such a loyal staff as we have we feel we can face any troubles that may come along and emerge from them triumphantly.

ACTUARY'S REMARKS.

Mr Murray Laing, in seconding the resolution, said the impression conveyed by the chairman's lucid survey of the company's financial position was one of "Britannic stability." The shareholders had grown accustomed year by year to the statement that the financial position of the company is thoroughly sound, but he wished to emphasise the fact that such an assurance given at the present time meant much more than in normal times. The far-reaching effects of the financial crisis of 1929 were such as to test the stability of every institution having large sums invested in Stock Exchange securities. The reassuring announcement, therefore, would be as welcome to the shareholders as it would be comforting to the policyholders.

He was glad to be able to say that, despite the heavy claim rate in the early months of last year, the mortality experienced for the year, taking the company as a whole, was "within the expectation."

This is a tribute to the stringency of the standards used in the valuation of the liabilities. It was highly satisfactory to be able to show, this year, surpluses which, in the aggregate, are in excess of those of any previous year, and it afforded him special pleasure to point out that the factor which more than any other had rendered such a position possible had been the very welcome increase in the rate of interest earned on the company's funds, a result for which the greatest credit was due to the chairman, whose special attention is given to this most important branch of the company's work.

PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME.

The maintenance of the ordinary branch bonus of 42s. per cent., and the definite announcement of a profit-sharing scheme to the policyholders in the industrial branch, who, in terms of their contracts, are not legally entitled to any such profits, were features of special significance.

VALUE OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

Results such as these ought, he thought, to bring home to every thoughtful person the outstanding advantages of life assurance—advantages which render it by far the best form of investment for those of moderate means. The number of occasions in the past few months when one has read in the Press of limited companies in difficulties or in liquidation, or of individuals who have been ruined if not driven to despair through the collapse of the company in which their savings have been invested, have been all too frequent. Much of this misfortune has been due to the impossible, and therefore alluring, prospects held out to investors by unscrupulous company promoters, and to the amazing credulity of the unwary investor anxious to "get rich quick." The end of all such cases is either loss or ruin. The wise man, and the happy man, is he who applies his savings to provide, by means of life assurance, for the protection of his dependants and for his own future needs, and he ventured to suggest that the present time is a most opportune one for bringing home this lesson. The "Britannic" exists to provide life assurance for all classes, and it is the constant aim of the company to offer the best benefits and the best service at the lowest rate of cost consistent with sound principles.

THE LARGE AND SMALL INVESTOR.

Satisfactory as the progress had been during the past year, Mr Laing did not think that even yet it is sufficiently recognised that the "Britannic" caters for those of substantial means as well as for the smaller investor, and he mentioned that, of the new business of £2,500,000 transacted in the ordinary branch last year, no fewer than 1,161 policies were for sums assured of £500 and upwards, the total amount assured under such policies being £840,000. The sums assured at risk in the ordinary branch amount, with bonus additions, to over twenty million pounds, which sum includes no less than a million and a-quarter of bonus additions. Certificates for this year's bonuses to the number of over 100,000 would, he stated, be issued to their branch offices throughout the country that day, and would, he hoped, be the means of bringing further business to the company from satisfied policyholders.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted. Mr S. J. Port was unanimously re-elected a director of the company, and Messrs Flint and Thompson re-elected auditors to the company.

Votes of thanks to the directors, officials and the inside and outside staffs of the company for their loyal and efficient services throughout the year, and to the chairman for presiding, terminated the proceedings.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of Trade Indemnity Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr C. E. Heath, O.B.E. (the chairman), said that, although the progress which the directors were able to report continued to be slow, they felt that it was satisfactory. Trade was undoubtedly bad, and this affected them in two ways; not only was there less business to insure, but there was also extra need of caution, which in itself also tended to diminish the company's account. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, their gross premiums had risen from £202,000 to £234,000, an increase of about 17 per cent. on the previous year. The number of policies had grown from 3,463 to 3,760, an increase of nearly 10 per cent. Their net premiums did not show so large an increase, but they, too, were greater than in the year before.

In addition to bad trade, there had been competition. A certain amount was to be expected, but he really thought they had some grounds for complaint as regarded competition from the Government Department. They had been told all along that when the insurance companies had taken up the business the Government would be content to stand aside. The Trade Indemnity Company could now certainly claim to represent the bulk of the great insurance companies. Their reinsurers' total funds amounted to the very large sum of about £400,000,000, and, although a great deal of that money belonged to life insurance and was not available for the company's purposes, this enormous sum was at least proof of the influential status of their supporters.

GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIMENT.

The Committee which had lately considered the matter, so far from recommending that the Government should now at all events work with the company, had suggested a further prolongation of the Government "experiment"—to use the Committee's own word. He was afraid the country had paid rather dearly for the experiment, which had cost the taxpayer well over a million, largely, he was afraid, to the benefit of the foreigner. It could not be said that the company's business was experimental. Those who were conducting it had had well over twenty-five years' experience of the subject, so that they were long past the experimental stage. They had insured one way or another last year something like £25,000,000 of transactions. Perhaps 40 per cent. of this could be reckoned as business which the Overseas Department was authorised to undertake. Of the remaining 60 per cent., a good part was connected with what eventually became export trade. All of it could certainly be said to promote employment, and it was done by carrying out their duty of making credit as good as cash. He hoped that those at the head of affairs would take note of these facts and give credit to the great insurance companies for what they had done.

Their foreign connections were still quite satisfactory. The participation in their friends' risks had been profitable, and the information given to the company by them, backed as it was by their participation in the risks they had recommended the company to take, had proved trustworthy. It was exceedingly important that their information from abroad should be the best obtainable, and he could imagine no better plan than that on which they had been working for some years. The information they themselves were able to give with respect to British firms was equally valuable to the foreign credit insurance companies. Their special friend in Germany, the Hermes Company, had worked in close co-operation with them, and had always been at one with them as to what were safe and what were unsafe classes of risk.

WORKING RESULTS.

His anticipations of a year ago, so far as the underwriting results of 1928 were concerned, had turned out to be correct, and they were able to transfer £25,457 to profit and loss account instead of £10,622. The net result of 1928 working was that they put £10,000 to reserve instead of £15,000, and paid the same dividend as last year, namely, 6 per cent., less tax.

In respect of 1929, the result of the underwriting so far had not been so good. The ratio of losses as compared with the same moment in 1928 had gone up, but they were not over the average, and the directors had every hope that the year would eventually prove to be satisfactory.

In conclusion, the Chairman paid a warm tribute to the services of Mr H. S. Spain, the chief underwriter, of Mr Herring and Mr Patrick, who were now responsible for most of the underwriting—subject, of course, to Mr Spain's general supervision—and to Lord Francis Hill (the secretary), and the whole staff.

Mr C. H. Falloon seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

RECORD NEW BUSINESS.

POPULARITY OF THE DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM.

TOTAL FUNDS, £21,622,342.

The ninety-second annual general meeting of the Scottish Provident Institution was held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, March 12, 1930, Mr George M. Brown in the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said :—

The net new ordinary business completed during 1929 amounted to £3,098,580. This constitutes a record. It shows an increase of over £300,000 on the figures of the previous year.

THE DISTINCTIVE SYSTEM.

The most interesting feature of the year's business is that these record figures are mainly due to the renewed popularity of the distinctive system of whole-life assurance, which has been the specialty of the institution since its foundation. Last year, as our chairman explained to you, we reduced the rates of premium for new entrants. This revision of rates commended itself to the members, the staff and the agents of the institution, and you have now the evidence of an immediate and gratifying response by the public.

Though this form of assurance is known as "whole life," the name does not imply that the premiums need be paid throughout the whole of life. Whole-life assurance may be secured either by continuous yearly payments or by a limited number of payments. As a matter of fact the bulk of our business is done on the limited payments scales.

It was round this idea of whole-life assurance with these alternative methods of payment, that the institution's distinctive system was built up. It was considered possible to offer the assurance at very low rates, to provide unquestionable security, and yet, by careful selection of lives, by careful investment of funds and by economical management, to accumulate a surplus. Finally, it was decided to divide such surplus as might be accumulated among those policyholders only who proved to be good lives.

That, briefly, is our distinctive system. To-day, modernised, as it were, in the light of present-day mortality experience and present-day investment conditions, it is renewing its youth and still expanding the institution's business in the face of the most severe competition. The figures that we present to you to-day are a remarkable tribute to the wisdom of those who thought out our distinctive system ninety years ago.

NEW PREMIUMS.

The net new premiums amounted to £149,403. This is about £42,000 less than we received in 1928, but when I point out that single-premium payments amounted in 1928 to £108,000 and in 1929 to only £63,000, the difference is explained. Much of the single payment business done in recent years has been effected for the purpose of securing relief from super-tax or sur-tax. As the chairman stated five years ago, the institution has not sought after this class of business. The amount done by us has been only fractional compared with what has been transacted elsewhere, and very few of our policies have been burdened with loans at their inception. The board do not regret that single premium business has been further diminished in 1929. It has been more than replaced by healthier business of a less financial and more purely insurance character, the premium income from which will be spread over a number of years.

LARGE ANNUITY BUSINESS.

We have, as you will see, transacted a very large annuity business during the past year. The consideration money received was no less than £390,759, with a further sum of £965 representing the first of a series of annual payments for annuities commencing later in life. The deaths of annuitants already on the books relieved the institution of the payment of sums amounting to £9,726.

The aggregate amount of the claims, less reassurances, was £1,112,729, this total being £141,000 less than that reported in 1928. The ratio of the actual to the "expected" death claims was 69 per cent., showing a satisfactory experience.

RECORD INCREASE.

The total funds now amount to £21,622,342, an increase during the year of, in round figures, £885,000, the largest increase we have ever reported. The decrease in claims and the large amount received as the price of annuities have been important factors contributing to this result.

It is satisfactory to find that there has been a further increase in the rate of interest realised on the total funds, the gross rate being £5 12s. 7d. per cent. and the net rate, after deduction of income tax, being £4 18s. 4d. per cent.

INVESTMENTS.

It will doubtless be of interest to you if I say a few words about our investments. We have no confession to make about interests in that group of companies of which so much has been heard in the last few months—for we had no such interests—or about losses in America—for our American holdings are very few and very small. Unfortunately, the indirect effects of financial scandals and financial crises are not confined to particular classes of securities. Every one present realises, I am sure, that no insurance office or investment company of any sort, however careful and however well advised, could go through 1929 without its investments being more or less affected by the severe drop in values in the last three months of that year, when every group on the Stock Exchange List showed a depreciation. Under these circumstances it is highly satisfactory that at December 31, 1929, not only was our reserve fund intact, but the market value of our Stock Exchange securities, taken in the aggregate, showed a substantial surplus over the value at which they stand in our books.

NEW BRANCHES.

The position of the institution in London has been further strengthened during the year. We have for years past had the chief London office at 3, Lombard Street, and the West End office in Pall Mall. So great is the competition for business in the City, however, that we are apt to miss opportunities unless we can offer facilities for its transaction in the immediate vicinity of its origin. A little over a year ago we decided to open a new branch in Chancery Lane, in the Law Courts district. The returns from that branch have already justified our action. Encouraged by this experience we are now going to open a fourth office in Lime Street, E.C., which is expected to bring in a further accretion of good business.

STEADY EXPANSION.

The report presented to-day bears witness to another year's satisfactory progress on traditional lines. The normal business of the institution is the issue of contracts affording either protection against the common consequences of death or provision for old age, and the board is well content to see that normal business expanding gradually but surely and steadily without startling figures or sensational developments. The results of the past year afford ample evidence that there is still scope for an institution conducted on these principles and offering to the public a sound and attractive form of assurance against the chances and changes of human life.

The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Mr H. M. D. Watson, C.A., and carried unanimously.

HUNGARIAN GENERAL CREDITBANK.

INCREASED NET PROFITS.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

RESERVE APPROPRIATIONS.

The board of the Hungarian General Creditbank, on their meeting, held on March 6, 1930, established the balance for the business year 1929, closing with a net profit of 7,496,453.12 pengö, as against 7,446,928.64 pengö in the year 1928. The shown profit does not comprise the business results of the foreign branches.

DIVIDEND AND RESERVES.

The board of directors decided to submit to the sixty-second ordinary general meeting, convoked for the 19th inst., a motion to allot, the same as the previous year, a dividend of 5.50 pengö per share, making 4,554,000 pengö in all. The board of directors is going to propose further the appropriation of 800,000 pengö for the strengthening of the ordinary reserve fund; 200,000 pengö for the depreciation reserve fund; 300,000 pengö (free of royalties) for the endowment of the Employees' Pension Institute, established under Act XL of 1928 on behalf of the employees in active service; 350,000 pengö (free of royalties) for the Pension Fund of the retired employees; 850,000 pengö (free of royalties) for remunerations to the staff, and finally 50,000 pengö for the relief funds of the employees.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

The chief items of the balance sheet show the following development since December 31, 1928 :—

The amount of "Debtors" advanced from 192.6 million pengö to 199.1 million pengö; that of "Bills Discounted" from 101.6 million to 106.5 million pengö. The amount of "Stock in Hand" increased by 0.5 million pengö, and that of "Sundry Investments" by 0.9 million pengö, which increase proceeds mainly from the payments effected in connection with the taking over of new shares of the different banking institutes and industrial undertakings appertaining to the concern of the bank on occasion of their increase of capital.

SAVING DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNT DEPOSITS.

"Savings Deposits" and "Current Account Deposits" show an increase of 24.1 million pengö, 4,000,000 pengö thereof falling to the share of the former and 20,100,000 pengö to that of the latter. The amount of "Sundry Creditors" decreased by 21.6 million pengö, so that by December 31, 1929, foreign capital entrusted to the custody of the bank rose to 346 million pengö.

MORTGAGE LOANS.

"Mortgage Loans serving as security for Mortgage Bonds" figures at the close of 1929 at $7,623,793 ($7,462,066 at the end of 1928); the mortgage loans—excepting $841,072 granted upon houses—are covered by agricultural properties. Out of the mortgage loans the amount of 12.3 million pengö was transferred to the Banks Co-operative Society for the issuing of mortgage bonds, while the bank's own mortgage bonds in circulation rose from 8 million pengö to 18.2 million pengö as a result of 10.2 million pengö having been placed within the last year.

The capital of the pension funds increased from 5.6 million pengö to 6.4 million pengö, that of the employees' relief funds from 372,000 pengö to 508,000 pengö.

CAPITAL.

The bank's visible capital advanced from 63.5 million pengö to 64.5 million pengö, which amount does not include the assets of the pension and relief funds.

The total on one side of the balance sheet appears at 457.8 million pengö, as against 443.9 million pengö in the year 1928.

The aggregate turn-over on one side of the ledger advanced to 25,460 million pengö (22,431 million pengö in 1928).

The proposed dividend of 5.50 pengö per share is equal to returns of 11 per cent. on the face value of the shares and to an interest of 7.06 per cent. on the bank's visible capital.

SKEFKO BALL BEARING COMPANY, LIMITED.

MARKED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS.

ENLARGEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS.

SIR HENRY PENSON'S REVIEW.

The twentieth ordinary general meeting of the Skefko Ball Bearing Company, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the Skefko Works, Luton.

Sir Henry Penson, before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929, referred to the very severe loss which the company had sustained through the death of Mr Harold Bendixson, a very valued member of the board.

Turning to the achievements of the past year he went on to say :—The past year has been one of marked growth and development in every branch of the company's business, and the report and balance sheet cannot fail to give cause for satisfaction to the shareholders.

INCREASED PRODUCTION.

The necessity of producing a large number of different types and sizes of ball and roller bearings has always been the principal obstacle in the way of lowering the costs of production in the ball-bearing industry, and it is gratifying, therefore, to be able to state that we have overcome this difficulty to a great extent in the new extension to our works at Luton, now in full production. The results of the continuous efforts of your company to rationalise production will clearly be seen, I think, from the following table of the average daily output of ball and roller bearings per factory employees during the last five years : In 1925, 6.2; 1926, 8.4; 1927, 9.8; 1928, 10.9; and in 1929, 12.2. In view of this increase in production per employee it is perhaps only natural, yet very gratifying, that the average pay in the works should now be higher than it has ever been since the post-war boom period.

There is a general impression prevailing that rationalisation leads to increased unemployment, but I am happy to say that, in spite of new labour-saving methods of production introduced by your company, employment is now given to more people than ever before—with the exception of a short period in 1925.

OUTPUT.

The output in our ball factory has reached approximately 1,000,000 balls per day—which is more than the quantity used in our production of ball bearings. Sales of loose balls have increased considerably, but the price level is still very depressed. With the addition to the new factory, the production of bearings has increased as anticipated, but even now it is insufficient to meet the demand. I am glad to say that this increase in demand comes from all classes of industries—with the exception of agriculture, which is, of course, at present in a very depressed state. The following facts indicating the order position may, perhaps, be of interest : Unfilled orders at December 31, 1929, were 51 per cent. higher than the previous year. Orders from the motor-car and motor-cycle industries, which in 1927 amounted to about 1,100,000 bearings, increased to 2,000,000 bearings in 1929. In view of the present general conditions of British industry, it is worthy of note that orders in hand for the first month of this year are 19 per cent. higher than for the corresponding period of last year.

In line with the satisfactory increase in production and sales, I am pleased to say that the scope of application for both ball and roller bearings continues to expand, particularly in the heavier applications where hitherto the use of anti-friction bearings has not been so general.

I would refer particularly to the steadily increasing use of our double-row self-aligning roller bearings for such applications as railway axle boxes, steel-rolling mills, paper-making machinery, cement-making machinery, and other similar fields where load and speed conditions are particularly severe. In every instance, especially in the case of railway axle bearings, which are now in use on 83 important railways of the world, the adoption of roller bearings has proved a success, and we may therefore look forward to a growing demand for our larger products.

NEW EXTENSIONS.

I have already referred to the recent enlargement of the works, but expansion does not stop here. The considerable increase in demand for the products of your company, as well as the desirability of procuring more floor space for office accommodation and rationalisation of production in the original factory at Luton have necessitated new extensions. Part of these are now under construction, and the remainder will be commenced in the immediate future. These latter extensions will increase the productive capacity of the factory by approximately 30 per cent.

I am glad to be able to say that these important additions to buildings and plant will be made without the necessity of obtaining new capital in any form.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

The principal items of the 1929 balance sheet will be seen from the following table, which also shows the position at the end of the two previous years :—

	1929.	1928.	1927.
	£	£	£
*Net profit for year	60,056	40,930	28,652
Bank overdraft	—	21,603	37,801
Cash at bank	30,727	—	—
Creditors and bills payable ...	106,155	70,793	73,294
Plant and properties (less reserves)	222,656	236,842	240,513
Debtors (less reserves)	123,065	95,264	83,709
Stocks	307,752	302,437	286,372
* After charging depreciation, reserves, etc., amounting to ...	45,330	42,867	26,951

The increases in stock figures, as well as in debtors and creditors, are accounted for by the increased turnover.

PROFITS.

The net profits, after charging depreciation, reserves, taxes, directors' and auditors' fees, etc., for the last three years have been (in per cent. of the share capital) : 1927, 6 per cent.; 1928, 8 per cent.; and in 1929, 12 per cent.

For the present year the net earnings, before charging depreciation, reserves, etc., are about £105,000, which represents 21 per cent. of the capital working in your company, so that I think you will agree with me that the net profit is conservatively calculated.

BRITISH CAPITAL.

It is also of special interest to note that during the period under review the International SKF concern, to which the company is affiliated, has made a second issue of shares in London. I am glad to be able to put on record that now, after this second issue, there is more than £2,000,000 British capital working in SKF, and I think I am right in saying that this is a larger amount of British capital than is invested in all the other ball and roller-bearing industries of the world put together.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company were re-appointed auditors.

BRITISH AND GERMAN TRUST, LIMITED.

INCREASED DIVIDEND ON THE ORDINARY STOCK.

INVESTMENT POSITION.

MR A. R. WRAGG ON GERMANY'S ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROBLEMS.

The fourth annual general meeting of the British and German Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at the offices of the company, 41, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

Mr A. R. Wragg (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr D. H. Scott) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—As the report and accounts have doubtless already received your consideration, I will, with your permission, take them as read. (Agreed.)

In February, 1929, the company increased its authorised capital to £1,500,000 by the creation of 750,000 shares of £1 each, 500,000 of which were issued as 5½ per cent. second preference shares (since converted into stock), carrying the right until March 13, 1933, to subscribe at the price of £2 per share for one £1 ordinary share in respect of every £2 of second preference stock held, the balance of 250,000 shares remaining unissued in the form of £1 ordinary shares, to be held in portfolio pending the exercise of the above subscription right. The proceeds of the issue of second preference shares were gradually invested in suitable securities.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS IN GERMANY.

The book value of our total investments and loans amounted as at December 31, 1929, to £2,254,907 7s. 3d. Of this sum mortgage loans in Germany were represented by £895,129 19s. 6d. This shows a reduction, in consequence of sinking fund repayments, of £51,464 11s. 2d., as compared with the figure of £946,594 10s. 8d. at which they stood a year previously.

We have received satisfactory reports from our advisory council in Germany regarding the position of these loans, on the strength of which the board is satisfied that all the companies to whom the trust has granted loans are good for their engagements, and should be, as far as one can anticipate, in a position to fulfil their obligations *vis-à-vis* the trust.

The various classifications of our miscellaneous investments, having a book value of £1,359,777 7s. 9d., are set out in the report. It will be seen that the trust's investments in Germany, including mortgage loans, amount to 49.48 per cent. of the total.

NET REVENUE AND DIVIDEND.

After allowing for all charges, including taxation, a net revenue of £80,346 16s. 4d. is shown, which, I think you will agree, is a very satisfactory figure. Adding the amount of £19,076 4s. 10d. brought forward from 1928, making in all £99,423 1s. 2d., and deducting dividends paid on July 15, 1929, and January 15, 1930, on the preference stocks, a balance of £57,789 14s. 4d. remains, out of which the expenses incurred in connection with the issue of the second preference shares, amounting to £12,666 1s. 8d., have been entirely written off. Out of the remaining £45,123 12s. 8d. the directors now recommend the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary stock, absorbing £25,600, and leaving a balance of £19,523 12s. 8d. to be carried forward.

As has been pointed out in the report, the amount earned on the ordinary stock, before writing off the expenses of the increase of capital and issue of 5½ per cent. second preference shares (but after charging income tax) is equivalent to 12.1 per cent., less tax.

The company did not have the benefit of the proceeds of the issue of the second preference shares for a full year, and consequently the income available for the ordinary stock for the current year should show a substantial increase over the above figure.

VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS.

During the year capital profits of £12,726 1s. 10d. were realised. This amount, together with the balance standing at the credit of this account as at December 31, 1928, in all £61,962 5s. 10d., has been transferred to a depreciation reserve, and this reserve has been deducted from the total book value of the investments before arriving at the balance-sheet figure. A valuation of the investments as at December 31, 1929, on the basis stated in the balance sheet, gives a figure of £2,188,854 13s. 2d., which is £66,052 14s. less than the book value appearing on the balance sheet.

This depreciation is naturally a great disappointment to your directors, and we hope that it is only temporary, but a similar position has had to be faced by the board of every trust company throughout the country owing to the world-wide fall in security values during the past 12 months. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, the board felt justified in recommending an increased dividend on the ordinary stock of the company, especially as an 8 per cent. dividend only represents two-thirds of the amount actually earned on the ordinary stock. Moreover, as I have already pointed out, we anticipate an increase in earnings for the current year.

It may be of interest to you to know that since the formation of the company, only four years ago, it has been possible to write off completely £94,000 of preliminary and issue expenses and debenture discount.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

I will now turn for a moment to the consideration of world conditions during 1929. The general tendency has been distinctly unfavourable, and the year will long be remembered for the very pronounced shrinkage in Stock Exchange values throughout the world. The prices of raw materials have also fallen except in a few cases where stabilisation has been effected by artificial means. Industry in general is passing through a difficult time, but the downward trend of money rates and the cheapness of raw materials should, after the necessary period of readjustment, lead to renewed activity.

One of the difficulties which must be recognised is that caused by the tremendous expansion which has taken place since the war in the whole vast industrial apparatus of the world. This expansion has taken place at a rate which, sooner or later, was bound to become disastrous unless consumption could keep pace with it, and this it has failed to do.

It is true that big efforts, and in many instances successful ones, have been made to attain a more scientific control of production by amalgamation and cartelisation of kindred concerns. But it is also unfortunately true that this country lags behind in that respect, and is, doubtless, therefore feeling the result of the present crisis more severely than other countries. From time to time one reads of international agreements concluded between these different combines, and hears only too often of the difficulty of getting this country into line, principally because there are not sufficiently big combinations in this country with which to negotiate.

The large proportion of our total industrial production which has to find a market overseas makes us more vulnerable to a general trade depression than other countries, and at the same time our home market is subjected to the severe competition of similar products manufactured abroad under conditions which are often much more favourable. This is due principally to thorough rationalisation of our competitors, and only partly to the lower wages and lower standards of living prevailing abroad.

LAISSER-FAIRE IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

I am, of course, not suggesting that amalgamations or the cartelisation of industry is the whole solution of the problem with which the world is confronted. But it certainly is an important step in the right direction, because it opens the way to international agreements, which, long as they may take to negotiate, should in the end, from the point of view of the world as a whole, lead to a wiser investment of capital and a better direction of the activities of labour than has been the case for the last few decades. The indiscriminate investment of new capital and uncontrolled growth of industry has been the result of *laisser-faire*—the policy of non-interference with industrial development. This policy doubtless gave the great impetus to the industrial expansion during the latter part of the last century and placed England at that time at the top of the world's industrial nations, but in my view it has had its day, and is tending to undermine the immense structure which it has erected. This applies not to one particular country, but to the whole world, although some countries will be affected much sooner than others, according to the proportion between their industrial and agricultural population. The large increase in unemployment in the United States, which I believe is not entirely due to the after-effects of the Stock Exchange crisis, is focussing American attention on this problem. The *laisser-faire* policy is partly based on a theory of the mobility and adaptability of labour which has been shown in practice to be far less than the older theoretical economists would have us believe. I think it is clear that, if we look ahead another generation, further unbridled industrial expansion will lead to trade wars of an intensity hitherto unknown, and to attempts, which we should all deplore, to depress the standard of living of the wage-earner. I hope and believe that the necessary measure of control over industrial development can be exercised by private enterprise through the means of international agreements, because

if not it might be that Governments would feel impelled to attempt to influence the lines along which such expansion should take place.

IMPORTANCE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL.

A matter of equal importance to the rationalisation and physical amalgamation of companies in the same line of business is the training of the *personnel* to manage these larger units. This would at first sight appear to be an obvious and inherent part of the larger problem. I fear, however, there is sometimes a tendency to overlook its vital importance. An amalgamation may be brought about, the new and larger unit may be rationalised and efficiently equipped, and under the direction of the leading personality in the original group of companies may prosper. But unless an integral part of that amalgamation is a proper scheme of "training for management," whereby the most promising men in the organisation are selected, trained, and fairly rapidly advanced to positions of increasing responsibility, the new concern cannot achieve efficiency of that enduring quality which can alone maintain our position among the industrial nations of the world.

I have touched on these theoretical problems at the annual meeting of a trust company because I consider them at the present time of vital importance to this country and therefore to the investing public.

POSITION IN GERMANY.

In view of the substantial interest which this company has in Germany I shall devote the rest of my speech to giving you some information about the situation in that country as it has developed during the last year.

The main factor in the economic life of Germany during the past year has been the series of conferences, in Paris, Baden-Baden, and the Hague, dealing with the reparations problem. The internal political excitement, as well as the international tension caused by these conferences, has undoubtedly retarded the rate of progress recorded since the inflation period. It was only in January of this year that the Hague Conference agreed on recommending the adoption of the Young Plan of payments. In view of the advantages to all concerned, there is, I think, little doubt that it will be ratified in due course by the Governments concerned. Although it may be less elastic than the Dawes Plan, there is no doubt to my mind that it will give Germany a breathing space for the next few years, both because her immediate burdens are substantially less than those borne under the Dawes Plan, and because it does away with all foreign control and leaves Germany the full responsibility of settling her own financial affairs. The psychological effect alone of this abolition of control and the elimination of the irritation caused thereby should not be underestimated.

The creation of the Reparations Bank, which will handle the different payments from debtor countries to creditor countries, lifts the reparations problem from the political sphere to a purely economic one, and, as such, can only be welcomed by all concerned. There is little doubt that this bank will become an important factor in international debt settlements. It may also, in the course of time, be used by the various central banks for the purpose of international payments now made in the form of gold, thus doing away with the necessity of costly gold shipments from one country to another. It is to be hoped that it will ultimately lead to a more concerted monetary policy throughout the world, which should eliminate the necessity of frequent changes in the Bank rates, with their resultant adjustments in the volumes of internal circulation, cost of production, wage standards, and all the other factors linked up therewith.

GERMAN MONETARY AND TRADE STATISTICS.

A point to which I should like to draw particular attention is the situation arising out of the breakdown of the Paris Reparations Conference in May last year. Large amounts of foreign money were withdrawn from Germany, resulting in the reduction of the gold reserves of the Reichsbank from about £140,000,000 to about £90,000,000, but adequate proof was furnished that the mechanism of the German money market and its controlling organ, the Reichsbank, is such as to inspire great confidence in the stability of the Reichsmark. Credit restriction and a restriction in the volume of circulation were applied, so as to prevent the gold cover from declining below the legal minimum of 40 per cent., and, as a result of subsequent increases in the official rate of discount, the Reichsbank succeeded in the course of the year in inducing an influx of gold, so that to-day practically the whole of the losses have been made good and the position is as strong as it was at the beginning of 1929.

Out of the great mass of statistical material bearing upon Germany's development during the past year the most striking figures are no doubt those for production of coal, brown coal, coke, steel, pig iron, and potash. It is remarkable to note that, in comparing these figures with the production figures for the same territory before the war (*i.e.*, leaving out those territories which now belong to other countries), they all show a very substantial increase. They also show a considerable advance on the figures for the preceding two years.

Another feature worth mentioning is the fact that the published trade figures show an excess of exports over imports of Rm.48,000,000 (about £2,400,000), compared with an adverse balance of Rm.1,204,000,000 (about £60,000,000) in 1928. Imports remained stationary at about Rm. 13,432,000,000, while exports, including reparation deliveries, rose to about Rm.13,480,000,000, compared to Rm. 12,450,000,000 in 1928 and Rm.10,950,000,000 in 1927. It cannot be said, however, that this big increase in exports has brought with it a proportionate increase in profits. On the contrary, in many cases exports have been made at a loss in the endeavour to keep industries going and to retard the increase in the number of unemployed, which has risen to 2,210,000 in the first months of this year (compared with 710,000 on August 1, 1929, and 2,220,000 a year ago.

SHORTAGE OF NEW CAPITAL.

In the autumn of last year the depression prevailing all over the world became likewise more pronounced in Germany, which, in addition, continued to suffer from a great shortage of new capital. During the past year the influx of foreign capital into Germany only amounted to 37.5 per cent. of the figure for 1928 (Rm.600,000,000, against Rm.1,600,000,000). Internally also the accumulation of new capital appears to have lagged far behind that of the year 1928 to judge from the falling off in the rate of increase of savings and bank deposits. The increase in Savings Bank deposits of Rm.1,472,000,000 (about £73,500,000) fell short of the increase during the preceding year by Rm.560,000,000 (£28,000,000), while the increase in bank deposits only amounted to a fraction of the increase during 1928.

Owing to the difficulty of raising long-term money either at home or abroad, a considerable amount of short-dated indebtedness has been incurred during the past year, principally by the municipalities, and it was reported last autumn that the aggregate short-dated indebtedness of German towns with a population of over 50,000 amounted to Rm.1,800,000,000 (£90,000,000). Serious efforts have been made to adjust this situation. An actual embargo has been placed on the incurring of further short-term debts, and restrictions have been imposed with regard to current expenditure. It should be borne in mind, however, that a large part of this short-dated indebtedness has been incurred for reproductive purposes, such as the extension of gas and water works and the building of power stations, and that such public utilities, besides providing for the interest and amortisation of such indebtedness, should in due course, in addition, increase municipal revenues.

The difficulty of raising long-term money has also had its effect on the finances of the Reich, as evidenced by the lack of success attending the issue of the Government loan in the early part of last year. In addition, the very large increase in unemployed, with its resultant unforeseen expenditure, led to a severe shortage in the Treasury, so that the floating debt reached the figure of Rm.1,694,000,000 (about £85,000,000), as compared with Rm.768,000,000 (about £39,000,000) at the end of 1928. Legislation was passed in December last to readjust this position to the extent of about Rm.450,000,000 (about £22,000,000) during the current Budget year, and this, together with the proceeds of the loan of Rm.500,000,000 (about £25,000,000) concluded with the Swedish Match Monopoly, as well as the margin created in next year's Budget by the adoption of the Young Plan, should tend towards re-establishing a normal position in the finances of the Reich.

BEGINNING A NEW PHASE.

To sum up, it is my impression that the successful issue of the Hague Conference and the adoption of the Young Plan in due course by the various Governments concerned will mean the beginning of a new phase in Germany. In the middle of a severe world-wide financial and economic crisis, Germany had to deal last year with problems affecting her future for generations to come. The political and psychological effect of all this no doubt retarded her rate of progress. The fact that none the less her relatively new political and economic organisation has worked smoothly confirms me in my opinion that Germany has consolidated her position as one of the leading countries of the world, and that she offers to-day as good an investment risk as any other European country.

I now have pleasure in formally moving:—"That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929, submitted to this meeting be and are hereby received and adopted, and that for the year ended December 31, 1929, a dividend on the ordinary stock of 8 per cent., less tax, be declared and paid."

Lord Ashfield seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co. were reappointed auditors, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Ford Motor Company Limited

PROFITS EXCEED £1,000,000

ENTIRE CAPITAL REPRESENTED BY TANGIBLE ASSETS

THE first ordinary general meeting of Ford Motor Company, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, London.

Sir Percival Perry (chairman of the company), in the course of his speech, said: The profit of £1,013,506 14s. 9d., as shown on our accounts, has been earned—excepting as explained in the profit and loss account—entirely from our own trading.

Notwithstanding that a large sum of our capital is represented by such investments, we are able, out of our independent trading profits, to recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. upon the entire capital of £7,000,000.

In addition to the trading operations, we have during 1929 been occupied with transactions affecting our capital assets, with the result that we have been able to create a reserve fund of £811,736 7s. 10d. It is proposed out of this reserve entirely to write off £350,000, patents, licences, &c., £250,000 goodwill, and £68,324 balance of registration and preliminary expenses.

Our company is, therefore, in the fortunate position of owning most valuable goodwill, patents, trade marks and other exclusive rights, and at the same time having its entire capital represented by tangible assets.

DAGENHAM PROGRESS.

Regarding Dagenham. Our plans there are going ahead according to programme. We expect, during the current year, to commence manufacturing operations in some departments. But it will not be until 1931, or probably 1932, that everything is completed.

We own approximately 491 acres of freehold land, and our own factories will, in the first instance, occupy approximately 71 acres, with 41 retained for immediate development.

Contracts have been placed already to the value of over £1,400,000. Contracts are now being negotiated to the value of over £1,000,000, and payments to date in respect of work done amount to approximately £390,000. Our associated European Companies have many and considerable commitments for securing bigger and more profitable future business.

ECONOMIES OF INDUSTRY COUPLED WITH HIGH WAGES.

Almost everyone interested in the economies of industry is aware of the Ford theory (and practice) of high wages. For example, the average wage paid at our Manchester works (2,670 men) is 2s. 9¾d. per hour, and at Cork (6,705 men), 2s. 3¾d. per hour. We work only a 40-hour week. Wages paid in Ford factories throughout Europe are, having regard to variations in the cost of living, in proportion.

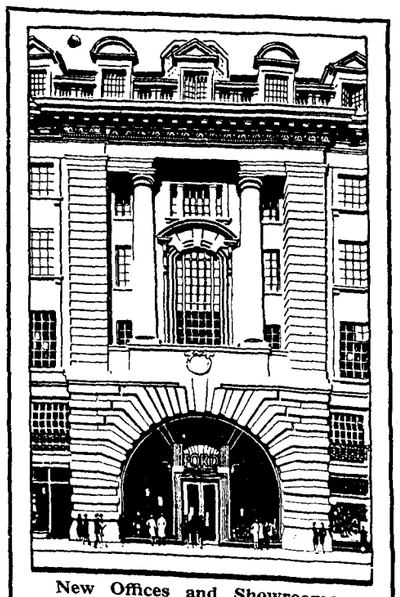
LEAGUE OF NATIONS TARIFF TRUCE.

There is another aspect of our business which is not quite so pleasant to contemplate. Sitting at Geneva at the present time there is a committee of the League of Nations endeavouring to bring about what is called a tariff truce among the nations of Europe. Simultaneously many of the individual Governments are proposing to increase existing protective duties. Personally, I hope and believe that common sense and economic wisdom will prevail so as to alleviate, if not entirely eliminate, any increase of burdens upon international trade.

BRITISH CARS AND PATRIOTISM.

In our own country at the present moment there are two outstanding subjects which are calculated closely to affect our interests. The first is a concerted movement on the part of certain of our competitors in business to persuade the public that what is described as a British vehicle is not only a better vehicle, but is more valuable in the hands of the user as denoting an expression of patriotism and devotion to the national interests.

If we are to examine what "British" means, I think we shall find that the Ford car is and will be more honestly British than any other automobile which is offered for sale on this market. This company was formed to acquire the monopoly of supply and



New Offices and Showrooms: 88, Regent Street, London, W.1.

sale of Ford vehicles in certain European, African and Asiatic territories. It did not start with any pious hopes, or prospectus anticipations, the realisation of which were dependent upon speculation of British capital or the exercise of superior British brains and organisation. Business had been already created which was immensely profitable and in every commercial sense highly satisfactory.

By the magnanimity and altruism of Mr Henry Ford and his son, Mr Edsel Ford, we were guaranteed the provision of capital sufficient to carry out the only stipulation made in respect of the business, viz., that we should erect and equip manufacturing resources in this country adequate to carry on and extend the profitable business which already had been created and developed. We have made good progress toward the attainment of our objective. In approximate figures to-day the Ford car, represented by its retail price at Manchester, contains less than 20 per cent. of imports. When our works at Dagenham are completed even this very small quantity of imports will be entirely eliminated.

The figures submitted in our accounts to-day include no less than £2,500,000 export trade. I think this is a volume of British automobile export which will bear favourable comparison with that of any other manufacturer.

THE MCKENNA DUTIES.

I wish to take this opportunity most emphatically to deny certain statements which have been made, viz., that the imposition of import duties has impelled foreign manufacturers to establish industrial works in Britain. Please let me be clear. The magnificent gesture of Mr. Henry Ford was made long years before the McKenna or any other sort of protective duties were mooted.

I think I may tell you frankly that our company does not object to the McKenna duties, and really does not care whether they are continued or removed, or varied. Whatever happens in that regard, I believe I can come before you next year with equal satisfaction.

Our company possesses an enterprise at Cork in the Irish Free State which employs nearly seven thousand men and which earns for us considerable profits, and which exports into the markets of the world a product of which we, as Britishers, can be very proud.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.

LINCOLN
Ford
Fordson

A copy of the Chairman's Speech in full can be obtained on request from—

FORD MOTOR COMPANY Limited, 93 Regent Street, London, W.1

THE BRITISH METAL CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF WORLD-WIDE OPERATIONS.

MR CHARLES V. SALE REVIEWS PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTION AND PRICES.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the British Metal Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at the Fur Trade Sale Room, Garlick Hill, London, E.C.

Mr Charles V. Sale (chairman of the corporation) presided.

The Secretary (Mr F. G. Palm) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—This is our 12th annual general meeting, and I may say that each year is like the last in this, that it brings its own problems to lead us through new experiences. The year 1929 has been no exception; indeed, the difficulties have seemed greater than for some time past, perhaps because the future seems more obscure. Nevertheless, we come before you with profits only slightly less in total than 12 months ago, and I am sure you will join with me in offering congratulations to the managing directors, since the successful outcome is largely due to their untiring efforts and skilful handling of your affairs.

BALANCE SHEET.

If you have compared the accounts with those of previous years, you will have noticed certain differences in form arising from the provisions of the Companies Act of 1929. Besides these there are differences of some magnitude in the component figures due to the continuous development of your business. You will see in the comparison an increase in paid-up capital, in creditors, and in profit and loss, and you will see also that in the course of the year our Government securities have been sold and our stocks of metals and ores have been reduced. Let me give you the figures :—

Capital	+£100,000
Creditors	+£410,000
Profit and loss	+£ 51,000
Government securities	−£399,000
Metal and ore stocks	−£168,000
Total	£1,128,000

Against this you will find a small increase in cash, debtors, etc., and a large increase in investments, shares, and advances to subsidiary companies.

Again let me give you the particulars :—

Cash	+£74,000
Debtors	+£ 6,000
Furniture	+£ 7,000
Investments, shares, and advances to subsidiaries	+£1,041,000
Total	£1,128,000

"ALL ASSETS THOROUGHLY GOOD."

All your assets are thoroughly good. Stocks of metals are principally held against forward sales and the sums set down for debtors need give you no anxiety. I may add that the market value of your investments where the securities are quoted on the Stock Exchange, and the valuation of those not so quoted, exceed in the aggregate, and by a satisfactory margin, the book valuation as they stand in the balance sheet.

A year ago I told you of our intention to found the British Metal Stockholders Trust, Ltd., for the purpose of dealing with the "fixed finance" which is such a necessary adjunct to our business. The capital is £500,000, all of which belongs to your corporation and is the principal item in the total of shares in subsidiaries.

ADVANCES TO SUBSIDIARIES.

Amounts owing to subsidiaries include sums advanced to the British Metal Corporation of Canada, Ltd., for the development of its Stirling mine in Nova Scotia, and to the British (Non-Ferrous) Mining Corporation, Ltd., in which we have a substantial interest, for the development of their mining properties.

The investments include holdings acquired on favourable terms shortly after the general decline in the price of securities—holdings which we believe will be a factor making for closer relations with friends interested, as we are, in non-ferrous metals. It is in this connection that we have in our accounts the item of secured creditors £355,000.

IMPORTANT FUSION OF INTERESTS.

This leads me to the most important statement which I have to make to you—the fusion of interests with Messrs Henry Gardner and Company, Ltd., foreshadowed in a circular letter issued in October, the details of which were set before you in December.

Messrs Henry Gardner and Company, Ltd., of which the chairman, Mr Henry Gardner, is a well-known authority in the metal trade, has many important connections; it includes among its largest shareholders the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd., and the International Nickel Company of Canada. Like ourselves, it carries on a world-wide business, and latterly we have both come to see that there are many opportunities for co-operation, as, for example, in the supply of markets from the nearest producer.

Such co-operation we believe will promote efficiency and reduce costs, to the benefit both of producer and consumer, and so we have, as you know, joined hands in forming the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, Ltd., to acquire and hold the shares of both Henry Gardner and Company, Ltd., and the British Metal Corporation, Ltd. Each firm will continue trading as a separate entity managed by its own board, but the board of the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, consisting of directors of both companies, will constitute a meeting place where policies may be compared and agreed, and measures taken for the common interest.

EXCHANGE OF SHARES.

An offer for the exchange of shares was submitted to the respective shareholders on January 23. Following the receipt of acceptances representing over 98 per cent. of the shares, the final steps were taken a few days ago, and share certificates in the Amalgamated Metal Corporation will be posted to you in the course of the next few days.

Before leaving this subject I must mention the issue of one hundred thousand new shares, bringing the paid-up ordinary share capital of the British Metal Corporation, Ltd., to the same figure as that of Henry Gardner and Company, Ltd.—namely, £1,000,000. Fifty thousand of these shares were offered at par to the managing directors as compensation for adjustments under the fusion plan, and the remaining fifty thousand were offered, also at par, to the existing shareholders in the proportion of one new share for every eighteen original shares.

Full particulars were given in a circular dated December 10, and I need only say that the offers have all been accepted and the larger capital is shown in the balance sheet before you.

WIDE RANGE OF NON-FERROUS METAL PRICES.

I said a few minutes ago that the year under review had brought its own problems. Among these were a wide range of prices and over-production. Electro-copper has varied from £112 to £77; standard copper from £97 to £66; zinc from £29 to less than £20; lead from £30 to £21; and tin from £230 to £173.

The year closed slightly above the lowest, namely :

	£	s.	d.
Electro-copper	83	0	0
Standard copper	68	0	0
Zinc	19	12	6
Lead	21	18	9
Tin	178	2	6

Since then zinc, lead and tin have fallen to much lower levels, the decline in building and the falling away of enterprise since the financial crises of the autumn being one cause of these lower prices.

INCREASED USE OF NON-FERROUS METALS.

It is interesting, however, to notice the wonderful strides in the use of non-ferrous metals during the last two decades and the number of low-cost mines which have been brought into the producing stage in recent years. We may better realise the extent of these additions by making a comparison between production in 1908 and 1928 :—

	1908. Tons	1928. Tons.
Copper	745,000	1,660,000
Tin	111,000	182,000
Lead	1,060,000	1,620,000
Spelter	710,000	1,390,000

STRUGGLE FOR MARKETS.

Thus improved technical skill applied to the operation of larger units under entirely modern methods has brought into existence a great tonnage of metals, which can be sold, and in some cases profitably sold, at existing prices, and so the struggle for markets is a deadly one for many of the older and smaller producers—employers and workmen alike.

Something might be done by way of control or regulation of supplies, but the task is not an easy one. The market for copper has been controlled by American influences since 1927, and the price in relation to the general index figure has been higher during 1929 than almost any other commodity. At the same time, the knowledge that producers are bearing the burden of stocks is a weakness in the situation.

ZINC AND LEAD.

The world's production of zinc is largely secondary, by which I mean that it is produced by companies whose primary object is the production of lead and silver, and it is therefore particularly difficult to avoid over-production. Such was the experience last year of the International Cartel, which, faced with a sudden decline in demand, was recently compelled to suspend its operations. Efforts, however, are now being made to renew the arrangements.

Much progress has been made in co-operation between the producers of lead. Here the difficulties of making any measures entirely effective lie in the fact that a certain proportion of the world's production comes from ore smelted on account of small mines.

TIN—ILL-EFFECTS OF UNRESTRAINED COMPETITION.

Tin is an outstanding example of the ill-effects of unrestrained competition: low prices, scarcity, high prices, greater production, heavy stocks, low prices. In 1927 tin sold at £320; to-day it is offered at £164, and at every stage in such a rapidly moving cycle there must be someone—producer, distributor, or consumer—involved in a serious risk or suffering a heavy loss.

Conservation of natural resources is becoming a world-wide question. In nothing is it more apparent than in tin, one of the rarely found, as it is one of the most useful, metals; and it should not be beyond the wit of man to devise some means for hoarding these riches of the earth until they are required.

Towards this end a comprehensive scheme has been arranged—to which all the principal producers in the world are parties—for the curtailment of production during 1930, and it is hoped by these means to restore the market to such a reasonable level as will be fair to all interests.

CENTRALISATION OF OFFICES.

Those of you who have followed the career of the corporation since its formation in 1919 will remember the extension year by year of our relations with the leading producers and smelters of non-ferrous metals, not only within the Empire, but also outside.

For some time past it has been our desire, and the desire of several of our friends, to house our respective offices in one centre—an ambition which has now been realised. We have acquired jointly with them a proprietary interest in Princes House, No. 93, Gresham Street, and since our removal have experienced the benefit of the closer touch which is necessary in the common interest.

TRIBUTE TO THE SECRETARY.

Let me say here that the corporation owes a special meed of thanks to Mr F. G. Palin, the secretary, for the way in which he has prepared and conducted the arrangements for these new offices, and also for the judgment and discretion which he has exercised in carrying through the formalities in connection with the formation of the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, Ltd.

He has worked from early to late for many months in order that the business should be carried on without interruption, and the happy result is due to his efforts. (Hear, hear.) These thanks I am sure you will extend to the secretarial staff, who have worked so well under Mr. Palin. (Hear, hear.)

As our trade expands so does our staff increase, and to every member alike—new and old—we should like to convey our appreciation of the excellent service they have rendered during the year under review.

THE DIRECTORATE.

Since our last meeting there have been several changes in our directorate. Sir Charles Fielding, one of the original directors; Sir Sothern Holland, and Mr A. W. Tait, another of the original directors, have retired. May I take the opportunity of expressing your cordial thanks to these gentlemen for their valuable services over so long a period?

To fill these vacancies we have elected:—

Sir Evelyn Wallers,
The Hon. R. M. Preston,
Mr J. C. Budd, and
Mr William Mure,

the latter two as additional managing directors.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS.

In conclusion, may I refer once more to the accounts? The dividend of £54,000, or 6 per cent. per annum., on the preference shares has been duly paid. We now recommend the transfer of £50,000 to the reserve fund; this is £50,000 less than the transfer made a year ago, but on that occasion we brought in £40,000 from the reserve for contingencies. We also recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares ranking for dividend on December 31st, say, £90,000. After charging these sums there will be a balance to be carried forward of £26,233, against £25,184 a year ago, which I trust you will consider satisfactory. (Cheers.)

I now move: "That the directors' report, balance sheet, and profit and loss account for the year to December 31, 1929, as now presented, be and they are hereby received, approved and adopted."

Captain Oliver Lyttelton, D.S.O. (one of the managing directors), seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

THE DIVIDEND.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend of 10 per cent., payable less income tax, in respect of the year 1929 upon the ordinary shares Nos. 1 to 900,000 be and it is hereby declared payable on the 13th instant to the shareholders registered on February 26, 1930, when the transfer books were closed."

This resolution was seconded by Sir Evelyn A. Wallers, K.B.E., and unanimously approved.

The Chairman further moved: "That Mr J. C. Budd, Mr William Mure, the Hon. R. M. P. Preston, D.S.O., and Sir Evelyn A. Wallers, K.B.E., who were elected directors since the last general meeting and now retire, and Mr W. S. Robinson and Mr W. A. Tennant, who retire by rotation, all of whom are eligible and offer themselves for re-election, be and they are hereby re-elected directors of the company."

Sir Cecil L. Budd, K.B.E., seconded the resolution, and it was passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr W. H. Dixon, seconded by Mr R. Battersby, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company were reappointed auditors, and the proceedings then terminated.

RIVER PLATE TRUST, LOAN AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

The forty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the River Plate Trust Loan and Agency Company, Ltd., was held, on the 10th instant, at the offices, 52, Moorgate, London, Mr James Anderson (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:— The year under review was not a favourable one for our business, either in the River Plate or in London. Under these circumstances there is reason for satisfaction in our being able to submit to you to-day a balance sheet showing assets free of depreciation and profits sufficient to meet our usual dividend with a large margin over.

Our balance sheet is of a simple character, the items constituting our assets and liabilities being clearly set out. Our assets are for the most part comprised in two items: (1) loans on mortgage of real estate in Argentina, and (2) investments in London. The mortgage loans appear in the balance sheet at £2,030,000, equal to 35 per cent. of our total assets. In the earlier years of the company this percentage of loans to total assets was very much greater. In 1913 the loans reached the large total of £4,510,000, equal to 82 per cent. of the total assets.

After reviewing the conditions which led to this large displacement of capital from the River Plate to London, the Chairman said:—Coming to our principal asset—namely, investments in London—I would point out that our holding in British Government securities, which now stands at £585,900, shows a reduction of £114,762, due to sales during the year, the proceeds being invested in securities yielding a larger rate of interest. The general investments, now appearing at £3,071,200, show an increase of £286,806. These investments, as stated in the report, were valued at the close of the year, and notwithstanding the low prices then prevailing the results showed a substantial appreciation on the figure at which they appear in the balance sheet.

Turning now to our profit and loss account, I would point out that the gross profits for the year amounted to £428,831, which

was £16,008 less than those of the previous year. The decrease is entirely due to our having this year applied the profits on investments realised during the year in reduction of the price at which our investments stood in the books, instead of carrying them to profit and loss account as heretofore. These profits amounted to the exceptional sum of £62,738, and had we followed the usual course of passing them to profit and loss account, the gross profits for the year would have shown an increase of £46,730.

The net profits amounted to £323,188, which the directors recommend being dealt with as follows:—

1. Dividends paid and accrued on Five per Cent. Preference stock, £75,000.
2. Interim dividends of 11 per cent. on "A" shares and 4 per cent. on "B" shares, both paid October 1, 1929, £95,000.
3. Further dividend of 13 per cent. on the "A" shares, making 24 per cent. for the year, £65,000.
4. Further dividend of 5 per cent. on the "B" shares, making 9 per cent. for the year, £50,000.
5. Reserve fund (raising it to £1,200,000), £25,000.
6. Addition of £13,188 to the amount carried forward, raising it to £225,275.

Now, a few words as to the outlook. We cannot expect the current year to yield quite such satisfactory profits as those shown in the accounts under consideration to-day. The fall in exchange is likely to entail a loss on the remittance of our profits, but to what extent it is impossible to say. If the average rate for the year does not fall below the minimum point touched since the conversion office was closed, the loss would be about £15,000. We may also have to put up with reduced dividends on certain of our investments, but, taking both adverse factors together, I see no reason to doubt that the profits for the current year will be amply sufficient to enable us to continue the rates of dividend we have been accustomed to pay for years past.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

JOSEPH NATHAN AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED NET PROFIT.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of Joseph Nathan and Company, Ltd., was held, on Tuesday March 11th, at Glaxo House, 56, Osnaburgh Street, London, N.W.

Mr Alec Nathan (the chairman) said that he hoped shareholders would agree that the accounts showed an improved position on last year. The reserve account now stood at £25,560, which, with the £5,000 they proposed allocating from the balance of profit in hand, would bring that item to over £30,000. The total amount outstanding in subsidiary companies was increased by £53,000. Each of their subsidiaries was a trading concern, and, as the business ebbed and flowed in the various parts of the world, so would vary the amounts due to or from the parent company. Those movements were an indication of a greater volume of trade.

With regard to the profit and loss account, "provision for losses in subsidiary companies" was a reserve created to cover losses arising in three subsidiaries. Of a total of £3,990, £3,000 arose from the working of their factory in Australia. That factory had found itself in considerable disadvantage in exporting its products on account of the operation of the Paterson Scheme for subsidising butter exports from Australia. Before arriving at that loss in the Australian subsidiary, a sum greater than the loss itself had been provided in their accounts by way of depreciation. They had taken steps to work that factory in such a way as would limit, if not eliminate, that particular loss, whilst the merchandising part of the business in Australia was working at a profit. Profits of subsidiary companies had been included only to the extent of dividends shown. They did not normally take out by way of dividends from their subsidiary companies every penny of profit which they earned. Some of their subsidiaries were pure trading companies, and from those they naturally looked for an adequate return on their capital. Others were really operating units for the parent company, formed into subsidiary companies for taxation and other grounds. From those subsidiaries they looked only for limited manufacturing profit.

To sum up the profit and loss account, they had a balance of net profit for the year of £65,377, as against £61,216 in the previous year. It would, he thought, be admitted that that was both a gratifying and a satisfactory result. He would like to make a further comparison and mention that that profit of over £65,000 was the highest which they had had since 1921, and in itself was stronger evidence than any verbal statements that the affairs of the company were efficiently and economically managed. With the carry-forward from last year of £26,883, there was available for appropriation £92,260. They had paid a year's dividend on the preference shares, and proposed to pay one year's dividend on the 8 per cent. preferred ordinary capital, to place £5,000 to reserve and to set aside £4,000 for the balance of income tax liability. As they had on January 1st last paid a further half-year's dividend on the preference capital, they now had in hand £14,760.

Shareholders would probably now have reached the stage of asking why an ordinary dividend had not been recommended, but they would remember that each year he had urged them to support the directors' policy of conservative finance and to endorse the directors' action of building up adequate reserves. The directors were all pleased to recognise, however, that the time was nearly at hand when it would be the privilege of the directors to recommend an ordinary dividend. If the results of the current year were similar to those of the past year, the directors would feel justified in recommending a dividend on the ordinary shares. As to the immediate future, no special emphasis need be laid on any one section of the business. All departments were in a healthy state. The results up to date for the current year were satisfactory and somewhat better than last year. The directors felt confidence in the company's future.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HARRODS LIMITED.

PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY MAINTAINED.

The fortieth annual general meeting of Harrods, Ltd., was held, on the 10th instant, on the company's premises, Brompton Road, London, Sir Woodman Burbidge, Bart., C.B.E. (chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, after referring with regret to the resignation from the board of Mr Edgard Cohen, owing to failing health, and to his valuable services to the company, went on to say that they also regretted to announce that Mr R. H. Griffith, the company's secretary, was retiring on pension, having reached the retiring age of all their managers and officials. Mr Griffith took with him the best wishes of the board for continued health and happiness and their appreciation of his efficient services throughout the past 19 years.

Proceeding, the Chairman said that the net profits for the past seven years, each ended January 31, had been as follows:—

	Net Profit £
1924	567,800
1925	634,634
1926	693,048
1927	705,958
1928	721,751
1929	775,156
1930	834,188

The yearly results clearly indicate that the progress and prosperity of the company had been well maintained year by year. It was well known that the year 1929 was a difficult year for trading, and particularly during the second half. Taking into consideration the unfavourable trading conditions that prevailed not only in this country, but in most other countries of the world, he thought that they had every reason to be pleased with the net results. Their total trade for the year showed an increase over the previous year. Although this increase did not reach the figure which the board anticipated, yet he considered the results to be quite satisfactory.

NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AGAIN INCREASED.

The records of their last year's trade revealed that they had again shown an increase in the number of customers served, and of this increase a substantial portion was with cash customers. The number of their yearly individual transactions with cash and credit account customers totalled many millions, and to have again maintained a satisfactory increase such as they had experienced year by year for many years past was a very healthy feature.

To maintain their steady rate of progress, and to continue to retain the goodwill of their customers, the company continued to aim at constant improvement of their organisation, a high standard of all-round efficiency in their staff, and in every detail of the business, and a service which for quality and value they were determined should remain unequalled.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

Last year was a difficult one for retail trading, and as to the possibilities of trade during the current year, many people appeared to be rather pessimistic in their outlook, but personally, and speaking more particularly as to the outlook for their own business, he took an optimistic view. So far as the business was concerned, they would have noted from what he had said at the annual meetings that the board had given unremitting attention to the improvement of the business, the perfecting of its organisation, the adapting of their policy to present-day needs, with the sole object of making Harrods an increasing centre of attraction,

and providing for the company's ever increasing number of customers a service which for quality and value should stand pre-eminent. The company was in a strong financial position, and the business prosperous and progressive. He had, therefore, no doubt that at the end of the current year the board would be in a position to put before the shareholders trading results equal to, if not better than, those which he had put before them that day, and this equally applied to their subsidiary companies.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and other formal business transacted.

Mr Douglas Hankey proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, to the board and the staff for their successful conduct of the business during the year under review. Also, the shareholders, he said, would like to join the board in their tribute to Mr Griffith, the secretary, following upon his devoted services to the company during the past 19 years, and to convey to him their wishes for much happiness in his retirement.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and the chairman having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended March 8, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	11,325	From Revenue	26,201
Interest, &c., on Debt	166		
Sinking Fund	495		
Sundries	328		
Decrease in Debt	13,629		
Increase in Balances	258		
	26,201		26,201

The revenue for the week amounted to £26,201,000, as compared with £23,701,300. Income tax and super tax amounted to £14,644,000 and £3,730,000, as compared with £12,820,000 and £3,260,000 respectively. Customs brought in £2,612,000, against £2,689,000, and excise £1,107,000, against £1,072,000. Ordinary receipts were higher at £1,150,000, against £233,600, but special receipts were lower at £521,000, against £1,650,200. Revenue to date amounts to £651,251,100 and expenditure to £709,917,700. The deficit is thus £58,666,600, and compares with a deficit of £18,120,200 at the corresponding date last year. During the week the National Debt was reduced by £13,629,500, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 100	Public Dept. Advances	— 3,150
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 6,130	Treasury Bills	— 16,143
5% Conversion Loan	+ 200	Interest on National Savings Certificates	— 800
Sundries	+ 34		
	+ 6,464		— 20,093

The Floating Debt was reduced by £19,320,000 to £681,890,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30, APRIL 1 TO MARCH 8.

	£		£
Expenditure	709,917,719	Revenue	651,251,115
		Decreases in balance	3,459,515
		Amount borrowed	55,207,089
	709,917,719		709,917,719

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929-30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cos of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 8, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	261†
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	320
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	554†
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	630
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	53
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,570
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	109
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,679

* Includes debt to American Government.
† Allowance has been made for conversion of 32 million 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds into 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	Mar. 9, '29. £	Mar. 2, '29. £	Mar. 8, '30. £	Movement Week ended Mar. 8, '30. £
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	24,000,000	26,140,000	52,480,000	— 3,150,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	727,485,000	738,725,000	629,410,000*	— 16,170,000
Total Floating Debt	751,485,000	764,865,000	681,890,000	— 19,320,000

* Includes £19,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on March 7, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £57,810,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 3s. 10d., and above in full; and Saturday, at £99 4s., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £26,760,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
Jan. 10	35,000,000	48,105,000	4 1 4·89
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
Feb. 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
Feb. 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
Mar. 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Mar. 8, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Mar. 9, 1929.	Week Ended Mar. 8, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 9, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	204,149,000	203,815,000	14,644,000	12,820,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	41,970,000	43,270,000	3,730,000	3,260,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	73,870,000	74,170,000	1,040,000	1,190 000
Stamps	31,000,000	22,260,000	26,760,000	1,100,000	1,150,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	810,000	...	30,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	760,000	650,000	60,000	50,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	343,019,000	349,475,000	20,574,000	18,500,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	111,508,000	111,612,000	2,612,000	2,689,000
Excise	130,550,000	119,900,000	126,450,000	1,107,000	1,072,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	231,408,000	238,062,000	3,719,000	3,761,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,496,468	4,045,067	59,000	54,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	10,900,000	10,000,000	100,000	*Dr500,000*
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,280,000	1,190,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	25,498,301	21,969,402	78,027	2,412
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	10,153,430	12,712,708	1,150,024	233,619
Special Receipts	26,000,000	24,495,916	37,411,039	521,000	1,650,242
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	651,251,115	674,865,216	26,201,051	23,701,273
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	53,800,000	52,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933	291,000	272,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	80,710,000	75,681,532	73,330,933	1,291,000	1,272,000
Total		726,932,647	748,196,149	27,492,051	24,973,273

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Mar. 8, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Mar. 8, 1929.	Week Ended Mar. 8, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 9, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues :				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	6,160,000	11,090,000	90,000	220,000
(c) For other Issues :				
By Treasury Bills	2,844,368,000	2,581,669,000	50,342,000	51,803,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44	6,130,000	...	6,130,000	...
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944-64	153,617,590	...	200,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	38,150,000	38,300,000	900,000	800,000
By National War Bonds	...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933-35	...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34	26,300,972	18,960,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	674,385,000	571,635,000	5,985,000	3,555,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares	4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	163,218	172,293	33,546	...
1929. £ / 1928. £				
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—				
Bank of England 5,515,917 / 5,918,513				
Bank of Ireland 736,607 / 404,112	6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total £	4,497,322,767	4,082,240,507	91,172,597	81,351,273

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929-30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 8, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 9, 1929.	Issues Week Ended Mar. 8, 1930.	Issues Week Ended Mar. 9, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	306,779,287	307,453,317	166,113	1,130,386
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	9,170,052	10,651,731	30,000	543,748
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,864,400	4,453,605	298,381	272,381
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,839,528	2,228,720	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	372,945,000	341,797,219	316,257,434	11,324,624	7,545,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	701,445,000	665,450,486	641,044,807	11,818,356	9,491,515
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	44,467,233	51,940,609	495,000	620,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	58,110,000	53,800,000	52,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933	291,000	272,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,710,000	75,681,532	73,330,933	1,291,000	1,272,000
TOTAL		785,599,251	766,316,349	13,604,356	11,383,515
OTHER ISSUES.					
Interest on National Savings Certificates—					
Paid in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge		800,000	...	800,000	...
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		6,160,000	11,090,000	90,000	220,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		9,500,000	9,550,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920-28		4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed		2,915,210,000	2,381,145,000	66,485,000	63,030,000
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills		41,650,000	38,250,000	800,000	700,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off		...	129,356,504	...	200,000
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		50,206	...	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		658,955,000	709,485,000	9,135,000	5,695,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		5,136,424	...	...	...
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		...	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—					
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments		4,899	5,733	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
Mar. 8. 1930. £ / Mar. 9, 1929. £					
Balances in Exchequer—					
Bank of England 2,088,390 / 2,087,117		...	...	+ 57,241	— 47,242
Bank of Ireland 704,619 / 982,607		2,793,009	3,069,724	+ 201,000	+ 170,000
Total £		4,497,322,767	4,082,240,507	+ 258,241	+ 122,758

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 12, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	350,457,635	Other Government Securities	233,578,601
In Banking Department	61,426,114	Other Securities	10,944,051
		Silver Coin	4,462,248
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	151,873,749
	£411,873,749		£411,873,749

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	37,331,563
Rest	3,750,406	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	8,987,199	Discounts and Advances ... £7,959,833	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 15,570,281	
Bankers ... £59,001,400			23,530,114
Other Accounts 36,742,704		Notes	61,426,114
	95,744,104	Gold and Silver Coin	749,089
7-Day and other Bills	2,171		
	£123,036,880		£123,036,880

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Mar. 12, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	350,447,635	+ 3,151,660	— 4,596,872
Public deposits	8,987,199	+ 1,312,250	— 2,946,758
Bankers' deposits	59,001,400	— 4,693,075	— 4,382,737
Other deposits	36,742,704	+ 820,855	— 888,356
Seven-day bills	2,171	— 227	— 1,320
Total, outside liabilities	455,181,109	+ 591,463	— 12,776,043
Capital and rest	18,303,406	+ 26,588	+ 28,122
Government debt and securities	281,925,264	— 1,295,528	— 8,858,601
Discounts and advances	7,959,833	+ 1,118,962	— 4,557,585
Other securities	26,514,332	+ 466,454	+ 490,973
Silver coin in issue department	4,462,248	— 4,477	— 376,666
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	152,622,838	+ 332,640	+ 553.958
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	62,175,203	— 2,819,020	+ 5,110,830
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only (" proportion ")	59 1/16%	— 1/16%	+ 8 11/16%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes (" reserve ratio ")	33 11/16%	— 1/16%	+ 11/16%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	59,948,356	36,011,971	590,186 in	5
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Jan. 22	244665689	10855940	151288975 32½	57656515	5779566	14878876	64889435 51 1/16
29	244710035	10806329	150428168 32½	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196 52 1/16
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106 32 11/16	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685 54 1/16
12	244613696	10924838	151499219 32½	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043 56 1/16
19	244615041	10924483	151638500 33 1/16	38581563	4732768	16293349	66057727 61 1/16
26	244613290	10924646	151979238 34 1/16	34441563	4716355	12868859	65187073 63 1/16
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198 33 1/16	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223 60 1/16
12	244593701	10940051	152622838 33 1/16	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203 59 1/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to February 26	6,173,296	310,989	501,019	6,985,304
Week ended March 5	896,549	38,374	62,735	997,658
Week ended March 12	788,858	34,029	59,690	882,577
Total to date, 1930	7,858,703	383,392	623,444	8,865,539
Total to date, 1929	8,439,837	393,470	631,505	9,464,812
Increase or decrease in 1930	— 581,104	— 10,078	— 8,061	— 599,273
	= 6·9%	= 2·6%	= 1·3%	= 6·3%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of February.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 8.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,233,000	10,037,000	−17·9	28,929,400	26,981,600
BRADFORD	5,058,000	3,913,000	−22·6	...	...
BRISTOL	5,445,000	4,747,000	−12·8	12,783,000	11,221,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	50,746,000	48,884,100
HULL	3,818,000	3,332,000	−12·7	9,442,000	8,574,600
LEEDS	4,540,000	4,108,000	− 9·5	10,674,900	10,267,800
LEICESTER	3,593,000	3,048,000	−15·1	7,670,400	8,588,900
LIVERPOOL	34,080,000	30,359,000	−10·9	128,185,500	113,442,500
MANCHESTER	55,589,000	49,233,000	−11·4	133,664,300	118,936,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,374,000	6,199,000	− 2·7	14,761,100	14,531,800
NOTTINGHAM	2,651,000	2,500,000	− 5·6	6,793,400	6,500,138
SHEFFIELD	4,437,000	3,951,000	−10·9	10,719,900	9,992,700
Total	137,818,000	121,427,000	−11·8	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Banks of Greece, Canada and Danzig appeared in the *Economist* of March 1; Russia and Bulgaria in March 8.

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

RESOURCES.	Mar. 14, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,700,130	2,977,520	2,989,630	2,995,520	3,039,160
Total bills discounted	955,620	376,940	342,780	308,620	366,340
Bills bought in open market	283,100	281,060	299,310	271,200	256,540
Total U.S. Govt. securities	165,300	480,620	482,750	486,140	514,110
Total bills and securities	1,421,830	1,152,900	1,138,520	1,078,190	1,049,070
Total resources	5,182,990	5,124,290	5,147,300	5,035,620	5,057,790
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,650,010	1,656,160	1,637,090	1,641,430	1,609,010
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,362,570	2,315,410	2,345,860	2,315,190	2,353,900
Total deposits	2,396,790	2,390,920	2,407,980	2,349,110	2,381,440
Capital paid in and surplus	406,920	448,520	448,750	449,000	449,150
Total liabilities	5,182,990	5,124,290	5,147,300	5,035,620	5,057,790
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	70·7%	78·5%	78·8%	79·8%	80·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted)

	Mar. 14, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.
Total bills discounted	224,720	88,790	58,400	39,680	33,150
Bills bought in open market	65,280	85,360	76,840	65,090	60,560
Total U.S. Govt. securities	13,480	216,630	217,260	222,380	232,430
Total bills and securities	306,130	403,020	365,150	337,350	337,190
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	931,600	946,080	985,270	932,450	957,230
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	80·6%	75·1%	78·2%	78·9%	79·6%

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	8,388	7,155	7,535	7,914	7,884	7,975
Subsidiary coin	109	103	107	105	107	114
Bills discounted	8,310	8,731	8,960	9,107	8,111	7,370
Investments	705	826	588	749	849	766
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,206	7,944	7,831	9,156	8,326	7,775
Government deposits	1,921	2,218	2,324	1,740	1,359	1,662
Bankers' deposits	5,072	5,198	5,092	5,178	4,785	5,009
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	54·5%	48·2%	48·7%	48·2%	52·4%	54·1%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.
Total securities	21,22,75	33,15,66	33,11,97	32,64,08	32,24,09	32,15,08
Loans	19,47,11	8,13,25	7,36,47	7,71,57	8,85,49	8,37,52
Cash credits	30,53,98	28,28,99	28,79,97	30,13,85	30,59,42	31,45,03
Inland bills	13,84,05	6,44,99	7,20,57	7,15,89	7,37,56	7,88,36
Foreign bills	47,53	41,92	37,32	43,68	45,75	45,49
Dead stock	2,83,15	2,79,88	2,79,88	2,79,79	2,80,17	2,80,54
Bal. with other banks	8,72	22,98	33,13	18,25	3,90	12,26
Cash	9,24,66	13,56,37	15,73,03	16,35,80	12,09,40	12,93,52
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	77,95,87	81,44,17	84,30,48	86,15,97	83,16,27	84,86,06
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,007	829	888	821	752	778
Advances in London	954	723	727	726	730	711
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	67	174	246	133	27	90

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 8, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar 7, 1930.
Gold	34,023,888	42,947,184	42,960,343	42,855,470	42,753,011
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	11,476,025	6,978,420	6,967,761	6,955,712	6,959,689
Bills discounted	18,349,112	18,791,890	18,751,548	18,798,135	18,775,599
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,290,014	5,992,663	6,547,081	5,245,135	5,626,538
Advances against soc. To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,695,544
Other advances	2,366,089	2,511,431	2,488,990	2,657,830	2,634,594
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,398,699	2,674,621	2,633,544	3,966,163	2,859,394
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	63,414,800	69,072,414	68,872,261	71,116,069	70,373,157
Public deposits	11,338,598	9,779,601	9,703,875	8,767,349	8,509,729
Private deposits	7,231,172	7,358,115	8,046,775	6,772,767	6,760,221
Other liabilities	2,089,265	2,358,624	2,378,901	2,474,805	2,561,666

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,682,829	2,410,200	2,444,389	2,462,149
Of which deposited abroad	73,058	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	127,938	398,793	383,802	401,801
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,770,509	1,620,478	1,965,003	1,933,186
Silver and other coin	113,260	164,377	137,866	138,446
Notes of other German banks	17,140	20,948	3,542	12,243
Advances	153,795	54,694	323,306	95,573
Investments	93,136	93,277	93,277	93,246
Other assets	506,095	511,850	484,925	516,764
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,337,660	4,004,603	4,722,430	4,480,231
Other daily maturing obligations	502,947	615,809	468,522	530,286
Other liabilities	181,699	168,278	151,231	148,964

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.
Gold	(b)	906,565	1,178,303	1,178,517	1,178,703	1,178,740
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	454,007	534,095	535,069	547,595	539,309
Silver and other coin		1,489	2,884	3,054	3,131	3,168
Securities	697,600	721,881	791,562	786,785	808,045	808,910
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,394,228	2,763,316	2,742,693	2,798,343	2,800,492
Current accounts	112,125	72,717	94,763	100,835	92,076	84,622

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Mar. 4, 1929.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 17, 1930.	Feb. 24, 1930.	Mar. 3, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,543	437,023	437,013	437,006	436,992
Silver	8,436	21,330	27,191	27,116	27,071	26,815
Home Bills discted.	153,504	98,047	52,456	51,660	51,177	57,544
Foreign Bills		132,330	211,528	205,792	200,708	200,852
Loans and advances in current acct.		117,860	82,590	83,416	79,057	108,341
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	809,036	795,727	785,698	782,666	828,245
Deposits	5,016	12,194	20,593	18,158	23,474	19,845

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Mar. 9, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.
Gold	22,971	168,206	169,300	169,500	169,400	168,000
Silver	29,785	19,957				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	140,854	134,000	131,400	136,200	139,900
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	308,889	278,600	274,800	275,800	285,200
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	43,630	32,400	33,700	30,800	30,800

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,485	560,911	560,924	560,934	560,944
Silver	18,350	45,156	23,748	23,304	21,686	29,415
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	171,235	358,909	352,888	343,839	344,968
Discounts	...	158,213	84,527	81,306	78,012	77,690
Advances	103,000	68,784	38,515	39,865	42,002	43,964
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	819,892	822,348	811,794	893,120	864,909
Deposits	33,750	83,548	219,040	211,937	128,504	157,774

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,058,600	5,189,500	5,189,700	5,189,800	5,189,900
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,514,600	4,905,000	4,872,500	4,786,400	4,851,900
Other cash	221,900	207,700	209,700	219,000	221,300
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,475,500	3,592,800	3,417,500	3,292,200	3,213,900
Advances	1,730,000	1,120,100	980,500	988,000	1,367,800
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,077,300	803,700	803,700	803,700	776,600
Government securities	1,043,300	1,054,900	1,053,300	1,053,000	1,052,200
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,197,300	16,328,800	16,085,400	15,716,000	16,091,800
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,429,400	1,711,800	1,794,300	1,981,100	1,665,600
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·86%	55·04%	55·35%	55·43%	55·61%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 9, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.
Gold	235,300	244,061	243,962	243,949	247,865
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	51,359
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	743	157	157	157	157
Bills payable in Sweden†	207,472	171,282	160,603	183,856	167,629
" " abroad	82,941	119,084	112,259	104,715	107,587
Balance abroad	35,929	60,514	69,117	78,181	77,228
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	52,712	55,274	47,379	63,781	57,668
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	469,819	488,613	468,551	538,618	503,925
Government deposits	175,416	179,133	175,826	160,161	165,333
Private deposits	9,930	1,821	4,297	3,079	5,773

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. FEBRUARY, 1930.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	32,920	1,677	3,363	35,037	7,950	40,681	3,078	29,590	27,086	3,218	184,600
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other Banks in the United Kingdom	9,317	662	2,120	7,771	2,310	11,899	158	7,314	7,502	1,079	50,132
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,224	833	...	...	...	...	...	3,057
Money at call and short notice	23,223	1,912	4,990	27,592	4,760	18,121	3,925	19,112	23,616	2,372	129,623
Bills discounted	48,486	1,521	1,312	38,273	4,505	54,354	2,164	26,749	40,827	2,225	220,416
Investments	52,552	3,922	7,664	34,708	17,754	31,775	15,257	36,231	38,126	6,030	244,019
Advances to customers and other accounts	174,553	11,134	15,206	197,084	43,809	213,055	16,144	156,253	143,528	17,582	988,348
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,037	592	2,773	46,448	7,362	36,575	39	16,151	26,868	1,022	159,867
Bank premises account	5,861	372	695	7,042	2,230	10,290	788	6,092	5,138	982	39,490
Investments in affiliated banks	7,276	...	...	6,687	...	7,121	...	2,514	2,992	...	26,590
	376,225	21,792	38,123	402,866	91,513	423,871	41,553	300,006	315,683	34,510	2,046,142
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	10·03	8·73	10·02	10·59	10·39	11·28	8·28	11·17	10·02	10·51	10·54
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,433	1,500	9,480	9,320	1,875	73,496
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,508	13,433	1,455	9,480	9,320	1,000	59,976
Current, deposit and other A/cs	328,080	19,200	33,546	330,602	76,467	360,430	37,131	264,895	270,168	30,613	1,751,132
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,037	592	2,773	46,448	7,362	36,575	39	16,151	26,868	1,022	159,867
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,428	...	7	...	1,457
Reduction of bank premises A/c	...	...	214	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
	376,225	21,792	38,123	402,866	91,513	423,871	41,553	300,006	315,683	34,510	2,046,142

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,851	146,625	146,622	146,620
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	35,715	28,942	28,742	26,969
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,344	26,083	25,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	266,185	226,761	224,634	232,628
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	301,169	289,267	289,215	297,064
Deposits at sight	7,188	90,804	66,902	66,282	68,182

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,670	172,453	172,404	172,337	172,328
Loans & discounts	88,470	89,240	107,146	123,276	102,381	91,539
Debtors abroad	24,102	99,307	44,053	77,599	102,657	125,213
Securities	11,988	36,050	37,637	37,637	30,256	36,120
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	341,873	369,844	367,456	346,789	352,277
Deposits	6,698	29,848	34,137	57,547	34,513	29,007

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Mar. 2, 1929.	Feb. 3, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,370	2,516,941	2,517,092	2,517,198	2,466,866
Silver	728,600	712,972	709,364	709,314	712,076	713,527
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,842,987	2,179,447	2,122,131	2,083,952	2,144,015
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,305,811	4,461,361	4,444,346	4,401,321	4,430,699
Deposits	477,500	1,036,789	971,434	955,384	956,936	894,647

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 27, 1929.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.
Coin and bullion	10,183	8,863	8,848	8,797	8,772
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	329,220	312,129	299,299	283,553	274,527
Discounts	280,656	363,914	365,049	360,898	359,015
Government loans	1,751,023	1,719,705	1,706,930	1,691,278	1,681,663
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,879,534	1,973,330	1,939,083	1,903,500	1,905,939
Deposits	71,561	75,148	65,177	72,318	76,876

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	209,263	204,484	201,634	198,204	204,296
Other foreign exchange†	361,189	311,771	309,388	306,558	314,655
Bills discounted	163,535	208,628	199,388	193,043	234,239
Gov. Debt	116,066	108,558	108,558	108,558	108,558
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	976,726	910,634	873,500	840,748	974,483
Deposits	44,874	94,676	117,634	137,579	58,924

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö.

(000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,430	162,643	162,631	162,629	162,627
Drafts and notes	42,613	25,576	20,206	27,968	25,450
Silver coin and bullion	784	9,703	10,073	10,457	10,287
Inland bills, warrants and securities	313,752	257,361	232,674	232,227	226,830
Advances to the Treasury	92,351	82,937	82,937	82,937	82,937
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	450,623	441,907	410,141	379,300	441,385
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	216,430	78,467	80,823	145,612	76,874

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K.

(000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,369	1,261,762	1,261,797	1,261,810	1,261,826
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,841,009	2,007,126	2,005,801	2,011,013	1,980,286
Discounts and advances	196,477	313,676	318,289	261,734	292,102
State notes debt balance	4,050,492	3,738,833	3,738,334	3,736,758	3,709,036
Other assets	869,823	689,790	657,007	662,077	699,891
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,062,612	6,562,371	6,248,455	6,101,807	6,837,731
Check account balances	405,477	733,258	960,444	1,034,410	395,065
Other liabilities	223,487	295,136	291,907	316,753	201,983

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold	91,341	95,827	95,884	95,962	96,006
Other coin and notes	18,102	18,688	18,743	18,425	18,410
Foreign credits	184,896	305,612	292,073	291,340	291,065
Bills	1,358,571	1,187,443	1,175,729	1,156,270	1,141,192
Government advances	4,201,148	4,147,101	4,145,093	4,143,094	4,143,097
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,158,663	5,566,208	5,464,216	5,389,532	5,559,628
State credits	227,874	199,916	197,909	195,910	195,913
Deposits	1,064,685	1,649,239	1,706,412	1,867,645	1,731,871

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 11, 1930.	Jan. 18, 1930.	Jan. 25, 1930.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	15,003,330	14,704,225	14,262,634	14,160,013	13,908,586
Commercial bills	8,555,050	8,603,016	8,657,291	8,649,757	8,980,726
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510	5,630,510	4,317,426
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	20,158,979	20,154,084	19,767,435	19,717,004	19,602,267
Other sight liabilities	9,399,410	9,361,249	9,096,770	9,095,434	9,487,636

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold	35,091	303,194	301,185	301,056	300,967
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	713,846	761,314	759,680	756,272
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	322,430	321,409	321,409
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,516,721	1,294,539	1,350,800	1,372,126
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,522,690	1,269,272	1,268,129	1,368,979
Deposits at notice	21,225	346,910	274,917	359,121	307,923

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb 28, 1930.
Gold	621,532	700,904	700,953	701,004	701,056
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	697,733	473,094	467,498	455,139	460,882
Bills discounted	*660,195*	*684,449*	*676,126*	*670,321*	*668,447*
Loans against securities	87,676	79,101	79,214	77,547	77,949
Reserve fund securities	69,243	75,939	82,155	83,531	83,531
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Liabilities.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,248,791	1,246,742	1,208,149	1,165,249	1,281,760
Current accounts	593,456	453,834	483,800	553,039	456,435
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 15 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,234	6,443	6,447	6,448	6,450
Net foreign exchange	22,980	18,775	18,093	18,244	18,134
Subsidiary Estonian coin	721	727	733	725	967
Home bills discounted	15,077	15,230	15,419	15,585	15,462
Loans and advances	16,262	12,189	13,078	12,725	12,800*
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	35,760	31,633	31,431	33,838	33,322
Sight deposits and current accounts	21,290	16,732	16,959	15,062	15,881
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	51·20%	52·14%	50·71%	50·49%	49·96%

* Includes Ekr. 7,875,247·63, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	Mar. 6, 1929.	Feb. 5, 1930.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,774	23,938	23,942	23,948	23,948	23,957
Silver coin	4,767	6,525	6,466	6,227	5,946	5,821
Balance abroad	68,536	42,679	42,993	43,187	45,404	47,066
Treas. notes and sm. change	9,230	14,884	15,321	14,553	12,362	11,294
Short term bills	83,024	94,543	93,909	94,328	94,452	94,577
Loans against securities	47,382	54,372	54,050	52,830	53,704	54,029
Other assets	15,101	20,038	13,697	14,190	13,745	13,634
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	44,677	46,746	46,150	46,829	48,586	48,125
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,017	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,661	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,617	15,709	15,732	15,847	15,905	16,037
Current accounts	64,958	63,859	64,043	64,988	66,283	64,024
Government accounts	99,899	86,464	87,750	86,868	84,388	88,669
Other liabilities	8,490	21,029	12,524	10,557	10,228	9,350

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930
Gold	34,320	35,079	35,088	35,098	35,155	35,163
Silver	4,403	3,776	4,079	4,029	4,068	4,088
State Treasury coins	1,867	1,653	1,666	1,676	1,673	1,677
Foreign currency	38,453	76,210	76,190	82,383	80,343	84,566
Discount and credit	82,335	85,837	83,182	83,663	84,762	83,568
Liabilities.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,001	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	85,302	94,829	92,348	96,443	94,840	99,303
Deposits	*66,679*	*96,444*	*95,758*	*96,484*	*98,149*	*96,391*

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, June 30,1914	Feb. 23, 1929.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930	Feb. 15, 1930	Feb. 22, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,116,108	1,071,685	1,048,747	1,039,185	1,017,163
Discounts	41,740	722,868	670,578	659,144	661,875	660,417
Advances	70,640	74,787	74,793	74,750	74,456	75,389
Liabilities.						
Notes	362,270	1,231,359	1,406,118	1,197,784	1,151,046	1,154,433
Govt. deposits	87,340	523,406	437,579	492,385	502,260	503,314
Other deposits	*11,440*	*395,343*	*234,839*	*357,616*	*387,382*	*384,053*

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Gold	1,571	3,602	3,724	3,757	3,801	3,828
Govt. securities	2,084	47,785	43,757	46,358	45,129	44,297
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	2,400	28,443	25,164	28,045	27,215	25,726
Govt. deposits	2,315	21,148	17,186	18,383	20,148	19,883
Other deposits	2,600	18,085	16,485	16,865	17,180	16,785

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited lieu of gold.

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Feb. 8, 1929.	Jan. 17, 1930.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.
Gold at home	60,681	63,235	63,224	63,2	63,222
Gold abroad	439,542	362,719	343,936	417,1	413,294
Discounts and advances	79,239	96,462	90,958	103,219	115,458
Liabilities.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	345,286	340,648	337,203	343,576	347,726
Deposits	116,214	115,708	82,867	160,336	163,079
Drafts	30,540	11,909	13,849	16,009	16,044
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 11, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4½% Mar. 6, 1930)	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3⅜	3¼—5/16	3 3/16—¼	3⅛—3/16	3 3/16	3 3/16	3⅛—3/16
3 months' do.	3 5/16—⅜	3 3/16—¼	3⅛—3/16	3 1/16—⅛	3 3/32—⅛	3 3/32—⅛	3 1/16—⅛
4 months' do.	3 5/16—⅜	3 3/16	3¼—5/16	3 3/16	3 3/16	3⅛—3/16	3 1/16—⅛
6 months' do.	3 5/16—⅜		3¼—5/16	3 3/16—¼	3 3/16	3⅛—3/16	3 1/16—⅛
Discount (Treasury Bills)—		3 5/16—⅜					
2 months'	3 5/16	3¼—5/16	3 3/16—¼	3⅛—3/16	3⅛—3/16	3⅛—3/16	3⅛—3/16
3 months'‡	3 5/16	3 5/32—3/16	3⅛	3 3/16—7/32	3 3/32—⅛	3 1/16—⅛	3—3 1/16
Loans—Day to day	3½—4	2¾—3¼	3¾—3¼	3—4	3—4½	3—4½	3½
Short	3½—4	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½—4
Deposit allowances: Bank	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Discount houses at call	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
At notice	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Feb. 20	3½	3 13/16–⅞	3 13/16–⅞	3 13/16–⅞	4½	4¾	5–5¼
27	3½–4¼	3⅜–½	3⅜–½	3⅜–½	4½	4¾	5–5¼
Mar. 6	3½–4	3 5/16–⅜	3 5/16–⅜	3 5/16–⅜	4	4½	5
13	3½–4	3 1/16–⅛	3 1/16–⅛	3 1/16–⅛	4–4¼	4½–5	5––

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Mar. 14, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85½–⅝	4·86 1/16–86⅛	4·86 7/32–86 9/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·90½–⅝	4·88½–88¾	4·88 88½
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·23–28	124·20 22	124·24–26
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·45½–46	20·36½–36¾	20·38½–39
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11½–12	12·11¾–12¼	12·12¾–12⅞
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95–95½	34·88½–88¾	34·88½–88¾
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·60–65	92·78 82	92·76–78
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23–23½	25·14½–15	25·13–13½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–20	18·17–17½	18·17–17½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–17	18·11½–12	18·11–11½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20¾–21½	18·16½–16¾	18·16½–16¾
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	32·10–13	39·75–85	39·70–75
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108¼–⅜	108¼–108⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·54–58	34·49–52	34·51–54
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163¾–164	114–114½	164–164⅛
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276¼–¾	275¼–276	275½–275¾
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·84–88	27·80–82	27·82–85
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	814·817	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	672·676	669–673	669–674
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375¼	375–375¼	374⅞–375⅛
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	985–990	1115 sellers	1120 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–44	†9·43–45	†9 43–45
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–43 7/16	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–43 7/16
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193	193–193½	193 1/16–193 5/16
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49½	48½–49½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·20–30	25·20–30
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 11/32–13/32	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47¼–5/16	42 5/32–7/32	41 13/16–41 15/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 23/64–27/64	5⅝–11/16	5 21/32–5 23/32
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50–50½	43¾–44¼	43⅜–43⅞
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·50	39·82	39·85
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	27½% prem.	28¾% prem.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 27/32–1/5⅞
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 27/32–1/5⅞
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/64	1/5⅞–15/16	1/5 27/32–1/5⅞
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	2/0⅛–2/0 11/16	1/6–1/6⅜	1/6¼–1/6¾
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	1/11¾–2/0⅜	1/11–1/11½	1/11⅜–1/11⅞
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2 6½–2/7⅛	2/3⅝–¾	2/3 11/16–2/3 13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	2 3 13/16–2/3 29/32	2/0 5/16–⅜	2/0 11/32–2/0 13/32
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	1/10–1/10 1/16	†2s. 0 5/16d.	†2/0 5/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	†2s. 0 1/16d.	10·15–35	10·15–35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	10·00–10·50	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 6, 1930	4	3½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6
Berlin	Mar. 8, 1930	6	5½
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Dec. 28, 1929	5½	5
Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Mar. 6, 1930	4½	4
Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Irish	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Mar. 13, 1929.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	4	4½	4½	4	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	7¾	...	4¾	4¾	4¾	4
Bank acceptances:— (Selling Rates)						4½
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	...	3⅞	3⅞	3⅝	3½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	...	3⅞	3⅞	3¾	3½
Ineligible, 90 days	6	...	4¼	4¼	4⅛	3⅞
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	...	4¾	4½	4½	4½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Mar. 13, 1929.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.
London—60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·8025	4·82⅜	4·82 3/16	4·83
Cable	Dollars for £1		4·85 7/16	4·86	4·86 1/16	4·86 3/16
Cheques	Dollars for £1		4·85	4·85 11/16	4·85¾	4·85 15/16
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅝	3·91	3·91⅛	3·91 3/16
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·895	13·92¾	13·91¾	13·93
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·225	19·285	19·31¼	19·34
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅝	5·23⅝	5·23⅝	5·23⅝
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·705	23·845	23·84	23·83
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·07	14·07	14·08	14·08
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·99	12·35	11·70	12·34
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·025	40·06	40·05½	40·06½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·64	26·755	26·74	26·74
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·645	26·725	26·725	26·73
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·695	26·80	26·82	26·825
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·2950	1·29¾	1·29¾	1·29¾
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	1 dis.	11/32 dis.	11/32 dis.	23/32 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·50	49·15	49·20	49·30
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·80	38·00	37·10	37·55
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	62·15	47·50	48·00	48·00
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·33	36·16	36·16	36·14
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	117·50	116·70	117·30
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·82	11·25	11·25	11·60
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	11·99	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·66
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·50
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·87
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	¼% dis.	par to ¼% pm.	¾% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	1/16% dis.	¾ to 1/16% ,,
30 days	1⅞% ,,	9/16% ,,	¾% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2½% ,,	¾% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	3/16% ,,
120 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

Commonwealth of Australia and Dominion of New Zealand.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	96¼	97¼	...	...	104¼	103⅜
Demand	95	96	96⅛	97⅛	102¾	101¼	103 13/16	102½
30 days	94 7/16	95 7/16	...	...	102⅛	100⅝	103¼	102⅛
60 days	93¾	94¾	...	...	101 3/16	100⅛	102 13/16	101¾
90 days	93 3/16	94 3/16	...	...	101	99⅝	102⅜	101⅜

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending *March 8, 1930*.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on February 28, 1930:—

	£	£
In India		Nil
In England:		
Cash at the Bank of England	4,676	
Gold	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills:—Value as on February 28, 1930	11,441,778	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities:—Value as on February 28, 1930	26,401,212	40,000,000
		40,000,000

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 6, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—	
Belgium	478
France	42,394
Venezuela	4,600
British South Africa	1,186,096
Other Countries	1,524
Total declared value of imports	1,235,092

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
To—	
Poland	1,902
Germany	116,265
France	21,822
Austria	17,765
Switzerland	8,560
Other Countries	137
Total declared value of exports	166,451

GOLD MOVEMENTS

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	Arrivals.	£
Mar. 7	Bars bought	1,689
	Foreign coin bought	18
,, 8		Nil
,, 10	Sovs. from abroad	250,000
,, 11		Nil
,, 12		Nil
,, 13	Sovs. released	300,000
	Total	551,707

1930.	Withdrawals.	£
Mar. 7	Sovs. for export	4,000
,, 8	Bars sold	3,436
	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 10		Nil
,, 11	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 12	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 13	Sovs. for export	4,000
	Total	17,436

Net arrivals, £534,271.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on March 12, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £151,601,773 on the 5th instant (as compared with £151,326,826 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,304,542 since the 29th April, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. Gold from South Africa to the value of £937,000 was offered in the open market yesterday. The exchange with Germany having moved in favour of sterling, there was no inquiry from that quarter this week, but £720,000 was taken by an undisclosed buyer (believed to be Switzerland) at the fixed price of 84s. 11d. India took £50,000, the Continental trade £92,000 and the Home trade £30,000. Of the balance, a further £20,000 was taken by the trade to-day at 84s. 11¼d. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £269,088 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £282,524, which included £250,000 in sovereigns from South Africa and £30,817 in sovereigns from Brazil.

SILVER.

Although prices have fluctuated, some recovery was made from the low level touched last week. Inquiry from China lent the market more steadiness, and by the 8th instant quotations had risen to 19 3/16d. and 18 15/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively. Offerings from the Continent and India since served to depress the forward quotation, which lapsed to 18⅝d. yesterday, but reacted to 18 13/16d. to-day in the absence of further selling, with cash delivery quoted at 19¼d. A continuation of the demand from India for silver for near delivery, however, helped to maintain the cash quotation, and the premium on silver for prompt delivery increased yesterday from ¼d. to 7/16d.

America has been only a moderate seller, but sales on Continental account have steadily continued.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver *registered from mid-day* on the 3rd instant to mid-day on the 10th instant:—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
France	86,837	Netherlands	27,393
Mexico	54,054	Hong Kong	38,541
Irish Free State	20,000	British India	268,891
Canada	27,894	Other countries	3,803
British West Africa	18,491		
Other countries	7,291		
	£214,567		£338,628

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	Mar. 7.	Feb. 28.	Feb. 22.
Notes in circulation	18,171	18,160	18,115
Silver coin and bullion *in India*	10,761	10,751	10,722
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion *out of India*	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,873	3,888	3,872
Securities (British Government)	310	294	294

The stocks in Shanghai on the 8th instant consisted of about 92,900,000 ounces in sycee, 134,000,000 dollars, 6,100,000 Saigon dollars and 19,000 silver bars, as compared with 91,600,000 ounces in sycee, *132,000,000 dollars, 6,300,000* Saigon dollars and 19,000 silver bars on the 1st instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Mar. 7	84 10¾	19 1/16	18 13/16	Mar. 14, 1924	33½
,, 8	84 11½	19 3/16	18 15/16	,, 13, 1925	31 15/16
,, 10	84 11½	19 1/16	18 13/16	,, 20, 1926	30 5/16
,, 11	84 11	19 1/16	18⅝	,, 11, 1927	25 11/16
,, 12	84 11¼	19¼	18 13/16	,, 8, 1928	26 3/16
,, 13	84 11¼	19¼	18 13/16	,, 14, 1929	26

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new sub-branch at 79, West Street, Crewe.

The following gentlemen have been elected to the board of Swiss Bank Corporation:—Dr. Robert Haab, a former President of the Swiss Confederation, and until recently a Member of the Federal Council; Mr Jules Bloch-Sulzberger, of Messrs S. J. Bloch and fils, in Zurich; and Mr Charles Zahn-Sarasin, of Messrs Zahn and Company, bankers in Basle.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new offices in Chiltern Court, Baker Street, London, N.W.1 (to be known as the Marylebone Road Branch), and at 131, High Street, Shoreditch, London, E.1.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening of the following new branches:—Bearwood: 24 Upper Hagley Road, Birmingham. Nottingham: Hucknall Road.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that a branch has been opened at Postmasburg, in the Cape Province.

The Midland Bank, Ltd., announce that the registered office of the bank is now at 27-32 Poultry, London, E.C.2. It is also announced that the telephone number of all head office departments of the Midland Bank is now National 1234.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The board of Lamport and Holt, Ltd., have appointed Mr William Lewis (director and general manager of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company) and Mr E. F. Abbott (director and joint manager of the Union-Castle Company), to be directors of Lamport and Holt, Ltd., in place of Mr Arthur Cook and Mr Alfred Woods, who have resigned.

The registered office of Leyland Motors, Ltd., has been changed from Leyland, Lancs., to Ham Works, Nr. Kingston-on-Thames.

Mr Julius S. Wetzlar has been elected to a seat on the board of British-American Tin Corporation.

RAILWAYS.

ARGENTINE RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.—The following table shows the interim dividends declared by the leading Argentine railways and other data concerning these railways :—

		B.A. Great Southern.	Central Argentine.	B.A. and Pacific.	B.A. Western.
Ordinary dividends :					
1928–29	Interim, %	3	3	3	3
	Final, %	5	4	4	4
	Total, %	8	7	7	7
1929–30, interim, %		3	2½	...	2½
Gross receipts :					
36 weeks, 1928–29 (£000)		8,869	9,709	6,043	3,583
Compared with 1927–28, (£000)		−510	+266	+631	− 66
36 weeks, 1929–30 (£000)		8,704	8,461	5,521	3,126
Compared with 1929–30, (£000)		−165	−1,248	−522	−457
Proportion of total receipts obtained during 36 weeks last year (%)		68·02	68·43	66·32	68·13

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-NORWEGIAN HOLDINGS, LTD.—Net profits of $438,003 (£89,709) for the first nine months of operation are reported by Anglo-Norwegian Holdings, Ltd., the largest unit in the whaling industry in which British capital is invested, formed last March under the banking auspices of Messrs. Dawnay, Day and Company, Ltd. After payment of preferred dividends, absorbing $99,750 (£20,205), on the 19,000 7 per cent. preferred shares outstanding, a balance of $338,253 (£69,504), or 80 Canadian cents (3s. 4d.) per share, remained available for the common stock. Of this sum, $88,716 (£18,229) has been utilised for the redemption of 1,000 preferred shares, while a dividend of 25 Canadian cents per share, absorbing a total of $105,000 (£21,575), has been declared on the common stock. This dividend is payable to holders of British depository receipts on March 31, 1930, at the offices of the Guaranty Trust Company, 32 Lombard Street, E.C.3. The balance of $144,537 (£29,700) is carried forward to next year. Capitalisation of Anglo-Norwegian Holdings, Ltd., consists of 20,000 7 per cent. cumulative preferred shares of $100 each, of which 2,000 have now been redeemed, and 420,000 common shares of no par value. Current assets are shown in the balance sheet at $107,766 (£22,143) against current liabilities of $14,360 (£2,950), while total assets stand at $3,248,712 (£667,543).

BURMEISTER AND WAIN, LTD.—For year ended December 31, 1929 : A dividend of 8 per cent. is announced on capital of Kr. 30,000,000 ; also 2 per cent. on new capital of Kr. 5,000,000 (against 8 per cent. on capital of Kr. 23,000,000) for 1928.

	1928. Kr.	1929. Kr.
Net profit	(6,089,458·94)	7,012,966·07
Brought forward (After taxes, etc.)	(75,803·65)	124,706·67
To reserve and renewals (including depreciation of Kr. 2,366,900·11)	(3,700,000)	4,000,000
Labourers' welfare fund	(100,000)	100,000
Carried forward (subject to directors' fees, taxes, etc.)	...	435,535.75

C. AND E. MORTON, LIMITED.—The net profit of C. and E Morton, Ltd., preserved provision merchants, for 1929 amounted to £100,254 (as compared with £100,663 in 1926, £100,379 in 1927, and £124,463 in 1928).

STEWARTS AND LLOYDS.—A profit of £694,000 is announced for 1929, comparing with £582,114 for 1928, which included £139,929 surplus on liquidation of the South African Company. The directors have provided £200,000, against £175,000, for depreciation, and a dividend of 7½ per cent., against 5 per cent., is to be paid on the deferred capital of £4,113,592. Reserve allocation is increased by £10,000 to £150,000, and the carry-forward is raised from £122,895 to £125,000. With this year's addition the reserve is now £1,815,000.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

b) Week ended Mar. 7, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 8, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Mar. 9, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 10 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	189	220	133	353	542	1,880	2,157	1,346	3,503	5,383
Do. for 1929...	3,734	198	224	145	369	567	1,886	2,101	1,351	3,452	5,338
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	293	406	282	688	981	2,916	4,052	2,823	6,875	9,791
Do. for 1929...	6,360	295	402	296	698	993	2,883	3,897	2,885	6,782	9,665
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	425	575	284	859	1,284	4,247	5,450	2,943	8,393	12,640
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	433	567	343	910	1,343	4,236	5,336	3,194	8,530	12,766
Southern	2,175	256	72	26	98	354	2,607	730	337	1,067	3,674
Do. for 1929...	2,175	250	73	38	111	361	2,496	709	390	1,099	3,595
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·3	...	...	4·3	35·6	322·0	...	...	41·2	363·2
Do. for 1929...	59	30·8	...	...	4·2	35·0	307·2	...	...	39·7	346·9
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	...	...	...	...	297·6	...	...	...	...	2,842·4
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	273·9	...	...	...	...	2,548·1
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	43·0	...	...	...	...	411·7
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	39·0	...	...	...	...	356·0
B'l'f'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·1	...	...	0·7	2·8	18·6	...	...	6·8	25·4
Do. for 1929...	80	2·1	...	...	1·1	3·2	18·0	...	...	8·5	26·5
*Great Northernb	562	10·3	...	...	13·7	24·0	88·3	...	...	136·0	224·3
Do. for 1929...	562	10·6	...	...	15·7	26·2	88·6	...	...	147·9	236·5
*Great Southernb	2,187	25·2	...	...	52·5	77·7	202·5	...	...	406·1	608·6
Do. for 1929...	2,187	24·3	...	...	51·6	75·9	199·6	...	...	422·2	621·8

* Aggregate 9 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	45weeks	Feb. 8	1,217	4,44,000	− 42,742	1,89,12,662	− 7,97,155
Barsi Lt. Ry.	46weeks	15	202	54,200	+ 11,400	22,27,700	+ 79,700
Bengal & N.Western	46weeks	15	2,080	7,77,267	− 38,370	1,39,23,774	− 22,430
Bengal-Nagpur ...	45weeks	8	3,085	18,83,000	− 129537	7,87,41,069	+19,62,655
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	48weeks	Mar. 1	3,031	24,81,000	+ 20,000	10,65,00,000	− 6,40,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	46weeks	Feb.15	3,121	17,89,000	− 357452	8,17,71,007	− 1,26,188
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	46weeks	15	572	1,47,826	− 3,876	2,06,79,030	−21,66,335
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	46weeks	13	1,242	4,44,882	− 116016	26,49,753	+ 87,042
South Indian	45weeks	8	2,348	12,64,637	+ 40,069	5,73,61,403	+43,17,226

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.

ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	35weeks	Mar. 1	753	13,900	...	542,900	− 4,700
Argentine Trans'dn.	36weeks	8	111	5,055	− 421	169,016	+ 301
B.A. and Pacific.....	36weeks	8	2,806	176,000	− 32,030	5,521,000	− 522,000
B.A. Central	36weeks	9	...	12,222	− 2,535	465,664	− 40,788
B.A. Gt. Southern...	36weeks	8	4,875	257,000	− 66,000	8,704,000	− 165,000
B.A. Western	36weeks	8	1,926	75,000	− 40,000	3,126,000	− 457,000
Central Argentine...	36weeks	8	3,319	212,000	− 89,000	8,461,000	−1,248,000
Cordoba Central....	36weeks	8	1,218	45,000	− 25,000	2,153,000	− 336,000
Entre Rios.....	35weeks	1	789	30,200	− 3,700	1,000,300	− 88,800
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	36weeks	Mar. 8	1,374	109,227	− 20,858	2,136,198	− 352,991
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	36weeks	Mar. 8	273	34,065	+ 5,469	1,108,850	+ 15,426
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	36weeks	8	311	8,752	+ 1,025	252,244	+ 6,882
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	36weeks	8	185	4,215	+ 330	125,734	− 5,297
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	36weeks	8	211	3,063	− 872	101,425	− 5,783
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	8 weeks	Feb.28	19580	4,281,286	−1317051	33,858,443	−4,558,262
Canadian Pacific ...	9 weeks	Mar. 7	15217	3,165,000	- 637,000	27,485,000	−6,641,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	10weeks	Mar. 8	1,016	17,300	− 4,600	192,700	− 29,300
Leopoldina	10weeks	8	1,856	33,348	− 3,368	351,902	− 190
Leopoldina Termnl.	10weeks	8	Mrs.	366,000	+ 53,000	2,961,000	+ 177,000
San Paulo	10weeks	9	163½	56,608	− 4,715	401,596	− 15,967
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	10weeks	Mar. 9	804	31,500	− 5,510	307,420	− 113,210
Nitrate (½-monthly)	8 weeks	Feb.28	413	15,516	− 19,522	104,966	− 56,418
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	46weeks	Feb.20	608	+8,667	− 19	324,778	+ 18,901
Gt. Southn. of Spain	9weeks	Mar. 1	104	Ps.122,970	− 6,477	1,064,444	− 30,233
Mexican Railway....	10weeks	7	483	$262,800	+ 124300	2,335,000	+ 90,900
Paraguay Central...	35weeks	1	274	3,870	− 310	143,600	− 10,620
Salvador.....	36weeks	8	100	7,020	+ 682	159,803	− 13,262

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
† Receipts for 10 days.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	9weeks	Mar. 4	329	78,594	− 10,577	746,839	− 25,972
B. Aires Lacroze.....	36weeks	9	...	12,790	− 602	419,648	− 35,988
Burnley Corporation	1 week	8	13	2,947	− 127	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	8	35½	Rs.133,505	− 1,221	...	...
Chatham & District	8weeks	Feb.27	15	989	+ 121	8,621	+ 618
Egyptian Markets	8weeks	27	...	2,031	− 200	17,000	− 2,900
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	8weeks	26	...	984	+ 195	6,811	+ 763
Liverpool Corp.....	49weeks	Mar. 8	124	29,270	+ 571	5,336,575	+ 31,613
L.C.C. Tramways....	48weeks	5	166	81,016	+ 2,658	4,050,779	+ 75,740
Madras Electric.....	‡8weeks	Feb.28	...	Rs. 37,165	+ 1,365	1,80,671	+ 10,835

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

AUSTIN MOTOR COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
7% Pref. shares (£1).....	250,000	...	Freeholds & buildings.....	1,084,789	+ 4,774
6% "B" Pref. Shares (£1)	1,000,000	...	Leaseholds.....	2,200	− 400
20% Pref. Ord. shares (10/-)	750,000	...	Plant & machinery	991,091	+ 26,491
Ord. shares (5s.)...	150,000	...	Longbridge Estate & Flying Ground	130,855	− 2,225
6½% Deb. stock...	1,368,302	− 48,145	Debtors.....	704,481	+ 180,275
Sinking fund	138,443	+ 46,061	Cash	124,636	+ 18,365
Accrued charges...	285,437	− 109,416	Investments	1,370,644	+ 24,440
Creditors.....	108,748	− 244,075	Stock and tools ...	280,000	...
Profit and loss	657,629	+ 597,965	Goodwill & patents		
	4,708,559	+ 242,390		4,708,559	+ 242,390

BRITISH PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
Pref. shares	1,435,000	+ 35,000	Property, plant, &c.	3,686,800	+ 380,451
Ord. shares	1,680,000	...	Investments, at costs and loans	577,082	− 396,993
5% deb. stock.....	1,351,418	− 38,305	Stock-in-trade ...	522,328	+ 21,292
4% deb.	255,972	− 8,476	Debtors	649,053	+ 50,120
Creditors	548,641	+ 62,892	Cash.....	241,246	− 1,943
Profit and loss.....	405,478	+ 1,816			
Total.....	5,676,509	+ 52,927	Total	5,676,509	+ 52,927

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

LIABILITIES.	End of 1928.	End of 1929.	ASSETS.	End of 1928.	End of 1929.
	£	£		£	£
Capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	Cash	4,551,931	4,782,717
Reserve.....	4,000,000	4,000,000	Bullion on hand	809,265	362,877
Notes in circulation	1,749,125	2,105,222	Govt. and other securities	9,238,054	8,885,336
Current other Accounts	26,514,995	25,020,059	Shares in P. and O. Bank.....	2,276,333	2,276,333
Fixed deposits ...	17,489,916	19,897,432	Security lodged against note issue, &c.	2,250,250	2,360,250
Bills payable	3,360,274	2,936,171	Bills of exchange	14,816,215	14,619,600
Acceptances	2,620,424	1,825,027	Bills discounted..	22,947,901	24,182,091
Loans payable ...	811,262	849,261	Acceptances	2,620,423	1,825,027
Due to agents ...	5,000	17,149	Due by agents ...	102,764	120,861
Sundry liabilities	816,217	793,110	Sundry assets	283,772	496,402
Profit and loss ...	624,156	638,254	Bank premises ...	1,094,461	1,170,191
	60,991,369	61,081,685		60,991,369	61,081,685

MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION COMPANY.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
Ord. shares (£1)...	1,192,726	...	Plant, &c.	576,025	+ 23,394
General reserve ...	158,014	− 50,000	Freehold properties	8,599	− 789
Creditors.....	169,090	− 150,602	Licence and rights	185,292	...
Profit and loss ...	178,664	+ 52,521	Shares and debentures in subsidiaries.....	273,178	− 18,772
			Shares in associated cos. at cost	109,666	+ 12,000
			Debtors	150,738	− 5,678
			Cash.....	12,603	− 26,069
			5% War Loan ...	381,952	− 132,174
			5% Irish Compensation stock ...	441	+ 7
Total	1,698,494	− 148,081	Total	1,698,494	− 148,081

MAYPOLE DAIRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 29, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
5% cum. pref. £1, fully paid	350,000	...	Cash.....	254,916	+ 87,399
20% cum. pref. ord. (5s.), fully paid...	450,000	...	Divs. accrued.....	...	− 59,600
Df. ord. 2s., fully pd	2,158,333	...	Investments in Govt. securities	249,661	+ 51,445
Reserve fund	111,667	+ 10,000	Treasury Bills ...	273,279	+ 273,279
Suspend reserve ...	508,272	...	Freehold and long leasehold props.	867,568	+ 92,326
Provident fund ...	37,406	+ 5,705	Fixtures, &c.	174,609	+ 174,609
Divs. unclaimed ...	8,984	+ 5,080	Stocks	462,549	− 347,084
Creditors	428,761	+ 69,062	Debtors	64,718	− 7,684
Profit and loss.....	472,028	− 4,371	Investment—Provident fund ...	37,343	+ 5,735
			Goodwill and trade marks	422,900	...
			Branch shops, &c.	...	− 229,593
			Shares in subsidiary co's, loans & trading inves'ts	1,717,908	+ 44,644
Total	4,525,451	+ 85,476	Total	4,525,451	+ 85,476

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

LIABILITIES.	End of 1928.	End of 1929.	ASSETS.	End of 1928.	End of 1929.
	£	£		£	£
Capital paid up	1,050,000	1,050,000	Cash.....	1,767,867	2,039,863
Reserve Fund.....	1,450,000	1,480,000	Bullion.....	321,586	112,616
Notes in circulation	228,271	246,566	Securities & coin	290,025	299,500
Current accounts and deposits...	13,493,253	12,678,126	Government and other stocks ...	4,937,400	4,753,553
Bills payable ...	621,678	555,194	Bills receivable ...	3,706,033	2,927,590
Loans payable ...	1,600,000	1,350,000	Bills discounted...	92,517	92,376
Acceptances.....	300,160	247,024	Loans receivable	6,897,746	6,720,421
Profit and loss...	246,047	250,506	Freehold banking premises	333,627	344,323
			Acceptances	300,160	247,024
			Sundry accounts	342,448	320,150
	18,989,409	17,857,416		18,989,409	17,857,416

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Barcelona Traction	1%†	...	...	2	2
Bengal Dooars	4%*	Apr. 16	Less tax	...	...
Buenos Ayres Western	2½%*	Apr. 11	...	...	...
Buenos Ayres Great Southern...	3%*	Apr. 23	...	...	...
Central Uruguay	3%*	Apr. 25	...	...	...
" " (Eastern Ext.) .	3%*	Apr. 25	...	...	...
" " (Northern Ext.)	2½%*	Apr. 25	...	...	...
Jersey Railways	...	...	Less tax	6	6
North-Eastern of Uruguay	3½%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
BANKS.					
Agricultural of Eygpt { "Ord." / "Def."	...	...	...	10/- ps. / £55 p.s.	10/- ps. / £55p.s.
Banco di Roma	...	...	...	6	6
Chartered of India	...	...	...	20½	20½
City Savings of Budapest	...	Mar. 10	...	12	...
Hungarian General Creditbank...	...	...	...	5·5 pengos p.s.	5·5 pengos p.s.
Mercantile of India	...	...	...	16	16
Northern { "A" / "B"	8½%† / 4½%†	...	Less tax	3/6 p.s. / 1/9 p.s.	3/6 ps. / 1/9 ps.
Royal of Ireland.....	4%*	...	...	...	...
Yokohama Specie	...	...	...	10f	10
INSURANCE.					
Employers' Liability	...	...	...	80	80
Mutual Property.....	...	...	Less tax	7	...
TEA AND RUBBER.				£	
Ayer Kuning	...	...	Less tax	10	12½
Bukit Ijok Rubber.....	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Great Western Tea of Ceylon— " Old "	22%†	...	...	42	...
" New "	11%†	...	...	21	...
Highlands and Lowlands Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Krian Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7	6
Kuala Kangsar	...	...	Less tax	4	Nil
MINING.					
Amalgamated Zinc (de Bavay's)	4%†	Apr. 10	...	8	8
Gopeng Consolidated	...	...	...	3/- p.s.g	3/3 ps.
Idris Tin	2½%*	Mar. 27	...	...	...
Jelapang Tin	6d. p.s.	Mar. 29	...	...	...
Kepong Dredging	2½%*	Mar. 28	Less tax	...	...
Kinta Tin	5%*	Mar. 28	...	...	...
St. John del Rey.....	1/6 p.s.†	May 2	Less tax	10	10
Sungei Besi	2½%*	Mar. 29	...	...	...
Tanjong Tin.....	5%*	Mar. 28	...	...	...
Tronoh Mines	7½%*	Mar. 31	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Automatic Telephone	6½%†	...	Less tax	12½e	12½e
Aplin and Barrett	...	...	...	30	30
Associated Portland Cement	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Baker (John) and Bessemer	...	...	Less tax	4	...
Beyer Peacock.....	...	...	...	3	5
Blackett and Son	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Bombay Gas	4%†	...	...	7½	7
Borneo Co.	2½%*	Apr. 2	...	...	...
Bradleys (Chepstow Place)	14%†	...	...	20	20
Brighton Grand Hotel	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Bridgewater Estates	...	...	...	5	5
British Insulated Cables	10%†	...	...	15	15
British Portland Cement	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Brooks (J. B.).....	...	...	Less tax	5h	7½
Bruce Peebles and Co.	...	...	...	2½	5
Canadian Western Natural Gas	...	...	...	4	4
Canning (W.) and Co.	...	...	Less tax	15	15
City and Foreign Invest. Trust...	3%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
Colmer (James)	...	...	...	12½e	12½e
Dickins and Jones.....	...	...	...	12	12
Fogarty (E.) and Co.	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Ford Motor-Car of Germany.....	...	...	...	10	...
Grand Hotel, Harrogate	2½%*	Mar. 28	Less tax	...	...
Grantham Steam Laundry	...	...	Less tax	15	...
Grantham Exchange Hall.....	...	...	...	7	...
Gray Dunn and Co.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Guaranty Trust of New York.....	5%*	Mar. 31	Quarterly	...	...
Harrisons and Crosfield (Def.)...	10%*	Apr. 7	Less tax	...	...
Hollins (William)	5%†	...	...	7½	...
Holt Brewery.....	...	...	...	8½	8½
Hurst, Nelson	5%*	May 5	...	...	...
International Auto. Telephone...	6½%†	...	...	12½e	12½e
Irrawaddy Flotilla	13/- ps.†	...	Tax free	20/- ps.	20/- ps
Jones and Higgins	...	...	...	17½	16½
Lambert Brothers	5%*	Apr. 11	Less tax	...	...
Liverpool Exchange	...	...	...	5	5
Lloyd (Edward).....	7½%†	...	Tax free	15	15
Lyons (T.) and Co.....	3½%† and bonus 1%	...	...	8	7
Manchester Royal Exchange	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Manchester Safe Deposit	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Mason (Frank) and Co.	2½%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
Maynards.....	2½%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
Maypole Dairy (Def.)	...	...	...	17½	17½
Milton Proprietary	...	...	...	15	15
National Dwellings Society	...	...	Tax free	6	6
Neill and Co.....	...	...	...	2½	2½
North British Locomotive	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
North British Locomotive	...	...	Less tax	2½	Nil
North Notts Farmers	...	...	...	6	...
Pinchin Johnson.....	20%†	...	Less tax	30	30
Plymouth Breweries	7½%† and bonus 5%	...	...	15	15
Prince Line	2½%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Projectile and Engineering	5%†	...	...	7½	5
Radiation	...	...	...	12½	12½
R.M.C. Textiles	6%†	...	...	10	12½
Roberts' (J. R.) Stores	...	...	...	17½e	17½e
Robinson (Peter).....	7%†	...	...	12	12
Robinson (Thomas) and Son.....	...	...	...	2½	5
Rowntree and Co.	...	...	...	10	10
Second Alliance Trust	11%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Shanks and Co.	...	...	...	10	10
Smedley's Hydro, Matlock	6½%*	...	...	...	...
Southall Bros. and Barclay	...	...	Tax free	12½	12½
Spratt's Patent	...	...	...	12½	12½
Stagg and Russell	...	...	...	10	5
Standard Property Invest.	...	...	...	11	11
Stewart and Lloyds (Def.)	...	...	...	7½	5

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
Swan and Edgar	...	...	...	5	4
Tees Power Station	...	...	...	5½	6
Telegraph Construction	7½%†	Apr. 10	...	10	10
Telephone Rentals	2½%*	Mar. 31	Less tax	...	...
Tilling-Stevens	...	...	...	15	7½
Torbay Paint	...	...	Less tax	12½	15
Trust and Agency of Australasia	2/- p.s.†	and bonus	1/- ...	20	20
Tweefontein Colliery	...	...	...	12½	12½
Tyneside Invest. Trust	...	...	...	5½	...
United Dairies	5%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
United Turkey Red	3%†	...	Less tax	6	10
Vickers	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Wallsend Slipway and Engineering	...	...	Tax free	7	6
Wardle and Davenport	2½%*	Apr. 1	Tax free	...	...
Waygood-Otis	7½%†	...	...	10	10
West Canadian Collieries	2½%*	Mar. 15	Less tax	...	...
W. of Scotland American Invest.	5%†	...	...	10	11
Wright Layman and Umney	15%†	...	Less tax	25*b*	25*c*
Yager (H.)	...	...	...	10	20‡

b Plus bonus 2s. 6d. p.s. *c* Plus bonus 3s. p.s. *e* Bonus 2½% included.
f In addition special bonus 3%. *g* In addition, bonus 1/- p.s. *h* 16 months
i Plus bonus 1/6 p.s.
‡ On smaller capital. § On smaller capital.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY, 1930.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ashanti	9,979	...	11,484	...	11,484	48,785	25,061
Balaghat	3,800	...	...	...	2,153	...	...
Blackwater	2,935	...	...	...	...	5,575	1,152
Boulder Perseverance	6,404	...	...	...	...	14,618	770
Cam and Motor	22,400	...	10,218	...	10,218	43,332	14,449
Central Manitoba	3,867	...	...	...	...	$32,853	...
Champion Reef	7,310	19,593	4,128	1,008	5,136	...	...
Chosen Corporation	9,030	...	...	...	...	10,039	829
Frontino and Bolivia	1,770	...	...	...	...	5,079	...
Globe and Phœnix	5,751	...	...	...	5,753	...	12,909
Great Boulder	9,146	...	...	...	...	21,871	750
La Noria	12,841	...	...	...	...	$94,218	$4,316
Lena (Feb. 16-28)	...	...	...	...	1,206	5,065	...
Lonely Reef	5,500	15,000	2,840	1,007	3,847	...	8,118
Lutpaard's Vlei	23,000	...	5,775	...	5,775	...	2,609
Marmajito	630	...	...	...	...	2,505	...
Mysore	16,482	...	8,023	...	8,023	...	...
Nundydroog	11,000	16,032	5,867	1,040	6,907	...	...
Ooregum	13,500	19,500	5,300	868	6,168	...	...
Oriental Consolidated (Jan.)	20,809	...	...	...	...	$98,141	$27,958
Oriental Consolidated	Clean-up	...	...	...	...	$92,000	...
Pato (21 days to Feb. 25)	...	...	...	...	...	$11,786	...
Rezende	5,000	1,200	...	...	2,537	10,834	5,011
Rhodesian Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	...	805
Santa Gertrudis	46,186	...	...	...	...	$93,067	...
Sherwood Starr	4,600	...	...	...	...	10,525	4,653
Sons of Gwalia	12,960	...	...	...	...	11,116	...
South Kalgurli	8,055	...	...	...	...	14,292	3,037
Taquah and Abosso	8,750	...	...	...	...	14,719	2,655
Wanderer	10,670	...	...	...	...	11,225	2,002

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Anglo-Nigerian Corporation	82½	Concentrates.
Aramayo	241	In addition, 154,000 ozs. silver.
Asam Kumbang (Jan.)	876	Piculs; value, $46,163.
Baba River	4	Concentrates.
Bangrin	64½	...
Batu Caves	16	Est. profit, £87.
Bisichi	120	...
Consolidated of Burma	90	Mixed concentrates.
Daffo	6	...
Ex-Lands Nigeria	55	...
Gopeng	68½	Est. value, £7,060; est. profit, £5,230.
Hongkong	113	Est. value, £11,130.
Ipoh	29½	Est. profit, £460.
Kampong Kamunting (Jan.)	711	Piculs; value
Kassa	15½	Concentrates.
Kent (F.M.S.)	30	Est. value, £2,985; est. profit, £1,440.
Kepong	37	Est. value, £3,705; est. profit, £1,535.
Kinta	24	Est. value, £2,520; est. profit, £1,062.
Kinta Kellas	29½	Est. value, £3,150; est. profit, £1,750.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
COMPETITIVE FIGURES
FOR
ALL CLASSES
OF
LIFE ASSURANCE.
48 Gracechurch Street, E.C. 3.

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
Kramat Pulai	...	Profit, £2,000.
Lower Bisichi	4½	...
Malayan	142½	Est. value, £15,584; est. profit, £8,753.
Malaysiam	22½	Est. value, £2,450; est. profit, £1,528.
Meru	20·8	...
Naraguta	17	...
Naraguta Korot	12½	...
Naraguti Durumi	19	...
Naraguta Extended	7	...
Nigerian Consolidated	18	...
Pahang Consolidated	222	Black tin.
Pattani	50	Piculs.
Pengkalen	48	Est. value, £5,065; est. profit, £2,230.
Petaling	202½	Est. value, £19,833; est. profit, £12,833.
Puchong (Jan.)	404	Piculs; value, $20,973.
Pusing	...	Gross profit, £74.
Rahman	65½	...
Rambutan	9½	Est. value, £905; est. profit, £95.
Rantau	15	Est. loss, £816.
Ribon Valley	15½	Concentrates.
San Finx	14	Concentrates; 10 tons wolfram.
Selayang	26	Concentrates.
Siamese	134½	...
Sione	24½	...
Siput	9½	...
South Bukeru	10	...
South Crofty	54½	Black tin; est. value, £5,917.
COAL.		
Chinese Engineering	116,000	Sales by Kailan Mining Administration, week ended February 22.
,, ,,	95,000	Week ended March 1.
Clydesdale (Transvaal)	38,976	...
Dundee	45,848	...
Durban Navigation	51,835	...
Natal Navigation	117,656	...
Singareni	74,824	...
South African	59,222	...
Tweefontein	61,131	...
Vereeniging Estates	232,581	...
Wankie	70,238	Coal sales; 7,647 coke sales.
Witbank	63,537	...

BURMA CORPORATION, LTD.—During the month of January, 41,429 tons of ore were mined, including 2,814 tons of high-grade ore. 25,000 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 10,520 tons of leady concentrates. 14,101 tons of lead-bearing material, including 4,027 tons of high-grade ore, were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 7,253 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were 6,750 tons refined lead and 608,741 ounces refined silver. Of silver production 25,347 ounces were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Zinc plant produced 4,800 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 8.0 ounces silver, 4.5 per cent lead and 51.5 per cent. zinc. In addition to the above, 1,100 tons copper matte were produced from the treatment of accumulated smelter by-products and 7,217 tons copper ore. 100 tons of refined antimonial lead and 200 tons of nickel speiss were also produced. Included in the tonnage of refined lead is 78 tons recovered from the smelting of copper ore.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION, LTD.—During the four weeks ended January 25, 1930, 8,612 tons of Central Mine ore were milled at the Central Mine, producing 1,553 tons of leady concentrates (including 43 tons from the de-leading plant), which assayed 49 ozs. silver and 65 per cent. lead, together with 2,156 tons zinc concentrates assaying 6 ozs. silver, 3 per cent. lead and 50 per cent. zinc per ton.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH, LTD.—For the four weeks ended February 8, 1930, 37,240 tons of crude ore were treated and produced 7,484 tons of leady concentrates assaying 69 per cent. lead and 26 ozs. silver per ton; also 7,662 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 50 per cent. zinc.

NORTH BROKEN HILL, LTD.—For the month of January the production was as follows: 39,802 tons of crude ore were treated, assaying 14·5 per cent. lead, 8·6 ozs. silver per ton and 10·8 per cent. zinc, producing 8,470 tons lead concentrates assaying 63·7 per cent. lead, 34·7 ozs. silver per ton and 7·7 per cent. zinc; also 6,650 tons zinc concentrates assaying 49·1 per cent. zinc, 2·6 per cent. lead and 3·3 ozs. silver per ton.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	January, 1930.			February, 1930.		
	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	82,000	134,153	43,612	74,000	122,977	40,008
City Deep	99,000	105,176	5,455*	88,000	97,533	4,499*
Consolidated Main Reef	59,300	89,187	12,074	54,600	82,754	11,515
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	228,000	309,022	73,727	216,000	292,950	73,205
Durban Roodepoort Deep	41,700	59,200	4,900	38,500	53,862	4,153
East Rand Proprietary	147,000	168,371	10,064	137,000	158,109	9,023
Geduld Proprietary	85,000	116,191	46,753	80,000	109,398	43,492
Geldenhuis Deep	66,000	66,253	5,231	58,700	59,972	4,723
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,200	8,881	817	6,000	8,927	870
Government Areas	210,000	400,792	236,633	189,000	359,371	210,258
Kleinfontein, New	52,200	50,671	4,407	48,200	46,829	5,173
Langlaagte Estate	81,500	116,790	33,001	75,000	111,134	31,543
Meyer and Charlton	17,500	19,150	2,170	16,500	18,014	1,710
Modderfontein B.	71,500	108,896	48,101	66,000	102,910	45,082
Modderfontein Deep Levels	45,900	100,730	64,747	41,400	90,686	57,859
Modderfontein East	70,000	87,800	17,534	63,500	79,565	16,065
Modderfontein, New (£4 shares)	155,000	317,394	189,180	140,000	287,308	168,711
New State Areas	78,000	148,185	70,046	72,000	138,183	65,020
Nourse Mines	54,500	70,482	4,053	57,000	71,521	5,043
Randfontein Estates	204,000	216,679	27,125	191,000	202,830	25,643
Robinson Deep†	137,500†	153,452	19,029	123,800†	141,512	20,457
Rose Deep	58,500	51,879	2,856	55,500	48,489	2,137
Simmer and Jack	73,800	82,749	6,532	69,500	81,055	6,278
Spring Mines	70,000	143,387	66,020	64,000	133,055	59,266
Sub-Nigel	27,400	90,811	30,163	26,500	88,275	30,550
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	15,000	19,997	2,021	13,400	20,109	2,910
Van Ryn	42,000	41,185	4,024	38,000	38,670	3,317
Van Ryn Deep	62,000	105,948	42,124	60,000	102,741	40,067
West Rand Consolid'td	90,000	98,342	20,032	82,000	91,755	17,408
West Springs	66,300	59,221	17,773	63,000	72,543	16,022
Witwatersrand Deep	42,300	39,708	1,708*	39,000	36,809	102
Witwatersrand Knight's	56,000	53,405	6,249	51,000	48,692	5,454

* Loss. † Includes the returns from Village Deep.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Eastern Bank	Dec. 31	44,470	123,521	167,991	...	90,000	9	30,000	47,991	124,470	9
Breweries.											
Courage and Co.	Dec. 31	105,073	472,201	577,274	20,000	312,500	25	138,000	106,774	470,725	25
Holt Brewery	Dec. 31	52,464	83,683	136,147	23,493	49,287	8½	10,500	52,867	83,169	8½
Taylor, Walker and Co.	Dec. 31	57,995	257,656	315,651	...	187,500	12½	70,000	58,151	226,985	10½‡
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Shropshire, Worcestershire & Staffordshire Electric	Dec. 31	...	180,520	180,520	42,000	80,625	8 A 7½ B	57,895	...	142,993	8A 7½B
Financial Land, &c.											
Liverpool Exchange	Dec. 31	...	26,652	26,652	...	20,000	5	6,320	332	30,680	5
Gas.											
Pontypool Gas and Water	Dec. 31	1,192	7,293	8,485	...	7,268	7½A 5½ B,C,D	...	1,217	9,026	7½A 5½ B,C,D
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Hadfields, Ltd.	Dec. 31	90,571	52,420	142,991	13,500	37,196	2½	...	92,295	54,901	2½
North British Locomotive	Dec. 31	317	*Dr. 21,676*	*Dr. 21,359*	30,000	25,000	2½	*Dr. 80,000*	3,641	*Dr. 2,305*	2½
Scottish Iron and Steel	Dec. 31	14,325	41,741	56,066	18,000	21,600	6	...	16,466	47,055	5
Motor and Cycle.											
Austin Motor	Dec. 31	59,664	559,788	619,452	404,000	¶ 144,000	20 PO 20 O	...	71,452	345,975*v*	...
Brooks (J. B.) and Co.	Dec. 31**	7,945	15,660	23,605	5,333	10,667	5 p.a.	...	7,605	11,300	7½
Oil.											
Affiliated Oilfields	Oct. 31‖	...	*Dr. 8,159*	*Dr. 8,159*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 8,159*	...	...
Rubber, &c.											
Rangoon Para Rubber Ests.	Dec. 31	3,652	*Dr. 960*	2,692	...	...	...	...	2,692	1,396	...
Shops and Stores.											
Dickens and Jones	Jan. 31	39,131	69,368	108,499	13,750	42,000	12	5,000	47,749	65,633	12
Greenlees and Sons (Easiephit Footwear)	Dec. 28	4,100	*Dr. 2,371*	1,729	7,500	...	...	...	*Dr. 5,771*	31,021	...
Liberty and Co.	Jan. 31	20,358	75,103	95,461	6,000	20,000	20†	50,000	20,461	83,373	20†
Maypole Dairy	Jan. 4	196,816	554,587	751,403	17,500	467,708	20 PO 17½DO	58,333	207,862	525,521	17½
Roberts (J. R.) Stores	Feb. 14	12,008	16,675	28,683	1,000	13,563	17½	4,902	9,218	17,496	17½
Robinson (Peter)	Jan. 31	32,170	125,884	158,054	66,500	60,495	6 PO 12 Ord	...	31,059	126,194	12
Telegraphs, &c.											
Automatic Telephone Co.	Dec. 31	93,483	118,802	212,285	12,000	62,500	12½	19,500	118,285	171,228	12½
Ericsson Telephones	Dec. 31	18,236	64,087	82,323	13,998	24,002	8†	25,000	19,323	31,012	5
International Auto. Teleph.	Dec. 31	69,735	133,517	203,252	11,924	98.750	12½	10,000	82,578	130,817	12½
Marconi International Marine	Dec. 31	36,689	201,611	238,300	...	178,909	15	41,986	17,405	193,420	15
Textiles.											
Hollins (William) and Co.	Dec. 31	43,745	114,847	158,592	18,000	95,250	7½	...	45,342	153,446	8½
R.M.C. Textiles (1928)	Dec. 31	4,919	32,756	37,675	...	25,000	10	7,000	5,675	23,669	...
Samnugger Jute	Dec. 31	110,554	167,143‡	277,697	8,100	162,000	30	...	107,597	286,603	30
Titaghur Jute	Dec. 31	93,871	167,807*	261,678	8,100	162,000	30	...	91,578	238,157	30
Victoria Jute	Dec. 31	57,478	115,646§	173,124	8,100	108,000	30	...	57,024	193,492	30
Trust.											
Caledonian Trust	Jan. 31	15,891	85,104	100,995	20,400	52,192	16	10,000	18,403	80,398	15
City Property Investment	Jan. 31	779	12,017	12,796	5,195	5,549	14	1,000	1,052	11,466	14
Colonial Securities Trust	Jan. 31	7,013	22,012	29,025	9,495	11,078	7 PO	8,452	...	22,745	7
English & Scottish Investors	Jan. 31§	...	17,623	17,623	9,094*a*	4,850*a*	4p.a.	...	3,679	...	...
Equatorial Trust	Dec. 31	18,005	24,049	42,054	...	16,000	4	...	26,054	20,872	5
London Border & Gen. Trust	Jan. 31	4,204	72,555	76,759	36,000	24,000	5	10,000	6,759	49,824	5
Scottish Eastern Investment	Jan. 31	2,823	33,300	36,123	12,607	15,536	7½	5,099	2,881	25,295	7
Scottish Western Invest. Co.	Jan. 31	28,104	109,451	137,555	20,400	61,792	19	25,000	30,363	101,815	18
Waterworks.											
Falmouth Water Works	Dec. 31	6,929	1,710	8,639	2,150	3,038	10 6	2,954	497	3,437	10 6
Stroud Water	Dec. 31	544	2,975	3,519	500	1,658	10 7	1,000	361	2,613	10 7
Other Companies.											
British Portland Cement	Dec. 31	193,662	637,579	831,241	85,500	252,000	15	299,312	199,429	636,045	15
Canning (W.) and Co.	Dec. 31	9,246	61,706	70,952	...	36,000	15	22,000	12,952	49,215	15
Cooper, McDougall and Robertson	Sept. 30	42,634	229,627	272,261	52,323	111,295	15	50,000	58,643	249,849	15
Lloyd (Edward)	Dec. 31	63,293	373,312	436,605	84,000	240,000	15†	25,000	87,605	360,814	15†
London & Thames Haven Oil Wharves	Dec. 31	109,333	176,434	285,767	1,120	168,322	15†	...	116,325	124,882	15†
Manchester Royal Exchange	Feb. 28	122,906	40,919	163,825	...	51,200	8	...	112,625	44,540	8
Morton (C. and E.)	Dec. 31	52,964	100,254	153,218	28,000	70,151	8 PO 14 Ord	8,000	47,067	124,463	19
Pinchin, Johnson and Co.	Dec. 31	80,102	381,533	461,635	26,000	331,189	30	20,000	84,446	354,280	30
Radiation	Dec. 31	123,925	295,997	419,922	52,201	226,252	12½	...	141,469	279,650	12½
Robinson (Thos.) and Son	Dec. 31	8,986	5,126	14,112	11,250	5,540	2½	*Dr. 5,000*	2,322	2,124	5
United Carlo Gatti, &c.	Dec. 31	23,064	38,318	61,382	5,500	33,000	11†	...	22,882	58,470	12½†
United Turkey Red	Dec. 31	44,552	82,301	126,853	42,063	40,950	6	...	43,840	124,814	10

* After writing £116,533 off jute stocks. † Free of income tax. ‡ After writing £134,167 off jute stocks. § For period from February 8, 1929, to January 31, 1930. ‖ Period from February 24, 1928, to October 31, 1929. ¶ Including 6½ years' arrears of dividend on "B" preference shares to March 31, 1930. ** For period from September 1, 1928, to December 31, 1929. *a* Paid for six months. (*v*) Fifteen months.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions have remained favourable for outdoor work, and farmers are busily engaged on spring sowings, an early completion being possible, despite the late start. Large areas of land have been already seeded to oats and barley, but the wheat acreage is likely to be increased at the expense of feeding stuffs owing to the difficulty in finding an outlet for the latter, despite exceptionally low prices current. Little interest is evinced in native wheat, though supplies remain in small compass at the principal statute markets, prices being adversely influenced by general trade depression. Imported descriptions moved off slowly, buyers adopting a reserved attitude in face of slumping prices and increased offers from North America. Large surplus wheat supplies in Canada and the United States remain the chief factor in the international situation, and it would appear that a serious attempt is at last being made to hasten the export movement. Prices on the other side have declined sharply on selling orders of Canadian grades, but European importers remain aloof pending further developments, while under the knowledge that stocks must be considerably reduced in the near future to make room for the coming harvests. The United States position is also proving burdensome, giving rise to considerable uneasiness, and reports were current that large quantities of hard winter wheat may be unloaded on the European market shortly. Argentine sellers followed the reduction in Northern prices and offered freely on competitive terms which accelerated the downward movement. The weakness of wheat was duly reflected in the market for feeding stuffs, prices in some instances being now below pre-war level. Plate maize declined sharply under increased selling pressure by Argentine shippers, particularly in forward positions, and competition from the Danube becomes more acute. The Argentine new crop is progressing favourably, and a considerable increase on last season's yield is practically assured. Barley and oats were difficult to vend, though prices were again marked down.

WHEAT.—Dull and again easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex-ship, 43s.; No. 2 ditto, 42s.; No. 3, 40s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 39s. 6d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 37s. 6d.; No. 6 ditto, 30s. 6d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 39s. 6d.; No. 2 hard Winter, 41s. 6d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 39s.; Barusso, 63½ lbs., ex-ship to arrive, 39s. 6d.; Australian, 41s. per 496 lbs. English, 8s.-8s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Dull and weak. London straight run, quoted, 35s. per sack for country deliveries and 34s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 34s.-35s.; Australian, 31s. 9d. ex-store on c.i.f. terms. Manitoba top patents, March-April, 33s.-33s. 6d.; export ditto, 30s. 6d.-31s.; Australian, 28s.-29s.; French, prompt, 25s. 6d.-27s. 3d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, March-June, £6 per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier. Plate, landed, 26s.; ex-ship, 24s. 9d.; March-April, 24s.; new, April-May, 23s. 6d.; May-June, 23s. 3d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 10s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6; white, £5 17s. 6d. per ton ex-ship.

BARLEY.—Dull and weak. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex-ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample. Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, landed, 20s.; Persian, landed, 19s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Quiet. Plate, landed, 14s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 13s.; black Plate, landed, 14s. 6d.; Chilian white, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 16s.; German, landed, 16s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 15s. 3d.; mixed Canadian feed, 13s.; South Russian, 14s.-15s. 6d. as to quality per 320 lbs. English, 5s. 6d.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

FIGURES OF ASSURANCE

AMP

By careful and prudent administration the A.M.P. has made more than £42,000,000 for the benefit of its Policyholders since its establishment in 1849, and this, after providing for all expenses of management, commission, taxes, etc. A.M.P. premiums are low, Bonuses high and policies, as befits the largest British Mutual Life Office, world-wide. Assets £74,000,000. Annual Income £10,500,000. Full particulars on application.

MUTUAL AUSTRALIAN PROVIDENT SOCIETY

73-76 King William St., London, E.C.4 — Established 1849.

D. E. WALKER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to March 8	Cwts. 178,438	Cwts. 240,677	Cwts. 281,322	Cwts. 214,744
27 weeks to March 8	6,850,858	7,432,264	6,894,039	9,191,720
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 4	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 11 8

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 1	212,459	193,343	48,105	8 7	7 11	6 2
Mar. 8	178,438	164,139	39,462	8 4	7 8	6 1
Mar. 6, 1926	241,707	181,585	65,863	11 8	8 11	8 10
Mar. 5, 1927	257,874	180,525	78,296	11 10	11 0	8 2
Mar. 10, 1928	281,322	181,514	73,871	9 7	10 8	10 6
Mar. 9, 1929	240,677	159,989	58,472	9 9	10 3	9 7

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	132¼	148⅜	114	111	104⅜
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	125½	130⅜	105⅜	106½	105½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,139,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 273,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 86,251,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The trend in the coal trade is still reactionary. Last week there was a further decline in the volume of export bookings and a loss from 6d. to 1s. per ton in prices. Inland trade, too, is far from brisk. Business in blast furnace coke continues on a very restricted scale and this fuel can now be bought at 15s. 6d. or even less at ovens. Forward business in coke has been practically at a standstill for a long period.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—There has been no change for the better in the shipping branch of the trade. Orders are still scarce, and the collieries are being forced to cut their prices to get coal off their hands. The only steady spots are navigation qualities and Lanarkshire prime splint coal. The following are the ruling prices for shipping business (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 15s. 9d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 16s. 9d.; navigation, 17s. 6d.-18s. 6d.; navigation second, 15s. 6d.-16s.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 13s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 9d.; singles, 12s. 3d.; pearls, 11s. 6d.-11s. 9d.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 18s.-18s. 6d.; first-class steam, 13s. 6d.; third-class steam, 12s.; trebles, 13s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 6d.; singles, 12s. 6d.; pearls, 12s. 3d.-12s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 13s. 9d.; secondary steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 12s. 3d.; singles, 12s.; pearls, 12s. 3d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s. 6d.; jewel, 17s. 6d.; steam, 13s. 9d.; trebles 13s. 9d.; doubles, 13s.; singles, 12s. 6d.; pearls, 12s. 3d.; dross 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The situation on the Cardiff coal market is unchanged. There has been no period since the war when the market has had so great an advantage in low freight rates. For many destinations, and notably for the French and Mediterranean trades, the current rates are lower than they have been for over twenty years, but the demand for coal remains extremely inactive, and collieries, therefore, are almost entirely dependent on their contract commitments. Moreover, there are no indications of improvement in the immediate future, for stocks abroad, and particularly at the principal importing centres, are exceptionally heavy; while, with so enormous a quantity of shipping laid up, depot requirements are at a minimum. Schedule prices, however, are being maintained for large coals, but quotations for different classes of smalls are for the first time for many months showing a weakening tendency. Shipments, however, are being fairly well maintained and in the week ended March 8th they totalled 577,200 tons compared with 554,300 tons in the previous week, and with 656,108 tons in the corresponding week last year. During February the coal, coke and patent fuel shipments from the South Wales ports totalled 2·2 million tons compared with nearly 2·5 million tons in January and with 1·5 million tons in February, 1929. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 20s.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 9d. to 14s.; coking smalls, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 9d. to 13s. 6d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 23s. 6d. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 43s. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 3d. to 12s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 6d. to 26s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Lethargic conditions continue to rule in the iron and steel trade; but hopes that an improvement is near at hand have been encouraged by an increase in the volume of inquiry. There has been, however, a noticeable absence of important business, and the orders which have come to hand have been nearly all for small tonnages and for comparatively near delivery. This, of course, indicates a want of confidence in the near future, and there is no doubt that the consuming trade are following an extremely cautious policy and covering only their immediate requirements. The demand for pig iron appears to be gradually shrinking, and contracts that are worked off are not being replaced as consumers prefer to resort to hand-to-mouth buying. As a consequence, stocks are growing, although the producers state that they have not reached a tonnage which is causing them anxiety. In Scotland the producers are experiencing keen competition from imported iron from the Continent and India. The demand for semi-finished material remains irregular. Recently, some fair-sized inquiries were in the market, but only a proportion of this developed into actual business. Manufacturers of finished steel material, both in this country and on the Continent, are finding conditions difficult, and there is talk of fresh restrictions of output by the European Steel Cartel. It is, however, generally assumed that stocks in consumers' hands are low, and any improvement in trade would result in active buying which would quickly give a better appearance to the market.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron is entirely devoid of animation and business during the past week has again been most disappointing. Consumers are holding out for lower prices which in spite of increasing stocks, producers refuse to concede, consequently trade is almost at a deadlock. The usual weekly meeting on Tuesday was very quiet and the only business reported was a few small lots by makers for early delivery to home consumers at 72s. 6d. for No. 3. Other qualities were unchanged, viz.: No. 1, 75s.; No. 4 foundry, 71s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 71s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. There is an entire lack of interest in forward business on home account and export trade is almost stagnant. Shipments of pig iron are opening out better, but they are mostly against old contracts. The clearances to 11th inst. total 10,288 tons against 5,579 tons to February 11th. The hematite market shows just a little improvement, but the orders coming to hand so far are for small quantities. Stocks are increasing in makers' hands and they are now willing to accept 77s. for mixed numbers for delivery over a few months. Merchants are prepared to accept less than this figure. Dorman Long and Co. have secured an important order for a new bridge at Cairo for which they were the lowest tenderers in competition with five other British and Continental firms. They have also just booked 5,000 tons constructional steelwork for a large new hotel at Shanghai. Orders have just been placed on this coast by the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co., Ltd., London, for six large tankers of 11,500 tons d.w. each, two with Swan Hunters and two with Hawthorn, Leslie and Co. on the Tyne, also two with Furness Shipbuilding Co. on the Tees. These orders will improve the prospects of the producers of shipbuilding materials and other requirements in connection with new steamers. Prices for steel materials for home use under the rebate scheme are unchanged, viz.: Plates, ⅜-in. and up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 10s. Other home quotations are: Iron bars, £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12; and 21/24-gauge black sheets, £9 15s. In the ore market there is practically no demand, but sellers are offering odd prompt cargoes at cut figures without finding an outlet. Best rubio can now be obtained at 21s. 6d. c.i.f. for prompt and the current freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough is about 6s. Coke is very weak, and with supplies in excess of requirements good furnace qualities can now be obtained at 20s. delivered works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The position is much the same as it has been since the beginning of December. The local staple industries appear to be in the grip of the wave of depression which has settled upon trade in all parts of the country and also in nearly everywhere abroad. The production level of open-hearth steel is being maintained, but makers are unable to obtain forward contracts to provide for future outputs and for that reason the situation gives cause for anxiety. If a general buying movement is delayed two or three more weeks a drastic curtailment of production cannot be avoided. This applies equally to pig iron. Special steel strip, automobile requisites, and steel for the electrical industries, are in a fairly healthy condition, though rather less active than in the early months of last year. Sales overseas of ordinary commercial steels are below the average and the steel sheet department is exceptionally quiet. A few firms producing light steels of high quality are fairly busy. Makers of hand-tools complain of the paucity of export orders and severe internal competition. The turnover of the cutlery and plate branches is considerably down compared with the opening months of last year.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Business in the iron and steel trades remains very much as during recent weeks. In no branch can it be said that there is a distinct improvement, but the plants recently in operation are able to keep going, and there are more enquiries on the market than for some little time. Local structural engineers have within the past few days secured contracts, mainly for export, and it is announced that two of the motor tankers which the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Ltd., have recently placed are to be built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., of Govan, Glasgow. The improvement indicated in the sheet trade last week is maintained, although bookings generally are for early delivery. Prices are unchanged.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Quiet conditions have prevailed in the South Wales steel and tinplate markets this week. Tinplates rolled from foreign bars have been sold at 18s. per basis box, but nominally quotations have remained unaltered at from 18s. 3d. to 18s. 9d. Galvanised sheets are a shade steadier market, at from £11 17s. 6d. to £12 0s. 5d. per ton. Bars are unaltered at £6 10s. for the local make, and £5 9s. per ton for the imported bar. Shipments last week were lower than in the previous week, and stocks were reported at 212,906 boxes as against 191,973 boxes the previous week and 292,706 tons at the corresponding period last year.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market opened with a dull and easier tons, in sympathy with lower Eastern cables. Values subsequently responded sharply on further developments in the restriction scheme, but dealings were attended by a good deal of irregularity at times and closing tone weak. The output of tin and tin ore from the Federated Malay States during February amounted to 4,768 tons, compared with 4,896 tons at same period last year. Standard cash sold at £159-£166 10s. and £162; three months, £162 to £168 10s. and £164 5s. In the East business was recorded at £167 to £165 5s.-£168 5s. and £165 15s. ton c.i.f. terms.

COPPER market firmer, especially for cash, sellers showing more reserve, with buyers more in evidence. Later movements disclosed slight weakness. Standard cash changed hands at £67 7s. 6d. to £70 10s.; three months, £66 13s. 9d. to £68 5s. and £67 10s. ton.

LEAD irregular, but steady on balance, with liberal dealings recorded. Good soft foreign pig, March, sold £18 11s. 3d.-£18 7s. 6d.-£18 10s.; April, £18 13s. 9d.; May, £18 16s. 3d. to £18 15s.; June, £18 17s. 6d.-£18 13s. 9d. and £18 15s. per ton.

SPELTER in good demand at slightly fluctuating prices. March sold £17 18s. 9d.; April, £18 6s. 3d. to £18; May, £18 10s. to £18 8s. 9d.; June, £18 15s.-£18 7s. 6d. per ton.

ANTIMONY quietly steady. English regulus, £42 10s. to £48 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £30; March-April, £26 5s.; Chinese, crude, March-April, £17 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., March-April, 3s. 9d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. 6d. per unit, c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE, March-April, £26 ton c.i.f.

WOLFRAM steady. Chinese, March-April, 30s. 3d.; Burmese, 30s. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM quiet. Home trade £95; export £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER steady. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

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ZINC OXIDE quiet. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton, as to quality, delivered U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: March 12th.

During the week prices have continued to fall, and show a decline from Wednesday last of some 35 points. The consumption figures issued last evening by the New York authorities and the International Federation are distinctly bullish. The New York authorities (Garside) say the year's consumption will approximate last year's (25,891,000 bales), while the International Federation figures show a consumption for the six months ending January 31st, amounting to 13,202,000 bales, against 12,866,000 bales for the corresponding period last year, an increase of 334,000 bales. At the same time there is a decrease of American, 530,000 bales, but an increase in the use of East Indian and sundries of 864,000 bales. Our market at one time to-day showed an advance of 15 points from last night, this however, has been almost entirely lost on resumption of liquidation. Spot sales for the week 6th to 12th (inclusive) are 25,000 bales, of which 13,310 are American, 3,300 Brazil, 50 Argentine, 2,300 Peru, 2,400 Egyptian, 1,400 African, 700 East Indian and 1,540 sundries. Imports for the same period are 40,886 bales, of which 11,455 bales are American, 11,045 Brazil, 1,599 Peru, 9,397 Egyptian, 4,930 African, 1,668 East Indian, and 792 sundries. Quotations to-day are American Middling, 8·06; Egyptian Sakel, 13·60; Uppers, 10·02; Brazil Fair, 7·66; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·25; Smooth, 8·76; West African Middling, 8·11; and East African G.F., 9·11.

MANCHESTER: March 12th.

Although some spinners and manufacturers have experienced rather more inquiry, there has not been any particular expansion in the volume of trade during the past week. The further decline in raw-material rates has had a very unsettling effect, and although prices for manufactured goods are more attractive, merchants hesitate to commit themselves to contracts of weight. Shippers of cloth to India have received rather more cables asking for prices to be wired out, but the response in the way of bids has not been encouraging. A few more scattered sales, however, have occurred in white goods for Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi. Speaking generally, there is less anxiety with regard to the political situation. Certain advices from China have been slightly better, but at the auctions in Shanghai business continues limited, and very little fresh buying on this side has taken place. Miscellaneous transactions have been put through for the Near East, South America and the Continent, chiefly in printing and finishing styles, but most of the contracts have been for retail quantities. Home trade demand continues rather quieter. Trade in the yarn market has been disorganised. Very few American mills are receiving prices at the moment which are better than stopping. A restricted turnover has taken place in Egyptian counts.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Feb. 19.	Feb. 26.	Mar. 5.	Mar. 12.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·57	8·44	8·28	8·06	10·63	11·08
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·55	13·55	13·75	13·60	19·30	18·90
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13	12⅞	12⅛	12½	15⅞	16
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13	12⅝	16½	16½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	22	21½	21½	28	27
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 10½	22 7½	22 3	22 1½	26 0	26 0
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	25 9	25 3	25 0	24 10½	28 0	28 3
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	14 0	13 10½	13 9	13 7½	15 1½	15 3
39-in. ditto, 37¼ yds., 16 by 15, 8¼ lb. ...	12 7½	12 6	12 4½	12 3	14 0	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—Raw wool is remarkably cheap, and tops are quoted below the pre-war level of values, yet there is still no sign of returning confidence. Small sales are being made all the time, but only for current requirements and mostly at unsatisfactory prices. In addition to the lack of a keen demand for yarns and piece-goods, there is the menace of accumulated stocks of raw wool in Australia, and until consumption throughout the world is more in keeping with supplies, there is not much prospect of any material improvement in trading conditions. Meanwhile there is a strong feeling, both in this country and on the Continent, that the selling interests in Australia should work more in harmony with users. There is urgent need for the appointment of a strong and representative committee, representing all sections of the industry, from the grower to the manufacturer, to deal in a statesmanlike manner with the balance of the clip and inaugurate a marketing policy which can be supported by all. The present system of limiting offerings without consultation with the consumers is creating a bad impression and tends to frustrate the object in view—namely, the stabilisation of values. There is only a spasmodic inquiry for tops and yarns, and quotations are merely nominal. Taken all round, the position is definitely in favour of the buyer, and the expectation of a further decline in prices at the Colonial wool auctions which open in London next week results in offers still lower than those recently ruling. It is a serious position for all concerned, but an early settlement of the wages dispute may have a good effect, especially if agreement can also be reached on the wool marketing problem.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Prices in Brisbane are in harmony with those current in Sydney, and as far as can be ascertained the demand for wool, particularly anything of fine quality, will continue fairly satisfactorily. One probable result of the splendid growing season which Australia is experiencing is that superfine quality merino will be exceedingly scarce next season, while there will be a big weight of medium quality. Even now there are indications of super 70's and upwards selling at relatively better prices than ordinary 70's and below. No doubt this is partly attributable to fashion in ladies' wear favouring very fine, soft, clinging fabrics, and these can only be made out of the finest merino wool. Further trouble has developed between sellers and buyers in Melbourne, and there is some justification for the opposition shown to the policy of sellers. No sale has been held at Melbourne or Geelong for a fortnight until this week. Buyers have been kept waiting without any real reason, and the opinion here is that about 40,000 bales could have been sold at current values. It is to be hoped that a more considerate attitude will be taken up. Buyers have no desire to force the hands of selling brokers, but it is felt that as there is such a huge weight of wool awaiting sale, no less than 21,000 bales per week should be offered. The programme for the London sales which will commence next Tuesday has been announced. It is well known that about 188,500 bales are available, but the selling brokers state that only 164,000 bales are likely to be catalogued. It is evidently not thought advisable to offer much wool at once, and no doubt increased quantities will be offered if buyers make an encouraging response. It is already anticipated that there will be a decline of about 10 per cent. compared with the close of the last auctions in both merinos and crossbreds. The vacation has been most disappointing, tops having undergone a definite fall, and the turnover has been very small indeed.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Cattle hides were just a shade firmer at the auctions held in the North so far this week, and in view of the fact that there seems to be a slightly better inquiry it is expected that the week-end sales will show similar results. Owing to the changes in classification that have been agreed upon, a comparison of prices realised would not give a true indication of the position. Hitherto there have only been two classes—first and seconds, but from now onwards hides from English cattle will be sold as "clears" and "warbled," for each of which class there will be three selections. Business in connection with imported hides remains quiet, and although prices have exhibited a further downward tendency no increased buying on the part of tanners in this country has been experienced. In South American hides, Argentine ox are now changing hands on U.S.A. account at the equivalent of 7⅞d., with light ox sold at 7⅛d., and seconds at 6⅝d. In the River Plate market, B.A. Americanos are unchanged at 8⅜d., while Sierra Cordobas have sold at 9d. and B.A. Anchos at 7d. In spite of the fact that a fair amount of business has been done in connection with African hides, prices for Capes are lower, sales of dry-salted having been made at 7⅜d. and 6⅜d. for firsts and seconds, with drys making 8¼d. and 7¼d., in the same selections. With lower figures quoted for Australian hides, a little more interest is being taken. A fair amount of business continues to be done in connection with sole leather, and although some firms are inclined to experience a slight easing off in the demand the general opinion is that this is only temporary. Manufacturers of footwear continue to come into the market for regular if small supplies of light to medium-weight bends, but the heavier averages for this class of trade are not moving off as fast as could be wished. Better-class repairing bends are a steady sale, and although there has been no improvement in the call for these, inquiry on the whole has been up to that of the previous week. Satisfactory business continues to be done in offal and, generally speaking, the demand is such as to keep stocks in low compass. Prices all round are fully maintained, and it is only in connection with a line of goods that might be hanging fire that there is any idea of shading values a fraction. A regular day-to-day business is being done in upper leathers, and although orders are limited in size the number coming to hand makes for a fair aggregate over the week. The bulk of the inquiry still continues to be for glacé kid in black and brown, together with willow calf, while in certain directions there has been a steady demand for box calf. Patent leather also moves off regularly, but inquiries for semi-chrome box leathers are usually restricted to something very cheap. Although a fair turnover continues to be done in reptile leathers, the call for the real article has fallen off somewhat; to counterbalance this, imitation grains have made increased sales. Shoe manufacturers report the position as about the same as that of last week; orders for footwear are received fairly regularly, but there has been no increase in the size so far.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The weakness in the markets for linseed and linseed oil has been accentuated and prices have, in sympathy with wheat and larger supplies, further receded. Pressure to sell Indian linseed has been a strong factor and Argentina has been largely neglected. Plate on spot has fallen to £15 15s., while business on passage is reported at £16 and April-May at £16 2s. 6d. and £6 5s. Latest business in Calcutta linseed has been done at £17 7s. 6d., March-April to Hull, and £17 5s., June to London; and bold Bombay May, £17 15s. to the Continent. Large arrivals of linseed at European ports have reduced the quantity afloat to 135,000 tons, or 16,800 tons less on the week. The lower values of Egyptian cotton seed has brought in a good demand from crushers, who have bought freely for March and April loadings, but have refused to entertain later shipments. Latest business in black Egyptian has been done at £7 3s. 9d. to Hull. In the oil section consumers of linseed oil have bought very sparingly indeed. Prices have still further fallen, raw oil, ex Hull mill for prompt delivery, having dropped to £36, with April to August quoted £35 5s. Cotton oils are a shade easier, crude Egyptian offering at £28 5s. and common edible at £31 5s., prompt, ex Hull. Other seed oils are quiet and nominally unchanged. Demand for oil cakes and meals is poor.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—This market continues quite steady, and previous prices are repeated for all spot goods. Pending the Budget, trade buyers seem to have measured their requirements day to day. The general outlook is decidedly less depressed; in fact, the undertone gradually improves, and a feature is extending interest on the part of buyers regarding forward deliveries. Recent large movement in the U.S.A. of refined also assists, while influencing position of raw sugars, and in this connection it is interesting to note quite heavy bookings of tonnage from Cuba on American account. Early vessels largely favoured. Raw refining descriptions firmly held, and a steamer cargo Cuban and/or San Domingo, April, to the U.K., sold 7s. 6d. c.i.f. Terminal markets steadier, with fair support accorded. Of raw, May delivery sold 6s. 10½d. to 6s. 11½d. and 6s. 10½d.; August, 7s. 3d.; December, 7s. 8½d. Czecho granulated, April, sold 9s. 6d., f.o.b. Hamburg. U.K. imports last month, 97,484 tons, against 148,978 last year; consumption, 127,803, against 163,321; stocks, 301,050, against 277,650; stocks of home-grown, 71,350, against 48,300. Cuban receipts last week: old crop, 7,354 tons, against nil last year; exports, 18,076, against nil; stocks, 13,220, against 1,615; receipts, new, 172,353, against 244,254; exports, 19,519, against 158,696; stocks, 941,889, against 1,032,540. Centrals at work, 156, against 163. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending March 8th totalled 231,241 tons, against 140,644. Later spot prices were, advanced by 3d. per cwt.

COFFEE.—There was decidedly more tone about the market during the week and better progress made at the auctions. A parcel, fine colory Costa Rica, sold 170s. Moderate absorption resulted of the East Indian offerings. Brazilian kinds for shipment generally steadier.

COCOA.—In auction, a moderate quantity offered failed to elicit any tangible support, and as a result only a few unimportant or odd lots found buyers. Sellers, however, were not inclined to grant price concessions. Some fine red Grenada sold 53s.; dark weathered, 48s.; good red St. Lucia, 51s., and Jamaica, 51s. Forward positions quiet and easier. Accra, F/F, April-June, sold, 36s. 6d. to 37s., and again at 36s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal section, after showing a good deal of activity, assumed a quieter tone. Prices are easier. March sold, 41s. 6d. to 41s. 9d. and 41s. 7½d.; May, 41s. 4½d. to 40s. 9d., 40s. 3d.; July, 41s. 9d. to 41s.; September, 42s. 1½d. to 41s.; December, 41s. 1½d. to 41s.; March, 41s. 3d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week produced 51,954 packages, which met a good general demand. Fine tippy and autumnal-flavoured teas made firm to dearer prices, useful medium being firm. Common and low medium rather irregular, but frequently fractionally higher. Ceylon sales of 18,448 packages accorded very active support, and improved quality much appreciated by buyers. Prices advanced ½d. to 2d. lb. All grades up to 1s. 6d. were eagerly sought after. Java and Sumatra auctions met a brisk demand at firm to dearer prices. There is a sustained demand for China teas, and supplies of Keemun between 1s. 9d. and 2s. are getting limited.

RICE.—Burma and Siam firm in local markets, but European interest in same remains restricted. Spanish firm with buyers more in evidence, and market is partially assisted by rate of exchange. Burma two stars, spot, London, 13s. 6d., with business from second-hand in March-April at 10s. 6d., shippers asking 10s. 10½d. Saigon easier. Spanish oiled, March-April sellers, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d. as to quality. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 11s. Saigon No. 1 round grain, March-April to Europe, 11s. 9d. Siam Super, March-April, 15s. 1½d.

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A STOCKBROKER'S NOTEBOOK
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levels, 2⅝ per cent. being the ruling rate for three months' bills on Wednesday, with earlier maturities quoted at 2⅞-3 per cent. Money, too, had become very easy by the middle of the week, old money being quoted at 2½-⅝ per cent. and new money at 2½ per cent. Hence, so far as the money market was concerned, the stage was set for the Bank rate reduction.

* * * *

Gold movements, too, were favourable, for on Friday the first of the Australian gold, amounting to £1,025,000, reached the Bank. More significant still, on Tuesday the Bank secured a substantial part of the Cape gold in the market at its minimum buying price of 84s. 10d. The Bank has not succeeded in doing this for a very long time, so its achievement of this week makes it clear that the recent world scramble for gold has now reached its end. If so, the Bank should continue to receive, without having to bid for it, its share of the new Cape gold. Next week only £211,000 is arriving, but £969,000 is expected the following week, and, if the Bank keeps all the Australian gold, its stocks may easily touch £170,000,000 before long.

* * * *

Thus, just as was the case a fortnight ago, there was every argument in favour of reducing Bank rate, and indeed it is quite possible that a 3 per cent. rate will soon be in force. In addition to more general considerations, the market realises that a period of really cheap money will be of the utmost assistance to the Chancellor, who is credited with the desire to make a further breach in the great outstanding mass of 5 per cent. War Loan. Some argue that his recent conversion operations, which have helped him to make such big reductions in the volume of Treasury bills, have had as their real objective the driving down of discount rates, thus permitting of successive Bank rate reductions at the earliest possible moment. It has also been suggested that recent failures of the money market to secure the week's quota of Treasury bills can be explained by tenders emanating at least from semi-official sources, and this week's increase of £4,441,000 in the Bank's holding of Government securities is significant. In short, the Chancellor is supposed to have taken every opportunity of a technical character which might accelerate, in London at least, the world decline in money rates.

	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4½	4	4	3½	4 (Mar. 20,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2½	2	2	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Discount { Call	2½	2	2	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Houses { Notice	2¾	2¼	2¼	1¾	2¼ (Mar. 20,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 7/16	3 5/16	3 1/16	2½-½	...

Immediately after the reduction, discount rates were extremely unsettled, and anything from 2¼ to 2⅛ per cent. was quoted for three months' bills, with Aprils at 2⅜ per cent. and Marches at 2⅝ per cent. Later in the day the rate was called 2⅜ per cent. Rates of weekly fixtures automatically became 2½ per cent., while those for money over the night were quoted at either side of 2 per cent.

NEW YORK.

Despite sharp cuts in the bankers' bill rate, bringing the demand rate for 90-day maturities to 2½ per cent. and the drop in commercial bills to 3¾ per cent., with call funds a drug on the market at 1½ to 2 per cent., surprise over the failure of the Reserve Bank to lower its discount rate has been tempered by the recollection that on previous occasions a delay of a week or two elapsed. A reminder has also come from Governor Young that the mechanics of the System make for delay. The actual Reserve credit in the market this week was nearly $90 million lower and the System reserve ratio was 82.5 per cent. The Member Banks are flush with funds, due in part to a Treasury overdraft at the Reserve Banks of over $200 million, having an additional $60 million paid off. The discount policy and the failure of the Reserve Bank's buying rate to go down as fast as the open-market rate brought a drop of $70 million in the Reserve's bill holdings, due to maturities. Government security holdings are up $47 million, entirely as a result of Treasury borrowings.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The effects of cheap money were markedly in evidence in the stock markets. Gilt-edged quotations rose more rapidly than at any time during the last few years, considerable quantities of stock being dealt in. The movement spread to the markets for foreign bond and domestic industrial prior charges, and was accompanied by a perceptible hardening of industrial " equity " share quotations. Apart from a number of mining counters, however, the more speculative sections of the Stock Exchange remained outside the orbit of the week's accession of activity. Rubber shares were idle, and orders for tea shares were on a meagre scale, though the tone was firm. Oil shares showed an improving tendency in the middle of the week, but increased American crude production had a restrictive influence on the market.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Such slight change as is discernible is, on balance, for the better. The situation in the coal trade does not improve, and some collieries appear likely to close down. There is a shade more inquiry for steel, and a reduction in pig-iron prices is expected to stimulate business, but new contracts are still far behind completed orders. The tinplate market is steady. A slight advance in cotton prices has had a beneficial effect, and inquiry for Manchester goods is slightly more promising. Wool prices are a little more encouraging, but the demand for dress goods fails to revive. Jute trade reports are as gloomy as ever. Trade in hides, leather and their products remains steady, but on only a moderate scale. Linseed and linseed oil have taken a sharp upward turn. Other oilseeds and oils are quiet.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market was generally quiet, with slight irregularity in some of the Continental exchanges and sterling holdings its own well against the dollar. New York opened the week at 4.86 5/16 and stood at 4.86¼-⅜ immediately after the Bank rate reduction. Montreal improved from 4.88⅛ to 4.86½. Paris moved strongly in our favour from 124.24 to 124.31, after being higher. Brussels remained unchanged at 34.88¾, but Milan gained three points at 92.87 and Madrid made a fair recovery from 39.35 to 38.50. Amsterdam, after hesitation, was unchanged on balance at 12.12⅜. Berlin was also inclined to irregularity, but gained ⅜ at 20.38¼. Switzerland improved from 25.13¼ to 25.12⅝. The Scandinavian exchanges were generally firm, Stockholm standing at 18.10¼, Oslo at 18.17⅛ and Copenhagen at 18.16⅜. Constantinople was fairly strong at 1,025, nominal. Of the South American currencies Rio lost 1/16d. at 5 11/16d., but Buenos Aires showed signs of improvement and gained 3/16d. at 42⅛d. Montevideo was rather better at 43¾d. The premium for 90 days' Lima on London advanced from 28¾ per cent. to 29¼ per cent. In the Far East the rupee was inclined to weakness at 1s. 5 13/16d., but the yen was firm and unchanged on balance at 2s. 0⅜d., after having been a little better. Bata was firm at 12.12½. In the forward market dollars [illegible] proved from discounts of 1/32 and 1/16 cent to par a cent discount respectively. Paris was more wan[illegible] 10 and 23 centimes premiums, whilst Brussels im[illegible] slightly to par and one centime discount. Mil[illegible] quoted at 12 and 31 centesimi discount, and Mad[illegible] steady around about 7 and 19 centimos for t[illegible] periods. Amsterdam gained ⅛ cent for each perio[illegible] and two cents premium, Berlin being unchanged[illegible] and 5½ pfennigs discount. Silver was rather bett[illegible] India and China buying and with only small par[illegible] offer. Spot gained ⅛d. at 19⅜d. and futures ¼d. at [illegible] The Chinese silver exchanges were differently aff[illegible] Hong Kong remaining unmoved at 1s. 6½d., w[illegible] Shanghai lost ¼d. at 1s. 11⅜d.

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

Our Intelligence Branch, which has been amalgamated with Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., is available to our readers for the supply of economic, statistical and other information, at a charge proportionate to the work involved. Inquiries should be addressed to Moody's Economist Services, 6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4.

THE EARL OF BALFOUR.

THERE are few men in our public life whose passing will occasion more widespread regret, not only among his own countrymen, but among his innumerable friends abroad, than that of the Earl of Balfour, who died on Wednesday last, at the age of 81. To the public the A. J. B. of pre-war days was essentially a party man, unrivalled in the tricks of the parliamentary game and admirably equipped with all the lighter weapons of debate, if not with the heavier armament of enthusiasm and conviction. But with the war he seemed to shed his party attachments like a cloak, and, at an age when most men retire from active life, a second phase in his career opened, in which his great qualities reached their full flower under the inspiration of great causes. After the war he never really returned to party politics, but, as one of the elder statesmen standing somewhat aside from the political arena, crowned an exceptionally long life in the public service by one or two achievements of first-class national importance. There has been no other Prime Minister the record of whose Premiership has been so far surpassed by his achievements in semi-retirement.

Lord Balfour's ascendancy as a party leader, even more than that of Lord Oxford, belongs to a past generation, nor can it be said that he has left a mark upon the history of his time. If it is of interest to recall his career to-day, it is not merely because his death removes one of the great political figures of the later Victorian era, but because his long life covers the period of final transition from the aristocratic tradition in British politics to a more democratic age. And with the changing times, Balfour changed; not by becoming a democrat or by developing enthusiasm for the social and economic questions of the day—these never greatly interested him—but by adjusting his outlook on international and Imperial affairs, which finally became his chief interest, to the spirit of the times. For twenty years a leader in the fight against Home Rule for Ireland, he lived to be a member of the Government which created the Irish Free State. Creator of the Committee of Imperial Defence and the Prime Minister responsible for the Franco-British Entente, he became our first representative on the Council of the League of Nations.

Historians may dispute whether he or Joseph Chamberlain was the more responsible for the downfall of the Conservative Party in 1906. Succeeding to the leadership of the House in 1891, almost as a family inheritance, and promoted again in 1902 when Lord Salisbury relinquished the Premiership, he was quickly faced with the " raging, tearing " propaganda of the Tariff Reform campaign. The story of how he precariously maintained his position for three years, sacrificing colleague after colleague, steering with immense subtlety and finesse a course which avoided a definite break with any wing of his party, has often been told, and has no doubt been carefully studied by Mr Baldwin, who finds himself in a like predicament. (Indeed, Mr Baldwin's declaration in favour of tariffs for bargaining purposes is simply a modern version of Balfour's argument for " retaliation.") He " played for time " with masterly skill, but to his party's ultimate undoing; for the long delay enabled the Free Trade case to be fully stated and to achieve in 1906 the unexampled victory in which Mr Balfour and nearly all his Cabinet lost their seats.

Apart from his early measures in Ireland, Mr Balfour's only important legislative achievements in home affairs were the Education Bill, which was the cause of the bitter religious controversy that gave rise to the passive resistance movement, and the Licensing Bill, which created saleable vested interests in liquor licences, and marshalled the temperance movement against him. As a guide to Conservatism, his strategy was more than once at fault. His was the policy of mobilising the House of Lords against the legislation of the Liberal Parliament, and, though at the last moment he counselled the House of Lords to give way without forcing the King to create new peers, he was in a large measure responsible for the policy which led to the restriction of the powers of the Second Chamber. From that error of generalship he was not destined to recover, and dissatisfaction with his leadership in his own party was followed by his retirement in 1912.

At a very early stage in the war, however, he was drawn back into counsel. Thanks to his long-standing interest in questions of defence, he was able to be of great use in organisation, and was a member of the Munitions Committee which preceded the setting up of the Ministry of Munitions. When Lord Kitchener proved obstinate in refusing to allow key men to be badged and retained in workshops—on the ground that if any man wished to fight for his country, he was entitled to do so—it was Mr Balfour who was deputed to use his arts of persuasion with the Secretary for War. It was he who was sent to restore harmony at the Admiralty when the first Coalition was formed in May, 1915; and when the Lloyd George administration was formed, he succeeded to the important post of Foreign Secretary. From that time onwards there is a series of episodes intimately connected with his name, in connection with which, incidentally, he figures as the draughtsman of some of the great State papers of our time. One of these was the famous Declaration in which this country announced its support of the policy of creating a Jewish National Home in Palestine. In the same year he went on his first mission to the United States when America entered the war. Contact had to be established with the Government at Washington, which had been carrying on correspondence, at times extremely bitter, in regard to British naval policy. Traditional suspicion of Britain had to be overcome and a liaison established between the various sections of the United States administration and the Allies. In this task Lord Balfour laid the foundations of the smooth working and co-operation which proved so important during the next two years.

At Versailles Lord Balfour was overshadowed by Mr Lloyd George, but to him fell the task, in conjunction with the representatives of other countries, of launching the League of Nations. Those who conceived of Balfour as a cold intellectual were surprised at the depth of feeling which developed in him for the ideal of the League, and led him to rally to its defence when visiting America at a later date and to express " the faith that is in me." An even more striking personal success was the second visit to America and the negotiation of the Washington Treaty, which put an end to the threatened battleship competition between England and America. In his two American visits, Balfour was supremely happy in assisting a better understanding between England and America, which he believed to be of the greatest importance to the future of the world.

It yet remained for him to draft two great State papers. The first was the Balfour Note to the debtors of Great Britain in August, 1922. The Note, unfortunately, aroused antagonism in America by giving currency to the false idea that the American Treasury had refused in the war to lend to our Allies. This was an unfortunate blemish, but the document stands out as putting on record the willingness of this country to wipe off the slate some £1,000 millions of war debts due to us, and to remit all payments if America would do the same—a great gesture which unfortunately failed to prevent the French marching into the Ruhr. Last of all came the great document of 1926 defining the mutual relations of Britain and " the autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status . . . and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

All who knew Lord Balfour fell under the spell of his charm. A lover of music and a man of varied intellectual interests, for many years Chancellor of Cambridge University and deeply interested in education and scientific progress, he was too

detached in outlook, too apt instinctively to view both sides of a question, too distrustful of enthusiasms which he could not share, ever to lead great popular movements to victory. By circumstances removed from the common dust of the arena, a supreme sceptic by temperament and conviction, he was too much the cool, aloof philosopher to be the wholly successful politician. Never those of a popular orator, his speeches, which were nearly always *ex tempore*, were often fascinating to follow because they revealed the processes of his thought. When he had wandered far into a long and involved sentence in which it seemed he must inevitably be lost, he would hesitate until he found the *mot juste* and round off the whole with perfect artistry. *Grand Seigneur*, born a little out of his time, Lord Balfour was not a leader of men; but with his judgment ripened by years of experience and his intellect undimmed by age, he became one of the nation's most wise and trusted counsellors. We mourn the loss of a great and representative Englishman.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

A FEW weeks before he left office last year Mr Baldwin appointed a sub-committee of the Committee of Civil Research, under the chairmanship of Mr E. R. Peacock, "to examine and report on the economic aspects of proposals for the construction of a Channel Tunnel or other new form of cross-Channel communication." The Committee of Civil Research having been absorbed in the Economic Advisory Council, the Channel Tunnel Report,* issued last Friday, has the distinction of being the first official document to be published under the new Council's auspices. Subject to a minute of dissent on the part of Lord Ebbisham, the Committee's conclusions are as follows:—

1. None of the other new forms of cross-Channel communication suggested can be regarded as a satisfactory alternative to a Channel Tunnel.
2. On the available evidence it appears probable that the geological and engineering difficulties likely to be encountered could be successfully overcome. There must, however, remain an element of doubt regarding the practicability of constructing the tunnel until a pilot tunnel, estimated to cost £5,600,000, has been successfully driven right across the Channel.
3. If the pilot tunnel is successfully constructed, the practicability of subsequently constructing the traffic tunnels may be regarded as established. The cost of the latter tunnels is estimated at about £25,000,000. There would be no difficulty about their operation and upkeep.
4. If a Channel Tunnel is constructed, it is desirable on economic grounds that the work should be carried out by private enterprise and should not be accorded any special financial assistance by Government.
5. A Channel Tunnel could be built, maintained, and operated by private enterprise at a cost which would permit of the traffic through it being conveyed at rates not higher than those at present in force on the short cross-Channel route.
6. Although some interests would probably be adversely affected, the construction of a Channel Tunnel, by creating new traffic and thus increasing trade, would be of economic advantage to this country.

On the technical side of the question, the alternative schemes which were brought before the Committee consisted of (*a*) a train ferry; (*b*) a "tube" across the bed of the sea; (*c*) a cross-Channel jetty; and (*d*) a rail and road cross-Channel bridge. The last-named of these projects, estimated to cost £75,000,000, was vouched for as feasible by such eminent authorities as Sir Murdoch Macdonald and M. Huguenin; but the Committee consider that the cost would be prohibitive, and that the bridge would be a serious obstruction to navigation. This consideration would apply with even greater force to the jetty scheme; the "tube" project was pronounced by the Committee's technical advisers to be impracticable; and though a Dover-Calais train ferry could be established, at an initial capital cost estimated at about £2,000,000, it would be obligatory to employ boats of shallow draught, and therefore of relatively small size, rendering it necessary to split the trains, and offering few, if any, advantages over the existing boats in rough weather.

* C.M.D. 3513. H.M. Stationery Office. 3s. net.

For these reasons the Committee conclude that there is no alternative to the proposals put forward by the Channel Tunnel Company. The consulting engineers, who advised the Committee were of opinion that a tunnel must be driven through the relatively dry "lower chalk," upon whose continuity under the Channel (a probability provable only by an experimental pilot tunnel) the practicability of the Tunnel depends. The pilot tunnel and its accompanying drainage tunnel would take five years to complete. If that were successful, the construction of two traffic tunnels would offer no great difficulties, and could be finished in a further three years.

Proceeding next to examine the financial aspects of the scheme, the Committee were advised that, if the French and English railways provided the necessary electric locomotives and rolling stock, maintenance (after the initial £30 million capital cost) should not absorb more than £500,000 a year. Having examined various estimates of probable traffic, they are of opinion that if the Tunnel were opened in 1930 it might be expected to secure in that year 2,357,000 passengers, while as regards goods it "would probably secure a substantial traffic at present rates in view of the greater speed and regularity of its service . . . though bulky and less profitable traffic would continue to use the sea route." Financially, the enterprise (at least, so far as the experimental tunnels are concerned) would be speculative, and should be left to private enterprise; and the return on capital, though likely to increase in time, would at best be probably meagre in the early years of the Tunnel's working.

Turning to the wider issues of public advantage, the Committee cannot promise that the Tunnel would provide much employment. On the experimental tunnels work would be afforded directly for 250 men, and indirectly for 750 men; and during the construction of the traffic tunnels employment, direct and indirect, would not exceed 6,000 men per annum. Against this, there would be a small displacement of personnel from cross-Channel ships and harbours.

That there is a case for the Tunnel, however, the Committee, with the exception of Lord Ebbisham, are agreed. Unfortunately, there is no possibility of including a motor track in the Tunnel, there being no known way of disposing of the exhaust fumes which would accumulate; but even a railway tunnel would contribute much to fostering *tourisme* in Great Britain, particularly in the case of American visitors to Europe. As regards commerce, the Committee have examined at some length, and very properly rejected, arguments that the Tunnel should be opposed as being calculated to increase imports and throw people out of work in this country. In a few special classes of fruit and vegetables the opening of the Tunnel would probably be followed by some increase of foreign competition, which British growers, given better organisation, should have no difficulty in meeting. With regard to goods, the area of disturbance would be very small in relation to our total imports, and as the movement on this route is mainly inwards the railways would have every inducement to "confer substantial benefits upon British manufacturers" by quoting low rates for export traffic in order to fill trucks which otherwise would be returned empty. "On the whole," the Report concludes, "we are of opinion that the advantages that would accrue to this country from a Channel Tunnel would be likely to increase with the passage of years."

Lord Ebbisham's minute of dissent merits only passing reference. His prejudices in favour of the *status quo*, the restriction of imports, and the maintenance of our situation of insularity led him into a position in which he should logically have declared for the replacement of cross-Channel steamers by sailing vessels; indeed, the puerility of "economic" opposition to the scheme is equalled only by the folly of the "strategic" argument that London—attainable in half an hour by enemy aircraft based on foreign soil—could be menaced by invasion from a tunnel which could be destroyed in a few seconds, and in any case would be a hopelessly vulnerable "bridge-head."

The Report has been described as "unenthusiastic." Very properly, in our opinion, the Committee have been

assiduously careful not to overstate the Tunnel's advantages. No one would suggest that its construction would be a factor in international development and commercial progress comparable with the opening of the Suez or Panama Canals; and were it a question of State subventions for the enterprise the balance of advantage might be altered. But if private capital is forthcoming for a venture which, if engineering difficulties can be overcome, holds the promise of enormously "civilising" communications between this country and the Continent, it would be a surrender to ignoble forces of panic and unreason for the Government not to lift the veto which militarist obstruction has succeeded in maintaining, for too many years, upon the Tunnel scheme. It may be that in some future period air services will render the Tunnel superfluous, but to oppose its construction, as some critics do, on the assumption that we can afford to defer improvement of existing land communications until aviation has relegated railways to the scrap heap, is unduly to bid the opportunity of to-day wait upon the visionary chances of a distant morrow. We hope that no regard for vested interests or mythical conceptions of "defence" will deter the Government from agreeing to put no further obstacles in the Channel Tunnel's way.

POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE year which has elapsed since Mr Hoover assumed the Presidency of the United States has witnessed remarkable and unexpected developments in American politics. At the election held in November, 1928, the Republican Party seemed to have secured complete control of both Houses of Congress. President Hoover, although not a favourite with the Republican machine politicians, commanded a large measure of popular confidence; he was trusted by "big business"; and most progressives regarded him as an enlightened Liberal in his views. Moreover, he contrived to pick a very presentable Cabinet, and inherited for his administration the conditions of well-diffused national economic prosperity which smooth the path of any Government. It looked as if he had before him a primrose path, which, unless he made grievous mistakes, would probably bring him without much difficulty a second term in the White House.

Such were the forecasts, but never have the perils of political prophecy been better illustrated. The Hoover administration has been navigating almost continuously in troubled waters. Its difficulties began when the President, in accordance with his pre-election pledges, called a special session of Congress to deal with the problem of farm relief. The Agrarian *bloc* had set their hearts upon the measure known as the McNary-Haugen Bill, whose fundamental feature was a State subsidy to help the marketing of the exportable surplus of farm produce, but the Hoover administration set its face against this plan, as reeking too much of Socialism, and propounded an alternative scheme under which a Federal Farm Board was to be established and endowed with a revolving fund of 500 million dollars, to be spent on the encouragement of co-operative organisations and general assistance in the marketing of farm produce and the stabilisation of its prices. This Farm Marketing Bill was hotly debated for weeks, with the agrarians battling to get their subsidy scheme tacked on to it; but, in the end, the Hoover administration had its way, and the Federal Farm Board is now functioning, not, however, without a certain measure of friction.

A tariff revision measure was a complementary part of the farm relief programme, and President Hoover, in the message by which he summoned the special session, explicitly stated that the revision should be limited to items affecting agriculture. But in the United States, as in other countries, once a tariff is opened up for dissection it usually becomes very difficult to set any limits to the revision process. Many industrial interests discerned a splendid opportunity, when the farmers were being accorded tariff largesse, to claim a share of the plunder which was going. They were well endowed with political allies

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in the lower House, and the result was the Smoot-Hawley Bill, which carried protectionism to most extravagant lengths. Strong criticism of this measure by the Democratic Press was supplemented by equally vigorous attacks from Western Republican papers, and, when the Bill reached the Senate, it received short shrift. Senator Borah, who had played a large part in the election of Hoover, but had soon reverted to his old *rôle* of critical independence, joined the Radical Senator Norris, of Nebraska, who had supported "Al" Smith at the last election, in organising a revolt of Republican Progressives against the Bill; and at least a dozen of the latter, mostly representatives of middle-western States, formed an alliance with the Democrats, which gave the combination power to work their will. They retained the agricultural duties, but they proceeded to apply the pruning hook with great vigour to the industrial schedules. The "Old Guard" of Republican high protectionists, who were handicapped by the very inept leadership of Senators Smoot and Watson, put up a feeble fight, and there came into existence a fresh group nicknamed "The New Guard," consisting of moderate Republicans who were loyal to the Hoover administration, but were willing to support substantial modifications in the original Bill in some directions.

The result is that the Republican Party is bereft of any semblance of solidarity, and the fissure between the Western insurgents and the others has been steadily growing wider. The Hoover administration no longer possesses any assurance that it can get its legislation through Congress, and its plans are, as a result, in serious confusion. President Hoover has many qualifications for his high office; he has given evidence of real liberality in international affairs; and he has shown great courage in tackling the disarmament problem. But he has not manifested much skill in handling the problems of human management which continually fall to an American President. He has not added to his popularity with the professional politicians who control the Republican machine; the Democrats have no affection for him; and in Washington there is now an atmosphere of hostility towards the President which has had no parallel since the later days of Woodrow Wilson. Both Democratic and Republican legislators are revealing uncompromising antagonism to nearly everything that the President undertakes.

To aggravate the troubles of the Hoover administration there is the Prohibition issue. The Republican leaders had fondly hoped that, after a "wet" Democratic candidate like Governor Smith had been so badly defeated in 1928, the programme of more rigid enforcement of the Prohibition laws, to which President Hoover was pledged, would be successfully carried out. But now the whole liquor question has suddenly boiled up again, and threatens to obscure all other issues. The "drys," headed by Senator Borah, are attacking the administration for its laxity; while the "wets," sensing that public feeling has been deeply aroused by the accumulating evidence of lawlessness and by the numerous killings laid at the door of prohibition officials, have renewed their drive for alcoholic freedom. Congress at present has seven or eight resolutions before it on the liquor question, some sponsored by "wets" and others by "drys," and the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives is at present taking evidence about the results of prohibition since the passage of the 18th Amendment. The "wets" have been over-

Notes of the Week.

Liberals and the Coal Bill.—It had been anticipated that Thursday would be a critical day in the House of Commons for the Coal Mines Bill. An amendment had been tabled jointly by Conservative and Liberal members to delete from Clause 3 the sub-section giving the owners in each district power to determine the price "below which every class of coal in the district may not be sold or supplied." Though it was almost certain that a few Liberal members might abstain in the division, there was a possibility that the Government might suffer a further defeat; and as the price-fixing proviso was understood to be regarded by Mr Graham as a much more important element of the Bill (or, perhaps one should say, of his "deal" with the coalowners) than the already negatived "levy" proposal, there was talk of the whole Bill being withdrawn. This situation was unexpectedly altered by the announcement made after a Liberal Party meeting on Tuesday night that the Party had decided that, "owing to the present situation in relation to the Naval Conference, it would not be in the national interest that any critical situation should arise in the House of Commons," and that the Party would "refrain (in the Committee stage) from proposing or supporting any vital amendment, while reserving its full liberty of action on the Report and Third Reading stages." This political *volte face* has come as something of a surprise, for it might be argued that considerations of "not embarrassing the Government during the Conference" applied with little less force last week, when the Liberal votes defeated the Government on the "levy" clause, and with still greater force on February 27, when the majority of the Party, following the official flag, endeavoured unsuccessfully with a "no quotas" amendment to defeat the vital principle of Part I of the Bill. It is, however, certainly the case that the Conference is at the crisis of its fate. The Liberal leaders have no doubt been made aware of the delicate state of the negotiations. If the Government carried out its threat of withdrawing the chief measure of the session as a result of defeats in the House, the position of our negotiators would undoubtedly be weakened. But this explanation leaves the coal issue itself in a state of great uncertainty which needs to be clarified by statements both from the Government and from the Liberal leaders. Bluntly, the issue is whether provisions which are economically indefensible, and are clearly distasteful to the majority of the House and to public opinion outside, are to be allowed to slip through in Committee for reasons entirely unconnected with the Bill itself. What is the final intention of the Liberal Party in these matters? Are these clauses to become law or are they merely reprieved in order to be slaughtered at a later stage? For our part, we regret that there should be any slackening in the attempt to remedy what we regard as glaring defects in a piece of industrial legislation of first-class importance. Though there is a case for quota-regulation as an interim measure, a crude system of minimum price-fixing, without proper provisions being imposed for "grading", and without any form of real organised marketing, is an economic monstrosity. If this section had been negatived, we see no convincing reason why the Bill should have been dropped; for with a quota system in existence it is obvious that the mineowners, if they are capable of any united action at all, would have been in far stronger a position than ever before to prevent internecine competition. If the Prime Minister really regards Parliament as a Council of State, he should be prepared to accept the decision of the House on matters of this kind. While he is entitled to ask for every consideration when he desires to be freed from embarrassing divisions in circumstances like the present, he can claim this indulgence only on condition that Parliament will be given a suitable opportunity to express its real opinion. This means postponing the final stages of the Bill until the Naval Conference is over.

Parliament and "Defence" Estimates.—Painfully aware that the Five Power Conference, like the old lady in one of Anatole France's stories, *vivait, mais si peu*, the Commons spent Monday and Tuesday debating the Naval and Air Force Estimates in a spirit of endeavour to be discreetly reticent, but, as the lawyers say, "without prejudice." Mr Alexander underlined the magnitude of the voluntary reduction which Great Britain had made in naval strength by reminding the House that, on pre-war values, the current estimates represented only 54 per cent. of the 1914 expenditure. Mr Churchill could not wholly disguise his apprehensions at this evidence of unilateral disarmament on our part, but, though he was all against prematurely discounting Conference chickens in terms of cruisers given up before our essential needs were determined, he was content on this occasion to play the part of statesman, not Navy League orator. Commander Kenworthy, who followed, found in pessimism the better part of candour, and his estimate of the probable fruits of the Conference was undoubtedly endorsed in silence by many other members. Under the circumstances, however, the House as a whole was content to hope for the best, accept the Estimates as a provisional measure, and "let it go at that." Next day, presenting the Air Estimates, Mr Montague succeeded in demonstrating convincingly enough that British air policy was eminently unprovocative. Despite our commitments overseas, our Air Force was substantially exceeded in terms of first-line strength by France and Italy, and the gross figures of expenditure were less than those of five years ago, though other Powers showed large increases. Speaking for the Conservative opposition, Sir Samuel Hoare urged that the Government should endeavour to secure limitation of air forces on the basis of parity with France and Italy, while, among the Government's supporters, Mr Kinley's ambition to abolish the R.A.F. *in toto* was matched by Mr Malone's anxiety to know why the Government, who boggled over naval parities, were content with less than a half-Power standard *vis-à-vis* France in the air. The assurance from Mr Montague that the Government desired to give a lead in the way of peace, but could not disarm in any element without common action by all the Powers, ended a not particularly illuminating debate.

Mr Baldwin and Mr Bagehot.—In the debate on fiscal policy at the end of last week, which roamed over very familiar ground and naturally failed to extract from Mr Snowden any statement as to his Budget intentions, Mr Baldwin spent much of his time discussing the economists of the last century and the intellectual domination they acquired over the House of Commons. He expressed astonishment that the reasoning of these insular theorists should still influence the Labour Party. It was this insularity and lack of understanding of other nations' points of view which had sent Mr Graham to Geneva on what he described as a hopeless quest, and he quoted in support some phrases from Walter Bagehot, in which he observed that "out of England Free Trade is almost everywhere unpopular," and that our economic policy was regarded by foreigners as a means of enriching England and ruining them. His implication was that Bagehot realised that other countries might be justified in meeting Free Trade in England by protecting their own market, and in any case would not follow our lead. But let us see what Mr Bagehot actually said. Speaking of Free Trade in the very paragraph quoted by Mr Baldwin, he writes:—

> "Experience shows that no belief is so difficult to create and no one so easy to disturb; the Protectionist creed rises like a weed in every soil. 'Why,' M. Thiers was asked, 'do you give these bounties to the French sugar refiners?' 'I wish,' replied he, 'the tall chimneys to smoke.' Every nation wishes prosperity for some conspicuous industry; at what cost to the consumer, by what hardship to less conspicuous industries, that prosperity is obtained, it does not care. Indeed, it hardly knows, it will never read, it will never apprehend the refined reasons which prove those evils and show how great they are."

Bagehot goes on to explain that the English conception of political economy and of Free Trade is applicable to a commercially developed society, and that though it

inated in England there is nothing especially English of out it.

> "It is the theory of commerce, as commerce tends more and more to be when capital increases and competition grows. England was the first—or one of the first—countries to display these characteristics in such vigour and so isolated as to suggest a separate analysis of them; but as the world goes on, similar characteristics are being evolved in one society after another."

Here, indeed, is the point which Mr Graham realised, but Mr Baldwin has missed. The World Economic Conference, consisting of Government-selected representatives of the chief countries of the world, pronounced in favour of the reduction of tariffs, and events have shown that the changing opinion which this Conference reflected is most definitely marked in those countries which are most industrially developed, and have also become increasingly dependent on overseas supplies of food and raw materials—Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Japan. Elsewhere there is reaction against the excesses of protection, but for certain countries greater freedom of trade is becoming a necessity. We must support every possibility of removing obstructions to trade, not from "intellectual pride," but because trade is the first concern of our economic life.

President Hindenburg and the Young Plan Bills.—The characteristic feature of President Hindenburg's career is that he has always shouldered heavy responsibilities and carried out unpleasant duties when people round him have been inclined to shirk. This quality in his character came out at the time of the Russian invasion of East Prussia; it came out during the German *débâcle* in 1918; and it was displayed again last week when he signed the four principal Bills embodying the terms of the Young Plan, and ordered them to be promulgated at once. In a sense he was merely performing his presidential duty, since the Bills had come up to him after passing the Reichstag and receiving the approval of the Reichsrat. Yet the duty was not quite easy to perform in the face of a clamour from the right wing of the Conservative Party that the President should either take a referendum on the matter or resign. Hindenburg did neither of these things, but signed the Bills and took the offensive against his critics in a striking public statement addressed to the German nation. In this document he submits that "despite the heavy burden which it lays upon Germany for many years to come, the Young Plan represents an improvement on the Dawes Plan and a political and economic advance along the hard road towards the liberation and reconstruction of Germany." Having carefully gone into the question, he declares, he cannot shift the responsibility for the final decision from his own shoulders. Hence his signature. The statement concludes with an appeal for national unity and co-operation in the task of reconstruction, with the aim of at last recovering the country's economic liberty. The effect of the President's action has been to complete the discomfiture of the Conservative extremists. Already the moderate wing of the party was edging away from them; and, finding themselves isolated, they have rather ignominiously collapsed. The result has been to strengthen the present Government in Germany and to increase the prospect of stability in Germany directly and also indirectly in the world at large. In showing himself once more a good citizen of his own country, the President has done service to a wider cause.

The Death of General Primo de Rivera.—General Primo de Rivera has been spared from living to witness the full extent of the national reaction away from his Directory—a reaction which is still in full swing and may turn out to be a more important chapter in Spanish history than the Directory itself. The truth is that the Directory has been rather a colourless *régime*, for good and for evil. It has been for good in so far as it has been practically bloodless; for evil in as much as it has repressed the intellectual life of Spain without throwing out many fruitful ideas of its own, and has suspended an ill-managed parliamentary constitution without putting the Spanish electorate into training for making better use of the constitutional machine. The most important event which occurred in Spanish history while General Primo was in power was the closing of the running sore in Morocco through the overthrow of Abdu'l-Karim and the establishment, for the first time, of effective Spanish authority throughout the whole extent of the Spanish Zone. For this blessing Primo de Rivera had ultimately to thank Abdu'l-Karim himself, who, by attacking the French in 1925, made Franco-Spanish co-operation against him inevitable and thereby sealed his own doom. It must be said for the Spanish dictator, however, that he was quick to seize the opening which Abdu'l-Karim's false move had given him; and that, under his personal pressure, the Spanish army and navy played an effective part in the joint operations of 1925-26, including the difficult landing in Alhucemas Bay. If the variations in General Primo's Moroccan policy are almost the only really interesting things in his career as a statesman, it is because they are almost the only evidences of intellectual power or originality. Before the great opportunity came in 1925 he was a consistent advocate of evacuation. Indeed, his first incursion into politics was a speech which he made in 1916 when he was military governor of Cadiz. He proposed bluntly that Spain should offer Ceuta to Great Britain in exchange for Gibraltar and should abandon the rest of her Moroccan zone to the Moroccans; and if conservatism on both sides had not blocked the way, the exchange, under modern conditions of warfare, would possibly have been a good bargain for all concerned. This speech cost the Marqués his governorship; but when he found himself master of the situation in 1924 he showed that he had the courage of his opinions by withdrawing the Spanish advanced posts from the interior of the Jibalah. In home affairs it cannot be said that the Marqués de Estella's mind was equally fertile. But he appears to have been an amiable character and not a bad dictator, as dictators go. The improvements effected under his *régime* in Spain's road system are perhaps the most solid monument of a rule neither strikingly successful nor particularly open to criticism.

Switzerland and Gold.—Just as the cessation of the world scramble for gold is raising hopes that the need for economy in its monetary use is now being generally realised, Dr. Bachmann, president of the National Swiss Bank, has made a somewhat disquieting speech. Addressing the annual meeting of his shareholders, he is reported to have said that Switzerland should not regard the gold exchange standard as a permanence, but should envisage the prospect of the return of gold coins to circulation. To this end she should collect as much gold as possible. Dr. Bachmann later said that there was no generally valid currency policy, each country having to guide its policy by its own needs, and that it was not the duty of central banks to take measures against price fluctuations. If Dr. Bachmann is correctly reported, he is deliberately setting himself in opposition to world banking opinion, and if many countries shared his opinion and acted on them, there would be an end to the growing spirit of co-operation between central banks. It may be that Dr. Bachmann was concerned to show that the presence of the B.I.S. in Switzerland will not mean any loss of financial independence, but it is to be feared that his remarks were more influenced by the strong feeling which still persists in Switzerland in favour of gold currency, which was of course in circulation there long after it had disappeared elsewhere in Europe. But there is not enough gold to re-establish gold currencies at the present level of prices, and it will bring disaster if nations attempt to act in this matter from a purely nationalist point of view and ignore the effect on the world situation. It is the duty of those in responsible positions and who have knowledge to make this clear to the public in their own countries.

The Latest Bank Rate Reduction.—If six months ago anyone had suggested that by March, 1930, Bank rate would be standing at 3½ per cent., the three months' bill rate at under 2½ per cent., with a keen competition for bills in progress, he would have been in grave danger of being regarded as an irresponsible jester. Yet the change has come about, and this week's reduction is only the latest, and perhaps only the penultimate, stage in the rapid decline in money rates which has followed the Wall Street collapse. The causes of the institution of the 3½ per cent. rate are much the same as characterised previous reductions, namely, adequate gold stocks, steady exchanges, falling commodity prices, and trade badly in need of a stimulus. Other causes of a more technical nature are discussed in our usual review of the money market. One point that is made there, however, perhaps merits some further comment, and that is the effect of the recent Bank rate reductions upon national debt policy. There is no doubt that a period of really cheap money would be of inestimable help to the Chancellor in his conversion operations, and it is clearly the Chancellor's duty to take every opportunity that the downward trend of international money rates affords him. In any case, if his operations have had the effect of accelerating the decline in Bank rate, criticisms that his recent conversion issues were over-expensive lose some of their force. Trade and industry will in their different ways gain just as much from a lower Bank rate as the Chancellor faced with the problems of balancing his Budget and dealing with the 5 per cent. War Loan.

Trade and Falling Prices.—An interesting article in the current *Review* of the Westminster Bank deals with the reactions on trade of the recent violent fall in the wholesale price level—a question recently discussed on more than one occasion in these columns. Contrasting the curve of the *Economist* wholesale price index with that of the Ministry of Labour index of the cost of living, the writer of the article finds " strong presumptive evidence that the fall in commodity prices is being ' held up ' somewhere between primary producer and ultimate consumer." The prejudicial effects on the rate of recovery of equilibrium between supply and demand, in a period of temporary over-production, exercised by a " hold up " of this nature are obvious; and there is little room for doubt that in many branches of " finishing," of " making up," and of distribution the healthy influence of competition is being negatived by a tendency for retail prices to become " conventionalised." The immutable " fifty-shilling suit " is parallelled in the case of many finished commodities. But there is a danger lest the official cost-of-living index should be regarded with too little qualification as a perfect register of retail prices. Apart from the fact that its basic date, July 1914, was a period of prices somewhat cheaper than those of the year 1913, to which the *Economist* and other wholesale indices are related, the Ministry of Labour index is " weighted " for the strictly limited purpose of reflecting changes in the cost of a theoretical working-class family budget. The ratio between present and pre-war retail prices over a much wider range of commodities requires fuller investigation.

Mr Runciman on Monetary Policy.—In an address to the members of the United Kingdom Provident Institution on Wednesday, Mr Runciman called attention to the tendency of security and commodity prices to move in opposite directions. He illustrated his point by the history of the last half-century and explained the connection by pointing out that, provided there is a steady growth in the volume of credit (this depends, he added, mainly on the increase of gold and, to a less extent, on economies in the use of gold) when prices and trade shrink, credit becomes available for speculation. He went on to explain the difficulties of recent years by suggesting that, in carrying out the restoration of the gold standard, the Bank of England, by its monetary policy, and the Treasury, by maintaining an excessive floating debt, had restricted credit unduly and prevented the see-saw of security and commodity prices following the normal course. If we [illegible]0.
from theory to practice, it is difficult to trace any c[illegible]
pensating movement of the kind suggested by Mr Ru[illegible]uri
man, who, indeed, only suggests that it operates in t[illegible]on
long run. But, in recent times, at all events, other influences have been so important that this view could hardly be the basis of investment policy. These other influences include, for example, the effect upon British securities of the exodus of capital to America during the years of the Wall Street boom; and the fall of industrial securities during depression must be considered jointly with the tendency, when money is cheap and trade is slack, of gilt-edged securities to rise. But, whether this theory is of practical application or not, there can be no question but that ample credit and cheap money are very necessary conditions in the present depressed situation. Mr Runciman, who reserves his chief criticism for Government financial policy, approves the return of the gold standard, but thinks it was too precipitate. On this point we differ from him. In our view this country had two courses open to it. One was to return to gold at par as quickly as possible; the other to return to gold at a lower value of the pound to the dollar. There is a case to be made for each of these two courses; we believe that there was no case for a middle course, and that prolonged uncertainty or a more long-drawn-out movement towards parity would have been disastrous.

Unemployment and the Lord Privy Seal.—Before the General Election each party had its specific for unemployment. Meanwhile the unemployment figures have steadily swollen, and now the Labour Party itself is no longer at one on the question. Sir Oswald Mosley has submitted to the Cabinet a memorandum severely critical of the activities of the Government in this connection, and in particular of the Lord Privy Seal's principle of alleviating unemployment by stimulating exports. As an alternative, Sir Oswald Mosley proposes the establishment of a National Planning Council which would plan schemes of work to be financed by a public loan, and mobilise the unemployed to carry them out. As he believes the only hope to lie in the home market, his scheme would involve a restriction of imports and the protection of agriculture by National Imports Boards. It is said that support for this sweeping proposal, in which there is more than a trace of Mr Wheatley's hand, was forthcoming at Wednesday's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Certainly the recently issued White Paper, which sets forth the results so far achieved by the attempts of Mr Thomas to speed up development work for the relief of unemployment, makes uninspiring reading for the Left Wing. It summarises the schemes already approved under the Development (Loan Guarantees and Grants) Act (but not necessarily begun), as follows :—

(000's omitted.)

Nature of Schemes.	Total Estimated cost of Approved Schemes.			Estimated Employment Value (in man-years).
	Under Part I.	Under Part II.	Total.	
	£	£	£	
Railways (excluding docks).....	7,988	...	7,988	34
Docks and harbours (including railway-owned docks and harbours)	3,237	3,213	6,450	27
Water supply	736	2,489	3,225	13
Electricity	...	10,561	10,561	44
Gas	1,142	342	1,484	6
Sewage	...	4,033	4,033	17
Land reclamation and drainage	...	1,196	1,196	5
Sea defence works	...	430	430	2
Unclassified roads	...	2,696	2,696	11
Miscellaneous	...	1,263	1,263	5
Total.....	13,103	26,223	39,326	164

The equivalent of a year's employment for 164,000 men is provision for only ten times the number who were added to the live register during the course of the first week in March. This does not seem a very rosy fulfilment of the hopes the electorate were invited to place in the Labour Party, even when it is supplemented by a further 8,000 man-years under colonial development

[illegible]nes, and 100,000 man-years from the Road Fund. of [illegible]e some of these schemes cannot be begun for some du[illegible]e, their repercussions, through demand for materials, r[illegible] the general prosperity of industry, upon which alone the solution of the unemployment problem depends, are not likely to be very marked.

Cotton Trade Organisation.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The valuable work which has been done by the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organisations during the last few months has now developed into the registration of the British Cotton Textile Association, the objects of which are to promote and protect the cotton trade of Lancashire and the surrounding districts. The association has been registered as a company limited by guarantee, without share capital, and with not more than fifty members, each liable for £10 in the event of winding up. It will not be a trading organisation, but will facilitate and supervise the co-operation of firms in the different sections of the trade in the manufacture and marketing of standard goods, particularly where the trade in such goods is not being done or is being lost by Lancashire. Several sub-committees of the Joint Committee have been at work investigating specific openings for Lancashire goods in various markets, and the new association will help to translate the work of these sub-committees into increased trade for Lancashire by bringing it to the notice of those most likely to be interested, and by arranging for the production of chosen cloths by syndicates working under its auspices. The subscribers to this new company consist of representatives of the Shipping Merchants' Committee of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Master Packers' Association, the Piece Dyers' Association, the Calico Printing Employers, the Bleaching Trade Advisory Board, the Master Spinners' Federation, and the United Textile Factory Workers' Association. The management of the association will be vested in a Council and the subscribers mentioned are acting as provisional members. Meantime, important negotiations are taking place between the representatives of several merchant houses for the purpose of bringing about amalgamations. The movement has been brought about by the smaller amount of foreign trade available and the necessity for all firms to reduce their overhead costs. It is probable, if the negotiations are successful, that a number of manufacturing and merchanting firms will be combined.

Employment and Cost of Living in February.—The increase in unemployment which occurred during the last week of January continued throughout February. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, among the 12.1 million workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed (wholly and partially) at February 24th was 13.1. This compares with 12.6 per cent. at January 27th and 12.1 per cent. at February 25, 1929. The total number of registered unemployed was approximately 1,582,000 at February 24th, as compared with 1,534,000 at January 27th and 1,430,000 a year ago. With regard to the cost of living, the index number of the Ministry of Labour at March 1st stood at 61 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. This compares with 64 per cent. at February 1st and 66 per cent. a year ago. For food alone, the index recorded an increase of 50 per cent. at March 1st, as compared with 54 per cent. a month ago and 57 per cent. a year ago. The fall during February was chiefly accounted for by reductions in the prices of eggs, flour and bread, butter, potatoes and fish.

Iron and Steel Production in February.—Although new business is not coming forward as fast as old orders are worked off, production, both of pig iron and steel in February was well maintained. Five blast furnaces which had been damped down since the beginning of the year resumed operations during the month, and two furnaces were blown out, so that the number of furnaces in active operation increased to 162, compared with 159 at the end of January. Pig-iron production amounted to 597,000 tons, which, though less than the January total, was at a higher daily rate. Steel production increased from 771,100 tons in January to 776,400 tons in February; that there was an increase in production in spite of the shorter month was due in the main to the January production in Scotland being below normal on account of the New Year holidays. Imports of iron and steel amounted to 259,400 tons, some 50,000 tons less than in January, but 100,000 tons more than in February, 1929, when imports were exceptionally low on account of the severe weather conditions prevailing on the Continent. The increased rate of importation of pig iron noticed in January was maintained at 22,300 tons, but there was a decline in the imports of billets, blooms and slabs from 72,800 tons to 53,200 tons, and of sheet and tinplate bars from 56,800 to 38,500 tons. Exports of iron and steel amounted to 294,300 tons, compared with 351,800 tons in January, and 380,100 tons in February, 1929. A substantial proportion of the falling-off was due to the decline in exports of pig iron from 36,600 tons to 20,800 tons.

LIST of correspondents for drawings on Sweden sent on request to banks and bankers.

Skandinaviska Kreditaktiebolaget

Göteborg - Stockholm - Malmö

KREDITBOLAGET

Reciprocity and the South American Markets.—The D'Abernon Report, recently published, considerably amplifies the account of the visit of the Economic Mission which was given to the Press on its return. Its interest is threefold: in the stress the Mission lays on the importance to each other of the markets of Britain and South America, and the steps it took to receive and to make suggestions for rendering the produce of the South American countries and of Great Britain more acceptable to each other; in its reiteration of the respects in which British business methods fall short of the standard required to maintain the British share in the import trade of these countries—points which are patiently made in almost every report to the Department of Overseas Trade from overseas countries, and which can hardly be too frequently emphasised; and, lastly, in the importance it attaches to the possibility of concluding reciprocal agreements which would secure some concession to this country in return for the free access to the British market which South American products enjoy. Argentina, in particular, is very favourably disposed to British goods, and obtained 19.4 per cent. of her imports in 1928 from this country, which, as an exporter to Argentina, is second only to the United States. We are, however, steadily losing ground to the United States and, in spite of the fact that we take 99 per cent. of Argentine exports of chilled beef, 54 per cent. of her frozen beef, 93½ per cent. of her frozen mutton, and a substantial share of her wheat, we receive no preference under her somewhat harsh tariff regulations. The D'Abernon Mission is of the opinion that, especially in view of the increasing movement towards Imperial Preference, the maintenance of our free market is a valuable bargaining instrument, by means of which we could exact tariff concessions from Argentina, though, unhappily, the first attempt at applying this policy, in connection with the artificial silk duties, did not secure the approval of the Argentine Parliament. A similar line of action is suggested in connection with Uruguay, where the most pressing economic need is for the restoration of the pastoral industry. This industry depends very largely upon the British market, but its products are at a disadvantage here as compared with those of the Argentine, and it is

suggested that there is an opening in this connection for negotiations which would benefit the exports of Great Britain and of Uruguay alike. Perhaps the most interesting suggestion on these lines is that Great Britain should consider a repeal of the coffee duty if Brazil were prepared to offer a sufficiently substantial concession in return. This hardly seems the moment to invite Mr Snowden to forgo even £200,000 of revenue unless it can be shown that it is an investment likely to bring immediate profit. Unfortunately, the halving of the coffee duty in 1924-25 coincided approximately with the institution of coffee control in Brazil, so that it is impossible to argue anything as to the value to Brazil of such concessions from the fact that our imports of coffee from that country rose sharply in 1924 and 1925 and then declined heavily. Lord D'Abernon's exposition, however, of the ways in which a country having an almost completely free market may yet obtain trading advantages from highly protected countries is of real value.

Frankfurter Allgemeine.—Following the negotiations that have been going on for months, there is finally some prospect that the Frankfurter Allgemeine Versicherungs Gesellschaft matter will be adjusted by a private composition between creditor-stockholders and the directors, writes our Berlin correspondent. The collapse last August of this once leading German insurance company played a very strong part in shaking confidence in Germany's credit. Now that assets and liabilities are accurately known, the German banks represented on the board of directors have made proposals to the creditors and stockholders, who are to make their decision by the end of this month. Most of the main creditors have already accepted the offer. By means of complicated proposals—for instance, the postponing of the German banks' claims—a settlement of 40 per cent. is guaranteed to the creditors. This would mean that they would lose in the main only from 20 to 30 per cent. of their claims, since they granted credits to subsidiary companies which are able to distribute from 30 to 40 per cent., and the Frankfurter is liable only as a guarantor to pay the debts of its subsidiaries. The losses of the stockholders will be much heavier. A share of the Frankfurter Allgemeine with a nominal value of 400 marks was quoted at 800 marks on the Bourse at the beginning of 1929. Now only 60 marks is offered for it. Creditors and stockholders who accept this offer must, at the same time, undertake to make no further claims against the members of the board. Only if this be done does the offer of the German banks interested hold good, which means a sacrifice for them of some 10 million marks. This offer, however, cannot be said to be entirely voluntary, for the comprehensive report just submitted by the stockholders' committee concerning the causes of the collapse expressly and unreservedly establishes the complete responsibility of the supervisory board and the board of directors. The board of directors also violated the law, and will have to answer for it in the criminal courts. The supervisory board did not exercise the requisite control, and the company's managers enjoyed a confidence which can to-day be designated as incomprehensible. They tried to make good losses suffered between 1922 and 1925 by more and more risky undertakings, and nobody learned anything about these transactions until the collapse was already inevitable.

Commonwealth Bank Report.—The existing exchange difficulties of Australia make the report of the Commonwealth Bank, covering the second half of 1929, extremely interesting, especially as it contains a lengthy summary of the recent financial situation. The steady dissipation of Australian balances in London, the depreciation of the exchange, and the present heavy gold shipments are ascribed to two main causes. One is "the great drop in wool values, coupled with a large diminution in wheat production resulting from drought conditions," and the other is "the general financial disturbance, largely contributed to by the speculative monetary operations in America, owing to which the usual channels of oversea supply of loan moneys have been unavailable to Australia, at any rate on terms acceptable to borrowers in this country." The report recalls that during the period under review £11,000,000 of gold left Australia, of which £8½ million were shipped through the Commonwealth Bank. It then proceeds to justify the passage of the Commonwealth Bank Bill at the end of last year. Its defence of the provision in the Bill empowering the Government, on the advice of the bank, to prohibit the export of gold is more ingenious than convincing, for the bank argues that inasmuch as the Government has always had power under the Customs Act to prohibit the export of any commodity, all that the new Act has done is to declare specific powers and provide specific penalties in respect to the prohibition of gold export. The report next states that the bank could not possibly desire to advise any action which would savour of Australia's departing from the gold standard, but that the position must be controlled and the available gold used in the best interests of Australia by a single authority in possession of the necessary knowledge. On this last point, namely, the advisability of mobilising Australia's gold, most people will be in agreement, and indeed it conforms to modern monetary theories. On the other hand, the maintenance of the gold standard means that gold must be free to leave the Dominion, and that everyone, both inside and outside Australia, must know that this freedom exists. Finally, we would suggest that Australia cannot expect permanently, any more than other countries, to rely upon the influx of capital from abroad to maintain her financial and commercial equilibrium.

The Latest American Bank Merger.—The amalgamation movement in American banking, which was temporarily checked by the Wall Street slump, has now begun again in momentous fashion with the announcement of the official terms of fusion of the Chase National Bank, the Equitable Trust Company, and the Inter-State Trust Company. The new bank, which, it is claimed, will be the world's largest bank, will have a capital of $148,000,000, further surpluses and reserves of $220,000,000, and deposits of $2,073,644,656. The merger will be effected by means of an exchange of shares, the capital of the Chase National Bank being increased for this purpose, and Equitable Trust shareholders are to receive four Chase shares for five of their original holding. Mr Albert H. Wiggin, chairman of the Chase National Bank, will act as chairman of the governing board, and Mr John McHugh, of the Chase National Bank, as chairman of the executive committee. Mr Winthrop Aldrich, president of the Equitable Trust Company, will be the new bank's president. Apart from its importance, this merger is of some interest to the City of London, in view of the existing relation between the Chase authorities and Lord Melchett in connection with the Finance Company of Great Britain and America. It will be interesting to see the extent to which the American banking amalgamation movement continues in the very different circumstances that now obtain as compared with last year.

Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation.—As it is usually the first of the large composite companies to issue its accounts, the report of the Employers' Liability is always eagerly awaited, the more so on this occasion since fire results are expected to be poor and accident results uncertain. Though the Employers' Liability emerges none too satisfactorily from this scrutiny, the fact is due not so much to the results themselves as to the unusual distribution of the business, which has, in this instance, been rather favourable to it. For the main interests of the Corporation—and this has in the past been a point for criticism—are centred in United States casualty business, which has in 1929 yielded a fair margin of profit. Total premiums have expanded by £194,000 to £7,686,000, divided into £6,860,000 general business (principally American casualty business), £440,000 fire, and £386,000 accident.

underwriting results of the past two years are set the below:—

	1928 Profits. Amount. £	1928 Profits. Percentage of Premiums. %	1929 Profits. Amount. £	1929 Profits. Percentage of Premiums. %
Fire	45,053	11·0	4,839	1·1
Accident	33,587	9·0	26,521	6·9
General	225,715	3·4	266,603	3·9
Investment and exchange profits	36,240		19,922	
	340,595		317,885	
Less taxes	147,843		237,332	
Total net surplus	£192,752		£80,553	

The surplus for 1929 is stated to have been adversely affected by the incidence of taxes which have almost entirely been responsible for the falling off in the net result. A satisfactory feature (though a natural one, following upon the sale of the American subsidiaries) is the growth in net interest income from £242,000 to £291,000, as a result of which the "gap" between that item and the cost of the normal dividend of 80 per cent. has been reduced to £17,000, and will probably disappear this year. Some important movements of a capital nature have occurred during the past year. A special contingency reserve of £150,000, created in 1921 out of profits, to provide against the failure of certain reinsurance companies, has disappeared, and final settlement of this question has released a balance of £45,000. Investment reserve fund has been augmented by £53,000 to provide for further losses in a subsidiary, the Merchants Marine, whose accounts are the subject of separate reference in another note in this issue. Lastly, it appears that the book values of the Stock Exchange securities exceed the market values by £75,000. The net result is that general reserve and investment reserves stand at the large total of £2,807,000.

Scottish Provident Institution.—For ninety years the Scottish Provident has been associated with a distinctive system of bonus distribution for whole-life assurances. Under this system bonuses are deferred until such time as the premiums paid, accumulated at 4 per cent. compound interest, are equal to the sum assured, and the Institution has been able to claim with justice that its with-profit policies were offered at rates of premium as low, and even lower, than the non-profit rates of many other offices. Since the war, however, there has been a persistent downward tendency in non-profit rates owing to superior interest earnings and to more favourable mortality experience, so much so indeed as to upset the validity of the Institution's claim. In these circumstances the rates of premium were reduced some eighteen months ago, and as a result the chairman was able to point to a new business in 1929 exceeding by £300,000 that for 1928, the total for the former year being £3,098,580. The rate of interest earned has been increased from £4 14s. 8d. per cent. in 1928 to £4 18s. 4d. per cent. in 1929, and the explanation is probably to be found in the continued movement away from British Government securities and in the direction of higher-yielding debentures and preference stocks. The balance sheet shows also that holdings of ordinary stocks have been increased during the year by nearly £600,000, and now amount to £2,575,000, equal to over 12 per cent. of the total balance-sheet assets.

Provident Association of London, Ltd.—At the end of 1929 the total assets of this company amounted to £10,614,970. Included in this sum is an amount of £4,680,000, representing the life assurance fund devoted to the transaction of ordinary and monthly premium life assurance business. In respect of such business the Association issued policies last year for new sums assured of £1,976,000, compared with £1,982,000 in 1928. But the main interest of the Association has always been centred in the transaction of what is technically known as "bond investment business." The term is an unfortunate one, for the business is simply that of issuing what are virtually sinking fund assurances, the main purpose of which is to serve at some later date as collateral security for raising loans on small house properties. The Association guarantees that after the policy has been one year in force it will advance up to 80 per cent. of the value of the house proposed to be purchased for occupation, and the proportion gradually rises up to 100 per cent. after five years in force, provided always that the amount of the advance neither exceeds £1,000 nor the face value of the policy. A statement accompanying the annual report indicates that altogether there has been advanced in this manner the sum of £16,372,339. At the present time there are outstanding in respect of this large sum advances totalling £5,897,010 granted to 16,795 individual borrowers, yielding an average advance of about £351. It might be thought that at a time of mounting unemployment and continued industrial depression in certain industries a large number of defaults would be unavoidable. On the contrary, the statistics show that 99 per cent. of the total amount outstanding is represented by advances on which the interest is regularly paid or is not more than six months in arrear. It appears that the Association has had to enter into possession of only 50 properties for total advances amounting to £18,500, and that interest is in arrears for more than six months on a further 92 loans. These figures are a testimony, not only to the underlying soundness of the business but the careful management of the Association.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during February amounted to 818,188 ozs. of fine gold, as compared with 882,801 ozs. produced during January. In February, 1929, the output amounted to 815,284 ozs. of fine gold. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,452	882,801
February	760,617	753,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284	818,188
March	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529	...
April	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,907	872,123	...
May	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598	...
June	773,053	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,343	856,029	...
July	829,437	818,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480	...
August	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,863	889,601	...
September	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553	...
October	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	888,690	...
November	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593	...
December	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134	...
Total	9,597,634	9,599,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066	...

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	June, 1929.	July, 1929.	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.
Gold mines	192,595	190,031	190,062	190,5b.	189,739	186,941	184,280	190,663	196,752
Coal mines	15,928	15,914	15,867	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326	15,288	15,495
Diamond mines	5,029	4,845	5,071	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811	5,889	6,584
	213,552	210,790	211,000	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417	211,840	218,831

There was an increase in the number of natives employed in all branches of mining during February.

Sun Life Assurance of Canada.—The slump in the American and Canadian stock markets in the autumn of last year lends particular interest to the speech of Mr T. B. Macaulay, the President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, at the annual general meeting held recently in Montreal. In the course of his address he said: "The investor who buys for permanent holding is but little concerned as to the prices which may be bid for his stocks by those who frequent the exchanges. What interests him is to know that his dividends will not only be paid regularly, but will gradually increase with the passing years." Applying this test to the Sun Life of Canada's investments in stocks, he pointed out that

since the slump in the stock market began about October 1 the dividends received by Sun Life of Canada had actually increased. He also declared that the company, even on the blackest of the black days in the stock market, had about £7,191,000 of excess valuation on its securities intact, while to-day the company's securities are valued at £20,000,000 more than the figures at which they are carried in the company's accounts. Mr Macaulay pointed out that new assurances paid for amounted to £134,476,000, an increase of 48 per cent. over the previous year. Total assurances in force exceed £493,000,000, an increase of over £103,000,000. The total assets are now £116,752,000. Profit earnings for the year have risen to nearly £8,807,000. The sum of £4,645,000 has been distributed as profits to policyholders, and in addition to all this over £1,200,000 has been added to the undistributed surplus, now more than £12,392,000.

An Austrian Economic Exhibition will be held at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, from March 27th to April 10th. The object of the exhibition, which has been organised by the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, and the representatives of various Government Departments and leading Austrian scientific and economic institutions, is to represent pictorially the problems created by the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the substitution for that economic unit of a number of independent States with Customs tariffs of their own. The various sections into which the exhibition is divided will describe the disappearance of many old industries and their replacement by new ones; the gradual restoration of Austrian finances; the development of Austrian basic industries; and the remarkable strides made in tourist traffic. Visitors will have at their disposal the services of a number of expert guides.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Money — Share Markets — Issue Market — Industry — Tariff.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 7.

THE undercurrent of optimism over the prospects for trade recovery grew a trifle stronger this week. Tangible evidence of improvement is still meagre, and the persistent strength in the share market, coupled with softening money rates, is largely responsible. The banking community was surprised that the local Federal Reserve Bank did not reduce its discount rate from 4 to 3½ per cent. Such a move was plainly suggested by what transpired in the money market here and by your reduction, to say nothing of the growing insistence on an active cheap-money policy by the Federal Reserve authorities in order to stimulate trade recovery. Action next week* is now regarded as a virtual certainty, and the delay may be set down to the slowness with which the Federal Reserve machinery sometimes works and the conflicting views held among the Washington board.

There was a pronounced easing of interest rates, and much of it is directly traceable to Reserve Bank policy. Call money on the Stock Exchange finally fell to 3½ per cent., and funds outside the Exchange were going begging at 3 per cent. These are the lowest rates in effect since January, 1928. Time funds also dropped, a reduction of ¼ per cent. being made in the 30-day rate, bringing it down to 4 per cent., while two and three months' loans fell ½ per cent. to 4½ per cent. The same reduction was made in 4-6 months' money, which was quoted at 4½ per cent. An incident of the week was an offering of 12 months' money at 5 per cent. The offer had no takers, but it was the first time in recent [illegible] that anyone was willing to make such a long-term [illegible]. The bankers' bill market was the weakest of all, the [illegible] reductions, of ⅛ per cent. each, occurring in as many days. The Federal Reserve Bank followed the first two with a drop in its buying rate, which closed the week at 3⅛ per cent., against a dealers' asking rate of 3⅜ per cent., but it is expected that the Reserve will make a further reduction. Maintenance of its buying rate at the dealers' asking price invites sale of bills to the central bank.

While slack business and only moderate demand from the security markets are contributing to the surplus supply of short-term credit, the Reserve Banks are now active buyers of bills. Last week's statement of the system showed a gain of only $18 million, and this week there was an apparent reduction of $28 million. But the real situation is obscured by the heavy maturities of bills held. This week, for instance, maturities amounted to between $75 and $80 million, so that the Reserve Banks actually purchased some $50 million. It is understood that the market could not supply them beyond that limit, and it is expected that next week will show a substantial addition to their holdings.

Share markets have risen irregularly on a combination of investment buying and professional operations. Public participation is increasing, but is not of large proportions. This week's rise of $94 million in brokers' loans reflects a rise in margin trading, since the net gain in prices was not substantial; but in addition the necessity for shareholders to find the money to meet approximately $80 in payment for recent new stock issues was an important factor. Bonds responded vigorously to cheapening money. The last remaining Government securities selling below par were lifted to or above that figure, and the demand for high-grade rail issues carried them forward in the best market seen for a good many months.

It is apparent that the forthcoming Treasury issue, to provide for the next tax date (March 15) maturities and to provide other money, will be well taken. The issue is announced for $450 million, against maturities of a little over $400 million, the extra $50 million being added to meet additional demands from the Farm Board for its wheat and cotton purchases. The Treasury was compelled to sell $56 million in Treasury bills on February 18 to supply the Farm Board, and since the Board has announced its intention of continuing support of the wheat market it is very probable that the entire $150 million appropriated by Congress will be used up. About half has now gone into the commodity markets, without appreciable benefit to anyone.

The new Treasury issue will bear 3¼ per cent., against 3⅜ per cent. on last December's issue and a 3.3 per cent. yield on the February bill tender. It will retire 5⅛ per cent. certificates sold last June, which was the highest rate paid by the Government since 1922. The new issue, being liberally priced, is certain of oversubscription. New security issues by corporations this week were 110 millions, of which $3 million were stock and $10 were bonds for foreign account. The total compares with $62 million last week. The heaviest offer was the American and Foreign Power issue, which went fairly well. Shortly an offering of $40 or so of common stock of International Telephone and Telegraph Company will be made, and some Bell System telephone financing is impending.

Long-term money is following short-term funds rather slowly and there is still difficulty in finding " second mortgage " accommodation, which is holding back revival of the building industry. Contracts awarded in February in the States east of the Rocky Mountains, representing about 91 per cent. of the total construction volume of the country, were 2 per cent. under January and 12 per cent. under the same month last year. However, February usually is a poorer month than January and the trade regards the figures as indicating some improvement. From now on there should be a seasonal increase in building activity.

Elsewhere trade statistics are at best only mildly encouraging. Railroad car loadings are not increasing; the total for the past eight weeks is 6.5 per cent. below that

* [The rate was reduced to 3½ per cent. on March 13. Ed. *Economist.*]

the a year ago, and the greatest loss is in forest projects, reflecting the building slump. Stocks of crude and refined petroleum reached a new high record level in January, and February copper statistics are expected to reveal a gain of 15,000 tons or so in refined metal. Automobile production in February, as estimated by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, was 358,300 vehicles, against 283,477 in January and 497,705 in February of last year, a figure which exceeded early expectations. The steel industry dropped back another 2 per cent. last week and is now at 78 per cent. of capacity, although the United States Steel Corporation is maintaining its 85 per cent. rate and will show a gain in unfilled orders as at March 1st. Both pig-iron and steel-ingot output rose last month over January. Steel production was 4,067,971 tons, compared with 3,786,450 in January, and was only 259,000 tons under February of last year. Pig-iron output was 2,838,920 tons, against 2,827,464 in January. The daily rate of 101,890 tons was under the 114,507 rate of a year ago, but was higher than February, 1928, which was 100,004 tons.

Beet sugar and Porto Rican sugar shares rose with the passage by the Senate of the higher sugar tariff and cement company stocks also jumped on the approval of the cement tariff. However, the House has yet to have its say and no early passage of a Bill by both Houses is likely. The victory of the high duty Senators on sugar and cement is interpreted by some observers as presaging the break up of the Democratic-Insurgent Coalition, with early adoption of the majority of the higher duties, but the wish may be father to the thought.

FRANCE.

Budget — Revenue — Bourse — Bank Dividends.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, March 19.

PARTY politics appear to have been allowed to drop for the moment, and both the Chamber and the Senate have again settled down to the real work of Parliament. The Lower House, alarmed apparently by the growing discontent of the public at the dangerous delay with the Budget, and under the driving force of M. Tardieu, hastily completed the discussion of the Accounts, and, after a full 24 hours' continuous sitting that ended only at 10 a.m., sent the Finance Bill to the Senate just before the end of the week. There is now a strong probability that the measure will pass into law before the beginning of the new financial year on April 1st, although this is by no means yet assured.

The Budget, as sent to the Senate, showed the following balance:—

	Francs.
Estimated revenue	50,409,229,780
Estimated expenditure	50,200,990,116
Estimated surplus	208,239,664

M. Chéron's figures, as laid before the Chamber on February 14th, it may be recalled, showed estimated expenditure of 49,349,000,000 francs. A portion of the increased expenditure was voted before the fall of the previous Tardieu Government, and the rest after M. Tardieu resumed office. The Budget totals set forth above, however, by no means appear to represent the exact situation. Before the Bill had even left the Chamber, its *rapporteur* (M. de Chappedelaine) announced that the estimated surplus of 208 millions should be regarded as more apparent than real, as additional credits amounting to 431,500,000 francs must be added. These, he said, after allowing for annulments of credits proposed by the Government, would bring the estimated surplus down to 10,739,644 francs. The additional credits include 150,000,000 francs for the national insurance scheme, 120,000,000 francs for additional naval construction, 160,000,000 francs for general pensions and 1,500,000 francs for workmen's pensions.

Yesterday the Senate Finance Commission threw a bombshell into the financial world by announcing that the so-called " balanced Budget " sent up from the Chamber, instead of showing a surplus of even 10 millions, really forecast a deficit of 555,000,000 francs (or nearly £4,500,000). Exactly on what foundation this startling statement rests has not yet been made clear. It was sufficient, however, to have a very undesirable effect on yesterday's Bourse, and apparently to confirm the recent statement of M. Caillaux that, " At the Ministry of Finance nobody at present knows where he is."

The credits for 50,200,990,000 francs opened under the Budget Bill, as it went to the Senate, were made up as follows:—

	Francs.
Public debt service	22,542,488,000
Presidential and Parliamentary salaries	104,063,000
Departmental expenditure	25,577,738,000
Cost of collecting revenues, working cost of monopolies, &c.....	1,387,917,000
Reimbursements, restitutions, &c.	618,782,000

The total estimated expenditure under the Budget for 1926 was 40,556,000,000 francs, so that, taking the 50,200,000,000 francs provided for under the 1930 Bill as an approximate basis, French budgetary expenditure has increased by about 25 per cent. during the past four years. The draft estimates of the 1930-31 Budget, as laid before the Chamber in May, 1929, provided for total expenditure of 48,666,000,000 francs. Estimated departmental expenditure, which then stood at 24,061,000,000 francs, has since been increased by 1,500,000,000 francs. Estimated revenue has similarly been increased from 48,722,000,000 francs to 50,409,000,000 francs, without imposition of new taxation and in spite of the fact that, under special votes passed in July and December last, the taxpayer has been granted relief since then totalling about 2,000,000,000 francs. The explanation is to be found in the fact that the estimated revenue for 1930-31 has been based on calculations approximating much more closely to the real yield from taxation than has been the practice in recent years.

The revenue returns for February indicate total recoveries under the general Budget (exclusive of yield from Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones, and from the tobacco monopoly and other sources now diverted to debt extinction through the Caisse d'Amortissement) of 3,041,992,000 francs, of which 2,993,903,000 francs was from " normal and permanent sources." The yield for the month was 306,103,800 francs in excess of Budget estimates for February, 1929 (which is the only approximate comparison possible, in view of the extension of the 1929 financial year beyond the period for which Budget estimates exist). The yield from indirect taxation, which totalled 2,650,676,000 francs, was 118,777,000 francs more than in February, 1929. The six main sources of indirect taxation all showed substantial gains on the month. Recoveries from registrations and stamp duties were over 16 millions larger in each case, taxes on securities produced over 32 millions more, Customs duties 53½ millions more, and the yield from the turnover tax, which is one of the best indications of the general economic situation, was 37½ millions larger. The most striking item in the return is that showing the yield from taxes on Bourse operations, which was only 32,986,000 francs during the month, or 39,447,000 francs less than in February, 1929, representing a falling-off of practically 55 per cent. This amply justifies the current complaints of the Bourse as to the enormous reduction in the volume of business during the past six months or more. Further confirmation of the stagnation in the stock market is afforded by the report that brokers operating in the Coulisse market alone have, since the end of November, found it advisable to reduce their clerical staffs by over 2,000 men owing to the reduction in the volume of business.

The present stagnation of the Bourse is apparently almost entirely due to two factors: first, the indefensibly heavy burden of taxation on securites; and, secondly, the enormous volume of mortgage-bond issues that have been offered during the past year or more. There are instances in which the rate of taxation on securities amounts to a hundred times the burden imposed before the war, while in the case of certain coupons the deduction made at the source is equivalent to more than the dividend yield. An operator who buys 100 Rio Tintos at, say, 6,000 francs, and re-sells

them the same day, is called on to pay 1,200 francs (say, £10) in taxation on the transaction, or nearly 2½ times the brokerage due. Mortgage-bond issues, which totalled over 15,000,000,000 francs during 1929, and which amounted to 2,790,000,000 francs (£22,500,000) in February (against the previous record monthly figure of 1,622,000,000 francs in October), continue in large volume. New issues of this kind last week totalled 226,500,000 francs, against 478,500,000 francs the previous week (which included three large offers of 100,000,000 each). The vast bulk of these offerings have been readily absorbed. The subscription lists for the Crédit Foncier issue of 600,000,000 francs 4 per cent. bonds opened on Monday and had to be closed the same day, the entire issue having been taken up. Criticism is now being voiced to the effect that certain of the recent issues furnish the holder with very indifferent security for his money, and there seems to be a probability that the volume of offerings of this kind will be substantially smaller in the near future. Whether the slowing down of these issues will bring back to the Bourse any substantial portion of the great stream of surplus capital that has for months past been finding its way to the banks instead remains to be seen. The paradox of the situation is that, although money awaiting investment was never so abundant in France before, the Bourse is, for all practical purposes, in a state of semi-starvation. This morning's decision of the Ministerial Council to bring in a Bill for reductions of taxation " notably on securities and Bourse operations " proved most opportune, and resulted in a sharp recovery on to-day's Bourse.

Most of the leading banks have now announced their dividends for 1929, and their balance sheets in nearly all cases show a marked increase in both net profits and dividends, notwithstanding (in most cases) substantial increases in capital during the year.

GERMANY.

Young Plan Ratification — Finance — Polish Treaty — Bank Results.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, March 18.

ON March 12 the Reichstag adopted the Young Plan and the enabling Acts necessary to put it into effect. The fight continued up to the last minute, for the Plan has no convinced defenders anywhere in Germany. In a lengthy speech the Chancellor again summed up all the reasons favouring acceptance of the Plan—that it brought in any event a lightening of the annuities of the Dawes Plan, that it freed Germany from most controlling restrictions, and, above all, that only through its acceptance could the liberation of the Rhineland be attained. But the defenders of the Young Plan have a hard fight to carry on against the Nationalist resistance to a plan which declares itself to be the " final " regulation of the Reparations obligations and burdens Germany for two generations with enormous payments.

The outcome of the vote in the Reichstag was long uncertain, not merely as a result of these considerations arising from the Plan itself, but also because of the tactical situation into which the parties had manœuvred themselves in their battle over the reform of the finances. The Centre had demanded that the vote on the Young Plan and the financial measures be taken simultaneously. The purpose of the demand was to take advantage of the foreign political pressure under which the Young Plan placed the Social Democrats, to compel them to make unpopular concessions regarding taxation, for it was not certain whether they would not later choose to disclaim responsibility for the financial measures and go over to the Opposition. But the Centre was not able to achieve its purpose because between the right and left wings of the Government coalition there were differences of opinion that could not so easily be bridged over. Thus there was danger that the Centre might abstain from voting, and the Chancellor very properly declared that he would not be satisfied with a small majority for a law of the historic importance of the Young Plan, but would resign.

It was at this point that President von Hindenburg intervened. He summoned Dr. Brüning, the leader of the Centre, and give him a moral guarantee that the financial measures would be carried through. This meant that in case difficulties should arise in the Reichstag the President would either bring the measures into operation by an emergency decree or would authorise the Government to dissolve the Reichstag. This news naturally made a great impression on the Reichstag. President von Hindenburg signed the Young laws immediately, but not the treaty of liquidation with Poland. The Constitution empowers the President to order the holding of a referendum on any Act which has been passed by the Reichstag and which he is unwilling to sign. Herr von Hindenburg has both political and legal misgivings against the treaty with Poland. The legal misgivings are due to the fact that jurists of high standing declare that the treaty amounts to a change of the Constitution, and hence requires a two-thirds majority, whereas it received only an absolute majority in the Reichstag. Probably President von Hindenburg will overcome these misgivings; if he does not, the Government will feel itself bound to resign.

In the meantime the commercial treaty with Poland has been signed. It is provisional, to run only for one year. But it is nevertheless the end of a Customs war that has now been going on for almost five years. This conflict arose from the fact that in 1925, with the expiration of the period fixed by the Treaty of Versailles, Germany refused to admit Polish coal unless Poland would make corresponding concessions in some other field. At that time nobody looked for a long conflict, for Poland was in a very difficult situation. But the English stoppage came in 1926, freeing the Polish Upper Silesian industry from its troubles, and thus made Poland little disposed to make any concessions to Germany. In addition to the coal question, the matter of imports of swine caused the greatest difficulties. The more critical the situation of the German farmers became, the more disposed they were to resist the danger that Polish swine might utterly destroy the German market. Poland for her part opposed the entry of all important industrial products by a system of import prohibitions which made it impossible for any normal trade to be carried on.

The new German-Polish treaty is based on most-favoured-nation treatment as to Customs duties. But in practice this is of little significance, since Poland will continue to admit only small specified quotas of the most important German goods, so that free trade is out of the question. On the other hand, Germany concedes to Poland an import quota of 200,000 head of swine yearly and 320,000 tons of coal monthly. Difficulties have also been caused by questions regarding the right of settlement, which Germans in Poland enjoy to only a limited extent, and by questions concerning licensing of German shipping companies to engage in the emigrant traffic. The only concession secured was a permit for the German lines, Hamburg-Amerika, Lloyd and Hamburg-Süd, to establish seven branch agencies for propaganda. The new treaty is an experiment, and time alone will show how it will turn out. In any event, it is a symptom showing that the tension in the relations between Germany and Poland is slowly beginning to relax.

The depression on the Bourse, which has now lasted for weeks, still continues. Despite the ratification of the Young Plan, the further lowering of the discount rate, and the prospect of securing long-term foreign loans in the not too distant future—the German railway and German post sections of the international Reparations loan—there is no interest in German stocks, since the economic situation here and the prospects of an improvement through a reform of taxation are still regarded with scepticism. A particularly depressing factor in the last few days has been the discussion of the balance sheets of the large German banks. The Dresdner Bank and the Commerz-und-Privatbank have now published their reports as at December 31, 1929, and both have declared

the same dividend as in the preceding year. But profits were smaller in 1929 than in 1928, and the insolvency of clients, as well as the fall in price of the banks' own security holdings, have made it necessary to write off large sums. In 1927 and 1928 the banks were able to build up strong reserves; in 1929 there could not only be no thought of this, but in some cases the reserves had to be drawn on to pay the dividends. Two other large banks have not yet published their reports, but the Darmstädter Bank has already made it known that it will declare the same dividend as in the preceding year. The Deutsche Bank und Disconto-Gesellschaft, the largest banking concern in Germany, whose fusion dates only from September, 1929, has not yet concluded its discussions regarding the dividend. The quotation for the shares of the Deutsche Bank has dropped about 10 per cent. in the last few weeks, and the Bourse fears that the dividend will be reduced from 10 to 8 per cent., which might also cause the big German industrial concerns to exercise caution in determining their dividends for the past year. In the first months of the current year business has been so bad for all banking and industrial enterprises that they have reason for not distributing among their stockholders the entire profits of 1929.

HOLLAND.

Money Market — Capital Issues — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, March 7.

THANKS to the plentiful supplies of money on the Amsterdam market in the month of February—the average rates for prolongation money were 2.9550, against 2.8831 in January and 4.7857 in February, 1929—the new issue market assumed a brisker aspect. Developments in the new issue market in the Netherlands show a continuation of the tendencies noted in the preceding month. On the one hand, the continuance of the ample monetary situation provides many public authorities and official bodies with a long-awaited opportunity for negotiating long-term loans or for converting outstanding issues into loans at lower rates, but, on the other hand, industrial activity is still too dull and industrial prospects are generally too uncertain to open up the possibility that private enterprises will avail themselves of the plentiful supplies of capital by marketing new issues.

In view of these circumstances, it is not surprising that practically all the issues in February were again for debentures, which accounted for no less than 52.5 million guilders out of the total of 55.1 million (conversions excluded). In comparison with that amount, the total of the shares issues, 2.6 millions, makes a very poor impression. The extent to which circumstances in the market have changed is apparent on comparing with February, 1929, when, of an aggregate of 100.9 million guilders issued, 69 millions were for share issues and 31.8 millions for debentures.

Foreign issues predominated heavily again in February, not only in the big total of the debenture issues, but also in the modest amount of the share issues. New capital taken up for domestic and foreign issues of shares and debentures in February is summarised in the following table:—

	Shares (guilders).	Debentures (guilders).	Total (guilders).
Domestic	120,000	11,242,500	11,362,500
Foreign	2,550,000	41,284,375	43,834,375
	2,670,000	52,526,875	55,196,875

With an aggregate of about 14 million guilders, loans to official and public bodies form a considerable share of the above debenture issues. Only one foreign Government loan was offered to the Dutch investor in February, but the amount offered was considerable, viz., $3,000,000 5½ per cent. bonds of the Republic of Cuba at 98 per cent. Shares in Chrysler and in Paramount-Famous-Lasky were introduced on the Amsterdam exchange, whilst also 20,000 shares without nominal value in Marshall, Field and Company, Inc., were brought on the market at $51. Among the foreign industrial issues in February, considerable interest was centred in the issue of 3 million dollar profit-sharing bonds in Siemens and Halske. Belgium was represented in our issue market to a larger extent than has been the case for some time. There was also an issue of 4 million guilders 7 per cent. bonds at 97½ per cent. by the Ruhrverband.

According to the official statistics for January, 1930, the value of the imports into the Netherlands during that month was 220,555,012 guilders, whilst that of the exports was 151,857,607, making a balance of imports over exports to the value of 68,697,405 guilders. The figures for the month of January in the years 1927-30 are as follows:—

(Million guilders.)

January.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Imports	188·0	216·3	232·6	220·6
Exports	135·1	139·5	152·2	151·9
Import balance	52·9	76·8	80·4	68·7

Contrary to the usual experience, the January exports this year are higher in value than in December, but nevertheless are a trifle lower than the exports in January, 1929; the value of imports in January, 1930, was about 12 million guilders less than in January, 1929.

The weight of merchandise exported and imported during the month of January in the years 1927-30 is set forth in the following table:—

(Metric tons.)

January.	Imports.	Exports.
1927	2,035,568	1,095,422
1928	2,068,142	1,122,225
1929	2,346,966	1,223,094
1930	2,697,649	1,394,191

Coal is largely responsible for the increase in the weight of imports in January, 1930, as compared with 1929. As to the January exports, about one-third of the 171,097 tons increase, as compared with January, 1929, is attributable to coke. The export trade was, generally speaking, fairly satisfactory in January, 1930, although the value of manufactured articles exported showed a slight decline from 68.1 million guilders in January, 1929, to 66.3 millions in January, 1930. There was an increase in the value of the imports of these articles from 89.1 million guilders in January, 1929, to 94.4 millions in January, 1930.

AUSTRIA.

Conference — Loans — Foreign Trade — Industry — Electricity — Labour — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, March 8.

AN economic conference, representing employers and workers as well as the most various circles of commerce, industry and finance, is now sitting. The purpose of this conference is to devise concrete measures for the combating of unemployment and of economic distress. It is once more pointed out that taxation should be reduced, and also that manifold misuse is made of unemployment benefit and that this misuse might be largely obviated. The tendency seems to be, however, to under-estimate the grave disturbances which have taken place in international export trade and to overlook the excessively sharp competition which characterises foreign trade in general. For this reason views as to the probable success of this conference differ widely. It is quite certain that a large number of agricultural labourers and of other seasonal workers are so well acquainted with the provisions of the unemployment law that for a good part of the year, when there is nothing available in their line, they draw a steady pension and do not trouble to take other work even when they can get jobs yielding modest pay.

Complaints were made at the conference about excessive taxation, but until the Government raises a new loan no important cut can be made in taxation. It is announced that the State investments will be accelerated. The housing scheme is also to be put into operation very shortly.

Meanwhile it appears that the plan to issue abroad the housing bonds, which are to be handled by the Credit Institute for Public Work, is not to be put into execution for the time being. The financial groups, which have under consideration the floating of the big investment loan, have expressed the wish that the housing scheme obligations should not be introduced in foreign markets until the investment loan has been completed. In consequence, it is possible that bonds to a value of 60 to 70 million schillings, or perhaps a little less, will be taken over by the Austrian banks, savings banks, insurance companies and mortgage institutes. The proceeds will serve to liquidate the second mortgage, which is guaranteed by the Government as far as amortisation and interest service are concerned. Politics are coming to the fore again, for the City of Vienna wishes the Government to give its approval to the foundation of a Municipal mortgage institute, and points out that the former Federal Chancellor, Streeruwitz, gave his approval in principle.

The deficit in the balance of foreign trade amounts to 81 million schillings for the month of January, as imports amounted to 211 millions and exports to only 130 millions. There was no improvement at all in exports, and it is of interest that, according to calculations made by the Financial Administration, the total deficit in foreign trade for the years 1923 to 1928 amounts to 6,775 million schillings. During the same period, however, long-term debts to foreign countries have increased by only about a thousand million schillings. The difference was covered partly by sales of shares, factories and plants, and partly by the growth of the foreign tourist traffic and other invisible exports. After deduction of the sums spent abroad by Austrians there resulted for the year 1926 a credit balance of 158 millions, for 1928 a credit balance of about 250 million schillings. One very important credit item is constituted by the profits of middlemen, which amount for the year 1928 to about 120 millions, while revenue from transit traffic is estimated for the same year at 71 millions.

Among the Austrian industries which are passing through a severe crisis is the textile industry. Among other measures of support it demands further tariff protection, as the Government had, naturally, declined to grant premiums on exports. Imports of textile raw materials have also fallen off greatly. In the month of January alone imports of cotton, flax, hemp and other raw materials for the textile industry are 11 million schillings less in value than in January of last year. Imports of wool alone have fallen from 12.3 million schillings to 5 millions. Exports of cotton yarn have fallen by nearly 40 per cent.

From the economic negotiations, which are shortly to begin with Germany, the lumber industry expects an improvement of the present export conditions. The high duty which Germany imposes on sawn timber, hampers export to such an extent that Austria is endeavouring to get permission to export to Germany at least a limited quantity of this commodity. Exports to Russia are declining. Even banks which are interested in trade in this direction are in doubt about extending their connections after the recent events in regard to the " Altmann " textile concession, the most important Austrian enterprise in Russia, which, as is well known, was confiscated. There appears to be a move towards improvement in the iron industry, and the Alpine Montangesellschaft (iron trust) is, therefore, contemplating an increase of output. It is also probable that the company will decide upon the distribution of a slightly higher dividend for the past business year.

There is a sharp conflict between the Austrian concerns generating electric energy with water power and the German groups, which are trying to gain the decisive influence, not only over electricity concerns pure and simple, but over the whole of the Austrian export of current. From Germany also comes a proposal that a company be formed, the majority of whose shares should be in the possession of the Austrian State, and that this company should try to gain decisive influence in the electricity enterprises of Austria. The question of exploitation of electricity is the more important in Austria, as, after the nomination of the new President and the new general director, the fight as to whether the Federal Railways should be run in a greater measure by electricity will certainly break out again in sharper form than ever. For political reasons it has so far been impossible to complete the nominations. For a time the general director of the Alpine Montangesellschaft was one of the most likely candidates, but he desired more freedom in the choice of his collaborators than the Government wished to permit, as he considered a radical reform of the railways to be necessary.

In the official commercial report hope is expressed of a gradual improvement in economic life after the beginning of the year, and this is urgently necessary for merchants, as they are hard hit by the slowness of sales. One wish of all organisations of creditors and of banks has been fulfilled, in so far as the Government has drawn up a new regulation to cover compositions with creditors, which decrees that the lowest rate which the debtor may pay be raised from 35 per cent. to 40 per cent. Furthermore, creditors are to have more stringent auditing powers, while the process of liquidation is to be less costly than heretofore.

In the building trade the workers have demanded a 10 per cent. rise in wages. Otherwise there are no strikes, lockouts or wage demands in the foreground at present. On the occasion of the economic conference, the Federal Chancellor demanded that wage movements should cease, and expressed his disapproval of the demands of the building trade workers. It must also be taken into consideration that the index figure of wholesale prices fell in February from 125 to 123, and that the index of the cost of living also sank from 113 to 112 during the same period. For some time now emigration of Austrians to France has been on the increase, and it appears that individual qualified workers have found very satisfactory positions there.

On the stock and share market there is very little doing. Isolated advances, such as that on State Railway shares, which rose considerably, are attributable to manipulations of the exchange, bull movement, and unfounded rumours. The biggest rises were registered on the investment market and particularly on pre-war rentes, due, in this case, to hopes of valorisation. The public is still averse from purchasing shares, and, in spite of the low rates offered by the banks and savings banks for call money, it prefers to keep its money on deposit and available at any moment. Since the Austrian National Bank last lowered its bank rate the banks and savings banks have been paying only 4¼ per cent. on deposits. The recent changes in the statutes of the National Bank, whereby the charter is prolonged for a further 15 years and the State's share of the net profit has been increased, have now been ratified. The bill portfolio, which had diminished greatly, showed a rise of 4 million schillings at the beginning of March, as against the amount of 193 million schillings last reported. This fact, which is not unfavourable, is attributed to the pronounced need of credit in the provinces.

CANADA.

Unemployment — Grain Market — Industry — Trade — Brokerage Scandals.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, February 25.

THERE are so many workless people to be absorbed this spring that the Government intends to give as little encouragement as possible to immigration, and the sentiment of the country about assisted immigration is reflected in resolutions upon the order paper by Western members which seek to terminate in one case all immigration subsidies and in the other to abolish the Immigration Department as a separate organisation by absorbing it in the Labour Department.

The grain market situation continues to cause grave anxiety to all classes of the community. The leader of the Conservative Opposition in the Manitoba Legislature has been urging that the Federal Government should be requested to take over the whole of the unsold

the wheat and handle it on the lines of the policy followed during the war years. It appears that there is on the Federal statute book legislation authorising the creation of a National Wheat Board and the machinery necessary for its operation, and all that would be necessary would be to appoint its personnel. But Premier Bracken, in the Manitoba Legislature last week, declared that he felt the Conservative leader's suggestion to be ill-considered and untimely, because it would only tend to disturb further the market at a time when stabilisation was badly needed, and because it would probably bring about the destruction of the wheat pools which he felt ought to be preserved in the interests of the Canadian farmer. He declared that his Government discerned no alarm in the situation and that, contrary to current rumours, the pools' margins with the banks were being well maintained.

Following this statement, on Saturday, 22nd, Premier Bracken and the Premiers of Saskatchewan and Alberta held a conference in Regina, which was also attended by wheat pool officials, and arrived at an agreement for uniform legislation by the three provincial legislatures to supplement the guarantee given by their Governments to the leading banks, and to finance adequately the balance of the crop of 1929. The Premiers stated that the central selling agency of the pools had given the Governments fullest information concerning their financial condition, and proved to the satisfaction of the Premiers that they had been conducting their business in conformity with the aims and objects of the pool organisation. The Premiers also added that they desired to make it plain that their action had only been taken in order to supplement the undertaking already given, and not because there had been any impairment of the pools' margin with the banks, or because any doubt existed about the financial position of the pools, who had on deposit with the banks collateral valued at more than 15 per cent. in excess of the total of the banks' loan to the pool.

Naturally business of all kinds is very adversely affected by these untoward developments, and a gloomy view is now taken of the outlook for the spring and summer trade. For the time being the flow of orders to the East from the Prairie Provinces has almost dried up, and both in wholesale and retail circles general business is reported to be in a very depressed condition, with many lines of industry showing evidence of a marked curtailment of operations; for example, the production of motor vehicles in January is given as 10,388 units, which is less than half the total of 21,501 reported in January, 1928. The farm implement plants are also running far below their capacity, and as a consequence of these declines in activity the primary iron and steel industries are, apart from work supplied by the railways' order, faced with a scarcity of orders. The railway earnings of both the railway systems are running every week between 10 and 20 per cent. below the parallel figure for the previous year, and the cumulative total of carloadings for the year up to February 15, placed at 383,535 cars, shows a decline of 27,774 cars compared with the parallel figure for 1929, the decline for the last week recorded being 8,406 cars. The newsprint industry, already depressed by unsatisfactory prices, is beginning to experience further troubles from the curtailment of business in the United States, which reduces advertisements and cuts down the size of newspapers; in January the newsprint output, placed at 205,305 tons, was 9,000 tons below the figure for January, 1929, and the Canadian mills only operated at 71.4 per cent. of their capacity, as compared with an operating ratio of 82.3 in January, 1929. Numerous mines, which brokerage houses now involved in trouble had been financing, have been shut down.

These unsatisfactory conditions find reflection in the foreign trade returns for January, the figures, with the comparative totals for January, 1929, being as follows:—

	January, 1929.	1930.
	$	$
Exports	94,942,041	73,507,327
Imports	96,959,301	84,910,377
Total trade	191,901,342	158,417,704

THE BOOKLET
EDUCATION
The booklet "EDUCATION" outlines two plans to ensure a complete Education for your children. High fees and early enrolment are factors which demand a settled sum of money being available for the Educational period. The plans described show how this can be accomplished.
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The adverse balance for the month is therefore 11½ million dollars, and for the first ten months of the fiscal year the total decline in trade is 181 million dollars, while a favourable balace of 133 million dollars has been transformed into an adverse one of 90½ millions. How far the grain marketing situation is responsible for this state of affairs can be gauged from the fact that in the ten-month period exports of " agricultural and vegetable products " were valued at 337½ millions, a reduction of roughly 236 millions.

In the latest issue of the Government's Commercial Intelligence Journal Mr Harrison Watson, Canadian Trade Commissioner in London, discusses some reasons why, apart from the heavy reduction in grain exports to Britain, there was a decline in Canada's contribution of other leading food products to the British market; he enumerates the percentage losses as follows: Flour, 23.7; bacon, 35; hams, 14.9; cheese, 21.3; and canned salmon, 9.3; while the live cattle trade has entirely disappeared since 1929, and butter exports are now almost negligible. According to Mr. Watson, one factor is the unwillingness of Canadian exporters to maintain regular supplies demanded by the British market in face of the low prices prevailing in it, and their preference for the American market as more profitable. But he also points out that the Canadian exporter is confronted with keen competition from other countries, which have overhauled their methods since the war and by improved organisation in regard to production, standardisation and distribution have been able to lower prices to levels formerly unprofitable.

At the conference of provincial attorney-generals at Toronto about the mining and oil brokerage situation an agreement was reached on a uniform plan of legislation, which will protect the public from illegal " shortselling " and bucketing practices and prevent a recurrence of other irregularities which have been revealed.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

Unemployment Insurance — Road Traffic Tribunal — Belfast Corporation — Census of Production.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELFAST, March 6.

FOLLOWING the passage of the Unemployment Insurance Bill by the Imperial Parliament, early in February, the Northern Ireland Parliament, which had been adjourned on January 14th, reassembled on February 18th for the purpose of passing a similar measure for the six-county area. The additional cost to the Northern Ireland Unemployment Fund, on the basis of a continuance of 16 per cent. unemployment, is estimated at approximately £404,000 per annum. The measure was passed through all its stages and Parliament prorogued on February 24th.

The first application to the Tribunal recently established under the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act to fix motor omnibus fares and rates in Northern Ireland was heard on February 12th, when the Belfast and County Down Railway Company applied for permission to increase the fares charged on the public service vehicles which it operates between Belfast and Holywood. The appointment of this Tribunal is a corollary to the legislation which has been passed with a view to the abolition

of indiscriminate competition between motor bus companies by the introduction of a system of licensing specified services for specified routes. At the opening sitting the Chairman of the Tribunal, Sir Lynden Macassey, K.C., made a statement regarding the general principles upon which the Tribunal would work. The statutory jurisdiction of the Tribunal extends only to the fixing of fares and the rates to be charged for the conveyance of luggage and parcels, but no appeal from its decisions can be made except on questions of law. In fixing fares the broad principle which will be adopted is that fares should, as far as practicable, be on such a basis as will yield gross receipts equal to, but not in excess of, the sum which, after providing for working expenses and a fair allowance for renewals, depreciation and reserve, will yield, with ordinary efficiency of operation and management, a reasonable return upon the capital necessarily and properly invested.

The Belfast Corporation has adopted a resolution to promote a Bill in the Northern Ireland Parliament asking for certain additional powers. Organised opposition has been offered to clauses of the Bill dealing with canvassing by members of the Council, the terms of superannuation of certain officials, the registration of butchers' shops, the provision of buildings for the accommodation of waiting vehicles, power to contribute to the rent of an aerodrome, and the regulation of street trading. A plebiscite on these clauses of the Bill is being taken. The estimated expenditure of the municipality for the coming financial year will amount to £1,276,754, of which £342,313 will be met by Government grants, miscellaneous receipts, and payments by the gas, tramways and electricity undertakings, leaving £934,441 to be provided out of the rates. A rate of 10s. 5d. in the £—one penny less than in 1929-30—has been struck.

The Ministry of Commerce has announced that a census of production will be taken in Northern Ireland in 1931, simultaneously with the similar inquiry in Great Britain. In 1924 the Board of Trade conducted the industrial census in Northern Ireland on behalf of the Northern Government, but next year the census will be taken by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Commerce. Preliminary forms in connection with the census have already been distributed.

Letters to the Editor.

CANALISING EMPIRE TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

DEAR SIR,—The campaign for Empire Free Trade started by the two Press Peers will almost certainly appeal to many persons who are governed by impulse and who do not look very deeply into the consequences of a proposal which at first sight seems to be politically patriotic and economically profitable. I have neither the political position nor the social standing to justify my intrusion into the controversy. But I happen to have had practical experience of this scheme in its various forms since it was first proposed by the late Mr J. H. Hofmeyer at the Colonial Conference of 1886. Mr Hofmeyer's scheme would have provided about seven millions sterling as a contribution to the maintenance of the British Navy. Mr Cecil Rhodes took it up warmly, and I confess that I was at first greatly attracted by it.

No one doubted—I certainly did not—that it would involve a sacrifice by the Mother Country. But I considered that the political advantages to be gained might be worth this sacrifice. Both Hofmeyer and Rhodes believed that it would benefit South Africa, that an Imperial tariff against the outside world would favour South African wine as against French or German wine and so forth, while the Cape Dutch, who were the chief wine growers, would find their material interests bound up with the Imperial connection. I shared that belief, and it was not until I went to Mauritius as Colonial Secretary that I found I was mistaken. Mauritius and Reunion are sister islands of the Mascarenhas group. Both are of volcanic origin. The climate of both is the same, the soil of Reunion is believed to be the richer of the two, and Reunion is a little more than one-fourth larger than Mauritius. Both are peopled by French and Indians, and the Code Napoleon is in force in both islands. But Reunion is virtually a French Department. It sends a Senator and two Deputies to the French Parliament. There is free trade between France and a Customs tariff against the world outside the French Empire. Lord Beaverbrook's scheme is, in fact, in force as between France and Reunion.

In the British colony of Mauritius there is no discrimination, and trade is free to flow in the most profitable channels.

Here, then, I found an opportunity of comparing the various schemes of an Imperial zollverein, Empire Free Trade, preference, and similar proposals, and bringing them to the test of practical experience. With the assistance of my office staff and the British Consul at Reunion I worked out the following table, which is published in the Colonial Report on Mauritius for the year 1908. The figures are for 1907, and French francs were converted into rupees for the purpose of comparison:—

Year 1907.	Mauritius.	Reunion.
Population	373,336	173,912
Area (sq. miles)	705	969·7
Imports.		
Value of Imports from Mother Country given in rupees	7,960,799	4,647,590
Value of Imports from Sister Colonies or Possessions given in rupees	16,671,921	2,889,615
Value of Imports from Foreign Countries given in rupees	6,528,375	1,157,386
Total Imports given in rupees	31,161,095	8,694,592
Exports.		
Value of Exports to Mother Country given in rupees	7,024,615	7,983,153
Value of Exports to Sister Colonies or Possessions given in rupees	37,291,918	137,995
Value of Exports to Foreign Countries given in rupees	2,031,183	264,986
Total value of Exports given in rupees	46,347,716	8,286,134

These figures are conclusive. The Imperial Free Trade as practised between France and her colonies successfully canalised all trade, but without any material benefit to inter-Imperial trade, whilst it was absolutely disastrous to foreign trade.

This point would be brought out still more conspicuously if I were to give the shipping returns. I have not got the complete returns for Reunion. I know, however, that by canalising the trade with France, Reunion had practically only one regular line of steamers—the Messageries Maritimes—whilst Mauritius had the Messageries Maritimes, the Union Castle Line, the British India Line, and the Clan Line, besides numerous tramp steamers.

The effect of canalising the trade with France and shutting out the rest of the world had the following consequences for the French colony:—(1) The richer and larger island maintained only about half the population. (2) The trade was enormously reduced. (3) The population were poorer.—Yours faithfully,

GRAHAM BOWER.

Studwell Lodge, Droxford.
February 27, 1930.

Books and Publications.

INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION.*

WHAT Lord Amulree does not know about the modern developments of industrial arbitration in this country could easily be written on a sixpence, and students of the subject will, therefore, be very glad to know that he has decided to publish the results of his labours. The scope of Lord Amulree's book, short as it is—of its 224 loosely printed pages 34 are occupied with appendix matter—is very wide. It starts with the fourteenth-century Statute of Labourers, and pursues the history of wage regulation and conciliation through the ages, including reference to the Elizabeth regulation, the powers of the justices, Speenhamland and the Combination Acts, the Victorian schemes of arbitration, voluntary and compulsory, the Trade Boards Acts, the Ministry of Munitions and the Committee on Production and all the war-time expedients, right down to the Industrial Court and the wage tribunals of the present time. And a summary appendix gives relevant quotations from all the principal Acts mentioned.

In apologising for adding to the number of books already in existence on the subject, Lord Amulree says that "it has always seemed to me that while it is essential that a person called upon to arbitrate should possess certain qualities such as industrial knowledge, patience, and impartiality, it is also an advantage to have that philosophic background which comes of acquaintance with the history of this and cognate methods of settling industrial differences." With this sentiment one may very heartily agree, while remarking, at the same time, that it seems to indicate a considerably longer and more elaborate book than the present one. If one sets out to deal, in 192 pages, with the history of conciliation and arbitration as well as with the details of the various schemes themselves, one can hardly fail to make the historical treatment a little dry and meaningless for those not well acquainted with the general industrial history of the period—and few arbitrators, we fear, have been soundly trained in general economic history. In some parts of his book, particularly down to the repeal of the Combination Acts, Lord Amulree does very skilfully manage to relate changing attitudes on wage-regulation to changing economic and political conditions; but he does not extend this treatment to the Victorian age, though a very interesting study could have been made of the effects of general economic conditions on the general attitude to arbitration, both in the mid-tide of "Victorian prosperity" and in the fluctuations which followed the 1878 depression. Again, the account of the present railway wages boards would have been more interesting and more fruitful if it had been related to the other parts of the 1921 Railways Act; the compulsory amalgamations, and the existence of the Railway Rates Tribunal, have certainly contributed to the success of the Wages Boards in a way which should be carefully considered by anyone proposing to transplant the wage-fixing machinery, without the rates tribunal, into the mining industry. The Whitley Council proposals, again, are discussed without sufficient stress being laid on the wide difference between the application of "Whitley principles" to privately-owned and to State-owned industry; and even the history of the Industrial Court—of which, not unnaturally, Lord Amulree is a strong supporter—might have been made more interesting by more reference to the change of industrial atmosphere between 1919 and 1929. Finally, one feels the need of some comparison of English conditions with those of other countries, particularly the Dominions. Why does the British trade unionist raise a howl at compulsory arbitration for any but "sweated" trades, while his Australian brother accepts it with complete calm but without thereby becoming any less militant? Anyone who has conversed with an Australian labour leader cannot but have received illuminating ideas on this question.

To say this, however, is only to say that Lord Amulree has not written the authoritative work on his subject which we should like to have from him, and which he is so obviously qualified to execute. We venture to hope that he may soon do so. In the meantime, the present little book is to be heartily recommended as a model of concise, moderate, and intelligent statement.

* "Industrial Arbitration in England." (Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d.).

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Economic Development of the British Overseas Empire. Vol. II. By the late L. C. A. Knowles and C. M. Knowles. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 12s. 6d. net.

Economic historians will welcome this completion of the late Dr. Knowles' invaluable work on the Empire. Part I. is devoted to a comparative examination of Dominion problems, and Part II. to Canada. Like the preceding volume, this work fills a serious lacuna in economic literature.

France. By André Siegfried. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 9s. net.

Professor Siegfried's gift for interpreting the people of one country to those of another is already well known. That he should apply it to the interpretation of his own people and their politics to the Anglo-Saxon nations is very opportune at this moment of desperate striving to see each other's point of view. We hope he will next undertake the complementary service of explaining us to his fellow-countrymen.

Company Law and Practice. By Herbert W. Jordan and Stanley Borrie. 17th edition. (London) Jordan and Sons, Ltd., Chancery Lane. 10s. net.

Among the flood of works recently published on this subject none has supplanted this admirably arranged volume. This seventeenth edition has been completely rewritten in the light of the Companies Act, 1929, and it is, as usual, fully documented and indexed.

Danger Spots in World Population. By Warren S. Thompson. (London) Alfred A. Knopf, Ltd., 37, Bedford Square. 21s.

The thesis is that the differential pressure of peoples on their resources is one of the most important causes of war, and the author analyses the population problem, in the countries where it is most crucial, from this point of view.

New Zealand Official Year Book, 1930. (London) New Zealand Government Office, 415, Strand. 7s. 6d. net.

The publication of this indispensable work of reference at a price of 7s. 6d. is an act of philanthropy for which every statistician should daily return thanks. It has an answer to almost every conceivable question about New Zealand.

The China Year Book, 1929-30. Edited by H. G. W. Woodhead. (London) Simpkin, Marshall, Ltd., Stationers' Hall Court. 42s. net.

This solid volume, packed with statistics, is a monument to what can be achieved by determination in the face of extraordinary obstacles. It contains a wealth of social and economic information of every kind.

Political Handbook of the World. Edited by Walter H. Mallory. (New York) Council of Foreign Relations, Inc., 25, West 43rd Street. $2.50.

Contains concise information on the rulers, the political parties with their programmes and leaders, and the Press of sixty-four countries.

Cost of Government in the United States, 1927-28. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Uark Avenue. $3.00.

An exceptionally exhaustive collection of statistics of Federal, State and local finance.

State Income Taxes. Vol. I. Historical Development. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $2.00.

An account of the motives for the adoption, the original laws, and subsequent history of income tax in twenty of the United States.

Complete Practical Income Tax. By A. G. McBain. Fifth Edition. (London) Gee and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 7s. 6d. net.

A very thorough and comprehensive account, with numerous examples. Authorities are quoted throughout, and there is an excellent index.

Income Tax Personal Allowances at a Glance. By Harry C. King. (London) Gee and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 1s. net.

A convenient quick-reference pamphlet.

Dizionario Commerciale. Compiled by Professor N. Spinelli. (Turin) S. Lattes and C., Editori. Part I, 35 lire. Part 11, 55 lire.

Indispensable to the economist who has to deal with Italian matter.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in the Argentine Republic. 3s. 6d. net.

Channel Tunnel Committee Report. Cmd. 3513. 3s. net.

Report of the Departmental Committee on the Poisons and Pharmacy Acts. Cmd. 3512. 1s. net.

Tramways and Light Railways (Street and Road) and Trackless Trolley Undertakings. 10s. 6d. net.

Estimates for Revenue Departments for the year ending March 31, 1931. 2s. net.

Statement on Works Approved for Government Financial Assistance in Connection with Unemployment. Cmd. 3519. 2d. net.

League of Nations: Fifty-eighth Session of the Council—Report by the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P. Cmd. 3514. 6d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE OIL OUTLOOK.

THE situation in the oil industry to-day is of more than ordinary complexity. There was an enormous over-production of crude oil and its products last year, as is shown by the following figures, covering 75 per cent. of the world's oil trade:—

FIGURES OF AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE.

(Thousands of U.S. barrels.)

	U.S. Production and Imports (all oils).	U.S. Consumption and Exports (all oils).	Excess of Supply.
1928	991,746	966,013	25,733
1929	1,114,169	1,047,681	66,488

Producers and refiners are now curtailing output to an extent which has never before been deemed possible in this most individualistic of American industries. The question is whether "restriction" has not come too late to prevent a decline in oil prices and whether the oil industry is not now entering upon a period of intensive competition at low prices.

Before we consider the oil share market in the light of this situation we will deal first with some of its complications. In the *Economist* of December 21, 1929, in an article on "Co-operation in the Oil Industry," we reviewed the extent to which rationalisation had been carried out. As far as production was concerned we came to the conclusion that international co-operation was unlikely, if not impossible, and that it would be foolish to prophesy how long restriction would be maintained in the United States while production in Venezuela was unrestricted. At the present time restriction in the American oilfields has been tightened up, and a considerable fall in the daily average output has resulted, as the following table will show:—

DAILY AVERAGE CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1930.

(Figures of American Petroleum Institute.)

	Barrels.		Barrels.
Jan. 4.....	2,652,000	Feb. 1.....	2,595,000
„ 11.....	2,689,250	„ 8.....	2,613,800
„ 18.....	2,661,700	„ 15.....	2,652,950
„ 25.....	2,615,000	Mar. 1.....	2,624,000
		„ 8.....	2,535,000

This sharp decline in American production has been due mainly to the agreement arrived at between the Californian producers gradually to bring down the State output, as from March 1st, from a level in excess of 700,000 barrels to 619,000 barrels a day. Field committees and umpires have been appointed to carry this scheme into effect, and every company except two in the southern fields of California has pledged itself to respect the field umpires' decisions. At the same time, restriction is being maintained in Oklahoma, while in Texas, although the State Governor views all restriction schemes as a breach of the Anti-Trust laws, a certain amount of voluntary restriction is in force.

Last year the domestic consumption in, and export from the United States of all oils amounted to over 2,870,000 barrels per day. If the American oil industry could reduce its crude oil production below 2,500,000 barrels a day, and keep it at that level for some time, the stability of oil prices might be assured. But too great a reliance must not be placed upon restriction agreements among American oil producers. Such agreements can be broken with impunity at any time by any company, and it is difficult to believe that the independent oil companies will maintain a self-denying ordinance for an indefinite time while the big combines in Venezuela—Standard Oil (Indiana and New Jersey), Royal Dutch-Shell, and Gulf Oil—produce as much as they can and dump their surplus on the Eastern seaboard of the United States. The Royal Dutch-Shell have offered to restrict in conformity with the restrictions in America, if the three other groups in Venezuela follow suit, but there is as yet no sign of the latter agreeing. Another factor which makes the maintenance of "restriction" far from easy—at any rate in California—is the increase by the Standard Oil Company of California of 25 cents per barrel in its posted prices. The wisdom of first restricting crude oil output and then increasing crude oil prices is difficult to perceive.

The gasoline market presents even more obscure complications. The over-abundance of gasoline is due not only to too much crude oil being refined, but to the recovery of gasoline from crude oil having been still further improved by the increase of "cracking" at the refineries. The gasoline recovery last year was 44 per cent. of the crude oil refined, as compared with 41 per cent. in 1928. For American refiners to increase their gasoline output while producers of crude oil have been restricting their production is an obvious anomaly. Bulk gasoline prices, taking the United States motor grade of gasoline ex Oklahoma refineries, fell from 9 cents per gallon in May, 1929, to 7 cents per gallon by the end of the year and to 6 cents per gallon last month. In spite of this decline, export prices were maintained last year at a fixed level by the American Oil Exporters' Association, the price for the United States motor grade of gasoline being 8½ cents per gallon at bulk ports. Last month the Association reduced their gasoline price schedule by 1 cent per gallon, and it is considered likely that further reductions will be made. Whether the Association can hold together in the face of increased competition in the world markets and a falling price level in America seems doubtful.

In considering the effect of these complexities on the oil share market a distinction must be drawn between the purely producing oil companies, the localised producing, refining and marketing companies, and the international groups. The producing concerns, such as the V.O.C. Holding (which is now to be merged with Venezuela Oil Concessions), Lobitos, Anglo-Ecuadorian, Apex Trinidad, British Controlled Oilfields and Mexican Eagle, have enjoyed a higher average price for their crude oil during 1929, but will be affected by the reduction in American crude oil prices which was made in January this year. The localised producing, refining and marketing companies, such as the Anglo-Persian and Burmah Oil, should have increased their profits considerably last year, but are now threatened with a price-cutting war in India, the Vacuum Oil and the Standard Oil of New York having purchased further supplies of Russian kerosene for the Eastern markets—an ominous step in view of past history. The Anglo-Persian has had the full benefit of the 2¼d. per gallon rise in the price of petrol in Great Britain since March last year, which was so much extra profit, seeing that the company was not selling at a loss before the rise was made. Moreover, the Anglo-Persian has had the advantage of 50 per cent. of the net profits in all the Eastern markets outside India and China as the result of its alliance with the Shell group in the Consolidated Petroleum Company. The Burmah Oil Company has benefited from stable prices in India, and has also had the advantage of receiving, during 1929, an interim dividend from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, as well as the final dividend in respect of 1928. It is, therefore, possible that both Burmah Oil and Anglo-Persian will show increased earnings and dividends in respect of last year. The international oil groups, such as the Royal Dutch-Shell, may be assumed to have increased their profits again last year, and to be well prepared for the more intensive competition which has now arisen. Indeed, experience shows that this group invariably emerges from a price-war with a stronger hold on the oil markets than before. Unlike the Anglo-Persian, it can always take advantage of low crude oil prices by purchasing its supplies in the cheapest market. The next table will show the yields at the present market

of the four "leaders" in the London oil share market:—

	High, 1929.	Low, 1929.	Present Price.	Div. Rate.	Yield (ex Div.)
Royal Dutch, 100 fl.	38⅜*	29⅝	31⅞	24%	6·3%
Shell Transport, £1....	5 15/16*	84/4½	4 9/16	25%†	5·5%† / 6·9%‡
Burmah Oil, £1	97/7½	74/4½	3 23/32	20%	5·4%
Anglo-Persian, £1	73/1½	98/9	3⅞	12½%	3·2%

* Cum-bonus. † Tax free. ‡ Gross.

If the Burmah Oil increased its dividend to 25 per cent. and the Anglo-Persian to 15 per cent., the yields would be 6.8 per cent. and 3.9 per cent. respectively. It is surprising to find such a high yield from Shell Transport, which belongs to a group that has eliminated to such a large extent the risks attaching to the oil business. In the prospectus which the Shell Transport and Trading published for the recent issue of 5,000,000 7 per cent. second preference shares it was stated that since 1897 the company had paid out to its ordinary shareholders over £66,000,000 in tax-free dividends. Since 1926 these dividends have been at the rate of 25 per cent. tax free. It would require a very exceptional period of stress in the oil markets before the Royal Dutch and Shell Transport were forced to reduce their dividends.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
April 1.	April 3.

Cheap money spoke in the stock markets this week with no uncertain voice. Dealings in gilt-edged stocks were on a very large scale, and on few occasions in the last seven years have prices moved upwards with greater rapidity. The expectation, and realisation, of a further reduction in Bank rate doubtless influenced market sentiment to some extent, but the fundamental causes of the movement went much deeper. Their nature is discussed in an "Investment Note" on page 655. Foreign bonds, industrial prior-charge stocks and even industrial preference shares shared in the general tendency, though to a less conspicuous extent. Before the end of the week ordinary shares also exhibited distinctly firm signs, this development, however, being attributable less to enhancement of confidence in the industrial situation than to adjustment of yield bases to conform with the newly prevailing rates for money generally.

The gilt-edged market, which opened strongly on Monday, became a cynosure of attention by mid-week, when a heavy turnover was accompanied by rises in price which surpassed even the most optimistic expectations. The movement extended throughout the list, Funding Loan, Three-and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan and Four per Cent. Consols being particularly in evidence. Five per Cent. Conversion Loan rose to 103¾ by Wednesday, while the new Four-and-Half per Cent. Conversion scrip was dealt in at 2¾ premium the following day. The most noteworthy laggard in the movement was the Five per Cent. War Loan, the market being strongly of the opinion that a conversion operation was pending. India loans shared in the general rise. Dominion and colonial stocks had a consistently firm tone, but attracted only the "marginal" business of the market. The rapid over-subscription of the Swansea Loan (large applicants for which received only 36 per cent.) was accompanied by further buying of recent Home Corporation issues, which are now at a premium in every case.

Numerous stocks were singled out for attention in the foreign market. Greek bonds displayed further strength, and German Sevens obtained support. Unexpectedly large buying of Brazilians revealed an appreciable shortage of stock. Chinese issues were in favour, speculative buying of the 1912's continuing in anticipation of an announcement regarding this month's coupon.

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. Mar. 13.	Mar. 20.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%.....	77	79½	+ 2½
Do. 4½% 1944	96½	98⅞	+ 2⅜
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	101⅛	103½	+ 1⅜
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102 9/16	102 11/16	+ 1/8
Consols 2½%.....	54⅜	56⅛	+ 1¾
Do. 4%.....	84½	88⅜	+ 3⅞
Funding 4%.....	89	92¼	+ 3¼
Victory Bonds 4% ...	92 3/16	94	+ 1 13/16
Local Loans 3%	62¼	65½	+ 2⅜
Treasury 5% (B).....	101 5/16	101⅝	+ 5/16
Canada 4% 1940-60	87⅛	88	+ ⅞
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	99	100	+ 1
India 3½%	58½	64½	+ 6
Do. 4½% 1958-68...	80⅜	84	+ 3⅝
Australia 5% 1945-75	90½	90⅜	+ ⅛
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	85½x	85½	...
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	101	101	...
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)...	100	100⅜	+ ⅜
Argentine 4% Reciss.	83	86½	+ 3½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	102½	103	+ ½
Belgian 7%	110½	110⅜	+ ⅛
Brazil 6⅓% (1927) ...	85¼	91	+ 4¾
Bulgaria 7⅓%	89	89	...
China 5% (1912).....	49¼	52	+ 2¾
Czechoslovakia 8%...	111⅛	112⅛	+ 1
Egypt Unified 4% ...	76¾	76½	− ¼
French 5%	20⅜	20⅝	+ ¼
Do. 4% (Brit.).....	20	20 1/16	+ 1/16
German 7%	106	107⅛	+ 1⅛
Greek 7% Refugee...	102½	103	+ ½
Hungary 7½%	101½	102⅜	+ 1⅜
Chili 6%	93	96 1/16x	+ 3 1/16
Poland 7%	90⅜	90⅜	...
Mexican 5% (1899)...	18	18	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%...	88½	90½	+ 2½
Corporation Stocks.			
L.C.C. 3%.....	62	64½	+ 2½
E. London 5% 1960-70	96	...	...
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	88	88	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	91	91⅜	+ ⅜
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	87⅞	88¼	+ ⅜
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10	10⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	34½	32x	+ ½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	50¾	51¾	+ 1
Metropol'an Com. Stk.	62¼	62½	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	72½	73	+ ½
Southern Def. Stk. ...	30⅜	31	+ ⅝
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	71½	73½	+ 1⅞
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds	107	107⅛	...
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	209	211	+ 2
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	79½	79	− ½
B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	85	84⅜	− ⅝
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	94½	92x	+ ⅜
B.A.Western Ord.Stk.	72	71x	+ 2
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	17½	17½	...
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	3	3	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	49¼	52¼	+ 2⅝
San Paulo Ord. Stk...	180¼	180½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$31½	$31½	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	17½	17	− ½
Beira Rlwy. no par...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	248½	249½	+ 1
Barclay B. (£1)	2 11/16	2 13/16	+ 1/8
Barcl.(Dom.&c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3¼	3⅛	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13½	+
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$106½	$110½	+ 4
St. of S.A. €20, £5 pd.	14⅛	14⅛	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 3/16	3 3/16	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19⅛	19⅜	+ ¼
Com. Un.£2½ fully pd.	23¼	25⅜	+ 2⅛
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	28	29	+ 1
Pearl (£1).....	12 3/16x	13	+ 13/16
Phœnix, £1 fully pd...	13⅜	13⅜	+ ⅛
Roy.In.£1, with 10/ pd.	8	8 1/16	+ 1/16
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	5/8	11/16	+ 1/16
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Baldwin (4/-)	5/8	5/8	...
Cory, William (£1) ...	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	5/8	5/8	...
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/8	+ 1/16
Powell Duffryn (£1)...	1/2	17/32	− 1/32
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	2⅛	3	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8).....	11/16	11/16	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1 1/16	1 1/8	+ 1/16
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	11/16	11/16	+ 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Courtaulds.....	2⅛	2 1/8x	+ 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton (£1)	1⅞	1 15/16	+ 1/16
Fine Cott. Spinn. (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/8	+ 1/16
Listers (£1)	11/16	11/16	...
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)..	1 1/16	1 1/8	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
General Electric (£1)...	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
City of London (£1)...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	48½	47½	− 1
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	7/8	15/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Continental Stk.	355	355	...
Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
S. Metropolitan Stk...	98	98	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless — 7½% *A Ord.*	59¾	64¼	+ 4½
B Ord.	27½	30	+ 2½
5½% *Pref.*	93½	97	+ 3½
Canadian Marconi ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Marconi Marine (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Motors.			
Dennis (1/)	1 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16x	+ 1/16
Leyland (£1).....	2 1/16	3	+ 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)...	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	23½	23½	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	24½	25	+ ½
London Asiatic (2/)...	1/16	1/16	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	3 3/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Attock (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	1/16	1/16	...
Lobitos (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Royal Dutch (£3½) ...	31⅛	32	+ ⅞
Shell (£1)	4 3/16	4 5/16	+ 1/8
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Braz. Traction, no par	$40 3/4	$42	+ 1 1/2
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 1/16	5 1/8	+ 1/16
Cameras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9	9 1/16	+ 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6¼	5⅞	− ⅜
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Dunlop (6/8).....	1/8	1/8	+ 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1).....	3 1/16	3 1/16x	...
Hudson's Bay (£1)...	4 1/16	4 1/8	+ 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/2	1 1/2	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅜	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	14½	13⅞	− ⅝
Rio Tinto (£5)	43⅜	44	+ ⅝
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1 1/2	1 1/2	...
Sub Nigel (10/-)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	9⅛	9⅜	+ ⅛
Brakpan (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
"Chartered" 15/f.p...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Burma Corp. (*Rs.* 10)	11/16	11/16	+ 1/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/*fp*	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	− 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2⅛	2 1/16	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...
London Tin (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Among Home Railway stocks, public interest was concentrated entirely on prior-charge, and, to a less extent, preference issues. Ordinary stocks might have obtained more attention had the week's traffic returns been of a less unfavourable character, all the four groups showing a decline in gross revenue as compared with the corresponding week of 1929, when traffic continued to be affected by the cessation of frost-bound conditions. Poor traffic returns, however, failed to offset the better tendency of Argentine stocks, on a further recovery in the exchange and the appearance of "cheap" buyers. Little interest was shown in other foreign rails, apart from Leopoldinas, which rose in sympathy with Brazilian stocks generally.

The week opened in quiet fashion among Industrial shares. The market's correct forecast of the Bank of England's decision, the stronger tone of New York, and the better sentiment of the "House" as a whole, were reflected, however, in a stiffening of quotations from Wednesday onwards, though the volume of business showed no great expansion. New York was a buyer of International Nickel and Ford Motors, while Continental support was forthcoming for Kreuger and Toll issues, on the belief that cheap money would enable the group to fund part of its heavy portfolio of foreign Government obligations on profitable terms. Despite intermittent profit-taking, Cables and Wireless continued to make slow recovery, and Imperial Chemical was a better market. Buying of Electrical shares was stimulated by the favourable reports of three large companies (analysed on page 656 of this issue), and the instantaneous success of the North Metropolitan debenture issue. A moderate amount of business gave motor shares an active air, Dennis and Rolls-Royce showing the largest gains. After some weeks of dullness, buying of Brewery shares showed modest revival, and Tobacco shares were firmer under the lead of British-American Tobacco. Textile shares, though registering only moderate gains, had a better appearance than for some weeks past, but the securities of companies engaged in the "heavy" industries remained irregular, despite the better showing made by the Powell Duffryn figures (discussed on page 657). The Gramophone market attracted less attention in the absence of further circumstantial reports of pending mergers, the announcement that the Decca Company would not pay its half-year's preference dividend being unwelcome, though not unexpected. Among quasi-international stocks, Unilevers and United Molasses were prominent. The Insurance share market tended further to broaden, and bank shares maintained a firm tone.

Rubber shares remained outside the orbit of the week's increase in activity. The commodity showed little change, despite the announcement of further adhesions to the May tapping "holiday" policy, and dealings in the shares were of negligible proportions. A firmer tone ruled in the tea share market, where the paucity of buying orders was more than offset by the scarcity of stock. After a slow start, oil shares had a better appearance on tentative buying from New York and bear closing in Paris, but the improvement was checked by higher American crude production figures. A Royal Dutch $40,000,000 4 per cent. fifteen-year debenture issue was announced from New York.

Following a dull opening, the mining share market took on a more favourable tone before the end of the week. Kaffirs, after being almost entirely neglected, even by Paris, later hardened considerably on the receipt of more encouraging advices from the Cape. Rhodesians regained some of their mid-week losses, N'Changa being in demand in a somewhat erratic market. Tin shares were a firm feature before Thursday's recovery in the metal, with Hong Kong and Bangrin leading. Coppers were better, Rio Tinto hardening on a modest demand. Rhodesia Katanga were a strong feature on an excellent progress report, and in the asbestos list Mashaba added a fraction. Burma Corporation and Santa Gertrudis were in request under the influence of a small advance in silver.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.
(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Mar. 13.	Mar. 14.	Mar. 17.	Mar. 18.	Mar. 19	Mar. 20.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,264	1,357	1,782	1,425	1,687	1,836
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	878	885	1,139	974	984	1,066
Commercial and Industrial*	1,935	2,047	2,196	1,952	1,967	2,400
Banks, Insurance and Financial	490	530	627	499	503	727
Mines (including Nitrate)	596	535	581	484	522	543
Oil	208	190	184	170	174	168
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	169	158	180	133	121	128
Total	5,540	5,702	6,689	5,637	5,958	6,858

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Mar. 13.	Mar. 14.	Mar. 17.	Mar. 18.	Mar. 19.	Mar. 20.
90·5	82·0	83·3	83·3	83·6	83·7	84·7	85·6

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Industrial news is unimportant, and, while the downward turn may be halting, there is not yet any real improvement. The Chase National Bank merger means a continuance of the old management, and not a Rockefeller dominance. The bond market is the best for eight years, with a rush of corporation money from the call market to securities, and of investment money out of the banks. New issues are increasing, perhaps too rapidly, but so far have been all well taken, railroads being the principal borrowers. Investments are overflowing into stocks, which are rising moderately but steadily, with the trading volume now over 4 million shares daily. Attention is chiefly concentrated on issues with a settled dividend policy, and a strong cash position, but the pools are able to attract a good public following in an assortment of stocks. Chemicals, tobaccos, steels, and even oils are better. Fresh interest is being taken in motor shares under the lead of General Motors, which are rising on a turn in the tide of sales. General sales for February, at home and abroad, were 126,196, against 106,509 in January, and 175,148 a year ago. Interest is being taken in utilities and oils with natural gas possibilities. There is a growing belief that there will be no prolonged business depression, in which case low interest rates will make the current high yields on assured dividend-paying stocks attractive. The steel trade is operating at 75 per cent. capacity. Steadier money rates are looked for with the repayment of the Treasury borrowing on income-tax collections, which, to date, is running $40,000,000 above a year ago. The general money market conditions are the easiest since 1924 and the discount rate is now high and dry, with only sentimental effect. A reduction is, nevertheless, expected later unless a bull movement in shares, with rising brokers' loans, proves too much for the Washington board. Loans are up $121 million, making a gain during the past month and a-half of nearly $500 million.

(By Cable.)

	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13.	Mar. 20.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	105⅝	106⅛	106⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112⅜	113	112⅝
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	99⅜	100⅛	100⅛
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101⅛	101⅜	101⅜
Do. 4½% '33-38	101⅜	101⅝	102⅛
Atchison	235	233	237½
Ches. & Ohio	231	226	232⅜
Erie	59½	58	59
Illinois Central	128½	128	129
N.Y. Central	186½	182⅜	188
Pennsylvania	82⅜	80½	85⅜
Southern Pacific	122½	120⅜	124½
Southern Rly.	125	125¼	130½
Union Pacific	223½	223	234
Am. Can.	140⅜	142½	147½
Alleghany Corp.	32½	30⅞	32⅜
Amer. Smelting	75½	71⅜	73
Anaconda	74⅜	72½	72⅛
Bethlehem Steel	100⅜	100½	103½
Chrysler Motor	38⅜	38	39
Corn Produce	94	93¼	96½
Eastman Kodak	217	226	236
Gen. Electric(New)	78⅜	76½	77½
Gen. Motors	42⅜	44⅜	48⅞
Int. Harvester	94⅜	92	90½x
Montg. Ward	46	44⅜	42⅜
Natl. Biscuit	219	216	220x
Phelps Dodge	37x	37½	40⅜
Pullman	82½	82	82½
Sears-Roebuck	89⅜	89⅛	90
Studebaker	42½	42½	42⅞
Un. Fruit	95½	92	91½
U.S. Leather	8⅜	8⅞	9½
U.S. Rubber	27⅞	26½	28½
U.S. Steel	182½	180⅜	186½
Westinghouse	193	186⅜	188⅜
Woolworth	64	64⅜	64⅜
Worthington Pump	100½	111	121
Am. Pow. & Light	103	105	112
Am. Tel. & Tg.	239½	239½	243⅜
Electric P. & L.	71⅞	76⅜	78
Int. Tel. Teles.	68⅞	68½	66½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	43	45½	45⅜
Radio Corpn.	48⅜	51⅜	52
Utilities P. & L.	38	37	36½
W. Union Tlg.	213½	210½	206½
Associated Gas "A"	44½	43	42⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	26½	28⅞	29⅜
Pan Amer. B.	53	55	54½
Sinclair Oil	24½	27⅜	27⅜
Std. California	60½	63⅜	63⅜
Do. N.J.	62⅜	66⅜	66½

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc.' of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Lowest.	1929. Highest.	1930. Beginning of Year.	1930. Mar. 6.	1930. Mar. 13.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	159·4	160·9
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	142·4	140·8
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	240·0	235·1
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	169·2	169·8
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·43%	4·42%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Mar. 9.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Mar. 12.	Mar. 13.	Mar. 14.	Mar. 16.	Mar. 17.	Mar. 18.	Mar. 19.
187·4	166·5	183·3	184·4	182·6	181·8	185·5	186·6	187·4

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Mar. 13.	Mar. 14.	Mar.15*.	Mar. 17.	Mar. 18.	Mar. 19.	Mar. 20
Stock Exchange—Shares (Thous.)	3,490	3,945	1,527	3,634	4,241	4,328	4,428
Bonds (Value—Thous.)	16,646	20,020	9,902	14,354	19,024	23,190	28,321
Curb—Shares (Thous.)	863	969	603	809	1,346	1,164	1,249

* 2-hour session.

AMSTERDAM.

The predominant feature of the Amsterdam stock market during the past month was again the low level of money rates, which, however, failed to exercise any beneficial influence either on trade or on the prices of stocks and shares. Generally speaking, trading was extremely quiet, and quotations underwent a further decline. The resignation of Dr. Schacht resulted in a sudden depression. It was only in the debenture market that the undertone remained at all firm, and several State and Municipal loans advanced slightly. This tendency, coupled with the ample supplies on the money market, caused a brisker feeling in the issue market and several issues of loans were offered to the public, including 37.8 million guilders of 4½ per cent. Dutch East Indies bonds at 96 per cent. Among the leading shares, Aku artificial silk were particularly weak, dropping below par for the first time on rumours that no dividend would be distributed for 1929. Philips and Margarine Unies were also decidedly lower, while Royal Dutch were easy, and sugar issues were extremely quiet.

	Jan. 15.	Feb. 15.	Mar. 15.
4½%Gov.Bds.,1916	100⅛	100⅜	101½
4% Bonds, 1916	96	96⅛	97⅜
4½% Bonds East Indies	96⅜	97½	96⅞
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	98⅛	98	99⅜
4½% Rotterdam, 1930	98⅞	97⅜	98½
Amsterdam Bank	184⅜	195	187½
Koloniale Bank	217	220	200⅛
Ned.Ind. Handelsbank	156	154½	150½
Neth. Trading Soc.	166½	173	170⅜
Rotterdam Bank.	111	113½	112½
Van Berkels Pat.	180	169	145
Central Sugar	63	58½	49½
Shipbuilding Wilton	...	...	48⅜
Dutch Art. Silk	98	91	85
Margarine Unie	370x	328½	302½
Kuechenmeist.Acc.	127	120½	111
General Art Silk	132	116	95
Dutch Ford	268½	268½	251
Philips Elect.Lamp	515	453½	435
Swedish Match	310	315	301½
Kreuger & Toll	483	553	539
Intern. Cred. Trad.	261½	262½	239
Redjang Lebong	121	118	101
Singkep Tin	175½	198	174½
Bolton	163	178	160

	Jan. 15.	Feb. 15.	Mar. 15.
Algem. Explorat.	177	184	168
Anlem	346	320½	301½
Ned. Ind. Gas	241	228	227
Royal Dutch	399½x	390½	382½
Amsterdam Rub'r	157½	173	134½†
Deli Batavia	92½	113½	103
East Java	229	242½	228
Hessa Rubber	187	201	185½
Serbadjadi Sumatra	113½	127½	107½
Allied Sumatra	65	84	78
Holland Amer. Line	38½	35⅜	32⅜
Royal Packet	222	224½	208½
Neth. Shipping U.	189½	185	169½
Navigation "Nederland"	175	177	165½
Royal Steamship	84½	84⅞	79⅜
Java China Japan Line	103⅜	101½	94½
Vorstenlanden	147	153	147½
Trading Co. Amsterdam	559x	573½	552
Java Plantations	396⅜	409	398
Neth. India Sugar	246	257	237
Deli Batavia	374½x	394	376
Deli	340½	358½	337
Senembah	393½x	406	388

x Ex-interim dividend, † Ex right.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Strength of Gilt-edged Stocks.—The persistent decline of money rates between the New York slump at the end of last October and the latest reduction in the Bank of England's minimum figure has at long last begun to exert its inevitable influence on the long-term capital market. This week's new capital issues, which have been of high-grade investment character, have been fully and rapidly subscribed, while the gilt-edged market has been extremely active, with a larger volume of business and a more rapid rise in prices than at any time since 1922-23.

	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Lowest, 1930.	March 18.	March 20.	Yield at Last Price £ s. d.
4% "Consols"	88½	81⅜	82⅞	86½	88⅛	4 11 6
3½% Conversion	80½	72½	74¼	77⅛	79½	4 9 0
4% Funding	91⅝	82½	85⅜	90	92	4 10 0
5% War Loan	103½	99⅜	100⅛	102⅛	102⅜	4 19 6
5% Conversion, "B"	...	...	...	102	104¼	4 16 0
3% Local Loans	65⅜	60	61⅜	64½x	65½x	4 12 0
3% India	61⅜	50½	47	52x	55x	5 8 0
L.N.E.R. 4% Deb.	79⅜	71¼	73½	76	79	5 4 0
L.M.S. 4% Deb.	83	75	76	78	80	5 2 0
B.A. Gt. Sth. 6% Pref.	111¼	100	101	103½	101x	5 19 6
7% German	107½	101½	103	106	108	6 12 0
5% China, 1912	54⅜	41	43½	53	52	...
7½% San Paulo Coffee	105	78¼	81⅜	90	91	8 5 0

x = ex dividend.

The movement has shown signs of spreading, though in less striking fashion, to prior-charge and other fixed-interest industrial securities. This week's pace has obviously been too hot to last for long, but conservative market opinion has regarded it less as exhibiting "boom" symptoms than as reflecting the rapid catching up of the "arrears" of sound investment which have been accumulating for many weeks past. The movement can be regarded as the inevitable sequel to a period of cheap money following a major downward movement in values, and also as a first stage in the process of recovery. It will be welcomed in more than one quarter. To Mr Snowden it offers the possibility of converting part of the Five per Cent. War Loan (which has lagged noticeably behind in this week's advance) at a lower rate of interest. To industry it offers the prospect of raising fresh capital at reasonable rates whenever good security is available. The movement is the more likely to command itself to the investor, since the new securities which are likely to be offered for subscription in the next few weeks will carry a much lower risk of eventual loss than the doubtful "boom" company shares of recent years.

The "Marking" of Bargains.—The week's Stock Exchange Committee election has seen the advent of twelve new candidates, while only three retiring members have refrained from seeking re-election. The result will be of more than usual interest in view of the recent discussions of the Committee's policy regarding "permission to deal." During the past few days the Committee has issued a notice declaring that such permission has been refused in the case of the Rosey Cross Asbestos Company, and has warned members of the "House" against attempts by outsiders to make irregular use of Stock Exchange facilities. The text of both announcements will be found on page 681. Whenever application is made for leave to deal, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, certain papers have to be furnished to the Share and Loan Department. Every application must be supported by a Stock Exchange firm or member, who is assumed to be conversant with the details given in the returns by the company. The broker is invited to attend before the sub-committee of the Stock Exchange Committee charged with the duty of sifting new issues, which is probably the most important, from the public standpoint, of all the sub-committees which sit nowadays in the Stock Exchange. Upon it rests the responsibility for granting leave to deal, for though the full Committee of the Stock Exchange have the right to veto its decision, their veto is rarely exercised. In busy times this sub-committee is one of the hardest-worked of all. When permission to deal has been

given, the broker making the application is informed, and requested to acquaint the dealers in the market with the Committee's decision. Dealings begin, the marking of bargains is effected in one or other of the Stock Exchange Daily Lists, and the quotations find their way into the newspapers on the following day. It is the List of "unofficial" quotations which provides the purveyor of ramp shares with a golden opportunity for disposing of rubbish. The free advertisement it affords, with its *imprimatur* of Stock Exchange acknowledgment, is invaluable to him. Mr Lloyd George would doubtless be amazed at the unexpected developments which have followed his insistence, at the end of 1914, that such a List should be established as a war measure. In some respects, of course, shares marked in the Supplementary List are at a disadvantage as compared with those in the Official List. Banks and other institutions will generally advance cash against the security of stocks and shares quoted in the latter List, but securities in the former are, generally speaking, of less value as collateral. But its markings are regarded by many thousands of clients as an invaluable guide to the prices they can expect to receive or to pay when they deal in the stocks and shares in question. The outsider who wishes to give the impression of market activity in a particular share has merely to send a handful of orders every day, with a request that the bargains shall be recorded. To-day's popular plan is to flood the country, over a given week-end, with circulars relating to certain shares, to continue the campaign with sheaves of telegrams, broadcast through the provinces and the towns, to obtain the marking of a number of bargains in the Stock Exchange List, and then to sell as many as possible for whatever price the outsider cares to fix. This matter is closely engaging the Stock Exchange Committee's attention. The problem of retaining the benefits which publication of the Supplementary Lists affords, while obviating the dangers of loss to the public which its columns permit, is not an easy one. The Committee cannot discriminate between the good and the indifferent, but they can put down their foot firmly in the most glaring instances of abuse of their facilities.

Electricity Supply Profits.—The steady progress of the electrical generating industry was fully maintained last year, and was duly reflected in the earnings of the leading companies. The following table shows the results of three large supply concerns in different parts of the country:—

		City of London.	Clyde Valley.	Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
		£	£	£
Sales of current	1928	734,593	749,541	639,908†
	1929	778,272	792,172	668,374†
Net profit	1928	387,178	304,297	614,786
	1929	407,848	354,495	688,784
Earnings, per ordinary share, per cent.	1928	28·26	20·52	12·16
	1929	29·15	14·12	12·64
Dividends paid per ordinary share, per cent.	1928	10	8	6
	1929	10	8	6

† Profits on sales.

The City of London Electric Lighting Company increased its sales of electricity by 5.9 per cent., while its net profit was 5.3 per cent. higher at £407,848, covering the preference dividend of £48,000, 4.7 times. No mention is made of the number of consumers, but the units sold, at nearly 89 millions, were 11.3 per cent. more than in 1928. The ordinary capital of the Clyde Valley Electrical Power Company was increased during the year to £2,100,000 by the issue of £900,000 in £1 shares. The number of consumers increased by 21.75 per cent. to 48,700, and the revenue from power by 5.6 per cent. to £792,172. Expenses being practically the same as in 1928, the net profit was 16.5 per cent. higher at £354,495, covering the preference dividend of £58,000, 6.1 times. The contingency fund was increased by £152,500 (against £120,000). This fund now stands at £1,280,000. A new 20,000 k.w. 50-circle turbo-alternator has been installed at the Yoker Power Station, and is distributing power to the "Grid" lines of the Central Scotland Electricity Scheme. During the year £447,428 remaining unpaid on the ordinary capital of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Company was called up. Profits on sales increased by 4.4 per cent. to £668,374, and the net profit was 12 per cent. higher at £688,784, covering the preference dividend charge of £181,948, 3.7 times. The contingency reserve was increased by £175,000 to £930,437, and £75,000 was added to the renewals reserve. The system has been wholly maintained out of revenue. The improved results of the Newcastle Company are particularly gratifying, as the company is dependent to a very large extent upon demand from industry, and the trades of its area have in the past suffered severely from depression.

Building Societies: Rates Charged to Borrowers.—In a leading article in the *Economist* of last week (p. 591) we referred to the fact that the London societies paid a higher rate of interest to shareholders and depositors, and charged a higher rate to borrowers, than their provincial colleagues. We described this phenomenon as representing a potential source of friction within the movement. An interesting light is thrown on this question by the table given below, which shows for the past two years (so far as results are available) the average effective rates charged to borrowers by each of the 43 largest societies. The mortgage balances have been taken as the arithmetic mean of the opening and closing balances of each year, while the interest assumed in the calculations is the accrued interest brought into the profit and loss account. Slight statistical errors may be involved in some cases, due to technical questions which need not be described in detail. Interest, for instance, does not generally include fines, entrance fees or redemption fees. Some societies, on the other hand, are accustomed to bear all or part of legal expenses themselves. On the whole, however, the resulting figures can be regarded as giving a reasonably accurate statistical picture.

Average Effective Rates Charged on Mortgages.*

(Societies with London Head Offices marked [L].)

	1928–29	1929–30
(a) Under 5% in 1928–29.	%	%
Keighley and Craven	4·981	†
(b) 5% to under 5¼%, in 1928–29.		
Leeds and Holbeck	5·014	†
Northern Counties	5·041	†
Newcastle-on-Tyne	5·045	5·040
Derbyshire	5·062	†
Barnsley	5·080	†
Rock	5·083	†
Leek and Moorlands	5·091	†
Birmingham	5·119	5·143
Nottingham	5·130	5·149
Leicester	5·134	5·131
Bradford Third	5·153	5·089
Northampton Town	5·176	5·123
Leek United	5·184	†
Leeds Provincial	5·195	5·193
Leicester Temperance	5·243	5·241
(c) 5¼% to under 5½%.		
Bradford Second	5·300	5·379
Cumberland Co-op.	5·339	†
Bingley	5·384	5·459
Leeds Permanent	5·393	5·291
Darlington Equitable	5·425	5·450
Isle of Thanet	5·474	5·532
Coventry Permanent	5·497	5·451
Borough	5·498	†

	1928–29	1929–30
(d) 5½% to under 5¾%.	%	%
Burnley	5·520	5·549
Principality	5·524	5·507
Huddersfield	5·537	5·590
Wakefield	5·556	†
Eastern Counties	5·738	5·585
(e) 5¾% to under 6%.		
Halifax	5·907	5·809
Cheltenham and Gloucester	5·927	5·880
(f) 6% to under 6¼%.		
Co-operative [L]	6·073	5·937
Fourth City [L]	6·212	6·128
National [L]	6·213	6·557
(g) 6¼% eo under 6½%.		
Portman [L]	6·475	6·668
(h) 6½% and over.		
Woolwich Equit. [L]	6·523	6·481
Hastings	6·605	6·662
Temperance [L]	6·642	6·644
Hearts of Oak [L]	6·658	†
Abbey Road [L]	6·702	6·573
Westbourne Park [L]	6·712	6·395
Church of England [L]	7·019	7·129
Magnet [L]	7·530	6·796

* Total Mortgage Interest expressed as percentage of mean advances.
† Not yet available.

The results show that none of the largest societies with a London head office charges significantly less than 6 per cent. to its borrowers, while only one provincial society shows a rate above the 6 per cent. level. The arithmetical average for the thirty-one societies for which two years' figures are available comes out at 5.823 per cent. for 1928-29 and 5.825 per cent. for 1929-30. The weighted average for the twelve largest societies (which in 1928-29 had total assets of £143 million) is 5.870 per cent. and 5.801 per cent. respectively. In the earlier of the two periods the mean rate of interest charged by thirty-two provincial societies was 5.512 per cent., and that of eleven London societies 6.614 per cent. This difference of a full 1 per cent. is a most significant feature. It is understood that an agreement exists to the effect that loans in the London area are not to be made at less than 6 per cent. At a recent meeting of a representative association, a prominent London building society manager referred to this agreement, declaring that "to advance money at 5¼ per cent. was a half per cent. below the agreed minimum in London." So far as this condition applies to provincial societies making a part of their advances in London, it tends to raise the "provincial" society average referred to above. The discrepancy between rates in the Metropolis and elsewhere would, therefore, appear to be even larger than the figures indicate.

Baird Television Scheme.—The end of the 1928 company boom left the system of "parent and offspring finance" completely discredited. While some corporate "families" have gone into liquidation, others are busy joining together what should never have been put asunder, and the task of eliminating duplication of values and over-capitalisation is proving anything but easy. The Baird Television proposals offer a case in point. The Baird Development Company was floated in 1927, and took over the sole British rights and a two-thirds interest in the foreign and colonial rights in the Baird patents. In 1928, before the probable value of the "rights" could even approximately be ascertained, Baird International Television was formed to take over the remaining third, and now owns three-fifths of the deferred shares of the Development Company, which carry voting control. When amalgamation was found advisable, the directors came up against the difficulty that it was quite impossible to place any definite capital value on the Baird inventions as a whole, or to allocate their value as between British and foreign rights. Apparently, inability to define the indefinite led to the submission of the question to the virtual arbitration of Sir Mark Webster-Jenkinson, whose powers of unravelling a complex financial situation had already been demonstrated, *inter alia*, by his part in the Vickers and Armstrong reconstructions. Sir Mark would seem to have decided that the only solid basis for a scheme was the preservation, as far as possible, of the respective rights of shareholders in the business as a whole, leaving the future to disclose what those profits would be, with due attention to the fact that the International Company had £207,811 of cash and the Development Company only £21,322. Accordingly, the former is to absorb the latter and change its name to Baird Television, Ltd. Holders of the £100,000 preferred ordinary shares of the Development Company will receive 800,000 5s. preferred and one 5s. deferred ordinary in the new concern. Holders of 200,000 1s. deferred in the Development Company (exclusive of 300,000 shares held by the International) will receive five preferred and two deferred 5s. shares for every four 1s. shares now held. The "A" shareholders of the International will give up their cumulative rights and dividend arrears, but will receive preferred shares in the new concern, share for share. Holders of "B" shares (*i.e.*, Television, Ltd., the vendors) will receive 10 new deferred for every 14. They will relinquish their former control of the company, but will participate in what, if all goes well, should be an increased surplus of profits. The amalgamated company will have on issue, in all, 1,050,000 5s. preferred, entitled to a 10 per cent. non-cumulative dividend and 40 per cent. of residual profits, and 1,000,000 5s. deferred, entitled to the remaining 60 per cent. The scheme is equitable as regards the outside shareholders, and will presumabiy be sanctioned at the meeting on April 7th.

Powell Duffryn.—At the last annual meeting of this important steam-coal concern the chairman held out some hope of a real improvement in the financial results, which during the last four years have fluctuated uncertainly between insignificant profits and large debit balances. It was then stated that rigid economy was being observed wherever possible, that Stephenson Clark and Associated Companies, Ltd., had been appointed sole vendors of the company's output and all wagons transferred to them, and that the company's coke ovens were again working at full speed. The accounts for the year ended December 31st last certainly afford some justification for restrained optimism. The debit balance of £207,905 with which the company was left at the close of last year has been cancelled by drawing on the reserve fund. Trading profits for the year amount to £309,475, and net profits, after deduction of debenture interest, to £44,090:—

	Year ended December 31. 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	28,775	*Dr. 231,805*	44,090
Brought forward	7,650	23,900	*
Preference dividends	12,525	...	12,525
Rate %	6	...	6
No. of times covered	*2·3*	...	*3·4*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*16,220*	...	*31,565*
Paid £	...	...	...
Carried forward	23,900	*Dr. 207,905*	31,565

* Debit balance eliminated by transfer from reserve.

The balance sheet reveals a far from happy state of affairs. The bank overdraft has increased from £320,771 to £449,303, while amounts owing to creditors are up by £63,622 to £825,693. Available current assets are less than a third of current liabilities. The general reserve has been depleted by £387,029. The present price of the £1 ordinary shares is 10s. 6d.

Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries.—The report of this company for the year ended December 31st last affords an example of the elementary possibilities of rationalisation in one branch of the coal industry. Early in the year the activities of Amalgamated Anthracite and its subsidiaries, Henderson's Welsh Anthracite Collieries and Welsh Anthracite Collieries, were concentrated under single control. Side by side with this improvement went the pooling of wagons, the establishment of a central purchasing section for colliery stores, a single sales organisation, and the adoption of a uniform system of accounting. The directors' assertion that "recent amalgamations have already resulted in increased efficiency and in economies, both in administration and working costs," has been borne out by the accounts. The year's trading shows a gross profit of £662,893, and a net profit of £439,159 representing 4.5 per cent. earned on the ordinary capital, and revealing a marked improvement on last year's net loss of £309,461, or the meagre profit of £7,857 for 1927. The sum of £270,835 has to be deducted, being the debit balance from last year's account, while the remaining £168,323 is carried forward. The balance sheet shows some improvement in the direction of liquidity, though the situation is still far from satisfactory. Current liabilities now stand at £2,460,331, against £3,590,131 at this time last year, while liquid assets have likewise declined from £787,774 to £504,498. Fixed assets remain practically unchanged, and, once again, nothing has been written off for depreciation on plant and machinery, which "has been fully maintained." The item which last year appeared at £3,587,285 to the account of "creditors" has now been subdivided, and is shown as £612,035 owing to creditors and £1,820,447 to bankers, a collective decrease of £1,154,803. Investments are up from £2,203,675 to £2,511,846, but cash stands at the negligible total of £233. The present price of the ordinary £1 shares is 6s. 6d., and of the preference shares 15s.

Thomas Tilling.—The earnings of Thomas Tilling, Ltd., in 1929 were practically the same as in 1928. The report gives no reason why profits have not improved with the increase in the number of passengers carried on the roads, but, presumably, net receipts were adversely affected by the 2½d. per gallon rise in the price of petrol in March last year. The company operates omnibuses in London under an agreement with the London General Omnibus Company, and owns, jointly with the British Electric Traction Company, a controlling interest in Tilling and British Automobile Traction, which operates

motor-bus services in many parts of the country. The results for the past three years are shown:—

Years ended December 31.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profits	219,477	228,678	225,120
Ordinary { Earned after tax	38·49%	40·23%	39·56%
Ordinary { Paid subject to tax	15% and bonus 15%	20%	20%
	£	£	£
To reserves	50,000	100,000	100,000
Carried forward	60,984	67,693	70,843
Preference dividends	16,500	16,500	16,500

The company is earning about 50 per cent. (gross) on its ordinary share capital, against dividends of 20 per cent. (gross)—a fact which partially explains the relatively high market price of the ordinary shares. Moreover, agreements have been entered into between Tilling and British Automobile Traction and the London and North Eastern and the London Midland and Scottish Railways for the co-operation of traffic by road and rail, and for the acquisition by the railway of a certain proportion of the shares in the omnibus companies. It is assumed that Tilling and British Automobile Traction have made handsome profits on the shares sold to the railway companies, and that the investments of Thomas Tilling in allied and subsidiary companies, which stand in the balance sheet at £1,055,986, probably contain a large hidden reserve. The **balance sheet as at December 31, 1929,** shows a very strong financial position and a surplus of net assets applicable to the ordinary shares, at book values, of £2 3s. The ordinary are quoted in the market at 4⅝, to yield 10½ per cent. gross on earnings, and £4 3s. 5d. per cent. gross on dividends.

Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson.—In spite of the highly competitive conditions in the shipbuilding industry, this Tyneside company made satisfactory progress last year. Net profits have risen from £168,696 to £188,388, following last year's increase of £43,316, and for the first time since 1926 ordinary dividends are covered by earnings.

	Year ends December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	125,380	168,696	188,388
Brought forward	82,662	32,321	25,296
Preference dividends	47,391	47,391	47,391
Rate %	6	6	6
No. of times covered	*2·6*	*3·6*	*3·9*
Ordinary capital:	£	£	£
Earned	*77,989*	*121,304*	*140,997*
Paid	128,330	128,330	128,330
Earned %	*4·6*	*7·1*	*8·2*
Paid %	7·5	7·5	7·5
Carried forward	32,321	25,296	37,964

The large demand for oil-carrying ships is providing the company's shipyards and engine works with good employment, twenty-three such ships being at present under construction in various yards. The accounts for the past year reveal a satisfactorily liquid position, with available assets in excess of current liabilities by £685,000. Investments, showing a decline of £174,719 at £2,140,823, carry an uncalled liability of £90,994, of which £88,157 is in respect of subsidiary companies. The large item of "cash and bills" has increased by £43,269 to £1,029,495. At their present price of £1⅝ the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of £6 15s., allowing for a final dividend of 4½ per cent., less tax.

British Insulated Cables.—The accounts of this eminently prosperous cable manufacturing company for the year ended December 31st last reveal a fresh increase in turnover and profits. Net revenue is shown at £536,551, an increase of £62,376 on last year's total. As a result of the recent bonus share distribution, by which the company's capital was augmented to the extent of 500,000 £1 preference shares and 333,333 £1 ordinary shares, preference dividends now take £57,500 instead of £30,000, and though the ordinary share earnings are up in amount by £34,876, percentage earnings reveal a decline from 33.3 to 28.7. Following their traditionally conservative policy, the board again recommend the distribution of only 15 per cent.:—

	Year ends December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	464,159	474,175	536,551
Brought forward	271,721	305,880	250,089
Preference dividends	30,000	30,000	57,500
Rate %	6	6	6 & 5½
No. of times covered	*15·4*	*15·8*	*9·4*
Ordinary capital:	£	£	£
Earned	*434,159*	*444,175*	*479,051*
Paid	200,000	200,000	250,000
Earned %	*32·5*	*33·3*	*28·7*
Paid %	15	15	15
	£	£	£
To reserve	200,000	299,966	198,333
Carried forward	305,880	250,089	280,807

Reserve account now stands at £900,000, despite the bonus deduction of £833,333, while this year's further allocation of £198,333 will considerably enhance the total. The balance sheet shows a satisfactory liquidity, current liabilities, at £690,938, being well covered by available current assets of £1,188,660. The directors announce that a sum of £300,000, provided over a period out of revenue for the settlement of taxation and other claims, is no longer required. This amount has been set aside to form a "dividend equalisation account." At their present price of £3 11/16 the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of £4 4s. per cent., allowing for a final dividend of 10 per cent., and a yield on earnings of nearly double this figure.

Provincial Cinematograph Theatres.—An increase of over 18 per cent. in the net profits of the Provincial Cinematograph Theatres, Ltd., comes as a welcome surprise to shareholders who feared that the advent of talking films would dislocate the company's business. The company, which is now controlled by the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, owns or controls about 120 cinema theatres. Its subsidiary theatre companies, Associated Provincial Picture Houses and the Albany Ward Theatres, have prospered and have maintained their dividends at 10 per cent. and 8¾ per cent. respectively. New theatres have been opened—the Regent, Bournemouth, and the Regent, Ipswich—which have proved to be satisfactory investments, and a controlling interest has been acquired in the City Cinema, Leicester. The theatres which are being erected near Victoria Station, in London, and in Bradford and Edinburgh, are nearing completion and will be open within the next six months. The results of Provincial Cinematograph Theatres for the past three years are shown in the following statement:—

(Years to January 31.)	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit (after depreciation)	286,807	269,523	349,083
Preference dividends	52,500	52,500	52,500
Preferred ordinary div. of 7½%	85,993	133,109	150,000
Dividend on ordinary shares	75,000	75,000	75,000
Bloe. for division between pf. ord. and ordinary	73,314	8,914	69,583
Percentage earned on ord. shares	*22·3*	*17·7*	*22·0*
Percentage paid	15	15	15
	£	£	£
General reserve	30,000	18,045	20,000
Goodwill written down	25,000	nil	45,034*
Carried forward	115,066	105,934	110,482

* Expenses of first mortgage debenture issue written off.

The capital structure is somewhat unusual. The "A" and "B" preference share capital amounts to £700,000, the 7½ per cent. participating preferred ordinary share capital to £2,000,000 and the ordinary capital (in 10s. shares) to £500,000. In front of the share capital rank £1,250,000 6 per cent. 1st mortgage debenture stock, which was issued last year, and mortgages of £1,040,300. The risks of the business are therefore largely borne by the preferred ordinary shareholders. After 7½ per cent. is paid on the preferred ordinary capital the ordinary shares are entitled to dividends aggregating £75,000 per annum, less tax. The balance is then divided equally between the preferred ordinary and the ordinary shares until the preferred ordinary shares have received 15 per cent., after which the ordinary take the balance. The £75,000 dividend on the ordinary shares is equivalent to a dividend of 15 per cent., which has been the rate maintained for the last three years. The preferred ordinary dividends of 7½ per cent. were covered nearly twice on last year's profits, while the ordinary shares earned 22 per cent. The present market price of the preferred ordinary shares is 18s., which allows a yield of £8 16s. 9d. per cent. on dividends of 7½ per cent.; and that of the ordinary shares is 15s., which returns over 11 per cent. on dividends of 15 per cent. and over 16 per cent. on earnings.

Anglo-Norwegian Holdings.—Despite the leading part played by Great Britain in Arctic and Antarctic exploration, the British investor's interests in the economic exploitation of the Polar regions have been largely negligible. An exception to this rule, however, is provided by Anglo-Norwegian Holdings, which was incorporated last March, under the laws of Quebec, to acquire interests in two whaling companies (registered in Norway and the Falkland Islands respectively) and the entire capital of a third. Certain of the company's 7 per cent. redeemable preferred shares of $100 (of which $1,900,000 was outstanding on December 31st last) and of its common shares of no par value (420,000 in issue) have been deposited in New York with the Guaranty Trust Company, and bearer certificates issued against them are quoted in the "Supplementary List" of the London Stock Exchange at £17 for the preferred and 14s. for the common shares. A further $100,000 of preferred shares have been redeemed since December 31, 1929. The first nine months of the company's existence have been a profitable period, the two established concerns in which an interest was acquired having earned amounts in excess of their average annual profits at the time of the company's incorporation, while the third—the Falkland Whaling Company, which was formed only last year—has enjoyed a satisfactory fishing season. The net income of the holding company for the nine months to December 31st last was $438,003, which included no income from Falkland Whaling. Preferred dividend has taken $99,750, and a dividend of 25 cents (Canadian currency) is being paid on the common shares, requiring $105,000. Deducting the cost of redemption of 1,000 preferred shares during the year, the company is carrying forward a surplus of $144,537, equivalent to 34 cents per common share.

First Co-operative Investment Trust.—In commenting upon the annual report of the First Co-operative Investment Trust, in the *Economist* of March 15th, we compared the depreciation shown on its investments—amounting to 18.1 per cent., or 14.1 per cent. after allowing for reserves—with the appreciation of 6.9 per cent. shown in the *Investors' Chronicle* index for all securities between the end of 1923 and the beginning of 1930. It has been pointed out to us that, although the First Co-operative was formed in 1924, it began with only a small capital—£28,691, as at January 31, 1925—and that, allowing for the successive yearly increases in capital to the present total of £1,651,396, a more correct comparison would be between the average level of security values at October 31, 1927, and the beginning of 1930. The *Investors' Chronicle* index over this period shows, in fact, a decline of 18.5 per cent. We have gladly acknowledged the improvements already made in the investment portfolio of the First Co-operative, which we understand have followed upon the appointment by Mr Emil Davies of an investment expert who joined the board last autumn. Some improvement can also be perceived in the position of Redeemable Securities and General Investment Trust, which has fared the worst of all Mr Emil Davies' trusts. The report published last week disclosed a depreciation on its investments of 18.9 per cent., or 16.58 per cent. after allowing for reserves and carry-forward, but the percentage of bonds to the total has been increased from 30.31 per cent. to 37.04 per cent., and the proportions of preference and ordinary shares reduced from 22.22 per cent. to 21.68 per cent., and from 47.47 per cent. to 41.28 per cent. respectively.

Massey-Harris Company.—The total sales of Massey-Harris, the largest manufacturers of farming implements in the British Empire, showed an increase of 16.7 per cent. in the year to November 30, 1929, though sales in Canada, which are normally responsible for 50 per cent. of the company's turnover, were adversely affected by the short crops. The financial results are shown:—

	(Years ended Nov. 30.) 1928.	1929.
	$	$
Income from operations	4,072,915	4,740,951
Bond interest, &c.	854,387	1,058,377
App. for reserves	366,867	...
Taxes	220,000	210,000
Pension fund	47,840	54,680
Depreciation	708,120	745,036
Balance	1,875,700	2,672,822
Profit from sale of assets	835,218	127,991
Available	2,710,918	2,800,813
Pref. div.	846,293	725,394
Avail. for common shares	1,864,625	2,075,419
Common share div.	...	1,269,439
No. of common shares outstanding	483,596	725,970
Earned per common share	3·85	2·86
Dividends " "	...	3·00*

* On old shares.

Last year the company carried through an important scheme of capital reorganisation, which included the redemption of the 7 per cent cumulative preferred shares and the issue of 120,899 redeemable 5 per cent. cumulative preferred shares of $100, the issue of 241,798 common shares of no par value at $60, the writing off of bond discount and expenses, the redemption of bank advances, and the creation of certain reserves. The slump in wheat values and short Canadian crops have left their mark on the balance sheet. Cash has fallen from $260,781 to $76,649, and bills and accounts receivable have risen from $16.9 million to $22.8 million, as compared with a year ago. This was partly due to the increased turnover of the company, especially in power farming machinery, which is sold on a long credit basis. Inventory stocks on November 30th were also unusually high, amounting to $31.8 million, as compared with $25.8 million a year ago. As regards the prospects for 1930, the chairman, at the general meeting, stated that, while crop conditions were unsatisfactory in Argentina and Australia, they were good in South Africa, that winter wheat prospects were favourable in Europe, United States and Canada, and that there was nothing to indicate that seeding conditions in the spring would not be satisfactory. The prosperity of a farm implement manufacturing company, however, depends upon that of the farming community, which has suffered a severe check as a result of the fall in cereal values. The common shares have fallen to 32, and will yield over 9 per cent. if last year's dividend is maintained on the new capital.

A Royal Mail "Merger"?—At the general meeting of Lamport and Holt, Lord Kylsant, in reply to a shareholder, declared that he hoped to see all his shipping interests ultimately as one company. In five years, he added, that might be brought about. Neither question nor answer, however, appears in the official version of the proceedings advertised in the Press. It is not easy to see how such an amalgamation could ever be practicable, seeing that the services carried on by the Royal Mail group of companies are so diverse in character and geography. There are the West African lines—Elder Dempster, British and African Steam Navigation, African Steam Navigation—and the Union-Castle line serving

South and East Africa. There are the South American lines—Lamport and Holt, Pacific Steam Navigation, Nelson Steam Navigation—and the Argentine Navigation Company operating in Argentine coastal waters. There is the White Star line engaged in the express passenger Atlantic service. There is Coast Lines, Ltd., serving this country, not to mention R.M.S.P. Meat Transports, Bullard, King, and others, as different in trade as any to be found in the shipping industry. How companies with such diverse interests could be operated from one head office—which is what amalgamation implies—is not at all clear. The accounting problem, again, would be incredibly complicated. A further announcement on the matter would be welcomed by shareholders.

MINING NOTES.

East Rand Proprietary.—Our mining correspondent writes:—As happened a year ago, the Stock Exchange took a mildly favourable view of the annual report. Undoubtedly there are favourable new features. A fresh expansion in tonnage and average yield has been accompanied, despite heavy development outlay, by only a small expansion in costs. The net surplus—cost of administration being exceeded by sundry receipts—comes out at £140,850, against £103,040. Expenditure on capital account and on excess development, although less than before, again absorbs substantial sums, leaving £297,250 to be carried forward, or £76,000 more than brought in. The difference would be sufficient to provide a dividend of 5 per cent. upon the company's capital of £1,500,000. Cash assets, at the date of the balance sheet, amounted to £147,000, and the net cash to £150,200. The company is faced with considerable further capital expenditure, and a payment to the shareholders does not seem likely in the near future.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Tons milled	1,586,500	1,685,700	1,721,500
Revenue per ton	22/0	22/3	22/10
Costs per ton	21/6	21/1	21/3
Profit per ton	-/6	1/2	1/7
Total working profit £	112,540	96,340	135,300
Ore reserves tons	3,130,000	3,624,000	3,414,270
Value per ton dwt.	6·4	6·4	6·3

The expansion indicated by the latest ore estimate obviously arises from the inclusion of the "considerable tonnage of the low-grade main reef in the area west of the Driefontein incline"—referred to in the report of the consulting engineer. This would also to some extent account for the small decline in grade. Development in the different sections of the property was attended with mixed results; but the concrete fact is that, while the payable ore developed was about the same as before—around one and a quarter million tons—the value averaged no more than 5.9 dwts., as against 6.4 dwts. in 1928. The available tonnage represents about two years' supply for the mill.

Crown Mines.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Having regard to the magnitude of its operations, the steadiness exhibited by the results of this company for some time past is really remarkable. During the past four years the variations in the working profits have been confined within about £100,000—this amount representing the decrease in last year's total compared with that of 1926. Variations in the dividends are therefore attributable in the main to fluctuating capital expenditure requirements. Last year the crushing of a record tonnage was rather more than offset by a slight decline in average yield, the working cost ratio remaining at 20s. 5d. per ton. Net capital outlay, however, amounted to £207,400 in place of £285,300, while taxes were somewhat down at £125,000. Thus a substantial increase in the dividend rate became practicable, still leaving a rather larger sum to be carried forward than brought in. Of liquid assets totalling £358,400, rather over £100,000 is represented by net cash. We contrast the results of the past three years:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Tonnage milled	2,508,000	2,611,000	2,643,000
Revenue per ton	28/1	27/10	27/7
Working costs per ton	20/4	20/5	20/5
Profit per ton	7/9	7/5	7/2
Total working profit £	970,690	969,090	947,100
Net profit £	984,050	978,900	977,850
Earned per cent.	104·7	104·1	104·0
Dividends £	623,070	507,680	599,990
Rate per cent.	67½	55	65
Carried forward £	314,180	346,170	358,390
Ore reserves tons	10,224,740	10,962,250	10,841,460
Average dwt.	6·5	6·7	6·7

The payable ore developed during 1929—1,950,800 tons, averaging 6.7 dwts.—fell 911,460 tons and 0.3 dwts. short of the 1928 results. But the latter were exceptional, an unusually large footage having been performed. As the additional treatment plant did not come into full operation until August, a fresh expansion in tonnage milled should occur this year. "Further heavy capital expenditure" is foreshadowed for 1930 and 1931, after which less will be required. The company still has a large undeveloped area in the south-western section of its property, albeit in the central section the workings are getting towards the boundary. According to unofficial information from Johannesburg, arrangements are being made to acquire additional dip ground from the Union Government. The 10s. shares appear moderately valued at 3 5/16, giving a return of just over 10 per cent. gross.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—A further improvement in both the quantity and value of the ore crushed being accompanied by an appreciable saving in costs, last year's operating profit came out at £46,640, as compared with slightly under £20,000 for both 1927 and 1928. The saving in expenditure was only to a small extent accounted for by reduction in the development tonnage from 28,550 to 25,890. Less administration expenses, the net surplus figures at £39,700, the whole of which—like the surpluses of the four preceding periods—has been absorbed by capital outlay, still leaving a cash deficiency of £23,200. At 1,626,800 tons the ore reserves indicate an expansion of 138,200 tons, the value being a trifle higher at 7.4 dwts. As the payable tonnage opened up during 1929 was 444,100 tons, as compared with 553,300 tons extracted, it is obvious that the growth in the reserves must be attributable to the inclusion of material previously developed in part. A somewhat similar position exists now, as a large proportion of 300,000 tons of payable main reef on the lower levels "has been regarded as insufficiently blocked out for valuation and inclusion in the current ore reserve." The prospects of the mine as a whole, however, have been considered sufficiently promising to warrant the increase of the treatment plant. To carry out this work, to clear off the remaining £40,000 debentures, and to place the finances on a sound footing, a reconstruction has just been carried through. For each £1 share previously held, shareholders are being given one 10s. share, and offered additional shares in the proportion of three for every four. The issue, underwritten by the parent undertakings, will bring in about £160,000, leaving a small margin over the estimated requirements. Under the new conditions the yearly earnings are expected to be increased by £25,000 to £35,000. Taking the medium figure, and adding it to last year's net earnings, a total of approximately £70,000 is arrived at—equal to about 15 per cent. upon the new capital of £375,000, after allowance for taxes, etc.

Rose and Geldenhuis Deeps.—In the case of each of these old-established Witwatersrand propositions, the latest annual statement indicates the nearness of exhaustion. Although with the first-named the development footage was less than one-half the 1928 total, the available ore reserves at 714,300 tons show an increase of 41,000 tons. This apparent anomaly is largely due to the reopening of old workings and stoping in doubtful areas. If allowance be made for sorting, the above-named quantity represents less than a year's supply for the mill; but there are a

further 249,400 tons of the higher grade of 5.3 dwts. in shaft pillars, etc. Thanks chiefly to the sorting out of an increased proportion of waste rock the Geldenhuis Deep earned £40,300 in place of £11,300, and paid 5 per cent., as against 2½ per cent. As with the Rose Deep, a greatly reduced development footage was performed, but in this case the available ore reserves at 504,200 tons, indicate a small decrease. The total, including pillars, stands at 736,000 tons—less than a year's supply.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Eastern Bank, United Kingdom Provident Institution, British Insulated Cables, Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Radiation, Spratts Patent, Dickins and Jones, and R. M. C. Textiles. At the annual meeting of British Insulated Cables the chairman, commenting upon the growing use of overhead wires instead of underground cables, prophesied that, as the former were costly to maintain, unsightly, relatively dangerous and unreliable in operation, it was only a question of time before history, as exemplified by the Post Office adoption of underground cables, would repeat itself. Referring to conditions in Irak, Mr J. S. Haskill told shareholders of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., that trade conditions had shown no improvement, the fall in silver, and consequent depreciation of the kran, having badly hit merchants trading with Persia. The Right Hon. Walter Runciman's speech at the United Kingdom Provident meeting is discussed in a "Note of the Week."

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The new issue market continues to reflect the decline in the effective rate for long-term borrowing, which has been in evidence since the drop in Bank rate on March 6th, and has been stimulated by this week's further reduction. Apart from a small issue by the *Selected Land and Property Company*, and an issue by tender of £5,000 ordinary shares by the *Godalming Gas and Coke Company*, this week's offers were all of fixed interest stock of high investment status. The *Swansea Corporation Loan*, with a maximum life of twenty-five years, offered the investor a flat yield of £5 1s. per cent. and a redemption yield of £5 1s. 5d. The *North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply* debenture stock was well covered, and in view of its future redemption at a premium of 2½ per cent., its 5½ per cent. flat yield, and its prospect of enjoying a freer market than the small amount of 5½ per cent. debenture stock hitherto outstanding, was a reasonably attractive security. The price of the debenture stock offered on Thursday by *Tate and Lyle* was even lower, the stock, covered nearly ten times by average profits, giving a running yield of £5 12s. 10d. per cent. and a redemption yield of £5 13s. 2d. per cent.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to March 15, 1930, £44,812,595.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to March 15, 1930, £44,812,595.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended March 15, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to March 15, 1930, *Dr. £2,250,000.*

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
To the Public.					
Swansea Corporation	1,500,000	...	1,485,000	75,000	1,410,000
4½% Conversion Loan, 1940–44 issued at 95%	...	55,740,000	37060,000	...	...
North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply	750,000	...	750,000	75,000	675,000
Selected Land and Property	50,000	...	50,000	10,000	40,000
Tate and Lyle	1,250,000	...	1,218,750	62,500	1,156,250
Total to public for week ended March 22, 1930	3,550,000	55740,000	40563,750	222,500	3,281,250
To Shareholders only.					
Batoe Doelang Rubber, £15,000 8% Deb. Stock at par	15,000	...	15,000	1,500	13,500
Total to Shareholders only, week ended March 22, 1930	15,000	...	15,000	1,500	13,500

Total Offered for Subscription— Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	141,181,345	85,441,345
1929	108,706,270	95,127,050
1928	...	164,478,100
1927	...	139,492,581
1926	...	73,472,145
1925	...	44,246,381
1924	...	36,012,900
1923	...	86,089,616

Total Offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,299,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	9,494,078	...	9,623,731
Total week ended March 22, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	9,494,078	...	9,623,731
Total to date, 1929	11,450,267	...	18,611,044

Swansea Corporation.—Issue of £1,500,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1945-55, at £99 per cent. The stock is repayable at par on March 31, 1955, but the Corporation reserves the right to redeem the stock at par on any half-yearly interest date on or after March 31, 1945, on three months' notice. The stock is a trustee security. The total debt of the borough is £5,655,113, and the rateable value approximately £1,000,000, on which basis a rate of one penny in the £ is estimated to provide £3,800. The proceeds of the issue will be used for the extension of electricity and water undertakings, etc., the erection of a mental hospital, and for the repayment of existing loans.

Godalming Gas and Coke Company.—Issue by tender of 500 ordinary shares of £10 each, minimum price par, ranking for a standard dividend of 7 per cent., subject to sliding scale, equally with the existing similar shares. The profits of the company for 1929, after deduction of debenture interest and preference dividends, totalled £3,476, which is more than sufficient to cover the standard rates of dividend on the ordinary capital, including the present issue.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply.—Issue at par of £750,000 5½ per cent. debenture stock, redeemable by 1966, but the company reserves the right to repay at 102½ per cent. the whole of the debenture stock on giving six months' notice. Provision will be made for the redemption of the present issue by means of a cumulative sinking fund accruing from July 1, 1903, and applied annually in the purchase of stock at or under 102½ per cent., or by drawings at 102½ per cent. Net revenue for 1929 totalled £400,225, covering interest on loans and debentures, including the present issue, 4.7 times.

Tate and Lyle.—Issue of £1,250,000 5½ per cent. Mortgage debenture stock at £97½ per cent., repayable at par by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum, commencing in 1935. Any stock not previously redeemed will be repaid on September 30, 1965; but the company reserve the right to repay the stock in whole or part at par on or after September 30, 1945, on three months' notice. The average net profits for the past six years totalled £683,623, covering interest on the present issue 9.9 times. The company was incorporated in 1903 to acquire the business of Henry Tate and Sons, Ltd.

Selected Land and Property Company.—Issue of 100,000 ordinary shares of 10s. each at par. The company was incorporated on March 15, 1928. In the period to December 31, 1929, the average rate of profit per annum earned on the total capital employed (including loans) was over 32 per cent. The present issue is to be used for development purposes in West and South-West London.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only," with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—**Dalgety and Co.** Particulars are offered with regard to the issue of £500,000 4½ per cent. redeemable debenture stock to be sold privately at the price of 80 per cent. Issued capital, £6,500,000; outstanding debentures, £3,166,368. **Pentland Investment Trust.** Issued capital, £500,000, divided into £300,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock and £200,000 ordinary stock. No dividend has yet been paid on the ordinary stock.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 675, under the heading "Company News."]

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED AT 18 PER CENT.

The thirtieth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of Egypt was held on Thursday, March 20th, at the Head Office of the Bank, in Cairo.

Sir Bertram Hornsby, C.B.E. (the Governor), presided.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The directors' report was as follows :—

The directors present to the shareholders the balance sheet and profit and loss account for the year ending December 31, 1929.

The gross profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the bank's buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount, and for doubtful debts, amounts to :

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				1,099,870	4	6
After deducting from this sum :—						
For directors' fees	13,833	6	8			
For current expenses	464,350	12	9	478,183	19	5
there remains				621,686	5	1
In conformity with Article 49 of the Bank's statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital				120,000	0	0
After this distribution there remains				501,686	5	1
Adding to this the balance brought forward from last year				221,794	12	9
the amount available is				723,480	17	10
The directors consider it prudent to allocate to special reserve for contingencies a sum of				75,000	0	0
which leaves				648,480	17	10
From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 14 per cent. on the share capital which will absorb				420,000	0	0
and to carry forward the balance of				228,480	17	10

The total dividend for the year will thus be at the rate of 18 per cent., equivalent to £1 16s. 0d. per share. An interim dividend of 8s. having been paid on September 2, 1929, there remains to be distributed the balance of £1 8s. per share.

BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31st, 1929.

LIABILITIES.

	£E.	MM.	£ST.	s.	d.
Share capital— 300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each	2,925,000	000	3,000,000	0	0
Statutory reserve fund	1,462,500	000	1,500,000	0	0
Special reserve	1,413,750	000	1,450,000	0	0
Current, deposit and other accounts	14,769,798	181	15,148,510	19	1
Egyptian Government	17,802,889	728	18,259,374	1	7
Sudan Government	187,366	637	192,170	18	2
Mixed Tribunals	2,051,668	740	2,104,275	12	7
Bankers' accounts	266,850	738	273,693	1	4
Cheques and bills payable	186,450	833	191,231	12	6
Rebate of discount on bills not yet due	32,440	138	33,271	18	9
Dividends unclaimed	22,397	408	22,971	14	0
Acceptances, &c.	837,761	720	859,242	15	10
Provision for payment of final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. p.a.	409,500	000	420,000	0	0
Profit and loss account balance	222,768	868	228,480	17	10
	42,591,142	991	43,683,223	11	8

ASSETS.

	£E.	MM.	£ST.	s.	d.
Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	20,146,555	466	20,663,133	16	3
Sundry securities	904,433	595	927,624	4	0
Advances on merchandise	4,068,083	480	4,172,393	6	3
Advances on securities	5,756,726	386	5,904,334	15	1
Advances otherwise secured	1,447,422	709	1,484,536	2	3
Sundry other advances	1,270,487	244	1,303,063	16	10
Bills of exchange	3,107,992	873	3,187,684	19	11
Local bills discounted	513,958	442	526,213	15	9
Buildings, furniture, etc.	189,637	394	194,469	2	5

ASSETS—*continued.*

	£E.	MM.	£ST.	s.	d.
Money at call and at short notice	1,560,000	000	1,600,000	0	0
Bankers' accounts	391,891	759	401,940	5	4
Clients' liability for acceptances, etc., as per contra	837,761	720	859,242	15	10
Cash : Notes ... £E. 1,671,715,000 ... Gold and silver coin, etc. ... 725,406,923	2,397,121	923	2,458,586	11	9
	42,591,142	991	43,683,223	11	8

There is a contingent liability in respect of bills rediscounted of £633,944 4s. 3d.

V. HARARI,
JOHN HOME,
Directors.

B. HORNSBY,
Governor.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

We have examined the books of the National Bank of Egypt and in our opinion the above balance sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the books. We have also verified the cash, notes and securities at the head office and at the Cairo and Alexandria branches, and have found the same correct. The London returns have been audited and certified by Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., chartered accountants.

J. C. SIDLEY.
W. G. CARMICHAEL.

Cairo, February 20, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.	MM.
Notes issued	28,300,000	000
	28,300,000	000

	£E.	MM.	£E.	MM.
Gold	3,339,570	000		
*British Treasury Bills	10,810,430	000		
			14,150,000	000
Securities : Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	1,500,000	000		
British Treasury Bills and British War Loan	12,650,000	000		
			14,150,000	000
			28,300,000	000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£E.	MM.	£ST.	s.	d.
Directors' remuneration	13,487	500	13,833	6	8
Current expenses	452,741	872	464,350	12	9
Interim dividend at the rate of 4% p.a.	117,000	000	120,000	0	0
Transferred to special reserve	73,125	000	75,000	0	0
Provision for payment of final dividend at the rate of 14 p.a.	409,500	000	420,000	0	0
Balance carried forward	222,768	868	228,480	17	10
	1,288,623	240	1,321,664	17	3

CR.	£E.	MM.	£ST.	s.	d.
Gross profit for the year ending December 31, 1929, after providing for depreciation of buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount, and for doubtful debts	1,072,373	469	1,099,870	4	6
Balance brought forward from last year	216,249	771	221,794	12	9
	1,288,623	240	1,321,664	17	3

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

DIFFICULTIES OF PAST YEAR.

SUDAN TRADE FIGURES.

The Governor, addressing the shareholders, said : Gentlemen, From the report of the board which is in your hands, you will see that the gross profit for the year 1929 was £1,099,870. From this have to be deducted the expenses, amounting to £478,184, leaving a net profit of £621,686. Your directors propose to allocate £75,000 to the special reserve fund, and to pay a dividend at the rate of 18 per cent., requiring £540,000, the balance of £6,686 being added to the carry-forward.

Our net profits have decreased by about £30,000 as against last year. Contrary to general opinion, your bank has not benefited by the high rates of interest which prevailed in the principal financial centres of the world during the last quarter of the year. The higher rates we had to pay on our deposits were not compensated by the increased rates on our advances; for as you may see from the balance sheet, the latter form less than half our assets, the larger proportion of which is invested in Government securities bearing a fixed rate of interest. Our special situation as bankers to the Egyptian and the Sudan Governments, and as having the privilege of issuing notes, necessitates the maintenance of a very liquid position, which these to holdings of easily realisable securities provides.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

As regards the figures of the balance sheet, there are several differences from last year which reflect both the lower value of cotton and the decrease in the quantity exported. Advances on merchandise are £1,709,000 lower, and bills of exchange are down by £1,778,000, whilst on the liabilities side there is a decrease in deposits from the public of £868,000, despite the fact that the number of accounts continues to show a steady expansion.

The note issue has followed the usual seasonal variations, but though in the early months the amount was higher than in the corresponding period of 1928, the average for the whole year was over £540,000 lower. The usual statement of the maximum and minimum for the last five years is appended :—

1925	£E.41,900,000	£E.28,700,000
1926	£E.35,300,000	£E.25,300,000
1927	£E.33,600,000	£E.24,400,000
1928	£E.33,900,000	£E.22,300,000
1929	£E.31,900,000	£E.22,000,000

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

I also append the totals of imports and exports for the same period, reminding you once again that in order to make them synchronise with the cotton crop, we take the twelve months from September 1st to August 31st. Under the influence of the price at which the 1928–29 crop was realised, there was last year a favourable trade balance of roughly £E.2½ million. It is probable that the current year will show less favourable results.

September 1st to August 31st.	Imports.	Exports (including re-exports).
1924–1925	£E.56,257,511	£E.67,952,808
1925–1926	£E.55,973,075	£E.52,855,630
1926–1927	£E.48,230,223	£E.45,823,035
1927–1928	£E.51,565,388	£E.54,310,983
1928–1929	£E.54,730,378	£E.57,195,388

Towards the end of the year 1928 the banks in Cairo established a clearing house for the exchange of cheques, and their example was followed in Alexandria a few months later. The records show that for the whole year the total amount cleared in Cairo was over £E.75 million, whilst in Alexandria the total for seven months was over £E.36½ million. The actual number of cheques passing over the Cairo clearing house is considerably greater than in Alexandria, whilst in the latter town the average amount per cheque is much higher. In the course of time the records of the two clearing houses will afford a valuable index to the commercial and financial activities of the country.

ADVERSE FACTORS.

In my remarks last year I expressed myself in a somewhat optimistic vein regarding the country's prosperity. In the interval several factors have arisen to modify the situation, though I still maintain the view that it is fundamentally sound. In the first place, the crisis in New York, coupled with higher rates for money, could not fail to have a repercussion here, of which one indication was the fall in the market price of local securities. Fortunately, these securities on the whole are in strong hands, and the market was but little affected by such liquidations as took place.

Further, the increase in the Customs Tariff which came into force last month led to the importation of goods on a scale well beyond the country's normal needs. It is possible that the absorption of these surplus stocks may give rise to some difficulty, especially when they have been obtained purely as a speculation with borrowed money. The prudent attitude adopted by the Banks for some time past leads me to consider that the difficulties may not be so great as some people anticipate.

COTTON PRICES.

Finally, and most important, the price of cotton has fallen to a level which no longer corresponds to the conditions to which the economic life of the country has adapted itself. In an endeavour to arrest the decline, the Government has again intervened, and has fixed minimum prices at which it will buy futures or take up any cotton tendered against contracts. As a result, the Government had, up till a few days ago, become the owner of 125,000 bales of cotton, to which must be added the 29,000 bales it still possesses as the result of its intervention in 1925-26. The action of the Government in this respect, though it may momentarily relieve the situation, will throw a burden on the whole country unless it proves possible in the course of time to unload these stocks at satisfactory prices.

It is a curious phenomenon that throughout the world the price of agricultural products has fallen, as witness the case of wheat, wool, coffee, sugar and rubber. It would seem that in time the situation should result in a fall in the cost of manufactured goods which would to some extent compensate the agriculturist. But, even so, there can be little doubt that if cotton prices should become stabilised round about their present level, there will have to be considerable readjustment in the economic life of Egypt.

SUDAN TRADE FIGURES.

Reports from the Sudan indicate that the general financia situation has improved. Last year's Gezira cotton crop gave satisfactory results both as to yield and to price; the outlook for the current season is less promising owing to attacks of parasites and the lower value of cotton. Good rains were responsible for an exceptionally heavy crop of durra, so that it was possible to remove the embargo on exportation. Owing to low prices obtainable abroad little has been exported, and the bulk of the crop has remained in the country and forms a reserve of food supply against possible crop failure in the near future. The following table of imports and exports shows that, compared with 1928, the latter increased by about £E.1 million, represented largely by cotton, and the former by about £E.400,000, chiefly in the form of piece-goods.

	Imports.	Exports (including re-exports).
1925	£E.5,437,727	£E.4,168,364
1926	£E.5,574,401	£E.5,190,505
1927	£E.6,155,314	£E.5,229,419
1928	£E.6,463,206	£E.5,947,026
1929	£E.6,856,114	£E.6,809,122

DIRECTORATE.

In the course of the year H.E. Adly Pacha Yeghen, yielding to an imperious need, assumed the position of Prime Minister and resigned from the board. Having successfully accomplished the duty he was called on to perform, Adly Pacha Yeghen was able to resume his collaboration in our affairs, and we submit his re-election to your confirmation. We also ask you to confirm the appointment of H.E. Aly Pacha Maher whom we were pleased to welcome as a colleague in the month of January. Mr. John Home retires by rotation at this meeting, and we submit his name for re-election.

Your interests continued to be served by a loyal and devoted staff to whom our thanks are due for their service during the past year.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached :

To Publisher "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

THE UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDENT INSTITUTION

INTIMATE CONNECTION BETWEEN MOVEMENT OF SECURITY AND COMMODITY PRICES.

EFFECT ON SECURITY PRICES OF RECENT MONETARY DISTURBANCES.

NATIONAL DEBT POLICY.

TRIENNIAL VALUATION.

COMPOUND BONUSES AGAIN INCREASED.

MR WALTER RUNCIMAN'S SPEECH.

The annual meeting of the members of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution was held, on Wednesday, March 19th, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

The Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P. (chairman of the institution), presided.

The Chairman, in presenting the report and moving the adoption of the balance sheet, said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have discussed at the annual meetings of this Institution for some years past the growing movement for thrift in its various forms, and, although life assurance pure and simple is our main object, we also play a not inconsiderable part in adding to, and safeguarding, the savings of provident men and women. We are accordingly concerned in the means by which these savings can be made to grow and can be secured against diminution and depreciation. It is the duty of trustees like ourselves to regard our investments with—as nearly as may be—scientific care. The instinct of the business man must be fortified by the constant vigilance of economists and statisticians, although it is the business man who, having heard his experts, takes the final decision. As an illustration of the dissection to which our money matters are subjected, I may remind you of conclusions we drew from a close examination of national finance last year, when we came to the conclusion that the failure of this country to liquidate her debt was having, and would continue to have, a detrimental influence on the value of funds committed by our policyholders to us to invest and conserve.

SECURITY PRICES AND COMMODITY PRICES.

Since 1862 stock prices have fluctuated upwards generally as and when commodity prices have gone down. Apparently the factors which produce changes in commodity prices affect the prices of first-class irredeemable securities to almost a like degree, but in the opposite direction.

If these factors caused commodity prices to rise, in the long run they produced a fall in security prices to pretty much the same extent. Conversely, factors which cause a prolonged fall in commodity prices may be expected to produce a long period rise in security prices. What are the simple facts governing commodities? The chief influence can be comprehensively described as the supply of credit. The supply of commodities increased at about 3 per cent. per annum between 1850 and 1910, and there appears to have been a roughly equal increase in the supply of credit. The latter depended mainly on the supply of gold and on economies in the use of credit. As the supply of gold went up steadily at the rate of about 2¾ per cent. per annum, and economies in the use of credit are to be added to this percentage, together they probably brought the total increase in credit to about 3 per cent.

We know in fact that a fall in commodity prices has in the past been accompanied by a rise in the price of securities. If commodity prices fall the commodity markets will use a less share of the total supply of credit, and the security markets will use a larger share. Such, subject to what I have said on the increase in gold, etc., was the experience of the second half of the 19th century, and we can fairly infer that in the long run our excessive supply of credit will cause commodity prices to rise, and this rise will go so far that the stock markets will be denuded of funds, and the price of the securities which are the foundation and frame of life assurance funds will fall just as far as commodity prices have risen. The see-saw works just as consistently when prices have swung the other way. Let me add that these consequences follow only in the long run, and they appear to be dependent moreover on the free working of the gold standard.

RECENT MONETARY DISTURBANCES.

If we inquire into the happenings of the past few years we find that Britain has undergone since the re-establishment of the gold standard the following experiences, namely, (i) a severe fall in the amount of what are called Other Deposits of the Bank of England from about £110,000,000 to about £90,000,000, (ii) an increase in our already huge floating debt, and (iii) a considerable fall in commodity prices in the region of from 20 to 25 per cent. At the same time the country's total annual savings (compared to pre-war standards) have been much diminished, owing to heavy taxation and other causes. Britain's difficulties during the most recent years have been due largely to (i) the profligate management of national finance, to (ii) a year of disastrous labour disputes, which cost the industry and commerce of this country not less than £275,000,000, and to (iii) the return to the gold standard, which, although absolutely right in itself, was too precipitate. Owing to the fact that the £ sterling was worth less than $4.86⅔ in April, 1925, when we reverted to the gold standard, the Bank of England had to aim at depressing British prices compared with those of the rest of the world, and at the same time make the investing of money in England attractive to foreigners.

There seemed to be two alternative methods by which this policy could be carried out: one was by raising the Bank rate considerably, and the other was by maintaining a moderate Bank rate and reducing the volume of credit. The second method is that which has been pursued, and for its purpose it has succeeded. Its purpose was a steady reduction in the total volume of credit, and that reduction has, in fact, been continuous.

EFFECT ON SECURITY PRICES.

Now we are back to the principle which I enunciated at the beginning, namely, that the rise in security prices which follows a fall in commodity prices is due to an increase in the volume of credit available for security dealings, and this increase of credit is obtained at the expense of the credit available for commodity dealings. As, however, owing to Bank of England policy, the volume of credit as a whole sustained a continuous reduction at its source, it has been not at all certain that the see-saw law would hold good—it was not certain that security prices would rise even although commodity prices fell. It is never safe to rely too confidently on the complete and untrammelled working of even the most pellucid theory.

NATIONAL DEBT POLICY.

Could the inevitable deflation following the return to the gold standard have been made shorter and less painful? The process might have been shorter and sweeter if it had included a vigorous effort to reduce really and actually the country's national debt, including especially the floating debt. I have often pressed this point when addressing you. In 1925 the floating debt was £742,195,000. It was £737,345,000 in 1929, a miserable reduction of under £5,000,000 in four years. What a contrast to the French treatment of her floating debt! There may be other aspects of French financial policy open to criticism, but she has made no mistake in attacking her floating debt with spirit and vigour, with the result that no short-term Government securities are now issued in France with a less term than two years, and, at the beginning of January, the rate for the two-year bonds was reduced to 3½ per cent. It is significant that French Rentes have advanced from 54 in January, 1927, to 90 in January, 1930.

It is probable that, if an energetic policy of real debt redemption and floating debt reduction had been followed by our Government as the necessary companion and concomitant of the return to the gold standard, we should have seen the rise in security prices for which we had reason to hope, and industry and commerce would also have been spared many of the troubles of recent years. Some of the healthy operations of economic law have been neutralised by errors in Government financial policy, and our Institution as the trustees of your funds has reason to regret that the Exchequer's return to financial good health should have been delayed by the follies of Government improvidence. We have nothing to do here with party politics: I can only record the events and movements of the world of money which concern great investment institutions so profoundly. Happily, there are already some signs of light in the prevailing gloom. The Exchequer is making a determined and successful effort to reduce the floating debt, and we appear to be near the advent of an era of cheap money. If the canons of sound national finance are now followed by the Government we may look forward to a period of rising security prices and somewhat better conditions under which to operate our staple industries.

NEW BUSINESS.

The net new assurances completed during the past year constitute a record in the history of the Institution. For us to pass the three million mark is almost customary, and the net new business in 1929 consisted of 5,239 policies, assuring £3,335,080, an increase in the sums assured of £225,000 over the corresponding figure for the previous year. In view of the continued depression under which the trade of the country is labouring, this must be regarded as a satisfactory result.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

I need hardly tell you that new business of this volume is not secured without effort. It represents steady work on the part of our branch secretaries, staffs, and agents. We are not averse to new ideas. For instance, during the last few years we have met the expressed and unexpressed wishes of many applicants for convenient monthly payments of premium. This method of payment is obviously required by that large section of the community which draws monthly salaries, and the scheme we introduced in April, 1928, has met with instant success. We do not restrict the scheme to persons who have a banking account, as we felt that such a restriction automatically excluded a large proportion of those with whom the monthly payment of premiums would be most popular. Since the scheme was introduced we have issued over 1,500 policies, assuring £675,000, under which premiums are paid monthly, and of these more than half have been effected by members who pay their premiums otherwise than by a banker's order.

HOUSE PURCHASE POLICY.

Perhaps the most urgent problem with which our members have been confronted during the period since the war is that connected with housing. The necessity for purchasing a house presents a serious difficulty in many cases, and in order to overcome this the directors, some years ago, formulated a scheme under which a substantial proportion of the purchase price was advanced, the mortgagor effecting an endowment assurance for a term of 20 years or less to provide for the repayment of the advance at the end of the period or on the borrower's death, should that occur before the maturity of the policy. This scheme offers favourable terms to the borrower, and at the same time affords an outlet for the investment of the Institution's funds on excellent security and at a satisfactory rate of interest. That the scheme met a legitimate demand is proved by the fact that since it was inaugurated in 1922 the amount advanced totals nearly £750,000, covered by assurances of a like amount.

SURTAX POLICIES.

Another fashion of comparatively recent growth is that of effecting single premium policies under which a high percentage of the single premium is advanced by the office. No objection can, of course, be raised to such policies when a genuine and substantial element of life assurance is involved. We have not, however, pressed these policies on our clients, yet during the last six years the Institution has issued assurances of this type to the extent of over £1,100,000. Two-thirds of this sum consisted of whole life assurances, and the remainder of endowment assurances with an average term of over 15 years—only two policies were issued of shorter terms, and these had 10 years to run.

STRIKING PROGRESS.

Any office can secure a large influx of new business by spending large sums on advertising and on over-generous commissions, but to secure a steadily increasing volume of new assurances without the payment of extravagant commissions or extensive advertising, an insurance institution must offer solid advantages and enjoy the confidence of the assuring public. In both these respects the Institution occupies a high place among the great British life offices, and, in support of this opinion, I submit the new business figures for the last three triennial periods.

Three-year Period.	Net New Business. No. of Policies.	Sums Assured.
1921-1923	12,749	£5,787,499
1924-1926	14,800	8,947,829
1927-1929	15,110	9,486,069

TRIENNIAL VALUATION.

Our triennial valuation was made as at December 31st last, and you have before you the actuary's report on the results. An actuarial report is necessarily of a somewhat technical character, and you will naturally be more interested in the results that emerge rather than in the report itself. There is, however, no reason why our members should not appreciate the main factors which conduce to our prosperity and contribute to the production of bonuses.

INTEREST YIELD.

The most important element is the margin by which the net rate of interest earned on the life assurance fund exceeds the valuation rate, that is, the rate which it is assumed will be earned in the future. The Institution's valuation is made on the exceptionally low basis of 2½ per cent., and as the net rate actually earned on the life assurance fund is £4 11s. 11d. the margin of profit is over £2 per cent., and the annual contribution to profits is, therefore, substantial.

MORTALITY.

The next factor in order of importance is mortality, and the profit from this source arises from the fact that the mortality experienced by our members is lighter than that provided for in assessing the rates of premium to be charged. The method usually adopted to indicate an office's mortality experience is to compare the actual claims with those expected according to the table used in the valuation, and while this is not altogether a reliable criterion it may be taken as a rough indication of the comparative lightness or otherwise of the mortality experienced.

TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL.

The Institution keeps separate records of the mortality experienced among the with-profit policyholders in the "abstaining" and "general" sections respectively. The object of this separation is to determine the share of bonus which may properly be allotted to each section, and it is interesting to observe how the two sections compare.

Death rates are, of course, subject to fluctuation from year to year, but if we deal with triennial periods these fluctuations are to some extent smoothed out, and I will, therefore, give you the percentages of actual to expected deaths in respect of the last three triennial periods. Although variations occur in the differences between the ratios of the actual number of deaths to the number expected among abstainers and non-abstainers respectively, the abstainers, year after year and triennium after triennium, invariably show a distinct superiority.

The percentages of actual to expected deaths among assurers in the temperance and general sections respectively are as follows:—

Triennial Period.	Temperance Section.	General Section
1921-1923 ...	53.5 ...	72.2
1924-1926 ...	51.1 ...	67.7
1927-1929 ...	54.5 ...	61.9
and the average of nine years is...	53.0 ...	67.3

EXPENSES.

A third important contribution to profits arises from the fact that the amount actually absorbed in expenses is less than that for which provision is made in the valuation. Other things being equal, the lower the ratio of expenses to premiums the greater is the margin of profit available for distribution, and as the Institution's expenses are low—especially low for a progressive office transacting a large new business—the profit from this source makes an important contribution to bonuses.

The usual method of measuring an office's expenses is to show the percentage of this item to total premiums received, but as these percentages are apt to be distorted by the variations in the sums received by way of single premiums I give the figures as adjusted after making a suitable allowance for this disturbing factor.

Percentages of expenses to premiums, adjusted to allow for single premiums, were in—

Three-year Period.	Percentage.
1921-1923	14.4
1924-1926	14.3
1927-1929	13.8

It will be seen that not only are the expense rates low, but that notwithstanding the constant increase in our new business—with its consequential outlay—the percentages show a steady decrease.

I have no hesitation in saying that the position disclosed under each of these three main heads is thoroughly healthy.

RESULTS OF THE VALUATION.

I now turn to the valuation itself.

ASSETS.

Dealing, first, with the valuation of the Institution's assets, you will notice that we have again adopted the stringent method of writing down to market selling prices all Stock Exchange securities which stood in our books at a higher figure, while stocks which were valued at less than the market selling price have not been written up. The depreciation thus disclosed amounted to about £200,000, and has been dealt with by recourse to the investment contingency reserve, set up for this purpose some years ago. I may add that this depreciation was largely due to factors of a temporary nature, some of which have already during the past two months turned in our favour. Assets other than Stock Exchange securities have, as usual, been valued on a strictly conservative basis.

LIABILITIES.

I need not trouble you with a detailed account of the basis used in valuing the institution's liabilities under its assurance and annuity contracts further than to state that the valuation is stringent, and that, in consequence, our reserves are maintained at a high level.

WORKING PROFIT.

You will see from the valuation balance sheet that the surplus disclosed is £1,599,215, of which £148,206 was brought forward from the previous valuation. Deducting this amount from the surplus of £1,599,215, and adding £61,177 paid as interim bonuses during the triennium, we have £1,512,186 as the working profit of the three years, apart from fluctuations in the value of the assets.

INCREASED BONUSES.

In view of this satisfactory result, the directors felt that a substantial increase in the rates of bonus was justified. The cost of these increased compound bonuses, which range from 41s. to 45s. per £100 per annum, is £1,374,331, and the corresponding reversionary bonus additions amount to £1,882,714. Regarded as a whole, these bonuses are the largest declared since the present system of profit distribution was adopted forty years ago.

The increase in the rates of bonus declared on policies in the current series of whole-life and endowment assurances is 4s. per £100 per annum, except in the case of whole-life assurances in the temperance section, where the increase is 5s. This special increase is justified by the superior longevity of our total-abstaining members assured under whole-life policies.

A SUBSTANTIAL CARRY-FORWARD.

After making provision for the new bonuses, the balance remaining of the surplus is £224,884, which is carried forward undivided. It may possibly be thought in some quarters that it is not necessary to carry forward so large an amount, but I would remind you that the cost of bonuses on the compound system is cumulative, and a substantial carry-forward is essential in order to maintain them.

TRIENNIAL BONUSES.

I would remind you that in any comparison of our bonuses with those of other offices a triennial compound bonus is worth appreciably more than a similar rate of bonus compounded quinquennially. Over a period of 20 years a bonus at the rate of 41s. compounded triennially will produce as good a result as a 42s. bonus compounded every five years.

INTERIM BONUSES.

In accordance with our usual practice, interim bonuses will be allotted to policies becoming claims by death or survivance during the current triennium at the same rate as those now declared. Such policies are, therefore, at no disadvantage in this respect as they secure all the benefits of an annual distribution of profits.

The Right Hon. Lord Clwyd seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The members' auditor (Mr Francis William Le Blount Lean) was reappointed, and a vote of thanks was passed to the officers, staff, resident secretaries, district representatives, and local agents of the Institution.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF INDIA'S TRADE CONDITIONS.

The 20th annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Eastern Bank, Ltd., was held, on the 19th instant, at the office of the bank, 2 and 3, Crosby Square, London, E.C., Mr J. S. Haskell (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr R. Carter) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profits for the year, including the amount brought forward, totalled £167,990, and after carrying £30,000 to the reserve fund, thereby increasing it to £480,000, they were able to recommend a final dividend of 5s. per share, which with the interim of 4s. paid in October last was equal to a distribution of 9 per cent. for the year, less tax, the rate maintained during each of the eight preceding periods. That would leave a balance of £47,990 to be carried forward, an increase of £3,520. A year ago the amount carried to reserve was £25,000 and £5,000 was allocated to buildings account. He felt that the result would be as gratifying to the shareholders as it was to the directors; it could not have been achieved without unremitting labour and watchfulness on the part of the managers and staff here and abroad, to whom he desired to express the thanks and gratitude of the board for their unstinted efforts. (Hear, hear.)

Referring to the balance sheet, the Chairman said there was no important variation as compared with the previous year calling for special notice, except that their securities at or under market prices current on December 31st last were lower by £870,000. That variation was due partly to repayment in full of short-dated bonds amounting to £287,000, and partly to sales effected with little or for their unstinted efforts. (Hear, hear.)

IMPORT AND EXPORT FIGURES.

The imports and exports of merchandise during 1929 amounted to £186,600,000 and £246,000,000, against £186,000,000 and £253,500,000 in 1928. The imports of gold and silver in 1929 amounted to £13,500,000 and £7,600,000, against £15,800,000 and £10,800,000 in 1928. There was thus a visible balance of trade in favour of India of £38,500,000 in 1929, against £40,900,000 in 1928. In the above figures of imports for 1929 British manufactures showed a decrease of £5,700,000, of which £4,300,000 was accounted for by Lancashire piece-goods; the decrease was largely attributable to increased competition by Japan and other foreign countries. China had now become a serious competitor with the Indian mills in the Indian market, whereas formerly she used to import from India to the extent of several millions a year. The past year, far from showing any improvement in business, had been very disappointing. The depression was general almost everywhere, and was extenuated by dear money at home, overproduction in raw material and manufactures, and a heavy drop in silver. Piece-goods were affected by the steady fall in raw cotton, and commodity prices everywhere fell to a very low level, the London averages being the lowest for years. That fall not only affected our export trade, but led to goods being dumped in this country from the Continent and elsewhere in large quantities regardless of price. In India proposals had been made in the Budget to increase the general import duty on cotton goods from 11 per cent. to 15 per cent., with 5 per cent. extra on non-British goods. That step was considered to be the only way of saving a local industry which was on the verge of bankruptcy from foreign competition.

CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

In Iraq trade conditions had shown no improvement, the fall in silver and consequent depreciation of the kran having badly hit merchants trading with Persia. Imports showed some increase, but exports, on the other hand, had been disappointing. The political situation in India was causing a great deal of anxiety, and it was impossible to forecast what the future had in store for that country, but he could not imagine that the Government would allow the situation to get out of hand. Their policy was to conserve their resources and exercise great caution in the conduct of the affairs of the bank and thus be prepared for any emergency. He did not, however, wish it to be understood that he was pessimistic, but if nothing unforeseen happened he was confident that they should be able to maintain their position as hitherto.

Sir James Leigh-Wood, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (deputy-chairman), seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously; the retiring directors and the auditors were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and the staff, both at home and abroad.

BRITISH INSULATED CABLES, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF TRADING.
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION WORK IN INDIA.
FACTORIES WELL EMPLOYED—GOOD VOLUME OF ORDERS IN HAND.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of British Insulated Cables, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at Exchange Station Buildings, Liverpool.

Mr. D. Sinclair, the chairman of the company, was unable to preside over the meeting owing to indisposition. In his absence the chair was taken by Sir Alexander Roger (the vice-chairman) who explained that Mr Sinclair, in a message to the shareholders, greatly regretted being unable to meet them on this occasion, but the doctor thought it would be wiser for him not to venture out. He had therefore requested him (Sir Alexander) to read his speech to the meeting.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Kerfoot) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Vice-Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the chairman congratulated the shareholders on another successful year of trading. The company had made a profit of £685,980, as compared with £617,951 for the previous year, a very satisfactory result. After bringing forward the balance of £250,089, and paying directors' and trustees' fees, debenture interest, preference and interim ordinary dividends, a disposable balance remained of £745,806. Allowing £100,000 for depreciation of property and plant, and transferring £198,333 to reserve account, £447,473 remained available for dividends. A further dividend of 10 per cent. on ordinary shares was recommended, making, with the interim dividend already paid, a total distribution of 15 per cent. for the year. This left £280,806 to be carried forward.

CAPITAL AND RESERVES.

While the amount of debenture stock remained unchanged, the ordinary capital had been increased by the bonus issue of 333,333 shares a year ago, and now stood at £1,666,666. A new item appeared of 500,000 "A" 5½ per cent. cumulative preference shares, which constituted part of the bonus disbursed last year. The result was the total share capital was now £2,666,666, compared with £1,833,333 in the previous year. The bonus distributions had the effect of reducing the reserve account to £701,667, but, by the proposed transfer of £198,333 from profit and loss, the reserves would be brought up to the round figure of £900,000. Having regard to the large amount of capital this was no more than was prudent and necessary.

DIVIDEND EQUALISATION.

The item "Dividend Equalisation Account" appeared for the first time in the balance sheet, a sum of £300,000 having been set against it. Hitherto provision had been made to cover contingencies such as exceptional taxation and liabilities that could not be exactly estimated. It was now considered that £300,000 could not be required for such contingencies and it had been decided to utilise it for founding a dividend equalisation fund. Although for so many years the company had paid steady dividends, it was, after all, a trading and manufacturing company, liable to its ups and down, depending upon the course of trade. They had been fortunate in the past, and shareholders would agree it was wise to make provision for possible less happy times, even although they hoped they would never come.

WORKPEOPLE'S FUND.

Referring to the £50,000 set aside last year as a "Compassionate Fund for Workpeople," the interest on which was to provide allowances for the company's workpeople and dependants, the Chairman said this sum had been invested in British Government securities and had given relief to many deserving cases. It was not intended to form a special trust in this matter, but both principal—in the remote contingency of its being no longer required—and any balance of interest remaining unexpended at the end of each year should revert to the revenue funds of the company.

Plant and buildings were written down to £1,509,301, and the fact that, last year, £144,478 was spent on new plant and buildings indicated they were by no means standing still.

INVESTMENTS.

Investments stood at £1,263,753, as compared with £909,562 a year ago, the increase being primarily accounted for by the acquisition, in conjunction with another company, of practically the whole of the share capital of a cable-manufacturing company of considerable size. The results had justified expectations from the point of view both of business and of earnings on the investment. Other investments, without exception, were giving a satisfactory return as well as, in most cases, a considerable volume of orders for the company's manufactures.

The agreement for the sale of the Electric Supply Company of Victoria had been completed, and they would part with their holding in that company in 1932 on very satisfactory terms. The Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Ltd., continued to do well, especially considering the poor state of trade in the Black Country.

The Closer Working Agreement continued to be increasingly valuable in the interchange of research and factory methods. By its help the company had substantially improved the quality and lowered the cost of many of its manufactures, a matter of vital importance when they had to compete with the lower range of wages paid by Continental manufacturers.

He was pleased to report that his remarks of last year, referring to the cordial relations between the company and its workpeople, still applied.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION.

A tour of the Near East had been made on the company's behalf by Sir Alexander Roger and Mr. Johnstone Sinclair, who reported that the company's name for good work stood high in the East. As a result of their visit the company was hoping for a still larger volume of business. They had practically completed during the year the track electrification of the main line of the Great India Peninsula Railway, to the entire satisfaction of the consulting and railway engineers. This work, with the Bombay suburban electrification carried out for the same company a few years ago, constituted the most important railway equipment work yet carried out in the British Empire.

"Bearing in mind the important similar work we have done in Australia and South Africa," the Chairman remarked, "we believe our experience to be unique and such as to enable us to undertake similar work on the largest scale for the British railways when their conversion to electric traction takes place. This, we think, cannot now be much longer delayed."

They had practically completed the Scottish overhead "Grid" system, and many of the lines were in use. They believed the work had given entire satisfaction to the Central Electricity Board, but owing to the difficulty of securing permission for wayleaves, the work was interfered with and extended beyond the time required for economic construction.

NEW WORK IN HAND.

New work in hand included a large extension of the supertension cable work for the London Power Company, an underground trunk telephone line for the Post Office from Manchester to Chester, and an overhead connecting link between the national "Grid" system and the new Clarence Dock power station for Liverpool. Large contracts were good to have, but they liked best the aggregate of everyday orders as being the most profitable, because of the fact that mass production methods could be applied to them.

CONSIDERABLE PLANT EXTENSIONS.

Their factories were generally well employed, with a volume of orders in hand in excess of last year. A large number of process improvements had been introduced. A considerable extension of plant had been made for the production of aluminium wire and extensions for the making of condensers and enamelled wire were in progress, orders having outrun their manufacturing facilities in both these commodities. Plant was being put down for the manufacture of "Rockbestos" wire, for which they had obtained world rights outside the two Americas. This was a conductor insulated with a special preparation of asbestos in such a way as to be especially suitable for use in situations where permanence in high temperatures was a desideratum, such as for heating and cooking apparatus and winding wires for generators and motors.

He was of opinion that the volume of business would be maintained, but there would be no great rush of new business following on the completion of the national "Grid" system, as had been

contemplated in some quarters. The cheapening of the cost of electric supply could only come about when a very considerable extension of the use of the current had taken place. This extension would only come gradually unless there were generally available a system of free or assisted wiring such as had been introduced by some of the supply companies with which the British Insulated was connected, the expenditure of a good deal of money being a deterrent to the householder.

Commenting upon the growing use of overhead wires instead of underground cables, the Chairman prophesied that because they were costly to maintain, unsightly, relatively dangerous and unreliable in operation, it was only a question of time before history, as exemplified by the Post Office adoption of underground cables, would repeat itself.

TRIBUTE TO WORKERS.

He concluded by expressing the directors' deep appreciation of the hard work and loyalty of the staff and workpeople. The success of the company depended on a continuance of the spirit of team work now so much in evidence, and he asked the shareholders to join in an expression of thanks to all in the company's service. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted, the dividend as recommended declared, and other formal matters transacted.

MIDLAND ELECTRIC CORPORATION FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

A GOVERNMENT ANOMALY.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of the Midland Electric Corporation for Power Distribution, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at the Exchange Hotel, Liverpool.

Mr. G. H. Nisbett, J.P., M.I.E.E. (a director), presided in the absence of the chairman, Mr. D. Sinclair, through indisposition.

Mr C. Heathcock (the secretary) having read the notice convening the meeting,

Mr. Nisbett moved the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ending December 31st last, and read the following speech on behalf of the chairman :—

The directors' report and printed accounts have been in your possession for some days and I assume it is your wish that they be taken as read.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts for the year ending December 31st last. He said : The directors' report and printed accounts have been in your possession for some days and I assume it is your wish that they be taken as read.

The accounts are printed in considerable detail and, to a large extent, are self-explanatory. I propose, however, to refer specifically to several items, and will deal with these in the order in which they are printed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

The sum of £64,770 expended during the year is concerned with the normal development of the company's distribution system. It is largely due to extensions of mains in new districts and increasing the capacity to supply the demands from domestic consumers along existing routes.

You will observe an additional column has been added to show the writing-off of balances remaining on the books in respect of assets which were sold during the year.

REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the revenue accounts, the cost of electricity, at £179,196, shows an increase of £10,393 over the figures for the previous year which is almost balanced by additional sales. This increase in the cost of current calls for a little more explanation than that suggested by the increased sales figure. Two years ago I stated that, in the early years of purchasing electricity, it was expected the cost would be slightly higher than the cost to this company to produce, and last year I reported we had neither lost nor gained much by the change. In the year under review, however, the cost per unit purchased is distinctly higher. This is due to the fact that each of the undertakers who are taking supply from the West Midlands Joint Authority anticipated an increase in load last winter and asked for additional supplies. The authority spent over £600,000 in new plant to meet this expected growth in demand, but, unfortunately, the industrial load fell rather than increased, and the sinking fund charges on the new plant had to be met by an increased charge for current. Your directors feel this to be a temporary disability, and see no reason to modify the statement made two years ago, that ultimately the authority will supply current cheaper than the company could generate for itself.

We have used every endeavour to increase the domestic load, and this is reflected in increased receipts.

Rates and taxes, at £38,121, have increased by £5,135 in comparison with the previous year. This is due to an additional charge of £8,000 for local rates and a reduction on taxes. The anomaly still remains of one Government Department pressing industry to take supplies of electricity from public undertakings, while another gives private generating stations rating relief that is denied to the public station. I will leave the profit to the end and now deal with the

BALANCE SHEET.

On the assets side it will be seen that £40,000 has been transferred to depreciation to strengthen this account, which now stands at £282,605.

A large sum is shown for cash and investments due to the sale of assets, and the fact that the industrial depression has not permitted reserves to be entirely used in extensions of the business. Your directors are now exploring the possibility of investing this money in electricity supply undertakings not necessarily contiguous to our own area.

On the liabilities side the strengthening of the reserve account will be noted, I hope, with pleasure. The sum of £44,675 transferred from credit balances largely represents the excess of the purchase price over the balances remaining on the books in respect of assets sold. We should have much preferred to retain the areas sold, but our rights would have expired in 1940, and, in the meantime, the supply was being developed in the areas on a system that was not entirely suited to the purchasing authority. We, therefore, agreed to stand aside so that it could develop the supply in such areas in conformity with its existing system, and a price was agreed that was fair and reasonable to both parties.

A further sum of £30,324 has been transferred from profits, and the reserve account now stands at a total of £100,000.

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

If you will now turn to the front page of the report you will see the directors' proposals in respect of the accounts clearly set out. The net profit of £151,365 is £3,000 less than the profit of the previous year, but when it is borne in mind that we paid substantial increases on the cost of electricity and rates, and did not increase our charges, the result can be considered as satisfactory.

Your directors recommend a final dividend of 5½ per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent., a total distribution of 8 per cent. for the year. It is proposed that the balance of £35,589 remaining be carried forward to next account.

EXTENSION OF TENURE.

I mentioned last year that nineteen local authorities had the right in 1940 to purchase the company's distribution system in their respective areas, and that the company was endeavouring to obtain an indication of their views on the matter. Negotiations have proceeded throughout the year, but, with so many councils involved, progress is necessarily slow.

LOYAL SERVICE OF STAFF.

Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I wish to express the appreciation of the board for the loyal and efficient service the whole of the staff have rendered during the past year, and I feel that you will wish to joint the directors in a hearty vote of thanks to them all. I will ask the officers present to accept it and convey it to their absent colleagues. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted, and other formal business transacted.

R.M.C. TEXTILES (1928), LIMITED.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

The second ordinary general meeting of R.M.C. Textiles (1928), Limited, was held, on the 14th instant, at the Hotel Cecil, London. Mr J. M. Waterhouse, the chairman and managing director, said that the profit balance available was £37,674; an interim dividend of 4 per cent. had already been paid, and it was now proposed to distribute a final dividend of 6 per cent. for the year. In common with almost all commodities, wool had declined considerably, and the board had to follow a hand-to-mouth policy until prices became more stable. The lower values, however, were a distinct advantage in that they permitted of the company offering goods at more attractive prices. The company was engaged in a vitally necessary basic industry, and now that the fashion in ladies' wear had taken a definite turn in favour of wool goods, there was a general tendency for the greater use of wool, of which the main attributes were warmth and comfort, allowing the wearer to be

smartly and warmly clad without weight, thus making for the health of the people. The company's 1930 range was the best and most comprehensive yet issued, and their customers reported that it was outstandingly successful. Orders were being received, both as to number and size, in advance of any previous experience, and it seemed reasonably certain that the extra efforts made would lead to such an increase of turnover as would keep their extended plants running to full capacity for many months to come.

The company's subsidiary branches—the dyeing and finishing works, the silk and dress goods section, and their Paris establishment—were all operating satisfactorily.

Dealing with the proposed increase of capital, the chairman said that to meet with the ever-increasing demands made upon them the board had acquired the freehold of Victoria Mills, Keighley, and also the undertaking of one of the largest self-contained Scottish Border factories manufacturing a range of first-class Scottish cheviots and Saxony fabrics. With the object also of handling rapidly and effectively the ever-growing output of the company, it had been decided to erect in London a central, commodious and distinctive building. The larger capital, taking into account a resultant saving of over £7,000 a year in bank interest, should yield a minimum net profit of £60,000, which would leave £52,000 available for the ordinary capital, or 17⅜ per cent.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the increase in the capital of the company to £400,000 was unanimously approved.

RADIATION, LIMITED.

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY.

The ordinary general meeting of Radiation, Ltd., was held, on the 17th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr H. James Yates presiding.

The Secretary (Mr T. N. Jennings) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—It is with much pleasure that I meet you once again in the gratifying position of being able to report to you the continued development and prosperity of your business, and that, as a consequence of increased turnover, our profits for 1929 show an increase on the previous year, which, I think you will agree, is a matter for congratulation, considering the many difficulties which most manufacturing concerns had to face during 1929.

On a comparison of the balance sheet and profit and loss account of Radiation, Ltd., with those of the previous year, you will notice the increased amount of net income of £294,779 appearing in the profit and loss account, which compares with £277,924 last year.

"RADIATION" A HOUSEHOLD WORD.

According to my usual custom, I propose, with your permission, to make some reference to our past year's work and progress. First of all, it is perhaps interesting to recall that, when this company was formed, much thought was given to finding a title that would be as distinctive as possible of the fundamental work and apparatus in which the respective companies were concerned, and as for many years past I had personally devoted much of my energy and time to research on the subject of radiation, it was decided that no better name could be adopted for the company than "Radiation, Ltd." We also succeeded in registering this word "Radiation" as our trade mark. During the past year our right to this mark was challenged, but I am pleased to be able to state that, notwithstanding this challenge, which was most severely contested, not only did we succeed in retaining our "Radiation" trade mark in the class in which it was originally registered, but registration of it was granted to us in the other classes for which we had applied. It was clearly necessary to protect the name "Radiation" in every respect by every legal means available, especially having regard to the valuable goodwill which has been created by the vast amount of work and expenditure incurred in establishing that name as being distinctive of our goods.

I can assure you that your board will continue—as they have done in the past—to take every step possible to defend and maintain the exceptional position they have created for your company, not only in this country, but throughout the world. I may mention that our most important trade marks, patents and registrations are protected throughout the world.

"Radiation" has become a household word, and is what I might call the hall-mark for all goods of the class we make.

"BEAM" RADIANTS FOR GAS FIRES.

At our annual meeting last year I referred at some length to the new "Beam" radiant for our gas fires, which is the result of our continued research work, and no doubt you have seen it extensively advertised. I hope that our shareholders are using these new "Beam" radiants in their Radiation gas fires.

Our investigations of the effect of radiant energy on the human skin indicated the important part played by the visible and short infra-red rays in stimulating the deeper portions of the epidermis. The results have led us to the view that the degree of comfort attained on exposure to an incandescent source of heat is much affected by the capillary blood flow, which appears to exert a predominating influence. We have continued our investigations of the physical and physiological problems involved in the study of the action of radiant energy on the body, and we now have reasons for believing that exposure to our gas fires with "Beam" radiants may stimulate the power of resistance to certain types of infection. A confirmation of these views will place these gas fires of ours in a position which the gas fire has never hitherto attained.

The "New World" cooker, with its automatic control, the "Regulo," which is the result of many years' experimental research work, has set up the standard by which all other gas cookers are judged. The sales during the past year, not only in this country, but in many parts of the world, have exceeded all previous figures.

THE "SUNHOT" BOILER.

Another piece of our apparatus that has proved most successful is our new type of self-contained hot-water boiler for domestic purposes, called the "Sunhot." In view of the enormous number of new houses that have been and still are being erected, a great demand has been created for reliable and efficient means of providing economically an adequate supply of hot water, and one of the advantages of our "Sunhot" boiler is that it does not involve the introduction of a larger gas meter or service pipes—an important feature from the point of view both of the householder and of the gas undertaking. Our pioneer work in this direction is already bringing its reward.

I continue to devote as much of my personal attention as possible to the research work being carried out in our central laboratories at Radiation House, and I hope to be able to tell you in due time of the further important developments which we have in hand, and which, I feel sure, will be the means of adding to the prosperity of your business.

BURDEN OF TAXATION ON INDUSTRY.

With regard to the future, all those who are responsible for the control of industrial concerns must view with great anxiety the difficulties which this country has to face. The increasing expenditure undertaken by the State in so many directions will be a burden that this country cannot sustain without disastrous consequences unless measures are taken for enabling it to compete successfully in the world's markets and so keep our people fully employed.

The State can only be run by money collected in the form of taxes from industry and commerce. If trade is bad, unemployment increases and the amount of taxes collectable is reduced. If, to overcome the latter effect, the rate of tax is increased, this does not get us out of the vicious circle. The real crux of our unemployment difficulty is that our costs are already too high to enable us to compete successfully with the costs of production of other manufacturing nations, and it is high time this fact was fully realised so that effectual means may be taken to grapple with the problem.

Methods can be found to increase the trade of the country by enabling our industries to compete successfully in all the markets of the world, and so reduce unemployment to normal conditions. By this means taxation can then be reduced and profits on industry increased, so that adequate wages may be earned by the people of this country to enable them to live in an independent, self-respecting fashion, and at the same time sufficient money can be provided out of industry for the requirements of the State.

These matters of unemployment and taxation on industry are very difficult, but I have great confidence in the future of your business if these difficulties can be overcome on some such lines as I have indicated.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the motion having been seconded and carried, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and the directors.

DICKINS AND JONES, LIMITED.

PROFITS INCREASED.

The thirtieth annual ordinary general meeting of Dickins and Jones, Ltd., was held, on the 20th instant, at the offices, 29 Argyll Street, London.

Sir Woodman Burbidge, Bt., C.B.E. (Chairman) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report, said it was a pleasant task to be able to place before the shareholders the results of another year's trading, which, he was sure, would be regarded as eminently satisfactory. It would be idle to suggest that the year through

which they had passed had been anything but a difficult one for the trade generally, yet, notwithstanding the disadvantages with which the trade had had to contend, the results showed an increase in profits over the preceding year, the amount being £129,367, against £125,632. Adding to this the balance brought forward from last year of £39,131, the amount available to be dealt with was £168,498. An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on account of profits was declared and paid on the ordinary shares for the half-year to July 31, 1929, and the directors recommended that a balance dividend be paid at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the second half-year, making together 12 per cent. for the year, the same as for last year. A balance of £47,748 was carried forward.

The reserves remaining in hand, after the payment of the dividends, would stand at £235,840, apart from the preference shareholders' special reserve fund and the Hanover House employees investment and bonus fund. During the period of rebuilding appropriations of profits amounting in all to £60,000 were made to a leases amortisation fund, which sum had been invested in 4 per cent. War Loan, and would, with accumulations of interest and without further appropriations, produce a sum sufficient to replace the whole cost of the company's main block of buildings, both freehold and leasehold, at the expiration of the Crown lease.

It would be noticed that to conform with the provisions of the new Company Law there had been a slight deviation from the manner in which the accounts had hitherto been presented.

The position of the company was viewed by the directors with complete satisfaction. Leaders in fashion the house had always been since its foundation a century and a quarter ago, and their steadily increasing clientèle were fully aware that quality with economy was invariably the key-note of their merchandise and prices.

The report was unanimously adopted.

SPRATT'S PATENT, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROSPERITY.

The forty-fourth annual ordinary general meeting of Spratt's Patent, Ltd., was held, on the 18th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Mr S. T. Lethbridge (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr A. A. Stow) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: It is gratifying to your directors that, in spite of the depression in trade generally which prevailed throughout the year under review, we are enabled to present a balance sheet which reflects the continuance of the prosperity which has been our good fortune over a period of years.

The quality of our foods is always maintained, regardless of the cost. The fallacy of low-priced dog foods cannot be too strongly emphasised by me. Innutritious or unbalanced foods, whether for human beings or animals, are dear at any price. We human beings are able to discriminate in the choice of our foods, but the dog cannot do so and has to rely absolutely upon his master, whose duty is to provide him with a wholesome diet. It is mistaken kindness to give sweet and very soft foods, which do not necessitate using the teeth for thorough mastication, and thus quickly conduce to pyorrhœa, dental troubles, bad breath and indigestion. A healthy dog's mouth should be bright, clean and sweet, and this can only be ensured to feeding once a day with whole dry biscuits which require reduction by the teeth, thereby hardening the gums and cleaning the teeth.

Another important factor is that the foods should be free from contamination. Until more or less recently dog foods were delivered to the shopkeeper in one cwt. bags and openly displayed either inside or outside his premises, thus exposing them to all kinds of objectionable and dangerous contamination, which I leave to your imagination. To-day our foods are as carefully protected from this as are foods for human consumption. They are supplied in sealed bags and cartons containing anything from one lb. upwards, and delivered to the trade in outer cases. A slightly higher charge is necessary, but I am convinced that the true lover of dogs is willing to pay this and have the guarantee that his dog is receiving a genuine Spratt's product in a clean and wholesome condition.

I always regard our shareholders as partners in this business, and as such they can render valuable service by recommending the company's foods to their dog-owner friends and others whom they may meet.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a final dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, making with the interim dividend, 12½ per cent. for the year.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended March 15, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	7,639	From Revenue	28,811
Interest, &c., on Debt	22		
Sinking Fund	615		
Sundries	198		
Decrease in Debt	20,262		
Increase in Balances	75		
	28,811		28,811

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £28,810,800, as compared with £29,114,300 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax brought in £11,773,000, as compared with £11,175,000, and super tax £4,610,000, as compared with £5,070,000. Customs were higher at £2,151,000, against £1,849,000, but Excise at £1,280,000 was £495,000 lower. Ordinary receipts amounted to £3,800, against £64,000, but Special receipts were nil, against £1,140,000. The total ordinary revenue to date amounts to £680,062,000, and expenditure to £718,391,600. Thus, with two more weeks to run to the end of the financial year, the deficit is £38,329,600, as compared with a surplus of £2,233,400 at the corresponding date last year. During the week the National Debt was reduced by £20,262,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Public Dept. Advances	— 5,100
		Treasury Bills	— 14,112
		Interest on National Savings Certificates	— 700
		Sundries	— 400
	+ 50		— 20,312

The Floating Debt was reduced by £19,225,000 to £662,665,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO MARCH 15.

	£		£
Expenditure	718,391,634	Revenue	680,061,950
		Decreases in balance	3,384,595
		Amount borrowed	34,945,089
	718,391,634		718,391,634

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	261
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	320
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	616
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	48
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,551
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	108
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,659

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Mar. 16, '29.	Mar. 2, '29.	Mar. 15, '30.	Movement Week ended Mar. 15, '30.
Ways and Means Advances	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	19,700,000	26,140,000	47,380,000	— 5,100,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	711,860,000	738,725,000	615,285,000*	— 14,125,000
Total Floating Debt	731,560,000	764,865,000	662,665,000	— 19,225,000

* Includes £6,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on March 14, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £48,495,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 5s. 10d., and above in full; and Saturday, at £99 5s. 11d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £27,445,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
Jan. 17	30,000,000	40,730,000	4 0 1·44
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
Feb. 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
Feb. 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
Mar. 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
Mar. 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Mar. 15, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Mar. 16, 1929.	Week Ended Mar. 15, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 16, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	215,922,000	214,990,000	11,773,000	11,175,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	46,580,000	48,340,000	4,610,000	5,070,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	75,400,000	75,730,000	1,530,000	1,560,000
Stamps	31,000,000	22,530,000	27,090,000	270,000	330,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	10,000	810,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	760,000	720,000	...	70,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	361,202,000	367,680,000	18,183,000	18,205,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	113,659,000	113,461,000	2,151,000	1,849,000
Excise	130,550,000	121,180,000	128,225,000	1,280,000	1,775,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	234,839,000	241,686,000	3,431,000	3,624,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,689,468	4,226,057	193,000	181,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	10,900,000	9,900,000	...	*Dr100000*
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,280,000	1,190,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	32,498,301	27,969,402	7,000,000	6,000,000
Miscellaneous :					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	10,157,265	12,777,056	3,835	64,348
Special Receipts	26,000,000	24,495,916	38,551,039	...	1,140,000
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	680,061,950	703,979,564	28,810,835	29,114,348
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	59,105,000	54,800,000	53,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	81,705,000	76,681,532	74,330,933	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total		756,743,482	778,310,497	29,810,835	30,114,348
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928..		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		6,320,000	11,430,000	160,000	340,000
(c) For other Issues : By Treasury Bills		2,888,311,000	2,627,938,000	43,943,000	46,269,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44		6,130,000	...	...	...
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64		153,617,590	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates		39,100,000	39,100,000	950,000	800,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35		...	93,603,348	...	50,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34		26,300,972	19,010,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances		686,105,000	575,065,000	11,720,000	3,430,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares		4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		163,218	172,293	...	...
	1929. 1928.				
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :— £ £					
Bank of England 5,515,917 5,918,513					
Bank of Ireland 736,607 404,112		6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total		4,583,906,602	4,163,243,855	86,583,835	81,003,348

	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 15, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 16, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 15, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Mar. 16, 1929.
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.					
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	306,800,926	308,222,771	21,639	2,769,454
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	9,346,622	12,061,665	176,570	1,409,934
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,881,900	4,477,350	17,500	23,745
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,843,554	2,324,139	4,026	95,419
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	375,397,000	349,436,399	322,214,714	7,639,180	5,957,280
Total Ordinary Expenditure	703,897,000	673,309,401	649,300,639	7,858,915	8,255,832
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	45,082,233	52,445,609	615,000	505,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	59,105,000	54,800,000	53,200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	81,705,000	76,681,532	74,330,933	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL		795,073,166	776,077,181	9,473,915	9,760,832
OTHER ISSUES.					
Interest on National Savings Certificates—					
Paid in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge	1,500,000	...	700,000	...	
Temporary Advances—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		6,320,000	11,430,000	160,000	340,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—					
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928		9,900,000	9,950,000	400,000	400,000
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28 Repayment of Amounts Borrowed		4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Redemption of Debt—					
Treasury Bills		2,973,265,000	2,443,030,000	58,055,000	61,885,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off		42,550,000	39,050,000	900,000	800,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off		7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off		15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off		...	129,958,414	...	601,910
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off		43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919		4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917		50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid		675,775,000	717,215,000	16,820,000	7,730,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917		5,135,424	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—					
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments		4,899	5,733	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—					
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		...	1,000	...	...
		4,581,038,673	4,160,688,525	86,508,915	81,517,742

Balances in Exchequer—	Mar. 15 1930. £	Mar. 16, 1929. £			
Bank of England	2,010,310	2,048,723	...	...	— 78,080 — 38,394
Bank of Ireland	857,619	506,607	2,867,929	2,555,330	+ 153,000 — 476,000
Total		£	4,583,906,602	4,163,243,855	+ 74,920 — 514,394

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 19, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	348,890,201	Other Government Securities	233,859,774
In Banking Department	64,567,857	Other Securities	10,651,478
		Silver Coin	4,463,648
	£413,458,058	Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	153,458,058
			£413,458,058

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	41,481,563
Rest	3,748,246	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	12,882,680	Discounts and Advances	£6,060,054
Other Deposits—		Securities	16,258,430
Bankers £62,086,473			22,318,484
Other Accounts 35,883,025		Notes	64,567,857
	97,969,498	Gold and Silver Coin	787,317
7-Day and other Bills	1,797		
	£129,155,221		£129,155,221

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

Both Departments.	Amount. Mar. 19, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	348,890,201	− 1,557,434	− 4,978,444
Public deposits	12,882,680	+ 3,895,481	− 6,541,188
Bankers' deposits	62,086,473	+ 3,085,073	− 245,713
Other deposits	35,883,025	− 859,679	− 1,379,374
Seven-day bills	1,797	− 374	− 817
Total, outside liabilities	459,744,176	+ 4,563,067	− 13,145,536
Capital and rest	18,301,246	− 2,160	− 19,544
Government debt and securities	286,366,437	+ 4,441,173	− 7,638,029
Discounts and advances	6,060,054	− 1,899,779	− 6,522,074
Other securities	26,909,908	+ 395,576	− 58,353
Silver coin in issue department	4,463,648	+ 1,400	− 366,147
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	154,245,375	+ 1,622,537	+ 1,419,523
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	65,355,174	+ 3,179,971	+ 6,397,967
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	58 21/32 %	− 13/32 %	+ 9 13/32 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 19/32 %	+ 3/16 %	+ 1 9/32 %

Date.	Issue Department.		Banking Department.			Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
	Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.		
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4

Date.	Issue Department.		Both Depts.		Banking Department.				
	Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.		Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Jan. 29	244710035	10806329	150428168	32¼	54300615	5500023	13976447	62410196	52 13/16
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106	32 25/32	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685	54 29/32
12	244613696	10924838	151499219	32⅞	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043	56 13/32
19	244615041	10924483	151638500	33 13/32	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727	61 13/32
26	244613290	10924646	151979238	34 3/32	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073	65 13/16
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198	33 17/32	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223	60½
12	244593701	10944051	152622838	33 11/32	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203	59 5/16
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33 19/32	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174	58 21/32

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 5	7,069,845	349,363	563,754	7,982,962
Week ended March 12	788,858	34,029	59,690	882,577
Week ended March 19	825,016	33,656	57,504	916,176
Total to date, 1930	8,683,719	417,048	580,948	9,781,715
Total to date, 1929	9,207,529	428,764	690,242	10,326,535
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 523,810	− 11,716	− 9,294	− 544,820
	= 5·7%	= 2·7%	= 1·3%	= 5·3%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of February.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 15.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	24	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	12,233,000	10,037,000	−17·9	31,324,900	29,218,100
BRADFORD	5,058,000	3,913,000	−22·6	...	...
BRISTOL	5,445,000	4,747,000	−12·8	14,015,000	12,395,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	55,318,300	53,498,300
HULL	3,818,000	3,332,000	−12·7	10,344,300	9,309,800
LEEDS	4,540,000	4,108,000	− 9·5	11,444,000	11,136,200
LEICESTER	3,593,000	3,048,000	−15·1	8,715,400	9,470,100
LIVERPOOL	34,080,000	30,359,000	−10·9	136,176,200	121,173,400
MANCHESTER	55,589,000	49,233,000	−11·4	147,208,900	130,228,400
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,374,000	6,199,000	− 2·7	16,197,300	15,900,300
NOTTINGHAM	2,651,000	2,500,000	− 5·6	7,377,500	7,068,700
SHEFFIELD	4,437,000	3,951,000	−10·9	11,620,500	10,823,600
Total	137,818,000	121,427,000	−11·8	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Banks of Canada and Danzig appeared in the *Economist* of March 1; Lithuania, Egypt, Italy and Roumania in March 15.

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

RESOURCES.	Mar. 21, 1929.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,712,010	2,989,630	2,995,520	3,039,160	3,036,040
Total bills discounted	942,740	342,780	308,620	366,340	305,630
Bills bought in open market	236,840	299,310	271,200	256,540	185,020
Total U.S. Govt. securities	185,350	482,750	486,140	514,110	561,440
Total bills and securities	1,371,770	1,138,520	1,078,190	1,049,070	960,870
Total resources	5,143,040	5,147,300	5,035,620	5,057,790	5,030,595
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,641,580	1,637,090	1,641,430	1,609,010	1,583,700
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,339,540	2,345,860	2,315,190	2,353,900	2,290,540
Total deposits	2,370,310	2,407,980	2,349,110	2,381,440	2,319,500
Capital paid in and surplus	408,130	448,750	449,000	449,150	449,180
Total liabilities	5,143,040	5,147,300	5,035,620	5,057,790	5,030,590
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	71·7%	78·8%	79·8%	80·8%	82·5%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Mar. 21, 1929.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
Total bills discounted	208,140	58,400	39,680	33,150	30,810
Bills bought in open market	43,820	76,840	65,090	60,560	74,306
Total U.S. Govt. securities	36,170	217,260	222,380	233,430	252,970
Total bills and securities	290,220	365,150	337,350	337,190	297,960
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	936,580	985,270	932,450	957,230	917,940
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	81·9%	78·2%	78·9%	79·6%	82·2%

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

ASSETS.	Feb. 22, 1929.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,757	7,535	7,914	7,884	7,975	8,074
Subsidiary coin	117	107	105	107	114	118
Bills discounted	7,998	8,960	9,107	8,111	7,370	7,555
Investments	710	588	749	849	766	746
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,088	7,831	9,156	8,326	7,775	7,472
Government deposits	2,038	2,324	1,740	1,359	1,662	2,162
Bankers' deposits	4,964	5,092	5,178	4,785	5,009	5,388
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	50·9%	48·7%	48·2%	52·4%	54·1%	52·1%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 22, 1929.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.
Total securities	21,20,08	33,11,97	32,64,08	32,24,09	32,15,08	31,37,75
Loans	16,66,09	7,36,47	7,71,57	8,85,49	8,37,52	7,41,47
Cash credits	31,99,26	28,79,97	30,13,85	30,59,42	31,45,03	31,58,47
Inland bills	12,59,95	7,20,57	7,15,89	7,37,56	7,88,36	7,68,40
Foreign bills	44,99	37,32	43,68	45,75	45,49	41,49
Dead stock	2,83,36	2,79,88	2,79,79	2,80,17	2,80,54	2,80,74
Bal. with other banks	30,46	33,13	18,25	3,90	12,26	25,73
Cash	12,02,35	15,73,03	16,35,80	12,09,40	12,93,52	16,05,46
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	78,14,25	84,30,48	86,15,97	83,16,27	84,86,06	86,22,16
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,077	888	821	752	778	779
Advances in London	887	727	726	730	711	667
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	225	246	133	27	90	195

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.
Gold	34,034,736	42,960,343	42,855,470	42,753,011	42,593,848
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	10,965,483	6,967,761	6,955,712	6,959,689	6,936,971
Bills discounted	18,308,443	18,751,548	18,798,135	18,775,599	18,771,751
Commercial bills discounted at home	4,566,347	6,547,081	5,245,135	5,626,538	5,458,638
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,652,545	8,695,544	8,695,544
Other advances	2,384,467	2,488,990	2,657,830	2,634,594	...
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,386,203	2,633,544	3,966,163	2,859,394	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	62,879,764	68,872,261	71,116,069	70,373,157	69,969,736
Public deposits	11,534,489	9,703,875	8,767,349	8,509,729	8,129,865
Private deposits	6,261,245	8,046,775	6,772,767	6,760,221	7,089,359
Other liabilities	2,100,222	2,378,901	2,474,805	2,561,666	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,646,874	2,444,389	2,462,149	2,480,458
Of which deposited abroad	94,031	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	67,769	383,802	401,801	411,924
Bills of exchange and cheques	1,720,214	1,965,003	1,933,186	1,639,426
Silver and other coin	125,945	137,866	138,446	153,866
Notes of other German banks	21,078	3,542	12,243	19,103
Advances	58,983	323,306	95,573	68,345
Investments	93,136	93,277	93,246	93,246
Other assets	517,443	484,925	516,764	502,509
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,165,804	4,722,430	4,480,231	4,266,015
Other daily maturing obligations	448,517	468,522	530,286	458,514
Other liabilities	194,725	151,231	148,964	150,421

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Mar. 14, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.
Gold	(b)	907,623	1,178,517	1,178,703	1,178,740	1,180,537
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	456,003	535,069	547,595	539,309	549,863
Silver and other coin		1,485	3,054	3,131	3,168	3,367
Securities	697,600	742,570	786,785	808,045	808,910	821,707
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,393,872	2,742,693	2,798,343	2,800,492	2,793,567
Current accounts	112,125	106,309	100,835	92,076	84,622	118,858

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 11, 1929.	Feb. 17, 1930.	Feb. 24, 1930.	Mar. 3, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,544	437,013	437,006	436,992	436,982
Silver	8,436	21,232	27,116	27,071	26,815	26,885
Home Bills discnted.		144,489	51,660	51,177	57,544	56,857
Foreign Bills	153,504	101,394	205,792	200,708	200,852	200,911
Loans and advances in current acct.		97,975	83,416	79,057	108,341	84,408
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	791,585	785,698	782,666	828,245	801,612
Deposits	5,016	24,282	18,158	23,474	19,845	17,476

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Mar. 16, 1929	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,790	169,500	169,400	168,000	166,400
Silver	29,785	18,995				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	141,069	131,400	136,200	139,900	136,300
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	310,652	274,800	275,800	285,200	281,600
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	42,422	33,700	30,800	30,800	30,100

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930
Gold	171,175	481,416	560,924	560,934	560,944	560,955
Silver	18,350	45,331	23,304	21,686	29,415	19,428
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	159,442	352,888	343,839	344,968	352,682
Discounts	...	137,370	81,306	78,012	77,690	74,521
Advances	103,000	64,749	39,865	42,002	43,964	41,254
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	805,255	811,794	893,120	864,909	843,263
Deposits	33,750	82,208	211,937	128,504	157,774	193,223

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 16, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar 15, 1930.
Gold	235,199	243,962	243,949	243,865	243,810
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	51,359	53,199
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	743	157	157	157	122
Bills payable in Sweden†	212,283	160,603	183,856	167,629	164,031
" " abroad	79,763	112,259	104,715	107,587	106,090
Balance abroad	37,168	69,117	78,181	77,228	76,745
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	57,690	47 379	63,781	57,668	62,574
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	481,653	468,551	538,618	503,925	519,633
Government deposits	174,662	175,826	160,161	165,333	159,978
Private deposits	3,972	4,297	3,079	5,773	5,317

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,843	146,622	146,620	146,619
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	35,856	28,742	26,969	27,968
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,083	26,083	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	258,179	224,634	232,628	223,854
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	298,344	289,215	297,064	292,958
Deposits at sight	7,188	86,154	66,282	68,182	67,102

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 16, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930
Gold	521,775	2,559,519	2,517,198	2,466,866	2,466,988	2,467,704
Silver	728,600	712,446	712,076	713,527	707,994	708,838
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,997,278	2,083,952	2,144,015	2,178,433	2,129,691
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,270,131	4,401,321	4,430,699	4,472,070	4,446,824
Deposits	477,500	987,157	956,936	894,647	859,988	862,554

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 6, 1929.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.
Coin and bullion	10,016	8,848	8,797	8,772	8,839
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	336,962	299,299	283,553	274,527	269 610
Discounts	274,399	365,049	360,898	359,015	345,011
Government loans	1,758,799	1,706,930	1,691,278	1,681,663	1,676,398
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,896,828	1,939,083	1,903,500	1,905,939	1,935,338
Deposits	63,924	65,177	72,318	76,876	58,540

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	206,831	201,634	198,204	204,296	204,053
Other foreign exchange†	356,268	309,388	306,558	314,655	314,478
Bills discounted	156,861	199,388	193,043	234,239	201,639
Gov. Debt	116,017	108,558	108,558	108,558	108,513
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	8,167	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	924,346	873,500	840,748	974,483	914,490
Deposits	83,365	117,634	137,579	58,924	85,705

† In dollar and sterling only.

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 10, 1929.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.
Gold	621,711	700,953	701,004	701,056	701,110
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	179,553
Foreign currencies	684,969	467,498	455,139	460,882	449,332
Bills discounted	662,918	676,126	670,321	668,447	636,498
Loans against securities	84,079	79,214	77,547	77,949	76,886
Reserve fund securities	69,705	82,155	83,531	83,531	83,531
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,215,890	1,208,149	1,165,249	1,281,760	1,244,124
Current accounts	605,040	483,800	553,039	456,435	451,761
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,429	162,631	162,629	162,627	162,626
Drafts and notes	45,346	20,206	27,968	25,450	16,279
Silver coin and bullion	...	10,073	10,457	10,287	10,270
Inland bills, warrants and securities	301,763	232,674	232,227	226,830	212,325
Advances to the Treasury	92,296	82,937	82,937	82,937	82,900
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	420,606	410,141	379,300	441,385	405,549
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	236,245	80,823	145,612	76,874	88,129

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,370	1,261,797	1,261,810	1,261,826	1,261,833
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,818,198	2,005,801	2,011,013	1,980,286	1,963,560
Discounts and advances	220,503	318,289	261,734	292,102	322,901
State notes debt balance	4,047,027	3,738,334	3,736,758	3,709,035	3,705,148
Other assets	850,774	657,007	662,077	699,891	662,061
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,807,623	6,248,455	6,101,807	6,837,731	6,555,153
Check account balances	636,046	960,444	1,034,410	395,065	649,598
Other liabilities	226,609	291,907	316,753	201,983	202,367

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 8, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930	Feb. 28, 1930	Mar. 8, 1930.
Gold	91,428	95,884	95,962	96,006	96,078
Other coin and notes	18,290	18,743	18,425	18,410	18,732
Foreign credits	179,983	292,073	291,340	291,065	321,650
Bills	1,377,133	1,175,729	1,156,270	1,141,192	1,134,173
Government advances	4,201,149	4,145,093	4,143,094	4,143,097	4,139,100
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,252,317	5,464,216	5,389,532	5,559,628	5,484,624
State credits	227,875	197,909	195,910	195,913	191,917
Deposits	902,211	1,706,412	1,867,645	1,731,871	1,830,399

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,503,628	1,566,892	1,568,212	1,569,598	1,570,480
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,983,071	773,825	717,490	724,269	778,598
Discounts and advances	1,399,719	1,238,404	1,267,616	1,291,526	1,281,901
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,206	1,252,108	1,251,268	1,251,782	1,251,986
Bank notes in circulation	3,920,470	3,310,077	3,211,208	3,147,651	3,251,892
Sight liabilities	3,157,719	1,748,415	1,795,871	1,886,673	1,821,993
Deposits	470,661	321,227	320,760	319,406	319,056

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold	560,725	645,582	647,309	647,827	648,873
Gold exchange	4,555,770	3,674,588	3,598,061	3,736,060	3,690,708
Other foreign exchange	2,011	2,642	3,354	2,801	2,742
Bills discounted	52,114	176,473	170,166	161,848	155,996
Advances	74,843	184,906	185,775	177,681	175,593
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,596,491	3,152,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,549,853	4,892,985	4,847,574	4,842,140	4,867,420
Deposits and current accounts	2,049,426	1,923,351	1,824,956	1,864,278	1,914,413
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,108,222	1,128,299	1,111,552	1,201,011	1,070,109

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Mar. 16, 1929.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 16, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 16, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,883	28,567	28,581	29,080	29,349
Other precious metals	4,361	3,414	3,396	3,298	3,270
Foreign bank notes	8,889	6,392	6,406	6,517	6,149
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	277	295	295	295	299
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	80,591	112,332	113,323	115,809	115,934
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	110,958	150,027	151,011	153,580	154,850
Balance to which notes may still be issued	1,042	973	989	1,420	150

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Mar. 8, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.
Gold	35,091	303,001	301,056	300,967	300,766
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	755,761	759,680	756,272	938,475
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	321,409	321,409	321,793
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,511,926	1,350,800	1,372,126	1,335,596
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,533,754	1,268,129	1,368,979	1,385,431
Deposits at notice	21,225	352,057	359,121	307,923	427,576

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 13, 1929.	Feb. 12, 1930.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,777	23,942	23,948	23,948	23,957	23,958
Silver coin	4,713	6,466	6,227	5,946	5,821	6,498
Balance abroad	66,004	42,993	43,187	45,404	47,066	47,574
Treas. notes and sm. change	10,818	15,321	14,553	12,362	11,294	12,277
Short term bills	82,521	93,909	94,328	94,452	94,577	92,991
Loans against securities	47,646	54,050	52,830	53,704	54,029	54,404
Other assets	15,414	13,697	14,190	13,745	13,634	14,038
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	43,257	46,150	46,829	48,586	48,125	47,194
Capital paid up	15,581	17,017	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,661	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3.500	3,500
Deposits	12,571	15,732	15,847	15,905	16,037	16,202
Current accounts	64,205	64,043	64,988	66,283	64,024	59,914
Government accounts	101,340	87,750	86,868	84,388	88,669	94,128
Other liabilities	8,349	12,524	10,557	10,228	9,350	10,124

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 7, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,234	6,447	6,448	6,450	6,453
Net foreign exchange	22,895	18,093	18,244	18,134	20,906
Subsidiary Estonian coin	716	733	725	967	984
Home bills discounted	14,829	15,419	15,585	15,462	15,207
Loans and advances	15,354	13,078	12,725	12,800	12,467*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	34,862	31,431	33,838	33,322	32,375
Sight deposits and current accounts	20,771	16,959	15,062	15,881	20,310
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·35%	50·71%	50 49%	49·96%	51·93%

* Includes Ekr. 7,786,641·55, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	Mar. 2, 1929.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,116,420	1,048,747	1,039,185	1,017,163	994,523
Discounts	41,740	721.427	659,144	661,875	660,417	676.798
Advances	70,540	79,481	74,750	74,456	75,389	77,981
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,278,260	1,197,784	1,151,046	1,154,433	1.276,568
Govt. deposits	87,340	520,090	492,385	502,260	503,314	490.158
Other deposits	11,440	309,985	357.616	387,382	384,053	242,468

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 15, 1929.	Jan. 24, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.
Gold at home	60,663	63,224	63,722	63,222	63,250
Gold abroad	432,468	343,936	417,160	413,294	405,214
Discounts and advances	72,368	90,958	103,219	115,458	110,287
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	343,381	337,203	343,576	347,726	340,606
Deposits	115,184	82,867	160,336	163,079	157,710
Drafts	24,340	13,849	16,009	16,044	16,044
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90.832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Mar. 13 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 17, 1930.	Mar. 18. 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	4	4	4	4	4	4	3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	3⅛—¼	3—3⅛	3—3⅛	3¼	3⅛	2⅞	2½
3 months' do.	3⅛—⅜	2⅞—⅛	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞—½	2⅞—½	2⅞
4 months' do.	3⅛—⅜	3	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞—⅛	2⅞	2⅞
6 months' do.	3⅛—½		2⅞	2⅞	2⅞—⅛	2⅞	2⅞
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	3⅛—⅜	3	3	3—3⅛	3—3⅛	2⅞—⅛	2½ 2⅛
3 months'†	3—3⅛	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞—⅛	2⅞	2½
Loans—Day to day	3½	2½—3	2½—3	3—4½	2½—4	2½—3	2½
Short	3½—4	3	3	3	3	3	2½
Deposit allowances: Bank	2	2	2	2	2	2	1½
Discount houses at call	2	2	2	2	2	2	1½
At notice	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	1½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Feb. 27	3½—4½	3⅜ ½	3⅜ ½	3⅜ ½	4½	4½ 5	5 5½
Mar. 6	3½—4	3⅛ ¼	3⅛ ⅜	3⅛ ⅜	4	4½	5 —
13	3½—4	3⅛ ¼	3⅛ ⅜	3⅛ ⅜	4 4½	4½ 5	5 —
20	3	2⅛ ½	2½	2½	4 4½	4½ 4½	4½ 5

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Mar. 21, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86½	4·85 31/32–4·86 1/32	4·86 7/32–86 9/32	4·86 1/32–86 5/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·87 1/32–⅛	4·86–88 1/32	4·86 1/32–86 1/32
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·26–30	124·24–26	124·30 35
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·45 1/32–46	20·38 1/32–39	†20·38–38 1/32
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·11 1/32–·12	12·12 3/32–12 5/32	12·12 3/32–12 5/32
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95 1/32–96	34·88 1/32–88 3/32	34·88 1/32–89
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·68–73	92·76–78	92·87–89
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·23–23 1/32	25·13–13 1/32	25·12·12 1/32
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 1/32–20	18·17–17 1/32	8·16 1/32–17 1/32
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·17–17 1/32	18·11–11 1/32	18 09 1/32–10 1/32
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·21 1/32–⅛	18·13 1/32–16 3/32	18·16–16 1/32
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	31·75–85	39·70–75	38·55·60
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	107 3/32–108 1/32	108 1/32–108 3/32	108 1/32–⅛
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·52–55	34·51–54	34·49·51
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163 31/32–164 1/32	164–164 1/32	104–104 1/32
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276 1/32–⅛	275 1/32–275 3/32	275 1/32–275 3/32
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–87	27·82–85	27·82–85
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	814·817	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	674·676	669–674	669–674
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374 1/32–375 1/32	374 1/32–375 1/32	374 1/32–375 1/32
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	990–995	1120 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·43–44	†9·43–45	†9 438–457
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 1/32–⅛	43 1/32–43 3/32	43 1/32–⅛
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192 3/32–193	193 1/32–193 1/32	193 1/32–193 1/32
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48 1/32–49 1/32	48 1/32–49 1/32	48 1/32–49 1/32
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·20–30	25·15–25
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97⅛	97 1/32–⅛	97 1/32–97 3/32	97 1/32–⅛
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 1/32–⅛	41 15/16–42 1/16	42 1/32–⅛
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 13/16–⅞	5 13/16–5 15/16	5 13/16–⅞
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	50–50½	43⅞ 43¼	43⅜–44⅛
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·50	39·85	39·87
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	28 3/16% prem.	29 3/16% prem. nom.
Calcutta	pence	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32–1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32–⅞
Bombay	to	T.T.		1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32–1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32–⅞
Madras	rupee	T.T.		1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 31/32–1/5 31/32	1/5 31/32–⅞
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11 3/32–2/⅛	1/6 1/32–1/6 3/32	1/6 1/32–1/6 3/32
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6 3/32–2/7 1/32	1/11 3/32–1/11 5/32	1/11 3/32–1/11 5/32
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2.3 3/32–2/3 31/32	2/3 31/32–2/3 31/32	2/3 31/32–⅞
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10–1/10 1/32	2/0 31/32–2/0 31/32	2/0 31/32–⅞
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 1/32–3.	†2/0 1/32	†2s. 0 1/32 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·00–10·50	10·15–35	10·10–30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10 3/32	1/10 3/32

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 6, 1930	4	3½	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 8, 1930	6	5½	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7†}
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9				
Budapest	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Calcutta	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Stockholm	Mar. 6, 1930	4½	4
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Swiss Bank places	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Vienna	Feb. 10, 1930	7	6½
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
New York Federal Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½	Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Mar. 20, 1929. %	Feb. 19, 1930. %	Feb. 26, 1930. %	Mar. 5, 1930. %	Mar. 12, 1930. %	Mar. 19, 1930. %
Call money	9	4½	4½	4	4	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8	4½	4½	4½	4½	4
Bank acceptances :—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅞	3⅞	3⅝	3½	3½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅞	3⅞	3⅞	3⅞	3⅝
Ineligible, 90 days	6	4½	4½	4½	3⅞	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅞	4⅞	4⅞	4⅝	4⅛	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Mar. 20, 1929.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80½	4·82 7/32	4·83	4·83 7/32
Cable			4·85 31/32	4·86 1/32	4·86 3/32	4·86 1/32
Cheques			4·85	4·85 1/32	4·85 11/32	4·86 1/32
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9025	3·91 1/32	3·91 1/32	3·91
Brussels	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·885	13·91 1/32	13·93	13·925
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·225	19·31 1/32	19·34	19·345
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23 1/32	5·23 1/32	5·23 1/32	5·23 1/32
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·705	23·84	23·83	23·835
Vienna	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·07	14·08	14·08	14·08
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·29	11·70	12·34	12·50
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·015	40·05 1/32	40·06 1/32	40·075
Copenhagen			26·63	26·74	26·74	26·755
Oslo	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·65	26·725	26·73	26·745
Stockholm			26·695	26·82	26·825	26·835
Athens	Centsforldrachma	1·297	1·2950	1·29 3/32	1·29 3/32	1·29 3/32
Montreal	Can. Cents for $1	100	1/32 dis.	1/32 dis.	3/32 dis.	1/32 dis.
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·45	49·20	49·30	49·40
Hong Kong	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·85	37·10	37·55	37·50
Shanghai	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	62·20	48·00	48·00	47·25
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·34	36·16	36·14	36·07
Buenos Aires	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	116·70	117·30	117·00
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·78	11·25	11·60	11·55
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	11·99	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·66
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·50
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·87
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	¼% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛ to ¼% ,,
30 days	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	¼% ,,	⅛% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	⅜% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	½% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
120 days	3⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	96½	97	...	...	104½	103½
Demand	95	95½	96½	96⅝	102⅜	101⅝	103 1/16	103
30 days	94 7/16	94 11/16	...	...	102⅛	101⅜	103⅛	102⅝
60 days	93 13/16	94⅛	...	...	101 15/16	100⅞	102 15/16	102⅛
90 days	93 5/16	94 1/16	...	...	101	100⅜	102⅛	101⅝

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930, were £27,039,670, of which £15,215,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £11,824,670 transferred from the Paper Currency Reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 13, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland. From—	£
France	8,693
Irish Free State	10,000
British West Africa	40,992
British South Africa	821,727
Australia	1,025,000
Other Countries	1,236
Total declared value of imports	1,907,648

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland. To—	£
Poland	3,700
Germany	180,050
Netherlands	2,406
France	17,038
Switzerland	6,840
Austria	13,655
Morocco	4,000
British India	113,095
Other Countries	2,249
Total declared value of exports	343,033

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£
Mar. 14	Sovs. from abroad	1,025,000
	Bars bought	16,796
,, 15	Sovs. released	125,000
,, 17	Sovs. from abroad	10,000
	Bars bought	96
,, 18	Bars bought	334,900
,, 19	Sovs. from abroad	25,788
,, 20	Bars bought	25,500
	Sovs. from abroad	8
	Total	1,563,088

1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Mar. 14		Nil
,, 15	Bars sold	249,973
	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 17		Nil
,, 18		Nil
,, 19		Nil
,, 20		Nil
	Total	251,973

Net arrivals, £1,311,115

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on March 19, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £151,873,749 on the 12th instant (as compared with £151,601,773 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £2,032,566 since April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. There was less competition for the South African gold available yesterday in the open market. About £818,000 was on offer, and at the fixed price of 84s. 10½d. per fine ounce, £200,000 was taken for a destination not disclosed, £150,000 for Germany, £65,000 for the Home and Continental trade and £45,000 for India. A welcome feature was that the Bank of England secured £335,000 at the statutory buying price. It is more than two months since the Bank received any of the open market supplies. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £1,581,607 during the week under review. Withdrawals amounted to £255,973, of which £250,000 was in bar gold for a destination not known. Receipts totalled £1,837,580, which included £425,000 in sovereigns "released," £335,000 bar gold and £10,000 in sovereigns from Irish Free State, and £1,025,000 in sovereigns from Australia. We understand that the gold already shipped from Australia to this country amounts to £9,000,000.

SILVER.

The week under review has been quiet. Although Continental sales have eased somewhat, America has been more willing to sell, but the moderate demand from China has been sufficient to maintain a steady tone. There has been a little forward selling on Indian account as well as purchases for shipment and to cover bear sales. The demand for prompt delivery, however, having been less insistent, the difference between the two quotations gradually narrowed, and by the 18th instant the premium on cash silver had diminished to ⅜d. To-day, owing to an absence of selling, there was a rise of 3/16d., carrying quotations to 19⅜d. and 19 5/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 10th instant to mid-day on the 17th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£
Java	8,400
France	63,486
Germany	6,100
Egypt	6,150
Irish Free State	10,000
Canada	17,382
British India	82,348
Australia	15,800
Other countries	2,468
	£212,134

EXPORTS.	£
Netherlands	28,400
Hong Kong	75,000
British India	38,580
Other countries	2,241
	£144,221

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Mar. 15.	Mar. 7.	Feb. 28.
Notes in circulation	17,967	18,171	18,160
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,867	10,761	10,751
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,873	3,873	3,888
Securities (British Government)	...	310	294

The stocks in Shanghai on the 15th instant consisted of about 93,800,000 ounces in sycee, 136,000,000 dollars, 5,400,000 Saigon dollars and 7,140 silver bars, as compared with about 92,900,000 ounces in sycee, 134,000,000 dollars, 6,100,000 Saigon dollars and 19,000 silver bars on the 8th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Mar. 14	84 11½	19 1/16	18 13/16	Mar. 14, 1924	33½
,, 15	84 11½	19½	19	,, 13, 1925	31 13/16
,, 17	84 11½	19½	19	,, 20, 1926	30 5/16
,, 18	84 10⅝	19 3/16	19	,, 11, 1927	25 11/16
,, 19	84 10½	19⅜	19 3/16	,, 8, 1928	26 3/16
,, 20	84 10	20	19 13/16	,, 14, 1929	26

NOTICES.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a new branch of the bank is now open at 161, Brompton Road, S.W. 3, also an office is now open at Wharf Street (corner of Crafton Street), Leicester. The Bank will open a temporary office at Olympia during the period of the Ideal Home Exhibition from March 24th to April 17th.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 12, Queen's Crescent, Hayes.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch, to be known as "Temple Station Branch," is now open at Arundel House, Arundel Street, W.C. 2, with the usual London banking hours. A new branch is also open at 793, High Road, Tottenham, N. 17.

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
RAILWAYS.					
Barsi Light Railway	3%*	plus bon	us of 2%. Pa	yable A	pril 16
Central Argentine Railway	2½%*	Apr. 23	Less tax	...	...
BANKS.					
Bank of Nova Scotia	4%*	Apr. 1	Quarterly	...	...
Commerz und Privatbank	...	...	Less tax	11	11
Dresdner Bank	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Heritable Investment Bank	...	...	Less tax	5	5
National Bank of India	...	...	Tax free	20	20
INSURANCE.					
Employers' Liability Assurance	2/6 p.s.	...	Tax free	4/- p.s.	4/- p.s.
London Assurance	5/10p.s.†	Nov. 1	Less tax	11/3p.s.	11/3 1p.s.
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Batu Lintang	2½%*	Mar. 25	Less tax	...	...
Dennistown (Krian, F.M.S.) Rubber	3%*	Apr. 22	Less tax	...	...
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea	12½%†	Mar. 31	Less tax	25	25
Greengate and Irwell Rubber	1/6 p.s.†	...	Less tax	2/6p.s.	2/6p.s.
Gula Kalumpong Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Jasin (Malacca) Rubber	5%†	Apr. 17	Less tax	10	10
Krian Rubber Plantations	...	...	Less tax	7	6
Kuala Kangsar Plantations	...	...	Less tax	4	...
Mazawattee Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	15	15
New Dimbula	10%*	Mar. 25	Less tax	...	...
Pilmoor Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	15	10
Selangor Rubber	5%†	...	Less tax	...	...
South Perak Rubber Syndicate	...	...	Less tax	5	Nil
Sungei Way Selangor Rubber	7%†	...	Less tax	10	40
Travancore Tea Estates	...	...	Less tax		
MINING.					
Anglo-Continental Mines Co.	...	...	Less tax	10	12½
Hickleton Main Colliery	3%†	...	Tax free	...	...
Hong Kong Tin	10%*	Mar. 31	Second interim.	...	...
Minerals Separation	...	Apr. 8	Less tax	25	25
Pengkalen	5%†	Apr. 25	Less tax	...	...
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	...	...	Less tax	12½	10
Village Deep	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Wath Main Colliery	7½%†	...	Tax free	10	10
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Allan (J. and R.)	...	...	Less tax	12½	10
Alliance & Dublin Consumer's Gas	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
American Cyanamid	40 cents p.s.*	Apr. 1	Quarterly	...	...
American Investment & General Trust (Def.)	7%†	and bon	us of 16⅔%.	12	12
American Smelting and Refining	...	...	Less tax	$10·02	$8·24
Anglo-French Exploration	7½%†	...	Less tax	per sh.	per sh.
Anglo-Siam Corporation	7½%*	Mar. 31	Less tax	...	...
Associated Dyers and Cleaners	1/4 p.s.†	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Bede Metal and Chemical	1/6p.s.†	...	Less tax	10(d)	10(d)
Beyer, Peacock	...	...	Less tax	1/9p.s.	1/6p.s.
British Drug Houses	5%†	...	Less tax	5	5
British Cinematograph Theatres	...	...	Less tax	8	...
British Colombia Power	50c. p.s.	Apr. 15	Less tax	10	...
British Insulated Cables	...	...	Quarterly	...	...
Briton Ferry Chemical & Manure	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Bruce Peebles	...	...	Less tax	1/- p.s.	1/- p.s.
Brynymor Steamship	6%†	Mar. 31	Less tax	2½	...
Bushell, Watkins and Smith	12%*	Apr. 7	Less tax	14	...
Calico Printers	5%*	Mar. 17	Less tax	...	...
Cannon Brewery	...	...	Less tax	...	...
City of London Electric Lighting	...	...	Tax free	9	16⅔
Clapton Stadium and Greyhound Racing	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Clyde Valley Electrical Power Co.	15%†	...	Less tax	30	...
Coleman and Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	8	8
Collisons	6%†	...	Less tax	10	12½
	...	...	Less tax	20	17½

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
Coltness Iron Co.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	...
Cope Allman and Co.	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Denman Street Trust Co.	...	...	Less tax	3	...
Direct Spanish Telegraph	...	Mar. 31	Tax free	8	8
Direct Supply Aerated Water	16%†	...	Less tax	26	26
D. Napier and Sons	...	...	Less tax	60	15
East of Scotland Trust	6*	Apr. 15	Less tax	...	...
Egyptian Markets	5%†	Plus bonus of 1%.		11	11
English Margarine Works	...	...	Less tax	8	8
F. W. Hampshire and Co.	..	...	Less tax	15	10
F. W. Millington (1920)	...	...	Less tax	...	12½
Fleming and Ferguson	3%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Foreign, American and Gen. Investments Trust (Def.)	6%†	...	Less tax	10	9⅓
Frederick Hotels	3½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Gallaher	...	...	Less tax	6½	...
Gaiety Belt	11%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Gen. & Com. Invest. Trust (Def.)	19%†	...	Less tax	12	11
General Steam Navigation	...	...	Tax free	6	6
Grand Union Canal	⅛%†	...	Less tax	1⅛	...
Hamburg Amerika Line	...	...	Less tax	7	...
Hector Powe	5%†	...	Less tax	15	25
Hellenic and General Trust	3½%†	...	Less tax	6½	...
Hendon Electric Supply	10%†	...	Tax free	15	15
Henry Dodgson	...	...	Less tax	8	14
Howard and Wyndham	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Hugon and Co.	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Humber Graving Dock and Engineering	4*	Mar. 20	Less tax	...	...
Hyde's Bird Seeds	15*	Mar. 31	Quarterly	15	...
Independent Newspapers	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Initial Services (1928)	16⅔%*	Mar. 31	Less tax	...	...
International Paint	7%†	...	Less tax	10	9
Investors' Trust Assoc. (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Investors' Trust Assoc. (Def.)	5%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Jay's	...	...	Less tax	5	5
John Dickinson and Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	12½*a*	...
Joseph Crosfield and Sons	...	...	Less tax	15	5
J. G. Murdoch and Co.	2½%*	Apr. 10	Less tax	...	...
Lamson Paragon Supply Co.	...	...	Less tax	8	1
Lincoln Corn Exchange	...	...	Less tax	14 *a*	14*a*
Ludlow Bros. (1913)	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Mappin and Webb	1/- p.s.†	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
McDonald's	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Mellersh and Neale	...	...	Less tax	10*b*	10*b*
Midland Electric Corporation	5½%†	...	Less tax	8	8
Milton Proprietary	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Montreal Light, Heat and Power Consolidated	60c.p.s.*	Apr. 30	Quarterly	...	...
Municipal Trust (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Co.	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Northern Mexico Power and Development	...	Apr. 1	Less tax	⅛	...
Odhams Press	...	...	Less tax	17½	15
Partridge, Jones, and John Paton	...	...	Tax free	2½	1½
People's Refreshment House	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Penmans (Ontario)	...	May 15	Less tax	$1	$1
Price Bros.	50c.p.s.*	Apr. 1	...	...	...
Provincial Cinema	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Pyne Bros.	13†	...	Less tax	9	8
Queen Anne Residential Mansions and Hotel	15*	Apr. 9	Less tax	...	...
Rayne (H. and M.)	5%*	Mar. 21	Less tax	...	...
Redeemable Securities and Gen. Investment Trust	1%†	...	Less tax	4	7½
Rivet, Bolt and Nut Co.	...	...	Less tax	8	10
Rowton Houses	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Royal Brewery, Brentford	6¼%†	...	Less tax	10½*d*	10½*d*
Samuel Webster	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Savoy Hotel	14†	...	Less tax	10	12½
Scottish Capital Investment	4½%†	...	Less tax	7	6
Scottish Indust. & Gen. Invest.	3½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Power	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Second Caledonian Trust	8†	Apr. 4	Less tax	7	6
Smart Bros.	...	...	Less tax	15	13
South London Electric Supply	5½%†	Apr. 1	Less tax	8½	...
Spalding Steam Laundry	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Standard Property Invest. Co.	...	...	Less tax	11	11
Style and Winch	...	...	Less tax	12½*b*	12½*b*
Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Tarmac	...	...	Less tax	4	...
Telegraph Construction	7½%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Third Scottish Western Investment	9†	Apr. 4	Less tax	8	7
Thomas and James Bernard	3½%*	Apr. 10	Tax free	10	10
Thos. W. Ward, Ltd.	1 p.s.	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
United Fruit	...	...	Quarterly	...	...
Upson's	20%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Vine Products	...	...	Less tax	20	30
Waller and Hartley (1927)	5%†	...	Less tax	25	20
Western Wagon and Property			Less tax	10	10
West London and Provincial Permanent Benefit Building Society	...	...	Tax free	6	...
West of Scotland Investment	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Whitehall Court	3½%*	Apr. 7	Less tax	...	...
William Gossage and Sons	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Winterbottom Book Cloth	1/8 p.s.†	& bonus of 1/4 p.s.	Less tax	20	20
Wright and Co.	3¾%†	Plus 5%	bonus.	12½	12½
Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyes	...	...	Less tax	Nil	7½

a Including bonus of 2%. *b* Plus bonus 5%. *d* Plus bonus of 2½%.
§ Plus bonus of £5 per share.

THE DECCA RECORD COMPANY, LTD.—The directors regret that the results of trading to date will not permit of the payment of the half-year's preference dividend due on the 31st instant. The company has passed through considerable initial difficulties but, at the same time, the directors are able to say that the drastic reorganisation recently carried out has resulted in substantial economies, and Decca Records have shown by increasing sales that they are now rapidly establishing themselves in popular favour. The company's financial year will be closed on March 31, 1930, and thereafter, at the earliest possible date, the directors' report and accounts will be circulated to shareholders.

ANGLO-NORWEGIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

SUCCESSFUL WHALING OPERATIONS.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The annual general meeting of Anglo-Norwegian Holdings, Ltd., was held on March 18th in Montreal. Following is the text of the address of the President, Major-General Guy Dawnay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., M.V.O., read to the shareholders:—

The Board is glad to be able to submit a satisfactory Report with the Accounts of your Company covering the period from its incorporation on March 22nd 1929, to December 31st 1929. Though this is only a nine months' period, it takes into account dividends from the operating Companies (excluding the Falkland Whaling Company Limited) in respect of a complete year.

The Accounts call for little comment other than is included in the Directors' Report. On the Liability side of the Balance Sheet the sum of $1,025,000 (£210,617) standing against the 420,000 Shares of Common Stock of no par value represents the actual amount received by the Company for those Shares.

With regard to the contingent liability referred to in the note, special attention is drawn to the fact that the value of the catch made up to the end of the year 1929 was already at that date more than sufficient to cover the liability.

PREFERRED SHARES REDEEMED.

As stated in the Directors' Report, the Company purchased for redemption during the period under review 1,000 Preferred Shares. Since the date of the Accounts the Company has purchased for redemption a further 1,000 Preferred Shares, the Preferred Capital of the Company being thereby reduced in all by 10 per cent. within the first year of the Company's existence, thus appreciably increasing the value of the equity appertaining to the Common Stock.

In the course of the year, the Falkland Whaling Company, of which your Company owns the whole capital, was formed. During the current fishing season—the first season of this Company's existence—its operations have been eminently satisfactory; and it appears that, as was anticipated at the time of the formation of the Anglo-Norwegian Holdings Limited, it should produce results comparable to that of the original Anglo-Norse Company.

With regard to the latter Company, your Directors decided during the year to acquire further Shares of the Anglo-Norse Company, thereby increasing your interest in that Company, on reasonable terms, from 50 per cent. to approximately 67 per cent. This should prove itself a very advantageous investment for your Company.

OPERATING COMPANIES' STRONG POSITION.

The Board directs your attention to the very strong position disclosed by the Accounts of the operating Companies in which you are interested. The Tonsberg Company, in its Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1929, showed Surplus and Reserve Funds and Undivided Profits amounting to $1,666,201 (£342,370), while its fleet and land stations have been written down to $1,161,869 (£238,740). Apart from the allocation for ordinary depreciation, this Company placed $179,240 (£36,830) to extraordinary depreciation during the year. It also showed Cash at Bank and in hand of $1,059,249 (£217,654), while its entire capital amounts only to $1,026,814 (£210,989).

The Anglo-Norse Company, in its Balance Sheet of the same date, showed Surplus and Reserve Funds and Undivided Profits amounting to $663,157 (£136,265), while its fleet had been written down to $848,173 (£174,282). The Company had at that time in Cash at Bank and in hand $423,123 (£86,943), and its Accounts showed a temporary advance of $474,630 (£97,527) to the Falkland Whaling Company, which was repaid in the month of July, 1929. In effect therefore it had the practical equivalent of $897,753 (£184,470) in cash at the date of its Balance Sheet, against a capital of $837,100 (£172,007.)

In the case of both Companies, the profit for the year considerably exceeded the amounts shown as their average annual profits at the time of the incorporation of your Company, taking the profit for the period under review on the same basis of calculation.

The dividend policy of the operating Companies has been markedly conservative; but the proportion of the net profits shown by these two Companies accruing to the benefit of your Common Stock amounts to approximately $550,000 (£113,000). Of this sum about three-fifths has been either reserved in the operating Companies or applied to reduction of the Capital of your Company.

CURRENT SEASON—ASSURED SUCCESS.

As regards the prospects for the season now current and drawing towards its close, there are two main factors to be taken into account.

On the one hand the whole of the production of Whale Oil of the three operating Companies for the next two years has been sold at a price which is lower than that obtained last year; on the other hand your new subsidiary Falkland Whaling Company Limited has been in full operation since the beginning of the fishing season and its profits should fully offset the effect of the lower level of Whale Oil prices. Having regard to the catches already made by the three expeditions and to the fact that the Whale Oil has been sold in advance your Board anticipates that the net results to your Company should be at least as satisfactory as those shown by the gratifying figures in the Accounts now before you.

ANGLO-NORWEGIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED.—Cont.

REPORT.

The Directors submit herewith the Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1929, and the Report of the Auditors of the Company, together with the Income Account for the period from the date of the Company's incorporation.

The Company's net income, for the period of approximately 9 months, to 31st December, 1929, amounts to $438,003, which is exclusive of any income from the Company's Investment in Falkland Whaling Company Limited, incorporated in July, 1929, and now in active operation.

During the period the Company purchased for redemption, and has redeemed, 1,000 Preferred Shares at a cost of $88,716.

The dividend on the 19,000 Preferred Shares remaining outstanding, paid on 31st December, 1929, required $99,750.

The balance, being surplus, carried to the Balance Sheet, is $249,537.

The Directors have resolved that a dividend of 25 cents per Share (Canadian currency) be paid on the Common Stock on the 24th March, 1930, to Stockholders of record on the 21st March, 1930. The payment of this dividend will require $105,000.

The Directors retire at this Meeting in accordance with the By-laws of the Company, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Auditors, Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co., retire at this Meeting and offer themselves for re-appointment.

By Order of the Board,
A. H. LANG,
Secretary.

Montreal, 24th February, 1930.

ANGLO-NORWEGIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED.

INCOME ACCOUNT.

For the Period from date of Incorporation, 22nd March, 1929, to 31st December, 1929.

	$	£ s. d.		$	£ s. d.
To General Expenses	7,120·00	1,462 18 10	By Dividends received	439,310·00	90,269 0 6
,, Directors' Fees (Reserve)	5,625·00	1,139 10 7	,, Interest received	10,239·00	2,103 19 1
,, Corporation Tax	300·00	61 2 7	,, Profit on exchange	1,499·00	...
,, Balance being Net Income for Period	438,003·00	89,709 7 7			
	$451,048·00	£92,372 19 7		$451,048·00	£92,372 19 7

SURPLUS ACCOUNT.

	$	£ s. d.		$	£ s. d.
To Cost of Redemption of 1,000 Preferred Shares	88,716·00	18,229 5 7	By Net Income for Period to 31st December, 1929	438,003·00	89,709 7 7
,, Dividend on Preferred Shares—$5·25 per Share	99,750·00	20,205 7 6			
,, Balance being Surplus carried to Balance Sheet	249,537·00	51,274 14 6			
	$438,003·00	£89,709 7 7		$438,003·00	£89,709 7 7

BALANCE SHEET.

As at 31st December, 1929.

ASSETS.

	$		£ s. d.	
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Cash at Bank		102,999·15		21,164 4 2
Accounts Receivable		4,767·08		979 10 9
		$107,766·23		22,143 14 11
LOAN TO SUBSIDIARY COMPANY AND ACCRUED INTEREST—Falkland Whaling Co., Ltd.		50,177·00		10,310 6 10
INVESTMENTS AT COST:	$		£ s. d.	
Tonsbergs Hvalfangeri A/S:				
1,500 Shares of Kr. 1,000 each	1,203,040·00		247,200 0 0	
Anglo-Norse Co., Ltd., 114,642 Shares of £1 each	1,157,728·00		237,889 0 0	
Falkland Whaling Co., Ltd., 150,000 Shares of £1 each	730,000·86		150,000 0 0	
		3,090,768·86		635,089 0 0
NOTE.—Conversions have been made at the par rate of exchange.		$3,248,712·09		£667,543 1 9

LIABILITIES.

	$		£ s. d.	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Accounts Payable		11,808·39		2,426 7 7
Due to Subsidiary Co., Anglo-Norse Co., Ltd.		2,552·20		524 8 6
		14,360·59		2,950 16 1
CAPITAL STOCK:	$		£ s. d.	
7% Cumulative Preferred Shares of $100·00 each:				
Issued: 20,000 Shares	2,000,000·00		410,959 0 0	
Less: 1,000 Shares Redeemed	100,000·00		20,547 19 0	
	1,900,000·00		390,411 1 0	
Common Shares of No Par Value:				
Issued: 420,000 Shares	1,025,000·00		210,617 0 0	
		2,925,000·00		601,028 1 0
RESERVE		59,814·50		12,289 10 2
EARNED SURPLUS:				
For the period from 22nd March to 31st December, 1929		249,537·00		51,274 14 6
		$3,248,712·09		£667,543 1 9

NOTE.—There is a Contingent Liability under Guarantee in respect of Advances which may be made to a Subsidiary Company by its Bankers of an amount not exceeding £100,000. At 31st December, 1929, no such advances had been made, but the Bank had given acceptances to the extent of £85,000 covered by the catch made prior to 31st December, 1929.

G. P. DAWNAY,
FRANK B. COMMON,
} Directors.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF ANGLO-NORWEGIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED.

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers of the Company and have obtained all the information and explanations which we have required. In our opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company.

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Montreal, 8th February, 1930.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Mar. 14, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 15, 1930.

	Miles Open.	Week ended Mar. 16, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 11 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	189	227	129	356	545	2,069	2,384	1,475	3,859	5,928
Do. for 1929...	3,734	199	231	147	378	577	2,085	2,332	1,498	3,830	5,915
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	296	439	298	737	1,033	3,212	4,491	3,121	7,612	10,824
Do. for 1929...	6,360	316	442	309	751	1,067	3,199	4,339	3,194	7,533	10,732
Lond., Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	429	597	284	881	1,310	4,676	6,046	3,228	9,274	13,950
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	452	593	344	937	1,389	4,688	5,929	3,538	9,467	14,155
Southern	2,175	259	80	32	112	371	2,866	809	370	1,179	4,045
Do. for 1929...	2,175	260	80	43	123	383	2,756	789	433	1,222	3,978
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·8	...	...	4·3	36·1	353·8	...	...	45·5	399·3
Do. for 1929...	59	31·4	...	...	4·2	35·6	338·6	...	...	43·9	382·5
†Und'gr'nd&B.&c	...	...	...	...	...	295·9	...	...	...	...	3138·3
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	279·3	...	...	...	...	2827·4
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	42·6	...	...	...	...	454·3
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	39·7	...	...	...	...	395·7
B'f'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·8	...	...	0·8	2·6	20·4	...	...	7·6	28·0
Do. for 1929...	80	1·9	...	...	1·2	3·1	19·9	...	...	9·7	29·6
*Great Northernb	562	8·9	...	...	17·3	26·2	97·2	...	...	153·3	250·5
Do. for 1929...	562	9·7	...	...	19·5	29·2	98·3	...	...	167·4	265·7
*Great Southernb	2,187	23·3	...	...	53·7	77·0	225·8	...	...	459·8	685·6
Do. for 1929...	2,187	23·8	...	...	53·4	77·2	223·5	...	...	475·6	699·1

* Aggregate 10 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	46weeks	Feb.15	1,217	4,75,000	+ 15,116	193,87,662	− 7,82,039
Barsi Lt. Ry.	47weeks	22	202	50,500	− 20,500	22,78,200	+ 59,200
Bengal & N.Western	47weeks	22	2,080	7,56,001	− 74,027	1,47,25,901	− 50,331
Bengal-Nagpur ...	45weeks	8	3,085	18,83,000	− 129537	7,87,41,069	− 19,62,655
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	49weeks	Mar. 8	3,031	26,79,000	− 145000	10,89,79,000	− 7,85,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	47weeks	Feb.22	3,121	18,46,000	− 350140	8,33,31,265	− 7,62,070
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	47weeks	22	1,242	5,06,928	− 55,970	2,11,85,958	− 21,12,365
†Rohilk'd& Kumaon	47weeks	22	572	1,58,792	− 4,174	28,00,938	+ 75,261
South Indian	47weeks	22	2,348	12,09,679	− 15,545	5,97,95,272	+ 43,19,691
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	37weeks	Mar.15	753	14,600	− 700	572,400	− 4,700
Argentine Trans'dn.	37weeks	15	111	5,512	− 688	174,528	− 387
B.A. and Pacific.....	37weeks	15	2,806	154,000	− 56,000	5,675,000	− 578,000
B.A. Central	37weeks	16	...	12,222	− 2,624	477.886	− 43.412
B.A. Gt. Southern.	37weeks	15	4,875	198,000	− 103000	8,902,000	− 268.000
B.A. Western	37weeks	15	1,928	70,000	− 55,000	3,196,000	− 512.000
Central Argentine.	37weeks	15	3,319	203.000	− 95,000	8,664,000	− 1,343,000
Cordoba Central....	37weeks	15	1,218	40.000	− 30.000	2,193,000	− 366,000
Entre Rios.....	37weeks	15	789	24,100	− 6,600	1,052,800	− 97,200
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	37weeks	Mar.15	1,374	112,677	− 21,720	2,248,875	− 374,711
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	37weeks	Mar.15	273	33,416	+ 3,606	1,142,266	+ 19,032
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	37weeks	15	311	8,620	+ 1,167	260,864	+ 8,049
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	37weeks	15	185	5,103	+ 548	130,837	− 4,749
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	37weeks	15	211	3,133	− 209	104,558	− 5,992
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	9 weeks	Mar. 7	19580	4,249,770	− 800773	38,108,213	− 5,359,035
Canadian Pacific ...	10 weeks	14	15217	3,218,000	− 638000	30,703,000	7,279,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	11weeks	Mar.15	1,016	17,700	− 3,700	210,400	− 33,000
Leopoldina.....	11weeks	15	1,856	37,255	− 1,163	389,157	− 1,353
Leopoldina Termnl.	11weeks	15	Mlrs.	296,000	+ 38,000	3,257,000	+ 215,000
San Paulo	11weeks	16	153½	64,901	− 421	466,497	− 16,388
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	11weeks	Mar.16	804	26,660	− 16,300	334,080	− 129,510
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	9weeks	15	413	17,776	− 23,980	122,742	− 80,398
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	47weeks	Feb.28	608	7,709	+ 1,228	332,487	+ 19,829
Gt. Southn. of Spain	10weeks	Mar. 8	104	121,359	− 4,009	1,185,803	− 34,241
Mexican Railway....	11weeks	14	483	241,500	+ 68,700	2,576,500	+ 159,600
Paraguay Central....	36weeks	8	274	3,890	− 780	147,490	− 11,400
Salvador.....	37weeks	15	100	8,304	− 517	168,107	− 13,770

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	10weeks	Mar.11	329	84,705	− 5,840	831,544	− 31,812
B. Aires Lacroze....	37weeks	16	...	12,615	− 620	432,263	− 36,608
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	15	13	2,852	− 80	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	15	35½	Rs1,17,779	− 16,974	...	...
Chatham & District	9weeks	6	15	1,040	+ 135	9,662	+ 754
Egyptian Markets	10weeks	13	...	2,043	+ 1,229	19,900	− 3,061
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	9weeks	5	...	860	+ 108	7,671	+ 871
Liverpool Corp.....	50weeks	15	124	28,780	− 359	1,500,853	+ 31,254
L.C.C. Tramways....	49weeks	12	166	82,592	+ 891	4,133,776	+ 76,795
Madras Electric.....	110wks.	16	...	Rs. 56,183	− 11,262	2,36,854	+ 22,097

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

AMALGAMATED ANTHRACITE COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
7% cum. pref. (£1)	1,964,821	+ 2,825
Ord. shares (£1)	6,717,300	+ 22,873
7% deb.	1,000,000	+ 1,000,000
Int. accrued ...	32,123	+ 32,123
Provision for taxation	...	− 315,439
Creditors	612,035	−1,154,803
Bank advances ..	1,820,447	
Bills payable ...	...	− 2,639
Unclaimed divs.	...	− 207
Due to subsidiaries	27,849	+ 27,849
Profit and loss...	168,324	+ 168,324
Total ...	12,342,899	− 219,094

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Properties	8,438,589	+ 61,638
Wagons	670,787	+ 19,578
Shares and debs. in associated cos.	2,425,687	+ 254,858
Shares in other cos.	86,159	+ 53,313
Debtors	489,937	− 278,518
Stocks of coal and stores.....	217,180	− 43,481
Bills receivable...	14,337	− 1,109
Cash	223	− 3,650
Amalgamation expenses	...	− 10,888
Profit and loss...	...	− 270,835
Total ...	12,342,899	− 219,094

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Capital account...	10,407,541	+ 448,828
Depreciation and contingencies reserve	930,437	+ 169,078
Reserve for plant renewals	41,703	− 10,217
Secured loans ...	414,030	− 12,580
Temporary loans	45,759	+ 362
Creditors	407,415	+ 9,917
Profit and loss ...	327,272	+ 47,786
Total	12,574,157	+ 653,174

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Capital expend. ...	7,255,929	+ 243,479
Investments in and advances to associated cos. ...	4,497,264	+ 188,320
Furniture, etc. ...	20,000	...
Investments	10,000	+ 10,000
Stores	207,936	+ 9,242
Debtors	240,080	+ 20,121
Cash	331,768	+ 182,906
Suspense accounts written off	11,180	− 894
Total	12,574,157	+ 653,174

POWELL-DUFFRYN STEAM COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
6% pref. shs. (£5)	155,795	...
6% second pf. (£1)	105,141	...
Ord. shares (£1)...	3,665,267	+ 3,332
7% 1st mt. db. stk.	1,378,050	− 31,950
Do., due for redemption ...	...	− 30,000
Int. on deb. stk....	38,578	− 1,742
6% Notes, 1935 ...	1,350,000	...
Int. accrued	16,200	− 9
6% Notes, 1953 ...	1,350,000	...
Int. due net	32,400	+ 32,400
General reserve ...	167,095	− 207,905
Premium on shrs. account	179,123	...
Fire insnce. resv.	...	− 15,000
Pensions reserve...	...	− 10,000
Bank overdraft ...	449,303	+ 128,532
Creditors.....	825,693	+ 63,621
Profit and loss ...	44,090	+ 44,090
Total	9,756,735	− 24,631

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Collieries, works, etc.....	4,562,000	− 2,334
Shares in subsidiaries	3,025,116	
Debentures, etc.	772,065	+ 153,026
Loans to and investments on subsidiaries ...	564,469	
Dead rents recoverable	163,826	+ 8,444
Debtors.....	353,241	− 15,331
Stocks	200,812	+ 8,696
5% War Stock, 1929-47, at par	50,000	...
Cash	3,706	− 728
Cash on deposit with trust's for first mt. db.stk.	61,500	+ 31,500
Profit and loss ...	...	− 207,904
Total	9,756,735	− 24,631

THE SALT UNION, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Preference shares	600,000	...
Ordinary shares ...	800,000	...
Debenture stock ...	939,334	− 600
Sundry creditors ...	327,329	− 2,949
Due to subsidiaries	4,721	+ 4,721
Contingencies account	10,000	− 25,000
Insurance reserve ..	54,098	+ 46
General reserve ...	550,000	...
Investments provision	29,848	+ 109
Profit and loss ...	198,126	− 21,858
Total	3,513,456	− 45,531

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Freehold, etc., properties,plant, and goodwill	1,661,222	− 15,913
Steamers, barges, etc.	56,186	+ 3,257
Rolling-stock	61,519	− 2,739
Stocks of salt	98,080	+ 7,102
Fuel and material ...	98,227	− 2,699
Sundry debtors ...	110,170	− 64,853
Debit balance, etc.	3,348	− 2,254
Investments at cost	403,182	+ 2,270
Shares and debs. in and loans to allied companies.....	705,023	+ 11,336
Due to subsidiaries	53,293	+ 53,293
Cash	263,206	− 34,332
Total	3,513,456	− 45,531

SWAN, HUNTER, AND WIGHAM RICHARDSON, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Pref. shares	789,845	...
Ord. shares	1,711,064	...
4½% deb. stock...	322,840	− 500
Deb. interest	5,497	...
Loans, etc.	102,854	− 222,725
Creditors	820,255	+ 81,854
Unclaimed divs.	398	− 182
Loans to subsidiaries	145,570	+ 145,570
Leasehold amortisation account	48,668	+ 3,047
Sinking fund acct.	45,269	+ 2,570
Reserve account	770,000	...
Insurance reserve	50,000	...
Reserve for dividend equalisation	470,000	...
Profit and loss ...	138,658	+ 12,669
Total	5,420,916	+ 22 301

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Properties	937,687	− 275,922
Goodwill	259,362	+ 259,362
Work in progress	141,070	+ 93,719
Stocks	245,179	+ 17,829
Debtors	622,032	+ 56,192
Shares and debs. in associated and other cos....	1,997,131	− 172,420
British and Allied Government Securities	143,691	− 2,300
Investment sinking fund account ...	45,269	+ 2,571
Cash and bills ...	1,029,495	+ 43,270
Total	5,420,916	+ 22,301

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Chartered Bank of India, &c.	Dec. 31	186,656	661,598	848,254	...	607,500	20¼†	50,000	190,754	627,263	20¼†
Mercantile Bank of India ...	Dec. 31	162,047	257,458	419,505	...	168,000	16	85.000	166,505	250,201	16
National Bank of India.....	Dec. 31	277,329	511,133	788,462	...	400,000	20†	110,000	278,462	530,829	20†
Breweries.											
Bernard (Thomas and James)	Jan. 31	8,015	18,300	26,315	8,750	9,375	10†	...	8,190	...	...
Cannon Brewery.....	Dec. 31	50,908	283,065	333,973	120,000	63,000	9†	100,000	50,973	296,611	36†
Groves (John) and Sons	Dec. 31	11,859	22,853	34,712	5,000	13,515	15†	4,500	11,697	21,520	11½
Canals and Docks.											
Grand Union Canal	Dec. 31	2,274	43,619	45,893	12,103	29,694	1⅜	...	4,096	...	...
Electric Light and Power.											
City of London Electric.....	Dec. 31	7,657	407,848	415,505	48,000	120,000	10	240,531	6,974	379,799	10
Clyde Valley Electrical Power	Dec. 31	84,586	354,495	439,081	58,000	129,485	8	163,308	88,288	304,297	8
Mersey Power Co.	Dec. 31	17,081	82,489	99,570	32,086	24,824	5	25,000	17,660	59,797	5
Midland Electric Corporation	Dec. 31	24,550	111,365	135,915	14,000	56,000	8	30,325	35,590	114,460	8
Newcastle and District Elec.	Dec. 31	15,564	27,878	43,442	...	23,129	7	5,259	15,054	54,876	7½
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Elec.	Dec. 31	80,653	687,785	768,438	181,948	240,461	6	250,000	96,029	614,786	6
Scottish Power	Dec. 31	3,399	132,530	135,929	16,800	104,565	8	7,854	6,710	80,897	8
Financial Land, &c.											
Cordova Land.....	Dec. 31	25,736	51,087	76,823	...	41,142	4½	...	35,681	60,077	4½
Natal Land and Colonization	Dec. 31	25,374	34,799	60,173	3,962	27,226	8	5,000	23,985	35,647	8
Standard Property Investment.....	Dec. 31	1,379	6,139	7,518	...	2,640	11	3,114	1,764	5,678	11
West of Scotland American Investment	Dec. 31	3,717	15,951	19,668	4,400	8,000	10	3,000	4,268	...	...
Gas.											
Alliance and Dublin	Dec. 31‡	24,057	64,163	88,220	...	59,165	7⅜	...	29,055	56,279	7⅜
British Gas Light Co.....	Dec. 31	84,121	79,694	167,815	7,000	51,300	7½	24,303	85,212	34,402	3½
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Burlington Hotels	Dec. 31	4,469	4,905	9,374	3,750	3,000	5	...	2,624	5,620	5
Prince of Wales Hotel Co., Southport.....	Dec. 31	9,857	10,509	20,366	...	6,400	10	2,080	11,886	12,379	10
Rowton Houses	Dec. 31	5,104	23,403	28,507	6,142	10,166	5†	7,000	5,199	29,081	5†
Savoy Hotel	Dec. 31	35,627	192,067	227,694	17,500	73,893	10	90,600	45,701	193,400	12½
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries	Dec. 31	*Dr270,835*	288,818	17,983	...	...	...	*Dr150,340*	168,323	*Dr309461*	...
Barrow Hematite Steel.....	Dec. 31	*Dr.59,066*	20,264	*Dr.38,802*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.38802*	15,001	...
Beyer, Peacock and Co.....	Dec. 31	8,262	26,498	34,760	16,500	9,000	3	...	9,260	39,497	5
Hickleton Main Colliery ...	Dec. 31	53,924	80,454	134,378	...	70,000	5†	25,000	49,378	29,106	2†
Penrikyber Navigation Colliery.....	Dec. 31	...	14,088	14,088	9,600	...	...	...	4,488	*Dr. 8,324*	...
Powell, Duffryn Steam Coal.	Dec. 31	...	44,090	44,090	12,525	...	...	...	31,565	*Dr231805*	...
Projectile and Engineering Co.....	Dec. 31	28,955	15,191	44,146	...	9,375	7½	3,750	31,021	8,427	5
Shipley Collieries	Dec. 31	*Dr. 17,859*	27,450	9,591	...	...	...	22,067	*Dr12,476*	*Dr46,038*	...
Swan Hunter and Co.	Dec. 31	25,296	188,389	213,685	47,391	128,330	7½	...	37,964	168,695	7½
United Collieries.....	Dec. 31	4,603	20,801	25,404	...	...	...	20,000	5,404	*Dr58,840*	...
Motor and Cycle.											
Napier (D.) and Son	Sept. 30	44,101	192,329	236,430	37,060	81,900	60	59,500	57,970	167,438	15
Tilling-Stevens Motors	Dec. 31	12,808	80,957	93,765	17,412	18,642	15	38,500	19,211	81,105	...
Rubber, &c.											
Gula-Kalumpong Rubber ...	Dec. 31	59,975	70,968	130,943	...	49,875	7½	20,000	61,068	58,483	7½
Krian Rubber	Dec. 31	6,490	9,102	15,592	...	7,000	7	3,900	4,692	8,220	6
Kuala Kangsar Plantations	Oct. 31	1,405	20,778	22,183	...	14,000	4	1,824	6,359	...	...
Sittang Valley Rubber	Dec. 31	7,353	115	7,468	...	...	...	57	7,411	...	...
South Perak Rubber	Nov. 30	6,120	2,228	8,348	...	3,000	...	1,000	4,348	21	...
Shops and Stores.											
Baker (Charles) and Co.	Jan. 31	*Dr. 50,655*	*Dr. 1,930*	*Dr. 52,585*	...	...	...	...	*Dr52,585*	*Dr1,913*	...
Jay's Limited	Jan. 31	11,652	22,754	34,406	12,375	8,000	5	...	14,031	21,772	5
Mappin and Webb	Dec. 31	15,878	101,098	116,976	36,000	25,600	10	40,000	15,376	102,781	10
Swan and Edgar	Jan. 31	12,112	104.539	116,651	...	62,500	5	29,256	24,895	83,181	4
United Drapery Stores.....	Feb. 28	3,270	114,914	118,184	...	88,000	11	20,000	10,184	86,521	10
Upsons	Dec. 31	16,241	122,182	138,423	46,235	63,750	15	15,000	13,438	...	...
Textiles.											
Alliance Artificial Silk	Dec. 31	...	*Dr.10,367*	*Dr.10,367*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.10367*	...	...
British Enka Artificial Silk.	Dec. 31	*Dr. 82,325*	*Dr157,276*	*Dr239,601*	...	...	...	...	*Dr239601*	*Dr82,352*	...
Trust.											
Denman St. Trust Co.....	Dec. 31	3,810	22,714	26,524	...	19,097	3	...	7,227	...	...
First Co-operative Investment.....	Jan. 31‡	10,874	45,585	56,459	5,541	36,242	5	10,000	4,676	44,477	7
General and Commercial Investment	Feb. 28	25,097	42,595	67,692	12,168	28,923	24	1,000	25,601	46,103	11
Hellenic and General Trust	Jan. 31	15,773	40,351	56,124	...	33,812	6¼	...	22,312	...	...
Investors Trust Association.	Feb. 28	4,284	35,755	40,039	15,000	15,000	5	5,000	5,039	21,784	5
Redeemable Securities, &c., Trust.....	Dec. 31	1,518	26,142	27,660	12,000	9,891	4	3,800	1,969	24,600	7½

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS—*continued.*

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.			Net Profit.	Dividend.
Waterworks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Jersey New Waterworks ...	Dec. 31	1,594	11,540	13,134	2,350	8,400	10	...	2,384	10,177	5
Southend Waterworks	Dec. 31	46,694	94,682	141,376	44,884	62,465	...	...	34,027	113,087	...
Other Companies.											
Achille Serre	Dec. 31	6,096	*Dr. 18,803*	*Dr. 12,707*	1,800*	...	...	*Dr. 20,000*	5,493	11,796	...
Allan (J. and R.)	Feb. 19	14,885	19,847	34,732	3,000	12,500	12½	6,000	13,232	...	...
Argus Press	Dec. 31	3,875	65,254	69,129	7,106	40,000	25	20,000	2,023	62,917	25
Bath and Portland Stone...	Dec. 31	57,527	42,690	100,217	...	40,625	16¼	17,562	42,030	36,919	15
British Insulated Cables ...	Dec. 31	250,089	536,550	786,639	57,500	249,999	15	198,333	280,807	474,175	15
Briton Ferry Chemical, &c..	Dec. 31	3,721	13,981	17,702	4,599	6,353	5	3,000	3,750	27,722	5
Crosfield (Joseph) and Sons	Nov. 30	23,112	554,312	577,424	227,500	225,000	15	100,000	24,924	455,755	10
Gallaher Limited	Dec. 31	88,099	200,424	288,523	65,000	65,000	6½	35,852	122,671	...	...
Gossage (William) and Sons	Nov. 30	29,393	264,745	294,138	71,250	140,000	20	50,000	32,888	296,412	20
Hide and Co.	Jan. 31	4,630	17,660	22,290	5,120	5,333	33⅓	5,000	6,837	17,734	50
Hine, Parker and Co.	Jan. 31	29,040	16,790	45,830	2,500	13,750	17½	...	29,580	16,853	12½
Howard and Wyndham.....	Feb. 28	4,043	25,248	29,291	1,200	15,444	10	10,213	2,434	19,380	10
Hugon and Co.	Dec. 31	56,384	81,936	138,320	...	57,445	10	30,000	50,875	75,948	10
Independent Newspapers ...	Dec. 31	24,896	52,623	77,519	15,200	3,641	10	10,000	48,878	...	...
International Cold Storage and Ice	Dec. 31	*Dr. 219*	*Dr. 1,405*	*Dr. 1,624*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 1,624*	*Dr. 1,405*	...
International Paint and Composition	Dec. 31	15,246	104,813	120,059	12,000	52,250	10	43,000	12,809	76,579	9
International Vacuum Power	Dec. 31	...	*Dr. 51,357*	*Dr. 51,357*	...	...	...	...	*Dr51,357*	...	...
Lamson Paragon Supply ...	Jan. 31	20,833	89,753	110,586	35,396	32,000	8	15,000	28,190	80,029	7
Milton Pty.	Sept. 30	17,273	30,688	47,961	5,192	13,488	15	...	29,281	...	...
Odhams Press.....	Dec. 31	33,978	164,644	198,622	48,218	71,750	17½	25,000	53,654	159,554	15
Polikoff.....	Jan. 4	...	(c) 9,769	9,769	6,090	...	...	...	3,679	...	...
Provincial Cinematograph Theatres	Jan. 31	105,934	434,833	540,767	202,500	75,000	15	152,784	110,483	366,890	15
Rivet, Bolt and Nut.....	Dec. 31	6,568	34,394	40,962	...	29,700	8	1,161	10,101	42,954	10
Salt Union	Dec. 31	19,884	178,243	198,127	70,000	100,000	12½	1,000	27,127	187,584	12½
Southall Bros. and Barclay	Dec. 31	16,726	67,158	83,884	6,500	26,000	20†	30,000	21,384	64,200	20†
Southall Bros. and Barclay	Dec. 31	16,726	71,556	88,384	6,500	26,000	20†	34,500	21,384	64,200	20†
Sternol Limited	Dec. 31	2,250	15,355	17,605	14,400	...	...	...	3,205	...	...
Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co.....	Dec. 31	114,122	77,801	191,923	...	89,640	10†	...	102,283	106,144	10†
Tilling (Thomas)	Dec. 31	67,693	225,120	292,813	16,500	105,470	20	100,000	70,843	228,678	20
Vine Products.....	Dec. 31	13,829	116,539	130,368	16,000	77,000	20	23,226	14,142	163,576	30
Western Wagon & Property Co.	Dec. 31	2,255	11,161	13,416	...	11,200	10	...	2,216	11,096	10
Yorkshire Indigo, Scarlet and Colour Dyers.....	Dec. 31	4,560	*Dr. 6,063*	1,503	...	...	...	...	1,503	9,742	7½

* For Quarter ended March 31, 1929. † Free of Income Tax. ‡ For six months. (c) 16 months.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.—The results for the month of February are as follows:—Production of oil, 29,370 tons; deliveries, 28,080 tons.

THE ATTOCK OIL COMPANY, LTD.—Production for February, 20,449 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended February 26:—Venezuela, 37,061 barrels; Trinidad, 9,885 barrels; total 49,946 barrels. Production for the week ended March 5: Venezuela, 38,363 barrels; Trinidad, 10,648 barrels; total, 49,011 barrels. Production for February: Venezuela, 146,481 barrels; Trinidad, 43,653 barrels; total, 190,134 barrels. Deliveries for February: Venezuela, 145,426 barrels; Trinidad, 17,624 barrels; total, 163,050 barrels. Production for the week ended March 12:—Venezuela, 38,886 barrels; Trinidad, 11,946 barrels; total, 50,832 barrels.

DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM.—Production for February, 5,133 tons.

HECTOR WHALING, LTD.—Catch report to March 9, 1930:—

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting	Three	Four
Catch for week ending March 9, in barrels of oil	3,500	7,635
Catch for week ending March 16th, in barrels of oil	2,800	12,965
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	113,700	173,300

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA.—The total production during the month of February amounted to 109,858 barrels, or, approximately, 15,694 tons.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL.—Production for the week ended February 22, 1930, was 276,000 barrels. The production for the week ended March 1, 1930, was 277,000 barrels. The production for the week ended March 8, 1930, was 273,000 barrels.

SERVICE PETROLEUM COMPANY.—Production from the company's wells at Guna-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ending March 16th was 1,051 tons (7,357 barrels).

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH).—The production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of February, was 64,870 tons.

TAMPICO OIL.—The total production on the company's properties in Mexico during February was 17,820 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,337 barrels.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.—Oil produced during February, 28,300 tons; oil purchased during February from other companies, 39,400 tons.

VENEZUELAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.—Total production for the month of January, 51,012 barrels (7,288 tons). Production for week ended 1st instant, 10,144 barrels (1,449 tons). Production for the week ended February 8, 9,421 barrels (1,346 tons). Production for the week ended February 15, 8,437 barrels (1,206 tons). Production for the week ended February 22nd, 7,927 barrels (1,133 tons). Production for the week ended 1st inst., 8,009 barrels (1,144 tons.) Production for the week ended March 8th, 7,856 barrels (1,122 tons). Total production for the month of February, 34,132 barrels (4,876 tons). Production for the week ended March 14th, 9,220 barrels (1,317 tons).

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS.—Production for the week ended February 15th was:—Bolivar district, 125,071 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,195 metric tons. Total, 131,266 metric tons. Production for the week ended March 1st was:—Bolivar district, 121,137 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,330 metric tons; total, 127,426 metric tons. The production for the week ended March 8th was:—Bolivar District, 122,697 metric tons; Maracaibo District, 6,153 metric tons; total, 128,850 metric tons. Production for the week ended March 15th was:—Bolivar district, 122,026 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 5,891 metric tons; total, 127,917 metric tons.

VIKING WHALING.—Production of 285,000 barrels of whale oil to January 11, 1930; January 15, 1930, was 48,150 barrels. Production of 58,300 barrels of whale oil to January 31, 1930. The production was 68,400 barrels of whale oil to February 15th. The manager reports company's floating factory, s.s. "Vikingen," closed operations for the season on March 2nd. Total catch amounts to 82,000 barrels.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Mr Chas. L. Dalziel, of Higginson and Company, merchant bankers, London, has been appointed to a seat on the London board of the Bank of New South Wales.

The Eastern and Overseas Products, Ltd., inform us that Mr Einar Winther, formerly chairman of the General Commercial Company of London, Ltd., has been appointed managing director of this company, and that Mr A. Peech has resigned his seat on the board. Mr G. Ventura has resigned his position as managing director of the company.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BONA FIDE STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.—The following notice has been posted by order of the Committee for General Purposes over the signature of its secretary, Mr A. L. F. Green:—

"Recent events have demonstrated so clearly the importance of ensuring the genuineness of all transactions which take place on the Stock Exchange that the Committee for General Purposes desire to direct the special attention of members to the fact that any arrangement which permits of a non-member dictating prices at which members shall deal is contrary to the principles on which the business of the House is based, and is calculated to react injuriously upon its credit and reputation.

"It is therefore essential that members should be constantly on their guard against any attempt to make irregular use of the Stock Exchange and its facilities."

BRITISH ENKA ARTIFICIAL SILK COMPANY.—The profit and loss account shows a working loss of £69,655 for 1929, to which is added debenture interest and sundry items, less interest received, totalling £12,953, and £74,667 for depreciation of buildings, machinery, plant, etc., making the total loss £157,275 for the year. Trading has been adversely affected by the unsatisfactory conditions which have prevailed in the rayon market throughout the year under review, and by certain technical difficulties in the No. 2 factory. The sale of the production at steadily falling prices, coupled with unduly hgh costs of production due to the difficulties in question, account for the loss shown.

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.—At the adjourned meeting of the holders of the 5½ per cent. sinking fund of the first mortgage debentures of the English Electric Company, Ltd., held March 18, the resolution approving and sanctioning the scheme for reorganisation of capital was carried unanimously. Mr Harold G. Brown, the chairman of the meeting (representing the debenture trustees), declared the resolution carried by the equisite majority as an extraordinary resolution.

LIPTON, LIMITED.—Net profit for year ended January 4th, 1930, after charging debenture interest, is £118,377. The ordinary shareholders are to receive 10 per cent. The sum of £25,000 is put to special reserve for first preference dividend equalisation, and £20,000 is put to general reserve. The carry forward is £8,127.

ROSEY CROSS ASBESTOS MINES OF RHODESIA, LIMITED.—An application for leave to deal in 1,400,000 shares of 1s. each, fully-paid, Nos. 1 to 1,400,000, of Rosey Cross Asbestos Mines of Rhodesia, Ltd., was made to the Committee of the Stock Exchange on December 16, 1929, and was rejected.

SALT UNION, LIMITED.—Net profit for 1929 was £220,526 against £229,882 for 1928. The ordinary dividend is again 12½ per cent. The carry forward is increased from £23,984 to £27,126. Imports for foreign salt were 69,918 tons, against 69,810 tons for 1928.

SAVOY HOTEL, LIMITED.—Trading profit for 1929 was £230,774 against £236,002 for 1928. Allocations of £50,000 to general reserve and £5,000 to staff superannuation and benevolent fund have been provided for. The ordinary dividend is 10 per cent., against 12½ per cent. for 1928. Carry forward is increased from £35,627 to £45,701.

SWAN AND EDGAR.—Mr M. de Selincourt, presiding at the meeting of Swan and Edgar, held on March 19th, referred to the proposal to split the company's shares into preference and ordinary shares. A letter had been sent to the shareholders, of whom there are nearly 6,000, putting the plan before them, but up to the present they had had replies from only 2,291; of these, 1,756 were in favour of the proposal and 535 against. The board hoped to receive a much larger response to their circular before Monday next, or they would not be encouraged to proceed. The chairman added that he himself—one of the largest shareholders—proposed to exchange the bulk of his holding into preference shares, but that the Drapery Trust, whose business it was to hold ordinary shares in drapery concerns, did not intend to convert.

UNITED DRAPERY STORES, LIMITED.—The report and account for the year ended February 28, 1930, show a net profit, after charging all expenses and making full provision for income tax, of **£102,413, as compared with £86,521** last year. To this is added premium on shares issued during the year, £12,500, and balance brought in from the previous year, £3,269, making a total available balance of £118,183, compared with a corresponding figure of £88,698 last year. During the year the capital was increased from £750,000 to £1,000,000, and an interim dividend on the old and new capital, at the rate of 5 per cent. actual, was paid on September 24, 1929, absorbing, less tax, £40,000. It is now proposed to write off preliminary expenses £20,000, and to pay a final dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. actual, making 11 per cent. for the year, absorbing £48,000, leaving to be carried forward £10,183, as compared with £3,269 last year. The dividend of 11 per cent. compares with 10 per cent. paid for the two previous years.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Snowfalls in some parts of the country interrupted farm work during the past week, but seeding operations are well forward, and the bulk of the spring acreage is already drilled. The recent spell of fine weather considerably benefited winter crops, which now present a healthy appearance. Small supplies of native wheat are reaching the principal markets and encountered a fair inquiry at the low rates current. On the import market, trading was on a slightly larger scale, and values responded to higher quotations from Chicago and Winnipeg. Canadian descriptions were offered freely under competition from Argentine sellers who were always willing to shade prices in order to secure business. On the other hand, abstention by the United States authorities from the export of wheat at market parity here favours the Canadian movement. The American Farm Board Corporation have apparently decided to hold surplus stocks under Governmental financial support, with a view to the progress of new crops, also in the hope that European requirements will show marked expansion in the near future. Meanwhile, importers are disinclined to book ahead, and confine their purchases to immediate needs. United Kingdom millers must necessarily come into the market from time to time in order to replenish stocks, while a better demand arises from Mediterranean countries, for Canadian grades up to May shipment. There is no evidence, however, that Continental takings will assume important proportions, as France still offers supplies for export, and the German import tax may be increased to render overseas purchases prohibitive. Of feeders, a better consumptive demand was dealt with for Plate maize, and values have lately taken an upward turn on small shipments and reserved offers of near positions. So far, Danubian offers for spring shipment fail to attract much attention. Barley is still obtainable at cheap rates, but oats have recovered slightly from the extremely low level of prices recently ruling.

WHEAT.—Firmer. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 43s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 42s. 6d.; No. 3, 41s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 40s. 3d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 38s. 6d.; No. 6 ditto, 30s. 6d.; Rosafe, 63½ lbs., 38s.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex ship, to arrive, 37s.; Australian, 40s. 6d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s.-8s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Steady. London straight run, 35s. per sack for country deliveries, and 34s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents,

Time tests all things.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE

Offers the highest degree of security it is possible to buy.

It is built by craftsmen who have behind them the inspiring tradition of a firm with almost three-quarters of a century's experience.

It is offered to those who desire to have contented protection for their treasure.

It has stood the greatest of all tests—the test of time—and is accepted by bankers throughout the world.

The Chatwood Safe is the cheapest Safe that can be bought having regard to the degree of security offered.

THE CHATWOOD SECURITY

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Limited,
Bankers' Engineers,
SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND.

33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 34s.-35s.; Australian, 31s. 9d., ex store on c.i.f. terms. Manitoba top patents, March-April, 33s.-33s. 6d.; export ditto, 30s. 6d.-31s.; Australian, 28s.; French, prompt, 26s.-27s. 3d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, March-June, £6 per ton.

MAIZE.—Dearer. Plate, landed, 26s. 6d.; ex ship, 25s. 6d.; March-April, 25s. 3d.; new, April-May, 25s. 9d.; May-June, 24s. 9d.; June-July, 24s. 9d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 10s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6; white, £5 17s. 6d. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Quiet. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, landed, 19s. 6d.; Persian, landed, 18s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Steadier. Plate, landed, 13s. 9d.; ex ship, to arrive, 13s.; Chilian, white, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 14s. 6d.; German, landed, 16s.; ex ship, to arrive, 15s.; mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 6d.; South Russian, 14s.-15s. 6d. as to quality, per 320 lbs. English, 5s. 6d.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to March 15	Cwts. 161,600	Cwts. 229,446	Cwts. 285,040	Cwts. 216,412
28 weeks to March 15	7,012,458	7,672,941	7,179,079	9,191,720
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 9 8	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 11 7

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 8	178,438	164,139	39,462	8 4	7 8	6 1
Mar. 15	161,600	174,472	43,496	8 3	7 9	6 0
Mar. 13, 1926	234,420	151,810	60,286	11 6	9 2	8 11
Mar. 12, 1927	214,744	146,019	68,567	11 8	11 0	8 1
Mar. 17, 1928	285,040	70,075	9 9	10 8	10 7	
Mar. 16, 1929	229,446	141,451	64,058	9 8	10 2	9 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	129⅜	148⅜	111	104⅜	108⅜
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	123½	130⅞	106½	105½	104⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,152,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 1,013,000 bushels. Supplies year ago stood at 86,783,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports more export inquiry for South Yorkshire coal, but a further decline of current business, accompanied by a drop in prices. Steams are now quoted at about 16s. 3d. f.o.b. The home price is 15s. 6d. and 15s. 9d. at pits. Extreme quietude characterises the home trade in industrial fuels of all kinds and house coal. The market for blast coke is severely depressed with low prices. Deliveries under contract are, however, maintained.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Advices from the collieries report increasing irregularity of work and in some of the steam-coal areas the closing down indefinitely of a number of pits is anticipated. There has been no improvement in the state of business on the Cardiff Exchange, and shipments continue substantially below those in the corresponding period last year. In the week ended March 15th the total exports were 564,400 tons, compared with 577,200 tons in the previous week, and with 605,707 tons in the corresponding week in 1929. At the annual meeting of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association on Tuesday it was reported that the assured production for the present year was 47·8 million tons, compared with 44·8 millions in 1929, representing an increase of over 3 millions, or 6·75 per cent. It is understood, however, that, notwithstanding the depressed state of the market, the authorised production under the marketing scheme will continue for the June quarter on the basis of the allocations for the first three months. Prices are generally easier, and for those grades of small coals which have been for so long a period a firm market at prices considerably above the minimum schedule, current quotations are about 1s. per ton less than those ruling at the beginning of the year. During the past week or two there have been published the trading results of three important colliery undertakings. The Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Ltd., show a net profit of £288,818 in 1929, compared with a loss of £309,460 in 1928; the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company Ltd., a net profit of £44,089, compared with a loss in the previous year of £231,805; and the Penrikyber Colliery Company a profit of £14,088, as against a loss of £8,324. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 9d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 9d. to 14s.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 23s. 6d. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 41s. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 41s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 12s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 6d. to 26s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—A little more business has been stirring in the iron and steel markets than of late. In the home market conditions have slightly improved, and there has been a certain amount of replenishment of stocks. The shipyards also continue to provide work for those steel makers who specialise in shipbuilding material. It cannot be said, however, that the present situation or the outlook is satisfactory, since there is a steady reduction in the volume of work in hand owing to new business failing to come forward in sufficient quantity to take the place of the contracts worked off. The situation in the pig-iron department has not been improved by the collapse of the arrangement between the Continental producers regarding selling prices, as a result of which there is a distinct threat of a revival of foreign competition in the British home market. Quiet conditions continue to rule in the semi-finished steel department, and in some districts the output of this class of material is shrinking. Rather more overseas business has been transacted in finished steel recently, and the inquiry from some of the overseas markets has a more genuine appearance than for some time past. The competition from the Continent, however, is keen, and the business transacted on export account is below the normal for the time of year.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Business in Cleveland iron during the past week has been at a minimum, but on Tuesday the Associated Makers announced a reduction in prices of 5s. per ton all round, and it is hoped that this will have the effect of stimulating business. A reduction has been looked for for some time past, and it seems unfortunate that it was not made earlier, as otherwise orders might have been secured to this district that have gone in other directions. Prices are now: No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d., and No. 4 forge, 66s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Shipments of pig iron have fallen off recently, the total to 18th inst. being 12,881 tons against 9,681 tons to same date in February. In hematite a fair number of small orders are being booked for home account, but there are no contracts of volume to be obtained at present. There are inquiries on the market for export, but business is slow to mature, although one or two moderate-sized lots have been sold. With stocks increasing, makers are anxious to make sales, and are now willing to accept 76s. 6d. for mixed numbers and less than this would succeed for substantial lines. Merchants have fair holdings of hematite, and are prepared to shade makers' prices where they can compete. In the steel trade business is quiet. Specifications against contracts on the books of the manufacturing works are not coming to hand as freely as would be welcomed, and operations in some departments are adversely affected. Prices for all commodities are unchanged from last week. The ore market is idle, and best Bilbao rubio is offering for early delivery at 21s. 6d. c.i.f., the current rate of freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough being about 5s. 9d. Coke continues in excess of demand, and ordinary furnace qualities are weak at 20s. delivered consumers' works. The number of furnaces blowing in the district is reduced to 41.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes: Local industry continues depressed, although for some classes of steel inquiries are more numerous, and it is felt that consumers have let their stocks down to such an extent that they cannot keep off the market much longer. The long absence of buying of foundry pig iron has forced a reduction of 5s. on the Cleveland makers, and this should stimulate business. Steel prices are steady. Overseas demand generally is poor, and the Australian market is particularly unsatisfactory, so far as Sheffield is concerned. The scrap trade is stagnant, but it is believed that the worst of the situation has been passed. Prices are unusually low. Makers of special steels complain of severe Continental competition at cut prices in their home market. Unemployment remains on a large scale. The cutlery, plate and tool branches are quiet.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Business still remains quiet in Glasgow and neighbourhood. During the present week some substantial orders for steel structures, requiring British material, have been placed with local structural engineers, and in this branch of the industry most of the works have sufficient orders on hand to keep them going for some months to come. Makers of iron bars and also makers of re-rolled steel bars are finding business scarce. At the steel sheet plants, while work on hand is not sufficient to keep all mills running at full capacity, there is a considerable improvement in the bookings for export and the home business continues to be very satisfactory. The seasonal demand for hay sheds, the manufacture of which is quite an important feature in the West of Scotland, is also satisfactory.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

A TOWER OF STRENGTH

1929

New Assurances Paid for - £134,476,000
An Increase of £43,809,000

Assurances in Force (net) - £493,404,000
An Increase of £103,627,000

Total Income (net) - - £35,518,000
An Increase of £5,776,000

Surplus earned during the Year - - - - £8,807,000

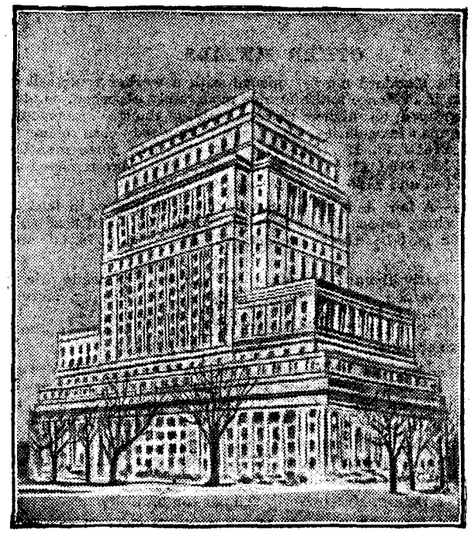
Payments to Policyholders and Beneficiaries - - £14,213,000

Surplus and Contingency Reserve- - - - £14,960,000
An Increase of £1,205,000

Total Liabilities - - - £101,792,000
(Including paid up Capital)

Assets, at December 31st, 1929 - - - - £116,752,000
An Increase of £16,281,000

The high rate of dividends allotted to participating policyholders is continued and the special dividend on maturing policies extended and increased.



NEW HEAD OFFICE, MONTREAL.

EXTRACTS FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT

New policies paid for numbered 161,391 for a net amount of £134,476,262, an advance of £43,809,606, or more than forty-eight per cent. over the previous year. This marked increase and the fact that the average policy, for the first time, exceeded £800, afford impressive evidence of the ever-growing popularity of the Company.

After deducting amounts reassured, the total assurances in force amount to £493,404,870, an increase of £103,627,623. This advance is notable not merely for its magnitude, but because when allowance is made for terminations by death and maturity, it represents a remarkably high rate of continuance and evidences great satisfaction on the part of our policyholders.

The amount paid to policyholders since organisation, together with the amount at present held for their security or benefit, exceeds the total amount received from them in premiums by £28,621,330.

The rate of interest earned on the mean invested assets has risen to 7.02 per cent. This figure includes a certain amount from bonuses and stock privileges accruing on many of the Company's holdings; but if these were entirely eliminated the rate would still be 6.60 per cent.

A net profit of £2,687,113 was realised from the redemption or sale of securities.

The surplus earned during the year, based on the values entered in the accounts, amounted to £8,807,585, but from this sum substantial appropriations have as usual been made to further strengthen the position of the Company.

An additional £2,054,794 has been deducted from the market values of our securities as a provision against possible market fluctuations, raising the amount thus set aside for this purpose in the accounts to £6,164,384.

A further £205,479 has been written off the Company's buildings.

£191,301 has been appropriated to raise the annuity reserves to the Rutherford table of valuation, with interest at 3½ per cent. This exacting standard requires reserves £545,753 in excess of those of the Dominion Government standard.

£246,575 has been set aside as additional provision for claims arising from total disability, death claims as yet unreported, and possible claims under cancelled policies on which a surrender value or reinstatement might be applied for.

£4,645,123 has been paid or allotted as profits for the year to policyholders.

The special amount entered as a liability to provide for unforeseen contingencies has been maintained at £2,568,493.

After making all these deductions and allocations, £1,205,938 has been added to the undivided surplus, bringing the total over liabilities, contingency accounts, and capital stock to £12,392,006.

In accordance with our usual conservative practice the securities owned by the Company have again been valued at figures much below the market quotations current at the close of the year. This under-valuation represents an important element of strength to the Company additional to the specific provisions in the statements.

Your Directors are pleased to announce that the high scale of profits at present allotted to participating policyholders will be continued during the ensuing year, while the Special Dividend on maturing policies, introduced last year, has been extended to include policies maturing after having been in force five years or longer, and the scale of benefit has been increased.

The business of the Company has always been conducted under the exacting provisions of the Canadian Insurance law and the rigid supervision of the Insurance Department of the Government of Canada. Ever since we entered the United States in 1895, the Company has been under similar supervision there and is now subject to the regulations of thirty-eight States of the Union which require periodical examination of the affairs of all companies licensed in their territory. In the discharge of their regular duties a committee of twenty-two examiners, representing the States of Michigan, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida and the District of Columbia recently completed an exhaustive examination into every department of the Company's affairs The report of this committee makes gratifying reference to the liberal treatment accorded to our policyholders, and provides authoritative testimony to the Company's strength. Even adopting the low valuations placed by us on our securities, the committee still reported a surplus at the close of last year £274,093 in excess of the figure claimed by the Company.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

(Incorporated in Canada in 1865 as a Limited Company.)

Administrative Offices for Great Britain & Ireland - 2, 3, 4, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1

Our Cardiff correspondent writes: Fairly stable conditions continue to prevail in the South Wales tinplate industry. On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday it was reported that inquiries were good, and that Japan has recently placed an order for 60,000 boxes of oil plates for delivery over June and July. Prices are nominally unchanged, at 18s. 3d. to 18s. 9d. per basis box, and shipments last week showed a substantial increase, compared with the previous week. Galvanised sheets have been steady, at from £11 17s. 6d. to £12 5s. per ton. There has been no change in the prices of tinplate bars, and imports of foreign material show a slight decrease.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market opened with a weaker tone, sellers being more in evidence and offerings moderately absorbed. Later values improved on higher Eastern cables, though movements showed some irregularity at times. Standard cash changed hands at £161-£160 12s. 6d., £162 10s.-£164 5s.; three months, £163-£162 15s.-£165, £166 5s. In the East, sales were reported at £165-£164 5s., and £166 10s. ton c.i.f. terms.

COPPER.—A fair demand prevailed, but tone weaker in face of liberal offerings, especially for near positions. Standard cash sold £69 to £68 7s. 6d.; three months, £67 5s. to £66 17s. 6d. and £67 2s. 6d.

LEAD.—Fairly liberal dealings resulted at generally steady prices, as sellers refrained from pressing. Good soft foreign pig, March, sold £18 10s.-£18 11s. 3d. and £18 10s.; April, £18 13s. 9d. to £18 12s. 6d., £18 13s. 9d.; May, £18 13s. 9d. to £18 15s.; June, £18 15s.; September, £18 17s. 6d. to £18 18s. 9d.

SPELTER.—Market firmer, and sellers more reserved in face of improved inquiries. March sold at £17 18s. 9d. to £18 5s.; April, £18 to £18 7s. 6d. and £18 6s. 3d.; May, £18 5s. to £18 10s. to £18 8s. 9d.; June, £18 6s. 3d. to £18 13s. 9d.; July, £18 15s. ton.

ANTIMONY rather firmer. English regulus £40 to £48 10s. Chinese ditto, spot, £29 10s. to £30; March-April, £26. Chinese, crude, March-April, £17 5s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE, March-April, £26 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE—50 per cent., March-April, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. 3d. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM maintained. Chinese, March-April, 29s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £22 17s. 6d. per bottle.

BANK RATE OUTLOOK
THE PROSPECT OF 3%

THE INVESTOR'S OPPORTUNITY
[THIRD ARTICLE]

NEW ISSUE ACTIVITY

A STOCKBROKER'S NOTEBOOK
[By AUSTIN FRIARS]

SEE
The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review
THIS WEEK

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price 6d., or from

The Publisher:
"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"
20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

ZINC OXIDE quiet. Spot, £29 to £36 as to quality, per ton, delivered United Kingdom.

TIN PLATES in moderate demand, and market steady. I.C. coke prompt and forward, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: March 19th.

On the week cotton shows an advance of about 43 points. The trade demand has not been at all extensive, but the covering of a "short" interest is probably the chief reason for the advance. At the same time, trade would seem to be somewhat stimulated by the advance. Spot sales for the week 13th to 19th (inclusive) are 29,000 bales, of which 15,185 are American, 2,400 Brazilian, 4,500 Peruvian, 4,330 Egyptian, 720 African, 1,350 East Indian, and 515 sundries. Imports for the same period are 37,489 bales, of which 23,295 are American, 104 Argentine, 67 Peruvian, 7,735 Egyptian, 5,537 East Indian, and 751 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·29; Egyptian Sakel, 13·65; Uppers, 10·17; Brazil Fair, 7·99; Peru G.F. Mod-Rough, 9·25; Smooth, 9·09; West African Middling, 8·44; and East African G.F., 9·44.

MANCHESTER: March 19th.

The tone of the market has been rather steadier in sympathy with the firmer rates for raw cotton. There has not been any distinct improvement in the amount of business done, but spinners and manufacturers have experienced a larger inquiry and the turnover as a whole has been rather better than recently. Producers, however, have had to accept very unsatisfactory prices. An increased inquiry has come through in piece-goods for India, but negotiations have been hampered by uncertainty relating to the effect of the import duties. Rather more transactions have been arranged, however, for Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi in dhooties and light whites. Some advices from China have been rather more encouraging and slightly better clearances are taking place in Shanghai, but new business is very limited. In small lots there has been a little more activity for Egypt and South America, and further buying has taken place in home trade fabrics. Rates in American and Egyptian yarns have been steadier and spinners have sold more freely. Some users have recently adopted a policy of going short and a fair amount of covering has taken place.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930. Feb. 26.	1930. Mar. 5.	1930. Mar. 12.	1930. Mar. 19.	Corresponding Date. 1928.	Corresponding Date. 1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·44	d. 8·28	d. 8·06	d. 8·39	d. 11·10	d. 10·92
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·55	13·75	13·60	13·65	20·60	19·15
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12⅜	12½	12½	12⅜	16¼	16
,, 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13	12⅝	12½	16⅜	16¼
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	21½	21½	21⅛	29½	27
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 22 7½	s. d. 22 3	s. d. 22 1½	s. d. 22 1½	s. d. 26 4½	s. d. 26 3
36 in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	25 3	25 0	24 10½	24 10⅜	28 6	28 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 10½	13 9	13 7½	13 7⅛	15 4½	15 4½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 6	12 4½	12 3	12 3	14 3	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—At the opening of the London sales greasy merino wool was no more than five per cent. cheaper. This shows that there was more buying power and more definite requirements to fill than had been previously acknowledged. The opening sale and the steadiness which has since been maintained has exerted a very beneficial effect here, the low quotations for fine tops having been withdrawn. There are now no sellers of average 64's at less than 26d., and at the moment there is some indication of more business to be done. The sharp decline in crossbreds leaves the market here still rather weak, particularly as values have continued to fall in New Zealand. All the influences recently operating in the crossbred market have been towards depression, English pulled wools having received a severe blow at the recent Bristol fair. Under these circumstances and in view of the poor state of the Continental trade, no marked recovery in tops seems likely. The worst drag upon both merinos and crossbreds is the slow development of the demand for dress goods. The current London sales are the last this year at which any wool bought can possibly come into consumption for the season's trade. Indeed, before now there should have been some big repeat orders for styles already submitted, but instead of that current contracts are being delayed, if not actually repudiated.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

General satisfaction was expressed in London last Tuesday with the opening results of the second series of wool sales. The merino selection was on the poor side, being chiefly second-hand parcels, though a few straight clips from Queensland were offered. The competition was better than expected, Bradford, French and German buyers being well in the running, and the second-hand parcels were fairly readily taken up. Although these showed a distinct loss, the fact that these were bought at 5 per cent. below last sales shows that interest in wool has not entirely disappeared. Scoured merinos seem to have suffered the most loss, for the top lot of Dagworth at 22d. was cheap. If the present level of prices is maintained to the finish, the trade will surely begin to realise that the bottom has been touched. It is not so much a question, however, of what wool is costing, as what prospect there is for consumptive requirements to expand. Any improvement in values will be entirely dependent upon this. Crossbreds sold mostly at a good 10 per cent. below last sales closing rates, this decline being no more than was anticipated. Whilst merino wool in Australia has kept fairly steady, New Zealands are fareing rather badly. At every selling centre in the Dominion since the dispute over the quantity of the offerings, prices have moved downwards. At Invercargill last Monday values were the lowest of the whole season, and a reflection of this in London was inevitable. The 10 per cent. decline applies to both greasies and slipes, the latter being very reasonable indeed. It is significant that the decline at the last series of London sales has been very pronounced in fellmongered wools, and there is no doubt that the fall at Bristol last Wednesday week has had an adverse influence on the market value of similar qualities of New Zealand slipes. The National Bank of Australasia has received a cable from Melbourne stating that another large wool clip is indicated by the good summer rains. This will partly make up for the lower prices which are having to be taken for wool.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

It is not possible to say how prices for market hides went at the auctions held last week, as supplies were sold under the new classification recently agreed to by the hide markets and tanners. Under this arrangement hides are now sold as clears and warbles, with firsts, seconds and thirds in each class. The clears consist of those free from warbles, while firsts in the warbled class consist of hides well flayed with not more than four warbles; seconds, hides with up to 25 warbles, and badly flayed with four warbles; thirds, all hides containing more than 25 warbles. Calfskins were slightly easier, as was also the case with sheepskins. Business in connection with foreign hides continues to move on rather quiet lines, and although a moderate amount of trade has been negotiated with home tanners for certain descriptions, the general atmosphere of the market is dull, with prices tending downwards. The only exception to this latter remark is in connection with frigorific hides, in which a fair amount of business has been done on account of the U.S.A. for Argentine ox at 7¾d., light ox at 7⅞d., and Montevideo ox at 8¼d. The River Plate Market for dry hides has been quiet, with lower prices ruling for most descriptions. B.A. Americanos are quoted at from 7⅞d. to 8d., while sales have been made in B.A. Inservibles at 5d., and Sierra Cordobas at 9d. African hides are also weaker, sales of Capes having been made at 7½d. and 6½d. for first and second dry salted, with drys realising 8d. and 7d. for the same two selections. Australians are also weaker, and interest has been evinced in these at the lower figures. A steady trade is being done in connection with sole leather, and although orders continue to be for limited quantities, they make for quite a respectable total. Medium to better grade bends are being taken up on account of shoe manufacturers in the lighter weights, and for these prices are held for firmly. Common bends are not much in request, and any weakness that may be apparent is in connection with these. The repairing trade comes into the market regularly for supplies, but business in this direction might be larger. Offal sells steadily all the time, the inquiry covering both bellies and shoulders. Little alteration has occurred in connection with the position of upper leathers; black and brown glace kid, together with willow calf, accounts for the bulk of the orders coming to hand, with further improvement reported in connection with the sale of patent. Better business has also been put through in connection with suede leather, and in some quarters quite a respectable turnover is spoken of. Full chrome box leather goes out in regular parcels, but producers of semi-chrome are far from satisfied with the position, as orders are very limited and then only for goods at a cut figure. Business with curriers continues on the quiet side, and consists mainly of small orders for kip butts and waxed splits. Trade in shoe manufacturing circles shows no great expansion; orders for spring and summer footwear are coming to hand, but not for quantities which make for a good turnover.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: March 19th.

Very dull conditions continue to prevail throughout the jute trade. Business in all commodities is reduced to a minimum, and there are no signs of improvement ahead. Even the fact that six of the Indian jute mills are idle, on account of strikes, has failed to stimulate the market into activity. Production at all producing centres continues in excess of demand, with the result that huge stocks of jute goods are available, which consumers seem to be in no hurry to absorb. Other industries throughout the world are in a state of depression, and the jute trade, being dependent on them, is consequently very slow. Curtailment of production is taking place at all centres outside of India and in Dundee, and on the Continent there is every probability that some of the works will have to be closed down for an indefinite period unless conditions improve. A drop in the price of the fibre has not helped spinners, as they must purchase their supplies so far ahead. The average cost of their stocks is therefore considerably in excess of the present level at which raw jute can be purchased. Up to date, Dundee has imported this season from August 1, 1929, 762,000 bales of jute, compared

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with 859,000 bales for corresponding period of last season, while the quantity afloat brings the total supply in view of 823,000 bales, compared with 963,000 bales last year. Owing to the serious extent to which production has been curtailed, Dundee spinners will require about 150,000 bales less than last season. The lower prices for raw jute are £28 for best First Marks, and £25 10s. for Lightnings. while £23 has been done for Daisee assortment, and £25 is wanted for Tossa assortment, March/April shipment. Speculative sellers have been more prone to offer new crop at steadily declining rates. Grade First Marks have been sold at £26 10s., and good Lightnings at £26, August/September, while Daisee assortment has been sold at £25, £24 10s., £24 5s. and £24, for September/October, for which position £26 could be done for Tossa assortment. Several thousands of bales of new crop have been purchased, but generally spinners are rather afraid to buy in view of the uncertain outlook for the trade. Jute yarns are very quiet, and prices are more or less nominal. The value of common 8 lb. cops is 2s. 8d., and 8 lb. spools 2s. 9d., but there are no buyers at these prices. Twist is obtainable at 4⅝d. for fairly good spins of 3 ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns have sold in small quantities at 3$\frac{7}{16}$d. for 24 lb. weft, and 4⅜d. for 8 lb. chains. Rove has been bought at £16 15s. for 200 lb., and £26 10s. for 48 lb. Fine yarns keep steady, and carpet yarns are unchanged at 4$\frac{7}{16}$d. to 4½d. for 14 lb. warp. Orders for jute cloth are difficult to obtain, even at the unremunerative prices which manufacturers are willing to accept. The value of 10½ oz. 40 in. hessians is from 3½d. to 3⅝d., according to width, the narrow widths being obtainable at the lower rate, and for the wide widths the higher rate must be paid. Linoleum hessians and heavy goods are extremely dull.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

A marked change has come over the market for linseed and linseed oil prices having taken a strong upward turn. The withdrawal of offers of Indian seed and a revival of demand have operated in favour of Plate, and values have advanced at least 20s. per ton. Wednesday's closing price being £17 per ton on spot, and for shipment t May. The strength of the position has also been contributed to by the reduced supplies on passage to Europe, which, at 104,800 tons, is 31,300 tons less than a week ago. Low prices of Egyptian cotton seed have induced some trade, but insufficient to stiffen prices to any extent, these now being the lowest for 15 years past. Supplies near at hand are at a small premium. Black for March and April loadings has been done at £7 and £7 1s. 3d., and Sakellaridis at £6 12s. 6d. A shade above these figures are current values. In the section of oils, linseed oil, which, a few days ago, dropped to £34 10s. per ton naked, ex Hull mill, for all positions has moved up sharply to £38 5s. on spot and £37 15s. for March and April delivery. Supplies are small, owing to the restricted "crush" and the difficulty mills have in disposing of the oilcake product, despite still further reduced prices. Cotton oils are steady, crude Egyptian being quoted £28 10s., and common edible £31 5s., ex Hull. Other seed oils are quiet. Oilcakes move off very slowly indeed.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Previous quotations were repeated for all spot goods but new business is difficult to arrange, trade buyers being mainly occupied in taking delivery of quantities purchased previously. Cables from Cuba record renewed opposition to the Single Seller Agency and further developments are awaited. Raw sugars steady, quiet. Terminal sections generally steady and a feature proved a large business in the December position of raw. March delivery, quoted, 6s. 7½d.; May, buyers, 6s. 8½d.; August, sold, 7s. 0¾d. to 7s.; December at 7s. 6d.; January, 8s. 2¼d. Cuban receipts last week 194,795 tons, against 248,692 last year; exports, 34,706, against 141,694; stocks, 1,100,659, against 1,132,986. Stocks of old, 13,220, against 1,615 last year. Stocks of raw sugar in the three ports of the United Kingdom for the week ending March 15 amounted to 248,067 tons, against 139,537 last year.

COFFEE.—Apart from a sustained demand for really fine qualities which fetch full prices, the market is quiet and a shade easier. Fine coloury bold Costa Rica sold 168s. 6d.

COCOA.—Only a small business resulted in spot goods at about late prices. Forward positions advanced, but a quieter tone set in later. Accra, F/F, April-June, sold, 35s. to 35s. 6d. to 35s. 9d. f.o.b. Terminal, April, sold, 40s. 9d. to 41s.; May, 40s. 6d. to 41s.; July, 40s. 6d. to 41s. 3d.; September, 41s. 6d. to 42s.; December, 41s. 4½d. to 41s. 9d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week totalled 47,868 packages which met with brisk support, especially finest liquoring kinds and those with autumnal flavour. Prices for such very firm to frequently dearer. Good medium teas firm, but low ditto and common the turn in favour of buyers. Ceylon sales of 17,291 packages came to a fairly active market. Good medium and fine sorts in particular well sought after and frequently ½d. to 1d. dearer. Finest steady. Plain and common denoted slight irregularity. Java and Sumatra irregular at mostly ½d. to 1½d. per lb. decline. There is quite a good demand for China teas and Keemuns are getting scarce in the region of 1s. 9d. to 2s.

RICE.—Market quiet, but at the same time firm, particularly with regard to Burma grain. Two Stars, spot, London, quoted, 13s. 6d.; and shippers ask 11s. 3d. for ditto March-April, c.i.f. London/Continent. No. 3 Burma, to the Levant, quoted, 11s. 6d. c.i.f., double bags. Spanish, oiled, March-April, sellers, 15s. 9d. to 16s. as to quality. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q., to Cuba, 11s. 3d.

BROKEN RICE quiet. Burma 1A, March-April, 10s. 4½d.; B1, 9s. 10½d.; A2, 9s. 10½d.; B2, 9s. 4½d. Saigon, 1 and 2 mixed, 9s. 10½d. Siam, C1, 9s. 4½d.; C3, 9s. c.i.f.

RICE BRAN dull, and afloat sellers at £3 10s.; for shipment, April-May, £3 15s.; July-December, £4 5s. per ton ex ship terms. Saigon, March-April, £3 15s. c.i.f.

BEANS.—A dull market continues, but prices show no material change. Parcels per "Clan MacNeil," quoted, 33s.; "Bourbonnais," 33s.; "Belgrano," 33s.; "Ville de Rouen," 32s. 6d.; and February-March, 32s. 6d.; March-April, 32s. 6d., c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 9d.; February-March, 12s.; March-April, 12s. 3d. c.i.f.; Ohtenashi, spot, London, 21s. 6d.; March-April shipment, 20s. 6d. c.i.f.; Danubian H.P., spot, London, 22s.; February-March, 21s. 6d.

PEAS.—A dull market, and prices mark a weaker tendency. Japanese, old crop, spot, London, 14s.; new, 14s. 6d. Parcels per steamer "Altai Maru," afloat, to London, quoted, 14s. 3d.; February-March, 14s.; March-April, 13s. 10½d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 14s. 9d.; small hand-picked blues, 10s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, March, 45s. 6d.; April-May, 43s. 6d. Karachi, April-May, 43s. c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, March-April, old, 55s.; new crop, March-April, 58s. Tasmanian, A grade, new, March-April, 65s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper market presented quiet features and slight weakness governed forward positions. Lampong, March-May, quoted, 1s. 0⅞d.; May-July, 1s. 0½d.; August-October, 11¼d. Muntok, white, March-May, 1s. 3⅞d.; May-July, 1s. 3⅝d.; and August-October, 1s. 2½d. London stocks of black reduced by 32 tons on the week and white 57. Cloves firm. Zanzibar, spot, nominally 10¾d., and forward, 10½d. c.i.f. Pimento, spot, 9d., and to arrive, 73s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Tapioca dull. Singapore flake, March-April, to France, quoted, 15s.; Penang seed, to Hamburg, 15s. Sago flour, April-May, to U.K., buyers, 10s. 9d. c.i.f. Dutch farina, 8s. 3d. f.o.b.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady, with a fair business passing. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.-36s.; Amalias, 37s. 6d.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s.; Australian, 37s.-38s. Sultanas in better request. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 32s.-48s. Dates quiet. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s.-14s. Raisins neglected. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 40s.-45s. Figs quiet. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 26s.-33s.; good average, 23s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Steady conditions continue to prevail, but trade slow to expand. High selling limits retard business in Californian plums, but South African and Australian apricots experienced a good movement. Other descriptions unaltered. Plums: Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 68s.; 40's-50's, 66s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 52s. Apricots: South African Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 60s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-67s.; Canadian, 62s. Almonds easier. Mazagan, 107s. 6d.; Mogador, 105s.; P.G. Sicily, 115s.; Majorcas, 110s.-125s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 75s.; China, bitter, for shipment, 37s. 6d.; new crop, c.i.f., sweet, spot, 77s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 136s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s., ex wharf, London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Demand for Californian descriptions is still somewhat restricted and confined to popular lines. Loganberries are in light supply, while peaches attract attention for prompt shipment. There is a moderate call for apples, apricots and pears. No business of importance is reported in Australian new pack. Market rather featureless for Singapore pines, though buyers show rather more interest in shipment parcels. Italian tomatoes quiet, with ample supplies available. New pack quotations are much on a par with last season.

CANNED FISH.—The demand for salmon still lacks animation, but general tone firm. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab in fair request, and fancy qualities, quoted, 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters steady, but trade without improvement. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines steady, with best quality in small supply. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Trade restricted, but ox tongues firm on short supplies. Lunch tongues are reservedly offered at full rates. Cooked boned hams also sell well.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market steady. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 35s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 21s. 3d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, in 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 23s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 65s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 83s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 6d.; all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of April, 1930. Stocks: available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum 1-ton lots. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 19s. 3d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. basis per case, usual packing.

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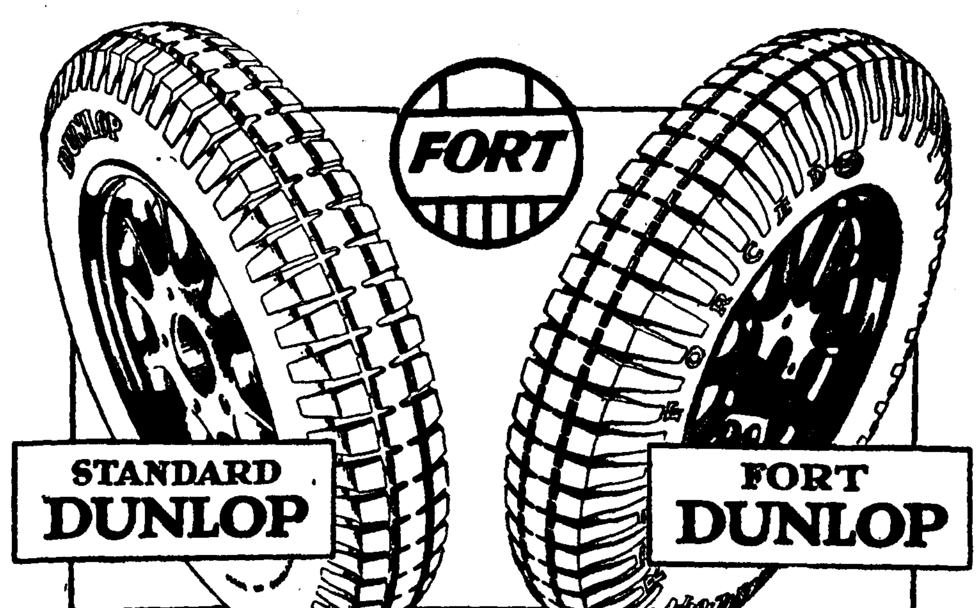

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LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	41	6
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	3
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	9
Oats, " " "	6	0
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	26	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 33 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 3	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
H.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt....	2 9	3 9
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides	6 2	6 6
Argentine chilled hinds...	5 0	5 4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers	7 0	8 0
N.Z. frozen "	5 2	5 6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs....	7 8	10 0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	117	0 138	0
Danish.....	107	0 112	0
Canadian.....	108	0 0	0
Dutch	97	0 106	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0	0
Canadian.....	0	0 0	0
American	92	0 100	0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal		
Australian	126	0 140	0
New Zealand	130	0 152	0
Danish.....	156	0 158	0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0 100	0
New Zealand	82	0 85	0
English Cheddars	94	0 124	0
Dutch	46	0 88	0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Acora f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46	0
Trinidad	64	0 66	0
Grenada	48	0 54	0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
B.I., good to fine, per cwt.	130	0 145	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	150	0 172	6
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0 145	0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 120	0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	13	0 14	6
Danish.....	11	0 13	0
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa(pagoda)bxs.	9	6 13	6
Jaffa ..... boxes	8	0 13	6
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	9	6 39	0
360	10	0 18	0
504	12	0 17	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	8	0 13	0
" ..... cases	10	0 22	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	26	0 40	0
" (var.) boxes	8	6 15	6
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0	0
" W. Australian	0	0 0	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :— case 4s.	4	0	4	6
case 5s.	4	3	5	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	0	55	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	1	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort,per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	10½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	42	6	45	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	65	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	3	3	0
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	8	1	10
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.&.f. India, Mar.-April	10	3	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	6	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	5
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	2	5
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	5
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	3	2
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" stripe	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.

	s.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·39	
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·65	
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12⅜	
60's twist.....	21½	

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	54	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	47	0	0	0
Manila, Mar.-May " J2 "...	29	10	0	0
N.Z., Mar. May		nom.		
Sisal African, Feb.-Apr.,	33	15	34	5
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£	s.	d.	
Mar.-April	22	15	0	
April-May	22	15	0	

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	18	0	20	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	17
" Lincoln hog, washed	13
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	24
N.S.W. greasy, super "	12½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	13
Crossbred 40–44	9
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	29
" 64's	27½
Crossbred 48's	15½–16
" 46's	15

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	20	3
Durham, best gas	17	0	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	72	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	3	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper,Electrolytic, ton	83	5	84	5
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard	68	0	68	2/6
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	20	0	0	0
Soft Foreign	18	10	18	15
Spelter G.O.B.	18	5	18/12/6	
Tin—English ingots ...	162	10	163	0
Standard cash	161	10	161	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	27	0	27	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Mar.-April	21/2/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea Mar.-April	19/17/6		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	8	2	8½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	14	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5½	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5
Cape	0	5½	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	6	0	6½
Best cow	0	4½	0	5
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	9
Bellies from DS do.	0	6½	0	8½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	3
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	9
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.		s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	39	5		0
Rape, refined	37	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	0		0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	27	15	29	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	10	1	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	17	0	0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	18	5	0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	10	21	0
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	12	0	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	4	0	12	10
TIMBER—	£	s.		d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0		0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0		0
Do. 2 x 4 "	17	0		0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	9	0		0
Pitchpine ..... per load	32	0		0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	20	0		0
Teak ..... per load	0	11		6
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	6		6
African "	0	6		0
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6		0
Do. Ash "	0	7		0
English Oak Planks "	0	6		6
Do. Ash "	0	6		6

HONEY.—Market quiet and trend of prices in buyers' favour. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 45s.; manufacturing, 38s.; Californian, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water-whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Business again confined to a narrow limit and market without new feature. Sheet, spot and March sold, 7⅛d.; April-June, 7⅛d. to 7 1/16d.; July-September, 7 1/16d.; October-December, 8 3/16d. To New York, estate sheet, April, May and June, equal quantities monthly, sold 7⅛d., c.i.f. terms. London stocks increased 467 tons, landings being 1,594 tons, deliveries, 1,127; stocks, 66,885, against 26,442 last year. Liverpool, 122 higher, landings, 410; deliveries, 288; stocks, 20,849, against 4,100.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Weakness was again the salient feature, and with Alpine stocks of jute-manufactured goods in European and American centres the raw material is afforded no encouragement. The close was steadier. First, February-March, Hamburg, quoted, £23; March-April, sellers, £23; April-May, sold, £22 12s. 6d. to £23; May-June, £22 17s. 6d. to £23; new crop, August-September, quoted, £24 12s. 6d.; Lightnings, April-May, £22; Hearts, £20. Arrivals in Hamburg for the first half of present month total 46,471 bales, stocks at 109,600 being rather over 6,000 up on the fortnight. Antwerp stocks amount to 11,500.

HEMP.—A firmer market for Manila qualities, buyers being more prominent and sellers somewhat reserved. J2, March-May, quoted, £29 15s.; K, ditto, £29; L1, sellers, £28; L2, quoted, £24 15s.; M1, sold, £25; M2, quoted, £23 15s.; G, April-June, sold, £29 15s.; H, quoted, £29 10s.; streaky one, £43 10s.; two, £37 10s.; three, £35, c.i.f. African sisal No. 1, f.a.q., March-May, £33 15s.; marks, £34 5s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 32,000 bales, against 24,000 last year and 25,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 32,000, and week after 33,000. Manila shipments last week: 5,000 to U.K.; 6,000, Continent; 14,000, America; 3,000, Japan; 3,000 other countries; and stock 184,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Dull of sale. T.N., spot, 122s. 6d.; May, 110s.; August, 113s.

COPRA.—A stronger market was evidenced on increased buying, partly on covering account. Straits S.D., April, to Rotterdam, quoted £21 5s. Dutch East Indies, February sold, £21 5s., and Ceylon quoted at £22 5s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, quoted £20 5s.; smoked, South Sea, sold £20; Manila F.M., £19 15s.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 17s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon, bristle, £19 to £25; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, March-April, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—March 19.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	6	6	10
Irish	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...	
Short Horns	6	0	6	4
Herefords	...		...	
Devons	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...	
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Canadian	...		...	
Sheep Downs	8	8	9	8
Half bred	...		...	
Rwes	5	0	5	8
Scottish	...		...	
Lamb—Downs	10	8	12	0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—March 19.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	2	9	3	9
" " " whites.....	2	3	2	9
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	...	
" " whites.....	2	0	2	6
Arran Chief.....	2	0	2	6

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A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY this week has been comfortable, with rates for day-to-day money at 2½ per cent., while 3½ per cent. has been paid for money into April. In view of the shrinkage of £7,212,000 in bankers' deposits disclosed in

this week's Bank return, it is surprising that greater stringency has not prevailed, but the current shortage of bills may be an explanation. Discount rates averaged 2¾ per cent. for early April bills, at 2¼ per cent. for "running" Aprils, and at 2 3/16 per cent. for May bills, while the three months' market rate of discount was 2⅛ per cent.

* * * *

There is a fairly general belief that next month will witness a rise in discount rates, and that the present abnormally wide spread of over a point between Bank rate and market rate will no longer persist. There are several grounds for this view. One is the obvious one that next month three months' bills will have ceased to be the popular end-of-June maturity. Another is that in a week's time the period of heavy revenue collection will have come to an end, and with it probably the huge weekly reductions in the volume of outstanding Treasury bills. Next, the recent low rates at which Treasury bills have been issued are ascribed in part to heavy American buying, and this month's rise in the dollar exchange supports this theory. The only obvious explanation of these American purchases is that the buyers were relying upon Mr Snowden's avowed policy of reducing the volume of Treasury bills to drive down the rate, and so enable them to resell and take a quick profit. Clearly, once the position is reversed and Treasury bill issues are increased, any buying of this character will come to a summary end.

* * * *

If a substantial proportion of the final call on the Conversion Loan is paid up in advance next month it may also lead to a rise in rates, for, according to the terms of issue, advance payments can be made under discount at the rate of 3½ per cent. The view has been expressed that the attempt will be made to obtain the turn existing between this rate and the present low money and discount rate, and clearly if Bank rate is reduced to 3 per cent. next month there is a possibility of a curious situation arising. On the other hand, holders of Conversion Loan may prefer to keep it in a partly-paid form, on the ground that in this form it is more saleable.

	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4	4	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 20, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	2	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20, '30)
Discount ∫ Call	2	2	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20, '30)
Houses \ Notice	2½	2½	1½	1½	2½ (Mar. 20, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 5/16	3 1/16	2¼–⅛	2⅛	...

This week's Bank return contains several interesting changes. There has been a substantial increase of £3,414,000 in the note circulation, and as the week's gold acquisitions only amounted to £1,751,000, the reserve has fallen by £1,663,000. Revenue collection accounts for the rise of £5,904,000 in public deposits, and for much of the contraction of £7,212,000 in bankers' deposits. On the other side of the account, £2,071,000 of Other securities have been allowed to run off, while the Bank's holding of Government securities has been increased by £2,402,000, thus leaving the amount of the Bank's earning assets practically unchanged.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is slightly firmer owing to preparations for end-of-month financing, and no immediate change in the discount rate is expected. The week's statement of the System shows a drop of $32 million in Government securities, due to the payment of the Treasury overdraft, a rise of $71 million in bills on repurchase agreements, and discounts stationary, resulting in a rise of $40 million in total Reserve credit outstanding and a drop from 82.5 to 81.8 per cent. in the reserve ratio. The gold movement has been negligible in the past week, and, with $75 million received from Japan, it is believed that imports have come to an end. The Tariff Bill is still to be fought over in joint session of the Senate and the House, and less attention is being paid to it than to signs of somewhat better trade. The decline in the steel industry has been checked, and the motor trade is confident of a good recovery in April. Savings bank deposits are rising rapidly, and mortgage money is once more abundant; this is expected to stimulate the building industry, where revival will mark the turn in general business. $200 thousand gold are being shipped to London in connection with special transactions.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Last week's accession of activity in the stock markets was not maintained, a tendency towards profit-taking being in evidence. Gilt-edged showed a slight recession, but the undertone of the market remained firm, with wide public interest. Home rails were sold on the assumption that lower traffic returns, in conjunction with increased national unemployment figures, betokened a falling-off in trade activity. The industrial markets were patchy, a number of satisfactory company reports failing to stimulate buying to any marked extent. Increased interest was shown for rubber and tea shares, and dealings in oils tended slightly to broaden. The mining markets became comparatively quiet after a firm opening, and a reassurring official statement failed to overcome the apathy of holders of diamond shares.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There is no improvement in the coal situation, which is intensified by the depression of shipping. Though the iron and steel trades remain depressed, such slight change as there has been is in the direction of improvement. The tinplate market is rather more active. Raw cotton is steadier, and an improved demand for piecegoods has checked for the moment the spread of depression in Manchester, though prices throughout the spinning section remain poor. In spite of the difficult labour situation, news from the wool textile centres is definitely better and wool prices are firmer. Business in the hide and leather trades continues steady on a moderate scale. The hardwood market is steady; vegetable oil and oilseed markets are slightly firmer; and wheat prices are unchanged on the week.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Only moderate activity has prevailed this week. In the earlier part of the week many of the exchanges moved well in our favour, but later there was a tendency in the other direction. Sterling was strong against New York and from 4.86¼ last week went to 4.87 1/16 at one time, reacting later to 4.86⅝. Montreal weakened from 4.86½ to 4.86⅜. Paris gained three points at 124.28, after being 124.33 and 124.25½. Brussels was better by 1¼ points at 34.87½ and Milan improved from 92.87 to 92.80. Madrid was less irregular than of late, but lost 55 points on balance at 39.05. Amsterdam showed little change at 12.12½. Berlin was unchanged on balance, after hesitation, at 20.38¼. Switzerland was decidedly weak, and lost ⅝ at 12.13¼. The Scandinavian exchanges were generally firm, Stockholm gaining ½ at 18.09⅝, Oslo ⅛ at 18.17 and Copenhagen ¼ at 18.16⅜. The South American exchanges were stronger, Rio gaining 1/16d. at 5 3/32d. and Buenos Aires ⅛d. at 42 3/32d. after 1 5/16d. Montevideo appreciated sharply from 43 3/32d. to 44 3/32d. The premium on 90 days Lima on London was 24¼ per cent., nominal, against 29¼ per cent. last week. In the Far East the rupee was steady and gained 1/32d. at 1s. 5 27/32d. The yen and Batavia were unchanged at 2s. 0⅜d. and 12.12½ respectively. In the futures market, New York remained unchanged from last week. Paris was a little more wanted at 11 centimes premium for one month, while Brussels went from par and ½ centime discount to ½ centime discount for both periods. Berlin remained unchanged. The silver market was not very active, but prices advanced initially by ⅝d. for both spot and forward, on Chinese buying. Later prices sagged steadily to 19 7/16d. for spot and 19⅜d. for forward, a decline of 9/16d. and 7/16d. below the highest for the week. The China silver exchanges were not much affected, Hong Kong remaining at last week's level of 1s. 6⅛d., whilst Shanghai lost ⅛d. at 1s. 11¼d.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include an index of electricity production, and a series of indices of British trade activity.

PARTIES AND ECONOMIC POLICY.

SAVE for the single, but very important, exception of cheaper money, with its promise of better times to come, it cannot be said that the economic outlook, which is reviewed in our monthly Trade Supplement, is bright. It is true that the unemployment figures are being somewhat artificially swollen by the restoration to the register of numbers of persons who have been in receipt of poor relief, but when the utmost allowance is made for this addition, the figures are the worst for many years past. Wholesale prices show no sign yet of recovery from their recent slump, and though the heavy industries have not as yet had to curtail production, they are nervous about future orders.

We are, in fact, in the trough of a depression. Nor does the international situation at the moment show many encouraging features. The United States Senate, after a long and fluctuating battle, has passed the Tariff Bill in a form which contains many big increases of duty. Discussion of the measure in joint session has still to come, and agricultural interests will resist strongly the increases in tariffs on manufactured products unless they get a greater *quid pro quo* than they see at present; but, so far, the forces in favour of moderation, though they have proved much stronger than was imagined, have not been able entirely to check the influence of vested interests at Washington. In Europe, also, the "Preliminary Conference with a view to Concerted Economic Action" has revealed the great difficulty of removing trade barriers; and though the protocol, which deals with the basis of future negotiations, has been signed by fifteen countries, the convention relating to commercial treaties will not become binding until November, and will operate only for a short period. While the agreement, in the words of the Chairman, "gives formal recognition, novel in character, to the inter-dependence of European commercial policies . . . and includes an engagement to meet again to proceed with what has now been begun," the Conference has taken "only a first hesitating step on the road" towards greater freedom of trade.

Whether the forthcoming Budget will send the trade barometer up or down is still Mr Snowden's secret. Forebodings have been generally expressed so gloomy that it is difficult to believe that reality will not come as a relief. The latest revenue returns suggest that the Chancellor's deficit may be rather less than was anticipated a week ago, and it may be presumed that in the present state of trade he will make every possible effort to produce a reassuring Budget. If he can succeed in this, and with the European situation clarified by the coming into operation of the Young Plan and the final evacuation of the Rhineland, we may hope to see, with the return of spring, some lightening of the gloomy depression of the last few months.

It is obvious, however, that in present circumstances economic policy must dominate politics, and it is, therefore, pertinent to consider how the position of parties in this respect has been affected by recent events. The Conservative Party, after making what it thought was a good recovery from one of its periodical attacks of fiscalitis, has had a mild relapse. In a letter to the *Times* Lord Salisbury, speaking with the prestige of the Conservative leader in the Lords, pointed out bluntly, but firmly, that even assuming that high protection or the economic unity of the Empire could do the great things claimed for them, no results could be expected for a long time to come. Lord Salisbury thought it necessary to give lip-service to Safeguarding (which he still manages to distinguish from Protection), but he expressed the view that it might be not merely useless, but dangerous, to confuse what can only be an ultimate aspiration with immediate needs. The reasons for our inability to compete in the markets of the world were stated in the Balfour Report to be our out-of-date equipment and our low standard in the higher control of industry, while the D'Abernon Report accused our merchants of want of adaptability and enterprise. What was wanted, therefore, was a new spirit in Capital and Labour, elimination of bad organisation and trade union restrictions, and drastic economy. This douche of cold water has naturally not been to the liking of Lord Beaverbrook, who will not allow any one to question the merits of Empire Free Trade as an immediate panacea. The Chief Crusader has summoned his journalistic troops express with fife and drum to do battle against this heresy, and the Conservative camp is once more astir with rumours of civil war.

This domestic controversy, however, clearly has little bearing on the immediate situation, and interest chiefly attaches to the policies of the Liberal and Labour Parties, and the measures which they can combine to take—the more so since it now appears that the likelihood of an early Election is much reduced. The decision of the Liberal Party not to vote against the price-fixing clause of the Coal Bill has been followed by a crop of rumours of a pact between the Liberal and Labour Parties, the alleged terms of which vary from a fusion to an *entente* based on an agreement about electoral reform. Political life would indeed be dull without the opportunity of speculating on such matters, but the substantial point is apparently that the Liberal Party does not propose to push its opposition to the Coal Bill to the point of defeating the Government. It is not clear what this decision means so far as the Bill itself is concerned. It has already been very substantially changed in comparison with the Bill which was attacked on Second Reading. It now provides for compulsory amalgamation; the provisions for safeguarding the consumers' interests are strengthened; and, most important of all, there is a time limit for the so-called "marketing" clauses. The proposal to establish a national export subsidy has also been negatived, though this objectionable system remains possible in the separate district schemes. In addition to the quota system, however, the provision for fixing enforcible minimum prices still remains. This, we believe to be a serious and quite unnecessary defect in the Bill, for which the Liberal Party, which, in solemn words, has assumed in a special degree in this Parliament the *rôle* of watch-dog for the public interest, cannot entirely avoid responsibility. The decision to let this clause through will not make matters easier for the Party in the country.

The argument, we suppose, for accepting the clause is that in the last resort it is the Government which must decide what questions are, or are not, matters of principle on which it stakes its existence; and the party which is giving general support—just as much as a section of a coalition—must balance from time to time the demerits of accepting something less than its demands with the desirability of keeping the Government in office. There is almost universal agreement that it would be undesirable at present to have a General Election, not merely because of the critical state of the Naval Conference, —though this week's news shows that that is a really important factor—but because in an early election there would be a complete confusion of issues.

But if the Liberal Party is to keep the Government in power, it is of vital importance to know what is the economic policy which is the basis of the understanding. It cannot be said that the record of the Government in this respect is reassuring. One of the chief planks of the Liberal policy a year ago was to make a gigantic effort to get rid of the wasteful and demoralising system under which a substantial proportion of the population are being maintained in idleness. The Labour Party agreed on the need of finding work, but laid more stress on the need of maintenance. In the event, the amount of work that has been provided is very small, while the dead-weight charge of maintaining the unemployed in idleness

has immensely increased, owing to increased rates of benefits, relaxation of the conditions of benefit, and a setback in trade.

The Unemployment Insurance Act was succeeded by the Coal Bill, with its provisions for maintaining prices, and though the Government has resisted the amazing suggestion of Lord Olivier to guarantee a minimum price of £15 a ton to the sugar growers of the West Indies, they are said to be contemplating a similar suggestion with regard to wheat. On Thursday, indeed, the official organ of the Labour Party stated definitely that the Government had decided to introduce a quota system compelling millers to use a certain proportion of British wheat in all flour ground, and was deliberating between two alternative methods of guaranteeing a " sure price " to the farmers, either by means of a statutory Import Board or by undertaking to purchase the home output at a fixed quotation. Both these suggestions show that there are members of the Labour Party who ignore the dangers inherent in any attempt to fix prices by decree and who think that the State, with better fortune than King Canute, can command the economic tides. If particular industries must be helped at the public expense, we shall at least know where we stand if we subsidise them, instead of incurring the unlimited liability which these price-regulating schemes imply.

Such schemes are no doubt attractive to many of the Government's supporters. But they are matters of much too great importance to be the subject of Party " deals," and in the present circumstances, if they are to be brought forward at all, it should be after consultation on merits and not as part of a political bargain. In other words, they should only be embarked upon if it is clear that they represent the true judgment of the House. If the Government were to attempt rash experiments, it would obviously be suicidal for the Liberal Party to countenance them. It has an unanswerable claim to fairer representation in Parliament, and we do not doubt that if it plays the *rôle* that is expected of it in this Parliament, the justice of its claim will prove irresistible. But the essential condition of its independent existence is that its influence should be used, without regard for political expediency, in unhesitating support of sound economic policy.

RELIGION IN RUSSIA.

The Decree of April 8, 1929, respecting Religious Associations, which was enacted by the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, was recently published, in translation, as a British Parliamentary Paper (Cmd. 3511). The decree, which applies to all religious believers, is partly a consolidation and partly an extension of previous legislation. The general policy inspiring it is plain. Religious societies and groups are not suppressed; but their activities are rigorously confined to religious affairs, and these are interpreted so narrowly that what remains lawful might seem hardly worth doing at all. Probably the Government hopes that this view will be taken sooner or later by the believers themselves, and that they will then put their organisations into voluntary liquidation—a process for which an elaborate procedure is laid down in the decree.

Some idea of the restrictions upon religious association which the decree imposes may be gathered from the following examples. A citizen may only belong to one religious association. He may not belong to any at all until he has attained the age of eighteen years. Each religious society or group may only use one building for religious worship. No contract for the administration and use of religious property may contain any reference even to relevant commercial or industrial transactions. Religious associations must be registered by the civil authorities, and these may exclude any individual member from the (elected) administrative body of an association. Religious associations may not (*a*) create mutual credit societies, co-operatives or commercial undertakings, or, in general, use the property at their disposal for other than religious purposes; (*b*) give material assistance to their members; (*c*) organise for children, young people and women, special prayer and other meetings, or, generally, meetings, groups, circles or departments for biblical or literary study, sewing, working or the teaching of religion, etc., or organise excursions, children's playgrounds, public libraries or reading rooms, or organise sanatoria and medical assistance. The teaching of any form of religious belief in State, public and private teaching and educational establishments is prohibited (such teaching being permitted exclusively at special theological courses privately organised by special permission of the civil authorities). The work of ministers of religion is to be restricted to the area in which the members of their association reside.

On the other side, it is only fair to note that provision is made for appeals against liquidations of religious associations, that the construction of new places of worship is allowed, subject to conformity with the building regulations; that religious services may be performed at cemeteries or crematoria, and also in hospitals at the request of a person who is dying or seriously ill, and that no special permit is required for religious services in connection with funerals, in spite of the general prohibition against the performance of religious services elsewhere (whether indoors or out of doors) than in buildings specifically handed over for religious use.

It would be interesting to compare this decree in detail with the restrictions in force to-day against Communist Party organisations in various " Capitalist " countries in Europe and America; for it must be remembered that Religion is regarded by the dominant elements in the U.S.S.R. in much the same light as Communism in other parts of the world. The letter of the decree, however, is of less practical importance than the spirit in which it is administered—and this is a matter on which good evidence is notoriously difficult to obtain. The only unimpeachable evidence that we have comes from the authors of the decree themselves. On March 15th the Central Executive Committee of the Russian Communist Party issued a fresh order to local branches of the Party which deserves quotation :—

> The Central Committee considers it necessary to take note of the absolutely indefensible departures from Party policy in the struggle against religious prejudices. We refer to the administrative closing of churches without the consent of the overwhelming majority of local populations. Such action usually leads to the strengthening of religious prejudices. . . .
>
> Resolutely discontinue the practice of the administrative closing of churches under the pretence that such closing is the voluntary desire of the population. Permit the closing of churches only when it is really desired by an overwhelming majority of the peasants, and then only after the regional executive committees have given their approval.
>
> For jeering at peasants' religious sentiments prosecute the guilty with the utmost rigour.

We may deduce from this order that the zest of the petty officials in the provinces has outrun the discretion of the statesmen at Moscow; that the decree of April 8th has been interpreted by some of these officials as an instruction, or licence, to wipe religion out, by fair means or foul; and that Moscow—whether or not it began by conniving at this interpretation of its will—has awoken to the fact that it is impolitic to allow its subordinates to go beyond the letter of its decree.

This does not mean that Moscow has abandoned or even moderated its " anti-religious " policy. The necessity of repressing an excess of zeal among the small fry is always confronting revolutionary Governments; and parallel instances could no doubt be cited from the recent history of Turkey, Mexico and China. As for the vigour of the language, that is the normal Moscow style. To understand the significance of this order to go slow in the execution of the " anti-religious " decree, one should read it in conjunction with the similar order, couched in equally vigorous language, which was issued earlier in the month by the same authority with regard to the decree for the communisation of agriculture :—

> In a number of regions the voluntary principle has been replaced by compulsion to enter collective farms under the threat of expropriation or deprivation of electoral rights. An exceptionally rough and disorderly criminal attitude toward the population has been observed on the part of some minor officials; it takes the form of banditism, the division of property, and arrests of the middle class, even of poor peasants.
>
> As a result of these stupid distortions we have in a number of regions the discrediting of the collective movement, and the withdrawal of peasants from a number of hastily organised and completely unstable communes of collective farms.

It is evident that all this is a question of tactics, not of policy. And the Bolsheviks have shown themselves good tacticians ever since they came into power a dozen years ago. They thoroughly understand how to *reculer pour mieux sauter*. Did not Lenin himself practice the manœuvre courageously when he sanctioned " the New Economic Policy "? And they understand equally that no Government, however despotic its *régime*, and however overwhelming its apparent strength, can safely or effectively go beyond a certain point in defying—or anticipating—public opinion. Did not they wait a dozen years before making any general attack at all upon religion and peasant proprietorship, the two targets of the present campaign?

But do not let us quarrel with these practical measures of moderation on account of possible ulterior motives or ultimate intentions. The " dragonnades " are to cease; and by that much the sum of ill-doing and of suffering in the world to-day will be diminished.

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THE SUGAR PROBLEM.

If the Government find themselves in the embarrassing position of being placed on the defensive *vis à vis* Lord Olivier, the West Indian sugar planters, and their " sympathisers " in this country (how rich the milk of human kindness in the Protectionist coconut!), they have largely themselves to thank. The delay in publishing the recommendations of Lord Olivier and colleague, Mr Semple, has not been satisfactorily explained. Their Report* is dated February 1, 1930, and to withhold it for seven weeks, and then to release it ten days after the announcement of the Government's own policy for helping the sugar Colonies, gives obvious scope for the attack delivered by Lord Hailsham in the House of Lords on Tuesday—that the Government, unwilling to adopt recommendations characterised by the Commissioners as peculiarly urgent, was endeavouring to evade its responsibilities by procrastinating until the need for remedial measures had lapsed, the sufferer being dead. It would have been better to publish the Report as soon as it was received, and the same applies to the case of Sir Francis Watts' Report† on the Mauritius Sugar Industry, also issued only this week, but dated December 20, 1929.

For there is nothing in either of these Reports to justify criticism of the Government's decision not to adopt the proposals advocated by the signatories. Lord Hailsham's suggestion that, if the recommendations had been made known earlier, public opinion would have forced the Government to act on the lines proposed by Lord Olivier is as unwarrantable as his description of the Government's policy as " callous brutality." The cabled offer of March 14th (printed as an appendix to Lord Passfield's " Statement‡ of Policy " on these Reports), to join with Colonial Governments in guaranteeing up to 15 per cent. of banking advances made to finance the coming sugar crop, represents the limit of what the British Government can fairly be called upon to do, and is not ungenerous. The rejected proposals emphatically merited rejection.

Sir Francis Watts reaches the conclusion that the Mauritius sugar industry is conducted with no " marked lack of care and efficiency "; but that average costs of production, f.o.b., are about £13 per ton, as compared with an average selling price in 1929 of £12 2s. 10d. per ton. He considers that " even with the continuation of the present tariff preferences granted by the United Kingdom and Canada, the industry cannot meet the present low prices," and recommends that for at least five years a grant-in-aid should be given by H.M. Government equal to the difference between £13 and the average selling price.

The main recommendations of the Olivier Commission are :—

(1) That, pending the results of endeavours which the Government should make to eliminate, in concert with other Powers, " the disturbing factors of high tariffs and subsidies," the policy should be " at once to set on foot the rationalisation of the sugar trade of our own Empire on the basis of a guarantee of *reasonable local costs of production* " (our italics).
(2) That a single purchasing agency should be set up to purchase all sugar for the United Kingdom, buying Imperial sugar at a guaranteed minimum of £15 per ton, c.i.f. (average West Indian costs, f.o.b., are put at £13 7s. 6d. per ton), and non-Empire sugar at the market price.
(3) That meanwhile the British preference on Imperial sugar should be raised to 4s. 8d. per cwt., a proposal involving the retention of the general sugar duty at a level not less than that figure.

In the " Statement of Policy," issued by the Colonial Office, pointed reference is made to Mr Snowden's announcement last July, that so long as there was a duty on sugar the preferences would be maintained, but that " the Government would not deal with the difficulties of the sugar industry by way of preference." For the rest, the Government undertake to consider what steps they can usefully take to eliminate subsidies and tariffs (Lord Passfield, crossing swords in the Upper House with his one-time Fabian comrade, Lord Olivier, must have been uncomfortably aware that the sugar-beet subvention is an awkward beam in the British eye), but they are not prepared either by grant-in-aid or guaranteed

* Report of the West Indian Sugar Commission. Cmd. 3517. Price, 2s. net.
† Cmd. 3518. Price, 1s. net.
‡ Cmd. 3523. Price, 1d. net.

price to " require the community in the United Kingdom to contribute some millions of pounds a year to the sugar industries in the Colonies concerned."

We welcome the decision. Generosity is a virtue in nations as in individuals, but if the British taxpayer is to be asked to contribute to the profit and loss account of every industry in the Empire which can make out a case of " urgent need," where is the process to stop? For the matter of that, charity might well begin at home. But even if there were good reasons for giving to the Colonial sugar industry assistance not vouchsafed to the British wheat-farmer, the Australian wool-grower, or the rubber-planter in Malaya, we should oppose as economically indefensible any policy which aimed, like the proposals in these Reports, at the artificial maintenance of a particular selling price in a period not only of overproduction of many commodities, but of a rapidly declining general price level.

Remembering the pre-war price of rubber, we cannot understand what the Olivier Commission means by its conception (for what period, and in relation to what standard?) of " reasonable local costs," or why any industry should be entitled to protection by Government from losses entailed by over-optimistic calculation of future demand. The Report points out that world output of sugar rose from 21.4 million tons in 1923-24 to an average of 25.6 million tons in the four next crop years, and to over 28 million tons in 1929. Although consumption in the same period has risen more or less steadily from 21.2 million to nearly 27 million tons per annum, the estimated accumulated surplus last December amounted to more than 5 million tons. Side by side with the expansion of output of cane-sugar there has been a rapid increase in the production of beet-sugar stimulated by protective duties, bounties and rebates. From an average of 25s. 9d. per cwt. in 1923, the open market price of sugar in London (96 degrees raw sugar parity) had fallen by the end of 1929 to 8s. 3d. per cwt. Under these circumstances the necessity of a contraction of the industry, however painful, is fairly obvious.

The position, in fact, of the world sugar industry is similar at the moment to that of the producers of a dozen important raw materials. The situation is complicated by the existence of tariff duties, which result in the consumers in many countries paying for sugar prices which, if received by the producer, would more than cover his costs; but though knowledge that this is so may be tantalising to the sugar-grower, there is no escape from the fact that the " free " market price is the measure of the ratio between demand and supply. All attempts artificially to impede the restoration of lost equilibrium between those two factors are useless in the long run, and when they take the form of State assistance, they are doubly objectionable, for they further distort the situation. We are glad that the Government, except in their limited and temporary offer to ease the immediate credit situation in the West Indies, have refrained from a policy of mistaken kindness.

The Reports and the Statement, however, very forcibly emphasise the need of international action. Thanks to subsidised production in many countries, including our own, the pre-war sugar troubles have been almost exactly reproduced. Two years ago the Consultative Committee of the Economic Organisation of the League called attention to the false situation that was being created, and set in train an investigation with a view to seeing if it were possible to reach an agreement on the limits of Protection in the sugar industry. It is an interesting coincidence that this same problem was to the fore at the time when the Tariff Reform movement of 1903 arose in Great Britain, and the over-production which was then stimulated by tariffs and export subsidies, was at that time met by international agreement to limit national Protection. The League report did not grapple very effectively with the problem, but the Government's expression of its willingness to co-operate in international action may perhaps reopen the question with better results.

A QUARTER'S NEW CAPITAL.

CONDITIONS in the new issues market during the past quarter furnished a striking contrast with those of a year ago. In the first three months of 1929, whereas rising short money rates were beginning to affect adversely the market for fixed-interest-bearing securities, the boom in speculative industrial issues, though near its climax, was still in full swing. This year the position has been reversed: the market in speculative issues has been virtually " dead," but the rapid fall in money rates has led to a quickening in the market for gilt-edged issues and first-class bonds.

The first of the following tables shows the destination geographically, distinguishing Government from " other " borrowings, of the new capital raised in the first quarter of recent years:—

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	First Quarters of Years.					
	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
United Kingdom—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government	Nil	5,455,100	68,253,800	85,761,000	1,900,000	38,360,000
Other	7,542,000	39,708,300	47,651,200	48,646,000	56,220,000	29,933,500
	7,542,000	45,163,400	115,905,000	134,407,000	58,120,000	68,293,500
British Possessions—						
Government	7,626,600	8,134,000	5,380,600	17,930,100	23,590,000	14,625,800
Other	14,327,500	6,541,400	15,135,900	3,672,600	2,801,100	1,453,200
	21,954,100	14,675,400	20,516,500	21,602,700	26,391,100	16,079,000
Foreign countries—						
Government	3,523,600	8,800,500	Nil	4,765,100	3,650,000	Nil
Other	17,325,000	6,389,100	8,466,900	8,269,000	8,791,900	3,360,000
	20,848,600	15,189,600	8,466,900	13,034,100	12,441,900	3,360,000
Grand total	50,344,700	75,028,400	144,888,400	169,043,800	96,953,000	87,732,500

Our figure of British Government borrowings is made up of two items: (*a*) The proportion of the cash subscriptions (totalling £60,800,000) to the 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan available after covering the unconverted balance of short-term debt maturing, and (*b*) the " net sales " of Savings Certificates. All the other figures in our calculations are exclusive of issues or portions of issues made for conversion or repayment purposes.

Apart from British Government operations, the amount of new capital destined for the United Kingdom represented little more than half the corresponding figure a year ago; and the totals for British possessions and foreign countries also showed large declines in comparison with the first quarter of 1929. Moreover, a further analysis of the aggregates in the next table shows clearly how inactive the market has been during the past three months except for Government and Corporation borrowings:—

CLASSES OF BORROWERS.

(£ million)

	Total.	British Government.	Foreign and Colonial Govt.	British Colonial and Foreign Corpn.	Foreign Railways.	Mines, Finance, and Exploration.	Rubber and Oil.	Balance (Mainly Home Industry).
Total whole year, 1923	271·4	77·7	95·8	4·8	5·4	15·5	7·7	64·5
Total whole year, 1924	209·3	13·7	90·6	18·8	1·0	12·7	2·3	70·2
Total whole year, 1925	232·2	45·6	30·7	25·3	3·8	18·0	19·1	89·7
Total whole year, 1926	230·7	4·7	54·6	49·2	8·2	26·9	6·2	80·9
Total whole year, 1927	355·1	66·0	67·5	37·9	5·4	33·2	11·0	134·1
Total whole year, 1928	369·0	83·8	56·1	26·4	3·1	49·7	8·7	141·2
Total whole year, 1929	285·2	65·4	30·0	12·1	7·8	41·5	6·4	122·0
1928—1st quarter ...	169·0	85·7	22·7	3·0	1·0	16·7	2·2	37·7
2nd " ...	75·7	*Dr.0·5*	14·4	10·0	Nil	11·0	0·6	40·2
3rd " ...	45·9	*Dr.0·9*	11·4	4·0	Nil	6·5	0·3	24·6
4th " ...	78·4	*Dr.0·5*	7·6	9·4	2·1	15·5	5·6	38·7
Total whole year, 1928	369·0	83·8	56·1	26·4	3·1	49·7	8·7	141·2
1929—1st quarter ...	96·9	1·9	27·2	0·3	3·8	21·2	4·9	37·6
2nd " ...	77·4	*Dr.0·3*	Nil	11·4	Nil	12·9	0·1	53·3
3rd " ...	18·7	*Dr.1·4*	2·8	0·4	Nil	2·4	1·1	13·4
4th " ...	92·2	65·2	Nil	Nil	4·0	5·0	0·3	17·7
Total whole year, 1929	285·2	65·4	30·0	12·1	7·8	41·5	6·4	122·0
1930—1st quarter ...	87·7	38·4	14·6	15·9	2·7	1·0	6·7	† 8·4

During the past quarter, excluding Government and Corporation borrowings, new capital raised for all other purposes totalled only £18.8 million, as compared with £27 million in the previous quarter and £67.5 million in the first three months of last year. Even in the case of Governments and municipalities it was only in the latter half of the quarter that conditions for new issues became encouraging. In February, after the issue of £6 million Government of India 1932-33 Bonds, yielding the high rate of £6 11s. per cent., the Nigerian Government offer of 5 per cent. 1950-60 stock at 99 failed to secure a good response; and even at the beginning of March the Union of South Africa 5 per cent. 1945-75 stock, issued at 98½ to yield £5 2s. per cent., was by no means fully subscribed. Among home issues, the Central Electricity Board's £7 million January issue (ranked with Corporations in the foregoing table) met with a poor reception; and in February the results of the Hastings and Hull 5 per cent. loans, issued at 99, showed that the public appetite, even for first-class bonds giving a yield over 5 per cent., was not yet keen. But the successive reductions of Bank rate on March 6th and March 20th completely transformed the situation. Issues of 5 per cent. loans at 99 for Southampton and Swansea went well; and an equally good response was made to the subsequent Bristol loan issue, with the same rate of interest, at 99½. At the end of March, as the following table shows, the principal issues made during the past three months showed substantial appreciation over their issue price:—

Month of Issue.	Name and Description.	Nominal Amount.	Issue Price.	Price, March 27, 1930.
1930.		£		
January ...	Central Electricity Board 5% Stk., 1950-70	7,000,000	97½	1½ pm
January ...	Central Argentine Railway 5% Deb. Stk., 1967-87	3,000,000	89½	92⅝
February ...	4½% Conversion Loan, 1940-44	†92,800,000	95	4⅞ pm
February ...	Govt. of India 6% Bonds, 1932-33	6,000,000	99	102½
February ...	Nigeria Govt. 5% Ins. Stk., 1950-60	2,650,000	99	2⅜–⅞ pm
February ...	Metropolitan Railway 3½% " A " Deb. Stk.	2,000,000	65½	4–4½ pm
February ...	Shell Transport and Trading 7% 2nd Pref. £1	5,000,000	25/-	par-3d pm
March	Union of South Africa 5% Ins. Stk., 1945-75	5,250,000	98½	2⅜–⅝ pm
March	Southampton Corporation 5% Stk., 1947-67	1,650,000	99	2⅜–⅝ pm
March	Tate and Lyle 5½% Deb. Stk.	1,250,000	97½	1½-2 pm
March	Swansea 5% 1945–55	1,500,000	99	2⅛–⅝ pm
March	Bristol 5% 1950–60	2,500,000	99½	...

† Includes £55,740,000 for Conversions.

The Shell and Tate and Lyle issues were the only important industrial issues made during the quarter. British railways were represented by a £2 million Metropolitan Railway debenture loan yielding £5 6s. 9d.; and the Central Argentine Railway raised £2,685,000 on 5 per cent. debentures at 89½. Investment trust borrowing was negligible as compared with a year ago; and of the comparatively small total for general business the bulk was offered to shareholders only. The next table completes our analysis:—

ANALYSIS OF NEW CAPITAL APPLICATIONS.

	Total for First Quarters of Years.			
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
British Government loans.....	68,253,800	85,761,000	1,900,000	38,360,000
Colonial Government loans ...	5,380,600	17,930,100	23,590,000	14,625,800
Foreign Government loans ...	Nil	4,765,100	3,650,000	Nil
British Corporation, County and Public Board loans.....	16,113,700	1,010,000	336,000	15,872,700
Colonial Corporations and Public Boards.....	1,331,500	1,228,700	Nil	Nil
Foreign Corporations.....	Nil	772,000	Nil	Nil
British railways	4,750,000	Nil	Nil	1,310,000
Colonial railways	6,842,600	Nil	Nil	Nil
Foreign railways.....	1,487,500	980,000	3,835,000	2,685,000
Australasian mines.....	Nil	Nil	12,000	Nil
South African mines	50,000	67,700	340,300	162,800
Other mines.....	1,425,000	2,770,800	607,500	181,700
Exploration, financial, and investment trust.....	6,661,700	13,913,200	20,280,600	738,600
Breweries and distilleries	261,200	Nil	3,130,300	Nil
Merchants, importers, &c.....	593,100	Nil	425,300	Nil
Stores and trading	2,350,000	4,310,000	2,577,200	798,000
Estate and land	670,000	478,700	1,555,900	215,900
Rubber.....	822,400	2,239,800	566,500	405,000
Oil.....	3,985,400	Nil	4,315,800	6,250,000
Iron, coal, steel & engineering	400,000	1,047,500	712,000	Nil
Electric light, power, and telegraph	1,229,200	5,275,400	6,389,200	750,000
Tramway and omnibus	137,200	583,500	165,000	Nil
Motor traction & manufact'ing	280,400	581,900	222,000	356,600
Gas and water.....	444,900	177,700	250,000	Nil
Hotels, theatres, and entertainments.....	210,600	6,181,700	1,487,200	Nil
Patents & proprietary articles	1,005,000	2,691,700	5,913,400	237,500
Docks, harbours and shipping	6,387,500	300,000	Nil	Nil
Banks and insurance	6,349,000	3,625,900	575,000	500,000
Manufacturing & Miscellaneous	7,466,100	12,351,400	14,116,800	4,282,900
Total.....	144,888,400	169,043,800	96,953,000	87,732,500

Though foreign loans are likely to be held back until the forthcoming issue of Reparations Bonds has been placed, there is little doubt that the next few months will see a further broadening of activity in the new capital market, at least so far as gilt-edged stocks and well-secured industrial debentures and prior charges are concerned. Public interest in new enterprises of a speculative character may be slow to revive, but it should be possible for a good deal of banking credit to be " unfrozen," in the case of established concerns, by means of funding short-term indebtedness. The benefit to industry should be considerable, and there is the further satisfaction that investors are unlikely in the present position of the new issue market to be tempted by offers involving them, as happened last year, in heavy capital losses.

It should be appreciated that the new capital issues included in our quarterly surveys take no account of Stock Exchange " introductions," an aspect of the capital market which we discussed fully in the *Economist* of July 27, 1929 (page 175). In the following table we show the total amounts involved in these " introductions " during the past five quarters. " Cash values " are calculated on the assumption that the whole of the nominal value of the stock " introduced " is taken up at the price at which dealings on the Stock Exchange open:—

TOTAL CASH INVOLVED IN ISSUES BY STOCK EXCHANGE INTRODUCTION.

	United Kingdom	Colonies.	Abroad.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Year 1929—				
1st Quarter.....	15,191,600	393,700	3,094,400	18,679,700
2nd Quarter	9,465,500	1,284,400	2,166,400	12,916,300
3rd Quarter	3,574,700	217,100	5,778,300	9,570,100
4th Quarter	733,400	304,400	1,437,500	2,475,300
Total Year 1929 ...	28,965,200	2,199,600	12,476,600	†43,641,400
Year 1930—				
1st Quarter.....	3,982,300	1,477,000	8,399,900	‡13,859,200

† Nominal amount of capital introduced, £31,519,934.
‡ Nominal amount of capital introduced, £12,244,078.

The aggregate destined for " abroad " represents the amount of the Greek " Refugees " loans " introduced " in February. The total for the first three months of 1930 shows a considerable expansion as compared with the previous quarter, but is substantially below the figure for the corresponding period of last year.

BANKS AND INDUSTRY IN ENGLAND AND GERMANY.—III.

(BY A BANKING CORRESPONDENT.)

[*Previous articles in this series, now concluded, appeared in the* Economist's *issues of March 1st and March 15th. In these articles our correspondent examined the divergence between British and German banking policy with regard to industrial financing, and described the relations between the administration of German banks and their customers under the " Konsortial " system.*]

THERE remain to be considered a few further points in considering the relation of the banks to industry in Germany. One of these is a practice which considerably strengthens the hands of the banks in dealing with industrial undertakings. In their general terms for accepting securities for safe custody they reserve the right to vote in shareholders' meetings as proxies for their customers, unless the customer directs otherwise. As a rule, customers are content to leave their interests in the charge of their banks. This system has been much criticised, and it has been stated that the banks are often interested parties and should therefore not vote on their customers' shares. In cases where decisions are placed before a shareholders' meeting which affect the interests of a bank, it is, however, usual for the bank to circularise customers whose shares it holds and to request instructions. The system may in many respects be open to objection, but in practice it has worked fairly well, since

the chief interests of both banks and shareholders are in the well-being of companies with which they are connected.

In considering what English banks can learn from a study of conditions in Germany, it must be realised that there can be no question of adapting the actual mechanism of German industrial banking to this country. The difference in the system of company administration would of itself preclude delegation of bankers to the boards of their customers. The system of voting on shares held in safe custody could not be adopted as a general rule, although there is no reason why in special circumstances bankers should not circularise customers and ask for their proxies. The syndicate system, too, is based on a combination of investment and commercial banking which is not likely to be adopted in England without considerable modification. In spite of all this, however, a number of the objects aimed at by German banks could be attained in England by comparatively simple measures suited to the prevailing conditions.

Closer collaboration between the banks in their relations with industry should not present insurmountable difficulties. As explained, the principal advantage of banking representation on boards is that the bank is kept in constant touch with developments and that really confidential relations are established. It should not be impossible to establish organised industrial departments, whose business would be to keep in touch with the principal industrial customers of the bank, to study industrial conditions, and to advise on matters of finance. Intelligent industrialists would probably welcome development on these lines, since the lack of firms of high standing which are prepared to carry out and assist in industrial financing cannot really be of benefit to them. A department of this kind might also keep in touch with the issuing side of industrial finance. It might, for instance, appraise on prospectuses bearing the bank's name. It might keep in touch with issuing houses doing industrial business, even if they are in no way connected with or supported by the bank, thus ensuring a certain measure of that collaboration between commercial and investment banking which was dealt with in the preceding article. One of its most important functions could be to advise customers of the bank on the best way to carry out transactions which do not really fall within the province of commercial banking.

This, in fact, is an important feature of the service given by German banks. If a customer—say a contracting firm—has a contract which requires financing over a long period, and approaches his bank, he will not be told that this is not its business. The bank will certainly not be inclined to carry the business itself, but it will, if possible, organise a syndicate to do so under its leadership, in which it will take a small participation. A German industrialist can, in fact, go to his banker and receive advice and assistance on anything connected with finance; and there seems no reason why English banks, without any sacrifice of principle, should not enable their customers to do the same.

The factor of *personnel* has also an important bearing on the question whether it is possible and desirable for English banks to modify their reserved attitude towards industry and general business. The incomparable efficiency of the English system of commercial and what is perhaps best described as "current" banking is obtained by very intensive specialisation. It may be, however, that this specialisation is not the most suitable method of producing the *personnel* required to initiate and carry out an active policy in industry and business. Another feature also requires consideration. There is no doubt that industrial banking, particularly industrial reorganisation and issue business, requires wide knowledge and experience and absolutely first-rate ability. Banks in Germany would doubtless not claim that they have solved the question of *personnel*, but they do offer, to those who attain the highest positions, financial inducements commensurate with those obtainable in any other line of business. The same holds good for bankers in America, particularly investment bankers. Incomes of five figures (sterling) are by no means exceptional prizes in Germany, and those who get right to the top receive a good deal more. While the importance of this should not be exaggerated, the problem of attracting exceptional ability and giving it scope to unfold itself is one of the most vital of those which confront the huge organisations of banking and business to-day.

In this connection, it is to be observed that German banks do not select their higher executives by any means exclusively from among the ranks of their officials. It is perfectly possible to work right up to the top from a clerkship, and many leading bankers have done so, but it is not unusual to bring men in from outside. There is a fairly free exchange of *personnel* between the joint-stock banks and private banking and Stock Exchange firms. In fact, a very large proportion of leading bankers have had a Stock Exchange training, either in a private firm or in the Stock Exchange department of their banks. The Stock Exchanges have always been in close contact with industry, and the wide knowledge of the principal companies and industries gained there have stood bankers who have had this training in good stead. There are also a considerable number of lawyers in responsible positions, although they have less often attained the highest honours. They are mostly recruited in the middle twenties, after having completed their legal training. Occasionally, too, industry has been drawn on, but it is more usual for industry to recruit its financial executive from banks than *vice versa*. On the whole, while the banks are quite prepared to bring in men from within the banking and financial world, whenever they think it desirable, absolute outsiders are less often appointed than in America, where corporation lawyers and technical men quite often enter both commercial and investment banking in middle life. The system is really something between the freedom of choice (disregarding family considerations) exercised by private City firms in England and the strict "Civil Service" recruitment of the joint-stock banks.

Before concluding it may be well to explain that the account which has been given of the German banking system applies in the first instance to the large joint-stock German banks, and to a lesser extent to the limited number of private banks which still remain in the first class. There are a large number of small private banks, which in England would be known as brokers, whose business has nothing in common with that of the principal firms, and also many provincial banks which are gradually and inevitably being absorbed. There is, indeed, a great superfluity of institutions claiming the description "bank," and the present difficult situation is having the healthy result of weeding them out. Fortunately this weeding-out process has been completed in England. It is obviously inadmissible to draw from this, as did a writer in a recent number of *Martins Bank Review*, conclusions regarding the soundness or unsoundness of the German system, whose distinctive characteristics, so far as the major banks are concerned, this series of articles has endeavoured to depict.

WOMEN AND THE FACTORY ACTS.

Sooner or later, it may be supposed, the Government will introduce its Factories Bill, and then the controversy, which has long been smouldering, between those who hold that women are not physically fitted for employment at all times and in all conditions that are possible to men, and those whose attitude suggests that they regard the terms "man" and "woman" as linguistic anachronisms corresponding to no surviving physiological facts, will presumably burst into flame. Without entering into the controversy as to the motives which have inspired industrial legislation for the protection of women, or discussing whether its continuance is necessary, the Home Office has endeavoured to clarify the issue by elucidating one important point. It is claimed by the complete "equalitarians" that restrictions on the employment of women have placed them at an unfair disadvantage. This is a question of ascertainable fact; and the results of the

efforts of the Home Office to ascertain it are embodied in a concise White Paper.*

The figures below, showing changes in the percentages of men and women employed in various industries, certainly suggest *prima facie* that women's employment has not been prejudiced by the Factory Acts:—

PERCENTAGE OF MALES AND FEMALES EMPLOYED.

	1890.		1907.		1928.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Textiles	39·5	60·5	37·5	62·5	36·1	63·9
Non-Textiles	*84·5*	*15·5*	*77·2*	*22·8*	*72·9*	*27·1*
China and earthenware	62·3	37·7	53·8	46·2	49·9	50·1
Food and drink	84·2	15·8	71·2	28·8	64·0	36·0
Tobacco	36·7	63·3	25·2	74·8	27·9	72·1
Metal (excluding extraction and foundry)	92·7	7·3	94·2	5·8	87·0	13·0
Printing, bleaching, dyeing and lace warehouses	72·9	27·1	72·9	27·1	67·7	32·3
Clothing	40·4	59·6	33·9	66·1	32·0	68·0
Paper, printing & stationery	73·2	26·8	64·1	35·9	62·5	37·5
Chemicals	90·4	9·6	84·0	16·0	81·3	18·7

It is, of course, possible to argue that the steady rise in the percentage of females in all these industries might have been even more marked in the absence of any restrictions on their employment, but the more detailed analysis in the report does not support this. An inquiry was made into the causes which have operated in the past to determine the distribution of women in industry, and a similar investigation was made into industries recently established. In both cases the conclusions are approximately the same, apart from a substantial element of tradition in the older industries, that the choice as between men and women for employment on a given operation is determined by a wide variety of considerations in which legal limitations play a very small part indeed.

It is only necessary to enumerate the legal restrictions on the one hand, and the other economic considerations on the other, to see that this could hardly be otherwise. The daily period of women's employment is limited to twelve hours, to be taken between specified times; their overtime is restricted; they may not work at night or on Sundays; a minimum of half-holidays is prescribed; they may not work for more than a given time without a break, and fixed meal times must be allowed. Further, they may not clean moving machinery, and their employment in a few processes is prohibited or restricted. Nearly all these regulations have their parallel as far as men are concerned in trade union rules, which are rigidly enforced, and apart from trade union action, men's conditions in industries where both men and women are employed have been largely assimilated to those laid down for women. Indeed, knowledge that this would be so was largely responsible for the support by men of the earlier Factory Act agitations. Law or no law, on the other hand, women are cheaper; they are said to take more kindly to monotonous work; and for certain processes they have a natural aptitude. Against this they have less physical strength, and the probability that they will leave their employment on marriage renders it a doubtful investment, both for them and for their employers, for them to spend time in learning highly skilled processes. It is the balance of these considerations that mainly determines their employment.

According to this report the employment of women in the cotton, wool and worsted, boot and shoe and lace industries is entirely determined by their suitability or unsuitability for a given job, and is little influenced by considerations of wages. In jute, pottery and the light metal trades, on the other hand, wage considerations play an important part. With the doubtful exception of certain branches of the lace trade, none of these industries appear to be deterred by legislative restrictions from employing women where they would otherwise be economically desirable. In the tinplate industry women were formerly, owing to the isolation of the communities concerned, employed on very heavy work, and they have now been largely displaced by labour-saving machinery. In the Hinckley hosiery industry they are excluded from certain perfectly suitable processes by trade union agreement, owing to the fact that the district does not provide enough alternative employment for men. This and similar instances suggest that the most effective potential check on the expansion of women's employment lies in the necessity of preserving some sort of balance between the employment of men and women, since the proportions in which they exist are outside human control.

In the newer industries, similar conditions obtain. Light processes in the rayon industry, which require delicacy of touch, are regarded as women's work, whereas the processes preparatory to spinning are considered unsuitable. Similarly in the tobacco, gramophone and electrical fittings industries women are assigned light repetition work which would be of too blind-alley a character for men, but which women prefer as being more immediately remunerative. In those few industries where women have lost ground, the cause has generally been changes in machinery or in processes, or, in a few cases, trade union opposition to their employment.

A few cases are, however, cited of the exclusion of women from certain occupations as the result of the Factory Acts. The most important of these instances formed the only subject of complaint to the Home Office in recent years—namely, the effect of the prohibition of night work in preventing trained women electricians from taking charge of small country stations. A letter to the Press by the president and secretary of the Women's Engineering Society points out the hardship of this, but in view of the peculiar conditions of the work it would seem not beyond the bounds of possibility to make an exception for it without modifying the general principle. Other instances of exclusion are certain operations in connection with perishable food, which have to be carried on on Sunday, but the whole body of such cases does not represent a very serious volume of employment.

For the most part, the Factory Acts reflect a body of public opinion so strong that the conditions they prohibit would not be likely ever again to become prevalent. Thus their effect is rather to safeguard a minority of women than to hamper the majority. In so far as they directly affect the choice between men and women for given classes of work, they tend rather to redistribute women among different occupations than to diminish the numbers of them in employment. It seems likely that men's trade unions will always try to reserve to themselves a certain field of employment; the effect of factory legislation is to encourage the reservation to them of that part of the field which is least suitable for women.

* "A Study of the Factors which have operated in the past, and those which are operating now, to determine the Distribution of Women in Industry." Cmd. 3508. H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net.

BUDGET SUPPLEMENT

With The Economist of April 5th there will be published a special Supplement dealing with the National Finances. It will include an analysis of the accounts for the year ended March 31st, and the course of Revenue and Expenditure in recent years. As a handy form of reference, the Supplement will be of the greatest value to all those interested in Mr. Snowden's forthcoming Budget.

Notes of the Week.

The Naval Conference.—The return of M. Briand to London on Wednesday opened a new phase of the Naval Conference, the question whether sufficient guarantees can be given to France to induce her to agree to a substantial reduction of her tonnage revealing itself finally as the determining factor in the matter of a Five-Power Agreement. The situation has so far changed that the French are no longer insisting on a Mediterranean Pact of Guarantee, which Mr MacDonald, in the almost aggressive declaration of his wireless address to America, refused to consider. The demand for security is not abated, but there appears to be a new disposition in French quarters to seek it within the framework of the League of Nations. To that extent there is an approximation between the British and French views, for the Prime Minister has made it clear that while he will not go beyond the confines of the League Covenant, the Kellogg Pact and Locarno, he will not shrink from the fulfilment of any of the obligations falling on Great Britain as a signatory of those instruments. That particular aspect of the discussion resolves itself into one single question: What assurance can be given to the French that Article XVI of the Covenant will be applied, at a moment of crisis, immediately and effectively enough to justify France in relying on that Article for protection —at any rate for partial protection—instead of on her armies and fleet? There is clearly common ground here on which the two parties can stand, but one or two public contributions to discussion, such as Sir Austen Chamberlain's recent letter to *The Times*, suggesting that Great Britain is more concerned about evading obligations under Article XVI than about executing them, have inevitably awakened French suspicion and led France to demand embarrassingly explicit assurances which it may be difficult for the Prime Minister to give. Even if this corner can be rounded—and the two parties are clearly more *en rapport* in this matter than they were before M. Briand's departure—there remain the question of Franco-Italian parity and the question of America's association with any Pact that may be concluded. On the latter issue new light has been cast by an official American statement provoked by the need for disposing of various inaccurate assertions in London papers. It looks now as if the United States, provided France's troubles about security can be settled without her, will be willing to conclude a consultative treaty on the basis of the Pacific Pact, and not limited to any particular area, such as the Mediterranean. The psychological value of that would obviously be great, and it would be grossly short-sighted on France's part if she frustrated such advances by showing herself impossibly exacting in the matter of precise guarantees. The discussions now in progress are necessarily delicate and can hardly fail to be decisive, but so long as they continue hope of the conclusion of a Five-Power Pact need not be abandoned.

The Legacy of the War in the Balkans.—The Balkan problem is like the Hydra. When you cut off one of its many heads two new heads promptly sprout up from the stump, making the monster more monstrous than ever. The moral is that this problem can never be solved by violent methods. Yet for centuries everybody concerned has tried to solve it in this way. Fiume, it will be remembered, was annexed to Italy after the war by violence, in contravention of existing treaties. The excuse was that the population of the port was Italian by nationality; but the unfortunate Fiumans, who were given no choice about "satisfying their national aspirations," had also no choice about paying a prohibitive economic price for this problematic political blessing. The port of Fiume was cut off by a frontier and a Customs barrier from the hinterland on which its prosperity—nay, its existence—depended; and under this *régime* it has been dying a painful and lingering death from inanition. The Italian Government, waking up to the fact that the liberated city is really *in articulo mortis*, has now tardily applied a positive remedy. It has declared Fiume a free port—an act of common sense which would have saved endless political tension and economic damage if everybody had agreed to its being taken in 1919. It remains to be seen whether the situation at Fiume can still be saved; for during the last ten years the Jugoslav Government has naturally been developing other ports—for instance, Susak, just across the road, not to speak of Spalato—to replace the lost port of Croatia. Unhappily Fiume may be raised from her bed of sickness only to find that her "job" in life has now been taken over permanently by her neighbours. Another legacy of the war in the Balkans is the *imperium in imperio* of the Macedonian refugees in Bulgaria. In their own country these militant Macedonian nationalists cannot hold their own against their Jugoslav masters, who emerged from the peace settlement fully armed. But defeated Bulgaria can neither refuse asylum to refugees from Bulgaria Irredenta nor control these refugees when they arrive—Bulgaria being disarmed by treaty, whereas the Macedonian revolutionaries take their arms with them wherever they go, in defiance of everybody. From bases of operations on Bulgarian soil they raid across the frontier in order to harry the Jugoslav administration in their lost Macedonian homelands. The Bulgarian Government fails to prevent these raids. The Jugoslav Government holds the Bulgarian Government responsible, makes demands for drastic repression of the refugees, and more or less openly threatens to take sanctions if the Bulgarian Government does not give it satisfaction. Then the Powers, anxious to forestall this unseemly and dangerous *dénouement*, reinforce the Jugoslav representations with more courteously-worded representations of their own. This scene has been played many times already since the war. It was played again last week, and it will continue to be played until the trouble that perpetually brings it on to the stage is remedied.

Mr Gandhi on the March.—Mr Gandhi is marching slowly from his home at Sabarmati, near Ahmedabad, towards the coast, with the avowed intention of breaking the salt laws by making salt for himself in the Government pans. It is no secret that he is playing for arrest, but the Government of India have so far refrained from playing into his hands. They have arrested the second in command of the movement, Mr Patel; they have refrained from arresting the leader; and, before they are driven to do what Mr Gandhi wants, they may find several alternative moves still open to them. Presumably they will wait and see whether the procession really reaches the salt pans and whether the leader and his companions succeed in making salt if and when they arrive there. And, even supposing that they do succeed in making it, the Indian Government may then elect to strike at the creature rather than at the creator—in other words, to confiscate the illegally manufactured salt rather than to imprison the Mahatma. In fact, Mr Gandhi's latest *démarche* might be treated as a farce if the prime mover were not, as he is, a man of unusual distinction; and if he had not rather perversely re-entered politics in order to preach intransigence at a moment when reconciliation and co-operation are within reach, if only all those concerned exert themselves to secure these two *summa bona* of political life. Of course, Mr Gandhi still proclaims that the campaign to overthrow the Government is to be a campaign of "non-violence," and that his attack is directed against institutions and not against human beings. But, unfortunately, the moderation of his formal programme is obscured by the violence of his language. This violence grows as the march continues; and it almost looks as though Mr Gandhi's bitterest grievance against the Government was their refusal to play the part which he has assigned to them in his comedy. We cannot help marvelling, once again, that so fine a character should behave in a way which can only be described as childish and irresponsible. Mr Gandhi cannot claim to be an innocent in politics; that defence would debar him, *à priori*, from appearing on the politic stage. Nor can we file the defence on his behalf when we recall that, already once before, a similar campaign which was inaugurated by Mr Gandhi under the same banner of "non-violence" did lead to bloodshed and that Mr Gandhi publicly acknowledged, and repented of, his error of judgment. That frank confession was characteristic of the Mahatma, but this repetition of the mistake of which he stands confessed is apparently characteristic too. Let us hope that it will not come to further bloodshed before he recognises his mistake for the second time.

China Boiling up Again.—Unfortunately it looks as though the trouble in China, which we foresaw a month ago, is now on the point of coming to a head. The two north-western tüchüns, Yen Hsi-shan and Fêng Yühsiang, are openly making common cause against Chiang Kai-shek, the President and Generalissimo of the Kuomintang Central Government at Nanking. The opposing armies are lining up somewhere along the northern borders of the two sorely-tried provinces of Honan and Shantung. And China may be on the eve of a worse bout of civil war than she has experienced since the campaigns of 1926 and 1927. Even in the far south, the Communists and "Ironsides," whom the Nanking Government has several times defeated and dispersed, but has never succeeded in stamping out, are threatening to issue from their lairs in the highlands between the Yangtse Valley and Canton. Indeed, if once the fighting begins, the three Eastern Provinces in Manchuria seem to be the only fraction of China that is likely to remain at peace. "The Young Marshal" at Mukden, Chang Hsüeh-liang, stumbled into a little war of his own last year against the Russians—an adventure in which he lost the greatest amount of "face" that it is possible for a Government to lose. It will be only common sense if, this time, he takes his turn of looking on while the rest of China is at war. All the same, such common sense would deserve the gratitude of China and the world; for, so long as Manchuria remains untouched, it may continue to be a place of refuge for the ruined peasantry of the war-zone—a land of promise in which, if only they can reach it, they may look forward to enjoying the long-forgotten experience of reaping where they have sown, instead of seeing the fruits of their labours ruthlessly swept away by predatory soldiers and brigands. Moreover, so long as, in Manchuria, the local Chinese Government holds aloof, the civil war may burn itself out elsewhere without so much risk of bringing on another international crisis. Yet, when all is said, the general prospect is distinctly discouraging. The conflict, if it comes, will cost hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of lives—not in casualties, but in famine and disease among the civil population—and it will push an already ruined country a long stage further down the path towards utter economic disorganisation. Yet the cause of the trouble is a meaningless clash of personal interests—the mutual fears and irreconcilable ambitions of three major "war-lords" and a host of smaller fry. All reasonable Chinese have become exasperated at the political bankruptcy of their country; but they have not yet found a means of making their will effective against the men of the sword.

The Egyptian Delegation Arrives.—The Egyptian delegation, led by the Prime Minister, Mustafa Pasha Nahas, has now arrived in London in order to begin negotiations with Mr Henderson on the basis of the provisional agreement between the Foreign Secretary and Nahas Pasha's predecessor in office, Muhammed Pasha Mahmud. Nahas Pasha, as leader of the Wafd, is better qualified from every point of view than any other Egyptian statesman to take the lead in negotiating a definitive settlement with Great Britain on his country's behalf; and his followers have been wise enough to leave him a free hand by refraining from any preliminary discussion of the provisional Henderson-Mahmud agreement in the new Egyptian Parliament. Thus the negotiations start under exceptionally favourable conditions —so favourable that such an opportunity, if now lost, is unlikely to recur again for many years. Nahas Pasha has made public statements which indicate that he appreciates this important point, and it is certainly not less appreciated on the British side. We welcome the arrival of the Egyptian delegation, and we look forward with great hope to a successful result of the joint labours into which they and Mr Henderson are about to enter. In the well-intended but abortive negotiations of 1928 between Sarwat Pasha and Sir Austen Chamberlain, the stumbling-block was the question of the British forces in Egyptian territory. It was over this that Sarwat Pasha fell, because Nahas Pasha, as leader of the party which commanded a majority in the coalition Government of the day, declined to endorse what Sarwat Pasha had done. This time there is little danger of Nahas Pasha rejecting what Mahmud Pasha has accepted under this head, since the present British Government has rightly agreed to the essential accommodation on this point for which Sir Austen Chamberlain failed to secure the approval of his colleagues in the late Conservative Ministry. This time the crux is likely to be the Sudan —a problem which was left over by Sarwat Pasha and Sir Austen Chamberlain for future discussion, while Mahmud Pasha and Mr Henderson have agreed in a general way to settle it on the basis of the *status quo*. It is to be hoped that on this point, as on the rest, Nahas Pasha will not demand substantially more than what satisfied his predecessor.

The Beam Controversy.—The Postmaster-General's defence of his Department in the House of Commons on Wednesday does not wholly remove the impression that the Imperial Communications Company has not been accorded a "square deal" in the matter of overseas wireless telephony. Mr Lees-Smith had no real answer to the criticism that the experts, whose answers to specific technical questions drawn up by the Post Office have now been published (Cmd. 3526), were asked to give an opinion restricted, if not distorted, by the nature of the questionnaire addressed to them. On the question whether the company's system would be more expensive than that of the Post Office, he admitted that the Rugby and Baldock services would cost, at his estimate, £43,000 a year, against the rental of £40,000 asked by the I.C.C.; but he argued that when the cost of providing land lines (£20,800 a year) was included, and when consideration was given to the fact that the company proposed to charge a royalty of 10 per cent. on receipts over a certain figure, the public would obtain the benefits of substantial savings under the Post Office system. This may be so, though when allowance is made for the fact that the Post Office aerials have to be erected at a considerable capital cost (whereas the beam aerials are ready for use), the figures of estimated savings are not very impressive, even if one accepts the accuracy of the curiously high estimate of the cost of land lines. Moreover, on grounds of equity, it should not be forgotten that the company is paying the Government a rental of £250,000 for the use of the beam stations in any case. Mr Lees-Smith, we think, was gravely at fault in importing into this unfortunate controversy an element of political bias, as he did by depicting the Post Office as the taxpayers' friend and the company as a capitalist concern out for monopoly profits. In fact, the company is a semi-public body, invested with statutory obligations, and to discourage its working, for the advantage of a Department of State, is in no way to the public interest. Friction and rivalry between the Post Office and the I.C.C. are calculated to be of the greatest disservice to the development of Imperial communications, and for this reason it would be a wise and statesmanlike act on the part of Mr Lees-Smith to have the whole issue re-submitted to impartial investigation by a competent body whose proceedings should be public, and before whom all the parties should have the fullest opportunity to state their case.

Unemployment.—The coming into operation last week of the Unemployment Insurance Act apparently caused a considerable access of "re-registrations." Persons who had ceased to be eligible for benefit under the old Act now turned in great numbers to the exchanges, and, according to the Minister of Labour, most of the increase of 31,675 in the number of persons wholly unemployed on March 17 was due to this movement, the greater part of which occurred in Scotland. Even allowing for this, however, the number of unemployed at 1,621,800 is higher than it has been at this season since 1922, and it has been steadily rising during the last two months. Though regrettable, it is, therefore, not surprising that a financial resolution is to be proposed, authorising the introduction of a Bill to increase the borrowing powers of the Unemployment Fund by £10,000,000 to £50,000,000 during the deficiency period. As the fund has already borrowed up to £37,450,000, and as outgoings at the present level of unemployment are expected to exceed the revenue by about £275,000 per week, while interest payments in the neighbourhood of one million pounds fall due at the end of March and September, it is evident that the present limit of borrowing must very soon be exceeded. The wisdom of last year's Act, which was passed on the eve of a trade recession and has added to the strain upon the fund by increasing both the amount of benefit and the number of people eligible for it, is another matter.

Wool Wages Crisis.—The menace of a stoppage once more hangs over the wool textile industry. On Monday it was announced at a meeting of the Joint Industrial Council that, notwithstanding the recommendation of the National Union of Textile Workers that their members should bow to an unpleasant necessity, the result of the ballot vote taken by all the unions concerned was a majority of over seven to two against acceptance of the modified wage reduction recommended by Lord Macmillan and accordingly pressed by the employers. On Wednesday a meeting of federated firms in all sections of the industry decided to post notices of reductions in accordance with Lord Macmillan's findings. In response to this decision the secretary of the operatives' side of the Joint Industrial Council stated that, when notices were posted, the unions, having regard to the results of their ballots, would give instructions to cease work. The deadlock is thus complete, and an accommodating spirit among the operatives is unlikely to be engendered by the wording of the employers' official *communiqué*, which announced that the resolution to post notices was carried "with the greatest enthusiasm." Though the employers doubtless desired to impress on the unions that there would not be a repetition of the vacillation and lack of unity which characterised their attempts to secure a wage reduction last year, "enthusiasm" in this connection would be a revolting sentiment, and the phrase was as tactless as, we trust, it was misleading. The attitude, however, which the operatives have taken up appears to us to be indefensible. Though a 9 per cent. wage reduction, as we have said (*Economist*, March 15th, p. 574), seems unlikely to be sufficient, without concerted measures of rationalisation, to solve the industry's problems, some immediate alleviation of the present financial strain is imperative; and though both sides were careful to point out in advance that Lord Macmillan's findings would not be legally binding, the operatives, faced originally by demands for a wage cut much more severe than that now proposed, did in effect assent to arbitration. To refuse now to accept the award is a policy not calculated to enhance the unions' prestige or to command public sympathy.

Lancashire and the Eight-Loom System.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Developments in the weaving section of the Lancashire cotton industry may result in labour difficulties in the near future. Twelve months ago the employers and the operatives in the Burnley district came to an agreement whereby ten firms started an experiment in production which provided for each firm to work four per cent. of their looms on the "eight looms per weaver" system. It was arranged that the looms should be run at a slower speed and the weavers have been assisted by extra hands in cloth carrying, weft carrying and oiling and cleaning. It was agreed that during the experiment the weavers should receive a fixed weekly wage of 50s., but this was reduced last summer, in accordance with the wages reduction of 6¼ per cent., to 46s. 10d. This new system has met with a considerable amount of success. The employers have been enabled to reduce their costs and the weavers have received higher wages, as under the old system of four looms the average was from 40s. to 42s. a week. The agreement was for twelve months, and the period expires at the beginning of next week. Negotiations have recently taken place between the two sides and the Burnley Operative Weavers' Association has handed over the negotiations with the employers to the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation. Employers have proposed to pay 50s. a week for eight looms, but the representatives of the workpeople have suggested a different arrangement which would give the operatives a wage of 55s. to 56s. a week. Early this month the Burnley Manufacturers' Association sent a *questionnaire* to the members, who were asked if they were in favour of adopting the system of running eight looms to a weaver, provided arrangements could be made without causing trouble with the operatives' association. They were also asked if they were willing to agree to steps being taken for the adoption of the new system even if arrangements could not be made with the operatives' association. It is understood that the replies have been almost unanimous in favour of pressing the demand. Amongst the operatives there is considerable uneasiness as to the effect of the proposed changes. The workpeople are being balloted on the question, and it is understood the result will be announced at a special meeting of the General Council of the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation to be held in Manchester this Saturday. In trade circles it is hoped that a satisfactory agreement will be reached. It is held that only by such methods can Lancashire expect to meet foreign competition. The change suggested is likely to cause some temporary displacement of labour, but employers are convinced that in due course the eight-loom system will result in a larger amount of total employment in the district.

The German Shipping Merger.—A correspondent writes:—The announcement of the merging of the two leading German shipping companies ends a long-standing maritime rivalry. The remarkable feat after the war of re-creating out of nothing a formidable mercantile fleet was accompanied by an increasing element of competition between Hamburg and Bremen. The announcement that the United States would release the proceeds from the liquidated German property brought a fresh stimulus to both groups, and on the strength of these prospects large building programmes were inaugurated; the Lloyd Company laid down the two super liners, Bremen and Europa; and the "Hapag" decided to concentrate on a smaller type of liner and on an expansion of freight tonnage. Both lines competed also in acquiring interests in supplementary lines, the North German Lloyd developing close relations with both the Hansa and the Hamburg South America line. Considerable shipbuilding interests also came under the control of the two leading groups. Competition was beginning to prove uneconomic, and informal negotiations with a view to ending the competition were opened in 1927 at the instigation of interested bankers, but broke down on account partly of personal and partly of technical difficulties. The struggle redoubled its fierceness; only last year the Lloyd torpedoed the North Atlantic pool conference while the Hapag obstructed the Lloyd's plans in Czechoslovakia. The delay in the return of the American liquidation funds and new difficulties in the international freight market eventually led to a reopening of negotiations. It is said that two bankers, Jacob Goldschmidt, head of the Darmstädter Bank in Berlin, and Herr Schroeder, of Bremen, brought about the reopening of conversations. The position of the banks is strong, for the bank debts of the shipping concerns are formidable, the "Hapag" showing six and a half million pounds and the Lloyd four and a half millions unconsolidated debts in their respective balance sheets. The success of the negotiations has been rather sudden, and has been known to be against the wishes of many leading personalities in both firms; it may therefore take some time before the letter of the new agreement will be animated by the spirit of active co-operation. The treaty which has now been announced as coming into force on April 15th provides for a fifty years' pooling of all profits, all vessels and services to be run under joint control, all property to be pooled, reserve and depreciation to be brought to approximately equal amounts, and equal dividends to be declared. The co-ordination of time tables, agencies and, to a great extent, publicity will lead to considerable economies. The pooling is to be carried out on a basis of absolute parity. At present the share capital of both concerns is roughly the same at 160 million marks, reserves of the "Hapag" being 18 million marks and of the Lloyd 30 million marks. The former has a fleet of about 1,700,000 tons, the latter of 935,000 tons. The concerns are to be continued as separate units, retaining name and flag as before. Separate boards will continue to sit in Hamburg and in Bremen under the control of a joint supreme board. The new merger comprises, with its two million tons fleet, about half the German mercantile marine. However, it is more than likely that the associated lines, notably the Hansa and Hamburg South America line, will soon join the group, and that it will thus eventually include about two-thirds of the total tonnage of German shipping. Fears have been voiced that the merger will lead to a freight monopoly to the disadvantage of the trade, but it is pointed out that international competition will prevent any undue exploitation of the position by the new combine. One of the effects of the merger will incidentally be a heavy curtailment of orders to the shipbuilders, and it is expected that fresh fusions will be necessary in this branch of the industry. The alliance will enable many ships to be withdrawn from lines hitherto competitive, and be used for the revival of a number of routes which were served by German lines before the war. The pooling of services will thus strongly increase German competition in international shipping. It would be surprising if this prospect did not lead to further efforts towards rationalisation in other countries.

British Sales to Australia.—In view of current discussions of Empire trade, special interest attaches to an analysis of Australia's imports given in his annual report* by the British Senior Trade Commissioner. The report covers the year ending August, 1929, but the latest year for which figures were available for this analysis was 1927-28. Merchandise imports in that year were £146,896,818, of which the United Kingdom sent 42.7 per cent. and other countries 57.3 per cent. The most important single competitor with this country is the United States, whose share has increased, with scarcely a break, from 11.9 per cent. in 1913 to 24.3 per cent. in 1928-29, while that of the United Kingdom has steadily diminished during the same period from 59.7 per cent. to 39 per cent. When £38,581,304 of Australia's imports have been excluded as consisting almost entirely of goods in which the United Kingdom is debarred by natural conditions from competing, her share in the remainder amounts to £62,261,126, or 57½ per cent. Dividing this portion further into "severely competitive" and "other," the British shares appear as 30 and 85 per cent. respectively. In the "severely competitive" section are many articles in which there seems to be no good reason why the United Kingdom should not play a larger part. The tariff has no doubt been responsible for a check to import trade in general, but it cannot be blamed for the comparative decline of British trade as compared with that of foreign countries. Mr. Dalton lays a large share of the blame for this on the failure of British manufacturers to realise that the London merchant engaged in Australian trade no longer plays his former part of direct seller, since the Australian department stores now, for the most part, do their own importing. It is therefore no longer enough to show samples in London, since "London shipping" no longer has authority to buy. One of the most essential developments in salesmanship is the maintenance of agents in Australia, who should preferably be Australians with an established connection, in order that samples and patterns may be available for the personal inspection of the Australian retailer.

* *Economic and Trade Conditions in Australia.* By R. W. Dalton. (54-4-0-29.) H.M. Stationery Office. 4s. 6d. net.

France and Mesopotamian Oil.—Hopes are entertained in France (writes our Paris correspondent) that the question of the outlet of the pipeline which is to bring the French share of the Mesopotamian petrol to the Syrian coast is now on the eve of settlement. The reports of the three experts (French, British and American), who had the duty of considering, from a strictly commercial point of view, the various routes proposed for the pipeline have resulted in a detailed *questionnaire* being sent by the directors of the Irak Petroleum Company (formerly known as the Turkish Petroleum Company) to the French High Commissioner in Syria and the British High Commissioner in Palestine, in order to clear up certain points at issue. The fact that the delegate sent by the company to settle questions of detail on its behalf is the representative of the Compagnie Française des Pétroles on the expert commission concerned has given rise to a belief here that the French views as to the most suitable point for the Mediterranean end of the pipeline are likely to find acceptance. The British interests concerned, it will be remembered, desire that the pipeline should reach the sea at Haiffa, which is under the British mandate, while the French are anxious that Tripoli, which is under their own mandate, shall be selected. The pipeline question is a capital one for the French, as it appears to be the only obstacle now in the way of their obtaining delivery of their share of the Mesopotamian oil, of which they have been allotted some 23 per cent., like their British, American and Irak Petroleum Company partners. With their share of the Irak petroleum at their disposition, the French will be largely independent of American and other foreign supplies, and will thus be in a position to reduce substantially their existing deficit balance of trade.

The Currency of Hong Kong.—The review of conditions in China contained in the speech of the chairman of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (which is reported in full on another page) presents a gloomy picture of conditions in that country. While acknowledgment was made of the Nanking Government's success in surviving three serious crises, it seemed to the chairman very doubtful whether the position of the Government had been strengthened, and he thought that the political events of 1929 had proved how vain were the hopes that the Nationalist victory towards the end of 1928 meant the abolition of all the old disruptive forces of the country. The section of the speech, however, which commanded the closest attention of the audience was that dealing with the slump in the price of silver and its reaction upon the currency of Hong Kong. An authoritative opinion to the effect that there is little prospect of any appreciable recovery in the price of silver, taking into account all the factors which have led to the present excess of supply over demand, forces one to realise the futility of suspending business operations in the hope of a return to a more favourable rate of exchange. A decline of 25 per cent. in the exchange value of the dollar during the course of a year is undoubtedly a serious matter which is bound to restrict, for a time, imports from gold countries. Nevertheless, depreciation of this magnitude has been faced before, and, while it may cause some measure of dislocation, trade will ultimately adjust itself to a lower level of exchange. Of greater moment to the business interests of Hong Kong is the position of the local currency *vis-à-vis* the currency of South China. On this point the chairman of the bank was somewhat vague. He referred to the decision of the banks of the colony to bring the currency back to a silver basis, whereby silver dollars were put into circulation, but he did not mention that parity with silver has never actually been reached, so that Hong Kong notes are still at a premium above

their silver content. As there is no demand for these newly minted dollars in the neighbouring provinces, with which Hong Kong trade interests are so closely identified, the question arises whether the time has not come for Hong Kong to adopt a gold currency basis.

Hitherto this proposal has been condemned on the ground that Hong Kong is bound to follow Chinese currency, and as long as that remains on a silver basis Hong Kong cannot make a change; but the recent adoption of a gold standard by French Indo-China suggests that the question of reforming the currency of Hong Kong might very well be reconsidered.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Merchants' Marine Insurance Company.—This company, whose shares are owned by the Employers' Liability, is an old-established concern founded in 1871. The share capital was acquired by the Employers' Liability in 1921 for £750,000, but successive writings down to £125,000 have been necessary, in addition to which a further £343,000 has been set aside as an investment reserve to provide for further losses. The parlous condition of the Merchants' Marine and the consequent drain upon the resources of the Employers' Liability are a conspicuous example of the tragic state of marine insurance. Two years ago, however, the situation was taken in hand and drastic changes were made. In pursuance of this policy the premium income has been curtailed, and the first fruits are seen in the results of the 1928 underwriting account, namely, a greatly reduced loss of £40,000. The final outcomes of the last six underwriting accounts have been as follows:—

Underwriting Account:	Loss. £
1923	85,000
1924	101,253
1925	96,743
1926	187,411
1927	175,776
1928	40,000

The 1929 account shows premiums of £286,000, compared with £368,000 in 1928, and the balance remaining after meeting expenses and first year's claims is equal to 60 per cent. of the premiums, against 63 per cent. in 1928. This result justifies the directors in the hope "that the underwriting account of 1929 will approximately balance." In addition to the marine business there is a small fire and general account with premiums of £63,000, which produced in 1929 a loss of £2,000, compared with a profit of £6,500 in the previous year.

London Life Association.—The London Life, as it is now constituted, is the result of the fusion of three distinct companies, the London Life, the Clergy Mutual, absorbed in 1919, and the Metropolitan, added in 1928. The combination is a powerful one, controlling funds in excess of £21 million and transacting a new life business amounting to nearly £3 million per annum. It has won this position for itself on merits and without the aid—or rather in spite of the absence—of an agency organisation remunerated by commission; for it is well known that the association pays no commission whatever. The year 1929 was the first complete year since the recent absorption of the Metropolitan, and the exploitation of this new connection has yielded a greatly increased new business in every department—life, annuity and sinking fund. Life business totalled £2,927,608, compared with £2,502,925 in 1928, new annuities for £125,224 were issued, compared with £95,977, and new sinking fund policies for £611,163 were completed, compared with £219,978. Moreover this was achieved without increasing the expense ratio, which remained at the same figure, namely 5.6 per cent. of the total premium income. On the investment side interest earnings were fractionally lower at £4 11s. 11d. per cent. net. The capital position is disclosed with commendable frankness. The association suffered depreciation during 1929 amounting to £675,055, but realised profits reduce the net loss to £519,894. This latter figure is equal to about 8 per cent. of the Stock Exchange securities and to 2¼ per cent. of the total funds—a result which cannot be considered unsatisfactory in a year of universal depreciation such as 1929. The usual annual valuation of the liabilities of all three offices has been made and the results of that relating to the London Life are as follows:—

Reduction of Premiums Fund.

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Surplus earned during the year	143,601	153,361	164,551
Investment profits realised	37,156	25,523	77,393
Brought forward from previous year	20,982	33,450	34,076
	201,739	212,334	276,020
Allocations:			
Strengthening of valuation reserves	18,144	21,244	33,693
Provision for increase in rates of reduction of premium	115,365	121,044	129,060
Investment reserve fund	34,780	22,831	77,687
Staff superannuation fund	...	13,138	3,581
Carried forward to next year	33,450	34,077	31,999
	£201,739	£212,334	£276,020

The profits earned in this fund are allotted in the form of reductions of the full rates of premium payable, and the provision made for this purpose has again permitted an increase of 3 in the rate of reduction, which now, therefore, ranges from 136 per cent. in the oldest series to 51 per cent. in the current series. But, as was foreshadowed last year, these favourable terms can no longer be extended to new entrants and a new series is to be created with a commencing rate of reduction of 46 per cent.

Reversionary Bonus Fund.

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Surplus earned during the year	121,649	128,536	166,438
Investment profits realised	8,639	6,666	23,013
Brought forward from previous year	12,691	7,751	20,438
	142,979	142,953	209,889
Allocations:			
Bonuses to policy holders	90,846	108,675	122,667
Valuation reserves	33,874	...	29,794
Investment reserve fund	10,508	8,972	28,463
Staff superannuation fund	...	4,868	1,317
Carried forward to next year	7,751	20,438	27,648
	£142,979	£142,953	£209,889

The reversionary bonus for "with profits" policies has been maintained at the rate to which it was raised last year, namely 40s. per cent. compound. The valuations made of the Clergy Mutual and of the Metropolitan show them to be at least as prosperous as the parent company. The year just passed marks the centenary of the Clergy Mutual and the event has been signalised by the distribution of a special reversionary bonus of £1 per cent. in addition to the normal bonuses.

Marine and General Life Assurance Society.—In spite of the fact that 1929 was the closing year of a quinquennial valuation period, this society's volume of new business showed a reduction from £380,911 to £333,606, this being the second successive year in which the total had failed to register an increase. The society is the smallest among the mutual offices, and the slow rate of expansion has evidently disappointed expectations quite legitimately founded on the undoubted merits of its contracts. During his remarks at the recent annual meeting the chairman played upon the familiar theme of whole-life assurances versus endowment assurances, and bewailed the popularity of the latter. "Whereas in 1913," he said, "whole-life policies formed 60 per cent. of the total of assurances in force in British offices, the percentage to-day is under 40, the average amount of a whole-life policy being £500 and of an endowment £200 only, and the premium for either policy being about the same," and he went on to make the point that £200 is a wholly inadequate amount of cover, and that it would be a much sounder proposition to spend the same premium in providing the larger policy for £500. As regards the quinquennial actuarial valuation, a change has been made in the basis hitherto adopted for the annuities in the direction of employing a more stringent mortality table, though at 4 per cent. interest

instead of 3 per cent. The results of the past two valuations are as follows:—

Marine and General.

	1920–1924. £	1925–1929. £
Surplus earned during quinquennium	300,225	474,785
Investment profits taken credit for	17,233	...
Brought forward from previous valuations	1,400	15,616
	318,858	490,401
Allocations:		
To bonuses to policyholders	303,242	406,753
Carried forward to next valuation	15,616	83,648
	318,858	490,401

The increase in the surplus earned is in part a reflection of the larger volume of existing business, but is due also to more favourable interest earnings and to lower expenses. As a result of greater prosperity the reversionary bonus to the with-profits policyholders has been increased, and the increased distribution still leaves a comfortable margin of earnings in contradistinction to the position five years earlier. In allotting the bonuses the society has adopted the now familiar plan of granting differential rates as between whole-life and endowment assurances. On this occasion the rates are as follows:—

	Per cent. compound per annum.
Whole-life assurances	50/–
Endowment assurances:	
Original term 30 years or over	50/–
„ „ 20 years to 29 years	48/–
„ „ under 20 years	46/–

Five years ago the bonus declared was a compound reversionary rate of 40s. per cent. per annum.

Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society.—Over the period of the last five years it is curious to observe that, the general department excepted, the total premium income of this society shows an actual decline. The exception in the general department is accounted for by the fact that a large proportion of this business is transacted by subsidiaries. The beginning of this period coincides with the acquisition of control by the Norwich Union Life Society from the Phœnix, and it might have been expected that the exploitation of the life connections would have furnished additional income, the more so, indeed, as, this company being a mutual company, all profits of the fire company go to enhance the bonus of the life company's policies. Although the premium income has failed to show expansion the underwriting results have been remarkably stable, and those for 1929 no less so than for previous years. This result in 1929 has been achieved in spite of a poor fire account, and is owing to improved employers' liability figures and to a less unfavourable outcome of the marine department. The details of the past two years are as follows:—

	1928 Surplus. Amount. £	1928 Surplus. Percentage of Premiums. %	1929 Surplus. Amount. £	1929 Surplus. Percentage of Premiums. %
Fire	144,847	6·4	100,333	4·6
Personal accident	3,045	2·3	2,287	1·8
Employers' liability	3,283	1·3	17,681	7·0
General	56,857	4·0	61,372	4·0
Marine	–16,805	–8·4	–5,280	–2·7
	191,227		176,393	
Less taxes, etc.	67,824		46,411	
Total net surplus	123,403		129,982	

Interest earnings show a customary increase, and, after allowing for debenture interest, amount to £190,168, this being some £20,000 short of the sum required to meet the usual dividend of £6 per share. The Norwich Union Life has exercised a wise restraint in resisting the temptation to pay larger dividends before strengthening the fire company's resources. On this occasion a sum has again been applied towards paying up some part of the uncalled liability, which will then amount to but £1 on each of the 44,000 shares of £25. The extinction of the remaining balance should be easily within the capacity of the 1930 profits.

Life Association of Scotland.—Exact comparison with the previous year's accounts of this office is precluded by the fact that the last report covered a broken period from April 6, 1928, to December 31, 1928. But it is clear that the new business organisation has produced a greatly enlarged volume of business. In 1929, new business totalled £1,133,540, a figure which compares well with that for the last complete year (April 6, 1927, to April 5, 1928), namely, £961,699. Interest earnings worked out for last year at £4 12s. 11d. per cent. net, compared with £4 11s. 6d. per cent. net, though, in spite of the increase, the rate is still rather below the average of other comparable offices. The next periodical valuation and distribution of bonuses is due to take place at the end of this year, and will be made in respect of the 4¾ years from April 6, 1926. The company has a small paid-up share capital of £87,500, consisting of £40 shares, each with £8 15s. paid up. The dividend was raised a year ago to 32s. 6d. per share, and the price is now £37, compared with £44 at this time last year.

Abstainers' and General Insurance Company.—This company, whose head office is centred in Birmingham, transacts a considerable volume of ordinary life business and a small fire and general account amongst the lower middle classes. The 1929 balance sheet again shows that the greater part of the increase in the funds has been invested in mortgages on properties, from which source much of the business is derived both in the form of life policies and in fire and accident insurances. A complete list of the Stock Exchange securities is furnished in the report, and it is evident from this that the company pursues a very inactive policy, one security only in the list having been sold during 1929. In view of the recent phenomenal improvement in long-term gilt-edged stocks it is noticeable that nearly one-half of the total holding of £656,000 British Government securities is in the form of 5 per cent. War Loan, which has participated only to a relatively small extent in the general rise. New life business in 1929 was transacted for a total of £790,288, compared with £794,482 in 1928. In addition, there was a fire and general premium income amounting to £41,791, as compared with £35,844 in 1928, and in respect of this total a net surplus of £2,517 was earned. The triennial valuation of the liabilities of the life department was made, and the results of this for the last two trienniums are as follows:—

	1924–26. £	1927–29. £
Surplus earned from trading during triennium	201,213	225,736
Investment profits realised	12,124	– 18,096
Brought forward from previous triennium	27,229	1,824
	240,566	209,464
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	153,173	205,947
„ Strengthening of reserves	57,000	...
„ Investment reserve fund	11,319	– 18,522
„ Staff pension fund	10,000	5,000
„ Shareholders' account	7,250	10,000
„ Carried forward to next triennium	1,824	7,039
	£240,566	£209,464

The rate of reversionary bonus has been raised from 34s. per cent. for the triennium 1924-26 to 40s. per cent. for whole-life assurances and 38s. per cent. for endowment assurances for the triennium just ended. It will be observed that the cost of this increased bonus absorbs a considerably higher percentage of the total trading surplus than before.

Scottish Widows' Fund.—A new and attractive general prospectus has just been published by the Scottish Widows, and it contains, as foreshadowed by the chairman in his recent speech at the annual meeting, the revised rates for whole-life with-profits assurances. Specimens of these rates and of those which they replace are as follows:—

Age at Entry.	Old Rates. £ s. d.	New Rates. £ s. d.
25	2 6 6	2 3 10
35	2 18 2	2 16 3
45	3 16 4	3 16 4
55	5 12 4	5 10 3

The reductions exemplified by the above specimens are appreciable, and the society's new rates are brought down to about the level of the average charged by other comparable offices. It is evident that the society attaches importance to the fostering of whole-life assurances instead of endowment insurances, and that it intends to make a determined attempt to cultivate this class of business.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Industry — Foreign Trade — Money — Farm Board — Tariff — Reparations.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 14.

ACTIVE pursuit of a cheap money policy by the Federal Reserve authorities, culminating this week in a 3½ per cent. discount rate at New York and an all-round weakening of interest rates, focuses attention on the unsatisfactory state of trade. Here and there some improvement in business is discernible, but on the whole activity is not much greater than it was a month ago.

March is usually the best month of the year for the steel industry, but the operating rate is about 75 per cent. of capacity, against 80 per cent. a fortnight ago. Motor-car output has not increased, and will turn out to be rather low for this month, although producers are confident that buying next month will be good and that the used car situation will shortly show great improvement. Cotton consumption in February was sharply lower than in January and in February of last year. Rubber used by the tyre factories also reflected the slowdown in the motor industry, and the copper statistics for February revealed a gain of 29,000 tons in surplus refined metal. Another increase in stocks is expected for March. Producers are still confident that they can hold the price at 18 cents, and easier money will help them to do so; but it is still an open question whether the price, admittedly too high, will not have to come down. Railroad traffic continues to run lower than for this season in any year since 1924 or 1925, and net earnings of the roads in February was 28 per cent. lower than last year. On the other hand, less is heard of unemployment, and outdoor work has already begun in the farming country. It is safe to say that the worst of the business recession has been seen, but recovery promises to be slow.

Foreign trade figures for February show a sharp decline, both in exports and imports, but the export excess was still large. Exports at $351 million were $90 million below those of last year and, with the exception of July, 1927, were the lowest since March, 1924, when the country was experiencing a business recession. Imports of $281 million were $88 million below last year, and also were the smallest since early in 1924. The trade figures summarise the gold movement of the first two months and show a net gain of $63 million. Since the beginning of March a good deal of gold has come from Japan and Brazil, and releases from earmark at the Federal Reserve Bank since January 1st have added nearly $25,000,000 to our net gain. Including metal reported on the way from the Far East and South America, it is likely that our net increase for the first quarter will be at least $150 million.

Gold imports are thus adding their share to easier money conditions. Slack trade and falling commodity prices are doing even more, and finally the Federal Reserve, it is believed, is preparing to increase its outstanding credit. This week's statement reveals Reserve Bank purchases of $72 million of Government bonds, which was not quite enough to offset reduction in member bank borrowings and a decline in bill holdings, owing to heavy maturities, so that total earning assets of the system dropped to $1,049,000,000, as compared with $1,421,000,000 a year ago, and the ratio rose to 80.8 per cent. With member bank indebtedness negligible, clearly there is no reason why the Reserve should not assist the money market. At this writing it has not reduced its buying rate for bills to meet the latest (and fifth within a week) cut in dealers' asking rates, but it is expected to do so. It is believed that the Reserve authorities are willing to go as low as 3 per cent. with the discount rate if necessary to help trade recovery.

Treasury financing over the tax date is a contributing factor to the current ease in money, which is marked by call money at 2½ per cent. outside the Stock Exchange and 4 per cent. for time money and commercial bills. Bankers' bills are 3⅛ per cent. asked for 90-day maturities. The Treasury offering of $450 million of certificates met with subscriptions of $1,290,000,000, of which $483.8 million was allotted, and the issue, which bore a 3¼ per cent. coupon, went to a premium. To-day the Treasury meets maturities of $405 million in notes and on Monday has to pay off $100 million in Treasury bills sold last December. The overdraft at the Reserve Banks to provide for immediate needs pending collection of first quarter income tax cheques was approximately $200 million. This addition to member bank reserves was anticipated yesterday and was partly responsible for the extreme ease in call funds. Tax collections this quarter are expected to fall below those of a year ago, and lower revenues from that source, together with increasing demands on the Treasury made by the Farm Board, are making it probable that the income tax rate will have to be raised next year.

In addition to its original appropriation of $150 millions the Farm Board has secured an additional $100 millions, and the end is not yet, nor has the price of wheat or cotton been raised. Few people at Washington appear to have the courage to withstand the demands of the western congressmen for appropriations, although members of the Farm Board themselves recognise the futility of attempting to raise the world price of wheat by piling up an unsold surplus here, carried by Government money. This summer's harvest promises to be larger than last year's.

The prospect for passage of a tariff is somewhat brighter with the defeat of the Democratic-Progressive Republican coalition on questions of reconsideration of the sugar, tobacco and cement duties. Optimists are predicting a bill ready for President Hoover's signature by the end of April. It is now fairly certain that the bill will contain considerably higher rates for a great many important commodities.

Bankers here were gratified with the selection of Dr. Luther to head the Reichsbank and the ratification by Germany of the Young Plan. However, it is not believed that a reparation bond issue can be floated before June 1st. Writing in the current number of *Foreign Affairs*, Mr Thomas W. Lamont, after noting that the total amount of reparation bonds which can be offered the public will not be greater than $2,000 to $2,250 million, and that the first offering may be approximately $300 million, says:

> "It is not improbable that these are the only reparations bonds that the American investment markets will ever have a chance to offer—an amount far below the fantastic figures which some of our headline writers have for several years been predicting would be 'dumped' on the American market."

Referring to alleged opposition by Washington to the Bank for International Settlements, Mr Lamont writes that President Hoover and Secretary Stimson "would be among the last persons in the world to attempt to turn back the hands of the clock and to declare the international banking co-operation which has been an immense contribution to American prosperity shall never be again." Admitting that there is no legal connection between German reparations payments and foreign debt payments to this country, Mr Lamont points out that in fact there is close connection, and that during fifty-eight years Germany will pay her creditors $9,000 million and the creditors will be paying the United States $6,000 million, "an economic link that it would be hard to ignore," and, he adds: "Whether we like it or not, Germany has underwritten the debts of the Allied governments to our Government."

FRANCE.

Budget — Young Plan — Tax Relief—Money—Foreign Trade — Tourist Traffic.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, March 26.

THE Senate, after five sittings devoted to the general discussion of the Budget and the departmental expenditure of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, this morning disposed of the Colonial Office Estimates and took up the Army Estimates. With barely five days left before the beginning of the new financial year, this is regarded as ominous, and the feeling is growing that, in spite of the fact that an extra three months has already been given in which to dispose of the annual Finance Bill, resort to at least one *douzième provisoire* now appears to be inevitable. An agreement is stated to have been arrived at between the Senate Finance Commission and the Government on most of the points at issue, but it is practically certain that all M. Tardieu's driving force will be necessary if the two Houses, in their present temper, are to be induced to get the Budget passed into law before midnight on Monday next. Party political cross-currents are largely responsible for the delay, and it is still quite possible that the Government may have some difficulty in assuring a majority for its Finance Bill. The whole situation is incoherent, and anything may happen between now and a week hence.

A similar situation prevails in regard to the ratification of the Young Reparation Plan and cognate decisions of the Hague Conference. The Parliamentary groups have been repeatedly in conference as to the line they should take in regard to ratification, and here, too, the situation of the Ministry is by no means assured. The Socialists assert that they have decided, by a majority, to vote for ratification, even if M. Tardieu makes the question one of confidence in the Government. Sceptics, however, are inclined to take this notification with a grain of salt. It is recalled that, before the first appearance of the short-lived Chautemps Cabinet before the Chamber, M. Léon Blum and his followers decided not to extend their support to the new Ministry—and subsequently voted solidly for it. The Marin Nationalists, on the other hand, are known to be divided in regard to certain points in the Hague decisions. Finally, the attitude of the Radical Socialists remains more than doubtful. With only six weeks left before the issue of the first portion of the international reparations loan is due, the whole situation is daily becoming increasingly difficult. One important factor in connection with the issue of the French part of the loan is the question whether the scrip offered here is to carry the same burden of taxation as ordinary French issues, or to be granted some kind of special exemption in this respect. Rentes and certain other public funds are exempt from taxation, and it would seem reasonable that, from the nature of the issue itself, the new loan should be similarly privileged, in order to facilitate dealings in it in the international market. This, however, would involve a special modification of the existing law, which might be included in the Bill which is to be introduced, immediately the Budget is disposed of, for the purpose of bringing about taxation relief and particularly in regard to the imposts on securities and on Bourse operations.

Unofficial statements are in circulation to the effect that the relief proposed will total about 1,500,000,000 francs, of which 1,000,000,000 francs will apply to the two categories of imposts just mentioned. The taxes on Bourse operations, it is asserted, are to be reduced by 50 per cent.; but so far no mention has been made of any modification in the incidence of the *tax de transmission*, which is generally regarded as the prime cause of the ordinary investor's desertion of the Bourse during the past twelve months. In 1929 taxes on securities and Bourse operations yielded a total of 5,750,000,000 francs. Of this, 3,855,000,000 francs represented income tax alone—18 per cent. on coupons of French issue and 25 per cent. on dividend payment of foreign issues circulating here. The actual relief to investors, therefore, if the total is to amount to the 1,000 millions asserted, would not be more than 20 per cent., and a good deal less if no modification is made in the (sometimes cumulative) transfer tax. On the other hand, the reduction of 20 per cent. accorded last August in registration duties on sales of building properties has already been more than compensated for by increased yields.

Money rates continue to go lower. Day-to-day money, which a week ago ruled at 2½ per cent., and has since stood at 2¼ per cent., was to-day unable to find employment at that level. The private discount rate has dropped below 2⅜ per cent., and the banks are finding it difficult to secure more than a very small supply of commercial paper even at that figure. Money rates, it is generally believed here, will not reach their lowest level until May. No further bank rate reductions, either in Paris, London or New York, are expected here until at least after the end of this month. Issues of mortgage bonds continue in large volume, and many more are foreshadowed. January and February issues of these descriptions totalled 3,817 millions, and the March total is expected to be around 2,000,000,000 francs, which will bring the total for the past 15 months to over £100,000,000. This week's issues include 10,000,000 francs 4½ per cent. 25-year bonds by Chargeurs Réunis, 50,000,000 francs 4½ per cent. 30-year bonds by Saint Frères (linen, hemp and jute), 100,000,000 francs 5 per cent. 37-year bonds by Voitures à Paris and several other large issues, most yields being "demi-net" (free of all imposts except transfer tax).

The foreign trade returns for February are:—Imports, 4,807,926,000 francs (or about 30,000,000 francs more than in January), and exports, 4,017,787,000 francs (an increase of 303,000,000 francs on the month), as compared with 5,149,000,000 francs and 4,113,172,000 francs in February, 1929. The month's exchanges show a deficit of 790,139,000 francs as compared with an adverse balance of 1,063,000,000 francs in January. The figures for the first two months of the year show a total adverse balance of 1,853,000,000 francs, which would be equivalent to about 20 per cent. of the total imports, as compared with a deficit of about 30 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1913. None of these figures confirm the curious general belief which appears to prevail here to the effect that during recent months the economic situation has changed for the worse. Production figures remain steady, and all other factors suggest that the general situation is sound.

According to figures compiled by M. Vallat, director of the Office National du Tourisme, the Government organisation for the development of tourist traffic in this country, "invisible exports" of this kind represented a total revenue to France in 1929 of 15,000,000,000 francs (about £121,000,000). These receipts, M. Vallat estimates, were divided in about equal thirds between (1) the Paris hotels and luxury trades, (2) the casino towns and other pleasure resorts of the country, and (3) the ports and excursion centres. British visitors to France far outnumbered those of any other nation, with a grand total of 759,359 persons (exclusive of 121,686 "special excursionists" who visited the war graveyards, and of tourists in transit to Italy, Spain and other points). Spaniards (534,000) and North Americans (220,000) came next in order. M. Vallat's estimate that the 220,000 American tourists spent an average of $2,200 each in the country, however, appears to be questionable.

GERMANY.

Shipping Merger — Interest Rates — Polish Treaty — Agricultural Policy.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, March 25.

THE great economic event of the past week was the combination of the two leading German shipping companies—the Hamburg-America (Hapag) and the North German Lloyd. Negotiations had been going on for years between these two old competitors, and it was often prophesied that an agreement was about to be reached, but every time the negotiations broke down. The new agreement

amounts in practice to a fusion; the two companies remain only formally separate in order that the old names shall continue to exercise their proved drawing power on both public and shippers. But a joint directorate, composed of two leading personages from each company, will conduct their affairs along the same lines, and profits will be reckoned together, so that each company will in future be able to declare the same dividend. The result of the new agreement will be a uniform navigating schedule in international traffic and joint representation in dealing with foreign competitors, although two different flags will still be carried.

The negotiations were facilitated by the fact that both concerns are of about the same proportions. The Lloyd has a capital of 165 million marks, the Hapag of 160 millions, while loans and other long-term obligations of the Lloyd amount to roundly 100 millions and of the Hapag to 140 millions. This difference is compensated for by the fact that the Lloyd can look for receipts of about 100 million marks when property sequestrated in America is released, while the Hapag has claims from the same source aggregating nearly 150 millions. The Lloyd's fleet, including new ships that will be ready this year, comprises 942,000 gross register tons, that of the Hapag 1,100,000 tons, and the value of the two fleets is about equal, since the Lloyd's three great trans-Atlantic ships represent a particularly great value. Passenger traffic between Germany and North America makes up the chief item in the Lloyd's business, whereas freight traffic is more important for the Hapag—another factor that facilitated the fusion.

Two very important reasons are responsible for the fact that it was so difficult to carry the negotiations through. Through the placing in service of the two gigantic steamers "Europe" and "Bremen" the Lloyd secured an advantage which the Hapag was not willing to accept as a basis for the negotiations. As long as a year ago the Hapag demanded, as a condition precedent for the combination, that one of the new ships must sail under its name. Now, under the pressure of foreign competition and in view of the increased difficulties of earning profits for the existing fleet, the Hapag surrendered without an equivalent the idea of building new ships to compete with the new Lloyd vessels. It was more difficult to reach a compromise on one other point. For decades the Hapag has been connected with Hamburg's economic life and the Hamburg port, and the Lloyd in like manner with Bremen. That the mutual jealousy and desire for independence of the two companies were overcome is due to the co-operation and doubtless also to the considerable financial pressure of certain bankers. Almost the entire German shipping business is now under uniform direction, a fact that will hardly work out to the disadvantage of German shippers, since the competition of foreign shipping concerns in the German ports and also in the nearby port of Amsterdam is very strong.

Following the lead of the most recent decisions of the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Reichsbank on March 24th put into effect its fourth reduction of the discount rate for this year. The new rate of 5 per cent. has been in effect only once since the stabilisation of the mark—at the beginning of 1927. It contrasts sharply with the interest rates that are being paid to satisfy Germany's urgent long-term money requirements. Even in the last few weeks from 10 to 11 per cent. has been paid for mortgages on new buildings and for credits to municipalities—both, in view of the great shortage of dwellings and the heavy municipal indebtedness in Germany, the two chief sources of the demand for money. Only in the last few days have there been signs of an improvement. But recently the quotations for German domestic loans—state and municipal obligations, mortgage bank certificates, etc.—gave a yield of from 9 to 9½ per cent. Now 7 per cent. state loans have risen to about 82 and 8 per cent. loans to 90, and in part even higher. A further rise in German bonds is looked for, and the interest of the Bourse in them is much stronger than in stocks, which are completely neglected. The Reichsbank itself gives striking expression to the discrepancy between its lowered discount rate and Germany's capital shortage when it says, in its official notice of the rate reduction:—

"The German public will have to realise that a rate of 5 per cent. does not correspond with the domestic money and capital situation in Germany, and that not the least of our reasons is the compulsion exercised by the pressure due to low rates abroad (imports of gold, etc.), to adjust ourselves to the foreign rates for money."

President von Hindenburg, as was to be expected, ultimately signed the treaty of liquidation with Poland. But, as in connection with the signing of the Young Plan, he again gave his reasons in full in a letter directed to the Chancellor but intended for the public. In this he states that his signature was conditional on the carrying through by the Government of a great programme to aid the eastern provinces of Germany. The agricultural crisis in these districts has become so catastrophic that thousands of farmers must become bankrupt in the next few months if they are not helped by the State. East Prussia is doubly affected, first by being cut off from the rest of Germany by the Polish Corridor, and second by the fall in the price of rye, which forms the basis of East Prussian farming. In addition to this is the fact that big estates predominate in the eastern districts, and these are so heavily in debt that the interest charges are crushing them. President von Hindenburg requests the Government to appropriate large sums to be employed in helping the landowners to pay their interest and thus in making it possible for them to hold their property. If this be not done, there is no way of checking the emigration of great numbers of people from these provinces.

In response to this appeal the Government has presented a so-called "eastern programme," which provides for appropriations of more than 300 million marks to be used in the next ten years. The money is to be used for interest payments, reductions of taxes, freight rebates and amortisation. In addition, railways and streets are to be improved and electric current made more widely available. Before this programme is approved by the Reichstag that body will have to consider a sharp increase of import duties on agricultural products. This will be the third within nine months. The critical development of grain prices on the world market, and especially the danger of dumping by America and Canada, compels Germany to take more and more drastic and far-reaching measures. But these increases of duties are also a danger for wide circles of the German agriculturists themselves. In the main they favour the raising of cereals, but they burden cattle raising and the production of butter and eggs, since the German farmers who have to buy fodder grain have to pay about twice as much for it as do their competitors in Denmark and Holland. In this respect the interests of the German west and the east lie far apart. But no one knows how long this crisis in grain prices will last, since it is impossible to foresee the Canadian and American price policies, and in the meantime it is impossible to permit the whole German east to be ruined.

ITALY.

Exchange Payments — Bank of Italy — Prices — Foreign Trade — Bourses.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, MARCH 13.

EXCHEQUER payments on account of effective expenditure exceeded receipts by 1,492.6 million lire in January, chiefly owing to the fact that payment of interest on Consols and other State debts was made this year in January, when it fell due, instead of being made in advance in December. As the result, cash in the Treasury, which had diminished from 2,352 million lire at June 30, 1929, to 2,241.2 at December 31, decreased further to 1,208.4 at January 31, 1930, while Treasury floating debts rose by 459.8 million lire. Usually the situation of the Treasury improves in spring, but the closest supervision will be necessary if the growth in expenditure, against which Treasury and parliamentary Budget committees alike are expostulating, is to be checked.

If the Treasury situation is somewhat strained, the position of the Bank of Italy continues to be easy. Comparing the figures at December 31, 1927 (the first balance sheet published after stabilisation), March 31, 1928 (the time of maximum total reserves), December 31, 1929 (when discounts and advances were at their maximum) and February 20, 1930 (last balance sheet published), we obtain the following table (in million lire):—

	Dec. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.
ASSETS:				
Gold	4,547·1	4,660·5	5,190·1	5,189·8
Other gold exchange reserves	7,558·8	7,855·6	5,151·1	4,790·4
Total reserves	12,105·9	12,516·1	10,341·2	9,980·2
Discounts, advances and day-to-day prolongations	5,520·0	3,911·7	6,233·7	4,384
Other debtors	769·9	1,021·3	722·6	1,336·5
LIABILITIES:				
Notes issued	17,992·2	17,264·8	16,774·3	15,716·8
Circular cheques	657·3	604·6	602·8	409
Private deposits	2,066·7	3,022·6	1,082·1	1,569·2
Treasury deposits	1,105·7	181·5	1,788·6	959·5
Other creditors	1,435·7	968·5	1,058·1	894·9

The outstanding fact is the decrease in the gold exchange reserves from the maximum of 7,855.6 million lire at March 31, 1928, to 4,790.4 million at February 20, 1930, a decrease only partly counterbalanced by the increase in the gold proper from 4,660.5 to 5,189.8 millions, leaving a net decrease in the total reserve of 2,535.9 million lire. Against this, there is, however, as a set-off, the decrease, between the same dates, of 1,548 million lire in the notes issued and of 1,453.4 million lire in the private deposits. Nor are there symptoms of credit inflation, as discounts, advances and day-to-day loans, after going up at the end of December, fell sharply again. Treasury accounts are the most erratic items in the balance sheet; their variations seem to follow those of the discounts, etc., item. Nobody knows anything about "other" debtors and creditors; an hypothesis put forward in Signor Mazzuchelli's monthly reviews in *Revista Bancaria* (perhaps the most eagerly scanned financial article in Italy) being that "other" debtors includes a secondary or hidden gold exchange reserve.

These figures suggest that the deflationist policy is ruthlessly persisted in. One result at least has been reached: the decrease of wholesale prices. According to Professor Bachi the average price index for 49 imported commodities decreased from 631.8 for 1926 to 492 for 1927, to 454 for 1928, to 454.4 for 1929 and 453.3 for January, 1930. The indices for 95 commodities produced and consumed in the country were, respectively, 595.8, 505.7, 477.6, 447.9 and 416, and those for 33 exported commodities: 550.3, 462.5, 438.5, 406.6 and 352.7. Thus wholesale prices are falling rapidly; so rapidly that in February gold prices (on the 1913 basis), according to the Milan Provincial Economic Council, were only 120.8 against 122 in England, 129.8 in Germany and 140.9 in the U.S.A. Export prices are, moreover, much lower than import and internal prices, a circumstance which should pave the way to an increase of exports. Exports, indeed, in 1929 were 329.8 million lire higher than in 1928, and imports 620.4 million lire lower, so that there was a decrease in the trade import excess of 950 million lire. But as the cereal import item alone decreased by 1,413 million lire, it appears that other items contributed an increase in the import balance of 463 million lire. In consequence, industrialists and merchants are complaining that lower prices are not bringing the usual compensation of increased exports. Unemployment in agriculture rose from 89,804 at the end of October, 1929, to 145,342 at the end of January, 1930, but in the preceding year the increase was greater—from 75,473 to 170,444. In all other branches of employment (industry, trade, etc.) unemployment rose from 207,578 at the end of October, 1929, to 320,889 at the end of January, 1930, against an increase from 206,906 to 291,445 in the preceding year. Employment appears thus to be improving in agriculture and slackening in industry and trade.

The announcement by the Bank of Italy of the reduction of the official rate of discount from 7 to 6½ per cent. on March 1st did not change the mood of the market. The Bourses were not even roused by the news of the fusion of two of the Big Four banks, the Credito Italiano and the Banca Nazionale di Credito. The fusion aims at concentrating in the Credito Italiano all ordinary deposit and discount operations, leaving to a subsidiary body, called the Banca Nazionale di Credito, the function of long-term financing of industry.

The strong position of the Bank of Italy is well illustrated by the announcement that yesterday the Finance Minister and the Governor of the Bank of Italy had agreed to raise the embargo on gold and to abolish all restrictions on purchases and sales of foreign exchange. Old restrictions were lately enforced with much leniency; but their legal persistence was unfavourable to import of capital, as foreigners feared that difficulties might be placed in the way of re-export. Exemptions from income tax for foreign loans and debentures issued in foreign countries were at the same time extended to the end of 1933. The financial Press hopes that these measures will be the prelude to a new impetus to industry, which needs more capital than can be provided for by internal savings.

POLAND.

German Treaty — Trade Depression — Finance — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

WARSAW, March 22.

AFTER negotiations which lasted five years, a commercial treaty with Germany was signed on March 17. By this treaty an end is put to the protracted commercial war between the two countries. The difficulty of reaching an agreement was not only due to divergent economic interests, but also to political issues which were involved in the negotiations. The signature of the treaty marks an important step in the direction of the pacification of Central Europe. The beginning of normal commercial intercourse between Poland and Germany must necessarily have a stabilising effect on the economic conditions of this part of the Continent, and satisfaction at the conclusion of the treaty is expressed on both sides of the frontier.

The characteristic feature of the treaty is the application of quotas for the most important articles of export. The quota for Polish coal has been fixed at 320,000 tons monthly, and for pigs at 200,000 yearly, rising during the next two years by 75,000 yearly, so as to reach 350,000. In the same manner the export of a number of important industrial products from Germany into Poland is limited. A special agreement between Polish and German coal producers has been signed, with the object of avoiding a fall of coal prices in Germany. The Polish pigs are to be supplied exclusively to meat factories and cannot be sold on the free market. The Reichsverband of German Industry has guaranteed the purchase of this quota at market prices. The treaty does not contain any tariff stipulations, and is based exclusively on the most-favoured-nation clause. In consequence, the two countries are completely unhampered as far as their tariffs are concerned.

Transit is free, and veterinary regulations limit the use of those sanitary rules which were used often with the purpose of prohibiting the import of living animals. The three great shipping companies—Hamburg-America, Norddeutsche-Lloyd and the Hamburg-South America—will obtain concessions for the transport of Polish emigrants from Gdynia and Danzig on an equal footing with other foreign companies. The treaty has been signed only for one year, but it is automatically prolonged.

Without doubt, some Polish industries, especially those created during the commercial war, will suffer from German competition. This loss, however, will be more than outweighed by the gain to the fundamental branches of economic life. Polish agriculture not only benefits by the extension of the German market but also by the

transit facilities which render the access of food products to other countries more easy.

The importance of the German market for Polish agriculture is illustrated by the fact that though during the commercial war special high tariffs were established for Polish products, the export of eggs to Germany, for instance, amounted in 1928-29 to 25,000 tons, which is 50 per cent. of the whole exports. The reduction of the Customs duties from 25 marks for 100 kilogrammes to 5 marks will contribute to a great increase of this export. This is also true of butter and of other articles of food, which even during the commercial war were imported in growing quantities into Germany. The coal and iron industries will also profit.

The trade depression from which Poland has been suffering for several months is gaining in intensity. The number of unemployed is steadily rising. From 186,000 at the end of 1929 it has increased to 329,000 in March. The coal industry, which has so long withstood the declining tendency, is already affected by the trade depression. The consumption of coal decreased from 3,518,000 tons in December to 2,947,000 tons in January. The decline is due, in the first instance, to a smaller home consumption (1,780,000 tons in January of this year, 2,284,000 in December, 1929, and 2,516,000 tons in January, 1929). The exports remained nearly stationary, and in comparison with January of last year even increased slightly.

The Budget receipts of the Government also reflect the changed economic conditions. Hitherto they have steadily grown. During the financial year 1928-29 they amounted to 3,008 million zlotys, as compared with 2,786 millions in 1928-29. The situation during the present financial year is illustrated by the following table:—

BUDGET RECEIPTS.

	Million zlotys. 1928–29.	1929–30.
First quarter	683·1	728·8
Second quarter	704·4	723·7
Third quarter	836·9	809·3
January	256·9	250·0

During the first two quarters the revenues were greater during the present financial year than in 1928-29. During the third quarter, however, they declined, and January again gave smaller receipts.

Foreign trade is at present characterised by a rapid decline of imports and exports, as may be seen from the figures below:—

	Million zlotys. Imports.	Exports.	Balance.
October, 1929	257·2	259·4	+ 2·2
November, 1929	243·4	256·1	+12·7
December, 1929	214·4	254·8	+40·4
January, 1930	216·7	218·5	+ 1·8
February, 1930	181·7	218·1	+36·4

In comparison with October imports have decreased by 55, exports by 41.3 millions.

JUGOSLAVIA.

Foreign Trade — Money — Industrial Depression — Agricultural Income.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, March 16.

TRADE in 1929 showed an active balance of 327 million dinars (£1,200,000). Exports were 7,921.7 million, and imports 7,594.7 million dinars. The following table shows the movement of foreign trade during the last six years:—

	Exports.	Imports.	Difference. Million dinars.
1924	9,538·7	8,221·7	+ 1,317·0
1925	8,904·5	9,752·8	+ 151·7
1926	7,818·1	7,631·7	+ 186·4
1927	6,400·1	7,286·2	− 886·1
1928	6,444·6	7,835·3	− 1,390·7
1929	7,921·7	7,594·7	+ 327·0

The upward trend continued in January, 1930, when 420,180 tons, worth 616.2 million dinars, were exported, as against 198,960 tons, worth 425.7 millions, in 1929.

Conditions in the money market are equally satisfactory. From December 31st to February 28th the metal cover of the National Bank increased from 380 to 405 million gold dinars, sundry assets from 1,607 to 1,686 million paper dinars, while current accounts maintained their post-war record figure of 1,408 millions (as against 1,410 at the end of 1929). Savings deposits and current accounts with private banks have swollen from 10,300 millions at the end of 1928 to 11,790 million dinars at the end of 1929. The influx of foreign capital, especially into the electrical and mining industries, is steady.

This abundance of money is affecting economic life in several ways. State receipts for the first three quarters of the fiscal year 1929-30 are 9,090 million dinars, as compared with 8,207 millions last year, the chances being that, by the end of the year, the record figure for 1925-26 of 12,067 million dinars may be equalled. Bankruptcies in January and February numbered 133, as against 188 during the first two months of last year. The interest rate is showing signs of further abatement from its present level of 9-14 per cent., and State securities are rising. Thus the dollar loans since quoted on home bourses have risen: the 8 per cent. Blair loan from 80 on November 18th to 93.50 on March 14th, and the 7 per cent. Blair loan from 71 to 85.50, internal loans being stiffer in sympathy.

Yet, in spite of these favourable conditions, the stagnation in business, which dates from 1927-28, is only very slowly being relieved. Export industries, it is true, had an excellent year, but those which have to rely on the home market are still working at half capacity, and internal trade is not as lively as might be desired. The reason for this lies in the still unsolved problem of agriculture. Owing to the low prices of corn, the position of the peasant has improved little, in spite of a bumper harvest. According to the calculations of the National Bank, the 18 million quintals of maize produced in 1928 represented a value of 4,848 million dinars (£18,000,000), while the 41 million quintals harvested in 1929, at their present value, amount to no more than 5,614 millions (£20,400,000). In other words, for 124 per cent. more maize produced the peasant receives only 15 per cent. more in value, so that his low average income is hardly improved. The official computation of a peasant's average income was in 1925 4,239 dinars, in 1926 3,518 dinars, in 1927 3,231 dinars, and in 1928 3,414 dinars (£13), while the net profit on capital sunk in agriculture in Jugoslavia is reckoned by economists to vary between 0.23 per cent. and 2 per cent. If we add to this the uncertainties after a fairly dry winter, as well as the necessity of paying off old debts, it is no wonder that the peasants, four-fifths of the population, continue to be very modest buyers of industrial articles. Industry therefore, in so far as it produces for the home market, and relies on expensive home capital, still remains very much of a speculation. To some extent, it is true, its development is encouraged by the large migration of peasant labour to towns which thereby maintains a low average wage. The number of industrial workers has increased from 354,000 in 1923 to 565,000 in 1928, while the average daily wage has varied between 22 and 25.20 dinars ever since 1924. But, on the other hand, its growth is checked by the reluctance of home capital to finance enterprise in a transitional state like the present, except at an interest rate which neither industry nor trade can afford.

AUSTRALIA.

Reduced Purchasing Power — Money Rates — Coastal Shipping — Bank Returns — Imperial Policy.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, February 10.

EXPORT trade has been slow, owing to the low prices ruling for wool and the need for spreading out the sales, and because of the reduced wheat harvest, which is approximately 110 to 115 million bushels, against 159 million bushels for 1928-29. Curtailment of imports, however, has hardly started to take effect, though it is obviously necessary, in view of the smaller purchasing

power of the country resulting from the season's production and the difficulty of floating loans abroad. Both these factors are reflected in growing degree in the state of employment in the cities. Even if exchange could be provided, therefore, importers would still have to face a shrinkage in the demand for these goods.

As the result of the conference in Melbourne on January 23rd, the Commonwealth Bank has come to an arrangement with the ordinary banks whereby the gold held by these will become available for the Commonwealth Bank, "in accordance with general needs as they may arise." Provision is made for the "rationing of London exchange in such manner as will make available, as far as possible, London exchange to meet present needs." It has since been announced that deposit and overdraft rates are to be slightly raised, though this step is taken, as always, with reluctance. There is also reluctance to raise exchange rates any further, though those now quoted (with a selling T.T. rate of 2⅛ per cent. premium) do not fully reflect the position as indicated by what is obtainable in the outside market. The deposits of the ordinary banks in Australia for the December quarter are practically unchanged in the aggregate, as compared with a year previously, but advances and securities together show an increase of £31 million.

The report of the Tariff Board on the Coastal Clauses of the Navigation Act expresses the opinion that it is neither practicable nor desirable to substitute for the present clauses some other form of protection to coastal shipping. In the opinion of the Board, the Australian shipping companies have not abused the protection afforded to them, and the admission of overseas vessels into the coasting trade, while it might temporarily improve the service, would ultimately react unfavourably upon it.

The quarterly average returns to December 31, 1929, of the twelve ordinary banks (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) show deposits and other principal totals within Australia and New Zealand (but not including London figures) compared with the previous quarter and a year ago as follows:—

	Dec. 31, 1928. £	Sept. 30, 1929. £	Dec. 31, 1929. £
Deposits—			
Australia	277,059,038	279,175,619	277,245,549
New Zealand	53,732,096	57,367,766	55,015,135
	330,791,134	336,543,385	332,060,684
Advances and securities:—			
Australia	260,497,024	281,924,385	292,017,154
New Zealand	54,065,917	55,677,018	60,061,739
	314,562,941	337,601,403	352,078,893
Coin and bullion (Australia and New Zealand)	33,144,738	30,901,042	27,916,205
Australian notes and cash with Commonwealth Bank	27,256,888	19,971,529	21,396,987
Legal tender notes of other banks (N.Z. only)	74,559	64,151	75,388
	60,476,185	50,936,722	49,388,580

While deposits have been almost stationary, as compared with a year ago, advances and securities show an increase of £37,515,952 in Australia and New Zealand. Australia alone shows an increase of £31,520,130, advances being larger by £33,409,317, but Government and municipal securities smaller by £1,889,187. The increase in Australian advances reflects the manner in which the banks have met country requirements in a somewhat unfavourable period, in addition to substantial trading requirements. Owing to the comparative slowness of the wool sales, the decline in the wool market, and the reduction in the wheat harvest, the supply of fresh money available for reducing overdrafts or increasing credit balances is at present less than usual, and it is not expected that the monetary situation will become settled before March, 1931, while the proceeds of the 1930-31 season, which will then be in hand, will depend upon the character of the producing season in the meantime. The large increase in advances during the past year has been balanced partly by reduction of local cash holdings in different forms, and partly by drawing upon London funds which do not enter into the quarterly averages.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (not included in the above figures) has, in the six States, deposits £29,346,437, or an increase of £3,769,395 on the year; advances (including short-term loans), £21,052,122, or an increase of £4,706,799, and Government and municipal securities £14,139,249, or an increase of £2,768,552, these figures being averages for the December quarter.

The local Stock Exchanges have shown pronounced weakness so far this year, though towards the end of January the lower prices were followed by more business. Commonwealth Government securities maturing within the next three to five years are quoted at prices showing yields of 6 to 6¼ per cent. Shares have been influenced by the lower distributions already announced by some of the banks and leading public companies, while much interest attaches to the outlook for trading and industrial concerns in face of the shrinkage in turnover and the difficulty of dealing with expenses.

The "Empire Free Trade" debate in the House of Commons was followed by a statement by the Commonwealth Prime Minister, Mr Scullin, that such a proposal is entirely impracticable, and that the Ministry believe in giving first preference to Australian products and, after that, to the products of Great Britain and the other Dominions. Mr Scullin's statement is simply in accordance with Australian protectionist views for many years past.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

How Britain is Governed. By Ramsay Muir. (London) Constable, 10-12, Orange Street. 12s. 6d. net.

A critical and constructive examination of the working of the British system of government in recent years. The growth of bureaucracy, the defects of the electoral system and the party system, and the ineffectiveness of the House of Lords are discussed, and remedies are suggested.

New Zealand in the Making. By J. B. Condliffe. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., Museum Street. 15s. net.

A thorough and interesting account of the economic development of New Zealand.

About Russia. By Ernest J. P. Benn. (London) Ernest Benn, Ltd., 154, Fleet Street. 6s. net.

Mr Benn claims as his principal qualification the fact that he has not visited Russia. His book contains some interesting "gossip" collected in the Baltic States, but consists largely of reflections and comments upon those Soviet practices and institutions which are generally known.

Moscow Unmasked. By Joseph Douillet. (London) The Pilot Press, 2, Little Essex Street. 8s. 6d. net.

This book makes no pretence at impartiality, but the author's unusual qualification of thirty-five years' residence in Russia, first as Belgian Consul, and later as a member of Dr. Nansen's mission for famine relief and of other international organisations, entitle his very interesting account of conditions in Russia to be heard with respect.

The Legal History of Trade Unionism. By R. Y. Hedges and Allan Winterbottom. (London) Longmans, Green and Company, Ltd., 39, Paternoster Row. 7s. 6d.

A thorough and scholarly piece of work, fully documented, which will at once leap to a foremost place among books on trade union law.

International Labour Review. March, 1930. (London) George Allen and Unwin, 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d.

Includes a summary of recent developments in the family allowance system.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Civil Estimates for Year Ending March 31, 1931: *Class II, Foreign and Imperial;* 2s. net. *Class IX, Miscellaneous (Expiring Services);* 3d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL COMPANIES.

THE net value of the output of the American chemical industry in 1927 was something like $813 million—a figure equal to that of the American tobacco or rubber industries and a little more than half that of the electrical equipment industry. Its attainment is the outcome of a truly remarkable growth in practically all branches of the industry. This growth was in evidence before the war, but it received an unprecedented stimulus during the war, and has more than maintained its velocity ever since.

The bulk of the industry in the United States is concentrated in the hands of three companies, who, despite the rigour of the Anti-Trust laws, have succeeded in building up gigantic combines, with far-flung ramifications, extensive capital resources, and unrivalled sales, research, and other facilities. The three companies are the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, the du Pont de Nemours Company, and the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation. The total assets of these three companies in 1928 (excluding du Pont's investment in General Motors) were $665,383,000, so that this triple group is nearly twice as large as the German I.G. or Imperial Chemical Industries. There are, however, in America some fifty other chemical companies with assets ranging from $300,000 to $50,000,000. Each one of the "Big Three," however, has a wider scope than any dozen of the other fifty, and has such extensive vertical and horizontal connections that it may be said to embrace practically the entire industry in which its sphere of interest lies.

The Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, formed as a merger of several important companies in 1920, is mainly engaged in the manufacture of basic chemical products. In 1928 its net tangible assets amounted to $226,854,000, and its net income for dividends was $26,962,000. Net tangible assets may be defined as total assets less "intangibles" (goodwill, patents, etc.), current liabilities, and funded debt. Among the company's subsidiaries are the General Chemical Company, manufacturing acids and heavy chemicals; the Solvay Process Company, manufacturing alkalies; the Semet Solvay Company, engaged in the by-product coke-oven industry; the Barrett Company, making coal-tar products; the National Aniline and Chemical Company, making dyes and intermediaries; and the Atmospheric Nitrogen Company, making synthetic ammonia and other nitrogen products. All of these companies manufacture strictly basic products or the raw materials of other manufacturing industries.

E. I. du Pont de Nemours is one of the most remarkable and interesting of all the great American corporations. It is also one of the oldest. Its expansion during recent years has been phenomenal, even if its recent large investment in General Motors be excluded. This investment of surplus funds, which was first effected in 1919, has enabled the company to derive a larger income from General Motors than from its vast chemical interests. In 1928 its net tangible chemical assets (excluding the General Motors investment) were $229,681,000, and its net income for dividends, on the same basis, was $23,883,000. The magnitude and importance of the General Motors holding is shown by the total 1928 figures for the whole of du Pont's interests. Net tangible assets were $369,418,000, and net income for dividends was $64,098,000. Strictly speaking, therefore, du Pont is now more of a motor company than a chemical concern. Its chemical activities include the manufacture of explosives, artificial silk (rayon) and cellophane, dyes and intermediaries, lacquers, paints and varnishes, nitro-cellulose, coated fabrics (Fabrikoid), synthetic plastics (Pyralin, Viscoloid, motion-picture film), synthetic ammonia and other nitrogenous products, and heavy chemicals (by the Grasselli Chemical Company). Its principal lines centre around cellulose and nitro-cellulose products, many of which are finished and go directly into consumption.

The Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation had net tangible assets of $208,848,000 in 1928, and net income for dividend of $31,140,000. Its assets are thus rather lower than those of the other two, but its earnings are higher, since it is engaged in entirely different fields, and is, therefore, less competitive. Its main activities centre round electro-chemical and metallurgical products, carbon products, compressed gases, and welding equipment (Linde Air Products Company and the Prest-O-Lite Company), miscellaneous chemicals from natural gas, and other products.

Up to 1927 the earnings record of the American chemical industry was remarkable. During the preceding four years the profits of fourteen chemical and drug companies increased at the average rate of 12.3 per cent. per annum, according to figures collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This is well above the average increase of 9 per cent. per annum shown by 381 industrial companies during the same period. During the last year or two, however, the rate of annual increase in the chemical industry as a whole has not been fully upheld. The shares of all three companies fell heavily in the New York "slump" last year:—

Allied Chemical.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$	$
Earned per share	9·79	10·03	11·12	est. 12·00
Com. shares (no par value) outstanding	2,178,109	2,178,109	2,178,109	2,178,109
Highest price.....	148⅞	169¼	252¾	354¾
Lowest price.....	106	131	146	197

Du Pont.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$	$
Earned per share	13·98	15·45	20·89†	6·99‡
Com. shs. outstanding	2,661,658*	2,661,658*	2,811,050*	10,196,777
Highest price.....	181½	343⅞	503	231
Lowest price.....	153	168	310	80

* No par value shares.
† $6·27 on equivalent number $20 par shares.
‡ On average number of $20 par shares outstanding.

Union Carbide.

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$	$
Earned per share	9·07	9·52	11·15	est. 3·60
Com. shares (no par value) outstanding	2,659,733	2,659,733	2,742,072	8,970,000
Highest price.....	100⅞	154⅛	209	140
Lowest price.....	77½	99⅛	136⅛	59

The level of current prices suggests, however, in all three cases, that a high value is attached to the equity in the future progress in the industry:—

	Present Price.	Dividend Rates.	Yield on Dividends.	Yield on Earnings.
		$	%	%
Allied Chemical, n.p.v.	287	6·00	2·09	4·18†
Du Pont, $20, par ...	137	5·25*	3·83	5·10
Union Carbide, n.p.v.	99	2·60	2·62	3·63†

* Of which $4·75 paid on old no par shares.
† Estimated.

The merger movement was still in full swing last year. Horizontal integration took place in the alcohol and solvents industry. The du Ponts strengthened their position vertically by the acquisition of the Grasselli interests. The American Cyanamide Company, the Monsanto Chemical Works, and the Newport Company each took over several smaller companies. In the American chemical industry the profit-earning capacity of the larger is demonstrably in excess of that of smaller concerns, and any downward tendency in profits will tend to strengthen the policy of organisation in large units. On the other hand, there is still room in the industry for smaller producers who manufacture specialised products or offer some special service.

WAR LOAN CONVERSION PROSPECTS.

THOUGH gilt-edged values have receded slightly from the high levels reached early this week, the prospect of the maintenance of cheap money for some little time to come has caused the market to canvass the possibility of the Treasury's staging a large-scale conversion operation in respect of the Five per Cent. War Loan in the relatively near future. This stock has always been popular with dealers, but its gigantic bulk, while making for ready negotiability, has made it a veritable millstone round the taxpayers' neck, since it has tended to drag down the price of all British securities to its own 5 per cent. level. There is general agreement, firstly, that the present low level of money rates (which is partly a reaction from the abnormal conditions of the Wall Street boom), offers the Treasury an opportunity not likely to recur for some time; and, secondly, that the conversion of a substantial part of the £2,184 million outstanding would raise the status of British Government credit as a whole. Here agreement ends, the market being divided as to the respective merits of a relatively modest attempt to convert a few hundred millions of the War Loan, and a bold gesture in the shape of an offer to exercise the Treasury's option to repay the whole amount at three months' notice. The present level of gilt-edged values, which clearly bears on the matter, may be seen from the following table: —

Stock.	Amount Quoted.	When Repayable.	Present Market Price.	Yield (%) at Present Price. Flat.	Earliest Possible Redemption.	Latest Possible Redemption.
	£			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*Treasury Bonds, 5%	217,290,905	1933–35	101⅜	4 18 3	4 7 3	4 12 0
Do., 4%	64,585,000	April 15, 1931–33.	99¼	4 0 6	4 7 0	4 3 6
Do., 4½%	121,265,764	April 15, 1930–32.	100⅜	4 9 3	...	4 2 0
Do., 4½%	11,036,933	Feb., 1931	101¼	4 9 0	...	...
Do., 4½%	123,453,319	1932–34	100⅛	4 9 9	4 7 6	4 8 0
Do., 4½%	66,165,473	1932–34	100⅜	4 9 3	4 2 6	4 6 0
War Loan, 4% (Tax free).	79,684,835	Oct. 15, 1929–42.	101¼‡	3 18 9†	...	3 16 3†
Do., 4½%	12,804,341	Dec. 1, 1925–45.	100	4 12 0	...	4 14 3
Do., 5%	2,184,468,777	June 1, 1929–47.	103	4 19 6	...	4 19 3
Conversion, 4½%	223,119,139	July 1, 1940–44.	100	4 11 0	4 15 3	4 14 0
Funding, 4%	382,059,454	1960–90	91¼‡	4 7 9	4 10 0	4 8 0
Victory Bonds, 4% ...	338,262,645	1920–76	95	4 4 3	...	4 5 0
Conversion, 3½%	811,033,967	On or after Apl. 1 1961	79	4 8 6	...	...
Consolidated, 4%.....	353,862,064	After 1957	89	4 10 0	...	...
Do., 2½% ...	276,225,755	After 1923	57	4 7 9	...	...
Conversion, 4½%.....	...	1940–44	99	4 11 0	4 12 6	4 12 0
Do., 5% A ...	...	1944–64	105⅞	4 14 6	4 9 0	4 13 0
Do., 5% B ...	...	1944–64	105⅞	4 14 6	4 9 0	4 13 0

* This list excludes £134,741,018 of 5½% Treasury Bonds repayable May 15 next.
† Free of income tax. ‡ *Ex* dividend.

The whole question would seem to turn on the way interest rates generally may be expected to move in the future. If it be sound to budget for a steady decline in the trend of rates (apart from temporary ups and downs) over the next few decades, it would obviously be regrettable were the Chancellor of the Exchequer to exercise his option and commit this country to the payment of, say, 4½ per cent. for thirty, forty or fifty years—to discover that in a comparatively short time, the general level of money rates made something like 4 per cent. or even 3½ per cent. a more appropriate figure. There are, in any case, many cogent reasons why the Treasury should not create another block of stock of anything like the unwieldy and burdensome dimensions of the Five per Cent. War Loan.

But the present opportunity is a really favourable one, and any relief of the interest charge would be very welcome, for it would go to swell the sinking fund and progressively improve British credit. It is possible that the ingenuity of the Treasury might design a scheme not of one, but of a series of conversion issues, the terms of which would help to create in the public mind the idea that long-term interest rates are going to be much lower than present figures, and that only comparatively short-term issues can be expected at present rates. But whether this is possible or not, in our view it would be very doubtful wisdom at the present stage to exercise the option in regard to the whole of the loan. This option is the most powerful weapon that the Government possess, and having waited so long, they should not employ it until it can be used to the maximum advantage. Although the yield basis of British Government securities has dropped already, we have little doubt that before very long it will be on an even more favourable basis. It would be a mistake to sacrifice the greater opportunity for a smaller advantage in this year's Budget.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
April 1.	April 3.

LAST week's pace was obviously too hot to last, and the markets were soon tested by profit-taking, though the undertone, in gilt-edged stocks at any rate, remained steady. While British Government securities were clearly waiting on a further reduction in Bank rate (which the market correctly diagnosed as unlikely to follow immediately after last week's change), the halt in the recovery of industrial values was regarded as a not unhealthy sign. The last thing desired by the authorities responsible for monetary policy would be the use of cheap money, which should be a stimulant for depressed industry and a stabiliser of commodity values, as the fuel for a speculative boom on the share markets either of London or New York. In any case, the secrets of the Budget, regarding which the Stock Exchange was showing so much concern a week or two ago, have still to be revealed.

Gilt-edged stocks opened firm with a fair accumulation of week-end orders, but the increasing promise of the monetary situation did not prevent the onset of profit-taking, though wide interest was still shown and the tone remained firm. The new Conversion Loans made good progress before reacting on Wednesday, while Funding Loan, exceptionally, gained ground after going ex-dividend in mid-week. Speculation continued to be rife in investment circles regarding the possibility of a conversion operation in Five per Cent. War Loan. India stocks improved after a temporary reaction, but Australian loans failed to hold their ground. The market for Home Corporation Loans was again well supported, Brighton Fives making a fresh advance, and other recent issues fetching a considerable premium despite selling by "stags" in certain cases.

In the Foreign market a sharp reaction in Brazilians, after last week's advance, was the leading feature, though support in the later dealings caused prices to close above the worst. European stocks continued in demand, Bulgarians attracting some little attention. Paris was a tentative buyer of Turkish Unified on increased hopes of a settlement of outstanding questions regarding the service of the debt. Among Far Easterns, Chinese were marked lower on the threatened renewal of civil war.

For holders of Home Rails, the week was an unsatisfactory one. The large falling off in traffic receipts as compared with 1929 being no longer entirely explainable by abnormal activity after last year's "frost," there was a tendency to regard the decline and the heavy increase in the Ministry of Labour's unemployment figures as parallel indications of depressed industrial conditions. All the "group" stocks were lower, London Midland and Scottish, with the heaviest traffic decline, faring worst. Among Foreign Rails, Argentines showed remarkable strength at the beginning of the week, on better labour prospects and the improvement in the peso exchange, though a quieter tendency supervened. Havanas showed some recovery, associated in certain quarters with rumours of acquisition by American interests. The approval of the Bill for splitting Canadian Pacific stock provoked a sharp rise on Wednesday afternoon.

The Industrial markets were patchy. Though America gave some support to selected international stocks, the tone as a whole lacked confidence. The preliminary publication of the Imperial Chemical results, which are

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices. Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	79½	79	− ½
Do. 4½% 1944	98⅝	100½	+ 1½
Do. 5% 1944-64	103½	104⅝	+ 1⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102 11/16	103 1/16	+ ⅛
Consols 2½%	56⅝	57	+ ⅜
Do. 4%	88⅜	89½	+ ⅛
Funding 4%	92½	92x	+ 1⅜
Victory Bonds 4%	94	94 1/16	+ 1/16
Local Loans 3%	65½	66	+ ½
Treasury 5% (B)	101 1/16	101 1/16	+ 1/16
Canada 4% 1940-60	88	90	+ 2
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	100	101	+ 1
India 3½%	64½	65	+ ½
Do. 4½% 1958-68	84	87	+ 3
Australia 5% 1945-75	90⅜	95	+ 4½
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	85½	91½	+ 6
N. Zealand 5% 1946	101	102	+ 1

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	100⅜	102	+ 1½
Argentine 4% Recins.	86½	88	+ 1½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103	103⅜	+ ⅜
Belgian 7%	110⅜	111	+ ½
Brazil 6½% (1927)	91	92½	+ 1½
Bulgaria 7½%	89	90	+ 1
China 5% (1912)	52	48½	− 3½
Czechoslovakia 8%	112½	113½	+ 1
Egypt Unified 4%	76½	77½	+ 1
French 5%	20⅜	20⅜	...
Do. 4% (Brit.)	20 1/16	20⅛	+ 1/16
German 7%	107½	108	+ ½
Greek 7% Refugee	103	103	...
Hungary 7½%	102½	103⅜	+ 1⅛
Chili 6%	96½x	97	+ ½
Poland 7%	90⅛	92	− 1⅛
Mexican 5% (1899)	18	20	+ 2
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	90½	92⅛	+ 2⅛

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%	64½	66	+ 1½
E. London 5% 1960-70	96	98	+ 2
Sydney 5½% 1954	88	90	+ 2
Berlin 6% Ster.	91⅜	96	+ 4½

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	88½	88⅝	+ ⅛
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10⅛	10⅛	+ 1/16
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	32x	32½	+ ½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	51⅛	52⅛	+ 1⅛
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	62½	65	+ 2½
Met. District Ord. Stk.	73	77	+ 4
Southern Def. Stk.	31	31⅜	+ ⅜
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73¼	75½	+ 2¼
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Do. Income Bonds	107½	110¼	+ 3
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	211	219½	+ 8½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	79	84	+ 5
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	84½	88½	+ 3½
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	92x	95½	+ 3½
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	71x	75½	+ 4½
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	17⅛	18⅛	+ ⅛
G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3⅛	+ 1/16
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	52½	54	+ 1⅜
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	180½	192½	+12
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$31½	$31½	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk	17	19	+ 2
Beira Rlwy. no par	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	249½	255½	+ 6
Barclay B. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13½	13 1/16	+ 1/16
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$110⅛	$120	+ 9⅜
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	14⅛	15½	+ 1⅜
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	19⅜	20	+ ½
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	25⅛	26	+ ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29	29½	+ ½
Pearl (£1)	13	13⅛	+ 1/16
Phœnix, £1 fully p.d.	13⅛	14⅛	+ 1⅛
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	8⅛	8⅛	− 1/16

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	11/16	1/16	− 1/16
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Baldwin (4/-)	3/16	3/16	...
Cory, William (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Powell Duffryn (£1)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1½	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	11/16	11/16	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Courtaulds	2 1/16x	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Fine Cott. Spinn. (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Listers (£1)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	...

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
General Electric (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	47⅜	49⅜	+ 1⅛
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	11/16	11/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Continental Stk.	355	370	+15
Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
S. Metropolitan Stk.	98	98⅛	+ ⅛

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	7½% A Ord.	64½	60	− 4½	Canadian Marconi	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/16
	B Ord.	30	30	...	Marconi Marine (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
	5½% Pref.	97	98	+ 1	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16	Rolls-Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3 1/16x	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Leyland (£1)	3	3	...	Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 7/16
Furness Withy (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25⅛	25⅛	+ 2

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16	London Asiatic (2/)	7/16	7/16	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	25	25 1/16	+ 1/16	Rubber Trust (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	3 1/16	4⅛	+ 3/16	Lobitos (£1)	1 3/16	1⅞	+ 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...	Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅜	⅜	+ 1/16
Burmah Oil (£1)	3 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16	Royal Dutch (£3⅓)	32	32 1/16	+ 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	1/16	⅜	+ 1/16	Shell (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$42	$46	+ 4	International Holdings	6½	6½	...
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅜	5⅞	+ ½	Inter. Nickel of Can.	43	43⅛	+ ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9⅜	9 1/16	+ 1/16	Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	30	30⅜	+ ⅜
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅞	5 1/16	− 1/16	Margarine Union (£1)	3 1/16	3⅜	+ 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16	Swed. Match, B(kr 100)	16⅛	17⅛	+ 1
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16	Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16x	3 1/16	+ 1/16	Turner & Newall (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4⅛	4⅜	+ ⅛	United Molasses (£1)	5 1/16	5 1/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16	Vocalion (10/-)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1⅜	+ 1/16	Watney Combe Df. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	N'Changa (£1 with 17/6 pd.)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅜	9⅜	− ⅛	Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Brakpan (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16	Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16	Rio Tinto (£5)	13⅞	14⅜	+ ⅜
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	1/16	...	Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	4¼	4½	+ ⅛
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	Sub Nigel (10/-)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Central Provinces (£1)	3½	3⅝	+ ⅛	Tanganyika (£1)	1 3/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16	UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	1⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16		3 1/16	3 1/16	− 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...				
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16				

set out on page 715, produced a slight rise in the deferred shares, but left the ordinary slightly lower on balance. Recent buying of Cunards was vindicated by the improved earnings shown for 1929 (described on page 715), the market, however, regarding rumours of the possible absorption of the White Star Company as too nebulous to merit immediate consideration. Cables and Wireless were bought at the opening, but a subsequent reaction was accentuated by Wednesday's Parliamentary debate, the tenour of which was unfavourable to the company's case. Profit-taking affected the leading brewery and tobacco shares. Iron and steel shares had a slightly firmer appearance, and a moderate amount of buying of the leading textile issues was reported from the north, though Courtaulds finished easier. Motor shares held their ground with a little to spare, Fords maintaining their recent gains. The Swedish Match group was firm on reported arrangements with the French Government in regard to the group's holding of bonds. Electrical issues remained in quiet but steady demand. Pinchin, Johnsons were again a firm spot. Investment buying gave a consistently firm appearance to bank shares, but slight irregularity developed in the insurance share market.

The plantation markets were, on the whole, better than for some weeks past. The slight decline in the price of rubber, reversing the upward trend of the preceding days, was not reflected in share values, which were all slightly higher where altered. Tea share quotations were helped by the firm tone of the week's commodity auctions, but only a small amount of business was done. Dealings in the oil market tended to broaden, the American crude production figures being lower, while fears of an Eastern price "war" receded, for the moment, into the background.

During the earlier part of the week the mining market was fairly active, but interest fell away towards the close. Kaffirs opened strongly on a fair inquiry from the Cape. "Johnnies" were in brisk demand on the publication of a very satisfactory group of reports (dealt with on page 717). Brakpan mines were a good feature. Rhodesians rallied after a quiet start, Congo Border adding a further fraction and Rhodesia Katanga proving a strong market on a wider appreciation of the company's potentialities, but a relapse set in later. The announcement that the Commonwealth Government would pay a premium on gold produced in Australia brought advances to several Westralian securities. The increased Tinto dividend and bonus had little effect on the shares, copper issues generally being quiet. De Beers rose slightly on the statement of Mr Havenga, the Union Minister of Finance, that the conference of producers had resulted in agreement on policy, but the diamond market as a whole remained in lethargic mood.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange *Lists.*)

	Mar. 20.	Mar. 21.	Mar. 24.	Mar. 25.	Mar. 26.	Mar. 27.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,836	2,031	2,118	1,846	1,787	1,692
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,066	1,349	1,796	1,238	1,289	1,295
Commercial and Industrial*	2,400	2,542	3,457	2,603	2,400	2,263
Banks, Insurance and Financial	727	761	914	756	643	677
Mines (including Nitrate)	543	572	925	680	560	617
Oil	168	233	278	198	221	234
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	128	151	233	193	188	190
Total	6,858	7,639	9,721	7,514	7,088	6,968

* Including iron and steel and breweries

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Mar. 20.	Mar. 21.	Mar. 24.	Mar. 25.	Mar. 26.	Mar. 27.
90·5	82·0	85·6	88·2	88·7	88·5	88·3	88·2

At the first meeting of the Committee for General Purposes of the Stock Exchange elected for the year 1930-31, Mr Archibald Henry Campbell was elected chairman, Mr Herbert Francis Chamen deputy-chairman, and Mr Arthur Louis Francis Green secretary.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

A bull movement is in progress, with shares gaining momentum and investment trust and public buying important factors. Contrary to general expectation, brokers' loans for the week ended last Wednesday show a decline of $21 million against the recent sharply rising trend. This emphasises the part subscription to new issues played in former gains, and indicates that buying has been of a better character than was supposed. Prices are rather irregular despite the upward trend, and new high levels have been reached in turn by more than a hundred stocks representing motors, steel, tobacco, chemical, public utility, electrical manufacturing and miscellaneous groups. Odd-lot buying has been the heaviest for a long time, and this is always a sign of public interest. While opinion is still leaning to the view that the rise is starting too soon and going too far, considering the continued lag in general trade, it promises to continue under the stimulant of cheap money. The volume of trading in stocks, ranging between 4,500,000 and 5,000,000 shares, is the largest since December. Trading in bonds is slowing down somewhat, but a good tone is maintained. There are slight signs that the market is being over-supplied with new issues, and this week's offerings fell to about 150 millions, against over 200 millions in the two preceding weeks.

(By Cable.)

	Mar. 13.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	106 1/16	106 1/16	105 1/16
Do. 4½% T. Bds.	113	112 2/16	112 2/16
Lib.Ln.3½% '32-47	100 1/16	100 1/16	100½
Do. 4½% '32-47	101 1/16	101 1/16	101 1/16
Do. 4½% '33-38	101 1/16	102 2/16	101 2/16
Atchison	233	237½	237
Ches. & Ohio	226	232⅜	233⅛
Erie	58	59	58⅜
Illinois Central	128	129	129½
N.Y. Central	182½	188	187⅜
Pennsylvania	80⅞	83⅜	83⅛
Southern Pacific	120½	124½	121
Southern Rly.	125⅜	130½	127
Union Pacific	223	234	237
Am. Can.	142½	147⅞	149
Alleghany Corp.	30⅛	32⅛	32½
Amer. Smelting	71⅜	73	76⅛
Anaconda	72½	72½	78⅜
Bethlehem Steel	100½	103⅜	105⅛
Chrysler Motor	38	39	38⅝
Corn Produce	93⅛	96½	101
Eastman Kodak	226	236	236
Gen. Electric(New)	76⅞	77⅛	80⅜
Gen. Motors	44⅜	48⅞	49⅜
Int. Harvester	92	90½x	94
Montg. Ward	44⅛	42⅜	38½
Natl. Biscuit	216	220x	220
Phelps Dodge	37½	40⅜	41⅜
Pullman	82	82½	81⅞
Sears-Roebuck	89⅜	90	85⅜
Studebaker	42½	42⅞	40⅝
Un. Fruit	92	91½	90½
U.S. Leather	8⅞	9⅛	10⅜
U.S. Rubber	26⅞	28⅛	29½
U.S. Steel	180⅜	186½	190⅜
Westinghouse	186½	188½	186
Woolworth	64⅜	64⅜	63
Worthington Pump	111	121	134
Am. Pow. & Light	105	112	113⅜
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	239½	243⅜	250½
Electric P. & L.	76⅜	78	66½
Int. Tel. Teles.	68⅛	66⅛	63
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	45½	45⅝	50⅛
Radio Corpn.	51⅜	52	47½
Utilities P. & L.	37	36½	41⅜
W. Union Tlg.	210½	206⅜	183
Associated Gas "A"	43	42⅜	42⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	28⅞	29½	31½
Pan Amer. B.	55	54½	55
Sinclair Oil	27⅜	27½	27½
Std. California	63⅜	63¾	65
Do. N.J.	66⅜	66½	73

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Lowest.	1929. Highest.	1930. Beginning of Year.	1930. Mar. 13.	1930. Mar. 20.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	160·9	164·4
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	140·8	144·8
34 Utilities	128·5	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	235·1	243·3
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	169 8	173·8
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·42%	4·33%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Mar. 26.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Mar. 19.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 21.	Mar. 23.	Mar. 24.	Mar. 25.	Mar. 26.
191·6	166·5	187·4	188·2	189·5	187·4	189·7	190·0	191·6

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Mar. 20.	Mar. 21.	Mar. 22*.	Mar. 24.	Mar. 25.	Mar. 26.	Mar. 27
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	4,428	4,616	2,308	4,110	4,517	5,022	4,698
Bonds (Value-Thous.)	28,321	23,038	8,247	12,389	16,860	12,673	14,133
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	1,249	1,106	651	1,042	1,364	1,725	1,591

* 2-hour session.

CANADA.

The Canadian stock markets were, on the whole, dull and unsatisfactory in the first half of March. With the grain market impasse still unsolved, and general uncertainty prevalent regarding the immediate business outlook there was a natural hesitancy as regards market commitments and a lack of real buying power, despite occasional spurts in sympathy with New York. While some popular favourites, like Brazilian Traction and International Nickel, had a loyal following, other well-seasoned stocks were completely neglected. Companies chiefly dependent on Western business, such as farm implement manufacturers, were out of favour, and the prospect of a smaller programme of new building construction was another adverse factor. Distillery stocks were driven down by the introduction of the Government's Bill to place a ban on official clearances for liquor exported to the United States. Though this measure may cut into distillery profits, some stocks are selling at absurdly low levels in relation to capital assets and earning power. There is little confidence about the immediate future of the newsprint stocks, but rumours of further amalgamations are in the air. Power stocks have held up reasonably well. The bond market is active, many bond salesmen having disposed of more bonds in the last four months than in the whole of the last few years. The mining market has gone from bad to worse, several brokerage houses having closed their doors. Western oil stocks have improved on news of successful drilling operations in the Turner Valley.

	Jan. 30.	Feb 27.	Mar. 27.
Abitibi Power & Paper	26⅜	30	33½
Asbestos Corp.	No bid	¼	3
Bank of Montreal	315x	310	308
Brazilian Traction	38½x	36½	44⅜
British Col. Power "A"	38¼	37	39½
Calgary Power	155	155	165
Can. Bank Commerce	265x	264½	250
Canadian Car	27⅞	27	25⅜
Canada Cement	16⅛	17⅜ Nobid	
Can. Indus. Alcohol "A"	10⅛	9⅜	8
Canada Power & Paper	15⅜	13½	15½
Can. Steamship Lines	...	17	17
Cockshutt Plow	22⅜	19⅜	19½
Cons. Mining	225	230½	243
Dominion Bridge	79⅜x	74⅞	71¼
Dom. Textile (New)	26⅜	30	33½
Hollinger Gold Mining	5¼	5⅛	5⅛
International Nickel	38⅛	39½x	41¼
Massey Harris	43	33⅜	37
Montreal Light	135½	135⅞	136½
National Breweries	126	28	32
Nat. Steel Car	90	70	68
Port Alfred Pulp	85½	80	77⅜
Power Corp., Canada	77	72	77½
Price Bros.	78	78	83
Quebec Power	66½	63	65½x
Shawinigan	79	75½	74
Southern Can. Power	34	34	33
Steel of Canada	46½	46½	44
Winnipeg Electric	46½	42⅜	44

x Ex dividend

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Stock Exchange's New Year.—The fiscal year of the Stock Exchange ends on March 24th. On Tuesday last, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, the new Committee held its first sitting. Twenty-seven members of the previous Committee were returned to office, and three new candidates—two brokers and one jobber—were elected. The final dividend on Stock Exchange shares will be announced next Wednesday, after the customary meeting of the managers. Members look for a repetition of the dividend of £9 per share declared at this time last year, which made £13 for the year. The shares are regarded as being £36 paid, and the share capital is £720,000, debenture debt and leasehold redemption account, when added, bringing the total to a trifle over a million pounds sterling. The Stock Exchange committee who have just gone out of office may be said to have adopted a more courageous and forward policy than has been shown in the past, and to have broken away in several directions from long-established conventions in the matter of conservatism and tradition. From the practical point of view, the new Stock Exchange Committee are faced with matters relating to division of membership—a purely domestic affair—and with the task of dealing with abuses which have sprung up through the easy complacence with which broker-members part with half their commission to people claiming to act as agents. At this latter point, the public interest is closely touched, for many people complain, not without reason, that Stock Exchange charges are high, and that the official scale of brokerage weighs heavily upon the investor and speculator alike. If the charges were to be reduced, business would be stimulated, but the stock-broker's reply is that he has to return so much of his remuneration that he obtains very little more than half

the amount paid, the other half going to people who claim the right to share in the gross brokerage. Certain of the provincial exchanges entirely forbid their members to share commissions. The result is that an agent who receives an order in local shares from a client in a provincial town will send that order to London, whence it will very probably be returned, if the market is a local one, to the town from which it emanates. The client will pay at least two unnecessary charges in order that the agent may receive the half-commission from London which the local Stock Exchange forbids him to claim from its own members. Within the past few years, scores of tiny syndicates have been brought into being for the express purpose of obtaining a division of commission. The question bristles with thorny points, as do other problems with which the new committee are faced, such as the protection of the investor against manipulation of the markets, which was discussed in these columns last week. The new Stock Exchange year opens, however, with a strong and experienced Committee in power, who can be trusted to carry on the active policy of protection of the public interest initiated by the preceding Committee.

The Hatry Crisis—An Obituary.—The Stock Exchange, on Wednesday, was the scene of a pleasing ceremony, when the four members of the unofficial committee responsible for the successful Hatry settlement scheme—Messrs F. S. Cokayne, H. L. U. Clarke, C. B. Lemon and F. I. Pitman—were presented by their fellow members of the " House " with gifts of old silver as a token of gratitude. As the names of another unofficial committee which played an invaluable part in the negotiations have not yet, to our knowledge, been made public, it may be well to set them on record, so that those concerned may also obtain their due meed of acknowledgment. The members in question were Messrs Ian Anderson, George Ansley, George A. Gilbert, George Grundy, James G. Hart and Robert H. Shelton. These gentlemen, representing buying and selling brokers directly concerned in the Hatry *impasse*, came together after the historic meeting of November 25, 1929, at which the Chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee described to the members of the " House " the serious nature of the difficulties which had then arisen. The subsequent discussions lasted for some time, and, after the manner of larger and more public conferences, were called on to surmount more than one potential crisis. The terms eventually arrived at, however, formed the broad basis on which Mr Claude Lemon, and subsequently the other three members of the " Pitman Committee " founded their proposals for the final settlement, though these differed as regards percentages and in certain other respects from those originally suggested. A circular which has been confidentially circulated in the " House " this week, relates the inner story of the whole affair, from the meeting at the Bank of England on September 19, 1929, to the final settlement, without a hitch, on February 13, 1930. The circular reveals in striking fashion both the extraordinary difficulties which were overcome and the public services rendered by those whose assistance, personal or financial, made possible the final settlement.

Capital for Rationalisation Schemes.—The investor has heard much of " rationalisation " during recent months. Like other " blessed words," the term tends to become a commonplace. That the conception for which it stands, however, is of great moment to British industry may be inferred from the recent statement of the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Sir William Plender, that the more he probed into the causes of declining trade in basic industries the more he was persuaded that only by the aid of rationalisation could the foundations of industrial life be made stable. These words are not the platitude of an outsider, but the considered judgment of an observer possessing inside knowledge of the finances of a very large number of British concerns. Much of Sir William's discussion of the merits of rationalisation covered ground already familiar to readers of the *Economist*. One point emphasised by Sir William, however, has not always been sufficiently stressed in the past. Adequate supplies of new capital are an indispensable condition precedent to schemes of rationalisation. Sir William recognised, by implication at least, that those companies and industries which stand most in need of rationalisation may, *ipso facto*, be least in a position to provide the necessary resources. Among possible outside sources, Sir William mentioned " financial institutions possessing available capital "—an ambiguous phrase which leaves it uncertain whether the speaker expected the joint-stock banks to join in the work of providing long-term capital, or was referring rather to such institutions as the merchant bankers or the trust companies. A further source, he declared, was " the investing public." Sir William declared explicitly that he included in this term the public of the United States. This declaration opens up a long vista of possibilities. Sir William is clearly not among those who would endeavour to discourage the investment of American funds in British companies, or would view with favour the restrictive clauses recently inserted in some articles of association. As a possible final resort, he concluded, the Government of Great Britain was not to be excluded as a capital-provider, but any form of direct governmental assistance he regarded as open to grave objection. Sir William Plender's views will find support among many thoughtful investors, and afford an instructive commentary on the restrictionist proposals of the Malayan Tin Dredging directors, discussed below.

Malayan Tin and British Control.—An unusual circular has been addressed to the shareholders of Malayan Tin Dredging, Southern Malayan Tin Dredging and Southern Perak Dredging companies by the directors under the lead of Mr C. V. Stephens. Meetings are called for April 14th for the purpose of amending the articles to ensure that the companies will remain under British control. The circulars state that recently there has been heavy buying of Malayan tin shares on foreign account, and that it seems probable that control may in many cases pass outside this country. Foreign interests, it is said (we understand that the circulars refer to the Patino interests), have lately pressed for representation on the boards of several of the most efficient producers. If control passed into foreign hands it is declared that the domicile of the companies would be changed to avoid British taxation and that orders for machinery would be given to foreign countries. With a view " to maintaining the present successful policy and safeguarding the interests of the shareholders " of Malayan Tin Dredging, Southern Malayan and Southern Perak, the directors—Messrs C. V. Stephens, W. J. Payne, H. Ashworth Hope and A. J. Kelman—propose that they shall remain in office for five years, and that the articles shall provide that the directors and secretary shall at all times be British subjects and the company remain a British company registered in Great Britain. A curious feature of the existing articles of these three companies is that the directors are entitled to 5 per cent. of the surplus profits after 10 per cent. dividends have been paid—in the case of Southern Malayan this 5 per cent. being paid free of income tax. The proposal that the present directors should remain in office for five years is therefore of a severely practical nature. We have, on earlier occasions (see the *Economist* of June 22, 1929, page 1386), given our reasons for regarding attempts to exclude American capital from the British market as a sign of misplaced enthusiasm. To differentiate between the rights of British and foreign shareholders in British companies is a two-edged policy with dangerous potentialities in view of the enormous foreign investments which this country holds. There is a demand in India, for instance, to limit coast-wise shipping to Indian-owned or -controlled bottoms. How is it possible to combat such demands as this if responsible British companies encourage the idea of

" keeping out the foreigner "? If the Patino or other outside interests are large shareholders in the Malayan tin companies, that they should have a representative on the board is a reasonable request, particularly as we understand that they do not seek to control the board or to influence its decisions. It might even, in the long run, be beneficial to the British tin-producing industry if American interests—who represent the world's largest consumers of tin—were to have some participation in the profits of the Malayan companies. A friendly agreement between producers and consumers of different countries may be of indubitable benefit to any and every industry.

Vickers, Ltd.—The accounts for 1929 are not so informative as those for the previous year, the statement of combined assets and liabilities and the balance sheet of Vickers-Armstrongs being omitted. Net profits show a small improvement on the 1928 figure, though the 1927 level has not yet been regained. The dividend is maintained at 8 per cent. and is covered approximately twice over :—

(Years ended December 31st).	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	992,985	939,903	941,971
5% preferred dividend	37,500	37,500	37,500
5% non-cum. preference dividend	37,500	37,500	37,500
5% cum., tax free, preference div.	343,190	343,190	343,190
Available for ordinary :			
Amount	*574,795*	*521,713*	*523,781*
Per cent.	*17·5*	*15·9*	*15·95*
Paid on ordinary :			
Amount	262,730	262,730	262,730
Per cent.	8	8	8
To reserve	238,211	250,000	250,000
Increase in carry-forward	73,853	8,982	11,051

The outstanding feature of the accounts is the exceedingly strong liquid position. After deducting all current liabilities, including the dividend payments, surplus liquid assets total £5,180,188, an increase of £561,000 over the previous year. Included in the amount is nearly £4,500,000 in gilt-edged securities. The reserve fund is brought up to £1,000,000 by this year's allocation, in addition to which the contingent liabilities and capital reserve now amounts to £3,266,404, most, if not all, of which may ultimately become a " free " reserve. Following the formation of Vickers-Armstrongs, Metropolitan Cammell and the English Steel Corporation, Vickers is now purely a holding company, having no direct trading interests. The shares received in the various companies stand in the balance sheet at the written-down value of the assets transferred, which is, of course, far below their nominal value. The biggest discrepancy is in the holding of Vickers-Armstrongs, which has a nominal value of over £12,000,000 and is taken into the accounts at £6,282,870. The ordinary shares are priced around 8s. 9d., giving a yield of approximately 6¼ per cent., allowing for the dividend. The 5 per cent. tax-free preference shares at 18s. 6d. return £6 15s. gross.

Imperial Chemical Industries.—The directors of this great chemical merger announce that for the year ended December 31st last net profits amount to £5,780,208, compared with £5,212,703 for the previous twelve months. With the addition of the £108,807 brought forward, there is therefore a sum of £5,889,015 available for distribution. Of this total £529,020 is to be placed to general reserve, against £1,000,000 last year, and £350,923 carried forward to the next account. Preference dividend takes £1,407,755, leaving £3,601,317 for allocation to ordinary and deferred shareholders, against £2,991,200 for 1928. The respective amounts are not stated, but the ordinary capital is again to receive 8 per cent., less tax, while the dividend on the deferred shares is to be increased ¼ per cent. to 2 per cent. Until the amounts are published, the rest must remain a matter of conjecture, but it is clear that the deferred shares have earned more than last year.

Year ends December 31st.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	4,441,894	5,212,703	5,780,208
Brought forward	...	82,681	108,807*
Preference dividend	1,145,501	1,194,550	1,407,755
Rate per cent.	7	7	7
Ordinary dividend :			
Amount	2,635,602	2,812,691	...
Rate per cent.	8	8	8
Deferred shares :			
Earned, £	*660,791*	*1,205,462*	(Dividends on
Paid, £	169,133	178,509	Ordinary &
Earned, per cent.	*6·9*	*11·8*	Def. shares, £3,601,317)
Paid, per cent.	1·75	1·75	2
To reserve	408,977	1,000,000	529,020
Carried forward	82,681	109,634	350,923

* After deduction of dividends in respect of further shares.

The reserves of the company amount to £16,725,000, an increase of £5,715,862 on last year's reserve account of £11,009,138. The increase is apparently due to the share premiums received on the new issue of last May, and to transfers out of profits of £529,020 to general reserve and £575,479 to the Central Obsolescence fund. As a result of the fall in market values, the book value of the company's securities exceeds market value by £983,347, which, however, is amply covered by reserves.

Cunard Steamship Company, Ltd.—The preliminary figures suggest that the company has had a most successful year, the net profit, after providing for taxation, interest and depreciation, being £259,160 more than was earned in 1928—an increase of no less than 47.08 per cent. :—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Ordinary capital	5,570,261	5,570,261	5,570,261
Net profit	659,748	550,478	809,638
Preference dividend	135,000	135,000	135,000
Ordinary { *earned per cent.*	*9·42*	*7·46*	*12·11*
Ordinary { paid per cent.	7·5	7·5	7·5
Transfer to reserve	100,000	...	50,000
Carried forward	190,688	188,396	395,266

Including the amount brought forward from the previous year, the amount available for distribution is £998,035. After paying the preference dividend and carrying £50,000 to reserves, the ordinary shareholders will receive the same rate of dividend as in 1928—a conservative distribution. An explanation of the factors behind these gratifying results—which contrast with the unfavourable developments reported by other shipping concerns—must needs await the publication of the full report.

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Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers. — This company and its subsidiary, the British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., occupy a leading position in the cement industry of this country. They have recently completed a four years' building programme, during which their output capacity has been increased from 2,000,000 tons per annum to about 3,000,000 tons per annum and their manufacturing costs reduced by about 40 per cent. During 1928 the Associated Portland group were engaged in a price war with the " Red Triangle " group of cement companies, which ended in November of that year when the latter joined the Cement Manufacturers' Association. During 1929, according to the directors of Associated Portland, competition both from home and Continental manufacturers continued to be severe, and lower prices were realised. Nevertheless, trading profits were maintained, an achievement which the directors attribute to the economies in production costs at the works resulting from the programme of reconstruction carried out in recent years. The company's total deliveries for the period were, in fact, somewhat in excess of the " record " figures established in the previous year. The directors are naturally silent on the question whether the train of events in the " Red Triangle " group, which culminated in the bankruptcy of Mr H. S. Horne, resulted in any appreciable transfer of business to their own companies. The results for the past three years are shown :—

(Years to December 31.)	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Total income (after tax)	901,649	934,580	935,115
Fees	3,412	3,400	2,800
Deb. int. and service	297,650	297,650	297,650
Depreciation	267,150	267,150	267,150
Earned for div.	333,437	366,380	367,515
Pref. div.	125,660	125,660	125,660
Earned for ord. div.	207,777	240,720	240,893
Percentage earned Ord. (after tax)	*8·31*	*8·02*	*8·02*
Percentage paid (after tax)	6·4	6·4	6·4
Percentage paid (gross)	8·0	8·0	8·0
Carry forward	139,286	140,006	140,899

The earnings shown are calculated after providing for taxation and depreciation. Gross earnings before taxation and depreciation amounted to 20.8 per cent. on the ordinary share capital of £3,000,000. The balance sheet shows a strong liquid position, stock, debtors and cash (less creditors) amounting to £1,166,000. Investments at December 31st stood at £2,515,565, and property and plant at £6,019,854. During the year first mortgage and second mortgage debenture stock to amounts of £38,088 and £57,292 respectively were redeemed, making totals of £679,756 and £685,283 respectively redeemed as at December 31st last. The ordinary shares are at present quoted at 26s. 9d., to yield, allowing for a dividend of 8 per cent., £6 8s. per cent., having been as high as 32s. 6d. last year.

Lipton's Recovery.—A striking improvement in the affairs of this company is shown in the first report published since last year's reconstruction. Gross profit has risen from £47,212 to £177,574, and the net profit is £116,821 higher at £118,377. After payment of the preference dividends, a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, £25,000 carried to the preference dividend equalisation fund, and £20,000 to the reserve fund, leaving £8,127 to be carried forward. In July last the arrears of preference dividend were cancelled, and 8s. was written off each preference share. The £1 5 per cent. cumulative first preference shares were converted into 10s. 5 per cent. non-cumulative first preference shares, and the £1 9 per cent. cumulative second preference shares into 10s. 6 per cent. non-cumulative second preference shares. Two one shilling ordinary shares were also issued to preference shareholders for each preference share already held. The £1 ordinary shares were written down to 1s. each, the whole involving a reduction of capital from £2,850,000 to £1,022,500. Goodwill was written down by £1,345,620 to the nominal value of £100,000. The balance of the capital reduction was evidently utilised to write down the book value of property and plant, which are respectively lower by £80,131 and £249,437. Investments in subsidiary companies have risen by £84,346 to £274,885. Debtors are £94,023 greater, while creditors have increased by £200,993. These features mainly account for the drop of £49,301 in the figure of £13,486, the surplus of liquid assets over current liabilities. The ordinary shares earned 33.8 per cent., and at their present price of 4s. 3d. yield £2 7s. per cent. The market is counting on a further increase in profits this year, as a result of economies which did not become fully effective last year, and of the further fruits of the substitution of co-operative for competitive relations with the Maypole, Home and Colonial, Meadow Dairy and Unilever interests.

Canadian Pacific Railway.—The results of this company for the year ended December 31 reveal a considerable falling off from last year's record total. Gross earnings of the system total $209,730,955, against $229,039,300, a decrease of some $19,300,000, while working expenses have declined only from $177,344,845 to $166,586,411. The percentage ratio of expenses to receipts is thus 79.43 per cent., compared with 77.43 per cent. for the previous twelve months. " The reduction in gross earnings," according to the report, " is more than accounted for by the decreased grain yield in Western Canada and the retarded movement of the crop, the shrinkage in revenue on the commodity ' grain and grain products ' being $20,933,471." Net revenue, after adding $15,232,220 special income, and deducting $16,149,002 for fixed charges, stands this year at $42,227,761, compared with $49,063,438 for 1928 and $36,013,264 for 1927. Percentage earnings on ordinary shares have dropped from 15.0 to 12.2, but the distribution of 10 per cent. is still well covered.

Year ends December 31.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$
Gross earnings	201,145,752	229,039,300	209,730,955
Working expenses	161,630,181	177,344,845	166,586,411
Net earnings	39,515,571	51,694,452	43,144,544
Special income	11,876,560	12,677,684	15,232,220
Fixed charges	15,378,867	15,308,698	16,149,002
Net revenue	36,013,264	49,063,438	42,227,761
Preference dividend	4,005,944	4,067,548	4,674,789
Rate per cent.	4	4	4
No. of times covered	*9·0*	*12·0*	*9·0*
Ordinary capital :			
Earned, £	*32,007,320*	*45,057,494*	*37,552,972*
Paid, £	26,000,000	29,353,633	30,750,000
Earned, per cent.	*12·3*	*15·0*	*12·2*
Paid, per cent.	10	10	10
Other allocations	600,000	750,000	750,000
Carried forward	5,407,320	14,892,257	6,052,971

Special income is $2,544,536 in excess of that for the previous year, the principal increase being from investments, steamship lines, and hotels. Passenger mileage for the year actually reveals a slight improvement, being 20,145,028 against 20,131,825, but freight mileage is down from 29,838,556 to 24,996,216, while the amount of grain carried shows a drop of nearly 120 million bushels. The balance sheet remains exceedingly strong with liquid assets well in excess of potential liabilities. Investments are down from $160,296,651 to $153,067,430, but working assets have increased from $93,773,506 to $114,298,166, while on the liabilities side " reserve and appropriations " account for $56,086,952, against $50,826,431 in the previous balance sheet. At the present price of $219½ the $100 ordinary stock gives a yield of 4.6 per cent., allowing for a final dividend of 2½ per cent.

Amsterdam Rubber Company.—The annual report for 1929 of the largest Dutch rubber company shows a profit of 5,862,245 guilders, this favourable result being attributed to satisfactory advance sales of the 1929 crop. A dividend of 15 per cent. is being paid, shareholders having the option of demanding either cash or one share for eight dividend coupons, equivalent to a scrip bonus of 12½ per cent. The latter provision has exercised a depressing influence on the shares :—

(Thousand guilders.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Capital	18,431	18,433	18,433
Bonds	...	4,800	4,800
Earnings	8,076	5,725	5,862
Depreciation and reserves	3,585	2,136	2,194
Dividend	18%	15%	15%

The estates of the company are over 84,000 hectares (207,000 acres) in extent, 34,471 hectares of which (85,000 acres) are planted. Extensions are in progress on a large scale. Those planned in 1928 included over 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres) for oil palm plantations, two-thirds of which are expected to be completed in 1930, whilst an extension of the rubber plantations by 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres) is in the programme for this year. Rubber production during the current year is estimated at 16,200,000 metric pounds, and palm oil production at 9,000 tons. Some 30 per cent. of the rubber has been sold in advance, an appreciable part being at agreed prices above the present low market value of rubber.

MINING NOTES.

Rand Mines.—Last year's income on the part of this Kaffir finance enterprise shows a recovery, another satisfactory feature being that the difference arises entirely from dividends on shareholdings. The net earnings rather more than cover the distribution; whereas in respect of 1928 they failed to do so. For the first time in many years the appropriation account shows no transfer from reserve. On the other hand, investment reserve takes £377,200, being the net amount of the outlay, while £100,000 is set aside to meet general contingencies. Hence the decrease in the carry-forward. The portfolio now stands at £3,089,800, an expansion of £254,600 on the twelve months. The results of the past three years are summarised below :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Dividends on shareholdings	436,360	419,330	486,530
Sundries	121,600	123,640	92,310
Investment realisation profits	151,820	19,700	5,910
Total income	709,780	562,670	584,750
Administration expenses	25,140	26,240	29,690
Taxation	38,780	33,740	33,200
Prospecting	10,670	10,250	9,490
Net profit	635,190	492,800	512,370
Dividends	†511,330	511,290	511,290
Rate per cent.	100	100	100
To reserve account	272,190	395,060	477,190
From reserve account	227,560	106,060	—
Brought forward	1,126,060	1,205,290	897,800
Carried forward	1,205,290	897,800	422,038

† Including forfeited dividends refunded.

The principal changes in the shareholdings comprise additions to the holdings of Modder B, New Modder, Village Deep, North Venezuelan Petroleum and Trinidad Leaseholds, and a substantial reduction in Daggafonteins. The directors announce a departure in the acceptance of " a participation in certain mining ventures in Bolivia." Possibly at the meeting some further information will be given in this regard. Much interest attaches to the question whether these participations are in tin properties. On the basis of 100 per cent. dividends Rand Mines 5s. shares at £3 show a return of slightly over 8 per cent.

The " Johnnies " Group in 1929.—Our mining correspondent writes :—Looked at from all points of view, the producing subsidiaries of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company—which are responsible for a large proportion of the Rand gold yield—last year more than maintained their positions, although some shortage of native labour was experienced. A fresh and appreciable expansion is shown in the value of the Langlaagte ore reserves, while at the Randfontein the tonnage is higher. Dividends were unchanged, except in the case of the Van Ryn Deep. At one time the idea was entertained of an expansion to 100 per cent. in the dividends of the Government Areas, but—apart from any radical change in economic conditions—it may be that the current rate will prove the maximum. Of last year's earnings the somewhat increased amount of £1,448,900 went to the Union Government as its share. Capital expenditure absorbed £62,450, against £10,200. The improvements in the sorting and crushing plant having been " brought into commission with beneficial results," there will presumably be no great outlay of the kind this year. At the Langlaagte Estate the percentage of " payability " increased from 39 to 57 per cent. Last year's surplus earnings (£32,200) were carried forward, but if the monthly profits are no more than maintained it would seem reasonable to look for an increase in the dividend. By the purchase of £46,650 the debenture indebtedness of the New State Areas has been reduced to £279,900. The Government's share of the profits—£385,000—is naturally higher than before. The balance of £66,300 carried forward contrasts with £41,750 brought in. A five-year contrast of the results of the six principal companies is appended :—

	Ore Crushed.	Results per Ton. Yield.	Costs.	Profit.	Working Profit.	Divs.	Ore Reserves. Tonnage.	Value.
Govt. Areas—	Tons.				£	%		Dwt.
1925	1,932,500	38/4	16/9	21/7	2,088,300	65	11,355,000	9·0
1926	2,239,000	38/7	16/4	22/3	2,448,070	72½	11,384,000	8·9
1927	2,359,000	38/8	16/4	22/4	2,679,500	85	11,288,000	8·8
1928	2,383,500	38/9	16/7	22/2	2,639,700	90	10,973,000	8·9
1929	2,416,000	38/5	22/–	16/5	2,667,800	90	10,876,000	8·9
Langlaagte Est.—								
1925	934,000	24/–	21/1	3/–	139,980	5	1,695,200	6·5
1926	950,000	24/7	20/3	4/4	205,130	12½	1,548,000	6·5
1927	964,500	25/1	20/1	5/–	240,900	12½	1,559,000	6·9
1928	970,000	26/7	20/9	5/10	282,650	15	1,567,500	7·1
1929	968,500	27/6	21/1	6/5	311,830	15	1,596,000	7·4
New State Areas—								
1925	843,000	34/4	20/3	14/1	592,200	15	2,604,000	8·6
1926	889,000	35/3	20/7	14/8	653,100	15	2,621,500	8·8
1927	867,000	35/10	21/3	14/7	632,540	12½	2,726,000	8·6
1928	908,000	35/9	21/–	14/9	668,900	12½	2,678,000	8·7
1929	918,000	36/3	20/11	15/6	710,270	12½	2,696,000	8·9
Randfontein—								
1925	2,311,000	21/9	18/2	3/7	408,900	5	5,119,400	6·1
1926	2,304,000	21/1	18/4	2/9	319,250	...	4,885,000	6·0
1927	2,401,000	20/6	17/11	2/7	313,410	...	4,387,000	5·8
1928	2,500,000	19/4	17/4	2/–	246,860	...	4,196,800	5·8
1929	2,528,000	20/1	18/1	2/–	246,700	...	11,505,000	5·8
Van Ryn Deep—								
1925	795,400	33/1	17/1	16/–	637,840	50	3,521,900	7·3
1926	818,900	31/1	16/5	14/8	600,850	45	3,479,000	7·5
1927	761,900	33/5	18/–	15/5	587,460	40	3,292,000	7·6
1928	759,000	33/9	19/4	14/5	545,860	40	3,110,700	7·4
1929	748,000	33/7	20/2	13/5	502,220	35	3,022,000	7·3
Wit. Gold—								
1925	562,000	18/2	17/8	–/6	14,540	5	431,200	5·2
1926	613,700	17/4	15/10	1/6	46,600	10	501,400	5·0
1927	575,400	19/–	18/–	1/–	28,720	7½	448,000	5·6
1928	630,000	17/11	17/6	–/5	11,760	2½	404,000	5·2
1929	641,000	17/11	17/5	–/6	15,350	2½	372,000	5·4

Once again the Randfontein produced gold to the value of 2½ million for a gross profit of barely 10 per cent. Capital expenditure required £83,850 and debenture redemption £130,300, leaving £211,600 to be carried over, as against £180,200 brought in. By the redemption effected on March 1st last the debenture indebtedness has been reduced to £348,360; this should be cleared off within three years. The statistics relative to the Van Ryn Deep indicate quite clearly that the property has

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passed its prime. A considerable amount of dependence now has to be placed upon the upper leaders, whose extraction entails additional expense. As regards the Witwatersrand Gold, the consulting engineer states that no improvement occurred in the original mine, but that " a large tonnage of moderate grade ore " is indicated in the Knight Central and Knight's Deep areas.

Robinson Deep.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Scarcely any difference is shown by the results of last year, as compared with those of 1928, a small decrease in value being barely compensated for by increase in tonnage and saving in costs. The operating profit came out about £1,100 down at £172,830. Once again no distribution could be made on the " B " shares, which have received nothing since 1926. The fixed dividend on the " A " shares absorbed £75,000; net outlay on capital account amounted to £47,400, and various other items brought the debits up to £148,700, leaving the somewhat enhanced balance of £99,500 to go forward. This sum is represented by cash and cash assets:—

Year ends December 31st.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Profit on working	189,209	173,954	172,830
Net profit	132,046	116,335	135,020
Brought forward	53,293	72,925	76,846
"A" shares £	75,000	75,000	75,000
"A" shares %	300	300	300
"B" Shares:—			
Earned £	*57,046*	*41,335*	*60,020*
Paid £	Nil	Nil	Nil
Earned %	*6·5*	*4·7*	*6·8*
To Debenture redemption	35,700	35,700	35,700
Other allocations	1,714	1,714	1,714
Carried forward	72,925	76,845	99,452

Performance of the record development footage of 29,160 failed to effect any expansion in the ore reserves, the payable percentage falling back from 67.5 to 50.8. The latter contrasts with 90.5 in respect of 1926, when the company's affairs appeared all *couleur de rose*. At the end of last year the ore reserves totalled 1,307,000 tons, value 6.0 dwts.—a decline of 100,000 tons in quantity and of 0.1 dwt. in value during the twelve months. Of the ore mined last year, 942,800 tons were stoped from the calculated reserves, 96,200 tons came from development, and 45,600 tons from reclamation. The available tonnage at the end of 1929 represented less than a year and a half's supply for the mill. The position, of course, is now changed by the acquisition of the property of the Village Deep, whose ore reserves on December 31st last were computed to be 103,100 tons, value 5.79 dwts. In this connection the par value of Robinson Deep " B " shares has been cut down from £1 to 7s. 6d., and a corresponding number of new shares—881,800—is being offered to the members at par under guarantee of the Consolidated Gold Fields. The proceeds will provide the £300,000 which is to be paid at the outset to the Village Deep shareholders and the bulk of the £37,500 to be handed over twelve months later. The balance of the new " B " shares—66,136—will be issued to the underwriters. By the acquisition of the Village Deep property the ore reserves of the Robinson will be nearly doubled, considerable expense in shaft-sinking will be saved, and ventilation—a difficult problem—facilitated. It is calculaeted that under the new conditions profits will average £25,000 per annum. For the current and succeeding six years the dividends on the " A " shares will continue to absorb £75,000 per annum. Allowing for this, also for taxation, etc., there will be a surplus representing 20 to 25 per cent. upon the " B " shares. Whether any distribution can be expected on account of the current year appears doubtful. After 1936 the dividend on the " A " shares decreases substantially, and they are due for repayment on January 1, 1941.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Mercantile Bank of India, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Hungarian General Creditbank, London Life Clergy Mutual and Metropolitan, Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, Standard Life Assurance, the Employers' Liability Assurance, City of London Electric Lighting, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power, International Automatic Telephone, Powell Duffryn Steam Coal, Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, British Enka Artificial Silk, Salt Union, V.O.C. Holding, Pinchin Johnson and Company, London and Thames Haven Oil Wharves, United Drapery Stores, Odhams Press and United Glass Bottle Manufacturers, Ltd. At the annual meeting of Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries the chairman said that there was a valuable market in Canada for Welsh anthracite, and shipments were now beginning. Presiding at the annual meeting of the British Enka Artificial Silk Company, Sir Henry Strakosch declared that, while the world production of artificial silk had increased only by about 17 per cent. as compared with 1928, compared with an expansion in consumption of almost double that rate, there was still over-production to the extent of 4 or 5 per cent. At the City of London Electric Lighting Company meeting the chairman **referred to a chart showing the** extent to which the demand for electricity for light, heating and power **had been constantly rising over a series of years.**

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CAPITAL ISSUES.

Conditions in the new capital market remain satisfactory, so far as borrowers of high status are concerned. The home corporation issue of the week—£2,500,000 for the *City and County of Bristol* in the form of 5 per Stock 1950/60 at 99½—met with an instantaneous success. Birmingham is expected to follow next week with an issue of £5,000,000. The revival in home corporation loans under the stimulus of cheap money appears to be in full swing, and it is noteworthy that the issues are being made once again under the auspices of the old-established finance houses and private banks, the sponsor for Bristol being J. Henry Schröder and Company. Two semi-speculative issues have also made their appearance, the offers comprising preference shares of *Ingersoll, Ltd.*, the British company formed to exploit the Ingersoll watch, and ordinary shares of *M.R.S., Ltd.* The Ingersoll shares gave holders no " equity " rights, but were fully subscribed. M.R.S., Ltd., is a company operating a motor transport goods service and specialising in the transport of heavy plant and machinery. The railway companies have no doubt noted that this company can deliver complete railway engines by road from works to docks, and has recently constructed a fourteen-wheeled lorry designed to carry 100 tons—the only one of its kind (fortunately, perhaps) in the world. The company appears to possess a lucrative business.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to March 22, 1930, £85,441,345.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to March 22, 1930, £141,181,345.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended March 22, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to March 22, 1930, *Dr. £2,150,000.*

To the Public.	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
Bristol Corporation	2,500,000	753,018	1,734,482	125,000	2,362,500
Ingersoll	100,000	...	100,000	10,000	90,000
M.R.S.	59,602	...	59,602	5,960	53,642
Total offered to Public, week ended March 29, 1930	2,659,602	753,018	1,894,084	140,960	2,506,142
To Shareholders only.					
Ribble Motor Services, 297,000 Ord. £1 at par	297,000	...	297,000	148,500	148,500
Total offered Shareholders only, week ended March 29, 1930	297,000	...	297,000	148,500	148,500

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
Jan. 1 to date—	144,225,447	87,732,429
1930	110,532,270	96,953,050
1929	...	169,043,750
1928	...	144,888,400
1927	...	75,028,400
1926	...	49,950,256
1925	...	42,109,306
1924	...	86 484,000
1923		

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
Whole year—	488,764,940	285,239,400
1929	693,100,056	269,058,073
1928	...	365,165,970
1927	...	230,782,600
1926	...	232,214,500
1925	...	209,326,101
1924	...	271,399,173
1923	...	573,675,653
1922		

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	9,494,078	...	9,623,731
Dalgety and Co., £500,000 4½% Red. Deb. Stk. at 80% (March 14)	400,000	80½	402,000
Lewis's Investment Trust—			
1,175,000 Ord. £1 (Mar. 5)	1,175,000	44/9	2,629,063
1,750,000 7% Cum. Pref. £1 (Mar. 5)	1,175,000	20/6	1,204,375
	2,750,000	...	4,235,438
Total week ended March 29, 1930	2,750,000	...	4,235,438
Total to date, 1930	12,244,078	...	13,851,969
Total to date, 1929	11,500,267	...	18,679,794

City and County of Bristol.—Issue of £2,500,000 Bristol Corporation 5 per cent. Redeemable Stock, 1950-60, at £99½ per cent. This is a trustee security. Notice of redemption has been given to the holders of the Bristol Corporation 6 per cent. Redeemable Stock, 1930-40, who have the right of converting into an equivalent amount of the present 5 per cent. stock. The stock will be repaid at par on February 1, 1930, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the Corporation will have the option of redeeming the same at par at any time on or after February 1, 1950, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the city is £2,615,386, and a rate of one penny produces about £10,500. The proceeds of the present issue will be applied to the repayment of 6 per cent. stock, 1930-40, and of £1,512,671 temporarily borrowed, the balance being used for municipal purposes.

Ingersoll, Limited.—Issue at par of 100,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each. The company has been formed to acquire, as from January 1, 1930, the business of the Ingersoll Watch Company, Ltd., which was formed in 1916. The directors are of the opinion that, including the net profit rental which will accrue from the letting of Ingersoll House, the net revenue for the current year should exceed £30,000, covering preference dividend four times.

M. R. S., Limited.—Issue at par of 59,602 Ordinary shares of £1 each. The company was incorporated as a private company in March, 1926, and as a public company in March, 1930, the name being changed from " Marstons' Road Services, Ltd." Profit for 1929, before deduction of depreciation, directors' fees and other fixed charges, totalled £19,366. Dividends for the last three years, 50 per cent. tax free, 5 per cent. and 20 per cent. Estimated net profit, £22,414.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 745, under the heading " Company News."]

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Mar. 21, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 22, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended Mar. 23, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 12 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,733	184	212	128	340	524	2,253	2,596	1,603	4,199	6,452
Do. for 1929...	3,734	206	238	148	386	592	2,291	2,570	1,646	4,216	6,507
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	292	413	295	708	1,000	3,504	4,904	3,416	8,320	11,824
Do. for 1929...	6,360	310	457	312	769	1,079	3,509	4,796	3,506	8,302	11,811
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	425	568	287	855	1,280	5,101	6,614	3,515	10,129	15,230
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	478	608	332	940	1,418	5,166	6,537	3,870	10,407	15,573
Southern	2,175	255	82	32	114	369	3,121	891	402	1,293	4,414
Do. for 1929...	2,175	270	86	41	127	397	3,026	875	474	1,349	4,375
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·8	...	...	4·3	36·1	385·6	...	...	49·8	435·4
Do. for 1929...	59	31·6	...	...	4·2	35·8	370·2	...	...	48·1	418·3
†Und'grn'dE.R.o	...	...	...	...	...	294·8	...	...	...	...	3433·1
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	285·4	...	...	...	...	3112·8
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	42·2	...	...	...	...	496·5
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	40·7	...	...	...	...	436·4
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnR	80	1·8	...	...	0·8	2·6	22·3	...	...	8·4	30·7
Do. for 1929...	80	1·9	...	...	1·3	3·2	21·7	...	...	11·0	32·7
*Great Northern	562	10·8	...	...	15·9	26·7	108·0	...	...	179·2	277·2
Do. for 1929...	562	10·4	...	...	18·7	29·1	108·7	...	...	186·0	294·7
*Great Southern	2,187	25·1	...	...	45·2	70·3	250·9	...	...	505·0	755·9
Do. for 1929...	2,187	25·4	...	...	47·0	72·4	248·8	...	...	522·6	771·4

* Aggregate 11 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				Rs.		Rs.	
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	47 weeks	Feb.22	1,217	4,81,000	+ 24,400	1,98,17,586	− 8,08,715
Barsi Lt. Ry.	48 weeks	Mar. 1	202	45,300	− 2,400	23,23,500	+ 56,800
Bengal & N.Western	48 weeks		1	2,080	7,46,404	− 101114	1,54,72,305	− 1,51,445
Bengal-Nagpur ...	47 weeks	Feb.22	3,085	17,37,000	− 264307	8,24,94,704	+ 17,34,221
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	50 weeks	Mar.15	3,031	26,19,000	− 206000	11,15,98,000	− 9,91,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	48 weeks		1	3,121	18,44,000	− 300351	8,51,75,265	− 10,62,421
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	48 weeks		1	1,242	4,73,784	− 92,623	2,17,39,193	− 20,99,193
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	48 weeks		1	572	1,60,608	− 4,956	29,61,546	+ 70,305
South Indian	48 weeks		1	2,348	12,03,639	− 36,285	6,09,98,911	+ 42,83,406
				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.....	38 weeks	Mar.22	753	15,700	+ 900	588,100	− 3,800
Argentine Trans'dn.	38 weeks		22	111	4,312	− 1,847	178,840	− 2,234
B.A. and Pacific....	38 weeks		22	2,806	124.000	− 83.000	5,799,000	− 661,000
B.A. Central	38 weeks		23	...	11,786	− 2,875	489,672	− 46,287
B.A. Gt. Southern...	38 weeks		22	4,875	167,000	− 120000	9,069,000	− 388,000
B.A. Western	38 weeks		22	1,926	45,000	− 75,000	3,241,000	− 587,000
Central Argentine...	38 weeks		22	3,319	188,000	− 98,000	8,852,000	− 1,441,000
Cordoba Central....	38 weeks		22	1,218	33,000	− 38,000	2,226,000	− 404,000
Entre Rios.....	38 weeks		22	789	20.700	− 8,300	1.073.500	− 105,500
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	38 weeks	Mar.22	1,374	106,483	− 25,953	2,355,358	− 400,664
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay....	38 weeks	Mar.22	273	37,315	+ 7,126	1,179,581	+ 26,158
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	38 weeks		22	311	10,104	+ 1,482	270,968	+ 9,531
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	38 weeks		22	185	5,405	+ 887	136,242	− 3,862
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	38 weeks		22	211	3.440	− 156	107,998	− 6,148
				$	$	$	$
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	10 weeks	Mar.14	19580	4,296,549	− 871121	42,404,762	− 6,230,156
Canadian Pacific ...	11 weeks	21	15217	3.081,000	− 996000	33,784,000	− 8,275,000
				£	£	£	£
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brazil..	12 weeks	Mar.22	1,016	17.700	− 1,400	228,100	− 34,400
Leopoldina.....	12 weeks		22	1,856	35,075	− 43	424,232	− 1,396
Leopoldina Termnl.	12 weeks		22	Mlrs.	263.000	+ 4,000	3,520,000	+ 219,000
San Paulo	12 weeks		23	153½	54,907	+ 5,908	521,404	− 10,480
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	12 weeks	Mar.23	804	27,570	− 12,400	361,650	− 141,910
Nitrate (½-monthly)	9 weeks	15	413	17,776	− 23,980	122,742	− 80,398
				£	£	£	£
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Egyptian Delta.....	47 weeks	Feb.28	608	7,709	+ 1,228	332,487	+ 19,829
Gt. Southn. of Spain	11 weeks	Mar.15	104	Ps.114,659	− 6,534	1,300,462	− 40,775
Mexican Railway....	12 weeks	21	483	$285.700	+ 13,700	2,862,200	+ 173,300
Paraguay Central...	37 weeks	15	274	3,620	− 220	151,110	− 11,620
Salvador.....	38 weeks	22	100	6.670	− 920	174,777	− 14,699

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	11 weeks	Mar.18	329	86,339	− 2,843	917,883	− 34,655
B. Aires Lacrose....	38 weeks	23	...	12,222	− 615	444,485	− 37,223
BurnleyCorporation	1 week	22	13	2,727	− 229	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	1 week	22	35½	Rs117,545	− 9,014	...	...
Chatham & District	10 weeks	13	15	1,022	+ 44	10,684	+ 798
Egyptian Markets	10 weeks	13	...	2,043	+ 1,229	19,900	− 3,061
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	10 weeks	12	...	831	− 4	8,522	+ 886
Liverpool Corp.....	51 weeks	22	124	28,710	− 2,276	1,529,563	+ 28,977
L.C.C. Tramways....	50 weeks	19	166	82,380	+ 1,438	4,216,558	+ 78,395
Madras Electric.....	110 wks.	16	...	Rs. 56,183	+ 11.262	2,36,854	+ 22,097

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

(Incorporated in the Colony of Hong Kong. The liability of members is limited to the extent and in manner prescribed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1929 of the Colony.)

RESULTS OF DIFFICULT YEAR.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS—BOARD'S CONSERVATIVE POLICY.

CONDITIONS IN CHINA—EXTRATERRITORIALITY SYSTEM AND SAFEGUARDS.

MR W. H. BELL'S REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND PROSPECTS IN THE FAR EAST.

The ordinary yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held on February 22nd last at the City Hall, Hong Kong.

Mr W. H. Bell (chairman) presided.

The chief manager read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said :—Ladies and gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some time I shall, with your permission, take them as read. (Agreed.)

PROFITS AND ALLOCATIONS.

The net profits for the year amount to $14,148,209.57, as compared with $13,430,061.61 for 1928—a return to approximately our earlier level of profits as calculated in silver. This would be satisfactory were it not for the heavy fall in the rate of conversion from silver to gold—corresponding to a fall in exchange of just under 25 per cent. between the opening and closing of the year—which substantially diminishes the sum available for our dividend in sterling. In addition the bank has suffered heavy losses from frauds perpetrated in more than one country, for which, however, I am glad to tell you full provision has been made.

It is for these reasons that—notwithstanding the good record made by the bank in a year of serious trade depression—your directors have thought it prudent to make the reduction of bonus, the possibility of which was adumbrated in the chairman's speech last year. A conservative policy of management is particularly necessary in the case of a bank, and I trust that you will concur in the board's decision and approve their recommendation in regard to the allocation of profits.

As shown in the profit and loss account, the amount available after deducting the interim dividend and directors' remuneration is $12,514,400.84, and the allocation proposed is as follows :—

A final dividend of £3 per share with bonus of £1 per share (subject to income-tax deduction)	$7,876,923.08
Transfer to bank premises account	$750,000.00
Transfer to silver reserve account	$500,000.00
Balance carried forward to the new account ...	$3,387,477.76
	$12,514,400.84

Following the example of three years ago we have made a transfer from silver to sterling reserve, your directors considering it advisable to build up the latter in view of the uncertainty in regard to silver prices. The amount, as shown in the report, is $5,000,000 converted at 2s.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

As regards the balance-sheet figures I will only remark that the slackness of Far Eastern trade is evidenced in the increases under the headings of current accounts and fixed deposits, while the cash increase, attributable wholly to Shanghai, also reflects the disturbed trade conditions which have had the effect of restricting circulation of silver.

Our investments stand at well under market quotations.

The increase of $16,500,000 in our head office note issue is related to Hong Kong's currency difficulties of the past year. During the first nine months the Hong Kong exchange failed to respond to the drop in the price of silver and in Shanghai exchange, and the notes of the three banks in Hong Kong (on the basis of which all business had for long been conducted following a mutual arrangement among the banks of many years ago) became in the end completely divorced from their nominal silver value and rose to a high premium over the silver currency which they actually represent. The resulting disturbance to trade between the Colony and China decided the banks to revert to the circulation of the silver dollar. Many of the banks then sent orders for the minting of British dollars in London or Bombay, and 20,000,000 of these and Mexican dollars have been obtained, of which the greater part are already in the Colony.

As the largest issuer of notes, and as the clearing bank, we have seen the majority of these dollars force their way into our treasuries, a state of affairs which reveals itself in our increased note issue. It is obvious that a small colony like our own cannot absorb unlimited silver dollars, and further imports of these are much to be deprecated. The increase in our note circulation, I would add, has only been rendered possible by the Hong Kong Government having made a concession in regard to the taxation of our issue, without which an increase would have been prohibitively expensive.

The only expansion which I have to record in our field of operation is the opening of a new sub-agency at Muar in the Malay State of Johore.

Of the affairs of this Colony there is little to say except that, in addition to the currency difficulties already mentioned, we have suffered the inevitable reaction from the renewal of civil war in the two Kwang provinces and other parts of China. The conditions for trade being very similar to those applying to China, I will refrain from treating them separately.

THE SILVER MARKET.

With an excess of supply over demand the silver market has trended steadily downward throughout the year owing principally to a calling off in Indian demand, Continental sales of silver, presumably released when French Indo-China decided upon the transfer of their currency to a gold basis, an operation which they have now virtually accomplished, and, finally, a continuance of sales by the Indian Government. As regards this last, it is reasonable to suppose that in future, with the refinery now working in Bombay, surplus coin in the silver currency reserve will generally be refined and sold locally as opportunity offers, thus narrowing the outlet for the world's production. The increase in the reserve is a weight on the silver market, and, with conditions as they are in China, one looks in vain for any probable source of a consumptive demand of sufficient strength and endurance to effect an appreciable recovery in prices. As I have said, our local requirements in Hong Kong are bound to prove limited.

The extreme quotations of the year for the price of silver were as follows—highest 26 7/16d., lowest 21 1/16d. per standard ounce, which constituted a low record for the metal (since then there has been a further decline). The quotations for Shanghai exchange were—highest 2s. 7¼d., lowest 2s. 1d. per tael for telegraphic transfers to London. By a curious coincidence the Shanghai exchange touched the top and bottom limits on the first and last days of the year respectively.

The mine production of silver for 1929 is computed at 275,000,000 of standard ounces, which, added to 60,000,000 from outside sources, gives a total of 335,000,000—an increase of 12,000,000 over the previous year. China's estimated consumption was 143,000,000 and India's 70,000,000, corresponding respectively to 141,000,000 and 110,000,000 in 1928. China thus again achieved a record.

UNFAVOURABLE TRADING FACTORS.

The trading conditions of last year in India and the Far East have, as I have already mentioned, been none too favourable. In the first place, China failed to realise the promise of the previous year and relapsed into civil warfare; famine and brigandage played their familiar *rôles*, and a further misfortune was added in the fall of the silver currency. This accumulation of evils effectively destroyed any chances of trade expansion, and I think we may reckon it fortunate that there has not been a more appreciable decline.

The raising of the tariff in February had little apparent effect on the volume of import trade, which was well maintained during the first few months of the year. As the year progressed, however, the various hindrances to commerce became increasingly felt. Wars and disorders in the provinces, together with the drop in exchange, checked the demand for imports, while exports fell away under the burden of military taxation and difficulties of transport. In the autumn came the disturbance of the foreign markets resulting from the crash on the New York Stock Exchange, and the end of the year found business in China at an unusually low ebb, with little prospect of an early turn of the tide.

STAPLE IMPORTS.

Taking the staple imports, foreign cotton manufactures have had to compete with a substantial increase of output from the local mills. The raising of the Japanese boycott also brought a flood of Japanese cotton goods on to the market, making competition extremely difficult for British manufacturers. The trade in woollens was dull in spite of lowered prices. The engineering business showed welcome signs of recovery from a long period of stagnation, thanks largely to the quickening of industrial developments on the Yangtze and to greater activity in the sphere of public works. There was an increased importation of railway material, including engines and rolling stock, a considerable demand for aircraft for both military and commercial use, and a good market for motor vehicles corresponding to the rapid extention of motor roads in most provinces of China. British products, I may add, were fairly well represented in the supply of industrial machinery, only moderately so in regard to railway requirements, and very slightly in the case of the motor trade.

The Customs returns for the year show a gross revenue of 152,000,000 taels, against 82,000,000 in 1928. Reckoned in silver this represents an increase of 85 per cent.; reckoned in gold 68 per cent.; in this connection I may add that, under the new tariff, the proportion of Customs revenue required for the foreign loans and indemnities at current rates of exchange is considerably less than one-half.

DECREASE IN TRADE FIGURES PROBABLE.

The Customs have not made available the comparative figures with former years which are necessary to furnish an index of the increase or decrease of trade, but one may infer by calculation a falling off—though not of serious extent—from the previous year's volume. The figures bring out the increasing preponderance of Shanghai's trade in relation to that of the rest of China; they also indicate a redressing of the balance between the northern and the southern ports, the south having recovered much of the ground lost through the Communist troubles, while the figures for the north show a distinct decline. This is especially the case in regard to Tientsin, which found itself starved of cargo from up-country owing to the political unrest and also suffered for the first half-year from the unnavigable state of the river which connects it with the sea. The Manchurian figures reflect the disastrous effect of the Sino-Russian dispute and the interruption of the Chinese Eastern Railway, which, besides increasing freight rates, upset the economic machinery of the country and severely checked all commercial development.

While on the subject of the Customs, let me add a word of recognition of the very successful manner in which the service, under Mr Maze's guidance, has emerged from the very difficult crisis with which it was faced just over a year ago. In spite of wars and civil commotion, the treaty-port revenues have been regularly remitted. We have evidence, too, of the maintained prestige of the foreign administration in the fact that the Government have transferred to Mr Maze's hands the control of important native Customs establishments in several provinces.

RAILWAYS AND COASTAL SHIPPING.

Railway communications, to which I shall again refer later, have shown some slight improvement over the conditions of the previous year, but military interference has prevented or crippled traffic on nearly all main lines. The construction of 600 miles of railway track in Manchuria during the last three years is a fact worthy of notice.

Coastal shipping has had a difficult year and again met with tragic experience at the hands of pirates. Foreign navigation on the Yangtze passed an uneventful year, the effect of reduced volume of trade being partly offset by Government commandeering of native vessels for military transport.

TRADE CONDITIONS IN INDIA AND JAPAN.

In India the past year cannot be ranked as a very prosperous period, the trade of the country having shown a decided tendency to sag. The jute and gunny markets, two of the most important, have suffered from lower prices than had been seen for several years. The tea industry also saw a steady drop in values, due to increased crops and the existence of unusually large stocks in the United Kingdom. The last monsoon was a fair one and should improve the position in regard to foodstuffs. Native manufacturers have been favoured by better relations between employers and labour.

Japan's trade for 1929 showed a marked improvement over the low level of 1928. Exports showed a large increase, and the adverse trade balance for the year, standing at 67,500,000 yen, is the lowest for 10 years. The new Government, which took office about the middle of the year, set itself strenuously to appreciate the value of the yen in preparation for restoring the currency to a gold basis. With the help of credits opened abroad—to which this bank contributed as a member of a London banking syndicate—this was accomplished on January 11th last, when the embargo on the export of gold was removed. The rise in the exchange value of the yen had the immediate result of depressing home prices and restricting commerce and industry. These sacrifices consequent on the delicate operation of restoring credit by artificial measures are, of course, inevitable, and though every effort will no doubt be made to minimise the effect, we must look forward to some continuance of the dullness in trade.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, MALAYA AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

From a fairly promising start trade conditions in the Straits Settlements and Malaya deteriorated through the year and finished at a regrettably low level. A notable increase in the world's consumption of rubber was outstripped by the increase in production and export, and prices receded in the latter half of the year to abnormally low figures. The tin industry presented similar features. The import trade showed a corresponding decline and was very dull in the second part of the year.

Although trade in the Philippine Islands suffered from the effects of world over-production of sugar as well as of the devastating typhoons of the previous year, general conditions are by no means unsatisfactory. Considerable development is taking place both by private enterprise and in the form of Government works, such as new roads and bridges. This fundamental improvement in the economic state of the Islands reflects itself in the Budget surplus which the year is expected to produce.

TRADE OUTLOOK "OVERCAST."

Next year's outlook for trade between Great Britain and the Far East generally is somewhat overcast. The heavy fall in values consequent on the Wall Street collapse and inflated money conditions are, without doubt, affecting manufacturers and restricting their purchases of raw material. This will bear heavily on firms handling Far Eastern produce, such as rubber, tin, hemp, sugar and China produce generally, making it difficult to market the steadily increasing production. Unfortunately, British textile exporters generally have been correspondingly hit. Handicapped by high cost of production, they are condemned to see the market supplied by the cheaper products of Japanese mills and of domestic output in India and the Far East. The drop in silver currencies has also adversely affected the demand for British manufactures, especially cotton, woollen, and artificial silk fabrics, and it is to be feared that the marked falling-off in British exports to the East, dating from last October, may yet continue.

To take the reverse side of the picture, cheaper money and a saner perspective as to the limits of trade expansion may lead to business being in future conducted on sounder economic lines. We may venture, too, on the hope that an increased trade activity in other parts of the world will counteract the feared decline in America's prosperity and so prevent a lessening of the world's demand for commodities.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHINA.

Let us pass now to the political situation in China, which, more than any other factor in the present state of affairs, regulates the fortunes of those whose business lies in the Far East. The year has witnessed slow progress in the movement towards consolidation. A series of important counter-movements has threatened the stability of the Government and the peace and security of the population. None of these has succeeded, indeed, in overthrowing the Government of Nanking, and so far, at any rate, there is no evidence of any alternative to that Government. These repeated uprisings absorbed, however, most of the country's energies, and the record of the year, which I will attempt to summarise in a short space, is, as will be seen, chiefly taken up by military operations.

The year opened with the Disbandment Conference in session at Nanking. The hopes which attended this first "round table" of the military chiefs were, however, doomed to be short-lived. Within a couple of months, and before a start had been made to apply the Conference plans for demobilisation, the country had slipped back to a state of civil strife. A quarrel arose between the Central Government and the Wuhan military group centred at Hankow. By the end of March it had flared into active warfare—the first renewal of fighting since the establishment of the National Government. The revolt was quelled on the Yangtze before the end of April, but fighting dragged on in the southern provinces, especially round Canton, into the month of June.

In the meantime at Nanking an important political milestone had been passed—namely, the holding of the Third National Congress

of the Kuomintang. The result of the Congress was to confirm the central power in the hands of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek and his colleagues, leaving the membership of the Central Executive Council, the supreme authority in the country, substantially unchanged.

MARSHAL FENG YU-HSIANG AND THE NANKING GOVERNMENT.

Before the country had had time to settle down from the Wuhan revolt a fresh breach of the peace occurred. In the middle of May Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang, at the head of the Kuominchun, challenged the Nanking Government, withdrawing his army into the western provinces and destroying railways along his line of retreat. He was officially declared a rebel, and by the end of the month war was again raging in China. The state funeral of Dr. Sun Yet-sen—which took place with great ceremony on June 1st—came at an opportune moment and caused a lull in the fighting. Thereafter Marshal Feng, weakened by the defection of two of his leading generals, withdrew from active revolt, but his attitude to the Government continued to be such as to leave the situation precarious. A bold effort to reunite the leaders was made by Chiang Kai-shek in the first week of July, when he called a conference at Peiping. The attempt was partially successful; Marshal Feng again pledged his loyalty and was reinstated, and it was agreed to hold another Disbandment Conference.

This second Disbandment Conference, held at Nanking early in August, ended in fresh plans for an all-round reduction of troops and in the issue by Nanking of a further disbandment loan. The results were, unfortunately, negative, for after barely three months of peace war broke out for the third time towards the end of September. On this occasion Nanking was faced by a revolt from the so-called "Reorganisationists," a group mainly consisting of the political leaders of the left who had been excluded from office, supported by certain military commanders, including several of the Kuominchun generals. At first the rebels were successful. For many weeks fighting proceeded in the central and southern provinces, and the war was at one moment carried almost to the gates of Nanking. The tide turned, however, in favour of Marshal Chiang, who by the end of the year had the situation again in hand and averted the threat to the Government.

One can thus congratulate the Government on surviving three most serious crises during the course of the year. Whether in consequence its position has been strengthened throughout the country as a whole it is very difficult to say. A year ago it was at least possible to hope that the Nationalist victory had done away with the old disruptive forces which kept China in turmoil. The events of the last 12 months have proved this hope to be vain, and we must, I fear, now reconcile ourselves to a slower, and less dramatic, cure of China's domestic ills.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR.

The sequence of wars has left little room for constructive work, and the many excellent programmes of reform sponsored by the National Government have made but small progress. Such as they are, I will attempt, however, to review the achievements of the year.

In the sphere, first, of politics, the Central Executive Council announced in June the Kuomintang programme for the continued government of the country. In accordance with this programme the system of "political tutelage" is to last till 1935, thus prolonging the government of China by the Kuomin Party for six years to come.

In the matter of legislation many new laws and sections of codes have been promulgated. The texts appear to be based, in general, on good and up-to-date models. Our own experience in legislature has taught us, however, the great value of independent scrutiny and criticism of draft laws in order that they may, before acceptance, be moulded into the form best adapted to local conditions, and it is perhaps a little unfortunate that the present system of legislature in China provides no opportunity for examination by any other agency than the Central Administration itself. In the manner of their making the new fundamental laws of China might appear, in fact, to approximate rather too much to departmental regulations.

NATIONAL FINANCE.

Turning to national finance, the position is frankly disappointing. In spite of forcible pleadings by the Chinese bankers and merchants and of clear and outspoken warnings by the Minister of Finance himself, the Government have failed to achieve any of the major reforms which are so urgently needed in order to put the country on a sound financial footing. The balancing of revenue and expenditure appears no nearer and the spending of the major part of the national income on military expenditure continues as before.

There is little or no abatement of the crippling local taxation. The reorganisation of the Central Government's revenues under Mr T. V. Soong has undoubtedly made advance, but the ensuing increase, including the additional yield from the Customs, has been swallowed up almost entirely by military needs. Future income, meanwhile, has been pledged ever deeper for unproductive loans issued to the total nominal value of some $250,000,000 in the course of the past year. I must mention in this respect the great improvement effected by the creation of independent commissions for the custody and service of the funds pledged for these loans, the result showing in the fact that their price on the market has remained relatively unaffected by political fluctuations.

DEBTS FOR RAILWAY MATERIAL.

Though a special Government Committee has been appointed for debt consolidation, we still await tangible evidence of progress, and, in the meantime, the debts continue to "snowball" in alarming fashion. The Minister of Finance's arrangements for dealing with the arrears of the "Salt" loans have helped to revive confidence among holders of this class of security. Nothing, however, has been done for a very important category of creditors—namely, the purveyors of railway material, some of whom have been waiting for payment for over 10 years.

This is a very serious matter, and I consider it indefensible that a Government which disposes of the earnings of railways should withhold payment for the materials used in their working (which, let me add, include in this case a large amount of rolling-stock in every-day use on the lines), thereby involving private merchants in almost intolerable losses. We are given to understand that the Ministry of Railways has the matter of debt settlement in hand, and we must hope that it will not be long before action is taken to remove the stigma which attaches to the present state of affairs.

RAILWAYS AND MILITARY INTERFERENCE.

As regards the railways themselves, an extension programme of almost staggering magnitude, requiring an expenditure of some $800,000,000, was adopted by the Third National Congress. But when we turn from plans to achievements the record is hardly impressive. Thanks in considerable part to the use of remitted Boxer Indemnities, there has been, it is true, a greater replacement of rolling-stock than for a good many years past, and the benefit of this will inevitably make itself felt if the lines can be kept free from the plague of military interference. The "if," however, is a big one.

The past year saw little improvement—taking the railways as a whole—in regard to military occupation or to the excessive taxation which goes with military control, transportation taxes of an almost prohibitive nature being levied as before on many of the principal lines. Conditions have been more hopeful on the Shanghai-Nanking and Shanghai-Hangchow railways, in relation to which lines our associate, the British and Chinese Corporation, has been actively engaged on schemes of co-operation with the Ministry of Railways.

Disbandment remains the most important issue in China's domestic affairs, and if I mention it last this is only because there is, unhappily, nothing more to record than the holding of the two barren conferences already mentioned. The President himself has described disbandment as the touchstone of patriotism for China's military commanders; the definition is exact, and there is nothing which would do more to restore the world confidence which China so greatly needs than an effective agreement among those same leaders for the mutual reduction of troops.

EXTRATERRITORIALITY.

Passing on to China's diplomatic relations in 1929, I come to a question of vital importance for all foreign concerns—namely, the abolition of extraterritoriality. Having proved my mastery of that excessively polysyllabic word, I propose—by the way—to save my tongue and your time by using it in future in its telescoped form and to call it "extrality." The subject is so immense that I cannot deal with it as fully as I should like, and I shall confine myself to a few comprehensive remarks from the point of view particularly of our own position in the matter.

Let me begin by saying that China's ambition to abolish the extrality system and to see herself placed on the footing of other nations is one which we understand and can feel for. In the past, however, as pointed out by his Majesty's Government, the system has been a recognised necessity in China, and it is upon it that institutions like our own were founded and built up. Its abrupt termination would, I have no hesitation in saying, seriously imperil their existence and be an act of the gravest injustice. What we therefore demand is, not that extrality shall remain in its unmodified form, but that its modification shall be gradual, the rate and method being such as will at no stage leave foreign firms in China without common legal safeguards.

As to how far China has already progressed towards herself providing these safeguards opinions may vary. I can only say that the report of the 1926 Commission abundantly proved their inadequacy at that date, and that it is obvious that the four intervening years, filled as they have been by warfare and political turmoil, have wrought no radical improvement.

ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARDS.

Now the essential safeguards which we need for the carrying on of our business may be grouped under three heads—reasonable laws, their impartial application by independent judges, and, lastly, effective protection against illegal administrative acts. As regards the first, the Government, as stated, is busily enacting a body of modern law. There may, as I have mentioned before, be room for improvement in the method of compilation, but there is no reason to doubt that China will soon possess an acceptable instrument of justice in so far as the actual codes are concerned.

When we come to administration we have, however, before us the many recent cases in the Shanghai Provisional Court which have drawn forth protest from the Consular Deputies and in the foreign Press besides incurring the united strictures of the Diplomatic Body. One has only to look at the record of this Court to see the need of a further period of development before foreigners can look with confidence to the Chinese tribunals as a guarantee of justice. It is above all the lack of judicial independence—stressed by the Commissioners in their 1926 report as the outstanding defect of the Courts—which causes mistrust, since it has shown itself all too clearly in the frequent removal of Judges and in avowed submission by the judiciary to political authority.

While gladly recognising the progress already made, I cannot, therefore, but echo the British Government's statement in their Note of August last. They there pointed to the need of a far greater advance towards making a living reality of reforms, especially in regard to freeing the Courts from outside interference and dictation. Till this takes place any transfer to the Chinese Courts of powers of jurisdiction over foreigners needs to be strictly conditioned and limited.

PROTECTION AGAINST LAWLESS IMPOSITIONS.

I come now to the third, and in my opinion by far the most important, of our requisite safeguards. A glance at current conditions in China is enough to show how absolutely necessary it is that protection should exist against lawless impositions by the "powers that be." Individuals and companies are notoriously subject to illegal and often extortionary treatment, against which the Courts of law provide no defence. So many flagrant cases have been revealed in the public Press that examples need not be quoted.

This state of affairs is, of course, closely connected with the persistence of civil war throughout the provinces of China, and one can fairly hope that a few years of peace and orderly government will remove the worst of the evil. But I wish to say with all the emphasis I can that unless and until this improvement takes place it would be certainly premature, and not improbably disastrous in the fullest sense of the word, to place foreign businesses under the sovereign control of local Chinese officials. If we are presently to be called upon to come under Chinese law, it is here more than in any other direction that we look to our Government to assure us the protection so vitally needed.

FUTURE STATUS OF SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT.

The momentous question of the future status of the Shanghai international settlement is receiving official attention. The system of municipal government under which the settlement has attained to its present size and prosperity has a splendid record to its credit. Altered conditions—of which the rapid expansion of "Greater Shanghai" outside the settlement boundaries is perhaps the most important—call, however, for an impartial examination and, it may be, for some changes.

The Shanghai Municipal Council have taken a wise step by obtaining as their adviser, in the person of Judge Feetham, a man of experience and high reputation in the practical handling of problems of an analogous nature. Let us hope that a solution will be found which will provide the desired extent of Chinese co-operation and also firmly guarantee the standards of efficiency and integrity which the administration of the Settlement has enjoyed up to the present.

Other matters in China's relations with foreign Powers to which time forbids me to make more than the briefest reference are, first, the evacuation of Shantung by the Japanese troops last May, resulting in a relaxation of the tension which had unfortunately existed between the two countries for the previous year, and, secondly, the Sino-Russian rupture over the Chinese Eastern Railway, which still awaits a final settlement although through traffic on the railway has now been resumed.

Having made already considerable demands on your patience in dealing with the state of affairs in China, I must pass over much that would otherwise claim attention. Enough has, however, been said to show that the year on which we are entering opens a more than usually anxious prospect to foreign banks and businesses whose interests are vested in that country.

TRIBUTE TO MR HYNES.

I have now to inform you that Mr Hynes has tendered his resignation, which the directors have accepted, but with the very greatest regret. He has had over 35 years' service—of which over 12 have been in Hong Kong itself—and during the past three years has been our chief manager. These three years, as you all know, have been exceptionally difficult ones, and the results attained in face of these difficulties speak more for Mr. Hynes's zeal and ability in the service of the bank than anything I could possibly say. (Cheers.)

I feel sure that you would wish to join me in offering a warm farewell to Mr Hynes and in wishing him enjoyment of a well-merited rest after his long and successful career in the bank. (Cheers.)

Mr V. M. Grayburn has been appointed to be acting chief manager when Mr Hynes leaves in two or three weeks' time. Here again I feel sure that you will join me in offering him a hearty welcome and every success. (Cheers.)

In conclusion, I would ask you to confirm the directors' vote of a bonus to the staff of 5 per cent. on their salaries. The reduction from 10 per cent.—the figure of several years past—has been made to correspond with the halving of the shareholders' bonus.

I now beg to propose the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

After the proposal has been seconded, and before placing the motion before the meeting, I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions that shareholders may have to ask. (Cheers.)

SIR HENRY POLLOCK'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Sir Henry Pollock, K.C., said: Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In rising to second the adoption of the report and the statement of accounts, I do not propose to occupy many minutes of your time, especially in view of the very full and interesting speech which has just been made from the chair.

The first point which strikes one as satisfactory is the fact that, in spite of difficult trade and banking conditions during the past year, our earnings in silver for 1929 exceeded by some 7 lacs of dollars our earnings in silver for the year 1928.

Yet another point for congratulation is that our directors, by transferring $5,000,000 from our silver reserve at the very favourable rate of 2s. to the dollar, have raised our sterling reserve to 6½ millions sterling, and when we call to mind that only 10 years ago, at the beginning of 1920, our sterling reserve stood at £1,500,000 only, it will be readily appreciated how much the bank has strengthened its sterling position during the last 10 years. (Cheers.)

We are also transferring $500,000 to our silver reserve and $750,000 to bank premises account, and it is pleasing to hear from you, Sir, that our investments stand at well under market quotations.

THE STERLING BONUS.

While we, as shareholders, must regret that the sterling bonus for the year has been reduced from £2 to £1 per share, we feel bound to acquiesce in the decision of the board when we reflect that, at the low exchange of 1s. 7½d. to the dollar, the final payment to us of £4 per share costs only about $40,000 less in dollars than the payment of the final of £5 per share cost us for the year 1928 at the then exchange of 2s. 0¼d. to the dollar. Moreover, those shareholders who think in dollars can derive comfort from the fact that for the year 1929 they are receiving, in dividend and bonus combined, $80.37 per share, as compared with $79.02 per share for the year 1928.

In regard to the disturbed state of affairs in China, shareholders can only join with our directors in deploring the continued persistence of civil war in China with its accompaniment of famine and brigandage and of the oppression of the Chinese merchants and masses by irregular taxation and of interferences with the arteries of trade in so many Provinces of China.

MOLESTATION OF SHIPPING.

Also the molestation of shipping by pirates is still unfortunately with us, and we trust that the preventive measures, which have

recently been initiated by the Government of Kwangtung, will shortly bear fruit.

As regards the abolition of extrality, one can only express the hope that the Power-that-be in Nanking will realise the desirability for proceeding slowly and gradually, so long as Chinese Judges have no security of tenure of office, and so long as such Judges are liable to dictation and interference by political and military officials.

All shareholders will most cordially endorse the bonus of 5 per cent. to the bank staff on their salaries, and will very much regret the necessity for reducing the same.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I desire, on behalf of the shareholders to echo your words of appreciation of the very valuable services which have been rendered to the bank by our retiring chief manager, Mr Hynes—(cheers)—during the past three extremely difficult years, and we join in wishing him, and Mrs Hynes also, many years of happiness to come. (Cheers.)

We likewise desire to endorse your words of welcome to the incoming chief manager, Mr Grayburn, and to wish him every success in his arduous task. (Cheers.)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. (Cheers.)

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The Chairman : The business now before the meeting is the election of directors.

Mr R. M. Dyer : I beg to propose that the appointments of Mr J. P. Warren, Mr T. H. R. Shaw, Mr M. T. Johnson, and Mr T. E. Pearce be confirmed, and that Messrs W. L. Pattenden, A. H. Compton, and B. D. F. Beith be re-elected directors.

Mr D. J. Lewis seconded the proposal, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman : The business now before the meeting is the election of auditors.

Mr F. C. Hall : I beg to propose that Mr C. Bernard Brown and Mr John Fleming be re-elected auditors.

Mr J. W. C. Bonnar seconded the proposal, which was unanimously carried.

The proceedings then terminated.

HUNGARIAN GENERAL CREDITBANK, BUDAPEST.

NEW DIRECTORS.

The sixty-second ordinary general meeting of the institution, which took place on March 19th, under the chairmanship of Baron John de Harkányi, fully approved the balance sheet for the past year showing net profits of 7,496,453 pengös.

THE DIVIDEND.

The dividends of P. 5.50 per share will be paid from March 20th.

The general meeting elected as new members of the board of directors Monsieur Aimé Lepercq, the general manager of the Union Européenne Industrielle et Financière, Paris, and Prince Elemer de Lonyay.

The board of directors have nominated Mr Robert Beck to be managing director of the institution, and Mr Rudolf Kallay and Mr Stephen Perenyi to be assistant managing directors of the bank.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES
Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31 12/29)
Fmk.2,941,645,000

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE : HELSINKI
(HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.
TOTAL ASSETS, £6,289,903.

The one hundred and thirty-second annual meeting of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society was held, on the 24th instant, at the head office, Surrey Street, Norwich, Sir George H. Morse (the chairman) presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report were read by the Secretary (Mr F. C. Botting).

The Chairman said :—The operations of the society for the year show results very much the same as those of the previous year, although our sources of profit differ considerably in their proportion of contribution to the total earnings.

FIRE ACCOUNT.

The year 1929 has been a trying one for fire underwriters . . . but I trust you will feel some measure of satisfaction when I say that the Norwich Union home losses were only 8½ per cent. higher than in 1928, which speaks well for the good character and selection of the risks on our books. There is still some margin of profit in home fire business, but the losses have been steadily growing for some time past, and competition and rate reduction have not yet been stayed. We, however, hope that we may find the current year more favourable.

Summarising the fire account, you will find that the premium income at £2,179,075 is £76,441 less, and the profit £100,332, or 4.6 per cent., as compared with 6.4 per cent. in 1928.

Our accident business shows both a larger premium income and better profits than in the preceding year. The business in the British Isles has shown some expansion, and the profits earned have been satisfactory. We are particularly pleased that the motor account, which is the largest and most progressive section, did better.

Abroad we have made a gratifying advance in almost all areas, and have been enabled to get a number of our agents who previously only acted for the fire department to open an accident account with us. The Canadian accident business made a substantial improvement. The Norwich Union Indemnity Company, which transacts our casualty business in the United States, is, on conservative lines, making progress.

The employers' liability account, which refers only to business in Great Britain and Ireland, has shown good results this year. The profit we are enabled to transfer is £17,681, as against £3,283 in 1928.

In the personal accident account the transfer of £2,287 represents a very small percentage on the premium income of £130,215. It is known, I think, that personal accident policies frequently contain sickness benefits, and the very severe influenza epidemic in the early part of last year necessarily caused a large number of claims, which adversely affected the account.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

The general account takes in the remainder of our accident business at home and abroad, and shows a premium income of £1,530,213, which is greater by £105,378 than last year, and the profit of £61,372 is rather more in spite of the fact that we have very materially strengthened the outstanding claims reserve, which should be helpful in enabling this account to show further improvement in future years.

Putting the figures of our accident business together you will find that our total income is £1,912,504, being an increase of £100,488. The loss ratio is 55.72 per cent. and the profit £81,341, being 4.25 per cent., as against 3.48 per cent. in the 1928 account.

I now turn to the marine account, where the premium income is £169,914, reflecting, in its diminution of £24,265, the policy of the board in a very careful selection of business, which has been loyally carried out by our underwriter. The 1928 underwriting account has been closed by transferring the sum of £5,280 from profit and loss, and the total of the marine insurance fund is now £171,021, which, as you will see, is slightly larger than the premium income, and substantially greater than what is required, in the judgment of our expert adviser, to run off all liabilities.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Interest and dividends we receive on our investments, after deduction of income tax, come to £204,349, which is an increase of £8,235. On the other side of the account, we are fortunate this year in requiring £18,001 less to bring our provision for income tax fully up to the requirements for all liability of this character to the end of the year of account. The commutation of pensions also costs less by £3,787, so that, although our trading profits are somewhat less, the additional interest and lowered outgoings place us in the position that, after paying the same dividend as last year and debenture interest only reduced by a few pounds, there is available £102,500 to place in the uncalled capital reduction fund and £412,925 to carry forward, which is £6,451 more than was brought in. We propose to pay up a further £2 10s. per share, which will make each £25 share £24 paid. Our assets now total £6,289,903, an increase of £193,472.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.
INCREASED NET PROFIT.
TRADE CONDITIONS IN INDIA AND THE FAR EAST.
MR. J. M. RYRIE'S INTERESTING REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AND TRADE POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr J. M. Ryrie, the chairman, presided.

The Chief Manager (Mr J. Steuart) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said : Gentleman,—The directors' report and the accounts have been duly circulated, and I ask you to allow me to take these as read. (Agreed.)

I am sure you will all join me in expressing regret that Mr Hambro is not with us to-day, and when I tell you his absence is due to a recent and, I am pleased to say, successful operation, I am satisfied you are with me in hoping that he will make a good recovery.

You will see that, pursuing our policy of expansion in Malaya, we have opened agencies at Kuala Lipis and Kuala Krai. As events have proved, I was too sanguine at this time last year when I ventured to refer to the outlook for the past year. The effects of the America Stock Exchange "boom" have been widespread, bringing about high rates for money, a large efflux of gold and fluctuations in rates of exchange, all of which have been to the disadvantage of trade, while above all the serious fall in the price of almost every commodity created a want of confidence. Then to all this may be added the so-called irregularities upon our own Stock Exchange and indiscriminate expansion on the part of certain companies, resulting in heavy losses. The result of the General Election also brought with it a feeling of uncertainty and the fear of even higher taxation as the result of an increase in the already heavy expenditure upon social services.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In our staple industries generally there was no real improvement except in the case of coal; conditions in cotton deteriorated further, and shipping, which is always a good barometer of trade, had a bad year. As compared with both 1927 and 1928 the value of our imports of merchandise increased, while unfortunately the value of our total exports of merchandise was lower than in 1928 though higher than in 1927, but of course the fall in prices accounts to some extent for this decrease in exports. The excess of imports of merchandise over total exports of merchandise at £382,000,000 is higher by £29,000,000 than in 1928, but lower to the extent of £4,000,000 when compared with 1927. But from the Board of Trade figures recently published, which include bullion on both sides of the account and also "invisible" exports, the balance of payments in favour of this country last year was £151,000,000, as compared with £152,000,000 in 1928 and £114,000,000 in 1927. Then the total of new issues of capital last year amounted to only £285,000,000, against £369,000,000 in the previous year, the reduction being due to high money rates in this market, and which in turn were the result of the speculative fever on Wall Street. I can only, therefore, describe 1929 as a disappointing year for this country.

INDIA.

Then I regret being unable to give an encouraging report upon conditions in India. On the whole, and apart from floods, the monsoon was satisfactory, but, like other producing countries, India suffered from the fall in prices of cotton, jute, tea, and other produce, the result of this naturally bringing about a decrease in the purchasing power of the people. At the same time, the value of the imports of merchandise at £186,000,000 shows no decline when compared with 1928, but the imports of gold at £13,000,000 and of silver at £5,500,000 both declined appreciably. The value of the exports of merchandise, however, declined from, say, £253,000,000 in 1928 to £241,000,000 last year, and in spite of the reduced imports of gold and silver the balance of trade in favour of India declined from about £40,000,000 in 1928 to £36,000,000 in 1929, according to the figures at my disposal. A feature of the trade was the large imports of wheat as compared wies previous years, while the imports of American cotton declined to a negligible quantity. In spite of the continued agitation in favour of 1s. 4d., the rupee has been maintained at or about 1s. 6d., and the Finance Member has recently stated that the Government will not consider a return to the former ratio. The highest rate for the year was 1s. 6 3/4d. and the lowest 1s. 5 31/32d., the average rate being 1s. 5 7/16d., which reflects the conditions of trade and explains why the Government were unable to fill their requirements in the shape of purchases of sterling in India.

EFFECTS OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY.

The set-back in trade was partly due to labour troubles and, as I have said, to falling prices, but I need hardly say that confidence was shaken by political uncertainty, while Indian credit was affected not only by the foolish attitude adopted by the Independence Party at the recent so-called All-India Congress meeting, but by mischievous articles in a certain section of the Press in this country. It is not remarkable, therefore, that, under these circumstances, the Stock Exchange prices of Indian Government securities declined, and that the Government have found it necessary to borrow at high rates of interest, but the Secretary of State dealt very promptly with the suggestion that India might repudiate her debts, and a study of her financial position indicates that she can present a balance sheet which defies unfavourable criticism. But perhaps the less I say about the political situation the better, particularly as we shall have the report of the Statutory Commission before us at an early date, though I cannot but feel that, as independence is so entirely impracticable for India, the extremists have cleared the air for those who are responsible for the preservation of law and order in a country where such irreconcilable communal differences exist.

In the early part of the year the Imperial Bank rate touched 8 per cent., but later declined to 5 per cent., and closed at 7 per cent., the average for the year being 6.41 per cent., against 6.20 per cent. in 1928. The Bombay cotton mill industry continued in the depths of a depression which has lasted since 1923, and from a statement recently published it appears that the losses of 73 mills during the six years ended 1928 amounted to a sum of £8,625,000. Then even the Calcutta jute mills, which have enjoyed a long period of prosperity, have fallen upon lean times lately, the increased working hours and reduced crops in other countries resulting in over-production and a decrease in the value of jute goods exported. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that, with so many depressing factors, the value of shipments of cotton piece-goods and yarns to India from the United Kingdom declined from £32,800,000 in 1928 to £28,300,000 last year, and unfortunately this decline is not explained by lower prices only.

BRITISH MALAYA.

I gave you a gloomy account of conditions in British Malaya at our last meeting, and I regret to say there was no improvement, if not a further set-back, last year. At the beginning of the year the prospects seemed brighter, but with the later fall in the prices of rubber and tin the position deteriorated, and there were innumerable failures among the bazaar dealers. It is true that the total value of both exports and imports increased to some extent in spite of lower prices, but this is probably explained by larger imports of rubber from the Dutch East Indies and increased exports of rubber and tin. The exports increased from £98,000,000 in 1928 to £107,000,000, and the imports from £100,000,000 to £102,000,000. The gross shipments of rubber, which include rubber produced in the Dutch East Indies, amounted to 579,000 tons, valued at £50,000,000, which compares with 409,000 tons and £36,000,000 in 1928, the average price last year being slightly higher than in the previous year, while it may not be out of place if I add here that the shipments of rubber from Ceylon at 80,300 tons, valued at £7,500,000, compare with shipments of 57,000 tons, valued at £5,300,000, in 1928.

The shipments of tin from Malaya increased from 97,800 tons in 1928 to 102,000 tons last year, but as the average price declined from £227 to £204 per ton, there was a fall in the value of the shipments from about £22,000,000 to £20,000,000. There was an increase in the value of shipments of cotton piece-goods and yarns from the United Kingdom to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States from £1,900,000 in 1928, to £2,600,000, but this

was the result of the optimistic feeling which prevailed early in the year, and I am afraid losses were incurred on these imports. As elsewhere in the East, the Lancashire mills continue to suffer from competition on the part of Japan, and in the interests of all concerned it is to be hoped that the efforts now being made in Lancashire to meet this competition will succeed.

BURMA AND SIAM.

The shipments of rice from Burma, at about 2,900,000 tons, were practically the same as in 1928, but Siam had a poor crop and exports from that country declined from 1,500,000 tons in 1928 to 1,150,000 tons last year. There was a downward movement in the price of rice early in the year, but in June there was an upward turn, which continued until September, when, in sympathy with the world-wide fall in values, the price declined to practically the pre-war level, and at about this level the new crops are being marketed. The demand for Burma rice from China was unusually large, and an even larger business would have been done except for the fall in silver, but Siam did not benefit from this demand, the shipments from that country to China being proportionately less than in previous years.

A feature of the rice milling industry in Siam is that, while some of the mills in Bangkok were closed, the number of mills in the interior is growing rapidly as the result of rail and road development, which in time will no doubt bring about an increase in the acreage under rice. Of the import side of the trade in Burma and Siam I have nothing encouraging to say. The value of the exports from Siam are put down at £17,270,000, which compares with £20,075,000 in 1928, while the figures relating to imports, at £16,400,000, show an increase of £900,000 on those of the previous year. You may have noticed that, as bearing upon the competition between Burma and Siam in the rice trade, the only reduction in duties proposed in the recent Indian Budget relates to rice, the export duty on which is reduced from 3 to 2¼ annas per maund (about 1¼d. per cwt.) to correspond with the duty in Siam.

JAVA AND MAURITIUS.

In view of the further fall in the price of sugar last year as the result of over-production and the fact that, so far at any rate as Mauritius is concerned, the cost of production now exceeds the selling price, you will not, I am sure, expect me to report favourably upon the position in either Java or Mauritius, and particularly of that in our Colony, where the planters are finding it impossible to make both ends meet. As compared with 1928, the exports of sugar from Java decreased from about 3,000,000 to 2,350,000 tons, the value falling from £31,300,000 to £24,600,000. The shipments from Mauritius, however, owing to a good crop, increased from 219,000 to 277,000 tons, practically all of which came to the United Kingdom in view of the present preferential duty on sugar coming from our Colonies, but at £3,700,000 the increase in value was comparatively small.

The position of the sugar industry is such that, naturally, the planters in Mauritius, like those in the West Indies, are anxious to know what the present Chancellor of the Exchequer intends to do in the matter of the sugar duty. In the meantime, the Colonial Office have announced that the Government is prepared to give financial aid to the planters under certain circumstances, but, so far as I can understand the announcement, the offer of assistance does not go very far to meet the situation. The proposed increase of 2s. 3d. per cwt. on sugar imported into India does not, for the time being at any rate, affect Mauritius, but it will not be welcomed in Java, from whence large shipments go to India. The total shipments of rubber from the Dutch East Indies last year are given to me as 254,000 tons dry basis, valued at £23,700,000, the corresponding figures for 1928 being 227,600 tons and £21,000,000, but I confess to finding it difficult to reconcile some of the published figures relating to rubber.

CHINA AND HONG KONG.

If, in referring to China, I say it is very difficult to understand or follow the constantly changing political situation, I know you will not express surprise. But from the information at my disposal it seems clear that, in spite of civil war, indifferent transport facilities, increased taxation and predations by bandits, there was a further improvement in trade last year, the very large increase in the receipts of the Maritime Customs giving evidence of this, though, of course, much of this increase is due to higher tariffs and probably to anticipation of these coming into force. At the same time, I find that the shipments of cotton piece-goods from the United Kingdom to China and Hong Kong last year decreased in both quantity and value when compared with 1928, the value falling from £6,450,000 to £6,170,000, this, no doubt, being due to Japanese competition. The fall in silver, however, from 26⅜d., the average price in 1928, to 24 7/16d., the average price last year, with the consequent decline of the Shanghai tael from an average rate of 2s. 7⅝d. to 2s. 4½d., and the decline in the average rate of the Hong Kong dollar from 2s. 0¾d. to 1s. 10 11/16d., was not helpful to Manchester shippers, while the further fall in silver this year to a record low level must be making business with China and Hong Kong very difficult.

Arising from the decline in the value of silver, the notes issued by the banks in Hong Kong rose to such a premium on silver dollars that the export trade of that Colony was handicapped in competition with Shanghai, and to remedy this position the banks were asked to co-operate with the Government in bringing Hong Kong dollar notes more on a parity with the silver dollar—that is, to re-establish exchange on a silver basis, and this has now been accomplished, one of the results being the coinage of a large number of silver dollars for shipment to Hong Kong, which I regard with apprehension. It will be interesting to see what action China takes to protect herself against this serious depreciation in the value of silver, particularly as she is now the most important market for the metal. At present there are various rumours as to this, one going so far as to say that the importation will be prohibited, and another that, following the example of India, she will impose a duty upon imports of silver. In the meantime and from February 1st last, import duties have been levied on a gold basis.

THE ACCOUNTS.

After what has been a depressing review of the past year it is a relief to turn to the accounts, which, as you will see, show a net profit for the year of £257,458, or £7,258 more than in 1928, and this I may say is after providing a substantial sum out of profits to cover the depreciation in our Indian Government securities, which have been written down to market values on December 31st last. This result, which I attribute largely to close supervision and the exercise of caution on the part of the executive in London, is the more satisfactory because, owing to lower prices and by avoiding operations in which there was no reasonable margin of profit, such as inter-bank transactions, our turnover was less than in 1928, while in such a difficult year we could not expect to escape bad debts. The fact that the amount of profit and loss account carried to the balance sheet shows an increase of only £4,459 is due to only £162,046 having been brought in from 1928, against £164,846 at the end of 1927, but you will notice that, upon this occasion, we propose to carry forward £166,505. Out of the profit we have made the same allocations as in the previous year, that is, £15,000 to the officers' pension fund, £30,000 to reserve fund, and written £40,000 off freehold banking premises, while we recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on each class of shares. To comply with the new Companies Act, you will see that the amount of the fees paid to your directors is mentioned in the profit and loss account for the first time.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

The balance sheet being in the usual form requires little comment. The total figures when compared with the previous year show a reduction, and, speaking generally, I may say the different items contributing to these lower figures reflect the conditions of business in the past year. The decline of £815,000 in our current fixed deposit and other accounts is not large, and due to higher rates for money all round. The reduction in loans payable, £250,000, is offset by the reduced holding of Government and other stocks, this being explained by the redemption of a Straits Settlements Government Loan. The lower figures relating to bills receivable and loans receivable and advances, together £955,000, are clearly due to the poor state of trade. There is a small increase in cash and bullion, while the increase in the figures under the head of freehold banking premises represents principally additional expenditure upon our new building at Singapore, which is now occupied by the bank and other tenants, less the amount written off.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

I cannot conclude my remarks in reference to the past year without referring to the staff and the good work they have done for us throughout a difficult year, and on behalf of the board I tender my thanks to all. You all know Mr Steuart and Mr Crichton and what close attention they give to your interests, but it is not to them only that we are indebted, but to Mr Linton, the sub-manager, and all the other members of the staff in London, while I need not say the managers of our many branches in the East and their staffs also deserve our thanks for the efficient and loyal service they have rendered. (Hear, hear.)

OUTLOOK FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

I have now only to refer to the outlook for the current year, and as this is more than usually obscure, I will require to exercise extreme caution. In regard to industry in this country, it is more particularly the fear of additions to the already heavy burden of taxation that is creating a want of confidence, while the further fall in prices since the end of last year makes considerable adjustment necessary before we can expect a revival of trade. At present there would seem to be over-production everywhere, and, owing to the disparity between wholesale and retail prices, manufacturers are in a difficult position as, while the high cost of living is maintained, wages cannot be reduced. Then as taxation in this country is now at the rate of £15 per head as compared with less than half that amount in countries with which we are in competition, it is not difficult to account for the growing increase in the number of our unemployed. It is true we have cheap money at present, but as this is largely due to depression in trade, while a high Bank rate and industrial activity usually go together, I find it difficult to believe that cheap money alone is going to bring about an improvement in trade, as so many people have predicted. The trade of India will also require to adjust itself to the present comparatively low level of prices, but given another good monsoon, no labour troubles, and some improvement in the political situation, of which I do not despair, provided the Government do not allow the Independence Party to go too far, I would not expect to see any falling off in trade, and, indeed, I think the decline in prices will bring about confidence in the position as the present prices of cotton, jute and tea would seem to form a safe basis for operations.

COTTON POSITION.

In regard to imports, the proposed increase in the duty on all British cotton piece-goods from 11 per cent. to 15 per cent., with a minimum of 3½ annas a lb., which may mean 30 per cent. on grey goods, is, of course, a blow to Lancashire, but this, with the additional duty of 5 per cent. on all goods of non-British manufacture, gives the Bombay mills the opportunity of putting their house in order. Then as the result of the progress being made by the Lancashire Cotton Corporation and others in the direction of rationalisation, for the purpose, more particularly, of competing with Japan in India and other Eastern markets, I would hope to see not only a revival of trade in Lancashire, but larger imports of East India cotton into this country. The recent improvement in prices of tea will not only benefit India, but Ceylon also, though that island, with British Malaya, would welcome some recovery in the price of rubber and which I am afraid can only be brought about by an increase in consumption.

RUBBER AND TIN.

In the meantime a tapping holiday for rubber is proposed, while an effort is being made to restrict the production of tin, in which British Malaya is so largely interested, but I cannot bring myself to believe that any lasting benefit will result from these proposals, even if observed by all concerned. A recovery in the industries in America, using rubber and tin, from the effects of the recent collapse in that country is what is wanted. In Java also the price of rubber is an important factor, but, as in Mauritius, it is the price of sugar that counts most, and at about 10s. a cwt. cost and freight India for Java sugar and 11s. 6d. cost, freight and insurance London for Mauritius sugar, it is not possible to expect prosperity in either island.

The trade of China will no doubt go on as in the past in spite of the many obstacles, but the heavy drop in the value of silver, which I cannot but think is at least partly due to speculation, must add to the disorganisation in that country and necessitate an adjustment of prices generally. Both Burma and Siam have good crops of rice, and at present low prices these should be marketed without difficulty. On the whole, therefore, I am not without hope that, as the year goes on, we may see some improvement in trade, and in any case you may depend that it will not be the fault of our chief manager and the staff if at this time next year we do not present you with satisfactory accounts. (Cheers.)

THE RESOLUTIONS.

I have now to propose :—" That the report of the directors, with the audited statement of accounts and balance sheet at December 31, 1929, presented to this meeting, be and the same are hereby received, approved and adopted, and that a final dividend on the 'A,' 'B,' and 'C' shares of this bank of 8 per cent. be paid, making 16 per cent. for the year, less income tax, as recommended in the report, and the same is hereby confirmed." I will ask the deputy chairman, Sir Thomas Catto, to second this resolution, but before I put it to the meeting I shall be glad to answer any questions which any shareholder may wish to ask.

Sir Thomas S. Catto, Bt. (deputy chairman), seconded the resolution, and, no questions being asked, it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman :—I have now to propose :—" That Mr J. O. Robinson and Mr. W. H. Shelford, the directors retiring from the board in rotation, be and are hereby re-elected directors of this bank." You all know both Mr Robinson and Mr Shelford very well, and I need only say what very valuable directors they are and that they do all they possibly can for the bank.

Mr P. R. Chalmers seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

On the proposition of Mr W. B. de Ste. Croix, seconded by Mr R. G. Bamford, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Company and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Company were re-appointed auditors of the bank.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. R. L. Goddon :—Mr Chairman and gentlemen,—On behalf of the shareholders I should like to tender my thanks and their thanks for the extremely able manner in which the bank's affairs have been conducted and the good showing which has been placed before us. Considering the difficulties of the past year, it seems to me an amazing piece of work, and, in spite of the gloom which has shrouded our chairman's remarks, I cannot help feeling that we shall come out of it in the long run and that the various optimistic touches he gave to us in his speech are enough to enhearten us in the future. (Hear, hear.)

Mr A. Gardiner :—I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr Lyall :—As an old shareholder, I should like to add a few words in support of the motion before us. The board have had a very difficult and anxious time—and the staff too—during the past year, and I hope that, in spite of the threatening appearance of things, you will be able next year to put before us an equally satisfactory state of affairs. I am quite sure that if it depended upon the board and the staff that satisfactory state of things would be repeated, but so far as it depends upon wise and firm government—to put it mildly—I do not feel so confident. (Laughter.)

The vote was unanimously accorded.

The Chairman :—I should like to thank Mr Goddon, Mr Gardiner and Mr Lyall for the very kind words they have said, and to thank you all for the manner in which you have supported the proposal. It is the staff, of course, as I always say, to whom thanks are more particularly due; but still, your directors also not only take a very keen interest in the bank's affairs, but I think I may say that we all do our share of the work.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

POSITION IMPROVED IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The forty-ninth ordinary general meeting of this corporation was held, on the 26th instant, at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, London.

Sir Joseph Broodbank (the chairman) said that the year 1929 had been marked by industrial depression throughout the world, and had not otherwise been a favourable one to insurance companies, but the corporation had been able to maintain their dividend of 4s. per share, free of income tax, and increase the general reserve fund by £57,000. The total premium income was increased by £193,500. The fire account, while showing an advance of £30,250 in premiums, reflected what they believed to be the common experience, that 1929 had proved a year of quite exceptional losses, and consequently they were able to transfer only £4,839 to profit and loss account, instead of the average of the previous five years, £49,514 per annum. From the employers' liability and personal accident account they were able to transfer to profit and loss account £26,521, or almost 7 per cent., as against £33,586, or 9 per cent., last year. The general account showed premiums of £6,860,890, an increase of £149,849, and they were able to transfer to profit and loss £272,039, almost 4 per cent., as against £241,486, or 3.6 per cent., last year. It was satisfactory that, in a very difficult year, they had more than held their own, and had improved their position very materially in several ways.

As to the position of the Merchants' Marine Company, there was now a reasonable likelihood that premiums would balance losses and expenses, and he believed they were justified in hoping there should be eventually a profit on their transactions. The report referred to the continued prosperity of their other associated company, the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society.

Referring to 1930 as the jubilee of the corporation, the Chairman said that in the fifty years its purpose had been so enlarged that they now undertook every form of insurance. The aim of the management throughout had been the rendering of honest, efficient service in return for the payment made, and he thought he might claim that it was the consistent carrying out of that aim which had made the corporation one of the most successful British commercial ventures of recent years.

The report was unanimously adopted.

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS MAINTAINED.

SIR MONTAGU C. TURNER'S REVIEW OF CONDITIONS IN THE FAR EAST.

The seventy-sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held, on the 26th instant, on the bank's premises, 38 Bishopsgate, London, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (the chairman) presiding.

Mr W. E. Preston (chief manager), having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said :—From the balance sheet and profit and loss account statement, you will notice that in most cases the figures are slightly better than last year. Current accounts have fallen by about £1,500,000, but fixed deposits exceed last year's figures by nearly £2,500,000. This follows the trend of present-day movements in most banks' returns. I am glad to say that the results justify our paying the same dividend and bonus as in previous years, and we are able to place £50,000 to contingencies account with a carry-forward in excess of last year. I trust this may be considered satisfactory, seeing the difficulties under which exchange banking is now conducted in the East. (Hear, hear.) There is the same extremely keen competition with rather less business and more competitors. It seems impossible to obtain a working agreement owing to the number of banks concerned and the diversity of interests. It is therefore not surprising that exchange operations result in profits which are comparatively insignificant. Business both for the merchant and the banker has also been difficult owing to the extraordinary decline in prices of all commodities forming the staple exports from Eastern ports. As a result the sterling value of bills offering in those markets is considerably below the normal, and in some cases funds which had been laid down for the financing of the export trade have not been fully required. It is only natural that with prices constantly on the down grade, dealers in commodities are careful to avoid laying down stocks, whether it be in the East or in the Western markets. The converse to this is also true, namely, that producers of Eastern commodities securing less for their crops, are unable to buy the normal quantity of foreign goods. In other words, the purchasing power of the millions of consumers in the East of Manchester goods or manufactured British goods is correspondingly reduced.

The Chairman then gave a comparative review of the fall in prices of commodities.

INDIA.

Politically India—or we should say a section of the 300 million inhabitants of India—is at the present moment in a curiously unrestful condition, requiring most careful handling and judicious treatment. I venture to say that only those on the spot can really judge of the prevailing conditions and to what extent firmness tempered by the utmost consideration and goodwill is required. It is only right that we should, as suggested by Sir John Hewett and Sir Claude Hill, trust the man on the spot, in other words, back up the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, with all the moral support we can give. (Hear, hear.) Lord Irwin, as Viceroy and Governor-General, has a most difficult task, requiring great tact, great forbearance, and great courage. He commands our sympathy and our respect.

As regards trade in India, there has been a comparative absence of activity in nearly every class of exports, mainly owing to the restricted demand in Western markets. Wheat exports from Karachi, which in the past few years averaged three hundred thousand tons, and in some cases considerably exceeded that figure, last year reached only fifteen thousand tons, while one hundred and twenty thousand tons were imported. This was partly due to failure of crops in some districts and to the fact that a good deal more wheat is consumed in the country, and is, therefore, not available for export. But the low price in Western markets has undoubtedly helped to restrict exports. Cotton exports, on the other hand, from Karachi increased appreciably, and a million bales (being an excess of two hundred thousand bales over last year) were shipped to the United Kingdom and Continent.

REASSURANCE TO INVESTORS.

As regards repudiation by India of its obligations, the possibility is quite unthinkable, and the letter from Sir Arthur Hirtzel in *The Times* on January 28th last should give complete confidence to all intending investors in, or actual holders of, Government securities As holders of these securities (and, of course, we are bound to have them in India), we have had to face the depreciation for the last three years, which has made a serious inroad into the profits we have earned in India, but the depreciation has been met fully, and our Government securities are written down to market value as at December 31st last. At the moment, at the price at which these securities stand, they are a perfectly sound and safe investment.

The balance of trade in favour of India for the financial year 1927-28 amounted to fifty-one millions sterling, and seems likely to be rather higher for the twelve months now ending. Since 1864 the value of foreign trade has jumped from sixty millions sterling to four hundred and twenty millions sterling annually. Imports of specie, silver and gold have averaged from 28 to 30 millions sterling for the past thirty years, the bulk of which remains in the country in the shape of hoards, jewellery, etc. The British Raj has, therefore, fostered Indian trade for the benefit of India to a remarkable degree. What India means to us and Great Britain means to India can be realised by a study of the special number issued by *The Times* on February 18th last.

CHINA.

In China the present position is slightly disappointing to those who anticipated a more speedy return to peaceful conditions, and had looked for a settled and powerful central Government which could effectively control the greater part of China and repress with a firm hand the system of banditry on land and piracy on the water with all its attendant horrors. This is not so at present, but the Government at Nanking has increased its power. The War Lords seem to be once more on the move, and the future is difficult to forecast. Nanking practically controls the purse, and is backed up by solid financial and business interests in Shanghai. The relations between the Chinese Government and the British representative in China are excellent. Anti-British agitation seems to have died out and we can with all sincerity express our goodwill for the consolidation and continuance of the present Government at Nanking.

Both in Hong Kong and in Shanghai the gradual decline in the price of silver culminating in the recent slump when silver has been quoted at 18⅜d. per oz., while favourable for exports as a temporary measure tells badly against imports of foreign goods, especially British piece-goods, and general merchandise. The import of British goods, or indeed of foreign goods generally, has also suffered in Northern China from increased maritime and inland taxation. The Chinese Government have now full liberty to fix their scale of import duties, with the result that the duties have been about doubled. As an illustration it is shown that the receipts from the maritime Customs for 1929 amounted to 152,000,000 taels, as compared with 82,000,000 taels in the previous year. The limit on all foreign loans covered by the maritime Customs has been met in full. In past years Manchester supplied 75 per cent. of piece-goods business and Japan 25 per cent. Now the position is reversed, and Japan has won the premier position.

JAPAN.

As regards Japan, the chief feature has been the return to the gold standard as from January 11th of this year. During the past year the exchanges have been cleverly and effectively worked up by slow stages, the Japanese Government working in conjunction with the leading banks. The yen was worked up to 2s., and with credits opened in London and elsewhere the return to the gold standard was finally concluded and the par value of the yen made good. Japan deserves great credit for this most effective piece of finance. The silk business of Japan has not been up to the standard of previous years. Owing to the decreased buying power in the American market, consequent on the Stock Exchange boom collapse, the usual orders fell off appreciably and prices decreased to a point below cost of production. As regards the spinning and weaving mills in Japan, the number of spindles in the Rengokai mills increased to 6,159 million spindles in October, an increase of a million spindles in nine months. The mills did rather well in 1929, but with increased production stocks have begun to accumulate, which must lead to a curtailment of operations. When we seek to explain the cause for Japan ousting Lancashire from its premier position in the Eastern markets, we have to remember that, apart from cheaper labour and perhaps longer hours, Japan is benefiting by greatly improved organisation, resulting in mass production and mass distribution. Three large mercantile houses import more than three-quarters of the raw cotton consumed, and export about the same percentage of the piece-goods produced by that cotton. The three firms have established agencies in Java, East India, all over India, all over the cotton-growing portion of China as well as the United States, and selling agencies in most of the principal markets of the world. The spinning section is also largely controlled by big combines. Some 40 per cent. of the spindles are owned by four big firms. The cotton is spun into a small number of counts, and from the yarn a number of standard cloths are made in bulk. With a huge turnover, good results can be obtained from small margins.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

In conclusion, I desire to convey the thanks of the board to Mr Preston, Mr Bruce, and their colleagues at head office for their able management of the bank's affairs in the past year. To the managers abroad, to the foreign and home staff we also tender our sincere thanks and appreciation of the excellent work and continued devotion to the interests of the bank shown in these perplexing and difficult times. (Applause.) He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir W. F. Mitchell, M.P., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Other formal business having been transacted, Mr E. T. Hargraves moved a resolution, congratulating the chairman and his colleagues and the whole of the staff for their successful conduct of the bank.

Mr Frederick Tomkinson seconded the resolution, which was unanimously passed.

The Chairman having responded, an extraordinary general meeting was held, at which resolutions were passed for the adoption of new by-laws and regulations in substitution for the provisions of the bank's existing deeds of settlement, and authorising the court of directors to apply for, and if granted accept, a supplemental and consolidating charter in place of the bank's existing charters.

The above resolutions will be put forward for confirmation at a meeting of the shareholders to be held on April 16th.

LONDON AND THAMES HAVEN OIL WHARVES, LIMITED.

CONTINUED STEADY PROGRESS.

The thirty-second ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 25th instant, at Winchester House, London, Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that for the sixth year in succession they were able to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., and a bonus of 5 per cent., making a total distribution for the year of 15 per cent., free of income tax, and, with the dividend now proposed, the company would have distributed in all over 300 per cent. The company owned in the Thames Haven district 1,763 acres of freehold land, having a frontage to the river of over three miles, and to public roads of over eight miles. A considerable area of this property contained deposits of sand and ballast, and the company had now decided to develop this asset, a small separate company having been formed for the purpose. They had been fortunate in securing the co-operation of Messrs William Cory and Son, Ltd., in this development. The company's four freehold properties in the London area comprised over 12 acres of land, occupied by buildings and up-to-date plant and machinery, with over 31,000 tons of oil tank storage and a water frontage of 1,310 feet, of which 730 feet were on the River Thames and 580 feet on the Regent's Canal.

As to the French subsidiary, only about one-third of the capital was at present productive, but that company showed a reasonable and satisfactory profit at the present time, while the prospects were encouraging. The directors were satisfied that in the French business the London and Thames Haven Company had an excellent investment. The total landings into the Havre tanks for 1929 amounted to 135,000 tons, and the landings for the present year to date had been at the rate of over 180,000 tons per annum. The French company had recently entered into contracts which involved putting through the works at Havre a guaranteed minimum of 1,500,000 tons of oil products per annum over and above their present throughput. These important contracts called for the building of additional tanks and docks. The French company also controlled the largest petrol depôt in Paris. The Thames Haven Company, either direct or through its subsidiaries, was supplying a great need to both countries, and its record was one of steady and continuous progress. Under the continued expert guidance of their managing directors—Mr Adams and Mr Burgess—he looked forward to the future with every confidence.

The report was unanimously adopted.

AMALGAMATED ANTHRACITE COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT.

ALL COLLIERIES NOW WORKING.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Amalgamated Anthracite Collieries, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr F. A. Szarvasy, who presided in the absence of Lord Melchett (the chairman of the company), said that the consolidated net trading profit for the year was £512,552, against a loss of £243,254 in 1928, and represented a turnover for the better of £755,807, which, considering all the difficulties and vicissitudes of the trade, was quite a satisfactory achievement. The board considered it wise to carry forward the balance of £168,323 rather than pay off arrears of the preference dividend, which would have further increased the indebtedness to the bank, but they felt that, if present anticipations materialised and there were no important setbacks in the industry, they might, in a year's time, be in a position, at any rate, to deal with some, if not all, the accumulated arrears.

At the time of the merger, towards the end of 1928, there were five idle collieries being maintained in repair at heavy cost ready for work, but whose output would have been in excess of demand. That state of things had continued until February, 1929, when the board felt justified in restarting work at all five, and since then all their thirty-four collieries had been working uninterruptedly throughout the year save for occasional idle days owing to disputes among the workmen themselves on the question of arrears of contribution to trade union funds, for which the colliery management was in no way responsible. He thought that form of sheer waste was peculiar to the colliery industry, and it indicated the difficulties under which the management of collieries was carried on. Their gross output, nevertheless, had amounted to just over 4,000,000 tons, and, compared with the previous year, the number of men employed showed an increase of 1,867.

The new sinkings were nearing completion, and it was hoped to produce coal during the next few weeks. The production should ultimately amount to 2,000 tons a day of good-quality coal, and the new pit would be one of the most modern in the district, producing at a low cost good marketable coal.

As a result of the merger, important economies not yet fully reflected in the balance sheet before the meeting had already been effected. They were about to get the benefit of the rearrangement of their power supplies, and, to give an idea of the efficiency of their most recently erected power station, current was being generated at the rate of 0.28d. per unit, including coal and labour, depreciation, etc., which was only slightly more than half the most advantageous rate paid for outside electric power. In all those matters their thanks were due for the splendid guidance of Sir David Llewellyn and of Sir Alfred Cope. Their relations with their workmen were generally good, and were improving. The management and men were recognising respectively to an increasing extent each other's point of view, and all felt that, with the cessation of outside interference, those relations could be improved even more.

The markets for their coal had improved, the company's control of output, coupled with an enlightened sales policy, having inspired customers with confidence to purchase in advance. They were now commencing their Canadian shipments, and there was a valuable market in Canada for Welsh anthracite. During last season a new competitor had come into the field in the form of Russian anthracite, but the company's Canadian friends had a very efficient organisation, and they had in Senator Webster a very loyal associate who sincerely believed in the paramount importance of trade within the Empire.

The Canadian market was not without its difficulties, one being that of obtaining sufficient tonnage to convey their coal owing to the small movement of Canadian grain to this country. He wished to express his appreciation of the interest shown in their Canadian market and of the action taken by the Lord Privy Seal during his recent visit to that country, when he proved himself to be a salesman of great ability.

As to the industry generally, coal exported from South Wales was still 6,500,000 tons less than in 1913, and collieries had worked only 73 per cent. of potential capacity, yet, comparing 1929 with 1928, the production of coal in Great Britain was 19,000,000 tons more, and exports had increased by nearly 10,000,000 tons. The company was favourably sold for 1930, and the trading profits for January and February of this year were so far quite satisfactory. On the other hand, trade barriers erected by foreign countries for the restriction of British imports had undergone no curtailment, the use of preferential railway rates abroad for facilitating their coal exports continued, and the fact remained that there was a potential power of production far in excess of the ordinary consuming capacity of the world. The general outlook could hardly be called too reassuring, and there was also the question of wages in their own trade still awaiting final settlement.

The report and accounts were adopted.

BRITISH ENKA ARTIFICIAL SILK COMPANY, LIMITED.

YEAR OF EXCEPTIONAL DIFFICULTY.

SIR HENRY STRAKOSCH ON THE OUTLOOK.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the British Enka Artificial Silk Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir Henry Strakosch, G.B.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: You will observe from the profit and loss account that, after charging debenture interest, head office expenses and income tax and making provision for depreciation, totalling in all £87,620 after crediting interest received, this account shows a loss for the year of £157,276. The difference of £69,656 represents the factory loss on trading during the period, which is mainly due to the unsatisfactory state of the rayon market and also to technical difficulties in our No. 2 factory.

The result of the year's trading can only be described as most disappointing. Our disappointment is not relieved by the fact that the year was one of exceptional difficulty, and that one of the causes—the continuous and severe fall in the price of rayon—was beyond our control. The efficiency of our labour force, I am glad to say, has, generally speaking, gone on improving, but technical difficulties, of which one was of a particularly obstinate character, have continued to trouble us. While these persisted, production suffered in several ways; costs were unduly high, and the output for a given amount of raw materials unduly low. The cumulative effect of these factors was sufficiently disturbing, but the persistent and substantial fall of rayon prices accentuated our troubles.

Towards the middle of the year, however, the management was successful in locating the source of the technical difficulty to which I have referred. Anyone familiar with industrial production, however, knows how profoundly the efficiency of a work's organisation is affected, and how the cost of production is raised by any disturbance in the smooth flow of manufacture. Such disturbances tend to increase beyond all reasonable limits the number of workers needed both for production and for the maintenance of the plant, not to speak of the general impairment of efficiency. To illustrate this point, I may mention that our No. 1 factory, which has largely escaped some of the technical difficulties from which we have been suffering in No. 2 factory, managed, in spite of the fall in rayon prices, to show a small factory surplus for the year, after charging against its production an equitable share of administration and selling expenses. The cost of production in that factory was 10 per cent. lower than in the No. 2 factory, in spite of the fact that its spinning is done in a bobbin plant, which ordinarily is somewhat more expensive to operate than a pot-spinning plant, such as we have working in the No. 2 factory, though I should add that this factory has not been running in the average during 1929, nor is it now running, beyond about 80 per cent. of its capacity. Though considerable progress has been made towards ridding the No. 2 factory of the after-effects of the disorganisation, a good deal remains to be done to bring it to the standard of efficiency which ought to be attained.

DUTCH ENKA GROUP.

In the past we have relied for advice in matters of a technical nature almost entirely on the co-operation of our Dutch friends. Indeed, as you know, our company was formed for the purpose of exploiting in this country their long and successful experience in the production of rayon in Holland, under agreements which are designed to establish the most intimate technical collaboration between the two companies. Financially, also, the two companies are closely associated by the fact that the majority of the shares in our company are held by the Dutch Enka group. Certain important changes in the organisation of the Dutch Enka group took place during the middle of last year. As the result of an arrangement concluded in July last between the Dutch Enka Company and the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Werke, the biggest rayon producing group in Germany, the interests of the two companies were merged under the designation of what, translated into English, corresponds to General Rayon Union, commonly known as the A.K.U.

The negotiations for the merger, and the subsequent rearrangement of the managerial, administrative and technical staffs, took a good deal of time to accomplish. It was, therefore, only quite recently that we were able to take advantage of the facilities which this new combination are able to offer us. Pending these rearrangements which the merger had made necessary, the A.K.U. was not able to give us as much assistance as would have been desirable. I am glad to say, however, that we were quite recently able to arrange for an investigation of our problems at Aintree by two experts of the A.K.U. They recommend certain changes in our works organisation and manufacturing methods which they believe will result in economies. The first steps to put their recommendations into effect have already been taken, and they may involve our having to curtail production in our No. 2 factory for a time. The rearrangement of the managerial organisation of the Dutch Enga group has led to the retirement from active management of the Dutch group of Dr. J. C. Hartogs, who also resigned from our board and relinquished the position of managing director of our company.

I am assured that the quality of our production fully comes up to that of rayon produced by the Dutch factories. The comparative smallness of our stock sufficiently indicates that we have had no difficulty in currently disposing of a very satisfactory proportion of our production. We are, however, anxious to avail ourselves of every means that experience has proved to be efficacious for the improvement of the quality of our products, and so to fortify our position, particularly in the home market. Our efforts in this direction have so far been mainly concentrated on increasing the strength of our yarn. Research work carried on by us and our friends on the Continent will, I hope, enable us to introduce further improvements.

CONDITIONS OF RAYON MARKET.

There is no doubt that the major share of the loss that has been incurred is due to the unsatisfactory state of the rayon market. In that connection, Mr Samuel Courtauld at the last general meeting of shareholders of Courtaulds, Ltd., dealt at some length with the detrimental effect which the uncertainty regarding the future of the rayon duties has been exercising on trade. I need only say that so far as our observations go there has been, as a consequence of this uncertainty, a definite tendency on the part of our customers to restrict purchases to their immediate requirements.

Although, owing to various factors, it is almost impossible to express in figures the true extent to which rayon prices have been reduced, I should say that prices have fallen by an average of at least 18d. per pound since the autumn of 1928. I am advised that, if there had been no fall, then instead of the heavy loss we have made we should have earned a very handsome profit in spite of the unduly high costs of production in the No. 2 factory. Though this is poor consolation when we have, in fact, made a substantial loss, it does illustrate how great a share of our misfortune is directly due to the fall in the price of the commodity we produce.

I understand, from what seems to be a carefully prepared estimate of a competent authority, that while the world production further expanded in 1929 by about 17 per cent. as compared with 1928, consumption increased at about double that rate. There was, it is true, again an overproduction, but only of about 4 to 5 per cent.

The figures indicate that, in spite of the unbridled expansion of manufacturing capacity in recent years the world over, and in spite of the absence of any sort of co-ordination of their manufacturing and selling policies by the big producers, a process of adjustment is under way. Periodical adjustments of this character are almost inevitable in a young industry which is called upon to meet a demand for its products which has shown such uninterruptedly rapid expansion. It is pertinent to ask, however, whether it is really necessary to allow these adjustments to react as violently as this last adjustment has upon the market price of the commodity the industry produces. It is not the worst feature that a severe fall in the market price of rayon reacts adversely on the profit-earning capacity of the rayon industry itself—it also disorganises the trade of our customers and inflicts losses on them.

No one, I should imagine, would more wholeheartedly welcome co-operation and co-ordination among the big producers of rayon with a view to stabilising prices than our own customers. Widely fluctuating prices of the raw material they employ in their trades must be an intolerable handicap to them. The progress of the past in the consumption of rayon has been phenomenal, and it would be unreasonable to expect this same rate of advance to continue in the future; but, if there is anything, apart from an improvement of quality, which is likely to stimulate further progress, it is stability of prices.

THE OUTLOOK.

The rayon industry as a whole has, as you know, gone through a very difficult year. What are the prospects of the future? Portents, I fear, are not favourable. The precipitous fall in the price of practically all the great staple commodities is bound to react unfavourably, for a time at any rate, upon the purchasing power of the masses of the population the world over, and it is hardly to be expected that the rayon industry will escape the reactions which this diminished power of consumption is likely to have on industry generally. This is an additional reason why co-ordination in the distribution of rayon by the great producers is a matter of particular urgency at the present moment.

The picture I have drawn of our own particular experience in 1929, and of the prospects of the rayon industry as a whole in the more immediate future, is not a bright one. I hope that events may convict me of undue pessimism in regard to the latter. As regards our own affairs, I will only say that I feel confident, from the assurances I have had from our technical advisers, that our manufacturing and selling costs can and will be reduced, and that the rayon we produce can and will be further improved, especially in the direction which appeals to our home consumers. We shall not relax our efforts until we have succeeded in achieving these things.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

BONUS MAINTAINED AND RESERVES STRENGTHENED.

LIFE ASSURANCE AS AN INVESTMENT.

The hundred and fourth annual general meeting of the company was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 25th inst., Mr E. M. Beilby presiding.

After reviewing the unsettled trade situation during the preceding year, the Chairman stated that the net Life Assurances effected with the Standard during the year amounted to over £2,800,000 which, excluding Single Premium business, was only £80,000 less than the amount in the previous year.

As regards the revenue account the amount of premiums received during the year exceeded £1,100,000, and over £500,000 was received as consideration money for annuities. The net rate of interest earned on funds was again in excess of 5 per cent. The Life Assurance and Annuity Fund benefited by the receipt of over £30,000 excess income from the Guarantee Fund, while £100,000 was transferred to General Reserve, bringing the amount of this fund to £700,000 and the total of the Guarantee Fund to £1,550,000.

VALUE OF THE ASSETS.

The valuation of the Company's Liabilities and Assets was made as at November 15th last. The same basis was adopted in valuing the liabilities as that employed previously, the rate of interest assumed for the purpose being 2½ per cent. As regards the assets, the bases previously adopted were again employed, the Stock Exchange Securities being valued by taking the lowest quotation ruling on November 15, 1929. Notwithstanding the general fall in Stock Exchange Securities during the year which caused but a moderate depreciation in the market value of the Company's holdings, the value of the assets was very considerably in excess of the value at which they appear in the Balance Sheet. The results of the Valuation were very satisfactory; the surplus of assets over liabilities as valued on the stringent basis already mentioned enabled the Directors to transfer £100,000 to the General Reserve, to provide for the compound Reversionary Bonus of £2 2s. per cent. declared last November, and to carry forward over £25,000.

A POSITION OF STRENGTH.

"The policy of your Directors," Mr Beilby went on to say, "has been to make security for the policyholders' contracts their first consideration, and as a result a position of strength has been built up which we believe to be unexcelled in the world of life assurance; notwithstanding, however, our policy of caution, the high rate of 42s. per cent. bonus compounded annually is paid to our policyholders, and after a careful survey of the position of the Company we see no reason to depart from the view expressed last year that we should be able to maintain this rate of bonus for many years to come."

ADVANTAGES OF WITH-PROFIT ENDOWMENTS.

The Chairman concluded by pointing out the very favourable results to be obtained from with profit endowment assurances from a purely investment point of view. The advantages of this type of investment over a Stock Exchange security were firstly, because of its security; secondly, because payment for the investment by instalments could be spread over a long period of years; thirdly, because in the event of death the full capital sum was forthcoming, even if only one instalment had been paid to the Company; and fourthly, because of the rebate in income tax allowed in most cases. At the same time he did not dissociate himself from the remarks which had fallen of late from the Chairmen of several important Life Offices emphasising that the primary necessity for the public was to safeguard dependants adequately before considering the question of investment. The New Cash Bonus Scheme had proved a great success, the public having evidently realised that it was supplying a need. The principal feature of this Scheme was that although the rate of premium charged was little more than the average non-profit rate, the policy had the right to participate in profits in the form of increasing Cash Bonuses. These were set off against the premiums payable so that the cost was soon reduced below the non-profit rate and became less and less as time went on.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—GOOD PROSPECTS.

The 122nd annual general meeting of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society was held, on the 25th instant, at Norwich.

Sir George H. Morse (the president) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The results of the year's transactions are up to the high standard which has been a feature of the society over the long period of its existence, during which time it has protected its policyholders by its conservative outlook, not only in regard to finance, but in its careful selection of lives. Our figures show that we declined proposals amounting to £662,500 this year on account of medical unsuitability, which, I think, fully bears out the statement I have just made.

EXPENSE RATIO LOWERED.

The directors are careful in the selection of lives suitable for insurance, but anyone contemplating insurance should also have regard to the cost at which an office conducts its business, whether the expense ratio tends upwards or downwards, and also the cost of obtaining new business. It is a pleasure to be able to say that, during the past four years, the tendency of the society's expense ratio has been downward. In 1926, the beginning of the quinquennial period, it was 16.23 per cent., whereas it is now 14.16 per cent. Looking at the actual figures, while commission is down by £6,700, due in a measure to the smaller volume of new business written in 1929, compared with the previous year, the expenses have gone up by £6,900, but against this there is an increase in the premium income of £119,000, which has had the effect of reducing the level expense ratio by one-half per cent. on the previous year's working.

The society has reached a stage in its existence when its outgo in respect of claims by death and by maturity is assuming large figures, especially in regard to claims by maturity, which amount to £1,005,000, and considerably exceed the claims by death at £783,000. This again emphasises the superiority of our insured lives, whom we congratulate on surviving to draw the sums payable under their own policies. On the other hand, it is regrettable that, if they are only possessors of endowment assurance policies, they cease to be members of the society, and in order that we may provide against this a new table has been published giving premiums of our "Norwich" policy under which a member may take half the sum assured after an agreed upon number of years and continue the other half, free from all further payment, for the benefit of those who come after him.

At the end of this year the valuation of the society's assets and liabilities will take place, and the result should, under ordinary circumstances, give every satisfaction to all concerned. This has already been foreshadowed by the steps taken by the directors in increasing the interim bonuses twice in the past four years. In 1925 whole-life full-profit bonuses ranged from £2 6s. per annum at young ages to £4 10s. at old ages for each £100 assured, and these have now been increased so as to range from £2 11s. per cent. to £4 12s. per cent. per annum. This has been rendered possible by the steadily increasing improvement in earnings which has taken placed during the past four years. The net rate of interest during that period on the funds, productive and unproductive, has been slightly over 5 per cent., that for last year being £5 0s. 5d. per cent.

INVESTMENTS.

Although our funds are rapidly mounting up, and last year added £2,151,440 to the total, our liabilities to our policyholders are also vast. Out of total assets of £32,000,000 we have invested £9,900,000 in Stock Exchange securities, of which £2,250,000 is in British Government stocks and the remainder in widely diversified classifications which, from a security point of view, are, in the opinion of the directors, likely to cause, in the aggregate, the minimum amount of fluctuation in value. This is evidenced by the scrutiny made of the society's holdings at the end of the year, which showed on the account under review a depreciation in Stock Exchange securities of 3.4 per cent., which, having regard to the conditions overshadowing all markets last year, is very satisfactory. These securities still stand in the balance sheet at a figure well below the market value at December 31, 1929.

We have also £9,940,000 invested in mortgages, and the interest charged and standing in the books at the end of the year has all since been paid. We have not altered our Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society investment, although that society has been able to pay a further sum of £2 10s. per share out of earned profits towards the extinguishing of the unpaid capital, leaving only £44,000, or £1 per share, still outstanding.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried.

CITY OF LONDON ELECTRIC LIGHTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SALES OF CURRENT.

The ordinary general meeting of the City of London Electric Lighting Company, Ltd., was held, on the 26th instant, at the registered offices of the company, Falcon House, Aldersgate Street, London, Mr J. B. Braithwaite (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr A. F. Harrison) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the sales for the year again showed a substantial increase. Last year he had pointed out that their sales of current showed a progressive increase; for 1926 the increase was 4,000,000 units; for 1927 it was 5,000,000 units; for 1928 it was 8,400,000 units; and he was glad to say that for 1929 the increase was just over 9,000,000 units. Thus it was seen that the progress in their sales was entirely satisfactory.

All the various departments of supply had shared in that increase. Lighting showed an increase of 12.6 per cent.; power, 4.2 per cent—not quite so large as in the preceding year; heating, 34.9 per cent.; and the increase over the whole output was 12.6 per cent. In spite of the reductions which they had made in the prices to their consumers, the profit also showed a small increase, that for 1929 being £473,972, as compared with £451,587 in 1928, showing an increase of £22,385.

BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS.

For 1929 the average price paid by their consumers all-over was 2 1-10d., which, he thought, in the circumstances in which they were situated in the City of London, with no evening load and with other drawbacks to which reference had been made in the past, was an exceedingly satisfactory figure. The reduction in the price to their consumers led, of course, to an increase in the so-called consumer's benefit. In 1926 that was £128,274; in 1927, £178,095; in 1928, £275,937; and in 1929 it was £348,253, an increase of £72,316 over the figure of the previous year, so that during the four years in which that arrangement had been in force their consumers had benefited to the extent of £930,000, as compared with what they would have paid had they been charged the standard price as authorised by the Electricity Commissioners.

That increase in the consumer's benefit led to an increase in the one-sixth share which the company was allowed to retain and add to the reserve fund, which, as explained last year, was available either for capitalisation or for supplementing their statutory dividend. In 1926 they were able to retain £12,986; in 1927, £27,676; in 1928, £45,989; and for the past year, £58,052, so that the reserve fund now stood at £243,137.

They proposed to pay the usual statutory dividend, and they now had their special reserve raised to close on a quarter of a million pounds. Their intention was, if possible, by 1932, to get that figure up to half a million, which would enable them to capitalise a further half-million, and the result of that would be that in 1933, when the statutory dividend dropped to 7 per cent., they would still be able to distribute £120,000 to the shareholders, just as they were doing on the present occasion. After that it would be within their discretion whether they supplemented the dividend or not.

INCREASING USES OF ELECTRICITY.

Looking at the position all round, and in view of the enormously increasing uses for electricity, he had confidence in the future. He recommended all shareholders in electric supply companies to go to the Ideal Home Exhibition, at which they would see that lighting no longer played the most important part as regarded the use of electricity. There were many other uses, including heating, cooking, and cleaning, making toast for breakfast, heating water for shaving, making tea, washing up, and many other things, including refrigerating, so that one could keep cool in the summer and warm in the winter by means of electricity. There was, in fact, hardly anything which electricity could not do.

They looked forward to the current year with quiet confidence. They were considering further reductions in their charges, which would increase their consumer's benefit, and consequently the one-sixth share of it which they were entitled to retain. Their power house at Bankside was a selected station under the Central Electricity Board, and they might, therefore, be called upon at any time to supply current in bulk. Their generating plant and distribution system were the best of their kind; their staff was loyal and competent, and might be relied upon to obtain the best possible results, from which, as co-partners, they would stand to benefit.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

SHROPSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY.

LARGE EXPANSION OF BUSINESS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire Electric Power Company was held, on the 25th instant, at Electrical Federation Offices, 88 Kingsway, London, Mr E. Garcke (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The tendency of modern industry is in the direction of rational combination of producers with the object of attaining the highest efficiency, the greatest economy, the largest output, so as to secure the widest market at the lowest selling price, all with a view to render the best service to the consumer while maintaining a high standard of living for the workers and a fair return to the investors. Electricity is to-day performing the most important function in the general development in industry not only in the supply of current, but in many other auxiliary services, and these services in total call for very complete an dspecialised organisation. The concentration of generation electricity in fewer, large and, consequently, more efficient stations is taking place and, without doubt, similar concentration of distribution and of the auxiliary services of electricity supply will follow.

Considerable development has taken place in the provision of electricity supply in the more sparsely populated portions of the company's area, and many extensions of our low-tension networks have also been made in the important towns served.

The use of electricity in domestic premises for purposes other than lighting has made marked progress, and the hire service of the company, including cookers of standard design, portable electric fires and wash boilers, has met with considerable favour.

During the year over 5,000 new services to domestic premises have been connected by the Shropshire and subsidiary companies.

THE PAST YEAR.

The year 1929 has witnessed an even larger expansion of operations than the years immediately preceding it, and over £816,000 has been spent on new capital works and acquisition of undertakings during the year.

The revenue account reflects the large expansion in the company's business. The net receipts were £369,109, as against £303,950 last year, with expenses £188,588, as against £160,957, leaving a balance for appropriation of £180,520, as against £142,993 last year.

We propose to appropriate the balance of £180,520 as follows, the dividends recommended being at the same rates as for 1928:—

	£
Dividend for the year on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares	42,000
Dividend of 8 per cent. for the year on the "A" ordinary shares	24,000
Dividend of 7½ per cent. for the year on the "B" ordinary shares	56,625
Reserve appropriation account	57,895

Turning to the reserve appropriation account, it will be noted that, after transferring the sum of £60,000 to our reserve, bringing that account up to £497,899, we carry forward the sum of £80,249, as against £78,937 brought into that account.

During the year new industrial connections to our system have been quite good. In the early part of the year there was a marked development in electric furnace load. The additional power connections to our mains during the year approximate to 20,000 h.p.

PROGRESS SINCE 1924.

The following figures showing the advance made since the year 1924 may be or interest:—

No. of consumers	An increase of 270 per cent.
No. of units sold	An increase of 91 per cent.
Revenue from units sold	An increase of 73 per cent.
Average price per unit sold	1.38d. in 1924; 1.25d. in 1929, a reduction of 10 per cent.

During the past year we have continued the policy of reducing the price wherever the load justifies it, but so long as we are adding new areas and incorporating small undertakings, whose charges are high and cannot immediately be reduced, the reductions in prices we are making in the more developed districts do not show up in the large average. Nevertheless, they are evident in the ratio between the average increase of units sold and of price obtained per unit. The criterion of our activities is that we are building up a large and well organised business capable of supplying electricity to consumers in our area at steadily reducing prices, while for the present maintaining efficiently our plants and earning a moderate return on the total capital employed, while the holders of preference and debenture stocks are receiving good yields on well-secured investments.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED PROFIT—REVISED CHARGES.

NORTH-EAST ELECTRICITY SCHEME.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Company, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at the Central Station Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr R. P. Sloan (chairman of the company) presiding.

The notice convening the meeting was read by Mr M. Short (joint secretary).

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Last year I expressed disappointment at the decrease in the electrical energy we were called upon to supply to collieries. While the position, as a whole, did not change to any extent during the past year, additional colliery supplies—which included the supply to six new pits—went a long way towards making up this setback. The consumption in shipyards and engineering works showed a distinct improvement. There also was an increase in our supplies to the iron, steel, and general engineering trades.

Revised tariffs became effective, in the case of shops, as from January 1, 1929, and in the case of domestic supplies as from April 1, 1929. The sum represented has somewhat exceeded our forecast, and is about £50,000 per annum. While our immediate profits have, of course, been materially affected, we have good reason to believe that the concessions will encourage the further use of electricity. Within a week or two of our first publishing these tariffs, a number of local authorities applied to the Minister of Transport for an order reducing our statutory maximum prices. We strongly opposed this application on the grounds that our then charges were reasonable, having regard to our costs in giving such supplies. We have not yet received the award of the Minister.

SATISFACTORY PROFIT.

The year's profit shows an improvement of £56,895, which, I think, may be considered satisfactory, bearing in mind the effect of the substantial reductions in the charges. Interest on debentures and loans shows a reduction of £16,104, due to our bank overdraft having been cleared by the proceeds of the share capital issue which was made in November, 1928.

The transfer from profit to general reserve has been increased to £175,000, as against £150,000, while £75,000 has been transferred to renewals and improvements reserves, as against £60,500 so transferred in the previous year.

We had to meet exceptionally heavy expenditure in connection with the complete renewal of certain turbo-generator plant, and mainly on account of this, our expenditure during the year upon renewals and improvements reached £85,000. On account of this expenditure, the directors have transferred a larger sum to renewals reserve, and have met the remainder by drawing upon the renewals reserve, leaving £41,703 still standing to its credit.

The directors recommend a dividend, on the ordinary shares, at the rate of 6 per cent., which leaves £96,029 to be carried forward. Owing to the issue of ordinary shares made in November, 1928, the increased amount required to pay a dividend at the same rate as last year will be £55,500. The capital expenditure during the year amounted to £243,480.

NEW DOMESTIC CONSUMERS.

The profit on sale of current apparatus and other rentals, etc., shows an increase of £28,466 on the corresponding figure of the previous year. The increase in interest and dividends received, which amounts to £28,482, is due as to £16,240 on account of interest on bank deposits, and as to £12,242 increased interest and dividends received from associated companies.

The additional connections made amounted to 22,677 horse power. We connected 7,802 new domestic consumers. This number is less than in the previous year, partly due to the fact that in 1928 we acquired a number of existing low-pressure distribution networks previously owned and supplied by a colliery company, and, therefore, the number of new connections was increased beyond what might be considered as normal, and partly because our rate of development has been adversely affected by the prices agitation.

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND SCHEME.

Under the North-East England electricity scheme, all our main power stations—at Carville, Dunston, and North Tees—are specified as being "Selected" stations. The owners of "Selected" stations are under obligation to generate such quantities of electricity as the Central Electricity Board may direct, and the Central Board will be under obligation to supply back such quantities of electricity as the owners may require for their own undertakings. The Central Board will pay to the owners the actual operating costs, together with the capital and depreciation charges on the stations; and, in respect of electricity repurchased, the owners will pay the actual cost price plus a fair proportion of the Central Board's general expenses. The cost at which owners repurchase from the Central Board is not to exceed the cost they would have incurred in generating, independently, the same quantity of electricity as they take from the Central Board.

CHANGE OF FREQUENCY.

The North-East England scheme involves the change of the periodicity of our supply from forty to fifty cycles per second, so as to make it comply with the standard frequency. The work involved in this change is estimated to cost some £8,000,000 or £9,000,000, and some seven years will be required to complete it. By the exercise of proper care and providing an efficient organisation I see no reason why the work should not be carried out without undue dislocation.

While we will be primarily responsible for the carrying out of the change of frequency, the whole cost involved, both in our own works and in consumers' premises, will be met by the Central Electricity Board, who will finance the work as it proceeds. We intend, throughout this period, to carry on our ordinary development work in the usual way, and are arranging our organisation accordingly.

In the current year we shall suffer some reduction of output, due to the Castner-Kellner and United Alkali works being transferred to the Imperial Chemical premises at Billingham-on-Tees. One of our associated companies, however (Cleveland Power Company), has an agreement under which large quantities of power will be supplied to the Billingham works.

It is difficult at this time to make any forecast with regard to the coal situation. The Coal Mines Bill, now before Parliament, is having an unsettling effect generally, and as coal represents a large portion of our revenue expenditure we are, naturally, somewhat apprehensive on this account.

With regard to shipbuilding, we must expect some curtailment of further work from the Admiralty. In the case of ordinary merchant shipbuilding, it is gratifying to note that a certain volume of new work has been booked.

ORDERS IN HAND.

The actual connections to the system during the last ten years have averaged over 30,800 h.p. per annum. That period included many years of acute trade depression. The orders we have in hand for further supplies, viz., 26,000 h.p., fall little short of the corresponding average during the last five years, and I think the shareholders will agree that there is every prospect of continued development.

As a public utility undertaking, we are precluded from receiving any direct relief under the de-rating scheme. So far as the past year is concerned, our rates exceeded those paid on account of the year 1928 by nearly £20,000, which is equivalent to no less than 35 per cent. of the total increase in our gross profits.

Although the outlook for the future as regards trade generally is a little uncertain, I do not consider that our prospects are by any means discouraging, and, bearing in mind the fact that we supply electricity to the majority of the industries throughout the area, and are steadily increasing our domestic supply business, I think we may look forward hopefully to 1930.

The sum divisible among the directors has stood at the same amount for ten years. During that time the business has vastly increased, and it is the directors' intention to take an early opportunity of raising the question of an increase in their remuneration to a figure more commensurate with their responsibilities.

The Chairman concluded by paying tribute to Mr Couves, the general manager, the staff and employees.

Mr James Tennant seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

The Chairman then moved that a dividend of 3½ per cent. on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares be declared, making with the interim dividend paid September 30th last, 7 per cent. for year; also a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the 5 per cent. preference shares, making with the interim dividend paid September 30th last, 5 per cent. for the year; also a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. paid September 30th last, 6 per cent. for the year, and that the above dividends be payable on March 31, 1930, less income tax.

Sir G. B. Hunter seconded the motion, which was carried.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Headlam, Mr H. W. F. Bolckow, the Hon. R. H. Brand, and Sir G. B. Hunter were re-elected directors of the company.

Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company were re-elected auditors, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried with acclamation.

LONDON LIFE, CLERGY MUTUAL AND METROPOLITAN.

REVIEW OF ANOTHER PROSPEROUS YEAR.

LARGE INCREASES IN RATES OF REDUCTION OF PREMIUM.

AMAZING CENTENARY BONUS FOR CLERGY MUTUAL.

The ordinary general meetings of the above companies were held, on the 26th instant, at 81, King William Street, London, E.C.

Mr Reginald Jacomb (president of the London Life Association), in opening the proceedings, referred to the death of Mr Frank Bertrand Wyatt and to the resignation of Sir John Mullens from the board, and introduced the new director, the Earl of Limerick.

He said :—In any review of the year 1929, from an insurance point of view, one would expect it to be labelled as difficult, whether you consider it from the point of view of investments at home or abroad, or of the business of writing life assurance, affected as it has been by the conditions of trade.

As president of this association, which, although 123 years old, is still on the threshold of a great future, I decline to be other than an optimist as regards the future. (Hear, hear.)

Take, for instance, the fall in the values of securities; that, in itself, in connection with the class of securities which a sound life assurance company should hold, should be no more than an inconvenience. From the various causes which led to the fall in values, there is, however, much to be learned, and surely all thoughtful people must see that the safest investments they can make are by the medium of an insurance policy.

Again, look at the present condition of trade and of unemployment. We, as a people, are passing through critical times, and have not yet recovered from the effects of the war. Is that a reason for assuming that the old country is fast going down hill and that nothing can stop it? Problems have got to be solved, but there is a spirit among us to-day which will brook no policy of *laissez-faire* and will in the end prevail. (Hear, hear.)

INCREASE IN TOTAL FUNDS.

Now let us consider some of the items which are dealt with in the report.

The first, which records an increase in our total funds by £1,209,215 to £21,058,385, is in itself of considerable importance. One of the problems we have had to face was how to expand our business and thus spread our overhead charges over a broader basis, without increasing the percentage of our expenses of management. That we have succeeded is evidenced by the large increase in our total funds in recent years, while our expense ratio remains the lowest of any life office in the world. (Hear, hear.)

The depreciation in the values of our Stock Exchange securities during the year represents some 2½ per cent. only of the total funds. On December 31st last we had an investment fluctuation fund of £328,000, apart from other reserves, to cover the sum of £22,456 by which the value of the Stock Exchange securities fell short of the total at which these securities stood in the books.

I am informed that up to yesterday the values of our Stock Exchange securities have appreciated by more than £250,000 since December 31st. (Applause.)

He then explained why it should be the policy of the association to build up the investment fluctuation fund rather than write down the value of securities.

LARGE INCREASE IN NEW BUSINESS.

He said : I have so often in the past had the pleasure of calling your attention to fresh records in the amount of new business that such an announcement ceases to be a novelty. This year is, however, exceptional, and we have jumped forward with an increase of £424,683 and secured a total of £2,927,608, a magnificent figure—(hear, hear)—obtained without any material increase in the expense ratio. I say we, because in our satisfaction at such a result the directors and staff—and I hope our members—are one.

He then alluded to single premium (with loan) business and its effect on the accounts. He expressed the opinion that recent forms of this business constituted a gross abuse and should be stopped. He added : " The association, I am glad to say, has never issued a policy of this kind with less assurance than is contained in a 10-year endowment assurance."

" VERY GRATIFYING RESULTS."

He went on to say : I have kept the most pleasing subject for the conclusion of my remarks—namely, the very gratifying results of the year's working and the declaration of increases in rates of reduction of premium and reversionary bonuses.

Taking the London Life first, we are, for the third year in succession, increasing the rate of reduction for members assured under our reduction of premium system by three. Two years ago I said at the general meeting : " It is a matter for surprise that more new entrants do not choose this system." Since then there has been a distinct movement in favour of this system. I would add that my opinion is unchanged.

For our reversionary bonus policies we are for the second year declaring a 40s. bonus on sums assured and existing bonuses, a high rate when the smallness of the premiums is considered and when you realise what a compound yearly bonus means in the years to come. We have been able to apply £29,794 in strengthening the valuation basis as well as transfer £28,463 to the investment fluctuation fund. I feel justified in regarding the future of this class of policy as extremely good.

CLERGY MUTUAL BONUSES.

The bonuses declared for the Clergy Mutual policyholders are amazing, £5 per cent. for endowment assurances and for whole-life assurances £5 per cent. for all ages up to 65, increasing by 5 per cent. for each additional year of age up to no less than £13 15s. at age 100.

Remembering the lean years following the outbreak of war, we can, without any jealous comparison, congratulate the Clergy Mutual policyholders that the centenary of the founding of the society should produce such remarkable results. (Hear, hear.)

This year it is the turn of the Metropolitan members to feel the advantage both of the cautious and sound policy adopted by their directors in recent years, and of the amalgamation with the London Life. An increase in rates of abatement by no less than ten should give great satisfaction, combined with the prospect of the normal increases in future years.

The president concluded his address with a tribute to the services of Mr Trouncer and the staff.

The reports and accounts submitted were unanimously adopted.

UNITED DRAPERY STORES, LIMITED.

PROGRESS OF SUBSIDIARY BUSINESSES.

The third annual general meeting of the United Drapery Stores, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Sir Arthur Wheeler, Bart., D.L., J.P. (the chairman of the company), who presided, said that the net profit for the year, after charging all expenses and providing for income tax, was £102,413, as compared with £86,251. It was proposed to write a further £20,000 off preliminary expenses and to pay a final dividend of 6 per cent., making 11 per cent. for the year.

Dealing with the progress made by the subsidiaries of the company, the Chairman said that during the year John Blundell, Ltd., had moved to larger premises at 196, City Road, bringing their business under one roof, with room for expansion. Their new building provided approximately 78,000 square feet of space, and their total staff was now about 1,400. Walker and Penistans, Ltd., established in 1897 as a small drapery business with two assistants, now comprised nine branches, with a staff of over 350, and had served during the year under review over two millions of customers, constituting a record in the company's history. Shinners, Ltd., a vital factor in the activities of the shopping public of Sutton, during the year had been occupied in an extensive rebuilding scheme, but, in spite of that, 75,000 more customers had been served than in any previous year. The new building would be equipped with every modern comfort and should prove one of this company's most valuable allies.

Hinds and Company, Blackheath, Ltd., established over forty years ago, had, from a small beginning, shown a record of uninterrupted progress and prosperity, and had proved a steady revenue-earner, whilst S. Young and Son, Ltd., which occupied two of the best sites in Sevenoaks, was this year commemorating its 150th anniversary. Hawes Bros., founded in 1892 as general and fancy drapers, had built up one of the largest postal depôts in the country for knitting wools. Last year they had acquired the business of Edward Evans, Ltd., in King Street, Hammersmith, which had already proved to be a valuable asset. Since it was taken over the leases of two neighbouring shops had been acquired, and alterations were nearly completed which would result in the necessary expansion and modernisation of the existing premises.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached :

To Publisher " Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....

Address .....

THE SALT UNION, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROFITS—DIVIDEND OF 12½ PER CENT. MAINTAINED.

AGREEMENT WITH IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

MR GEORGE H. COX REVIEWS COMPANY'S INTERESTS.

The forty-first annual meeting of shareholders of the Salt Union, Ltd., was held on Tuesday, the 25th instant, at Exchange Station Buildings, Liverpool, there being a good attendance of shareholders.

Mr George Henry Cox, J.P., chairman of the company, presided.

Mr E. C. Wickes, secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said :—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the regular business, it is my duty to express, on behalf of the board and his many friends, our deep regret at the loss sustained by the death of our late colleague Mr J. H. Beazley. He was most punctual and assiduous in the performance of his duties up to the last, and he was rarely absent from our numerous meetings.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED.

As you have had ample opportunity to peruse the report and accounts, I assume you will prefer to take them as read. I am sure you will be glad to find that we are again able to recommend a dividend at the handsome rate of 12½ per cent., now to be paid for the sixth year in succession. (Hear, hear.) The net profits, although showing a small falling off as compared with the previous year, are satisfactory, especially having regard to the many difficulties that had to be overcome and to the unfavourable economic conditions generally prevailing throughout the world. Therefore, I take this opportunity of heartily thanking the managing directors and the staffs, both technical and clerical, and the large body of our artisans, for their loyal and strenuous efforts on behalf of the Union.

Reverting to the accounts, the small increase (£330) in directors' fees is due to the fact that a director was added to our board as part of the bargain for the purchase of Garner's Works; but the subsequent death of Mr Beazley has reduced the number of the board again to seven members.

SUBSTANTIAL RESERVE FUND.

I do not think I need detain you by going through the figures of the balance sheet in detail, except perhaps to remind you that the general reserve fund remains intact at the substantial figure of £550,000.

I wish, however, to call your attention to certain very important transactions in connection with our works and estate matters. The contingencies account has been utilised in providing for the purchase of the works at Winsford, lately owned by John Garner and Company, as described to you last year, and for the building of much-needed office accommodation at Stoke Works in Worcestershire.

CONTROL OF IRISH PRODUCTION.

The item " Shares in subsidiary companies " includes the purchase, on favourable terms, of all the shares of the Carrickfergus Saltworks Company, Ltd. This acquisition gives us complete control of the Irish salt production (both rock and white salt) and will, we anticipate, be of considerable value to us.

Further, there are two matters of much interest which were not completed in time to appear in the 1929 accounts, but which have since been successfully carried through.

AGREEMENT WITH I.C.I.

A satisfactory working agreement with Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., re salt and chemicals, has been sealed, and an agreement with that company has been reached for the exchange of certain works in Middlesbrough, whereby I.C.I. retire from the manufacture of salt for sale in that area, and we absorb their quota. We believe we shall reap valuable benefits from these arrangements, and from the friendship thus cemented with Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Hear, hear.)

CHESHIRE PROPERTIES.

Finally, I am glad to be able to tell you that our holding of properties under lease from Lord Delamere, including the site of the Winsford Vacuum Plant, Purification Plant, Packing Room, Mine, and Falk's Works, has been converted into freehold on satisfactory terms, thus consolidating the company's position materially. With this purchase practically the whole of the River Weaver banks on either side of the river from the Winsford Town Bridge up to Newbridge are included in the company's freehold.

HIGHER QUALITY SALT.

All our works are now in first-class order throughout. We are engaged in carrying out a fairly big job which will perfect our pure dried vacuum salt arrangements, and which will give us salt of a better grain and even higher purity than before. We have also decided to rebuild portions of the old Falk's factory works and carry out considerable improvements thereto. No opportunity is lost from time to time of perfecting our processes and increasing efficiency. The line of fortifications has been reduced in length by concentration and the elimination of expensive and unremunerative outlying works, manufacture thus being concentrated in the works best fitted to undertake it.

LABOUR.

As stated in the report, relations with our workpeople have been harmonious. Such mutual goodwill is essential to the sound working of an industry, and will help us through troubled times when they occur.

DE-RATING.

The new assessments of our salt works under the provisions of the 1925 Rating and Valuation Act are not yet agreed, but our works properties have been recognised as " Industrial hereditaments " for the purpose of the 75 per cent. relief under the de-rating scheme.

CALCUTTA AND THE EAST.

With regard to our Eastern export trade, to Japan we shipped less, but to Calcutta rather more than in 1928. I am sorry to say that the competition in solar salt, to which I referred in March last, has brought about a dissolution of the Salt Importers' Association of Bengal.

Concerning the Indian Government Tariff Board Inquiry, you will have gathered from Press notices that a movement is on foot to protect the native production of salt in the Indian Empire. The outcome of this inquiry cannot be known for some time.

SALT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

Coming to our home trade, after protracted negotiations arrangements were made to carry on the Salt Manufacturers' Association for another year as a minimum period. (Hear, hear.)

So far there have been no fresh entrants to the quota scheme. The refusal of the manufacturers still outside it to realise the benefit of the agreement to the whole trade, if all were signatories to it, is extremely disappointing. We trust they will soon recognise that it is to their best interest to join with the principal manufacturers, if profits are to be earned. Given complete unity, the problem of dealing with the large importations of foreign salt will be far easier. It is well to remember that the menace from this quarter, even to our home trade, is a constant source of anxiety.

COAL.

We have continued our policy of " no contracts " for fuel; and have purchased daily and weekly our requirements throughout the year. This has enabled us to buy much very cheap coal, although on the average the level of prices has been about a shilling per ton higher than in 1928. The coalowners have formed combinations regulating output and prices, and with a fair amount of success, thus securing better terms for themselves. It is essential that the coal industry should be placed if possible on a satisfactory economic basis, for the ultimate benefit of both producers and consumers; and it is to be hoped that either through the improvement of the Coal Bill now before Parliament, or by some other means, this will be effected. I need hardly remind you that a reasonable price of fuel is of vital importance to us, to enable us to compete with low-grade foreign salts produced without the use of coal.

MERSEY POWER COMPANY.

We have retained the whole of our large investment in the Mersey Power Company, which has continued its prosperous career. In a few minutes I shall be presiding at its second public meeting, when I hope that many of you will be able to remain, in order to hear an account of the operations for the past year.

I now beg to move :—" That the report of the directors, with statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1929, now submitted, be received and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr F. W. Clark (deputy-chairman) seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by the deputy-chairman, the meeting authorised the payment of the preference dividend at the rate of 2s. 4d. per share and ordinary dividend at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share.

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Mr H. J. Falk as a director, and this was seconded by Mr R. O. Crichton, and carried.

PINCHIN, JOHNSON AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

SUCCESS OF EXPANSION AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Pinchin, Johnson and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at the Hotel Metropole, London.

Mr Edward Robson (the chairman) presided.

The Secretary (Mr E. P. Thompson), having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said :—My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I now move that the report of the directors, dated March 10, 1930, and the balance sheet of December 31, 1929, now submitted, be, and the same are, hereby received and adopted, and that a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the year ended December 31, 1929, of 20 per cent., less income tax, making, with the interim dividend already paid, 30 per cent., less tax, for the year, be declared and paid to holders of ordinary shares on the register at March 11, 1930.

In submitting the report and accounts for 1929, my task, in one sense, becomes a particularly easy one, or at any rate extremely agreeable, as the figures shown in the accounts represent another landmark in the successful history of the Pinchin, Johnson organisation, and reflect a condition of robust health, strength and progress throughout the undertaking.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS.

Our programme during the past year has been directed particularly to two features—the first being to effect a substantial step forward in the direction of consolidating, organising and developing various interests and extensions previously acquired, and secondly, we have made important extensions to our organisation. I refer first to the acquisition of a majority interest in an additional important Australian undertaking, which should be a valuable addition to the strength of our already large and important developments in the Commonwealth.

Then, again, we have made another step forward in the direction of consolidating our interests on the Continent of Europe. We had previously possessed various branches and units on the Continent, as well as a substantial holding in a progressive and growing Italian manufacturing unit. The arrangements have since been consolidated, and to-day we are not only firmly established on the Continent, but are in a position to go further with similar developments as the opportunity arises.

FURTHER ACQUISITIONS.

Since the close of the year we have extended our holding in an important North of England organisation, which again we are satisfied is a desirable adjunct to our other British interests.

Whilst these developments have been so actively proceeded with, we have at the same time effected further satisfactory progress with the undertakings previously within our control, with the result that our sales for 1929 again establish a further record.

Our production is on an even higher standard, and the net result represents a further substantial advance in profits.

These results have been attained during a year of unexampled international trade depression and difficulties. The depression of trade that has been a feature so pronounced in our own country, has been equally in evidence in many parts of the world, and has produced a set of conditions preventing the fullest benefit being obtained from our own domestic efforts.

RESOURCES AND FACILITIES.

That such satisfactory results should have been attained in conditions of extreme difficulty merely serves to indicate the possibilities of progress and growth when conditions in general become a little more normal.

One must not lose sight of the fact that during the latter part of the past year there was a substantial increase in the value of raw material commodities, in spite of which our selling values in the main are, if anything, on a slightly lower level. This carries with it a natural reduction in the rate of gross profit earned, but by larger production, more efficient handling of our business, and a reduction in costs and charges generally, it has been possible to produce this satisfactory result.

This improvement continues, and it is a feature that has the constant care and attention of our management and executive.

If I had to sum up in a few words the real reason for our success, I would say, apart from efficient production and organisation generally, it is the fact that we are in a position to cater for every type of product dealt with in our industry, and to give value that can be beaten by no other organisation, and equalled by few.

CONTINUED EXPANSION CONTEMPLATED.

Now, as to the prospects for the future. It is a very difficult matter to anticipate the course of events over a period of eight or nine months ahead. Added to this is the fact that conditions generally throughout the world are a little obscure and our own national and political situation is somewhat uncertain, but I take confidence from the fact that, first, the sales of our organisation to date this year show a further satisfactory advance over the corresponding period of 1929, also we have in mind the possibilities of substantial further expansion, in vew of which contingency we are making, at the extraordinary meeting which follows this gathering, provision for an increase in our capital.

Mr F. E. Powell seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

All retiring directors and the auditors were unanimously re-elected for the coming year.

The Chairman then expressed his warmest thanks to his co-directors and the staff, to which Mr R. Paltridge (managing director) responded.

The meeting terminated after a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr R. H. Ingham Clark.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL.

An extraordinary general meeting followed immediately, whereat the resolution to increase the capital of the company to £2,500,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 additional ordinary shares of 10s. each was unanimously carried.

The proceedings then terminated.

ODHAMS PRESS, LIMITED.

RECORD GROSS AND NET PROFIT.

The tenth annual general meeting of Odhams Press, Ltd., was held, on the 26th instant, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London.

Mr W. J. B. Odhams (the chairman) said that the net profit for the year was the record figure of £203,653, which compared with £176,783 for 1928, £151,753 for 1927, and £116,872 for 1926. They were able to say of last year's working, as they did of that preceding it, that the business of the company continued to grow, that they had had a larger gross turnover, a larger gross profit and a larger net profit than in any previous year of the company's existence. They were providing every year more and more employment for compositors, machine men, warehousemen, and all the many other classes of workmen engaged in the production of newspapers, in addition to their increased purchases of paper and materials. They were paying out in wages, apart from salaries, at the rate of over a million pounds a year. They were able to recommend a dividend of 17½ per cent. upon their ordinary shares.

Towards the net profit *The People* newspaper had contributed a reasonable return through the printing bills rendered week by week. A substantial profit had been made by that newspaper, and the net circulation, which had been under 300,000 some five years ago, was now over 2,350,000 copies.

In July last, Mr Elias had suggested the desirability of coming to an arrangement with the *Daily Herald* and developing it into a paper worthy of the large party it represented. Negotiations followed, lines of demarcation were agreed, and the result was the *Daily Herald* in the form made familiar to the shareholders during the last ten days. Naturally, the question of the political opinion of the paper had been keenly present in the minds of the directors. Ought Odhams Press to become interested in any paper whatever its politics when the views of the board and of the shareholders were necessarily of such great divergence? The answer which had finally prevailed with them all was that they were trustees, charged with the use of valuable plant and machinery with the object of earning the best return for some nine or ten thousand shareholders of all shades of opinion. In the new *Daily Herald* company they were investing £51,000 in ordinary shares and £324,000 in 7 per cent. debentures. To provide that amount and for the setting up of new works at Manchester, they had decided to issue the balance of their debentures, namely, £100,000, and the £340,000 of their unissued ordinary shares.

In conclusion, the chairman paid a tribute to the work done by the managing director, Mr Elias, and by the whole of the staff.

The report was adopted.

UNITED GLASS BOTTLE MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

RECORD INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AND SALES.

DIVIDEND RAISED TO 7½ PER CENT.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the United Glass Bottle Manufacturers, Ltd., was held, on the 26th instant, at the registered office, 40-43, Norfolk Street, Strand, London.

Mr George E. Alexander, O.B.E. (chairman and managing director) presided.

The Acting-Secretary (Mr S. S. Kenyon), having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said : Referring to the balance sheet first, it will be seen that the increase in buildings, plant and machinery (after writing off depreciation £64,378 1s. 5d.) amounts to £15,823 3s. 7d. (all repairs and renewals having been efficiently maintained and charged to revenue); and house property, trade and other investments to £6,944 15s. 11d. The stocks and stores on hand, trade debtors and cash in hand show an increase of £110,738 19s. 7d., which, after deducting the increase in creditors of £67,417 15s. 7d., shows a surplus of £43,321 4s. As I have informed you on previous occasions, the stock of bottles, which constitutes 71 per cent. of the item "Stock, Stores, Packages, etc.," is not stock accumulated in anticipation of demand, but with very minor exceptions, represents definite contracts which have been executed pending actual delivery to our customers—amongst whom we are proud to claim the largest users in this country of glass containers. Their requirements are spread over the whole year, not necessarily in regular intervals; but it is a matter of factory economy to execute these bulk orders by continuous runs even at the extra expense of carrying the finished ware in our warehouses.

APPROPRIATION OF PROFITS.

Turning to the profit and loss accounts, you will observe that the profits of the subsidiary companies (including interest on investments, etc.) amount to £245,428 3s. 6d., as compared with £191,863 4s. 11d., the corresponding figure for last year—an increase of £53,564 18s. 7d. After charging interest on debentures, income tax and directors' remuneration, etc., the amount of profit carried to the balance sheet is £146,750 15s. 8d., as compared with last year's balance of £104,054 18s. 3d. Taking the figure of net profits as above, and adding the sum carried forward from last year of £42,659 15s. 10d., the total amount with which we have to deal is £189,410 11s. 6d., out of which there have been paid an appropriated (1) preference dividend and preferred ordinary dividend for the half-year to June 30, 1929 (less tax), £20,993 2s.; (2) debenture redemption reserve, £9,826 12s. 6d.; (3) general reserve, £10,000; (4) capital reserve, £50,000; (5) staff benevolent fund, £8,000, and (6) since December 31st last, applied in payment of final dividend for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, on preference shares, £17,993 2s., and in respect of the dividend on the preferred ordinary shares, £3,000, leaving a balance of £69,597 15s., with which the directors propose dealing as follows :—

Payment of dividend on the ordinary shares of the company for the year ended December 31, 1929, at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum (less income tax) £25,051 16s.; leaving a balance to carry forward of £44,545 19s.

Reserves.—During the year further debenture stock was redeemed in accordance with the terms of the debenture trust deed, and the debenture redemption reserve now stands at £27,981. A sum of £10,000 has been transferred to general reserve, bringing this figure up to £100,000, and a sum of £50,000 to capital reserve, bringing this figure up to £200,000.

Increasing the capital reserve by such a considerable amount might give the impression that your board considers that the asset of land, fixed plant, machinery, etc., stands at too high a figure. I can assure you that such is not their opinion. It is solely a matter of prudence. In reviewing your company's assets, in particular its holding in subsidiaries and the various "Trade investments," your board naturally prefers to err on the side of conservative finance.

Staff Endowment and Benevolent Fund.—In the year 1925 the sum of £5,000 was appropriated from the profit and loss account to form a nucleus of a staff benevolent fund. As you are aware, your company was an amalgamation of old-established concerns, and took over a large number of employees with a long period of faithful and efficient service; many of whom had reached retirement age. There was no pension scheme or benevolent fund in operation, but from time to time pensions and temporary grants were made to members of the staff; the total amount paid for the five years to December 31, 1929, being £16,292. The board felt that some permanent provision should be made for the present members of the staff, and during the past year entered into an arrangement with one of the large insurance companies to provide pensions, group life insurance and other benefits, the cost of which is shared between members of the staff and your company.

Commercial Position.—Again I am pleased to report an increase in the quantity and bulk of the orders received, also an increase in the production and sales—all three creating new records.

WAREHOUSING BOON TO CUSTOMERS.

The miscellaneous nature of our manufacture naturally necessitates the carrying of larger stocks, and our factory warehouses last year were almost taxed to their limits. Your board, instead, however, of increasing these facilities, embarked on a new policy, viz., of establishing warehouses in the most important centres of the country, thereby giving better and quicker service to its customers. Such warehouses have been leased in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Huddersfield and Bristol, where stocks can be held almost at the customer's door, guaranteeing immediate delivery and obviating delays in transit that may arise from inclement weather and congestion on the railway systems from various unavoidable causes. This boon has been much appreciated by our large circle of customers, and has enhanced our already well-earned reputation for good service.

At the end of the year our unfilled order sheet was exceptionally satisfactory, and I am happy to state that new orders during the first months of the New Year have been ahead of the corresponding period last year. In view, however, of the general slackening of trade, it would have been surprising had we not experienced some reaction in the shape of a slowing down in our delivery instructions.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

The causes of the present trade situation, both at home and abroad, are manifold, and I do not propose to detain you with a long homily. But I feel compelled to draw attention to the ever-increasing extravagant schemes for social services constituting an exceptional burden on the British taxpayer and British industry in particular. I submit that our statesmen should have the foresight not to "kill the goose that lays the golden egg"; I suggest that they should look instead to other sources—if only for revenue-raising purposes, by making the foreigner contribute in return for the benefit conferred upon him in our open markets. (Hear, hear.)

I am pleased to say that as regards our export trade, mainly within the Empire, last year shows a very large increase over 1928. The remarks I made last year in reference to the expansion in the closure sales of our subsidiary company—now re-named Kork-n-Seal, Ltd.—apply to a much increased extent. The results of 1929 in production, sales and profits establish records. Our box factory at St. Helens has also largely increased its contribution towards the results of your company, the quality of its products becoming more and more recognised by the brewing and mineral-water trades.

SERVICES OF STAFF.

I cannot close my remarks without expressing our deep appreciation of the services rendered by the staff during the past year. Again our excellent results could only have been obtained by their loyalty and devotion to the interests of the company, and I am sure that shareholders will join the board in expressing our sincere thanks for their services.

I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts for the year, and that a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent per annum (less tax) on the ordinary shares of the company for the year ended December 31, 1929 (less tax at 4s. in the £), be paid.

Sir Max J. Bonn, K.B.E. (deputy-chairman), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr J. S. Cannington, the retiring directors, Sir Max J. Bonn, K.B.E., and Sir Walrond Sinclair, K.B.E., were re-elected.

VOTE OF THANKS.

The Hon. W. B. L. Barrington said he would like to be allowed to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, management and the staff for the extraordinarily good results which had been achieved by the company for 1929. They had had a most interesting and illuminating speech from the chairman, and he thought the shareholders could feel quite satisfied that they had such admirable gentlemen looking after the business. As was well known, the year 1929 had been a most difficult one, and the board must have had many problems to solve. He particularly wished to include in the resolution the chairman and Mr Moorshead, both of whom gave the whole of their time to the affairs of the company. As the chairman had stated, the staff had co-operated in a wonderful way, and it was marvellous what results had been achieved.

Major C. H. Campbell, in seconding the vote, also congratulated the board on the past year's results.

The vote was unanimously accorded, and the chairman and Mr T. C. Moorshead, M.Am.Soc.C.E., having briefly responded, the proceedings terminated.

INTERNATIONAL AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDENDS AND BONUSES MAINTAINED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the International Automatic Telephone Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at Winchester House, London, Sir Alexander Roger (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr C. H. W. Brougham) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The net profit for the year is £135,849, an increase of £5,025. Your directors recommend that a further £10,000 be transferred to reserve, and the payment of a final dividend at the rate of 6¼ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making a total of 10 per cent. (less income tax) for the year. A bonus of 2½ per cent. (less income tax) on the ordinary shares is also recommended. On the deferred shares there is recommended a dividend of 10 per cent. (less income tax) for the year and, in common with the ordinary shares, a bonus of 2½ per cent. (less income tax).

This is the second time a bonus of 2½ per cent. is recommended on ordinary and deferred shares, and your directors wish again to emphasise that these additional distributions should be regarded in the light of bonuses. Dividends and bonuses will take in all £82,625 (the same as last year), leaving £82,578 to be carried to the next account, as against £69,735 brought in from the previous year.

CONDITIONS IN THE INDUSTRY.

It was ten years ago—in 1920—that your company was formed, for the purpose of promoting sales in overseas markets of Strowger automatic telephone exchange equipment and other products manufactured by Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd., of Liverpool. This was done through the assistance of Automatic Electric, Incorporated, of Chicago, and affiliated American financial interests.

Since that time telephony has made gigantic strides. The telephone is becoming more and more universally adopted, and the art has progressed amazingly. Until a few years ago conversation between people remotely situated was possible only where physical links in the form of land lines, etc., existed, but to-day speech can be transmitted over almost any distance and speech distortion has been almost entirely eliminated from land and sea cables.

So far as the technical side of the business is concerned, I think we may safely say that we have remained in the forefront. Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd.'s, Strowger automatic system has been adopted as standard in Great Britain, U.S.A., Germany, Japan, Australia, etc.

Out of Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd.'s, works, and through our alliances and associations, we are able to place at the disposal of our customers all the advantages of pooled research and development both of a manufacturing and operating nature, and of technical and financial assistance and the economies consequent on the ability to purchase bulk supplies.

STRONG COMMERCIAL POSITION.

So far as the commercial side is concerned, I think we may be said also to have built up a strong position. It became quite apparent to the founders of the Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company that owing to the growing international character of telephony, both from the point of view of manufacturing and communications, they would have no continued success if they were to remain isolated. The formation of the International Automatic Telephone Company, Ltd., was the first stage towards breaking down that isolation, and, after some years of strenuous work, we have made very valuable alliances and connections, with the result that we are now a prominent link in an important chain of companies covering the U.S.A., Great Britain and Germany, and elsewhere, who together undertake :—

1. Engineering, construction, management and operation of complete telephone installations;

2. The examination, negotiation and acquisition of telephone concesssions; and

3. The financing of telephone operating properties and extensions to existing plant.

Throughout the period during which we have been achieving reasonably good and improving results we have been opposed in foreign markets, and to a certain extent at home, by groups representing capital many times in excess of our own. These combinations were making determined efforts to secure a monopoly both in international communications and of manufacturing interests, and although we made many attempts to interest capital in England for the purpose of developing telephone and other communications throughout the world, we were obliged ultimately to rely to a large extent on our friends in American in this and other directions.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE POWELL DUFFRYN STEAM COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS.

The annual general meeting of the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company, Ltd., was held, on the 27th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr Edmund L. Hann (acting chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, referring to the accounts, said that the temporary arrangements which were necessitated by the serious difficulties in the coal trade in 1926 for carrying out the company's marketing policy were not looked upon by the directors as being the ideal method of finance, and when opportunity occurred, they would lay before the shareholders a scheme which would have as its object the placing of the finance of the company upon a basis more in keeping with its needs.

He wished to say that the past year's results did not give a proper indication of the company's earning capacity. In order that shareholders might realise the position, it was only necessary for him to refer to the published figures of the ascertainment made of the working results of the South Wales coalfield by joint accountants on behalf of the owners and the men. These independently ascertained figures showed in respect of South Wales a loss for the whole of that coalfield for the year ended October 31, 1929, of 2·40d. per ton. As a contrast, the results for the three months, November, December and January last, which were the last published figures, showed for the whole South Wales coalfield a profit of 9·94d. per ton.

This would give shareholders an indication of the change which had taken place. It was true that trade in March had shown a decline, as a result probably of the mild winter and the consequent accumulation of stocks both at home and abroad, but, taking all in all, there had been a marked improvement in conditions. On the marketing side they were making good progress. Their working arrangements with Messrs Stephenson Clarke and its associated companies continued to develop in a most satisfactory way. They were working in the closest co-operation and in perfect harmony, and the results shown by the marketing side were most satisfactory and encouraging. Those companies, with the full concurrence of the Powell Duffryn board, were pursuing a very conservative financial policy.

While there was cause for gratification that the trading loss of £36,000 in 1928 had been converted into a trading profit of £309,000 for 1929, he confessed to a feeling of disappointment that the results were not even better.

OUTLOOK FOR COAL TRADE.

With regard to the outlook for the coal trade, while it was too much to expect that it could be really prosperous during a time of such depression in general trade, there was little doubt that the uncertainty of the political situation had aggravated the situation, and until the effect of the Coal Bill and the effect of the Budget were known, it was extremely difficult to give any indication of the probable course of events in the trade. He could only say that the results of working for the first two months of 1930 were a distinct improvement over the corresponding period of last year. The board's policy having been to strengthen and consolidate the company's position, when better times for the trade did arrive they would be in a position to make the best use of the opportunity. It must be remembered that the world's consumption of coal was gradually increasing, and that the rapidly increasing use of power and gas must continue to have its effect. Of the eventual recovery of the coal trade the directors had little doubt, and he thought there was justification for their confidence in the future of the company.

THE COAL BILL.

His remarks would be incomplete without some reference to the Coal Bill before the House of Commons, which had been the cause of so many differences of opinion among politicians and within the trade itself. The directors did not take the view that the provisions as to regulation of output, commonly referred to as the "quota," would be a detriment to the trade. On the contrary, it was his firm opinion that it was only by a proper regulation of output to meet market requirements that some measure of reasonable prosperity could be obtained and maintained for both capital and labour employed in the trade.

He deplored that at this moment, when the coal export trade of this country was in process of recovering so many of its lost markets, recovery should be jeopardised once more by Government interference, for the shortening of hours must of necessity increase the cost, and, with that increased cost, their competitors would be put in a stronger position at the expense of the British coal trade in those foreign markets.

The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

After a brief discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

V.O.C. HOLDING COMPANY, LIMITED.

AMALGAMATION WITH CONCESSIONS COMPANY.

SHAREHOLDERS' UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

An extraordinary general meeting of the V.O.C. Holding Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., to consider resolutions approving amalgamation with the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd.

Viscount Bearsted, M.C. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr W. A. Turner, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—As early as 1924 suggestions were made that our company's structure should be simplified. I do not propose to go into the difficulties which prevented our acting earlier upon these suggestions. You have been advised in the circular issued to you on February 27th that recent alterations in the law have made it possible, at a relatively small cost, to take this desirable action, and the consequent proposals are before you in detail. These proposals, if carried into effect, will result in your holding shares in the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., a company with articles of association similar to those of your company, of like number, and of the same class, and having identical rights to the shares you now hold in the V.O.C. Holding Company, Ltd.

THE EXCHANGE OF SHARES.

As stated in the circular, the agreements provide that all the assets of the Holding Company (excepting the shares in the Concessions Company held by the Holding Company) will be transferred to the Concessions Company. The Holding Company will receive a sufficient number of shares in the Concessions Company to place it in a position to distribute one ordinary share in the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., for each ordinary share in this company, and a 7 per cent. preference share for each preference share in this company. To enable this distribution to be made, the Holding Company will have to be placed in liquidation. The scheme will do away with duplication of board meetings and shareholders' meetings. It will simplify the accounts and reports, and it will give shareholders a direct interest in the operating company instead of an indirect one.

At a meeting of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., held just before this meeting, the sale agreement was confirmed, and the necessary resolutions for carrying the scheme into effect were passed, and you are now in the position (subject to the class meetings of shareholders to be held immediately after this meeting) to put the scheme into immediate operation if this meeting so elects.

NEW ISSUE OF ORDINARY CAPITAL.

At the Concessions Company meeting, an additional issue of 1,800,000 ordinary £1 shares was also authorised. These 1,800,000 ordinary shares will be offered to the Holding Company shareholders at par on the basis of one share for each three ordinary and/or preference shares held, and on the same basis to the individuals who hold the 135 outstanding shares in the Concessions Company.

The new capital is required to replace and release for dividend purposes profits utilised for capital expenditure in 1929 and this year to date and to provide working capital for the future. The money last raised by the V.O.C. companies amounted to £1,800,000, and represented an issue of 1,800,000 shares at par made at the beginning of 1927. At the time that that issue was made the company was in a somewhat similar position to that obtaining to-day, in that capital expenditure had been financed to a certain extent from profits. Shortly put, the total capital expenditure since the middle of 1926 has been met from the £1,800,000 raised in early 1927, plus sum set aside for depreciation each year and certain amounts taken earned but undivided profits. In the case of this last-mentioned perhaps only fair to state that certain of our profits divided, as, in our opinion, in a business such as the under such conditions as have ruled during the years, the rate of depreciation which the revenue he maximum is not as conservative as we consider

LARGEST PRODUCER IN VENEZUELA.

enditure in three and a half years (from the middle of end of 1929) has included a sum just under £1,600,000 ant and machinery, over £800,000 for the capitalised npleted new wells, about £470,000 for new tanks and 40,000 for new buildings, and £500,000 on land acquisums, together with expenditure on furniture, liveation units, etc., total over £4,000,000. While this ry large sum, I would point out that your company position in a remarkably short time of being the al producer of crude oil in Venezuela—the rate of the first half of 1926 having been about 30,000 tons per week, while during the year 1929 the average weekly production was about 125,000 tons. Your board are of the opinion that the important position which the company now occupies as a producer can be maintained.

Big production, however, necessarily involves large capital expenditure, and, while a very substantial part of the principal capital expenditure over the next few years will be met—if profits continue—from the depreciation account, the end of our important capital expenditure is by no means in sight, as sustained large production carries with it the necessity of developing new fields with the attendant outlay on drilling, housing, road construction, oil, water, mud and gas lines, field tankage, pumping stations, and wharves for receiving goods and loading oil.

I do not propose to discuss at this meeting the result of last year's operations, as it is not my practice to attempt to forecast results without having very definite information upon which to base the estimates, nor is it the object of this meeting. Every effort is being made to complete the audit of the accounts in time to hold the annual general meeting at about the same date as it was held last year.

I think, perhaps, a word from me on the subject of the attitude of this company toward rationalisation of the oil industry might be appropriate. We have already met with some success in our measures of stabilisation of production in Venezuela, but before the industry is placed in a really healthy condition much more has to be done not only in Venezuela, but in other oil-producing countries. Your board has always favoured the policy of rationalisation, and has done everything in its power to effect agreement toward that end with the other companies. The best evidence of our attitude is that we have only recently considerably reduced the V.O.C. drilling programme, as we feel that further expansion in production at this moment would be injurious to the efforts which are being generally made toward stabilisation of crude oil output to a point consistent with the consumption.

I shall be pleased to answer any questions with regard to the proposed amalgamation, and then I think it will be convenient if the resolutions which the secretary has read and which I now propose are put to the vote as a whole. I shall ask Sir Charles Wright to second these proposed resolutions. (Cheers.)

Colonel Sir W. Charles Wright, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., seconded the resolutions, and, in the absence of question or comment, they were carried unanimously.

The scheme was also unanimously approved at subsequent separate meetings of the holders of preference shares and ordinary shares.

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Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended March 22, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	6,200	From Revenue	25,008
Interest, &c., on Debt	217	Decrease in Balances	162
Sinking Fund	1,509		
Sundries	2,776		
Decrease in Debt	14,468		
	25,170		25,170

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £25,008,400, as compared with £28,259,000 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was lower at £9,613,000, against £11,468,000, but surtax and super-tax brought in £4,040,000, against £3,890,000. Customs and Excise amounted to £3,595,000, and £5,420,000,

against £3,878,000 and £4,866,000 respectively. Ordinary receipts brought in £18,500, as compared with £14,500, and special receipts, £9,500, against nil. With nine more days to run to the end of the financial year, the deficit amounts to £24,023,500, as compared with a surplus of £9,481,200 at the corresponding date last year. During the week the National Debt was reduced by £14,467,900, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 100	Treasury Bills	— 16,408
Public Dept. Advances	+ 700	Interest on National Savings Certificates	— 650
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 1,790		
	+ 2,590		— 17,058

The Floating Debt was reduced by £15,705,000 to £646,960,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO MARCH 22.

	£		£
Expenditure	729,093,842	Revenue	705,070,389
		Decreases in balance	3,546,220
		Amount borrowed	20,477,233
	729,093,842		729,093,842

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	263
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	320
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	600
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	48
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,537
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	108
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,645

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Mar. 23, '29. £	Mar. 2, '29. £	Mar. 22, '30. £	Movement Week ended Mar. 22, '30. £
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	23,900,000	26,140,000	48,080,000	+ 700,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	700,350,000	738,725,000	598,880,000*	— 16,405,000
Total Floating Debt	724,250,000	764,865,000	646,960,000	— 15,705,000

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

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on March 21, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £53,885,000. For bills at 3 months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 4d., about 57 per cent., and above in full; and Saturday, at £99 9s. 6d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at 3 months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
Jan. 24	30,000,000	50,635,000	3 19 0·18
Jan. 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
Feb. 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
Feb. 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
Feb. 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
Feb. 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
Mar. 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
Mar. 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
Mar. 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Mar. 22, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Mar. 23, 1929.	Week Ended Mar. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 23, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE					
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	239,500,000	225,535,000	226,458,000	9,613,000	11,468,000
Super-Tax	58,000,000	50,620,000	52,230,000	4,040,000	3,890,000
Estate, &c., Duties	81,000,000	77,470,000	78,480,000	2,070,000	2,750,000
Stamps	31,000,000	22,910,000	29,120,000	380,000	2,030,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700,000	810,000	810,000	800,000	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	800,000	820,000	780,000	60,000	60,000
Total Inland Revenue	412,000,000	378,165,000	387,878,000	16,963,000	20,198,000
Customs and Excise—					
Customs	119,850,000	117,254,000	117,339,000	3,595,000	3,878,000
Excise	130,550,000	126,600,000	133,091,000	5,420,000	4,866,000
Total Customs and Excise	250,400,000	243,854,000	250,430,000	9,015,000	8,744,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	4,700,000	4,689,468	4,226,067	...	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	8,900,000	9,900,000	9,200,000	*Dr1000000*	*Dr700,000*
Crown Lands	1,250,000	1,280,000	1,190,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	30,550,000	32,500,791	27,971,892	2,490	2,490
Miscellaneous :—					
Ordinary Receipts	12,500,000	10,175,716	12,791,549	18,451	14,493
Special Receipts	26,000,000	24,505,414	38,551,039	9,498	...
Total Ordinary Revenue	746,300,000	705,070,389	732,238,547	25,008,439	28,258,983
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.					
Post Office	59,105,000	56,800,000	54,900,000	2,000,000	1,700,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	81,705,000	78,681,532	76,030,933	2,000,000	1,700,000
Total		783,751,921	808,269,480	27,008,439	29,958,983
OTHER RECEIPTS.					
Temporary Advances Repaid—					
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Road Fund		2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—					
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928..		7,750,000	7,650,000	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928		6,550,000	11,690,000	230,000	260,000
(c) For other Issues :					
By Treasury Bills		2,925,213,000	2,676,735,000	36,902,000	48,797,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44		7,920,144	...	1,790,144	...
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64		153,617,590	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates		40,000,000	40,000,000	900,000	900,000
By National War Bonds		...	10	...	...
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35		...	93,603,348	...	...
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34		26,300,972	19,210,000	...	200,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances		698,925,000	581,564,000	12,820,000	6,499,000
Repayments—					
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares		4,899	5,733	...	...
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921		163,218	172,293	...	...
	1929. £	1928. £			
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—					
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513			
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112			
		6,252,524	6,322,625	...	...
Total		4,657,304,661	4,243,536,213	79,650,583	86,614,983

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1929–30 (including Supplementary Grants).	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 22, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 23, 1929.	Issues— Week Ended Mar. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 23, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	304,600,000	307,017,570	309,679,532		
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	15,000,000	12,069,437	13,554,324		
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,400,000	4,881,900	4,477,350		
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500,000	2,897,303	2,718,389		
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	375,397,000	355,636,399	338,250,148	6,200,	
Total Ordinary Expenditure	703,897,000	682,502,609	668,679,743	9,193,2	
Sinking Fund	50,400,000	46,591,233	54,077,609	1,509,	
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.					
Post Office	59,105,000	56,800,000	54,900,000	2,	
Road Fund	22,600,000	21,881,532	21,130,933		
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	81,705,000	78,681,532	76,030,933	2,	
TOTAL		807,775,374	798,788,285	12,	

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Mar. 22, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1928, to Mar. 23, 1929.	Issues— Week Ended Mar. 22, 1930.	Week Ended Mar. 23 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Interest on National Savings Certificates—	£	£	£	£
Paid in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge	2,150,000	...	650,000	...
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	6,550,000	11,690,000	230,000	260,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	9,900,000	9,950,000	...	...
Unemployment Insur. Acts, 1920–28 Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	4,830,000	774,432	...	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	3,026,575,000	2,503,330,000	53,310,000	60,300,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	43,350,000	39,950,000	800,000	900,000
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	7,426	3,061	...	...
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off	15,640,000	...	...	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	129,958,414	...	...
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	43,980,623	25,990,787	...	...
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000	...	...
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,206	...	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	687,895,000	719,514,000	12,120,000	2,299,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...	...	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—				
Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments	4,899	5,733	...	...
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—				
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000	...	...
	Mar. 22, 1930. £	Mar. 23, 1929. £		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,219,685	2,093,602	...	...
Bank of Ireland	486,619	606,607	2,706,304	2,700,209
			+ 209,375	+ 44,879
			— 371,000	+ 100,000
Total £			4,660,850,881	4,247,158,629
			79,812,208	86,470,104
			— 161,625	+ 144,879
			4,663,557,185	4,249,858,838

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, March 26, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	352,303,815	Other Government Securities	232,986,880
In Banking Department	62,840,063	Other Securities	11,537,685
		Silver Coin	4,460,335
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	155,143,878
	£415,143,878		£415,143,878

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	44,766,909
Rest	3,738,526	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	18,786,773	Discounts and Advances £6,110,557	
Other Deposits—		Securities 13,300,861	
Bankers £54,874,277			19,411,418
Other Accounts 35,916,736		Notes	62,640,063
	90,791,013	Gold and Silver Coin	852,691
Seven-Day and other Bills	1,769		
	£127,871,081		£127,871,081

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

	Amount. Mar. 26, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
	352,303,815	+ 3,413,614	— 9,482,201
	18,786,773	+ 5,904,093	— 918,126
	54,874,277	+ 7,212,196	— 2,365,966
	35,916,736	+ 33,711	— 438,063
	1,769	— 28	— 1,012
	461,883,370	+ 2,139,194	— 14,205,368
	18,291,526	— 9,720	— 9,204
securities	288,768,889	+ 2,402,452	— 8,011,706
	6,110,557	+ 50,503	— 6,892,986
	24,838,546	— 2,071,362	— 1,204,285
ment	4,460,335	— 3,313	— 368,613
reserve)	155,996,569	+ 1,751,194	+ 2,263,018
n banking	63,692,754	— 1,662,420	+ 11,745,219
outside lia-			
nt only	58½%	— ½%	+ 13½%
deposits and e ratio")	33½%	+ ⅛%	+ ½%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£		%
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4
26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Feb. 5	244616294	10924481	151212106	32⅜	49894613	5602697	13914631	62521685	54⅛
12	244613696	10924838	151499219	32⅜	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043	56⅛
19	244615041	10924483	151638500	33⅛	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727	61⅛
26	244613290	10924645	151979238	34⅛	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073	65⅛
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198	33⅛	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223	60⅛
12	244593701	10944051	152622838	33⅛	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203	59⅛
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33⅛	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174	58⅛
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33⅛	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754	58⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 12	7,858,703	383,392	623,444	8,865,539
Week ended March 19	825,016	33,656	57,504	916,176
Week ended March 26	973,953	33,799	53,583	1,061,335
Total to date, 1930	9,657,672	450,847	734,531	10,843,050
Total to date, 1929	9,998,000	464,696	744,051	11,206,747
Increase or decrease in 1930	— 340,328	— 13,849	— 9,520	— 363,697
	= 3·4%	= 3·0%	= 1·3%	= 3·2%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of February. 1929. £	Month of February. 1930. £	Month of February. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 22. 1929. £	Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 22. 1930. £
Number of Working days	24	24			
BIRMINGHAM	12,233,000	10,037,000	— 17·9	33,640,400	31,326,800
BRADFORD	5,058,000	3,913,000	— 22·6	14,422,400	11,361,200
BRISTOL	5,445,000	4,747,000	— 12·8	15,283,000	13,696,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	59,563,000	57,563,500
HULL	3,818,000	3,332,000	— 12·7	11,226,000	10,043,800
LEEDS	4,540,000	4,108,000	— 9·5	12,588,500	12,075,700
LEICESTER	3,593,000	3,048,000	— 15·1	9,448,200	10,176,900
LIVERPOOL	34,080,000	30,359,000	— 10·9	101,003,600	88,037,200
MANCHESTER	55,589,000	49,233,000	— 11·4	159,228,600	141,138,300
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,374,000	6,199,000	— 2·7	17,651,000	17,371,600
NOTTINGHAM	2,651,000	2,500,000	— 5·6	7,994,600	7,620,300
SHEFFIELD	4,437,000	3,951,000	— 10·9	12,770,900	11,708,900
Total	137,818,000	121,427,000	— 11·8	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Banks of Egypt and Lithuania, appeared in the *Economist* of March 15; Denmark, Russia, Greece, Poland, Japan, and Chile in March 22.

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

RESOURCES.	Mar. 28, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,709,260	2,995,520	3,039,160	3,036,040	3,051,000
Total bills discounted	1,024,130	308,620	266,340	205,630	206,830
Bills bought in open market	208,430	271,200	256,540	185,020	256,480
Total U.S. Govt. securities	170,310	486,140	514,110	561,440	529,000
Total bills and securities	1,409,710	1,078,190	1,049,070	960,870	1,001,090
Total resources	5,107,310	5,035,620	5,057,790	5,030,595	4,968,430
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,652,880	1,641,430	1,609,010	1,583,700	1,572,900
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,332,180	2,315,190	2,353,900	2,290,540	2,339,840
Total deposits	2,383,390	2,349,110	2,381,440	2,319,500	2,388,470
Capital paid in and surplus	408,710	449,000	449,150	449,180	451,220
Total liabilities	5,107,310	5,035,620	5,057,790	5,030,590	4,968,430
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	71·3%	79·8%	80·8%	82·5%	81·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Mar. 28, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
Total bills discounted	299,170	39,680	33,150	30,810	36,860
Bills bought in open market	35,820	65,090	60,560	74,306	105,750
Total U.S. Govt securities	20,150	222,380	233,430	252,970	219,520
Total bills and securities	357,240	337,350	337,190	297,960	368,880
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	938,780	932,450	957,230	917,940	954,720
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	77·3%	78·9%	79·6%	82·2%	77·7%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Sept. 30, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1930.	Dec. 31, 1930.
Cash and bank balances ...	515,804	482,136	537,665	495,609	468,789
Bank balances abroad	77,638	81,445	121,999	94,029	101,652
Call and short loans.........	558,493	594,187	520,619	531,947	507,461
Securities	524,561	487,498	487,481	475,370	448,410
Loans in Canada	1,334,220	1,529,239	1,596,233	1,576,245	1,531,720
Loans abroad	262,498	235,119	241,866	241,319	250,638
Other assets	196,486	205,278	204,832	219,436	212,419
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	186,087	196,895	185,086	187,004	175,497
Deposits—					
Government	135,461	158,528	204,003	205,313	173,305
Public in Canada	2,235,308	2,229,990	2,255,814	2,181,938	2,163,720
Foreign	382,577	423,803	423,146	453,598	441,622
Bank balances—					
Canadian	16,705	14,433	24,410	13,463	14,865
Foreign	118,275	133,948	162,448	135,488	107,983
Bills payable, &c............	116,874	117,664	117,704	132,328	120,785
Capital and rest	260,560	296,287	298,704	300,795	301,029
Other liabilities	3,879	4,862	6,256	9,847	5,480

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 1, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion.........	7,623	7,914	7,884	7,975	8,074	7,680
Subsidiary coin	106	105	107	114	118	114
Bills discounted	9,560	9,107	8,111	7,370	7,555	8,570
Investments.....................	782	749	849	766	746	757
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,419	9,156	8,326	7,775	7,472	9,032
Government deposits	1,699	1,740	1,359	1,662	2,162	2,573
Bankers' deposits	5,001	5,178	4,785	5,009	5,388	4,860
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	46·3%	48·2%	52·4%	54·1%	52·1%	47·1%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 1, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Total securities	21,42,64	32,64,08	32,24,09	32,15,08	31,37,75	30,57,33
Loans	14,20,51	7,71,57	8,85,49	8,37,52	7,41,47	7,66,45
Cash credits	32,75,31	30,13,85	30,59,42	31,45,03	31,58,47	31,85,90
Inland bills............	11,73,90	7,15,89	7,37,56	7,88,36	7,68,40	7,36,45
Foreign bills	38,12	43,68	45,75	45,49	41,49	35,68
Dead stock	2,83,14	2,79,79	2,80,17	2,80,54	2,80,74	2,80,52
Bal. with other banks	2,77	18,25	3,90	12,26	25,73	20,45
Cash	13,34,35	16,35,80	12,09,40	12,93,52	16,05,46	18,51,03
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits.........	79,28,84	86,15,97	83,16,27	84,86,06	86,22,16	88,03,05
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	846	821	752	778	779	748
Advances in London	912	726	730	711	667	663
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	15	133	27	90	195	151

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.
Gold	34,121,356	42,855,470	42,753,011	42,593,848	42,552,241
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	10,709,977	6,955,712	6,959,689	6,936,971	6,932,262
Bills discounted ...	18,322,815	18,798,135	18,775,599	18,771,751	18,782,845
Commercial bills discounted at home...	4,897,439	5,245,135	5,626,538	5,428,441	5,244,916
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,652,545	8,695,544	8,595,545	8,595,545
Other advances ...	2,330,272	2,657,830	2,634,594	2,593,650	...
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,263,862	3,966,163	2,859,394	2,718,445	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	62,627,198	71,116,069	70,373,157	69,969,736	69,586,695
Public deposits	11,421,153	8,767,349	8,509,729	8,129,865	7,351,880
Private deposits	6,415,797	6,772,767	6,760,221	7,089,359	7,829,071
Other liabilities	2,121,196	2,474,805	2,561,666	2,449,691	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,646,946	2,462,149	2,480,458	2,491,789
Of which deposited abroad	94,031	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	66,970	401,801	411,924	450,626
Bills of exchange and cheques...........	1,672,868	1,933,186	1,639,426	1,504,718
Silver and other coin	135,269	138,446	153,866	165,683
Notes of other German banks	21,956	12,243	19,103	21,074
Advances	43,609	95,573	68,345	55,627
Investments	93,136	93,246	93,246	93,245
Other assets	528,783	516,764	502,509	563,841
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,213	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,032,997	4,480,231	4,266,015	4,109,157
Other daily maturing obligations	528,255	530,286	458,514	593,104
Other liabilities..............................	205,889	148,964	150,421	150,415

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Mar. 21, 1929.	Feb. 27, 1930.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
Gold	(b)	907,681	1,178,703	1,178,740	1,180,537	1,180,664
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	463,806	547,595	539,309	549,863	549,043
Silver and other coin		1,474	3,131	3,168	3,367	3,468
Securities..............	697,600	728,508	808,045	808,910	821,707	800,248
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	934,150	2,380,055	2,798,343	2,800,492	2,793,567	2,772,121
Current accounts ...	112,125	87,649	92,076	84,622	118,858	102,956

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Mar. 18, 1929.	Feb. 24, 1930,	Mar. 3, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 17, 1930.
Gold	163,092	434,313	437,006	436,992	436,982	431,973
Silver	8,436	21,232	27,071	26,815	26,885	26,778
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	141,822	51,177	57,544	56,857	51,794
Foreign Bills		64,342	200,708	200,852	200,911	204,006
Loans and advances in current acct...		102,815	79,057	108,341	84,408	88,926
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	783,133	782,666	828,245	801,612	791,237
Deposits	5,016	11,479	23,474	19,845	17,476	17,683

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Mar. 23, 1929.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,766	169,400	168,000	166,400	167,500
Silver	29,785	19,051				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	133,703	136,200	139,900	136,300	135,900
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	307,793	275,800	285,200	281,600	273,100
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	41,639	30,800	30,800	30,100	36,900

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,318	560,934	560,944	560,955	560,978
Silver	18,350	45,546	21,686	29,415	19,428	19,729
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad.........	...	201,603	343,839	344,968	352,682	332,990
Discounts	...	139,689	78,012	77,690	74,521	75,833
Advances	103,000	68,677	42,002	43,964	41,254	40,318
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation...	275,925	802,275	893,120	864,909	843,263	830,033
Deposits	33,750	119,632	128,504	157,774	193,223	196,813

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 10, 1929.	Feb. 10, 1930.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,077,538	5,189,700	5,189,800	5,189,900	5,189,900
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,401,577	4,872,500	4,786,400	4,851,900	4,931,200
Other cash	251,447	209,700	219,000	221,300	220,200
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,187	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100
Discounts	3,439,658	3,417,500	3,292,200	3,213,900	3,063,400
Advances...........................	1,584,086	980,500	988,000	1,367,800	1,345,100
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,077,341	803,700	803,700	776,600	776,600
Government securities	1,042,929	1,053,300	1,053,000	1,052,200	1,051,400
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,060,113	16,085,400	15,716,000	16,091,800	15,924,800
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts..........	2,146,178	1,794,300	1,981,100	1,665,600	1,589,600
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	56·63%	55·35%	55·43%	55·61%	56·82%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, 1929.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold..............................	235,090	243,949	243,865	243,810	243,770
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	51,359	53,199	53,199
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	743	157	157	122	122
Bills payable in Sweden†	205,605	183,856	167,629	164,031	158,875
" " abroad	77,904	104,715	107,587	106,090	104,283
Balance abroad	36,762	78,181	77,228	76,745	91,057
Advances made on government securities and bonds†...........	58,604	63,781	57,668	62,574	46,599
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	471,299	538,618	503,925	519,633	494,293
Government deposits..............	175,516	160,161	165,333	159,978	165,304
Private deposits.....................	6,938	3,079	5,773	5,317	4,041

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,839	146,620	146,619	146,616
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	35,539	26,969	27,968	32,415
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,083	26,083	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	262,466	232,628	223,854	228,976
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	296,008	297,064	292,958	290,97[illegible]
Deposits at sight	7,188	92,518	68,182	67,102	77,4[illegible]

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Mar 23, 1929.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,587	2,466,866	2,466,988	2,467,704	2,468,2[illegible]
Silver................	728,600	716,108	713,527	707,994	708,838	710,44[illegible]
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,899,221	2,144,015	2,178,433	2,129,691	2,093,782
Spanish 4% stock..	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,238,667	4,430,699	4,472,070	4,446,824	4,381,682
Deposits	477,500	959,049	894,647	859,988	862,554	830,[illegible]

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 13, 1929.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	[illegible]
Coin and bullion	9,991	8,797	8,772	[illegible]
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	[illegible]
Balances abroad	332,635	283,553	274,527	[illegible]
Discounts	279,312	360,898	359,015	[illegible]
Government loans	1,754,194	1,691,278	1,681,663	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.				
Notes in circulation	1,873,647	1,903,500	1,905,939	[illegible]
Deposits	71,116	72,318	76,876	[illegible]

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	[illegible]
Cash Reserve—				
Gold coin and bullion ...	168,752	168,634	168,634	[illegible]
Foreign exchange.........	206,917	198,204	204,296	[illegible]
Other foreign exchange† ...	356,291	306,558	314,655	[illegible]
Bills discounted	131,232	193,043	234,23[illegible]	[illegible]
Gov. Debt....................	112,385	108,558	108,55[illegible]	[illegible]
LIABILITIES.				
Share capital................	43,200	43,200	43,20[illegible]	[illegible]
Reserve fund................	9,283	9,283	9,283	[illegible]
Notes in circulation.........	892,209	840,748	974,483	[illegible]
Deposits.......................	86,875	137,579	58,924	[illegible]

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion..................	204,427	162,629	162,627	162,626	162,628
Drafts and notes........................	37,674	27,968	25,450	16,279	12,272
Silver coin and bullion	10,068	10,457	10,287	10,270	10,397
Inland bills, warrants and securities...	299,909	232,227	226,830	212,325	207,766
Advances to the Treasury	92,296	82,937	82,937	82,900	82,900
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation.......................	405,350	379,300	441,385	405,549	388,597
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	233,654	145,612	76,874	88,129	88,031

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,205,987	1,261,810	1,261,826	1,261,833	1,261,887
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,786,054	2,011,013	1,980,286	1,963,560	1,963,560
Discounts and advances ...	215,425	261,734	292,102	322,901	294,679
State notes debt balance...	4,042,974	3,736,758	3,709,035	3,705,148	3,704,105
Other assets	830,028	662,077	699,891	662,061	598,192
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation...	6,582,304	6,101,807	6,837,731	6,555,153	6,271,800
Check account balances ...	770,963	1,034,410	395,065	649,595	789,363
Other liabilities	254,607	316,753	201,983	202,367	216,515

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Gold	91,542	95,962	96,006	96,078	96,150
Other coin and notes	18,668	18,425	18,410	18,732	18,337
Foreign credits	178,587	291,340	291,065	321,650	291,226
Bills	1,357,617	1,156,270	1,141,192	1,134,173	1,091,730
Government advances	4,201,167	4,143,094	4,143,097	4,139,100	4,135,380
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,167,142	5,389,532	5,559,628	5,484,624	5,334,841
State credits	227,893	195,910	195,913	191,917	189,916
Deposits	1,033,680	1,867,645	1,731,871	1,830,399	1,848,155

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 1, 1930.	Feb. 8, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	14,160,013	13,908,586	13,088,238	12,836,464	12,497,554
Commercial bills......	8,649,757	8,980,726	8,828,120	8,800,407	9,282,898
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,630,510	4,317,426	4,597,426	5,197,426	5,797,426
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation .	19,717,004	19,602,267	19,699,894	19,518,434	19,957,381
Other sight liabilities	9,905,434	9,487,636	8,615,701	8,486,897	8,603,596

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,505,741	1,568,212	1,569,598	1,570,480	1,571,166
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,943,349	717,490	724,269	778,598	666,245
Discounts and advances ...	1,425,000	1,267,616	1,291,526	1,281,901	1,264,864
Advances to the Treasury..	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up...............	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,206	1,251,268	1,251,782	1,251,986	1,252,222
Bank notes in circulation ..	3,915,515	3,211,208	3,147,651	3,251,892	3,236,064
Sight liabilities..............	3,137,347	1,795,871	1,886,673	1,821,993	1,743,455
Deposits........................	470,591	320,760	319,406	319,056	318,551

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
[illegible]old...............................	35,091	302,881	300,967	300,766	300,617
[illegible]lance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	756,636	756,272	938,475	974,685
[illegible]nish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	321,409	321,793	321,393
[illegible]iscounts and loans	105,151	1,478,207	1,372,126	1,335,596	1,304,576
LIABILITIES.					
[illegible]otes in circulation	123,941	1,544,167	1,368,979	1,385,431	1,406,724
[illegible]eposits at notice	21,225	306,753	307,923	427,576	414,874

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,234	6,448	6,450	6,453	6,455
[illegible] foreign exchange	22,692	18,244	18,134	20,906	20,437
[illegible] Estonian coin..................	814	725	967	984	1,150
[illegible] discounted	14,778	15,585	15,462	15,207	15,245
[illegible]ances	15,692	12,725	12,800	12,467	12,736*
[illegible]ABILITIES.					
[illegible]on	34,243	33,838	33,322	32,375	32,541
[illegible] current accounts....	21,007	15,062	15,881	20,310	19,816
[illegible]urrent liabilities...	52·35%	50·49%	49·96%	51·93%	51·36%

[illegible]es Ekr. 7,790,814·88, guaranteed by the Government.

[illegible]ATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

	Mar. 20, 1929.	Feb. 19, 1930.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.
[illegible]	23,802	23,948	23,948	23,957	23,955	47,132
[illegible]	4,754	6,227	5,946	5,821	6,498	17,010
[illegible]	64,279	43,187	45,404	47,066	47,574	3,662
[illegible]ange	10,744	14,553	12,362	11,294	12,277	3,500
[illegible]	82,723	94,328	94,452	94,577	92,991	16,283
[illegible]	48,921	52,830	53,704	54,029	54,404	60,739
[illegible]	15,610	14,190	13,745	13,634	14,036	94,477
[illegible]	43,824	46,829	48,586	48,125	47,194	10,575
[illegible]	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	23,966
[illegible]	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	6,598
[illegible]	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	48,447
[illegible]	12,528	15,847	15,905	16,037	16,202	12,631
[illegible]	59,784	64,988	66,283	64,024	59,914	93,140
[illegible]	100,697	86,868	84,388	88,669	94,128	54,411
[illegible]	12,828	10,557	10,228	9,350	10,124	14,187

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion...	2,805	2,747	3,332	3,125	3,413	3,167	3,516
Of which gold coin	8	12	12	12	12	12	112
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,797	2,735	3,320	3,113	3,401	3,155	3,403
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes........	12,277	16,660	10,922	13,969	12,779	14,502	11,518
Bills of exchange...	22,058	21,742	19,933	20,481	18,872	20,155	20,565
Loans	...	685	...	...	20	...	140
Foreign exchange	12,295	12,433	12,439	13,883	11,429	13,328	10,338
Other bals.on dem'd	672	798	979	5	24	32	7
Securities	3,403	2,810	2,810	2,703	2,703	2,703	2,703
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up....	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,503	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	33,166	37,797	31,180	36,281	31,012	36,045	31,615
Deposits on demand	2,168	3,398	1,800	1,333	1,842	1,696	[illegible]1,746

LONDON RATES.

	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 24, 1930.	Mar. 25, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼
3 months' do.	2 7/16	2 3/16—¼	2⅛—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16
4 months' do.	2 7/16	2¼	2 3/16—¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2 3/16—¼
6 months' do.	2½	2½	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2½—7/16	2 5/16	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2¼	2¼
3 months'‡	2½	2 3/16	2 1/16—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2 3/16
Loans—Day to day.........	2¼	2—2½	2—2½	2½—3	2½—3	2½—¾	—
Short........................	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½—2¾	2½—¾	2½
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call ...	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 6	3½–4	3 5/16–⅜	3 5/16–⅜	3 5/16–⅜	4	4½	5
13	3½–4	3 1/16–⅛	3 1/16–⅛	3 1/16–⅛	4–4½	4½–5	5
20	3	2 11/16–¾	2¾	2¾	4–4½	4½–4¾	4¾–5
27	2½	2 9/16	2¾–¼	2¼	3½	3¾	4–4½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Mar. 27, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·85 9/32–11/32	4·86½–86 9/16	4·86 9/16–86⅝
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·88⅝–⅞	4·86½–86⅝	4·86⅝–86⅞
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·17–20	124·30 33	124·26–29
Berlin............	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46–46½	†20·38–38½	20·37½–38
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·10⅞–11	12·12⅜–12⅝	12·12⅜–12½
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94–94½	34 88½–89	34·87½–88
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·70–72	92·87–89	92·80–82
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·22½–23	25·12–12½	25·13–13½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–19¾	8·16¾–17¼	18·16¾–17¼
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–17	18·09¾–10¼	18·09½–09¾
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·21½–21¾	18·16–16½	18·16–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	32·14–17	38·55–60	39·15–20
Lisbon...........	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	107¾–108¼	108¼–5/16	108¼–108¾
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·50–55	34·49·51	34·53–56
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅝–⅞	104–104⅛	164⅛–164¼
Belgrade.........	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276¼–¾	275½–275¾	275½–275¾
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–88	27·82–85	27·84–87
Bukarest.........	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	813·816	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	674·677	669–674	670–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	374¾–375¼	374½–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	990–995	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–44	†9·438–457	†9·44–46
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–7/16	43⅜–43½
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193	193 1/16–193 3/16	193
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49½	48½–49½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·15–25	25·17–27
Alexandria......	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 15/32–17/32	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16
Buenos Aires .	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47¼–9/32	42 3/32–5/32	42⅛–42 3/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 53/64–55/64	5 11/32–13/32	5 11/32–5 13/32
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	49¾–50¼	43⅝–44⅛	44½–45
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·52	39·87	39·94
Lima..............	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	29½% prem.	24½% prem.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/6–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 29/32–1/5 15/16
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11¾–2/0 1/16	1/6½–1/6¾	1/6 5/16–1/6 11/16
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6½–2/7 1/16	1/11½–1/11⅝	1/11 5/16–1/11¾
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3¾–2/3 27/32	2/3 13/16–15/16	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10–1/10 1/16	2/0 13/16–15/16	2/0⅞ 2/0 15/16
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 3/16d.	†2s. 0 3/16d.	†2/0 3/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·95–10·20	10·10–30	10·15–35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅝	1/10⅝

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam.......	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens............	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris..........	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin.............	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Bucharest........	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Budapest.........	Feb. 12, 1930	7	6½	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta..........	Oct. 31, 1929	6	7	Stockholm...	Mar. 6, 1930	4½	4
Copenhagen......	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Swiss Bank places......	Oct. 22, 1925	4	3½
Danzig............	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Tokio.........	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Kovno.............	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Warsaw......	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Lisbon............	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4½	4
New York Federal Reserve....	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½				
Madrid............	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Mar. 27, 1929.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	15	4½	4	4	3	3½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8	4¾	4¾	4½	4	4
Bank acceptances :—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅞	3⅝	3½	3½	2⅞
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅞	3⅝	3½	3½	2⅞
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅛	4⅛	4⅛	3⅞	3½	3⅜
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅝	4½	4½	4½	4	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Mar. 27, 1929.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80	4·83	4·83 7/16	4·84½
Cable	Dollars for £1		4·85⅜	4·86 3/16	4·86 5/16	4·86 1/16
Cheques	Dollars for £1		4·84¾	4·85 15/16	4·86 1/16	4·86 7/16
Paris ......cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9050	3·91 3/16	3·91	3·91½
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·89	13·93	13·925	13·955
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23¼	19·34	19·345	19·30
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23¼	5·23⅜	5·23¼	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·70	23·83	23·835	23·86
Vienna ,,	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·06	14·08	14·08	14·09
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·09	12·34	12·50	12·44
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·04	40·06½	40·075	40·13
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·63	26·74	26·755	26·79
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·645	26·73	26·745	26·785
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·70	26·825	26·835	26·88
Athens ,,	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29⅜	1·29⅜	1·29⅜	1·29⅝
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	3/16 dis.	25/64 dis.	1/32 dis.	1/32 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·5	49·30	49·40	49·45
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·95	37·55	37·50	37·50
Shanghai ,,	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	62·25	48·00	47·25	47·25
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·34	36·14	36·07	36·06
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	117·30	117·00	116·10
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·75	11·60	11·55	11·75
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·60
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	¼% dis.	par to ¼% pm.	¾% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	3/16% dis.	¾ to 9/16% ,,
30 days	1⅞% ,,	9/16% ,,	¾% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2¼% ,,	¾% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	3/16% ,,
120 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 5/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying.		Selling.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93¼	97	...	...	106½	103¾
Demand	92⅝	95½	93½	96⅝	105⅜	101⅝	106 1/16	103
30 days	92 1/16	94 11/16	...	...	104¾	101⅛	105⅝	102⅝
60 days	91½	94⅜	...	...	104 3/16	100⅞	105 3/16	102¼
90 days	90 15/16	93 13/16	...	...	103⅝	100⅝	104¾	101⅞

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending March 22, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended March 27, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
France	15,509	Germany	17,040
Argentine Republic	26,000	Netherlands	2,023
British South Africa	211,718	France	16,209
Australia	3,000,000	Switzerland	12,000
		Italy	250,086
		Austria	4,100
		Morocco	2,000
		Straits Settlements	9,900
Total declared value of imports	3,253,227	Total declared value of exports	313,358

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Mar. 21	Bars bought	2,952	Mar. 21	Sovs. set aside	500,000
	Foreign coin bought	16		Sovs. for export	2,000
Mar. 22	Sovs. from abroad	2,000,000	Mar. 22		Nil
	Bars bought	206	Mar. 24		Nil
Mar. 24		Nil	Mar. 25		Nil
Mar. 25	Bars bought	151,300	Mar. 26		Nil
Mar. 26		Nil	Mar. 27		Nil
Mar. 27	Sovs. from abroad	1,000,000			
	Bars bought	1.030			
	Total	3,155,504		Total	502,000

Net arrivals, £2,653,504.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on March 26, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £153,458,058 on the 19th instant (as compared with £151,873,749 on the previous Wednesday), and represents a decrease of £448,257 since April 29, 1925, when an effective gold standard was resumed. In the open market yesterday only £212,000 bar gold from South Africa was on offer. There was, however, little demand, Indian requirements being £35,000 and those of the Home and Continental trade £23,000. The price was fixed at 84s. 10d. per fine ounce, but the Bank of England obtained about £151,000 at the statutory buying price. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £1,677,982 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £2,179,982, which included £2,000,000 in sovereigns from Australia, and of the withdrawals £500,000 was in sovereigns "set aside."

SILVER.

The feature of the week was a sharp rise on the 20th instant of ⅝d., which carried quotations to 20d. and 19 13/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively. This was attributable to paucity of offerings as well as to demand from China and India. Although the market appeared overstrained, the rise created some nervousness on the part of bears, and covering orders were at first sufficient to prevent any sharp relapse. Yesterday, however, following some re-selling by the Indian Bazaars, prices were quoted 19½d. and 19 7/16d. after a fall of ¼d. and 3/16d. in the cash and two months' quotations respectively. To-day rates again eased slightly to 19 7/16d. and 19⅜d. India and China both bought and sold, whilst America offered to sell fairly freely, especially at the higher rates.

The difference between the quotations has narrowed to 1/16d.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 17th instant to mid-day on the 24th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Netherlands	9,350	British India	169,061
Germany	13,047	Other countries	2,913
France	161,313		
Egypt	14,046		
U.S.A.	125,769		
Mexico	95,076		
Canada	16,188		
Other countries	7,090		
	£441,879		£171,974

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Mar. 22.	Mar. 15.	Mar. 7.
Notes in circulation	18,057	17,967	18,171
Silver coin and bullion in India	10,957	10,867	10,761
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,873	3,873	3,873
Securities (British Government)	...	...	310

The stocks in Shanghai on the 22nd instant consisted of about 94,600,000 ounces in sycee, 139,000,000 dollars, 23,500,000 Saigon dollars and 17,600 silver bars, as compared with about 93,800,000 ounces in sycee, 136,000,000 dollars, 5,400,000 Saigon dollars and 7,140 silver bars on the 15th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.	
Mar. 21	84 11	19 15/16	19¾	Mar. 23,
,, 22	84 11	19⅞	19 11/16	,, 28,
,, 24	84 11	19¾	19⅝	,, 27
,, 25	84 10	19½	19 7/16	,, 26
,, 26	84 11	19 7/16	19⅜	,, 25
,, 27	84 11	19⅝	19½	,, 22,

NOTICES.

The Imperial Bank of Persia announce that M[illegible] has retired from the post of manager at the Londo[n] retain his seat on the board. Mr E. M. Eldrid, has been appointed manager, and Mr F. Hale su[illegible]

A branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial has been opened at Eloff Street South, Johannesbur[g] and the sub-branch at Heliopolis (Egypt) has been a full branch.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening of a new branch at 162, Kenton Road, Kenton, Middlesex.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 12, Manchester Road, Denton, near Manchester, and in Evesham Road, Astwood Bank, near Redditch.

Mr Allen Gilbert Bartholomew has been appointed a general manager of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that sub-branches of the bank are now open at Holt, Norfolk; at Wells, Norfolk; at Stainland (Yorks).

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Argentine Great Western	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
B. A. and Pacific Railway	3%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Bengal Dooars Railway	4%*	...	Less tax	...	...
San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway	5%†	...	Tax free	10e	...
Southern Railway of U.S.A.	...	...	...	$8 p.s.	$8 p.s.
Taital Railway Co.	2/- p.s.*	Apr. 15	Tax free	...	...
BANKS.					
Banco Nacional Ultramarino	...	...	...	22	22
Bank of Scotland	9%†	...	Less tax	18	18
Barmer Bank-Verein	...	...	...	10	...
Central Bank of India	...	...	Tax free	6	...
National Bank of Egypt	14%†	...	Less tax	18	18
INSURANCE.					
Eagle Star & British Dominions Insurance	5%*	Apr. 1	Quarterly	...	...
Provident Accident and White Cross Insurance	37/6 p.s.†	plus bonus 30s. p.s.		£2 10s. p.s.	£2 10s. p.s.
World Auxiliary Insurance	6¼%†	...	Tax free	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Batu Caves Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Baudjatsarie (Java) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Cheviot Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Gula Kalumpong Rubber Estates	1/6 p.s.†	Apr. 9	Less tax	...	...
Kajang Rubber	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber Co.	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Lindoola Tea	30%†	...	Less tax	40	35
Mengkibol (Central Johore) Rub.	...	Mar. 31	Less tax	5	...
Mooloya Estates	30%†	Apr. 16	Less tax	45	45
Ouvah Ceylon Estates	20%†	Apr. 16	Less tax	27½	25
Parit-Benas (Malay) Rubber	2½%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Rosevale Rubber	3d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	18¾	13
Sampang (Java) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Seafield Rubber	...	Mar. 31	Less tax	5	10
Teluk Gong Rubber	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Vellikellie Tea of Ceylon	15%†	...	Less tax	25	25
MINING.					
Apex	...	...	Less tax	10	8¾
Central Provinces Manganese Cn.	15%†	...	Tax free	22½	22½
Gopeng Consolidated	9d. p.s.*	Apr. 7	Less tax	...	...
Rio Tinto	25%†	plus bonus of 5%		55	40
Robinson Deep	...	...	Less tax	1/6 p.s.	...
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates	6d. p.s.	May 3	Less tax	...	...
West African Diamond	5%*	Apr. 1	Second interim.	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberdeen Coal and Shipping	...	...	Tax free	2/- p.s. a	...
Albion Motor Car	12½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Alexander Thom	...	...	Less tax	11	11
Alfred Dunhill	5%†	...	Tax free	20	20
Apollinaris	...	...	...	1½	1
Australian Mercantile Land and Finance	2½%*	May 5	Tax free	...	...
A. W. Gamage	...	...	Less tax	5	7
Bradleys (Chepstow Place)	14%†	...	Less tax	20	20
Bright and Colson	...	...	Less tax	10	10
British Aluminium Co.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Bruce, Peebles and Co.	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Buttons	1/- p.s.†	...	Tax free	...	...
Canning Town Glass Works	...	...	Less tax	7½	5
Chicago-Gaika Development	5%†	...	Less tax	10	17½
Wor[illegible]ons	...	...	Less tax	20	17½
[illegible]es Iron	6%†	...	Lees tax	10	5
[illegible]inople Telephone	...	...	...	3½	3½
[illegible]rd Sons' Breweries	2/- p.s.†	...	Less tax	10	14
[illegible]Dis[illegible]wery	6%†	...	Less tax	9	8
[illegible]es, [illegible]wes Cement	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
[illegible]vestment Trust	7%†	...	Less tax	12	12
[illegible]	3%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
[illegible]bers	14%*	...	Less tax	10b	10
[illegible]n[illegible])	3½%†	...	Less tax	8½	7½
[illegible]n Ferries	...	...	Less tax	1/2 p.s.	1/1 ps.
[illegible]	...	...	Less tax	8	8
[illegible]a	1/6 p.s.†	...	Tax free	10	10
[illegible]Ord.	5%†	...	Less tax	8	8
[illegible]Deferred	...	...	Less tax	2	1½
[illegible]Co.	4½%†	...	Less tax	7	5
[illegible]l Sons	10%†	...	Tax free	15	15
[illegible]semer	...	...	Less tax	4	...
[illegible]o.	5%†	plus bonus of 2½%		12½	12½
[illegible]ons	...	...	Less tax	10	10
[illegible]	...	...	Less tax	20d	20
[illegible])	...	...	Less tax	10	10
[illegible]	...	...	...	2½	...
[illegible]	2½%*	Apr. 23	Less tax	...	...
[illegible]Cham Rubber	3½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
[illegible]	...	...	Less tax	10	...
[illegible]nvestment	4%*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
[illegible]	...	...	Less tax	7	...
[illegible]	...	...	Less tax	12½	...
[illegible]l Cattle	...	...	Less tax	10c	10
[illegible]	2½%†	...	Less tax	6¼	6
Nestlé & Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co.	...	...	Less tax	16	12
P. H. Galloway	...	...	Less tax	15	...
Paterson, Laing and Bruce	6%*	Apr. 1	Tax free	...	...
Petroleum Corpn. of America	37½c.p.s.*	Mar. 31	Quarterly	...	...
Pritchard and Constance (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	22½	...
Railway & General Investment Trust	2½%*	Mar. 31	Less tax	5	...
Rangoon Electric Tramway and Supply	1 rupee 4 annas p.s.	Apr. 29	Tax free	...	...
Reckitt and Sons	...	...	Less tax	22½	21¼
Robinson and Cleaver	4%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Tube	...	...	Less tax	2½	Nil
Second Caledonian Trust	8†	...	Less tax	7	6
Southern Stockholders Inv. Trust	2%*	Apr. 2	Less tax	...	...
South Metro. Elec. Light & Power	6%†	...	Less tax	9	8¼
Spratt's Patent (America)	1/6 p.s.†	Apr. 17	Less tax	12½	12½
St. Annes-on-Sea Land & Buildg.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	...
Steel Brothers (Def.)	3/- p.s.†	...	Tax free	50	...
Stewarts and Lloyds (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	1/6 p.s.	...
Third Scottish Western Investment Trust	9†	...	Less tax	8	7
Thomas Wolfe and Son (1907)	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	...
United Flexible Metallic Tubing	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Vickers	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Walker and Hombray	12%*	...	Quarterly	...	...
West Heat & Gas Electrical Generating Stations	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Willey and Co. Holding Trust	7%†	...	Less tax	13	...
William Melhuish	6d. p.s.†	...	Tax free	75	100
Wyndham's Marine Patents	5%†	...	Less tax	15	...

a Plus bonus of 6d. per share. *b* Plus bonus of 1s. per share. *c* Plus bonus of 7½%. *d* Plus bonus of 15%. *e* Plus bonus of 2%.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

ASSOCIATED PORTLAND NT MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

Decembe 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Ord. shares	3,000,000	+ 500,000	Freehold & leasehold est.	6,019,854	— 132,443
Pref. shares	2,319,720	+ 35,000	Stock-in-trade	523,735	+ 55,975
4½% deb. stock	1,807,888	— 38,088	Debtors	850,689	+ 39,732
5% second deb. stock	1,579,769	— 57,292	Investments at or under cost and loans	2,515,566	+ 37,226
Kent 5½% debs.	548,850	— 8,800	Cash and bills	390,878	+ 43,497
Creditors	599,804	+ 111,312			
Profit and loss	444,691	+ 1,855			
Total	10,300,722	+ 43,987	Total	10,300,722	+ 43,987

LIPTON, LIMITED.

January 4, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 5, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 5, 1929. £
First preference	500,000	— 500,000	Freeholds and leaseholds and estates	694,123	— 80,131
Second preference	300,000	— 300,000	Plant and machinery	383,380	— 249,437
Ordinary	222,500	— 1,027,500	Cash	141,030	+ 65,942
6% debentures	600,000	...	Government investments	71,679	— 2,001
4% debentures	500,000	...	Investments in subsidiary cos.	274,885	+ 84,346
Accrued deb. interest	5,767	...	Trade investm'ts	7,750	+ 7,750
Reserve	...	— 10,864	Debtors	469,367	+ 94,023
Unclaimed divs.	4,505	— 19	Stock	767,253	— 89,170
Bank	...	— 10,528	Goodwill	100,000	— 1,345,620
Creditors	641,518	+ 200,993			
Due to subsidiary company	16,800	+ 16,800			
Profit and loss	118,377	+ 116,820			
Total	2,909,467	— 1,514,298	Total	2,909,467	— 1,514,298

VICKERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
5% Pref. Stl.	750,000	...	Investments in Vickers-Armstrongs	6,282,870	+ 93,514
5% Pref. £1	750,000	...	Metropolitan-Cammell Co.	2,686,221	— 35,592
5% (Tax free) Pref. £1	6,863,807	...	Other Subsidiaries	3,665,656	+ 70,163
Ord. Shares (6/8) fully pd.	4,105,161	...	Stocks	...	— 62,466
Reserve	750,000	+ 250,000	Debtors	676,721	+ 277,240
5% Deb. Stk.	1,250,000	...	Owing by Subsidiaries	2,269,697	+ 710,573
5½ Deb. Stk.	2,000,000	...	Owing by Vickers-Armstrongs and Metropolitan-Cammell	...	— 561,232
Int. accrued	34,784	...	Investments in Unquoted Securities	245,952	— 7,564
Creditors	1,054,006	— 215,226	Quoted Securities	307,257	+ 86,765
Contingent Liabilities	3,266,404	+ 604,028	Bills receivable	312,243	+ 22,841
Owing to Subsidiaries	116,457	— 34,193	Cash	948,149	— 401,042
Final Pref. Divs.	201,595	...	British Govt. Securities	4,264,253	+ 436,853
Profit and Loss	741,485	+ 11,050	Colonial Govt. Securities	224,680	— 14,394
Total	21,883,699	+ 615,659	Total	21,883,699	+ 615,659

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company announce the retirement, on pension, as from February 28th, of Mr J. S. Proctor, who has held the position of Glasgow local manager for the last twenty years. To succeed Mr J. S. Proctor, whose retirement is announced, the directors of the London and Lancashire have appointed Mr Lancelot Paget as local manager at Glasgow. To succeed Mr Paget, the directors of the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company have appointed Mr David Wood as district manager at Glasgow.

The directors of the Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society announce that Mr G. J. Lidstone, LL.D., F.F.A., F.I.A., F.A.S., F.R.S.E., formerly manager and actuary of the society, has been appointed an ordinary director.

The next examination of candidates for admission to the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors will be held on May 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th in London, Manchester, Cardiff, Leeds, Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. Women are eligible under the society's regulations to qualify as Incorporated Accountants upon the same terms and conditions as are applicable to men. Particulars and forms are obtainable at the offices of the Society, Incorporated Accountants' Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2.

BANKS.

BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.—The net profit for year 1929, after deduction of Esc. 5,484,998 for contributions to the Portuguese State, and Esc. 40,651 interest on bonds, is Esc. 14,013,456, against Ecs. 13,950,506 for 1928. The following distribution is proposed:—To reserve funds, Esc. 1,562,080$00 (bringing amount up to Esc. 67,000,000); participating (working) shares of staff and pension fund, Esc. 526,306$81; dividend 22 per cent. (including interim dividend of 9 per cent., viz., Esc. 4,500,000 already distributed), Esc. 11,000,000$00, subject to Portuguese taxes; carried forward, Esc. 925,069$71.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.—The accounts fo the half-year ended December 31, 1929, as presented at the meeting of the shareholders held in Japan on the 10th inst., show net profit for the past half-year of 17,731,848 yen, including 10,420,920 yen brought forward from the preceding half-year. The amount was distributed as follows:—To reserve fund, 3,000,000 yen; dividend 10 per cent. per annum, 5,000,000 yen; special dividend of 3 per cent. in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, 3,000,000 yen; balance carried forward, 6,731,848 yen. An ordinary dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was declared as on the previous occasion, while a special anniversary dividend of 3 per cent. was also decided upon. Once again a sum of 3,000,000 yen has been placed to reserve, which brings the total amount of the reserve to 111,500,000 yen. The actual sum carried forward is less than the amount carried forward last half-year, principally by reason of the special anniversary dividend referred to. Another factor was the preparation for the lifting of the gold embargo, which affected certain transactions quite irrespective of the matter of profit. In conclusion, it may be added, however, that a greater volume of business than ever passed through the bank.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALFRED DUNHILL, LIMITED.—The seventh annual report and accounts shows a net profit for the year 1929 of £50,689 (last year £48,207). Adding the amount brought forward and deducting preference dividend and interim dividend paid on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent., free of income tax, there is a balance of £102,243 from which the directors recommend the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., free of income tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, free of income tax (last year same), leaving £92,243 to be carried forward (last year £91,553). The directors further declare an interim dividend of 5 per cent., free of income tax, on the ordinary shares on account of the current year. Cash is at £67,401, against £38,818. Meeting:—137, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W. 11, on March 28, 1930, at 11 a.m.

HARLAND AND WOLFF.—From the profit and lass account, now shown separately for the first time, the profits for 1929, after providing £300,000 for depreciation, amounted to £374,874. For 1928 the net balance, after meeting wear and tear, was £204,355. A sum of £115,615 is written off investments, and income tax takes £42,509. The sum carried forward is £132,307, against £107,558. The company has a reserve fund of £1,000,000. Preference shares of £1 each have been as low as 8s. 9d. this year, but are now quoted at 11s. The preference dividend for 1929 absorbs £192,000, as before.

CANNING TOWN GLASS WORKS, LIMITED.—The third annual report and accounts show a net trading profit for the year ended December 31, 1929, of £47,295 (last year £33,406, plus £2,000 realised on investment account). Adding the amount brought forward, and deducting directors' additional remuneration, there is a balance of £57,779, from which the directors propose transferring to depreciation reserve £7,500, general reserve, £7,500, development account £3,500, and the payment of a 7½ per cent. dividend (last year 5 per cent.), leaving £12,373 to be carried forward (last year £10,984). Bank loan has been reduced from £30,000 to £10,000. Meeting: Winchester House, E.C. 2, on April 14, 1930, at 12.30 p.m.

COLTNESS IRON COMPANY.—Output of coal for 1929 was 1,800,000 tons, the highest in the history of the company. The Warwickshire Coal Company (a subsidiary) also reached a high level output of 700,000 tons. Net profit rose from £70,263 for 1928 to £141,398 for 1929. The ordinary shareholders will receive 10 per cent., against 5 per cent. for 1928. Carry forward is increased from £118,513 to £120,411.

BALDWINS, LIMITED.—The profit for 1929 was £352,042, against £220,107 in 1928. A dividend of 3½ per cent. is paid on the income debenture stocks, which are entitled to 6½ per cent. if the money is available. Nothing is provided for the income notes. The balance of the discount on the issue of 6 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock has been written off out of profits and ££24,494 has been carried forward, making it £27,893.

HOME AND COLONIAL STORES, LIMITED.—At an extraordinary general meeting held, March 21st, at the offices of the company, a special resolution bringing the articles of the company into conformity with the new Companies Act, and also giving wider powers to the board regarding the investment of the reserve fund, was unanimously agreed to.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY, 1930.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ariston	7,006	...	...	...	...	11,343	1,776
Golden Horseshoe	13,232	...	...	...	...	2,854	...
Greville (to Mar. 14)	...	...	...	...	...	$6,527	...
Lena Goldfields	...	...	1,293	...	...	5,431	...
London & Rhodesian	3,516	...	...	...	...	4,065	...
North Kalgurli	556	...	...	...	...	696	...
Waihi	17,857	...	7,080	fine ozs.	gold.	...	...
			40,956	fine ozs.	silver.		

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Amari (Nigeria) Tin	4½	(Restricted).
Anglo-Burma	12½	...
Batura Mouguna	1½	...
Fllani (Nigeria) Tin	2½	...
Jantar (Cornwall)	1,952	Tin won 24·0424 tons.
Jantar Nigeria	30	...
Lahat	13½	Est. value, £1,461.
Renong Tin	7½	(First half of March).
Siput Tin	10	First half of March.
Southern Malayan	154½	Est. value £16,551; est. profit, £8,540.
Southern Perak	56½	Est. value, £6,068; est. profit, £1,938.
Southern Tronoh	38½	Est. value, £4,133; est. profit, £1,544.
Sungei Besi	43	Est. value, £4,978; est. profit, £1,792.
Sungei Kinta	20½	Est. profit, £540.
Taiping	15	Est. loss, £175.
Tanjong	33	Est. value, £3,512; est. profit, £1,657.
Teja Malaya	21½	...
Teja Malaya	6	No. 1 Dredge.
Tekka	46	Est. value, £4,645; est. profit £2,755.
Tekka-Taiping	33	Est. value, £3,420; est. profit £815.
Temoh	31½	Est. profit, £1,658.
Thabawleik (Jan.)	582	Piculs; value, $35,595.
Tin Fields of Nigeria	2⅝	...
Tongkah Harbour	40	...
Tronoh	95½	Est. value, £10,248; est. profit, £4,908.
Ulu Yam (Jan.)	415	Piculs; value, $22,062.
United Tin Areas	20	Concentrates.
Yarde Kerri	9	...
Zaarplaats Tin	35	Estimated profit, £1,789.
COPPER.		
Bwana M'Kubwa	665	Refined copper.
Indian	206	Refined copper.
Kaduna Prospectors	21	...
Kaduna Syndicate	27	...
Messina	495	...
Namaqua	150	Blister copper.
DIAMOND.		
Crown	7,734	Carats.
Tanganyika Diamonds	1,010½	Carats 22,406 loads washed.
West African	15,000	Carats.
New Vaal River	758	Carats, realising £4,008 (January and February).
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Electrolytic Zinc	4,253	...
European and N. African	83	Iron ore; 80 tons lead concentrates.
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,461	Slab zinc.
Rooiberg Minerals	34	Concentrates.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC COMPANY OF AUSTRALASIA, LTD.—Production during four-weekly period ended February 5, 1930: 4,235 tons zinc, of which 70 tons used at the works. Silver-lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 420 tons lead, 55,000 ozs. silver.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—The total estimated working profit of the mines of the Transvaal for the month of January, 1930, amounted to: Witwatersland, £1,070,717; Outside districts, £33,001; total, £1,103,718.

THE LONDON AND RHODESIAN MINING AND LAND COMPANY, LTD.—From tributed properties for the month of December, 1929, are as follo treated, 3,843, for a recovery of £3,698.

THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY, LTD.—Report for four February 23rd, 1930, Iron and Steel Works, Newcastle, N.S.W. Produced 8,009 tons of coke, 79,782 gallons of tar, and 110 to ammonia. Blast furnace (No. 1) produced 10,314 tons of pig iron produced 19,110 tons of steel. Blooming mill produced 17,483 t produced 12,089 tons. Iron Knob shipped 14,403 tons of ir crude ore 10,942 tons, including 433 tons oxidised forwarded Brok Smelters. Crushing Plant treated 10,369 tons sulphide ore, produ at Sulphide Corporation Mill 1,817 tons lead concentrates, assayi zinc, 65·2 per cent. lead, and 49·8 ozs. silver per ton; and 2,006 trates, containing 3 per cent. lead, 5·5 ozs. silver, and 50·4 per Flotation Plant treated 15,486 tons oxidised slime residues, pro lead concentrates, assaying 40·9 per cent. lead, 17 ozs. silver pe zinc middlings. Despatches oxidised lead concentrates, 1,638

ONVERWACHT PLATINUM, LIMITED.—The reduction plant during the month of February, 1930. The crude platinum prod yield 554 ozs. refined platinum and allied metals, equivalent ton milled.

SAN FRANCISCO MINES OF MEXICO, LIMITED.—Operations fo treated, 25,630 tons; lead concentrates produced 3,637 tons; z produced 3,201 tons; estimated net smelter returns $210,387; ope $119,742; estimated operating profit, $90,645. Office Note: The r plus adjustment of $12,835, being excess of realisations of products n respect of previous months.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.			Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of Australasia	Oct. 14	139,760	677,183	816,943	...	630,000	14†	25,000	161,943	672,192	14†
National Bank of Egypt	Dec. 31	221,795	621,686	843,481	...	540,000	18	75,000	228,481	651,623	18
Breweries.											
Dartford Brewery Co.	Dec. 31	22,879	47,404	70,283	7,975	18,450	9	16,708	27,150	37,591	8
Royal Brewery, Brentford	Dec. 31	45,272	60,726	105,998	6,400	31,200	10½	25,000	43,398	56,250	12½
Financial Land, &c.											
Matador Land and Cattle	Dec. 15	33,828	45,304	79,132	...	28,000	17½	...	51,135	81,358	17½
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Arrol (Sir W.) and Co., Ltd.	Dec. 31	21,391	61,832	83,223	24,080	...	...	38,972	20,171	64,443	...
Baker (John) and Bessemer	Dec. 31	13,468	19,121	32,589	10,650	7,444	4	...	14,495	18,485	5
MacLellan (P. and W.)	Dec. 31	5,747	*Dr. 3,002*	2,745	...	...	...	...	2,745	7,762	...
Merry and Cunninghame	Nov. 30	*Dr207,659*	*Dr.37,612*	*Dr245,271*	...	...	...	...	*Dr245271*	*Dr41,149*	...
Scottish Tube Co.	Dec. 31	6,530	54,732	61,262	15,000	8,089	2½	30,000	8,173	711	...
Stewarts and Lloyds	Dec. 31	122,895	493,817	616,712	94,400	246,815	7½	150,000	125,496	582,114	5
Vickers	Dec. 31	217,704	941,971	1,159,675	418,190	262,730	8	250,000	228,755	939,903	8
Rubber, &c.											
Batu Caves Rubber	Dec. 31	8,419	10,608	19,027	...	8,640	4	...	10,387	10,821	5
Mengkibol (Central Johore) Rubber	Dec. 31	4,195	9,002	13,197	668	7,291	5	...	5,238	6,693	2½
Sampang (Java) Rubber	Dec. 31	12,948	6,013	18,961	...	3,650	5	5,000	10,311	...	...
Seafield Rubber	Dec. 31	19,448	18,948	33,396	...	10,000	5	1,750	26,646	11,738	10
Sirik (Sumatra) Rubber)	Dec. 31	2,597	1,357	3,954	1,500	...	...	...	2,454	1,291	...
Teluk Gong Rubber	Dec. 31	528	3,823	4,351	...	1,600	5	500	2,251	722	5
Shipping.											
Great Eastern Train Ferries	Dec. 31	5,465	25,067	30,532	...	23,333	7	...	2,199	22,129	6½
Shops and Stores.											
Barker (John) and Co.	Jan. 31	291,010	443,686	734,696	46,175	221,266	20	170,000	297,255	444,901	20
Bradley's (Chepstowe Place)	Jan. 18	110,289	112,732	223,021	16,500	80,000	20	...	126,521	141,156	20
Lipton	Jan. 4	...	118,377	118,377	43,000	22,250	10	45,000	8,127	...	...
Tea.											
Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea	Dec. 31	4,073	59,791	63,864	3,784	45,044	25	10,000	5,036	57,589	40
Travencore Tea	Sept. 30	6,331	21,266	27,597	4,833	9,000	10	10,000	3,764	...	...
Telegraphs, &c.											
Anglo-Portuguese Telephone	Dec. 31	39,752	50,941	90,693	...	45,744	8	...	44,949	42,887	8
Textiles.											
Grout and Co.	Dec. 31	18,224	6,989	11,243	804	...	...	*Dr. 10,000*	10,439	24,990	10
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Para Electric Railways and Lighting	Nov. 30	5,002	41,141	46,143	19,500	...	...	23,038	3,605	...	...
Trust.											
Municipal Trust	Feb. 28	9,249	33,808	43,057	26,256	810	5	...	15,991	33,385	5
Second Caledonian Trust	Mar. 1	12,313	31,555	43,868	12,000	11,200	7	...	20,668	30,517	6
Third Scottish Western Investment	Mar. 1	22,585	45,117	67,702	16,888	18,025	8	...	32,789	33,903	7
Third Guardian Trust	Mar.15‡	...	44,243	44,243	14,000	14,000	5	12,146	4,097	...	...
Tyneside Investment Trust	Jan. 31	1,244	11,439	12,683	5,992	4,394	5½	1,000	1,297	...	...
Other Companies.											
Associated Portland Cement	Dec. 31	140,006	737,848	877,854	126,622	240,000	8	370,333	140,899	672,099	8
Baird International Television	June 30	...	*Dr.17,099*	*Dr.17,099*	...	...	...	...	*Dr17,099*	...	...
Television Develop-	June 30	...	*Dr. 36,450*	*Dr.36,450*	...	...	...	...	*Dr36,450*	...	...
luminium	Dec. 31	33,843	179,793	213,636	17,974	100,103	10	160,000	35,559	387,286	10
g Houses	Dec. 31	11,024	58,504	69,528	12,100	32,000	8	15,000	10,428	62,372	8
	Dec. 31	6,899	24,470	31,369	6,333	17,605	10†	500	6,931	30,483	10†
Glass Works	Dec. 31	10,484	39,795	50,279	...	26,905	7½	11,000	12,374	35,406	5
m) and Co.	Dec. 31	64,685	215,945	280,630	17,500	144,147	12½	48,475	70,508	235,233	12½
	Dec. 31	91,553	50,690	142,243	10,000	40,000	20†	...	92,243	...	...
y)	Dec. 31§	34,603	77,267	111,870	...	42,000	8 p.a.	31,377	37,589	...	...
ambers	Dec. 31	12,791	15,583	28,374	1,320	5,850	15	10,000	11,204	...	...
inidad Lake	Dec. 31	33,924	108,561	142,485	9,000	69,875	15†	31,000	36,610	113,110	15†
am) (Pro-	Dec. 31	24,367	29,634	54,001	15,040	11,250	75†	...	27,711	76,948	100†
nd Co.	Dec. 31	5,154	*Dr. 5,153*	1	3,064	3,249	2½	*Dr. 7,000*	686	1,140	5
Constance	Dec. 31	1,319	15,920	17,239	6,400	9,000	22½	...	1,839	...	...
	Dec. 31	31,795	166,851	198,646	34,000	60,000	15	75,000	29,646	154,665	13
Co., Ltd.	Dec. 31	...	517,801	517,801	183,000	125,000	50†	58,838	150,963	390,450	15†
l Gas	Jan. 31	17,614	30,566	48,180	...	25,600	8	...	22,580	28,470	8

ree of income tax ‡ Period from October 10, 1928, to March 15, 1930. §For nine months.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

A spell of mild and open weather over the United Kingdom during the past week has considerably enhanced agricultural prospects. All cereal crops are responding to warmth and sunshine and present a healthy appearance, while spring seeding operations are well advanced in all parts of the country, under ideal climatic conditions. Native wheat is selling better, and, with small supplies on offer prices reacted slightly from the low levels recently ruling. On the import market, the recent slight improvement in demand was not maintained, and the market relapsed into a dull state, with prices again on a downward course. Despite the absence of United States offers, renewed weakness set in at Chicago and Winnipeg, and greater pressure on the part of Canadian sellers to stimulate the export movement met with little response on this side. Importers still express a lack of confidence in the general situation and are showing reserve, as future supplies will be more than adequate for the restricted requirements this season. Influencing factors were the increased tax on imports into Germany, further large quantities available for export from France, and the favourable outlook for new crops both in North American and Europe. The policy of the United States Farm Board in the continued withholding of surplus stocks is causing a good deal of uncertainty, and meanwhile lessens competition in the world's markets to the benefit of Canadian sellers, but it may be found that a definite move will be made later on to seek overseas custom, provided that prospects of new crops remain satisfactory. River Plate shippers were competing freely, which assisted the downward trend. Feeding stuffs also displayed weaker features, and the recent improved demand for maize failed to expand, although near at hand parcels remain at a premium owing to scanty offerings. New crop positions, however, were adversely affected by large prospective supplies from Argentine, the Danube, and South Africa, the latter indicating a record yield this season. Barley and oats were easier and difficult to sell.

Wheat.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 43s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 43s.; No. 3, 42s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 41s. 3d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 39s.; No. 6 ditto, 31s. 3d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 38s. 9d.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 38s. 6d.; Australian, 41s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s.-8s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Quiet. London straight run, 36s. per sack for country deliveries, and 35s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 34s.-35s.; Australian, 31s.-32s.; ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, March-April, 33s.-33s. 3d.; export ditto, 30s. 6d.-31s.; Australian, 28s.; French prompt, 26s.-27s. 3d. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, March-June, £6 per ton.

Maize.—Quiet. Plate, landed, 28s.; ex ship, 27s.; March-April, 26s. 6d.; new, April-May, 25s. 6d.; May-June, 25s.; June-July, 25s. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 per ton, ex ship.

Barley.—Steady. Californian: old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s., as to sample. Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s., per 448 lbs. Black Sea, landed, 19s. 6d.; Persian, landed, 18s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Quiet. Plate, landed, 15s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 14s. 9d.; Chilian, white, 21s. 6d.; ditto, tawny, 16s. German, landed, 17s. 6d. ex ship to arrive, 16s. 6d. South Russian, ex ship, 14s. 3d.; North ditto, 13s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 5s. 6d.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

BUDGET PROSPECTS
AND THE
STOCK MARKETS

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COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to March 22	Cwts. 157,079	Cwts. 203,739	Cwts. 277,834	Cwts. 215,752
29 weeks to March 22	7,169,537	7,876,680	7,456,913	9,407,472
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 11 8

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 15	161,600	174,472	43,496	8 3	7 9	6 0
Mar. 22	157,079	149,076	35,560	8 3	7 8	6 0
Mar. 20, 1926	188,338	147,083	47,910	11 5	9 0	8 9
Mar. 19, 1927	216,412	120,408	56,486	11 7	10 11	8 0
Mar. 24, 1928	277,834	126,543	64,001	9 10	10 10	10 9
Mar. 23, 1929	203,739	108,456	58,074	9 9	10 2	9 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Mar 27, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar.19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	123⅜	148⅜	104⅜	108⅜	108⅜
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	116⅛	130⅞	105¼	104⅜	105⅛

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,037,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 1,115,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 87,786,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports continued depression in the South Yorkshire coal market with a further drop in exports and prices. Home prices are also easier. The severe weather has caused a spurt in the demand for house coal, but industrialists are buying fuel from hand-to-mouth and consumption barely maintains previous records. Coke is a drug on the market and prices have tumbled.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The shipping side of the coal market is still very slack. Foreign buyers hold large stocks and are doing little business, either for early or forward shipment. The collieries which depend principally upon the shipping trade—especially those in Fife and the Lothians—are consequently having considerable difficulty in keeping their outputs moving, and a deal of short-time working has had to be resorted to in districts. Prices generally are weak, although round coals are slightly firmer than nuts, one or two qualities of which on the market at the moment. Current quotations are as follows (all f.o.b. district ports): Lanarkshire, 15s. 6d.; splint best, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; splint second navigation, 17s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; steam, 14s.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 12s.; single pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation first class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, doubles, 11s. 9d.; singles, 11s. 6d.; pearls, 11s. Lothians steam, 13s.; secondary steam, 12s. 9d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, singles, 12s.; pearls, 12s. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 12s. 6d.; singles, 11s. 9d.; pearls, 11s. 6d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been little change this week in the general position on the Cardiff market and the volume of exports is practically stationary at a reduced level. Shipments in the week ended March 22 were 567,700 tons compared with 564,500 tons in the corresponding week last year, but with 633,755 tons in the corresponding week last year. Quotations for practically all classes of large coals, and also now for many of the smaller grades, are at the minimum fixed under the marketing scheme. The trade is suffering to an exceptional extent from the shipping depression, for the laying up of so many vessels is reacting not only on the bunker shipments at the South Wales ports but to a far greater extent on the cargo shipments to coaling depots abroad. The Monmouthshire collieries are working, on the whole, fairly regularly on the strength largely of the Italian and Egyptian State Railway contracts; conditions in the anthracite district are also good and are likely to improve with the opening of the Canadian season; but in the steam coal area there is much lost time, and it is now pretty generally thought that a serious mistake was made in not reducing the allocations under the marketing scheme for the second quarter of the year. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 9d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 9d. to 14s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 23s. 6d. to 28s.; machine-made cobbles, 41s. to 45s.; French nuts, 44s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 41s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 11s. 9d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 9d. to 26s.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—The iron and steel markets remain in a depressed condition. Inquiry has certainly expanded of late, but the volume of business transacted is still below the normal for the time of year. The home market has been rather more active, but the improvement has been confined to one or two consuming industries which have placed seasonal requirements, and it is stated these are less than usual. There is considerable irregularity in the position of the British steelworks, and while a few have moderately-filled order books others have had to close down departments owing to lack of work. Business in pig iron has been dull, but the reduction of 5s. per ton by the North East Coast producers has stimulated a certain amount of buying. In other districts, recent quotations are maintained, but in some cases iron is being put into stock. There has been a poor demand for semi-finished material, and although a certain amount of business has been taken by Continental works it is understood that they are badly off for orders. The official Cartel prices, however, are maintained. Similar conditions rule in the finished steel department. The British works are experiencing keen competition from the Continent for the comparatively small amount of export business passing, but in this branch some encouragement has been provided by an increase in the volume of inquiry from abroad.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes: The reduction in prices of Cleveland iron has had a good effect on the market. During the past week consumers have come forward more freely, and made fair purchases of Cleveland iron for delivery over the next month or two, but so far, little inclination is shown to purchase further ahead. This, no doubt, is accounted for by the uncertainties in regard to the Budget, but in the meantime the position of makers is much improved, and the orders now coming along will absorb the present limited make, and allow recent accumulations of stocks to be gradually reduced. Trade with Scotland has not increased to any great extent so far, as the consumers there are well bought, in Continental and Indian iron, but as the contracts are worked off, more business is expected to be diverted to this district. There was more business doing at Tuesday's weekly market, and several decent lots of No. 3 were booked by makers on home account at 67s. 6d., but export business was almost negligible. No. 1 was 70s., No. 4 foundry 66s. 6d., and No. 4 forge 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Merchants now hold very little Cleveland iron, and do not wish to cut the reduced price to any important extent. Shipments of pig iron have passed off recently, the total shipped to 25th instant being 15,447, tons, against 15,473 tons to February 25th. Hematite iron continues in poor demand, and stocks are still increasing in maker's hands. The latter are weaker again in their price, and now offer mixed numbers at 76s. per ton for delivery over a few months, but second hands who have fair holdings, are willing to take business at a little less. In the steel trade there is still a large amount of work to execute under old contracts, and some important orders are expected to be placed here shortly for bridge and constructional [illegible] The Associated Steel Makers, at their meeting in London [illegible] decided to leave prices for this district unchanged, viz., [illegible] up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; and joists, £8 10s., [illegible] usual rebates. In other departments, prices are also [illegible] iron bars, £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; [illegible] nised corrugated sheets, £12; and black sheets, [illegible] 15s. There is no business doing in ore, and best [illegible] at 21s. 6d. c.i.f., the current freight Bilbao/[illegible] ping round 5s. 9d. Coke is offering very freely, and [illegible] ordinary furnace qualities can now be secured for [illegible] 19s. 9d. delivered works. The number of furnaces [illegible] strict is reduced to 40.

[illegible] correspondent writes:—The local industrial situa[illegible] change, but conditions are no worse and there is [illegible] at to be found in the axle and tyre department. [illegible] working better than last year, but are not fully [illegible] output of open-hearth steel is being maintained, [illegible] for forward delivery are being booked. In Lincoln[illegible] producers of such material are working full time [illegible] prospects. The Association price of file steel acid billets has been increased from £9 15s. to £10 10s. The prices of other material have not been altered so far this year, but there is some cutting for orders for the softer steels. Wire makers are moderately employed. Rolling mills and tool steel makers are on short time but report trade as being steady. Some very keen quotations for steel products are heard of. The season for farm and garden tools is developing slowly and sales so far are below those of last year. Activity in cutlery and plate is confined to the cheaper classes of goods.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday it was reported that in the export trade inquiries were broadening and that negotiations were in progress for the arrangement of contract supplies up to the end of the year, one order reported being for a quantity of 40,000 boxes. Prices are fairly stable at 18s. 3d. per basis box, with some works holding out for 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. Galvanised sheet prices are unaltered at £5 9s. for foreign makes and £6 10s. for Welsh bars. Latterly, the imports of Belgian bars have not been on so heavy a scale as at the beginning of the year.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—The standard market presented firm features in face of improved inquiries and higher Eastern advices, though some irregularity prevailed at times due to profit-taking. The market continues to offer resistance to any further decline, sellers generally showing more reserve. Confidence, however, is returning slowly, and a substantial improvement in consumptive demand is necessary in order to make some tangible inroad upon accumulated stocks. The closing tone was weak. Shipments from the East up to the 17th inst. were 4,423 tons, and for the whole month are estimated at about 7,500 tons. Standard cash changed hands at £166 10s., £170 5s. and £168 10s.; three months, £168 10s., £172 and £170. Sales in the East were reported at £170 15s. to £173 and £171 10s. c.i.f. terms.

Copper opened firmer, but buyers evinced moderate interest, and later dealings disclosed slight irregularity in forward positions. Standard cash sold at £70 to £70 5s.; three months, £68 5s., £68 7s. 6d., £67 15s. and £68 7s. 6d. per ton.

Lead in better support and market firmer. Good soft foreign pig, March sold, £18 13s. 9d., £19 and £18 18s. 9d.; April, £18 18s. 9d. to £19 and £18 17s. 6d.; May, £18 15s. to £19, and £18 18s. 9d.; June, £18 15s., £19 and £18 17s. 6d.; July, £18 16s. 3d. to £19 1s. 3d. and £18 18s. 9d. ton.

Spelter.—Market active, but after a firm opening values gave way under liberal offerings, closing steady. March sold, £19 2s. 6d. to £18 10s. and £18 12s. 6d.; April, £19 3s. 9d. to £18 15s.; May, £19 5s.; June, £19 10s., £18 17s. 6d. and £19 3s. 9d.; July, £19 5s.; August, £19 8s. 9d. ton.

Aluminium steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

Antimony maintained. English regulus, £40 10s.-£46 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £29 10s. to £30; March-April, £26 15s.; crude, March-April, £17 10s. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide.—March-April, £26 15s. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore.—50 per cent., March-April, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., ditto, 4s. 3d. per unit c.i.f.

Wolfram firm on reserved offers. Chinese, March-April, 27s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

Quicksilver easier. Spot, £22 10s. per bottle.

Zinc Oxide steady. Spot, £29 to £36 as to quality, per ton delivered London.

Tin Plates quiet of sale. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool: March 26th.

Prices show practically no change on the week. The rush of buying of the near positions seems to have ceased for the time being and some fresh selling has taken place. The final report of the United States ginnings was issued on Thursday last and gave

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14,545,000 running bales. The figures are a little less than the December estimate, but this had been anticipated. Spot sales for the period 20th to 26th (inclusive) are 33,000 bales, of which 18,020 are American, 3,300 Brazil, 50 Argentine, 3,900 Peru, 2,600 Egyptian, 1,940 African, 2,200 East Indian and 990 sundries. Imports for the same period are 41,290 bales, of which 23,705 are American, 9,660 Brazil, 39 Peru, 2,997 Egyptian, 3,563 African, 1,134 East Indian and 192 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·42; Egyptian Sakel, 14·05; Uppers, 10·24; Brazil Fair, 8·03; Peru G.F. Smooth, 9·13; West African Middling, 8·48; and East African G.F., 9·58.

MANCHESTER: March 26th.

Inquiry in the market during the past week has continued on a larger scale, and although many of the offers in yarn and piece-goods have been unworkable, a fair amount of business has been done. There are indications of steadier prices in raw cotton, and on the whole buyers are showing rather more confidence in current values. A welcome improvement has been experienced in the demand in cloth for India. Dhooties and light whites have been sold more freely, especially for Calcutta and Karachi. Rather more promising reports have been received from China, and a few contracts have been arranged in bleached shirtings and fancies. There has not been any general activity for Egypt, the Near East and South America, but numerous small orders in the aggregate have totalled to rather larger dimensions. Manufacturers have not yet been able to improve their position, but the stoppage of machinery has been checked. In American yarns for home consumption the sales have been more encouraging, and some spinners have sold more than the restricted output. A better turnover has also taken place in Egyptian yarns. Throughout the spinning section, however, the prices ruling remain very poor.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930. Mar. 5.	Mar. 12.	Mar. 19.	Mar. 26.	Corresponding Date. 1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·28	8·06	8·39	8·43	10·94	10·92
,, Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·75	13·60	13·65	14·05	20·50	19·40
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12⅝	12⅝	16½	16
,, 40's weft ..... per lb.	13	12⅝	12⅝	13	16⅝	16½
,, 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21½	21½	21½	30	27
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 3	22 1½	22 1½	22 1½	26 4½	26 3
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	25 0	24 10½	24 10½	24 9	28 6	28 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 9	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	15 4½	15 4½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 4½	12 3	12 3	12 3	14 3	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—There is a better tendency in business this week, from which it might reasonably be concluded that members of the industry are being more influenced by the improvement in the demand for wool in London than by the dramatic developments in the wages dispute. The wool offered in the London sale room has brought out more general competition, and in some quarters there is a growing belief that if this improvement can be maintained to the end of the series, it will mark the beginning of better times for the industry. It cannot fail to produce a more confident feeling among users, especially as stocks of raw wool here and on the Continent are light, and if with a return to confidence there is a fairly substantial increase in machinery consumption during the next few months, the problem of the carry-over in Australia will be largely solved. On the other hand, it must be recognised that anything in the nature of a stoppage in the West Riding on account of reductions in wages would be bound severely to handicap the industry just at the time when it should be in a position to make the most of every opportunity offered. This week quotations for tops and yarns are much steadier and in the aggregate, a fair amount of new business has been booked.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

At the London wool sales the demand was very satisfactory, and the present tendency of prices is in favour of sellers. The catalogues have been very good, containing many attractive merino and cross-bred clips. One of the best features is the increased competition on the part of Germany, especially as the bulk of the buying has been done by users, rather than by outside speculators. Values for merinos are being maintained better than was expected. At the present basis for the wool, average 64's tops are costing 27½d. The best demand of all is seen for wool of superior quality, both New England and Tasmanian descriptions realising excellent figures. The market for scoured merinos is rather irregular, though anything of good quality and style is still making from 24d. to 26d. A noteworthy feature is the support that is being given to the cross-breds. Big supplies are being catalogued every day, and yet there is not the slightest evidence of flagging interest on the part of buyers. The home trade is particularly active, and though slipes are not making much more than at the opening, there are fewer withdrawals. Greasy crossbreds are all in excellent demand, often making ¼d. per lb. more than during the first week of the sales. Puntas are also meeting an excellent reception, particularly considering the low prices ruling for similar qualities of New Zealands. The cables received from Australia and New Zealand indicate an upward tendency in values. The season in South Africa is also finishing with a fairly firm market, and the balance of the clip is likely to move quickly into users' hands.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Market hides were a trifle easier at the auctions held in the North this week, several weights in both clear and warbled making ⅛d. per lb. less. With a better inquiry for calfskins, prices were inclined to be higher in view of the fact that considerable clearances of these goods have been made of late. Now that the new classification in regard to market hides has been tried out, it is felt that the ultimate result should be to the benefit of not only tanners, but butchers and farmers also. Although prices for imported hides are considered to be at a low level, buying on account of the home trade is still limited for the most part to the covering of immediate needs. In spite of this, there seems to be a little better feeling, and here and there one hears talk of the possibility of higher values in the near future. Such an eventuality, however, would only result in again stultifying any increase in the demand that may mature, and the majority of those connected with the hide trade are hoping for a stabilised market on a basis at which a steady regular trade can be done. Over the past week business has taken place in connection with Argentine ox on American account on the basis of 8d., with light ox selling at 7½d. and Uruguay ox at 8 1/16d. In dry River Plates a fair amount of business has been done in B.A. Americanos at 7 15/16d., Inservibles at 5d., and Sierra Cordobas at 8⅞d. Prices for most descriptions of African hides are steady, sales of dry Capes having been made at 8d. and 7d. for firsts and seconds, and 7½d. and 6½d. for dry-salted 20/30 lbs. A slightly better business has been done in Australians, while the American market is cabled as steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 14 cents. The regular day-to-day trade that is passing in small parcels of sole leather makes a respectable turnover. Bends for manufacturing purposes are taken up in sufficient quantities to meet the orders for footwear in hand, and it is hoped that as soon as larger orders for spring shoes are placed, better business will be in evidence from this quarter. A slight improvement has been noted in the inquiry for repairing bends, and although business is still not large, orders come to hand with satisfactory regularity. Bellies and shoulders continue to be taken up fairly freely; some prices are quoted fractionally lower, but this is not general. All things considered, values are well maintained, with hardly any accumulation of stock to be found in any quarter. Business in upper leathers continues satisfactory, and although a larger turnover would be welcomed, most of the regular lines go out in sufficient quantity to prevent any receding of values. Glacé kid, in both black and brown, together with willow calf, are the lines in most request, while the improvement in connection with patent is maintained. Box calf and reptile and novelty leathers move steadily. Suède for shoe purposes has been inquired for more freely in the better grades, but there is a certain amount of hesitancy on the part of producers, as it is not known whether this fashion will last for any length of time. Shoe manufacturers still find orders for spring footwear hang fire, but it is hoped that the finer weather of late will induce distributors to place their orders for larger quantities.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Receipts last month were some 30,000 Petrograd (of 165 cubic feet) in excess of those of February la surplus for the two months amounting to 21,710 stand and dressed floorings, on the other hand, declined by over the two months. Stocks of sawn wood on th market are much larger compared with a year ago, b is decidedly better. In planed and dressed wood smaller than for years past, whilst demand also satisfactory for the time of year. Such condition in a much more steady market than that now operators are nervous, and competition to sel conclusion that can be drawn from this state of t uncertainty with regard to the volume of Ru come forward this year, which are to be freely m those of last season were distributed through a B In all directions the spot outlook for timber is muc in the early spring of 1929. Building contracts ar the forthcoming Budget inspires confidence the trade will improve, and will assuredly make for a better ti tion. The uneasy feeling in spot timber circles is a

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Electric service in Washington, D. C. and 30 communities in adjoining sections of Maryland and Virginia; territory served, area 629 square miles, population 600,000; electric railway and motor bus service in the District of Columbia and adjacent suburbs in Maryland.

MISSOURI-ILLINOIS-IOWA: Electric service in St. Louis and East St. Louis, and 88 other communities in Mississippi Valley; territory served, area 2,722 square miles, population 1,350,000; gas service in St. Louis County, Mo., Alton, Ill. and Keokuk, Ia.

OHIO: Electric service in Cleveland and 129 other communities; territory served extends 100 miles along Lake Erie, area 1,697 square miles, population 1,300,000.

WISCONSIN-MICHIGAN: Electric service in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Watertown, Appleton, Iron Mountain and 315 other communities in Wisconsin and upper peninsula of Michigan; territory served, area 11,859 square miles, population 1,400,000; gas service in Racine, Kenosha, Watertown and 59 other communities in Wisconsin; electric railway and motor bus service in Milwaukee and suburbs, and interurban electric railway service in surrounding territory.

Statistics of Electric Service, Dec. 31, 1929

Group of Subsidiary Companies	Power Plant Capacity K.W.	Number of Electric Customers	Annual Electric Output K.W.H.
California	413,505	159,626	1,692,113,398
D. C.	178,000	135,339	449,794,685
Mo.-Ill.-Ia.	572,020	319,060	1,871,797,392
Ohio	447,000	309,040	1,447,193,594
Wis.-Mich.	377,677	293,363	1,311,738,004
Total	1,988,202	1,216,428	6,772,637,073

Summary of 40th Annual Report to the Stockholders by F. L. Dame, President

THE annual report of The North American Company for 1929 shows substantial progress during its fortieth year. The statement of gross and net earnings from operations, the statistics of service rendered, and the description of additions to facilities completed and under way are collectively a measurement not only of progress but also of stability and strength of position. Briefly summarizing the report and statements, the important features of the year's operations were as follows:

Gross Earnings increased 9.02% over the year 1928.

Net Income from Operation increased 10.76% over the previous year, reflecting the decrease, from 52.49% for 1928 to 51.73% for 1929, in the proportion of Gross Earnings required for Operating Expenses, Maintenance and Taxes.

Appropriations for Depreciation Reserves amounted to 10.57% of Gross Earnings and were equivalent to $2.91 per share on the average number of shares of North American Common Stock outstanding during the year.

After deducting Depreciation and all other reserves, the Balance for Dividends and Surplus amounted to $28,806,824, of which $1,820,034 was paid in dividends on North American Preferred Stock.

The balance of $26,986,790, after all preferred dividends, is an increase of 19.50% over the previous year, and is equivalent to $5.03 per share on the average number of shares of North American Common Stock outstanding during 1929, compared with $4.68 per share on the average number of shares outstanding during 1928.

Under the Company's policy of paying dividends on its Common Stock in Common Stock, at the quarterly rate of 2½% (1/40th of a share), the entire balance of $26,986,790 is available for investment in the business.

This dividend policy is now in its seventh year. From April 1, 1923 to December 31, 1929 Common Stock increased 110.42% on account of stock dividends and 38.01% on account of stock issued for cash and for properties, a total increase of 148.43%, while during the same period the balance for Common Stock dividends increased 299.38%.

Electric output of subsidiaries for 1929 was 6,772,637,073 kilowatt hours, an increase of 10.97% over 1928. Gas output was 5,915,919,900 cubic feet, an increase of 9.25%. Revenue passengers on electric railway and motor bus systems numbered 270,950,658. Electric customers numbered 1,216,428, gas customers 112,121.

Stockholders of the parent company (not including those of subsidiaries) numbered 47,528, including more than 900 residents of foreign countries. Common stockholders numbered 37,718, an increase of 15.4% for the year, and of 9.6% for the last quarter of 1929, when the stock market disturbance occurred.

Improvement of business in 1929 over the preceding year was distinctly favorable, particularly in view of the high rates of increase over 1927 established in 1928 when all business activity showed decided acceleration . . . and indicates continued and substantial growth over a period of years regardless of such lessening in business activity as that which developed in the latter part of the year. . . . Marked recession in certain industrial lines emphasizes the advantages of the diversification enjoyed by The North American Company not only in location of important territories served by its various groups of subsidiaries but also in character of essential industries in those areas. . . . Large projects of subsidiaries are being carried forward without interruption and others are in preparation which will insure availability of facilities as service demands increase. . . . Expenditures contemplated for additions to plants and systems in 1930 are 14% greater than in 1929.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

	Year 1929	Year 1928
Gross Earnings	$147,779,869.32	$135,551,899.02
Operating Expenses, Maintenance and Taxes	76,451,594.39	71,152,646.78
Net Income from Operation	$ 71,328,274.93	$ 64,399,252.24
Other Net Income	4,553,756.61*	4,290,936.06
Total	$ 75,882,031.54	$ 68,690,188.30
Deductions: Interest Charges (including amortization of Bond Discount and Expense), Preferred Dividends of Subsidiaries, Minority Interests	$ 31,455,528.95	$ 30,012,771.57
Balance for Depreciation, Dividends and Surplus	$ 44,426,502.59	$ 38,677,416.73
Appropriations for Depreciation Reserves	15,619,678.49	14,274,663.66
Balance for Dividends and Surplus	$ 28,806,824.10	$ 24,402,753.07
Dividends on North American Preferred Stock	1,820,034.00	1,820,031.75
Balance for Common Stock Dividends and Surplus	$ 26,986,790.10	$ 22,582,721.32
Dividends on North American Common Stock	5,353,019.25	4,806,549.50
To Surplus after all Dividends and Reserves	$ 21,633,770.85	$ 17,776,171.82
Total to Depreciation Reserves and to Surplus after all Dividends	$ 37,253,449.34	$ 32,050,835.48

* Includes $509,582.00 representing stock dividends of non-subsidiary companies taken up at value at which stock was charged to Surplus of issuing Company, and $32,465.61 proceeds from sale of stock dividends.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		December 31, 1929
Property and Plant		$776,497,853.41
Cash and Securities on Deposit with Trustees		2,188,578.58
Investments:		
Stocks and Bonds of Other Companies and Sundry Investments		60,865,070.81
The North American Company Common Stock (including stock held by subsidiary for conversion of bonds)		3,804,681.32
Current and Working Assets:		
Cash	$ 10,359,293.80	
United States Government Securities	6,281,279.85	
Notes and Bills Receivable	1,729,514.49	
Accounts Receivable	16,816,702.14	
Material and Supplies (at cost or less)	12,656,761.05	47,843,551.33
Prepaid Accounts		2,285,740.56
Discount and Expense on Securities		15,273,807.24
		$908,759,283.25

LIABILITIES	
...mulative Preferred Stock: The North American Company	$ 30,333,900.00
...n Stock: The North American Co. (5,603,839 shares)	56,038,390.00
...e Certificates for shares of Common Stock of The North American Company	23,300.00
...d Payable in Common Stock	1,397,985.25
...d Stocks of Subsidiaries	169,583,284.85
... Interests in Capital and Surplus of Subsidiaries	12,510,358.51
...ebt of Subsidiaries	368,108,407.36
... Liabilities and Accrued Liabilities	31,734,093.06
...	113,690,321.36
...rplus	$ 28,951,785.21
...d Profits	96,387,457.45
	125,339,242.66
	$908,759,283.25

...complete Annual Report may be obtained from DILLON READ CORPORATION, 6, Austin Friars, London, E. C. 2, or from HENRY SCHRÖDER AND CO., 145, Leadenhall Street, London, E. C. 3.

in the forward market, and buying for the coming season's goods is backward. As an example, Finland, to the 1st instant this year, has sold to all buying countries (in thousand standards) 350, against 520 to same date, 1929; 475 in 1928, and 795 in 1927 (an abnormally early year for forward business). Of the above the United Kingdom this year has bought (000's omitted) only 95, against 150; 140 and 365 standards respectively for the previous three years to March 1. The Russian sales are naturally slow, as, so far as we are aware, the British consortium of timber importers and the Soviet sellers have not yet come to an agreement as to the former buying in bulk. The Swedish market also is affected by the long waiting policy—absolutely necessary as a precautionary measure—of U.K. importers. The hardwood section of the trade is feeling none of the anxieties that are the lot to-day of the building woods operators. True, the demand for these furniture and cabinet timbers on the whole is slow, but the market generally is steady. There is, however, too much American lumber coming forward in comparison with demand, some on consignment, which has the effect of depressing the market. Hardwood logs and lumber from British India and Canada are increasing in import, and we trust in demand. Australasian hardwoods will become more popular here as a result of the exhibition of the principal woods now being held at Australia House. The imports of pitwood have shown an increase of 53,840 loads (of 50 cubic feet) compared with January-February, 1929. The improvement in the output of coal this year should help the imported pitwood branch of the trade. Plywood imports for January-February increased by nearly 9·5 million square feet. Stocks in docks in London are larger than at this time last year, and the demand has slowed down. The call for this material, however, is getting wider month by month. Although it may have occasional setbacks the progress of plywood is assured.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Rather more active conditions have ruled and a fair volume of trading is recorded. Spot and "near" linseed prices have recovered following the reduced quantity now on passage to Europe and other causes. Plate on spot and passage at Hull has risen to £18, and March, £17 15s. Indian linseed is again offering freely. The quantity of linseed now afloat for Europe is 96,500 tons, or about 8,000 tons less on the week. The very low level of values of cottonseed recorded last week brought out buyers, and a good trade was done at steadily advancing prices, Black Egyptian now being held for £7 10s. on spot and shipment to the end of April. There is nothing doing in Bombay cottonseed, which is quite nominal. In the vegetable oil section linseed oil is firm but in slow demand, and quoted £40 on spot, £39 April, and £38 10s. May-August delivery. Cotton oils are steady, crude Egyptian being held for £28 10s. and common edible for £31 15s. Other seed oils are quiet and show but little change in value. The reduced prices of oilcakes appears to be stimulating demand, but it is insufficient in volume materially to reduce supplies.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—There is no extension in trade requirements, which are strictly measured by pressing needs, and no change occurred in spot quotations. The undertone of the market is distinctly better, the acute depression prevalent for a prolonged period gradually disappearing, and very low prices should operate in favour of consumption extending so soon as political barriers are removed. Spirited opposition to the Cuban Single Seller Agency continues. Raw refining sugars fully steady though quiet. Terminal sections quite steady and a feature proved extensive transactions in the August position of raw. May, quoted, 6s. 10½d.; August, sold, 7s. 2½d.; large turnover at 7s. 1½d.; December, sold, 7s. 6½d.; March, 1931, at 8s. 5½d.; foreign, 96 per cent. centrifugal, May, 7s. 6½d. sellers c.i.f. Cuban receipts for the past week were 192,890 tons, against 257,963 last year and 222,152 in 1928. The total of new crop to date amounts to 1,430,009, against 2,308,591 last year and 1,884,725 in 1928. The exports were 22,353, against 163,446 last year and 139,225 in 1928. The stocks of new crop were 1,269,203, against 1,226,533 last year, and 1,104,305 in 1928. Stocks of old crop 13,220, against 1,615 last year. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for ending March 22nd totalled 235,671 tons, compared with 138,306 last year.

COFFEE.—A quiet tone again characterised this market and prices manifest some irregularity, particularly with regard to the lower descriptions. Bold sizes of Kenya met with but little patronage.

COCOA.—Only retail transactions took place on the spot and prices tended against the seller. Forward positions dull and easier. Accra, F/F, April-June, 36s.; May-July, 36s. 6d.; mid-crop, 34s. f.o.b. Terminal easier. May, sold, 40s. 7½d. to 40s. 6d.; July, 41s. 3d. December, 42s.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 48,582 packages. Active and well distributed competition was evidenced and a firmer market resulted. Finest kinds in particular were sought after and those with autumnal flavour advanced 1d. to 2d. per lb. Good medium teas fully ½d. up, plain and common ruling ¼d. to ½d. higher than last week. Ceylon sales embraced some 22,800 packages. With active inquiries a buoyant market was evidenced. Finest teas from ½d. to 1d. dearer, with medium to fine brokens 1d. to 2d. higher. Plain medium, also common, distinctly against the buyer. Java and Sumatra auctions firm to dearer with a good inquiry. All China teas in request at full rates.

RICE.—Market firm for most kinds of Eastern, and sustained inquiries continue on Shanghai account for Burma, where supplies of "paddy" now become considerably lessened. Small sales in Spanish oiled, March-April, at 15s. 1½d. c.i.f. London. Siam and Saigon firm, quiet.

BEANS.—Butters in better demand and market firmer, but others remain slow. Butters, on spot, good colour, quoted, 35s.-35s. 6d.; parcels afloat, steamer "Clan MacNeil," 35s.; per "Belgrano," 34s. c.i.f. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 4½d. paid.

PEAS.—Market steadier inclined with buying back-orders received from Holland. Japanese, March-April, 14s. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s.; small hand-picked blues, 10s. 3d. f.o.b. terms.

SPICE.—Pepper market dull on about former terms. Lampong, March-May, 1s. 0⅝d.; May-July, 11⅞d.; August-October, 11½d. Muntok, white, March-May, 1s. 3⅞d.; May-July, 1s. 3½d.; August-October, 1s. 2½d. lb. Tellicherry, February-April, 127s.; Aleppy, 123s. cwt. c.i.f. Pimento, April-May, to London, 73s. c.i.f. Zanzibar cloves firm and spot lots sparingly offered. Value about 11½d., forward quoted 11⅜d. c.i.f. Tapioca, sago flour and farina dull, unaltered. African ginger, spot, 45s.; March-April, to London, sold, 37s. 6d. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: In fair demand and market steady. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.-36s.; Amalias, 37s.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s. Sultanas quiet of sale. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates dull. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s.-14s. Raisins slow. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 40s.-42s. Figs quiet. Layers, 32s.-40s.; genuine, 26s.-33s.; good average, 23s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Apricots move off steadily, and there is a better inquiry for large-size plums, but pears experienced a quiet outlet. Other descriptions without material change. Plums, Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 68s.; 40's-50's, 66s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 50's-60's, 52s. Apricots: South African Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 57s. 6d.-62s. 6d.; fancy, 67s. 6d.-72s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-67s.; Canadian, 62s. Almonds easier. Mazagan, 105s.; Mogador, 102s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-125s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. new crop c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 136s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s., ex wharf, London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Market conditions remained unchanged, demand for Californian varieties being restricted, despite somewhat attractive offers of shipment parcels, while buyers evince little interest, so far, in Australian pack. Singapore pines steady, but with fair quantities coming forward trade interest is lacking. Hawaiian firm on scarcity, and only small supplies of South African were available. Italian tomatoes quiet and prices barely steady.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: The tone continues firm, but business slow to expand. Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-50s.; pink talls, 25s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crabs in quiet request, and fancy qualities quoted 97s. 6d.-102s. 6d. Lobsters sell slowly. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate request, with adequate supplies on offer. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Trade quiet, but prices firm for ox tongues on scanty supplies. Lunch tongues realise full rates, also cooked boned hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market about steady. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 35s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 21s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 23s. Dutch full cream milk powders: 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 65s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 85s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. c[illegible] 27s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s. 9d.; ditto, [illegible] cases, 37s.; all per cwt. All English prices basis carriag[illegible] provi- nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London, as the Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end [illegible] ontrary, it 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra [illegible]on of output 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller cwt. extra. On the grocery side: full cream, sweeten[illegible] f reasonable machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. 1½d. per case; usu[illegible] capital and

HONEY.—Market quiet and prices weak for i[illegible] Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.[illegible] port trade of to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white Cuban, 49s.; [illegible]ost markets, good, 45s.; manufacturing, 38s.; Californian, 55s.[illegible]rnment inter- 50s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white ar[illegible]ty increase the 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt. [illegible] would be put

RUBBER.

Trade again moved slowly and prices disclos[illegible] coal trade in weakness. Standard sheet, spot and April sold, [illegible] of the report June, 7⅞d. to 7 11/16d.; July-September, 8d. to 7 11[illegible] December, 8¼d., 8 5/16d. to 8⅜d. London stocks on the [illegible]nimously.

RAND MINES, LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA)

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

Dr. | Cr.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

To Capital Account—			
Authorised—2,200,000 shares of 5s. each	£550,000 0 0		
Less—74,005 shares of 5s. each in reserve	18,501 5 0		
Issued 2,125,995 shares of 5s. each		£531,498 15 0	
Note.—Of the above Issued Capital, 80,844 ex-enemy shares are held by the Company.			
„ **Investment Reserve Account—**			
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928	2,303,167 2 5		
Add—Funds transferred from Appropriation Account—For net amount of funds expended on new Investments purchased during the year ended 31st December, 1929, less book value of Investments sold, &c. £377,193 18 11			
Deduct—Amount written off—Shares, &c. 122,085 16 5			
	255,108 2 6		
		2,558,275 4 11	
		£3,089,773 19 11	
„ **Sundry Shareholders—** Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends	297,165 11 6		
„ ***Government and Provincial Taxes***	14,325 2 1		
„ **Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances**	343,584 8 11		
		655,075 2 6	
„ **General Reserve Account**		100,000 0 0	
„ ***Balance of Appropriation Account—*** Unappropriated		422,026 7 4	
		£4,266,875 9 9	

Contingent Liabilities.—There are Contingent Liabilities in respect of commitments to guarantee and subscribe for shares and options in and to finance certain undertakings and for contracts open for the supply of Stores, &c.

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

By Mining Claims, Freehold Farm Properties and Freehold and Leasehold Properties		£22,312 9 9
„ **Reservoirs and Pumping Plants**		46,033 1 5
„ ***Participations in Unfloated Ventures***		78,692 14 5
„ **Shares, &c.,** at or below market value—		
5,272 Cape Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Shares of (£1); 143,000 City Deep, Ltd. (£1); 15,852 Consolidated M.R. Mines and Est., Ltd. (£1); 620,425 Crown Mines, Ltd. (10s.); 56,053 Daggafontein Mines, Ltd. (£1): 31,277 Ditto, ditto (Options); 89,500 Durban Roodepoort Deep, Ltd., Shares of (£1); 55,411 East Rand Proprietary Mines, Ltd. (10s.); 33,703 Ferreira Estate Co., Ltd. (£1); 706 Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd. (£1); 43,900 Geldenhuis Deep, Ltd. (£1); 114,300 General Estates, Ltd. (15s.); 8,650 Lydenburg Platinum Areas, Ltd. (4s.); 85,850 Modderfontein B. Gold Mines, Ltd. (5s.); 26,750 Modderfontein Deep Levels, Ltd. (5s.); 69,047 Modderfontein East, Ltd. (£1); 289,930 New Modderfontein G.M. Co., Ltd. (10s.); 500 Northern Lime Co., Ltd. (£1); 148,165 North Venezuelan Petroleum Co., Ltd. (£1); 43,240 Nourse Mines, Ltd. (£1); 79,726 Onverwacht Platinum, Ltd. (10s.); 23,120 Pretoria Portland Cement Co., Ltd. (£1); 1,400 Robinson Gold Mining Co., Ltd. (in Liq.) (£5); 76,900 Rose Deep, Ltd. (£1); 31,906 The Hume Pipe Co. (S.A.), Ltd. (10s.); 70,000 The Victoria Syndicate, Ltd. (£1); 12,400 The Anglo-Spanish Construction Co., Ltd. (£1); 17,700 Transvaal Con. Land and Explor. Co., Ltd. (10s.); 30,000 Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (£1); 95,000 Tocuyo Oilfields of Venezuela, Ltd. (£1); 65,350 Village Deep, Ltd. (£1); 36,169 Witbank Colliery, Ltd. (£1); 14,120 Wolhuter Gold Mines, Ltd. (in Liq.) (£1) ...	2,286,164 9 6	
Sundry Shares and Debentures	86,481 6 4	
„ **Debentures and Union of South Africa Government Stocks,** at or below market value—		
£12,505 Durban Roodepoort Deep, Ltd., 6 per cent.	11,504 12 0	
£248,000 The Anglo-Spanish Construction Co., Ltd., 6 per cent.	207,080 0 0	
£28,375 Witbank Colliery, Ltd., 7 per cent.	27,878 8 9	
£180,914 Union of South Africa Government Stocks	156,646 18 4	
„ **Rand Mines, Ltd., Shares—** 80,844 ex-enemy shares at cost	166,979 19 5	
	£3,089,773 19 11	
„ **Sundry Buildings, Plant, Stores, &c.**	5,386 17 9	
„ **Vehicles**	2,901 0 0	
„ **Furniture, &c.**	7,676 16 9	
„ **Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances**—Advances to Companies; Payments on account of mining supplies in stock and in transit for account of sundry mining companies; Current Accounts, Loans and Payments in Advance, &c.	389,317 13 4	
„ **Deposits, Fixed and on Call and Loan,** bearing interest	433,516 2 0	
„ **Union of South Africa 5 per cent. Loans**	102,350 0 0	
„ **Cash at Bankers and in Hand**	2,234 15 3	
„ **Dividends to be received on Shareholdings**	233,718 4 9	
	£4,266,875 9 9	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1929.

Dr. | Cr.

To General Expenses—Johannesburg and London— Including Directors', Auditors' and Agency Fees, Salaries, Printing, Stationery and Sundries	£29,684 17 3		**By Dividends on Shareholdings**	£486,531 16 9
„ ***Prospecting Ventures***	9,494 13 4	£39,179 10 7	„ **Reservoirs—** Net Revenue £19,555 8 10	
„ **Balance—** Profit for the year carried to *Appropriation Account*		545,570 6 1	Less Depreciation written off 8,358 15 9	£11,196 13 1
			„ **Interest and Exchange**	67,198 5 6
			„ **Sundry Revenue**	13,913 14 3
				92,308 12 10
			„ ***Investment Realization Account—*** Amount realised in excess of book value of Investments sold	5,909 7 1
		£584,749 16 8		£584,749 16 8

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

Dr. | Cr.

Government and Provincial Taxes	£33,197 3 1		
[illegible]serve Account— [illegible]vestment Reserve Account — Net [illegible]dition to Reserve being amount [illegible]ted in excess of amount realised [illegible] Reserve Account —Amount set [illegible] meet general contingencies	377,193 18 11		
	100 000 0 0		
Th[illegible]ount— [illegible]ldends Nos. 52 and 53 of [illegible]t. declared during the year	511,287 15 0		
***[illegible]propriated*—31st December,** [illegible]lance Sheet	422,026 7 4		
	£1,443,705 4 4		£1,443,705 4 4
		By Balance Unappropriated— As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928	£897,792 4 11
		„ **Balance of Profit and Loss Account—** For the year ended 31st December, 1929	545,570 6 1
		„ **Forfeited Dividends Account**	342 13 4

PRO[illegible]

[illegible]ort and Accounts, with general plan of properties, may be obtained from the London Secretaries, A. MOIR & CO., No. 1 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C. 2.

R. S. JA[illegible]

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	0
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	3
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	8
Oats, " " "	6	0
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	0
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 34	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11	7½	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23	0	24
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 2	9	3
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5	8	6
Argentine chilled hinds... 4	8	5
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6	8	7
N.Z. frozen " 4	4	5
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 7	0	9

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	118	0 138 0
Danish.....	107	0 112 0
Canadian.....	108	0 0 0
Dutch	97	0 106 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0 0
Canadian.....	0	0 0 0
American	93	0 100 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	118	0 132 0
New Zealand	122	0 144 0
Danish.....	150	0 152 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	92	0 100 0
New Zealand	78	0 80 0
English Cheddars	94	0 126 0
Dutch	47	0 83 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	43	0 46 0
Trinidad	64	0 66 0
Grenada	48	0 54 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125	0 142 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0 170 6
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0 135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0 145 0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 120 0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	12	6 14 0
Danish.....	10	9 12 9
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa(pagoda)bxs.	12	0 13 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	8	0 14 0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	9	0 35 0
360	9	0 20 0
504	11	6 17 6
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	8	3 15 0
" ..... cases	10	0 21 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	22	0 37 0
" (var.) boxes	8	6 15 3
" Tasmanian boxes	0	0 0 0
" W. Australian	0	0 0 0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia:—				
case 4s.	4	0	6	0
case 5s.	4	6	7	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	53	3	55	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4½	0	0
Black Lampong	1	1	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	45	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	70	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	3	3	0
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	6	1	9
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	9
Java, white, c.&.f. India, April-May	10	1½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	6	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	9½	2	6½
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	2	8
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	7
Broken Orange.....	0	9¼	3	7
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

	£	s.	£	s.
COTTON— TEXTILES.		d.		
Mid-American..... per lb.		8·43		
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....		14·05		
Yarns, 32's twist.....		12½		
60's twist.....		21½		
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	57	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort....	62	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	47	0	0	0
Manila, Mar.-May "J2"..	30	0	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May		nom.		
Sisal African, Feb.-Apr.,	34	0	34	10
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£	s.	£	s.
April-May		23	17	6
May-June		24	0	0
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	18	0	20	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

	d.
WOOL—	
English Southdown, washed per lb.	17
" Lincoln hog, washed	13
Queensland, scd.: super cmbg.	24
N.S.W. greasy, super "	12½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	13
Crossbred 40–44	9
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	29
" 64's	27½
Crossbred 48's	15½
" 46's	15

MINERALS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
COAL—				
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	17	0	17	3
Sheffield, best house ...	19	6	23	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	3	18	6

	£	s.	£	s.
METALS—				
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83	5	84	5
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard 70/17/6			71	71
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	20	10	0	0
Soft Foreign 18/18/9			0	0
Spelter G.O.B. 18/12/6			0	0
Tin—English ingots ...	169	15	170	5
Standard cash	168	10	169	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
CHEMICALS—				
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
CEMENT—				
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton Mar.-April	21/3/9		0	0
Smoked South Sea Mar.-April	20/10/0		0	0
DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	13	0	13	6
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

	s.	d.	s.	d.
HIDES—				
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	6½
Best cow	0	4½	0	4½
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6½	0	8½
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	2
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	10
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	8
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	40	0	0	0
Rape, refined	38	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	28	15	31	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	5	10	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	17	10	0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	18	10	0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	52	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	5	20	10
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.122		6	127	6
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0	
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African " "	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	
Do. Ash " "	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	
Do. Ash " "	0	6	6	

by 1,519 tons; landings being 2,751; deliveries, 1,232; stocks 68,404, against 27,656 last year. Liverpool stocks 338 tons higher; landings, 588; deliveries, 250; stocks, 21,187, against 4,333 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Market stronger, the outcome of advancing prices cabled from Calcutta and where extensive covering orders now circulate. Rain is required to facilitate field work. Cables state: Calcutta mills may resort to reduced working hours. Firsts, March-April, Continent, quoted £24; April-May, sold, £23 15s. to £24 5s.; May-June, £24 10s.; new crop, August-September, quoted £26 5s.; September-October, £26; Lightnings, April-May, £23; Hearts, £21.

HEMP.—A steadier tone characterised the market for Manila parcels, sellers showing more reserve on increased buying disposition J2, March-May, sold, £29 10s.; K ditto, quoted, £29; July-September, buyers, £29 5s.; L1, March-May, quoted, £28 5s.; L2, £25 5s.; M1, £25 15s.; M2, £24. African sisal, No. 1, f.a.q. sellers £34 c.i.f. Manila receipts for past week, 35,000, against 37,000 last year; estimate for next week 34,000, and following week 34,000.

SHELLAC.—Firm, fair demand. T.N., spot, 125s.; May, sold 120s. to 122s.; August, 123s. to 126s.

COPRA.—Market without essential change, but general demand quiet. Straits, S.D., April, to Rotterdam, quoted £21 3s. 9d.; Dutch East Indies, £21 3s. 9d.; Ceylon, £22 5s.; S.D., South Sea, £20 10s.; smoked ditto, to Marseilles, £20 2s. 6d.; mixed Dutch East Indies, £20 3s. 9d.; Manila, in bulk, £19 17s. 6d.; bags, £20 2s. 6d. c.i.f. Palm kernels, April-May, to Hamburg, quoted £14 15s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 17s. to 25s. per Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; C bristle, £19 to £25; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for si vi- March-April, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java as the

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—March 19 ntrary, it

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. She on of output

	s. d.	s. d.		
Beasts—Norfolk	6 6	6 10	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	of reasonable
Irish	...	...	Canadian	h capital and
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	
Short Horns	6 0	6 4	Half bred	port trade of
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	ost markets,
Devons	...	...	Scottish	
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs ...	rnment inter-

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—Marc

Lincoln King Edward .....
" " " whites.....
Essex King Edward.....
" " " whites.....
Arran Chief.....

increase the would be put oal trade in

of the report

nimously.

GOVERNMENT GOLD MINING AREAS
(MODDERFONTEIN) CONSOLIDATED, LTD.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,400,000 in 5,600,000 Shares of 5s. each.

DIRECTORATE.

S. B. JOEL, J.P. (*Chairman*).
J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman). SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E.
G. IMROTH. D. CHRISTOPHERSON, C.B.E. and G. J. JOEL, M.C.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1929.

Tons crushed, **2,416,000**, yielding **1,086,165** fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£4,645,001 4 7	£1 18 5
Total Working Costs	1,977,188 19 8	0 16 4
Working Profit	£2,667,812 4 11	£1 2 1
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	61,673 14 10	
Balance at 31st December, 1928, brought forward	141,071 19 11	
	£2,870,557 19 8	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£1,448,863 5 0	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	9,393 8 8	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	3,631 12 6	
Provision in respect of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	11,376 9 8	
Capital Expenditure	62,452 10 2	
Dividends Nos. 24 and 25 of 45 per cent. each	1,260,000 0 0	
	2,795,707 3 10	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£74,850 15 10	

The **Ore Reserves** at the end of the year were estimated to amount to **10,876,000** tons with an average value of **8.9** dwts. over a stoping width of **63** inches. The reserves exclude ore of a value less than **4** dwts. over the *stoping width*.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

NEW STATE AREAS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital - - £1,514,037, in Shares of £1 each.
Six per Cent. Debentures - - £279,900.

DIRECTORATE.

S. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman). J. H. CROSBY (Deputy-Chairman).
SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E. J. G. LAWN, C.B.E. G. J. JOEL, M.C.
A. J. ANDERSON and W. S. WEBBER.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1929.

Tons crushed, **816,000**, yielding **391,430** fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£1,667,784 15 6	£1 18 4
Total Working Costs	957,510 9 11	1 0 10
Working Profit	£710,274 5 7	£0 15 6
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	16,462 5 6	
Balance at 31st December, 1928, brought forward	41,755 9 0	
	£768,492 0 1	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Government's Share of Profits	£384,973 17 4	
Taxation—Union and Provincial	33,416 15 6	
Debenture Interest and Expenses	18,392 0 0	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	2,055 12 7	
Provision on account of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	1,924 15 0	
Capital Expenditure and Debenture Redemption	72,190 7 9	
Dividends Nos. 9 and 10 of 7½ per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively	189,254 12 6	
	702,208 0 8	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£66,283 19 5	

The **Ore Reserves**, *which exclude ore of less value than 4·5 dwts.*, were estimated to amount to **2,696,000** tons at the year end, with an average value of **8·9** dwts. over a stoping width of 50 inches.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON
LIMITED.

PROVIDENT HOUSE, 246, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Founded 1877.

Authorised by Act of Parliament, Intituled Provident Association of London Act, 1910.

INVESTED FUNDS

£10,614,970

Total Advances upon House Property to Policy-holders and Certificate-holders considerably exceed

SIXTEEN MILLIONS

R. S. JACKSON, *Chairman*. W. W. BENHAM, *Managing Director*. Provident House, 246, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2

VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,196,892, in Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE.

J. H. CROSBY (Chairman).

S. B. JOEL, J.P.; SIR REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E.; J. G. LAWN, C.B.E.; SIR WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, K.B.E.; SIR ABE BAILEY, Bart.; G. J. JOEL, M.C.; and A. J. ANDERSON.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1929.

Tons crushed, **748,000**, yielding **294,908** fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£1,257,283 11 4	£1 13 7
Total Working Costs	755,066 13 11	1 0 2
Working Profit	£502,216 17 5	£0 13 5
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	11,335 0 8	
Balance at 31st December, 1928, brought forward	43,520 13 1	
	£557,072 11 2	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Taxation—Union and Provincial	£66,442 8 0	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	1,742 19 10	
Provision on account of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	18,233 6 4	
Capital Expenditure	17,801 11 0	
Dividends Nos. 32 and **33** of **17½** per cent. each	418,912 4 0	
	523,132 9 2	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£33,940 2 0	

The **Ore Reserves** at the end of the year were estimated to amount to **3,022,000** tons, with an average value of **7.3** dwts. over a stoping width of **50** inches.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

THE LANGLAAGTE ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

Issued Capital, £1,519,833 in Shares of £1 each.

DIRECTORATE.

S. B. JOEL, J.P. (Chairman).

J. H. CROSBY (Vice-Chairman), Sir REGINALD A. BLANKENBERG, K.B.E., J. G. LAWN, C.B.E., G. J. JOEL, M.C., F. L. MARX and Sir WILLEM VAN HULSTEYN.

Extracted from the Annual Report to 31st December, 1929.

Tons crushed, **968,500**, yielding **313,105** fine ounces of gold.

		Per ton, based on tonnage crushed.
Total Working Revenue	£1,334,695 16 2	£1 7 7
Total Working Costs	1,022,863 16 1	1 1 2
Working Profit	£311,832 0 1	6 5
Rents, Interest and Sundry Revenue	22,303 8 7	
Balance at 31st December, 1928, brought forward	61,879 11 0	
	£396,014 19 8	
This amount has been dealt with as follows:—		
Taxation, Union and Provincial	£37,250 18 6	
Government's share of profits (Bewaarplaatsen)	3,846 5 0	
Royalty on Ore	773 1 9	
Miners' Phthisis Sanatoria, Donations and Depreciation	1,753 18 6	
Provision on account of outstanding liabilities, Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund	30,107 17 10	
Capital Expenditure	632 1 4	
Dividends Nos. 76 and **77** of **7½** per cent. each	227,974 19 0	
	302,339 1 11	
Leaving a balance carried forward of	£93,675 17 9	

The **Ore Reserves** at the end of the year were estimated to contain **1,598,000** tons, with a value of **7.4** dwts. over a stoping width of 42 inches.

The full Report and Accounts may be obtained from the London Agents, The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., 10/11, Austin Friars, London, E.C. 2.

THE ROBERT SIMPSON COMPANY, LIMITED.

PREFERENCE SHARE DIVIDEND NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Dividend has been declared upon that portion of the Capital Stock of the Company consisting of the Preference Shares, being a half-yearly dividend at the rate of Six per Cent. (6%) per annum upon the said Preference Shares, and that the same will be payable at the Midland Bank, Limited, Poultry and Princes Street, London, E.C.2, England, or at the option of the holder, at the Office of the Union Trust Company, Limited, Toronto, Canada, on and after the 1st day of May, 1930, to shareholders who appear on the register at the close of business on the 16th day of April, 1930.

The Transfer Books will be closed from April 16th to 30th, both days inclusive.

FRANK HAY,
Secretary.

Toronto, February 14th, 1930.

AUSTRIA TO-DAY

ECONOMIC EXHIBITION

at

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,
Houghton Street, Aldwych, Strand.

Open Daily until April 5th, from 10 a.m. —8 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Admission FREE.

Conducted Tours by Experts at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Lecture at School 31st March by *Dr. Reisch, President of the Austrian National Bank*, with *Sir Henry Strakosch* in the Chair.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Chief Office: Oxford St., Manchester

Annual Income Exceeds	£10,700,000
Assets Exceed	£45,000,000
Claims Paid Exceed	£61,000,000

THE CUNARD STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Stock TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED until 9th April, 1930.—By Order of the Board.

W. DRANFIELD, Secretary.

Offices: Cunard Building, Liverpool.
26th March, 1930.

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. CX. SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1930. No. 4,519.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(*Established in* 1824.)

HEAD OFFICE: BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Marine Department: 2-6, Billiter Square, London, E.C.3.

ASSETS EXCEED £30,000,000.

INSURANCES OF EVERY KIND.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

INCREASED COMPOUND BONUSES on Participating Policies.

Assurances with DISABILITY BENEFITS (including Income Benefit).

Comprehensive Deferred Assurances for Children.

For full information apply to the Head Office or to any of the Offices or Agents of the Company.

A. LEVINE, General Manager.

CHRISTIANIA BANK OG KREDITKASSE OSLO

Established 1848.

Paid-up Capital and Reserve Funds,

Kr. 40.000.000.—.

Oldest Norwegian Joint Stock Bank. Direct correspondents throughout the country. Offering complete services to banks and firms doing business on Norway.

Correspondence invited.

CREDITO ITALIANO

Limited Company Incorporated in Italy.

Capital Subscribed	Lire 400,000,000
Capital Paid-up	Lire 400,000,000
Reserve	Lire 230,000,000

Head Office of the Bank: MILAN.

THE BANK HAS BRANCHES AND CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT ITALY.

London Branch: 2 ROYAL EXCHANGE AVENUE, E.C. 3.

Transacts a general Foreign Banking Business.
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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY proved extremely stringent during the turn of the quarter, and on both March 31st and April 1st the market had to go to the Bank, while the following day 3 to 4 per cent. was quoted. On Thursday money was

somewhat easier. The explanation of Monday's stringency was partly a big foreign exchange settlement, but mainly that the Treasury bills to be paid for that day were the favourite June 30th maturity, and so had been applied for heavily by the market. It was not, therefore, surprising that the market found itself short of funds on Monday, but it was not expected that conditions would remain stringent the following day, when money was released through the payment of the 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan dividend.

* * * *

Tuesday, however, being April 1st, was the first day on which the final call on the recent 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan could be paid under discount of 3½ per cent., and, as suggested in last week's *Economist*, a fair number of holders took advantage of this option, so much so that payments to the Treasury on this account more than neutralised the effect of the 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan dividend. Hence, as the Bank return shows, the market had to obtain from the Bank a net £4,199,392, and had not the Bank bought Government securities (mainly May Treasury bills at 2 5/16 and 2¼ per cent.) to the tune of £9,259,000, the pressure on the market would have been fairly severe.

* * * *

These developments, coupled with the fact that the new financial year has been reached, have produced a complete change of tone in the discount market. May bills this week were quoted at 2¾ per cent. and June bills at 2 5/16–7/16 per cent., while the three months' market rate, which ten days ago was only 2½ per cent., has since risen to 2 5/16 per cent., and on Thursday to 2⅜ per cent. Longer maturities have lately been around 2⅜ per cent. In addition to the upward turn of money rates, there are signs of a larger number of bills coming forward, while now that the chances of a quick turn in Treasury bills has disappeared with the end of the financial year, American buying has also fallen away. This last fact explains not only the rise in discount rates, but also this week's set-back in sterling.

* * * *

These internal developments proved sufficient to quash all suggestions of a 3 per cent. Bank rate, and no surprise was felt on Thursday when the Bank failed to make any change. Apart from the situation in London, it must be remembered that so far the New York Reserve Bank has failed to conform to the last reduction in the Bank of England's rate, and the present trend of events in New York amply explains its failure. It is clear that it would not take much of a stimulus in the form of cheap money to bring about another outbreak of Wall Street speculation, and this is the last thing that the American authorities desire.

	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	4	3½	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 20,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	2	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Discount { Call	2	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Houses { Notice	2½	1½	1½	1½	2½ (Mar. 20,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	3 1/16	2½–½	2⅛	2⅛	...

While, therefore, the prospect of a 3 per cent. Bank rate need not be entirely written off, the chances clearly have diminished. The gold outlook, however, remains favourable. It is true that this week's Cape gold went to Germany, but the price paid was only 84s. 10½d., and meanwhile the arrivals of Australian gold have already raised the Bank's holding to £157,125,000. Against this there has been a further rise in the note circulation this week of £5,962,000, so that, all things considered, the Bank may decide not to make any move for the present.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—During March there was a halt in the decline in commodity prices, which were down by only three-tenths of one per cent. Bradstreets, and nine-tenths of one per cent., Duns. There is an increase in building, but general trade can be measured by the Bank clearings, which are the lowest since 1924. Brokers' loans are up by 148 million dollars, according to the Federal Reserve Report for the week ended April 2nd, and by 488.7 million dollars in March, according to the Stock Exchange statement. The Reserve system credit is up by 80 million dollars, chiefly due to increased bill-holdings as the result of the rise this week in bill rates. Discounts were up moderately, the ratio at the end of the month being 79.8. Call money was steady at 4 per cent., but lower rates are expected next week.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Stock market prices were well maintained, and a confident tone prevailed, though the volume of dealings fell appreciably below the previous week's level. A moderate reaction on speculative offering of gilt-edged stock was succeeded by renewed firmness, despite the hardening of bill rates, which put a further reduction of Bank out of court for the time being. International stocks marked up in sympathy with the activity in New (which was looked at somewhat askance in conservative London circles). A few investment trusts were cautious buyers of the best domestic industrial stocks. The tea and rubber share markets tended to broaden. Increased confidence was in evidence, also, in the oil market. Kaffirs attracted slightly more interest than of late, and Rhodesians made a fair showing, but tin shares, with a few exceptions, were easier on a reaction in the metal.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Symptoms of faint recovery are just perceptible. Coal prices, however, are easy and a seasonal decline in home demand has intensified the slackness of the market. Conditions in the iron and steel trades are at least no worse, and the tinplate market is sound. Cotton is firmer, and business in Manchester shows faint signs of improvement. According to our Bradford correspondent, little interruption is anticipated from the wool textile wages dispute, and wool is being freely bought. Short-time negotiations are in progress among the Calcutta jute mills. Conditions in the hide and leather trades are quiet, but not unfavourable. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are moderately active. Wheat has recovered a few points.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market was very quiet this week, sterling being weak against the dollar, whilst the Continent was irregular, although fluctuations were small. The dollar rate fell from 4.86⅝ to 4.86 15/32 and Montreal improved from 4.86 7/32 to 4.86⅛. Paris lost a point at 124.29, whilst Brussels was ½ better at 34.87. Milan lost a point at 92.81 and the peseta rate, after hesitation, declined from 39.05 to 38.75. Amsterdam gained 1⅛ at 12.11⅜. Berlin improved from 20.38½ to 20.37½, after 20.37¼. Switzerland was ¼ better at 12.13. Stockholm was considerably weaker at 18.10⅜, and Copenhagen lost ¾ at 18.16 7/16. Of the South American exchanges Rio was 1/32d. better at 5 25/32d. Buenos Aires appreciated sharply from 42⅜d. to 44⅛d. on rumours of a loan in New York, and Monte Video gained ¼d. at 45d. The new Peruvian sole, which was introduced on March 27th, opened for 90 days Lima on London at 12.47½, but fell away to 12.52½. In the Far East the rupee was unchanged at 1s. 5 27/32d., as was the yen at 2s. 0⅜d. Batavia gained a point at 12.11½. In the futures market New York went from par and 1/32 cent discount to par for both periods. Paris was slightly less wanted for one month at 9 centimes premium, against 10 last week, but was in better demand for three months at 25 centimes, or 2 centimes higher than last week. Brussels weakened from par and 1 centime discount to 1 and 1½ centimes discount. Milan was a point weaker for both quotations at 13 and 32 centesimi discount, as was Madrid at 4 and 12 centimos premium, against 7 and 19 last week. Amsterdam was ½ cent lower for both periods, at ½ cent and 1½ cents premium respectively. Berlin was virtually unchanged at 1⅜ and 5¼ pfennigs discount. The silver market was quiet with only small business within narrow limits. Price fell ¼d. for spot and 3/16d. for forward to 19⅜d. and 19 1/16d. respectively. The China silver exchanges fell slightly in sympathy, Hong Kong losing ⅛d. at 1s. 6⅜d. and Shanghai also ⅛d. at 1s. 11d.

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THE DEFICIT AND THE BUDGET.

THE individual taxpayer, being human, inevitably concentrates his attention on that aspect of each year's Budget which affects his own pocket in the immediate future. Chancellors, on the other hand, and equally their advisers and responsible critics, are constrained to take a wider view. To them, as to the taxpayer, a Budget is a financial programme for a particular financial year; but to them it is also, or should be, something much more important, namely, one chapter in financial history and policy, deriving its justification from lessons of the past and showing vision in its provision for the future. It is mainly for the use of observers from this broader standpoint that we publish this week, as in former years, our Budget Supplement. In it our readers will find salient facts and figures enabling them to trace the course of British financial policy since the war, as well as to gauge the particular and immediate problem with which Mr Snowden is now grappling.

The scope of that problem, as it affects the new financial year, is now known as far as it can be known until the Budget is opened; and the publication of the National Accounts for the year ended March 31st affords opportunity for cogitation over the new year's revenue prospects in the light of recent experience. The actual deficit turns out to be £14½ million, or just a little less than we recently anticipated. Details showing how this deficit accrued are given on a later page. The principal facts are that tax-revenue fell about £13 million below estimate, while the Supply Services cost nearly £8½ million more than was estimated. It would be unfair to Mr Churchill to lay upon him the whole blame for the fact that his estimate of a £4 million surplus has been thus stultified; for the present Cabinet is responsible for a considerable volume of increase in expenditure; while no Chancellor, even of Mr Churchill's perspicacity, could be expected to foresee events such as the Wall Street slump and the Hatry affair, to which in some measure is attributable a shortage of over £5 million in Stamp Duty. Nevertheless, we are entitled to recall our expressed view of a year ago, that Mr Churchill had budgeted optimistically, and had left the Sinking Fund at the mercy of events that were by no means certain to mature.

The position with regard to redemption of debt out of current revenue is, indeed, a cause for uneasiness, and here the responsibility clearly rests mainly with Mr Snowden's predecessor. By grouping the entire service of the National Debt into one allocated figure, Mr Churchill left the Sinking Fund payments largely dependent upon the accuracy with which he forecast the future course of monetary rates, and in the past year his forecast was not vindicated. His projected allocation for debt repayment was £50 million, which itself was a figure considered inadequate by the Colwyn Committee. But this figure has not been realised. Instead of £50 million, the accounts show that the new sinking fund received £47¾ million, and, unfortunately, the real position is very much worse than it appears. Under the 1928 Finance Act, nearly £5 million in respect of interest on National Savings Certificates has been paid, not out of revenue, but out of borrowing. Add to this the fact that the deficit of £14½ million is also met in a similar manner, and the conclusion is reached that the true figure of debt repayment out of current revenue in the past financial year was less than £30 million. That is a serious fact to which Mr Snowden cannot shut his eyes, however preoccupied he may be with the already serious gap between his prospective revenue and his prospective expenditure. A sound debt policy is at the root of wise finance, and cannot be made the sport of passing convulsions and unexpected Treasury difficulties. We hope, therefore, that whatever else Mr Snowden finds it impossible to do, he will face up boldly to the task of retrieving Mr Churchill's shortcomings in the treatment of the Sinking Fund.

But his task is admittedly unenviable. The estimates for the Supply Services for 1930-31 total £418 million. According to the programme instituted by Mr Churchill, the figure for the debt service is fixed at £355 million, in addition to which a sum of about £8 million net may be required for Consolidated Fund Services, allowing for De-rating changes and excluding the Road Fund payments. This would provide a total on the expenditure side of £781 million. Revenue in the past year, including Post Office net receipts, but excluding the £22 million received from motor vehicle duties and apportioned to the Road Fund, totalled £734 million, and it would be a bold estimate to place the new year's revenue on the existing basis of taxation at any substantially higher level. For instance, income tax will be levied from the profits of a year which has closed with a grave depression, while indirect taxes are showing disquieting signs of apparent lack of expansive power. Viewed in this light, the gulf which Mr Snowden has to bridge becomes formidable in the extreme. It is not beyond probability that Mr Snowden may have to find new revenue to the tune of between £50 million and £60 million, and even then have little margin for additional expenditure such as might arise in the form of supplementary Naval estimates, unemployment charges, or projected legislation in connection with slum clearance. In his search for methods of providing so large a sum the Chancellor is confronted by serious difficulties. His predecessor has spring-cleaned every cupboard which might hide a windfall available for a time of urgent need, and the £20 million accumulated in Rating Relief Suspense Account represents a specifically earmarked capital reserve.

We do not propose to guess the various methods upon which Mr Snowden will decide. Among the favourite expectations of the moment are an addition to the petrol duty and the lowering of the minimum rate of income liable to surtax. But in view of the wideness of the margin which has to be covered, it is difficult to rule out the unpleasant possibility of some increase in the standard rate of income tax. We trust that in the present depressed state of the country's economic life the Chancellor will not find it necessary to increase this burden, but we must confess that circumstances have seldom made it more difficult for any Chancellor to frame a programme which is a reasonable and proper compromise between the urgent needs of the present and the dictates of sound financial policy upon which future prosperity largely depends.

Enough has been said to indicate the abundant reasons why Mr Snowden's Budget is awaited in financial circles with far more than the normal interest. But the importance of the Budget will not end with financial policy. Mr. Snowden has also to make clear to the country his Government's fiscal policy. From his well-known Free-Trade correctitude it may be deduced that a refusal to be stampeded by economic depression or "Imperial" fallacies into acquiescence with protectionism will stand out prominently in his speech. What revenue changes result from his vindication of vital principle is a minor matter. We hope that he will give equal prominence to the one clear lesson to be derived from the National Accounts, which, if they are anything, are the most eloquent sermon that could be pronounced upon the need for public retrenchment—a need that is heavily emphasised by the industrial difficulties of the moment. British industry is struggling along the hard path of reorganisation and rationalisation towards the greater production of wealth, upon which both prosperity and future national revenue depend, and a factor indispensable to success is that the national savings should be sufficient to provide an adequate supply of new capital for permanent investment at low interest rates. If this adequate supply is to be forthcoming, it is essential that the national resources should be carefully husbanded, and that the savings of the country should not be squandered for unproductive purposes.

THE PALESTINE REPORT.

THE report* of the Commission on the Palestine Disturbances of August, 1929, has been published this week. The Commissioners were directed to "inquire into the immediate causes which led to the recent outbreak in Palestine and to make recommendations as to the steps necessary to avoid a recurrence." Almost before there has been time to read and digest the Report, its authors have been publicly criticised on the ground that they have gone beyond their terms of reference. Though some of the critics are people whose opinion carries great weight, we cannot help feeling that the criticism is not entirely free from a political *arrière pensée*, and that objectively it is unfair. The truth is that the warrant of appointment contained a latent contradiction, since it was extremely improbable that any intelligent or useful recommendations for preventing a recurrence of the recent troubles could be made if only the immediate, and not the ultimate, causes of these troubles were taken into account. In other words, the Secretary of State placed the Commission in a dilemma. The Commissioners had either to perform something more than the first of their two tasks or else fail adequately to perform the second task that had been assigned to them. Palestine has suffered too much from equivocal documents already. There is a latent contradiction in the terms of the Mandate itself which has created a constant series of dilemmas for the Administration. Here, again, the responsibility is not with the British officials who have to do their best to execute the Mandate on the spot, but with the Government of the Mandatory Power and with the Council of the League of Nations.

In form, the report of the four Commissioners is unanimous; but in substance the note of reservation made by one Commissioner, Mr Snell, amounts almost to a minority report—though Mr Snell has found himself able to append his signature to the main report, side by side with the signature of his colleagues. Briefly, Mr Snell agrees with his colleagues in their view that the animosity and hostility of the Arabs towards the Jews was the fundamental cause of the outbreak, but differs from them in his view that this Arab feeling itself was not of a fundamental character. He attributes it to agitation on the part of the Arab leaders, and he assigns to these a more active responsibility for the outbreak than his colleagues are inclined to assign to them. He is also more inclined than his colleagues to convict the Administration of having failed to act with sufficient firmness.

As to the nature of the outbreak itself, there is no difference of opinion. It "was from the beginning an attack by Arabs on Jews for which no excuse in the form of earlier murders by Jews has been established." . . . "The outbreak was not premeditated," and it "neither was nor was intended to be a revolt against British authority in Palestine." In the report, Mr Luke, the acting head of the Administration at the time, is thoroughly vindicated and the British police are warmly praised. This favourable judgment on the conduct of the *personnel* of the Administration is not surprising; but it is none the less satisfactory to find it rendered in such clear language. Anyone who has followed the history of Palestine since the termination of the Ottoman *régime* will have realised that the execution of the Mandate imposes upon British administrators in Palestine one of the most difficult tasks that any administrators have ever been called upon to perform. The best evidence of their success is the fact that, for the three-and-a-half years preceding the outbreak of last August, Palestine had been practically denuded of troops without any serious disturbance of public order occurring throughout that period—and this in spite of the fact that chronic warfare in the cause of Arab nationalism against European rule was being waged in the adjoining territory mandated to France, just on the other side of an artificial frontier. Of course, it was only human that the Treasury and the taxpayers in Great Britain should take full advantage of every possible saving in expenditure on the garrison in Palestine. But, considering that such saving was only made possible by a *tour de force* of good administration in Palestine itself, we at home ought to be very scrupulous now in not trying to put off upon the shoulders of our countrymen in the Palestine Administrative Service our own responsibility for the fact that, when the outbreak came, the men on the spot found themselves without the necessary force at their command.

But why, after three-and-a-half years, was force needed, after all? Because, in Palestine in general and at Jerusalem in particular, there is an endemic bacillus of homicidal religious mania which becomes epidemic at irregular and unpredictable intervals. When one reads, in this report, the detailed account of the squabble over the Wailing Wall which was the immediate occasion of the outbreak of last August, one feels as if one were reading the journal of a physician in charge of a lunatic asylum; and then one remembers that this mania has infested the country for over 2,000 years at least—as far back as the age of the Maccabees, if not of Nehemiah and Ezra. In the contemporary world there is really nothing comparable to this Palestinian madness except the communal outbreaks in India. As the Commission point out, its evil effect upon the relations between Arabs and Jews in Palestine has been actually much stronger under the British mandate than under the foregoing Ottoman *régime*. There is evidently something latent in the Mandate which has been exacerbating this communal trouble (to borrow the Indian term), in spite of the best that British administrators have been able to do. There is some new bedevilment in Palestine to be accounted for over and above the chronic bedevilment of the last two millennia.

The devil which has been bringing these troubles upon us in Palestine is the war spirit—the atmosphere in which the Balfour Declaration to the Zionists was conceived and born in 1917, and in which the MacMahon-Husayn correspondence regarding Arab independence was conducted in 1915-16. That spirit was a tragic combination of two sets of ultimately incompatible emotions and aims—altruism and self-interest, love and hate, far-sighted idealism and a hand-to-mouth *Realpolitik* with "after victory the deluge" for its motto. True, we did have our imaginations kindled and our sympathies touched by the prospect of giving a national home again to a famous and unhappy nation that had been scattered abroad over the face of the earth since Titus ploughed up the site of Jerusalem and sowed it with salt. But, equally, we did want to take some very immediate and very practical step to counteract the effect of the atrocities which had been committed against the Jews of the Pale by the Government of our ally the Czar during the great Russian retreat of 1915. The stake was the sympathy of Jewry all over the world. If the Russian atrocities were not counterbalanced by some gesture on the part of the Western Powers, the Central European Jews would remain "pro-German" and the Jews of the United States might become "pro-German" too.

The "victory-value" of the Balfour Declaration was that it retained the sympathy of the American Jews for the *entente* and upset the loyalty of the Jews in Germany and Austria-Hungary. We have had our victory and now we are paying for it. It was the same with our policy towards the Arabs. We did have a genuine zeal for the liberation of subject nationalities (at least in so far as they were subject to enemy Powers); but, equally, we also had an immediate politico-military aim: the alienation of the Arabs from Turkey. Here, again, we obtained what we wanted at the moment (as the Commission points out), and the price is now being paid.

During the war we persuaded the Zionists and the Arabs simultaneously to lend us support which was in both cases a substantial contribution to our eventual victory; and we contracted to repay both parties with interest by enabling them to realise certain political desiderata of their own after our victory was won. The assumption was that the victory would bring into our possession sufficient assets to pay off both debts. And now the two parties are claiming that we had promised some of the same assets to each of them. From time to time the Colonial Office has done its duty by giving ingenious demonstrations that our commitments to the Jews and to the Arabs are technically not incompatible. That may be so. Yet we find in practice that incompatible expectations have been aroused in Jewish and Arab minds and that these incompatible expectations give rise to outbreaks like that of August 1st.

In Palestine we have a very heavy responsibility towards both Arabs and Jews. We have moral if not contractual obligations towards the two peoples which we may find ourselves unable to discharge in full. And the most serious feature in the situation is that we are working against time. The Palestine Mandate is of the "A" class, which means that the mandatory is pledged to educate the people of the country to govern themselves at the earliest possible date. Palestine and Syria are now surrounded by countries which are either completely independent already or are on the verge of becoming so: 'Iraq and Egypt on the east and west, Turkey and Najd-Hijaz on the north and the south. Can it be supposed that the situation in Arab Palestine and Arab Syria will not be profoundly affected when Arab Egypt and Arab 'Iraq both take their places in the League of Nations as sovereign and fully self-governing States? We have not much time left for teaching Jews and Arabs in Palestine how to live together and co-operate in the government of their common country without the supervision of a mandatory Power.

* "Parliamentary Paper. Cmd. 3530 of 1930." Price 4s. net.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

THE Government's promised Bill relating to slum clearance has appeared, and the Second Reading is to be moved by Mr Greenwood in the course of the coming week. It takes the title of a Housing Bill, and its scope is widened by the inclusion, first, of an attempt to stimulate the process, notoriously slow hitherto, of improving housing conditions in rural areas, and secondly, of a special provision for the assisted building of small houses designed for aged persons; but it is against the problem of the slums that it is principally directed. There is nothing revolutionary, in either sense of that word, in the proposals put forward. Clearly they are intended to accelerate rather than to transform the existing methods of procedure. How far they are likely to succeed may be conjectured in debate, but can be proved only in operation.

The main novelties of the Bill are two. It ordains that local authorities shall differentiate slum property into three categories, each for separate treatment—not a spectacular, but a thoroughly useful step forward; and on the financial side it breaks entirely new ground by altering the whole basis of the Exchequer grant. The Bill proposes that the local authority shall determine whether unsavoury property is to be treated as a "clearance area," as an "improvement area," or as a case of individual dwelling houses to be dealt with in isolation. "A clearance area" explains itself. It is one where the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions is the demolition of all the buildings in the area. Provided that the authority has ascertained that accommodation can be made available for the persons displaced, it is to be empowered either to compel the owners of the buildings in the clearance area to demolish them, or else to purchase the land and take its own steps for the demolition. The latter alternative is a simplification of the method at present available. The former is original, and will lay on the owners the cost of demolition; but they will retain possession of the land when cleared, whereas the authority will have no expense at all, except such as it has to incur in ensuring the provision of fresh accommodation. In any case, a clearance order requires confirmation by the Ministry, who must hold a public inquiry in the locality if objections are made.

The second category, the "improvement area," is one whose conditions can be effectively remedied, without total demolition, by demolishing or repairing houses unfit for habitation, by purchasing any land required for opening out the area, and by directly lessening the overcrowding in the area. These are not alternatives; once an authority has satisfied the Minister and thereafter passed a resolution declaring an area to be an "improvement area," it must proceed to take all the steps that are required for securing the improvement of housing conditions within it and for maintaining a proper standard subsequently. The same procedure is laid down for enforcing the demolition or repair of insanitary dwelling-houses in an "improvement area" as for similar houses outside either class of area, which (as mentioned above) need to be dealt with in isolation. In future the appeal against the decision of the local authority is to be to the County Court, a simplification of procedure which is likely to command approval; but if the judge allows the appeal he must also, if requested, give his decision whether the house can or cannot be rendered fit for habitation at reasonable expense. But unless the notice served by the authority is quashed in court, the owner of the house will be compelled to pay the cost, either of the repairs that are necessary or, in cases where the expense of reconditioning the house would be unreasonable, of its demolition.

The grants hitherto allowed from the Exchequer towards slum clearance schemes have always been regarded by local authorities as inadequate. The extremely heavy burden likely to fall on the rates has in the past been probably the principal reason why slum clearance has only made progress in the large cities. Under the existing law grants are made to a local authority towards a slum clearance scheme not exceeding 50 per cent. of the average annual loss that the authority is likely to incur. This basis of grant is to disappear. It is to be replaced by a grant based directly on the number of persons re-housed in dwellings provided by the local authority. The grant will be 45s. per head normally, 50s. in agricultural parishes and 70s. where accommodation has to be provided in tenements on the cleared site or on other costly sites; and in each case the duration of the annual grant will be 40 years. The 70s. grant is clearly intended for those cases where the displaced inhabitants cannot be expected to move far from their work.

This new unit grant has a dual purpose: to increase the assistance to local authorities and to enable them to let a proportion of the new houses required at rents definitely lower than those now possible for "Wheatley" houses. The charge on the rates in respect of these new houses is not to fall below that now fixed for "Wheatley" houses; that is to say, if the new Exchequer grant does reduce the cost of the new houses to the local authority, the rents, not the rates, are to receive the benefit, and apparently the authority is free to concentrate all the benefit on a proportion of the houses.

These are the fundamentals of the new Bill, for the new powers offered to county councils to assist or spur rural district councils into action, and the relaxation of minimum dimensions requirements in the case of houses designed for elderly persons, are additions that have no bearing on the main proposals. Slum clearance will never go forward satisfactorily until the Ministry of Health wins the confidence, and with that the eager co-operation, of the local authorities in the matter. All-important, therefore, is the psychological effect of any new proposal on the local authorities. What will it be in this case? They are

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INTEREST ALLOWED ON DAILY CREDIT BALANCES.

likely to welcome the unit grant. Indeed, it is understood that their representative associations have approved it in principle. A grant on this basis should have the beneficent result of encouraging councils to attack the blackest spots in their areas, instead of fighting shy of them as likely to be the most expensive. Much of the slum clearance and re-housing that has actually succeeded in recent years has been carried out by the efforts of voluntary associations and non-profit-making societies. It is good to see that such bodies will be enabled, through the local authority, to obtain the same unit grant from the Exchequer. On the other hand, this assistance will not be available to private enterprise working for profit. It is supposed, perhaps rightly, that private enterprise cannot at present provide houses at rents which ex-slum-dwellers could afford to pay, but it would be a mistake to encourage the idea that private builders are not to be expected ever again to interest themselves in endeavouring to do so.

There remains the subject of compensation. The new Bill appears at first sight to do nothing to remove the objection which has long been raised against the existing law, and which has deterred many a council from even formulating a plan for dealing with its slum area. In brief, the objection is that an injustice is committed against the well-intentioned owner of satisfactory property which happens to be situated within an unhealthy area, for, as the law stands, if a local authority condemns an area and compulsorily acquires the property, it is only allowed to pay compensation on the basis of the site value, with no allowance whatever for the buildings; so that all the latter, good as well as bad, go for nothing. The early critics of the new Bill are condemning it as perpetuating this injustice. It will be interesting to hear how Mr Greenwood replies to the charge. He may ignore it, but his Bill would also appear to leave it open to him to point out that where good property of that type exists the local authority will be likely to schedule it as an "improvement" and not as a "clearance" area, so that the fear of injustice will not arise.

That and many other points will have to be elucidated when the Bill reaches its later stages; it is believed that, following the precedent of other housing bills, the Second Reading will not be challenged. In particular, more detailed information on the probable cost to the Exchequer ought to be elicited. The financial memorandum accompanying the Bill indicates that if 100,000 persons are displaced and re-housed in a year, the annual Exchequer grant would amount to about £250,000 for 40 years. This, be it noted, is cumulative, so that if another 100,000 are displaced in the second year the grant will then be £500,000 per annum. It is not in any reactionary spirit that we ask for more detailed estimates of the cost. Slum clearance on a large scale has to be faced by the nation. It will require money, which in the long run will prove to be well spent. But the country is entitled to assure itself that its money will be so used as to achieve as extensive results as possible; that subsidies will not lead to a renewed inflation of building costs; and that the liability to be incurred is not unlimited.

PRICES: THE QUARTER'S MOVEMENT.

In view of the serious reactions on international trade produced by the catastrophic fall in wholesale prices which has taken place during the past nine months, any signs of greater stability in the price level are matter for satisfaction; and it is encouraging to note that for the month of March our index number records a decline of only 1.3 per cent., as compared with a fall of over 2 per cent. in February, and 2.5 per cent. in the first month of the year. Not only was the rate of fall retarded, but in the case of a number of important commodities prices in the last fortnight of March showed some recovery from a nadir reached in the middle of the month. Changes in the indices of each price-group during the past quarter are summarised in the following table, the figures for the end of March, 1929, being added for purposes of comparison:—

AVERAGE, 1927 = 100.

	Mar., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.
Cereals and meat	100·9	92·3	89·2	85·4	84·7
Other foods	87·3	83·6	83·1	83·0	82·7
Textiles	100·8	82·6	76·7	74·7	73·0
Minerals	99·7	92·4	92·6	90·5	89·8
Miscellaneous	91·4	89·2	88·0	87·0	85·5
Complete Index	96·1	88·3	86·1	84·2	83·1

As between groups, the largest movements in the month were a further decline of 2.3 per cent. in textiles, and a fall of 1.7 per cent. in the miscellaneous section. Minerals and "cereals and meat" were both rather less than 1 per cent. lower. Fluctuations last month in the price of individual commodities were again mostly downwards, prominent declines occurring in the case of English wheat and oats, New Zealand mutton, cocoa, butter, wool, hemp, pig iron and lead; but raw cotton, flax, tin and copper prices were firmer, tea advanced sharply, a recovery took place in maize, and English beef was dearer. Changes as compared with a month ago and a year ago are summarised below:—

	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.
Wheat—Foreign	− 2·2	−12·9	Flax	+ 8·1	−32·6
,, English	− 5·7	− 5·1	Hemp	− 6·2	−18·4
Flour	− 2·9	− 4·3	Jute	− 3·9	−26·1
Barley	− 1·1	−23·6			
Oats	− 6·5	−40·9	Textiles	− 2·3	−27·6
Maize	+ 8·4	−32·9			
Rice	− 2·1	− 9·8	Pig iron	− 6·9	+ 0·7
Potatoes	...	−48·0	Steel rails	...	...
Beef—English	+ 7·3	+12·6	Iron bars	...	+ 4·9
,, Argentine	...	− 4·9	Tinplates	− 1·4	...
Mutton—English	...	+ 5·0	Coal, Welsh exp.	...	− 7·0
,, New Zealand	−17·0	−10·0	Coal, Durham gas	...	+ 8·2
Bacon, Danish	+ 4·3	− 2·7	Coal, household	...	− 2·3
			Lead	− 4·7	−21·9
Cereals and meat	− 0·8	−16·1	Tin	+ 1·5	−22·7
			Copper	+ 2·9	−25·8
Tea	+22·2	− 3·6	Spelter	...	−31·9
Coffee	...	− 4·4			
Cocoa	− 7·7	− 6·2	Minerals	− 0·8	− 9·9
Sugar, cane	...	− 6·5			
Sugar, refined	...	− 6·4	Timber, English	...	...
Cheese, Canadian	− 1·0	− 7·7	Timber, Swedish	− 5·3	− 5·3
Butter, Danish	−13·4	−10·2	Cement	...	...
Coco oil	...	− 4·3	Hides	− 4·0	−14·3
Tobacco	...	+ 2·3	Leather	...	− 4·6
			Petrol No. 1	...	...
Other foods	− 0·4	− 5·3	Petroleum oil	...	...
			Fuel oil	...	...
Cotton A.	+ 0·9	−21·8	Linseed oil	− 4·7	+39·7
Cotton E.	+ 5·2	−26·5	Tallow	...	− 3·3
Cotton yarn	− 1·0	−22·7	Rubber	− 3·2	−30·7
Cotton cloth	− 3·9	−12·5	Soda, crystals	...	...
Wool, English	− 5·6	−34·6	Sulphate of ammonia	− 4·3	−24·1
Wool, Australian	− 7·7	−41·2	Creosote	− 3·1	−28·6
Wool tops	− 5·5	−40·9			
Silk	− 5·3	−22·2	Miscellaneous	− 1·7	− 6·5

During the past quarter the largest falls have been recorded in the cereals and meat, and textile groups, whose indices have declined by 8.2 per cent. and 11.6 per cent. respectively. The latter group, with an aggregate decline of 27 per cent., as compared with the average for the year 1927, has far outdistanced the other groups in the general slump.

In the next table we show actual price quotations for a number of important commodities at the end of last month, in comparison with their prices at earlier dates:—

	End 1927.	End 1928.	1929. End March.	1929. End Dec.	1930. End March.
Wheat, Canadian, per qr.	58/−	49/3	50/3	55/6	43/9
Potatoes, per ton	£6	£6	£6/5/−	£3/15/−	£3/5/−
Beef, English sides, per 8 lbs.	4/8	5/4	5/4	5/8	6/−
Mutton, New Zealand, per 8 lbs.	4/9	5/−	5/−	4/10	4/6
Tea, Indian auction, average, per lb.	1/6⅝	1/5½	1/5½	1/1½	1/4½
Sugar, granulated, per cwt.	29/9½	24/7½	23/6	22/9	22/−
Cotton, American middling, per lb.	11·06d.	10·59d.	10·96d.	9·42d.	8·57d.
Cotton yarn, 32's twist, per lb.	15·25d.	15·50d.	16d.	13·87d.	12·37d.
Wool, Australian, per lb.	48d.	44d.	41d.	33d.	24d.
Jute, per ton	£31/15/−	£32/5/−	£33/10/−	£27/15/−	£24/15/−
Pig Iron, Cleveland, No. 3, per ton	65/−	66/−	67/−	72/6	67/6
Coal, best Welsh, per ton	19/1½	19/4½	21/6	20/1½	20/−
Tin, Standard, per ton	£265/2/6	£225/15/−	£220/10/−	£178/2/6	£170/10/−
Copper, per ton	£60/18/3	£74	£95/15/−	£68	£71
Linseed oil, per ton	£28	£29	£29	£45	£40/10/−
Rubber, plant, sheet, per lb.	20d.	8·69d.	11d.	8·06d.	7·62d.
Cement, Portland, per ton	54/−	47/−	47/−	47/−	47/−

It will be observed that during the past quarter the only commodities in the above list which have not shared in the general downward movement are English beef, tea, copper and cement; and as compared with a year ago the only articles appreciably dearer in price are English beef and linseed oil.

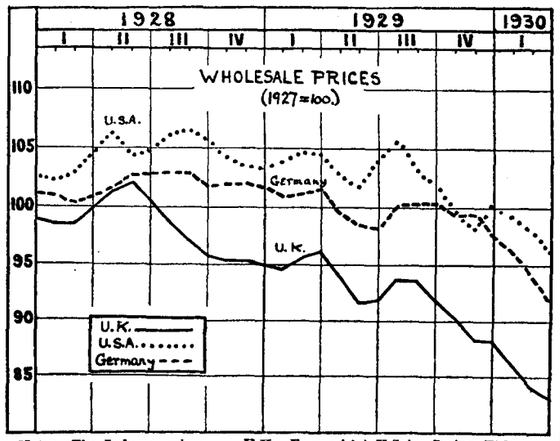
The final table shows the course of our index number computed as a percentage of the average for 1913:—

AVERAGE, 1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	168·5	215·8	214·7	149·3	122·6	166.2
,, 1925	168·4	204·2	194·6	139·8	126·2	160·9
,, 1926	151·7	195·3	152·6	149·8	120·7	149·4
,, 1927	147·6	202·2	157·0	125·1	116·1	143·7
,, 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	125·2	111·2	140·9
,, 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8
End Mar., 1929	148·9	176·5	158·2	124·7	106·1	138·1
End Feb., 1930	126·0	167·8	117·2	113·2	101·0	121·0
End Mar., 1930	125·0	167·2	114·6	112·3	99·2	119·4

The latest figure of our index number is 28 per cent. lower than the average for 1924, and since March, 1929, there has been a fall of no less than 13.5 per cent. It will be seen that as a result of the collapse of textile prices, foodstuffs, particularly "other foods," now stand at a level which, in relation to 1913, is disproportionately higher than that of materials.

Though the rate of fall, as we have seen, was checked last month, it would be premature as yet to conclude that the downward movement, which has assumed particularly violent form since the third quarter of 1929, has



Note:—The Index numbers are U.K., *Economist*; U.S.A., Irving Fisher; Germany, Official Index.

run its full course. In the case of a number of important commodities, *e.g.*, wheat and certain non-ferrous metals, the stability of future prices depends somewhat precariously on the success of various methods of marketing restriction in holding up the value of heavy stocks. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that the *Economist* price index has fallen during the past two years much more heavily than price indices in certain other countries on the gold standard. The diagram accompanying this article shows the course of commodity prices, as measured by index numbers, in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States. Differences in the weighting of indices of prices necessarily render international comparison liable to a certain margin of error. It is notorious that raw materials have fallen further in price than finished goods, and the fact that primary products play a larger part in the *Economist* index number than in the German and American indices whose course is plotted in the diagram, may account, to some extent, for the disproportionately greater fall shown by the British price index since the beginning of 1928. At the same time it will be seen that the *Economist* index, apart from two fluctuations in 1929, has declined steadily since the end of May, 1928; whereas, between that date and the beginning of the slump last autumn, the American and German price indices remained relatively stable. The divergence between the British and the other two indices in the second half of 1928 is particularly striking.

PRIORITY FOR REPARATIONS.

In reply to a letter addressed to it by an American business firm asking whether the adoption of the Young Plan has changed the situation as regards the question of priority of reparation payments over external commercial debt, the German Government has set out its reasons for thinking that, under the new Plan, Article 248 of the Treaty of Versailles can no longer be applied. That the whole question of the status of reparation payments in Germany's economy is an issue of practical moment was clearly shown two years ago, when distinct nervousness developed in the American investment market at the suggestion that the status of commercial loans to Germany might be affected by reparation difficulties. It may, therefore, be of interest to consider the relevant points of the new Plan.

At the outset it is important to distinguish two separate questions which are sometimes confused. One is whether the annuities of the Young Plan still constitute a first charge on all Germany's resources as laid down in Article 248 of the Treaty of Versailles which declares that: "Subject to such exceptions as the Reparation Commission may approve, a first charge upon all the assets and revenues of the German Empire and its constituent States shall be the cost of reparation and all other costs arising under the present Treaty or any treaties or agreements supplementary thereto or under arrangements concluded between Germany and the Allied and Associated Powers during the Armistice or its extensions." This is the question to which the German Government have replied. The second is whether the reparation creditors of Germany can claim that the transfer of reparations should (and if so, whether they can in practice), take precedence over the transfer of commercial payments in the event of there being difficulty in transferring both. This question is, perhaps, of even more importance to investors than the first.

On the second of these points there can be no room for doubt. There is no word in the Young Plan suggesting that such right of priority exists. On the contrary, Germany has the right of postponing transfer, and is the sole judge of whether such postponement should be made. The only clause which might conceivably be cited as giving the right to challenge Germany's decision is the general provision that if a creditor thinks that Germany is committing itself to actions "revealing its determination to destroy the New Plan," that creditor may appeal to the Permanent Court of International Justice and, if the plea is sustained, he will be entitled "to resume full liberty of action." But the postponement provisions were intended to provide some elasticity in times of difficulty without provoking an exchange catastrophe. Whether they can be so used in practice may be open to question; but it can hardly be claimed in face of the wording of the Plan that they may not be so used without at the same time suspending all commercial transfers, and that if Germany declares a postponement without stopping all international transactions she would be open to the charge of determining "to destroy the New Plan." It is clear that the postponement clauses, which present many analogies with the postponement clauses of the War Debt Agreements, while not definitely declaring the right of priority of commercial debts, undoubtedly remove any claim that may have existed to any priority of transfer of reparations.

The other question, namely, the ranking of the reparation charge on German assets, is more complicated. The guarantees provided by Germany relate to three different obligations, viz.: (*a*) the German External Loan of 1924; (*b*) the reparation annuities as laid down in the Plan; and (*c*) Reparation Bonds that may be mobilised in the future in accordance with the Plan. As regards the first of these, the charge upon certain German revenues as created by the Dawes Plan—viz.: customs profits, the spirit monopoly, and the taxes on tobacco, beer and sugar—remain in force, but the Trustees of the Loan have agreed that instead of being remitted to the controller of Assigned Revenues, the proceeds of these taxes will be paid to the Reichsbank to an account either

in the name of the Trustees or in that of the Bank for International Settlements for the account of the Trustees. The Reichsbank will have a standing order to release monthly from this account all sums in excess of requirements. (*Final Act of The Hague Conference, Annex XI.*)

As to the annuities as a whole, the Plan retains only one source of payment other than the Budget, namely, the contribution of the Railway Company, which was included by the Experts not only from the point of view of security, but also as a suitable method of raising the necessary revenue (*Experts' Report, Section* 8 (*a*)). Apart from this, "the basis of security for the payment of the annuities is the solemn undertaking of the German Government to which no further guarantee can add anything whatsoever"; and the Report recommends that the creditors should release "all controls, special securities, etc.," and should regard this solemn undertaking as replacing "such securities, pledges, charges and controls as may now exist." The Plan, however, proceeds to assign as a "negative pledge" the proceeds of the customs, tobacco, beer and spirit taxes, *i.e.*, the Dawes revenues, except the sugar tax. If these do not provide a margin of 50 per cent. over the annuities, the German Government will add additional taxes to make the margin up to this figure. The Government undertakes not to assign these revenues for any other purpose without the consent of the Bank for International Settlements and any assignment so made will rank after reparations. (*Final Act, Annex VIII.*)

Nothing is said as to the earmarking of these revenues, nor is procedure laid down as to payment. Their assignment for the service of Germany's Certificate of Indebtedness, however, and the indication of the right to charge upon them other obligations, provided they rank after reparations, clearly implies that other resources might be pledged for other purposes. It is true that the German Certificate of Indebtedness (*vide Annex VII*) mentions these collateral guarantees as being "*without prejudice to its* (the German Government's) *general liability* (responsabilité générale) *for payment of the annuities* and its complete freedom to make these payments out of its general revenues." It might conceivably be argued that the words we have italicised keep alive the general charge on Germany's resources contained in Article 248 of the Treaty of Versailles; but the claim will hardly stand examination in the light of Article IV of the Final Act of The Hague, which lays down that "the powers of the Creditor Powers in relation to Germany will be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Plan." Again—subject to the clause mentioned above as to procedure in the event of Germany determining "to destroy the Plan"—the Creditor Governments (*Final Act, Annex I*) accept "the solemn undertaking of the German Government to pay the annuities fixed in accordance with the provisions of the New Plan as the guarantee for the fulfilment of the German Government's obligations." In the light of these clauses, and the repeated declarations in the Plan of the intention to put the reparation claim on a commercial basis and of the specific statements as to the nature of the guarantee under the Plan, there would seem to be no room for the revival of any vague and general charge which would prejudice the position of Germany's commercial creditors.

THE TARIFF TRUCE CONVENTION.

LONG before the conclusion, on March 24th, of the Preliminary Conference for Concerted Economic Action, it was evident that the objects originally contemplated were not destined to be fully achieved. The conception of a tariff truce covering a substantial enough period to afford a real breathing space in which to consider calmly, without risk of sporadic Customs hostilities, the possibility of lowering trade barriers, was sabotaged by the reluctance of more than one European nation to renounce at all the right to wage tariff war; and it cannot be said that the Conference was a great success.

At the same time, this meeting between the responsible statesmen of the various countries in the sphere of commercial policy was by no means wholly fruitless. Predominantly European in character (apart from observers, the only non-European delegates were those of Japan, Peru and Colombia), the Conference, as the President pointed out in his concluding address, helped to create a new sense of the interdependence of Europe's commercial policies, and in its agreements, albeit limited in scope and hestitating in intention, there may be "the germ of a future development which cannot now be estimated."

Questions addressed to Mr Graham in the House of Commons, this week, appeared to reflect uncertainty on the part of members of Parliament as to the precise nature of the conclusions which the Conference reached; and we have endeavoured, therefore, to summarise the three instruments whose texts the League has issued. These are: (1) A Commercial Convention, signed by Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Luxemburg and Switzerland; (2) a Protocol on Future Negotiations, signed by the foregoing, *plus* Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Portugal; and (3) a Final Act, signed by all the above, *plus* Denmark and Sweden. The Commercial Convention consists of 15 Articles and an explanatory Protocol.

In *Article I*, the Contracting Parties undertake not to denounce before April 1, 1931, their existing bilateral commercial treaties. *Reservations.* (1) Austria excludes from this agreement her commercial treaties with Hungary and Czechoslovakia; (2) Czechoslovakia excludes her treaty with Hungary; and (3) Greece may avail herself of the right of denunciation stipulated in her commercial treaties, should measures taken by any one of the Contracting Parties seriously disturb the balance of trade to her detriment.

Article II provides that if any of the Contracting Parties who consolidate their Customs duties by treaty are obliged to impose higher duties or fresh duties before the Convention expires, in such a way as to affect seriously the interests of others, any Party who feels injured may ask for the opening of friendly negotiations to restore the equilibrium; and in *Article III* it is agreed that, wherever possible, 20 days' notice of tariff increases shall be given. Should the negotiations not result in agreement the injured Party may denounce the Convention either *in toto* or as regards the offending Party only.

Contracting Parties who do not normally consolidate their Customs duties by treaty (Great Britain, Denmark, Holland, Norway and Portugal) are exempt from *Articles II* and *III*, but undertake in *Article IV* not to increase existing, or impose new, "protective" duties during the life of the Convention. If they do so, any injured Party may denounce the Convention on one month's notice (*Article V*). The term "fiscal," as opposed to "protective" duties, will not be applied to duties having as their object the protection of national production against foreign competition.

In *Article IV* the Contracting Parties undertake not to aggravate the existing situation with regard to Import and Export Prohibitions and Restrictions.

Article VII provides that any Party who considers that the equilibrium of the Convention has been seriously disturbed by denunciations may himself on that account denounce the Convention after one month's notice.

In *Article VIII* it is stipulated that bilateral commercial treaties denounced before March 24, 1930, are exempted from the operation of the Convention; that bilateral treaties concluded before that date, but not yet in force, may be substituted during the period of the Convention for existing treaties; that provisional agreements substituted for commercial treaties denounced before March 24, 1930, and in force on that date, may be replaced during the term of the Convention by definitive treaties or by other provisional agreements, but that should increases in duties result from these new treaties or agreements they may be dealt with by negotiations; and that prolonged bilateral commercial treaties may be modified or replaced by new agreements, with the proviso that resulting increases of duties may be dealt with by negotiation.

Under *Article IX* the Convention is concluded for one year as from April 1, 1930. Before February 1, 1931, any of the Contracting Parties may inform the Secretary-General of his intention to withdraw from the Convention on April 1, 1931, but failing such notification the Convention remains in force for a further period of six months, and similarly for successive half-yearly periods. A Conference of the States concerned may be convened to decide whether the Convention shall be maintained if the right to withdraw is exercised by any of the Parties (*Article X*).

The Contracting Parties express in *Article XI* their intention of applying the Convention in a spirit of loyal co-operation, and undertake to refrain from any measure of any kind calculated to evade the obligations resulting from the Convention.

Article XII provides that the Convention shall be ratified by the signatory States before November 1, 1930; a meeting of the Parties who have ratified the Convention shall be held between November 1 and 15, 1930, to fix the date for the coming into force of the Convention (*Article XIII*); any State may hereafter accede to the Convention (*Article XIV*); and any Contracting Party may exempt from the Convention any of his colonies, protectorates, etc. (*Article XV*).

Since the maximum life of the Convention, unless prolonged under *Article IX*, is less than five months, the "breathing space" is short; and the provisos for increases of duties, denunciations and withdrawals are so numerous that the instrument, regarded as an agreement to be observed only in the letter, is of little practical value. Greater interest attaches, therefore, to the Programme Protocol.

In the preamble the signatories express their desire to ensure the effective application of the resolutions of the World Economic Conference of 1927, and recognise it as indispensable that concerted action should be taken "to secure closer co-operation, the improvement of the *régime* of production and trade, and the enlargement of markets, and to facilitate the relations of the European markets between themselves and with overseas markets, so as to consolidate economic peace between the nations." The object of future negotiations is declared to be the determination of means of "organising more rationally the production and circulation of wealth, and removing, as far as possible, unjustified hindrances which hamper the development of international trade."

In *Article I* the signatories agree that among the means of achieving the above aim are "those in the sphere of Customs." Accordingly, as a basis for future negotiations, Governments shall be asked:—

(*a*) In what agricultural products is there over-production in each country? What are the normal outlets for these products? What practical means can be employed to ensure disposal and distribution of surplus production in the normal markets and in other countries with an insufficient production?

(*b*) What practical means can be employed to facilitate the disposal of manufactured products, particularly by increasing the extent to which it is possible for consuming countries to purchase them?

(*c*) In the case of the products mentioned in (*a*) and (*b*), what are the customs and administrative measures which seem likely to promote the extension of markets and the improvement of international trade?

(*d*) What practical means can be employed to ensure the movement of European raw materials amongst the different countries under more satisfactory conditions and their better utilisation?

Without anticipating the results of these negotiations, the signatories decide in *Article II* that the programme should also include, *inter alia*, the following points:—

(*a*) The adoption of a unified Customs nomenclature;

(*b*) A study and comparison of tariffs; the codification in a single text of certain of the provisions other than tariff provisions generally embodied in bilateral commercial treaties; the establishment of a permanent body for arbitration and conciliation; and the periodical convening of a Conference of Governments;

(*c*) A study of means to promote the more effective application of the recommendations and principles contained in the Convention for the Simplification of Customs Formalities concluded at Geneva in 1923;

(*d*) The preparation of a draft Convention against indirect protectionism;

(*e*) An inquiry into the use and effects of export bounties and subsidies.

In *Article III* the signatories agree that in applying *Articles I* and *II* regard shall be had to the recommendations and considerations embodied in the Annex. This is a lengthy document reflecting considerable diversity of view in the Conference. The chief agreed conclusions are:—

(1) A system of inter-European tariff preferences—*e.g.*, on European wheat—would aggravate existing difficulties.

(2) Indirect protectionism should be abolished in all its forms.

(3) Abolition is desired, as far as possible, of bounties which modify the conditions of competition in the international market.

The Final Act places on record the Conference's recognition that the Convention is merely a first stage in the direction of economic co-operation in Europe. Recognising the importance of overseas markets for Europe's economic life, the Conference recommends that the Economic Organisation of the League should undertake an objective investigation into the means of establishing closer co-operation between Europe and the overseas countries, with a view to improving trade relations to their mutual advantage.

It is well to admit frankly that the signatories to these instruments have not committed themselves to much. But as M. de Moltke, the President of the Conference, remarked, present engagements are of less importance than future intentions. If the programme of future negotiations, whose procedure and time-table are both elastic, is obstructed by protectionist prejudices, then, despite the Conference's sound definition of the ultimate objective, progress is likely to be slow and halting. It is something, however, to have had the true goal once more restated. In human affairs, if professions of faith are made sufficiently often, conflicting practice usually conforms in the end more closely to the ideal.

Notes of the Week.

The Coal Mines Bill.—On Thursday the Coal Mines Bill secured its Third Reading in the House of Commons. During the final stages the Liberal Party, adhering to their sudden change of policy in Committee, made no attempt to secure much further revision of the measure, and contented themselves with putting forward two amendments, both of which the Government accepted—the first embodying an expression of opinion how standard tonnages should be assessed, the second limiting the operation of Part I of the Bill to the end of 1932, instead of 1933. As the fruits of the Reorganisation Commission's work can hardly ripen in two years, it is unlikely that the "regulation" clauses of the Bill can be allowed to expire so soon, and though the merit of this shortened time-limit is that Parliament can then renew the operation of the measure, we find it difficult to be complacent on that account over the passage through the Lower House of a Bill whose cardinal errors are still undeleted. The indefensible and needless provisions for minimum price fixing, the failure to meet the needs of "mixed" concerns, and the permission to make district levies for the subsidisation of sales abroad or to particular consumers, are grave defects which should not have been allowed to remain uncorrected. In its present form we regard the Bill as uneconomic and unworkable, despite the merits of the reorganisation clauses, and we trust that the House of Lords will drastically amend it. In the case of a measure which has scraped through the Lower House not on its merits but as a result of extraneous and, as many will think, not wholly justifying considerations, the opportunity and the duty of the Upper Chamber as a revisory body are clear.

Naval Conference Hopes.—Like most gatherings of its kind, except those which end in a sudden crisis, the Naval Conference is protracting itself inordinately. A sudden crisis has not come to end it, despite the habitual crop of periodic rumours, and it seems possible now that it may run on to the eve of Easter or even longer. In the past week the Three-Power understanding between Great Britain, the United States and Japan has been definitely clinched, though only at the cost of a struggle—apparently inevitable in greater or lesser degree in every country—between the Cabinet and the admirals in Japan. The Japanese, it might have been supposed, would have every reason to be satisfied with their bargain, for in the period the Agreement is to cover (up to the end of 1935) the United States undertakes to build only fifteen instead of eighteen 8-inch-gun cruisers, while Japan will have twelve (including the four "Furutakas" of just over 7,000 tons). The Japanese will thus obtain in auxiliary vessels virtually the 70 per cent. ratio in relation to America. As to capital ships, the assumption at present is that figures of 15:15:9, instead of the present 20:18:12, will be established at the earliest moment possible, though there is still some possibility that a lower standard, either 12:12:7 or 10:10:6, may be reached. The tendency to regard the capital ship as a costly luxury is growing, and all the nations most concerned have strong financial motives for scrapping to something under the 15:15:9 level. But the objective of the Conference is still a Five-Power Treaty, and the prospects of achieving that have been considerably improved as a result of the conversations between Mr Henderson and M. Briand on what is popularly described as France's "demand for guarantees." The French Press are still talking of "automatic sanctions." Of that there can be no question. It is abundantly clear that British public opinion would not support any extension of British commitments in this direction. There seems reason to hope, however, that France has abandoned her demand for

assurances going beyond the League Covenant and the Locarno Treaty, asking now only for some declaration designed to make it clear that this country will never seek by any subterfuge to evade the responsibilities to which she is morally committed as a signatory of the League Covenant and, in particular, of Article XVI. of that document. That is a reasonable demand if, as would appear, what the French want is merely some form of words indicating that, in the event of a manifestly illegal attack by one League State on another, Great Britain, as a member of the League Council, would join in "recommending" joint action against the aggressor and would take her proper share in such action. That is the obvious interpretation of the obligation Article XVI. lays on any member of the Council, as the Declaration framed by Sir Austen Chamberlain and his colleagues regarding Article XVI. at Locarno indicates. The search for a form of words implying precisely what it is meant to imply, no more and no less, has been a lengthy business, particularly as successive drafts have had to be referred to M. Tardieu in Paris. It looks, however, as if a formula would be found and it will then remain to be seen what abatement in her tonnage figures France will offer in consequence. A reduction from the proposed 724,000 tons to round about 600,000 tons might be considered satisfactory. Even then there remains the still unsolved question of Franco-Italian parity. No progress has so far been made in that particular field, but there will, no doubt, be concentration on that if once the Franco-British difficulty can be cleared up.

The New German Cabinet.—Last Sunday, March 30th, Dr. Brüning succeeded in forming a Ministry substantially in accordance with President Hindenburg's desires and his own. The new Chancellor and his Ministers of the Interior (Dr. Wirth), Labour and Communications belong to the Centre Party, and the Government as a whole represents an informal coalition of the moderate bourgeois groups, excluding the Socialists as well as the Communists on the Left and the Conservatives as well as the Fascists on the Right. There is, indeed, one conspicuous Conservative political leader in the new Ministry, Herr Schiele, who has been given the portfolio for Food and Agriculture. His inclusion appears to have been decided upon in deference to a strongly expressed wish of President Hindenburg's; but he has not brought his party with him into the Government's camp. Indeed, he has undertaken to resign his seat in the Reichstag and thus withdraw from the Conservative Parliamentary Group, though this without ceasing to be a member of the party. The situation is not altogether satisfactory, since the new Government cannot even secure a vote of confidence without some support from beyond the limits of the groups represented in the coalition; and it is to Conservatives that they will have to look for this. There is an element of instability here; but probably the difficulty will prove to be greater in theory than in practice. In practice, the moderate Conservatives are unlikely to let themselves be stampeded into dangerous courses by their leader Herr Hugenberg; and, *à fortiori*, there is no serious danger of their giving ear to the wild men to the right of him. This is the more unlikely inasmuch as the President is pressing for something to be done on behalf of the "Ost-Elbisch" agrarian interests as a *quid pro quo* for the advantages which the industrialists have lately gained through the conclusion of the commercial treaty with Poland. This, no doubt, is where Herr Schiele comes in, and this domestic question will probably be the main issue in German politics under the new Administration. As far as foreign affairs are concerned, Dr. Brüning may be relied upon, no less than his predecessors in office, to remain true to the Stresemann tradition.

France Accepts the Young Plan.—On Saturday, March 29th, the French Chamber ratified the Hague Agreements, embodying the Young Plan, by 527 votes to 38, with 14 absences and 21 abstentions. This falls short of the unanimity which Monsieur Tardieu hoped to secure, but that, after all, is a matter of sentiment. The substantial point is that, with the French ratification piled on the German ratification like Pelion on Ossa, the Young Plan is now solidly established as part of the European *régime*. The debate, which preceded the voting not only threw interesting light on the foregoing discussions, at The Hague, between Monsieur Tardieu himself and Herr Curtius, but showed how far, after all, opinion in France has moved in the right direction since the earlier years of the post-war period. It appears to have been agreed, at The Hague, between these two representatives of the French and German Governments that, in the event of Germany defaulting, France should appeal, first to the Permanent Court of International Justice and then to the Council of the League of Nations under Article 13 of the Covenant; and that, if the decisions of the Court and the Council were ignored by the German Government of the day, then, and then only, France should "recover her liberty of action." A significant and satisfactory feature of the debate in the French Chamber was that the deputies were not satisfied with the information that this understanding had been entered into by the German Government. They insisted upon being assured, for their own peace of mind, that "liberty of action" excluded any resort to war, and they succeeded in obtaining from Monsieur Tardieu an assurance to this effect—in substance if not in terms. Monsieur Tardieu declared that Article 430 of the Versailles Treaty, providing for the occupation of German territory as a sanction, had become defunct simultaneously with the Reparation Commission, by whose decision alone this article could be brought into operation. He further declared that the term "liberty of action" was "only to be interpreted within the general framework of the League of Nations," and that the likelihood of this stage being reached at all was decreased by a Franco-German understanding for preventing a deadlock from arising owing to a lack of unanimity in the League Council. Finally, he mentioned that the French and German jurists at The Hague had agreed that the terms of the Franco-German understanding were in perfect harmony with both the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact. The credit for having extracted these assurances from Monsieur Tardieu belongs to Monsieur Herriot and Monsieur León Blum. The fact that a French statesman with Monsieur Tardieu's record and outlook should have been able to give satisfaction on these points shows that France has moved, in harmony with the rest of the world, very far indeed from the unfortunate position on which she took her stand in 1923.

Mr Cosgrave's Re-election.—Our Dublin correspondent writes:—The political crisis which has been agitating the Free State came to a head quite unexpectedly on Thursday, March 27th, when a division on a private member's Bill resulted in the defeat of the Government by two votes. The Bill proposed an extension of the scope of old age pensions which would have cost, according to the calculations of the Minister of Finance, some £300.000. The Government took the view that the existing expenditure of £2,700,000 a year on old age pensions is excessive and they therefore opposed the Bill, and, regarding their defeat as involving a matter of principle, resigned the following day. As, however, the defeat took place in the absence of several members of the Government Party, the crisis was never regarded as one of the first magnitude. The constitution of the Free State provides that the President of the Executive Council may be nominated by the Dail, and as the Government did not demand a dissolution this right was exercised on Wednesday. Mr Cosgrave's re-election was generally expected, as no single party commanded a majority in the House and it was felt that although the Opposition Parties might combine to evict the Cosgrave Government they were scarcely inspired with sufficient unity of purpose to join forces in the formation of an administration. The correctness of the suspicion of differences between the Opposition Parties was confirmed early in the debate. Speaking to the motion for Mr de Valera's election, Mr O'Connell, the leader of the Labour Party, in a statesmanlike speech, which will greatly enhance the prestige of his party, made it clear that he could not support the proposal because in his party's opinion Mr de Valera refused to accept the fundamental constitution of the country, and should not be put in command of a government, the legitimacy of which he did not recognise. In the full-dress debate which followed, Mr de Valera's career and pronouncements were thoroughly explored. A division resulted in the defeat of Mr de Valera's candidature by 93 votes to 54. It is significant that not a single member of any party but his own supported it, and this testimony of distrust will do much to weaken the position of the Fianna Fail Party. The next candidate proposed was Mr O'Connell, whose nomination was defeated by 78 votes to 13. Mr Cosgrave was then elected by 80 votes to 65. The only change in the political situation which this incident has wrought has been a slight enhancement of the prestige of the Government.

The Passing of the Guardians.—After a century and a half of service which, though exercised within the framework of a system that has long stood condemned, has been generally recognised as an invaluable and devoted contribution to the public wellbeing, the guardians of the poor have ceased to exist. This by no means implies that all the public-spirited individuals who have been engaged in the administration of poor relief will cease to be so, for the Public Assistance Committees, through which the county councils and the town councils of county boroughs are henceforward to administer what will in future be called "public assistance" are empowered to co-opt outside persons, and many of them have already co-opted a large number of former guardians, whose experience will ensure continuity. The Relief Regulation Order issued last Friday makes it clear that the general principles on which relief has been given in the past are not to be altered, though the reiteration of the warning of January 3rd against too rigid a refusal of relief to single men and able-bodied men shows how far the circumstances of the last few years have driven the system from the original principles of 1834. It is satisfactory that this Order lays very great stress on the importance of training and on the necessity of a careful classification of applicants, in pursuance of the aim that: "A primary objective should be to maintain the employability of those able and willing to work, so that when opportunity offers these men may have no difficulty in resuming their places in industry." It is very greatly to be hoped that this may prove more than a pious aspiration. According to one school of thought, the abolition of a body which existed for no other purpose, and the transfer of its functions to a local government organ which is already loaded with other work is bound to diminish the efficiency of the service. But a body which acts through committees need not overweight individuals, and much seems to depend on the choice of the personnel of the Public Assistance Committees. As for those sides of Poor Law activity which are not concerned with the able-bodied, the elimination of duplication of function as between the guardians and the public health authorities should make possible a much more satisfactory utilisation of the accommodation in hospitals and other institutions. This is one more stage on the way to the elimination of the Poor Law that was recommended in the Minority Report of 1909.

Single Premium Insurances.—One of the annual tasks of a Chancellor is the prevention of legitimate but undesirable leakages of revenue and the practice of taking out large insurance policies on payment of a single premium is an instance of the sort of development on which Mr Snowden is likely to have a watchful eye. The procedure is much as follows:—A man of such substance as to be a sur-tax payer contracts with an insurance company for a five-year endowment policy of, say, £40,000, on payment of a single initial premium, which will be, say, £34,000. The point is, however, that he does not pay all this £34,000 in cash. Instead, the insurance company agrees to accept in cash only 5 per cent., i.e., £1,700, and to treat the remaining sum due of £32,300 as a loan to the assured, repayable in five years' time out of the proceeds of the policy when it matures, and in the meantime subject to interest. The rate of interest charged to the assured on this "loan" is often 5 per cent. gross, that is, 4 per cent. after deduction of income tax at the standard rate. Thus the assured pays in cash to the company an initial sum of £1,700, and an annual sum in interest of 4 per cent. on £32,300, that is, £1,292. The interest, like interest on any other loan, can be deducted from his income when he comes to make his return for sur-tax; and naturally he deducts not the net cash payment of £1,292 but the gross interest (including income tax at the standard rate) of £1,615, this being the full 5 per cent. on the loan of £32,300. Now assume that his income is such that its final portion is subject to sur-tax at the rate of 6s. in the £. By adopting this procedure, he saves in sur-tax each year 6s. in the £ on £1,615, or £484 10s. a year. Thus the net cost to him of the policy is an initial payment of £1,700 and a net annual payment of £1,292 less £484 10s., or £807 10s. In return for this he receives at the end of five years £40,000, being the value of the policy, less £32,300 already advanced to him, or £7,700. This is clearly a princely return for five annual payments averaging less than £1,150 each, so the attractions of this contract to sur-tax payers are very potent. But the objections from the Chancellor's standpoint are obvious, though it is calculated that up to the present the annual leakage has not been very considerable. There is reason to think, moreover, that in the insurance world there has been growing uneasiness concerning this class of business. Evidence of this is to be found in the speech of Mr Jacomb at the annual meeting of the London Life Association last week. "So long," he said, "as there was a substantial amount of assurance involved, so that on death there was some set-off to the Inland Revenue in death duties, there seemed no great objection to such policies. Recently, however, this system has been grossly abused and a number of policies have been issued which contain little or no life assurance and are simply and solely made use of as a means of evading the payment of sur-tax. Such an abuse brings assurance companies into disrepute and should be stopped." As usual, however, the evil is easier to discover than the remedy. It is clearly impossible and undesirable to prevent members of the public from borrowing money on the security of their insurance policies, and while it is understood that the Chancellor and representatives of the insurance companies have lately been in consultation, and while it is possible that some attempt will be made this year to grapple with the problem, it is not easy to see what is the most equitable solution.

Australian Reserve Bank Bill.—The Bill to establish a Reserve Bank in Australia, which has just received a first reading, is an attempt to put an end to a long-standing anomalous situation. When the Commonwealth Bank was established in 1911 its immediate purpose was to act as a competitor to what the Labour Government in existence at the time regarded as a ring of privately owned commercial banks. It was not intended to be a central bank at all, and though it was entrusted with the Dominion note issue, and thirteen years later was given by law the duty of acting as clearing agent for Australian banks, who had to maintain balances with the Commonwealth Bank for that purpose, it has primarily been a trading bank as opposed to a "bankers'" bank. Thus hitherto Australia has lacked a central bank in the full sense of the word, and any suggestion to turn the Commonwealth Bank into a central bank has been combated on the ground that it would deprive the Commonwealth Bank of the function of acting as a competitor of the commercial banks of the Dominion. Events of last year, however, culminating in the new powers of forcibly acquiring gold and of regulating gold exports given jointly to the Government and to the Commonwealth Bank under the Act of last December, have made it clear that Australia requires a central bank; and little surprise need be felt at the introduction of the present Bill. In the main it is drafted upon familiar lines, and it is frankly admitted that the South African Reserve Bank has been

taken as a model. The Australian bank is to have the usual powers and duties of modern central banks, including the right of note issue, the duty to act as agent for Commonwealth and State loans, and the power to rediscount approved bills and securities, or to buy and sell them in the open market. It is to maintain a reserve equal to 25 per cent. of its note issue (as the Commonwealth Bank is bound to maintain to-day), to 25 per cent. of the first £20,000,000 of its deposits, and to 50 per cent. of its deposits in excess of that figure—such reserve to consist of gold, of British Government securities, and of first-class commercial bills maturing within 120 days. Other banks must maintain with it minimum balances equivalent to 10 per cent. of their demand liabilities and 5 per cent. of their time liabilities. Some of these percentages differ in detail from those of the South African Bank, but the general principle is the same. Finally, the Commonwealth Bank is to hand over to it £2,000,000 out of its present capital account of £4,000,000, together with its note issue. It remains to be seen how all these proposals will appeal to the Australian banking and commercial community, and also to those who have old-established views upon the proper functions of the Commonwealth Bank, but there seems no doubt that Australia badly needs a fully fledged central bank, and there is no obvious weakness in these proposals.

London Railway Schemes.—When the Underground system introduced their Bill authorising them, *inter alia*, to extend the Piccadilly tube from Finsbury Park to Cockfosters, mid-way between Barnet and Enfield, they must have anticipated opposition from the London and North Eastern Railway, whose territory they were invading. Before the war, when the Piccadilly tube was built immediately under the Great Northern line from King's Cross to Finsbury Park, it was agreed that no further invasion northwards should take place; and the same applied to the Hampstead tube at its Highgate terminus. This agreement has for long been a source of discontent in the outer suburbs of North London, as it was felt that it deprived those areas of much-needed traffic facilities, which otherwise might have been provided long ago, and led to acute congestion and discomfort at Finsbury Park. Against this, the former Great Northern Railway could urge that the construction of the Piccadilly tube had forced them to close down their Holloway station, and in any case, as recent happenings have shown, it is doubtful if the Underground would have embarked upon a further big programme so long as they had to finance it without outside help. It is germane to recall that the Edgware and Morden lines were only built through the assistance of the Trade Facilities Scheme, and last February Lord Ashfield made it clear that this new project had become possible only through the help offered by Mr Thomas under the 1929 Development Act. Proceedings during the Committee stage of the Bill have shown, however, that what was sauce for the Underground goose is equally sauce for the London and North Eastern gander, for Sir Ralph Wedgewood intimated that now that Mr Thomas is prepared to give financial help, the North Eastern Railway is preparing schemes to electrify the old Great Northern lines to Edgware, High Barnet, Welwyn Garden City and Hertford North. Once these lines were electrified, Sir Ralph argued, the additional facilities so provided would render the Underground's extension unnecessary; the Cockfosters tube would simply filch traffic from the North Eastern, thereby destroying the basis of their electrification plans; and, as is indubitably the case, it was cheaper to electrify existing lines than to build new lines. The merits of the case depend upon an examination of the map. The new tube is to parallel the existing main line from Finsbury Park to New Barnet and Welwyn at distances varying from a few hundred yards to approximately a mile; and it also intersects the Hertford line at Bowes Park. This is not unduly close for a suburban area, and, indeed, the distance between the North Eastern's own main and High Barnet lines is in places no greater. In any case, if recent history of Edgware is any guide, the district served by the proposed Cockfosters line will be rapidly developed, so much so that, north of Wood Green, there should soon be more than enough traffic for both rivals. Thus the Committee's decision to approve the Bill, coupled with their hope that the North Eastern Railway would proceed with their own plans, is eminently in the public interest.

Trade Unions and Taxation.—Those who fear that a demand for indefinite expansion of the social services might have behind it the full force of trade union opinion may derive some comfort from a report recently made to the General Federation of Trade Unions, dealing with the effect of taxation upon prices. It takes very definitely the view that excessive taxation of income weakens the will to save, and astutely observes that the idea that high taxation will compel both livelier thinking and greater effort "would appear to be a dangerous one for trade unionists to advance, especially at a time when employers are everywhere seeking to reduce costs of production by attacks upon wages." Similarly the conclusion is reached that high taxation affects the power to save, and the framers of the report do not flinch at applying this to insurance in respect of workmen's compensation, pensions, health and unemployment. The gist of the report is contained in the statement: "The conclusion that present stocks of reproductive capital are insufficient for national needs and that taxation is too high appear to be unescapable; as is also the further conclusion that all taxation, in varying but certain degrees, raises costs of production and selling prices and by limiting the number of purchasers increases unemployment, especially in those trades which manufacture for export." Further, there is a reminder that to advise the workman that all his insurances, pensions, housing and education expenditures can be extracted from capital without endangering his industrial existence is badly to mislead him; and the report closes with the words: "It is important that the workers of Britain should realise where the burden of all taxation ultimately falls, and to what extent it prevents the accumulation of that capital which is necessary to maintain and expand the industry by which they live." True, this pronouncement comes from Labour's extreme Right Wing, but it should be read in conjunction with the following passage from a Trades Union Congress report: "... an increase in the purchasing power of the workers is highly desirable. An increase in their purchasing power effected by a transfer of wealth from the richer classes is, however, a very different proposition, economically speaking, from an increase brought about by a greater total productivity of the nation as a whole. Both types are desirable, but the latter is more important because the amount that it is possible to transfer from the rich to the poor is limited." Taken together, these reports suggest that the industrial side of the Labour Party is not under such misapprehensions as to the elasticity of the taxpayer's purse as is commonly supposed.

Lancashire and Eight-Loom System.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—At the end of last week there was an important development in the negotiations between cotton manufacturers in Lancashire and the operatives relating to the eight-loom system. A special meeting of the General Council of the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation decided to resist the introduction of the new system of production. It was stated that the new method would not bring about the object which the employers had in mind when the subject was introduced and the co-operation of the workpeople invited; that while an increased individual wage was possible, a serious reduction in the family income would ensue; and that a considerable displacement of labour would take place. It was, therefore, resolved not to enter into any agreement with the employers, and each district will oppose the introduction or continuance of the system. It had been understood that the chief difficulty in connection with this matter was the settlement of the wages to be paid to weavers working eight looms, but it now seems the trade union is opposed to the

THE REVENUE.

I.—An Account of the Total Revenue of the United Kingdom in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1930, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding Year.

	Quarter from Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 1930, compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.				Year ending Mar. 31, 1930, compared with the preceding Year.			
	Quarter ending Mar. 31, 1930.	Quarter ending Mar. 31, 1929.	Increase.	Decrease.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1930.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1929.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ordinary Revenue.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—								
Income Tax	162,086,000	162,207,000	...	121,000	237,426,000	237,620,000	...	194,000
Sur-tax, including arrears of Super-Tax	41,270,000	41,010,000	260,000	...	56,390,000	56,150,000	240,000	...
Estate, etc., Duties	21,070,000	20,210,000	860,000	...	79,770,000	80,570,000	...	800,000
Stamps	8,390,000	9,600,000	...	1,210,000	25,670,000	30,060,000	...	4,390,000
Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax	2,240,000	1,120,000	1,120,000	...	2,250,000	1,700,000	550,000	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, etc.	690,000	670,000	20,000	...	880,000	840,000	40,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	235,746,000	234,817,000	2,260,000	1,331,000	402,386,000	406,940,000	830,000	5,384,000
Customs and Excise—								
Customs	29,101,000	28,568,000	533,000	...	119,888,000	118,972,000	916,000	...
Excise	29,100,000	30,265,000	...	1,165,000	127,500,000	134,000,000	...	6,500,000
Total Customs and Excise	58,201,000	58,833,000	533,000	1,165,000	247,388,000	252,972,000	916,000	6,500,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer share)	3,159,644	2,669,000	490,644	...	4,920,468	4,226,067	694,401	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	650,000	900,000	...	250,000	9,200,000	8,100,000	1,100,000	...
Crown Lands	280,000	290,000	...	10,000	1,290,000	1,210,000	80,000	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	9,185,503	7,818,424	1,367,079	...	32,639,596	28,110,697	4,528,899	...
Miscellaneous—								
Ordinary Receipts	2,084,109	1,464,770	619,339	...	10,432,854	13,142,946	...	2,710,092
Special Receipts	6,408,317	14,751,399	...	8,343,082	25,931,830	43,402,345	...	17,470,515
Total Ordinary Revenue	315,714,573	321,543,593	5,270,062	11,099,082	734,188,748	758,104,055	8,149,300	32,064,607
			£5,829,020 Net Decrease				£23,915,307 Net Decrease.	
Self-Balancing Revenue.								
Post Office	16,550,000	16,200,000	350,000	...	58,900,000	57,200,000	1,700,000	...
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	13,634,356	13,068,000	566,356	...	21,881,532	21,130,933	750,599	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	30,184,356	29,268,000	916,356	...	80,781,532	78,330,933	2,450,599	...
Total	345,898,929	350,811,593	6,186,418	11,099,082	814,970,280	836,434,988	10,599,899	32,064,607
			£4,912,664 Net Decrease.				£21,464,708 Net Decrease.	

II.—An Account showing Receipts into and Issues out of Exchequer in Year ending March 31, 1930, compared with preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1930.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ordinary Revenue, as shown in Account I.	734,188,748	758,104,055
Self-Balancing Revenue as shown in Account I.	80,781,532	78,330,933
Total Revenue	814,970,280	836,434,988
Temporary Advances Repaid—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	4,830,000	774,432
Road Fund	2,241,000	3,825,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—		
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	10,500,000	10,550,000
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	7,820,000	12,180,000
(*c*) For other Issues—		
By Treasury Bills	2,981,419,000	2,731,691,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	10,870,144	...
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, 1944–64	154,617,591	...
By National Savings Certificates	41,050,000	40,850,000
By National War Bonds	...	10
By 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	...	93,603,348
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,300,972	19,290,000
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances	722,630,000	613,834,000
Repayments—		
In respect of Suez Canal Drawn Shares	4,899	5,733
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	163,218	172,293
	4,777,454,021	4,363,247,721

	1929.	1928.
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	£	£
Bank of England	5,515,917	5,918,513
Bank of Ireland	736,607	404,112
	6,252,524	6,322,625
	4,783,706,545	4,369,570,346

ISSUES.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1930.	Year ending Mar. 31, 1929.
Ordinary Expenditure.	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	307,251,685	311,490,566
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	13,314,453	15,202,644
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,526,004	5,100,410
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,311,554	2,806,538
Total	329,403,696	334,600,158
Supply Services—		
Army, Navy and Air Votes	113,000,000	113,470,000
Civil and Revenue Votes (excluding Post Office)	258,560,000	234,130,000
Total, Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	371,560,000	347,600,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	700,963,696	682,200,158
New Sinking Fund (1928)	47,748,315	57,509,434
Self-Balancing Expenditure.		
Post Office	58,900,000	57,200,000
Road Fund	21,881,532	21,130,933
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	80,781,532	78,330,933
Surplus Revenue, 1928, issued to Rating Relief Suspense Account	...	18,394,463
Total	829,493,543	836,434,988
Interest on National Savings Certificates—		
Paid in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge	4,818,912	...
Surplus Revenue, 1927—		
Issued to Rating Relief Suspense Account	...	4,239,124
Temporary Advances—		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	36,917	36,917
Under Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	7,820,000	12,180,000
Road Fund, under Section 27 of Finance Act, 1928	2,241,000	3,825,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	10,500,000	10,550,000
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928—		
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	4,830,000	774,432
Redemption of Debt—		
Treasury Bills paid off	3,092,785,000	2,555,730,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates:—		
(*a*) Repaid by Issues under Section 33 (1), Finance Act, 1923	41,050,000	40,850,000
(*b*) Repaid otherwise	3,300,000	...
Principal of National Savings Bonds paid off	15,700	7,746
Principal of Exchequer Bonds paid off	15,640,000	...
Principal of National War Bonds paid off	...	129,958,414
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	43,980,623	26,749,468
Other Debt under the War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919	4,729,012	3,341,000
Securities surrendered for Duties under Section 34 of the Finance Act, 1917	50,301	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	711,150,000	738,634,000
Depreciation Fund—Under the Finance Act, 1917	5,135,424	...
Issues to National Debt Commissioners to Reduce Debt—Suez Canal Drawn Shares Repayments	4,899	5,733
Old Sinking Fund, 1907–08—		
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	...	1,000
Balances in Exchequer on 31st March:—	1930.	1929.
	£	£
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607
	6,125,214	6,252,524
	4,783,760,545	4,369,570,346

Treasury, March 31, 1930.

Mem.—

	£
Floating Debt, outstanding March 31, 1929	737,345,000

	Mar. 31, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ways and Means Advances outstanding:—		
Advances by Bank of England	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	48,530,000	37,050,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	*588,885,000	700,295,000
Total Floating Debt outstanding	637,415,900	737,345,000
Net decrease	£99,930,000	

* Includes £18,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

whole principle. It is hoped, however, that as a result of further negotiations some way out of the difficulty will be found, as undoubtedly this revised system of production has proved to be beneficial in reducing costs.

New Capital Issues in the United States.—By courtesy of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, we are able to supplement our article last week on new capital raised in London during the past quarter with the corresponding figures for the United States. In our table we show the first quarters of 1930 and 1929 in comparison with the whole-year totals for 1928 and 1927:—

	Year 1927.	Year 1928.	First Quarter of 1929.	First Quarter of 1930.
Foreign—	$	$	$	$
Government ...	786,630,000	764,943,000	42,167,000	97,334,000
Corporate	601,563,375	811,550,482	126,925,000	203,400,000
Domestic—				
Municipal	1,867,230,449	1,123,940,316	180,306,289	254,251,444
Railroad	731,202,000	668,488,843	232,673,000	485,177,070
Public utility ...	2,405,298,382	2,427,790,217	488,512,350	756,540,000
Industrial	2,013,430,220	2,311,350,808	709,983,822	221,494,042
Others	1,132,307,589	1,783,542,833	993,626,182	142,064,000
Totals	9,597,662,015	9,891,606,499	2,774,193,643	2,160,260,556

Particular interest attaches to the figures for the past quarter, inasmuch as they indicate the tendency of the American new issue market now that the first effects of the Wall Street collapse are wearing off. As compared with the first three months of 1929, the total shows a notable decline, and the striking contraction in the aggregate of industrial and " other " domestic issues reflects much the same disinclination to offer new stock of a speculative character as has been witnessed in the London market. The increases in municipal, railroad and public utility issues are evidence of a desire on the part of the American investing public for sound stocks in which the speculative element is absent, and the revival in foreign lending, both Government and corporate, is encouraging from the point of view of European interest.

Income Tax for Ceylon.—A correspondent writes:—The immunity from income tax that residents of Ceylon have enjoyed is likely to come to an end in 1931. A draft ordinance has now been published, framed by the income tax expert sent out from the British Treasury in September, 1929, providing for an income tax effective from April 1, 1931, on a basis of approximately 10 per cent. for large and 5 per cent. for smaller incomes. This comes as no surprise to Ceylon, for the Governor, Sir Herbert Stanley, in his opening address to the Ceylon Legislative Council, in July last, said: " I have no doubt that we shall find in an income tax some part of the additional revenue that we need "; he added that this new source of revenue would not produce anything like the whole of the additional sum required. It was, therefore, foreseen that the additional impost was bound to be reasonably heavy. Assuming that the Council accepts the Income Tax Ordinance as now proposed, a married resident of Ceylon earning £1,000 per annum, and with one child, would be taxed about £33, or about one-third of the amount that a resident of the United Kingdom similarly situated financially, would have to pay. Two points, however, must be considered. Firstly, this is only the inception of income tax in Ceylon, and, with the heavy recurrent expenditure with which the Colony is faced, it is probable that no Colonial Treasurer will in future years be able to resist the temptation to raise the rate, once the machinery of collection is in operation. Secondly, Ceylon residents, and particularly Europeans, already suffer very heavy indirect taxation owing to the exceptionally severe import duties which have been in existence for many years, and which are continually being enhanced. The new tax will be unpopular. For one thing, the allowance to the married man which is proposed in the Ordinance is held to be too small, at Rs. 1,000 (say, £75), for the difference in the cost of a married man's establishment in Ceylon and that of a bachelor has to be experienced before it can be realised. A deputation of business men recently interviewed the Governor, protesting against the new taxation (not by any means confined to income tax), and it has been suggested that such costly schemes as the Hydro Electric Scheme, the State Mortgage Bank, and the Ceylon University should be abandoned. The Colony is going through a period of depression in its three staple industries—tea, rubber and coconuts—and it is unfortunate that new taxation should be brought in at this time.

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GÖTEBORG - STOCKHOLM - MALMÖ

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.—The chief characteristic of the business of this, the largest British mutual life office, is its universality. The total new life business transacted in 1929 amounted to £7,891,661, in addition to which there was collected almost £150,000 in consideration money for annuity contracts and £10,500 in premiums for new capital redemption policies. Both the new life business and the new annuity business are somewhat less than for 1928. The world-wide character of the life business is illustrated by the sources from which it was derived in 1929:—

	£
United Kingdom	4,247,781
Irish Free State	384,078
Dominions	2,052,329
Foreign	1,207,473
	£7,891,661

The society's total assets increased during the year from £30 million to just over £32 million, and the average net rate of interest earned worked out at the high figure of £5 0s. 5d. per cent., or practically the same rate as in 1928. This is a high figure in itself, and is more than double the rate assumed in valuing the liabilities, namely, 2½ per cent. Examination of the assets shows that these are grouped in rather an unusual manner, as follows:—

	Per cent.
Mortgages and loans	43
British Government securities	8
Other Stock Exchange securities	24
Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society shares...	19
Properties and other miscellaneous assets	6
	100

The striking feature of this table is the fact that almost 20 per cent. of the entire assets of a mutual life insurance society are, in fact, invested in fire and general insurance. Although this use of the funds is open to criticism, it is only fair to say that the fire company is a strong one, and increase of dividends is being deliberately deferred until such time—probably this year—as the uncalled share liability can be eliminated. At the present time the yield to the life company on its investment is but 4⅛ per cent. gross, though this is certain to show improvement hereafter. It is evident that the society's high interest earnings must be derived from its extensive mortgages, particularly from foreign mortgages, since earnings on the first two items, which comprise over 50 per cent. of the total, cannot exceed 4½ per cent. gross.

The Council of the Royal Statistical Society announces that the Frances Wood Memorial Prize, value £30, will be awarded in 1931 for the best investigation, on statistical lines, of any problem affecting the economic or social conditions of the wage-earning classes. Further particulars may be obtained from the Honorary Secretaries, the Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace, W.C. 2.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Money — Credit — Industry — Price — Bank Merger.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 20.

MONEY was more abundant and less wanted this week than it has been at any time since 1924, which was also a year of lagging business and a period when the Federal Reserve Banks were active in stimulating a revival by means of cheap money. Call funds were unwanted at 1½ per cent. outside the Stock Exchange, the official rate going no lower than 2 per cent., and these rates finally had the effect of driving out-of-town money home and shifting some funds into the bond market. That was particularly noticeable with regard to corporation money. Most corporations are unusually well supplied with cash, owing in part to their new capital issues of last year, and the withdrawal of their money from the call loan market has been rapid. This week they drew down $90,000,000 and, of course, the bulk of it went into securities.

Time funds also were a drug on the market and the rate for one and two months money dropped to 3½ per cent. Commercial paper also fell one quarter per cent. to 3¾ per cent. But the greatest rout took place in the bankers' acceptance market. Bills were reduced four times this week, making nine cuts in the past fortnight, and the 90-day asking rate, which usually stands one quarter per cent below the Reserve Bank's discount rate, is now 2½ per cent. The Reserve Bank followed the open market downward with its buying rate as far as 3 per cent., but kept a step behind, with the result that this week's statement of the system shows a drop of $71,000,000 in bill holdings, most of the loss being due to maturities which were not replaced. Total bills outstanding at the end of February were reported by the American Acceptance Council to be $1,623,899,218, a drop of $66,894,000, which may be considered as no more than seasonal.

In addition to the easy money contribution of slow business and falling commodity prices, gold imports for the year to date, plus release of metal from earmark, are over $100,000,000, and this week the Treasury injected over $200,000,000 of credit into the market by borrowing on special certificate from the Federal Reserve Banks. This money was used to meet maturing obligations, amounting to $405,000,000 of certificates on the tax date, Saturday, and to $100,000,000 on Monday to cover the Treasury bill issue of last December. Member bank reserves were thereby increased and in addition to a scramble to lend money at any price, the banks cut down further their already low borrowings at the Reserve. For the system these now total only $205,600,000, as compared with $942,737,000 a year ago. At the local bank discounts are only $30,800,000, against $208,136,000 last year.

Repayment by the Treasury of its overdraft has been slow, although tax collections to March 18th amounted to $314,200,000, or $40,000,000 ahead of the same period last year. These figures tend to disprove the predictions that the lower rate on small incomes and the sharp break in the stock market last autumn would seriously cut into tax receipts.

In connection with discount rate, there is an interesting passage in the annual report of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, published to-day. The report says: " For a number of weeks from February to May the directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York voted an increase in the discount rate from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. This increase was not approved by the Federal Reserve board." It will be recalled that the rate finally was raised in the following August. Before the local bank board met this afternoon Governor Roy A. Young of the board at Washington, in a public address, asked that critics of the board's slow movement should take into consideration the mechanics of regional bank credit. He said that during recent months the system has moved as " rapidly as the mechanics would permit."

The security markets have responded valiantly to cheap money. Bonds have been more active and buoyant this week than at any time in the past eight years. Stocks also have forged ahead on rising volume, but their rise has on the whole been moderate, with a tendency for syndicates to take profits. Shares, too, have been restrained somewhat by the uncertainties of the business position. However, the public is taking more interest, as shown by another sharp rise in brokers' loans. The gain this week was $121,000,000, making a total for the month of $258,000,000, and for the past month and a half of approximately $500,000,000. As of the end of February the ratio of brokers' loans to market value of all listed shares was 5.89 per cent., a gain for the month of .12 per cent.

The lively bond market has naturally stimulated offerings. New capital flotations this week were approximately $200,000,000, or about $5,000,000 below the previous week's level. For the year to date issues amount to about $2,000,000,000. Next week's planned offerings are about as large as this week's issues. Nearly all the new bonds have gone well, but investment houses are beginning to fear some temporary glut in the market. Some regret is expressed that the forthcoming reparation issue could not have been ready at this time, and thus led off the foreign offerings, which now are coming on the market. However, the period of easy money is expected to last for at least sixty days. Reviving trade is unlikely to absorb large quantities of credit before then and the share market scarcely will make a serious drain on money until business improves.

Although trade is still lagging, there are some indications that the declining tendency of last month has come to a halt. Motor output in February is officially announced by the Department of Commerce at 323,962 units, compared with 273,170 in January and 466,418 in February of last year. The General Motors Corporation reports February sales of 126,196, compared with 106,509 in January and 175,148 a year ago, including Canadian sales and overseas shipments. The steel industry lost a little more ground and is now operating at 75 per cent. of capacity, but activity is expanding in some lines. Freight car loadings were lower again, being for the week of March 8 below any corresponding week since 1922. The Department of Labour, surveying the unemployment situation for February, reports that " industry made no substantial gain," while in some industries " a slight recession was noted."

Commodity markets are somewhat steadier, but the Farm Board's policies are receiving increasingly sharp criticism. The Bureau of Labour's index of wholesale prices for February shows a drop of 1⅓ per cent., the index being within ¾ per cent. of the post-war minimum.

An interesting development this week was the merging of the Equitable Trust Company with the Chase National Bank to form the largest banking organisation in the world. The Chase now has resources in excess of $2,800,000,000, total deposits of approximately $2,100,000,000 and total capital funds of about $500,000,000. The combined institution will continue under the active direction of Mr Albert H. Wiggin of the Chase, who becomes chairman of a newly-created committee called the board of governors, made necessary by the size of the full board, numbering 74 members. The merger is another sign of the trend in this country toward branch banking and control of banking resources by a few gigantic institutions. The Chase now has 52 offices here and seven foreign offices. The Equitable Trust, long known as a " Rockefeller " bank, will lose its identity in the merger. Other large mergers are under discussion.

FRANCE.

Budget — Young Plan — Money — Bank for International Settlements — Foreign Loans.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 2.

THE new financial year began yesterday with the Budget still under discussion in the Senate, and the inevitable result, foreseen last week, has occurred. On Monday the Government laid before the Chamber a Bill for the opening of provisional credits for the month of April totalling 4,725,000,000 francs, and authorising it to collect taxation during that month. The Bill was "reported" immediately, adopted by 470 votes against 115, after an abnormally brief discussion, and sent at once to the Senate, where it was approved, without debate, the same afternoon.

Thus ends one of the most curious Parliamentary experiences on record connected with the Budget. It will be recalled that in December, when it was seen to be impossible to complete the Budget before the end of the month, M. Tardieu took the heroic step of proposing that the current financial year, in order to enable *douzièmes provisoires* to be avoided, should be extended to March 31st. When the Chambers resumed their sittings after a leisurely Christmas holiday, however, two Ministerial crises occurred, which held up the completion of the Budget for nearly a month. Eventually, when the Finance Bill was sent to the Senate on March 13th, the measure was in such a questionable condition that it was obviously doubtful whether the Upper House would be able to straighten matters out in the limited time available, and the last day of March saw this prognostication realised. Whether one monthly Vote on Account will be sufficient depends on whether the Socialistic-Radical and Socialist Opposition will accept the modifications to their Budget proposals that have been made by the Upper Chamber.

The ratification of the Hague agreements and the Young Plan (by 527 votes against 38) was a foregone conclusion before the opening of the debate. Every group had become so deeply committed in advance to support ratification that the rejection of the Government proposal was practically impossible. M. Tardieu, by making the question one of confidence in the Government, nevertheless showed that he was determined to take no risks. In the result, each of the 15 Groups voted practically solidly for the Government, with the exception of the nine Communists. M. Louis Marin and six of his Nationalist colleagues voted against the Government and the vast majority of his own party, while seven other members of the group abstained. Of the 113 Socialistic Radicals, 106 voted with the Government and 98 of the 101 Socialists. The acceptance of the Young Plan by France—for a similar ratification by the Senate is expected as a matter of course—largely clears the way for the completion of the evacuation of the Rhineland in July and for the issue of the first portion of the international reparations loan, the two events which will mark the definite liquidation of the war.

Active preparations are now being made for the issue of the French portion of the international loan. So far as can be ascertained, the exact rate of interest to be offered has not yet been fixed, but it is expected to be either 5 or 5½ per cent. The question of French taxation on the scrip and its yield, which a few weeks ago appeared likely to prove fatal to the bonds being used as international counters, capable of being dealt with on level terms in all markets alike, has now been definitely settled by the decision that the bonds issued here shall, like Rentes, be "free of all taxation, past, present and future."

Money continues superabundant and of record cheapness. The rate for carrying over requirements at Monday's monthly Bourse settlement was 1¼ per cent. (against 1½ per cent. on March 15th and 1¾ per cent. at the end of February), which establishes a new low record in this market. Day-to-day money, which stood at 2½ per cent. down to Friday, has since stiffened to 2¾ per cent., which was the rate ruling this afternoon, consequent on increased demand for end of the month payments. The private discount rate ruling here to-day was 2½ per cent. Between the end of September and the end of March, 3,300,000,000 francs of savings banks excess balances have passed to the Caisse des Depots and thence to the Treasury or the Bank of France. The greater portion of this money is understood to have come from the reimbursement, since the end of September, of 2,700,000,000 francs of Defence Bonds and Rentes by the Caisse d'Amortissement.

The announcement that the Government intend to introduce, on the day the Budget is adopted, the Bill for taxation reductions promised some weeks ago, has given an appreciable fillip to the Bourse since the beginning of the week. It is generally understood that the decrease in the burden on securities will include the reduction of the income tax schedule rate on coupons from 18 per cent. to 12 per cent., and that the hated transmission tax, which is based on the mean quotation during the year, will be reduced by 50 per cent. (from 40c. per cent. *ad valorem* to 20c.). Foreign securities dealt in here are also to benefit from substantial reductions. It is reported that the extent to which the taxes on Bourse operations are reduced will depend upon the degree by which brokers are prepared to consent to a reduction of their commission rates.

The Chamber ratification debate made it clear that there was a good deal of misgiving among deputies as to whether acceptance of the statutes of the Bank for International Payments might not result in the development of a new kind of financial Frankenstein monster, that might eventually bring industry in all countries—and particularly in Europe—into a state of servitude to the great international banking interests. Whether the fears expressed were the result of expert technical knowledge of the constitution of the new international bank, or the outcome of experience in the effects of the remarkable *rôle* that has for many years been played by certain of the banking institutions of France itself, it is difficult to say. There are indications, nevertheless, of a growing desire, especially in certain groups of the Left, for legislation tending to the better protection of the investor, especially in regard to foreign loans issued here.

Foreign loans now being offered here, or about to be, include one of 500,000,000 francs by the Finnish Central Land Bank (with Finnish Government guarantee), 300,000,000 francs by Peru, 175,000,000 francs by Chili, 100,000,000 francs by the Credit Foncier of Brazil, 1,000,000,000 francs by Serbia, and 600,000,000 francs by Hungary. French lenders' experience with some of these countries in the immediate past has been unfortunate, and many people are curious to know whether the banks entrusted with the issues here will again succeed in their efforts. Serbia, for example, several years ago took advantage of the fall in the value of the franc, and adopted the practice of paying French holders their dividends and redemption values in francs of the present day, while continuing to pay its British and other sound money creditors in gold. A judgment of the Hague International Court some months ago ordered the Serbian Government to honour its engagements by gold payments. On Monday an agreement was signed between the French and the Serbian Governments, under which Serbia undertakes to pay dividends and reimbursements to French holders at the rate of 55 per cent. gold for five years, as from April 1, 1930, 60 per cent. as from 1936, 75 per cent. as from 1955, and the full 100 per cent. in 1958. This sliding scale is due to the fact that the Hague Court, in a rider attached to its judgment, expressed the opinion that, in view of the economic situation of Serbia, her creditors should endeavour to come to a compromise by agreement. Brazil, against whom the Hague Court rendered a similar judgment (but without any rider), has accepted the decision, and is now paying its French creditors in gold.

GERMANY.

New Cabinet — Rhenish-Westphalian Coal Syndicate — Health Insurance Proposals.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, April 1.

THE overthrow of the Müller Government came as an extraordinary surprise to everybody in Germany. A provisional agreement in respect of questions of taxation had been reached in the last negotiations, and in respect of the most important issue, the matter of unemployment insurance, a solution seemed almost to have been found: the decision as to whether the unemployment insurance system should be made solvent by reducing its scope, as desired by the People's Party, or by raising the contributions to it, as desired by the Socialists, was to be postponed until the autumn for decision. Under the pressure of the trade unions the Socialist Reichstag deputies unexpectedly rejected this compromise, which had been proposed by the Democrats and the Centre. This meant the rupture of the coalition.

Herr Brüning, the new Chancellor, is a member of the Centre, and has hitherto been in close contact with the Christian Labour movement. His cabinet list indicates that he desires to assure himself support from both the Right and the Left. In accordance with a wish of President von Hindenburg and with obvious tactical considerations, he nominated Herr Schiele, the leader of the Landbund and hitherto a German National member, as Minister of Agriculture. It is now up to this trusted representative of the agriculturists of Eastern Germany to see whether he can accomplish anything with the help of import duties or by other means to overcome distress among the farmers, due to the catastrophic rye situation and other causes. In addition to Herr Schiele, who has resigned his Reichstag mandate as German National member, the cabinet includes another former German National, Herr Treviranus, who, a short time ago, left Hugenberg, the leader of the party, and helped to organise the People's Conservative Party (Volkskonservative Partei). The Chancellor plainly hopes that his colleagues Schiele and Treviranus will attract further support from German National circles.

The leftward connection comes through the appointment of Dr. Wirth, the one-time Chancellor, as Minister of the Interior. As holder of this portfolio, which is of especial political importance, one of his principal tasks will be to carry on the struggle with the disobedient Thuringian State Government, which is favouring the anti-constitutional efforts of extreme nationalistic elements and hence came into conflict with Herr Severing, Dr. Wirth's predecessor. The appointment of the Democrat, Herr Dietrich, as Vice-Chancellor may also gain sympathy for the new cabinet from the Left. The Government's official statement declares that the sole task set by the cabinet for itself is the carrying out of the compromises that were reached by the ministers of the last cabinet. Any policy directed against the interests of the labouring classes would be out of the question for this cabinet, for the reason that the Christian trade unions—their leader, Herr Stegerwald, is Minister of Labour—could not then co-operate. But whether the Socialists can be induced to give the new cabinet a chance, and whether the Government will survive even the next few days, is as impossible to predict as are the consequences of a new crisis. If there is a vote of lack of confidence, the Reichstag will be dissolved and the taxation laws will be put into effect, before the new elections are held, by an emergency decree based on Article 48 of the Constitution.

The life of the Rhenish-Westphalian coal syndicate has had to be compulsorily extended by the Minister of Economics in accordance with law, since the members themselves could not agree on a new contract until April 1st. The chief point at issue was the question of the deliveries by the mines to their own smelters. Those mines which are amalgamated with smelters can deliver to these without reference to their quota as fixed by the syndicate for sales by its members on the open market. But these "smelter-mines" must pay in respect of such deliveries the levy which is imposed by the syndicate chiefly for the purpose of making it possible to quote low prices in competition with foreign coal. The "smelter-mines" involved have objected to paying this levy on the ground that they have no interest in securing sales possibilities on the open market, and hence do not desire to pay any part of the expenses of such efforts. The "free" mines take the standpoint that the deliveries to smelters by mines belonging to them artificially reduce the market for the other mines and compel these to fight against the competition of foreign coal. For the present the Minister of Economics has merely extended the old syndicate contract, which requires the payment of the full levy for coal used in the mines' own smelters. But the free mines have already offered to exact for such consumption only 70 per cent. of the full levy.

The Union of German Employers' Associations (Vereinigung Deutscher Arbeitgeber-Verbände) has made public a memorandum dealing with the reform of social insurance, especially health insurance. The aim is to prevent the misuse of the funds by waste of medicine and by malingering. It is proposed that the insured shall pay one mark in every case of illness, and as a rule also pay 25 per cent. of the cost of the medicines and other things prescribed. In addition to this, there is to be a special control exercised by physicians named by the health insurance department. Sick benefits are not to be paid until after some days of illness. Similar proposals have also come from officials of the funds themselves, since the contributions to these funds—6½ to 7 per cent. of the wage, making a total of 2,200 million marks—are a heavy burden for employer and employee alike.

DENMARK.

Prices — Bank and Industrial Results — Trade Balance.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, March 17.

THE depression prevailing in the international markets lately is also making itself felt in Denmark in various branches of trade. It has also affected agriculture and caused a fall in the prices of some export articles (eggs and butter), though this may partly be ascribed to very big supplies in our principal market, England. From December to February the Danish wholesale price index declined from 146 to 140 (against 159 in February, 1929). In this connection it should be mentioned that the index figure for grain and cattle food declined from 132 to 113 in the course of the months December-February (the latter figure comparing with 164 in February, 1929). As Denmark imports cattle food, this decline amounts to a cheapening of the requirements of our leading trade, and this will partially compensate for the decline in export prices. For February, 1930, the index figure for import goods was 135, against 164 a year ago, while the figure for export goods shows a rise from 145 to 146. Since November, however, the export figure has declined from 159, while at the same time the import figure declined from 143.

This rather heavy decline of prices has affected some grain houses in provincial towns, as well as one of the big trading concerns of the metropolis, Det sibiriske Kompagni, which has been obliged to go into liquidation as the consequence of losses, mostly on Manchurian soya beans. The company is in close co-operation with the General Commercial Company, and the position of this big concern is at present under investigation. Its fate is said to depend upon the amount of its loss on Det sibiriske Kompagni, as well as upon possible losses on its own business and that of affiliated companies.

These two companies are clients of the Kjöbenhavns Handelsbank, which is one of the biggest and best reputed banks in Denmark. After the suspension of payments of Det sibiriske Kompagni the management of the Handelsbank officially stated that the amount of the unsecured interests of the bank in this company and in the General Commercial Company was estimated to aggregate 6,000,000 kroner, which corresponds to one-half of

the total interests of the bank in the companies. In the opinion of the management, the loss likely to result for the bank on these engagements would not be likely to have any influence upon the dividend policy of the bank. At the time, the bank had already declared a dividend of 8 per cent. for 1929, or the same percentage as for the last few years. The net profits for 1929 were about 5,000,000 kroner, or slightly below the 1928 figure. An amount of about 9,000,000 kroner was carried forward in new account, including the balance carried over from 1928, amounting to about 8,900,000 kroner.

Den danske Landmandsbank earned profits amounting to 7,600,000 kroner in 1929, against 7,400,000 kroner in 1928. To the shareholders (the State) a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid, while 3,800,000 kroner are placed to the reserve fund of the bank, which is thereby increased to 5,500,000 kroner. At the same time the State guarantee for reserves is reduced to about 28,500,000 kroner. Accordingly, the total amount of the reserves is unchanged 34,000,000 kroner. It has now been decided that the Landmandsbank will take a further step towards the liquidation of the State guarantee, and from April 1, 1930, the bank will accept only pass book and time deposits without State guarantee, while deposits of the said description made before April 1, 1930, as well as the accrued interest on them, may retain the State guarantee until its complete cessation on April 1, 1932. The soundness and liquidity of the bank are now so generally recognised that this step is likely to be met with goodwill and understanding by its extensive clientèle.

The Privatbank, which was reconstructed in 1928, has a surplus of 7,800,000 kroner for 1929, including an amount of 3,000,000 kroner carried over from 1928. An amount of 500,000 kroner is set aside against loss, while 2,000,000 kroner are placed to reserves. The shareholders obtain a dividend of 6 per cent. and 1,000,000 kroner are transferred to a price regulation fund for securities, while 1,700,000 kroner are carried forward.

The East Asiatic Company has paid a dividend of 10 per cent., as for the last few years, while 2,200,000 kroner are carried forward in new account. In the course of 1929 the share capital of Burmeister and Wain has been increased from 30,000,000 kroner to 35,000,000 kroner, and the new shares partake in dividends for the year with one fourth. As has been the case for the last few years, the dividend is 8 per cent. The machine building factory and the iron foundry of the company have had record production in 1929, and the shipyards have been fully employed, and have launched a greater gross tonnage than in 1928. The United Steamship Company has declared a dividend of 6 per cent., as for last year.

The balance of trade gives no cause for any anxiety, as the excess of imports for December and January is only 2,000,000 kroner and 3,000,000 kroner respectively, the imports aggregating 149,000,000 kroner for each of the said months, against exports amounting to 147,000,000 kroner and 146,000,000 kroner respectively.

As from March 6th, the Nationalbank reduced its discount rate from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent., the lowest rate since 1911. The Nationalbank has lately increased considerably its credit balances abroad, and on February 28th they had reached 125,000,000 kroner.

ROUMANIA.

Trade Depression — Credit Defence Law — Textile Combines — Mortgage Credit — Finance — Politics.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, March 21.

THERE is, unfortunately, little prospect that the hopes of an improvement in the agricultural situation will be fulfilled to any appreciable extent. The world's over-production and the state of the markets have caused prices in Roumania to fall to new low records. The large quantities of cereals which remained on hand from last year's harvest can only be sold at a loss. On the other hand, the producer is obliged to sell to meet his most pressing requirements. With the present enormous competition there seems little possibility of a change for the better while the farmer continues to work under present conditions. It is but natural that this situation is viewed with grave concern, for its continuation must eventually result in the ruin of agriculture and thereby of the whole economic life of the country based on it. This explains in a measure the wave of pessimism which has come over business circles during the last few weeks, and the general feeling of uncertainty was a fertile soil for irresponsible rumours of political danger on the Eastern frontier. It was also responsible for the exaggerated anxiety of the public with regard to some banks of good standing, which caused runs of the depositors on some of these banks and did a great deal of harm to credit in general. Of late, the feeling has become calmer, but the period of acute apprehension through which the country has passed has caused the Government to bring in a proposed new law which is ill-advised and panicky. This is the Law of Defence of Public and Private Credit, which aims at making it a penal offence to spread by written or spoken word news of a tendency to disturb credit. In the form in which it is proposed, the law will amount to nothing short of a severe censorship on all publications and an interference with the freedom of the Press. Such a measure can only have one result—the increase of general suspicion, and it, therefore, defeats its own object.

Meanwhile, trade remains very bad. Textile factories and wholesale houses are selling at great sacrifice, in view of the small demand, in order to dispose of their continually growing stock. As a result, some of the principal cloth factories of old Roumania and Transylvania have combined for the purpose of obtaining by narrow co-operation a rationalisation of the production and sale of their goods. This move is a step in the right direction, and will undoubtedly bring about a strengthening of the trade, which was in a very topheavy condition.

The Temporary Mortgage Credit Bank will probably be founded by the end of this month or the beginning of the next. The Bill proposed by the Government to sanction its foundation is now before Parliament. The capital, which originally was to be 250 million lei, is now fixed at 100 million, and has been entirely subscribed by the principal banks and insurance companies. Bonds are to be issued, as and when additional funds are required, up to an amount of 500 million. It would appear at first sight that the funds at the disposal of the new institution are hopelessly insufficient. It must be explained, therefore, that the mortgages taken up by the bank are to be transferred as soon as feasible to the Land Credit Banks, existing or to be created, against ready money, which, in turn, will be available for the new bank to take up fresh mortgages. For the moment it is not explained how the mortgages are to be transferred. It is understood that certain alterations in the statutes of the existing Land Credit Banks are contemplated for this purpose, but the operation will be one of considerable delicacy so as not to interfere with the vested rights of the mortgage bondholders. Upon the successful transfer of the mortgages depends the success of the whole scheme.

The Customs receipts for January and February, 1930, amount to 713 million lei, of which 596 million are for imports, 105 million for exports, and 12 million for receipts from various sources. This compares with the Budget estimates for the whole year of 6,000 million for imports, 1,200 million for exports, and 100 million for various duties. Last year Custom receipts for the same period amounted to 730 million, against Budget estimates for the whole year of 7,600 million. The Treasury receipts for revenue stamps for the period from January 1st to February 28, 1930, amount to 702 million lei, against a Budget estimate for the same two months of last year amounting to 576 million. These figures are very satisfactory, especially if taken in conjunction with the enormous increase of income tax declarations, which must result in a very substantially increased yield from this tax. On the other hand, Treasury disbursements appear to be very heavy. The Government has already taken full advantage of its facilities of 2,000 million lei with the National Bank,

which are authorised by the Monetary Law, and, nevertheless, there are complaints that certain State debts, such, for instance, as those taken over from the railways, are not too promptly settled.

As was expected, the Liberal Party did well at the municipal elections, which took place recently, but not sufficiently well to shake the position of the Government. The elections have made it more than ever apparent that at the present time there exists a clear-cut two-party system—on the one hand, the present dominant National Peasant Party; on the other, the Liberals. All the other factions are of very little consequence. This would be all to the good if the pernicious system of sulky withdrawal from the parliamentary debates, inaugurated by the present Prime Minister when in opposition, and now aped by the Liberal Party, did not make parliamentary Government a farce. The present Government appears to be still firmly established. It is energetically pursuing its policy of economic reconstruction based on the foundation of sound public finance.

GREECE.

Bank of Greece — Trade — Public Finance.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, March 21.

IN his speech to the shareholders of the Bank of Greece, the governor, Mr Diomède, said that economic conditions all over the world were not normal during the past year, and that Greece had felt the consequences of this situation. The Bank of Greece was confronted with new problems due to international developments on the one hand, and to special causes relating to the economic conditions of Greece of the other. In order that trade might be carried on with absolute safety, and be spared the expense entailed by exchange fluctuations, the rates at which the bank bought and sold foreign exchange were maintained unchanged throughout the year. The cover of circulation on December 31, 1929, at £8,309,111, showed a diminution, as compared with a year ago, of £3,000,000.

More than £2,000,000 of this decrease is due to smaller receipts from exports, while speculation and higher interest rates in New York caused a substantial outflow of capital. Exports of tobacco only fell by £1,500,000 compared with 1928, but the Governor believes that this loss, due to a simple postponement of foreign purchases, will be recovered in the course of this year. On the other hand, the restoration of normal conditions in the international money market has put an end to the emigration of capital. A reverse movement has even started, an indication of which is the already noticeable demand for Greek stocks. Capital imports from abroad, in the form of loans, has been estimated during recent years at £3 to £3.5 million annually. The burden represented by this borrowing is set off, however, to a considerable extent by the annual amortisation of the National Debt, apart from the fact that these loans are employed for productive purposes. Emigrants' remittances for 1929 are estimated at £7,815,000, against £6,500,000 for 1928.

The fact, Mr Diomède said, that in the past year, when the principal article of export (tobacco) underwent a temporary setback, when the universal fall of prices brought about a decrease of receipts, when, owing to bad weather, production of cereals was smaller and cattle breeding less successful, so that an increase of imports was necessary, and when nearly all the foreign banks of issue were compelled to take protective measures against the outflow of capital from their respective countries, the Bank of Greece succeeded in maintaining the proportion of its reserve at 46 per cent. of its total liabilities and 60 per cent. of its actual circulation, proves the elasticity and the strength of the economic structure of the country.

The task of the Bank of Greece, continued the governor, was not easy during the period under review. The economic crisis, which began to appear in 1928, increased considerably in proportions, especially towards the end of 1929. Lack of demand for products, the fall in prices, a foolish immobilisation of short-term capitals, all this created an acuteness of conditions which brought to an impasse many industrial concerns, and the commercial and banking houses connected with them. The liquidation of an unsound situation, which is the result of policies, not always prudent, followed for over ten years, is being now accomplished. The general restriction of credit, resorted to during the last few months, has entailed also a restriction of expenditure and a better adjustment of production. These and the recent downward trend of interest rates, are indications that the liquidation is proceeding comparatively smoothly.

A satisfactory feature of the situation is the state of public finance. The budgets of the State have been leaving a real surplus since 1927, while the Treasury has had a steady credit balance at the bank. It is, of course, not improbable, under the influence of the economic developments of the recent months, that a slowing down of revenue may take place. But the financial position of a country is not judged by movements over a brief period. A longer view is necessary. And such an examination cannot but leave a satisfactory impression on every calm student of Greek finance. It is true that the service of National Debt represents 34 per cent. of the State's expenditure. Foreign debt alone requires over £4,800,000 yearly. It should be taken into consideration, however, that a large amount, corresponding to 13 per cent. of budget expenditure, is employed for amortisation of the Debt, and that the foreign debt is, to an appreciable extent, held by Greeks. It is estimated that two-fifths of the National Debt, or approximately £50 million, will have been paid off within 12 years. A large part of this amount, belonging to Greeks, will remain in the country.

However prudent this policy of generous amortisation may be, it constitutes none the less a great burden. That is why, as soon as the conditions in the International money markets are favourable, a conversion of that part of the debt which is more oppressive should be made. The real interest rate on Greek loans on the London market varies now between 6½ to 7 per cent., whereas for other countries the rate continues to be as high as 8½ to 9 per cent. This is the result, Mr. Diomèdes said in fine, of a favourable opinion of the public finances and the economic potentialities of Greece.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Immigration Quotas — Miners' Phthisis — Public Debt.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, February 26.

FOR some time past, the position in regard to immigration, and its effect on the future constitution of the population, has been a cause of anxiety to the Government. Of late years there has been no important net gain in the stocks (*e.g.*, British, Dutch, German) regarded as preferable, whilst there has been a considerable influx of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. These immigrants have been, in preponderating numbers, Jewish people of the poorer class from Lithuania and certain other parts of the former Russian Empire. The

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Minister of the Interior has now introduced the "Immigration Quota Bill." Nationals of countries not mentioned in the Schedule to the Bill will, in future, be admitted only to the number of fifty per country per year, and under strictly prescribed conditions. The western borders of Lapland and Finland, the Eastern Baltic shore and the western borders of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Jugo-Slavia, and Greece constitute the dividing line. The measure was not mentioned in the Governor-General's speech—presumably to obviate a flood of persons affected. It is to come into effect on May 1st, and there is no doubt whatever that the Government mean to pass the Bill, substantially as introduced. There has been an extremely vocal opposition on usual lines, while the Government have defended the Bill on the ground that immigrants of the class chiefly affected are usually illiterate, that they are traders (and poor small-scale traders) rather than producers, and that they are "unassimilable." On his first night in South Africa, General Smuts abandoned the line previously followed by his party (who for practical purposes supported the Bill), and declared that the Union needs any European immigrants it can secure. The Government team work on the Bill has been unusually good, even for them.

The Director of the Census has just published an abstract of his report on vital statistics for the year 1928. The number of European births corresponded to a birth-rate of 25.77 per thousand of the estimated population, whilst the crude death-rate was 10.15 and the standardised death-rate 10.69. The survival rate of 15.62 is exceptionally high—a fact partly due to abnormalities in the Union European population dating back to the Boer War. Of the 886 deaths from tuberculosis, 161 were due to miners' phthisis. A year or so ago, it was suggested to the Miners' Phthisis Board by the Controller and Auditor-General that the Board was not properly secured as regards the provision of contributions to its funds due by companies on ceasing operations. A trust has now been created, to which the Miners' Phthisis Board and the Chamber of Mines are parties, which trust will receive and manage these funds separately from those of the Miners' Phthisis Board proper. The present value of the "Outstanding Liability" is somewhat over £6,000,000. Ordinary quarterly payments are charged by companies to working costs, but the practice in reference to payments on account of "Outstanding Liability" is to deduct them from profits. The "Scheduled Mines"—they are substantially identical with the gold mining members of the Chamber of Mines—pay £800,000 per annum to the Miners' Phthisis Board, and earmark about £400,000 for "Outstanding Liability."

It may be remarked that recently a considerable amount of attention has been paid to the "life" of the mines. Several statements have been published purporting to give well founded estimates of the "lives" of the various companies, most of these being based on the contributions set aside on account of "Outstanding Liability" to the phthisis funds. The companies are not anxious that estimated "lives" should be known, chiefly because even their own estimates are so often based on inadequate data; and for various reasons, the phthisis figures constitute a very uncertain guide. Estimates of "lives" of mines, whether based on this calculation or on any other, should be taken with the greatest reserve.

The report of the Public Debt Commissioners, just published, shows that at March 31, 1929, the Public Debt of the Union amounted to £244,044,513. This figure has been attained by steady increases amounting in all to about £100,000,000 since Union in 1910. Of the total, £228.9 million is funded, £4.6 million is in Union loan certificates, and £10.5 million is in Treasury bills. £150.6 million was raised outside the Union and £93.5 million was raised within the Union. The average net interest paid on the Funded Debt was 4.208 per cent., a figure which compares with 3.378 at the time of Union, and which, presumably, will increase still more as the old issues fall to be repaid. £199.2 million, or 81.6 per cent., is productive debt. The report contains an interesting table of comparison betwen South Africa and other Dominions. In this country the net debt per European is £129 6s. 9d.; if one converts (for purposes of this argument) four natives and coloured people to one European, the debt per head on that basis is £69 5s. 7d. In Canada the debt is £55 10s. 9d., in New Zealand £172 6s. 7d., and in Australia (States and Commonwealth) £169 11s. 11d. The Commissioners administer sinking funds amounting to £16.4 million.

It is apparent that the Government—and specially the Minister of Finance—are not so comfortable as in the early years of their career. Still, even this year, Mr Havenga apparently anticipates a surplus, although it will be of extremely modest proportions. Producers are beginning to see that the future of the country depends on a substantial reduction in the cost of production, but the main bulk of Government supporters—even those who cannot sell their wool—are slow to learn economic lessons.

Letters to the Editor.

BUILDING SOCIETIES: RATES CHARGED TO BORROWERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have read with considerable interest the Note entitled "Building Societies: Rates Charged to Borrowers," which appeared in your issue of March 22nd. In this you give statistics designed to throw an "interesting light on the average effective rates charged on mortgages" by a number of the leading societies. To some extent this light *may* be interesting. On the whole, however, it may easily be more misleading than interesting. May I be permitted in this connection to recall a dictum by Professor Bowley? "No one," he says, "should attempt to use statistics unless he is prepared to devote considerable time and thought to ascertain the exact meaning, nature and limitations of the particular reports which relate to the subject in question."

I refer especially to your table of "average effective rates charged on mortgages," attributed to individual societies. In brief, it may not in general be realised exactly what is meant by "average effective rates." And if I may hazard a guess, the writer of your Note does not himself appreciate all the limitations which attach to this ambiguous phrase. It is admitted, it is true, that "slight statistical errors may be involved in some cases," but in fact these are of a more serious nature than is apparently supposed. Is he, for instance, when using the figure of accrued interest brought into the profit and loss account, aware that it is a normal practice of many societies, while charging a uniform rate of interest on the balance of the advance for the time being outstanding, to allocate a slightly higher rate during the first few years of the mortgage, and a correspondingly reduced rate throughout the remaining term of the advance? This factor is obviously of the first importance, since interest on advances is, at the present time, particularly inflated owing to the great increase in the number of advances which have been made in recent years.

Perhaps you will reply: "The figures are sufficiently accurate for broad purposes of comparison." But broad is a relative term, and it seems to me that you have allowed rather more "broadness"—if I may be permitted the word—than is justified by the facts of the particular case.

In support of the foregoing, I may say that the rate of interest charged by the majority of the societies listed in section (h) of your table is 6 per cent. and not 6½ to 7½ per cent. as your table suggests.—I am, Sir, yours very truly,

HAROLD BELLMAN.

"Tree Tops," Dollis Avenue, Church End, Finchley.
March 31, 1930.

[We are accustomed to verify our published figures, both as regards accuracy and relevance to the matter in hand, and we can assure Mr Bellman that our usual precautions were followed in this instance. It is true, as he points out, that many of the London societies include a "premium" element in their interest charges for the early years of a mortgage. But whereas the majority of mortgages are made in the first instance, for comparatively long periods, such as fifteen years, in practice the average life of a mortgage is not much more than seven years, as a result of premature repayment, sales of the property by the mortgagor, etc. To the extent that this factor operates, many borrowers tend to pay the higher rate in the earlier years without obtaining the full benefit of the lower rates in the later years. For readers of statistical bent we append a list of other conditions attaching to our figures. This was, obviously, too lengthy and technical for inclusion in a short "Note." It will be seen that some of these factors tend to cancel each other:—

(1) Mortgage balances are taken as the arithmetic mean of the opening and closing balances. It is possible that these occasionally include some accrued interest which should not strictly be included as principal carrying interest. But as the greater part of the advances are repayable by monthly instalments, the amount of accrued interest at any time cannot be large.
(2) A more considerable error is liable to arise in the case of a rapid increase of advances if that increase is not evenly spread over the year. There are signs that there was an exceptionally large demand for advances in certain cases in the latter part of the year 1929. The true average balance outstanding in such cases would be less than the arithmetic mean, and the true rate of interest would be somewhat higher than that shown.
(3) The interest assumed in the calculations is the accrued interest brought into the profit and loss account. It is not quite clear how far this includes interest accrued but not payable, and interest payable but not paid, but the amount of either is almost certainly too small to affect the figures seriously.
(4) The interest generally does *not* include fines, entrance fees, or redemption fees. But certain societies, *e.g.*, Temperance, Hearts of Oak and Magnet, include premiums with the interest. It is not quite clear exactly how these premiums are brought to account, but it may be that their inclusion initates the apparent rate a little in years of special activity in advances.
(5) On the other hand, certain societies, e.g., Cheltenham, Eastern Counties and Hastings Permanent, bear all or some legal mortgage expenses themselves, and this might be regarded as reducing somewhat the rate of interest shown in the Table.
(6) Some societies pay or credit a bonus to borrowers, e.g., Eastern Counties, Principality and Hastings Permanent. This has been deducted both from the interest (except where disallowed), and in the third case from the principal also. For this and other reasons, the rates in the first and third of these cases are to a considerable extent estimates only.
(7) One society, the Coventry Permanent Economic, charges a share of working expenses to borrowers, and this has been added to the interest.
(8) It is understood that certain provincial societies making advances in London have special rates for London borrowers. It follows that the rate in the Table for certain provincial societies with branches in London is compounded of a higher rate and a lower. Apart from this, a number of societies charge different rates (a) in different areas, e.g., Northampton, which charges an extra ½ per cent. outside the town and county, or (b) on different classes of property, e.g., the Burnley, Borough, Leicester Temperance, and Keighley, which charge an extra ½ per cent. on larger houses and business properties; and the Leicester Permanent, which charges a lower rate on advances on houses for personal occupation within two-thirds of the valuation.
(9) The system of monthly repayments, while making no difference to the actual interest as compared with a half-yearly basis, increases the effective rate by about 1s. 6d. per cent., i.e., £6 per cent. payable monthly is equivalent to about £6 1s. 6d. per cent. payable half-yearly. Most Building Society advances are on a monthly basis.

Mr Bellman's letter does not explain the significant fact, suggested by our figures, that the total mortgage interest *actually received*, expressed as a percentage of the mean advances outstanding, is a full 1 per cent. higher, on the average, in the case of the London than in that of the provincial societies. Is there, in fact, an agreement not to lend in London at a lower over-all rate than 6 per cent? If this be the case, London borrowers may be impelled to ask the reason for this apparent discrimination.—ED., *Econ.*]

THE SUGAR PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The most fervent advocate of Government assistance to the sugar producers of the West Indies and Mauritius must feel that Lord Olivier's proposal can only be adopted after very careful discussion. Into that discussion I do not wish to enter; but only to suggest that the article in your issue of March 29th misconceives the problem.

First, as to the desirability of interference. The argument for this does not lie in the fact that the sugar industry is running at a loss, but in the thesis that the general prosperity of the Islands is, and must continue to be, entirely bound up with that of the sugar producers. The Commission adduces a considerable body of evidence in support of this thesis. If it be admitted, two questions arise: (1) political—how much are we prepared to spend in order to maintain the prosperity of the West Indian communities? (2) economic—is assistance (of any kind) to the sugar producers the best way of procedure? Your reference to "the British wheat farmer, the Australian wool grower, or the rubber planter in Malaya" ignores the political question entirely, unless we are asked to assume that each producer is of irremediably vital importance in the economy of his seat of operations.

Secondly, your reference to "the fact that the 'free' market price is the measure of the ratio between demand and supply" suggests by implication that we have to deal with a "free" market in the sense in which the phrase is used in pure theory. Arguments for assistance to the sugar industry are not based on an attempt "artificially to impede the restoration of lost equilibrium" in a "free" market. The artificial restrictions which cover so large a part of the market are a determining factor of equilibrium in the remainder, which cannot, therefore, be said to be "free." It is regrettable that the *Economist* should employ language which suggests that other people's restrictions are compatible with a "free" market—are in a sense "natural"—and not our own. The case for interference is that artificial factors of equilibrium can and should be employed to counter artificial factors. The case against interference based on this ground is surely strong enough without employing words that savour of unreality.

Finally, in a matter where international economic co-operation can offer the only hope of a really lasting settlement, I should like to emphasise, if I may, the leading part which the *Economist* has played in promoting the realisation of this ideal.—Your obedient servant,

H. C. B. MYNORS.

Bridstow, Herefordshire.
March 31, 1930.

[Mr Mynors, we are glad to note, does not suggest that further "artificial factors of equilibrium" should be introduced into the sugar equation at the instance of the British Government. Whether the residual price of sugar—*i.e.*, buyer's price less tariff protections—be referred to as the "free" or "open" market price is scarcely material. Whatever name it bears, that price, we repeat, *is* "the measure of the ratio between demand and supply," and if the vicious effects of tariffs and subsidies have "unnaturally" depressed the "open" market (which is not in dispute), the remedy is not to be sought in heavier doses of the same drug. As regards the "political" considerations, if it be decided that the West Indian communities should have their prosperity maintained at the expense of the British taxpayer, we should prefer to see a direct Treasury grant in aid given for that specific purpose. In that case Parliament would at least know what it was doing, and the limit of its liability.—ED., *Econ.*]

THE TARIFF TRUCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In the article on "The Tariff Truce" which appears in your issue of February 15th last you argue that certain protectionists are basing their ideas on a false analogy with the U.S.A., urging that the U.S.A. possesses an area equivalent to 19.9 acres per head whereas Britain only has 1.29 acres per head.

Presuming that the *Economist* is really searching for truth and not merely trying to prove its own ideas of truth, would it not have been less misleading if it had been pointed out that the British *Empire* possesses an area of about 8,900 million acres against a population of about 450 millions (or 19.77 acres per head, as compared with 19.9 acres per head your claim for the U.S.A.)?

If the standard of living of the native races of the Empire were as high as that of the negro population of the U.S.A., could we not expect in the Empire a prosperity as great as that of the U.S.A.?

Does not the remedy lie in increasing the spending power of the tropical and sub-tropical labourer within the Empire? Can this be done without increasing the price of tropical products—foodstuffs and raw materials? Can this increased price be brought about except behind the walls of a tariff in favour of Empire produce?

Would not the demand for manufactured goods created by this increase in purchasing power of the 450 millions of the Empire (of whom over 300 millions are ill-paid "natives") so fully employ the manufacturing capacity (not only of Britain but of Canada and the whole Empire) as to eliminate from the discussion the conflict of interests between the old-established industries of Britain and the industrial ambitions of other parts of the Empire?—Yours truly,

FREDK. C. HARDING.

25, Queen's Park West,
Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I.
March 4, 1930.

[We quoted the figures referred to for the benefit of those protectionists who believe that we can find employment for our people "by exploiting the home market" and to show that "a self-contained Britain would be desperately poor." This is quite a different conception from a self-contained Empire, though protectionists sometimes ignore this vital distinction. But if comparison of America with Britain is palpably false, that between America and the Empire is almost equally misleading. There is no analogy between a single territorial unit and a number of territorial units scattered at great distances apart over the world, some densely peopled, some almost empty, with more than two-thirds of the population living in a single area. There is no analogy between the Southern States—with their black and white populations of almost equal numbers—and India. Raising the standard of living of the "tropical and sub-tropical labourer" within the Empire would undoubtedly be the most effective stimulus to trade. But this is to be done by raising his productivity, not by raising the price at which his products sell in an artificially protected market.—ED., *Econ.*]

BANKS AND INDUSTRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your very interesting survey on "Banks and Industry in England and Germany" in the *Economist* of March 15th contains some doubtful statements. A German "*Aufsichtsrat*" is not a "counterpart" of an English "board of directors." It is something for which, as I know by personal company practice in England, no "counterpart" in England exists. The German *Vorstand* is the real "counterpart" of both the English board of directors and of the managing director. It is a further error to say that an *Aufsichtsrat* is "*entitled*" to demand information on the conduct of the company's business. The German *Handelsgesetzbuch* requires the *Aufsichsrat* to keep itself informed on that matter, to audit the accounts, sanction the balance sheets, and sanction the dividend and reserve proposals of the *Vorstand*. The members of an *Aufsichtsrat* are paid very large fees, up to £8,000 a year each for doing this work, and your contributor errs in thinking that a member can plead lack of time as an excuse for not fulfilling the functions imposed upon him by the *Handelsgesetzbuch*.—I am, your obedient servant,

ADOLF BENZIGER.

Fasanenstrasse 29I, Berlin.
March 17th.

[The writer of the article, in comparing the German *Aufsichtsrat* with the English "board," was at pains to bring out the differences which the comparison reveals; and he made it clear, we should have thought, that the *Aufsichtsrat* has certain obligations to perform. It is in the performance of these duties that it *is* "entitled" to obtain the necessary information from the *Vorstand*.—ED., *Econ.*]

Books and Publications.

"BURDETT."*

The Stock Exchange Official Intelligence, edited by the Secretary of the Share and Loan Department and approved by the Committee of the Stock Exchange, retains in 1930 the high standard of excellence for which, as "Burdett," it has become famous. Once again successful efforts have been made to condense the contents of this large tome without sacrificing anything of its efficiency. In the front of the book appear the usual chapters on Finance, County Finance, Indian Finance, Dominion and Colonial Finance, British and Foreign Finance and Company Law, the last-mentioned including the main new features introduced by the Act which came into force in November last. Particularly noteworthy, also, is the article entitled "The Reform of Local Government and Local Taxation in England and Wales," an authoritative review of the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1929, and a connected narrative of all the reforms which culminated in the Act of last year. In the concluding portion of the volume the customary information relating to stamp duties, trustee investments, income tax, Bank rate and the like has been duly revised and brought up to date.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Economic Aspects of Sovereignty. By R. G. Hawtrey. (London) Longmans, Green and Company, Ltd., 39, Paternoster Row. 9s. net.

Mr Hawtrey's observations on international politics from the economic point of view lead, on the whole, to fairly hopeful conclusions.

The Basic Industries and Social History of Japan, 1914-1918. By Ushisaburo Kobayashi. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 15s. net.

An economic history of Japan during the war, prepared with the clearness and thoroughness characteristic of the Carnegie Endowment publications.

A History of Indian Taxation. By Pramathanath Banerjea. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 12s. 6d. net.

A comprehensive, critical history of financial policy in India.

Die Stabilisierung des Geldwertes als Ziel der Währungspolitik. By Dr. ver-pol. Alfred Tismer. (Berlin-Charlottenburg) Verlag von Gebr. Hoffmann, Schillerstrasse, 44.

A serious and considered contribution to the controversy on currency stabilisation.

History of Monetary Enactments in Greece. By L. C. Palamas. (Athens) Printing Office "Histia."

A summary of Greek monetary law, 1828-1885. A second pamphlet is to bring it up to 1928.

La Gestione delle Ferrovie dello Stato nel Sessennio 1923-24-1928-29. By F. A. Rèpaci. (Turin) Arti Grafiche Ditta Fratelli Pozzo.

A monograph on the working of the Italian State Railways which should form a useful contribution to the literature of railway economics.

Wall Street Ventures and Adventures through Forty Years. By Richard D. Wyckoff. (London) Harper and Bros., 90, Great Russell Street. 18s. net.

A vivid history of Wall Street in the form of the autobiography of a man who was almost a native of it.

In a Persian Oil Field. By J. W. Williamson. Second Revised and Enlarged Edition. (London) Ernest Benn, Ltd., 154, Fleet Street. 7s. 6d. net.

A most interesting illustrated history of the application of scientific methods in the oil industry.

The Anglo-American Year Book, 1930. Edited by H. Russell Amory. (London) American Chamber of Commerce, Aldwych House, Aldwych. 15s. net.

A very convenient book of reference for citizens of the United States or of Great Britain resident in each other's countries. It includes residential and commercial directories, and information on social, legal and practical matters of all kinds.

Bradstreet's Register, 1929, *London.* Fourth edition. (London) Bradstreet's Register, Ltd., Adelaide House, King William Street.

Presents to subscribers, in very compact form, a list of traders of repute in the United Kingdom whose financial standing conforms with certain minimum standards. They are rated by special code, according to their capital, resources and general standing, and also according to the past experience of suppliers.

Manual of Argentine Railways for 1930. By Sir Stephen Killik. (London) Effingham Wilson, 15, Copthall Avenue. 2s. 6d. net.

A handy booklet for the investor, with full particulars of each company.

Foreign Dollar Loans. (London) The National City Company, 34, Bishopsgate.

Contains particulars of each loan and essential statistics of the countries for which they were raised.

Empire Review, April, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, St. Martin's Street. 2s.

Includes an article by Lieut.-Commander Sir C. Dennistoun Burney on "The Real Issues in India."

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. April, 1930. (London) John Murray, Albemarle Street. 3s. 6d. net.

Contains reports of recent investigations, including one on esential oils; and various other reports and articles on commodities of economic importance produced within the Empire.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Civil Estimates for year ending March 31, 1931: *Class IV, Education*, 1s. 3d. net; *Class V, Health, Labour and Insurance*, 1s. 6d. net; *Class VII, Common Services (Works, Stationery, etc.)*, 2s. net; *Class X, Exchequer Contribution to Local Revenues, etc.*, 2d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in East Africa, September, 1929. 2s. 9d. net.

Report of the Indian Central Committee, 1928-29: Supplementary note by Dr. Abdullah al-M'amun Suhrawardy. Cmd. 3525. 2s. net.

Trustee Savings Banks: Thirty-eighth Annual Report. 4d. net.

* *The Stock Exchange Official Intelligence for* 1930. (London) Spottiswoode, Ballantyne and Company, Ltd., 1, New Street Square. 60s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

RATIONALISING THE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO.

THE following article examines a thesis, which, while frankly experimental, may be of interest to company directors at a time when "rationalisation" is in the air. The latter term may be briefly defined, for the purpose of this review, as the securing of the optimum earning power from all available assets. The earning assets of many well-conducted companies include certain funds which are invested outside the business. These are capable of being speedily transformed into cash in an emergency; but, in the meantime, they afford an appreciable annual income, in the form of interest and dividends. Experience suggests that these "outside" investments tend in numerous cases to acquire a semi-permanent character. This being so, any expedient which increases the income derivable from them (which, of course, forms part of the net revenue divisible among shareholders), without decreasing their liquidity or the safety of their principal, obviously offers tangible advantages to all concerned.

Some idea of the dimensions of the "outside" investments held by some of the largest British companies may be obtained from the following table, which shows in addition the increase in revenue which would follow a relatively moderate enhancement in the average "yield."

Company.	Amount of Stock (mainly gilt-edged) held at date of last Balance-sheet. £	Additional Revenue accruing if annual interest increased by 1 per cent. £
London Midland and Scottish Railway	17,302,117	173,021
Great Western Railway	17,010,212	170,102
Imperial Tobacco Company	9,862,441	98,624
"Shell" Transport & Trading	6,627,101	66,271
Southern Railway	6,175,410	61,754
London and North-Eastern Railway	4,509,277	45,093
Vickers	4,488,943	44,889
Arthur Guinness	4,400,779	44,008
Anglo-Persian Oil	2,784,887	27,849
Morris Motors	2,330,892	23,309
Harrods	1,228,437	12,284
British South Africa Company	1,062,106	10,621

Gilt-edged investment has undoubted advantages in the matter of realisability, since, apart from the fact that cash settlements are effected daily in the gilt-edged markets of the Stock Exchange (as distinct from fortnightly settlements in other markets), large amounts of gilt-edged can be sold in an emergency with much less disturbance of market prices than in the case of stocks less widely held. On the other hand, gilt-edged stocks tend to have a lower market value when money is "dear" than when it is "cheap." They have no "equity" in the future progress of industry and of the nation. There is a school of thought which holds that the idea that safety can be attained *only* by the exclusive holding of gilt-edged securities can no longer be regarded as tenable. The leading exponents of modern investment practice are, of course, the investment trusts, the guiding principles of whose policy are well known. Security holdings are widely "spread," both geographically and by industries, so that only a condition of international chaos can threaten their solidity. Their total is divided between bonds, preference shares and ordinary shares in proportions which experience has shown to be sound. The percentage distribution of the aggregate holdings of five "pre-war" and three "post-war" investment trusts is shown in the first table appearing in the next column.

Broadly speaking, both the "old" and the "new" trusts hold about half their total securities in the form of bonds and the remainder in preference and ordinary, with one or the other slightly in the ascendant, according to the predilections of the trust concerned. In all cases, however, the purchase and sale of securities is the affair of a full-time professional investment staff, subject to a proviso that not more than a limited percentage of the whole capital may be invested in any one security. Large transfers are made each year from revenue for reserves, part of which may be used to write down the book value of investments. Investment, in short, is treated as a specialised activity, the fruits of this policy being a yield, safe and well-secured, which may be one, two or even more per cent. over that obtainable on gilt-edged securities, and tends to increase as time goes on.

	Proportion of Total Holdings Invested in		
	Gilt-edged Bonds and Debentures. %	Preference Stocks. %	Ordinary Stocks. %
"Old" Investment Trusts:			
Anglo-American Debenture	51·00	23·32	25·68
British Investment	46·10	28·30	25·60
Debenture Corporation	74·40	10·60	15·00
Metropolitan Trust	48·00	23·90	28·10
Clydesdale Investment	56·92	28·62	14·46
"New" Investment Trusts:			
British and German Trust	50·14	13·85	36·01
Capital and National	54·51	26·60	18·89
City and International	49·60	13·10	37·30

The investment portfolios of many trust companies compare, in size, with the security holdings of the industrial concerns already mentioned, as may be seen from the next table:—

	Date of Balance Sheet.	Total Investments. Book Value. £	Interest and Dividends (after tax). £
"Old" Trusts—			
Anglo-American Deb.	Nov. 31, 1929	2,231,565	148,905
British Investment	Jan. 1, 1930	6,713,191	367,545
Debenture Corporation	Dec. 31, 1928	3,759,758	216,498*
Metropolitan Trust	Jan. 1, 1930	3,205,479	211,127
Clydesdale Investment	Sept. 30, 1929	2,265,140	165,410
"New" Trusts—			
British and German	Dec. 31, 1929	2,254,907	118,289
Capital and National	July 31, 1929	946,806	50,279
City and International	Aug 31, 1929	1,748,791	109,167

* Includes rents and other income.

None of these companies has a security portfolio anything like as large as that of the L.M.S., the Great Western Railway, or even the Imperial Tobacco Company. The income obtained by the eight trust companies shown in the table, last year, was 6 per cent., after tax, comparing with an income of, say, 4 per cent., after tax, from gilt-edged securities. There are, however, many reasons why the results achieved in the two fields of investment cannot be directly compared. The security holdings of trust companies are part of their fixed capital. No question arises of transforming the whole, or any substantial part, into cash, so long as the trusts remain "going concerns." An industrial company, however, holds a substantial share, at least, of its total outside investments as a liquid reserve, to be turned into cash, in an emergency, at short notice. No form of security can be realised so quickly, or with less upset to the market, than gilt-edged stock, which, for the minimum "iron" reserve of any company, must be regarded as an indispensable type of holding. The spreading of investment is applicable only to the residue, though in many cases the latter may be of ample dimensions to make the expedient worth while.

In practice, such a policy would probably be found to involve the setting up of a special investment department, with expert, full-time personnel. It would be necessary, also, to reassure shareholders that the investments would, as in the past, remain independent of the company's main business, or that of its subsidiary com-

panies, and that no personal prejudices or interests would enter into its administration.

There are many companies whose outside investments, while less than £1,000,000, are nevertheless substantial. A few examples are given below:—

Company.	Amount of Stock (mainly gilt-edged) held at date of last balance-sheet.	Additional Revenue accruing if annual interest increased by 1 per cent.
	£	£
Linen Thread Company	751,221	7,512
Telegraph Construction	733,600	7,336
Bolsover Colliery	624,952	6,250
Watney, Combe, Reid.....	484,361	4,844
United Serdang	430,694	4,307
Savoy Hotel	317,952	3,180
Borax Consolidated	278,819	2,788
Maypole Dairy	249,661	2,497
J. Sears and Co.	211,738	2,117
Bah Lias Rubber	145,844	1,458
Pinchin, Johnson	118,076	1,181

In such cases as these, while the economies of "rationalisation" of the investment portfolio might not be sufficient to support a full-time investment department, they might enable a company to pay a fee sufficient to give it a substantial call on the services of a well-organised independent outside investment agency, were such a body in existence.

We have endeavoured, in this article, to give a fair statement of the views of those who urge that investment policy, like industrial policy, should move forward with advancing knowledge. There is, of course, another aspect of the question. Nowhere is the fallacy of human judgment more readily or regularly demonstrated than on the Stock Exchange. The purchase of gilt-edged securities does, in fact, afford the best guarantee which has yet been discovered that interest on outside investment will be regularly forthcoming and the principal safeguarded, as far as possible, against the dangers of boom and slump, unfounded optimism, and axe-grinding. Many shareholders, in practice, would receive with feelings of dismay any suggestion to expose a substantial portion of their companies' liquid resources to the hazards of investment in other than first-class stocks, and no responsible observer would regard this conservative instinct as entirely at variance with economic fact. Holders of more "advanced" views, however, are entitled to point out that the trend of modern industrial practice is in the direction of increased production of saleable by-products, which were formerly regarded as waste matter, but to-day, while remaining subsidiary to a company's main business, represent a valuable source of revenue. Without endorsing the view that directors and shareholders should consider the application in the counting-house of a principle which has proved remunerative in the workshop, we have put forward the facts which form the framework of the article in order to assist our readers in forming their own conclusions on a matter of tangible importance.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
April 22.	April 24.

The Account which opened this week was of the three-weeks' variety, whose traditional unpopularity in the "House" was not redeemed by its inclusion of the Easter holidays and the Budget. The volume of business showed a considerable falling off, but prices were sustained, the prevailing note of quiet confidence being assisted by the firm tendency of New York. The hardening of money rates prepared the gilt-edged market for the absence of a further reduction in Bank rate, but though dealers were no longer able to buy in the morning with the certainty of a profit in the afternoon, quotations more than held their ground. A certain amount of cautious buying of the best industrial shares was effected on behalf of investment trusts—a parallel, on a small scale, of events in America. In the more speculative markets, a tentative renewal of interest in oil shares was the leading feature, accompanied by influential but unobtrusive buying of selected Rhodesians.

The week opened with a sharp reaction in gilt-edged securities, attempts to unload stock meeting with an unfavourable reception. Five per Cent. Conversion "A" and "B" were amalgamated after deduction of the May interest payments, and marked 103 ex-dividend. War Loan was fractionally higher, but Funding Loan, with its large foreign holdings, was erratic. India stocks were depressed by the Calcutta riots, and little interest was taken in Dominion and Colonial securities. Despite the gratifying reception of the Birmingham Loan, home corporation stocks were easier, though recent issues continued to stand at a premium.

The Foreign market was less active, but price changes were of narrow dimensions. Brazilians reacted at the outset, though little stock came on offer, but improved when the market learned that arrangements were being made for the renewal of the £5,000,000 credit which would otherwise have expired in a fortnight's time. China 1912's were sold by tired bulls in the absence of official news regarding the coupon, but issues secured on the Customs moved favourably on the official adoption of the Kemmerer Commission's recommendation of the gradual adoption of gold currency. European stocks hardened in a few cases, but less favourable expectations regarding the debt service caused a decline in Turkish Unified. Egyptians were firm after the official opening of the Treaty Conference between the British and Egyptian Governments.

Home Rails continued in a friendless condition. The traffic figures afforded comparison with the pre-Easter week of last year, but were regarded as distinctly unsatisfactory even after due allowance for this factor. North-Easterns were depressed by scattered realisations, and Midland and Scottish failed to maintain an early improvement. Undergrounds were steady on the encouraging traffic position. The resumption of normal services gave a better appearance to the Argentine figures, though receipts continued to run below last year's level. Prices improved after a further recovery in the peso exchange. Leopoldinas showed further improvement, but little interest was taken in the rest of the market.

The carry-over in the Industrial markets revealed a smaller open position than had been anticipated. The three weeks' account opened without enthusiasm, but a small amount of cautiously selective buying, from not uninfluential quarters, combined with the renewal of speculative activity in New York to sustain the average level of values. International stocks were marked up on New York dealings, though activity in the "Street," on most evenings, was not conspicuously animated. The report and bonus of United Molasses (discussed on page 783) were favourably received, though the shares showed only a moderate rise. The Associated Cement speech, signalising the completion of the group's programme of rationalisation, encouraged moderate activity in the shares, but the informative review of conditions by the chairman of Vickers was regarded by the market as distinctly less optimistic than its predecessor. Electrical equipment shares showed marked activity, special buying of General Electrics from the American side finding the market ill-supplied with stock. Gramophones and Columbias were in demand at the outset, but lost ground on the publication of a disclaimer regarding amalgamation, though the market was quick to point out that the latter did not expressly deny that negotiations were in progress. Brewery and tobacco shares remained dull under Budgetary fears. The Swedish Match group continued to harden, but the most noteworthy advances in the international group were scored by Hydro-Electrics and International Holdings, under American impetus, despite the none too satisfactory showing made by the latter's report. Iron and steel securities were quiet and irregular, but motor shares obtained fair provincial support. Little interest was shown in textiles, Courtaulds showing renewed weakness on Thursday. Imperial Chemicals again came on offer. Bank shares were neglected, prices being fractionally lower on balance, while the majority of insurance share quotations were unaltered.

The rubber share market had a distinctly harder appearance, though business failed to develop to any striking extent. The announcement that the May tapping "holiday" would be definitely put into operation produced a few speculative inquiries, Rubber Trusts rising steadily throughout the week. Tea shares were quiet, but a certain broadening of the market was discernible, and price changes were all upward. More confidence was displayed in the oil market, American news being favourable both as regards production and prices. Attention was chiefly concentrated, however, on dividend-paying stocks, Anglo-Persians being especially in demand.

Business was on a restricted scale in the mining markets, but the tone remained cheerful, and most changes were in favour of holders. Kaffirs were weak at the outset, only a few irregular movements being recorded, but the market later became comparatively firm, Brakpan, Durban Deeps and Anglo-French being inquired for. Rhodesians attracted some attention, and Chartered went ahead on Paris buying. Northern issues had a listless appearance, Congo Borders receding after opening strongly. Tin shares were easier following Tuesday's sharp drop in the metal, with Ipoh a notable exception, while Kamunting and Pangnga River both appreciated. Ashanti Goldfields were in strong demand, and advanced to 30s. 6d., the market being short of stock. Westralians were a firm market, Horseshoes holding an early rise to 2s. 9d., while Wiluna improved on a modest inquiry. Tintos were well supported, rising £1 to 45¾ on Tuesday.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Mar. 27.	Mar. 28.	Mar. 31.	Apr. 1.	Apr. 2.	Apr. 3.
Government and Municipal Loans.....	1,692	1,468	1,963	1,619	1,420	1,483
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities.....	1,295	1,034	1,316	1,048	1,065	1,052
Commercial and Industrial*	2,263	2,305	2,589	2,260	2,254	2,323
Banks, Insurance and Financial	677	537	634	550	574	576
Mines (including Nitrate) ...	617	640	775	618	578	600
Oil	234	218	272	221	271	234
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	190	250	245	223	256	193
Total	6,968	6,502	7,794	6,548	6,418	6,461

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Mar. 27.	Mar. 28.	Mar. 31.	Apr. 1.	Apr. 2.	Apr. 3.
90·5	82·0	88·2	88·4	88·4	88·6	89·1	88·8

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The bull movements in the Markets continue, with an increased turnover, at present averaging around five million shares daily, and the average prices having reached new high levels for year, the 50 per cent. loss in the autumn break has been restored. Pool work was largely responsible for more unrestrained movements, but investment buying is still considerable and the best grade stocks are the leaders in the rise which has, altogether, been moderate with much irregularity each day. At the moment the general market is reactionary, owing to a weakening in the technical position, and some apprehension exists regarding the rise in brokers loans. Trade has not yet improved greatly. Steel shares are better, owing to increased operations in the industry after a few weeks' decline. Copper shares improved on renewed buying of the metal, and rumours regarding a pool to be formed, and an announcement of the determination to maintain the export price. Amusement shares are buoyant, although operations are largely speculative, but the earnings are good. Railroad stocks are inactive owing to the continued low level of the car loading figures, and there is a drop of about 25 per cent. on the February earnings with prospects of the same for March; however, dividends are well covered, and there is no danger of a reduction this year. Bonds are slower as a result of slightly firmer

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices. Mar. 27.	Apr. 3.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	79	78⅞	— ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	100⅛	99⅞	— ⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	104⅜	102 1/16 x	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	103 7/16	103	— 1/16
Consols 2½%	57	56⅝	— ⅜
Do. 4%	89⅛	88 15/16	— 1/16
Funding 4%	92x	91⅞	— ⅛
Victory Bonds 4% ...	94 1/16	94⅛	— 1/16
Local Loans 3%	66	65⅝	— ⅜
Treasury 5% (B).....	101 11/16	101⅛	+ 1/16
Canada 4% 1940-60	90	91	+ 1
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	101	102	+ 1
India 3½%	65	64	— 1
Do. 4½% 1958-68...	87	87	...
Australia 5% 1945-75	95	94	— 1
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	91⅛	91½	...
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	102	102	...

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)...	102	102	...
Argentine 4% Reciss.	88	87⅛	— ⅛
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103⅛	104	+ ⅛
Belgian 7%	111	111⅛	+ ⅛
Brazil 6⅓% (1927) ...	92⅛	92	— ⅛
Bulgaria 7⅓%	90	90	...
China 5% (1912).....	48⅛	47⅛	— 1
Czechoslovakia 8%...	113⅛	110⅛x	+ 1
Egypt Unified 4% ...	77⅛	78⅛	+ 1
French 5%	20⅝	20⅛	— ⅛
Do. 4% (Brit.).....	20⅛	20⅛	...
German 7%	108	108⅛	+ ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee...	103	103	...
Hungary 7⅓%	103⅛	103⅛	— ⅛
Chili 6%	97	97⅛	+ ⅛
Poland 7%	92	92	...
Mexican 5% (1899)...	20	20	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7⅓%...	92⅛	94⅛	+ 1⅛

Corporation Stocks.

L.C.C. 3%.....	66	66	...
E. London 5% 1960-70	98	98	...
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	90	92	+ 2
Berlin 6% Ster.	96	96	...

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	88⅛	88	— ⅛
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10⅛	10⅛	...
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	32⅛	31⅛	— ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52⅛	52⅛	— ⅛
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	65	65⅛	+ ⅛
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77	77⅛	+ ⅛
Southern Def. Stk. ...	31⅛	31⅛	— ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	75⅛	74⅛	— 1
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds	110⅛	110	— ⅛
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	219⅛	216⅛	— 3⅛
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	84	87	+ 3
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	88⅛	89⅛	+ 1⅛
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	95⅛	95⅝	+ ⅛
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	75⅛	76⅛	+ 1⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	18⅛	17⅛	— ⅛
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	54	55⅛	+ 1⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk....	192⅛	196⅛	+ 4
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$31⅛	$36⅛	— 1
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk	19	20	+ 1
Beira Rlwy. no par...	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	255⅛	256	+ ⅛
Barclay B. (£1)	2 9/16	2⅛	— 1/16
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅞	3 15/16	— 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3 3/16	+ 1/16
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13 3/16	13 3/16	— ⅛
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$120	$116	— 4
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15½	15½	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 3/16	3⅛	— 1/16

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	26	26	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29⅛	29⅛	...
Pearl (£1)	13 3/16	13 3/16	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd...	14 1/16	14	— 1/16
Roy.In.£1, with 10/ pd.	8½	8½	...

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	3⅛	3⅛	...
Baldwin (4/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Cory, William (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	— 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	1/16	1/16	...
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)...	⅛	⅛	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛ x	...
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛ x	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8).....	1/16	1/16 x	...

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1⅞	1⅞	— 1/16
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	1/16	1/16	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3	— ⅛
Courtaulds.....	2 1/16	2 1/16	— 1/16
Eng.Sewg.Cotton (£1)	1 3/16	2	+ 1/16
Fine Cott. Spinn. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/16
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Snia Viscosa (200 lire)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)..	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 3/16	3 1/16 x	...
General Electric (£1)...	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Johnson & Phillips(£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅞	1⅞	...
City of London (£1)...	1 3/16	1 1/16	— 1/16
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	49⅛	52⅛	+ 3
Lancashire Elec. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1½	1 9/16 x	...

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	370	395	+25
Primitiva (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
S. Metropolitan Stk...	98⅛	100⅛	+ 2

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	7½% *A Ord.*	60	59	— 1
	B Ord.	30	30	...
	5½% *Pref.*	98	97½	— ½
Canadian Marconi ...		1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Marconi Marine (£1)		2⅛	2 1/16 x	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)		2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Motors.

Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	— 1/16
Leyland (£1).....	3	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Napier (5/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Singer (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	+ 1/16

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Furness Withy (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2 1/16	— 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25⅛	26⅛	+ 1

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	25 1/16	26	+ 1/16
London Asiatic (2/)...	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Burmah Oil (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Lobitos (£1)	1⅞	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	...
Royal Dutch (£34) ...	32 1/16	33⅛	+1 1/16
Shell (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	...

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16 x	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$46	$48⅛	+ 2⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅞	5 1/16	— 1/16
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9 1/16	9⅛	— 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	— 1/16
Dunlop (6/8).....	1/16	1/16	— 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1).....	3 1/16	3 1/16	— 1/16
Hudson's Bay ($1)	4⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	— 1/16
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	— 1/16
International Holdings	6⅛	6⅛	+ ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can...	43⅛	43 3/16	+ 1/16
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	30⅜	31⅛	+ ⅛
Margarine Union (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16 x	...
Swed. Match, B(kr 100)	17⅛	17⅛	+ ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)...	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
United Molasses (£1)..	5⅛	5 1/16	+ 1/16
Vocalion (10/-).....	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	9⅛	9⅛	...
Brakpan (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	+ 1/16
" *Chartered* " 15/f.p...	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	1/16	...
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1⅛	1⅛	...
Central Provinces (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2⅛	2 1/16	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	1/16	— 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 *pd.*)	2 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Copper (3/-)	1/16	1/16	+ 1/16
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	14⅛	14⅞	+ ⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	44⅛	45⅛	+ ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Sub Nigel (10/-)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Tanganyika (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/16
UnionOrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	— 1/16

money, due to a rebound from the excessive ease at the tax date. New offerings this week fell to 100 millions, and there are no prospects of any large issues being made next week.

(By Cable.)

	Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	Apr. 3.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	106 17/32	105 15/16	105 3/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112⅜	112 3/32	111 19/32
Lib.Ln.3½% '32-47	100 7/16	100¼	100 9/16
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101 19/32	101 7/16	101½
Do. 4¼% '33-38	102 5/32	101 27/32	101⅞
Atchison	237⅛	237	237
Ches. & Ohio	232¾	233½	235
Erie	59	58⅝	58
Illinois Central	129	129½	129
N.Y. Central	188	187¾	186½
Pennsylvania	83¾	83½	84⅛
Southern Pacific	124½	121	122¼
Southern Rly.	130½	127	127½
Union Pacific	234	237	235½
Am. Can.	147⅞	149	148
Alleghany Corp.	32⅛	32½	32¾
Amer. Smelting	73	76¼	77
Anaconda	72⅛	78⅝	78½
Bethlehem Steel	103¾	105½	107½
Chrysler Motor	39	38⅞	38⅛
Corn Produce	96½	101	99½
Eastman Kodak	236	236	232½
Gen. Electric (New)	77⅛	80⅝	86⅞
Gen. Motors	48¾	49⅜	49½
Int. Harvester	90½x	94	94⅝
Montg Ward	42⅝	38½	40
Natl. Biscuit	220x	220	87⅞

	Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.	Apr. 3.
Phelps Dodge	40¾	41⅝	42
Pullman	82½	81⅞	82½
Sears-Roebuck	90	85¾	86⅛
Studebaker	42⅞	40⅞	41¾
Un. Fruit	91½	90¼	91¾
U.S. Leather	9¼	10¾	10⅜
U.S. Rubber	28¼	29½	32⅞
U.S. Steel	186½	190⅝	193½
Westinghouse	188½	186	182½
Woolworth	64¾	63	64¼
Worthington Pump	121	134	136
Am. Pow. & Light	112	113⅜	114¼
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	243¾	250¼	262¾
Electric P. & L.	78	86⅞	95½
Int. Tel. Teles.	66¼	63	68⅝
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	45⅛	50¼	53¾
Radio Corpn.	52	47¼	59½
Utilities P. & L.	36¼	41¾	41⅞
W. Union Tlg.	206¾	183	191
Associated Gas "A"	42⅝	42⅝	41
Mid-Cont. Pet.	29½	31¼	31
Pan Amer. B.	54½	55	55
Sinclair Oil	27⅛	27¼	29⅞
Std. California	63¾	65	68½
Do. N.J.	66¼	73	75¼

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 27.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	164·4	167·2
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	144·8	144·7
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	243·3	249·1
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	173·8	176·6
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·33%	4·24%

Daily Average of 50 Industrial Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 1.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Mar. 26.	Mar. 27.	Mar 28.	Mar. 30.	Mar. 31.	Apr. 1.	Apr. 2.
197·4	166·5	191·6	191·9	193·5	195·3	195·5	197·4	196·0

Total Dealings in New York.

	Mar. 27.	Mar. 28.	Mar. 29*.	Mar. 31.	Apr. 1.	Apr. 2.	Apr. 3
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	4,698	5,055	2,786	5,151	5,384	5,304	4,627
Bonds (Value—Thous. $)	14,131	15,635	9,009	14,247	14,101	11,267	10,959
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	1,591	1,560	980	1,769	1,453	1,604	1,305

* 2-hour session.

PARIS.

During March the Paris Bourse has been completely lifeless. The volume of transactions has been inconsiderable and prices have continually fallen away. The three days of firmness and relative animation which followed the announcement of possible tariff reductions may be more accurately attributed to bear covering, and the improvement was very short-lived. On the one hand, the Bourse is inclined to pessimism with regard to present economic conditions, while on the other, despite the fact that several concerns have announced higher dividends than usual, the burden of taxation on transferable securities is so high that effective yields remain on a very moderate scale. Money has been fairly plentiful, as evidenced by the low carry-over rates at the end of March—1¼ per cent. on Parquet and 5 per cent. on the Coulisse, but the continual issue of fresh loans (Ville de Paris et Département de la Seine, Crédit Foncier de France, Chemin de Fer du P.L.M., Voitures à Paris) has removed a good deal of capital from the Bourse. The mobilisation of the Young annuities will probably further limit available resources in the future.

"Valeurs à Terme":	Feb. 28.	Mar. 31.
Banque de France	25.385	24,950
Banque Algérie	16,700	16,800
Paris Pays Bas	2,930	3,085
Union Parisienne	2,135	2,195
Cie. Algérienne	2,320	2,350
Comptoir Nat.	1,999	2,020
Crédit Commer.	1,549	1,648
Crédit Foncier	5,665	5,775
Crédit Lyonnais	3,160	3,210
Suez	20,050	19,575
C. de F. Nord	2,560	2,630
C. de F. Santa Fé	2,715	2,725
Soc. Lyon. Eaux	3,690	3,330
Parisienne Elect.	3,330	3,310
Gén. Electricité	3,590	3,690
Littoral Médit.	1,409	1,443
Elect. Nord Fr.	1,160	1,177
Courrières	1,681	1,678
Mines de Lens	1,414	1,377
Penarroya	1,027	1,066
Dives	2,545	2,670
Etab. Kulmann	1,107	1,094
Phosph. Gafsa	970	945
Pechiney	3,525	3,520
Air Liquide	2,035	1,960
Caout. Indo-Ch.	900	940

"Valeurs à Terme":	Feb. 28.	Mar. 31.
Citroën	1,075	965
Norvég. Azote	1,924	1,833
Hotchkiss	2,290	2,238
"Valeurs au Comptant":		
Union-Vie	2,900	2,970
Urbaine Seine	2,000	1,939
Union Mines	1,610	1,590
Indo-Chine	5,050	4,600
El. Loire Centre	660	695
Dolfus Mieg	10,795	10,500
Chatillon-Comm.	5,425	5,895
Denain & Anzin	3,160	3,100
Alsac. Construct.	2,780	2,755
Rhône-Poulenc	2,875	2,580
St Gobain Chauny	5,625	5,240
Givet	9,500	8,710
Kali Ste Thérèse	18,400	17,800
Rosario	23,805	23,100
J. Damoy	1,599	1,615
Poliet Chausson	3,010	3,060
S. Fr. Viscose	17,000	17,000
Ass. Generale Vie	6,100	6,370

BERLIN.

There was a somewhat better feeling on the Berlin Bourse during the past month, and quotations were sufficiently improved to bring about a 5 points rise in the general index, thus making good the losses of February. The net result of the activities of the last week is extraordinarily disappointing to the Bourse public, the banks and capitalists. Liquidity in the money and capital market increased during March in Germany to a far greater extent than in the preceding months, but the repercussion of international developments on the stock quotations at least failed to show itself. In the last months of 1929 the price level of German stocks, mainly as a result of the then prevailing shortage of capital, suffered a drop of about 25 per cent., and it has not yet been able to reach the former figures. In numerous communications directed to the public, both at home and abroad, the German banks and bankers have been directing attention to the fact that this level of quotations is low in comparison with the actual values and investment returns, but it has thus far not been possible to attract any considerable number of buyers to the German bourses. The turnover in the stock markets remained small also in the last few months. A fairly strong demand existed for shipping shares (due to the fusion of the "Hapag" and North German Lloyd), for potash (due to favourable sales, despite the agricultural crisis), and for dyes and Continental rubber shares. Especially weak during the month were artificial silk and bank stocks, but the latter recovered later. The unsettled domestic political situation, with its conflict over tax legislation and then the change of Cabinet, together with the few satisfactory reports concerning German industrial operations, are regarded as the chief reasons for this stagnation. In contrast with stocks, interest-bearing securities—state and municipal loans, industrial obligations, mortgage bank certificates—gained strongly in March. They rose on the average about 5 per cent., but even at the present higher quotations they give a return of more than 8 per cent.

Official "Cash" Quotations in all cases.

	Feb. 28.	Mar. 31.
Banking and Insurance.		
Berliner Handelsg.	184	172x
Commerz und Privat	154	160
Darmstädter	235	237
Deutsche and Disconto	148	150
Dresdner	150	155
Reichsbank	287	287
Allianz und Stuttgarter	198	201
Nordstern	241	246
Communications.		
Deutsche Reichsbahn	89⅝	92½
Hamburg-Amerika	99	111
Hamburg-Süd-Amerika	168	166x
Hansa	145½	153
Norddeutscher Lloyd	103½	105½x
Industrial.		
Aku	109	102½
Allg. Elektricitaet.	164	168
Augsburg-Nürnberg. Masch.	76	78
Bemberg	155	149
Bergmann	199	204
Continental Gummi	148	167
Daimler-Benz	38	40

	Feb. 28.	Mar. 31.
Industrial.		
Dessauer Gas	169	176
Deutsche Erdöl	101	105
Deutsche Linoleum	241	253
Dynamit Nobel	76	83
Farbenindustrie	162	174¾
Feldmühle Papier.	175	183
Gelsenkirchen	137	141½
Görlitzer Waggon	103	110
Harpener	132	130
Hirsch Kupfer	115	112
Kali Aschersleben	206	216
Karstadt	128	135
Lindström	576	540
Mannesmann	103	108
Nationale Autom.	18¾	18¼
Norddeutsche Wollkämmerei	87	93
Orenstein und Koppel	73	76¾
Polyphon	275	282
Riebeck Montan	96	104
Rütgers	76	81½
Salzdetfurth	353	372
Sarotti	131	133
Schlesische Textilwerke	12¼	13
Schultheiss-Patzenhofer	267	282
Siemens und Halske	257	257
Tietz	158	157
Verein. Stahlwerke	101	98x
Zellstoff Waldhoff	203	215

x Dividend off in last month.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Stock Exchange Dividend.—On Wednesday last, writes a Stock Exchange correspondent, the Stock Exchange trustees and managers declared a dividend of £9 per share for the final six months of the year which ended March 25, 1930. This payment, which will be due on May 2nd, makes £13 for the full year. Some 20,000 Stock Exchange shares are outstanding, credited as being £36 paid. The dividend is the same as that of a year ago, but apparently the Stock Exchange has not had quite as profitable a year as in 1928-29, when entrance fees were £190,467, against £80,634 for the year just ended. This figure compares with an average for the past three years of £88,000. The Stock Exchange invariably carries forward a very substantial amount. On this occasion the managers propose to devote £66,137 to this object. The pension fund receives £10,000, a similar amount is put to income-tax suspense account, and £15,000 is earmarked as provision for special expenditure. These three items are equivalent to 35s. per share, and the carry-forward to £3 6s. per share. The Stock Exchange accounts, which will be issued in the next few days, will reflect the extremely strong financial position of the "House." The managers have embarked upon a programme of structural expansion and rebuilding which is likely to prove expensive, but can, however, justifiably be charged to capital account. The new financial year is expected to show a further reduction in the amount of entrance fees, owing to falling off in business during the past six months, and to the losses of many people during that period—a factor which inevitably reacts upon applications for membership. The money received for entrance fees, however, is substantially less than that obtained by way of annual subscriptions from members and clerks, which in 1928-29, for example, totalled £283,000. A species of hidden reserve arises from the fact that Stock Exchange subscriptions have been steadily increased over a lengthy period of years. As the older members retire their smaller subscriptions are superseded by those of the newer classes of members. There are, for example, about 100 members who pay twenty guineas per annum, while, at the other end of the scale, about 350 pay a hundred guineas. The price of Nominations, it may be observed, is now about £750, comparing with a recent maximum of £1,800. Stock Exchange shares are quoted at 207, which includes the dividend just declared, and, allowing for income tax, yields £7 4s. per share net.

Preference Shareholders' Rights—the Wabash Case.—A decision recently given by the United States Supreme Court, is of direct interest to shareholders and boards of directors on both sides of the Atlantic. Holders of Wabash 5 per cent. (non-cumulative) preferred "A" stock sued to establish a so-called "dividend credit" in respect of earnings undistributed upon their stock in earlier years, and to restrain the payment of dividends on junior stocks until this "dividend credit" had been charged. The Court, however, held that such non-cumulative stock was entitled to a dividend only when the latter was actually declared out of annual profits. The decision did not represent merely the frustration of an ingenious attempt to invest non-cumulative stock with quasi-cumulative rights. It vindicated the complete discretion of directors as regards the declaration and recommendation of dividends, payments on preference shares being shown to be contingent, not merely on the availability of profits to meet them, but also on the willingness of the board to authorise them. A situation in which a single group of shareholders might successfully pit their judgment against the will of the board, and force the payment of dividends which might not otherwise be made, would be intolerable from every point of view. Though non-cumulative preference shareholders cannot assert a claim to dividends not distributed in past years, even though those dividends were earned, they have, of course, a remedy in a court of equity if they can successfully prove that such diversion of earnings is an abuse of power. The legal principles involved in the United States Supreme Court's decision commend general recognition as being in harmony with ideas and practice on this side.

Morris Motors.—If any practical evidence could reconcile investors to the system, followed by some companies, of obtaining public money by issuing non-voting preference shares while retaining the entire equity for inside interests, the report of Morris Motors for the year ended December 31 would be found most convincing. The report embodies commendably conservative practice to an extent rarely discoverable in British companies. Net income, at £1,285,181, shows a nominal decline of £28,908, but has clearly been arrived at after making generous provision for contingencies. The profit and loss account, published separately for the first time, shows that the figure was, in fact, struck after providing £413,542 for maintenance, depreciation, obsolescence, etc. (an amount equal to nearly a fifth of the present balance-sheet value of the fixed assets), and, setting aside £25,123 to reduce to market value the company's holding of £2,330,892 in Government securities, which has since appreciated to a total some £79,691 in excess of the balance-sheet valuation:—

Years ended December 31st.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Profit	1,334,907	1,314,089	1,285,181
Preference dividend	225,000	225,000	225,000
No. of times covered	*5·9*	*5·8*	*5·7*
Ordinary { earned	55·4%	54·4%	40·7%†
Ordinary { paid	Nil	Nil	10%†
Income tax	190,984	259,236	246,063
Written off goodwill, patents and trade marks	...	...	650,000
To reserve fund	725,000	900,000	...
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	+ 193,922	− 70,147	− 35,882

† Free of tax.

The proprietors of the business, who hold all the ordinary shares, have allowed themselves a maiden distribution of 10 per cent., tax free, but have utilised £650,000 of available profits to write down goodwill, patent rights and trade marks, which are carried on the books at a "cost" figure of £1,641,043. The reserve fund remains at £2,000,000, and is equal to the total ordinary share capital outstanding. During the four years of its existence as a public concern the company has paid in dividends only £931,250 of total earned profits of £4,080,826. In this respect at least the major "unitary" motor concern of Great Britain is following, consciously or otherwise, the example of the premier American "unitary" concern—Ford Motors—and extending its scope by steadily feeding itself on its own profits. The 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares stand at 21s. 9d., and give a well-secured yield of £6 18s. per cent.

United Molasses.—The report of the United Molasses Company for 1929 is by way of being a model of intelligent holding-company accounting. A consolidated income account and balance sheet is presented, and the directors' report includes a wealth of information which has previously formed part of the chairman's speech. The total

SECURITY FIRST

ROYAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Head Offices: Liverpool and London.

annual production of molasses is from 6 to 7 million tons, of which the United Molasses Company handles approximately one-third. The company is primarily a transport and trading company, not a producer of molasses, and has developed sources of supply not only in the West Indies but also in Africa and the Far East. The necessity for providing cheap transport from the distant sources of supply explains the big shipbuilding programme of the company in the last four years, the company's fleet of tankers now having a total of approximately 300,000 tons dead weight, most of the tankers ranging from 13,000 to 17,000 tons. The total tank storage of the company is now in excess of 1,250,000 tons, as compared with 250,000 tons in 1926. The consolidated net profits have expanded as follows:—1926, £244,083; 1927, £266,249; 1928, £386,673; and 1929, £1,257,054. The report gives no explanation of the extraordinary increase of 650 per cent. in net earnings of the company proper last year: —

	1928.	1929.
	£	£
Ordinary share capital	1,496,590	2,984,087
Dividends from subsidiaries	111,601	1,022,707
Total income (including charter-hire)	263,448	1,296,297
Overhead expenditure	30,165	42,960
Depreciation on ships	66,170	106,879
Debenture interest	6,346	...
Income tax	3,527	97,342
Preference dividend	26,218	66,969
	131,021	982,147
Ordinary:		
Earned (subject to tax)	*10·7%*	*41·1%*
Paid (subject to tax)	19%	25%
Reserve	*Dr. 92,000*	350,000
Staff superannuation fund	2,500	10,000
Carried forward	179,547	34,217

The company has declared a capital bonus of one new share for every two held by capitalising part of the reserve accruing from premiums on shares previously issued on bonus terms. The directors hope in due course to make a further bonus issue absorbing the whole of the premiums, but are retaining the balance of about £500,000 until the company has been able to build up a larger general reserve. The capital reserve will now stand at £1,159,137, making, with the general reserve, a total of over £1,500,000, as against a preference share capital of £1,650,000 and an ordinary share capital of £4,476,131. Resolutions are to be considered to increase the authorised share capital to £8,000,000 by the creation of 2,000,000 new shares of £1, half in preference and half in ordinary shares. The consolidated balance sheet gives a total of £2,540,990 for motor vessels, £3,120,297 for storage tanks and other plant and equipment, and £1,502,430 for stocks of molasses. These represent the normal stocks the company must carry to keep its customers supplied until new crop molasses become available—from the West Indies towards the end of February, from Africa and the East about June and July, and from Europe about October and November. The ordinary shares are quoted at $5\frac{9}{16}$, having been as high as $8\frac{1}{2}$ last year. Allowing for the capital bonus of 50 per cent., the shares return a yield of 4.5 per cent., assuming that the dividends are reduced proportionately to the increase in capital.

Cunard Steamship.—The directors' report for 1929 does not afford any clear explanation of the rise in gross income from £3,213,601 to £3,628,905, unless we are to assume that the successful winter cruises to which the report refers were exceptionally profitable. The Atlantic passenger traffic showed only a slight increase in volume, a falling off occurring in the cabin and second-class business, with an increase in the tourist third-class cabin. With regard to freight, there was a slight increase in the quantity of cargo carried, but revenue, outside the commodities controlled by "conference" rates, must have been affected by last year's drop in "free" freights. The increase of 12.9 per cent. in the gross income enables the net earnings applicable to the ordinary shares to show an increase of about 62.3 per cent. The financial results for the past three years are set out in the following table:—

	Years to December 31st, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Gross income	3,339,713	3,213,601	3,628,905
Expenses	2,394,184	2,408,071	2,566,385
Debenture int. and discount, &c.	285,778	255,052	252,881
Pref. dividend	135,000	135,000	135,000
Earned for ord. dividend	*524,751*	*415,478*	*674,639*
Ord. shares *Earned subject to tax*	*11·75*	*9·25*	*15·4*
Ord. shares Paid subject to tax	7·5	7·5	7·5
General reserve	100,000	Nil	50,000
Carry forward	190,688	188,397	395,266

The balance sheet, as usual, discloses the curious situation of a deficiency of liquid assets to current liabilities (this year over £2½ million as against £846,000 last year), but a surplus of net assets equivalent to nearly 27s. per ordinary share. The outlook for the company is somewhat difficult to interpret. Freight traffic on the Australian services is bound to be affected by the fall in the value of wool and other primary products and the increased protective tariff which Australia has imposed. As regards passenger traffic, it is clear that the company will have to build new liners of the luxury class to maintain its position in the Atlantic service. At the present time it has only three liners of over 30,000 tons, the "Berengaria," which is 18 years old, the "Aquitania," which is 16, and the "Mauretania," which is 23 years old. The company's post-war building policy, which was concentrated on the 20,000-ton liner class, has been open to some criticism from this point of view. The ordinary shares, at 23s. 1½d. x.d., return a yield of 13.1 per cent. on earnings and 6.5 per cent. on dividends. The shares were as high as 34s. last year.

Coal Company Profits.—The reports of British colliery concerns, now being published, are gratifying inasmuch as they show that the increased activity of the trade last year, particularly on the export side, was not without effect on earning power. All but a very select minority of companies, however, have still some way to go before their shares are likely to interest the Stock Exchange investor. Some recovery was to be expected last year, seeing that the output of the industry rose from 239 million tons to 259 million tons, and coal exports (including bunkers) from 67 million to 77 million tons, while the average export price increased from 15s. 8d. to 16s. 1d. per ton. The following table, however, shows that, out of 12 companies whose results have been published in the last few weeks, only 5 have paid a dividend on their ordinary shares:—

Company.	1928.		1929.		Ordinary Shares (£1 unless otherwise stated).	
	Net Profits.	Ord. Div.	Net Profits.	Ord. Div.	Present Price.	Yield %.
	£	%	£	%		£ s. d.
Amalgamated Anthracite	*Dr.309,461*	...	470,534	...	⅛	Nil
Arniston Coal	*Dr. 97*	...	7,984	5	⅜	6 13 3
Bolsover Colliery	*Dr. 17,632*	1¼†	201,514	3¾	⅜ x	4 12 0
Broomhill Collieries	8,153	2	13,787	2½	⅛	3 1 9
Fassifern Coal	3,830	6†	*Dr. 975*	...	...	...
Glass Houghton and Castleford	*Dr.37,084*	...	19,101	...	...	...
Hickleton Main	29,106	2†	80,454	5†	⅜	6 8 0†
Horden Collieries	18,642	2½	144,241	7½	1⅛	6 13 3
Penrikyber Navigation	*Dr. 8,324*	...	14,088	...	...	...
Powell Duffryn	*Dr.237,805*	...	44,090	...	⅛	Nil
Shipley Collieries	*Dr.46,038*	...	27,450	...	1/32	Nil
United Collieries	*Dr.58,340*	...	802	...	1/32(a)	Nil

(a) 2s. 6d. shares. † Free of income tax.

The 12 companies shown made an aggregate profit of £1,023,070 last year, against a loss of £649,550 in 1928. The results of Amalgamated Anthracite and Powell Duffryn were discussed in the *Economist* a fortnight ago (page 657). The various boards of directors, in their reports, show a natural disinclination to commit themselves as to future prospects. The companies in the Midland area are fairly unanimous in crediting the Five Counties Scheme with some influence in the partial restoration of affairs in their localities, but the opposition which the export districts are manifesting towards the Coal Mines Bill is clearly implicit in the directorial statements accompanying recent annual reports. Ultimately, heavy writing-down of capital must be carried out in most cases. It is probable, however, that the "cleaning up" process may be delayed until the future earning power of the industry can be more closely ascertained.

Baldwins.—Though the process of rationalisation is still far from complete, the accounts of this famous iron and steel concern for the year ended December 31st last are the first to be really representative of the reorganised company's affairs. The reconstruction of the capital position has now been carried through, ordinary shareholders having been allotted 512,975 shares for cash during the year, in the terms of the scheme of arrangement, while holders of 36,862 "B" preference shares and £240 6½ per cent. income debenture stock exercised their right of converting into ordinary shares. Meanwhile, in order to minimise competition and to make for the more economical working of the plants, a provisional agreement has been made for the amalgamation of certain properties with those of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds as "The British (Guest Keen Baldwins) Iron and Steel Company," and it may be that this fusion will complete the process of recovery which the present accounts show to have begun. Trading profit for the year amounts to £352,042, compared with £220,107 last year and £121,278 for the six months ended December 31, 1927, while the trading results of the seven subsidiary companies also show, in the aggregate, a profit. Of the sum of £352,042, depreciation and expenditure on improvements take £99,735, income tax and income tax reserve £19,257, and directors' fees £4,758. Debenture interest, which, if paid in full, would require something like £240,000, takes only £179,986, the 6½ per cent. income debenture stocks receiving interest only at the rate of 3½ per cent. After these deductions, net revenue stands at £48,306, which may be compared with the amounts of £3,399 and £14,563 for the two previous accounts. The sum of £23,811 is set aside for writing off the discount on the issue of 6 per cent. debenture stock, and £27,894 is carried forward against £3,399 brought in.

Year ended	December 31, 1927.*	December 31, 1928.	December 31, 1929.
	£	£	£
Trading profit	121,278	220,107	352,042
Depreciation	...	79,131	80,000
Alterations, &c.	3,907	12,251	19,735
Debenture interest	90,514	105,551	179,986
Net profit	14,563	3,399	48,306
Brought forward	55,297	...	3,399
Debenture redemption	22,040	...	...
Other allocations	...	...	23,811
Carried forward	47,820	3,399	27,894

* Six months.

The changes in the balance sheet for the current year are not considerable. During the year the remainder of the 4½ per cent. debenture stock, totalling £6,429, and the remainder of the Port Talbot debenture stock was redeemed, while £2,675 6½ per cent. "A" debenture stock and £15,570 6½ per cent. non-convertible income debenture stock was purchased and cancelled. Of the total capital liabilities, debentures and accrued interest now account for £3,889,988, or 62.8 per cent. of the whole, against £3,830,047, or 63.5 per cent. of the whole. Fixed assets, after writing off depreciation, show an increase of £52,938 and total £3,311,491, while stocks appear at £1,014,154, an increase of £199,549. Investments, including amounts owing by subsidiary companies, now aggregate £1,632,507, as against £1,569,737. The balance sheet reveals a fair degree of liquidity.

The Vickers' Meeting.—The speech of General Sir Herbert A. Lawrence at the annual meeting of Vickers' last Monday, was a valuable and exhaustive review of the prospects of this great organisation. In view of the dependence of the company on armament and shipbuilding business, Sir Herbert's remarks on the past year's construction were of special interest. Only one merchant ship was completed during the year—the 20,000-ton Orient liner "Orontes"—but three submarines and a submarine depot ship were handed over to the Admiralty. In addition to seven submarines and one destroyer and flotilla leader, which are now under construction, orders have been received for six merchant ships, including two for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. These orders will necessitate the opening of the naval yard on the Tyne. Orders have been received from the Turkish Government for some 75 m/m. anti-aircraft equipment. Should disarmament conference proposals mature the ordnance works will naturally be affected, and the scrapping of certain machinery will be entailed. Referring to aviation, General Lawrence stated that the company had been closely connected with the construction of the R 100, and the winning machine in the Schneider race had been built by a subsidiary. Two other subsidiaries, the Ioco Company and the Whitehead Torpedo Company, had at long last become profit-earning properties, but owing to a paucity of orders, the Leeds Forge Company had been closed down. The steel interests of Vickers, Vickers-Armstrong and Cammell, Laird and Company, Ltd., are now fused in the English Steel Corporation, which has been reconstructed, but made a loss last year. Prospects for the future are, however, reasonably bright. Vickers is now entirely a holding company. While disclaiming any desire to be pessimistic, General Lawrence frankly stated his belief that the current year would be a difficult one. The financial position of the company, however, was such as to enable it to withstand a dull period without anxiety.

Harland and Wolff.—It is impossible to make any definite comparison between the latest accounts of this great shipbuilding firm and those of earlier years, since the present is the first occasion on which a profit and loss account has been rendered or the amounts allowed for depreciation have been disclosed. For what they are worth, the figures for the past three years are as follows:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Profit	142,288	204,355	674,873
Depreciation	...	...	300,000
Written off investments	...	...	115,615
Earned for dividend	142,288	204,355	216,749
6% 1st pref. divs.	192,000	192,000	192,000
Carried forward	95,203	107,558	132,307

After the 6 per cent. cumulative dividends are paid on the first preference share capital of £4,000,000, which was issued to the public in 1924, the "A" preference capital of £3,095,094 ranks for a cumulative 6 per cent. (or not more than 1 per cent. over Bank rate), and £20,300 "B" preference shares (issued to employees) for a cumulative 6 per cent., after which the ordinary share capital of £3,090,000 is entitled to a non-cumulative 6 per cent. dividend and to division of the surplus equally with the "B" preference shares. It is clear that, under present conditions, the company is heavily over-capitalised. The report states that the shipyards at Belfast and Glasgow have been fully employed, but the yard at Greenock is still closed. The engine works at Belfast and Glasgow and the repair works at London, Southampton and Liverpool were fully engaged. No dividends have been received from the company's steel and coal interests in Scotland, but it is stated that the profits earned by some subsidiary companies making profits exceed the losses made by others. The shipbuilding output of the company in gross tonnage was 145,280 last year, as compared with 101,786 in 1928 and 94,700 in 1927. The 6 per cent. first preference shares at 11s. 6d. allow a return of nearly 10½ per cent.

Anglo-Portuguese Telephone. — Satisfactory results were obtained last year, the gross revenue being £19,419 higher at £189,437, while net profit rose by £8,054 to £50,941. The dividend of 8 per cent. was maintained, despite an increase of £152,517 in the share capital.

		1927.	1928.	1929.
		£	£	£
Gross revenue		174,999	170,018	189,437
Net profit		31,412	42,887	50,941
Capital	*Earned per cent.**	*6·13*	*7·59*	*7·09*
	Paid per cent.	8	8	8
Addition to carry-forward		5,260	6,950	5,198

* On capital as at December 31st.

There are now 26,681 stations in operation, 3,665 more having been opened during the year. In June, 1929, new shares were issued to shareholders, and further offers are expected. In January, 1928, the Portuguese Government granted the company a concession covering 40 years, and allowing of possible extension for a further 25 years. The shares are secured by tangible assets, at book value, of £1 4s. per £1 ordinary and at their present price of 23s. 4½d. yield £6 16s. 11d. per cent.

United States Rubber.—The first annual report of the United States Rubber Company, under the new management installed early last year by the Du Pont interests, shows little change in the results of manufacturing operations. Unit sales of tyres were higher, but selling prices ruled lower, and the curtailment of automobile manufacture late in the year had an adverse effect. Sales of products in foreign countries, however, showed a substantial increase. Many changes in organisation and operation were initiated during 1929. These included the formation of a departmental type of administration and the concentration of manufacturing and distributing authorities. Six factories were closed during the year, and these, with other obsolete plants, are being offered for sale. Extraordinary expenditure for moving equipment, inventories and men was incurred during the period of change-over, and was reflected in a temporary increase in costs. As all projected improvements have not been completed these unusual expenses may continue, in part, during 1930, the company having appropriated $4,000,000 from surplus for the purpose. The company's plantations are the largest in the world, comprising 135,160 acres in Sumatra and Malaya, about 92,600 acres of which are planted and 64,000 acres in bearing. The consolidated income account of the company and its subsidiaries is as follows:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$
Net sales	193,442,945	193,480,121	192,962,040
Operating profit	12,522,952	14,530,712	14,385,814
Interest on funded debt	6,290,900	6,097,547	5,918,063
Provision for depreciation of plants	3,980,571	5,152,727	5,152,727
Divs. to minority stock of of subsidiaries	17,689	23,389	17,689
Divs. from U.S. Rubber Plantations, Inc.	4,000,000	1,000,000	...
Profit before inventory adjustment and extraordinary deductions	6,233,792	4,257,049	3,297,335
Net income after inventory adjustment	*5,323,113	*Dr10,781,255*	576,009
Provision for increase in depreciation	...	...	1,490,421
Extraordinary expense of reorganisation and concentration	...	...	2,464,000
First preferred divs.	5,208,800	...	...
Carried forward	114,313	*Dr10,781,255*	*Dr3,378,412*

* After credit of $8,000,000 transferred from surplus of U.S. Rubber Plantation.

The balance sheet at December 31st last shows current assets of $116,752,338, including inventories of $57,499,934, compared with current liabilities of $37,303,972. In the latter account are included $18,336,000 of 7½ per cent. ten-year secured gold notes maturing on August 1st next.

North American Company.—The accounts of this large Transatlantic holding company show that its control of five large groups of public utility companies is becoming increasingly profitable. The gross earnings of the company, at $147,779,869, represent an increase of $12,227,970, or 9 per cent. over the corresponding amount for last year. After the deduction of operating expenses, totalling $76,451,594, depreciation and other fixed charges, and the addition of $4,553,757, income from other sources, the amount available for dividends is $28,806,824.

Year.	1928.	1929.
	$	$
Gross earnings	135,551,899	147,779,869
Operating expenses	71,152,647	76,451,594
Net income from operation	64,399,252	71,328,275
Other net income	4,290,936	4,553,757
Total	68,690,188	75,882,032
Net revenue after deductions	24,402,753	28,806,824
Preference dividend	1,820,031	1,820,034
Earned for ordinary dividend	22,582,721	26,986,790
Amount of ordinary dividend	4,806,549	5,353,019
Carried forward	17,776,172	21,633,771

The balance sheet reveals a substantial reserve position, the reserve account standing at over $113 million out of a balance-sheet total of $908,759,283. The position as regards liquidity, however, is not over-satisfactory, available assets only just covering current liabilities of $31,734,093. Though the company already possesses property and plant valued at $776,497,853, its interests are still continually extending. Subject to the approval of the California Railroad Commission, it is proposed to consolidate the North America Company's California operating subsidiaries and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, as a result of which the former company will become the largest stockholder in Pacific Gas. If the consolidation is brought into effect California will have one of the largest interconnected power systems under single ownership in the United States, and the scope of the North American Company's interests in that State will be substantially widened.

New Capital Issues in March.—In the table below we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public or shareholders in March and recent periods:—

(000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769

Monthly Average.	Govt.	Other.		
	£	£		
Jan.–Mar., 1929	*617*	*18,757*	*8,797*	*4,147* / *32,318*
Jan.–Mar., 1930	12,803	11,973	5,360	1,120 / 31,256
January, 1929	*650*	*14,080*	*24,897*	*2,983* / *42,610*
February, 1929	*950*	*22,427*	*372*	*1,760* / *25,509*
January, 1930	500	9,033	1,671	2,785 / 13,989
February, 1930	350	13,034	9,065	Nil / 22,449

The returns for the month of March reveal a marked advance on the February figures, the total amount of new money raised being £57,330,000, compared with £22,449,000 for the previous month and £13,989,000 for January. The 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan brought in net "new" money of £37,060,000, while sales of National Savings Certificates exceeded encashments by £500,000. Other issues in the United Kingdom totalled £13,852,000, an increase of £818,000 on those of February. A marked feature was the relaxation of loan terms in favour of the borrower, and the successive flotation of four corporation issues, which, with that of the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board, accounted for over £10 million of the total. Important issues of debenture stock were made by the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company and by Tate and Lyle. In the colonial market, £517,250 of inscribed stock was raised by the South African Government on a 5 per cent. basis. The change in the state of the market was further evidenced by the fact that ten companies made issues to the public, against only two in February. Five companies made issues to shareholders, totalling £862,781.

MINING NOTES.

General Mining Group.—Of the producing subsidiaries of this group the only one which can now claim real importance is the West Rand Consolidated. On the mining side, last year marked a notable step forward. Thanks to the operation of the enlarged plant—which started up in November, 1928—the tonnage milled increased by 400,300 tons to 1,043,300 tons. Costs were reduced by nearly 1s. 4d. per ton to 18s., while the revenue improved a trifle to 21.6s. per ton. As a result of these favourable factors in combination, the working profit rose £117,600 to £206,100. Interest on loans, with smaller items, absorbed £41,900, leaving a balance of £164,200, the whole of which was applied towards capital outlay. At 4,005,000 tons, the ore reserves indicate the substantial expansion of 503,000 tons, the total representing about three years' supply for the mill. Moreover, the report states, there is in the mine a fully developed tonnage of over a million, which, "although of lower grade than the ore included in the reserves can nevertheless be profitably worked on the present scale of working costs." Unfortunately, the financial position remains a difficult one. During the year the company's indebtedness has been reduced by £111,700 to £511,700; but a further expenditure of over £300,000 has to be met in connection with the sinking of a new shaft, and there seems little prospect of provision of the necessary money otherwise than out of earnings. Thanks chiefly to some improvement in grade, the profits of the Meyer and Charlton rose £6,400 to £30,800, but for the second year in succession no distribution was made. No estimates of ore reserves are given. The present price of the shares—10s.—is more than covered by the company's holding of Union Government stock. With the New Steyn Estate, licences and other outlays exceeded the income by £3,400, reducing the credit balance to £23,400. Seeing that the company has less than £8,000 cash against a liability of £38,000 on shares in the Fleur de Lys Gold Mining Company, it is a little remarkable that the directors should have been so reluctant to come to terms with the Durban Deep for the sale of dip ground. The accounts of the Witpoort Gold Areas (formerly the Rand Collieries) show that, of the £157,800 provided by the reorganisation £72,000 has been expended. The General Mining guarantees that £200,000 will be spent upon development and plant. Of 520 ft. sampled last year, 245 ft., or 47 per cent., were payable, averaging 15.9 dwts. over 28 tons (equal to about 440 inch-dwts.). These results may be regarded as encouraging so far as they go.

Modder Deep.—Once again little variation is shown by the operating results. The dividend remains at the reduced level of the four preceding years. Though a further small draft upon the carry-forward is thereby entailed, £143,300 being carried over as against £150,700 brought in.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore crushed ... tons	529,300	530,000	531,500
Yield per ton	45/1	45/–	44/11
Costs per ton	15/5	15/10	15/8
Profit per ton	29/8	29/2	29/3
Total working profit ... £	785,160	773,600	777,400
Net profit	687,010	678,700	682,540
Earned per cent.	137·4	135·7	136·5
Dividends ... £	675,000	675,000	675,000
Rate per cent.	135	135	135
Ore reserves ... tons	3,560,000	3,000,000	2,550,000
Value ... dwts.	8·9	9·0	8·8

As compared with 664,700 tons extracted from the mine the ore reserves display a shrinkage of 450,000 tons, indicating that a certain amount of payable ore continues to be opened up or derived from reclamation. In addition to the quantity tabulated above, the consulting engineer states there are 110,000 tons in hanging wall ladder blocks valued at 4.7 dwts. over 60 in. The remaining life of the mine would appear to be about half a dozen years.

Geduld.—As foreshadowed in last year's "Note," this company earned increased profits during 1929; the necessity of a cut in the dividend arose from the expansion in capital made in connection with the company's commitments in respect of the East Geduld. It may be recalled that the issue comprised 132,800 shares at 62s. 6d. The results for the past three years are summarised below:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore crushed ... tons	983,500	979,000	1,008,100
Yield per ton	27/9	26/6	26/10
Cost per ton	16/7	16/7	16/6
Profit per ton	11/2	9/11	10/4
Total working profit	551,380	485,660	522,190
Net profit	503,520	450,000	477,000
Issued capital	1,328,050	1,328,050	1,460,860
Earned per cent.	37·9	33·9	32·7
Dividends ... £	498,020	448,220	456,520
Rate per cent.	37½	33¾	31¼
Ore reserves ... tons	6,020,000	6,100,000	5,900,000
Value ... cwts.	6·4	6·5	6·7

The reduction in tonnage and improvement in value shown by the latest ore reserve estimate is attributable to curtailment of the estimated stoping width by 2 in. to 58 in. On the basis of the 1929 dividend the yield shown is just over 9 per cent. gross. Having regard to the lengthy life of the Geduld property and to the company's interest in the East Geduld, the shares do not appear over-valued. The financial position is a strong one, the resources including £362,250 available for shares in the East Geduld. The work so far done on the latter area "has indicated payable blocks," partially developed and probable ore on December 31st amounting to 2,400,000 tons, value 6.75 dwts., over an assumed stoping width of 57 in. This is distinctly encouraging.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Bank of Scotland, Bank of Australasia, National Bank of India, Wesleyan and General Assurance Society, Marconi International Marine Communication, Anglo-Portuguese Telephone, Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Cheviot Rubber, Vickers, British Aluminium, and Kerr Stuart and Company. At the annual meeting of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Mr Malcolm Stewart reviewed the achievements of the past year in the light of the programme of reconstruction outlined in 1925. The company now had a productive capacity of a million and a half tons per annum from efficient rotary kiln plants, which was fully 250,000 tons more than that aimed at in the original programme. Last year, moreover, it exported nearly 800,000 tons, an increase of 45 per cent. over the quantity shipped abroad in 1924. Since the beginning of that year they had spent over £1,600,000 on reconstruction and new plant, yet today their fixed assets, at £6,020,000, stood in the books at £566,000 less than in 1924. Presiding at the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Company meeting, the chairman said that during the year 3,665 stations were added, which represented approximately 16 per cent. above the total at the end of 1928. The report is dealt with on page 786. At the Kerr Stuart meeting the chairman said that on a five-day weekly run of 600 miles per week the K.S. Diesel lorry showed an annual saving of over £700 as compared with a similar petrol lorry.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Though issues on behalf of foreign borrowers are still largely, though unofficially, *taboo*, in view of the preparations understood to be in progress for a Reparation Bond issue, the home capital market continues to show fair activity. The largest issue of the week, that of the *Birmingham Corporation*, was noteworthy not only for its magnitude but as the first this year made at a premium. The borrowing status of the city is of the highest, and the Loan met with rapid subscription. *The Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board* issue fell into the "public boards" class, the borrower being a local authority established by Act of Parliament. Its stock is of sound investment character, but the fact that it is not a trustee issue, accounts for the discount of 6 per cent. in the issue price, the stock giving a flat yield of £5 6s. 7d. per cent. Smaller issues by tender were made on behalf of *The Reading Gas Company* and *The Colchester Gas Company*. Among the commercial and industrial borrowers was *Odhams Press*, which issued 1,700,000 4s. Ordinary shares at a premium of 2s. 3d., the proceeds being required for additional premises, plant and machinery, and for subscription for debenture stock of the "Daily Herald,"—in the publication of which, in its new form, Odhams have a direct interest. The company's profits have shown a rapid increase from £89,000 in 1923 to £204,000 in 1929, and the ordinary received dividends of 17½ per cent. last year. The remaining issues were of cumulative preference shares. The *British Moulded Hose Company* has been formed under the auspices of two existing companies in Delaware and Great Britain respectively. The company has its way to make, but the shares are guaranteed by the sponsor companies, whose average profits for the last five years cover the dividend fourteen times. The preference shares of *Automotor Finance* convey no right in the equity of a company which, not having been in business for a year, has published no accounts, and, from the nature of its business, has little in the way of fixed assets. The issue is speculative in every sense of the term, save that subscribers will not share in any of the fruits of progress, should the company prove successful. The shares are to be dealt in at Glasgow, but not, apparently, in London. Belfast City and District Water issue is for £500,000 5 per cent. at 99½ per cent. redeemable 1950-1960.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to March 29, 1930, £87,732,429.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to March 29, 1930, £144,225,447.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended March 29, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to March 29, 1930, *Dr.* £2,100 000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
Belfast	500,000	...	497,500	25,000	4½2,500
Rhymney Valley Sewerage Bd.	244,000	...	229,360	12,200	217,160
Birmingham Corpn.	5,000,000	...	5,025,000	250,000	4,775,000
Automotor Finance	100,000	...	100,000	12,500	87,500
Odhams Press	340,000	...	531,250	85,000	446,250
British Moulded Hose	100,000	...	100,000	25,000	75,000
Total offered to Public, week ended April 5, 1930	6,284,000	...	6,483,100	409,700	6,073,400
To Shareholders only.					
New G. & S. Processes, 17,750 shares, 1s. at 2s.	887	...	1,775	1,775	...
Dickinson (John) and Co., 200,000 Ord. shares £1 at 30s.	200,000	...	300,000	...	300,000
Enfield Cable Works, 50,000 Ord. £1 at £2	50,000	...	100,000	100,000	...
Lamlah Rubber Ests., £35,000 8% Debs. at 95%	35,000	...	33,250	3,500	29,750
London Stockholders Investment Trust, £250,000 4½% 1st Deb. Stk. at 85%	250,000	...	212,500	12,500	200,000
Rennes Artificial Silk, £60,000 8% 1st Mt. Def. Stk. at 90%	60,000	...	54,000	30,000	24,000
Venezuelan Oil Concessions, 1,800,000 Ord. £1 at par	1,800,000	...	1,800,000	450,000	1,350,000
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended April 5, 1930	2,395,887	...	2,501,525	597,775	1,903,750

Total Offered for Subscription—

Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	153,262,582	96,767,064
1929	111,286,770	97,707,550
1928	...	172,980,625
1927	...	147,370,918
1926	...	75,108,400
1925	...	52,577,006
1924	...	42,294,526
1923	...	88,375,812

Total Offered for Subscription—

Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	12,244,078	...	13,851,969
Total week ended April 5, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	12,244,078	...	13,851,969
Total to date, 1929	11,500,267	...	18,679,794

Birmingham Corporation.—Issue of £5,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1946-56, at £100½ per cent. The stock, which is a trustee security, will be redeemed at par on October 1, 1956, if not previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the Corporation retains the option of redeeming the stock in whole or part on or after October 1, 1946, on three months' notice. The total outstanding debt of the city is £42,710,000, and the rateable value £5,993,244. A rate of a penny produces £23,151. The proceeds of the issue will be used for municipal development.

Liverpool Corporation Bills.—Issue by tender of Liverpool Corporation bills to the amount of £1,000,000. The bills will be in amounts of £1,000, £5,000 and £10,000, and will be payable on April 11, 1931.

Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board.—Issue of £244,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1954, repayable at par on July 1, 1954, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement. The board is a "local authority" established for the purpose of constructing a main trunk sewer and other works in the county of Glamorgan. The proceeds of this issue will be applied for the redemption of bank and mortgage loans and for construction purposes. The rateable value of the area served is £350,000, and a penny rate yields over £1,400.

Reading Gas Company.—Issue by tender of £22,900 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock. Minimum price £97 per £100 stock. The proceeds of the issue are required to meet expenditure on extensions to the company's storage and distributing plant. The full rates of interest and maximum dividends have been paid by the company since its incorporation in 1862. Net profit for 1929, £29,200.

South Essex Waterworks Company.—Issue by tender of £400,000 ordinary (1928) 6 per cent. maximum stock. Minimum price of issue, £105 per £100 stock. Net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31st last was £98,818. After payment of interest and dividends on debenture, preference and ordinary stocks, totalling £67,033, surplus of £31,785. Dividend on present issue requires £24,000 at 6 per cent.

Odhams Press, Limited.—Issue of 1,700,000 Ordinary shares of 4s. each at 6s. 3d. per share, ranking *pari passu* with existing ordinary shares. The company was registered in 1920 to take over the printing business of William Odhams. The present issue is to be used for the purpose of completing payment for equipment of additional premises, for subscribing for debenture stock of Daily Herald (1929), Ltd., and for general purposes. Dividends on ordinary capital 1927, 12½ per cent.; 1928, 15 per cent.; 1929, 17½ per cent.

British Moulded Hose Company.—Issue at par of 100,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, redeemable at the option of the company at 22s. per share after the year 1934 on three months' notice. Dividends guaranteed by Electric Hose and Rubber Company, Inc., of Delaware, U.S.A., and Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Company. The company was incorporated in July, 1929, to develop the manufacture of braided and moulded rubber hose.

Automotor Finance, Limited.—Issue of 100,000 6½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at par. Incorporated May 2, 1929, for the purpose of financing motor vehicles and other articles of commerce. The amount required to pay a full year's dividend is £5,200. Estimated profit would cover this three times.

Belfast City and District Water.—Issue at 99½ £500,000 5 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock, 1950-1960.

Particulars of the following are issued "for information only" with a view to Stock exchange introduction:—
William Whiteley, Limited. Issued capital, £950,100. Particulars are offered of an issue of £500,000 6 per cent. redeemable debenture repayable May 1, 1965, at 102 per cent. if not previously redeemed.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 805, under the heading "Company News."]

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.

CONTINUED PROGRESS—STRONG LIQUID POSITION.
DIVIDEND OF 18 PER CENT. MAINTAINED.
SIR RALPH ANSTRUTHER ON THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FINANCE.

The annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Scotland was held within the Head Office, Edinburgh, on April 1, 1930, Sir Ralph Anstruther of Balcaskie, Bart., deputy governor, presiding.

In submitting the directors' report, the Chairman said: My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a matter of regret to us that Lord Elphinstone, the governor of the bank, is unable to be with us to-day. He is on his way home from Ceylon, and is much disappointed that he could not be back in time for this meeting, but although he is not himself with us, those present have the opportunity of seeing the portrait of his lordship, authorised by the proprietors at the annual meeting last year, and painted for the bank by Mr de Laszlo. You will be pleased to hear that the portrait is to be exhibited in the coming exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy.

I assume that, as usual, we may hold as read the report by the court of directors of the affairs of the bank as at February 28th last, a copy of which you have no doubt received.

The directors regret the death during the year of the Lord Forteviot of Dupplin and of Dr. John Turnbull Smith, two of the extraordinary directors of the bank. To fill the vacancies the board had pleasure in appointing the Lord Forteviot of Dupplin (in room of his father) and the Earl of Dalhousie, extraordinary directors of the bank.

To fill a vacancy on the board, the directors, in virtue of the powers contained in the bank's constitution, took the opportunity of inviting Mr John Craig, C.B.E., chairman and managing director of David Colville and Sons, Ltd., to become an ordinary director, and I am glad to say that he agreed to accept office. You will be asked to confirm his appointment by re-electing him to-day.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

When we met last year there were indications of an improvement in industry, and to a certain extent that took place. In the latter part of the year the coal trade considerably improved, and the steel industry showed a very distinct advance. The shipbuilding output was also decidedly better, but unfortunately during the last few months the conditions of trade and industry generally have rather altered for the worse. The proposed legislation in connection with coal is viewed with much misgiving in many quarters, and it will be a serious setback to the heavy industries generally if the fears of those opposed to the Bill materialise. Meantime, pending the issue of the Budget, there is considerable apprehension in the minds of those whose industries benefit by duties which safeguard the home market.

During the year a serious effort has been made to reorganise the cotton and other industries, and the Government has appointed a Committee on Finance and Industry to consider by what means the financial resources of the country can more fully be made available for the benefit of industry.

The past year for agriculture, as carried on by the arable farmer, has been a disastrous one owing to the collapse of the potato market and the importation of bounty-fed oats from the Continent. The textile and the fishing industries have both had a disappointing year, and serious difficulties have been encountered by the jute industry.

That the outlook in the immediate future for the trade and industry of the country cannot be regarded with much optimism is evidenced by the fact that there has been no improvement in the unemployment figures, which are distinctly worse.

The De-rating Bill has helped materially the industries affected, but on the whole we must look to diminished cost of production if we are to regain fully our export trade. The heavy burden of Imperial and local taxation continues to be a severe handicap in competition with countries abroad whose conditions are much more favourable in this respect, and it is to be hoped that a serious effort will be made to curb public expenditure, although there has been so far no indication of such a movement.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ADVANCES.

It may interest you to have some figures as to the distribution of credit. From a recent return it appeared that the bank had advanced to the agricultural industry and livestock salesmen £1,200,000 amongst 2,170 customers. At the same time, a similar total had been advanced to produce importers and those in the grain trade, etc. Nearly £2,000,000 was in advances to merchants, and most of the well-known industries had credit varying from £1/900,000. One feature of special interest is that out of £16,000,000, £13,000,000 was lent on security of a varied nature to 6,800 customers, whilst £3,000,000 was lent out to 3,900 customers without any collateral security, the bank relying, in accordance with banking practice in Scotland, upon its knowledge of the character and resources of its customers. These figures give some idea of the way in which the bank uses the funds entrusted to it for the benefit of trade and industry.

FINANCE.

During 1929 the speculation which had been rampant in New York in the previous year continued until the autumn, when the boom broke and a devastating fall in prices of stocks took place. Meantime, however, Bank rate, which in February of 1929 stood at 5½ per cent., had been raised on September 26th to 6½ per cent. in consequence of the severe drain on our gold supplies. Fortunately, this step was taken at a time when it had become evident to all observers that a crisis was imminent, and the result was an unprecedented break on the Wall Street market. By the end of October the reaction had resulted in the Bank rate being lowered to 6 per cent., and it speedily fell by successive stages to 5 per cent. on December 12th. Since then it has come down step by step to 3½ per cent., and the whole money position has been completely altered.

It is very regrettable that trade and industry in this country should have been handicapped by the existence of abnormal rates for money during 1929, which were entirely occasioned by the speculation in New York. High rates are neither good for industry nor for the banks. As we have now come into a period of abnormal ease in money rates, the trade and commerce of the country should materially benefit by cheap credit, although we must not be misled by the idea that this alone will remove our difficulties.

SMALL DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.

I am pleased to be able to say that the results of the system of small deposit accounts, arranged over a year ago for the benefit primarily of customers of moderate means, have been entirely satisfactory, and the facilities have been taken advantage of to a substantial extent.

THE BANK'S BALANCE SHEET.

Turning to the bank's report, you will see that deposits at £32,258,307 show a small increase of £189,922 over the previous year.

The note circulation at £3,040,542 shows an increase of £264,395, which is entirely caused by the substitution of the bank's small £1 note for the use of Bank of England £1 notes.

The drafts issued at £470,319 show an increase of £203,368, whilst acceptances at £802,407 show a small decrease.

STRONG LIQUID POSITION.

On the assets side, cash, bank balances, documents *in transitu*, and money at call and short notice amounted to £7,827,225, or fully 21 per cent. of our liabilities to the public. Bills discounted (including £1,335,000 Treasury Bills) and our investments amount to £13,440,118, or over 36 per cent., giving a total of £21,267,343, or 58 per cent. of our liabilities to the public in liquid assets.

A NEW RECORD FOR BUSINESS.

Advances at £17,852,283 show an increase of £622,566, which follows on an increase of £2,944,339 in the previous year. This is a new record figure for our balance sheets.

Our advances are well spread and every bad and doubtful debt has been fully provided for.

INVESTMENTS.

Investments at £11,336,387 show an increase of £393,910.

The investments are, with the exception of £172,941, all British Government securities. The market value is very substantially in excess of the value in our books.

BANK PREMISES AND HERITABLE PROPERTIES.

During the year the directors have continued to carry out reconstruction work in connection with the bank's branch premises, and at present are making extensions at the head office, to meet the requirements of our business there, as well as at a number of our branches. The bank has during the year acquired additional properties as premises and houses for agents. The whole properties of the bank, including let properties, now stand in our books at £430,000. It is hardly necessary to say that this figure is considerably below the market value.

LONDON—WEST END BRANCH.

During the year the premises which the bank acquired at 16-18, Piccadilly, for a new branch, were reconstructed and were opened in December last. The extended facilities thus made available to the bank's customers in the West End of London have been much appreciated, and we are satisfied that the business will steadily expand with new connections.

THE YEAR'S GOOD RESULTS.

	£
The net profits, a little under those of last year, are	365,872
Add : the balance from last year	170,084
	£535,956

Of that the board suggest the following allocations :—

	£	£
To reserve fund	117,500	
To bank premises and heritable properties	30,000	
In all	147,500	
Dividend, 18 per cent. per annum, less tax	216,000	
		363,500
Leaving to be carried forward ...		£172,456

With the above allocations the reserve fund has now reached the figure of £2,000,000, making, with the balance carried forward of £172,456, a total of £2,172,456, or £672,456 in excess of the paid-up capital.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, 1925-1930.

At this stage it may be interesting to give a few comparative figures :—

	1925.	1930.
	£	£
Deposits	31,429,270	32,258,307
Advances	12,726,366	17,852,283
Premises and properties ...	560,150	430,000
Paid-up capital	1,325,000	1,500,000
Reserve fund	1,050,000	2,000,000
Balance carried forward ...	128,824	172,456
	£1,178,824	£2,172,456

I think that these figures speak eloquently for the progress of the bank during the past five years.

BANK STAFF.

It is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the court of directors, to again express our cordial appreciation of the exceilent services rendered by the executive, managers, agents, and staff generally throughout the year.

DIVIDEND.

I have pleasure in moving that the report and balance sheet as submitted be adopted, and that a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, less income tax, be now declared, payable on 15th current, making, with the dividend paid in October last, 18 per cent. for the year, less income tax, being the same rate as paid for the previous year.

The motion was agreed to.

The Lord Elphinstone, K.T., and Sir Ralph Anstruther, of Balcaskie, Bart., were unanimously re-elected Governor and Deputy Governor respectively for the current year. Mr. John Craig, C.B.E., The Lord Henry Scott, and Mr. John Rae were re-elected ordinary directors.

Mr H. L. Usher, C.A., and Mr C. E. W. Macpherson, C.A., were re-appointed to conduct the audit of the books for the current year, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

VICKERS, LIMITED.

FUTURE OF THE SHIPBUILDING AND ARMAMENT INDUSTRIES.

The annual general meeting of Vickers, Ltd., was held, on the 31st ultimo, at the Hotel Victoria, London.

General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, G.C.B. (who presided), after referring with regret to the death of Sir Vincent Caillard, said that one of the most gratifying features of the operations of the past year had been the success achieved by the Vickers-Armstrongs Works at Barrow and Elswick. The works in the south at Erith and Dartford had also done well. The total net trading profits for the past year of these works, now controlled by Vickers-Armstrongs, before making provision for the loss of the English Steel Corporation, amounted to, approximately, £750,000, a result not unsatisfactory having regard to the present conditions of trade.

The proposals for Naval Disarmament, if successful, might naturally have an adverse effect on the trading results of Vickers-Armstrongs should any material reduction in armaments result. The production of armaments was a highly technical business, and the degree of accuracy required was only made possible by the employment of carefully trained workers. Shareholders in armament firms could not be expected to maintain that reserve capacity for the benefit of the Empire unless reasonable compensation were paid, nor could such firms train up the skilled workers and staff required unless sufficient work were found for them.

COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN STATE-AIDED COMPANIES.

A year ago he referred to the disadvantage they suffered compared with some of their foreign competitors who could give long-credit terms for naval and other armament work, because of the assistance afforded by their Government, whereas the British Government specifically excluded armaments from the export credit scheme. No reduction of armaments was obtained by that attitude, but work was diverted from British workshops.

It was to be regretted that the home railway companies still manufactured the greater part of their carriages and wagons; that action hindered the progress of the export trade as prices could be reduced given a larger volume of work. Considerable benefit had been obtained from the rationalisation of the German Railway Equipment Company.

They believed they had commercial aircraft as good as any foreign types, and by maintaining British standards they would obtain an increasing amount of work in this very promising branch of aviation.

THE OUTLOOK.

With regard to the future of the company, it was important that shareholders should realise the position and draw their own conclusions. Vickers, Ltd., was now a holding company. The armament business was in the hands of Vickers-Armstrongs, in which company Vickers were far the largest shareholders, and which, in its turn, was the largest shareholder in the English Steel Corporation, makers of heavy and light steel forgings, and other purely commercial steels. The interests are varied, but they were predominantly dependent upon armaments and shipbuilding.

For this year they should make fair profits in the Barrow and Newcastle yards, but next year would probably be a difficult one. If that were so they would have to fall back on the profits derived from the other industries—carriage and wagon, aviation and steel. The prospects for the first two were hopeful, but competition was severe.

The commercial steel business required so much reorganisation and consolidation that, although it was of great importance to their armament business, they could not look for immediate results and a period of careful nursing had to be gone through.

He was not pessimistic as to the future, but he warned shareholders that a difficult period was ahead. Their great strength lay in their financial position. That enabled them, with comparative equanimity to pass through even a prolonged period of bad trade and to be ready on the first sign of revival to make the most of the opportunities which might occur.

The report was unanimously adopted.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED IN DIFFICULT YEAR.
POSITION OF GREAT LIQUIDITY.
SIR CHARLES McLEOD'S REVIEW OF FINANCIAL AND TRADE CONDITIONS.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the National Bank of India, Ltd., was held, on the 1st instant, at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

Sir Charles C. McLeod, Bart. (the chairman) presided.

The general manager (Mr W. Ross Munro) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen,—The report of the directors and the accounts to December 31, 1929, have been in your hands for some days, and I presume you will allow me, as usual, to take them as read. (Agreed.)

Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the meeting I wish to express our great regret at the loss we sustained by the death of our friend and colleague, Mr J. A. Toomey, who died on February 22nd last. He had been connected with this bank for the long period of 55 years, during which period he occupied the positions of inspector, London manager, general manager, and since 1913 was a member of the board of directors. We shall miss his wise counsel based on his ripe experience, and the absence of his kindly presence as a good friend will be deplored alike by the board and his many friends who are shareholders.

PROFIT AND ALLOCATIONS.

The result of our year's operations is a net profit of £511,132, compared with £530,829 for the previous year. The divisible profits amount to £788,461, and, in comparing results, I would ask you to note that, while the net figures are slightly down on a year ago, the disposable total is still some £13,000 in excess of that shown for the year 1926, notwithstanding the times through which we have passed in the interval, which cannot be characterised otherwise than as difficult for banking operations so far as India was concerned.

We propose to set aside £60,000 in reduction of premises account, to repeat our allocation of £50,000 to officers' pension fund, and to pay a further dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, which, together with the similar interim dividend, takes £400,000, leaving £278,461 to be carried forward—a slightly larger sum than was brought in. As usual, all bad and doubtful debts have been fully provided for before arriving at the results placed before you.

BALANCE-SHEET ITEMS.

The balance-sheet figures (the rupee assets and liabilities of which have been converted as usual at 1s. 6d. per rupee) show a contraction which, however, in some cases is due to certain unavoidable causes involving special movements of funds and to the opportunity given to individuals and concerns, so far as India was concerned, to invest funds for short periods on terms more attractive than it would have been profitable to us to offer, and, of course, as you are aware, a reduction on one side of the balance sheet involves a reduction in the items comprising the other. A year ago I pointed out to you that we had to look for fluctuations from time to time in the total of current, fixed deposit, and other accounts, and this is proved by the fact that the increase shown for 1928 has more than disappeared. The total figure of £31,467,322 is, however, a healthy one, and compares with £34,088,229 for the previous year. Bills payable and acceptances also show a contraction.

On the assets side cash and bullion figure at £4,914,509, against £5,333,827. Indian Government rupee securities at £5,804,641, against £6,589,807, while our British Government securities, Indian Government debentures, and other securities are £6,070,155, against £6,261,485.

It will be satisfactory to you to have our assurance that all our investments, totalling £11,874,796, are gilt-edged and short-term securities, and stand in our books at or under market value, and to note that while bills of exchange and discounts are down our assets consisting of cash, bullion, investments and bills of exchange stand at £24,239,631, against a liability in respect of current, fixed and other deposits of £31,467,322—a position the liquidity of which cannot be denied.

BUILDING PROGRAMME.

In addressing you a year ago I foreshadowed a considerable increase in our building programme in order to meet the requirements of our business. House property at £545,514 shows an increase on last year's figure, and as you have observed we propose an allocation of £60,000 on this occasion towards the expenditure to which we are committed. A survey of our balance sheet emphasises the extent to which conditions of Indian trading conformed with those prevalent all over the world, and we trust that in the circumstances the results placed before you will be considered satisfactory. (Hear, hear.)

I would like to say that we do not consider the slight falling off in any way attributable to political conditions in India, but to the general depression in trading conditions. It is true that certain uneasiness showed itself in this country on rumours from India that a repudiation of Indian liabilities might be attempted under certain eventualities, and, in consequence, Indian loans had a setback, but the statement from the Secretary of State for India reassured the holders that such a suggestion need not be taken seriously, and Indian stocks have recovered to a great extent.

INDIA'S TRADE FIGURES.

Considering the substantial fall in price of Indian commodities it is rather surprising that the balance of trade in India's favour has only dropped some two crores of rupees, according to the figures given by the Indian Trade Commissioner, in which, however, Council Bills are not included. If these are taken the balance of trade in favour of India is reduced to 19 crores. It may be of interest to you if I give you some comparative figures connected with the principal commodities. While the total of exports (including re-exports) are only down by nine crores we find very marked differences in some of these commodities. In wheat, for instance, the exported quantity has fallen to 14,204 tons, as against 115,422 tons in 1928 and 305,937 tons in 1927, and on the other hand India imported 706,331 tons in 1929, as against 149,175 tons in 1928 and 76,758 tons in 1927, a truly remarkable change due, no doubt, to the failure from drought in the 1928-29 crop in Northern India.

The exports of rice from Rangoon to India fell from 878,416 tons to 574,503 tons, but the total exports from all parts of Burma to India and foreign countries was practically the same as in the previous year, 2,940,822 tons. Imports of merchandise into India during 1929 were valued at Rs. 248 crores, against a similar value in 1928. Of this total cotton piece-goods accounted for Rs. 61 crores in both years. Exports of jute, raw and manufactured, show a falling off of nearly 7 crores due to the lower value to which these have fallen. On the other hand, cotton, raw and manufactured, shows an increase of some 4 crores. Cotton exports at one time occupied the highest figure in Indian exports, but jute now takes the premier place. Tea in both India and Ceylon shows considerable expansion. India at 380,000,000 lbs., against 355,000,000 lbs. the previous year, and Ceylon 251,000,000 lbs., against 236,000,000 lbs. in 1928.

GOLD AND SILVER IMPORTS.

As usual I will give you the net imports of gold and silver into India during the year. The imports of gold have fallen from £15,814,000 to £13,375,000, and silver has dropped from £8,596,000 to £5,480,000. The price of the latter commodity has receded in a marked manner from an average of 26d. per ounce in 1927 down to the record low value of under 19d. during last month. There has been some recovery from the lowest point touched.

There have been no severe fluctuations in exchange, which has moved within narrow limits round about 1s. 6d. The Imperial Bank rate has also shown little fluctuation, averaging 6.323 per cent., as against an average of 6.196 per cent. in 1928. The Indian Government issued Treasury Bills during the past year to the extent of 41 crores, as against 29 crores in 1928.

COTTON AND JUTE INDUSTRIES.

The monsoon was, on the whole, a favourable one, and Indian crops, in consequence, were satisfactory. As regards industries generally in India, the Bombay cotton mills continue in a very depressed state, partly owing to unrest among labour and to foreign competition, which has caused a disappearance of margins between the raw and manufactured material. As doubtless you have seen, with a view to benefiting the local industry the duties on cotton goods imported into India are to be increased from 11 per cent. to 15 per cent., with a further duty of 5 per cent. on goods not of British manufacture. As regards the latter, it is under-

stood that the object of the imposition of an extra duty over and above what goods of British manufacture will be called upon to pay is to enable Bombay to meet competition in special lines of goods imported in greatly increasing quantities from countries outside of Great Britain. It is sincerely to be hoped that the alteration in the duties may have the effect of giving much-needed assistance to the Bombay mill industry while not unduly penalising our own Lancashire business.

The jute industry in Bengal, after a protracted period of prosperity, has reacted very materially, and at the present moment, although the price of the raw material has decreased substantially, manufactured goods have decreased still more in proportion, and there is now little or no margin of profit.

TEA PRODUCTION AND PRICES.

The tea crop has been a record one owing largely to favourable climatic conditions in both India and Ceylon, and stocks have in consequence increased to a very large figure which tended to reduce the price to such an extent that many concerns were selling a few month ago at under cost of production. During the last two months, however, prices have improved considerably, so we have reason to hope that no permanent injury will have been caused to the industry and that these excessive stocks may gradually be reduced. There is little doubt that for the past year companies will not show such satisfactory returns as for the previous four or five years. The coal industry in India, which has been very depressed for some years, certainly shows signs of improvement.

EAST AFRICAN TRADE.

In East Africa conditions have not been so favourable. A pest of locusts last year did an immeasurable amount of harm while the rainfall was fitful and irregular. Expansion is taking place in sisal, maize and coffee, but prices of the two former commodities have fallen considerably. Cotton in Uganda reached the high figure of 816,229 centals (over 200,000 bales of 400 lb. each), but owing to excessive rain in January, which had an adverse effect on the crop, a low yield is expected this season. The coffee crop, on the other hand, has benefited and the coming season's crop is described as "extraordinarily good." It is interesting to note that tea growing in Kenya so far only on a small scale is quite promising. Given normal conditions we may see a revival in this part of the world.

THE OUTLOOK.

You will probably expect me to give you some views regarding the future. Well, while not being at all pessimistic, I am afraid I cannot be very optimistic as we are moving in uncertain atmospheres. We have an increase in Indian taxation, a proposal for an income tax on a 10 per cent. basis in Ceylon, and I am afraid we cannot escape an increase at home either directly or indirectly looking to the increase in our national expenditure, but as regards India I feel confident that if she is not too much disturbed by internal dissensions of a much more serious character than your board see any reason to fear we will see a revival of business sooner or later.

Very great interest is taken in the coming report of what is known as the Simon Commission, which is expected to be issued shortly after Easter. Let us hope that when it has been thoroughly examined it may bring home to those in India who are preaching extreme views that by so doing they are preventing the progression which they themselves are clamouring for.

In conclusion I wish to add on behalf of myself and the other members of the board our very great appreciation of the work and loyalty of our managers and staff upon whom we depend for the satisfactory results we are able to place before you.

THE RESOLUTION.

I beg to propose: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1929, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum be paid on the shares of the company registered at this date, the same to be payable, free of income tax, on and after April 2, 1930."

After this resolution has been seconded by Mr Langford James, and before I put it to the meeting, an opportunity will be given to any one who wishes to make any remarks or to ask any questions.

Mr R. Langford James:—Mr Chairman and Gentlemen, the chairman has traversed the ground so thoroughly that there is not, I think, any necessity for me to say anything beyond seconding the resolution, which I do with the greatest pleasure.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

VOTE OF THANKS TO CHAIRMAN, DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

Mr J. Irwin Davis: Before proceeding with the resolution which I have to propose I would like to join with our directors in an expression of our deep regret at the loss we have all sustained in the death of Mr Toomey, who served the bank so faithfully for many years.

On behalf of the shareholders, I have the privilege of proposing a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors for the care and prudence exercised in conducting the affairs of the bank during the past year, and also to the general manager, managers and staff for their valuable services.

We have listened with very great interest to the excellent address of our chairman. We can fully appreciate all the difficulties which have attended the operations of the bank during a year of depression and financial and political troubles. We have all read in the Press exaggerated reports of the state of India. These reports have caused considerable apprehension in the minds of thousands of genuine investors in Indian stocks and shares, resulting in serious market depreciation. Happily that phase is now passing away, and prices are gradually recovering. We should bear in mind that every word published here, tending to magnify the trouble in India, only aggravates the embarrassment of those who are responsible for the preservation of law and order and the carrying on of the business of the country. Those best acquainted with the conditions in India are not likely to be misled by the sensational stunts of the political press in this country, nor by the fantastic display of a comparatively small party of fanatical politicians in India. These grotesque exhibitions may cause some dislocation of the local traffic, but the great mass of the people merely look on with indifference at the passing show.

EXCELLENT RESULTS.

Notwithstanding the slight diminution in profits, the report is very gratifying, and the results excellent. In fact, the profits are not much below the highest previously reached. It is reassuring to learn from our chairman's remarks that the diminution is not due to the political situation, but to the general trading conditions, to which India is no exception. We congratulate our directors on such highly satisfactory results.

Now there is a matter I would like to refer to. It is the smallness of the directors' fees compared with those of other banks, now published for the first time in the balance sheets. I trust that before another year steps may be taken to rectify this. I think the amount of those fees was fixed many years ago and, in the meantime, the work and responsibility have greatly increased. Comparing the balance sheet of December, 1918, with that of to-day, I find the capital has increased from £1,000,000 to £2,000,000, and the reserve fund from £1,350,000 to £3,000,000, and the dividend has been steady all the time at 20 per cent., free of income tax, truly a remarkable testimony to the prudent policy pursued by the directors. Most businesses have their ups and downs. It has been said recently that the downs are in the ascendant. However that may be, you see we have never had any experience of it. The unfailingly good results for so many years surely merit some recognition on our part.

We are fully aware how much we are indebted to the general manager, managers and staff for the successful working of the bank, and I trust that the formal resolution which I have the pleasure of proposing may be taken by all concerned at home and abroad as a genuine expression of our gratitude and appreciation of the good work done during a very trying and difficult year.

Mr D. C. Lee seconded the resolution, which was carried with acclamation, and the Chairman having made a brief acknowledgment on behalf of the board, as well as for the general manager and staff, the proceedings terminated.

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Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.
STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.
THE FALL IN WOOL AND WHEAT PRICES.
EXCHANGE PROBLEMS.
MR C. G. HAMILTON ON THE OUTLOOK.

The ninety-sixth annual general meeting of the Bank of Australasia was held, on the 3rd instant, at the office of the Corporation, 4 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

Mr C. G. Hamilton presided.

The manager (Mr Edmund Godward) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I hope you will consider the report a very satisfactory one, especially having regard to the difficult times Australia experienced during the year under review. I will refer to these difficulties later. You will notice that the form of our accounts is slightly altered. Though, as a chartered company, we are not under the Companies Act, we nevertheless thought it desirable to make our accounts conform somewhat to the balance sheet prescribed by the recent legislation.

DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

For the first time we show in our balance sheet our fixed deposits and current accounts separately. The fixed deposits are deposits fixed for periods varying from three months to two years and carrying interest. The current accounts carry no interest. There are advantages and disadvantages in having a large amount of fixed deposits. It is advantageous to have most of your liabilities not at call, for it enables you to lend more of your resources to assist trade. On the other hand, you cannot make as much profit out of fixed deposits carrying interest as you can out of current accounts which carry no interest, even after allowing for the fact that you must keep larger liquid resources against deposits at call.

Our call liabilities in round figures stand at £11,891,000, and against these immediate liabilities we have in cash and legal tender notes no less than £7,183,000, or over 60 per cent., a position of great strength, and we have besides a large amount of Government securities which are readily realisable. The total deposits are £34,414,000—a record figure. We show for the first time as a separate item our liability on acceptances for customers which is balanced by a similar entry on the assets side. Our capital remains the same, but we have added £25,000 to our reserve, making it £4,475,000, or nearly equal to the capital.

ADVANCES.

On the assets side of the balance sheet most of the items explain themselves. Our advances are carefully scrutinised and, I believe, are well secured apart from the ample provisions we hold against possible losses. It is said in some Australian papers that banks are not helping industry in Australia. My answer, so far as this bank is concerned, is: "Look at our balance sheet, where our advances stand at a record figure." While on the subject of advances, I should like to point out that in most countries a large amount of advances are made in the form of bills discounted. In Australia bills are very little used, owing to the high stamp duties. The utility of bills in commercial transactions is beyond question, and I should like to suggest to the authorities that, by lowering these stamp duties, they would confer a great boon on the community and would probably lose no revenue.

Our premises, which include for the first time a substantial amount for sites bought but not yet occupied as bank premises and surplus properties let to tenants, stand at £278,372, a figure very much below their cost or real value. Different views are held as to the advisability of having premises standing at a large figure in the balance sheet. Personally, I see no objection to it, provided the figure is well below their real value. Premises are an essential part of the machinery of a bank for earning profits. The value of our premises in our balance sheet represents about 3 per cent. of our capital and reserve. If you look at the balance sheets of the five big London banks you will find that the value put on their premises varies from about 20 per cent. to over 30 per cent. of their capital and reserves. Our total assets amount to £49,323,596, a record figure.

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

Coming to the profit and loss account, the total profit shown, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts and other contingencies, is slightly larger than last year. On the expenses side, taxes are a little down, but there is an increase in salaries, an item largely out of the control of the management, as most salaries are fixed by arbitration boards.

The final dividend which we are paying will absorb £315,000, making £630,000 for the year, or £35,000 more than last year, and; after transferring £25,000 to the reserve fund, there will be £22,183 to add to the amount brought forward, bringing the total carry-forward up to the very satisfactory amount of £161,943.

It has been frequently pointed out from this chair, and cannot, I think, be too often emphasised, that though nominally we pay 14 per cent. on our capital, we do not pay anything like that rate on the shareholders' real capital in the bank, for, in addition to the reserve fund, which is almost equal to the capital, there is a large amount of further capital belonging to the shareholders, represented by the carry-forward, the substantial surplus cost of our premises over the balance-sheet figure, and the contingency funds.

AUSTRALIA'S DIFFICULTIES.

I referred at the beginning of my remarks to the difficulties Australia has experienced. A large part of Queensland endured, for several years, a disastrous drought causing great losses. I am very glad to say the drought has broken, and there have been splendid rains lately in Queensland. New South Wales suffered, and is suffering, from a suicidal coal strike, which has completely paralysed the very valuable trade of the northern coalfield of New South Wales. There has also been a prolonged strike in the timber trade Then a still more severe blow to Australia is the heavy fall in the price of Australia's principal exports—wool and wheat. Wool is by far the most important production in Australia.

The value of the wool exported in 1927-28 was £66,067,000, while in 1928-29 the value had fallen to £61,615,000, though the production was greater, and since then the price has fallen further. I have always thought that the very high prices realised by Australian and New Zealand wool some years ago would prove a misfortune in the long run. It stimulated the production of wool, both in Australasia and in other countries until it was much greater than the demand.

Statistics show that from 1924-25, when Australian wool realised its highest average price of 26·32d. per lb., to 1929-30, the production of wool in South Africa and South America increased from 940,000 bales to 1,440,000 bales, an increase of over 50 per cent., and Australian and New Zealand wool production increased in the same period by about 35 per cent. The high price of wool also led to decreased consumption; the poorer classes could not afford to buy woollen goods, and thus the production and use of substitutes such as artificial silk was stimulated.

WHEAT AND WOOL POOLS.

The production of wheat in the world has also greatly increased. Australia produced 41,000,000 bushels more wheat last year than in the preceding year, and the world supply now is much greater than the demand—hence the fall in price. I see in the papers that wheat and wool pools are being established to withhold supplies in the hope of raising prices. I regret this policy, for, unless you can reduce production, as was done for a while in the case of rubber, so that the supply does not greatly exceed the demand, it must prove a failure in the long run.

Now, I do not believe that you can voluntarily reduce substantially the production over the world in the case of wheat, and still less of wool. Sheep have a meat and skin value in addition to the value of the wool clip, and they will continue to be bred, and it is inconceivable that pastoralists will destroy the wool.

Another objection to pools in the case of Australia is that any withholding of exports at present will only accentuate the exchange difficulties, which are now very acute. Most of you will understand what exchange difficulties mean, but as to some of our shareholders, exchange questions may be a mystery. I will try to explain the problem briefly.

THE EXCHANGE PROBLEM.

When a trader in Australia wishes to pay, say, £10,000 for goods bought from a manufacturer or merchant in Great Britain, he pays from his resources in Australia £10,000 to an Australian bank there, and the bank pays from its resources in London £10,000 to the merchant or manufacturer. Thus, the bank has £10,000 more in Australia and £10,000 less in London, and the opposite transaction takes place when, say, a Bradford spinner wishes to pay for wool bought in Australia. An Australian Bank, out of its resources in Australia, provides the money to pay the growers, and ultimately the bank receives in London, from the spinner, the equivalent amount. The common expression of "transmitting" money is misleading. Except when gold is shipped, which is an expensive and abnormal transaction, no money is transmitted. In times where, over a period, exports and imports are nearly equal, these contrary exchange transactions tend to balance each other, but the times are quite abnormal.

In the year ending June, 1929, the exports from Australia were slightly greater than the imports, but in the previous three years imports exceeded exports by some £29,000,000, and in the last six months of 1929 Australia imported about £16,000,000 more than she exported. In addition, Australia has to pay more than £25,000,000 a year in London for interest on loans borrowed in London by the Commonwealth and the States. The result of this large excess of imports over exports, plus the burden of the annual interest payable in London, is that the Australian Banks in London are asked to pay out of their resources in London far more than they receive in London in payment for exports from Australia.

The Australian Banks are thus augmenting their assets in Australia and depleting their free London resources, and the time has come when they cannot satisfy all the requests for payments in London, and exchange transactions have to be greatly restricted.

You must clearly understand that these exchange difficulties do not affect, in any way, the financial strength of this bank, whether its funds are mainly overseas or in London. Moreover, we are under no obligation to provide exchange. We desire to assist our clients to the best of our ability, but we have fixed deposits, current accounts and other liabilities in London, and we must keep adequate resources against these liabilities.

THE ONLY PERMANENT REMEDY.

The remedies for these exchange difficulties are not simple, and must take time. The only permanent remedy is for Australia to export far more than she imports. No doubt the large export of gold now being made from Australia will materially help the position. Another remedy is to float a large loan in London and so pay for imports and interest due; but that really does not solve, but only postpones, the difficulty, as the loan will some day have to be repaid in London.

The true solution is for Australia to reduce substantially her costs of production. Australia, with her wonderful sunshine, her millions of acres of fertile land, ought to be able to produce wool, wheat, meat, fruit and dairy produce as cheaply as, if not cheaper than, any other part of the world. She ought to be able to undersell her competitors, and, if she could do that, her exports would go up by leaps and bounds, and the exchange difficulties would be solved. Besides the industries I have mentioned, there are other industries, such as mining, which could be worked at a profit if costs could be reduced, and thus more exports would be created; but so long as taxes, wages and cost of living remain as high in Australia as they are at present, there is little hope of a great increase in the exports at profitable prices. Mr. Justice Beeby, who is a member of the Federal Arbitration Court, is reported to have said that "No matter what Courts or Parliament did, profits, prices, values and wages would have to come down to a lower plane."

If Australia cannot increase largely her exports she must restrict her imports. The difficulties in paying for imports, owing to exchange stringency, must automatically restrict imports. One does not want Australia to buy less from Great Britain, who also greatly needs exports, but I notice that in the year ending June, 1929, Australia imported from the United States no less than £35,308,000 of goods, while in the same period the United States bought from Australia only £5,831,000—a very one-sided trade and so much in favour of the United States that one is surprised to learn that they are about to increase their import duties on Australian wool. There seems to be room for a substantial decrease in imports from the United States.

Another essential requirement for Australia, as for all the world, is economy—economy in public and private expenditure. The Budgets for the last two years have resulted in substantial deficits.

FAVOURABLE FACTORS IN THE SITUATION.

Having referred to some of the factors adverse to Australia's prosperity, it is only fair to mention some of the favourable points. There have been splendid rains over most of the country. Production of wool, wheat and cotton is increasing. Rice was a new export in 1926; 23,000 tons were shipped last year. Her trade in frozen meat has great possibilities. There is said to be a shortage of beef in the world. From a letter in the *Times* I quote the following facts:—In 1925 the United States exported 4,250,000 lbs. of beef. In 1929 they imported 500,000 cattle and 120,000,000 lbs. of beef. All over the world cattle are decreasing, and every year the increasing population of the United States will require some 650,000 cwts. more beef. Now, Australia can produce and fatten unlimited numbers of cattle, so there is really a great opportunity for Australia in this field. The fruit, butter and cheese export trade has also great possibilities. Australian butter has world-wide reputation.

Her savings banks deposits increased by £10,000,000. The Budget for the current year shows an estimated surplus. Further import duties are to be imposed to check luxury imports. The recent conversion loan in Australia has been quite a success, and Australia is facing her difficult financial position with courage and determination. Two important Acts have recently been passed. Under the Financial Agreement Act a new sinking-fund scheme is to be established. On the net debts of the State the Commonwealth is to pay ¼ per cent. and the States ¼ per cent. for 58 years, and ½ per cent. is to be paid on all new loans. At the end of the last financial year the existing sinking fund for the redemption of the Commonwealth debts amounted to £31,000,000. Under the Commonwealth Bank Act the Treasurer, on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Bank, can prohibit the export of gold, and the Commonwealth Bank has, subject to certain conditions, power to commandeer the gold holdings of the trading banks in exchange for legal-tender notes. I do not think this will harm the trading banks much. Of course, we should prefer to have control of our own gold, with power to ship it, but the centralisation of gold is the fashion of the day.

NEW ZEALAND.

I have said very little about New Zealand, though it forms a very important field for our banking activities. New Zealand has, fortunately, in the two years ending June, 1929, exported £19,000,000 more than she imported. New Zealand, like Australia, is suffering from the fall in the value of wool, but it is not New Zealand's most important export. Her largest export is dairy produce, which is giving very good returns. Frozen meat is another important and successful export. The seasons are favourable and, generally speaking, the outlook in the Dominion is satisfactory. Of course, New Zealand is affected considerably by the Australian exchange difficulties.

The Superintendent's cable, recently received, reads as follows:

"Season's conditions throughout Queensland and New South Wales satisfactory excepting portions southern area Queensland and southern and western area New South Wales, where rain badly wanted. Elsewhere in Australia, except Tasmania, further autumn rains anxiously awaited. In New Zealand conditions favourable."

Since that cable was received, we have heard that there has been rain in various districts.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Horace Peel seconded the resolution.

A SHAREHOLDER'S REMARKS.

Mr F. Tomkinson: I have no questions to ask, sir, but I should like to say how glad I am to find that you have stressed a point which I believe I was the first to call attention to many years ago, namely, that the dividend of 14 per cent. is not earned on the capital alone, but also on the reserves and various other sums allocated for various purposes. I have heard people carelessly remark that the bank pays a ridiculously large dividend, and therefore I was very glad to hear you refer to that in your very excellent speech. (Hear, hear.) I should like to add that I have heard many speeches by chairmen, but never one delivered so fluently and ably as the one which we have heard to-day. (Hear, hear.)

After other remarks by Major Horsfall and Mr Butterworth, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the re-election of the retiring directors, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Midleton, K.P., Mr T. R. Johnson, and Mr John Sanderson.

This resolution was also seconded by Mr Horace Peel and unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr Jones, seconded by Mr Butterworth, the auditors, Messrs Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co., were re-appointed.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to move a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Healy and the staff in Australia and to Mr Godward and the staff in London for their services during the year. It is times of difficulty like the present that test the ability of your staff, and of how well they have stood that test I think the satisfactory report before you is good evidence, showing that Mr Healy and the managers and inspectors in Australia and New Zealand ably discharge the difficult task of seeing that our advances are well secured. Mr Godward not only manages the important London business, but also keeps a watchful and critical eye on our activities in every part of the world, and that is of enormous assistance to the board. (Hear, hear.)

The exchange difficulties have thrown an extra burden on Mr Healy and Mr Godward, both of them having had, in a sense, to ration their customers. I know that Mr Godward has done that with great tact and discretion, as our customers would admit, and I have no doubt that Mr Healy has done that also. Your thanks are due to them all and I hope that some shareholder will second this vote of thanks. (Applause.)

Mr J. Nissim: I have the greatest possible pleasure in associating the shareholders with this vote of thanks to the management and staff in London and the management, inspectors and staff in Australia and New Zealand. Your address, to which we listened with rapt attention, showed a complete mastery of the affairs of this bank and of the countries in which it operates, only served to deepen our sense of gratitude to the staff which is so admirably backed up our Board of directors. (Hear, hear.) This bank relies every day, every month and every year upon its staff. In Mr Godward we have a manager whom we trust implicitly for his judgment, his courtesy and his grasp of affairs, and he is a specimen of the staff whose services we command. (Hear, hear.) I have the greatest possible pleasure in associating the shareholders with this resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

VOTE OF THANKS TO DIRECTORS.

Mr A. J. Waley: Gentlemen, I think that before we separate it is only right that we should record a vote of thanks to our chairman and directors. (Hear, hear.) The chairman has already been complimented upon the speech which he made and which covered so wide a range and enabled us to visualise the advantages and disadvantages under which trade is now carried on in Australia, and the difficulties with which the bank has successfully dealt. He also enlightened many of us regarding the conundrum of exchange and enabled us, perhaps, to understand the extra difficulties with which the directors and the management have been confronted. I feel sure that you will all agree with me that the wonderful balance sheet which has been disclosed is an indication not only of wise direction but also of careful and efficient management, and I beg to move a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors. (Applause.)

This vote was seconded by Mr Tomkinson and unanimously accorded.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I have to thank you for the complimentary remarks which have been made about myself, and to thank you on behalf of my colleagues and myself for your vote of thanks to the Board. We have no permanent chairman of this bank and, if you are satisfied with the management, the tribute is due not to any one director but to the Board as a whole. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

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WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
SATISFACTORY RESULTS—IMPROVEMENTS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

The eighty-ninth annual general meeting of the members of the Wesleyan and General Assurance Society was held, on the 1st instant, at the Central Hall, Corporation Street, Birmingham.

In the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mr B. Shirley Smith, president of the society, the meeting was presided over by the deputy-chairman, Mr Charles E. Murray:—

The chairman expressed regret that the society's president, Mr B. Shirley Smith, was unable to be with them that morning. He then proceeded to read the following speech, which had been prepared by the president, extracts from which are as follows.

am glad to be able to report that, although the past year has been one of considerable difficulty, the results, taking them as a whole, are very satisfactory, as they show improvements in all the departments of the society.

Dealing with the ordinary department first, you will notice there has been a steady and considerable volume of business. In the early part of the year your directors were a little concerned by the rate of mortality claims, due, no doubt, to what amounted to an epidemic among the population of these islands. You will remember that the early months of 1929 were very different from the early months of this current year, and the severe weather of last year was no doubt responsible for the heavy claim rate. I reported last year that we had been fortunate in having a steady increase in the average amount of the ordinary policies, and that for 1928 they had reached an average of £137 per policy. I am glad to be able to report that this has been increased during the year we are now considering, the average policy in the ordinary department amounting to £145, as against £137 in 1928.

Your society has had very considerable difficulties and strenuous competition to meet in the industrial department, but I have great pleasure in reporting that in that department we have issued 166,044 policies, insuring £3,322,863. This amount includes both the weekly and the monthly premiums, and shows a very substantial increase upon the figures for the year 1928.

The other departments of the society's business are comparatively both new and small, but they are all making progress, and all help to make the very satisfactory results as disclosed in the accounts of the society, now in your hands.

RESULTS OF COMBINED DEPARTMENTS.

Looking at all the departments, the net premium income is £1,790,365, being an increase over the previous year of nearly £45,000. In the carrying on of the society's business the investment of the society's funds is one of the most important of your directors' many duties, and they watch the markets from day to day and from week to week with a view to arriving at irreproachable data from which they can make their decisions with every confidence. The directors point out that the gross rate of interest is £5 4s. 11d. per cent., being 1s. 10d. per cent. more than in 1928.

The balance-sheet shows the assets altogether to be more than nine and a half millions sterling, an increase over last year of £662,256. Your directors are glad to be able to report that, notwithstanding all the difficulties, the year that has gone by shows such a steady growth and a steady accumulation of funds.

VALUATION REPORT.

Now that we have finished the balance-sheet, you would like to hear something about the valuation made by the actuary, whose report you will find with the statement of accounts now in your hands. Without going through the figures I have already commented on, you will notice that there is a surplus in each department, and that the profits are sufficient to justify the declaration of bonuses similar to those which were declared last year.

As regards the staff pensions fund, the actuary advises that the society is able to contribute £45,000 out of its profits. This fund, you will remember, is vested in trustees, who are directors of the society, and who look after the fund just as if it were part of the society's business.

Now, with reference to the industrial part of our business, you may remember that we started a profit-sharing scheme, which was announced and confirmed two years ago. It appears that the divisible profits of the industrial department last year reached the considerable sum of £93,693 6s. 8d., of which £56,216 is allocated to the industrial department policyholders and £18,738 13s. 4d. each to the outdoor staff and the ordinary department, subject to income tax. The method of division of these sums is set out in the report of the actuary now in your hands, and notice of the benefits will be furnished to the society's representatives with the least possible delay.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and votes of thanks to the directors and staffs terminated the proceedings.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

"YEAR OF VERY SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AND PROGRESS."

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER'S REVIEW OF THE POSITION.

The forty-third ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Company, Ltd., was held, on the 31st ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Sir Alexander Roger (the chairman) presided.

The Secretary (Mr F. Hollyer) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen,—As the report and accounts have been in your hands for some days I presume you will take them as read. (Agreed.)

I am glad to tell you that a year of very successful operation and progress has been achieved.

Dealing first with the profit and loss account, our gross operating revenue at £189,437 shows the substantial increase of £19,418 over that of the previous year; as against this our expenses (which include a charge of £30,000 in respect of plant depreciation) increased by £6,749, giving a gross profit of £71,287, as compared with £58,618 for 1928. Adding to this gross profit figure of £71,287 sundry small receipts, and deducting the interest, tax, and share issue expenses, all detailed in the accounts, a net profit of £50,941 is arrived at, which is £8,054, or approximately 19 per cent. more than for 1928.

PROFIT AND DIVIDENDS.

Out of the year's net profit of £50,941 there has already been paid to the ordinary shareholders an interim dividend of 3 per cent., less tax, and your directors are now recommending a final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares (making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year), and a dividend for the year of 8 per cent., less tax, on the "A" ordinary shares. These dividends amount in all to £45,743, which allows the company to increase its carry-forward by £5,198—namely, from £39,751 to £44,949.

On the assets side of the balance sheet the capital expenditure account has been amended to conform to the requirements of the Companies Act, 1929, and the net addition for the year is £91,732.

On the other side our renewals reserve increased from £68,722 to £72,567. In both the years 1928 and 1929 £30,000 was placed to the credit of that account, but in 1928 the debit to the account for plant withdrawn from service amounted to £15,420, whereas in 1929, owing to a larger amount of plant being retired in pursuance of our policy of keeping our plant generally in first-class repair, the comparable figure was £26,155. The increase of £3,845 is therefore appreciable. The other items of the balance sheet differ, of course, from the figures of last year, but the differences are entirely due to normal trading operations.

FURTHER EXPANSION.

To provide for the further expansion of the systems in Lisbon and Oporto the company has expended additional large sums on capital account. For many years the company was handicapped for want of capital to meet the demands of a growing telephone public, but conditions are now much more favourable, and your directors feel confident that fresh capital put into the business will continue to prove remunerative. Perhaps it is not out of place to mention here that telephone enterprises of late years are receiving a greater amount of recognition from the investing public. Probably the reason for this is that while it is appreciated that the telephone public in any country is no easy one to serve, nevertheless subscribers are generally willing to pay a reasonable tariff provided a first-class service is rendered in return.

As you may probably be aware, the company by the terms of its concession is empowered to operate in the districts of Lisbon and Oporto; in Lisbon within a radius of 30 kilometres (approximately 19 miles), excluding one small area, and in Oporto within a radius of 20 kilometres (approximately 12½ miles). The remainder of the telephone needs of Portugal are taken care of by the Government, the Government system and this company's systems by mutual arrangement being linked up, to the obvious advantage of the public generally.

EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT TRUNK LINES.

The Government are to be complimented and congratulated upon the remarkable progress they have made during the last two years in extending their own network of telephone trunk lines. The majority of the areas of importance throughout the country are now in telephone communication with each other, the British Isles, and most of the countries of the European Continent.

Relations with all Government and Municipal Departments in both Lisbon and Oporto continue to be of the most friendly and cordial nature, and at all times it is our duty and our pleasure to co-operate with the Government to meet the telephone requirements of the people of Portugal.

The tariff rates which came into force on September 1, 1928, have been a great stimulus to new business. The basis of the tariff for all new subscribers consists of an annuity which includes a number of free calls, all calls above the number of free calls being paid extra for by the user. This method of payment has brought into the company's business a great number of people to whom the flat-rate system of tariffs had not in the past proved sufficiently attractive.

REMARKABLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF STATIONS.

During the year 3,665 stations were added, which represents approximately 16 per cent. above the total at the end of 1928. I may tell you that the rate of progress in England is less than 10 per cent. The number of stations at the end of 1919 was approximately 13,000, whereas at the close of 1929 the number was 26,681. In other words, the company has more than doubled the number of its stations during the past decade, a record to be proud of.

The company has embarked upon a particularly heavy capital programme for 1930, involving over £200,000. A considerable part of this sum will be expended on new automatic equipment which is to be installed in the Trindade Exchange in Lisbon. It was not at first thought that it would be necessary to do this quite so soon, but, as the result of the rapidly increasing number of subscribers, the board was confronted with the alternative of purchasing additional manual equipment for the Trindade Exchange or accelerating the automatic programme which we had been preparing for some time. Guided by the company's technical experts, we decided on the latter course, and it is planned that at the end of August next the cutover from manual to automatic will be accomplished. Six thousand eight hundred lines will be brought into automatic operation then, which number will be further added to in the months immediately following, so that at the end of the present year there will be installed at Trindade Exchange 8,500 lines of automatic equipment.

This acceleration of the automatic programme means displacing some manual plant which still has useful life, but apart from the technical advantages which this development ensures, the company must keep pace with the progress of the telephone art. Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, has substantial claims to be ranked with other great cities of the world, and the company has a moral obligation to see that the telephone communications for which it is responsible lack nothing in modernity.

NEW CAPITAL ISSUE FORESHADOWED.

With regard to the capital required, when borrowings reach such a proportion that it becomes desirable to liquidate them the board will, as before, do so from the proceeds of fresh capital issues. In June last new ordinary shares were offered to existing shareholders on a *pro rata* basis at par, which at the market rates then ruling represented a substantial bonus to members. It will be necessary soon to raise fresh capital, but as nothing definite has yet been decided upon regarding the form which this should take, I will not comment further on the matter now.

The beneficial effects of the plan of economic and financial reconstruction on which the Government of Portugal has been concentrating are being increasingly felt day by day, both by the nation and the countries with which it trades. Work is going on unceasingly in building up an excellent roadway system; the internal indebtedness of the Government has been reduced; schemes are in hand to provide greater facilities to shipping; the railway and the irrigation systems are planned to receive attention, and at the close of the 1928-29 fiscal years the Budget showed a surplus of receipts over expenditures, the first time for many years. This intensive campaign of internal reorganisation of the country's resources on the part of the Government Ministers, wholeheartedly backed up by the people, is doing much to raise Portugal to the plane of its former greatness. As evidence of the confidence which is now prevailing throughout the country, you will be interested to know that the Portuguese Government 6½ per cent. Internal Loan of 100,000 contos (approximately £924,000 sterling) for the construction and improvement of ports closed on Thursday last, having been covered three times.

As a corollary of the nation's improving financial stability the value of the escudo has remained steady round about 108 escudes to the pound sterling for over 12 months.

INTERCHANGE OF VISITS.

Your directors are in close personal touch with the company's activities in Lisbon and Oporto, and interchange of visits between the board and the company's technical advisers here and the management in Portugal are constant. The advantages to the company's welfare of these visits are too obvious to need stressing. Should any of you or your friends be visiting Portugal at any time I hope you will not neglect to pay a visit to some of the company's exchanges, for you will then be able to judge for yourselves how well the company's plant is maintained and to prove the efficiency of the service generally.

Summing up the past year, I think there is every reason to be gratified at the results, and that the company may look forward to the future with equanimity. I feel sure you would like me to thank Colonel Pope (our general manager in Lisbon), Mr Hincks (our Oporto manager), and their staffs of all grades, for the creditable manner in which they have carried through another year's strenuous work and the success which has attended their efforts. (Hear, hear.)

THE RESOLUTIONS.

I now beg to move :—"That the report and accounts be received and adopted, and that the dividends therein recommended be paid." I will ask Mr Kerr to second this resolution, but before putting it to the meeting I shall be glad to answer any questions you may have to put forward.

Mr F. W. Kerr seconded the resolution, and, in the absence of questions, it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The election of Mr Harold S. Bennett, A.M.I.E.E., as a director of the London board was confirmed; Sir Alexander Roger and the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., of the London board, and Senhor R. Peixoto and Dr. Bento Carqueja, of the local board, were re-elected; and Messrs Futcher, Head, Ernest Smith and Company were reappointed auditors of the company for the ensuing year.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman for his interesting address, and also to the directors and to the manager and staff in Portugal for their services during the past year.

The proceedings then terminated.

BRITISH ALUMINIUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY VOLUME OF SALES.

The ordinary general meeting of the British Aluminium Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen H. Pollen, C.M.G. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr G. W. Jeffery, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, after referring to the resignation of Mr A. W. Tait, said that the total net profit for the year was £443,102, as compared with £441,383 for the previous year. Twelve months ago, the Chairman added, he ventured to anticipate that there would be a satisfactory volume of sales during the year 1929, and that anticipation had been realised. The demand had been good, and their total deliveries for the year under review were well in advance of their previous record. Against this increased tonnage sold they had, unfortunately, to record a greatly intensified competition in the market for a number of their products, with a consequent reduction in their average selling price. In the face of the competition to which he had referred they had spared no pains to stimulate the demand.

A large part of their output was absorbed in the transport industries, namely, automobiles, railways, aircraft, and shipbuilding, because the outstanding property of aluminium and its alloys was their strength combined with lightness, which, by reducing deadweight, increased carrying capacity, decreased operating costs, and enhanced speed and acceleration without any sacrifice in mechanical properties. The electrical industry, like the transport and chemical industries, consumed an ever-increasing quantity of aluminium, and considerable strides had been made during the past year. In spite, however, of the conditions which prevailed during the past year, the results they were able to place before the shareholders were, he considered, satisfactory.

In regard to the current year, industrial conditions were somewhat obscure, but he did not see any signs of a decrease of demand for their metal at the present time, and they looked forward with confidence to being able to dispose of all their production, including that which they might expect from the new Lochaber works.

Major R. W. Cooper, O.B.E., M.C. (vice-chairman), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

CHEVIOT RUBBER, LIMITED.

PROFITS WELL MAINTAINED.

NEW CAPITAL ISSUE TERMS.

The twentieth annual general meeting of Cheviot Rubber, Ltd., was held, on the 2nd instant, at the Council Room, Rubber Growers' Association, 2–4 Idol Lane, London, Brigadier-General the Hon. Chas. Lambton, D.S.O. (the chairman) presiding.

Mr C. B. Hester, representing the secretaries (Messrs Guthrie and Company, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The feature of the year's working is that, in spite of the vicissitudes experienced in the rubber market, profit for the year has been maintained at practically the same figure as for 1928, the actual result being £32,667, against £31,023—a slight increase. This excellent showing is partly due to an increase of crop from 1,141,000 lb. to 1,694,000 lb., partly to a further slight reduction in cost per lb., and, finally, but to a smaller extent, to favourable forward sales.

The year 1929 was a remarkable cropping year for practically all rubber estates in the Malay Peninsula. In the case of our own property the crop harvested was a record, and amounts to 643 lb. per acre over the 2,635 acres of mature rubber at Cheviot. A natural question which might be asked is whether this high rate of cropping will continue, for many experts believe that the high rate of yields from rubber in Malaya is due to the resting which trees received during restriction. It is possible that, taking the country generally, there is some truth behind this view, but in the case of Cheviot, although the manager has taken a conservative view and has budgeted, on the basis of twelve months' tapping, for an output of 1,600,000 lb. in 1930, there is actually no sign of a diminution in the rate of production. Although the great bulk of Cheviot is mature and producing, it is, in fact, a young estate, and, in the opinion of the visiting agent, has even yet scarcely reached peak production. In these circumstances, it is probable that the present high yields will continue for some time.

Since the manager's forecast was made, the board, in conformity with the recommendations of the Rubber Growers' Association, has consented to cease tapping during the month of May, and this stoppage will, of course, affect the amount of rubber which otherwise would be harvested during the year. On the other hand, if the advocates of restriction are correct, the loss of crop and consequent slight increase in costs should be compensated for by an increase in selling price. This latter factor is, of course, problematical, and I am not in a position to prophesy.

NEW PLANTINGS AT MIDDLETON.

As regards Middleton estate, a further 500 acres, approximately, have been planted, raising the cultivated acreage to 1,486 acres, and it is proposed to complete our development programme by planting a further 400 acres this year. Development has been carried out on the most recently approved scientific lines with high-grade seeds, from Cheviot and budwood from proved high-yielding clones, and it is anticipated that when these areas reach maturity the rubber will be harvested at a cost considerably below that now current on most estates planted by earlier methods.

Our present cash position is strong, the balance sheet showing cash and British Government securities amounting to practically £87,000. Our development programme is, however, a comparatively heavy one, and upkeep of the new areas will call for the greater part of our liquid resources over the next few years. The directors therefore consider it advisable to issue a small number of shares now in order to conserve and maintain a strong cash position. It is proposed to issue 259,565 shares of 2s. each, raising the issued capital to £220,000. The issue will be made at the price of 2s. 6d. per share and will be confined to the company's shareholders in proportion to present holdings. When the planting programme of 400 acres for this year is completed, we shall have a total planted area of 4,943 acres. On the basis of an issued capital of £220,000 the cost per acre will amount to the very low figure of £44 10s. Taking into consideration the quality of the plantings at Middleton and the exceptionally high yields from the mature rubber at Cheviot, the Board feel that this company will be able successfully to maintain its position in face of a continued low price for the commodity and increasing competition from peasant planters.

It gives me much pleasure to record the efficient work of our manager and his staff on the estates, and of our agents at home and in the East in their sphere, and also the value of the comprehensive reports of our visiting agent.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 10 per cent. was declared.

ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY TURNOVER.

MR P. MALCOLM STEWART'S REVIEW OF INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

The thirty-first annual general meeting of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., was held, on March 31st, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

Mr P. Malcolm Stewart (chairman and one of the managing directors) presided.

The Secretary (Mr J. A. White) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors having been read by Mr H. C. Howard, representing Messrs. Crewdson, Youatt and Howard, the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I presume it is your wish to take the report and accounts as read.

INCREASED TRADING BALANCE.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that the balance of profit on the trading account at £575,484 is more by £7,468 than last year's figure. This increase, however, is largely set off by the reduction in receipts from interests and dividends, which at £358,836 show a decrease of £6,421. The total revenue for the year at £935,115 shows a small increase of £536. We are able, after providing for debenture stock interest and sinking funds, the dividend on the five and a-half per cent. preference shares, and after making the same allocation to depreciation reserves as last year, to recommend again the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary share capital.

The results obtained are due to the progressive reductions effected in the cost of manufacture and to the satisfactory turnover for the year, despite the serious setback sustained during the first three months, when building operations were almost brought to a sandstill by severe weather.

STATE OF BASIC INDUSTRIES.

The past year will long be remembered for the depressed conditions experienced in important industries, the collapse of the boom in speculation, and the severe financial losses suffered. For some it will stand out as a black year. Every avenue is being explored for an explanation of the wide extent of unemployment and the unsatisfactory state of our basic industries. Whatever the merit or outcome of the solutions recently offered, it is a good thing that many have been shaken out of a state of apathy and compelled to give a closer consideration to the fundamental causes of our industrial depression. Further, we have been helped to visualise the wide interests and responsibilities which we possess as citizens of a great nation and of an Empire offering unrivalled opportunity for commercial expansion. Nevertheless, it would be a fatal mistake to assume that any changes in our economic system can of themselves bring back prosperity. This cannot be achieved without we become less insular in our conceptions and more adaptable to the requirements of post-war conditions, less self-satisfied with past performance and better prepared to face the future with keener mental alertness and renewed energy and enterprise.

THE BANKS AND INDUSTRY.

The chairmen of the big banks rightly explain it is not their business to provide industry with permanent capital; they do not like frozen credits. There is no need for apprehension; there are ample financial resources and enough enterprise available in the City of London to help industries, ready for reconstruction on sound lines, whose management has not shown lack of vision with regard to policy or lack of understanding with regard to labour problems.

Recent references to the relations between the banks and industry give the impression that the banks have been backward in helping industry. Surely, this is far from being the case. Have not some of the banks been too generous in lending to plausible borrowers with little practical knowledge or experience, who, under the guise of helping industry, ply the trade of manufacturing share values on the Stock Exchange? (Hear, hear.) The operations of such borrowers are often aided by the astounding optimism of a section of the Press proclaimed to the accompaniment of personal paragraphs so flattering to vanity. Some journalists have shown an extraordinary aptitude for puffing new ventures and but little inclination for making intelligent inquiry or investigation on which to base a sound judgment for the benefit of their readers. We have passed through a period of boom flotations when almost anything could be pushed on to the gullible public. What a wonderful opportunity for the Press to have rendered service to its readers by sound commonsense advice, but how little it was availed of. It is not only the subscribing public that suffer, but also the industries concerned.

We are constantly being asked to interest ourselves in new processes and inventions. They sometimes look good on paper, but when tested by men of common sense and practical experience it is nearly always found impracticable to establish them successfully. Such propositions, however, often offer a ready opportunity for a rake off by the company promoter before their inglorious career ends in liquidation and extinction. How few inventions become commercially successful.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

The salvation of industry will not come through its being run by the Government, banking institutions, or accountants; each of these may become an invaluable ally when rightly employed. Supreme control should be in the hands of those with practical experience and a record of successful management. Experience is one of the few things which cannot be found ready made. A good qualification for managing a big undertaking is to have made a success of a smaller one, and perhaps one of the greatest aids to expending wisely shareholders' money is to have had to expend money with the sure knowledge that failure touched one's own pocket. This experience automatically gives the feeling that it is one's own being ventured. Where industry needs reformation it must be reformed from within.

I do not believe any industry lacks men with the brains to reorganise. There are too many people pulling the strings of industry who have never been through the mill and gained a practical and technical experience. Those with practical experience should have a chance to work their way through. Do not call in a tinker to do a tailor's job or expect men eminent in the professions or clever theorists whose advice may be essential on particular issues, but who have not the experience or instincts of a manufacturer, to be best qualified to undertake the reorganisation of industry.

BOARD'S RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME COMPLETED.

The past year, the fifth since the reorganisation of the board and management, is an important one in the history of the company, because it marks the completion of the programme of reconstruction outlined when I first addressed you in 1925.

Before surveying the progress made during the period, may I again refresh your memory as to the programme itself and the policy on which it was based; for this purpose I will quote from my speech of that year. After reviewing the history of the company since its inception, pointing out the disabilities from which it suffered owing to over-capitalisation, I said:—

"What is the remedy? It appears to me there are two main methods of tackling such a problem. One is by the reduction of capital with corresponding depreciation of fixed assets; the other is by improving the value of the assets so that they more truly represent the figure at which they stand in the balance sheet. In our case I should like to see both these methods employed, but, frankly, under the present circumstances I consider there is no justification for writing down the capital.

"The policy advocated and adopted by the board is that we should improve the earning capacity of our assets by modernising our two largest works—Bevans and Swanscombe. I do not mean patching them up: I mean reconstructing them so as to give an efficiency at least second to none in the country."

That was the policy and programme promised. Let us now see how it has been fulfilled by our works control, by our selling organisation and what is the relative financial position of the company to-day as represented by the figures in the balance sheet in comparison with those of six years ago.

BEVAN, SWANSCOMBE AND CROWN WORKS.

At the Bevan works, which had been closed since 1921, 12 rotary kilns with a capacity of 250,000 tons per annum have been scrapped and an entirely new works constructed with four kilns having a capacity of 500,000 tons per annum. In addition, we have constructed a deep-water jetty which enables us to load direct cargoes for all parts of the world.

At Swanscombe we have replaced the original 16 rotary kilns by three modern kilns with a capacity of 400,000 tons per annum; further, the whole of the grinding and packing plants have been concentrated and modernised and electrically-operated excavators and up-to-date washing plant installed to handle the raw materials both there are at Bevans. In addition, the output of the Kent works, purchased in 1922, has been increased by 50 per cent.

At the Crown works, to avail of the best shipping facilities on the River Medway, the old plant has been scrapped and a modern rotary kiln has been installed. We have scrapped multiple steam and other power units by the installation of electrical power at our Thames, Medway and inland works.

PRESENT PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.

Your company to-day has a productive capacity of a million and a-half tons per annum from efficient rotary kiln plants, which is fully 250,000 tons more than that aimed at in our original programme. (Applause.)

I do not want you to go away with the impression that we have merely modernised our kilns. Every stage in the process of manufacture has been tackled, and the complete plants brought up to date and to a state of efficiency second to none with the help of our research department and the adoption of our own technical methods, which are kept up to date by first-hand information from all parts of the world. At the same time that this heavy reconstruction work has been in progress we have improved our quality to a point that to-day Blue Circle products are a recognised standard. Our thanks are due to Mr. A. C. Davis, the managing director in charge of our works control, and to our engineering, technical and executive staffs for so successfully carrying through this programme. (Applause.)

THE SALES SIDE.

We will now see what has been accomplished on the sales side of the business, and it must be remembered it is more difficult to sell cement than to manufacture it. Since 1924 we have increased our sales in every department, and much enlarged the facilities for the prompt service of our customers. The hard task of maintaining an adequate margin of profit will be at once realised when I tell you that our group net selling price in all markets is 25 per cent. lower than five years ago. Because the raw materials can often be cheaply won it is wrongly assumed that the task of manufacturing and establishing a new brand of cement is a simple one. Few realise the slow rate of turnover of capital and other vital economic factors. I doubt if a single cement company established in this country within the last ten years has fulfilled the promises made in its prospectus. However, our sales organisation has increased the tonnage of Blue Circle cement sold, which to-day exceeds the aggregate tonnage of cement sold by all our competitors. A valuable goodwill and prestige has been established for all Blue Circle products.

FERROCRETE.

An outstanding sales feature is our successful marketing of Ferrocrete, the rapid-hardening cement. Ferrocrete has revolutionised concrete construction by the saving of time which it affords to users. We have, of course, had our imitators—this is the inevitable price of success—but Ferrocrete has easily maintained its supremacy. It is no longer a novelty but a necessity, as is proven by our rapidly increasing sales.

EXPORT TRADE.

Despite the keenness of foreign competition, aided by low wages, tariffs, favourable exchange rates, and sometimes by subsidies, we have expanded our export trade to a remarkable degree. Last year we exported close on 800,000 tons, an increase of 45 per cent. over the quantity shipped abroad in 1924. (Applause.)

This has been accomplished by improved overseas sales service. We have appointed representatives who reside abroad and study on the spot the requirements of our overseas customers. The sun never sets on the cement shipped from our works on the Thames to every part of the world. These results could not have been obtained had we not, by our works reconstruction, put ourselves in a position to compete by taking low prices. Our increased trade has absorbed to a considerable degree the reduction in the number of employees due to rationalisation.

THE HOME DEMAND.

The home demand for Portland cement has grown, stimulated by our intensive campaign of advertising and propaganda, supervised by General Critchley, for educating potential consumers as to the manifold uses of cement, but it must be remembered, if the picture is to be seen in the right light, that we have throughout the period laboured under an adverse condition common to the majority of industries in this little island. I refer to over-production, the nightmare of the manufacturer. It has been our constant evil companion through these years of effort. The productive capacity of the United Kingdom has increased at a higher rate than the growth of the consumption. We have had to contend with over-production, and, consequently, low prices. You will, I am sure, agree that the results obtained reflect the greatest credit on Mr Harold Anderson, our managing director in charge of our sales organisation, who is ably assisted by Mr Chapman in the export and Mr Charleton in the home market, and by an indefatigable staff and representatives. (Applause.)

SOME ILLUMINATING FIGURES.

I have outlined the nature of the improvements and extensions made at the works and of the expansion of sales in all markets. We will now see how the fulfilment of our programme has affected the financial structure of the company as set out in the balance sheet. Since the beginning of 1924 we have spent over £1,600,000 on reconstruction and new plant, yet to-day our fixed assets at £6,020,000 stand in our books at £566,000 less than in 1924. (Applause.) During the period the preference share capital has been increased by £35,000 and the ordinary share capital by £242,785 issued in 1927, and further by £500,000 issued in 1928, bringing up the total of the ordinary shares issued to £3,000,000.

We have increased the total share capital by £777,785, but we have, during the period under review, reduced the amount outstanding in debenture stocks, debentures and mortgages by no less than £777,182. The extinction of prior charges is thus within a few hundred pounds of the amount of fresh share capital subscribed. To get at the true position it is necessary to compare the surplus assets now available with those available five years ago. To-day our cash in hand, at bankers, on deposit, and investments in Government and other liquid securities at cost, less depreciation, stand at over £1,100,000, as compared with £44,000 six years ago, and the net improvement in our liquid assets position is some £375,000.

The investment account is a strong point in a sound balance sheet. All our investments in subsidiary and allied companies stand at a low valuation. The book value of our holding in British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., ordinary shares alone, is approximately £1,500,000 less than their market value to-day. (Applause.) No one is happier at the results obtained than Mr Alfred Stevens, who has for many years watched over our finances. (Applause.)

THE WORK OF THE LAST FEW YEARS.

To summarise the position, we have modernised and extended our plants, concentrating production in large units at economic sites, thus materially increasing the intrinsic value of our fixed assets; at the same time we have reduced the figure at which they stand in the balance sheet. Further, we have strengthened our financial resources. The net profits available last year for the service of the preference and ordinary share dividends were nearly three times as great as in 1924, although in that year £50,000 less was placed to depreciation. Lastly, but by no means of least importance, we have provided for our employees improved conditions.

While we have been steadily steering our good ship through the shoals we have had to ward off a heavy attack directed not only against our trade, but to capture the ship itself. During the fight we kept silent, confident in the ultimate issue. Now we are not only in port, but have refitted. (Applause.)

RATIONALISATION.

Thus have we rationalised our section of the industry; we set to work to do so before this term had become so hard-worked. What is rationalisation? The best simple definition I have seen is that it is the application of common sense to industrial problems. This definition certainly fits our case.

With our group of widespread works and reduced costs of production we are in a far stronger position than ever before to meet competition. During the early part of the period which I have just reviewed the operations of the Cement Makers' Federation enabled prices to be stabilised to a considerable degree. This was followed by a period of severe competition, from which the industry has not fully recovered. Price warfare is demoralising, and its effects are felt to-day. When I state we are in a strong position to meet competition it must not be inferred that we are looking for trouble; our record furnishes ample evidence that we appreciate the necessity for and the value of constructive work.

The tendency to-day is for rationalisation to displace the older methods of co-operation, such as gentlemen's agreements and cartels, which have proved invaluable. Rationalisation has already been successfully accomplished as far as our own extensive interests are concerned, and the ideal we hold steadily before us is to obtain the co-operation of others so as to extend it to the cement industry as a whole. Most objectives worthy of attainment take time and patience, but it is always well to have a goal to aim at.

OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS.

Just a word with regard to our investments in cement works situated in British Columbia, South Africa, Mexico and India. They have all done well during the past year, and their prospects are good. We are now engaged in doubling the plant of the Indian works, in which we are jointly interested with the British Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd.

The year has opened well, favoured by good weather. The demand for Portland cement is above the average for these early months, and there is evidence of much constructional work to be undertaken. Selling prices remain on the low side, but we should obtain from our reconstructed works the advantage of further economies provided these are not offset by increased prices for coal. Consequently, if the demand continues to improve, we hope to present to you a satisfactory report when we meet next year.

Before closing, may I again express our thanks to our staff, representatives, and employees at home and overseas for their hard work and loyal co-operation, which have been invaluable. I am sure that our shareholders will heartily support this. (Applause.)

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the approval of the dividends paid, and recommended to be paid, including a dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHAIRMAN.

Sir Philip A. M. Nash, K.C.M.G., C.B. (the vice-chairman), said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before formally seconding this resolution I would like to make one or two remarks without which, I think, this occasion would not be complete. Our chairman, in a very interesting speech, devoted much of it to reviewing what we may call a five years' period of reconstruction, and he has, I am sure with our full approval, paid tribute to the able management and the able staff which have assisted in this reconstruction. As vice-chairman, I have been closely associated with the management throughout this period, and I would like, and I am sure I shall have the approval of the management and staff in doing so, to pay a proper tribute to the work of the chairman himself. (Hear, hear.) Mr Stewart has brought to us not only a wide experience of affairs generally, but he has brought to our counsels a long and unique experience of the cement industry. I hope that now that the period of reconstruction is over we may look forward to many years of his association with this company to show us the same powers of leadership and the same wide experience and good counsel that we have had during this vital period to this company. (Hear, hear.) I now beg formally to second the motion before the meeting. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Mr W. J. Firth and Mr P. J. Pybus, C.B.E., M.P., were unanimously re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs Crewdson, Youatt and Howard, were unanimously reappointed.

Mr R. B. Pearson, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, managing directors and other members of the board, and all associated with the company, said that his task in doing this was rendered very much easier by reason of the admirable address they had just listened to from the chairman. (Hear, hear.) He expressed the hope that the widest publicity would be given to the admirable phrases Mr Stewart had used in regard to the sound policy required to be observed by all those interested in industry.

Mr E. G. Ridpath seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accorded.

A brief acknowledgment by the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

KERR, STUART AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

NEW TYPE OF DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE.

The nineteenth ordinary annual general meeting of Kerr, Stuart and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 31st ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Mr Herbert Langham Reed, the chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the year under review had proved very difficult for the company. Of the company's capital nearly a quarter of a million was invested in works which were laid out for the manufacture of heavy and light locomotives. The conditions prevailing in the industry had continued to be so depressed that it had become impossible for the company to secure orders of any magnitude except at unremunerative prices. As he stated last year, the fact that firms formerly manufacturing armaments had entered the locomotive industry had raised the manufacturing capacity to a point which far exceeded any possible demands. The normal output of the undertakings now manufacturing locomotives was estimated to be not less than 2,000 locomotives per annum, whereas the orders received in this country last year represented less than a quarter of that amount. As a result competition was very severe, and with prices at the present level it was impossible to get work at a figure that would show a profit. Continental competition remained acute Indian orders to the extent of approximately £1,000,000 had been placed with Continental manufacturers at an approximate price of 5 per cent. below prices of British tenders. To meet this difference in price, representations had been made by the industry in the proper quarter for some assistance, but so far there seemed little or no hope of any favourable response.

This year the position had shown improvement, and the works were now working to nearly full capacity, but in view of the very restricted nature of inquiries it was impossible to foresee any hope of continuity of the present position, and he feared that in the near future they might be without any serious heavy locomotive work in hand. During the year the company had put on the market the K.S. 7-ton Diesel Lorry, and this had met with considerable success. On a five-day weekly run of 600 miles per week the K.S. Diesel Lorry showed an annual saving of over £700 per annum as compared with a similar petrol lorry, and £670 over a steam lorry.

In the course of discussion the policy outlined by the chairman was generally approved, and the report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD PROFITS.

The annual general meeting of this company was held on the 2nd instant, the Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway, P.C., J.P. (chairman and managing director), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The balance of the profit and loss account is £203,111, the highest figure ever earned by your company. The measures which your board adopted when I became managing director, five years ago, for the improvement of your company's position, are now beginning to show their full effect—a very heartening augury for the future. At this point I hope you will permit me to give you the round figures of the company's profit for each year since 1923. In 1923 the profit was £85,000; in 1924, £83,000; the changes in the administration of your company were made at the end of 1924, and progress since then has been steady and satisfactory. In 1925 the profit was £118,000; in 1926, £126,000; in 1927, £179,000; in 1928, £193,000, and in 1929, £203,000. These encouraging results have not been secured by increasing charges to the shipowners. On the contrary, taking our contracts as a whole, there has been a decrease in our charges.

I will now deal with the appropriation account. The amount brought forward from the 1928 accounts was £36,688, from which is to be deducted the £1,500 additional remuneration voted to the directors at the last annual general meeting, leaving a net carry forward of £35,188. Adding to this the net profit for 1929, we arrive at a total of £238,299, of which £59,636 was distributed as an interim dividend on October 29th last. The net amount available for distribution as a final dividend thus becomes £178,663, from which the directors recommend there should be appropriated an amount sufficient to raise the general reserve account from £158,013 to £200,000. They then recommend the payment of a final dividend for 1929 of 10 per cent., involving the distribution of £119,272, and leaving a carry forward to the 1930 accounts of £17,404.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Passing now to more general matters. There was an increase during the year in the number of launches from British yards of vessels of 1,600 tons and over; *i.e.*, those which come under the compulsory wireless law. This increase is reflected in the present accounts. By the end of 1929 your company held maintenance and rental contracts in respect of 2,758 British ships, a large proportion of which carry direction finders and auto-alarm apparatus in addition to the main installations. The number of sea-going operators on the company's pay roll at the same date was 3,136. An unusual volume of non-recurrent expenditure was necessary throughout 1929 to enable the company to maintain the technical lead in marine wireless apparatus which it has always held. Provision had to be made to meet the requirements that any ship fitted on or after 1st January, 1930, should have interrupted continuous wave or continuous wave transmitters if an outfit of more than ½ k.w. power was required. Also in 1929 the use of short-wave telegraph apparatus became more general for the rapid handling of traffic to and from ships at sea, and gear had to be perfected to meet this growing need. Coupled with this came the necessity for design of a marine wireless receiver fulfilling the very searching requirements of sea-going conditions in all climates that would enable operators to receive signals on any wave length between 15 and 20,000 metres. It will be of interest to you, and will be a very valuable earnest of the position in which your company stands with its shipowner clients, when I say that a prominent personality in the shipping world co-operated with our technicians in the evolution of this piece of apparatus which is characterised by competent persons as the best marine receiver yet produced. It is to be adopted by your company as standard on all passenger vessels.

The utility of your company's short-wave wireless equipment is clearly demonstrated by results achieved with sets of only 500 watts power used by whalers in the Southern Seas, which communicate nightly with Bergen in Norway and Portishead in England, over a distance of more than 7,000 miles.

As in 1928, so in 1929, there were no labour troubles in the British shipping world, and the conduct of affairs proceeded smoothly. While at the moment there is nothing clouding the outlook for 1930, your directors are inclined to make a cautious forecast. The amount of business so far secured this year is in advance of last year, but there is a tendency to increase the number of ships laid up. Taking everything into account, however, and bearing in mind that the financial position of your company has never been stronger nor its potentialities more evident, your directors incline to a feeling of restrained optimism for 1930.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the nine days ended March 31, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS	£
Supply Services	15,924	From Revenue	29,118
Interest, &c., on Debt	234		
Sinking Fund	1,157		
Sundries	2,303		
Decrease in Debt	6,081		
Increase in Balances	3,419		
	29,118		29,118

The revenue for the last nine days of the financial year amounted to £29,118,400. Income tax brought in £11,891,000, and surtax and super tax £5,770,000. Customs amounted to £2,634,000 and Excise to £900,000, while ordinary receipts yielded £257,100 and special receipts £1,426,400. The National Debt was reduced by £6,081,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Treasury Bills	− 10,004
Public Dept. Advances	+ 450	Interest on National Savings Certificates	− 2,669
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 2,950	National Savings Bonds	− 8
5% Conversion Loan	+ 1,000		
Telegraph Money	+ 2,150		
	+ 6,600		−12,681

The Floating Debt was reduced by £9,545,000 to £637,415,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30, APRIL 1 TO MARCH 29.

	£		£
Expenditure	748,712,011	Revenue	734,188,748
		Decreases in balance	127,310
		Amount borrowed	14,395,953
	748,712,011		748,712,011

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1929–30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1925.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	13	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	709	760	740	832	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	210	211	211	221	223	223	266
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	63	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,052	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	778	706	556	194	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	394	390	389	385	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	303	292	277	261	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	499	482	454	675	681	600	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	353	15	15	15	16	16	16	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	369	375	372	362	361	359	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,124	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	576	565	599	527	700	780	590
Temporary Advances	1	243	167	139	117	162	37	77	48
	654	8,033	7,598	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,531
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	68	75	98	103	120	108	108
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,666	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Mar. 31, '29.	Mar. 2, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	Movement Nine days ended Mar. 31, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	37,050,000	26,140,000	48,530,000	+ 450,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	700,295,000	738,725,000	588,885,000*	− 9,995,000
Total Floating Debt	737,345,000	764,865,000	637,415,000	− 9,545,000

* Includes £18,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on March 28, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £44,245,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Saturday, at £99 9s. 3d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £39,695,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
January 31	30,000,000	38,220,000	3 17 2·95
February 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
February 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
February 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
February 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
March 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,217,244
CLAIMS PAID - - - £53,253,248

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 2, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	357,265,456	Other Government Securities	232,991,048
In Banking Department	58,923,507	Other Securities	11,537,499
		Silver Coin	4,456,353
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	156,188,963
	£416,188,963		£416,188,963

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	54,021,909
Rest	3,727,832	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	18,422,477	Discounts and Advances	£10,309,949
Other Deposits—		Securities	12,705,909
Bankers £62,833,897			23,015,858
Other Accounts 37,358,126		Notes	58,923,507
	100,192,023	Gold and Silver Coin	936,529
7-Day and other Bills	2,471		
	£136,897,803		£136,897,803

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

Both Departments.	Amount. April 2, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	357,265,456	+ 5,961,641	− 6,053,830
Public deposits	18,422,477	− 364,296	+ 626,946
Bankers' deposits	62,833,897	+ 7,959,620	− 4,434,264
Other deposits	37,358,126	+ 1,441,390	+ 50,197
Seven-day bills	2,471	+ 702	+ 393
Total, outside liabilities	475,882,427	+13,999,057	− 9,810,558
Capital and rest	18,280,832	− 10,694	− 29,626
Government debt and securities	298,028,057	+ 9,259,168	− 8,144,641
Discounts and advances	10,309,949	+ 4,199,392	− 2,911,259
Other securities	24,243,408	− 595,138	− 1,070,298
Silver coin in issue department	4,456,353	− 3,982	− 372,223
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	157,125,492	+ 1,128,923	+ 2,658,237
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	59,860,036	− 3,832,718	+ 8,712,067
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	50 31/32 %	− 7 11/16 %	+ 8 11/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33%	− 21/32 %	+ 1⅜ %

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Feb. 12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4
26	415,143,876	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.		Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Feb. 12	244613696	10924838	151499219	32¼	44711563	7963260	14513308	63496043	56 11/32
19	244615041	10924483	151638500	33 13/32	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727	61 13/32
26	244613290	10924646	151979238	34 1/32	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073	65 13/16
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198	33 15/32	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223	60½
12	244593701	10944051	152622838	33 15/16	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203	59 1/16
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33 13/32	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174	58 21/32
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33 21/32	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754	58 1/32
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	54021909	10309949	12705909	59860036	50 31/32

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 19	8,683,719	417,048	680,948	9,781,715
Week ended March 26	973,953	33,799	53,583	1,061,335
Week ended April 2	970,848	40,821	56,863	1,068,532
Total to date, 1930	10,628,520	491,668	791,394	11,911,582
Total to date, 1929	*10,662,702*	496,521	788,088	11,947,311
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 34,182	− 4,853	+ 3,306	− 35,729
	= 0·3%	= 0·9%	= 0·4%	= 0·3%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	*1,854,190*	*3,039,422*	*44,204,729*
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of March. 1929.	1930.	%	*Aggregate Weekly Totals to March 29.* 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	25	26			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,942,000	11,149,000	− 6·6	36,484,600	33,641,800
BRADFORD	5,891,000	4,288,000	−27·2	16,120,100	12,760,000
BRISTOL	5,294,000	5,117,000	− 3·3	*16,456,000*	*14,848,000*
DUBLIN	...	...	...	64,949,000	62,597,000
HULL	3,978,000	3,488,000	−12·3	11,963,600	10,801,100
LEEDS	4,379,000	4,273,000	− 2·4	13,710,700	13,086,500
LEICESTER	3,592,000	3,547,000	− 1·2	9,950,600	10,771,100
LIVERPOOL	*34,159,000*	*31,451,000*	− 7·9	*108,615,700*	94,851,400
MANCHESTER	57,971,000	52,352,000	− 9·6	172,605,500	152,679,400
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,480,000	6,980,000	+ 7·7	19,070,300	*19,030,600*
NOTTINGHAM	2,812,000	2,675,000	− 4·8	8,390,000	8,219,300
SHEFFIELD	4,675,000	4,484,000	− 4·0	13,664,200	12,487,600
Total	141,173,000	*129,804,000*	− *8·0*	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Banks of Egypt and Lithuania, appeared in the *Economist* of March 15; Denmark, Japan and Chile in March 22; Danzig, Finland, Estonia, Roumania, Norway, Switzerland and Canada in March 29.

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

RESOURCES.	Apr. 4, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1930.	*Mar. 20, 1930.*	*Mar. 27, 1930.*	*Apr. 3, 1930.*
Total gold reserve	2,719,210	3,039,160	3,036,040	3,051,000	3,021,710
Total bills discounted	1,029,850	266,340	205,630	206,830	241,120
Bills bought in open market	174,700	256,540	185,020	256,480	301,300
Total U.S. Govt. securities	169,060	514,110	561,440	529,000	530,390
Total bills and securities	1,380,460	1,049,070	960,870	1,001,090	1,081,590
Total resources	5,146,970	5,057,790	5,030,595	4,968,430	5,075,300
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,663,650	1,609,010	1,583,700	1,572,900	1,576,100
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,335,300	2,353,900	2,290,540	2,339,840	2,375,350
Total deposits	2,382,480	2,381,440	2,319,500	2,388,470	2,443,050
Capital paid in and surplus	408,700	449,150	449,180	451,220	451,180
Total liabilities	5,146,970	5,057,790	*5,030,590*	*4,968,430*	*5,075,300*
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	71·5%	80·8%	82·5%	81·8%	79·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 4, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
Total bills discounted	235,530	33,150	30,810	36,860	53,870
Bills bought in open market	26,880	60,560	74,306	105,750	142,780
Total U.S. Govt. securities	23,530	*233,430*	252,970	*219,520*	210,610
Total bills and securities	288,030	337,190	297,960	368,880	414,020
Deposits — Memberbank — *reserve* account	939,100	957,230	917,940	954,720	975,450
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	81·0%	79·6%	82·2%	77·7%	72·9%

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 8, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,538	7,884	7,975	8,074	7,680	7,152
Subsidiary coin	109	107	114	118	114	117
Bills discounted	*8,300*	*8,111*	7,370	7,555	8,570	7,989
Investments	651	849	766	746	757	836
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,695	8,326	7,775	7,472	9,032	9,331
Government deposits	1,517	1,359	1,662	2,162	2,573	1,555
Bankers' deposits	5,045	4,785	5,009	5,388	4,860	4,910
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·3%	52·4%	54·1%	52·1%	47·1%	47·3%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 8, *1929.*	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.
Total securities	21,37,01	32,24,09	32,15,08	31,37,75	30,57,33	30,36,67
Loans	13,66,64	*8,85,49*	*8,37,52*	7,41,47	7,66,45	*8,46,69*
Cash credits	32,79,14	30,59,42	31,45,03	31,58,47	31,85,90	31,64,19
Inland bills	11,88,22	7,37,56	7,88,36	7,68,40	7,36,45	7,34,21
Foreign bills	33,99	45,75	45,49	41,49	35,68	32.90
Dead stock	2,83,37	2,80,17	2,80,54	2,80,74	2,80,52	2,80,53
Bal. with other banks	14,90	3,90	12,26	25,73	20,45	13.37
Cash	10,31,51	12,09,40	12,93,52	16,05,46	18,51,03	16,65,59
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	*5,32,50*	*5,32,50*	*5,32,50*	*5,32,50*	*5,32,50*
Total deposits	75,84,07	83,16,27	84,86,06	86,22,16	88,03,05	86,32,14
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	928	752	778	779	748	774
Advances in London	918	730	711	667	663	768
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	106	27	90	195	151	101

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 29, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
Gold	34,186,454	42,753,011	42,593,848	42,552,241	42,556,854
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	*10,577,365*	*6,959,689*	6,936,971	6,932,262	6,920,235
Bills discounted	18,332,958	18,775,599	18,771,751	18,782,845	18,766,097
Commercial bills discounted at home	6,837,904	5,626,538	5,428,441	5,244,916	6,387,914
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,695,544	8,595,545	8,595,545	8,595,545
Other advances	2,321,795	2,634,594	2,593,650	2,547,452	...
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	2,959,250	2,859,394	2,718,445	2,650,189	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	64,574,941	70,373,157	69,969,736	69,586,695	70,825,654
Public deposits	11,616,752	8,509,729	8,129,865	7,351,880	6,802,313
Private deposits	6,263,253	6,760,221	7,089,359	7,829,071	8,259,728
Other liabilities	1,991,272	2,561,666	2,449,691	2,536,804	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 28, *1929.*	Mar. 15, *1930.*	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,682,702	2,480,458	2,491,789	2,495,931
Of which deposited abroad	129,748	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	35,956	411,924	450,626	386,600
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,352,777	1,639,426	1,504,718	2,067,462
Silver and other coin	107,042	153,866	165,683	130,761
Notes of other German banks	8,508	19,103	21,074	3,918
Advances	135,052	68,345	55,627	201,309
Investments	93,136	93,246	93,245	93,245
Other assets	550,794	502,509	563,841	529,789
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,821,986	4,266,015	4,109,157	4,805,581
Other daily maturing obligations	478,091	458,514	593,104	456,560
Other liabilities	223,494	150,421	150,415	152,947

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of *one pound of fine* gold equals *1,392 Reichsmarks.*

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, *May 28, 1914.*	Mar. 28, 1929.	Mar. 6, 1930.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.
Gold	(b)	907,758	1,178,740	1,180,537	1,180,664	1,180,637
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	488,185	539,309	549,863	549,043	545,334
Silver and other coin		1,434	3,168	3,367	3,468	3,570
Securities	697,600	745,802	808,910	821,707	800,248	837,461
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,412,383	2,800,492	2,793,567	2,772,121	2,790,106
Current accounts	112,125	89,284	84,622	118,858	102,956	117,196

(b) In thousand francs.

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 20, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,113,400	5,189,800	5,189,900	5,189,900	5,201,500
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,315,900	4,786,400	4,851,900	4,931,200	4,938,100
Other cash	243,700	219,000	221,300	220,200	224,600
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,836,200	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,801,600
Discounts	3,513,300	3,292,200	3,213,900	3,063,400	2,995,100
Advances	1,498,200	988,000	1,367,800	1,345,100	1,265,900
Credit with "*Istituto di Liquidazioni*"	1,077,300	803,700	776,600	776,600	776,600
Government securities	1,042,900	1,053,000	1,052,200	1,051,400	1,052,800
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	15,894,500	15,716,000	16,091,800	15,924,800	15,663,400
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	*300,000*	*300,000*
Other deposits and drafts	2,191,600	1,981,100	1,665,600	1,589,600	*1,562,800*
Ratio *of reserve to notes and sight* liabilities combined	56·72%	55·43%	55·61%	56·82%	57·19%

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 25, 1929.	Mar. 3, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 17, 1930.	Mar. 24, 1930.
Gold	163,092	422,498	436,992	436,982	431,973	431,974
Silver	8,436	21,491	26,815	26,885	26,778	27,346
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	149,344	57,544	56,857	51,794	51,535
Foreign Bills		42,411	200,852	*200,911*	204,006	204,113
Loans and advances in current acct.		*103,086*	*108,341*	*84,408*	*88,926*	*88,918*
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	782,734	828,245	801,612	791,237	781,236
Deposits	5,016	9,489	19,845	17,476	17,683	21,290

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,365	168,000	166,400	167,500	169,100
Silver	29,785	19,508				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	*127,784*	*139,900*	136,300	135,900	132,200
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	304,222	285,200	281,600	273,100	*270,200*
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	42,997	30,800	30,100	36,900	*39,000*

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In *kronor* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.
Gold	234,975	243,865	243,810	243,770	243,723
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,155
" " Foreign	73,774	51,359	53,199	53,199	53,199
Other Swedish bonds *quoted on* foreign bourses	743	*157*	122	122	*122*
Bills payable in Sweden†	253,585	167,629	164,031	158,875	*156,825*
" " abroad	77,238	107,587	106,090	104,283	102,993
Balance abroad	37,618	77,228	76,745	91,057	103,986
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	56,600	57,668	62,574	46,599	60,883
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	*543,845*	*503,925*	*519,633*	*494,293*	*545,823*
Government deposits	167,501	165,333	159,978	165,304	148,956
Private deposits	*5,709*	*5,773*	*5,317*	*4,041*	*3,297*

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available *as cover for the note issue.*

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

ASSETS.	Position, *May 30, 1914.*	Mar. 30, *1929.*	Mar. 8, *1930.*	Mar. 15, *1930*	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,635	2,466,988	2,467,704	2,468,246	2,468,347
Silver	*728,600*	*715,896*	*707,994*	*708,838*	*710,445*	715,853
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,908,962	2,178,433	2,129,691	2,093,782	2,117,131
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,243,174	4,472,070	4,446,824	4,381,682	4,364,585
Deposits	477,500	986,859	859,988	862,554	830,424	839,599

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 20, 1929.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.
Coin and *bullion*	*9,899*	8,772	8,839	8,825	8,807
Of which *gold*	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	327,602	274,527	269,610	176,282	157,202
Discounts	275,072	359,015	345,011	*345,733*	343,062
Government loans	1,749,784	1,681,663	1,676,398	*1,530,684*	*1,530,684*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,848,474	1,905,939	1,935,338	1,911,774	1,883,319
Deposits	*67,589*	76,876	58,540	54,116	55,067

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, *1930.*	Mar. 15, *1930.*	Mar. 23, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	*168,634*	*168,634*	168,634
Foreign exchange	208,010	204,296	204,053	205,044	212,965
Other foreign exchange†	356,677	314,655	314,478	316,146	325,226
Bills discounted	113,313	234,239	201,639	172,005	142,487
Gov. Debt	112,385	108,558	108,513	108,513	108,493
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	*863,222*	*974,483*	*914,490*	*884,293*	*854,182*
Deposits	99,333	58,924	85,705	90,368	108,985

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. *(000's omitted).*

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,428	162,627	162,626	162,628	162,629
Drafts and notes	*28,835*	*25,450*	*16,279*	*12,272*	9,481
Silver coin and bullion	*10,447*	10,287	10,270	10,397	10,735
Inland bills, *warrants and securities*	*301,819*	226,830	212,325	207,766	200,931
Advances to the Treasury	92,296	82,937	82,900	82,900	82,900
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	392,876	441,385	405,549	388,597	373,114
Current accounts, deposits, *&c.*	237,705	76,874	88,129	88,031	93,405

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's *omitted*).

ASSETS.	Mar. 27, 1929.	Feb. 26, 1930.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.
Gold *bullion and coins*	23,807	23,948	23,957	23,955	23,965	23,970
Silver coin	4,721	5,946	5,621	6,498	6,598	6,465
Balance abroad	64,790	45,404	47,066	47,574	48,447	48,292
Treas. *notes* and sm. change	*8,563*	*12,362*	11,294	12,277	12,631	11,438
Short term bills	84,049	94,452	94,577	92,991	93,140	92,552
Loans against securities	50,240	53,704	54,029	54,404	54,411	54,909
Other assets	15,350	13,745	13,634	14,036	14,187	13,885
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	45,687	48,586	48,125	47,194	47,132	48,443
Capital paid up	15,581	*17,010*	*17,010*	*17,010*	17,010	17,010
Reserve	*3,091*	*3,662*	*3,662*	*3,662*	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600
Deposits	12,520	15,905	16,037	16,202	16,283	16,463
Current accounts	62,669	66,283	64,024	59,914	60,739	60,849
Government accounts	97,035	84,388	88,669	94,128	94,477	90,824
Other liabilities	12,437	10,228	9,350	10,124	10,575	10,760

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, *1929.*	Feb. 28, *1930.*	Mar. 7, *1930.*	Mar. 15, *1930.*	Mar. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,004	1,261,826	1,261,833	1,261,887	1,261,899
Balance abroad and foreign currency	174,128	1,980,286	1,963,560	1,963,560	1,900,211
Discounts and advances	217,903	292,102	322,901	294,679	245,309
State notes debt balance	4,036,713	3,709,035	3,705,148	3,704,105	3,703,593
Other assets	833,796	699,891	662,061	598,192	589,219
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,497,883	6,837,731	6,555,153	6,271,800	6,121,832
Check account balances	837,688	395,065	649,595	789,363	834,714
Other liabilities	272,379	201,983	202,367	216,515	236,097

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, *1929.*	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold	91,591	96,006	96,078	96,150	96,221
Other coin and notes	18,058	18,410	*18,732*	*18,337*	18,379
Foreign credits	189,126	291,065	321,650	291,226	287,781
Bills	1,336,906	1,141,192	1,134,173	1,091,730	1,081,[illegible]
Government advances	4,201,054	4,143,097	4,139,100	4,135,380	4,133,[illegible]
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	*5,085,497*	5,559,628	5,484,624	5,334,841	5,225,[illegible]
State credits	227,780	195,913	191,917	189,916	187,[illegible]
Deposits	1,119,382	1,731,871	1,830,399	1,848,155	1,989,[illegible]

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 2[illegible], 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,507,962	1,569,598	1,570,480	1,571,166	1,571,690
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,966,520	724,269	778,598	666,245	630,300
Discounts and advances	1,461,876	1,291,526	1,281,901	1,264,864	1,252,516
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,340,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,167	*1,251,782*	1,251,986	1,252,222	1,252,136
Bank notes in circulation	3,932,074	3,147,651	3,251,892	3,236,064	3,208,260
Sight liabilities	3,193,353	1,886,673	1,821,993	1,743,455	1,704,197
Deposits	470,115	319,406	319,056	318,551	318,400

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 23, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Gold	562,148	647,309	647,827	648,873	624,792
Gold exchange	4,542,043	3,598,061	3,736,060	3,690,708	3,592,154
Other foreign exchange	211	3,354	2,801	2,742	2,705
Bills discounted	49,574	170,166	*161,848*	155,996	152,208
Advances	77,471	185,775	177,681	175,593	176,175
Debt to the State	*3,789,638*	*3,152,763*	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,535,413	4,847,574	4,842,140	4,867,420	4,817,0[illegible]
Deposits and current accounts	2,036,713	1,824,956	1,864,278	1,914,413	1,873,038
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,114,807	1,111,552	1,201,011	1,070,109	1,044,068

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 20, 1929.	Feb. 20, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.
Gold	622,005	701,004	*701,056*	701,110	701,807
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	179,553	219,021
Foreign currencies	663,286	455,139	460,882	449,332	433,571
Bills discounted	650,465	670,321	668,447	636,498	630,232
Loans against securities	*84,676*	77,547	77,949	76,886	77,921
Reserve fund securities	69,704	83,531	83,531	83,531	83,537
Liability of the Treasury	*25,000*	*25,000*	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	*150,000*	*150,000*	*150,000*	150,000
Reserve funds	*100,000*	*110,000*	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,166,022	1,165,249	1,281,760	1,244,124	1,201,068
Current accounts	623,903	553,039	456,435	451,761	450,967
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Apr. 1, 1929.	Feb. 16, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 16, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,883	28,581	29,080	29,349	30,346
Other precious metals	4,359	3,396	3,298	3,270	3,079
Foreign bank notes	8,888	6,406	6,517	6,149	5,727
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	277	295	295	299	299
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	79,593	113,323	115,809	115,934	116,557
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	110,212	151,011	153,580	154,850	155,598
Balance to which notes may still be issued	788	989	1,420	150	402

LONDON RATES.

	Mar. 27, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 1, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2½	2½—9/16	2½—9/16	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2 7/16
3 months' do.	2 9/16	2 9/16	2½	2 7/16—½	2½	2½	2½
4 months' do.	2 9/16—⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝—11/16	2⅝—11/16	2⅝
6 months' do.	2¾	2¾	2 11/16—¾	2¾	2 11/16	2 11/16—¾	2¾
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2½	2½	2½—9/16	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 7/16
3 months'‡	2 9/16	2½—9/16	2 9/16	2 7/16	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2½
Loans—Day to day	—	2—2½	2½—2¾	2½—4	2½—4	2½—3½	2½
Short	2½	2½—2¾	2½—2¾	2½—2¾	2½—2¾	2½—2¾	2½
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 13	3½—4	3 1/16—⅛	3 1/16—⅛	3 1/16—⅛	4—4½	4¼—5	5
20	3	2 13/16—⅞	2⅞	2⅞	4—4½	4¼—4½	4½—5
27	2½	2 9/16	2⅝—¾	2¾	3½	3¾	4—4½
April 3	2¾	2½	2 9/16	2¾	3½	3¾	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Apr. 4, 1929.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 7/32–9/32	4·86 1/16–86⅛	4·86 15/32–86 17/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88⅜–½	4·86⅝–86⅞	4·86 7/16–86 9/16
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·20–23	124·26–29	124·28–30
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46½–47	20·37¾–38	20·37¾–38¼
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·10½–10⅝	12·12⅛–12¼	12·11½–11¾
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95–96	34·87½–88	34·86½–86¾
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·72–77	92·80–82	92·77–79
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21⅞–22⅛	25·13–13¼	25·12⅞–13⅛
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–20	18·16¾–17¼	18·16¾–17¼
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·17⅝–17⅞	18·09½–09¾	18·10–10½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·21–21⅛	18·16–16½	18·16½–17
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	32·20–25	39·15–20	38·58–62
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108½–108⅝	108 3/16–5/16
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·51–54	34·53–56	34·50–53
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164	164⅛–164¼	104⅛–104⅜
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276½–276⅞	275½–275⅞	275½–275⅞
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–88	27·84–87	27·84–88
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	815·818	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	672·675	670–675	670–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	374½–375½	374½–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	998–992	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–44	†9·44–46	†9·446–465
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43⅜–43½	43 5/16–7/16
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193	193	193¼–193½
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49½	48½–49½
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15–23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·17–27	25·17–27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–97 9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 17/32–19/32	42½–42 9/16	43¾–⅞
Rio de Janeiro	pence to milr.	90 days	16	5 23/32–25/32	5 11/16–5 25/32	5¾–13/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	49¾–50¼	44½–45	45–45½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·55	39·94	39·93
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	24½% prem.	12·52½ nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–1/5⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–1/5⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–1/6 1/32	1/5 15/16–1/5⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅞–2/0⅛	1/6 1/16–1/6 3/16	1/6⅛–1/6¼
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6½–2/6 13/16	1/11 1/16–1/11⅛	1/11–1/11⅛
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 13/16–15/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 1/16–⅛	2/0⅝–2/0 11/16	2/0⅝–11/16
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 3/16 d.	†2/0 3/16	†2s. 0 3/16 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·0–10·50	10·15–35	10·15–35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	...	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9				
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7				
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
New York Federal Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
				Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Apr. 3, 1929. %	Mar. 5, 1930. %	Mar. 12, 1930. %	Mar. 19, 1930. %	Mar. 26, 1930. %	Apr. 2, 1930. %
Call money	10	4	4	3	3½	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4⅝	4½	4	4	4
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅝	3¼	3¼	2⅞	3
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3¾	3½	3¼	2⅞	3
Ineligible, 90 days	6½	4½	3⅞	3½	3⅝	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	4½	4½	4	4	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Apr. 3, 1929.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79 13/16	4·83 1/16	4·84¼	4·84
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85¼	4·86 1/16	4·86 1/16	4·86¼
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 11/16	4·86 1/16	4·86 1/32	4·86¼
Paris ... cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9050	3·91	3·91⅛	3·91⅛
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·89	13·925	13·955	13·94½
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23	19·345	19·30	19·35½
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23	5·23½	5·23½	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·69	23·835	23·86	23·85½
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·06	14·08	14·09	14·09
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	15·10	12·50	12·44	12·56
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·03	40·075	40·13	40·13
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·625	26·755	26·79	26·76½
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·64	26·745	26·785	26·76
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·68	26·835	26·88	26·865
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅝	1·29⅝	1·29⅝	1·29½
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅝ dis.	1/32 dis.	1/32 dis.	1/16 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·5	49·40	49·45	49·40
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·75	37·50	37·50	37·40
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	61·80	47·25	47·25	47·00
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·32	36·07	36·06	36·15
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	117·00	116·10	114·20
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·79	11·55	11·75	11·60
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, *Limited*, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·60
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	½% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	1/16% dis.	⅛ to 3/16% ,,
30 days	1⅞% ,,	5/16% ,,	⅜% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2½% ,,	¾% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	5/16% ,,
120 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93½	97	...	...	106½	103⅜
Demand	92⅝	95½	93½	96⅝	105⅝	101⅝	106 1/16	103
30 days	92 1/16	94 15/16	...	...	104¾	101⅛	105⅝	102⅝
60 days	91½	94⅜	...	...	104 1/16	100⅝	105 1/16	102½
90 days	90 15/16	93 13/16	...	...	103⅜	100⅛	104½	101⅞

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending March 29, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended April 3, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported int oGreat Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
France	1,820	Poland	1,710
Brazil	45,720	Germany	78,500
Argentine Republic	26,000	Belgium	1,490,036
British West Africa	37,642	France	9,860
British South Africa	968,296	Switzerland	15,360
		Austria	8,875
		British India	107,634
		Other countries	468
Total declared value of imports	1,079,478	Total declared value of exports	1,712,443

GOLD MOVEMENTS

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Mar. 28		Nil	Mar. 28		Nil
,, 29		Nil	,, 29		Nil
,, 31	Sovs. from abroad	25,797	,, 31	Sovs. for export	2,000
	Bars bought	40	Apr. 1		Nil
Apr. 1		Nil	,, 2		Nil
,, 2	Bars bought	11,600			
,, 3		Nil	,, 3		Nil
	Total	37,437		Total	2,000

Net arrivals, £35,437.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on April 2, 1930, a follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £155,143,878 on the 26th ultimo (as compared with £153,458,058 on the previous Wednesday), which once more shows an increase (*i.e.*, of £1,237,563) over the holding on April 29, 1925—when an effective gold standard was resumed. In the open market yesterday £969,000 of South African bar gold was available. There was a resumption of demand for Germany and at the fixed price of 84s. 10½d. per fine ounce, about £932,000 was taken for that country. The small balance was absorbed by the usual Indian and trade requirements. Movements of gold as announced by the Bank of England show a net influx of £1,036,467 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £1,038,467, which included £1,000,000 in sovereigns from Australia.

SILVER.

The market has been quiet during the week under review. Buying for the Indian Bazaars on the 27th ultimo raised quotations 3/16d. and ⅛d. to 19⅝d. and 19½d. for cash and two months' respectively, but subsequent movements were towards a slightly lower level. The demand from India has been both for covering bear sales and for early shipment, but purchases for the latter purpose have been offset to some extent by forward selling from the same quarter. Continental sales and re-sales of silver by China have added to supplies, but America has been perhaps less active as a seller, being inclined occasionally to give a little support. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 24th ultimo to mid-day on the 31st ultimo:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Germany	20,776	Hong Kong	26,951
France	131,738	British India	107,629
British India	87,869	Other countries	8,208
Other countries	4,397		
	£244,780		£142,788

No fresh Indian currency returns have come to hand.

The stocks in Shanghai on the 29th ultimo consisted of about 95,000,000 ounces in sycee, 141,000,000 dollars, 22,400,000 Saigon dollars and 15,460 silver bars, as compared with about 94,600,000 ounces in sycee, 139,000,000 dollars, 23,500,000 Saigon dollars and 17,600 silver bars on the 22nd ultimo.

Statistics for the month of March last are appended:—

	BAR SILVER per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two mos. delivery.	BAR GOLD. per oz. fine.
Highest price	20d.	19 13/16d.	84s. 11½d.
Lowest ,,	18⅝d.	18½d.	84s. 10d.
Average ,,	19·298d.	19·091d.	84s. 11·01d.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Mar. 28	84 11¼	19½	19⅜	Mar. 23, 1923	32 7/16
,, 29	84 11¼	19 7/16	19 5/16	Apr. 4, 1924	32⅞
,, 31	84 11¼	19 7/16	19 5/16	,, 3, 1925	31 7/16
Apr. 1	84 10½	19 7/16	19⅜	,, 9, 1926	30
,, 2	84 10	19⅜	19 5/16	,, 1, 1927	26 3/16
,, 3	84 11	19 3/16	19 1/16	,, 4, 1928	26 5/16

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The British North Borneo Company announce that Mr A. F. Richards, of the Malayan Civil Service, has accepted the appointment of Governor of the State of North Borneo in succession to the late Mr J. L. Humphreys.

The Guardian Investment Trust Company, Ltd., The Second Guardian Trust, Ltd., and The Third Guardian Trust, Ltd., move to new offices on February 17th at Crosby House, Great St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, E.C. 2. Telephone No. Avenue 7321/4.

Cordoba Central Railway Co., Ltd., announces that at a meeting of the board held on February 26th, Brig.-General G. H. Harrisson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.Inst.C.E., was appointed a director of the company in place of the late Mr. J. Percy Clarke.

The Royal Exchange Assurance *announces that Sir Thomas* Sivewright Catto, Bt., a partner in the firm of Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell and Company, deputy-chairman of the Mercantile Bank of India, and a director of Andrew Yule and Company, Ltd., and Yule, Catto and Company, Ltd., has been elected to a seat on the court of directors at head office.

Captain George J. R. Cooper has joined the boards of the Reversionary Interest Society, Ltd., and the Equitable Reversionary Interest Society, Ltd.

We are officially informed that Mr. William McColin Kirkpatrick has joined the board of Allied Cement Manufacturers, Ltd.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NESTLE AND ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK COMPANY.—Profit for 1929 was 30,272,320.87 francs, to which is added brought forward from 1928 of 6,210,961.98 francs. The board proposes allocation to statutory reserve, 1,125,638.09 francs; preference dividend, 4,023,199.25 francs; statutory dividend for 1929 of 5 per cent. on the ordinary capital of 97,500,000 francs—or 10 francs per share—4,875,000.00 francs; to pension and provident funds, 1,500,000.00 francs; to special reserve, 8,000,000.00 francs. Of the balance, 10,748,483.53 *francs*, 5 per cent. will be utilised in payment of tantiemes to the board of directors, 537,424.18 francs, leaving 10,211,059.35 francs, *to which must be added the* balance brought forward from 1928, 6,210,961.28 francs—16,422,021.33 francs; payment on May 1, 1930, of a supplementary *dividend for 1929* of 22 francs per share on the 487,500 ordinary shares, 10,725,000.00 francs; leaving to be carried forward, 5,697,021.33 francs, of which the board of directors shall be authorised to distribute on July 1, 1930, and January 1, 1931, the amounts required for the payment of the half-yearly dividends on the preference capital of £2,000,000, which will require £160,000, or about 4,040,000 francs. The general meeting of shareholders will be held on Wednesday, April 16th, at Cham, Switzerland.

S.T.D. MOTORS, LIMITED.—*A series of meetings of* S.T.D. Motors, Ltd., was held on March 24th for the purpose of considering a scheme of capital reorganisation. *Mr James Todd* (the chairman of the company), who presided, explained that the scheme had for its objects the dealing with the arrears of preference dividend, and the adjustment of the balance sheet to accord with the true position. After utilising the reserves and the carry-forward, the amount necessary to provide worked out at £929,738, or the equal of 13s. 4d. per share of the issued ordinary share capital. The profits for the year ending September 30th last, subject to completion of audit, were shown to be £135,435. The necessary resolutions were carried by overwhelming majorities at each meeting, both on a show of hands and on polls.

SWAN AND EDGAR.—The scheme for the creation of preference shares referred to in *The Economist*, March 15th, page 595, and March 22nd, page 681, has been abandoned.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Mar. 28, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 29, 1930.

	Miles Open.	Week ended Mar. 30, 1930 (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 13 weeks, 1930 (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,751	191	220	354	354	545	2,444	2,816	1,737	4,553	6,997
Do. for 1929	3,751	299	209	129	338	637	2,590	2,779	1,775	4,554	7,144
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	300	413	272	685	985	3,804	5,317	3,688	9,005	12,809
Do. for 1929	6,360	451	405	266	671	1,122	3,960	5,201	3,772	8,973	12,933
Lond., Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	458	563	273	836	1,294	5,559	7,177	3,788	10,965	16,524
Do. for 1929	6,952¾	749	512	266	778	1,524	5,912	7,049	4,136	11,185	17,097
Southern	2,179	260	81	30	111	371	3,381	972	432	1,404	4,785
Do. for 1929	2,172	443	79	39	118	561	3,469	954	513	1,467	4,936
Metropolitan (c)	59	31·6	...	...	4·3	35·9	417·2	...	...	54·1	471·3
Do. for 1929	59	33·0	...	...	3·5	36·5	403·2	...	...	51·6	454·8
†Und'rgr'ndE.R.c	...	200	...	...	...	300	3,733	...	...	...	3,733
Do. for 1929	...	287	...	...	...	287	3,400	...	...	...	3,400
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	43·1	...	...	...	43·1	539·6	...	...	...	[illegible]
Do. for 1929	...	42·9	...	...	...	42·9	479·3	...	...	...	[illegible]
B'lf'st&Co.D'wn b	80	1·9	·8	...	...	2·7	24·2	9·2	...	...	[illegible]
Do. for 1929	80	2·0	1·1	...	...	3·1	23·7	12·1	...	...	[illegible]
*Great Northern b	562	8·4	...	...	18·2	26·6	116·4	...	...	187·3	303·7
Do. for 1929	562	11·6	...	...	20·2	31·8	108·7	...	...	217·8	326·5
*Great Southern b	2,187	22·8	...	...	52·4	75·2	173·7	...	...	657·4	831·1
Do. for 1929	2,187	26·2	...	...	53·0	79·2	185·0	...	...	665·6	850·6

* Aggregate 12 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

INDIAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	48weeks	Mar. 1	1,265	4,68,000	+ 7,411	2,02,85,586	− 8,01,304
Barsi Lt. Ry.	49weeks	8	202	44,000	− 2,700	23,67,500	+ 54,100
Bengal & N.Western	49weeks	8	2,080	7,70,217	− 80,026	1,62,42,522	− 2,31,471
Bengal-Nagpur	48weeks	1	3,085	18,06,000	−258539	8,43,00,704	+14,75,682
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	51weeks	22	3,031	26,35,000	−190000	11,42,33,000	−11,81,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	49weeks	8	3,228	18,35,000	−325068	21,60,068	− 3,25,068
Nizam'sGuarantd.(s)	49weeks	8	1,242	3,32,092	−266373	22,104,564	+ 312,735
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	49weeks	8	572	1,43,031	− 22,297	31,04,577	+ 48,008
South Indian	49weeks	8	2,348	12,03,639	− 36,285	6,09,98,911	+42,83,406

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (s) Total receipts of all lines.

ARGENTINE (a).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	39weeks	Mar.29	753	16,400	+ 2,200	604,500	− 1,600
Argentine Trans'dn.	39weeks	29	111	3,618	− 2,515	182,458	− 4,749
B.A. and Pacific	39weeks	29	2,806	166,000	− 36,000	596,500	− 697,000
B.A. Central	39weeks	30	...	13,401	− 893	503,073	− 47,180
B.A. Gt. Southern	39weeks	29	4,948	255,000	− 24,000	9,324,000	− 412,000
B.A. Western	39weeks	29	1,926	85,000	− 15,000	3,326,000	− 602,000
Central Argentine	39weeks	29	3,319	205,000	− 57,000	9,057,000	−1,498,000
Cordoba Central	39weeks	29	1,218	47,000	− 18,000	2,273,000	− 422,000
Entre Rios	39weeks	29	789	27,200	− 700	1,100,700	− 106,200

CUBAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	39weeks	Mar.29	1,374	103,104	− 17,269	2,458,462	− 417,933

URUGUAYAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	39weeks	Mar.29	273	36,353	+ 8,691	1,215,934	+ 34,849
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	39weeks	29	311	9,570	+ 3,776	280,538	+ 13,307
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	39weeks	29	185	5,603	+ 2,402	141,845	− 1,460
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	39weeks	29	211	2,805	− 571	110,803	− 6,719

CANADIAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	11 weeks	Mar.21	19580	4,316,226	−855123	53,806,267	−7,085,279
Canadian Pacific	11 weeks	21	15217	3,081,000	−996000	33,784,000	−8,275,000

BRAZILIAN (b).

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	13weeks	Mar.29	1,016	16,800	+ 2,400	244,900	− 32,000
Leopoldina	13weeks	29	1,856	32,776	− 2,666	457,008	− 4,062
Leopoldina Termnl.	13weeks	29	Mls.	277,000	+ 6,000	3,797,000	+ 225,000
San Paulo	13weeks	30	153½	29,620	− 6,945	551,024	− 17,425

CHILEAN.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	13weeks	Mar.30	804	27,890	− 8,840	389,540	− 150,750
Nitrate (½-monthly)	13weeks	31	413	19,692	− 13,986	142,434	− 94,384

OTHER OVERSEAS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	48weeks	Mar.10	608	8,791	+ 94	341,278	+ [illegible]
Gt. Southn. of Spain	12weeks	22	104	Ps.117,173	− 14,055	1,417,635	− [illegible]
Mexican Railway	13weeks	28	483	$285,700	+ 13,700	2,862,200	+ [illegible]
Paraguay Central	38weeks	22	274	4,070	− 490	155,180	− [illegible]
Salvador	39weeks	29	100	5,256	− 1,411	180,033	− 16,110

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	12weeks	Mar.25	329	83,037	− 4,793	1,000,920	− 39,448
B. Aires Lacroze	39weeks	30	...	12,222	+ 98	456,707	− 37,125
Burnley Corporation	2 weeks	29	13	2,747	− 772	5,474	− 1,001
Calcutta Tramways	2 weeks	29	35½	Rs.114205	− 2,135	131,750	− 11,149
Chatham & District	11weeks	20	15	1,011	+ 63	11,695	+ 861
Egyptian Markets	11weeks	20	...	2,030	+ 193	21,930	− 2,868
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	11weeks	19	...	807	− 17	9,308	+ 848
Liverpool Corp.	52weeks	29	124	31,123	+ 1,388	1,560,687	+ 30,366
L.C.C. Tramways	51weeks	26	166	81,535	− 2,190	4,298,508	+ 76,380
Madras Electric	‡12 wks.	31	...	Rs. 45,162	− 1,083	2,82,016	+ 21,014

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of Scotland	Feb. 28	107,084	365,872	472,956	...	216,000	18	147,500	172,456	374,283	18
Commercial Bank of the Near East	Dec. 31	366	10,467	10,833	...	9,600	6	1,000	233	10,533	6
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Brompton and Kensington Electricity Supply Co.	Dec. 31	16,579	35,639	52,218	511	31,790	1/8·706	13,432	6,485	41,328	1/8·706
Llanelly and District Electric Supply Co.	Dec. 31	3,327	36,258	39,585	12,000	4,000	2½	19,863	3,122	37,696	Nil
Financial Land, &c.											
Canada Co.	Dec. 31	271	8,068	8,339	...	5,324	8	2,000	1,015	5,782	10
Trust and Agency Co. of Australasia	Dec. 31	21,126	83,508	104,634	50,000	20,000	20†	13,000	21,634	83,189	20†
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Dolphin Hotel & Restaurant	Dec. 31	...	694	694	...	...	...	...	694	*Dr. 442*	...
Gordon Hotels	Dec. 31	3,604	119,333	122,937	54,136	41,013	6¼	20,000	7,788	98,548	5
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Baldwins	Dec. 31	3,399	44,230	47,629	...	...	...	19,735	27,894	94,781	...
Coltness Iron	Dec. 31	118,513	141,398	259,911	25,750	78,750	10	35,000	120,411	115,263	5
Harland and Wolff	Dec. 31	107,558	332,364	439,922	192,000	...	...	115,615	132,307	204,355	...
Millom & Askam Hematite Iron	Dec. 31	35,930	(t) 25,797	61,627	...	...	...	7,500	54,127	...	...
Stone (J.) and Co.	Dec. 31	162,767	263,964	426,731	39,000	210,140	35	50,000	127,591	243,459	20
Motor and Cycle.											
Morris Motors	Dec. 31	154,634	1,039,119	1,193,753	225,000	200,000	10	650,000	118,753	1,054,854	Nil
Rubber, &c.											
Ayer Kuning (F.M.S.) Rubber	Dec. 31	14,405	20,263	34,668	...	14,000	10	5,000	15,668	...	...
Cheviot Rubber	Dec. 31	5,318	32,667	37,985	...	19,404	10	7,810	10,771	31,024	10
Damansara (Selangor) Rubber	Dec. 31	7,263	10,246	17,509	...	7,875	2½	2,500	7,134	12,617	4
Edinburgh Rubber Estates	Nov. 30	4,713	6,912	11,625	...	5,844	2½	2,000	3,781	3,923	...
Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber	Dec. 31	28,614	36,974	65,588	...	30,948	10	5,000	29,640	...	...
Kajang Rubber Estates	Dec. 31	12,615	7,635	20,251	...	6,000	10	...	14,251	6,460	10
Kombok (F.M.S.) Rubber	Dec. 31	9,565	18,139	27,704	...	12,000	10	2,500	13,204	18,783	7½
Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber Co.	Dec. 31	4,149	34,865	39,014	...	23,456	10	7,628	7,930	35,737	10
Mapalagama Rubber Estates	Dec. 31	5,585	2,029	7,614	...	5,000	7½	...	2,614	...	...
Rubber Estates of Ceylon	Dec. 31	2,052	4,377	6,429	...	3,675	2½	...	2,754	3,589	2½
Sungei Choh Rubber Co.	Dec. 31	3,151	13,407	16,558	...	12,000	6	3,000	1,558	6,780	3
Shipping.											
Cunard Steamship	Dec. 31	188,396	809,639	998,035	135,000	417,769	7½	50,000	395,266	550,478	7½
Shops and Stores.											
Gamage (A. W.)	Jan. 31	11,148	26,010	37,158	9,625	23,750	5	...	3,783	71,315	20
Gorringe (Frederick)	Jan. 31	30,100	33,396	63,496	14,000	25,000	12½	625	51,496	...	...
Plummer Roddis	Feb. 12	22,628	83,400	106,028	26,000	55,000	23	1,000	24,028	50,935	7
Tea.											
Highland Tea Co.	Dec. 31	1,652	14,760	16,412	...	14,500	25	...	1,912	20,561	25
Mount Vernon (Ceylon) Tea	Dec. 31	1,578	14,073	15,651	...	12,000	30	2,000	1,651	...	...
Panawal Tea & Rubber Co.	Dec. 31	4,767	1,430	6,197	525	884	5	...	4,788	2,044	12½
Pantiya Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	4,375	4,298	8,673	...	4,500	15	...	4,173	4,287	15
Trust.											
Edinburgh Invest. Trust	Mar. 15	167,047	103,925	270,972	21,600	61,440	12	...	187,932	...	...
Waterworks.											
South Kent Water Co.	Dec. 31*	3,794	2,316	6,110	...	2,050	6 p.a	...	4,060	...	...
Other Companies.											
Apollinaris and Johannis	Dec. 31	90,681	31,199	121,880	...	...	...	2,491	119,389	...	...
British Tintex and Dye Products	Dec. 31	...	*Dr. 5,124*	*Dr. 5,124*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.5,124*	...	...
Browne and Eagle	Dec. 31	11,654	20,448	32,102	6,250	8,000	8	5,000	12,852	15,288	7
Dwyer and Co.	Jan. 31	16,005	9,151	25,156	1,402	5,500	10†	500	17,754	10,299	10†
Handley Page	Dec. 31	24,605	40,507	65,112	24,893	4,979	66·35	20,000	15,240	47,794	...
International Sponge Importers	Dec. 31	1,055	12,267	13,322	10,750	...	...	207	1,865	4,578	Nil
Orchorsol Gramophones	Dec. 31‡	...	*Dr. 4,819*	*Dr. 4,819*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.4,819*	...	...
Pettigrew and Stephens	Feb. 19	19,638	34,181	53,820	5,800	16,320	15	5,000	26,700	33,937	15
Quilt Manufacturers	Jan. 31	...	62,315	62,315	17,233	27,258	6	5,000	12,824	...	...
Rowntree and Company	Dec. 31	110,739	228,154	338,893	154,275	25,000	10	47,750	111,868	...	...
Tarmac	Dec. 31	5,158	34,296	39,454	11,000	18,857	4	4,500	5,097	76,685	5½
Thompson (M. C.) and Co.	Jan. 31	11,604	1,160	10,564	12,500	9,375	7½†	*Dr.12,500*	10,689	8,565	2½ / 16½†
Travers (Joseph) and Sons	Jan. 25	7,785	26,540	34,325	6,250	20,000	10	1,000	7,075	31,503	10
United Molasses Co.	Dec. 31	8,888	1,049,116	1,058,004	66,969	596,817	25	360,000	34,218	376,801	19
Withers and Co.	Dec. 31	697	2,364	3,061	2,160	...	...	...	901	...	...

* For six months only. † Free of income tax. ‡ Period from October 11, 1928, to December 31, 1929. (t) Three months.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. • Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Assam Railways Trading "B"	5%•	...	Less tax	...	...
BANKS.					
Commercial Bank of the Near East	3%†	...	Less tax	6	...
Darmstadler und Nationalbank	...	...	Less tax	12	...
International Bnk. of Amsterdam	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Yasuda Bank	...	...	Less tax	9	10
INSURANCE.					
British Widows' Assurance	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Drapers and General Insurance	...	...	Less tax	20	...
Provincial Insurance	...	...	Less tax	20	20
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Ayer Kuning (F.M.S.) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	12½
Bahru Selangor Rubber	4d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	25	25
British Malay Rubber	4%†	May 12	Less tax	...	...
Bukit Tiok	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Bukit Cloh Rubber	4d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	25	20⅝
Caledonian (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber	5%•	Mar. 30	Less tax	...	...
Craighead Tea	23%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Cromlix Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Damansara (Selangor) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	4
Edinburgh Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	2½	Nil
Golconda Malay Rubber	6%†	May 1	Less tax	10	10
Hampha Tea and Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	35
Heawood Tin and Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	10	17½
Hermetic Rubber	15•	Apr. 11	Less tax	...	...
Hornsey Tea Estates	10%•	Apr. 11	Less tax	...	...
Java Rubber Plantations	...	...	Less tax	5	15
Kandapolla Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	20	40*b*
Kapar Para Rubber Estates	10%•	...	Less tax	...	...
Kiggoda Rubber	...	...	Less tax	...	5
Klanang Produce	12½%†	...	Less tax	17½	15
Kombok Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	7½
Lower Perak Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	8
Mapalagama Rubber	...	...	Tax free	1½ p.s.	...
Mount Vernon Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	30	...
Oriental Rubber	4%†	May 12	Less tax	...	...
Panawal Tea and Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	12½
Panteya Tea and Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	15	...
Patani Para Plantations	5%•	Apr. 11	Less tax	...	...
Pilmoor Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	15	10
Portmore Tea of Ceylon	25%†	...	Less tax	40	42
Rubber Estates of Bentota	...	...	Less tax	3	5
Rubber Estates of Ceylon	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Soengei Rampah Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Sungei Choh Rubber	...	...	Less tax	6	3
Tarun (Malay) Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Teluh Piah Rubber	...	...	Less tax	1½d. ps.	2½d. ps
Tyspane Tea	5%†	May 1	Less tax	10	12½
Ulu Rantau Rubber Estates	5%†	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Victoria Rubber	...	...	Less tax	15*a*	15*a*
MINING.					
Koffyfontein Mines	25%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Sungei Kenta Tin Dredging	1/6 p.s.†	Apr. 17	Less tax	...	...
Surprise Mining and Finance	...	...	...	4 d. p.s.	6 d. p.s.*d*
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aktiebolaget Separator	...	...	Less tax	Kr.9p.s.	...
A. Reyrolle and Co.	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Bell Telephone of Canada	2%•	Apr. 15	Quarterly	...	...
Boots Pure Drug	24•	...	Quarterly	...	...
Bournemouth & Poole Elec. Sup.	9%†	...	Less tax	15	15
British Combined Investors	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	5
Canada Company	4%†	...	Less tax	8	10
Carlton Hotel	6%•	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Chelsea Electricity Supply	11/2 p.s.†	...	Less tax	8·833%	...
Clark, Son and Morland	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Colonial Gas Association	9•	Apr. 12	Less tax	...	...
Dwyer and Co.	...	...	Tax free	10	10
East Kent District Water	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Edinburgh Investment (Def.)	7%†	...	Less tax	12	12
Freehold Assets Co.	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½*b*
Garrard Engineering and Mnfg. Co.	27½%†	plus bonus of 10%		40	...
George Spencer Moulton and Co.	3d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	...	...
Godfrey Phillips	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Hammond's Bradford Brewery	5%•	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
Henry Boot and Sons	...	...	Less tax	7½	...
Indestructible Paint	5%†	plus bonus of 5%		15	12½
Irrawaddy Flotilla	3/- p.s.†	Apr. 16	Tax free	10	10
John V. Hutton	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Joseph Lucas	5%•	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Lawsons	...	...	Less tax	11½	10
Llanelly & Dist. Electric Supply	...	...	Less tax	2½	...
Meakers	...	...	Less tax	5	Nil
M. C. Thomson	...	...	Tax free	2½	...
Mid Kent Gas Light and Coke	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Netherlands Yeast and Spirits Factory	24%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Northern Securities Trust	6%†	...	Less tax	9	10
North London Building Society	...	...	Tax free	5	...
Oxford Electric	20%•	bonus	Less tax	7	8½
Paquin	...	...	Less tax	30	22½
Pettigrew and Stephens	18%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Plummer Roddis	...	...	Less tax	23	20
Quilt Manufacturers	10%†	Apr. 16	Less tax	6	...
Radcliffe's Edible Products	...	...	Less tax	25	...
Richmond (Surrey) Electric Light and Power	7%†	...	Less tax	11	11
River Plate Electricity Co.	10%•	May 1	Less tax	10½	11
Scottish Investment Trust	...	...	Less tax	...	...
S.K.F.	...	...	Less tax	12	...
Slough Estates	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Solicitors' Law Stationery	...	...	Less tax	12	...
South Kent Water	2/- p.s.	plus 1/-	Less tax	6	6
Trust and Agency of Australasia	12½%†	plus bonus of 2½%	p.s. bonus	20	20
United Molasses	7%†	...	Less tax	25	19
United States Investment	1¼†	...	Less tax	12	12*c*
United States & South American	...	...	Less tax	14	13½
Warwickshire Coal	30%•	Mar. 31	Less tax	15	...
Windsor Trust	6%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Women's Pioneer Housing	5%•	Apr. 24	Less tax	...	...
Yana Falls				...	...

a Plus bonus of 5%. *b* Plus bonus of 6d. per share. *c* Plus bonus of 2%. *d* Plus bonus of 2d. per sh. *f* Plus bonus of 2s. p.s. *k* Plus bonus of 100%. *l* Plus bonus of 5%.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BALDWINS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
6% "A" pref.	250,000	...
7% "B" pref.	753,415	– 18,432
Ord. shares	1,297,928	+ 121,218
4½% deb. stock	...	– 6,429
6% deb. stock	1,000,000	...
6½% "A" deb.	1,204,146	– 2,675
6½% non-conv.deb.	708,499	– 15,570
6½% conv. deb.	482,324	– 240
5½% inc. notes	399,000	...
Port Talbot deb. stk.	...	– 5,134
Int. accrued	96,019	+ 89,989
Creditors	639,717	+ 7,925
Due to subsids.	19,884	+ 2,391
Profit and loss	27,894	+ 24,495
Total	6,878,826	+ 197,538

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Fhold. and lhold. Prptics	3,311,491	+ 52,938
Subsid. co.'s shares	170,900	– 8,411
Stocks	1,014,154	+ 199,549
Debtors	569,946	– 11,286
Owing by subsids.	459,286	+ 81,583
Investments	738,464	– 13,937
Bills receivable	45,461	+ 29,106
Cash and loans	305,267	– 100,572
Brit. Govt. stks.	201,624	+ 258
Srndr. value of policy	62,233	+ 3,278
Discount on deb. stk.	...	– 34,968
Total	6,878,825	+ 197,538

UNITED MOLASSES COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
8% cum. pref. (£1)	...	– 3,410
6% cum. pref. (£1)	1,650,000	+ 650,000
Ord. shares (£1)	2,984,087	+ 1,189,553
Capital reserve	2,651,181	+ 1,783,950
Bills payable	...	– 169,161
Creditors	293,191	+ 281,650
Due to subsid. covs.	129,479	+ 129,479
Profit and loss	752,308	+ 609,161
Total	8,460,246	+ 4,471,281

ASSETS.	£	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Motor vessels steamships	2,066,208	+ 996,100
Instalments on motor vessels	436,729	+ 113,613
Investments in subsidiaries at cost	3,428,648	+ 2,252,798
Current accounts	1,364,559	+ 295,014
Debtors	4,269	+ 4,269
Office furniture	...	– 4,349
Investments at cost	635,201	+ 560,515
Cash	524,632	+ 253,411
Total	8,460,246	+ 4,471,281

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Spring sowings are nearing completion in most parts of the country under ideal climatic conditions, and with warm showers to assist germination, agricultural prospects could scarcely be better. All autumn and winter crops present a healthy appearance, and a full yield is anticipated. Offerings of native wheat continue on a small scale and prices continue to harden, though demand is slow to improve. On the import market, prices have maintained a firm tendency following the efforts on the part of North American holders to stabilise the position. Adequate supplies of grist, however, are available on this side, and consumers adopt a reserved attitude pending further developments regarding the disposal of large surplus stocks in Canada and the United States. France has renewed export licenses for considerable quantities of wheat and flour, and liberal sales of the former were made on United Kingdom account at attractive prices, while it is estimated that sufficient quantities are available to cover the needs of deficiency countries up to June. The increased German tax on imported wheat points to a cessation of overseas purchases, and with Russian offerings more in evidence, the marketing of North American supplies becomes increasingly difficult. It is reported that official measures are likely to be adopted, including the compulsory milling of a certain percentage of native wheat in this country, similar to regulations prevailing on the Continent, thus providing an outlet for native produce at remunerative prices. Some relief would be welcomed against the obviously unfair method of dumping surplus supplies of grain from near Continental countries on United Kingdom markets, under a bounty system, whereby growers here are frequently forced to compete at prices under cost of production. Of feeding stuffs, old crop maize commanded higher rates owing to scarcity of available supplies, but consumers operate cautiously regarding the new Plate crop, of which reports are satisfactory. Barley and oats firm, but business proceeded on quiet lines.

WHEAT.—Firmer. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 44s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 43s. 6d.; No. 3, 42s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 41s. 6d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 40s. 6d.; No. 6 ditto, 32s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex ship, to arrive, 39s. 3d.; Australian, 41s. 6d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 2d.-8s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Steady. London straight run, 36s. per sack for country deliveries and 35s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s. 6d.-36s. 6d.; Australian, 31s.-32s., ex store on c.i.f. terms. Manitoba top patents, March-April, 33s.-33s. 3d.; export ditto, 30s. 6d.-31s.; Australian, 28s.; French, prompt, 26s.-27s. 3d. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, March-June, £6 per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier, following reduced c.i.f. offers. Plate, landed, 29s. 3d.; ex ship, 28s. 3d.; March-April, 27s. 3d.; new, April-May, 26s. 3d.; May-June, 25s. 9d.; June-July, 25s. 9d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 5s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 5s.; white, £6 2s. 6d. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Steady. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea on sample, landed, 20s. 6d. ex ship f.a.q., 18s. 9d.; Persian, landed, 18s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Firmer. Plate, landed, 15s. 6d.; ex ship, to arrive, 14s. 9d.; Chilian, white, 21s.; ditto, tawny, 16s. 6d.; German, landed, 19s.; ex ship, to arrive, 17s. 6d.; South Russian, ex ship, 14s. 9d.; North, ditto, 14s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 5s. 8d.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929–30, 1928–29, 1927–28, 1926–27:—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to March 29	Qrts. 182,769	Qrts. 105,458	Qrts. 286,826	Qrts. 186,011
30 weeks to March 29	7,352,306	7,982,138	7,743,739	9,593,483
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 3	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 10 0	s. d. 11 7

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Qrt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrts.	Qrts.	Qrts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 22	157,079	149,076	35,560	8 3	7 8	6 0
Mar. 29	182,769	125,678	29,852	8 3	7 10	5 11
Mar. 27, 1926	176,683	104,858	49,884	11 7	9 0	8 10
Mar. 26, 1927	215,752	107,409	68,150	11 8	11 0	8 2
Mar. 31, 1928	286,826	110,069	53,854	10 0	10 11	11 0
Mar. 30, 1929	105,458	61,881	30,310	9 9	10 3	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	124½	148⅜	108⅜	108⅜	110½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	118½	130⅞	104⅜	105½	111½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 75,266,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 229,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 88,828,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Conditions at the South Yorkshire Collieries are worse owing to over-production, but the market has steadied somewhat, and there is no further easing of prices. Forward business continues as restricted as ever, although there is rather more inquiry on export account. The position continues irregular and uncertain. Consumers are holding off to enforce cheaper blast-furnace coke, and have succeeded to the extent of several shillings. New business was negligible through the last quarter of the year, and coke has been sold on the open market as low as 14s. 6d. per ton at ovens.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Dullness in the Scottish coal trade is becoming accentuated by the seasonal falling-off in home demand. There has been no improvement in shipping trade, and a good many of the collieries are having to resort to short-time working. Prices are weak, and even navigation sorts, which up to the present had been one of the few steady spots throughout the present spell of dullness have now given way. To-day's prices for shipment are approximately as follows (all f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 14s. 9d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.-18s.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 16s. 6d.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s. 6d.; secondary steam, 12s. 3d.; trebles, 11s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s. 3d.; pearls, 11s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 9d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement in the situation on the Cardiff coal market. Current inquiries have been very inactive and collieries have depended almost entirely on their contracts. The supply of tonnage has slightly improved, notwithstanding the fact that rates continue extremely low, but the docks are only partially employed, and on Tuesday 26 tips were reported idle. Monmouthshire coals remain relatively the strongest feature of the large coal market, and a renewal of the Egyptian State Railways contract is anticipated this month. Prices have ruled generally in the neighbourhood of the minimum figure, but owing to the irregular working of some of the collieries, smalls are in diminishing supply and washed dry duffs are particularly firm at the moment. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 24s. to 27s. 6d.; machine-made cobbles, 41s. to 45s.; French nuts, 41s. to 45s.; stove nuts, 41s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. to 26s. 3d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Although the iron and steel markets continue quiet, there has been more inquiry of late. A great deal of this seems to be of a tentative nature, but it is considered an indication that there is a tendency for business in iron and steel to expand. The British works are still short of orders, but similar scarcity of new business is being experienced by the Continental steel makers. In the pig-iron department the reduction in the prices on the North East Coast led to a certain amount of buying; but this activity has been barely maintained. In the inland districts quiet trading conditions rule and iron is reported to be going into stock. Imports of Cleveland iron in Scotland, and to a smaller extent on the North East Coast, make matters difficult for the British producers. The demand for semi-finished steel materials is irregular, and consumers appear to be limiting their purchases to their barest needs. A certain amount of business has passed to the Continent, but British makers have obtained a fair share of the transactions. In the finished steel department most of the business passing has consisted of small orders for near delivery, and the export markets, although inquiring more freely, have bought only sparingly. A satisfactory feature has been the placing of a Canadian order involving between 2,000 and 3,000 tons of steel.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron is steady and a fair amount of business is being transacted with local and inland consumers at the recently reduced prices for delivery over this and next month. For delivery further ahead, however, little interest is shown, as buyers are waiting for the Budget. Scotch consumers have not responded to any material extent by making purchases at the reduced quotations, but a little business has been done and more is looked for as their contracts in other directions are worked off. Continental foundry iron, however, is still obtainable substantially below Cleveland delivered to the Scotch consumers' works. At the weekly market on Tuesday the tone was fairly cheerful. Makers reported a steadily improving business for early delivery at 67s. 6d. for No. 3, but there was only a very poor demand for forward. No. 1 was 70s.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. In the hematite trade demand is still of a hand-to-mouth nature. A few small parcels have recently been booked for export and also for home use, but consumers are acting very cautiously pending further light on the situation. Ordinary mixed numbers are again lower and are now obtainable at 75s. 6d. per ton, with 6d. per ton extra for No. 1. Shipments from Middlesbrough for March as compared with the previous month are as follows:—

	February.	March.
	Tons.	Tons.
Pig iron	16,168	20,208
Manufactured iron.....	1,404	2,204
Steel.....	48,019	58,579
Tons.....	65,591	80,991

There is little new business in the steel trade and in some departments orders are being worked off with nothing to follow on. In the heavy lines, however, there are still important contracts on the books and more are expected shortly. Prices are generally unchanged from last week. In the ore market there is no movement, consumers still holding off the market. Best Bilbao rubio is offering at 21s. 6d. c.i.f., and the current freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough is about 5s. 9d. Coke continues in abundant supply for early delivery, but there is little demand. Ordinary blast-furnace qualities are now obtainable at 19s. 6d. per ton delivered works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—No indications of improvement in the steel trade are forthcoming, and there is a continued absence of contracts and inquiries, and a multiplicity of small orders. The only cheerful incident in trade has been the booking of large and valuable orders for seamless steel drums for high-pressure boilers. Two local firms specialise on this modern class of forging, and these have lately secured orders for 100 drums, representing 7,000 tons of steel and nearly £100,000 in value. One of the orders is for the Continent, and was obtained by Sheffield in the teeth of severe German competition. The present quietude extends to all classes of commercial steels produced in Sheffield. Supplies to the motor industry, although still considerable, are below last year's level. The pig-iron market is stagnant as regards forward bookings, and consumption, especially at the light castings foundries, is on a reduced level. The Lincolnshire iron and steel works continue busy, and are able to compete with Continental prices in sheet and steel bars.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The position in the iron and steel industry in Glasgow and the West of Scotland generally is no worse. In the pig-iron market business remains quiet, with inquiries and orders somewhat scarce. In the steel trade production is at

much the same rate as during the past few months, with an irregular distribution of the work as between one plant and another. Sheet-makers report a better demand for black sheets for export, and this week there has been an increase in the number of mills in operation. Tube makers are able to keep plants going, but the bookings for forward delivery are not at all satisfactory.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—In the tinplate trade prices have been well maintained, and contracts have been placed on the basis of 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box well into the fourth quarter of the year. The firmness of tin has helped to expedite forward business. Galvanised sheets are unaltered at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 5s. per ton, and tinplate bars, foreign as well as native, are stationary at last week's prices of £5 9s. and £6 10s. respectively. Scrap prices are a shade easier.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The market opened with a firm tone on improved Eastern advices and a fair demand, but later prices reacted sharply on expected heavy shipments during April, causing buyers to adopt a reserved attitude. The decrease in total visible supplies at the end of March was less than anticipated, and which gives little evidence of the restrictive output now being adopted by producers. Statistics for March: U.K. stock and landing, 16,326 tons, against 15,012 in February and 8,790 at same period last year; total visible supplies, 32,328, against 32,891 in February and 25,621 last year. Shipments from the East amounted to 7,795 tons, of which 4,400 tons were to America, 625 United Kingdom, 2,015 Continent, and 745 other countries. Standard cash changed hands at £171 to £163 15s. and £165; three months, £172 15s. to £165 10s. and £166 10s. Sales in the East were reported at £172 7s. 6d. to £174 7s. 6d. and £169 17s. 6d. ton c.i.f.

COPPER.—Irregular and easier for near delivery, but forward positions fairly steady, with dealings on a fair scale. Standard cash, sold at £70 5s., £69 17s. 6d. and £70 2s. 6d.; three months, £68 5s., £68 15s. and £68 5s. ton.

LEAD.—In fair support and market generally steady. Good soft foreign pig, April sold, £18 17s. 6d.-£18 15s.; May, £18 16s. 3d.; June, £18 17s. 6d.-£18 15s.-£18 16s. 3d.; July, £18 18s. 9d.-£18 16s. 3d.; September, £18 17s. 6d. ton.

SPELTER.—Easier under liberal offerings. April, sold, £18 11s. 3d., £18 2s. 6d. and £18 5s.; May, £18 15s. to £18 7s. 6d. June, £18 18s. 9d., £18 13s. 9d.; July, £19 1s. 3d. to £18 17s. 6d. and £18 18s. 9d. ton.

ANTIMONY.—Quiet. English regulus, £40 to £46 10s.; Chinese, ditto, spot, £29 10s.; April-May, £26 10s. to £27 5s.; Chinese, crude, April-May, £17 5s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—April-May, £26 5s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., April-May, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., ditto, 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM.—Slow. Chinese, April-May, 26s. 6d.; Burmese, ditto, 26s. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM.—Steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER.—Quiet. Spot, £22 10s. per bottle, less 3 per cent.

ZINC OXIDE.—Steady. Spot, £29 to £36 per ton, delivered London.

TIN PLATES.—Quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: April 2nd.

Cotton prices show an appreciation of about ½d. per lb. from those ruling a week ago:—

	May.	July.	October.
Close to-day	8·38	8·48	8·40
„ Wednesday last	8·12	8·15	8·15
High prices for the week	8·41	8·44	8·42
Low „ „ „ „	8·11	8·13	8·14

Though the volume of business has shown a distinct falling off, short covering by the spot interests in America has been mainly responsible for the advance. The straddle difference of the near positions between here and America has narrowed considerably. The advance in prices has brought in practically no fresh business, and buyers seem to be waiting for further news of the Farm Board's intention and decreased acreage prospects. Spot sales for the week March 27th to April 2nd (inclusive) are 34,000 bales, of which 18,680 bales are American, 6,200 Brazil, 2,700 Peru, 4,050 Egyptian, 990 African, 900 East Indian, and 480 sundries. Imports for the same period are 34,070 bales, of which 17,736 are American, 172 Peru, 13,021 Egyptian, 1,110 African, 387 East Indian, and 1,644 sundries. Quotations to-day: American Middling, 8·83; Egyptian Sakel, 14·75, Uppers, 10·49; Brazil Fair, 8·30; Peru G.F. Smooth, 9·40; West African Middling, 8·75, and East African, 9·85.

MANCHESTER: April 2.

The tone of the market has been firmer, in sympathy with the further hardening movement in raw-material rates. The larger inquiry in yarn and piece-goods has been maintained and although many difficulties have been met with in arranging sales, the turnover has continued rather more encouraging. The most active outlet in cloth has been India and a considerable demand has been experienced. Steady buying has taken place from day to day in dhooties, light bleaching descriptions and fancies, the majority of the transactions being for Calcutta. Operations for China have been quite isolated, and trade developments on the other side are being checked by the uncertain political situation. Sorting-up lots for several minor outlets East and West have been rather more numerous, but manufacturers have complained of bids being very low and the prices ruling in all sections remain unsatisfactory. Some useful lines have been booked in home-trade fabrics. The turnover in American and Egyptian yarns continues rather better. Attempts on the part of spinners, however, to improve prices are seldom successful. The larger demand in ring beams indicates that preparations are being made to restart idle looms.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Mar. 12.	Mar. 19.	Mar. 26.	Apr. 2.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·06	d. 8·39	d. 8·43	d. 8·80	d. 10·9	d. 10·80
„ Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·60	13·65	14·05	14·25	20·85	19·25
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	16½	16
„ 40's weft ..... per lb.	12⅝	12⅞	13	13⅛	16⅝	16½
„ 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21½	21½	21½	30½	27
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 22 1½	s. d. 22 1½	s. d. 22 1½	s. d. 22 3	s. d. 26 4½	s. d. 26 3
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 10½	24 10½	24 9	24 10½	28 6	28 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	15 4½	15 4½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	14 3	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—Notices of a general reduction in wages based on Lord Macmillan's recent report and recommendations have been posted throughout the West Riding industry, and as the union members have indicated that they will cease work rather than accept the reduced rates, it is probable that a stoppage will result. Many traders, however, are inclined to think that a strike will not last long, especially as the majority of the workers in the industry are not members of any trade union. That the outlook is not regarded with any serious misgivings may be gathered from the fact that since the notices were posted in the mills there has been quite an extensive buying movement in wool and tops. To some extent this may be due to the belief that wool prices are likely to be higher rather than lower in the near future,

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QUINQUENNIAL ANNOUNCEMENT,
Extract from Bonus Report, 1929.

Amount of Life Assurance Fund as at 31st December, 1929	£8,704,234
Liabilities brought out by the Valuation ...	7,664,084
Surplus	£1,040,150
Surplus now divided	£803,474
Interim Bonus paid during Quinquennium with Interest thereon	83,509
Surplus divisible in respect of Quinquennium ending 31st December, 1929	£886,983

The rates of Bonus range from £2 2s. per cent. per annum to upwards of £4 per cent. per annum.

In addition to the reserves, as brought out by a very stringent valuation, the Society has made the following SPECIAL RESERVES:

INVESTMENT RESERVE FUND ...	£100,000
CARRIED FORWARD	£203,629

The sum of **£714,776** now apportioned to Policies participating amounts to two-fifths of the aggregate premiums paid, or assumed to be paid, during the quinquennium in respect of such Policies. The minimum rate of Interim Bonus has been fixed at **£2 2s.** per cent.

TOTAL FUNDS EXCEED	£8,900,000
NEW SUMS ASSURED in 1929	£2,043,719

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AN AMERICAN QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Hamilton Fish Armstrong, *Editor.*

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"Freedom of the Seas"

by

VISCOUNT GREY OF FALLODON

The former Foreign Minister states his reasons for believing that a settlement of the fundamental question of the Freedom of the Seas must form a part of any thoroughgoing naval and political understanding between Great Britain and the United States.

"The Final Reparations Settlement"

by

THOMAS W. LAMONT

The most authoritative account yet published of the "Young Plan," by one of the American members of the Experts Committee.

Other Notable Articles in this Issue

The Platt Amendment.....*Cosme de la Torriente*
The Soviet Touchstone: Industrialization *Bruce C. Hopper*
Masaryk.....*Paul Miliukov*
Philippine Independence and Peace in the Pacific *Nicholas Roosevelt*
Is a Second Canal Necessary?.....*John F. Stevens*
India's Emigration Problem.....*C. F. Andrews*
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but those who have bought during the last few days evidently think that very little interruption will occur owing to the wages dispute. Prices have taken on a firmer appearance, nor is this to be wondered at in view of the cost of replacement based on values ruling in London. It seems probable that with the labour problem out of the way the industry would stand a fair chance to recover some of the ground that has been lost in recent years, for with cheap raw material and a low Bank-rate, there is some incentive to look more to the future than has been possible during the period of falling markets. There has been a spurt in the seasonal demand for piece-goods where delivery can be guaranteed, but in some cases manufacturers are having to turn down offers because of their inability to guarantee a date.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The demand for all classes of wool in London continues to be satisfactory. The improvement in prices is still in evidence, many descriptions being 5 per cent. dearer than at the opening. For crossbreds, the better prices are probably most in evidence in anything up to 48's quality, the call for coarse crossbreds being as keen as ever. It seems strange to find coarse crossbreds realising from 10d. to 10½d., and 50's only ½d. to 1d. more. The home trade has given excellent support this week, and there has been better demand from France and Germany. There is evidently a universal belief that wool is at the bottom, for all firms are disposed to buy freely. This better buying spirit is also in evidence in overseas markets, and there is now every likelihood of the balance of the Australian clip being easily absorbed. The improvement in prices is maintained, particularly in Australia, and the sales in New Zealand will close in about a fortnight with very little wool held over. The London sales will finish next Wednesday. It is to be hoped that the better demand for wool during recent weeks will prevent any more impracticable suggestions being made by Australian growers. It would be futile to ask the British Government to purchase a whole Australian clip. Pastoralists may be recommended to finance wool themselves if any such necessity arises. It may be safely expected that values will right themselves when trade revives. The low values now current will not last for ever, and a year or two of cheap wool will help to bring it back into public favour. Wool values have simply declined in sympathy with other commodities. The paramount need in manufacturing districts is the development of sufficient business to employ more machinery. Even now, with a strike hanging over the trade, there are prospects of improvement. Inquiries for tops have been made on a rather big scale, and there has been some quiet buying on the part of home-trade spinners.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Hides from home-slaughtered cattle were inclined to be lower in price at the auctions held in the north during the early part of this week, second and third warbled ox and heifers making ⅛d. per lb. less money at the Manchester sales, while both clear and warbled cows were easier by ¼d. per lb. Calfskins were a trifle dearer for light weights, with others unchanged from the previous week. A better feeling is apparent in the market for imported hides. For the time being, tanners are confining their purchases to immediate requirements, and in view of the fact that for certain descriptions of African hides higher prices are being quoted, trade passing in these goods has inclined to contract. In the South American market a fair amount of business has been put through on account of the United States, and Argentine ox have been sold at 8¼d., with light ox realising 7⅜d., and Montevideo ox 8 5/16d. The Leibig Company held an inscription sale last week of 16,000 Colon hides which realised from 6⅝d. to 7¼d. for lights and from 7 3/16d. to 8d. for heavies. Better business has been done in dry River Plates, sales of B.A. Americanos having been effected at 8d., M.V. Americanos at 9d., and samour-haired River Plates at from 6⅜d. to 6¾d. Cape hides are quoted at 8¼d. and 7¼d. for first and second drys, with 7⅞d. and 6¾d. asked for dry salted. Sales of unbathed Adis Abebas, 12 lbs. and up, have made been at 6¾d., while Mombassas 30/40/30 have been on offer at 6⅝d. Australians are slightly dearer at origin. All things considered, a steady trade is being done in connection with most descriptions of bottom leather, and with nothing in the way of accumulations the majority of holders are firm on asking prices for the stock available. Manufacturers of footwear come into the market for limited quantities of light to medium weights in bends, while there has been an improvement in the call for lines suitable for the repairing trade. In connection with this latter section the tendency for buyers is to take the better qualities, with the result that common tannages in bends are not much in evidence. The market for offal is inclined to be a little quiet, and on certain substances of both bellies and shoulders prices have a tendency to be weaker. In the upper leather section a regular day-to-day trade which covers most classes is the experience of the majority of producers and merchants. The call for box and willow calf has not been quite so good, and in certain directions a slight falling-off in the inquiry for glacé kid has also been experienced. Patent leather maintains a fairly regular sale, while the recent improvement in the call for suede leather for shoe purposes has further developed, and at the present time quite a respectable trade is being done in this class of goods. Semi-chrome leathers are quiet, but curriers report a slightly better inquiry for kip butts and splits. Orders coming to hand for footwear are still on the small side, and in several of the producing centres a short working week continues to be the rule in some factories.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Moderately active conditions rule, and markets generally are steady. Linseed, on passage to Europe, is comparatively small, and "spot" and near positions are at a premium over the more distant. Crushers, however, are only purchasing sufficient to cover immediate oil commitments, as stocks of oilcake continue heavy, despite reduced prices and an improved demand. Plate on spot and passage is quoted £18 2s. 6d., and for shipment £17 12s. 6d. Calcutta linseed to Hull has been done at £18 12s. 6d., April-May. The lower levels of cottonseed prices brought in buyers, but there is reluctance to follow the advance, though for black Egyptian to Hull, May loading, £7 15s. has been conceded. Spot is held for £7 18s. 9d., and May and June for £8. In the oil section linseed oil is steady, though inclined to be irregular. Raw oil on spot is quoted £40 5s., and for April delivery £39 10s. A parcel of over one thousand tons of linseed oil has arrived at Hull this week from Russia. Apart from this, imports continue high. Cotton oils are fully steady, and are quoted (ex Hull): Crude Egyptian, £28 15s., and common edible, £31 10s. Oil cakes and meals are in improved request.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—There has been the usual small daily turnover, while all spot quotations were unaltered. Cables to hand were conflicting regarding the meeting held on Tuesday in Cuba, to decide the fate of the Single Seller Agency. Apparently, continuance carried a majority of nearly 1,800, but reconsideration is mooted with the likelihood of another meeting in ten days or so. Mr. F. O. Licht estimates European acreage including Russia, as 2,970,000 hectares, as against 2,650,000 last year. Raw sugars steady, quiet. Terminal sections continued in a quiet state, and prices the turn easier. Of raw, May, 6s. 10½d. to 6s. 9¾d.; August sold, 7s. 2¼d. to 7. 0¾d.; December quoted 7s. 6d.; March, 8s. 5¼d. Cuban receipts, last week, new crop, 176,866, against 228,643 last year; exports, 45,492, against 157,957; stocks, 1,399,271, against 1,296,744. Receipts, old sugar, 3,023, against nil; exports, 3,467, against nil; stocks, 12,712, against 1,615. Stocks of raw sugar in the three ports of the United Kingdom for week ending March 29th, amounted to 220,738 tons, against 129,947 last year.

COFFEE.—There is no new feature to record in this market. General trade is very quiet, in fact almost entirely confined to the few fine qualities on offer. Apart from these, trend of prices remains weak.

COCOA.—Small sales on spot include fine Grenada, at 50s. to 52s. 6d.; the larger quantities at the former figure. Forward quite steady. Accra, F/F, April-June, sold 36s. 6d. to 36s. 9d. f.o.b. Terminal, July, sold 41s. 9d. to 41s. 10½d.; December, 42s. 6d. to 42s. 4½d. to 42s. 6d.

TEA.—During the week, 51,600 packages Indian were brought to auction, and a generally quieter tone characterised the market. Medium and common teas declined ¼d. to ½d., but good liquoring and autumnal flavoured teas were about steady, allowing for quality being rather inferior, the best having already been marketed. Of Southern Indian, some high-grown Travancores made excellent prices. Ceylon sales of 21,547 packages experienced an active and buoyant market, particularly with regard to leaf teas, as export orders proved quite numerous. Standard of quality was fully maintained. Java auctions met a fair demand at steady rates. There is a steady inquiry for China qualities, and Lapsang souchong sold 3s. to 3s. 1d.; Keemuns, 1s. 10d. to 2s.

RICE.—Market conditions still quiet. Burma grain firm, owing to small supplies of paddy, which applies to Siam. A very firm position continues in Saigon in the process of adjusting a rather unwieldy short account. Spanish, quiet and easier, with small sales [illegible] oiled, April-May shipment at 14s. 7½d. c.i.f. London. Two Stars, [illegible]ot, London, 13s.; March-April steamer, 11s. 6d.; buyers, 11s. 3d. [illegible].i.f. London/Continent. No. 3 Burma to Levant quoted 11s. 7½d. [illegible].f. double bags. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. [illegible]. to Cuba, 11s. 3d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, March-April, to [illegible]rop, 12s. Siam Super, March-April, 15s. 10½d. Californian [illegible]min[illegible]

[illegible]EN RICE quiet. Burma 1A, March-April, 10s. 6d.; [illegible]0s.; A2, 10s.; B2, 9s. 6d.; Saigon 1 and 2 mixed, 10s. 3d. Siam, C[illegible]0s.; C3, 9s. 9d. c.i.f.

[illegible]CE BRAN firm, quiet, and afloat sellers at £4; for shipment, [illegible] June, £4 2s. 6d.; July-December, £4 15s.; buyers and sellers, [illegible]er ton ex ship terms. Saigon, March-April, £4 c.i.f.

[illegible]EANS.—Butters in steady demand, and market firm, but others remain slow. Butters on spot, good colour, quoted 35s. to 35s. 6d.; parcels afloat steamer "Clan MacNeil," 35s.; per "Belgrano," 33s.; "Bourbonnais," 33s. 6d.; "Ville de Rouen," 33s.; and February-March, 3[illegible] 6d.; March-April, 32s. c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, [illegible]ndon, 10s. 4½d.; March-April, 11s. 6d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, [illegible]ondon, 21s. 6d.; March-April shipment, 20s. 6d. c.i.f. Danubian L.P. spot, London, 22s.; March-April, 21s. 6d. To Glasgow, North African, March-April, 8s. 4½d. c.i.f. Chinese horse, spot, Glasgow, 8s. 6d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—Market much quieter and prices easier. Japanese old crop, spot, London, 14s. 6d.; new, 15s. Parcels per steamer "Altai [illegible]ru" afloat to London, quoted 14s. 3d. "Toyohashi Maru," 14s. 3d.; [illegible]ch-April, 14s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s. 6d.; [illegible]all, hand-picked, blues, 10s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta, April-[illegible]ay, 43s. Karachi, April-May, 42s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples, quiet. [illegible]o. 1 New Zealand, March-April, old, 54s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 56s. 6d. Tasmanian, A grade, new, March-April, 62s. 6d. [illegible].i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper market again dull, and prices in most positions, manifested increased weakness, Lampong spot, also black Singapore quoted 1s.; Tellicherry, 1s. 2d.; Aleppy, 1s. 1d.; white Muntok, 1s. 3¼d. Lampong, March-May, 10¾d.; May-July, sold, 10¼d.; August-October, at 9¾d. Muntok, white, March-May, quoted 1s. 1¾d.; May-July, sold, 1s. 1¾d.; August-October, at 11¾d. London stocks of black increased 31 tons on the week, and white receded 96. Black total, 981, against 1,120 same time last year, and white 878, against 493. Cloves firm. Zanzibar, March-April steamer quoted 11⅞d. Sago flour, April to the United Kingdom, quoted 11s. 4½d. c.i.f. Tapioca unaltered. African ginger dull. Pimento, spot, London, 8½d.; and April-May, 6¾s. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market firm for Greek; Australian in small supply. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.-36s.; Amalias, 37s.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 49s.-58s. Sultanas quiet of sale. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-60s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-48s. Dates dull. Hallowie, spot, 21s.-23s.; Khadrowie, 16s.; Siar, 13s.-14s. Raisins neglected. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 40s.-42s. Figs quiet. Layers, 30s.-40s.; genuine, 26s.-33s.; good average, 23s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—The market maintains a steady tone, with improved inquiries generally. Both peaches and plums were in better request, the latter chiefly for large sizes, but apricots sold rather quietly. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 67s.; 40's-50's, 65s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 55s.; 50's-60's, 51s. Apricots: South African Royal, 57s. 6d.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 55s. 6d.-60s.; fancy, 62s. 6d.-67s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 60s.-67s.; Canadian, 58s. Almonds quiet. Mazagan, 105s.; Mogador, 102s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-125s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s., new crop, c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 136s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s., ex wharf, London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—There is a moderate spot trade passing, but Californian varieties for shipment fail to engage much attention in view of a large prospective new pack, and Australian also move off slowly. English sells steadily, but stocks are in moderate compass. Larger arrivals recently of Hawaiian pines met with quiet attention, but Singapore fruit sold more freely on spot at full rates, but buyers still reluctant to operate forward. Italian tomatoes experienced a quiet movement, despite the attractive prices ruling.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: The demand fails to expand and prices barely steady. Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-25s. 6d.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab dull and prices easy at 90s.-96s. as to quality. Lobsters in quiet demand, but supplies small. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate request, but prices somewhat irregular owing to varied quality. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Market firm but trade restricted, available supplies being somewhat scarce. Lunch tongues, also cooked boned hams move off readily at full rates.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market occasionally easier. Dutch condensed milk: full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 34s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 20s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 39s.; machine skimmed ditto, 23s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent butter fat: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 64s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 82s. 6d. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 9d.; all per cwt. All

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ISSUED & PAID-UP CAPITAL -	£15,858,217
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DEPOSITS, &c. (31st Dec., 1929)	£337,439,214

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	6
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	3
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	10
Oats, " "	5	11
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	29	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 34 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 6	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
H.J. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 2 9	3	9
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 6 0	6	6
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 4	4	8
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6 8	7	4
N.Z. frozen " 4 0	5	0
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 7 0	9	4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	117 0	140 0
Danish.....	109 0	114 0
Canadian.....	110 0	0 0
Dutch	99 0	108 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0 0	0 0
Canadian.....	0 0	0 0
American	92 0	102 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian	116 0	124 0
New Zealand	114 0	142 0
Danish.....	140 0	142 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94 0	100 0
New Zealand	76 0	80 0
English Cheddars	100 0	126 0
Dutch	39 0	79 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	40 0	43 0
Trinidad	58 0	66 0
Grenada	46 0	51 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
B.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125 0	142 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145 0	165 0
Cent. Amer., mild to fine	113 0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115 0	140 0
Colombian, mild to fine...	105 0	120 0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120	11 6	13 6
Danish.....	10 6	12 6
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	12 6	14 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	8 6	12 9
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia		
½ cases 300	9 0	39 0
360	10 0	21 0
504	11 6	17 6
Lemons, Naples... boxes	14 3	21 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	7 0	9 0
" ..... cases	8 0	13 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0 0	0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0 0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	8 6	15 6
" Tasmanian boxes	0 0	0 0
" W. Australian	0 0	0 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	53	6	55	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	4	0	0
Black Lampong	1	0½	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African.....	45	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	3	3	0
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	6	1	9
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.&f. India, April–May	10	1½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	1½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	6	26	0
Crushed.....	24	3	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	7
Broken Pekoe	0	9	2	5½
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	6
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	3	0½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	3
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

TEXTILES.

	d.
COTTON—	
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·80
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	14·25
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	21½

	£	s.	£	s.
FLAX—				
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	57	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	62	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, Apl.–June "J2".	30	5	0	0
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Feb.–Apr.,	34	0	34	10
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
April–May		24	12	6
May–June		24	15	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	18	0	20	10
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	24
N.S.W. greasy, super "	12½
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12
Crossbred 40–44	9½
Tops—	
Merinoe 70's	30
" 64's	27½
Crossbred 48's	15½
" 46's	15

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	3	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83	10	84	0
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard	69/18/9		70	0
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	20	10	0	0
Soft Foreign	*18/13/0*		*18/17/6*	
Spelter G.O.B.	18/7/6		8/18/9	
Tin—English ingots ...	166	5	166	15
Standard cash	165/2/6		165	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3	0	0

	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate ..... per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3

	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	10	27	0

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton April–May	21/12/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea April–May	20/10/0		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	13	0	13	6
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	6½
Best cow	0	4½	0	4½
Best calf	0	9½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	8

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	40	5	0	0
Rape, refined	38	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	27	10	30	10
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	5	10	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.–May.	17/12/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.–May.	18/12/6		0	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	44	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0

Lubricating—	£	£
Pales.....	10/5/0	21/7/6
Reds	11/10/0	20/15/0
Cylinder	14/5/0	38/10/0

Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0

ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	5	20	15

RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0

SHELLAC—	£	s.	£	s.
TN Orange ... per cwt.	120	0	122	6

SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African " "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks " "	0	7	6
Do. Ash " "	0	6	6

English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in: Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller lots, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side, full-cream, sweetened, 18s. 9d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. basis per case; usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull, especially for inferior grades. Jamaica, white, 56s.; good amber to fine pale, 45s.-52s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 42s.-44s.; fine white, Cuban, 49s.; San Domingo, good, 45s.; manufacturing, 38s.; Californian, 55s.; light amber, 50s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Business again conducted quietly and market showed but little change. Standard sheet, spot and April sold, 7 9/16d. to 7¼d.; May, 7 5/8d.-7 11/16d.; June, 7 13/16d. to 7¾d.; July-September, 7¾d. to 7 15/16d.; and October-December, 8⅛d. to 8 3/16d. London stocks on the week increased 829 tons; landings, 2,093 tons; deliveries, 1,264; stocks, 69,233, against 28,077 last year. Liverpool stocks, 11 up; landings, 210; deliveries, 199; stocks, 21,198, against 4,433 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A steady tone prevailed though business was confined to moderate limits. Firsts, March-April, Continent, quoted £24 7s. 6d.; April-May at £24 7s. 6d.; May-June, £24 10s.; new crop, August-September, £26; September-October, £25 17s. 6d. *Lightnings*, May-June, quoted £23 7s. 6d.; Hearts, £21 10s.

HEMP.—Manila sparingly offered and firm with a fair demand. J2, April-June, quoted £30 5s.; K, January-March, sold, £30; ditto, April-June, £29 15s.; L1, April-June, buyers, £29; L2, quoted £26; M1, February-April, sold, £26 10s.; M2 quoted £24 10s. Sisal steady, unaltered. Receipts last week cabled 29,000 bales, against 33,000 last year and 36,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 36,000, and week after 34,000. Manila shipments last week: 15,000, U.K.; 9,000, Continent; 11,000, U.S.A.; 4,000, Japan; and 1,000 other countries. Stock now 171,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Rather unsettled. T.N., spot, 122s. 6d.; May, sold 113s. to 115s.; August, 117s. to 118s.; October, 121s.

COPRA.—A steadier market, as buyers were more prominent. Straits S.D., April-May, Rotterdam, quoted, £21 12s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies, ditto, £21 12s. 6d.; Ceylon, held for £23; sundries *South Sea, £20 15s. To Marseilles: mixed Dutch East Indies* sold £20 12s. 6d.; smoked, South Sea, quoted, £20 10s.; Manila in bulk, buyers, £20 5s.

PALM KERNELS afloat to Hamburg, quoted, £15; April-May, £15 2s. 6d.; May-June, £15 5s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 19s. to 25s. per 1,000. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon bristle, £19 to £25; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment March-April, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 5d.; Java, 2s. 4½d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 2.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls		...		...
Irish		...		...	Canadian	9	0	10	...
Cambridge.....		...		...	Sheep—Downs		...		...
Short Horns	6	2	6	6	Half bred	5	8	6	0
Herefords		...		...	Ewes		...		...
Devons		...		...	Scottish	12	0	13	0
Leicester runts		...		...	Lamb—Downs				

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 2.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	2	9	3	9
" " " whites.....	2	3	2	9
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	...	
" " " whites.....	2	0	2	6
Arran Chief.....	2	6	2	6

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

OWING TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS "THE ECONOMIST" WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 17th, INSTEAD OF FRIDAY, THE 18th.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

CHANGEABLE conditions have prevailed during the past week. Over the week-end three months' bills were quoted as high as 2 9/16 per cent., the rise in the rate being partly due to the cessation of French buying. Since Monday,

THE BACKGROUND OF THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

WHILE the convulsions of the Five-Power Naval Conference have been going on in full publicity, we have had no report of progress from the Anglo-Egyptian Conference, which has been in simultaneous session in the same city of Westminster. In this case, we may perhaps take it that no news is good news, and when in due course (and there is no hurry) an announcement is made, we may hope to hear that the representatives of the British and Egyptian Governments have agreed upon at least the main lines of a settlement of those issues which still divide the two peoples.

This is actually the fourth attempt at a settlement since the end of the Great War. The first attempt was made in the Milner-Zaghlul conversations of 1920, which came nearer towards success than any subsequent attempt before Nahas Pasha's arrival the other day. The second attempt was made in the MacDonald-Zaghlul conversations of 1924, which broke down at the outset after revealing with disconcerting clarity how far apart the two standpoints were at that time. The third attempt was made in the Chamberlain-Sarwat conversations of 1927—a sustained and praiseworthy effort which failed in the end because Sir Austen Chamberlain could not carry his colleagues in the Conservative Cabinet of the day further than a point which Sarwat Pasha, on his side, was only able to reach by going beyond the limits within which the Wafd was willing to support him. These are the failures which the Henderson-Nahas negotiations have now to retrieve. Let us briefly remind ourselves of the Anglo-Egyptian situation as the present negotiators found it when they held their first meeting the other day.

Juridically, Egypt has been a sovereign independent state since the coming into force of the Peace Treaty of Lausanne between Turkey and the Allied Powers in 1924. Before that, right back to the year 1517, Egypt had been always formally a province of the Ottoman Empire, though since 1841 the governorship of this province had been hereditary in the House of Muhammed 'Ali, in virtue of an Imperial *firman* which had the sanction of the Concert of Europe behind it and was therefore practically an international charter. In fact, since 1882, Egypt has been under British military occupation and the Egyptian Government under the control of the British Government—a control exercised by a Resident responsible to the Foreign Office. Throughout the whole of this period, the position of Great Britain in Egypt has been irregular. It was never sanctioned by the Ottoman Government; and in the autumn of 1914, when we found ourselves at war with Turkey, we made shift by declaring a British Protectorate over Egypt—avowedly as an emergency measure. This unilateral act of the British Government was undone by another unilateral act on February 28, 1922, when, in anticipation of a surrender of sovereignty by Turkey, we recognised Egypt forthwith as an independent sovereign State. But this recognition was made subject to four reservations which held it in suspense in regard to a great many things which would otherwise have come within the sole discretion of a sovereign independent Egyptian Government.

The four matters which were reserved by the British Government in 1922 for bilateral settlement " by free discussion and friendly accommodation on both sides " at some future date were the security of the communications of the British Empire in Egypt; the defence of Egypt against all foreign aggression or interference, direct or indirect; the protection of foreign interests in Egypt and the protection of minorities; and, finally, the Sudan. Simultaneously, the British Government informed the other sovereign independent Governments of the world that they would not allow the " special relations " between Great Britain and Egypt " to be questioned or discussed by any other Power," and that they would " regard as an unfriendly act any interference by another Power in the affairs of Egypt." There has never been any doubt that this notification would be respected so long as the situation created by the Declaration of February 28, 1922, continued. But this does not alter the fact that this situation rests on an arbitrary unilateral act of the British Government for which the ultimate sanction is British naval and military force. In both Great Britain and Egypt, it has long been recognised as a truism that both countries have a common interest in replacing this irregular situation by a treaty relation resting on a diplomatic instrument freely negotiated between constitutional Governments in both countries. The stumbling block has been, not a difference of aim, but disagreement in regard to the terms on which that common aim is to be attained.

It is evident that the four points reserved by the British Government in 1922 differ greatly from one another both in importance and in degree of difficulty. The second point can be disposed of by a military and naval convention (within the framework of the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact) which would be equally honourable and advantageous to both parties. As for the third point, the Coptic minority in Egypt really needs no protection, since it is an entirely Egyptian community and is not an " unredeemed population " of a foreign nationality. As a matter of fact, Copts have taken a prominent and a combative part in the activities of the Wafd. Nor, again, should the protection of foreign interests in Egypt prove more difficult than it has proved in other non-Western countries such as Turkey, Persia, Siam and Japan, where the institution of extraterritoriality has once existed and has subsequently been abolished. The difficult points are British Empire communications and the Sudan.

It was these two points that arose at the outset of the MacDonald-Zaghlul conversations in 1924 and caused those conversations to break down. At an early stage of the Chamberlain-Sarwat conversations of 1927 the question of the Sudan was postponed for future consideration by common consent; and these conversations broke down over the questions of how long, and within what geographical limits, a British military force was to remain on Egyptian soil, and by what authority, under what conditions, and at what dates the position in regard to this was to be reviewed for continuation or modification as the case might be. The great achievement of Mr Henderson and Muhammed Pasha Mahmud last year was that they found a provisional agreed solution for this crux; and it is to be hoped that their provisional agreement on this point will be accepted by Nahas Pasha and by the Egyptian party which he represents. There remains the problem of the Sudan. Without an agreed settlement of this, no Anglo-Egyptian understanding can be complete. We therefore presume that it is under negotiation now and that it is the most difficult business which the present negotiators have to tackle.

In this matter of the Sudan, theory and fact have to be distinguished. In theory, the Sudan was an Ottoman province, the governorship of which was made hereditary in the House of Muhammed 'Ali by a *firman* simultaneous with, but separate from, that which conferred upon them the hereditary governorship of Egypt. Again, in the Sudan, as in Egypt, Ottoman sovereignty was not extinguished in theory until the coming into force of the Treaty of Lausanne. In fact, the Sudan was conquered by Muhammed 'Ali in 1820 on his own initiative and with his own forces, lost by his successors to the Mahdi in 1881-5, and reconquered jointly by British and Egyptian forces under British leadership in 1896-8. The *de facto* situation thus created was reflected in an Anglo-Egyptian agreement of 1899, to which the Ottoman Government was not a party, and by which the Sudan was placed under an Anglo-Egyptian condominium. Now that Turkey has dropped out, the Agreement of 1899 represents the *de jure* as well as the *de facto* " *status quo* " as far as the British and Egyptian Governments are concerned. Meanwhile, the actual situation established in 1899 has undergone two changes. On the one hand, the whole problem of the regulation and allocation of the Nile Waters has been settled in detail, and to the satisfaction of all parties, by an Anglo-Egyptian Convention which was freely negotiated in 1926. On the other hand, since the assassination of Sir Lee Stack at Cairo, in November, 1924, and the outbreaks of Egyptian and Sudanese troops in the Sudan in the August and December of the same year, all Egyptian troops and officials have been evacuated from the Sudan and the Sudanese units formerly belonging to the Egyptian Army have been reorganised as a Sudan Defence Force. Juridically, this has not affected the condominium. In practice, it has left the exercise of the condominium entirely in the hands of one of the two partners. It is at this point that we may expect Mr Henderson and Nahas Pasha to find the greatest difficulty in their attempt to seek a comprehensive and final settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations.

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THE B.I.S. AND PRICES.

ADDRESSING the Institute of Bankers on April 3rd, Sir Charles Addis, one of the originators of the scheme for the establishment of B.I.S., gave a brief account of the history, constitution and functions of this new institution. His address was of very special interest as revealing the point of view of one of those who have been appointed to carry out the scheme in the capacity of director. In a short reference to reparations, Sir Charles revealed the fact that in 1918 he suggested that Germany might be able to pay and transfer annuities equivalent to an indemnity of £1,200 millions. After twelve years, the Young Plan brings the total from the fantastic £24,000 million of the Hughes Committee to a series of annuities representing a present value of £1,700 millions — still £500 million above Sir Charles' figure. Whether Sir Charles thinks that the payments are yet low enough, he does not say, but Mr Young and Mr Lamont, both of whom have been ventilating their views on the Plan with which they were both so intimately connected, seem satisfied.

Sir Charles is at pains to reassure those who regret that the Bank was not established in London. After explaining the reasons for the choice of Basle, he adds that he thinks too much importance has been attached to the question of site. " The operations of the bank will, in fact, be attracted to the cheapest and most convenient market, quite irrespective of where its registered offices may be, and, fortified by their belief that London is still the cheapest and most efficient international money market in the world, the British delegates accepted their defeat with a tranquil mind, and readily assented to a compromise by which their second choice, Basle, Switzerland, was finally selected as the seat of the new bank. Provision is made for opening agencies in other countries, provided the Central Bank concerned does not object." In reply to those who think that the banking prohibitions are so stringent as to immobilise the bank altogether, he points out that these limitations are primarily to ensure that the bank shall operate through other central banks. At the same time, the B.I.S. is not a super central bank in the ordinary sense. It will issue no notes; it will be the custodian of no particular currency; it will not lend to governments or keep government accounts in general. In fact, "there has never been anything like it in the world before." While reparation is the occasion for its creation, " its chief function is to act as a centre of co-operation for central banks."

Sir Charles proceeds to ask himself what form this co-operation will take and what the results will be. In this connection he refers to " the menace of falling prices," and while he does not assert that the monetary factor is always dominant in this matter, or that there are no other causes at work that may render banks powerless to affect prices, he does consider that monetary policy is always an influence, and, whether we like it or not, cannot be dissociated from prices. " Consciously or unconsciously, money is always being managed, and to say that you cannot do much to control it is no excuse for doing nothing at all." The B.I.S., in Sir Charles' opinion, " cannot by itself create credit, but it can do so through central banks." The objection that this may mean inflation leaves Sir Charles cold, for " after the powerful dose of deflation from which we are still suffering," a rise of prices resulting from such a very minor dose of inflation as the highly conservative board of the B.I.S. are likely to administer need cause no alarm. The power of central banks in co-operation has never yet been put to the test, and the general tone of Sir Charles' speech shows that he, at all events, does not expect the B.I.S. to embark on any wild or revolutionary courses. But the problem of the monetary policy as he sees it " is how to adjust the supply of monetary gold to the market in such a way as to maintain the value of gold at an approximately stable level."

It is, however, evident that we are clearly a long way from any cut-and-dried solution. Even if the B.I.S. secures agreement as to policy and the central banks prove that they are able to influence prices, the fact remains that we are not yet agreed on the objective. There are very few to-day who would deny that it would be desirable to check what Sir Charles calls the menace of falling prices, but writing in a recent number of Lloyds Bank *Review*, Professor Cassel declares that this means in practice that central banks should attempt to stabilise wholesale prices. In the current number of the same *Review*, Professor Gregory questions this conclusion. In view of the disparity of various index numbers for the same country, he doubts whether statistical technique is sufficient to give a sure guide, even for this limited objective. He recalls the suggestion that possibly the right policy is to attempt to stabilise wage levels, and points out that it may be desirable that prices should fall with increased production to avoid the harm done to individuals with fixed incomes. He refers to the fact that among the main difficulties of the day are the divergence between the prices of raw materials on the one hand, and finished goods on the other, and the disharmony between wages, or wage costs, and prices.

We would point out, however, to Professor Gregory that these disharmonies, at all events in the form in which we know them to-day, arise largely from abrupt

changes in world trade resulting from the war, from violent movements of the price-level, and from the chaotic movements in recent years of various national currencies which have arrived at stability at all sorts of levels. In spite of practical difficulties, therefore, we agree with Sir Charles Addis that the world would be very much better off even if the central banks of the world merely agreed negatively that instability of price levels is highly detrimental and that monetary policy should at least avoid action tending to precipitate violent changes. We believe that we are not far from at least this measure of agreement, and that, therefore, the B.I.S., with its increased opportunity of co-operation, will be capable of immediate good. As to the more remote possibilities, such as doing away with the transfer of gold, abolishing gold points and the evolution of an international monetary unit of account, we are prepared, with Sir Charles, to wait and see.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

In considering the following results of our usual quarterly analysis of British industrial profits, it is important to bear in mind that the majority of the 516 company reports forwarded to us during the past three months relate to financial years ending between September 30th and December 31, 1929, with the later date predominating. That is to say, the working periods escaped entirely, or almost entirely, the existing trade recession, whose effects did not begin to be felt until towards the close of the fourth quarter of last year. Having regard to the favourable course of indices of British production during 1929, it is not surprising to find that the aggregate net profits of the companies covered by our present analysis show, at £62,021,337, an increase of £1,132,840, or 1.9 per cent., as compared with the earnings of the same concerns in their previous financial year. The following table summarises the results of our last four quarterly surveys:—

NET PROFIT (AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in 1928.	Reports Published in 1929.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−).	
		£	£	£	%
First quarter	454	58,965,712	59,869,638	+ 903,926	+1·5
Second quarter	639	78,662,794	78,079,238	− 583,556	−0·7
Third quarter	257	24,039,327	23,327,747	− 711,580	−3·0
Fourth quarter	420	32,948,898	33,404,593	+ 455,695	+1·4
	1,770	194,616,731	194,681,216	+ 64,485	+0·0
		1929.	1930.		
First quarter	516	60,888,497	62,021,337	+1,132,840	+1·9

The rate of increase recorded for the past quarter is not appreciably different from that disclosed a year ago; and it is of interest (particularly with reference to forthcoming Budgetary calculations of the prospective yield of direct taxation) to examine the quarterly fluctuations in net earnings over a period of years, as shown by the next table:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
First quarter	+ 8·7	+ 9·1	+ 7·6	− 4·0	+15·2	+ 1·5	+ 1·9
Second quarter	+ 3·0	+11·1	+ 8·3	− 5·7	+ 1·3	− 0·7	...
Third quarter	+ 2·3	+ 4·8	+ 2·8	+ 2·4	+ 9·7	− 3·0	...
Fourth quarter	+13·3	+ 6·4	+ 3·8	+ 0·3	+ 3·1	+ 1·4	...
Year	+ 6·6	+ 8·7	+ 6·3	− 3·0	+ 7·2	+ 0·0	...

Disregarding the results of our surveys in the first quarters of 1927 and 1928, when decline and recovery were a legacy of the special industrial troubles of 1926, it will be seen that the upward curve in the January-March period of the past two years has been strikingly "flattened," in comparison with the pronounced rising tendency of 1924-26. Moreover, the next table, which analyses last quarter's net earnings in different industrial groups, reveals a considerable irregularity of trend:—

NET PROFITS (AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &c.).

	No. of Companies.	Reports published in Quarter ended March 31. 1929.	1930.	Increase.		Decrease.	
		£	£	£	%	£	%
Breweries	19	1,865,960	1,962,237	96,277	5·2	...	...
Elec. lighting & power	26	4,409,105	4,807,433	398,328	9·0	...	...
Gas	42	3,524,226	3,472,565	...	...	51,661	1·5
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	8	357,432	327,295	...	...	30,137	8·4
Iron, coal and steel	28	1,529,591	3,008,723	1,479,132	96·7	...	...
Land mortgage, &c.	19	1,156,379	957,080	...	...	199,299	17·2
Motor and cycle	9	1,264,350	1,515,193	250,843	19·8	...	...
Rubber, &c.	36	449,514	569,329	119,815	26·7	...	...
Shipping	10	437,417	350,423	...	...	86,994	19·9
Shops and stores	34	5,689,705	6,053,700	363,995	6·4	...	...
Tea	1	57,589	59,791	2,202	3·8	...	...
Textiles	28	8,017,537	5,663,053	...	...	2,354,474	29·4
Tramways	9	421,076	614,243	193,167	45·9	...	...
Trust	60	4,423,726	4,946,912	523,186	11·8	...	...
Waterworks	19	789,328	793,813	4,485	0·6	...	...
Miscellaneous	168	26,495,562	26,919,537	423,975	1·6	...	...
Total	516	60,888,497	62,021,337	1,132,840	1·9	...	...

The most noteworthy increase shown is that of the iron, coal and steel group. It should be pointed out, however, that the nearly doubled net profits earned by the 28 companies in this category are a reflection, not of a general improvement in heavy industry, but of the recovery made by a limited number of colliery concerns after the extremely adverse showing of the previous year. Thus, of the £1,479,132 increase in this group, over £1¼ million is accounted for by changes in the net earnings of the Bolsover, Powell Duffryn, Fife Coal and Amalgamated Anthracite Companies. Among the other increases disclosed, that in the motor and cycle group is due mainly to the results of Austin and Leyland Motors; the higher earnings in the tramway section reflect mainly the growth of motor-coach business; and the comparatively small increase in the large miscellaneous group is the net result of many minor fluctuations up and down, prominent increases being shown by tobacco and cement. Trust companies, it will be seen, recorded a satisfactory improvement; there was a sharp recovery in rubber profits; and net earnings of electric lighting and power concerns continued to grow. On the other side of the account, the large decline in the earnings of the textile group represents chiefly the diminution in the profits of Courtaulds, Ltd., although the net earnings of Bradford Dyers and several other undertakings were also lower. The drop in the profits of the land mortgage group was largely due to less favourable results obtained in Australia.

In the next table we set out the distribution of profits during each of the past five quarters:—

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
1929.	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
First quarter	59,869,638	36,336,626	60·7	10,896,063	18·2	12,636,949	21·1
Second quarter	78,079,238	47,216,888	60·4	18,006,913	23·1	12,855,437	16·5
Third quarter	23,327,747	14,368,539	61·6	4,159,124	17·8	4,800,084	20·6
Fourth quarter	33,404,593	22,054,466	66·0	5,356,375	16·0	5,993,752	18·0
	194,681,216	119,976,519	61·2	38,418,475	19·8	36,286,222	19·0
1930.							
First quarter	62,021,337	38,408,282	61·9	12,233,520	19·7	11,379,535	18·4

The last column includes not only specific allocations to reserve, but also the net increase in balances carried forward. As compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, the tendency to leave a smaller proportion of net earnings "in the business" is somewhat marked.

The apportionment of profits by the individual groups is set forth below:—

	Net Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.		Preference Dividend.		To Reserve, &c.	
	£	£	%	£	%	£	%
Breweries	1,962,237	1,062,019	54·1	337,165	17·2	563,053	28·7
Electric lighting and power	4,807,433	1,912,474	39·8	942,391	19·6	1,952,568	40·6
Gas	3,472,565	2,970,219	85·5	350 966	10·1	151,380	4·4
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	327,295	142,135	43·5	34,892	10·7	150,268	45·8
Iron, coal and steel	3,008,723	1,230,033	40·9	825,116	27·4	953,574	31·7
Land mortgage, &c.	957,080	655,826	68·5	134,869	14·1	166,385	17·4
Motor and cycle	1,515,193	318,403	21·0	828,605	54·7	368,185	24·3
Rubber	569,329	402,328	70·6	2,168	0·4	164,833	29·0
Shipping	350,423	187,333	53·5	18,975	5·4	144,115	41·1
Shops and stores	6,053,700	3,428,825	56·6	1,564,098	25·9	1,060,777	17·5
Tea	59,791	45,044	75·3	3,784	6·3	10,963	18·4
Textiles	5,663,063	3,915,235	69·1	1,014,701	17·9	733,127	13·0
Tramways	614,243	342,250	55·7	96,600	15·7	175,393	28·6
Trusts	4,946,912	2,641,956	53·4	1,522,348	30·8	782,608	15·8
Waterworks	793,813	483,626	60·9	252,089	31·8	58,098	7·3
Miscellaneous	26,919,537	18,670,576	69·4	4,304,753	16·0	3,944,208	14·6
	62,021,337	38,408,282	61·9	12,233,520	19·7	11,379,535	18·4

As compared with a year ago, when only 14 per cent. of net profits was placed to reserve, the present showing of the iron, coal and steel group is very satisfactory. In contrast to this, the "reserved" proportion of the land mortgage companies has fallen from 35.7 to 17.4 per cent., and that of the motor and cycle group from 61.2 to 24.3 per cent. The figure of 14.6 per cent. "reserved" by the miscellaneous group, compares with 18.5 per cent. a year ago.

Turning to earnings on capital, we show in the next table the ratio of net profits and of amounts reserved to total share capital in each of the past five quarters:—

	Total Ord. and Pref. Capital.	Net Profits.		Carried to Reserve, &c.	
1929.	£	£	%	£	%
First quarter	537,360,324	59,869,638	11·1	12,636,949	2·3
Second quarter	793,972,918	78,079,238	9·9	12,855,437	1·7
Third quarter	209,191,686	23,327,747	11·2	4,800,084	2·3
Fourth quarter	323,129,955	33,404,593	10·3	5,993,752	1·9
	1,853,654,883	194,681,216	10·5	36,286,222	1·9
1930.					
First quarter	595,281,227	62,021,337	10·4	11,412,186	1·9

The ratio of net earnings to capital last quarter compares with an average of 11.6 per cent. two years ago, when the reserved proportion was 2.7 per cent. The average rates of interest and dividend paid on the nominal value of debenture, preference and ordinary capital in each quarter of the last four years are summarised below:—

AVERAGE RATES PAID.

	On Debenture Capital.				On Preference Capital.				On Ordinary Capital			
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1927	1928.	1929.	1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1st quarter	4·80	4·78	4·89	4·89	5·1	5·3	5·4	5·8	10·4	11·3	10·9	10·0
2nd ,,	5·30	5·43	5·10	...	5·9	6·0	5·9	...	11·8	10·0	9·8	...
3rd ,,	4·98	4·90	4·88	...	5·2	5·4	6·0	...	10·2	10·7	10·3	...
4th ,,	5·19	5·04	5·29	...	4·9	4·9	4·7	...	10·1	10·3	10·6	...
Year	5·08	5·02	5·15	...	5·3	5·4	5·5	...	10·8	10·6	10·5	...

The average rate of ordinary dividend is continuing to decline. Changes, as compared with a year ago, are shown in detail in the concluding table. The increase in the average rate of preference dividend in the motor and cycle group was due to the payment of large arrears on the cumulative preference shares of Austin Motors:—

	Debenture Capital.	Rate of Int.	Preference Capital.	Rate of Int.	Ordinary Capital.	Rate of Div.	Rate of Div. a Year Ago.
	£	%	£	%	£	%	%
Breweries	8,467,137	4·5	6,796,243	5·0	8,095,162	13·1	15·7
Elec. lighting & power	27,510,825	5·4	16,445,652	5·7	27,401,508	7·0	7·0
Gas	22,301,514	4·3	7,649,778	4·6	50,558,022	5·9	5·6
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	1,934,600	5·1	2,145,554	1·6	1,638,060	8·7	10·0
Iron, coal and steel	13,532,993	6·0	17,779,241	4·6	35,557,486	3·5	4·1
Land, mortgage, &c.	3,912,966	4·6	2,630.791	5·1	6,550,056	10·0	10·3
Motor and cycle	1,410,602	6·4	3,732,208	22·2	3,415,312	9·3	4·5
Rubber, &c.	74,068	6·8	33,349	6·5	6,949,479	5·8	5·2
Shipping	3,250,000	5·0	2,375,000	0·8	5,882,703	3·2	5·3
Shops and stores	8,710,881	4·8	20,441,514	7·7	23,087,838	14·8	16·8
Tea	Nil	...	63,065	6·0	180,176	25·0	34·1
Textiles	3,417,655	4·9	19,978,700	5·1	44,470,155	8·8	12·0
Tramways	2,342,815	5·6	3,315,476	2·9	5,953 263	5·7	5·0
Trust	41,680,350	4·5	35,527,314	4·3	29,569,709	8·9	9·6
Waterworks	4,066,338	4·6	5,384,467	4·7	6,887,669	7·0	6·5
Miscellaneous	23,630,986	5·0	67,340,411	6·4	127,445,866	14·6	15·0
Total	166,243,730	4·9	211,638.763	5·8	383,642,464	10·0	10·9

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The average rate of ordinary dividend in the large miscellaneous group, though lower than a year ago, is still higher than in the first quarter of 1928, when a figure of 14.2 per cent., as compared with 15 per cent. in 1929, was disclosed. Viewing as a whole the results of our quarterly survey, we are inclined to doubt whether Mr Snowden would be justified in budgeting for a yield from existing direct taxes on this source of income any higher for 1930-31 than for the previous financial year. It is to be feared, moreover, that the company reports issued during the remaining quarters of 1930 will reflect emphatically the repercussions of the recent slump in wholesale prices and the general trade setback indicated by recent returns of unemployment and of overseas trade.

THE INDIAN BANKING INQUIRY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

The first stage of the banking inquiry instituted by the Government of India is drawing to a close. In 1928, when the Legislative Assembly rejected the Bill for the creation of a Reserve Bank, which had been recommended by the Hilton Young Commission, it was evident that an interval must be allowed before further action. The Reserve Bank Bill, discussed while feelings were excited by the appointment of the Simon Commission, had not been considered entirely on its merits; and since the Government was willing only to promote a "sound" (*i.e.*, non-political) bank, and only when the public were ready to support it, the proposal for an inquiry into banking was accepted in the hope that it would guide and formulate public opinion.

India has insistently demanded the improvement of banking facilities, especially in respect of agricultural credit, and is also, on the whole, in favour of a central institution. These are the two leading questions with which the present inquiry has to deal. With a view to collecting evidence as to rural credits, the provincial committees, which are to report to a central committee, have conducted a series of village investigations through a more or less specialised staff. Burma, which is already in possession of figures of rural debt, collected for another purpose, has appointed two graduates in economics, each to study one village; Bengal, on the other hand, contemplates disposing of 100 villages in two months through a variety of official and unofficial helpers, who will examine methods of finance, obtain figures of indebtedness, and draw up family budgets. The material collected is likely to differ widely in accuracy and relevance.

The reports of these investigators, and the replies to the questionnaire issued to bankers and other individuals, are now being received. They indicate that this problem

of agricultural finance, and in particular the necessity of bringing the indigenous rural banker (the village grain-dealer, moneylender, or *sahukar*) into closer connection with the joint-stock banks and the Imperial Bank of India, is the principal preoccupation of those who are interested in the banking question. The indigenous bankers, who numbered 341,000 at the census of 1921, include a minority of highly intelligent Marwaris or other *shroffs*, working in the larger towns, who have nothing to learn in banking, and deal freely in bills (*hundis*) of the native type. The majority, on the other hand, consists of rural *sahukars* who, though shrewd, are primitive in their methods, and prefer the use of cash and notes to cheques and bills. They are the most widespread agency for marketing the crops and financing the farmer; co-operative credit societies, though gaining ground, supply only a fraction of the total money required. Drawing their funds on open credits from an urban *shroff* the rural dealers are reluctant to write trade bills which their financing houses can discount with a bank. The result is an annual scarcity of currency at the time of moving the crops, which raises both the Imperial Bank rate and the bazaar or *hundi* rate to an excessively high figure and hampers trade.

The suggestions offered by those who recognise this evil are directed towards an increase in the number of joint-stock banks in the countryside or towards persuading the indigenous banker to change his methods. Apart from the 160 branches of the Imperial Bank, and from the 18 Exchange Banks in the larger centres, there were in 1927 only 77 Indian banks, with balance sheets amounting to £60,000,000 in all, for a population of 330,000,000, and three-quarters of the Indian towns with a population of 10,000 upwards have no bank whatever. The existing joint-stock banks, however, show no inclination to open rural branches. They lack that intimate knowledge of the farmers, which the *sahukar* and the co-operative credit society possess, and such ventures as they have made in rural banking have not always been fortunate. The local *sahukar* himself is not likely to organise a bank which will compete with his activities, or to surrender his own independence by accepting employment under such an institution.

The indigenous banker must, therefore, be retained, and be induced to economise currency by using bills instead of cash. It will be instructive to see what schemes for securing this end are laid before the committees. Those who advocate the policy have hitherto failed to devise an effective means of carrying it out. One of the objects of the Reserve Bank was to create a bill market, and the Bank was to re-discount trade bills endorsed by the major banks. Whether such a market would come into being, is a matter for speculation. The establishment of the Federal Reserve system in America brought about in two years a rapid growth of bills, but the Reserve Bank created in South Africa in 1920 was not equally successful, and it is by no means certain that the Indian *sahukar* will welcome the idea. The rise in the Bank rate after the harvest does not cause him serious inconvenience; he passes on his burden to the producer. Nor has he anything to gain by raising local deposits. He is criticised for not encouraging the saving habit in this way, but the increase in his business is seasonal, and deposits for a term extending beyond that of the temporary shortage will cause him embarrassment. It is true that the exemption of trade bills from stamp duty, as recommended by the Currency Commission, may render them slightly more popular, but the *sahukar* is conservative, and only time and education will effect an appreciable change in him.

Indian opinion further presses for the creation of institutions of long-term credit, in the form of industrial banks and land mortgage banks. Industrial banks fall within the sphere of the central committee, which is now receiving replies to its own questionnaire, and will consider them, with the reports of the provincial committees, during the coming summer. Those who pin their faith to industrial banks tend to forget that of 100 Indian banks, which failed during the six years from 1922 to 1927, a large percentage were brought down by investment in industrial enterprises. Industry requires long-term credits, and must be financed by the issue of debentures, a form of security with which the Indian market is unfamiliar. What many advocates of industrial banks appear really to intend is that they shall be financed by the State.

Enthusiasm for mortgage banks is general in India. They are looked upon by insolvent debtors as a way of escape from their misfortunes, and by political theorists as a sign of a progressive nation. Hitherto they have been organised only on a co-operative basis, which under the Indian law provides a measure of cautious control. The central committee will no doubt be urged to frame a comprehensive scheme for State mortgages, but will be imprudent if they pursue such a will-o'-the-wisp. The Burmese organisation of this type, projected four years ago, appears to have been been dropped after careful examination. The central committee is to be assisted by expert financiers of international standing, who will convince the members of the economic and political dangers of imposing a State mortgage debt on the land of unbusinesslike peasants.

ITALY AND THE NEAR EAST.

(BY OUR STAMBOUL CORRESPONDENT.)

DESPITE the perturbation created on the local and Continental stock exchanges and money markets by the threatened default of the Turkish Treasury over the service of the Unified Debt, and notwithstanding the breakdown of the negotiations between the Turkish Ministry of Finance and the Ottoman Bank over the latter's participation in the share capital of the projected State Bank, the Turkish Government have carried to a successful issue the transactions initiated some month or two ago with an Italian group of capitalists with a view to providing financial accommodation for the Turkish Treasury. The semi-official Press of Angora was able to announce early in March that, thanks to this agreement, the Treasury would be placed in funds to the extent of one million sterling, and that this sum *might* eventually be increased to five millions. Since then, however, the papers have made no further allusions to the matter—either as a result of a *mot d'ordre*, or simply by reason of the abundance of copy dealing with other aspects of present-day Turkish financial and fiscal activities.

There are good grounds, however, for hazarding the conjecture that the agreement which has just been concluded is the outcome of the visit paid some three months ago to the Turkish Capital by Count Volpi, the Italian ex-Minister of Finance, who is now at the head of a powerful syndicate of Italian bankers and industrialists. Although the ostensible reason for inviting Count Volpi to visit Angora as the guest of the Turkish Government was commonly reported to be the desire of the Treasury officials to consult the Italian ex-Minister on the practicability of imparting stability to the Turkish currency, it was generally surmised in local financial and diplomatic circles that there lay behind the invitation a great deal more than appeared on the surface; and this view is borne out by the evidence which is accumulating from day to day as to the nature of the *quid pro quo* obtained from the Turkish Government by the Italian syndicate.

The financial part of the agreement does not turn on a loan or an advance properly so called, nor is there much probability, despite the forecast of the Turkish Press, that the original figure of one million sterling will be increased eventually to five millions. The form which the accommodation is to take would appear to be the opening in favour of the Turkish Government of a million pound sterling credit, probably in London, which could be utilised by the Turkish Treasury in the event of any sudden and unforeseen break in the value of the Turkish lira, until, with the anticipated seasonal resumption of the export trade next autumn, the danger of a sensational fall in the value of the national currency be definitely averted. In return for this friendly and timely intervention, the Italian syndicate has obtained a concession for the construction of the port of Mersina on the Caramanian coast, and for the intensive development of the cotton-growing industry throughout the rich alluvial Cilician plain, of which Mersina is the natural outlet.

The concessionary rights thus acquired are of particular interest when examined in the light of past history. Before the war the interests of foreign Powers in the Cilician Plain were preponderantly German. Practically the whole of the cotton-growing and ginning industry was in the hands of the "Deutsch-Türkische Baumwollgesellschaft," while the main arterial railway, a section of the "Bagdad-bahn," was controlled by an international group in which the German element predominated and at the head of which was the Deutsches Bank. By the terms of a tri-partite agreement entered into between Great Britain, France and Italy after the Great War, as a preliminary to the projected but abortive Treaty which was to put an end to hostilities with Turkey, a sphere of influence was marked out for Italy in the region of Adalia, whereas the Cilician Plain was apportioned to France, Great Britain herself making no claim to any particular area within the Anatolian confines of the territories of the old Ottoman Empire. That the French continued to take an interest, even if only a sentimental interest, in the development of Cilicia, may be inferred from the fact that, up to the signature of the Franco-Turkish Political and Commercial Agreement a few months ago, a French group continued to administer and exploit the Mersina-Tarsous-Adana Railway, which crosses the Cilician Plain and which was at one time a purely British concern. On the signature of the recent Agreement, the administration of this line was relinquished by the French in favour of the Turkish State Railways, by which Department it is now exploited.

Italy now comes nearer the forefront of the stage. Although the Italian syndicate will not be concerned with railway construction or exploitation, the execution of the harbour works at Mersina and the development of cotton growing in the Adana Vilayet will be entrusted to Italian engineers, artisans and agricultural specialists who will employ Italian labour. It has been stated, moreover, as having special significance in view of the Italian Government's declared policy of finding suitable outlets for Italy's redundant population, that one clause of the agreement between the Turkish Government and the Italian syndicate provides that, should any of the artisans and labourers eventually elect to settle in Turkey, they may do so on condition that they adopt Turkish nationality. It is, as yet, impossible to obtain any corroboration of this statement, but there does not appear to be anything inherently improbable in the proviso.

The negotiations with the Turkish authorities, since Count Volpi's departure for Italy, have been carried through by the Constantinople managers of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, assisted by delegates from the Head Office of that establishment in Italy. This bank, which has so far restricted its activities in Turkey solely to the Constantinople market, is credited with the intention of opening branches in Adana and Mersina. The latter port already enjoys the regular service of an excellent line of Italian steamers—the Lloyd Triestino—which places the whole of South-Eastern Anatolia in touch with Syria, Egypt and the Continent of Europe.

Notes of the Week.

The Naval Conference.—Our considered comments on the statement made by the Prime Minister late on Thursday, epitomising the results of the Naval Conference, must be reserved till next week. For the time being, at least, it is clear that a Three-Power Treaty is the maximum which can be attained, so far as the main purpose of the Conference is concerned. Before Mr MacDonald's announcement the only tangible achievement of the week was the publication of the "agreement" of the First Committee of the Conference on the submarine question. The Committee has decided to report that no agreement can be reached on the proposal to abolish submarines; that 2,000 tons should be fixed as the limit of the unit size of submarine, and 5-inch guns as the maximum armament, with the qualification that any Power shall have the right to build not more than three 2,800-ton submarines armed with 6-inch guns; and that "in their action with regard to merchant ships submarines must conform to the rules of international law to which surface vessels are subject." The last proviso, which represents no more than a reassertion of what was regarded as international custom sixteen years ago, is an achievement scarcely calculated to inspire enthusiasm in those who desired to "humanise" submarine warfare. As for the limitations of unit size and armament, all one can say is that if the precedent of the 10,000-ton cruiser limit is to be followed, and if the Powers are going to build uniformly up to the proposed maximum (which far exceeds the tonnage and gun power of all but a few existing submarines), the agreement is likely to be of the greatest possible disservice to the world.

Slum Clearance.—The debate on the Second Reading of the Housing (No. 2) Bill revealed a high degree of zeal in all parts of the House for the promotion of slum clearance, and members vied with each other in the citation of instances illustrative of the urgency of the need. The principal lines of criticism were three: that the raising of the subsidy to local authorities would defeat its ends by raising building costs; that injustice would be done to owners of good property in clearance areas, who would be placed on the same level as owners of condemned property in receiving no compensation except the site value; and that the payment of the subsidy in respect of persons instead of in respect of houses would lead to difficulties and unfairness. To the first point, which was emphasised particularly by Sir Kingsley Wood, Miss Lawrence replied that the fall in the cost of Addison houses preceded the removal of the subsidy, that the removal of the subsidy on private houses last September did not cause any divergence between their cost and that of public enterprise houses, and that the new demand for very small houses will only replace the now almost satiated demand for larger houses, so that there is, in her view, no need to anticipate a rise in costs. On the question of injustice through the pulling down of churches, shops, houses in good repair, and other sound property in clearance areas, it appeared that there was much misunderstanding as to the intentions of the Bill. From Miss Lawrence's statement at the end of the debate it is clear that such buildings will not be regarded as forming part of the area, but will be "land surrounded by a clearance area." As the language of the Bill in this connection gave rise to misapprehension on the part of several members, including Mr Chamberlain, it is to be hoped that it will be made more lucid in Committee. The free hand given to local authorities to allocate the subsidy (which reaches them in the form of a grant proportionate to the number of persons rehoused), on any principle they may wish, so long as it goes in reduction of rents, was the cause of some mystification. Mr Chamberlain, while approving the departure from the percentage grant, regretted the attaching of the subsidy to the person instead of to the house as unnecessarily complicated and confusing. As Mr E. D. Simon pointed out, however, this is the means adopted by the Government for making possible the carrying into effect the principle of children's allowances in aid of rent. The actual determination and application by individual local authorities of the principle on which rents are to be differentiated may present some difficulties in practice, but they are hardly likely to be so great as some members, who visualised the creation of a hereditary caste of subsidised ex-slum dwellers, appeared to imagine. Among other objections raised against the Bill were complaints that it imposed no obligations as to town planning, and that it did not require local authorities to find alternative accommodation for persons displaced. Apart from the indirect compulsion afforded by the varying of the Exchequer grant, not with the number of persons displaced, but with the number of those rehoused, there seems ample safeguard in Clause 7 of Part I of the Bill, which enables the Minister to require an undertaking from the local authority to "carry out such rehousing operations within such period as the Minister may consider to be reasonably necessary." The Bill was accorded, as it deserved, a Second Reading without division.

The "Tax on Employment."—The debate in the House of Commons last Friday on the Government Bill increasing the borrowing powers of the Unemployment Insurance Fund from £40 million to £50 million was redeemed from complete sterility by one element of interest. The House appeared to be impressed with the increasing urgency of the need to make an effort to save the insurance principle, even if it were powerless to do more than maintain by dole those whom a system based on that principle failed to cover. The anomalous nature of the present situation was well illustrated by Mr Graham White, who pointed out that, between 1924 and 1928, not only had a vast deficit accumulated, but there was a striking disparity between the net balances of withdrawals and payments by different groups of industries. The figures which he gave may be summarised as under:—

	£ Million.
Creditors—	
Food, drink and tobacco trades	1·25
Distributing trades	9·62
Banking and Commerce	2·25
Government employment	8·80
Debtors—	
Shipbuilding	10·25
Coal mining	8·80
Cotton	3·25

Though insurance by separate industries would not be practicable, the principle of making the strong carry the weak has clearly been pushed to lengths never contemplated when the Unemployment Insurance scheme was framed in 1911, and we welcome Miss Bondfield's intimation that she is prepared to consider favourably an administrative change dividing those in receipt of actuarial benefit from those whose relief is a responsibility which should not devolve upon the Fund. Unless the finance of Unemployment Insurance is quickly rationalised, there is the danger that the sense of injustice felt by prosperous industries—saddled with a "tax on employment" in order to subsidise in effect the personnel of the depressed trades—may give a disastrous impetus to the drift towards abandonment of the whole contributory principle.

King Tafari of Abyssinia.—As Regent, Ras Tafari has long been responsible for the Government of Abyssinia, and he now ascends the throne in succession to the late Empress Zauditu, who has just died—some reports say of paratyphoid and others of shock at the news of her former husband having met his death in an unsuccessful rebellion. Abyssinia is a remarkable country in many ways. It shares with Liberia the distinction of being that *rara avis:* an African State that is really independent, without being subject to any form of political control from Europe. It also resembles Liberia in being a Christian country; but whereas the Liberians are returned emigrants from Africa who acquired their Christianity in the New World, the Abyssinians are immigrants into Africa from Asia who acquired their Christianity after they had settled in their present African home. This happened very long ago—the immigration some centuries B.C., the conversion between the 4th and the 6th centuries of the Christian era. Yet a Semitic language and a Monophysite Church still hold their own here as witnesses to the extraordinary tenacity of this people in this stronghold. It is, indeed, in some sense the country that has made the nation; for the Abyssinians occupy the largest and choicest piece of that chain of highlands—stretching up and down East Africa from the Red Sea to the Cape—in which European settlers have also been attempting latterly to make themselves at home. Abyssinia is, so to speak, a Semitic Kenya Colony, which now has behind it a history of more than two thousand years. But Abyssinia is not only a natural fortress in which a temperate climate breeds a vigorous race. It also holds a key position among the countries situated in the Nile Basin under modern conditions of irrigation and river control; for the Blue Nile rises in the centre of the Abyssinian plateau, and Lake Tana, from which the river issues, has all the makings of a natural reservoir if and when certain works are carried out at the exit. If Egypt and the Sudan are to have enough Nile water between them for all their possible future needs—Egypt drawing principally from the White Nile and the Sudan from the Blue Nile—it is highly desirable that the Lake Tana causeway works should be carried out forthwith. The project has been under consideration since 1902, and the Abyssinian Government is pledged not to interfere with the flow of the Blue Nile except in agreement with the Government of Great Britain and the Sudan. In 1925, the British Government —tactlessly, if not incorrectly—tried to arrange about Lake Tana, not with Abyssinia but with Abyssinia's neighbour, Italy, with the result that the Anglo-Italian Agreement on the subject was placed in an invidious light by a clever use of the publicity of the League of Nations (Abyssinia is a member of the League and knows how to take advantage of it). Friendly negotiations on the Tana Dam project are now taking place between the Abyssinian and Sudan Governments and an American firm of contractors whom the Abyssinian Government is entrusting with the work.

The Constitutional Issue in Poland.—The constitutional —or unconstitutional—crisis in Poland is a matter of the same general interest as the present political situation in Spain; for in these matters Europe is a unity, and there is a close interaction between the parts and the whole. The forms of Parliamentarism have been established in Poland since the Republic re-emerged on to the political map of Europe at the end of the Great War; but hitherto the reality has been lacking. In the first phase of the remaking of the Polish state this condition of affairs was neither surprising nor reasonably censurable. For, after all, the working of parliamentary institutions presupposes a certain margin of internal and external security which Poland sadly lacked in the throes of her re-birth out of the chaos in which Eastern Europe was left by the war. By this time, however, in the twelfth year after the Armistice, Poland's position has changed very greatly for the better. One sort of stability on one frontier was established by the ratification of the protocol which brought the Kellogg Pact into being, in anticipation of its general entry into force, as between Poland and the U.S.S.R. And more recently, on the opposite frontier, another kind of stability has been established by the conclusion of the commercial treaty with Germany. Even the feud with Lithuania is dormant, though not dead. Thus the position is better all round. Meanwhile, Marshal Pilsudski's dictatorship has continued; and since March 14th, when Monsieur Bartel resigned the premiership, the dictator would seem almost to have gone out of his way to reduce constitutional forms as well as realities to absurdity. Monsieur Bartel did somehow manage to act as a liaison—or at least as a buffer—between the Polish Dictator and the Seym; but during the last month even the fiction of co-operation has broken down. Already Monsieur Bartel has had three successors. The first of them, a civilian, had short shrift —his offence being an attempt to carry on Monsieur Bartel's difficult *rôle* by working with the Seym as well as with the Marshal. The second was the Marshal's brother. His task was to take long enough in forming a Cabinet to keep the country without a Government until only a few hours were left for passing the Budget—the object being that the Budget should be voted without debate. His real task performed, the cadet of the Dictatorial house dutifully announced his failure to perform the Cabinet-making job which he had nominally been commissioned to carry out; and his place was promptly taken by a colonel. No doubt Colonel Slawek is a Prime Minister after the Marshal's heart, but the Seym is becoming restive at this humiliating suppression of its rights. Will the Polish Parliament really show fight? And if it does, will Pilsudsky turn out to be a Mussolini or a Primo de Rivera?

The Governor of the Bank.—Mr Montagu Norman's re-election, on Tuesday, as Governor of the Bank of England, marks the beginning of the second decade of his tenure of office. In the ten difficult years which have elapsed since 1920, Mr Norman's untiring services to the cause of reconstructing the financial machinery which was shattered over a large part of Europe by the war have earned for him a prestige and influence unique in the history of the Bank. That there should be no question of reverting to annual changes of Governor until Mr Norman, in the fullness of time, desires to relinquish a burden whose weight must be considerable is not only a reflection of general desire to preserve continuity in our central banking policy, but a well-deserved tribute to the confidence which the present Governor commands, both in London and in all the world's great monetary centres.

American Bankers and the B.I.S.—We discuss in a leading article the recent address delivered by Sir Charles Addis on the functions and possibilities of the B.I.S. In this connection it is of interest to note that the importance of the new institution as a medium for effecting co-operation among the world's central banks is endorsed also in a statement issued this week by the American Bankers' Association, in which Mr Traylor, President of the First National Bank of Chicago, and one of the two American members of the B.I.S. Organisation Committee, outlines his views. Mr Traylor is at pains to dispel the notion that the bank might obtain undue control over the financial destinies of the participating countries. Every safeguard, he considers, has been provided to prevent the B.I.S. doing anything to which the Central Bank of a given country may object. With regard to the bank's profits, Mr Traylor estimates that, having regard to the agreed rate of payment for the bank's services in handling reparations, the bank should be able in all probability to meet a 6 per cent. cumulative dividend from the beginning of its operations. Meantime, the German appointments to the bank have been made. As President of the Reichsbank, Dr. Luther is an *ex-officio* director (Dr. Vocke of the Reichsbank being appointed to act as his "alternate" when necessary), and he has nominated as additional members of the Board, Herr Melchior, the Hamburg banker, and Herr Reusch, the head of the Gutehoffnung iron and steel concern. Both these appointments should command confidence in Germany.

Young on the Young Plan.—Mr Owen D. Young, writes a correspondent, made his first big pronouncement upon the reparations Plan which bears his name in a recent speech at San Francisco. It was a very important speech, not only for its incidental comments on the recent history of reparations, but also for its general theme of the relationship between politics and economics and for its references to the international economic position and the United States. After relating the disastrous dominance of politics over economics in the reparation field before 1924, Mr Young described the Dawes scheme as a receivership for Germany, not a plan of permanent re-organisation, adding a warm tribute to the receiver, Mr S. Parker Gilbert. The great achievement of the Young Plan was to end that receivership. Germany, said Mr Young, is free. She has a debt to pay, but that is all. Her honour, not her freedom, is at stake. Mr. Young asserted his firm confidence in Germany's capacity to pay, based on a reservoir of capacity for scientific research and the ability to apply it and organise it in production. "If Germany does make the payments out of such a reservoir, the rest of the world must be careful to avoid the enervating effects resulting from the receipt of such payments." As for the Bank for International Settlements, it was created for the specific purpose of removing the transfer of reparations from the political field, but it might turn out to be an essential and useful piece of machinery for an economic world which is becoming more and more closely integrated. "Politics becomes dangerous on a stage so small unless economics functions well. Fortunately the bank has the power of growth, and it will grow only as our needs compel it. It will grow only as the central banks of the world wish to use it." The bank must be kept free of identification with the League of Nations, because economics must at all costs be kept free of politics. "America," he added, "as the greatest creditor nation, is more interested than any other in economic integration. . . . Let no man think that the living standards of America can be permanently maintained at a measurably higher level than those of the other civilised countries. Either we shall lift theirs to ours or they will drag ours down to theirs. Tariffs and other petty political barriers, temporarily justifiable, will, in the long run, only accentuate the trouble. . . . America is too rich to be loved. She is well enough off to be envied. The attitude of the world toward her will be largely influenced by her spirit." After the bombast of Big Navy politics and the log-rolling of tariff manipulation in Congress, it is a relief to hear such sentiments from an American whose prestige in his own country steadily grows.

Coal Mining Results in 1929.—Combining the last four statistical summaries issued by the Mines Department (that for the three months ended December 31st last was published this week) we show in the following table comparative results of the coal industry's working during the past three years and in the year immediately preceding the 1926 stoppage:—

	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Tons disposable, millions...	214·4	221·8	211·5	230·4
	Mn. £.	Mn. £	Mn. £	Mn. £
Wages	137·1	117·8	100·2	105·7
Stores and timber	20·2	20·2	17·0	18·0
"Other" costs	29·6	29·2	27·4	26·6
Total "net costs"*	192·3	172·9	150·0	156·0
Proceeds	183·1	167·5	140·2	160·2
Profit or loss	−9·2‡	−5·4	−9·8	+4·2
Miners employed† (000's)	1,040	961	881	894
Output per manshift, cwts.†	18·00	20·60	21·29	21·69

* Including royalties, and after deducting proceeds of miners' coal. † Mean of quarterly averages. ‡ Before crediting subvention.

It will be seen that last year's expansion of 19 millions in the disposable tonnage, accompanied by an increase of £20 million in revenue, against a rise of only £6 million in "net" costs, substantially improved the industry's immediate position. The next table shows the quarterly trend of results per ton disposable:—

Quarter ended.	Per Ton Disposable. Proceeds.	Costs. Wages.	Costs. Total.	Profit.	Loss.	Thousand Miners Employed	Output Per Shift.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		Cwts.
Dec., 1927	13 9½	10 0½	14 10½	...	1 0½	945	20·82
Dec., 1928	13 5½	9 2½	13 8½	...	0 3	851	21·80
Mar., 1929	14 0½	9 0	13 3	0 9½	...	881	22·13
June, 1929	13 7	9 3½	13 10½	...	0 3½	897	21·45
Sept., 1929	13 8½	9 3½	13 9	...	0 0½	894	21·40
Dec., 1929	14 3	9 2	13 3½	0 11½	...	904	21·78

In the December quarter the rate of output per man-shift was not so good as in the first quarter of the year, but though wage-costs rose in consequence by 2d. per ton, there was a satisfactory economy of 1½d. per ton in other costs, and proceeds per ton were 2⅜d. higher. Disposable tonnage in October-December amounted to 60 millions, as compared with 59 millions in the three months ended March 31st, and an average of about 55½ millions in the two summer quarters. The concluding table gives comparative results for the principal districts in the December quarter of 1928 and 1929:—

District.	Quarter ended December 31st. 1928. Proceeds.	Net Costs.	Profit (+) or Loss (−).	1929. Proceeds.	Net Costs.	Profit (+) or Loss (−).
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Scotland	12 4½	12 6½	− 0 7½	13 1½	12 4	+ 0 9½
Durham	12 0½	12 8½	− 0 8	13 2	12 5	+ 0 9
S. Wales	14 3½	14 10½	− 0 7	15 4½	14 5½	+ 0 11
Yorkshire	13 3½	13 5½	− 0 2	14 0	12 8½	+ 1 3½
N. Derby & Notts.	13 6½	13 0½	+ 0 5½	14 0	12 9½	+ 1 2½
Lancs. & N. Staffs.	16 7½	17 1	− 0 5½	17 0	16 4½	+ 0 7½

It is interesting to note that in the foregoing districts the greatest reduction of costs during the year has been

achieved by Yorkshire, Lancashire and North Staffs., but it would be premature on this account to draw conclusions wholly favourable to the working of the Five Counties scheme, since the dominant feature in the table above is the increase (shared by all districts) in proceeds per ton. The question for 1930 is whether that increase can be maintained in the face of general trade depression and the unemployment of much coal-burning steamer tonnage.

Wool Wage Crisis.—To judge from current indications, a stoppage in the wool textile industry seems inevitable, and in some cases the employers' notices have already expired. It will be recalled that the effect of Lord Macmillan's award last month was that time-workers' wages should be reduced by about 9¼ per cent., and piece-workers' wages by approximately 8¾ per cent. These recommendations, which were a compromise between the employer's original claims and the unions' refusal to consider any reduction, were accepted by the employers, but for some time the unions refused to give way. Finally, a week ago, after notices of the reduction had been posted, the unions yielded to the extent of offering to accept reductions equivalent to 5.8 and 5.34 per cent. for the two classes, together with certain minor concessions. This time, however, the employers proved adamant. They decided to adhere to the terms of the Macmillan award, and when representatives of the Trade Union Congress offered their services as mediators, their assistance was rather summarily rejected. And so the deadlock persists, and matters are pursuing only too familiar a course. In principle, it is difficult not to hold that the employers are in the right, for, after all, they have done nothing but accept the terms of the Macmillan award, which represents an impartial attempt to do justice and fell short of the employers' original demands. Still, it is just when you are in the right that you can best afford to explore every possible means of reaching an agreement, and many people will regret that the employers did not see fit to avail themselves to the offer of the Trade Union Congress to act as mediators.

The Forty-Eight Hour Week.—The decision of the Government to give first place to the Slum Clearance Bill confirms the impression that the three measures of special interest to the trade unions, the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention, the amendment of the Trades Union Act of 1927, and the Factories Bill, are to be delayed much longer than was anticipated by the unions when the Government came into office. It is understood that, as a result of discussions with Ministers, and after an explanation of the Government's difficulties, the trade union leaders have become reconciled more or less gracefully to the demands of the Parliamentary situation. There is also good reason to believe that the Bill to ratify the Washington Convention will at least be introduced this Session and then carried over. For some time consultations have proceeded with the officials of the unions who feared that some of the provisions of the Convention might adversely affect their own agreements with employers' organisations. The most serious view of this possibility was taken by the railway unions, whose working-time arrangements for locomotive men and some other grades are of a complicated nature to fit in with operating requirements and the guaranteed week. The draft of the Bill, however, seems to have satisfied the union officials that what they regarded as menaced interests have been fully safeguarded by the interpretation of the clauses of the Convention providing for elasticity in certain circumstances. Agreement has, therefore, been reached, and the draft has also received the approval of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress. When the text is published, it will undoubtedly be submitted to exceptionally close scrutiny by the employers' organisations in the industries affected, and the attitude of their representatives during the discussions at Geneva last year on the question of revision suggests that an effort will be made to rally strong opposition.

Switzerland and the Gold Standard.—The text of the law dealing with the gold standard in Switzerland, to which we referred in a recent issue, read in conjunction with the annual speech of the Governor of the Swiss National Bank, shows that the clause which authorises the bank to exchange its notes for gold coin and thus reinstate a gold currency in circulation is largely window-dressing. It is true that the report of the Federal Council, accompanying the law, repeatedly represents a gold currency as the ideal, and declares that Switzerland must be prepared for this contingency whenever it may arise; but in the meanwhile the bank may maintain an exchange or bullion standard as it may think fit, for the report recognises that it is a practical impossibility for Switzerland to secure and retain enough bullion to keep gold in circulation while her neighbours are on the gold exchange basis. In such conditions it would tax her utmost resources—including the drastic use of a high Bank rate—to retain her gold and maintain a favourable exchange. She would, in fact, have to penalise her economic life for the sake of the ill-conceived idea that a gold currency is a hall-mark of national wealth and prosperity. Dr. Bachmann also made it clear that he has no intention of attempting an impossible task, and plainly indicated the disadvantages of the serious deflation that would be involved if the countries of the world were to attempt to put gold into circulation. He, too, speaks of a gold currency as the ultimate goal of Switzerland, though he thinks its attainment very remote, and regards gold in circulation as having no real advantage over other forms of the gold standard. It is, however, unfortunate that it should be necessary in the new currency law of Switzerland to do lip-service to the prejudice in favour of gold coins which still appears to prevail among the Swiss peasantry. This declaration of principle may one day be difficult to explain away.

Real Burden of the National Debt.—In our Budget Supplement last week we traced recent changes in the National Debt. The growth of the real burden of the Debt is, to some extent, obscured by changes in the price level. The following table shows the movement of the Debt in terms of money of fixed value, the outstanding total of the dead-weight Debt and the annual charge for interest and sinking fund being reduced to " 1913 " pounds by means of the *Economist* index number of wholesale prices.

April 1.	Net nominal Deadweight Debt. £'s mill.	Interest and Sinking Fund. £'s mill.	*Economist* Price Index.	Debt in Values of 1913. £'s mill.	Debt Service in Values of 1913. £'s mill.
1914	650	245	100	649	24
1920	7,829	350	260	3,011	135
1921	7,574	332	173	4,391	193
1922	7,654	324	154	4,970	210
1923	7,742	347	156	5,011	225
1924	7,641	357	166	4,598	215
1925	7,598	358	161	4,722	223
1926	7,559	379	149	5,059	254
1927	7,555	379	144	5,257	264
1928	7,528	369	141	5,343	262
1929	7,500	355	133	5,665	267

The table shows that, measured in " 1913 " pounds (so far as this revaluation can be made by use of a price-index), the weight of the National Debt has increased continuously since 1924. The increase in the real burden in 1929, as compared with 1920, is 88½ per cent.; even as compared with 1924 it is 23½ per cent. Similarly, the real burden of interest and sinking fund charges has increased, and in 1929 it was almost twice as large as in 1920.

French Iron and Steel Situation.—French iron and steel production figures for February, writes our Paris correspondent, show an appreciable increase under each heading as compared with corresponding months in previous years. Steel, however, was below the monthly average of 1929 and 1928, as the result of the European Steel Cartel's general cut of 10 per cent. last November in all countries belonging to the cartel for the purpose of maintaining prices in the export market. The February output of pig iron was 810,000 tons, against 782,000 tons in February, 1929. The output of crude steel was 773,000 tons, against 743,000 tons a year ago. Blast furnaces in

operation numbered 154, against an average of 190 in 1913. The French metallurgical industry, although suffering appreciably less than that of perhaps any other country, is now feeling the influence of the world economic crisis. Plants are still working to capacity, with plenty of orders in hand, but new orders are rare. Domestic demand remains steady, but the chronic shortage of skilled labour is limiting production in certain categories and causing delays in deliveries. At the recent steel cartel meeting here it was decided to keep production at its present level throughout the second quarter of the year. It was also agreed to prolong the cartel in its present form until October next, with every probability of its continuance after that date. The new system of common sales agencies is to come into operation on August 1.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—During February " tramp " shipping freights were steadier after the prolonged and violent decline of recent months. The current figure of our index number, 87.9, represents a fall on the month of 1.2 per cent., as compared with a recession of nearly 6 per cent. in February. Contrasted with the corresponding month of last year, the average level of freights is lower by 26.4 per cent. The following table summarises recent movements of the index number:—

AVERAGE 1898–1913=100.

	Average, 1913.	Mar., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.
European Waters	110·0	123·8	104·2	98·1	96·3
North America	113·1	122·7	94·2	92·6	87·7
South America	123·4	118·5	95·1	95·5	91·9
India	106·3	112·2	99·8	93·4	94·2
Far East and Pacific	117·4	118·3	85·2	78·9	77·8
Australia	127·9	121·1	88·1	75·7	79·2
Total	116·3	119·4	94·4	89·0	87·9

The volume of idle tonnage in Europe is now estimated to be not far short of three million tons gross, and the freight market in March, relieved—at a cost—of this immediate surplus capacity, was somewhat more stable, particularly in the case of outward coal freights. Grain chartering, however, was still very restricted, and homeward business in general showed no real signs of expansion. The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade.....	77·6	− 2·5	South America—outwards	117·6	− 2·8
Bay—outwards	104·6	− 1·8	South America—homewards	66·3	− 4·2
Bay—homewards ...	125·8	...	India—outwards	109·5	− 2·1
Mediterranean — outwards	95·3	− 0·4	India—homewards ...	78·9	+ 3·7
Mediterranean— homewards	97·0	− 3·3	Far East, &c.....	77·8	− 1·1
North America	88·0	− 4·6	Australia.....	79·2	+ 3·5

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for March works out at 75.5, as compared with 76.5 in February and 102.6 a year ago. The outlook is dominated by uncertainty with regard to the course of grain prices. Tonnage should soon be required for the Argentine maize crop, but there will have to be much ampler buying of wheat before any substantial proportion of the world's present idle fleet is re-absorbed.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Standard Life Assurance Company.—Although there was some reduction in the volume of new business last year, a truer test—that of periodical premium income—shows that the Standard made satisfactory progress in all departments. The actual new life business secured amounted to £2,800,470, compared with £2,989,766 in 1928, but the chairman stated at the annual meeting that the falling off in the total, apart from single premium

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policies, was not more than £80,000. Consideration money for annuities purchased reached the considerable total of £531,000, or some £36,000 in excess of the corresponding figure for 1928, while, in addition, a substantial sum was collected in annual premiums for new deferred annuities. New business totals are chancy things, and annual reports rarely furnish any indication of the composition of the totals; but in the case of the Standard they conceal the fact that the company is rapidly building up an important diversified business, recent developments being the transaction of group insurance and of staff life assurance and pension schemes. These developments at least are in part the reason and the justification for the expense ratio, which, at 18 per cent., is comparatively high for a life office. The results of the annual valuation, which has been made on the same basis as before—a basis, incidentally, which is exceeded in stringency by no other British office—are set out below:—

	1927–28. £	1928–29. £
Surplus earned during the year	342,617	363,988
Surplus income transferred from guarantee fund	26,091	30,923
Brought forward from previous year	34,967	21,811
	403,675	416,722
Allocations:—		
To bonuses to policyholders	281,864	291,005
„ Guarantee fund	100,000	100,000
„ Carried forward to next year	21,811	25,717
	403,675	416,722

The guarantee fund referred to in this table now amounts to £1,550,000. It was created four years ago in connection with the " mutualisation " of the company and the surrender of voting and participation rights by the shareholders in return for £850,000 of 5 per cent. perpetual stock. This stock, though nominally secured on the guarantee fund, is, in fact, subject to the prior charge of the policyholders in the inconceivable event of a deficiency arising in the life assurance fund. The allocation to policyholders permits of the maintenance of the reversionary bonus to with-profits policies at the rate of 42s. per cent. per annum compound.

British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company.—The following table epitomises the experience of this company in respect of the last five closed accounts:—

Year.	1st and 2nd Year Claims and Premium Income. £	Transfer to Suspense Account. £	Expenses. £	Surplus. £
1924	592,961	455,558	123,395	14,007
1925	489,382	343,807	92,015	53,560
1926	469,493	366,979	96,462	6,052
1927	502,387	385,100	93,152	24,134
1928	611,729	461,141	99,239	51,349

The 1928 account, now closed by a transfer to suspense for the purpose of meeting any claims likely to emerge hereafter, has therefore yielded on the enlarged premium income a profit of almost 9 per cent. This is an excellent achievement. The British and Foreign was founded in 1863 and is one of a number of old-established Liverpool companies; and in the results exemplified by the above table it has strikingly upheld the high reputation of

Liverpool for extracting a profit from the difficult business of marine insurance. As regards the account now current, *i.e.*, the 1929 account, the premium income is lower at £550,408, but the first year claims are some £13,000 heavier, with the result that the fund in hand with which to meet second year and subsequent claims is only 53 per cent., compared with 59 per cent. for the 1928 account a year ago. It will therefore hardly be surprising if the outcome of the 1929 account is less favourable than that of the 1928 account. An interesting feature of the 1929 report is the capitalisation of a large sum of £536,000 for the purpose of paying up the remaining uncalled liability on the shares. This sum has been found by releasing £240,000 from the underwriting suspense account, an account which has obviously concealed a substantial reserve for some time past, the balance being drawn from the profit and loss account. A small fire reinsurance account has been inaugurated with premiums in the first year of £42,000, and a further sum of £50,000 has been deducted from underwriting suspense account in order to show an additional reserve over and above the usual 40 per cent. In spite of these large capital transfers the total reserves are very imposing. The combined total of the underwriting funds, general reserve fund, and profit and loss balance, amounts to £1,952,000, compared with a total premium income of £592,000. Dividends for the year 1929 have been declared, costing £140,700 net (compared with £134,000 net in 1928), this sum being within the net interest earnings last year of £142,000. The British and Foreign Marine is controlled by the Royal Insurance Company.

World Auxiliary Insurance Corporation.—When this company was established in 1919 with a capital of 600,000 shares of £1 (10s. paid), 100,000 shares were subscribed for at par by the World Marine and General Insurance Company. Since the World Marine and General is a subsidiary of the "Northern," the World Auxiliary is, therefore, closely associated with the "Northern" group of companies. The year 1928 was notable for a remarkable increase in premium income in Fire, Accident and General account; and although 1929 premiums of £274,000 are slightly lower than those of 1928, they represent a considerable increase over the corresponding figures for previous years. Unfortunately the claims ratio was as high as 75.6 per cent., and although commissions have been further reduced, the account was closed with a small loss of £211. The main source of profits, however, has always been the Marine account, and in 1929 this account has again yielded a profit. The total results for the past two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit. £	1928. Percentage of Prems.	1929. Amount of Profit. £	1929. Percentage of Prems.
Fire, accident and general.....	10,632	3·8	*—211*	*—·1*
Marine	12,500	7·3	15,000	9·1
	23,132		14,789	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	3,956		9,674	
Total net surplus	19,176		5,115	

Ever since 1923 a dividend has been paid, and for the last three years this has been at the rate of 6¼ per cent. free of tax. The cost of this dividend is £18,750, an amount which leaves a comfortable margin compared with interest earnings of £33,500.

Guildhall Insurance Company.—The year 1929 marks the completion of the first ten years in the history of this company, and it was therefore natural that the chairman in his speech at the annual meeting should review the progress made during this period. The conditions during these ten years have admittedly been extremely difficult at times. Four years ago the company entered the dividend list with a maiden declaration of 5 per cent., a rate which has since been maintained, notwithstanding that in 1929 the cost absorbed less than one-quarter of the total interest earnings. The company can point also to a satisfactory achievement in the expansion of premium income obtained. In 1925 the total premium income amounted only to £296,000. In 1929 the corresponding figure was £818,000, and the underwriting profit in the latter year amounted to £11,289, a result which has not been reached in any of the last five years. After allowing for various items debited direct to the profit and loss account, the total net trading surplus in 1929 worked out at £1,038, compared with a loss of £625 in 1928. For a mixed fire and general account this result, in the conditions which existed last year, is not unsatisfactory. The expansion in premium income in 1929 was very marked, the figure being £180,000 in excess of that for 1928, and the increase appears to have been common to all departments. Moreover, the chairman was able to record that a smaller proportion of the premium income is now derived from reinsurance business—a branch which yields a very small margin of profit—and a larger proportion from direct business.

University Life Assurance Society.—This society operates within a very limited field and its clientèle is definitely restricted to "members of the Universities, Public Schools, Theological Colleges and other approved educational institutions." Naturally, therefore, its progress has been very slow. On April 30, 1925, the fund amounted to £1,109,000, and nearly five years late, on December 31, 1929, the amount was barely £200,000 greater, at £1,318,000. Again, during the same period, the periodical premium income has grown by only £3,000, from £71,000 per annum to £74,000. No commission is paid for the introduction of new policies and the expense ratio is therefore very low, the average amount being about 8½ per cent. On the other hand, interest earnings are also on the low side, and last year worked out at £4 4s. 10d. per cent. net of income tax. The year 1929 marked the close of another valuation period and the results of the valuation made at the end of that year are as follows:—

	1920–24. £	1925–29. £
Trading surplus earned during quinquennium	123,858	146,354
Capital profits from investments	50,300	3,087
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	1,444	48,793
	£175,602	£198,234
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	114,128	118,031
„ Shareholders	12,681	13,115
„ Carried forward to next quinquennium	48,793	67,088
	£175,602	£198,234

The reversionary bonus to policyholders has been maintained at the same rate as before, namely, 50s. per cent. per annum simple. The dividend to shareholders is made up of two parts—the annual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. and a quinquennial bonus declared as the result of each valuation. On this occasion the quinquennial bonus has been raised from 30 per cent. to 35 per cent. The capital is nearly all held by the "old Equitable" and, if this quinquennial bonus is converted into an annual rate of dividend, the total yield to the Equitable in respect of this investment, works out at about 8½ per cent. per annum.

At the meeting of the Royal Statistical Society, on the 15th inst., Mr J. H. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc., will read a Paper on "International Comparisons of Real Wages." The meeting will be held in the Hall of the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2, at 5.15 p.m.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Capital Issues — Stock Exchange — Business — Tariff.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, March 28.

BUOYANCY in the security markets has continued to give the lie to statistical evidence of business conditions. The money market has recovered from its sinking spell due to the March tax-date payments, and rates are now firmer, with call money at 3½ to 4 per cent. The bill rate has risen from 2½ per cent. asked for 90-day maturities to 2¾ per cent., and no disappointment was caused by the failure of the Federal Reserve Bank to lower its discount rate. Current conditions in money are more nearly normal than were those of a week ago, but the tone may be even easier after next week.

Dividend and interest payments in April will be the largest ever recorded, being estimated at $575,000,000, of which $80,000,000 will be Government interest disbursements on the 15th. About half the total will be dividends. Reinvestment of this money is counted on to help to sustain security prices a little longer, and a fresh flood of new capital issues is expected shortly. This week the total dropped to around $150,000,000 after running in excess of $200,000,000 for the two preceding weeks, and there have been some signs of temporary indigestion. In the first quarter new financing through public offerings and subscription rights to stockholders has totalled approximately $2,450,000,000, exclusive of Treasury offers. This compares with $3,128,700,000 in the first quarter of last year. More pronounced than the drop in the total has been the swing from stocks back to bonds. Whereas stock offerings in the first three months of 1929 amounted to $1,826,574,000, in the corresponding period this year they were only $332,000,000.

A drop of $21,000,000 in brokers' loans this week came as an agreeable surprise. The share market trading had risen to around 5,000,000 shares daily, and a great many stocks were climbing to new high levels for the year. A substantial increase in loans had been expected, and apparently the character of the buying has been better than was supposed. At any rate, there has been great activity among the odd-lot houses, which do business for the small investor, and the investment trusts have been active in the market. Considerable buying also has come from abroad, particularly France. Stock yields are still higher than those for bonds, and, from an investment standpoint, the market looks higher. It cannot be denied, however, that the recovery has widened the spread between prices and current earnings, and that it also has been greater than merely easy money might have suggested. But the country is naturally optimistic, the stock crash of last autumn has been largely forgotten, and the market is looking ahead.

Suggestions that the authorities at Washington are displeased with the rise in securities and that the Reserve system may tighten up credit may be disregarded. This week's statement of the System shows a turn in the recent downward trend in total central bank credit, the amount rising by $40,220,000, due entirely to purchases of bills. Government securities fell, and member bank discounts were stationary. The Reserve System, in the face of its earlier efforts to force out credit and bear down the bill market, is extending only $1,001,090,000 in credit, or $408,622,000 less than a year ago. Member banks, on the other hand, are rapidly increasing their loans on securities and last week their investments rose substantially. Commercial banks have bought the recent new bond issues heavily, finding it desirable to employ their funds to better advantage than in the call and time money markets. It is hazardous to guess on discount rate action, but in good quarters the view is that the Reserve authorities are prepared to go as low as 3 per cent., for the New York Bank, at any rate.

Business improvement is still a matter of hope rather than an actuality. Railroad car loadings continue smaller than for corresponding periods since 1922. The majority of the roads have published their earning statements for February, and their decline in net earnings amounts to more than 25 per cent., about the same as the January drop. The showing for March will be little, if any, better. The steel trade, which experienced a secondary reaction in February and early March, is now a shade better, the operating rate for the industry as a whole being about 76 per cent. The motor trade, having successfully cut into the second-hand and unsold car stocks last month, is looking for a busy April. Building industries are counting on the recent considerable increase in savings bank deposits and real estate mortgage money, plus the advent of warmer weather, for stimulation.

Income and corporation tax collections for March were estimated at more than $550,000,000, or fully up to the Treasury estimates made before the stock market break. Losses sustained then have cut down individual payments, but increased tax payments by companies have largely offset the reductions. If there is no further excessive expenditure by the Federal Farm Board, a fairly substantial Treasury surplus is indicated for the expiration of the fiscal year on June 30th, possibly $200,000,000. The next Treasury financing will come on April 15, to meet interest payments. It will be a non-interest bearing Treasury bill issue, running to at least $100 million.

Congress is about to appropriate $236,000,000 to carry out the Government's building programme, for the purpose of stimulating business. Only a small portion of this amount can be spent in the next few months. Work on the tariff is speeding up somewhat and it is hoped that a Bill may be ready for President Hoover's signature in another month. The provisions of the Bill voted by the Senate are generally a victory for the high tariff proponents, chiefly the manufacturing interests of the East, with sops here and there thrown to the agricultural West. The Bill is displeasing to all except those industries directly affected, and it is not expected to live long. However, it will undoubtedly be signed by the President in whatever form it reaches him, and it must be recognised that its worst features are made possible by the business slackness, which many think will be overcome once the tariff duties are settled.

Radio broadcasting by Chairman McFadden, of the House Committee, on banking and currency, is causing no great stir. Congressman McFadden is denouncing the International Bank and warning the country against the forthcoming Germany annuity bond issue, but he is so notoriously ill-informed on international finance and ordinary economics, and his most recent statements are so full of absurdities, that little attention is paid to him.

FRANCE.

Politics — Taxation and Share Yields — Reparation Bonds.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 9.

BOTH Chambers are now putting their shoulders to the wheel, but whether the increased effort is not more due to a desire to bring the session to a close for the Easter recess than (in so far as the Lower House is concerned) to make up for time lost by sterile political warfare is an open question. The Senate is expected to finish with the Budget on Monday, and it is hoped the two Houses will be able to bring their views into accord in regard to the Finance Bill, and also put through various other measures in the programme, in time to enable a large number of Parliamentarians to leave on the 19th and accompany the President of the Republic on his official visit to Algeria, to preside over the forthcoming centenary celebrations. These "other measures" include the Bill for the much revised national insurance scheme, which is to come into operation early in July; the convention between the State and the Compagnie Française des Pétroles (which concerns in part the handling of the

French share of the yield from the Mesopotamian oil wells), the Bill for reform of the judiciary, and another authorising the eagerly expected 1,500,000,000 francs of reductions of taxation, particularly on securities and Bourse transactions.

The extent of the latter reductions is generally regarded in financial circles as being a matter of first importance, so far as the Paris Bourse is concerned. The average volume of Bourse business since the war has in most years worked out at about 50 per cent. of its pre-war importance. During the past few months, in spite of the relief accorded during the second half of 1929, business has fallen off further to an enormous extent, as the revenue returns confirm. For this the cumulative effect of the annual *taxe de transmission* (which is not a transfer tax at all, but a yearly direct burden on the yield from the coupon) is largely blamed. A striking current example of the onerousness of this impost is announced to-night. The dividend distributed by the Boleo copper concern in 1928 was entirely absorbed by arrears due in regard to this tax, in respect of previous years in which no dividend had been paid. This still left a debit balance of over 13 francs to be collected from the coupon of 1929, with the result that (income taxes and other imposts taken into account) Boleo holders this year are receiving barely 3 francs in respect of a dividend of 20 francs gross. The transmission tax (which is levied on the mean quotation of the scrip during the year) was reduced by .4 per cent. last December, and it is understood that it is about to be lowered to .25 per cent., which is still regarded as unduly heavy, in view of the other imposts on coupons. The reduction to one-half of the present tax on Bourse operations appears to have been definitely decided upon, and the rate of income tax on French issues is to be brought down from 18 per cent. to 15 per cent., and on *non-abonnée* foreign scrip from 25 per cent. to 22 per cent.

Whether these concessions will restore prosperity to the Paris market remains to be seen. The effect of the proposed relief, as concerns a large number of French issues, bought at the quotations recorded on April 1, has been worked out by *La Situation Economique et Financière*, and shows that the net yield (for instance) from Bank of France shares, which, under the present rates of taxation, is 2.06 per cent., will be increased to 2.13 per cent.; from P.L.M. railway shares 3.99 per cent. instead of 3.67 per cent., and from Aciéres de Longwy shares 3.10 per cent., in place of 2.90 per cent.

New bond issues and increases of share capital are at last slowing down in volume, but it has been noted latterly that, whereas during the past year of so there was a tendency for the quotations of existing issues of companies engaged in fresh borrowings to decline, new capital issues have had no appreciable effect on Bourse quotations of issuing companies' scrip. This week's new bond issues are notable for the fact that the rates of interest offered range from 5 per cent. to 6½ per cent., *deminet* (that is, free of all taxes, except *taxe de transmission*). Out of the thirteen principal issues announced last Monday, only one is at 4½ per cent. (Forges & Aciéries du Nord et de l'Est, which is making an issue of 50,000,000 francs mortgage bonds), whereas recent previous issues have in the majority been mostly between 4½ per cent. and 5½ per cent.

Unofficial statements are published here to the effect that the first $300,000,000 instalment of the pending international reparations loan will be distributed among the various countries of issue on the following basis—

	$ $
France	75,000,000 to 80,000,000
United States	75,000,000 to 80,000,000
Great Britain	40,000,000
Germany	25,000,000
Holland	25,000,000
Switzerland	15,000,000

and that the remaining $45,000,000 will probably be allotted in varying proportions between Italy, Belgium and, perhaps, Sweden, in which latter country the Kreuger and Toll group (which is closely identified with the "Swedish Match Trust," and which has been interested in several recent international loans) may play an active part in the operation. Publicity has been given to these figures, it is suggested in some quarters, in consequence of the difficulty that is asserted to have arisen (1) in regard to the rate of interest to be offered, and (2) owing to the American banking group, which is to handle the United States portion of the loan, having expressed the fear that it will be unable to take up the $100,000,000 or more which it was originally asserted they were prepared to place in New York. In official quarters here the utmost reticence is being observed in regard to the operation.

The crux of the matter seems to lie in the fact that out of the produce of the $200,000,000 (say £40,000,000) which will constitute the reparations part of the issue (as distinct from the $100,000,000 which is to constitute a direct loan to Germany for her own internal purposes), France is to receive five-sixths, or in round figures £32,000,000, which would apparently involve heavy gold shipments to Paris. If the New York and London issues are to correspond to the above proportions, the United States and Great Britain would be required to absorb between them rather over $76,000,000 of the reparations part of the total issue, out of which about $63,350,000 would have to be moved to this country, in satisfaction of the French share of five-sixths of the total. The high ratio of the French share of the produce of the loan is due, of course, to the fact that the money thus raised is to recoup this country as speedily as possible for her expenditure in reconstituting her devastated regions.

It is stated here that the scrip issued in the various countries is to be of the same nature, wherever issued, and that it will be equally negotiable in all the world's financial markets. Interest and repayment of capital are to be in gold, and to be feasible in all countries alike, irrespective of the place of issue of any given bond. This appears, however, to be in direct contradiction with the assertions made here that the American bankers are standing out for the United States portion of the issue to be given an interest yield of 7 per cent., while the French are admittedly asking for the rate to be fixed at 5 or 5½ per cent. It is to be hoped that the pourparlers are now sufficiently advanced for an official announcement to be very shortly made that will enlighten potential investors on the matter.

GERMANY.

Politics — Financial Programme — Unemployment — Capital Market — Railway Rates — Bank Results.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, April 8th.

THE new Chancellor, Herr Bruening, achieved an unexpected victory in the Reichstag when the vote of lack of confidence, proposed by the Social-Democrats, was defeated. His clever move in entrusting Herr Schiele, the leader of the Agriculturists, with the post of Minister of Food Supplies, brought the German National Party face to face with the danger of a split for several days. The agrarian wing of the party was determined to retain the new Government in all circumstances in order to permit Herr Schiele to bring his plans into effect, while the party leader, Herr Hugenberg, still, as always, desired a purely nationalistic *régime*. But the agrarian interests won; in order to preserve the unity of the party, Hugenberg was compelled to permit it to vote solid against the no-confidence motion. At the same time, he made a speech full of the sharpest attacks on the Government, but that does not alter the fact that he helped the Bruening Cabinet to victory. Of almost more importance for the moral victory of the Cabinet was the factt hat a number of Social-Democrat deputies abstained in order not to be compelled by party discipline to vote against the Government. Thus Herr Bruening was able to avoid the dissolution of the Reichstag, which would have had to follow an unfavourable vote, and which he certainly did not desire.

The most difficult tests, however, still confront the Ministry. It must induce the Reichstag to accept its extensive economic programme, the finance bills with their

reform of the method of securing funds for unemployment insurance, and the agrarian programme worked out by Herr Schiele. The Cabinet's financial programme includes an increase of the tax on beer by 75 per cent. Three of the smaller parties belonging to the Government bloc have already declared that they will oppose this increase in all circumstances. One of these is the Bavarian People's Party, which regards the Government's proposal as imposing a special burden on Bavaria, since this part of the Reich produces and consumes a disproportionately large part of all beer brewed in Germany. Even if these parties should not go to the extent of withdrawing their Ministers from the Cabinet, their opposition nevertheless creates a difficult situation for Herr Bruening, for he is in any case without a majority for the financial measures. It is true that the Socialists under the Mueller Cabinet voted for an increase of the beer tax, but they did this only in return for concessions made by the other parties, and especially in respect of unemployment insurance. Since then they have gone over to the Opposition precisely because the concessions made in the interest of this insurance did not satisfy them, and now they refuse to vote for the increase of the beer tax.

Hence Herr Bruening must turn to the German Nationals for help. And here he is again compelled to contend with Herr Hugenberg, who would like to see the Government overthrown and is therefore unwilling to grant it any further assistance; and he will also have to contend with other strong opposition, for the beer tax is far from popular among the rural supporters of the German National Party. The Chancellor will undoubtedly again make use of the same method that won his initial victory: he will play off the interests of the farmers against Herr Hugenberg. The Government has already intimated that it can carry through its programme for relieving the farmers only if its financial programme be accepted and the necessary funds be thus provided. In the meantime, Herr Bruening is endeavouring, both by promises and threats, to induce the Social-Democrats if possible to support him or at least to observe neutrality. His speech at the party congress of the Centre was directed almost solely to the Social-Democrats. He endeavoured to dissipate any suspicion that he had deliberately brought about the overthrow of the Cabinet, he spoke kindly of the Ministers of the last Cabinet, and tried in every way to avoid all appearance of cherishing any unconstitutional plans against democracy. But he also warned the Social-Democrats not to adopt too aggressive a manner towards the Centre unless it wanted to burn all its boats. His allusion was obviously to the Social-Democrats' sorest point, the coalition in Prussia, where the Socialist Prime Minister, Herr Braun, is completely dependent on the alliance with the Centre, which has so far proved very firm.

The financial programme of the Bruening Cabinet contains no surprises. The new Government simply takes over its predecessor's measures, except that in the matter of unemployment insurance it accepts, in the place of the original proposal, the compromise that was finally accepted by the bourgeois parties and was overthrown by the opposition of the Socialists. Little, however, is still known as to the agrarian measures, although they have already been accepted by the Cabinet. But it appears to be certain that fixed import duties on farm products are in very large part to be replaced by the Government's plan to assure legally established minimum prices in the domestic market, and to lower or raise the duties in so far as is necessary to this end. The sliding-scale system of duties on breadstuffs has been in effect in Germany for several months. The original plan, which is in accord with the basic principles of this system, contemplated making the alterations of the duties automatically dependent on price variations. But this idea was soon abandoned in favour of establishing only the desired price by law, and of leaving it to the discretion of the Government to vary the duties. Now the sliding-scale system in this form, which leaves wide scope for the discretion of the Government, is also to be extended to cover other agricultural products. Further relief measures for the farmers include extensive subsidies, which will naturally be a heavy further burden on the national Treasury, already suffering from the steady deterioration of the economic situation.

This situation still shows no signs of recovery. The reduction in the number of unemployed is much smaller than in previous years at this season. In the middle of March, 3,278,000 unemployed for whom no employment could be found were still registered in the State employment agencies. Of these, 2,258,000 were in receipt of benefit. From February 28th to March 15th the number fell only by 88,000, despite the fact that ordinarily at this season of the year requirements for farm labourers and workers in the building trades bring about a much greater improvement. At the same time, the liquidity of the money market has at last influenced the market for long-term capital, and has above all brought about a lively turnover in mortgage bonds. This improved condition of the capital market is the strongest and, indeed, the only hopeful sign of an approaching economic revival. The private discount rate has dropped in the last few days to 4½ per cent., and the Treasury was able to place one-year Treasury certificates at 6¼ per cent. The money liquidity also affected the Bourse, and stocks were firm throughout the week.

For a year the Reichsbahn has been trying to secure the Government's permission for a new increase of rates. The most urgent reason for this is the competition from road transport, which is severely damaging the State railways and all other railways. Only a part of this competition is explained by the natural superiority of the motor vehicle. It is used in general for passenger traffic only where it is more convenient or cheaper than the railway. But in freight traffic, on the other hand, motor trucks are found not only in local traffic, where their employment offers great technical advantages, but also for transport over long distances, as, for example, between Berlin and Hamburg. Here the motor vehicle merely takes advantage of the rate system of the railways. The German railways have comparatively low rates for raw materials and semi-manufactured goods, which do not fully cover their fixed operating costs. The losses on these have to be compensated by the freight rates for finished goods. The rates of the railways in other countries are fixed along the same lines, since raw materials and semi-manufactures cannot bear such high rates as the more valuable finished goods. But the gap between the respective rates in Germany is especially wide. This did not matter so long as the railway had a complete monopoly of transportation. Now, however, it is precisely the goods on which the rates are higher that are conveyed by motor lorry, which, of course, imposes no special charge on them in favour of bulk goods, and on many sections of the railways there remain only the commodities that pay low rates. Hence the Reichsbahn does not wish to raise all its freight rates; what it desires is to leave the higher rates as they are and to place heavier burdens on mass goods, that is, to narrow the gap. In addition, it wishes to have motor traffic more heavily taxed.

The Darmstädter and Nationalbank leaves its dividend unchanged at 12 per cent., which is comparatively easy for it, since, with 60 million marks, it has only a small capital, and has accumulated open reserves to the same amount. But the balance for 1929 contrasts sharply with that of the other large banks, and especially that of the Dresdner Bank, with which it can best be compared. The gross profits are given as only 75.77 million marks, against 82.93 millions in the preceding year; the net profits are 11.8 millions, against 16.71 millions. As a result no addition is this year made to the reserves, to which 5 millions were added in each of the last two preceding years, and 10 millions in 1926. The Deutsche Bank and Disconto-Gesellschaft, which was the last of the big banks to make public its annual report, the first since the fusion of the two banks, declares a dividend of 10 per cent., the same as those declared by each bank last year. The current business account showed about the same profits in 1929 as in the preceding year, but the profits from the securities and issue activities were very small and were devoured by the amounts written off the bank's holdings of securities.

HOLLAND.

Money Market — Stock Exchange — Capital Issues — Foreign Trade.

AMSTERDAM, April 2nd.

THE last reduction in the discount rate was not reflected to any degree in the money market. Market discount rates fluctuated during the last week of March round 2⅛ to 2¼ per cent. Even the end-of-month settlements brought about no higher open market discount rates than 2¼ per cent., that is to say, ¾ per cent. below the official discount rate, which has been 3 per cent. since March 25th. It is thus evident that the supply of money is still ample, although call money did tighten somewhat during the last few days, and from the record low level of ½ per cent. in the second half of March it advanced to 3 per cent. last Monday, while yesterday the quotation was 2¾ per cent. It would be reasonable to expect some recovery from the recent low money rates with a tightening in the supplies of money, in view of the fact that the reviving speculation the last few days in Wall Street forced call money there up to 4½ per cent., which induced many lenders to seek employment on the New York call money market for the surplus funds they had there. Money was therefore again being transferred to New York; but to what extent this exodus of money will continue and lead to a stringency in money supplies in this country will, of course, depend partly upon how the speculative movement in Wall Street develops.

There is no evidence as yet that the recent plentiful supplies of money have had any stimulating effect on business. The listless, waiting attitude is particularly reflected on the Stock Exchange. Just as during last year's boom speculation was apparently immune from any effects of the high money rates, it now appears that the low money rates are not stimulating any activity. These circumstances are, of course, closely related to the situation in industry, where the tendency continues to be dull on account of the uncertain and in many cases sombre prospects.

The same conditions were reflected in the issue market. The tendencies observed since the boom broke last autumn were even more pronounced last month than in the preceding months. Since the beginning of this year the market has been favourable for the issue of bonds bearing a fixed rate of interest, and with the extraordinarily low money rates prevailing the month of March provided a particularly good opportunity in this respect, so that another increase was recorded in the issues of debentures and bonds. In January these issues amounted to 43.7 million guilders, in February to 52.5 million guilders, and they increased in March to 71.2 millions—a figure that was not reached either in 1928 or in 1929. The total of issues in March increased to 72 millions (February 55 millions), the highest amount recorded since February, 1929. In that month the total was 100.9 million guilders, 69 millions of which were for shares and 31.8 millions for bonds.

At the same time the depression prevalent in industry is amply illustrated by the declining curve of the shares issues. In January, 1930, these amounted to 6.3 million guilders, in February to 2.7 millions, while in the month past the total of only 0.76 million was reached. The division of the amounts issued in shares and bonds in March is summarised on the following table:—

	(Guilders.)		
	Shares.	Bonds.	Total.
Domestic	760,000	54,112,237	54,872,237
Foreign	—	17,154,000	17,154,000
	760,000	71,266,237	72,026,237

The amounts absorbed on the Netherlands capital market during the first three months of 1930 and 1929 are, in round figures, as follows:—

	(In Million Guilders.)					
	Domestic.		Foreign.		Total.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
January	53	45	5	5	61	50
February	61	11	39	44	100	55
March	5	55	20	17	25	72

In contrast to the situation in February, when the issues by public authorities amounted to a trifle more than one-third of the private issues, the proportion was the reverse in March, the private issues amounting last month to two-thirds of the issues for public authorities. An important part of the large amount for public loans is accounted for by the 1930 issues of the Netherlands Indies Loan, 1923, E, for 37,880,000 guilders, of which 21,750,000 already allotted, so that only 16,130,000 at 96 per cent. was offered to the public. Two foreign Governments availed themselves of our capital market, viz.: Chile, for a loan of 8 million Swiss francs 6 per cent. bonds at 88⅛ per cent., and Luxemburg, for 3.6 million guilders 5 per cent. bonds at 93½. Considerable interest was centred in the issue of 40 million dollars 4½ per cent. debentures by the Royal Dutch in New York, of which a parcel of 6.6 million dollars at 90 per cent. was offered here. In addition, the Preussische Pfandbriefbank marketed 3 million gold marks 7 per cent. mortgage bonds at a price of 91. The only American funds which appeared on our market in March were the 5 per cent. debentures of the American and Foreign Power Company, $2,250,000 of which were offered at 90½.

According to the official statistics for February, 1930, the value of imports into the Netherlands during that month was 201,130,459 guilders, that of exports 144,517,072 guilders, and that of the import balance 56,613,387 guilders; for the first two months of the year the figures were 421,590,221 for the imports, 296,374,679 for the exports, and 125,215,542 for the import balance.

For the first two months of the years 1927-1930 the values were:—

	(In Million Guilders.)			
January–February:	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Imports	378·0	434·0	410·0	421·6
Exports	270·3	291·2	275·8	296·4
Import balance ...	107·7	142·8	134·2	125·2

Comparisons with the first two months of 1929 are rather misleading, because February, 1929, was a month of low exports and imports on account of the suspension of navigation on the canals and rivers during the severe frost. The value of the imports of manufactured articles advanced from 164.2 million guilders in January-February 1929, to 188.9 this year, and the value of the exports of this description of goods rose from 123.2 millions in January-February, 1929, to 135.4 millions in January-February, 1930.

AUSTRIA.

Trade Union Legislation — Capital Issues — Business — Railways — Bank Results — Commercial Treaty.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA.

FOR some time domestic politics have caused no disturbance to economic conditions in Austria. The Radical wing of the Social-Democrats and that of the Christian Social Party have been forced into the background, and, when a conflict has seemed rife, as over the Anti-Intimidation Bill, Federal Chancellor Schober has managed to steer a middle course. The economic significance of the Anti-Intimidation Bill lies in the fact that in the future it will be difficult for Social-Democratic workers to declare that they will not work in a shop where men not belonging to their trade union are employed. This practice has led in the past to repeated conflicts, to strikes and to lockouts, but it can now be punished. Trade unions, other than the Social-Democratic trade unions, are now to have rights which they were previously unable to attain. Furthermore, works managements will no longer be compelled to made deductions from wages for party purposes. Agitation for strikes or lockouts is also to be circumscribed, and, under certain circumstances, the Bill will make those responsible liable to pay damages.

The Social-Democratic Party was disposed to be accommodating in various matters, because the new Government tried to keep as much as possible above party, and a number of opponents of the present Cabinet also adopted a moderate attitude for fear of a return of the former Federal Chancellor, Dr. Seipel. Disappointment was caused by the circumstance that the investment loan is still distant.

For a time the project of issuing it before the German loan was contemplated, but, on advice from America, the plan was abandoned, and the issue will take place in June at the earliest. In regard to the housing bonds, also, a change has taken place; the issue has been postponed, and is hardly likely to take place before autumn. Fifty million schillings of this loan was to have been taken over by Austrian banks, savings banks and insurance companies, but the banks have declared their readiness to make an advance, which will provide the Government, or the Credit Institute for public works, which is looking after the finance of the building, with the necessary funds to carry on without issuing this loan before the big investment loan has been floated.

Building activity is rather satisfactory, except that the procuring of mortgage credits causes some difficulty. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable fact that for house-building money is far more easily obtainable than for the purposes of commerce and industry. In regard to the latter, creditors have had most unhappy experiences. Their present diffidence is further justified by the fact that in the month of March there was an increase in the number of compulsory compositions and bankruptcies, the respective figures being 206 and 64, which constitute the highest weekly average for the last three years. The explanation lies in the greater severity of creditors; banks, too, are not so patient as they used to be. The process of concentration in banking gives rise to the disadvantage that it is easier to get big credit than such moderate credit as is needed by medium-sized industrial and commercial concerns.

The Government recently convoked a conference to consider the complaints and recommendations made by the various economic interests. As a result of this conference a stricter check upon the quantity of unemployment benefit will probably be instituted. It appears that serious abuses have been practised, for seasonal workers and the sons of farmers have been drawing benefit not due to them, and persons in receipt of poor relief have represented themselves as unemployed. The number of unemployed has, however, fallen, and is now recorded at 330,000 persons in the whole of Austria and 86,000 in Vienna alone.

The long-postponed changes in regard to the Federal Railways have at last taken place. A provisional management has been appointed to carry out a further reduction in the staff, to attend to certain necessary investments and to execute measures of economy. A bitter disappointment was suffered by many old shareholders over the balance sheet of the State Railway Company, which showed a loss of 11.9 million schillings, whereas a dividend of 3.50 schillings was distributed last year. The new management of the State Railway Company, which was formerly one of the concerns of the Bodencredit Anstalt, considered it necessary to write off a large sum. It is intended finally to wind the company up, provided the Hungarian annuity can be disposed of satisfactorily.

The Steyr Works, too, will not continue in its present form. Even now the production of automobiles has been considerably diminished, the costly attempt to bring out fresh types each year has been given up, and more workmen are being discharged. In regard to the arms manufacturing department, which is at present making sporting guns, an agreement has been arrived at with the Hirtenberg Cartridge Factory and the Rhenish Metalware Factory, Düsseldorf. In conjunction with these two groups a Swiss company is said to intend taking the arms department over.

How difficult it is to reduce overhead costs is to be seen from the recently published balance sheet of the Wiener Bankverein. The bank has an expense ratio of 88.8 per cent., even though the number of clerks has been reduced during the last year and the management cut down. The result of the last year of business was not found satisfactory, and the dividend has, therefore, been reduced from 1.50 schillings to 1 schilling. Salaries amount to 14.3 million schillings, expenses 3.4, taxes and imposts 3.2, and net profit only 2.9 millions. The group of the Deutsche Bank und Disconto Gesellschaft, of the Société Générale de Belgique, and of the Basle Commercial Bank has increased its interest in the Bankverein. This group has taken over the shares of the Bankverein, which the Bankverein itself was obliged to buy up in recent years, and has placed on the board of directors as its trustee General-Director Alexander Weiner, who some years ago left the Bodencredit Anstalt after a serious conflict. The balance sheets of the other banks will probably be published in the course of April. From all the balance sheets of the banks it is clear that the Stock Exchange and issue business is completely stagnant, and that the interest item is the only favourable one. The modification of interest rates which resulted from the relaxation of tension on the international money market will certainly make itself felt during the current year. The shortage of money, about which the weaker concerns in particular complain, is connected with the falling-off in deposits at the savings banks and also at the banks. As there are investment values bearing nearly 8 per cent. and also shares bearing from 6 to 7 per cent. guaranteed for the next year, the public is not satisfied with 4½ per cent. on deposits.

Important commercial treaty negotiations will probably begin shortly. The difficult position in agriculture and in certain branches of industry will lead in the near future to the introduction in Parliament of a new Customs tariff, which will include several big increases. The farmers go so far as to demand that a grain monopoly should be created; others want to have a minimum price of grain guaranteed. From Germany Austria demands export facilities for cattle, horses, firewood and ready-made clothing. From Yugoslavia she demands the right to export to that country larger quantities of certain sorts of grain. As, however, the Yugoslavian treaty is not terminable before autumn of 1931, Yugoslavia wants Austria, in return, to permit her to raise the Customs duty on certain articles exported by Austrian industry to Yugoslavia. From Czechoslovakia the Austrian textile industry demands permission to increase duties on certain yarns and textile goods, and justifies this request by indicating the privations actually being suffered by the Austrian textile industry. Important agreements have recently been made in the metal industry. With the co-operation of the Krupp Works at Berndorf, a general price agreement has been concluded in the metalware industry. So far this has not had financial effect, but the difficult position of individual factories clearly showed the danger arising from the price-cutting carried on up to the present.

HUNGARY.

Public Finance — State Enterprises — Budget — Foreign Trade — Tariff Truce.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, March 23.

THE Finance Minister, Dr. Wekerle, introduced on March 18th the Budget for 1930-31 in the House of Deputies. The Budget estimates for the next fiscal year show expenditure amounting to 895.7 million pengös, as against an estimated expenditure of 920.8 million for the present financial year, and an actual gross expenditure of 964.5 millions in the provisional accounts of the Budget year 1928-29. Economy in expenditure is an imperative necessity, because the revenue returns for the present financial year show a falling tendency. As the Finance Minister declared that the taxation burden of the country cannot be further increased, the cutting down of public expenditure was inevitable. The estimated revenue for 1930-31 is returned at 896.7 million pengös, as against 923 millions for 1929-30 and against an actual revenue of 964.9 in 1928-29. According to the last report of the Finance Minister, the realised revenue for the first seven months (July, 1929-January, 1930) of the present financial year amounted to 546 million

VIENNA.

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pengös, as against 589.2 million pengös in the corresponding period of the previous Budget year. The deficit of the present fiscal year amounts now to 32.3 million pengös, but according to the report of the Finance Minister the deficiency will be made good in the following five months, partly from the proposed economies and also because the expenditure of the second half of the fiscal year is less than in the first half. There is little doubt that the new Budget estimates were drawn up on the lines of the diminishing Treasury receipts of the present fiscal year. Therefore it may be safely assumed that if the estimated expenditure is not increased budgetary equilibrium is amply safeguarded, as the Treasury has enough latent reserves from previous years.

An analysis of the Budget for 1930-31 shows that the ratio of expenditure on personnel and pensions to total expenditure amounts to 54.1 per cent., as against 51.7 per cent. in 1929-30. The main items of the estimated expenditure are as follows:—

	1929-30.	1930-31.
	In million pengös.	
Personnel	299·3	303·4
Pensions	121·7	125·6
Contributions to local authorities	55·2	55·6
Material expenses	314·3	284·9
National debt services	92·8	92·8
Reparation payments	7·5	8·7
Investments	30·0	24·7
Grand total	920·8	895·7

It is much to be regretted that the expenditure on current investments had to be curtailed, but the present state of public finance did not allow more for that purpose. In his Budget speech the Finance Minister emphasised the fact that the proposed State Loan will be devoted to those investments only which will allow a safe margin for interest and amortisation. Road building, railway material and agricultural public works are the main items of the Government's capital investment programme for which a long-term loan will be contracted before long. However, no State Loan could be issued before the ratification of the Hague Agreement, and, therefore, it is probable that recourse will be had to an intermediate short-term loan of £4 to £5 million. The Finance Minister promised to help the agriculturists by cheap loans. To that purpose some 100 million pengös will be devoted partly from the balances of the Swedish Match Trust loan and partly from other sources through the intermediary of the altruistic agricultural institutions.

The Budget of the State Enterprises, which was presented to the House of Deputies together with that of the Administration Services, discloses that all public services have balanced their accounts. The Budget of the State Railways shows ordinary expenditure amounting to 302.5 million pengös, and capital investments are returned at 12.5 millions. Considering that passenger rates were increased by 20 per cent. in February, it is expected that the estimated revenue of 313.2 million pengös will be surpassed, and that there will be a sufficient margin for the proposed loan services for capital investments.

Foreign trade returns are very satisfactory. In the first two months of 1930 exports amounted to 140.7 million pengös, as against 106.1 millions in January-February, 1929, and imports totalled 128.9 millions, as against 153.6 millions a year ago. Thus the adverse balance of trade of 47.5 million pengös in January-February, 1929, was transformed into an active trade balance of 11.8 million pengös in the same period of 1930. The increase of exports is due partly to the export facilities granted by the Minister of Commerce, and also to the low price level of Hungarian agricultural products. The falling off of imports is explained by the cessation of foreign borrowing.

CANADA.

Business — Bid for South American Trade — Trade with New Zealand — Western Natural Resources — Prices — Finance.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, March 11.

EXPRESSIONS of confidence that the advent of spring will produce an immediate improvement in conditions are, for the most part, half-hearted, and the pessimists are now predicting that a lean year lies ahead. One of the chief sources of the depression is found in the plight of the three prairie provinces, where the purchasing power of the farmers is lower this spring than it has been at any time since the great post-war agricultural depression. Since the non-pool farmers mostly sold their crops for cash, and it is now practically certain that the members of the pools cannot expect any large instalments over and above the initial payment which they received on delivery of their grain, there is little hope of much more money being distributed in the prairies until the new crop is garnered. So prospects of a revival of business in this quarter are very slim, and manufacturers and merchants in the East are compelled to shorten sail until orders again begin to flow freely from the West.

The car-loading figure for the week ending March 1st, placed at 59,840 cars, showed an improvement of 2,400 cars over the figure for the previous week, but it was as much as 9,230 cars below the figure for the corresponding week of 1929. Railway earnings remain low, and the gross revenues of the Canadian systems for the week ending March 7th were placed at $4,249,770, which is a decline of $800,773 compared with the corresponding week of last year. Both the great railways, however, are going ahead this spring with a large programme of expansion, and the absorption of labour, and the demand for materials which their construction work will entail, will be exceedingly welcome. But the grain impasse is still unsolved, and the Bureau of Statistics placed the volume of Canadian grain in store on February 28th at 211,141,277 bushels, which is a decline of only some half-million bushels from the previous week's figure. No serious export demand has materialised to relieve the situation, and wheat prices have been more or less stationary for the past week. The statistician of the Federal Grain Commission places Canada's available exportable surplus at 180 million bushels, and intimates that a large carry-over is inevitable at the end of the crop year. The existence of a large carry-over of wheat will tend to make the prairie farmers decrease their wheat acreage, and as, unfortunately, the American market for store cattle is about to have stiff barriers placed around it, the outlook for farming in the West is not auspicious. Moreover, the brokerage scandals have dealt the mining industry a hard knock, and the newsprint industry has not solved its difficulties.

It appears that Canada for some time ahead will have to rely largely upon her industrial centres to maintain national prosperity, and, as the home market will be contracted, they will be disposed to push more and more into foreign markets in competition with British and American exports. For Canadian manufacturers striving to build up an export trade the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill may be helpful, as its effects will be to increase costs of production in the United States and diminish them in Canada, where foodstuffs will be cheapened by it. A strong bid is being made by Canadian manufacturers for a larger share of the South American market, and the Canadian Government has just arranged to distribute motion pictures descriptive of Canadian life and enterprise in 200 cities of South America. New trade commissioners have been placed at Lima and Panama, a Canadian bank has opened fresh branches at Panama and Colon, and a direct steamship service to Buenos Ayres has been established.

The Conservative Opposition have made an attack upon the existing trade arrangements with New Zealand. A Conservative member, who is a dairy farmer, moved that a treaty on more equitable terms should be negotiated. He and other Conservative speakers expatiated upon the harm which had been done to Canada's dairy industry by

heavy imports of butter from New Zealand, which last year amounted to more than 34 million pounds. Mr Dunning, the Finance Minister, deprecated the Conservative motion, but announced that, since certain Canadian interests had represented to the Government the desirability of a permanent commercial treaty with New Zealand, it had begun negotiations with the Ward Ministry of New Zealand for this purpose and had met with a sympathetic response to its overtures. The debate is still proceeding, but the Conservatives are proclaiming triumphantly that they have forced the hand of the Government to accept their policy in regard to better protection for Canadian dairymen.

Further progress has been made with the settlement of the ancient problem of the natural resources of the Western provinces. The Saskatchewan Government has now reached an agreement with the Federal Ministry. From this settlement there is an interesting outcome. As long as the Federal Government controlled the Western lands on which new settlers were chiefly located, it of necessity had to assume direction of immigration policy, but the problems connected with it have become increasingly troublesome. So the Government has virtually reached a decision to divest itself of all but very limited responsibilities for immigration. It will supervise the admission and rejection of immigrants, and it may help to bring in British boys for farms and a certain number of trainees, but it proposes to leave to provincial administrations henceforth the responsibility of determining how many immigrants each province wants in a given year and of negotiating agreements for bringing them in.

Commodity prices show a downward tendency, and the wholesale index of the Bureau of Statistics for February (on the base 1926=100) is 94, as compared with 95.6 in January. Thirty-three quotations were lower, 110 were higher and 359 remained unchanged. The Federal revenues, as the result of the business depression, have been showing a marked decline, and, although at one time they were running substantially ahead of last year's figures, at the end of the first 11 months of the present fiscal year on February 28th they were only placed at $402,822,733, which is a decline of nearly $6,000,000 from the total for the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. In the same period the total of the expenditure is given as $310,148,104, which is an increase of $10,500,000 over the parallel figure. The Government has now submitted to Parliament its estimates for the coming fiscal year, which are given at $399,358,101. This is a decrease of, roughly, $5,000,000 as compared with the total estimates for 1929-30, but the supplementary estimates are certain to bring it in excess of last year's total.

JAPAN.

Parliament — Gold — Prices — Foreign Trade — Bank Dividends.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, March 10.

THE Ministerial party has won a signal victory in the general election, returning to the new Parliament with a clear majority of close on 100 over the chief Opposition party and of 80 over all possible combinations. Of 460 contested elections, besides 6 unopposed returns, the Ministerial party has obtained 273 seats, the Opposition 174, Labour 5, and other minor factions and independents 14. The relative position of the Ministerial and the Opposition parties has thus been more than reversed. The Labour and other candidates have been singularly unsuccessful, and they have virtually ceased to be an effective Parliamentary force in the new House. In the public eye the election resolved itself into a single issue between deflation and inflation, or, in the popular version of the Opposition party, "depression and prosperity." The verdict of the country in favour of a deflationist policy is clear enough, if the returns of the polls reflect public opinion accurately. Having thus secured the clear mandate, the victorious Government is in a position to continue those lines of policy which have achieved the restoration of an effective gold standard. But the Government is to introduce no important legislative measures into the new Parliament which will meet in the latter part of April for a short session of three weeks.

The efflux of gold continues. A further 92 million yen of gold was shipped during the second month of the gold standard, bringing up the total withdrawal since the removal of the gold embargo to 152.6 millions. With the gold drain there eventually appeared signs of strain in the money market, which had for a time been relieved by the far heavier decline in the demand for credit.

The downward movement in the general level of commodity prices also continues, though at a less rapid pace than in the preceding months. Following a substantial fall of 1.8 per cent. in January and of 2.9 per cent. in December last, the Bank of Japan's wholesale index number for February registered a further drop of 0.8 per cent. on the month, the average level being 11.7 per cent. lower than a year ago. Wheat, sugar, raw silk, cotton yarn, iron and steel, and timber, among other things, contributed to the decline. Much concern was expressed in all markets over the continuous fall in prices of important commodities. The silk-reelers have been discussing the maintenance of raw silk prices with the aid of the Silk Credit Act. A severe depression is ruling in the stock market. Security prices have suffered a wholesale depreciation and a number of leading shares, particularly in industrial sections, are now quoted at far below their par value.

The foreign trade returns for last month reveal heavy falls in both import and export values in comparison with February, 1929, after all allowance has been made for lower prices, particularly on the import side. The February returns show that the value of imports at 160,705,000 yen was 76.7 millions lower than in the corresponding month of last year, and exports at 118,886,000 yen fell by 28.4 millions, the excess of imports over exports being 41.8 millions, as against 90.1 millions. Nearly half of the decline in imports is accounted for by raw cotton, the other half by wool, timber, wheat, iron and steel. On the export side raw silk, silk manufactures and wheat flour are mainly responsible for the decrease. Cotton goods alone held their own, owing to a great extent to increased Chinese takings for the purpose of forestalling duties to be levied on a gold basis as from March 1st.

The statements of the Japanese joint-stock banks for the past half-year, which are now available, again make poor showing. The net profits for the December half-year of the five leading banks amount to only 17.3 million yen in the aggregate, as compared with 19.3 millions for the preceding half-year, and 22.2 millions for the corresponding half of last year. But there was no change in the customary rates of dividend, which were paid in some cases out of undivided profits of the previous years. The decreased banking earnings are mainly ascribable to the heavy fall in the demand for credit during the period due

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to the anticipation of a return to gold. On the other hand, the two Colonial banks show increased earnings. The Bank of Chosen recorded an increased profit of 939,000 yen and paid a regular 4 per cent. dividend, while the Bank of Taiwan earned a larger profit of 503,000 yen, which was used to make good the loss brought forward from the preceding years.

Letters to the Editor.

DE-RATING IN PRACTICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In my constituency of North-East Bethnal Green, during the London County Council Election of 1928, the supporters of the Conservative candidate circulated leaflets among the electors claiming that the Local Government Bill then under discussion would ensure a reduction in the local rates of something in the neighbourhood of 1s. 3d. in the £. During the General Election, a year later, the same supporters of the same Conservative candidate assured the same electors that the same Bill—by then an Act—would bring about a reduction in local rates of something in the neighbourhood of 7d. in the £—a reduction of 50 per cent. in the sanguine hopes and bold anticipations of a year before. Another year has now passed, and prophecy has given place to the stark reality: the local rates are not down by 1s. 3d., or even 7d.; they are up by 8d. in the £. And why?

The amount to be raised by rate is £31,740 less than last year; yet the rate required will be increased from 6s. 8d. in the half-year just ended to 7s. 4d. in the half-year now beginning. "This is due" (I quote the financial statement of the Borough Treasurer presented to the Borough Council) "to the effect of the de-rating of industrial property, which has reduced the rateable value of the borough from £605,702 to £507,033, and the product of a 1d. rate from £2,385 to the estimated figure of £1,975."

Be it observed that Bethnal Green is a particularly poor borough—with a single exception the product of 1d. rate in Bethnal Green produces less than in any other London borough—the pre-de-rating figure of £2,388 being comparable with, for instance, £4,706 for Battersea, £7,117 for Stepney, £12,282 for Kensington, and £39,573 for Westminster.

The de-rating of industrial property reduces the rateable value by £100,000—an insignificant reduction in a wealthy borough; in Bethnal Green it means a heavy additional rate, which will fall in the shape of increased rentals upon the already overburdened shoulders of the shopkeeper, the householder and the tenement dweller, where, apart from the operation of the Local Government Act, the ratepayers might confidently have looked forward to a continuance of a progressive reduction in the rates already begun under the administration of a careful, prudent and business-like borough council.

Thus are the critics justified by the event.—Yours, etc.,

H. L. NATHAN.

House of Commons, S.W. 1.
April 9, 1930.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The suggestion made by the Safeguarders that the restriction of competitive imports might lead to an increase in non-competitive imports requires an answer.

The broad feature of our overseas trade is the import of food and raw materials paid for by the export of our manufactured goods. But a great change has taken place since 1914 in the relative values of these two classes owing to the very great advance in labour charges; so that whereas the bulk of our imports now only average 30 per cent. or less above pre-war, the products of our cotton, woollen and engineering industries are valued at about 75 per cent. above pre-war.

The result is that, after we have taken in all the food and all the raw materials we require in exchange for our high-priced manufactures, there still remains 25 per cent. of our pre-war exports which are not required. If we are to resume the export of the old volume of manufactures, we must be prepared to extend the range of our imports.

There is not enough scope in food and raw materials, much less in uncompetitive imports. The fact is that, as we are getting a more advantageous exchange, we must, like a family that gets richer, either treat a larger part of our exports as investments or employ outsiders more to pay for our dearer goods or services; and as there is no great shortage of food in this country, and additional raw material can only be used by greater activity in our manufacturing trades, we must be content to take additional imports in the form of manufactured goods.

Our two largest exports are cotton and woollen goods. To-day it takes only two suits of clothes to pay for the weight of wheat which in 1914 exchanged for three suits; similarly, nine yards of calico will now pay for as much Argentine beef as required twelve yards in 1914; and whereas we needed to send six to eight yards of cotton cloth to pay for one pound of rubber, we now need scarcely send two yards.

Our cotton, woollen and engineering industries have all been developed for export trade far beyond the needs of our home population. Is it, then, surprising that as long as we refuse to widen the area of our exchanges there results an unemployed surplus of production?—Yours truly,

GILBERT BEARD,
Hon. Sec., North-Western Free Trade Union.

5, Cross Street, Manchester.
April 9, 1930.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The issue of March 22nd contains, on page 642, a short article on Frankfurter Allgemeine Versicherungs-Aktien-Gesellschaft. In this article there is a mistake, inasmuch as the term "board of directors" is used in two different senses. Obviously it is difficult to give the correct English term for the German "Aufsichtsrat," and "Vorstand," as the exact equivalent of either of these institutions does not exist under English Corporation Law, a fact to which attention has been drawn in an earlier issue of the *Economist* (*Economist*, September 21, 1929, page 509). In the first part of the above-mentioned article it is said the German banks were represented on the "board of directors," whereas in the second part of the same article you say that "the board of directors also violated the law, and will have to answer for it in the criminal courts." These two statements taken in conjunction are not correct, as the banks were only represented on the "Aufsichtsrat" and not on the "Vorstand," whose actions will be subjected to investigation in the criminal courts. Of course, there is no question of any representative of the banks having violated the law.

Further, it is stated that a settlement of 40 per cent. is guaranteed to the creditors. As a matter of fact, only a quota of 20 per cent. has been guaranteed.—Yours faithfully,

DEUTSCHE BANK UND DISCONTO GESELLSCHAFT.

Berlin, W. 8. April 7, 1930.
30, Mauerstrasse.

[We regret that owing to the ambiguity of the term "board of directors" when applied to German companies our Berlin correspondent's note on this subject should have given the impression that German banks were represented on the *Vorstand* ("board of management") of the Frankfurter Allgemeine. The facts are, of course, as stated by the Deutsche Bank, that banks had representation only on the *Aufsichtsrat* ("supervisory board") of the company.—ED., Econ.]

MR RUNCIMAN ON MONETARY POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr Runciman, if he will allow me to state it, was in error in saying to the members of the United Kingdom Provident Institution that the return to the gold standard was too precipitate. The return was gradual, as the following figures show. In 1920, the height of the inflationary period, the Bank of England notes were £115,000,000, and the Currency Notes £354,000,000. In the following years the figures were:—

	£'s million.			
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Bank Notes ...	127	121	123	126
Currency Notes ...	324	295	285	288

In 1925 the return took place, when there was an expansion in both Bank of England notes and Currency notes.

It will be observed that in 1922, '23 and '24, previous to the return to the gold standard in April, 1925, there was very little movement in the total volume of currency, the principal contraction having taken place in 1920 and 1921. This contraction took place after the fall in prices of commodities, and was not the cause of the fall, although no doubt the cessation of further inflation was a contributing factor in hastening the fall. In the latter part of 1924 the Dawes scheme was made effective, and this involved a loan to Germany of £40,000,000; the bulk of this sum came from America. The effect of this loan and other loans from the United States to Europe had a favourable effect on the New York rate of exchange on London, with the result that the rate steadily rose to nearly parity in the early part of 1925 and made possible the return to the gold standard. The whole operation was gradual and as little disturbing as possible under the circumstances. The example of Great Britain led to the Continent following suit, with the result that we have now secured a sound foundation in stability of exchange on which to build a prosperous foreign trade. The return to the gold standard was none too soon, and I entirely agree with you that having decided to take that course it was advisable to return as "quickly as possible."—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 24, 1930. D. M. MASON.

Books and Publications.

A WAY THROUGH FOR INVESTORS.

THAT investors in the very safest class, such as Consols or the debentures of British railways, have seen not only their capital but their real income halved during the present century is unfortunately too true. The decline was already in progress long before the war, owing to the altering value of money and the widening of the scope of trustee investments. But since the war the immense multiplication of Government loans and the crushing burden of direct taxation to meet hugely increased expenditure, together with a new and dangerous doctrine that Governments can produce prosperity by spending borrowed money, sufficiently explain the further shrinkage. The lesson that has been learnt is that no low fixed-interest-bearing security should be bought unless it has a due date not too far ahead for repayment of the principal. Subject to that condition the old-fashioned principle of "safety first" still seems to be sound advice.

With regard to investment in ordinary shares, Mr Withers, in a stimulating and very timely book,* gives the results of investigations carried out in America by Mr E. L. Smith and in this country by Mr H. E. Raynes, a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. In both cases they showed a large margin of income in favour of ordinary shares over debentures in the same companies when spread over widely diversified undertakings and taken over a considerable period. Taking nine groups, including British railways, shipping, textile, gas, electricity, telegraph, iron and coal, land, and financial trusts, Mr Raynes found that £54,000 invested in their shares in 1912 would have appreciated by nearly 100 per cent. in 1927, while the same sum placed in the debentures would have depreciated by 21 per cent. These are certainly striking figures, but it is admitted that specialised knowledge is required for investments in "equities," as also the ability to spread them over a wide area. This is where the small saver is in a difficulty, for he has not the requisite knowledge to analyse balance sheets nor sufficient capital to spread his risks widely enough. Indeed, as Sir Mark Webster Jenkinson put it in an address nearly two years ago, "to gauge the earning power of a business it is essential to know how, where and why the profits were earned; no balance sheet will afford any reliable guide on these matters. You may teach rationalisation . . . you may introduce artificial aids such as State-aided finance . . . but in the end the value of a business depends on the men who run it."

If the man with leisure, plenty of capital and in a position to secure good advice cannot always back the right horse, what chance is there for those without these advantages? And this brings Mr Withers to suggest that the haven for small savers may be found in the creation of purely investment trusts that would carry more weight than those, excellent as they are, that have been formed under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, in which individual holdings are limited to £200. In illustration of what can be obtained from soundly managed trust companies an illuminating table shows that from 1909-10 to 1928-29 the average income received by a holder of ordinary stocks in nine such concerns has risen from 5.4 to 14.3 per cent., while the average market price had advanced from 100 in 1909 to 304 on September 30 last. These were all high-class investment trusts with no eye to promoters' emoluments, where a substantial portion of the divisible profits was placed to reserve year by year, thus constantly increasing the profit-earning fund. Their present high prices are a deterrent to the small saver. The new trusts dreamed of by Mr Withers would be on similar lines sponsored by the leaders of the financial world, including that already overworked gentleman, the Governor of the Bank of England.

* "The Quicksands of the City and a way through for Investors." By Hartley Withers. London: Jonathan Cape. 6s.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Economic Aspects of the History of the Civilisation of Japan. By Yosoburo Takekoshi. In three volumes. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. Vol. II, 3 gns. net.

These three volumes contain a detailed survey of Japanese economic history, which forms a substantial and valuable contribution to English-speaking readers' knowledge of the East.

The Land and the Peasant in Roumania. By David Mitrany. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 20s. net.

This volume is a very worthy representative of the Carnegie Endowment Series. It examines the effect of the war and of the land reform upon every aspect of rural economy in Roumania, and in so doing throws light upon many more general agricultural problems.

Heutiger Protektionismus in der Weltschiffahrt. By Dr. Max de Vries. (Berlin) Wilhelm Christians Verlag, Unterwasserstr. 8.

The thesis is that the present world depression in shipping is due to State subventions and other forms of protection to the shipping industry.

Analysis of Industrial Securities. By Carl Kraft and Louis P. Starkweather. (New York) The Ronald Press Company, 15, East 26th Street. $5.

A most elaborate and thorough exposition of the technique of analysing industrial companies for the purpose of estimating the desirability of their securities as investments.

The Federal Anti-Trust Law. By Charles Wesley Dunn. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 5s. net.

A series of lectures, in pamphlet form, constituting a valuable study of the Sherman, Clayton and Federal Trade Commission Acts.

State Income Taxes. Vol. II, Analysis of Income Taxes in State Fiscal System. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $2.50.

This volume and its predecessor are a remarkably exhaustive source of detailed information on the various income-tax systems obtaining in the different States of the United States of America.

The Banker, April, 1930. (London) Financial Newspaper Proprietors, Ltd., 20, Bishopsgate. 2s. 6d.

Includes, among a number of interesting articles, one on the fall in commodity prices.

The Bankers' Magazine, April, 1930. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London Wall. 2s. 6d. net.

Includes an article on the new international bank.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic conditions in the Union of South Africa. 1929. 2s. net; *Economic Conditions in Brazil, November,* 1929. 2s. 6d. net.

Ministry of Health: Report of the Postgraduate Medical Education Committee. Cmd. 3535. 9d. net.

Report of Imperial Economic Committee: A Survey of the Trade in Rubber Manufactured Goods. 6d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

CHINESE LOANS.

THE Chinese bond market presents a species of Chinese puzzle to the majority of investors. Quotations range from rubbish prices, which indicate the outright gamble, to "gilt-edged" prices which carry the mark of genuine investment buying. Clearly, the layman needs to know his way about this market, and it may help him to remember that Chinese loans fall generally into four distinct classes—those secured on the maritime customs, which are of high standing; those secured on the salt tax revenues, which are less secure; those secured on the railways, which, with two exceptions, are of doubtful standing; and, finally, unsecured loans, which have no standing whatsoever.

To set out the merits of the loans secured on the customs revenues it is necessary to give a few historical facts and figures. The Maritime Customs administration was established about the middle of the last century to collect import and export duties at the Chinese ports open to foreign trade. It has always been under the direction of foreigners, and by an agreement of 1898 the Chinese Government undertook to retain a British subject as Inspector-General as long as British trade in the treaty ports exceeded that of any other nation. In addition to its rights as regards imports and exports, the Maritime Customs Administration is charged with the collection of customs on coastwise trade in foreign-built bottoms, and since 1901 with that of the native customs (at the treaty ports) which were hypothecated for the service of the Boxer Indemnity. The customs receipts are paid into a bank attached to each customs office, and the funds required for the interest and sinking funds of the loans are remitted to the agents, the balance being returned to the national exchequer. By the trade treaty of December, 1928, China's claim to tariff autonomy was accepted, and an increase in the customs duties, which were formerly 5 per cent., to 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*, was immediately authorised and came into effect on February 1, 1929. The receipts of the Maritime Customs in the past three years have been as follows:—

	Revenue. Haikwan Taels.	Average Rate of Exchange.	Sterling Equivalent £
1927	68,735,000	2/9 13/16	9,684,000
1928	82,332,000	2/11 1/16	12,028,000
1929	152,760,000	2/7 13/16	20,428,600

The remarkable increase in the receipts last year shows the effect of the new rates, which were expected, however, to provide an increase of over 80,000,000 taels. The increase in the 1928 receipts, in spite of the civil wars of that year, was mainly due to the abnormal imports of goods in the last quarter, which were made to escape the higher tariffs from February 1, 1929, onwards. Nevertheless, full credit should be given—to quote the report of the Department of Overseas Trade—to the "Chinese genius for carrying on business with the odds heavy against them."

These customs receipts provide a satisfactory security for the three loans directly charged, which, in order of priority, are the 4 per cent. of 1895, the 5 per cent. of 1896, and the 4½ per cent. of 1898. There are two other loans secured indirectly on the customs receipts—the 5 per cent. Reorganisation, 1913, and the 5 per cent. Boxer Loan. There is some doubt as to which of these two loans enjoys the better security. Whereas the 5 per cent. Reorganisation, 1913, is definitely a charge on the surplus of the customs if the salt tax revenues are insufficient, the 5 per cent. Boxer Loan is charged on the French portion of the Boxer Indemnity, which in turn was secured (a) on the revenues of the Maritime Customs subject to prior charges, (b) on the revenues of the native customs administered by the Maritime customs, and (c) on the revenues of the salt tax subject to prior charges. The next table shows the present prices of these five loans, the amounts outstanding and the interest and redemption yields:—

	Drawings.	Amount Outstanding.	Redemption.	Price.	Yields. Flat.	Yields. With Redemption.
		£			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4% 1895	March	1,571,666	1931	99½	4 1 3	5 8 0
5% 1896	February	1,797,950	1932	98	5 2 6	*6 5 0
4½% 1898	January	8,087,425	1943	82½	5 5 9	†6 12 0
5% Re-organisation 1913	March	23,326,840 §	1960	64½	7 18 3	‡8 7 6
5% Boxer	December	41,000,000	1947	72½	7 0 3	§8 2 9

* If redeemed April, 1932; £7 6s. 0d. if redeemed April, 1931.
† £7 11s. 0d. for average life to 1938.
‡ £8 18s. 3d. for average life to 1951.
§ £9 10s. 0d. for average life to 1940.

The first and second of these loans are virtually commercial bills, and the second is peculiarly attractive because, on account of the heavy sinking fund available, the chances of a holder being drawn for redemption next April at par are about one in two.

With regard to the salt tax loans, no funds were available in 1928 for the service of the loans on account of the civil wars and the depredations of the Tuchuns, but later in that year an arrangement was made by the Ministry of Finance for all revenues from the salt tax to be credited to the Government's account in the Chinese collecting banks (*i.e.*, the Government took over the custody of the funds) and the Ministry of Finance undertook to transfer monthly in respect of each district a quota to make up $10,000,000 per annum to meet the loans secured. In September, 1929, the Nanking Government announced that the salt tax quotas were being regularly remitted by the different districts, and that arrears of interest which had accumulated were being made up. The interest payments on the loans secured directly on the salt tax (4½ per cent. of 1908 and 5 per cent. of 1912) were, in fact, made in October, 1929, and have since been continued, but there are certain drawings still in default, and interest coupons are in arrears on the 5 per cent. Hukuang 1911 loan, secured on certain provincial revenues, including the salt tax. The present prices and yields of the salt tax loans (shown in order of priority) are found in the next table:—

	Drawings.	Redemption.	Price.	Yields. Flat.	Yields. With Redemption.
				£ s. d.	%
4½% (Anglo-French) Gold Loan 1908*	August	1938	55	8 4 0	13½
5% 1912 (Crisp loan)†	March	1952	47½	10 11 0	14
5% Hukuang 1911‡	December	1957	30	...	...

* Drawn bonds due October, 1928, were paid in October, 1929, but the drawn bonds due October, 1929, are still in default.
† The coupon due in September, 1928, was paid in September, 1929, when the Government announced that four quarterly interest payments would be made during 1930, bringing the interest up to date by the end of that year. Drawn bonds due in March, 1928, and subsequently, have not been paid, but the Government announced that instalments would be paid annually in 1932 and all arrears paid up by December, 1934.
‡ Coupons due June 15, 1926, of German Issue and December 15, 1926, of English French and American Issues, paid July 23, 1929, but subsequent coupons are in default. On September 18, 1929, the Ministry of Finance announced that arrears would be paid off at the rate of one coupon in June each year. Drawn bonds due June 15, 1925, and subsequently of German Issue and June 15, 1926, and subsequently of English, French and American Issue are in default.

The railway loans have suffered most from the civil wars, and the services of most of them are in default. Traffics are interrupted, and the lines are seized by military commanders whenever it suits the latters' military or private exchequer purposes. Nevertheless, the 5 per cent. Imperial Railway Loan of 1899, although the line owes large sums for rolling stock and material and is in default on its loan from the British and Chinese Corporation, has been kept up to date as regards its interest payments. The railway administration pays to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, by monthly instalments, the amounts necessary for the service of the loan. The Shanghai-Nanking and the Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo have also been able to meet their liabilities, though payments have sometimes been delayed. The Council of Foreign Bondholders takes the view that as regards the railway loans in default, the continuance of more settled Government renders the prospect of resumption of regular payments more hopeful. The prices and yields of the railway loans are shown in the next table:—

Loan.	Redemption.	Price.	Flat. £ s. d.	With Redemption. £ s. d.
5% Imperial Rlys. 1899 ...	1944	71	7 1 0	8 12 0
5% Shanghai-Nanking ...	1953	62	8 6 0	8 7 6
5% Shanghai-Hangchow-Ningpo ...	1938	74	6 18 5	9 18 0

NOTE.—The following railway loans are in default: 5% Honan Rly. 1905 from July, 1926; Canton-Kowloon 5% 1907 from December, 1925; Tientsin-Pukow 5% 1908 and 5% 1910 from April, 1926, and November, 1925, respectively; and Lung-Tsing-U-Hai 5% 1913 from January, 1926.

With regard to the unsecured loans, the 8 per cent. Marconi, 1918, and 8 per cent. Vickers, 1919, are still in default as from 1921 and 1922 respectively, and there seems no prospect of improvement until a general consolidation of China's unsecured indebtedness is organised.

While the position of Chinese loans has, on the whole, improved of recent months, there are none the less serious risks inherent in the general situation. The last report of the Department of Overseas Trade, for example, referred to the increase in domestic loans, of which $100 million were bequeathed by the old Pekin Government. Since May, 1927, the National Government has issued domestic loans aggregating $334 million secured on the tobacco tax, the German Boxer Indemnity and the increased Customs revenues. These internal loans have been given preference over foreign loans regardless of the claims of the latter, and their interest payments have been regularly met. Another possibility to be borne in mind is the question of a revision of the extra-territorial rights of foreigners. The National Government at Nanking has already attempted to abolish these rights. At the end of last year it announced that extra-territoriality was abrogated as from January 1, but left a loophole by saying that legislation would be enacted in due course, but meanwhile an opportunity would be available for international discussion. The British Government's reply was a polite refusal of the *immediate* abandonment of extra-territoriality, but a declaration that it welcomed the Chinese Note as a first step towards *agreed* revision. The wording of the British reply is worth repetition. "So long as these conditions (the interference of military chiefs and others in Chinese courts of justice) subsist, there appears no practicable alternative to maintaining, though perhaps in a modified form, the treaty port system that has served for nearly a century to regulate the intercourse between China and British subjects within her domain. . . . The problem as it presents itself to His Majesty's Government at the present moment is to discover what further modifications would be desirable and practicable to effect." The security of the loans secured on the Customs revenues is due entirely to the fact that the Maritime Customs office is administered by foreign officials at the treaty ports, where, in case of emergency, foreign warships can command the situation. While a Chinese civil war—the so-called "punitive expedition," which the "model governor" of the Shansi province has just undertaken against General Chiang Kai-Shek, may be the beginning of another outbreak—is not, possibly, of serious consequence to the holders of the National Customs loans (it may affect, of course, the salt tax and railway loans, according to the duration of the trouble), any alteration of the system of foreign extra-territoriality and the collection of Customs by foreign officials at the treaty ports would clearly have far-reaching effects on the Chinese bond market, which no investor can afford to ignore in estimating the outlook.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
April 22.	April 24.

THE Stock Exchange's expectations this week were framed on moderate lines. No large accession of business was looked for in the week preceding the Budget speech. Nor was the "House" at all sanguine of a fall in Bank rate, despite the optimism of Lombard Street. That business was generally well maintained was regarded, in the circumstances, as highly gratifying. The strength of New York, though its wisdom was questioned on this side, was an immediately helpful factor, especially where "internationals" were concerned, while Paris was a more or less consistent buyer of her favourite stocks. The reports of domestic industrial concerns, published during the week and dealt with on succeeding pages of this issue, were, for the most part, of satisfactory tenour, and in the new capital market various issues of high investment status were favourably received.

The gilt-edged markets opened under the shadow of the Budget, but became firmer as the week progressed, on the favourable monetary outlook, the flow of Australian gold to the Bank, and, partially, on specialised foreign interest. Funding Loan, with its extensive foreign holding, remained erratic, but gained ground on balance. War Loan was supported and the new 4½ per Cent. Conversion Loan, partly paid, was in demand. India stocks showed a further recovery on the absence of spectacular results following the opening of the "disobedience" campaign. Australian loans reacted, the market being by no means happy regarding Mr Scullin's Draconian tariff proposals.

The outstanding feature in a dull foreign market was the revival of interest in Chinese Loans. The 1913 Customs Issue found speculative buyers and various railway bonds were in demand. The outlook for Chinese securities is considered in a leading article on page 836. The rally in Brazilian bonds was temporarily halted, but Argentine stocks were firm on a small volume of investment business. European stocks showed only fractional changes.

Home rails met with modest support, less on the week's traffic figures (the increase in which, as compared with 1929, was discounted by the latter's post-Easter character) than on expectations that next week's holiday traffic would be of favourable dimensions. The market, however, failed to respond to a further rise in Underground gross revenue. After a dull opening, Argentine rails were given a sharp upward twist by a rise in the exchange and a rumour that the Government had secured a large loan. Elsewhere, Central Uruguays were strong, but little interest was taken in Brazilians.

In the industrial markets, interest was chiefly centred on international stocks, which showed a steady advance on Wall Street activity, broken by intermittent profit-taking in that centre. The consistent firmness of Kreuger and Toll was vindicated by an eminently satisfactory report, discussed in a Note on page 842. Brewery and tobacco shares were again irregular, market opinion hardening on the Budgetary question, but rayon shares recorded a perceptible advance on bear closing and nebulous rumours regarding next week's possibilities. Interest was shown in commercial motor shares, particularly Leyland and Dennis, the latter's name being unofficially associated with that of the Associated Equipment Company. A tentative improvement in Imperial Chemical Industries, on numerous small buying orders, brought out more than ample supplies of stock. Only a moderate interest was taken in Gramophone and Columbia issues in the absence of any official merger announcement, the H.M.V. interim dividend leaving the position exactly as before. Little interest was taken in iron and steel shares, the market finding certain features of the Guest-Keen-Baldwins fusion terms somewhat difficult to understand. An interpretation of these proposals will be found on p. 840. Nitrate shares came for a few brief hours into the centre of the stage, a sharp rise in Lautaros following the announcement that a com-

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices, Apr. 3.	Closing Prices, Apr. 10.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	78⅜	78½	− ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	99⅜	99½	+ ⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64	102⅛ x	102⅛	− ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	103	103	...
Consols 4%	88⅛	88⅜	− ⅛
Funding 4%	91⅛	91⅛	...
Victory Bonds 4%	94⅜	94⅛	− ⅛
Local Loans 3%	65⅜	65½	− ⅛
Treasury 5% (B)	101¼	101¼	...
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	102	102	...
India 3½%	64	64¼	+ ¼
Do. 4½% 1958-68	87	86⅛	− ⅛
Australia 5% 1945-75	94	94	...
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	91½	90½	− 1
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	102	102	...

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	102	102	...
Argentine 4% Reciss.	87½	87½	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	104	104	...
Belgian 7%	111¼	111¼	...
Brazil 6⅓% (1927)	92	91⅔	− ⅓
China 5% (1912)	47⅛	48⅛	+ ⅛
Egypt Unified 4%	78½	78⅝	+ ⅛
French 5%	20⅜	20⅝	+ ⅛
French 4% (Brit.)	20⅛	20⅛	...
German 7%	108½	108½	...
Greek 7% Refugee	103	103½	+ ½
Hungary 7½%	103½	103½	...
Chili 6%	97½	97½	...
Poland 7%	92	92	...
Mexican 5% (1899)	20	20	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	94½	94½	...

Corporation Stocks.

B'mgham 5% 1946–56	...	⅜ pm.	...
Bristol 5% 1950–60	...	1⅜ pm.	...
L.C.C. 3%	66	65 − 1	
E. London 5% 1960-70	98	98	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	92	92	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	96	95½	− ½

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	88	88½	− ½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10½	10⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	31½	32½	+ ½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52½	52½	...
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	65½	65	− ½
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77½	77½	...
Southern Def. Stk.	31½	31½	+ ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	74½	74½	...
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds	110	109½	− ½
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	216½	218½	+ 2½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	87	87	...
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	89½	90	+ ½
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	95½	96½	+ ½
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	76⅛	77⅛	+ ⅛
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	81	81½	+ ½
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	17⅛	17⅛	+ ⅛
G.W. of Brazil £10	3½	3½	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	55½	55	− ½
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	196½	195½	− ½
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$36½	$30½	− 6
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk	20	19½	− ½
Beira Rlwy. no par	1¼	1⅛	− ⅛

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	256	255	− 1
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅞	2⅞	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅜	1⅜	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅜	3⅛	+ 1/16
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅜	13⅜	+ 1/16
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1⅛	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$116	$117½	+ 1½
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15½	15½	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅞	3⅞	+ 1/16

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un.£2½ fully pd.	26	26	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29½	29	− ½
Pearl (£1)	13⅜	13½	− ⅛
Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14	14⅜	+ ⅜
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	8½	8⅝	...

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/32
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	...
Cory, William (£1)	2⅜	2⅜	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− 1/16
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛ x	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛ x	1⅛	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8)	⅛ x	⅛	...

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅜	⅜	+ ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/32
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Listers (£1)	¼	⅜	− 1/32

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− 1/32
British Insulated (£1)	3¼ x	3⅜	+ 1/32
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅜	− 1/16
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	+ ¼
Johnson & Phillips(£1)	1⅛	2	+ 1/32

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 7/16	1 7/16	...
City of London (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− 1/16
County of London (£1)	2⅜	2⅛	+ 1/32
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	52⅜	55⅞	+ 3½
Midland Counties (£1)	1 7/16	1 7/16	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅜ x	1⅜	+ 1/32

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	395	400	+ 5
Primitiva (£1)	1 17/32	1 17/32	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	100½	101	+ ½

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	*A. Ord.*	59	59½	+ ½
	B Ord.	30	30⅜	+ ⅜
Canadian Marconi		1⅝	1 9/16	+ 1/16
Marconi Marine (£1)		2 1/16 x	2 1/16	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)		2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/32

Motors.

Austin (5/-)	1½	1⅝	+ 1/32
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2 7/16	+ 1/32
Ford Motors (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/32
Leyland (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	+ 1/32
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	− 1/32
Napier (5/-)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/32

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26½	26½	...

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	− 1/32
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	26	25½	− ½
London Asiatic (2/)	⅛	7/32	− 1/32
Rubber Trust (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/32
United Sedang (2/)	1/32	1/32	...

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅛	4 7/32	+ 1/32
Attock (£1)	1 1/32	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	1/32	1/32	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4 1/32	4⅛	+ 1/32
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	+ 1/32
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/32
Royal Dutch (£3¾)	33⅜	34 1/32	+ 1/32
Shell (£1)	4 1/32	4 1/32	+ 1/32

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/32 x	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Braz. Traction, no par	$48⅛	$54⅛	+ 6
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 1/32	5 1/32	− 1/32
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9⅛	9 1/16	− 1/32
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	6 1/32	+ 1/32
Distillers (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/32	+ 1/32
Dunlop (6/8)	1/32	1/32	+ 1/32
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/32
Guinness (A) (£1)	5 1/16	5⅛	+ 1/32
Harrods (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	− 1/32
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	+ 1/32
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/32
Imp. Chem.. Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/32
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− 1/32
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛ x	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛ x	1⅛	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Vickers (6/8)	⅛ x	⅛	...

Mines.

Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1 1/32	1 1/16	− 1/32
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅛	9⅛	+ ⅛
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	1 1/16	− 1/32
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1 1/32	1 1/32	...
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	− 1/32
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	1/32	1/32	...
London Tin (£1)	1 1/32	1⅛	+ 1/32
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 *pd.*)	3⅛	3	− ⅛
NewModder fontein 10/-	4 1/32	4⅛	+ 1/32
Rhodesian CongoBorder (£1)	14⅞	15½	+ ⅝
Rio Tinto (£5)	45½	45 17/32	+ 1/32
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1 17/32	1 17/32	...
Tanganyika (£1)	2⅛	2 1/32	+ 1/32
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3 1/32	+ 1/32

mittee had been formed in London, under official auspices, to effect an increase in consumption of the Chilean product. Bank shares attracted a moderate business at fractionally higher prices, but insurance shares were irregular.

Exceptional quietude prevailed in the rubber share market, after a reaction in quotations at the end of last week. Despite the imminence of the May tapping "holiday," and rumours of a pending revival in American buying, the commodity was dull, and lost ground. A few sales of Rubber Trust followed the reduction of the dividend. Dealings in tea shares also fell off, despite the announcement of final arrangements for restriction of production and "finer plucking" in the industry. The oil share market showed fair, though intermittent, activity, New York and Paris being buyers on balance. Attention was concentrated mainly on Shell, Royal Dutch, and other leaders, with some speculative interest in Eagle issues.

The mining share market was irregular throughout the week, with a few bright spots. Kaffirs opened strongly on Paris buying, and Brakpan went ahead sharply, though the gain was not held. Geduld and East Geduld were in evidence, the latter's new capital issue serving to focus favourable attention on Union Corporation, while Johnnies showed some weakness in connection with adverse rumours regarding the Potgietersrust Platinums. Among Rhodesians several improvements were recorded, Congo Border again leading the way with an advance to 15½, while N'Changa and Rhodesia Broken Hill hardened. The price of tin advanced £2 15s. on Wednesday, but the market was irregular with some profit taking. A number of Indian descriptions were marked down on reported labour troubles, and Mysore and Nundydroog both finished lower.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Apr. 3.	Apr. 4.	Apr. 7.	Apr. 8.	Apr. 9.	Apr. 10.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,483	1,365	1,821	1,408	1,507	1,412
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,052	1,026	1,311	1,057	1,022	1,183
Commercial and Industrial*	2,323	2,567	2,738	2,253	2,335	2,405
Banks, Insurance and Financial	576	705	779	584	570	690
Mines (including Nitrate)	600	598	828	557	501	525
Oil	234	230	294	331	229	276
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	193	232	240	166	135	186
Total	6,461	6,723	8,011	6,356	6,299	6,680

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13.)	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Apr. 3.	Apr. 4.	Apr. 7.	Apr. 8.	Apr. 9.	Apr. 10.
90·5	82·0	88·8	89·6	89·4	89·3	89·3	89·3

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The new issues of the week totalled $260 million, the largest sum since early January. The Argentine $50 million short-term loan was heavily over-subscribed, but some offers went slowly. Existing bonds are quieter in competition with shares, which are rapidly regaining their old popularity. More optimistic reports are being received from the motor industry, but the steel trade is slightly less active, with a 2 per cent. drop in the operating ratio, although the Steel Corporation's unfilled orders showed a rise of 90,000 tons during March—the seventh consecutive monthly rise. Railroad traffic remains at the 1922 level. Public utility shares are the most active market, but practically all descriptions of industrials are buoyant. Rails, however, are being left alone in view of their unsatisfactory earnings and the investigations into holding-company finance which are being carried out by Congress. The volume of dealings is the highest since last autumn, averaging over 5,000,000 shares daily. The public and the pools are both active, and profit-taking is insufficient to stop the advance, although the market is quite irregular each day, and a good deal of in and out business is probably being wrongly taken for strength. No change in the discount rate is anticipated until quieter conditions prevail in the share market. Farm implement shares are higher on rising exports. Steel shares are marking time, but chemicals were higher and tobaccos resting at their high level. A bull market exists in food shares, and aircraft stocks are being manipulated to a high figure. The commodity markets are steadier.

(*By Cable.*)

	Mar. 27.	Apr. 3.	Apr. 10
U.S. 3¼% T. Bds.	105 19/32	105 3/32	104 13/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112 3/32	111 13/32	111 7/32
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100 1/32	100 1/32	100 1/32
Do. 4½% '32-47	101 7/32	101 1/32	101 1/32
Do. 4½% '33-38	101 17/32	101 1/32	101 1/32
Atchison	237	237	236⅜
Ches. & Ohio	233½	235	232
Erie	58⅛	58	58⅛
Illinois Central	129¼	129	129½
N.Y. Central	187½	186½	185½
Pennsylvania	83¼	84⅛	82⅜
Southern Pacific	121	122½	122⅜
Southern Rly.	127	127½	127
Union Pacific	237	235½	235
Am. Can.	149	148	151½
Alleghany Corp.	32½	32⅜	32⅝
Amer. Smelting	76½	77	74
Anaconda	78⅜	78¼	73⅞
Bethlehem Steel	105½	107½	106⅜
Chrysler Motor	38⅜	38⅛	42⅜
Corn Produce	101	99½	107⅜
Eastman Kodak	236	232½	236
Gen. Electric(New)	80⅜	86⅞	92⅜
Gen. Motors	49⅜	49½	53½
Int. Harvester	94	94⅜	106½
Montg Ward	38½	40	42⅜
Natl. Biscuit	220	87⅞	88⅜
Phelps Dodge	41⅜	42	41
Pullman	81⅜	82½	83
Sears-Roebuck	85⅜	86⅜	92½
Studebaker	40⅞	41⅜	42½
Un. Fruit	90½	91⅜	96
U.S. Leather	10⅜	10⅜	13⅜
U.S. Rubber	29½	32⅞	34⅞
U.S. Steel	190⅜	193½	195⅝
Westinghouse	186	182½	192⅜
Woolworth	63	64¼	64⅜
Worthington Pump	134	136	137
Am. Pow. & Light	113⅜	114½	92⅜
Am. Tel. & Tg.	250½	262⅜	270
Electric P. & L.	86⅞	95⅛	93⅛
Int. Tel. Teles.	63	68⅜	70⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	50½	53⅜	53⅜
Radio Corpn.	47⅛	59⅜	60⅜
Utilities P. & L.	41⅜	41⅝	45
W. Union Tlg.	183	191	187½
Associated Gas "A"	42⅜	41	42
Mid-Cont. Pet.	31½	31	32½
Pan Amer. B.	55	55	58½
Sinclair Oil	27½	29⅜	31⅜
Std. California	65	68½	71⅜
Do. N.J.	73	75¼	79

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100) :—

	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Lowest.	1929. Highest.	1930. Beginning of Year.	1930. Mar. 27.	1930. Apr. 3.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	167·2	170·1
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	144·7	145·5
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	249·1	258·3
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	176·6	180·2
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·24%	4·15%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 9.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Apr. 2.	Apr. 3.	Apr. 4.	Apr. 6.	Apr. 7.	Apr. 8.	Apr. 9.
202·3	166·5	196·0	196·6	199·6	201·0	200·1	199·3	202·3

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Apr. 3.	Apr. 4.	Apr. 5*.	Apr. 7.	Apr. 8.	Apr. 9.	Apr. 10.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	4,627	5,924	2,520	5,484	4,683	5,181	5,672
Bonds (Value— Thous. $)	10,959	15,061	7,477	12,873	14,351	12,454	11,579
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	1,305	1,581	719	1,605	1,435	1,489	1,605

* 2-hour session.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Price of Corporation Loans.—The fruits of cheap money are being rapidly gathered by British municipalities, whose loans account for the lion's share of the current business of the issue market, and are obtaining an excellent response. From many points of view this phase of the capital market's activity is highly desirable. The loans now being issued are of full trustee status and high intrinsic investment quality. The proceeds are being utilised for large capital works, of a public character, which economists are wont to advocate as employment-providers in periods of industrial depression, such as the present time. A story has been obtaining currency, however, that home corporations are obtaining their money too "cheaply"—that they are, in fact, borrowing at lower rates than at any time since the war. How far is this borne out by fact? Of this year's corporation loans only one has been priced to yield the investor less than 5 per cent., as the following table shows:—

HOME CORPORATION BORROWERS IN 1930.

	New Money Involved (at Issue Price). £	Yield, including Redemption (%). £ s. d.
5% *Bank Rate*—		
Brighton	1,094,500	5 0 6
4½% *Bank Rate*—		
Hastings	742,500	5 1 2
Hull	1,485,000	5 1 3
4% *Bank Rate*—		
Southampton	1,633,500	5 1 3
Swansea	1,485,000	5 1 5
3½% *Bank Rate*—		
Bristol	1,734,482	5 0 9
Birmingham	5,025,000	4 19 3
Rhymney Valley	229,360	5 7 9
Belfast	497,500	5 0 9
Barnsley	1,000,000	5 0 0*
Sunderland	1,000,000	5 0 0
Total to date	**15,926,842**	**5 0 8**

* Exclusive of "turn" involved by payment of full half-year's interest in September next.

Approximately £16,000,000 of new money has been raised by home corporations this year (including Belfast, but excluding Dublin), at an average price of £5 0s. 8d. per cent. The effective yield has not fallen even approximately in proportion to Bank rate this year. How do these figures compare with those of corporation borrowing in earlier post-war days? The following table supplies an answer:—

CORPORATION BORROWING, 1924-1929.

Calendar Year.	Average Level of Bank Rate. %	No. of Corporation and Public Board Loans.	Total Amounts Involved (at Issue Price). £	Average Yield. %
1924	4·0	9	10,265,000	4·81
1925	4·55	21	21,329,000	4·84
1926	5·0	31	41,833,900	5·02
1927	4·65	24	27,114,400	4·96
1928	4·5	7	14,871,000	4·75
1929	5·5	4	8,316,000	4·96

On the last occasion when Bank rate was as low as it is to-day, not a single home corporation loan was issued. This applies both to the period from June 15 to July 13, 1922, when Bank rate was 3½ per cent., and from July, 1922, to July, 1923, when it reached its lowest post-war level of 3 per cent. During the following years, however, it was only in the abnormal period of 1926, under the Coal Stoppage and a 5 per cent. Bank rate, that the average yield on new corporation stocks was as high as at the present time. In 1928 and 1929, the ill-fated "Hatry" company, Corporation and General Securities,

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made a number of issues which were not publicly advertised. As these were all at " cut " rates, however, their inclusion would lower rather than raise the average " yield " figure. The conclusion is that the price of current corporation offers is definitely advantageous from the investor's point of view.

Australian Stocks.—The gravity of the economic situation in Australia, which is referred to in a leading article on page 815, is causing many holders of Australian securities to consider its possible bearings on the investment outlook. The recent proposal of Mr Scullin's administration to prohibit the import of certain goods altogether, to limit the import of others and impose a surtax of 50 per cent. on the import tariffs generally, will undoubtedly tend to curtail the trading profits of the agency and finance companies and the banks. The present market prices of the shares of a number of these companies and the highest prices recorded in 1929 are shown in the next table.

	Highest 1929.	Present Price.	Earnings on Ord.	Dividends.
			%	%
English, Scottish and Australian Bank £5, £3 paid	9⅛	6½	19·7	12½
Bank of Australasia £5	15 3/32	11⅞	15·1	14
Union Bank of Australia £15, £5 paid	...	10⅞	15·3	15
Commercial Bank of Australia 10s.	1½	1 1/32	18·6	15
Australian Bank of Commerce £1	1⅞	1 3/32	9·9	8
National Bank of Australasia £10	9 29/32	6⅞	12·2	10
Australian Mercantile Land and Finance £5	9¾	6¾	17·8	10
Australian Estates and Mortgage, Stk	72½	52½	6·8	5
Dalgety and Co. £20, £5 paid	16	11	20·8	17*

* Tax Free.

The Australian Bank of Commerce and the Union Bank of Australia have already reduced their interim dividends—the first from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. for the year ending June 30th next, and the second from 7½ per cent. to 6¼ per cent. for the year ending February last. The Commercial Bank and National Bank (and, possibly, the Bank of Australasia) are also expected to reduce their dividends. The chairman of Dalgety and Company warned his fellow shareholders at the general meeting last November that they must expect declining profits (which implies lower dividends) this year. The same applies to the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Company. Australian Government stocks have also reflected the anxiety felt by investors at the economic and financial situation of the country. The present market prices compared with those on October 30th, when we last examined the position (*Economist*, November 2, 1928), are shown in the next table:—

	Price, Oct. 30, 1929.	Present Price.	Red. Yield %
			£ s. d.
Australia, Commonwealth 5% 1945–75	95¼	93½	5 9 0
Queensland 5% 1940–60	93½	91	5 13 0
S. Australia 3% unredeemable	57¾	55	*5 10 6
W. Australia 5% 1935–45	95½	94½	5 14 0

* Flat.

There is a general belief that Australia will pull through its present difficulties, but the recent measures of Mr Scullin's Government, designed to prevent the flow of imports, should cause holders of bank and agency stocks to think twice.

Brazilian Bonds and the Coffee Position.—We referred in the *Economist* of December 7, 1929, to the steps taken by the San Paulo Government to remedy the coffee situation by permitting an increase in the daily entries of coffee into Santos for export. We now learn with satisfaction that the private bankers who arranged the recent advance of £2,000,000 for the San Paulo Government, are taking a decidedly more hopeful view of the outlook. A number of reassuring statements are made. The coming 1930-31 coffee crop of San Paulo will not, it is expected, exceed 8,000,000 bags, and will probably be under 7,000,000 bags, as compared with an estimated production for 1929-30 of 18,000,000 bags. Thus the estimated 1930-31 crop for the whole of Brazil may be under 12,000,000 bags—which is about 2,500,000 bags less than the normal deliveries. Secondly, the existing stocks of coffee in Brazil are of a better average quality than for many years past. The number of trees cultivated has been greatly reduced. Finally, the Government of San Paulo has openly avowed its abandonment of the principle of artificially maintaining a high price of coffee and is turning its attention exclusively to the problem of how to realise the accumulated stocks over a period of years. The problem, naturally, will not be solved immediately. The 1929-30 Brazilian crop is expected to result in a surplus of between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 bags. Exports, however, have been speeded up and the figures for January disclose an export from Santos alone of 1,100,000 bags. At the present low level of prices Brazilian coffee should compete effectively with the mild coffees of Central America, especially as Brazilian costs of production are reputed to be 20 per cent. below that of other producing countries. Any scheme which the Government may put forward to deal satisfactorily with the disposal of existing stocks of coffee will require the co-operation of international finance—a statement which may foreshadow the flotation of a new Brazilian loan in the relatively near future. The market in Brazilian loans has, significantly, been firmer recently, the San Paulo Coffee 7½ per cent. loan being quoted at 95½ against 91½ last December.

Baldwins and Guest, Keen Merger Details.—The further details now available of the Baldwins-Guest, Keen scheme confirm the favourable impression which the original announcement produced. The general principles of the plan were outlined in the *Economist* of January 11th last (page 80). " British (Guest, Keen, Baldwins) Iron and Steel " is to be the name of the new company, to which each of the parent companies will transfer its heavy iron and steel branches. Its issued capital will be divided as follows:—

	Baldwins. £	Guest, Keen. £
5 per cent. income notes	180,000	320,000
5 per cent. redeemable cumulative preference shares	502,403	671,763
Ordinary shares	1,575,000	2,100,000
	2,257,403	3,091,763

Of the first £25,000 of the new company's earnings, therefore, Baldwins will be entitled to 36 per cent. and Guest, Keen to 64 per cent., but when profits suffice to pay the preference dividend, which requires another £58,708, Baldwins' share of the total distribution will rise to over 40 per cent. Thereafter Baldwins are entitled to three-sevenths and Guest, Keen to four-sevenths of the equity. Control, however, is to be equally shared. The directors on behalf of Guest, Keen will be Sir John Beale (chairman of Guest, Keen), Messrs. W. Simons and I. F. L. Elliot; and on behalf of Baldwins, Sir Charles Wright (chairman of Baldwins), Colonel Neilson, and Mr. J. S. Hollins. The income notes represent the benefit of ore contracts; the preference shares represent stock in trade, work in progress, and stores at the end of December, 1929, while the division of the equity has been determined by the sensible device of proportioning it to the amount of trade which the heavy branches of each of the companies obtained during a recent normal period (from January, 1928, to October, 1929). Operating in competition, neither had been making a profit, so that a valuation based on earnings was not possible. The plan solved a notorious problem in mergers of this order. The plan requires the consent of Baldwins' first mortgage debenture stockholders and 6½ per cent. " A " debenture stockholders (to whom certain of the assets proposed to be transferred are specifically charged), but the debenture trustees, Lloyds Bank and the British Shareholders Trust, declare that the scheme is in their interests. It is to be hoped that the plan will be rounded off by the vesting of certain colliery properties also in the new company, a matter which has formed part of the negotiations, but presumably offered special complexities, for a decision has not yet been reached. Otherwise the company controls all its own materials, ore, limestone and silica, and, of course, it will operate its own coke ovens. It is disclosed that the nominal amount of the notes and shares coming to Baldwins is in excess of the value at which the assets stood in its books, but it will be the path of prudent finance for Baldwins and Guest, Keen at first to value their respective interests in the subsidiary well below the nominal values, especially as the scheme will involve the permanent abandonment of surplus plant. Finally, investors should remember that though the financial rearrangements have been drawn up with commendable skill, the quality of the management of the new business must determine its ultimate success.

Cunard Meeting.—To the surprise and regret of shareholders the speech of Sir Thomas Royden at Wednesday's meeting of the Cunard Steamship Company had the character of a valedictory oration. Since Sir Thomas succeeded Sir Alfred Booth as chairman in 1922 the company has made gratifying progress under difficult world conditions, and his resignation, owing to the pressure of private affairs, was the occasion of a warm and deserved tribute from shareholders. His address was interesting for its explanation of the rise in Cunard profits last year, which was shown to be due partly to reduced voyage expenses—particularly as regards fuel oil consumption—and partly to the fact that charges incurred by laying up vessels for annual overhaul were lower than in 1928. This saving, however, is not necessarily of a recurring nature, its incidence varying from year to year, and this factor may have a bearing on the potential results for the current year. Though the company, for the sixth year in succession, carried the largest number of passengers of any company in the Transatlantic trade, the number of first-class passengers was actually less than before the war. The " tourist third " passenger traffic has, of course, increased in the meantime. Sir Thomas confirmed the report that the company was in consultation with shipbuilders with regard to a new steamer for the Atlantic express service, but declared that some time must elapse before a definite contract was signed. He gave no indication of the probable tonnage or cost of the vessel beyond saying that it would " bear favourable comparison with anything afloat " and " prove a great attraction to the travelling public and a profitable investment for the company." A vessel, competitive in size, speed and comfort, with the " Europa " or the " Bremen " would probably cost the company something like £4,000,000, but the necessary finance would doubtless be arranged in several stages, as building progressed.

International Holding Company.—The report of the International Holding and Investment Company, Ltd., for the year ending December 31, 1929, certainly shows a great improvement on its predecessor. Having regard, however, to the company's capitalisation, of 4,882,530 shares of nó par value, the revenue position does not yet appear very satisfactory. Three dividends of 10c. each were paid during last year, absorbing $978,018. The total ordinary income came to $1,808,415 (including $6,266 stock dividends retained), while expenses and guarantee of dividends took $428,073, making the net ordinary profit $1,380,342, which is equivalent to 28¼ cents per share. The extraordinary income, being profits from the realisation of investments, came to $3,899,748, which, together with $402,323 surplus from the ordinary income and the $6,575,222 undivided surplus at December, 1928 (making a total of $10,877,293), has been applied to writing down the company's investments. The report stated that the company's investments in artificial silk shares, which were acquired in the early part of 1928 at a cost of approximately $30,000,000, had a market value, at December 31, 1929, of under $12,000,000—a depreciation of 60 per cent. The depreciation would have been greater had not the directors realised in the intervening period a part of the investment originally made in that industry. The proportion of the company's investments in artificial silk has now been reduced from 69 per cent. to below 30 per cent. The largest investments in the company are now in the electric light and power industry, being represented by holdings of Hydro-Electric Securities Corporation preferred and common and Electric Shareholdings Corporation preferred and common shares. The company's total investments, which cost $50,517,186, were valued at December 31, 1929, at $26,447,956, but this depreciation has been entirely wiped off by the appropriations to depreciation this year of $10,877,293, by the amount of $5,275,000 already standing to investment reserve, and by the appreciation in the Hydro-Electric shares acquired as a result of the exercise of the company's option on 529,756 shares at $25. The break-up value of International Holding shares—supposing its Hydro-Electric holding could be realised at market values—would be approximately 7¼. The shares at the present market price of 8½ return a yield of 3.53 per cent. on dividends of 30 cents.

Snia Viscosa.—The 1929 report of this great Italian producer of artificial silk and wool (" sniafil ") shows a decline of over 50 per cent. in net profits, which the directors attribute to the fall in prices and increased competition in the world markets. The results for the year compare as follows with those of 1928:—

	1928. Lire.	1929. Lire.
Profit on sales of rayon and " sniafil "	84,959,776	45,085,495
Dividends on shares	8,306,552	2,580,637
Sundry profits	6,414,484	...
Total receipts	99,680,812	47,666,133
General expenses, discounts, commissions, rates and taxes	27,451,914	12,658,471
Net profits	72,228,898	35,007,662
Depreciation on plant	35,228,898	33,883,389
Available for ordinary shares	37,000,000	1,124,273
Paid on ordinary shares	Nil	Nil
To depreciation on shares and investments	37,000,000	...

In spite of the decline in profits the balance sheet shows considerable improvement. Stocks have been reduced by nearly 25,000,000 lire, while cash, credits, and bills receivable amount to 230,000,000 lire, the surplus of current assets over current liabilities being 257,000,000 lire. As regards the future, the directors state that the day of big profits in the artificial silk industry is past, but the company is in a stronger position than before to meet competition. The Italian manufacturers of artificial silk have formed a consortium to agree on prices and export quotas, and it is hoped that world producers will also arrive at a similar agreement. The 120-lire shares (equivalent to 25s. 10d.) are at present quoted at 13s. 6d., having been as high as 29s. 1½d. in 1929.

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(Incorporated in Canada as a Limited Liability Company.)

No. 28, Canada Life Building, 2 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1. *Estd.* 1847.

Kreuger and Toll.—The report of this powerful Swedish finance company for the twelve months ended December 31 last, once more proves to be a document of unusual interest, and from its preliminary survey of the dominating features of an " entirely abnormal " year, it is possible to obtain some idea of the factors which have contributed to a very material increase in prosperity. Net profits amount to Kr. 27,118,840, compared with Kr. 19,853,870 for 1928 and Kr. 18,737,795 for 1927. The consolidated earnings of Aktiebolaget Kreuger and Toll, and N. V. Financieele Maatschappij Kreuger and Toll, including those of the Swedish American Investment Corporation, total Kr. 108,563,918, an increase of 38 per cent. over the corresponding figure of Kr. 78,455,179 for 1928. On the basis of a share capital averaging Kr. 150,000,000, this amount represents approximately 78 per cent. earned, while of the total net profits for the year roughly Kr. 53,000,000 may be regarded as of a recurring nature. As it is the policy of the company to limit the dividend payments to such an amount that the dividend and interest on the participating debentures can be paid out of recurring profits, the directors propose a dividend of 30 per cent. for the old " A " and " B " shares (against 25 per cent.), 5 per cent. on the new shares issued during the year, and 30 per cent. on the participating debentures.

	Year ending December 31, 1927. Kr.	1928. Kr.	1929. Kr.
General income	9,431,960	9,718,960	15,920,640
Dividends received	10,230,990	13,146,880	14,896,960
Gross income	19,662,950	22,865,840	30,817,600
Net profit	18,737,795	19,853,870	27,118,840
Dividends on " A " and " B " shares	7,000,000*	16,250,000	20,050,000
Earned %	*66·9*	*30·5*	*40·6*
Paid %	25	25	30
Reserve fund	133,700,000	133,700,000	167,574,870
Carried forward	21,537,815	25,141,685	20,148,980

* Plus 33⅓ per cent. capital bonus.

The year's results would seem to justify the belief that in a critical financial period, when the usual channels for raising money were wholly or partially blocked, this great finance house would reap a considerably augmented return. Among the more important transactions concluded during the past year were agreements with the Roumanian and German Governments regarding loans in connection with match concessions. The directors are confident that, even if no new assets are acquired, the recurring profits will in the future show a constant increase, and for 1930 the recurring profits are estimated at Kr. 75,000,000. That the market shares to some extent the optimism of the Swedish company's directors is demonstrated by the fact that the " B " shares were marked up to 33⅜, against this year's low point of 23.

Daily Mirror Newspapers.—Net profits for the year ended February 28, 1930, at £480,360, were £931 higher than in 1928-29. Dividends were unchanged.

	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Net earnings	374,600	479,529	480,360
Preference dividend	28,000	28,000	28,000
Number of times covered	*13·37*	*17·12*	*17·15*
Ordinary *Earned* %	*33·0*	*32·25*	*33·02*
Ordinary Paid %	30	30	30
Ordinary Amount	315,000	420,000	420,000
To general reserve	20,000	20,000	20,000
Increase in carry-forward	1,600	1,529	2,360

In 1928-29 special expenditure on advertising was provided out of the contingency reserve, but no such charge is mentioned as having been made last year. The balance sheet, a summary of which appears on a later page, shows that investments at £1,991,858 are down by £293,686, and debtors have risen by £216,348. As creditors and the contingency reserve are shown together it is impossible to state the actual amount of each of these items, but creditors appear to be £112,787 lower. The ordinary shares, at their present price of 23s. 6d. per share, yield £6 7s. 8d. per cent.

A Film Merger.—A merger is proposed between International Talking Screen Productions (issued capital £721,561), British Screen Productions (£131,900, 51 per cent. of which is owned by International Talking Screen Productions), British Filmcraft Productions (£125,000), and Argosy Film Company (£8,501). A new company is to be formed to acquire their assets and liabilities and the shareholders are offered shares of identical par value in the new company, but with only 3s. 6d. paid per 5s. nominal. The merger should effect considerable economies in management expenses, but the unpaid liability on the new shares is a feature which will scarcely commend itself to shareholders of the old companies, who have so far waited in vain for dividends. The merger has been described as important, but this aspect may appeal less strongly to shareholders than to the management, which secures a new lease of life and control in a very unstable industry.

Schweppes, Ltd.—This company has earned " record " profits in each of the last eleven years, except in the " strike " year, 1926. When the present management assumed control in 1918 the company's affairs were in a very unsatisfactory condition, but profits have subsequently risen from £55,000 to £180,000. Goodwill has been reduced from £1,039,000 to £425,000, and the financial position has been greatly strengthened. In 1928 heavy dividend arrears on the deferred capital were satisfied by an issue of bonus shares. Both the ordinary and deferred shares are cumulative, the former as to 8 per cent. and the latter as to 7 per cent., the ordinary being entitled to 25 per cent. of surplus profits and the deferred shares to 75 per cent. :—

(Years ended December 31st.)	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	157,659	172,851	180,285
Preference dividend	15,000	15,000	15,000
No. of times covered	*10·5*	*11·5*	*12·0*
Ordinary *earned subject to Tax*	**14%*	*14·7%*	*15%*
Ordinary Paid subject to tax	7%	£9/6/3%	£9/6/3%
Deferred *Earned subject to tax*	**31·2%*	*22·3%*	*23%*
Deferred Paid subject to tax	10%	10%	10%
To reserve fund	55,000	40,000	50,000
To writing-down goodwill	25,000	25,000	25,000
Carry forward	32,595	35,696	36,231

* Before capital bonus, in satisfaction of deferred dividend arrears.

No credit is taken for the profits of subsidiary companies, the balance sheet stating that there have been no losses. As, on balance, the subsidiaries are slightly in credit with the parent company it may be assumed that their finances are in a healthy condition. The present distribution of profits is in keeping with the conservative policy followed in recent years, the board having declared their intention of reducing goodwill further, rather than paying high dividends, though shareholders should eventually benefit as a result of the high rate of earnings. Overseas business is being actively developed, largely through a subsidiary, Schweppes (Colonial and Foreign), but no return has yet been received on this investment. In spite of large additions to properties account over the last three years, the financial position of the parent is satisfactory, surplus liquid assets, after providing for the dividends now declared, being nearly £400,000. The ordinary shares at 31s. 9d. and the deferred at 36s. 6d. return approximately 6 per cent. and 5¾ per cent. respectively.

Malayan Tin Proposals Abandoned.—There will be general satisfaction that the directors of the Malayan Tin Dredging and two related companies (Southern Malayan Tin and Southern Perak) have found it possible to withdraw the " British only " proposals on which we commented in our issue of March 29, page 714. Their decision does them credit in every possible way, and is satisfactory to all parties. The directors have obtained an explicit assurance from the foreign interests concerned that they will seek neither to control the company nor to disturb the management. Such a " gentlemen's agreement " may have more enduring force, in practice, than a restrictionist change in the companies' articles, which might have been abrogated by a determined controlling foreign interest in the future. The shareholders have been relieved of the somewhat invidious necessity of discussing the question of giving the directors a five-years' firm service contract—a new departure in company practice which might have been used as an undesirable, even dangerous, precedent by other concerns. Without proceeding to the lengths found necessary by American shareholders in the General Electric case, the oversea holders of Malayan Tin shares have been successful in preventing restrictive clauses being put on the companies' " Statute Book " by reiterating a policy which they have, from the start, professed to follow. In the circumstances, the need for the meetings called for Monday next, has disappeared, and with their cancellation by the directors the matter can be allowed to drop.

U.S. Steel Corporation's Good Year.—Unsurpassed demand from the automobile industry, and higher average prices for steel, contributed to the very favourable report of United States Steel Corporation for the year 1929. Earnings were higher than in any year since the war. Gross revenues increased from $1,374,443,433 to $1,493,505,485, and net earnings (before deducting interest, depletion and the depreciation reserves of subsidiaries) at $265,838,932, showed an increase of $64,852,633. The net income available for dividends was $197,592,060, equivalent to $21.9 per share on the common stock, against $12.50 per share in 1928. The year witnessed the virtual completion of the Steel Corporation's debt retirement programme. The company specially redeemed and retired during the year approximately $295,000,000 of bonds, the total reduction in funded debt being $344,344,437. Of this total the stockholders subscribed for $142,697,624, the balance being taken from surplus and reserves. The review of operations which accompanies the report shows aggregate shipments of steel products of 15,234,355 tons, an increase of 9.03 per cent., as compared with 1928. The average number of employees was 224,980, whose average daily earnings, exclusive of the general administrative and selling staff, were $5.84. The principal items of the income account are given below :—

	1928. $	1929. $
Earnings before interest	200,986,299	265,838,932
Interest on subsidiary bonds	7,681,371	7,116,478
Depletion and depreciation reserves of subsidiaries	55,621,494	63,274,162
Sinking fund on U.S. steel bonds	11,615,808	...
Interest on U.S. steel bonds	16,106,572	7,828,391
Balance for dividends	114,173,774	197,592,060
Preferred dividends	25,219,677	35,219,677
Common dividends	49,813,645	63,849,040
Carried forward	39,140,452	108,523,342

The balance sheet shows total assets, at December 31st last, of $2,286,183,654; current assets were $562,232,507, and property investment accounts $1,541,492,587. The current liabilities totalled $121,358,042. The bonded, mortgage and debenture debt of $112,257,977 was chiefly accounted for by the obligations of subsidiary companies. The capital stocks of Steel Corporation itself totalled $1,173,565,100, and the undivided surplus $434,711,117.

General Motors in 1929.—The report of General Motors for 1929 is a record of further progress in the extension of the Corporation's activities, but the earnings compare unfavourably with those of 1929, their total falling from $276,468,108 to $248,282,268. After payment of preferred dividends, the amount earned was equivalent to $5.49 per share on the common stock, compared with $6.14 per share in 1928. A large part of the corporation's surplus funds was used last year in purchasing additional properties, net working capital being reduced by $44,500,522 to $251,287,782. The total amount involved by additions to plant and new acquisitions was as much as $142,701,398. One of the most important of the latter was the 80 per cent. interest taken in Adam Opel A. G., of Rüsselsheim, Germany. This is carried on the books of the corporation at $25,965,196. The Opel works are to be maintained in every sense as a German institution. Sales of General Motors products by dealers to users totalled 1,860,403 units, an increase of 17,960, as compared with 1929, the corporation's car sales representing about 34 per cent. of the total production in the United States and Canada. Overseas sales amounted to 256,721 trucks and passenger cars, a decrease of 25,436. At the close of the year, inventories overseas were in excess of current necessities, and export schedules are being curtailed. A summary of the consolidated income account is given below :—

	1928. $	1929. $
Net sales	1,459,762,905	1,504,404,472
Net profit from operations and investments	332,486,160	301,857,725
Less provision for employees bonus, savings and investment plans	25,577,710	26,419,075
Net income after taxes	273,559,090	247,317,742
General Motors proportion of net income	272,344,269	245,970,393
Dividends on preferred and debenture stocks	9,404,756	9,478,681
Net available for common stock*	267,063,351	238,803,587

* Including equity in undivided profits of various affiliated companies and investments.

The balance sheet, as at December 31st last, showed current assets of $368,960,944, investments of $277,199,918, and fixed assets of $678,728,900. At the end of 1928 fixed assets were $606,213,265. Current liabilities were shown as $117,673,163, and reserves as $252,296,527. The corporation's capital stock on December 31st was $573,916,000, and its surplus $380,560,273.

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MINING NOTES.

Rio Tinto.—The balance sheet for 1929 of this old-established enterprise, writes our mining correspondent, reflects the new phase of the company's existence, signalised by its participation in the important copper-mining industry of Northern Rhodesia. Last year an issue of 50,000 ordinary £5 shares was made at £50 for this purpose. Of the 2½ millions thus provided, the bulk had by December 31st been invested in Northern Rhodesian interests and in the Silica Gel enterprise of the United States. The total of investments at the latest date, as shown in our tabulation, is made up of £806,230 shares in, or amounts owing from, subsidiaries; the balance "other investments." Twelve months ago the items were £978,800 and £636,800 respectively. Appended is a summary of the results of the past three years:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Trading profit	1,221,350	1,669,780	1,812,200
Net profit	1,016,840	*1,047,080	1,286,280
Issued capital	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,750,000
Dividends	1,018,750	831,250	1,250,000
Per cent. (ordy.)	50%	40%	55%
Carried forward	153,450	167,370	203,650
Property and plant	2,950,690	2,968,980	3,075,450
Investments	923,480	1,615,630	3,060,940

* Prior to deduction of amount carried to emergency account.

The expansion in last year's revenue occurred entirely under the heading of sales of produce. Interest and sundries brought in totalled £117,900, or substantially more than in either of the two preceding periods, but were not supplemented by adventitious balances. From the brief details given of mining operations, it appears that an increased quantity of ore was delivered during the past year, while the price of copper averaged £75 9s. 7d., as compared with £63 14s. 9d. for 1928 and £55 13s. 11d. for 1927. The current quotation is around £68 10s. On the basis of last year's distribution the ordinary shares, at 45¾ cum 30s. dividend, yield about 6¼ per cent. The preference, at 4⅝ cum 2s. 6d. dividend, return about 5¾ per cent. and may be regarded as fairly well secured.

Consolidated Mines Selection.—This company is a member of the Anglo-American group and holds much the same interests as its compeers: that is to say, in the Brakpan group of Witwatersrand gold mines, the Consolidated Diamond of South-West Africa, and the Rhodesian Anglo-American Corporation. Last year an expansion in "sundry profits" rather more than offset a small decline in the dividends received, the total amounting to £129,700, as against £114,600. Income tax now calls for only £4,900, as compared with £28,900; but directors' fees and percentages figure for £7,080. Maintenance of the dividend at 20 per cent.—the rate paid for each of the two preceding periods—swallows up the whole of the available balance. Accordingly a further £8,000 is withdrawn from the dividend equalisation fund, and carried forward to the credit of profit and loss. In respect of 1928, £22,000 was taken out of the fund in question, which has been reduced to £18,000. The market value of the company's shareholdings is stated to be largely in excess of the figure at which they stand in the balance sheet—£622,900. This represents only a small increase upon the 1928 total, but the surplus of liquid assets over both current and contingent liabilities is appreciably higher at £235,200. The market quotation of the 10s. shares is around 17s. cum dividend, showing the high yield of £13 per cent. This may be taken to cover a certain amount of risk.

Minerals Separations.—Last year's income showed only a small increase as compared with 1928, expansion in the receipts from royalties, etc., being partly offset by reduction in the interest and dividends—evidently due to the cut of one-half in the distribution of the Australian company. Depreciation requiring less than before, the net profit comes out at £60,000, against £58,600. Naturally, no change is made in the payment to the shareholders, the only difference being that on the present occasion the 25 per cent. will be disbursed all at once, whereas in respect of 1928 5 per cent. was paid as interim. In the current balance sheet the investments are to some extent segregated. Shares in subsidiaries figure at £21,600; sundry, £229,460, plus £110,360 calls made and premiums payable but not due at date. British Government securities stand for £129,100; twelve months ago the company held £225,200 Conversion Loan. Cash has jumped from £17,500 to £183,000. Some expansion is reported in the company's coal-cleaning processes in Spain, and in its metalliferous activities in various districts. But chief importance now attaches to the participation in the Northern Rhodesian copper industry. In this connection note may be taken of the erection in progress on the Alaska mine of the Southern Rhodesian Base Metals Company of a segregation plant capable of treating oxide and mixed oxide (sulphide copper ores). The successful operation of this plant will be a matter of importance for several companies. A cable published last week by the S.R.B.M. Company reports the intersection of a fairly high-grade sulphide ore on the Alaska No. 4 lode, previously carrying oxidised material of low value. The neighbouring Umboe property, belonging to the Rhodesian Corporation is under option—it is stated to the Rio Tinto Company. At the meeting of the Minerals Separation the chairman gave particulars of the principal holdings. They comprise: 76,700 Rhodesian Congo Border, 65,800 N'Changa, 26,500 Southern Rhodesia Base Metals, and some Luiris. These interests, with the surplus lipuid assets, fully cover the present market valuation of the company's capital at £7 per share.

Simmer and Jack.—A year ago the absence of a dividend was largely compensated for by a greatly improved outlook, due to the success which had attended an intensive development programme. The working profit had shrunk from £105,000 to £66,500, but the ore reserves had expanded from 1,615,000 tons, value 5.7 dwts., to 1,814,000 tons, value 5.9 dwts. In the course of the chairman's speech the resumption of dividends at the end of 1929 was promised. Unfortunately, the favourable anticipation has not been borne out by events. Last year's working profit showed an increase of only a few thousands, improvement in the average value of the ore crushed being about counterbalanced by advance in the cost ratio due to extra charges. The underground footage amounted to no more than 16,100, as against a nominal total of 24,270; and the ore reserves declined by 23,000 tons. This feature is attributed partly to shortage of native labour and various difficulties encountered in working; but chiefly, it would appear, to the circumstance that the improvement in mine grade, expected when the richer blocks of ore on the bottom levels came to be dealt with, was neutralised by "an unexpected increase in the stope and widths of these blocks, due to an exceptionally friable hanging wall." Measures are being taken to overcome this drawback; meanwhile shareholders must possess their souls in patience. The 1929 net capital expenditure amounting to £80,900, the carry-forward dropped from £66,700 to £46,070, barely represented by cash assets.

Chemical and Metallurgical Difficulties.—A malign fate frequently dogs the steps of enterprises formed for the purpose of exploiting on a commercial scale processes which have given highly satisfactory results in the laboratory. In few cases, however, have the proceedings extended over so long a period, or involved so heavy an expenditure, as with the Chemical and Metallurgical.

Since the formation of this concern, early in 1919, the ordinary share capital has been drastically cut down, the rights of the preference capital have been altered, and further resources have been provided by the issues of ordinary shares at a high premium upon their new face value of 2s. Much importance was attached to the fact that these issues were subscribed for by influential groups. At one time the quotation passed 10s.; it has lately descended to pence. In all, something like a million and three quarters of capital has been provided for this undertaking, and even now the prospects appear extremely dubious. The report for 1929 shows a trading loss of £41,900 before charging depreciation, and the total of expenditure in suspense, including this item, is £446,600. No doubt, far too much importance was attached to the company's installation for the treatment of platinum concentrates from the Transvaal, which are now dealt with locally; but with the company's main processes—the recovery of lead, zinc, etc., from complex ores—it is quite a different story. Certain of the larger shareholders, in order to provide for emergencies and the cost of the works reorganisation, have provided credit of £100,000, against 7½ per cent. secured notes. The shareholders generally may not be greatly impressed by the board's confidence in eventual success, but will doubtless find it to their advantage to support what may shortly be described as the Healy Committee—there being two in the field. Certain matters are *sub judice*, litigation pending with the former deputy-chairman and joint managing director.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies: Cunard Steam Ship Company, Harland and Wolff, Hellenic and General Trust, Llanelly and District Electric Supply, Para Electric Railways and Lighting, Garrard Engineering and Manufacturing, Gordon Hotels, Apollinaris and Johannis, John Barker, Schweppes, Balaghat Gold Mines, and Nundydroog Mines. At the Harland and Wolff meeting Lord Kylsant said that the output for 1929 had been over 145,000 tons (Board of Trade gross register), which, together with the output of two subsidiaries, made a total of 172,000 gross tons of vessels for the year. Sir Thomas Royden's speech at the annual meeting of the Cunard Steam Ship Company is dealt with on page 841. At the Llanelly and District Electric Supply Company meeting, the chairman affirmed that, despite several adverse factors, 608 new consumers had been added during the year and 23,675,600 units sold, compared with 21,843,400 in the previous year.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The five capital issues of the week have been of the highest investment order—a home railway redeemable preference stock, three municipal stocks, and an important electrical power concern. The *Southern Railway* issue was interesting on account of the company's project for the electrification of its line to Brighton and Worthing. Great success has attended the electrification of the Southern suburban services, and the steady earnings of the company should provide good cover for the preference stock dividends. The new stock, which has trustee status, ranks equally with the existing guaranteed and redeemable preference stocks—that is, immediately after the debentures and prior to the other preference stocks. The redemption yield at the issue price of 98½ was £5 2s. per cent., but no "sinking fund" arrangements were set out in the prospectus. The "home" corporation issues—each for £1,000,000—were those of *Barnsley* and *Sunderland*—both 5 per cent. stocks at par, except that Barnsley stole a march on Sunderland by giving a bonus of about 10s. on the first interest payment. The moneys are being raised for water, electricity, tramway, education and other purposes, and for the redemption of existing loans. Barnsley's rates are 17s. 3d. in the pound and Sunderland's 16s. 8d. The *Dublin Corporation* issue of £800,000 was made by Messrs Guinness, Mahon and Company in the form of 5 per cent. stock, 1950-70, at 95½ to return a yield with redemption of £5 5s. 3d. per cent. The proceeds are to be spent on waterworks, draining and housing, in which connection the Corporation has placed large orders in this country. Both principal and interest are free from present and future taxation in the Irish Free State. The *Scottish Power Company's* issue of £1 ordinary shares at a premium of 7s. gave investors a small "turn" on the market price of 29s. for existing shares. The company is a dominant power in the electrical industry of Scotland, and has frequently appealed to the investor in connection with its extensive programme of recent expansion. The shares, which yield £5 18s. 6d. per cent., are a sound "equity" investment in a progressive public utility enterprise.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to April 5, 1930, £96,767,064.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to April 5, 1930, £153,262,582.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended April 5, 1930, £150,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1929, to April 5, 1930, *Dr. £1,950,000.*

To the Public.	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
	£	£	£	£	£
Southern Railway	3,000,000	...	2,955,000	150,000	2,805,000
Barnsley Corporation	1,000,000	...	1,000,000	50,000	950,000
Sunderland Corporation	1,000,000	...	1,000,000	50,000	950,000
Scottish Power Co.	650,000	...	877,500	81,250	796,250
City of Dublin	800,000	...	764,000	40,000	724,000
Total to the Public, week ended April 12, 1930	7,450,000	...	6,596,500	371,250	6,225,250
To Shareholders only.					
Midland Bank, 671,648 £1 shares at £2	671,648	...	1,343,296	1,343,296	...
International Tea Co.'s Stores, 7% £1 "A" Cumul. Pref.	100,000	...	100,000	25,000	75,000
Monte Video Waterworks, £1 Ordinary Shares	104,688	...	104,688	104,688	...
Travancore Tea Estates, £1 Ord. Shares	16,500	...	33,000	8,250	24,750
Total to Shareholders only, week ended April 12, 1930	892,836	...	1,580,984	1,481,234	99,750

Total Offered for Subscription—

	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Jan. 1 to date—	£	£
1930	161,590,066	105,094,548
1929	112,232,703	98,653,483
1928	...	174,069,000
1927	...	150,752,574
1926	...	76,390,601
1925	...	53,985,068
1924	...	45,630,361
1923	...	96,178,962

Total Offered for Subscription—

	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	12,244,078	...	13,851,969
Total, week ended April 12, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	12,244,078	...	13,851,969
Total to date, 1929	13,377,267	...	20,543,219

Southern Railway Company.—Issue of £3,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable guaranteed preference stock at £98½ per cent., redeemable at par on June 30, 1957. No part of the issue has been underwritten. The stock will rank *pari passu* with existing 5 per cent. guaranteed preference stocks and immediately after the debenture stocks.

Barnsley Corporation.—Issue of £1,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1950-60, at par. This is a trustee security, redeemable at par on March 31, 1960, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the corporation will have the option of redeeming the whole at par at any time after

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March 31, 1950, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the borough is £308,469, and a rate of one penny will produce £1,183.

Slough Gas and Coke Company.—Issue by tender of £2,000 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock, minimum price £97½ per cent., yielding at that price £5 2s. 7d., and £30,000 ordinary stock, minimum price par. Net revenue of the company for 1929 before deduction of loan interest, £15,743, covering interest on loan capital, including present issue, over eleven times. Ordinary dividends have been at the rate of 7 per cent. for past six years.

Sunderland Corporation.—Issue of £1,000,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1950-60, at par. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The stock will be repaid at par on April 1, 1960, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the corporation retains the option of redeeming the same at par at any time on or after April 1, 1950, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the borough is £801,250, and a rate of one penny will produce £3,130.

Scottish Power Company.—Issue of 650,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at 27s. per share. The company was incorporated in 1909, and has extensive interests in Scottish electric light and power companies. The proceeds of the present issue will be used for the development of the company's properties and towards expenditure on the Grampian Company's hydro-electric works. Ordinary dividends for the past eight years have been at the rate of 8 per cent.

City of Dublin.—Issue of £800,000 Dublin Corporation 5 per cent. inscribed stock, 1950-70, at £95½ per cent. Trustees in the Irish Free State are authorised to invest funds in the above stock. Redeemable at par on July 1, 1970, if not previously cancelled by purchase or tender, but the corporation reserves the right to redeem the stock, in whole or in part, at par at any time after July 1, 1950, on three months' notice. The public debt of the city on March 1, 1930, was £4,219,072. A rate of one penny will produce £5,025.

Particulars of the following have been issued "for information only," with a view to Stock Exchange introduction. **Dominion of New Zealand, Auckland and Suburban Drainage Board** 5½ per cent., 1960 Loan. Issue of £81,300 in debentures to bearer of £100 each. The proceeds of the issue will be applied to redemption of similar loan maturing May, 1930.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest summary of balance sheets, profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements will be found on page 860, under the heading "Company News."]

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	February, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	March, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	74,000	122,977	40,008	90,000	141,009	45,012
City Deep	88,000	97,533	4,499*	97,000	109,246	748*
Consolidated Main Reef	54,600	82,754	11,515	60,000	88,982	13,011
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	216,000	292,950	73,205	237,000	321,898	80,964
Durban Rdooprt. Deep	38,500	53,862	4,153	41,200	58,104	5,111
East Rand Proprietary	137,000	158,109	9,023	150,000	174,469	10,772
Geduld Proprietary	80,000	109,398	43,492	86,000	116,915	46,947
Geldenhuis Deep	58,700	59,972	4,723	64,900	64,381	5,028
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,000	8,927	870	6,400	9,442	501
Government Areas	189,000	359,371	210,258	203,000	389,179	230,115
Kleinfontein, New	48,200	46,829	5,173	—	—	—
Langlaagte Estate	75,000	111,134	31,543	81,000	118,819	33,048
Meyer and Charlton	16,500	18,014	1,710	17,000	19,919	2,013
Modderfontein B.	66,000	102,910	45,082	72,500	111,517	48,044
Modderfontein Deep Levels	41,400	90,686	57,859	44,200	96,850	62,185
Modderfontein East	63,500	79,565	16,065	70,000	87,234	17,834
Modderfontein, New	140,000	287,308	168,711	154,000	309,812	181,165
New State Areas	72,000	138,183	65,020	78,000	151,128	70,067
Nourse Mines	57,000	71,521	5,043	63,500	79,754	5,153
Randfontein Estates	191,000	202,830	25,643	218,000	224,162	30,210
Robinson Deep†	123,800†	141,512	20,457	132,000†	151,348	25,322
Rose Deep	55,500	48,489	2,137	62,000	52,207	2,548
Simmer and Jack	69,500	81,055	6,278	78,000	86,061	8,564
Springs Mines	64,000	133,055	59,266	69,000	143,855	66,028
Sub-Nigel	26,500	88,275	30,550	29,200	96,386	35,036
Transvaal G.M. Estates	13,400	20,109	2,910	14,620	21,889	2,230
Van Ryn	38,000	38,670	3,317	42,000	42,472	4,230
Van Ryn Deep	60,000	102,741	40,067	65,000	108,580	41,488
West Rand Consolid'td	82,000	91,755	17,408	90,000	99,640	20,009
West Springs	63,000	72,543	16,022	68,000	78,205	18,673
Witwatersrand Deep	39,000	36,809	102	44,200	39,107	458*
Witwatersrand Knight's	51,000	48,692	5,454	55,000	52,001	5,591

* Loss. † Includes the returns from Village Deep.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR MARCH, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ashanti Goldfields	10,517	...	11,772	...	...	50,006	32,896
Associated	5,282	...	...	...	...	9,114	...
Balaghat Gold Mines	3,550	...	2,054	...	...	...	...
Blackwater Mines	3,507	...	...	...	...	6,127	1,337
Boulder Perseverance	6,616	...	...	...	...	15,839	1,121
Cairo Gold Areas	1,480	...	...	...	...	...	...
Champion Reef	8,350	...	5,595	...	...	...	...
Chosen Corporation	9,560	...	...	...	...	11,680	1,355
Frontino and Bolivia	2,500	...	...	...	...	7,700	...
Globe and Phœnix	6,048	...	5,572	...	...	...	11,596
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,400	...	...	...	...	9,442	501
Golden Horseshoe	28,933	...	...	...	...	5,378	2,221
Lonely Reef Gold	6,200	...	...	...	3,905	...	8,039
Luipaard's Vlei	26,500	...	6,387	...	...	...	2,903
Marmajite Mines	870	...	...	...	...	3,554	...
Mawchi Mines	3,420	...	155	...	...	...	...
Messina (Transvaal)	1,563	...	...	...	...	585	...
Meyer and Charlton	...	...	17,600	...	...	19,919	2,013
Mysore Gold Mining	17,225	...	8,382	...	...	...	...
Nundydroog Mines	11,515	...	6,968	...	...	...	...
Ooregum Gold Mng.	13,500	...	5,707	...	...	...	...
Oriental Consolidated Mining	20,809	...	...	...	...	$97,635	...
Sons of Gwalia	13,924	...	...	...	...	13,829	...
South Kalgurli	8,638	...	...	...	...	16,300	3,036
Taquah and Abosso	9,310	...	...	...	...	15,615	3,074
Transvaal Gold	14,620	...	...	...	...	21,889	2,230
Una Goldfields	...	...	1,118	...	...	4,695	...
Van Ryn Gold	...	...	42,000	...	...	42,472	...
Wanderer Consol. Gold	12,200	...	3,256	...	...	13,704	3,645
West Rand Consol.	...	...	99,000	...	...	99,640	20,009

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Anglo-Nigerian	84	...
Anglo-Oriental Mng. Corpn.	401½	...
Assam Kumbang	529	Piculs; value, $27,341.
Baba River	5	...
Balina Monguna	2	...
COAL.		
Clydesdale (Transvaal)	42,614	...
Dundee	51,065	...
Durban Navigation Collieries	52,997	...
Durban Navig. Collieries	52,997	...
Natal Navigation Collieries	117,494	...
Sengarcui Collieries	66,372	February.
South African Coal Estates	61,617	...
Tweefontein United Collieries	63,390	...
Vereeniging Estates	254,807	...
DIAMONDS.		
Crown Diamond	9,442	Carats.
New Vaal River	689	Carats; value, £3,239.
West African Diamonds	15,100	Carats.
ZINC.		
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,654	...
Tetiuhe	12,376	£2,903.
COPPER.		
Bwana M'Kubwa	622	Refined copper.
Indian Copper	202	...
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Magapil Copper	1,013	Copper matte.
Namaqua Copper	161	Tons blister copper.
Onverwacht Platinum	251	Ozs. 3,090 tons treated.
Poderosa	804	Metric tons; profit, £2,750.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION, LTD.—During the four weeks ended February 22, 1930, 10,364 tons of Central Mine ore were milled at the Central Mine, producing 1,880 tons of leady concentrates (including 58 tons from the de-leading plant), which assayed 49 ozs. silver and 65 per cent. lead, together with 2,517 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 6 ozs. silver, 3 per cent. lead and 50 per cent. zinc per ton.

FABULOSA MINES, CONSOLIDATED.—Production of tin barrilla for the past month was 3,906 quintals of 46 kilos. (approximately 177 tons).

BURMA CORPORATION, LTD.—During the month of February, 44,344 tons of ore were mined, including 2,985 tons of high-grade ore; 32,000 tons of ore were milled in the treatment plant, producing 10,450 tons of leady concentrates; 12,487 tons of lead-bearing material, including 3,264 tons of high-grade ore, were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 6,834 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. Refinery products were 6,750 tons refined lead and 607,945 ounces refined silver. Of silver production 28,974 ounces were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Zinc plant produced 4,780 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 7·8 ozs. silver, 4·4 per cent. lead and 51·3 per cent. zinc. In addition to the above, 1,200 tons copper matte were produced from the treatment of accumulated smelter by-products and 7,003 tons copper ore; 100 tons of refined antimonial lead and 300 tons of nickel speiss were also produced. Included in the tonnage of refined lead is 95 tons recovered from the smelting of copper ore.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION.—February production: Burma group, 57 tons; Cornwall, 64 tons; Japan, 20 tons. London Tin Corporation: Nigeria, 260 tons; Associated of Nigeria, 200 tons; Juga Valley, 16 tons; Tin Properties, 16 tons; Junction, 6 tons; total, 639 tons.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH, LTD.—For the four weeks ended March 8, 1930, 28,090 tons of crude ore were treated and produced 5,538 tons of leady concentrates, assaying 70 per cent. lead and 26 ozs. silver per ton; also 5,330 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 51 per cent. zinc.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—February production: 37,170 tons of crude ore were treated, assaying 14·5 per cent. lead, 8·7 ozs. silver per ton, and 10·8 per cent. zinc, producing 7,910 tons lead concentrates, assaying 63·7 per cent. lead, 35·4 ozs. silver per ton and 8·2 per cent. zinc; also 6,200 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 49·7 per cent. zinc, 2·5 per cent. lead and 3·9 ozs. silver per ton.

ZINC CORPORATION.—Return for period ended March 8th: Lead concentrator treated 22,843 tons of ore, producing 4,788 tons of lead concentrates and 4,568 tons of zinc concentrates. Estimated gross profit, with lead at average price, for February (£21 2s. 10d.), zinc at contract flat rate, silver 2s., £15,850.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—The total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of February, 1930, amounted to: Witwatersrand, £985,152; outside districts, £34,330; total, £1,019,482. The estimated working profit in January, 1930, was: Witwatersrand, £1,070,717; outside districts, £33,001; total, £1,103,718.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

CUNARD STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.
GROWTH OF ATLANTIC TRAFFIC.
UNITED STATES QUOTA REGULATIONS.
SIR THOMAS ROYDEN'S RETIREMENT FROM CHAIRMANSHIP.

The fifty-third ordinary general meeting of the Cunard Steam Ship Company, Ltd., was held, on Wednesday, April 9th, at the Cunard Building, Liverpool.

Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., C.H. (chairman of the company), presided, and the other directors present were Sir Percy E. Bates, Bart., G.B.E. (deputy-chairman), Mr Frederic Alan Bates, Sir Alfred Booth, Bart., Mr Herbert William Corry, Mr A. C. F. Henderson, Mr S. J. Lister, Mr Maxwell H. Maxwell, C.B.E., Mr Robert W. Reford, with Mr W. Dranfield (secretary), Mr Charles E. Fletcher (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Company, auditors), and Mr Vivian D. Heyne (Messrs Hill, Dickinson and Company, solicitors).

The notice convening the meeting, together with the report of the auditors, having been read,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before dealing with the general business of the company, I desire to refer to the loss we have sustained since our last meeting through the death of two of our directors—Mr James H. Beazley and Sir Aubrey Brocklebank, Bart. They were members of families whose names are household words in Liverpool in every sphere of useful activity. In particular, the Beazleys and Brocklebanks have for generations been actively associated as shipowners with the trade of this port, and our late directors were themselves closely identified with their own family shipping interests. The intimate knowledge of every side of the shipping business they thus acquired was of the greatest value to this company, while their personalities endeared them to all with whom they came in contact. In their place the directors have elected Sir T. A. L. Brocklebank, Bart., and Mr S. J. Lister, whose election will be required to be confirmed by the shareholders. A resolution to this effect will be submitted to you later.

Turning now to the report and accounts which are in your hands, is it your wish that they be taken as read? "Agreed."

THE ACCOUNTS.

Quite apart from the results of the year's working, there are various points in the presentation of this year's accounts which I think require some explanation. The accounts before you are the first which this company has issued in the form prescribed by the Companies' Act, 1929, and it has been the endeavour of your directors to comply with the requirements of that Act in the fullest possible manner.

In the profit and loss account the difference due to this is trifling, and is confined to the setting out as a separate item of the directors' fees instead of merging them with the fees paid to auditors and debenture stock trustees.

Dealing with the various items in the account, on the credit side you will notice that the total income from voyages, interest, dividends and other sources amounted to £3,628,904 15s., an increase over the corresponding income of 1928 of £415,303. This increase is due to a combination of several factors.

Taking voyage accounts, passenger receipts in the North Atlantic showed a net decrease as compared with those of 1928, for while there was an increase in tourist third cabin revenue both westbound and eastbound, there was a falling-off in every other class.

Our other passenger income, which includes world, Mediterranean and other cruises and the Cuban service, showed in the aggregate a satisfactory increase.

Freight earnings showed on balance practically no change, for an increase westbound was offset by a decrease eastbound.

Revenue from the carriage of mails records a decrease both westbound and eastbound. The decline in westbound earnings was not of much moment, but the falling-off eastbound was more marked though not unexpected, having in mind the increasing tendency for eastbound mails to be carried in vessels under the American flag.

Other sources of revenue in the shape of dividends, interest, etc., do not show any material change from the previous year, and on balance our total gross receipts for 1929 showed only a small increase over the receipts of 1928.

LARGE ECONOMIES IN WORKING COSTS.

It is on the disbursement side of the voyage accounts that the improvement in our net earnings is chiefly to be found. During the year our ships made more voyages and steamed over 53,000 more miles than in the previous year, and this, of course, is reflected in an increase in port charges, and in the cost of loading and discharging cargo. On the other hand, despite the extra mileage steamed, we were able to effect large economies in the consumption and cost of fuel oil, and in the cost of deck and engine stores and of repairs and renewals. In this connection you will recollect that I explained to you in my speech last year that the incidence of the lay-up periods for the annual overhaul of the steamers of our fleet was apt to bear unequally as between one year and the next, and I pointed out that the year 1928 had suffered rather severely in comparison with 1927 in this respect. The position is now reversed, and 1929, the year under review, has been distinctly more fortunate than 1928.

On the debit side of the account, depreciation, office and other expenses, total £2,554,429 4s. 2d., a net increase over last year of £156,908, due principally to providing a larger amount for depreciation on steamships.

The remaining items in the profit and loss account are almost identical to those of the previous year, and do not call for further comment.

PROFITS AND APPROPRIATIONS.

The total debits to profit and loss account equal £2,819,266 0s. 1d., which, when deducted from our income, leaves a net profit for the year of £809,638 14s. 11d., as compared with £550,478, the corresponding figure for 1928. If we add to the present profit the balance brought forward from 1928, namely, £188,396 14s. 8d., there is a total of £998,035 9s. 7d., out of which your directors propose to transfer £50,000 to the reserve fund, raising it from £1,450,000 to £1,500,000. There will then be left £948,035 9s. 7d., from which must be deducted the dividends on the preference stocks, totalling £135,000. There remains the sum of £813,035 9s. 7d., which enables us to pay a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent., absorbing £417,769 11s. 6d., leaving a balance of £395,265 18s. 1d. to be carried forward to 1930.

BALANCE SHEET—WRITTEN-DOWN VALUE OF FLEET.

On the credit side of the balance sheet you will notice that the company's fleet was valued at December 31st at £8,529,746. There is no comparable figure in the balance sheet for the previous year, in which this item was merged with our shipping investments. The figure represents the written-down value of the fleet, the first cost of which was £25,189,255.

Freehold and leasehold properties were valued at £624,870, which is £14,300 less than the previous year's valuation.

Plant, machinery, spare gear and furniture, etc., stand at £77,000, against last year's figure of £77,026. During the year we increased the value of these assets by £16,329, and disposed of obsolete plant and fittings to the book value of £3,214, while depreciation absorbed £13,141.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

Shares in subsidiary companies are shown this year as a separate item and total £7,541,275 14s. 3d. The present figure does not show any change from the corresponding figure of twelve months ago, and, in my opinion, is a conservative estimate of the true value of these holdings.

Loan and balances due from subsidiary companies total £72,520 1s. 11d. This consists of a loan to a subsidiary company of £62,538 15s. 3d., and an amount of £9,981 6s. 8d. representing current balances on ordinary trading operations.

Another item is that of "Shares in other Companies and Deposits with foreign Governments, at cost, less Reserves," totalling £188,003 2s. 1d. These comprise various investments all held for business reasons and all written down to figures which your board believe to be absolutely safe.

Ships' stores, coal, fuel oil, etc., are shown as at December 31st last as £330,689 7s. 7d., as against £357,231 for the previous year.

Debtors, including agents' balances and open voyage accounts, stood at £528,748 1s. 11d., as against last year's comparable figure of £687,664, the decrease of £158,916 being due to the ordinary fluctuations of business.

Discount and commission outstanding on the 5 per cent. mortgage debenture stock has been reduced by a further £10,000, and now stands at £110,000.

Cash at bankers and in hand at December 31st last totalled £454,366, which is less than the previous year's figure by £8,565.

DEBIT SIDE FIGURES.

Turning to the debit side, the description of the 5 per cent. mortgage debenture stock has been enlarged by the statement "Secured on steamships marked with asterisk overleaf." Reference to the back of the balance sheet will show exactly what ships are mortgaged in support of this stock, and I think that this precision will be appreciated by shareholders and debenture-holders alike. A new item is that of £362,821 9s. 1d. under the heading "Loans and Balances due to Subsidiary Companies." This information is required by the new Act, and the figure represents loans from the subsidiary companies and open balances in relation to current business. The item of £3,140,267 12s. 4d. under the heading of "Creditors, Open Voyage Accounts, Deposits and Reserves" represents the remainder of the old item "Creditors and Credit Balances," with the addition this time of the employees' savings fund, the amount of which remains fairly stationary round about £110,000.

Capital and mortgage loans remain the same, but on December 1st last we liquidated our American indebtedness by redeeming the $2,500,000 two-year external gold notes.

THE ACCOUNTS—SHAREHOLDERS' SUGGESTIONS.

Before I deal with matters connected with the general business of the company, I might mention that, at our last meeting, a shareholder made a suggestion that, in our printed balance sheet, we should reprint the figures of the previous year, and another shareholder wrote asking for a more detailed statement of accounts. With regard to the first suggestion, I have been at pains to show that mere reprinting of the previous year's figures without explanation would lead to no useful conclusion, and I am not at all sure that the same may not be true in other years. The point will be considered again next year. With regard to the request for a more detailed statement of accounts, I would repeat that the main form of our accounts is governed by the conditions of the Companies' Act, 1929, and, moreover, we live in a highly competitive world, and it may not always be in the interest of the company to disclose too many details of our business, but beyond that I would say to both these gentlemen that it is well to remember that it is very easy to draw erroneous conclusions from a mass of figures even if set down in parallel columns.

NORTH ATLANTIC TRAFFIC.

Coming now to the general business of the company, the total volume of passenger traffic crossing the North Atlantic shows a slight increase in 1929 as against the previous year. In this connection it is pleasing to be able to record that, for the sixth year in succession, we have carried the largest number of passengers of any steamship company in the trade. A detailed perusal of the passenger statistics for the year discloses the fact that the first-class and tourist third cabin show an increase, whilst the other classes, viz., cabin, second-class and third-class, show a falling-off. Although there is a slight increase in the first-class numbers it is remarkable that the volume of this traffic has not even now reached its pre-war level. For example, last year the number of first-class passengers crossing the Atlantic was 199,738, but in 1909—twenty years ago—the total amounted to 202,921. With the addition of a number of new express steamers an increase in the first-class carryings might reasonably have been looked for, but instead of creating a larger volume of business, the additional express steamers have simply robbed the other steamers already in the trade.

The expenditure which we thought it expedient to incur in order to meet the increasing demand for tourist third cabin passages and to improve the accommodation on certain of our ships, to which I made reference last year, was fully justified by the results secured. The total number of passengers of this class carried in our steamers during 1929 westbound and eastbound was 41,078, and was the largest number carried by any line in the North Atlantic trade. In order to make still further provision for this growing traffic, we have recently decided to equip suitably the "Carinthia" and "Franconia" when these steamers are engaged in the regular North Atlantic service. The entire passenger fleet, with the exception of the "Mauretania," is now fitted for this type of travel, which has become so popular in recent years.

UNITED STATES QUOTA REGULATIONS.

You will notice in the report which you have before you a reference to the United States quota regulations, in which an important change was introduced and became effective last July. This was provided for in the United States Immigration Act, 1924, and reduces the total number of immigrants admissible annually from 164,667 to 153,714. Instead of determining the quota of immigrants for each nationality on the number of foreign-born persons of such origin residing in the country, the new quotas are allotted on the basis of the national origin of the population of the United States according to the census of 1920. The annual quota allocated to British nationals is nearly doubled, the increase being 31,714 over the number of previously admissible. The quotas for other countries also undergo revision, the most important changes being in the case of the Irish Free State and Germany, which are reduced by just over 10,000 and 25,000 respectively.

Our arrangement with the home and Canadian Governments, under which the British migrant can secure third-class ocean transportation to Canada at a flat rate of £10, still continues in effect. Since the introduction of this special rate last year there has been some increase in emigration from this country to the Dominion, but unfortunately present prospects seem to point to reduced movement this year.

WINTER CRUISES.

Cruising business continues to form a considerable part of our winter programme. Largely owing to the financial crisis in the United States towards the end of last year the numbers of our cruising passengers have considerably fallen as compared with the previous year. One chartered cruise, that of the "Scythia," had to be cancelled, but we were able to maintain all the other engagements on which we had embarked. It is in this field with cruises from the United States round-the-world, to South America, the East, the Mediterranean, or Africa, that we are able to employ a number of our vessels during the winter months without impairing our regular services, and while these are early days to prophesy what next winter's business actually will be, there are signs that we may hope for a return to more normal conditions.

ATLANTIC FREIGHT MARKET.

In referring twelve months ago to the Atlantic freight market I ventured to express a hope that a continuance of settled conditions on the other side of the Atlantic would result in the year 1929 proving more satisfactory than its predecessor. I coupled this, however, with a reminder of the risks attendant upon prophecy, and as events have turned out these risks have been only too evident.

The year opened fairly well in both westbound and eastbound directions. In fact, the westbound cargoes for the whole twelve months showed a slight increase over 1928, but the eastbound movement was not maintained, and, by the end of the year, there was a falling off. We can only hope that, before the end of this year, some definite improvement may be manifested in the eastbound traffic.

MEDITERRANEAN AND AUSTRALIAN SERVICES.

In our Mediterranean and Havre trades we have again maintained the services with regularity, and I am glad to be able to record a slight increase over the traffic in the previous year.

In the Australian and New Zealand trades, where our associated company, the Commonwealth and Dominion Line, has a deservedly high reputation, the services have been maintained with accustomed regularity and success. During the year a number of the company's steamers have undergone extensive alterations to their machinery in order to increase their speed and enable them to maintain a more uniform service with the new motor vessels which have been added to the fleet in the past few years and which have proved eminently satisfactory.

LEADENHALL STREET BUILDINGS.

Reference has been made in the Press to the fact that we are moving our London City staff into a new building which is being erected in Leadenhall Street. It has been felt for some time that it would be of considerable advantage to the general working if the staffs of all the companies associated with us were housed together instead of being scattered over different parts of the City. The erection of a new building in Leadenhall Street provides the opportunity of bringing about this very desirable change. The building, which will occupy a site of nearly half an acre, and will consist of eight storeys, will be known as "Cunard House." After providing for the requirements of the Cunard and its associated companies' City staffs, the proprietors of the building still have a very considerable amount of floor space available for other tenants.

QUESTION OF NEW FAST ATLANTIC STEAMER.

When last I had the privilege of addressing you I told you that the question of new tonnage was one constantly in our minds, and that the company had never hesitated to build vessels of the highest class when, in its judgment, the conditions of its business demanded them. You will have seen recently in the Press the official statement that we were in consultation with certain shipbuilders in regard to a new steamer for the Atlantic express service. It will naturally be some time before the definite stage of entering into a contract is reached and final details are available for publication, but I can assure you that, when the time comes, it will be found that the Cunard Company, as in the past, has set its mind on the construction of a steamer which will bear favourable comparison with anything afloat. In deciding on the type of ship to be built our primary consideration is and must always be that of providing a vessel that will prove a great attraction to the travelling public and a profitable investment for the company. Mention of this brings to mind the wonderful record of the "Mauretania," which in August last, despite adverse weather conditions both on the westbound and eastbound voyage, made the fastest trips of her long and honourable career, and gave proof of her claim to be still considered a worthy competitor in the Atlantic trade.

AUDITORS' REMUNERATION.

This is an opportune moment to make some remarks in anticipation of the resolution which will be submitted to you later in connection with the remuneration of our auditors. I find that I last alluded to this subject in 1923. At that date the auditors' remuneration was increased from 1,000 guineas per annum to 2,000 guineas. I now find that the statutory work has still further increased and that your auditors are actually doing your work at an out-of-pocket cost to themselves. I feel sure that you will not wish this state of things to continue, and that you will agree readily to the increased remuneration which will be suggested. The work which is covered by this fee, as mentioned in 1923, comprises :—

(*a*) Audit work in connection with the preparation of the balance sheet, and

(*b*) A weekly audit of different portions of the company's expenditure.

This weekly audit, I may remind you, is designed to afford a real check again fraud or error in the operation of the company's business.

ADVANTAGE TO COMPANY.

It may be of interest to the shareholders to learn that, in addition to the work which I have described and which has been covered by the fee voted at the annual meeting, the directors have employed Messrs Cooper Brothers for many years past in a continuous audit of all stock and share transfer certificates, and, in fact, all the documents connected with the share registry. This precaution is one of very long standing, and the board will continue to follow the same policy in future. For further security your board arranged in 1926 for Messrs Cooper Brothers to conduct an audit of different portions of the company's expenditure and receipts at all offices in the United States of America under the supervision of experienced English personnel directly responsible to Messrs Cooper Brothers' head office in London. This arrangement has been of the greatest advantage to the company, and we feel that we have derived a greatly increased security therefrom. Since the close of the accounts we have also arranged for Messrs Cooper Brothers to perform similar work in Canada as they do in the United States, and we anticipate the same beneficial results in this case also. Messrs Cooper Brothers are also employed by the company in certain European countries. In other centres in Europe there are different auditors, mainly in conjunction with our friends the White Star Line, with whom we have several offices and agencies in common. I am glad to be able to assure you that the whole of the operations of the company and its associated companies from as far East as Moscow to as far West as Vancouver and as far South as Sydney and Wellington are covered by as good a scheme of audit supervision as we can devise.

SIR THOMAS ROYDEN'S RETIREMENT FROM THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

There is one personal matter to which I wish to make brief allusion.

This is the last occasion on which I shall preside at this meeting as your chairman.

The pressure of my personal affairs has compelled me to seek some relief in order that I may give more time and thought to them than I have been able to do since I became chairman of this company.

I have therefore asked my colleagues on the board to elect some other one of our number to the chair in my place.

During my years of office I have been indeed fortunate in having the unfailing and sympathetic co-operation of my colleagues and the enthusiastic support of the staff, to whom I owe a deep debt of gratitude.

While retiring from the chairmanship, it is my hope that I may retain my seat on the board.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF AFLOAT AND ASHORE.

Before concluding I am glad to have this opportunity of paying my personal tribute to the services so loyally and so efficiently rendered to the company by all members of the staff both afloat and ashore. The spirit of comradeship that comes from a common effort to a common end finds full expression in the keenness and desire to promote the interests of the Cunard Line that is the characteristic of all ranks from the highest to the lowest. We have had what may fairly be described as a successful year—we owe much of that success to the energy and ability of our staff, and I feel sure that you wish me to convey to those concerned your appreciation of their unfailing and wholehearted devotion to your interests.

THE RESOLUTION.

I now beg to move :—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year 1929 submitted to this meeting be, and they are hereby received and adopted, and that, as recommended by the board, a dividend of 7½ per cent. for the year ended 31st December, 1929, be and the same is hereby declared on the 5,570,241 ordinary shares of £1 each issued, and upon the Government share, and that the same be payable, less income tax, on and after the 14th April, 1930." (Applause.)

I will ask Sir Percy Bates to second the resolution.

BOARD'S REGRET AT CHAIRMAN'S RETIREMENT.

Sir Percy E. Bates, Bart. (deputy chairman) : I am rising at your request, sir, to formally second the resolution. I do formally second that resolution, but I do not think that I should sit down without making some allusion to the personal statement that you have just made.

Turning to the shareholders, Sir Percy continued : It is just a fortnight since Sir Thomas informed the Board of his desire to be relieved. The news came as a complete surprise to his colleagues, but they were unable effectively to combat his wish to retire. I am sure that you will all be glad to learn that no question of ill-health is involved. Sir Thomas's statement of his reasons means neither more nor less than what it says. I need hardly say that his colleagues regret his decision very sincerely, but they have the consolation that while they are to lose a most able and courteous chairman, they are to retain their colleague. (Applause.)

The Chairman : Before formally putting the resolution which you have heard proposed and seconded, I shall be glad to answer any question any shareholder present may desire to put.

There were no questions, and the resolution on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

The Chairman : I now beg to move : "That Sir Thomas A Brocklebank, Bart., Mr S. J. Lister, Mr Herbert William Corry and Mr Walter P. Tyser, who retire at this meeting, be and they a hereby re-elected directors of the company."

Sir Percy E. Bates : I beg to second the resolution.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr S. J. Leeming : I beg to move : "That Messrs Cooper Brothers and Company be reappointed auditors of the company for the current year and that their remuneration be fixed at £3,000 per annum."

Mr John Dempster : I beg to second that.

This was agreed to.

The Chairman : That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes our formal business. I thank you very much for your attendance this morning.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr Evelyn S. Parker : Before leaving the meeting I know that you will all wish to take the opportunity of thanking our chairman for his great services to the company. Normally, this would be perhaps only a formality, because we always pass a resolution of this sort, but, unfortunately, to-day we have heard the unexpected announcement that our chairman is unable to continue in that position. I know that his successor, whoever he may be, will not misunderstand me when I say that we are all extremely sorry that we are to lose Sir Thomas Royden as chairman of the company (Applause.)

Sir Thomas has been chairman for eight years, and everybody who knows anything about shipping knows that these eight years have been years of very great difficulty and trial, and it is due to Sir Thomas's ability, long-sightedness and unfailing tact that this company during that period has gone on from strength to strength until it occupies its present proud position. I think his services not only deserve the thanks of shareholders, but they deserve the thanks of a much wider public, the thanks of every citizen of Liverpool. (Hear, hear.) During the years succeeding the war, I am sorry to say that several of our large companies have been attracted by the lure of London, and they thought it better to go

there. Whether they have been right or not, whether they have done better in going to London, it is not for me to say. But the Cunard Company, under Sir Thomas Royden, has shown the world that the most successful and the greatest of the British steamship companies can be, and is, efficiently managed in Liverpool; and I think that the citizens of Liverpool owe a great debt to this company and its chairman for their loyalty to the city. While we all regret that Sir Thomas is leaving the chair, we are extremely glad to hear that he is going to remain one of our directors, and we hope he may be long spared to serve us in that capacity. I understand that this resolution does not require a seconder, and as for obvious reasons the Chairman cannot put it himself, I put it to the meeting.

The resolution was carried with loud applause.

The Chairman: Mr. Parker, ladies and gentlemen, the regret that one must inevitably feel on taking a step which I felt compelled to take is considerably mitigated by the exceedingly kind way first, in which Mr. Parker has spoken about my tenure of office, and, secondly, by the sympathetic reception that you, ladies and gentlemen, have given to what Mr. Parker has said. I can only thank you very sincerely. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated.

SCHWEPPES, LIMITED.

RECORD NET PROFITS.

The thirty-third annual ordinary general meeting of Schweppes, Ltd., was held, on the 10th instant, at Marble Arch House, London.

Sir Ivor Philipps, K.C.B., D.S.O. (the chairman), said that the gross profit for the year under review was £330,000 against £317,000 for the previous year, and the net profit £180,000 against £172,000, which formed another record for the company. They could congratulate themselves not only on a satisfactory year's trading, but also on the splendid balance sheet which they had before them. They were recommending the payment of the same dividend as for the previous year, viz., £9 6s. 3d. per cent. to the ordinary shareholders and 10 per cent. to the deferred shareholders, but he would remind them that in 1928 the deferred shareholders had received a 50 per cent. free issue of shares in place of arrears of dividend, so that they were now actually receiving 15 per cent. on their original holdings.

In view of the recent happenings in the City and the question now before the public of the desirability of having share transfers and share certificates audited by the company's auditors, he would like shareholders to know that for the last 15 years all transfers and share certificates, before being passed by the board, had been certified by the auditors.

INCREASED SALES.

The sales of lemon and orange squash and other cordials and cider continued to show a satisfactory increase, although they noticed a tendency on the part of brewers to tie their houses for cider, in certain instances buying up cider manufactories themselves.

Since the last meeting, Mr A. H. Dudley, of Messrs Dudley and Son, who had been their sole agents in Ireland for a number of years, had died, and they were now taking the management of the Irish office into their own hands. They had recently erected a factory in Dublin, and now had in contemplation erecting a cordial factory there. They felt sure that by making that change they would add considerably to their trade in the Irish Free State. So far there was every prospect of their doing good business there.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

Shareholders would observe at the foot of the profit and loss account a note to the effect that no credit had been taken in the accounts for the profits of the subsidiary companies, but that there had been no losses. Investments in subsidiary companies stood in the books at £132,000. The only subsidiary companies in which they held shares directly were Schweppes (Colonial and Foreign), Ltd., and W. and J. Burrow, Ltd. Neither of those companies had paid a dividend during the year under review, but both of them showed small profits for the year. Although they had only two subsidiaries directly shown, Schweppes (Colonial and Foreign) held a controlling interest in Schweppes (Paris), Schweppes (South Africa) and Schweppes (Transvaal), and a 50 per cent. interest in Schweppes (Belgium). All those companies were working at a profit. All their subsidiaries were of recent formation, and the policy of the board was to build up and strengthen their financial position and to use such profits as they made for that purpose. When the financial position of those companies was more secure and their business more developed, they would, he hoped, in time be able to assist by dividends the profits of the parent company

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HELLENIC AND GENERAL TRUST, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—FINANCIAL CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Hellenic and General Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at 41, Bishopsgate, London, Mr F. Alexander Szarvasy presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said:—During the past year we have issued 100,000 shares of £5 each, and the issued and paid-up capital now stands at £1,000,000. The average capital employed, however, during the year has only been £639,500, or 63.95 per cent. The 100,000 shares having been issued at a premium, we have created a capital reserve, and preliminary expenses have been written off against this reserve, leaving a net balance of £6,644.

REVENUE AND DIVIDENDS.

Our income from all sources has been £61,852, and, after deducting all expenses, but before making provision for income tax, the net figure available is £50,211. This represents 7.85 per cent. earned on the average capital employed, against 7.29 per cent. for the previous period of thirteen months, for which accounts were issued, or against 6.73 per cent. for the equivalent proportion of the same period. You will notice that management expenses, including directors' fees, amount to less than 1 per cent. on the issued capital, which is the usual charge for companies like ours. The board recommend a final dividend of 3½ per cent., less tax (making 6½ per cent. for the year), leaving to be carried forward £22,312, or over 2¾ per cent. on our capital, subject to tax.

Although during the last few weeks, due to the advent of lower money rates, the general situation seems to have become more settled, I feel sure you will agree that a conservative policy is called for, and that we must look to the building up of reserves before embarking on a more adventurous dividend policy.

During the current year we shall have our full capital available, and as our investments on mortgages in Greece give us a fairly high return, and seeing that the rest of our capital is invested at an average rate of about 6¾ per cent., barring unforeseen circumstances, our income should again be very satisfactory.

As you are aware, a large part of our company's activities is connected with Greece, and perhaps a few words regarding recent developments in that country may be appropriate.

First let me remind you that that gallant little country has faithfully kept its engagements since 1898, in spite of the fact that virtually from 1909 until 1922 it was involved almost continuously in the turmoils of war or frequently a prey to internal dissensions. Military expenditure of over £160,000,000 sterling was piled up and provided for out of the nation's own resources, a truly formidable burden for a country with about 6,200,000 inhabitants.

It is pleasing, therefore, that a review of the economic conditions in that country as obtaining at the beginning of 1930 shows that the country is successfully emerging from its difficulties, and that it now enjoys political stability under its veteran leader.

NATIONAL FINANCE.

A very important factor which will favourably influence the financial situation of Greece is that she will receive from Reparations under the Young Plan an annual mean sum of £1,182,400, as against the £200,000 received up to the present from Germany, and the £37,000 from Bulgaria.

On balance, the Greek Budget will now benefit from Reparations by £706,000 annually for the next fourteen years and £344,000 for the next twenty-two years. Besides the foregoing sums the Conference granted Greece compensation for losses suffered by Greek citizens during the period of neutrality. Optimism is justified, seeing that, in spite of her difficulties, Greece is at present amortising national debt at the rate of over £2,600,000 per annum. The national debt service for 1930-31 represents about 35 per cent. of the State's expenditure, and requires about £10,000,000, but fully one-third—say, £3,400,000—is for redemption of debt, a most important consideration. The national debt per head is now about £17 and the debt charge per head about £1 12s. It is estimated that about 50 per cent. of the national debt, or approximately £50,000,000, will have been paid off within fifteen years. A large part of this amount belonging to Greece will remain in the country. The Budgets of the State have been leaving a real surplus since 1927, while the Treasury had a steady credit balance at the bank.

The immediate future seems more settled, and if cheap money continues and has the expected influence of revitalising trade, we may anticipate greater industrial activity and a decrease in the figures of unemployment, which have reached alarming proportions.

Mr A. R. Wagg seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, which was unanimously adopted, and the usual formal business was transacted.

At an extra-ordinary general meeting a resolution was passed sub-dividing the capital of the company into equal amounts of preference and ordinary shares of 10s. each, to be subsequently converted into stock.

HARLAND AND WOLFF, LIMITED.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN RESULTS.
LARGEST OUTPUT OF VESSELS IN THE WORLD.
LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN MARINE MOTOR PROPULSION.
LORD KYLSANT'S REVIEW OF COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES.

The forty-fifth annual meeting of Harland and Wolff, Ltd., was held, on Monday, April 7th, at the London office of the company, 1a Cockspur Street, London, S.W.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), presided.

The Secretary (Mr John Philp) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—As I mentioned when addressing you last year, the firm of Harland and Wolff was established in Belfast over three-quarters of a century ago, and has long been universally recognised as one of the greatest—if not the gratest—shipbuilding and engineering establishments in the world.

Thanks to our up-to-date equipment, our unrivalled geographical sites in some of the chief industrial centres, and the skill and application of our staff and men, we have so far weathered successfully the most prolonged and abnormal period of depression that the industry has perhaps ever known.

PAST YEAR'S OUTPUT.

I am pleased to say that, notwithstanding statements which have received some publicity concerning the position of other shipbuilding companies, our firm's output of vessels for 1929 exceeded that of any other shipbuilding organisation in the world.

The output from the yards of Harland and Wolff in 1929 was over 145,000 Board of Trade gross register tons, which, together with the output of the two yards of our subsidiary companies, makes a total of 172,000 gross register tons of vessels for the year.

The output of the engineering works of Harland and Wolff and its subsidiaries for the past year was over 182,000 indicated horsepower of marine engines, which was by far the greatest British marine engine output.

THE ACCOUNTS.

In presenting the accounts for the past year, the directors feel that the results, which again show considerable improvement over the previous year, are satisfactory, especially in view of the prolonged joiners' strike at Belfast last year, but for which we should have done still better.

After paying the dividend on the first preference shares and providing no less than £300,000 for depreciation of fixed assets and £115,615 for depreciation of investments, there is a credit balance of £132,037, which we propose to carry forward. The reserve remains unchanged at £1,000,000.

In these days the accounts of industrial undertakings are examined somewhat critically, but I think that those responsible for carrying on the industries of the country are entitled to ask that a comprehensive view should be taken on such questions as depreciation, etc. I have always attached great importance to the writing off of adequate amounts for depreciation, but when in good times valuations have been considerably reduced, this fact should not be lost sight of when adverse conditions prevail. In our case large amounts have been specially written off in the past, and it is satisfactory that, in the year under review, notwithstanding the difficult conditions, we have been able to set aside the substantial sum of £300,000 for depreciation of our fixed assets.

As a result of this conservative financial policy, the book value of the shipbuilding yards, marine engine works, foundries and repairing establishments now represents very little more than the amount expended on enlarging and bringing the works up to date since the war. This indicates in a striking manner the modern character of our works and equipment.

I would like specially to draw the attention of the shareholders to the fact that there is no amount in the books representing goodwill, which is a very valuable asset, and also that the company has no debentures or other charges on its assets. The loan of £1,500,000 advanced under the Trade Facilities Acts in 1929 has now been reduced to £1,044,000.

WORK IN HAND.

At Belfast all our slips are occupied, while at Govan four out of the seven slips are also occupied.

While the volume of work in hand is fairly satisfactory under present circumstances, it is still difficult to obtain fresh orders at reasonable prices and on satisfactory financial terms.

REPAIR WORKS.

The repair works at Liverpool and Southampton have been well occupied throughout the year.

At the repair establishment at Woolwich the volume of work handled is steadily increasing, and it is gratifying that a substantial amount of business has been developed by the construction of dumb barges for use on the Thames.

STEEL AND COAL.

Our important interests in steel and coal undertakings have not paid any dividends during the year, although these companies made small profits.

WAGES AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

As stated in the report, apart from its large subsidiary companies, the company, at its shipyards, engine works and repair establishments paid in wages during the year 1929 over £3,750,000. In rates we paid over £68,000, and for health and unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation over £107,000.

I think you will agree that these figures form a substantial contribution from one firm to the industrial activity as well as to the social services of the nation. Notwithstanding this, as mentioned in the directors' annual report, over six million pounds of share capital is not at present receiving any remuneration in the way of interest or dividend.

The combined firms of Harland and Wolff and its subsidiary companies are now employing over 40,000 men, or nearly 9,000 more than they were employing six years ago. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that in this key industry employment is afforded to a high class of skilled men in the different trades. It also includes the training of apprentices, and is thus a most important national asset. Consequently, those responsible for large organisations such as ours may claim to be doing much to maintain the national efficiency now and to ensure its continuance in one of our oldest and most vital industries.

FINANCIAL FACILITIES FOR SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY.

An important factor in the maintenance of this great national industry is the necessity for the continuance of those facilities for finance which in the past have helped so materially, and which cannot be dispensed with in these days of extended credit, when in so many cases companies placing orders look to the shipbuilder to assist in financing the work of construction.

"BRITANNIC" AND SISTER SHIP.

The work in hand includes some notable vessels, but perhaps special mention might be made of the White Star liner "Britannic," of 27,000 gross tons. This liner, which is the largest British motor passenger ship, is approaching completion at Belfast, and may well be as epoch-making an instrument of commerce as the first vessel built by Harland and Wolff for the White Star Line—namely, the "Oceanic" in 1870, which was pioneer in the development of North Atlantic travel.

The owners are so confident of the merits of this vessel that a sister ship to the "Britannic" has been laid down at Belfast. These two vessels will represent the latest development in marine motor propulsion.

In addition to the White Star vessels under construction, we have been building large motor liners for the Union-Castle Company's South African mail service, as well as vessels for the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Silver Line, Andrew Weir and Company, the Nourse Line, Hain Line and the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company.

We have within our organisation the capacity, and, in our staff, the knowledge and experience, to produce every phase of other forms of marine propulsion. For instance, we have recently carried out several large installations of high-pressure turbines with water-tube boilers in passenger vessels of the largest size.

ELECTRIC PROPULSION.

In regard to the electric propulsion of ships, which is developing in certain directions, I do not suppose there is another shipbuilding company in the world that is in a better position to carry through the whole installation on this principle. Having our own electric manufacturing department, we are peculiarly well equipped, both as to appliances and technical staff, to deal with the problems connected with this form of propulsion, in conjunction with either steam or motor engines.

During the strenuous and difficult years we have been passing through, close attention has been paid to the co-ordination of our various establishments, the standardisation of fittings, the installation of further labour-saving devices, the elimination of waste and the economising of every process, consistent with our high standard of work.

SHIPPING OUTLOOK.

Notwithstanding the prolonged shipping depression, I have no doubt as to the ultimate recovery of prosperity. Long experience encourages us to look for the inevitable revival and probably sooner than many people anticipate, and given adequate support, I am satisfied that the result of our shipbuilding operations will fully justify the confidence reposed in us as it has in the past.

I beg to move : " That the report and accounts to December 31, 1929, be approved and adopted."

The resolution was seconded by Mr F. E. Rebbeck and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected and the auditors (Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company), having been reappointed, the meeting terminated.

BALAGHAT GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

DIVIDENDS MAINTAINED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Balaghat Gold Mines, Ltd., was held, on the 9th instant, at 6 Queen Street Place, London. Mr E. R. Woakes, A.R.S.M., M.Inst.M.M., presided in the absence, through indisposition, of Lt.-Col. Sir Donald Robertson, the chairman of the company.

Mr C. H. D. Garland, F.C.I.S., read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said : Shareholders will have learned from the press that a strike of Indian workmen broke out at the beginning of the week on the mines of the Kolar Gold Field. I am glad to say the latest news received indicates that the position is somewhat improved.

During the past year there was an increase of 2,150 tons crushed at the mill and an increase of 2,490 ounces in the total return, the figures being 50,100 tons of ore, yielding 32,468 ounces of gold. The amount realised by the sale of this gold was £10,143 greater than that obtained in the preceding year.

The revenue account shows that the receipts from sales of bullion (less royalty), bank interest, rents, &c., amounted to £132,025, and the costs totalled £105,983, leaving a profit of £26,042, as compared with £24,153 in 1928. The working costs for the year, excluding development, showed a satisfactory decrease per ton, but, owing to extra development carried out, the total costs per ton milled were Is. 3d. higher.

The profit and loss account shows credits (which include the balance brought forward and interest and dividends on investments, &c.), amounting to £36,377, and debits, including the 10 per cent. preferential dividend paid in September last, of £21,601; this left a disposable balance of £14,776, out of which a final dividend for the year of 6d. per share on the Preference and Ordinary shares was paid on the 27th ultimo, which absorbed £7,698. The distributions by way of dividend were similar to those of 1928, and the balance carried forward—viz., £7,077—is very much the same.

The liquid assets of the company at December 31, 1929, deducting liabilities, were £74,621—an improvement of some £3,000—and in addition, materials, stores and goods in transit were valued at £28,662.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

LLANELLY AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS—IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS.

The annual general meeting of the Llanelly and District Electric Supply Company, Ltd., was held, on the 4th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr Morrice A. Edwards (deputy-chairman) presided.

The Secretary (Mr William C. Bryden, C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Deputy-Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, having expressed regret at the absence, through illness, of Mr A. H. Beatty (the chairman) said :—Gentlemen,—You are all aware that the important area supplied by your company is largely of an industrial nature, and you can readily understand that the year under review has been one of considerable difficulty. The conditions which have prevailed during the year have not been particularly conducive to industrial activity, especially in an area where the basic industries are coal, iron, steel, and tinplate.

In spite of these adverse factors the company has made considerable progress during the year; 608 new consumers were added and a total of 23,675,600 units were sold, as compared with 21,843,400 in the previous year, an increase of 8½ per cent. It is gratifying to record this increase, due largely to the growth of domestic consumption, which is an increasing section of our business and which we are doing everything we can to encourage. It is gratifying to note that this improvement in domestic and small power load has more than offset the reduced demand by larger industrial users.

With the power station plant, mains and transmission lines at present available, I can assure you that the company is in a position to reap the benefit of the increased demand when trade in South Wales becomes more active.

There has recently been published a scheme under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, covering a large area in South-West England and South Wales, including the area of our company and of our subsidiary. Under the scheme as published our Llanelly station would continue to operate and be used by the Central Electricity Board.

A new super-station for South Wales is contemplated, but its locality is not yet indicated. It may, however, be of interest to the shareholders to know that our company has the rights to the best site available for the purpose. We have made proper representations to the Central Electricity Board with respect to the provisions of the scheme so far as they affect our plant and areas, and the matter is receiving the very careful attention of your directors and managers.

Negotiations of considerable importance have been conducted for several months which might result in considerably changing the scope and ramifications of the business. I can say no more at present, but any agreement arrived at would be subject to approval of the shareholders at a meeting which would be specially convened for the purpose. Meanwhile, I may tell you that no opportunity has been lost in consolidating and widening the scope of the company's interests.

TRACTION SIDE OF THE BUSINESS.

With regard to the traction side of the business, I need not repeat what was stated at the extra-ordinary general meeting which was held on February 21st last, when you gave your sanction to the introduction of the Bill in Parliament under which the company seeks authority to run trolley vehicles and omnibuses in the place of, and in extension of, the services of the light railways. The Bill is proceeding normally, and will come before a Committee of Parliament in due course.

The amount transferred to renewals and depreciation reserve of £15,000 is £4,000 less than last year. This is a matter which has occasioned much careful consideration by your directors, and we have endeavoured to strike a fair balance between our desire to have available a larger balance for dividends and the duty which we owe to the shareholders generally to make proper provision for depreciation, in all the circumstances known to us who are responsible for the management of the company's affairs.

I think this is a fair statement of the position and the answer to those of our shareholders who have been somewhat pressing for a larger distribution than we have recommended.

I am glad to report that the first two months' trading this year showed a very satisfactory increase over the corresponding period of last year, and if this increase is maintained, as we have every right to anticipate, the current year should show a satisfactory increase over the results for last year.

Mr A. A. Edward seconded the motion.

In the course of a discussion it was suggested that a larger dividend than 2½ per cent. might be paid on the ordinary shares, and an amendment to adjourn the meeting for one week to enable some of the shareholders to discuss the question with the directors was moved, but was subsequently withdrawn. The original motion was unanimously adopted.

GORDON HOTELS, LIMITED.

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED RESULTS.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole, London.

Major-General Guy Dawnay, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (the chairman), presided.

The Chairman, who was enthusiastically received, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : We are again able to report a considerably improved year's working; and, again, it is true that the improvement in our business in England was off-set, both by the failure of our seaside hotels to respond to conditions which have caused improvement in the results shown by our hotels in London, and by the continued and even accentuated depression on the Riviera under which we suffer in common with—but not, I may say, in greater measure than—our competitors in the South of France. Sir Francis Towle told you last year that, in our view, the 13 per cent. tax on turnover was the most damaging single factor militating against a recovery of our French business. A similar tax, as I told you on a former occasion, was for a time imposed also in Italy; but the Italian Government withdrew the tax after a short experience of its demonstrable unsoundness. I only wish I saw prospects that the French Government was likely to follow a similar course. I do not wish to imply that your properties on the Riviera bring you no profit. But I do say this—that, in comparison with the profits which we are able to earn for you from the operation of your properties in London, the benefits which you reap from your French properties can hardly be called commensurate with the effort entailed and the relative capital involved.

As regards your seaside properties in England, our policy remains as I described it last year. The conversion of one wing of the Hotel Metropole, Folkestone, into flats has proved financially sound, and has *pro tanto* improved our Folkestone results.

If you will turn to the trading account for the year 1929 you will see that the figures are satisfactory.

The profit and loss account appears to require no comment, apart from the fact that the final result, a balance of £119,332, indicates a very satisfactory improvement over the figure of £98,548 for last year. This is an increase of 21 per cent. over last year and of 48 per cent. over the year 1927.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS.

With regard to the report, you will observe that our proposals regarding the appropriation of the balance at profit and loss include, as usual, the full annual dividend on the preference shares, the payment of our usual 5 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, and the transfer to general reserve of £20,000, being twice the amount which we have in recent years been able to allocate to that purpose. In view of the satisfactory increase in profit for the year, and in view of the double allocation to reserve, the board has decided, after much consideration, to propose to you the payment of an additional bonus of 1¼ per cent. on the ordinary shares, representing in respect of the year 1929 a 25 per cent. increase in all in the ordinary shareholders' dividend. We have put forward the proposal in this way because we feel that it is too early yet to forecast whether or not the ordinary shareholders may look forward to a regularly increased dividend except in unusually favourable trading years.

You will notice our report with regard to the May Fair Hotel. I told you last year that our best expectations had fallen short of the actual results. During the year under review this hotel has still further exceeded our hopes. It is very considerably the best unit of earning power in your whole organisation. But, further, in pursuance of the policy of development marked out by the acquisition of the May Fair Hotel, we have acquired for you an interest in the new hotel which is being erected on the Dorchester House site in Park Lane, on terms practically the same as those on which we acquired for you your original interest in the May Fair Hotel. Apart from your interest in the equity of the new Dorchester Hotel, when it is built, the hotel will be under the management of your company, under an agreement financially advantageous to you. There can be no doubt whatever—and the success of the May Fair Hotel has proved it, I think, beyond all question—that it is only by the provision of completely up-to-date units, designed to meet the most modern requirements of the present-day public, that we can develop—and I hope develop considerably—the earning power of your company.

Once again I record my appreciation of the most able management of your affairs by your managing director, Sir Francis Towle, in thanking whom I am sure you will wish to associate yourselves with me.

Sir Francis W. Towle, C.B.E. (managing director), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

JOHN BARKER AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD PROFIT—GOODWILL ELIMINATED.

The thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of John Barker and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 8th instant, on the company's premises, 63-65 Kensington High Street, London

Sir Sydney M. Skinner, J.P., the chairman, said that the past year, although unfavourable in certain respects, had produced no outstanding exceptional difficulties so far as outside trading conditions were concerned. Internally they had had to face the difficulties of extensive alteration and rebuilding, and they felt it was no mean achievement to have earned an increase in net profit of no less than £23,784. This increase made the total net profit £468,685, after charging debenture interest, which constituted a record in the history of the company.

The balance sheet showed increase in the outstanding amount of employees' 5 per cent. tax free notes. The total nearly approached the limit of £50,000 fixed in the first instance, and the directors had decided to increase the maximum to £100,000. It might not be desirable to have too large a sum at this rate of interest, repayable practically on demand, but it was an exceedingly useful incentive to the staff to save, encouraging a practical interest in the business.

The reserve accounts had a total of no less than £1,035,000. The increase of £58,000 over last year was accounted for by the allocation of £125,000 for rebuilding, which it was proposed to take from the profits of the year, less £67,000 written off the book value of certain properties involved in rebuilding. The wise financial policy which had preserved these funds was the basic means of keeping the business well to the fore as one of the most modern and efficient department stores

Agreement had been made with the trustees for the debenture holders in respect of the 1894 and 1902 issues, whereby a substantial part of the two sinking funds would be merged in such a way as would be of immediate benefit to the company, by releasing about £90,000 in cash for their use, and it also provided for a long-term outside sinking fund policy for a considerable sum.

GOODWILL EXTINGUISHED.

Goodwill did not appear at all in the balance sheet now issued, as amongst the appropriations proposed out of the profits of the past year was a sum of £35,000, which would delete goodwill altogether. Shareholders were to be congratulated that the company had attained so strong a financial position that, at a time when the value of the name of " Barkers " had never stood higher with the public, they had a balance sheet in which any valuation of this important but intangible asset became conspicuous by its absence. Cash, which showed a further increase of approximately £93,500, was the most satisfactory feature of a strong liquid position Stocks at £592,000 showed a further decrease of £68,000 and were in a very healthy condition.

The year's gross profit, £1,716,433, showed an increase of approximately £10,000. A year ago he said they had adopted the policy of doing their utmost to make shopping in Kensington more than ever attractive to customers, as to both value and service, during the difficult rebuilding period This they continued to do, and the progress shown by the increased gross profit was evidence of their success in spite of increasing competition and difficult trading conditions.

From the net profit, the directors proposed to write £35,000 off goodwill, and £25,000 off fixtures, etc., to place £125,000 to rebuilding and modernisation reserve, and £10,000 to pension and benevolent fund; and, after paying the preference dividends, to declare a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the eleventh consecutive year. This would leave £297,254 to be carried forward, or an increase of £6,244.

The business was founded 60 years ago, and its progress had been amazing. Their diamond jubilee found them with a balance sheet showing goodwill entirely eliminated, combined reserves of over a million, and a record net profit.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, *6 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.*

PARA ELECTRIC RAILWAYS AND LIGHTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED GROSS EARNINGS.

SIR F. VOULES ON CAPITAL REORGANISATION.

The twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Para Electric Railways and Lighting Company, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir Francis M. Voules, C.B.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said that the gross earnings of the tramways department had increased from 4,827 contos in 1928 to 4,940 in 1929, and those of the light and power department from 2,341 to 2,417 contos. As trading conditions were none too favourable, this increase, however modest, was not unsatisfactory. The sum of £10,000 had been transferred to depreciation and renewals reserve, and if the recommendation to pay a final six months' dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference share capital was approved, there would remain £3,604 to be carried forward.

It was imperative that they should give every encouragement to prospective consumers, and the board had decided that a substantial addition to the generating plant must be provided. By the installation of two turbo-generators of 1,500 k.w. each they hoped to be in a position, in about a year from now, not only to satisfy any demand for electric supply in all departments for some time to come, but incidentally to realise substantial economies in the cost of production. In order to provide for the expenditure, which would amount to about £30,000, the directors proposed setting aside from month to month sufficient portions of the ordinary revenue to meet payments for this power plant extension as and when due. They were advised that the earning capacity of the company would be increased by some £8,400 per annum on an expenditure of £30,000—a highly satisfactory result—but they could not continue indefinitely to meet all capital requirements out of profits. The directors believed that the scheme submitted in 1928 for capital reorganisation, adjusted to changed circumstances, might be profitably reconsidered, and with this view they invited the co-operation of the shareholders.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a proposal to appoint a consultative committee of preference shareholders and ordinary shareholders to assist the directors in any scheme for the reorganisation of the company's capital was agreed to.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS, LIMITED.

STEADY PROGRESS.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of Apollinaris and Johannis, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the Holborn Restaurant, London. Mr Alfred R. Holland (chairman of the company) said it would be misleading to compare the figures with those of the last accounts, which had been for nine months only.

FURTHER INCREASE IN PROFITS.

A comparison with the last complete 12 months to March 31, 1928, showed an increased profit of £3,300, and as the amount carried forward was £96,829, after deduction of the amounts as set out in the report, it was evident that steady progress was being made, and that the results of the past year were the best that had been attained since the company resumed business after the war.

HANDICAP OF PROTECTIVE DUTIES.

He had at previous meetings referred to the manner in which the development of the Apollinaris export trade had been handicapped by the high duties imposed in South America; unfortunately, during the past year many other countries had increased their tariffs.

PRESTA A SUCCESS—A SECOND FACTORY TO BE BUILT.

In these circumstances the starting of a business in aerated waters sold under the name of Presta had been a wise step to take, and, in view of the success already obtained, the board had decided to extend their activities in this direction. A very suitable property had recently been acquired, and it was hoped shortly to commence operations in the North with a second model factory to produce Presta aerated waters. He trusted that the steady progress shown by the accounts would encourage shareholders to share the confidence which the directors had in the future of the business.

AMERICAN BUSINESS.

The managing director, Mr F. J. Schilling, referred to the setback caused by the financial crisis in the States in October last. Reports from the agency in New York asserted confidently that the latter was only of a temporary nature, and he was hopeful, therefore, that the current year would show satisfactory results.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously, and, the dividend being declared, the proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the staff and the chairman.

GARRARD ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

EMINENTLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

The fourteenth annual general meeting of the Garrard Engineering and Manufacturing Company, Ltd., was held, on the 10th instant, at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, London.

Mr Charles E. Newbegin (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said: Our net profit, at £69,898, is practically the same as last year—a trifling decrease of £183 only. The balance-sheet shows a total of £104,691 in liquid resources. The reserve fund, at £35,000, will be increased by £30,000 if you agree to the board's proposal, and would then be equal to the ordinary share capital.

The results are, I trust you will agree, eminently satisfactory. It was almost too much to expect that we should succeed in maintaining our profits in times of such general depression as those through which we have been passing. That we have suceeded is a sound testimony to the high standard of our productions and the good service we give our customers.

NEW BUILDINGS AND PLANT.

The new buildings and plant referred to in the report were necessitated by a rapid change during the year in the character of the demand for our products. Prompt action had to be taken in redesigning and adding new features to older models, and in designing and producing new models, both spring and electrically driven, to meet the requirements of our customers, so that to-day we have practically an entire new range when compared with those we were selling at this time last year.

The cost of these works was, I am glad to say, financed from the company's own resources. The full benefit was, however, not secured in last year's trading, but without doubt the current year should reap to the full the advantages which we believe will be derived from these improvements.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

As to the future, we are on the eve of a Budget statement, and until that is before the country I do not see how anyone can come to any definite conclusion as to the trend of trade. It is to be hoped that such legislation as may be necessary will not further interfere with industrial development, and, given ordinary settled conditions, I have no fear for our future. Our business so far this year has been good. Our export trade is beginning to add its quota to our returns, and is gradually extending.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 27½ per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent. on the ordinary share capital were declared.

NUNDYDROOG MINES, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of the Nundydroog Mines, Ltd., was held on the 10th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Mr V. Herbert Smith (chairman of the company) said that the total production during last year of 80,120 ounces of gold was an increase of 4,693 ounces, and the realised value of the returns was £19,106 greater than that of the previous year. The average assay value of the ore milled was 15 grains per ton higher, which largely accounted for the improved returns. The profit of £108,081 was £14,914 more than was obtained in 1928. Working costs were 1s. per ton higher, owing to an unavoidable increase in the cost of stoping and heavier expenditure on ventilation work, but development costs were 6d. per ton less. The underground development work during the year measured 10,334 feet, and the estimate of ore reserves at the end of 1929 was 265,595 tons, an increase of 19,131 tons.

The directors were pleased to be able to make distributions by way of dividend amounting to 2s. 6d. per share, against 2s. in the preceding year, this distribution of 25 per cent. being the highest since 1917. A reserve fund had been started by the allocation of £10,000. The company had a balance of liquid assets of £114,446 in addition to materials and stores and goods in transit valued at £66,881. Shareholders would gather that the company had had a successful year, and it was additionally gratifying that the outlook was so promising, particularly at a time when the Nundydroog Company was celebrating its jubilee. The first dividend was paid in 1888, since when shareholders had received an unbroken succession of dividends, the total cash distributed amounting to nearly £3,000,000, and there was every reason to anticipate that the mine would continue to reward its proprietors for many years to come.

Mr Kenneth Taylor, referring to the strike on the Kolar Gold Field, said that the cabled information received the previous day and that morning reported that all was quiet. Negotiations were proceeding for a settlement.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the five days ended April 5, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	9,800	From Revenue	18,775
Interest, &c., on Debt	16,031	Decrease in Balances	3,333
Sinking Fund	527	Increase in Debt	4,282
Sundries	32		
	26,390		26,390

The revenue for the week amounted to £18,775,400, as compared with £17,965,800 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax brought in £8,406,000, as compared with £8,199,000, and sur-tax £2,030,000, against £1,610,000. Customs and Excise were higher at £1,935,000 and £900,000, against £1,541,000 and £665,000 respectively. Miscellaneous receipts amounted to £1,900 as compared with £213,100. The National Debt was increased by £4,282,400, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 150	Treasury Bills	— 13,824
4½% Conversion Loan	+17,950		
Sundries	+ 6		
	+ 18,106		— 13,824

The Floating Debt was reduced by £13,835,000 to £623,580,000.

Financial Year, 1930-31, April 1 to April 5.

	£		£
Expenditure	26,390,668	Revenue	18,775,397
		Decreases in balances	3,332,915
		Amount borrowed	4,282,356
	26,390,668		26,390,668

Estimates for Financial Year, 1929-30.

	£		£
Expenditure	691,564,000*	Revenue	746,060,000
Sinking Fund	50,400,000		
Surplus	4,096,000		
	746,060,000		746,060,000

* This figure includes the new Exchequer Contributions of £15,560,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	58,110,000
Road Fund	22,510,000
	80,620,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1929	22,633,000	Cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	2,570,000
		Balance on March 31, 1930	20,063,000
	22,633,000		22,633,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	284
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
3½% War Stock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,087	1,087	1,087
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	590	576
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	48
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,681	7,531	7,535
	57	46	75	98	103	120	108	108	108
Total Liabilities ...	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,643

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Apr. 6, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	Apr. 5, '30.	Movement Five days ended Apr. 5, '30.
Ways and Means Advances	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England	38,700,000	48,530,000	48,530,000	...
Advances by Public Departments	707,980,000	588,885,000	575,050,000*	— 13,835,000
Treasury Bills outstanding				
Total Floating Debt	746,680,000	637,415,000	623,580,000	— 13,835,000

* Includes £7,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on April 4, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £43,100,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Saturday, at £99 7s. 3d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £34,650,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
February 7	30,000,000	47,105,000	3 17 7·01
February 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
February 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
February 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
March 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Revenue and other Receipts.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from 1st April, 1930, to 5th April, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from 1st April, 1929, to 6th April, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE.	£	£
Inland Revenue—		
Income Tax	8,406,000	8,199,000
Sur-Tax, including Arrears of Super-Tax	2,030,000	1,616,000
Estate, etc., Duties	1,210,000	1,320,000
Stamps	220,000	100,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, etc.	...	10,000
Total Inland Revenue	11,866,000	11,249,000
Customs and Excise—		
Customs	1,935,000	1,541,000
Excise	900,000	665,000
Total Customs and Excise	2,835,000	2,206,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	1,491,000	1,766,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	*ded. 250,000*	*ded. 350,000*
Crown Lands	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	2,831,510	2,881,716
Miscellaneous	1,887	213,081
Total Ordinary Revenue	18,775,397	17,965,797
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.		
Post Office	1,000,000	1,150,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	1,000,000	1,150,000
Total	19,775,397	19,115,797
OTHER RECEIPTS.		
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—		
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1925, and Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	230,000	30,000
(c) For other Issues:		
By Treasury Bills	35,736,000	69,857,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44	17,950,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	750,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34	...	25,975,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	5,605,000	50,005,000
Repayments—		
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	6,356	8,682
	80,052,753	165,791,479

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April :—	1930. £	1929. £		
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
			6,125,214	6,252,524
Total			86,177,967	172,044,003

Expenditure and other Issues.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from 1st April, 1930, to 5th April, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from 1st April, 1929, to 6th April, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	16,031,283	17,345,231
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	...	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	32,501	195,001
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	9,800,000	10,750,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	25,863,784	28,290,232
Sinking Fund	526,884	735,067
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.		
Post Office	1,000,000	1,150,000
Road Fund	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	1,000,000	1,150,000
Total	27,390,668	30,175,299

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from 1st April, 1930, to 5th April, 1930.	1st April, 1929, to 6th April, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£
Temporary Advances—		
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	230,000	30,000
Redemption of Debt—		
Treasury Bills	49,560,000	62,165,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	600,000	700,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	27,696,070
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	5,605,000	48,355,000
	83,385,668	169,121,369
Balances in Exchequer— (5th April, 1930 / 6th April, 1929)		
Bank of England: £2,145,738 / £2,192,244		
Bank of Ireland: 646,561 / 730,390	2,792,299	2,922,634
Total £	86,177,967	172,044,003

Treasury, 7th April, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 9, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	359,250,323	Other Government Securities	232,987,196
In Banking Department	60,578,916	Other Securities	11,537,677
		Silver Coin	4,460,027
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	159,829,239
	£419,829,239		£419,829,239

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	55,861,909
Rest	3,113,065	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	15,167,701	Discounts and Advances ... £6,288,218	
Other Deposits—		Securities 11,063,311	
Bankers £65,251,317			17,351,529
Other Accounts 36,657,417	101,908,734	Notes	60,578,916
7-Day and other Bills	2,093	Gold and Silver Coin	952,239
	£134,744,593		£134,744,593

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

Both Departments.	Amount. April 9, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	359,250,323	+ 1,984,867	− 2,880,656
Public deposits	15,167,701	− 3,254,776	− 2,038,018
Bankers' deposits	65,251,317	+ 2,417,420	+ 1,351,245
Other deposits	36,657,417	− 700,709	+ 39,841
Seven-day bills	2,093	− 378	− 568
Total, outside liabilities	476,328,851	+ 446,424	− 3,528,156
Capital and rest	17,666,065	− 614,767	− 430
Government debt and securities	299,864,205	+ 1,836,148	+ 79,530
Discounts and advances	6,288,218	− 4,021,731	− 6,383,524
Other securities	22,600,988	− 1,642,420	− 2,155,167
Silver coin in issue department	4,460,027	+ 3,674	− 368,203
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	160,781,478	+ 3,655,986	+ 5,298,778
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	61,531,155	+ 1,671,119	+ 8,179,434
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	52½%	+ 2 3/32%	+ 7 3/16%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 23/32%	+ 23/32%	+ 1 15/32%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Feb. 19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½
26	411,326,826	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4
26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	35,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.		Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Feb. 19	244615041	10924483	151638500	33 11/32	38581563	4732768	16293348	66057727	61 13/32
26	244613290	10924646	151979238	34 3/32	34441563	4716355	12868859	65167073	65 11/16
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198	33 17/32	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223	60⅛
12	244593701	10944051	152622838	33 13/32	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203	59 5/16
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33 13/32	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174	58 23/32
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33 23/32	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754	58 3/32
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	54021909	10309949	12705909	59860036	50 13/32
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33 23/32	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155	52½

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to March 26	9,657,672	450,847	734,531	10,843,050
Week ended April 2	970,848	40,821	56,863	1,068,532
Week ended April 9	830,160	42,189	74,219	946,568
Total to date, 1930	11,458,680	533,857	865,613	12,858,150
Total to date, 1929	11,439,147	536,380	861,705	12,837,232
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 19,533	− 2,523	+ 3,908	− 20,918
	= 0·17%	= 0·46%	= 0·45%	= 0·16%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of March. 1929.	1930.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 5. 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	25	26			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,942,000	11,149,000	− 6·6	39,015,700	37,292,600
BRADFORD	5,891,000	4,288,000	−27·2	17,432,600	13,718,100
BRISTOL	5,294,000	5,117,000	− 3·3	17,359,000	16,049,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	70,584,000	68,929,500
HULL	3,978,000	3,488,000	−12·3	13,035,100	11,806,400
LEEDS	4,379,000	4,273,000	− 2·4	14,713,300	14,698,600
LEICESTER	3,592,000	3,547,000	− 1·2	11,713,000	10,878,200
LIVERPOOL	34,159,000	31,451,000	− 7·9	115,414,400	102,417,900
MANCHESTER	57,971,000	52,352,000	− 9·6	185,111,500	166,857,200
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,480,000	6,980,000	+ 7·7	20,392,200	20,826,600
NOTTINGHAM	2,812,000	2,675,000	− 4·8	9,206,900	9,031,200
SHEFFIELD	4,675,000	4,484,000	− 4·0	14,903,600	14,105,400
Total	141,173,000	129,804,000	− 8·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of March 15; Canada in March 29; Italy, Bulgaria and Russia in April 5.

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

RESOURCES.	Apr. 11, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,774,780	3,036,040	3,051,000	3,021,710	3,037,280
Total bills discounted	963,530	205,630	206,830	241,120	226,160
Bills bought in open market	157,320	185,020	256,480	301,300	267,000
Total U.S. Govt. securities	166,090	561,440	529,000	530,390	527,300
Total bills and securities	1,293,780	960,870	1,001,090	1,081,590	1,029,240
Total resources	5,054,050	5,030,595	4,968,430	5,075,300	4,977,590
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,657,720	1,583,700	1,572,900	1,576,100	1,558,300
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,301,940	2,290,540	2,339,840	2,375,350	2,344,640
Total deposits	2,339,840	2,319,500	2,388,470	2,443,050	2,395,480
Capital paid in and surplus	409,280	449,180	451,220	451,180	451,150
Total liabilities	5,054,050	5,030,590	4,968,430	5,075,300	4,977,590
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	73·8%	82·5%	81·8%	79·8%	81·5%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 11, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
Total bills discounted	246,740	30,810	36,860	53,870	62,670
Bills bought in open market	20,410	74,306	105,750	142,780	102,760
Total U.S. Govt. securities	19,400	252,970	219,520	210,610	207,560
Total bills and securities	288,640	297,960	368,880	414,020	379,740
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	913,500	917,940	954,720	975,450	957,720
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	81·9%	82·2%	77·7%	72·9%	76·6%

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,815	7,975	8,074	7,680	7,152	6,806
Subsidiary coin	110	114	118	114	117	124
Bills discounted	7,597	7,370	7,555	8,570	7,989	8,651
Investments	667	766	746	757	836	823
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,231	7,775	7,472	9,032	9,331	7,689
Government deposits	1,883	1,662	2,162	2,573	1,555	1,870
Bankers' deposits	5,322	5,009	5,388	4,860	4,910	4,852
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	50·2%	54·1%	52·1%	47·1%	47·3%	46·7%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.
Total securities	21,38,47	32,15,08	31,37,75	30,57,33	30,36,67	29,92,55
Loans	14,32,51	8,37,52	7,41,47	7,66,45	8,46,69	9,25,64
Cash credits	32,58,86	31,45,03	31,58,47	31,85,90	31,64,19	31,90,69
Inland bills	11,96,73	7,88,36	7,68,40	7,36,45	7,34,21	7,06,16
Foreign bills	35,35	45,49	41,49	35,68	32.90	33,30
Dead stock	2,83,75	2,80,54	2,80,74	2,80,52	2,80,53	2,80,90
Bal. with other banks	18,65,00	12,26	25,73	20,45	13.37	20,10
Cash	10,52,06	12,93,52	16,05,46	18,51,03	16,65,59	16,11,33
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	76,55,43	84,86,06	86,22,16	88,03,05	86,32,14	86,15,04
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	936	778	779	748	774	843
Advances in London	906	711	667	663	768	768
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	142	90	195	151	101	151

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 5, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
Gold	34,190,820	42,593,848	42,552,241	42,556,854	42,357,643
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	10,610,479	6,936,971	6,932,262	6,920,235	6,913,223
Bills discounted	18,427,303	18,771,751	18,782,845	18,766,097	18,773,150
Commercial bills discounted at home	6,029,640	5,428,441	5,244,916	6,387,914	5,094,403
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,595,545	8,595,545	8,595,545	8,594,858
Other advances	2,463,598	2,593,650	2,547,452	2,534,795	...
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,382,146	2,718,445	2,650,189	2,748,931	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	64,123,948	69,969,736	69,586,695	70,825,654	71,575,902
Public deposits	11,282,374	8,129,865	7,351,880	6,802,313	6,524,987
Private deposits	6,427,392	7,089,359	7,829,071	8,259,728	6,469,708
Other liabilities	2,315,311	2,449,691	2,536,804	2,622,676	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 6, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,579,525	2,491,789	2,495,931	2,544,427
Of which deposited abroad	140,944	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	33,695	450,626	386,600	386,600
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,292,190	1,504,718	2,067,462	2,067,462
Silver and other coin	113,985	165,683	130,761	130,761
Notes of other German banks	18,491	21,074	3,918	3,918
Advances	96,548	55,627	201,309	201,309
Investments	93,092	93,245	93,245	93,245
Other assets	567,657	563,841	529,789	529,789
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,446,672	4,109,157	4,805,581	4,805,581
Other daily maturing obligations	668,538	593,104	456,560	456,560
Other liabilities	237,577	150,415	152,947	152,947

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Apr. 4, 1929.	Mar. 13, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.
Gold	(b)	907,768	1,180,537	1,180,664	1,180,637	1,182,318
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	487,814	549,863	549,043	545,334	586,219
Silver and other coin		1,504	3,367	3,468	3,570	3,745
Securities	697,600	738,856	821,707	800,248	837,461	834,484
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,442,869	2,793,567	2,772,121	2,790,106	2,868,276
Current accounts	112,125	67,312	118,858	102,956	117,196	59,194

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	April 2, 1929.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 17, 1930.	Mar. 24, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	163,092	422,479	436,982	431,973	431,974	431,963
Silver	8,436	20,751	26,885	26,778	27,346	27,873
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	197,890	56,857	51,794	51,535	51,593
Foreign Bills		33,929	200,911	204,006	204,113	204,207
Loans and advances in current acct.		157,897	84,408	88,926	88,918	119,660
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	834,967	801,612	791,237	781,236	838,176
Deposits	5,016	20,525	17,476	17,683	21,290	12,585

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Apr. 6, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,299	166,400	167,500	169,100	170,000
Silver	29,785	18,301				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	128,660	136,300	135,900	132,200	129,300
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	308,313	281,600	273,100	270,200	270,000
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	37,942	30,100	36,900	39,000	44,100

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481,275	560,944	560,955	560,978	560,986
Silver	18,350	44,537	29,415	19,428	19,729	17,894
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	217,633	344,968	352,682	332,990	334,895
Discounts	...	168,782	77,690	74,521	75,833	71,918
Advances	103,000	73,580	43,964	41,254	40,318	47,418
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	885,825	864,909	843,263	830,033	918,002
Deposits	33,750	110,777	157,774	193,223	196,813	121,997

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 6, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.
Gold	234,888	243,810	243,770	243,723	243,634
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,155	22,155	22,561
" " Foreign	73,774	53,199	53,199	53,199	53,199
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	743	122	122	122	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	263,582	164,031	158,875	156,825	184,145
" " abroad	78,347	106,090	104,283	102,993	93,092
Balance abroad	31,864	76,745	91,057	103,986	118,315
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	39,906	62,574	46,599	60,883	43,968
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	495,997	519,633	494,293	545,823	535,022
Government deposits	178,811	159,978	165,304	148,956	163,027
Private deposits	17,030	5,317	4,041	3,297	11,115

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,835	146,616	146,613	146,616
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	48,960	32,415	36,150	36,576
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,083	26,083	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	273,500	228,976	231,067	240,453
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	311,802	290,971	292,456	305,085
Deposits at sight	7,188	97,958	77,420	81,460	80,255

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,672	172,404	172,337	172,328	172,291
Loans & discounts	88,470	96,196	123,276	102,381	91,539	100,058
Debtors abroad	24,102	86,086	77,599	102,657	125,213	97,637
Securities	11,988	34,403	37,637	30,256	36,120	45,267
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	357,137	367,456	346,789	352,277	356,840
Deposits	6,698	26,857	57,547	34,513	29,007	30,768

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 6, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,685	2,467,704	2,468,246	2,468,347	2,468,544
Silver	728,600	714,390	708,838	710,445	715,853	711,896
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,969,984	2,129,691	2,093,782	2,117,131	2,146,203
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,333,190	4,446,824	4,381,682	4,364,585	4,439,506
Deposits	477,500	992,217	862,554	830,424	839,599	847,265

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 27, 1929.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,754	8,839	8,825	8,807	8,784
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	326,164	269,610	176,282	157,202	164,587
Discounts	280,699	345,011	345,733	343,062	336,812
Government loans	1,748,651	1,676,398	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,784
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,851,898	1,935,338	1,911,774	1,883,319	1,879,004
Deposits	72,021	58,540	54,116	55,067	58,899

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	209,932	204,053	205,044	212,965	221,155
Other foreign exchange†	357,458	314,478	316,146	325,226	336,338
Bills discounted	188,088	201,639	172,005	142,487	165,723
Gov. Debt	109,908	108,513	108,513	108,493	108,493
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	1,004,015	914,490	884,293	854,182	979,924
Deposits	32,955	85,705	90,368	108,985	26,149

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,426	162,626	162,628	162,629	162,631
Drafts and notes	21,790	16,279	12,272	9,481	7,604
Silver coin and bullion	9,976	10,270	10,397	10,735	10,582
Inland bills, warrants and securities	345,371	212,325	207,766	200,931	224,639
Advances to the Treasury	92,296	82,900	82,900	82,900	82,900
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	458,308	405,549	388,597	373,114	431,221
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	198,181	88,129	88,031	93,405	46,635

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,189	1,261,833	1,261,887	1,261,899	1,261,942
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,780,797	1,963,560	1,963,560	1,900,211	1,906,820
Discounts and advances	595,796	322,901	294,679	245,309	639,149
State notes debt balance	4,037,568	3,705,148	3,704,105	3,703,393	3,699,260
Other assets	752,486	662,061	598,192	589,219	623,470
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,333,033	6,555,153	6,271,800	6,121,832	7,010,801
Check account balances	349,651	649,595	789,363	834,714	416,565
Other liabilities	217,558	202,367	216,515	235,097	194,887

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	91,766	96,078	96,150	96,221	96,295
Other coin and notes	18,386	18,732	18,337	18,379	17,986
Foreign credits	191,102	321,650	291,226	287,781	291,446
Bills	1,339,298	1,134,173	1,091,730	1,081,979	1,078,902
Government advances	4,201,054	4,139,100	4,135,380	4,133,388	4,131,387
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,265,296	5,484,624	5,334,841	5,225,424	5,363,046
State credits	227,781	191,917	189,916	187,923	185,923
Deposits	1,020,315	1,830,399	1,848,155	1,989,300	1,843,395

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	12,836,464	12,497,554	12,397,554	12,021,613	11,828,391
Commercial bills	8,800,407	9,282,898	9,663,859	9,678,727	9,662,829
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,197,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	19,518,434	19,957,381	20,428,806	20,420,576	20,131,696
Other sight liabilities	8,486,897	8,603,596	8,659,972	8,025,223	8,043,033

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 23, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.
Gold	563,760	647,827	648,873	624,792	626,140
Gold exchange	4,421,211	3,736,060	3,690,708	3,592,154	3,619,613
Other foreign exchange	1,289	2,801	2,742	2,705	2,859
Bills discounted	48,242	161,848	155,996	152,208	141,477
Advances	73,679	177,681	175,593	176,175	173,205
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,488,600	4,842,140	4,867,420	4,817,042	4,815,862
Deposits and current accounts	1,960,464	1,864,278	1,914,413	1,873,032	1,901,821
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,109,338	1,201,011	1,070,109	1,044,068	1,039,065

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	622,205	701,056	701,110	701,807	701,906
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	179,553	219,021	219,046
Foreign currencies	658,931	460,882	449,332	433 571	441,420
Bills discounted	703,971	668,447	636,498	630,232	623,593
Loans against securities	92,715	77,949	76,886	77,921	81,219
Reserve fund securities	69,077	83,531	83,531	83 537	84,028
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,333,258	1,281,760	1,244,124	1,201,065	1,324,023
Current accounts	512,225	456,435	451,761	450,967	337,154
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930
Gold	35,091	302,279	300,617	304,385	304,226
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	719,366	974,685	966,242	1,020,108
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	321,393	320,893	320,701
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,500,685	1,304,576	1,290,920	1,261,074
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,596,011	1,406,724	1,391,228	1,447,177
Deposits at notice	21,225	236,264	414,874	394,515	357,099

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 14, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,243	6,453	6,455	6,458	6,461
Net foreign exchange	22,257	20,906	20,437	20,357	19,800
Subsidiary Estonian coin	579	984	1,150	1,176	1,616
Home bills discounted	15,291	15,207	15,245	14,983	14,988
Loans and advances	16,337	12,467	12,736	13,106	13,358*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	36,259	32,375	32,541	33,574	33,169
Sight deposits and current accounts	19,736	20,310	19,816	19,062	19,269
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	50·89%	51·93%	51·36%	50·94%	50·08%

* Includes Ekr. 7,848,011·85, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 3, 1929.	Mar. 5, 1930.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,810	23,957	23,955	23,965	23,970	23,972
Silver coin	4,640	5,821	6,498	6,598	6,465	6,325
Balance abroad	66,173	47,066	47,574	48,447	48,292	48,612
Treas. notes and sm. change	8,144	11,294	12,277	12,631	11,438	12,173
Short term bills	85,508	94,577	92,991	93,140	92,552	93,199
Loans against securities	50,949	54,029	54,404	54,411	54,909	55,030
Other assets	15,255	13,634	14,036	14,187	13,885	14,371
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	47,205	48,125	47,194	47,132	48,443	47,535
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,588	16,037	16,202	16,283	16,463	16,595
Current accounts	57,695	64,024	59,914	60,739	60,849	62,774
Government accounts	103,057	88,669	94,128	94,477	90,824	93,182
Other liabilities	12,763	9,350	10,124	10,575	10,760	9,425

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	34,330	35,088	35,098	35,155	35,163	35,187
Silver	4,321	4,079	4,029	4,068	4,088	4,160
State Treasury coins	1,850	1,666	1,676	1,673	1,677	1,686
Foreign currency	36,506	76,190	82,383	80,343	84,566	81,268
Discount and credit	89,488	83,182	83,663	84,762	83,568	89,629
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,553	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	93,473	92,348	96,443	94,840	99,303	101,381
Deposits	62,736	95,758	96,484	98,149	96,391	98,020

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 28, 1929.	Jan. 15, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion	2,307	3,332	3,125	3,413	3,167	3,516	3,227
Of which gold coin	8	12	12	12	12	112	116
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,299	3,320	3,113	3,401	3,155	3,403	3,111
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	16,069	10,922	13,969	12,779	14,502	11,518	15,347
Bills of exchange	23,479	19,933	20,481	18,872	20,155	20,565	21,809
Loans	1,850	...	...	20	...	140	...
Foreign exchange	13,967	12,439	13,883	11,429	13,328	10,338	9,472
Other bals. on dem'd	914	979	5	24	32	7	22
Securities	3,403	2,810	2,703	2,703	2,703	2,703	3,666
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,503	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	38,739	31,180	36,281	31,012	36,045	31,615	36,661
Deposits on demand	2,116	1,800	1,333	1,842	1,696	1,746	1,659

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Mar. 16, 1929.	Feb. 22, 1930.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,119,339	1,017,163	994,523	974,261	964,775
Discounts	41,740	706,680	660,417	676,798	667,818	666,115
Advances	70,540	74,852	75,389	77,981	76,272	76,556
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,163,321	1,154,433	1,276,568	1,134,255	1,106,171
Govt. deposits	87,340	569,357	503,314	490,158	537,762	535,159
Other deposits	11,440	395,819	384,053	242,468	316,420	345,317

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1929.	Feb. 7, 1930.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.
Gold at home	60,692	63,222	63,250	63,242	63,238
Gold abroad	409,890	413,294	405,214	384,618	354,891
Discounts and advances	91,099	115,458	110,287	120,846	114,470
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	355,144	347,726	340,606	352,610	348,408
Deposits	117,995	163,079	157,710	135,261	105,270
Drafts	12,789	16,044	16,044	16,044	16,044
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	$2\frac{5}{16}$	2⅜—$\frac{7}{16}$	2⅜-$2\frac{7}{16}$	2⅜—$\frac{7}{16}$	2⅜	2⅜	$2\frac{5}{16}$—⅜
3 months' do.	2⅜	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½	$2\frac{15}{32}$—½	$2\frac{7}{16}$—½
4 months' do.	$2\frac{7}{16}$	2½— ⅝	$2\frac{9}{16}$—⅝	$2\frac{9}{16}$—⅝	$2\frac{9}{16}$	$2\frac{9}{16}$	$2\frac{7}{16}$—½
6 months' do.	2½	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝—$\frac{11}{16}$	2⅝—$\frac{11}{16}$	2⅝	$2\frac{9}{16}$—⅝
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	$2\frac{5}{16}$	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2¼—$\frac{5}{16}$
3 months'‡	2⅜	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½—$\frac{9}{16}$	2½	$2\frac{7}{16}$—½	2⅜—$\frac{7}{16}$
Loans—Day to day	2¾—3	1¾—2½	1½—2½	2 —2½	2 —2½	2 —2½	1¾—2¼
Short	2¾	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2¼
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½
At notice	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 20	3	$2\frac{11}{16}$ ¾	2¾	2¾	4 4½	4¼ 4½	4½ 5
27	2½	$2\frac{5}{16}$	2¾ ⅞	2½	3½	3¾	4 4½
April 3	2¾	2⅜	$2\frac{7}{16}$	2½	3½	3½	4
10	2½	$2\frac{7}{16}$ ½	$2\frac{7}{16}$ ½	$2\frac{9}{16}$ ⅝	3½	4	4½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Apr. 11, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·85⅝-$\frac{7}{16}$	4·86$\frac{11}{32}$–86$\frac{13}{32}$	4·86$\frac{11}{32}$–86$\frac{13}{32}$
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·88⅞-·89	4·86$\frac{7}{16}$ 86$\frac{9}{16}$	4·86$\frac{5}{16}$–86⅜
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·23-28	124·28-30	124·21–23
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46½-47	20·37¾–38½	20·37¾–38½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·09½–09⅝	12·11½–11¾	12·10⅞–11⅛
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95-95½	34·86½–86¾	34·84–84½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·72-76	92·77–79	92·79 81
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21½–22	25·12¾–13¼	26·09½–10
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¾–20¼	18·16½–17½	18·16½ 17
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·18½-18¾	18·10–10½	18 9½–10
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20¾–21	18·16½–17	18·16½–16¾
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	32·63-68	38·58–62	39·00–05
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108 $\frac{3}{16}$–$\frac{5}{16}$	108⅛–⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·55–58	34·50-53	34·51–53
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164⅛	104⅛–104⅜	114⅛–114⅜
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276½–276¾	275½–275¾	274¾–275½
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·85–89	27 84–88	27·85–88
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–820	817–819	817½–818½
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	672–676	670–675	668–673
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	374¾–375¼	374¾–375¼
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	984–988	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	9·42–9·44	†9·446–465	†9·446–465
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43$\frac{5}{16}$–$\frac{7}{16}$	43$\frac{5}{16}$–$\frac{7}{16}$	43$\frac{5}{16}$–$\frac{7}{16}$
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193¼	193¼–193½	193–193½
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49¼	48½ 49½	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·17–27	25·17–27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97$\frac{7}{16}$–⅝	97$\frac{7}{16}$–⅝	97$\frac{7}{16}$–⅝
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47$\frac{3}{32}$–⅛	43¾–⅞	44¼–⅜
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅞–$\frac{15}{16}$	5⅞–$\frac{15}{16}$	5$\frac{13}{16}$–⅞
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	49–49½	45–45¼	46¼–46⅝
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·50	39·93	39 91
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19¾% prem	12·52½ nom.	12·45 nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–⅞	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–⅞	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–⅞	1/5$\frac{31}{32}$–$\frac{63}{64}$
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11½–2/0$\frac{1}{16}$	1/6½–1/6⅞	1/6⅝–1/6¾
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6–2/6$\frac{13}{16}$	1/11–1/11⅛	1 11⅛–1/11⅜
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3$\frac{29}{32}$-2/3$\frac{15}{16}$	2/3$\frac{13}{16}$–⅞	2/3$\frac{13}{16}$–⅞
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10$\frac{3}{16}$–$\frac{7}{32}$	2/0⅛–$\frac{3}{16}$	2/0⅛–$\frac{3}{16}$
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0$\frac{3}{16}$d.	†2s. 0$\frac{3}{16}$d.	†2s. 0$\frac{3}{16}$d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	9·90 10·30	10·15-35	10·15–35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6½
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4½	4
New York Federal Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½				
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.
† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Apr. 11, 1929.	Mar. 12, 1930.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	4	3	3½	4	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4½	4	4	4	4
Bank acceptances:—		Selling Rates.				
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3½	3½	2¼	3	3
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3½	3½	2¼	3	3
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅝	3⅞	3½	3⅜	3½	3½
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¼	4¼	4	4	4	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Apr. 11, 1929.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80$\frac{3}{16}$	4·84½	4·84	4·83¾
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85⅝	4·86$\frac{1}{16}$	4·86¼	4·86$\frac{7}{16}$
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84⅞	4·86$\frac{1}{16}$	4·86¼	4·86¼
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅝	3·91½	3·91½	3·91$\frac{7}{16}$
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·885	13·955	13·94½	13·95
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·24	19·30	19·35½	19·37
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23	5·23½	5·23½	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·685	23·86	23·85½	23·85
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·04	14·09	14·09	14·09
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·89	12·44	12·56	12·52
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·085	40·13	40·13	40·13½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·635	26·79	26·76½	26·76½
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·645	26·785	26·76	26·76
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·675	26·88	26·865	26·865
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅝	1·29⅝	1·29½	1·29½
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	$\frac{13}{16}$ dis.	$\frac{1}{32}$ dis.	$\frac{1}{32}$ dis.	$\frac{1}{16}$ dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·50	49·45	49·40	49·40
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·75	37·50	37·40	37·35
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	61·45	47·25	47·00	47·12½
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·27	36·06	36·15	36·15
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·75	116·10	114·20	110·75
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·95	11·75	11·60	11·75
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·60
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	$\frac{1}{16}$% dis.	⅛ to $\frac{3}{16}$% ,,
30 days	1¾% ,,	$\frac{9}{16}$% ,,	⅞% ,,	$\frac{5}{16}$% ,,
60 days	2¼% ,,	¾% ,,	1⅛% ,,	$\frac{9}{16}$% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	$\frac{15}{16}$% ,,	1⅜% ,,	$\frac{13}{16}$% ,,
20 days	3⅝% ,,	1⅛% ,,	$2\frac{1}{16}$% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying.		Selling.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106½	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅛	93½	95	105⅝	103½	106$\frac{1}{16}$	104⅝
30 days	92$\frac{1}{16}$	93$\frac{1}{16}$	...	...	104¾	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91½	92¼	...	...	104$\frac{1}{16}$	102½	105$\frac{1}{16}$	103⅝
90 days	90$\frac{13}{16}$	92$\frac{1}{16}$	...	...	103⅝	102	104¾	103½

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the year ending March 31, 1930, were £27,039,670, of which £15,215,000 was remitted by means of purchases of sterling in India and £11,824,670 transferred from the Paper Currency Reserve in England to the Home Treasury.

From April 1 to 5, 1930, £250,000 was remitted by means of purchase of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended April 3, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
Germany	4	Poland (inc. Dantzig)	5,120
France	3,952	Germany	1,157,210
United States of America	39,800	Netherlands	2,093
Venezuela	4,000	France	5,976
British South Africa	383,595	Switzerland	5,100
Australia	3,000,000	British India	50,592
New Zealand	5,397	Other countries	642
Total declared value of imports	3,436,748	Total declared value of exports	1,226,733

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Apr. 4	Sovs. released	100,000	Apr. 4		Nil
	Foreign coin bought	39,808	,, 5		Nil
	Bars bought	89	,, 7	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 5	Sovs. from abroad	1,000,000	,, 8		Nil
	Sovs. released	500,000	,, 9	Sovs. for export	2,000
,, 7	Sovs. from abroad	1,000,000	,, 10		Nil.
,, 8	Sovs. from abroad	1,000,000			
,, 9		Nil			
,, 10	Sovs.	20,814			
	Bars	9			
	Total	3,160,720		Total	4,000

Net arrivals, £3,156,720.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on April 9, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £156,188,963 on the 2nd instant (as compared with £155,143,878 on the previous Wednesday), an increase of £10,228,879 since January 1st last. The bar gold from South Africa available in the open market yesterday, amounting to £375,000, was disposed of at 84s. 10⅝d. per fine ounce. Germany was again in the market and secured £285,000. Home and Continental trade requirements absorbed £60,000 and India £30,000. Movements of gold, as announced by the Bank of England, show a net influx of £3,635,997 during the week under review. Receipts amounted to £3,639,997, which included £3,000,000 sovereigns from Australia and £600,000 sovereigns "released."

SILVER.

On the 3rd instant, owing to an absence of support, prices fell $\frac{3}{16}$d. and ¼d. to 19$\frac{3}{16}$d. and 19$\frac{1}{16}$d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively; this, however, was followed by a sharp recovery on the next day, when bear covering operations by the Indian Bazaars and China raised quotations to 19$\frac{7}{16}$d. and 19$\frac{5}{16}$d. Movements have since been unimportant, the market remaining quiet with a fairly steady tone in consequence of reluctance on the part of sellers. Offerings from the Continent have been less in evidence, and American operators have been more buyers than sellers.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 31st ultimo to mid-day on the 7th instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Germany	11,103	British India	97,500
France	80,751	Other countries	3,993
U.S.A.	16,830		
Canada	21,868		
Mexico	79,346		
Other countries	13,033		
	£222,931		£101,493

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	Mar. 31.	Mar. 22.	Mar. 15.
Notes in circulation	17,723	18,057	17,967
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,096	10,957	10,867
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,385	3,873	3,873
Securities (British Government)	15	...	...

The stocks in Shanghai on the 5th instant consisted of about 95,500,000 ounces in sycee, 142,000,000 dollars, 21,200,000 Saigon dollars and 15,820 silver bars, as compared with about 95,000,000 ounces in sycee, 141,000,000 dollars, 22,400,000 Saigon dollars and 15,460 silver bars on the 29th ultimo.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Apr. 4	84 11	19$\frac{7}{16}$	19$\frac{5}{16}$	Apr. 20, 1923	34¾
,, 5	84 11	19⅜	19¼	,, 18, 1924	33¼
,, 6	84 11	19⅜	19$\frac{5}{16}$	,, 17, 1925	31$\frac{7}{16}$
,, 8	84 10⅝	19⅜	19$\frac{5}{16}$	,, 16, 1926	29¾
,, 9	84 11¼	19$\frac{5}{16}$	19⅛	,, 9, 1927	26
,, 10	84 11½	19$\frac{11}{16}$	19⅝	,, 12, 1928	26$\frac{5}{16}$

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that they have opened a new branch at 28, High Street, Cosham, Hants.

Mr T. C. Riddell will retire, after long service, from the position of manager of the London office of the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., on the 30th current, under provisions of the bank's pension scheme. Mr John Cowan, assistant manager, has been appointed his successor. Mr W. R. Gilchrist, inspector of branches, has been appointed assistant manager.

Lloyds Banks, Ltd., announce that branches of the bank are now open at Market Place, Swaffham; also at Aylesham.

The Midland Bank announces that the business now conducted at 6 Lothbury, London, E.C. 2, will be transferred to the Poultry and Princes Street branch on April 19th. The manager and

assistant manager at Lothbury will become assistant manager and deputy assistant manager respectively at Poultry and Princes Street, which will then be under the management of Mr J. C. Trotter, with Mr F. M. Whittam and Mr. E. L. Poole as assistant managers and Mr O. Mitchell as deputy assistant manager.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that they have opened new sub-branches at 18, Grange Road, Ramsgate, and Whitworth House, Wellingborough Road, Northampton.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 6, Southwell Road, Sneinton.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 9, Market Place, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W. 11.

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Pref. stock	1,500,000	...
2nd cum. pref.	1,000,000	...
Ord. shares	5,570,241	...
Govt. share	20	...
Reserve	1,500,000	+ 50,000
5% deb. stock	4,000,000	...
Int. accrued	83,333	...
Loan	420,000	...
4½% 2-year notes	...	− 513,347
Int. accrued	...	− 1,932
Due by subsid. coys.	362,821	+ 362,821
Savings fund	...	− 111,978
Creditors	3,140,268	−1,193,507
Pref. div.	67,500	+ 67,500
Profit and loss	813,035	+ 139,369
Total	18,457,218	−1,201,074

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Fleet	8,529,746	
Shares in subsid. coys.	7,541,276	+1,307,705
Properties, &c.	624,870	− 14,300
Plant	77,000	− 26
Stores, &c.	330,689	− 26,542
Debtors	601,268	− 174,048
General investments	188,003	−2,275,298
Discount on deb. stock	110,000	− 10,000
Cash	454,366	− 8,565
Total	18,457,218	−1,201,074

DAILY MIRROR NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

February 28, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Feb. 28, 1929.
	£	£
Preference shares	350,000	...
Ordinary shares	1,400,000	...
Reserve account	160,000	+ 20,000
Taxation reserve	30,000	...
Prov. for pensions	50,000	+ 10,000
Creditors	1,523,496	− 102,787
Unclaimed divs.	1,308	+ 157
Pref. div. payable May 1, 1930	11,200	...
Profit and loss	34,785	+ 2,361
Total	£3,560,789	− 70,269

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Feb. 28, 1929.
	£	£
Freehold & Leasehold Properties, Machinery and Plant	639,796	+ 21,931
Stocks	108,697	− 83,565
Investments	1,991,858	−293,686
Debtors	552,180	+ 216,348
Cash	268,257	+ 68,708
Goodwill	1	...
Total	£3,560,789	− 70,269

HARLAND AND WOLFF, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
6% 1st cum. pref. £1	4,000,000	...
6% "A" cum. pref. £1	3,095,094	...
"B" pref., £1	20,300	...
Ord. shares	3,000,000	...
Reserve	1,000,000	...
Pension fund	260,825	+ 20,774
At credit of controlled cos.	671,441	− 24,244
Trade Facilities Act advances	1,044,000	−150,676
Deposits	237,098	−138,871
Creditors	2,860,153	+628,498
Receipts on work in progress	371,901	−360,394
Unclaimed divs.	598	+ 100
Dividend on 1st cum. pref. shrs.	96,000	...
Profit and loss	132,307	+ 24,749
Total	16,879,717	− 64

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Properties, &c.	9,907,528	−201,592
Investments in steel works and other controlled cos., at cost	4,241,353	− 26,140
Government and other investm'ts	236,351	−161,686
Amount owing by subsidiaries	132,240	− 62,264
Stocks	570,384	− 2,774
Debtors	461,809	+ 87,809
Expenditure on work in progress	1,204,476	+569,616
Cash	125,576	−203,033
Total	16,879,717	− 64

MORRIS MOTORS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Ord. shares, £1	2,000,000	...
7½% cum. pref., £1	3,000,000	...
Creditors	620,996	−423,890
Accrued charges	185,734	+185,734
Reserve for contingencies	80,371	+ 80,371
Reserve fund	2,000,000	+900,000
Revenue account	968,753	− 85,882
Total	8,855,854	+656,333

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Cash	367,276	+ 45,005
Debtors	194,393	− 29,706
Stocks	1,367,631	+ 75,600
Govt. securities at market value	2,330,892	+160,649
Other investments	803,005	+341,080
Plant	998,374	+ 71,237
Leasehold land, &c.	127,638	+ 10,616
Freehold land, &c.	987,239	+ 80,137
Expenditure on buildings, &c.	38,363	− 98,285
Goodwill	1,641,043	...
Total	8,855,854	+656,333

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended April 4, 1930. (c) Week ended April 5, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended April 6, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 14 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,752	210	219	125	344	554	2,654	3,035	1,862	4,897	7,551
Do. for 1929	3,752	240	193	93	286	526	2,830	2,972	1,868	4,840	7,670
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	308	423	259	682	990	4,112	5,740	3,947	9,687	13,799
Do. for 1929	6,365	369	370	188	558	927	4,329	5,571	3,960	9,531	13,860
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,957½	457	571	261	832	1,289	6,016	7,748	4,049	11,797	17,813
Do. for 1929	6,956½	533	505	180	685	1,218	6,445	7,554	4,316	11,870	18,315
Southern	2,179	284	79·5	30·5	110	394	3,665	10,515	462·5	1,514	5,179
Do. for 1929	2,172	321	59	20	79	400	3,790	1,013	533	1,546	5,336
Metropolitan (c)	59	34·7	...	...	3·9	38·6	451·9	...	...	58·0	509·9
Do. for 1929	59	34·2	...	...	3·2	37·4	437·4	...	...	54·8	492·2
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	306	...	...	...	306	4,039	...	...	...	4,039
Do. for 1929	...	294	...	...	...	294	3,694	...	...	...	3,694
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	44·1	...	...	...	44·1	583·7	...	...	...	583·7
Do. for 1929	...	43·7	...	...	...	43·7	523	...	...	...	523
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	1·9	·8	...	·8	2·7	26·1	10·0	...	10·0	36·1
Do. for 1929	80	3·9	·7	...	·7	4·6	27·6	12·8	...	12·8	40·4
*GreatNorthern b	562	10·6	...	...	17·6	28·2	127·0	...	...	204·9	331·9
Do. for 1929	562	15·9	...	...	14·0	29·9	124·6	...	...	231·8	356·4
*GreatSouthern b	2,187	25·6	50·3	...	50·3	76·0	199·3	...	...	707·8	907·1
Do. for 1929	2,187	31·9	47·4	...	47·4	79·3	216·9	...	...	713·0	929·9

* Aggregate 13 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	49weeks	Mar. 8	1,265	4,47,000	+ 7,344	2,07,32,586	− 8,20,648
Barsi Lt. Ry.	50weeks	15	202	45,900	+ 4,700	24,13,400	+ 58,800
Bengal & N.Western	50weeks	15	2,080	7,65,880	− 32,572	1,70,08,402	− 2,64,043
Bengal-Nagpur	48weeks	1	3,085	18,06,000	−258539	8,43,00,704	+14,75,682
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	51weeks	29	3,031	28,01,000	− 24,000	11,70,38,000	−12,01,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	50weeks	15	3,121	18,38,000	−217002	8,88,48,265	−16,04,491
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	50weeks	15	1,242	2,35,873	−263592	2,24,40,437	+16,01,507
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	50weeks	15	572	1,55,169	+ 6,987	32,59,746	+ 54,995
South Indian	49weeks	8	2,348	12,31,618	− 12,861	6,22,30,529	+42,70,545
				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	40weeks	Apr. 5	753	17,200	+ 1,800	621,700	+ 200
Argentine Trans'dn.	40weeks	5	111	4,911	− 614	187,369	− 5,363
B.A. and Pacific	40weeks	5	2,806	171,000	− 47,000	6,136,000	− 744,000
B.A. Central	40weeks	6	...	13,226	− 2,300	516,299	− 49,480
B.A. Gt. Southern	40weeks	5	4,875	242,000	− 43,000	9,566,000	− 455,000
B.A. Western	40weeks	5	1,926	85,000	− 40,000	3,411,000	− 642,000
Central Argentine	40weeks	5	3,319	200,000	− 82,000	9,257,000	−1,580,000
Cordoba Central	40weeks	5	1,218	48,000	− 23,200	2,321,000	− 445,200
Entre Rios	40weeks	5	804	26,700	− 4,600	1,127,400	− 110,800
CUBAN.							
United of Havana	40weeks	Apr. 6	1,374	100,911	+ 3,509	2,559,373	− 414,424
				$	$	$	$
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	13weeks	Mar.31	...	5,861,642	−1636838	52,582,630	−8,722,117
Canadian Pacific	13weeks	31	...	4,347,000	−1057000	38,536,000	−9,326,000
				£	£	£	£
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay	40weeks	Apr. 5	273	37,657	+ 7,446	1,253,591	+ 42,295
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	40weeks	5	311	9,597	+71,788	290,135	+ 15,095
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	40weeks	5	185	4,665	+ 1,380	146,510	− 80
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	40weeks	5	211	3,052	− 60	113,855	− 6,779
				$	$	$	$
BRAZILIAN (b).							
Gt. West. of Brasil	14weeks	Apr. 5	1,016	17,600	− 200	262,500	− 32,200
Leopoldina	14weeks	5	1,856	33,730	+ 4,066	490,738	− 8,128
Leopoldina Termnl.	14weeks	5	Mlrs.	306,000	− 14,000	4,103,000	+ 211,000
San Paulo	14weeks	6	153½	40,342	− 12,998	591,366	− 26,375
				£	£	£	£
CHILEAN.							
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	14weeks	Apr. 6	804	27,800	− 16,120	417,340	− 168,870
Nitrate (½-monthly)	13weeks	Mar.31	413	19,692	− 13,986	142,434	− 94,384
				£	£	£	£
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Egyptian Delta	51weeks	Mar.20	608	9,385	+ 1,431	350,663	+ 21,354
Gt. Southn. of Spain	13weeks	29	104	Pa.8126147	+ 17,133	1,543,782	− 37,697
Mexican Railway	13weeks	31	483	$ 383,900	− 39,800	3,250,500	+ 137,900
Paraguay Central	40weeks	Apr. 5	274	4,270	− 30	163,690	− 12,200
Salvador	40weeks	5	100	5,157	− 557	185,190	− 16,667

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange. (c) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	63weeks	Apr. 1	329	86,583	+ 4,651	1,087,503	− 34,797
B. Aires Lacrosse	40weeks	6	...	12,498	− 623	469,205	− 37,748
BursleyCorporation	3weeks	5	13	2,972	− 157	8,446	− 1,158
Calcutta Tramways	3weeks	5	35½	Rs.110619	− 12,052	126,171	− 23,201
Chatham & District	13weeks	Mar.27	15	1,017	− 70	12,713	+ 743
Egyptian Markets	13weeks	27	...	2,033	− 1	23,963	− 2,869
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	13weeks	26	...	2,438	+ 1	33,039	− 1,328
Liverpool Corp.	1week	Apr. 5	124	30,253	+ 241	30,253	+ 241
L.C.C. Tramways	1week	2	166	83,670	+ 4,581	83,670	+ 4,581
Madras Electric	‡12wks.	Mar.31	...	Rs. 45,162	− 1,083	2,82,016	+ 21,014

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road. 1927.	1928.	Gross Earnings. 1928.	Increase or Decrease.	Net Earnings. 1928.	Increase or Decrease.
			$	$	$	$
Nov.	239,982	241,138	530,909,223	+ 26,968,447	157,140,516	+29,896,691
Dec.	239,286	240,337	495,574,485	+ 27,178,944	138,293,445	+48,444,421
1928.			1929.		1929.	
Jan.	240,417	240,833	486,201,495	+ 28,853,685	117,730,186	+23,578,231
Feb.	242,668	242,884	474,780,516	+ 18,292,585	126,368,848	+17,381,336
Mar.	240,427	241,185	516,134,027	+ 10,884,477	139,639,086	+ 7,516,400
Apr.	240,956	240,816	513,076,026	+ 38,291,124	136,821,660	+25,937,085
May	240,798	241,280	536,723,030	+ 26,179,817	146,798,792	+ 17,754,061
June	241,243	241,608	531,033,198	+ 28,577,315	150,174,332	+22,659,557
July	241,183	241,450	556,706,135	+ 43,884,198	168,428,748	+30,793,381
Aug.	241,253	241,026	585,638,740	+ 27,835,272	190,957,504	+16,758,860
Sept.	241,447	241,704	565,816,654	+ 9,812,986	181,413,185	+ 2,612,246
Oct.	241,451	241,622	607,584,997	− 9,890,014	204,335,941	−12,183,372
Nov.	241,326	241,695	498,316,925	− 32,806,074	127,163,307	−30,028,982
Dec.	240,773	241,864	468,182,822	− 27,767,999	106,315,167	−32,186,071

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month. 1929-30.	+ or −	Aggregate Receipts. 1929-30.	+ or −
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
INDIAN.							
Southern Punjab	6 mths	Sept. 30	931	11,83,874	− 62,864	67,93,680	− 650,732
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	1 mth	Jan. 31	Gross	16,822,069	−1355616	...	...
			Net	733,912	−1350828	...	...
Canadian Pacific	1 mth	Jan. 31	Gross	12,671,000	−3195000	...	...
			Net	736,000	−1160000	...	...
BRAZILIAN.							
State of Bahia	10 mths	Feb. 28	52	£5,067	+ 119	56,989	− 15,500
CHILE AND PERU.							
Peruvian Corp.	8 mths	Feb. 28	31066	£143,924	+ 13,446	1,258,479	+ 67,815
Taltal	8 mths	Feb. 28	174	£10,740	− 5,045	115,318	− 2,827
URUGUAYAN.							
Midland Uruguay	8 mths	Feb. 28	319	£ 24,149	+ £ 3,723	£ 159,255	+ £ 10,211
N.-W. Uruguay	8 mths	Feb. 28	113	7,340	− 108	52,585	− 1,585
Uruguay North	8 mths	Feb. 28	73	3,085	+ 106	20,404	− 3,214
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
Alcoy & Gandia	2 mths	Feb. 28	33	£ 3,930	+ £ 54	£ 8,035	− £ 1,016
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a)	7 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	163,675	− 35,126	979,242	− 86,288
Mashonaland	1 mth	Jan. 31	763	143,737	− 4,043	...	...
Bilbao River	2 mths	Feb. 28	15	2,613	− 245	5,617	− 176
Bolivar	2 mths	Feb. 28	170	12,700	− 1,200	23,600	− 1,150
Colombia Rlys.&c	8 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	24,663	+ 472	214,736	− 84,436
Costa Rica	5 mths	Nov. 30	188	30,856	− 1,614	192,706	− 8,701
Dorado Railway	2 mths	Feb. 28	70	23,100	− 5,900	50,900	− 18,900
Dorado Rope. Ex.	2 mths	Feb. 28	45	2,700	− 2,000	5,700	− 5,100
International of Central America	1 mth	Jan 31	Gross	180,856	− 18,426	...	...
			Net	91,543	− 11,490	...	...
La Guaira & Car.	2 mths	Feb. 28	22½	11,710	− 2,045	23,160	− 5,095
Mid. of W. Aust.	7 mths	Jan. 31	277	23,182	− 1,150	136,424	+ 1,794
Nassjo Oso'sh'mm	9 mths	Sept. 30	...	11,018	− 97	97,289	− 1,792
Rhodesia Rail'ys	1 mth	Jan. 31	1,396	208,645	− 6,505	...	...
Samana & Sant'go	2 mths	Feb. 28	...	2,320	− 218	4,540	− 914
Sante Fe Prov.	1 mth	Feb. 28	...	148,238	− 19,719	...	...
Zafra and Huelva	1 mth	Jan. 31	112	Ps. 420,229	+ 29,143	...	...

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

BarcelonaTrac.	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	Pa10138427	+ 969,265	...	...	
Barton Transport			Net	Pa6,778,655	+ 77,184	...	...	
Brazilian Trac.	5 mths	Feb. 28	Gross	£8,564	+ 555	49,608	+ 3,095	
receipts in $	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	$3,862,089	− 30,744	...	...	
Brit. Columbia			Net	$2,199,125	− 20,930	...	...	
Electric, &c.	7 mths	Jan.31	Gross	$1,354,314	+ 98,062	8,605,787	+ 498,897	
Burma Electric			Net	$357,598	− 101,200	2,625,238	− 90,450	
Supply Co.	1 mth	Feb. 28	...	Rs. 63,098	− 710	...	...	
Cape Elec. Tram.	*7 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	£40,052	...	...	...	
Carthagena and Herreriza Trms.	1 mth	Jan. 31	...	£1,077	+ 345	...	...	
Catalinas Warehs	1 mth	Feb. 28	...	£9,100	+ 1,300	...	...	
Cities Service Co.	12 mths	Feb.28	Gross	$5,180,002	+1995036	+ 8,790,729	+13123234	
			Net	$5,021,357	+1936736	47,350,465	+12858169	
E. African Power	9 mths	Sept30	Gross	£8,685	+ 1,281	92,939	+ 14,588	
Imp. Airways	10 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	£32,629	+ 10,692	506,849	+ 114,264	
International Light& Power	12 mths	June30	Gross	£34,072	+ 962	395,658	+ 6,489	
KalgoorlieElec. Tramways	1 mth	Sept30	Gross	£8,671	+ 2,197	94,990	− 6,058	
La Guaira Harb.			Net	£1,980	...	...	...	
La Plata Electric	1 mth	Feb.28	...	£15,873	+ 1,484	...	...	
Madeira-Mamore	12 mths	Dec.31	...	£10,326	+ 26	116,149	+ 2,603	
Madras Electric	8 mths	Feb.28	Gross	Contos 180	− 76	998	− 326	
Mexico Trams	4 mths	May 31	Gross	Rs. 79,888	− 17,303	321,806	− 67,896	
in pesos	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	840,480	− 77,122	...	...	
Mexico Light in pesos			Net	− 56,730	− 77,651	...	...	
	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	2,057,950	+ 133,614	...	...	
Manchester Ship Canal			Net	−1,117,860	+ 96,990	...	...	
Mogyana Rlys.	2 mths	Feb.28	...	£100,425	− 5,420	216,845	− 4,779	
Para Electric	12 mths	Dec. 31	Gross	Ml.4535000	− 195,217	59,035,000	+ 987,749	
	3 mths	Feb.28	Gross	£13,628	− 379	42,671	+ 276	
			Net	£5,062	− 117	15,874	+ 1,191	
Rangoon Electric	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	Rs.5,08,530	+ 61,650	4,46,880	+ 61,650	
			Net	Rs.2,28,610	+ 62,750	2,28,610	+ 62,750	
Shanghai Elec.	2 mths	Feb.28	Mex.	$322,473	+ 27,765	685,873	+ 71,945	
Singapore Trac.	5 mths	Feb.28	...	$128,000	+ 11,000	655,000	+ 92,000	
Tokyo Electric	2 mths	Jan.31	Gross	£968,042	+ 58,173	...	...	
United Electric T. of Caracas	4 mths	Oct. 31	Gross	Bol.217,628	+ 6,523	843,485	+ 4,487	
Winnipeg Electric	1 mth	Jan.31	Gross	$628,979	+ 21,013	...	...	
			Net	$231,390	+ 4,462	...	...	

* Including motor-buses.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

We are requested by the Committee of the Stock Exchange, London, to state that their attention has been called to the fact that a company called Union Securities Company, Ltd., has issued a contract note representing that it is a member of the Stock Exchange, London. We are authorised to state that the company in question is not, and never was, a member of the Stock Exchange, and that, being a limited company, it never can become a member of the Stock Exchange.

Sir Thomas Royden, chairman of the Cunard Steamship Company, has decided to retire from that position owing to pressure of his own personal affairs. The board have elected Sir Percy E. Bates, who has been deputy-chairman, to be chairman, and Messrs F. A. Bates, of Liverpool, and Herbert W. Corry, of London, to be deputy-chairmen.

At a meeting of the directors of Furness, Withy and Company, Ltd., held April 4th, the Right Hon. Lord Kirkley and Mr I. P. R. Napier, M.C., were elected to seats on the board.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that Mr Alexander MacDonald has been appointed joint secretary of the corporation with Mr E. de M. Rudolf. Mr Charles Stuart Malcolm, who at present represents the Motor Union and the United British in Canada, has also been appointed manager for that Dominion of the Royal Exchange Assurance, and the other companies of the Royal Exchange group operating in Canada.

Mr W. G. Waldron has been appointed chairman of the Brazilian Warrant Agency and Finance Company, Ltd., in place of Mr Edward Greene, whose approaching retirement at the end of last year was announced at the last annual general meeting.

Sir Alexander Roger has resigned his directorship of the Constantinople Telephone Company.

RAILWAYS.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS.—Net operating earnings for 1929 were 45,062,000 dollars, a decrease of 6 per cent. on 1928. The railway's wage bill for the year totalled 173 million dollars, with an average number of employees of 109,096. From the net operating revenue 39 million dollars were applied to paying interest due to the public on securities. The total assets of the system at the end of the year were 233 million dollars, an increase of 120 millions as compared with the end of 1928.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.—The Canadian Pacific have issued an illustrated booklet describing a number of holiday tours they have organised to Canada for the coming summer months. The tours range from short inexpensive trips, taking in visits to Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls, etc., to a tour-de-luxe to the Pacific Coast, when many of the chief beauty spots and places of interest in the Dominion will be visited. A copy of booklet may be obtained post free on application to the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62-65, Charing Cross, London, S.W. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BAIRD TELEVISION DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED AND BAIRD INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION LIMITED.—The result of the poll of all classes of shareholders of the above companies, taken at their meetings held at River Plate House on April 7th, showed an overwhelming majority in favour of the scheme of arrangement and amalgamation.

W. V. BOWATER AND SONS, LIMITED, have acquired the whole of the share capital of the Empire Paper Mills (1922), Ltd., whose mills at Greenhithe, Kent, have a productive capacity of approximately 45,000 tons of newsprint per annum. When Bowater's Mersey Paper Mills at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, are completed at the end of this year the total annual productive capacity of the Bowater group of newsprint mills will amount to more than 225,000 tons.

RUBBER PLANTATIONS INVESTMENT TRUST.—The preliminary statement of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust shows a profit for the year 1929 of £252,550 (compared with £310,564 for 1928). It is proposed to take £50,000 (same) from dividend equalisation reserve and to pay a final dividend of 7½ per cent. (less tax), making 12½ per cent. for the year, as against 15 per cent. for the previous year. The sum of £63,616 (against £67,580) is reserved for taxation, £11,400 (against £11,900) written off properties for amortisation and the carry-forward is £57,655, against £63,382 brought in. The value of the company's investments (apart from its properties) amounted on December 31, 1929, to £2,372,301, against £2,341,822 at which such investments stood in the balance sheet. The meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on May 8 at noon. The report will be issued in a few days and dividend warrants posted on May 12.

SWEDISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.—The Swedish Industries Fair will be held at Gothenburg from May 10th to 18th. The most prominent feature of this year's Fair will be the industrial section.

UNION CORPORATION.—The preliminary statement of the Union Corporation for 1929 shows a realised net profit of £418,034 (against £428,582 for 1928). Including £116,595 brought forward there is £534,629 (against £531,595) to be dealt with. An interim dividend of 2s. per share was paid on November 21 last. The directors have decided to add £30,000 (same) to reserve, raising it to £660,570, and have declared a final dividend of 3s. 6d. per share, making a total of 5s. 6d. per share, or £385,000 for the year (the same as last year), leaving £119,629 to be carried forward.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
Breweries.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Workington Brewery.....	Feb. 28	3,634	9,370	13,004	3,660	4,400	10†	1,000	3,944	8,118	12†
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Chelsea Electricity Supply	Dec. 31	24,039	60,410	84,449	1,800	35,729	8·833	19,103	21,817	70,575	8¾
Co. of London Elec. Supply	Dec. 31	364,209	687,424	1,051,634	199,281	358,731	11	48,575	445,037	714,925	**10**
Notting Hill Electric	Dec. 31	28,977	25,848	54,825	9,600	18,017	16/7·817	1,019	28,229	54,927	**13/7·636**
Financial Land, &c.											
London County Freehold & Leasehold Properties ...	Mar. 31	47,246	167,025	214,271	...	125,989	10	24,000	64,282	127,489	6¼
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Drakes	Dec. 31	*Dr. 22,886*	*Dr. 28,129*	*Dr. 51,015*	...	...	...	...	*Dr51,015*	*Dr24,424*	...
Garrard Engineering, &c....	Jan. 31	17,356	69,899	87,255	7,500	32,500	50	30,000	17,255	70,081	50
Motor and Cycle.											
Rolls-Royce	Dec. 31§	64,685	201,706	266,391	...	95,314	10 p.a.	105,000	66,077	185,769	10
Oil.											
Maritime Oilfields	Dec. 31	344	8,333	8,677	...	7,920	10	...	757	2,278	2½
New Brunswick Gas and Oilfields	Dec. 31	12,949	14,930	27,879	...	11,520	12	...	16,359	3,256	...
Rubber, &c.											
Harpenden (Selangor) Rub.	Dec. 31	8,599	2,753	11,352	1,639	...	...	3,000	6,713	6,306	4
Jasin (Malacca) Rubber ...	Dec. 31	7,135	6,495	13,630	...	6,000	10	2,934	4,696	3,910	10
Java Rubber Plantations ...	Dec. 31	2,781	3,607	6,388	...	3,498	5	1,500	1,390	10,498	15
Jugra Land and Carey	Nov. 30	31,018	83,442	114,560	...	71,787	5	20,000	22,773	73,101	5
New Crocodile River (Selangor) Rubber	Dec. 31	15,480	13,663	29,143	...	...	...	12,150	16,993	16,187	5
Panagula Rubber	Dec. 31	1,957	5,249	7,206	...	4,000	4	1,000	2,206	3,530	5
Pilmoor Rubber	Dec. 31	1,644	19,909	21,553	...	16,720	15	2,000	2,833	15,685	10
Selangor Rubber	Dec. 31	15,325	8,102	23,427	...	6,000	5	2,500	14,927	12,163	8½
Seremban Rubber	Dec. 31	6,804	2,930	9,734	...	...	...	2,500	7,234	1,785	Nil
Soengei Rampah Rubber & Coconut Plantations Co.	Dec. 31	11,399	2,225	13,624	...	2,125	2½	...	11,499	3,019	5
Sungei Way (Selangor) Rub.	Dec. 31	15,018	19,482	34,500	...	16,426	7	3,000	15,074	19,123	7
Tambira Rubber	Dec. 31	2,631	2,308	4,939	...	...	...	...	4,939	1,562	5
Tarun (Malay) Rubber	Dec. 31	5,822	4,078	9,900	...	4,000	4	...	5,900	6,330	5
Trolak Estates	Nov. 30	4,335	2,042	6,377	...	2,656	2½	...	3,720	899	...
Shipping.											
Anchor Line (Henderson Brs.)	Dec. 31	96,669	*Dr. 1,392*	92,277	14,300	...	...	...	77,977	21,360	...
Shops and Stores.											
Bobby and Co.	Feb. 10	24,639	93,669	118,308	18,000	71,250	12½ / 7½	2,000	27,058	94,741	12½ / 7½
Bon Marché	Jan. 31	48,847	80,697	129,544	12,000	61,200	36	2,300	54,044	104,271	48½
McIlroy's Stores (Hanley)...	Feb. 20	831	11,254	12,085	...	11,150	6¼	...	935	4,386	2
Tea.											
Augusta Tea	Dec. 31	228	*Dr. 62*	166	163	...	...	...	3	375	5
Hanipha (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	5,199	18,691	23,890	...	18,750	...	...	5,140	25,971	35
Rangalla Consolidated	Dec. 31	1,320	9,619	10,939	...	10,000	10	500	439	15,937	15
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
National Omnibus & Transport Co.	Dec. 31	2,208	87,747	89,955	22,400	...	...	...	67,555	130,492	11¼
Trust.											
American Investment and General Trust Co.	Mar. 15	28,491	139,633	168,124	32,500	79,000	12	28,000	28,624	135,959	12
British and Continental Plantations Trust	Mar. 31	5,708	3,197	8,905	...	...	...	...	8,905	3,363	...
Foreign, American & General Investments Trust Co. ...	Mar. 15	41,918	122,134	164,052	32,500	66,000	10	20,200	41,998	117,964	9½
Second Scottish American Trust Co.	Mar. 1	44,959	65,265	110,224	9,600	41,601	26	15,000	44,023	55,120	25
Waterworks.											
Consolidated Waterworks Co. of Rosario.....	Dec. 31	116,286	6,932	123,218	8,400	40,000	8†	10,000	64,818	77,806	8†
Monte Video Waterworks Co.	Dec. 31	116,279	132,241	248,520	...	88,453	8 / 5	40,000	120,067	156,542	8
Other Companies.											
Associated Dyers & Cleaners	Dec. 31	27,556	72,537	100,093	20,800	40,000	12½	15,000	24,293	78,685	12½
Crystalate Gramophone Record Manufacturing	Jan. 31	13,920	60,762	74,682	8,000	45,000	33⅛	9,100	12,582	88,883	41⅛
Dickson and Benson	Feb. 28	10,270	12,492	22,762	5,346	7,109	12½	1,000	9,306	14,283	12½
Dunlop Cotton Mills	Dec. 31	5,000	271,655	276,655	117,000	155,000	62	...	4,655	199,006	25
Humphreys	Nov. 30	10,996	23,966	34,962	7,000	10,000	10	3,124	14,838	20,486	5
Indestructible Paint and Standard Varnish	Dec. 31	3,483	27,292	40,775	3,150	19,950	15	13,485	4,190	25,522	12½
Olympic Portland Cement	Dec. 31	32,878	12,411	45,289	...	12,000	6	...	33,259	59,395	15
Paquin	Dec. 31	20,568	81,976	102,544	12,000	42,000	30	26,000	22,544	70,818	22½
Radcliffe's Edible Products	Jan. 31‡	...	9,693	9,693	5,803	3,200	10	...	690	...	...
Rose (L.) and Co.	Dec. 31	332	23,090	23,422	4,500	9,375	50	...	9,547	...	...
Rothmans	Feb. 20	...	29,577	29,577	10,393	8,434	28	5,257	5,493	...	...
Schweppes	Dec. 31	35,696	180,285	215,981	15,000	89,750	9⅛ / 10	75,000	36,231	172,851	9⅛ / 10
Smith (D.) and Sons (1924)	Jan. 31	896	9,603	10,499	...	9,600	40	...	899	...	...
Spratt's Patent (America)...	Dec. 31	4,027	22,033	26,060	...	10,000	12½	10,000	6,060	22,405	12½
Sunday Pictorial	Feb. 28	25,168	351,653	276,821	40,000	262,500	25	45,000	29,321	350,415	25

† For period from November 18, 1928, to January 31, 1930. § For fourteen months.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
BANKS.				%	%
Anglo South American Bank.....	10*	Mar. 28	Less tax	...	...
Queensland Bank	8%*	May 15	Quarterly	...	...
Union Bank of Scotland	18%†	...	Less tax	...	...
INSURANCE.					
General Accident Fire and Life Assurance	7/6 p.s.†	May 1	Less tax	13/ p.s.	12/ p.s.
London Associated Reinsurance Corporation	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Royal Exchange Assurance	17%†	...	Less tax	27	27
Thames and Mersey Marine Insurance.....	6/6 p.s.	...	Less tax	13/ p.s.	...
World Auxillary Insurance.....	...	...	Tax free	6½	6½
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Ablamana Tea	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Ceylon (Para) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Dichwella Tea	5%†	Apr. 16	Less tax	5	5
Doliswella Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Ellawatte Tea	17½%†	...	Less tax	25	...
Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Harpenden (Selangor) Rubber ...	...	...	Less tax	Nil	4
Hunasgeria Tea	...	...	Less tax	4	14
Jugra Land and Carey	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Kampong Kuantan Rubber ...	10%†	...	Less tax	20	25
Lindoola Tea.....	30%†	...	Less tax	40	...
London Asiatic Rubber and Produce	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Mooloya Estates	30%†	...	Less tax	45	45
Muar Itam Estates	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	4
Ouvah Ceylon Estates.....	20%†	...	Less tax	27½	25
Panagula Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Pandaloya Tea Co. of Ceylon ...	25%†	...	Less tax	35	40
Rajmai Tea	10%*	Apr. 8	Less tax	...	...
Rangalla Consolidated	5%†	...	Less tax	10	15
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea Co.	10%†	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Rubber Estates of Johore.....	...	...	Less tax	4	...
Scottish Tea and Lands Co.	5%*	May	Less tax	...	...
South Wanarajah Tea	12½%†	...	Less tax	22½	25
Spring Valley Ceylon Estates ...	20%†	...	Less tax	27½	25
Trolak Estates.....	...	...	Less tax	2½	Nil
Villekellie Tea Co.....	15%†	...	Less tax	25	...
MINING.					
Battalgalla Estate Co.....	40%†	...	Less tax	70	80
Broken Hill South	1/6 p.s.*	May 23	Less tax	...	...
Petaling Tin	10%*	Apr. 26	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Abdulla and Co.	...	...	Less tax	17½	10
Aberdeen Trust	6*	Apr. 21	Less tax	...	...
African City Properties	6%†	plus bonus of 2%		12	...
Albion Motor Car	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Alexander Thom and Co.	11†	...	Less tax	8	8
Anderson-Grice.....	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Army & Navy Co-operative Soc.	1/10½p.s.†	...	Less tax	25	25
Barlow Taylor and Co.....	...	...	Less tax	10½	10½
Bradleys (Chester).....	20%†	...	Less tax	25	25
British Combined Investors	...	...	Less tax	6	5
British Syphon	4%*	Apr. 1	Tax free	...	...
British Thomson-Houston	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Browne and Eagle	...	...	Less tax	8	7
Burt, Boulton and Haywood ...	4%*	Apr. 23	Less tax	...	...
Commercial Buildings	£3 p.s.†	...	Tax free	...	...
Consolidated Waterworks of Rosario	5%†	...	Tax free	8	8
Coronet Brick Co.	2½%*	Apr. 5	Less tax	...	...
Corporation Securities of Chicago	1½%*	June 20	Less tax	...	...
County of London Electric Supp.	...	...	Less tax	11	10
Crystalate Record	16⅛%†	...	Less tax	33⅓	41⅛(e)
Cunard	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
C. and W. Walker	5%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Daily Mirror Newspapers.....	...	...	Less tax	30	30
Dawson Bros. (London)	...	...	Less tax	7½	8
Dickson and Benson	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Dominion Engineering Works....	...	...	Less tax	$4	$3·40
D. Smith and Sons.....	20%†	...	Less tax	40(c)	...
Edinburgh Investment Trust (Def.)	7%†	...	Less tax	12	12
Edison Swan	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Electric and Railway Finance Corpn.	...	...	Less tax	140	...
E. Robinson and Sons.....	5%†	...	Less tax	10(d)	10(d)
F. McNeill	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Ford Motor of Barcelona	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Gerrard Wire Tying Machines ...	5%*	Apr. 10	Quarterly	...	...
Godfrey Phillips	5%†	...	Less tax	10	...
Goldsmiths and Silversmiths	...	...	Less tax	4	6
Gordon Hotels	...	...	Less tax	5(e)	5
Groves and Whitnall	...	...	Less tax	25	25
G. S. Moulton	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Harrison (Birmingham).....	...	...	Tax free	4/- p.s.	...
Highland Distilleries	16⅔%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Highland Tea.....	15%†	...	Less tax	25	25
H. J. Searle	...	...	Less tax	11	11
H.M.V.	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Hodgson's Kingston Brewery ...	8%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Hope Bros.	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
International Financial Society	3%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
John Mowlem and Co.	...	...	Less tax	10(a)	10(a)
Joseph Travers	...	...	Less tax	10	10
J. J. Allen	...	...	Less tax	7½	15
Lang Bros	...	...	Less tax	10	10
London and Colonial Investment (Def.)	5*	...	Less tax	...	...
London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties	...	...	Less tax	10	12
London Electric Wire & Smiths	6¼%†	...	Less tax	7½	7½
London Stock Exchange	£9 p.s.†	...	Less tax	£13 p.s.	£13 ps.
London Trust Co.	13%†	...	Less tax	21	20
Mappin's Masbro' Old Brewery..	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Maritime Oilfields	...	...	Less tax	10	2½
Mason and Barry	...	...	Less tax	12½	20
Memphis Cotton Hull Fibre.....	12½c.p.s.*	Apr. 1	Less tax	...	...
M. B. Foster and Sons	15†	...	Less tax	12½	9
Monte Video Waterworks	5%†	Apr. 16	Less tax	8	8
Newmarket Electric Light	8%†	...	Tax free	...	...
Nottingham Brewery.....	5%†	...	Less tax	10	...
Notting Hill Electric Lighting....	11/7p.s.†	...	Less tax	16/7p.s.	14/-p.s
Ocean Coal and Wilson's	3%†	...	Less tax	5	...
Olympic Portland Cement.....	...	...	Less tax	6	...

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
P. and O. (Def.)	5%*	Mar. 16	Tax free	%	%
Paquin	...	...	Less tax	22½	30
Parker, Winder and Achurch ...	10†	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Philadelphia Co.	2%*	plus 75 c. p.s.	Quarterly	...	...
Phoenix Brewery	...	...	Less tax	3/- p.s.	3/-p.s.
River Plate Electricity.....	...	...	Less tax	10½	11
Roberts and Birch (Burton)	...	...	Less tax	10	15
Rolls-Royce.....	...	...	Less tax	8(b)	8(b)
Rosehaugh Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Rosario Drainage	3%*	Mar. 1	Tax free	...	...
Rotterdam Dry Dock.....	...	...	Less tax	15	12
Rothmans'	...	...	Less tax	7	...
Second Scottish American Trust	13%†	...	Less tax	26	25
Schweppes (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Scottish and Dominions Trust ...	8⅛ p.s.*	...	Less tax	...	...
Second Edinburgh Investment Trust (Def.)	6%*	May 10	Less tax	...	...
Smith and McLean.....	...	...	Less tax	6	7
Spratt's Patent (America)	1/6 p.s.†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Stanley Bros.	...	...	Less tax	15(f)	15
Stockholders' Investment Trust.	3½%*	May 2	Less tax	...	...
Sunday Pictorial Newspapers (1920)	...	...	Less tax	25	25
Sutton Bridge (Lincolnshire) Gas Investment Trust	5%†	...	Tax free	8	8
Town Investments	10%*	Apr. 28	Less tax	...	...
United States & South American Investment Trust	14†	...	Less tax	...	...
Whitbreads.....	7%†	plus bonus of 3%	Tax free	15	12
William Collins, Sons and Co. ...	7½%*	...	Less tax	12½	10
Witbank Colliery	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Workington Brewery	12%†	...	Tax free	10	10

(*a*) Plus bonus of 2½%. (*b*) Plus bonus of 2%. (*c*) Plus bonus of 66⅔% tax free. (*d*) Plus bonus of 1/- p.s. (*e*) 16 months. (*f*) Plus 2d. p.s. bonus.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED, LTD.—The directors have decided to postpone the consideration of payment of the dividend on the preferred ordinary shares until the accounts for the full financial year terminating September 30th next are available.

THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.—The Directors propose to pay, on the 9th proximo, a further Dividend of 10s. per share, less Income Tax, making with the Interim Dividend of 9s. per share, less Income Tax, paid last November, a total for the year 1929 of 19s. per share, less Income Tax. It is the intention of the Directors to increase the Interim Dividend payable in November next by 1s. per share, less Income Tax. The Directors also propose to capitalise a part of the balance standing to the credit of the Profit and Loss Account to the extent of £1 per share, for the purpose of reducing the outstanding liability on the shares. The effect of this will be to increase the amount paid up on each share of £5, from £1 to £2.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions continued favourable for outdoor work, and seeding of spring cereal is practically completed in most parts of the United Kingdom. Winter crops are in fine condition and give every promise of full yields. Offerings of native wheat on the principal statute markets were in small compass, and in sympathy with overseas varieties, sellers required full to firmer prices. The import market generally presented firm features, the recent improvement being maintained following higher cable advices from Argentine and North America. Unseasonably dry weather over the United States spring wheat belt was mainly responsible for the upward movement, so that the future trend of prices will be largely governed by weather and crop reports. In these circumstances, Canadian sellers offered less freely while awaiting further progress of the new crops, despite the large surplus of old wheat available for export. It appears that the American Farm Board propose to give United States millers the advantage of cheap wheat and thus reduce surplus holdings, which will probably result in competitive offers of flour on this market in the near future, as supplies of grist are much in excess of domestic requirements. Plate shippers also displayed more reserve, while influenced by the higher Argentine exchange rate. European consumers, however, are reluctant to follow advancing prices to any appreciable extent, although business of late marked slight expansion. Large visible supplies, particularly in North America, still weigh heavily on the market, and shipments during the remainder of the season may prove much in excess of European requirements. Ploughing operations for the new crop are proceeding in Argentine and Australia under generally favourable conditions, and it is reported that a considerably larger area will be laid under wheat in the Commonwealth. Feeding stuffs maintained a firm tone, and substantial premiums were paid for Plate maize near at hand but new crop positions inclined to sag on increased offerings, also competition by European varieties.

WHEAT.—Quiet and easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex-ship, 46s.; No. 2 ditto, 45s. 3d.; No. 3, 45s. to 44s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 43s. 9d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 42s.; No. 6, 34s.; No. 2, hard Winter (Atlantic shipment), 42s. 6d.; No. 1 ditto (Gulf shipment), 44s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 43s. 6d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 39s. 9d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 42s.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex-ship to arrive, 41s. 9d.; Australian, 42s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 6d.-8s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Quiet. London straight run, 37s. per sack for country deliveries; and 36s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 34s.-37s.; Buffalo, 34s.-37s.; Australian, 31s. 6d.-32s. 6d. ex-store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, April, 33s. 6d.-34s.; export ditto, 31s.-31s. 6d.; Australian, 29s.-29s. 6d.; French, April-May, 26s.-28s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, March-June, £6 per ton.

MAIZE.—Again dearer for near positions. Plate landed, 32s. 6d.; ex-ship, 31s. 6d.; March-April, 29s.; new April-May, 27s. 9d.; May-June, 27s. 3d.; June-July, 27s. 3d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal £9 per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s.; white, £6 5s. per ton ex-ship.

BARLEY.—Firm. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new ex-ship, 36s.-42s., as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s., per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex-ship, f.a.q., 21s. 6d.; Persian landed, 21s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Maintained. Plate landed, 17s.; ex-ship to arrive, 16s. 3d.; Chilian white, 21s. 6d.; ditto tawny, 17s. 6d.; German landed, 21s.; ex-ship to arrive, 20s.; South Russian ex-ship, 16s. 6d.; North ditto, 16s. per 320 lbs. English 6s.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929–30, 1928–29, 1927–28, 1926–27:—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to April 5	Cwts. 171,659	Cwts. 135,452	Cwts. 184,215	Cwts. 164,804
31 weeks to April 5	7,523,965	8,117,590	7,927,954	9,758,287
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 4	s. d. 9 9	s. d. 10 1	s. d. 11 6

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Mar. 29	182,769	125,678	29,852	8 3	7 10	5 11
April 5	171,659	123,919	28,355	8 4	7 7	6 0
April 3 1926	184,185	105,895	41,076	11 8	8 11	8 11
April 2, 1927	186,011	71,692	64,982	11 7	10 10	8 2
April 7, 1928	184,215	61,630	32,946	10 1	11 0	11 2
April 6, 1929	135,452	81,470	41,297	9 9	10 1	9 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	124⅞	148⅜	108⅜	110⅛	115¼
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	120¼	130⅞	105⅝	111⅛	113⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,684,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 582,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 90,610,000 bushels.

Increasing Interest in South American Markets

Estd. *1862*

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THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:— Rather more inquiries are circulating on export account, but not much new business has yet been arranged. Supplies for export are plentiful and values continue to show an easy tendency. Hards are quoted at 15s. 6d. to 16s. f.o.b. Industrial demand is steady. The decline in the coke market has been checked, and nothing can be bought now below 15s. at ovens. A week ago there were transactions at 14s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Prices have given way further this week in several directions. Both domestic and shipping trade is slack, and coal is accumulating. Tonnages of any quality can be had in weight at attractive prices. Prices for shipment are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports):—Lancashire.—Ell best 14s. 6d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 16s. 6d.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 9d.; trebles, 11s. 9d.; doubles, 11s. 3d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. Lothians.—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.-12s. 6d.; secondary steam, 12s. 3d.; trebles, 11s. 3d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 10s. 9d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 9d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent states:—Quiet conditions continue to prevail on the Cardiff coal market, and stocks have seldom been so high. Stocks of one combine alone are estimated at between 200,000 and 250,000 tons, while the total quantity stocked in wagons is estimated at nearly a million tons. The low level of outward freight rates remains ineffective in stimulating demand, and it is only the operation of the marketing scheme with its minimum price schedule that is preventing ruinous inter-competition between colliery salesmen. The exports of coal from the South Wales ports in March were the smallest since last August, and the average daily rate of shipment was only 75,183 tons, as against 93,201 tons in February, and 92,381 tons in January. Compared with February, the shipments show a decrease of 280,000 tons, and of 202,000 tons compared with the corresponding month last year. Monmouthshire coals are still relatively the best feature of an extremely depressed market. The following are the current best: Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 37s .6d.; Red Vein large, 23s. 6d. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 10s. 9d. to 11s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 35s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s. 6d.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 3d. to 26s. 6d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—There are general complaints of the dull conditions ruling in the iron and steel trades. The business passing in Great Britain for some time has been spread unevenly over the market and while some firms have sufficient orders to keep their works going for some time, others are finding it difficult to get together a working programme. Orders have been few and far between and for the most part have been limited to small tonnages. Some improvement, however, is anticipated after the introduction of the Budget. Export business for the past week or two has been particularly poor, and the inquiry which developed recently from some of the overseas markets has failed to materialise to any extent into actual business. The position on the Continent is further complicated by the strained relations which exist between merchants and Continental manufacturers as a result of the sales policy of the European Steel Cartels. The demand for pig iron has not expanded and the recent small buying movement which followed the reduction in the price of Cleveland iron has not been maintained. In the semi-finished steel department the British works have taken orders in competition with Continental steel makers, but the amount of business passing has been small. Business in finished steel has run on narrow lines, and for the moment there is a general tendency to mark time.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Deliveries of Cleveland iron are on an improved scale due to the additional purchases recently made and a steady outlet is assured over a month or two. Local consumers are taking good quantities of iron and moderate deliveries are going to inland destinations. Although there is some little improvement in the demand from Scottish consumers, it is not up to expectations, but as current contracts for other irons are worked off it is expected that Cleveland will be able to secure an increased share of the Scotch trade. The tone of the weekly market on Tuesday was steady and a moderate amount of business was transacted at the ruling figures, viz., No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. The hematite market continues weak and with stocks increasing there is keen competition for any business that comes along, with the result that prices have been further cut, and it is now possible to buy mixed numbers from makers for early delivery at 75s. per ton and second-hand holders would accept even less. Transactions are still confined to early requirements, consumers maintaining a waiting attitude in regard to forward business. Shipments of pig iron are only on a poor scale so far, the clearances to 8th inst. being 3,400 tons, against 9,674 tons to March 8th. In the steel trade there is little new business reported, but local firms are tendering for different important contracts from which it is expected some business will result. In the meantime there is a considerable amount of work still to execute against old contracts, but some departments are feeling a want of new orders and are not fully employed. Prices under rebate scheme for home use are unaltered, viz., plates, ⅜-in. up, £8 15s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d.; joists, £8 10s. In other lines prices for home consumption are: Iron bars, £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12; and 21/24-gauge black sheets, £9 15s. The ore market shows no change. Consumers are still holding off. Best Bilbao rubio is offered at 21s. c.i.f., and the current freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough for early loading is 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. Coke is being offered very freely but there is little demand. Good furnace qualities are now obtainable at 19s. delivered works, and less would be possible for a good order. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is unchanged at 40.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—A condition of extreme dullness pervades all kinds of commercial steel and also pig iron and iron products. There is no improvement to record and none is expected until after the Easter stoppage, which is to be longer than usual. Production of open-hearth steels has been curtailed and there will have to be a further reduction at Easter unless more business is placed. An absence of tonnage orders continues to be the leading feature of the local situation. The export markets are particularly disappointing, and the new Australian scheme for controlling imports will affect adversely the demand for various kinds of steel. Cutlery, spoons and forks are not affected, but the new regulation will put a stop to Sheffield's Australian trade in silver and plated hollowware. Tool makers complain of the smallness of the orders and there is a good deal of competition. Makers of stainless steel suitable for cutlery have formed an association to stabilise and control prices. The new scale is higher than the old one.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—On the whole, business is a little brisker. Steelmakers, at least those specialising in sections for structural engineers' requirements, are receiving more specifications, although the demand for shipbuilding material remains poor. Continental competition is very keen, but it is believed here that Continental prices will be increased at an early date to a level which will bring them very near our own prices. The sheet trade improvement is maintained, the increased demand for galvanised sheets for export being quite considerable. In other branches business remains dull and plants in operation at present are able to meet all demands.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Shipments of tinplates from Swansea last week were considerably below the average and stocks in warehouse consequently increased to 224,514 boxes. Business, however, was reported to be moderately active with prices stationary at 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per basis box. Galvanised sheets are unchanged at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 5s. Tinplate bars are also unaltered at £6 10s. for Welsh and £5 9s. per ton for foreign makes.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—The downward movement in prices made further progress during the early part of the week following selling pressure and lower Eastern cables, but later the tone became firmer and the initial loss was fully recovered. Offerings generally proved in excess of requirements, small dealings being attended by a good deal of irregularity. Attempts to restore market stability is rendered difficult by heavy estimated shipments for April, the disappointing statistical position, and a tendency for stocks still to accumulate. Closing tone firm. Standard cash changed hands at £162 12s. 6d.-£162 5s. and £166 10s.; three months, £164-£166 and £168 5s. Sales in the East were reported at £166 17s. 6d.-£166 12s. 6d. and £169 5s. per ton c.i.f.

Copper was accorded moderate support at slightly fluctuating prices, cash being somewhat reservedly offered, while the general position marked no material change. Standard cash sold at £69 to £68 10s.; early April, £69 5s.; mid-May, £68 5s.; and three months, £67 5s. to £67 2s. 6d. to £67 10s.

Lead opened easier, but subsequently improved on a better demand. Good soft foreign pig, April, sold £18 2s. 6d. to £18 11s. 3d.; June, £18 7s. 6d.-£18 5s.-£18 11s. 3d.; July, £18 7s. 6d. to £18 12s. 6d. ton.

Spelter steady, with dealings on a fair scale. April, sold £18 3s. 9d. to £18 6s. 3d.; May, £18 8s. 9d. to £18 10s. and £18 7s. 6d.; June, £18 11s. 3d. to £18 15s. to £18 12s. 6d.; July, £18 16s. 3d.-£18 18s. 9d. and £18 12s. 6d. ton.

Antimony largely nominal in absence of definite offers from China. English regulus, £40 to £46 10s. Chinese ditto, spot, £29 10s.; April-May, £26 15s. to £27 5s.; Chinese, crude, April-May, £17 10s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore, 50 per cent., April-May, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., 4s. 3d. per unit c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide.—April-May, £26 15s. ton c.i.f.

Aluminium steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

Quicksilver quiet. Spot, £22 10s. per bottle, less 3 per cent.

Zinc Oxide steady. Spot, £27 to £34 per ton as to quality, delivered London.

Tin Plates quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool: April 9th.

There has been a slight falling off in values from those of a week ago, with the distant positions mostly affected. Very little fresh business is going through and the action of the American Farm Board has, at least, caused the near months to improve considerably against the distants. Sellers of the May and July positions have covered for fear the Farm Board may ask for the cotton. New crop prospects have been rather favourable, but drought in Texas has been complained of and absence of any immediate relief may possibly have restricted planting, especially in the extreme west. The East is reported to have had too much rain. Spot sales for the week 3rd to 9th (inclusive) are 34,000 bales, of which 16,650 are American, 7,700 Brazilian, 10 Argentine, 3,800 Peru, 2,610 Egyptian, 1,500 African, 1,080 East Indian, and 650 sundries. Imports for the same period are 38,015 bales, of which 10,146 are American, 4,255 Brazil, 1,348 Peru, 10,988 Egyptian, 3,496 African, 7,722 East Indian, and 60 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·80; Egyptian Sakel, 14·20; Uppers, 10·30; Brazil Fair, 8·16; Peru Smooth, 9·26; West African Middling, 8·61; and East African G.F., 9·71.

Manchester: April 9th.

Prices in the market have not shown much change. On the whole, demand in yarn and piece-goods has been rather quieter. Buyers are not prepared to go very far ahead and operations have been somewhat discouraged by a tendency towards easier rates in the raw material. Political news from India has been unfavourable; it is reported that dealers in Bombay and Delhi have decided to boycott foreign goods. Inquiry for Calcutta, however, in light fabrics has kept up fairly well, and some fair contracts have been arranged for delivery up to August next. Isolated transactions have taken place for Bombay. The news from China has not been encouraging and trade remains limited. Some advices from South America have been rather better and more orders have been placed in fine finishing goods. Very little has been done for Egypt and the Near East. Rather varied advices are coming through from the home trade, but clearances throughout the country are not

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RESERVE FUND	£3,164,170
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	£13,164,170

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unfavourable. Here and there idle looms are being restarted, but more cases are reported of firms going out of business. Prices in American and Egyptian yarns continue steadier, chiefly owing to the fact that most spinners have more orders on the books than a month ago. Sales this week have been rather smaller and there are loud complaints of margins being very unsatisfactory.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Mar. 19.	Mar. 26.	Apr. 2.	Apr. 9.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·39	8·43	8·80	8·66	11·09	10·92
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·65	14·05	14·25	14·20	21·25	18·90
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜	16½	16
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12½	13	13½	13½	16½	16½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21½	21½	21½	31	27
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 1½	22 1½	22 3	22 3	26 4½	26 3
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 10½	24 9	24 10½	24 10½	28 6	28 6
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	15 4½	15 4½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3	14 3	14 0

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our *Bradford correspondent writes*:—An eleventh-hour attempt on the part of the union leaders to effect a compromise on the wages question failed, the employers stating that they were not prepared to discuss any settlement except on the basis of the Macmillan recommendations. With the expiration of the period of notice the strike has started in various mills, and by the end of this week it will be more or less general. It is stated that considerably less than half the employees are members of unions, but in many cases those who are willing to work may be unable to do so if the pivotal or key men—such as overlookers—come out. The opinion is still held that the strike will not be of long duration, but the employers, both federated and non-federated firms, have made it clear that they are not prepared to make any concessions on their last proposals which, in effect, are the recommendations of Lord Macmillan. So far the trouble has had no adverse effect upon the market; indeed, some very big weights of wool and tops have been sold during the last fortnight, and quotations for tops are firm in sympathy with the better tone in the raw wool markets. Moreover, there are signs of returning confidence in the Continental centres, the view being generally expressed that wool prices have definitely touched bottom. In the meantime, of course, business in the West Riding will dwindle with the stoppage of production, and it is probable that orders will go elsewhere if an early settlement of the strike is not effected. There has been a rush to deliver piece goods for the spring trade, and signs are not wanting that wholesale fabric buyers are more disposed to place orders for future delivery, being evidently impressed with the recovery in the wool position.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The second series of London sales finished last Wednesday in a most satisfactory fashion. There has been a recovery of fully 5 per cent. in both merinos and crossbreds compared with the opening. Indeed, the advance in crossbreds is 5 to 7½ per cent., particularly in super halfbreds and coarse wools, the latter still being very scarce. The probability is that low crossbreds will continue to sell at relatively higher prices for the remainder of this year than medium and fine crossbreds. Often 10½d. has been paid for good condition 40-44's greasy fleece, and only ½d. to 1d. more for 50-52's. This shows that the quantity of coarse crossbred wool is not large enough to provide for all requirements, particularly in view of the fact that this description is being admitted into the United States for carpet manufacturing purposes free of duty. The home trade has bought crossbreds very freely, and some fair weights of combing merinos have gone to the West Riding. There is far more confidence to-day in the future of the raw material than has been seen for the past twelve months, the general opinion now being that values have touched the lowest point. The quantity carried over for the next series is decidedly less than at one time seemed likely. France and Germany have bought extensively, and their competition has been welcome, particularly in the finest merinos. There has been a distinct margin between super 70's and upwards compared with ordinary 70's and below, and it is gratifying to find that the trade is still in a position to purchase the better-class wools liberally. The finish of the sales must be regarded as calculated to inspire confidence. The fly in the ointment is the threatened strike of operatives in the Bradford district. Some think the workpeople will act reasonably by falling in with the recommendations of the Macmillan Report. If so, no harm will have been done by the free expressions of opinion on the whole subject. Rather will an important principle have been established, and the way made for the industry to settle down to the increased consumption needed to give permanent stability to wool values.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Supplies of clear hides from domestic slaughtered cattle are not large, with the result that prices are firm to a slight advance on last quotations. Warbled, on the other hand, are inclined to be weaker at the auctions held in the North this week. Calfskins steady in face of a satisfactory demand. In the foreign hide market inquiry is fairly well maintained, but some difficulty is experienced in obtaining further business owing to the fact that some sources of supply are asking higher prices for certain of the lines most wanted at the moment. So far these efforts to obtain better figures have met with little success, as only here and there have the advances been paid. In the South American market prices for frigorific hides have inclined to be easier, sales of Argentine ox having been made on the basis of 7¾d., with light ox selling at 7⅞d., and Montevideo ox at 7⅝d. The bulk of the business done has been on account of the United States trade, with only a few trifling sales for Europe. Dry River Plate hides are also weaker, and here a fair amount of business has transpired, including sales on behalf of home tanners. B.A. Americanos have changed hands at 7⅞d., B.A. Inservibles at 4⅝d., and Sierra Cordobas at 8⅜d. Fair sales have also been made in Cape hides, which have realised 8¼d. and 7¼d. for dry, and 7¼d. and 6½d. for dry salted. Unbathed Adis Abebas have sold at 6⅝d. for heavies, and Mombasas, 30/40/30, 6¾d. The Australian market is slightly stronger, with less business passing. Conditions in the sole-leather market are not what one might expect at this time of the year, and considering the nearness of the Easter trade in footwear business is quiet. Shoe manufacturers continue to limit their requirements in bends to small parcels of light weights in the medium to better grades, while the repairing trade has been in the market for supplies of English and wet-salted rather more freely than of late. The position of offal is better than that of bends, and both bellies and shoulders are a fairly satisfactory sale. Although trade cannot be considered as up to the average, prices for most descriptions remain on a very level basis and in most instances asking quotations are firmly adhered to. There is, however, a feeling in certain quarters that lower values may eventually rule, and this, it is considered, is restricting purchasing to a certain extent. Steady trade is the general experience of the upper leather section, with no great amount of business passing in any particular class. Willow calf and glace kid has, if anything, experienced a slightly less call, while the inquiry for patent leather has dropped off considerably. Suede leathers, however, have marked further improvement, and a fair amount of business has been put through again this week. Semi-chrome leathers remain quiet, while the small business being done by curriers is confined to the home trade, and is usually in connection with waxed kip butts and splits and coloured offal. Reptilian and other novelty leathers move off steadily in small quantities. Shoe manufacturers are still disappointed with the size of the orders coming to hand; although in certain centres a fairly decent run of business is being experienced, others are still hoping for a better inquiry.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: April 2, 1930.

For a week past the Indian Jute Mills' Association has been negotiating with mills not in the Association for a combined movement to curtail production of jute goods. The latest news regarding the situation is to the effect that all the mills, with the exception of two not in the Association, are willing to work only 54 hours per week. There are hopes that a favourable decision will be given out shortly. Meanwhile, the whole market is in such a state of uncertainty that business is seriously interrupted, though a decided improvement took place on the news of these negotiations. It is stated that the stocks of jute goods in India are accumulating to such an extent that accommodation for them cannot be found, while at consuming centres there are also sufficient stocks to last for months, even on a normal demand, and demand is at present very much reduced. It is admitted that a long time must elapse before any material benefit can accrue to the jute industry through curtailment of production by Calcutta, but the decline in prices would be stopped. Raw jute has ruled very irregular, advancing in sympathy with the Calcutta goods market, and declining again because of the uncertainty surrounding the situation. The quoted rates are £29 for best First Marks and £26 for Lightnings, March/April, while Daisee assortment has been sold this week at £24 5s., and four's at £22, same shipment. Tossa assortment is at £26, and four's at £24 5s., March/April. New crop offers have been very scarce, sellers displaying great reserve. A very good business in jute yarns has resulted in an all round increase in prices. Common 8 lb. cops, sold at 2s. 6d., have risen to 2s. 8d. freely paid, and the quotation now 2s. 9d. Twist is back again to 4⅞d. lowest for 3 ply 8 lb., while sacking 24 lb. weft is firm at 3½d. and 8 lb. chains at 4½d. Rove is dearer at £27 for 48 lb., and £17 for 200 lb., while a very good business in finer yarns for export has been concluded at 2s. 11d. for 8 lb. weft, and 3s. 0d. for warp, of fourth grade Rio. Carpet yarns have also come in for some attention. Cloth business has improved, but not to the extent desired. Manufacturers have raised their terms to 3 5/16d. to 3⅝d. for 10¼ oz. 40 in. hessians and 2 5/16d. to 2⅝d. for 8 oz., and the situation all round is brighter. Linoleum hessians have been bought more freely, and heavy goods are inclined to be dearer. The Calcutta hessian market has weakened, owing to the protracted negotiations for shorter working hours. Prices rose to 24s. 3d. for 10 oz., and 19s. 6d. for 8 oz., April/June, but present rates are 22s. 9d. and 18s. 6d. respectively.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets are much more active, and a firmer tone prevails practically all round. A feature has been the heavy purchases of linseed on the Continent, and this, together with comparatively small supplies and the movement in the Argentine rate of exchange, has caused a sharp appreciation in value. Plate linseed, on spot, has advanced to £18 15s., while for seed on passage to Hull £18 5s., and for April-May loading £18 have been paid. And to Antwerp, for seed loading up to £18 14s. 6d. has been conceded. Calcutta linseed to Antwerp has been done up to £19 11s. 3d. April-May, and bold Bombay £20 10s., April. A brisk business in Egyptian cotton seed to Hull has also been done, £8 being paid for black on passage, April and May, and £8 2s. 6d. June. In the vegetable oil section, linseed oil is in fair request and, after declining, has recovered to £41 10s. per ton, naked, ex Hull, spot, and £41 April. Cotton oils are also firmer, Crude Egyptian on spot being held for £29 10s., ex Hull, and common edible for £32. The improvement in the demand for oilcakes and meals continues.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Spot business is at a minimum pending the Budget. Prices meantime remain unaltered. All raw refining kinds meet a quiet trade, and the Cuban Single Seller Agency shows more disposition to meet the U.S.A. market. Java markets quiet, steady. Terminal sections generally steady and a fair amount of business resulted in raw, including May delivery, at 6s. 8½d. to 6s. 9¾d.; August, 7s., 6s. 11½d. and 7s. 1½d.; December, 7s. 1½d. to 7s. 2½d. to 7s. 3¾d. Cuban, 96 per cent. centrifugal, April-May, quoted 7s. 4½d., c.i.f. U.K. Czecho granulated, April, to the U.K., quoted 9s. 1½d., f.o.b. Hamburg. Cuban receipts last week, 179,804 tons, against 185,431 last year; exports, 31,958, against 135,720; stocks, 1,545,940, against 1,345,590. Centrals at work total 148, as compared with 141 same time last year. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending April 5th totalled 216,226 tons, compared with 142,770 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—A generally steady market obtained during the week and business made fair progress. First sizes of Kenya, however, met a dull market, seconds and thirds selling more rapidly. Representative quantities of Costa Rica were brought to auction. East India descriptions steady, quiet.

COCOA.—A steady market for spot goods and good fermented Accra sold 42s. 6d. Forward positions steady, quiet. Accra, F/F, April-June, with guarantee, sold 37s. f.o.b. Terminal, May, sold, 40s. 6d.; July, 41s. 7½d. to 40s. 9d.; December, 41s. 9d. to 41s. 6d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week totalled 48,955 packages. Competition was somewhat erratic, due undoubtedly to quality of northern consignments marking a falling off. With the exception of a few finest invoices selling at late rates, prices ruled easier in most instances. Ceylon sales of 20,363 packages aroused active competition, as general run of quality was decidedly attractive though prices disclosed slight irregularity. Medium brokens experienced a strong market, also finest leaf, the latter being well sought after by exporters. Low medium and common steady. Java and Sumatra auctions firm, with a good demand. Of China, Keemuns at 7d. to 8d. per lb. in request, while showing excellent value. Fine Keemuns scarce.

RICE.—General demand is quiet, but market firm. Spanish oiled, April-May shipment, quoted 15s., c.i.f. London. Two Stars, spot, London, 13s.; April-May steamer, 11s. 9d., c.i.f. London/Continent. No. 3 Burma to Levant, quoted 11s. 9d. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 11s. 7½d.

BEANS.—Market steady, but demand rather quiet. Madagascar butters, spot, London, 35s. 6d. to 36s.; parcels per "Bourbonnais," 33s. 6d.; "Ville de Rouen," 33s. 6d., and February-March, 33s.; March-April, 32s. 6d., c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 9d.; April, 11s. 3d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 20s. 6d.; March-April shipment, 21s. 6d. c.i.f. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 22s.; March-April, 22s.; April-May, 22s. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, 8s. 4½d.

PEAS.—A quiet but steady market. Japanese old crop, spot, London, 14s. 6d.; new, 16s. 3d.; parcels per steamer "Altai Maru," afloat to London, quoted 15s.; "Toyohashi Maru," 15s.; March-April, 14s. 9d.; April-May, 14s. 9d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 16s.; small hand-picked blues, 11s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lb.), April-May, 42s. 6d. Karachi, April-May, 42s. c.i.f. Maples quiet. No. 1 New Zealand, March-April, old, 52s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 55s. 6d. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, March-April, 60s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper received fair support and general steadiness governed the market. London stocks for black, 20 tons higher on the week at 1,001, against 1,020 same time last year; white reduced by 69 to 809, against 565. Lampong, March-May sold, 11½d.; May July, 11⅝d. to 11½d.; August-October, 10⅝d. Muntok, white, March-May, quoted 1s. 2½d.; May-July, sold, 1s. 2½d.; August-October, 1s. 1½d. Cloves firm but generally quiet. Pimento, spot, 8½d., and to arrive, 6¼s., c.i.f. London. Sago flour and tapioca, also African ginger, quiet, unaltered.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currant market steady with fair general inquiries. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.; Amalias, 37s.-38s.; Patras, 39s.-42s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s. Sultanas quiet of sale. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 31s.-45s. Dates in better request. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins dull. Valencia, quarter boxes, 40s.-42s. Figs quiet. Layers, 30s.-40s.; genuine, 26s.-30s.; good average, 18s.-20s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Demand is slow to expand, but with supplies in manageable compass late rates were maintained for most descriptions. Apricots experienced a steady sale, but peaches in less demand. Pears are mostly cleared, only limited supplies of Australian being available. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 67s.; 40's-50's, 65s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 55s.; 50's-60's, 50s. 6d. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-117s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 87s. 6d.; extra, 97s. 6d.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 55s.-60s.; fancy, 62s. 6d.-67s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 55s.-65s.; Canadian, 58s. Almonds slow of sale. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 105s.; Majorcas, 102s. 6d.-115s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 136s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—A better demand was dealt with for most varieties of Californian fruits on spot, but shipment parcels still hang fire. Australian descriptions also move off more freely at the revised prices. English in fair request but stocks light. Singapore pines move off slowly and prices barely steady for shipment, but South African and Hawaiian remain steady under moderate inquiries. Italian tomatoes fail to attract attention despite the comparatively attractive prices ruling.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: A moderate demand prevailed for the limited assortment available. Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-25s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab steady at 90s.-96s. as to quality. Lobsters in small supply. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate request, but fine quality scarce. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Market firm but quiet on restricted offerings. Lunch tongues, also cooked boned hams, realise full rates with buyers covering their requirements for the season.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market easier. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 33s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 20s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 38s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 22s. 9d. Dutch full cream milk powders: 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 62s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 81s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 9d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum, 1-ton lots. Smaller lots, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 9s. per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull and prices weak for inferior grades, but fairly steady for the better kinds of Jamaican. New Zealand firmly held, and owing to failure in production shipments for next years are likely to be on a much reduced scale. Jamaica, white, set, 50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-49s. 6d.; dark to fair amber, 37s.-40s.; fine white Cuban, 45s.; San Domingo, good, 40s.; manufacturing, 36s.; Californian, 52s.; light amber, 48s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

A moderate amount of business was effected, but the market is generally dull and without new feature. Sheet spot and April sold 7½d. to 7 7/16d.; May, 7½d.; June, 7⅝d.; July-September, 7½d. to 7 13/16d.; October-December, 8 1/16d. to 8d.; January-March, 8 5/16d.; July-September, 8⅜d. London stocks 2,244 tons higher on the week; landings, 3,197; deliveries, 952; stocks, 71,477, against 28,934 last year, Liverpool, 810 higher; landings, 996; deliveries, 186; stocks, 22,008, against 810 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A smart upward move took place, due to stimulating cables to hand from Calcutta, and where native mills are reported to have come in with the Mills Association on the question of reduced working hours. Closing tone quieter. Firsts, April-May and May-June

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS
DECEMBER 31st, 1930.
INTERIM BONUSES INCREASED.
48 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	44	6
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	4
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	7
Oats, " " "	6	0
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	32	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 6	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
R.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	3	6
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 10	6	6
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 9	5	0
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	8	0
N.Z. frozen " 4 0	5	0
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 7 8	9	8

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt. 116	0 138	0
Danish..... 107	0 112	0
Canadian..... 108	0 0	0
Dutch 95	0 106	0
HAMS—Irish..... 0	0 0	0
Canadian..... 0	0 0	0
American 94	0 102	0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	Nominal	
Australian 106	0 122	0
New Zealand 106	0 136	0
Danish..... 140	0 0	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt. 94	0 100	0
New Zealand 71	0 75	0
English Cheddars 100	0 126	0
Dutch 36	0 76	0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt. 41	0 42	0
Trinidad 60	0 65	0
Grenada 48	0 52	0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
B.I., good to fine, per cwt. 125	0 142	0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 145	0 165	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 110	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes 115	0 138	0
Colombian, mid to fine... 105	0 118	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120 11	6 13	0
Danish..... 11	0 13	0
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa(pagoda)bxs. 12	0 14	0
Jaffa ..... boxes 8	9 13	0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia		
½ cases 300 9	0 34	0
360 10	6 20	0
504 11	6 15	9
Lemons, Naples... boxes 0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes 6	0 7	6
" ..... cases 6	0 14	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1 0	0 0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls. 0	0 0	0
" (var.) boxes 8	6 15	6
" Tasmanian boxes 0	0 0	0
" Australian 9	0 15	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	4	6	6	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	56	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	3½	1	0
Black Lampong	0	11½	1	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	4	1	6
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	42	6	44	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	3	3	0
Nutmegs 65's,.....	1	6	1	9
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.&.f. India, April-May	9	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	1½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	6	26	0
Crushed.....	24	3	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	6
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	5
Orange Pekoe	0	8½	2	6
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	11
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	6	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·66
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	14·20
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	13½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	56	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, Apl.–June " J2 ".	30	0	0	0
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apr.–June..	32	10	33	10
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£	s.	d.	
May–June	25	10	0	
Aug.–Sept.	27	0	0	
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	6	19	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	24
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12
Crossbred 40–44	9½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	30
" 64's	27½
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215	0	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	3	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	83	10	83	15
Sheets (strong) 110	0		0	0
Standard	68	0	68	5
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	15	0	0
Soft Foreign	18/7/6		18/11/3	
Spelter G.O.B.	18/3/9		18/15/0	
Tin—English ingots ...	166	15	167	0
Standard cash 165/15/0			166	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. ..... per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	0	26	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton April-May	21/15/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea April-May	20/15/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	13	0	13	6
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	5½
Best cow	0	3½	0	4
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.—				
per lb.	1	2	2	2
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	3	1	8
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	0	0	0
Rape, refined	40	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	28	5	30	15
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	5	10	10
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	18/5/0		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19/10/0		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	44	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	5	20	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	122	6	125	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	
Can'dn Spruce, Dis., "	17	0	0	
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African " "	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	6	

to Continent, sold £25 10s., closing tone quieter to £25 2s. 6d.; new crop, August-September and September-October held for £26 15s. Lightnings, April-May, quoted £24, and Hearts £22 10s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Market for Manila qualities without material alteration, but business moves quietly. J No. 2, April-June sellers, £30; K grade, July-September, sold £29 5s.; L No. 1, April-June, quoted £28 10s.; L No. 2, £25 10s.; M No. 1, £26 10s.; and M No. 2, £24 c.i.f. African sisal: No. 1 f.a.q., March-May sellers, £33 15s.; Marks, £34 5s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 35,000 bales, against 31,000 last year and 21,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 29,000; week after, 34,000. Manila shipments last week: United Kingdom, 4,000; Continent, 2,000; U.S.A., 18,000; Japan, 6,000; other countries and local consumption, 2,000; making stocks 176,000.

SHELLAC.—Met a quiet demand. Fair T.N. spot quoted 127s. 6d.; May, to 123s.; August sold 124s., 127s.; October sellers 129s. Forward steamers, 118s.

COPRA.—A quieter state of affairs ensued, and prices ruled the turn easier. Straits, sun-dried, April-May, to Rotterdam, quoted £21 12s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies ditto, sellers £21 12s. 6d.; Ceylon, £23; South Sea, sun-dried, £20 15s.; Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £21. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, Padang excluded, April-May sellers, £20 12s. 6d.; smoked, South Sea, per steamer "Newton Pine," due shortly, held for £21 15s.; per "Armadale" quoted £20 7s. 6d.; April-May, £20 10s.; Manila, in bulk, £20 5s. c.i.f. Palm kernels, April-May, to Hamburg, £15 2s. 6d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 19s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon, bristle, £19 to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, April-May, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 6d.; Java, 2s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 2.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 8	7 0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 6	9 8
Short Horns	...	...	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 6	6 6
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 8	12 4

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 2.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	3	6
" " whites.....	2	3	2	6
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	...	
" " " whites.....	2	0	...	
Arran Chief	2	0	...	
New Spanish.....	16	0	...	
" Canary.....	14	0	...	

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was stringent on Tuesday, and up to 3 per cent. was paid over-night. At one time it looked as if the market might be driven into the Bank, but the situation was relieved by the Government broker, who made heavy

purchase of Funding Loan and other gilt-edged securities, and so released Government money. There was also some heavy buying of May bills from an official quarter at rates running from 2¼ to 2 5/16 per cent., and this further eased the position. Consequently money on Wednesday was down to 2-2¼ per cent. It is believed, however, that the majority of May maturities are now held outside the market, which may create some stringency next month.

* * * *

The three months' discount rate has been steady at 2½ per cent., or possibly 1/32 under. Little French or other Continental buying has been in evidence, and according to one authority the disappearance of this demand is now counteracting the effects of the recent big reduction in the volume of Treasury Bills. A more disquieting feature is the sudden appreciation of the French exchange from Frs. 124.16 to Frs. 124.02. This is due to causes which became familiar last summer, namely, a home demand for francs to provide for tax payments and tourist expenditure, and a consequent withdrawal of London balances held on French account. There is some disposition to trace this withdrawal to the impression created by the Budget, but whatever the truth of this theory, there is at least a possibility that it will continue to the point where France will once more take gold.

* * * *

The fall in the franc rate, and the fact that many foreign exchanges have moved against sterling seems for the moment to have disposed of any suggestion of a 3 per cent. Bank rate in London, though there seems to be no ground yet for expecting a rise. It is true that Germany again took the week's supply of Cape gold, but once more only a minimum price was paid, and were it to rise to anywhere near the Bank's selling price Germany would be unable to buy at the present rate of exchange. At the moment the Bank of England is adequately supplied with gold, and there is still more to come from Australia. Any further reduction in Bank rate, however, seems unlikely in the near future.

	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 20,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Discount { Call	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Houses { Notice	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	2½ (Mar. 20,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2⅛	2⅜	2 7/16–½	2½	...

The March statement of the nine British clearing banks shows that, since the preceding month, deposits have fallen by £32.2 million, and discounts by £36.8 million. Cash has risen by £0.7 million, call money by £4.9 million and advances by £2.5 million.

	Mar., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.
Capital and reserves	130·8	130·7	130·5	130·5	130·5
Acceptances	222·1	169·6	164·4	159·8	159·5
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.)	1,739·3	1,773·3	1,767·5	1,714·2	1,682·0
Total liabilities	2,092·2	2,073·6	2,062·4	2,004·5	1,972·0
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	239·5	266·3	248·0	234·6	235·3
Money at call	131·3	139·0	139·9	125·7	130·6
Investments	268·9	260·4	259·6	255·3	251·8
Discounts	214·3	226·7	242·9	218·3	181·5
Loans and advances	980·3	972·7	969·1	972·2	974·7
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	257·9	208·5	202·9	198·4	198·1
Total assets	2,092·2	2,073·6	2,062·4	2,004·5	1,971·9

During the past year cash has fallen by 1.8 per cent. from £239.5 to £235.3 million. This cannot be described as evidence of severe monetary deflation. Investments are 5.8 per cent. lower on the year, but whereas in previous months this percentage corresponded roughly to the intervening fall in gilt-edged prices, the latter last month were slightly above their level of a year ago, and so the correspondence no longer exists. Advances have only contracted fractionally, but there was a pronounced shrinkage of £32.8 million or 15.3 per cent. in discounts.

NEW YORK

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is easier after its firmness at the middle of the month as a result of Government interest payments amounting to $150 million and the disbursement of corporation dividends and interest. Call rate is down to 3½ per cent., and the rise of one-eighth in market bill rate, quoted by some dealers, is not being followed by the largest houses, and may not last. The allotment to Morgans of $31 million 4 per cent. Serial Bonds issued by New York State means that the State has received money at 3.78 per cent., while the purchasers obtain 5.27 return, allowing for tax redemptions. It is understood that Morgans will hold the Bonds as an investment.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Budget proposals had a somewhat unfavourable effect on gilt-edged securities, despite inside support, on Tuesday. The market, however, was inclined to preserve an open mind as to the eventual effect of higher direct taxation, holding its hand in the meantime. Attention was therefore concentrated chiefly on securities *not* prejudiced by Budgetary changes, the motor group showing strength, though artificial silk, oil and road transport shares were less markedly affected. Business was on a meagre scale in the rubber and tea markets, and mining shares were dull throughout the week.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The coal export market is a shade steadier, but home demand remains stagnant and prices are still weak. The iron and steel trades show no definite signs of revival, though the market for semi-finished steel is slightly better. Trade in Manchester is quieter, largely owing to the unsatisfactory position of the Oriental markets. Raw wool is a much better market, but owing to the wages dispute the wool textile industries have a great deal of machinery idle. Calcutta jute manufacturers are endeavouring to reach an agreement for limitation of output. Holiday business in footwear is not up to the usual level. The vegetable oils and oilseeds markets are quieter. Wheat is several points lower.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The foreign exchange market was again quiet, with no great turnover, but nearly all the leading exchanges fluctuated to some extent, and the tendency generally was against sterling. The feature was the sharp appreciation of the franc. Sterling on New York fell away during the week from 4.86½ to 4.86 5/16, after 4.86 7/32 on Tuesday. Montreal improved to 4.86⅜. Paris gained eighteen points at 124.04 after 124.02 on Wednesday morning. Brussels was better by ½ at 34.84 after 34.85⅝. Milan was again firm at 92.75, and the peseta was steadier and gained 13 points on balance at 38.82. Amsterdam moved sharply against us from 12.11 to 12.09¾. Berlin, after some movement, was unchanged at 20.37¾. Switzerland gained a point at 25.08½. The Scandinavian exchanges all moved against this country, but not in any great degree, Stockholm improving to 18.9, Oslo and Copenhagen to 18.16¼. The South American exchanges reacted somewhat from their recent improvement, Rio losing 1/32d. at 5 25/32d., and Buenos Aires slipping from 44 7/16d. to 43 11/16d. after 43½d. on the previous day. Montevideo also declined by ⅝d. to 45⅞d. The Far Eastern exchanges were very steady and firm, the rupee and yen remaining at 1s. 5 27/32d. and 2s. 0⅜d. respectively, but Batavia was fractionally weaker at 12.09½. In the forward market dollars were more offered at wider discounts of 3/32 and ¼ cent. The premiums on forward Paris declined from 7 and 13 centimes for one and three months to 2 and 14 centimes. Milan lost a point at 11 centesimi discount for one month, but was two points worse at 30 centesimi discount for three months. Amsterdam declined from premiums of ¼ and ⅜ for the two periods to ⅛ discount for both deliveries. Berlin was a shade better at lower discounts of 1¼ and 4 pfennigs for the two periods respectively. The silver market was very quiet, with small offerings and no great support. Prices fell by ⅛d. to 19 9/16d. for spot and by the same margin to 19½d. for forward, but the China silver exchanges were unaffected, Hongkong remaining at 1s. 6⅜d. and Shanghai at 1s. 11¼d.

AN AUSTERE BUDGET.

MR SNOWDEN'S second Budget was a concise and workman-like, if uninspiring, affair. The speaker sprang no surprises on his very attentive audience, rigidly abstained from rhetoric, and packed so many figures and explanations into an hour and a half that he almost gave the impression of dullness. It was certainly not a revolutionary Budget, and contained nothing to appeal to the imagination of the enthusiasts of the Labour Left, but for the House, and for the public, it was a blunt disclosure of the realities of our financial position and a sharp reminder of the need of paying the piper. Little wonder that the House was subdued as the Chancellor, with calculated severity, set before the country the problem of meeting a total expenditure which, with the exception of the war and early post-war budgets, is the highest in the history of the country.

But if there was nothing exciting in the Chancellor's figures, he made a number of statements of policy, each of which in its own sphere is of importance. The first, which he made with almost caustic brevity, was that relating to protective duties. His announcement followed general expectation. The safeguarding duties, which expire this year, will not be renewed. This means that lace, gloves, cutlery and gas mantles will lose their protection—lace at midsummer, the rest in December. On the other hand, the revenue from the McKenna and silk duties cannot at the moment be spared, and the duties will continue, though the Government maintains its declared intention of removing them before the end of its term of office four years hence. In the next place, a fresh move in the perennial warfare between the Treasury and the taxpayer is to be made in the shape of legislation to prevent the formation of private companies for the purpose of evading death duties, while steps are to be taken to prevent the loss of revenue through certain tax-evading types of single-premium insurances.

Mr. Snowden began with the Debt, and, in calling attention to the fall in its nominal value during the past year, emphasised the very substantial reduction that has taken place in the floating debt, whose total, £637 million at March 31st, was the lowest figure recorded since the war. It was expected that he might have had something to suggest as to future conversion plans, but on this subject he was silent. Instead, he went on to speak of the Sinking Fund, and had no difficulty in pointing out the inadequacy of the fixed £355 million provision made by Mr Churchill two years ago. In the first of the two years in which this plan has been in operation, there was a free balance of £7,407.000 for debt redemption after providing for statutory sinking funds, but this was only achieved by bringing in as revenue the reserve of the Currency Note Account, amounting to £13,423,000. Thus, in fact, there was a deficit of £6 million. Further, in the second year just completed, interest amounted to £7½ million more than was expected, and the total expense of the debt, including statutory sinking funds, to £359,819,000. Thus, the provision proved inadequate to meet the statutory obligations by nearly £5 million.

In these circumstances the Chancellor might have been expected to increase the provision; but he was in a tight place, and, casting around for a way of escape, found it in the fall in money rates, which has enabled him to budget for a reduction of £11½ million in interest on the floating debt. He therefore felt justified in leaving Mr Churchill's scheme unchanged. This was not very heroic and clearly left him with an uneasy conscience that he was giving himself an extremely narrow margin. His provision will barely cover his current Savings Certificate interest plus statutory sinking funds; it assumes that cheap money will continue; and in any case it leaves the actual debt redemption total at a figure which the Colwyn Committee declared to be inadequate. The scheme may reduce the debt in large amounts twenty years hence, but it will work very slowly in the early years. Moreover, Mr Churchill took the occasion to abolish the rule that the surpluses of any year must be used to redeem debt and provided that they might be carried forward to the following year's budget. But if this is to happen to surpluses, what should be done in years like that just completed, when there is a deficit? The answer given on Monday was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be obliged to carry over any such deficit to the following Budget unless Parliament otherwise determines. In other words, he is given a general instruction, but is reminded that it is easy to break the rule. Mr Snowden even showed how it might be done, for he found £14½ million too heavy a burden to shoulder now. He therefore proposed to add £5 million to this year's debt redemption, and charge £5 million next year and £4½ million the year after. Since April, 1928, we have failed by £25 million to meet the Statutory Sinking Funds out of revenue, and the Chancellor is only overtaking £5 million of these arrears in the present year. Well might he say that we have slackened our efforts in recent years. Mr Snowden's provisions in this respect are disappointing. The spirit is doubtless willing, but the flesh is weak.

The figures for the year, which are fully analysed in a later article, showed that, on the basis of a fixed charge of £355 million for debt, the Budget total which the Chancellor had to meet was £781,909,000 (or, if self-supporting services and the Road Fund are included, £865,834,000, which compares with £790,026,000 in the Budget of 1924). Towards this, total revenue on the existing basis of taxation is estimated to yield £739,645,000, this figure including an increase of £6 million on the tax revenue of 1929-30, of which Customs was responsible for over £2¼ million, income tax £1½ million, and stamps £1½ million. This revenue estimate leaves a deficit of £42,264,000. To this has to be added the £5 million of last year's deficit to be provided this year, plus £180,000 representing the last vestiges of what he called the " inglorious " betting tax, now finally abolished, £20,000 in respect of minor remissions of motor duty and £250,000 from stamp duty remissions in connection with company amalgamations.

Towards meeting this total deficit of £47,714,000 Mr Snowden brought in £16 million from the Suspense Fund that had been provided by Mr Churchill when he made preparation for the de-rating scheme; but the Chancellor warned the House that this nest egg would not be available thereafter, and that, therefore, he had to contemplate taxes which would ultimately provide this further £16 million. He proposed to meet the balance of this year's deficit, viz., £31,714,000, by increasing taxation on beer by 3s. a barrel—a sum which will yield £2¾ million this year, but is not sufficient to justify a rise in the retail price of beer; by adding sixpence to the standard rate of income tax, which, after allowing for additional abatements in the early ranges, will yield £21 million this year; and by increases of the Surtax and Death Duties, which will yield £7½ million and £3 million respectively. These increases will give him £34¼ million of additional revenue this year —leaving a margin of £2¼ million for contingencies—and will produce £47 million next year. He is thus able to claim that he has not only balanced his Budget, but has practically covered his contingent liability next year.

This claim is well founded, for the revenue seems to us to have been conservatively estimated and the balance has been struck—in what may well be described as the simplest budget of recent years—without any resort to temporary expedients or digging out hidden reserves. Whether the Chancellor was wise to place so large a proportion on direct taxation has not unnaturally been hotly debated, but that he was right to cover expenditure by definite increases of taxation cannot be contested, for it has to be remembered that such items as the late Government's de-rating scheme, which costs the Budget £15 million this year and £30 million next, and the increase of £6 million in widows' and old age pensions, are permanent items of expenditure which are likely to rise rather than to fall. Whether the beet sugar subsidy, which rises by £2½ million to a total of £5⅓ million, and the increase of

£14½ million in the grant to the Unemployment Insurance Scheme, are to be regarded as temporary or permanent changes the event will show, but it would not be prudent finance to attempt to ignore obligations of this character in view of the automatic growth of our national pensions bill. The White Paper, indeed, reveals the illuminating fact that, in spite of the automatic fall of over £2 million in War Pensions, the cost of National Pensions and Insurance combined has risen by £19 million and now stands at £151½ million, or, excluding War pensions, at the good round sum of one hundred millions.

So far as the £30 million for de-rating is concerned, this is not a net addition to the taxation of the community, but is a transfer from local rates, and there is a good case to be made out for placing a burden, which has, to a large extent at all events, been lifted from the shoulders of industry, on to the direct taxpayer. In raising this money by local rates, industrial undertakings had to pay according to their fixed assets, whether they were prosperous or not; in the income tax industrial concerns only pay when profits are made. Whether the case for increased direct taxation is equally strong in other respects is more open to argument. High direct taxation undoubtedly affects saving, and the rates of duty on large estates and on large incomes now in force are undoubtedly very high. Mr Snowden boldly claimed that he had not put a tax on industry. Broadly speaking, he is right, but we cannot afford to prejudice the growth of new capital, and the raising of the income tax does indubitably affect industry in so far as it falls on that very important source of industrial development—the undivided profit which companies put back into their business. Moreover, we are not among those who think that the poorer part of the nation should enjoy the advantages of increased social services without bearing part of the burden of taxation.

Mr Snowden's raising of the standard rate of income tax, however, has the considerable merit of having brought home clearly and forcefully to the nation that it has moved on to a higher basis of expenditure, for this tax has universally and quite reasonably come to be regarded as the barometer of the public finances of the country. His action in this matter must be read in conjunction with the very important remarks with which he closed his speech. If business enterprise, the life force of national progress and well-being, is to grow and increase, there must be some respite from increasing burdens, some finality in taxation. The Chancellor declared himself alive to this need and endeavoured to allay apprehension by declaring that though " No man can speak of the future with certainty . . . the steps which I have proposed for balancing this year's Budget will be sufficient to ensure, in the absence of unforeseeable calamities or of heavy increases of expenditure, that no further increases of taxation will need to be imposed next year." As in all his statements, the Chancellor here confined himself to the minimum of words; but, read in conjunction with his recognition that there are limits to taxation, his statement, as we read it, means, in effect, that the burdens on the direct payer—whether individual or corporation—have reached a point beyond which it would be inexpedient to go; that if new taxation has to be raised, it will have to be by indirect taxation, of whose disadvantages the Chancellor is acutely aware; and that, therefore, it is only by reducing other items of expenditure that any substantial margin can be found for new expenditure.

There is, of course, a vast difference between remunerative expenditure, which increases wealth and taxable capacity, and expenditure which is eleemosynary in character; but when taxation becomes a deterrent to enterprise, affects savings, creates a feeling of " defeatism," or drives investors to invest all their resources abroad, or leads to widespread evasion, it is time to put on the brake and to examine proposals, not on the basis of whether they are desirable in themselves, but from the point of view of relative urgency and advantage, and to decide that before new claims can be considered less essential items must be pruned from the Budget. If this is the meaning to be attached to Mr Snowden's statement he will undoubtedly have the backing of public opinion.

THE CONFERENCE ENDS.

Though the final plenary session will not be held till next week, it is evident from the reports of the First Committee, published on Tuesday, that the Naval Conference will end in a Five-Power Treaty serving as a façade for a more solid edifice in the shape of a Three-Power Treaty behind it. The French and Italian delegations associate themselves with none of the essentials of the agreement, and negotiations between the countries they represent are theoretically to continue in a shape and manner still to be decided. Actually the disarmament discussions, as regards land and air as well as sea, will in the normal course revert now to Geneva, whence they were temporarily transferred to London for the convenience of certain of the major naval Powers.

Of the agreements reached on the Five-Power scale there is little to be said. The only one of real substance concerns the prolongation of the " holiday " in capital ship construction, though there may be some value also in the compromise suggested as a solution of the old controversy between the exponents of the limitation by categories and the limitation by total tonnage methods. Even though Italy is making reservations regarding the proposed *via media*—limitation by categories but with some provision for transfer from one category to another—so that it cannot be actually embodied in the Treaty, the London solution seems pretty certain to be accepted at Geneva as the basis for the naval clauses of a general " disarmament " pact. If so, an obstacle that has effectively impeded progress hitherto will disappear.

The capital ship " holiday " is only in name an achievement of the London Conference, for the pre-conference negotiations had made it a foregone conclusion, so far as Great Britain, the United States and Japan were concerned; and France and Italy had already demonstrated their own opinion about new capital ship construction by refraining from making use of the right conferred on them by the Washington Treaty of laying down new vessels of this type as long ago as 1927. Since this country, if the Washington Treaty provisions had been carried out, would be preparing to lay down ten capital ships before the end of 1936, it is claimed that the " holiday " results in a saving of some £50,000,000 to the British taxpayer—this being the cost of the vessels to have been completed or begun in the period. That calculation rests on the assumptions—both of them fallacious—that but for the Conference we should have built our full tale of capital ships, and built them all on the 35,000 ton basis. But that the continued suspension of capital ship construction will result in considerable economies to all the Powers concerned is undeniable, and it is equally welcome for psychological reasons, though France, it is to be observed, with an eye on the German " *Ersatz Preussen* " class, reserves the right to observe the holiday only in part, building, if necessary, up to 70,000 tons out of the 175,000 allowed her under the Washington Treaty. A useful step has also been taken in limiting the smaller type of aircraft carriers, but the other items in the Five-Power section of the treaty—the limitation of individual submarines to a tonnage marking, all things considered, an actual advance on existing figures, and the watered and weakened revision of the Root Resolutions of 1921 on methods of submarine warfare—may be said to add bulk rather than substance to the agreement.

The Three-Power Treaty is an achievement of a different order, though here again, as in the case of the capital ship holiday, the agreement had been achieved in principle before the conference met, and all that remained was to give it precision and put it into final shape. It covers the period to the end of 1936, and provides for limitation rather than reduction, except in the matter of capital ships. In respect of these the Washington Treaty scrappings are accelerated, so that the basic figures of 15, 15, 9 are to be reached next year instead of 1936, as contemplated at Washington. The present figures are, Great Britain, 20; United States, 18; Japan, 10. Nine vessels, therefore, almost up to the age limit, will be scrapped in the next twelve months, a measure satisfactory so far as it goes, but a good deal less drastic than

was generally looked for both in this country and the United States. No delegation seems to have so much as proposed anything below the 15, 15, 9 figure, though if Mr MacDonald had suggested it, the American delegation could not have withheld assent without repudiating Mr. Hoover's public pronouncements.

In cruisers, the British total for 1936 remains at the figure provisionally settled last summer—339,000 tons, or slightly higher than the tonnage of vessels of that type in commission when the Conference opened. The American total of 323,500 tons is enormously higher than her cruiser tonnage at the beginning of the Conference, though considerably less than what was in contemplation or in actual process of construction. Japan's 1936 total will show a slight reduction on her present tonnage, which, however, is inflated by the inclusion of a certain number of obsolete or obsolescent vessels. In destroyers the treaty totals—150,000, 150,000 and 105,000 respectively—represent a slight decrease for Great Britain and Japan, and a very considerable decrease for the United States, which had concentrated on the construction of this type of vessel in the later years of the war. The submarine figures, 52,700 for each Power, are rather higher than the present British total, but substantially lower than the American or Japanese.

If, therefore, attention is to be concentrated on figures alone, the results of the Conference must be received with a very chastened satisfaction. A discussion on armaments, conducted as it were under the very shadow of the Pact for the Renunciation of War, has ended, broadly speaking, by stereotyping naval armaments—other than capital ships—at their present level. Indeed, when allowance is made for improvements in naval construction the combined strength of the cruiser, destroyer and submarine fleets of the three contracting Powers can hardly fail to be greater in 1936 than it is to-day, if the provisions of the London Treaty are carried out. It does not follow of necessity that they will be. The London discussions, after all, are only an interlude in the Geneva discussions, and it is still hoped that the general " disarmament " conference may be held some time in 1931. The purpose of that conference will be that every State shall agree to accept certain figures for its land, sea and air forces; and the naval figures need not be those embodied in the treaty now awaiting signature. The lapse of another eighteen months may have brought about some change of atmosphere, making a downward revision of the London figures possible. That contingency ought at any rate not to be ruled out, particularly in regard to types of such debateable value as capital ships.

But, even if the treaty runs its full appointed course, and each of the Powers concerned builds up to the level permitted by the London agreements, the psychological value of the check to competition between this country the United States and Japan will be considerable. So far as the two Anglo-Saxon countries are concerned, competition, there is every reason to hope, is not merely checked but ended. That will rob the Big Navy school in both countries of an argument they have often found serviceable, for in some quarters at any rate the protestations of indifference to American naval construction would not long stand the strain of a touch of political friction with America coupled with the spectacle of an American navy substantially stronger than our own. That spectacle will not now be available as a weapon for mischief-makers. Much the same may be said of the effect of fixing a definite ratio between the navies of the United States and Japan.

One unsatisfactory development, no doubt, is possible still. France might carry her naval construction to such a level as to provoke demands in this country for a revision of the British figures in the London Treaty, and, if they were revised in answer to the real or imagined challenge from across the Channel, the United States and Japan could, in turn, claim release from the London limitation. Provision for this is being actually made in the treaty. That can only be regarded as a depressing culmination to a conference which has spent three months discussing in terms of war the relationships of five nations that have pledged themselves to renounce all war for ever. But it is at any rate permissible to hope that the so-called safeguarding clause in the treaty will never have to be put in operation. A great deal will depend on France, and the strange fact is that at the end of the Conference France's real convictions and aims remain as obscure as ever. We shall have occasion to discuss again the wider issues involved in the French claim to a superiority of 200,000 tons or more over Italy, and Italy's claim to at any rate a theoretical parity with France. Clearly, the problem raised by those conflicting demands has to be solved before the movement for reduction of naval armaments can get much farther. Unfortunately, it is by no means clear whether the London discussions have improved the prospect of its solution.

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THE BUDGET ACCOUNTS.

The financial statement for 1930-31, circulated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in amplification of the details contained in his Budget speech, enables a clear picture to be obtained of the immediate problem which confronted Mr Snowden and of the steps which he has taken to balance his accounts on the basis of an estimated surplus of £2.2 million for the current financial year. In the first of the tables which follow we compare the expenditure forecast for 1930-31 with the estimated expenditure and actual issues from the Treasury in 1929-30:—

Expenditure (000's omitted).

	Estimate 1929–30.	Actual Issues in 1928–29.	Estimate 1930–31.	Estimate for 1930–31 compared with 1929–30 Estimate.
Consolidated Fund Services:—	£	£	£	£
National Debt:				
Interest, &c.	304,600	307,252	304,600	...
Sinking Fund	50,400	47,748	50,400	...
Total	355,000	355,000	355,000	...
Payments to Local Taxation Acs.	15,000	13,314	Nil	− 15,000
Payments to N. Ireland Exchequer	5,400	5,526	5,700(a)	+ 300
Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,500	3,312	3,300	− 200
Total	378,900	377,152	364,000	− 14,900
Supply Services:—				
Army Votes	40,545	40,500	40,500	− 45
Navy Votes	55,865	55,750	51,739	− 4,126
Air Votes	16,200	16,750	17,850	+ 1,650
Civil Votes	238,885	246,535	295,686	+ 56,801
Revenue Dept. Votes	11,569	12,025	12,134	+ 565
Total	363,064	371,560	417,909	+ 54,845
Grand Total (excluding P.O. and Road Fund)	741,964	748,712	781,909	+ 39,945

(a) Subsequently increased to £6 million; making the final figure of total expenditure £782·3 million.

To the excess of £2.6 million shown by the actual, as compared with the estimated, cost of interest and management of the National Debt in 1929-30, there must be added £4.8 million, representing interest on National Savings Certificates in excess of the provision in the Permanent Debt Charge. Including this sum, which had to be borrowed, the total interest charges were actually £312,071,000, as compared with Mr Churchill's somewhat optimistic forecast of £304,600,000. The excess of £8.5 million over Budget estimates in the Supply Services represents almost entirely the increased cost to the Exchequer of the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Turning to the estimates for 1930-31, it will be seen that the same aggregate provision for interest and management of the debt is made as a year ago. The cost of the Floating Debt is put at £17.2 million, against last year's estimate of £26 million, and actual issues of £28.7 million; for

Savings Certificates' interest £23 million, against £16.6 million, is provided; and the provision for other debt interest and management charges is £264.3 million, as compared with £262 million a year ago. The saving of £15 million in payments to Local Taxation Accounts represents a purely book-keeping transfer, these payments—fused with the new grants in relief of local rates—now figuring in the Civil Votes, whose total increase of nearly £57 million, as compared with last year's Budget estimate, has already been fully analysed in these columns and in the Special Budget Supplement published with our issue of April 5th. The chief changes, it may be recalled, are increases of £29 million (gross) on de-rating account, of £5 million on account of Contributory Pensions, and of £14.5 million for Unemployment Insurance.

Our next table compares the estimates of revenue on the basis of existing taxation with last year's estimates and actual receipts:—

REVENUE (000's omitted).

	Estimate for 1929-30.	Actual Receipts in 1929-30.	Estimate for 1930-31 on basis of existing Taxation.	Estimate for 1930-31 compared with 1929-30 Receipts.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	119,850	119,888	122,500	+ 2,612
Excise	130,550	127,500	127,500	...
Total	250,400	247,388	250,000	+ 2,612
Motor Duties, Exchequer Share..	4,700	4,920	4,970	+ 50
Inland Revenue:—				
Income Tax	239,500	237,426	239,000	+ 1,574
Surtax	58,000	56,390	57,000	+ 610
Estate Duties	81,000	79,770	80,000	+ 230
Stamps	31,000	25,670	27,250	+ 1,580
E.P.D. and Corporation Profits Tax	1,700	2,250	1,700	— 550
Land Tax, &c.	800	880	800	— 80
Total	412,000	402,386	405,750	+ 3,364
Total Tax Revenue	667,100	654,694	660,720	+ 6,026
P.O. Net Receipts	8,900	9,200	10,125	+ 925
Crown Lands	1,250	1,290	1,300	+ 10
Sundry Loans	30,550	32,640	33,000	+ 360
Miscellaneous	38,500	36,365	34,500	— 1,865
Non-Tax Revenue	79,200	79,495	78,925	— 570
Total Revenue (apart from P.O. and Road Fund)	746,300	734,189	739,645	+ 5,456
Self-Balancing items:—				
P.O.	58,110	58,900	60,275	+ 1,375
Road Fund	22,600	21,882	23,650	+ 1,768

In his Budget speech Mr Snowden explained that in 1929 there had been a substantial postponement, "probably over £1,000,000," of revenue from Customs duty on sugar. Allowing for this, he has budgeted for an increase of £1.5 million in the yield of duty on imported sugar, which accounts for the bulk of the otherwise somewhat sanguine forecast of expansion in Customs revenue. The inland revenue estimates lie broadly within the limits of reasonable probability. As regards non-tax revenue, a substantial increase in the Post Office net receipts is anticipated; the higher receipts, as compared with last year's estimate on account of Sundry Loans, are the result mainly of larger payments due in respect of French War Debt; while the decline—again comparing estimates—of £4 million in Miscellaneous Receipts represents the reduction from £19.3 to £15.5 million in reparation annuities receivable by this country from Germany under the new Plan. When the totals, excluding the self-balancing accounts, in the foregoing tables are compared, it will be seen that Mr Snowden was faced with estimated expenditure of £781.9 million, against a prospective revenue on the basis of existing taxation totalling £739.6 million. The difference to be made good is reduced from £42.3 to £26.3 million by appropriating £16 million from the £20 million standing nominally to the credit of the Rating Relief Suspensary Fund, but, as Mr Snowden pointed out, this device means simply increased present borrowing on the plea that a surplus of that amount was realised in the past; for the Fund does not represent actual accumulated cash. An addition, however, has to be made to the figure of £26.3 million thus reached. Having regard to last year's deficit, special provision for additional debt redemption is proposed—£5 million this year, £5 million next year, and £4.5 million in 1932-33.

To bridge the gap of £31.3 million thus disclosed the Budget imposes the following fresh taxation:—The Beer Duties are increased by 3s. per standard barrel; increased rates of Estate Duty are levied on estates exceeding a net principal value of £120,000; the standard rate of income tax is raised from 4s. to 4s. 6d., with the proviso that the relief given by the deduction of tax at half the standard rate on an amount not exceeding £225 of income will be increased to deduction of tax of five-ninths of the standard rate on an amount of income not exceeding £250; and, finally, the rates of surtax on incomes exceeding £2,000 are progressively steepened, and made applicable—a departure from previous policy—to the current financial year.

These additions to direct taxation are of sufficient importance to merit close study, and the following tables extracted from the financial statement illustrate their incidence:—

ESTATE DUTY (Specimen instances.)

Principal Value of Estate.		Existing Rates.	Proposed Rates.
Exceeding	Not Exceeding		
£	£	%	%
120,000	140,000	21	22
300,000	325,000	25	30
600,000	750,000	28	36
1,000,000	2,000,000	30	40
2,000,000	...	40	50

The next table shows the altered scale of the rates payable by persons assessed for surtax:—

SUR-TAX.

	Existing Rates.	Proposed Rates.
	s. d.	s. d.
On the first £500 of excess of income over £2,000 (to £2,500)	0 9	1 0
On the next £500 (" £3,000)	1 0	1 3
" " £1,000 (" £4,000)	1 6	2 0
" " £1,000 (" £5,000)	2 3	3 0
" " £1,000 (" £6,000)	3 0	3 6
" " £2,000 (" £8,000)	3 6	4 0
" " £2,000 (" £10,000)	4 0	5 0
" " £5,000 (" £15,000)	4 6	5 6
" " £5,000 (" £20,000)	5 0	6 0
" " £10,000 (" £30,000)	5 6	6 6
" " £20,000 (" £50,000)	6 0	7 0
On the remainder (above £50,000)	6 0	7 6

The effect of these stiffer surtax rates, coupled with the increase in the standard rate of income tax on the one hand, and the greater reliefs for small incomes on the other, is shown in the next table, which gives the net changes in the tax payable by specimen incomes, earned and investment, according as the recipient is single or married with three children:—

INCREASES OF INCOME AND SURTAX.

	Earned Income.		Investment Income.	
	Single Persons.	Married. 3 Children.	Single Persons.	Married. 3 Children.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
500	— *1 14 2*	...	0 7 6	...
600	0 7 6	...	2 17 6	...
700	2 9 2	...	5 7 6	— *0 17 6*
800	4 10 10	— *1 14 2*	7 17 6	1 12 6
900	6 12 6	0 7 6	10 7 6	4 2 6
1,000	8 14 2	2 9 2	12 17 6	6 12 6
1,500	19 2 6	12 17 6	25 7 6	19 2 6
2,000	31 12 6	25 7 6	37 17 6	31 12 6
5,000	181 12 6	175 7 6	187 17 6	181 12 6
10,000	481 12 6	475 7 6	487 17 6	481 12 6
50,000	3,481 12 6	3,475 7 6	3,487 17 6	3,481 12 6

A single person with an investment income of £100,000 will now pay £55,695 in income and surtax, as compared with a previous levy of £47,207.

The next table summarises the effect of these changes in taxation, additional minor alterations being the repeal of the duty on bookmakers' certificates, small concessions (originally proposed in last year's Budget) in the duties on motor cycles and on goods vehicles of 2 to 2½ tons unladen weight, exemption from capital duty in the case of certain companies "formed for national purposes," and disallowance of interest on certain classes of single-premium

insurance policies—a question recently discussed in these columns:—

EFFECT OF CHANGES IN TAXATION.

Change.	Estimate, 1930-31. Increase + or Decrease —.	In a Full Year, Increase + or Decrease —.
	£	£
Customs:		
Beer	+ 210,000	+ 220,000
Excise:		
Beer	+ 2,540,000	+ 2,880,000
Bookmakers' Certificates	— 180,000	— 200,000
Total Excise	+ 2,360,000	+ 2,680,000
Total Customs and Excise	+ 2,570,000	+ 2,900,000
Motor Vehicle Duties	— *20,000	— *20,000
Inland Revenue:		
Estate Duty: Increase in rates of duty	+ 3,000,000	+ 7,000,000
Stamps: Exemption in favour of certain companies and minor amendments	— 250,000	— 50,000
Income Tax: Increase of 6d. in the Standard Rate	+ 23,500,000	+ 29,000,000
Change in graduation	— 2,500,000	— 5,000,000
Net	*+21,000,000*	*+24,000,000*
Sur-tax: Increased rates	+ 7,500,000	+ 12,500,000
Disallowance of interest in connection with certain policies of assurance	Nil	+ 250,000
Total Inland Revenue	+ 31,250,000	+ 43,700,000
Grand Total	+ 33,800,000	+ 46,580,000

* This is the loss to the Exchequer. The loss to the Road Fund will be £40,000 in respect of motor cycles and £50,000 in respect of goods vehicles.

The question whether, with the increases now imposed, income and sur-tax will be as productive as hitherto, remains to be proved. If Mr Snowden's estimate in this respect is justified by the event, the foregoing arrangement secures for him—after allowing for an increase, already noted, of £300,000 in payments to the Northern Ireland Exchequer—an anticipated surplus of £2.2 million for 1930-31, as may be seen from our final table showing the re-adjusted balance sheet for this year:—

I.—ORDINARY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1930-31.

ESTIMATED 1930 REVENUE.	£ Mn.	ESTIMATED 1930 EXPENDITURE.	£ Mn.
Inland Revenue—		Interest and Management of National Debt	304·6
Income Tax	260·0	Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	6·0
Sur-tax	64·5	Miscellaneous Consolidated Fund Services	3·3
Estate Duties	83·0	Total	313·9
Stamps	27·0	*Supply Services—*	
Excess Profits Duty, Corporation Profits Tax	1·7	*Defence, Excluding Pensions:*	
Land Tax, &c.	0·8	Army	32·1
Total Inland Revenue	437·0	Navy	43·1
		Air Force	17·6
Customs and Excise—			92·8
Customs	122·7	*Pensions:*	
Excise	129·9	Army	8·4
Total Customs and Excise	252·6	Navy	8·7
		Air Force	0·2
Motor Vehicle Duties—			17·3
Exchequer Share	4·9	*Civil:*	
Total Receipts from Taxes	694·5	I. Central Government and Finance	2·1
		II. Imperial and Foreign	5·9
Post Office net receipt	10·1	III. Law and Justice	15·9
Crown Lands	1·3	IV. Education	55·1
Receipts from Sundry Loans due to British Government	33·0	V. Health, Labour, Insurance (including Old Age and Widows' Pensions)	97·0
Miscellaneous	34·5	VI. Trade and Industry	12·3
TOTAL 1930 REVENUE	773·4	VII. Buildings, Rates, &c.	8·5
		VIII. War Pensions and Civil Pensions	54·3
Appropriation from Rating Relief Suspense Account	16·0	IX. Miscellaneous	0·1
		X. Exchequer Contributions to Local Revenues	44·5
			295·7
		Tax Collection:	
		Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue Votes (including Pensions, £898,000)	12·1
			417·9
		TOTAL 1930 EXPENDITURE	731·8
		National Debt—Sinking Fund	55·4
		Surplus	2·2
	789·4		789·4

II.—SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£ Mn.
Post Office	60·3
Road Fund	23·5
Total	83·8

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III.—RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£ Mn.		£ Mn.
Balance on April 1, 1930	20·1	Estimated Balance of Cost of anticipation of rating relief for Agricultural Land	0·1
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16·0
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4·0
	20·1		20·1

For 1931-32, since the balance remaining in the Rating Relief Suspensory Fund is estimated at only £4 million, there will be automatically an additional £12 million to be found for de-rating account out of that year's revenue. Against this increase is to be set the difference of £12.4 million between the estimated net gain of revenue from the present tax changes in a full year, as compared with their yield in 1930-31.

THE BANKS AND INDUSTRY.

A FURTHER step in developing plans for financial assistance to industry is signalised by the registration, last Tuesday, of the Bankers' Industrial Development Company. The nominal capital of the new concern is £6 million, divided into forty-five "A" shares and fifteen "B" shares of £100,000 each. The "A" shares have been subscribed by banking and financial institutions, including practically every home bank and issuing house of first-rate importance, while the "B" shares have been subscribed by the Securities Management Trust, Ltd., which, as our readers know, is a creation of the Bank of England. As the "B" shares have three times the voting rights of the "A" shares, the Bank of England will control fifty per cent. of the voting strength. The new concern is thus in effect a partnership between the Bank of England on the one side, and the City on the other. The directorate of the new company is as follows: The Rt. Hon. Montagu Collet Norman, D.S.O. (chairman); Sir Guy Granet, G.B.E., who will also act as alternate to Mr Norman; Baron Bruno Schroder, with Major Albert Pam as alternate; Mr A. R. Wagg, with Mr Nigel Campbell as alternate; Mr E. R. Peacock; and Mr C. Bruce Gardner, managing director of The Securities Management Trust, Ltd. In addition to the Board of Directors, the company will have the services of an Advisory Council, upon which a number of influential persons, engaged in financial business, will be invited to serve. The Advisory Council will have no executive duties to perform, but their services, either collectively or individually, will be available to the Board of Directors in a consultative capacity.

The object of the company is to examine schemes of rationalisation submitted by the basic industries of the country, and, as an indication that it is not the purpose of the new concern to enter into competition with the ordinary business of existing financial institutions, it is intended that the new company shall not deal with individual companies but only with industries as a whole, or with regional sections of industries. If schemes are approved, the good offices of the company will be available for assisting the industry to secure the necessary capital; but this will be done through existing agencies,

and not by the new company itself. Its purpose is rather to ensure that if satisfactory schemes are framed they will have the co-operative assistance of the City. The approval of the company will be evidence that the scheme in question has been endorsed by the best expert advice which the company can secure, and that the demand for capital that the scheme involves, without being guaranteed in advance, will have the support of the institutions most competent to ensure that it will be forthcoming. It is hoped, therefore, that the formation of the company will encourage industries to work out satisfactory plans. It has, however, been clearly indicated that it is not the intention of the promoters of the scheme to find money for buying out old concerns, but that the new capital found shall be used for the reconstruction of plant and for placing our basic industries in the forefront as regards technical equipment and organisation.

As it is not intended that the company shall itself directly finance rationalisation schemes, only 25 per cent. of the nominal capital will be called up. One and a-half million sterling is, obviously, a totally inadequate sum for putting British industry on its feet, and this fact alone shows that the purpose of the company is in no sense to become an industrial bank. Indeed, the amount of its capital is regarded as of no special significance, though it had to be sufficient to permit of the participation of a considerable number of important institutions, and to give it an appropriate financial standing.

It is no secret that the initiative in endeavouring to make available for British industry, in its difficult but necessary task of reorganisation, the amplest resources that the City of London can provide has been taken by Mr Norman himself. In a recent article we pointed out that the association of the Bank of England with such a plan was an extension of the Bank's functions which needed to be very carefully considered. The special privileges which appertain to a Central Bank, either by law or by tradition, place it in a unique position of strength compared with other institutions, impose upon it the necessity for absolute impartiality between clients, and have given rise to the general practice that a Central Bank carefully avoids impinging on the sphere normally occupied by private institutions. Indeed, such restraints have been imposed on many Central Banks by statute. The constitution of the new company is clearly designed to furnish safeguards against dangers that might arise from such extension of the bank's activities. The bringing in of the other main institutions of the City, the limiting of the functions of the new company to investigation and assistance in securing finances, and the assurance that it will not deal with individual concerns, but only with groups, will allay any suspicion that the Bank of England will compete for business that is being done quite competently by others. This intermediary character of the new institution is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that it is not intended that profits should be made, and that the directors are giving their services without fees. It is, in fact, an experiment in co-operation in which the Bank of England is providing the leadership. Indeed, the company is formed for five years only, and though this period may, of course, be extended, this time-limit indicates that the scheme is experimental. It should at least ensure that, during this critical period, schemes of rationalisation will not be held up by rivalry between various banks and finance houses.

Whether the new company will hasten the process of rationalisation, time alone will show. The new concern can never be in the position that joint-stock banks to-day occupy in relation to many industrial undertakings, namely, that of creditor; and it cannot, therefore, exercise the financial pressure which the joint-stock banks are able to do. Nor can it be said, speaking broadly, that schemes of rationalisation have hitherto been held up for want of financial backing. The long delay has rather been due to personal difficulties, the absorption of British industrial leaders in their own particular problems, their lack of experience of big associations, and traditional individualism. These hindrances are breaking down under the pressure of circumstances. We have recently seen schemes mooted not only for Lancashire, but among shipbuilders and in the woollen industry, while large amalgamations have recently taken place in the steel trade and, if the Coal Bill passes in its present form, Government pressure will be applied to produce the same result in the British mining industry. Things are moving in the direction which the founders of the company have in mind; if it can smooth away financial difficulties and ensure that schemes of rationalisation are based upon the all-important condition of more economical production, it will have fulfilled a *rôle* of the utmost national importance.

INDIA AND EMPIRE FREE TRADE.

The raising of the duty on cotton goods in the current Indian Budget, in spite of representations by the British Government to the Government of India as to the serious effects which the change would have in Lancashire, the demand which Lord Rothermere has been making in his recent campaign that we should insist that British goods should be admitted free of duty into the Indian market in return for the services which we have rendered to India, and Lord Beaverbrook's more general campaign for Empire Free Trade, have brought to the fore the question of Anglo-Indian fiscal relations. The following article by a well-informed correspondent explains the evolution of the present situation in this matter and the way in which India has used the fiscal freedom which she has gradually acquired.

EXPORTS of the produce of this country to British India, which is by far our largest market, amounted in 1929 to £78.2 million of British produce, a figure which represents nearly 11 per cent. of our exports to all countries and about 25 per cent. of our exports to the British Empire. Obviously, therefore, India is a vital factor in any proposals for closer fiscal union within the Empire, and it is worth while to explore India's powers in fiscal matters, together with the direction in which such powers are being used. Much has recently been heard in this connection about the Indian Fiscal Autonomy Convention, by which is generally understood an unwritten pact that when the Government of India (*i.e.*, the Viceroy and his Council) are in agreement with the Indian Legislature on any fiscal measure, the Secretary of State and the British Parliament shall not interfere. This is not quite an accurate conception, for conventions are subject to evolution by the impact of changing circumstances, and a brief history of the Convention is therefore essential to a true understanding of the present position.

India's demand for fiscal autonomy is of long standing. It reflects the inherent tendency of the Indian peoples to look to a paternal Government for protection in all walks of life. Hence, for example, the settled policy of the nationalisation of the railways and the tendency to blame Government for all kinds of sins of omission and commission on matters with which in England the administration would be held to have no concern. The demand that India should be freed from all external control in fiscal matters was intensified by the history of the cotton excise duties, which were imposed on Indian produced goods to counterbalance the duties levied for revenue purposes on imported cotton goods. These excise duties, since abolished, were regarded in India as evidence that the Lancashire vote counted more with all political parties at home than did the welfare of India. Discussion of fiscal matters was consequently deflected into political rather than into economic channels, with the result that both in India and in England somewhat bitter feelings have been generated.

After preliminary skirmishes extending over many years, the movement towards fiscal autonomy began to take definite shape at the time of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, in which it is stated that the exclusion of tariff matters from the purview of the Industrial Commission then sitting had been the matter of some "legitimate criticism" in India, though the Montagu-Chelmsford Report itself refrained from making any recommendations on the subject. The Joint Select Committee

of Parliament on the Government of India Bill went further, and in its report, dated November 17, 1919, recommended a definite advance towards fiscal autonomy, in the following words:—

"Nothing is more likely to endanger the good relations between India and Great Britain than a belief that India's fiscal policy is dictated from Whitehall in the interests of the trade of Great Britain. That such a belief exists at the moment there can be no doubt. That there ought to be no room for it in the future is equally clear. India's position in the Imperial Conference opened the door to negotiation between India and the rest of the Empire, but negotiation without power to legislate is likely to remain ineffective. A satisfactory solution of the question can only be guaranteed by the grant of liberty to the Government of India to devise those tariff arrangements which seem best fitted to India's needs as an integral part of the British Empire. It cannot be guaranteed by statute without limiting the ultimate power of Parliament to control the administration of India, and without limiting the power of veto which rests in the Crown; and neither of these limitations finds a place in any of the statutes in the British Empire. It can only, therefore, be assured by an acknowledgment of a convention. Whatever be the right fiscal policy for India, for the needs of her consumers as well as for her manufacturers, it is clear that she should have the same liberty to consider her interests as Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. In the opinion of the Committee, therefore, the Secretary of State should, as far as possible, avoid interference on this subject when the Government of India and its Legislature are in agreement, and they think that his intervention, when it does take place, should be limited to safeguarding the international obligations of the Empire or any fiscal arrangements within the Empire to which His Majesty's Government is a party."

The next stage was marked by a resolution passed by the Council of State in Delhi on February 23, 1921, in the following terms:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that His Majesty's Government be addressed through the Secretary of State with a prayer that the Government of India be granted full fiscal autonomy subject to the provisions of the Government of India Act."

This resolution, which was duly forwarded to the Secretary of State, elicited a reply in which His Majesty's Government accepted the principle recommended by the Joint Committee to which reference has been made above. This was confirmed in a reply made by the Secretary of State to a deputation from Lancashire on March 23, 1921. He said:—

"After that report by an authoritative Committee of both Houses and Lord Curzon's promise in the House of Lords, it was absolutely impossible for me to interfere with the right which I believe was wisely given and which I am determined to maintain—to give to the Government of India the right to consider the interests of India first, just as we, without any complaint from any other parts of the Empire, and the other parts of the Empire without any complaint from us, have always chosen the tariff arrangements which they think best fitted for their needs, thinking of their own citizens first."

Turning our attention now to the vexed question of Imperial Preference, we find the Indian Fiscal Commission stating its views in no ambiguous terms:—

"There is a fear that, if India accepted the principle of Imperial Preference, she would find that she had parted with the newly-won privilege of fiscal autonomy; that, in the name of Imperial Preference, the tariff policy of India would be directed, not in her own interests, but in the interests of other parts of the Empire; that, if India signified the acceptance of the principle, the details would be dictated to her regardless of her own interests and wishes."

The Commission's further remarks are interesting in view of recent controversies, for the report continues:—

"Many regard Imperial Preference as meaning a unified tariff policy of the whole Empire, dictated, if not by the Mother Country, at least by binding resolutions passed at periodical Imperial Conferences. This is a complete misunderstanding of the real principles which underlie Imperial Preference. We have shown above that Imperial Preference implies no kind of interference in the tariff policy which the various Dominions have chosen for themselves, and no idea of a system of free trade within the Empire or any uniform tariff policy. It is true that, as a result of the Paris Economic Conference of 1916, . . . the question of the organisation of the Empire as an independent economic unit seemed for a time to be coming into practical consideration. But the ideas to which the war gave rise did not long survive its termination, and the policy of Imperial Preference developed on its original lines. Each part of the Empire took such steps as it felt could reasonably be taken consistently with its own interests to promote inter-Imperial trade and the manufactures of the Mother Country. This is the meaning which we attach to the policy of Imperial Preference, and all our recommendations must be read as referring to such a policy, and not to any idea of a joint tariff policy for the Empire imposed on the various component parts.

"But the doubters think that, whatever may be the policy in regard to the Dominions, India stands in a different relation, and that the principles of Imperial Preference may be utilised against India to interfere with her fiscal autonomy. We would remind them that the principle of permitting India to decide her own fiscal policy has been stated in the most explicit terms."

And again:—

". . . we would put the matter beyond all possible doubt by asserting . . . that no preference should be granted on any commodity without the explicit approval of the Indian Legislature."

As recently as March 24th this year, in referring to some of the facts mentioned above, the Secretary of State, Mr Benn, pointed out that: "India has been promised by Secretaries of State of all three parties in this country that no interference by His Majesty's Government will take place in India's fiscal arrangements," adding on the following day, in answer to a question: "I am called upon to protect the fiscal rights of India, and that I intend to do."

This brief historical survey would not be complete unless attention were drawn to the speech of the Finance Member when introducing his Budget at Delhi on February 28th last. Dealing with his proposal to raise the import duty on cotton goods, as a measure of protection for the Bombay cotton mills, Sir George Schuster said: "Let me make it clear at the outset that the Fiscal Autonomy Convention is a reality, and that decisions on matters of this kind are left to the Government of India"; and again, in referring to communications that had passed between the British Cabinet and the Government of India, he said:—

"It affords striking evidence that the fiscal autonomy convention has become an integral part of the constitution and that, even when British interests are most profoundly affected by tariff changes in India, the intervention of the British Government is restricted to representation and appeal."

But he even went a step further, beyond what has been described above as the scope of the Fiscal Autonomy Convention, when he declared:—

"We made it clear (in the Government of India's despatches to London) that in a matter of this kind, after frankly stating our conclusions, we should desire to put our carefully considered views before the Legislative Assembly with whom the final decision must rest."

Such is the history of the Convention, and to complete the picture it remains now to give a short account of the way in which India has used her fiscal freedom, since the appointment of the Indian Fiscal Commission in October, 1921. That Commission reported in July, 1922, recommending "in the best interests of India the adoption of a policy of protection to be applied with discrimination along the lines indicated" in the report. There were men of free trade principles on the Commission, who doubtless felt that any scheme of indiscriminate protection would react injuriously on the inarticulate tillers of the soil, and the report, adopted by the Government and the Legislature in respect of its main recommendations, stipulated for a searching examination by a permanent Tariff Board into the claims of any industry putting forward a case for assistance. The industry had not only to prove that protection would assist its rapid development, but that assistance for a temporary period would enable it to face world competition without protection. Several industries have failed to establish their case and, in the event, the protective duties imposed have been few in number. Indian industrialists, through the mouthpiece of their political friends, have chafed under the restrictions mentioned and would naturally much prefer a policy of protection applied without inquiry or discrimination.

The hard logic of facts drove the Fiscal Commission to inevitable conclusions. The revenue accounts of the Indian fiscal year just closed show, for instance, that customs and salt duties accounted for 57 crores of rupees out of a total estimated revenue (including the profit on railways) of 132 crores. Countervailing excise duties, besides being unpopular, are difficult and expensive to collect in a vast country like India administered by a minimum number of responsible officials and, except in the case of the large Indian and European business houses, with primitive methods of book-keeping which are the despair of the income-tax collector. The problem before the Fiscal Commission thus became one of devising machinery to ensure that these import duties, so essential to the revenue side of the accounts, should be

levied with as little possible harm to India as a whole and with as much healthy stimulus to industry as was consistent with the interests of the masses.

The wisdom or otherwise of the Fiscal Autonomy Convention, and of the use to which India has put her newly acquired powers, lie outside the scope of this article, as do also the merits of the case now being put forward in England for the establishment of Empire Free Trade. The intention has been to set out the facts in regard to India so that those who desire to take sides in the present controversy may do so with a knowledge of the standpoint of our largest individual customer within the Empire. It must be left to those with an intimate knowledge of India to say whether it is practical politics to discuss the annihilation of the Fiscal Autonomy Convention or, alternatively, the possibility of persuading India to recede from her present fiscal system and to look in other directions than import duties for nearly half her revenue.

Notes of the Week.

The Reception of the Budget.—Mr Snowden ought to be well satisfied with the reception accorded to his Budget. It was not to be expected that he could produce any programme that would receive the approval of Mr Churchill, and the main burden of the latter's attack was, in effect, a defence of his own stewardship. Nor, without either a full purse or an independent majority, could the Chancellor hope to satisfy the Labour Left Wing, whose bitter disappointment at a " capitalist " Budget and the indefinite postponement of " Socialism in our time " was strongly voiced by Mr Maxton. The equal ferocity of attack from these two political antipodes gives a guide to moderate opinion. The House and, we believe, the country, while naturally disliking additional taxation, are inclined to harbour three main feelings: First, one of relief that the rod was not applied more severely; secondly, one of satisfaction at Mr Snowden's hope—almost promise—that no further taxation will be required next year; and, lastly, one of approval of Mr Snowden's absence of improvisation and the stern facing of hard facts with a determination to pay his way by straightforward means. These were very much the feelings which, at a Liberal luncheon in the City on Wednesday, were expressed by Mr Runciman, who also interpreted another widespread sentiment in his eloquent plea for retrenchment both in public and private expenditure. There is a tendency to think that, as regards the necessity for increased taxation, Mr Snowden is " more sinned against than sinning," and to deduce from the concluding sentences of his Budget speech a determination, so long as he remains Chancellor, not to allow rope to the advocates of profligate expenditure.

Mr Gandhi's Campaign.—Though the outbreaks of disorder in Calcutta during the *hartal* organised as a protest against the imprisonment of Mr Sen Gupta and Pundit Jawarharlal Nehru are an ugly reminder of the danger lest *Satyagraha*, preached as an inflammatory doctrine to emotional crowds, may only too easily lose its " passive " character, it is important that, in viewing the Indian situation as a whole, we should maintain, above all things, a sense of proportion. The essential factor appears to us to be that the objective of Mr Gandhi's campaign was to counter the growing tendency of Congress to swing in favour of a Round-Table Conference by mobilising a demonstration of Swarajist opinion which would force back-sliders from the policy of irreconcilability once more into line with the extremist vanguard, and would create an atmosphere as hostile as possible for the reception of the Statutory Commission's report. We see no evidence yet, despite sporadic violence on the part of mobs in Calcutta and Karachi, to show that Mr Gandhi is on the way to achieve this objective. In the Bombay Presidency, up to April 16th, only 317 out of 2,774 village officers had actually resigned; there are no signs of the Congress leaders being ready to throw themselves irrevocably into the present campaign; even in a country where a sense of humour is not a general characteristic, the theatricality of the salt-making on Dandi beach seems to have fallen a little flat; and Mr Gandhi's pained surprise at his own freedom from arrest indicates probably his recognition of the fact that he is thus losing his best chance in a political gamble whose failure must do much to lower his prestige. The position of the Viceroy is one of great difficulty, but if sane counsels prevail both in Delhi and at Westminster we do not think it necessary to take too tragic a view of this week's events, though it would be foolish to minimise the danger of a position in which sparks, capable of starting a grave conflagration, are flying about so freely.

Poland and her German Minorities.—The recent conclusion of a commercial treaty between Germany and Poland raised hopes of better relations between these two countries—a local change which would have an appreciable effect for good upon the whole international situation in Europe. But commercial treaties, however advantageous to both parties they may be recognised to be, appeal to the head rather than to the heart; and if this opening for an improvement in German-Polish relations was to be followed up, some human touch was required. Happily, just such a touch has now been given by the acquittal, on appeal, of the leader of the German Minority in Polish Upper Silesia, Herr Ulitz. Herr Ulitz had been charged in the Polish Court of First Instance and convicted of an offence against the Polish State. That judgment has now been reversed in the higher court to which the appeal was carried. The re-trial of the case has brought out several important facts. In the first place, a Polish judge has not hesitated to give just judgment, though he might have been misled not only by a misguided sense of patriotism but by pressing considerations of personal self-interest, since in Poland the Judiciary is by no means independent of the Executive Power. In the second place, public servants and employees of the Polish State have been revealed not only as employing disreputable methods—running from corruption to forgery—in order to obtain convictions against Polish citizens who happen to be *personæ non gratæ* to the powers that be, but as actually boasting of their patriotic zeal in these activities. In the third place, it has been shown that the German Minority in Upper Silesia has not been guilty of any treasonable acts against the Polish State, though the improper practices of the Polish Secret Service were efficient enough to lay bare any true evidence if such had existed. It was necessary to forge false evidence in order to secure conviction at the first hearing of the case. Thus the German Minority in Upper Silesia is vindicated in the person of its leader, while the Polish nation is presented to the world in a double light. Which is to be regarded as the typical son of his country? Dr. Zechenter, the just and courageous judge? Or Moses Perlstein, the Secret Service agent, and Captains Zychon and Lis, the officers of the Military Intelligence Department? The Polish people have the choice in their hands. For what has happened so far, it would be pharisaical to censure them too severely. They are struggling with the tremendous task of building a new State out of bad traditions of government—those Russian, Prussian and Austrian traditions which are all that they know in their own experience. The Ulitz trial is as startling an event in Europe as the notorious Friedjust trial in Austria which was one of the premonitions of the Great War. But Austria was old and Poland is young. All depends on whether the people of Poland take this revelation to heart. If they do, Dr. Zechenter's judgment will be not merely a notable act of personal uprightness but a European event of historic importance.

The Food Tax Muddle.—The position of food taxes in, or outside, or on the fringe of Conservative policy becomes more and more bewildering. A few weeks ago it was thought that the *impasse* between Lord Beaverbrook and Mr Baldwin had been solved through the adoption by the latter of a vigorous Empire policy and the relegation of the food tax question to a referendum, which was to follow the next General Election in the event of a Conservative victory. In his speech at Nottingham last Friday Lord Beaverbrook summed up his agreement with Mr Baldwin by saying: " We understood Mr Baldwin would plough a straight furrow through the General Election—through a referendum—and that he would not look back until he had given us our keystone—a tax on foreign foodstuffs." Assuming that to be Mr Baldwin's position, and deeming that position satisfactory, Lord Beaverbrook decided that he could work inside the Conservative Party and actually proceeded to return the money subscribed for his Empire Free Trade Party. In the current political jest of the day, " the monkey was caged." Very soon, however, the monkey began to be restive in captivity. Last week he decided that separate funds for propagating Empire Free Trade were, after all, necessary, and appealed for the return of the repaid subscriptions. Now he has made a further bid for independence by addressing to the Press on Wednesday a letter which amounts to an accusation of betrayal against Mr Baldwin. His complaint arises out of a Conservative official leaflet headed " This is Baldwin's Pledge to You," in which Conservative policy is explained as follows:— " To go into conference with the Dominions in order to make a bargain which will enable us to sell more manufactured goods to them," adding that if then the Dominions ask us " to help them by putting taxes on foreign foodstuffs and allowing theirs to come in free, the question will be put to the country by means of a referendum." This, says Lord Beaverbrook, is " not in consonance " with his policy or " with the arrangement under which we accepted the referendum." Consequently, his lordship finds " the present position extremely difficult." This brings matters to a head, and perhaps we shall now get from Mr Baldwin an unequivocal statement as to whether or not food taxes are inside the policy of his Party. The country, as well as Lord Beaverbrook, has the right to expect something much more definite than anything that Mr Baldwin has yet said.

Charing Cross Bridge.—If the electorate is as disillusioned about the workings of Parliamentary government as some recent writers on democracy would have us believe, it may well take heart from the performance of the Private Bill Committee of the House of Commons on the London County Council's Charing Cross Bill. Here is a spirited committee which, refusing to accept the *non possumus* of its advisers, announces: " When the promoters tell us that any alteration in the scheme is impossible, we, on behalf of the public, have to exercise our judgment, and we do not feel that we can accept that view. We think that something better can be done." This refers to the part of the plan which proposes to put 33 acres of railway station at the bridgehead on the Surrey side, thereby permanently disfiguring the Embankment and choking the future development of Lambeth. While accepting that part of the scheme which affects the north side of the river, subject to the widening of St. Martin's Lane before the new road bridge is opened, the Committee refused to accept the plan for the southern side. They recognised that the Southern Railway, which would have preferred to keep its station where it is, had agreed to move on condition it should move to the site on the Surrey side most convenient to itself, and that a site further back from the river might involve inconvenience to passengers. The Committee expressed the view, however, that, in so far as this caused loss to the railway, it could be covered by compensation, and that the railway could evolve an alternative plan which would be satisfactory to itself and more compatible with the general good of London. It is difficult to see why the interposition of a few more hundred yards between the station and the river should seriously incommode passengers. With the cooperation of the Underground Railways movement to and from the new station should be no more difficult than to and from Waterloo. In order to give time for the London County Council and the Southern Railway to find a different site, the Committee adjourned till May 6th. Public opinion just now is keenly alive to the dangers of degradation which threaten both the countryside and the capital, and the determination of a committee which expressed itself reluctant " to go down to posterity as the people who held up the whole development of this place by putting these 33 acres of railway station in this position " will be widely approved.

A Quarter's Overseas Trade.—The disquieting character of the February trade returns is, unhappily, more than maintained by those for March. Imports, exports and reexports are all very substantially below the level of March, 1929, and for the first quarter as a whole there has been a decline of £22½ million in imports, with a fractionally larger decline in total exports. It must, however, be borne in mind that our overseas trade reflects not purely the state of British industry, but also the condition of the countries with which we do business, and there is no doubt that a large part of the present decline is due to general world conditions.

MONTH OF MARCH.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Inc. or Dec. on March, 1929.		Inc. or Dec. on March, 1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	93,420	− 5,153	− 5·2	−17,097	−15·5
British exports	53,946	− 4,678	− 8·0	−11,012	−17·0
Re-exports	7,660	− 2,326	−23·3	− 3,607	−32·2
Total exports	61,606	− 7,004	−10·2	−14,619	−19·2
Excess of imports over total exports	31,814	+ 1,850	+ 6·2	− 2,478	− 7·2

FIRST THREE MONTHS.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Increase or Decrease as compared with 1929.		1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	283,484	− 22,479	− 7·4	−26,279	− 8·5
British exports	164,132	− 17,036	− 9·4	−17,805	− 9·8
Re-exports	24,481	− 5,617	−18·7	− 8,758	−26·4
Total exports	188,613	− 22,653	−10·7	−26,562	−12·3
Excess of imports over total exports	94,871	+ 174	+ 0·2	+ 284	− 0·3

The bulk of the diminution of re-exports during the past three months is accounted for by raw cotton, wool, hides and skins. The decline in imports, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, occurred entirely in the food and raw materials classes, while manufactured imports rose by nearly £5 million. The biggest declines were in grain and flour, " other food and drink," raw cotton and cotton waste (from £26 million to £17 million), and raw wool, etc. (from £22 million to £18 million). This last is, however, very largely due to the fall in prices. Increases, on the other hand, were spread thinly over a large number of articles, the most marked being a rise from £10 million to £12 million in manufactured oils, fats and resins, and a rise from £5.2 million to £6.9 million in iron and steel. The following table, which shows the volume of some of our principal exports, contains few encouraging features:—

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.
(Quantity.)

		First Three Months.		
		1928.	1929.	1930.
Coal	tons	12,022,994	13,125,958	15,012,511
Railway material	,,	189,398	134,320	127,062
Total of iron and steel	,,	1,058,513	1,151,404	983,841
Textile machinery	,,	31,573	31,712	26,681
Total machinery	,,	144,878	142,063	131,421
Cotton yarns	lbs.	44,889,301	44,166,600	38,106,500
Cotton piece-goods	sq.yds.	153,903,100	126,582,400	110,726,100
Wool tops	centals	97,575	87,597	71 332
Woollen tissues	sq.yds.	36,763,200	30,912,600	25,572,200
Worsted tissues	,,	9,732,300	14,299,500	11,409,900
Linen piece-goods	,,	21,583,900	18,152,500	19,703,000
Jute piece-goods	,,	45,608,100	45,114,700	34,548,200
Boots and shoes	doz. prs.	269,642	208,737	230,938
Leather	cwts.	120,546	76,080	71,963
Locomotives	tons	7,754	9,592	11,286
Motor cars and chassis	number	7,342	10,385	8,789

Coal still shows an improvement over each of the two preceding years, and linen piece-goods and boots and shoes are better than in 1929. Exports of locomotives have continued to grow, but all the other items show sharp declines. In considering the returns as a whole, it is necessary to bear in mind that aggregate values have been seriously affected by the slump in the price of many commodities, as compared with a year ago. The Board of Trade's quarterly estimate of the physical volume of foreign trade will on this account be awaited with interest.

Export Trade—a New Committee.—Mr Gillett, Secretary of the Department of Overseas Trade, has announced the appointment of a " special organisation " which is " to examine the problems of export trade, study present and potential markets, constantly review the volume and trend of trade, investigate reasons for decline in exports by trades and markets, and ascertain possible remedies with the object of the profitable expansion of British trade." The organisation consists of a council, with Mr Gillett as chairman, and includes several departmental chiefs and four " representatives of commerce," including Sir Gilbert Vyle and Mr Hugh Lewis, recently general manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company. This council is to " work in the closest co-operation " with Mr J. H. Thomas, and behind it will be a panel of industrial representatives. Among those who have consented to serve on this panel are Sir Arthur Balfour, Lord Barnby, Sir William Larke, Sir Kenneth Lee and Sir Ernest Jardine. In a speech delivered to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce on April 10th Mr Gillett described the new council as " a council of action," and stated that it was already at work and had already consulted with Lord D'Abernon and the members of his recent mission to South America. This plan for greater concentration upon export needs and possibilities is a step in the right direction, and is refreshing at a time when so much thought is being wastefully expended on the other side of the nation's trade balance sheet. That the help of leaders of important export industries has been enlisted is all to the good, but it must be remembered that they are all very busy men, and it would be unreasonable to expect that the new organisation will be able to play a role in helping the British exporter comparable to that played by the Department of Commerce in America.

Shipbuilding Progress.—The returns issued this week by Lloyd's *Register* for the quarter ended March 31st, show a further small increase in the work in hand in British yards. At the end of the quarter the tonnage under construction in Great Britain and Ireland totalled 1,615,000 tons, as compared with 1,560,000 tons at the end of December and 1,357,000 tons a year ago. The work in hand abroad, 1,651,000 tons, also shows an expansion, the increase on the quarter amounting to 100,000 tons. In view of the extreme depression of the cargo freight markets, a decline in the tonnage under construction might have been expected; but it should be appreciated that the British expansion reflects partly a large increase in oil-tanker building, there being now 559,000 tons of this class of vessel under construction in this country—an increase of 161,000 tons on the quarter—and partly a slowing down in the rate of output. Launchings in Great Britain and Ireland for the quarter amounted to 345,000 tons, against 473,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 1929, while the figure of tonnage commenced, at 427,000 tons, shows a decrease on the quarter of 72,000 tons. The outlook for the industry, once the specialised demand for tankers has been satisfied for the moment, has not brightened, and it is satisfactory to note that National Shipbuilders' Securities, Ltd., whose objects, discussed in the *Economist* of March 8th, are to eliminate redundant yards and secure more economical costs by concentrating production, is to have an exceptionally strong board. The chairman will be Sir James Lithgow, and the directors will include, among others, the chairmen of Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, the Burntisland Shipbuilding Company, and members of the boards of Vickers, Wm. Gray and Company, and Harland and Wolff, Ltd. The aims of the new company should thus be pressed with vigour.

Chinese Currency Reform.—Various schemes for the reform of the Chinese Currency system have been formulated from time to time. An international currency commission discussed the position as long ago as 1903, and published a valuable report on the subject. Nothing came of it. In 1913, the joint proposals, which had been made by Dr. Vissering and Dr. Roest, led to the formation of a Chinese Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Chang Tsung-yuen. As a result, draft regulations were drawn up for the reform of Chinese currency and banking, and these received the approval of the President and the Cabinet early in 1914. The whole question, however, was again shelved. There have since been spasmodic attempts made to deal with the problems presented, and there is no doubt that China lost a valuable opportunity to reform her currency when, owing to the appreciation of silver, the value of her currency unit had attained in 1920 the high value of 8s. 9d. Now, after the movement in the value of silver in the opposite direction and, *pari passu*, a record depreciation in the exchange value of the tael to 1s. 11d., there emanates from the Commission of Experts under the ægis of Professor Kemmerer, a draft law for the introduction of a uniform gold standard currency system. The Kemmerer report states that the chaotic condition of currency in China is a serious handicap to trade and to the development and prosperity of the country; previous commissions have come to exactly the same conclusion. The handicaps are apparent: Government receipts are almost wholly in terms of silver, while a large part of its payments are fixed in terms of gold. The gold monetary unit now suggested is the " Sun " of 60.1866 centigrammes fine gold, which is equivalent to 1s. 7.7265d. sterling, to 0.8025 Japanese gold yen, and 40 U.S. cents. The reason given by the Commission for the selection of this unit is that it is of approximately the same value in terms of gold as the silver dollars now current in China, *i.e.*, the Yuan Shih Kai dollar, which is 900 fine, and should contain 23.9775048 grammes pure silver. The draft law has been submitted to the Chinese Minister of Finance, and it provides also for silver coins of one sun, 50 cents and 20 cents, with subsidiary nickel and copper coins. The scheme in some respects resembles that of Dr. Vissering, which provided for the adoption of a gold exchange standard. It is stated that although the project gives the option of redemption in gold bullion, it is not expected that this form of redemption will be utilised. It is not clear just how contraction of the currency on the one hand and expansion on the other will be achieved, though presumably contraction is to be accomplished by the maintenance of a gold standard reserve held in foreign countries, upon which drafts will be sold as occasion requires. This reserve will amount to at least 35 per cent. of the value of coins in circulation. There is much speculation as to the greater or less possibilities of China's adoption of the suggested law, and, if she does attempt currency stabilisation, whether the idea of a currency reform loan, a contract for which was signed many years ago and has since lapsed, will be resussitated. The defect in the Kemmerer proposals appears to be failure to appreciate the ingrained love of the Chinese for silver, a love which, despite the ever-present troubles arising from adherence to a silver standard, it will be difficult, if not impossible to eradicate.

Anglo-German Coal Relations.—A correspondent writes:—Leading Ruhr colliery owners and Syndicate officials have usually referred to the possibility of an international understanding on coal markets and prices in a guarded and non-committal manner. It is significant, therefore, to find Herr Fickler, general director of the Harpener Company, welcoming, without the slightest reserve, the prospect of formal negotiations on the subject in the near future. Speaking recently, at the annual meeting of the company, he referred somewhat gloomily to the new curve of depression, mainly attributable to the milder winter and the abnormal stocking of coal throughout the Continent in the autumn, and to its effect on prices. The view of the management, he declared, was that an improvement in prices depended primarily on an understanding with Great Britain. The time for an effort to reach such an understanding, he added, would come as soon as the new coal law became operative in England, and the Westphalian Syndicate was reconstituted on a permanent basis. He expressed the hope that the discussions now proceeding would bring an agreement between the " pure " and " mixed " concerns before the expiration of the month for which the present syndicate has been extended by ministerial decree. The importance of this statement lies in the fact that the Harpener Company, with an annual production of round about eight million tons, is the largest of the " pure " concerns, that is, the companies which produce entirely for sale, with no quota for their own use. The German Syndicate officials are watching events in this country very closely. The recurrence of intense price-cutting competition, and the necessity for keeping the monthly levy (from which the syndicate's losses in the export market are met) at the high level of 2.20 marks per ton on the total production of the coalfield, explain the desire for some means of avoiding this loss. The expectation is now fairly general in the Ruhr that, as soon as the British owners' national committee is constituted and functioning, an approach will be made either formally or informally. There will, no doubt, be hard bargaining on both sides, and a speedy agreement is hardly likely. The beginning of negotiations, however, will mark the opening of a new phase of the international coal situation.

Foreign Funds in Wall Street.—The fact that over $3,087 million of foreign short-term funds were invested in the American market at the end of last year is disclosed in a report of the United States Department of Commerce. Against this sum, American short-term funds were loaned abroad to the tune of $1,484 million, leaving a net indebtedness to foreigners of $1,603 million. In spite of the great size of these aggregates, there was comparatively little change in the net indebtedness over the year, namely, an increase of $12,836,000. It must be remembered that the year 1929 witnessed a strong inflow of foreign money into Wall Street on account of the stock market boom, and an even more rapid exodus when the boom broke; this great turnover is scarcely, if at all, reflected in the Department of Commerce figures, which would have told a very different story if the annual period had closed on, say, October 1, 1929. The following is a summary of the results of official inquiry:—

American Exports and Imports of Short-Term Capital in 1929.
(000's omitted.)

	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.
Due from Foreigners—	$	$
American deposits abroad	198,588	189,740
Liabilities on unmatured bills	508,822	768,942
Overdrafts by foreigners	255,373	202,348
Other short-term loans	318,762	285,460
Funds " put out " in foreign markets	24,077	37,357
Total due from abroad	1,305,622	1,483,847
Due to Foreigners—		
Foreign deposits in U.S.	1,580,481	1,652,858
American-drawn bills discounted abroad	93,356	72,238
Overdrafts by American banks	36,297	24,550
Other short-term borrowings	10,855	294
Foreign funds " put out " in U.S.:		
(*a*) Into American acceptances	564,601	891,132
(*b*) Into brokers' loans	332,888	270,627
(*c*) Into Treasury Certs.	166,319	61,827
(*d*) Other	12,176	8,817
Undiscounted foreign-drawn acceptances	99,247	104,938
Total due to abroad	2,896,220	3,087,281
Net short-term indebtedness to foreigners on banking account	1,590,598	1,603,434

The last item of the debt to foreigners, representing undiscounted acceptances held for collection by American banks, offsets the liabilities for bills not yet due, drawn by foreigners and accepted by American banks. There was a notable increase of $326,531,000 in the total of foreign funds invested in American acceptances; although bankers' acceptances outstanding in the U.S.A. at the end of 1929 reached the record total of $1,732,436,000, foreign banks had bought up 51.4 per cent. of that total. The most striking item in the table is, however, the figure of foreign deposits with American banks, which was nearly nine times as great as the total of American deposits abroad. Regarding these huge foreign deposits, Dr. Ray Hall writes in an accompanying memorandum, "while theoretically foreigners might withdraw them almost overnight, they cannot in fact do so. Much of these deposits are part of the cash reserves of the approximately 30 central banks, which legally count foreign exchange holdings as cash reserves. . . . Many of the deposits are required by individual long-term foreign borrowers in preparing to make payments on account of dividends, sinking funds or bond redemption. Other deposits are required by thousands of banks abroad, each of which must stand ready to sell dollar exchange to its customers." It would be highly interesting to compare the position of London with that of New York in this respect, but unfortunately no attempt has been made by Government departments or by the banks themselves to secure comparable figures. They would do well to bestir themselves to remedy this statistical deficiency.

Trade and the Floating Debt.—This month's Midland Bank *Review* contains an interesting and somewhat controversial article on the effects of the recent large reduction in the volume of Treasury bills. The burden of the argument is, briefly, as follows:—The redemption of Treasury bills in the hands of the banks does not release money for industry, as bankers' advances have already reached their limit; if the banks have these bills repaid all they can do is to buy more investments. Next, Treasury bills to-day form the money market's main stock-in-trade. There is no logical reason why the supply of bank or trade bills should increase to compensate for a decrease in Treasury bills, and in any case the predominance of Treasury bills is so pronounced as to make them the chief factor governing the total supply of bills. A curtailment of the supply of Treasury bills does not entail a curtailment of the funds available for taking them up. Consequently, discount rates fall, and the margin between open market rates and Bank rate widens. This expels foreign short money from London and attracts foreign bills to London for discount. This last factor compensates a little for the shrinkage in Treasury bills, but, even so, market rates remain low, and the foreign exchanges move against us. Furthermore, Bank rate has been made ineffective, and this is a condition which the Bank shortly seeks to remedy, in the time-honoured manner, by restricting credit, even though its own rate, if the margin is very wide, may have to be lowered. The net result is the strange combination of cheap money and restricted credit supplies, leading to an actual scarcity of accommodation for industry and trade. In other words, the reduction in the floating debt has led in the end to further deflation. Thus stated, the argument seems to us to need qualification. Suppose the Government redeems £10 million of Treasury bills belonging to the Midland Bank, who simultaneously apply for and get £10 million of the new Conversion Loan. Is anyone deprived of the power of borrowing a penny piece by the transaction? It is true that recent events suggest that the Midland Bank reasoning holds good in so far as it concerns bills held by the money market, but the last few months represented the period of heavy revenue collection, when money is normally tight. There is weight behind the Midland Bank's suggestion that the Bank of England can ease matters by a proper subdivision of its note reserve between Treasury bills and long-term Government securities (though conceivably the idea had already occurred to the Bank, and, for all that is known, may already have been put into practice), but we suggest that the last three months represent too short and abnormal a period for their experience to be used as the

basis for conclusions from which the inference may be drawn that there is no advantage in reducing the size of the floating debt. If the rate of reduction is such that its reactions on monetary rates lead to an excessive efflux of foreign balances, it may be fair to say that the operation has been too hurried; but, apart from this factor, there is no proof that the gradual curtailment of Treasury bills would have a deflationary effect on domestic banks' lending powers.

Monetary Prospects in Italy.—Our Turin correspondent writes:—The Bank of Italy's Hall was thronged when Governor Stringher delivered his annual speech to his shareholders, and leaders of finance and industry were glad to hear him concluding that "money matters are such that one feels inclined to believe that perhaps we are at the beginning of a new period of lower rates." The phrase was guarded, as Signor Stringher's utterances always are; but hearers, eager for lower rates, interpreted it as a sure prognostication of reductions in the official rate of discount. To those who have read with attention his speech in the full text, Governor Stringher's cautious words appear well founded. In 1929 note circulation averaged 16,496 million lire, as against 17,150 in 1928; and there was a decrease of 729.5 million lire in gold reserves, following a similar decrease in 1035.1 million in 1928. Business is quieter and calls for smaller amounts of means of payment. Clearings, after increasing from 1,089,344 million lire in 1925 to 1,297,636 in 1926, decreased to 769,586 million in 1927, 780,509 in 1928 and 741,946 in 1929. Owing to the reduction in wholesale prices, money is less needed. Can we, from these figures, draw the conclusion that money is becoming a drug in the market and that the Bank of Italy will shortly take the lead and reduce the official rate of discount? The conclusion would be obvious if Governor Stringher's speech did not include also figures of discounts and advances. While circulation, cheques, reserves, clearing house operations, in short the best indices of financial activity, are undergoing a process of restriction, the yearly averages of discounts and advances, excluding the frozen credits toward the Winding-up Institute (Instituto di Liquidazion) have been as follows:—

(Million lire.)

	Discounts.	Advances.	Day-to-day Clearing House Loans.	Total.
1924	3,254·1	2,056·6	262·4	5,573·1
1925	4,390·3	2,699·0	313·2	7,402·5
1926	5,325·0	2,897·9	324·0	8,546·9
1927	4,929·1	1,581·5	130·6	6,641·2
1928	3,161·6	1,208·2	98·7	4,468·5
1929	3,741·0	1,429·5	102·5	5,273·0

From 1926 to 1928 the restriction policy was certainly a strong instrument toward the revaluation and the stabilisation of the lira. But in 1929 the tide seems to have turned. Notwithstanding the 7 per cent. rate which prevailed during the greater part of the year, people have increasingly applied to the bank for discounts and advances. As demand was not fostered by speculation (reduced clearing-house transactions point the other way), nor by the legitimate needs of trade (as is evident from the reduced circulation and falling prices), the cause of the increase in discounts and advances is obscure. It may be that Governor Stringer feels uneasy in encouraging applications. If the official rate of discount is reduced applications will be closely scrutinised so as to exclude all operations which may build up a new frozen credit account. The process of liquidating unsound concerns must be carried to its conclusion if we are to avert inflation of credit.

The Progress of the Five-Year Plan.—Statistics have recently been made public by the State Publishing Department in Moscow showing, in certain aspects, the extent to which the Five-year Plan of economic development has been carried into effect in 1928-9. According to the figures given, coal output exceeded the 1927-8 total by 4,300,000 tons, or 12.6 per cent., and represented an increase of nearly 10 million tons on the output for 1913. Crude oil production advanced by 17.7 per cent. on the previous year, and was 43.5 per cent. higher than in 1913. Pig-iron production was still slightly below the pre-war level, but showed an increase of 22.4 per cent. on the previous year. In the following table are set out the production figures for 1927-8 and 1928-9 of the most important groups, together with the estimated output for 1932-3, the last year of the Plan.

	1927-8.	1928-9.	1932-3.
Coal (000 tons)	34,126	38,426	75,300
Oil (000 tons)	11,506	13,543	26,000
Pig iron (000 tons)	3,282	4,017	10,000
Steel (000 tons)	4,157	4,718	10,840
Cotton fabric (in mill. metres).....	2,539	2,829	4,700
Woollen goods (in mill. metres)...	97	115	270

The average percentage increase in the production of the above commodities for 1928-9 in comparison with the previous year is put at 20.3 per cent., or a trifle less than the increase in the total gross industrial production of the country.

Egyptian Cotton Spinners' Organisation.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—An important development in the Lancashire cotton industry during the past year has been the increasing depression in the fine spinning branch, that is, the mills producing yarns from Egyptian cotton. Most of these firms are in the Bolton area, and at the annual meeting of the Bolton Master Cotton Spinners' Association, held in Manchester, this week, the President, Mr William Howarth, said that the last six months had been one of the worst periods in the history of the trade. The Bolton Master Spinners' Association has under consideration a scheme for the closer working of firms in the Egyptian spinning section. A sub-committee has been appointed to work out the details and it is evident that an attempt is about to be made to control prices and regulate production. Out of the 56,000,000 spinning spindles in Lancashire, about 18,000,000 are usually engaged on Egyptian cotton. There are, however, about 2,000,000 spindles which change from American to Egyptian according to the state of trade, and if a price-fixing scheme is put forward it is possible that many mills now on American cotton will turn on to the Egyptian staple. To a large extent the depression in the fine spinning trade is due to a falling off in demand rather than increased world competition, and it is urged that the unsatisfactory state of trade is chiefly owing to internal competition and that something should be done to stop the cutting of prices, which means losses for all concerned.

Agricultural Credits. — The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation has just issued its first report. It will be recalled that it was formed in pursuance of the Agricultural Credits Act of 1928, with the dual object of extending long-term advances to landowners and farmers desirous of purchasing their holdings and of enabling farmers to obtain short-term advances on their stock, crops, and other assets. The company's capital of £650,000 was subscribed by most of the leading banks, while a £5,000,000 5 per cent. debenture issue was made in the summer of last year. The actual administration of the corporation's affairs is in the hands of the banks. The report now issued shows that the corporation has been well managed and has filled a real need. A profit of £33,000 has been earned, but, as may be expected from the ownership of the share capital, all this is retained, and devoted to such objects as writing off preliminary expenses, and building up reserves. On March 31st, the concluding date of the period to which the report relates, mortgage loans actually granted amounted to £4,169,000, while a further £1,138,000 had been approved. Cash in hand amounted to £1,443,000. The prevailing depression in agriculture means both that the corporation has to adopt a generous attitude and also to be particularly careful as to the position of applicants for loans and the securities lodged with it. The report states that the securities behind the mortgage loans of £4,169,000 amounted to £6,605,000, so that there should

be an ample margin in hand. The comparatively large cash holding is also both an ample safeguard against possible losses and a fund out of which further requests for assistance can be met. Altogether the position is strong, and the debenture holders are well covered.

Employment and Cost of Living in March.—Unemployment continued to increase throughout March. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, among the 12.1 million workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed (wholly or partially) at March 24th, was 14.0, as compared with 13.1 per cent. at February 24th, and 10.0 per cent. a year ago. The total number of registered unemployed at March 31st was approximately 1,731,000. This compares with 1,582,000 a month ago, and 1,168,000 at March 28, 1929. It must be observed, however, that of the total increase during March in the numbers of those recorded as unemployed, a large part was due to the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1930, and not to an actual increase in unemployment. With regard to the cost of living, a substantial fall was recorded during March. At April 1st the index number of the Ministry of Labour stood at 57 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, as compared with 61 per cent. at March 1st and 62 per cent. a year ago. For food alone, the index registered 43 per cent. at April 1st, as compared with 50 per cent. a month ago and a year ago. The fall in the percentages during March was largely due to seasonal influences, substantial reductions being made in the prices of dairy produce, bread, flour and potatoes.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during March amounted to 889,370 ozs. of fine gold, as compared with 818,188 ozs. produced during February. In March, 1929, the output amounted to 866,529 ozs. of fine gold. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ...	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,452	882,801
February ...	760,617	763,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284	818,188
March	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529	889,370
April	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,307	872,133	...
May.....	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598	...
June	773,053	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,363	856,029	...
July.....	829,437	816,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480	...
August ...	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,863	889,601	...
September	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553	...
October ...	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	888,690	...
November	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593	...
December	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134	...
Total ...	9,597,634	9,599,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066	...

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	July, 1929.	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	March, 1930.
Gold mines	190,031	190,062	190,567	189,739	186,941	184,280	190,663	196,752	200,134
Coal mines	15,914	15,867	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326	15,288	15,495	15,250
Diamond mines	4,845	5,071	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811	5,889	6,584	7,002
	210,790	211,000	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417	211,840	218,831	222,386

There was an increase in the number of natives employed in the gold and diamond mines during March.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.—The rate at which this company has expanded its business since the war is amazing. Five years ago new business transacted totalled £41,500,000 and the total funds amounted to £60,000,000. In 1929 fresh liabilities under new policies were underwritten greatly in excess of the total funds, the approximate figures being new business of £134,500,000 and funds of £112,000,000. However impressive a testimony these figures may be to the new business organisation, the possibility cannot be ignored that the pace may be too hot. Be the internal administration never so efficient, the task of assimilating this vast world-wide flow of business on so unprecedented a scale must tax it to its utmost. Unfortunately, the information supplied in the annual report and the form of the published accounts do little to assist the formation of a clear picture of the situation. It is, at any rate, undeniable that the price paid in expenses is very heavy and that it is increasing. The expense ratio in 1928 was 30.7 per cent. of the premiums, and, at this level the favourable effect of the admittedly high rate of interest earned is very largely counterbalanced. But it is on the investment side more particularly that the company has challenged orthodox opinion by hitching its wagon to the star of equity stocks on the American continent. Holdings of common stocks constituted 54 per cent. of the total assets in 1928 and 61 per cent. at the end of 1929. Extreme fluctuations in the values of the total assets are unavoidable with an investment portfolio containing so large a proportion of ordinary shares. Nevertheless, at the end of 1928 there were investment reserves, mainly concealed, but partly disclosed, amounting to £20 million. On the worst day of the New York slump of last year these reserves were reduced to £7 million; but the President, Mr T. B. Macaulay, has recently announced that the whole margin of £20 million was again intact on February 11th last. "The blow has fallen, the slump has come, the values are marked down and we are in a stronger position than ever before in our history." Since, on any general index of American security prices taken up to that day, the recovery from the lowest point is only about 40 per cent. of the previous fall from end 1928 prices, this can only mean that the Sun Life of Canada investments have been chosen with extraordinary perspicacity. The company is probably the largest investor in ordinary shares in the world and the list of holdings is, therefore, extremely interesting. The largest holdings and the approximate amounts invested in each are as follows:—

	$
American Telephone and Telegraph Co.	18,000,000
Consolidated Gas Company of New York	27,000,000
Detroit Edison Company	10,500,000
Electric Bond and Share Company	12,000,000
General Electric Company	15,500,000
Imperial Oil Ltd.	15,500,000
Montreal Light, Heat and Power Consolidated ...	20,500,000
Public Service Corporation of New Jersey	12,000,000

The total holdings of £71 million are distributed among 145 different companies, thus giving an average investment in each of approximately £½ million. Only three British companies are represented, British American Tobacco Company, with $292,000, Carreras with $82,000, and Courtaulds with $1,307,000. Generally speaking, public utilities predominate, though investments in American railroads are unimportant and the holding in Canadian Pacific Railways is conspicuously small at $1,226,000.

Wesleyan and General Assurance Society.—Perhaps the most notable feature of the 1929 report of this company is the large expansion of new business transacted both in the ordinary and the industrial branches. In the ordinary branch the 1928 new business figures were rather unsatisfactory, but 1929 has restored the position with an increase from £969,236 to £1,149,558. The increase in the industrial branch is still greater, the total having risen from £2,614,914 to £3,322,864, and it is the more welcome since it follows upon a number of years during which the new business has been almost stationary. Of still greater importance is the fact that the premium income in both branches has exhibited a substantial increase. Interest earnings have been maintained at a very high level, the rate being £5 4s. 11d. net, compared with £5 3s. 1d. net in 1928. A great deal of the benefit from high interest rates is offset by the unfavourable level of expenses, to which attention has been drawn in previous years. In view of the expansion of new business little importance attaches to the fact that the 1929 expenses are slightly higher, but, so long as the absolute level remains as high as 17.9 per

cent. for the ordinary branch and 40.7 per cent. for the industrial branch, the necessity for reduction is obvious and urgent. In both branches an annual valuation is made and the results of the last three valuations are as follows:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ordinary—	£	£	£
Surplus earned during the year	116,700	112,911	125,682
Investment profits realised	1,878	1,878	25,462
Transferred from industrial branch ...	14,800	16,600	18,739
Brought forward from previous year	48,967	69,056	74,890
	182,544	200,445	244,773
Allocations—			
To bonuses to policyholders	99,188	104,555	111,256
„ Investment reserve fund	...	...	41,800
„ Staff pension fund	14,300	21,000	21,000
„ Carried forward to next year.....	69,056	74,890	70,717
	182,544	200,445	244,773
Industrial Branch—			
Surplus earned during the year	101,213	113,223	139,462
Investment profits realised	2,052	2,061	28,452
Brought forward from previous year	12,768	26,333	34,617
	116,033	141,617	202,531
Allocations—			
To bonuses to policyholders	44,400	49,800	56,216
„ General reserve fund	...	...	...
„ Investment reserve fund	...	...	47,000
„ Staff pension fund	15,700	24,000	24,000
„ Bonus to outdoor staff.....	14,800	16,600	18,739
„ Ordinary branch	14,800	16,600	18,739
„ Carried forward to next year.....	26,333	34,617	37,837
	116,033	141,617	202,531

A reversionary bonus has been declared in the ordinary branch at the same rate as before, namely 48s. per cent. simple for whole-life policies and 42s. per cent. simple for endowment assurances. The profits made in the industrial branch are divided, in accordance with the terms of a profit-sharing scheme inaugurated two years ago, in the proportion of three-fifths to the policyholders and one-fifth each to the ordinary branch and to the outdoor staff respectively. In regard to this policyholder's proportion, it is the directors' declared intention to utilise this for the purpose of ultimately waiving payment of all premiums after age 65, and so to bring existing contracts into line with those now offered for new policies—necessarily a lengthy process. The effect of this year's allocation will be that instead of ceasing at age 73, after 23 years' premiums have been paid, premiums will in future cease at age 72 after payment of 22 premiums. The Wesleyan and General is the only ordinary-cum-industrial office constituted on the mutual principle and enjoys the distinction of being the first office (after the Prudential) to institute participation in profits for the industrial policyholders.

Equity and Law Life Assurance Society.—Chief interest in the 1929 annual report centres on that portion of it which describes the recent quinquennial valuation. The results of this valuation, which was made on the same basis as formerly, are as follows:—

	1920–24.	1925–29.
	£	£
Trading surplus earned during quinquennium	487,201	816,421
Profits on investments and on reversions	272,983	190,603
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	33,357	116,635
	£793,541	£1,123,659
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	539,451	798,285
„ Shareholders' account	59,939	88,698
„ Investment reserve fund	50,000	...
„ Staff Pension fund	27,516	33,047
„ Carried forward to next quinquennium	116,635	203,629
	£793,541	£1,123,659

The amount allocated to " with profits " policyholders is approximately 50 per cent. greater than five years previously, and has been declared in the form of reversionary bonuses at varying rates in accordance with the system of distribution practised for many years by the company. The actual rates of bonus range from 42s. per cent. to over 80s. per cent., and average 53s. 11d. per cent., compared with a corresponding average five years ago of 42s. 9d. per cent. It is also of interest to notice that the bonus has on this occasion been entirely earned from trading profits—albeit the margin is a small one—whereas five years ago capital profits had to be drawn on for this purpose. The shareholders have as much cause for satisfaction as the policyholders, for their one-tenth share of profits has enabled the directors to fix the dividend for the ensuing five years at the rate of 8s. 6d. per share, free of tax, equivalent to an increase of 37 per cent., as compared with the five years just ended. At the present price of £11 the shares yield the high return, for a first-class insurance company, of £4 16s. per cent. gross of income tax. Turning now to the figures for 1929, the balance sheet shows a large increase in mortgages—a type of investment which the company's high-class legal connection enables it to secure on favourable terms—and a more or less corresponding decline in British Government securities. The traditional policy of the Equity and Law has always inclined it towards reversionary securities, in one kind or another of which 26 per cent. of the total assets is invested. Of the remainder, 48 per cent. is represented by loans and mortgages, and the comparatively small percentage invested on the Stock Exchange explains why total depreciation written off last year was equal to less than ½ per cent. of the funds. Incidentally, the chairman stated at the annual meeting that this has since been more than recovered this year. As to the future, the new business will undoubtedly suffer from the general suspension by all life offices of the issuing of single premium sur-tax saving policies—in the transaction of which the Equity and Law has collected over £2 million during the last five years. Indeed, it is a significant fact that, although the sums assured and bonuses in force have increased during this period from £12,438,000 to £15,767,000, the yearly premium income has remained absolutely stationary at £374,000.

Provincial Insurance Company.—Having regard to the difficult conditions ruling in 1929, the underwriting results for that year of this successful non-tariff company are very satisfactory. Leaving out of account the marine department, premium income expanded from £635,000 to £713,000, just under £100,000 of which is derived through a subsidiary, the Drapers and General. The underwriting profit on the total fell from £68,130 to £39,405. The creation of the marine department represents the work of the last three years, and it has proved a costly experiment. In 1927 the business of the Hull Underwriters' Association, with a then premium income of upwards of £100,000, was acquired at a cost of £68,000 in cash. At first the income was further increased, but the 1929 accounts show that it has been subsequently reduced and now stands at £119,000, against which there is a fund of 82 per cent. Losses during the three years 1927-1929 have aggregated £59,751, thus nearly doubling the original cost. The details of the underwriting profits in all departments during the last two years are as follows:—

	1928. Amount. £	1928. Percentage of Premiums. %	1929. Amount. £	1929. Percentage of Premiums. %
Fire	19,215	12·7	12,458	7·6
Employers' Liability, Accident & General	48,915	10·1	26,947	4·9
Marine	— 24,849	—14·4	— 14,902	—12·6
	43,281	...	24,503	...
Items debited to profit and loss account ...	19,345	...	10,580	...
Total net surplus ...	23,936	...	13,923	...
Interest earnings	26,940	...	29,325	...
	50,876	...	43,248	...
Less Preference dividend	4,000	...	4,000	...
	46,876	...	39,248	...
Ordinary dividend ...	14,400	(20%)	14,400	(20%)
Net increase in surplus assets	32,476	...	24,848	...

Thus, in spite of the decreased underwriting profits, the addition to net surplus assets is again a substantial figure. On this occasion it has been dealt with by transferring £25,000 to create a contingency fund to look after depreciation in investments (much of which has been recovered since the close of the year), and the profit and loss account credit balance has, in consequence, been slightly reduced. The year 1928 coincided with the 25th birthday of the " Provincial," and in 1930 the " Drapers and General " celebrates its 21st birthday. As already announced, the double event has been signalised by the introduction of a staff profit-sharing scheme, and of a generous staff pension scheme on a semi-contributory basis.

Marine Insurance Company, Ltd.—in commenting on the 1928 report of this company a year ago we wrote:—" The Marine would do well to turn its attention towards publishing more complete information as to the results of its operations. At present its annual report consists merely of an abbreviated balance sheet, from which it is quite impossible to estimate the true profits except over a series of years." The coming into force of the new Companies' Act has compelled the company to issue more informative accounts, though this should have been done years ago. From the new form of accounts it appears that each underwriting year's transactions are kept open for the unusual period of three years. Thus, in the 1929 report the 1927 account is closed with a substantial balance of £118,423 transferred to profit and loss account. In respect of the 1928 account there remains a balance of £281,518 wherewith to meet third year claims and transfer to suspense account in respect of an original premium income of approximately £870,000. The current account, namely, that of 1929, appears to exhibit a reduced premium income, the amount being £829,000, and the first year's experience has been extremely favourable, the amount left in hand at the end of the year representing over 75 per cent. of the premium income. The whole of the share capital is held by the London and Lancashire, and, in addition to a normal dividend of 26⅔ per cent., a special dividend of 40 per cent. has been declared for 1929.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Security Market — Money — Gold Movements — Industry — Tariff.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, April 4.

CONTINUED strength in security markets, while surprising most sober observers, has undoubtedly created confidence in ultimate business recovery. Share markets, measured by average prices, have recovered approximately half the loss sustained in the September-November break. There is little disposition to dispute the claim that recovery has gone far beyond any mild improvement discernible in trade, and a pretty good case can be made out for the side which maintains that the market has now discounted everything there is any reason to expect for the remainder of the year.

However, the bulls maintain with a good deal of precedent to back them that the stock market always goes too far in either direction, that last autumn's decline was too severe and that much of the current rise is merely restoration of unnecessary losses. On top of that there is an abundance of investment money in the country, interest rates are low, and the general public has largely forgotten its unhappy experiences of a few months ago. Finally, the actual recovery has been less than indicated by average prices. A tabulation of market price for 225 representative and railroad stocks shows a total decline from September to November of approximately $20,000,000,000. The same stocks rose $3,416,000,000 last month, $1,140,000,000 in February and $1,998,000,000 in January. That appreciation, with a smaller gain in December, restores only a third of the autumn loss.

Money during the week has held moderately firm pending the disbursement of record-breaking dividend and interest payments. Call rate has been steady at 4 per cent., but, as the week closed, funds became available outside the Stock Exchange at 3½ per cent., and easier rates are anticipated for the remainder of the month. Time money is a shade firmer, but no one wants it. Since the readjustment of bill rates to the 3 per cent. Federal Reserve Bank buying level, the central institutions have bought a good many bills. This week's statement shows an increase in holdings of $35,000,000, virtually all being short-life documents which will mature in the next few weeks, and which it was more profitable for dealers to sell.

Although there is now less expectation of an early reduction in the New York discount rate, the central banks are holding to their easy money policy. Deducting the increase in member bank discounting due to the end of the month, the reserve institutions added, on their own account, $45,000,000 to outstanding credit, which is now about $125,000,000 higher than a fortnight ago. Gold imports have played an important part in the rapid decline in interest rates. The arrival this week of $9,000,000 from the Orient makes the net gain in gold since the beginning of the year about $134,000,000. Of this total $15,500,000 was metal released from earmark at the reserve banks and $88,000,000 came from Japan. The heavy outflow in the closing months of last year reduced our net gain to $119,500,000 for 1929, so that since January 1, 1929, we have added $253,500,000 to our gold stock. Obviously there is no desire to bring in more.

Bond price movements have been less bullish this week, but the market has had to digest a heavy volume of new capital issues. The result is that current offerings are lighter, this week's issues being less than $100,000,000. For March, bond offerings totalled approximately $650,000,000, compared with stock issues of only $85,000,000. For the same month of last year bonds made up $455,000,000 and stocks $300,000,000. Foreign bond isues were about $15,000,000 higher than March, 1929, and totalled $105,000,000. No great quantity of new financing is on the way for the next two or three weeks, and bankers are hoping that the reparation issue will come along before the market is again spoiled by too many new bonds. Reports from your side that the American portion of the first reparation issue may have to be trimmed somewhat under first estimates possibly have some basis in fact. However, no attention need be given to the mouthings of " political bankers " regarding the legality of the issue. They are of a piece with recent attacks on the alleged menace to the financial independence of this country of the Bank for International Settlements.

Business signposts point to better weather, but the improvement has been mild, and in some directions none seems to have taken place. Railroad traffic is still at the lowest levels for this season since 1922, business failures last month were the highest for March since 1922, and, outside New York City, where the Stock Exchange business is a big factor, bank clearings and bank debits to individual accounts have shown no improvement. Shippers' regional advisory boards have estimated for the railroads that freight-car requirements in the second quarter will be about 4.2 per cent. below the same period of last year. That will mean about 15 per cent. decline in railroad earnings, but it suggests improvement over the first quarter. Loadings for the first three months were over 6 per cent. under a year ago, against the shippers' estimates of less than one per cent.

On the other side of the picture, income tax collections for the March 15th date totalled $559,503,000, a reduction of only $42,000,000 from last year, and substantially above estimates. Considering the lower rates in effect, it is apparent that the effect of the stock market break on individual payments was either not considerable or was offset by higher corporation earnings. It now looks as

though the tax cuts may be retained, although extra appropriations for the Farm Board may cut the surplus for the fiscal year to around $100,000,000.

The steel industry has increased slightly its operating rate, which is now 76 per cent. of capacity, and pig-iron output in March was the highest since last November; but the daily rate of 104,450 tons compares with 119,822 tons in March, 1929. Prices have begun to decline again, but mill costs are lower also, except in so far as reduced quantity increases them, and earnings are not suffering greatly. Motor output for March is estimated by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce at 400,000 cars, which figure is 36 per cent. below last year, but 18 per cent. higher than February. Actually the country is buying freely, but dealers are pressing the sale of used cars and old models, and meanwhile manufacturers are holding back on new production. This month is expected to be much better than March.

The Treasury will have to meet interest payments on Liberty bonds of $150,000,000 on April 15th. However, the recent cessation of borrowings by the Farm Board and the unexpectedly large income tax collections may mean postponement of a Treasury bill tender intended for that time, or at least a substantial reduction in the issue. In May, at any rate, the Treasury must borrow, for in that month the $50,000,000 bill issue of February falls due.

The Tariff Bill has now been sent to conference, where it is hoped that within the current month an agreement may be made with the Senate on the 1,250 changes made by that body in the House Bill. These hopes may be too optimistic, but at least the Republican leaders for the moment are in control of the situation. It is fairly certain that a much higher Tariff Bill will be passed and that President Hoover will sign it. The first reaction of business men will be one of relief that the measure is out of the way, but the new law is not destined to live long.

FRANCE.

Budget — B.I.S. — Prices — Production — Railways — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 15.

THE Senate completed its examination of the Finance Bill on Friday night, and the measure has since gone backwards and forwards several times between the two Houses for the purpose of finally settling various minor points of difficulty between them. M. Tardieu has determined, however, that the Bill shall be definitely disposed of before either House is allowed to rise for the Easter recess, and there is, at the time of writing, every probability that, by Wednesday night, his desire will be satisfied. The final serious remaining obstacle was apparently got over this afternoon, when the Chamber, by a majority of 59, on a vote of confidence, adopted the Government's views in regard to the Opposition proposal that all pre-war pension scales shall henceforward be automatically equalised, on the basis of a coefficient of 5. The question is an exceptionally thorny one—to such an extent that the Minister for the Budget, M. Germain Martin, twice told the House roundly that, if the opposition were persisted in and adopted, the technical difficulties that would follow would be so great that he would prefer to resign his portfolio forthwith. It is now confidently expected that, once the Budget is out of the way, the Government will be able to fulfil its promises to pass into law before Easter the proposed 1,500,000,000 francs of taxation reductions, a substantial proportion of which will be for the relief of investors and others who are interested in Bourse transactions.

It is unofficially announced to-day that the constitutive assembly of the Bank of International Settlements is to take place at Basle on April 22nd, or thereabouts, and that the institution will be in a state to begin actual operations early in May. Before the bank can open its doors, ratification of the Hague agreements by four out of the five creditor Powers is necessary, and on this point there seems to be little danger of delay. France has already ratified the agreement, and Belgium has arranged to do so. Great Britain and Italy have power to take a similar step without seeking Parliamentary authority beforehand, and are expected to take the necessary measures at any moment. In the circumstances it is expected here that formal publication of authority for the issue of the French portion of the pending loan will take place on April 28th. It is reported that the Bank of France will offer for public subscription the whole of 16,000 shares in the B.I.S. for which it is stipulated that it shall subscribe. These shares will have a nominal value of 2,500 francs (Swiss) each, or 12,312 French francs, of which 25 per cent. will be paid up. They will have a fixed yield of 6 per cent., plus a right to 20 per cent. of the profits, to the equivalent of a further 6 per cent. It is considered that any call for the remaining 75 per cent. of the capital is unlikely. It is asserted by the Agence Economique et Financière that subscribers will be expected to forward the total amount of the nominal capital with their applications for the shares; and as the issue will total about 50,000,000 francs, this may lead to a slight tension in this market. It is now expected, although no definite decision has yet been come to on the point, that the yield to be offered in regard to the coming international reparations loan will be 6 per cent. net (instead of from 5 to 5½ per cent. previously suggested), and that the rate of interest of the various portions of the issue will vary slightly, according to the special circumstances prevailing in the respective countries. Norway, Sweden and Denmark are now stated to be among the neutral countries in which a portion of the loan will be issued, in addition to those mentioned last week.

The general index figure for wholesale prices at the end of March is returned by the Statistique Générale as 565, representing a drop of ten points on the month, and as compared with a mean of 623 during 1929 and of 634 in 1928. The detailed comparative figures (based on 100, as representing the corresponding commodity prices in July, 1914) are as follows:—

	Articles.	End of Jan.	End of Feb.	End of March.
General index figure	45	576	575	565
French products.....	29	604	611	600
Imported products.....	16	524	510	501
Foodstuffs	20	526	529	523
Raw materials	25	620	615	601

Reduced to gold values, the French figure for March works out at 115. The retail price figure for Paris (13 articles of common necessity) is returned as 591 (equivalent to 120 in gold), or seven points lower on the month, against 607 in March, 1929, and 524 in March, 1928. The figure representing the cost of living for Paris working-class family of four persons is returned, for the end of February, as 565 (against a mean of 556 in 1929 and 619 in 1928), equivalent to 115 in gold. Curiously enough, the figures for wholesale prices and cost of living are on this occasion identical.

Industrial production remains, as far as can be seen, practically unaffected by the slump in raw material prices and the general slowing down that marks most other countries. The general index figure for February, which has just been issued, is returned as 143 (as compared with 100 as representing production in 1913). This is a single point lower than the January and February figures, five points higher than the mean figure recorded during 1929, and six points ahead of the mean for 1928. The textile industry remains still below its 1913 level, with a general figure of 88, as against a mean of 92 in 1929 and of 99 in 1928. All other industries are now well above their pre-war output level, and some enormously so. The rubber industry figure for February is returned as 918, against the high record figure of 957 in November last, a mean of 861 in 1929, and one of 587 in 1928. Motor-car production shows a seasonal jump of 65 points since November to 663, against a mean of 657 in 1929 and one of 610 in 1928, and has not yet reached its zenith for the current year. Most of the other leading industries show improvement on the month. Metallurgy stands four points higher, textiles and building each one, leather five, and paper six. Engineering fell off three points, and extractive industries one.

Labour continues scarce in the heavy industries and in agriculture, while in the retail trades there is less activity. The number of persons in receipt of unemployment pay on April 5th was 1,524 for the whole country, against 1,683 in February and 396 in October.

The French railways last year showed a combined net profit of 302,700,000 francs, against 592,900,000 francs in 1928 and a deficit of 2,901,000,000 francs in 1920. There was a deficit of 286,500,000 francs on the Ouest Etat system, which was partly compensated for by a profit of 67,800,000 francs registered by the Alsace-Lorraine system, which, since 1921, has been worked as one of the State lines. The five privately-owned companies showed a combined profit of 570,800,000 francs, notwithstanding a loss of 49,400,000 by the Midi Company (against 26,000,000 francs deficit in 1928). Under the convention of 1921 the whole of the lines are now being worked as a national economic instrument, under a Superior Council, comprising representatives of the Government, the companies, the working staff and the great industrial and consumers' associations. The shareholders' dividends are guaranteed by the State, and all profits are paid into a common fund, so that deficits on the weaker lines are recouped from the results attained by the undertakings which show profits. The 1929 deficits will, therefore, necessitate no extra charge on the Budget.

Money for carrying-over purposes at to-day's mid-monthly Bourse settlement had a rate of 2½ per cent. in the official market, against 1½ per cent. a fortnight ago. The volume of transactions involved was so small, however, that this occasioned no inconvenience. The amount of cash available was substantially smaller than it has been lately, as lenders have reduced the disposable amount to the minimum, owing to the smallness of the yield of late. Moreover, the market has been accumulating funds to meet the demands of industry towards the end of the current week, when industrial taxation amounting to something like 1,000,000,000 francs will become due for payment. At the same time, a good deal of money has been withdrawn from circulation in liquidation of recent gold purchases abroad. Sterling fell away to-day in Paris on Mr Snowden's Budget speech, and closed at 124.06½, against 124.18 last night.

GERMANY.

Agrarian Programme — Effect on Commercial Treaties — Berlin Municipal Scandal — Nitrogen Cartel — Steel Output — Bourse.

BERLIN, April 14.

THE Bruening Government has won a great victory by a narrow majority. It has induced the Reichstag to adopt its economic programme, the change of taxes and of agrarian import duties. But it is merely an outward, not a moral, victory, for in order to secure the necessary number of votes the Government was compelled to make a number of concessions which cannot be justified on their merits, and which in part are even at variance with the Government's own aims. One such concession is almost the whole agrarian programme, which was intended, through its exaggeratedly Protectionist character, to win for the cabinet votes from the German National Party, and which did have such an effect. But in the taxation programme there are also items that found their way in only under the pressure of the political situation. One of these is the special tax on department stores and co-operative stores, demanded by the "Economic Party of the German Middle Class," whereas, on the other hand, the increase of the beer tax, the kernel of the whole programme, had to be set at 50 instead of 75 per cent., because the Bavarian People's Party would otherwise have refused to support the Government's programme.

The chief purpose of the agrarian programme is to increase the price of rye, for since rye, along with potatoes, is the main crop of Eastern Germany and cannot for the most part be replaced by any other crop, owing to the peculiarities of the soil, profitable farming is dependent on the price of this grain precisely in those sections where the agriculturists are most heavily oppressed by debt. But as a result of the decline in the consumption of rye bread, rye has already been forced into the role of a fodder stuff in wide degree. Its price is to-day regulated by competition with other fodder stuffs, especially barley and maize. Hence the basic idea of the new German agrarian policy is to raise the price of rye by duties on fodder barley and by prohibition of the import of maize. An essential of the Schiele programme is thus a further increase of the maximum duties on fodder barley, which were already sharply increased a few months ago.

But this raising of the price of fodder has two unfortunate results. In the first place, it menaces all those undertakings that must import fodder to breed swine, poultry, etc., to compete with the breeders in Holland and Denmark. Whereas the East German farmer mainly uses only fodder raised on his own farm, imported barley is the most important fodder in many undertakings in North-west Germany, and in South Germany imported fodder to eke out the domestic supply also plays an important part. The second danger is the menace to existing commercial treaties and the increasing of the difficulties of making new ones. Germany, like most European States, has concluded a number of treaties which, in addition to the most-favoured-nation clause, also contain lists of fixed duties which may not be exceeded by either of the contracting parties. Germany is now endeavouring to extend this system of contractually fixed tariffs, especially eastward, and she is now carrying on negotiations with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Roumania. But these countries have a great interest in the export of grain, and especially of barley, to Germany, and it is unlikely that a satisfactory agreement can be reached with them on the basis of the new German tariff policy. Grain plays only a subordinate role in the existing commercial treaties with the western and northern States—Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Finland—but cattle and animal products are correspondingly more important. The new agrarian programme includes substantial increases of duties on these products, since it is desired to give the cattle-breeding German farmers at least a small compensation for the increase in the cost of fodder.

The commercial treaties with Poland and France play a particular part. The treaty with Poland was concluded only a short time ago after years of tariff war. It has not yet been ratified. Poland feels herself hard hit above all by the duty on swine, which has also been increased, and it looks as if the opponents of ratification would gain ground as a result. The German-French treaty—the cornerstone of commercial politics not merely for Germany but for the whole European continent—is, it is true, not directly affected by the new German tariff policy. But the new law doubles the autonomous duties on wine, which are of especial importance for France. The new rate cannot go into effect as long as the present treaties with France, Italy and Spain run. But the German viticulturists possess much political influence, and there is reason to fear that the Government will be compelled to denounce the treaty with France, which can be done at three months' notice, in order to give the German vine growers the benefit of the increased duties. It is possible that a corresponding regulation as to Italy and Spain could be introduced without a cancelling of the treaties. It was anxiety concerning the system of commercial treaties that moved the Reichsverband der Deutschen Industrie (National Association of the German Industry) to make a vigorous public protest against the agrarian programme, since a large part of Germany's export business is dependent on these treaties.

A serious new case of corruption in the municipal administration of Berlin appears to have been discovered. Last year the public were aroused by the frauds of the Sklarek brothers, who had a monopoly of the supply of articles of clothing to city departments and who took advantage of acquaintanceships thus formed with city officials and members of the Council to obtain, in part by

bribery, millions of credits from the city bank, which sums were later for the greater part lost. The new revelations have to do with purchases of real estate by Berlin. Since 1924 the city has added greatly to its holdings of real estate. In this period it has bought far more than 100 million marks' worth of land for settlement and traffic purposes. This was without doubt in the interest of properly planned and co-ordinated city expansion, and it is also not to be regretted that big profits were thus barred to private speculators and flowed into the city's treasury. In the long run this policy will assuredly turn out to have been good business for the city, for it bought only unimproved agricultural land and, after arranging for new lines of traffic to establish the necessary connections, it has been selling it for building purposes, and has received a materially higher price than it paid. But it is alleged that City Councillor Busch, in whose hands the conduct of these transactions rested, has been guilty of grave misdemeanours. The accusation is that he repeatedly rejected favourable offers of sale from the owners of property themselves, but bought the same lands at much higher prices when they were offered by middlemen. The investigation of the matter by a sub-committee of the Prussian Diet, to which the partial clearing up of the matter is due, has not yet been concluded, and Herr Busch himself is ill and has therefore not yet been able to answer the allegations. The political importance of the affair lies in the fact that there has been in Germany for a considerable time a strong demand that the municipalities limit their economic activities in all directions.

While the negotiations for an extension of the Rhenish-Westphalian coal syndicate have still made no progress, a complete agreement has been reached concerning the German nitrogen cartel, which was due to expire on June 30th of this year. A round 98 per cent. of the German nitrogen producers have agreed to market their product for a further seven years through a common sales organisation. The quotas of the producers were fixed according to their producing capacity. The I.G. Farben naturally heads the list with a yearly production of 750,000 tons of synthetic nitrogen, and a quota of 250,000 tons was granted the coal industry in the Ruhr district, inclusive of the new plants planned or now building. Since the consumption of nitrogen on the whole world market in the last few years has increased more slowly than the production, the German cartel can now employ only from 75 to 80 per cent, of its capacity. Almost half the entire output is exported.

A good idea of the production and sales of coal and iron products in Germany is afforded by the quarterly reports of the United Steel Works (Vereinigte Stahlwerke), which produce almost 50 per cent. of the entire steel output. The total sales of this concern amounted in the first quarter of 1930 to 327 million marks. The highest figure was reached in the summer of 1929—roundly 400 million marks per quarter. Since then sales have been falling off, chiefly as a result of lessened requirements of the domestic iron-working industry for rolling mill products. In the fourth quarter of 1929 the sales still amounted to 356 millions.

Last week was uneventful on the Berlin Bourse. The upward trend, both for bonds and shares, was checked; as a result of the uncertainty of the political situation the attitude was one of waiting and no business. But the liquidity of the money market continued. Bankers' acceptances dropped as low as 4½ per cent. and daily money was offered first-class borrowers for 2 per cent. Short-term foreign credits probably flowed into Germany in the last few days to considerable amounts. The large German banks now pay about 4 per cent. for three months' money. The receipt of gold—50 million marks in the first week of April—would make possible a further lowering of the discount rate, but the Reichsbank prefers just now to let the present figure stand.

BELGIUM.

Public Finance — Repayment of the American Loan — Industry — Stock Exchange.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, March 30.

ACCORDING to the most recent statistics the financial situation is still particularly strong. The results of the fiscal year 1928, which was finally closed on October 31, 1929, have just been published. Despite a serious increase in current expenditure and in expenses for productive extension works (ports, telephone system, etc.), the financial year 1928 has yielded a surplus of 1,052 million. In addition, 1,200 million francs were allocated to the sinking fund of the public debt and 600 million were expended on other repayments, so that, in fact, the surplus available reached 2,852 million on a budget totalling 12,000 million francs. This brilliant result has been attained by particularly abundant taxation receipts. After deduction of the anticipated amortisations, the ordinary budget left a surplus of 1,333 millions.

The results of the financial year 1929 are not yet known, since final accounts of both receipts and expenditure cannot, according to Belgian law, be drawn up before the end of the tenth month following the end of the year. It is anticipated that the fiscal year 1929 will leave, after deduction of the amount allotted to the sinking fund and a 650 million franc allocation for other amortisations, a surplus amounting to 700 million francs; the surplus from the ordinary budget will reach 766 millions. Probably the final results, which will be known in ten months, will prove even more favourable.

These surpluses have been used mainly for the enlargement of the Treasury's reserve which, non-existent five years ago, amounted at December 31, 1929, to 4,645 millions, as appears from the following table:—

TREASURY ASSETS AT DECEMBER 31, 1929.

(In million francs.)

Current account at the National Bank	447
Portfolio of inland bills	478
Bank deposits and bills in London	2,520
" " " in New York	1,181
" " " in Berlin	14
Miscellaneous items	5
Total	4,645

These funds made up, in part, the *per contra* item to the postal cheque deposits and of the 20- and 5-franc note circulation, which are both pledged by the State. Though invested at short-term, the reserve returned 180 millions for 1929, that is more than 5 per cent.

By means of these cash assets the Belgian Government will redeem the outstanding balance of the 1920 loan issued in New York. This loan of a capital amount of 50 million dollars was contracted at 91.25 per cent. by the bankers and issued for public subscription at 97. As it bears 7½ per cent. interest, and is to be repaid at 115, it is very burdensome, contracted, as it was, at a time when Belgium was very short of money. On March 10, 1930, the balance due (the capital debt outstanding is of 30 million dollars), amounting, inclusive of the premium, to 34½ million dollars, was remitted to the American bankers. It was necessary to withdraw part of the London deposits, since the funds at the Treasury's disposal in New York must have been insufficient.

The Belgian Government has created a so-called "Monetary Fund" in order to guarantee the 20- and 5-franc note circulation, as well as the future issues of 5-franc divisional money which is about to be coined. The total nominal amount of these notes and coins may not exceed 1,200 million francs. Besides the redemption of the loan referred to above, a semi-official intimation implies that Belgium intends to pay off gradually her foreign loans before starting the repayment of internal funded debt. Nevertheless, this does not exclude the conversion of the 6 per cents., which stand already above par (they are at present quoted at 102.50) and are convertible from 1931 onwards.

The business trend is no longer as brilliant as the present state of public finance. Though it would be exaggerated to call it an industrial depression, an indisputable setback is felt throughout the whole country. Up to now statistics do not show any unemployment, but it is expected that unemployment will soon become inevitable, though on a moderate scale.

The position of the Belgian coal industry is less favourable, since the coal market is growing steadily duller. Prices have fallen 10 and 20 francs per ton. On receipt of tenders for next quarter's coal supply the National Railways Company, Ltd., ordered 150,000 tons from England, tenders of the Belgian coal companies being less favourable. This is regarded as a warning. Stocks have increased 200,000 tons on the month; it is anticipated that they will amount at the beginning of April to not far from 1 million tons, which means a serious hindrance to recovery. Trade will perhaps become more difficult than at present, if the wage increments gradually granted in 1929 to pitmen are to be continued. Taxation receipts for February, especially those from the sales tax, show a perceptible abatement in transactions; the figures of railway traffic by rail have reflected a similar trend.

The Brussels Stock Exchange slumped in February, but in March there was some improvement. People who suffered from heavy losses in the last stock crash are now preferring bonds and Government securities to shares. This has not, however, given rise to new issues of industrial bonds, since there is not yet any demand for them. For example, 5½ per cent. bonds were issued in February at 97; in March the subscription price has been 98. It is long since such facilities for raising money were available here. Last year the "Crédit Communal" issued bonds bearing 6.2 per cent. interest.

NORWAY.

Discount Rate — Bond Market — Stock Exchange — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TRONDHJEM, March 29.

THE present Norwegian Bank rate of 4½ per cent. has not previously been in operation since the period October, 1926, to October, 1927, the immediate reason for the introduction of this rate at that time being an exceptionally heavy influx of foreign exchange. The present foreign balances of the bank are considerably lower than they were at the turn of the year, though there has been some increase during recent weeks, and loans and advances have been increasing during the first half of this month. The recent reduction in the bank rate is, therefore, primarily a consequence of the development of the international market, where the tendency is still in the direction of cheaper money. Whether there will be further reductions in the Norwegian Bank rate, if London or New York rates should be reduced again, there is, of course, no possibility of saying; but the Governor of the Norges Bank has at least hitherto been able to carry out to a quite extraordinary degree the policy outlined in his speech at the annual meeting of the Norges Bank last month, of keeping the discount rate as low as possible. The deposit rates of the private joint-stock banks (as well as those of the savings banks) usually follow automatically the movements of the bank rate, but in this case the Oslo banks and most of the other private banks in Bergen, Trondhjem and other towns have decided to maintain the rates prevailing before the reduction, at any rate until conditions have become more settled.

The recent bank rate reductions have greatly stimulated the bond market and produced a considerable rise in the prices of nearly all types of bonds. A new series of 5 per cent. bonds of the Kongeriket Norges Hypothekbank to the amount of 30 million kroner is being offered at 99.5 per cent., while the price of this type of bonds during last year was as low as 94.5 per cent. The Municipalities Bank (Kommunalbanken) has also opened a new series of 5 per cent. bonds to the amount of 15 million kroner, at a price which is also very favourable to the bank. The 6 per cent. loan of 1920 is convertible on June 1st next, and it is likely that the Government will exercise their right of conversion in the present favourable circumstances, although as yet no definite step has been taken to this effect.

Activities on the Bourse during the month have also been much influenced by the declining Bank rate, public interest being chiefly concentrated on Government and other bonds. As might be expected in the present circumstances, however, sellers have been rather reluctant. Whaling shares have been firm on account of favourable reports from the expeditions still operating, banking shares are very quiet with very little business done, while shipping shares are weaker.

According to the trade returns for February, the value of imports and exports amounted to approximately 78 and 58 million kroner, as against 75.7 and 53.8 million kroner respectively in February, 1929, the surplus of imports being thus 20 million kroner against 21.9 million kroner in the corresponding month of 1929. The value of the chief import items was as follows, the figure in brackets representing those of February last year: Cereals, 7.4 (5.1); drapery goods, 10.1 (8.6); and vessels, 4.6 (8.1) million kroners. The value of the chief exports was as follows: Pulp, 9.3; paper, 7.2 (6.6) million kroner.

As the freight market has continued rather dull for an extended period, a comparatively large percentage of the Norwegian mercantile fleet has been inactive for some time, and it is stated that the immediate prospects are not very encouraging. That this poor condition of the freight markets, which also prevailed during the greater part of 1929, has affected our shipping companies is evidenced in the reports of nearly all those companies which are engaged in foreign markets. A typical example is furnished by the report of the Norway-American Line, from which it appears that while the line carried a total cargo from the United States and Canada of 195,000 tons in 1928, the corresponding figure for 1929 was 133,000 tons only. This decline is practically entirely accounted for by reduced shipments of grain, flour and sugar. It is further mentioned in this connection that while the total export of grain from the United States and Canada amounted to 30.8 million quarters in 1928, the figure in 1929 totalled only some 13 million quarters.

The herring catches now in progress on the western coasts of the country are said to be the richest ever recorded in Norway. The greater part of the fish caught is being exported as salted herring, but a large quantity is also being sold to the herring oil factories or exported as fresh herring.

CEYLON.

Revenue and Expenditure — Public Debt — Income Tax Proposal.

COLOMBO, March 12th.

THE question of taxation is engaging attention in Ceylon, particularly on account of the Government's proposal to impose income tax as from April 1, 1931. There has been in recent years considerable support for income tax to provide a change in the incidence of existing taxation, but the Government seeks to impose it rather as a way out of its financial difficulties, as it has been necessary to borrow 14 million rupees to balance the budget of 1929-30. All the financial measures of the past year show that the Government is greedy for revenue to continue a progressive developmental policy. The Customs duties were revised to bring in an additional revenue of four million rupees, to-day a 2½ per cent. betting tax is being discussed in the Legislative Council, and on top of it all income tax is threatened. The root question is whether the Government can justify its demands, and this calls for a survey of the colony's financial position. Beginning with the financial year 1920-21 (when there was a deficit of twenty million rupees and no talk of income tax but of drastic

retrenchment) the revenue and expenditure for each financial year have been as follows: —

	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1920–21	70,619,061	91,767,691
1921–22	79,270,116	77,359,068
1922–23	93,720,169	85,583,909
1923–24	102,363,115	100,713,868
1924–25	115,539,669	106,365,684
1925–26	124,516,155	112,943,821
1926–27	129,358,916	123,621,897
1927–28	134,134,952	152,107,200
1928–29	134,947,464*	149,455,512†

* Including railway receipts, less interest paid to general revenue.
† Including railway revenue expenditure.

As from 1928-29 the Railway Department has been budgeted for separately, and the colony's revenue total of 107,818,274 rupees and expenditure total of 125,896,034 rupees for that year are adjusted above to provide a true basis of comparison with the previous year's returns. Thus, the colony's revenue has progressively expanded during the past eight years, and yet the colony has arrived at a financial position necessitating heavy new taxation. The reason will be found in the heavy expenditure in 1927-28 and in the new commitments involved in the years of profligate expenditure. While the surplus balance of the colony amounted to 49,696,242 rupees on September 30, 1927, this balance was rapidly dissipated, and it was found necessary to borrow 14 million rupees for revenue purposes for 1929-30 in order to maintain the minimum reserve of 10,000,000 rupees.

A detailed examination of the accounts discloses that the allocation of expenditure against revenue and against loan funds has been carried out in a haphazard manner. There is no statement of the amount diverted from revenue for extraordinary expenditure on public utility undertakings, and until Government gives an undertaking that the amount of the present value of the public utility undertakings will be borrowed on loan account and refunded to revenue, the revenue figures give a false idea of the position. There is therefore no justification in stating that there is any shortage of revenue at the present time.

On September 30, 1929, the public debt of the colony stood at 171,589,745 rupees, against which assets amounting to 61,146,688 rupees were held, showing a net debt of 110,442,557 rupees. Even allowing for the borrowing which has taken place since then (38,840,000 rupees), it is reasonable to assume that the present value of the assets of all public undertakings greatly exceeds the amount of the public debt. If a statement were made of the assets of all public undertakings, it would undoubtedly be shown that the colony is in a sound position to attract further investments in the shape of loans, and further that this course should be followed in order to capitalise the amount already spent from general revenue on capital items of a permanent and revenue-producing nature.

The revenue from income tax, which is estimated at 25,000,000 rupees in a normal year and 40,000,000 rupees in a boom year, would only encourage further extravagance, if not at first, then in later years when surplus balances had again accumulated. Unfortunately, however, the Legislative Council has set its face against loans, except for revenue-producing schemes, and the Government is determined on continuing the intensive internal development of recent years. In the circumstances, without a businesslike appropriation between loan and revenue expenditure, income tax would seem inevitable.

IRISH FREE STATE.

Agricultural Production — Dairy Farming — Revenue.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, April 2.

INTERESTING statistics of the value of the Free State's agricultural production in 1926-27 have recently been published. It is estimated that the total value of the agricultural output was £64,767,000, of which £23,071,000 was consumed by the agricultural community, £11,569,000 was consumed by non-agriculturists in the Free State, and £28,400,000 was exported. The balance, £1,717,000, represented the increase in the value of stock during the year. It is pointed out that every Free State agriculturist consumes £12 14s. worth of Free State agricultural produce, as compared with £10 per head sold to Free State non-agriculturists and 13s. per head sold to inhabitants of Great Britain. These figures indicate, first, the importance of the Irish market for home-grown produce and, secondly, the room that exists for expansion in the British market. The output per worker employed in the Free State was £96, as compared with £104 in Northern Ireland, £169 in England and Wales, £184 in Scotland and £196 in Denmark. It is obvious that the Irish farmer has still much to learn from farmers in other countries and that he has not yet made adequate use of the advantages which he possesses in respect of climate, soil and situation. The Danish figure, in particular, suggests that there is a possibility of great improvement in output along the lines of mixed dairy farming, thus endorsing the Government's official policy, which is to develop that type of farming in preference to others.

The average milk yield per cow is shown to be 487 gallons, compared with 654 in Switzerland, 645 in Denmark, 535 in England and Wales, and 498 in Sweden. It must be remembered that the Irish farmer devotes his attention to the production of a dual purpose type of animal rather than a high milk-yielding cow, and that he is wise in so doing because of the importance of the live-stock trade. The yield per cow in the dairying countries is much higher than the average, and points to a very high standard of cattle. There is no doubt that the dairying industry is the principal hope of the future of Irish agriculture. Success will depend upon the production of high yielding cows, standardisation of butter, and orderly marketing. The first two of these objectives are being gradually achieved with the assistance of the Government, and the third by the Irish Associated Creameries Company, Ltd. The annual report of this company shows that in 1929 it handled 16,000 tons of butter, valued at £2,672,532, and that as a result of bulk marketing considerable economies were obtained in packing, chilling and transport. The price of Irish butter was 4s. 6d. per cwt. nearer that of Danish butter than in the previous year, the resulting additional profit to the farmers being reckoned at £200,000.

The Exchequer statement for the year ending March 31st shows that the revenue amounted to £24,172,639, £48,407 less than in 1928-29, but £228,522 more than the estimated revenue, and that expenditure amounted to £25,050,061, £344,573 less than in 1928-29, but £1,125,061 more than the estimated expenditure. The principal items of revenue are customs £7,337,000, excise £6,437,000, income tax £3,966,000, estate duty £1,180,000 and motor tax £868,000. The floating debt has grown to the large sum of £3,231,000, the additional borrowing being mainly on account of the Shannon Scheme, the total expenditure on which now amounts to £5,496,250, to which must be added the sum of £956,974 advanced to the Electricity Supply Board.

Letters to the Editor.

LORD BEAVERBROOK'S POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In the first article in the current issue of the *Economist* you compare the tariff policies of the Australian Prime Minister and Mr Baldwin with mine, and of mine you say:—

"Lord Beaverbrook takes a little wider view," *i.e.*, than Mr Scullin's, "but still believes that we can create a self-contained Empire by taxing food and thus increasing our own costs of production."

What I do believe is something very different, namely, that by taxing imports from foreign countries and admitting Empire products free, we shall create new and large markets in the only place in which it is now possible to create them—the Empire overseas. You may disagree with the policy, but that is no impediment to describing it accurately when submitting it to the judgment of your readers.

The assertion that the taxing of foreign foodstuffs, while admitting Empire foodstuffs duty-free, would increase our own costs of production, is not even correct as a proposition in abstract economics while the practical advantages of the policy in increasing the purchasing power of the home market and in extending our Empire markets are self-evident. — Yours faithfully, BEAVERBROOK.

29, Bury Street, St. James's, S.W. 1.
April 16, 1930.

[If we have misrepresented Lord Beaverbrook's view, we regret it; and we welcome any assistance he cares to give us in stating his policy with accuracy. Frankly, however, we are at a loss to understand how it is possible to escape the conclusion—not an abstract, but a very practical conclusion—that a tax on foreign food, even though Empire-produced food were admitted free, would raise the cost of production in this country. Lord Beaverbrook is well aware that in recent years we have spent nearly twice as much on food purchased from foreign countries as we have spent on food produced in the Empire. Does he think that a change-over of the sources of supply on the vast scale which these proportions imply can be made without the inducement of higher prices for Empire and home producers of food over a long series of years? During this period, while foreign food continues to come into the country, does Lord Beaverbrook think that the foreign producer will be obliging enough to bear the whole of the tax, and that none of it will be paid by the British consumer? If not, and if food prices are raised—even if by a proportion only of the amount of the tax—can Lord Beaverbrook suggest any means of preventing the increased cost of living being reflected, through wage rates, in higher costs of production?

Finally, while we are entirely at one with Lord Beaverbrook in desiring to see the expansion of the Imperial market, has he considered what effect it would have upon the rest of our trade if we ceased to buy the £250,000,000 of food from foreign countries which now purchase in return 60 per cent. of our exports?—ED., *Econ.*]

MONEY AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—It seems to me that the economic progress of England at the moment is hung up by doubt on the whole fundamental theory of the use of money by the State.

Mr J. H. Thomas tells us that the problem is *not* just one of spending money, and enlists considerable support in saying this, while the majority of more definite Socialist opinion feels, rather vaguely, that there is a catch somewhere—that when men are not producing because "there is no money" to pay them to produce, and others are unable to consume this potential production because "they have no money" to pay for it, the essence of the solution *must* lie in pumping a sufficient amount of new money into the system to link up the two.

"But," the more orthodox reply, "that would be inflation," and so the essential, and apparently unsolved, point appears to be to what extent money can be introduced into the cycle without raising prices to neutralise its effect. *A priori*, one would imagine that as long as there are unrealised potentialities in both production and consumption, as there so obviously are, new money *could* be absorbed in this way and, in its absorption, cause to be produced sufficient new goods to leave the goods-money ratio (*i.e.*, prices) unaltered, and that only when production and consumption both reached their limit would new money necessarily raise prices.

I should like to ask you for a more detailed explanation than I have ever seen anywhere, *why* it does not in practice work out like this, and whether it is really impossible, if new money is introduced at the right point, to make it fulfil its purpose of bringing consumption and production potentialities into touch, to the benefit of all and the detriment of none. The arguments of "Can Lloyd George do it?" carried on to their logical conclusion, would seem to lead to an attitude very like the extreme Socialist one.

Is not the problem as much psychological as economic? In the cotton trade, for instance, the individual producer would say that he would be only too glad to sell larger quantities of cloth at his present prices, and the essence of the idea of mass production is that larger quantities can be produced at a smaller cost per unit. Yet in actual fact "the market" insists on quoting "firmer" prices at the first sign of increased demand.—Yours, C. H. BROWN.

Cotton Research Board, Giza, Egypt.

Books and Publications.

ECONOMIC REFORM IN ROUMANIA.*

THE new tendency towards agrarianism in Roumania is reflected in a book recently published by Professor Madgearu. The author places due emphasis on the inadequate development of the natural resources of Roumania, and, consequently, stresses the economic policy which has been advanced with the object of rendering these profitable. He makes it clear that the trend at present is towards the raising of the national revenue, and that the only way to achieve this is believed to lie in a continuous support of the main section of the working-class, the peasantry. Roumania is therefore unwilling to continue her aspiration after self-sufficiency. Industry has been fostered in Roumania in a greater measure than the natural advantages warranted. The result was uneconomic production at the expense of the consumer, with the aim of achieving the "chimerical ideal of economic self-sufficiency," as Professor Madgearu puts it.

A lowering of the Customs duties for the first time by the tariff of 1928, complete freedom for foreign investments, free zones in the neighbourhood of the main ports, and the improvement of transport are the first features which, during a period of fifteen months—since the National Peasant Party has been in power—show clearly Roumania's desire for international economic co-operation.

The innovation in the policy of agricultural credit consists in preparing the ground for a maximum benefit from the assistance given. It is suggested that the two conditions necessary are: on the one hand, farms of an average size of 25 hectares cultivated by a well-to-do class of agriculturists, and, on the other, a credit organisation, headed by the Central Co-operative Bank.

This institution will have the supervision of the credits granted, and will be responsible for such credits being used for effective production, and it will also be required to facilitate the direct export of agricultural products, thus curtailing the distance between producers and foreign markets. An area of land of 25 hectares is thought to be the most suitable, as it would permit of an adequate agricultural equipment, and make it possible for the assistance of the State to be more successfully apportioned in order to secure rationalisation.

The framework seems to be well constructed, but the problem is not yet solved. It depends partly on how the Central Bank will be able to function, but its solution is chiefly bound up with the fluctuation of international prices. For the moment, it is in the exploitation of the public properties by foreign capital that the promise of more immediately effective results lies.

As regards the Tariff policy, it seems rather risky to assert that Roumania, whose tariff walls were in 1929 still the third highest, will be among the first to reduce her Customs duties, at a stage when a national industry has already been built up on the basis of inadequate natural advantages and when appeal is made for the intensification of foreign co-operation in production. Nor is there much probability of a regular reduction, as any decrease will have to be a consequence of a previous progress in the efficiency of internal production, and will, moreover, be dependent on the Customs policy of the countries with which Roumania has commercial relations.

On the whole, the book presents a systematic summary of the economic policy of a new political party during its first year of office. Anyone who knows the natural advantages that Roumania offers, and the manner in which they were taken into consideration for the promotion of industry up till the present day, can easily see that this time the problem is being tackled in a spirit of practical common sense. The policy dealt with here means in fact a new economic trend in Roumania. In the last resort it will be dependent on its capacity for adaptation to the international economic trend, as

* "Roumania's New Economic Policy." By Dr. Virgil Madgearu. (P S. King & Son, Ltd.) Price 5s.

economic matters go far beyond the foresight and legislation of a single country, and happily the political party at present in power in Roumania seem fully aware of the fact that international economic co-operation is indispensable.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Future of Empire. By William Harbutt Dawson. (London) Williams and Norgate, Ltd., 38, Great Ormond Street. 12s. 6d. net.

This is essentially a book on peace. The British Empire is kept somewhat to the forefront in consonance with the author's belief that the Empire and the United States hold the key to the world's peace, but the point of view is that of world, rather than of Imperial, politics.

The Shifting and Effects of the Federal Corporation Income Tax. Vol. II. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $3.00.

Examines the possibilities of shifting the federal corporation income tax when levied on certain classes of corporations, discusses its social and economic effects, and concludes with an inquiry into its effects upon the policies of financing corporate enterprise.

Communist and Co-operative Colonies. By Charles Gide. Translated by Ernest F. Row. (London) George G. Harrap and Company, Ltd., 39, Parker Street. 7s. 6d. net.

Professor Gide briefly sketches the history of the communities which were founded, for the most part, during the nineteenth century, and reaches the conclusion that they meet a permanent human need.

The Workers' Share. By A. W. Humphrey. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d. net and 3s. 6d. net.

The thesis of this little book is that the problem of poverty has made no appreciable progress towards solution, and that it cannot be solved within a capitalist system. The book is based on authoritative investigations of such standing as those of the Royal Commission on Labour, Dr. Bowley, and Mr Seebohm Rowntree.

The Annals, March, 1930. (Philadelphia) American Academy of Political and Social Science, 3622-24, Locust Street. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., Great Smith Street. $2.00.

This volume of the *Annals* is devoted to real-estate problems.

International Labour Review. April, 1930. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d.

Includes an article on "Industrial Relations in the London Traffic Combine."

The Political Quarterly. April, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 14s.

Includes an article by Dr. Gregory on Empire Free Trade.

Foreign Affairs. April, 1930. (New York) Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., 25, West 43rd Street. $1.25.

Includes an article on the final Reparation Settlement.

The Hibbert Journal, April, 1930. (London) Constable and Company, Ltd., Orange Street. 2s. net.

This issue contains a very interesting collection of articles, including one on "Russian Communism as a New Religion."

The Wesleyan Movement in the Industrial Revolution. By Wellman J. Warner. (London) Longmans, Green and Company, Ltd., 39, Paternoster Row. 15s. net.

A very well-documented analysis of the interaction of religious and political and economic influences in a period in which the relation of the churches to social theory was particularly interesting.

Materials for the Study of Public Utility Economics. By Herbert B. Dorau. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 21s. net.

An American anthology of theses, lectures and papers on different aspects of public utility economics, so arranged as to constitute a text-book of the subject.

Les Comptes Internationaux de la France. By Jules Perquel. 2nd edition. (Paris) Editions du "Capital," 11 bis, Boulevard des Italiens. 5 frs.

A valuable booklet, of some 55 pages, on the French balance of payments.

Misadventures of a Working Hobo in Canada. By G. H. Westbury. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 6s. net.

The author took every precaution to give himself the status of an ordinary English immigrant with neither means nor special qualifications. His experiences therefore represent as nearly as may be those of an average working man, and his account of them makes agreeably instructive reading.

Investment. By L. L. B. Angas. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 20s. net.

An attempt to equip the reader with the economic knowledge and mental agility necessary for successful speculation.

Sources of Investment Information. (Chicago) Investment Bankers' Association of America, 33, South Clark Street.

A most useful and comprehensive bibliography.

Tin. (London) Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation, Ltd., 31-33, Bishopsgate. 2s. 6d.

Contains statistics of production, consumption, stocks, prices and supplies of tin over a period of several years.

Inwood's Tables of Interest and Mortality for the Purchasing of Estates and Valuation of Property. Thirty-third edition. By Sir William Schooling. (London) Crosby, Lockwood & Son, Stationers' Hall Court. 9s. net.

Over 400 pages of tables with a generous provision of "bookwork" on the mathematics involved. They include a large number of compound interest and sinking fund tables, moneylenders' tables and tables of a large variety of annuities.

European Finance, April 4th; Birthday Number and U.S.A. Supplement. (London) Bouverie House, 154, Fleet Street. 1s.

An international economic periodical which contains a very wide variety of articles.

Sell's Directory of Registered Telegraphic Addresses. 1930. (London) Business Dictionaries, Ltd., 8 and 9, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street.

Contains telegraphic and postal addresses, telephone numbers and trade descriptions of firms throughout the country. There is also a trades section and the information is throughout cross-referenced. Other useful features are a list of newspapers and periodicals with their place of publication and charges for space, and a list of members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges.

Report of the Superintendent of Insurance of the Dominion of Canada. Vol. II, Life of Insurance Companies. (Ottawa) Department of Insurance.

Contains full statistics of everything directly or indirectly related to life insurance in Canada, with the fullest details of the activities of individual companies, and a record of the year's legislation and legal decisions.

The Countryman, April, 1930. Edited and published by J. W. Robertson Scott, at Idbury, Kingham, Oxford. 2s. 6d.

This third birthday number contains a very wide variety of pleasant reading. The completely urbanised ought to read it. Everybody else will want to.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Hungary. 1928-29. 1s. 6d. net.

First Interim Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee. August, 1929,-*February,* 1930. Cmd. 3540. 9d. net.

Financial Statement. 1930-1931. 4d. net.

Civil Estimates and Estimates for Revenue Departments for the year ending March 31, 1931. 1s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

BRITISH SHIPPING INVESTMENTS.

THE investor in British shipping shares must envy Theseus his task of penetrating the inextricable maze, since that mythical hero had at least a single thread to guide him. In no major industry are published accounts more uninformative, or external data more difficult to come by. Shipping is notoriously depressed, our "tramp" freight index number showing a drop of 26½ per cent. over the last twelve months alone. But the investor is chiefly interested in "liner" concerns, which depend largely on freights fixed at special "conference" levels, and on passengers (including pleasure-cruising voyagers). There are other reasons for regarding published balance-sheets with a jaundiced eye. The direction of the great British concerns has always been in the hands of Napoleonic personalities, with an autocratic tradition. Past acquisitions of subsidiary companies have made every leading concern the centre of a complex solar system. Finally, the respective fleets are invariably valued on a *cost* basis (less depreciation), which may have little or no direct connection with earning power. All these conditions are of long standing, but only during the last nine months has the catastrophic decline in Royal Mail stocks revealed the full extent of the disadvantage at which they tend to place the investor.

We propose, in the following article, to deal with the position of the four largest groups—Royal Mail, Cunard, Peninsular and Oriental, and Furness Withy—and to begin with the least controversial factor, namely, the trend of recent earning power. Our first table shows how profits, dividends and prices have fluctuated in recent years:—

Declared net income (before debenture interest, but after depreciation):	Royal Mail.	Cunard.	P. & O.	Furness Withy.
	£	£	£	£
1922–5 average.....	792,844	675,312	1,130,556	427,226
1927 ,, ...	737,293	935,530	1,204,409	403,511
1928 ,, ...	729,366	795,530	1,224,267	427,750
1929 ,, ...	...	975,310	1,241,602	403,392
Total Preference dividend:				
1922–5 Average ...	217,250	135,000	152,000	56,249
No. of times covered	*2·4*	*2·8*	*5·6*	*7·6*
Last complete year	233,500	135,000	152,000	60,000
No. of times covered	*2·0*	*6·0*	*5·4*	*6·7*
Ordinary:				
Earned %, 1922–25 average	*5·95*	*5·4*	*20·4*	*9·3*
Paid %, 1922–25 average	5·75	5·6	11·5*	8·1*
Earned %, last year	*4·4*	*13·2*	*14·6*	*10·7*
Paid %, last year ...	5	7·5	12·0*	10
Stock Exchange price	£25†	23/6	52/-	36/-
Yield on last dividend %	£20	£6 7s. 8d.	£4 12s. 3d.*	£5 11s.
Yield on last earnings %	£17 12s.	£11 4s. 9d.	£5 7s. 8d.	£5 19s.

* Free of tax. † Per £100 stock.

Profit figures are affected by financial arrangements between parents and subsidiaries, by the extent of provision for depreciation and by other special factors. After making generous allowances under all these heads, however, the comparison between average earnings in a fairly "normal" post-war period (1922-25) and in recent years strongly suggests that (1) the P. & O. is slowly but steadily improving its position; (2) Cunard earnings are liable to wide annual fluctuations (due, apparently, to the varying incidence of charges for overhauling vessels); (3) Furness Withy profits are more or less static; (4) Royal Mail earnings have not been maintained of recent years. In every case but the last-named preference dividends are well covered. The best "cover" for ordinary dividends is shown by Cunard. Furness Withy is distributing profits much more closely "up to the hilt" (a policy, however, which should be read in conjunction with the satisfactory reserve position of the subsidiary companies). The last Royal Mail dividend was not fully earned, and in December last both preference and ordinary interim payments were postponed.

These figures suggest that *internal* as well as external factors must needs be taken into account in estimating the present position of British shipping concerns. Available information throws a dim and uncertain light, but we propose to grope our way towards a conclusion as regards three points: the valuation of tonnage, the relations of parents and subsidiaries, and future financial commitments. The Cunard values its ships at £36 3s. 5d. a ton, the P. & O. at £30 6s. 11d. The Cunard has written down its fleet from a first cost of £25,189,255 to £8,529,746, while the P. & O., last December, was in a position to pay all debts, repay its debentures, and leave the holders of £7,632,518 preferred and deferred stock with £3,000,000 in cash and 318 unencumbered steamers, of which £23,000,000 would represent a decidedly conservative valuation. The Furness Withy fleet is not valued separately in the accounts, but is believed to be on a conservative basis. As regards Royal Mail, all that the investor knows is that the *combined* fleets are valued by the group at £6¾ million below a figure representing cost less the (inadequate) 4 per cent. for depreciation allowed by the Board of Trade for income-tax purposes.

Until British company law insists on every holding company publishing a consolidated balance sheet, the investor cannot hope to form even an approximate idea of the real financial position of the great shipping combines. We have endeavoured, however, to obtain some slight insight into the position by ascertaining the nominal value of the shares held, directly and indirectly, in the largest subsidiaries, according to the returns of large holdings given in "Fairplay's Annual Summary of British Shipping Finance, 1930." We do not claim that our figures are in any sense complete or exhaustive:—

	Royal Mail.	Cunard.	P. & O.	Furness Withy.
Tonnage owned by parent co.	352,956	235,803	568,272	75,081
No. of subsidiaries examined.....	19	3	12	15
Total tonnage of those subsidiaries	1,740,784	376,888	1,832,442	537,416
Total tonnage, parent and subsidiaries	2,093,740	612,691	2,400,714	612,497
Total capital:	£	£	£	£
Parent.....	8,800,000	8,070,261	7,632,518	5,500,000
Subsidiaries.....	47,930,000	1,492,000	13,266,770	11,551,986
Ownership of subsidiary capital:				
By parent co.....	10,302,174	801,986	6,710,493	5,720,240
By directors of parent co.	1,912,762	...	496,320	825,894
By other subsidiaries.....	15,862,658	100,000	649,960	1,615,294
*Total**	*28,077,594*	*901,986*	*7,856,773*	*8,161,430*

* This necessarily involves duplication of various amounts.

For what the figures are worth, the capitalisation per ton of shipping (parent and subsidiary companies combined), shown in the above tabulation, is £27 16s. in the case of Furness Withy (which has, however, the largest interests outside shipping proper); £27 5s. in the case of Royal Mail; £15 12s. in that of Cunard; and £8 14s. in that of P. & O. The Cunard comes the nearest of the four companies to being a "unitary" concern; the Royal Mail has much the largest and most complex collection of subsidiaries.

All the subsidiaries of Furness Withy (except the Prince Line and the Red Cross Line, acquired last year

by a subsidiary) were purchased before the war. Many of the P. & O.'s outside interests were obtained during or immediately after the war. The Royal Mail alone has continued to follow a policy of making new large-scale acquisitions right up to recent times. Thus, while the financial commitments of the other three groups for the near future are restricted mainly to new and replacement tonnage programmes, the Royal Mail group has various obligations, maturing over the next few years, by way of payment for the White Star Line, Shaw, Savill and Albion, and other recent acquisitions, and in respect of loans made by outside authorities to R.M.S.P. Meat Transports, etc., and guaranteed by the parent company. The position is discussed in a separate "Note" on page 896. Some of the Royal Mail subsidiaries have large building programmes in hand (the Meat Transports, Nelson and Union-Castle companies having registered aggregate mortgages and charges of £6,260,569, mainly on this account), though building operations on a new super-Atlantic liner were recently declared to be suspended. The company is under the necessity of conserving its resources to the utmost extent.

Furness Withy has spent over £7,000,000 on new tonnage in the last four years, and in any case has over £3¼ million of marketable "outside" investments. The P. & O. took £1,000,000 last year from a "reserve for new tonnage construction" (not shown in the balance sheet) to pay for a new 19,648-ton vessel, the *Viceroy of India*, delivered during the year, and last December Lord Inchcape announced that orders were to be placed for two further ships of 20,000 tons. The Cunard, again, is shortly to build a new liner for the "luxury" Atlantic service which will "bear favourable comparison with anything afloat." Since the war the company has concentrated on vessels in the 20,000-ton class, but in view of German competition, and in view of the fact that no Cunard liner over 30,000 tons is less than sixteen years old, the new vessel may be of the "super" class, costing not less than £4,000,000.

The conclusion suggested by this review would seem to be that the investor should exercise considerable discrimination when purchasing shipping shares. The material for an informed judgment is meagre, elusive and unsatisfactory. It reveals, however, beyond a peradventure, that while all companies must be affected, to some extent, by depression in the industry, and all must incur significant expenditure in keeping their fleets abreast of the times, the extent to which earning power can be regarded as "assured," at current levels, is far from identical in all cases.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
April 22	April 24.

The Budget, the holidays and the end of the Account combined to give markets an abnormal character. The "House" had been conveniently shelving the Budget, and, when its presentation compelled members to face its consequences, neither first nor second thoughts proved adequate. The immediate effects of Mr Snowden's proposals on market prices are discussed in another column (page 896). It is obvious, however, that this week's business is no guide to the real nature of the reprecussions the Budget must undoubtedly have on the future of security prices. The course of dealings after the holidays will be followed with close, and slightly anxious interest, by large investors.

Gilt-edged securities opened shakily after the Budget, recovered on Tuesday (after considerable purchases were said to have been made by the Government broker), and again showed a tendency to relapse the following day. The last-named movement particularly affected 4½ per cent. Conversion scrip, but War Loan fell off after a good showing on Tuesday, and Funding Loan was sold, despite the immunity of these two stocks from income tax in the hands of foreign holders. The course of India stock prices reflected nervousness at the spread of civil disobedience and the serious Calcutta rioting, the 3 per cents. being particularly affected. Little business was done in Dominion and Colonial descriptions, and Home Corporation issues had a duller tendency.

Foreign stocks showed scattered fractional losses on a very small volume of dealings. Brazilians found few buyers. Reports of financial difficulties in Tokio caused dullness in Japanese bonds, while, nearer home, a fresh setback in the Turkish negotiations produced a further fall in Turkish Unified.

Movements in Home Railways were undistinguished, though buyers apparently predominated in a quiet market. Undergrounds, however, quickly recovered after Mr Snowden's declaration that the petrol tax would not be increased. Among Foreign Railways, Argentine stocks showed little movement, though some observers professed to see evidence of a transfer, on a small scale, from lower to higher income-yielding securities. Unwelcome political developments had no disturbing influence on Indian Railway prices.

Interest in the industrial market centred chiefly on shares affected by Mr Snowden's proposals. Among McKenna Duty beneficiaries, whose special facilities were given a further year's lease of life, motor shares were prominent, Austin and Leylands rising sharply, while Dennis was bought, from influential quarters, on Wednesday. The leaders of the tobacco market also made a firm showing in the absence of new imposts on the commodity. Brewery shares, on the other hand, were undecided, though there was general agreement that the higher duty should not have any effect on dividends. The retention of the silk duties had been fully discounted, and Courtaulds had an easy tone on "cuts" in selling prices (announced on Wednesday). The publication of the British Celanese circular was a signal for profit-taking, the company's increased turnover and profits being regarded as insufficient to cover any dividend on the ordinary shares. Gramophone issues continued firm, the market refusing to believe that the smoke-cloud of amalgamation rumours concealed no fire in the shape of a coming agreement between Columbia and H.M.V. Electrical equipment shares lost ground and internationals were undecided in the absence of American support. Bank shares were easier, but few alterations were made in insurance shares.

Rubber shares remained in an idle and uninteresting condition. The commodity was dull, with a slight recovery on Wednesday, the near approach of the May "holiday" proving no stimulus to American buying. Tea shares were marked higher, in a number of cases, on scattered support. Business in oil shares was restricted, and unresponsive to the factor of unchanged taxation, the opinion of various leaders of the industry being that an increased duty would, in any case, have had little effect on British consumption.

Dullness enveloped the mining markets early in the week, practically all changes being downward. Kaffirs opened fairly firm, with Union Corporation a strong feature, following the publication of the report (dealt with on page 898), but neither Paris nor the Cape would support their favourites, and on Tuesday not a single improvement was recorded throughout the list. Rhodesian issues were also subject to fits of depression and many descriptions finished on the wrong side. Globe and Phœnix received some support on statements made at the meeting regarding recent developments, and Wankie Colliery strengthened. Tin shares suffered, following a further recession in the price of the metal, and a sharp fall in copper to £61 17s. 6d. led to some selling of Tintos from Paris and declines in other directions.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 11.	Apr. 14.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 16.	Apr. 17.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,412	1,408	1,657	1,384	1,477	...
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,183	1,217	1,159	937	1,076	...
Commercial and Industrial*	2,405	2,276	2,369	2,362	2,608	...
Banks, Insurance and Financial	690	585	689	510	596	...
Mines (including Nitrate)	525	620	619	486	562	...
Oil	276	174	217	165	238	...
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	189	215	191	158	164	...
Total	6,680	6,495	6,901	6,002	6,721	...

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Jan. 13).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Apr. 10.	Apr. 11.	Apr. 14.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 16.	Apr. 17.
90·5	82·0	89·3	89·3	89·1	89·4	90·1	...

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Share markets are highly irregular, but the trend continues upward under the force of investment trust buying and pool activity. That public speculation is probaby not so large as supposed is suggested by the fact that brokers' loans rose by only $26 million last week. Sentiment is more cautious. Public utility issues are ahead of most groups, but oils are also a feature. Rails, on the other hand, are dull on poor traffic anticipations. Reports on industrials for the first quarter of 1929 generally show decreases in earnings as compared with a year ago. The market is looking to the future, but dividends are beginning to be reduced or passed. Copper shares have been weak, but they rallied well after the announcement of a cut in the price of the metal to 14 cents. Foreign buying was reported to be unusually good, and producers are hoping later to put prices up again. The American Telephone Company's new stock offer gives valuable "rights," quoted at from $20 to $25 each, but the price has dropped on profit-taking when the news was known. The foreign trade figures for March show exports at $374 million, the lowest March figure since 1926, but slightly above the February level. The net imports and releases of earmarked gold in first three months of 1929 amount to $144 million. Bonds are irregular and less active, with new offerings heavier; but most of the new issues are going well. The steel industry is running at 77 per cent. of capacity.

(*By Cable.*)

	Apr. 3.	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.		Apr. 3.	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	105 3/32	104 31/32	104 5/32	Phelps Dodge	42	41	39½
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111 13/32	111 7/16	110½	Pullman	82½	83	82½
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100 9/16	100 17/32	100 3/16	Sears-Roebuck	86⅛	92½	91⅝
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101½	101 13/32	101½	Studebaker	41¾	42½	40⅞
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101⅞	101⅝	101 15/32	Un. Fruit	91¾	96	96
				U.S. Leather	10⅝	13⅞	13⅝
Atchison	237	236⅝	229⅝	U.S. Rubber	32⅞	34⅞	33
Ches. & Ohio	235	232	228¾	U.S. Steel	193½	195⅝	194⅛
Erie	58	58⅝	56⅝	Westinghouse	182½	192⅜	195½
Illinois Central	129	129½	127¾	Woolworth	64¼	64¾	65⅞
N.Y. Central	186½	185½	181	Worthington Pump	136	137	134¼
Pennsylvania	84⅛	82¾	81⅞				
Southern Pacific	122½	122⅝	123¼	Am. Pow. & Light	114¼	92¾	114⅝
Southern Rly.	127½	127	114	Am. Tel. & Tlg.	262¾	270	259½
Union Pacific	235⅛	235	232	Electric P. & L.	95½	93⅛	95½
				Int. Tel. Teles.	68⅝	70⅝	72⅝
Am. Can.	148	151¼	153	Nat. Pow. & Lt.	53⅜	53⅝	53
Alleghany Corp.	32¾	32⅝	32⅜	Radio Corpn.	59⅛	60⅜	59
Amer. Smelting	77	74	73⅜	Utilities P. & L.	41⅞	45	44
Anaconda	78½	73⅞	71¼	W. Union Tlg.	191	187⅛	188
Bethlehem Steel	107½	106¾	105¼				
Chrysler Motor	38⅛	42⅜	39¼	Associated Gas "A"	41	42	41¾
Corn Produce	99½	107⅛	105⅞				
Eastman Kodak	232½	236	243¼	Mid-Cont. Pet.	31	32⅛	31
Gen. Electric(New)	86⅞	92⅜	90	Pan Amer. B.	55	58¼	55½
Gen. Motors	49½	53¼	51	Sinclair Oil	29⅞	31⅜	29⅞
Int. Harvester	94⅝	106¼	112⅞	Std. California	68⅛	71¾	70¾
Montg. Ward	40	42⅜	45	Do. N.J.	75¼	79	77¾
Natl. Biscuit	87⅞	88¾	87¾				

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices. Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices. Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	78¼	78	− ¼	Treasury 5% (B)	101¾	101 13/16	+ 1/16
Do. 4½% 1944	99⅞	99½	− ⅜	Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
Do. 5% 1944-64	102 11/16	102⅝	− 1/16	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	102	102	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	103	103⅛	+ ⅛	India 3½%	64¼	64	− ¼
Consols 4%	88¾	89	+ ¼	Do. 4½% 1958-68	86½	87	+ ½
Funding 4%	91⅛	91	− ⅛	Australia 5% 1945-75	94	93	− 1
Victory Bonds 4%	94½	94¾	+ ¼	N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	90½	90½	...
Local Loans 3%	65¼	65	− ¼	N. Zealand 5% 1946	102	102	...

Foreign Government Securities.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Japanese 6% (1924)	102	102	...	French 4% (Brit.)	20⅛	20x	...
Argentine 4% Reciss.	87½	87½	...	German 7%	108½	105¾x	+ ¼
Austrian 6% 1923-43	104	104	...	Greek 7% Refugee	103¼	103½	+ ¼
Belgian 7%	111¼	111¼	...	Hungary 7½%	103½	103½	...
Brazil 6½% (1927)	91¾	88½x	− ¼	Chili 6%	97½	97½	...
China 5% (1912)	48¼	48	− ¼	Poland 7%	92	89x	− ⅞
Egypt Unified 4%	78⅜	78¾	+ ⅜	Mexican 5% (1899)	20	21	+ 1
French 5%	20⅝	20⅝	...	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	94½	94¾	+ ¼

Corporation Stocks.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
B'mgham 5% 1946-56	⅜ pm.	⅜ pm.	...	E. London 5% 1960-70	98	98	...
Bristol 5% 1950-60	1⅜ pm.	1⅜ pm.	...	Sydney 5½% 1954	92	92	...
L.C.C. 3%	65	65	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	95½	94¾	− ¾

British and Foreign Railways.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
G. Western Ord. Stk.	88½	88½	...	B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	90	90	...
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10⅜	10⅛	− ¼	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	96½	97¼	+ ¾
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	32¼	32	− ¼	B.A.Western Ord.Stk.	77¼	78¼	+ 1
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52¼	52⅛	− ⅛	C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	81¼	82¼	+ 1
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	65	65½	+ ½	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	17⅝	18	+ ⅜
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77½	77½	...	G.W. of Brazil £10	3¼	3⅜	+ ⅛
Southern Def. Stk.	31⅞	32¼	+ ⅜	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	55	57¼	+ 2¼
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	74½	74¼	− ¼	San Paulo Ord. Stk.	195½	195½	...
Underground Ord. £1	1 5/16	1 11/32	+ 1/32	Int. Rlys. Cent. Am no par	$30½	$30½	...
Do. Income Bonds	109½	112	+ 2½	Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	19½	19½	...
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	218½	216	− 2½	Beira Rlwy. no par	1⅛	1⅛	...
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	87	86½	− ½				

Banks.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Bank of England Stk.	255	254½	− ½	Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13¾	13 11/16	− 1/16
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅞	2⅞	...	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅝	1 19/32	− 1/32	Hongk.and S. ($125)	$117½	$117½	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅝	3 19/32	− 1/32	St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15½	15½	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 13/16	3¾	− 1/16	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 13/16	3 13/16	...

Insurance.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...	Pearl (£1)	13½	13⅝	+ ⅛
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	26	26	...	Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14⅞	14¾	− ⅛
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29	29½	+ ½	Roy.In. £1, with 10/ pd.	8¾	8½	− ¼

Coal, Iron and Steel.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	5/16	9/32	− 1/32	Guest, Keen (£1)	1 25/32	1 25/32	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3⅛	3 3/32	− 1/32	Powell Duffryn (£1)	17/32	17/32	...
Baldwin (4/-)	3/16	3/16	...	Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 5/16	1 9/32	− 1/32
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	25/32	25/32	...	Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 5/32	1 5/32x	...
Cory, William (£1)	2⅞	2⅞	...	Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅝	5⅛	+ ½
Dorman, Long (£1)	9/32	9/32	...	*Vickers* (6/8)	⅝	⅝	...

Textiles.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅝	1 19/32	− 1/32	*Courtaulds*	2 11/16	2 21/32	− 1/32
Brit. Celanese Ord (10/)	25/32	13/16	+ 1/32	Linen Thread (£1)	1⅝	1⅝	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 5/16	3 5/16	...	Listers (£1)	21/32	¾	+ 3/32

Electrical Manufacturing.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Associated Elec. (£1)	1 15/32	1⅜	− 3/32	*General Electric* (£1)	2⅝	2 19/32	− 1/32
British Insulated (£1)	3 25/32	3 25/32	...	Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6 11/16	6 11/16	...
Callenders (£1)	3 13/16	3 13/16	...	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	2	1 31/32	− 1/32

Electric Light and Power.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 7/16	1 13/32	− 1/32	*Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.*	55⅞	54	− 1⅞
City of London (£1)	1 21/32	1 21/32	...	Midland Counties (£1)	1 7/16	1 7/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 13/32	2 13/32	...	*Newcastle-on-Tyne* (£1)	1¼	1 7/32	− 1/32

Gas.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	19/32	19/32	...	Primitiva (£1)	1 17/32	1½	− 1/32
Imp. Continental Stk.	400	395	− 5	S. Metropolitan Stk.	101	101⅛	+ ⅛

Telegraphs and Cables.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Cables and Wireless *A. Ord.*	59½	56	− 3½	*Canadian Marconi*	1 9/16	1⅝	+ 1/16
				Marconi Marine (£1)	2 5/16	2 1/16	− ¼
Cables and Wireless *B Ord.*	30¾	28	− 2¾	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2 15/16	2 31/32	+ 1/32

Motors.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Austin (5/-)	1 9/32	1 23/32	+ 7/16	*Leyland* (£1)	3 5/16	3¾	+ 7/16
Dennis (1/)	2 7/16	2⅝	+ 3/16	*Rolls-Royce* (£1)	2¼	2 5/16	+ 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3 13/16	3 13/16	...	Napier (5/-)	2⅝	2⅝	...

Shipping.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Cunard (£1)	1 3/16	1 5/32	− 1/32	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 13/16	2¾	− 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)	1 13/16	1 25/32	− 1/32	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26½	26½	...

Tea and Rubber.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 23/32	1 11/16	− 1/32	London Asiatic (2/)	7/32	7/32	...
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅝	1⅝	...	*Rubber Trust* (£1)	1¼	1¼	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	25½	26	+ ½	United Serdang (2/)	5/16	5/16	...

Oil.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4 7/16	4¼	− 3/16	*Canadian Eagle, no par*	11/16	21/32	− 1/32
Attock (£1)	¾	1⅝	+ ⅞	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	23/32	11/16	− 1/32
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	7/32	7/32	...	*Royal Dutch* (£3½)	34 5/16	34	− 5/16
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅝	4 11/16	+ 1/16	*Shell* (£1)	4 23/32	4½	− 7/32

Miscellaneous.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 11/32	1 11/32	...	*International Holdings*	8⅝	7 13/16	− 13/16
Braz. Traction, no par	$54⅝	$53	− 1⅝	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	44¼	42⅜	− 1 13/16
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5¾	5 27/32	+ 3/32	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr.100)	33½	33½	...
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9 5/16	9 13/16	+ ½	Marks & Spencer (10/-)	5¾	5⅞	+ ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6 5/16	6 7/16	+ ⅛	Maypole Dairy (2/-)	9/32	9/32	...
Distillers (£1)	3 15/32	3⅜	− 3/32	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2 11/32xb	2 11/32	...
Dunlop (6/8)	25/32	11/16	− 3/32	Savoy Hotel (£1)	1 13/32	1 13/32	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 9/16	4 11/16	+ ⅛	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	17⅝	17 21/32	+ 1/32
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅛	5¼	+ ⅛	Tate and Lyle (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3⅝	3⅝	...	Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅝	4⅝	...
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4½	4⅜	− ⅛	Turner & Newall (£1)	3 13/16	3¾	− 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 5/32	1⅜	+ 7/32	Unilever (£1)	3 21/32	3⅝	− 1/32
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/32	1 1/16	+ 1/32	*United Molasses* (£1)	5 21/32	5 7/16	− 7/32
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4¾	5 1/32	+ 9/32	Watney Combe Df. (£1)	2⅞	3 1/16	+ 3/16

Mines.

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Rise or Fall.
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1 5/16	1 5/16	...	*N'Changa* (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	3	2¾	− ¼
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅜	9⅝	+ ¼	NewModderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p.	1 11/32	1 9/32	− 1/16	*Rhodesian Congo Border* (£1)	15⅛	14¾	− ⅜
Burma Corp. (*Rs.* 10)	11/16	11/16	...	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	45 11/16	42¾	− 2 15/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1 1/32	15/16	− 3/32	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1 17/32	1 5/16	− 7/32
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2 3/32	− 1/32	*Tanganyika* (£1)	2 3/32	2⅛	− 3/32
Lake View & Star (4/)	13/32	⅜	− 1/32	UnionCrp. (12/6 fu. pd.)	3 25/32	3⅝	− 5/32
Loangwa (5/-)	5/32	5/32	...				
London Tin (£1)	1⅝	1⅝	...				

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100) :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Apr. 3.	Apr. 10.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	170·1	174·1
33 Rails.....	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	145·5	144·3
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	258·3	268·1
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	180·2	184·3
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·15%	4·03%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Apr. 9.	Apr. 10.	Apr. 11.	Apr. 13.	Apr. 14.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 16.
202·4	166·5	202·3	202·4	201·6	202·3	200·7	...	...

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Apr. 9.	Apr. 10.	Apr. 11.	Apr. 12*.	Apr. 14.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 16.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	5,181	5,672	5,618	2,115	4,142	4,204	4,380
Bonds (Value—Thous. $).....	12,454	11,579	12,345	6,192	10,560	11,894	16,244
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,489	1,605	1,653	708	1,292	1,279	1,404

* 2-hour session.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Stock Exchange and the Budget.—The initial reception by the stock markets of Mr Snowden's Budget proposals was frigid. It was felt that increased taxation in Great Britain, coinciding with a reduction in other countries, might cause a mild "flight from the pound," and the concentration of the new burdens on recipients of relatively high incomes was regarded as likely to diminish the fund available for national saving. Second thoughts were somewhat more favourable, the provision made for debt service and redemption being accounted satisfactory, while what was considered as a virtual pledge by Mr Snowden—that no higher taxation would be introduced next year—came to be regarded as the most reassuring feature in the whole Budget. After an initial marking down, prices recovered on Tuesday afternoon, but were easier on Wednesday :—

	Close, Monday Afternoon, (April 14).	Opening, Tuesday Morning, (April 15).	Close, Tuesday Evening.	Close, Wednesday Evening (April 16).
5% War Loan	103	102⅞	103	103⅛
4% Funding Loan	91⅜	90⅞	91½	91
4% Consolidated.....	89⅛	88½	89	88
3½% Conversion.....	78½	77½	78¼	78
4½% Conversion.....	100	99⅛	100	99¼
5% Conversion	102⅞	102½	102⅞	102¾
Austin, ord.	30/–	30/2½	32/–	34/3
Leyland, ord.	69/3	69/3	72/6	75/–
British Amer. Tob., ord....	5⅞	5 29/32	5 29/32	5 27/32
Imperial Tobacco, ord. ...	4 27/32	4 27/32	4 15/16	5 1/32
Courtaulds, ord.	2 31/32	2 15/16	2 31/32	2 31/32
British Celanese, ord.	7/8	15/16	27/32	15/16
Watney Combe, def.	57/9	58/6	58/3	61/–
Distillers, ord.	67/6	67/3	67/9	68/–
Gramophone, ord.	4⅛	4 7/16	4 7/16	4 11/16
Columbia Graph., ord.	6 1/16	6 15/32	6⅜	6 7/16
Underground, ord.....	1 5/32	1 5/16	1 13/16	1 7/16
L.M.S. Rly., ord.....	52	52⅛	52	52⅛

Shares affected by the retention of the McKenna duties were, naturally, firm, though holders paid due attention to the Chancellor's plain intimation that, revenue permitting, the duties would go by the board next year. Tobacco shares, which had been sold in confident anticipation of an increased duty, quickly recovered. The initial impulse to mark down brewery share prices was arrested by the reflection that the extra duty would probably be more than counterbalanced by the benefits of derating. Motor shares, which were firm before the Budget, rose further, but rayon share prices were found to have fully discounted in advance the retention of the duties. The recovery in Undergrounds was the natural outcome of the absence of an increase in the petrol duty. The general verdict was that the Budget lifted the Government over an awkward stile, but lessened the Treasury's chances of an early and profitable War Loan conversion issue. Whether it will induce a slight shifting of the centre of gravity from lower to higher yielding stocks, and, by causing investors to seek non-taxable capital profits rather than income, hasten the next equity share boom and defeat the purpose of cheap money, are questions to which the future must be left to supply an answer.

Stock Exchange Annual Meeting.—The annual meeting of the proprietors of the Stock Exchange, held on Tuesday (writes a Stock Exchange correspondent), opened with an appreciation by Mr Sidney Ricardo, the chairman, of the services of Mr Archibald Campbell, Chairman of the Committee for General Purposes, during the Hatry crisis. Dealing with the report and accounts, Mr Ricardo dwelt upon the excellence of the main source of Stock Exchange income. Subscriptions from members, on their own behalf, and in regard to clerks, together amounted to £297,561, and showed an increase on the year of £14,400. The decrease of £29,000 in entrance fees he described as not particularly surprising in view of the exceptional conditions of the previous year, when the high water mark of £109,400 was reached. The Stock Exchange revenue account showed a credit balance of £276,000 (£14,000 less than in 1928-29), but the dividend was to be maintained at £9 per share, making £13 for the year, less tax at 4s. 6d.—thanks to the new Budget. There were 3,925 members, 742 authorised clerks, 1,453 unauthorised clerks, and 594 settling-room clerks. Abolition of dual control is being automaticaly effected by the gradual increase in the number of proprietors, which now number 2,913. The greatest difficulty experienced by the managers at present is that of providing necessary space for the staff of officials or for members' offices. Rebuilding operations have been in progress for some time, and a new freehold recently acquired, at a cost of £77,000, has been charged to capital account. Some 88 members now pay the lowest subscription of 20 guineas, while 404 pay the maximum of 100 guineas. The largest class of members (1,594) pays 40 guineas a year. The price of Stock Exchange shares remains about 206 cum dividend, giving a yield of 6½ per cent.

Royal Mail Position.—The accounts of the largest British steamship organisation—the Royal Mail Company—are due to be presented in less than a month's time. Preference and ordinary interim dividends were postponed last December, and the market is sceptical regarding any distribution next month, judging by present quotations :—

Stock.	Amount Quoted.	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1930.	Present Price.	Yield on 1928 Dividends.
5% Red. Deb.	5,100,000	96½	52	65	7 13 9
4½% First Red. Deb.	1,400,000	89¼	71	74½	6 0 9
6½% Cum. Pref. ...	2,900,000	102	26	30	21 13 3
5% Non-Cum. Pref.	900,000	81½	20	25	20 0 0
Ordinary	5,000,000	76	21	25	20 0 0

There are rumours of impending changes in high quarters, but the public has had no definite announcement since Lord Kylsant's extraordinary declaration, in reply to a Lamport and Holt shareholder last month, that he hoped eventually to see all his shipping directorates "as one." Meanwhile, the opinion is steadily gaining ground that the group's most pressing problems are concerned less with matters of earning-power (though the latter, as we suggest in a leading article on page 893, does not appear

to have been fully maintained) than with impending capital liabilities. As will be seen from the following table, the parent company has interests in a number of decidedly large subsidiaries, for certain liabilities of which it has in many cases made itself responsible.

ROYAL MAIL HOLDINGS.

Subsidiary.	Capital. Amount Issued.	Held or controlled by R.S.M.P. By Parent Co.	By Directors.	By Subsidiaries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
African Steamship	2,500,000	...	1,200	1,994,735	1,995,935
Argentine Navigation	2,000,000	375,500	...	754,000	1,129,500
Belfast Steamship	500,000	...	10,000	475,000	485,000
British and African S.N.....	2,350,000	...	102,500	2,339,920	2,442,420
British and Irish Steam P.....	3,000,000	...	942,500	1,320,000	2,262,500
Burns and Laird Lines.....	500,000	...	...	499,491	499,491
Coast Lines	4,625,000	1,226,350	...	2,884,205	4,110,555
Elder, Dempster	8,485,000	433,444	596,040	...	1,029,484
Elder Line.....	1,000,000	...	2,500	989,960	992,460
Imperial Direct Line	500,000	...	...	495,960	495,960
Lamport and Holt.....	4,240,000	900,000	50,000	1,994,997	2,944,997
MacAndrews	1,000,000	890,500	4,000	100,000	994,500
David MacIver	700,000	284,000	186,000	...	470,000
James Moss	1,000,000	348,000	...	649,400	997,400
Nelson S.N.	1,550,000	1,997,497	...	...	1,997,497
Pacific S.N.....	1,500,000	1,492,900	...	...	1,492,900
R.M.S.P. Meat Transports ...	1,000,000	987,993	12,002	...	999,995
Union Castle	5,480,000	1,365,990	6,020	1,364,990	2,737,000
White Star Line.....	6,000,000	1,496,100	4,000	2,498,900	3,999,000
Total, 19 Subsidiary Co.'s	47,930,000	11,798,274	1,916,762	18,361,558	32,076,594

This picture is not, of course, complete. According to *Fairplay*, the companies in the group number 33, with a paid-up ordinary capital of £43,202,875, a preference capital of £26,935,375, and debentures totalling £20,115,720. Some of the subsidiaries have, in the last week or two, registered a number of new debentures, mainly in favour of Harland and Wolff, the Midland Bank and the Belfast Banking Company, covering an aggregate sum in excess of £5,330,000. These are understood, however, to be merely supplementary security for earlier advances, incurred in respect of new construction. The parent concern, however, has numerous pending liabilities. A Trade Facilities Loan to R.M.S.P. Meat Transports of £2,550,000, guaranteed by the Royal Mail, falls due in September-October this year. The company, it has been stated, will ask for an extension of time. A sum of £1,485,000, due on December 31st last, by the White Star Line to the Commonwealth Government (representing part of the purchase price of the Australian Commonwealth Line, payable in nine annual instalments) has probably been met. The group has other engagements—including £2,350,000 to be paid before December, 1936, to the International Mercantile Marine of New Jersey, for the White Star Line, and, possibly, a balance of the purchase price of the Shaw, Savill and Albion Company's shares. The Trade Facilities obligation, however, is clearly the most pressing. The Trade Facilities Act Advisory Commitee will presumably have regard to the company's importance as a leading British concern. They would, however, be on strong ground in making special treatment contingent on the utmost conservation of resources (including available earnings). Stockholders may draw their own conclusions.

Tin Restriction.—Last month the Tin Producers' Association announced (see *Economist*, March 15th) that producers with a normal output of 137,799 tons of metallic tin a year were curtailing output to the extent of 24,096 tons, and that an aggregate curtailment of 30,000 tons a year should not be unobtainable. A fresh circular was issued by the association last week, calling a meeting for April 16th to consider revised methods of restriction of output. Under the various methods already adopted it is stated that producers controlling a present normal output of 140,994 tons will be "restricting" to the extent of 26,739 tons a year. It is suggested that regulation of output by the time factor, which was the method applied in the East, is not the most economical or certain way of bringing about the desired restriction, and it is therefore proposed (1) that all plants in operation during the twelve months of 1929 shall be so regulated as to produce not more than 80 per cent. of their 1929 output; (2) that plants which began operations at dates subsequent to January 1, 1929, shall be so regulated as to produce not more than 80 per cent. of their estimated production for 1930, and (3) that where such methods are inapplicable regulation on a time basis (provided the maximum working time does not exceed 80 per cent. of the normal) shall apply. These proposals were unanimously carried. It is claimed that the adoption of these formulæ would increase by approximately 3,751 tons the curtailment now in force for 1930, making the aggregate curtailment in excess of 30,000 tons. The success of all output restriction schemes depends upon leaving out of restriction only a negligible proportion of the world's producers. The association states that producers of 50,028 tons, many of them operating in remote territories and at present inaccessible to the association, have not yet agreed to restrict. These represent 26 per cent. of the world production in 1929—a high enough proportion to upset the plans of the "restricting" producers unless it can be assumed that, instead of increasing their output, these outside producers will be forced by the prevailing low price of tin automatically to restrict. The circular of the Tin Producers' Association gives some valuable statistics of world production which are worthy of record: —

WORLD TIN OUTPUT.

	(In tons.) 1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
F.M.S. :—				
Non-Chinese	20,216	21,393	30,248	40,894
Chinese	25,730	30,786	31,687	26,146
Dutch East Indies ...	33,006	33,934	34,943	34,950
Other Easterns	19,678	19,446	20,457	23,065
Nigeria.....	7,417	8,056	9,132	10,412
Bolivia.....	30,060	35,808	41,410	43,033
Others	8,769	9,135	9,084	9,238
World total.....	144,876	158,558	176,961	187,738
Average price, ton...	£291	£289	£227	£204

The circular also gives statistics showing the reduction in visible supplies during March this year :—

	Visible Supplies. Tons.	Carry Over in Straits. Tons.	Total. Tons.
January, 1930	29,032	4,730	33,762
February ,, ...	33,581	4,330	37,911
March ,, ...	32,972	3,085	36,057

Assuming that the output of the "outside" producers remains at 50,028 tons and allowing for a "restricted" output of 110,504 tons, the total world production of tin this year is estimated at 160,532 tons, which shows an actual reduction on last year's output of 27,206 tons. This is not unduly large in proportion to the existing visible supplies.

The Affairs of R. E. Jones.—The long-overdue reorganisation of the catering and garage business of R. E. Jones, Ltd., has been temporarily held up by a heated directorial dispute. At the annual meeting held on March 5th, Mr J. Moxon and Mr T. Bickerton (a director of Slaters and Bodega, Ltd.), who joined the board in February last, secured the acceptance of a resolution inviting Mr R. A. R. Field, chairman and managing director of Slaters and Bodega, Ltd., to occupy the position of chairman and managing director of R. E. Jones, and to act in that capacity with the assistance of not more than four directors acceptable to himself. It was further decided, on a motion by Mr Moxon, that the number of directors should be reduced to a maximum of six and a minimum of three, and that the present directors should be invited to tender their resignations. The meeting was then adjourned to the 12th, on which date a resolution was carried to pay the directors the sum of 1s. each as fees for 1929. On the refusal of four of the directors to resign their seats, Messrs Moxon and Bickerton issued a circular with a view to requisitioning a special meeting for the purpose of removing Sir T. G. Jones, Sir N. Grattan-Doyle, Mr A. J. Howell, and Mr A. Batchelor from the board. These four gentlemen, together with the chairman, Mr E. Harris, have now issued a statement to shareholders in which they affirm

that, in the view of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the resolution proposed by Mr Moxon to reduce the number of directors was in the nature of a special resolution requiring twenty-one days' notice, and the decision arrived at at the adjourned meeting *ultra vires*, so that the directorate remains as before both in composition and number. A vigorous attack is made upon Messrs Moxon and Bickerton, who are accused of "handing over the whole direction and control of this valuable company to Mr Field and his three tame directors," and thus bringing the company under the complete control of Slaters and Bodega. The circular also states that "on the question of their future fees and remuneration we can only refer you to what Messrs Field and Bickerton have done in Slaters and Bodega, Ltd., and the Brighton and Hove Supply Association, Ltd." Mr Moxon and Mr Bickerton have since replied that "the reason for insisting on a reduced directorate is that the present board is unwieldy, unnecessary and costly" and that as a result of the board's refusal to tender their resignations, Mr Field has been prevented from beginning the urgently needed reorganisation of both the London and South Wales businesses of the company. There now follows a further circular, emanating from the John Smith reorganisation committee, strongly supporting the candidature of Mr R. A. R. Field for the managing directorship and emphatically denying that there is any question of the shareholders losing control of the company. Meanwhile, the resolutions to remove the present board, put before members at the extraordinary meeting on April 17th, must be passed by the vote of three-fourths of the shareholders present or represented by proxy. One good result of the controversy should be that shareholders will have time to form a more considered and less heated judgment on the record of the present board. If they have decided, in the meantime, that in the interests of good management the control of the company should be transferred to Messrs Moxon, Bickerton and Field, their decision will, necessarily, wear an added air of finality in a controversy which many shareholders must regard as having been prolonged *ad nauseam*.

Unilevers.—The second report of this powerful margarine combine goes some way to console those who found material for criticism in the results for 1928. Following the practice of last year, the accounts of Unilevers, Ltd. (formerly Margarine Union) and of Unilever N.V., of Rotterdam (formerly Margarine Unie), are dealt with in the same report, since "the two companies are so intimately connected that the members of each company may be considered to be equally interested in the position and results of either." The net profits of Unilever, Ltd., have increased from £378,898 to £580,383, while the revenue of the Dutch company is up from £1,287,951 to £2,944,401, an increase of well over 100 per cent. Preference dividends are covered in the case of the English company 8.3 times, and in that of the Dutch company 14.8 times. Unilever, Ltd., have increased their earnings on ordinary capital from 17.2 per cent. to 24.2 per cent., and Unilever N.V. from 16.8 per cent. to 20.6 per cent., so that the distribution of 10 per cent. made by both companies is amply covered.

Financial year ends December 31.	Unilever, Ltd. 1928.* £	Unilever, Ltd. 1929. £	Unilever N.V. 1928.* £	Unilever N.V. 1929. £
Net profit	378,898	580,383	1,287,951	2,944,401
Brought forward	...	26,886	...	52,413
Preference dividend	67,292	70,000	75,833	198,456
Rate per cent.	7	7	7	7
No. of times covered	*5·6*	*8·3*	*17·0*	*14·8*
Ordinary capital:				
Earned £	*311,606*	*510,382*	*1,212,118*	*2,745,945*
Paid £	181,175	250,000	721,785	1,328,858
Earned per cent.	*17·2*	*24·2*	*16·8*	*20·6*
Paid per cent.	10	10	10	10
To reserve	...	250,000	62,335	1,250,000
Other allocations	103,545	...	375,585	62,500
Carried forward	26,886	37,269	52,413	157,000

* 13 months.

Unilever, Ltd., sets aside the sum of £250,000 to reserve, preliminary expenses having been written off last year, while the sister company makes an allocation to the same fund of no less than £1,250,000, bringing reserves to over £6½ million. The Dutch company sets aside £62,500 as reserve for dividend tax, while the combined carry-forward at £194,269 exceeds by £114,970 the amount brought in. Amounts owing to creditors, which figure in the balance sheets at £4,787,132, or £1,284,392 more than last year, are attributed to "the natural growth of business, which entails the financing of larger stocks of raw materials on behalf of subsidiary and associated companies." The issued capital has been increased in the course of 1929 for the purpose of acquiring new businesses, including very extensive Schicht and Hartog interests. The investments of the two companies in subsidiaries show an increase of £8,035,190 for the year. Meanwhile the third partner in the combine, Lever Brothers, announces a net profit for the year of £6,373,842, compared with £5,274,075 for 1928. Preference and preferred ordinary shares take £4,895,533, and the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 10 per cent., requiring £240,000, against 5 per cent. for the previous twelve months. The sum of £500,000 is placed to general reserve, and £500,000 is appropriated to writing off the balance of the cost of the Rotterdam company's note issue. Co-partnership dividends, rights in which have now been commuted by the ordinary shareholders, take £119,116, and £119,192 is carried forward.

Metduro, Ltd.—This company was formed by the Metropole Gramophone group to exploit an invention for the manufacture of a liquid plastic substance suitable for use in the cabinet-making, electrical and other trades. A public issue of 450,000 7 per cent. participating preference shares of £1 and 450,000 ordinary shares of 1s. was made in March, 1929, at the end of the new issue boom. The preference shares are still only 10s. paid. The prospectus contained a statement, *inter alia verbosa*, that the process of manufacture and the plant required were extremely simple. The directors' first report, which has just been issued, states that the commercial manufacture of Metduro has proved to be a more difficult problem than they were led to believe. No material has, in fact, been turned out in commercial quantities. Instead, the directors have purchased the British rights of a German company called Herold A.G. of Hamburg, which manufactures a range of materials similar to "Metduro." Orders for these materials are at present being executed from the Hamburg factory, but the Metduro factory at Waltham Abbey is being equipped for their production. The German and British rights of another process, "Papyroplast," have been purchased, and a factory in Saxony has been acquired to turn out 2,000,000 tubs a year, suitable for packing merchandise. The directors appear to have been active, but shareholders will certainly ask for an explanation regarding the statements in the prospectus of March, 1929. Inventions, licences and patents stand in the books at £117,619, and preliminary expenses and commissions at £31,363. There are amounts due to associated companies of £103,216. The balance sheet at March 15, 1930, discloses a cash holding of £64,274, which, at least, is something.

Union Corporation.—The publication of the accounts of this prosperous holding company for the year ended December 31st last marks the first occasion during eight years on which net profit has not revealed an improvement on the results of the previous twelve months. At £418,034 net revenue for 1929 is £10,548 less than for 1928, and on a capital of £875,000 represents a percentage-earning capacity of 47.8, against 49.0. The distribution on the 12s. 6d. ordinary shares of 44 per cent. is still satisfactorily covered, however, the final dividend of 3s. 6d. per share making 5s. 6d. per share for the year. A further sum of £30,000 is placed to reserve account, which now stands in the balance sheet at

£660,570, and the carry-forward of £119,629 exceeds by £3,034 the amount brought in.

Year ends December 31.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Issued capital	875,000	875,000	875,000
Gross profit	441,941	520,447	457,089
Net profit	386,160	428,582	418,034
Brought forward	96,853	103,013	116,595
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*386,160*	*428,582*	*418,034*
Paid £	350,000	385,000	385,000
Earned per cent.	*44·1*	*49·0*	*47·8*
Paid per cent.	40	44	44
To reserve	30,000	30,000	30,000
Carried forward	103,013	116,595	119,629

The South African interests of the Corporation appear to have given very satisfactory results. The Modder Deep figures show little change as compared with those of the previous four years. Though working costs are down from 15s. 10d. to 15s. 8d. per ton, and working profit has increased from £773,605 to £777,402, or from 29s. 2d. to 29s. 3d. per ton, dividends remain unchanged at 6s. 9d. per share. The mine has been virtually fully developed as regards its Main Reef Area, ore reserves at December 31st amounting to 2,550,000 tons, assaying 8.8 dwt. per ton, over a stoping width of 79 inches, compared with 3,000,000 tons, assaying 9.0 dwt. over 79 inches at the end of 1928. Geduld Proprietary has increased its working profit from £485,663 to £522,188, on a greater capital, so that, though its dividend payments total £456,518, against £448,218, its distribution per share has declined by 6d. Development work at the East Geduld Mines has continued to progress satisfactorily, the capital having been further increased to £1,500,000, while the published figures of the companies concerned in the development of the Northern Rhodesia copper field show that ore reserves have increased from 92 million tons, averaging 3.83 per cent. at the end of 1928, to 235 million tons, averaging 3.90 per cent., at the end of 1929, and, in anticipation of the future which should lie ahead of this new field, the corporation has added considerably to its interests during the year. San Francisco Mines have increased their working profit by £48,951, but though dividends have increased from £281,992 to £286,284, there has been no change in distribution per share. The corporation's holding in Polyphonewerke continues to prove a source of profit, but the British Enka interest has not turned out so happily, the company having made a loss of £157,276 for 1929, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the rayon market. Union Corporation shareholders will shortly be asked to pass a resolution permitting of the extension of the company's borrowing powers. The corporation, like most similar undertakings, accepts deposits from allied companies and others, and these, which are of a profitable character, are covered by the resolution.

MINING NOTES.

Consolidated Diamond.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Last year was an eventful period in the history of the Consolidated Diamond Mines of South-West Africa. The capital was largely increased by the subscription of shares under option, and was divided into equal parts of ordinary and 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of 10s. each. Out of the proceeds of the new issue, by arrangement with the Anglo-American Corporation, £987,700 of second debentures were repaid, in addition to £93,700 redeemed under the terms of the Trust Deed. The balance of the first mortgage debentures was exchanged for shares or converted into the second issue. As a result, on December 31st, the issued share capital stood at £4,480,000, and the balance of second debentures at £141,800. These remarkable results were secured by the development of what are known as the Marine Terraces in the Southern portion of the Orange River area. These, it is stated, have been proved for a continuous length over 20 miles, and it is estimated that the diamond contents of the ground so far trenched represent 1,750,000 carats. Although mechanical treatment plant has yet to be erected, the yield from this locality, "added substantially" to the outputs from other districts, including Elizabeth Bay, where additional equipment is in course of installation. Diamonds account stands at £1,810,500, against £1,471,200 in 1928, while the surplus is £582,500 against £457,600. At £98,050 the depreciation allowance shows a small increase, but debenture interest absorbed only £46,300 in place of £81,400. Of the available surplus at latest date, the dividends required £364,000—the rate on the ordinary being 12½ per cent., as compared with 10 per cent. on the undivided capital previously. The bulk of the surplus brought forward from 1928 is dealt with by the transfer of £168,000 to preference reserve and £105,700 to ordinary reserve. The former amount represents one year's requirements; the latter raises the fund to half a million. Premium on debentures absorbs £80,250; the carry-forward now figures at £150,200. Investments are slightly higher at £990,000. The cash position is an extraordinarily strong one, no less than £950,300 being on loan to the associated South-West Finance Corporation. Obviously, the company is in a position to supply a largely-increased quota of diamonds if and when required; but the recent news as to the shutting down of diamond-cutting factories in South Africa, and the initiation of short time in Amsterdam, does not suggest any great hope for the early future. The preference shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange at 8s. 3d. and the ordinary at 9s. 9d.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE

Life is useless without investigation, because investigation means improvement, and therein lies continual progress.

Those who produce work of quality ask for investigation and welcome comparison, fearing nothing in competition.

They build up their business through the ears of the public as well as through their eyes.

The Chatwood Security is work of quality and is exactly what we say it is without any "ifs" or "buts." There is nothing just so good for less money.

Because something costs little money it does not follow that it is cheap. The fundamental principle of purchase is value received for money paid.

The Chatwood Security has always been just the little more that can reasonably be asked for work of quality. It will stand investigation.

J. E. S.

THE CHATWOOD SECURITY

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Limited, Bankers' Engineers, SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND.

Globe and Phœnix.—Last year's profit of £103,800 shows a substantial falling off, but does not account for the cut in the dividend from 3s. to 1s. per share. The explanation is that in respect of 1928 the directors adopted a very liberal policy, drawing upon the carry-forward to the extent of £12,000; whereas on the present occasion they are placing £25,000 to development reserve and carrying over the somewhat enhanced balance of £19,450. Undoubtedly, the position of the mine is one calling for energetic prospecting; at the same time the already existing fund of £75,000 appears ample for the time being. Possibly there is another factor—such as litigation—to which no reference is made. At the date of the balance sheets the surplus of cash assets exceeded £100,000, irrespective of the investments, which comprise £10,000 Rhodesia Railways 3 per cent. debentures and 61,500 shares in the Phœnix Mining and Finance; the latter company paid 5 per cent. for 1927-28 and nothing last year. Underground work had the result of increasing the ore reserves by 13,800 tons to 100,500 tons, but the average value declined 2.7 dwts. to 2.3 dwts. The quantity represents about 18 months' supply. Since the end of 1929 encouraging discoveries have been made in the deepest levels. The consulting engineer describes the geological conditions as favourable to the deposition of ore. Whether a deposit of important extent has been come upon cannot yet be judged. Meantime the quotation of the 5s. shares at over 14s. makes a substantial allowance for the possibilities of the future.

Tharsis-Mason and Barry.—Striking divergencies are shown by the results of these two copper-sulphur propositions for the past year. After writing off a substantially larger amount than before, the former made a net profit of £182,700, against £122,000, and 12½ per cent. is being paid in place of 10 per cent. The difference in the dividend by no means absorbs the increase in the profits. On the present occasion £125,000 is placed to general reserve, following on £25,000 a year ago. Part of this appropriation represents additional earnings, the balance coming out of the rather unwieldy carry-forward, which thereby is reduced to £24,900. At the date of the report, investments and cash stood at £278,500, debtors £87,570, and creditors, "including the provision for special purposes," £227,060. In compliance with the provisions of the new Companies Act, certain modifications have been made in the balance sheet. The directors report that the market for the company's ores increased steadily, and that the supply of pyrites is still far short of the quantities required to keep the works in full operation. The Mason and Barry net profit amounted to only £20,240, as against £35,340, and the dividend had to be cut from 4s. to 2s. 6d.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"

6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name ....

Address ....

....

St. John del Rey.—The outstanding feature of the 1929 report of this wonderful old Brazilian gold mine is the jump in the ore reserves. The latter are estimated at 1,455,200 tons, a record total, compared with 1,171,500 tons twelve months previously. The quantity represents about eight years' supply for the mill; the increase would appear to be chiefly due to the new ore body mentioned in the 1928 report. An export report on the geology and prospects of the mine is definitely in favour of the continuance of the lode in depth, and as soon as certain further development work has been completed plans for operating the mine at still lower levels will be considered. As regards production, last year's earnings display a moderate expansion, due to advance both in the tonnage of ore treated and the average yield. No change is, however, made in the dividend rate of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the difference being chiefly employed in additional development or transferred to capital account, the last-named appropriation being £10,000 up at £30,000. Owing to the condition of the coffee industry, the company, the directors mention, "appears to have a better prospect of obtaining an adequate supply of labour than it has had for several years." Del Rey shares have a market price of about 18s. 9d. cum final dividend of 1s. 6d.

Rezende.—The report for 1929 reveals the rather surprising feature of an expansion in the ore reserve tonnage —surprising, that is, in view of the information regarding the development position given in the preceding annual statement. The explanation is that in actual stoping the ore proved to be payable over a greater width than allowed for in the estimate. At 184,000 tons the quantity shows an increase of 19,000 tons, although in the meantime 76,400 tons have been extracted; the value of 8.8 dwts. compares with 9.6 dwts. previously. The consulting engineer reports that no payable values were opened up by the reduced amount of development work performed; but it is obvious that the mine can go on working for, at any rate, another couple of years. A decline in the average yield was counterbalanced by lower costs, due to the factor just mentioned, the working profit of £60,080 being almost identical with that of 1928. Dividends totalling 5s. per share have again been paid, leaving the slightly enhanced balance of £4,000 to go forward. The surplus liquid assets amount to £90,000. No reference is made in the report to the proposed return of capital of 2s. 6d. per share. The distribution would absorb only £18,750 of the surplus; nevertheless, its advisability at the moment is open to question in view of the acquisition of joint options over two blocks of claims in the Umtali district, Portuguese East Africa. The testing of these properties has only just begun.

Transvaal Consolidated Land.—At £64,700 last year's profit exceeds that of 1928 by £22,400. On the present occasion, however, the "profit suspense account" balance —receipts on account of farm and township sales—is substantially less than before, while taxes absorb £6,740 in place of £700. Accordingly, maintenance of the dividend at the rate of 1s. 3d. per share entails a small reduction of the carry-forward. During the year the company's land holdings were added to under various headings. The acreage sold was 39,500, against 43,450, the average price received being 12s. 3d. in place of 15s. 5d. per acre. The crops were again adversely affected by shortage of rain, and less timber was sold than in the preceding year. The company's holding of 521,000 Onverwacht Platinum has been written down to 1s., the reserve fund of £400,000 being thereby reduced to £333,300; the current market price of the shares is about 9d. It will be recalled that operations have been suspended, the payable ore being exhausted. Undoubtedly, the financial position

of the T.C.L. is exceedingly strong. The surplus of liquid assets amounts to £363,000, mortgage bonds and other securities figure for £272,000, property for £447,200. Nevertheless, the quotation of the 10s. shares at 34s. appears excessive. It represents a valuation of nearly a million and a half for the capital, and gives a yield of only 3¾ per cent.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Banca Commerciale Italiana, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, World Auxiliary Insurance Corporation, Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Beira Railway, County of London Electric Supply, Monte Video Waterworks, Consolidated Water Works of Rosario, London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Morris Motors, United Molasses, Paquin, British Thomson-Houston, London Electric Wire and Smiths, Godfrey Phillips, Ooregum Gold Mining of India, Consolidated Mines Selection, and Rio Tinto. At the Rio Tinto meeting Sir A. Geddes told shareholders that the company was directly interested in the processes for producing by-product sulphur and the constituent elements of pyrites of all grades, in marketable form, and they were adjusting their mine working in Spain in order to draw a larger proportion of copper from porphyritic ores and less from pyrites. Presiding at the fourth annual meeting of Morris Motors, Ltd., Sir W. R. Morris said that the introduction of two new six-cylinder models—the 15-h.p. Morris Oxford and the 18-h.p. Morris Isis—has done much to strengthen the position of the company's products in home and overseas markets, and both models had been extremely well received. At the United Molasses Company meeting the chairman expressed the view that molasses could never be replaced by substitutes or by synthetic processes, and that synthetic alcohol could never do more than prevent molasses prices from rising beyond economic limits.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The week preceding the Easter holidays is normally a close season for new issues, and its coincidence with the presentation of the Budget reinforced the quietude of the market. Only one issue made its appearance, Hambros Bank and Messrs Schroders offering £1,000,000 of Six per cent. Sterling Mortgage Bonds, of the *Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland*, unconditionally guaranteed by the Finnish Government. The bonds are a relatively high-yielding foreign investment, offering subscribers £6 6s. 4d. per cent. flat and £6 8s. 2d. per cent. on the basis of redemption in 1955. The annual interest which is being paid by the Finnish authorities is £6 14s. per cent. and £6 18s. per cent. respectively, the difference representing British Government stamp duty and issue expenses.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to April 12, 1930, £105,094,548.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to April 12, 1930, £161,590,066.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended April 12, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to April 12, 1930, *£200,000*.

	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
To the Public.					
Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland	1,000,000	...	950,000	50,000	900,000
To Shareholders only.					
Week ended April 19, 1930			Nil		

Total Offered for Subscription—

Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversion. £
1930	162,540,066	106,044,548
1929	114,064,030	100,484,810
1928	...	176,948,000
1927	...	150,709,484
1926	...	79,202,450
1925	...	55,504,718
1924	...	47,233,612
1923	...	105,418,675

Total Offered for Subscription—

Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	T[illegible] C[illegible] Inv[illegible] £
Amount previously recorded	12,244,078	...	13,851,[illegible]
Auckland & Suburban Drainage Board, £81,300 5½% Loan, 1960 (Apr. 7)	81,300	101	82,113
Total to date, 1930	12,325,378	...	13,934,082
Total to date, 1929	14,966,767	...	22,492,219

Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland.—Issue of £1,000,000 6 per cent. Sterling Mortgage Bonds at £95 per cent. unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Government of the Republic of Finland. Redemption is to take place by April 15, 1955, by the semi-annual operation of an accumulative sinking fund, commencing in the half-year ending on April 15, 1931. The sinking fund is to be applied half-yearly to the redemption of bonds by purchases at or below par, or by drawings at par. The proceeds of the bonds are required for the granting of further mortgage loans to industrial enterprises to enable short advances made in England to be liquidated. Profit of the bank in respect of the year 1928 was 268,077 F.Mks., and in respect of the year 1929, 466,476 F.Mks.

The following particulars are issued "for information only" with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—**Repartitioned Public Debt of the Former Ottoman Empire.**—Particulars of an issue of 199,890 5 per cent. 1928 Consolidated Treasury Bonds to bearer of £20 each, and 726,251 "A" Bonds, 61,690 "B" bonds, and 245,381 "C" Bonds, representing arrears of the Ottoman Public Debt.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, and dividend announcements, will be found on page* 917, *under the heading "Company News."*]

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

LEVER BROTHERS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
7% cum. pref.	30,577,099	...
8% cum. A pref.	15,505,173	...
20% cum. pref. ord.	3,787,312	...
20% cum. A pref. ord.	3,000,000	...
20% cum. B pref. ord.	405,500	...
5% cum. pf. ord.	952,462	...
Ord. shares	2,400,000	...
7% deb. 1931-41	3,600,000	− 80,000
5% deb.	3,588,062	− 63,500
Interest accrued	109,356	− 2,085
General reserve	1,000,000	+ 500,000
Creditors — Employees savings bank depositors	202,637	+ 8,632
Reserve for taxation, bills payable and open accounts	718,013	− 158,777
Divs. on pref., pref. ord. and ord. shares	2,746,883	+ 239,117
Profit and loss	119,192	− 41,146
Total	68,711,689	+ 402,241

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Shares & debentures in, and capital loans to, associated cos.—		
Soap and perfumery cos.	28,613,868	+3,541,411
West African Plantations, oil milling, and other raw material producing cos.	15,253,753	− 860,187
Margarine and other edible products cos.	6,070,011	+ 424,462
Miscellans. cos.	348,730	+ 4,320
Loans to associated cos., &c.	286,196	−4,229,160
Shares in other companies and dividends estimated to be received thereon	8,846,646	+1,612,795
Properties	5,370,340	+ 103,624
5% War Stock & Irish Land Stk.	70,055	+ 1,845
Stocks	1,580,403	+ 30,653
Debtors	920,530	− 99,546
Cash	1,351,157	− 127,976
Total	68,711,689	+ 402,241

UNILEVER, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
7% Cum. Pref. £1	1,000,000	...
Ord. £1	2,500,000	+ 680,935
Def. (1s.)	100,000	...
Reserve	789,426	+ 369,894
Creditors	2,516,707	+ 546,669
Loans	...	− 548,242
Profit and loss	437,269	+ 197,693
Total	7,343,402	+1,246,949

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Investments in Associated Cos. at cost	4,166,590	+1,307,581
Loans, &c.	1,366,917	−1,636,535
Unilever N.V., Current Ac.	1,674,371	+1,674,371
Cash	135,524	+ 5,077
Preliminary exps.	...	− 103,545
Total	7,343,402	+1,246,949

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

(Incorporated in Canada in 1865 as a Limited Company.)

GREAT AND INCREASING PROSPERITY.—STRIKING ADVANCE IN NEW BUSINESS.
ASSURANCES IN FORCE OVER £493,000,000.
SUBSTANTIAL EXPANSION IN PROFIT EARNINGS.
PROFIT DISTRIBUTION OF £4,645,000 TO POLICYHOLDERS DURING YEAR.
FINANCIAL POSITION STRONGEST IN HISTORY.
REVIEW OF YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS.—COMPANY'S INVESTMENT POLICY.
ASSETS £116,000,000.—PRESIDENT MACAULAY'S ADDRESS.

The annual general meeting of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada was held in Montreal.

Mr T. B. Macaulay (the president), in the course of his address, said: The investor who buys for permanent holding is but little concerned as to the prices which may be bid for his stocks by those who frequent the exchanges. What interests him is to know that his dividends will not only be paid regularly, but will gradually increase with the passing years. Applying this test to the Sun Life of Canada's investments in stocks, he pointed out that since the slump in the stock market began about October 1st the dividends received by Sun Life of Canada had actually increased.

£20,000,000 BULWARK.

He also declared that the company, even on the blackest of the black days in the stock market, had about £7,191,000 of excess valuation on its securities intact, while to-day the company's securities are valued at £20,000,000 more than the figures at which they are carried in the company's accounts. Thus, although the company's investment policy has been tested by one of the worst financial reactions in history, the company's securities are buttressed by a margin of excess valuation as great as it was able to report a year ago.

The practice of undervaluing our securities is now a permanent feature of our investment policy. I look forward to the time in the not distant future when we will have an undisclosed margin so huge that even the present large figure will seem comparatively small.

The President, continuing, said: It is with very special pleasure that I move the adoption of this 59th annual report of the company. We have grown accustomed to great and increasing prosperity, but the achievements of the past year surpass all previous records in even our history.

The new assurances paid for reached the huge total of £134,476,000. Even more impressive, however, is the fact that this is an increase of more than 48 per cent. over last year.

The assurances in force now exceed £493,000,000, an increase of over £103,000,000. But a few years ago we rejoiced at reaching the £200,000,000 mark; we now have passed the £400,000,000, and are well on towards the £500,000,000.

The income has reached £35,518,000, and the assets are now £116,752,000.

More important still, the profit earnings of the year have risen to nearly £8,807,000. We have, as usual, applied a considerable proportion of these earnings to further strengthening the position of the company.

Another £2,054,000 has been deducted from the market values shown in the report, raising that item to £6,164,000; £205,000 has been written off the company's buildings, while over £410,000 has been added to our various special reserves.

The sum of £4,645,000 has been distributed as profits to our policyholders, and in addition to all this over £1,200,000 has been added to the undistributed surplus, now more than £12,392,000.

This wonderful showing is, as always, based on a valuation of our securities enormously below the market quotations actually existing at the close of the year, so that the real strength of the company is only partially disclosed.

STOCK EXCHANGE A MERE AUCTION MART.

That such results should be achieved in the face of the Stock Exchange panic, of which we have heard so much, may at first appear strange. It is, however, not so surprising, for we are apt to over-estimate the importance of that crisis, serious though it was. What is the Stock Exchange? It is merely a place where public auctions are held. It differs from other auctions only in the articles sold and in the volume of the transactions. It is no more true of this auction than of other auctions that the prices bid are an infallible index of the real value of the articles dealt in. The quotations fluctuate with the optimism or the pessimism of the bidders. They are frequently much better evidence as to the bank accounts and credit of the bidders than of the value of the stocks bought and sold.

That was exactly the situation during the recent price reaction. It was purely a Stock Exchange panic. It was not caused by any trouble in general business. We did not see the closing down of factories, wholesale discharges of employees, and other symptoms of business distress such as market the great depressions to which our minds revert. Outside the ranks of the unfortunate speculators there was little to show that anything unusual was happening in the Wall Street auction rooms.

CONTINUED EXPANSION OF GREAT UNDERTAKINGS.

On the wildest days of the reaction the business of the country went on as usual. Men continued to work, children continued to be born, the population continued to grow, the great electric companies continued to increase their output, enlarging their power houses or building new ones. The great corporations whose stocks we own continued to expand, continued to prosper and to earn even larger dividends, just as if there were no dealings in their shares at all. What happened was merely that last June, in a wild burst of enthusiasm, speculators bid up prices beyond normal levels, and this, in turn, produced a wave of selling which began as profit-taking, but ended in a panic which carried prices as much below normal levels as they had previously been forced above them. The prices of November last, of course, showed a great drop from the quotations of mid-September, but in reality that great reaction did little more than remove the temporary bulge caused by the over-enthusiastic bidding of the previous months of the year. The actual intrinsic value of the shares was, of course, not affected by the fact that the speculators had exhausted their bank accounts and had had to lower their bids.

DIVIDENDS ON SECURITIES GREATLY INCREASED.

The investor who buys for permanent holding is but little concerned as to the prices which may be bid for his stocks by those who frequent the Exchanges. What interests him is to know that his dividends will not only be paid regularly but will gradually increase with the passing years. I will apply this test to our own holdings. At the present time the dividends actually being paid on our stocks are £693,000 in excess of the dividends payable on those same shares when we purchased them. This is equal to one and a quarter per cent. per annum on the book value of all our holdings. We have also received rights and stock privileges worth about £3,493,000. And the end is not yet. Ever since the slump began on, say, October 1st, the dividends payable on our stocks have increased about £308,000, and we have received rights with a value even in these markets of £226,000.

NO LOSSES BY PERMANENT INVESTORS.

To imagine that loss was caused to any except those carrying shares on margin because the market prices in 1929 marched up a hill and then marched down again, is to remind me how an old friend told me mournfully some years ago that he had lost over £200,000 during the preceding 12 months. When I replied sympathetically, he added with equal mournfulness:—"Yes, I have lost over £200,000 by not buying stocks a year ago when they were low." The losses supposed to have been suffered by permanent investors, such as the Sun Life of Canada, are like those of my jocular friend—they are not losses at all, but merely profits which we might have made had we known just when the peak was, and had altered our practice so as to sell out at that time.

COMPANY'S INVESTMENT POLICY.

When investing our funds, we look always to the distant future—10, 20, 30 years hence. Through our large stockholdings we have become permanent partners in the great utility and other corporations which furnish such essential service that they may almost be said to be part of the national life. We believe in the future of Montreal, of New York, of Chicago, and of all our great centres of population. We believe even more in the future of our entire nations—both Canada and the United States. What will they be 50 years from now? Does anyone doubt their future? We have hitched our investment policy to the star of this Continent, and in particular to our great cities, and just as surely as they continue to grow and prosper so surely will our investments grow and prosper. What need we care for the moods or pocket-books of in-and-out speculators? Why should we reverse our policy and throw our great holdings on the market for some possible temporary gain? Could we be sure that we would ever get our shares back? We prefer to continue as permanent partners.

UNDERVALUATION OF SECURITIES.

We must, of course, consider market quotations when preparing our annual report, but our policy is so to under-value our holdings that there can be a tremendous drop in prices without even reaching the figures at which our securities are carried in our accounts. Last year we announced that we had a margin of £20,000,000 to provide for just such a possible market crisis as we have experienced. We expected a reaction, but I confess that we did not expect one of such severity. Our assets have now been tested by one of the worst financial reactions in history, and you will be interested to know that the provision made by us for such a contingency proved more than ample, for even in the blackest of the black days we still had about £7,000,000 of the amount intact as a margin of excess valuation still remaining to protect our surplus.

I am now able to say that, even after distributing the large profits which we have announced, after making the further reserves to strengthen our position, and after adding over £1,200,000 to our declared surplus, we have to-day the entire margin of £20,000,000 again intact. The blow has fallen, the slump has come, the values are marked down, and we are in a stronger position than ever before in our history.

This practice of undervaluing our securities is now a permanent feature of our investment policy. I look forward to the time in the not distant future when we will have an undisclosed margin so huge that even the present large figure will appear comparatively small. It is our ambition that the values placed on our securities will always be buttressed by safeguards so great that market fluctuations will affect us no more than the winds that whistle around our building.

SECURITIES COMPARED.

I would not have you suppose that I am blind to the merits also of well-selected bonds and mortgages as investments. There is much to be said for them. Their values, nominally at least, do not fluctuate greatly. They are particularly attractive at times when stock quotations appear unduly high, as in the latter part of last year. But while they offer greater resistance to price reactions, they have no power of growth. Personally I prefer securities that live and advance, that keep pace with national growth and development—securities with a future, rather than securities which, even if protected against deterioration (not always successfully) by gold caskets, can, at best, only remain stationary and unchanging by the side of the road while the army of progress marches past. There is a happy medium. I think that our company should always have a large amount invested in choice bonds, but I also think that, in the best interests of our policyholders, a considerable proportion of our assets should always be invested in high-grade, progressive common stocks.

A FUTURE THAT DEFIES PROPHECY.

It is a wonderful report that we present, but I always think of the present as a mere vantage ground from which to get an even further vision into the future which must be planned for. What is the future to be? The realities of the present are far in advance of anything that we even imagined possible but a few years ago, and the outlook now is brighter than ever. I hardly dare to make a prophecy. If any of you care to calculate what our position will be if we can maintain anything like our present rate of progress for even the next few years, the results will surprise you. We already occupy a remarkable position. We have a character and an individuality all our own. We have an enthusiastic army of policyholders, and we enjoy the confidence of the public in a very unusual degree. We can, I think, look forward to a future so glorious that even the achievements of the present will then seem small. And let us never forget that every extension of our business is an extension of service and blessing to humanity.

PAQUIN, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROSPERITY—LARGER DISTRIBUTION.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of Paquin, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, Sir Harry K. Newton, Bt. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Charles Beavis) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the directors were very pleased to be able to meet the shareholders after a year which—it was the universal experience—had been exceedingly difficult for business, and had contained a General Election, a financial crash in America, a City crisis in this country, and a good deal of inclement weather, with results so excellent as fully to justify the distribution of a bonus of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, thus bringing the total distribution up to the satisfactory figure of 30 per cent. for the year. During the seven years which had elapsed since the capital of the company had stood at its present figure, the distributions by way of dividend and bonus had been:—1923, 10 per cent.; 1924, 12 per cent.; 1925, 12½ per cent.; 1926, 20 per cent.; 1927, 20 per cent.; 1928, 22½ per cent.; 1929, 30 per cent. The gross appropriation required to meet the ordinary dividend during the same period had increased from £17,500 for 1923 to £52,000 for 1929, and during that time they had increased the company's reserves by the net sum of no less than £104,000. This, shareholders will agree, was a remarkable and a consistent rate of progress, and was the result, of course, of the great expansion which had taken place in the volume of the company's trade throughout the world.

VITALITY OF THE BUSINESS.

The House of Paquin had now been trading as a limited liability company for just a third of a century. That was a long time, in the realm of Fashion, for any house to maintain a leading position, and they might, indeed, congratulate themselves that the older they grew in years the younger and more vital did their business prove itself to be. Its worldwide supremacy and financial position enabled it to attract the best creative artists in each branch of their trade—or, perhaps, he should more properly say, Art. Their workmanship, their materials, were the best that money could buy, and they were able to hold stocks—of the choicest furs, for example—that no other competing house could carry. The magnitude and variety of their business enabled them to attract and hold a clientèle of ladies some of whom a few years ago would have thought the creations of the House of Paquin were quite beyond their means. In a word—he knew he might say that, although the reputation of the house had always stood high, it had never stood higher than it did to-day.

The increase in net profits for the past year was upwards of £11,000, and in addition to paying the dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares, it was proposed to place £15,000 to reserve account, to write £10,000 off goodwill, and to increase the carry-forward by £2,000, a total internal appropriation of £27,000, or, with the usual contribution to staff benevolent fund of £1,000, a total of £28,000 retained in the business to still further strengthen its reserves and its resources. This was a policy of conservatism, and it was a policy of wisdom which he felt quite sure they would endorse and approve.

THE FUTURE.

With regard to the future, he had already referred to the financial crash in America, which had been felt, and very appreciably felt, in Paris. During the last eight or ten weeks of the year the repercussion on the company's Paris turnover was very considerable, and this continued during the first weeks of the current year; but during the last few weeks there had been a welcome change, and there was now every indication that they were once again in their stride and were "getting over" what, while it lasted, was undoubtedly a matter of anxiety to the board.

The company's houses in London and Buenos Ayres had begun the year well, and there was every reason to anticipate a substantial expansion in their trade and profits.

Taking all things into account, and remembering that the French Government had, as from January 1 last, halved its turnover tax—which naturally had acted as a heavy drag upon the wheels of business—and had the wise intention of still further lightening the burden of taxation in the next Budget, he felt that it was not unreasonable to look forward to the results of the current year's trading with confidence, and he sincerely hoped that the directors might be able to meet the shareholders a year hence with results no less satisfactory than those submitted on the present occasion.

M. Francois Debray (the managing director) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted. Sir Harry Newton, the retiring director, was re-elected, and the usual formal business terminated the proceedings.

Cowley MORRIS MOTORS LTD. Oxford

THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MORRIS MOTORS LTD.

Excellent Year's Results.

Strong Position Still Further Consolidated.

Tangible Assets Exceed Preference Share Holdings by £3,327,700.

The fourth annual general meeting of Morris Motors, Ltd., was held at 9.15 a.m. on April 12, 1930, at the registered offices of the company at Cowley, Oxford, Sir William R. Morris, Bart. (the chairman and managing director of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr S. G. K. Smallbone) read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report to the shareholders having been read,

The Chairman, in proposing that the report and balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 1929, be approved and adopted, said :—

" I presume that I can take the accounts and report now before you as read. From them you will have noted that the balance sheet of the company for the year 1929 shows that the net profits on trading and the interest received on investments for the year amounted together to £1,285,171 7s. This is a result with which, I feel sure, we can be very satisfied. It has been arrived at after making full provision for depreciation of assets and for all possible contingencies. Moreover, although the sum of £25,123 6s. 10d. has been provided to reduce our Government securities to their market value at December 31, 1929, the actual market value of these securities at the date of publication of the balance sheet was no less than £79,690 15s. 5d. higher than the figure taken into account.

NET PROFIT £1,285,181 7s.

" To the net profit on trading and the interest and dividends received on securities amounting to £1,285,181 7s. there has to be added the balance brought forward from last year of £154,634 10s. 1d., making a total of £1,439,815 17s. 1d. After payment of the preference dividend of £225,000 and the provision of £246,062 13s. 9d. for income tax for the year 1929, there remains a disposable balance of £968,753 3s. 4d.

" In the balance sheet now before you the reserve fund stands at £2,000,000, and in these circumstances your directors have recommended the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary shares.

" I am sure you will agree that the financial position of the company is still further consolidated by the writing down the balance-sheet value of goodwill, patents and trade marks by the sum of £650,000, thus reducing this item on the balance sheet to considerably less than one year's average profits of the business.

" In reviewing the financial position of the company to-day it is gratifying to be able to point out that since the formation of the company our average yearly earnings have exceeded by £161,170 the average shown in the prospectus; that our tangible assets are now £3,327,700 in excess of the holdings of the preference shareholders; that we hold Government securities to the value of £2,330,892, and that during the past four years the earnings of the company exceeded the preference dividend by more than five and a half times.

" These excellent results have been obtained in the face of active competition, and have been achieved by the company adopting a strong policy of progressive development.

" Both in regard to the nature of the company's products and the maintenance of plant and equipment much progress has been made. In addition to the sum of £216,821 14s. 5d. spent on repairs and maintenance of buildings and equipment during the year 1929, no less a sum than £196,720 8s. 1d. was provided for making changes in buildings and machinery in order to economise in production costs and to improve the saleability of the products and for future renewals of plant, equipment and buildings.

SUCCESSFUL NEW MODELS.

" The introduction of two new six-cylinder models—the 15-h.p. Morris-Oxford and the 18-h.p. Morris Isis—has done much to strengthen the position of the company's products in home and overseas markets, and both models have been extremely well received. All the preliminary costs of introducing these models have been met out of revenue.

" The 15-h.p. six-cylinder Morris-Oxford can justly claim to be the most highly developed car of its type. So great has been the demand for this model that the company has on its books to-day a large number of unexecuted orders, despite the constantly increasing rates of production that have been operative since its introduction. Further arrangements have been made that will shortly enable all demands to be met.

" The other models produced by the company—the Morris Minor and Morris-Cowley—due to improvements in their design, finish and equipment, continue to command highly satisfactory sales, and I am glad to be able to report that the current season shows every likelihood of being by far the busiest in the history of the company.

" A great deal of development work has been undertaken with a view to ensuring greater safety and comfort for motorists. We realise that motoring has become an accepted amenity in the daily life of the public, and it has constantly been the endeavour of your directors to introduce measures that will add to the safety and convenience of travel on the road. We adopted for this season a policy of standardising Triplex safety glass on all our models, and this, together with the provision of powerful four-wheel brakes, light and accurate steering, simple controls, and the fitting of bumpers fore and aft on all models, is a safety-first policy which has received a great deal of commendation from the public.

" There has been erected and put into operation during the course of the year at the company's radiator factory one of the largest chromium finishing plants in the country, and the adoption of this durable, untarnishable and practically self-cleaning finish on all external bright parts is another measure that adds to the saleability of our products.

(*Continued on next page.*)

MORRIS MOTORS LTD. Cowley Oxford

WIDE APPEAL OF PRODUCTS.

" I would here like to emphasise the wide range of models that are now listed by the company. Our standard productions range from economical and lively 8 h.p. touring cars selling at £130 to fast, high-powered six-cylinder saloons which present remarkable value at under £400. This versatility of appeal adds strength to the company's position. Varying markets, both home and overseas, are covered, and it is noteworthy that the policy of the company has always been such that a proper degree of flexibility of production is available, so that variations in demand for different types of cars as necessitated by public taste can be accommodated.

" A point which I now want to bring out concerns the all-British policy that has long since been adopted and maintained by this company. There has arisen at various times the question ' What is a British car? ' Competitive concerns with their main plants in foreign countries have endeavoured to justify the appellation ' British-built ' by publishing figures that aim at convincing the public that a considerable percentage of the cost of their cars is represented by British labour and material. Morris cars are British throughout. Every penny spent on materials and labour in their construction helps to swell the volume of British trade and employment. The Morris car was bred and born in this country, and all the finance behind it is British. This is something on which we can reflect with a feeling of patriotic pride and is a point that intending purchasers of cars will, I hope, bear in mind.

" I do not want here to dwell too much on political matters, but I feel that I must touch upon the very important fact that the success or otherwise of the British motor industry must be dependent to a very large extent on the attitude of the Government towards the retention of safeguarding duties. During the existence of the McKenna duties the organisations that I have developed and controlled have undoubtedly been greatly assisted in their expansion and development by these duties. Morris Motors, Ltd., employed fewer than 200 men in 1919. To-day the total number of employees on our pay roll approaches 10,000. This is direct employment. Additionally, there is a vast number of British workmen engaged in producing materials and making component parts that we purchase for our cars.

BENEFITS OF SAFEGUARDING.

" I am no scaremonger, but I do say definitely that if the McKenna duties were removed our progress and expansion would be seriously hampered, that we should not have such opportunities for increasing the number of people that we employ, and that there would be every likelihood of seriously decreased employment. I fail to see how any Government which, on the one hand, is seeking for means to alleviate unemployment in this country, and, on the other, is endeavouring to find revenue to meet the nation's excessive taxation, can find any justification whatsoever for the cessation of these beneficial measures.

" One direct result of any decreased sales and production of British cars in the home market must be to increase very largely the difficulties which British manufacturers have to face in finding outlets in markets overseas. The factory price of any manufactured article is to-day very largely dependent upon the quantity produced. Any reduction in the number of British cars produced and sold in the home market, brought about by the cessation of the McKenna duties, must definitely increase their costs of production, and consequently decrease their saleability both at home and overseas.

" Under Safeguarding, British manufacturers have consistently reduced prices and improved values. In 1919 a Morris-Cowley two-seater—the popular car its day—sold at £390. To-day a very much improved model of the same general classification sells at £162 10s., and we are producing a powerful six-cylinder saloon car that has every possible item of equipment and an exceptionally fine road performance for £100 less than the price we charged for that little two-seater in 1919.

GREATLY IMPROVED VALUES.

" This is concrete evidence that the McKenna duties have not artificially inflated prices. In the British motor trade there will always be sufficient internal competition to ensure equity in the matter of values to the public.

" During the year 1929 we made good progress in overseas markets, both our four- and six-cylinder models finding an encouraging response from overseas buyers. We are doing our utmost to develop this side of our business, leaving no stone unturned to assist in the expansion of British trade in our Dominions and elsewhere overseas.

" We have members of our sales and service staff in most of the important markets of the world, and have developed effective and widespread dealer organisations.

" I personally have visited a number of overseas countries during the past four years, and the experience and knowledge of local motoring conditions thus obtained is proving of very great value to the company.

" Once more I should like to pay a high tribute to the work and support of our executive, staff and workpeople. As you know, all the directors of the company are active executives, with no other interests than the affairs of the company. The spirit of willingness to work and the determination to succeed that imbues the whole of this organisation is well reflected in the financial results that we obtain, and is one of the most valuable assets of the company.

" The development of this company, judged by ordinary commercial standards, has been very rapid, but our progress has been cautiously made, step by step. The company has never been in such an active and sound position as it is to-day—a complete justification of the conservative basis on which our finances have been managed—as reflected in the report and balance sheet now before you, the adoption of which I have pleasure in formally moving."

Mr E. H. Blake (deputy-managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The following were re-elected to the board of directors :—Mr H. Landstad, Mr A. A. Rowse, Mr H. A. Ryder, Mr H. Seaward, Mr S. G. K. Smallbone, Mr W. M. W. Thomas, Mr F. G. Woollard and Mr H. W. Young.

Messrs Thornton and Thornton, of Oxford and London, were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year.

MONTE VIDEO WATERWORKS COMPANY, LIMITED.

PROGRAMME OF EXTENSIONS STARTED.

The fifty-first ordinary general meeting of the Monte Video Waterworks Company, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, at 52, Moorgate, London.

Mr James Anderson (the chairman) said :—At every annual meeting for many years past it has been my duty to explain to the stockholders the serious position that had arisen through delay on the part of the authorities in allowing the company to proceed with extensions of the works very urgently required. The long-requested permission to augment the supply was at length granted in November, 1928, and the company immediately set to work. It is hoped that we may be able to supply water through the new main by the close of the year, although the whole of the new works is not likely to be completed for some months later.

Besides the mains to which I have just referred, the extension programme includes new pumping engines, filters, and storage reservoir, all of which are being rapidly proceeded with.

Our first estimate of the cost of the extensions required, made some years ago, was £750,000. Since then the programme of new works to be carried out has been considerably enlarged, and the estimated cost is thereby increased to £920,000. Towards meeting this sum we have :—(1) The proceeds of the British Government and other securities we had at the close of 1928; (2) the amounts received in respect of the issue of 239,062 ordinary shares made last year; and (3) the proceeds of the new issue of shares about to be made; the three items making a total of £632,750. This leaves an apparent shortage of nearly £300,000, which amount we shall probably find by exercise of our borrowing powers, which we have been very slow to touch on, the last issue of debenture stock having been made as far back as 1914.

Turning now to the accounts for the past year, I would point out that the gross receipts for the year amounted to £381,799, a decrease of £11,863, and the working expenses to £197,373, a decrease of £5,180. The net receipts consequently amounted to £184,426, a decrease of £6,682. This decrease in net revenue is entirely due to the reduction in tariff granted a year ago, and would have been substantially greater but for an increase in the consumption of water. The consumption increased by 8.6 per cent., notwithstanding the fact that no additional services had been taken on during the year.

This proves the elasticity of our business and confirms our belief that a very large increase in the consumption may be looked for when the extensions now in progress are completed. The charges on the net revenue this year are substantially heavier than a year ago, owing to the additional amount required to pay the dividend on the new shares issued last year, amounting to £11,953, and there is also an important adverse item of £14,296 for loss on exchange. The latter item is one which has happily been absent from our accounts for some years past, and it is to be hoped will presently disappear.

After providing for all charges and for the usual dividends on the ordinary stock, the available balance of net revenue enables us to place £40,000 to the reserve, against £50,000 last year, and to carry forward £120,067, against £116,278 brought in from last year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

[LIMITED COMPANY INCORPORATED IN ITALY.]

NET PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

SENATOR CRESPI'S REVIEW OF POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of the Banca Commerciale Italiana was held, on March 29th, at the head office of the bank, Milan, Senator Crespi (Chairman of the Board of Directors), presiding.

The Chairman, in presenting the report for 1929 said: Gentlemen,—We should like to preface our usual survey of your bank's activities during the past year with a few comments on two highly significant developments which have just taken place in the realm of national finance. We refer, of course, to the recent reduction of the Italian Bank rate and to the removal of State control over the foreign Exchange market. Both decisions were highly desirable and have come at the right time. We, on our part, most heartily welcome these steps, not only for the sake of their immediate and practical utility, but also on account of their importance when they are viewed from the broader angle of financial policy and of the present general conditions. They demonstrate that the stabilisation of the lira is a definite and unchallengeable reality and that our circulation now rests on foundations which enable it to participate freely in the international movements of capital, or, in other words, that Italy is definitely taking up her place again in the normal working of the world's economic system.

EFFECTS OF MONETARY STRINGENCY.

Quite naturally, the acute monetary stringency of the past months has had an influence on the distribution of credit in many of the various fields and domains which go to form the economic structure of the country. Its effects were particularly felt among the smaller trades, which, more than others, were already suffering from the general decrease in consumption. Many were forced out of business. The long list of liquidations at times caused some dismay, but the fact cannot be gainsaid that this process of elimination is part and parcel of the final stage of recovery through which the country is now passing. There is, however, another and more impressive side to the picture: it is the progress of industrial rationalisation to which we have referred on many occasions and the pace of which has been accelerated in numerous directions. Banking itself has made a fresh advance on the road to greater concentration and efficiency.

Italy is thus bringing her economic organisation into line with that of the other great nations with whom she is about to co-operate in the Bank of International Settlements.

RESULTS AT FOREIGN AND HOME BRANCHES.

Our foreign branches and affiliations abroad — they now cover large parts of Europe, Africa, Asia Minor, as well as of North and South America—have given us full satisfaction. Their results have shown the strength of our organisation. As to the results of our home branches, they have, on the whole, been better than during the previous year; this in spite of the difficulties under which they had to work and notwithstanding the many failures in certain classes of customers which so far have never been a source of particular concern.

On June 7, 1929, there came into force the Treaty of the Lateran, signed early in February between the Italian Government and the Holy See. Simultaneously there was created in the Vatican City the Special Administration of the Holy See. You will be gratified to learn that our institution has had the honour of being called upon to act on behalf of the said Administration in Italy and abroad.

PROFITS AND ALLOCATIONS.

The profit and loss account, based as usual on the strictest and most conservative principles, shows a net profit slightly in excess of the previous year and enables us to maintain the dividend at the rate of Lire 65 per share, *i.e.*, at 13 per cent.; this, after passing to the reserve fund an amount of Lire 20,000,000, leaving a carry-forward of Lire 28,500,000.

We trust, therefore, that you will approve of the distribution of profits on the following lines:—

	Lire.
Net profit as per balance sheet	114,350,899·50
10 per cent. to the ordinary reserve, in accordance with Article 3 of the Royal Decree of September 7, 1926, No. 1511	11,435,089·95
	102,915,809·55
5 per cent. dividend on the capital of Lire 700,000,000	35,000,000·00
	67,915,809·55
5 per cent. to the board of directors	3,395,790·50
	64,520,019·05
out of which we propose paying an additional dividend of 8 per cent. on the paid-up capital ...	56,000,000·00
which will leave a balance of	8,520,019·05
to which is to be added the amount carried forward from previous years	28,481,934·00
	37,001,953·05
out of which we propose transferring to the ordinary reserve fund (in order to increase it altogether by the round figure of Lire 20,000,000) a further amount of	8,564,910·05
leaving a balance to be carried forward of ... Lire	28,437,043·00

The balance sheet was passed unanimously.

OOREGUM GOLD MINING COMPANY OF INDIA, LIMITED.

RESULTS AND PROSPECTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, Ltd., was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

The Hon. Lionel Holland (the chairman) said that this meeting marked the company's fiftieth anniversary. The first crushing of 40 tons in 1880 had since expanded to nearly 4,900,000 tons. The initial output of 42 ozs. had grown to over 3,080,000 ozs.; and the first dividend of some £24,000 paid in 1890 had been followed by distributions exceeding £3,750,000.

At £76,555, the past year's profits showed a reduction of over £23,000 as compared with 1928, for reasons which did not come upon them unawares. A year ago he referred to a contraction in the length of the ore shoots in the deeper levels, a decline in the grade of ore stoped, and a call for increased development to avoid rapid depletion of reserves pending further discoveries.

The year's return of fine gold from all sources—82,483 ozs.—showed a decline of over 8,000 ozs. The revenue, after deducting royalty, was £340,053, or a fall of £34,000. On the other hand, working costs fell by over £10,000—a creditable achievement, especially as the tonnage increased, labour tended to become more costly, and rockburst damage had involved expenditure for repairs.

The balance of revenue over expenditure was £76,555, against £99,926 in 1928, increased to £88,156 by dividends received and the balance brought forward. They allocated £12,000 to depreciation of buildings, machinery and plant, £1,000 to writing down a holding in an Indian mining exploration syndicate, and £3,000 to the insurance and contingency fund. A final dividend of 6d. per share on the preference and ordinary shares made the year's total distribution 2s. and 1s. per share respectively—*i.e.*, 20 per cent. and 10 per cent. Some £13,000 would remain to be carried forward.

Interests in gold mining in Canada had been substantially written down from the reserve fund, but this must not be taken to imply that the more recent developments in the Central Manitoba Mines were wholly disappointing. Indeed, in some respects the achievements of the property at so early a period in its history had been distinctly encouraging.

At Orregum the development policy aimed at new discoveries at depth rather than exhausting the possibilities of each successive level. The payable ore reserves, estimated at the close of the year at over 270,000 tons—apart from a large tonnage of dumped tailings—were reduced by no more than 24,000 tons last year, but they must anticipate a larger diminution of ore reserves in the current year. Alternations of poor and rich horizons were a well-known feature of the Kolar mines, and there were indications that favoured the anticipation of the levels which they were approaching again registering an improvement in value.

Mr Kenneth B. Taylor described the mining position in detail and observed that in the 70th level the length of payable ore was 1,736 ft., averaging 1 ft. 8 in. in width and 22·5 dwt. in value. In the 71st level the length was 1,352 ft., the width 1 ft. 7 in., and the value 17 dwt., while in the 72nd level for 1,131 ft. the value remained at 17 dwt. over a width of just under 2 ft. They looked forward to a continuance of the improvement which was being developed in the centre of the property, and in Bullen's section it was not unlikely that the shoot would lengthen again once they got below the pegmatite zone which had intruded into the lode channel upon the last three levels on the northern fringe of it. The driving of the 73rd level would test some areas which had not been explored for 300 ft. in depth and in which it was hoped new ore shoots might be found to replace those which had become unproductive.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

FACILITIES TO FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS.

WIDESPREAD DEMAND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

SIR HARRY GOSCHEN'S SPEECH.

The first annual general meeting of the shareholders of The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, Ltd., was held on the 16th instant, at Stone House, Bishopsgate, London, E.C. 2.

Sir Harry Goschen, Bt., K.B.E. (chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr C. B. Palmer) read the notice convening the meeting, and the manager (Mr S. A. Bonner) read the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, the report and balance sheet have been in your hands for some time, but, before I move their formal adoption you will probably be interested to have some further particulars of the working of the corporation during its first year.

We opened for business on January 14, 1929, and it at once became apparent that the facilities which the corporation was formed to provide, met with a ready response from the agricultural community; indeed, the amount of applications we received in the first few weeks of our existence taxed the capacity of our staff to the utmost. Had it not been for the admirable arrangements which had been made in advance as the result of the forethought of our manager, Mr Bonner, and our accountant, Mr Jennings, the number of applications we received might have caused us considerable embarrassment. The organisation, however, I am glad to say, stood the strain well and we were able to deal, as far as the office in London here was concerned, expeditiously with all applications that were made to us.

There must of necessity be some delay between the receipt of an application for a loan and the final payment to the borrower of the amount granted. The examination of the title to the land pledged as security for the loan often entails the scrutiny of numerous and intricate documents and the inspection and valuation of the properties, as well as the legal formalities connected with the preparation and execution of the mortgage, involve time, care and attention. I think it is a matter for congratulation, however, that delay in the completion of our transactions has now been reduced to a minimum, and all formalities connected with loans are dealt with very expeditiously. For instance, money has been actually paid over to borrowers within thirty days of receiving the first application, but such expedition is only possible when all documents connected with the transaction are quite simple and devoid of all complication.

FIRST ISSUE OF DEBENTURE STOCK.

By the middle of May, 1929, all our funds available for lending on mortgage had already been paid out in long-term loans, and during the latter part of June the corporation decided to make its first issue of debenture stock. This took the form of a 5 per cent. stock redeemable between the years 1959 and 1989 to a total of £5,000,000. This debenture stock, which, I may remind you, is a full trustee security, was issued at par, and I am pleased to say proved an immediate success, the whole of the stock offered being readily absorbed by the public, and it is now, I am glad to say, quoted at a substantial premium.

VOLUME OF LOANS GRANTED.

Up to March 31st last we had completed 1,374 long-term loans on mortgage amounting to £4,168,590. The valuations of the properties forming the security for these loans totalled £6,605,495 and show not only a substantial margin on the amount lent, but, in addition to the other resources of the corporation, ample security for our debenture issue. In addition to the sums I have just referred to as actually paid out, further loans, totalling £1,137,655, have been granted by the directors, subject to the satisfactory completion of the legal formalities.

The applications for improvement loans have been somewhat small in number and amount, but advances totalling £8,781 had been completed by March 31st, and, in addition, the directors had sanctioned further loans to the amount of £12,991, subject to the completion of the improvements to the satisfaction of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Up to the close of our financial year, 2,692 applications for loans amounting to a total sum of over £9,000,000 had been received by the corporation; of these, 243 were withdrawn by the applicants for various reasons, and of the remaining 2,449, loans in respect of 1,703 had been approved by the directors and accepted by the applicants; 144 were granted but were not accepted by the applicants, usually because the amount we were able to grant was insufficient to repay existing indebtedness; while 291 of the applications received proved unsuitable, and 311 are still under consideration.

Payments by the farmers of interest and principal have been punctually made, and already amount to £67,873, while payments overdue for more than seven days total less than £650.

Our loans are well spread over the whole country and advances have been made on the security of land in every county of England and Wales except one, but perhaps the counties of Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Somerset, Northumberland and Cambridgeshire have appreciated the facilities offered to a greater extent than other districts.

The smallholder has had consideration equally with the owner of a large acreage; indeed, we have granted loans of even £100; and advances have been made on properties as small as two or three acres.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the balance-sheet, I think that most of the items are self-explanatory. The special reserve is set up in accordance with the articles of association of the corporation to accumulate in sixty years by half-yearly instalments, with interest at 4 per cent., an amount sufficient to repay the Government loan of £650,000, which is free of interest for that period. Among the other investments is included an amount of £4,838 12s. 11d. of the corporation's own debentures, which have been purchased under par to form the nucleus of a sinking fund for the repayment of the corporation's own debenture stock.

The profit and loss account shows, after charging all expenses and making provision for income tax, a net profit of £33,034 11s. 7d. which I think must be regarded as a very satisfactory result of our first year's working, particularly in view of the fact that we paid on January 1st a full six months' interest on our debenture stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, notwithstanding the fact that the proceeds of the debentures were only received by us in instalments spread over some months (a concession to the debenture holders which we estimate cost the corporation some £21,000).

We have appropriated the above-mentioned balance of profit and loss as follows: To writing off the whole of the preliminary expenses of the company, £6,918 8s. 3d.; to writing off a portion of the expenses of issue of our debenture stock, £7,801 9s. 4d.; in eliminating the entire cost of furniture and fittings, £3,249 2s. 4d. We transfer £2,664 to the special reserve fund, as is required by our agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, and after transferring £10,000 to the general reserve fund, we are left with a balance of £2,401 11s. 8d. to carry forward to next year's account.

We have felt that it is a far sounder policy in the first year of our existence to make these allocations, and to initiate a general reserve fund rather than to pay our shareholders a small dividend; but, although one is unwilling to forecast the future, there is no reason to suppose that, given normal conditions, we should not be in a position in future years to make our shareholders some return for the money they have provided for the enterprise.

CONTINUED DEMANDS.

Applications for loans continue to reach us by every post, and I think I may say that the volume of business which has been submitted to the corporation affords an ample justification for the opinion of those responsible for the scheme that there was a real demand among the farming and land-owning community for facilities for obtaining long term loans on the security of land, and I venture to think that the experience of our first year has shown that the formation of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation has done much to meet the requirements of an important and hardly-pressed section of our industries.

I cannot close these few remarks without paying a well-deserved tribute to the work of our manager, Mr Bonner, and indeed to the whole of our staff. The work has been entirely new to them all, and at times very arduous, and it is only by their loyal co-operation and zeal that we have been enabled to surmount the difficulties which a new class of business presents, and thus achieve the smooth running and efficient service we are able to afford our clients.

Gentlemen, I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts, as audited and certified by the corporation's auditors, now before the meeting, showing the position of the corporation's affairs as at March 31, 1930, be approved and adopted."

Sir Otto E. Niemeyer, G.B.E., K.C.B. (deputy chairman), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Sir Harry Goschen, Bt., K.B.E., and Mr William Gavin, C.B.E., were re-elected directors of the corporation, and the auditors (Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company) were re-appointed.

A hearty vote of thanks to the directors and staff for their services during the past year, and to the chairman for presiding, concluded the proceedings.

UNITED MOLASSES COMPANY, LIMITED.

SOUND AND REMUNERATIVE DEVELOPMENTS.

FREE BONUS ISSUE.

The fourth annual general meeting of the United Molasses Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., Mr F. K. Kielberg (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr James Don) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, who on rising was received with applause, said: The report this year is so informative that I propose to confine my remarks to answering questions raised by shareholders in connection with the report and accounts.

The only point that has been raised in connection with the accounts refers to the difference between the profits remaining in associated and subsidiary companies as at December 31, 1928, amounting to £170,659 17s. 3d., and the balance of undistributed profits remaining in subsidiaries as at December 31, 1929, amounting to £115,919 1s. 3d. This difference is accounted for, and more than offset, by the fact that £137,043, representing trading profits earned by subsidiary companies during 1929 prior to the date of acquisition by us, have been carried to capital reserve in the consolidated accounts.

The other points raised mainly refer to the possibility of molasses being replaced by other articles, the rates allowed for depreciation, the company's policy of making transport of oil a definite part of our business, and the wisdom, or otherwise, of the bonus issue.

To your directors it appears inconceivable that the use of molasses can ever be replaced by substitutes or by synthetic processes. Molasses is a by-product that will continue to be produced irrespective of the price at which it can be sold, for the simple reason that sugar cannot be manufactured without producing molasses. We feel satisfied that synthetic alcohol can never do more than prevent molasses prices from rising beyond economic limits, and a regulating factor of this nature would benefit rather than endanger our business. In this connection may I once more remind you that we are not producers of molasses, but primarily a transport and trading company.

ALLOWANCES FOR DEPRECIATION.

In replying to questions relating to depreciation, I should like to state that the suggestion that our new motor tankers will last for only 14 or 15 years need not disturb you in the least. Based on our own experience and that of other molasses companies, we have no hesitation in claiming that our new ships will have a life of at least 25 years. Our rate of depreciation of 6 per cent. on first cost is therefore ample, and, as a matter of fact, considerably in excess of the rate of depreciation adopted by most companies.

The Oil Transport Company, referred to in letters received from several shareholders, do not depreciate their ships at the rate of 13 per cent., but at the usual rate of 5 per cent. on first cost, as will be found by reference to the report of that company's last annual meeting. There is, strictly speaking, no reason why we should charge a higher rate except that in matters of depreciation we like to be ultra-conservative.

I regret that no reference was made in the directors' report to the rate of depreciation adopted in connection with the company's storage tanks, plant, machinery, etc. The rates allowed under this heading vary in accordance with the nature of the assets, from 4 per cent. to 12½ per cent. based on original cost, and are in all instances liberal and in full accord with the conservative policy the company is following in these matters. A list of the rates of depreciation is not given because it would convey no useful information without lengthy explanations.

REVENUE FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES.

I regret that we cannot see our way to analyse the various sources of income which make up the company's total net profits. Some shareholders would like to know what proportion of our profits arises from each of the four main uses of molasses, others would like an analysis showing the profits made in different parts of the world, and others inquire what profit is made on carrying oil. It would obviously not be in the best interests of the company to supply such an analysis, but I may mention that profits from carrying oil last year only accounted for a comparatively small percentage of the company's total profits, as, owing to the limited tonnage at our disposal, we were unable to carry more than a few cargoes of oil. You will have realised from the directors' report, however, that the carriage of oil has become a definite part of our business and, thanks to our increasing fleet, we hope, from this year onwards, to derive greater revenue from this source.

Some shareholders feel concerned about the size of our shipbuilding programme because they have heard that too many tankers are being built, but I feel certain that no one with first-hand knowledge of the tanker market feels any anxiety on this score. The recurring periods of high tanker freights have since the war invariably led to building programmes in excess of the immediate needs of the market, and have been followed by periods of low rates of freight. The present outburst of building activity is likely to have the same consequence, and I think it is fair to say that most people expect lower rates to prevail during the coming twelve to eighteen months until the requirements of the expanding oil trade again overtake the available supply of tanker tonnage. We are regulating our transport of molasses with this in mind.

BOARD'S SHIPBUILDING POLICY.

In this connection I feel it will interest you to know that our building programme was based exclusively on our own requirements, and was not influenced in any way by boom conditions. On the contrary, practically all our tankers were ordered at times when freights were low.

Our tankers form a very important part of our equipment, and their future profitable employment does not cause us one moment's anxiety or doubt. We have the very great advantage of owning a fleet of entirely modern motor tankers of an average age of less than two years. This is an advantage which will probably be fully appreciated only by owners who have experience of operating old and new tonnage. Our fleet will compare favourably with any fleet of tankers afloat, and it is so much more efficient and economical than at least one-third to one-half of the available tanker tonnage that it seems hardly possible that for years to come freights could fall to a level where our vessels, even outside our own business, could not make a profit sufficient to provide for depreciation and a very fair return on the capital invested in them.

PROPOSED BONUS ISSUE.

The next point with which I should like to deal is the question of the proposed issue of one free bonus share for every two held. As a precautionary measure, during our years of development, we adopted the customary practice of issuing ordinary shares at a premium to our shareholders, who thus provided a large capital reserve, available in case of unexpected difficulties in connection with our programme of expansion.

Your directors now feel satisfied that the various extensions and developments for which the capital was raised have proved themselves sound and remunerative, and the proposed bonus issue is naturally based on the conviction that it is in the best interests of the company that the amount of capital ranking for dividend should be brought into line with the capital actually subscribed by the shareholders and employed in the company's business. Personally, I believe that there is more to be said against than in favour of the practice of issuing shares at a premium to shareholders.

I now beg to move "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1929, be received and adopted, and that a final dividend for the year of 12½ per cent., less tax, together with a cash bonus of 2½ per cent., less tax, be declared payable on the 30th April, 1930, to the holders of the 2,984,087 ordinary shares entitled to participate therein, registered in the books of the company as on the 11th April, 1930."

Sir James A. Cooper, K.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

BONUS RESOLUTIONS.

The Chairman: I now beg to propose the following as an extraordinary resolution:—"That the share capital of the company be increased from £6,000,000 to £8,000,000 by the creation of 2,000,000 new shares of £1 each, of which 1,000,000 shares shall be 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares ranking in all respects *pari passu* with the existing 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares in the capital of the company, and 1,000,000 shares shall be ordinary shares, and that the said additional preference and ordinary shares may be issued at such times and on such terms as the directors may determine."

Mr H. T. Schierwater seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I now beg to propose the following as an ordinary resolution:—"That it is desirable to capitalise the sum of £1,492,044, part of the sum standing to the credit of the capital reserve account, and accordingly that such sum be capitalised by applying the same in paying up 1,492,044 ordinary shares of £1 each and by distributing such ordinary shares as fully paid up amongst those persons who were registered as the holders of the issued ordinary shares in the company's capital on the 11th day of April, 1930, in proportion to the number of such shares held by them respectively. No fractions will be issued."

Sir James A. Cooper seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr William Blackwood a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman and directors.

THE LONDON COUNTY FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES, LIMITED.

NOTEWORTHY PROGRESS.

THE CONTINUED DEMAND FOR FLATS.

The twentieth annual general meeting of the London County Freehold and Leasehold Properties, Ltd., was held on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr A. C. Bourner, F.C.A., the chairman of the company, who presided, said that the accounts for this, their fifth year as a public company, clearly illustrated their continued prosperity and progress. The annual net revenue of the company had increased in that space of time from £43,510 to £175,025, and their dividend from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. on a very much larger capital, and large reserves had been accumulated. The company was in a stronger financial position than ever before.

The recommendation of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, while reserving and carrying forward out of the past year's net revenue £49,036, was a very conservative policy, they would agree, but the directors considered it wiser to conserve the company's resources rather than pay maximum dividends. The company's income was in no sense whatever due to dealing in or reconditioning property for a profit on sale, and they did not own converted or service flats. Their success was not the result of a landlord acting harshly towards tenants in obtaining immoderate rents, but was due to careful selection of properties, and to losses on empties being quite nominal.

On the directors' valuation of the subsidiary properties there was a surplus of assets over liabilities of £852,753, represented by 561,500 shares of £1 each, and these shares the company had acquired for £736,001, or some £116,752 less than their value of the surplus. The pre-war cost must have been materially in excess of the value now put upon the properties. In addition to the freehold and leasehold properties, the subsidiary companies had "other assets" of a liquid character (cash, gilt-edged investments, etc.) of the net value of £180,000, so that the purchase money for the equities on the properties might be taken at £550,000, for which the company held 561,500 £1 shares. If they were to consolidate the assets and liabilities of the subsidiaries with their own, the joint position would be as follows: Assets, £4,639,271; liabilities (other than share capital) £2,400,037; surplus, £2,239,234, representing the £1,500,000 shareholders' capital and a surplus of £739,234; or with the undisclosed estimated further surplus on valuation of £328,828; a total surplus of £1,068,062.

DIVIDEND PROSPECTS.

The directors, while continuing a conservative policy, hoped to increase the next interim dividend from 4½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and anticipated paying a final dividend of 6 per cent. next year, making 11 per cent. The board found that the demand for the company's flats continued; with their subsidiary companies they now controlled over 4,000 flats, of which 1,064 with rentals under £300 per annum, were occupied by statutory tenants, indicating the existence of a secret reserve of a valuable character when the Rent Restrictions Acts no longer operated. That the company's tenants were satisfied that their rents were moderate, was evidenced by the fact that on March 25th last there were less than twenty sets of premises available for letting. The company had had an exceptional year of development and progress, and their available funds would now soon be fully utilised. The directors recommended shareholders to authorise, accordingly, the increase of the share capital by a further 500,000 shares, so that they might be in a position to deal with propositions as they might be available.

UNBROKEN RECORD OF EXPANSION.

The directors suggested that this company's history of unbroken expansion and progress for over twenty years warranted scrutiny and that its policy of expansion was justified by its past records and its present organisation to deal with it. Being a company capable of raising capital they had submitted to them almost every flat property proposition for sale, and therefore had unique opportunity for selection. Members should realise the importance of the following facts: (*a*) The revenue was over 8 per cent. on the total value of their properties, proving that the funds had been invested remuneratively; (*b*) only 42¾ per cent. of the value of their assets had been borrowed on debenture or mortgage, which was undoubtedly a very low average; (*c*) the net revenue was over 13 per cent. on the share capital for the time they had had it in use; (*d*) their annual dividend might be looked on as reasonably stable at not less than 10 per cent., with a good margin for the creation of large reserves; (*e*) the company's flats were in demand and not over-rented.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the proposed increase in the capital was unanimously approved.

BEIRA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

AMALGAMATION APPROVED.

A meeting of the holders of certificates of title to shares in the Beira Railway Company, Ltd., issued by the British South Africa Company under a deed poll in 1893, was held, on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., to consider a resolution approving a draft agreement in connection with the proposed amalgamation of the Beira Railway Company, Ltd., and the Beira Junction Railway (Port Beira to Fontesville), Ltd.

Baron Emile B. d'Erlanger, who presided in the absence of the chairman, Sir Henry Birchenough, said that the British South Africa Company and the Moçambique Company, being the registered holders of almost all the Beira Railway shares, could have carried the amalgamation through, subject to a certain consent of the court, without calling any meetings of the certificate holders, but they felt that the proper course was to ascertain if the proposals met with their approval. The scheme had been the subject of long and careful deliberations, and the amalgamation of the two lines was obviously desirable. If the ownership by two separate companies of a trunk and direct line between the seaboard and the Rhodesian frontier had at any time been an anomaly, it had ceased to have any sense whatsoever after the sale of the Port assets to the Port company; hence the amalgamation scheme, which obliterated the danger of conflicting interests between the larger company and the one holding direct access to the Port.

The scheme was, in effect, a purchase by the Beira company of the undertaking of the Junction company for £596,000. The income which the Beira company would thereby obtain gave a return of approximately 7½ per cent. on the purchase price—a not unattractive investment. There were also greater advantages. It was obviously advantageous to own and control a continuous line of railway from Umtali right down to the Port of Beira. If the traffics went on increasing, the Beira route would undoubtedly require more capital, which it would not expect to procure or raise on favourable terms unless its financial position was strengthened. The amalgamation would strengthen the whole structure of the Beira company, from the assets point of view, from the earning point of view, and from the reserve and dividend point of view. The fixed capital charge per mile of line would be reduced; the surplus earnings of the Beira company would be increased, thereby providing a margin of 80 per cent. over and above the £175,000 required for the prior charges, whereas the present margin was only 60 per cent.

The resolution was adopted.

WORLD AUXILIARY INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

BOARD'S SOUND DIVIDEND POLICY.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the World Auxiliary Insurance Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Captain the Right Hon. C. C. Craig, D.L. (the chairman), said said that with regard to the fire, accident and general account, the fund brought forward from 1928 amounted to £130,478, to which was added premiums £274,341, and interest £5,160, which latter was transferred to profit and loss account. After deducting claims paid and outstanding, and expenses, there remained a balance of £129,713, or 47.2 per cent. of the premium income, against 47.3 per cent. in the previous year. He thought those figures were satisfactory when they remembered the depressed condition of the fire market during the past year.

As to the marine account, after deducting claims and expenses and transferring £22,776 to profit and loss account, there remained £189,952, or 114.8 per cent. of the year's income, to bring forward. To be able to make that transfer to profit and loss and at the same time retain a larger fund than in the previous year, notwithstanding that the difficulties in the marine market still continued, was a matter for congratulation.

The balance brought into the profit and loss account was £29,916, and the available total was £80,688. They had transferred £20,000 to investment reserve fund and £5,000 to reserve for Government taxation and other charges. That left £48,743 from which they recommended the payment of a dividend of 6¼ per cent., free of income tax. The balance sheet showed that their investments, taken at cost, amounted to £844,634, an increase of about £5,000. The account also showed an increase of over £40,000 in their cash on deposit. The market value of the investments on December 31st showed a depreciation of £33,000, which had since been entirely wiped out owing to the subsequent increase in the value of their securities.

They regretted that for another year they had been unable to recommend the payment of a higher dividend, but they felt that, so long as the difficulties in the marine and fire markets continued, and until the outlook for insurance generally became brighter, they were bound to continue their policy of prudence and caution and of building up of larger reserves.

The report and accounts were adopted.

GODFREY PHILLIPS, LIMITED.
VERY SATISFACTORY TRADING RESULTS.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of the ordinary shareholders of Godfrey Phillips, Ltd., was held, on the 16th instant, at the registered offices of the company, 112 Commercial Street, London, E.

Mr Arthur I. Phillips (the managing director) occupied the chair.

The Secretary (Mr A. Morris Phillips) read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—To-day we come of age—this is the completion of twenty-one years of the limited liability company, and the eighty-sixth year of the firm of Godfrey Phillips and Sons, and I am glad to be able to welcome you, but regret that owing to severe illness and an accident the full board is not present with me to meet you, to receive the congratulations on our majority and upon the very satisfactory balance-sheet and trading results of the past year. The profit we are able to show you, after deducting directors' remuneration, amounts to £183,741, against £158,463. (Hear, hear.)

MORE BUSINESSES ACQUIRED.

These are days of rationalisation, and your directors, alive to this fact, have in the past, and again at the end of last year, secured control of a few of their most important independent competitors, thus reducing the multiplicity of factories, and obviating the duplication of staffs, selling depots and management. I would like to refer to the recent acquisitions. First is that of Messrs. Fairweather of Dundee, a business which was established in 1835, and whose reputation for quality goods in North Britain stands equally high with that of Messrs. Thomson and Porteous, whose share capital, I might mention in passing, is 100 per cent. ours to-day.

Towards the end of last year, the opportunity presented itself of acquiring Messrs Cohen, Weenen and Company, Ltd., and at the same time of securing for this company the services of Mr Arthur Donn, the chairman and managing director, whose considerable knowledge of the buying of raw material, and knowledge of the tobacco trade generally, will be of inestimable advantage to this company. Messrs Cohen, Weenen and Company, Ltd., as you know, is a company formed some two or three years ago, to succeed the original partnership, and has been even more successful as a company than it was in the days of the partnership. At the same time, and as Mr Donn is chairman, we purchased the control, that is to say, more than 50 per cent. of the ordinary shares of the United Kingdom Tobacco Company (1929), Ltd., a company which owns the businesses hitherto known as Major Drapkin and Company, Ltd., the manufacturers of the justly celebrated "Greys" cigarettes; Messrs Sarony and Company, the manufacturers of "Sarony" cigarettes; Messrs. Marcovitch and Company, the manufacturers of "Black and White" cigarettes, and other high-class cigarettes; and Messrs B. Muratti and Company, Ltd., who, with the last-mentioned firm, were the only manufacturers of importance in this country of cigarettes of the highest class except Messrs Abdulla.

CAPITAL INCREASE FORESHADOWED.

We have financed these purchases out of the resources of the business, and by the issue at a premium of the authorised 100,000 £1 ordinary shares which remained on the last balance-sheet to be issued. This is not the time for an issue, except on expensive terms, of shares of any denomination, but we shall wish at the opportune moment to increase the capital of this company to be able to repay the loan from the bank, and to be in a position to acquire by means of a transfer or exchange of shares, any competing business of which it might be advantageous for us to secure the control. With this in view, we have resolved and will send out notices convening a meeting to increase the capital by the creation of 200,000 "C" preference shares and 300,000 £1 ordinary shares, making the ordinary capital £1,000,000.

Your company and its associates have been doing a very big business in Australia, but their goods have been selling at 50 per cent. more than locally-made cigarettes, and just recently it has been enacted that we be allowed to trade only to the extent of half of our last year's volume. After careful consideration, I decided to manufacture in Australia itself. To avoid double taxation, it is necessary to trade as a separate entity there, so Godfrey Phillips (Australia) Proprietary, Ltd., has been formed.

Where general trading conditions are concerned, I am by no means a pessimist. I fully believe that the slump we have been experiencing will be followed by a gradual sound improvement, and I see no reason, therefore, to contemplate a less satisfactory year on the whole. Though we may have to contend with considerable difficulties for some time, the economies we are putting in hand, the large dividends we shall receive from our subsidiaries, our strengthened position, the result of a conservative policy in the past—makes me believe with confidence that we shall do as well in 1930 as in 1929. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE BRITISH THOMSON-HOUSTON COMPANY, LIMITED.
DIVIDEND RAISED TO 5 PER CENT.
INCREASE IN ORDERS AND SHIPMENTS.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the British Thomson-Houston Company, Ltd., was held on Thursday, the 16th instant, at the offices at Crown House, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.

Mr William C. Lusk (the Chairman) presided.

After the notice convening the meeting was read, the chairman referred with great regret to the resignation of Mr H. C. Levis, who had been connected with the company for nearly 28 years and had been chairman from September, 1916, to June, 1929.

He also referred to the appointment to the board of Sir Felix J. C. Pole, Chairman of Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., and of Mr Gordon M. Campbell.

THE YEAR'S RESULTS.

He then reviewed the figures in the balance sheet and profit and loss statement, and observed—The profit for the year after deducting all expenses and charges other than interest on debentures and loans, was £458,381 (as compared with £422,729 for the previous year), to which there is to be added the amount brought forward from the previous year, £203,066, making the total to be dealt with £661,447. After deducting interest on debentures and loans, £136,621, depreciations £153,863, and directors' fees £1,700, there is a balance left of £369,262. Out of this a dividend on the preference shares at 7 per cent. per annum less income tax has been paid, amounting to £84,000, which leaves £285,262, and the directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum less income tax (as compared with 4 per cent. per annum for the previous year) which amounts to £80,000 and leaves to be carried forward to the new account £205,262 as against £203,066 for the previous year.

The expenditure for additions during the year amount to £149,720 (as compared with £137,030 for the previous year) and against this there was written off for depreciation £140,125 (as compared with £105,930 for the previous year).

EXCESSIVE COMPETITION.

Both the orders received and the shipments from the factories during the year were greater than for the previous year, but the continuation of excessive competition at home and abroad resulted in an unreasonably low level of prices.

This is the only important electrical manufacturing country in which the manufacturers receive no protection in their home market and one has only to examine the balance sheets of the large electrical manufacturers in other countries to see the advantage to them of a protected home market and the disadvantage at which the British manufacturer is placed. Not only is the product of the labour of our workmen not protected in our home market against competition from outside, but due to the protection of the markets in the other important manufacturing countries, it is next to impossible for the British manufacturer to sell his products there. In addition to this manufacturers in Continental countries have the advantage of lower rates of wages than are paid in this country.

The new Budget, particulars of which were announced yesterday, places serious additional burdens upon the already heavily handicapped British manufacturer.

Co-operation with the other companies of the Associated Electrical Industries Group was pursued during the year, and that policy would be steadily followed and extended. One result of that policy which might be mentioned was the transfer of the wiring supplies and radio businesses to the Edison Swan Electric Company, Ltd., in August last. Many articles of these lines continue to be manufactured by the B.T.H. Company, but all selling and distribution is now done by the Edison Swan Electric Company, Ltd.

RECENT ACTIVITIES.

The company continues to maintain the position it has long held as a leader in development in the electrical engineering field, a few examples of its recent activities being as follows:—

The turbo-alternator set now being manufactured at Rugby for an important lighting and power company in America which will use steam at a temperature of 1,000 deg. Fah., the highest temperature for which a steam turbine has ever been built.

The manufacture for the Ford Motor Company's new plant at Dagenham of a turbo-alternator set of 30,000 kw. capacity to operate at a steam pressure of 1,200 lbs. per sq. inch, this being the largest turbine yet built in this country for such a high steam pressure.

The manufacture for the London Power Company's Station at Battersea of a turbo-alternator set of 67,200 kw., or about 100,000 horse power, a twin set being manufactured by an associated company, the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company, these being he largest generating units yet built in a British factory.

ELECTRIC PROPULSION OF SHIPS.

The Chairman stated that the company had been pioneers in this country of electric propulsion for ships, and referred to turbo electric propelling equipment supplied ten years ago to the first of the electrically driven ships of the United Fruit Company, and to the turbo electric equipment supplied to the P. and O. Company for the "Viceroy of India," the largest passenger liner yet equipped for electric drive, which was put into service during the past year, the results obtained being so highly satisfactory that Lord Inchcape had decided to employ the same form of drive for two still larger vessels for the P. and O. Australian service, the turbo electrical equipment for which the B.T.H. Company are now manufacturing.

The company also had in hand orders for other ship owners for turbo electric equipment for three fruit carrying ships, and two equipments for Diesel-electric driven oil tankers, these being repeat orders of similar equipment previously supplied.

The company received during the year a share of the orders placed by the Central Electricity Board for 132,000 volt switchgear and transformers and the first of the 132,000 volt sub-stations to be put into service, namely, the Bonnybridge Sub-station of the Scottish Grid, was equipped with switchgear of the company's make.

AN ELECTRIC TOTALISATOR.

In collaboration with the engineers of the Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd., the company had developed and successfully demonstrated an all-electric automatic totalisator, and the Racecourse Betting Control Board have placed contracts with them for totalisators for Cheltenham, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Pontefract and Newmarket.

The company's well-known "Mazda" lamps continued to increase in popularity and in use.

Finally, the Chairman referred to the hearty appreciation of the spirit of loyalty and the excellent work of the company's employees in all departments, who have at all times endeavoured to promote the company's interest.

The report of the directors, together with the company's accounts to December 31, 1929, were approved and adopted.

Colonel T. W. Pragnell, D.S.O., was elected a director of the company, and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

LONDON ELECTRIC WIRE COMPANY AND SMITHS, LIMITED.
CONTINUED PROGRESS.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of the London Electric Wire Company and Smiths, Ltd., was held on the 15th instant at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, London.

Sir George H. Fisher-Smith, J.P. (the chairman), after referring in detail to the accounts, said: if our Investments were realised at current market prices the total obtained would be higher than shewn on the Balance Sheet. The total cash at December 31 1929, amounted to £115,259, which, considered together with the easily realisable investments previously mentioned, shows a very strong liquid position.

I think you will agree with me that the results are very satisfactory. The business of your company has continued to expand during the year under review, in face of increasing competition.

Throughout the year competition in home and overseas markets has increased, and it has been necessary to meet this increased competition by making a thorough review of each undertaking and every department which it contains, introducing, wherever necessary, improved methods and the most up-to-date machinery, whilst at all times exercising the strictest economy.

I think you can look to the future with every confidence, knowing that the financial position of this company is extremely sound, and those who are responsible for its management are ever watchful of changing conditions which may affect your interests.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The London Electric Wire Company and Smiths Limited was formed in 1909, to amalgamate the copper department of Frederick Smith and Company, Wire Manufacturers, Limited, of Halifax, established in 1859, and the London Electric Wire Co., Limited, founded in 1879.

The company has modern and well-equipped factories in Leyton and Manchester, and is the parent company to The Liverpool Electric Cable Company, Limited, in Bootle, Liverpool.

At the Leyton Works are produced all kinds of electric wires insulated with cotton, silk, enamel, asbestos and paper, and these products are recognised in the industry as representing the highest standard of quality.

A newer feature is the rapidly extending range of "Lewcos" (regd.) wireless accessories, which, in common with the other products of the company, are the best of their kind.

THE COUNTY OF LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY, LIMITED.
CONTINUED PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.
NEW FIELDS OF OPERATIONS.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the County of London Electric Supply Company, Ltd., was held at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C. 2, on Wednesday, April 16, 1930. Sir Bernard E. Greenwell, Bart., presiding in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman and Managing Director, Sir Harry Renwick, Bart., K.B.E.

The manager and secretary, Mr John C. Dalton, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, Sir Bernard Greenwell read the speech prepared by Sir Harry Renwick as follows: You are no doubt aware that the ideal electric supply undertaking is one that can show the greatest diversity over the widest area, and I venture to claim that virtue for your company, seeing that we have an area of approximately 1,500 square miles. If we include the areas of our associated companies to whom we give bulk supplies, the total area over which your company has supply rights is upwards of 3,200 square miles. (Hear, hear.)

ACCOUNTS.

There is an increase of 51,448,147 in the units sold for the year, making a total for all purposes of 374,910,784 units. There is an increase of over 46,000 kilowatts in the new business secured, as compared with some 40,000 kilowatts for last year, making a total of over 333,000 kilowatts connected, while there is an increase of over 40,000 in the number of new consumers obtained during the year, as compared with an increase of 20,000 consumers for the preceding year.

The net revenue is satisfactory, seeing that we are proposing to pay an increase of one per cent. in the dividend, and that the carry-forward is some £80,000 in excess of last year's figure.

The revenue from sale of current, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, is £1,678,522, while the receipts from other sources amount to £195,526, being a considerable increase over last year's figure, with the result that we get an increase of £14,889 in the total revenue.

To the reserve account for taxation we are placing the sum of £10,000, and to the reserve for investments we are placing the sum of £15,000, while the reserves for depreciation and sinking funds under the 1925 Act absorb the sum of £284,953. This leaves a balance for appropriation of £1,003,058, out of which the interim and final dividends on the preference shares, amounting to £199,291' have been paid, and the interim dividend on the ordinary shares, and we are proposing to pay a further 8 per cent. on the ordinary share capital of the company, making 11 per cent. for the year on the capital as and when issued and paid up, thus leaving a balance to be carried forward of £445,036 10s., which, as you know, is subject to the operation of the 1925 Act.

I agree that our consumers should share in our prosperity, the reductions made during the past year both in our flat rate and two-part tariff charges amounted approximately to no less than £265,000.

BALANCE SHEET.

It will be found that the net amount expended under the Acts and Orders of the company at December 31st last was £12,569,950.

The company's investments show an increase of £343,074, which is due to the acquisition of further interests and further advances to subsidiary companies.

Turning to the liabilities side of the balance sheet, it will be found that the preference shares stand the same as in the previous accounts, while the ordinary share capital issued has increased by £1,323,845.

ENGINEERING ASPECTS.

As to the technical and engineering side of your undertaking the Barking power house is, as you know, the heart and pulse of your business, around which most of the problems we have to deal with revolve, either directly or indirectly. The second section of the power house was not in full commercial use before the close of the year, but I am able to record now that it has since been practically completed, and is to-day running satisfactorily.

In connection with distribution, I may add that a considerable amount of work has been done in our Essex area during the year, and supplies have been established at a number of points, so that there again we are more than fulfilling our statutory obligations, and I venture to say that only an organisation such as ours could have put into being the development of the county of Essex in so short a time.

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

We have acquired control of the Folkestone undertaking. We have also purchased the Wickford undertaking, and have obtained

a Special Order for Burnham-on-Crouch and district, while, under a friendly arrangement with the Barking Urban District Council, we have taken a transfer from that council of part of their area of supply.

Turning again to the figures of our own company, you will see that we show an increase for 1929 over 1928, as regards units sold for all purposes, of 16 per cent. This compares with the national increase of 13 per cent.

You will see on the fringe of London small places which were, at the end of the war, just mere villages or small settlements. To-day Coulsdon and Purley, Sanderstead, Morden, Buckhurst Hill, Romford, Woodford and similar places in our areas of supply are now highly urbanised, and have a large share of the 123,000 new houses which have been built since 1926, and a correspondingly large share of the new population of over 600,000 people who have settled on the outskirts of London and in our areas of supply.

You will gather, therefore, that we have not all our eggs in one basket, and that the most intensive efforts have been made to popularise electricity supply for domestic purposes, with great success, and that effort is to be continued throughout our areas, for, as you see for yourselves, the potentialities of our areas are such as to be beyond calculation.

PROGRESS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

As to the progress for the current year, I am still optimistic, and in spite of the extraordinarily mild winter which has been experienced, I find that, as a matter of fact, for the first three months of this year ended March 31st there is an increase of 20 per cent. in the units sold over the corresponding period last year, an increase of 10,051 in the kilowatts of new connections, while the number of new consumers has increased by 4,447. Our head office recently dealt with 500 new applications for supply in one day, mainly from our outside areas which are proving so productive. (Applause.)

The report and accounts were adopted, and a vote of thanks to the directors, staff and employees was unanimously carried.

RIO TINTO COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED INCOME AND A BONUS.

The fifty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Rio Tinto Company, Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, G.C.M.G. (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—In the revenue account you will see that we have considerably reduced our administrative expenses as compared with last year; that we have allowed £278,512 for depreciation, and that our income is better. Here I must pause for a moment to contradict a statement I have seen in print that part of our profit resulted from the sale of stocks and shares. It did not. Appreciations and depreciations of capital value realised on the sale of investments are applied to the book cost of the remaining investments.

As a result of our happier experience in 1929, I shall have to propose to you that, in addition to paying the usual dividend on the preference shares, we pay a final dividend of 25s., plus a bonus of 5s. per share on the ordinary shares, both less tax.

We have suggested the payment of a bonus this year by way of celebrating a jubilee.

I look for a period of anxiety and difficulty in the pyrites trade, and your company can escape neither the anxiety nor the difficulty. For years we have been preparing for it, and we have taken all the steps that we can think of in advance to meet it. We are directly interested in what look like being the successful processes for producing on the one hand by-product sulphur, on the other the constituent elements of pyrites of all grades, in marketable form, and we are adjusting our mine working in Spain to draw a larger proportion of our copper from our porphyritic ores and less from the pyritic. We shall be ready to begin the marketing of by-product brimstone, if we have to, this year.

In conclusion, he dealt with the copper situation. There was going to be, he said, more copper wanted than the world had ever dreamed of using, and, if the work of developing new sources of copper supply did not proceed regularly, there would be a copper famine in the world by 1935-40 at latest. That brought him to Rhodesia, where the Rio Tinto Company was one of a group which now controlled Minerals Separation, Ltd., the Rhodesian Congo Border Concessions, and the N'Changa Company, and he believed that the position was that no one nation could dominate the Rhodesian field, but that its development was in the hands of companies representing practically all the world, American as well as European. He was satisfied that that was the best arrangement possible.

The report was unanimously adopted.

CONSOLIDATED MINES SELECTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

The meeting of the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, Mr Walter McDermott (chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the profit and loss account, including the credit balance of £7,757 carried over from 1928, showed a profit of £120,057. The directors recommended increasing this unappropriated profit to a total amount of £128,057 by a transfer to the profit and loss account of £8,000 from the dividend equalisation account, reducing this latter from £18,000, now on the books, to £10,000, which would be continued as a reserve for any future needs. The directors recommended that a dividend be declared of 2s. per share, less tax, making 20 per cent. for the past year, absorbing £120,000 and leaving a sum of approximately £8,000 to be carried forward into the accounts for 1930.

The very large interest the company held in the new ordinary 10s. shares of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa made this concern a most important item in their list of holdings, and the Corporation's yearly operations and future permanent returns of profits depended on very large interests it had in gold, diamond, and copper investments. Its gold-mining investments were confined to the wonderfully regular producers of the Rand, and were for the most part in Brakpan, Springs, West Springs, and Daggafontein Mines, in the development of which the Consolidated Mines Selection Company took so prominent a part for many years. Year by year the Anglo-American Corporation had increased its investments and influence in the diamond mining and marketing industry until it now occupied a leading position in its relations with all the great producing mines.

As to prospects for the current year, the directors were satisfied with the general investment position, without daring to venture on making any guesses as to profits by the end of 1930. The company had lived through many fluctuations and these were natural to their business : no one would venture to say that this year of grace was a safe time in which to prophesy on industrial or political affairs quite capable of affecting mining results.

The cash position, after payment of the proposed dividends, was sufficiently strong to enable the directors to take advantage of any promising new business offering.

The report was unanimously adopted.

CONSOLIDATED WATER WORKS COMPANY OF ROSARIO, LIMITED.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Consolidated Water Works Company of Rosario, Limited, was held, on the 15th instant, at 52 Moorgate, London.

Mr James Anderson (the chairman) said that the progress of the business which had been manifest for a good many years past had continued unabated during the year 1929. The number of services connected to the company's mains at the close of last year was 50,916, an increase of 7.3 per cent., and the gross income from those services had amounted to $3,196,247, an increase of $156,764. As to the development of the business over an extended period, in 1920 the services numbered 26,631, against 50,916 in 1929, an increase of 91 per cent. in 10 years. During the same period the gross revenue had risen from $1,623,695 to $3,196,247, an increase of 96 per cent. The increasing business so strikingly evidenced by those figures had, of course, necessitated constant additions to the company's pumping and filtration plant and to the arterial and distribution mains, and the capital account was consequently being constantly called on to meet the outlay on extensions.

As to the current year the outlook was not altogether favourable. Crops of wheat and linseed recently harvested in the district, of which Rosario was the centre, had been very disappointing, and would probably have the effect of putting a check on the expansion of the city. The board had, however, no reason to fear the loss of any material part of the company's present revenue. There was another adverse feature—namely, the depreciation since the beginning of the year in the value of the Argentine dollar. It was to be hoped that those adverse conditions would be only temporary, and that with the return of better times the depreciation in the country's currency would gradually disappear.

The report was adopted.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, *6 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.*

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended April 12, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts	£
Supply Services	5,600	From Revenue	10,299
Interest, &c., on Debt	1,007		
Sinking Fund	495		
Sundries	206		
Decrease in Debt	2,853		
Increase in Balances	138		
	10,299		10,299

Ordinary revenue for the week ended April 12th amounted to £10,299,000, compared with £9,144,200 for corresponding period a year ago. Income tax yielded £2,833,000, compared with £2,571,000. Surtax produced £1,340,000, against £1,220,000. Estate duties yielded £1,770,000, against £1,430,000. Customs revenue amounted to £2,582,000, against £2,569,000, and excise to £1,300,000, against £1,136,000.

The National Debt was reduced by £2,853,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Treasury Bills	— 4,103
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 2,600	Post Office	— 400
	+ 2,650		— 4,503

The floating Debt was reduced by £5,105,000 to £618,475,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31, APRIL 1 TO APRIL 12.

	£		£
Expenditure	33,698,838	Revenue	29,074,397
		Decreases in balances	3,195,085
		Amount borrowed	1,429,356
	33,698,838		33,698,838

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	287
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	656	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,082	1,082
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	590	571
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	47
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,526	7,527
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	113	113
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,640

* Includes debt to American Government

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT.

	Apr. 13, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	Apr. 12, '30.	Movement Week ended Apr. 12, '30
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	38,700,000	48,530,000	47,530,000	— 1,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	706,710,000	588,885,000	570,945,000*	— 4,105,000
Total Floating Debt	745,410,000	637,415,000	618,475,000	— 5,105,000

* Includes £5,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on April 4, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £48,985,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Saturday, at £99 7s. 5d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £28,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
February 14	30,000,000	42,905,000	3 17 3·62
February 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
February 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
March 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to Apr. 12, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Apr. 13, 1929.	Week Ended Apr. 12, 1930.	Week Ended Apr. 13, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	11,239,000	10,770,000	2,833,000	2,571,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	3,370,000	2,830,000	1,340,000	1,220,000
Estate, &c., Duties	2,980,000	2,750,000	1,770,000	1,430 000
Stamps	480,000	520,000	260,000	420,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	20,000	50,000	20,000	40,000
Total Inland Revenue	18,089,000	16,930,000	6,223,000	5,681,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	4,517,000	4,110,000	2,582,000	2,569,000
Excise	2,200,000	1,801,000	1,300,000	1,136,000
Total Customs and Excise	6,717,000	5,911,000	3,882,000	3,705,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	1,335,000	1,269,000	*Dr 156,000*	*Dr 497,000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	100,000	*ded. 100,000*	350,000	250,000.
Crown Lands	...	...	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	2,831,510	2,881,716	...	...
Miscellaneous	1,887	218,244	...	5,163
Total Ordinary Revenue	29,074,397	27,109,960	10,299,000	9,144,163
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	1,550,000	1,800,000	550,000	650,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	1,243,000	1,316,000	1,243,000	1,316,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	2,793,000	3,116,000	1,793,000	1,966,000
Total	31,867,397	30,225,960	12,092,000	11,110,163
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	520,000	110,000	290,000	80,000
(*c*) For other Issues				
By Treasury Bills	82,238,000	128,497,000	46,502,000	58,640,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	20,550,000	...	2,600,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	1,650,000	1,600,000	900,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,100,000	...	125,000
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances	10,095,000	59,945,000	4,490,000	9,940,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	6,356	8,682	...	...
	146,926,753	246,486,642	66,874,000	80,695,163

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April —	1930. £	1929. £		
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total £	153,051,967	252,739,166	66,874,000	80,695,163

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to Apr. 12, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Apr. 13, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Apr. 12, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Apr. 13, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	17,038,027	18,987,000	1,006,744	1,641,769
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	...	6,606	...	6,606
Other Consolidated Fund Services	238,927	399,178	206,426	204,177
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	15,400,000	15,150,000	5,600,000	4,400,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	32,676,954	34,542,784	6,813,170	6,252,552
Sinking Fund	1,021,884	1,235,067	495,000	500,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	1,550,000	1,800,000	550,000	650,000
Road Fund	1,243,000	1,316,000	1,243,000	1,316,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	2,793,000	3,116,000	1,793,000	1,966,000
TOTAL	36,491,838	38,893,851	9,101,170	8,718,552
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928	520,000	110,000	290,000	80,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Redemption of Debt—Treasury Bills	100,165,000	122,075,000	50,605,000	59,910,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	1,450,000	1,550,000	850,000	850,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	28,546,070	...	850,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	11,095,000	58,295,000	5,490,000	9,940,000
	150,121,838	249,869,921	66,736,170	80,748,552
Balances in Exchequer—April 12, 1930 £ 2,167,568			+ 21,830	— 151,389
Bank of England 762,561	2,930,129	2,869,245	+ 116,000	+ 98,000
Bank of Ireland *828,390*				
Total £	153,051,967	252,739,166	+ 137,830	— 53,389

Treasury, 14th April, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

As the *Economist* goes to press earlier this week, in consequence of the Easter holidays, we are unable to give the returns of the Bank of England and other customary statistical matter.

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of March. 1929.	Month of March. 1930.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 12. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 12. 1930.
Number of Working days	25	26			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,942,000	11,149,000	— 6·6	41,283,100	39,609,000
BRADFORD	5,891,000	4,288,000	— 27·2	18,651,000	14,512,300
BRISTOL	5,294,000	5,117,000	— 3·3	18,393,000	17,105,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	75,523,500	73,722,100
HULL	3,978,000	3,488,000	— 12·3	13,905,600	12,578,600
LEEDS	4,379,000	4,273,000	— 2·4	15,621,100	15,434,900
LEICESTER	3,592,000	3,547,000	— 1·2	12,588,100	11,617,200
LIVERPOOL	34,159,000	31,451,000	— 7·9	123,281,400	108,943,700
MANCHESTER	57,971,000	52,352,000	— 9·6	197,899,200	177,703,600
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,480,000	6,960,000	+ 7·7	21,677,400	22,291,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,812,000	2,675,000	— 4·8	9,828,700	9,609,800
SHEFFIELD	4,675,000	4,484,000	— 4·0	15,759,500	14,897,900
Total	141,173,000	129,804,000	— 8·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of March 15; Canada in March 29; Russia in April 5; U.S. Federal Reserve, New York Federal Reserve, France, Reichsbank, Chile, Danzig, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Roumania, Poland, Latvia and Finland in April 12.

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, 1929.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,557	8,074	7,680	7,152	6,806	7,115
Subsidiary coin	110	118	114	117	124	126
Bills discounted	8,902	7,555	8,570	7,989	8,651	8,859
Investments	700	746	757	836	823	805
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,023	7,472	9,032	9,331	7,689	7,393
Government deposits	1,951	2,162	2,573	1,555	1,870	2,580
Bankers' deposits	5,440	5,388	4,860	4,910	4,852	4,954
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·4%	52·1%	47·1%	47·3%	46·7%	47·6%

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Apr. 11, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
Gold	(b)	908,841	1,180,664	1,180,637	1,182,318	1,182,432
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	496,342	549,043	545,334	586,219	613,143
Silver and other coin		1,422	3,468	3,570	3,745	3,754
Securities	697,600	756,535	800,248	837,461	834,484	829,332
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,461,160	2,772,121	2,790,106	2,868,276	2,901,813
Current accounts	112,125	91.940	102,956	117,196	59,194	77,693

(b) In thousand francs.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, 1929.	Feb. 21, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.
Total securities	21,44,01	31,37,75	30,57,33	30,36,67	29,92,55	30,12,14
Loans	12,70,67	7,41,47	7,66,45	8,46.69	9,25.64	9,19,54
Cash credits	31,83,82	31,58,47	31,85.90	31,64,19	31,90,69	31,43.09
Inland bills	11,69,39	7,68,40	7,36,45	7,34,21	7,06,16	7,27,89
Foreign bills	31.83	41,49	35,68	32,90	33,30	44,01
Dead stock	2,83,87	2,80,74	2,80.52	2,80.53	2,80,90	2,80,92
Bal. with other banks	13.35	25,73	20.45	13.37	20,10	50,92
Cash	11,63,46	16,05,46	18,51,03	16,65,59	16,11,33	19,44,68
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	77,41,70	86,22,16	88,03,05	86,32,14	86,15,04	89,58,21
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	838	779	748	774	843	1,204
Advances in London	882	667	663	768	768	880
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	101	195	151	101	151	382

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	April 8, 1929.	Mar. 17, 1930.	Mar. 24, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	April 7, 1930.
Gold	163,092	422,470	431,973	431,974	431,963	431,953
Silver	8,436	20,918	26,778	27,346	27,873	27,028
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	197.019	51,794	51,535	51,593	51,486
Foreign Bills		28.759	204,006	204,113	204,207	204,394
Loans and advances in current acct.		114,588	88,926	88,918	119,660	104,192
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	810,462	791,237	781,236	838,176	820,304
Deposits	5,016	14,683	17,683	21,290	12,585	12.843

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	Apr. 13, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,253	167,500	169,100	170,000	170,400
Silver	29,785	18,448				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	128,633	135,900	132,200	129,300	141.800
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	306,180	273,100	270,200	270,000	276,100
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	35,681	36,900	39,000	44,100	43,300

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 6, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Gold	171,175	481.238	560,955	560,978	560,986	560,996
Silver	18,350	43,295	19,426	19,729	17,894	...
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	221.163	352,682	332,990	334,895	344,313
Discounts	...	152,513	74,521	75,833	71,918	40,151
Advances	103,000	70.333	41,254	40,318	47,418	45,486
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	845.617	843,263	830.033	918,002	885,922
Deposits	33,750	114.395	193.223	196,813	121,997	108,069

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 30, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,100	5,189,900	5,189,900	5,201,500	5,201,500
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,333,200	4,851,900	4,931,200	4,938,100	4,858,400
Other cash	238,300	221,300	220,200	224,600	225,300
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,813,100	1,813,100	1,801,600	1,801,600
Discounts	3,699,200	3,213,900	3,063,400	2,995,100	3,049,000
Advances	1,514,400	1,367,800	1,345,100	1,265,900	1,328,600
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,097,400	776,600	776,600	776,600	755,000
Government securities	1,042,500	1,052,200	1,051,400	1,052,800	1,052·300
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,349,900	16,091,800	15,924,800	15,863,400	16,321,500
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,121,300	1,665,600	1,589,600	1,562,800	1,429,400
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·72%	55·61%	56·82%	57·19%	55·73%

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	Apr. 13, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559.749	2,468,246	2,468,347	2,468.544	2,468.760
Silver	728,600	714·673	710,445	715,853	711,896	710,173
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,885,196	2,093,782	2,117,131	2,146.203	2,091,695
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,311,467	4,381,682	4,364,585	4,439.506	4,447,457
Deposits	477,500	1,040.410	830,424	839,599	847,265	839,095

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 7, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	205,216	205,044	212,965	221,155	220,424
Other foreign exchange†	352,910	316,146	325,226	336,338	335,797
Bills discounted	174,121	172,005	142,487	165.723	153,681
Gov. Debt	109,862	108,513	108,493	108,493	108,448
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9.283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	929,404	884,293	854,182	979,924	924,362
Deposits	85,014	90,368	108,985	26,149	68,898

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 7, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,426	162,628	162,629	162,631	162,630
Drafts and notes	17,183	12,272	9,481	7,604	8,344
Silver coin and bullion	10,048	10,397	10,735	10,582	10.108
Inland bills, warrants and securities	329,176	207,766	200,931	224,639	210.267
Advances to the Treasury	92,257	82,900	82,900	82,900	82,866
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	423,359	388,597	373,114	431,221	406,876
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	204,711	88,031	93,405	46,635	53,873

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. MARCH, 1930.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	33,798	1,586	2,932	35,615	7,961	39,931	3,173	28,677	27,469	3,234	184,376
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other Banks in the United Kingdom	9,693	687	1,512	8,265	2,369	12,065	159	7,701	7,630	1,169	51,250
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,082	906	...	...	...	...	...	2,988
Money at call and short notice	25,358	1,723	3,146	26,940	4,292	19,536	4,158	19,435	27,494	2,649	134,731
Bills discounted	38,612	1,104	902	32,145	3,258	47,184	2,099	23,988	32,918	1,355	183,565
Investments	52,536	3,923	6,603	34,603	17,019	31,470	15,174	34,947	38,131	6,029	240,435
Advances to customers and other accounts	175,267	10,804	15,053	198,838	44,248	214,832	16,159	154,464	143,141	18,003	990,809
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,115	617	2,826	47,175	6,494	36,424	29	16,525	26,096	985	159,286
Bank premises account	5,851	372	695	7,071	2,253	10,374	788	6,133	5,168	983	39,688
Investments in affiliated banks	7,274	...	...	6,687	...	7,122	...	2,514	2,992	...	26,589
	370,504	20,816	33,669	399,421	88,800	418,938	41,739	294,384	311,039	34,407	2,013,717
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	10·48	8·71	10·09	10·91	10·66	11·22	8·49	11·07	10·31	10·58	10·72
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,433	1,500	9,480	9,320	1,875	73,496
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,508	13,433	1,455	9,480	9,320	1,000	59,976
Current, deposit and other a/cs.	322,281	18,199	29,039	326,430	74,622	355,648	37,354	258,899	266,295	30,547	1,719,314
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	22,115	617	2,826	47,175	6,494	36,424	29	16,525	26,096	985	159,286
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,401	...	8	...	1,431
Reduction of bank premises a/c.	...	...	214	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
	370,504	20,816	33,669	399,421	88,800	418,938	41,739	294,384	311,039	34,407	2,013,717

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 3, 1929.	Mar. 12, 1930	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,699	8,825	8.807	8,784	8,740
Of which gold	8.577	8.577	8.577	8,577	8.577
Balances abroad	321.316	176.282	157.202	164,587	175.667
Discounts	275,745	345.733	343 062	336,812	336.363
Government loans	1,743,816	1,530.684	1,530.684	1,530,784	1,530,684
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,861.869	1,911,774	1,883,319	1,879 004	1,899,371
Deposits	64,122	54,116	55.067	58,899	83,204

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 7, 1929.	Mar 15, 1930	Mar. 23, 1930	Mar. 31. 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,192	1,261,887	1,261,899	1,261,942	1,261,979
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,769.682	1,963,560	1,900.211	1,906,820	1,890,395
Discounts and advances	548.276	294,679	245.309	639.149	573,254
State notes debt balance	4,034,596	3,704,105	3,703.393	3,699.260	3,692,940
Other assets	735.153	598,192	589,219	623.470	595,627
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,925,410	6,271,800	6,121,832	7,010.801	6,652,655
Check account balances	676.978	789,363	834,714	416,565	643,629
Other liabilities	218.918	216,515	235.097	194,887	214,523

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 8. 1929.	Mar. 15. 1930	Mar 22, 1930	Mar. 31. 1930	Apr. 8, 1930
Gold	91,948	96,150	96.221	96,295	96.388
Other coin and notes	18,675	18.337	18.379	17,986	18.120
Foreign credits	194,264	291.226	287.781	291.446	294,619
Bills	1,409.182	1,091,730	1,081,979	1,078.902	1,102,288
Government advances	4,201,055	4,135,380	4,133.388	4,131.387	4,129,390
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,273,030	5,334.841	5,225,424	5,363.046	5,386,987
State credits	227.782	189,916	187.923	185.923	183 926
Deposits	996,593	1,848.155	1,989,300	1,843.395	1,828,595

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23. 1930	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,512,106	1,570,480	1,571,166	1,571,690	1,573,492
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,953,292	778,598	666.245	630.300	717,846
Discounts and advances	1,485,316	1,281,901	1,264,864	1,252,516	1,245,202
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,340,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500.000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,167	1,251.986	1,252,222	1,252,138	1,251.593
Bank notes in circulation	4,100,715	3,251.892	3,236,064	3,208.260	3,350,397
Sight liabilities	3,024,042	1,821,993	1,743.455	1,704 197	1,780,003
Deposits	469,723	319.056	318.551	318,400	317,700

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	Mar. 23, 1929.	Mar 1, 1930.	Mar 8. 1930.	Mar. 15. 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,120,025	994,523	974.261	964.775	955.543
Discounts	41,740	706.171	676.798	667.818	666,115	666,096
Advances	70,540	75,240	77,981	76.272	76,556	76,669
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,207,631	1,276.568	1,134,255	1,106,171	1,128,346
Govt. deposits	87,340	566,485	490,158	537,762	535.159	531,915
Other deposits	11,440	359,359	242,468	316,420	345,317	325,934

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Gold	564.866	648.873	624,792	626,140	627,148
Gold exchange	4,586,474	3,690.708	3,592,154	3,619.613	3,745,071
Other foreign exchange	1.283	2,742	2,705	2,859	3,816
Bills discounted	44,455	155,996	152,208	141,477	120,772
Advances	78,642	175,593	176,175	173,295	173,970
Debt to the State	3,789,638	3,512,763	3,512.763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,487,985	4,867,420	4,817,042	4,815,862	4,890,274
Deposits and current accounts	2,122,398	1,914,413	1,873,032	1,901,821	1,938.445
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,115,506	1,070,109	1,044,068	1,039,065	979,442

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 7, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,243	6,455	6.458	6,461	6,464
Net foreign exchange	21,869	20.437	20,357	19.800	19,671
Subsidiary Estonian coin	752	1.150	1,176	1,616	1,580
Home bills discounted	14.793	15,245	14,983	14,988	14,971
Loans and advances	15,525	12,736	13,106	13,358	12,420*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	34,656	32.541	33,574	33,169	32,586
Sight deposits and current accounts	19.538	19.816	19.062	19,269	18,544
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	51·87%	51·36%	50·94%	50·08%	51·11%

* Includes Ekr. 7,596,913·98, guaranteed by the Government.

LONDON RATES.

	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 14, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½	% ...
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅜	...
3 months' do.	2⅛—⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	...
4 months' do.	2⅛—⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	...
6 months' do.	2⅛—⅜	2⅜—½	2⅜—½	2⅜—½	2⅜—½	2⅜	...
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅜	2⅛—⅛	...
3 months'‡	2⅛—⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛—2⅛	2⅛—⅜	2⅛	...
Loans—Day to day	1½—2½	1½—2½	1½—2½	2 —2½	2—3	2½—1½	...
Short	2½	2½—2½	2½— ½	2½	2½	2½—5	...
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	...
Discount houses at call	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	...
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	...

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Mar. 27	2½	2⅛	2½ ½	2½	3½	3½	4 4½
April 3	2½	2⅜	2⅛	2½	3½	3½	4
10	2½	2⅛ ½	2⅛ ½	2⅛ ⅜	3½	4	4½
16	2½—5	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛	3½	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Apr. 18, 1929.	Apr. 10 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86	4·85 11/16 - 11/32	4·86 17/32 - 86 19/32	4·86 3/32 - 86 11/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86	4·89 - 1/32	4·86 7/32 - 86 3/32	4·86 3/32 - 86 7/32
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·25-28	124·21-23	124·02-04
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46 3/4 - 47 1/2	20·37 1/2 - 38 1/4	20·37 1/2 - 37 3/4
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07 1/2 - 8 1/2	12·10 3/4 - 11 1/2	12·09 3/4 - 09 1/2
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95 1/4 - 3/4	34 84 - 84 1/2	34 84 1/4 - 84 3/4
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67-70	92·79 81	92·73-76
Berne	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21 1/4 - 22	25·09 1/2 - 10	25·08 1/2 - 08 3/4
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 3/4 - 20 1/4	18·16 1/4 17	18·16 - 16 1/4
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16 3/4 - 17 1/4	18 9 1/2 - 10	18·08 3/4 - 09 1/4
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20 3/4 - 21	18·16 1/4 - 16 3/4	18·16 - 16 1/4
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	32·87-92	39·00-05	38·80-84
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108-108 1/2	108 1/4 - 3/4	108 1/4 - 3/4
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58 1/2	34·56-58	34·51-53	34·50 53
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164 1/2	163 1/2 - 4 1/2	164 1/4 - 164 1/2	164 - 164 1/2
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	276 - 1/2	274 3/4 - 275 1/2	274 1/2 - 275 1/2
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·85-89	27·85 88	27 81-84
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	818-22	817 1/2 - 818 1/2	817-818
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	671-5	668-673	669-674
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374 1/2 - 5	374 3/4 - 375 1/2	374 3/4 - 375 1/2
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	985-90	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	9·425-·438	†9·446-465	†9·445 465
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 3/8 - 43 7/16	43 5/16 - 7/16	43 5/16 - 7/16
Helsinfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192 7/8 - 193 1/2	193 - 193 1/2	193 - 193 1/2
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48 1/4 - 49 1/4	48 1/2 - 49	48 1/4 49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16-23	18·20-27	18·20-27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22 1/2	25·15-25	25·17-27	25·17-27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97 1/2	97 1/16 - 97 3/16	97 1/16 - 3/16	97 1/16 - 3/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	44 1/2 - 3/4	44 1/2 - 3/4	43 11/16 - 3/4
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5/8 - 11/16	5 11/16 - 3/4	5 11/16 - 3/4
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	48 3/4 - 49 1/4	46 1/2 - 46 3/4	45 3/4 6 1/2
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·58	39 91	39·92
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19 1/4 % prem	12·45 nom.	12·60 nom.
Calcutta	pence	T.T.	18	1 5 13/16 - 2 1/16	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32
Bombay	to	T.T.		1 5 13/16 - 2 1/16	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32
Madras	rupee	T.T.		1 5 13/16 - 2 1/16	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32	1/5 31/32 - 2 1/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1.11 1/8 - 2/0 1/16	1/6 1/8 - 1/6 1/4	1/6 1/4 - 1 6 1/8
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/6 2/6 1/2	1.11 1/2 - 1/11 1/2	1/11-1/11 1/2
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2.3 15/16 - 2/3 1/16	2/3 1/16 - 1/8	2/3 1/16 - 1/8
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/9 15/16 - 2 1/16	2/0 - 1/16	2 0 1/16 - 1/8
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.	†2s. 0 1/16 d.
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·0 10·50	10·15-35	10·20 30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10 1/2	1/10 1/2	1/10 3/8

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

Bank	Changed.	From %	To %
ram	Mar. 24, 1930	3 1/2	3
	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Trea	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4 1/2
	July 26, 1921	...	6
	Mar. 24, 1930	5 1/2	5
s	Dec. 31, 1929	4 1/2	3 1/2
arest	Nov. 23, 1929	9 1/2	9
apest	Mar. 28, 1930	6 1/2	6
rutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6
penhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4 1/2
nzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7
ingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6 1/2	7
	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7
As	July 28, 1926	9	8
of th ork Fede- Bank Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3 1/2
d	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5 1/2

Bank	Changed.	From %	To %
Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4 1/2
Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3 1/2	3
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5 1/2	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5 1/2	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7 1/2	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6 1/2 / 7 1/2
Rome	Mar. 1, 1930	7	6 1/2
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3 1/2
Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3 1/2	3
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6 1/2	6
Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4 1/2	4

.tral Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the ——ce, 7%.
6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Apr. 18, 1929.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	3	3 1/2	4	4	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	9	4	4	4	4	4
Bank acceptances :—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3 1/2
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	3	3	3 1/2
Ineligible, 90 days	6 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Commercial accept., 90 days	5 1/2	4	4	4	4	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Apr. 18, 1929.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80 1/4	4·84	4·83 1/2	4·83 1/2
Cable			4·85 13/16	4·86 1/4	4·86 7/16	4·86 1/16
Cheques			4·85 1/4	4·86 1/4	4·86 1/4	4·86
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90 1/16	3·91 1/2	3·91 7/16	3·91 15/16
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·89	13·94 1/2	13·95	13·955
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·24	19·35 1/2	19·37	19·38
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·235	5·23 1/2	5·23 1/2	5·23 1/2
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·69	23·85 1/4	23·85	23·84 1/4
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shlg	14·07	14·04	14·09	14·09	14·09
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·81	12·56	12·52	12·51
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12	40·13	40·13 1/2	40·19
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·645	26·76 1/4	26·76 1/2	26·76
Oslo ,,			26·655	26·76	26·76	26·76
Stockholm ,,			26·70	26·865	26·865	26·87
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29 1/8	1·29 1/4	1·29 1/4	1·29 1/4
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	1/4 dis.	1/4 dis.	1/4 dis.	1/4 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·20	49·40	49·40	49·35
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·70	37·40	37·35	37·30
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	61·35	47·00	47·12 1/2	47·125
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·24	36·15	36·15	36·15
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·75	114·20	110·75	113
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·90	11·60	11·75	11·70
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	1/2% dis.	par to 1/4% pm.	1/4% prem.
Demand	1 1/2% dis.	3/8% ,,	1/16% dis.	1/4% ,,
30 days	1 3/8% ,,	1/2% ,,	1/4% ,,	1/16% ,,
60 days	2 1/8% ,,	3/4% ,,	1 1/16% ,,	1/16% ,,
90 days	3 1/8% ,,	1 1/16% ,,	1 1/8% ,,	1/4% ,,
20 days	3 1/2% ,,	1 1/8% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying.		London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying.		Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93 1/2	95 1/2	...	...	106 1/4	105
Demand	92 3/8	93 1/4	93 1/2	95	105 3/8	103 1/2	106 1/8	104 3/8
30 days	92 1/8	93 1/8	...	...	104 3/8	103	105 3/8	104
60 days	91 1/4	92 1/8	...	...	104 1/8	102 1/2	105 1/4	103 3/8
90 days	90 1/8	92 1/8	...	...	103 3/8	102	104 1/2	103 1/2

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on March 31, 1930 :—

	£	£
In India		Nil
In England :		
Cash at the Bank of England	3,748	
Gold	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills :—Value as on March 31, 1930	9,085,230	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities :—Value as on March 31, 1930	28,758,688	
		40,000,000
		40,000,000

BULLION.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£
Apr. 11	Bars bought	7
,, 12		Nil
,, 14		Nil
,, 15	Bars bought	43
,, 16		Nil
	Total	50

1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
Apr. 11		Nil
,, 12	Sovs. for export	55,000
,, 14		Nil
,, 15	Sovs. set aside	20,833
,, 16		Nil
	Total	55,833

Net withdrawals, £55,783.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on April 16, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £159,829,239 on the 9th instant (as compared with £156,188,963 on the previous Wednesday), an increase of £13,869,155 since the 1st January last. In the open market yesterday gold from South Africa to the value of £411,000 was available and was disposed of at 84s. 10½d. per fine ounce. Germany secured £336,000, India £40,000 and the Home and Continental trade £35,000. Receipts of gold by the Bank of England totalled £55,833 and withdrawals £20,873, a net efflux of £34,960 during the week.

SILVER.

Offerings have continued to be restricted and the market has remained steady, prices having shown a slight improvement as compared with those of the previous week. A rise of ¼d. to 19 11/16d. and 19½d. on the 10th instant was followed by a reaction of 1/16d. the following day, otherwise daily fluctuations have been small. China and the Indian bazaars have been the chief support and the Continent has sold moderately. America has offered to sell occasionally but on the whole has still been more disposed to buy. Prices were quoted level at 19 5/16d. on the 12th and 14th instant, but yesterday the 1/16d. premium for cash delivery was regained.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 7th instant to mid-day on the 14th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£
France	113,284
British India	49,964
Other countries	48,981
	£212,229

EXPORTS.	£
China (including Hong Kong)	236,847
British India	164,584
Other countries	4,556
	£405,987

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	April 7.	Mar. 31.	Mar. 22.
Notes in circulation	17,415	17,723	18,057
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,084	11,096	10,957
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,089	3,385	3,873
Securities (British Government)	15	15	...

The stocks in Shanghai on the 12th instant consisted of about 96,300,000 ounces in sycee, 143,000,000 dollars, 20,200,000 Saigon dollars and 14,880 silver bars, as compared with about 95,500,000 ounces in sycee, 142,000,000 dollars, 21,200,000 Saigon dollars and 15,820 silver bars on the 5th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Apr. 11	84 11 1/2	19 1/2	19 7/16	Apr. 20, 1923	34 3/4
,, 12	84 11 1/2	19 9/16	19 9/16	,, 18, 1924	33 1/4
,, 14	84 11 1/2	19 9/16	19 9/16	,, 17, 1925	31 7/16
,, 15	84 10 1/2	19 9/16	19	,, 16, 1926	29 1/2
,, 16	84 11 1/2	19 3/8	19 9/16	,, 9, 1927	26
,, 17	...	...	...	,, 12, 1928	26 5/16

NOTICES.

Major P. C. Anderson, European representative of the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company of New York, announces that his address is now 9, Clements Lane, E.C. 4 (instead of 25-27, Bishopsgate).

Mr Frederick Craufurd Goodenough, chairman of Barclays Bank, Ltd., has been elected chairman of the committee of London Clearing Bankers and Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease, chairman of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., deputy-chairman for the ensuing year.

Hambros Bank, Ltd., announce the receipt of formal confirmation of the opening in Reykjavik, on Saturday, April 12th, of the New Islands Fisherybank (Utvegsbanki Islands H/F). The new bank will take over the assets and liabilities of the Islands Banki, which ceased to function early in February last.

The Midland Bank announces that during the past week-end the head office has been transferred from 5, Threadneedle Street to Poultry, London, E.C. 2. All correspondence for head office officials and departments should henceforward be addressed to Poultry. The telephone number will remain National 1234. The change in the location of the head office will not involve any alteration in the conduct of business at the 5, Threadneedle Street office, which will continue to be under the same management as hitherto.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Mr A. Batchelor has been appointed chairman of R. E. Jones, Ltd.

Mr C. J. Bonnard has joined the board of the Trowbridge Tyre and Rubber Company (1929), Ltd.

Sir Adam B. Ritchie has joined the board of directors of the Borneo Company, Ltd.

Mr Desmond Abel Smith has joined the board of the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Mr Claude Bishop and Mr J. A. Brewin have joined the committee of first preference shareholders of the Inveresk Paper Company, Ltd.

The registered office of Carmelite Trust, Ltd., has been removed to 32, Old Jewry, E.C. 2. Telephone : Metropolitan 9351.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that, as from March 29, 1930, the address of its Liverpool branch will be :—Royal Exchange Court, 26, Exchange Street East, Liverpool.

The address of Grand Trunk Junior Stocks, Ltd., is now 40, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W. 1. Telephone : Sloane 8323.

The Scottish Provident Institution state that a new branch will be opened on May 1 at 52, Lime Street, E.C. 3, under the charge of Mr. J. R. H. Lazenby, presently agency superintendent at the London City office.

The registered office of the British Cement Products and Finance Company, Ltd., have been removed from 5, Lothbury, to 23, King Street, London, E.C. 2.

BANKS.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.—We are asked by the Bank of Australasia, in connection with an article on "Australian Stocks," which appeared in our issue of April 12th (page 840), to point out that the bank has just paid its usual dividend, and there is therefore no question of any reduction in the rate of distribution.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH CELANESE LIMITED.—The annual report will not be published until towards the end of September. The directors state that for year ended February 28, 1930, the turnover was more than 50 per cent. in excess of the value of the previous year, and very substantially more than that percentage in weight. The trading profit also shows an increase of over 50 per cent., and, after charging the excise duty and all expenses, but before providing for the debenture services, depreciation, research and other appropriations, the estimated profit is in excess of £1,100,000.

CAMMELL LAIRD AND COMPANY.—Profit of £11,810 for 1929 contrasts with a deficit of £80,694 on operations for the previous year. With regard to investments in the books the directors state that it is too early to form a reliable judgment in regard to actual values. It is considered unwise to attempt any scheme of financial reconstruction of the company until earning capacity is more clearly established. Holders of the 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock and the 4½ per cent. debenture stock falling due for repayment on July 1, 1930, are being asked to extend the repayment date for five years.

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF SECRETARIES.—The Preliminary, Intermediate and Final Examinations will be held on June 13th and 14th in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Hull, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leicester, Bradford, in Edinburgh, in Glasgow, in Belfast and in Dublin. Entries by May 13th. Particulars may be obtained from the Institute, London Wall, London, E.C. 2, or from Branch Secretary, R. Miller, F.C.I.S., Love Lane Sugar Refinery, Liverpool.

LONDON COUNTY FREEHOLD AND LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES.—Net revenue for the year ended March 31, 1930, is £175,025, compared with £133,489 for the previous fifteen months. After deduction of the interim dividend of 4½ per cent. paid on November 1st, absorbing £55,061, there is left for appropriation the sum of £167,210. Of this, £6,000 is allocated to debenture redemption account, £8,000 for amortisation of leaseholds, £8,000 for maintenance of properties, and £10,000 to contingencies account. A final dividend of 5½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, absorbs £70,929, leaving £64,282 to be carried forward, against £47,246 brought in. Assets free from specific encumbrance amount to over £1,148,378, showing that surplus and reserves are well represented by assets. The board are seeking powers to increase the share capital by a further 500,000 shares, so that the company might be in a position to deal with propositions as they should arise.

BUDGET AND THE INVESTOR

THE WORLD'S CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

UNILEVER MILLIONS

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS

SEE
The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review
THIS WEEK

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price 6d., or from

The Publisher :
"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"
20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Breweries.											
New England Breweries Co.	Dec. 31	3,391	16,616	20,007	...	8,200	20†	8,200	3,607	...	...
Whitbread and Co.	Dec. 31	243,437	324,585	568,022	43,407	119,151	15	191,500	213,964	248,737	12
Gas.											
Bombay Gas Co.	Dec. 31	37,389	27,183	64,572	...	22,500	7½	5,079	36,993	24,423	7
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Ocean Coal and Wilsons ...	Dec. 31	9,067	335,453	344,520	69,830	260,055	5	...	14,635	70,330	Nil
Motor and Cycle.											
Albion Motor Car	Dec. 31	25,853	65,871	91,724	8,032	51,813	12½	1,000	30,879	90,477	12½
Rubber, &c.											
Amherst Estates (Selangor)	Dec. 31	9,431	3,387	12,818	...	...	...	5,500	7,318	2,578	2½
Ceylon (Para) Rubber	Dec. 31	20,822	9,229	30,051	...	7,000	10	...	23,051	10,845	10
Ceylon Timber and Rubber	Dec. 31	1,544	4,872	6,416	...	3,332	7	1,000	2,084	*Dr. 1,993*	...
Kampong Kuantan Rubber	Dec. 31	12,312	10,561	22,873	...	13,210	20	...	9,663	17,631	25
Karak Rubber	Dec. 31	4,621	6,583	11,204	...	5,119	10	...	6,085	6,056	10
Kuala Pilah Rubber	Dec. 31	3,927	6,363	10,290	...	4,500	6	2,000	3,790	10,717	10
Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea	Dec. 31	3,371	8,815	12,186	...	9,257	5	...	2,929	11,013	4
Sunnygama Co.	Dec. 31	10,190	8,377	18,567	900	7,500	10	...	10,167	9,088	10
Shops and Stores.											
Army & Navy Co-op. Socy.	Jan. 25	114,543	245,068	359,611	...	205,000	25	36,849	117,762	243,520	25
Tea.											
Amblamana Tea Estates ...	Dec. 31	613	3,557	4,170	...	3,614	6	500	56	4,690	6
Battalgalla Estate	Dec. 31	2,474	11,225	13,699	...	10,500	70	...	3,199	12,619	60
Lindoola Tea	Dec. 31	2,974	6,535	9,509	780	5,200	40	1,500	2,029	5,771	35
Tellikelle Tea of Ceylon ...	Dec. 31	1,911	8,730	10,641	285	8,812	25	...	1,544	8,656	25
Textiles.											
Acetate Products	Nov. 30	...	*Dr. 12,196*	*Dr. 12,196*	...	...	...	...	*Dr12,196*	...	...
Trust.											
Alliance Trust.....	Jan. 31	48,923	355,810	404,733	71,784	191,743	25	90,000	51,206	315,653	25
London Trust Co.	Mar. 30	46,253	125,003	171,256	22,800	80,640	21	20,000	47,816	118,324	20
Other Companies.											
Abdulla and Co.	Dec. 31	12,021	80,841	92,862	20,000	52,500	17½	15,000	5,362	...	...
Ballington Hosiery	Dec. 31	...	14,022	14,022	9,466	...	...	...	1,228	...	...
British Thomson-Houston...	Dec. 31	203,066	166,196	369,262	84,000	80,000	5	...	205,262	270,504	4
Daily Mirror Newspapers ...	Feb. 28	32,424	480,361	512,785	28,000	420,000	30	30,000	34,785	479,529	30
Edison Swan Electric	Dec. 31	18,929	50,964	69,893	7,500	19,143	10	30,000	13,250	...	...
English Electric	Dec. 31	*Dr433,516*	*Dr. 47,211*	*Dr480,727*	...	...	...	...	*Dr480727*	*Dr33,617*	...
Goldsmiths & Silversmiths	Jan. 31	79,172	15,732	94,904	15,000	12,000	4	...	65,904	42,109	6
Jurgens	Dec. 31	186,120	393,251	579,371	157,500	140,000	7	...	193,871	326,521	7
Lever Bros.	Dec. 31	160,337	6,213,505	6,373,842	4895534	359,116	10	1,000,000	119,192	5,274,075	5
London Electric Wire Co. and Smiths	Dec. 31	22,759	110,622	133,381	30,000	48,306	7½	25,000	30,075	110,276	7½
Mowlem (John) and Co. ...	Dec. 31	17,346	79,552	96,898	1,080	38,400	12½	35,000	22,418	...	...
Niger Co.	June 30	228,129	257,723	485,852	310,000	62,500	5	45,535	67,817	280,722	Nil
Phillips (Godfrey)	Dec. 31	36,154	171,359	207,513	25,380	67,500	10	80,000	34,633	145,601	10
Pullman (R. and J.)	Dec. 31	3,086	7,465	10,551	3,500	1,750	25	397	4,904	11,458	75
Robertson (John) and Son	Feb. 28	1,729	3,237	4,966	600	3,000	15	...	1,366	5,831	25
Robinson (E.) and Sons ...	Mar. 14	18,366	14,405	32,771	1,000	6,750	15	5,500	19,521	14,932	15
Tayside Floorcloth.....	Feb. 28	30,008	28,263	58,271	...	25,600	20	...	32,671	41,540	30
Unilever	Dec. 31	26,887	580,382	607,269	70,000	250,000	10	250,000	37,269	378,898	10
Van den Berghs.....	Dec. 31	29,630	467,614	497,244	274,595	187,500	25†	...	35,149	413,189	50†

† Less income tax.

OIL OUTPUTS.

ANGLO-ECUADORIAN OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for March is 17,978 tons.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.—The results for the month of March are as follows :—Production of oil, 31,010 tons; deliveries, 32,950 tons.

THE ATTOCK OIL COMPANY.—Production for March 19,988 barrels.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—The production of crude oil by this company for the month of March, 1930, was 38,918 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended March 19th : Venezuela, 40,479 barrels; Trinidad, 10,694 barrels; total, 51,173 barrels. Production for the week ended March 26th :—Venezuela, 38,859 barrels; Trinidad, 13,209 barrels; total, 52,068 barrels. Production for the week ended April 2nd : —Venezuela, 38,674 barrels; Trinidad, 11,825 barrels; total, 50,499 barrels. Production for March :—Venezuela, 173,548 barrels; Trinidad, 52,533 barrels; total, 226,081 barrels. Deliveries for March :—Venezuela, 162,411 barrels; Trinidad, 78,222 barrels; total, 240,633 barrels. Production for the week ended April 9 : Venezuela, 38,804 barrels; Trinidad, 16,062 barrels; total, 54,866 barrels.

DACIA ROMANO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE, LTD.—Production fc March, 5,026 tons.

HECTOR WHALING, LTD.—Catch report to April 6, 1930 :—

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting...	Three	Four
Catch for week ending March 23rd in barrels of oil	2,100	4,300
Catch for week ending March 30th in barrels of oil	2,100	7,700
Number of expeditions reporting ...	Three	Three
Catch for week ending April 6th in barrels of oil	2,500	2,200
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	120,400	*190,500

* Including expedition returned.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LTD.—The production of the Peruvian Cor pany for March is cabled at 28,497 tons.

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY.—Production for the week ende March 15, 1930, was 268,000 barrels. The production for the wee ended March 22, 1929, was 265,000 barrels. The production fc the week ended March 29, 1930, was 260,000 barrels. Productic for the week ended April 5, 1930, was 253,000 barrels.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
RAILWAYS.					
La Guaira and Caracas Railway	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
BANKS.					
Royal Bank of Canada	3%*	June 2	Quarterly	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Atlas Assurance	...	...	Tax free	8/- p.s.	...
Car and General Insurance.....	...	...	Less tax	10/- p.s	7/- p.s
General Life Assurance	...	...	Tax free	20	17½
Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance.....	13/6p.s. †	May 27	Less tax	26/- p.s.	25/-p.s.
London Associated Reinsurance	...	July 15	Less tax	10	10
London Assurance	5/10p.s.†	...	Less tax	11/3p.s.	11/3 ps.
Motor Union Insurance.....	...	...	Less tax	4/- p.s.	Nil
Sea Insurance	1/9 p.s.†	May 3	Less tax	16½	16½
United Insurance (Australia) ...	5%†	...	Less tax	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Adams Peak Tea Estates	7%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Allagar Rubber Plantations	5%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Anglo-Malay Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	3	4
Bikam Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Bukit Cloh Rubber	4d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	25	20-83½
Bukit Timah Rubber.....	5%†	plus bon	us of $10	25	Nil
Consolidated Estates	...	...	Less tax	7½	10
Doloswella Rubber and Tea.....	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Duckwari Tea and Rubber	30%†	...	Less tax	50	50
Golconda Malay	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Haytor Rubber Estates.....	5%	...	Less tax	10	10
Ialawakelle Estates	20%†	...	Less tax	30	35
Igalkande Rubber & Tea Estates	5%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Kintyre Tea	5%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Kirby Rubber Estates	5%†	...	Less tax	5	2½
Kuala Pilah Rubber	...	...	Less tax	6	10
Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	4
Nuwara Eliya Tin	22½%	...	Less tax	38	38
Pataling Rubber Estates	12½%†	...	Less tax	12½	10
Peacock & Nilambe Tea & Rub.	2½%†	...	Less tax	7½	20
Rembau Jelei Rubber	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	10
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Sepang Selangor Rubber	3%†	...	Less tax	3	3
Sungei Kapar Rubber	8½%†	...	Less tax	8½	5
MINING.					
Changkat Tin Dredging	5%*	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Geevor Tin Mines	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
African City Properties Trust ...	6%†	plus bon	us of 2%	12	10
Alexandria Water Co.	...	...	Less tax	14/9 ps.	14/9 ps
Anglo-American Debenture	10%†	...	Less tax	15	14
Anton Jurgens' United (Margarine) Works	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Ardrossan Harbour	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Argentine Land and Investment	...	...	Less tax	...	...
Army and Navy Co-operative ...	4%*	May 6	Less tax	25	25
Associated Electrical Industries	1/10½ps.†	...	Less tax	6	6
Austin Reed	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Babcock and Wilcox	18†	...	Less tax	15	15
Beaver Trust	8%†	...	Tax free	...	...
Bombay Gas	4%*	May 1	Less tax	7½	7
Bristol United Breweries	4%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Bryant and May.....	1/- p.s.	...	Less tax	10	10
Calcutta Electric Supply	4%†	...	Tax free	12c	12d
Callard Stewart and Watt	7%†	May 15	Less tax	...	...
Cork Electric Supply	10*	Apr. 30	Less tax	4	3
English China Clays	5%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Herbert Morris	...	...	Less tax	...	...
International Linotype	10*	...	Less tax	7½	7
John Robertson and Son	4½%†	...	Less tax	10a	10b
Jurgens	...	...	Less tax	7	7
J. W. Cook	...	...	Less tax	10	7½
Leeds Shipping Co.	15†	...	Less tax	5	5
Leethems Twilfit.....	2½%†	...	Tax free	...	...
Lever Bros.	3%*	May 1	Less tax	10	5
Lewis's Investment Trust.....	...	...	Less tax	17½	...
London and Overseas Investment	...	...	Less tax	...	...
London Trust (Def.)	3%*	May 1	Less tax	21	20
Mannesmann Tube.....	...	...	Less tax	7	7
New England Breweries	...	...	Tax free	20	10
Niger Company	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Oriental Gas	3½%*	May 31	Less tax	...	...
Polyphonwerke	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Primitiva Gas	...	...	Less tax	5	6½
R. and J. Pullman	...	...	Less tax	25	75
Raphael Tuck & Sons	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Reardon Smith Line	2½%†	...	Tax free	5	6½
Rubber and Tropical Trust	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Tarapaca Waterworks	7%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Tayside Floorcloth	...	...	Less tax	20	10
Thames Valley Traction	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Tobacco Securities Trust	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Tomaszow Artificial Silk	...	...	Less tax	10	12
Unilever	6%	...	Less tax	10	10
United British Steamship	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Van den Berghs	...	...	Tax free	1/3 p.s.	2/6 p.s
Van den Bergh's Fabrieken	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Weardale Lead	2½%*	Apr. 17	Less tax	...	...
West London and Provincial Electric and General	5½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
William Longmore and Co.	5%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
W. M. *Cuthbert* and Co.	...	...	Less tax	1/10½ps.	1/10½ps

a Plus bonus of 3d. p.s. *b* Plus bonus of 9d. p.s.
c Plus cash bonus of 5d. p.s. *d* Plus cash bonus of 4d. p.s.

THE HOME AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.—At a Meeting of the Directors held on Tuesday it was decided to recommend payment of a balance Dividend on the £200,000 old Ordinary Stock of 4% actual, making with the 3% Interim Dividend paid on 11th November 1929, 7% for the year to 31st March, 1930, and a Dividend of 4% actual on the £1,0.000 new Ordinary Stock for the six months to 31st March, 1930. These Dividends will be paid along with the Dividends on the old and new Preference Stock on 13th May next.

Commercial Reports.

Mark Lane, Wednesday evening.

THE CORN TRADE.

Unsettled and showery weather prevailed over the United Kingdom during the past week, but field work has progressed satisfactorily, and a spell of warmth and sunshine is now desired to *germinate spring sowings*. English wheat continues in small supply, and is held for steady prices. On the import market, prices gave way sharply in sympathy with lower American and Canadian advices occasioned by beneficial rains over the United States North-west, thus fears of damage by drought to the winter wheat crop is removed. The future course of prices will be largely influenced by weather and crop news from now onwards until harvest, despite the large quantities of old wheat available. The latter fact, however, again looms up in view of the favourable outlook for new crop sowings both here and abroad, while the disposal of large North American holdings must cause serious apprehension to both the Canadian and United States authorities. Shipments will be materially increased when the spring movement is resumed, and the question of finding an outlet on this side must depend on selling prices, as restricted requirements this season indicate a general reduction in order to stimulate consumption. In any event, importers are assured of plentiful and cheap supplies of grist for somewhile ahead, and meanwhile are confining purchases to immediate needs pending further developments in the situation. Quiet conditions prevailed in the flour section, and prices are easing in sympathy with wheat. If the intention of the American Farm Board to pass cheap wheat to local millers is correct, competition from this quarter is likely to become intensified in the near future. Feeding stuffs met a quiet sale, and values of new crop Plate maize marked a heavy decline, owing to acute selling pressure from the Danube. Old crop supplies, however, still command a substantial premium, especially for parcels near at hand, owing to consumers' depleted stocks. South Africa will join sellers ranks later in the season with what promises to be a record crop for that country.

WHEAT.—Easier. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex ship, 44s. 9d.; No. 2 ditto, 44s. ; No. 3, 42s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 41s. 9d.; No. 5 ditto (Atlantic shipment), 40s.; No. 6, 32s. 6d.; No. 2 hard Winter (Atlantic shipment), 40s. 9d.; No. 2 ditto (Gulf shipment), 42s. 6d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 37s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s. 6d.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 39s. 6d.; Australian, 42s. 6d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 9d.-9s. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Dull. London straight run, 37s. per sack for country deliveries and 36s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 34s.-37s.; Buffalo, 34s.-37s.; Australian, 31s.-32s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, April-May, 34s.-34s. 9d.; export ditto, 32s.-32s. 6d.; Australian, 28s. 6d.-29s.; French, April-May, 25s. 6d.-27s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, March-June, £6 2s. 6d. per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier. Plate, landed, 32s.; ex ship, 31s.; March-April, 27s. 3d.; new, April-May, 25s. 9d.; May-June, 25s. 3d.; June-July, 25s. 3d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s. per ton, ex ship.

BARLEY.—Weaker. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample ; Chilian, brewing, 36s.-44s. ; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs., Black Sea, ex ship, f.a.q., 19s. 6d.; landed on sample, 22s. ; Persian, landed, 19s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Easy. Plate, landed, 16s. 9d.; ex ship, to arrive, 15s. 9d.; Chilian, white, 21s. 6d.; ditto, tawny, 17s. 6d.; German, landed 20s. 6d.; ex ship, to arrive, 19s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 14s. 6d.; South Russian, ex ship, 16s. 6d.; North, ditto, 16s. per 320 lbs. English, 6s.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to April 12	Cwts. 155,042	Cwts. 119,087	Cwts. 217,983	Cwts. 89,922
32 weeks to April 12	7,679,007	8,236,677	8,145,937	9,848,209
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 10 1	s. d. 11 6

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
April 5	171,659	123,919	28,355	8 4	7 7	6 0
April 12	155,042	113,678	29,994	8 7	7 10	6 3
April 10 1926 ...	134,246	64,561	30,602	11 9	8 10	
April 9, 1927 ...	164,804	68,325	49,710	11 6	10 10	8 9
April 14, 1928 ...	217,983	57,802	39,235	10 1	10 9	8 2
April 13, 1929 ...	119,087	38,329	32,877	9 10	10 3	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	125⅜	148⅛	110⅛	115½	107⅜
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	120⅜	130⅜	111⅛	113⅜	106½

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,681,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 3,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 91,380,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes : Business in South Yorkshire coal on export account has steadied, and former prices are maintained with the exception of washed singles, which have given way sixpence. With a large tonnage surplus on offer, the position still favours buyers. Best hards are quoted at 15s. 6d. f.o.b. The supply of secondary coal is greatly in excess of demand. Contracts for coke are few and unimportant, although it is realised that buyers are unlikely to gain by holding off the market.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes : Demand generally runs on small lines, and prices continue weak, though among nuts trebles have steadied up a little lately. Round coal generally is a drug on the market, and buyers with firm orders to place could doubtless secure some concession on the market rates. Prices for shipment are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports) :—Lanarkshire. —Ell best, 14s. 6d.; splint best, 17s. 6d.; splint second, 16s. 6d.; navigation, 16s. 6d.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d.; dross, 10s. Fife.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 9d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 3d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. Lothians.—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.-12s. 6d.; secondary steam, 12s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 10s. 9d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 6d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 9d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The approach of the Easter holidays has had a stimulating effect on the shipments of coal from the South Wales ports. The Great Western Railway Company returns for last week give a total of 601,400 tons, compared with 534,000 tons in the previous week, and with 603,940 tons in the corresponding week last year. Loading has continued active during the present week, but business on the Cardiff coal market has remained practically stagnant. There has been an almost entire absence of new inquiries and prices generally have ruled round about the minimum schedule figures. Monmouthshire coals are the best feature of the market, but Cardiff steam coals have lacked support. Current approximate quotations are as follows :—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 23s. 6d. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 10s. 9d. to 11s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 35s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 27s. 3d. to 27s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange :—Inquiry has been irregular, but there is a growing belief that stocks in most of the important markets have reached an unusually low level, and that some improvement in export buying may be expected. At the moment, however, there is no sign of this and overseas buyers continue to limit their purchases to comparatively small tonnages for early delivery. In the British market, also, buying has been on a small scale for some time and hopes are entertained that trading will improve after the Easter stoppage. In the pig-iron department conditions are causing some concern to the producers, as buying has been on a disappointing scale practically all this year. This is to some extent a consequence of the lessened requirements of the consuming trades, but the imports of continental and Indian iron are an important factor. The demand for semi-finished materials has shown some improvement, and the British works have taken a fair share of the business. In several cases they are reported to have competed successfully with the Continent. In spite of this improvement, however, the actual volume of business has been less than is usually transacted at this season. The demand for finished steel materials remains disappointing, the works best employed being those which specialise in shipbuilding material.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports that business is largely at a standstill this week, as works have arranged for a longer holiday stoppage than usual. The position here undergoes no change worthy of note, but the downward trend seems to have been checked, and there is some hope of improvement after Easter. Conditions of overseas trade, however, are very bad, depression being conspicuous with all the markets abroad. The returns for March showed some increase of exports of iron and steel compared with February—a shorter month. Increased imports of pig iron and part-manufactured steel were a feature of the returns. The output of steel in the United Kingdom in March was considerably larger than in January and February.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes : At the steel works little improvement can be looked for until there is some increased activity at the Clyde shipyards. The demand for other material is fairly well maintained. Makers of semis are finding things quiet, and in their case the demand is likely to remain poor for some little time, as users have accumulated stocks on account of the prolonged dull period in the manufacturing trades. In the sheet trade business is not yet sufficient to keep all plants fully employed, but there is a better demand for galvanised sheets for the Indian market than has been in evidence for some time, and in the black sheet department there is a steady flow of business, both on home and export account. No improvement is noted in the tube trade.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The general position in the South Wales iron and steel trades is unchanged. The tinplate works have been fairly regularly employed and shipments are normal, with prices stationary on last week's basis. Imports of foreign partly-manufactured iron and steel goods are heavier, supplies of blooms, billets and bars, &c., totalling nearly 25,000 tons in the week ended April 11th last, as against less than 14,000 tons the previous week.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—The market displayed generally dull features, and with offerings in excess of requirements a weaker tone resulted, while influenced by lower Eastern advices. The outlook is somewhat uncertain, but in some quarters it is felt that the more depressing factors have been already discounted, while latest reports regarding restrictive measures indicate a curtailment of over 30,000 tons for the current year. Standard cash changed hands at 165s. 10s.-£165 15s. and £164 7s. 6d.; three months, £167-£168 10s. and £166 10s. In the East, sales were reported at £170 10s. to £167 5s. ton c.i.f. terms.

Copper.—Market depressed in face of liberal offerings and a slow demand for near positions, though forward rates attracted attention at the lower prices current. Standard cash sold at £67 10s. to £59; three months, £65 15s.-£66 10s. and £58 7s. 6d. ton.

Lead.—Quiet and barely steady on increased reserved offerings. Good soft foreign pig, April, sold, £18 13s. 9d. to £11 18s. 3d.; July, £18 15s. to £11 12s. 6d. ton.

Spelter quiet with slight irregularity in attendance. May, sold, £18 6s. 3d. to £17 18s. 9d.; June, £18 11s. 3d. to £18 10s. and £18 6s. 3d.; July, £18 16s. 3d. to £18 8s. 9d.

Antimony slow of sale. English regulus, £40 to £46 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £29 30s.; ditto, April-May, £26 15s.; crude, April-May, £17 per ton, 10

Antimony Oxide, A ... 26 15s. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore.—5(4 pril-May, 3s. 6d.; ditto, 60 per cent., 4s. 3d. per unit 7

Wolfram maintai 10 nese, April-May, 25s. to 25s. 6d.; Burmese ditto, 25s.] t c.i.f.

Aluminium quiet 0 Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

Quicksilver quiet. Spot, £22 10s. per bottle, less 3 per cent.

Tin Plates steady. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

Zinc Oxide steady at £29 to £36 as to quantity, per ton delivered, U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool : April 14th.

United States Cotton Cloth Statistics for March show sales 111·8 per cent. of production, deliveries 101·6 per cent., stocks decreased by 1 per cent., unfilled orders increased by 7·4 per cent. Garside estimates United States consumption in March at 533,000 bales. Official figures for February were 495,000 bales, and for March, 1929, 632,000 bales. Spot sales for the period 10th to 14th (inclusive) are 25,000 bales, of which 12,490 American, 4,000 Brazil, 20 Argentine, 2,000 Peru, 4,700 Egyptian, 900 African, 500 East Indian and 390 sundries. Imports for the same period are 45,467 bales, of which 14,328 bales are American, 12,320 Egyptian, 1,505 African, 16,866 East Indian, and 448 sundries. Quotations to-day are : American Middling, 8·60; Egyptian Sakel, 13·90; Uppers, 10·32; Brazil Fair, 8·11; Peru G.F. Smooth, 9·06; West African Middling, 8·56, and East African G.F., 9·66.

Manchester : April 15th.

The market diring the past week has presented a quieter appearance. Trade developments have been adversely affected by the easier movement in raw material rates and the worse political news from India. The general inquiry in piece goods has fallen off. Merchants are much concerned at the latest developments in India, and except in Calcutta there is now a general boycott of foreign goods. Fresh business has not been quite at a standstill, as fine cloths and fancies have been sold in fair quantities, but demand in standard makes has fallen very flat. No improvement has shown itself in the business offering for China, and operations have been

confined to sorting up lots. Some makers of bleaching and finishing styles have booked fair orders for the West Coast of Africa and South America. Very few new contracts have been mentioned for Egypt and the Near East. Fairly favourable reports are coming through from the home trade section. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have shown rather more irregularity, and to secure orders spinners have had to grant price concessions to buyers. Margins remain very unsatisfactory.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Mar. 26.	Apr. 2.	Apr. 9.	Apr. 15.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·43	8·80	8·66	8·50	11·15	10·69
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·05	14·25	14·20	13·80	21·05	18·30
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜	12⅛	16¼	15⅜
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13	13⅛	13⅛	13	17	16⅛
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	31⅛	26⅛
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 1½	22 3	22 3	22 0	26 4½	25 9
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 9	24 10½	24 10½	24 9	29 0	28 3
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 7½	13 7½	13 7½	13 6	15 6	15 3
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 1	14 4½	13 4

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes : The meeting on 'Change last Monday was quite as large as could be expected, as many principals were at home watching their mills, and where they have running machinery giving any protection necessary to their hands. The strike of operatives, though not such a united and progressive movement as some of the leaders' statements might lead the public to believe, is making the situation sufficiently serious. It would have been far better if the suggestion emanating from a trade union source, that the time was not opportune to resist reductions, had been followed, for nothing but sheer necessity is inducing the masters to stand out for lower wages. At the employers' meeting, held in Bradford, when it was unanimously decided to reduce wages, it was stated that over 470 firms with machinery had gone out of existence since 1927, and the quantity of standing machinery is serious. For months past only 70 per cent. of the machinery in the West Riding has been running, and a large part of that is only occupied three or four days per week. Nobody seems to expect that the reduction in wages will bring about any substantial increase in activity, but it will help the industry to get on to a sounder footing. The experience of Bradford dress goods manufacturers is that while they have done a good share of the home trade for the forthcoming season, every overseas market is in a most unresponsive mood. The quantity of fabrics taken is much less than manufacturers and export houses have been accustomed to. Notwithstanding these adverse factors, prices for wool and tops remain quite firm. A substantial amount of business was done in the latter right up to the commencement of the strike, and deliveries were freely made to the end of last week, but for the time being business is held in abeyance, some combers having all their machinery standing.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

[from a correspondent.]

It is the unanimous opinion in the trade that real good was done to the position of wool by the last series of London sales. There were certainly a few "soft" nights, but, generally speaking, the competition and values forthcoming for both merino and crossbred offerings created real satisfaction. The opening did not indicate that anything great was going to happen, but the increased buying of the second week led to the series being continued into the fourth week. Many buyers were of the opinion that the somewhat scrappy offering for the last three days might have been put in with those of the two previous weeks, but there was certainly nothing wrong with those sales, prices being maintained at the highest point right to the end. All buyers realised that this would be a great stimulus to the manufacturing end of the industry. A very useful cable was received from Sydney last week. It contained information which the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers might very well send at the end of each month. It stated that at the end of March the quantity of wool received in store in Australia was 2,402,300 bales compared with 2,517,678 bales in the corresponding period a year ago. The sales were 1,530,100 bales, and the quantity awaiting sale 701,000 bales. At the end of March, 1929, the latter totalled 292,657 bales. If all the wool available—701,000 bales—is to be sold by June 30, 54,000 bales will have to be catalogued weekly. We cannot expect this to be done, and no one need be surprised if 50,000 to 75,000 bales are carried forward into next season. This would not be an excessive quantity, and we anticipate buyers being ready to absorb all the available offerings.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Prices for hides varied somewhat at the auctions held over the week-end; at some markets advances were recorded, while in others the tendency was downward. At this week's northern sales the position was rather stronger, and advances were made on some weights in both clears and warbled. The market for calfskins remains steady, with only slight variations here and there. Small day to day business is being done in foreign hides at more or less steady figures, with any alteration in favour of buyers. In the frigorific market the tone is slightly easier, and sales of Argentine ox have been concluded on the basis of 7⅞d., while cows have realised 6¾d., and Montevideo cows 6¼d. Values are steady for dry River Plates, sales of B. A. Americanos having been made at 7¾d., M. V. Americanos at 8⅞d., and Inservibles at 4⅝d. Offers of Capes are now coming to hand more regularly, and business has been done in drys at 8⅛d. and 7⅛d. for firsts and seconds, with dry salted quoted at 7⅝d. and 6⅝d., 20/30 lbs., and 7¼d. and 6¼d. for 30/40 lbs. Mombasas are changing hands at 6¾d. for 30/40/30. Australian hides are firm at origin. The demand for sole leather has slowed down on account of the holidays, and the majority of producers and distributors are not expecting much in the way of buying until the shoe factories get into their stride after the Easter. Bends suitable for ladies' light footwear have changed hands this week in small parcels, while a slight increase in the turnover of weights suitable for the repairing trade has also been experienced in some quarters Offal continues to be a satisfactory market, but doubt is expressed as to its soundness on account of the fact that low-priced Continental supplies are now being offered with some degree of success. Prices for most descriptions of home-produced leather are steady with very little alteration in any direction. Conditions in the upper leather market are also inclined to be quiet, with only a limited amount of business covering most descriptions. Inquiry is mainly concentrated on black and brown glacé kid, while in some quarters a further improvement in the demand for suède leather is reported. Willow calf still sells in small lots, as is also the case with lower grade patent. Curriers continue to find business on the slow side; the call for kip butts and waxed splits being only for just sufficient to meet immediate needs. Orders for footwear are still for small quantities only, and the general impression seems to be that holiday business in this direction is not up to the standard of previous years.

THE JUTE TRADE.

Dundee : April 15th, 1930.

The jute market is on tip-toe of expectation that the Calcutta mills will come to some agreement to curtail their output and bring production more into line with present consumption. Stocks of goods at all producing and consuming centres are growing apace, and the situation has become acute. During the past three weeks the Indian Jute Mills' Association has been endeavouring to prevail upon a number of mills, mostly owned by natives, who are outside the Association, to join the Association with a view to an agreement to cut down production. It is understood that several of these native-owned mills are willing to curtail, provided all the mills in India can be brought together to do so. It is admitted that the task of uniformity is not an easy one and a decision on the matter may take some little time; but it is realised that, whether all the mills agree or not, something must be done, and that soon, to adjust supply to demand. A depressed state of industry throughout the world has resulted in a poor demand for jute goods for months past, and there are so far no signs of improvement. All producing centres with exception of Calcutta have been compelled to resort to short-time working, and in Europe production has been curtailed by about 50 per cent. The raw jute market has maintained a fairly steady tendency and sellers appear unwilling even to offer the fibre. This despite the fact that the new crop prospects are reported to be very satisfactory. Several small sales have been made of new crop fibre, which is offered at £29 10s. for good lightnings, £26 10s. for Daisee assortment, and £28 for Tossa assortment. Old crop lightnings are round about £27, Daisee assortment at £25 5s., and Tossa assortment at £27. Little business is being done in jute yarns. Spinners are quoting from 2s. 8d. to 2s. 9d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 9d. to 2s. 10d. for 8-lb. spools, but buyers are holding off after their recent purchases, which sent the respective prices of cops and spools from 2s. 6d. and 2s. 7d. Twist is firm at 4⅞d. to 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are steady at 3½d. for 24-lb. weft and 4 7/16d. to 4½d. for 8-lb. chains. Efforts are being made to raise the prices for rove to £17 10s. for 200 lb., and

FIGURES OF ASSURANCE

AMP

By careful and prudent administration the A.M.P. has made more than £42,000,000 for the benefit of its Policyholders since its establishment in 1849, and this, after providing for all expenses of management, commission, taxes, etc. A.M.P. premiums are low, Bonuses high and policies, as befits the largest British Mutual Life Office, world-wide. Assets £74,000,000. Annual Income £10,500,000. Full particulars on application.

MUTUAL

AUSTRALIAN PROVIDENT SOCIETY

73-76 King William St., London, E.C.4

Established 1849.

D. E. WALKER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month ended March 31.		3 Months ended March 31.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	7,182,651	6,420,861	22,085,858	17,864,918
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	717,136	522,118	2,430,871	1,900,594
C. Meat	8,970,938	10,639,728	26,058,038	28,218,247
D. Animals, living, for food	1,263,951	1,357,676	3,733,102	4,321,115
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	17,018,424	14,651,198	53,940,897	47,606,925
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	5,848,578	5,125,349	19,186,929	16,015,193
G. Tobacco	1,099,989	1,290,795	4,206,681	4,259,622
Total, Class I.	42,101,667	40,007,725	131,642,373	120,186,614
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,339	2,167	10,221	7,900
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	373,345	414,485	1,328,179	1,389,339
C. Iron ore and scrap	498,622	673,893	1,370,181	1,732,089
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,005,403	1,067,232	3,988,666	3,741,671
E. Wood and timber	1,464,370	1,929,163	6,106,959	7,048,721
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	7,796,048	3,884,643	26,164,682	16,754,322
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	6,420,827	6,012,506	22,208,804	18,038,028
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	172,184	170,163	534,693	629,409
I. Other textile materials	1,177,931	1,042,653	5,221,847	4,330,003
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins and gums	4,753,034	3,707,643	12,313,275	9,563,346
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,713,186	1,980,580	5,762,895	5,512,350
L. Paper-making materials	656,343	951,305	2,499,668	2,878,634
M. Rubber	1,578,900	1,195,809	4,233,308	3,555,279
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	900,814	1,063,335	2,927,603	3,081,507
Total, Class II.	28,514,346	24,095,577	94,670,981	78,262,598
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	2,944	249	3,516	4,420
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	755,756	970,921	2,400,065	2,727,569
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	1,672,414	2,288,013	5,236,544	6,889,855
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	3,045,328	2,683,138	8,661,251	8,520,837
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	806,086	591,284	2,031,827	1,688,984
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	422,221	623,727	1,251,698	2,010,630
G. Machinery	1,444,314	1,711,636	4,306,357	4,746,202
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	544,521	793,169	1,980,663	2,445,557
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	849,953	872,300	2,529,322	2,591,200
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,728,431	1,386,709	4,443,122	3,867,953
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,204,961	992,762	3,432,605	3,012,432
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,388,516	1,316,503	4,054,912	4,115,860
M. Apparel	1,910,290	1,961,616	4,787,536	5,199,666
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,328,404	1,316,379	4,011,232	3,644,951
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	4,107,878	4,104,395	10,254,540	12,447,958
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,255,049	1,490,010	3,646,696	3,815,272
Q. Paper and cardboard	989,370	1,381,140	3,525,696	4,356,461
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	933,863	688,674	2,538,056	1,895,968
S. Rubber manufactures	330,767	475,054	834,864	1,106,190
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,460,221	2,486,497	7,103,255	6,763,668
Total, Class III.	27,181,287	28,134,176	77,033,757	81,851,633
IV.—Animals, not for food	212,727	243,709	704,462	902,746
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	563,555	939,295	1,911,302	2,280,645
Total	98,573,582	93,420,482	305,962,875	283,484,236

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.)

	Month ended March 31.		3 Months ended March 31.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	433,019	462,066	1,152,282	1,210,703
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	302,506	193,636	871,105	597,246
C. Meat	125,625	121,649	415,798	391,857
D. Animals, living, for food	9,040	12,873	26,536	34,837
E & F. Other food and drink	2,241,229	2,422,378	7,320,190	7,651,161
G. Tobacco	675,416	816,155	2,269,249	2,455,305
Total, Class I.	3,786,835	4,028,757	12,055,160	12,341,109
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,829,505	3,983,119	10,355,302	12,752,162
B Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	121,028	150,252	416,726	488,775
C. Iron ore and scrap	115,387	66,062	390,064	199,066
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	175,148	80,914	551,853	218,879
E. Wood and timber	28,859	25,497	94,607	69,875
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	88,055	67,205	351,429	198,830
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	933,920	514,184	2,736,345	1,540,653
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	1,104	2,055	6,567	4,719
I. Other textile materials	45,318	36,099	88,478	89,574
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	457,250	393,065	1,264,172	1,163,758
K. Hides and skins, undressed	270,862	156,665	969,499	534,844
L. Paper-making materials	111,386	113,063	334,283	346,633
M. Rubber	19,870	16,629	67,215	51,704
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	365,290	354,046	1,141,255	991,680
Total, Class II.	6,562,992	5,958,845	18,767,795	18,651,152
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	385,267	275,718	1,100,019	1,003,844
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	978,758	1,106,098	3,144,352	3,251,245
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,346,443	5,193,640	17,337,660	15,389,116
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,519,308	1,248,428	4,436,194	3,748,459
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	649,633	653,925	2,135,056	1,973,182
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	886,436	1,031,346	2,787,886	3,268,622
G. Machinery	4,154,289	4,224,464	13,339,499	12,954,598
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	201,805	181,025	616,488	554,588
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	11,956,437	9,376,401	37,605,514	30,285,092
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	4,387,202	3,488,531	14,817,364	12,157,896
K. Silk and silk manufactures	162,516	127,198	524,774	440,912
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,177,727	1,999,982	6,654,176	5,939,229
M. Apparel	2,175,639	1,991,892	6,279,909	5,831,504
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	2,220,626	2,011,080	6,386,905	6,198,858
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	715,962	622,258	2,133,577	2,117,420
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	540,773	565,234	1,692,524	1,491,191
Q. Paper and cardboard	656,435	751,288	2,194,777	2,344,260
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	4,636,965	4,805,047	12,296,568	11,044,152
S. Rubber manufactures	266,002	267,755	786,550	754,790
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	2,962,796	2,605,965	8,877,456	7,601,752
Total, Class III.	46,981,019	42,527,275	145,147,248	128,350,710
IV.—Animals, not for food	98,370	68,014	396,497	362,372
V.—Parcel Post	1,194,141	1,362,918	4,801,239	4,426,962
Total	58,623,357	53,945,809	181,167,939	164,132,305

£27 10s. for 48 lb., after business done at £17 and £27. Fine yarns are very firm and in fair request, but carpet qualities are quiet. Buyers of jute cloth are awaiting a decision of the deliberations of the Indian jute mills in regard to short-time working, in consequence of which only the merest trifles are being bought. Prices are very steady at from 3 $\frac{9}{16}$d. to 3$\frac{5}{8}$d. for 10$\frac{1}{2}$-oz. 40-in. hessians, and 1d. less for 8 oz. Linoleum hessians are quiet and heavy goods are meeting with only a moderate support.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Rather quieter conditions now rule in the markets for both seeds and oils. Crushers on the Continent who recently bought freely of linseed, appear to have satisfied their immediate requirements, and with less demand and the rectification of the Argentine exchange, prices have been on a lower level. Seed on spot and near at hand is scarce, and at a good premium over shipment. Current value of Plate on spot is around £18 10s., and for shipment £18, while Calcutta to London, April-May, is reported done at £19 7s. 6d. The quantity of linseed afloat for Europe is now 95,600 tons, an increase of 6,000 tons on the week. Cottonseed is in fair demand, and business in black Egyptian to Hull has again been done at £8 spot and May loading. In the oil section linseed oil is not so firm, and on spot ex Hull mill is quoted £41, and for April delivery £40 10s., later positions being at a small discount. Cotton oils are quiet, crude Egyptian ex Hull offering at £29 5s., and common edible at 32s. 6d. spot. Other seed oils are quiet, and show little change. The improvement in the demand for oilcake persists, and stocks are being gradually reduced.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Only a quiet business was arranged as trade buyers had purchased liberally some little time back, and doubtless will be occupied some time ahead in taking delivery of same. With a large majority in favour of dissolution of the Cuban Seller Agency, liquidation should be speedy, and it appears that the President is to be approached to rescind crop control laws. The market in forward positions suffered slightly in consequence, as sellers were inclined to meet buyers. Cuban receipts last week, 160,630 tons, against 211,530 last year; exports, 37,880, against 129,010; stocks, 1,667,430, against 1,427,318. Centrals at work, 135, against 132 same time last year. Terminal markets easier, with business on an extended scale. Of raw, May delivery sold, 6s. 9$\frac{3}{4}$d.-6s. 11$\frac{1}{4}$d.; August, 7s. 0$\frac{3}{4}$d. to 7s. 2$\frac{1}{2}$d.; December, 7s. 3$\frac{3}{4}$d. to 7s. 5$\frac{1}{4}$d.; January, 7s. 11$\frac{1}{4}$d.; white, April, 9s. 4$\frac{1}{2}$d.; May, 9s. 4$\frac{1}{2}$d.; August, 9s. 10$\frac{1}{2}$d. Cuban, 96 per cent., April sellers, 7s. 6d.; May, 7s. 6$\frac{3}{4}$d.; June, 7s. 7$\frac{1}{4}$d.; July, 7s. 9d. c.i.f. U.K. Stocks of raw sugar in the three principal ports of the United Kingdom for week ending April 12th totalled 194,237 tons, against 148,981 last year.

COFFEE.—A moderate amount of business was effected on the spot, and prices remained steady, especially for the finer liquoring qualities.

COCOA.—Business on the spot generally quiet while under holiday influence. Forward positions quiet and easier. Accra, F/F, May-July, quoted 35s. 9d. f.o.b. Terminal, July sold, 40s. 3d.; September, 40s. 10$\frac{1}{2}$d. to 40s 9d.; December, 40s. 4$\frac{1}{2}$d.

TEA.—Indian sales produced 28,000 packages. A rather quiet and irregular market was evidenced. Really fine teas in small supply sold well, also clean common, but most other kinds frequently favoured the buyer. Ceylon sales of 25,192 packages

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1929

THE 83RD ANNUAL REPORT of The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, covering operations for the year 1929, will be formally presented to the stockholders at the annual meeting on April 8, 1930. The report shows that net income in 1929 exceeded that of any year in the company's history and was $18,952,324 greater than in 1928. Last year was the fifth successive year in which the net income exceeded that of any previous year.

Net income, amounting to $101,378,518, was equivalent to 17·64% upon the outstanding capital stock at the close of the year as compared with 14·69% upon the amount outstanding at the close of 1928. Net Income per share (par $50) was $8·82, compared with $7·35 in 1928.

OPERATING RESULTS

	1929	Increase over 1928
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES were	$682,702,931	$32,135,615
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES were	493,150,592	12,978,958
LEAVING NET REVENUE of	$189,552,339	$19,156,657
TAXES amounted to	40,518,595	2,672,238
EQUIPMENT, JOINT FACILITY RENTS, etc., amounted to	15,894,118	451,779
LEAVING NET RAILWAY OPERATING INCOME of	$133,139,626	$16,032,640
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS AND OTHER SOURCES amounted to	48,791,500	4,255,842
MAKING GROSS INCOME of	$181,931,126	$20,288,482
RENTAL PAID LEASED LINES, INTEREST ON FUNDED DEBT AND OTHER CHARGES amounted to	80,552,608	1,336,158
LEAVING NET INCOME (Equal to 17·64% on Capital Stock) of	$101,378,518	$18,952,324

After providing for the payment of 8% dividends to the stockholders and for sinking and other reserve funds, $48,925,596 was credited to Profit and Loss Account.

* * *

Last year's satisfactory results were attained through the helpful co-operation and friendship of the shippers, patrons and stockholders and the continued efforts of the officers and employes to conduct the company's service to the public expeditiously, efficiently and economically.

W. W. ATTERBURY,
President.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 31st, 1930.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Carries More Passengers, Hauls More Freight
Than Any Other Railroad in America

SHIP AND TRAVEL VIA PENNSYLVANIA

Stockholders may obtain copies of the Annual Report from J. Taney Willcox, Secretary, Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, Pa.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	43	9
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	7
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	10
Oats, " "	6	3
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	32	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12 0	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	3	9
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 9	5	0
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	8	0
N.Z. frozen " 3 8	4	8
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 7 2	9	4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	114	0	140 0
Danish.....	109	0	114 0
Canadian.....	108	0	110 0
Dutch	94	0	108 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0	0 0
Canadian.....	0	0	0 0
American	96	0	102 0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	122	0	128 0
Australian	112	0	126 0
New Zealand	112	0	144 0
Danish.....	138	0	140 0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	96	0	102 0
New Zealand	75	0	80 0
English Cheddars	100	0	126 0
Dutch	45	0	75 0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	41	0	42 0
Trinidad	60	0	65 0
Grenada	48	0	53 0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125	0	142 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0	167 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0	138 0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0	118 0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	11	3	14 6
Danish.....	10	9	12 9
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0	0	0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	9	0	13 0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia			
¼ cases 300	9	0	25 0
360	10	6	18 0
504	10	0	16 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0	0 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	4	0	8 0
" ..... cases	6	0	15 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0	0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	8	0	13 0
" Tasmanian boxes	6	0	16 0
" Australian	7	0	15 3

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia:—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags	4	9	6	0
Onions, Oporto ..... case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	56	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	3½	1	0
Black Lampong	1	0½	1	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	42	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	5	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	3	23	0
Java, white, c.&.f. India, April-May	9	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	1½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	6	26	0
Crushed.....	24	3	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	4½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	5
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	10
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·50
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·80
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	21½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	56	0	0	0
Silanetz Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"..	29	5	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.-June..	32	10	31	10
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
May–June		25	0	0
Aug.–Sept.		26	10	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	6	19	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	25
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12
Crossbred 40–44	9½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	29½
" 64's	28½
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	3	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	81	0	83	0
Sheets (strong) 110		0	0	0
Standard	61	10	62	5
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	20	0	0	0
Soft Foreign	18/13/9		18/15/0	
Spelter G.O.B.	18/1/3		18/12/6	
Tin—English ingots ...	165	10	166	0
Standard cash	164	10	166	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	3	0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	0	26	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—				
S.D. Straits, c.i.f., per ton May	21/15/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea April–May	20/7/6		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	13	0	13	6
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	5	0	5½
West Indian	0	4	0	5½
Cape	0	5	0	5½
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	5½
Best cow	0	3½	0	4
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	2	2	2
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	2	1	6

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	40	0	0	0
Rape, refined	40	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	26	10	30	10
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	15	11	0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	17/15/0		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	19/2/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	44	6	0	0

MINERAL OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0

ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	17	0	20	15

RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7 1/16	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0

SHELLAC—	£	s.	£	s.
TN Orange ... per cwt.	127	6	130	0

SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African " "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash " "	0	6	6

received active and generally well-distributed competition, and quite a steady market resulted At times, broken orange pekoe sold quietly. China kinds in demand and firm, with supplies getting into narrow compass

RICE.—General demand is quiet, but market firm. Spanish oiled, April-May shipment, quoted 15s. c.i.f. London Two Stars, spot, London, 13s.; April-May steamer, 12s., c.i.f. London-Continent. No. 3, Burma to Levant, quoted 12s. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 22s. 6d. to 23s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 6d. Saigon No 1 round grain, April-May, to Europe, 12s. 9d. Siam Super, April-May, 16s. 10½d.

PEAS quiet. Japanese, old crop, spot, London, 14s.; new, 15s. 9d. to 16s. Parcels per steamer "Altai Maru," afloat to London, 15s. 3d.; "Mitre Maru," 15s. 3d.; "Tsuruga Maru," 15s. 3d.; March-April, 14s. 6d.; April-May, 14s. 1½d., c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 16s.; small hand-picked blues, 11s., f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lb.), April-May, 44s. Karachi, April-May, 42s. c.i.f. Maples quiet. No 1, New Zealand, March-April, old, 52s. 6d.; new crop, March-April, 55s. 6d. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, March-April, 60s. c.i.f.

BEANS.—Market quiet for butters, with a drooping tendency. Madagascar, spot, London, 35s. to 35s. 6d.; parcels per "Ville de Rouen," 34s.; per "Haliartus," 34s.; March-April quoted, 33s. 6d., c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 6d.; April, 11s. 3d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 18s.; forward nominal. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 21s.; April-May, 21s. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, 8s. 4½d. c.i.f.

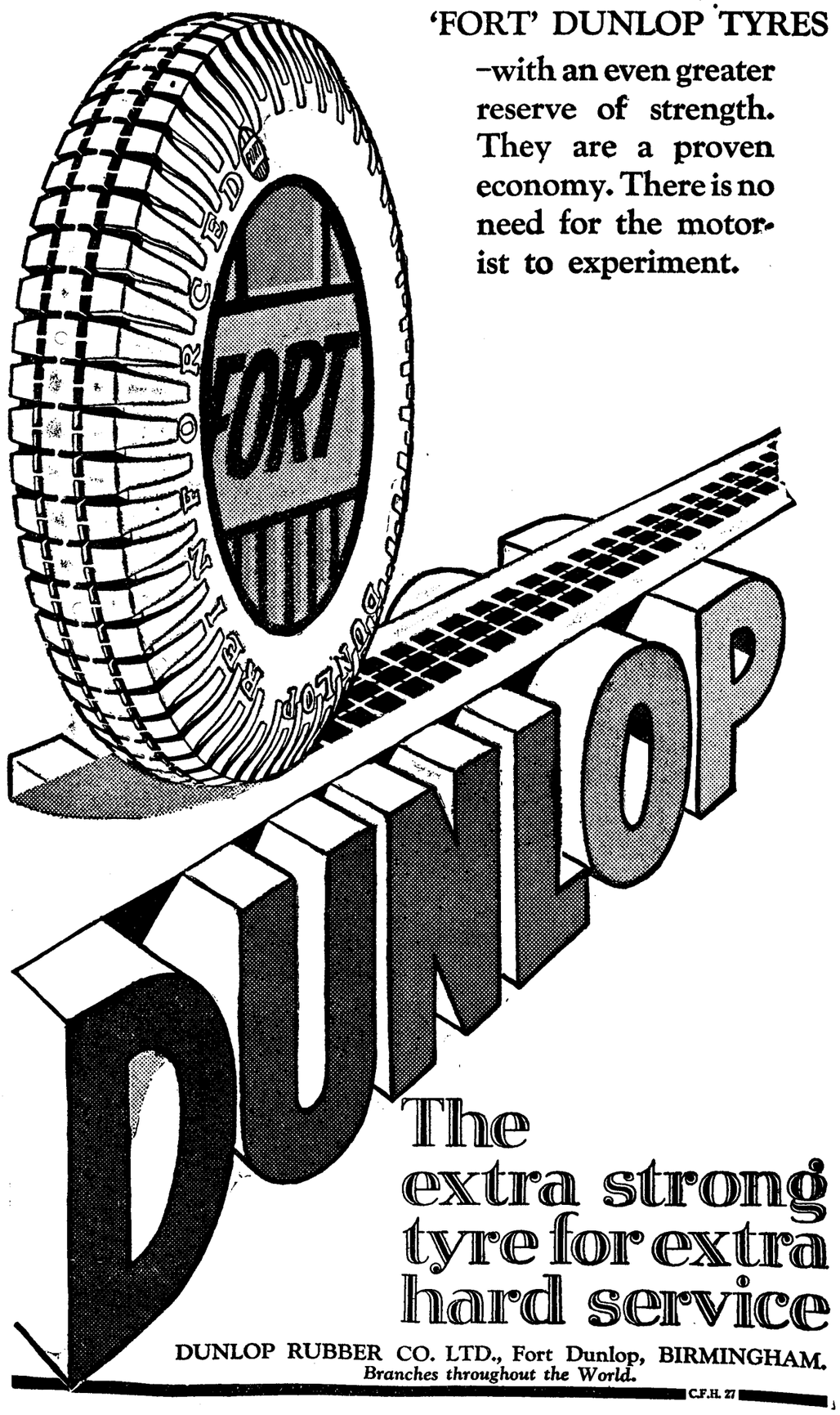
SPICE.—Pepper dealt in to a moderate extent, but forward positions weaker, as sellers were inclined to meet buyers. London stocks of black reduced 4 tons on the week to 997, against 1,015 last year; white, 10 tons down at 779, against 592. Lampong, March-May quoted, 10⅞d.; May-July, sold, 10¾d.; August-October, 9⅝d. Muntok, white, March-May, 1s. 1⅜d.; May-July, sold, 1s. 1⅜d. to 1s. 1⅝d.; August-October, at 1s. 0⅞d. to 1s. 0⅜d. Cloves quiet, unaltered. Sago flour, April-May, to the U.K., 11s. 3d. c.i.f. Tapioca slow, unaltered. Pimento, forward, 60s. c.i.f.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants in fair demand and market steady. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.; Amalias, 37s.-38s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s. Sultanas: Spot market quiet, but Smyrnas firm to arrive. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 31s.-45s. Dates steady. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins neglected. Valencia, quarter-boxes, 38s.-40s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 26s.-33s.; good average, 20s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—The general position remained unaltered, with trade operations confined to immediate wants. Apricots were in less request, but pears firm on scanty offers. Of plums, there is moderate spot business passing at full prices, but market rather easier for parcels to arrive. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 67s.; 40's-50's, 65s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 55s.; 50's-60's, 50s. 6d. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-110s.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s. 6d.; extra, 95s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 55s.-60s.; fancy, 62s. 6d.-67s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 55s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm, especially for Sicilian, in view of crop damage, prices being already advanced by 13s. to 14s. cwt. from recent lowest point. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 107s. 6d.; Majorcas, 102s. 6d.-115s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels; Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 145s.; Barcelona, 136s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—With supplies more than adequate for requirements a quiet tone prevailed regarding Californian fruits, but Australian met with better support at recent amended prices. A spell of fine weather is needed to stimulate consumption, and trade is expected to develop on broader lines after the Easter recess. Singapore pines are moving off more freely on the spot, and a better inquiry is showing up for shipment parcels. Italian tomatoes were slow of sale both for new pack and spot supplies.



CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market steady, but trade rather restricted. Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-26s.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab steady for best quality at 90s.-96s. Lobsters in limited supply. Halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines steady and fine quality scarce. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEAT.—Market quiet but tongues firm on limited offerings. Lunch tongues, also cooked boned hams, sell readily at full rates for forward deliveries.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market fairly steady. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 33s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 20s. 6d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 38s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s. 6d. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 61s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders: Roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 9d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in: Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s., minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller lots, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 18s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 9d. per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market remains quiet, with prices tending in buyers favour, especially for the lower grades. Jamaican, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 37s.-40s. White Cuban, 40s.-42s. 6d.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

A moderate business was arranged, but with sellers in evidence prices proved a shade lower. Sheet, spot and April, also May, sold, 7⅞d. to 7 5/16d.; June, 7 1/16d.; May-June, 7⅞d.; July-September, 7⅞d. to 7 1/16d.; October-December, 7 1/16d. to 7⅛d.; December, 8d.; and January-March, 8 1/16d. American consumption for last month, 35,914 tons; arrivals, 45,430; quantity afloat, 63,646; stocks, 143,500. London stocks increased 856 tons on the week, landings being 1,997; deliveries, 1,141; stocks, 72,333, against 30,446 last year. Liverpool increased 668, landings, 838; deliveries, 170; stocks, 22,676 tons, against 4,591 last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—The turn steadier with moderate inquiries and which were met with some reserve. Firsts, April-May, Continent, quoted, £25; May-June, £25; new, August-September, sold £27; September-October, £27; Lightnings, May-June, £24 5s.; Hearts, £22 5s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila dull. J, No. 2, May-July, quoted, £29 5s.; K, ditto, £28 10s.; L, No. 1, £27 15s.; L, No. 2, £25; M, No. 1, £25 10s.; M, No. 2, £24; H, £29 10s.; G, £30 5s. c.i.f. African sisal: No. 1, f.a.q., March-May, sellers, £33; Marks, £33 15s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 29,000 bales, against 36,000 last year and 34,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 32,000 and week after 28,000. Manila shipments last week: 11,000 to the U.K.; 4,000, Continent; 18,000, U.S.A.; 4,000, Japan; and other countries, 2,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Steady. T.N., spot, 130s.; May, 126s.; August, 130s.; October, 133s.

COPRA.—A subdued tone predominated and prices fell back owing to sellers being more in evidence. Straits S.D., April, to Rotterdam, quoted, £21 17s. 6d.; May, £21 15s.; Dutch East Indies, April, sellers, £21 15s.; South Sea, smoked, April-May, to Marseilles, £20 7s. 6d.; Manila, in bulk, £20 5s.; mixed Dutch East Indies, March-April, £20 15s.; April-May, £20 10s. Palm kernels weaker.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 19s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43; Ceylon, bristle, £19 to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, April-May, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 6d.; Java, 2s. 6d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 9.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 8	7 0	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 8	9 8
Short Horns	...	...	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 6	6 6
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 6	12 4

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 9.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	3 6
,, ,, ,, whites	2 3	2 6
Essex King Edward	3 0	...
,, ,, ,, whites	2 0	...
Arran Chief	2 0	...
New Spanish	16 0	...
,, Canary	14 0	...

DAGGAFONTEIN MINES, LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1929.

To be submitted at the Fifteenth Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercosa House," Johannesburg, on Friday, the 16th day of May, 1930, at 11.15 a.m.

To the Shareholders,
DAGGAFONTEIN MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1929.

CAPITAL.

During the year 69 of the options issued to shareholders were exercised. Under date 4th March, 1929, a circular was issued to shareholders informing them of the decision of the Directors to proceed at once with the sinking of No. 3 Shaft on your Company's property. In order to procure funds to carry out the extended programme of operations, shares in the Capital of the Company were offered at 22s. 6d. each to shareholders registered on the 15th March, 1929, in the proportion of one new share for each two shares held. The Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited, underwrote the whole of the new issue for a commission of 2½ per cent., and in addition subscribed for a further 49,552 shares at 22s. 6d. The response of shareholders to this offer was very satisfactory. In terms of the offer, 308,993 shares were issued at 22s. 6d. per share, and the issued capital of the Company at the 31st December, 1929, was therefore £827,945.

In addition, the following options at par to 24th November, 1930, are outstanding:—

(1) On shares issued in satisfaction of loans and interest	171,872
(2) On working capital shares	204,998
(3) To underwriters of working capital shares	205,185
(4) To Cassel Clydesdale (Springs) Gold Mines, Limited	40,000
	622,055

PROPERTY.

The property of the Company is as follows:—

Freehold portion of the Farm Daggafontein No. 9, situated in the Mining District of Johannesburg, Transvaal, in extent 4,367 morgen 183 square roods. The farm was proclaimed on the 22nd November, 1921, and the Company has been granted Owners' Reservations over areas totalling 2,401 morgen 66 square roods.

The claim holding of the Company is:—

Mynpacht Area No. 657, in extent 1,848·68 acres	1,257·785	claims.
Discoverers' Claims	178·999	,,
Leased from the Government (1st Lease)	448·898	,,
Leased from the Government (2nd Lease)	778·176	,,
Acquired by Purchase	172·604	,,
Cassel Clydesdale Mynpacht	172·900	,,
	3,009·362	claims.

OPERATIONS.

Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, *to which your attention is directed.*

FINANCE.

The cash receipts and expenditure from the inception of your Company to the 31st December, 1929, after making allowance for sales effected, were as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Working Capital—505,185 Shares at 20s. each	505,185	0	0
308,993 Shares at 22s. 6d. each	347,617	2	6
Shares Issued against Options exercised at 20s.	250,187	0	0
Cash and Cash Assets taken over from Vendors	2,437	15	4
Sundry Revenue received to date	42,736	1	11
Sales of Surplus Water	8,253	17	0
Owners' Share of Licences	12,756	8	1
Loans	450,000	0	0
	£1,619,173	4	10

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Transfer Duty, &c.	11,879	9	8
Shaft Sinking, Permanent Haulage Ways and Equipment	939,069	3	0
Estate Buildings and Improvements	668	8	11
Development	166,444	2	11
General Expenses	135,317	16	4
Guarantors' Commission—Loans	25,000	0	0
Interest on Loans paid and accrued	251,684	3	1
Cash and Cash Assets, *less* Creditors	326,596	16	2
	1,856,660	0	1
Less—Guarantors' Commission and Interest, settled by Shares issued	237,486	15	3
	£1,619,173	4	10

DIRECTORATE.

Early in the current year Sir Ernest Oppenheimer resigned his seat on the Board, and Mr. R. B. Hagart was elected to fill the vacancy. You will be asked to confirm this appointment.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. Davidson and A. F. Mullins retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. Alex. Aiken and A. E. Page, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

GENERAL.

In 1925 your Company paid the whole of its liability to the Miners' Phthisis Fund up to the date of closing down in August, 1921. With the resumption of operations the Mine was again Scheduled, and the Reserve of £392 shown in the Balance Sheet for Liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act represents the new total estimated liability of the Company to the Compensation Fund.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*,
J. DAVIDSON,
P. DREYFUS,
R. B. HAGART.
A. F. MULLINS,
W. NELSON,
C. L. READ,
} *Directors.*

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED,
Secretaries.
Per W. WESTRUP.

Johannesburg,
14th March, 1930.

SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1929.

To be submitted at the Twenty-first Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercosa House," Johannesburg, on Friday, 16th May, 1930, at 12 noon.

To the Shareholders,
SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended the 31st December, 1929, accompanied by the Reports of the Consulting Engineers and the Mine Manager.

CAPITAL.

The Capital of the Company remains unchanged at £1,500,000 in shares of £1 each, all fully paid and issued.

PROPERTY.

The position of your Company's holdings at 31st December, 1928, was as follows:—

Mynpacht No. 637, in extent 1,675·693 acres, equal to	1,140·09	claims.
Railway Area (leased from the Government)	20·63	,,
Discoverer's Rights	171·60	,,
Claims on Farm Rietfontein No. 8 (leased from the Government)	2,235·60	,,
	3,567·92	claims.

Of the sixteen freehold stands in Springs Township owned by the Company, two were sold during the year and fourteen are still held.

OPERATIONS.

Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
From the Working Expenditure and Revenue Accounts it will be seen that the profit from operations for the year amounted to	785,455	12	4
Deduct—			
Donations	3,236	0	4
Add—	782,219	12	0
Dividends on Shareholdings, Interest, Commission and Exchange, and Sundry Revenue	15,693	10	11
Leaving a net balance of Revenue over Expenditure for the year of	797,913	2	11
Add—			
Balance to credit of Appropriation Account at 31st December, 1928	49,220	6	1
Making a total available credit of	847,133	9	0
Against which the following amounts have been appropriated:—			
Government Taxes	73,750	7	4
Government Participation in Profits	151,727	16	7
Capital Funds	23,249	8	3
Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Acts	7,646	14	4
Dividend No. 20	262,500	0	0
Dividend No. 21	281,250	0	0
	800,124	6	6
Leaving a balance unappropriated at 31st December, 1929, of	£47,009	2	6

The Capital Expenditure for the year amounted to £42,663 1s. 4d., made up as follows:—

				£	s.	d.
Shaft Sinking and Equipment, as per Schedule attached to Balance Sheet				42,867	8	4
Less Credits—Shares and Interests in other concerns	£	s.	d.			
	61	17	0			
Property Account	142	10	0			
				204	7	0
				£42,663	1	4

The Union Government's participation in the profits of the Company, in terms of the Mineral Lease, is estimated at £151,727 16s. 7d. This sum is equivalent to 19·016 per cent. of the total profits of the Company for the year.

Expenditure on development for the year amounted to £116,008 17s. 1d., which has been charged to Working Expenditure and Revenue Account.

In connection with the annual reserve in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act, the amount set aside for 1929 is £7,646 14s. 4d. This, with the previous figure of £15,116 5s., and interest accrued, gives a total reserve of £23,443 3s. 11d. The Company's ultimate assessment is estimated at £130,371.

DIVIDENDS.

Two dividends were declared during the year, as follows:—

	Per Cent.	Rate per Share.	Total Amount.
Dividend No. 20	17½	3s. 6d.	£262,500 0
Dividend No. 21	18¾	3s. 9d.	281,250 0 0
	36¼	7s. 3d.	£543,750 0 0

DIRECTORATE.

Your Directors have to record with deep regret the death of Mr. F. R. Lynch, who was for many years a Director of your Company. Mr. R. B. Hagart was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused on the Board, and you are asked to confirm this appointment.

Early in the current year Mr. A. F. Lyall resigned from the Board owing to ill-health, and Sir Ernest Oppenheimer also resigned owing to pressure of other duties. Messrs. J. Boyd and F. A. Unger filled the vacant seats on the Board, and these appointments you will also be asked to confirm.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. R. B. Hagart and W. E. Hudson retire from the Board by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

During the year Mr. F. W. Diamond, one of your Auditors, died, and, in terms of the Articles of the Association, Mr. M. Spier, a partner of the late Mr. Diamond, was appointed to fill the vacancy thus caused.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. A. E. Page and M. Spier, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

L. A. POLLAK, Chairman,
J. BOYD,
R. B. HAGART,
W. E. HUDSON,
W. J. O'BRIEN,
F. A. UNGER,
C. WILSON,
} Directors.

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, Secretaries.
Per W. WESTRUP.

Johannesburg, 14th March, 1930

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital Registered and Issued: 1,500,000 Shares of £1 each				1,500,000	0	0	By Property, at Cost				308,748	19	8
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.							Mining Claims and Freehold Stands—						
,, Premium on Shares				1,122,840	16	5	As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928	308,891	9	8			
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928							*Less*—Sale of Two Stands	142	10	0			
,, Funds Appropriated for Expenditure in Excess of Working Capital provided				521,932	7	6	,, Shaft Sinking, Permanent Haulage Ways and Equipment, at Cost (As per attached Schedule.)				2,529,712	5	11
As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928	498,682	19	3				,, Development, at Cost				242,429	15	4
For the Year ending 31st December, 1929	23,249	8	3				As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.						
				3,144,773	3	11					3,080,891	0	11
,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund brought down				26,163	1	0	,, Shares and Interests in Other Concerns at or under Cost				12,719	2	0
,, Sundry Shareholders				282,971	16	10	,, Stores and Materials—Standard Stock				25,000	0	0
Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends.											37,719	2	0
,, Government of the Union of South Africa Taxation under Income Tax Act, 1925 (Years 1928-1929)	152,475	18	0	304,203	14	7	,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund carried down				26,163	1	0
Participation in Profits under Mineral Lease	151,727	16	7								3,144,773	3	11
,, Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances				84,573	4	0	,, Stores and Materials on Hand and in Transit in Excess of Standard Stock				18,119	1	4
,, Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act (see contra)				23,443	3	11	General	14,363	15	0			
,, Balance of Appropriation Account				47,009	2	6	Construction	3,755	6	4			
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.											28,627	18	7
Shares and Interests in other Concerns	£11,742	6	6				,, Reserve Fund Investments (see contra)				23,443	3	11
Machinery Orders Outstanding	338	9	0				,, Gold in Transit	3,997	8	9			
	£12,080	15	6				,, Loans at Call	691,799	16	8			
The Company is liable for its proportion of the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Funds in terms of the Miners' Phthisis Acts Consolidation Act, 1925 (*vide* Directors' Report).							,, Cash at Bankers and in Hand	2,376	13	7			
											698,173	19	0
				£3,913,137	6	9					£3,913,137	6	9

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED,
Secretaries.
Per W. WESTRUP.

L. A. POLLAK, Chairman,
R. B. HAGART
W. E. HUDSON,
} Directors.

To the Shareholders, SPRINGS MINES, LIMITED.

We report that we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books and Vouchers of the Company, and the audited returns from the London Office, and certify that it is in accordance therewith. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Company has kept proper Books and records. In our opinion, such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

Johannesburg,
18th March, 1930.

A. E. PAGE (Incorporated Accountant),
M. SPIER (Chartered Accountant, S.A.),
} *Auditors.*

RIO TINTO COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND ON SHARES TO BEARER.

HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER are informed that they will receive PAYMENT of the DIVIDEND declared at the General Meeting held on the 14th inst., at the rate of Two Shillings and Sixpence per Share on the Preference Shares, and of the DIVIDEND and BONUS on the Ordinary Shares amounting to Thirty Shillings per Share; all less Income Tax, on and after Thursday, the 1st May, 1930, on presentation of Coupon No. 66 on the Preference Shares and No. 62 on the Ordinary Shares, either at the Company's Office in London, or at the Société Générale, 29 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris.

Coupons for payment in London must be left four clear days previously for examination, and may be deposited on or after the 22nd inst.

By Order,
R. H. BEECHER,
Secretary.

Offices of the Company:
3, Lombard Street, E.C. 3.
16th April, 1930.

CITY OF OSAKA

FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS,
£3,084,940.

Notice is hereby given that the COUPONS due 1st May, 1930, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted) between the hours of 11 and 3 at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.—For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited,

D. NOHARA, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.
16th April, 1930.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

DIVIDEND NO. 171.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital stock of the Bank, has been DECLARED for the three months ending 31st May, 1930, and will be PAYABLE at the Bank and its branches on and after Monday, 2nd June, 1930, to shareholders of record on 30th April, 1930.

By Order of the Board,
E. B. McINERNEY,
London Manager.

Bank Buildings,
Princes Street,
London, E.C.2.
April 14th, 1930.

BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED. (Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the Year ended 31st December, 1929.

To be submitted at the Twenty-seventh Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to be held in the Board Room, "Anmercosa House," Johannesburg, on Friday, the 16th May, 1930, at 2.30 p.m.

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

Gentlemen,

Your Directors beg to submit their Report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 1929, accompanied by the Reports of the Consulting Engineers and the Mine Manager.

CAPITAL.—The capital of the Company is unchanged at £1,020,000 in 1,020,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid and issued.

PROPERTY.—No alterations have taken place during the year in your Company's claim holdings, which remain as follows:—

Mynpacht No. 490/1919, in extent 405·754 acres, equal to	276·06	Claims.
Mynpacht No. 543/1906, in extent 888·936 acres, equal to	604·80	,,
Claims on Farm Benoni No. 3, with Coal Rights on 73·326 Claims	201·59	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5	68·00	,,
Claims on Farm Weltevreden or Brakpan No. 5—leased from Union Government	1,811·70	,,
Claims on Farm Koolbult or Schapenrust No. 7	424·90	,,
	3,387·05	Claims.

The undermining rights of seven stands and four portions of stands on Farm Benoni No. 3.

Twenty-one freehold stands in Brakpan Township, on which are erected quarters for the Company's employees.

OPERATIONS.—Technical matters are dealt with in the attached Reports of the Consulting Engineers and Mine Manager, to which your attention is directed.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FINANCE.—From the Working Expenditure and Revenue Account it will be seen that the profit amounted to				660,530	5	9
Deduct—Donations				3,295	4	0
				£657,235	1	9
Add—Dividends on Shareholdings	970	15	10			
Interest, Commission, Exchange, etc.	12,545	10	10			
				13,516	6	8
Leaving a Net Balance of Revenue over Expenditure for the year of				670,751	8	5
Add—Balance to Credit of Appropriation Account at 31st December, 1928				59,536	12	3
Making a total available Credit of				730,288	0	8
Against which the following amounts have been appropriated:—						
Government Taxes	£67,025	3	9			
Government Participation in Profits	90,368	6	7			
Reserve for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Acts	17,355	11	0			
Dividend No. 34	242,250	0	0			
Dividend No. 35	255,000	0	0			
				671,999	1	4
Leaving a Balance unappropriated at 31st December, 1929, of				£58,288	19	4

The Capital Fund shows a credit for the year of £1,964 13s. 10d. which is mainly attributable to the refund by West Springs, Ltd., of their proportion of the cost of the joint Ventilation Fan, previously charged out to Capital Account. The net credit is made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Shaft Sinking and Equipment, as per Schedule attached to Balance Sheet—Credit	2,204	13	4
Less—Expenditure on Shares and interests in Other Concerns	239	19	6
	£1,964	13	10

The unexpended balance of Capital Funds has been increased accordingly.

The amount payable to the Government for the year under the terms of the Mineral Lease Agreement is estimated at £90,368 6s. 7d. This figure represents 13·473 per cent. of the profits for the year as compared with 9·423 per cent. for 1928. This increase is due to a smaller allowance for amortisation being authorised than that for last year.

The amount charged to working costs for development was £99,605 5s. 10d. In connection with the annual reserve in respect of the Company's liability under the Miners' Phthisis Act, the amount set aside for 1929 is £17,355 11s. This, with the previous figure of £25,960 13s. 6d. and interest accrued, gives a total reserve of £44,484 9s. 1d. The increase in the annual amount as compared with the previous year's figure is due to the adoption of a new basis of calculation. The Company's ultimate assessment is estimated at £199,714.

DIVIDENDS.

Two Dividends were declared during the year, as follows:—

	Per Cent.	Rate per Share. s. d.	Total Amount £ s. d.
Dividend No. 34	23¾	4 9	242,250 0 0
Dividend No. 35	25	5 0	255,000 0 0
	48¾	9 9	497,250 0 0

DIRECTORATE.

It is with deep regret that your Directors have to record the death of Mr. F. R. Lynch, who was for so many years a Director of your company. Mr. R. B. Hagart was elected to fill the vacancy thus caused on the Board, and you are asked to confirm this appointment.

Early in the current year Mr. A. F. Lyall resigned from the Board owing to ill-health, and Sir Ernest Oppenheimer also resigned owing to pressure of other duties. Messrs. J. Boyd and F. A. Unger filled the consequent vacancies on the Board, and these appointments you are also asked to confirm.

In terms of the Articles of Association, Messrs. F. A. Unger and J. Boyd retire by rotation, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election

AUDITORS.

You are requested to fix the remuneration for the past audit, and to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year. The Auditors, Messrs. A. E. Page and P. Whiteley, retire, but are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*
J. BOYD,
R. B. HAGART,
W. E. HUDSON,
J. L. JOURDAN,
J. W. O'BRIEN,
F. A. UNGER, } *Directors.*

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED,
Per W. WESTRUP. *Secretaries.*

JOHANNESBURG, *14th March*, 1930.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

DR. To Capital—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Registered and Issued: 1,020,000 Shares of £1 each ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.				1,020,000	0	0
,, Premium on Shares ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.				998,850	10	0
,, Funds Appropriated for Expenditure on Equipment and Development in Excess of Working Capital provided ..... As per Balance Sheet 31st December, 1928.				833,618	8	10
				£2,852,468	18	10
,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund brought down				8,554	2	1
,, Reconditioning and Renewals of Plant Suspense ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.				1,149	10	0
,, Sundry Shareholders ..... Unpaid and Unclaimed Dividends.				283,163	6	8
,, Government of the Union of South Africa Taxation under Income Tax Act, 1925	71,053	19	0			
Participation in Profits under Mineral Lease	90,368	6	7			
				161,422	5	7
,, Sundry Creditors and Credit Balances				190,596	18	1
,, Reserve Fund for Liability under Miners' Phthisis Act (see contra)				44,484	9	1
,, Balance of Appropriation Account				58,288	19	4
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES—						
Shares and Interests in other Concerns	£12,640	14	0			
Machinery Orders Outstanding	6,255	18	11			
	18,896	12	11			
The Company is liable for its proportion of the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Funds in terms of the Miners' Phthisis Acts Consolidation Act, 1925 (vide Directors' Report)				£3,600,128	9	8

CR. By	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Property, at Cost ..... Mining Claims and Freehold Stands. As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.	489,116	16	3			
,, Shaft Sinking and Equipment, at Cost... (As per attached schedule.)	2,096,966	19	9			
,, Development, at Cost ..... As per Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1928.	216,226	12	2			
				2,802,310	7	5
,, Shares and Interests in Other Concerns, at or under Cost	13,201	4	9			
,, Office Furniture	1,009	3	0			
,, Live Stock and Vehicles	394	1	7			
,, Stores and Materials, Standard Stock	27,000	0	0			
				41,604	9	4
,, Unexpended Balance of Capital Fund carried down				8,554	2	1
				2,852,468	18	10
,, Stores and Materials on Hand and in Transit in Excess of Standard Stock...				18,928	6	4
,, Reserve Fund Investments (see contra)...				44,484	9	1
,, Sundry Debtors and Debit Balances				28,527	16	3
,, Gold in Transit	58,120	15	6			
,, Loan at Call	594,841	9	6			
,, Cash at Bankers and in Hand	2,756	14	2			
				655,718	19	2
				£3,600,128	9	8

L. A. POLLAK, *Chairman*,
R. B. HAGART,
J. L. JOURDAN, } *Directors.*

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED, *Secretaries.*
Per W. WESTRUP.

To the Shareholders, BRAKPAN MINES, LIMITED.

We have audited the Balance Sheet dated 31st December, 1929, above set forth, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Company has kept proper Books and records, and, in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the Books of the Company.

JOHANNESBURG,
18th March, 1930.

A. E. PAGE (Incorporated Accountant).
PERCIVAL WHITELEY (Chartered Accountant). } *Auditors.*

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The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. CX. SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1930. No. 4,522.

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London Office

32, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.

A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY this week has been fairly easy, 2 per cent. being charged on Wednesday, and rather less the following day. Despite recent withdrawals, there is still a large quantity of French money in London, and as maturing bills in French hands are not at present being replaced, this tends to make money more plentiful. The

banks, too, are well supplied with money, partly because the Stock Exchange is not employing anything like its normal quantity. At the moment, therefore, money is plentiful, but next month, when the final call on Conversion Loan has to be paid up, and when several foreign loans are likely to have appeared, the position may alter.

* * * *

Three months' bills were quoted on Wednesday at $2\frac{9}{16}$ per cent., with four months' at $2\frac{5}{8}$-$\frac{11}{16}$ per cent., and six months' at $2\frac{13}{16}$-$\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Rates eased fractionally the following day. June bills, however, were appreciably dearer than the longer-dated maturities at $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., this being due to heavy purchases by the clearing banks. Brokers consequently have been selling short bills and buying long bills. It will be recalled that immediately before Easter, the Bank of England was reported to have bought large quantities of May bills, and that most of next month's maturities are believed to be held outside the market. It looks, therefore, as if the market may find itself occasionally short of funds during the next two months.

* * * *

The fall in the French exchange to 123.90 francs, which occurred early this week, put France in a position to bid for the week's supply of new Cape gold, while the Swiss franc at 25.08¼ francs was also near the export gold point. Consequently keen competition developed at this week's market, which was held on Wednesday. The price was forced up to 84s. 11½d., or within ⅜d. of the Bank's selling price, and Germany, who previously had been taking each week's supply of gold, found herself outbid. Of the £706,000 in the market, £100,000 went to France and £500,000 to Switzerland. It is stated that there were buyers present for as much as £2,500,000.

* * * *

Fortunately the exchange rates concerned responded to these gold purchases, while the dollar rate has also improved from the standpoint of sterling. The sharp fall in sterling against the franc is ascribed, in addition to the causes enumerated last week, to the French withdrawing from Germany the loans made some months previously. When this money was borrowed no steps were taken to cover the exchange, and so its withdrawal meant that the necessary francs had to be purchased in a hurry. These withdrawals of French money from Germany are due mainly to the recent decline in German deposit rates.

	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3½	3½	4 (Mar. 20,'30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Discount { Call	1½	1½	1½	1½	2 (Mar. 20,'30)
Discount { Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	2½ (Mar. 20,'30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2⅜	2 7/16-½	2½	2½-⅝	...

While the monetary outlook is not very clear, there is no ground for anxiety. This week's Bank return shows an increase of £3,055,000 in the Bank's gold stocks, due to further arrivals from Australia, and, while there is some disposition to belittle the significance of this increase, on the ground that these shipments are of a special character, the fact remains both that the Australian gold exports are due to well-known economic causes and that their arrival in London has the same effect as that of gold from any other quarter. In any case, the Bank's gold now amounts to £163,843,000, which is an amount well above the margin of safety.

NEW YORK

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is easier, with call money plentiful at 3 per cent. outside the Exchange, and long-term time funds are down ¼ to 4 per cent. The Reserve bill-buying rate remains unchanged, and maturities this week are heavier than replacements, which fact is largely responsible for a drop of 60 millions in the total Reserve credits. Discounts have fallen nominally, and the reserve ratio is up at 81.8 per cent. The New York ratio stands at 82 per cent., and City Member Banks are now borrowing only 10 millions. It is believed that recent heavy new financing, together with the American Telephone stock issue, which forced convertible bond holders either to convert with part payment in cash or to sell, are partly responsible for higher loans. There is some suggestion that a lower discount rate is possible, due to concern over stagnation in trade, while share market weakness has removed one obstacle to a lower rate. Bonds are sluggish on heavy new offerings, but Government securities are strong. Corporation earnings for the first quarter are running 18 per cent. under a year ago. A hundred million Japanese refunding loan is under negotiation.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Business in the Stock Markets showed a decided falling-off in volume, and prices were marked lower in many cases, though little selling occurred. The prevailing tendency was attributed to psychological rather than economic factors, afterthoughts on the Budget, by general agreement, exerting but a minor influence. Gilt-edged prices were lower, with a firmer trend on Thursday. Home rails declined, the Easter traffic figures affording unfavourable comparison with last year's. Caution was the dominant note in the industrial markets. Business remained on a meagre scale in rubber and tea shares, but oils had a firmer appearance. The mining markets were overshadowed by a new break in base metal prices.

THE COMMODITY MARKET.

The outlook is, if anything, a shade brighter. Coal stocks are high, and though there are more inquiries for forward business, they have not yet developed into orders. Some important new steel contracts have been placed, but orders are by no means generally forthcoming, and the outlook for pig iron is not considered very promising. The cotton situation is unchanged, but the position in the wool textile industries is distinctly less gloomy. The hide and leather trades are quiet but fairly steady. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are in poor demand. The timber market is in a very satisfactory condition. Wheat prices are on balance unchanged.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market has only been moderately active. The tendency generally was against sterling in the early part of the period under review, with a recovery, especially against the dollar, at the close. New York, after falling to 4.86 1/16, recovered to last week's level of 4.86 5/16 as a result of American bidding for sterling. Montreal fell away from 4.86⅜ to 4.86¾. Paris improved from 124.04 to 123.98, after touching 123.90. Brussels was considerably firmer at 34.82⅜. Milan lost three points at 92.78, and the peseta, after some irregularity, fell away from 38.82 to 39.06. Amsterdam went rather sharply against us from 12.09¾ to 12.08⅜. Berlin was ¾ better at 20.37. Switzerland gained ⅜ at 25.08⅛, after 25.07¼. Stockholm lost ⅛ at 18.19⅛, but Oslo and Copenhagen both improved by the same margin to 18.16⅛. Of the South American exchanges, Rio was firmer at 5 13/16d., but Buenos Aires lost 7/32d. at 43 15/32d., and Montevideo ⅛d. at 45⅜d. The Far Eastern exchanges were very firm, the rupee remaining at 1s. 5 27/32d. and the yen at 2s. 0⅜d. Batavia was a point better at 12.08½. In the futures market dollars were more wanted at narrower discounts of 1/16 and 5/32 cent. Paris was little changed at 2 and 3 centimes premium, but Brussels was ½ centime weaker at 1½ and 3½ centimes discount. Milan was fairly steady around 11 and 32 centesimi discount. Amsterdam was more on offer at increased discounts of ¾ and 1¼ cents against ¼ cent discount for both periods last week. Berlin remained around 1¼ and 4 pfennigs discount. Prices in the silver market rose by 3/16d. for both spot and forward, at 19 13/16d. and 19¾d. respectively, chiefly as a result of demand from the Indian bazaars. The Chinese silver exchanges were unaffected, Hong Kong remaining at the previous quotations of 1s. 6⅜d. and Shanghai at 1s. 11¼d.

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include an index of electricity production, and a series of indices of British trade activity.

THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES.

WHEN two friends part company it will usually be found that each accuses the other of having "changed." This common proclivity to mutual recrimination is exemplified by the relationship between the Government Front Bench and the I.L.P., whose Easter conference may prove to have been an event of some political significance. Whereas Mr MacDonald, severing his connection with a party which he had done much to create, protested that the I.L.P. had lost its grip on Socialism and its appreciation of the meaning of "comradeship," the Birmingham conference was mightily concerned to demonstrate that the actions of the Labour Party's official leaders, during their ten months of office, had been a complete derogation of the Socialist professions contained in the party's electoral programme. "The Lord Privy Seal," said one speaker at the conference, "has worked hard. He has done more for British capitalism in ten months than the Tories did in five years." The Government's attitude towards the unemployed and the miners, and particularly the "failure" of Mr Snowden's Budget to impose sufficiently "drastic" direct taxation on the rich, in order to finance more expensive social services, were roundly condemned as betrayals of the true Socialist faith.

The precise rights and wrongs of the Labour Party's domestic quarrels are not in themselves a matter of great public concern. Socialism, like all political tenets, is a doctrine presumably capable of modification with the years, and the question whether Messrs MacDonald, Snowden and Thomas merit the pillory as "recreants," or whether the I.L.P. deserves excommunication for being, in an inverted sense, *plus royaliste que le roi*, is no great matter. In fairness to Mr Maxton and his supporters, let us say that, having refreshed our memory by reading again the lushly-pledged pages of *Labour and the Nation* we recognise in the attitude of the Front Bench greater signs of change than in the proceedings of the I.L.P. conference, whose resolutions on policy with regard to work and maintenance, taxation and public control of banking and industry conformed, in fact, to the letter, if not to the intention, of official Labour Party doctrine. The point, however, of real public interest in the cleavage, whose depth the I.L.P. conference served to emphasise, is that it reveals, from two points of view, the growth of disillusionment in Labour's political and economic outlook.

The first stage in that disillusionment was the abject failure of the General Strike four years ago, when the futility of "direct action" as a means to social progress was brought home to the minds of nearly all the movement's industrial leaders. It is now the politicians' turn. Less than a year of office, we imagine, has sufficed to convince the members of Mr MacDonald's Ministry that there are no short cuts to prosperity, and that doles, high wages without correspondingly high production, and taxation whose proceeds are squandered uneconomically all aggravate unemployment and fetter industry. If it be the case that the Government's apparent inclination quietly to shelve the embarrassingly socialistic elements of its electoral programme in favour of a "moderate progressive" policy is widely endorsed, not only by the rank and file of the party in the House but by its supporters in the country, then clearly the fundamental conditions exist which might enable the rumoured *entente* between the Labour and Liberal leaders to be translated into a definite alliance for co-operation during the life of the present Parliament. Though the working of party machinery is naturally inimical to such co-operation, and though the idea of any sort of Liberal-Labour coalition would probably be repugnant to the majority of both parties, Mr. MacDonald may well be alive to the strategic advantage of keeping on good relations with a party which commands at least five million more or less "progressive" votes. His foreign programme is scarcely as attractive from an electioneering point of view as it bade fair to be last summer; if he is to win *réclame* for successfully handling the Egyptian and Indian problems he may think it essential (as, indeed, it is) that he should feel himself firmly in the saddle; and the situation of trade and employment makes an early appeal to the electorate uninviting from his standpoint. Finally, if the Maxton revolt were to lead to the formation of a virtually hostile fourth party, Mr MacDonald's tenure of office would be short-lived in the absence of active and consistent Liberal support.

For such support what price can be suggested whose payment Mr MacDonald is in a position to guarantee? The answer is not simple. "Ideologically," said a speaker at the I.L.P. conference, "there is nothing that now separates the Labour Front Bench from the Front Bench of the Liberal Party." Even if that statement, which we are disinclined to accept, were true, the fact remains that, apart from the I.L.P. thunder on the left, there is little as yet to show what the mass of Labour voters are thinking either about a *rapprochement* with the Liberal Party in the House, or about the Government's almost pathetic reliance on "capitalist" reorganisation to pull the country round.

According to current, though unsubstantiated rumour, a measure of electoral reform has been mooted as part of the price to be offered by the Prime Minister in return for Liberal backing in the House. From the Liberal Party's point of view, such an offer might hold attractions, though it is questionable whether Mr MacDonald could do more in the end than submit an electoral Bill to the doubtful test of a free vote of the House; but it is difficult to conceive that this could be the sole *quid pro quo* in return for Parliamentary co-operation. Apart from the question of an armistice in the constituencies (a matter of party advantage with which the *Economist* is not concerned), it seems to us to be essential in the national interest that any agreement between the Liberal and Labour Parties for the purpose of maintaining the Government in power must be conditional, not only on common adherence to sound fiscal policy, but on an absolute undertaking by Mr MacDonald that no additions will be made to the burden of taxation. Such a promise was made somewhat guardedly by Mr Snowden, if we understand him aright, in his Budget speech—at least so far as next year is concerned; but, for the continuance of the Government in office to be an advantage to the country, a definite pledge is wanted that in framing the remaining Budgets of this Parliament aggregate expenditure will not be increased, *i.e.*, that there will be a sound and trenchant pruning combined with carefully-thought-out priority in the outlay on social services.

On the basis of such an undertaking, and given a programme of legislation frankly non-Socialist in complexion, we conceive that co-operation between Labour and Liberalism in this Parliament might result in a tolerable administration, always provided that in such controversial questions as the Trades Disputes Act Mr MacDonald were willing to defer within reason to his allies' views. The question is whether such a basis could, in fact, be reached. The I.L.P.'s bid to secure the real leadership of the Labour Party may not be regarded by the present Front Bench as a grave menace (the actual secession of the "Maxtonites" is unlikely), and the Labour rank and file may be disposed to accept with unprotesting disillusionment the vision of a Socialist Commonwealth receding beyond "our time." But in default of the full-blooded (and, let us add, never explicitly repudiated) programme of "anti-capitalist" legislation to which *Labour and the Nation* committed the official leaders of the Labour Party, will Mr MacDonald's Cabinet be strong enough to resist the temptation to console their disenchanted electorate with increasing slices of a cake whose prodigal consumption must end by undermining the foundations of the country's economic structure? "The fair distribution

said Mr Maxton at Birmingham, " of what already exists is a more urgent question than the increasing of production." For how many of the Labour electorate does he speak in uttering this disastrous fallacy? And if the Labour Party managers tell Mr MacDonald that insistent echoes of this siren voice are to be heard throughout the constituencies, will he and his colleagues be able to adhere in political practice to what we credit them with having learnt at heart—that the limits of unproductive expenditure based on direct taxation have been reached? Failing a guarantee of sound policy on the crucial issue of national finance, the country's interests would be ill-served were the Liberal Party, allured simply by the hope of electoral reform—desirable though such reform may be—to surrender any of its rights and functions as an independent critic of the Government's actions.

THE NAVAL TREATY OF LONDON.

THE actual text of the Naval Treaty of London, which was signed on behalf of Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France and Italy on Tuesday, revealed no last-minute surprises. There is little noteworthy, therefore, to add to the description of the concrete agreements actually reached, which was given in an article in last week's *Economist*. The publication, however, of the full text and the speeches of the statesmen at the ceremony of signature suggest certain broader reflections on the significance of what has been achieved and what has been left undone.

In counting up the achievements it is not sufficient merely to enumerate the " battleship holiday," the agreement on rules of submarine warfare, or even the complete and comprehensive agreement on all naval armaments between the three great Naval Powers of the world. If we cast our minds back a year to the preliminary conversations between General Dawes and Mr MacDonald, out of which this Conference was born, we become aware of an achievement greater than any of these—namely, the overdue restoration of Anglo-American relations to a basis of goodwill and understanding. But, on the other hand, in counting up the shortcomings, it is not sufficient merely to mention the fact that France and Italy failed to come into line.

The task of assessing what has been done requires a sense of proportion and also the remembrance that all achievement is relative. We should have been jubilant if Part III of the London Treaty of 1930 had emerged, by some miracle, out of the Geneva Conference of 1927. And we should have been vastly relieved if, at the outset of the Anglo-American conversations last summer, even this result could have been confidently foreseen. It is rather hard on Mr MacDonald and President Hoover that there has been a six months' interval between the provisional Anglo-American Agreement which preceded the Prime Minister's visit to the United States in October and the signature of the Treaty this month. During this interval British and American public opinion has grown so accustomed to the achievement which now at last has been formally embodied in the London Treaty, Part III, that we are inclined to take it for granted and ask, somewhat greedily, for more. This is perhaps a human, but certainly a distorted, point of view. We have to correct it by reminding ourselves that, though the achievement in the way of tonnage reduction may, on paper, be disappointingly small, the limitation agreement, embracing Japan as well as the British Empire and the United States, is now available as a new cornerstone in the building of world-peace.

In another way, too, the agreement is remarkable, almost unprecedented. For what is the usual sequel to a general war, like that of 1914-18, which ends in one group of belligerents receiving " a knock-out blow "? History shows that the usual sequel is an almost automatic redistribution of the Balance of Power by a division of the principal victors between the opposing scales. In the present instance, it was to be expected that as soon as the German Navy had been eliminated, the British, American and Japanese navies would begin to compete among themselves; and, now that this danger has been surmounted, we can afford to admit quite frankly that the tendency duly appeared. Between the Armistice of 1918 and the meeting of the Washington Conference in 1921 the lists were set for a three-cornered competition between Great Britain, the United States and Japan. This was a real menace to future peace, because if this tension between the three " Oceanic " Powers had continued, it would have made itself felt over the whole navigable and habitable surface of the world. The Washington Conference took the first steps towards exorcising this spectre; but after the failure of the Geneva Conference the ugly apparition still stared us in the face. We may fairly congratulate ourselves, and thank our statesmen that, at London in 1930, this ghost has been laid. This is indeed a good augury for the future.

Yet, even so, we are confronted with a strange and disquieting spectacle. This strong desire for disarmament and peace—a desire expressed, not only in fine sentiments, but in repeated efforts to obtain practical results, which have now met with partial success—is evinced by the three greatest Powers in the world, the " Oceanic " Powers which, between them, control most of the material resources except on the European Continent and in Russia. On the other hand, no similar desire is apparent in the minds of the two lesser Naval Powers, France and Italy, whose aggregate range of control is limited to the European continent, the Mediterranean, and North-West Africa. Both the French and the Italian delegations to the London Conference are now receiving ovations at home because they have succeeded in retaining for their countries a free hand to carry on unrestricted naval competition against each other and all comers. In terms of navies this is odd. Translated into terms of pre-war armaments on land, it is as though, at the Hague Conferences, Imperial Germany had pressed for disarmament and had been successfully frustrated by Switzerland and Belgium. One sees a vision of the mouse boasting that it has defeated the insidious proposal of the cat for a filing down of claws all round.

What is the explanation of the French and Italian state of mind? It is important for the rest of us to understand it—important, in the first instance, for ourselves, because we are a European as well as an " Oceanic " Naval Power and should, therefore, be the first to be affected if an unrestricted competition in non-capital-ships between Italy and France were to drive up their establishments in these categories within an uncomfortable distance of the tonnages to which we have limited ourselves in agreement with our " Oceanic " partners to the London Treaty, Part III. Great Britain would be affected rapidly and disagreeably by substantial increases in French naval strength in the Channel, or in French and Italian naval strength in the Mediterranean; but the United States and Japan would be likewise affected not less surely, though indirectly, since the third part of the London Treaty contains a safeguarding clause providing for reconsideration of the figures agreed upon if, at some future date, one of the parties to the treaty feels itself menaced by the naval programme of some non-participant Power. In the circumstances, this proviso was inevitable, and it is also salutary. It underlines the truth that, when once a group of Powers have agreed upon a limitation of armaments with one another, they have thereby acquired a common interest in persuading other Powers to come into line.

Thus, it is of common interest to the British, Americans and Japanese to understand the French and Italian point of view. Is it a case of *amour propre*? Partly, no doubt, but only partly, for that motive has not been decisive

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in the Japanese mind, though the Japanese nation is as ancient, and as proud as the Italian or the French. Is it environment? It almost seems as though the traditional Continental European atmosphere must be the explanation of this psychological puzzle. For Continental Europeans, their continent has always been the world, and military power on the Continent has been the title to universal supremacy. Is it just that the French and Italians, acute though they are, are not sufficiently acute to view the world of to-day absolutely as well as relatively? We in Great Britain are so placed that the absolute view is imposed upon us without much mental exertion being demanded on our part. From our standpoint we are aware that, in due course, mere European Powers of even the largest European calibre may well be dwarfed by Powers on an utterly different scale in other parts of a now unified world. At the moment, the United States is the only Power of this calibre that has actualised its latent strength; but what the United States did yesterday may be done to-morrow by other countries of great population and resources. A distant prospect, perhaps; but one which the spectacular rise of America as a World Power should teach the Continent to contemplate. The results of the unsparing and praiseworthy efforts of Mr MacDonald, President Hoover and Mr Stimson, and of the Japanese delegates at the London Conference will depend in large measure on the Continent's awakening to its ultimate need to sink domestic differences if its old power, strategic and economic, is not to pass into other hands.

AUSTRALIA'S VICIOUS CIRCLE.

ECONOMIC conditions are awry to-day in many parts of the world, but in few countries do present troubles lend themselves so easily to diagnosis as in Australia. The chief symptoms, such as the exchange weakness, the growth of unemployment, and the movement of the trade balance, are patent to every eye; and equally clear are the leading causes, some of old standing, some new and fortuitous, which have turned an economic position of growing instability into one to which the overworked word " crisis " may not improperly be applied.

Let us look at some of the symptoms first. The readings of the exchange barometer are arresting. The Australian banks' selling rate for sterling on demand (Australian pounds to £100 English) rose steadily from 99¾ at the end of March, 1927, to 100⅝ at the end of March last year, and to over 106 at present. The rise last month (March) was from 102 11/16 to 106 1/16, and so large a movement is itself sufficient indication of serious maladjustment in Australia's economic relations with the rest of the world. A glance at her recent overseas trade figures provides confirmatory evidence. Australian imports and exports during the five years ended June 30, 1929, are shown below:—

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN TRADE.

(In thousand £'s.)

	1924–5.	1925–6.	1926–7.	1927–8.	1928–9.*
Imports:					
Merchandise	146,600	151,217	164,128	146,937	143,271
Specie and bullion	10,543	421	589	1,008	357
Total	157,143	151,638	164,717	147,945	143,628
Exports:					
Merchandise	159,987	143,283	132,837	139,472	140,854
Specie and bullion	2,043	5,489	12,303	3,741	3,927
Total	162,030	148,772	145,140	143,213	144,780

* Provisions.

This table shows that, excluding gold movements, the visible balance of trade, which has fluctuated violently in the last five years, though much less " unfavourable " in the last two years than in 1926-27, has been adverse since 1924-25. The statistics for the first seven months of the current financial year showed a further violent movement against Australia. Imports of merchandise were £87.1 million, against £86.2 million in June-January, 1928-29; exports of merchandise, £56.3 million, against £80.9 million. In considering this formidable increase in the merchandise import balance—the reasons for its recent acute accentuation we will come to in a minute—it is necessary not to lose sight of another important item in Australia's balance of payments with the rest of the world, namely, the very large interest payments on overseas borrowings. At June 30, 1928, the total public debt of the Commonwealth and the States was £1,095 million, of which £544 million, or, roughly, half, was borrowed overseas. Total interest charges were in the region of £52 million, of which, presumably, about one-half had to be remitted abroad, in addition to remittances of interest and dividends on British and other " outside " capital invested in Australian municipalities and enterprises. We cannot, in this brief review, enter deeply into discussion of Australia's borrowing policy and problems, but significance is added by recent events to an observation made in the report of the British Economic Mission:—

> Loan moneys raised overseas can only come to Australia in the form of goods. These goods are subject to the Customs duties . . . and are in this way taxed to an extent estimated at 15 to 20 per cent. of their value. The result is that this proportion of moneys borrowed abroad for capital purposes comes to the Commonwealth as revenue and is spent accordingly. This diversion of capital funds to revenue is obviously bad finance.

The point, however, with which we are here mainly concerned is the important part played by interest on foreign loans in Australia's balance of payments, and the necessity of curtailing unnecessary or unremunerative borrowing, towards which the new loan agreement between the Commonwealth and the States was a welcome step. In recognition of the present crisis the borrowing pro-

gramme for 1930 has been cut down from £43 million to £30 million; but a pressing problem is provided by the maturing this year of £118 million of internal debt, and there is talk of the London market being asked to provide a loan of perhaps £10 million towards this purpose.

The swing of the trade balance which we have illustrated has been met by vigorous efforts to curtail imports and by large exports of gold. In the first seven months of the current financial year net gold exports were over £9½ million, against some £1¼ million in the corresponding period of the previous year. The situation required and received bold action in the banking sphere, and last December the Commonwealth Bank Act was amended in order to enable the Commonwealth Bank to commandeer the gold held by the other banks. This measure has been followed by resolute use of gold reserves and, since January, over £20 million has been consigned to London from Australia.

Any attempt to summarise the causes of the present crisis must recognise that they fall into two categories—those that have been at work for years, and are hard to eradicate, and those that have recently developed, some, at least, of which may be expected to pass away automatically, if slowly. In the latter category the chief is the pronounced fall in world prices of the primary commodities which form the predominant part of Australia's exports. The decline in wool prices has been almost catastrophic. The price of " Queensland scoured supercombing," for example, which in December, 1927, was 48d., had fallen to 41d. by March, 1929, to 31d. by the end of October, and, after a slight recovery, is now down to 25d. This was a sufficiently devastating movement in the price of a commodity which forms nearly half Australia's export, and it is made worse by the fact that, far from receiving compensation for the lower price by a greater bulk of sales, growers have been selling very much less during the current season than in the corresponding period last year. From July 1st to February 28th last, sales amounted to 1,489,014 bales, at an average price of 10.18d. per lb., against 1,916,896 bales, at an average of 17.14d. per lb. in the corresponding period of 1928-29. According to the report of the Bank of Australasia, Australia and New Zealand together have only increased their wool production by 35 per cent. since 1924-25, whereas South Africa and South America increased theirs by over 50 per cent., so that Australia finds herself confronted with a declining market for her principal commodity simultaneously with an increase in the output from other sources. The value of Australian wool exports fell from £66,096,000 in 1927-28 (an exceptionally good season) to £61,613,000 in 1928-29, and the current season will show a much more severe decline.

The next most important Australian export is wheat, exports of which amounted to £35 million in 1924-25, £17 million in 1925-26, £21 million in 1926-27, £15 million in 1927-28, £20 million in 1928-29. During the first half (ending January 31st) of the current year, she exported 27.2 million bushels, as compared with 44.1 millions a year ago, and her remaining exportable supplies are 93.8 million bushels, against 103.9 millions last year. The price of wheat parcels afloat to London, which at the beginning of March, 1929, was 47s. 6d., had fallen to 39s. 9d. by the end of March, 1930, and had only recovered 1s. by the middle of April. The price decline is even more marked when compared with earlier years. July prices of parcels afloat were: 1923, 45s. 6d.; 1924, 59s. 6d.; 1925, 57s. 6d.; 1926, 59s.; 1927, 55s. 6d.; 1928, 52s. 3d.; 1929, 44s. 3d. It is therefore evident that Australian income from wheat export must show a by no means negligible fall in the current year.

Attempts are being made to restrict sales of both wool and wheat, with a view to checking the collapse of prices, but expedients of this nature, particularly when they cannot include control of output, at best only postpone the evil day, and are not a remedy. The crux of the matter is that Australia has her eggs in a very limited number of baskets and that these baskets are all in an exceptionally exposed position. Her principal products are very much at the mercy of the weather, and as the demand for them is very inelastic, a good season, if it does not coincide with bad seasons elsewhere, may be almost as disastrous as a bad one. Moreover, the rise in the standard of living and the changes in public taste of late years are rendering these staple commodities a more and more uncertain source of income. What Adam Smith called " the narrow capacity of the human stomach " makes other foods a serious rival to wheat and meat, while silk and artificial silk have displaced wool from many of its strongholds.

It is, therefore, understandable that Australia should have sought to diversify her production by developing her manufactures, but, unhappily, she has defeated her own ends by adopting policies which have impaired her own competitive power in the world markets. Tariff policy is at the root of the matter. High, rising, and indiscriminate tariff schedules have caused a steady rise in production costs, and these, too, are enhanced by burdensome labour legislation. A committee set up by Mr Bruce, when Prime Minister, to examine the economic effects of the tariff, in a report which we discussed in the *Economist* of November 16th last, estimated the net burden of the tariff upon export industries, after allowing for the special government assistance which they receive, at about 8 per cent. A large part of this cost reaches them in the form of increases in wages, which, as they are very largely regulated with reference to the cost of living index, are inextricably bound up with the tariff in a vicious circle of higher duties—higher prices—higher wages—higher costs, and therefore a demand for yet higher duties.

Warnings of the inherent instability of this position have been uttered with increasing urgency, by the Tariff Board in its annual reports, by the British Economic Mission, and by the Australian Tariff Committee already referred to. To quote only the last-named: " The people of Australia must soon face the question of how far this can go. At present almost every unsheltered industry is demanding assistance to meet the costs of assisting other industries, and each alleges that its difficulties are due to these costs. . . . Clearly we might reach the stage when the Government would be promoting each industry by taxing all the others," Again, " . . . once begun, tariff protection extends over other industries until any possible benefit is lost in the increased cost due to the protection of inefficient and naturally uneconomic industries." And lastly, " . . . in our (admittedly rough) judgment, the excess costs of protection are as much as the richness of our resources justify, and probably somewhat in excess of that limit." In the view of competent Australian economists, favourable to protectionism *per se*, provided it were scientifically applied, the position has for some time been one of unstable equilibrium, and the past few months have brought events which, as was prophesied, have shaken it severely.

There is, we believe, a growing body of enlightened opinion in Australia, which recognises the nature of the vicious circle and where it may best be attacked. But for the moment its voice is not strong enough to prevail; and in the meanwhile the adverse exchange movements have driven the Australian Government into the superficially attractive policy of attempting to restore trade equilibrium by sterner import restriction. This may prove a temporary palliative, but it is merely equivalent to taking a still stronger dose of the drug which originally produced the symptoms. And so the vicious circle goes on. In some way it has got to be broken, if Australia is to regain prosperity, and it can only be broken by a return to saner fiscal policy. Australia's troubles are an object lesson to the world of what happens when protection runs wild, and we sincerely hope that that lesson and its implications will quickly dawn upon the majority of Australians and create an irresistible demand for the adoption of policies that are so constantly advocated by many of her own leading experts in economics and finance.

FOREIGN CAPITAL IN GERMANY.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the last year participation of foreign capital in German undertakings has grown to such an extent that it now represents a powerful factor in the economic structure of the Reich. According to a recent estimate published by the *Institut für Konjunkturforschung*, the holdings of German shares by foreign firms, excluding those bought in the open market for investment or speculation, increased during 1929 by about 350 million marks; and, of this amount, shares to the value of at least 230 million marks were acquired in sixty individual German firms having a total share capital of 570 million marks. These figures represent the nominal capital, the actual amount paid by the purchasers being considerably higher. The extent of influence accorded by these share holdings varies. There are minority holdings designed to promote a limited co-operation—large minorities with representation on the board giving a more or less powerful influence over the company's policy—and there are several important cases of majority holdings according dominating control over the administration.

Indeed, foreign influence by financial participation has now reached such a degree that the majority of German business circles have given up the hope of retaining complete control of industry in German hands by means of protective measures, such as were strongly favoured even a year ago. It is widely realised that, in view of the barrenness of the home capital market, and of the fact that foreign markets are almost saturated with German loans, it has become inevitable that a substantial amount of shares should be transferred to foreign interests. The change of attitude is remarkably demonstrated in the case of Siemens Halske A.G., the great electro-technical concern. In October last Herr von Siemens made a vigorous public attack on " those leaders of German industry who have relinquished too early the wheel of their ship and called on board foreign pilots who will only watch for the moment when they can seize control." A few weeks ago Siemens himself permitted the American General Electric Corporation to take over a substantial part of a new debenture issue, and stated significantly that he welcomed the opportunity for closer co-operation afforded by the transaction.

It is in the motor industry that foreign interests have made the deepest inroad. General Motors took over last year about two-thirds of the share capital of the Adam Opel A.G., the largest German motor-car manufacturer. The financial transaction was quickly followed by the Americans taking over active control of production and administration; and the former proprietors retain only a limited influence in this company, which last year produced 45 per cent. of the total German car output. General Motors' great rival, the Ford Company, pursued different methods in its invasion of Germany. It had been originally intended to float a public issue for the establishment of the German Ford Company, but, to the general surprise, the I.G. Farbenindustrie took over the whole of the German issue. This was followed by an exchange of directors. Thus, while establishing an independent company in Germany, Ford has achieved co-operation with the I.G. Farbenindustrie as the largest producer in Germany of many materials essential to the manufacture of his cars. At the same time, the I.G.F. are the greatest suppliers of manure to German agriculture, and Ford has thus also secured a valuable sales link for the marketing of his tractors.

Besides the outstanding cases of Ford and General Motors, mention should be made of the Neckarsulm concern (leading manufacturers of cars, motor cycles and bicycles), control of which has been acquired by the Fiat Company; and the establishment by the French Didier firm of their own German company, Alag A.G., in Berlin, should also be noted. There will soon be an opportunity to test the extent of power which these financial transactions have brought to the foreign interests concerned. The German motor manufacturers are vigorously pressing the Government for an increase in the import duties, or, as an alternative, for the introduction of a quota system for imported cars, which would subject a considerable part of the present motor-car imports to almost prohibitive duties. It should be remembered that General Motors, besides producing four-cylinder Opels in Germany, imports a very large number of its six-cylinder Chevrolets.

It was shortly after the largest German motor manufacturing concern had come into American hands that the greatest electro-technical firm opened its doors to the Americans. Thirty per cent. of the ordinary shares of the A.E.G. were given to the American G.E.C. in connection with a comprehensive agreement on financial and commercial co-operation in the international field. The A.E.G. had reason to fear that, in view of the existing monetary conditions in Germany, a considerable emigration of their shares could not be prevented; the precedent of the English G.E.C. was significant; and the company took the resolute step of forestalling such a development by offering a large block of shares to the Americans at a time when they could still get some advantage in exchange. By agreement it was made impossible for the foreign shareholders ever to acquire a majority of the voting shares. But nothing prevents the G.E.C. from extending their holdings from 30 to 49 per cent., and it is quite possible that they have already gone some way in this direction. Even with a holding of 30 per cent., the G.E.C. became the largest individual shareholders in the A.E.G., and the five seats accorded to them on a board of 37 directors do not by any means indicate the full extent of their influence. Moreover, the position of the A.E.G. as one of the most representative concerns of German industry, renders this American incursion of outstanding importance.

About the same time, the G.E.C. also acquired by agreement 16 per cent. of the shares of the Osram G.m.b.H., the well-known lamp manufacturing company originally founded jointly by the A.E.G. and Siemens; and the latest addition to American participation in the German electro-technical industry—the taking over of a large part of the recent Siemens and Halske debenture issue—has already been mentioned. In this case, although the debentures are of a type almost identical with shares, except that they carry no voting power, there is no question of the G.E.C. acquiring seats on the board or a direct influence over the policy of the company; but their holdings will be so considerable that in some important directions Siemens will hardly be in a position to disregard the wishes of the American company. In the low-tension branch of the industry the two leading firms, Schuchhardt and Mix und Genest, recently came under the control of the Standard Electric Corporation, a member of the Western Electric group, which has thus been able to organise a sufficiently strong competition to the Siemens concern. Finally, as regards allied industries, mention should be made of the share participation in various German companies acquired by the Aeonic Radio Company of London, the British Baird Television Company, and the British Kolster-Brandes Company.

Turning from electricity to other industries, a remarkably complete success was achieved last year by Swedish interests in acquiring control over more than three-quarters of the roller-bearing industry in Germany. The A.B. Svenska Kullagerfabrieken of Gothenburg (S.K.F.) had already established their own manufacturing branches in Berlin and Stuttgart. In 1928 their share in the total German output was almost 30 per cent.; but the German industry was working at a loss, largely on account of its lack of sales organisation. When the Swedish firm last summer notified its intention of ending the international price convention, some of the largest German firms considered their chances of further competition hopeless, and sold their works to the S.K.F., which is at present busy reorganising the group of firms which it has purchased. Apart from a number of small firms, who will scarcely be able to hold out much longer, there are only two important concerns left independent.

In other groups of manufactures, the acquisition last year by the Imperial Chemical combine of 25 per cent. of the shares of Hirsch, Kupfer and Messingwerke A.G. was an important event. Hirsch is an outstanding concern in the production and sale of non-ferrous metals. As in the

cases referred to above, the urgent need of fresh capital supply was the prime motive behind the offer of the German share to the British group. In the German paper-manufacturing industry British holdings also represent an important factor. The Combined Pulp and Paper Mills, Ltd., have bought share majorities in a number of German concerns said to have a joint annual producing capacity of 150,000 tons, the group thus being the fourth largest paper-producer in Germany. In the artificial silk industry, international interchange of shares has become so general that the holdings of German shares by foreign firms usually represent the counterpart of German holdings abroad. Other textiles, however, have partly come under foreign influence, as, for instance, the important velvet manufacturers of Linden, in which Americans hold 25 per cent. of the shares, while British capital is invested in several important textile firms in Frankfort and in Saxony. Another trade in which foreign interests are prominent is confectionery. The Sarotti A.G. has sold a share majority to the Swiss Nestlé Company, and the Goldina A.G. is chiefly owned by a Czeck group. British and Dutch concerns have important holdings in other German firms in the provisions industry, while a number of large hotel companies are partly owned by American and Swiss interests. The glass industry may also be cited as having been subjected to a considerable extent to British, French and Belgian influence, partly through the purchase of shares in existing German firms, partly through the establishment of new enterprises. Finally, the insurance business has absorbed a large amount of capital from abroad, so that foreign influence, though its precise extent is difficult to estimate, may be safely said to be very considerable over a wide range of Germany's economic activities.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON OUTLOOK.

(BY OUR MANCHESTER CORRESPONDENT.)

COTTON spinners and manufacturers in Lancashire have not made any progress towards better times since the beginning of the year; indeed, the depression has deepened and is reflected in increased unemployment among the operatives and in the decline of exports compared with the same period of last year. Although curtailment of production in spinning and weaving is on a large scale, the supplies on the market are more than sufficient to meet the needs of customers, and owing to the intensity of competition for orders most of the prices now ruling show a definite loss. The leaders of the industry continue to put forward various proposals, but the action so far taken has not had the desired result of lifting the trade out of its grave difficulties.

The past three months have not brought any marked change on balance in the prices for raw cotton, but during the period fairly wide fluctuations have taken place. On January 2nd the quotation for Middling American on the spot in Liverpool was 9.46d. During the last week of January there was a rather sharp decline, bringing the quotation to 8.85d., and there was a further fall by February 8th to 8.37d. After a recovery to 8.78d. on February 15th, there was another decline, and on March 11th the price was 7.88d. This was followed by a recovery to 8.70d. on March 22nd, but the price again sagged; on March 31st the quotation was 8.57d.; and on April 22nd 8.53d. Recently prices have been dominated by the policy of the Federal Farm Board and the work of the co-operative associations in the United States. The support given to May and July futures in New York has created an abnormal situation, and owing to the uncertain outlook traders and speculators have been inclined to act with caution. The parity between New York and Liverpool is now exceedingly narrow, and this will have to be adjusted before trading on ordinary lines can take place. The outlook for the new crop is fairly favourable. It is not anticipated that the decrease in the acreage will be more than 5 per cent., but the deciding factor with regard to output will depend upon the weather in the belt later on.

With regard to Egyptian cotton, the quotation for Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis on the spot in Liverpool on January 2nd was 14.15d. February brought rather lower values, the quotation at the close of that month being 13.55d. There was a recovery towards the end of March, the figure on the 31st being 14.25d., and the quotation on April 22nd was 14.15d. The situation with regard to Egyptian cotton has been complicated by the Egyptian Government's buying policy. The authorities are now responsible for very big supplies, and amongst traders there is some nervousness as to what will be the end of this action.

The past quarter has been an unsatisfactory period for manufacturers of piece-goods. The following table of exports shows very clearly the trend of events:—

EXPORTS FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31ST.

	Linear yards.	£
1913.....	1,773,424,100	24,040,540
1928.....	1,072,050,200	29,266,463
1929.....	1,065,280,300	27,917,484
1930.....	907,097,200	22,507,208

It is evident from the above figures that Lancashire is still losing foreign trade. An event of importance has been the increase in the Indian duties. When it was first announced that British goods were to receive a preference of 5 per cent., some satisfaction was expressed; but the adoption of the amendment which provides for a duty of 3½ annas per lb. on plain grey goods is a serious blow for Lancashire's trade in standard cloths. Another unfortunate development has been the increasing political unrest in India, which has had a bad effect upon trade demand. Notwithstanding these adverse factors a revival of buying, especially for Calcutta, has taken place in light bleaching cloths and "fancies," and some substantial contracts have been arranged carrying delivery up to the end of August; but a disappointing feature is that demand has not spread to medium or heavy cloths, while the decision of dealers in several centres to boycott foreign goods must have a vital effect upon fresh buying during the next few months.

The outlook with regard to China has not changed for the better, and owing to poor sales at the auctions in Shanghai very little new business has been done. There is little hope of favourable developments in that part of the world until the political situation improves and there is greater stability in the price of silver. Nor have shippers to the several minor outlets East and West been in the mood to operate with any freedom. Our customers in Egypt appear to be well supplied, and buying has been confined to small lots. Although the financial position in Brazil remains unsatisfactory a fair amount of business has been done in printing and finishing styles for the countries of Central and South America, but European demand has been restricted. Clearances at home have been fairly encouraging, and, on the whole, the home trade has been better than export. Unemployment in Lancashire weaving towns continues on a big scale, and production is curtailed by fully 25 per cent.

Conditions in the yarn market have also continued to be very unsatisfactory. At the beginning of March there was a revival of inquiry, and, owing to the very low prices ruling, buyers were inclined to place orders more freely. The activity was maintained, however, for only about three weeks, and the demand has now fallen off. It has been practically impossible to improve prices and, in some counts and qualities, margins have been cut further, as sellers could not secure adequate advances to meet the cost of raw material. An attempt is now being made to control production and prices in the Egyptian yarn section. It is understood that the scheme will be proceeded with if support can be obtained from 90 per cent. of the employers. The following table illustrates the decline in our export trade in yarn:—

EXPORTS FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31ST.

	Lb.	£
1913	53,067,000	3,725,282
1928	44,889,300	5,974,900
1929	44,166,600	3,979,070
1930	38,106,500	4,241,679

In view of what has happened during the last three months it is difficult to be optimistic with regard to the future. It is not much consolation for Lancashire to know that the depression in the cotton trade is now world-wide and that even Japan is passing through a very bad time. It remains to be seen how soon the big restriction of output of cotton goods will create a shortage. Some authorities believe that by the autumn of this year the position in Lancashire will be much better. Developments are to some extent dependent upon the course of prices, and it is suggested that signs of any rise in raw material costs would quickly elicit substantial orders from dealers and merchants. Meanwhile, the elimination of inefficient machinery and firms in Lancashire is now going on at a rapid pace. This process is causing suffering, but it is recognised that staffs will have to be reduced if production costs are to be cut down and the price of goods lowered to a competitive basis.

BROADCASTING: BRITISH AND FOREIGN SYSTEMS.—I.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE latest accounts offered by the British Broadcasting Corporation to the public, with the necessary commentary and explanation, are those, for 1928, given in the current "B.B.C. Year-book." There has been, however, no remarkable change in the allocation of income since that date, and it is safe to base any general considerations upon the figures there given. The revenue account gives the B.B.C. an income of just over a million pounds (£1,002,506). Of this, by far the greatest portion is derived from licences—£871,764. Sundries came to just over £10,000, and revenue from publications to £120,000. The chief figures of interest upon the expenditure side are:—Expenditure on programmes, £538,991; maintenance of plant, etc., £160,456; rent, rates, upkeep of premises, etc., £78,000; and salaries, £56,212. In the revenue appropriation account there is the significant first sum of £100,000 set aside for capital expenditure on regional stations. This famous regional scheme, connected in the public mind with the name of Captain P. P. Eckersley, has during the last month been brought into full operation in London and the Midlands; and the changes it has forced upon the sets of innumerable listeners have excited wide and sometimes unjust comment upon the policy of the B.B.C.

The licence fees, which constitute the great mass of the B.B.C.'s income, are collected by the Government and handed over to the corporation; but the ten shillings extracted from the listener are not paid integrally to the B.B.C. At first 75 per cent. of this sum was paid over, but this percentage declines slightly as the number of licences issued increases. In March, 1929, the amount given to the B.B.C. was 7s. 1d. per licence, the licences then issued totalling just under three million. Shortly before then, at at least one big meeting held under B.B.C. auspices, public attack was made upon this principle of the declining percentage. The action of the corporation, which is a semi-public body, in thus countenancing attacks upon the arrangement by which it drew its funds and received its monopoly, was severely criticised. The principle was not abandoned, and it is not now generally expected that the B.B.C. demand for a fixed and undiminishing percentage of the licence money is likely to be conceded. The B.B.C.'s total income, however, is going up, as the number of listeners shows a steady increase.

There is room, however, for some doubts about the permanence of this source of revenue. Portable wireless sets are now almost undetectable. Clothes-pole aerials are no longer necessary, and the House of Commons has declined to grant the drastic powers of search which, it is claimed, are necessary to enforce the payment of licences. If a listener has once paid for a licence, then the Post Office will indeed "chase" him each year, and some hard lying may be necessary if he wishes to economise by evading the law. But if he has never taken out a licence, it is almost impossible to catch the owner of a set with an indoor aerial. A year or more ago the daily Press printed highly coloured tales of a "wireless-pirate-detector van" which toured the streets of a Scottish town, making a buzzing noise and sending hundreds in guilty haste to the nearest post office. But there is no known device that can detect a set which the owner is acute enough to switch off when the detector is about. It is quite possible, therefore, that non-payment of licences may become so prevalent as to cause the present financial arrangements of the B.B.C. to require drastic revision.

The corporation is a self-governing body operating under a royal charter and a licence. This licence, issued by the Postmaster-General (who is required by Parliament to watch that the B.B.C. does not exceed the limits of its licence and charter) can be withdrawn, but the P.M.G. does not otherwise interfere in the activities of the B.B.C. He has, as it were, the power of life and death, but no other power. Thus, in effect, the B.B.C. is autonomous. It has a chairman, vice-chairman, three other governors, and an almost all-powerful director-general, so that its constitution is of a kind which frequently recurs in British history, not always with satisfactory results—that of the chartered company. It differs, however, from the British South Africa Company and similar bodies, not only in its function, but in the fact that its income is, as to more than three-quarters, compulsorily extracted from members of the public by the Government. It is, therefore, wholly legitimate to inquire how far the public receives an adequate return for its money.

It is very difficult to compare the finances of the B.B.C., and the service it offers the public, with the financial arrangements of any other great national broadcasting system. The B.B.C. operates in a manner peculiar to Great Britain. The nearest parallel to this system is perhaps to be found in the nationalised wireless stations of Soviet Russia, but for these there are no satisfactory figures available for comparison, and the Russian problem of vast distances and sparse population is in any case not comparable with our own. Nearly all the national systems with problems resembling ours are financed by a system of leasing the time of the various stations to commercial enterprises, as in France and the United States. In certain cases (for example, the WEVD station in New York, or Huizen and Hilversum in Holland) it is political or religious bodies who either maintain or otherwise secure claims upon a station. In any event, in these cases the exploitation of the ether has not been regulated from the beginning, but has been left to unrestricted private enterprise up to the time when chaos resulted or threatened to result. On the Continent regulation was imposed largely as a result of the international agreement at Prague; in the United States it was enforced by Federal authority, in certain cases fairly ruthlessly. The wealthier, and, therefore, better-equipped stations, naturally tended to be preferred, and the lesser stations were forced on occasion to share one wave-length between two. For example, the Socialist station WEVD already mentioned was vexed at being compelled to share its time with a station devoted to a rather vehement form of Protestant propaganda.

Ostensibly, the New York listener (if we take America for our comparison) receives his wireless programmes for nothing, while the London listener pays ten shillings per annum. But it is, of course, immediately clear that as a financial statement such a description is wholly misleading. When the British listener has paid his ten shillings he has, as the figures given above show, pretty well seen the end of the matter. No further contributions of any importance are required from the public. And the citizen who dislikes the wireless programmes can refrain from taking out a licence. But the sums which are paid by the great American trading corporations for the right to broadcast their "hours" from the big New York stations are not produced from the private purses of the directors; they are included in the overhead charges of those enterprises, and thus "passed on" to the public—listeners or not—in the usual way. Nor is there any obvious method of estimating how high this expenditure is. The rates charged by the various stations (which vary, of course, not only from station to station, but from hour to hour) are usually only ascertainable by inquiry for

business purposes, and the corporations which spend money in this form of advertising do not commonly itemise this expenditure in their published accounts. That the total real cost of New York wireless, falling on the listener and the unheeding alike, is greater than that of London is a probable assumption.

Notes of the Week.

The Unrest in India.—Mr Gandhi's futile attempt to conduct a campaign of civil disobedience without violence has produced the inevitable consequence of further outbreaks of disorder, which culminated last week in an organised attack on the police arsenal at Chittagong, near Calcutta. Several lives were lost, including those of two Europeans, buildings were gutted, rifles were carried off, and the insurgents escaped into the hills. Prompt action has been taken to deal with the situation; a force of police is endeavouring to round up the law breakers; the Government at Delhi promptly renewed by ordinance the expiring provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, which gives the provincial government the right of arrest and detention without trial; and in Calcutta itself Europeans have been enrolled in a force of special constabulary. Mr Gandhi, while deploring the Bengal and other disturbances, is apparently more concerned to upbraid the Government for its " lawlessness " in arming itself with special powers. His attitude, indeed, and that of Pundit Motilal Nehru, by excusing acts of violence and attributing them to the high-handed action of the long-suffering police, is almost to be described as " praising with faint blame." Salt-making demonstrations continue in spite of arrests and imprisonment of the leaders. Incidents in connection with the breaking up of these demonstrations are magnified in the local Press, and it would seem that in the Bombay Presidency Mr Gandhi's campaign, in spite of the failure of his rash promises that victory would be achieved in a few days, has succeeded in creating a restless state of public opinion, which will make it more difficult for the local Moderates to secure support for the policy of co-operating in the round-table conference. Violent disturbances have occurred in Peshawar, and even in Madras, where the attempt to observe a *hartal* was defeated by the local shopkeepers, who appealed for police protection, the demonstrators were only dispersed by the charging of the crowd and the arrest of a number of the ring-leaders after they had attempted to stone the police. Thus, even in the least disaffected of provinces, the line between civil disobedience and violence is inevitably becoming blurred, and the action of the Viceroy in renewing the exceptional powers of the Government of Bengal is timely warning to the whole of India that he is prepared to check lawlessness with a firm hand.

The Anglo-Russian Trade Agreement.—On Wednesday, April 16th, a provisional trade agreement was signed in London—by Mr Henderson for the United Kingdom and by Mr Sokolnikov for the U.S.S.R.—as a *modus vivendi* pending the conclusion of a full treaty of commerce and navigation. The agreement is based on the principle of most-favoured-nation treatment, except that the U.S.S.R. reserves the right to give more favourable treatment to States whose entire territory formed an integral part of the Russian Empire in August, 1914, to Continental border States in Asia, and to any third country that may form part of one customs union with the U.S.S.R. There is to be a Russian trade delegation in London again, and the Soviet trade representative and his two delegates are to be reckoned as part of the staff of the Soviet Embassy and to enjoy all diplomatic privileges and immunities. Immunity is also to attach to the offices of the trade delegation on the understanding that this immunity is to be used exclusively for commercial functions. An additional protocol provides that diplomatic privileges and immunities enjoyed by the trade delegation shall not be claimed in connection with any proceedings before the British courts arising out of commercial transactions entered into by the trade delegation. Another protocol safeguards the U.S.S.R. against being excluded, on political grounds, from enjoying, in its trade with Great Britain, the benefits of the Trade Facilities Act and other legislative or administrative measures of the same kind. We welcome the agreement, which ought to repair the damage to British trade which was done when diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. were broken off in 1927 after " the Arcos raid." The inevitable scare that the door will now be opened again to Russian Communist propaganda may be dismissed by the answer—based on a dozen years' experience—that the state of the official relations between the two Governments, while it does have a direct effect on trade, has little effect on propaganda, either for good or for evil. The stumbling-block in the path of Russian Communist propaganda in Great Britain never has been the non-existence of diplomatic relations between the two Governments. It always has been, and is, the non-existence of a militant revolutionary temper in the minds of the overwhelming majority of the British people. As for the economic benefits which we may expect from the new agreement, much, of course, depends upon the outcome of " the Five Years' Plan " of economic reconstruction upon which the U.S.S.R. is now engaged. The execution of the plan is not yet far enough advanced for any prophecy to be made about it with confidence; but one thing can be said here and now in the light of the past. The economic development which took place in Russia during the two centuries preceding the war was just as much a factor in the contemporary economic development of Western Europe as was the opening up of North and South America; and it is, therefore, unlikely that Europe will recover her pre-war economic position unless and until Russia becomes a " going concern " again. Let us assist her efforts in this direction in every way possible. The new trade agreement is an excellent first step.

The B.I.S. Starts.—The board of directors of the B.I.S. met for the first time in Basle, on Tuesday last, and received a welcome from the Swiss Government and from the Canton of Basle. The board's first business was to receive from Sir Charles Addis, as vice-chairman of the organisation committee, a report of the action taken since the Hague Conference by him and by the small sub-committee which was then appointed to secure the passing of the bank's charter, to arrange for the subscription of the necessary capital, to obtain premises, and to take other necessary steps for the setting up of the bank. The board then elected Mr Gates McGarrah president of the bank, and proceeded to discuss the election of a director-general. Dr. Luther, on behalf of Germany, protested against the appointment of M. Pierre Quesnay on the ground that, in view of France's special interest in reparations, a Frenchman ought not to hold this important post unless there was room for a German on the staff in a situation of equivalent status. This objection, however (subsequently met to a large extent by the appointment of Dr. Hülse, a director of the Reichsbank, as head of the banking department and deputy director-general), was not supported by the other members of the board, and M. Quesnay was duly elected. The appointment is one which will certainly be approved in banking circles in London and New York, where M. Quesnay is well known to those concerned with international finance. Associated with the Austrian reconstruction scheme in its early years and later as a member of the secretariat of the League, he has first-hand knowledge of the financial work at Geneva. Since he joined the staff of the Bank of France, he has been in close personal touch with M. Moreau, and was intimately connected with all the discussions of the Young Committee which led to the creation of the bank. It is, indeed, doubtful if there is anyone who has a greater knowledge than M. Quesnay of the later phases of the reparations problem in all its aspects. This knowledge, combined with practical experience of central banking problems, with energy, with imagination, and, above all, with a truly international outlook, gives him a very exceptional equipment for the responsible task he has now undertaken. Any who fear that M. Quesnay's enthusiasm might lead him to run too far ahead of world opinion may reassure themselves with the reflection that the new director-general will have to carry with him a very conservatively-minded board, whose policy will be in the safe keeping of Mr McGarrah. Our best wishes to the new team and to the institution whose infancy has been entrusted to their care.

The Washington Convention.—Prominent among the imposing list of pledges to which the Labour Party committed itself in *Labour and the Nation* was a promise to ratify the Washington Convention establishing a 48-hour week in industry. After considerable delay—occasioned, apparently, by the need to satisfy certain trade unions that their members' earnings would not be prejudiced by the enactment of a statutory 8-hour day and 48-hour week—the Hours of Industrial Employment Bill, to implement this pledge, has now been introduced. The explanatory memorandum prefacing the measure states that it " is based upon the Washington Hours Convention of 1919," but the Bill is so complicated and contains provisions for so many exceptions that it seems questionable whether its terms will be regarded in all countries as being within the four corners of the Convention. Ordinary working hours in industrial undertakings (excluding persons employed underground in coal mines, in agriculture, or at sea, home workers, clerical workers, and persons engaged in supervisory capacities) are limited to eight in any day and forty-eight in any week; but extensions of these limits are allowed as follows:—Workers who are employed for less than eight hours on any day of the week—*e.g.*, Saturday—may be employed up to nine hours on all or any of the other days, subject to the weekly maximum. Where workers are employed in shifts, the daily statutory limit may be exceeded if the number of working hours does not exceed ninety-six in a fortnight or one hundred and forty-four in three weeks. Finally, in the case of workers employed upon continuous process, both the daily and weekly statutory limits may be exceeded provided that working hours do not exceed one hundred and sixty-eight in three weeks. Considerable elasticity is thus provided, and, inasmuch as in 90 per cent. of British industry the 8-hour day obtains as a result of collective agreements, the Bill, at first sight, gives the impression of being unlikely to prove onerous to industrial employers. Moreover, a curiously wide latitude is given in Clause 3, which empowers the Minister of Labour, if satisfied that the statutory limits cannot appropriately be applied in any case, to decide by Order that the statutory limits may be replaced by such other limits as may be agreed by the organisations of employers and workers in the industry, always provided that the working hours permitted by such an Order " shall not exceed a weekly average of forty-eight, the average being taken over such period as may be specified " in the Order. The precise implications of this fresh instance of the delegation of powers to a Department clearly requires elucidation in debate. Presumably the terms of the Bill satisfy the Trades Union Congress, but one is inclined to speculate what would have been the attitude of the Labour Party if a measure drawn in this form had been introduced by the late Government.

Co-operators and Rationalisation.—There is food for thought in the proceedings of the Easter conference of the Co-operative Party, at Buxton, and particularly in the attack which was delivered by one of the principal speakers on the idea of the rationalisation of British industry. It would be appropriate enough if co-operators, whose movement was founded for the protection of the consumer, should voice fears of exploitation under any threatened monopoly, and it is good that such voices should be raised. But, as far as can be judged from meagre reports, Mr Davies's speech and the resolution passed by the conference took a different and a rather puzzling line. In them there seemed to be, unless we are mistaken, a disposition to regard co-operation as the alternative to rationalisation. The former system may achieve large-scale production of certain products and economical purchasing on a wholesale scale, but it is not in itself an assurance of economical production. Many, perhaps most, of the C.W.S. factories may be economically worked—incidentally, on the lines followed by private enterprise—but we do not remember hearing many claims on behalf of the C.W.S. that it has succeeded in achieving much towards improved methods of production. We are left wondering by what arguments co-operators could sustain the thesis that the extension of their system of production could in any way perform for British industry the services in the direction of increased efficiency which rationalisation is designed to produce.

Wei-Hai-Wei.—The signature last Friday in Nanking of the agreement for the retrocession of Wei-Hai-Wei to China is, in one sense, an indirect reflection of the altered attitude on the part of the Great Powers which made possible the signature of the London Naval Treaty. The cessation of naval rivalry in Far Eastern waters has robbed of their original *raison d'être* as bases the ports for which the Powers competed so vigorously thirty years ago when the Chinese Empire lay a-dying. Kiaochow has already been reincorporated in China; Port Arthur, though still a possession of Japan, is of significance as a health resort rather than as a naval base; and the same applies to Wei-Hai-Wei, which Great Britain has now retroceded. Its voluntary return to China is an earnest of British desire that that country should be united and strong enough to develop its civilisation in the enjoyment of peace both within and without her borders. The hope that internal order can be quickly restored in China will be felt by none more keenly than by the Chinese population of Wei-Hai-Wei, now handed over to the uncertain chances of government in a land still torn by civil dissension.

The Colonial Development Committee.—The first interim report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee (Cmd. 3540) is in many ways an interesting document. The Committee, whose chairman is Sir Basil Blackett, was appointed under the Colonial Development Act, 1929. This Act, which applies mainly to the non-self-governing colonies, and provides annual grants, not exceeding £1,000,000, for colonial development, is framed on generous lines, and a wide range of activities can be promoted under it. In September, 1929, the Advisory Committee also took over the functions of the East African Guaranteed Loan Committee. The Colonial Office has taken vigorous steps to bring the importance of the assistance thus offered to the attention of colonial administrations. On the whole, a considerable success has been achieved. During the period of seven months covered by the interim report over sixty applications from about 25 separate colonial administrations have been considered by the Committee, and forty-one schemes in thirteen widely separated areas have been approved for grants out of the Colonial Development Fund. The estimated total cost of these schemes is £5,629,494; of this total, the estimated amount to be expended in the United Kingdom is £2,228,187; the direct cost to the Treasury should amount to, roughly, £781,633, spread over a period of five years (£172,888 being free capital grants and £608,745 being free grants of interest), while direct loans amount to a further £587,850. In addition, recommendations up to £2 millions' worth of schemes have been deferred. Additional allocations totalling £1,641,866 have also been made by the Committee out of the East African Guaranteed Loan. The most important schemes are those for the Zambesi bridge and connected services in Nyasaland

(total cost £3,062,354; expenditure in the United Kingdom £1,146,690), and the development of iron ore deposits at Marampa, Sierra Leone, including the construction of fifty-five miles of railway to deep-water and port facilities (total cost £1,000,000; expenditure in the United Kingdom £395,000). Other schemes include aerial, road, triangulation and vegetation surveys; railway developments and improvements in Tanganyika and Uganda (*not yet approved*); road construction in Swaziland, the Seychelles, British Guiana, Antigua and St. Lucia; water supply; improved drainage and sanitary works; research into native dietary problems, and so on. The Committee has undertaken its work in a big and imaginative way, and " in framing its recommendations . . . it has envisaged a long-range policy of colonial development." While " it is not part of the functions of the Committee to put forward development projects on its own initiative," and while its activities depend on the extent and speed with which colonial governments seize the opportunities offered to them, the Committee is considering sending selected emissaries with special engineering, agricultural, scientific or other qualifications to particular colonies in order to assist the local governments in reviewing the potentialities for development. In the dispatch notifying colonial governments of the Colonial Development Act, Lord Passfield describes it as " a very important advance on previous measures." The present report amply justifies this description.

Iron and Steel Production in March.—Iron and steel production in March was surprisingly well maintained. The output of pig iron amounted to 665,800 tons, compared with 607,000 tons in February, and steel production to 826,100 tons, compared with 776,400 tons in the previous month. In the case of pig iron the increase was, roughly, proportional to the longer month, but in the case of steel the increase was not quite commensurate. Although the production figures do not yet reflect a falling off in the volume of business, the number of furnaces in operation at the end of the month, both on pig iron and steel, were less than at the end of February. In the case of pig iron the number of furnaces in blast fell from 162 to 157, so that production in April is likely to be less than in March, while in the case of steel the drop will be more marked on account of the Easter holidays. The following table shows the production, imports and exports of iron and steel in each of the first three months of 1930 compared with the corresponding months of 1929:—

	Production.		Imports.	Exports.
	Pig Iron.	Steel.		
1929:—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
January	563,900	764,600	244,300	421,200
February	519,600	774,900	160,000	380,100
March	590,500	859,900	182,100	350,100
	1,674,000	2,399,400	586,400	1,151,400
1930:—				
January	650,000	771,100	310,300	351,800
February	607,000	776,400	259,400	294,300
March	665,800	826,100	280,300	337,700
	1,922,800	2,373,600	850,000	983,800

In the first quarter of 1929 production was on a rising curve, whereas production is now declining. Imports of iron and steel in the first quarter have been substantially higher than in the first quarter of 1930, partly because exports from the Continent in February and March of last year were interfered with by the severe weather conditions. Exports of iron and steel have fallen from 1,151,400 tons in the first quarter of 1929 to 983,800 tons in the past three months.

Coal Mining Hours and Wages.—While the Parliamentary omens point to a relatively easy passage for Mr Snowden's Budget, the Government have still to pilot the Coal Mines Bill through the troubled waters of the Upper House, and even if that questionable measure reaches the Statute Book in its present form, it remains to be seen whether a settlement of the wages payable in districts where the working day is shortened can be reached without an industrial conflict. The chances of such a struggle being avoided have been seriously lessened by the decision of the Executive of the Miners' Federation to have nothing to do with the Mining Association's proposal that the industry should unitedly ask the Government to insert in the Bill a proviso enabling any district, upon agreement between the owners and the miners, to vary the rigid 7½-hour day by fixing a weekly maximum of 45 hours, or a 90 hours fortnightly maximum. Under this arrangement for a permissive " spread-over " of working time it would be possible for mines either to retain an 8-hour shift on five days a week, working a 5-hour shift on Saturday, or to work 8-hour shifts on eleven days a fortnight, so that the miners would have every alternate Saturday as a complete holiday. The economic advantages, from the point of view of production costs, in retaining 8 hours, so far as possible, as a full day's shift are obviously considerable; and since the Bill merely specifies 7½ hours as the maximum working period (plus one winding-time) in 24 hours, it might be asked why the miners have rejected a 45-hour week in favour of a Statute whose application to six weekdays would produce the same result. The answer is that, in most districts which now have an 8-hour shift, hours on Saturdays are shortened by amounts ranging from one to two and three-quarter hours, while in Northumberland only 11 days per fortnight are at present worked. The calculation of the miners, therefore, appears to be that the 7½-hour day, when imposed on the present 8-hour districts, will mean, given the continuance of existing Saturday practice, a working week ranging from 42½ to 44½ hours. Hence the refusal to consider a 45-hour week. But unfortunately there is no guarantee that, if and when the Bill becomes law, the mineowners will consent to continue the " short Saturday "; nor will they now be readily disposed to increase piece-workers' rates for tonnage by the amount necessary to compensate for the shortened daily working time. The miners in the 8-hour districts have still to face the reckoning in wages of the cost of gaining a half-hour's curtailment of the shift; and though it is understandable that they should dislike the idea of a proviso in the Bill giving the owners power to " spread " hours within the limits of a 45-hour week, subject only to " agreement " with the miners, who might in some districts be powerless to refuse, there seems no valid reason why the " spread-over " system should not be sanctioned by the Bill, provided that its operation in any district were made conditional on a ballot vote of the miners showing a majority in its favour. In declining to bargain with the owners for the best wage terms obtainable for this concession the M.F.G.B. Executive have once again demonstrated their signal shortcomings as industrial negotiators.

Laid-up Shipping.—The latest quarterly return of idle tonnage issued by the Chamber of Shipping is an eloquent reflection of the depression which, as the *Economist's* monthly index number of freights has shown, has characterised the cargo freight market during the past winter. At the beginning of this month 416 vessels, representing an aggregate of 892,154 net tons, lay idle in the principal ports of Great Britain and Ireland, an increase of 539,495 net tons during the quarter. Comparative figures for earlier years are given below:—

Shipping Laid-up in U.K. Ports.

	Net Tons.		Net Tons.
April 1, 1922	836,619	April 1, 1927	239,681
„ 1923	546,555	„ 1928	363,355
„ 1924	410,356	„ 1929	236,242
„ 1925	393,062	Jan. 1, 1930	352,659
„ 1926	359,848	April 1, 1930	892,154

Apart from the exceptional situation which existed at the end of June, 1926, when 859,739 net tons were idle as a result of the coal stoppage, the present total has not been nearly approached since 1922. During the past fortnight there have been signs of slightly better demand for grain tonnage, but the unemployed surplus is so great that recovery of freights is likely to be a slow process.

Manchester and Tariffs.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—At a recent meeting of the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce the fiscal issue was considered. The board had before them various representations from individual members and different sections of the chamber with regard to the question of changing British fiscal policy by imposing a tariff on imported manufactured goods. The point was raised that the Europe section of the chamber lately adopted a resolution which was published and resulted in criticism at the annual meeting of members. The board, therefore, decided that it was not desirable to pass and publish views of groups or sections or even of the directors themselves on a controversial question on which members of the chamber might be strongly divided. It was accordingly agreed shortly to submit the question by referendum to the whole of the members of the chamber. It is recognised that the framing of the question is a matter of difficulty, and, in order to give the board the opportunity to consider any suggestions from sections or individual members, the actual wording will not be decided for another month. In local trade circles there has been much interest in this decision of the board to ascertain the view of the rank and file. It is recognised that on fiscal policy it will not be an easy matter to draw up the necessary questions for a referendum, and in any case the result may not be very satisfactory or convincing.

Depression in Swiss Watchmaking.—Our Geneva correspondent writes:—The unsatisfactory economic situation throughout the world is reflected in the depressed state of trade and industry in Switzerland. The crisis is deeply felt in watchmaking, which is the chief exporting industry, and sells abroad 95 per cent. of its production. The monthly average of exports was £1,023,333 last year, but it only reached £550,000 for the first two months of 1930, and the number of unemployed is now over 3,500, out of a total of 48,000 hands employed in the industry. Losses suffered in consequence of the Wall Street slump last year caused several factories to give notice to their employees; and three La Chaux de Fonds factories, occupying altogether 600 workers, were compelled to close down as a result of the failure of the Tenshodo firm in Japan. Many manufacturers are working five days a week, some only four days, and, though there has been a slight improvement in February, prospects in the industry are by no means encouraging. The depression is not seasonal, and is far more important and widespread than was at first supposed. Some economic experts declare that in the watchmaking industry there is a crisis every ten years, and that it takes place after a boom year. It is true that the previous big crisis was recorded in 1920-21, but this is no sufficient proof in favour of the regular recurrence of depressions. The present crisis may be ascribed to various causes: firstly, to the continuous raising of Customs duties in countries which used to buy Swiss watches; in the second place, to the reduced purchasing power of countries such as Germany, Italy, Austria; and, thirdly, to the slackness of the Far Eastern and South American markets. So far, the only country to which watch exports have not dwindled is France. The depression is mainly felt in cheap watch manufacturing, while there is a demand for expensive and decorated watches, so that unemployment is practically non-existent in the factories where high-grade watches and chronometers are produced. Meanwhile, the industry is pursuing its reorganisation. In many places two or three small factories have combined; three big manufacturers have formed a holding company, whose seat is in Geneva; and joint measures have been taken, on the one hand to foster export, and on the other hand to limit the export of rough watch movements and spare parts, which made possible the manufacture in foreign countries of so-called " Swiss watches."

London Assurance.—The London Assurance shares stand at £10, and at the current rate of dividend of 45 per cent., which has been maintained unaltered since 1925, the yield is relatively high at 5⅝ per cent. gross. The reason for this is due to a combination of an almost stationary, and in some departments, a declining premium income, and recent unfavourable results of the marine account, the premiums in which represent an unusually large proportion, namely, 33 per cent. of the total. The 1929 report is prepared in a different form to that of its predecessors in that the revenue accounts now exclude the figures of two subsidiary companies—the British Law Insurance Company and the Manhattan Fire and Marine Insurance Company. A direct comparison with previous years is, therefore, not possible, but it is clear that there has been a further falling off in fire premium income; and the underwriting results are exceptionally poor in all departments except employers' liability, where the size of the account is comparatively unimportant. The detailed results of the past two years are shown below:—

	1928.		1929.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Premiums.	Amount.	Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	63,995	3·7	17,886	1·3
Accident.....	729	4·3	— 1,110	— 7·6
Employers' liability...	10,896	14·2	10,006	20·5
General accident	— 4,765	— 1·2	— 55,675	—15 4
Marine	— 43,517	— 3·8	— 45,516	— 5·0
Life	12,500		12,500	
	39,838		— 62,609	
Less items debited direct to profit and loss account	54,436		28,293	
Total net trading surplus	— 14,598		— 90,902	

The cost of the usual 45 per cent. dividend was £226,067, an amount which was covered by interest earnings with a margin of £21,671, and the total result of the year's operations has, therefore, been a reduction in surplus resources of £27,422. The life department pursues a steady and uneventful course. Last year there was an increased new business amounting to £1,978,653, compared with £1,746,180 in 1928, and the fund now amounts to £5,901,966. The next quinquennial valuation of this fund —in connection with which post-1910 " with-profits " policyholders will be entitled to 90 per cent. and pre-1911 " with-profits " policyholders to 80 per cent. of the profits —will take place at the end of this year.

Atlas Assurance Company.—Much more so than is commonly the case in the composite offices, the Atlas Life Department is expanding at a high rate, and the contribution which it now produces towards profit and loss is a steadily rising and substantial figure. Last year there were issued policies for new sums assured amounting to £3,919,560, compared with £3,482,611. Partly because of the existence of a large hidden reserve in the value of the assets, and partly because the fund includes a large amount of annuity business, virtually free of tax, the total net interest earned is as much as £5 10s. 3d. per cent. net. The expense ratio is moderate, being 13.4 per cent. In addition to the life business, sinking fund policies are issued under a separate fund for an amount which hitherto has been comparatively unimportant. In 1929 the premium income rose in one year to £2,962,481 from £146,709 in 1928. This tremendous expansion has been due entirely to the issue of a small number of large five-year term policies for single premiums, 97½ per cent. of which is borrowed at the outset for the purpose of evading surtax. It is the emergence of this particular type of policy that has caused the Chancellor to institute means for stopping in future this now substantial loss of surtax revenue. The fire, accident and marine departments have again produced excellent results, more particularly the former, where a profit ratio of 8.3 per cent. of the premium income has been earned. The marine department is a comparatively small one, the premium income being only £167,000; but, since the account was opened in 1920, no transfer either to or from profit and loss account has been made. Consequently the fund is exceedingly strong, amounting to nearly 200 per cent. of the premium income, and at the meeting last year the chairman acknowledged that it contains a substantial

hidden earned profit. The detailed results of the past two years are shown below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	221,854	9·3	194,090	8·3
Accident	31,836	7·2	19,445	4·1
Marine	...		...	
Life	19,681		21,689	
Sinking fund	2,013		...	
	275,384		235,224	
Less items debited direct to profit and loss account	100,117		92,899	
Total net trading surplus	175,267		142,325	

A portion of the year's surplus has been applied as to £55,000 transferred to reserve against uncalled capital and as to £54,000 written off the cost of businesses acquired. The dividend is maintained at the same rate as in 1928, namely, 32 per cent., free of tax, and the normal increase in interest earnings has reduced the gap between this item and the cost of dividend to £27,180. "Atlas" shares stand at £13½, and yield approximately 3 per cent., free of tax.

World Marine and General Insurance Company.—The total premium income of this company is small, amounting only to £344,000, represented by £180,000 in the fire and accident department and £164,000 in the marine department. The feature of the company's business has been the strikingly successful results achieved in the marine department throughout the general depression which has overtaken this section of the business. During the last five years, including 1929, the premium income collected on account of marine insurance has totalled £871,000, and during the same period £150,000 has been transferred from the account to profit and loss, equal to no less than 17 per cent. of the premium income. The fire and accident department was inaugurated shortly after the war, but the results so far achieved are very moderate indeed, and last year a loss of £15,000 was experienced. Combining the results in both departments, and allowing for items debited direct to profit and loss, the total net trading surplus of the year worked out to £13,102, compared with £33,334 in 1928. Interest earnings account for £44,000, and the dividend, which is maintained at 65 per cent., free of tax, cost £65,000. Consequently surplus assets were reduced as regards the year's operations by £8,000. The company is a subsidiary of the "Northern" by virtue of the ownership of the entire share capital.

National Guarantee and Suretyship Association.—This small but successful company is another member of the "Northern" group. The company's head office is situated in Edinburgh and its activities are confined to the transaction of fidelity guarantee insurance. The trading results of the past two years are as follows:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Underwriting profit	15,087	24·6	16,949	25·6
Less items debited to profit and loss account	1,248		3,762	
Total net trading surplus	13,839		13,187	

The dividend has been increased from 11¼ per cent. to 12½ per cent., and the cost from £9,000 to £10,000.

A lecture on "The Functions and Differing Legal Character of International Treaties" will be given at the London School of Economics by Dr. A. D. McNair, C.B.E., LL.D., M.A., at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, May 7, 1930. The chair will be taken by Professor H. C. Gutteridge, K.C., LL.D., M.A. The lecture is addressed to students of the university and to others interested in the subject. Admission is free and without ticket.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Industry and Trade — Mergers — Security Markets — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, April 15.

SOME further indications of improving trade are heartening the financial community, but it is not yet certain that definite recovery is under way. Cheap credit, increased savings bank deposits and the spring weather are stimulating building construction. Some seasonal increase in motor sales is reported, but it is not impressive. Meanwhile the steel industry has dropped back to 76 per cent. of capacity, after reaching 78 per cent., and railroad freight traffic is still running at the lowest rate since 1922. On the other hand, the United States Steel Corporation's unfilled orders on March 31 showed an increase of 90,000 tons on the month, against an expected decline, and mill owners are confident of better times before the year is out.

Enough statistical evidence is now available to show that the first quarter was poor compared with last year, but that it was fair, measured by more normal standards. However, the turn in the business tide and the shock of the stock market break made it difficult for many corporations to adjust themselves to less active business, with the result that earning reports for the first quarter are running below last year in most cases and are quite unsatisfactory in many. The General Electric Company was among the few to do slightly better. American Telephone and Western Union, on the other hand, report smaller gross business and lower profits, though at present their earnings are improving. General Motors is expected to turn in a rather poor earning statement in a week or two, and the Steel Corporation, which publishes its report at the end of the month, earned at a rate of about 40 per cent. of last year's level.

In contrast to the industrial and railroad results, the banks, in spite of lower interest rates, had a satisfactory first quarter. Their statements, issued in response to the Comptroller of the Currency and the State Banking Board's call for "condition" as of March 31st, show a sharp drop in deposits, but earnings were well maintained. Deposits for New York City banks dropped about 15 per cent. from the totals of the end of the year. Bank shares have done almost as well as industrial and public utility shares in the past two months, recovering much of their losses of last autumn.

A good deal of diversion is being created by contests over control of various corporations. In some cases internal strife is brought about by merger proposals, in others by dissatisfaction with management, and in still others by rivalries among banks for financial plums. Two particularly hard fought battles were settled recently, when the interests opposed to William Fox accepted a plan for his withdrawal through sale of his stock to a third party. More important was the Bethlehem-Youngstown merger. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation had submitted its merger proposals to the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company board, which approved them and called a stockholders' meeting, at which a two-third vote was necessary for ratification. Cyrus H. Eaton and associates of Cleveland, already large shareholders in Youngstown and busy building up the Republic Iron and Steel Company, attempted to block the merger. They were outvoted, after a bitter fight. With Youngstown, Bethlehem strengthens its position as the second largest steel company, but it controls only about 20 per cent. of the country's producing capacity.

Over a dozen other contests of various sorts remain to be settled. They are largely symptomatic of falling profits. These in many cases were no fault of the management, but stockholders have been spoiled by several years of mounting earnings. At least one case is significant of the growing control which the investment trusts are acquiring in American industry. A trust which has a large minority interest in the Rock Island Railway is attempting to prevent bond financing, which the road's bankers are proposing. Inasmuch as the trust in question is itself controlled by a rival banking house, the case opens up possibilities of future quarrels.

Security markets are still churning about on a large volume of transactions without making much real progress. The sentimental effect of poor earning statements is slight, but some apprehensions are being raised lest substantial dividend reductions take place. In most quarters no heavy losses in that direction are anticipated, but each week brings a few. Motor company dividends, in particular, are vulnerable, and talk is heard of some further cuts in copper company payments. Few, if any, copper companies earned their current dividends in the first three months, and few are likely to do so in the second quarter. Meanwhile, after long delay, the price of the metal has been reduced four cents a pound. Maintenance of 18 cent copper in the face of slack business and falling commodity prices presented something of an anomaly, and with a further increase of nearly 25,000 pounds in stocks of copper during March, and the corresponding addition to the burden of carrying charges which the large producers and smelters had to bear, the pressure for a cut in the hope of stimulating sales became too much for the faction seeking to maintain prices. The large producers hope that consumption at the lower price will result in better prices before long.

The credit position is little changed. Three more regional Federal Reserve Banks have cut their discount rates to 4 per cent., that rate being uniform for the system, with the exception of the New York Bank, which has a 3½ per cent. rate. No further reduction here is now expected, unless stock market activity declines considerably; but the Reserve authorities are doing nothing to promote firmer money. At the moment the combined effects of the mid-April tax payments, the Treasury disbursement of $150 million in interest on Liberty bonds, the sale of $50 million of Treasury bills, distribution of heavy corporation dividends and interest and some demand for holiday cash are giving money a slightly firmer tone. This will be over next week, when a return to ease is expected. Call rate ranges between 3½ and 4 per cent. and other sections of the market are steady.

Of the $50 million Treasury bill offer, $132,377,000 was applied for, and $51,316,000 accepted at an average of 99.267, or about 2.93 per cent. discount, the lowest rate the Treasury has yet obtained on its bill issues. New capital issues were fairly heavy last week, totalling $256 million, the largest since early in January, but the approach of the holidays cut down this week's offers. The bond market is showing some signs of indigestion, and bankers do not expect great activity until the reparation issue is out of the way.

FRANCE.

Parliament — Insurance — Budget — Tax Reductions — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 23.

THE Chambers, instead of rising before Easter for the customary recess lasting until June, are still in session. M. Tardieu has succeeded in keeping both deputies and senators steadily at work over the Easter holidays through sheer necessity to make up for the time lost through two Ministerial crises earlier in the session. The short summer session, which lasts from the first week in June till the univeral exodus into the country on the eve of the Fourteenth of July national holiday, will leave barely sufficient time to dispose of the important projects concerning the nation's petroleum supplies, the pending great colonial loans, and the vast scheme for promoting the national economic development machinery, which will complete the long programme of reforms comprised in the programme set forth in the Tardieu Cabinet's Ministerial declaration. Moreover, the national insurance plan, which has already been recast twice and postponed once, must now come into operation in July, and further adjournment of its application is impossible.

The insurance proposals, although very different from the hasty scheme rushed through both Houses immediately before the General Elections of two years ago, are still generally admitted to constitute very much of a leap in the dark. Unemployment benefits have been cut out of the scheme, but the actuarial soundness of the sickness, accident, maternity and life insurance provisions, and of the old age pension clauses, is still regarded as extremely questionable. A strong effort was made yesterday to exempt agricultural workers from the scheme, but this, although supported by representatives on both sides of the Chamber, met with no success. The confusion that exists as to the actual cost of the scheme may be gauged by the fact that, even among experts, estimates as to the increase in the cost of living that will result from its application range from 2 per cent. to between 12 and 14 per cent. The outstanding improvement which marks the re-revised plan is that its working is now to be left largely to the friendly societies, which has enabled the grandiose and costly system put forward by M. Loucheur to be brought within less ambitious limits. Industrial interests are unanimously opposed to the scheme, in view of the certainty that exists of its resulting in dangerously large increases in production costs. It seems likely, however, that the Bill will leave the door open for many of the existing insurance schemes already applied by a large proportion of the industrial organisations to remain for all practical purposes outside the Government net, so far as actuarial bases and actual management are concerned. Most of these private pension and insurance schemes have successfully stood the test of many years of operation.

The Budget for 1930-31 was finally disposed of last week, and became law forthwith. The ultimate result, as set forth officially at the end of the text of the measure, is as follows:—

Estimated revenue ...	50,465,079,318	francs.
Estimated expenditure	50,398,167,195	francs.
Estimated surplus ...	66,912,123	francs.

Judging from previous Budgets, these figures—which register a new high record in French finance Bills—may be regarded as merely provisional, as they are already certain to be substantially swollen, both as to revenue and expenditure, before the end of the new financial year. The outstanding features on the expenditure side are substantial increases of both civil and military pensions, in accordance with the drop in the franc (the minima in some categories of civil service and military pensions having now been fixed at the equivalent of five times the pre-war scale); substantial credits for road and canal development, rural electrification, etc., and expenditure on maternity benefits and the war against tuberculosis and cancer. No new taxation has been imposed, while several existing taxes, particularly affecting articles of common consumption, have been revised downwards. The various reductions under the Budget itself are estimated to amount to 763,000,000 francs, and thus bring the total taxation relief accorded since March 30, 1929, to 3,528,000,000 francs.

To this will shortly have to be added a further 1,877,000,000 francs of relief which is proposed under the special Bill laid before the Chamber since the Budget was disposed of; it is proposed that 1,100 millions of this shall represent reductions in taxation on securities and on Bourse transactions. The Government proposals include the reduction from 18 per cent. to 16 per cent. in the income tax levied on dividend coupons of French issues, and from 25 per cent. to 18 per cent. in those on dividends from foreign issues quoted here; the lowering of the annual *ad valorem taxe de transmission* on scrip from .40 per cent. to .25 per cent.; the reduction of stamp duties on scrip by 50 per cent. and of the tax on Bourse operations from 1 franc per 1,000 francs to 50c. per 1,000 francs on the value of scrip either bought or sold for the account; while it is proposed to bring down from 50c. per 1,000 francs to 10c. the *ad valorem* impost levied on carrying over transactions. The relief proposed, it will be seen, is considerable, as compared with existing rates, and should result in substantial and much-needed

stimulus to the Bourse, if carried into effect. The cutting down of the tax on Bourse transactions to one-half, however, would still leave buyer and seller, in a transaction for the account involving 100,000 francs of stock, each with 100 francs of impost to pay, as against 20 francs in New York, 12 francs 42c. in London and 100 francs in Berlin or Brussels. The tax at present imposed here for carrying over 100,000 francs of stock is 50 francs (as in Brussels; against 37 francs 50c. in Berlin, 12 francs 42c. in London and nil in New York), which the Government proposes to reduce to 10 francs. Meanwhile, the Bourse is merely marking time, and no real activity is likely until the expected taxation relief is actually voted.

In addition to reducing taxes that directly affect the Bourse and holders of scrip dealt in there, the Bill proposes to lower by 150,000,000 francs the turnover taxes now levied on cream, butter, cheese, fish, game, fresh and dried vegetables and other perishable commodities, the reduction proposed being from 2 francs per cent. to 55c. With a view to encouraging trade, reductions are also proposed to the extent of 430,000,000 francs in the various luxury taxes. The luxury tax imposed on all motor cars sold at over 7,500 francs is to be brought down from 12 per cent. of the sale price to 6 per cent. (The Citroen Company is already advertising a reduction of 4 per cent. in its prices.) The luxury tax on first-class hotel bills and on the more costly furs, jewellery and perfumery is to be lowered from 12 per cent. to six. These reductions are not expected to result in any real loss of revenue, as it is expected that the increased volume of business in the various commodities concerned will largely, if not entirely, compensate for the lower rates imposed. This result has already followed the lowering of the special tax on property transfers and other imposts. In any case, owing to the policy that has been consistently followed in recent years of under-estimating the yield from practically all taxes, no doubt is felt as to the practical certainty that this financial year, like its predecessors, will show a realised surplus more than sufficiently large to wipe out any apparent losses of revenue that may occur.

The foreign trade returns for March indicate that the monthly adverse balance is again sinking to more normal figures. Total imports for the month had a value of 4,431,115,000 francs, against 4,807,926,000 francs in February and 4,777,565,000 francs in January. Visible exports totalled 3,958,428,000 francs, or 244,000,000 francs more than in January, although 59,000,000 francs less than in February. The summary for the first three months of the year shows that exports were 294,477,000 francs less than in the corresponding period of 1929. The falling off was entirely due to a decline of 361 millions (or over 11 per cent.) in exports of raw materials, exported foodstuffs and manufactured goods both showing an appreciable increase. Imports for the three months show a drop of 1,223½ millions, or about 9 per cent., entries of raw materials and foodstuffs having fallen off about 1,000 millions each, while manufactured goods show an increase of 741½ millions, or about 34 per cent. The total adverse balance on the first three months of the year was 2,326,000,000 francs, as compared with 3,295,000,000 francs during the corresponding period of 1929. In tonnage, during the three months, imports exceeded exports by 5,787,500 tons, as against 3,912,800 tons in the first quarter of last year. Imports of coal during January, February and March totalled 8,084,000 tons, against 6,794,100 tons in the corresponding period of last year, and 5,565,300 tons in that of 1913.

GERMANY.

Politics — Finance — Cruiser Appropriation — Grants to Thuringia — Coal Syndicate Renewal — Capital Market.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, April 22.

AFTER the hard fights in the Reichstag on the tax programme and the agrarian duties, it might have been expected that the tension in the domestic political situation would relax somewhat, and that, at the beginning of May, the Reichstag would be able to devote itself in peace to the details of the 1930 Budget. Neither the Government nor the Socialist opposition has any particular reason for desiring new elections in the near future, for the Cabinet is too little united to embark with a light heart on an election campaign, and through the latest increases in taxes it has made itself—at least as far as city dwellers are concerned—very unpopular. The Social Democrats would like to wait until the masses have realised how much they lost through the withdrawal of the Social Democrats from the Cabinet. For since the main issue between Socialists and Communists is whether a Labour Party may participate in the government of a capitalistic state, the lesson that, without the participation of the Socialists, a number of measures are carried through which appear most undesirable to the wage earners must redound to the benefit of the Socialist Party in its battle against its Communist competitors. Hence everybody concerned was happy at having avoided an immediate dissolution of the Reichstag.

But as the politicians, greatly relieved, were about to leave for their Easter holidays, the situation once more became tense. In the Reichsrat, which includes, in addition to the representatives of the different German states, representatives of the self-governing Prussian provinces, the Province of East Prussia presented a motion to include in the Budget for 1930 the first instalment for the building of a second 10,000-ton armoured cruiser. It is probable that the representative from East Prussia, who is a member of the German National Party, did not act on his own initiative. He was probably actuated by the Ministry of Defence, and perhaps also by the right wing of the Government. Be that as it may, the Cabinet, after the Reichsrat had accepted the proposal, refrained from raising any objection to this increase of expenditure. The Budget which the Government will submit to the Reichstag will contain the appropriation for the cruiser. This means a revival of the struggle that was fought out in 1928 and 1929 about the first 10,000-ton cruiser. The overwhelming majority of the German people feel that Germany, who alone among the larger countries was compelled by the Treaty of Versailles effectively to disarm, must create, so far as that treaty permits, the means necessary for protecting herself against enemy aggressions. But there are very many who doubt whether warships have any value for Germany in her present situation. The Right, it is true, asserts that the series of armoured cruisers demanded are required for the defence of East Prussia against Poland—which accounts for the remarkable manner in which the proposal was laid before the Reichsrat—and this argument has not been without effect on public opinion. Finance Minister Moldenhauer obviously feared to arouse great displeasure in his own party by objecting to the construction.

But the Government's position in relation to the Left is rendered very difficult. The Socialists, to be sure, are also handicapped in respect of the cruiser issue, for their originally very heated opposition to the first of these ships—especially in the election campaign of 1928—was not consistently carried through, and they have not been able to make their electorate understand why the election promise was not kept. Hence they will be afraid to evoke too many recollections of that situation. However, the position to-day is much less ambiguous. The Government has just demanded that the people assume heavy new burdens. None the less, it is not at all certain that the 1930 Budget has been balanced. The financial situation has never been so tense; all sources of taxation have been exhausted; and although the first instalment for the cruiser is low, amounting to only 2,500,000 marks, the amount needed in 1931 will necessarily be much higher, and thus a part of the surplus, with the help of which some intolerably high taxes were to be reduced next year, will be used up in advance. Even many of those who regard the cruiser as desirable in itself will not be convinced that its construction is necessary just at this time.

In the conflict with Thuringia, which the Bruening Government took over from the former Cabinet, the new Government has also exposed itself to attack from the Left. In Thuringia the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for police and education, is in the hands of the National Socialist Frick, a Hitler follower, who was also found guilty by a Bavarian court of participation in a counter-revolutionary uprising in Munich in 1923. At the very outset of his official activities Herr Frick distinguished himself by unseemly remarks concerning the National Government, and since the other members of the Thuringian Cabinet took no action in the matter, while at the same time Press reports were circulated to the effect that National Socialist elements were finding their way into the Thuringian police force, Herr Severing, then Minister of the Interior in the Government of the Reich, stopped the payment to Thuringia by the Reich of grants in aid of the State police and other State expenditure. He undoubtedly felt that he must take sharp action against the Thuringian Government of the Right. In 1923 the Reich Government proceeded against Thuringia because Communists were included in its Government. Since then the Government majority there has changed, but the Centre has remained weak, and extremists of the other wing now belong to the Government coalition. But since that year the whole political situation in Germany has altered completely, and to-day the exceptional law—with whose help it was then possible to place executive power over Thuringia in the hands of Reichswehr—no longer exists. However, very many of the public would not understand it if the National Socialists, the counter-revolutionaries of the Right, were to be treated differently from the Communists, the revolutionaries of the Left. Dr. Wirth, the new Minister of the Interior, has now resumed the payments to Thuringia, after discussion with a member of the Ministry of that State. Thuringia was obliged, it is true, to promise that it would permit a high official of the Reich to investigate its police conditions, but the impression that the Government of the Reich has abandoned its position and suffered a moral defeat is not removed by this. This impression is very serious, as Dr. Wirth was hitherto the one man in the Bruening Cabinet whom even the parties of the Left regarded as a guarantee of a constitutional, non-reactionary policy.

After long negotiations it has been possible to renew the Rhenish-Westphalian Coal Syndicate, the most important coal cartel in Germany. The syndicate expired, after a life of five years, on March 31, 1930, and was compulsorily extended by the Minister of Economics until April 30 in order to make possible a voluntary agreement. This has now been reached, although only for a short period. The new contract, which has thus far been signed by only 82 per cent. of the producers, will expire on March 31, 1931, unless a complete agreement can be reached by December 31, 1930, concerning the most important issue. This is the question of the so-called "Umlage"—the fine imposed on every ton of coal mined to create a fund which is used for financing the syndicate's sales in competitive markets. The coal mines that possess their own blast furnaces wanted to secure exemption from this fee for all coal used in them, but thus far they have only been able to secure an agreement that such coal need pay only 70 per cent. of the "Umlage." Even this reduction from 100 to 70 per cent. means a reduction of about 12 million marks a year in the funds at the disposal of the syndicate for meeting under-bidding by competitors. It may therefore be expected that there will be no more forcing of deliveries to markets that are unfavourably situated for the Ruhr district in respect of freight facilities.

The German long-term capital market remains in a very unsatisfactory condition in spite of great liquidity in the Berlin short-term money market, very slight demands on the Reichsbank, and considerable receipts of gold in the last few weeks. The upward movement of bonds has almost stopped since the end of March; the average yield of first-class loans still amounts to about 8 per cent.; and the only big Reich loan, the 6 per cent. loan of 1927, is quoted at 87. The banks continue to refuse to take over long-term emissions; only small offers—5 to 10 million marks for individual municipalities—are placed at 8 to 9 per cent. In these circumstances the plan, now under consideration in international negotiations, of placing a not inconsiderable part of the great reparations loan in Germany, is very sceptically regarded here. The Reichsbank has also decided to keep back, at least temporarily, that part of the shares of the Bank for International Settlements taken over by it. It is felt here that, in the interest of the success of the great reparation issue, it will be necessary to be content with assigning only a very small part of it to Germany, and that this part be retained or placed by the leading private banks, but not thrown open for public subscription.

SWEDEN.

Exchanges — Money Market — Discount Rate — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, April 18.

IN Sweden, as everywhere else, the consequences of falling interest rates have recently been the centre of discussion. Indeed, the tendency to cheaper money has been just as marked here as in the great monetary centres, though the symptoms are more difficult to interpret in Sweden because she has no open money market. Nevertheless, it is possible to point to certain circumstances which very clearly characterise the decreases which the Riksbank has been reluctantly compelled to introduce.

This is most clearly seen on the exchange market. Naturally, quotations for the Swedish krona are determined by the balance of foreign trade payments. During the winter and spring months they usually become unfavourable in consequence of the marked passive balance during those months when the export of staple articles is prevented by ice. When shipments are again in full swing the tendency is reversed, as a rule in June, and the krona steadily rises in proportion as the balance of payments improves. This tendency culminates towards the end of the year. Since of recent years Sweden has exported capital and has had intimate connections with the international capital and stock markets, this curve may sometimes be varied. But, in the main, the above-mentioned influences prevail.

Looking at the developments of the year against this background, it is striking how very abnormal the position has been during recent months, and especially in March. In spite of the fact that in January and February (March statistics are not yet available) the balance of payments followed more or less the normal course, the Swedish krona has appreciated. Whereas last year sterling rose between January 1st and April 1st from 18.13 to 18.17½, and the dollar from 3.73½ to 3.74⅝, this year sterling stood at 18.13¾ at the beginning of January and had fallen by April 1st to 18.09½, whilst the dollar exchange rose slightly from 3.71¾ to 3.72, after having been down for some days to 3.71½. At the moment all foreign currencies, except belgas and Swiss francs, are below par in Stockholm. If this tendency continues, gold imports are not impossible, as the gold point for sterling is about 18.08. The prohibition of the import of gold is withdrawn as from April 1st.

There can be no doubt that these abnormal conditions for the time of the year were due to a too high discount rate. As has been said, Sweden not only normally exports capital, amounting last year to 103 million kronor, but her net mobile balances abroad, which formerly were of the nature of exchange reserves for levelling seasonal variations, have risen to such an extent that they have lost that character and must now be regarded as ordinary short-dated loans abroad. Sweden's net balances abroad at present amount to half a milliard kronor. It is evident that the interest on these investments must play a much more important *rôle* than formerly and falling rates

of interest abroad must, therefore, stimulate withdrawals if rates in Sweden are appreciably higher than abroad.

This is a phenomenon which typifies recent developments. As a rule the Riksbank at this time of the year furnishes the market with the necessary foreign exchange. This year the commercial banks have done it instead. And not only that. The latter have found it more advantageous to realise their exchange holdings to the Riksbank than to procure the necessary ready means by ordinary rediscounting. The last week in March threw great light on the situation from this point of view. At the end of the quarter the commercial banks reduced their rediscounting at the Riksbank, whereas normally there is a sharp increase. Instead they realised foreign exchange, as in preceding weeks, and the Riksbank was thereby compelled to appear in the market as a buyer in order to prevent rates falling still lower. Since the middle of February the Riksbank holdings of foreign exchange have risen uninterruptedly from 231 million kronor to about 265 million kronor, an abnormal sum for the time of year. Simultaneously the usual rediscount credits of the Riksbank have fallen to 218 million kronor, while a year ago the figure was 309 million kronor.

It is evident that under such circumstances a lowering of the discount rate was inevitable. Curiously enough, the Riksbank has followed the tendencies of the international money market very slowly and reluctantly. Whereas in the autumn London lowered its rate three times from 6½ per cent. to 5 per cent., Sweden made only one reduction, from 5½ per cent. to 5 per cent. From January 1st it was lowered to 4½ per cent., the rate which ruled from August, 1928, to September, 1929. Again, while London reduced its rate three times in the first quarter of 1930 from 5 to 3½ per cent., Sweden did not reduce its rate until March to 4 per cent., and to 3½ per cent. on April 3rd.

As has been said, there can be no doubt that these reductions reflect the growing depression of the past months. Although it is clear that the Riksbank ignored the effects of the lowering of international rates, it may be said that the discount policy of the Riksbank was logical in so far as the depression was less in evidence in Sweden than in other countries. If we look at the economic data, such as statistics of foreign trade and the index of production of the leading industries in February, we find, on the one hand, that the situation in Sweden is obscure and difficult to appraise, and, on the other hand, that the symptoms of depression are gathering force. Both exports and imports in February were large, as is seasonable, despite the fact that shipping conditions were not as favourable as in January. Sales were very good in the chief industries, and imports of industrial raw materials also reached a high level. But an unsatisfactory feature in this picture of continued activity in overseas trade is afforded by the figures for shipments of iron and steel and electrical machinery. To what extent the last of these is due to the depression it is difficult to say, though there is no doubt in the case of the iron and steel industry. The decline has continued since the autumn and it is emphasised by a comparison with the February production figures, which show an almost general reduction in excess of what may be attributed to seasonal influences. The timber industry, on the other hand, shows a marked increase in production, whereas unemployment stands at a lower level than a year ago.

BULGARIA.

General Economic Situation — Budget — Foreign Trade — Credit — Bank Amalgamations.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, April 11.

THE predominating feature of the situation remains the severe crisis affecting almost every department of the economic and financial structure of the country. According to the statements of responsible and trustworthy observers, trade and industry are experiencing the greatest difficulties they have had to deal with for over twenty-five years. Sales are at a complete standstill, and orders for goods abroad are being more and more frequently cancelled. Important firms, especially in the leather and textile industries, are practically on the eve of closing down, or at least of stopping production. At Gabrovo, one of the chief industrial centres, 34 factories out of 75 are no longer running normally; and a great number of industrial undertakings are throwing their products on the market at absurdly low prices, thus causing the ruin of many distributing agents and retail traders.

The peasant population is also badly hit by the absence of demand for grain and other produce. Maize is selling on the land at 184 leva (about 5s. 6d.) the quintal of 100 kgrs. after being quoted at 16s. last year. The curtailment of credit and shortage of ready money all over the country is only increasing the evils of the situation, and a widespread resentment, exploited by selfish politicians, is gradually raising unfriendly feelings towards the present Government, although a closer examination of the position shows that these unhappy circumstances are mainly the result of the wrong direction private credit, trade and industry have been following for many years, and partly a consequence of general economic conditions abroad. It is generally admitted that the party in power has been losing much ground lately, and that the political situation requires careful handling. As things stand at present there is little hope that any Government action could effect the relief so eagerly awaited. Nothing but an exceptionally good crop could bring about even a partial improvement.

The position of the Treasury, however, remains satisfactory. The total receipts from April 1, 1929, to February 28, 1930, at 401,670,000 leva, are greater than last year, though it is anticipated that later on Customs duties, Excise, railway and other revenue depending on trade and on consumption of goods will fall short of the provisions of the Budget now under consideration in Parliament. The general outline of the Budget for 1930-31, as submitted to the Chamber, shows little difference in comparison with the figures of the previous year. Receipts and expenditure are 6,917,800,000 leva and 6,917,000,000, as against 6,740,000,000 leva and 6,752,820,080 respectively. Apart from an increase of 184 million leva in the public debt service, there are only minor differences in the various items of the two Budgets on the expenditure side. The position is much the same with respect to the receipts estimates. Slight reductions appear in indirect taxation, railways and ports revenue, while unimportant increases are foreseen in direct taxation, fines and confiscations, posts and telegraphs, etc. It must be admitted that there is not much trace of constructive budgeting in the figures as disclosed in the Budget Bill placed before the Chamber. At any rate the present situation would appear to require a somewhat firmer financial policy.

Foreign trade figures for January and February during the last three years are as follows:—

	Imports. Leva.	Exports. Leva.
1928	997·2 millions	1,010·6 millions
1929	969·3 „	763·5 „
1930	722·8 „	884·8 „

The fall in imports is indicative of the general state of the market, and the opinion prevailing in business circles is that the declining movement will continue for some months to come. According to preliminary statistics, the shrinkage of trade imports proper, after deducting manufactured goods imported for the account of the State, is very considerable, and quite in keeping with the all-round slowing down of economic activity. Another illustration of these circumstances is the abnormally low level of coal consumption throughout the country. The Pernik and other collieries had to stop work for various periods and to dismiss some of their workmen. The railroad figures are also following a downward trend.

The money market and the credit position are clearly showing the effects of the bad times. The note circulation is still kept under severe control by the National Bank. Indeed, this is the only practical means of maintaining the cover ratio within legal limits as the adverse balance of payments continues to deplete the foreign exchange reserves of the bank. Larger advances and discount facilities granted by private banks before the crisis are being

gradually liquidated, rather slowly and with difficulty. A certain number of banks are at last realising the uselessness of continued overlending, duplication of risks and heedless competition. A widespread tendency towards amalgamation and concentration has recently developed. Three of the older local banks, the Bulgarska Banka, the Banque Franco-Bulgare pour le Commerce International, and the Bank for National Credit, are amalgamating into a new company, the Union de Banques Bulgares. Many smaller local banks all over the country are liquidating or combining into sounder and more powerful undertakings. The National Bank's intervention will probably prove of great help in this direction, as the Bank insists on assets being brought into the new concerns only after substantial writing down of losses and bad debts. The same concentrating tendency is beginning to make itself felt in trade and industry, although the difficulties in this case are much greater. Success is, therefore, much more problematic.

CANADA.

Crop Prospects — Grain Markets — Business — Parliament — Liquor Export Bill — Australian Trade Treaties.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, March 26.

THE Western farmers are reported to be in a mood of great depression as the result of their recent experiences, and it is being suggested that this spring may see a considerable reduction in the acreage sown with wheat. Last autumn, owing to the dry conditions which prevailed, less ploughing than usual was done, and, if the spring is late, there may not be time to make up the leeway. Normally such a situation would mean an increase of seeding on stubble, but stubble crops require very favourable conditions to give either a heavy yield or a high quality of grain, and, as the subsoil in most parts of the prairies is still abnormally dry, the farmers may decide not to risk much seed upon stubble ground, and to be content with a smaller acreage. It is unlikely that the wheat pools or the provincial Government will make any effort to secure a reduction of wheat acreage by propaganda, but the same result may follow the conditions just mentioned.

During the past week the wheat market in Winnipeg has experienced the first real upward movement for some months, and, although it has had a setback and has not brought prices to what is regarded as a satisfactory level, it has done something to lift the atmosphere of gloom which has prevailed. The holders of wheat expect that steady buying by Europe will go on during the next three months and relieve them of considerable stocks, but they are now reconciled to the fact that the carry-over of Canadian wheat into the next crop year is bound to be heavy, probably not less than 100,000 bushels. There is little danger now that the pools will come to financial disaster, but they may next year find the bootlegging of grain a very serious problem as the banks will not be disposed to allow the initial payment to be fixed at any risky figure and a certain number of pool members may try to dispose of their grain surreptitiously to private traders who will pay the full market value in cash.

Business conditions still remain cloudy and there is no assurance that the advent of spring will bring any great stimulus. There has been a general curtailment of factory operations and some of the farm-implement firms are not employing more than half the people they were a year ago. The movement of merchandise is at a lower level and the car-loading figure for the week ending March 15th, placed at 60,305 cars, was 820 cars below the figure for the previous week and 6,148 cars below the figure for the corresponding week of 1929. There is also evidence of an ominous decline of exports in other lines than grain; in February, for instance, the exports of vehicles, which are chiefly motors, were only valued at $1,860,701, as compared with a value of $4,746,289 in February, 1929. The recession in business in the United States, which is affecting the volume of advertisements, has also been responsible for lessened demand for newsprint, and the exports of newsprint in February were only valued at $9,418,742, as compared with $10,615,726 in February, 1929. The production of steel in February likewise, placed at 108,612 tons, was 11,000 tons below the figure for February, 1929, and the output of pig iron was down by 25 per cent. Inevitably, under such conditions, the foreign trade returns are going frob bad to worse, and in February, exports valued at 66½ million dollars and imports valued at 89 showed declines of 15½ and 16 millions respectively compared with the totals for February, 1929. For the first eleven months of the current fiscal year an adverse trade balance of, roughly, 125 million dollars has now piled up, as compared with a favourable balance of 130 million dollars a year ago.

The new building programme is not as large as a year ago, but it is still of fairly substantial dimensions, and a decline in contracts for residences and office buildings is largely offset by a gain in engineering works. Despite the large sum which is tied up in unsold wheat, the credit situation presents no difficulty, and there is apparently an abundance of money available for investment. The last bank statement, covering up to the end of January, showed a contraction of 58 million dollars in call loans, a result of the stock market *débâcle*, and current loans were reduced 19 million dollars in January, although they still remained 162 million dollars above the figure for January, 1929. One pleasing development is the righting of the exchange situation in New York, where the Canadian dollar during the past week reached par for the first time for many months.

It is still doubtful whether Mr Dunning, the Finance Minister, will be able to produce his first Budget before the Easter recess, which begins on April 12th, and there is great speculation about its contents. In it is involved the whole question of the King Ministry's strategy for the balance of the session and the approaching general election. If it is decided to hold an election in the summer the Budget will probably contain extensive tariff revisions, probably in the direction of an increase in the British preference, designed to curtail American imports. But, if it is deemed advisable to await the results of the Imperial Economic Conference and not sacrifice beforehand possible bargaining power, the Budget will probably be, in its tariff aspects, a comparatively humdrum affair.

The two most important issues which have occupied the House of Commons have been the Bill designed to stop official clearances for liquor exports to the United States and trade arrangements with the United States. The Progressives and Labourites supported the former measure, and, although the Conservatives disliked it and criticised it severely, most of them voted for the third reading. One of the chief criticisms was that the matter of liquor exports should have been dealt with by treaty rather than by domestic legislation, and Mr King surprised the House by suddenly announcing, on March 24th, that he had begun negotiations with Washington for just such a treaty as the Conservatives suggested. The Bill got its third reading by 173 to 11, but the liquor interests, who have a well-organised lobby at work in the capital, are not without hopes of compassing its defeat in the Senate. The opponents of the Bill will take the line that it is inadvisable when a treaty is being negotiated to concede by domestic legislation the very thing which the Hoover administration desires above everything else, and that the Government's hands will be freer if the Bill does not actually become law.

A controversy about trade arrangements with the two Antipodean Dominions has been going on intermittently for more than a fortnight. The Conservatives began by demanding measures which would halt the inflow of cheap New Zealand butter, and the Government intimated that it was negotiating with New Zealand for a direct treaty. Subsequently the Progressives shifted the ground of debate by a frontal attack upon the Australian treaty itself, which had been made applicable to New Zealand by Order-in-Council. Their spokesmen contended that, by the terms of the treaty, Canadian agriculture had been sacri-

ficed and exposed to unfair competition in order that concessions might be obtained for the motor, pulp and paper and other industries. Special complaint was made about the increase of the Canadian raisin duties, which was made for the purpose of transferring as much as possible of the Canadian market for raisins from the Californian growers to their Australian competitors, and it was argued that its only effect had been to increase the cost of living for the people of Canada to the extent of about a million and a-half dollars per annum. Mr Gardiner, the Progressive leader, moved an amendment asking for the immediate abrogation of the Australian treaty. But Mr H. H. Stevens, of Vancouver, who served as Minister of Trade and Commerce in the last Conservative Ministry, was not prepared to join in any wholesale condemnation of the treaty, and moved a sub-amendment to the effect that, instead of the treaty being abrogated, negotiations for its revision should be begun. One interesting revelation of this debate was the statement that the Maypole Dairy interests were behind a large merger of creameries which is under way in Ontario.

The House of Commons' permanent committee on railways, canals and telegraphs has given its approval to the Bill which confers authority upon the Canadian Pacific Railway to split its common stock in the ratio of four shares to one. President Beatty, in giving evidence, expressed the view that the effect of the split would be to secure a larger proportion of Canadian shareholders.

NEW ZEALAND.

Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments — Money — Business — Unemployment Report.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CHRISTCHURCH, March 1.

RETURNS of overseas trade during 1929 state that exports for the year exceeded imports by £6.8 million, but indicate that an unfavourable turn in the trade balance is to be expected. The year's exports, £55.6 million, were the second highest on record, being £600,000 less than in 1928. Imports reached £48.8 million and were nearly £4 million higher than for 1928. Imports, however, increased rapidly towards the end of the year, while exports declined. In the case of wool alone the decline amounted to £1.3 million, and wool, which commanded £23 a bale at the opening sales in 1928-29, brought less than £14 a bale at the same sales in 1929-30. But exports are usually light in the latter half of the year, the bulk of produce being shipped from January to May, and, though the season's prices have been appreciably lower for butter, cheese, meat, hides, skins, and tallow, as well as for wool, the full effects of these lower prices on the year's exports will not appear in the trade returns until the end of the season. But the decline in prices is such as to indicate a heavy fall in the total value of exports. Meanwhile, imports are increasing, and unless they are curtailed with unusual rapidity, the balance of trade may become unfavourable within a few months.

Already the banks have taken action which will undoubtedly result in the contraction of imports. The minimum rate on overdrafts has been raised to 7 per cent., and the exchange rates have been raised until the banks will now sell demand drafts on London only at a premium of 2½ per cent. These are unusual steps and generally indicate an acute stringency of funds on London and an urgent necessity for limiting credit in New Zealand. Normally, the state of bank funds in London and of credit in New Zealand is governed mainly by the trade balance plus the net balance of State payments overseas. For 1929 the recorded trade balance was favourable to the extent of nearly £7 million. This is probably an overestimate as, on a falling market, exporters are likely to declare values which fail to be realised when their produce is sold in its overseas market. State payments of interest abroad are probably below £7½ million annually and the net increase on State indebtedness abroad for 1928-29 was £9½ million, most of which was probably made available during 1929, hence the balance of State payments should also have been decidedly favourable. But bank returns show definitely that during 1929 bank customers paid out over £4 million more than they received, hence the actual balance of payments was decidedly adverse.

The discrepancy between the favourable balance of trade and State payments and the adverse balance of total payments may be due partly to over-valuation of exports and to a decline in immigrants' capital owing to the decrease in immigration, but it appears to be due in greater measure to the unrecorded export of private capital, particularly to Australia. Owing to the fall in wool prices, a poor season, curtailment of public borrowing, and industrial strife, Australia has had an adverse balance of trade and payments. Credit has been restricted, rates for money have been high, security prices correspondingly low, and funds in London scarce. These Australian conditions have affected New Zealand closely. Though definite records are lacking, there is some evidence that considerable sums have been attracted to Australia, either for purchase of securities there, or in payment of securities sold here, or in the form of floating balances transferred for more profitable temporary investments. This movement has brought a considerable increase of bank advances in New Zealand, and overdrafts in the December quarter reached record high levels. Should an adverse trade balance develop during the next few months and public borrowing overseas be restricted, the contraction of credit would be severe. But it seems probable that the banks' action will result both in the curtailment of import orders, and in the return of some, at least, of the funds that have been transferred abroad.

It is somewhat curious that, though the credit scarcity to date has been occasioned rather by the Australian position than by any shortage of New Zealand funds in London, the banks' rates for exchange on London have moved to a point where sterling is abnormally dear, while rates on Australia remain at par. The effect of the Australian situation in New Zealand might have been much less had the New Zealand-Australian rates been adjusted to discourage the flow of funds to Australia. Apparently the Associated Banks tend to regard New Zealand and Australia as a single exchange market, and this practice in fixing exchange rates means that New Zealand must be very closely influenced by changes in Australian conditions. At the present time conditions in New Zealand hardly justify the existing high exchange rates, but their effect should be salutary in forcing a reduction of imports, which is needed in view of the contraction in the value of exports.

Apart from the external trade and the financial situation, which indicate plainly a lower level of business activity during the coming year, conditions in the Dominion remain fairly good. Despite a dry spell in the early summer, followed by a wet Christmas season, farm production has continued to expand and the lower prices received this season will be compensated somewhat by the larger quantities produced. Politics are quiet for the time being, but a commission is kept very busy adjusting hardship cases under the recent increases in land taxation, and a final report has been presented on unemployment. This report rejects unemployment insurance as impracticable for New Zealand, owing to the incalculable nature of the risk, but proposes a special low tax falling on the whole community to produce a fund for bare sustenance of the unemployed, and an employment board to be charged with the duty of finding or creating jobs for workless men. The report has been widely discussed and freely criticised, but no action is likely to be taken until Parliament meets, probably early in June.

Letters to the Editor.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I am frankly puzzled by the extraordinary letter from Mr. Gilbert Beard which appears in your issue of April 12th. Because export prices have risen more than import prices he suggests that we require 25 per cent. less exports in order to pay for the imports we need. However true this statement may be, looked at statistically, it is not true in any other sense. Surely Mr Beard must be aware that every politician, irrespective of his views on the fiscal question, is urging the British manufacturer to increase his exports, and the British manufacturer, without the politician's urging, is doing all he can in that direction. But if we are to believe Mr Beard, when they succeed, the only consequence must inevitably be a further increase in the imports of manufactured goods. In other words, Mr Beard's only conclusion on the subject is that the ships of the world should be engaged in conveying vast quantities of identically similar goods at enormous speeds in opposite directions. Quite frankly, I think it would save time if they put one lot of goods permanently on one ship and instructed that ship to convey them backwards and forwards without unloading them, because the net result would be exactly the same.

The reason I make these remarks is that Mr Beard suggests that the only way in which we can take payment for an increase in exports of manufactured goods is by an increase in the imports of manufactured goods, on the ground that we are incapable of absorbing any further quantities of imported foodstuffs and raw materials.

Of course Mr Beard is writing nonsense, for without the slightest difficulty I could produce for him enormous quantities of small boys who would be perfectly willing to consume large additional quantities of oranges and bananas if their parents only had the wherewithal to pay for them. Oranges and bananas are, of course, from our point of view, entirely non-competitive imports. The fathers and mothers, to a very large extent, are unable to pay for the oranges and bananas because they have been deprived of their employment by the importation of competitive manufactured goods which we could produce ourselves.

Where we have safeguarded industries the results have been an increase in production and employment, reduced costs of production according a lower selling price to the consumer, and, in respect of the supplies which will come in despite of duties, a substantial revenue for the Exchequer, the burden of which clearly has not been borne by the British consumer. —Yours truly,

HERBERT G. WILLIAMS.

351, Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.
April 16, 1930.

Books and Publications.

THE OIL INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN.*

THOSE who are interested in economic and industrial affairs should not be put off by the title of Mr C. T. Brunner's text-book. It has nothing to do with politics. It is a straightforward and authentic account of the growth and organisation of the oil-refining and marketing industry in this country. The refining branch does not perhaps receive from Mr. Brunner the attention which its size demands. Oil refining in this country has grown up to commercial importance only since 1920. Last year, about 18 per cent. of the total new supply of motor spirit (853,410,000 gallons) was accounted for by the manufacture of refined petrol from imported crude oil. Mr Brunner, however, is more concerned with distribution, which he rightly regards as the most important side of the British oil trade. When it is found that the consumption of motor spirit has increased from 371,000 tons in 1914 to 831,000 tons in 1921, to 1,537,000 tons in 1924, and to nearly 3,000,000 tons in 1929, it will be appreciated that a miracle of organisation has been achieved by the big petrol distributing companies.

An interesting, and we believe unique, analysis is given by Mr Brunner of the motor spirit trade in 1929, which is worth quotation:—

SALES OF MOTOR SPIRIT, 1929.

	Tons.	Tons.
Private cars taxed on horse-power ...	950,000	
Motor cycles ...	150,000	
Private vehicles ...		1,100,000
Omnibuses and charabancs ...	420,000	
Other commercial passenger vehicles...	180,000	
Commercial goods vehicles...	1,200,000	
Miscellaneous vehicles...	100,000	
Commercial vehicles ...		1,900,000
Grand total ...		3,000,000

Of this total probably 1,500,000 tons were sold through garages, and 1,500,000 tons delivered direct to the consumers by the distributing companies. To deliver 3,000,000 tons of motor spirit a year the petrol companies have had to scrap their petrol cans for a bulk system of distribution and to come to a sensible working arrangement with the retailers. The basis of this arrangement is that the national distributors sell only to recognised dealers or commercial consumers (not to private motorists), fix a standard profit for the retailer (it is now 1½d. per gallon), and sell their No. 1 and No. 3 brands at a fixed price throughout the country (according to zones). This is a statesmanlike trading arrangement which reflects credit on both the big petrol combines and the retailers. From time to time the harmony of the trade has been upset by the "piratical" incursions of independent petrol companies, but by an agreement of January 1, 1929, the national distributors came to the following terms with the independents:—(1) The national distributors ceased to discriminate by way of a 1d. per gallon loyalty rebate to retailers against the brands sold by independent conpanies, and (2) the independent companies agreed not to supply any fresh premises which were not approved of by the retailers' organisation (Motor Trade Association), and to allow the retailer the same rate of profit as the national distributors. There are, however, a few "pirate" companies left, which, according to Mr Brunner, "are content to skim the cream of the easy business and to leave the less profitable to concerns whose object it is to render some public service in addition to taking profit." Such companies, Mr Brunner declares, are "fortunately losing ground, and it is gradually being borne in on the public that their products are usually not reliable."

It should be observed that Mr Brunner does not class the Soviet Government with the "pirates." The Soviet Government markets petrol in this country through a subsidiary called Russian Oil Products, Ltd., and also sells kerosene in bulk to the Medway Oil and Storage Company, which "cracks" it for the manufacture of petrol. A year ago Russian petrol was causing the oil trade in this country much more trouble than the "pirates." At the beginning of 1929 the price of petrol had advanced in America, but the national distributors did not dare to follow it up because of the Russian competition. The Anglo-American Oil Company finally entered into negotiations with Russian Oil Products, Ltd., and eventually secured an agreement on behalf of all the petrol companies (including the independents), under which the Russians undertook to sell petrol in bulk to the national companies at 5 per cent. below the market price, "while restrictions were placed on their trade in the British market." Mr Brunner is not explicit on the subject of these restrictions, but we understand that the Russian Oil Products trade in this country was fixed last year at about 60,000,000 gallons, although it was left free to sell at prices below the fixed prices of the combines.

In a wholly admirable book Mr Brunner makes one unfortunate slip. Nearly 70 per cent. of the world's oil, he said, is produced in the United States of America. In another place he adds: "Oil is, broadly speaking, produced in backward and undeveloped countries." This is rather hard on the United States, particularly when it is feeling a little sensitive about its Chicago.

* "The Problem of Oil." By C. T. Brunner (Ernest Benn, Ltd.). 15s.

THE NAVAL BLOCKADE AND THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.*

THIS book is probably the clearest, most orderly, and most concise survey of the blockade of Germany during the world war that has yet been written. M. Guichard has thoroughly mastered his material, and writes with the most generous and chivalrous appreciation of his late enemies. A Frenchman who even to-day can state that he is "unwilling to conclude this study without paying . . . tribute to the German people, which they certainly deserve," and who can say that "the remembrance of her protracted economic siege during which she withstood a host of enemies is still a source of patriotic pride to the Germans *with which we cannot but sympathise*" (the italics are ours) is a gallant sailor who contributes more to the foundations of peace and international security than the makers of a dozen treaties.

* "The Economic Blockade." By Lieut. Louis Guichard. Translated and edited by Christopher R. Turner. London: Philip Allan & Co., Ltd. Price, 15s. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Liberty in the Modern State. By H. J. Laski. (London) Faber and Faber, 24, Russell Square. 7s. 6d. net.

Professor Laski's writing is always stimulating, and these two lectures, on a subject of evergreen interest, are no exception to the rule.

An Introduction to the Social Sciences. By C. Delisle Burns. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. net.

A readable little book, from which, as from most "Introductions," the reader most likely to profit is the one who has already read most widely in the subject.

A Select Bibliography of Modern Economic Theory, 1870-1929. Compiled by Harold E. Batson. With an introduction by Lionel Robbins.

A very conveniently arranged bibliography, classified both under subjects and under authors. The works referred to are confined to those in the English, French, German and Italian languages, and the subjects of money and banking are not included.

Bibliography of Unemployment. 2nd edition. (London) P. S. King, 14, Great Smith Street. 4s. net.

An extremely comprehensive bibliography, of worldwide scope, prepared by the International Labour Office.

Provincial Finance in India. By Pramathanath Banerjea. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street, W.C. 2. 10s. 6d. net.

A valuable study of the history and present problems of public finance in India.

Der Finanzausgleich Eine Begriffliche Untersuchung. By Dr. Jur. Georg Jacoby. (Münster i. Westf) Helios-Verlag G.m.b.H. 6.25 mk.

A monograph on the relations between State and federal finance.

Modern Steelwork, 1930. Edited by W. R. Gilbert. (London) British Steelwork Association, Artillery House. 5s. net.

A profusely illustrated review of current practice in the employment of structural steel.

Protection of Workers Operating Metal-Working Presses. (London) P. S. King, 14, Great Smith Street. 5s.

This report, prepared for the International Labour Office, constitutes a very detailed, fully illustrated account of various safety devices.

The 100 Best Investments. (London) British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, Ltd., B.F.C. House, Gresham Street. 2s. net.

Contains details of the past results and present position of 100 selected first-rate investments.

The World's Rubber Position. March 31, 1930. Compiled and published by W. H. Rickinson and Son, 3, Great Winchester Street, E.C. 2. 4s.

A valuable little booklet containing a large collection of rubber statistics.

The Latvian Economist. Compiled by J. Bokalders. (Riga) Ministry of Finance.

A collection of articles on Latvian economic problems considered from an international point of view.

Manuel de l'Economie Suisse. Edited by Arthur Katz-Foerstner. (Berlin-Halensee) Internationale Verlags-Gesellschaft.

An abundantly illustrated account of the economic activities of present-day Switzerland. There are some useful statistics.

In Defence of Capitalism. By Adolf Weber. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 4s. 6d. net.

A reasoned and restrained argument, with a German background.

L'Accumulation du Capital. By Lucien Laurat. (Paris) Librairie des Sciences Politiques et Sociales, 31, rue Jacob. 25 fcs.

A critical *résumé* of the ideas of Rosa Luxembourg, the purpose of which is to throw light on the development of Marxian theory after Marx' death.

"Profits versus Price Cutting." Arranged by William M. Benney. (New York) National Association of Manufacturers, 11, West 42nd Street.

Two papers, by leading American firms, entitled "The Problem of Depressed Price Levels" and "Can a Manufacturer Get a Fair Price for His Products?"

Greater London. First Report of the Regional Planning Committee, December, 1929. (London) Knapp, Knapp, Drewett and Sons, Ltd., 30, Victoria Street, S.W.1. 5s. net.

Includes, in addition to the report proper, memoranda on open spaces, ribbon development, additional town planning powers, and the proposal for a regional planning authority for Greater London.

Outline of Costing. By Wm. A. Smith. (London) Moore's Modern Methods, Ltd., 12, St. Bride Street. 5s. net.

An outline of the principles of job-costing for factories.

Flood. By Robert Neumann. Translated from the German by William A. Drake. (London) G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., 24, Bedford Street. 7s. 6d. net.

A novel of post-war Vienna by an author whose profession at the time of the currency *débâcle* left him exceptionally well qualified to write realistically and with inside knowledge of the events of the period and their disastrous effects.

The Incorporated Accountants' Year Book, 1930. (London) Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, Incorporated Accountants' Hall, Victoria Embankment.

A complete directory and source of information about societies, members and firms.

Notes on Income Tax. By William S. Carrington. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street. 3s. 6d. net.

A handbook for students' revision purposes.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

National Health Insurance: Report by the Government Actuary on an Examination of the Sickness and Disablement Experience of a Group of Approved Societies in the period 1921-27. Cmd. 3548. 4d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD MINING.

FROM time to time reports are current that the humdrum experience of the Kaffir market will be enlivened, during the next upward surge of Stock Exchange sentiment, by attempts to create an atmosphere for another "boom." Whether the turbulent days of the 'nineties are likely to return is as doubtful as the wisdom of efforts to resurrect them. To many investors, however, the best South African shares have an appeal which is quite independent of special market "operations." It may, therefore, be opportune to review the main features of the present-day position, in the light of recent developments on the Rand.

South Africa has been for many years the chief gold-producing country in the world, and its share in the total output is now 53 per cent. Last year (1929) is noteworthy in the annals of goldmining owing to the fact that the grand aggregate value of all the gold produced in South Africa, from small beginnings in or about 1880, reached the extraordinary figure of £1,050,000,000; and, at the same time, prices of shares in the goldmining companies fell to the lowest level ever known, representing a total decline in capital of nearly £8,000,000. The output of gold last year was 10,537,175 ounces, valued at £44,723,671. In 1926 the output nearly reached the ten-million-ounces stage, and in the same year the greatest depth ever attained in any gold mine was reached, namely, 7,224 feet, in Village Deep. It is possible that future workings may go to still greater depths, even to 10,000 feet, and on this possibility will, of course, depend the ultimate life of the mines. Various estimates have been made from time to time of the amount of gold remaining to be extracted, ranging from the low figure of £325,000,000, given by Mr Hamilton Smith in 1893 (down to depths of 3,500 feet), to £1,233,000,000, made by Leggett and Hatch in 1902 (down to depths of 6,000 feet). The Transvaal Chamber of Mines in 1913 gave a much lower figure, namely, £500,000,000, and this was clearly too low, for gold to more than the value of that amount has been already mined since 1913.

The Witwatersrand ("Ridge of White Waters") goldfield is by far the most important in South Africa, and is located on an elevated plateau nearly 6,000 feet above the sea. The Rand itself projects somewhat above the level of the plateau, and the outcrop of the conglomerate reefs may thus be said to be the dividing watershed between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. This conglomerate is composed of quartz pebbles bound in a siliceous cement containing iron pyrites, and is often known locally as "banket." The gold content is not often visible, and occurs mainly in the matrix, or cement, in a series of reefs which, starting from the lowest geological horizon, are known as the Main Reef series, Bird Reef, Kimberley series, Elsburg and Black Reefs. So far, only the Main Reef series has justified extensive exploitation, and only within certain limits. Improved mechanical methods and labour organisation have gradually brought all the chief gold mines to a similar basis as regards both mining and metallurgy, and a very satisfactory extraction is obtained throughout the whole banket series of reefs. The success in working these comparatively low-grade ores is due to (1) use of the cyanide process, (2) uniformity and character of the gold-bearing deposit, (3) cheap, unskilled labour, (4) proximity of coal, (5) absence of heavy pumping charges, and (6) good water supply. Actual mining is also greatly assisted by a very strong roof, which supports all excavations made within reason, with a minimum of timbering and other supports in the shallower workings. Nevertheless, this roof has lately been severely strained, this development involving much sand-filling and causing numerous earth tremors. But, despite these favourable and for the most part technical features, there are other factors of an economic or political nature which are not quite so favourable, such as scarcity of native labour (a subject on which Mr John Martin had a good deal to say at the annual meeting of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines), high railway rates and high cost of social insurance or welfare schemes. Nor is it possible to speak in general terms of the whole industry in view of the wide differences between the individual mines or groups of mines.

This is well illustrated by a consideration of the distribution of dividends, which increased from £7,160,000 in 1921 to £8,090,000 in 1929. The mines of the Far East Rand, which crushed only about 40 per cent. of the total tonnage, yielded no less than 86 per cent. of the total dividends. The older mines of the Central Rand, crushing 60 per cent. of the total tonnage, yielded only 14 per cent. of the total dividends. It is obvious that many of these older mines are working without profit and some at a loss. Mr John Martin pointed out, at the Transvaal Chamber of Mines meeting, that these mines produced 49 per cent. of the whole gold output, spent 65 per cent. of the total sum distributed in wages, and 60 per cent. of the amount expended on stores. In 1929 there were ten producing goldmining companies unable to pay any dividends at all, yet these mines gave employment to 7,400 Europeans, and 63,500 non-Europeans, and distributed almost £5,000,000 in wages alone. Of their total working costs, amounting last year to £9,500,000, about 84 per cent. was spent in South Africa.

The mines that are not prosperous or are experiencing less than the average prosperity are the mines where there is only a small margin between yield and costs, either because the yield of gold is low or because the working costs, owing to difficult mining conditions, are high. In either event only ore of a certain grade can be handled at a profit. Working costs, on the average, have been reduced from 25s. 8d. per ton in 1921 to 19s. 7d. per ton milled in 1929, and the importance of this may be realised when it is stated that no less than seventeen mines in 1929 had yields of gold per ton which were below the average working costs level of 1921, and these mines crushed, last year, 14,500,000 tons of ore, yielding £15,500,000 worth of gold. The decline in average working costs has apparently been due to a general reduction all round and not to any spectacular fall in working costs of one or two mines, and this has so improved the outlook that not only is the scale of current operations 40 per cent. greater than it was in 1921, but the development footage accomplished throughout the industry (*i.e.* the work done by means of drives, winzes, raises, and incline shafts to open up new ground, disclose payable areas and make them available for subsequent stoping operations), amounting in 1921 to only 586,000 feet, reached in 1929 the tremendous total of 1,110,000 feet. As Mr John Martin pointed out in his very informative survey, several new mines have been started and others have enlarged their mining areas; but it is necessary to remember that the remarkable expansion of the industry in recent years is due to a more rapid using up of the available payable ore. Dividends to shareholders—representing return of capital, since gold mines are a wasting asset—have shown much less than a corresponding rate of increase.

The future prospects of the world's goldmining industry are obviously of considerable moment to the investor in South African mining shares. Since 1924 the world's gold production has been practically stationary at about £82,000,000 per annum. Mr Joseph Kitchin, a pre-eminent authority, has computed that for the next five years it will probably remain at or about this figure. A gradual falling-off will, he believes, characterise the succeeding three years' operations, followed by a rapid decline in ensuing years. The question whether such a condition would react upon the operation of the gold standard is important, but falls outside the scope of the present article. In ten years' time, however, it is

believed that the Rand will be producing at the rate of about £35,000,000 per annum. Shareholders, especially in the older mines, might be advised duly to consider the implications of this possibility.

The gold-mining industry remains the greatest and best-organised industry in South Africa, and may long remain so if accorded proper treatment by the Government. The latter, during the past year or two, has been well-nigh overwhelmed by good advice and innumerable suggestions as to " proper treatment." There is no doubt that the Union Government's responsibility in many ways is a heavy one, but this fact is now clearly recognised in official quarters.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
May 6.	May 8.

The course of the markets was perplexing. Business was quite definitely of smaller dimensions and sentiment more pessimistic than before the holiday. But no large volume of selling was in evidence, and the Budget was generally scouted as an explanation of the prevailing tendency. The truth would seem to be that the " House " even yet has not fully made up its mind on that question, most members having treated the Easter holiday as an opportunity to forget rather than to meditate upon its implications. Though a few brokers were reported to be transferring clients' funds elsewhere, under instructions, no " flight from the pound " was in progress, so far as British holders in general were concerned. Altogether, the week's movements had a psychological rather than an economic basis, and were of uncertain value as a guide to the course of prices in the near future.

Gilt-edged securities made a disappointing showing, partly as a result of the letting out of stock by jobbers, who were, in effect, stale bulls of a 3 per cent. Bank rate. A firmer tendency obtained on Thursday following the previous day's improvement in sterling. New 4½ per cent. Conversion was sold, Funding Loan and 5 per cent. War Loan also losing ground. India stocks were weak on the ominous development of " civil disobedience." Rumours of a fresh internal issue gave Australian loans a heavy tendency. Fractional declines were recorded in all the new Home Corporation issues.

The foreign market had an idle appearance, with few price changes. Preparations for a new San Paulo loan, underwritten on Thursday, gave a firm appearance to the majority of Brazilian issues, though San Paulo Coffee Bonds were realised to finance prospective applications for the new loan. European stocks were overshadowed by the forthcoming Reparations issue. Underwriters were left with approximately 60 per cent. of the Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland bond issue, the scrip opening at 3½ discount and rising to 1 discount.

Easter weather was a bear point for the Home Railways, the publication of traffic figures comparing unfavourably with Good Friday week last year being a signal for a general marking down of prices, though no large volume of selling resulted. Though business was sparse in the Argentine Railway market, a firmer tone was induced by better crop news. Great Western of Brazil improved on the declaration of the first ordinary dividend for sixteen years.

The industrial markets were in a cautious mood, professional operators refusing to take a definite line and the public showing little interest. Brewery shares obtained some support, Benskins and Allsopps being in demand. Motor shares, however, were affected by a general profit-taking tendency which particularly affected Leylands, Austins and Guys. Among rayon shares, the rumour that Courtaulds were about to undertake film and viscose paper production failed to affect the shares, and British Celanese gave way on the consensus of agreement that the figures mentioned in the company's circular did not foreshadow any speedy dividend payment on the ordinary. Cables and Wireless were heavy on a revival of disquietude regarding the first year's accounts. International stocks were, in general, easier, the exception being Columbia Graphophone, which rose 10s. to 6 13/16. Textile shares were little affected by the dispute in Yorkshire, few changes being recorded apart from a small rise in J. and P. Coats. Electrical power securities held their ground, but manufacturing shares were less active, General Electric suffering a sizeable reaction. Bank shares showed small changes, and dealings in insurance shares were insufficient to test prevailing prices.

Despite the near approach of the tapping " holiday," the market price of rubber continued to decline, and an easier tendency developed in the shares. A fair business was done, at unchanged prices, in Rubber Trusts (whose report is dealt with on page 956), but Anglo-Dutch lost ground. Transactions in tea shares were on a limited scale, with scattered declines in quotations. The oil market had a more assured appearance, on an agreement for further restriction and higher crude prices in California. Lobitos was bought from strong quarters, as a presumptive beneficiary under its short sales contracts.

The tone of the Mining share markets remained dull after the holiday, though a certain liveliness later pervaded the Rhodesian section. The fall in base metals, particularly copper, lead and zinc, was an all-pervasive influence. An analysis of the copper position will be found on page 954. Bwanas receded 1s. 1½d. to 17s. 9d. on Tuesday, despite the publication of more good borehole results at Mindola. N'Changas, Anglo-American and Roan Antelope were all weak, and even Chartered did not escape the prevalent tendency. Rezende were a strong feature. Among Kaffirs few changes of importance were recorded. Tintos were naturally weak, but hardened in the later dealings, while numerous tin counters offered a creditable resistance to the chill wind from the Metal Exchange.

" Financial News " Daily Bargain Index.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Apr. 17.	Apr. 18.	Apr. 21.	Apr. 22.	Apr. 23.	Apr. 24.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,276	...	...	1,535	1,143	1,282
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	933	...	...	910	948	1,102
Commercial and Industrial*	2,403	...	...	2,480	2,139	2,317
Banks, Insurance and Financial	424	...	...	536	501	487
Mines (including Nitrate)	491	...	...	491	384	390
Oil	196	...	...	204	158	219
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	156	...	...	183	187	141
Total	5,879	...	...	6,339	5,460	5,938

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" Financial News " Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Stocks (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Apr. 17.	Apr. 18.	Apr. 21.	Apr. 22.	Apr. 23.	Apr. 24.
90·6	82·0	90·6	...	...	90·5	90·0	89·6

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The share market was weak and sentiment rather more bearish on the inability of prices to advance consistently, while loans continued to gain, indicating that stock was passing from strong to weak hands. With this week's gain of 92 millions in brokers' loans the total for the past four weeks is up 400 millions, with stock market averages virtually unchanged. It is also evident now that less than the normal seasonal recovery in business took place during the first quarter, and that a recession may take place in some industries during the second quarter, bringing home the realisation that the market has over-discounted the business position. Only stocks sponsored by pools are able to advance. Railroads were dull on March earnings,

which were running 25 per cent. under a year ago, and on carloadings, which have risen during the past three weeks, but are still the lowest since 1924. Public utilities are marking time owing to the drop in telephones on a new issue of stock. Oils were the brightest feature, with coppers at new low levels as a result of the cut in the metal, lack of domestic demand, and further dividend reductions. More of the latter are likely, but a further price cut in the metal is not expected.

(*By Cable.*)

	Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Apr. 24.		Apr. 10.	Apr. 16.	Apr. 24.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104 11/32	104 1/4	104 11/32	Phelps Dodge	41	39½	36
Do. 4½% T. Bds.	111 7/32	110½	111 11/32	Pullman	83	82½	81½
Lib.Ln. 3½% '32-47	100 11/32	100 3/32	100 7/32	Sears-Roebuck	92½	91½	90½
Do. 4½% '32-47	101 11/32	101½	101 7/32	Studebaker	42½	40½	38½
Do. 4½% '33-38	101½	101 11/32	101 11/32	Un. Fruit	96	96	94
				U.S. Leather	13⅞	13⅝	14
Atchison	236⅜	229⅜	230½	U.S. Rubber	34½	33	29⅜
Ches. & Ohio	232	228½	222	U.S. Steel	195⅝	194⅛	189⅞
Erie	58⅜	56⅜	54	Westinghouse	192⅜	195⅛	194⅛
Illinois Central	129½	127½	134	Woolworth	64⅜	65⅞	65⅛
N.Y. Central	185⅛	181	179½	Worthington Pump	137	134½	154
Pennsylvania	82⅝	81⅞	81⅜				
Southern Pacific	122⅛	123½	123⅜	Am. Pow. & Light	92⅜	114⅜	113½
Southern Rly.	127	114	115⅜	Am. Tel. & Tg.	270	259½	255
Union Pacific	235	232	230	Electric P. & L.	93½	95½	97
				Int. Tel. Teles.	70⅜	72⅜	75½
Am. Can	151½	153	147	Nat. Pow. & Lt.	53⅜	53	56⅜
Alleghany Corp.	32⅜	32⅜	30⅜	Radio Corpn.	60⅜	59	67½
Amer. Smelting	74	73⅜	70⅛	Utilities P. & L.	45	44	43⅜
Anaconda	73⅞	71⅜	63⅜	W. Union Tlg.	187½	188	183
Bethlehem Steel	106⅜	105⅜	100⅜				
Chrysler Motor	42⅛	39⅜	38⅜	Associated Gas "A"	42	41⅜	40½
Corn Produce	107⅛	105⅞	109½				
Eastman Kodak	236	243⅜	245⅜				
Gen. Electric (New)	92⅜	90	88⅛	Mid-Cont. Pet.	32⅛	31	31⅛
Gen. Motors	53⅞	51	49½	Pan Amer. B.	58⅛	55⅛	57
Int. Harvester	106½	112⅜	107½	Sinclair Oil	31⅜	29⅜	30⅛
Montg. Ward	42⅜	45	46⅜	Std. California	71⅜	70⅜	72⅛
Natl. Biscuit	88⅜	87⅜	88⅛	Do. N.J.	79	77⅛	81⅜

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American security values and yields, calculated on closing prices (1926=100) :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Apr. 10.	Apr. 17.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·5	146·0	174·1	172·7
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	169·4	134·3	144·3	142·1
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	178·6	327·9	202·2	268·1	266·0
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	184·3	182·7
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·03%	4·08%

Daily Average of 50 Industrial Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Apr. 15.	Apr. 16.	Apr. 17.	Apr. 18 & 19	Apr. 21.	Apr. 22.	Apr. 23.
202·4	166·5	201·0	199·7	201·3	*	197·1	199·0	198·9

* Stock Exchange Holiday.

Total Dealings in New York.

	Apr. 17.	Apr. 18†.	Apr. 19†.	Apr. 21*.	Apr. 22.	Apr. 23.	Apr. 24.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	3,932	...	...	4,481	4,581	5,558	5,226
Bonds (Value— Thous. $)	12,689	...	...	12,765	11,557	10,281	11,358
Curb— Shares (Thous.)	1,125	...	...	1,366	1,243	1,912	1,541

* 2-hour session. † Holiday.

AMSTERDAM.

A gradual improvement took place on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange during the past month, and, although turnover remained limited, quotations nevertheless rose to a decidedly higher level, particularly for industrial descriptions. The improved tendency can be attributed very largely to the anxiety of bears to cover their engagements, increased by the fact that recent company reports of industrial undertakings revealed satisfactory

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. Apr. 16.	Apr. 24.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	78	77½	– ½
Do. 4½% 1944	99½	98½	– ½
Do. 5% 1944-64	102⅝	102⅝	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	103⅛	103⅜	+ ¼
Consols 4%	89	88 3/8	– ⅛
Funding 4%	91	90½	– ½
Victory Bonds 4%	94⅜	94⅛	– ¼
Local Loans 3%	65	64⅜	– ⅛
Treasury 5% (B)	101 13/16	101 11/16	– ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	102	102	...
India 3½%	64	63	– 1
Do. 4½% 1958-68	87	86	– 1
Australia 5% 1945-75	93	92½	– ½
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	90½	89½	– 1
N. Zealand 5% 1946	102	102	...
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)	102	102	...
Argentine 4% Recins.	87⅛	87⅛	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	104	103⅞	– ⅛
Belgian 7%	111⅛	111⅜	+ ¼
Brazil 6⅓% (1927)	88⅛x	88	– ⅛
China 5% (1912)	48	48	...
Egypt Unified 4%	78⅜	79	+ ⅛
French 5%	20⅝	20⅝	...
French 4% (Brit.)	20x	20	...
German 7%	105⅛x	105	– ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee	103⅛	103⅜	...
Hungary 7½%	103⅜	103	– ⅜
Chili 6%	97⅛	97⅛	...
Poland 7%	89x	89	...
Mexican 5% (1899)	21	21	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	94⅛	94⅛	– ⅛
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56	⅛ pm.	Par	– ⅛
Bristol 5% 1950–60	1⅛ pm.	1⅛ pm.	– ⅛
L.C.C. 3%	65	64⅛	– ⅛
E. London 5% 1960-70	98	98	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	92	92	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	94⅛	94⅛	– ⅛
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	88⅛	87	– 1½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10⅛	9⅞	– ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	32	31	– 1
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	52⅛	51	– 1½
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	65⅛	66	+ ⅛
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77⅛	77⅛	...
Southern Def. Stk.	32⅛	31⅛	– 1
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	74⅛	73⅛	– ⅛
Underground Ord. £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Do. Income Bonds	112	111	– 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	216	216	...
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	86½	86½	...
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	90	87⅜	...
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	97½	97	– ⅛
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	78⅛	79½	+ ⅜
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	82⅛	82⅛	...
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	18	18	...
G.W. of Brazil £10	3⅜	4	+ ⅛
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	57⅛	57⅛	...
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	195⅛	195⅛	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30⅜	$30⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	19⅛	20	+ ⅛
Beira Rlwy. no par	1⅛	1 1/16	– 1/16
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	254½	254½	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Barcl.(Dom.&c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅜	3⅜	+ 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13 11/16	13 11/16	...
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1	– 1/16
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$117½	$117	– ½
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15⅛	15⅛	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	26	26	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29⅛	29⅛	+ ⅛
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	13⅛	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14⅛	14⅛	...
Roy.In.£1, with 10/pd.	8⅛	8⅛	– ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	– 1/16
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	– 1/16
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅛	⅛	– 1/16
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛x	1⅛	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Vickers (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	1/16	1/16	– 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Courtaulds	2 1/16	2⅛	– ⅛
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1 7/16	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
General Electric (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	– ⅛
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	– ⅛
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16	2	+ ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 1/16	1 7/16	+ 1/16
City of London (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16 x	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	54	53	– 1
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	–
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	395	405	+10
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	101⅛	102	+ ⅛
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless { *A Ord.*	56	53⅛	– 2⅛
Cables and Wireless { *B Ord.*	28	26	– 2
Canadian Marconi	1⅛	1⅛	...
Marconi Marine (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛ x	...
Ford Motors (£1)	3 1/16	4	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ ⅛
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛ x	...
Napier (5/-)	2⅛	⅛ xD	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛ x	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26⅛	26⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	– 1/16
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Cons. Teas&Lnds. (£10)	26	26	...
London Asiatic (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	– 1/16
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord.	$5	$5	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Royal Dutch (£3⅓)	34	34 1/16	+ 1/16
Shell (£1)	4⅞	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$53	$54⅛ x	...
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 1/16	5 1/16	– ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9 1/16	9 1/16	...
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6⅞	6 1/16	+ ⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16 x	...
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅛	5 1/16	+ 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5	– 1/16
International Holdings	7⅛	7⅛	– 1/16
Inter. Nickel of Can.	42⅛	38	– 4⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr. 100)	33⅛	32⅛	– ⅛
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	5⅛	6 1/16	+ 1/16
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	– 1/16
Swed. Match, B(kr 100)	17 1/16	17⅛	– 1/16
Tate and Lyle (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
United Molasses (£1)	5⅛	5 1/16 x	...
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Mines.			
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅛	2 1/16	– 1/16
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	14⅛	15 1/16	+ ⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	42⅛	42⅛	– ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	2⅛	2	– ⅛
UnionOrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/pp	⅛	⅛	– 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	– ⅛

results for the past year. An additional stimulating factor was the firm tendency of Royal Dutch, due to greater optimism as to the effects of restriction. Artificial silks were in more favour, and A.K.U. registered a marked advance. Rubber shares were firm in view of the restriction measures coming definitely into operation during May, and the effect on 'Change was reassuring. Sugar shares suffered losses at first, as a result of the unsatisfactory position of the sales of V.I.S.P., there being no less than 150,000 tons of the old crop still to be sold. In succeeding weeks, however, the V.I.S.P. made several sales and the Stock Exchange responded to the stimulus. The announcement that the Trading Company Amsterdam would distribute a dividend of 30 per cent. was an additional strong feature. Shipping shares were firm on the not unsatisfactory results attained in 1929. Tobacco shares followed an irregular trend, corresponding to that of the Amsterdam tobacco sales.

	Feb. 15.	Mar. 15.	Apr. 15.
4½% Gov. Bds., 1916	100¾	101⅛	100 11/16
4% Bonds, 1916...	96⅛	97⅜	97 1/16
4½% Bonds East Indies	97⅛	96 1/16	96⅛
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	98	99⅛	99 1/16
4½% Rotterdam, 1930	97⅛	98⅛	98⅜
Amsterdam Bank	195	187½	192
Koloniale Bank ...	220	200½	195½
Ned. Ind. Handelsbank	154½	150½	154⅜
Neth. Trading Soc.	173	170½	174
Rotterdam Bank.	113⅛	112½	114⅜
Van Berkels Pat..	169	145	141⅜
Central Sugar.....	58⅛	49⅜	51
Shipbuilding Wilton	...	48⅜	...
Dutch Art. Silk ...	91	85	90
Margarine Unie ...	328½	302½	356
Kuechenmeist Aco.	120½	111	137½
General Art Silk...	116	95	120
Dutch Ford	268⅜	251	269
Philips Elect. Lamp	453½	435	479⅛
Swedish Match ...	315	301⅛	320
Kreuger & Toll ...	553	539	630
Intern. Cred. Trad.	262½	239	255½
Redjang Lebong...	118	101	96½
Singkep Tin	198	174½	184
Bolton.....	178	160	157

	Feb. 15.	Mar. 15.	Apr. 15.
Algem. Explorat.	184	168	190
Aniem.....	320½	301½	334
Ned. Ind. Gas.....	228	227	237½
Royal Dutch	390½	382½	408
Amsterdam Rub'r	173	134½†	150
Deli Batavia	113½	103	109
East Java	242½	228	245½
Hessa Rubber ...	201	185½	183
Serbadjadi Sumatra	127½	107½	120
Allied Sumatra ...	84	78	83½
Holland Amer. Line	35⅜	32⅜	36
Royal Packet ...	224½	208⅜	...
Neth. Shipping U.	185	169½	180⅜
Navigation "Nederland"	177	165½	170½
Royal Steamship	84⅜	79⅜	79
Java China Japan Line	101½	94½	91⅜
Vorstenlanden ...	153	147½	148⅜
Trading Co. Amsterdam	573½	552	526½
Java Plantations...	409	398	378
Neth. India Sugar	257	237	231½
Besoeki	...	...	370
Deli Batavia	394	376	410
Deli	358½	337	376½
Senembah	406	388	414½

† Ex right.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Company Law Enforcement.—Many investors are awaiting with interest the findings of the special sub-committee of the Stock Exchange, which for the last few weeks has been investigating possible amendments in the procedure relating to "Permission to Deal." The main lines of the report may now be said to have taken definite shape in the minds of the members, but some weeks may possibly elapse before the final document is in the hands of the Stock Exchange Committee. Meanwhile action has been taken in another quarter which harmonises well with the Stock Exchange Committee's efforts to make investment safer for the investor. The Board of Trade has successfully initiated a prosecution against the Dynamic Electrical Company, Ltd., and its two directors, for making default in forwarding to Somerset House the annual return of the company and a copy of the list of members, as required by the Companies' Act. The concern is a small one, formed to harness the tides of the Wash, with an original issued capital of 1,500,000 shilling shares. It is clear, however, that the Board of Trade intends its action to be interpreted as a declaration of policy. Its counsel stated, for example, in the course of his speech, that the Board regards defaults in filing returns as "of great gravity," since many matters which come into Court relating to company frauds would never arise if the provisions of the Companies' Acts were properly observed. This is a view which many responsible observers have been pressing on the Board for years past, and its acceptance marks a definite forward step. While magistrates may be reluctant to impose the severe maximum penalty provided in the Act—£5 for every day of default—fines of the order imposed on the Dynamic Electrical Company (£120 with £31 10s. costs) will probably be a sufficient stimulant to tardy managements. It remains to be seen, however, whether they will be equally effective when a company desires to hide some fundamental defect in its position.

The Fall in Copper—Share Market Reactions.—Exactly twelve months to the day since electro-copper fell to 18 cents per lb. an end came to months of waiting, and, on the Wednesday before Easter, the price quoted by Copper Exporters, Inc., was reduced to 14 cents f.a.s. New York, or 14.30 c.i.f. European ports. This involved a sterling price of £66 per ton, which compared with a previous price of £84 5s., at which level, or within a few shillings of it, exporters held the price for a year in spite of ample evidence that business in the red metal was slowly being destroyed. The effect on the share market values may be inferred from the following figures:—

	Highest. 1929.	Highest. 1930.	Tues., Apr. 15.	Thurs., Apr. 17.	Thurs., Apr. 24.
Rio Tinto (£5)	66	47½	44	43¼	42¾
S. Amer. Copper (£2)	5/32	3/32	1/32	1/32	1/32
Tharsis (£2)	6¾	5¼	4⅜	4⅛	4 1/16
Namaqua (£2)	1 11/16	7/16	3/16	3/16	2/16
Mount Lyell (£1)	2 3/16	1 13/16	1 9/16	1½	1 7/16

The causation of such a severe break is complex, but no doubt the evident unpopularity of output restriction, considered in the light of an increase in stocks of refined copper to a quarter of a million tons, has gone a long way towards compelling a decision. In London during the week preceding the reduction in values there were persistent rumours that the Export Association was on the verge of disruption, and there can be little doubt that grave differences have arisen among the members, and that, had no cut been made, a breakaway by certain interests would have occurred. As a matter of fact, severe price-cutting had already taken place by outside interests, and the Custom Smelters were giving trouble, as they did in the spring of last year, owing to their inability to dispose of the daily intake. In making one bold cut to 14 cents exporters have shown wisdom, for half measures at a time like the present would only have led to a continuance of distrust and dissatisfaction among consumers. European consumers have responded more heartily to the new price than American domestic users, and Copper Exporters, Incorporated, have been able to sell upwards of 20,000 tons, mostly for fairly early shipment. In the United States manufacturers have no great quantity of copper either in stock or to come in, but after having suffered from the imposition of 18 cents for twelve months, during half of which their trade has been very depressed, they are endeavouring to get their own back and compel a further reduction in the selling price. In this they have been assisted by the London market, which fell to £55, but now shows a better tendency. Should the Association break up under the burden of excessive stocks, a temporary slump to 9 or 10 cents might easily follow, but the reaction would be rapid, and for a period 12 cents might obtain, with an ultimate recovery to about 14 cents, which must be accounted a reasonable level from every viewpoint. On the whole, the American Association may be able to maintain this price for the next two months, by which time it should be possible to see how consuming trades are reacting to the new level.

Cammell, Laird Debenture Scheme.—The report of Cammell, Laird and Company for 1929, issued last week, intimated that the company would be unable to pay off the principal of its 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock and its 4½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock falling due on July 1 next. Holders were asked for a maximum of five years' delay in return for interest of 5½ per cent., in both cases, in the interim. The result of the meeting to be held on April 25 is not available as we go to press, but efforts have been made to organise opposition to the plan in some quarters on the ground, apparently, that the company could, if it would, find the amounts required, or, alternatively, that the "considera-

tion" for postponement is inadequate. Something like £804,000 would be required to pay off the two stocks, and as the company's last balance sheet showed net liquid assets (including stock-in-trade) of less than £453,000, the operation would clearly depend on the obtaining of cash from an outside source. To make a public issue of new debentures or shares is not a practical proposition for a company which last year earned £5,121 on £4,459,285 of share capital (after making losses of £112,046 and £80,694 in 1927 and 1928 respectively), and its financial advisers (Messrs. Lazard Brothers) would presumably be reluctant to recommend any short-term advance, in view of the unlikelihood of its early funding. The results of the reconstruction arrangements, which have brought Cammell, Laird into active alliance with Vickers-Armstrong through the English Steel Corporation, may be far-reaching and beneficial, but will need considerable time to fructify. The debenture holders could, of course, quite legitimately argue that their immediate interests centred less on keeping in being an important "heavy" steel concern than on obtaining hard cash with the least possible delay, and might proceed, next July, to put in a receiver. Such a step would involve a clash of interest with the holders of 5 per cent. ("Junior") mortgage debenture stock (of which £800,500 is outstanding, but is not due until 1947), and its ultimate financial wisdom would be doubtful. It would, in practice, involve an effort to realise part of the company's holdings of English Steel Corporation ordinary shares and Metropolitan-Cammell ordinary. No more inappropriate time than the present could be devised for such an operation. Neither of the last-named companies has as yet paid a dividend, neither enjoys a Stock Exchange quotation for its shares, and neither can be even approximately assessed as regards future earning power. While refraining from firing the last shot in their locker, however, the debenture stockholders may naturally be expected to drive as hard a bargain regarding "compensation" as possible, and closely to scrutinise the appointment of new trustees for the 4½ per cent. and the 5 per cent. "Junior" debenture stock. The proposal to increase the borrowing powers of the English Steel Corporation, again, would appear to be of concern to Cammell, Laird holders. The placing of an extra £2,000,000 in front of the former's ordinary shares must clearly bear on the status of the Cammell, Laird debenture stock charged upon them.

Babcock and Wilcox.—The accounts of this famous engineering firm for the twelve months ended December 31st last, though showing a drop in trading profits from £783,814 to £676,196, nevertheless appear, on closer examination, not unsatisfactory. The directors report that "the reduction of profits for the year is in a large measure accounted for by an exceptional accumulation of uncompleted orders, due to circumstances beyond our control," a statement which, coupled with a remark of the chairman at the last annual meeting that "for some time past there had been a difficulty in executing orders as quickly as they were wanted," seems to suggest a necessity for plant overhaul or extension. The dividend of 15 per cent., free of tax, is maintained.

	Years ended December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	743,820	734,903	674,316
Brought forward	161,442	125,361	118,363
Preference dividend.....	14,953	14,953	14,953
Rate %	6 & 5	6 & 5	6 & 5
No. of times covered	*49·8*	*49·1*	*45·1*
Ordinary capital—			
Earned £	*728,867*	*719,950*	*659,363*
Paid £	644,948*	644,948*	644,948*
Earned %	*16·9*	*16·7*	*15·3*
Paid %	15·0*	15·0*	15·0*
To reserve	100,000	50,000	48,000
Other allocations	20,000	32,000	8,786
Carried forward	125,361	118,363	75,992

* Free of tax.

"In view of the very satisfactory volume of orders," the directors feel justified in placing only £48,000 to reserve fund, which now stands at £852,000, in addition to a dividend equalisation fund of £400,000. To make possible this allocation, the carry-forward item has been further decreased from £118,363 to £75,992, while £8,786 has been put to staff pension fund, against £32,000, following the adoption of a new contributory system. Investments are shown in the balance sheet at a cost price of £1,588,847, against a market value on December 31st last of £1,530,779, but in view of the fact that on March 31, 1930, they were worth more than the original cost, "it is not considered necessary to make any provision out of profits for this decrease." At the present price of 3 3/32 the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of about £5 per cent. free of tax, allowing for a final dividend of 8 per cent.

Imperial Chemical Industries.—It is unfortunate that the directors of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., still do not see their way to publish a consolidated income account and balance sheet. As the income of this company is derived from dividends received from its subsidiary and associated companies, it is impossible to ascertain the combine's real earnings. After deducting £575,479 for the central obsolescence fund (against £509,138) and providing £146,653 for income tax (against £275,540), the net profit comes to £5,780,208, against £5,212,703 in 1928, an increase of 10.8 per cent. The directors' report declares that while the volume of trade was generally good in 1929, the persistent downward trend of world prices adversely affected the profits. In Great Britain trade was maintained, depression in certain sections being offset by increased activity in others. The distribution of profits for the last three years is shown:—

	Years ended December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Ordinary capital.....	32,237,843	37,252,178	43,514,310
Deferred capital.....	9,548,165	10,860,145	10,867,437
Gross profits	4,567,225	5,997,381	6,502,341
Taxation	125,330	275,540	146,654
Obsolescence reserve	...	509,138	575,479
Net profits	4,441,895	5,212,703	5,780,208
Preference dividends	1,145,501	1,194,550	1,407,755
Balance for Ordinary and Deferred capital	3,296,394	4,018,153	4,372,453
Ordinary *Earned*	*9·0%*	*10·02%*	*9·26%*
Ordinary Paid	8%	8%	8%
Deferred *Earned*	*3·4%*	*5·17%*	*4·4%*
Deferred Paid	1·75%	1·75%	2%
Carried forward	82,860	109,633	350,922

During last year new capital totalling £10,736,098 was issued, the expenses being written off the share premium

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account. The total reserves at December 31, 1929, amounted to £16,725,000, against £11,009,138 twelve months ago. These reserves included £9,725,000 capital reserves (increased by £4,195,979 by share premiums, *less* the expenses of the new issue); £3,000,000 free reserves (including £529,020 appropriated out of the 1929 profits); and £4,000,000 central obsolescence fund (increased by £575,479 out of 1929 profits and by £415,383 by the transfer of the Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates, Ltd., balance as at December 31, 1929). The balance sheet now shows separately the holdings in subsidiary and associated companies and other investments. The total of these holdings amounted to £85,290,948, compared with £68,498,933 a year ago. This increase is due to the reorganisation of the control of subsidiary companies on a group basis which involved the transfer to Imperial Chemical Industries of a number of investments standing in the names of its subsidiary companies. The holdings in the subsidiary companies amounted to £70,469,303 and those in associated companies to £6,875,122. The marketable securities amounted to £7,946,523, with a market value at December 31, 1929, of £6,963,176. The directors do not refer to the heavy depreciation in the market value of the company's own shares, which are now quoted at 26s. 10½d. for the ordinary and 8s. 6d. for the deferred, against maximum quotations in 1929 of 45s. 6d. and 17s. 1½d. respectively. At the present market price the ordinary shares return a yield of 6.15 per cent. and the deferred shares of 2.4 per cent.

Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd.—The 1929 report of this company, the old Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical enlarged by the control of British Thomson-Houston, Edison Swan and Ferguson Pailin, shows the earnings of the £2,282,817 new capital subscribed at the end of 1928 for the purposes of the amalgamation. The dividends are maintained at 6 per cent. on the increased ordinary capital of £3,498,900, but the margin of surplus earnings is reduced, as the following table will show:—

	Years ended December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Profit*	254,748	258,772	365,961
Debenture interest	41,454	41,454	41,454
Depreciation	53,182	56,655	62,695
Net earnings*	160,112	160,663	261,812
Preference dividend*	78,915	78,915	76,449
Number of times covered	*2·2*	*2·0*	*3·4*
Ordinary — *Earned*	8·9%	8·9%	*6·8%*
Ordinary — paid, less tax	6%	6%	6%
Ordinary — Amount of dividend*	54,574	54,574	162,699
To general reserve	25,000	25,000	15,273

* Tax deducted.

The profits shown include only dividends declared by the subsidiary companies. The directors state that the works of the group were "comparatively well employed" in 1929 and that orders in hand show an increase over those of the previous year. The balance sheet shows a strong liquid position, the surplus of current assets over liabilities amounting to £1,880,000. The retirement of Mr Bernard Docker and Sir E. Wylbore-Smith may or may not be connected with the large interests in the company of the American General Electric Company. The shares at 28s. 6d. compare with a high level of 58s. 6d. in 1929 and return a yield of £4 7s. 2d. per cent.

Howard and Bullough.—The latest report of this leading company of textile machinists makes, frankly, depressing reading. Since the halcyon days of 1922-23, when nearly 60 per cent. was earned on the company's then ordinary capital, profits have steadily dwindled and last year all but disappeared. After deduction of debenture interest, the profit and loss account for the year ended March 31st last reveals a debit balance of £8,390, against last year's net profit of £61,447. The carry-forward, which in 1929 was drained away from £66,021 to £3,093 in an effort to maintain dividends at a reasonable level, of necessity remains insignificant, while, despite the fact that £55,000 is taken from dividend equalisation account, the directors are unable to recommend any addition to the first quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent., paid in October last.

	Year ends March 31. 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	129,143	61,447	*Dr. 8,390*
Brought forward	76,878	66,021	3,093
Preference dividends	15,000	15,000	15,000
Rate per cent.	6	6	6
No. of times covered	*8·6*	*4·1*	...
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*114,143*	*46,446*	...
Paid £	125,000	109,375	31,250
Earned per cent.	*9·1*	*3·7*	...
Paid per cent.	10	8¾	2½
Other allocations	...	...	*Dr.55,000*
Carried forward	66,021	3,093	3,453

The company still carries reserve funds aggregating £650,000, a feature of strength if and when a recovery takes place. At the last annual meeting the chairman informed shareholders that on the average the works had been employed only four days a week, and it seems probable that during the past financial year the falling off in orders, both home and foreign, has continued. Shareholders will look to the chairman, at the forthcoming meeting, for a clear review of the difficulties against which the company is struggling, even if the facts are in some cases unpalatable. They will also learn, doubtless, whether conditions have changed markedly since October, when the 2½ per cent. interim dividend was paid.

Rubber Plantations Investment Trust.—The complete report for 1929 shows that the fall in net profit was due mainly to declining tea and rubber prices. Dividends received were only £15,525 lower at £167,372, but produce from the company's own estates, at £96,040, showed a decline of £43,188. The directors have transferred £50,000 from the dividend equalisation reserve and declared a very liberal dividend of 12½ per cent.:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	335,852	222,646	170,503
Ordinary — Earned per cent.	14·92	9·89	7·58
Ordinary — Paid per cent.	16·0	15·0	12.5
Ordinary — Dividend	288,000	270,000	222,012
To reserve	50,000	*Dr.50,000*	*Dr.50,000*
To carry forward	*Dr. 2,148*	2,646	*Dr. 1,509*

Of the company's investment holdings of £2,341,822, 53½ per cent. is now represented by rubber shares, as compared with 36 per cent. in 1927. Over the same period the investments have risen from 24½ per cent. to 29 per cent., while British Government securities have fallen from 29 per cent. to 8 per cent. of the total. The directors clearly have every confidence in the ability of the plantation industries to work out their own future salvation, and are prepared to back their faith by purchasing promising securities when prices are low. The chairman, at the meeting on May 8th, will doubtless have much to say on the question whether rubber prices have touched bottom. Shareholders will also be interested to hear what, in his opinion, would be a "permanent" economic price for the commodity, and what the industry proposes to do if the May "tapping holiday" fails to bring about any marked and immediate improvement in quotations. The shares, at 37s. 3d., yield approximately 6¾ per cent.

Fox Film and Gaumont-British.—The re-financing of the Fox Film Corporation is of considerable interest to shareholders of the Gaumont-British Corporation. From particulars in the American Press and the annual report of the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation (a large shareholder in Gaumont-British), it may be seen how the control of the Gaumont-British can be held by the Fox Film Corporation without violating the articles of association which ostensibly safeguard British ownership. It is understood that of the 5,000,000 ordinary shares of 10s. of Gaumont-British, 3,200,000 are held by the Metropolis and Bradford Syndicate, which in turn are held as to 50 per cent. by Mr William Fox and 50 per cent. by the Ostrer Brothers. Mr William Fox, however, has stated that he paid $19,000,000 for Gaumont-British control. If the price paid for the shares was 24s. 6d.—the price at which the Ostrer Brothers took over the unissued block of shares—this statement may be taken to imply that 2,743,500 shares in Gaumont-British are held on Mr Fox's behalf. Of the remaining shares of Gaumont-British the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation hold, it is believed, 300,000, while other large holders account for about 100,000, leaving a comparatively small block in the hands of the outside British public. As regards the Fox Film Corporation, the re-financing plan enables all indebtedness to be met. The Fox Theatres Corporation is to exchange 660,900 shares of Loew Inc. stock for 1,600,000 shares of Fox Film "A" stock plus $27,000,000. These 1,600,000 shares of Fox Film "A" stock are to be sold to General Theatres Equipment for $48,000,000, and the General Theatres Equipment is to finance this deal by selling $30,000,000 convertible 6 per cent. notes. This plan is sponsored by the banking firms of Halsey Stuart and Dillon Read. Mr Fox himself has relinquished control to these banking interests, and has perforce to content himself with a salary of $100,000 a year for five years as chairman of an advisory committee.

Swedish Match.—The report of the Swedish Match Company for 1929 is mainly concerned with Russian competition, which has existed for a great number of years, but has only recently assumed its present fierce character. The Swedish Match directors allege that the Russian propaganda is designed not so much to further the sales of Russian matches, as to create a "nuisance value" in the hope of inducing the Swedish Match Company to make a working arrangement and grant a loan. Such a working arrangement the Swedish Match directors regard as neither feasible nor desirable under present conditions. The German market, which, last year, receiver half of the total quantity of matches exported from Russia, is now entirely closed. Under the new German agreement a selling company, which will have the sole right to sell matches, whether imported or manufactured, will be owned as to 50 per cent. by the Swedish Match and as to 50 per cent. by the German manufacturing interests. The business of the International Match Corporation showed satisfactory progress last year and, beginning with the last quarter of 1929, the company was put on a dividend basis of $4 per annum instead of $3.20 as previously. The earnings of the Swedish Match Company showed an increase of nearly 10 per cent. last year and amounted to over 20 per cent. on the Kr. 270,000,000 capital in "A" and "B" shares, as the following table shows:—

Years to Dec. 31.	Earned for Div.	"A" and "B" Shares Earned.	Paid.	Reserve.	Carry Forward.
	Kr.	%	%	Kr.	Kr.
1927	36,481,544	20·2	15	1,000,000	20,183,895*
1928	48,961,568	18·1	15	Nil	28,645,463*
1929	54,242,103	20·1	15	...	37,229,909*

* Subject to interim dividends for following year.

The balance sheet shows a strong liquid position, cash being Kr. 31,521,924, debtors Kr. 76,775,628, and stock of matches Kr. 1,534,895, against sundry creditors Kr. 86,789,610. The foreign investments are shown at Kr. 124,527,215 and bonds Kr. 113,001,012. Holdings in associated companies are given in detail and amount to Kr. 297,582,841. These include 999,190 ordinary shares in International Match and 1,856,250 ordinary shares in British Match Corporation. A final dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, making 15 per cent. for the year, which has been the rate of distribution for the past four years. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. is paid in respect of 1930. The ordinary shares at the present price of 17½ compare with a high level of 23¾ last year and return a yield of £4 17s. per cent.

R. E. Jones's Next Step.—In last week's *Economist* (page 897) we described the differences of view represented on the board of R. E. Jones, the South Wales caterers, and the failure of successive attempts to cut the Gordian knot. At an extraordinary general meeting held on Thursday, April 17th, the shareholders once more debated the question. After close on six hours' discussion the extraordinary resolutions proposed by Mr T. Bickerton and Mr J. Moxon were put to the meeting. The resolution to remove Sir N. Grattan Doyle and Sir T. G. Jones from the board was carried, but on a show of hands the requisite three-fourths majority was not obtained, while Messrs Moxon and Bickerton failed to carry their other resolutions to remove Mr A. Batchelor and Mr A. J. Howell, or to appoint Mr R. A. R. Field, of Slaters and Bodega, Ltd. In each case a poll was demanded, but the results are not available as we go to press, though there would seem to have been some indication that the feeling of the meeting was somewhat more favourable to the present board than on previous occasions. Whatever the outcome, it is to be hoped that the result of the poll will provide a final decision on the subject of future management, and enable the long-overdue reconstruction of the business to be carried out.

General Electric Company (of New York).—The orders received during 1929 by the General Electric Company (of New York) increased by 28 per cent., reaching a record high total of $445,802,519. The net income amounted to $8.97 a share on the 7,211,481 shares of no par common stock outstanding at the end of the year, as compared with $7.15 in 1928. The undistributed equity in subsidiaries' earnings represented an additional $1.74 per share. On the shares outstanding after the recent four-for-one division of the common stock, the earnings were equivalent to $2.4 per share.

	1929.	1928.
	$	$
Net sales billed	415,338,094	337,189,422
Net Income from sales	49,395,896	39,661,230
Other income	21,426,079	17,671,201
Interest and reserves	3,532,096	3,178,626
Profit available for dividends	67,289,880	54,153,806
Cash dividends on special stock	2,574,819	2,574,655
Profit available for common stock	64,715,060	51,579,150
Regular cash dividends	32,449,285	28,843,769
Extra cash dividends	7,210,949	14,421,887
Carried forward	25,054,826	8,313,494

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

The balance sheet shows a strong working capital position, although current assets, at $255,876,006, were slightly less and current liabilities, at $42,664,322, slightly more than at the end of 1928. In the foreign field, the company extended its interests in France, Germany and Holland. The net book value of its manufacturing plants stands at $49,236,288, against a total expenditure of $313,659,221. Substantial expenditure was incurred last year for consolidating the manufacture of related products on single sites instead of in two or more factories, a considerable improvement in efficiency and reduction in costs being thus effected. Unfilled orders at the end of 1929 totalled $94,623,000, an increase of 30 per cent. The average number of employees was 87,933, with average annual earnings per employee of $1,855.

Western Union Telegraph.—Continued growth in revenues and plant is reflected in the annual report of the Western Union Telegraph Company for the year 1929, but the net income available for dividends showed an increase of only $7,000 over the preceding year. Earnings were $15,474,893, equivalent to $15.11 per share on 1,023,789 shares of capital stock, against $15,467,659 or $15.10 a share on 1,023,781 shares in the previous year.

	1928. $	1929. $
Gross revenues	136,449,512	145,667,195
Net revenue	16,139,256	16,302,299
Other income	2,937,808	2,782,659
Interest charges	3,609,405	3,610,065
Net income	15,467,659	15,474,893
Dividends	8,084,634	8,188,206
Carried forward	7,383,025	7,286,687

Capital expenditures of an unusual character have been incurred in connection with the new building in New York City, for purchase of real estate, ocean cables, printer telegraph apparatus installation, and the acquisition of control of various related companies. The company has spent $33,000,000 for these purposes and contemplates further expenditure of nearly $30,000,000 during the next two years. The president, Mr Newcomb Carlton, definitely predicts lower earnings for 1930. "It is obviously impracticable," he declares, "to reduce expenses proportionately without serious impairment of service. Moreover, a considerable part of the capital outlay made in the past few years is not yet on a full earning basis, but it is expected that these extraordinary capital expenditures will be productive in 1931." The company's current assets, on December 31st last, were $23,070,108, and its current liabilities $22,857,495. The company, however, has subsequently sold $35,000,000 of thirty-year five per cent. bonds. A quotation "ticker" of increased capacity is being installed to handle the heavy trading on the New York Stock Exchange, and will be in operation later this year.

Insurance Share Index.—In common with the shares of industrial companies, insurance shares have shown an appreciable recovery from the low levels reached at the end of last year. This may be attributed not only to the stimulus of cheap money and generally improved market sentiment, but to the reassuring character of the annual reports so far published this year. The table below exhibits the history of an investment in 1913 of £1,000 in ordinary shares of each of 25 leading insurance companies and an index also of the total. Columns have been added to show the values as at December 31, 1928, December 31, 1929, and March 31, 1930. The figures are then ordinary the mean of the highest and lowest prices in each year all except in the case of the last three columns, which are interest, to the middle market price on the dates ended March 3

SHARE INDEX.

Office.	1913.	1920.	1928.	1929.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 3 1930.
Alliance	1,000	1,018	1,738	1,675	1,669	1,491	1,575
Atlas	1,000	2,059	3,595	3,532	3,873	3,174	3,397
Caledonian* ‖	1,000	1,776	5,254	5,700	6,432	4,655	4,906
Commercial Union‡	1,000	2,453	5,038	4,545	4,963	4,092	4,528
Employers' Liability	1,000	3,558	2,955	2,725	3,063	2,568	2,838
Equity and Law	1,000	922	1,725	2,009	2,098	1,942	1,964
General Accident	1,000	2,650	6,538	8,133	7,999	7,466	8,000
Gresham Fire	1,000	2,869	3,886	2,872	3,333	2,381	2,143
Gresham Life	1,000	649	3,852	4,030	4,030	4,152	4,336
Guardian†	1,000	1,731	2,678	2,596	2,628	2,372	2,551
Legal and General	1,000	1,443	5,233	6,536	5,902	6,339	6,776
Life Association of Scotland	1,000	1,009	1,804	1,989	1,896	2,010	1,749
London and Lancashire	1,000	1,801	4,673	4,548	4,769	4,077	4,539
London Assurance	1,000	1,832	2,350	2,126	2,377	1,892	1,941
North British & Mercantile	1,000	1,338	4,467	4,514	4,713	4,013	4,522
Northern	1,000	2,067	2,068	2,011	2,149	1,851	2,000
Phœnix	1,000	1,429	1,937	1,945	1,996	1,742	1,911
Prudential**	1,000	730	1,995	2,163	2,163	2,038	2,302
Royal Exchange§	1,000	2,325	3,481	3,227	3,327	3,019	3,204
Royal	1,000	1,379	2,961	2,882	3,011	2,753	2,839
Scottish Life	1,000	1,129	2,242	2,680	2,360	2,697	2,697
Scottish Union & National	1,000	2,764	5,032	5,213	5,324	4,658	5,028
Sun Fire	1,000	1,159	2,604	2,853	2,916	2,524	2,729
Sun Life	1,000	645	2,138	2,237	2,297	2,055	2,176
Yorkshire¶	1,000	2,293	3,005	3,041	3,253	2,525	2,783
Average	1,000	1,721	3,330	3,431	3,542	3,139	3,337

* Caledonian, 1923.—£25 shares split into £5 shares, 1 new £5 share at 6 premium for each £25 share. † Guardian, 1917.—£10 shares split into 2 £3 shares and 1 £4 preference share each. ‡ Commercial Union, 1927.—New shares of £2 10s. offered proportion of 1 share for each 5 held at £16 per share. § Royal Exchange, 1927.—New shares £1 offered in proportion of 1 share for each £5 stock held at £6 10s. per share. ‖ Caledonian, 1929.—New shares £5—1 new share for every 5 held at £14 per share. ¶ Yorkshire, 1929.—New shares £1 offered 1 new share for every 14 £5 shares held at £12 per share. ** Prudential, 1929.—New shares £1 offered 1 new share for every 4 shares held at £5 per share.

The index as a whole has advanced from 3,139 on December 31, 1929, to 3,337 on March 31st last—an increase of 198 points. Thus exactly half of the total depreciation of 403 points during the year 1929 was regained. The daily index of prices of 30 industrial ordinary shares compiled by the *Financial News* shows that industrials generally recovered only 9 per cent. of their 1929 losses. The comparison is a testimony to the inherent strength and soundness of insurance shares. The recovery has, however, been unequally spread. The shares of two companies, the Gresham Fire and the Life Association of Scotland, have actually depreciated further this year, while the Scottish Life has shown no movement either way. In a few cases, however—the General Accident, Gresham Life, Legal and General, Prudential "A" and Scottish Life—prices are now actually on a higher level than at the beginning of 1929.

Brakpan.—Of the gold-producing subsidiaries of the Anglo-American group, whose annual reports are now to hand, Brakpan claims attention by reason of the recent sharp fluctuations in the price of the shares. Following the publication of a cabled summary of the ore reserves, which showed an appreciable falling off in both quantity and value, the quotation went under 2½. A bout of buying—chiefly for French account—subsequently initiated a recovery to over 3. The demand would appear to have been founded on the improved developments during the first quarter of the current year, when the payable percentage was nearly 37, as against 22 for the December period, and the values represented 526 inch-dwts., compared with 427 for the whole of 1929. This is one of several matters upon which the future largely depends. We contrast the results of the past three years:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore crushed ..... tons	942,500	1,016,500	1,028,300
Yield per ton	34/–	32/4	33/–
Cost per ton	20/4	19/9	20/2
Profit per ton	13/8	12/7	12/10
Working profit .....£	643,470	639,760	660,530
Net profit	645,890	644,100	670,075
Earned per cent.	*63·3*	*63·2*	*65·8*
Dividends	510,000	497,250	497,250
Rate per cent.	50	48¾	48¾
Carried forward	59,340	59,540	58,290
Ore reserves ..... tons	3,069,620	2,938,050	2,531,440
Value ..... dwts.	7·93	8·21	7·89

The advance in last year's costs is attributable to the increase in the development performed and to heavier outlay in the reduction department. As the position requires a further extension in underground work, a fresh small advance in expenses must be looked for, together

with some decline in average yield owing to the lower grade of the ore reserves. Two significant phrases occur in the report. The consulting engineers intimate that "the information now available with regard to the Western area seems to indicate that payable ore is found in disconnected lenses rather than in the continuous and lengthy shots which are a feature of the Eastern area." The directors state that the increase in the amount set aside for miners' phthisis (the allowance being £17,360, in place of £8,800) is due to "a new basis of calculation"—in other words, to a shorter life expectation.

Springs.—The features presented by the Springs Mines statement are a falling off in the earnings and an improvement in the development position—the precise opposite of those indicated by Brakpan. The setback in profits is attributable mainly to expansion in costs, additional outlay occurring under several headings, including the operation of a new shaft. That in these circumstances the company should have been able to pay a higher rate of dividend than before is due to the smaller requirements for capital outlay and for the Union Government's participation in profits. The latter, of course, is a natural corollary of the lower scale of earnings. Capital outlay for the current year is estimated at £10,000 maximum, or less than one-quarter of the 1929 amount; its result will be seen in better metallurgical practice. Our usual table follows:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore crushed ..... tons	799,000	830,600	825,600
Yield per ton	38/7	41/4	41/2
Cost per ton	20/5	20/9	22/1
Profit per ton	18/2	20/7	19/–
Working profit .....£	727,600	853,850	785,460
Net profit	736,310	865,220	797,910
Earned per cent.	49·1	57·5	53·1
Dividends	506,250	506,250	543,750
Rate per cent.	33¾	33¾	36¼
Carried forward .....£	59,950	49,220	47,010
Ore reserves ..... tons	3,198,420	3,008,640	3,250,240
Value ..... dwts.	8·58	9·10	9·30

While no reduction is anticipated in working costs, "the yield per ton should be at least maintained; and, with an adequate native labour supply, the profits outlook may be regarded as very satisfactory," observe the consulting engineers. On the basis of last year's dividends the gross yield is slightly under 11 per cent.

West Springs.—Expansion in the tonnage crushed by this company and a reduction in the cost ratio—due to further enlargement of the treatment plant—almost offset a sharp decline in average grade. As in the case of the Springs, the increase in the disbursements to the shareholders is attributable to the smaller special appropriations; moreover, a fresh expansion in the carry-forward is shown. Appended is a comparison of the results of the past three years:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Ore crushed ..... tons	587,700	647,300	763,500
Yield per ton	30/11	27/9	24/8
Costs per ton	19/3	19/8	18/2
Profit per ton	11/8	8/1	6/6
Total working profit ...£	343,850	260,600	248,480
Net profit	343,820	261,650	250,560
Earned per cent.	19·2	14·6	14·0
Dividends, amount	179,300	156,890	179,300
Rate per cent	10	8¾	10
Carried forward	39,260	67,190	92,540
Ore reserves ..... tons	2,638,220	2,695,520	2,752,680
Value ..... dwts.	7·23	6·8	6·34

Last year's development results were of a disappointing character. It is true that the ore reserve tonnage is 57,000 tons up despite the decrease of the stoping width by nearly four inches; but then an additional 6,000 ft. of work was performed (total, 33,400 ft.). The payable percentage figures at 22, against 25½, and the inch-dwts. at 484 in place of 497. All things considered, it is expected that the profit total of the current year "should not differ greatly" from that of 1929; but note must be taken of the intimation that the grade of ore in the western section of the property (adjoining the Brakpan) is not as high as in the north-eastern section, which was the first to be opened up. The £1 shares are quoted around 14s. 6d.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—La Guaira and Caracas Railway, Army and Navy Co-operative Society and Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk. At the La Guaira and Caracas Railway meeting the chairman informed the shareholders that the company had been successful in meeting road competition, the number of passengers carried having increased from 130,000 to 140,000 in the past year, though receipts had decreased from £23,000 to £21,500. At the annual meeting of Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss, the chairman referred to the company's scientific research and the recognition accorded to the laboratories, particularly those at Vevey, by professional authorities in Switzerland and elsewhere.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

An unusual conjunction of circumstances is making for uncertainty in the new issue market. While it is clear that conditions continue to favour fixed interest as distinct from variable dividend securities, the Budget has combined with a less favourable immediate outlook in the money market to render conditions slightly less promising for issuing houses. On foreign flotations there is a semi-embargo, pending the issue—probably next month—of the London *tranche* of the Reparations Loan. The latter is not, so far, being viewed with undue enthusiasm in British banking circles. Among the limited number of exceptions to the general ruling are the San Paulo Loan, of approximately £7,500,000, underwritten in London on Thursday, and a Hungarian Government Loan of £4,000,000, which follows on the non-German Reparations settlement agreed upon at the Hague Conference. The only home corporation issue this week was that of *West Ham*, which offered a running yield of £5 1s. 6d. per cent. and a redemption yield of £5 1s. 9d. per cent. The average rate in West Ham for 1929-30 was 17s. 6d. in the £.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to April 19, 1930, £106,094,548.
Total, including conversion, recorded January 1 to April 19, 1930, £162,590,066.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended April 19, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to April 19, 1930, £300,000.

	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
To the Public.					
Hobart (City of) 5% Debs., maturing May 1, 1930, conversion into 6% Debs. 1940 at par	...	85,000	...	...	...
West Ham Corporation	800,000	...	788,000	40,000	748,000
Total offered to Public, week ended April 26, 1930	800,000	85,000	788,000	40,000	748,000
To Shareholders only.					
Cheviot Rubber, 259,565 shares of 2s. each at 2s.5d. per share	25,956	...	32,446	19,467	12,979
W. T. Harris & Co., 100,000 10s. 7½% Cum. Part. Pref. shares at par	50,000	...	50,000	12,500	37,500
Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates, £25,000 7% Convertible Debentures at par	25,000	...	25,000	2,500	22,500
Dahan Rubber Estates, £10,000 7% Deb. Stk. at par	10,000	...	10,000	2,000	8,000
Duophone (Foreign), £30,000 8% Debs. at par	30,000	...	30,000	6,000	24,000
Robinson Deep, 881,807 new B shares 7s. 6d. at par	330,678	...	330,678	330,678	...
Total to Shareholders only, week ended April 26, 1930	471,634	...	478,124	373,145	104,979

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Jan. 1 to date—	£	£
1930	164,041,190	107,460,672
1929	135,391,517	121,812,297
1928	...	184,613,537
1927	...	158,387,171
1926	...	83,638,688
1925	...	56,804,718
1924	...	47,242,119
1923	...	112,484,455

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	12,325,378	...	13,934,082
William Whiteley, £500,000 6% Deb. Stk. at 94½% (March 31).....	472,500	97½	487,500
Pentland Investment Trust, £300,000 5% Cum. Pref. Stk. (March 14)	†249,750	83½	249,750
Total, week ended April 26, 1930.....	722,250	...	737,250
Total to date, 1930	13,047,628	...	14,671,332
Total to date, 1929	15,595,767	...	23,394,969

† Taken at price of 83½.

East Hull Gas Company.—Issue by tender of £20,920 5½ per cent. redeemable debenture stock, minimum price par. Redeemable at par on July 1, 1955. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31 last was £17,252, covering interest on loan capital, including the present issue, 2.7 times. The company was incorporated by Special Act in 1867, and the increase in business during the past 10 years exceeds 73 per cent.

West Ham Corporation.—Issue of £800,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1948-68, at £98½ per cent. The principal will be repaid at par on October 1, 1968, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, the Corporation having the option of redemption at par at any time after October 1, 1948, on giving six months' notice. The rateable value of the Borough of West Ham is £1,381,037, and a rate of one penny is estimated to produce £5,552.

The following particulars are issued "for information only" with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—

National Mortgage Bank of Greece. Particulars of an issue of £1,000,000 7 per cent. sterling mortgage Series "B" bonds. The Mortgage Bank was incorporated in May, 1927, to take over long-term mortgage business from the National Bank of Greece.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets, and dividend announcements, will be found on page 968 under the heading "Company News."]

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
January	206,094	217,027	195,481	194,953
February	195,996	196,649	191,786	185,967
March	213,708	204,000	200,435	...
April	204,876	206,234	203,780	...
May	207,818	200,130	203,798	...
June	223,418	218,745	204,603	...
July	207,448	206,877	196,016	...
August	199,860	214,077	196,528	...
September	193,646	201,625	190,354	...
October	197,501	182,032	198,308	...
November	200,481	201,689	195,386	...
December	208,016	189,319	197,884	...
Total Gold	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,374,359	...

Grace National Bank

Hanover Square, New York, U.S.A.

A thoroughly organized international bank, giving special attention to the requirements of European banking correspondents.

Special Representative

148 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended April 18, 1930. (c) Week ended April 19, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended April 20, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 16 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,731	299	187	127	314	613	3,173	3,448	2,116	5,564	8,737
Do. for 1929...	3,731	220	248	129	377	597	3,238	3,467	2,122	5,589	8,867
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	433	363	213	576	1,009	4,862	6,529	4,425	10,954	15,816
Do. for 1929...	6,365	322	479	270	749	1,071	4,974	6,504	4,475	10,979	15,953
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	693	491	242	733	1,426	7,183	8,833	4,560	13,393	20,576
Do. for 1929...	6,952¾	489	640	262	902	1,391	7,422	8,818	4,839	13,657	21,079
Southern	2,179	413	66	22	88	501	4,375	1,197	512	1,709	6,084
Do. for 1929...	2,172	287	84	26	110	397	4,372	1,179	585	1,764	6,136
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·5	...	...	3·3	36·8	518·2	...	...	65·2	583·4
Do. for 1929...	59	32·2	...	...	3·8	36·0	501·5	...	...	62·4	563·9
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	280	...	...	...	280	4,628	...	...	...	4,628
Do. for 1929...	...	290	...	...	...	290	4,266	...	...	...	4,266
Lon.& Sub. Gr'mp	...	41·3	...	...	...	41·3	669	...	...	...	669
Do. for 1929...	...	41·4	...	...	...	41·4	604	...	...	...	604
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·2	...	...	0·8	3·0	30·5	...	...	11·7	42·2
Do. for 1929...	80	2·1	...	...	0·8	2·9	31·8	...	...	14·6	46·4
*GreatNorthern b	562	11·9	...	...	17·5	29·45	148·6	...	...	240·5	389·1
Do. for 1929...	562	10·0	...	...	17·9	27·9	145·8	...	...	267·7	413·5
*GreatSouthern b	2,187	26·7	...	...	51·0	77·7	249·9	...	...	807·7	1057·6
Do. for 1929...	2,187	24·1	...	...	53·3	77·4	266·1	...	...	816·9	1083·0

* Aggregate 15 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	51weeks	Mar.22	1,265	4,46,000	− 42,341	21,623,586	− 890,188
Barsi Lt. Ry.	52weeks	Mar.31	202	67,400	+ 16,300	25,15,200	+ 55,900
Bengal & N.Western	...	...	2,080	...	...	...	...
Bengal-Nagpur ...	51weeks	Mar.15	3,085	17,68,000	−388032	8,79,01,704	+ 8,22,487
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	2weeks	Apr.12	3,031	24,01,000	−188000	41,62,000	− 2,76,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	51weeks	Mar 22	3,228	18,73,000	−235440	9,07,21,265	−18,39,931
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	...	...	1,242	...	...	...	...
†Bohilk'd&Kumaon	...	...	572	...	...	...	...
South Indian	51weeks	Mar.22	2,348	12,80,520	+ 11,167	6,48,30,927	+43,56,475
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	42weeks	Apr.19	753	14,900	− 1,500	653,200	+ 100
Argentine Trans'dn.	42weeks	19	111	4,560	− 713	197,094	− 5,583
B.A. and Pacific....	42weeks	19	2,806	155,000	− 49,000	6,460,000	− 832,000
B.A. Central	42weeks	19	...	12,255	− 4,014	541,518	− 55,156
B.A. Gt. Southern...	42weeks	19	4,948	234,000	− 37,000	10,033,000	− 534,000
B.A. Western	42weeks	19	1,926	90,000	− 25,000	3,593,000	− 685,000
Central Argentine...	42weeks	19	3,319	201,000	− 89,000	9,662,000	− 1,745,000
Cordoba Central....	42weeks	19	1,218	43,000	− 27,000	2,411,000	− 492,200
Entre Rios.....	42weeks	19	804	20,000	− 6,800	1,173,200	− 118,200
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	42weeks	Apr.19	1,374	86,959	− 14,401	2,744,866	− 439,456
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	42weeks	Apr.19	273	28,953	− 1,799	1,317,441	+ 44,480
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	42weeks	19	311	6,761	− 1,007	306,485	+ 15,940
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	42weeks	19	185	4,097	− 34	155,838	+ 1,269
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	42weeks	19	211	2,776	− 605	119,914	− 7,433
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	15weeks	Apr.14	19580	4,921,371	−688234	71,412,949	−1,035,097
Canadian Pacific ...	15weeks	14	15217	3,152,000	−543000	44,930,000	−10516000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	16weeks	Apr.19	1,016	11,800	− 4,300	239,800	− 40,000
Leopoldina.....	16weeks	19	1,856	31,035	− 4,461	854,896	− 14,285
Leopoldina Termni.	16weeks	19	Mirs.	278,000	+ 26,000	4,662,000	+ 239,000
San Paulo	16weeks	20	153¼	34,246	− 14,851	680,959	− 36,223
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	15weeks	Apr.19	804	25,850	− 13,450	472,950	− 190,560
Nitrate(½-monthly)	3½mths	15	413	19,661	− 23,828	162,095	− 118,212
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	52weeks	Mar.31	608	9,801	+ 514	360,464	+ 21,852
Gt. Southn. of Spain	15weeks	Apr.12	104	Pes11,1808	− 16,474	1,771,173	− 74,839
Mexican Railway....	15weeks	14	483	$298,600	+ 800	3,807,400	+ 180,100
Paraguay Central...	41weeks	12	274	4,460	− 230	168,150	− 12,430
Salvador.....	42weeks	19	100	4,305	− 838	194,855	− 18,778

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

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (a) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	15weeks	Apr.15	329	89,512	− 3,211	1,266,637	− 52,382
B. Aires Lacroze.....	42weeks	20	...	12,995	− 882	533,431	− 39,563
BurnleyCorporation	7weeks	19	13	3,132	+ 141	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	7weeks	19	35½	Rs.109950	− 18,101	...	− 155,741
Chatham & District	14weeks	10	15	1,064	+ 33	14,961	+ 725
Egyptian Markets	14weeks	10	...	2,060	+ 86	28,082	− 2,809
‡Isle of Thanet Elec.	14weeks	9	...	2,463	− 40	37,813	− 2,678
Liverpool Corp.....	3weeks	19	124	28,820	− 248	82,040	+ 2,310
L.C.C. Tramways....	2weeks	17	165	83,190	+ 1,898	191,869	+ 4,884
Madras Electric.....	13½mths	15	...	Rs. 46,543	+ 2,333	328,559	+ 2,3347

* Including motor buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

NESTLÉ AND ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK COMPANY.

VERY SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

POLICY OF EXPANSION.

MR LOUIS DAPPLES'S REVIEW OF THE POSITION.

The sixty-third annual general meeting of Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company was held, on the 16th instant, at Cham, Switzerland.

Mr Louis Dapples, president of the company, who was in the chair, after referring in moving terms to the great loss the company had sustained in the deaths since their last meeting of two members of the board—Dr W. C. Escher and Mr Fred H. Page—reminded shareholders that he had in his speech last year outlined in a very detailed manner the industrial programme and the policy of expansion that the company had in hand. This programme and policy remained the foundation of their activity, and so long as they were able to continue its development with efficiency, energy, and the necessary prudence they had every reason for confidence in their ability to maintain their leading role in the industries with which they were concerned.

In accordance with this fundamental policy the shareholders had agreed upon the amalgamation with P.C.K., which had been carried through in a perfectly normal manner, and the chocolate factories absorbed had benefited in various ways from the assistance rendered by the company's technical services, while the selling organisation had derived further strength from the amalgamation, which had rendered practicable the intensive advertising activity which was called for to meet the formidable efforts now encountered in all directions and exceeding anything that they had previously come across.

NEW INTERESTS ACQUIRED.

Similar considerations had prompted them in acquiring an important interest in the Sarotti Company, and they had also participated in the increase in the capital of the Hollandia Anglo-Dutch Milk and Food Company, the most important of the Dutch milk-producing companies, with whom they were working in a spirit of the most intimate co-operation, and as a result of which they had obtained still greater opportunities in the Dutch milk market, one of the most important sources of supply from the point of view both of cost and quantity; while at the same time they believed that they were in a position to render good service to Hollandia in manufacturing questions.

They had only been able to draw temporary advantage from the general decrease in cost of raw materials (sugar, cocoa, tinplate, and, in certain markets, milk), for such decreases had pretty rapidly provoked a reduction in price of manufactured goods. However, the directors did not regard this state of affairs as being altogether against their interests, as they felt that the very small individual profit margin earned by their products was in reality one of the elements in the consolidation of their business as a whole and was a much more satisfactory feature than the high prices of the war and post-war periods, facilitating as it did the further development of their sales without affecting to any appreciable extent the purchasing power of the public. The intensification and improvement in their production capacity must naturally be accompanied by an extension of their enterprise and activity on the selling side, especially in times of low selling prices like the present, and they were devoting their very particular attention to this most important aspect of their business.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO FAR EAST, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

He (the chairman) had had an opportunity during the year under review of making his long contemplated visit to all the depôts of the company in the Far East, as well as to their good friends in Australia and New Zealand. Shareholders were aware of what important interests they had in Australia and of the problems that had necessarily arisen in the course of the reorganisation of that undertaking from the position that had grown up during the war and post-war period into a co-ordinated and complete organisation. To-day the conversions and eliminations called for by such a reorganisation were generally completed, and their Australian friends now had an organisation which would compare favourably with their own. The highly capable management was in the hands of men in whom they had every confidence and who had lived all their lives under Australian conditions, and they could look forward with no misgivings to the active part that their Australian and New Zealand companies would take in the ultimate economic expansion of this young continent.

Dealing with the company's numerous establishments in the Far East, the chairman remarked that he felt some pride in stating that he did not think any one possessed agents so well qualified, zealous, and capable as the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company. He had undertaken this long voyage with the desire to obtain a yet more intimate contact and a more close collaboration with all their agents so that the company could be in a position to give the fullest satisfaction to all their requirements and to comply even better and more promptly with the demands of their numerous markets. He hoped sincerely that his visit would have assisted in cementing and improving the excellent understanding that already existed between them.

They must not lose sight of the fact that an enterprise like theirs could no longer be satisfied with the relatively simple organisation of an exporting house. "Service" had become their watchword of to-day, signifying by that that they did not aim at any form of monopoly but that their paramount desire was to be in every way the servants of the public. The time had gone by when, practically alone in the market, it had been sufficient for their purposes to sell their goods through independent agents to good export houses. To-day they had to do everything they could to assist their customers, both wholesale and retail, by a continually more intensive advertising among consumers in all countries and of all races and customs.

RESULTS OF YEAR'S OPERATIONS.

Their annual report had already given a very detailed explanation of the figures shown on their accounts, and there was, therefore, no necessity for him to deal with the balance sheet at length. He would like to point out, however, that the item participations, which the directors recognised occupied too important a place in their balance sheet, was not of a nature to give rise to any feeling of uneasiness provided they continued, as in the past, to pursue their policy of consolidation.

The results for 1929 would doubtless be found very satisfactory by all the shareholders, especially by their friends of the late P.C.K. Company, and it was very gratifying to the directors to be in a position to propose a distribution of 32 francs per share while maintaining on their normal scale, bearing in mind the increase in capital and staff, the allocations to reserves and to provident funds for the benefit of employees. The relatively short time separating these results from the period of crisis in their affairs was evidence of the strength of their organisation, and it was their duty to continue to develop and consolidate this "goodwill" to an ever-increasing degree. To this end it would be absolutely necessary to stabilise—at any rate for some time—the dividend at the rate proposed for this year if, as was to be hoped, the trading results should justify such a course, and to defer any consideration of an increased distribution until such time as the company's means should have been still further strengthened to a considerable extent.

On March 1st of this year they had repaid 25,000,000 francs of their obligations, and they trusted they would be able to continue this sound policy while providing at the same time their commercial and technical services with the necessary resources for the development of their activities in all countries, thus putting them in a position to look forward to the future with confidence even under the difficult circumstances which attend business in general at the moment. The directors would not like to assume responsibility for any other policy.

GOOD WORK OF COMPANY'S LABORATORIES.

They had frequently advised shareholders of their efforts in the purely scientific domain to continue to provide their products with the benefits of the most up-to-date improvements; and the work of the laboratories, particularly at Vevey, had on several occasions received flattering appreciation from professional authorities of Switzerland and abroad. Naturally their bacteriologists and

chemists had to keep in constant contact with medical authorities and especially with the University of Lausanne. It was well known to what an extent the faculty of medicine was dependent on the good progress of well-organised hospital research, and they had regarded it as a duty to assist the Government of the Canton of Vaud in the improvement and completion of the Cantonal hospital by a new building, for which purpose they had made a donation of 1,000,000 francs.

TRIBUTE TO MANAGEMENT AND STAFF.

After reviewing briefly the period of reorganisation and consolidation during the past eight years while he had been directing the affairs of the company, the Chairman paid a tribute to the very valuable assistance he had received from the management of the company and the younger elements of its various services, and stated that he felt that the time had come when he could relinquish his duties at the head of the general management of the company and devote himself to the less executive and more consultative functions of director and president. In those capacities it would give him great pleasure to continue, in accordance with the wish of the board, to give his services to the company to the best of his ability, but from now on it would be for the younger members of the general management to assume the responsibility for the business of the company, and he would like to mention that, during his long absence, they had proved brilliantly that they were quite capable of carrying out this task.

To ensure the closest possible collaboration between the general management and the board of directors they proposed the election of Mr Edouard Muller to replace the late Mr Fred H. Page on the board and to appoint this gentleman managing director: *Mr Muller*, who had passed the whole of his business career in the services of the company, had fully merited the honour thus conferred upon him by his indefatigable industry, his complete knowledge of the company's business, his clear-sighted initiative and the absolute confidence of his colleagues and collaborators which he enjoyed.

In conclusion, the Chairman referred in appreciative terms to the zeal and devotion of the staff and placed on record the company's sincere thanks for their past efforts and encouragement for the future.

The resolutions contained in the notice convening the meeting were duly passed.

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ARMY AND NAVY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFIT IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The annual general meeting of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Ebury, D.S.O., M.C. (the chairman), said that when he addressed the shareholders on the last occasion he expressed some doubts as to the outlook for trade in 1929-1930. At that date a general election was in view, and there had been the risk of a period of uncertainty and instability involved in the result. They had only to reflect upon the present position to realise how well-founded had been the doubts then expressed. The crisis on the New York Stock Exchange and the Hatry failure in this country had been further detrimental factors. All those adverse influences had made themselves very definitely manifest, and, but for a very welcome advance in Christmas trade and an improvement in their Indian business, he would have been in the position of presenting trading results less satisfactory than for the previous year.

There were some very encouraging features none the less, and one of the most marked had been a big increase in the number of orders, albeit the increase in turnover had been disproportionate, and on the one hand, of course, reflected what, after all, in these times was only to be expected—the inability of the individual to sustain the burden of expenditure, but, on the other, was very gratifying evidence that they were increasing their service to their customers and an eloquent illustration of that which he had emphasised in previous speeches, namely, that the more hampered the conditions under which the purchaser exercised his vocation, the more satisfaction and relief would he obtain from his or her dealings with their society. And here he felt impelled to interject that the proclamation of a competitive house after the Budget only served to emphasise the advantages and economies to be obtained by purchasing at their stores. Not only were prices with them down on last year, but he was again in a position to inform them that on the average their competitor's prices were 10 per cent. higher than theirs.

YEAR'S RESULTS.

The net result was a profit for the year of £245,067, or £1,547 more than for 1928-29. They proposed to pay a final dividend of 1s. 10½d. per share, making 2s. 6d., or 25 per cent., for the sixth year in succession.

With regard to the Indian business, the steps taken had proved to a large extent effective. The timely visit of Sir Frederick Gascoigne and Mr Wastie, the society's chief accountant, had done much to consolidate the improved state of affairs, and the work of the latter had been invaluable in cementing such improvements already introduced under the heading of System and Counting House control and instituting others which were urgently needed. As a consequence he (the chairman) had found a greatly improved position and a much better atmosphere. He could only hope that in the interval which would elapse between now and the next time they met there would be such an improvement in the outlook in India as would give an impetus to trade and produce a still more tangible result to their efforts.

SERIOUS POSITION AT HOME.

With regard to the position at home, if he took a serious and none too optimistic view of the situation in this country, he did not want them for one moment to come to the conclusion that he was a confirmed pessimist. Their business had been steadily increasing since 1923, and he had just the same supreme confidence in the business and in the people who worked in it to overcome the difficulties of the future as had been the case in overcoming the difficulties of the past. He regarded the position so seriously as to conceive it his duty, not only to the shareholders of the society, but to those persons and their dependents who derived their livelihood from it, to take stock of the general situation somewhat closely.

The first objectives in the programme of modernisation of the business had comprised the reconstruction of the Victoria Street block. The next in urgency had been the reorganisation and improvement of staff accommodation. All that had been done, but the remainder of the programme was equally vital to the consolidation of their position, embracing, as it did, the reconstruction of the Francis Street premises. The programme was perforce more than less entirely suspended. It was a fact that the present situation was such as to render the outlay of large capital sums entirely unjustified. Neither the shareholders of the society nor those who worked for it should be deluded into thinking that that could be attributed to international causes beyond the control of the Government. It was not particular to their business; it was going on throughout the country, and would continue to do so to an increasing extent with disastrous results. The latest Budget, with its increased expenditure and consequent increase in taxation, was a setback which was having, and would have, a directly detrimental effect on trade generally.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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LA GUAIRA AND CARACAS RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESS OF ELECTRIFICATION.

The forty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the La Guaira and Caracas Railway Company, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at Moorgate Hall, London, E.C.

Mr J. A. Goudge, C.B.E. (the chairman), said he ventured to think that the report was a satisfactory one, as it enabled the directors to continue the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. net for the year. Some four years ago, when the Government of Venezuela commenced to construct a first-class concrete road alongside the railway from one end to the other, the company was faced with the prospect of very severe competition. They had, however, adopted the bold course of putting all their money into the electrification of the line, and they were profoundly thankful they had done so. They were quite holding their own—and perhaps a little more—in the competition for traffic. They had now had two years of intense competition, and the report showed how that competition had affected them. The number of passengers carried had increased from 130,000 in 1928 to 140,000 in the past year, but the receipts had decreased from £23,000 to £21,500. Those figures told their own tale—that they had met the competition and had succeeded in attracting passengers from the cart road. They hoped to attract still more passengers to the line, and improvements were being made, not only in the train services, but also in the passenger accommodation. As regarded goods traffic, they carried 2,400 tons more, but took slightly less for it. There, again, the rates had been reduced. They had run 18 per cent. more train miles and 1,600 more trains for £4,000 less expenditure.

The directors believed they had got goods rates down to an economic level at which it was very difficult indeed for the lorry owner to compete. The statement of traffic for the last 10 years showed that the receipts, expenses, and profits had remained at almost the same figure, but they had carried 123,000 tons last year, as against 92,000 tons in 1920, and during the same period the number of passengers carried had increased from 92,000 to 140,000. They were, therefore, rendering very much greater service for the same money than they did 10 years ago. They had sent out one new electric locomotive and 11 new wagons, and they hoped to be able to send more when required. In order to provide funds for the payment of this rolling stock, and for other purposes, they had made an issue of Five-Year Notes, which they were advised was the best way to deal with the present situation.

As to the prospects, there was every reason to believe that with settled conditions in Venezuela the company would pursue their even course during the current year as they had done during the year under review.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended April 19, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	6,750	From Revenue	13,678
Interest, &c., on Debt	5,988		
Sinking Fund	495		
Decrease in Debt	445		
	13,678		13,678

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £13,678,200, as compared with £16,159,600 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax brought in £1,704,000, against £1,931,000, and sur-tax £780,000, against £810,000. Estate duties amounted to £2,220,000, against £2,610,000. Customs were lower at £1,526,000, against £1,726,000, and Excise at £5,980,000, against £6,748,000.

The National Debt was reduced by £445,500, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
National Savings Certificates	+ 100	Treasury Bills	– 4,227
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 2,100	Sundries	– 18
Public Department Advances	+ 1,600		
	+ 3,800		– 4,245

The floating Debt was reduced by £2,630,000 to £615,845,000.

Financial Year, 1930-31, April 1 to April 19.

	£		£
Expenditure	46,932,087	Revenue	42,752,582
		Decreases in balances	3,195,607
		Amount borrowed	983,898
	46,932,087		46,932,087

Estimates for Financial Year, 1930-31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	289
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
6% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	656	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	584
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,082	1,082
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	590	567
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	49
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,526	7,527
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	113	113
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,640

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	Apr. 20, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	Apr. 19, '30.	Movement week ended Apr. 19, '30
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding —	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	36,750,000	48,530,000	49,130,000	+ 1 600,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	708,670,000	588,885 000	566.715 000*	— 4,230,000
Total Floating Debt	745,420,000	637,415,000	615,845,000	— 2,630,000

* Includes £5,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on April 17, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £43,805,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Saturday, at £99 7s. 4d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
February 21	30,000,000	59,005,000	3 15 3·23
February 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
March 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to Apr. 19, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Apr. 20, 1929.	Week Ended Apr. 19, 1930.	Week Ended Apr. 20, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	12,943,000	12,701,000	1,704,000	1,931,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	4,150,000	3,640,000	780,000	810,000
Estate, &c., Duties	5,200,000	5,360,000	2,220,000	2,610,000
Stamps	690,000	990,000	210,000	470,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	20,000	70,000	...	20,000
Total Inland Revenue...	23,003.000	22,771,000	4,914,000	5,841,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	6,043.000	5,836.000	1,526,000	1,726,000
Excise	8,180,000	8,549,000	5,980,000	6,748,000
Total Customs and Excise	14,223,000	14,385,000	7,506,000	8,474,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	429.000	700,000	*Dr906,000*	*Dr569,000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	550,000	450,000	450,000	550,000
Crown Lands	...	...	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	4,232,272	4,135.159	1,400,762	1,253,443
Miscellaneous	315,310	828,366	313,423	610,122
Total Ordinary Revenue	42.752,582	43,269,525	13,678,185	16,159,565
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	2,100,000	2,450,000	550,000	650,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	906,000	683,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	4,249,000	4,449,000	1,456,000	1,333,000
Total	47,001,582	47,718,525	15,134,185	17,492,565
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,160,000	330,000	640,000	220,000
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	121,266,000	182,971,000	39,028,000	54,474,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44	22,650,000	...	2,100,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	2,500,000	2,350,000	850,000	750,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34	...	26,115,000	...	15,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	19,995,000	73,385,000	9,900,000	13,440,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	6,356	8,682	...	...
	214,578,938	332,878,207	67,652,185	86,391,565

	1930. £	1929. £		
...nces in Exchequer on 1st ...il —				
... of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
... of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
Total	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total ..... £	220,704,152	339,130,731	67,652,185	86,391,565

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1930, to Apr. 19, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1929, to Apr. 20, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended Apr. 19, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended Apr. 20, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	23,026,276	25,548,888	5,988,2	6,561,888
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	...	6,606	...	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	238,927	399,178	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	22,150,000	20,350,000	6,750,000	5,200,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	45,415,203	46,304,672	12,738,249	11,761,888
Sinking Fund	1,516,884	2,945,067	495,000	1,710,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	2,100,000	2,450,000	550,000	650,000
Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	906,000	683,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	4,249,000	4,449,000	1,456,000	1,333,000
TOTAL	51,181,087	53,698,739	14,689,249	14,804,888
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	18,458	18,458
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,160,000	330,000	640,000	220,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	400,000	400,000	...	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	143,420,000	174,585,000	43,255,000	52,510,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates	2,200,000	2,450,000	750,000	900,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	28,746,070	...	200,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	19,395,000	73,685,000	8,300,000	15,390,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	1,870,044	...	1,870,044
	April 19, 1930. £	April 20, 1929. £		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,082,258	2,364,763	...	— 85,310 + 323,908
Bank of Ireland	847,349	982,657	2,929,607	3,347,420 + 84,788 + 154,267
Total ..... £			220,704,152	339,130,731 — 522 + 478,175

Treasury, April 22, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 16, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	361,321,558	Other Government Securities	232,897,889
In Banking Department	58,501,216	Other Securities	11,628,838
		Silver Coin	4,458,173
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	159,822,704
	£419,822,774		£419,822,774

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553.000	Government Securities	58,282,629
Rest	3,105,964	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	14,798,522	Discounts and Advances ... £6,386.083	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 10,442,736	
Bankers ... £65,815.639			16,828.819
Other Accounts 36,303,070		Notes	58,501,216
	102,118,709	Gold and Silver Coin	965,552
7-Day and other Bills	2,021		
	£134,578,216		£134,578,216

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

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 23, 1929.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	362,184,405	Other Government Securities	232,897,889
In Banking Department	60,703,082	Other Securities	11,629,001
		Silver Coin	4,458,010
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	162,887,487
	£422,887,487		£422,887,487

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553.000	Government Securities	58,052,629
Rest	3,121,270	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	17,313,565	Discounts and Advances	£6,804,492
Other Deposits—		Securities	10,273,976
Bankers ... £66.010,758			17,078,468
Other Accounts 35,779,186		Notes	60,703,082
	101,789,944	Gold and Silver Coin	955,730
7-Day and other Bills	12,130		
	£136,789,909		£136,789,909

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

Both Departments.	Amount. April 23, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	362,184,405	+ 862,847	+ 4,906,839
Public deposits	17,313,565	+ 2,515,043	— 1,004,412
Bankers' deposits	66,010,758	+ 195,119	+ 7,577,846
Other deposits	35,779,186	— 523,884	+ 123,890
Seven-day bills	12,130	+ 10,119	+ 6,289
Total, outside liabilities	481,300,044	+ 3,059,234	+ 11,610,452
Capital and rest	17,674,270	+ 15,306	+ 2,932
Government debt and securities	301,965,618	— 230,000	+ 10,917,474
Discounts and advances	6,804,492	+ 418,409	— 4,145,315
Other securities	21,902,977	— 168,597	— 2,093,439
Silver coin in issue department	4,458,010	— 163	— 367,212
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	163,843,217	+ 3,054,891	+ 7,301,876
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	61,658,812	+ 2,192,044	+ 2,395,037
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	51⅜%	+ ⅜%	— 1%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 1/16%	+ 1/16%	+ ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4
26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 5	244589229	10944046	152290198	38631563	6840871	15103832	64994223 60½
12	244593701	10944051	152622838	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203 59⅛
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174 58⅜
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754 58⅛
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	54021909	10309949	12705909	59860036 50⅛
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155 52⅛
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466758 50⅛
23	243912989	11629001	163843217	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812 51⅜

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to April 9	11,458,680	533,857	865,613	12,858,150
Week ended April 16	778,221	35,425	59,507	873,153
Week ended April 23	476,530	25,355	40,578	542,403
Total to date, 1930	12,713,431	594,637	965,638	14,273,706
Total to date, 1929	12,934,567	609,084	981,757	14,525,408
Increase or decrease in 1930	— 221,136	— 14,447	— 16,119	— 251,702
	— 1·7%	— 2·3%	— 1·6%	— 1·7%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	— 1·6%	— 1·5%	— 1·3%	— 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of March. 1929.	Month of March. 1930.	Month of March. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 19. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 19. 1930.
Number of Working days	25	26			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	11,942,000	11,149,000	— 6·6	43,730,500	41,481,100
BRADFORD	5,891,000	4,288,000	— 27·2	19,451,600	15,084,400
BRISTOL	5,294,000	5,117,000	— 3·3	19,673,000	17,965,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	80,061,300	77,524,400
HULL	3,978,000	3,488,000	— 12·3	14,853,400	13,288,900
LEEDS	4,379,000	4,273,000	— 2·4	16,684,600	16,336,000
LEICESTER	3,592,000	3,547,000	— 1·2	13,338,600	12,277,500
LIVERPOOL	34,159,000	31,451,000	— 7·9	130,698,300	114,410,000
MANCHESTER	57,971,000	52,352,000	— 9·6	210,413,900	187,010,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,480,000	6,980,000	+ 7·7	23,088,500	23,633,600
NOTTINGHAM	2,812,000	2,675,000	— 4·8	10,466,500	10,166,500
SHEFFIELD	4,675,000	4,484,000	— 4·0	16,669,700	15,539,300
Total	141,173,000	129,804,000	— 8·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Denmark and Roumania appeared in the *Economist* of April 12.

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

RESOURCES.	Apr. 25, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,798,580	3,021,710	3,037,280	3,031,490	3,048 530
Total bills discounted	974,510	241,120	226,160	213,800	211,490
Bills bought in open market	141,180	301,300	267,000	302,410	256,870
Total U.S. Govt. securities	149,780	530,390	527,300	535,390	527,390
Total bills and securities	1,280,600	1,081,590	1,029,240	1,061,480	1,004,960
Total resources	5,080,670	5,075,300	4,977,590	5,142,210	5,016,060
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,652,560	1,576,100	1,558,300	1,547,870	1,518,340
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,290,220	2,375,350	2,344,640	2,380.130	2,363,310
Total deposits	2,350,080	2,443,050	2,395,480	2,443.130	2,422,190
Capital paid in and surplus	410,250	451.180	451.150	451,090	451,180
Total liabilities	5,080,670	5,075,300	4,977,590	5,142,210	5,016,060
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	74·3%	79·8%	81·5%	80·4%	81·8%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted)

	Apr. 25, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
Total bills discounted	262,870	53,870	62,670	43,920	34,130
Bills bought in open market	28,600	142,780	102,760	127,370	74,080
Total U.S. Govt. securities	17,070	210,610	207,560	200,950	192,860
Total bills and securities	312,750	414,020	379,740	380,090	308,270
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	903,640	975,450	957,720	968,560	957,670
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	79·7%	72·9%	76·6%	76·3%	82·0%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Jan. 31, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1930.	Dec. 31, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.
Cash and bank balances	434,654	537,665	495,609	468,789	391,344
Bank balances abroad	84,978	121,999	94,029	101,652	88,066
Call and short loans	594,800	520,619	531,947	507,461	449,171
Securities	529,694	487,481	475,370	448,410	431,312
Loans in Canada	1,324,127	1,596,233	1,576,245	1,531,720	1,499,100
Loans abroad	259,656	241,866	241,319	250,638	257,516
Other assets	197,803	204,832	219,436	212,419	204,404
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	158,119	185,086	187,004	175,497	156,062
Deposits—					
Government	142,111	204,003	205,313	173,305	132,339
Public in Canada	2,200,431	2,255,814	2,181,938	2,163,720	2,084,327
Foreign	394,732	423,146	453,598	441,622	400,764
Bank balances—					
Canadian	13,382	24,410	13,463	14,865	14,450
Foreign	118,970	162,448	135,488	107,983	96,050
Bills payable, &c.	113,052	117,704	132,328	120,785	107,790
Capital and rest	261,396	298,704	300,795	301,029	302,445
Other liabilities	4,578	6,256	9,847	5,480	5,836

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

ASSETS.	Mar. 28, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	8,206	7,680	7,152	6,806	7,115	7,315
Subsidiary coin	98	114	117	124	126	127
Bills discounted	9,125	8,570	7,989	8,651	8,859	9,445
Investments	747	757	836	823	805	1,043
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,498	9,032	9,331	7,689	7,393	8,436
Government deposits	1,613	2,573	1,555	1,870	2,580	2,450
Bankers' deposits	5,163	4,860	4,910	4,852	4,954	4,737
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·1%	47·1%	47·3%	46·7%	47·6%	45·8%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 29, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.
Total securities	21.89,01	30,57,33	30,36,67	29,92,55	30,12,14	30,18,57
Loans	10,93,74	7,66,45	8,46,69	9,25,64	9,19,54	10,05,27
Cash credits	32,41,96	31,85,90	31,64,19	31,90,69	31,43,09	31,74,27
Inland bills	11,30,45	7,36,48	7,34,21	7,06,16	7,27,89	7,11,77
Foreign bills	33.62	35,68	32,90	33,30	44,01	40,11
Dead stock	2,83,56	2,80,52	2,80,53	2,80,90	2,80,92	2,80,94
Bal. with other banks	...	20,45	13.37	20,10	50,92	29,02
Cash	10,83,78	18,51,03	16,65,59	16,11,33	19,44,68	19,18,46
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	77,62.33	88,03,05	86,32,14	86,15,04	89,58,21	90,11,94
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,029	748	774	843	1,204	1,049
Advances in London	933	663	768	768	880	880
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	189	151	101	151	382	213

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 19, 1929.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.
Gold	35,097,716	42,556,854	42,357,643	42,324,670	42,333,653
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	9,388,434	6,920,235	6,913,223	6,897,550	6,937,539
Bills discounted	18,412,231	18,766,097	18,773,150	18,769,509	18,778,095
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,561,096	6,387,914	5,059,551	4,646,900	...
Advances against sec. To the State	9,130,000	8,595,545	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances	2,336,657	2,534,795	2,697,241	2,651,990	2,622,959
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,076,930	2,748,931	2,941,743	2,982,675	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	62,647,539	70,825,654	71,575,902	71,245,076	70,899,825
Public deposits	11,869,675	6,802,373	6,524,987	6,522,708	6,300,088
Private deposits	6,287,244	8,259,728	6,469,708	6,460,712	6,764,909
Other liabilities	2,198,606	2,622,676	2,766,762	2,639,656	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 13, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,429,866	2,495,931	2,544,427	2,550,125
Of which deposited abroad	154,344	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	23,674	386,600	386,600	357,433
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,197,804	2,067,462	2,067,462	1,765,727
Silver and other coin	133,812	130,761	130,761	142,647
Notes of other German banks	22,579	3,918	3,918	18,261
Advances	121,078	201,309	201,309	67,381
Investments	92,981	93,245	93,245	93,090
Other assets	488,448	529,789	529,789	606,612
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319.608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,145,211	4,805,581	4,805,581	4,805,581
Other daily maturing obligations	670,294	456,560	456,560	456,560
Other liabilities	252,341	152,947	152,947	152,947

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Apr. 18, 1929.	Mar. 27, 1930.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
Gold	(b)	931,241	1,180,637	1,182,318	1,182,432	1,182,949
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	485,803	545,334	586,219	613,143	635,005
Silver and other coin		1,518	3,570	3,745	3,754	3,771
Securities	697,600	758,010	837,461	834,484	829,332	840,834
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,429,438	2,790,106	2,868,276	2,901,813	2,896,312
Current accounts	112,125	110,771	117,196	59,194	77,693	96,296

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	April 15, 1929.	Mar. 24, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	April 7, 1930.	Apr. 14, 1930.
Gold	163,092	422,215	431,974	431,963	431,953	431,944
Silver	8,436	20,932	27,346	27,873	27,028	25,719
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	189,716	51,535	51,593	51,486	51,163
Foreign Bills		59,104	204,113	204,207	204,394	209,348
Loans and advances in current acct.		98,181	88,918	119,660	104,192	99,044
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	802,984	781,236	838,176	820,304	816,387
Deposits	5,016	15,892	21,290	12,585	12,843	16,852

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,507	169,100	170,000	170,400	169,700
Silver	29,785	19,136				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	130,345	132,200	129,300	141,800	139,000
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	301,855	270,200	270,000	276,100	271,800
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	37,863	39,000	44,100	43,300	42,700

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	171,175	482,192	560,978	560,986	560,996	566,131
Silver	18,350	41,886	19,729	17,894	...	...
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	221,464	332,990	334,895	344,313	347,978
Discounts	...	125,688	75,833	71,918	40,151	35,191
Advances	103,000	58,384	40,318	47,418	45,486	43,305
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	811,332	830,033	918,002	885,922	860,767
Deposits	33,750	122,881	196,813	121,997	108,069	153,415

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 10, 1929.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,100	5,189,900	5,201,500	5,201,500	5,201,900
Foreign bills and balances abroad	5,272,700	4,931,200	4,938,100	4,858,400	4,925,800
Other cash	236,000	220,200	224,600	225,300	219,800
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,813,100	1,801,600	1,801,600	1,801,600
Discounts	3,675,300	3,063,400	2,995,100	3,049,000	3,017,400
Advances	1,347,800	1,345,100	1,265,900	1,328,600	1,081,700
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,057,300	776,600	776,600	755,000	755,600
Government securities	1,042,500	1,051,400	1,052,800	1,052,300	1,051,000
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,259,400	15,924,800	15,863,400	16,321,500	16,094,700
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,080,700	1,589,600	1,562,800	1,429,400	1,399,800
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·78%	56·82%	57·19%	55·73%	56·92%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.
Gold	234,720	243,723	243,634	243,562	243,468
Government securities—Swedish	6,001	22,155	22,561	22,556	22,554
" " Foreign	73,774	53,199	53,199	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	740	122	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	220,717	156,825	184,145	170,009	157,847
" " abroad	66,715	102,993	93,092	96,599	96,911
Balance abroad	41,774	103,986	118,315	115,115	120,768
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	58,826	60,883	43,968	38,058	47,439
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	463,422	545,823	535,022	518,856	516,043
Government deposits	194,808	148,956	163,027	172,480	182,408
Private deposits	6,814	3,297	11,115	7,521	12,992

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 8, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,834	146,613	146,616	146,611
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	48,005	36,150	36,576	39,066
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,083	26,083	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	262,634	231,067	240,453	233,543
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	305,917	292,456	305,085	307,070
Deposits at sight	7,188	94,908	81,460	80,255	71,176

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,799	2,468,347	2,468,544	2,468,760	2,468,889
Silver	728,600	717,372	715,853	711,896	710,173	708,329
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,835,306	2,117,131	2,146,203	2,091,695	2,067,321
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advces. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,279,982	4,364,585	4,439,506	4,447,457	4,447,295
Deposits	477,500	1,020,003	839,599	847,265	839,095	837,155

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 10, 1929.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,599	8,807	8,784	8,740	8,724
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	316,302	157,202	164,587	175,667	185,529
Discounts	276,918	343,062	336,812	336,353	336,900
Government loans	1,738,534	1,530,684	1,530,784	1,530,684	1,530,992
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,845,991	1,883,319	1,879,004	1,899,371	1,899,025
Deposits	65,669	55,067	58,899	83,204	85,723

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,752	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	201,221	212,965	221,155	220,424	218,05[illegible]
Other foreign exchange†	349,335	325,226	336,338	335,797	334,750
Bills discounted	162,016	142,487	165,723	153,681	132,793
Gov. Debt	109,857	108,493	106,493	108,448	108,448
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	895,132	854,182	979,924	924,362	886,204
Deposits	100,588	108,985	26,149	68,898	83,44[illegible]

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,425	162,629	162,631	162,630	162,624
Drafts and notes	12,548	9,481	7,604	8,344	8,140
Silver coin and bullion	10,418	10,735	10,582	10,108	10,158
Inland bills, warrants and securities	319,590	200,931	224,639	210,267	200,052
Advances to the Treasury	92,257	82,900	82,900	82,866	82,866
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	402,362	373,114	431,221	406,876	385,390
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	209,732	93,405	46,635	53,873	60,625

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,356	1,261,899	1,261,942	1,261,979	1,262,036
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,702,031	1,900,211	1,906,820	1,890,395	1,864,645
Discounts and advances	445,790	245,309	639,149	578,254	499,958
State notes debt balance	4,033,155	3,703,393	3,699,260	3,692,940	3,690,964
Other assets	690,965	589,219	623,470	595,627	593,573
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,613,776	6,121,832	7,010,801	6,652,655	6,301,387
Check account balances	767,294	834,714	416,565	643,629	873,213
Other liabilities	224,633	235,097	194,887	214,523	228,183

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	92,020	96,221	96,295	96,388	96,463
Other coin and notes	18,103	18,379	17,986	18,120	18,181
Foreign credits	198,123	287,781	291,446	294,619	264,169
Bills	1,393,086	1,081,979	1,078,902	1,102,288	1,092,881
Government advances	4,201,062	4,133,388	4,131,387	4,129,390	4,127,390
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,128,613	5,225,424	5,363,046	5,386,987	12,487
State credits	227,789	187,923	185,923	183,926	5,244,329
Deposits	1,232,758	1,989,300	1,843,395	1,828,595	1,896,644

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 7, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,514,358	1,571,166	1,571,690	1,573,492	1,574,373
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,142,785	666,245	630,300	717,846	759,164
Discounts and advances	1,407,075	1,264,864	1,252,516	1,245,202	1,249,475
Advances *to the Treasury*	3,685,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,164,737	1,252,222	1,252,136	1,251,593	1,252,020
Bank notes in circulation	4,145,281	3,238,064	3,208,260	3,350,397	3,371,278
Sight liabilities	2,893,186	1,743,455	1,704,197	1,780,003	1,801,884
Deposits	468,771	318,551	318,400	317,700	317,047

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.
Gold	567,052	624,792	626,140	627,148	628,353
Gold exchange	4,770,990	3,592,154	3,619,613	3,745,071	3,769,543
Other foreign exchange	1,087	2,705	2,859	3,816	3,810
Bills discounted	42,842	152,208	141,477	120,772	120,258
Advances	74,262	176,175	173,205	173,970	154,798
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,520,513	4,817,042	4,815,862	4,890,274	4,936,234
Deposits and current accounts	1,802,267	1,873,032	1,901,821	1,938,445	1,879,646
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,457,479	1,044,068	1,039,065	979,442	976,830

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 10, 1929.	Mar. 10, 1930.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.
Gold	622,378	701,110	701,807	701,906	702,031
Of which held abroad	195,402	179,553	219,021	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies	610,539	449,332	433,571	441,420	412,956
Bills discounted	683,241	636,498	630,232	623,593	608,803
Loans against securities	88,672	76,886	77,921	81,219	80,236
Reserve fund securities	68,967	83,531	83,537	84,028	83,073
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,208,002	1,244,124	1,201,065	1,324,023	1,278,465
Current accounts	558,875	451,761	450,967	337,154	338,185
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	Apr. 16, 1929.	Mar. 1, 1930.	Mar. 16, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,972	29,080	29,349	30,348	31,385
Other precious metals	4,387	3,298	3,270	3,079	2,909
Foreign bank notes	8,891	6,517	6,149	5,717	6,175
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	279	295	299	299	299
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	81,471	115,809	115,934	116,557	118,232
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	112,622	153,580	154,850	155,598	158,475
Balance to which notes may still be issued	378	1,420	150	402	525

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 8, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930	Apr. 8, 1930.
Gold	35,091	302,131	304,385	304,226	304,016
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	712,980	966,242	1,020,108	1,060,310
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	320,893	320,701	335,251
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,534,902	1,290,920	1,261,074	1,193,418
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,559,714	1,391,228	1,447,177	1,428,285
Deposits at notice	21,225	261,748	394,515	357,099	348,155

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,243	6,458	6,461	6,464	6,470
Net foreign exchange	20,828	20,357	19,800	19,671	19,204
Subsidiary Estonian coin	664	1,176	1,616	1,580	1,473
Home bills discounted	15,429	14,983	14,988	14,971	15,006
Loans and advances	14,352	13,106	13,358	12,420	12,864*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	35,460	33,574	33,169	32,586	33,088
Sight deposits and current accounts	16,723	19,062	19,269	18,544	16,973
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	51·87%	50·94%	50·08%	51·11%	51·28%

* Includes Ekr. 7,643,495·81, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 17, 1929.	Mar. 19, 1930.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,820	23,965	23,970	23,972	23,974	23,982
Silver coin	4,734	6,598	6,465	6,325	6,273	6,228
Balance abroad	57,919	48,447	48,292	48,612	50,238	51,502
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,671	12,631	11,438	12,173	12,838	13,522
Short term bills	85,534	93,140	92,552	93,199	92,902	92,108
Loans against securities	53,972	54,411	54,909	55,030	55,103	54,567
Other assets	15,765	14,187	13,885	14,371	12,883	13,279
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	44,344	47,132	48,443	47,535	47,333	47,591
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	17,010	18,735
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	3,662	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,595	15,283	16,463	16,595	16,680	16,810
Current accounts	57,784	60,739	60,849	62,774	53,233	53,099
Government accounts	102,358	94,477	90,824	93,182	102,193	104,618
Other liabilities	15,161	10,575	10,760	9,425	10,598	6,483

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	34,342	35,098	35,155	35,163	35,187	35,193
Silver	4,346	4,029	4,068	4,088	4,160	4,123
State Treasury coins	1,845	1,676	1,673	1,677	1,686	1,672
Foreign currency	37,164	82,383	80,343	84,566	81,268	77,642
Discount and credit	88,902	83,663	84,762	83,568	89,629	92,495
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,350	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	89,163	96,443	94,840	99,303	101,381	102,135
Deposits	65,753	96,484	98,149	96,391	98,020	97,701

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion	2,800	3,125	3,413	3,167	3,516	3,227	3,521
Of which gold coin	8	12	12	12	112	116	116
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,792	3,113	3,401	3,155	3,403	3,111	3,405
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	11,537	13,969	12,779	14,502	11,518	15,347	12,062
Bills of exchange	23,627	20,481	18,872	20,155	20,565	21,809	19,297
Loans	240	...	20	...	140	...	20
Foreign exchange	16,225	13,883	11,429	13,328	10,338	9,472	10,842
Other bals. on dem'd	1,058	5	24	32	7	22	25
Securities	3,403	2,703	2,703	2,703	2,703	3,666	3,666
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up	7,500	7,503	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	33,268	36,281	31,012	36,045	31,615	36,661	32,055
Deposits on demand	4,078	1,333	1,842	1,696	1,746	1,659	1,778

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Mar. 30, 1929.	Mar. 8, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,122,578	974,261	964,775	955,543	955,878
Discounts	41,740	717,071	667,818	666,115	666,096	679,296
Advances	70,540	75,512	76,272	76,556	76,669	75,921
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,353,986	1,134,255	1,106,171	1,128,346	1,270,153
Govt. deposits	87,340	535,865	537,762	535,159	531,915	474,245
Other deposits	11,440	234,400	316,420	345,317	325,934	232,016

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Oct. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Gold	1,571	3,602	3,757	3,801	3,828	3,835
Govt. securities	2,084	47,494	46,358	45,129	44,297	43,875
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	2,400	27,530	28,045	27,215	25,726	25,470
Govt. deposits	2,315	20,649	18,383	20,148	19,883	20,126
Other deposits	2,600	17,905	16,865	17,180	16,785	16,470

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 22, 1929.	Feb. 14, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.
Gold at home	60,765	63,250	63,242	63,238	63,245
Gold abroad	411,862	405,214	384,618	354,891	324,127
Discounts and advances	79,333	110,237	120,846	114,470	110,505
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	357,500	340,606	352,610	348,408	346,514
Deposits	108,633	157,710	135,261	105,270	80,367
Drafts	12,789	16,044	16,044	16,044	16,044
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 21, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	% 3½	Good Friday	% 3½	Bank Holiday	% 3½	% 3½	% 3½
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 5/16–3/8		2 5/16–3/8		2 5/16–3/8	2 5/16–3/8	2 5/16–3/8
3 months' do.	2½–9/16		2½–9/16		2 9/16	2 9/16	2½–9/16
4 months' do.	2⅝–¾		2⅝		2⅝–11/16	2⅝–11/16	2⅝–11/16
6 months' do.	2 11/16–¾		2⅝–¾		2¾–⅞	2¾–⅞	2¾–⅞
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅜		2 5/16–⅜		2 5/16–⅜	2 5/16–⅜	2 5/16–⅜
3 months'‡	2⅜		2⅜		2½–9/16	2½–9/16	2½–9/16
Loans—Day to day	1½–2½		1½–2½		2–2½	1½–2½	2
Short	2½		2½		2½	2½	2½
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½		1½		1½	1½	1½
Discount houses at call	1½		1½		1½	1½	1½
At notice	1¾		1¾		1¾	1¾	1¾

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
April 3	2¾	2⅝	2 7/16	2½	3½	3¾	4
10	2½	2 7/16–½	2 7/16–½	2 9/16–⅝	3⅜	4	4¼
16	2¼–5	2½	2 9/16	2⅝	3½	3¾	4
24	2½	2½–9/16	2 9/16	2⅝	3½	3¾	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	Apr. 25, 1929.	Apr. 16 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 13/16–⅞	4·86 5/32–86 11/32	4·86½–5/8
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88⅞–89⅛	4·86⅜–86½	4·86⅜–86½
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·17–20	124·02–04	123·96–99
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46½–46⅝	20·37⅛–37⅜	20·36–36½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·08–08½	12·09¼–09½	12·08–08½
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94–94½	34·84½–84¾	34·82½–83
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·62–65	92·73–76	92·76–78⅜
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·21–21½	25·08½–08¾	25·08–08½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¾–20	18·16–16½	18·16–16½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–16¾	18·08¾–09½	18·09–09½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–21½	18·16–16½	18·16–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	33·55–·58	38·81–84	39·08–11½
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108⅛–⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna	schilgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·54–57	34·50–53	34·48–50
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164⅛	164–164¼	164–164¼
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	276–276½	274½–275½	274½–275
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·84–·87	27·81–84	27·82–85
Bukarest	*lei to £1*	T.T.	813·6	816–819	817–818	817–818
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	671–676	669–674	665–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	374½–375½	374½–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	989–992	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	942·00–944	†9·445–465	†9·445–465
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–7/16
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193¼	193–193½	193–193½
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–·23	18·20–27	18·20–27
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–·25	25·17–27	25·17–27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47½–9/16	43 11/16–¾	43½–9/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅞–15/16	5 15/16–6	5 15/16–6
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½–48	45½–46	45½–46½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·58	39·92	39·92
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	12·60 nom.	12·77½ nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Bombay		T.T.		1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Madras		T.T.		1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–⅞	1/5 15/16–⅞
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11½–2/0 1/16	1/6½–1/6⅝	1/6½–1/6⅝
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5¾–2/6⅛	1/11–1/11½	1/11–1/11½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 15/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 11/16–¾	2/3 11/16–¾
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10½–⅝	2/0 15/32–½	2/0 15/32–½
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0⅛	†2s. 0 11/16d.	†2/0⅛
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·0–10·50	10·20–30	10·20–25
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	Jan. 30, 1930	3½	3
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Dec. 31, 1929	4½	3½	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6†, 7†}
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9				
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Rome	April 23, 1930	5½	6
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Danzig	Mar. 20, 1929	6	7	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Helsingfors	Nov. 15, 1928	6½	7	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Kovno	Feb. 8, 1925	...	7	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
New York Federal Reserve	Mar. 13, 1930	4	3½	Irish	Mar. 20, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	Apr. 25, 1929.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	3½	4	4	4	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4	4	4	4	4
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5¼	2¼	3	3	3½	3½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5¼	2¼	3	3	3½	3½
Ineligible, 90 days	6½	3⅜	3½	3½	3½	
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	4	4	4	4	

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	Apr. 25, 1929.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80½	4·83⅜	4·83½	4·83⅞
Cable			4·85⅜	4·86 5/16	4·86⅛	4·86⅜
Cheques			4·84 15/16	4·86⅛	4·86	4·86 5/16
Paris ....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅛	3·91 5/16	3·91 3/16	3·92 1/16
Brussels..... ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88½	13·95	13·955	13·955
Switzerland ... ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·24½	19·37	19·38	19·38
Italy ..... ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·25⅜	5·23½	5·23⅞	5·23⅞
Berlin ..... ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·81	23·69½	23·85	23·84½	23·85½
Vienna..... ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·09	14·09	14·08½
Madrid ..... ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·54	12·52	12·51	12·47
Amsterdam..... ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·13½	40·13½	40·19	40·21
Copenhagen ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·64	26·76½	26·76	26·75½
Oslo ..... ,,			26·65	26·76	26·76	26·75½
Stockholm..... ,,			26·70	26·865	26·87	26·85
Athens..... ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅜	1·29½	1·29½	1·29⅜
Montreal ..... ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅜ dis.	⅛ dis.	⅛ dis.	1/16 dis.
Yokohama..... ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·63	49·40	49·35	49·35
Hong Kong ... ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·70	37·35	37·30	37·45
Shanghai ..... ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	51·10	47·12½	47·125	47·25
Calcutta ..... ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·25	36·15	36·15	36·15
Buenos Aires... ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·75	110·75	113	113
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·88	11·75	11·70	11·70
Valparaiso..... ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa.		Union of South Africa.	
	From August 27, 1929.		From November 25, 1929.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	½% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1½% dis.	⅜% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛ to ¼% ,,
30 days.....	1⅜% ,,	⅝% ,,	⅛% ,,	¼% ,,
60 days.....	2⅛% ,,	⅞% ,,	1/16% ,,	⅜% ,,
90 days.....	2⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	½% ,,
20 days.....	3⅛% ,,	1⅜% ,,	2 3/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅛	...	...	106⅛	105
Demand	92⅛	93⅞	93⅝	95	105⅛	103⅛	106 1/16	104⅜
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104⅜	103	105⅛	104
60 days	91⅞	92⅛	...	...	104 1/16	102⅛	105 1/16	103⅛
90 days	90⅛	92 1/16	...	...	103⅛	102	104⅛	103⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to 19, 1930, were £1,666,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended April 17, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	*To*—	£
France	4,947	Poland (including Dantzig)	1,970
Argentine Republic	21,000	Germany	70,050
British West Africa	42,560	Netherlands	1,451
British South Africa	415,032	France	23,806
		Switzerland	22,200
		Austria	10,225
		Hungary	2,120
		Kenya	2,285
		British India.....	33,526
		Ceylon.....	1,000
		Other countries	342
Total declared value of imports.....	483,539	Total declared value of exports.....	168,975

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended April 24, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	*To*—	£
France	1,094	Poland	1,710
U.S.A.	18,403	Germany	295,800
Irish Free State	1,000	France	43,949
British S. Africa	708,065	Switzerland	17,040
Australia	3,050,000	Spain.....	7,137
Other countries	300	Austria	8,200
		British India.....	10,159
		Other countries	385
Total declared value of imports	3,778,862	Total declared value of exports	384,380

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
April 17	Sovs. from abroad..	1,000,000	April 17	.....	Nil
,, 19	.....	Nil	,, 19	.....	Nil
,, 22	Sovs. from abroad..	2,050,000	,, 22	.....	Nil
	Bars bought	19	,, 23	Sovs. for export ...	5,000
,, 23	For. coin bought ...	18,403			
,, 24	For. coin bought ...	40	,, 24	.....	Nil
	Sovs. released	200,000			
	Total	3,268,462		Total	5,000

Net arrivals, £3,263,462.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on April 23, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £159,822,774 on the 16th instant (as compared with £159,829,239 on the previous Wednesday), an increase of £13,862,690 since the 1st January last. About £708,000 of gold from South Africa was offered in the open market to-day. At the fixed price of 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce £500,000 was taken for Switzerland and £100,000 for France; £43,000 was absorbed by the usual Indian and trade requirements, leaving a small balance still to be disposed of. Receipts of gold by the Bank of England totalled £3,068,403, which included £3,050,000 in sovereigns from Australia, and withdrawals £5,000, a net influx of £3,063,403 during the week under review.

SILVER.

Owing to the Easter holidays the week under review has been restricted to three working days. Although prices have shown little movement a steady tone has been maintained, the limited offerings being absorbed by the Indian Bazaars for prompt shipment and to cover bear sales. Neither China nor America has been active, but Continental sales have continued on a small scale. There are no indications of any important change.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 14th instant to mid-day on the 19th instant :—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Mexico.....	71,243	British India.....	27,556
France	37,517	Other countries	6,608
Irish Free State	39,147		
Germany	8,493		
Canada	5,955		
	£162,355		£34,164

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	April 15.	April 7.	Mar. 31.
Notes in circulation.....	17,366	17,415	17,723
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,037	11,084	11,096
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India....	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,072	3,089	3,385
Securities (British Government).....	30	15	15

The stocks in Shanghai on the 22nd instant consisted of about 96,400,000 ounces in sycee, 143,000,000 dollars, 19,300,000 Saigon dollars and 16,200 silver bars, as compared with about 96,300,000 ounces in sycee, 143,000,000 dollars, 20,200,000 Saigon dollars and 14,880 silver bars on the 12th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
Apr. 17.....	84 10½	19 11/16	19 11/16	Apr. 27, 1923	32⅝
,, 21.....	Bank	Holiday		,, 25, 1924	33⅝
,, 22.....	84 11½	19⅝	19 11/16	,, 24, 1925	31 1/16
,, 23.....	84 11½	19 11/16	19⅝	,, 23, 1926	29 1/16
,, 24.....	84 10¾	19⅝	19½	,, 22, 1927	26½
				,, 26, 1928	26½

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

His Grace the Duke of Beaufort has accepted a seat on the main board of the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, Ltd.

Major R. L. Benson, D.S.O., M.C., of Messrs Robert Benson and Company, Ltd., has been appointed a director of the Attock Oil Company, Ltd., in the room of Mr B. T. Petley, who has vacated his office as director owing to ill-health.

G. Street and Company, Ltd., 6, Gracechurch Street, E.C. 3, announce that they have formed an affiliation with the well-known American financial advertising agency, Rudolph Guenther-Russell Law, 131, Cedar Street, New York.

The Argentine Land and Investment Company announce the receipt of the third instalment on the sale of their "Las Varas" property due on April 1st, amounting, with interest, to £86,006.

GOVERNMENT, &c.

CZECHOSLOVAK 8 PER CENT. STATE LOAN OF 1922.—The figures subject to audit, received from the Ministry of Finance, Prague, show that, for the quarter ending December 31, 1929, the receipts from the Customs duties amounted to Kc. 357,642,863, and the net revenue from the tobacco monopoly to Kc. 366,000,000, making the total received from both sources Kc. 2,660,265,325 for the year ending December 31, 1929.

BANKS.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.—The following shows a comparison of results during the past two years :—

	1929. £	1930. £
Net profits	374,283	365,872
Brought forward	166,801	170,084
Available.....	541,084	535,956
Dividend	216,000 (18 per cent.)	216,000 (18 per cent.)
To reserve.....	125,000	117,500
To premises and properties.....	30,000	30,000
Balance carried forward	170,084	172,456
Paid-up capital	1,500,000	1,500,000
The reserve fund.....	1,882,500	2,000,000
Balance carried forward	170,084	172,456
Reserve fund and balance carried forward	2,052,584	2,172,456
Deposits and credit balances	32,068,385	32,258,307
Advances	17,229,717	17,852,283
Bank premises and heritable properties	460,000	430,000

RAILWAYS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended Mar. 28, 1930. (c) Week ended Mar. 29, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended April 13, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 15 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	220	226	127	353	573	2,874	3,261	1,989	5,250	8,124
Do. for 1929...	3,751	228	247	125	372	600	3,058	3,219	1,993	5,212	8,270
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,355	317	426	265	691	1,008	4,429	6,166	4,212	10,378	14,807
Do. for 1929...	6,360	323	454	245	699	1,022	4,652	6,025	4,205	10,230	14,882
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,957	474	594	269	863	1,337	6,490	8,342	4,318	12,660	19,150
Do. for 1929...	6,957¼	488	624	260	885	1,373	6,933	8,178	4,576	12,755	19,688
Southern	2,179	297	80	27	107	404	3,962	1,132	489	1,621	5,583
Do. for 1929...	2,172	295	82	26	108	403	4,085	1,095	559	1,654	5,739
†Und'rgr'nd R.R.c	...	308	...	...	...	308	4,347	...	...	...	4,347
Do. for 1929...	...	281	...	...	...	281	3,975	...	...	...	3,975
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	44·1	...	...	...	44·1	627·8	...	...	...	627·8
Do. for 1929...	...	39·9	...	...	...	39·9	562·9	...	...	...	562·9
*Great Northern	562	9·7	...	...	18·0	27·7	136·7	...	...	222·9	359·6
Do. for 1929...	562	11·2	...	...	17·9	29·1	135·8	...	...	249·8	385·6
*Great Southern	2,187	23·9	...	...	48·7	72·6	223·2	...	...	756·6	979·8
Do. for 1929...	2,187	25·1	...	...	50·5	75·6	242·0	...	...	763·6	1005·6

* Aggregate 14 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Preference	1,233,050	...	Shares in subsidiary coys.	2,300,415	— 1,573
Ordinary	3,498,900	+ 779,048	Due by subsid. coys.	822,409	+ 111,079
Premium on shares	...	— 218,019	Property, machinery, &c.....	1,441,864	+ 44,723
Calls pd. in advance	...	— 119,844	Stocks on hand ...	2,115,706	+ 96,500
4% Debentures ...	1,036,353	...	Debtors	1,594,081	— 89,635
Int. accrd. on debs.	20,727	...	Sundry investmts.	181,377	+ 27,372
Creditors	1,621,776	+ 81,167	Cash	70,048	— 45,860
Due to subsidiaries	41,705	— 17,796	Patents & goodwill	75,000	...
Reserve	800,000	+ 225,000			
Temporary loan...	...	— 700,000			
Profit and loss ...	348,389	+ 113,050			
Total	8,600,900	+ 142,606	Total	8,600,900	+ 142,606

RUBBER PLANTATIONS INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Ord. shares	2,250,000	...	Properties	655,383	— 15,626
Reserve	657,797	...	Sundry debtors ...	14,597	+ 1,014
Dividend equalisation reserve...	100,000	— 50,000	Loans & advances	152,975	— 24,669
Temporary loan	46,000	— 79,000	Stocks of produce, &c.	101,643	— 33
Sundry creditors	74,485	— 21,655	British Government securities	248,000	— 323,956
Profit and loss ...	148,104	— 50,904	Foreign Government securities	18,252	...
			Shares and debs.	2,075,570	+ 161,138
			Cash	9,966	+ 563
Total	3,276,386	— 201,569	Total	3,276,386	— 201,569

BABCOCK AND WILCOX, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Creditors	1,504,790	— 28,666	Cash	496,231	— 354,648
6% cum. pref. £1...	100,000	...	Investments in Government and other securities (at cost)	1,588,847	— 268
5% cum. 2nd pf. £1	179,056	...	Investments in shares in other companies	432,096	+ 23,130
Ord. shares (£1) ...	4,299,656	...	Shares and debts in and loans to associated cos.	940,227	+ 116,412
Reserve fund	852,000	+ 50,000	Bills receivable ...	68,082	— 10,182
Dividend equalisation fund	400,000	...	Debtors	1,565,914	— 60,003
Profit and loss	475,440	— 76,372	Expenditure on orders not invoiced (balance)	387,081	+ 125,279
			Stock and work in progress	1,132,869	+ 25,093
			Properties	1,199,595	+ 80,149
Total	7,810,942	— 55,036	Total	7,810,942	— 55,036

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
7% cum. pref.	22,100,012	+ 4,466,674	Shares and debentures in subsidiaries, associated coys., less amts. due to subsidiaries (£16,378,333)	68,912,615	+ 413,682
Ordinary	43,514,310	+ 6,262,132	Due by subsidiaries	21,442,874	+ 5,260,079
Deferred	10,867,437	+ 7,292	Debtors	7,026,882	+ 4,338,712
Reserve	9,725,000	+ 4,195,980	Dividends due	4,673,513	+ 4,673,513
Free reserve...	3,000,000	+ 529,020	Loans	246,587	+ 246,587
Central obsolescence fnd.	4,000,000	+ 990,862	Property and furniture ...	535,333	+ 220,465
Due to subsidiaries	8,740,104	+ 1,215,923	Cash	5,957,987	+ 4,712,032
Creditors	3,336,501	+ 1,232,918	Patents	6,372	— 96,133
Final dividends	3,167,876	+ 3,167,876			
Profit and loss	350,923	— 2,299,740			
Total ...	108,802,163	+ 19,768,937	Total ...	108,802,163	+ 19,768,937

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
RAILWAYS.					
Madras & South Mahratta Rly.	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Southern San Paulo.....	...	...	Less tax	15	15
BANKS.					
Bank of Adelaide	8*	...	Half-yearly	...	...
Bank of Montreal.....	3%*	June 2	Quarterly	...	...
Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	3%*	June 2	Quarterly	...	...
Commercial Bank of the Near East.....	3%*	...	Less tax	...	...
English Scottish & Australian Bank	5%*	...	Tax free	...	...
National of Australasia	10†	...	Less tax	10	10
Yokohama Specie Bank.....	...	...	Less tax	10(c)	10
INSURANCE.					
Alliance Assurance	10/- p.s.	July 5	Less tax	18/-p.s.	18/-p.s.
Eagle, Star and British Dominions.....	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Edinburgh Assurance	...	...	Less tax	£7 p.s.	£7p.s.
Caledonian Insurance	...	...	Less tax	17/6p.s.	17/6ps.
General Accident Fire and Life Assurance.....	...	...	*Less tax*	*13/- p.s.*	*12/-p.s.*
Legal & General Assurance ...	4/6 p.s.†	...	Tax free	7/6 p.s.	7/- p.s.
London & Lancashire Insurance	10/-p.s.†	...	Less tax	19/- p.s.	19/-p.s.
Liverpool and London and Globe	13/6p.s.†	...	Less tax	26/-p.s.	25/-p.s.
Northern Assurance.....	9/- p.s.†	...	*Less tax*	*17/-p.s.*	*17/p.s.*
North British and Mercantile Insurance	22/-p.s.†	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Union and National Insurance "A"	...	...	Less tax	13/- p.s.	13/-p.s.
Scottish Union and National Insurance "B"	...	...	Less tax	48/9 p.s	48/9p.s
State Assurance	27½%	...	Less tax	40	40
Yorkshire Insurance	6/-p.s.†	...	Less tax	9/6p.s	9/6 p.s.
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Allagar Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Anglo-Johore Consoldtd. Rubber	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Bandarapola Ceylon	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	17½
Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber.....	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Bukit Panjong.....	...	...	Less tax	5	4
Bukit Badang Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Ceylon Tea Plantations	25%†	...	Less tax	40	...
Changkat Salak Rubber & Tin ..	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	15
Cluny Rubber.....	6%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Consolidated Malay Rubber Estates	2½d.p.s.†	...	Less tax	20⅔	16⅔
Craig Tea Estates	10%†	May 10	*Less tax*	*15*	12
Dichwella Tea Co.	5%†	Apr. 25	Less tax	...	...
Dickella Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Divitural Rubber and Tea Estates	3¾%†	...	Less tax	6	9
Eastern Produce & Estate	20%†	...	*Less tax*	*30*	35
Kow Seng Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	4
Gadek Rubber Estate	3¾%†	May 13	Less tax	...	...
General Ceylon Rubber & Tea Estates	5%†	...	*Less tax*	*10*	*10*

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
				%	%
Gordon (Malaya) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Hewagam Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	6
Hidden Streams Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Igalhande Rubber & Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Kandapolla Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	20	40
Kapar Para Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Lanadron Rubber	4%†	...	Less tax	4	5
Ledbury Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	10	10
London Asiatic Rubber & Produce	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber	11¼%†	...	Less tax	17½	15
Malakoff Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Matale Ceylon Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	Nil
Mendaris (Sumatra) Rubber and Produce	...	...	Less tax	4	5
New Sylhet Tea	...	...	Less tax	10	22½
North Malay Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Pahang Consolidated	5%*	May 31	Less tax	...	...
Peacock and Nilambe	2½%	...	Less tax	7½	20
Pernambang Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	3	Nil
Ragalla Tea Estates	10%†	...	Less tax	25	20
Rosevale Rubber	12½%†	...	Less tax	18¾	13
Rubber Estates of Johore	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Scottish Ceylon Tea	25%†	...	Less tax	40	50
Simo Rubber Estates	20%†	May 7	Less tax	20	25
Strathmore Rubber	2%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Sungu Reyla (F.M.S.) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Tenom (Borneo) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	Nil	2½
Third Mile Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Ulu Rantau Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	5	Nil
MINING.					
Oriental Consolidated Mining	50c.p.s.	May 16	Less tax	...	...
Sungei Way Dredging	5%*	Apr. 28	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
African City Properties Trust	6%†	plus bonus of 2%		12	10
Associated Electrical	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Angus Press Holdings	...	...	Less tax	12½	...
Alliance Investment	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Ansell's Brewery	12½*	...	Tax free	...	...
Austin Reed	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Babcock & Wilcox	...	...	Tax free	15	15
Bankers' Investment Trust (Def.)	9%	...	Less tax	11½	11
Bristol Brewery Georges & Co.	7½%*	May 15	Tax free	...	...
British Thread Mills	6d. p.s.	...	Less tax	...	...
Bryant & May	...	...	Less tax	25	25
Camperdown Trust	6¼%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Champion & Slee	...	...	Less tax	10	6
Clydesdale Investment	15*	...	Less tax	...	...
Currie & Co.	...	...	Tax free	10(d)	10(d)
Dalgety & Co.	10*	...	Tax free	...	...
Dundee & London Investment Trust	5*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Dunville & Co.	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Gateshead & District Tramways	...	...	Less tax	8	6
Gieves	9%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Great Northern Telegraph	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Houlder Bros.	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Henry Glave	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Hope Bros.	15†	...	Less tax	10	10
Hopkinsons	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Howard & Bullough	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Ingall Parsons Clive	5%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Investors' Mortgage Security	8%*	...	Less tax	...	...
J. Mandleburg & Co.	...	...	Less tax	8	10
John I. Jacobs	...	...	Less tax	7½	12½
Lanka Plantations	5%*	May 14	Less tax	...	...
London & South American Investment	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	6½
London Trust	...	...	Less tax	21	20
Marcroft Wagons	9d. p.s.†	...	Tax free	10	10
Matthew Brown & Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Melbourne Hart	...	...	Less tax	22½	20
Northern American Trust	11*	...	Less tax	...	...
Northern General Transport	...	...	Less tax	7½	10
Oxford Canal Navigation	£3 p.s. †	...	Less tax	£5 p.s.	£5 10s. p.s.
Peter Walker (Warrington) & Robert Cain	2½%*	June 2	Less tax	...	...
Realisation & Debenture Corp. of Scotland	14*	May 3	Less tax	...	...
Robert Stephenson	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Robinson & Pickford	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Rosehaugh Company	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Scottish Australian Investment	2½%*	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Second Investors' Mortgage Security	7%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Second Securities Trust of Scotland	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Second Scottish Mortgage & Trust	4%*	Apr. 30	Less tax	...	...
Second Scottish National Trust	4½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish National Trust	4½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Second Scottish Northern Investment	⅜ 8%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Simms Motor Units	5%†	...	Less tax	10	15
S. Lesser & Sons	...	...	Less tax	10	5
South London Electric Supply	5½%†	...	Less tax	8½	...
South Metropolitan Electric Light & Power	6%	...	Less tax	9	8
St. James' Court Estate	5%†	plus bonus of 1%		9	8
Surrey Public-House Trust	...	...	Less tax	7½	...
Tarapaca Water Works Co.	7%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Third Canadian General Investment Trust	2½%†	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Third Caledonian Trust	5*	...	Less tax	...	...
Trent Motor Traction	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Third Scottish National Trust	4%†	...	Less tax	7	6
United British Steamship	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Waygood-Otis	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
West London & Provincial Electric & General Trust	5½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Whiteaway Laidlaw & Co.	3%†	...	Tax free	8	10
William Blythe	6%†	...	Less tax	10	...
William McIlroy	30†	...	Less tax	22½	20
Wilson's Brewery	10%†	plus bonus of 5%		20	20

(d) Plus bonus of 5%.
(e) Plus bonus of 3 yen p. 8.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR MARCH, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ariston	7,019	...	...	...	...	11,617	1,761
Brakpan	...	...	...	...	...	...	128,632
Central Manitoba	4,124	...	...	...	...	$37,514	...
Consolidated Main Reef	...	...	...	...	...	...	39,546
Crown Mines	...	...	...	...	...	...	231,659
Durban Roodepoort Deep	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,101
Fresnillo	85,328	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geduld	...	...	...	...	...	...	139,757
Great Boulder Proprietary	10,044	...	...	...	...	24,285	...
Luipards Vlei	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,542
Meyer and Charlton	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,893
Modderfontein Deep	...	...	...	...	...	...	187,606
New Kleinfontein	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,195
Rooiberg Minerals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,103
Springs Mines	...	...	...	...	...	...	191,314
Transvaal Gold Mining	28,336	...	...	...	...	...	14,705
Van Ryn Gold	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,571
Vipond Consolidated	18,027	...	6,623	...	...	$211800	...
Waihi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Springs	...	...	...	...	...	...	52,468

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Amari (Nigeria)	5	...
Anglo-Burma	13¾	...
Bangrin	61½	...
Bangrin Tin Dredging	7½	Cwts.
Batu Caves	24	Estimated profit, £933.
Bisichi	95	...
Chenderiang	26	Value £2,526.
Consol. Tin of Burma	100	...
Daffo	3	...
Ex Lands Nigeria	55	...
Fabulosa Mines Consol.	147	Tin barrilla.
Geevor	75	Black tin.
Gopeng	62½	Value, £6,185; profit, £4,130.
Hongkong	1,400	Piculs; estim. value, $66,400.
Hongkong Tin	83	Value, £7,746.
Idris Hydraulic	26¾	Value, £2,473; profit, £754.
Ipoh	705	Piculs; (Dredges 1 & 2).
Jantar	35	...
Jos Tin Area (Nigeria)	22½	...
Kaduna Syndicate	25¾	...
Kaduna Prospectors	21¾	...
Kampong Kamunting	421	Piculs; (Dredges 1 & 2).
Kamunting	1,833	Piculs; value, $93,000.
Kassa	15½	...
Kay Yew	30¾	...
Kent (F.M.S.)	30	Estimated value, £2,825.
Kepong	33	Value, £3,069; profit, £575.
Kinta	20	Value, £2,007; profit, £840.
Kinta Kellas	29¾	Value £3,150.
Lahat	14¼	Estimated loss, £5.
Lower Bisichi (Nigeria) Tin	5¾	...
Malayan	113	Estimated value, £11,650.
Malaya Consol. Tin Dredging	66	...
Malaysiam	26	Estimated value, £2,567.
Meru	18	...
Naraguta Durumi	13½	...
Naraguta Karama	17¾	...
Naraguta Extended	4	(Restricted).
Naraguta Kerot	10	...
Naraguta (Nigeria)	20	...
Nigerian Consol. Mines	18	...
Offin River Gold	7	...
Pahang Consolidated	222	(Black tin).
Pattani	75	Piculs.
Penawat (Malaya) Tin Dredging	66	...
Pengkalen	45	Value, £4,515; profit, £1,605.
Petaling	190	Value, £18,200; profit, £11,317.
Puchong	277	Piculs; value, $15,989.
Rambutan	9½	Estimated value, £780.
Rantau	28	Estimated profit, £11c.
Renong	11½	First half of April.
Ribon Valley	16¾	...
Selayang	24	...
Siamese Tin	153	...
Siamese Tin Syndicate	19½	Cwts.
Slone Tin	31½	...
Siput	15¾	...
Siput Tin	7½	First half of April.
South Crofty	65	Black tin, value, £7,214.
Southern Malayan	160¾	Estimated value, £16,140.
Southern Perak	80½	Estimated value, £8,229.
Southern Tronoh	50	Value. £5,206; profit, £2,070.
Sungei Besi	45	Value, £4,809; profit, £1,491.
Sungei Kinta	310	Piculs; profit, £250.
Taaping	19	Estimated profit, £233.
Tanjong	33	Value, £3,523; profit, £1,166.
Tekka Taaping	36	Value, £3,500; profit, £755.
Teja Malaya	22¾	...
Tekka	48	Estimated value, £4,610.
Temoh	610	Piculs; profit, £2,000.
Thabawleik	685	Piculs; February.
Timengor	9	...
Tin Fields of Nigeria	4¾	...
Tongkala Harbour	60	...
Tronoh	71	Value, £7,385; profit, £2,979.
Ulu Yam	312	Piculs; February.
United Tin Areas	21	...
Yarde Kerri Group	10	...
Zaalplaats	30	...
ZINC.		...
Electrolytic Zinc	4,269	...
Lake View and Star	7,137	Value, 18,846; profit 3,125.

RENONG.—Dredge No. 2—Outturn second half of March, 13 tons. Total for March, 20¾ tons. Total for year to date, 41,4¼ tons. Dredge No. 3—Outturn second half of March, 10½ tons. Total for March, 20 tons. Total for year to date, 227½ tons.

MOUNT LYELL.—Reduction works—Furnace in blast during full period; 3,246 tons of refinery anodes made for the current year. Concentrator—Mill operated 328 hours and treated 10,350 tons of ore, producing 2,004 tons of concentrates. Copper refinery—Tank house in operation throughout period, 340 tons of cathodes being produced for the fortnight; total for current year, 3,561 tons.

(*Continued on page 972.*)

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Dividend. Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Electric Lighting, &c.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Cork Electric	Dec. 31	14,170	36,664	50,834	6,163	14,950	10	29,721	...	43,659	10
South London Electric	Dec. 31	95,397	109,380	204,777	1,800	41,990	8½	62,126	98,861	113,961	8½
South Metropolitan Electric	Dec. 31	152,076	80,135	232,211	16,500	54,000	9	14,099	147,612	...	...
Financial Land, &c.											
Agricultural Mortgage Corp.	Mar. 31‡	...	15,065	15,065	...	...	...	12,664	2,401	...	...
Waterworks.											
Tarapacá Water Works	Dec. 31	22,043	18,313	40,356	...	16,000	10	...	24,356	24,411	10
Rubber, &c.											
Bahru Selangor Rubber	Dec. 31	1,953	9,596	11,549	...	6,250	25	...	5,299	6,777	25
Bukit Cloh Rubber	Dec. 31	2,950	16,278	19,228	...	12,500	25	...	6,728	12,520	20⅝
Consolidated Malay Rubber	Dec. 31	9,269	15,621	24,890	...	15,625	10 7/12	2,000	7,265	10,985	16¼
Golconda Malay Rubber	Dec. 31	4,364	12,221	16,585	...	11,300	10	...	5,285	8,589	10
Haydella Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	709	919	1,628	...	...	...	1,000	628	910	...
Hewagam Rubber	Dec. 31	8,479	13,689	22,168	...	9,600	4	...	12,568	19,050	4
Hidden Streams Rubber	Dec. 31	6,586	2,355	8,941	...	1,320	5	...	7,621	1,381	5
Kapar Para Rubber	Dec. 31	19,350	16,001	35,351	...	15,000	10	5,000	15,351	12,913	10
London Asiatic Rubber	Dec. 31	95,612	59,885	155,497	...	57,820	15	650	97,027	52,951	15
Matale Ceylon Rubber	Dec. 31	1,079	1,240	2,319	...	1,206	5	...	1,113	281	...
Rampah Cocoanut Estates	Nov. 30	*Dr. 893*	*Dr. 3,048*	*Dr. 3,941*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.3,941*	*Dr. 503*	...
Rosenhaugh Co.	Dec. 31	6,524	23,534	30,058	16,205	5,813	5	...	8,040	17,021	5
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Rubber	Dec. 31	21,141	30,153	51,294	...	22,500	5	5,000	23,794	16,219	5
Slagbrook Rubber and Tea Estates	Dec. 31	3,429	1,009	4,438	...	...	...	2,000	2,438	5,867	5
Strathmore Rubber	Dec. 31	7,490	17,857	25,347	...	11,183	5	8,480	5,684	22,402	5
Sungei Salak Rubber	Dec. 31	2,604	19,338	21,942	...	15,000	15	3,500	3,441	*Dr. 8*	...
Ulu Rantau Rubber	Dec. 31	11,770	*Dr. 133*	11,637	...	3,293	5	...	8,344	*Dr. 445*	...
Tea.											
Bandarapola Ceylon Co.	Dec. 31	2,631	6,561	9,192	...	6,250	12½	1,000	9,692	9,383	17½
Beverley Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	2,058	467	2,525	...	...	...	...	2,525	2,040	4½
Ceylon Tea Plantations	Dec. 31	52,526	176,950	229,476	10,578	150,400	40	16,000	52,498	19,130	20
Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	46,453	98,688	145,141	...	86,767	17½	11,000	47,374	119,221	15
New Sylhet Tea	Dec. 31	4,329	777	5,106	720	...	...	...	4,386	5,010	22½
Nuwara Eliya Tea	Dec. 31	16,929	108,659	125,588	...	104,500	38	6,000	15,088	114,525	38
Ragalla Tea Estates	Dec. 31	1,545	24,782	26,328	2,100	19,500	25	3,000	1,728	19,130	20
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Tea Co.	Dec. 31	6,391	32,818	39,209	...	30,000	10	5,000	4,209	36,688	15
Yatiyantota Ceylon Tea	Dec. 31	3,977	8,488	12,465	2,700	...	...	5,500	4,265	8,908	5
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Alabama Coal, Iron, &c.	Dec. 31	398	2,715	3,113	...	3,077	8¼	...	36	...	...
Babcock and Wilcox	Dec. 31	118,363	674,315	792,678	14,953	644,948	15†	56,785	75,992	734,902	15†
Cammell, Laird and Co.	Dec. 31	5,121	11,810	16,931	...	...	...	...	16,931	*Dr81,895*	...
Howard and Bullough	Mar. 31	3,093	*Dr. 8,390*	*Dr. 5,297*	15,000	31,250	2½	*Dr.55,000*	3,453	71,447	8¾
North's Navigation Collieries	Dec. 31	*Dr353,698*	15,112	*Dr.338586*	...	...	...	...	*Dr338586*	*Dr80,584*	...
Stephenson (Robert) and Co.	Dec. 31	17,323	11,102	28,425	...	11,000	5	...	17,425	11,148	5
Trusts.											
African City Properties Trust	Dec. 31	18,504	52,746	71,250	7,500	30,000	12	15,000	18,750	50,687	10
Northern Securities Trust	Dec. 31	6,312	23,915	30,227	10,862	11,550	9	1,000	6,814	22,185	10
Rubber Plantations Investment Trust	Dec. 31	63,383	181,902	245,285	...	222,011	12½	*Dr. 38,600*	61,874	284,546	15
U.S. and South American Investment	Apr. 4	28,392	97,030	125,422	20,000	56,000	14	20,000	29,422	93,348	13½
West London and Provincial Electric Gen. Trust	Mar. 31	4,186	25,099	29,285	7,680	15,840	10	...	5,765	...	...
Shipping.											
United British Steam Ships	Dec. 31	36,591	62,341	98,932	...	48,120	5	...	50,812	54,239	5
Shops and Stores.											
Austin Reed	Feb. 20	26,038	76,939	102,977	24,000	22,625	15	30,000	26,352	80,384	15
Hope Bros.	Feb. 28	37,096	72,702	109,798	16,500	40,000	10	16,000	37,298	70,784	10
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Potteries Electric Traction	Dec. 31	4,982	431	5,413	...	...	...	...	5,413	6,582	...
Tynemouth and District Electric Traction	Dec. 31	330	1,545	1,875	1,080	...	...	...	795	1,422	5
Textiles.											
British Thread Mills	Feb. 14	27,988	5,773	33,761	...	6,154	2½ 50	11,755	15,852	1,417	...
Other Companies.											
Associated Electrical Indust.	Dec. 31	101,850	261,811	363,661	76,449	162,699	6	15,273	109,241	160,663	6
Blythe (William) and Co.	Dec. 31	6,947	31,260	38,207	1,696	22,010	10	8,540	5,961	...	...
Bryant and May	Mar. 31	59,766	528,038	587,804	67,200	341,630	15 10 †	108,365	70,609	531,642	25 10
English China Clays	Dec. 31	17,062	129,621	146,683	27,935	59,638	4	40,000	19,110	71,923	3
General Steam Fishing Co.	Mar. 1	275	323	600	...	...	...	...	600	928	4
Glave (Henry)	Mar. 31	14,675	68,313	82,988	35,600	30,000	20	2,412	14,976	67,008	20
International Linotype	Mar. 31	252	41,761	42,013	...	41,675	7½	...	338	38,271	7
Imperial Chemical Indust.	Dec. 31	108,807	6,355,687	6,464,494	1407755	3,601,317	8 2	1,104,499	350,923	5,488,244	8 1¼
Mandleberg (J.) and Co.	Dec. 19	54,166	44,341	98,507	4,900	51,539	...	...	42,068	80,743	10
Salinas of Mexico	Nov. 30	9,820	1,322	10,142	...	...	...	...	10,142	5,899	...
St. James' Court Estate	Dec. 31	5,654	29,136	34,790	10,400	16,200	9	...	8,190	...	...
West Ham Greyhound Racecourse	Dec. 31	*Dr. 1,171*	7,726	6,555	...	...	...	...	6,555	...	...

† Free of income tax.
‡ Period from November 12, 1928, to March 31, 1930.

(*Continued from page 970.*)

SAN FRANCISCO.—March:—*Ore treated*, 29,010 tons; lead concentrates produced, 3,750 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 3,252 tons; estimated net smelter returns, $184,157; operating expenses, $124,784; estimated operating profit, $59,373.

ROOIBERG MINERALS.—Production for March, 35 long tons of concentrates.

BURMA CORPORATION.—During March, 47,496 tons of ore were mined, including 5,768 tons of high-grade ore; 34,950 *tons of ore* were milled in the treatment plant, producing 11,560 tons of leady concentrates; 14,060 tons of lead-bearing material, including 3,865 tons of high-grade ore, were smelted in the blast furnaces, producing 7,345 tons of hard lead for treatment in the refinery. *Refinery products* were 6,750 tons lead and 607,000 ozs. silver. Of silver production, 40,918 ozs. were recovered from the treatment of copper matte. Zinc plant produced 5,060 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 8¼ ozs. silver, 4¾ per cent. lead and 51·3 per cent. zinc. In addition to the above, *1,250 tons* copper matte were produced from the treatment of accumulated smelter by-products and 7,248 tons copper ore; 100 tons of refined antimonial lead and 200 tons of nickel speiss were also produced. Included in the tonnage of refined lead is 165 tons recovered from the *smelting of copper ore*.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL.—March production of the affiliated tin companies: Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation—Burma Group, 63 tons; Cornwall, 72 tons. London Tin Corporation (Nigeria), 220 tons; Associated, 200 tons; Juga Valley, 16 tons; Tin Properties, 19 tons; Junction, 6 tons. Total, 596 tons; February, 639 tons; January, 688½ tons. Total for all affiliated companies, 997½ tons. This compares with December, 1929, 1,512 tons; January, 1930, 1,246½ tons; February, 1930, 1,060 tons. The above companies have curtailed output in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of the Tin Producers' Association.

EAST POOL AND AGAR.—March: Tons of ore milled, 7,313; tons of black tin recovered, 82·32; pounds black tin recovered per ton of ore milled, 25·21. Tons of arsenic recovered, 30. Estimated revenue, £9,200.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—Four weeks ended April 5th: 27,970 tons of crude ore were treated and produced 5,904 *tons of leady* concentrates, assaying 70 per cent. lead and 24 ozs. silver per ton; also 5,424 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 50 per cent. zinc.

MOUNT LYELL.—During the quarterly period ended March 31st there were smelted: North Lyell ore (direct to smelters), 2,325 tons; concentrates, 12,999 tons. The converters produced 2,736 tons of blister copper, containing: copper, 2,710 tons; silver, 52,044 ozs.; gold, 1,151 ozs. The mill treated 58,762 tons of ore and produced 11,790 tons of concentrates. Furnace ran 61 days. Cathode copper produced 2,191 tons.

SANTA GERTRUDIS.—March: Dry short tons milled, 52,359. *Total revenue, after allowing* for development and participation of owners, but before deducting reserve for depletion, depreciation, &c., $109,134. (February, $93,067.)

EUROPEAN AND NORTH AFRICAN.—Production for March: Iron ore, 2,732 tons; lead concentrates, 110 tons. Shipment: Iron ore, 11,349 tons.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION.—March outputs: Malaya—Larut Tin Fields, 34½ tons; Jelapang Tin Dredging, 23 tons; Kuala Kampar Tin Fields, 62 tons; Changkat Tin Dredging, 17 tons; Rawang Tin Fields, 90 tons; Kundang Tin Dredging, 12 tons; Rawang Concessions, 30 tons; Kampong Lanjut Tin Dredging, 43 tons; Malim Nawar Tin, 25 tons; Kramat Tin Dredging, 25 tons; Kampar Malaya Tin Dredging, 40 tons; Malayan *total*, 401½ tons. Burma—Tavoy Tin Dredging Corporation, 20 tons; Thingandon Tin Dredging Company, 7 tons; Theindaw Tin Dredging Company, 6 tons; Northern Tavoy Tin Dredging, 30 tons; Burma total, 63 tons. Cornwall—Wheal Kitty Tin, 40 tons; Polhigey Tin, 32 tons; Cornish total, 72 tons. Nigeria—London Tin Corporation, 220 tons.

Commercial Reports.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

THE CORN TRADE.

Further rains and a low temperature prevailed over the United Kingdom during the past week, but spring sowings were completed under ideal conditions, and a spell of warm weather *is now needed* to ensure regular germination. Winter cereals continue to progress satisfactorily. Markets remained quiet under holiday influences, the few days of actual trading disclosing slight price fluctuations, and demand restricted to pressing needs. Supplies of native wheat remain in small compass and values occasionally turn in buyers' favour. On the import market a weaker tone was also in evidence, and consumers' small wants easily met, though towards the close rather more interest was shown in both *Northern* and Southern Hemisphere supplies. Since the Easter holidays cable advices from Chicago and Winnipeg were easier on beneficial rains and favourable progress of both *winter crops* and spring sowings, but the chief event was the reopening of navigation on the St. Lawrence heralding the resumption of direct shipments from Canadian ports. Prospects of a liberal movement during the season are foreshadowed by a good demand for shipping space, particularly to Mediterranean countries, but in view of restricted European requirements it is doubtful whether really large North American shipments can be absorbed. Fair quantities are still available from Argentine and *Australia, and, despite market fluctuations* occasioned by weather and crop reports, considerable difficulty may be encountered in disposing of North American holdings, and which remain the outstanding feature in the international situation. The seeding of spring crops has progressed favourably both here and abroad, so that quantities on hand reassert their influence, and with every prospect of a large carry-over, millers are assured of ample and cheap supplies of grist for some months ahead. Flour prices tend easier, and North American shipment offers are coming more into line with market parity on this side. Consumers, meanwhile, confine purchases to immediate needs pending further developments in the situation. Feeding stuffs are quiet and prices generally easier.

Wheat.—Easier No. 1. Northern Manitoba (Vancouver shipment), ex-ship, 43s. 9d.; No. 2, ditto, 43s.; No. 3, 42s.; No. 4, Manitoba, 41s.; No. 5, ditto (Atlantic shipment), 38s. 9d.; No. 6, 31s. 6d.; No. 2 hard winter (Atlantic shipment), 39s. 6d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 36s.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s. 6d.; Barusso, 62½ lbs., ex-ship to arrive, 39s. 3d.; Australian, 41s. 9d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 9d.-9s. per 112 lbs.

Flour.—Dull. London straight run, 37s. per sack for country deliveries, and 36s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 31s.-32s., ex-store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, April-May, 34s.-34s. 9d.; export ditto, 32s.-32s. 6d.; Australian, 28s. 6d.-29s.; French, April-May, 25s. 6d.-27s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, March-June, £6 2s. 6d. per ton.

Maize.—Steady. Plate landed, 32s.; ex-ship, 31s.; March-April, 27s. 3d.; new, April-May, 25s. 9d.; May-June, 25s. 3d.; June-July, 25s. 3d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 10s. per ton ex-ship.

Barley.—Quiet. Californian old, landed, 36s.-42s., new ex-ship, 36s.-42s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex-ship f.a.q., 19s. 6d.; landed on sample, 22s.; Persian landed, 19s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s.-11s. 6d.; feed, 6s. 6d.-6s. 9d. per 112 lbs.

Oats.—Weak. Plate landed, 16s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 15s. 6d.; Chilian white, 21s. 3d.; ditto tawny, 17s. 3d.; German landed, 20s. 6d.; ex-ship to arrive, 19s. 6d.; *mixed* Canadian feed, 14s. 6d.; South Russian, ex-ship, 16s. 3d.; North ditto, 15s. 9d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s.-6s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to April 19	Qrs. 118,822	Qrs. 148,778	Qrs. 272,937	Qrs. 160,033
33 weeks to April 19	7,797,829	8,385,455	8,418,874	10,008,242
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 10	s. d. 9 10	s. d. 10 3	s. d. 11 6

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Qwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
April 12	155,042	113,678	29,994	8 7	7 10	6 3
April 19	118,822	68,294	22,035	8 10	7 9	6 7
April 17 1926 ...	194,921	77,255	37,769	12 1	9 6	9 1
April 16, 1927 ...	89,922	35,100	37,412	11 6	10 10	8 5
April 21, 1928 ...	272,937	41,720	29,419	10 3	10 9	11 9
April 20, 1929 ...	148,778	37,531	32,874	9 10	10 2	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent week with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	121⅛	148⅜	115¼	107⅛	109
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	114½	130⅞	113⅜	106½	104⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,742,000 bushels shows an increase on the week of 61,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 83,475,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Most of the South Yorkshire pits closed four days for the holidays, and there were ample stocks to meet a moderate pressure for deliveries before the stoppage. Values remain as before, namely, 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. f.o.b. for best steams. Secondary qualities continue weak, with an easy tendency of prices. Inquiries for forward bunker coal show some improvement. Supplies of industrial fuel continue sufficient to cover the demand. The market for coke continues weak.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—No improvement can be noted in conditions in the Scottish coal trades. Short-time work appears to be the rule everywhere, and in spite of this supplies continue to be in excess of demand, with the result that prices have still a drooping tendency. The only comparatively firm spots in the whole market are Fifeshire steam coal and treble nuts in both Fife and the Lothians. There is a fair forward inquiry circulating, but so far not a great deal of it has been translated into orders. Current prices for shipping business are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 17s.; splint second, 16s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. to 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.; secondary steam, 12s.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The South Wales collieries and docks were idle on Monday and Tuesday, and consequently there has been practically no business transacted. The undertone, however, remains weak, for there has been little reduction in stocks over the holiday period and the proportion of miners who returned to work on Wednesday morning was exceptionally high. Advices have been received that *the Maris Company* have tendered 100,000 tons at 26s. 5½d. c.i.f. Alexandria and 40,000 tons at 26s. c.i..f tons at 26s. 5½d. c.i.f. Alexandria and 40,000 tons at 26s. c.i..f on account of the Egyptian State Railway contract for the supply of 250,000 tons between May and September, and that among the other tenders are 90,000 tons at 26s. 7½d. by Messrs. Tabb, Burleston and Company, and 250,000 tons at 27s. 2½d. by Messrs. Evans and Reid. These offers are almost exclusively for Monmouthshire coals, but no official announcement has yet been made as to which tender has been accepted. Current coal quotations were purely nominal.

IRON AND STEEL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Prices of Cleveland iron are the same as last week, viz.: No 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Most consuming works have been closed down for two days, but work is now fully resumed and the cessation of deliveries will have caused very little accumulation of stocks of pig iron at the furnaces. An improvement in business is looked for now that the holidays are over. In the hematite department business continues disappointing. Orders are mainly confined to small lots for early delivery, which makers have booked at 75s. per ton, but for parcels of a few hundred *tons they have* accepted down to 74s. 6d. and are still prepared to do business at this figure. There are, however, very few such orders going about and unless business improves soon the present production will have to be reduced. *Shipments of* pig iron have eased off recently, the total to 22nd inst. being 11,685 tons, against 15,377 tons to March 22nd. In the steel trade most of the large plants were idle on Monday and Tuesday, but work is now resumed. Some new contracts of importance are reported and several more are under negotiation. Dorman Long and Company, Ltd., have booked an order for constructional work for a brewery at Bristol which will involve 700 tons of steel material, and Tee Sides Bridge and Engineering Company, Ltd., Middlesbrough, are expecting to receive confirmation of an order for seven large steel tanks for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's depot at Avonmouth, for which they have submitted the lowest tender. Important extension and development schemes have been decided upon by L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. railways which are expected to benefit this district. Prices for home are unchanged, viz.: Steel plates, ⅜-in. up, £8 15s.; joists, £8 10s.; sections, £8 10s.; iron crown bars, £10 15s.; 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12; black sheets, 21/24-gauge, £9 12s. 6d., all for home use. In the ore trade consumers are entirely off the market, their requirements being more than covered under their running *contracts. Best rubio* can be secured for prompt delivery at 21s. c.i.f., and the freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for immediate tonnage is about 5s. 6d. Coke is freely offered at 18s. 6d. delivered at furnaces with little demand.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—An expectation of a reduction of 3s. 6d. on local foundry iron at the end of the month has proved a further inducement to buyers to continue their waiting policy. Scarcely any forward business has been transacted in the *iron market during* the holiday stoppage and stocks are accumulating at some of the furnaces. In the heavy steel trade the stoppage has been rather longer than usual and work is decidedly scarce in the open-hearth department, although the home demand for railway steel has improved a little. Overseas demand for special and ordinary commercial steels is poor, and a spell of quietude has descended upon the tool and cutlery branches. The rolling mills are on short time. There is, however, a fair inquiry for engineers' *small tools and hacksaws*. No Russian business is reported at the moment, nor are any substantial orders from that source expected this year.

Our Workington correspondent writes:—There is not now at command in the North-East Coast *hematite* pig-iron trade the business that was available in December, the Continental and Dominions demand having dried up, while that in the Midlands, Scotland and South Wales is smaller, and though makers are booked to mid-July and hold no stocks, they find the pressure of lower prices *too hard to withstand*. Bessemer mixed numbers have fallen in the course of a few weeks from 79s. 6d. to 76s. at works, and the tendency is still downward, haggling for a further reduction accompanying all negotiations for new contracts. It is the financial stringency in Germany rather than the severity of the East Coast competition that is at the bottom of the increasing depression in trade, and the outlook accordingly is not viewed with much hope, the consensus of opinion being that it will be winter before there is any revival in demand such as was witnessed in the last quarter of 1929. At present the make of the twelve furnaces in blast between Workington and Ulverston is being absorbed, but unless operations become larger in the local steel industry it is more than likely that stocks will accumulate after the half-year end. Malleable iron is in diminishing request at 95s. to 97s. at works, and ferro-manganese is quiet at £13 10s. home. In the steel trade the position is that there are sufficient orders on the books to keep the mills at Workington employed on railway material, mostly for South America, until the second week in July, but new business is scarce. The United Steel Company has concentrated the manufacture of rails, fishplates and sleepers at Workington. Native ore at 18s. 6d. to 20s. 6d. is poor in East Coast and Scottish, but in steady local demand. The coal trade is becoming sluggish, and short-time working is inevitable as soon as the weather becomes warmer. Business in the Irish market is entirely of a hand-to-mouth character. Small coal is in short supply for the coking plants, the entire make of which is going to the East Cumberland iron smelters at 18s. to 18s. 3d. per ton.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Business in the iron and steel trades in the West of Scotland remains quiet, and this year some of the works have had a slightly longer holiday. In the pig-iron market there has been a rather better demand within the past few days. At the steel plants the position is much the same as during the last month or two; the demand for structural sections being fairly satisfactory, but that for shipbuilding material showing a considerable *falling off*. Tube makers are still only moderately busy. Black and galvanised sheet makers are both obtaining a steady flow of orders, but these are not sufficient to keep all plants fully employed and this week some of the mills are not operating.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Owing to the intervention of the holidays little business has been reported this week in the tinplate trade, but the general position is stated to be satisfactory, with most of the works well contracted forward up to the end of September.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market displayed dull features and prices declined under selling pressure and lower Eastern cables, while also influenced by the weakness of copper. Only moderate interest is displayed, both here and *on the Continent*, and despite restrictive measures confidence is not yet restored. Standard cash changed hands at £162 10s. to £160 10s.; three months, £166 to £162 15s. In the East, sales were reported on the basis of £166 15s. to £164 7s. 6d. and £164 15s. per ton c.i.f.

COPPER.—Values fell sharply on realisations, and a further cut expected in the price of Electrolytic, but a fair business done at the decline, chiefly in three months at £56 to £53 12s. 6d., with cash £54 per ton.

LEAD active, but easier in sympathy with other metals and liberal offerings. Good soft foreign pig, April, sold £18 1s. 3d. to £17 12s. 6d. and £18; May, £17 15s.; June, £18 to £17 15s.; July, £18 5s. to £17 13s. 9d. and £17 17s. 6d.

SPELTER quiet and values moved in buyers' favour. May, sold £17 13s. 9d. to £17 6s. 3d.; June, £18 to £17 10s. and £17 11s. 3d.; July, £18 3s. 9d. to £17 15s.; August, £18 2s. 6d. to £18.

ANTIMONY quiet. English regulus, £40 to £46 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £29 10s. to £30; April-May, £26 10s. to £27; Chinese, crude, April-May, £17 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—April-May, £26 15s. to £27 5s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., April-May, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM maintained. Chinese, April-May, 24s. 9d.; Burmese ditto, 24s. 6d. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM quiet. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £21 15s. net, per bottle.

ZINC OXIDE steady at £29 to £36 per ton as to quality, delivered U.K.

TIN PLATES in moderate demand and market steady. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

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THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, April 23rd.

Spot sales for the days 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd and 23rd (inclusive) are 51,000 bales, of which 16,580 are American, 3,600 Brazil, 50 Argentine, 3,800 Peru, 24,500 Egyptian, 1,490 African, 750 East Indian, and 230 sundries. Imports for the period 15th to 23rd (inclusive) are 27,589 bales, of which 9,193 bales are American, 204 Brazil, 486 Peru, 7,760 Egyptian, 4,390 African, 4,333 East Indian, and 1,223 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·48; Egyptian Sakel, 14·30; Uppers, 10·47; Brazil Fair, 7·78; Peru G.F. Smooth, 8·88; West African Middling, 8·30; and East African G.F., 9·03.

MANCHESTER, April 23rd.

Since the resumption of business after the holidays there has been no important change in the situation. Buyers are not in the mood to give out orders and owing to the weakness in the raw cotton markets, the state of unrest in China, and the cloth boycott in India the turnover has been of limited extent. Here and there cloth inquiry has been met with for India in light bleaching styles, fancies and occasionally in prints, and isolated sales have been arranged. The smaller outlets such as Egypt, South America and the Colonies have given moderate support. Owing to the trade depression many spinning and manufacturing concerns extended the usual Easter holiday period. American and Egyptian yarns have been purchased sparingly, although one or two individual orders have been of fair weight. Even though a large amount of short-time working is in operation in both American and Egyptian sections, current supplies are sufficient to meet the requirements of users. No further developments have taken place in connection with the Burnley eight-loom experiment.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Apr. 2.	Apr. 9.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 23.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·80	8·66	8·50	8·48	11·35	10·51
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·25	14·20	13·80	14·30	21·30	18·10
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12⅝	12⅝	12¼	12¼	16¼	15½
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13½	13	13	17	16
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	21⅛	32	26
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 3	22 3	22 0	22 0	26 4½	25 6
36-in. Shirtings 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 10½	24 10½	24 9	24 9	29 1½	28 0
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 7½	13 7½	13 6	13 6	15 7½	15 1½
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8¼ lb. ...	12 3	12 3	12 1	12 1	14 6	13 7½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—The wool trade has been quiet during the past week and the chief feature now is the interest which is being taken in the wages dispute. Before the holidays there was a substantial addition to the ranks of those who thought it policy not to stand out against a reduction, and but for the overlookers the strike would now be almost over. Those who have machinery to run think the dispute will die down without any further serious trouble. There are no signs whatever of any weakness in wool and the outlook is regarded as being brighter. Many spinners outside Bradford are running, which means that there is quite a large consumption of tops, and as production is suspended, except by spinner-combers, stocks are becoming very low. When work is resumed, all the tops that can be produced should be readily absorbed. The temporary scarcity of tops is resulting in a slight advance in the prices of any spot lots which are available. There has also been inquiry from Germany for 56's tops in oil. Generally speaking, prices are firm, without any indication of a definite upward movement in such business as is forthcoming on forward account. By-products are firm, and stocks are being steadily reduced. Some rush orders for noils for America came out last week, shipment being wanted immediately, to get the consignments into New York and Boston before May 1, when it is expected the new import duties will come into force.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The question of the control of wool prices is again being brought into prominence. Cable information from Sydney received last week stated that the current season's prices were below cost of production, and that it was imperative that these costs should be reduced. How this can be accomplished must be left for growers to decide, but it is gratifying to find that the importance of this side of the case is being realised. The economic adjustments which have been in progress for at least twelve months were certain to react upon pastoral enterprise, and it is now evident that for a very long time extremely high values for wool will be impossible. Pastoralists themselves will therefore have to make an effort to see that wool is a profitable commodity for themselves, without expecting this to come entirely from an advance in the market value of the commodity. Meanwhile, it is desirable that wool should be sold to the very best advantage possible. That there is no serious obstacle in the way of this is shown in the degree of confidence now existing in wool and tops among importers and topmakers. Even a strike of textile operatives is having no injurious effect in this respect. The dispute is admittedly a very one-sided affair, but any excuse is better than none when one is wanted, and it is a striking tribute to the soundness of wool that nobody expresses any misgiving about it. It is understood that growers in Australia have been asking for control, and it seems as if some misconceptions are still entertained about what might be accomplished by an appraisement scheme. The wool would have to be financed, and if the Australian Government undertook to do this, they would require capital for the purpose, and would be undertaking all the risks and responsibilities now carried by private enterprise. Not the least important consideration involved is that the mere fact of wool being held by any organisation would not guarantee for it any more than a market price. In that case a big surplus would be just as heavy a burden upon the industry as under the present system. Wool is readily saleable at current values and increased demand may be expected to induce a hardening tendency.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Hides from home slaughtered cattle were slightly dearer at the auctions held during the week-end, when supplies were sold for two weeks. Hides coming on to the market free from warbles are now getting scarce, and it is generally expected that advances will be recorded for these over the next few weeks. Business in the market for foreign hides has been interrupted on account of the Easter holidays, and although the turnover has been less, prices have ruled steady, except for goods from South America, which are inclined to be easier. The weakness has been most marked in connection with frigorifics, Argentine ox having changed hands on the basis of 7 7/16d., second ox at 6d., and bulls at 3⅝d. At these figures there has been a little more interest shown by the home trade, and it is hoped that further business will be possible in the near future. Dry River Plates also show a slightly weaker tendency, and a fair amount of business has been done in the various descriptions, including B.A. Americanos at 7¾d., Sierra Cordobas at 8¼d., B.A. Inservibles at 4 7/16d., and Rejections at 4⅛d. Capes are firm, with business done in dry salted at 7⅝d., and 6⅝d. for first and seconds, and drys at 8¼d. and 7¼d. Mombasas have sold at 6⅜d. for 30/40/30. Australians are steady at late rates. Business in connection with sole leather has not opened out to any extent since the holidays. Here and there a few orders for bends have filtered through since the resumption of business, while the wet weather has given a slight fillip to the repairing section of the trade. Shoulders and bellies have also been enquired after, but the business done has been small. Although actual orders have not been sufficient to test the market, the position is considered satisfactory. Prices are firm for most descriptions, and with no large stocks available reductions, at any rate for the time being, appear out of the question. Upper leathers have also ruled quiet, with the limited inquiry coming to hand covering most kinds, including black and brown glacé kid, willow calf, low grade patent, reptiles, etc. The Easter trade in footwear has not come up to general expectations, and the opinion is held that sales have fallen considerably short of previous years. Some manufacturers are fairly well placed for orders, but on the other hand, many experienced a difficulty in keeping all hands working full time.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

The movement of European timber into consumption has been satisfactory over the past month. In that respect, this year so far is a much better one than last, and there are no indications of any falling-off in the demand, which is more likely to expand than otherwise. The building trade is full of promise this year. Costs of buildings for which plans have been passed within the past quarter are much higher than those of the corresponding period last year, especially in housing, while other trades that use, or influence the use of, wood, should not be worse than in 1929, and are more likely to be better. The increased taxes on higher incomes must have some influence on the timber as well as other trades, but these are not likely to hurt industry so much as the preceding uncertainty. The worst is known for the next twelve months, and industry should operate with much more confidence than during the past year. The good demand for European timber has been accompanied by a large import, keeping stocks on the London market (the prime factor of the U.K. timber trade) at about normal for the time of year. The first of the new season's shipments are being loaded at the now ice-free Finnish and Swedish ports, but the inactivity of the forward market precludes the possibility of an excessive import just yet. Besides less purchasing of Finnish and Swedish timber this year, the Russian sales are much lower than they would have been if the Soviet timber authorities and the British consortium of buyers had arrived at an agreement as to bulk buying. This seems as if it must come, sooner or later, as the British consortium includes many of the larger operators, all of whom with their fellow members, collectively and individually, are holding off. The fears of the autumn of 1929 and the early weeks of this year as to a glut of European timber on the U.K. market this season are being dispelled. It is now the impression in the trade, after careful consideration, that Russia will not be able to ship 650,000 standards to the U.K. this year, while it is also likely that Finland and Sweden may not send their 1929 quantities. On the other hand, a larger consumption this year is expected. Thus the prospects of sellers are very much better than they appeared three months ago. The hardwood

market continues dull, and the prospects of a larger consumption are not bright. But whereas European building wood prices on the spot and forward are weak, those for hardwoods are firm because shippers' prices are strong. This has been demonstrated for mahogany logs by the auction sales held in London last week, at which a large percentage of the logs failed to reach the minimum reserve. The firmness is also marked in the market for Indian teak, of which available supplies in shippers' hands are limited. In sawn hardwoods, on the other hand, the market, forward and spot, is handicapped by the large supplies in the United Kingdom of States lumber, the only moderate demand for that class of wood, and the divergence of price range for fresh shipments to the United Kingdom.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

There is an all-round tendency towards easiness. Linseed oil is in only slow demand by consumers, and is barely steady, the current value on spot being £40 10s., and for April delivery £40, later positions being at a small discount. Cotton oil is quiet and slightly lower. Crude Egyptian on spot offering at £29, and common edible at £32 per ton naked, ex Hull mill. Other seed oils are quiet, and values about unchanged. In the oilseed section Plate linseed is dull, and demand small, prices being easier on lower Argentine cables for seed on spot and afloat, £18 5s. 6d., quoted £17 17s. 6d. for April shipment, and £18 May and June. Calcutta linseed to Hull, April-May, have been done at £19 1s. 3d., and bold Bombay to the Continent, April-May, £20 2s. 6d.; and May-June, £20. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe, about 116,300 tons, is 19,400 tons more than a week ago. Only a small business is reported in Egyptian cotton seed, and values are being around £7 15s. for black on passage, and April-May loadings. The demand for oilcakes and meals is fair, but declining.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Subdued conditions continue in all directions. Trade buyers are only in the market to fill certain gaps and are seemingly occupied in taking delivery of contract quantities. Raw refining sugars held with some reserve and quite firm. Cables from Java show that new business is difficult to arrange, though sellers adhere to steady asking prices. Terminal sections without new feature, a moderate amount of business being effected at prices marking no material change. Of raw, May delivery, quoted, 6s. 10½d.; August, 7s. 1½d.; December, sold, 7s. 4½d.; March, 8s. 4½d.; May, 8s. 6¾d. Cuban receipts last week of old crop, 3,712 tons, against nil last year; exports, 10,202, against nil; stocks, 6,222, against 12,712; receipts of new sugar, 146,931, against 191,524; exports, 43,956, against 138,223; stocks, 1,769,441, against 1,479,877. Centrals at work total 118, against 95. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending April 19th amounted to 185,338 tons, against 139,956 last year.

COFFEE.—There is only a small movement in spot goods at previous rates.

COCOA.—Spot market quiet. Forward positions the turn steadier. Accra, F.F., May-July, sellers, 35s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal, May, sold, 38s. 7½d.; July, 39s. 3d.

TEA.—Only retail quantities selling on the spot at steady prices, resumption of auctions next week being awaited.

RICE.—Firm. Spanish oiled, April-May shipment, quoted, 14s. 9d. c.i.f. London. Two stars, spot, London, 13s.; April-May, steamer, 12s. 4½d. c.i.f. London/Continent. No. 3 Burma to Levant, quoted, 12s. 7½d. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. 6d. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 9d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, April-May to Europe 12s. 10½d. Siam Super April-May, 17s. 6d.

BEANS.—Market quiet but steady. Madagascar, spot, London, 33s. 6d. to 35s.; March-April and April-May, 33s. c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 11s.; April, 11s. 6d. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 19s. 6d.; April, 18s. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 20s. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, £8 7s. 6d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—Dull. Japanese old crop, spot, London, 15s.; new, 15s. 6d. to 16s.; afloat, 14s. 9d.; March-April, 14s.; April-May, 14s. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 16s. to 16s. 6d.; small hand-picked blues, 12s. to 13s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lbs.), April-May, 44s. Karachi, June-July, 41s. 9d. c.i.f. Maples firm. No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, April-May, 55s. 6d. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, afloat, 66s. c.i.f.

LENTILS.—Bold Bombay, April-May, 60s. 6d.; Calcutta Patna, to arrive, 59s. 6d.; Bombay Patna, April-May, 59s. 6d.

SPICE.—Pepper met with moderate support and market proved steady. London stocks of black reduced 30 tons on the week to 967, against 1,184 last year; white, 35 tons down, at 764, against 634. Lampong, March-May, quoted, 10⅞d.; May-July, sold, 10¼d.; and buyers, August-October, sold, 9¾d. Muntok, white, March-May, quoted, 1s. 1⅞d.; May-July, 1s. 1⅞d.; and August-October, sold, 1s. 0¾d. Zanzibar cloves, March-May, steamer, 1s. 0¼d. Sago flour, April-May, to the United Kingdom, quoted, 11s. 3d. c.i.f. Farina slow and barely steady. Tapioca idle at the moment. African ginger, to arrive, sellers, 38s. c.i.f. Pimento slow.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants firm with a fair trade in force. Pyrgos, quoted, 35s.-35s. 6d.; Amalias, 37s.-38s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s. Sultanas in better request Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65.; Australian, 31s.-45s. Dates dull. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins steady with improved inquiries. Valencia, quarter boxes, 40s.-42s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 21s.-25s.; good average, 20s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market quiet and holiday influences, though apricots continue in fair request, and peaches also meet with attention. Plums move off quietly and prices tend easier for parcels to arrive. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 67s.; 40's-50's, 65s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 53s.; 50's-60's, 50s. 6d. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 55s.-60s.; fancy, 62s. 6d.-67s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 55s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firmer. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-125s. Bitter Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 140s.; Barcelona, 136s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s. ex wharf London.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—The general position remains unaltered, but trade is gradually improving in view of seasonal requirements. Moderate support was accorded Australian varieties. Singapore pines move off with greater freedom and prices show a hardening tendency. Italian tomatoes quiet and values still on the easy side.

CANNED FISH.—Salmon: Market steady but trade slow to improve. Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s. 6d.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab dull and slightly irregular with best quality 90s.-96s. Lobsters scarce and prices largely nominal; halves range from 135s.-140s. Sardines in better request and market steady. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm with a steady trade passing, but cooked hams quieter, trade requirements being fairly well covered at the recent lower levels.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market steady and a rather better trade is reported, recent price reductions stimulating demand. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 33s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 20s. 6d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 52s. 6d. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 38s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 22s. 6d. Dutch full cream milk-powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 61s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk-powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 9d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Toole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum, 1-ton lots; smaller lots, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 6d. per case, basis usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull and rather featureless. Jamaican, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 37s.-40s. White Cuban, 40s.-42s. 6d. San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s. Mexican, 35s. Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Nothing occurred to relieve the monotony of this market. Trade continues very quiet, with but fractional price changes. Sheet, spot and May sold, 7 1/16d. to 7¼d.; June, 7 1/16d. to 7 1/16d.; July-September, 7⅛d. to 7¼d.; October-December, 7⅛d. to 7⅛d., and January-March, 8⅛d. to 8d. London stocks increased 919 tons on the week, landings being 2,159 tons; deliveries, 1,240; stocks, 73,252, against 30,503 same time last year. Liverpool stocks, 13 tons lower, landings, 306; deliveries, 319; and stocks, 22,663, against 4,521.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A quieter tone was apparent and prices tended weaker, though sellers were not pressing. Firsts, April-May, also May-June, Continent, quoted £25 10s.; new, August-September and September-October, £26 15s. Lightnings, May-June, £24 10s. Hearts, £23 c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila qualities steady, but quiet, on the basis of £28 10s., grade K for May-July shipment. J No. 2, April-June sellers, £29; K ditto, quoted, £28 10s.; August-October, £29; L No. 1, April-June, £27 10s.; L No. 2, April-May, £25 5s.; M No. 1, May-July, £25 10s., and M No. 2 ditto, quoted £24 c.i.f. African sisal: No. 1, f.a.q., March-May, sellers, £33; Marks, £33 15s. c.i.f.

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	0
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	10
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	9
Oats, " "	6	7
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	32	0
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12 4½	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
H.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	3	6
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 4	4	10
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 6 8	7	8
N.Z. frozen " 3 8	4	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 7 4	9	4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.			
Irish .....per cwt.	110	0 138	0
Danish.....	107	0 112	0
Canadian.....	106	0 108	0
Dutch	92	0 106	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0	0
Canadian.....	0	0 0	0
American	96	0 102	0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	120	0 124	0
Australian	112	0 128	0
New Zealand	118	0 144	0
Danish.....	140	0 0	0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	92	0 100	0
New Zealand	76	0 81	0
English Cheddars		nom.	
Dutch	42	0 73	0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125	0 142	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0 167	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0 138	0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 118	0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	11	0 13	6
Danish.....	10	9 12	9
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa(pagoda)bxs.	0	0 0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	9	0 13	0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	9	0 25	0
360	10	6 18	0
504	10	0 16	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	4	0 8	0
" ..... cases	6	0 15	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0	0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	0	0 0	0
" (var.) boxes	8	0 13	0
" Tasmanian boxes	6	0 16	0
" Australian	7	0 15	3

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	4	9	6	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	53	9	55	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	3½	1	0
Black Lampong	1	0½	1	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	42	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	5	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., *crystallised*	20	6	22	6
Java, white, c.&.f. India, April-May	9	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	21	1½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	6	26	0
Crushed.....	24	3	24	9
Granulated.....	21	9	22	7½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	4½
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	11½	2	5
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2	10
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyassaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·48
Sakellaridis, *f.g.f.*.....	14·30
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	21½

	£	s.	£	s.
FLAX—				
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	56	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"..	29	0	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.-June..	33	0	33	15
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st tnks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
May–June		25	15	0
Aug.–Sept.		27	0	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	6	19	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd., super cmbg.	25
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12
Crossbred 40–44	9½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	29½
" 64's	28½
Crossbred 48's	16
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	64	0	66	0
Sheets (strong)	92	0	0	0
Standard	54	5	54/7/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	5	0	0
Soft Foreign	17/15/0		17/16/3	
Spelter G.O.B.	17/6/3		17/7/6	
Tin—English ingots ...	161/15/0		162/5/0	
Standard cash	160/12/6		160/17/6	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	26	0	26	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton *April–May*	22/0/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea April–May	20/15/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	13	0	13	6
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4½
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	5½
Best cow	0	3½	0	4
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	2	2	2
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	1	0
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	2	1	6

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	10	0	0
Rape, refined	40	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	26	10	29	5
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	15	11	0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— Apr.-May.	17/15/0		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	18/18/9		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	43	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	16	10	20	5
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7½	0	0
Pine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... *per cwt.*127	6		0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards... "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	6

Receipts last week, 23,000 bales, against 35,000 last year and 27,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 29,000, and week after 32,000. *Shipments last week from Manila : To the U.K., 2,000; Continent,* 3,000; U.S.A., 14,000; Japan, 5,000, and others, 1,000, making local stocks 164,000.

SHELLAC.—In continued quiet request. T.N., spot, 132s. 6d.; May, 122s.; August, 125s.; October, 129s.; forward steamers, 121s.

COPRA.—Quiet of sale, but tone fully steady. Straits S.D., May, to Rotterdam, quoted £22 2s. 6d. Dutch East Indies, April-May, £22 2s. 6d. Ceylon, £23 5s. Smoked, *South Sea*, £21. Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £21. To Marseilles : mixed Dutch East Indies, April-May, held for £21 2s. 6d. Smoked, South Sea, April-May, buyers, £21; May-June, £20 15s. Palm kernels, to Hamburg, April-May, £15; May-June, £15, c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Coconuts*, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, April-May, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4½d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 16.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	8	7	0
Irish	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...	
Short Horns	...		...	
Herefords	...		...	
Devons	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...	
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Canadian	...		...	
Sheep—Downs	8	8	9	8
Half bred	...		...	
Ewes	5	6	6	0
Scottish	...		...	
Lamb—Downs	11	6	12	4

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 16.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	3	6
" " " whites.....	2	3	2	6
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	...	
" " " whites.....	2	0	...	
Arran Chief	2	0	...	
New Spanish.....	20	0	...	
" Canary.....	15	0	16	0

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

THREE PER CENT.

MONEY proved easy and plentiful early in the week, and 2 per cent. was freely quoted on Wednesday. The banks continued to buy short bills in large quantities, and the rate for June bills again ruled low at $2\frac{3}{16}$-$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on

Wednesday. The three months' bill rate was also lower at $2\frac{3}{8}$-$\frac{7}{16}$ per cent., and so, as far as the technical position of the money market was concerned, the stage was set for the reduction in Bank rate from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent., which was announced the following day. The exchanges, however, told a different story, Paris being quoted Wednesday afternoon at 123.92½ francs, Berlin at 20.36$\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{3}{8}$ marks, and New York at $4.86\frac{1}{4}$.

* * * *

For reasons discussed elsewhere, the Bank authorities decided to ignore the immediate situation of the foreign exchanges and to reduce their rate. Their decision will undoubtedly be welcome to the discount market. Hitherto with Bank rate at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the clearing banks have been charging the market $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for their weekly loans, and, with the three months' discount rate at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or even less, brokers have been working at a loss. This has been their experience during the whole of the present year, a fact which has increased their difficulties.

* * *

The institution of the 3 per cent. rate, with the automatic reduction of the rate on weekly loans from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent., has enabled bill-brokers once more to operate at a profit, for on Thursday afternoon discount rates were very little lower than they had been prior to the Bank rate reduction. Short bills were quoted at $2\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., and three months' bills at $2\frac{5}{16}$ per cent., a rate which left brokers with an adequate margin.

* * * *

So far, no increase in the volume of Treasury bills has taken place since the close of the financial year, but it is known that next month the Treasury has to pay off £20,000,000 of Treasury bonds, and also to prepare for the 5 per cent. War Loan dividend. Against these demands it is thought that calls still outstanding on the recent Conversion Loan issue only amount to £18,000,000, so that the Treasury will have a substantial amount of money to raise. As the low level to which discount rates have fallen may attract fresh bills to London, it may well be that the market will be plentifully supplied with bills before long.

	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3½	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1½	1½	1½	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount ∫ Call	1½	1½	1½	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses ⟨ Notice	1½	1½	1½	1¼	1½ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2 7/16-½	2½	2½-9/16	2 5/16	...

This week's Cape gold went partly to Germany and partly to an unknown buyer, believed to be Belgium. The price paid was 84s. 11¼d., which is very near to the Bank's selling price. For reasons discussed elsewhere, it does not follow that the Bank is going to lose gold, and in any case this week's Bank return reveals gold stocks of £164.3 million, a reserve of £65.5 million, and a proportion of 52⅞ per cent. Thus the Bank occupies a very strong position, and could lose a few millions of gold without any harm. It is true that the week's gold acquisitions, at £441,000, were less than those of recent weeks, but £3,362,000 of the notes withdrawn for the Easter holidays returned from circulation, so that the reserve was increased during the week by £3,803,000. The banking department's holding of Government securities increased by £1,183,000, and public deposits rose by £3,689,000. Bankers' deposits only expanded by £151,000.

NEW YORK

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is easing, due to continued gold shipments of about $38 million, which arrived this week from South America and Japan, and also due to the anticipation of a cut in the discount rate. It was expected that the New York reduction would follow another reduction in London, which, however, came unexpectedly. Bill rates were twice reduced to-day, and $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. is now asked for 90-day bills. A sharp cut in the buying rate of bills by the Federal Reserve is expected to-morrow. Time funds are one-quarter lower and call money failed to rise above 4 per cent. The record for the end of the month was broken, dividend and interest payments totalling $650 million. The old discount rate proved ineffective, with the open-market rates ¾ per cent. lower, and Member Bank borrowings were only $40 million. The Federal Reserve System shows a gain of $20 million in discounts, a drop of $50 million in bills, due to non-replacement on maturity, and a reduction of $22 million in the total credit outstanding, resulting in a rise in the Reserve ratio to 82.5 per cent. A good bond market is expected to follow this discount cut, but, as regards stocks, views are mixed owing to the idea that the rate stresses poor condition of business and reflects the concern felt by the authorities, while actual credit demands are so slack that rates makes little difference; however, building operations should benefit in the long run.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Business in the stock markets was limited by the setback to prices in New York, the absence of public interest at home, the May Day holiday, and the Preliminary Contango day which succeeded it. The reduction in Bank rate took most members of the "House" by surprise, though gilt-edged stocks had previously shown a firmer tendency after a shaky start to the week. Home rails continued to decline on unfavourable traffic figures. The outstanding feature in a dull industrial market was the activity of Gramophone and Columbia Graphophone shares on circumstantial "merger" rumours. The fresh fall in rubber prices, on the eve of the "tapping holiday," brought out only a few lines of stock, but mining shares were heavy on the further weakness of base metal prices, and oil shares were less active in the absence of support from New York or Paris.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Though not without some encouraging elements, this week's reports are on the whole disappointing. The coal market remains depressed, though there are a few firm spots. It is difficult to detect any convincing sign of improvement in the iron and steel trades. Reports from Manchester are very gloomy, though business in home trade fabrics has been fairly steady. In spite of the wage dispute, the condition of the wool textile industries is considered sounder than it has been for some time. The silk trade is quiet, pending the conclusion of an agreement for limitation of output in India. Hides and leather are firmer and there has been an improvement in the boot and shoe trades. The vegetable oil and oilseeds markets are quiet. Wheat has fallen a few points.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market was very quiet this week, and only small transactions were marked. The tendency, on the whole, was against sterling, but the principal feature was a renewed collapse of the Argentine peso. The New York rate fell from $4.86\frac{5}{16}$ to $4.86\frac{5}{32}$, but Montreal was unchanged at $4.86\frac{3}{4}$. Paris gained seven points at 123.91, but Brussels was ¼ weaker at 34.83 with the reduction of the Belgian Bank rate. Milan was steady at 92.80, but Madrid was uncertain and weak, the rate rising from 39.06 to 39.30. Amsterdam improved from $12.08\frac{3}{8}$ to $12.07\frac{11}{16}$, and Berlin gained ⅜ at $20.36\frac{1}{4}$. Switzerland was stronger at $25.07\frac{3}{8}$. Of the Scandinavian exchanges, Stockholm gained ⅛ at 18.09, but Oslo fell ⅛ to $18.16\frac{1}{4}$, and Copenhagen ⅜ to $18.16\frac{1}{2}$. Helsingfors was a trifle better at 193.10, against 193.30 last week. Of the South American exchanges, Rio was firmer and gained $\frac{1}{16}$d. at $5\frac{7}{8}$d., but Buenos Aires fell away from $43\frac{15}{32}$d. to $42\frac{11}{16}$d., whilst Montevideo lost ½d. at $45\frac{1}{4}$d. In the Far East the rupee was again steady at 1s. $5\frac{27}{32}$d., as was the yen at 2s. $0\frac{3}{8}$d. Batavia gained ⅛ at 12.08. In the forward market, dollars were more on offer at wider discounts of $\frac{3}{32}$ cent and ¼ cent for the two periods. Paris went from 2 and 3 centimes premium to a discount of 1 centime for both quotations. Brussels was unchanged at 1½ and 3½ centimes discount. Milan was a little weaker for one month at 12 centesimi discount, but was unchanged for three months at 32 centesimi discount. Madrid was firmer at 2½ and 7 centimos premium. Amsterdam fell away for both periods at wider discounts of ⅞ cent and 1½ cents respectively. The silver market was quiet with only a small turnover. Spot was unchanged at $19\frac{3}{8}$d., whilst forward was $\frac{1}{16}$d. higher at $19\frac{9}{16}$d. The China silver exchanges were unmoved, Hongkong at 1s. $6\frac{3}{8}$d. and Shanghai at 1s. $11\frac{1}{4}$d.

THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

THREE events have occurred during the week which show that the Indian situation is passing through a difficult, and what we must all hope to be the most acute phase. The first of these is the announcement by the Government that during the recent disturbances in Peshawar City, when troops were employed and ordered to fire, the conduct of two platoons of the 2nd/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles "was found to be unsatisfactory," with the result that the battalion has been removed and an inquiry is to be held. The next is the promulgation by the Viceroy of an Ordinance reviving the Press Act of 1910. Thirdly, Mr Patel, who was elected by the Legislative Assembly to succeed Sir George White as Speaker, has resigned—to throw in his lot with the promoters of civil disobedience—after correspondence with the Viceroy in which he explains that his hope of "a change of heart on the part of the British Government and a change of spirit in the day-to-day administration of India" has been disappointed.

The third of these events is not of great importance in itself. The patronising tone of the correspondence in which Mr Patel explains that a clique of underlings by vilification, abuse and misrepresentation have been allowed to prejudice the Viceroy against him, and still more, the declaration that he had never believed "that reason, persuasion or argument had any place in Great Britain's dealings with subject races," and that, therefore, "every activity which was likely seriously to embarrass British administration in India . . . had my fullest support," reveals the outlook of the man with whom the Government has had to deal as the President of the National Assembly. His resignation, coming after his refusal to adopt that course in December, when Congress called for the resignation of members of the Assembly, will *not add any considerable weight to the civil disobedience movement.* It is, nevertheless, a symptom of the hardening of opinion among those whom Mr Patel represents, and has drawn from the Viceroy an expression of the hope "that you and those with whom you are once again to be openly associated may come to realise how grave a wrong you do to India by rejecting the way of peace that lies open through free conferences with His Majesty's Government, in order to encourage your countrymen to deliberate and dangerous defiance of the law."

The other two events are of more practical significance. The Peshawar episode suggests that there is some disaffection among the Hindu units of the Indian Army. Though Hindus constitute a comparatively small proportion of the Indian troops, this incident emphasises the importance of not allowing the prestige of Government to be undermined. The Press Ordinance, together with the conferring of special powers on the Bengal Government, to which we referred last week, is a decisive step in this direction. The revival of the 1910 Act, which empowers Provincial Governments to require deposits, liable to forfeiture in the case of serious offences, and to confiscate printing presses, is a course only to be justified by very exceptional circumstances. It savours of arbitrariness, and is utterly repugnant to the British tradition that truth will emerge from the free expression of opinion, but never from suppression. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the Government of India, small in numbers, has no means of direct appeal to the vast population of that continent, whereas the vernacular Press not only circulates throughout the towns, but is beginning to spread to the villages. If this Press can with impunity create the impression that disregard of the law is a commendable policy, it will make government impossible; and a feature of the present Ordinance is that it covers incitement to civil disobedience, which is thus recognised as being as destructive of ordered government, and thus of social life, as actual rebellion.

These events, together with sporadic disturbances arising out of demonstrations—mainly in the Presidency Provinces—police raids, and arrests, are signs of a rising temperature. The situation is one that may well get beyond Mr Gandhi's control, and, in any case, the Government has rightly reached the decision that civil disobedience and the breakdown of authority which it implies cannot be tolerated. Whether, in the circumstances, the proper course for the Government was to go to the source and gratify Mr Gandhi's wish by arresting him, or to refrain, must have been a very difficult question to decide. Mr Gandhi has been arrested before, and his arrest was the signal of the breakdown of the non-co-operation campaign, but his sympathy with his people—illustrated by his mode of life and his doctrine of non-resistance, difficult to understand in the West—gives Mr Gandhi's personality an appeal which far surpasses the bounds of his own community. This has been illustrated during the week by the correspondence between the Viceroy and Mahomed Ali, a leader of the Khalifat Party, who, though siding with his co-religionists in opposition to the Hindu majority, is a Nationalist. The latter telegraphed a fortnight ago as follows:—"I earnestly appeal to your Excellency not to permit the situation to become graver by the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi. Both he and the Government have made a sufficient demonstration of their strength. I pray that consideration of prestige will prevent neither from seeking a *rapprochement* by retracing their steps and bringing about peace and freedom. With an assurance from you we shall try our utmost to bring about a peace honourable to both."

It would be easy to criticise and judge Mr Gandhi by the ordinary canons of political tactics, and it is difficult to justify the discrimination in treatment between the inspirer of this great movement of non-violent resistance to the laws and that afforded to his subordinates. On the other hand, Mr Gandhi's arrest would not only be regarded in India as an affront to Indian sentiment, but might well have the result of driving the movement into much more active channels. The situation is one in which the only possible course is to trust to the judgment of those who are in personal touch with the daily course of events. But if the Government of India's duty is clear, it is equally important that opinion in this country should not be deflected from its course. A situation such as the present may tempt people, according to their inclination, to say, on the one hand, that all further talk of concession must stop until we have shown by firm government that this country is not prepared to be cajoled or moved by threats, or, on the other, that, as we desire in any case ultimately to grant responsible government to India, we should learn from the lesson of Ireland and other countries, to act while there is time and concede the demands of India forthwith. To give way to panic and pursue either course could only lead to disaster.

There is no precedent in the world, and never can be anywhere else in the world, for the task which we have set before ourselves in India, namely, to hand over gradually the reins of an orderly Government to the representatives of a vast population, of whom 92 per cent. are illiterate, containing many races, religions and languages, and among whom there are very slender bonds of unity and little or no experience of government. We are, however, committed to the task. Not only has the desire for political freedom, which the Western world has taught to the Eastern peoples, been strengthened in India by the object lesson of developments elsewhere throughout Asia, but, with the concurrence of every party in the State, we have as recently as six months ago reiterated that it is the intention of this country to honour the pledge given twelve years ago, namely, that the policy of Great Britain is "the gradual development of self-governing institutions, with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire." This is a commitment in which our honour is engaged. It is also to us a matter of self-interest, for we have great economic interests in India, and it is clearly to our advantage that

there should be contentment and growing economic prosperity in a country which is our chief market; and it is a policy of necessity, for it is unthinkable that the British democracy should attempt to impose its will and maintain domination by force.

On the other hand, the great difficulties of the problem require the utmost care and patience. Concurrently with the events to which we have referred, the President of the All-India Depressed Classes Conference, which has been meeting at Amraoti, declared:—

"We will not join the Gandhi movement. We will not only denounce his revolutionary designs, but will side with the Government for the maintenance of law and order." Mr. Gandhi was not going to suffer, and had nothing to lose, but it would be the Depressed Classes who would have to bear all the miseries resulting from law-breaking. "The movement will end by making us sink still deeper in the quagmire of untouchability."

The British Government has responsibilities towards these unfortunate people, whose numbers are variously estimated at from 30 to 60 millions. There is also the vast problem of the great and widely distributed Moslem minority (numbering 69 millions), and though most of these share the universal desire in India to attain complete nationhood, there is as yet no sign that India has solved or can solve for herself the problem of the relation between Moslem and Hindu. The reports by the Mohammedan members of the Indian Central Committee, published last autumn, reveal yet once more the difficulty of this problem. Finally, there is the position of the Indian States, to whose rulers Great Britain has very definite commitments. Those in this country, as well as those in India, who are apt to base their views of this problem on analogy with the experience of Ireland, and who think that we can make a short cut to the solution there adopted, will do well to bear in mind the complication that Ulster always made in the Irish problem, and to remember that there is not in India one Ulster but many Ulsters scattered throughout the continent.

The conclusion, then, is clear. A new phase will develop with the publication of the report of the Statutory Commission, which must be the guide to opinion in this country on this complex situation. Its findings will furnish the basis of conference with the representatives of India, and that phase will inevitably be long and difficult and will tax the utmost resources of statesmanship in both countries. In the meantime, this country must lend its support to the Government of India in its task of maintaining ordered government and stability, but without divrging from its principle of concerting with the Indian people steps for proceeding as rapidly as may be possible towards the goal which is the common objective of both peoples.

PEACE AND POPULATION.

If we ask ourselves what has been men's chief single desire since the war, our answer will be "Peace." We shall arrive at that answer, whether we measure current human wishes by their diffusion, by their intensity, or by their persistence. On each of these bases, and *a fortiori* on a combination of them, peace will certainly head the list of desires in a psychological survey of the last dozen years. How, then, do we stand as a result of twelve years' endeavours? Our most conspicuous success has been on the political plane—in international organisation for the prevention of war by providing opportunities for friendly and rational discussion of international difficulties at an early stage and by imposing deterrents and restraints upon "direct action" in the last resort. In this field, though much remains to be done, we may fairly claim to have accomplished more already than has ever previously been achieved in the relations between sovereign independent States. Again, in a distinct but closely related political field—that of disarmament—we have accomplished more than would have been thought possible in the pre-war period, though here we have less cause to be complacent when we measure our achievement up to date by the amount that has to be achieved if peace is to be assured. Nevertheless, if our survey is really comprehensive and objective, we may find ourselves reporting that even the problem of armaments is not the chief stumbling-block in the way of fulfilment of the world's desire. We may report that the chief danger to the preservation of peace is not to be found on the political plane at all, but on the economic—or rather, perhaps, along a line where these two planes of social activity intersect.

In the current economic development of the world, the master tendency is for all important economic operations to be carried out on a scale transcending the scale of even the biggest units on the political map—a scale which, in almost all branches of economic activity, is obviously tending to expand until it becomes world-wide. Yet while the natural unit of economic activity is thus coming to be a field which embraces the whole planet, we are witnessing everywhere a struggle to oppose and overcome this economic tendency from motives not of economic but of political expediency. The Governments of States—and behind them the peoples of the world, in so far as they act as political and not as economic animals—are still struggling politically to keep the economic life of the world divided into fragments and confined within territorial compartments corresponding to the political divisions and compartments that have emerged from the war. And in this struggle they are mainly relying upon two weapons: tariff walls and restrictions upon immigration.

Tariff walls are an old and familiar expedient for political interference in economic affairs, though their unfavourable economic effect is more potent for evil now than it was before the war, partly because there are more of them on the post-war than there were on the pre-war map, and partly because many of them have either been raised or supplemented by more severe restrictions such as prohibitions and embargoes. On the other hand, the weapon of restriction upon immigration is comparatively new. During the century preceding the outbreak of the war, the outstanding feature of migration—at least, as far as the White Race was concerned—was its freedom from restriction and the advantage which was taken of that freedom. About the beginning of that century, immigration into the United States received an impetus which lasted until 1914; and, on a smaller scale, similar impetuses entered, as the century went on, into the streams of immigration into the "ABC" States of Latin America and into the British Self-Governing Dominions. The checking of these impetuses and the damming of these streams have been one of the principal changes in international relations since the war. The landmarks in this change are the United States Immigration Restriction Acts of 1921 and 1924, to which some British Dominions have followed suit already, while the "ABC" States are evidently preparing to take the same course. The fact is that, since the war, the hindrances to the natural economic flow of population from areas where the population-pressure is relatively high to areas where it is relatively low—hindrances which already, before the war, were being opposed to the migration of the Coloured Races—have been applied likewise to the migration of the White Race by the political action of the principal White countries of immigration. Thus now throughout the world, and without respect to differences of race, the inherent economic tendency of population to reach a uniform world-wide level is being resisted by political forces which, regarded from the economic standpoint, are "uneconomic," or in other words, perversely artificial. We may well decide to report, as the result of our general survey, that this is the point at which the chief present danger to peace is to be found.

Such a report is rendered in an interesting form, and is supported by powerful arguments, in a recent book by an American author, Dr. Warren S. Thompson, entitled "Danger Spots in World Population."* Dr. Thompson's main thesis is that the recent discovery of artificial methods of contraception will prove to have been one of the epoch-making discoveries of history; and he implies that it has been made in the nick of time. Hitherto, the principal agencies in the restriction of population have been disease and war. Recently, by discovering the existence of microbes, and the means of putting an end to it, man has begun to eliminate the factor of disease. The speed with which he is eliminating it is shown in the rapidly falling death-rate (from causes other than war) in the most civilised communities during the last few generations. *Ergo*, the argument proceeds, if a new method of restricting population by birth control had not been discovered soon after the discovery of how to eliminate the historic restriction of population by microbes, the pressure of the demand upon the other historic method of restriction—the method of war—might have become irresistible. As Dr. Thompson puts it, we cannot have *both* uncontrolled births *and* controlled deaths for long; and since a deliberate retrocession of the ground that is being conquered from disease is really inconceivable, the argument leaves us confronted with two alternatives for the future: restriction of population by war or restriction by birth control. To perform its function under the new conditions, war would have to kill us off on an unprecedented scale; but Nature has thoughtfully provided for that, since man's new mastery of her secrets, which has enabled him to be fruitful and multiply beyond precedent, has also given him means of destroying human life which are unprecedented too. So (the argument concludes) war can and will do the work of restricting population if birth control (*i.e.*, the prevention in lieu of the destruction of surplus life) does not reopen a breach as great as that which Hygiene has closed.

Dr. Thompson believes that, in the industrial urban populations of the contemporary world, birth control is now within measurable distance of performing this function effectively. May we, then, conclude that birth control has already banished the spectre of war? No (he contends), we may not; for an important part of mankind is still in a mainly agricultural "swarming" stage and, even if we believe that the practice of birth control is destined eventually to become as universal as, let us say, the use of fire, that process will take time, since social habits that touch the intimate things in life do not change in a day. Now, by a political fatality, the principal communities that are still in this "swarming" stage find themselves, on the present political map, with a shortage of land and of the other material resources for sustaining life, whereas the main existing reserves of unoccupied land and undeveloped resources are in the hands of industrial communities in which population is on the verge of becoming stationary. The picture is completed by that great accentuation, since the war, of restrictions upon migration which has been mentioned above. The juxtaposition of areas of high and low population-pressure which are artificially isolated from one another by these political restrictions constitutes the danger to peace to which Dr. Thompson calls attention. Unless this pressure is relieved by voluntary political concessions, he prophesies that it will be eased instead by the forcible political method of war—on new, unprecedentedly destructive lines.

Dr. Thompson believes that the temporary outlet of emigration, pending the permanent restoration of equilibrium through birth control, is the only way out, since for various reasons he does not think that relief can be found through an industrialisation of the "over-populated" countries or through a production of surplus foodstuffs in tropical countries in which the pressure of population is now low. But those who wish to follow the argument in detail must read the book itself. If they are interested in the problem of peace they should read it without fail.

* The author is Director of the Scripps Foundation and Professor of Social Science in Miami University. The book was published at New York in 1929 by Knopf. ($4.00.)

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LACE SAFEGUARDING: POST-MORTEM.

The sequel to Mr Snowden's announcement in his Budget speech that the lace duty, imposed on July 1, 1925, for a period of five years, would be allowed to expire at the end of that period, has been, as was to be expected, an intensive campaign of propaganda in favour of the retention of the duty. The recklessness with which the President of the Board of Trade in the last Government committed himself to the statement that "without the duty our lace trade would undoubtedly have gone" has been paralleled by the exaggerations with which the defenders of the duty have lately depicted the consequences of its withdrawal.

Before attempting to review, on the basis of such evidence as is available, the effects of safeguarding on the lace industry during the past five years, we may recall the fact that the Committee appointed in 1925 to consider the industry's application for tariff protection found "that imported laces are not being retained for consumption in the United Kingdom in quantities which can be described as abnormal," but expressed the view "that, given greater security of the home market, Nottingham firms will be able to . . . compete more successfully in the export trade." On these curious premises, and in consideration of the fact that production costs were found to be lower on the Continent than in Nottingham, a duty of 33⅓ per cent. *ad valorem* was recommended in as singularly blatant a *non-sequitur* as ever characterised a tariff-making committee's report. The results of the duty merit careful and unprejudiced examination.

In the following table we have endeavoured to present in comparable form the figures of retained imports and British exports of lace and net of all kinds, including embroidery made on net or dissoluble fabric, for the years 1924 and 1927-29. The data relating to 1927 and 1928 are taken from the annual Statement of Trade, and those for 1929 from the monthly Trade and Navigation Accounts, supplemented by the information given by Mr Graham in the House of Commons on April 17, 1930. With regard to 1924, certain minor difficulties present themselves. The figures for cotton lace and net and for silk and mixed silk lace are given, as shown below, in the Annual Statement of Trade; but up to July 1, 1925, rayon lace was not separately classified, and, after that date, changes were made in the classification of the figures (relatively trivial in amount) of imports and exports of "other" lace and embroidery or net. In the second half of 1925 the retained imports of rayon lace were valued at £23,000, and a distinguished proponent of safeguarding, Mr Herbert Williams, has contended, in a letter to *The Times* on April 25th, that "the presumption is that the imports in 1924 would have been substantially more than double." This "presumption" is apparently not endorsed by Mr Burrows, the assistant secretary of the Federation of Lace and Embroidery Employers' Associations, a letter from whom, published in *The Times* of April 28th, seems to imply that retained imports of rayon and "other" lace in 1924 amounted only to £3,000; but, in order to give the "safeguarders" the utmost benefit of the doubt, we have placed the total of retained imports of lace and net, other than cotton and silk or mixed silk, in 1924 at £60,000, which is probably an over-statement. Similarly, in the case of exports, we have estimated the 1924 rayon and "other" total at the very conservative figure of £40,000, which brings the total lace exports in that year to a level

actually lower than that which Mr Williams, in his letter quoted above, concedes.

FOREIGN TRADE.

Lace and Net of All Kinds.

(000's omitted.)

	1924.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Retained Imports :—	£	£	£	£
Cotton	206	258	233	318
Silk and mixed silk	304	118	171	176
Rayon and other...	60 (*a*)	93	88	85 (*b*)
Total	570 (*a*)	469	492	579 (*b*)
Exports:—				
Cotton	2,498	1,673	1,539	1,426
Silk and mixed silk	77	91	221	225
Rayon and other...	40 (*a*)	316	426	524 (*b*)
Total	2,615 (*a*)	2,080	2,186	2,175 (*b*)

(*a*) Partly estimated.
(*b*) Based on statement by President, Board of Trade, in House of Commons (*Hansard*, April 17, 1930).

The conclusions to be drawn from the foregoing figures are sufficiently plain. So far as cotton lace and net is concerned, the duty has not resulted in any diminution of retained imports. On the contrary, retained imports have risen by 50 per cent., and, even when allowance is made for the possibility (no concrete evidence is available) that a proportion of the former *entrepôt* trade in lace may now take the form of goods transhipped in bond and so be excluded from the import and export statistics, it is significant of the damage indirectly caused by the duty that cotton lace and net re-exports in 1929 amounted only to £71,000, against £1,710,000 in 1924. On the other side of the account exports of cotton lace and net, which amounted to £4,108,000 in 1913 and £4,872,000 in 1907, have continued, notwithstanding the supposedly beneficent effects of the duty, steadily to decline.

It is, in fact, only in respect to silk and rayon laces that Nottingham's position has improved since 1924. Retained imports of natural silk (pure or mixed) laces would seem to have been slightly diminished by the duty—though, when allowance is made for changes in price, the decline is more apparent than real—and exports of these goods have increased, comparatively small in value though the aggregate shipments are. Here, however, and still more in the case of the rapidly-expanding trade in exports of rayon and " other " lace—almost wholly rayon—the changing demands of fashion and the development of a new material have been the determining factors. There is no evidence that the duty has had any significant effect. All that has happened is that Nottingham, like other lace-manufacturing areas abroad, has been able to gain in greater sales of silk and rayon lace for dresses and underwear some compensation for the decline, by no means confined to this country, in the market for cotton lace and net.

If we are to accept the thesis that safeguarding has benefited Nottingham—a possibility which would not affect the objections on general grounds to protective tariffs—the progress of the industry as a whole must be considered. In his letter, already mentioned, to the *Times*, Mr Burrows stated that between 1924 and 1929 " the increase of sales of British-made lace in the home market " has amounted to 162 per cent. If this remarkable statement were to be taken literally as applying to the lace industry's entire output, it would mean that whereas total exports have fallen by 20 per cent., from £2,615,000 to £2,175,000, and retained imports have slightly risen, home sales of British lace, etc., must have expanded from £2.7 million (Census of Production figure) in 1924 to £7.1 million last year. On this basis the total output of lace in this country must have risen from £5.3 million in 1924 (compared with £6.1 million in 1907) to £9.3 million in 1929. That a duty which has not diminished imports should achieve this happy result would be very remarkable. Even if we accept as possible in some degree the " safeguarders' " contention that the imposition of the duty caused some lace, which had previously been classified as " embroidery," to be properly classified as lace, and—noting that retained " embroidery " imports fell from £2,037,000 in 1924 to £1,118,000 in 1927—allow £500,000, say, of this decline to be " excluded " imports, our astonishment at the miraculously stimulating effects of a tariff on aggregate home consumption is undiminished.

Nor is it lessened by the fact that, *pari passu* with this apparently claimed increase in sales, the industry's labour force has not, as might be expected, proportionately expanded. In July, 1924, the estimated number of insured workers in the industry was 20,330, and in December of that year there were 4,181 persons unemployed, leaving 16,149 actually at work. Last July the insured total had fallen to 16,920, and the number unemployed in December was 1,651, so that those actually at work numbered 15,269. Even when allowance is made for the fact that the exclusion from the later figures of persons under 16 and over 64 may account for a few hundreds of the decline in numbers insured, the fact remains that the volume of employment in the lace industry was smaller last December than five years ago, a situation irreconcilable with Mr Burrows' statement of a 162 per cent. increase in the industry's home sales.

If Mr Burrows was referring, as seems probable from a passage in Mr Herbert Williams' letter in the *Times*, not to the lace industry's *total* home sales, but to " the home sales of finished lace of the kinds used for personal decoration," the claim is much less impressive and accords much more closely with a reasonable estimate of probabilities. Since the export figures, however, suggest that the bulk of this expansion is accounted for by sales of rayon lace, in whose case the pre-duty retained imports were trivial, it is difficult to connect even this expansion of sales with protection. In short, the five years' experience of lace-safeguarding has shown that the duty—damaging, as it has been, to the *entrepôt* trade—has failed to arrest the decline in the manufacture of the cotton fabrics which used to be the industry's staple product; has not led to a recovery in the volume of employment; and has had little relevance to the industry's satisfactory, if moderate progress in developing new trade in silk and rayon lace trimmings. There is no proof that the duty has positively bettered the industry's position, and the statement that without the duty matters would have been worse is an equally unproven hypothesis.

AMERICAN UNEMPLOYMENT.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHEN the first news of the New York Stock Exchange collapse last autumn burst on the amazed American public, with its rumours of sensational losses and suicides, it was freely prophesied that a hard winter was in store and that unemployment would be serious. The gravity of the situation was soon emphasised rather than concealed by the steps taken to reassure the world that everything was sound or, at least, that it soon would be. Towards the end of November, President Hoover summoned to the White House representatives from the railroads, the manufacturing interests, organised labour, agriculture, public utilities, builders, and financiers, to confer on the economic state of the country. While in one respect this was a continuation of the policy he had instituted with such success while Secretary of Commerce, it was plainly an emergency measure with the object of maintaining industrial activity, employment and buying power at their high former levels. As a climax to these " prosperity conferences," on November 23rd the President sent a personal telegram to the Governors of the forty-eight States appealing for " energetic yet prudent pursuit of public works " by State, municipal and county authorities. As a result it was soon possible to announce that well over two billion dollars would be spent in 1930 on new utility works and on the further equipment of industry. It was not indicated how much of this expenditure would be for new works, nor how much of it would have been spent in any case.

The effect the figures were designed to produce was purely psychological, the avoidance of panic and the reaffirmation of faith in American prosperity. The Press of the country, with rare exceptions, caught and reflected

this attitude. A prominent editor repeated his faith in advertising as the nation's salvation, and openly urged that an optimistic tone be adopted by publications. For a time this policy was fairly generally adopted, but unfortunately, in spite of these efforts, unemployment has occurred, and in many places it has been serious. It is by no means conquered yet, and it has forced its way to the front pages of the newspapers in spite of the general reluctance to pay much attention to it.

It is, in fact, too big a problem to be ignored any longer. Exactly how big is not known with any accuracy, and estimates of its extent vary so much as to be almost worthless—ranging from three-quarters of a million up to seven or eight millions. The official figures are among the lowest, but they have received little credence. The general estimate varies between about three and four millions. In certain cities more reliable data are available. Philadelphia in March estimated its unemployed as over 50,000. Boston, which annually lists its residents, counted its unemployed (for the first time) in April as 41,466 out of a population of 402,394 adults. Cincinnati, which has the distinction of being one of the few cities to have made any preparation for unemployment before the crash came, reported only 16,000 to 18,000 " employable individuals " without work in a population of half a million. But for the work of the Citizens Committee, which began the study of ways and means of stabilising employment in January, 1929, it is probable that Cincinnati's unemployed would be much more numerous. That the total runs to well over three millions at least seems to be the general conclusion from the imperfect materials available.

It is not only in statistics, however, that the problem is most apparent. From qualified observers in many parts of the country the same account is forthcoming of hardship and distress due to industrial depression. The head of the Illinois State Employment Agency has recently declared that the distress caused by unemployment in Chicago during the last few months has been the most acute in ten years, and that the same holds true of other industrial centres. Senator Wagner, of New York, who has presented Bills to the Senate to provide for unemployment relief by creating a federal research department and a special division to anticipate and relieve periods of depression, told a Senate Committee on March 18th that the unemployment situation had never been more serious. Miss Frances Perkins, the Industrial Commissioner of the State of New York, who has also urged the adoption of some concerted plans to regularise employment, describes the recent conditions as " striking and shocking " and comparable only to the panic times of 1914.

The trouble is, indeed, apparent to all. The employment agencies along Sixth Avenue in New York are thronged daily with anxious inquiriers, public bodies are receiving many more applications for employment, State hospitals are receiving many more inmates, and arrests and convictions for petty offences have reached an abnormal number. Industrial workers are turning to agriculture, and on April 1, 1930, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported, as a result, that the supply of farm hands was from 13 per cent. in excess of demand in the North Atlantic States to 21 per cent. in the Far Western States. Farm wages, already very low judged by urban standards, have sunk to the lowest point recorded since the Bureau began to collect figures in 1923, and stand as low as $33.88 a month in the South and $77.27 in the Far West.

Private charity, on which the workless must principally rely, is being severely strained, and the leading charity organisations have had a hard time in their efforts to cope with the need at their doors. On March 18th 2,500 unemployed stood for hours in Pittsburgh in a " bread line " waiting for a piece of bread and a bowl of soup, and this number was not unusually large. In New York City the situation is very much worse, and as many as 12,000 meal tickets (worth about 15 cents each) were distributed by the Bowery branch of the Y.M.C.A. on March 17th. The bread lines on the Bowery (on the lower east side of New York City) have increased pathetically this winter, and

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standing in these queues, with the usual and inevitable number of unemployables, have been a much greater number of steady workers and a sprinkling of professional men. The increase in these latter classes is deplorable evidence of the acute reality of the industrial depression.

Such social phenomena are the extreme expressions of economic depression. They do not include less spectacular facts such as short time, lowered earnings and diminished savings, which are the normal accompaniments of the crisis in a trade cycle. How long they will continue is still a matter for conjecture, although it is natural to expect a considerable relief as the summer advances. It is significant as an index of the true situation that the President of the American Federation of Labour stated recently that unemployment among the membership of the leading trade unions had constantly increased since August, and that it was not until the middle of March that the rise had been halted. Available statistics of trade conditions do not make very encouraging reading, and there are signs of growing opinion in favour of some method of preventing or alleviating future unemployment crises.

The better planning of State expenditures on public works; the five-hour day; the spending of last year's profits to stimulate this year's trade; the diversification of product in factories engaged in seasonal work; unemployment reserve funds; stabilisation of industrial wages on a yearly salary basis; and various other schemes of rationalisation in production methods have all been advocated. There is a great reluctance to face unemployment insurance as a way out, in spite of its advocacy by the People's Lobby at Washington (of which Professor Dewey of Columbia University is President), and in spite of the threat of the President of the American Federation of Labour, who has plainly told the Senate Commerce Committee that unless unemployment is stopped the country must face revolution or give the dole. The State of New York has indeed appointed a board to collect figures on unemployment, to encourage relief work and to study means of stabilising industry. Proposals for somewhat similar schemes by the Federal Government at Washington have been favourably received; but that is all. Despite its immense resources and its present wealth, it is clear that American industrial civilisation must sooner or later face the same social problems that are being met after a fashion in England and Germany. It may possibly still have a generation or two in which to make up its mind on the methods it will adopt to deal with those problems, but so far there is little indication that it will succeed in avoiding them entirely.

HEALTH INSURANCE FINANCE.

" THE burden of the social services " is one of the items which occur most frequently in popular enumerations of Britain's economic difficulties. Health insurance has met with less recrimination than most of the other principal components of this " burden," because it has been generally recognised as genuine insurance, with nothing of the " dole " about it, and believed to be solvent, with a good margin to spare. The report issued a few days ago by the Government Actuary, which shows that actuarially the scheme is no longer solvent, in the

sense that the benefit claims exceed the provision made for them, has therefore proved something of a bombshell, as far as the general public is concerned.

Let it be said at once that there is no cause for alarm. The funds of the approved societies show ample surpluses, and there is no danger of the National Health Insurance scheme becoming in any practical sense insolvent, but the very wealth of the societies might have proved, but for this timely report, a temptation to ignore the fact that if the conditions of 1924 and the years immediately following were to continue indefinitely, the present actuarial basis of the scheme would require revision.

The gist of the report, which is based on a representative sample, is that the number of claims for sickness and disablement benefit, though not to any great extent their average duration, increased rapidly between 1921 and 1927; that this increase has been most marked among married women; and that there has been a significant tendency for claimants, especially younger claimants and married women, to return to work when their benefit was reduced from the sickness to the disablement rate. The general analysis of claims is as follows:—

ANALYSIS OF CLAIMS WITH RESPECT TO NUMBER AND DURATION.

	Men.		Unmarried Women.		Married Women.	
	Number of members claiming in each 100.	Average duration of claims within the year (weeks).	Number of members claiming in each 100.	Average duration of claims within the year (weeks).	Number of members claiming in each 100.	Average duration of claims within the year (weeks).
SICKNESS BENEFIT.						
1921.....	14	4·8	12	6·1	19	7·1
1922.....	18	4·4	15	5·8	25	7·0
1923.....	17	4·5	15	6·0	27	7·2
1924.....	20	4·3	19	5·7	34	6·9
1925.....	21	4·1	20	5·5	37	7·0
1926.....	20	4·8	19	5·9	36	7·5
1927.....	23	4·2	21	5·6	38	7·3
DISABLEMENT BENEFIT.						
1921.....	1·5	25·4	1·9	28·7	3·3	23·4
1922.....	1·8	25·2	2 2	28·0	3·6	23·9
1923.....	2·0	26·3	2·6	28·2	4·5	23·4
1924.....	2·2	26·5	2·9	28·1	5·4	22·7
1925.....	2·2	27·1	3·3	28·3	6·9	21·4
1926.....	2·5	27·3	3·7	28·9	8·1	21·6
1927.....	2·6	27·7	3·9	29·1	9·2	22·2

The proportion of men claimants of sickness benefit has increased by over 50 per cent. since 1921, and that of married women has doubled. This increase has been most marked among the short-period claims, and the average duration of claims by men and unmarried women has diminished, while those by married women have not increased materially in duration, a fact which is of some significance in connection with the suspicion of malingering, since it would be much easier to prolong unduly the period of inability to work than to fake an illness from the beginning.

The effect of these developments on the actuarial position is illustrated by the following table, which shows the percentage of weeks of sickness and disablement to the provision made for these benefits on the present valuation basis:—

PERCENTAGE OF WEEKS OF SICKNESS AND DISABLEMENT TO "EXPECTATION."

	Men.		Women.			
			Unmarried.		Married.	
	Sickness.	Disablement.	Sickness.	Disablement.	Sickness.	Disablement.
1921.....	76	54	73	60	63	66
1922.....	89	65	88	67	82	73
1923.....	86	72	91	77	92	90
1924.....	97	81	105	86	110	104
1925.....	98	83	112	99	121	125
1926.....	108	93	112	111	124	146
1927.....	107	100	117	119	130	171

This explains the existence of large surpluses, which at the last valuation, five years ago, amounted to £65 million, for the claims did not begin to reach the level provided for until 1924. In 1927 they were well above that level. There was some reduction in 1928, but the figures for 1929 suggest that there is no definite change in the upward trend. If this be so, action of some sort is called for, for the "enormous surpluses" referred to by an optimistic contributor to last Tuesday's debate in Supply Committee of the House of Commons will not last for ever if the outgoings of the fund regularly exceeds its incomings.

The nature of the required action depends on the causes of the increase in the number of claims. If they are illegitimate increases, attributable to malingering, the remedy lies in a stricter administration. With that is bound up the difficult question of the right of the panel patient to change his doctor at any time on short notice, since the difficulty of proving that a man who alleges himself to be ill is actually capable of work is at present reinforced by the detriment to the doctor's practice which may result from success in doing so. Tuesday's debate revealed a majority of opinion in favour of stricter limitations on the patient's power of changing doctors; evidently a happy medium has not yet been found in this matter, but it is of very great importance that everything should be done to make it easier for doctors to fulfil their difficult task of distinguishing between genuine and feigned disability.

It is, however, extremely unlikely that increased malingering has very much to do with the rapid growth in claims. A contributory cause of the growth may be the increasing recognition of the advisability of seeking medical advice in the early stages of illness. But undoubtedly one of the principal causes is to be found in the severe unemployment of the last few years, for unemployment is bound to react on the proportion of health insurance claims in a number of different ways. In the first place, it undermines the physique of its victims, so that, in spite of the favourable reports of the Registrar-General, whose statistics do not take account of sickness that is neither fatal nor notifiable, there may well have been a growing amount of minor illness in the last few years; in the second place, if an insured person has nothing to do, he is likely to give in to an indisposition which he would try to ignore if he had a job to keep, and lastly the poverty resulting from unemployment drives insured people to avail themselves of every opportunity to claim any benefits to which they are entitled. Furthermore, the longer the scheme has been in force, the more people realise and avail themselves of the full extent of their rights under it. It has been suggested, moreover, that the fact that among men and married women the percentage who "declare off" soon after they are transferred from sickness to disablement benefit is highest among the age-group 16-34 implies that the youngest generation of workers, which has grown up under a system of social insurance, has developed in consequence a more grasping and less independent outlook. However this may be, it seems probable that, at all events in the absence of some very marked change in industrial conditions, we must reckon on a higher outlay from the fund than was originally expected and adjust its income accordingly. It is significant that other countries are having a similar experience. In Germany, for example, claims for sickness benefit increased by 70 per cent. between 1924 and 1929.

The scope and cost of national health insurance during the years 1928-1929 is shown in the following table:—

GREAT BRITAIN.
(000,000's omitted.)

	Estimated number entitled to benefit.	Receipts.				Accumulated funds at end of year.	Total Benefits.	Total Cost of Administration.
		Contributions of employers and workpeople.	Interest &c., on funds.	Parliamentary Votes and Grants.	Total.			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1921	15·1	25·2	3·7	11·7	40·6	92·2	24·5	5·4
1922	15·1	25·0	4·1	8·4	37·5	100·4	24·8	4·9
1923	15·2	26·2	4·8	6·9	37·9	109·5	24·6	4·9
1924	15·6	27·4	5·3	7·0	39·7	116·6	26·1	4·8
1925	15·8	27·7	5·6	8·1	41·4	126·6	27·5	4·9
1926	16·3	24·4	6·0	7·0	37·4	126·6	32·0	5·1
1927	16·5	26·4	5·5	7·6	39·5	125·1	35·7	5·2
1928	16·4	25·8	5·9	7·1	38·8	126·4	32 3	5 3

This suggests that while there is no cause for anxiety for a long time to come, there are taking place developments as to whose causes the nation must be fully informed. Mr Greenwood announced last Tuesday that two investigations are to be undertaken: one, which is already under way, is to make available information as to the steps which are taken by approved societies to check the genuineness of the cases in receipt of benefit, and the other has as its object the obtaining of more precise knowledge as to the standard applied in interpreting the phrase "incapacity for work." The results of these inquiries, and of the further investigation which is being undertaken by the National Health Insurance Joint Committee should be a great aid in interpreting the position.

BROADCASTING: BRITISH AND FOREIGN SYSTEMS.—II.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

AT first sight, the competitive system of wireless organisation appears to offer a much greater choice than the B.B.C. system. A New Yorker has a choice of a dozen stations; a Londoner, unless he has a set that reaches abroad, can receive only the National, London and Midland programmes. But even this apparently simple comparison is misleading. The smaller number of the British stations is, in the view of many experts, an evidence of superiority rather than inferiority, For technical reasons, it is at present impossible to combine purity of tone with great selectivity, and the quality of the reception may almost be said to vary inversely with the number of stations received. A London listener, if he can only hear three or perhaps two programmes, can at least hear those perfectly, at a small expense. What he loses in quantity he has gained in quality.

A plethora of stations has a further disadvantage. The average American station has to live by the amount of custom it can secure. It is a commercial enterprise, and, when this form of commercial enterprise was new, it was a very popular one. But in May, 1929, before the Wall Street crash, it was publicly stated in the New York Press that several of the New York stations were in severe financial difficulties owing to their redundant numbers and the diminishing interest of advertisers. What effect the crash has had upon them can only be imagined as yet. There is, at least, no doubt that it must have weakened their resistance to the baser forms of advertising.

The theory of the commercialisation of broadcasting (which has certain advocates over here) pushed to its logical outcome might well exclude any restrictions whatever upon the advertisers' selection. It is argued that an advertiser who broadcasts tedious, over-vulgar, or over-highbrow material in his "hour" will eventually discover that he is losing money and will then change his programme. But such is not necessarily the case. The broadcast advertiser is never sure what "pull" a particular concert may have had, and he may for a long period of time give entirely unremunerative programmes without the fact being clearly disclosed. Furthermore, in the slow process of discovering this the advertiser may have put on programmes of a character that damage the reputation of the station. Listeners pay but little attention to the name of the corporation which purchases the "hour" to which they listen, but they pay great attention to the name of the station. It is an important financial asset to enjoy the reputation of always having a good programme, whereas it is a disaster to suffer the reputation of letting advertisers produce any rubbish they please.

It is this reason, rather than any æsthetic reaction to vulgar advertising, which has induced certain of the more powerful stations in the United States to hold their advertisers in check. The Atwater-Kent chain, for example, claims to be very strict with its advertisers, and allows them little more than the right to announce their name and the goods they are endeavouring to push. Such announcements as "This concert is arranged by Palmolive Soap, the artistes being the Palmolive Soap Band. Palmolive soap is the soap that . . .," etc., are frequent enough and do not offend American ears. But it is only powerful and wealthy stations that are able to confine their clients to these limits, and whatever ethical canons are announced as universally adopted are evaded in weaker stations by the adoption of uncontemplated forms of advertising. Listeners in America may have heard a "concert" given by a large distributing firm in New York in which each member of the board (or an actor impersonating him) one after the other lauded his department and the advantages it offered customers and then sang a third-rate song or told a story; or a "song party in Alaska" in which everybody announced their devoted endeavours to provide the best skins for Messrs X.'s fur sale on the corner of —— Street and —— Avenue; or even a time signal "which will be given on Messrs Z.'s gold repeating watch, the best and cheapest on the market. Ping! That was the time-signal, gentlemen, given on Messrs Z.'s gold repeating . . .," etc., etc.

That these outrages are impossible upon the British-controlled ether is an imposing item to the credit of the B.B.C. But, upon closer examination, the balance is seen to be even heavier upon the British side. The commercialisation of broadcasting acts not merely positively in introducing rubbish, but negatively in discouraging the unusual and good. It may be too much to say that such items as the best of the "National Lectures" could not possibly be ever heard on the ether in New York, but it can be said with certainty that they would be drowned in a flood of trash. What "forward-looking corporation," having paid dollars for an hour of a big station's time, is going to spend that money on matter which may have no sales value? It turns invariably to those items which large publics are sure to listen to; and "A Concert Party in Old Dixie" and the latest dance numbers are repeated again and again. It is no doubt possible, by a careful selection based upon a study of the *New York Times*, for a listener each night to select, by rapid switching from station to station, a programme as good as, or maybe even better than, that of the B.B.C. But how many listeners, in fact, do this? Very, very few. They try one or two of the loudest stations and then settle down with whatever they get—which is usually a ceaseless iteration of "sure-fire favourites."

That the principle on which the B.B.C. is conducted is superior to the American or French system, however, does not mean that the Corporation is extracting full value from its privileged position, or giving the public the service that it has the right to expect. There have been undoubted improvements. The Regional scheme is one of the most impressive, and the research carried on by the B.B.C. (though few but experts can appreciate it) must not be forgotten. The "talks" and educational matter have improved. The "no controversy" rule—which often meant a rule of enforced dullness—has been slightly relaxed; music is excellent; and drama and vaudeville at least are well attempted.

But this praise is only valid for five days in the week. At the week-end, on Saturday and even more on Sunday, the programmes are distressingly bad. Yet these are our national holidays, and more people probably listen in then than at any other time. On Saturday the mid-day music actually starts an hour later and ends an hour or half an hour sooner. Frequently there has been thereafter complete silence for those who do not care to listen to a broadcast commentary on a "sporting event." For this no reason seems discoverable.

Sunday arrangements are even more open to criticism. For the greater part of this holiday the wireless is actually completely silent. When it speaks, the majority of its time is given to religious services, church music, Bible readings, and addresses acceptable only to a certain type of Protestant listener. These Sunday programmes are defended usually on two grounds. The first is an evasion. Objectors are told that they will not be permitted to "drive religion from the ether." But it is safe to say that it has never been seriously proposed that the religious broadcast should be closed down (unless perhaps in certain Jewish or other circles which are positively offended by their content). It is merely contended that the present long compulsory silences should be filled by matter suited to that great body of opinion which does

not care to be restricted to a diet of religious services. The second is the statement reported to have been made officially to a secularist deputation that the present programme is "what the public desires." How so dogmatic a statement can be justified is far from clear. Indeed, very strong evidence can be produced upon the other side. If one listens in on Sundays to French stations, one is almost certain to hear English spoken. Radio-Paris, for example, broadcasts at lunchtime the Decca Company's concert, at half-past six the Carreras Black Cats concert, and later at night the Grosvenor House Hotel's programme; Toulouse broadcasts Kolster Brandes concerts; and so forth. The programmes are announced in English, and though for decency's sake a French announcer is also employed, the programmes (which are of the American type) are constructed exclusively for English listeners, and songs are sung in English. In other words, so passionate is the flight of British listeners away from the B.C.C.'s Sunday programme that they have actually elbowed the French out of a great portion of the time of their own stations on that day. It may be taken as certain that such enlightened firms as Carreras would not pay large sums for the hire of Radio-Paris to push goods that have practically no sale in France if they had not discovered there was a big British public on Sundays driven to listen to foreign stations through discontent with the B.B.C. service.

Notes of the Week.

The Bank Rate Reduction.—Once again the monetary situation has undergone a rapid change, and whereas a fortnight ago the City had become reconciled to the belief that the prospects of a 3 per cent. Bank rate had receded, for the time being at least, this lower rate was established on Thursday. In some ways the reduction was unexpected, for recent exchange movements have been against sterling, and during the past month Germany, France, Belgium and Switzerland have each in turn taken the incoming Cape gold at figures well above the Bank of England's buying price. Under these circumstances it might be argued that there was a risk lest a further reduction of Bank rate, by attracting to London a greater volume of foreign bills for acceptance and discount, should place a serious strain on sterling. On the other hand, there can be little doubt that a major factor influencing the authorities in their decision to risk a reduction to 3 per cent. was the growing indications that the recrudescence in the early future of bull speculation in Wall Street need no longer be regarded as a serious threat to the equilibrium of the sterling-dollar exchange. In addition, there are other considerations which were probably present in the authorities' minds. After a brief period following the last Bank rate reduction, during which new capital issues of the gilt-edged type went well and the yield which first-class borrowers found it necessary to offer showed a falling tendency, the new issue market showed signs of becoming less propitious. Public response to the West Ham and Sao Paulo loans was disappointing, and, with several large issues on the stocks, including prospective loans to New Zealand, Japan and Austria, it was highly desirable that something should be done to create a favourable atmosphere in the London market for the reception of the forthcoming reparations loan. As our Berlin correspondent points out on a later page, the terms of issue ultimately settled for that loan will tend for some time to set the standard for first-class German issues, and it is understood that the French authorities have also been insistent that the yield on this loan should not be higher than 5½ per cent.—a basis below what is apparently considered appropriate in New York. It is perhaps permissible, therefore, to infer from Thursday's decision that, in the common interest of facilitating the reparations loan issue on a favourable yield basis, the recent meetings of central bankers at Basle and Brussels may have resulted in an understanding that an attempt should be made to maintain low money rates in Europe and to minimise the disturbing effects of international gold movements, which might have resulted from lack of co-ordination in Bank rate policy. It is significant in this connection that the Bank of Belgium reduced its rate to 3 per cent. on Wednesday, while similar reductions took place on Thursday both in Paris and New York. The psychological effects of the latest reduction should be of value, although it is true that industrial and other borrowers indebted to the joint stock banks, whose loans carry a minimum rate of 5 per cent., will not be directly benefited. Thursday's decision is also likely to occasion speculation in the City as to whether Mr Snowden will now take advantage, for the purpose of carrying through a conversion operation, of an opportunity which a fortnight ago seemed to be in danger of being lost.

The Fulham By-Election.—The result of next Tuesday's polling at Fulham is, for many reasons, awaited with unusual interest. For one thing it is the first London by-election since the present Government took office. But the special reason for its prominence is the fact that Lord Beaverbrook has dominated the proceedings on the Conservative side, and has used the Fulham platform for the propagation of his gospel of "Empire Free Trade." It would, of course, be absurd to attach too much importance to the result, whatever it may be. A Conservative victory would not necessarily mean that the new fiscal creed was making headway, nor would a Labour victory cause Lord Beaverbrook to desist from his propaganda. One swallow does not make a summer for any party, nor have we ever heard it claimed that what Fulham thinks to-day, England thinks to-morrow. Nevertheless, the position at Fulham is intriguing. A Conservative victory would give Lord Beaverbrook a goad with which to urge on Mr Baldwin; while a Labour victory would cause Lord Beaverbrook's stock to fall many points in the political market. What result would the Conservative central office, in its heart of hearts, like to see? It is surely on the horns of a dilemma. One result would add prestige to the Labour Government, the other to its own *enfant terrible*. Nor in this particular election are the Liberals happily placed. In the absence of a Liberal candidate their forces are clearly divided. The late Liberal candidate is supporting the Conservatives, while the Chairman of the Liberal Party has spoken, if not for the Labour candidate, at least against the main plank in the Conservative candidate's programme. Fulham electors may be pardoned if they feel just a little bewildered. We suspect that many non-Labour voters will prefer not to go to the poll at all, rather than vote in favour of the fallacies and superficial allurements of Lord Beaverbrook's wooing.

Eastern Reparations.—The question of non-German Reparations has been, relatively speaking, unimportant from the financial point of view. And yet the signature of a comprehensive agreement relating to them, which took place this last Monday, April 28, will certainly rank as an event of real importance in the post-war history of Europe. The reason is not far to seek; and it is, of course, not financial but political. Financially, non-German Reparations could not bring much benefit to any of the receiving countries. Politically, they could and did do the whole of Europe great harm by keeping alive the ill-feeling between defeated countries that had been mutilated or dismembered and their "successor States." The *cause célèbre* of this kind was the "Optants Dispute" betwen Hungary and Roumania—a case in which Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia were interested indirectly as co-successor-states of Hungary, side by side with Roumania who was the actual party to the dispute. The political havoc caused by this controversy and by others of the sort, which have been less in the public eye, reacted in turn upon European economics and finance. Broadly, it is correct to say that the non-settlement of the non-German Reparations problem has retarded the reconstruction of Central and Eastern Europe appreciably. And this gives the measure of the importance of the agreement that has been signed this week. We shall appreciate the magnitude of the achievement if we take into account both the number and intensity of the political rancours which had to be overcome, and the variety and complexity of the financial and economic problems which had to be disposed of; for the general title of a Reparations Settlement hardly conveys an adequate picture of the field that has been cleared up. The new agreement does not merely deal with Reparations in the strict sense of the term. It also covers the payments exacted, under the euphemistic label of "costs of liberation," from successor States whose territories had been carved wholly or partly out of "ex-enemy States," although they themselves appeared in the *rôle* of Allied Powers in the peace treaties. Again, it covers the valuation and accounting of public property which has been transferred, with the territory on which it stands, from the possession of one Government to that of another. Finally, it covers a whole complex of problems, of which the Hungarian Optants case is only one signal example, where the legal status of private property and the rights of private possessors are concerned. It can easily be appreciated how great a drag upon the recovery of Europe all these controversies have constituted during the past ten years. The settlement of the tangled problems of Central Europe makes the arrival in London of the Austrian Chancellor, who will be warmly welcomed for the great services he has rendered to his country, particularly timely.

The Belgrade Treason Trial.—On Thursday, April 24th, there opened, at Belgrade, a treason trial in which the accused were twenty-four Croat citizens of Jugoslavia—one of these being Dr. Machek, the successor of Stephen Radich in the leadership of the now dissolved Croat Peasant Party, and the others, mostly young men, and all of them obscure. They are being tried by a special court which has been set up, under the present dictatorship in Jugoslavia, by a decree law. It is a court of original and final jurisdiction, from which there is no appeal, and its rules of procedure—particularly those circumscribing the activities of the counsel for the defence—would appear to weight the scales against the accused rather heavily. It is significant and satisfactory that no fewer than 163 barristers have placed their services at the disposal of the accused, and that these include eminent Serbs, like Monsieur Jovanovich, as well as Croats. Dr. Machek is accused of having distributed money knowingly to be used for terrorist purposes, of having been privy to a distribution of revolvers for such purposes, and of having prophesied the secession of Croatia from Jugoslavia, in veiled language, in an article published in an organ of the Croatian press. One of the young men, a student named Bernardich, is accused of having organised a band of terrorists for the assassination of the principal representatives of the Government at Zagreb. Actually, one cavalry officer appears to have been shot—though by whom, and at whose instigation, is not yet established. Meanwhile, Bernardich, who was examined publicly on the second day of the trial, has pleaded "Not guilty," and has declared that the confessions and denunciations which he made between his arrest and his appearance in court were extracted from him by the police—partly through "third degree" processes amounting to torture, and partly through promises of a mitigation of his prospective sentence. He further declared that several months before his arrest the chief of police at Zagreb had invited him to become an *agent provocateur*, and that, though he had declined the proposal, he knew of another who had accepted. All this local colour carries conviction to anybody who has followed the history of Croatian treason trials during the time when the Croats were under the domination of the Magyars and not of the Serbs. The evidence for the prosecution at the celebrated Zagreb treason trial was shown by President Masaryk, at that time a member of the Austrian Reichsrat, to have been forged in the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Belgrade. The main difference in the present case seems to be that the manœuvres leading up to the trial have been conducted by the Serbs. The Serbian dictators of Jugoslavia ought to study the history of the last years of the Hapsburg Monarchy. They would learn that the methods which they have copied from their predecessors are most efficacious in producing the very results which they are intended to avert.

The Warsaw Bomb.—On Saturday, April 26th, a discovery was made of apparatus in the Soviet Legation at Warsaw and in an adjoining house, which would seem, on the face of it—pending the results of further investigations—to be material evidence of an attempt to blow the Legation up. Happily the plot, if such there was, has been frustrated in time; and since no outrage has actually been perpetrated, we may hope that the discovery will have no untoward effect on the diplomatic relations of the countries concerned. It is unfortunate that Russia-Polish "incidents"—and these accompanied by loss of life—have occurred in Warsaw twice before since that city has once more been the capital of an independent Poland. It is to the credit of both countries that these earlier and more serious incidents were surmounted without any breach of the peace. The most startling of them was the shooting, on the platform of the Central Railway Station, of the Soviet Minister in Warsaw himself on June 7, 1927, when he was meeting some Russian diplomats who were *en route* through Warsaw from London to Moscow. The assassin of Monsieur Voykov was a young Russian *émigré*, and so was the victim of the second of these serious incidents, which occurred in the hall of the Soviet Legation at Warsaw on September 2nd of the same year. On that occasion the victim called at the Legation and asked to see the *chargé d'affaires* and, upon being refused admittance, he was alleged to have wounded the porter with a knife and to have drawn a revolver—whereupon a member of the Legation staff shot him dead. It is noteworthy that no Polish citizens were concerned in either of these "incidents" in 1927. They were exclusively affairs between "White" and "Red" Russians; and since the hatred between Russians of the two colours has not abated during the last three years, it is a natural conjecture that the present plot—if there really has been a plot—is of "White" Russian origin. The number of Russian *émigrés* in Poland is considerable. It is to be hoped, however, that this community of Russian exiles in Poland will not be made the scapegoats of this latest affair, and that punishment will only be meted out to individuals definitely convicted of guilt. The avoidance of trouble between Poland and the U.S.S.R. is highly desirable, but it would be unjust to an unfortunate body of helpless and mostly harmless people if good relations between the Governments were in any way preserved at their expense. With reasonable goodwill on both sides, diplomatic relations should not be affected; for neither Poland nor Russia is at present in a condition in which she can contemplate taking even one step in the direction of the precipice that divides peace from war.

Our Index Number.—The average level of wholesale prices, as measured by our index number, fell during April by 1.8 per cent., following a decline of 1.3 per cent. in March. Since the beginning of the year prices have fallen by over 7½ per cent., and are now 13 per cent. lower than at the end of April, 1929. Recent movements of the group figures are summarised below:—

AVERAGE, 1927 = 100.

	Apr., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	Apr., 1930.
Cereals and meat	99·1	89·2	85·4	84·7	84·9
Other foods	86·5	83·1	83·0	82·7	80·8
Textiles	96·7	76·7	74·7	73·0	72·9
Minerals	96·7	92·6	90·5	89 8	85·6
Miscellaneous	90·0	88·0	87·0	85·5	83·2
Complete Index	94·0	86·1	84·2	83·1	81·6

The heaviest decline in April was recorded by the figure for the minerals group, reflecting the sharp break in the price of copper and other non-ferrous metals. Among

foodstuffs, cereals were mostly firmer, but there were substantial falls in the price of both imported beef and mutton; tea and coffee and butter were also lower. Textile prices showed comparatively little change on balance, but the miscellaneous group continued to decline. Changes in the prices of individual commodities, as compared with a month ago and a year ago, are shown in the next table:—

	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with			Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with	
	Month Ago.	Year Ago.		Month Ago.	Year Ago.
Wheat—Foreign	− 2·3	−11·8	Flax	...	−28·6
„ English	+ 9·1	− 9·3	Hemp	− 1·7	−19·7
Flour	− 1·5	− 5·6	Jute	+ 2·0	−15·8
Barley	− 1·0	−22·5			
Oats	+12·7	−31·6	Textiles	− 0·1	−24·6
Maize	+ 8·6	−22·2			
Rice	+ 4·3	− 4·9	Pig iron	...	− 1·5
Potatoes	+ 7·7	−33·3	Steel rails	...	...
Beef—English	− 1·3	+ 4·4	Iron bars	...	...
„ Argentine	−12·0	−14·4	Tinplates	+ 0·4	− 0·9
Mutton—English	...	+ 7·5	Coal, Welsh exp.	...	− 5·9
„ New Zealand	−16·7	−19·7	Coal, Durham gas	− 3·0	+ 3·2
Bacon, Danish	...	−10·7	Coal, household	...	+ 5·0
			Lead	− 6·1	−26·0
Cereals and meat	+ 0·2	−14·3	Tin	−10·3	−22·8
			Copper	−21·8	−28·3
Tea	− 9·1	−11·8	Spelter	− 8·1	−36·0
Coffee	− 4·6	− 9·1			
Cocoa	...	− 6·2	Minerals	− 4·7	−11·5
Sugar, cane	...	− 4·4			
Sugar, refined	...	− 5·4	Timber, English	...	...
Cheese, Canadian	+ 1·0	− 6·7	Timber, Swedish	...	− 5·3
Butter, Danish	− 8·0	−16·0	Cement	...	...
Coco oil	...	− 1·4	Hides	− 8·3	−22·1
Tobacco	...	+ 2·3	Leather	− 4·8	− 4·8
			Petrol No. 1	...	...
Other foods	− 2·3	− 6·6	Petroleum oil	...	...
			Fuel oil	...	...
Cotton A.	+ 0·6	−14·1	Linseed oil	− 0·9	+38·3
Cotton E.	− 0·3	−19·3	Tallow	...	− 3·3
Cotton yarn	...	−20·2	Rubber	− 8·1	−28·2
Cotton cloth	− 1·1	−11·0	Soda, crystals	...	...
Wool, English	− 5·9	−38·5	Sulphate of ammonia	...	−24·1
Wool, Australian	+ 2·1	−40·2	Creosote	−13·3	−35·0
Wool tops	+ 3·8	−37·2			
Silk	...	−16·5	Miscellaneous	− 2·7	− 7·6

If 1924 be taken as 100, the current figure of our index number works out at 70.5, as compared with 71.8 at the end of March and 81.2 a year ago. Converted to a percentage of 1913, the recent figures of our index number are shown below in comparison with the averages for 1924 and 1928-29:—

AVERAGE, 1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	168·5	215·8	214·7	149·3	122·6	166·2
„ 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	115·2	111·2	140·9
„ 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8
End Apr., 1929	146·2	174·9	151·8	120·9	104·5	135·0
„ Mar., 1930	125·0	167·2	114·6	112·3	99·2	119·4
„ Apr., 1930	125·3	163·4	114·4	107·1	96·6	117·2

It will be seen that, excluding foodstuffs, the level of raw material prices now stands at a point not greatly higher than in the pre-war year.

The Dearer Loaf.—Baiting the Food Council seems to be becoming a popular sport among London purveyors. The details of that curious incident last autumn when the Food Council and the President of the Board of Trade received a flat negative from the dairymen have never, so far as we are aware, been published, and, finding that the lion's chains really do hold, the London bakers have now felt emboldened to still greater liberties. After adhering for four years to the scale recommended in the Food Council's report of November, 1925, the Incorporated Society of Principal Wholesale and Retail Bakers, Ltd., and the London Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Protection Society suddenly informed the Food Council that they had set up a committee "to investigate the manufacturing costs of a commercial loaf." A fortnight later they announced to the Council that they had decided to reduce the scale of flour prices which correspond to given prices per quartern loaf by 2s. per sack as from April 7th. The Food Council, in a letter of protest reporting this incident to the President of the Board of Trade, states that it was not consulted, and that, in the absence of an inquiry, which would take some time and probably fail to elicit the necessary information, it can see no possible justification for a rise. The price increase is only estimated to amount to ¼d. per 4-lb. loaf, and, as much bread in London is sold below the scale of the two leading bakers' associations (though, on the other hand, some bread prices in the provinces are regulated by reference to it), it is unlikely to arouse much public attention. But the effect on the consumer is not the point. Far more important is the fact that a body appointed by the Government for the protection of consumers is in the undignified position of having its advice disregarded and of being unable to compel the production of information which would justify its position. If the Consumers' Council Bill, the second reading of which is to be taken next Thursday, becomes law, the Food Council's successor will have powers of compelling the production of information, and thus of turning the light of publicity upon recusant associations of traders, which should put an end to a situation as precarious for the consumer as it is humiliating for his protector.

Lord Melchett on Mergers.—If anyone has a claim to attention when he speaks of rationalisation and mergers it is Lord Melchett, and such attention should be carefully given to the address (reported in later columns) which he delivered on Tuesday to the annual meeting of the great merger over which he presides, Imperial Chemical Industries. From a long speech touching upon many important subjects we are inclined to select as the *chef d'œuvre* a passage, obviously phrased with care, in which Lord Melchett defined the main problems of successful conduct of big combines:—

> The real problem of rationalisation and merging of big enterprises consists in effective central control with sufficient elasticity lower down to allow action to be neither arrested nor delayed, and to prevent the chiefs at the head from being encumbered by too much detail, at the same time keeping a grip on all essential features of policy, such as finance, expenditure, sales and relations with other great groups of industrialists throughout the world. I think I can claim, with confidence, that we have succeeded in achieving these twin objects, both of which are essential to the successful working of great organisations.

This claim is substantiated by results achieved in a period of bad trade. Of profound interest, also, was the speaker's description of the building up of a great organisation for research in various branches of the companies' vast business. In pre-war days Britain lagged far behind certain other countries in the harnessing of research to the chariot of industry, but to-day the I.C.I. leads the way in what we trust will become an increasingly widespread effort to make up for lost time. It was research that gave Germany her great aniline dye industry. It is research, first and foremost, that made and stabilises ours. Of other matters of broader importance touched upon by Lord Melchett, the chief was the effect of taxation on industry. The salient passage in his reference to the Budget was the following:—

> I cannot subscribe to the doctrine of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that high rates of income tax, sur-tax, etc., do not detrimentally affect industry. When out of every pound you put by in your reserve fund from your profits year by years for the building up of your business 4s. 6d. is taken by the State—often for by no means so useful a purpose—how can anyone say that taxation does not impair the strength of industry?

Difficult times like the present certainly compel attention to the whole intricate problem of the taxation of company reserves. In the later part of his speech Lord Melchett advocated the formation of Imperial mergers; and on the next day, at the annual meeting of another great British merger, Associated Electrical Industries, the chairman, Sir Felix Pole, laid stress on the advantage obtained from arrangements for co-operation and exchange of patents with the G.E.C. of America. Such international co-operation can only be effectively achieved by large-scale business organisations—and that, of course, is one of the reasons why British industry should press forward on the path of rationalisation.

Non-provided Schools.—In the process of implementing the recommendations of the Hadow Report, the fact has been revealed that one of the most important of them cannot be carried out without some alteration in the existing law. Under the compromise effected in 1902 the public education authority is responsible for the heating, lighting and cleaning of non-provided schools, for the payment of their teachers' salaries, and for the provision of books and stationery; but it may not contribute towards their building expenses. One of the principal Hadow recommendations, which has won widespread approval, was that all children above the age of eleven should be educated in senior schools, characterised by smaller classes, better workshop and laboratory provision, more libraries, halls, and playing fields. This, together with the proposed raising of the leaving age to fifteen, involves a great deal of extension and the building of some entirely new schools. Most of the schools belonging to religious foundations, which, according to the latest figures, are responsible for 2,012,545 out of a total of 6,071,017 children in England and Wales, have no funds to finance extensions on the scale which would be necessary, so that if they were to remain ineligible for public grants a great deal of new building at the public expense would have to be undertaken in place of the more economical method of extending existing buildings. In consequence the Government, after consultation with teachers, local authorities, and representatives of the various religious denominations, have proposed a new compromise, the essence of which is that local education authorities should be permitted to give financial assistance to managers of non-provided schools for purposes of reorganisation in return for an extension of public control in the appointment and removal of teachers. The managers would retain their existing responsibility for repairs, after the execution of the specific alteration. The teachers would become the servants of the local education authority, by whom they would be appointed or removed, subject to an agreement with the managers specifying the number of teachers necessary for the provision of religious instruction. The managers would have the right to be consulted and satisfied that this number of teachers were willing and competent to give the necessary religious instruction, and they might ask for the removal of any of them who failed to do so. Further, provision is made in the proposals for the withdrawal, at the wish of parents, for special religious instruction outside the school, of children transferred under this scheme from non-provided to provided schools. This arrangement is admittedly only a stopgap, and as it appears to call for no sacrifice of principle, while offering the only means of making immediate provision for urgently needed educational reforms, it is very much to be hoped that it will be generally accepted. Public opinion, with the enlightened example before it of those religious authorities who were consulted in the matter, has so far expressed itself favourably.

British Production.—The London and Cambridge Economic Service has published its index of the physical volume of production for the first quarter of 1930. It shows a drop of 4.7 per cent. on the previous quarter, but has been surprisingly well maintained if compared with the corresponding quarters of the last three years:—

	1924=100.			
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
First quarter	110·8	105·7	108·3	110·1
Second quarter	108·1	103·7	111·0	...
Third quarter	105·9	95·4	108·2	...
Fourth quarter	107·4	105·2	114·8	...
Average	108·1	102·5	110·6	...

The group averages of non-ferrous metals, textiles, food, chemicals and paper all show a decrease on the previous quarter. The fall is most marked in the textile and paper groups, which declined 11 per cent. and 30 per cent. respectively. If wool were included in the textile group this decrease would probably be even more pronounced. The latest available information indicates that production in the heavy industries is not maintained at its high level, and as the other industries show no signs of an early improvement, the average may be expected to decrease still further during the current quarter.

Lancashire and India.—From a trade point of view, writes our Manchester correspondent, Lancashire has been badly hit by the latest developments in India, and business in cotton piece-goods has been practically brought to a standstill. There were rumours on the Manchester Royal Exchange on Tuesday that dealers in the bazaars were considering the question of cancelling contracts, and, later in the day, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce published copies of cables received from the Delhi Piece-Goods Association and the Bombay Native Piece-Goods Merchants' Association. According to the message from Delhi the Association thought it advisable to warn shippers and manufacturers that goods shipped will, in all probability, not only be refused, but also be unsaleable, and the greatest caution is therefore necessary in making shipments. The cable from Bombay contained a resolution just passed at a general meeting of the Association pointing out that a very serious and alarming crisis had arisen for the mercantile community in India. The Association drew the attention of the Secretary of State for India, the Viceroy, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the grave political situation, and urged them to use their power and influence to bring about the acceptance of the national demands and effect an amicable settlement. It is stated that if the situation is not eased the members of the Association will be most reluctantly compelled to consider the advisability of cancelling all outstanding contracts. These cables were considered at a special meeting in Manchester of the Executive Committee of the India Section of the Chamber of Commerce and it was decided to send the following reply to both the Indian Associations:—"Manchester Chamber of Commerce cannot interfere in political matters, but the Chamber and its members will insist on the observance of the sanctity of contract." The Chamber also decided to address communications to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for India and the President of the Board of Trade with reference to this interchange of cables.

Anglo-German Coke Export Discussions.—A correspondent writes:—It has now become known that for some time important discussions have been proceeding between representatives of the Westphalian Coal Syndicate and British coke producers on the possibility of an international marketing and price arrangement. The primary aim is to regulate sales to the countries, particularly Scandinavia, where excessive competition for several years has persistently depressed prices. The advantages to be gained from an agreement have been realised by individual producers and exporters in this country, and the syndicate has been active for a long time in an effort to create a favourable atmosphere for discussion, but the difficulties in the way of a general understanding are formidable, owing to the number of non-associated producers here, and a clash of producers' and exporters' interests. All the important British producers who are concerned in the export trade, including gas companies, have been represented in the discussions. The outcome of the first formal meeting, held some months ago, was not encouraging to those who had taken the initiative, the principal obstacle arising from diverse views on the relative aggregate quotas of the two countries. In view of the fact that negotiations were resumed after an interval, and that several meetings have been held, it is assumed that this obstacle is no longer regarded as insurmountable. Although the problem of a marketing arrangement for coke is much less complicated than that of a general agreement covering coal exports, the discussions will probably help to smooth the way for consideration of the wider question when the British owners' national committee is set up. It is not without significance that representatives of the Durham owners, who have hitherto been reluctant even to establish a coal-marketing scheme for their own district, have been active in the coke discussions. It is understood that some of the exporters of Durham coke object strongly

to an international agreement, which would involve not only sales at prices fixed by the producers, but probably a commission basis. Some of the producers are disposed to meet this opposition, if it persists, by an effort to establish a British coke-export syndicate.

Emigration in 1929.—The information received by the Board of Trade on passenger movements to and from the United Kingdom throws much light on emigration to and from this country. Comparative figures of net emigration during the past five years, distinguishing between the principal destinations, are given below:—

NET EMIGRATION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.
(000's omitted.)

To—	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
British North America	25	39	40	39	53
Australia	28	37	33	20	9
New Zealand	10	14	5	2	2
Total British Empire	63	93	81	63	63
U.S.A.	21	22	19	16	25
Total world	84	116	98	79	88

While emigration to the Empire in the last two years has been constant at the 1925 level after a sharp rise in 1927 and 1928, there has been a striking redistribution as between the three Dominions shown in the above table. Australia and New Zealand has taken a steadily diminishing number of British emigrants, while Canada took more than twice as many in 1929 as in 1925. British emigration to the United States, after a fall in 1927-28, was in 1929 higher than in any of the preceding five years. The *Board of Trade Journal* recently contained an analysis of the occupations of British immigrants and emigrants over eighteen years of age, which are summarised as follows:—

OCCUPATIONS OF MIGRANTS* OVER 18 YEARS.
(000's omitted.)

Occupation.	Emigrants. 1928.	Emigrants. 1929.	Immigrants. 1928.	Immigrants. 1929.
MALES:				
Agricultural	12·5	12·3	2·8	3·0
Commercial, finance and insurance	9·2	9·8	4·4	4·2
Professional	2·7	2·4	2·3	2·5
Skilled trades:				
Mining and quarrying	6·4	3·9	2·2	0·7
Metal and engineering	5·8	6·6	3·0	2·6
Building	0·9	1·2	0·4	0·4
Other	5·2	6·2	2·7	2·5
Transport and communications	2·1	2·3	1·2	1·1
Labourers not in agriculture or transport	6·9	5·8	3·2	1·8
Other and ill-defined occupations	5·9	6·6	3·8	3·5
Total	57·6	57·1	26·0	22·4
FEMALES:				
Domestic, hotel, etc., service	11·3	13·6	2·9	3·5
Commercial, finance and insurance	2·9	3·5	0·8	1·0
Professional	2·7	3·0	1·9	2·0
Clothing trades	0·9	1·1	0·3	0·2
Wife or housewife (not otherwise described)	21·4	22·0	11·9	11·8
Other and ill-defined occupations	6·5	7·4	3·8	3·5
Total	45·7	50·7	21·6	22·0

* Including a small number aged 12–18 whose ages were not specified.

The increased movement of women in both directions is practically confined to those having other occupations than that of housewife, and is in sharp contrast to the movement of men. The most marked change among men emigrants is the diminished number of miners, no doubt owing largely to the special harvest emigration to Canada in 1928. Agricultural labourers are still the largest class of male emigrant, but 80 per cent. of them go to British North America, and among emigrants to all other parts of the Empire, except New Zealand and to the United States and other foreign countries, they are outnumbered by commercial, finance and insurance workers. Of women other than housewives, those in domestic and hotel service are by far the most numerous, but they are outnumbered by professional women in emigration to South Africa, India, "other parts of the Empire" and "other foreign countries."

Union Bank of Scotland.—Having earned 33.9 per cent. on the paid-up capital, the directors, for the eighth consecutive year, have recommended a dividend of 18 per cent. Bank premises and heritable property yielding rent were respectively written down by £25,000, while £50,000 was added to the rest account, now £1,550,000, as compared with the paid-up capital of £1,000,000. £135,053 is carried forward, this figure being £34,301 greater than the amount brought forward at the beginning of the year:—

	Years ending April 2, 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Profit	329,505	336,239	339,310
Bank offices	35,000	35,000	25,000
Heritable property yielding rent	35,000	35,000	25,000
Rest account	50,000	50,000	50,000
Earned per share	32/11	33/7	33/11
Paid per share, less tax	18/–	18/–	18/–
Amount of dividend	180,000	180,000	180,000
Pensions and allowances fund	25,000	25,000	25,000
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	+ 4,505	+ 11,239	+ 34,301

While cash and money at call are £618,732 lower at £5,967,097, loans and advances are £1,064,532 more at £14,602,249. Deposits are £972,318 greater at £28,262,507, thereby making the ratio of advances to deposits 51.6 per cent., as compared with 49.6 per cent. a year before. Acceptances have fallen by £149,779 to £1,071,313.

Wholesale Co-operation.—A correspondent writes:—That the productive developments of the co-operative movement are keeping pace with the distributive activities is evident from the latest report of the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. This report covers the six months ended January 11th, and records sales of £45,802,994, an increase of £1,718,757. The supplies for the society's productive works were £14,134,312, an increase of £540,294. The increase in the latter supplies was 3⅞ per cent., or exactly the same rate of increase as in the sales. This is an interesting coincidence, suggesting that the productive works are keeping pace with the growth of the general business. After meeting all the expenses of production and distribution, providing for interest on capital and depreciation of property according to rule, there was a surplus of £742,148, for which £522,650 is to be returned to the societies by way of a dividend of 3d. in the £ on purchases; £207,547 is set apart for writing off land, buildings and fixtures, and the remainder is placed to the reserve fund, which now stands at £1,112,640. There has been an increase of 1¾ per cent. in the turnover of the Lancashire and Yorkshire area; of 2½ per cent. in the North-Eastern area, and of 6⅞ per cent. in the Southern districts. The advance is most marked in the drapery, woollens, clothing and coal departments. In the export department (which is now assigned a separate account) the sales for the half-year rose to £588,193, as compared with only £292,826 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The directors are advising the admission of the "Hangya" (the C.W.S. of the Hungarian farmers) to membership, and the closer association between the co-operative trading bodies of various countries is reflected in the growth of the export business of the C.W.S. The banking department continues to interest trade unions as well as co-operative societies, and 8,709 branches of the former have current accounts with the C.W.S. Bank. The deposits and withdrawals of the bank totalled £359,344,895, an increase of 4¾ per cent. In addition to its 15,817 current accounts for societies, unions, clubs and other mutual organisations, the C.W.S. Bank is operating similar accounts for 10,389 individuals. While the trading departments have shown a progressive advance, the farming operations have not done so well. The eleven farms, with an acreage of 20,625 acres, have resulted in a net loss of £34,011, mainly contributed by the estates at Wisbech and Goole and the two farms in Wiltshire. Those in Shropshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Northumberland and Leicestershire have each provided a surplus. Reference is made in the report to the partnership with the Scottish C.W.S., which supplied 30,206,592 lbs. of tea to the English societies in the last half-year, and to the association with the Scottish C.W.S. in connection with the Co-operative Insurance Society. The latter, which is the joint insurance department of the two wholesale societies, had a premium income of £4,396,871 in 1929, as compared with £4,184,162 in 1928, and its total assets now amount to £10,235,941.

Rockefeller Foundation.—The existing Committee for Social Science Research Training, under the chairmanship of Sir Josiah Stamp, for encouraging, by scholarships and otherwise, statistical and objective methods in economics, has been reformed and extended for the purpose of acting as an Advisory Committee to the Rockefeller Foundation for the award of Fellowships from Great Britain and Ireland over the whole field of the social sciences (including anthropology and law). These Fellowships replace those awarded in recent years under the auspices of the Laura Spelman Memorial, for which the Fellowship Advisor was Mr J. R. M. Butler, of Trinity College, Cambridge. The new personnal of the Committee is Sir Josiah Stamp, chairman, Mr J. R. M. Butler, Sir Arthur Keith, Dr. C. Myers, Professor Carr Saunders, Professor Graham Wallas, together with the original members for the Economics section, Mrs Sidney Webb, Mr W. T. Layton, the Right. Hon. R. McKenna, Mr. C. E. R. Sherrington and Mr J. C. Cobb. The secretary is Mr N. F. Hall, of University College, London.

INSURANCE NOTES.

London and Lancashire Insurance Company.—The London and Lancashire group comprises no less than 26 different companies transacting business in all parts of the world, the most important in point of size being the Law, Union and Rock, whose accounts are analysed elsewhere in this issue. For many years now the company's report, which is in a consolidated form embracing the operations of all the subsidiaries, has been a steady repetition of prosperity, and in spite of the difficulties of 1929 the report just issued for that year continues the tradition unbroken. The total premium income in fire, accident and marine accounts amounted last year to £7,354,871, representing a slight decline on that for 1928, though this has fallen entirely on the fire department, since accident and marine premiums are slightly up. The details of the operations of the last two years are as follows:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	507,079	14·7	397,548	11·7
Accident and General	146,429	6·0	120,788	4·9
Marine	86,979	5·9	238,917	16·0
Life	...		32,184	
Capital redemption	1,454		1,153	
	741,941		790,590	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	199,848		217,234	
Total net trading surplus	542,093		573,356	

The most important feature of the year is the extraordinarily high profit in the marine department. The result is unexpected, because, in his speech at the annual meeting last year, the chairman stated that it was very doubtful if the favourable results of 1928 could be repeated in 1929. The net interest earnings available for dividend have increased from £497,000 to £527,000, the increase being assisted by the redemption during the year of £673,000 London and Lancashire 5 per cent. debentures. As a consequence, the gap between the net interest earnings and cost of dividend, which is maintained at the same rate as in 1928, namely, 95 per cent., is reduced from £64,000 to £34,000, and this has, no doubt, influenced the directors in announcing their intention to increase the dividend for the current year 1930 to 100 per cent. After meeting the dividend, which requires £561,818, there remained the sum of £539,000 available to augment surplus assets, so that the actual dividend declared was earned almost twice over. It has been decided to double the paid-up capital by capitalising a portion of the profit and loss account balance and thus increasing the amount paid up per £5 share from £1 to £2. In accordance with the requirements of the Companies' Act, 1929, a balance sheet of the London and Lancashire Company is published in addition to the usual consolidated balance sheet. From this it appears that in respect of the total balance-sheet assets of £13,285,000 no less than £8,730,000 is represented by the item "Shares in subsidiary companies." A footnote to the balance sheet states that shares in subsidiary companies have been valued at the amount by which the assets exceed the liabilities, including outstanding losses and reserves for unexpired risks.

Eagle Star and British Dominions.—The total assets of this well-known company amount to £22,341,000, but of this total £17,288,000 is accounted for by the life funds, including the capital redemption fund. Only one life revenue account is published, a fact which obscures the real position, which is that the fund supporting the current series of policies was started but ten years ago and amounts only to about £4½ million. The balance consists of the funds of four acquired businesses, the Star, the Sceptre, the English and Scottish, and the Eagle, all of them now conducted as closed funds. The shareholders' proportion of quinquennial profits earned in these various funds is substantial, and the position is so arranged that a contribution from one or other of them falls into profit and loss account each year and is usually by far the most important item on the credit side of the account. In 1928, £148,393 was produced in this way. In 1929, £21,487 has accrued, while the unusual course has been adopted of taking credit for a further £50,000 on account in respect of the quinquennial valuation of the current series, an event not due to take place until next year. As will be seen from the table shown later, the absence of these contributions would have resulted in a net trading loss in each of the last two years instead of a profit. As regards the progress of the current series, no information is vouchsafed in the report or in the accounts beyond a statement as to the new business. From this it appears that new life business registered a big advance from £1,801,946 in 1928 to £2,613,125. In the capital redemption fund there has been a correspondingly large jump in new business, mainly in the form of single premiums, probably of the surtax-saving variety. Turning now to the fire and general business of the company, it is satisfactory to find a curtailment in marine premium income and a further moderate expansion in all other departments. The marine account has required a further strengthening to the moderate extent of £25,000, and the fund has been increased from 79 per cent. to 87 per cent. of the premiums. The other depart-

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ments have all yielded a lower rate of profit, as will be seen from the table set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	83,028	8·5	36,170	3·7
Accident	41,640	28·3	36,470	23·4
Employers' liability	2,993	1·6	742	0·4
General	44,981	4·0	40,341	3·3
Marine	−100,000	−12·6	−25,000	−3·9
Life, annuity and sinking fund	148,393		71,487	
Profits from investments	59,001		...	
	280,036		160,210	
Less written off cost of acquired businesses	120,000		...	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	68,221		98,392	
Total net trading surplus	91,815		61,818	

The usual dividend of 20 per cent. has again been declared, and the payment is now practically covered entirely by interest earnings.

General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation.—Established in Perth forty-five years ago, this corporation has built up in this comparatively short period a fire and accident premium income of £7½ million, and has come to occupy an important position among the large composite offices, most of which date back to a much earlier period. This is a proud achievement; and it is due very largely to the energy and skill of one man, Mr Norie-Miller, who is the present deputy-chairman and general manager, and has been in control since the commencement. The 1929 report shows that the expansion of premium income, which has been a feature of the accounts of recent years, continues at a rapid rate. In 1929, fire premiums amounted to £657,000 and accident premiums to £6,964,000, compared with £642,000 and £6,695,000 respectively in the preceding year. In addition, there is a marine account, with premiums of £95,000, and in thus being content with a modest marine account the corporation has saved itself much anxiety and financial loss. In this rapid accretion of new premiums the corporation has a vulnerable point, for the reserve position for a company of its size is comparatively weak. Five years ago, in 1925, the total premiums amounted to £6,239,000, in respect of which departmental reserves, together with general reserve and profit and loss account balance, amounted to £2,420,000, equivalent to about 40 per cent. At the end of 1929 the corresponding reserves had grown to £3,845,000, equal to 50 per cent. of the 1929 premiums of £7,715,000. The situation is improving, though a great deal remains to be done before the ideal position (and it is one which some of the largest offices have now exceeded) of a 100 per cent. reserve is reached. Turning now to the underwriting results, the details of the past two years are as follows:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	108,960	17·0	79,886	12·2
Accident	231,728	3·4	246,207	3·5
Marine	−1,356	−1·7	−37,445	−39·6
	339,332		288,648	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	169,733		207,417	
Total net trading surplus	169,599		81,231	

The fire account, which consists largely of home business, has consistently produced a handsome surplus, and the 1929 profit, though on a lower level, is very satisfactory. In the accident account the surplus has been based on the usual 40 per cent. unexpired risk reserve, though the corporation itself maintains only a 35 per cent. reserve on long-term contracts. The premiums in this account are shown separately for long-term and for short-term contracts, and in respect of the latter no unexpired risk reserve is maintained. The accounts show for the first time two balance sheets, one for the General Accident, and the other a consolidated balance sheet including subsidiaries, and from these it is clear that the life business of the General Life, purchased in 1925, accounts for the greater part of the difference between the totals. New life business in 1929 totalled £1,986,000, compared with £1,758,000 in 1928, and the fund slightly exceeds £3¼ million. But interest earnings are comparatively low at £4 7s. per cent. net, while expenses are high and absorb 19 per cent. of the premiums.

Legal and General Assurance Society.—The Legal and General, under the present energetic management, pursues a very distinctive policy of its own. Since the year 1919 the whole of its new life business has been issued on a "non-profits" basis, and at about the same time a fire and accident department was set up. In spite of this handicap the life business has expanded very rapidly, and the volume of new sums assured now transacted is larger in relation to the funds than is the case in many other life offices. Details of the constitution of the new business during the last three years are now available and are as follows:—

	1927. Sums Assured.	1927. Amounts per annum.	1928. Sums Assured.	1928. Amounts per annum.	1929. Sums Assured.	1929. Amounts per annum.
Life Assurances.	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ordinary business	3,190,803		3,387,118		3,366,004	
Decreasing term and group insurances	3,458,361		4,259,783		4,587,860	
	6,649,164		7,646,901		7,953,864	
Deferred annuities		43,865		90,581		109,746
Sinking fund assurances	565,262		997,622		740,375	

The ordinary business by itself is on a large scale, but more than as much again is due to the development of decreasing term assurances and to group insurances. The former is the fruit of an arrangement with building societies whereby purchasers of small house property protect their families from the consequence of their premature death before the final redemption of the loan taken up to assist the purchase. Group insurance, in which the company has specialised, has more recently been associated with group pensions on a plan extensively adopted in America, and a large proportion of the deferred annuities referred to in the table is due to group pension schemes. Under such a scheme, in return for a fixed, joint contribution from employer and employee—subject to periodical review by the insurance company—a firm may arrange for pensions at, say, 65, of £1 per annum for each year of service after commencement of the scheme, together with a further pension of, say, 10s. per annum for each year of back service prior to the scheme. If, as is often the case, a separate group insurance contract is set up at the same time the benefits are all-embracing and include both life insurance, generally for one year's wages, and provision for old age pension. The company's total assets now amount to almost £22 million. Of this amount nearly £13 million is invested in loans and mortgages, a class of investment to which its traditionally legal associations have naturally inclined it, and a further £3 million has been laid out in the purchase of reversionary interests. The rate of interest earned on the funds worked out last year at £4 13s. 5d. per cent. net, compared with £4 11s. 6d. per cent. net in 1928. Progress in the fire and general department, though less rapid than in the life department, has been sound, and the underwriting profits have been almost exclusively applied in building up strong underwriting funds. Last year's premium income totalled £330,000, in respect of which a net surplus of £7,270 was earned, compared with £20,426 on premiums of £269,000 in 1928. Interest earnings in this department alone contributed £48,000 towards the dividend of 37½ per cent., free of tax, costing £75,000. At the present price of £15½ for the £5 shares with £1 paid up the yield is only 3⅛ per cent. gross, but the prospects are such that the shares constitute an attractive investment.

Law Union and Rock Insurance Company, Ltd.—This company is an important subsidiary of the London and Lancashire, and the figures relating to the fire and accident business are incorporated in the accounts of the parent company. Although the fire and accident premium income is slowly expanding and now amounts to close upon £800,000, the Law Union and Rock is principally a life company, and is the medium for the transaction of life business in the group, since the London and Lancashire does not itself number life business among its activities. The life fund amounts to nearly £11 million, including the funds of two closed series, the "Rock" and the "Crown," which together account for about £2½ million of the total. The quinquennial valuation of all three funds was due to be made at the end of last year, and the results of that appertaining to the current series are as follows:—

	1920–1924. £	1925–1929. £
Trading surplus earned during quinquennium	596,206	999,748
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	355,696	70,351
	951,902	1,070,099
Allocations:		
To Bonuses to policyholders	785,861	857,862
„ Shareholders	95,690	103,138
„ Carried forward to next quinquennium	70,351	109,099
	951,902	1,070,099

The very large increase in the surplus earned during the quinquennium just ended is a measure of the rapid expansion in the business. The shareholders' proportion of the surplus is based not, as is commonly the case, on the amount of surplus, but on a percentage of the premiums, and in this lies an obvious incentive towards quantitative expansion. The distribution to policyholders has been allocated in the form of a compound reversionary bonus, and the rate of bonus has been maintained at 45s. per cent. The increased surplus has enabled this distribution to be made with a margin, whereas the previous distribution was only possible after a substantial draft on the carry-forward. During 1929 the new business transacted was again on a high level, the amount being £2,161,004, compared with £1,977,388 in 1928. The net rate of interest earned in 1928 was £4 15s. 6d. per cent., and the expenses worked out at 14.8 per cent. of the premiums. The underwriting profits in both the fire and accident departments continue to be extremely satisfactory, and the combined results in all departments are as set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	89,337	16·3	72,045	13·0
Accident	15,643	6·3	20,359	8·6
Capital redemption	1,454		1,153	
Life (one-fifth of quinquennium) current series	...		21,820	
"Rock" and "Crown" funds	...		10,364	
	106,434		125,741	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	36,449		30,720	
Total net trading surplus	69,985		95,021	

The dividend has been raised from 12s. to 14s. per share, and the payment requires a sum of £109,547, to meet which interest earnings of £73,678 are available.

Scottish Union and National Insurance Company.—The "S.U. and N." is the largest Scottish composite company transacting all classes of insurance business, and has the great advantage of a very small nominal capital of only £300,000. On this foundation a very large business has been built. Total premiums, excluding life, amount to £1,924,000, while the life department has a fund of £10,587,000. The business has been skilfully conducted with a consistent record of success, and the reserve position is very strong. Departmental reserves, general reserve and profit and loss account amount in the aggregate to almost 150 per cent. of the premiums. The 1929 results, though less favourable than those of 1928, are none the less very creditable to the company. The details are as follows:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	168,040	12·8	117,792	8·9
Accident	1,166	4·8	952	3·7
Employers' liability	8,432	15·8	4,172	7·7
Miscellaneous	10,567	7·1	10,616	6·4
Marine	15,000	4·1	15,000	4·3
	203,205		148,532	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	80,488		97,812	
Total net trading surplus	122,177		50,720	

Interest earnings have risen from £152,594 to £155,667, but the cost of the dividend at the same rate as before, namely, 65 per cent., has fallen from £156,000 to £151,125 by reason of tax having been deducted at 4s. 6d. instead of at 4s. There is thus a small margin between interest earnings and cost of dividend, and, if account be taken of the total net trading surplus, the total earnings available work out at 89 per cent. The present price of the shares is £16½. At this price the yield is 4 per cent. on dividend and 5⅛ per cent. on earnings. In the life department new policies were issued last year for sums assured of £2,085,022, compared with £2,025,887 in 1928.

Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society.—The financial year of this society ends on March 1st, and for the year just concluded the society reports a record new life business, amounting to £1,530,047. This sum compares with £1,477,292 in the preceding financial year. The interest earnings show practically no change on those of the preceding year, and the net rate of interest works out at £4 13s. 5d. per cent. The expense ratio, which in this society has for many years been on a moderate level, has been further reduced, and worked out last year at the rate of 11.5 per cent. A capital redemption fund makes its appearance in the accounts for the first time, and has opened with a premium income of £578. The society celebrates its centenary during the current year, but the next quinquennial valuation is not due to be made until 1933, and the chairman gave no hint in his speech at the annual meeting of any special distribution to mark the event. In the course of his speech the chairman referred with regret to a little noticed provision in the Budget, whereby the relief of income tax on life assurance premiums will be continued at the same rate as before, namely, 2s. in the £, whereas if the principle hitherto adopted had been allowed to remain the relief would have automatically risen with the increase in the standard rate, and would have been calculated at 2s. 3d. in the £. He claimed that this provision will do something to discourage the cause of thrift by means of life assurance and that no class is more deserving of consideration than the clientele of life assurance companies, who, after all, provide the bulk of direct taxation.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation.—For the third year in succession the dividend of this, the largest accident company in the world, has been increased, and last year's payment works out at 290 per cent. of the nominal capital. In addition to the accident business there is a fire account which for some years has yielded a premium income of about £350,000. Last year's total was somewhat increased and amounted to £362,000. Contrary to the general experience, however, the underwriting profit was higher and worked out at the excellent figure of 10 per cent. of the premiums. Accident premiums last year amounted to £5,823,000. For the last three years the premiums have been declining, the decrease compared with the 1926 income amounting to as much as £919,000. The sacrifice, though difficult, has been deliberate and has been brought about largely by the elimination of unprofitable business in the United States, where competition has been exceedingly keen and

is increasing rapidly from the native companies. It has been estimated that as much as £10 million was invested in the formation of new casualty companies in U.S.A. during 1928. Unfortunately, the accident revenue account is extremely uninformative—much more so than is customary or needful for the premier company in this field of insurance. The 1929 account states that a sum of £135,000 was transferred to profit and loss account, but in a separate typewritten document a profit of £145,458 is claimed to have been made on a basis unstated. But, after allowing for reserves on the usual basis of 40 per cent. of the premiums, the profit works out at £63,646, a figure which compares with £335,170 in 1928 on the same basis.

State Assurance Company, Ltd.—The results of the State should be studied in conjunction with those of the Royal Exchange, for although the State pursues a separate existence, it has been controlled since 1924 by the latter company. The State in turn controls the British Equitable, which, in addition to fire and general business, conducts on its own account a small life department. Thus we have the spectacle of two subsidiary companies, with separate entities and all the apparatus of boards of directors and established organisations, each transacting business of a similar character in apparent competition with the parent company. This is the curious result of what is presumably intended to be an amalgamation of interests, and it is hard to see what benefit can be extracted from this anomalous situation. The operations of the British Equitable are incorporated in the accounts of the State, and the details of the last two years' results are as follows:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	28,978	4·1	−11,026	− 1·6
Accident	13,347	7·7	13,500	7·3
Marine	5,827	13·0	5,499	11·6
Life and sinking fund	6,324		...	
	54,476		7,973	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	27,673		27,990	
Total net trading surplus	26,803		−20,017	

Thus in the fire account the State has shared the general experience of 1929, though the results of the accident account are favourable. The item in the 1928 figures for the life department represents the shareholders' proportion of the surplus disclosed in the quinquennial valuation. The accounts of the British Equitable are issued separately, and from these it appears that a profit was realised both in the fire and in the accident departments. New life policies for £516,325 were issued, as compared with £466,164 in 1928, and the life fund amounts to £1,658,000.

Caledonian Insurance Company.—In every department excepting marine the Caledonian has experienced the unfavourable effects of conditions in 1929. The detailed results of 1929 and of 1928 are compared below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Fire	44,505	5·1	−21,337	−2·4
Accident	1,227	21·6	839	13·3
Employers' liability	8,591	20·7	178	·4
General	37,143	11·7	9,122	2·6
Marine	7,392	6·6	12,616	10·8
	98,858		1,418	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	24,273		−28,465	
Total net surplus	74,585		−27,047	

The dividend has been maintained at 87½ per cent., but, owing to last year's bonus issue of shares, which participated for a portion of the year, the cost has risen from £90,300 to £99,400, though interest earnings are sufficient to meet all but £10,000 of this payment. This year's dividend at the same rate, to which the new shares will be fully entitled, will cost £105,000. A sum of £338,000 has been added to reserves from the proceeds of the premiums arising from the above-mentioned new issue. Of this, £138,000 has been applied to strengthen still further the already strong departmental underwriting funds and the remainder, £200,000, has been added to the general reserve fund. The reserve position is now exceedingly strong in relation to the premiums. The total premium income last year was £1,406,972. Including the general reserve of £500,000, and the profit and loss balance of £117,796, the reserves total altogether £2,009,000, which is equivalent to as much as 143 per cent. of the premiums. The life department continues to make steady progress. The 1929 new business of £1,381,265 represented a small advance on that for 1928, and the fund now amounts to £6,684,000. Valuations and distributions of surplus are now made triennially, and the next valuation is due to be made at the end of 1930.

London and Scottish Assurance Corporation.—The London and Scottish controls the Scottish Metropolitan and is in turn controlled by the Northern. The life business of the Scottish Metropolitan is run as a closed fund, which now amounts to £700,000, but the London and Scottish itself has a life fund of just over £4 million and transacts a substantial new business. Last year's total amounted to £778,634, compared with £888,910 in 1928, the decline being wholly attributable to a falling off in the Colonial business, which is responsible for 40 per cent. of the total. The Colonial business is identified largely with Canada, in which country over a quarter of the total life fund is deposited for the security of Canadian policyholders under local laws. As regards the other departments the detailed results of the past two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Fire	27,052	8·1	4,161	1·2
Accident, employers' liability and general	4,280	1·3	22,806	6·7
Marine	−4,938	−3·0	−5,365	−4·0
	26,394		21,602	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	19,528		23,434	
Total net surplus	6,866		−1,832	

The fire result is rather poor, but the results of the accident account are very satisfactory and are much the best since 1926. The marine account, which some years ago was in an extremely unsatisfactory state, has been drastically curtailed and considerably strengthened. At the end of 1926 the fund was equal to only 52 per cent. of the then premium income of £436,000. In 1928 the premium income was reduced to £134,000, but the fund now stands at 125 per cent. of the current premium income.

Sea Insurance Company, Ltd.—The Sea is one of the few remaining independent concerns among the old-established marine companies. In its own sphere the company has been consistently successful even in these difficult times. But, as in the case of other companies in a similar position, a fire and accident department was set up after the war, and, although the premium income from this source now exceeds £200,000, the underwriting results so far have been very poor. Allowance must, of course, be made for the inevitable initial expense attending the new enterprise, but nevertheless the fact remains that in respect of premiums of £888,000 during the last five years there was an aggregate underwriting loss of £55,000. The 1929 results in this department show a loss both on fire and on accident account, though in each case on a lower scale than in 1928. In the marine department the 1928 underwriting account has been closed with a substantial profit of £32,481, and the premium income in the new 1929 account has been increased to £614,560 from £541,721. The first year's experience has again been favourable and the fund remaining is equal to 59.5 per cent. of the premiums, compared with 59.8 per cent. a year ago. The details of the last two years' results are as follows:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
Fire	5,259	2·9	−3,181	−1·8
Accident and General	−12,377	−19·8	−2,090	−3·3
Marine	32,146	6·6	32,481	6·0
	25,028		27,210	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	1,332		1,439	
Total net surplus	23,696		25,771	

The dividend has been maintained at 16¼ per cent. and is covered by interest earnings with a small margin.

Fire Losses.—Fire wastage in the United Kingdom during the month of January was on a very high level, but subsequent improvement took place in the months of February and March to such an extent that the aggregate figures for the first quarter of this year are comfortably lower than those for the corresponding quarter of 1929, though still above the 1928 figues. The details, as compiled and published by *The Times*, are shown below:—

	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
January	710,000	1,086,000	1,387,000
February	557,000	733,000	632,000
March	448,000	1,677,000	796,000
Totals for three months	1,715,000	3,496,000	2,815,000

In the United States, on the other hand, the statistics compiled by the *Journal of Commerce*, New York, indicate that the losses during the first quarter of this year exceeded those of the same period of 1929. Details of the figures for the three months in each year are shown below:—

	1929. $	1930. $
January	44,713,825	42,344,000
February	41,520,290	43,206,940
March	41,277,814	42,964,392
Totals for three months	127,511,929	128,515,332

The improvement in January was more than offset by heavier losses in February and March.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Company Reports — Industrial Outlook — Prices — Money — Stock Exchange.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, April 22.

WITH the second quarter nearly a third gone, and with current reports exposing the weakness of the first three months from the standpoint of corporation earnings, there is little expectation of pronounced trade improvement before autumn. At the same time, the downward trend seems to have run its course in most industries, and fewer observers hold the view that business "will grow worse before it improves." Business men generally agree with Mr Myron C. Taylor, chairman of the finance committee of the United States Steel Corporation, who, at the corporation's annual meeting this week, summed up the situation as follows:—

"The present business foundation is sound and we can look into the future with a feeling of assurance, confidence and safety. There is no great inventory at the present time which warrants downward revisions. Certain commodity values have been readjusted since last fall, particularly those designated as crop commodities. We could hardly continue the great activities of last year. There must be a readjustment in keeping with the economic rules which man cannot defy. That readjustment in a general way has been accomplished."

More than fifty large industrial and public utility corporations have now published earning statements for the first three months. Here and there better results were secured than in the same period of last year, but, in the aggregate, there was a decline of nearly 18 per cent. in profits. This ratio is probably typical of all such corporations in the three months. March and three-months' reports for the railroads are now being published, and the losses are fairly large, amounting to approximately 25 per cent. The General Motors Corporation earned only 98 cents a share in the first quarter, as against $1.37 a share last year, and production was but little more than a third of that of the same period last year.

The motor industry as a whole is doing better, but the gain is seasonal. Official production figures for March place output of cars and trucks at 401,378, compared with 585,455 last year. However, production was the largest for any month since last September. Some further improvement was made in April, but it is being gained mostly by low-priced cars, and no marked recovery is now expected before the autumn. The steel industry holds at just under 80 per cent. of capacity, and is likely to continue at that rate for a time. Copper buying from abroad has been quite substantial since the reduction in the price of the metal to 14 cents a pound, but domestic manufacturers are slow in placing orders. While a further price decline is not expected at this time, copper output and earnings are poor, and some dividend reductions are likely at the next meetings. Railroad car loadings have gone up moderately, but are still lower than for this season in 1924. A more cheerful outlook is at hand for the building industry. March permits being up 50 per cent.

Commodity prices are still receding. The Bureau of Labour index for March registers a loss of 1¾ per cent., bringing the figure 7 per cent. below last July, when prices were at the highest for last year. Prices are now the lowest since 1916. Group changes follow (1926 = 100):—

	March, 1929.	Feb. 1930.	March, 1930.
ALL COMMODITIES	97·5	92·1	90·8
Farm products	107·1	98·0	94·7
Foods	98·1	95·5	93·9
Hides and leather products	108·3	103·9	103·2
Textile products	96·1	88·3	86·5
Fuel and lighting materials	80·6	78·8	77·4
Metals and metal products	106·4	100·9	100·6
Building materials	98·8	95·7	95·4
Chemicals and drugs	95·6	92·3	91·2
Housefurnishing goods	96·5	97·0	96·5
Miscellaneous	80·0	78·5	78·2
Raw materials	98·9	91·8	89·3
Semi-manufactured articles	99·1	92·1	90·6
Finished products	96·5	92·6	2·0
Non-agricultural commodities	94·9	90·6	89·8

Money markets are turning easier, and the bond market, which has been going through a period of digestion, is finding a fresh appetite, which investment bankers are quite ready to satisfy. New financing, interrupted last week by the holidays, is fairly heavy this week, and some large issues are in the offing. It is expected that the week's volume will be around $250 million, including the Brazilian coffee devalorisation loan. Negotiations are now under way for a Japanese loan, which, it is reported, will amount to about $100 million, the proceeds to provide for the maturity of the sterling loan on January 1, 1931. The feature of the past week's financing was the $235 million common stock offer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Offered to shareholders at par in the ratio of one new share for each six shares held, the issue involves "rights" worth more than $20 each at current prices.

Call money has been plentiful at 3 per cent. in the open market, but the Stock Exchange rate has not gone below 3½ per cent. Bill rates to-day fell one-eighth of 1 per cent., but the Federal Reserve Bank has not changed its buying rate. Last week's statement showed a heavy addition to Reserve Bank holdings of bills, but this week it is believed that the banks are not doing more than replacing maturities, which amount to about $40 million. Any doubts that the Reserve authorities were purposely making money easier is removed by a reading of the March bulletin of the Washington Board, which says:—"Easter conditions in the money markets of the United States in recent months have been caused in part by Federal Reserve policy, as expressed in rate reductions and in open

market purchases of securities, and in part by a decrease in the demand for funds since the October-November break in the stock market." Gold continues to flow in. The Japanese movement is drying up, but gold received this week and on the way from South America totals approximately $40 million.

Credit demands of the share market are rising, and, with last week's gain of $131 million in brokers' loans, that item is now up over $700 million on the year, or about 20 per cent. That this has represented little if any shifting of borrowings directly from the banks is indicated by the fact that reporting member banks' loans on securities are down only $76 million, or less than 1 per cent. In the same period industrial share prices have risen about 18 per cent. Thus the "technical" position of the market has not weakened appreciably since the beginning of the year, but it is now beginning to do so. In the past three weeks brokers' loans have risen $300 million, against a gain of only about three points in the stock market "averages." This halt to the long advance has reflected the current doubts that the market has outdistanced trade conditions too far.

FRANCE.

Tax Reduction — Bourse — National Insurance Act — Revenue.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, April 30.

THE Chambers succeeded, under pressure of working until close on midnight on Easter Eve, in pushing through both the National Insurance Bill and the measure for further reducing taxation, after which both Houses immediately adjourned until June 3rd, when they will resume their sittings until the national Fourteenth of July festival.

The Bill for taxation reduction, which was promulgated on Monday, affords relief estimated at about £15,000,000, of which the larger part, amounting to 1,100,000,000 francs, directly affects imposts on securities and on Bourse operations. The taxes on the latter have been brought down from 1 franc per mille to 50c. (both buyer and seller) for account transactions, and the *ad valorem* impost on "carrying over" operations from 50c. per mille to 10c., while the stamp duty on scrip has been reduced by 50 per cent. The income tax levied on coupons attaching to French issues is reduced from 18 per cent. of the dividend to 16 per cent., and that in respect of foreign issue coupons from 25 per cent. to 18 per cent. There was a hope that the irritating and onerous annual *taxe de transmission* would have been reduced to vanishing point, or near it, but the Government found itself unable to concede more than a lowering from 0.40 per cent. to 0.25 per cent.—this being the second reduction within a short time. There was a strong belief during the week-end that the passing of the Government's taxation relief proposals into law would at once give a substantial stimulus to the Bourse, but this proved to be entirely unfounded.

The past three sessions of the Bourse have been characterised by an even greater disinclination than before on the part of the ordinary investor to come into the market, and even the professional speculator has displayed marked signs of discouragement. Evidence of the unsatisfactory tendency of the market of late is afforded by the fact that, during March, the revenue from Bourse operations amounted to only 25,074,000 francs, or less than half the yield in March, 1929, when 56,689,000 francs were recovered from this source. It seems more than possible that the systematic inflation of capital values, which has been a marked characteristic of this market since the passing of the stabilisation law, is, to a large extent, responsible for this decline in business. Holders of long standing, who lost four-fifths of their capital by stabilisation, have now to a great extent recovered that loss, and in some cases more than recovered it. Bank of France 1,000-franc shares, for instance, which stood around 5,000 francs before the war, are now usually around 25,000 francs. The would-be investor, however, now finds the yield from most of the leading counters uninteresting at present prices, and it is not surprising that he is preferring to wait for the various pending new issues that promise a better return. Also, the huge mass of new bond issues through the banks has diverted a vast amount of unemployed capital that would otherwise have gone through the Bourse.

The National Insurance Law, although adopted by the Chambers before Easter, has not yet been promulgated, by publication of the text in the *Journal Officiel*, but this is reported to be imminent. The scheme adopted is remarkable in many ways, and well worthy of detailed examination. The original Bill, it will be recalled, was hastily pushed through Parliament with a view to the 1928 general elections, and was admittedly as faulty and unworkable as any Bill could be. M. Poincaré himself, who was then in command, stated flatly, before the measure was adopted, that revision of many parts of the scheme was inevitable; and this revision M. Loucheur, Minister of Labour in M. Tardieu's previous Cabinet, undertook. M. Loucheur's plans were on such a scale, however, and would have involved such unexpectedly large expenditure in administration that public opinion rose in arms against his proposals. The downfall of M. Tardieu and the elimination of his Minister of Labour opened the road for a second radical revision of the whole scheme; and this has now been carried out in a praiseworthy manner.

In the first place the application and administration of the law has been very largely placed in the hands of the friendly societies. These number some 29,000 throughout the country, with a total membership of over 6,000,000, and vast accumulated funds. The friendly society method of saving has always strongly appealed to the French mentality, and the organisations have invariably been soundly and very economically managed. Under the new law, the national scheme is to be administered through a series of territorial organisations (probably more or less coterminous with the various departments), each district embracing from 100,000 to 200,000 insured persons, and basing itself on the existing local friendly societies as a foundation. The *rôle* of the State has been kept down to a minimum of control, operated through a national council composed of Government officials, representatives of labour and employers' associations, and various other interested bodies. The cost of the scheme to the national Budget this year has been definitely limited to 223,000,000 francs, which may prove sufficient, as the law does not come into operation until July 1, and will involve only small expenditure for some years to come, except perhaps possibly in regard to provision for sickness.

The question of the extent to which the scheme will affect costs of production and, consequently, the cost of living, has been and is the cause of a very keen controversy. The plan is, as yet, necessarily in embryo, and even an approximate estimate of its future cost is at present impossible. The only factor on which to base any kind of calculation appears to be the fact that the combined contribution of employers and employed (who pay half each) is alleged to be equivalent theoretically to 8 per cent. of the wages total, but in reality only to 6½ per cent. The scheme is compulsory on all wage-earners receiving less than £2 5s. a week (except in large towns, where the limit is £2 15s.). It will apply to all persons of this category between the ages of 16 and 60, and men and women are to benefit and contribute on equal terms. The risks covered are those of sickness, premature permanent disablement, maternity and death, and there is provision for old age pensions at 60.

One single contribution (ranging from 6d. a week to 2s., according to the wage scale) covers the whole of these risks for each insured person (these amounts being, of course, doubled by the addition of the employer's half of the total contribution. Maternity benefits are covered by the husband's contribution, as are also pensions provided (till the age of 16) for dependent children, on the father's death. Medical benefits (which are also extended to the insured man's wife and children) are subject to the payment by the insured person of from 15 to 20 per cent. of the doctor's fee, and of the cost of medicines, etc.

In the case of agricultural wage-earners the obligatory principle is limited to old age pensions and sickness benefits. In regard to this category of workers the insured person's contribution for old age pension benefit has been fixed at 2 per cent. of the wages received, and for sickness insurance to 5 francs per month, the employer paying similar amounts. Agricultural workers are free to insure against the other three risks on equally moderate contribution terms. Full old age pension benefits come into operation only after the payment of 30 years' regular contributions, the insured man being entitled at sixty to a pension equivalent to at least 40 per cent. of his average wages. Insured people now approaching the age limit are qualified for proportional old age pensions after having paid the normal contributions (6d. to 2s. a week, according to wage scale) for five or more years.

The March revenue returns show a total yield from all "normal and permanent sources" of 2,974,241,000 francs, against 2,982,000,000 francs in March last year and 2,687,000,000 francs in March, 1928. Indirect taxation and monopolies produced 9,601,000 francs less than in March, 1929. This is eminently satisfactory, since direct relief of taxation totalling 2,765,000,000 francs was accorded between March 30th and December 31st last year. Customs showed an increase of over 53 millions in March and yield from motor spirit and petroleum was 15¼ millions higher. On the other hand, sugar yielded 49,638,000 francs less than a year ago, largely owing to the effect at this season of the lowering of the sugar tax. The total recoveries in the form of turnover tax, too, were 11,000,000 francs (1½ per cent.) down, which would indicate a slight slowing down in general buying activity.

GERMANY.

Reparations Loan — Grain Import Duties — Artificial Silk Agreement — Bourse.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, April 29.

AT the session at which the Bank for International Settlements was organised Germany protested against the election of a Frenchman as director-general. This protest was not directed against M. Pierre Quesnay personally, but was only an expression of the German standpoint that the parity between France, as main creditor, and Germany, as sole debtor, under the obligations to be discharged with the aid of this bank, should be maintained in all circumstances. Apart from this, it is at the moment not at all unsatisfactory from the German standpoint that France, by securing for herself the most influential position in the bank, has assumed responsibility for the success of its transactions. As a matter of fact, that success depends largely on French policy. France is one of the few countries that have to-day a surplus of capital. But the French capital market has heretofore been available only in small degree for meeting the capital requirements of other countries. Only if this French policy of locking up capital be brought to an end will reparation loans have a chance of complete and speedy success.

Unfortunately, the reports concerning the apportionment of the subscriptions for the 300 million dollar loan to be offered within the next few months scarcely indicate that France will assume a proportion corresponding to her abundance of capital. In this connection it is reported that Germany is to be asked to take over 25 millions. This figure is too high, for even though the German capital market has recently begun to show the first signs of a recovery, it is not able to carry through a loan transaction of this extent on the terms contemplated. The provincial loans that were placed on the market in recent weeks in sums of from five to ten million marks brought the subscriber 8½ per cent. interest. The reparation loan, according to the latest reports, is to yield somewhat over 6 per cent. This, it is true, is decidedly too high when future developments are taken into consideration, for conditions in Germany are ripe for a sharp reduction of interest rates, which is still deferred only through lack of confidence; and it is undesirable that such a relieving of the situation, important for the German economy as well as for the smooth fulfilment of the reparation obligations, should be limited in advance by fixing such a rate of interest for the reparation loan, which is likely to set the standard for some time to come. But for the moment a yield of 6 per cent. is too low to guarantee any success of subscriptions in Germany.

The mobilising of the reparation payments by means of international loans was a French, not a German, demand. Now, however, Germany desires that the 300 million dollar loan be placed on the market and subscribed as soon as possible. Unless all the indications are deceptive, Germany will soon have reached the trough of her economic depression. This means that she will enter upon an economic period in which her hunger for capital will become even greater than it is now. But at present all sources of capital are blocked because the banks of issue are everywhere waiting for the great international loan. And in addition it is naturally very important for Germany that she shall receive as soon as possible the 100 million dollars that are to come to the German Railway Company and the Post Office Department from the proceeds of the loan.

The Government has already made use of the authorisation to fix the import duties on grain without reference to the Reichstag. The duties on wheat and brewers' barley have both been raised from 120 to 150 marks per ton. This shows plainly how hard the Government is trying to meet the wishes of the farmers in spite of all scruples, for what has been done here is utterly irreconcilable with the intention of the law. Together with the authorisation to fix duties the Reichstag directed the Government to attain an average yearly price of 260 marks a ton for wheat. But the price of wheat in Berlin was about 270 marks before the duties were increased. It is not known, it is true, how the Government calculate the yearly average, but that they did not wait at least a few months to observe the development of prices was not exactly fair treatment of the consumers, who were in any event expected to make such heavy sacrifices for the benefit of the agriculturists. That the Government is more dependent than ever on satisfying the farmers is indicated by the developments in the German National Party. There Herr Hugenberg is just now fighting a decisive battle against Count Westarp, who, with the majority of the German National deputies in the Reichstag, desires to support Herr Schiele, the Minister of Agriculture, and thus also the Bruening Cabinet. Count Westarp's chances of success depend entirely on showing the farmers how much they have to gain by keeping the present Government in office.

The labour market, which is ordinarily greatly relieved in the spring by the renewal of building operations and by the need for farm labourers, is this spring recovering only very slowly. In many places building activities cannot properly get under way. It is prescribed by law that half of the sums received from taxes on house rentals must be employed for credits at low interest rates for building dwelling-houses. But these sums are inadequate unless increased by credits from the municipal savings banks and by contributions from the municipalities themselves, a course that has been regularly followed in the last few

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years. Now, however, the municipalities have been compelled by their financial difficulties to stop making such loans and to get as much money as possible from the savings banks for their own purposes. In addition to this, the industrial situation has grown markedly worse in the last few weeks. The statistics of the trade unions show that from February to March the employment figure for their members dropped from 79.5 to 79, whereas in the same period last year it rose from 84.3 to 85.2.

A few weeks ago the German artificial silk industry made a novel agreement with the most important associations of silk manufacturers in Germany—manufacturers of woven, knitted and crocheted wares—which has now been made public. With a consumption of, roundly, 23 million kilograms in 1929, 9½ million kilograms of artificial silk were imported into Germany, and a slightly higher quantity was exported. The factories now pledge themselves to purchase 90 per cent. of their requirements of artificial silk yarn from German makers. They agree not to oppose the efforts of the artificial silk industry to secure an increase of the at present very low import duty, which is 60 pfennigs per kilogram, or about 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, but any change of duty will be very difficult to attain, since the duty is included in the German-Italian commercial treaty. In return for these concessions, the German industry guarantees to furnish its products for further manufacture at a price not exceeding that paid by the most important foreign competitors. As a result of agreements between Courtaulds and Glanzstoff, no artificial silk has been imported into Germany from England in recent years; the countries of origin were Italy, Holland and Belgium. The Dutch production is to be protected by financial measures in the Aku concern, which controls the Glanzstoff factories in Germany and the Enka in Holland; the new agreement is mainly directed against imports from Italy. That the export agreements between the Great Italian factories, Snia and Chation, have thus far not gone into effect is doubtless a result of the new German artificial silk pact.

Interest is again concentrating on the German stock markets on interest-bearing securities. The public is keeping away from the stock markets, but is steadily reinvesting long-term bank deposits in loans. As a result of the international decline of interest rates the banks are paying far lower rates than last year, but municipal and industrial loans and mortgage bonds can still be had that pay somewhat more than 8 per cent. Only this week did the best 8 per cent. mortgage bonds reach par, but some 8 per cent. municipal loans are still quoted at around 90, and first-class 7 per cent. securities at 86 to 92. However, the liquidity in the short-term money market continues to increase. German economy is at the moment very well provided with short-term money and also with to attain, since the duty is included in the German-short-term foreign credits, but supplies of long-term money still fall far short of requirements.

ROUMANIA.

Politics — Agriculture — Commercial Treaty with Germany — Finance — Petroleum Industry.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, April 22.

IT is extremely difficult to arrive at an exact appreciation of the present internal situation of Roumania. The fact that, at a public meeting, three prominent generals made a protest regarding the conditions in Bessarabia and thereby caused the resignation of the Minister of the Army, renders future developments obscure, as it throws a hitherto unknown quantity, the opinion of the army, into the political balance. Political strife has become exceedingly venomous lately on account of the tactics of the Liberal Party, which is not too scrupulous in the employment of means to embarrass the Government. Exaggerated reports as to Communist activities in Bessarabia, dismissals from the public services and the railways, claims of disabled ex-service men, unemployment caused by the economic crisis, etc., are indiscriminately used to forward this campaign to such an extent that public opinion is becoming uneasy, and even the credit of the country abroad is affected. Matters are not improved by the openly avowed intention of the Opposition to annul many of the measures taken by the present Government for the economic organisation of the country. It is evident that these activities cannot encourage foreign capital to enter Roumania. As, however, it is universally agreed that foreign capital is necessary for further economic development, it is time for the principal parties to come to an agreement as to the economic necessities of the moment and the means to meet them. The present state only breeds distrust where confidence is sorely needed. So far, Monsieur Maniu appears to be still firmly established, but a repetition of the attack on the part of the Opposition is foreshadowed for the near future.

Business circles are watching with great interest the prices of cereals. The spring export campaign has begun, and, happily, prices have risen considerably during the last month. This timely improvement has entirely changed the outlook of agriculture for the moment. Although the highest prices have not been maintained, the present level is said to insure the farmer against loss. In addition, beneficial rains have fallen lately in the whole country, and the state of the fields is considered very promising.

The period for the conclusion of commercial treaties has once more been extended, this time for two months as from the 1st of May. The chief cause for this delay lies in the difficulty of coming to a satisfactory agreement with Germany in consequence of the latter's high protective tariff on cereals. This policy on the part of Germany is decidedly prejudicial to the Roumanian grower, and unless some kind of arrangement is reached it is not unlikely that Roumania will decide to take measures of reprisal for her own protection.

An important statement of the Minister of Finance describes the situation of the Treasury at the end of the first three months of the year. While in the period January to March, 1929, receipts amounted to 5,610 million lei, the figure for the same months of this year is given as 6,738 million lei. In this amount are shown only the receipts from sources existing in the Budget of 1929. There must be added the sum of 73 millions, receipts from the Institute of Roads, which did not exist last year. A further sum of 361 millions is not included in the figure for 1930, as this amount came from exceptional sources and was used for the payment of old debts. The receipts during the first three months of 1929 amount to 15.1 per cent. of the Budget estimates. The proportion for the same period of 1930 amounts to 16.7 per cent. of the estimates of this year's Budget. Both direct and indirect taxation show satisfactory increases. All taxes on articles of consumption, except those on spirits, show good results. The receipts from the taxes on business turnover and from stamp duties are also higher, which fact the Minister of Finance interprets as being due to an improvement in the economic situation. Compared with 1929, the receipts of the Autonomous Institute of Monopolies are 33.46 per cent. higher for January, 19.69 per cent. higher for February, and 21.95 per cent. higher for March. The Commercial Public Régies are showing also satisfactory results. The receipts of the various Ministries amount to 730 millions, against 517 millions last year. In view of these figures the Minister thinks that he can expect with confidence the realisation of the Budget estimates for the current year, and that, following on the export of last year's harvest, he can look forward to a revival of the economic activities of the country.

It is reported that the Régie of Royalties has concluded a contract for the sale of 2,500 wagons of crude oil to Yugoslavia. This is of great importance for the internal crude oil market, which has shown signs of congestion for a long time past. In fact, the price of crude oil has fallen to 14,300-14,500 lei per wagon of Bustenari and to 9,200-9,500 lei per wagon of Moreni non-paraffinous. The problem of crude oil has become very acute in view of the constantly increasing output. The State possesses considerable quantities of this article received as royalties, and competes with the petroleum companies in the internal market. The relief caused by the Régie's new policy of selling abroad is therefore evident. But on the whole the situation of the petroleum industry is far from satisfactory, as is shown by the new representations made by the Petroleum Associations to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Heavy taxation is preventing the industry from competing satisfactorily in foreign markets, and a revision of taxation is urgently pressed.

JAPAN.

Indian Cotton Tariff — Foreign Trade — Railway Results — Prices — Bank Failures.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKYO, April 7.

THE Japanese cotton manufacturers have accepted the new Indian tariff philosophically, and are now making efforts to surmount the fresh difficulties of the cotton trade. Under the new duties Japanese cotton goods will have to pay 11.4 million yen more in the case of grey cloths and 3 millions more in the case of bleached, dyed and printed cloths, according to the calculations of the Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association on the basis of last year's Indian takings. The prohibitive duties on grey goods will compel the manufacturers to change from grey to white cloths and from heavy to light goods. The big combines are already planning to enlarge and re-equip their finishing sections, while independent mills are attempting to enter into closer contact and co-ordination with the bleaching, dyeing and printing firms scattered over the principal producing centres, or to create vertical units in some way covering various sections. Certain mills are trying to make finer dhooties for the Indian market, hoping that the difference of an additional 5 per cent. preference duty on non-British goods in this line will be offset by reduction of costs of production and distribution. The Kanegafuchi cotton mills, one of the most influential combines, are the first to attempt to lower labour costs. On Saturday last they announced a cut of 20 per cent. in wages and salaries by way of abolishing the war-time bonus. That this lead will be followed by other firms is certain, though it is doubtful whether it will be done peacefully and without trade union interference, particularly in the smaller mills where pay is not so good.

Even when allowance is made for the fall in prices the contraction of trade is very remarkable. The trade returns for March show that, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, imports declined in value by 28.7 million yen, or 13.6 per cent., and exports fell by 32 millions, or 19 per cent., the total turnover being thus 60.7 millions, or 16 per cent., lower. Imports and exports for the first three months of the year were lower respectively by 163.9 millions (23.7 per cent.) and 95.9 millions (19.4 per cent.). The visible adverse balance of trade, excluding the movements of bullion and coin, was, for the month, 46.8 millions, as compared with 43.6 millions in March, 1929, and, for the three months ended March, 1930, 124.9 millions, against 192.9 millions in 1929. A comparison of the value figures for March and the first three months of this year and last is set out below:—

MONTH OF MARCH.
(000's omitted).

	1929. Yen.	1930. Yen.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in 1930 Yen.	Per cent.
Imports	211,107	182,417	− 28,690	− 13·6
Exports	167,484	135,577	− 31,907	− 19·0
Total turnover	378,581	317,994	− 60,597	− 16·0
Excess of imports over exports	43,623	46,840	3,217	+ 7·3

THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31st.
(000's omitted.)

	1929. Yen.	1930. Yen.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in 1930. Yen.	Per cent.
Imports	689,411	525,472	− 163,939	− 23·7
Exports	496,506	400,514	− 95,992	− 19·3
Total turnover	1,185,917	925,986	− 259,931	− 22·0
Excess of imports over exports	192,905	124,958	− 67,947	− 35·3

Net gold exports during last month amounted to 59.7 million yen, bringing up total withdrawal during the first three months of the year to 176.4 millions, the greatest outflow in any quarter in the annals of this country.

The results of operations of the Imperial Government Railway in the fiscal year ended on March 31st show that the passenger train receipts were 283,511,000 yen and the goods train receipts 208,885,000 yen, making a total of 492,396,000 yen, which fell short by 26,970,000 yen of the original estimates, and was 9,312,000 yen lower than the actual receipts of the preceding year. The results of the private railways tell the same story. The heavy decline in railway earnings is principally accounted for by the decrease in freight traffic due to the general trade depression, but growing competition from road transport is also partly responsible.

The decline in wholesale prices, which had slowed down more or less in February, was again accelerated last month. The Bank of Japan's wholesale index number for March recorded a substantial drop of 1.9 per cent. on the month, and of 13.4 per cent. in comparison with March, 1929.

At the end of March three local banks closed their doors, owing to the intensified depression in trade and the consequent lock-up of funds. This has caused a sensation in financial quarters. Fortunately, however, they are all very small banks in out-of-way towns, with aggregate deposits of not more than seven million yen, and there is no sign of the effects spreading to other institutions.

ARGENTINA.

Commercial Difficulties — Customs Revenue — Exchanges — Freights.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, April 4.

IT is not easy to give in concise form a faithful impression of Argentina's present commercial and financial state without falling into the error of extremes. Conditions during the first quarter of 1930 have notoriously been difficult and commercial failures heavy. The exact figures are, however, beside the point. They are apt to mislead and, when compared with previous periods, may be made to prove almost anything. More serious than the commercial failures is the decline in prices that has marked all produce, meat alone excepted. Cereal quotations at the present moment naturally reflect the general oversupply that is a matter of common knowledge. With wheat at $9.95 paper per hundred kilos, and a depreciation of something like 9 per cent. in Argentine money as compared with sterling, it is easy to understand why agricultural interests feel that they are being rather hardly treated. Maize and oats are also quoted low, the former being $6.35 paper and the latter $4.90, both for May delivery. Linseed, on the other hand, is firm at $1.20 per hundred kilos, but little remains to be shipped. The partial failure of the last wheat harvest has, therefore, not been compensated for by the higher prices at one time so confidently expected, and the total volume of produce shipped shows a marked decline, which is reflected in the traffic receipts of the railway companies. Another interesting index to Argentina's present position is afforded by the revenue returns of the Buenos Aires Customs House. At the end of March collections amounted to $77,425.117 paper, which is, roughly, fourteen million dollars paper below the figures of the corresponding period last year.

The exchange situation, handicapped though it is by the closure of the Conversion Office, is gradually showing signs of improvement, the diminished imports which the falling Customs returns indicate undoubtedly affecting the position. Talk is rife concerning a large foreign loan to be issued either in London or in New York, and, were such an operation to be carried through, its effect on exchange would be immediate. If it were accompanied by a reopening of the Conversion Office, Argentina's currency would immediately recover parity. In the local money market an air of expectancy prevails. For, although the rates for discounts and advances are at present anything between 7 and 8 per cent., the underlying tone of the market is weak and the strong competition for deposits so noticeable at the beginning of the year has, for the time being, disappeared, at any rate, as far as first-class banking institutions are concerned. Such restriction as there may be with regard to facilities is traceable rather to caution than to any pronounced shortage of funds, and it is probable that, if the low European bank rates continue, Argentina's next harvest will in large measure be handled, as far as shippers are concerned, by borrowings in Europe or the States, such credits being drawn against from this side to the further benefit of the exchange position. At the moment of writing banks' cable drawing rates are 43⅞ and 112.50 on London and New York respectively, with Paris 22.35 and the lire 16.65.

In the freight market the tone is distinctly weaker, with recent fixtures for prompt steamers ranging between 10s. 3d. Bahia Blanca to London or Hull, and 12s. 6d. Rosario to Genoa and Mediterranean ports. The weather has not favoured maize shipments, and a touch of sharp cold would probably see an upward movement in freights, since there is not too much free tonnage in Plate ports.

It seems that, all things considered, the worst of the depression is over. There are many factors of a potential nature which make for improvement. Conditions in the agricultural and pastural areas are reasonably satisfactory, and the wonderful and speedy recuperative power of this country will in all likelihood come into play once more to confound the pessimists.

AUSTRALIA.

Commonwealth Bank — Overseas Trade — Conversion — Loan Council.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, March 22.

THE balance sheet of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia as at December 31, 1929, shows deposits £33,822,878, or a decrease of £5,586,709 as compared with twelve months previously; money at short call in London, £6,244,745, or a decrease of £10,193,255; public securities, £12,328,787, or an increase of £2,072,580; and discounts and advances, £12,876,781, or an increase of £791,345. The directors' report, in referring to the exchange situation, states that in the immediate future it may be anticipated that considerable additional quantities of gold will require to be exported overseas, which can be done "without impairing the necessary gold reserves required to support the note issue." The report also points out that the feeling generally exists that no immediate improvement in the depressed condition of the internal trade of Australia can be anticipated, and urges that every effort be put forth in the direction of increased production and reduced expenditure upon unproductive work.

The trade returns of the Commonwealth for the seven months ended January 31 show a decrease of £24,617,090 in exports of merchandise as compared with the corresponding seven months of the 1928-29 financial year, but an increase of £8,179,185 in gold exports. Merchandise imports for the seven months show a slight increase, though the December figures showed a decrease of 1½ millions and the January figures a decrease of a million. A comparison for the seven months ended January 31 is as follows:—

Seven Months.	1928–29.	1929–30.	Movement.
Imports—	£	£	£
Merchandise.....	86,236,577	87,072,647	+ 836,070
Gold	208,585	152,268	− 56,317
Total imports	86,445,162	87,224,915	+ 779,753
Exports—			
Merchandise.....	80,925,433	56,308,343	−24,617,090
Gold	1,481,491	9,660,676	+ 8,179,185
Total exports	82,406,924	65,969,019	−16,437,905

The Commonwealth Government is making satisfactory progress with its loan conversion operations into the new 6 per cent. loan, 1937. To meet the £10,400,000 loan which matured on March 15, conversions amounted to £5,748,000, and cash subscriptions to £7,653,000, leaving a margin of three millions, which is to be applied towards immediate redemption of the December maturity, where desired by holders. For the 6 per cent. loan of about 60 millions maturing in December the conversion applications are already about 25 millions. The 6 per cent. Commonwealth loan, 1937, is also being issued for cash over the State Treasury counter at par, money being required for State purposes.

The Loan Council is taking steps to supervise the borrowings of large public bodies outside the State Governments, and has intimated to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works that it considers that the latter should not pay more than 6¼ per cent. on a conversion loan to provide for a 6½ per cent. loan of £250,000 maturing on April 1. The Board of Works is accordingly offering a 6¼ per cent. conversion loan, 1940, for cash and conversion at par. The Board had been negotiating for a 6½ per cent. loan, and the change is somewhat embarrassing.

Letters to the Editor.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr H. G. Williams, with the characteristic intolerance of the bigoted protectionist, dismisses Mr Beard's moderately stated Free Trade argument with the graceful words: "Of course, Mr Beard is writing nonsense." I do not doubt that Mr Beard is fully capable of defending his position, but may I make a few comments of my own? The point at issue is, whether exports from a protected country are paid for either in raw materials and foodstuffs or in manufactured goods. Mr Beard takes the latter view, under existing circumstances, and Mr Williams the former. I believe Mr Beard is correct, but does it really matter? In any case, the exporting worker or manufacturer expects payment in one form or the other, and whether the worker takes his wages in, say, boots which he wears, or bananas which he eats, seems to me immaterial. If he has enough food he buys boots, and if enough boots he buys bananas.

Whilst on the subject of "writing nonsense," to use Mr Williams' expression, may I give one glaring example from his own letter? Mr Williams sums up the Free Trade position in these words: "Mr Beard's only conclusion on the subject is that the ships of the world should be engaged in conveying vast quantities of identically similar goods at enormous speeds in opposite directions," and then adds that one ship going backwards and forwards, but which never discharged its cargo, would be equally effective. Such a parody of the basic principles of international trade, or internal trade for that matter, is scarcely worth refuting. For the same reason that the bootmaker of Leicester does not exchange his boots for the rival and similar products of another manufacture in the same town, so neither does the exporter do anything so foolish. Foreign trade in essence is complementary, and it is no less futile to restrict exchanges between Newcastle and Leicester than, say, London and Paris.—Your obedient servant,

FRANK MORRIS.

Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue.
April 30, 1930.

Books and Publications.

FARM RELIEF IN THE UNITED STATES.*

To the student of current American politics "Farm Relief" and "Agricultural Reform" have a definite significance, and the importance of the issues raised by the claims of the agricultural interests in the United States to the assistance of the Legislature in redressing the disequilibrium between the status of the American farmer and of those who might be regarded as his economic equals in the industrial and commercial spheres, finds a parallel in certain phases of current discussions on the fiscal policy of this country.

From the increasing attention given to the subject by Congress and Senate, by politicians, economists, and partisan propagandists since the introduction of the Fordney Emergency Tariff Bill in 1920, it may be assumed that the justice of the farmers' claims has been broadly admitted. The problem of the moment, therefore, is the formulation of a policy which will restore to agriculture its proper place in the national economy.

While the proposals put forward with this end in view have taken a considerable variety in form, those which contemplate the intervention of Government assistance in raising the prices of agricultural products in the domestic market and in controlling the exportable surpluses have excited the greatest amount of public interest and given rise to the more intensive discussion. Whether the emphasis thus given is a satisfactory measure of the relative importance of price-fixing and surplus-controlling proposals as compared with other phases of the agricultural relief problem, is questionable, but, be that as it may, the objectives sought are sufficiently fundamental to the national well-being to justify a thorough and unbiassed examination of the proposals themselves. From this point of view, therefore, the Farm Export Debenture Plan commands the serious notice of all who may be connected in any way with the problems at issue. Published by the Food Research Institute, of which the author is a co-director, the work, extending to 265 pages, is a most thorough description, analysis and criticism of the plan on which the major part of the controversy has been focussed.

In common with its main rival in the schemes of agricultural reform, namely, the equalisation fee, the export debenture plan is based on the assumption that the main cause of the agricultural depression is the low purchasing power of farm products, and it aims at such a manipulation of the tariff as will raise the farm prices of those products of which the United States produces export surpluses, and, further, raise domestic prices of those products above their export prices. The mechanism of the plan, in essence, provides for the issue of bearer certificates—the debentures—by the Treasury to exporters of farm produce, the certificates being receivable within one year of issue in payment of Customs duties on imports.

In examining the many claims put forward in support of the plan, the author has sought to "treat the matter with unmistakable fairness, but also with the thoroughness and insight that standards of research dictate." The case for the plan, both from its defensive aspects in relation to alternative plans, and from the positive elements of justice, appropriateness, simplicity and effectiveness embodied in it, is fully stated and dispassionately examined point by point from many angles. No serious argument for or against the proposals would seem to have escaped the author's notice, and, to quote his own words, "If the conclusions tend more nearly to coincide with President Hoover's views than with those of the adherents of the proposal, this is merely the end to which our efforts at unbiassed economic analysis have led."

That the conclusions have been arrived at in the spirit of the author's expressed purpose is evident from the care taken to assess the probable results of the operations of the debenture plan from such standpoints as the cost to the Treasury, the reactions upon prices and production of the main agricultural products, and the possible reactions of foreign Governments. The lessons which may be drawn from the experience of other Governments in the applications of export bounties have also been freely drawn upon.

* "The Farm Export Debenture Plan." By Joseph S. Davis. The Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California. $3.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914. Vol. VI. *Anglo-German Tension, Armaments, and Negotiations*, 1907-12. (London) H.M. Stationery Office. 17s. 6d. net.

This volume, which deals with "Anglo-German Tension—Armaments and Negotiation, 1907-12," will be discussed more fully in another issue of the *Economist*.

The Assignats. By S. E. Harris. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 15s. net.

An extremely thorough historical study, made in the light of the developments in monetary theory which have taken place in the last fifteen years.

Kontinenetale Wanderungen und die Annäherung der Völker. By Dr. Imre Ferenczi. (Geneva) Verlag von Gustav Fischer.

An important discussion of migration, with special reference to Continental migration since the war, which suggests the conclusion that this important problem must ultimately become the subject of international regulation.

The Companies Act, 1929. By D. G. Hemmant. Ninth Edition. (London) Jordan and Sons, Ltd., Chancery Lane. 15s. 9d.

One of the best-arranged and most comprehensive reference books on company law.

Mercantile Law. By J. A. Slater. Sixth edition. By R. W. Holland. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 7s. 6d. net.

A valuable book of reference with very full indications of sources.

How to End Unemployment. By Thomas Large. (London) John Bale, Sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., Oxford House, Great Titchfield Street. 1s. net.

Propounds a plan for curing unemployment by the systematic development of our export trade.

La Chine et le Kuomintang. By Tsen Tsonming. (Shanghai) Librairie Franco-Chinoise, 632, Hardoon Road. 12 frs.

A short, popular history, in Fre[illegible]elopments in China as from the revolution of 1911.

Deutschlands Reparationslast. (Berlin) Magazin der Wirtschaft Verlagsgesellschaft m.b.H.

A reprint of three papers by Professor M. J. Bonn and Fritz Soltau which, together, constitute a comparison between the Dawes Plan and the Young Plan.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

British Industries and Empire Markets. By Professor A. J. Sargent. Mar[illegible] 1930. 1s. net.

First Annual Report of the [illegible] of Health for Scotland, 1929. Cmd. 3529. 3s. 6d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Portuguese East Africa, December, 1929. 2s. 3d. net; *Economic Conditions in the Republic of El Salvador*, 1929. 9d. net.

Miscellaneous, No. 9 (1930): International Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament. Cmd. 3556. 6d. net.

Election Expenses: Return of the Election Expenses of Each Candidate at the General Election of May, 1929. 1s. 6d. net.

Statement of the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the Year 1928-29. 5s. net.

Report of a Committee on the System of Appointment in the Colonial Office and the Colonial Services. Cmd. 3554. 1s. net.

The Stock Exchange.

AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANIES.

On both sides of the Atlantic the tobacco industry has long offered a favourite field for the conservative investor. The prosperity of the British tobacco companies is proverbial, but few shareholders of Imperial Tobacco, British American Tobacco, or Carreras are cognisant of the rapid progress achieved by the industry on the American side during recent years.

The investor who is impelled to make further inquiries will find, at least, that he is not confronted, at the outset, with the traditional secrecy under which the British companies are wont to cloak the prosperity of their trade. While it is impossible to ascertain the cigarette consumption of the British citizen, we are told month by month exactly what our American brothers and sisters are smoking by way of cigarettes, cigars and leaf tobacco. Last year, for example, the cigarette consumption of the United States of America was 12.3 per cent. greater than in 1928, smoke having ascended to heaven from no less than 119,000 million cigarettes. According to the Standard Statistics Company (whose figures we are quoting), the production of cigarettes this year may approximate to 133,000 million. American production of cigars last year amounted to over 6,500 million, an increase of 15 per cent. as compared with 1928, though 1927 and 1928 had shown a tendency to decline. Of the total number of cigars produced last year 54 per cent. were of the 5 cent class which, the connoisseur will regret to learn, is becoming increasingly popular. The increase in the consumption of tobacco in America suggests that the habit is sufficiently well rooted in modern American life to justify the attention of the British investor.

We propose to deal, not with the results of the cigar companies, which have the most difficult section of the tobacco trade to exploit, but with those of the leading manufacturers of cigarettes and smoking tobaccos, which show a high level of prosperity. About 97 per cent. of the total American production of cigarettes is accounted for by four companies. American Tobacco produces 33⅓ per cent. of the whole; R. J. Reynolds, 33 per cent.; Liggett and Myers, 22 per cent.; and Lorillard, 8½ per cent. The first three may be regarded as seasoned industrial investments, but the fourth has an entirely speculative character. The bugbear of the cigarette trade in America is intensive competition, which involves the leading companies in enormous advertising expenditure and periodical price-cutting wars. It is estimated that American Tobacco and R. J. Reynolds spend about $14 million a year each and Liggett and Myers and Lorillard about $7 million each on advertising. The sales programme of the American Tobacco calls this year for considerably more advertising space, and some estimates of its advertising budget run as high as $18 million. In the matter of price-cutting wars, the belligerents, after a long struggle, signed a truce last October, and advanced wholesale prices to $6.40 per 1,000 cigarettes, an agreement which is expected to increase their earnings this year in spite of heavier advertising expenditures. In the retail trade a price-war is still being waged. Raw material prices, on the whole, are lower than they were twelve months ago. Whether the agreement of last October will, however, usher in a new period of prosperity has still to be demonstrated.

The growth in the common share earnings of American Tobacco, Liggett and Myers, and R. J. Reynolds and the decline in the earnings of Lorillard over the past five years is shown in the following table:—

Common Share Earnings—Million $.

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
American Tobacco Co.	19·1	19·3	20·1	21·8	27·0
Liggett and Myers ...	13·7	16·1	17·2	17·8	20·4
R. J. Reynolds.....	25·2	26·2	29·1	30·2	32·2
Lorillard	4·8	3·3	1·7	1·0	0·5

R. J. Reynolds has the reputation of being the best profit-earner in the American tobacco industry. It is the second largest cigarette manufacturer, the annual production of its "Camel" brand being estimated at 39,000 million. It is also a large manufacturer of plug, twist, and smoking tobaccos, the best known of its smoking tobaccos being "Prince Albert." The company has no funded debt, and retired its preferred stock in 1926. It carries its goodwill in its balance sheet at $1. Its capital now consists of 1,000,000 shares of voting $10 common stock and 9,000,000 shares of non-voting $10 "B" stock. For nine years in succession its earnings have shown an unbroken increase. Dividends have been steadily increased, and are now on a $3 annual basis. The last stock dividend was 2½ for one at the end of 1928, when the par value of its stock was reduced from $25 to $10.

The American Tobacco Company is the largest cigarette manufacturer in the industry. Among its best-known cigarette brands are "Lucky Strike," "Sweet Caporal," "Pall Mall," and "Lord Salisbury," and among smoking tobaccos "Tuxedo" and "Bull Durham." Cigarette production is the leading branch of its business—its current output is estimated at 40,000 million a year—but the company is said to have a greater diversity of output than its competitors. It holds a large majority of the common and preferred stock of American Cigar, which produces the highly advertised "Cremo" cigars, and it has also a holding in Schulte Retail Stores. Including $19,529,180 of Class "B" common stock offered to shareholders in September last year at $25 a share, the capital now consists of $52,699,700 6 per cent. preferred stock and $117,175,500 in common and "B" stock of $50 par. The common and "B" shares rank equally in all respects, except that the "B" shares have no voting power. Both classes of common stock received $10 per share in dividends in 1929.

Liggett and Myers is now the third largest manufacturer of cigarettes, its "Chesterfield" brand being produced at the rate of about 26,000 million a year. Its other well-known brands are "Piedmont" and "Fatima." It is also one of the largest manufacturers of smoking tobacco, and the world's largest plug manufacturer. Its earnings have shown a remarkable expansion in the last five years. As at December 31, 1929, it wrote $40,709,711 of goodwill down to $1 in its balance sheet. It has $28,306,000 of funded debt and its share capitalisation consists of $22,514,100 in 7 per cent. preferred stock, $21,496,400 in $25 voting stock and $56,930,725 in $25 non-voting stock after giving effect to the subscription of one new share of common "B" at $25 for each five shares in February this year. Both classes of common are on a $4 annual dividend basis, with an extra dividend of $1 per share annually.

Lorillard is now the fourth largest manufacturer of cigarettes, its "Old Gold" brand being produced at the rate of 10,000 million a year. As a result of the price-war and heavy advertising expenditures its earnings have been declining in recent years. The next twelve months may afford a decisive test of its position in the trade. Its capitalisation now consists of $11,307,600 in $100 7 per cent. preferred shares and 1,908,505 shares of no par value common stock. Its funded debt aggregates $35,012,200.

The following table shows the recent course of prices of the shares of these four companies, with information as to yields on dividends and on earnings:—

	Highest Price, 1929.	Lowest Price, 1929.	Present Price.	Div. Rate. $	Div. Yield. %	Earnings per share, 1929. $	Earnings. Yield. %
American Tobacco "B"	235	160	240¾	10·0	4·2	11·53	4·8
Liggett and Myers.....	106¼	80	109¼	5·0	4·6	7·82	7·2
Reynolds "B"	66	29	52⅞	3·0	5·7	3·22	6·1
Lorillard	31½	14¼	25	Nil	...	0·28	1·1

Prospects for the current year are naturally pitched in a high key, and may need discounting later, in the light of fuller information. The estimates of one authority (generally conservative in its prognostications) suggest that American Tobacco may show earnings of nearly $21 per share, R. J. Reynolds of $3.52 per share, and Liggett and Myers of $12 per share. Lorillard is, of course, a distinct speculation, but it is expected to make a better showing this year, some estimates of 1930 earnings running as high as $3 per share. The investor who contemplates an interest in these shares, however, would do well to remember that tobacco stocks were among the leaders in the 1930 recovery in the New York stock markets. At the bottom of the last autumn "slump" the shares of these four companies were 20 per cent. below the maximum reached in 1929. Two of them are now actually above the latter level, so that some caution is called for on the part of prospective buyers.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
May 6.	May 8.

A dull week was broken by the May Day holiday, on which the Bank of England reduced its official minimum discount rate—without any reflection, it may be understood, on the conduct of those members of the Stock Exchange who had dispersed to enjoy somewhat brighter sunshine than had previously found its way into the "House." The monetary situation at the beginning of the week had not, in fact, been regarded as over-encouraging, and gilt-edged prices had generally been marked down as a precautionary measure. The recession in New York, though hailed as a wholly healthy sign, was not conducive to activity in industrials or internationals, while the continued weakness of base metal prices unfavourably affected many of the speculative share markets. The reception afforded some of the week's new capital issues, and the threat of even more solid issues to come, also made for a restriction of business, and, in the circumstances, the relatively small extent of the falling-off in share values was regarded as a matter for congratulation.

Gilt-edged stocks were heavy at the outset, but improved steadily as the week progressed, with an inevitable accession of activity on Friday after the Bank rate reduction. The new Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion Loan recovered after being marked down to 1¼ premium, and War Loan was strong on going ex-dividend. Favourable Press comments on the measures taken by the Viceroy were reflected in the steadier tone of India stocks, though the market remained depressed. Among Dominion and Colonial stocks, Australians suffered a fractional decline, and New Zealand loans were heavy on the eve of the new issue. Home corporation stocks were irregular, but inclined to harden. West Ham scrip opened at 1⅝ discount.

Foreign bonds were dull. Scattered realisations of Brazilian stocks continued, the position scarcely being helped by the conservative response of investors to the new San Paulo issue, which is discussed on page 1006. European stocks were neglected, though Turkish Unified had a better appearance. Few measurable changes were recorded in Far Eastern stocks.

Home railway prior charges showed appreciable weakness before the change in Bank rate. The ordinary stocks were influenced by another batch of unfavourable traffic returns. The gross receipts of all the four groups for the year to date now show a decline as compared with the corresponding period of 1929. Argentine rails had a sharp reaction, liquidation, due to unfavourable traffic figures and the weakness of the peso, finding dealers unwilling to take stock. Great Western of Brazil held their ground. Canadian Pacific came within the orbit of the recession in America.

Business in the Industrial markets was on a limited scale, though the undercurrent of sentiment became slightly firmer as the week progressed. The reaction in

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. Apr. 24.	Apr. 30.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%.....	77½	76½	− ½
Do. 4½% 1944	98½	98	− ½
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	102⅜	102¼	− ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	103⅜	101⅛x	+ ⅛
Consols 4%	88⅛	87½	+ ⅜
Funding 4%.....	90¼	91	− ¼
Victory Bonds 4% ...	94½	93½	− ½
Local Loans 3%	64½	63½	− ⅝
Treasury 5% (B).....	101⅛	101⅜	+ ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	102	101	− 1
India 3½%	63	63½	+ ½
Do. 4½% 1958-68...	86	86	...
Australia 5% 1945-75	92½	92	− ½
N.S.Wales 5%1935-55	89¼	89⅛	...
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	102	101	− 1
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)...	102	102	...
Argentine 4% Recins.	87½	88	+ ½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103½	102½	− ½
Belgian 7%	111½	112	+ ½
Brazil 6½% (1927) ...	88	87	− 1
China 5% (1912).....	48	48	...
Egypt Unified 4% ...	79	79½	+ ½
French 5%	20⅛	20⅛	+ ⅛
French 4% (Brit.) ...	20	20⅛	+ ⅛
German 7%	105	104	− 1
Greek 7% Refugee...	103¼	104	+ ¾
Hungary 7½%	103	102	− 1
Chili 6%	97½	96½	− 1
Poland 7%	89	88½	− ½
Mexican 5% (1899)...	21	20	− 1
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%...	94½	93	− 1½
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56.	Par	101	+ 1
Bristol 5% 1950–60...	1½pm.	101	− ½
L.C.C. 3%.....	64½	64	− ½
E. London 5%1960-70	98	98	...
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	92	92	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	94½	94	− ½
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	87	85½	− 1½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	9⅞	10	+ ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	31	29½	− 1½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.....	51	49⅞	− 1⅛
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66	66½	+ ½
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77½	77⅛	...
Southern Def. Stk. ...	31⅛	31	− ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	73⅜	72½	− 1
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Do. Income Bonds	111	110	− 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	216	208½	− 7½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	86½	85½	− 1
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	87⅛	85x	+ ⅛
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	97	94½	− 2½
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	79⅛	76	− 3⅛
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	82½	80½	− 2
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	18	17	− 1
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	4	3⅜	− ⅝
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	57⅛	57	− ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk....	195½	195½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30½	$30½	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	20	19	− 1
Beira Rlwy. no par...	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	254½	251½	− 3
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅞	2⅛	− 1/16
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13⅛	− 1/16
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$117	$115½	− 1½
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15½	15	− ½
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un.£2½,fully pd.	26	24½	− 1½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29⅛	29¼	− ⅛
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	13½	− 1/16
Phœnix, £1 fully pd....	14⅛	14⅛	− 1/16
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	8⅛	8	− 1/16
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	3⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Cory, William (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)...	⅛	⅛	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Thornycrofts. John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Vickers (6/8).....	⅛	⅛	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Courtaulds.....	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)..	1⅞	1⅛	− 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
General Electric (£1)...	2⅞	2⅛	− 1/16
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	2	2	...
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅞	1⅞	...
City of London (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛x	2⅛	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	53	50⅛	− 2⅛
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛x	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	405	405	...
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk...	102	103	+ 1
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless A Ord.	53⅛	52⅛	− 1
Cables and Wireless B Ord.	26	26½	+ ½
Canadian Marconi ...	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	4	3⅛	− 1/16
Leyland (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛x	2⅛	...
Napier (5/-)	⅛xd	⅛	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛x	1	− 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26⅛	25	− 1⅛
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Bah Liss (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	26	25½	− ½
London Asiatic (2/)...	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅛	⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Royal Dutch (£3⅓) ...	34⅛	34⅛	− 1/16
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Braz. Traction, no par	$54⅛x	$52⅛	− ⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	− 1/16
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9⅛	9⅛	− 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6⅛	6⅛	+ 1/16
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Dunlop (6/8).....	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛x	5⅛	+ 1/16
Guinness (A) (£1) ...	5⅛	5⅛	− 1/16
Harrods (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)...	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	5	4⅛	− 1/16
International Holdings	7⅛	6⅛	− 1/16
Inter. Nickel of Can...	38	35⅞	− 1⅛
Krueger & Toll (kr.100)	32⅛	32⅛	− ⅛
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6⅛	6	− 1/16
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Swed. Match, B(kr 100)	17⅛	17⅛	− 1/16
Tate and Lyle (£1)....	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
United Molasses (£1)..	5⅛x	5⅛	− 1/16
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	9⅛	9⅛	− 1/16
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Busana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 *pd.*)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	15⅛	15½	+ ⅜
Rio Tinto (£5)	42⅛	41⅛	− 1⅛
Roan Antelope C'pr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	2	1⅞	− 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16

New York depressed quotations for internationals, dealings in which were left mainly in professional hands. One striking exception was provided by Columbia Graphophone, which rose sharply on Monday on the impression that a definite statement on the merger with H.M.V. was at hand. The movement spread to the latter company's shares. Unilevers were sold after the meeting, the terms of the proposed large share issue being held to allow only a moderate " turn " on the market price, less " rights " and accrued dividend. Breweries had an easier tendency and little disposition was evinced to open fresh commitments in tobacco shares. Electrical manufacturing concerns showed fractional declines, and " heavy " iron and steel shares remained neglected. The spurt in selected motor-car issues having come to an end, price movements in this group were easier for choice. The Dunlop dividend was in accordance with expectation, but sellers predominated in the market. Rayon shares were quieter than for some time past. The Spillers' report, discussed on page 1008, induced no great selling. Imperial Chemicals receded slightly, the annual meeting revealing no concrete factor on which a bullish " story " could be based. Business in bank and insurance shares was still further contracted, prices trending slowly downwards.

Exceptionally quiet conditions obtained in the rubber share market, the weakness of the commodity, on the eve of the " tapping holiday " bringing out only a small amount of stock. The rubber position is discussed in an " Investment Note " on page 1006. Dullness in tea shares was accentuated by the easier tone at the week's commodity auctions. The moderate activity of the previous week in the oil share market was arrested by the setback in New York, a slight rise in the daily rate of American crude production, and the absence of support from Paris.

The unsatisfactory tendency in the metal markets cast a gloom over mining shares, and practically all movements were downwards. Tin receded further to £153 1s. 3d. on Wednesday, and many quotations were no longer able to bear up under the persistent depression. Substantial losses were recorded by several Eastern descriptions, and London Tin dropped to 24s. 6d. Copper shares were weak in sympathy with the metal. Rio Tintos were freely offered and lost a point to 41½. In the Rhodesian market early firmness was not held. Rhodesia Katanga remained steady at 1¾, but Congo Border declined ⅛, and Bwanas, Anglo-American and Roan Antelope were all easier. Kaffirs were quiet, with Sub Nigel a strong exception at 2½, but Consolidated Main Reef and Village Deep moved up on a limited enquiry. Panama Corporation showed some weakness, following the new issue.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	Apr. 24.	Apr. 25.	Apr. 28.	Apr. 29.	Apr. 30.	May 1.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,282	1,276	1,650	1,460	1,347	Stock Exchange Closed
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,102	1,056	1,336	1,147	1,202	
Commercial and Industrial*	2,317	2,296	2,779	2,254	2,223	
Banks, Insurance and Financial	487	496	662	539	627	
Mines (including Nitrate)	390	392	625	458	500	
Oil	219	272	233	183	181	
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	141	163	229	180	157	
Total	5,938	5,951	7,514	6,223	6,237	...

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	Apr. 24.	Apr. 25.	Apr. 28.	Apr. 29.	Apr. 30.	May 1.
90·6	82·0	89·6	89·3	88·3	88·3	88·1	Closed

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Selling still persists in the share market, with rallies few and far between, the general feeling of pessimism being the most pronounced since the early winter, in spite of reassuring statements by the Washington Government. This is plainly due to the cumulative force of poor industrial and railroad corporation reports for the first quarter. Brokers' loans have risen $450 million during the past five weeks. The decline in prices, numerous dividend cuts, continued low freight-car loading figures and fresh drops in the price of copper and other commodity prices have destroyed any false hopes of a trade revival which may have been built upon a good market during February and March, and pessimism is now probably being overdone. Stock prices have lost the greater portion of their gains made since the beginning of the year, coppers and rails being particularly hard hit. Oil stocks are doing fairly well, and public utilities were steady until to-day. Brokers' loans are up $57 million this week, although prices made a sharp downward movement, largely due to the continuance of American Telephone bond conversions, borrowing on recent new bond issues, and payments for the week of $40 million on rights to subscribe to the offerings of new stock. Bond prices are strengthening.

(By Cable.)

	Apr. 16.	Apr. 24.	May 1.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104⅛	104⅛	104⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	110¼	111⅛	112
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101¼	101⅛	101⅛
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101⅛	101⅛	101⅛
Atchison	229⅛	230¼	219½
Ches. & Ohio	228½	222	211
Erie	56⅝	54	48
Illinois Central	127¼	134	128
N.Y. Central	181	179½	169⅛
Pennsylvania	81⅞	81½	75⅝x
Southern Pacific	123½	123⅝	117½
Southern Rly.	114	115⅛	102½
Union Pacific	232	230	219
Am. Can.	153	147	141
Alleghany Corp.	32⅛	30⅛	27½
Amer. Smelting	73⅛	70½	68⅛
Anaconda	71½	63⅜	59⅛
Bethlehem Steel	105½	100⅛	97½
Chrysler Motor	39½	38⅛	35⅛
Corn Produce	105⅞	109½	102⅛
Eastman Kodak	243¼	245½	242
Gen. Electric(New)	90	88⅞	84½
Gen. Motors	51	49½	46⅛
Int. Harvester	112¼	107½	106
Montg. Ward	45	46¼	43⅜
Natl. Biscuit	87⅛	88½	84½
Phelps Dodge	39⅛	36	35¼
Pullman	82½	81½	77
Sears-Roebuck	91⅛	90¼	85⅛
Studebaker	40⅞	38⅛	37⅛
Un. Fruit	96	94	92⅞
U.S. Leather	13⅜	14	11⅛
U.S. Rubber	33	29⅜	28⅜
U.S. Steel	194⅛	189⅛	178
Westinghouse	195⅛	194⅛	183½
Woolworth	65⅞	65⅜	64
Worthington Pump	134½	154	138⅛
Am. Pow. & Light	114⅜	113⅜	110
Am. Tel. & Tg.	259½	255	248½
Electric P. & L.	95⅞	97	92
Int. Tel. Teles.	72⅜	75½	71⅜
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	53	56⅜	53⅛
Radio Corpn.	59	67⅛	62⅜
Utilities P. & L.	44	43⅜	43½
W. Union Tg.	188	183	175
Associated Gas "A"	41⅛	40½	39⅛
Mid-Cont. Pet.	31	31½	31
Pan Amer. B.	55⅛	57	62
Sinclair Oil	29⅞	30½	28⅝
Std. California	70½	72⅛	70⅛
Do. N.J.	77⅛	81⅜	80⅛

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Apr. 23.	Apr. 24.	Apr. 25.	Apr. 26.	Apr. 28.	Apr. 29.	Apr. 30.
202·4	166·5	198·9	196·8	196·1	196·5	192·1	192·2	192·7

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	Apr. 24.	Apr. 25.	Apr. 26.*	Apr. 28.	Apr. 29.	Apr. 30.	May 1.
Stock Exchange—Shares (Thous.)	5,226	4,726	2,313	4,846	5,403	4,548	4,633
Bonds (Value—Thous. $)	11,358	9,112	5,737	9,687	12,178	11,408	14,935
Curb—Shares (Thous.)	1,541	1,672	829	1,293	1,445	1,076	1,122

* 2-hour session.

CANADA.

The Canadian stock markets had a stronger tone during April, with a recession at the end of the month. The rise in wheat prices helped to restore confidence in the immediate business outlook. Although the grain market subsequently suffered a setback, the feeling of optimism which the arrival of spring always generates in Canada prevented serious repercussions. There has been nothing which could be described as a real " bull " movement, and the course of the market has been marked by irregularities, but, under the leadership of public utility stocks like Montreal Power and Shawinigan, the general tendency was upward. The public still refuses to indulge in speculative activities except upon a very guarded scale. The most important event was the announcement of the plan for the reorganisation of the capital structure and general consolidation of the British Empire Steel Corporation and its subsidiary companies. On the whole, the Stock Exchanges took a favourable view of the plan. Some of the newsprint stocks were also better, but the average operating ratio of Canadian newsprint mills in March was only 68.4 per cent. of capacity. The Canadian money market has shown a gratifying capacity for the absorption of bonds. The stocks of the larger Canadian oil companies have been beneficially affected by the success of plans for the curtailment of production in the United States, and issues like Imperial Oil and International Petroleum have moved forward several points. The mining market remains deplorably dull and the recent sharp cut in the price of copper has not helped the prospects of the copper mines. Markets, as a whole, are expected to be quiet until the appearance of the Federal Budget, which is expected to contain tariff changes affecting a wide variety of industries.

	Feb. 27.	Mar. 27.	May 1.
Abitibi Power & Paper	30	33½	34
Asbestos Corp.	2½	3	2½
Bank of Montreal	310	308	312
Brazilian Traction	36½	44⅜	51
British Col. Power "A"	37	39½	41⅛
Calgary Power	155	165	150
Can. Bank Commerce	264½	260	255
Canadian Car	27	25⅝	25½
Canada Cement	17⅜	Nobid	18½
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	9⅜	8	7½
Canada Power & Paper	13½	15½	16
Can. Steamship Lines	17	17	18
Cockshutt Plow	19⅜	19½	19
Cons. Mining	230½	243	218
Dominion Bridge	74½	71½	67½
Dom. Textile (New)	67	65	70
Hollinger Gold Mining	5½	5⅜	6⅜
International Nickel	39½x	41½	33½
Massey Harris	33½	37	34
Montreal Light	135½	136½	133
National Breweries	28	32	30½
Nat. Steel Car	70	68	64
Port Alfred Pulp	80	77½	80
Power Corp., Canada	72	77½	84
Price Bros.	78	83	Nobid
Quebec Power	63	65½x	65½
Royal Bank of Canada	...	...	306
Shawinigan	75½	74	75
Southern Can. Power	34	33	34
Steel of Canada	46½	44	48
Winnipeg Electric	42½	44	42½

x Ex dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Chilean Nitrate Developments.—The inspired announcement that proposals have been drawn up for the formation of a £75,000,000 company to take over all the nitrate fields of Chile may be regarded as a *ballon d'essai*, which is the more significant in view of Lord Melchett's revelation that the synthetic nitrogen industry is working below capacity. It reported that the Chilean Government will take one-half the new company's capital, ceding in return all the undeveloped nitrate fields and remitting the export tax of £2 10s. per ton. The remaining capital will be divided between the nitrate-producing companies on the basis either of Stock Exchange quotation or average earnings. The new company will aim at achieving all the economies of " rationalisation," by concentrating on the large producing units, closing down small oficinas and constructing new oficinas in the most productive undeveloped ground. The Chilean Government will be compensated for the loss of the export duty by the proceeds of an issue of £3,000,000-£4,000,000 of debentures by the company. This is an ambitious scheme, which follows rapidly upon the attainment by the (American) Guggenheim interests of the dominant position in the industry. It has long been evident that the export tax must go, in view of the rise of " synthetic " competition. The Chilean Government, however, has acted astutely, having given the industry, in effect, a series of preliminary and partial remissions of the duty by means of " subventions," while steadily reducing the part played by nitrate revenue in the national Budget. The proposed arrangement would represent by no means a bad bargain for the Government. The company's first problem would be to secure the liquidation of the present excessive stocks of 1,300,000 tons of nitrate in Chile without upsetting the market. The subsequent course of events will be watched with interest. The company might endeavour, by rationalisation, further to bring down costs, and thus to compete *à outrance* with the synthetic producers. On the other hand, it might utilise the elements of strength in its position so as to secure a favourable *modus vivendi* with the synthetic producers. The " natural " product is claimed to possess certain agricultural qualities which are not present in its synthetic competitor, and although it supplies at present only about one-fifth of the world's nitrogen requirements, this is a sufficient proportion, given the present state of the industry, to make it worth while for the synthetic producers to come to a friendly agreement if satisfactory terms are forthcoming.

Imperial Chemical Meeting.—Lord Melchett's pronouncements at the annual meetings of Imperial Chemical Industries are read with exceptional interest by investors. Not only does his Lordship speak for one of the largest of all British concerns, with a paid-up capital of £76,481,759 and an acknowledged position in the front rank of the world's chemical producers, but Lord Melchett himself has come to be regarded as the most outstanding exponent of " rationalisation " in the British industrial sphere. His references, at Wednesday's meeting, to this subject, and to the effect of heavy taxation on industry, are discussed in a " Note of the Week " on page 988 of this issue. As regards the position and prospects of the company itself, the chairman was at pains to show that the merger was not " top heavy," in any sense of the term, that the balance sheet revealed a position of strength and solidity, particularly as regards reserves (some 20 per cent. of the profits of 1928 and 1929 had, his Lordship declared, been left in the business), and that the vast operations of the combine had been so organised that the men at the top were not over-burdened with a mass of detailed administrative duties. Lord Melchett made no secret of the fact that, although the world's nitrogen consumption had doubled in the last six years, the synthetic industry was passing through a difficult period, and that the company's Billingham factory possessed a larger plant than could immediately be utilised. This part of the speech should be read in conjunction with the report of a comprehensive merger among Chilean producers, to which reference is made on this page. Lord Melchett was equally frank regarding what some observers have always regarded as one of the " lame dogs " among the company's interests—the dyestuffs' industry. He declared that " an altogether surprising amount of progress " had been made. Sales' methods had been reorganised both at home and abroad, so that the British dye industry now produced 93 per cent. by weight and 72 per cent. by value of British dyestuffs' requirements. He made, however, a plea for " sympathetic consideration " from the Government—in other words, for the retention of the protection afforded by the Dyestuffs' Act. One of the most interesting parts of the speech, from the point of view of shareholders, related to the investment of Nobel Industries in General Motors, which the I.C.I. took over on the liquidation of the former company. Though the investment was originally made from motives of policy, it had proved so profitable that its appreciation in market value provided, on the liquidation of Nobels, a reservoir from which £2,300,000 was carried to capital reserve and £1,000,000 to free reserve, while a further large amount was utilised for writing-off the expenses of the I.C.I. and forming the nucleus of an obsolescence reserve. Last year's New York slump temporarily wiped out part of the appreciation in market value on which these transactions were based, but the subsequent recovery in New York has largely restored the situation, so that the present market price is practically equal to that at which the holding was taken on to the I.C.I.'s books. Though Lord Melchett did not mention the fact, this connection is presumably beneficial to the company in another respect, since the Du Pont interests (one of the " Big Three " of

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the American chemical industry), are also large holders in General Motors, which thus forms a link between the I.C.I. and a most important Transatlantic chemical interest.

The Rubber "Holiday."—On Thursday last the entire rubber plantation industry under European control "downed tools" for a month, as a means of relieving the market of heavy stocks and improving the price of rubber. The step is without parallel in the annals of the industry, partly because the measure of restriction which it involves is to be achieved at a single stroke instead of being spread over twelve months, and partly because it marks the first occasion on which Dutch and British interests have found it possible to agree on joint action. For the first time, again, an endeavour has been made to secure a substantial measure of support from native growers. The importance of the latters' co-operation is a matter of prime moment in view of the Rubber Growers' Association's recent estimate that nearly half the 6,000,000 acres under rubber are in non-European hands. It is understood that some success has attended efforts in this direction, but, in view of the well-known exigencies of native finance, the concrete results should not be over-estimated. In the long run, a month's stoppage cannot be a cure for the ills of the industry if production and consumption are violently out of adjustment, though it may temporarily reduce a stock which tends to press heavily on the market. Indeed, the general absence of enthusiasm either among British or Dutch growers, suggests that many have supported the present scheme on grounds of expediency rather than of economics, on the belief that some sacrifice is justified in order to cement the possibility of constructive action between the Dutch and British branches of the industry in the future. In the meantime, prices this week have fallen to 6¾d. a pound, the lowest figure for eight years. The reports of representative companies now appearing are somewhat deceptive as to the real conditions of the industry, since they show in many cases a rise in earnings last year as compared with 1928:—

Company.	Net Profits. 1928.	1929.	Ord. Div. 1928.	1929.
	£	£	%	%
Cheviot	31,024	32,667	10	10
Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber	68,136	57,417	5	5
Jugra Land and Carey	73,101	83,442	5	5
London Asiatic	52,951	59,885	15	15
Pataling	22,973	33,603	10	12½
Rembau Jelei	55,372	44,526	10	7½
Rosehaugh (Ceylon) Rubber	16,219	30,153	5	5
Strathmore	22,402	17,857	5	5
Sungei Salak	8*	19,338	nil	nil
Sungei Way	19,123	19,482	7	7

* Loss.

The rise in earnings is due in large measure to forward contracts made at relatively favourable prices—sometimes, at over 1s. a pound. For the present year, few producers have sold forward to any considerable extent, and, clearly, unless consumers are intimated by the "tapping holiday" and a "squeeze" occurs, it is unlikely that contracts can be made at any figure much above the present market price.

The San Paulo Loan.—We understand that underwriters will be called upon to take up a large proportion of this week's £8,000,000 issue of the State of San Paulo 7 per cent. Coffee Realisation Loan. There has been for some time an unofficial embargo on foreign loans, the proceeds of which are not to be spent in buying British goods. The issue of the San Paulo Loan suggests that this attitude has been modified. No doubt the three houses which sponsored the British issue—Baring Brothers, Rothschild and Sons and J. Henry Schröder—were able to argue that the loan moneys would be ultilised in part to repay British banking credits already issued. There are, however, several features of the San Paulo Loan which may appeal in due course to comparatively large investors. The stock is of short-term character, with a maximum ten years' life, and is self-liquidating. The San Paulo Government has undertaken to dispose of an amount of coffee each month which will be more than sufficient to redeem one-twentieth of the loan each half-year. Moreover, redemption is to take place by means of half-yearly drawings at par. Besides being a direct obligation of the San Paulo Government, the loan is specifically secured on 16,500,000 bags of coffee valued at £41,000,000, the documents of title to which will be transferred to the loan trustees and cancelled as the coffee is disposed of. Payment of interest is specially secured by the hypothecation of a special tax levied on all coffee arriving at Santos or being despatched outside the State of San Paulo. In so far as this loan enables Brazil to liquidate its unsold stocks of coffee in an orderly manner over a period, and so to rid itself of an unsound scheme of coffee defence which has had the effect of slowing down the whole trade of the country, it will have a beneficial effect on international trade. The Committee of the London Stock Exchange has refused permission to deal in the stock until Congress has passed the necessary laws creating the special tax of 3s. a bag and formally ratifying the loan contracts. This is expected to take place early next week. It may be asked why the issue was made with such appearance of haste as to render necessary this decision, which, while sound (and, indeed, inevitable), must clearly put the unfortunate underwriters to considerable inconvenience, unless the issuing houses agree to postpone the first date of payment.

Nizam's Railways—a "Compensation" Question.—The arrangement under which H.E.H. the Nizam's guaranteed State Railways are being taken over by the Nizam's Government this year, instead of in 1934 as under the terms of the agreement, is of special interest, in view of the fact that other Indian railways, such as the Assam-Bengal, Bengal and North-Western, Rohilkund and Kumaon, and Madras and Southern Mahratta, may be passing from private to public ownership in the course of the next few years, if the Government exercises its options. Viewed broadly, the settlement is unquestionably favourable to stockholders in the Nizam's railways, since, in return for giving up a thoroughly efficient and prosperous property for a possible £260 or £270 per £100 of stock on January 1, 1934, they are obtaining something between £300 and £310 (partly in cash and partly in debentures repayable in three years or less) for a sale as from April 1, 1930. Some discussion, however, has centred upon the payment of £110,000 as "compensation" to those affected by the transfer. The allocation of this amount has been left in the hands of the directors (three of whom have been appointed liquidators of the company at a remuneration of £1,500). Certain speakers at a meeting on January 21st last advocated liberal treatment of all concerned, but some shareholders have asked whether an amount equal to a levy of £5 10s. on each holder of £100 stock is not somewhat excessive in the circumstances. Some £25,000 has been allocated by the directors to themselves. The former agent of the railway in India, Mr Lloyd Jones, who is one of the advisory committee set up in London by H.E.H. the Nizam's Government under the new *régime*, is recognised as having performed most valuable services both before and during the negotiations, and no criticism would follow a generous recognition of his efforts. Even so, it is pointed out by critics of the scheme, something of the order of £65,000 remains, the destination of which has not been made clear. Certain of the higher European officials may, possibly not unfairly, receive an *ex gratia* payment, but this question, with that of "compensation" to the Indian staff, should be viewed in the light of the fact that the Nizam's Government has offered to take over all concerned, from platelayers to senior officials, on the same terms of remuneration as under the company. The directors, who will receive, under the suggested arrangements, much more than four years' fees, may conceivably see their way to meet the views of this section of

opinion by announcing, at the earliest possible moment, the basis of allocation of the £110,000 in question—the distribution of which is, of course, by virtue of the stockholders' resolutions, entirely within their discretion.

Gramophone Shares.—Dullness in the industrial share markets has been relieved by great activity in gramophone shares—in Columbia Graphophone and H.M.V. on rumours of a merger, and in Vocalion in fearful anticipation of the dividend and report. The directors of Vocalion have now issued a circular to prepare their shareholders for the worst of the report, which will be submitted towards the end of June. It is common knowledge, they declare, that the field of the low-priced gramophone record has been invaded by innumerable competitors. Competition reached its height in the first half of the company's financial year (ending March, 1930), and as a result the sales for that period showed a decline. Various steps taken by the directors to meet this competition have proved "so successful" that this decline has been practically recovered in the latter part of the year, the sales during the last three months showing an increase of nearly 20 per cent. over the corresponding period of the previous year. In deciding not to pay an interim dividend, the directors were influenced by the company's financial requirements not only in the expansion of the gramophone trade but in preparation for the recording of talking films. Whilst the profit for the year may be less, substantial earnings will be shown. This guarded statement will be received with mixed feelings by shareholders. For the previous year the company showed earnings of 47.7 per cent. on its issued ordinary capital of £250,000 (in 10s. shares) and paid 40 per cent. in dividends. Columbia Graphophone and Gramophone (H.M.V.) have recently announced interim dividends—the first 15 per cent., as in the previous year, and the second 5 per cent., as against 10 per cent., both being paid on increased capital. Columbia has now a capital of £1,583,310, of which £1,283,310 is in ordinary shares of 10s., and Gramophone a capital of £3,300,000, of which £3,200,000 is in ordinary shares of £1. Columbia is expected to pay 45 per cent. or more for the year, and H.M.V. 30 per cent. (on its doubled capital). It is beyond doubt that negotiations are in progress for a merger between the Radio Corporation (which controls Victor Talking, which in turn controls H.M.V.) and Columbia Graphophone, and it is believed that Radio Corporation has already acquired a holding in Columbia, but at this stage it is idle to speculate as to the form and terms of the merger.

Sofina.—The British investor will find much of significance in the first annual report of the directors of Sofina (Société Financière de Transports et d'Entreprises Industrielles), which was formed in December, 1928, as a merger between the old Sofina and Trufina (Trust Financier de Transports et d'Entreprises Industrielles). This Belgian company is one of the world's largest investment trusts specialising in public utility holdings and the finance and management of electrical undertakings. It owes its present prosperity largely to the genius of M. Heineman, the managing director. British interests are represented on its board of directors by Sir Philip Cunliffe Lister, Mr. Dudley Docker and Mr Reginald McKenna. The company's chief holdings are in the Banque de Bruxelles, Société Centrale pour l'Industrie Electrique of Paris (which has holdings in electricity, gas, tramway and industrial concerns in France, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, South America and Indo-China), Electric and Railway Finance Corporation of London, and the American and Continental Corporation of New York. The best-known of its public utility companies are "Chade" (Cie. Hispano Americana de Electricidad operating in South America), "Sidro" (S. Internationale d'Energie Hydro-Electrique which has large interests in Barcelona Traction, Mexican Light and Power and Mexican Tramways), Compagnie Générale de Tramways de Buenos Ayres (which has holdings in Anglo-Argentine Tramways), and Société d'Electricité de Rosario. The directors' report discourses at length upon the electrical developments of the world, and refers in particular to the reorganisation of the companies engaged in the production of electricity in Belgium. As the result of an agreement between the Banque de Bruxelles, Société Générale de Belgique, Le Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas and Sofina, one of the most important of the Belgian electricity companies (Electrobel) has been reorganised. The directors conclude a somewhat discursive report with remarks upon the wastefulness of sterilised gold, which they regard as one of the principal causes of the fall in commodity prices. The company has a capital of £7,147,776, half in preference shares and half in ordinary shares of 500 francs. Its holdings have a book value of £2,812,052, of which the market value last September was approximately £20,000,000. The income (by way of dividends) for the year to December, 1929, amounted to £803,653, and the net profit, after depreciation, to £666,956. This enabled dividends to be paid on the preference shares and total dividends on 97,756¼ old shares of 700 francs per share and on 102,243¾ new shares of 350 francs per share. A strong financial position is disclosed by the balance sheet, cash in hand and at bankers amounting to £7,868,829.

Dunlop Rubber.—The accounts for the year ended December 31st last reveal a satisfactory recovery from the low level of earnings of the previous twelve months, when the abrupt removal of rubber restriction and the consequent serious drop in the price of crude rubber brought about a sharp slump in profits. Net revenue for 1929 totals £1,886,335, which, while nearly twice that of last year, is still some £650,000 below the level of 1927. The final dividend of 9 per cent. on the ordinary shares makes 15 per cent. for the year, against 20 per cent. for 1929, absorbing £924,461. The payment, unlike that of last year, is well covered by net earnings of £1,591,022, representing 25.8 per cent. on the ordinary capital:—

	Year ends December 31, 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	2,538,976	947,657	1,886,335
Brought forward	665,456	578,580	801,278
Preference dividends	375,000	375,000	295,313
No. of times covered	*6·8*	*2·5*	*6·4*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*2,163,976*	*572,657*	*1,591,022*
Paid £	1,704,408	1,540,209	924,461
Earned %	*31·7*	*7·4*	*25·8*
Paid %	25	20	15
To reserve	386,971	*Dr.1,500,000*	375,761
Other allocations	159,473*	309,750*	309,750*
Carried forward	578,580	801,278	782,328

* Dividends on preference shares of Dunlop Cotton Mills, Ltd., Dunlop Plantations, Ltd., and Dunlop Rubber Co. (India), Ltd.

The sum of £150,000 has been added to general reserve account, which (with premiums on shares issued during the year, totalling £193,393) now stands at £3,373,105, despite the previous year's drain of £1,500,000. A further amount of £225,761 has been transferred to income-tax reserve, raising that item to £477,000, while the company has once more had to find preference dividends, requiring £309,750, for three of its subsidiaries, though the results of the American company, while not fully realising expectations, nevertheless show an improvement over 1928. On the whole, the tone of the report is quietly optimistic, and there seems little reason to fear that the setback of 1928 has prejudiced the general position of the company. At the present price of 14s. 6d., which compares with a high level last year of 26s. 9d., the ordinary 6s. 8d. shares give a yield of £7 4s. 6d. per cent. allowing for a final dividend of 9 per cent.

Johnson and Phillips.—The net earnings reported by this company for 1929 are nearly 90 per cent. in excess of those for the previous year. Great economies effected in the cost of production are stated in the directors' report to be principally responsible, although the improvement is also due partially to an increase in turnover. The recovery is even more substantial than would appear at first sight because the 1928 trading account included a transfer of

an unstated amount from reserves previously made and no longer required:—

Year ended December 31st.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	62,597	55,831	102,514
Earned on ordinary	*10·43%*	*9·3%*	*17·08%*
Paid on ordinary	10%	10%	10%
Amount	60,000	60,000	60,000
Carry-forward	85,072	80,903	123,417

The balance sheet presents a satisfactory appearance, surplus liquid assets amounting to almost £680,000 after providing for the final dividend of 5 per cent. The reserve account of £250,000 and the carry-forward amount together to approximately 62 per cent. of the issued capital. At the last annual meeting reference was made to the exceptionally large contracts being placed by the Central Electricity Board, which were expected to have a beneficial effect, both directly and indirectly, on the company's business. The report now issued states that important contracts have been secured during the last few months. At the present quotation of 38s. 6d. the shares return around 5½ per cent.

Spillers.—The unsatisfactory results recorded by this firm of flour millers and distributors for the financial year ended January 31, 1930, emphasise the desirability of more stable conditions in this very uncertain industry. A gratifying profit of £309,958 in 1925 was followed in 1926 by a loss of £429,392. Since then there have been three moderate years, while for 1929 the company announces a loss of £221,510. No dividend has been paid on the ordinary shares since the 7½ per cent. in 1928, which was satisfactorily covered by earnings. The debit on the year's operations (including £54,865 for preference dividend) is met by adding a sum of £150,000 taken from contingency reserve to the £182,973 brought forward from last year's account.

Year ends January 31.	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Net profit	208,648	176,668	*Dr. 221,510*
Brought forward	90,546	170,536	182,973
Preference dividends	55,745	54,865	54,865
Rate %	6	6	6
No of times covered	*3·7*	*3·2*	...
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*152,901*	*121,803*	...
Paid £	72,436	108,654	...
Earned %	*10·6*	*8·4*	...
Paid %	5	7·5	...
Co-partnership divs. £	475	712	...
Rate %	3½	5½	...
Other allocations	...	...	*Dr. 150,000*
Carried forward	170,536	182,973	56,598

The properties of the company, which figured in the last balance sheet at £3,778,128, have been drastically written down, and the present item, reduced to £2,843,373 by the application of over £1 million taken from reserves, provides a commentary on the roughness of the road which pioneers of "rationalisation" must frequently tread. The directors report that they have acquired new mills at Grimsby, and have closed down those at York, while Spillers Overseas Industries, Ltd., is "no longer necessary" as a separate organisation, and its assets have been transferred to the company. Meanwhile, with a view to further rationalisation, the company has formed, in conjunction with other millers, a Millers' Mutual Association for the purpose of shutting down redundant mills and concentrating sales within economic distances of the various plants. Holders of 832,795 deferred shares, who during the last seven years have received only one dividend of 5 per cent., will anxiously search the skies for signs of progress in these important directions in the near future. Dealings in the ordinary £1 shares have ranged round about 18s. during the past few days, against a high level last year of 32s. 6d.

Marks and Spencer.—A preliminary statement issued by this progressive company of bazaar proprietors reports excellent results for the year ended March 31, 1930. Net profit totals £298,589, after deduction of income tax, compared with £203,549 in 1929 and £139,621 in 1928. After payment of preference dividend, there remains £263,589, representing 39.9 per cent. earned by the ordinary capital, against 32.1 per cent. last year. The ordinary dividend, raised from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., is thus almost twice covered. In addition, it is proposed to give a capital bonus of one "A" ordinary share for every ten ordinary or "A" ordinary shares previously held:—

	Year ended March 31, 1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Net profit	139,621	203,549	298,589
Brought forward	19,548	24,776	37,023
Preference dividend	31,500	35,000	35,000
Rate %	9	10	10
No. of times covered	*4·4*	*5·8*	*8·5*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*108,121*	*168,549*	*263,589*
Paid £	43,066	78,802	132,000
Earned %	*32·6*	*32·1*	*39·9*
Paid %	13	15	20
To reserve	59,827*	77,500	117,500
Carried forward	24,776	37,023	51,111

* Contingencies fund and writing off preliminary expenses.

The sum of £100,000 is to be placed to general reserve account, against a previous £60,000, while, as before, £10,000 is allocated to properties contingency fund and £7,500 to preference share reserve. The present dividend distribution is payable on a larger capital than the 15 per cent. distributed last year, the bonus issue of £60,000 paid in May last having increased the issued ordinary capital from £599,977 to £659,977.

Holland-America Line.—The report of the Holland-America Line for 1929 reveals a further decline in earnings. A decrease in trading profits of over one million guilders is entirely attributed to the unsatisfactory course of the freight markets.

(Thousand guilders.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Gross earnings	6,760	4,411	3,477
Interest	1,294	1,475	1,131
Net earnings	5,466	2,935	2,346
Depreciation and reserve	4,970	4,920	4,806
Total loss	*496**	*1,984*	*2,460*
Capital	25,000	25,000	25,000
Reserves	18,535	16,551	6,012
6% Bonds	30,000	28,500	27,000

* Profits.

The loss has again been written off from the reserve fund, and the board, in addition, has deemed it desirable to write off entirely various other items which might otherwise have been distributed over a period of years. The book value of the fleet stands now at 113.40 guilders per ton—a decidedly low figure, the cost of building new steamers being about 250 guilders per ton for freight vessels and 700 to 900 guilders for passenger steamers.

New Capital Issues in April.—In the table below we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public or shareholders in April and recent periods:—

(000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom. £	British Possessions. £	Foreign Countries. £	Total. £
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769

Monthly Average.	Govt. £	Other. £			
Jan.–Mar., 1929	*617*	*18,757*	*8,797*	*4,147*	*32,318*
Jan.–Mar., 1930	12,803	11,973	5,360	1,120	31,256
April, 1929	*150*	*25,558*	*3,686*	*1,865*	*30,959*
April, 1930	450	10,223	1,228	10,869	22,770

The figures for April fell short of those for the previous month, especially as regards home flotations, though there was a large growth in loans to foreign countries. During the month sales of National Savings Certificates exceeded encashments by £450,000. The most important home corporation borrowers were Barnsley and Sunderland. The largest borrower was San Paulo, which offered £8,000,000 of 7 per cent. stock at 96, and the largest home borrower the Southern Railway, which offered £3,000,000 of 5 per cent. debentures at 98½. Large issues to shareholders only were made by the Venezuelan Oil Concessions and the Midland Bank, while Wiggins, Teape offered to the public £1,000,000 in 5 per cent. debentures (of which £237,888 represented conversions).

General Mining.—Despite the unfavourable conditions which prevailed last year for the operations of a concern of this kind, the General Mining and Finance Corporation realised a gross profit of £162,900, or nearly £10,000 more than in 1928. Some useful economies being effected in administration expenses, the net surplus comes out at £112,200, as against £90,300. Unfortunately, on the present occasion depreciation calls for £169,100, with the result that no dividend can be paid and the carry-forward becomes reduced from £120,300 to £61,150. In the balance sheet, stocks and shares figure at the slightly enhanced total of £1,058,000—which is substantially exceeded by their market value as a whole. The cash assets, including advances to other companies, show a surplus of £596,300 over current liabilities, or of £144,100 if the advances in question be ignored altogether. Of the company's interests the chief are in the East and West Rand Mining enterprises and Phœnix Oil. The latter has begun the payment of dividends.

Daggafontein.—Last year's operations were noteworthy for an arrangement of the finances of this concern to pave the way for a comprehensive development programme. Some 259,400 shares were offered to the members at 22s. 6d. The Anglo-American Corporation guaranteed this issue, and subscribed for 49,550 shares at the same price. At the date of the accounts the company had in hand net cash to the amount of £320,000, expenditure during the year having been small. Options at par until November 24th next are outstanding on 622,000 shares, and will doubtless be exercised in the event of developments continuing favourable. After the reorganisation of 1927, development was resumed by the extension of certain drives from the adjoining Springs property. Last year the payable footage opened up was 830, as against 545 in 1928, the inch-dwt. values figuring at 526 in place of 438. This, of course, is very small beer; but during the current year the footage will be considerably augmented. At December 31, 1929, the new shaft, known as No. 3, had reached a depth of about 300 ft. The reef is expected to be struck at a depth of 3,800 ft. by the end of 1930. Thereafter, progress will be much more rapid.

City Deep.—During each of the past two years it has been necessary to describe the position and prospects of this company with some reserve, and a similar remark applies in the present instance. The operating loss shows a further expansion at £139,200. The performance of an increased development footage again failed to be reflected in the ore reserve tonnage. This factor is attributed to the unproductive character of a considerable proportion of the work, but better results are foreshadowed for the current year. The available tonnage of 1,323,400 represents little more than a year's supply. Loan account has now increased to £385,400—not far short of the stipulated total of £400,000—the net deficiency of liquid assets at the date of the balance sheet amounting to £309,000. The consulting engineers describe the outlook at the mine as better than during the past two years. Improved operating methods have been introduced; reduction in costs and some recovery in grade is looked for. Last month there was a loss of only £750, as compared with £15,750 in November. Nevertheless, the company is facing an uphill task; and a drastic scaling down of capital appears inevitable. There are in issue 1,295,000 shares, quoted around 7s.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Bank of Czechoslovak Legions, Wiener Bank-Verein, Royal Exchange Assurance, Law Union and Rock Insurance, State Assurance, General Accident Fire and Life Assurance, Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Legal and General Assurance, Royal London Mutual Insurance, Cable Telephone and General Trust, Associated Electrical Industries, Rio de Janeiro City Improvements, Imperial Chemical Industries, Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates, London Trust, Henry Glave, James W. Cook, Hope Brothers, Champion Reef Gold Mines of India, and Mysore Gold Mining. At the annual meeting of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation the chairman said that if the Road Traffic Bill passed into law it would possibly increase the motor premium income, but not, he thought, by any substantial amount, for there was no doubt that fully 95 per cent. of the owners of motor-propelled vehicles were already insured. Discussing the future of the Mysore mine, the chairman of the Mysore Gold Mining Company said that though the deepest development point of the mine was some 6,180 feet vertical, the neighbouring Champion Reef mine was finding rich ore at more than 600 feet greater depth. Presiding at the annual meeting of Associated Electrical Industries, Sir Felix Pole said that, whereas it had been widely supposed that the company was under American control, in point of fact the International General Electric Company held only a minority interest, and the voting rights of the International Company's shares had been placed in his (Sir Felix's) hands by virtue of a power of attorney. Lord Melchett's speech at the meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries is discussed on pages 988 and 1005 of this issue.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

A number of interesting issues were made this week. The £8,000,000 7 *per cent. State of San Paulo Coffee Realisation* loan, due 1940, is dealt with in an Investment Note on page 1006. This loan was left heavily with the underwriters. *Queensland* made an offer to holders of £3,781,700 Queensland 3½ per cent. stock, maturing on July 1st, to convert into an equal nominal amount of Queensland 5½ per cent. stock repayable 1934-6. At the same time an offer was made for subscription in cash to Queensland 5½ per cent. debentures, convertible into the new 5½ per cent. stock up to the amount required for repayment of any unconverted portion of the maturing loan. *Wiggins, Teape* issued £1,000,000 5½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock at 98—a fairly well-secured industrial investment—and

the *Panama Corporation* offered at par 250,000 of its £1 shares to provide funds for the development of its gold areas, regarding which it has issued somewhat glowing promises. This issue is frankly speculative, and came out at a not altogether favourable moment, despite the appearance on the prospectus (in the dual *rôle* of director and technical expert) of the name of a past-president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy. The capital market may be in danger of serious congestion and indigestion during the next few weeks. Loans are impending, or in contemplation, for various home corporations (including Grimsby), of Reparations Bonds, and for New Zealand, Japan, Austria and Hungary. The coming Unilever offer will call for a further £6,000,000. Last week's West Ham issue was left as to 84 per cent. with underwriters.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to April 26, 1930, £107,460,672.
Total, including conversion, recorded, January 1 to April 26, 1930, £164,041,190.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended April 26, 1930, £150,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to April 26, 1930, £450,000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
Queensland Government	3,781,700	3,781,700	...	...	...
Panama Corporation	250,000	...	250,000	31,250	218,750
State of San Paulo	8,000,000	...	7,680,000	384,000	7,296,000
Wiggins, Teape and Co.	1,000,000	237,888	742,112	200,000	780,000
Total offered to Public, week ended May 3, 1930	13,031,700	4,019,588	8,672,112	615,250	8,294,750
To Shareholders only.					
General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance, 18,800 Ordinary shares of 25s. each at £12 5s. per share	23,500	...	230,300	...	230,300
Murex, 25,000 10s. Ordinary shares at £1 per share	12,500	...	25,000	12,500	12,500
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended May 3, 1930	36,000	...	255,300	12,500	242,800

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Jan. 1 to date—		
1930	177,138,198	116,538,084
1929	142,015,948	128,436,728
1928	...	190,661,848
1927	...	172,218,455
1926	...	83,638,688
1925	...	56,804,718
1924	...	47,242,119
1923	...	112,484,455

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Whole year—		
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	13,047,628	...	14,671,332
Total, week ended May 3, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	13,047,628	...	14,671,332
Total to date, 1929	17,084,517	...	24,934,844

Queensland Government 5½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1934-36.—Offer of conversion to holders of £3,781,700 of Queensland Government 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, maturing July 1, 1930, at £97 per cent. Principal will be repaid at par on July 1, 1936, the Government having the option of redemption at par on or after July 1, 1934, on three months' notice. Trustees may invest in this stock. Further offer for cash of Queensland Government 5½ per cent. debentures, 1934-36, to an amount sufficient to make up, with the stock converted, the above total of £3,781,700.

Panama Corporation.—Issue of 250,000 shares of £1 each at par. The corporation was formed in April, 1926, to acquire two important concessions known as the Veraguas and Darien Concessions. The proceeds of this issue are required for the development of a new concession of approximately 2,000 square miles, in the provinces of Chiriqui, Veraguas and Bocas del Toro.

State of San Paulo 7 per cent. Coffee Realisation Loan, 1930.—Offer of £8,000,000 7 per cent. Sterling Bonds due October 1, 1940, at £96 per cent. On every April 1 and October 1, beginning April 1, 1931, a minimum of one-twentieth of the total amount of the loan is to be repaid by drawings at par. Payment of principal and interest is a direct obligation of the Government of the State of San Paulo, and is to be secured by the general bond of the Government, under which payment of interest is to be specifically secured by the hypothecation of the proceeds of a special tax.

Bognor Gas and Electricity Company.—Issue by tender of £14,000 new consolidated stock, ranking for a maximum dividend of 7 per cent. equally with existing similar stock. Minimum price of issue £102 per £100 stock. Also £11,000 5½ per cent. redeemable debenture stock, to be redeemed at par on January 1, 1940, minimum price, par. Net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31 last was £13,560, covering interest on debentures, including present issue, 4.5 times. Dividends on "A" stocks £8, "B" stocks £9 4s., and new consolidated stock £7.

Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919).—Issue of £1,000,000 5½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock at 98 per cent., of which part is to be utilised to pay off £224,000 8 per cent. first mortgage redeemable debentures at the rate of £106 4s. per cent. The company was formed in March, 1919, to acquire the paper-making business of Wiggins, Teape and Company. Net profits for the year 1929 totalled £328,694, covering interest on the above issue nearly six times.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices and dividend announcements, will be found on page 1029 under the heading "Company News."]

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

SPILLERS, LIMITED.

January 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	£	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £
6% Cum. pref. (£1)	1,143,023	...
Ord. shares (£1)	1,810,893	...
Def. shares (£1)	832,795	...
Co-partnership shares (£1)	16,963	...
5½% 10-yr. notes 1924–34	493,200	– 85,050
Creditors and bills payable	267,531	– 81,335
Depositors	99,351	– 16,659
Due to subsidiaries	29,466	– 981,319
Contingent reserves	108,344	– 130,397
Reserve fund	300,000	...
Excess value of assets associated cos.	1,200,000	– 1,077,567
Bad debts reserve	100,000	...
Insurance reserve	450,000	...
Profit and loss	56,598	– 235,741
Total	6,908,164	– 2,608,068

ASSETS.	£	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £
Cash	108,694	– 1,530
Debtors	809,750	– 133,629
Due from subsidiaries	78,281	+ 73,387
Stocks	1,449,941	– 713,434
Investments and loans:		
Shares	360,250	1,078,046
First Mtges.	261,852	
British Govt. stocks	829,447	+ 216,036
Other investments and loans	416,576	– 36,097
Less depreciation reserve	...	– 250,000
Properties	2,843,373	– 934,755
Total	6,908,164	– 2,608,068

THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

April 2, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Apr. 2, 1929. £
Deposits, &c.	28,262,507	+ 982,318
Current drafts	41,014	+ 23,553
Acceptances	1,071,313	– 149,779
Notes in circulation	2,414,224	– 64,261
Capital paid up	1,000,000	...
Rest account	1,550,000	+ 50,000
Profit and loss	340,054	+ 35,310
Total	34,679,112	+ 876,141

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Apr. 2, 1929. £
Gold and silver coin, &c.	2,856,075	– 101,358
Money at call and notice	3,111,022	– 517,374
British Govt. securities	6,349,870	+ 270,116
Other investm'ts	3,399,500	+ 259,052
Bills under discount	2,752,684	+ 103,343
Advances and loans	14,602,249	+ 1,064,532
Acceptances	1,071,313	– 149,779
Bank offices	256,705	– 7,852
London property	100,000	– 10,260
Heritable property	179,694	– 34,279
Total	34,679,112	+ 876,141

DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
4% "A" pf. (£1)	1,000,000	...
7% "B" pf. (£1)	1,000,000	...
10% "C" pf. (16s)	2,400,000	...
Ord. shares (6/8)	7,851,046	+ 66,697
5½% deb. stock	4,669,877	– 89,445
6% debs.	1,703,430	– 223,950
Mortgage	140,000	+ 140,000
Due to subs.	1,536,126	+ 1,536,126
Proposed divs.	692,923	+ 692,923
Taxation res.	477,000	+ 477,000
Reserve for inter co. profits	231,589	+ 231,589
Reserve	3,373,105	+ 343,393
Creditors	580,174	– 785,809
Profit and loss	782,329	– 1,746,658
Total	26,437,599	+ 641,866

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Properties	3,436,749	+ 241,289
Debtors, less reserves	1,002,820	+ 71,889
Stocks	2,579,606	– 361,889
Investments at or under cost—		
Subs. cos.	16,800,035	+ 2232209
Assoc. cos.	938,032	
Sundry	469	
Cash and bills	1,009,036	– 1,640,317
Royalty agreements, &c.	637,644	+ 55,477
Deferred charges	22,008	+ 22,008
L'hold Redemp. policy	11,200	+ 11,200
Total	26,437,599	+ 641,866

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEGIONS, PRAGUE

DIVIDEND 8 PER CENT., AS IN THE LAST YEAR.

The ninth general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Czechoslovak Legions was held in the Lucerna Hall, on April 27th last, Dr. Rudolf Rase presiding.

From the president's speech we quote the following: We are holding this general meeting of shareholders on the anniversary of the eightieth birthday of our president,

T. G. MASARYK,

which was honoured by our bank by a grant of

KC. 1,000,000

to the scholarship fund of the bank. We wish our president may live still many years to the benefit of the nation and of the Republic.

Last year, in spite of the less favourable economic situation, which was greatly felt, especially in the second half of the year, our bank worked successfully.

The great success of our work is mainly due to the valuable services of the general manager, Mr Sip, the assistant general manager, Mr Khyn, and the entire staff of the bank. The spirit throughout the bank was always excellent.

PROFIT, DIVIDEND AND RESERVES.

The general manager, Mr Sip, turned to the balance sheet and explained all its items.

The net profit amounts to Kc. 7,912,300.70 and a dividend of 8 per cent., *i.e.*, Kc. 16, per share will be paid, the same as last year. From latent reserves, Kc. 22,036,108.20 were added to the reserve fund during the year and further Kc. 813,891.80 from current profits. The reserves amount now to Kc. 64,550,000, *i.e.*, 92.21 per cent. of the capital.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The retiring directors, Mr Josef Khyn, Mr Karel Horák, and Mr Josef Kukla were re-elected. The member of the auditing committee, Mr Augustin Turka, was re-elected and Mr Václav Sál newly elected.

The board of directors held a meeting at the close and re-elected Dr. R. Rase as president, Dr. A. Straka as first vice-president, and Mr Stanislav Zavadilek as second vice-president.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION AS ON DECEMBER 31, 1929.

Assets.

	Kc.
Cash	18,519,401.30
Due from banks	21,678,403.95
Foreign exchange, drafts, checks, etc.	7,200,713.65
Discounted bills	132,128,857.95
Securities	123,316,401.50
Participations	44,827,105.90
Debtors	614,690,211.55
Real property, equipment and fixtures	26,656,030.80
Transitory assets	3,453,039.25
Other assets	27,195,388.65
Transit items Kc. 390,464,893.95.	
	1,019,665,554.50

Liabilities.

	Kc.
Stock capital paid up	70,000,000.00
Reserve funds:	
In accordance with par. 69 of the company's statute Kc. 20,000,000.00	
In accordance with par. 68 of the company's statute Kc. 43,736,108.20	
	63,736,108.20
Mortgage loans	528,792.50
Deposits in savings accounts	292,490,126.60
Creditors	556,960,289.90
Unclaimed dividends	322,273.00
Transitory liabilities	5,834,322.60
Other liabilities	21,843,866.15
Transitory items Kc. 390,464,893.95.	
Net profit	7,949,775.55
	1,019,665,554.50

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT ON DECEMBER 31, 1929.

Losses.

	Kc.	Kc.
Interests paid:		
(*a*) On deposits	34,201,040.35	
(*b*) Other interests	9,511,290.30	
		43,712,330.65
Administrative expenses:		
(*a*) Material expenses	3,457,385.15	
(*b*) Salaries	16,611,000.00	
		20,068,385.15
Revenue and Taxes:		
(*a*) Business tax	1,500,000.00	
(*b*) Contribution to bank emergency relief fund	436,814.00	
(*c*) Other revenues, taxes and fees	525,000.00	
		2,461,814.00
Amortisation quotas:		
(*a*) On real property	1,488,506.65	
(*b*) On equipment and fixtures	785,830.20	
		2,274,336.85
Various losses		1,834,757.05
Net profit:		
(*a*) Transferred from 1928	37,474.85	
(*b*) Net profit for the year 1929	7,912,300.70	
		7,949,775.55
		78,301,399.25

Profits.

	Kc.	Kc.
Balance brought forward from the year 1928		37,474.85
Interests received:		
(*a*) On securities	5,796,363.15	
(*b*) For discounted bills	15,909,955.95	
(*c*) For loans	39,474,599.30	
(*d*) Other interests received	35,144.05	
		61,216,062.45
Commissions charged		11,631,263.50
Various profits:		
(*a*) On securities, foreign exchange and values	702,993.80	
(*b*) On participations	3,675,794.80	
(*c*) Other profits	1,037,809.85	
		5,416,598.45
		78,301,399.25

COMPARISON OF BALANCE SHEET ITEMS SHOWING THE EVOLUTION OF THE BANK.

Year.	Capital and Reserves.		Deposits.		Dividends Paid.
	Capital Stock.	Reserves.	In Savings Accounts.	In Current Accounts.	
	In thousands of Cz. Crowns.				
1920	70,000	14,000	...	182,225	Per cent. 6
1921	70,000	18,082	40,358	252,924	6
1922	70,000	26,344	78,950	407,115	6
1923	70,000	26,800	94,053	412,015	6
1924	70,000	29,200	116,699	418,810	6
1925	70,000	32,000	148,981	424,458	6½
1926	70,000	39,600	177,934	478,015	7
1927	70,000	40,200	215,293	533,589	7
1928	70,000	41,700	257,779	604,281	8
1929	70,000	64,550	292,490	556,960	8

WIENER BANK-VEREIN.

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR BY MR HUGO MARCUS.

The sixtieth ordinary general meeting of the Wiener Bank-Verein was held in Vienna on April 24th, Mr Hugo Marcus, the chairman of the company, presiding. The abridged report submitted to the shareholders proceeds as follows :—

THE PAST YEAR.

The cause of the economic depression generally registered throughout Europe reacted unfavourably also on Austria in 1929. In the neighbouring countries a receding of the conjuncture had already previously set in which affected adversely the productive activity in Austria. As a consequence of the boom on the New York Stock Exchange, American money was kept at home, while European capital was attracted to the United States by the high rates of interest obtainable in that country. In addition to the heavy fall of the prices of cereals, the unsatisfactory 1929 crop brought about a critical situation for the agricultural community, which the prompt action of the Government could only partly relieve. Finally, the political tension at home, and the wild rumours spread in that connection by irresponsible parties, led to withdrawals of deposits and to transfers of money abroad. It was under these circumstances that the collapse of the Allgemeine Oesterreichische Boden-Credit-Anstalt occurred, and, though the creditors of that bank suffered no losses and Austria's credit abroad was in no way impaired, yet the repatriation of the amounts that were withdrawn is naturally a slow process. The unemployment figures, which, for reasons known, are permanently high in Austria, rose to an exceptional level in the course of 1929.

Though their effects can only be expected to be fully felt in the future, several factors liable to promote the economy deserve to be mentioned : thus, the amendment of the Rent Restriction Act, and the Promotion of House Building by the Government; the satisfactory settlement of the Austrian Reparation problem, and of sundry outstanding political obligations of the Austrian Government. The convention governing the redemption of the Austrian Relief Debt having been ratified by all parties concerned, Austria will now be free to conclude the long delayed Federal Investment Loan which should react favourably on the domestic economy.

PUBLIC FINANCES.

Notwithstanding the receding conjuncture, the yield of taxes and fees reached record figures in 1929. The Government has already on several previous occasions stated that it is anxious to reduce the taxation burden, but in order to carry on its investment policy, which also benefits the home industries, the Federal Government had to postpone the proposed de-rating pending the conclusion of the Investment Loan. Considering the substantial receding of loan rates, and also the fact that the political atmosphere at home has considerably improved, the trading community is hopeful that the Government and the public corporations will see their way to decrease the rates of sundry direct and indirect taxes. Notwithstanding the events referred to above, the gold and foreign bills held by the National Bank of Austria have, from the close of 1928 to that of 1929, only receded by 57 million schillings, and the cover of the notes in circulation was maintained at the remarkably high ratio of 64 per cent.

THE BANK'S ACTIVITIES.

Owing to the slow growth of national wealth and the slackness of the Stock Exchange, the Austrian banks had to refrain from proceeding with issues of securities and other profitable operations. On the other hand, they had to exercise great caution in extending credit facilities. They decided, however, to grant further concessions to their customers in order to make up for the latter's narrow profit margin. Under said circumstances, the volume of the Wiener Bank-Verein's current business remained approximately the same as in 1928, while its sundry participations and the securities owned show a moderate increase. A decrease of the profit was, therefore, unavoidable, and a reduction of the dividend has to be proposed to the shareholders. Since the earning possibilities decreased, the bank strove to further curtail the expenditure by adequately reducing its staff. The indemnifications granted to the employees who resigned were drawn from hidden reserves, and do, therefore, not burden the profit account. The bank's staff now numbers 1,610, as against 1,788 one year ago. The number of the branches and sub-branches has remained unchanged, and the results obtained by them have again been satisfactory, in particular those of the Vienna sub-branches.

With regard to our permanent participations in affiliated banks, we would mention that, as a consequence of the merger of the General Banking Corporation of Bohemia with the Boehmische Union-Bank we are now holding a block of the latter's shares. Our holdings of shares of the Banque Franco-Belge et Balkanique, and of the General Banking Corporation of Poland have grown owing to a participation in capital increases of these institutions; on the other hand, the Boehmische Union-Bank joined the group of sponsors of the General Yugoslavian Banking Corporation and of the General Banking Corporation of Poland, ad took over from us shares of these two banks.

We participated in 1929 in the following transactions :—As shareholders of the Union Financière Polonaise we created, jointly with the Union Chimique Belge, the Société Générale d'Industries en Pologne; jointly with German banks, we merged two existing shipping companies into the Neue Norddeutsche and Vereinigte Elbeschiffahrtsgesellschaft; we participated in the capital increase of the Auxiliara, Bucarest; we purchased shares of the Raymond Buurmans and Cie., S.A., Paris and Brussels, of the Société Industrielle d'Exploitation de Moyens de Transport, Paris, of the "Sonopa" Société Nouvelle de Papeterie, Paris, of the Société d'Electricité de la Région de Malmédy a.s.f. We also participated in underwriter-syndicates for the capital increases of the General Banking Corporation of Poland, the Société Générale de Belgique, the Swiss Banking Corporation, the Banque de l'Union Parisienne, the Società Finanziaria Assicurativa a.s.f. After enumerating participations in other syndicates, the Chairman proceded to survey the numerous companies in which the Wiener Bank-Verein holds a controlling interest; despite the general economic depression, quite a number of these are able to increase their dividends without departing from their conservative policy of consolidating their reserves. While the balance sheet as of December 31, 1929, shows no additions to the reserves, there are also no withdrawals, and the aggregate reserve funds amount, as one year ago, to 27,528,370 schillings.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

The results of the year are as follows :—

Assets.

	Schillings.
Cash	18,275,159.45
Bills	84,692,946.76
Debtors :	
Balances with banks	65,956,312.94
Other debtors	287,417,777.19
	353,374,090.13
Permanent interest held in banks	20,452,783.67
Payments on syndicated shares	40,833,210.16
Securities	9,038,513.20
Real estate	7,614,976.33
Total	534,481,679.70

Liabilities.

	Schillings.
Share capital	55,000,000.—
Reserve funds	20,000,000.—
Extraordinary Reserve Fund II.	500,000.—
Reserve fund (surplus yielded by increase of capital)	5,928.370.—
Ordinary Reserve Fund B.	1,100,000.—
Dividend account	194,805.60
Dividend account	194,905.60
Bills guaranteed	46,719.71
Creditors, deposit certificates and savings deposits	448,251,273.80
Profit and loss account	2,960,510.59
Total	534,481,679.70

Profits.

	Schillings.
Brought forward	210,436.72
Interest	12,799,761.34
Securities	827,444.88
Exchange	2,404,173.84
Commissions	8,316,743.10
Participations	1,322,800.81
Total	25,881,360.69

Losses.

	Schillings.
Salaries	14,292,544.02
Current expenses	3,350,269.35
Pensions	1,878,969.55
Taxes and fees	3,278,067.18
Depreciation on real estate	121,000.—
Net profit	2,960,510.59
Total	25,881,360.69

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS.

The chairman proposed, on behalf of the board of directors, to apply 2,750,000 schillings of the net profit to the payment of a 5 per cent. dividend (i.e., 1 schilling for one share of 20 schillings par value), and to carry over to 1930 210,510.59 schillings.

The report and accounts were adopted.

The chairman announced that Herr Oscar Pollak, who had been a member of the board of managing directors since 1919, had tendered his resignation in order to join another bank. He left the Wiener Bank-Verein on the best of terms with his former associates, who highly valued his past services.

The board of directors underwent several changes. Herr Karl Stoegermayer having, in consideration of his age, expressed the desire to be relieved of his duties as chairman, the board of directors reluctantly accepted his resignation and appointed him honorary chairman of the board, of which he will continue to be a member. Mr Hugo Marcus, the present vice-chairman, was unanimously elected chairman. M. Henry Dewez, having relinquished his managing directorship of the Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, resigned from our board and was replaced by M. Auguste Callens, manager of the Société Générale de Belgique. Signor Antonio N. Cosulich likewise resigned for personal reasons. A warm tribute was paid to the retiring directors. In order to give expression to the close ties now existing between the Wiener Bank-Verein and the Boehmische Union-Bank, Dr. Friedrich Elbogen, a prominent industrial, of Prague, and Dr. Gottlieb Morawetz, senior manager of the Boehmische Union-Bank, were elected on the board of directors. Finally, Herr Alexander Weiner, a partner of Messrs. Ephrussi and Company, Vienna, and formerly a distinguished member of the board of managing directors of this institution, was elected vice-chairman of the board of directors. The directors retiring by rotation, to wit : Baron Edmond Carton de Wiart, Dr. Heinrich Haerdtl, Dr. Hans Larisch-Mönnich, M. Auguste Morel-Vischer, Herr Bernhard Popper-Artberg, and Dr. Alfred Wieland-Zahn, were re-elected.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

THE ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED EXPANSION—TOTAL ASSETS : £21,932,085.

The sixty-ninth annual general meeting of the Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

After the Secretary (Mr J. H. Skinner) had read the directors' report and auditors' certificate,

The Chairman (Mr Alfred Skeggs, F.C.I.I., the managing director), in the course of his speech, said :—I am privileged to be in a position to congratulate the policyholders upon the continued success of the society. 1929 again shows a great forward movement in all branches of the society's business.

In the accounts, I would first direct your attention to the industrial life branch. The premium income for the year amounted to £3,841,206, an increase of £128,121 over 1928. The mortality experience was heavier than in 1928. The funds of this department at the end of the year amounted to £15,355,322, being an increase of £1,244,952 over the previous year. The new policies issued during the year, as you will see from the accounts, exceeded 1,038,000, a substantial increase over 1928.

With regard to the ordinary life branch, the new assurances effected during the year amounted to £4,164,154, with an annual renewal premium of £211,776. The new business was in excess of that written in the previous year by £66,079. The total premium income of the branch amounted to £1,104,758, and the funds at the end of the year stood at £5,614,146, being an increase of £451,670 over 1928.

In the accident and general account, it will be observed that the income for the first time exceeded £20,000, the exact amount being £20,879 19s. 3d.

Reviewing the results of the society's activities for the year 1929, it will be noted that the income from all sources during the year amounted to £6,072,913, thus for the first time passing the £6,000,000 mark.

Reference to the balance sheet will show that the society's assets now amount to £21,932,085, an increase for the year of £1,815,487. The groups of investments are clearly set out in the balance sheet, which has been duly vouched by the auditors, Messrs Brown, Peet and Tilly.

It is now my pleasure to move that the directors' report and statement of accounts and balance sheet for the year ended December 31, 1929, now before the meeting, be adopted, and I will ask Mr H. G. Parr to be good enough to second the proposal. The resolution was seconded by Mr Parr and carried unanimously.

GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS—PROGRESS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

The forty-fourth annual general meeting of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the head office, General Buildings, Perth.

The Chairman (Dr. William Low, of Blebo), in moving the adoption of the report, said that it was specially pleasing to be able to place before the shareholders a statement of accounts showing such satisfactory results, as they had been attained in a year which, admittedly, had been bad for insurance, as well as in the economic conditions of the country generally. Their income in all departments showed a satisfactory increase, and what was equally gratifying was the fact that the corporation's profits had also been well maintained and were practically the same as in the very satisfactory year of 1928. They were paying an increased dividend of 1s. per share and even so the amount it cost was still £70,000 under the total interest earnings.

SATISFACTORY INVESTMENT POSITION.

The corporation had suffered no ill-effects from the financial slump in the United States last autumn, notwithstanding the large stake it had in that country, the market values of the investments in the United States as at that date being only about £12,000 below the high-water mark of December, 1928. The directors, in view of the decrease in the market value of investments generally at the end of last year, and as a precautionary measure, had made a small transfer to the reserve for depreciation of investments. He was pleased to say, however, that since that date their securities had appreciated by an amount considerably in excess of the amount transferred to the reserve. He was sure that the shareholders would heartily appreciate the decision of the directors to offer the unissued 18,800 ordinary shares pro rata to the shareholders on terms that would prove equivalent to a not unimportant bonus.

GENERAL MANAGER'S STATEMENT.

Mr F. Norie-Miller (director and general manager), in seconding the motion, said that there was no doubt that the economic conditions of the year 1929 were such as to make it a very difficult one for most branches of insurance. With bad trade new business was more difficult to obtain, but in addition experience had always shown that in bad times losses, especially by fire, were always greater. It, therefore, spoke volumes for the corporation's organisation that in bad times they had been able to increase the premium income by the substantial sum of over £300,000, and make satisfactory profits in both the fire and casualty accounts.

In the fire account net premiums amounted to £656,868, an increase of over £15,000 on the previous year. The losses amounted to 49.78 per cent., as compared with 42.47 per cent. in 1928. Their income would have been larger but for the lack of mercantile business, which had been sadly reduced, and would, he feared, not increase until this country returned to its customary position as the market of the world. They had been fortunate in making up that loss with other first-class business.

The accident account showed nearly £270,000 of an increase, almost entirely in home business. The losses paid and outstanding amounted to 62.46 per cent., and were slightly higher than the previous year.

MOTOR INSURANCE.

If the Road Traffic Bill passed into law, it would possibly increase the motor premium income, but not, he thought, by any substantial amount, for there was no doubt that fully 95 per cent. of the owners of motor-propelled vehicles were already insured. Present rates were only just sufficient to leave a minimum of profit. Those would have to be materially increased if juries continued to give the very excessive verdicts against motor owners, doubtless influenced by the fact that they were insured, and forgetting that an insurance company was not a philanthropic institution, but had to charge owners of cars sufficient premium to pay claims and give a fair margin of profit to the company.

OVER £2,000,000 OF NEW LIFE BUSINESS.

Their life business had been most successful. They had had well over two millions of new business last year, and this year, under its present able management, he expected they would approach the three millions mark. He must record his indebtedness to the directors of the life company and also its officials for all they had done in the interests of the company; as they were aware, it was carried on as a separate company and would shortly become one of the most successful of British life companies.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD NEW LIFE BUSINESS.

SATISFACTORY QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION.

The annual general meeting of the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company, Ltd., was held on the 1st instant, at the head office, 7 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

Mr Charles G. Hamilton (the chairman) presided.

The secretary and actuary (Mr James Stirling) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will take the report as read. (Agreed.)

Before dealing with the accounts for the year, I have to express the regret of the directors at the loss sustained by the death of two of their colleagues, Mr F. J. Coverdale and Mr Frederic Wadsworth, both aged over 90 years.

Both of these gentlemen were members of the country board for very many years and, although age and infirmity prevented frequent attendance at our meetings in recent years, they will be much missed.

The year 1929 was the last of the Quinquennium, at the end of which the life valuation fell to be made. But before going into this important section of our report, I will deal shortly with the trading accounts.

FIRE ACCOUNT.

The fire account, although not quite so good as we have in recent years been accustomed to, is nevertheless not an unsatisfactory one, bearing in mind the heavy losses experienced by all fire offices in the early months of last year. The premium income at £553,968 shows a small increase. The loss ratio was 45·69 per cent., compared with 42·96 per cent. in the previous year. The expense ratio was 40·91 per cent., as against 40·4 per cent. in 1928. The fire reserves were increased to £571,587, and the sum of £94,769 was carried to the profit and loss account.

ACCIDENT AND GENERAL ACCOUNT.

In the accident and general account the premium income amounted to £235,712, and the outgoings of all descriptions to £218,158. The reserves now stand at £265,785 and £31,068 was carried to the profit and loss account.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The profit and loss account maintains its strength. After bringing in £126,991 from the trading accounts and £32,184, one-fifth of the shareholders' proportion of life profits for the quinquennium, 1925-1929, transferring £10,000 to the staff pension fund and £50,000 to the general reserve, the balance at the end of the year was £534,085.

The directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the year now current of 14s. per share, less income tax, payable by half-yearly instalments on May 31st and November 30th.

LIFE ACCOUNT.

Coming now to the life account, the amount of the net new life business completed last year was £2,161,000. This constitutes a record for the company.

The expense ratio was 14·82. The average net rate of interest earned on the life funds was £4 15s. 6d. per cent. The new premium income was £226,689, and the total premium income, £844,689. The claims by death amounted to £527,212, a sum well within the expectation.

The actuarial valuation of the liability of the company under its life policies was made as at December 31st last. Preparatory thereto, all the assets of the company were carefully reviewed. Every loan made and property owned was critically examined, and whenever it appeared to be necessary or desirable, the values of such assets were written down or full reserves set up to meet possible depreciation.

No stock exchange security stands in the company's books at more than the market price, and the market value of the total holdings of the company is much in excess of the amount at which they are taken in our books. The valuation results are eminently satisfactory, and the hopes held out to life policyholders have been amply justified.

The net new life business completed last year constitutes a record, as I have already said, and the total for the quinquennium, £8,787,688, is the largest in the history of the company for any similar period. The figures for the previous two quinquenniums were as follows: 1915–1919, £5,194,105; and 1920–1924, £7,264,485.

THE SURPLUS.

The surplus disclosed by the valuation of the three funds amounts to £1,461,320, exclusive of the amount paid by way of interim bonus. After transferring to the credit of the shareholders their proportion of the profits, £160,920, we are able to declare on policies in the "Law Union and Rock" fund a compound reversionary bonus of £2 5s. per cent. per annum, the same high rate declared five years ago, the highest ever declared by the company. I wish to lay emphasis on the fact that the bonus is compound, *i.e.*, that it is not calculated upon the sum assured only, but upon the sum assured and existing bonuses. Calculated upon the sum assured only, the rates of bonus vary from £2 5s. per cent. to over £5 per cent.

The holders of "Rock" policies, entitled to participate, will receive a compound reversionary bonus at the rate of £2 10s. per cent. per annum for the five years. Policyholders will receive bonuses ranging from £2 10s. per cent. per annum to well over £5 per cent. if calculated upon the sum assured only.

Policyholders in the "Crown" fund, whose bonuses are not declared in the same form, will receive just as satisfactory additions. I believe that in every case these will be larger than on any previous occasion and, of course, of greater cash value owing to the increased ages of the lives assured.

INTERIM BONUS.

On policies which mature by death or survivance during the quinquennium just entered upon, the directors have decided to increase the rate of interim bonus, and on policies entitled thereto to pay a bonus at the rate of £2 5s. per cent. per annum, unless otherwise determined.

The increased rate of interim bonus will be paid in respect of policies on all three funds, the "Law Union and Rock," the "Rock," and the "Crown." After so satisfactory a stocktaking, I think we may look to the future with reasonable confidence.

The investments of the life fund are carefully selected and well spread.

About 28 per cent. is invested in British Government securities,
21 per cent. on Mortgages in and out of the United Kingdom,
7–8 per cent. in Railway and other debentures,
6 per cent. in Indian and Colonial Government provincial and municipal securities,
4 per cent. in Foreign Government provincial and municipal securities,
3·5 per cent. in Preference and guaranteed stocks, and only
1·5 per cent. in Ordinary shares and stocks.

Owing to the collapse last year of the boom on the New York Stock Exchange and the crisis on our own Stock Exchange, there was some reduction in the appreciation of our investments of the life funds on December 31, 1929, but since that date there has been a recovery of about 60 per cent.

The rate of interest on which the valuation of the liabilities of the going fund, the "Law Union," is based is 3 per cent. The actual rate earned during the quinquennium was £4 13s. 10d. per cent. per annum net.

Our expense ratio is moderate, and the rate of mortality experienced is consistently well below that expected according to the mortality tables.

Five years ago in this fund, we carried forward an undivided surplus of £70,000. That surplus is now increased to £109,000, and there is the further large reserve in the difference between the market value and the book value of our securities.

CONFIDENCE JUSTIFIED.

Year by year I have expressed my confidence in the future of the life department, and the results of the valuation just concluded are my justification for continuing to stress the value of a "Law Union" profit policy as an investment.

The recent Budget has thrown additional burdens on incomes and on the estates of deceased persons, and this makes it still more important to effect substantial life policies, for the annual premiums on such policies can, up to a maximum of one-sixth of the total income, be deducted from the annual income in computing the amount on which income tax and sur-tax has to be paid, and the sums assured will assist to pay the heavy death duties.

The "Law Union and Rock" will quote for any class of insurance that can be devised, but I believe the best insurance there is for the assured is a Whole Life with profits policy.

I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr F. W. Pascoe Rutter seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

THE DIVIDEND.

The chairman next moved: "That in accordance with the recommendation of the directors in their report, now adopted, a dividend of 14s. per share, less income tax, be paid to the shareholders for the financial year ending December 31, 1930, the dividend to be payable as usual by half-yearly instalments on the 31st day of May and on the 30th day of November next."

This resolution was seconded by The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Midleton, K.P., and unanimously approved.

Colonel Alfred G. Lucas, C.B., M.V.O., proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr Charles G. Hamilton and Mr F. W. Pascoe Rutter.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount FitzAlan of Derwent, K.G., seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

On the proposition of Mr Charles Hendry, seconded by Mr Philip E. B. Fooks, the auditors, Messrs Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co., were re-appointed.

MR PASCOE RUTTER'S REMARKS.

Mr F. W. Pascoe Rutter: Mr Chairman and gentlemen, I have pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the agents and staffs of this company. The agents, as you know, are the business producers; the staffs in this head office and throughout the country are those who deal with the grist which comes to the mill. During the past year the staffs have not only had to perform their normal duties but, after much labour, they had delivered to us a very satisfactory account of the quinquennium, as you have heard from the chairman. It is therefore a pleasure to me to propose this vote of thanks to the staffs and the agents from Mr Stirling downwards for their excellent work during what undoubtedly has been a difficult year.

Mr Fooks seconded the vote, adding that he personally came into touch with the staff to a considerable extent, and he was extremely struck not only by their unfailing courtesy, but also by their very great keenness in the service of the company. (Applause.)

The vote was unanimously accorded.

Mr Busick E. Pemberton proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. They all recognised, he said, and had done for many years past, the great ability which Mr Hamilton brought to bear upon the handling of the affairs of the company so far as they fell within his province, and they also recognised the assiduous attention which he always gave to them. (Hear, hear.)

This was seconded by The Hon. E. C. G. Cadogan, C.B., M.P., and unanimously passed, a brief acknowledgment by the chairman concluding the proceedings.

LONDON TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED DIVIDEND.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The forty-first ordinary general meeting of the London Trust Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, London, the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, in spite of the many disturbing events of the past year, the trust had maintained its even course, being unaffected either by the collapse of the boom in the United States, where they had not any material holdings, or by the sensational débâcle of the Hatry companies, from which they had kept austerely aloof.

The accounts submitted showed that, after allowing for debenture stock and bank interest and expenses, the revenue had increased by £6,678. The directors had transferred £20,000 to general reserve account (raising it to £120,000) and recommended a final dividend on the deferred stock of 13 per cent., making 21 per cent., as compared with 20 per cent. for the previous year. The balance carried forward was £47,816, as against £46,253 a year ago.

The investments stood in the balance sheet at £2,400,720, and, after providing for all liabilities, their value on March 31st fairly justified the current market quotations for the deferred stock. The holdings of the trust were well spread both at home and abroad. Their foreign securities were, for the most, in companies under English management and were quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

While the reduction in the Bank rate had resulted in a rise in the gilt-edged market, the quotations for industrial shares did not indicate active trade; at the moment, indeed, it was very much the reverse. Many industrial concerns were finding great difficulty in earning any profits, and great care was required in selecting investments. Although the new financial year had opened under conditions unpropitious for British trade, he saw no reason for discouragement as far as this company was concerned, and he was of opinion that the position which this trust had attained would enable it to stand any storms that might be likely to arise in the ordinary course of business. The stockholders might be satisfied that the directors would not now be paying an extra 1 per cent. if they were not convinced that the revenue position gave assurance of their ability to continue it.

The report was unanimously adopted.

THE STATE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND AGAIN 40 PER CENT.

ADVERSE FIRE EXPERIENCE.

SIR C. H. MORTON REVIEWS A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the State Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at the head offices of the company, State Insurance Buildings, Liverpool.

Sir Charles H. Morton, J.P., the chairman, who presided, said: The net amount available for transfer to profit and loss account, after making the necessary adjustment in premium reserve and providing for an underwriting loss on the fire account of £11,026, amounts to £48,122. This sum falls considerably short of that to which you have become accustomed. Last year the transfer was £94,633. The reduction is due to rather an unusual experience for us—poor fire results. These cannot be accounted for by any particular catastrophe involving the company in a serious loss, for, taking our fire losses individually, they have not been abnormal in amount, but in the aggregate they have exceeded those of last year by no less than £35,597.

INCIDENCE OF FIRE LOSS.

You will have observed the persistent occurrence of serious fires throughout the year, and what has happened in this country has taken place at many points where we are operating in the foreign and colonial fields. Many causes are advanced for the high burning ratio of 1929. It has been suggested that it is due to prolonged drought and to poor conditions of trade, and there is no doubt these have been contributory factors. But our business is one of averages, and we must expect the lean as well as the profitable years. There has been no material change in the constitution of our commitments. It is the same business which has shown satisfactory profits in the past that has run so poorly during 1929.

GROWING ACCIDENT BUSINESS.

Fortunately the underwriting loss on the fire account is more than covered by the profits made in the other departments. In our accident department there is a transfer to profit and loss account of £13,500, which is in excess of that of last year. The loss ratio of 49.5 per cent. is satisfactory. The premiums show an increase of £10,874, which follows upon increases of somewhat similar amounts in 1927 and 1928. The company is now transacting practically all classes of accident insurance, and the department is growing steadily in importance on account of its revenue and profit-earning capacity.

The marine department once again makes its contribution to profit and loss account. This year it is £5,499. The increase in premiums is negligible, and I do not anticipate much expansion in our revenue from this source until the present depression in the shipping industry is relieved.

RESOURCES UNIMPAIRED.

Interest.—You will notice that our interest revenue continues to expand, and now amounts to £39,126, against the dividend cost of £32,229.

To sum up the figures: it has been a difficult year, but it is some satisfaction to say that whilst the carry-forward of profit and loss account, after providing in that account for the usual charges, is less than 1928 we complete the year with our resources and profit-earning capacity unimpaired.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 27½ per cent., making, with the interim dividend of 12½ per cent. paid last October, 40 per cent. for the year, was confirmed.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.
PROGRESS IN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.
GROWTH OF TRUSTEE BUSINESS.

The 210th annual general court of the Royal Exchange Assurance was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the head office of the corporation in the Royal Exchange, London, Mr Vivian Hugh Smith (the Governor) presiding.

The Governor, in the course of his speech, said: I should like to allude to a very important change which we have made in our organisation during the past year. I refer to the appointment of Mr Robert Connew as general manager. The Royal Exchange Assurance has never had a general manager up to now, but we felt that the business of the corporation had become of such magnitude that it was essential to appoint one. We are fortunate in securing Mr Connew for this position, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing him every possible success in his new work. (Hear, hear.) One of the reasons why it became imperative to appoint a general manager was because we are losing in a few days the services of our secretary and friend, Mr Percy Hodge. Mr Hodge joined the corporation in the year 1885, and has greatly assisted in building it up to the high position it occupies to-day in the insurance world. (Applause.)

Dealing now with the accounts of the "Royal Exchange" only, you will see that the balance of last year's account has been augmented not only by the interest and profits made during the year, but also by an item of £100,000 which represents a sum set aside years ago as a reserve against any possible unestimated liability for taxation. We now find that this reserve is no longer required, and it is therefore carried into the profit and loss account, which is, as you know, the general reserve fund of your corporation.

ADDITIONS TO THE FUNDS.

Your directors are of the opinion that a general reserve fund of £1,000,000 is adequate for our present requirements, and that it is desirable for the departmental reserve funds to be increased until they—with the reserve for unexpired risks—approximate to the amounts of the annual premium incomes. This explains the transfers on the credit side of the profit and loss account of £50,000 to the accident fund and £100,000 to the fire fund. The transfer of £200,000 to the marine fund should strengthen that fund to such an extent that it should be independent of the general reserve fund in future, and, unless something very unforeseen happens, your directors do not propose to augment it further. It is hoped, however, to continue to build up the accident and fire funds as and when circumstances permit.

If you will refer to the results of the life department, you will see that during the year nearly 4,000 new proposals were completed, assuring £2,670,832, the net new business amounting to £2,273,906. Attention has recently been called to the issue of single-premium policies. The corporation has never encouraged this business, and the total number of policies issued under this scheme is only nine, of which two were completed in 1929. The net premiums from this class of business amounted to £56,289. The gross rate of interest on the life fund has again risen and is £5 15s. 1d. per cent., as compared with £5 13s. 11d. per cent. in the previous year. The life fund at December 31st last amounted to £8,137,984, an increase of £623,995 on the 1928 figure. I am glad to be able to draw your attention to the fact that the interim bonus of 40s. per cent. has been improved by calculating it on the sum assured and declared bonuses, instead of only on the sum assured, as formerly.

CONTINUED GROWTH OF TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT.

The business of the trustee department continues to expand, and the services rendered by your corporation through this department for the public generally as executors and trustees of wills and settlements, as managers of private investments and estates, and as debenture trustees, registrars, &c., appear to be more appreciated as time passes. This is borne out by the continual growth of the trust funds under the administration of the department, the funds amounting at December 31, 1929, to approximately £108,000,000, showing an increase over the funds in the custody of the corporation at the end of the previous year of nearly £15,000,000.

The profits derived from the department also show an increase, the amount carried to profit and loss account being £16,848, an increase of £1,727 over the figures carried in for the previous year. Considering the magnitude of the business undertaken by the department and the complexity of the services rendered, this profit must be considered most reasonable and satisfactory.

As a matter of interest I should like to refer for one moment to the help that your corporation was able to render as trustees for the Stock Exchange (Hatry) settlement. It gave us great pleasure to be able to assist in this most arduous and difficult task, and to offer the services of the trustee department voluntarily and free of cost in the clearing up of one of the most unfortunate financial happenings which the City has ever had to overcome. It was very gratifying to receive from the Stock Exchange (Hatry) Settlement Committee a graceful letter of appreciation of our services and to learn therefrom that the work had been carried out to their complete satisfaction.

FIRE BUSINESS.

The net premium income of the fire department of over £1,756,000 shows an increase of some £12,000 compared with 1928. The expense ratio is unchanged, but our loss experience has been less satisfactory throughout the world. The amount carried to profit and loss account from this department is £113,308. This is less by some £37,000 than was carried in 1928, but I think that, in a year in which the general experience of fire business has been so much less favourable, an underwriting profit of over 4 per cent. cannot be regarded as other than satisfactory.

The year 1929 was one of acknowledged difficulty for fire business. Fire waste in the United Kingdom has been exceptionally heavy, and I think I am correct in saying that it is many years since insurance companies have suffered so severely in this respect. In the United States, although results were not unfavourable, the profit obtained was less than for 1928, due, to some extent, to the exceedingly keen competition and the resultant increase in the cost of obtaining business. In the remainder of the foreign field our premiums have been more than maintained, but here, again, the loss ratio is appreciably higher than we have experienced for some years. The fire fund now amounts to £1,302,476, including £100,000 transferred from the profit and loss account.

The premium income of the marine department for 1929 shows an increase as compared with 1928. This is partly due to the increase in hull rates, and also to the writing of specially selected additional business of a class which has in the past proved satisfactory. This sphere of your corporation's business is being given the most careful and constant supervision. I must repeat my remarks of last year that, whereas the hull rates show an improvement, the position as regards cargo is still unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, I feel I am justified in saying that, although progress in this business is disappointingly slow, on the whole there has been a distinct improvement in the attitude of the market, and more disinclination to engage in the disastrous competition which was so prevalent a few years ago. Including the amount transferred from profit and loss account, the marine fund amounts to £1,001,835.

GENERAL ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

In the general accident department the premium income continues to expand, the net premiums for the year amounting to £1,275,830, which is £144,626 more than the corresponding figure for 1928. This is mainly due to an increase in the foreign business. The percentage of losses shows a welcome reduction, it being 53·28 per cent., as against 56 per cent. for the previous year; while the result of the year's working is a transfer of £71,585 to profit and loss. Including the £50,000 transferred from profit and loss account to strengthen the accident reserve, the general accident fund now stands at £1,070,687. Accident business generally is not free from difficulties, and at the present time the margin of profit is small. It will be noticed that the general accident fund now exceeds £1,000,000, which, I think you will agree, places the department in a very satisfactory position.

Returning to the profit and loss account, you will notice that the "Dividend to proprietors" cost £205,763. This is larger than the amount appearing in the 1928 accounts, owing to the issue of new stock in 1928 for the payment for the shares of the Motor Union Insurance Company. After deducting the transfers already referred to, there remains a balance of £1,002,094 to be carried forward.

PROGRESS OF ASSOCIATED COMPANIES.

All your associated companies have, unfortunately, suffered from the generally unfavourable fire experience, and the results of the "State" and "Motor Union" are in consequence disappointing. The "Car and General" and "National Provincial" have, on the other hand, had a satisfactory year, the profits obtained from the other departments of their operations more than counter-balancing the fire results. I am confident, however, that they are making progress, and I have every reason to believe that their acquisition will continue to prove beneficial to the corporation.

I wish to draw your attention to the statement on the balance sheet to the effect that the aggregate profits of the associated companies during this year were in excess of the dividends paid by those companies.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LIMITED.
STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The fifty-ninth annual general meeting of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., was held on the 29th ultimo, at the offices, 36-44 Moorgate, London.

Sir Clarence Smith, J.P., presided in the absence, through indisposition, of Mr E. Roger Owen (chairman of the corporation), and in the course of his speech said: Viewing the year's operations as a whole, the corporation's premium income at £6,185,040 was some £63,000 less than the premium income of the previous year. After making necessary and ample provision for unearned premiums and outstanding claims, there remained an underwriting profit of £181,838, being 2·9 per cent. of the premium income for the year. Interest, dividends, and rents totalled £303,274.

Fire department: The net fire premiums for the year amounted to £362,203, an increase of some £14,000 as compared with the previous year. After providing 40 per cent. for unearned premiums, there remained an underwriting profit of £36,380, which was transferred to profit and loss. The departmental fund stands at £479,765, equalling 132·5 per cent. of the year's premium income.

I believe it may be fairly said that the fire losses of the offices generally for 1929, and particularly at home, were above the normal. Fortunately, our own experience was quite a satisfactory one. The income of the fire department is steadily increasing, and the directors regard with satisfaction the manner in which our policyholders in other departments to an increasing degree are placing their fire insurances with the corporation. It is anticipated that the operations of the department will increase still further in volume as time goes on.

Accident department: The net premium income of the accident department was £5,822,837, a decrease of some £77,000 as compared with the previous year. The figures include those of our American company, the Columbia Casualty Company. After making ample provision for unearned premiums and outstanding losses, there remained an underwriting profit of £145,458, of which £135,000 was transferred to the profit and loss account. The balance was added to the departmental fund, which now stands at £4,185,635, equal to 71·8 per cent. of the premium income of the year. As in the case of the fire department, the reserve is a very substantial one.

The year 1929 was by no means an easy or a prosperous one for casualty insurance companies in at least one or two of the countries in which the Corporation transacts its business.

The reduction in premium income was consequent upon the further pursuit of our policy of curtailing commitments in certain directions where for one reason or another we do not regard the rates obtainable at the present time as sufficient to yield some profit in return for our services and the risks incurred. In those fields of our operations where we did not deem it advisable to adopt this policy of curtailment our premium income increased to a satisfactory degree.

Motor business: The ever-increasing number of mechanically propelled vehicles in use in this and the many other countries in which we are doing business has further increased our premium income in respect of motor insurance, and this section now represents a highly important part of our entire business. Claims continue to increase, not only in ratio to the number of vehicles in use, but also in the average cost of disposing of the claims, and the result is that in some countries the percentage of profit is very small, while in others it is becoming more and more difficult to carry on the business with any margin of profit, however small, at the current rates.

In our endeavours to meet the requirements of the insuring public at home and overseas, the corporation transacts a wide and ever-widening variety of business. In this connection I take the opportunity of mentioning one of our highly specialised departments.

Engineering: By reason of its steady expansion, the engineering department at home occupies an increasingly prominent position in the field of our activities. No trouble or expense has been spared in building up a thoroughly skilled inspecting organisation, and it will probably interest you to know that at the present time we have on our permanent staff well over 100 inspecting and supervising engineers solely occupied in rendering that efficient service upon which success in engineering insurance business essentially depends.

The risks to be underwritten are of a very varied character, including those incidental to the use of boilers and pressure vessels, engines, electrical plant, lifts, cranes, etc. Every policy, in addition to providing indemnity, includes an undertaking periodically to inspect all the insured items with a view to reducing preventable accidents to a minimum and to securing safety and continuity of operation.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, *6 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.*

LEGAL AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.
MR. ROMER WILLIAMS, D.L., J.P., THE CHAIRMAN, DESCRIBES A POLICY WHICH PROVIDES £3 PER WEEK INCOME, FROM £1,000 CAPITAL.

At the annual meeting, held on the 29th ultimo, Mr Romer Williams, in the course of his remarks, referred to the "Safeguard" policy, and said:—

". . . We have just introduced a new form of contract, known as the 'Safeguard' policy, which should be specially attractive to the married man with family responsibilities. It overcomes to a great extent the difficulties of the investment of the sum assured which a widow so often experiences after the death of her husband. It provides her, during the most difficult period, with a steady and substantial income largely in excess of the return possible from ordinary investments."

Life assurance has been criticised because the capital sum available on the death of the policyholder produced at best but a bare 5 per cent. for the dependants when safely invested. It has also been suggested that the widow at the time of her bereavement would find difficulty in safely investing the capital sum which came to her, at a good rate of interest. So many inexperienced people were attracted by and beguiled into speculative investments boasting a high rate of interest with disastrous results, and this would be especially likely to happen at a moment when judgment was clouded by grief and an acute sense of loss.

The new policy provides, in the event of the death of the life assured, an income of £3 per week for each £1,000 of assurance. This is rather more than 15 per cent. interest, and, because it is guaranteed and does not necessitate the dependants attending to various details of investment, it is particularly suited to all men with dependants who are inexperienced in matters financial. When the £1,000 capital is paid at the end of the specified period the dependants would be more experienced, and so would be better able to make a safe and profitable investment.

Obviously, no insurance company would pay 15 per cent. for more than a specified period, and under the new policy this is limited to 20 years from the date the contract is effected; that is to say, in the event of death within the first year of the new policy a man's dependants would receive an income of £3 per week for the balance of the 20 years from the date of the policy, and, at the end, £1,000 in cash would be payable. It will be seen that the contract would be most effective when a man's responsibilities were at their maximum and the handsome income would carry his dependants over the most trying years after his death.

There has already been a steady demand for this type of contract since its introduction, and it is proving a useful contribution towards the solution of one of life's most difficult problems.

A life assurance of £2,000 under the contract provides an income of £6 per week for 20 years from the date of the policy, or an assurance of £500 would provide 30s. per week. As an illustration of the cost, a man aged 35 years next birthday would set aside only slightly over £5 10s. per quarter to provide his widow and dependants with an income of £3 per week and £1,000.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.
GOOD RESULTS—INCREASED PROFITS.
POWERFUL FINANCIAL POSITION.
LORD MELCHETT ON POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The third ordinary general meeting of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at the Central Hall, Westminster, London.

Th Rt. Hon. Lord Melchett, P.C., D.L., D.Sc., F.R.S. (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report, in the course of his speech said: The gross profit for 1929 amounts to £6,502,341, which is an increase of £504,960 over 1928 and of £1,168,417 over 1927.

We have followed our usual practice of maintaining out of profits the whole of our subsidiary companies' plant and buildings in a state of the highest efficiency, and the amount transferred to the central obsolescence fund represents a further provision to guard against the possibility of any of our plants being rendered obsolete by the discovery of new and more efficient processes.

We have appropriated to general reserve the sum of £529,020, and there remains available, with the balance brought forward from last year, the sum of £5,359,995. The preference dividend and an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares have already been paid, and your directors now recommend that a final dividend of 5 per cent. actual, making 8 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, and a dividend of 2 per cent. on the deferred shares be declared. As compared with last year, the rate of dividend on the ordinary shares is unaltered, but the dividend on the deferred shares is raised by ¼ per cent. The amount carried forward to 1930 will amount to £350,923, as compared with £109,634 a year ago.

MERGER NOT TOP-HEAVY.

A word on the criticism I sometimes hear to the effect that the business is top-heavy and suffers from difficulty of control owing to its size.

The real problem of rationalisation and merging of big enterprises consists in effective central control with sufficient elasticity lower down to allow action to be neither arrested nor delayed, and to prevent the chiefs at the head from being encumbered by too much detail, at the same time keeping a grip on all the essential features of policy, such as finance, expenditure, sales and relations with other great groups of industrialists throughout the world.

I think I can claim with confidence that we have succeeded in achieving these twin objects, both of which are essential to the successful working of great organisations. Naturally, the overlooking of such wide, important and scattered interests is a task requiring daily thought and consultation on behalf of those engaged in the higher management, including myself and the president.

To-day presents a less formidable problem than the earlier stages of the existence of the company.

GENERAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY.

The balance-sheet reveals a position of strength and solidity of which any company in any country might well be proud. Only in existence for three years during a time of exceptional industrial and trade difficulty, we have shown continuous growth of profits—profits which, I may say, are the result of the manufacture and sale of our products, the legitimate business on which we are embarked, profits which have been obtained in a time of gradually diminishing world prices and relatively non-elastic and slow-moving markets, both at home and abroad.

If some of the industries in this country on which we are dependent for the outlet of our products are depressed, it is inevitable that we suffer with them, but fortunately our interests are so diversified, both commercially and territorially, that in practice any loss in one direction is generally recouped in some other direction.

PROFITS AND SALE OF SECURITIES.

Among the many rumours which naturally reach one regarding the position of the company—rumours which sometimes even find their way into printed statements and which display an extraordinary ignorance both of the methods on which the company is conducted and results—there is one to which I wish to give a most categorical and emphatic denial, and that is that the profits of the company from its inception have either been inflated or affected by capital profits made on the sale of investments or Stock Exchange speculation in securities.

If at any time the realisation of securities has resulted in any profits from the merger value, such profits have always been dealt with as capital appreciation and have never been included in the profit and loss account of I.C.I. (Hear, hear.)

As regards the second statement, it ought not to be necessary, but I must once more repeat that the Board of I.C.I. is carrying on a manufacturing business and not employing the funds of the company in speculative Stock Exchange ventures.

There is one further point which I think I ought also to mention, and that is the statement that the profit and loss account includes sums transferred from reserve funds existing in the subsidiaries at the time when the merger was made. No such transfers have taken place. Where transfers have been made, as shown in this year's account, from a subsidiary to the central obsolescence fund created since the merger, the transaction is shown in the reserve account, but this is merely part of our policy of creating a central obsolescence fund.

DIVIDENDS AND RESERVE FUNDS.

To have achieved in three years a reserve and obsolescence fund of £16,725,000 is a feat of which we can be proud.

We all realise the right of those participating in industrial ventures to obtain during their lifetime as good a return on their capital as the industry can afford.

But I hope you will agree with me that you do not wish us to be precipitate in our action to adopt a dividend rate, the maintenance of which we cannot really foresee not merely for one year but for some time ahead.

INDUSTRY AND TAXATION.

It is quite impossible in industry to-day to divorce entirely the effect of economic actions undertaken by governments from the conduct of business affairs.

Neither technology and efficiency nor commercial ability and sagacity can counteract the disastrous economic results which may, and do, arise from unwise actions of governments.

I have no hesitation in saying that if you wish to restore the agricultural and industrial condition of this country to a real state of prosperity, one of the first necessities must be reduction of the burden of direct taxation. When out of every pound you put by in your reserve fund from your profits year by year for the building up of your business, 4s. 6d. is taken by the State—often for by no means so useful a purpose—how can anyone say that taxation does not impair the strength of industry?

There never was a period in the world's business history in which it was more necessary to enable large decisions to be taken rapidly. Time most frequently is of the utmost importance. "Yes" or "No" must be given at once.

And on these occasions the groups of far-sighted and powerful men who are prepared to risk a very considerable part of their fortunes and who will be inclined to ask shareholders to do likewise, are an essential necessity to our modern economic life.

That you can destroy with impunity the existence of such people or substitute any other form of machinery to fulfil their rôle, is one of the most dangerous heresies and fallacies of a certain class of economic thought.

THE DYES POSITION.

Our dye industry becomes of special interest, as the Dyestuffs Act, which was passed in December, 1920, and under which the British Dyestuffs Corporation was originally founded, expires in January, 1931, unless by the intervention of Parliament new legislation is passed.

It is not surprising that the first years of this company were years of difficulty and disappointment. In fact it can be more accurately described as a national work rather than a remunerative commercial industrial enterprise.

As you know, we have only had three years in which to tackle all the various problems connected with this enterprise. I am glad to think that during that period we have made an altogether surprising amount of progress, more especially in the last two years. The range of dyes required for the various purposes of modern industry is enormous. There are over 10,000 separate dyestuffs known, and while a great many are redundant, this figure serves to show the complexity of the industry.

We are to-day manufacturing and even exporting dyes of a quality equal to those made by any other firm in the world, and no customer of ours has any longer any reason to complain, as undoubtedly was the case in the earlier days, regarding quality.

We have reduced prices to figures which enable the English consumer to obtain his products at world prices.

In our view, the results obtained so far entirely justify the passing of the Act. The British dye industry to-day produces by weight 93 per cent. and by money value 72 per cent. of the dyestuffs consumed in this country.

Before the war the industry was practically negligible, but there are now several millions of pounds of capital invested in the industry, which employs many thousands of people directly and indirectly.

We think the period has been too short to enable us to catch up the long start our competitors have had, but we feel certain that within a given time we shall arrive at any rate at an equality, if we do not surpass them.

NITROGEN POSITION. BILLINGHAM PROGRAMME.

We have almost reached the completion of our expenditure on our fertiliser and ancillary plant at Billingham. It is, of course, public knowledge that the whole of this plant is not in full operation.

We have never expected that all the fertiliser plant we were erecting would be required immediately on completion of the plant. Owing to the rapidity of construction the date of our original programme has been considerably anticipated, and in view of extensive technical improvements the capacities of the various fertiliser plants are all considerably higher than the original estimates, and the amount of surplus of each plant at the moment is larger than it would otherwise have been.

In order to maintain our relative position and importance as manufacturers we shall always in the future, as we have throughout our history in the past, have to be prepared to have a certain amount of reserve plant in existence. We can never afford not to be able to deliver when the market calls for our products. Neither is it possible with the most careful economic and statistical study to foretell with accuracy more than the trend over periods of the world consumption.

During the past seven years world nitrogen consumption has more than doubled. We can, however, from past experience state with certainty that there is still a great world need for the increased use of fertilisers. There have been sudden and large increases in the demand for nitrogen in recent years, and I fully expect that history will repeat itself in this respect.

One of the main objects of my recent visit to South Africa was to obtain a personal acquaintance with the working of African Explosives and Industries Limited, a very important associated company of ours in which we have a 50 per cent. interest in conjunction with the De Beers Company, and was very pleased with the present position and future prospects of the company.

As you will know, I personally am absolutely convinced of the importance of the development of Imperial economic unity not merely to relieve the industrial depression of this country, but also to assist the agricultural and general development of the Empire as a whole.

IMPORTANCE OF EMPIRE TRADE.

My visit to South Africa has only tended to confirm my previous view. There, and throughout the Empire, you see the enormously wide field that lies open to trade agreements between the British producer and the British manufacturer. We have given a great example of the advantages of industrial mergers. I can assure you that I am absolutely convinced that even much greater and more far-reaching advantages to the British people could be derived by co-operation on the lines of an Imperial merger.

One of the schemes which were discussed in South Africa was the introduction into that country of our processes for the manufacture of synthetic ammonia and its oxidation into nitric acid for the cheapening of the manufacture of explosives. Owing to our interests and connections with this great industry in South Africa we are able at the same time to exploit on remunerative terms to your company the result of the years of research and experiment we have carried out at your Billingham factory, and at the same time assist in the development of an important secondary industry in the Dominions which will render South Africa, which up to now has had to import Chilean nitrate of soda for the manufacture of nitric acid, a self-contained unit as far as this operation is concerned.

In general, I would say that I feel confident that this company, which is in an extraordinarily strong position, will continue to extend very largely its operations in many directions and become a still larger contributor to the profits of I.C.I. as compared with what it has been during the last few years.

OIL FROM COAL.

We have made great progress in the important field of the conversion of coal into petrol and fuel oil, by hydrogenation. A semi-technical plant is in operation and is to-day producing first-class petrol from British coal. We are doing intensive work on the subject, studying it particularly in this country and in other parts of the Empire, and we have every reason to hope that, under favourable conditions, we shall be able to produce high-class petroleum products on a commercial basis.

We have recently had discussions with representatives of an important group of oil companies and the Standard I.G. Company of America, with a view to arranging for mutual co-operation and the pooling of knowledge and for exploitation of the process on lines which will encourage mutual progress. I am happy to say that within the last day or two we have practically reached agreement on the points involved, and we have no doubt that this agreement will be of material benefit to us and facilitate early practical progress not only in this country but in the Empire as a whole. I need hardly point out the importance of these developments, both to national and imperial defence and the future development of the coal industry in this country. They would carry with them directly and indirectly a large amount of new employment of workers in this country.

CONCLUSION.

On looking at the situation as a whole, I can only repeat that we have every reason to be satisfied with the position the company has reached in such a short space of time and has maintained during the years of exceptional industrial and financial difficulties.

The balance-sheet discloses a powerful financial position. As far as we can judge our capital requirements for the present year, and probably for longer, are covered by the last issue which we have made.

While it is early in the year to endeavour to anticipate the final results, and whereas it is always an unthankful task to assume the rôle of a prophet, especially in times such as these, still, giving you the best views on the position which I can make at the present time, I see no reason to anticipate that the present year should not give us results as favourable as, if not somewhat better than, those of the year whose accounts we are presenting to-day.

Those who are partners with us in this great Imperial enterprise, and on whose loyalty and support we have to rely, can rest assured that there is nothing which will not be done which foresight, energy and application can humanly do to develop still further this great concern.

There is, fortunately, throughout the entire ranks of our body a unity of purpose, a common loyalty and harmonious co-operation which become intensified as time goes on.

Surrounded as I am by colleagues of exceptional and established ability, by a staff of the highest grade of efficiency, by a band of workers unequalled in the world, I look forward with no uncertainty or hesitation to the growing expansion, the increasing prosperity of, at any rate, one great British industry, of which I have the honour to be the chief.

SIR HARRY MCGOWEN'S SPEECH.

Sir Harry McGowen said: On former occasions it has been my custom to supplement our chairman's speech, but his remarks to-day, coupled with the report issued a few days ago, have been so comprehensive and informative that it is unnecessary for me to add to them.

In a word, I would like to say that I subscribe to all he has said, but I would stress one point: that is, that your great concern is equipped in every way, technically and commercially, to take care of whatever business is offering in our many commodities throughout the world's markets, but, naturally, when those industries on which we depend for a demand for our products are depressed we must necessarily suffer. Constant care is being continually exercised in the direction of reducing costs of manufacture and distribution, and I hope you will agree with me that it is rather an excellent achievement that we should have been able to show such a very satisfactory result for the past year notwithstanding the general unsatisfactory conditions of business in this country and in many parts of the world.

I commend the enterprise of our staff in continuously looking for new outlets for our products. The day is past when we can sit at home and wait for orders to come to us. Members of our staff are all the time travelling the world, getting in contact with existing and potential buyers, and I can assure you that no stone is left unturned in our efforts to hold and increase our business.

As an encouragement, let me add that our sales for the first three months of this year are quite as satisfactory as those for the corresponding, and less difficult, period of 1929.

In the nature of things I possibly come in contact with more individual members of the staff than our chairman, and I would just like to say that any words of mine are inadequate to express my feelings of gratitude that we have around us a staff so loyal, keen and enterprising.

Publicity has been given in many newspapers to the contract we have made with the Russian Government, but I would like to remove what is, possibly, a misconception in the minds of our shareholders. It has been stated in one or two papers that we have given a loan to the Russian Government. That is not so. What we have done is to sell our products on extended terms of credit, which, however, in our opinion are quite satisfactory, but any possible risk is adequately covered by insurance. The contract provides for considerable quantities of many of our manufactures at satisfactory prices, and we are pleased at this opportunity of giving increased employment to workers in certain of our factories.

Ladies and gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by our Chairman.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROFIT EXPANSION.

The thirtieth annual general meeting of Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at Bush House, Aldwych, London, W.C., Sir Felix J. C. Pole (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr R. H. Haviland, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, pointed out that the general reserve account had been increased from £575,000 to £800,000. The profit for the year, including dividends from subsidiary companies and after deduction of all expenses and charges other than interest on debenture stock and depreciation, amounted to £365,961 as against £258,772 last year—an increase of £107,189. To this figure, £365,961, there had to be added the amount brought forward from last year, £101,851, so that they had a total of £467,812. After providing for interest on the debenture stock, depreciation written off works, machinery, plant, &c., at Trafford Park and Sheffield and the amount transferred to general reserve, the total profits available for distribution amounted to £348,389. They recommended that there should be paid a dividend of 8 per cent. on the preference shares and 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, both less tax, absorbing £239,147, which would leave a balance to be carried forward of £109,241. He had been reminded, he said, that it was usual to pay dividends on preference shares half-yearly, and he was pleased to announce that the directors proposed to adopt that practice in future, commencing with the payment of a half-year's dividend on July 1st next.

Having regard to the severe competition prevailing throughout last year, the results might, he thought, be regarded as satisfactory, but the directors felt that the profits were not commensurate with the high quality of their products, and the service rendered to their customers. The works of the group were comparatively well employed during 1929, and the output was satisfactorily maintained.

An important development during the year was the decision to utilise the Edison Swan Electric Company as the merchandising section of the group, and the business in wiring supplies, fittings, and radio apparatus, formerly handled by the merchandising sales department of the British Thomson-Houston Company had been taken over by the Edison Swan Company. This would be followed by the transfer to the Edison Swan Company of the Metropolitan-Vickers merchandising business. The results already secured had been encouraging, and the directors believed that substantial economies would accrue.

The works of the group were comparatively well employed during 1929, and the output was satisfactorily maintained. Orders in hand showed an increase over those for the previous year. He was sorry, however, he could not be very optimistic with regard to prices, which in his view were far too low, having regard to the very high standard of their products.

EFFICIENCY OF THE INDUSTRY.

It had been said of some of the industries in this country that they were badly equipped with respect to plant and technical ability, and it had been suggested that the poor financial results obtained had been due to these causes. There was no foundation for any such statement if made with regard to the electrical manufacturing industry. The works of their own companies were as well equipped and as up to date as any to be found in other countries.

It was only in the case of price that they were at a disadvantage, due to their having no protected home market in which they could build up quantity production and so get lower costs, to the heavy burden of taxation which they had to bear, and to the lower rates of wages paid by their Continental competitors.

It was most unfortunate that the really vital question of how to protect our home markets should be a matter of political controversy, and he could not help feeling that the solution of the problem was work for an impartial tribunal, which should weigh up facts, figures and arguments and make a recommendation without regard to party cries or vote catching. (Hear, hear.) Some day British working men would realise that safeguarding of Industry was synonymous with safeguarding of their employment.

How effectively the export business had been re-established since the war was demonstrated by the fact that in the last nine years the Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Company alone obtained business from overseas aggregating £27,000,000. He had made a calculation to what this meant to the workers of this country, and he thought might be estimated that quite £18,000,000 was paid in wages as the result of this business being obtained for Great Britain—a notable contribution to the solution of our post-war difficulties.

The report was unanimously adopted.

HENRY GLAVE, LIMITED.

TWENTY PER CENT. IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The eighth annual general meeting of Henry Glave, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at 80/110 New Oxford Street, London, W.C. (the company's new store).

Sir Arthur Wheeler, Bt., D.L., J.P. (the chairman) said:—The basis of allocation of profits which we recommended provides for the maximum dividend on the preferred ordinary shares, and for a 20 per cent. dividend on the deferred ordinary shares—for the third year in succession—and that after allocating £3,000 to reducing the amount at which fixtures and fittings stand in the balance sheet, we carry forward a little more than we bring in.

I draw attention to this because the period under review has not been by any means favourable. As you know, building operations have been in progress, and they have been a severe handicap to the revenue-earning capacity of this store. Apart from this, the road on our frontage—New Oxford Street—has been closed to traffic for eight weeks. Eight weeks you may think is only a very short period, but the standing charges are very heavy, and if our sales for two months are heavily reduced it means that during that time we are actually making a loss.

Whilst I am on this point of the relation between turnover or sales and overhead expenses, I must tell you that our rigid policy is to sell the maximum quantity of goods and to achieve that maximum figure two factors are essential: We must display our wares to the best advantage, and the price at which we offer them must be attractive.

The first condition is undoubtedly provided under our rebuilding scheme. We can pride ourselves on having the best lay-out of its kind from the shop windows to the most remote corner of the building. The second factor, the competitive price, we attain by making a small profit per unit of goods sold. We can buy well because we buy "big." We prefer to make a shilling profit on each of forty articles rather than ten shillings on each of four.

QUESTION OF RESERVE.

To return to the allocation, we propose placing nothing to reserve, and for this very good reason. Perhaps I might first generalise and say that in any business a general reserve is created against contingencies. It represents profit set aside in one year because it is felt that in a subsequent year it may be required to enrich a poorer profit, or it is perhaps set aside and an equal sum invested in a gilt-edged security so that if some asset of the company decreases in value this amount set aside will keep the balance true. Neither of these aspects or situations concerns your company to-day. In the trading of Glaves Stores we are at the foot of a rising curve, and so far as our assets are concerned we actually have a considerable internal reserve.

Our investments in subsidiary companies, which stand in the balance sheet at £492,260, would show an appreciation of some £160,740 if we valued them on a 10 per cent. yield basis. To put it another way, if we wished to provide a similar income we should have to invest £653,000 at 10 per cent. per annum. This takes no account of the reserves vested in the subsidiary companies. Again, our leaseholds and buildings stand more than 20 per cent. below the valuation recently placed on them by Messrs Goddard and Smith. I am conservative in the extreme, I acknowledge the necessity for adequate reserves, but I do not make a fetish of reserve building. My board and I recognise that we are here to look after not only the interests of shareholders but the interest on their money.

FUTURE PROSPECTS.

Now in regard to our future prospects. Glaves Stores are particularly well situated. Its frontage is on the most direct thoroughfare from the West End to Holborn and the City, and within a few yards runs Charing Cross Road, carrying endless traffic north and south. Ultimately, no doubt, the new Charing Cross Bridge will be built, and that will still further improve our position as a shopping centre. There are stores in London far less conveniently situated which bring shoppers from every part of England. How much more so shall we be able to attract the stream of shoppers assisted by this natural flow in our direction! All these factors are there to help us, but we do not rely on them alone. When Glaves Store is completed, I make so bold as to prophesy that people will visit Glaves because it is Glaves, and not because they happen to be passing.

Mr W. J. Hopton, J.P. (managing director), said that many people disliked hire purchase and the credit system. They did not want three or four years to pay; they wanted value. This "Glaves" had proved by the fact that they had served nearly 50,000 more customers during last year, and about 150,000 more during the last two years, in spite of their difficulties.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

LUNUVA (CEYLON) TEA AND RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS AND DIVIDEND.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Lunuva (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on the 28th ultimo, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 2-4 Idol Lane, London. Mr H. J. Welch (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and gentlemen,—The issued capital of £632,758 remains at the same figure as last year. The reserve has been increased by £15,637 to £235,000. The estates account (including buildings, machinery and plant) stands at £814,866, or £60,754 higher—the addition being represented by the purchase for £9,400 of 326 acres of fine virgin land suitable for tea, and the balance by development expenditure and expenditure upon buildings, machinery, &c., less £23,358 written off for depreciation.

After making allowance for the surplus assets, less the liabilities (including the £10,000 which it is proposed should be written off buildings, etc., account), the planted areas stand in the books at the net figure of £44 11s. per acre, as against £41 last year.

ANOTHER NEW TEA FACTORY.

The erection of a new tea factory has just been completed on the Hingurugama estate This is the sixth new tea factory erected by the company since 1926. With its completion we hope that we have virtually come to the end of the re-equipment of our tea estates.

As you know, during the last four years the company has expended a large sum of money upon putting its estates in first-class condition, particularly as regards factories and equipment. I think the results for the year are sufficient evidence that the policy has been fully justified.

The profit per acre on tea rose from £17 3s. 9d. in 1928 to £19 12s. 11d. in 1929, an improvement of £2 9s. 2d. per acre.

The net profit upon rubber amounted to £2 1s. 8d. per acre, or £1 17s. 9d. per acre better than in 1928. This was in spite of a fall in the net price secured for the rubber crop of almost 3½d. per pound, and is the result of a very considerable reduction in the cost.

The profit per acre on the coconut area was disappointing. It fell by 18s. 4d. to £2 6s. 4d. This was mainly owing to the low price ruling for copra, which realised about £3 per ton less than in 1928.

The policy of gradually planting up the reserve lands of our existing estates was continued during 1929, and the company's total planted area now amounts to 11,801 acres, of which 1,475 acres have not yet reached the revenue-producing stage. A further 252 acres (184 of tea and 68 of rubber) will be planted this year.

All the estates, as I have said, are in first-class order, and, given reasonably remunerative selling prices for its two main products, I think this company can look forward with every confidence to continued and, indeed, increased prosperity. (Hear, hear.)

The satisfactory results, however, could not have been secured without the loyal co-operation of a skilled and energetic staff in Ceylon, and our very cordial thanks are again due to the estates staff, our visiting agents and our Colombo agents, and our acting secretary in London (Mr. J. E. Ritchie). Especially are our thanks due to all concerned for the improvement in the manufacture and value of our teas.

The total net profit for the year amounted to £135,188, as against £120,721 in 1928. It equalled 21 per cent. upon the issued capital.

The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 11½ per cent., making 17½ per cent. for the year, as against 15 per cent. distributed in 1928.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

As far as the year 1930 is concerned, up to the present our teas have realised higher and our rubber lower prices than the averages obtained for last year. The company has agreed to restrict its tea crop for the year and not to tap its rubber during May. You are doubtless fully aware of the schemes under which these restrictions are taking place, the object of which is to prevent the continued accumulation of surplus stocks. It is hoped that we shall thereby gain in increased prices what we shall lose in reduced outputs and increased costs.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a final dividend of 11½ per cent., less income tax, declared. The retiring director, Mr George Nicol Thomson, was re-elected to the board, and the auditors, Messrs. McAuliffe Davis and Hope, reappointed for the current year. A hearty vote of thanks to the Eastern agents, the staff in the East, the chairman and the directors terminated the proceedings.

RIO DE JANEIRO CITY IMPROVEMENTS COMPANY, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND OF 10 PER CENT. MAINTAINED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Rio de Janeiro City Improvements Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th ultimo, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr Edward Greene, who presided, in the absence of the chairman, Lord Hunsdon, said that the board recommended the same final dividend of 1s. 3d. per share as last year, bringing the total distribution up to the usual figure of 10 per cent., free of tax. The most salient fact in the report was that additional rents received for new houses drained reached the record figure of 2,919 during the year, which confirmed the enormous development, progress and growth of the city of Rio de Janeiro, which, indeed, were visible to the visitor on every hand. With regard to the capital accretion to the shares, that had arisen from the sale of the company's property at Fazendinha da Gavea, which, mules having been superseded by motor transport, was no longer required for the purposes of the company. The property was in one of the most lovely spots in the neighbourhood of Rio, and had been purchased by the Rio Golf Club; the shareholders of the company would appreciate the proposed distribution of 6d. per share, which would necessitate an extra-ordinary meeting, and the members of the club would be proud in the possession of what would become in time one of the show country clubs of the world.

UNDRAINED AREAS—THE 1926 CONTRACT.

As regarded the large undrained areas which existed in the city, the Chairman last year referred to the still unratified contract of 1926. There had been further conversations on the matter, and the Government had promoted a Bill in Congress to obtain the necessary legislative authority to negotiate a contract with the company. That Bill, while passing the Senate, had failed to reach the stage of being voted on by the Chamber of Deputies before Congress dissolved in the ordinary course. When Congress met again next month it was possible that the project might be pushed forward more energetically. As to prevailing conditions in Brazil, the President, Dr. Washington Luis, had weathered a most serious political crisis without disturbance or disorder, and it was considered that Brazil would now enter upon a new era of prosperity and progress if continuity in the financial policy of the President was maintained.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

HOPE BROTHERS, LIMITED.

A SATISFACTORY RECORD.

The thirtieth annual meeting of Hope Brothers, Ltd., was held, on the 25th ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr T. E. Goodyear (the chairman) said that that was the twentieth occasion on which he had presided over their annual meeting, and he thought he might claim that those twenty years were years of progress. The number of their branches had been substantially increased. For the past twelve years the dividend had averaged 10 per cent. per annum, and they had accumulated a reserve and carry-forward which now amounted to upwards of £137,000. They had applied £125,000 in reducing the valuation of goodwill and had been able, with the shareholders' sanction, to appropriate more than £20,000 to the staff provident fund. That, he thought, was a satisfactory record, and they could regard the present balance sheet with absolute confidence as showing a thoroughly healthy position.

Having regard to the conditions that had prevailed during the past year he thought that the results might be considered satisfactory. In the first half of the year conditions were favourable; the weather was seasonable, and there was a widespread feeling that more prosperous times for the country were in sight. As a result they obtained a substantial increase both in sales and profits. Unfortunately, the second half of the year did not maintain the earlier promise. The weather of the autumn and winter was mild and wet, and the advent of the present Government produced a feeling of uncertainty. National prosperity could be attained only by industry and economy. The burden of taxation had been increased and the extension of the system of doles must tend to the further demoralisation of industry. The result was shown in the great increase of unemployment.

In the circumstances, he thought they were fortunate in being able not only to maintain their dividend at 10 per cent., but also to recommend a further allocation in reduction of the item of goodwill. They had made their usual liberal provision for depreciation of their fixtures and fittings. After the payment of the dividends and provision for the various allocations he had mentioned they would still have £37,000 to carry forward—a sum equal to two years' dividend on the preference capital.

In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report and accounts, which was seconded by Mr W. W. Greenslade (deputy-chairman and managing director) and unanimously carried.

CABLE TELEPHONE AND GENERAL TRUST, LIMITED.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

SIR ALEXANDER ROGER'S STATEMENT.

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the Cable Telephone and General Trust, Limited, was held on the 30th ultimo, at Donington House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C., for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing special resolutions increasing the capital of the company to £1,100,000 by the creation of 390,000 shares of £1 each, of which 250,000 are to be preference shares, 5,000 "A" preference shares and 135,000 ordinary shares, raising the rate of annual dividend on the preference shares from 6 per cent. cumulative to 7 per cent. cumulative, changing the title of the " " preference shares to "preferred ordinary shares," and adopting new articles of association.

Sir Alexander Roger (chairman of the company) presided.

The secretary (Mr L. D. Bennett) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—As foreshadowed in my remarks to you at the fourth annual general meeting of the Trust, held on March 4th last, you have now been called together to consider proposals for the increase and alteration of the capital of the Trust.

In the first place it is proposed to increase the authorised capital from £710,000 to £1,100,000 by the creation of 390,000 new shares of £1 each, of which 250,000 will be preference shares, 5,000 will be "A" preference shares and 135,000 will be ordinary shares.

A certain amount of the Trust's business has up to now been carried on by temporary financing on the lines of short-term borrowing, and this fact was brought to your notice when we last met.

The proposed alterations in the capital structure will place the Trust in a position, therefore, more readily to expand and meet the needs of a large and ever-increasing business.

GROWTH OF TRUST'S CAPITAL.

The Trust was formed in June, 1926, to carry on the business of an investment and trust company and is particularly, but not exclusively, interested in the telephone and cable industries and allied undertakings throughout the world. The original authorised capital was £202,000, which was increased to £500,000 in March, 1927, and again to £550,000 in August of the same year. The next increase took place in July, 1929, up to £710,000, and at date there is a total issued capital of £698,737. The whole of the issued capital has been paid up in full on allotment, and in addition 100,000 of the issued ordinary shares have been subscribed for at a premium of 5s. per share, thereby already providing a reserve of £25,000.

The Trust's investments and interests in subsidiary and associated companies as at December 31, 1929, showed a total of £1,172,784 8s. 6d., and a valuation made at that date showed that, despite the well-known adverse market conditions then existent, the value of the Trust's investments was considerably in excess of book figures.

AN IMPORTANT LINK.

The Trust is an important link in a chain of companies in U.S.A., Great Britain and elsewhere who together transact and operate every kind of telephone business, and is in association with International Automatic Telephone Company, Ltd., Automatic Telephone Manufacturing Company, Ltd., British Insulated Cables, Ltd., and other important British interests, and the Associated Telephone and Telegraph Company of U.S.A.

You will see that it is proposed to increase the dividend on the preference shares from six per cent. cumulative to seven per cent. cumulative as from June 30th next. It is estimated that when the changes now proposed have taken place the capital value of the seven per cent. cumulative preference shares will be covered more than twice, while the dividend will be covered about three times.

Another proposal before you to-day is to rename the existing "A" preference shares "preferred ordinary shares." As you will have gathered, these "A" preference shares, being non-cumulative, and ranking just before the ordinary shares, which bear the equity of the business, are more in the nature of a preferred ordinary share than a preference share, and it is proposed to rename them accordingly. They have hitherto been entitled to a seven per cent. non-cumulative dividend out of the profits each year after satisfaction of the cumulative preference shares, and the same rights attach to their fresh designation.

NEW ARTICLES.

To give effect to these changes in the articles of association, and to bring them into line with the recent changes in law made by the Companies Act, 1929, your directors consider that the numerous alterations thus necessitated render it imperative that a new set of articles of association should be adopted. A copy of these new articles of association has been available at the registered offices of the Trust since April 15, 1930, for inspection by shareholders.

The resolutions were put to the meeting and carried unanimously

The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

At subsequent class meetings of preference, "A" preference and ordinary shareholders the resolutions were unanimously confirmed.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINES OF INDIA, LIMITED.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS AND RESULTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Champion Reef Gold Mines of India, Ltd., was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, the Hon. A. T. J. Fraser (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The mill treated 101,280 tons of ore for a production of 53,695 ounces of fine gold. There were also treated 265,684 tons of old tailings from which were recovered 12,459 oz. The total, with the inclusion of some 400-odd ounces from old copper plates, amounted to 66,562 oz. After deducting royalty and refining charges, the sales of gold produced £268,272. Interest and other items bring the total receipts up to £273,813, and the balance over expenditure amounts to £52,370, an increase of £13,250 over the previous year.

The average grade of current ore treated was just under 11 dwts., and the recovery shows the very satisfactory figure of 97½ per cent. The balance from last year, together with some £800 from dividends, gives a total disposable of £57,900. Your directors have decided to write off a total of £20,500—namely, £10,000 against Heathcote's shaft, £7,500 depreciation on machinery and plant, and £3,000 to insurance and contingencies. A dividend of 1s. 3d. a share, taking £33,150, has been declared and paid, thus leaving £4,252 to be carried forward.

The estimates of ore reserves at the end of the year amounted to 278,086 tons, an increase of 8,730 tons over the previous year.

During the period under review general progress and results may, I think, be described as decidedly encouraging.

As regards development results underground, these were undoubtedly most satisfactory. In the central ore shoot, in the neighbourhood of Carmichael's shaft, the 72nd level, opened up during the year, has proved of about the same value as in the two levels above. Farther south, in the neighbourhood of Glen's shaft, there has been a notable improvement. I think I have for several years told you at the annual general meeting that our most trustworthy prophets, both in India and in Messrs John Taylor and Sons' office, have been anticipating the opening up of some good ore in this neighbourhood in depth. After some years of hope deferred, I was able last year to inform you that a comparatively small block of medium-grade ore had been developed between the 69th and the 70th level at this point, and that the latter level showed much promise. At the end of 1929 this ore shoot had been opened up for its whole length at the 71st level and shows a marked improvement in length and gold contents over the 69th, the figures for the 71st level being as follows: For a total length of 622 ft. an average value of 1 oz. 6 dwt. over 40 in. At December 31st two winzes were half-way down to the 72nd level, and two others had just been started.

At the date of our latest news the two former were down to the horizon of the 72nd level, and some 25 ft. or so had been driven either way from both points. The results of the 100 ft. or so driven—which I must point out are in the heart of the richest section of the ore shoot—are most encouraging, the average being rather over 2 oz. per ton over a width of 4½ ft.

It is always rather rash to make the statement that a given phenomenon has never previously occurred in history, but I make bold to say that there are at any rate very few instances in the history of mining of a new ore shoot of such strength and value commencing at a depth of 6,500 ft. from surface, after 2,000 ft. of practically barren, certainly unpayable, ore channel above it.

Now, having spoken about ore running up to 2 oz. or so, I do not want you to go away with the impression that we are eventually going to mill an average grade of ore in any way approaching that figure—or, in fact, anything very much higher than our present grade. In the first place, owing to the nature of the lode and great pressures at a depth of nearly 7,000 ft., it is impossible to mine these reefs clean. In the second place, these rich shoots can only be regarded as "sweeteners," and, in order to keep up a reasonable monthly tonnage, a large proportion of much lower grade ore has to be mined and treated.

It will, however, I am sure, be most heartening to shareholders of this mine, and also to a certain extent to those of other properties on the Kolar Field, that new ore shoots of such value can make their appearance at so great a depth.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

JAMES W. COOK AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of James W. Cook and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at 130–135, Minories, London, Mr. W. J. Clarke, chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Chairman said he was quite glad that they had been able to show better results of their trading than they had done for some years. He was not, however, content, because it was still a fact that high costs of labour and high costs of overtime, brought about by shorter hours, continued to make London much dearer than the provincial ports and worse than their Continental rivals, which meant that the trans-shipment and warehousing trade in so many articles was deviated away from this country.

They applauded the magnificent programme of extension which the Port Authority had now completed and which would enable the Port in all directions to accommodate greatly increased tonnage and offer greatly increased facilities, and it was to be hoped that the costs of operation in London would be diminished so that vessels might be attracted here and full advantage taken of the public spirit which the Port Authority had shown in their development scheme.

The Chairman then referred to the item of goodwill. That item, he said, was of days gone by, and one of the objects in creating a reserve fund was to counteract it. They were proposing to steadily increase that fund so that one day they could extinguish the item of goodwill altogether and still have a satisfactory amount at the credit of reserve. They therefore proposed transferring to reserve the sum of £20,000 from accumulated profits, making it £120,000.

After paying his annual tribute to the loyalty of the permanent staff, which, he said, was again beyond reproach, he concluded by moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the Ordinary shares, payable forthwith, making with the interim dividend already paid 10 per cent. for the year, less income tax.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring director, Mr E. G. Devitt, was unanimously re-elected and the appointment of Capt. Douglas Cable as a director was confirmed, and the proceedings closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and his colleagues.

MYSORE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

JUBILEE HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.

The fiftieth ordinary general meeting of the Mysore Gold Mining Company, Ltd., was held, on the 29th ultimo, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., the Hon. Lionel Holland, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr F. H. Williams, F.C.I.S.) having read the report convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, although not without encouraging features, the results of the year's working were disappointing.

The drop in the dividend from 22½ per cent. to 17½ per cent. was more sudden than appeared probable a year ago. The production of over 14,200 oz. of fine gold less than in 1928 was due almost entirely to the exhaustion, in November, 1928, of the dumps of old tailings, from the re-treatment of which over 12,000 oz. were derived in 1928.

There had been a saving of nearly £14,000 in revenue expenditure, but wages had increased, and a severe rockburst had involved considerable outlay and interrupted for a time the facilities for economical work in one area of the mine. Receipts from gold sales, less royalty, were less by £58,000, and the profit was reduced by £47,000.

For forty-three years the company had not failed to pay an annual dividend. The first distribution was in 1887, and with the dividend payment made this month, it had since paid close upon £10,250,000 in cash dividends. Few mines could boast of a history so successful, so long and eventful, and yet they were able to claim that their resources were far from being exhausted.

They could not expect the mine to repeat again the amazing triumphs of its youth, and for the next year or two they were not likely to see much variation in the returns from those of the past year. But evidence of renewed vitality was accumulating. The profitable future of the mine must be sought in depth, and, while the deepest development point of the Mysore mine was some 6,180 ft. vertical, the neighbouring Champion Reef mine was finding rich ore at more than 600 ft. greater depth. There were signs of recovery which encouraged development at depth, with good hope that many more years of profitable vigour would be added to the fifty years of splendid achievement already recorded.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended April 26, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	5,724	From Revenue	9,095
Interest, &c., on Debt	467		
Sinking Fund	1,434		
Decrease in Debt	1,139		
Increase in Balances	142		
Sundries	189		
	9,095		9,095

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £9,094,600, as compared with £9,872,400 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was lower at £1,031,000, against £1,188,000, and super-tax at £590,000, against £670,000. Estate duties brought in £1,740,000, against £1,320,000, while Customs and Excise amounted to £2,567,000 and £1,070,000, against £3,150,000 and £1,211,000 respectively. Miscellaneous receipts brought in £516,600, as compared with £1,400. The National Debt was reduced by £1,139,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+ 3,411	Public Department Advances	— 4,600
National Savings Certificates	+ 150	Post Office and Telegraph Money	— 600
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 500		
	+ 4,061		— 5,200

The floating Debt was reduced by £1,160,000 to £614,685,000.

Financial Year, 1930–31, April 1 to April 26.

	£		£
Expenditure	54,745,591	Revenue	51,847,174
Amount repaid	155,102	Decreases in balances	3,053,519
	54,900,693		54,900,693

Estimates for Financial Year, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

Self-Balancing Revenue and Expenditure.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

Rating Relief Suspense Account.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt...	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities.....	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	290
5% Conversion Loan...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds...	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan.....	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds ...	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	554
Exchequer Bonds.....	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,082	1,082
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	627	700	780	590	570
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	44
Other Capital Liabilities	654 57	8,033 46	7,558 75	7,555 98	7,528 103	7,500 120	7,676 113	7,526 113	7,526 113
Total Liabilities ...	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,639

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	Apr. 27, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	Apr. 26, '30.	Movement, week ended Apr. 26, '30
	£	£	£	£
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	37,250,000	48,530,000	44,530,000	— 4,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	705,535,000	588,885,000	570,155,000*	+ 3,440,000
Total Floating Debt	742,785,000	637,415,000	614,685,000	— 1,160,000

* Includes £31,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on April 25, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £46,380,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Wednesday, at £99 7s. 11d., Thursday and Friday, at £99 7s. 10d., and Saturday, at £99 7s. 11d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
February 28	30,000,000	51,765,000	3 7 5·82
March 7.....	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14.....	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21.....	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28.....	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4.....	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11.....	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17.....	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25.....	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to Apr. 26, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to Apr. 27, 1929.	Week Ended Apr. 26, 1930.	Week Ended Apr. 27, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	13,974,000	13,389,000	1,031,000	1,188,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax ...	4,740,000	4,310,000	590,000	670,000
Estate, &c., Duties ...	6,940,000	6,680,000	1,740,000	1,320,000
Stamps	940,000	1,640,000	250,000	650,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	60,000	70,000	40,000	...
Total Inland Revenue...	26,654,000	26,599,000	3,651,000	3,828,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	8,610,000	8,986,000	2,567,000	3,150,000
Excise	9,250,000	9,760,000	1,070,000	1,211,000
Total Customs and Excise	17,860,000	18,746,000	3,637,000	4,361,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	429,000	882,000	...	182,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	1,700,000	1,800,000	1,150,000	1,350,000
Crown Lands	140,000	150,000	140,000	150,000
Receipts from Sundry Loans	4,232,272	4,135,159	...	...
Miscellaneous	831,902	829,789	516,592	1,423
Total Ordinary Revenue	51,847,174	53,141,948	9,094,592	9,872,423
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	2,650,000	3,100,000	550,000	650,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	4,799,000	5,099,000	550,000	650,000
Total	56,646,174	58,240,948	9,644,592	10,522,423

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to Apr. 26, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to Apr. 27, 1929.	Week Ended Apr. 26, 1930.	Week Ended Apr. 27, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid—Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904.....	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,360,000	410,000	200,000	80,000
(c) For other issues:				
By Treasury Bills	169,992,000	241,777,000	48,726,000	58,806,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	23,150,000	...	500,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	3,250,000	3,150,000	750,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	5,000
(d) Ways and Means Advances	27,970,000	87,735,000	7,975,000	14,350,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	6,356	8,682	...	...
	282,374,530	417,441,630	67,795,592	84,563,423

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April —	1930. £	1929. £		
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
Total ..... £	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
	288,499,744	423,694,154	67,795,592	84,563,423

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to Apr. 26, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to Apr. 27, 1929.	—ISSUES— Week Ended Apr. 26, 1930.	Week Ended Apr. 27, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	23,493,209	26,489,791	466,933	940,903
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	188,624	183,035	188,624	176,429
Other Consolidated Fund Services	238,927	399,178	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	27,873,950	25,408,860	5,723,950	5,058,860
Total Ordinary Expenditure	51,794,710	52,480,864	6,379,507	6,176,192
Sinking Fund.....	2,950,881	3,445,067	1,433,997	500,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office.....	2,650,000	3,100,000	550,000	650,000
Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	4,799,000	5,099,000	550,000	650,000
TOTAL	59,544,591	61,024,931	8,363,504	7,326,192
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,360,000	410,000	200,000	80,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,000,000	800,000	600,000	400,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills	188,735,000	236,515,000	45,315,000	61,930,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off.....	2,800,000	3,300,000	600,000	850,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	28,946,070	...	200,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid...	31,970,000	87,535,000	12,575,000	13,850,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917.....	...	1,870,044	...	...
	285,428,049	420,419,503	67,653,504	84,636,192

Balances in Exchequer—	April 26, 1930. £	April 27, 1929. £		
Bank of England	2,173,346	2,198,993	...	...
Bank of Ireland	898,349	1,075,658	+ 91,088	+ 165,770
			+ 51,000	+ 93,001
Total ..... £	288,499,744	423,694,154	+ 142,088	— 72,769

Treasury, April 28, 1930.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,217,244
CLAIMS PAID - - - £53,253,248

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, April 30, 1930.*

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt.....	11,015,100
In Circulation.....	358,821,877	Other Government Securities	232,897,889
In Banking Department.....	64,520,087	Other Securities	11,628,274
		Silver Coin	4,458,737
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue.....	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	163,341,964
	£423,341,964		£423,341,964

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital.....	14,553,000	Government Securities.....	59,237,629
Rest	3,163,274	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*.....	21,002,374	Discounts and Advances..... £6,755,228	
Other Deposits—		Securities..... 9,998,830	
Bankers..... £66,162,239			16,754,058
Other Accounts 36,561,007		Notes	64,520,087
	102,723,246	Gold and Silver Coin	941,829
Day and other Bills	11,709		
	£141,453,603		£141,453,603

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

Both Departments.	Amount, April 30, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation.....	358,821,877	— 3,362,528	— 2,549,462
Public deposits	21,002,374	+ 3,688,809	+ 10,063,122
Bankers' deposits	66,162,239	+ 151,481	+ 5,473,413
Other deposits	36,561,007	+ 781,821	— 2,112,830
Seven-day bills	11,709	— 421	+ 6,056
Total, outside liabilities	482,559,206	+ 1,259,162	+ 11,080,299
Capital and rest	17,716,274	+ 42,004	+ 7,406
Government debt and securities ...	303,150,618	+ 1,185,000	+ 10,975,803
Discounts and advances	6,755,228	— 49,264	— 2,530,584
Other securities.....	21,627,104	— 275,873	— 2,507,937
Silver coin in issue department	4,458,737	+ 727	— 367,207
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve) ...	164,283,793	+ 440,576	+ 5,517,630
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department.....	65,461,916	+ 3,803,104	+ 8,067,092
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	52⅛%	+ 1⅛%	+ ⅛%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio") ...	34⅛%	+ ⅛%	+ ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4
26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	36,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,162,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 12	244593701	10944051	152622838	33⅛	37331563	7959833	15570281	62175203	59⅛
19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33⅛	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174	58⅛
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33⅛	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754	58⅛
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	54021909	10309949	12705909	59860036	50⅛
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33⅛	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155	52⅛
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	33⅛	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466768	50⅛
23	243912989	11629001	163843217	33⅛	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812	51⅛
30	243912989	11628274	164283793	34⅛	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916	52⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to April 16.....	12,236,901	569,282	925,120	13,731,303
Week ended April 23	476,530	25,355	40,578	542,403
Week ended April 30	790,898	34,521	54,240	879,659
Total to date, 1930	13,504,329	629,158	1,019,878	15,153,365
Total to date, 1929	13,711,569	644,436	1,036,968	15,392,973
Increase or decrease in 1930.....	— 207,240	— 15,278	— 17,090	— 239,608
	— 1·5%	— 2·3%	— 1·5%	— 1·5%
Total for year, 1929.....	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928.....	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929.....	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	— 1·6%	— 1·5%	— 1·3%	— 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of March. 1929.	Month of March. 1930.	Month of March. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 26. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 26. 1930.
Number of Working days	25	26			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM.....	11,942,000	11,149,000	— 6·6	45,916,000	42,993,100
BRADFORD	5,891,000	4,288,000	— 27·2	21,114,200	15,975,500
BRISTOL	5,294,000	5,117,000	— 3·3	20,832,000	18,634,000
DUBLIN.....	...	...	...	84,440,500	81,388,700
HULL	3,978,000	3,488,000	— 12·3	15,594,200	13,933,400
LEEDS.....	4,379,000	4,273,000	— 2·4	17,542,300	16,940,900
LEICESTER	3,592,000	3,547,000	— 1·2	14,012,200	12,677,300
LIVERPOOL	34,159,000	31,451,000	— 7·9	138,568,500	120,051,800
MANCHESTER.....	57,971,000	52,352,000	— 9·6	222,425,200	195,399,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,480,000	6,980,000	+ 7·7	24,662,200	24,982,600
NOTTINGHAM	2,812,000	2,675,000	— 4·8	10,947,500	10,519,500
SHEFFIELD	4,675,000	4,484,000	— 4·0	17,353,400	15,942,800
Total	141,173,000	129,804,000	— 8·0	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Denmark appeared in the *Economist* of April 12; Canada, Estonia, Lithuania, Danzig and Egypt in April 26.

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

RESOURCES.	May 2, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,812,030	3,037,280	3,031,490	3,048,530	3,072,660
Total bills discounted	985,830	226,160	213,800	211,490	233,450
Bills bought in open market	170,420	267,000	302,410	256,870	209,560
Total U.S. Govt. securities	150,730	527,300	535,390	527,390	529,510
Total bills and securities ...	1,329,250	1,029,240	1,051,480	1,004,960	982,220
Total resources	5,164,890	4,977,590	5,142,210	5,016,060	4,973,880
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,663,640	1,558,300	1,547,870	1,518,340	1,507,270
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	2,335,820	2,344,640	2,380,130	2,363,310	2,384,720
Total deposits.....	2,410,360	2,395,480	2,443,130	2,422,190	2,433,930
Capital paid in and surplus	410,350	451,150	451,090	451,180	451,140
Total liabilities	5,164,890	4,977,590	5,142,210	5,016,060	4,973,880
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....	73·3%	81·5%	80·4%	81·8%	82·5%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted)

	May 2, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
Total bills discounted.....	247,580	62,670	43,920	34,130	41,270
Bills bought in open market	56,830	102,760	127,370	74,080	49,790
Total U.S. Govt. securities	17,170	207,560	200,950	192,860	195,170
Total bills and securities.....	328,280	379,740	380,090	308,270	293,930
Deposits — Member bank — reserve account	947,320	957,720	968,560	957,670	991,130
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	79·2%	76·6%	76·3%	82·0%	84·3%

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 5, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion.....	7,777	7,152	6,806	7,115	7,315	7,007
Subsidiary coin	99	117	124	126	127	122
Bills discounted	9,337	7,989	8,651	8,859	9,445	9,060
Investments.....	626	836	823	805	1,043	1,016
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,159	9,331	7,689	7,393	8,436	8,565
Government deposits	1,592	1,555	1,870	2,580	2,450	1,851
Bankers' deposits	4,969	4,910	4,852	4,954	4,737	5,011
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·5%	47·3%	46·7%	47·6%	45·8%	45·0%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 5, 1929.	Mar. 7, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.
Total securities	21,64,08	30,36,67	29,92,55	30,12,14	30,18,57	30,03,19
Loans	16,50,63	8,46,69	9,25,64	9,19,54	10,05,27	13,07,07
Cash credits	30,39,87	31,64,19	31,90,69	31,43,09	31,74,27	31,99,54
Inland bills.....	11,15,02	7,34,21	7,06,16	7,27,89	7,11,77	6,81,36
Foreign bills	41,68	32,90	33,30	44,01	40,11	48,79
Dead stock	2,83,69	2,80,53	2,80,90	2,80,92	2,80,94	2,80,56
Bal. with other banks	1,24	13,37	20,10	50,92	29,02	8,25
Cash	11,11,09	16,65,59	16,11,33	19,44,68	19,18,46	14,31,52
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits.....	80,77,43	86,32,14	86,15,04	89,58,21	90,11,94	86,24,47
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	844	774	843	1,204	1,049	916
Advances in London	871	768	768	880	880	2,144
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	11	101	151	382	213	55

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 26, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
Gold	35,788,083	42,357,643	42,324,670	42,333,653	42,350,815
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	8,543,546	6,913,223	6,897,550	6,937,539	6,901 833
Bills discounted ...	18,481,853	18,773,150	18,769,509	18,778.095	18,753,348
Commercial bills discounted at home...	6,510,431	5,059,551	4,646,900	4,710,999	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	9,130,000	8,594.858	8,594.858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances ...	2,283,419	2,697,243	2,651,990	2,622,959	2,591,847
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,110,941	2,941,743	2,982,675	2,699,095	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation....	62,847,740	71,575,902	71,245.076	70,899.825	70,770,213
Public deposits	11,875,758	6,524,987	6,522,708	6,300,088	6,553.930
Private deposits	6,858,828	6,469,708	6,460.712	6,764,909	7,666,101
Other liabilities	2,265,947	2,76 ,762	2,639,656	2,712,386	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 20, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	2,178,898	2,544,427	2,550,125	2,557,053
Of which deposited abroad	163,008	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	39,936	386,600	357,433	354,895
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,316,084	2,067,462	1,765,727	1,630,539
Silver and other coin	153,783	130,761	142,647	153,060
Notes of other German banks	29,314	3,918	18,261	23,294
Advances	40,987	201,309	67,381	55,358
Investments	92,964	93,245	93,090	93,133
Other assets	541,282	529,789	606,612	627,716
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	3,918,931	4,805,581	4,308,719	4,109,876
Other daily maturing obligations	769,295	456,560	638,330	732,476
Other liabilities	262,626	152,947	160,300	158,769

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	Apr. 25, 1929.	Apr. 3, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.
Gold	(b)	962,030	1,182,318	1,182,432	1,182,949	1,182,960
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	455,518	586,219	613,143	635,005	615,270
Silver and other coin		1,553	3,745	3,754	3,771	4,005
Securities	697,600	763,784	834,484	829,332	840,834	829,356
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,430,829	2,868,276	2,901,813	2,896,312	2,876,531
Current accounts	112,125	129,228	59,194	77,693	96,296	90,363

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	April 22, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	April 7, 1930.	Apr. 14, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.
Gold	163,092	422,206	431,963	431,953	431,944	431,940
Silver	8,436	21,262	27,873	27,028	25,719	25,131
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	179,952	51,593	51,486	51,163	51,647
Foreign Bills		78,561	204,207	204,394	209,348	210,071
Loans and advances in current acct.		93,976	*119,660*	*104,192*	99,044	94,744
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	796,990	838,176	820,304	816,387	813,007
Deposits	5,016	18,781	12,585	12,843	16,852	16,473

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	Apr. 27, 1929.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.
Gold	22,971	167,183	*170,000*	170,400	169,700	169,300
Silver	29,785	21 248				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	131,564	129,300	141,800	139,000	147,600
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	299,717	270,000	276,100	271,800	269,400
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	37,682	44,100	43,300	42,700	52,200

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold	171,175	482,230	560,986	560,996	566,131	566,143
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	229,729	334,895	344,313	347,978	372,042
Discounts	...	125,124	71,918	40,151	35,191	35,398
Advances	103,000	59,211	47,418	45,486	43,305	41,520
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	798,000	918,002	885,922	860,767	851,824
Deposits	33,750	132,026	121,997	108,069	153,415	176,230

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,200	5,201,500	5,201,500	5,201,900	5,203,500
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,886,700	4,938,100	4,858,400	4,925,800	4,986,200
Other cash	239,700	224,600	225,300	219,800	225,100
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,801,600	1,801,600	1,801,600	1,799,700
Discounts	3,647,800	2,995,100	3,049,000	3,017,400	2,947,100
Advances	1,501,300	1,265,900	1,328,600	1,081,700	1,104,600
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,047,100	776,600	755,000	755,600	755,400
Government securities	1,042,700	1,052,800	1,052,300	1,051,000	1,063,300
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,010,100	15,863,400	16,321,500	16,094,700	15,866,300
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	2,201,000	1,562,800	1,429,400	1,399,800	1,599,000
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	54·09%	57·19%	55·73%	56·92%	57·36%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 27, 1929.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.
Gold	234,668	243,634	243,562	243,468	243,397
Government securities—Swedish	5,755	22,561	22,556	22,554	22,246
" " Foreign	73,774	53,199	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	231	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	227,344	184,145	170,009	157,847	142,878
" " abroad	60,262	93,092	96,599	96,911	98,006
Balance abroad	47,050	118,315	115,115	120,768	178,520
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	56,393	43,968	38,058	47,439	34,066
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	475,216	535,022	518,856	516,043	499,314
Government deposits	185,803	163,027	172,480	182,408	179,047
Private deposits	7,849	11,115	7,521	12,992	47,144

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 22, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,829	*146,611*	*146,600*	*146,603*
Balance abroad and *foreign bills*	28,533	53,177	39,066	41,395	44,328
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,345	26,083	26,083	26,083
Discounts and loans	76,911	266,553	233,543	237,849	*238,524*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in *circulation*	113,484	305,211	307,070	312,308	310,020
Deposits at sight	7,188	108,005	71,176	74,044	80,437

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 27, 1929.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,850	2,468,544	2,468,760	2,468,889	2,469,333
Silver	728,600	719,999	711,896	710,173	708,329	713,627
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,820,090	2,146,203	2,091,695	2,067,321	1,991,276
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,257,576	4,439,506	4,447,457	4,447,295	4,395,038
Deposits	477,500	1,077,094	847,265	*839,095*	*837,155*	*840,721*

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 17, 1929.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,517	8,784	8,740	8,724	8,893
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	313,553	164,587	175,667	185,529	194,320
Discounts	278,105	336,812	336,363	336,900	336,056
Government loans	1,734,029	1,530,784	1,530,684	1,530,992	1,530,992
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,820,878	1,879,004	1,899,371	1,899,025	1,888,352
Deposits	63,414	58,899	83,204	85,722	66,026

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange	198,452	221,155	220,424	218,054	219,013
Other foreign exchange†	346,997	336,338	335,797	334,750	340,702
Bills discounted	173,115	165,723	*153,681*	132,793	123,864
Gov. Debt	109,857	108,493	108,448	108,448	108,448
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283
Notes in circulation	860,169	979,924	924,362	886,204	847,129
Deposits	141,959	26,149	68,898	83,446	120,719

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	204,426	162,631	162,630	162,624	162,626
Drafts and notes	4,846	7,604	8,344	8,140	7,548
Silver coin and bullion	10,486	10,582	10,108	10,158	10,310
Inland bills, warrants and securities	*331,205*	224,639	210,267	200,052	202,320
Advances to the Treasury	92,257	82,900	82,866	82,866	82,866
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	390,371	431,221	406,876	385,390	369,887
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	216,305	46,635	53,873	60,625	73,148

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold and *silver holdings*	1,206,506	1,261,942	1,261,979	1,262,036	1,262,112
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,708,585	1,906,820	1,890,395	1,864,645	1,860,942
Discounts and advances	407,486	639,149	573,254	499,953	476,251
State notes debt balance	4,029,969	3,699,260	3,692,940	3,690,964	3,688,386
Other assets	687,331	623,470	595,627	593,573	596,228
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	8,402,138	7,010,801	6,652,655	6,301,387	6,120,652
Check account balances	876,766	416,565	643,629	873,213	1,026,687
Other liabilities	288,379	194,887	214,523	228,183	228,192

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 22, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.
Gold	92,096	96,295	96,388	96,463	96,513
Other coin and notes	18,304	17,986	*18,120*	*18,181*	18,295
Foreign credits	192,927	291,446	294,619	264,169	266,178
Bills	1,365,905	1,078,902	1,102,288	1,092,881	1,083,220
Government advances	4,201,065	4,131,387	4,129,390	4,127,390	4,125,398
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,058,150	5,363,046	5,386,987	12,487	12,502
State credits	227,792	185,923	183,926	5,244,329	5,137,528
Deposits	1,220,743	1,843,395	1,828,595	1,896,644	2,019,718

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	12,021,613	11,828,391	11,603,568	11,531,466	11,634,498
Commercial bills	9,678,727	9,662,829	9,742,163	9,714,415	9,718,993
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in *circulation*	*20,420,576*	20,131,696	19,708,784	19,740,013	19,893,421
Other sight liabilities	8,025,223	8,043,033	8,210,193	8,191,210	8,002,071

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,515,575	1,571,690	1,573,492	1,574,373	1,575,671
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	3,229,860	630,300	717,846	759,164	785,686
Discounts and advances	1,641,617	1,252,516	1,245,202	1,249,475	1,221,804
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,166,661	1,252,136	1,251,593	1,252,020	1,252,000
Bank notes in circulation	4,137,727	3,208,260	3,350,397	3,371,278	3,792,861
Sight liabilities	2,992,480	1,704,197	1,780,003	1,801,884	1,680,252
Deposits	466,528	318,400	317,700	317,047	315,158

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 23, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	567,052	626,140	627,148	628,353	629,889
Gold exchange	4,770,990	3,619,613	3,745,071	3,769,543	3,644,948
Other foreign exchange	1,087	2,859	3,816	3,810	3,774
Bills discounted	42,842	141,477	120,772	120,258	108,743
Advances	74,262	173,205	173,970	154,798	149,202
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,520,513	4,815,862	4,890,274	4,936,234	5,027,455
Deposits and current accounts	1,802,267	1,901,821	1,938,445	1,879,646	1,669,487
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,457,479	1,039,065	979,442	976,830	894,236

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 20, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.
Gold	622,820	701,807	701,906	702,031	702,075
Of which held abroad	195,402	219,021	219,046	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies	570,125	433,571	441,420	412,956	403,577
Bills discounted	687,975	630,232	623,593	608,803	607,038
Loans against securities	89,953	77,921	81,219	80,236	81,477
Reserve fund securities	68,967	83,537	84,028	83,073	83,171
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,168,292	1,201,065	1,324,023	1,278,465	1,248,846
Current accounts	565,278	450,967	337,154	338,185	364,194
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonets—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonets = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	May 1, 1929.	Mar. 16, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,972	29,349	30,348	31,385	32,454
Other precious metals	4,375	3,270	3,079	2,909	2,823
Foreign bank notes	8,891	6,149	*5,717*	6,175	6,098
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	280	299	299	299	303
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	84,482	115,934	116,557	118,232	123,322
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	115,450	154,850	155,698	158,475	164,629
Balance to which notes may still be issued	550	150	402	525	371

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 15, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,930	304,226	304,016	303,799
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	699,383	1,020,108	1,060,310	1,091,029
Finnish and *Foreign Government securities*	21,826	301,708	320,701	335,251	335,251
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,490,645	1,261,074	1,193,418	1,154,098
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,538,303	1,447,177	1,428,285	1,435,004
Deposits at notice	21,225	249,414	357,099	348,155	345,557

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 24, 1929.	Mar. 26, 1930.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,821	23,970	23,972	23,974	23,982	23,982
Silver coin	4,769	6,465	6,325	6,273	6,228	6,061
Balance abroad	56,698	48,292	48,612	50,238	51,502	52,682
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,349	11,438	12,173	12,838	13,522	11,660
Short term bills	85,777	92,552	93,199	92,902	92,108	92,521
Loans against securities	54,373	54,909	55,030	55,103	54,567	55,931
Other assets	17,418	13,885	14,371	12,883	13,279	14,390
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	45,054	48,443	47,535	47,333	47,591	48,959
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	17,010	18,735	18,735
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	3,662	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,671	16,463	16,595	16,680	16,810	16,844
Current accounts	55,945	60,849	62,774	53,233	53,099	53,751
Government accounts	105,288	90,824	93,182	102,193	104,618	105,429
Other liabilities	14,075	10,760	9,425	10,598	6,483	5,658

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Apr. 13, 1929.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.
Cash & bullion	*221,320*	*1,124,474*	*964,775*	*955,543*	*955,878*	954,383
Discounts	43,740	708,969	666,115	666,096	679,296	682,128
Advances	70,640	76,147	76,556	76,669	75,921	76,116
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,202,748	1,106,171	1,128,346	1,270,153	1,122,405
Govt. deposits	87,340	589,531	535,159	531,915	*474,245*	473,288
Other deposits	11,440	337,168	345,317	325,934	232,016	382,417

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 29, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.
Gold at home	60,840	63,242	63,238	63,245	63,228
Gold abroad	413,333	384,618	354,891	324,127	340,160
Discounts and advances	92,040	120,846	114,470	110,505	128,497
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	366,088	352,610	348,408	346,514	355,788
Deposits	103,027	135,261	*105,270*	80,367	105,770
Drafts	12,789	16,044	16,044	16,044	7,240
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Apr. 24, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	Apr. 28, 1930.	Apr. 29, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 4% Mar. 20, 1930)	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛	2⅛
3 months' do.	2¼—5/16	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—7/16	2 3/16—7/16	2 3/16—7/16	2 1/16
4 months' do.	2¼—5/16	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛	2 1/16
6 months' do.	2¼—5/16	2¼	2¼	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16—¼	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛	2⅛
3 months'‡	2¼—5/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2⅛
Loans—Day to day	2	1½—2½	1½—2½	1½—2½	2—2½	2—2½	...
Short	2½	2—2½	2¼—2½	2¼—2½	2¼—2½	2¼—2½	1½
Deposit allowances: Bank	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	...
Discount houses at call	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	1¾	...
At notice	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	...

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
10	2½	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2⅜—½	3½	4	4½
16	2½—5	2¼	2 5/16	2¼	3½	3¾	4
24	2½	2¼—5/16	2¼	2¼	3¼	3½	4
May 1	1½	2 3/16	2 3/16	2¼	3	3	3½

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	May, 2, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 9/16-11/16	4·86⅛-3/16	4·86 3/16-¼
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·89-89½	4·86⅜-86½	4·86⅞-87
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·15-20	123·96-99	123·91-94
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·47½-48½	20·36-36½	20·36-36½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·06⅞-07⅜	12·08-08½	12·07⅝-07⅞
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·95-95½	34·82½-83	34·82½-83½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·60-63	92·76-78	92·77-79
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·18⅞-91½	25·08-08½	25·07-07½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½-19¾	18·16-16½	18·16-16½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·15½-16½	18·09-09½	18·08½-09½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¾-20¼	18·16-16½	18·16-16½
Madrid	*pesetas to £1*	T.T.	25·22½	*33·85-·90*	*39·08-11*	*39·21-24*
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108-108½	108⅛-⅜	108⅛-⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·55-58	34·48-50	34·45-48
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞-164 1/16	164-164¼	164-164¼
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾-276¼	274½-275	274⅝-275
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·84-87	27·82-85	27·79-82
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	816-818	817-818	817-819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	671-675	665-675	668-673
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½-375½	374½-375½	374½-375½
Constantinople	*piastres to £1*	T.T.	*110*	*992-995*	*1025 nom.*	*1025 nom.*
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42-44	†9·445-465	9·43½-45½
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16-43 7/16	43 5/16-7/16	43 5/16-7/16
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾-193¼	193-193½	193-193½
Kovno	lita to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½-49½	48½-49	48½-49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16-18·23	18·20-27	18·21-28
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15-25·25	25·17-27	25·17-27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 5/16-97 9/16	97 11/16-13/16	97 5/16-7/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47½-47 9/16	43½-⅝	42⅞-43
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5⅞-5 29/32	5 11/16-23/32	5 21/32-11/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½-48	45½-46½	45-45½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·61	39·92	39·92
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	12·77½ nom.	12·80 nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32-31/32	1/5 27/32-⅞	1/5 27/32-⅞
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32-31/32	1/5 27/32-⅞	1/5 27/32-⅞
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32-31/32	1/5 27/32-⅞	1/5 27/32-⅞
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅞-2/0 1/16	1/6¾-1/6⅞	1/6 11/16-1/6 13/16
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5½-2/6 1/16	1/11-1/11⅛	1/10⅞-1/11⅛
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 27/32-2/3 29/32	2/3 13/16-15/16	2/3 13/16-15/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 9/16-⅝	2/0 11/16-13/16	2/0 11/16-13/16
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 5/16 d.	†2/0 5/16	2/0 5/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·0-10·15	10·20-25	10·10-35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7†}
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	April 25, 1930	5½	6
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Copenhagen	Mar. 6, 1930	5	4½	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Danzig	May 1, 1929	5½	5	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	May 1, 1930	4	3½
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3				
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. *for their loans.*

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	May 2, 1929. %	Apr. 2, 1930. %	Apr. 9, 1930. %	Apr. 16, 1930. %	Apr. 23, 1930. %	Apr. 30, 1930. %
Call money	11	4	4	4	4	4
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4	4	4	4	4
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5½	3	3	3⅛	3⅛	3
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5½	3	3	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Ineligible, 90 days	6½	3¼	3¼	3⅜	...	3¼
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅝	4	4	4	...	4

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	May 2, 1929.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80⅝	4·83⅛	4·83⅞	4·83⅞
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85 11/16	4·86⅜	4·86⅜	4·86 7/16
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84⅞	4·86	4·86 5/16	4·86
Paris ... cheques	*Cents for 1 franc*	3·918	3·90⅝	3·91 13/16	3·92 1/16	3·92⅛
Brussels "	*Cents for 1 Belga*	13·90	13·885	13·955	13·955	13·95⅜
Switzerland "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·26⅝	19·38	19·38	19·38⅛
Italy "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·2375	5·23⅞	5·23⅞	5·23⅞
Berlin "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·69	23·84½	23·85½	23·85⅞
Vienna "	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·09	14·08½	14·10
Madrid "	Cents for 1 peseta	*19·30*	*14·31*	12·61	12·47	12·41
Amsterdam "	*Cents for 1 guilder*	40·195	40·18	40·19	40·21	40·235
Copenhagen "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·65	26·76	26·75½	26·75½
Oslo "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·66	26·76	26·75½	26·75½
Stockholm "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·71	26·87	26·85	26·86
Athens "	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·295	1·29½	1·29⅜	1·29½
Montreal "	Can. Cents for $1	100	11/16 dis.	⅛ dis.	3/32 dis.	⅛ dis.
Yokohama "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·85	49·35	49·35	49·35
Hong Kong "	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·50	37·30	37·45	37·20
Shanghai "	*Cts. for 1 Shng. tael*	...	60·35	47·125	47·25	46·87½
Calcutta "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·18	36·15	36·15	36·10
Buenos Aires "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	113	113	114·6
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·93	11·70	11·70	11·85
Valparaiso "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The *Anglo-South American Bank, Limited*, quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·53
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929.	
	London on South Africa.		South Africa *on London*.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1½% *dis.*	⅛% ,,	⅛% dis.	⅛ to ¼% ,,
30 days	1½% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	⅛% ,,
20 days	3⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅛	95⅛	...	...	106⅛	105
Demand	92⅛	93⅛	93⅛	95	105⅛	103⅛	106⅛	104⅛
30 days	92⅛	93⅛	...	...	104⅛	103	105⅛	104
60 days	91⅛	92⅛	...	...	104⅛	102⅛	105⅛	103⅛
90 days	90⅛	92⅛	...	...	103⅛	102	104⅛	103⅛

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council, from April 1 to 26, 1930, were £2,601,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended May 1, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into *Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*		Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	
From—	£	*To*—	£
France	2,723	*Poland*	1,700
Irish Free State	8,600	Germany	426,320
British West Africa	47,646	Netherlands	383
British South Africa	711,935	France	130,971
New Zealand	2,275	Switzerland	507,200
Other countries	747	Spain	10,137
		Austria	6,820
		Kenya	1,700
		British India	38,091
		Other countries	137
Total declared value of imports	773,928	Total declared value of exports	1,123,459

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, *have been as follows*:—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
April 25	Bars *bought*	8	April 25	Bars sold	1,724
,, 26	Sovs. from abroad	8,600		Sovs. for export	7,000
,, 28	Sovs. *released*	250,000	,, 26		Nil
,, 29		Nil	,, 28	Bars sold	1,720
,, 30	Bars bought	1,695	,, 29		Nil
	For. coin bought	196	,, 30		Nil
May 1		Nil	May 1	Bars sold	1,693
	Total	260,499		Total	12,137

Net arrivals, £248,362.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co., write on April 30, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £162,887,487 on the 23rd instant (as compared with £159,822,774 on the previous Wednesday), and *represents an increase of* £16,927,403 since January 1st last. Gold from South Africa to the value of £712,000 *was available* in the open market yesterday. There was keen competition, and the price realised was 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce. Germany secured £350,000, and £272,000 was taken for a destination not officially disclosed, but rumoured to be for Belgium. Indian requirements absorbed £50,000, and the Home and Continental trade £40,000. Receipts of gold by the *Bank of* England totalled £460,539, which included £450,000 sovereigns "released," and withdrawals £10,444, a net influx of £450,095 during the week under review.

SILVER.

Prices have undergone very little change since our last letter and for four working days remained unchanged at 19 11/16d. and 19 5/16d. for cash and two months' delivery *respectively*. Demand for India has been maintained, and purchases have been made for shipment by this week's steamer, although many bazaar orders were limited to rates *slightly below those quoted*. *China has* been more disposd to sell, as have American operators who have shown more willingness to offer than has lately been the case. Supplies have *again* been augmented by moderate offerings from the Continent. The premium on silver for cash delivery increased to ⅛d. on the 24th instant, but narrowed again to 1/16d. to-day.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day *on the 19th instant to* mid-day on the 28th instant :—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Germany	38,955	*China (including Hong Kong)*	180,713
France	85,102	British India	98,345
Other countries	6,940	Other countries	5,772
	£130,997		£284,830

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	Apr. 22.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 7.
Notes in circulation	17,332	17,366	17,415
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,003	11,037	11,084
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion *out of India*	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,072	3,072	3,089
Securities (British Government)	30	30	15

The *stocks* in Shanghai on the 26th instant consisted of about 97,600,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 18,100,000 Saigon dollars, and 14,980 silver bars, as compared with about 96,400,000 ounces in *sycee*, 143,000,000 dollars, 19,300,000 Saigon dollars, and 16,200 silver bars on the 22nd instant.

Statistics for the month of April are apended :—

	Bar Silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Two Mos. delivery.	Bar Gold per oz. fine.
Highest price	19 11/16d.	19 5/16d.	84/11½
Lowest price	19 5/16d.	19 1/16d.	84/10
Average price	19·554d.	19·478d.	84/11·02

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.		Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.			d.
Apr. 25	84 11½	19 11/16	19 5/16	Apr.	27, 1923	32⅝
,, 26	84 11½	19 11/16	19 5/16	,,	25, 1924	33½
,, 28	84 11½	19 11/16	19 5/16	,,	24, 1925	31 1/16
,, 29	84 11½	19 11/16	19 5/16	,,	23, 1926	29 7/16
,, 30	84 11½	19⅝	19 5/16	,,	22, 1927	26½
May 1	84 11	19½	19 7/16	,,	26, 1928	26½

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new sub-branch at Wallacombe.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China announce that at an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, held April 16th, the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting, held on March 26th, in regard to the New Charter and Deed of Settlement were *duly confirmed*.

Lloyds Bank, Limited, announce that a sub-branch of the Bank is now open at 210 Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham.

In view of the retirement at June 30th next, on account of ill-health, of Mr. John Jeffrey, joint general manager of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., the board of directors have made the following appointments in South Africa to take effect as from July 1st :—Mr G. F. le Sueur and Mr W. K. Robertson to be associated with Mr J. S. Shiel as joint general managers; Mr F. E. King and Mr H. G. Hoey to be deputy-general managers; and Mr E. C. Frost to be assistant general manager.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new branch at 765-7, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at Church Street, Freshfield.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a new office is now open at 611, Fishponds Road, Fishponds, *Bristol*.

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. • Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Barranquilla Railway and Pier	2%•	May 1	Quarterly	...	...
Virginian Railway	...	...	Less tax	8	...
BANKS.					
Commercial Bank of the Near East	3%†	Apr. 17	*Less tax*	6	6
Incasso Bank	...	...	Less tax	7	7
INSURANCE.					
Commercial Union	10/3 p.s.	...	Less tax	41	41
Economic Insurance	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Empire of India Life Assurance	...	...	Less tax	Rs.62 ps	Rs60ps
General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance	...	...	*Less tax*	13/- p.s.	12/-ps.
London and Provincial Marine and General	...	...	Tax free	2/- p.s.	2/-p.s.
Northern Assurance	9/-p.s.†	...	Less tax	17/-p.s.	17/-p.s.
Scottish Insurance	8%†	...	Less tax	13	...
Warden Insurance	10%†	...	Tax free	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Anglo-Malay Rubber	...	...	Less tax	3	4
Bikam Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	...
British Malay Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Ceylon Proprietary Tea	12½%†	...	Less tax	22½	25
Demodara Tea	15%†	...	...	25	25
Galaha Ceylon Tea Testates	12½%†	...	Less tax	20	22½
Grand Central Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Ipalkande Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Kasintoe Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Kepong (Malay) Rubber Estates	17½%†	...	Less tax	27½	27½
Lower Perak Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	8
Lubok Rubber	...	...	Less tax	6	5
Malaysia Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Mendaris Rubber and Produce	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Nahalma Tea Estate	2½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Oriental Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Panawal Tea and Rubber	5%†	...	Less tax	5	12½
Panawatte Tea and Rubber	...	...	Less tax	3	7
Parambe Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Pataling Rubber Estates	...	...	Less tax	12½	10
Rani Travancore Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	3½
Rembau Jelei Rubber	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	10
Selangor River Rubber Estate	5%†	...	Tax free	7½	7½
Serdang Central	...	May 10	Less tax	5	10
Simo Rubber	20%†	...	Less tax	25	25
Standard Tea Co.	12½%†	plus bonus	of 10%	40	35
Sungei Buloh Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	20	15
Sungei Krutt Rubber	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
United Sua Betong	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Woodend Rubber and Tea	...	...	Less tax	6	5
Yataderia Rubber and Tea	...	...	...	2½	5
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Adelaide *Electric Supply*	...	...	*Tax free*	*6*	6
Aktiebolaget Separator	...	...	Less tax	Kr.9p.s.	Kr.9ps
Aktiebolaget Svenska Kullager-fabriken	...	...	...	12	...
Alex. Pirie and Sons	...	...	Less tax	8½	6½
Anglo-American Debenture	10%†	...	Less tax	15	14
Anglo-Celtic Trust	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	7
Anglo-Egyptian Oil "B"	...	...	Less tax	22½	22½
Antwerp Water Works	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	6½
Benger's Food	1/3 p.s.†	...	Tax free	10	10
Birmingham and District Investment Trust	6%†	...	...	...	...
Bloomsbury Cinema	30•	...	...	...	...
Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply	9%†	...	Less tax	15	15
British Shareholders Trust	4%†	...	Less tax	7	7
Brush Electrical Engineering	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Burton, Son & Sanders (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	1/- p.s.	1/-p.s.
City of Buenos Ayres Tramways	1/3 p.s.	...	Quarterly	...	...
Civil Service Supply "A"	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Columbia Graphophone	15%•	May 16	Less tax	75	75
Duharry *Perfumery*	50%†	...	...	...	...
Dunlop	9%†	...	Less tax	15	20
Edinburgh Railway Access and Property "A"	4/6 p.s.	...	Less tax	...	...
English and Caledonian Invest.	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance	...	...	Tax free	4/-p.s.	...
Forestal Land	4%†	...	*Less tax*	6½	7½
Fullers	7½%	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Glenfield and Kennedy	8½%†	...	Less tax	12½	10
Irvin and Johnson (South Africa)	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Johnson and Barnes	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Johnson and Phillips	5%†	May 6	Less tax	10	10
Lancashire Waggon Co.	10%†	...	Tax free	10	10
London Trading Estates	6d. p.s.•	May 16	Less tax	...	...
Mansell, Hunt, Catty and Co.	6%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Marshall's	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Matthew Brown and Co.	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Northern Transvaal Lands	...	...	...	3d. p.s.	...
Oxendale & Co. (Proprietors)	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Paripan	...	...	Less tax	15	15
Ransomes and Rapier	...	...	*Tax free*	*6*	*5*
Richmond (Surrey) Electric Light (Def.)	7%†	...	...	11	11
Rochdale and Manor Brewery	2½%•	...	Less tax	12(a)	12(a)
Russells and Wrangham	...	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish International Trust	2½†‡	...	Less tax	11½	11½
Scottish Mortgage and Trust Co.	6⅛%†	...	Less tax	7	6½
Second Guardian Trust	8%†	...	*Less tax*	...	...
Sharpness New Docks and Navigation	...	...	Less tax	16/2 p.s.	...
Singleton and Cole	2/- p.s.	...	Tax free	15	15
Tamplins Licensed Properties	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Tarapaca and Tocopilla Nitrate	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Thomas Donne	20%•	Apr. 11	Less tax	...	...
Town Properties of Bulawayo	5%†	...	Less tax	10	7½
United Flexible Metallic Tubing	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Urban Electric Supply	4%†	...	Less tax	7	7
Wiggins Teape	...	...	Less tax	10	8
Wiggins, Teape, and Alex. Pirie	...	...	Less tax	10	8
Wilson's Brewery	10%†	...	Less tax	15(b)	15(b)

(a) Plus bonus of 3 per cent. (b) Plus bonus of 5 per cent.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended April 25, 1930. (c) Week ended April 26, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended April 27, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 17 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,751	259	159	78	237	496	3 432	3,607	2,194	5,801	9,233
Do. for 1929	3,751	224	246	122	368	592	3,502	3,713	2,244	5,957	9,459
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	364	358	218	576	940	5,226	6,887	4,643	11,530	16,756
Do. for 1929	6,365	319	466	252	718	1,037	5,293	6,970	4,727	11,697	16,990
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,957½	527	460	190	650	1,177	7,710	9,293	4,750	14,043	21,753
Do. for 1929	6,952½	495	603	250	853	1,348	7,917	9,422	5,088	14,510	22,427
Southern	2,179	325	67	26	93	418	4,700	1,264	538	1,802	6,502
Do. for 1929	2,172	294	87	27	114	408	4,666	1,266	612	1,878	6,544
Metropolitan (c)	59	35·8	...	...	3·3	39·1	554·0	...	...	68·5	622·5
Do. for 1929	59	34·0	...	...	3·8	37·8	535·5	...	...	66·2	601·7
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	312	...	...	...	312	4,940	...	...	...	4,940
Do. for 1929	...	296	...	...	...	296	4,561	...	...	...	4,561
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	46·5	...	...	...	46·5	715·6	...	...	...	715·6
Do. for 1929	...	41·8	...	...	...	41·8	646·1	...	...	...	646·1
R'lf'ys&Co.D'wnb	80	4·1	...	...	·5	4·6	34·6	...	...	12·2	46·8
Do. for 1929	80	2·1	...	...	·8	2·9	33·9	...	...	15·4	49·3
•GreatNorthern b	562	14·8	...	...	13·7	28·5	148·6	...	...	66·8	215·4
Do. for 1929	562	9·8	...	...	17·7	27·5	145·8	...	...	61·9	207·7
GreatSouthern b	2,187	315	...	...	38·8	70·3	249·9	...	...	80·7	330·6
Do. for 1929	2,187	24·0	...	...	48·0	72·0	266·1	...	...	81·8	347·9

• Aggregate 15 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	51weeks	Mar.22	1,217	4,46,000	− 42,341	21,623,586	− 8,90,188
Barsi Lt. Ry.	52weeks	31	202	67,400	+ 16,300	25,15,200	+ 55,900
Bengal & N.Western	26weeks	31	2,080	4,91,423	− 2,545	9,27,619	+ 47,407
Bengal-Nagpur	51weeks	22	3,085	17,39,000	− 508239	8,96,40,704	+ 3,14,248
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	3weeks	31	3,031	24,95,000	− 94,000	66,57,000	− 3,70,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	52weeks	31	3,228	22,87,000	− 407060	9,28,40,767	− 24,14,435
Nizam'sGuaranteed	52weeks	31	1,167	5,85,404	− 209147	2,34,88,272	+ 12,55,326
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	26weeks	31	572	1,98,504	+ 35,846	36,20,285	+ 1,04,486
South Indian	52weeks	31	2,348	18,88,874	− 99,343	6,67,37,370	+ 4,274,701

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (e) Total receipts of all lines.

				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.	43weeks	Apr.26	753	16,300	− 700	669,500	− 600
Argentine Trans'dn.	43weeks	26	111	4,219	− 2,018	201,313	− 7,601
B.A. and Pacific	43weeks	26	2,806	150,000	− 57,000	6,610,000	− 889,000
B.A. Central	43weeks	27	...	13,968	− 1,634	541,518	− 59,790
B.A. Gt. Southern	43weeks	26	4,875	248,000	− 19,000	10,281,000	− 553,000
B.A. Western	43weeks	26	1,926	85,000	− 25,000	3,678,000	− 710,000
Central Argentine	43weeks	26	3,319	208,000	− 83,000	9,870,000	− 1,828,000
Cordoba Central	43weeks	26	1,218	56,000	− 19,000	2,467,000	− 511,200
Entre Rios	43weeks	26	789	23,350	− 3,400	1,196,700	− 121,600
CUBAN.							
United of Havana	43weeks	Apr.26	1,374	69,201	− 18,812	2,814,067	− 458,268
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay	43weeks	Apr.26	273	32,161	+ 2,446	1,349,602	+ 46,925
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	43weeks	26	311	10,260	+ 1,829	316,745	+ 17,769
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	43weeks	26	185	4,109	+ 17	159,947	+ 1,286
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	43weeks	26	211	3,350	+ 318	123,264	− 7,115
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	16weeks	Apr.21	20150	4,212,539	−1014363	65,274,517	−11365334
Canadian Pacific	16weeks	21	15209	3,103,000	− 839,000	48,033,000	−11355000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	17weeks	Apr.26	1,016	13,200	− 3,100	303,000	− 43,100
Leopoldina	17weeks	26	1,856	29,657	− 6,235	548,553	− 20,520
Leopoldina Termnl.	17weeks	26	Mlrs.	271,000	+ 1,000	4,933,000	+ 240,000
San Paulo	17weeks	27	153½	39,385	− 13,646	720,344	− 49,869
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	17weeks	Apr.27	804	31,460	− 6,250	504,410	− 196,810
Nitrate (¼-monthly)	3½mths	15	413	19,661	− 23,828	162,095	− 116,212
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	52weeks	Mar.31	608	9,801	+ 514	360,464	+ 21,852
Gt. Southn. of Spain	16weeks	19	104	Pa.102,174	− 31,557	1,873,347	− 112,396
Mexican Railway	16weeks	21	483	$ 253,300	− 32,700	4,060,700	+ 147,400
Paraguay Central	42weeks	19	274	4,370	− 490	172,520	− 12,920
Salvador	43weeks	26	100	3,823	− 2,983	198,678	− 21,761

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	16weeks	Apr.22	329	79,626	− 11,540	1,346,263	− 63,922
B. Aires Lacrose	43weeks	27	...	11,349	− 779	505,217	− 40,342
Burnley Corporation	1week	26	13	2,314	− 110	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	8weeks	26	35‡	105,093	− 19,699	...	− 175,440
Chatham & District	15weeks	17	15	1,093	+ 52	16,055	+ 777
Egyptian Markets	15weeks	17	...	2,004	+ 43	30,086	− 2,766
Isle of Thanet Elec.	15weeks	16	...	2,379	− 98	40,192	− 2,716
Liverpool Corp.	3weeks	26	124	30,406	+ 1,207	112,447	+ 3,517
L.C.C. Tramways	3weeks	23	166	77,189	− 5,359	269,457	− 501
Madras Electric	13mths	15	...	Rs. 46,543	+ 2,333	328,559	+ 23,347

• Including motor buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Preference. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Union Bank of Scotland ...	April 2	100,743	339,310	440,053	...	180,000	18	125,000	135,053	336,239	18
Breweries.											
Wilson's Brewery.....	Feb. 28	59,882	134,530	194,412	18,300	71,000	20	40,624	64,488	124,755	20
Canals and Docks.											
Oxford Canal Navigation ...	Dec. 31‡	1,881	6,576	8,457	...	5,359	3	1,000	2,098	6,896	3½
Sharpness New Docks, &c...	Dec. 31	...	3,555	3,555	...	2,737	5	818	...	5,698	...
Electric Lighting, &c.											
South Wales Elect. Power...	Dec. 31	...	29,597	29,597	6,266	...	...	23,331	...	24,990	...
Urban Electric Supply	Dec. 31	22,953	102,224	125,177	21,000	31,148	7	47,000	26,029	100,831	7
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Edinburgh Collieries Co. ...	Jan. 31	*Dr.70,301*	1,501	*Dr.68,800*	...	...	...	...	*Dr68,800*	*Dr43,575*	...
Ransomes and Rapier	Dec. 31	11,740	18,207	29,947	756	8,151	6†	10,000	11,040	11,888	5†
Welsh Navigation Steam Coal	Dec. 31	*Dr.97,744*	6,819	*Dr.90,925*	...	...	...	...	*Dr90,925*	*Dr16,923*	...
Motor and Cycle.											
Simms Motor Units	Dec. 31	27,141	44,401	71,542	5,083	25,000	10	13,500	27,958	42,401	15
Nitrate.											
Tarapacá and Tocopilla Nitrate.....	Dec 31	75,180	72,930	148,110	...	85,191	8	34,000	28,919	74,740	10
Rubber, &c.											
Anglo-Johore Consolidated	Dec 31	7,479	4,892	12,371	...	3,750	5	...	8,621	*Dr, 563*	...
Anglo-Malay Rubber	Dec. 31	35,310	14,063	49,373	...	12,375	3	625	36,274	12,121	4
Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber	Dec. 31	11,808	26,820	38,628	...	22,167	10	5,000	11,461	26,744	10
Bikam Rubber	Dec. 31	24,928	13,881	38,809	...	14,137	7½	...	24,672	10,106	7½
British Malay Rubber	Dec. 31	13,324	17,716	31,040	...	15,600	4	...	15,440	18,939	4
Eow Seng Rubber	Dec. 31	3,097	3,214	6,311	...	2,300	2½	...	4,011	3,076	4
General Ceylon Rubber and Tea	Dec. 31	5,801	31,556	37,357	...	30,500	10	2,000	4,857	34,752	10
Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber	Dec. 31	43,268	57,417	100,685	...	61,250	5	...	39,435	68,136	5
Igalkande Rubber and Tea	Dec. 31	6,780	1,413	7,993	...	2,200	5	...	5,793	2,604	5
Kasintoe Rubber	Dec. 31	7,812	3,728	11,540	...	4,800	4	...	6,740	3,605	4
Kuala-Kelantan Rubber.....	Dec. 31	399	46	445	...	...	...	...	445	*Dr,4,948*	...
Lavant Rubber	Dec. 31	1,795	2,159	3,954	3,150	...	...	...	804	...	...
Lower Perak Rubber.....	Dec. 31	5,719	6,247	11,966	...	3,422	5	3,300	5,244	7,550	8
Malakoff Rubber.....	Dec 31	6,169	26,256	32,425	...	12,500	2½	10,424	9,501	20,904	2½
Mendaris (Sumatra) Rubber	Dec. 31	42,577	16,876	59,453	...	17,234	4	...	42,219	36,454	5
North Malay Rubber.....	Dec. 31	...	21,771	21,771	...	12,600	5	1,996	7,175	...	...
Oriental Rubber	Dec. 31*	9,022	8,808	17,830	...	8,800	4	...	9,030	10,751	4
Pataling Rubber	Dec. 31	14,703	33,603	48,306	...	28,126	12½	5,000	15,238	22,973	10
Rambutan Rubber	Dec. 31*	...	5,027	5,027	...	...	...	2,281	2,746	...	...
Rembau Jelei Rubber	Dec. 31	16,520	44,526	61,046	...	30,000	7½	5,000	26,046	55,372	10
Rosevale Rubber	Dec 31	2,295	13,390	15,685	...	8,383	18¾	...	7,302	7,140	13
Rubber Estates of Johore...	Dec. 31	19,746	7,873	27,619	...	7,500	4	...	20,119	9,025	5
Sepang Selangor Rubber ...	Dec. 31	21,673	12,064	33,737	...	8,520	3	7,500	17,717	9,776	3
Serdang Central Plantations	Dec. 31	3,284	2,188	5,472	...	4,424	5	...	1,048	...	...
Simo Rubber	Dec. 31	10,979	10,517	21,496	...	8,750	25	...	12,746	13,857	25
South Malay Rubber.....	Dec. 31	5,328	114	5,442	...	...	...	...	5,442	*Dr. 948*	...
Sungei Kruit Rubber	Dec. 31	6,393	12,890	19,283	...	8,125	12½	4,000	7,158	14,059	12½
Tenom (Borneo) Rubber ...	Dec. 31	15,699	4,503	20,202	...	...	...	4,000	16,202	10,033	2½
Shipping.											
Houlder Brothers	Dec. 31	27,516	107,183	134,699	5,500	80,000	10†	25,000	24,199	113,567	10†
Shops and Stores.											
Civil Service Supply	Feb. 28	14,930	22,577	37,507	...	17,696	5 "A"	...	19,811	...	...
Tea.											
Ceylon Proprietary Tea	Dec. 31	6,922	24,353	31,275	1,306	20,250	22½	2,600	7,119	30,597	25
Eastern Produce & Estates	Dec. 31	35,110	113,259	148,369	3,600	99,900	30	20,000	24,869	163,541	35
Galaha Ceylon Tea	Dec. 31	6,030	69,122	75,152	3,600	58,400	20	6,000	7,152	76,730	22½
Kandapolla Tea	Dec. 31	4,909	17,373	22,282	1,878	12,320	20	2,000	6,084	17,876	40
Parrawatte Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	3,639	6,275	9,914	...	5,175	3	3,000	4,739	2,044	12½
Peacock & Nilambe (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	296	9,075	9,371	1,557	7,441	7½	...	373	18,202	20
Scottish Ceylon Tea	Dec. 31	2,359	25,817	28,176	630	20,400	40	5,000	2,416	32,837	50
Trust.											
English and Caledonian Investment	Mar. 31	2,577	21,317	23,894	11,812	9,425	6	...	3,467	...	...
London & South American Investment Trust.....	Mar. 31	46,525	50,924	97,449	10,000	35,625	10 / 5	44,261	7,563	48,721	6½
Other Companies.											
Argus Press Holdings.....	Mar. 31*a*	311	38,664	38,975	3,425	16,952	12½§	5,000	3,598	...	...
British Quarrying Co.	Oct. 31¶	...	15,539	15,539	8,948	...	...	...	6,591	...	...
D. Hill, Carter and Co.....	Feb. 19	506	5,022	5,528	‖4,500	...	...	...	1,028	1,902	...
Hart (Melbourne) and Co....	Dec. 31	2,272	27,064	29,336	7,200	13,950	22½	...	8,186	...	...
Hield Bros.	Mar. 31	709	26,668	27,377	12,394	...	...	7,067	7,316	14,282	...
Johnson and Phillips	Dec. 31	80,903	102,514	183,417	...	60,000	10	...	123,417	88,977	10
Lancashire Waggon Co.....	Mar. 31	4,995	8,550	13,545	3,463	1,089	10†	3,500	54,913	8,381	8
McIlroy (William)	Feb. 19	59,038	37,357	96,395	5,600	22,500	30	...	68,295	31,395	6
Pirie (Alex.) and Sons	Dec. 31	16,257	88,984	105,241	27,500	50,000	8¼	8,000	19,741	...	...
Pye Radio	Mar. 31	2,788	62,686	65,474	13,305	23,250	100	16,897	2,022	2,788	...
Rist (A.) (1927)	Dec. 31	572	5,458	6,030	2,800	...	...	2,000	1,230	...	...
Spillers	Jan. 31	182,973	*Dr. 71,511*	111,462	54,865	...	...	...	56,597	176,668	7½
Wiggins, Teape and Alex. Pirie (Merchants)	Dec. 31	1,035	41,565	42,600	21,000	20,000	10	...	1,600	...	...
Wiggins, Teape and Co.....	Dec. 31	51,553	262,301	313,854	50,664	142,764	10	67,000	53,426	23,181	8

* For the period from August 1, 1928, to December 31, 1930. † Free of income tax. ‡ For six months. § For 10½ months.
a Period from May 17, 1929, to March 31, 1930. ¶ For period from February 3, 1929 to October 31, 1929. ‖ For 18 months.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

At the court of the council of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, the vice-president, Mr Cecil Lubbock, was elected president for the ensuing year in the place of Mr Charles E. Barnett, who expressed his wish to retire from that office. The office of vice-president was filled by the election of Mr H. A. Trotter.

BANKS.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE DE BALE.—The balance-sheet total for 1929 is 765,914,479 Sw. frs., and the general business turnover reaches 28,954 million Sw. frs. The rebuilding of the bank's premises, at Basle, has now been completed, and out of the profits of 1929 a sum of 527,529 Sw. frs. has been applied in reduction of the premises account, which represents an amount of 5,000,000 Sw. frs. After making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and various reserves, the year's net earnings amount to 8,230,043 Sw. frs., out of which a dividend is being paid at the rate of 8 per cent., similarly to the two previous years of 1927 and 1928.

RAILWAYS.

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL RAILWAY.—This Company is resuming dividends on its ordinary shares after a lapse of 16 years. The report has just been issued showing net receipts of £45,891 more than for 1928.

The operating results in sterling were as follows :—

	1928. £	1929. £
Gross receipts	818,103	976,424
Working expenses	603,554	715,984
Net receipts	214,549	260,440

Of the profit, £1,480 goes to the Brazilian Government for audit and inspection, rental payable under contract is £2,239, interest on permanent 6 per cent. debenture stock takes £18,375, interest on 4 per cent. debentures £54,520, final interest on interest arrears debentures now redeemed £3,988, and sinking and amortisation funds receive £72,149, leaving £107,687. Exchange differences account for £3,040, leaving £104,647, transfer fees and interest, discount, etc., bring the total to £111,962, and with £16,797 brought forward, the net surplus is £128,759. After placing £20,000 to a reserve for contingencies, the board recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent. on the preferred shares, making 6 per cent., less tax, absorbing £47,250, and a dividend on the ordinary shares of 3 per cent., less tax, amounting to £29,062 for the year, and carry-forward £32,446. Meeting, River Plate House, May 7th, at 2 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CAMMELL, LAIRD AND CO.—The 5 per cent. debenture stock holders of Cammell, Laird and Company, Ltd., at a meeting held on April 25th passed resolutions extending the date for the repayment of the debentures from July 1, 1930, for five years and the increase of interest to 5½ per cent., and the increase in the borrowing powers of the English Steel Corporation. There was not a quorum present of the 4½ per cent. debenture stockholders, so the meeting was adjourned until May 16th. The junior debenture stockholders approved any modifications of their security involved by the passing of the resolutions of the other debenture holders.

FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS.—A Preliminary notice states that, after setting aside £168,714, against £203,456, for depreciation, and £51,717, against nothing, in respect of the discount on issue and expenses of the 6 per cent. 10-year notes issued during the year, the profit for 1929 amounts to £301,101, against £492,548, to which has to be added the balance brought in £253,451, making an available total of £554,552, against £693,565. The dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares absorbs £111,951, and the board have decided to recommend the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 9.6d. per share (or 4 per cent.), making, with the interim dividend of 6d. per share (or 2½ per cent.) paid in January, 1930, a total distribution of 6½ per cent., less tax, against 7½ per cent., leaving £201,526 to be carried forward, against £253,451 brought in. No allocation is made to reserve, against £50,000 for 1928. General meeting, River Plate House, May 26, 1930.

THE WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS, LIMITED.—The Directors have decided to pay an interim dividend of five per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company, and a like rate of interim dividend, viz., five per cent., on the deferred shares in respect of the current financial year. The warrants for the dividend on the ordinary shares will be posted to the shareholders on May 31, 1930, and for the dividend on the deferred shares on June 16, 1930.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions over the United Kingdom were more favourable to agricultural pursuits, a spell of warmth and sunshine enhancing the prospects of spring sowings, while winter wheat and oats are also responding well. Native wheat continues in small supply at the Statute markets and prices are about steady for good milling grades. On the import market, trading has been of a restricted character since the Easter recess, and prices generally moved in a downward direction. North American cables report a fair export business, but values were adversely influenced by further beneficial rains in the United States and Canada, which relieved all fears of drought regarding spring sowings, and improved the winter wheat crop. In these circumstances, increased pressure was noticeable to market Canadian holdings, but offers found little response on this side. A fair business was reported, however, in American hard winters, as prices appear reasonable compared with good Plate wheat, which is somewhat sparingly offered, and with lighter shipments now taking place from the Southern Hemisphere, more attention will probably be centred on North American supplies. Quite a large business has recently been effected in French wheat and flour on United Kingdom account at competitive prices, which tends to keep pressure off the Canadian market for the time being. The Indian crop is officially estimated at about 6,000,000 quarters over last year, and may allow of certain quantities for export this season. Offers, so far, are above market parity here, and future movements will depend on the extent of local consumption and on international prices. Flour prices have followed the course of wheat, and with cheaper offers from North American mills, consumers adopt a reserved attitude pending further developments in the situation. A fair business was reported in French makes, owing to attractive prices. Of feeding stuffs, maize in near positions still commands a premium on distant loadings, which tend to ease on large prospective supplies, consequently buyers of new crop La Plata adopt a cautious attitude. Offers of Danubian were much in evidence this week, and tended to depress the market. Barley and oats were neglected, though obtainable on easier terms.

WHEAT.—Easier. No. 1, Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 43s. 6d.; No. 2 ditto, 42s. 6d.; No. 3, 41s. 6d.; No. 4, Manitoba, 40s. 6d.; No. 5, ditto, 38s. 6d.; No. 6, 30s. 9d.; No. 2, hard Winter, 39s.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 37s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship, to arrive, 38s. 9d.; Australian, 41s. 3d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 10d.-9s. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Dull. London straight run, 35s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries and 34s. 6d. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 31s.-32s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, April-May, 32s. 9d.-33s.; export ditto, 30s. 3d.-30s. 6d.; Australian, 28s. 3d.-29s.; French, April-May, 24s. 6d.-26s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, March-June, £6 2s. 6d. per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier forward. Plate, landed, 31s. 6d.; ex ship, 30s. 3d.; March-April, 26s.; new, April-May, 25s.; May-June; 24s. 6d.; June-July, 24s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 5s. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Quiet. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s., as to sample; Chilian, brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex-ship, f.a.q., 18s. 9d.; landed, on sample, 21s. 3d.; Persian, landed, 19s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s. 3d.-10s. 6d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Weak. Plate, landed, 15s.; ex ship, to arrive, 14s.; Chilian, white, 21s.; ditto, tawny, 16s.; German, landed, 20s.; ex ship, to arrive, 19s.; mixed Canadian feed, 14s. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1 week to April 26	174,140	168,682	278,138	131,805
34 weeks to April 26	7,971,969	8,554,137	8,697,012	10,140,047
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 0	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 10 5	s. d. 11 6

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And over 2,000 Branches in England and Wales.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	£20,000,000
ISSUED & PAID-UP CAPITAL -	£15,858,217
RESERVE FUND - - -	£10,250,000
DEPOSITS, &c. (31st Dec., 1929)	£337,439,214

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
April 19	118,822	68,294	22,035	8 10	7 9	6 7
April 26	174,140	69,063	22,545	9 0	7 9	6 8
April 24, 1926 ...	227,619	77,540	46,194	12 4	9 3	9 2
April 23, 1927 ...	160,033	38,435	51,513	11 6	10 9	8 4
April 28, 1928 ...	278,138	56,229	37,442	10 5	11 1	12 2
April 27, 1929 ...	168,682	35,975	39,684	9 11	10 0	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	May 1, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	121	148⅜	107⅞	109	105½
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	113	130⅞	106½	104⅜	101⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 74,631,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 111,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 77,112,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Depression continues in the coal market. Home demand is steady, but not many spot contracts are being picked up, and the price of best small Yorkshire steams is easy, at from 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. f.o.b. Coke is plentiful and rather in excess of consumption.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The Scottish coal trade is dull. Demand is running on small lines, both in the shipping market and in the home trade, and the majority of the collieries in all districts are badly in need of orders. The market is still weak, the only steady spots being steam coal in Fife and treble nuts in all districts. Current shipping prices are approximately as follows (all f.o.b. district ports): Lanarkshire:—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 16s. 9d.; splint second, 16s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s., all per ton f.o.b. Glasgow; steam, 12s. 6d.; *trebles, 12s.; doubles,* 11s. 3d.; *singles,* 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s.; dross, 10s., all per ton f.o.b. Grangemouth. Fife:—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. to 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d., all per ton f.o.b. Burntisland or Methill. Lothians:—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.; secondary steam, 12s.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d., all per ton f.o.b. Leith. Ayrshire:—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 17s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d., all per ton f.o.b. Ayr or Troon.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Depressed conditions continue on the Cardiff coal market. It is reported that the Egyptian State Railways have placed a contract for the supply of 250,000 tons between May and September, but otherwise inquiries have been very scarce and collieries are complaining of irregular employment. In these circumstances production is declining, but supplies generally remain heavy, owing to the accumulation of stocks, and there is no indication of prices advancing above the minimum schedule. Individual collieries are busy, particularly in the Monmouthshire district, but mainly in the shipment of large coals, and some of the smaller grades are a drug in the market. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. *to* 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. *to* 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; anthracite best, large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 22s. to 27s.; machine made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 10s. 9d. to 12s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 35s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 6d. to 27s.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—There is a slightly better tone in the iron and steel markets. The volume of business is still much below the normal for the time of year, but there is rather more overseas inquiry about and the home market seems to have become more active. The British works as a general rule are still badly in need of orders, but considering the prevailing quietness in business they seem to be obtaining a fair share of the orders coming on the market and to be as well off for work as their principal foreign competitors. In the pig iron department the expectations of a reduction in the price of Midland iron have been disappointed, and the producers have given their customers a strong hint that the effect of the Coal Mines Bill may be *to force* an advance. In several of the producing districts in this country stocks are reported to be increasing. In the semi-finished steel department business has been irregular; but the British works continue to secure a good proportion of the orders passing in competition with the Continent. Conditions in the finished steel department are brighter than of late, although they still leave a great deal to be desired. Stock replenishment orders have been rather more in evidence, and one or two of the overseas markets have been buying with a little more freedom.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron is quiet, very little new business coming forward. Makers are well placed as regards contracts a few weeks ahead, and before they expire it is expected that further buying will take place. In the meantime the production is fully absorbed and there is a reduction in stocks at some of the works. A few small sales were made by makers at Tuesday's market at 67s. 6d. for No. 3 for early delivery to home consumers, but there was nothing doing on export account. Other qualities were unchanged, viz., No. 1, 70s.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. The hematite market is depressed and prices are again lower. With increasing stocks makers are keen to secure orders and have accepted 74s. for mixed numbers in moderate sized parcels, and would even shade this price for more substantial lines. Rumours have been current during the past few weeks of a probable reduction in the production and it is now almost definite that at least two furnaces on the Tees will go out of operation within the next two or three weeks. Shipments of pig iron have recently been very poor, the total cleared to 29th inst. being 13,671 tons, against 20,208 tons to same date last month. In the steel trade no new orders of importance are reported this week, but several tenders are out and awaiting decision. In the meantime most mills are fairly well employed on old contracts. Prices are generally unchanged from last week The ore trade is idle as regards new business, best Bilbao rubio is nominally 21s. c.i.f. for prompt delivery and the current freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early loading *is about 5s. 6d.* Coke *is very weak,* consumers are all well covered and only in odd instances is it possible to make sales; good furnace qualities are now obtainable at 18s. delivered works. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is so far unchanged at 40, but one now producing basic iron is going out within the next day or two at the Newport works of Dorman, Long and Company, Ltd.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Trade in both the iron and steel sections slumped badly in April and the depression has extended to most of the finished industries of Sheffield, including motor car parts and material. The outlook of the present month is not good, as there are comparatively few inquiries. Not many consumers of materials have resumed their deliveries, which were suspended a month ago. Australia is now one of the worst of the overseas markets. The import there of certain local products is prohibited, and the duties on others have been increased. Apart from these handicaps, Australian orders are being held up until the finances of the Commonwealth improve. Prices of foundry iron are stabilised for a further month. Few contracts are being made, and users are still buying *on hand to mouth lines.* Steel prices also are unlikely to be altered this month. Rolling mills report that work continues to contract. The Lincolnshire iron and steel works have been fully employed for a year, but are now experiencing a little depression which overtook other centres some months ago.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—The depression in the iron and steel trades in the West of Scotland is becoming more pronounced, and the present position is somewhat disquieting. At many of the Lanarkshire steel plants there has been a serious cutting down of the working week, a large number of workers being affected. At the shipbuilding yards on the Clyde the outlook as regards future employment *is also causing some anxiety.* New work placed during the current year has been far below the average, and during the month of April the tonnage placed has been negligible. Things are rather better at the sheet making plants, a considerable tonnage for export both of black and galvanized has been booked, and the home demand is well maintained. Prices are unaltered.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday business was relatively quiet, but there were inquiries from the *Continent and South America,* and it was stated that an order for half a million boxes of oil sizes had been secured. Prices are stationary at from 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per basis box. Shipments of tinplates last week were exceptionally heavy, and there was consequently a reduction of about 30,000 boxes in the warehouse stocks. Galvanised sheets are a shade easier, at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton, compared with £11 17s. 6d. to £12 5s. the previous week. The margin between native and foreign bars has been reduced by a fall in the price of Welsh bars from £6 10s. to £6 3s. 9d. per ton.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—Market depressed and prices marked a further decline on heavy liquidations, and lower Eastern cable advices, though dealings were attended by a good deal of irregularity. With slow support from the Continent and a lack of confidence on the part of consumers here, offerings proved in excess of requirements, and market stability does not yet appear in sight. Standard cash changed hands at £157 10s. to £152 12s. 6d., and three months £159 15s. to £154 2s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £160 17s. 6d. to £156 10s. per ton c.i.f.

Copper.—In moderate support, and values also moved in buyers' favour on selling pressure. Standard cash sold at £52 15s. to £50 12s. 6d., three months £51 10s., £52 5s. and £49 17s. 6d. and £50 7s. 6d.

Lead met a fair demand, but offerings proved excessive, and values exhibited irregularity, while weaker on balance. Good soft foreign pig, April, sold £18 to £17 18s. 9d.; May, £17 13s. 9d. to £17 8s. 9d.; June, £17 13s. 9d. to £17 7s. 6d.; July, £17 13s. 9d., £17 17s. 6d. and £17 8s. 9d.; August, £17 13s. 9d. to £17 12s. 6d. and £17 13s. 9d.

Spelter was freely offered, and a moderate turnover resulted at declining rates. May sold at £17 6s. 3d. to £16 12s. 6d.; June, £17 10s. to £16 17s. 6d.; July, £17 13s. 9d. to £17 5s.; August, £17 17s. 6d. to £17 5s. ton.

Antimony quiet. English regulus, £40 to £46 10s.; Chinese ditto, spot, £29 10s. ditto, May-June shipment, £26 10s.; Chinese, crude, May-June, £16 15s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide—May-June, £26 10s. ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore.—*50 per cent., May-June,* 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., 4s. 3d. per unit c.i.f.

Wolfram steady. Chinese, May-June, 24s.; Burmese ditto, 23s. 6d. *unit* c.i.f.

Aluminium maintained. Home trade, £95; export, £100.

Tin Plates steady, with moderate sales. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

Zinc Oxide steady, at £29 to £36 per ton, as to quality, delivered United Kingdom.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool: April 30th.

The chief feature of the week has been the widening of values between the old and new crop positions. Values of the near positions vary but little from those of a week ago, but the more distant are about 12 to 15 points lower. This has been caused by more favourable new crop reports, particularly from the Eastern belt. *In the central belt rains would help germination,* whilst in the west preparations are well advanced, but lack of moisture is delaying planting. Some showers have been reported in Texas and Oklahoma during the last day or two. Private reports seem to show but very little reduction in acreage. Trade reports continue poor, and in U.S.A. further mill curtailment is expected. Spot sales for the week are 32,000 bales, of which 13,890 are American, 5,600 Brazil, 2,700 Peru, 5,640 Egyptian, 3,300 *African,* 450 *East Indian* and 420 sundries. Imports for the same period are 64,667 bales, of which 15,215 are American, 2,273 Brazil, 549 Peru, 19,096 Egyptian, 2,640 African, 24,362 East Indian, and 532 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·52; Egyptian Sakel, 14·20; Uppers, 10·32; Brazil Fair, 7·87; Peru G.F. smooth, 8·97; West African Middling, 8·47; and East African G.F., 9·12.

Manchester: April 30th.

Business in the market has been of smaller dimensions than for a long time back, and traders have been depressed by the unfavourable news from foreign outlets. The situation in India is considered to be very serious, and apart from the absence of fresh buying there *is a danger of contracts* being cancelled, and goods being thrown on the hands of merchants. In the circumstances offers for piece goods have been decidedly scarce, and buying has been confined to odd lots in light fabrics and fancies, chiefly for Calcutta and Madras. The latest news from China has also been discouraging as, at the auction in Shanghai this week, the market was described as depressed with an entire lack of confidence, and prices for goods had to be *marked down.* Isolated sales have occurred in narrow shirtings for Egypt and some producers of bleaching cloths have done fairly well for South America, chiefly Chile. A steady business has again been done in home trade fabrics. The outlook in weaving centres is very uncertain as a result of the disturbed conditions in the East and Far East. Trading in the yarn market has been of limited dimensions. Despite the big curtailment of production the output has *not* been sold, and prices in American and Egyptian counts have been more irregular when tested.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Apr. 9.	Apr. 15.	Apr. 23.	Apr. 30.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·66	8·50	8·48	8·62	11·90	9·95
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·20	13·80	14·30	14·20	21·40	17·40
Yarns—32's *twist* ..... per lb.	12⅝	12½	12½	12½	17	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13½	13	13	13	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21⅛	21½	21⅛	21½	32	25½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 60's	s. d. 22 3	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 27 0	s. d. 25 1½
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 10½	24 9	24 9	24 9	29 6	27 7½
36-in. ditto, 38 yds., 16 by 16, 10 lb.	13 7⅛	13 6	13 6	13 6	15 10½	14 10½
36-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 3	12 1	12 1	12 1	14 9	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes: The wage dispute still drags on and, judging from the threats made, will become more serious. The situation is not, however, alarming, as the upward tendency in raw material values which has developed in Australia during the past few days shows. This can be taken as indicative of sounder manufacturing conditions generally, for Bradford has participated in the buying and, but for the dispute, spinning and manufacturing conditions would have been definitely improved. Stocks of tops held by spinners were not large when it began, and these are now being depleted. With practically all commission combing machinery standing, it is not an easy matter to keep spinning machinery running. The majority of mills outside Bradford appear to be running satisfactorily, but most of them in the city are idle. A good deal of trouble has been caused by attempts to bring out operatives who are willing to work. Meanwhile, besides the hardening tendency in wool, there is a slight advance in tops and yarns. One pleasing feature is the increased demand on export account for all the commodities named. Some of the English wool withdrawn at the last series of London sales has been sold privately at better prices than were originally big. Botany noils are realising a good 1d. more, and stocks of laps and wastes are being reduced. Every section of the market presents a very encouraging appearance, and the outlook is fairly good.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(from a correspondent.)

Both private and public cables state that at Melbourne and Sydney prices were 5 to 7½ per cent. dearer last week, which is equivalent to practically 1d. to 1½d. per lb. scoured. This advance is all the more significant in view of the fact that a large number of textile operatives have come out on strike. Combing machinery cannot stand for any length of time without things being made more difficult for worsted spinners and manufacturers, but there has been increased buying for Yorkshire in both Melbourne and Sydney, and instead of confidence in wool values being weakened, it has actually become stronger. The third series of London sales will open on May 13th, and it is expected that values will be firm, with possibly a slight advance in certain classes. There is no doubt whatever that but for the labour troubles, a substantial improvement in trade would have been seen during the interval compared with previous months. Even now there are indications of a very encouraging character, and as soon as the dispute is finished, an effort will be made to regain lost ground. Unfortunately the best time of the year for the execution of summer repeats is passing without any opportunity being provided for home and export orders to be dealt with.

Figures published by Dalgety and Company, Ltd., show that exports of wool from Australia and New Zealand from July 1, 1929, to March 31, 1930, totalled 1,768,000 bales, a decrease of 381,000 bales compared with the corresponding period of last year, while *the exports from New Zealand* were 426,000 bales, a decrease of 122,000 bales. This total decrease in exports of 503,000 bales show that there has been a distinctly slower movement of the raw material than in the previous corresponding period. There is still an adequate supply of wool for all requirements. At the commencement of the sales in Australia this week there were still over 600,000 bales to sell. This is a fairly substantial quantity, but there seems to be no reason for uneasiness about the future of values.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Hides from home-slaughtered cattle are steady and show a slightly firmer tendency, and with the demand generally speaking satisfactory a better tone should be experienced at the auctions over the end of the week. The supply of good-class hides free from

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warbles continues to be limited. In the imported hide market business is still on the quiet side, and although a regular day-to-day trade is done in small lots, certain kinds are only just steady, while others have dropped to lower figures. For instance, although a fair amount of business has been done in connection with Argentine ox, sales have been made at 7¼d., with Montevideo ox realising a similar figure and light ox 6 15/16d. Fair business has been done in dry River Plates, with B.A. Americanos realising 7¾d., Sierra Cordobas 8¼d., and Inservibles 4½d. Cape hides are unchanged in price, drys selling at 8½d. and 7½d. for firsts and seconds, and 7⅝d. and 6⅝d. for dry salted. Nigerians have sold at 7d., drysalted Madagascars at 4½d., and drys at 7¼d. Business in connection with sole leather has been better this week, and although most of the orders are for small quantities the total has made for a fair turnover. Shoe manufacturing requirements have been for light to medium weights in some of the cheaper grade bends, while the repairing section has been in the market for English and wet salted 10 to 12 lb. bends suitable for this class of trade. Shoulders and bellies are also inquired after, and a regular steady business is being done all the time. Prices are generally unchanged. The upper leather market is still quiet, and although day-to-day inquiries for stock are received the amount of business resulting is by no means large. Glacé kid in black and brown, together with willow calf, are the leathers in most request, in addition to which there has been a slight improvement in the call for patent. Suède leather is still a feature of the trade. Curried leathers are still neglected, and only very limited quantities of waxed kip butts and splits are sought after. Reptile and novelty leathers move steadily in small parcels. Shoe manufacturers report an improvement in the number of orders coming to hand for footwear, and although business is not what it should be for the time of the year there is a feeling that things have taken a turn for the better.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: April 30, 1930.

Something like a deadlock has been reached in the negotiations which the Indian Jute Mills' Association have been carrying on in their endeavours to bring about a unanimous agreement on the part of all the jute mills in India to curtail production of jute goods. One native mill has joined the Association, but other four native-owned mills are still holding out. A meeting is being held in Calcutta to-day, to discuss the position further, and it is hoped that a step nearer to the end in view will result. All members of the trade are fervently hoping that the mills in India will come to some arrangement whereby output will be brought more into line with the present consumption. Meantime, buyers are holding off in view of the uncertainty, and stocks of goods at all consuming centres are mounting up. Sellers, as well as buyers, are in doubt as to the ultimate issue, and prices are remaining remarkably steady, despite the fact that there is little business passing. The raw material is not weak, but there has been an easy tendency in regard to new crop prices, owing to brighter reports of weather conditions. Nevertheless, there is great reserve on the part of sellers offering to do business, and few offers are being made here. Best Lightnings have been sold at £28 for short group, September shipment, and Green Circle Ram Lightnings at £28 5s. for August. Daisee assortment is not meantime quoted for new crop, but old crop has been sold at £25 to £25 10s., and Tossa assortment offered at £26 17s. 6d. for May-June shipment. Spinners have transacted rather more business in jute yarns in the interval, and it has been strongly demonstrated that the price of 2s. 8d. cannot be broken for common 8 lb. cops, and 2s. 9d. for 8 lb. spools. Many spinners are refusing to sell at these prices, and it is only if quick delivery is taken that a few will accept the rates. Inquiry is made for forward delivery, but sellers will not quote for June onwards. All other yarns are steady, Rove especially being firm at £27 10s. for 48 lb., and £17 10s. for 200 lb. Twist is at 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb. and sacking yarns 3½d. for 24 lb. weft and 4¼d. for 8 lb. chains. Fine yarns are firmly held, and quite busy on present restricted output. Carpet qualities are more or less nominal at 4½d. for 14 lb. warp. Cloth orders are very few, and only for small quantities. A large order for sugar bags has been refused because buyers would not pay the prices wanted by sellers, and it is understood that the business has gone out of the country. For 10½ oz. 40 in. hessians 3 3/16d. is lowest quoted, and for 8 oz. 2 7/16d. Linoleum hessians are quiet and nominal, while heavy goods are slow. Calcutta goods are well maintained in value quotably, but there always seems to be the possibility that less might be done. Spot 10 oz. has been bought this week, but the quantity has not exceeded 150 bales.

NEW CAPITAL FOR UNILEVER

THE DUNLOP REPORT

HOME RAILWAY YIELDS

THE BASE METAL SLUMP

SEE

The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review

THIS WEEK

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price **6d.**, or from

The Publisher:

"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"
20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets generally are comparatively quiet, and only a moderate business is reported. Linseed oil is in fair request, and values are steady around £40 10s. per ton, naked, ex Hull mill, prompt, and £39 15s. May delivery, with later positions at a small discount. Cotton oils, after steadier conditions, are easier again. Values are for crude Egyptian, ex Hull, £28 15s., and common edible £31 15s. Other seed oils are quiet. In the oilseed section very little business is passing. Plate linseed is fairly steady on spot and near, which are at a premium over shipment, the relative prices at Hull being £18 10s. and £17 12s. 6d. respectively. Some trade in Indian has been done, £19 being paid for Calcutta linseed to London, April-May. The quantity on passage to Europe is increasing, and at 128,300 tons is 12,000 tons more than a week ago. Cotton seed is slow, and prices are about unchanged on the week, black Egyptian now being quoted £7 12s. 6d. afloat and April loading, and £7 15s. May and June. A few transactions have taken place in Bombay cotton seed to the U.K., current value for shipment, April to July, being £16 12s. 6d. The demand for oilcakes is falling off concurrently with the advent of the open weather.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—The market is extremely quiet. Political complications are threatening trade, and as far as Europe is concerned, high inland prices to the consumer, in many countries, including those producing the commodity, are preventing any increase in consumption. Supplies in consequence are outstripping consumption, and prices are unremunerative to the producer. No further change occurred in spot prices, but new business is difficult to arrange. Raw refining sugars mark a downward tendency. A moderate business effected in the raw Terminal section, prices being irregular, with sellers predominating at times. May delivery, sold, 6s. 6¾d. to 6s. 8½d.; August, 6s. 10½d. to 6s. 9¾d., combined with 6s. 10½d.; December, 7s. 2½d.; March, 8s. 2½d. to 8s. 3d.; May, 8s. 3¾d. Czecho granulated ready free sugar, sellers, 8s. 10½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. A cargo Cuban 96 per cent., May-June, sold, 7s. 4½d. c.i.f. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending April 26th amounted to 172,657 tons, compared with 137,378 at corresponding period last year. Cuban receipts of new sugar last week were 136,378 tons, against 166,503 last year; exports, 153,482, against 135,640; stocks, 1,751,553, against 1,509,795. Receipts of old, 117, against nil; exports, 3,728, against nil; stocks, 2,611, against 1,615. Centrals, 109, against 64.

COFFEE.—Quite a steady market prevailed during the week. A fair off-take resulted on the spot, fine liquoring qualities being favoured, and these ruled occasionally dearer.

COCOA.—Small spot sales include fine Grenada at 52s. 6d. Forward positions quietly steady. Accra, F/F, May-July, quoted, 35s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal, December delivery, sold 40s. 10½d.; May, 39s.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 28,000 packages. Fair competition was experienced, and low teas, also clean common, ruled ½d. to ¾d. dearer. Medium sorts met a comparatively quiet market. All really fine liquoring grades firm to dearer and wanted. Ceylon sales totalled 27,663 packages. A fairly good demand ensued, but market proved somewhat irregular. After proceeding without material change, towards the close prices drooped and often marked a decline of ½d. to 1d. This in a measure was accounted for by falling off in quality. Export demand counts for little just now. Java sales rather quiet and prices frequently easier.

RICE.—Trade on European account still difficult to arrange, and prices for Burma declined 1½d. Siam rather dearer and Saigon unaltered. Spanish, for shipment, 14s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Two stars, spot, London, 13s.; May-June, 12s. 6d. c.i.f. London-Continent. No. 3 Burma to Levant, quoted, 12s. 6d. c.i.f., double bags. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba. 12s. 9d. Saigon, No. 1, round grain, April-May, to Europe, 13s. Siam Super, April-May, 17s. 4½d.

BEANS.—Business moved quietly in all descriptions. Madagascar butters, spot, 33s. 6d. to 35s.; March-April and April-May, 33s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 9d. to 11s.; April, 11s. 6d. to 12s. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 19s. 6d.; April-May, 18s. 6d. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 20s.; April-May, 20s. 6d. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, £8 7s. 6d. c.i.f.

PEAS.—Steadily held, but buyers are not much in evidence for any variety. Japanese, old crop, spot, London, 14s. 6d.; new, 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d.; afloat, 15s.; April-May, 14s. 9d. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 17s. 6d.; small hand-picked blues, 12s. to 13s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lb.), April-May, 45s. Karachi, April-May, 42s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1, New Zealand, new crop, April-May, 56s.; old, 55s. Tasmanian, "A" grade, new, afloat, 66s.; April-May, 65s. c.i.f. China, white, February-March, quoted, f.a.q., 9s. 6d.; Manchurian, white, February-March, 11s. c.i.f.

LENTILS.—Firm. Bold Bombay, April-May, 62s. Calcutta Patna, to arrive, new crop, April-May, 60s. Bombay Patna, 61s. c.i.f. (504 lb.).

SPICE.—Pepper received fairly good patronage and forward positions ruled firmer as sellers exercised increased reserve. Lampong, March-May, quoted, 10⅞d.; May-July, sold, 10⅝d.; August-October, 9⅝d. Muntok, March-May, quoted, 1s. 1⅝d.; May-July, sold, 1s. 1⅜d.; August-October, 1s. 0½d. Cloves quiet. Spot Zanzibar, 11½d. to 11⅝d. as to quality. Tapioca idle at the moment. Sago flour weak. Business in Sarawak, April bill of lading, at 11s. 3d.; May, sellers, 11s. 1½d.; June, 11s c.i.f. United Kingdom. Pimento, spot, 7d. and forward; sellers, 5¼d. c.i.f. London. Ginger slow of sale. London stocks of black increased 49 tons on the week 1,016 tons, against 1,176 at same time last year; white, 20 tons her, at 784, against 587.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants firm with improved inquiries. Pyrgos oted 35s. 6d.; Amalias, 37s.-38s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, .-46s.; Voztizza, 47s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 43s.-58s. tanas meet with increased support. Smyrna, medium to fine, .-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-75s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 31s.-. Dates in fair request. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, .; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins quiet of sale. Valencia, quarter-tes, 36s.-38s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 21s.-25s.; good average, 20s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—The general position remains unchanged, though plums tend easier with moderate inquiries, chiefly for large sizes. South African and Australian apricots meet with attention, but other fruits move off slowly. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 67s.; 40's-50's, 65s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 53s.; 50's-60's, 50s. 6d. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s.; Australian, 65s.-85s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 55s.-60s.; fancy, 62s. 6d.-67s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 55s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm: *Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110; Majorcas,* 107s. 6d.-125s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels, Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 140s.; Barcelona, 136s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s. to 140., ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt., f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Trade is gradually improving, but a spell of warm weather is needed to stimulate consumption. Prospects for the Californian new pack appear more favourable than last year, and buyers are reluctant to operate forward in anticipation of lower prices. A fair business is reported in new pack Australian. Singapore pines experienced a quiet sale on spot, while shipment prices are maintained with difficulty. Hawaiian and South African steady.

CANNED FISH.—Market generally quiet. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted 47s. 6d.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-26s. 6d., and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab easier, best quality 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters sparingly offered, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines in moderate request but prices steady. Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market firm, with a steady demand for lunch tongues, but cooked hams rather quiet. Corned beef and ox tongues unaltered.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—A steady demand continues, but prices occasionally the turn easier for condensed milk. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 32s.; machine skimmed ditto, 20s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 22s. 3d. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 61s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lbs. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 37s. 3d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 9d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per

GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Union of South Africa.)

ABRIDGED REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 1929. To be submitted at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Johannesburg, on June 3rd, 1930.

The working profit for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1929, after deducting administration expenses, &c., amounted to			£112,224 9 6
The unappropriated balance brought forward was			120,257 8 4
Making the total available profit			232,481 17 10
which was dealt with as follows:—			
Amount appropriated to cover depreciation in market value of certain Stocks, Shares, &c.	£169,119 6 1		
	916 19 7		
Additional Reserve for bad and doubtful debts	1,295 8 0		
Amount paid for Taxes			171,331 13 8
Leaving a balance of unappropriated profit to be carried forward of			£61,150 4 2

The Reserve Fund stands at £400,000.

In view of the above results no dividend is recommended, more especially as, in order to maintain a strong financial position, it has been deemed inadvisable to distribute any of the unappropriated profit.

Investments are shown in the Balance Sheet, in accordance with the usual practice, at or under the market price ruling at the end of the financial year. Owing to continued market depression during the year, the prices of Stocks and Shares generally were detrimentally affected, and as a result of this it was necessary to appropriate from profits £169,119 to bring down the Corporation's holding of certain investments to the prices ruling at the end of the year. The aggregate value, however, of the share investments of the Corporation at market prices at 31st December last was still considerably greater than the figure at which they appear in the Balance Sheet.

The principal interests of the Corporation are in the following Companies:—

Meyer and Charlton Gold Mining Co., Ltd., Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, Ltd., West Rand Consolidated Mines, Ltd., Witpoort Gold Areas, Ltd., New Steyn Estate Gold Mines, Ltd., East Rand Proprietary Mines, Ltd., and the Phoenix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd.

The Corporation holds various mining properties, real estate and leasehold property, &c., while its holding in financial and industrial concerns in Europe and also in mining companies in South Africa other than those above have been maintained and continue to produce a satisfactory revenue.

BALANCE SHEET at 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

DR.			CR.	
To Capital—			**By Stocks and Shares,** including Participations ...	£1,058,011 1 5
Authorized: 1,500,000 Shares of £1 each ...	£1,500,000 0 0		**„ Mining Properties, Claim Holdings, Real Estate and House Property,** and other Assets, less Reserve...	71,413 19 11
In Reserve: 235,421 Shares of £1 each ...	235,421 0 0		**„ Office Furniture—** Johannesburg, London and Berlin	5 0
Issued: 1,264,579 Shares of £1 each fully paid	£1,264,579 0 0		**„ Sundry Debtors** (including advances to Mining and other Companies), less Reserves	452,232 7 6
„ General Reserve	400,000 0 0		**„ Advances against Securities** (including Stocks and Shares taken in)	121,761 14 4
„ Deposits (with Interest accrued)	97,310 14 1		**„ British, South African and other Government Securities**	162,063 18 0
„ Sundry Creditors and Contingency Accounts ...	100,221 4 4		**„ Cash**—at Banks and in hand	98,529 10 7
„ General Mining Staff Pension Fund	36,703 17 8			
„ Creditors for Stock bought but not yet delivered ...	747 1 0			
„ Bills Payable	220 14 9			
„ Unclaimed Dividends	3,080 0 9			
„ Appropriation Account— Balance at 31st December, 1929	61,150 4 2			
	£1,964,012 16 9			£1,964,012 16 9

Note.—There are Contingent Liabilities amounting to £16 in respect of amounts uncalled on Shares.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts can be obtained at the London Office of the Corporation, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. 2.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb.	41	6
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	9	0
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.	7	9
Oats, " " "	6	8
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	31	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d		
280 lb.	33 6	0 0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	12 6	0 0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
R.I. flake, fair spot	21 0	0 0
Medium pearl	23 0	24 0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.	3 0	4 0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides	5 8	6 4
Argentine chilled hinds	4 0	4 6
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers	6 8	7 8
N.Z. frozen "	3 4	4 2
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	6 8	8 4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish ..... per cwt.	112 0	136 0
Danish	105 0	110 0
Canadian	104 0	106 0
Dutch	91 0	101 0
HAMS—Irish	0 0	0 0
Canadian	0 0	0 0
American	96 0	102 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	128 0	134 0
Australian	114 0	130 0
New Zealand	114 0	142 0
Danish	136 0	138 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt.	95 0	100 0
New Zealand	77 0	85 0
English Cheddars	nom.	
Dutch	42 0	74 0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	40 0	41 0
Trinidad	62 0	65 0
Grenada	48 0	53 0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125 0	140 0
Costa Rica, good to fine	145 0	167 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110 0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115 0	138 0
Colombian, mid to fine	105 0	118 0
EGGS—		
English ..... per 120	10 0	13 0
Danish	11 0	12 6
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0 0	0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	13 0	20 0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	11 6	35 0
360	11 6	25 0
504	10 0	18 0
Lemons, Naples	boxes 0 0	0 0
Sicilian	boxes 4 0	11 0
	cases 6 0	14 0
Malaga	cases 420 No. 1 0 0	0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0 0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	0 0	0 0
" Tasmanian boxes	7 6	16 0
" Australian	7 6	16 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags	6	0	7	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva, bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	53	6	55	3
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	1	2½	1	0
Black Lampong	1	0	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	11½
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good	60	0	90	0
Mace ..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's	1	5	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 6d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	23	0
Java, white, c.&.f. India, May	9	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	20	10½	0	0
Cubes	25	3	25	9
Crushed	24	0	24	6
Granulated	21	6	22	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe	0	9½	2	5
Broken Pekoe	0	10	2	3
Orange Pekoe	1	0½	2	5
Broken Orange	0	11½	2	11
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 3/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
strips	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" stripe	0	5½	1	0

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American ..... per lb.	8·62
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	14·20
Yarns, 32's twist	12½
60's twist	21½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	56	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"	28	0	0	0
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.–June	31	0	32	0
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. per ton	£	s.	d.	
May–June	25	2	6	
Aug.–Sept.	26	7	6	

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	11	6	12	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	3	19	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	6	19	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12
Queensland, scd., super cmbg.	26
N.S.W. greasy, super "	13
N.Z., *grsy.*, half-bred 50–56	12
Crossbred 40–44	9½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	30
" 64's	29
Crossbred 48's	16½
" 46's	16

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty. ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best *gas*	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house	20	6	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—	£	s.	£	s.
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough	215	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	62	0	66	0
Sheets (strong)	92	0	0	0
Standard	50/7/6		50	10
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	5	0	0
Soft Foreign	17	15	17/13/9	
Spelter G.O.B.	16/17/6		17/7/6	
Tin—English ingots	154	0	154	10
Standard cash	153	0	153	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	2½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump ..... per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump ..... per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate ..... per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. ..... per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	10	26	0

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton May–June	22/1/3 0 0
Smoked South Sea May–June	20/15/0 0 0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co.	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4½
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	6
Dry and Drysalted Cape	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	5½
Best *cow*	0	3½	0	4
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	2	2	2
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	6
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies *from* DS do.	0	6	0	8
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	6
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	0	0	0
Rape, refined	39	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude	34	0	0	0
Palm	26	0	28	10
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	15	11	0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— May-June	17/17/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May	19	0	0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.	41	3	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910	82	6	0	0
" 950	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American ..... per ton	16	10	19	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7	0	8
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	131	3	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis. "	17	0	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	3	0	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	0	0
African "	0	6	0	0
Amer. Oak Boards "	0	6	0	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	0

cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum, 1-ton lots. smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full-cream, sweetened, 17s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 9d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market still weak, but parcels of new crop Jamaican recently arrived attract attention. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber *to* fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark *to fine* amber, 37s.-40s.; Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 37s. 6d. San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s. Mexican, 35s. Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. per cwt.

RUBBER.

This market remains in the same quiet state as that existing for some time past, and there is no fresh development in the general situation. Standard sheet, spot, sold, 7d. to 6 15/16d.; May, 6 13/16d. to 6 7/8d.; June, 7 1/16d. to 7d.; July-September, 7 1/16d. to 7 1/8d.; October-December, 7 1/16d. to 7 1/16d.; and January-March, 7 1/16d. to 7 1/16d. London stocks increased 832 tons on the week; landings amounted to 1,966; deliveries, 1,134; stocks, 74,084 tons, against 31,213 last year. Liverpool, 883 higher; landings, 1,051; deliveries, 168; stock, 23,546, against 4,779.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Experienced a slow market and prices manifested a weaker tendency. Cables from Calcutta report a "hitch" in negotiations respecting reduced working hours in local mills. Firsts, April-May, also May-June, quoted, £25; new, August-September and September-October, £26 7s. 6d.; Lightnings, May-June, £24; Hearts, £22 5s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila quiet and easier. J, No. 2, May-July, sold £27 10s.; K, ditto, £26; L, No. 1, £25; L, No. 2, £23 10s.; M, No. 1, £25; M, No 2, £23 10s.; G, afloat, £29 10s.; H, May-July, £27 15s. African sisal: No. 1, f.a.q., May-July, sellers, £32; Marks, quoted. £31 c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 36,000 bales, against 24,000 *ast year* and 24,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week, 28,000, and week following, 32,000. Manila shipments last week: 4,000 to the U.K.; 3,000, Continent; 12,000, U.S.A.; 16,000, Japan; and 2,000 other countries; *making* local stocks 163,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—In quiet support. Fair T.N., spot, 132s. 6d.; May, quoted, 116s.; August, 121s.; October, 125; forward steamers, 115s.

COPRA.—Quiet and prices the turn easier. Straits S.D., April-May, to Rotterdam, sellers, £22 1s. 3d.; Dutch East Indies, £22 1s. 3d.; Ceylon, £23 5s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, April-May, quoted, £21 2s. 6d. Smoked, South Sea, afloat steamer named, £21 2s. 6d.; April, £20 17s. 6d.; and May, £20 15s. Manila, in bulk, April-May, £20 15s. c.i.f.

PALM KERNELS.—To Hamburg, April-May, £15 5s.; May-June, £15 10s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cocoanuts, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, April-May, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 30.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 4	6 10	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	...	...	Sheep—Downs	3 4	9 4
Short Horns	...	...	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 2	5 4
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 4	12 ...

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 30.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	4	0
" " whites	2	3	2	6
Essex King Edward	3	0	3	3
" " whites	2	0	...	
Arran Chief	2	0	...	
New Spanish	18	0	19	0
" Canary	17	0	...	

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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THE MONEY MARKET.

LAST week's reduction in Bank rate has so far done little to narrow the margin between Bank rate and market discount rates, for three months' bills have this week been quoted at 2⅛ per cent., as against 2 1/16–⅛ per cent. a fort-

night before. Short bills have been down to 2 per cent., and even six months' bills have been little higher than 2⅜ per cent. Money on Wednesday was rather wanted, but, even so, the rate for new money was no higher than 1½ per cent., and apart from transient demands such as were in evidence on Wednesday, money is still considered to be easy and plentiful. This view is confirmed by this week's Bank return, which shows an increase in bankers' deposits of £2,372,000. The wider implications of the Bank rate reduction are discussed on a subsequent page, but it should be added that some brokers regard 3 per cent. as an artificial and temporary rate, and are beginning to watch for the right moment to change over from long to short bills, so as to minimise the loss arising from a possible increase in Bank rate. But this is looking rather far ahead, for there are no obvious grounds for anticipating an increase in Bank rate for some time to come.

* * * *

At the same time, the weakness of sterling and the gold losses to France are disconcerting. Since the end of last week France has withdrawn from the Bank of England over four millions at the rate of about a million a day, which is still all the Paris assayers can deal with. It seems likely that these withdrawals may continue, for the same causes are operating as were at work last year, and the Paris money market will take a long time to reach such a stage of development as will prevent French banks from drawing upon their foreign balances to meet internal needs. It is noticeable, however, that so far the Bank of England has not taken any definite steps to tighten up credit in London as an offset to the French gold withdrawals. It is true that the Bank's holding of securities of all kinds shows a contraction on the week of just over £3,000,000, but this is more than balanced by a reduction of £4,791,000 in public deposits, and on Tuesday the Bank was reported to have bought some three months' bills.

* * * *

Taking a broad view, it seems likely that the Bank is going to maintain easy conditions for a time, and it is an obvious inference that it is doing so as part of an internationally concerted plan to prepare the ground for the reparations bond issue. If so, it may be prepared to ignore gold losses, and as a matter of fact, the French withdrawals have so far been more than balanced by further gold arrivals from Australia, together with sovereigns from South Africa, so that this week the Bank has gained £219,000 of gold.

	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3½	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1½	1½	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount { Call	1½	1½	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses { Notice	1¾	1¾	1¼	1¼	1¾ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½	2½ – 9/16	2 5/16	2⅛	...

On the other hand, it is quite likely that discount rates will rise. In addition to the psychological effects of the gold losses, Friday's Treasury bill issue will be £9,000,000 in excess of maturities, and preparations for the War Loan dividend and impending debt maturities may increase the Treasury bill issue still further. Discount rates are, therefore, likely to be driven up nearer to Bank rate, which will not be a bad thing.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Money is a drug on the market and, following the cut in the Boston discount rate to 3½ per cent., New York reduced its buying rate on bills to the dealers' asking rate of 2¼ and 2⅜ per cent., thus virtually inviting sales of bills to the Reserve, especially as call money was lending outside the Stock Exchange at 2½ per cent. A reduction in discount rate is being discussed, but it is unlikely to be seriously considered at this time. This week's statement of the Reserve System shows a moderate drop in bills, and the total of credit outstanding, at $951 million, is the lowest since September, 1924. The Reserve ratio is 83, against 74.3 a year ago. The extent of stock liquidation is measured by a drop of $200 million in brokers' loans, the first drop since March 26th, and more than the total of combined weekly declines since the middle of last December. The total had risen $882 million since it touched bottom on December 4th. The drop was about what the Street had expected. Gold movements this week have been negligible. Motor output in April is estimated at 460,348, against 401,678 in March, but 40 per cent. below that of a year ago. Since the cut in copper prices, copper shares have been steadier, and it is believed that buyers of the metal will come in. Tobaccos spurted on good business, and chemicals and utilities turned against shorts. Steel issues were soft on the further drop in the operating rate of the industry and rails rather heavy on the continued low level of traffic, but the worst is believed to be past.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The Stock Markets were dull and spiritless on the New York reaction and the absence of domestic public interest. The effect of last week's Bank rate reduction was negligible. Gilt-edged were fairly steady after a shaky start, but little business was done in Dominion stocks, and Home Rails were neglected. Internationals were marked down to New York levels, and changes in home industrial share quotations were adverse to holders. Rubber and tea shares were slightly firmer, but oil shares suffered heavily during the American burst of liquidation, and mining shares were overshadowed by new and discouraging evidence of the instability of base metal prices.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Signs of improvement are to be found in some directions, but the general situation leaves much to be desired. The coal markets are still weak, and stocks are accumulating. Trade in pig iron does not improve, but there is a definite, though gradual, expansion in some classes of finished steel, especially in the West of Scotland. There is no sign of revival in the cotton export trade. The world wool position is greatly improved, and prospects for Bradford, once the wages dispute is settled, are definitely brighter. The hides and leather markets are steady. Conditions in the vegetable oils and oilseeds markets are very quiet. Wheat prices still show a downward tendency.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Quiet conditions again prevailed in the Foreign Exchange market this week, with many currencies showing an irregular tendency, while sterling was generally dull. The New York rate fell from 4.86 5/32 to 4.85 23/32, after being lower on Wednesday and Thursday. Montreal fell away from 4.86¾ to 4.87¼. Paris gained four points at 123.87 after 123.80 during the week. Brussels was half a point better at 34.82½. Milan gained 13 points at 92.65. Madrid again fluctuated rather wildly, losing 25 points on balance at 39.55 after 40.05. After several fluctuations Amsterdam was rather better on balance at 12.07½. Berlin, after hesitation, remained unchanged at 20.36½. Switzerland also showed irregularity, and lost ⅝ at 25.08. The Scandinavian currencies were uncertain. Stockholm fell sharply from 18.09 to 18.10⅜; and Copenhagen lost ¼ at 18.16½, but Oslo gained ¼ at 18.16. In the South American exchanges Rio was unchanged at 5 7/8d. Buenos Aires rose spectacularly from 42¾d. to 43½d. on May 3rd, fell again to 43½d. next day, and closed very firm at 43¾d. Montevideo also gained ¾d. at 46s. In the Far East the rupee was less firm at 1s. 5 7/8d., the yen unchanged at 2s. 0⅜d., and Batavia ⅜ better at 12.07½. In the forward market, dollars were more on offer at 3/16 cent and 7/16 cent discount. Paris was also weaker at discounts of 7 and 10 centimes, against 1 centime discount for both periods last week. Brussels gained ½ for each quotation at 1 and 3 centimes discount. Madrid was considerably weaker at 1 and 3 centimos premium, against 2½ and 7 last week. Amsterdam was unchanged, and Berlin was weaker at 2 and 5 pfennigs discount. The silver market was quiet, and prices remained unmoved at 19½d. for spot and 19 7/16d. for forward. The Chinese silver exchanges were weaker, Hong Kong losing ½d. at 1s. 6½d., and Shanghai ½d. at 1s. 11d.

TARIFFS DAY BY DAY.

The active revival of fiscal controversy is no more confined to this country than is the industrial *malaise* which has Britain as well as so many other lands in its grip. In the United States, in Canada and in Australia, to mention no other countries, recent events have thrust the tariff question into a prominence as great as that which Lord Beaverbrook's "Empire Crusade" has won for it here. The merits and demerits of Protection are being more talked of to-day around the world than at any time since the World Economic Conference. In this eternal trench warfare between trade restrictionists and champions of freer exchange the past week's *communiqués* have contained interesting news both from the home and from the more distant fronts. At home the West Fulham by-election has been fought and narrowly won by Lord Beaverbrook's candidate on a policy of that form of Protection that makes the propagation of Imperial trade its stalking horse; and at Nottingham another by-election is approaching, in which Protection cannot fail to be a principal issue. In Canada a new Budget has been introduced, a feature of which is the extension of preferential treatment for British goods. In the United States a memorandum against the new and higher tariff has been signed by over 1,000 American economists and forwarded to the President.

Of these items the result at West Fulham is primarily of interest from the point of view of political tactics. What has happened there is that a traditionally Conservative seat, surprisingly captured by Labour a year ago, now returns to the fold after a year of rather disappointing experience of Labour rule. Whether this return was accelerated or jeopardised by the terrific close-range concentration of Lord Beaverbrook's protectionist artillery no one can say; for the fact that only 63 per cent. of the electors were moved to visit the poll shows that the bombardment did not arouse West Fulham as a whole to much interest in the contest. In the Beaverbrook camp there was enthusiasm enough, and the result will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of the "whole-hoggers" in their efforts to dislodge Mr Baldwin from his uncomfortable position on the fence. But the smallness of the poll, and the traditional Toryism of the seat, mean that West Fulham is an uncertain guide to the state of popular opinion. Nor is any clearer light on the attitude of the country to the fiscal question to be expected from Nottingham. In this case the Conservatives hold the seat, and the battle area is the home of the lace trade, whose "Safeguarding" duty is to be allowed to lapse by the Labour Government. We may expect, therefore, that the brand of Protection to be preached there will be Mr Baldwin's "retention and extension of Safeguarding," rather than the "Empire Crusade" of Lord Beaverbrook. A Conservative defeat there certainly would be a portent, for if ever the selective special pleading of the Protectionist had a favourable atmosphere and opportunity these are surely provided at Nottingham to-day. Nottingham workers have been subjected to ceaseless propaganda to the effect that their very livelihood depends upon the retention of Protection for the lace trade, and the result must be an atmosphere somewhat unsympathetic to the teaching and apprehending either of the broader aspects of the lace trade question, which we examined in the *Economist* last week, or of the national, as distinct from the local, advantage, real or supposed.

The week's tariff news from abroad gives more nourishing food for thought. The full text of the American economists' protest to President Hoover is not yet to hand, but the purport is given by the *Times'* Washington correspondent in a despatch printed on Tuesday. These experts argue that, if the projected increases in the American tariff are enforced, "our export trades will suffer," and among those trades they enumerate such great American industries as copper, automobiles, agricultural machinery and the like, whose difficulties, they say, will be increased if the new Tariff Bill becomes law. "There are few more ironical spectacles," continues the protest, "than that of the American Government as it seeks on the one hand to promote export through the activity of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, while on the other hand by increasing tariffs it makes exportation ever more difficult." As for American manufacturers in general, "further barriers to trade will serve them not well, but ill." To Britain, vastly more reliant on export trade than America, these words have a peculiar significance. Significant, too, is the comment of the *Times'* Washington correspondent:—"His (*i.e.*, President Hoover's) friends believe that, in spite of every political reason to the contrary, he should veto the Bill, but the chorus of short-sighted business men and vote-hungry politicians drowns their voices."

There are a hundred and one fiscal lessons here. "The chorus of short-sighted business men," seeing no more of the national interest than what they can snatch by way of spoon-feeding for their own particular businesses; "the vote-hungry" politicians at the mercy of the persistent log-rolling by vested interests grown up behind the tariff wall—what a picture is here of the "pull devil, pull baker" sectionalism, of the corruption of public life, of the obscuration of the goal of the common weal, which a system of tariffs always in the long run breeds. For the moment the expert and unbiassed voices that warn the United States of the danger may be drowned, but they and the ineluctable force of economic fact must in the end prevail. It is possible to understand the remark of a contemporary cynic, who has said that England would be saved in the nick of time from "going Protectionist" by the spectacle of America "going Free Trade."

When we turn to the remaining item of news, the extension of Canadian preferences, we find several more lessons to be learned. The loudest protests against the new American tariff proposals came from Canada, and here we see one of the results. When a tariff country repeatedly raises its tariff (and unless the consumers and the exporting industries of a country rouse themselves the walls always tend to grow higher) what do her best customers do about it? Either they proceed to raise their own tariff walls or else they begin to look elsewhere for other customers, with whom they may establish better relations. That, in fact, is what Canada is doing now, and the object lesson is one that should impress not only American but British Protectionists, for, if we place barriers between ourselves and our foreign customers, we shall drive them, as America is doing, to look elsewhere.

But there is another aspect of the affair that may be commended to the attention of our "Empire Free Traders," including for the moment in that category Mr Baldwin. The Canadian Government makes these extensions of the British preference because it thinks them good policy for the Canadian people. Canada makes them to Free Trade Britain, and is no more likely to "demand" a *quid pro quo* than she is to tolerate any attempted interference by Britain in her own fiscal policy. Canada turns one way along the fiscal path: we are grateful. Australia turns the other way: we are disappointed. We may express our gratitude or our disappointment; but, whichever it be, we must first of all acknowledge that these things are done and decided by the Dominion Governments by their right and volition under the rules and constitution of a free and equal democratic partnership. That is what obtains at present. What change is it that Mr Joseph Chamberlain 25 years ago and Lord Beaverbrook to-day would have us make? They would have us transform this cherished autonomy and confine it within the boundary of commercial contract; they would have us nonchalantly discard the fiscal system under which the might of Britain grew; they would have us jeopardise

our essential trade with the non-British world, and especially with Europe—a market at our doors, which buys about a third of our exports. Why? In order to revoke the cherished autonomy of the members of the British Commonwealth and substitute for it the restrictions of a commercial bargain. "If you follow this Protectionist path," say the American economists to their President and their country, "you will inject bitterness into international relations." One of the many formidable retorts that true British Imperialists could make to Lord Beaverbrook is this: "If your policy came to fruition, you would inject bitterness into Imperial relations."

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

In each of the national series of documents on the origins of the European War which have been published, or are in course of publication, the tragic interest becomes heightened as the moment of the catastrophe is approached. The present volume* in the British series carries the record down to a date less than two years short of "the twelve days" in 1914 with which the eleventh and concluding volume (arranged by the late Sir James Headlam-Morley) deals. The culminating point in this sixth volume is Lord Haldane's mission to Berlin in February, 1912. The volume ends with the failure to bring about an Anglo-German *détente* on the lines which had been explored non-committally in Berlin by Lord Haldane and by the then German Chancellor, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg.

In this volume, four personalities make their mark: Bethmann-Hollweg, Lord Haldane, Lord Grey and Sir Eyre Crowe. The two last-mentioned figures, though in this act they neither of them stand in the foreground of the stage, continue to impress the spectator by their straightforwardness and by their force of character—points of likeness between them which are rendered all the more piquant by the profound differences of temperament and outlook that divided them. Their force is such that even when they appear in the *rôle* of commentators—making their voices heard through minutes and memoranda—they often make a stronger impression than the persons by whom the action is actually being carried on.

Lord Grey is distinguished, as always, by his absolute frankness and by his vision of some comprehensive European understanding into which the *entente* and the alliance would both be taken up; and there is a moment, just after Lord Haldane's return to London, when he believes that he has caught a glimpse of the same vision in the German Chancellor's mind. Perhaps he was right; for Bethmann-Hollweg, as he appears on the scene in this volume, gives the impression of ardently desiring an Anglo-German understanding for the preservation of the general peace. Indeed, the first suggestions for such an understanding were made by Bethmann-Hollweg, on his own initiative, immediately after he took office in the summer of 1909; and all the British diplomats and statesmen who came into contact with him during the next three years testify to his sincerity and to his goodwill. In him it is not the will but the will-power that fails. *Volo non valeo* might be his motto. And yet, in Bethmann-Hollweg's position, could even a Bismarck—or, for that matter, an Eyre Crowe—have forced a conciliatory policy through against the triple obstacle of the Kaiser with his volatile temperament, the Prussian ruling caste with their adamantine tradition, and the unhappy German people who, like Jeshurun, had waxed fat since the triumph of 1870-1 and, like the hero of some great tragedy, were apparently doomed by the envy of the gods to travel from "surfeit" through "insolence" to "disaster"?

Sir Eyre Crowe continues, with his old courage and ability, to play the invidious part of a Cassandra—never believing that the will to peace and friendship, even if genuinely present in the hearts of individuals like Bethmann-Hollweg, will prevail in the counsels of the German Government, and therefore never expecting the negotiations for a better understanding between Great Britain and Germany to succeed. His main concern—and the main concern of other British public servants whose views are heard—is to prevent this attempt at a *détente* with Germany, which they look upon as foredoomed to failure, from upsetting the existing ententes with France and Russia. As for Lord Haldane, we see him bringing into the field his immense and varied abilities, his knowledge of Germany and the German language, and, above all, a fresh mind—so unlike the hard-set mind of Crowe, who had pored over the situation as it is until he had lost the ability to conceive of its being changed for the better by anything further that the wit of man could devise.

The issue was, briefly, as follows:—Bethmann-Hollweg was anxious to improve Anglo-German relations by doing something to ease the competition in naval armaments, and he was prepared to challenge von Tirpitz and the Chauvinists at least so far as to retard—though not ultimately to reduce—the German building programme; but he could not face this conflict in the field of domestic politics unless he could show his countrymen some signal set-off to the concession that he proposed on the German side; and he therefore insisted from the outset that a technical agreement on naval armament must be accompanied by a political agreement of the kind that nowadays is called a "pact of amity and good relations." On the British side, professional opinion was, on the whole, hostile to this second suggestion—particularly from the point of view that it involved a closer and more definite tie with Germany than any by which we had bound ourselves to Russia or France. In these circles, the technical naval limitation agreement was regarded as the essence of an Anglo-German *détente*, and the proposal for a pact of amity as, on the whole, an obstacle to its realisation. On the other hand, Lord Haldane regarded a political agreement, if drawn on mutually satisfactory lines, as something of value for both parties; and, owing to his fresh initiative, German and British drafts of such an agreement were actually exchanged unofficially during and after his visit to Berlin in February, 1912. It was the impossibility of reconciling the two draft formulæ, and not an inability to agree over the technical terms of naval limitation (which did not come up for discussion between him and the representatives of Germany with whom he talked), that really caused his mission to fail.

The crux was the question of what the position of either Power would be if the other Power were to be involved in war with a third party. Bethmann-Hollweg's formula was that they would not either of them make any combination, or join in any combination, that was directed against the other, and that if either became entangled in a war with a third party or parties, the other would observe towards it at least a benevolent neutrality. The British formula—as finally worked out after Lord Haldane's return to London and communicated by Lord Grey to the German Ambassador—was:—

> "England will make no unprovoked attack upon Germany and pursue no aggressive policy towards her.
>
> "Aggression upon Germany is not the subject, and forms no part of any treaty, understanding or combination to which England is now a party; nor will she become a party to anything that has such an object."

To this Count Metternich replied:—

> "I am afraid the political formula you left with me to-day will not be found sufficient at home, as no mention is made of neutrality. . . ."

And so it proved when the German Ambassador brought to Lord Grey the German Chancellor's observations and desiderata. After hearing these, Lord Grey put it to Count Metternich that "What the Chancellor now asked amounted to an agreement of absolute neutrality, which was more than conditional neutrality." Count Metternich said that the Chancellor had not used the word "absolute," but in effect his wish amounted to that.

This was an insuperable obstacle to agreement, since it would have prevented Great Britain from assisting France and Russia in the event of Germany making a war of aggression upon either or both of them. Thereafter, on the British side, the business was wound up by a private letter to Lord Grey from Mr Asquith, in which the latter statesman's lucid commonsense comes out in a characteristic way:—

> "My dear Grey,—I agree that the French are somewhat unduly nervous. But I confess I am becoming more and more doubtful as to the wisdom of prolonging these discussions with Germany about a formula. Nothing, I believe, will meet her purpose which falls short of a promise on our part of neutrality: a promise we cannot give. And she makes no firm or solid offer, even in exchange for that."

This letter would have been equally agreeable to Sir Eyre Crowe and to Admiral von Tirpitz, for it was an intimation that *saeva necessitas*, and not statesmanship, was in control of the destinies of Europe in 1912. The tragedy was at hand.

This is the main action of the volume, but the reader will find many incidental points of interest. In particular, he will notice some points in which the general setting of international politics seems infinitely remote from what it is now, and others in which current issues already appear almost in their present form. We feel happily far away from our own times when we listen to the Kaiser saying to Sir F. Lascelles in the castle of Friedrichshof:—

> "It was not public opinion, it was not Parliament, it was not the Federal Council, but the Emperor himself who had to decide whether Germany should draw the sword, and it was inconceivable to him that anyone in their senses could for an instant suppose that he, the grandson of Queen Victoria, whose memory he revered, the nephew of the King for whom he had a sincere affection, should ever dream of attacking England, a country to which he was personally devotedly attached."

On the other hand, we feel ourselves on familiar ground when the problem of "defining the aggressor" crops up in the discussion of the British and German formulæ for that pact of amity which it unhappily proved impossible to conclude.

* British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898-1914, edited by G. P. Gooch and Harold Temperley. Vol. VI, Anglo-German Tension: Armaments and Negotiation, 1907-12. (H.M. Stationery Office, 17s. 6d. net.)

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BANKING CO-OPERATION STARTS.

The simultaneous reduction last week of the Bank rates in four such important centres as London, New York, Paris and Brussels can hardly be regarded as a fortuitous coincidence; and it seems legitimate to infer that it was a measure agreed upon in principle at the inaugural meeting of the nominated directors of the Bank for International Settlements held at Basle the previous week. It also seems fairly clear that the object of the movement is to facilitate the forthcoming issue of the Reparations Loan on terms that will not prove too onerous to Germany.

If these inferences are correct—and the City is disposed to assume that this is so—the first meeting of the B.I.S. has quickly borne fruit, for it is unlikely that these four reductions would have taken place at once under the old system of unorganised and unofficial central banking co-operation. A concerted reduction in bank rates is, however, only the first stage. It has yet to be proved that each of the central banks concerned can maintain its rate at the lower level without finding that too great a strain is imposed upon it. But if action is taken by common agreement, it follows almost as a matter of course that the parties must make it as easy as possible for one another in carrying out the common objective. A crucial test of the new system will be the extent to which the meetings of the board of the B.I.S. will result in relieving the strain upon those money markets which are most affected by the common policy.

This matter is a very pertinent one for London, which finds, as the world's banker, that every financial cross-current is liable to cause drafts upon its resources and upon its gold stocks. A month ago, the currents were definitely adverse. There was then at least a threat of an outbreak of speculation on Wall Street with its usual concomitant of a renewed drain upon the world's supply of short money. Nearer home, the French, as last year, were beginning to draw upon their foreign balances to meet their current needs, and in the London exchange market the franc had appreciated from par to the export gold point. In these circumstances, it required confidence and courage for the Bank of England to participate in a general reduction of bank rates.

Events have removed for the present the Wall Street menace, for, as a chart on page 1059 shows, the upward movement of share prices, which by mid-April had retrieved about a third of the ground lost during the great slump, has suffered a marked setback in the last week. This latter movement had for some time been foreseen by competent American observers, as witness an article by a New York correspondent in the Banking Supplement published with the current issue of the *Economist*. Both the Bank of England authorities and those of the New York Reserve Bank must have been aware of the weaknesses of Wall Street, and it seems likely that when they decided upon last week's rate reductions, they were of opinion that the danger from Wall Street could be ignored.

The Continental, and especially the French, situation, is a different matter, and the French gold withdrawals from the Bank of England, amounting during the week ended Wednesday last to about £3,000,000, and the keen competition between France and Germany for Tuesday's market gold come as a sharp reminder of the vulnerability of the Bank's gold stocks. The German demand need not cause great concern, for past experience has shown that Germany loses gold as readily as she takes it, and in any case Germany as a payer of reparations is not likely to prove a permanent absorber of gold.

The French demand, however, is more serious. Our Banking Supplement contains an article on the Paris money market which explains the reasons for the absorption of gold by France. In brief, the undeveloped state of the Paris money market means that the French banks and financial institutions use their foreign balances as one of their main forms of liquid assets, and that they

draw upon them whenever they are faced with any special demand for francs. Current withdrawals are in part due to the same causes as operated last year, namely, the demands for francs in order to make tax payments and to finance the tourist season which is now beginning. An additional factor is probably French accumulations of funds in preparation for subscriptions to the French portion of the Reparations Loan, and also perhaps for the French share of the capital of the B.I.S., while transfers of French balances between different centres are cross-currents in the exchange market which at the moment are probably adverse to sterling.

The week's gold losses to France are a warning that even the united powers of central banks have their limits, though this warning, so far from supporting an attitude of negation, emphasises the need for further progress in central banking methods. In so far as France is concerned, the article already referred to admits frankly the need for further development. The writer adds that this will take time, that France must first reduce her accumulated foreign balances to a more normal level, and that, in practice, her best chance of doing this is to make Paris an important market for long-term foreign loans. Meanwhile, the writer says, foreign centres will be subject to the risk of sudden sales of French balances held abroad. In other words, sporadic gold movements to France are likely to continue, though it is to be hoped not on the scale of last year.

While the development of their own market is a task primarily to be undertaken by the French themselves, there will from time to time be obvious opportunities for co-operation on the part of other financial centres, of other central banks, and last, but not least, of the Bank for International Settlements itself. Positive action of this kind, not only in the case of France, but elsewhere, as opportunity arises, may seem to imply an attempt to set up rival money markets to London. But clearly it is in the interest of this country, no less than of the world generally, that means should be established for enabling the international movement of funds to take place as freely as possible without involving large movements of gold. We do not mean to imply that the B.I.S. can elaborate a system that will do away with gold movements altogether, or that there are alternative means of creating conditions of which these gold movements are at once the sign and the cure. But the simple fact is that these movements have quite a different economic effect in various countries, according to the form in which their money markets are organised. In one which is sensitive the movement in or out of £5 million may have a greater effect than a movement of £25 million in one in which the credit system is less highly organised. If banking co-operation on the basis of the gold standard is to become really effective, it seems inevitable that we must move towards a state of affairs in which movements in actual gold or in the ownership of gold will have as nearly as possible the same effect upon credit and upon prices in one country as in another. Until this happens, the economic situation will continue to be largely influenced by the amount of gold held in free markets and hardly influenced at all by the amount of gold held in others.

The extreme case of an " insensitive " market is India, to which it is notorious that gold, sometimes in enormous quantities, disappears and ceases to have an influence upon prices and credit in the world generally. But a similar problem arises, though smaller in degree, in any country in which gold may disappear in considerable quantities without producing any appreciable reaction. It will be difficult to move very far in the direction of controlling gold unless its movements produce similar effects in different countries.

In the meantime, it is a great step gained that banking co-operation should have got so far as to lead to common agreement on the objective of the moment. The mere fact that the different countries are attempting to obtain the same result will make it easier for each of them to use its own resources for the purpose in hand, and the course of events in the near future will be watched with the very closest attention.

LANCASHIRE AND RATIONALISATION.

PUBLIC attention has been directed widely this week to the situation in the cotton industry. A " National Cotton Week " organised by Lancashire has been the occasion of a spectacular co-operative effort to extend the home market by appeals, especially to women, to eschew more popular fabrics and extend the use of Lancashire goods. Simultaneously a series of authoritative articles by well-known men in the Lancashire industry, surveying the industry's position in detail, has appeared in the *Financial News;* questions relating to the reconstruction of the industry have been discussed by the annual conference of the United Textile Factory Workers' Association; and consideration of the diverse views of Lancashire's own experts in the light of the observations of an experienced foreign investigator has also been made possible by the translation of a critical study* undertaken last year by Dr. J. Wisselink for the benefit of the Dutch cotton industry.

The hopes expressed by the promoters of the national cotton week prompt the reflection that, while a campaign of this kind is wholly commendable, the greatest possible accession of trade in the home market likely to be achieved is insignificant in relation to the immense loss of export trade—one might say, in relation even to the continued loss from a point which many people in the industry believed to be near the lowest limit of the depression. During 1929 there was a decline in the export of piece-goods of all kinds of 195,000,000 square yards compared with 1928, and no less than 445,000,000 compared with 1927; and the figures for the three months ending March last give no indication that this distressing record has reached its downward limit.

In this situation it is not surprising that discussion is increasingly concentrated on the problems of the industry. Unfortnuately the effect is not to invoke a united effort—comparable in energy and purpose even with the organisation of the national cotton week, over the whole field of production and distribution—but rather to reveal and accentuate the differences of opinion among men whose knowledge and experience of all sections of the trade apparently give them an equal title to speak with authority. The one organisation which is resolutely grappling with the task of reorganisation and concentration on a comprehensive scale, the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, goes forward steadily with its difficult work. Yet, important as this is both in scope and significance, the Corporation's full programme, involving the control of ten million spindles and about thirty thousand looms, covers little more than one-fifth of the spinning section and touches only the fringe of weaving. For months past there has been talk of the formation of other large combines in spinning, weaving and merchanting, with aims similar to those of the Corporation, but their accomplishment on the scale demanded by the continued decline of the industry, and the growth of unemployment in many centres to over 15 per cent. of the insured population, still seems remote.

In the first of the articles in the *Financial News*, Mr Herbert W. Lee, chairman of the Joint Committee of the Cotton Trade Organisations, speaks of the persistence of the handicap of a disinclination to change methods, and of a " temperamental obstinacy in declining to admit the obvious consequences of new conditions." He notes in the weaving section a lack of inclination towards amalgamations, while stressing the urgency of the question whether the example of the spinners will be followed by the manufacturers. Yet he insists that it is fatal to assume that difficulties arise mainly from defects in the internal organisation, or from lack of efficiency in the separate units. He also holds that only reform, not revolution, is required, and admits nevertheless that even minor reforms are not easy to bring about by reason of the large number of interests which have to be " cajoled or overcome." In the second article, on the other hand, Sir Kenneth Stewart, chairman of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, suggests the possibility of important improvements in efficiency and large economies, but the means indicated for the achievement of these by large-scale operation and centralised control of buying material, spinning, weaving and selling are certainly nearer to revolution than to reform.

Dr. Wisselink, whose study loses little in value because of the delay in translation, is in full accord with the small group of bold constructive critis to which Sir Kenneth Stewart belongs, especially in his insistence on the importance of far-reaching changes in the weaving and merchanting sections. Basing his conclusions largely on comparisons with American and Japanese methods, he finds that, apart from the need of concentration, there is less fundamentally wrong with spinning and finishing than with the organisation of the weaving and distribution sections. He notes particularly the unsatisfactory position of the weaving section, so far as size of mills and specialisation are concerned, with a reservation that less drastic changes in these respects are needed in the manufacture of finer fabrics in the Colne district than in the centres where coarser cloths are woven. In Burnley, for instance, he finds an average of 860 looms per mill as compared with 2,000 to 3,000 in America, with the consequence that, whereas in America it is possible to have 500 looms and more in a single mill producing one type of cloth, the number in Burnley is sixty or less.

In the concentrated and highly organised finishing sections he suggests that costs are increased by the multiplicity of small orders from the numerous small merchanting houses, especially in the printing departments, where much preparatory work is necessary for each order. All this, he contends, is " fatal to plant efficiency." He is led by these and other technical considerations to the conclusion that successful mass production of cheaper cloths is impossible without a drastic reorganisation of the selling organisation. As things are, the small size of many commercial houses hampers the expansion of the factories, while it is the existence of these houses which makes it possible for the many small mills to have their own special export agencies and thus maintain their existence. Dr. Wisselink plumps for complete vertical organisation as the one effective solution of the organisation problem, but agrees that much might be gained by a series of interlocking horizontal combinations of spinners, weavers, finishers and merchants. This certainly appears to be the line of speediest advance for Lancashire.

Dr. Wisselink regards the work of the Cotton Corporation as the only promising development, but insists on the great difficulty in the way of the fullest progress owing to the fact, as he estimates it, that only 200,000 out of 800,000 looms are in mills suitable for rationalised production. This point is also emphasised by Sir Kenneth Stewart, who states, for instance, that, apart from other problems relating to the installation of automatic looms and automatic attachments to existing looms, there are only between 20 and 30 per cent. of the Lancashire weaving sheds adapted for such installations, which would constitute " much more of a fundamental change than anything which is at present available in spinning." Sir Kenneth also concludes that it " remains to be seen how the present structure of the trade will allow the full development of that elimination of waste upon which reductions in production cost depend."

Dr. Wisselink visualises the possibility that the Cotton Corporation will lead the way by organising ultimately synchronised production on the basis of 8,000,000 spindles to 200,000 selected looms and large-scale marketing. Assuming the general adoption of this method, he sees, however, little prospect of any recovery of the lost Eastern markets—after allowing for all possible savings on production costs by concentration, estimated by him at 1¾ per cent. for grey goods and 4 to 5 per cent. on printed goods—in face of an advantage of 9½ per cent. lower costs possessed by Japan. The utmost possibility he concedes, apart from the adoption of the two-shift system and a wide extension of the allocation of eight looms per weaver, is a share in expansion in these markets. In other markets, however, he considers that a reorganised Lancashire industry would make substantial progress and become a formidable danger to the competing cotton industries of the Continent.

The irresistible inference from these expert discussions is that a contraction of the Lancashire industry on the basis of full-time working in selected productive units, which is possible only in large-scale organisation, is essential for the creation of conditions in which expansion may again be possible. Both mass production of the cheaper standard cloths and intensive efforts to extend the sales of the finer fabrics could thus be combined. But a powerful urge to united action is still necessary. In some quarters there is an almost pathetic belief that the report of the Government Committee of Inquiry, the completion of which is promised for the end of this month, may break down obstacles which preceding reports have failed to move. It is doubtful if this report can do more than focus attention once again on the necessity for all-round reorganisation. The best that can be hoped from it is that it will help to stir into activity on the right lines those whose lethargy or obstinacy has become a positive danger to the industry.

* " The Concentration in the English Cotton Industry," by Dr. J. Wisselink. Translation of articles which appeared in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, July 2 and 3, 1929. Rotterdam, 1s.

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ROAD, RAIL AND THE PUBLIC.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE practical completion of the negotiations between the railways and those omnibus companies which are associated with the Tilling and B.A.T. group brings to a close the first stage of the reorganisation of passenger traffic which is proceeding as a result of the Railways (Road Transport) Act of August, 1928. This stage has been the acquisition by the railways of a financial interest in the existing omnibus undertakings. Four main types of control have been evolved. Firstly, in a few cases, such as the Crosville Motor Services of Chester, the East Midlands Motor Services, and the Vectis (I.O.W.) Bus Services, the railway companies have either bought the bus company outright or purchased more than 50 per cent. of the shares. Secondly, in agreements with concerns outside the Tilling group, such as the National Omnibus Company, and the South Wales Commercial Motors (Western Welsh Omnibus Company), and also with the United Automobile Services, the railways have acquired a 50 per cent. holding and the right to appoint half the directorate, or in some cases, such as the Devon General

Omnibus Company, Oxford and District Motor Services, and Bristol Carriage and Wagon Company, merely 50 per cent. of the shares carrying voting rights. The third group includes the great majority of bus undertakings in the Tilling group; in these cases the railway policy is to acquire a holding of shares equal to that of the present largest shareholder. This means in practice that both the railways and the Tilling and B.A.T. holding company have each a 33⅓ per cent. interest in the larger group of Tilling Bus Companies. The railways thus have a 33⅓ per cent. interest in most of the Tilling companies, such as the East Kent Road Car Company, Southdown Motor Services, and Aldershot and District Traction Company.

At the present time the only non-Tilling bus undertakings of any importance with which the railways have failed to come to terms are the United Counties Bus Company in L.N.E.R. and L.M.S. territory, the Red and White Services in Great Western territory, and the Wilts and Dorset Motor Services in Southern Railway territory. The Lancashire United Transport and Power Company is connected with the Tilling group by an interlocking directorate, but is still outside the railways' sphere of influence. The financial transactions between the Tilling companies and the railways have now been completed for all Tilling companies in the Southern Railway's territory, the Southern having paid £855,000 for a 33⅓ per cent. interest in them. The railway companies already have interests in concerns controlling nearly 15,000 buses. There are, however, altogether about 35,000 public passenger vehicles registered with a seating capacity of over eight seats; the balance includes some 2,000 express motor coaches, 3,000 municipal buses, an unknown number of charabancs, and the various small local omnibus services which are rapidly being bought up by the larger railway-controlled companies over whose routes they operate. Up to the end of last year the railways had invested £2,658,000 in omnibus undertakings, including £1,038,000 by the Southern, £662,000 by the L.M.S., £490,000 by the L.N.E.R., and £468,000 by the Great Western. This year the figures will be much higher, the L.M.S. alone having invested £2,250,000. There is very little competition with each other over the same routes by the larger bus companies. In the few cases where a route has been served by two or more companies, agreements have been in force covering fares and time-tables, but each of the larger omnibus undertakings has in the main established a kind of local monopoly so far as the other large companies are concerned.

Following on the taking by the railways of a financial interest in the omnibus industry, the second step towards the reorganisation of passenger transport has already been begun. The railways have established local committees representative of road and rail interests in all parts of the country for working out in detail the co-ordination of road and rail transport, and Sir Ralph Wedgwood has even gone so far as to look forward to a transfer of branch-line traffic and stopping-train traffic on the main lines from rail to railway-controlled road vehicles. The railways, whose annual passenger revenue shows a reduction of £10,000,000 compared with five years ago, due to loss of traffic to the buses and cheap fares to meet road competition, have every incentive to push forward with schemes which will enable them to place their passenger transport on a more profitable basis. The considerable interest retained in most of the companies by the former owners of the bus undertakings should, however, together with the self-interest of the railways in encouraging the travel habit all round, prevent the appearance of any tendency on the part of reactionary elements on the railways to attempt to stifle omnibus transport in the supposed interests of their late competitors the railways proper.

The Road Traffic Bill will inaugurate the third stage in the reorganisation of passenger transport. This will indeed be revolutionary, and will completely change the position of the omnibus industry. The Royal Commission on Transport, in its Report on the Licensing and Regulation of Public Service Vehicles, declared itself in favour of a limited number of traffic areas, each to be controlled, so far as omnibuses are concerned, by three traffic commissioners to be appointed by the Minister of Transport. The object of these commissioners was defined as being to work towards a "controlled monopoly" of transport in each area. Events, nevertheless, are moving towards such a state of affairs in any case.

The Road Traffic Bill merely copies the suggestions of the Royal Commission. It is proposed that commissioners in twelve traffic areas should have the power of granting licences, the giving of which should be conditional on the fulfilment of certain requirements. The licensee must have his time-tables and fares approved by the commissioners. He will be liable to inspection and the enforcement of proper conditions of service with regard to his employees; he may be required to fix his fares in such a way as "to prevent wasteful competition with alternative forms of transport along the route or any part thereof, or in proximity thereto," *i.e.*, to put up his fares to such an extent as to drive people back to the trams or the railways; a licence may be made conditional on an undertaking for "the elimination of unnecessary services, and the provision of unremunerative services"; finally, the licensee must "keep such records and make such returns as the Minister may prescribe." This part, dealing with the regulation of public passenger vehicles, constitutes by far the most important change envisaged by the Road Traffic Bill, a fact which has been generally overlooked, as attention has been focussed on speed-limits and dangerous driving.

The Minister of Transport will thus be in a position largely to dictate to the omnibus industry what its gross receipts may amount to through his power to regulate services. He will be able similarly to dictate its expenses through his control of the conditions of service of workers and the clerical records to be kept. He will, therefore, be in a position almost to dictate whether omnibus undertakings may make a profit, and, if so, how much. This will hardly be a satisfactory state of affairs, as the omnibus industry, unlike the railways, will have no guaranteed revenue, and it may reasonably be doubted whether, in the long run, the regulation of the industry without some guarantee of its earnings will prove practicable. If the third stage in the reorganisation of road passenger transport is to be detailed public control, it will be necessary to guarantee that due respect shall be paid to the legitimate interests and expectations of the parties now providing the service.

Notes of the Week.

The Disturbances in India.—The week has been one of critical events in India. Early on Monday morning police officers aroused Mr Gandhi from his bed and conveyed him to Teroda, where he will be placed under restraint during the Government's pleasure. This step, taken by the Bombay Government with the concurrence of the Government of India, and presumably of the Government at home, has been made under Regulation 25 of 1827, which means that Mr Gandhi will not be brought to trial. The authorities have treated Mr Gandhi with consideration, for which he has expressed his gratitude, and it may well be that Mr Gandhi is happy to be relieved of the embarrassing decision of what to do next. Those on whom the mantle of the Mahatma falls have no light task, for a *hartal*, proclaimed throughout India when the news was known, in many cases led to rioting and disorder. Of these incidents Delhi has been one of the scenes. On Wednesday last a mob came into conflict with three police lorries, two of which made their way back to the police barracks, but the third was surrounded, and a charge from police headquarters was only able to rescue the car after a discharge of buckshot. This incident involved four deaths and casualties variously estimated at from 20 to 30. Disturbances have also occurred at Chittagong, Howrah, Bombay and some other towns. At Sholapur, in the Bombay Presidency, one of the most serious clashes has occurred, in which it is reported that there have been 25 deaths. Both here and in the cotton stores at Bombay incendiarism seems to have been at work. The week's events also include an earthquake at Rangoon involving serious, though at first greatly exaggerated, loss of life, which is said to have been interpreted by the Indians in Burmah as a punishment from God for the arrest of the holy man. Belated reports have also been received of what has been happening recently in Peshawar. News from various indirect sources had reached London which indicated that events in that vital spot on the North-West Frontier had been more serious than was at first reported, and that something like a censorship was in operation. On Monday, therefore, the Government of India issued a statement which threw considerable light on the situation. In the course of the disturbances on April 23rd, when troops had been used and the behaviour of one Garhwali regiment had been unsatisfactory, Mr Metcalfe, the Deputy-Commissioner, was injured, some 20 rioters killed and possibly 60 injured. It appears that the military forces were thereupon withdrawn from the native city in the hope of avoiding conflict. Other troops normally in the neighbourhood had apparently been moved elsewhere in the tribal territory, and, when the troops had withdrawn, a so-called "War Council" of the Congress Party was set up in the town, and is stated to have invited the Haji of Turangzai to enter Peshawar. This adventurer apparently moved down to the frontier, but advanced no further; the tribal chieftains generally have made no move; and some of them have offered and provided forces to assist in keeping order. For several days the Congressmen of Peshawar were left undisturbed until the early morning of Monday, when a considerable body of troops quietly moved into the city, took possession of it, and arrested the leaders. This was apparently accomplished without disturbance of any kind, and the situation is now under control. Unfortunately, the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier, Sir H. Norman Bolton, who broke down under the strain of his intensely responsible and anxious task, is returning to England, his place being taken by Mr S. E. Pears, formerly Resident of Mysore. It is highly probable that these events were the deciding factor in determining the Government to arrest Mr Gandhi and to demonstrate to the whole of India that the authority of Government must be maintained. While it would be premature as yet to assume that the trouble is over, it looks, at the time of writing, as if the Government of India had once again seized the psychological moment for removing Mr Gandhi temporarily from the stage. It was only to be expected that the arrest of the Mahatma would provoke a sharp expression of popular feeling, but the handling of such disorders as have occurred since Monday last shows that the Government intends to act firmly, and gives ground for the hope that, the demonstration having been made, we may experience comparative quiet until discussions of the Statutory Commission's Report can commence.

Budget Criticisms.—Mr Snowden is, at least, entitled to boast that, though he possesses no independent majority in the House of Commons, and, indeed, is liable to find twenty or thirty of his own nominal supporters in the Lobby against him, yet he is getting his Budget and will apparently get it *in toto*. To tell the truth, the discussions of the Budget, both in and out of the Parliament, have been unusually featureless. The burthen of the Conservative song has been complaint against the selective and discriminating taxation of the rich; while outside the House of Commons the most important discussions have ranged round the effect of high death duties on the supply of capital for industry, on which Lord Lothian and others have addressed pertinent letters to *The Times*, and around the burden which high income taxes place upon productive enterprise, on which subject Lord Melchett led the way. For the rest, the general attention is given more to the nature of the bill which Mr Snowden has to meet than to the way in which he meets it. The *Monthly Review* of the Midland Bank calls it "the inevitable Budget"; the Westminster Bank Review describes it as "an orthodox document"; Barclays Bank Review aims its darts, not at Mr Snowden, but at the size of the national expenditure, for which it distributes blame to all the political parties. Growing and spreading realisation of the urgent need for retrenchment is the best result of the Budget and the best feature of the Budget discussions, and the paragraph in the Budget speech which has claimed most favourable attention is that in which the Chancellor held out the hope that he would need no new taxes next year. When it is recalled with what trepidation a Socialist Budget was awaited in certain quarters, the really striking point is the smallness of the ripples which Mr Snowden has caused in the waters either of politics or business.

The Consumers' Council Bill.—Mr Graham has taken steps to implement his promise of last summer, and a bill for the establishment of a Consumers' Council received its second reading last Thursday. The proposed Council is to consist of seven members, of whom two at least shall be women, and its duty will be to investigate and report to the Board of Trade upon all questions relating to the production, distribution, supply and price of articles of food of common consumption, clothing materials, wearing apparel, fuels and such other articles as it may be charged by the Board of Trade to investigate. Such an order by the Board of Trade will not take effect until it has been approved by a resolution of each House. For the purpose of investigations, which may be undertaken either as a result of complaints made to the Council, or on its own initiative, or by request of the Board of Trade, the Council is to have power to examine witnesses upon oath, to compel the production of information in writing, and to obtain access to any books, accounts or documents it thinks material. Everybody taking part in any investigation will be required to make a declaration of secrecy, and no information about any individual business may be disclosed, except to the Board of Trade or in connection with legal proceedings under the Act. Where the Council is convinced that an excessive price or commission is being charged it may include in its report to the Board of Trade a recommendation as to the price which ought to be charged, and may recommend that an order be made by the Board of Trade for the purpose of securing compliance. If the Board of Trade is of the opinion that compliance cannot be secured in any other way, it may fix a maximum price. This last provision is embarrassing to many of those who would welcome the powers the Bill confers of securing information and the production of accounts. Price-fixing is an almost universal method of regulating public utility concerns which are in private hands, this restraint being the *quid pro quo* for the grant of monopolistic powers. The Liberal Industrial Report suggests that it may be necessary to extend this idea to concerns which, though not enjoying a formal legal monopoly, are, because of their size or by agreement with other concerns or for any other reason, exercising monopolistic powers. Even in this case, it is preferable that the public should be safeguarded by competition, but there is a case here for price-fixing in the last resort. Attempts to fix prices, however, in competitive industries have a long record of failure. Evasion, the disappearance of supplies, deterioration of quality, the tendency of maximum prices to become minima at times when, in a free market, prices would be lower, are but a few of the difficulties that have been met with. If in spite of its previous failures price-fixing is to be made a success, it will inevitably involve intervening in the methods of production and marketing. To use price-fixing as a method of approach to reorganisation in these respects, whether it be under the State or in private hands, is to start at the wrong end of the stick. With minimum prices for coal on the one hand and maximum prices for other commodities on the other, our economic system is in danger of being subjected to most curious and crippling distortions. Of the most valuable weapons which could have been placed in the hands of the proposed Council, that of publicity, little is said in the Bill, but this very serious omission may, it is to be hoped, be remedied in committee.

Church and State in Malta.—Last Saturday the Governor of Malta issued an ordinance postponing the impending General Election in the interests of public safety—a step which gives the measure of the gravity of the conflict between church and state which has been in progress there for some time. It is not merely a conflict between the local civil and ecclesiastical authorities in Malta. Greater Powers are involved: the Imperial Government on the one side and the Vatican on the other. Pending the publication of a White Paper, the diplomatic dealings on the matter between these Powers are still obscure. The origin of the trouble was the action of the local authorities of the Catholic Church in ordering an ecclesiastic to leave Malta for a place in foreign territory as a measure of ecclesiastical discipline. The ecclesiastic was unwilling to go; and when the matter came before the notice of the Government in Malta (which now possesses "semi-Dominion status"), the Prime Minister, **Lord Strickland**, held that the ecclesiastical authorities were seeking to impose a civil penalty and were thereby infringing upon the prerogatives of the civil Government. The church then threatened to retaliate by using its influence against Lord Strickland and his party in the General Elections; and the purpose of the negotiations between London and Rome was to induce the Vatican to instruct the local ecclesiastical authorities to refrain from doing this, on the understanding that, after the elections, other negotiations for a Concordat should be started. These preliminary negotiations broke down because the Vatican refused to tie the local bishops' hands, which, in effect, was an encouragement to them to take the offensive. This they did on May 1st by issuing a joint pastoral, in which they declared that good Catholics could not vote for Lord Strickland or his supporters without committing grave sin; and they proceeded to forbid priests to administer the sacraments to anyone who disobeyed these instructions. The immediate effect was to produce a dangerous excitement of public opinion, and the Governor's ordinance is the result. Thus the issue is fairly joined. It is an old, but by no means a dead, issue. When the Catholic Church takes up this position it cannot expect any Government to compromise.

Italy's Naval Programme.—On April 30th the Italian Cabinet decided to lay down within the coming year one 10,000-ton cruiser, two flotilla leaders of 5,100 tons each, four destroyers of 1,240 tons each, and 22 submarines—the total amounting to 42,900 new tons of Italian warships. This precipitate action seems a little provocative. After all, the Naval Conference is still in being as far as Italy, France and Great Britain are concerned. The understanding on which the treaties were signed and on which the Americans and the Japanese went home was that discussions *à trois* for an understanding between Italy and France should be continued in concert with Great Britain, in the hope that the French and Italians might eventually find themselves able to come into the comprehensive agreement for naval limitations which has already been arrived at between the three principal naval Powers. For the failure to achieve a five-Power agreement up to date we do not acquit the French of blame. They elected to meet the Italian demand for parity by putting forward a building programme on a scale calculated to make it financially difficult for Italy to compete, but challenging to Italian *amour propre*. In our opinion, this policy was very short-sighted, but two pieces of bad statesmanship do not make an international understanding; and all that Italy will have achieved by her last move is to put herself in the wrong and to diminish the chances of an agreement. If France and Italy drift into a race of naval armaments in the Mediterranean, the British Empire cannot remain unconcerned; and if we were to be forced into the race ourselves to the extent of being compelled to act on the contingency clause in the three-Power treaty of London, then the United States and Japan would become concerned as well. No Power or Powers in the world as it is nowadays can afford to make themselves a nuisance to their neighbours beyond a certain degree. Security is conditional on the recognition of obligations to others.

Dr. Murray Butler's Lecture.—It was a happy thought which prompted the invitation to a distinguished American to deliver the 1930 Richard Cobden Lecture, and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who chose as the subject of his address, at the Royal Society of Arts on Wednesday, "Nation Building and Beyond," made excellent use of the opportunity. The chief importance of a lecture which excelled both in construction and material was a lucid disquisition upon the differences between a national and an international outlook, and, as one would expect from Dr. Butler, his treatment of the theme was worthy of and appropriate to the occasion. Of substantial historical interest, too, was his survey of the development of American fiscal policy—a survey illustrated by pertinent quotations from the "Fathers of Protection." Here is one of the most striking, from a speech of President Garfield in 1866:—"I hold, therefore, that a properly adjusted competition between home and foreign products is the best gauge by which to regulate international trade. Duties should be so high that our manufacturers can fairly compete with the foreign product, but not so high as to enable them to drive out the foreign article, enjoy a monopoly of the trade, and regulate the price as they please. To this extent I am a protectionist. If our Government pursues this line of policy steadily we shall year by year approach more nearly to the basis of free trade, because we shall be more nearly able to compete with the other nations on equal terms. I am for a protection which leads to ultimate free trade. I am for that free trade which can only be achieved through protection." Here in brief, compact form is the argument for the protection of the infant industry. A country desires not to depend upon agriculture alone, but by diversification of effort to create a broader basis of economic activity. Temporary tariff aid is therefore given, theoretically for a few years only, to industries which, it is supposed, will be strong enough thereafter to stand upon their own feet. If President Garfield were alive to-day he would be a disappointed man; for he would see that experience has proved the difficulty of reaching Free Trade through Protection, the obstacle lying in the fact that a duty creates vested interests which are usually strong enough to prevent that duty's projected removal.

The Reparations Loan.—Following the conference of the world's leading bankers at Brussels last week, in regard to the launching of the first portion of the German Reparation bonds, the representatives of the Treasuries of the Allied creditor Powers have been engaged this week in conference at Paris, for the purpose of settling the technical details of the pending issue. The proceedings have been kept strictly private, but it is understood, writes our Paris correspondent, that the loan will in all probability be issued between May 20th and 25th. The yield, it is thought, will be nominally 5½ per cent. for each of the various national portions of the issue, but the actual return will vary, in all probability, in accordance with the issue price fixed for each country. The issue price for Germany, for instance, may be expected to be around 93, so that for the German portion the yield may work out in the neighbourhood of a full 6 per cent. For some of the other countries the issue price may quite likely be as high as 98. The scrip will consequently vary slightly in certain details according to the country of issue, but will in general principle be of a uniform character. It will probably be found that coupons will be payable only in the currency value (in gold) of the country in which any given bond has been issued. Interest payments, it is understood, are to be free, or nearly free, of all taxation in all countries. With regard to the manner in which the issue should be distributed among the various markets, it is understood that agreement has been more or less generally arrived at on a distribution basis of one-third to New York, one-third to neutral countries, and one-third between Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and Germany. The crux of the difficulty in this part of the negotiations has been the question of the amounts to be allocated respectively to London, Paris and Berlin. The British argument is that as France is to receive 78 per cent. of the proceeds of the $200,000,000 to be offered in respect of the first portion of the German Reparation bonds to be mobilised, London should not be asked to take more than about $25,000,000 of the same part of the issue (which would represent approximately the British share of the proceeds), as otherwise there would be a risk of a further drain of gold from the Bank of England. Germany, which is anxious to borrow and not to lend, wishes to be allocated merely a nominal amount of the issue. It is generally believed here that the French portion of the issue will be largely in the hands of the Crédit Lyonnais, in its capacity as the head of a syndicate comprising most of the leading Paris banks.

Paris Issue of B.I.S. Capital.—It is reported, writes our Paris correspondent, that a large number of dealings are already taking place in France in connection with the pending issue of the French share in the capital of the Bank for International Settlements. The shares, which are to have a nominal capital value of 12,300 francs, 25 per cent. paid up, and were being dealt in last week at 1,000 francs premium, are now changing hands at around 7,000 francs, which represents a premium of about 4,000 francs. The issue is expected to be made towards the end of next week, or soon after. It was seriously, though unofficially, announced in Paris this week that there is reason to believe the issue will be "at least 100 times oversubscribed," so great is the effort being made by the banks to secure substantial portions of the scrip. In that case the application money temporarily immobilised would amount to the enormous sum of £40,000,000. But though this forecast may be exaggerated the applications for the issue will be very large and the need of francs for this purpose in Paris is said to be one of the causes of this week's heavy gold purchases in the London market on French account.

The Charing Cross Scheme.—The Private Bill Committee of the House of Commons, which, it will be remembered, adjourned on April 10th to allow the L.C.C. time to find an alternative site to the Lion Brewery for the new Charing Cross station, has now rejected the Charing Cross Bridge Bill. The L.C.C., in co-operation with the Southern and Underground railways, had meanwhile examined several alternative schemes and decided that they could not accept the responsibility of submitting any of them to Parliament. They offered certain modifications to the scheme in the Bill, which would have removed to same extent the æsthetic objections to it, but these did not meet the crucial criticism of the committee, which was that the building of a station on the Lion Brewery site would be fatal to the future development of Lambeth. This is not a mere matter of local South London interest. The twisted deformities of that district, which are mainly the work of the early years of railway development, block what would naturally be far the shortest route between London Bridge and points west of Vauxhall, with the result that the Middlesex side of the river is hampered by a suffocating degree of congestion, both of traffic and of buildings. The construction of a station at the new bridge head would destroy for ever all possibility of remedying this, and with that in mind, the committee expressed its conviction that something better could be done. Meanwhile, the Southern Railway appears to be somewhat unaccommodating on the matter of a site, and the L.C.C. declares that "if the scheme is rejected they see no prospect of securing the national improvement represented by a new road bridge at Charing Cross." Fortunately, neither the public nor the Private Bill Committee takes that somewhat sulky view. The committee has announced that it is "still of the opinion that the construction of this bridge across the river will be an immense improvement to the City of London, and they believe that such a bridge will be made and will be made soon." With visions before them of a large area on the Surrey side which shall be an integral part of Central London, having buildings and thoroughfares worthy of it, and an Embankment of which they can be proud, Londoners will maintain pressure on the L.C.C.—in the last resort, perhaps, even bring pressure to bear upon the Government—until a satisfactory scheme is carried through.

Northern Ireland Finance.—Our Belfast correspondent writes:—The estimates for services under the Government of Northern Ireland for 1930-31 amount to £8,881,450, as compared with a total of £7,659,014 in respect of estimates and supplementary estimates for 1929-30. This increase of £1,222,436 is largely due to increases under three main headings—social services, grants to local authorities, and public works and buildings. The vote for unemployment insurance shows an increase of £412,990 from £1,060,010 in 1929-30 to £1,473,000 in the present year, mainly due to the transfer from the Unemployment Fund to the Exchequer of liability for benefit paid under transitional conditions. Expenditure on widows, orphans and old-age contributory pensions has more than doubled, the vote having increased from £140,000 in 1929-30 to £315,000 in the present year. The increase in grants to local authorities amounts to £584,650, due to the derating scheme—full provision for which is now made for the first time. In 1929-30 the sum of £256,000 was transferred to the Exchequer from the Rating Relief Suspense Account, and the net vote for grants to local authorities was reduced by this amount. It is stated that a substantial sum still remains in this account, but no credit from this source is provided for in the 1930-31 estimates pending the submission to Parliament of legislative proposals for the disposal of the balance remaining. Expenditure on public works and buildings shows an increase of £132,666 from £293,507 to £426,173. This is largely due to the acceleration of building work on the new Parliament buildings and Government offices at Shoremont. The departmental portion of the building is expected to be ready for occupation early in the summer of 1931. The figure of £1,222,436 represents the increase in expenditure on all transferred services, but there has also been an increase in the payments by the Imperial Treasury to the Northern Ireland Exchequer in respect of works services under Section 34 of the Government of Ireland Act and in respect of the Unemployment Equalisation Fund. Payments under the former heading have increased from £244,167 to £332,697 and under the latter from £337,000 to £533,000. The increase in the estimates after eliminating this Imperial expenditure thus amounts to £937,906. As already indicated, this sum may subsequently be reduced by a transfer from the Rating Relief Suspense Account, but the rise in expenditure which has been necessitated by recent legislation must exert a profound influence upon Mr Pollock's next Budget, which will be looked forward to with special interest. It may be pointed out, however, that for 1929-30 the Northern Ireland payment to Imperial services was provisionally fixed at £600,000, while the increase in taxation made in Mr Snowden's Budget is estimated to produce an extra £300,000 in the six-county area. These two items above, therefore, are approximately equivalent to the net increase in the estimates for the current year, irrespective of any increase in income from other sources.

Non-ferrous Metal Prices.—As the following table shows, the sharp fall in the non-ferrous metal market that has occurred during the course of the current year has already carried prices back to below pre-war levels. As the general price-level is still 17.2 per cent. above its 1918

average, non-ferrous metal prices appear to-day to be unduly low.

Date.	Standard Tin. £ per ton.	Standard Copper. £ per ton.	English Lead. £ per ton.
1901–05 average	128·00	60·00	12·50
End 1913	167·75	64·00	18·75
„ 1919	347·12	116·12	49·00
„ 1924	267·00	67·44	45·00
„ 1928	225·75	74·00	22·25
„ 1929	178·12	68·00	23·25
„ March, 1930	170·50	71·00	20·50
„ April, 1930	153·00	55·50	19·25
May 7, 1930	145·25	48·50	18·75

Copper has for some years been comparatively little above its 1913 price, but lead and tin have only fallen to that level within the last few months, though it should be remembered that at the beginning of 1913 tin stood at approximately the same level as at the end of 1928. A more general point to bear in mind is that sources of supply and conditions of production and demand have changed greatly during the generation that has elapsed since the beginning of the century. While the effects upon producers of the recent break must not be minimised, it does not follow that the comparison between pre-war and present-day prices can be interpreted literally or without a considerable degree of qualification.

Egyptian Cotton Yarn Prices.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—During the last two months producers of yarns from Egyptian cotton have been discussing a scheme for the control of production and prices. It is understood that an attempt has been made to obtain the support of 90 per cent. of the employers affected. Certain difficulties have arisen, and, so far, it has not been possible to put all the proposals into operation; but, in the meantime, the directors of three of the leading combines—the Fine Spinners' Association, Combined Egyptian Mills, Ltd., and Crosses and Winkworth Consolidated Mills, Ltd.—have reached an arrangement whereby prices shall be fixed at a level which will prevent losses. This decision has meant an advance of ½d. to 2d. per lb., according to the range of counts. In Lancashire there are about 18,000,000 spindles engaged on Egyptian cotton, and these three organisations control about 9,000,000 spindles. There has been considerable interest in the Manchester market in this development, and so far buyers have resisted rather strongly the higher prices. The future will depend upon the attitude of outside firms, and, as things stand at present, the orders available are going to spinners outside the three combines. The market at the moment is very depressed, and undoubtedly a bad time has been chosen to establish minimum prices, but it is quite possible that the concerns that have already made a move in this matter will obtain the support of other firms. It is recognised that, if price fixing is to be a success, the promoters will have to obtain the consent of fully 90 per cent. of the spindles affected.

International Motor Production.—The world's output of motor vehicles in 1929 surpassed all previous records. The production of the principal countries for the last four years is set out below:—

NUMBER PRODUCED (000's omitted).

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
U.S.A.	4,301	3,401	4,359	5,358
Canada	205	179	242	263
U.K.	180	212	212	239
France	193	191	210	263
Italy	55	65	55	68
World*	4,999	4,163	5,202	6,300

* Estimated.

The outstanding feature of last year's activity is the remarkable increase in the production of the United States, whose share in the total increase represents about 90 per cent. The United Kingdom, Canada, France and Italy all show an advance on the previous year—particularly marked in the case of France. It is noteworthy, as the following table shows, that although all countries with the exception of Italy increased their exports, the ratio of exports to total production declined in the case of the United States and France, whereas that of the United Kingdom and Canada was higher.

EXPORT TRADE.

	1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.	
	No.	Percentage of Production.	No.	Percentage of Production.	No.	Percentage of Production.	No.	Percentage of Production.
U.S.A.	305	7·1	384	11·3	507	11·6	537	10·2
Canada	74	36·3	57	32·2	79	32·8	102	38·6
U.K.	32	18·0	36	16·9	33	15·5	43	17·8
France	60	30·9	52	27·2	44	21·0	49	18·6
Italy	34	62·4	33	51·6	28	51·4	24	34·9

Since November last the production in North America has declined heavily, and although that of Europe has so far been well maintained a considerable decrease in the world's output for the current year is to be expected.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—"Tramp" shipping freights in April, though the tendency of the market was irregular, showed on balance a slight recovery. Our index number of whole-cargo rates works out at 89.7, as compared with 87.9 a month ago, a rise of 2.1 per cent. A year ago the index stood at 115.3, while the corresponding figure for April, 1928, was 110.1. The following table summarises recent movements of the various group indices:—

AVERAGE 1898–1913=100.

	Average, 1913.	April, 1929.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	April, 1930.
European Waters	110·0	117·7	98·1	96·3	94·4
North America	113·1	120·5	92·6	87·7	91·2
South America	123·4	118·4	95·5	91·9	95·9
India	106·3	106·3	93·4	94·2	94·8
Far East and Pacific	117·4	114·7	78·9	77·8	76·3
Australia	127·9	113·9	75·7	79·2	85·5
Total	116·3	115·3	89·0	87·9	89·7

The only features of noteworthy improvement during the past month were an appreciable rise in the homeward quotation from South America. The volume of chartering did not expand very greatly, but, as a consequence of recent heavy withdrawals of tonnage from active commission, the pressure of unfixed vessels at the Plate was somewhat lightened. Grain freights from North America and Australia were also slightly firmer. Outward coal freights, on the other hand, registered a further decline for most destinations. The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:—

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	76·7	− 0·9	South America—outwards	109·8	− 7·8
Bay—outwards	102·7	− 1·9	South America—homewards	82·1	+15·8
Bay—homewards	121·0	− 4·8	India—outwards	109·5	...
Mediterranean—outwards	94·3	− 1·0	India—homewards	80·2	+ 1·3
Mediterranean—homewards	94·9	− 2·1	Far East, &c.	76·3	− 1·6
North America	91·2	+ 3·5	Australia	85·5	+ 6·3

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for April works out at 77.1, as compared with 75.5 in March and 99.1 a year ago.

The East England Electricity Scheme.—The publication of the East England Electricity Scheme by the Central Electricity Board on Wednesday last virtually completes the national "grid" for the supply of electricity throughout the country. In many respects, writes a correspondent, the East England Scheme presents an interesting problem in the economics of electricity supply. With an area of 3,438 square miles of agricultural country of Norfolk and Suffolk and a population at the last census of approximately 788,880, representing an average density of about 230 persons per square mile, and with only one town of any size within its boundaries, it constitutes a "test" area in the problem of rural electrification. It is

interesting, in passing, to compare the relevant statistics of this area with the hypothetical figures mentioned in the Report, issued in July, 1928, of the Conference on the Electricity Supply in Rural Areas. In this Report, districts with an average population density of under 200 persons per square mile were considered, from the point of view of electricity supply, to be "rural." Further, districts in which the consumption per head of electricity fell below 40 units per annum were not regarded as economic for development purposes. Excluding Norwich from the area now in question, the figures of the remaining districts amount to a population density of 192 persons per square mile, while the average annual consumption per head of population is no more than 32 units. This comparison serves as a sufficient indication of the difficulty in the task of development before the Central Electricity Board. At the present time there are 18 authorised undertakers in the area, owning between them 11 public generating stations. In 1928-29 the total sales of electricity amounted to 48.2 million units, equivalent to 61 units per head of the population for the whole area. Of this total, Norwich alone is responsible for about 63 per cent., and that station, together with those at King's Lynn and Yarmouth, accounts for about 83 per cent. Thus, the task of selection was simple. Out of the 11 generating stations, two will be operated for the board. These are the South Denes Stations of the Great Yarmouth Corporation and the Thorpe Station of the Norwich Corporation. Provision is also made for the operation, if necessary, of the station of the King's Lynn Corporation under temporary arrangements. The amount of plant installed or sanctioned at the moment in the Yarmouth station is 15,250 kw., while that at Norwich is 27,500 kw. The contemplated extensions up to 1943-44 amount to a net increase of 51,000 kw. The increase in the sales of electricity is estimated to reach a total of 221 million units by the same year, giving a consumption figure per head of population, based upon the 1921 census, of 280 units. The cost of the scheme to the board for the erection of the transmission system is estimated at £594,328, while the expenditure by undertakers on account of extensions of existing stations will amount to about £306,074. Thus, the main expenditure will be on distribution, and in estimating the final cost of the current to the consumer, little reliance can be placed upon the price charged by the Central Electricity Board to the authorised undertakers. An estimate given suggests that this price will fall from 0.41d. per unit in 1932-33 to 0.38d. in 1937-38. In view of the fact that this territory was being already developed by the existing undertakings, the enterprise of the board in taking over this control seems to be to a certain extent diminished. One cannot help feeling that a sounder method would have been to include this area in either the South-East or Central England Schemes.

The Deep Sea Fisheries.—A correspondent writes:—Supplies of fish in the first quarter of the year, both in weight and value, showed a substantial increase over the corresponding period of 1929, and, including imported wet fish, had a first-hand value exceeding £5½ million. The following summary relating to wet fish only is compiled from the returns issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:—

	Weight.		Value.	
Jan.-March—	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
British caught—	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	2,486,355	2,715,842	3,025,753	3,244,892
Scotland	1,137,698	1,103,070	950,218	923,450
Shell fish	...	...	62,666	74,468
	3,624,053	3,818,912	4,038,637	4,242,810
Foreign caught	300,706	369,340	212,694	249,430
Imported	827,595	805,998	1,062,140	1,026,143

There was a good increase in the quantity of British-caught fish landed at the ports of England and Wales, and some advance in the aggregate value, though the latter did not keep pace with the heavier landings, as may be gathered from the fact that the average value was 23s. 10¾d. per cwt., against 24s. 4d. per cwt. in January-March last year. In Scotland there was a small decline both in weight and value. More fish was landed from the deep sea fisheries by foreign-owned vessels but less was imported from abroad. Supplies are now being sought off the Murmansk coast, Bear Island and Greenland, in addition to those obtained from Iceland, the Faroe and the North Sea. For this purpose larger and more modern steam trawlers are being built and fitted out. The exports of wet fish from Great Britain in the quarter had a value of £355,802, as compared with £341,186 a year ago.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Friends' Provident and Century Life Office.—The report issued for the year 1929 includes the results of the quinquennial valuation for the period 1925-1929. During that period the business has registered a considerable quantitative advance, the fund having expanded from £4,600,000 to £6,200,000. The total sums assured and bonuses in force under existing contracts have risen from £11,850,000 to £15,272,000, and the relative yearly premium income has advanced from £447,000 to £513,000. This movement has been accompanied by an improvement in the profit-earning capacity of the office, the average net rate of interest during the last five years being £5 2s. per cent., compared with £4 11s. 5d. per cent. in the preceding quinquennium. Moreover, the rate of expense, including commission, has worked out to an average of 16.9 per cent. on premiums received, compared with 19.2 per cent. in the corresponding period five years earlier. The details of the valuation just concluded, which has been made on the same basis as formerly, are as follows:—

	1920-24. £	1925-29. £
Trading surplus earned during quinquennium	377,441	682,552
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	86,885	24,402
	464,326	706,954
Allocations:—		
To bonuses to policyholders	439,924	676,626
„ carried forward to next quinquennium	24,402	30,328
	464,326	706,954

The bonuses to policyholders are allocated in the form of compound reversionary additions calculated on the sums assured and existing bonuses. For the quinquennium 1920-1924 the rate of bonus declared was 36s., and for the quinquennium just ended the directors have decided to declare an increased bonus at the rate of 42s. per cent. Satisfaction at the increase in the rate of bonus must, however, be tempered with the reflection that, although on this occasion it has been fully earned, with a very small margin, taking the ten-year period as a whole, the trading surplus earned falls short of the cost of bonus declared by some £56,000. During the year 1929 a further moderate expansion occurred, and the new life business transacted amounted to £1,645,844, compared with £1,567,483; and, from a statement appended to the report, it is clear that the increase occurred wholly in the with-profits class, there being a slight decrease in the without-profits new business. The full details of the underwriting results of the past two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
Fire	12,027	3·8	1,362	·4
Accident	− 14,096	− 5·8	2,136	·9
Marine	− 3,079	− 2·6	− 18,951	−12·5
Sickness	20,000		...	
Life	...		23,164	
Total	14,852		7,711	
Less items debited direct to profit and loss account	3,921		6,302	
Total net trading results	10,931		1,409	
Add net interest earnings	49,548		45,995	
Total amount available	60,479		47,404	
Less cost of dividend (6%)	33,600		33,600	
Net increase in surplus assets	26,879		13,804	

The situation has fortunately been retrieved by the fact that the quinquennial valuation of the life department of the Century was due to take place at the end of last year, and, as a result thereof, the sum of £23,164 has been credited to the profit and loss account.

Northern Assurance Company, Ltd.—The Northern accounts for 1929 make, on the whole, a satisfactory showing, for the poor results in the fire department have been to some extent counterbalanced by unexpectedly favourable results from the accident department. Excluding the life department, the total premium income amounted in 1929 to £4,961,850, compared with £5,097,551 in 1928. Of this total, £2,547,000 is attributable to the fire department, £1,606,000 to the accident and £809,000 to the marine. The underwriting results of the company and of its subsidiaries, whose figures are incorporated in the accounts, are shown below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	136,325	5·2	23,188	·9
Accident	120,287	7·8	152,566	9·5
Marine	— 4,938	— ·1	— 5,365	— ·7
	251,674		170,389	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	61,543		93,389	
Total net trading surplus	190,131		77,000	

A great change has come over the marine account during the last five years, in which period the premium income has been reduced from £1,805,000 to £809,000. In 1925 a loss of £235,000 and in 1927 a loss of £304,000 was incurred. The reduction in premium income reflects the drastic reorganisation which has been effected, and the position of the fund, which amounts to 114 per cent. of the premiums, is now such as to relieve the company from further anxiety. The dividend has been maintained for the tenth year in succession at 85 per cent. The gap between interest earnings and cost of dividends, which has been growing larger during the past few years owing to a diminution in the total premiums, has, during 1929, been reduced to £52,505. The life department registered a considerable advance in new business during 1929, the amount having been increased from £825,139 to £950,386.

London and Provincial.—The London and Provincial Marine and General Insurance Company, Ltd., is a subsidiary of the Yorkshire, and is the medium for the transaction of marine insurance by the group. In this field it has been eminently successful. The marine premium income during the last five years has remained practically stationary at about £170,000 per annum, but the transfer to profit and loss has in none of these years been less than £30,000. The fire and accident account is conducted with a premium income almost exactly equal last year to that of the marine department, but in 1929 an underwriting loss of 3.8 per cent. of the premiums was experienced. The details of the underwriting results for the last two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire and accident	4,881	3·3	6,273	—3·8
Marine	40,000	24·0	35,000	21·3
	44,881		28,727	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	6,424		10,526	
Net trading surplus	38,457		18,201	

The dividend payment has been increased from £20,000 to £30,000, and at the higher figure is still considerably less than the interest earnings, amounting to £50,784. From the balance remaining at the credit of profit and loss a sum of £75,000 has been transferred to general reserve, bringing this fund up to £400,000, and £160,000 has been transferred to special reserve. The whole of the special reserve fund in hand at the end of 1928 was utilised for the purpose of reducing the uncalled liability on the £10 shares by £2, thus making them £3 paid up, and the new allocation will presumably be utilised for a similar purpose in due course.

Alliance Assurance Company.—The Alliance report for 1929 is the most favourable that has yet appeared, the characteristic feature being the very high rate of underwriting profit earned in the fire department. For many years now the Alliance has not transacted fire business in the United States, and this and the fact of an unusually high-class home connection, especially in the London area, have together been responsible for the excellent results achieved. In 1929 the fire premium income was slightly higher at £2,060,000, but in other departments there was little movement in premium income except in the case of "Miscellaneous," where there was a notable increase from £786,000 to £959,000. Details of the underwriting results for the past two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	447,361	21·9	331,548	16·1
Personal Accident	2,048	5·5	12	...
Employers' Liability	33,668	14·6	27,579	12·2
Miscellaneous	78,134	9·9	65,255	6·8
Marine	7,378	1·3	9,286	1·6
Life	177,573		...	
Sinking Fund	100,000		...	
Transfer Fees, etc.	11,618		9,469	
	857,780		443,125	
Less Items debited direct to Profit and Loss Account	454,783		262,188	
	402,997		180,937	

The large credit appearing in 1928 in respect of life and sinking fund was consequent upon the quinquennial valuation of the current series made at the end of 1928. In addition to the current series, which now has a fund of nearly £15,000,000, there exist funds amounting in the aggregate to just under £6,000,000 belonging to three closed accounts—the Imperial Life, the Provident and the Economic. A considerable new life business is transacted under the current series, the amount in 1929 being £3,027,438, compared with £2,922,678 in 1928, in addition to which £73,000, compared with £65,000, was received as consideration money from new annuities granted. For the third year in succession the dividend remains unchanged at 18s. per share and the payment of this rate requires the sum of £495,250. The large discrepancy which has existed for many years between the cost of the dividend and net interest earnings has been somewhat reduced on this occasion owing to an increase in interest earnings from £338,000 to £360,000.

North British and Mercantile.—The North British and Mercantile Insurance Company is the parent of several important offsprings, namely, the Railway Passengers, the Fine Art and General, and the Ocean Marine. The fire business is transacted direct by the parent company, the accident business is divided among the Railway Passengers and the Fine Art and General, while the Marine business comes within the province of the Ocean Marine. The accounts of all four companies are included separately in the annual report of the North British and Mercantile. Apart from life business the total premiums in 1929 in all departments amounted to £6,381,709, compared with £6,513,966 in 1928. Although the underwriting results do not come up to the level of those in 1928, they are none the less satisfactory and creditable to the company, as will be seen from the details below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	486,030	10·7	443,544	9·9
Railway Passengers	111,381	9·6	96,613	8·0
Fine Art and General	37,183	9·3	30,660	8·1
Ocean Marine	25,000	6·1	35,000	10·5
Life, Annuity, Sinking Fund	35,000		35,000	
	694,594		640,817	
Less Items debited to Profit and Loss	174,530		156,274	
Total Net Trading Surplus	520,064		484,543	

For 1929 the rate of dividend has been increased from 84 per cent. to 88 per cent., but the increased payment was fully covered by interest earnings. A sum of £503,036 remains unappropriated from the year's earnings and goes to augment the surplus assets, this sum being equal to over 18s. per share. In the life department the total new business transacted declined somewhat, the figure being £4,020,000, compared with £4,257,000 in 1928, but the reduction is explained by a corresponding decline in the amount of single premiums received. In addition to the life business, over £200,000 was received by way of consideration money for annuity transactions, compared with £188,000 in 1928, and the total life and annuity funds now amount to £28,553,000.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Wall Street — Money — Capital Issues — Industry — Tariff.

NEW YORK, April 29.

A MILD wave of pessimism has been sweeping over Wall Street, and the share market has lost some of its recovery since the first of the year. The January-March "bull" movement clearly was based on hope of early business recovery, a hope dashed by the earning statements of industrial and railroad corporations now being published, by commodity price-cutting, and by other statistical evidence of slack trade. There has been no justification from a business standpoint for a "bull" movement in common stocks, and the cheap money factor was in itself insufficient to explain the rise.

April appears to have been a trifle more favourable for trade than was March, but such recovery as has come has been less than seasonal. The present state of affairs, while not really bad if comparison be made with any but the boom years of 1928 and 1929, seems to be giving more concern to Washington than to Wall Street or to the country generally. The money market is turning easier, and if a substantial drop in brokers' loans should follow the share market setback the outlook for a 3 per cent. discount rate* at the Federal Reserve Bank would brighten. Most well-informed observers expect a reduction to come some time within the next month or so, and it may be significant that the asking rate on 90-day bankers' bills has been cut to 2⅞ per cent., with a further reduction to 2¾ per cent. an early probability. The rise of $400,000,000 in brokers' loans in April helped to keep money rates steady in the face of slack commercial demand, but continued gold imports were a counteracting factor.

It is understood that the Federal Reserve Bank is now buying bills actively, mostly for foreign bank account, the daily rate of accumulation running from $10,000,000 to $15,000,000, although the Reserve Bank's own buying rate has not been cut to meet the weaker open-market quotation. Call money at the moment is firm at 4 per cent. on preparations by the banks to meet month-end dividend and interest payments, which will break all records for this season, totalling around $650,000,000, which, with new stock subscriptions, will bring financial payments to approximately $1,000,000,000. Within the next fortnight the Treasury is expected to announce a new bill offer to take care of a $56,000,000 maturity on May 19. Corporation bonds and notes maturing in May amount to $75,000,000.

With the receipt to-morrow of $10,000,000 in gold from Brazil, the net inflow of metal for April will have been approximately $58,000,000. Since the beginning of the year the net gain has been $194,000,000, of which Japanese exports account for $94,600,000 and Brazilian shipments for $57,700,000. Movements from both these heavy exporting countries are believed to be near an end. A refunding loan of $100,000,000 for Japan is under discussion, and the market is now absorbing its $35,000,000 portion of the Brazilian coffee loan, which has been well taken.

New issues offered in April were largely bonds, in contrast to the preponderance of share issues last year, and the volume, approximately $900,000,000, was larger than that of March. Foreign dollar loans contributed about $175,000,000. The principal foreign issues were for New South Wales, South American Railways, Argentina, Buenos Aires, Berlin City Electric, Chile, Piedmont Hydro-Electric and the State of Sao Paulo. With the exception of the latter, virtually all these loans proved to be a bit sticky, but they are moving out steadily. European demand for the Sao Paulo loan caused the withdrawal of a portion of the dollar bonds for sale abroad in addition to the sterling issue. Recently, the trend toward bonds with the attraction of various forms of conversion rights became pronounced, but the fresh setback in the stock market may offset this by lessening the competition of shares for investment money.

Price weakness is still the most disturbing element in the business situation. Another cut in copper prices is an early probability, the reduction to 14 cents not having induced much domestic buying and stocks having gone up further in April. Some people argue that an early cut to 12 cents would bring about speedy curtailment of production and right the situation sooner than would a lengthy trial period for the current price. Rumours also have been afloat of a general reduction in steel prices, but if it should come it would be formal recognition of cuts made from time to time in recent months rather than a fresh lowering of prices.

The steel industry is operating somewhat under 80 per cent. and is expected to hold near that rate for another two months at least. The position of the motor trade is a little better. Stocks of new cars are lower than a year ago. Used car supplies are much larger than last year, but they have been sharply reduced in the past six weeks. Production probably will "follow a line" through the summer. The building industry is improving in some lines, but residential construction is still quite slack. Railroad traffic, while higher in April than in the preceding month, is still considerably lower than that of the past few years.

First quarter earning reports for the railroads show a drop of approximately 40 per cent. in net operating income as compared with a year ago. This decline is not, however, a true reflection of traffic losses. Gross revenues are materially lower and carloadings have been running the lowest since 1924, or even 1922, but nearly all the railroads have taken advantage of the poor season to charge to earnings extraordinary expenses for maintenance and improvements on the ground that favourable reports are not expected from them at this time. It is quite probable that the last half of the year will bring a decided improvement in railroad traffic and earnings.

Large industrial corporations to the number of about 150 have reported earnings for the first quarter. A few, particularly oil companies, public utilities and electrical manufacturers, did better than a year ago, but, as a

* The Federal Reserve rate was reduced to 3 per cent. on May 1st.

whole, reductions in profit average about 17 per cent. Obviously such declines, when the high level of earnings a year ago are considered, are not particularly alarming. This quarter's earnings would have been considered very large a few years ago, but some companies are finding it necessary to cut dividends, especially the copper producers.

Although President Hoover has sent a second warning to Congress that tax increases next year will be necessary unless proposed appropriations are cut, income tax collections for the first nine months of the fiscal year indicate that the year will end with a small surplus. Tax collections to date run $140,000,000 in excess of the 1929 fiscal year.

The Tariff Bill finally has come out of the House-Senate Conference, and voting will begin this week in the House. Then the Senate will vote and further conferences may be necessary before sending it to the President. It is unlikely that the matter will be finished before late May. The treatment the bill received in conference suggests that the debenture plan for farm products exports will fail, and, with that objectionable part out, the bill will most likely be signed by President Hoover, no matter how far individual schedules may differ from his views. It is generally conceded that when the tariff is passed one important cause of business hesitation will have been removed.

FRANCE.

Effect of Tax Reductions — Iron and Steel Output — Coal and Coke Production.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, May 7.

SENATORS and deputies have forsaken the Chambers for a full month, and left public opinion to digest the Budget for 1930-31, the completely recast national insurance law, and the additional £15,000,000 of taxation reductions which Parliament presented to the country as a belated Easter egg. The smaller portion of the taxation relief accorded has been received with universal satisfaction, for the reason that much of it, which concerns imposts on foodstuffs, motor cars and other matters of general necessity, has actually come into effect, and has indicated its practical value in the form of lower commodity prices. It is now being discovered, however, that a substantial proportion of the reduction of 1,100,000,000 francs which, it was believed, had been accorded in regard to taxation on securities and on Bourse transactions has been, in the first transports of gratitude, largely over-estimated.

M. Jacob, the Syndic of the Compagnie des Agents de Change (the body of sworn stockbrokers who govern the Paris Bourse), under the influence of the feeling of surprise that the taxation relief accorded did not immediately result in a marked improvement in the state of the market, expressed the regretful opinion, a few days ago, in a newspaper interview, that the Bourse, since the reduction of taxation came into operation, has acted ungratefully. "The market," he said, "is behaving like a spoilt child, who has loudly cried to his parents for a present, and immediately forgotten all about the gift he has received." In his journal, *La Situation Economique et Financière*, M. Dromel this week retorts to the President of the Bourse by setting forth in plain language that one reason why the tendency of the Bourse, since the new taxation concessions were made to it, has been admittedly rather worse than before, lies in the fact that certain of the most important of these reductions really amount to very little. M. Dromel goes even further by stating that the application of the new scale of taxes, so far as shares are concerned, will not prevent the yield for the 1930 business year from being in most cases even less than it was for 1929, presuming that the dividends to be paid are of the same nominal value as for last year. In support of this he prints a list of eighteen leading French issues, showing their actual net yield for the past year, and what it would be under the new taxation *régime*, with the same dividend. Only three out of the eighteen issues, worked out on this basis, result in any improvement in yield. In a further list of eight bond issues, on the other hand, the new *régime* is shown to forecast in all cases a higher yield.

The explanation lies in the fact that the reduction in the burden of the *taxe de transmission* (from .04 per cent. *ad valorem* to .25 per cent.) will be nullified, in the case of nearly all shares, by the increase in the capital value of the scrip during the last few months. The transmission tax is assessed every year on the basis of the mean Bourse quotation of the share during the previous twelve months. As most leading shares have appreciated largely in capital value recently, and appear likely to continue to do so, rather than otherwise, M. Dromel's argument appears to be sound. With mortgage bond issues the case is quite different, and holders who absorbed the enormous mass of these instruments that has been issued during the past twelve months and is still being issued, should benefit appreciably from the cut in the tax.

A similar disappointment has occurred, particularly among the travelling public, over the abrogation of the irritating "landing and embarking" taxes levied on all passengers entering or leaving French ports. These taxes were completely suppressed under the new Budget Bill, ostensibly in order to encourage tourist traffic. It has now become known that the shipping and railway companies are continuing to collect these taxes, the yield from which has merely been diverted from the Government directly to the various port authorities, under the guise of quay tolls, sanitary taxes, dues for the benefit of local chambers of commerce, etc.

Iron and steel production figures for March, which have been announced this week, are again on the up grade. Crude steel output totalled 949,000 tons (or 2,000 tons above the previous high record set up last October), as against 773,000 tons in February and 800,000 tons in January last, and a monthly average of 659,000 tons in 1913 (*Lorraine plants included*). Pig iron production was 899,000 tons (or within 4,000 tons of the high record established in January, 1929), against 810,000 tons in February and 875,000 tons in January last, 880,000 tons in March, 1929, and a monthly average of 749,000 tons in 1913. Both export and domestic demands have fallen off, and prices have dropped sufficiently to justify the report that the European Steel Cartel is contemplating a further cut of 10 per cent. in production, following a similar cut in November last.

Coal production figures for March are slightly below previous returns. The total output in March was 4,799,000 tons for the 26 working days, against 4,578,000 tons in February (for 24 days). The daily average in March was 190,769 tons, against 179,566 tons in March, 1929. The average daily extraction was just over 48,000 tons more than in 1913, including 19,000 tons from the Lorraine pits restored to France after the war. The lowering of British export prices during the past few weeks is having a direct effect on French prices as well as German. Imports are steadily increasing with growing French industrial requirements, most of the increased imports being from Great Britain. Total imports of coal during the first quarter of the year were 8,084,000 tons, as against 6,794,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1929 and 5,565,000 tons in 1913. Under pressure of falling prices the Liévin Company has laid off its underground workers one day a week, and some of the companies in the Loire fields are contemplating a similar course. Metallurgical coke production by the colliery plants in March was 443,909 tons, against 392,950 tons in February and 411,328 tons in March, 1929.

GERMANY.

Money and Capital Markets — Industry — Measures for Relief of Agriculture — Budget.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, May 6.

THE Reichsbank has, up to the time of writing, not followed London, New York and Paris in reducing its discount rate, but it is to be assumed that it will do so within the next few days. The Reichsbank's delay is explained less by its internal situation than by the growing disproportion between the abundance of money on the money market and the continuing shortage on the capital market. For, although the official discount rate has stood at 5 per cent. since March 25th and bankers' acceptances have dropped to 4⅛ per cent., first mortgages still cost 9 per cent., and the easing of the situation on the capital market proceeds but slowly. It is true that 8 per cent. mortgage bonds have in the last few days risen above par for the first time, but it is still impossible to issue a large loan in Germany on tolerable terms. The Reichsbank, however, has practically no choice in the matter. If it leaves the discount rate unchanged at 5 per cent. in order not to stimulate any inflation of credit, the result would be, in view of the big margin between Berlin on the one side, and Paris, London and New York on the other, that more foreign currency and gold would flow into the country. The note circulation would remain unchanged, and the Reichsbank's holdings of foreign exchange would expand instead of its bill portfolio. The development of the Reichsbank's status has already shown this tendency plainly enough. The note circulation amounted at the end of April this year to 5,026 millions, against 5,121 millions at the end of April, 1929, whereas discounts and advances had dropped from 3,189 to 2,151 millions, while holdings of gold and foreign exchange had increased from 1,991 to 2,893 millions.

A large number of circumstances have intensified this development. The industrial depression continues and, despite the continuing liquidity of money, there are so far no indications of any improvement. The heavy industries —especially coal and iron—are now beginning to feel the depression in its full force. The production of coal is 10 per cent. lower than at the same time last year, and the ironworks are complaining of a steady falling off in orders. In consequence, the number of unemployed in receipt of benefit is half a million greater than last spring. Capital expenditure is being sharply curtailed on all sides, and building activity is limited. The result is that demands for credit from industry and trade are confined within very narrow limits. On the other hand, much foreign money is coming in. The large banks have for a considerable time been refusing offers of short-term money, and recently dollars were offered for a year at 4¾ per cent., but were not taken up by the large banks.

Recent months have brought a number of big foreign loans. Most important, besides the Reich Government's Kreuger loan, were the loans of Siemens and the Berliner Elektrizitätswerke through Dillon-Read. A few days ago the Phœnix-Bergbau Company offered 10 million guldens of 6 per cent. bonds through a consortium headed by Hope and Company, in Amsterdam. The bonds entitle the holder to purchase stock at 115 per cent. until May 1, 1931, at 120 per cent. until 1932, and at 130 per cent. until 1933. The purpose of this issue is not altogether clear, but it would appear that the loan is to provide for the general money requirements of the Stahlverein concern. Gelsenkirchen and Stahlverein have in the last few months bought a considerable number of coal and ironworks, and as both companies already have foreign loans in existence, it has apparently been felt preferable to bring in the Phœnix, heretofore unburdened, in order to secure money abroad.

When the new German agrarian import duties were decided on it was already clear that these constituted only half the proposed protective measures for agriculture: the tariffs are to be supplemented by subventions, limited, it is true, to the particularly necessitous districts of the eastern provinces. This was also the plan of the former Cabinet, but whereas the Müller Government planned to spend 350 million marks in ten years, the Brüning Government proposes to place at the disposal of the farmers, 500 millions in the form of credits, probably within five years. In addition to this there are to be, for special cases, direct contributions for operating expenses, taxation concessions and freight-rate reductions, and increased appropriations for railways and highways. This improving of means of communication is, as a matter of fact, absolutely requisite, and should have been begun long ago. The rail and highway connections with the eastern Prussian provinces were in very many places destroyed by the cession of the Polish Corridor, and the importance of providing improved communications is not disputed by any party.

An important issue that is disputed, however, is the manner in which the credits are to be distributed. Of the 500 millions, 200 are to be used for liquidating existing short-term indebtedness, for which the farmers have up to now had to pay high interest rates. The new credits to be furnished with the Government's help are to be for long terms and at low interest rates, and the old creditors are to be paid out of them and possibly persuaded to make some cancellations in order to reduce the burden on the agriculturists. The other 200 millions are intended for the so-called "settlers," that is, farmers with small or medium-sized farms who in former years received from the Reich and Prussia land that had been secured by buying up and dividing large estates. The settlers have received, in the past, short-term credits from the Reich which they cannot pay back. Now these sums are to be liquidated by long-term credits, and the short-term funds thus set free are to be used for creating new farms for settlers. Since the land needed must be gained by buying up more large estates, this part of the programme will help to some extent the utterly stagnant estate market in the eastern provinces. But much depends naturally on who receive the credits and what estates are bought for settlement purposes. The farmers' organisations have demanded that the decision as to the employment of the funds shall be left to local officials or to the organs of the provinces which are in close touch with the farmers personally. But, as similar experience in the past shows, this entails a danger of wasting the funds by using them to help farmers who are already indebted beyond any hope of recovery, and whom further credits would only enable to stave off collapse for a time. Since the means provided in the new programme, hard though it is to secure them, still bring only limited aid in view of the extent of the need in the east, it is absolutely necessary to be firm in rejecting the demands of agriculturists who can not be saved in any case.

The severest misgivings as to the new agrarian programme are, however, concerning its inadequate financial foundation. The proposed Budget for 1930, which the Minister of Finance has just submitted to the Reichstag, includes only a round 60 million marks for agricultural relief. In addition to this, the Government proposes to get a further 50 millions this year from its ownership of barracks and lands in the occupied districts, which have hitherto been used by the occupying troops and will now become free, and from other sources. In the following years it is hoped to secure more money from the charge on industry for reparations, the industrialists themselves having offered to carry the burden further for agricultural relief after it is no longer needed for reparation payments. But all this is not sufficient to put the Government in a position to furnish 500 millions from its own funds. Hence this sum is to be secured by a loan guaranteed by the Government and handed over to the agriculturists. A new banking institution—"Deutsche Ablösungsbank—is to carry through this transaction.

The Government memorandum accompanying the 1930 Budget shows that the balance for 1929 has become still more unfavourable than had already been feared. The entire savings under the Young Plan, which amounted to 614 millions for 1929, have been used up, and there remains, in addition, a deficit of probably 360 millions. This is due to smaller receipts as a result of the unfavourable economic situation, and to a number of

items of extraordinary expenditure, especially for unemployment insurance. The estimates of receipts have been correspondingly reduced in the new Budget, and increased cover is provided for different items of expenditure. As a result, 534 millions of new taxes are required, despite the further relief of the Budget by the savings on the Young Plan for the whole year. But since the increase of the tobacco and match taxes, which was made at the end of 1929, applies to the whole year, a total increase of 858 millions above the receipts of 1929 is looked for, and, in addition, 166 millions of increased receipts from administrative sources. The ordinary Budget for 1930 balances at 8,442,900,000 marks, against 7,550,000,000 marks last year. To this must be added the portion of receipts from taxes that must be handed over to the States and municipalities, amounting to 3,389,800,000 marks, against 3,286,900,000 marks last year. A further 400 millions must also be handed over to the States for special purposes and under particular demands. The extraordinary Budget has for years been kept low; it balances at 230 millions.

SWITZERLAND.

Finance — Foreign Trade — Industry — United States Tariff.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, April 28.

THE Federal Council has given its approval to the accounts of the Swiss Confederation for 1929, which are highly satisfactory. Receipts in the 1929 Budget were estimated at £14,112,000 and expenditure at £14,038,200, thus leaving an estimated surplus of £73,800. Receipts for the year 1929 aggregated £15,838,273 and expenditure £14,878,642, thus leaving a surplus of £959,631. This excellent result is due to the increased yield of Customs duties, which produced £8,560,000, and of the stamp duty, which yielded £3,140,000, as well as to the profit recorded by the post, telegraph and telephone service. The surplus will be used in paying the Federal Railways an instalment of £600,000 on the subsidy of £1,400,000 granted to them by the Government for repaying their heavy war debt; a sum of £260,000 will be paid to the special reserve for the redemption of the public debt, while the remaining £99,631 will help to increase the reserve funds of the various federal services.

This is the second time since 1910 that a surplus in the Swiss State finances has been recorded. From 1910 to 1927 substantial deficits, ranging from £64,000 in 1927 to £5,104,000 in 1921, were regularly registered. From 1921 to 1924, drastic curtailments were made in all State expenditure, with the result that the yearly deficits were progressively reduced. There was a surplus of £952,000 in 1928, and, thanks to the increase of all State receipts, it is hoped, as stated by the chief of the Finance Department, Federal Councillor M. Muzy, that the era of deficits is now closed. It may, nevertheless, be remarked that expenditure has been growing again since 1925 in consequence of the grant of higher Government subsidies to industry and to the Cantons for public works of all sorts. It is very much hoped that some measures will be taken by the Government to stop the rise in expenditure, and to alleviate the heavy burden under which trade and industry are labouring. This might be done by reducing the post, telegraph and telephone rates, as well as indirect taxation, especially as receipts during the first quarter of the year were substantially higher than in the same period of 1929.

The economic depression which is now prevailing in Switzerland is clearly reflected by the foreign trade returns, which are, on the whole, very unsatisfactory. During the first quarter of the year imports totalled £25,620,637, as against £25,044,342 during the corresponding period of 1929, while the value of exports was £18,500,348, compared with £19,868,239 last year. There was a rise in the imports of cereals, foodstuffs, vehicles, chemicals, and a few classes of metals, while imports of raw materials and coal generally decreased. Exports were nearly all lower than in the previous year, both in value and quantity, but there was a small rise in machines and chemicals. Trade with the five principal countries was as follows (in million £):—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
Germany	6·0	6·7	3·3	3·0
France	4·6	4·8	1·5	1·8
Italy	1·7	1·6	1·3	1·2
Great Britain	1·6	1·2	2·6	2·4
U.S.A.	2·1	2·0	1·7	1·5

Trade with Great Britain has been steadily decreasing since 1928; British exports to Switzerland have suffered from German and American competition, and from the fact that the Swiss demand for coal has been considerably reduced in consequence of the increasing use of electric power; Swiss exports to Britain declined as a result of the McKenna duties. The present slump is furthermore reflected by the drop in the receipts of the Federal Railways, which reached £3,542,000 for the first quarter, as against £3,662,000 last year. The surplus, which was £1,056,000 in 1929, was this year reduced to £877,000 for the first three months. The decrease is due to a drop both in passenger and goods traffic.

The home market is similarly depressed, and retail traders complain of the fact that business is uncommonly slack. The position, though not encouraging, is not definitely bad, as unemployment is not increasing. Employment was generally normal in most industries, except in the watchmaking industry and in the manufactures producing machines for the textile and watchmaking industry. The number of unemployed was as follows:—

	1929.	1930.
January	16,284	14,846
February	15,979	12,462
March	7,098	10,138

The crisis in the watchmaking industry is continuing, and, recently, the few factories which had found it possible to maintain the six days' working week, decided to close one day every week. The Federal Government has also decided to prolong the payment of unemployment benefit for another three months. The slump is felt in all industries except the building industry, which continues to be very active in the towns despite some minor strikes at Basel and Canton Ticino.

The situation is now made more gloomy by the coming decision of the U.S.A. to raise by 100 to 500 per cent. import duties on several classes of Swiss goods, particularly on watches and cotton goods. Some manufacturers are trying to start a campaign to induce the Swiss population to boycott United States products. It is doubtful whether such measures would induce the United States to abandon their scheme for the raising of duties on Swiss products, and it would by no means benefit Swiss exports.

CANADA.

Agriculture — Depression in Flourmilling Business — Canadian Currency in U.S. — Bank Returns Revenues — St. Lawrence Navigation.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, April 21.

FARMERS are busy everywhere upon the land, and good progress is being made with cultivation. There have been some rains on the prairies, but the new crop is being sown with subnormal moisture reserves and a very substantial rainfall is required in the next few weeks to give it a fair chance. Meanwhile, the western farmers have been greatly encouraged by the upward swing of wheat prices, which is largely due to the reports of serious damage by drought in the south-western States of the American Republic, and it is calculated that any danger of the provincial Governments being called upon to make good their guarantees to the banks of advances made to the wheat pools has now passed, and that the latter should be able henceforth to stand upon their own legs.

During the week ending April 11 stocks of wheat decreased less than 4 million bushels, remaining at

191,153,238 bushels. At the end of the fiscal year the Bureau of Statistics placed the aggregate volume of unsold wheat at 228,836,826 bushels, including what remained in farmers' hands and gave the following figures for other grains: oats 105,415,885, barley 44,853,819, flax 1,221,706 and rye 11,036,341 bushels, making a total of over 400 million bushels. The Bureau also offers a revised final estimate of the wheat crop of 1930 which raises its earlier figure of 299 million bushels to 310, and on the assumption that there will be 3½ million bushels of wheat exported every week from March 31 till August 1, it forecasts a carry-over of 115 million bushels into the next crop, which would be 9½ million bushels greater than the abnormally large carry-over of 1929. One satisfactory feature of the latest crop bulletin is that the Bureau estimates the merchantable quality of the wheat crop of 1929 at 98 per cent., as compared with 95 per cent. in the previous year. But, all things considered, the immediate outlook for the prairie grain grower is not auspicious, and there has been no hint of any further payments on the part of the pools.

The flour-milling industry of Canada has been sharing the troubles of the farmer, and the exports of flour during the half-year ending February 28th, at 3,172,000 barrels (of 126 lbs. each), were little more than half the 6,074,000 barrels exported in the parallel period a year ago. During February Canadian flour mills only operated at 37.7 per cent. of their capacity, and their prospects of better business are not improved by the announcement that the Grain Stabilisation Board of the United States will sell wheat on very favourable terms to American millers in order that surplus stocks of wheat may be moved out of the country as flour. There have been complaints by Canadian millers that the pools' policy of eliminating all middlemen and selling direct to the foreign buyer has hurt them, and that there has been practically no co-operation between the pools and the millers. So the *Financial Post* of Toronto, in its issue of April 15, suggests editorially that the pools should follow the American example and sell a large quantity of their wheat at reasonable prices to the Canadian millers to be ground into flour. It declares that both parties would benefit by such an arrangement, and that the policy adopted to ease an emergency might prove so satisfactory that it would be transformed into a permanent scheme of co-operation.

There has been very little change in business conditions during the past two weeks, but the delay in the production of the Budget has been a disturbing factor in some degree, as commercial and industrial interests are all prepared for comprehensive tariff changes which may necessitate considerable trade readjustments. Meanwhile commodity prices are at the lowest point they have been since 1916. Wholesale and retail houses report a good demand for groceries, clothing and footwear, but the sales of luxury goods have fallen off greatly and consumers seem to be in an economical mood. There is still a good deal of unemployment in all the urban centres, but the Bank of Nova Scotia, in its latest monthly economic survey, takes an optimistic view of the outlook, and asserts that industrial employment has, after allowance is made for seasonal variations, only undergone a contraction of 6½ per cent., that business failures have not been in excess of the average during recent years, and the business recession is not nearly as serious as many people suppose. On the other hand, one adverse symptom is the evidence of a marked curtailment of new construction; building permits issued in 61 leading cities during March were valued at $13,352,640, a decline of 44.5 per cent. as compared with $24 million in March, 1929. The promise of good crops would help to promote a business revival, but failing them a period of comparative stagnation has probably to be faced, and the general election, which everybody now expects some time before September, will have an unsettling effect, especially if it is fought on the tariff issue.

The latest banking returns do not reveal a very satisfactory credit situation. The ratio of loans to deposits in Canada, which is considered the best ready index of credit conditions, rose to the abnormal figure of 81 per cent. at the end of January, as compared with 77 per cent. at the end of December, 1929, and about 70 at the end of January, 1929. The main cause of this condition is the heavy slump in deposits, which fell over 79 million dollars in January without any corresponding decline in loans. However, it is understood that the situation has since undergone some rectification through the return of Canadian funds to par in New York, which has resulted in the return of substantial sums of Canadian money from the United States. But there is no disposition to regard the depression as anything but temporary, and plans for new enterprises and the expansion of old ones are being briskly pushed ahead. It is estimated that this year there will be spent in the four western provinces more than $225,000,000 on railroad construction, highway building, oil drilling, hydro-electric plants, telephone services, and building construction, and obviously this programme will absorb a great deal of both labour and material. There has also been forthcoming in the past month better news about western oil developments. The brokerage scandals and the inadequate results from drilling operations had had a disheartening effect, but recently a well of the Mill City Company, in the northern-central part of the Turner Valley, blew in with a heavy flow of wet gas, and there has been an even more important development in the Red Coulee field, lying near the Montana boundary, 65 miles south of the city of Lethbridge, where more than one well has blown in with a good flow of crude oil.

Before Parliament adjourned for the Easter recess the Finance Minister intimated to the House of Commons that the Budget would be brought down within the first week after it reassembled on April 25. The February revenue statement, covering the first eleven months of the fiscal year, placed the revenues for that period at $405,545,881, which is a decline of roughly $6 million compared with the parallel figure for the previous year; expenditures were given as $336,317,278, which is an increase of $15 million. The Department of National Revenue has since published the returns from income tax and from Customs and Excise for the whole fiscal year, and they show that while income returns, given as $69,020,751, increased by about $9½ million there was a fall of some $23 million in the revenues from Customs and Excise duties. Mr Dunning will be able to show a very comfortable surplus, but he cannot, in view of the farming and business situations, count upon revenues being maintained during the coming fiscal year at the same level as during the present one, and it is doubtful if he will be able to offer any but very modest reductions of taxation.

The foreign trade returns for March were again unsatisfactory; domestic exports were valued at $89,597,138, which is a decline of $25 million from the figure for March, 1929, and imports shrank from $135 million, the figure for March, 1929, to $114 million. The provisional trade figures for the whole fiscal year give striking evidence of the effects of the grain market crisis, for the value of wheat exported was only $215,753,475, as compared with $428½ million during the fiscal year 1928-29 and in the same period flour exports dropped from $65 to $45½ million.

Navigation on the St. Lawrence has reopened this week, and the first ocean vessel has arrived at Montreal. The present summer will see some interesting developments in connection with the navigation facilities of the Upper St. Lawrence. Last Monday part of the enlarged Welland Canal, which connects Lakes Erie and Ontario, was opened for shipping traffic, and the remaining sections will be opened with a formal ceremony on July 1.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Budgets — Transvaal Provincial Council — Riotous Assemblies Bill — Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, April 2.

LAST week the Ministers of Finance and Railways introduced their Budgets for expenditure from consolidated revenue and from railway and harbour funds during the year ending March 31, 1931. Dealing first with the former, Mr Havenga opened by pointing out that South Africa could not expect to escape the world-wide fall in commodity prices, and expressed the opinion—which a study of his figures supports—that matters in this country might have been far worse. He estimated that the final surplus at March 31, 1930, would be found to be about £400,000. The final expenditure and revenue are expected to be £30,100,000 and £30,485,000. Customs duties (realising £8,450,000) had exceeded the estimate by £250,000, Excise by £30,000, income tax by £249,000, native taxes by £43,000, but mining revenue from diamond export duty (realising £785,000) fell £375,000 short of his estimate of a year ago. Exports in 1929 totalled £97,842,000; the value of farm products exported had fallen from £32,199,000 in 1928 to £26,763,000 in 1929.

The deficit for the coming year, on the present basis of taxation, would, it is estimated, amount to £1,388,000, the estimated revenue being £29,425,000. It is proposed to reduce the deficit by withdrawing a rebate of 20 per cent. on individuals' income tax, thus providing £563,000. There are to be extra taxes on ready-made clothing, wheat and sugar, but these are not expected to yield heavy revenue. With the appropriation of the surplus of £400,000 from the current year, there remains a sum of £425,000 unprovided for.

On Thursday, March 27th, Mr C. W. Malan followed his colleague's tale of "modified rapture" with one in a similar strain. The final figures are expected to show a deficit of £289,000 on the year's working, with revenue and expenditure at £31,205,000 and £30,916,000 respectively. For the coming year the estimated deficit is £146,000. The latter figure assumes an increase in maize traffic and in revenue from the line to the manganese deposits at Postmasburg. The Minister referred in his speech to a "review of the whole question of rates and fares." It is to be hoped that the Minister is contemplating the briefing of independent advice in this connection. The recently published report of the Departmental Railway Tariffs Inquiry Committee is, as one might expect of a departmental committee, merely a statement and defence of the position of the administration. That position, again, is affected by considerations which have nothing to do with the accepted principles on which railways are supposed to be run.

The newly elected Transvaal Provincial Council will consist of 28 Nationalists, 25 South African Party members, and two Labour members of the National Council faction. Colonel Creswell's followers were completely eliminated, including the candidates for the seats which he and Mr Sampson represent in Parliament. It is not surprising that a section of the Nationalists consider that these two Labour Ministers should resign, as it is certainly difficult to say whom they represent. It is true that all the other members of the Cabinet are of Afrikander race, but, after his attitude on the Flag question, Colonel Creswell at any rate cannot be considered, even by his Nationalist friends, to represent the British section of the population. The South African Party have been successful in capturing several country seats, and lost by nominal majorities in others. The party regards the election results as not unsatisfactory, while the Nationalists are disappointed, as well as perturbed as to the outcome of the old difficulty of devising acceptable schemes of Provincial finance.

The proposals before the House for the amendment of the law relating to riotous assemblies and "agitation" generally are causing serious alarm for the liberty of the subject—not merely the native subject, but also anyone who has the temerity to advise or defend the native when in difficulty. The Minister may prohibit gatherings, or the publication of information; he may cause the removal of offenders from place to place, or beyond the borders of the Union if born beyond its borders. The offence is "the engendering of hostility" between Europeans and natives, and in practice such a law is likely to operate more harshly on the native and his friends than on the supporter of local convention. In its placing of power in the hands of the Minister, the Bill is a fine example of encroachment on the prerogative of the courts. The provisions for enabling interested parties to defend themselves in court against the Minister's decisions are regarded as utterly inadequate. South African Party members in Natal are supporting the Government.

The Women's Enfranchisement Bill has passed its second reading. The country members include a number who are unalterably opposed to the principle and care nothing for details. They say, quite truly, that there is no very strong and unanimous demand for the Bill. There is also some difficulty in regard to coloured and native women in the Cape Province. Several Cape members consider that they should share the same privileges as European women, subject to the same tests. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent a supporter of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill being a supporter of the Prime Minister in regard to the Cape native vote. It is generally considered that the Bill, which is a non-party measure, will pass, in spite of opposition.

Letters to the Editor.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Protectionists fail to realise that all overseas trade is an exchange in which, by export of goods and services of the past and of the present, we create credits which give us a claim for goods from all parts of the world. That normally each year the British export and credit items exceed the import and debit item by from £50 to £150 million means that the world is not sending us enough goods in return, but is running into debt to us year after year. To increase our exports and get paid for them (for that is surely not unimportant) we must either save and invest more abroad, which under present circumstances we cannot do, or we must import more, and, of course, we will only take goods that we need.

Let us each assume that we can obtain 75 per cent. increase in our remuneration, while we only need to pay 25 per cent. more for our food and other necessities of life; surely this will mean that the main increase in our expenditure will be more in the direction of manufactured goods rather than in additional food and crude products of which we have probably been able to procure all we required before.

As exchangers of manufactured goods for raw materials, we are in this position, and the protectionists wish to add to the difficulty of our driving a hard bargain by fining us in import duties when it happens to suit us to receive or exchange goods which might possibly be made here.

To-day's unexported margin of cotton, woollen and engineering products cannot be paid for by additional imports of oranges or by additions in any uncompetitive imports, and all attempts to check imports add to the difficulty in disposing of our old volume of exports.

No wonder that Mr Williams wishes to restrict our freedom to import if he really thinks that we might use it to import "identically similar" goods to those we are exporting. A visit to any of our ports will convince him that this is not likely to happen.—Yours truly,

GILBERT BEARD.

Wayside,
Ashley Heath,
Hale, Cheshire.
April 30, 1930.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—My fellow clubman, Mr Frank Morris, writes with somewhat less appreciation of humour than we would expect from a regular newspaper controversialist.

Our purpose in exporting manufactured goods is to enable us to obtain in this country supplies of commodities which would otherwise not be available and, accordingly, if parts of our exports are paid for by goods of kinds which we can produce, the process is essentially a wasteful one. Neither I nor Mr Morris, nor Mr Beard can allege that a particular cargo of steel from Belgium can be regarded as the payment of an export of an equal quantity of steel from this country to some other part of the world, because, of course, it is only in the aggregate that these things balance each other. But quite obviously the cargo of steel is part of our payment for a variety of exports which will also include the other cargo of steel that I have visualised for the purpose of this argument.

So far as my analogy of the ship travelling backwards and forwards without unloading is concerned, I was merely using this example for indicating the complete absurdity and economic waste which occurs when, at the same moment, there are ships leaving these shores with goods of a certain kind and ships arriving at these shores with goods which are interchangeable with those which are being exported.

Why this argument should be described as the "characteristic intolerance of the bigoted protectionist," I cannot understand, but perhaps on the next occasion when we have a discussion at the Constitutional Club on Safeguarding Mr Morris will join in and explain exactly the merits of this wasteful process.—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT G. WILLIAMS.

351, Abbey House,
Victoria Street, S.W.1.
May 3, 1930.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—We are glad that Mr Williams has at least seen that we require to export 25 per cent. less to pay for the imports we need when looked at statistically. We must now show him that it is equally true looked at practically. It is quite right that the British manufacturer should endeavour to increase his exports. And it is perfectly true that, in order to pay for these exports, it is necessary for us to import more manufactured goods. But that all manufactured goods should be identically similar, as Mr Williams suggests, is merely futile.

We import goods which foreign countries can make better and at a smaller cost than ourselves. And when we increase the export of our manufactured goods, it is only sane to increase the export of those goods easily manufactured in England. In this way, for example, we can increase our export of Sheffield cutlery, and at the same time we can import more window frames from Sweden.

Mr Williams says that Mr Beard is talking nonsense when he states that we cannot increase our importation of foodstuffs indefinitely. The small boys, which Mr Williams offers to produce, who could eat many more bananas and oranges if their parents could afford to buy them, would most certainly make themselves very ill indeed if they ate a quarter of the amount of bananas and oranges needed to make up for the imports due to us.

Free Trade must result in an increase of specialised production and employment, and every article the freely trading consumer buys will not only be the best, but also the least expensive. Therefore, buy British where British is best, and buy foreign where foreign is best, since all foreign goods have come into the country in exchange for British goods.—Yours truly,

HARRY RAWLINS.

Memorial Hall Club,
Manchester.
May 1, 1930.

Books and Publications.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

IN this volume* the *Year Book* completes the tenth year of its existence. Looking at the past ten volumes as a whole—which we are now the better able to do as a valuable general index of the contents of the ten volumes is now included—most readers will agree that the joint editors, Sir Cecil Hurst and Professor Pearce Higgins, and their committee, have shown that there is a place waiting for the *Year Book* among British periodicals, that it fills that place well, and that its future is assured. There are very few important topics of international law which have not received its attention in the past ten years, and it has been the means of enabling British practitioners and students of this branch of law to make their contribution to its development by international discussion. In these ways, and also by reason of its annual record of important decisions given by international and national tribunes and of its bibliographies and reviews, it has become a normal piece of apparatus in the hands of the growing body of persons in this country and in some others who follow international relations with attention.

The 1929 volume, in which volumes Professor J. L. Brierly replaces Sir Cecil Hurst as joint editor, contains articles and notes having both technical and general interest. Sir Cecil Hurst examines some of the recent examples of diplomatic immunities conferred upon persons not truly diplomatic, such as the members of the Permanent Court of International Justice and other international tribunals or League officials, and discusses in particular the recent decision of the House of Lords in *Engelke* v. *Mussman*. In that case the question at issue was whether a person bearing the title of "consular secretary" and being a member of the staff of the German Embassy in London could lawfully be subjected to cross-examination in order to ascertain whether he was engaged upon diplomatic or upon consular duties, consuls not being entitled, apart from exceptional cases, to diplomatic immunity. The House of Lords held that the Attorney-General's statement, addressed to the Court of Appeal, that the gentleman in question was recognised by the Foreign Office as possessing diplomatic status, was conclusive, so that the "consular secretary" could not be cross-examined upon the nature of his duties. Incidentally, this decision is yet another illustration of the matters in which the courts of law are bound to defer to the decision of the Executive.

Sir Thomas Fischer Wilhains subjects to comparative analysis the Pan-American Draft Treaties of Conciliation and Arbitration approved at the Pan-American Conference of January, 1929, with the not very dissimilar "Geneva Act and Model Conventions" elaborated at Geneva in 1928 and now being considered by the British and many other Governments; while Professor Charles Cheney Hyde, a foremost American authority and formerly Solicitor to the State Department in Washington, discusses the part played by Commissions of Inquiry and treaties of Conciliation in the pacific settlement of disputes. Chinese affairs come under consideration in two articles, one by Sir Skinner Turner on "Extraterritoriality in China," the other by Mr G. W. Keeton on the "Revision Clause in Chinese Treaties," an acutely topical question in view of the recent Chinese demand for the abolition of the "unequal" treaties. The international use of water and waterways is discussed by Professor H. A. Smith in an article upon the problem arising from the diversion of the waters of Lake Michigan at Chicago, and by Miss Ruth Bacon, an American scholar, in an article upon British policy with regard to certain European Rivers of International Concern. The mandate for Palestine is discussed by the Attorney-General of that country, Mr Norman Bentwich.

Among other articles and notes of varying interest and importance we would draw particular attention to a note by Professor J. L. Brierly upon "Some Implications of the Paris Pact," which expresses the view that, given a war in which the British fleet is co-operating against a Kellogg-Pact-breaker, non-belligerent States should consider themselves estopped by their ratification of the Pact from asserting neutral rights.

* "The British Year Book of International Law, 1929." Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Pp. vi + 338 Price 18s.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The National Income and its Purchasing Power. By Willford Isbell King, assisted by Lillian Epstein. (New York) National Bureau of Economic Research. $5.

A gold mine of information on the origins and distribution of the national income of the United States. Some idea of its range may be afforded by the following representative selection of chapter headings: The Share of Property and Enterprise; The Share of the Employees; Changes in Concentration of Income; The Values of Corporations to Their Owners; Gains and Losses of Investors in Securities; Facts Bearing on Agricultural Income; Government as a Factor in National Income.

The Stock Market Crash—and After. By Irving Fisher. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 10s. 6d. net.

Professor Fisher's prolonged study of the stock market, places him in the unusual position of being able to produce a detailed and expert examination of an important event whilst it is still topical. His book should be widely read.

A Picture of World Economic Conditions at the Beginning of 1930. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $2.50.

A new departure is the inclusion of the Annual Report of the President of the International Chamber of Commerce on World Economic Conditions in 1929. This is followed by the usual review of economic conditions in the United States at the beginning of 1930, and by a series of articles by foreign correspondents on economic developments in their respective countries.

L'Esprit International dans l'Enseignement Française. By M. A. Desclos. (Paris) Publications de la Conciliation Internationale, 173, Boulevard Saint-Germain. 3.50 francs.

L'Idée de Civilisation dans le Conscience Française. By Ernest Robert Curtius. (Paris) Publications de la Conciliation Internationale, 173, Boulevard Saint-Germain. 3.50 francs.

La Politique Etrangère des Etats Unis et l'Amérique Latine. By M. Graham Stuart. (Paris) Publications de la Conciliation Internationale, 173, Boulevard Saint-Germain. 4 francs.

Part of a series of bulletins to be issued by the *Conciliation Internationale*, under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. All three are short studies by writers of standing in their subjects, and all are well calculated to fulfil their object of promoting international understanding.

Die Deutschen Eisenbahnen im Kriege. By Dr. Adolf Sarter. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 15s. net.

This volume of the Carnegie Endowment series contains a history, on the usual thorough lines, of German railways during the war.

Public Utility Control in Massachusetts. By Irston R. Barnes. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 13s. 6d. net.

A study of the application of the prudent investment theory to the problems of rate regulation.

Movimento Economico dell' Italia. (Milan) Banca Commerciale Italiana.

A most valuable yearbook, containing statistical tables and up-to-date information on the money market, Stock Exchange, industries, agriculture, foreign trade and public finance of Italy.

The Official Year Book of New South Wales. Compiled by T. Waites. (London) New South Wales Offices, Australia House.

An extremely valuable compilation of official statistics by the Government statistician. It covers a wide range of subjects, including, in addition to the usual economic categories, such matters as local government, climate, police, education, prisons, etc.

Immigration and Prosperity. Evidence prepared for the Palestine Commission of Inquiry by S. Hoofien. (Tel-Aviv) "Mischar W' Taasia" Publishing Company, Ltd.

A pamphlet of useful economic information and statistics relating to Palestine.

Bulletin de l'Institut des Sciences Economiques, March, 1930. (Louvain) Institut des Sciences Economiques, Place du Peuple.

A collection of articles constituting between them a survey of Belgian economic conditions in 1929.

The Frontier Tradition in South Africa. By Eric A. Walker. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 2s. net.

A reprint of an interesting lecture recently delivered in Oxford.

The Imperialist War, 1914-15. By V. I. Lenin. (London) Martin Lawrence, 26, Bedford Row. 12s. 6d. net.

This eighteenth volume of Lenin's collected works contains an essay on Karl Marx, the pamphlet "Socialism and War," and a collection of articles, speeches and resolutions from September, 1914, to December, 1915. There is also a bibliography and a calendar of Lenin's life.

Forced Labour. (London) International Labour Office, 12, Victoria Street.

The report of the discussion on forced labour at the International Labour Conference.

Workmen's Compensation Legislation of the United States and Canada as of January 1, 1929. (Washington) Superintendent of Documents. 55 cents.

Includes the t ext of legislation enacted in 1927 and 1928.

Etude Mathématique et Graphique des Opérations Financières. By René Damien. (Paris) Les Presses Universitaires de France, 49, Boulevard Saint-Michel.

A short treatise, in pamphlet form, on the mathematics of real interest calculations.

The Case for Tasmania, 1930. (Tasmania) John Vail, Government Printer.

An official statement of Tasmania's claim for an increased special grant from the Commonwealth.

The Railway Gazette, April 28, 1930. *Special Spanish Railway Number.* (London) The Railway Gazette, 33, Tothill Street. 2s. 6d.

Published in connection with the International Railway Congress, which opens at Madrid on May 5th. This special number forms a valuable source of information on the subject of Spanish railways.

Provincial Brokers' Stock Exchange Year Book, 1930. (Hull) Provincial Brokers' Stock Exchange, Parliament Chambers. 2s. 6d.

Contains the rates, a list of members, a list of firms, information about trustee investments, commissions, etc., and a number of calculating tables.

Investments Abroad, 1930. (New York) Mackay and Company, 14, Wall Street.

A tabulation, on a geographical basis, of all foreign dollar securities issued in the United States.

Handelsrekenen. By H. L. C. Kok. (The Hague.) By J. B. Wolters Uitgevers—Maatschappij, N.V.. Gronigen. F. 12.50.

A substantial Dutch text book on Stock Exchanges.

Gedenkboek Van de Javasche Bank, 1828-1928. (Amsterdam) De Javasche Bank.

This very handsome volume is Part II of the history of the Java Bank, published in celebration of its centenary.

Modellen en Formulieren. By H. L. C. Kok. (The Hague.) By J. B. Wolters, Uitgeversmaatschappij, N.J., Gronigen. F. 15.00.

A volume of facsimiles of deeds, transfer forms, trace sheets, income tax claim forms, etc., in use in various countries.

The Bankers' Magazine, May, 1930. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London Wall. 2s. 6d. net.

Contains the text of Sir Charles Addis's address to the Institute of Bankers on the Bank for International Settlements.

The Slavonic Review, March, 1930. (London) Jonathan Cape, Ltd., 30, Bedford Square. 6s. net.

This issue contains a wide range of interesting articles, including, *inter alia,* two on Masaryk; one on the war on religion in Russia; the second, on Czechoslovakia, of Mr Ifor Evans's series on agrarian reform in Danubian Countries, and "The Diary of a Soviet Student."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Poland, 1929. 1s. 6d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE WALL STREET OUTLOOK.

THE effect of last week's reduction of Bank rate on Stock Exchange business has been largely obscured, this week, by dramatic events in Wall Street, which have monopolised attention more completely than at any time since the slump of last autumn. After a period of "wobbling" during the latter part of April, with a perceptible downward trend, American security prices took a decided plunge last Saturday, when total sales of 4,862,000 shares made a "record" for a two-hour session. Selling was renewed on Monday, when the volume of dealings was the highest on any day this year, but in the later trading a marked recovery was initiated, which made substantial progress on Tuesday. The extent of the "slumplet" may be inferred from the behaviour of the index of fifty industrial stock quotations, compiled by the Standard Statistics Company. This index (which is based on the figure 100 for 1926), reached its maximum point of 202.4 for the present year on April 10th, slowly declined to 192.7 by April 30th, dropped to 177.2 last Saturday, and recovered to 178.8 and 184.9 on Monday and Tuesday of this week, respectively.

Though it is much too early as yet to assume that this week's recovery is the last word on the matter, it may at once be stated that in no well-informed quarter is a major downward movement, comparable with last year's break, regarded as at all a probable contingency. So far, indeed, the net loss of ground has been comparatively small in proportion to the steady rise of values since bottom was touched towards the end of last year. The chart on this page will enable readers to view recent price movements in due perspective. Broadly, while last year's slump reduced industrial share values approximately to the level of mid-1928, the recovery of the first three and a half months of this year carried them back to the level of the late autumn of 1928. During the course of the revival more than two-fifths of the ground lost was recovered, and the latest reaction still leaves prices a long way above last year's low point.

The most significant feature of the 1930 recovery which preceded last week's decline, however, was the decidedly unequal headway made by different groups of industries. This point is well exemplified by the table given below, which is based on data supplied by the Standard Statistics Company.

(1926 average = 100.)

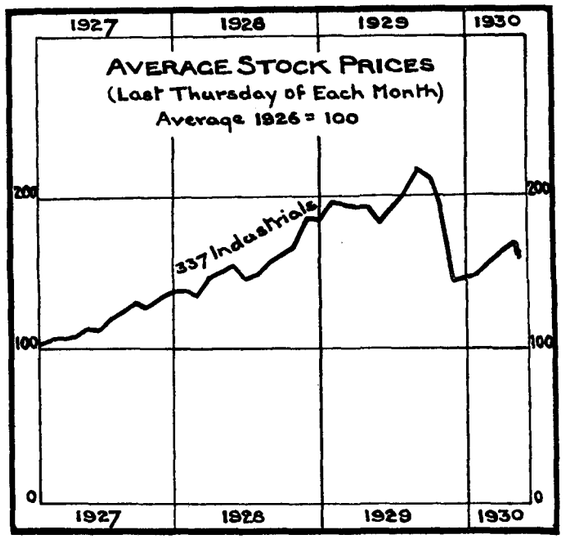
	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Highest, 1930.	April 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
Group indices:					
337 Industrials	218·9	134·5	174·1	170·2	167·1
33 Rails	173·5	127·8	145·5	140·9	135·9
34 Utilities	330·4	177·6	267·4	264·1	262·5
Total, 404 stocks	228·1	140·3	184·2	180·5	177·3
Separate industries:					
Automobiles*	294·4	124·2	173·6	158·3	(Not available)
Building equipment	174·8	106·4	132·0	125·5	
Chemical (industrial)	345·6	193·2	292·7	278·4	
Coal (anthracite)	90·8	59·5	67·2	65·9	
Coal (bituminous)	164·1	111·8	131·5	112·7	
Electrical equipment	414·0	202·6	372·5	356·4	
Oil	174·9	124·3	157·7	157·7	
Radio, etc.†	765·5	231·9	428·4	428·4	
Rayon	176·4	87·8	93·8	88·3	
Retail trade	206·9	114·0	124·1	121·3	
Steel‡	255·0	161·0	201·2	194·5	
Tobacco	158·6	116·8	161·0	155·7	
Telegraph and telephone	232·4	147·4	196·4	189·4	
Textiles	144·3	73·5	85·9	82·0	
Electricity, gas and water (holding companies)	468·1	204·3	363·5	358·5	

* Including General Motors. † Including gramophone industry.
‡ Including U.S. Steel Corporation.

Prior to the downward movement of the last three weeks, industrial shares as a whole had recovered about 47 per cent. of the ground lost in last year's slump, while railroad stocks had recovered 39 per cent., and utility stocks 59 per cent. The figures for separate industrial groups, however, show that while share values in, *e.g.*, the tobacco industry, were actually *higher* last month than at the peak of 1929, and in such groups as electrical equipment, industrial chemical, telephone and telegraph, and oil were not very much below last year's highest, in other groups, such as automobiles, building equipment, textiles and retail trade, only a modest recovery was recorded. In the steel group the recovery was about "average," and in the public utility holding company group rather more than average.

This decidedly unequal distribution of gains, in a rising market, was held by many observers to reveal an absence of confidence, on the part of investors and speculators alike, in the recuperative powers of American industry as a whole, as distinct from those of certain specially favoured trades. The sharp "shake-out" last week-end, again, suggests an underlying fear in the markets that the rise in prices was running too far ahead of the recovery in industry. It was, in fact, no mere coincidence that the burst of selling followed the publication of earnings figures for the first quarter of the year, by many of the larger corporations, which made a demonstrably unfavourable comparison with those of twelve months earlier.

This view is borne out by an impressive body of evidence. In round terms, the data so far available indicate that the volume of industrial production in America



was something like 10 per cent. smaller in the first quarter of 1930 than of 1929, with aggregate profits showing a decline between 15 and 20 per cent. The first quarter's earnings of General Motors have fallen by about 25 per cent., and the aggregate figures of ninety-six other large industrial corporations show a fall of 16.9 per cent. Six railroad concerns show a shrinkage in income of 20.7 per cent. In the utilities group, nine companies show a recession of 3.5 per cent., but if the stabilising influence of American Telephone and Telegraph be excluded, the decline is as much as 11.3 per cent. Among the select number of instances of higher earnings so far recorded, the most noteworthy increases occur in the electric light and power, advertising, paper, railroad equipment and theatre groups.

More detailed accounts from individual industries confirm the view that while a few relatively minor trades are highly prosperous, activity in the more basic industries is running well below last year's level. The "mechanisation of the farm" movement is still making conspicuous headway, the motion picture firms are enjoying a "banner" year, and the American population smoked

5.47 per cent. more cigarettes last March than in March, 1929. On the other hand, the output of the automobile industry in the first three months of this year was only 68 per cent. of the 1929 figure, while sales of motor tyres in February were 30 per cent. below last year's level. Building construction contracts, again, were 12 per cent. less in the first quarter of 1930 than of 1929. Bituminous coal output is about 10 per cent. below last year's level. Steel production has gradually expanded in recent weeks, but a downward trend is expected before the summer. The American cotton mills took 20 per cent. less raw material in March this year than last, and for some time the woollen mills have been working at little more than 50 per cent. of capacity. Though the last recorded sales of electrical power in America show an advance of nearly 6 per cent. as compared with 1929, this figure, in fact, indicates a slowing down of the rate of increase, which a year earlier had been equivalent to 13 per cent. To complete the picture, it must be pointed out that agricultural purchasing power is still sub-normal (and will remain so unless short world crops bring higher prices some months hence), while declines have recently been recorded of 30 per cent. in lead and zinc prices, 40 per cent. in silver, and 30 per cent. in copper. Altogether, the economic basis for any sustained upward movement in share prices is difficult to discover, even by the most confirmed optimists.

The weight of evidence, in short, suggests that, for some groups at least, the recovery in share prices has been based on a premature assumption of industrial revival, and that the reaction of last week-end was a healthy movement. It is common ground that a substantial recovery in business, and in earnings, will come in time; but cautious observers are sceptical of its materialising before the autumn, or even later. The market appears to have put up prices prematurely this year in anticipation of a recovery *in the spring*, and subsequently to have sold on the growing realisation that this view could not be maintained in the face of unfavourable industrial news. If this interpretation of the situation is correct, a further period, not necessarily of wide-spread selling, but of irregularity and hesitation, may be expected in the next few weeks. Much will subsequently depend on the further trend of commodity prices, and on the progress of this year's American crops.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
May 20.	May 22.

Markets were dull and dispirited, partly as a result of events in New York and partly for reasons described by a " House " correspondent on page 1062. The week's new issues undoubtedly strained the market's powers of absorption. With gilt-edged stocks suffering from indigestion and the Budget, internationals afflicted by the Wall Street *malaise*, and the more speculative section overwhelmed by a fresh drop in base metal prices, no part of the Stock Exchange showed any disposition to shake off the prevailing lethargy. Selling was scattered rather than heavy, and, with careful nursing, it was possible to find buyers even for comparatively large lines. The " House," in short, suffered less from depression than lack of enterprise and inability to see far ahead.

Gilt-edged stocks were affected by the French gold withdrawals and the congestion of the new issue market. Fairly heavy declines occurred throughout the list on Monday, War Loan and the new Conversion issues, in particular, being offered in an unwilling market. The effect of last week's Bank rate reduction was of no more than twenty-four hours' duration, its influence this week being negligible. By mid-week, however, the general tone was steadier. India stocks were heavy on fears as to the political reactions of Mr Gandhi's arrest. Only a moderate business was done in Dominion and Colonial stocks at fractionally lower prices. Heavy stagging of the New Zealand Loan kept the price down to par, despite large over-subscription. Home corporation issues were firmer after a shaky start.

The foreign market was idle for the most part. Some amount of buying of European stocks was in progress in view of the coming Reparations Loan, but Turkish were easy on conflicting reports of the Debt Service discussions. After an initial reaction, San Paulo bonds improved on the ratification of the new loan by the San Paulo Congress.

Home rail prices sagged in the absence of investment interest. The week's traffic figures were better than was expected in the case of the Southern, but confirmed the downward movement in Midland and Scottish receipts. Among foreign railways, Argentines were sold on a poor traffic showing and a set-back to the peso. Brazilians lacked support, Leopoldinas showing a sharp drop on fears that next week's final dividend would not be maintained, though this opinion was not shared by the market generally. The Chilean nitrate proposals, discussed on page 1063, were regarded as a bull point for the railways.

The industrial market was dominated by the New York reaction and the absence of domestic public interest. All internationals were marked down at the outset, and, after a sharp response to Tuesday's rally in Wall Street, fell back on scattered selling. A fair business was done in the gramophone group, though prices were not maintained. Rayon shares were steadier, with the exception of Courtaulds, which lost fresh ground on sales from the North. " Cotton Week " had no effect on textile shares, a more powerful factor being the reduction of the J. and P. Coats' dividend from 20 per cent. to 17½ per cent. Unilever were heavy, despite a fair turnover, the new share offer being regarded as offering only moderate attractions at its issue price. Kreuger and Toll were harder after an initial marking down. Motor shares were dull, but iron and steel shares harder in places. Tobaccos were uninteresting but held their ground. Cables and Wireless " B " continued to recede, but Imperial Chemical were slightly harder on numerous small orders, after going ex-dividend. Bank shares were a shade better, but further declines occurred in the insurance share market.

The declining tendency in the rubber share market was partially arrested by the firmer tone of the commodity, which rose from 6 15/16d. on Tuesday to 6 31/32d. on Thursday. Rubber trusts, however, were lower on balance. Business in tea shares showed a slight expansion, but the tone remained dull. Oil shares suffered heavily in the New York reaction, and a firmer trend, subsequently, was checked by a further slight rise in the crude production figures.

Sharp declines in base metal prices greatly handicapped business in the mining share market. Tin fell as low as £142 7s. 6d. on Tuesday, and the subsequent improvement did not prevent a further retrogression in share prices, though one or two Eastern descriptions, including Malayan, Ipoh, Kamunting and Southern Tronoh were harder. Kaffirs were firmer after a poor start, with Langlaagte Estate a strong spot, and Robinson Deep B in demand in anticipation of a dividend this year. A feature was the strength of one or two Northern Rhodesian issues, Congo Borders jumping to 17½, while further appreciation was recorded in Anglo-American, Bwanas, Rhodesian Selection and Loangwas. With copper only just over £48, Tintos further declined, but strengthened at the close on limited support from Paris.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	May 1.	May 2.	May 5.	May 6.	May 7.	May 8.
Government and Municipal Loans	Stock Exchange Closed.	2,135	1,784	1,450	1,407	1,221
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities		1,615	1,343	1,077	1,081	1,048
Commercial and Industrial*		3,030	2,314	2,045	2,017	1,893
Banks, Insurance and Financial		778	582	495	517	507
Mines (including Nitrate)		696	581	479	532	485
Oil		282	260	192	191	133
Rubber, Tea and Coffee		222	197	153	199	133
Total	...	8,758	7,061	5,891	5,944	5,420

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	May 1.	May 2.	May 5.	May 6.	May 7.	May 8.
90·6	82·0	*	88·0	87·1	86·8	86·8	863

* Stock Exchange closed.

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The share market is turning dull, with greater stability of prices, after recovering about 40 per cent. of the decline suffered in the past fortnight. Sentiment is mixed, and there is little outspoken optimism, but it is believed in most quarters that, if a further decline ensues, it will at least be more gradual. It is now felt that the speculative excesses of the first three or four months in the share are well cleared up and the only heavy ones in immediate market, and the unwarranted hopes of a rapid trade recovery, have been fully liquidated, and that the immediate future depends on business. It is thought that the increasing plethora of money will tend to moderate any further decline in share prices and stimulate investment buying. The bond market is fairly strong and moderately active. New issues are held back owing to the unsettled conditions, and the week's offerings were only 130 millions, against 253 millions a week ago, but old offerings are well cleaned up and the only heavy ones in immediate prospect are the Japanese loan and the Reparations issue.

(*By Cable.*)

	Apr. 24.	May 1.	May 8.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104⅝	104⅝	105⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	111⅜	112	112⅛
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100⅛	100⅛	100⅛
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101⅛	101⅜	101⅛
Do. 4¼% '33-38	101⅜	101⅜	102⅛
Atchison	230½	219½	223
Ches. & Ohio	222	211	212
Erie	54	48	46½
Illinois Central	134	128	126
N.Y. Central	179½	169½	171½
Pennsylvania	81½	75⅜x	77⅜
Southern Pacific	123⅜	117½	120½
Southern Rly.	115⅛	102½	112½
Union Pacific	230	219	223
Am. Can.	147	141	136⅜
Alleghany Corp.	30⅜	27½	26½
Amer. Smelting	70⅞	68⅜	69
Anaconda	63⅜	59⅜	59
Bethlehem Steel	100⅜	97⅞	94
Chrysler Motor	38⅜	35½	31⅜
Corn Produce	109½	102⅜	102
Eastman Kodak	245½	242	238½
Gen. Electric(New)	88½	84½	77⅜
Gen. Motors	49½	46⅜	45⅜
Int. Harvester	107½	106	102⅞
Montg. Ward	46⅜	43⅜	41⅜
Natl. Biscuit	88⅛	84½	84½
Phelps Dodge	36	35½	38
Pullman	81½	77	78½
Sears-Roebuck	90½	85⅜	81⅜
Studebaker	38½	37½	36½
Un. Fruit	94	92½	92
U.S. Leather	14	11½	11½
U.S. Rubber	29⅜	28⅜	27½
U.S. Steel	189⅞	178	168⅛
Westinghouse	194½	183½	172
Woolworth	65½	64	63½
Worthington Pump	154	138½	122
Am. Pow. & Light	113⅜	110	98½
Am. Tel. & Tig.	255	248½	245½
Electric P. & L.	97	92	81½
Int. Tel. Teles.	75½	71⅜	62⅞
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	56⅜	53½	45
Radio Corpn.	67½	62⅜	46⅞
Utilities P. & L.	43⅜	43½	39½
W. Union Tlg.	183	175	181
Associated Gas "A"	40½	39⅜	39
Mid-Cont. Pet.	31⅛	31	28
Pan Amer. B.	57	62	58½
Sinclair Oil	30½	28⅜	26½
Std. California	72½	70⅜	68
Do. N.J.	81⅜	80½	75

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	Apr. 24.	May 1.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	170·2	167·1
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	140·9	135·9
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	264·1	262·5
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	180·5	177·3
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·16%	4·25%

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

British and Colonial Government Securities.

	Closing Prices. Apr. 30.	May 8.	Rise or Fall.
Conv. Loan 3½%	76⅛	77⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	98	98⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64	102½	102⅛	− ⅜
War Loan 5% 1929-47	101½x	101⅜	+ ⅛
Consols 4%	87½	87⅜	− ⅛
Funding 4%	91	89½	− 1½
Victory Bonds 4%	93½	93½	...
Local Loans 3%	63½	63⅜	+ ⅛
Treasury 5% (B)	101⅛	102⅛	+ ⅛
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	101	101	...
India 3½%	63½	62	− 1½
Do. 4½% 1958-68	86	82	− 4
Australia 5% 1945-75	92	91⅜	− ⅝
N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	89½	89½	...
N. Zealand 5% 1946	101	101	...

Foreign Government Securities.

Japanese 6% (1924)	102	101⅜	− ⅛
Argentine 4% Recns.	88	88	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	102½	103½	+ 1
Belgian 7%	112	109½	− 2½
Brazil 6½% (1927)	87	86½	− ½
China 5% (1912)	48	47½	− ½
Egypt Unified 4%	79½	78	− 1½
French 5%	20⅜	20⅜	...
French 4% (Brit.)	20½	20	− ½
German 7%	104	105½	+ 1½
Greek 7% Refugee	104	101⅛	− 2⅜
Hungary 7½%	102	102⅜	+ ⅜
Chili 6%	96⅛	96⅛	...
Poland 7%	88½	88	− ½
Mexican 5% (1899)	20	19	− 1
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	93	91½	− 1½

Corporation Stocks.

B'mgham 5% 1946–56	101	101	...
Bristol 5% 1950–60	101	101	...
L.C.C. 3%	64	64x	+ ⅜
E. London 5% 1960-70	98	98	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	92	90x	+ ⅝
Berlin 6% Ster.	94	95	+ 1

British and Foreign Railways.

G. Western Ord. Stk.	85½	86½	+ ⅜
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	10	9⅜	− ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	29½	29⅜	+ ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	49⅜	50⅛	+ ⅜
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66⅜	67	+ ⅛
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77⅛	77⅛	...
Southern Def. Stk.	31	31	...
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	72⅛	72⅛	...
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Do. Income Bonds	110	110	...
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	208½	205½	− 3
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	85⅛	84⅛	− 1
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	85x	83½	− 1½
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	94½	93	− 1½
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	76	74½	− 1½
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	80⅛	78⅛	− 2
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	17	17	...
G.W. of Brazil £10	3⅛	3⅛x	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	57	54½	− 2½
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	195½	188½x	− 2
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$30⅛	$28½	− 2
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	19	18	− 1
Beira Rlwy. no par	1⅛	1⅛	...

Banks.

Bank of England Stk.	251½	252	+ ½
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅜	3⅜	+ ⅛
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅜	3⅜	− ⅛
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅜	13⅜	+ ⅛
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$115½	$112½	− 3
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15	15	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛

Insurance.

Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	24½	24½	− ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	29½	28½	− ½
Pearl (£1)	13½	13½	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14⅜	13⅜	− ⅛
Roy.In.£1, with 10/ pd.	8	7⅞	− ⅛

Coal, Iron and Steel.

Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2⅛	2⅛x	...
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	¼	¼	...
Cory, William (£1)	2⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅜	⅜	− ⅛
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Vickers (6/8)	⅜	⅜	− ⅛

Textiles.

Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛

Electrical Manufacturing.

Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
General Electric (£1)	2⅜	2⅛	+ ⅛
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	− ⅛
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	2	1⅞x	...

Electric Light and Power.

Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅞	1⅛	− ⅛
City of London (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	50⅜	45⅜x	...
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛

Gas.

Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅜	⅜	+ ⅛
Imp. Continental Stk.	405	385	− 20
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	103	103	...

Telegraphs and Cables.

Cables and Wireless	*A Ord.*	52⅛	49	− 3⅛	*Canadian Marconi*
	B Ord.	26⅛	23	− 3⅛	*Marconi Marine* (£1)
					Oriental Telephone (£1)

Canadian Marconi	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	2⅛	2	− ⅛
Oriental Telephone (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...

Motors.

Austin (5/-)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Dennis (1/)	3⅛	2⅞x	...
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Leyland (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Napier (5/-)	⅜	⅜	...

Shipping.

Cunard (£1)	1	1⅛	+ ⅛
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	− ⅛
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛x	...
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25	26½	+ 1⅛

Tea and Rubber.

Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	25½	24½	− 1
London Asiatic (2/)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...

Oil.

Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅛	⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4½	4½	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Royal Dutch (£5)	34½	33	− 1½
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛

Miscellaneous.

Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$52⅛	$47⅛	− 2½
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	...
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	9½	9	− ½
Columbia Graph. (10/)	6⅛	5⅛x	− 1⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	− ⅛
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	− ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
International Holdings	6⅛	6⅛	− ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can.	36⅞	32⅞	− 4
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	32⅛	32⅛	− ⅛
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6	5⅞	− ⅛
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Sued Match.Bk (kr 100)	17	16⅞	− ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅞	3⅞	− ⅛
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
United Molasses (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	− ⅛
Watney Combe Df. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...

Mines.

Anglo-Amer. ofS.A. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
De Beers Def. (£2½)	9⅛	8⅛	− ⅛
" *Chartered* " 15/f.p.	1⅛	1⅛	...
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	...
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅜	⅜	...
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	1½	1⅜	− ⅛
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅛	2⅜	+ ⅛
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	15½	17½	+ 2
Rio Tinto (£5)	41⅛	39⅜	− 1⅝
Roan Antelope Cpr. (5/)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅜	1⅜	+ ⅛
UnionOrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅜	3⅜	...

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	Apr. 30.	May 1.	May 2.	May 3.	May 5.	May 6.	May 7.
202·4	166·5	192·7	188·7	183·2	177·2	178·3	184·9	180·2

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	May 1.	May 2.	May 3.*	May 5.	May 6.	May 7.	May 8.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	4,633	5,977	4,863	8,279	4,746	4,288	3,747
Bonds (Value—Thous. $).....	14,935	13,558	7,719	12,508	12,866	11,965	10,393
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,122	1,687	1,537	2,541	1,213	1,022	866

* 2-hour session.

PARIS.

During the month of April, particularly the first half, the Paris stock markets were better supported than of late, and the tone became livelier with the gradual return of public confidence. The chemical products, mining, and electrical groups led the revival. When, however, the Stock Exchange reopened, after a four-days' Easter holiday, the movement, which it had been hoped would continue, was appreciably duller. The sharp reduction in the price of copper, which had such an unfortunate effect on the London metal market, was also a cause of uneasiness in Paris. Nevertheless, the tax reductions which have recently taken place give grounds for hoping that the Paris market will soon regain its animation and stability.

As from May 1st, until the end of October, the Paris Bourse will remain closed on Saturdays, in accordance with the usual practice during the non-winter six months.

BERLIN.

During April the German stock markets continued to feel the effects of the international lowering of interest rates. While the discount rate of the Reichsbank was not reduced, private rates were lowered from 4⅞ to 4⅛ per cent., and 30-day money from 6 to 5 per cent. Small bank depositors, as well as speculators, turned to domestic interest-bearing securities. The small capitalist endeavoured to place his money at long terms at 7½ and 8 per cent., while the speculator calculated on a speedy improvement in quotations as a result of the dropping of the discount rates in the money market. The general loan index of *Der Deutsche Volkswirt* increased in April from 90 to somewhat over 92.

In contrast to the gilt-edged market, the industrial stock market was quiet, so that, despite small increases in quotations at the beginning of the month and considerable gains on the part of certain favourites, the general level dropped some points during the month. It was doubtless due mainly to the unfavourable estimate of the German economic situation that cheaper rates for money were unable to exert any influence whatever on average quotations. The " laying-off " of workmen in the mining, electrical and chemical industry, in connection with the decline of prices for numerous raw materials and finished wares, caused the Bourse to fear that the profits of the most important industrial undertakings in 1930 would be below those of the preceding year. Mining and paper shares and Siemens and Halske shares were especially depressed. There was, however, a continuing demand for Kali, which was already a favourite in March, and Salzdetfurth gained strongly as a result of a very favourable result for 1929. Reichsbank shares also improved as a result of purchases abroad. In the last days of the month I. G. Farbenindustrie finally rose some ten points, the Bourse being pleasantly surprised by the distribution of a 2 per cent. bonus by the company in addition to its 12 per cent. dividend. The turnover, however, was very small even for the favourite counters. The proceeds of the tax on turnover, which in March reached the lowest point for two years, were probably not exceeded in April.

Official " Cash " Quotations in all cases.

	Apr. 5.	May 5.		Apr. 5.	May 5.
Banking and Insurance.			*Industrials—cont.*		
Berliner Handelsg.	177	176	Daimler-Benz	43	41
Commerz und Privat	162½	150x	Dessauer Gas	177	168
Darmstädter	242	228x	Deutsche Erdöl....	107	103
Deutsche and Disconto	151	142x	Deutsche Linoleum	258	243
Dresdner	155	144x	Dynamit Nobel....	85½	88
Reichsbank.....	294	299	Farbenindustrie ...	179	185
Allianz und Stuttgarter	202	208	Feldmühle Papier.	182	178
Nordstern	243	245	Gelsenkirchen.....	144½	139
Communications.			Görlitzer Waggon	108	106
Deutsche Reichsbahn	93½	95¼	Harpener	132	125
Hamburg-Amerika	109	112	Hirsch Kupfer	114	...
Hamburg - Süd - Amerika.....	169	171½	Kali Aschersleben	220	228
Hansa.....	161	160	Karstadt	137	135
Norddeutscher Lloyd.....	108	112	Lindström	589	631
Industrials.			Mannesmann	112½	106
Allg. Elektrizität	175	172	Nationale Autom.	21	18½
Augsburg - Nürnberg. Masch.	78	76½	Orenstein und Koppel.....	82	93
Bemberg	150	140	Polyphon	300	284
Bergmann.....	207	185	Rutgers	81	70½
Continental Gummi	177	175x	Salzdetfurth	375	400
			Sarotti	137	135
			Schlesische Textilwerke.....	16m	19
			Schultheiss-Patzenhofer	298	302
			Siemens und Halske	267	243
			Tietz.....	160	151
			Verein. Stahlwerke	102	98
			Zellstoff Waldhoff	205	183

x Ex Dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Dullness of Markets—a " House " View.—A note from a member of the " House " expresses, tersely and with vigour, the view of the Stock Exchange as regards the present dullness of markets. No little disappointment, he declares, is felt at the tepid character of the markets in sound stocks and shares. According to reasonable anticipation, the market in investment stocks should be enjoying a considerable volume of business. Unfortunately, the Consol market—which covers British Government securities, Home and Colonial Corporation stocks, the issues of India and the Dominions, and various other securities of the best class—is no whit busier than before Bank rate came down. What is the reason for this inertia? In the first place, the gilt-edged market is suffering from threats of indigestion. Numerous five per cent. stocks were rushed out about par last month, and others are on the way. This week we have had heavy loans from New Zealand, and the Agricultural Mortgage Bank, not to mention the Unilever issue, and a big reparations loan looms on the horizon. The Budget, again remains a source of uneasiness in the minds of many investors, who are choosing to keep their spare resources on deposit with their bankers for the time being, even at a negligible rate of interest. The gilt-edged market thus finds that the Budget has merely brought in heavy sales by speculators who had bought a good deal more gilt-edged stock than they were able to digest with comfort. The average investor feels, vaguely, that it will be necessary for him to economise, owing to the additional taxation, which is being kept in the forefront of his attention, at the moment, by the circulation of demands for income tax returns for the current year. The net result is that Stock Exchange business, with very few exceptions, has fallen to something like midsummer proportions. Its reduction in volume has been accompanied, inevitably, by a sagging of prices. The market, however, has been

through many such periods in the past, and has invariably re-emerged into activity. Human nature is always bullish, in the long run, and in times like the present broker and jobber alike fall back upon this comforting assurance.

Preference Shares as Investments.—A good deal of discussion has lately ranged round the position of the preference share. It is held in some quarters that it tends to be a costly instrument both to borrowers and investors. Apart from last year, when conditions were somewhat abnormal, the rate offered on new issues of preference shares has tended to rise of recent years:—

Average Rates Paid on New Issues of Preference Capital in London.

	%		%
1913.....	5·74	1927	6·67
1925.....	6·10*	1928	7·37
1926.....	6·70	1929	6·58

* Lowest post-war figure.

The ratio of new preference share capital to ordinary capital has also been declining in the last few years, as will be seen from the following figures of new ordinary and preference share issues in London:—

PUBLIC ISSUES OF NEW CAPITAL IN LONDON.

	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Preference stocks and shares	22,955,600	39,393,200	36,836,600	45,062,600	31,543,400
Ordinary stocks and shares	33,661,300	46,209,400	89,371,400	111,177,600	116,017,600
Amount of Preference to every £100 Ord.	£68	£85	£41	£40	£27

The critics of the preference share maintain that holders are required to surrender, not merely their equity in a company's future growth, but also, in the majority of cases, their voting power. Their status thus tends to be that of " outsiders," without the security as regards income and principal possessed by debenture holders. In schemes of reconstruction they are frequently required to consent to heavy sacrifices, particularly as regards arrears of dividend, simply because they have no stick (in the shape of a charge on fixed or floating assets) with which to beat the directors. Preference shares with participating rights offer some attractions in theory, but in practice have never been popular. To-day, they are less popular than ever, as a result of their serious abuse during the " shilling share " boom. Altogether, according to this view, the Preference share is tending to fall between two stools, and the future must be left to show whether the power to issue redeemable preference shares, conferred on British companies by the new Companies' Act, will revive its former popularity. At present, it is tending to be regarded rather as a means of slightly raising the average income yield of a diversified holding of fixed-interest securities, rather than as an instrument of investment with a definite *raison d'être*.

Company Defaults—Further Prosecutions.—A fortnight ago (see the *Economist*, April 26, 1930, page 954), we discussed the important issues involved, from the investor's point of view, in the prosecution initiated by the Board of Trade against a company for making default in forwarding to Somerset House the annual return required under the Companies' Act. A further development has occurred this week. On Tuesday last, summonses were heard at Guildhall against six companies " for neglecting to hold general meetings in 1929 as required under the Companies' Act." The companies concerned were the Anglo-Scottish Securities, Ltd., Asbestos and General Trust, Ltd., Belgian Finance Company, Ltd., St. Paul's River Tin Company, Bolivia Trading Corporation, and Kamounghla Tavoy Tin Company, Ltd. Some of the cases were adjourned, but as regards the remainder, fines totalling £460 were imposed on the companies and certain directors. All these cases were brought upon information lodged by the Stock Exchange Committee. The prosecuting counsel for the Board of Trade enunciated the dictum that " it is very right and proper " that the Committee should exercise " a good deal of vigilance " as to the manner in which companies carry out their legal obligations. The action taken by the Board of Trade is thus the first fruits, by no means negligible, of the Committee's exploration of the whole question of " Permission to Deal." From an answer to a parliamentary question, given by the President of the Board of Trade on Tuesday, however, it is clear that the Board is not yet prepared to go as far as some critics would desire. The Board still regards it as impracticable to compile a complete list of companies in default, in any year, until after the end of the following January, and thereafter will not take definite steps until the attention of the companies has been called to the default and an opportunity has been given them of complying with the law. For the rest, the Board is still clearly inclined to leave to individual shareholders the initiative of taking police court proceedings or bringing irregularities to its attention. The question of improving the machinery for enforcing the law, however, is under consideration, and Parliament will, if necessary, be asked to increase the Board's available staff for the purpose.

Associated Automatic Machine Corporation.—The first annual report of this " Hatry " flotation shows a total loss of £1,564,051, and reveals a disgraceful series of irregularities before the Hatry crash occurred. The resources of the company were squandered to finance the extravagances of the Hatry coterie. Gilt-edged securities to the value of £450,000 were realised, the proceeds being used to purchase shares of little or no value, in the Hatry group. Excessive prices paid for shares in subsidiaries, together with loans raised in the name of the company, but used to finance the Dundee Trust, Ltd., and Austin Friars Trust, Ltd., were other factors in the company's huge loss. The present directors, on taking over, found themselves with " very onerous trade commitments and irregular financial debts " of £484,000 which were settled for £183,000, approximately 7s. 6½d. in the pound. The position regarding the former board is *sub-judice*, but the melancholy story suggests at least one lesson—that a year is an unduly long time for the first run of a new company without the publication of a balance sheet. It also reveals the extent to which, in the best as in the worst flotations, the investor is compelled to rely on the honesty and reputation of the promoter, which, in the last resort, is a new concern's greatest asset—or liability.

Chilean Nitrate Developments. — We referred in last week's *Economist* to the proposal for the formation of a £75,000,000 company to take over all the Chilean nitrate fields, the Chilean Government being allotted one-half of the capital and ceding in return all the undeveloped nitrate fields and remitting the export tax of £2 10s. per ton. The latest report of Messrs Aikman (London), Ltd., the leading nitrate brokers, states that the Chilean

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Government has decided to present to Congress a Bill authorising the creation of such a company, with a capital of 3,000 million pesos, to be known as the Compania Salitrera Nacional (" Cosana "). The company will guarantee that the Government's revenue, including dividends and income tax, for the first three years, shall not be less than £4,500,000 in 1931, £4,000,000 in 1932 and £3,500,000 in 1933, which sums the company will have power to raise by the issue of debentures, the service of which will be a first charge on the profits. After 1933 the Government will renounce its right to priority treatment and will depend for its revenue on its 50 per cent. shareholding. The company is to have a life of 60 years and is to be managed by a board of 12 directors, of whom four will be nominated by the Government and eight by the producers. It is the intention of " Cosana " to take over the debentures, loans and preference shares of the existing nitrate companies as a first charge on profits. If there is any dispute among the companies as to the terms on which they are to be merged (which seems more than likely), the dispute is to be submitted to arbitration, the deciding vote on the arbitration committee lying with the Government's nominee. Messrs Aikman are of opinion that the merger will prove beneficial to the shareholders of the existing nitrate companies, most of the latter having a prospective life of only ten years, whereas " Cosana " will have reserves of caliche for at least 60 years. Moreover, the consolidation of all producers into one company will enable costs to be reduced by centralising production in the cheapest oficinas, while the removal of the export duties should once more place the industry on a profitable basis. Messrs Aikman intend, therefore, to recommend the companies in which they are interested to negotiate for an exchange of holdings. The important fact behind this announcement is that the Chilean Government has apparently secured the entire support of the influential Guggenheim interests, which now dominate the Chilean nitrate industry. Messrs Aikman confirm the report that conversations have taken place between the representatives of the European synthetic nitrogen producers and those of the Chilean industry to explore the possibilities of reaching an agreement on production and prices for an extended period. No decision has yet been reached and the discussions will be renewed in a fortnight's time. On these discussions depend the immediate fate of the Chilean nitrate industry. If no agreement is reached with the synthetic nitrogen manufacturers the Chilean producers will probably embark on a policy of increased output and more intensive competition at lower prices.

Dunlop Rubber Balance Sheet.—At the general meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Company this week the chairman referred to the changes made in the company's balance sheet. Some of the alterations conform with the requirements of the new Companies Act; others represent a departure from established practice. The resulting document gives a much clearer view of the company's position. The sub-divisions of investments and advances as between subsidiary companies associated companies and sundry investments are required under the Companies Act—advances to subsidiaries are rightly not treated as current assets—but a departure from custom is the inclusion in the profit and loss account of the appropriations to reserve and the proposed final dividends, less income tax. This enables the balance sheet to show clearly the final liquid position of the company, the final dividends and taxation reserve being shown separately under the heading of current liabilities. Another improvement in the balance sheet is the disclosure of a separate reserve " for inter-company profits in stock valuations of subsidiary companies." This arises as a result of inter-company transactions, in the course of which goods may be sold from subsidiary A to subsidiary B, and appear in subsidiary B's balance sheet at " cost," which includes a profit on the sale from A to B, although the goods have not in fact been sold to the public. One result of these changes in the profit and loss account and balance sheet is the disclosure at a glance that the Dunlop Rubber Company has a working capital of £2,874,573 (*i.e.*, current assets less current liabilities), while a simple calculation will show that its ordinary shares have a book value of 9s. 10d. per share. Unfortunately it is still impossible to find out precisely what its net assets, valued at £23,151,376, are earning, since the net profits (before depreciation, directors' fees and interest) of £2,226,612, contain not the real earnings of the subsidiaries but only the earnings to the extent of the dividends declared by these subsidiaries in respect of 1929. A holding company will never disclose its real earnings until it publishes a *consolidated* profit and loss account and balance sheet. This is not yet required by the Companies Act, but we suggest that it is the next reform which the Dunlop Rubber Company should make.

British Match Corporation.—The accounts of this holding company for the financial year ended April 30 last are the best results since the company's incorporation (under its present auspices) in 1927. On a slightly augmented capital, net profit amounts to £493,931, an increase of £73,258 over the total for the previous twelve months. Preference dividend at 5½ per cent. requires £23,121 after tax, while a distribution of 6 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares (as last year) requires £371,501:—

	Year ending April 30, 1928.† £	1929. £	1930. £
Ordinary capital	6,000,000	6,187,269	6,187,500
Net profit	407,425	420,673	493,931
Brought forward	...	35,855	51,209
Preference dividend.....	...	14,426‡	23,121
Rate per cent.	...	5½	5½
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*407,425*	*406,247*	*470,810*
Paid £	290,500*	371,236*	371,250*
Earned per cent.	*6·7*	*6·6*	*7·6*
Paid per cent.	6	6*	6*
Other allocations	81,070	19,657	83,302
Carried forward	35,855	51,209	67,467

† 8½ months. ‡ Half-year. * Tax free.

The directors recommend that the sum of £3,302 be set aside for the purpose of writing off the item, " Office fittings and furniture," while the heavy item of £800,000 for goodwill is to be reduced by £80,000. Some £67,467 is carried forward, against £51,209 brought in from the last account. The balance sheet reveals few important changes, the company's shareholdings in subsidiaries being virtually unaltered, though cash is down from £330,218 to £240,443. During the year 231 ordinary shares and 413 5½ per cent. preference shares were issued in connection with the acquisition of 307 ordinary shares and 275 7 per cent. preference shares in Bryant and May (Brazil), Ltd., the whole of whose issued capital the corporation now holds. At their present price of 26s. 9d. the ordinary £1 shares give a yield of about £4 12s. per cent., tax free, allowing for a final dividend of 4 per cent.

Guest, Keen and Nettlefold Debentures.—The dispute over the proposal of the directors of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold to vary the terms of the 4 per cent. irredeemable debenture stock may strike some observers as being a storm in a tea-cup. This debenture stock is secured specifically on certain properties and carries a floating charge on the whole of the assets. No other charge can be created equal or prior to these debentures. As several of the mortgaged properties are to be transferred in connection with the Guest, Keen-Baldwins " rationalisation " scheme, the directors propose that the debenture holders should give up their specific charge and be content with a floating charge. They offer, in return for this concession, to convert the stock into a redeemable stock and establish a cumulative sinking fund, beginning at £30,000 a year, which is to be applied either by purchase or annual drawings at 90. Objection is taken to the drawings at 90

on the ground, presumably, that the stock in a period of cheap money in the next 30 years might rise to par. Without necessarily subscribing to this or any other prophetic view, the directors may choose tactfully to withdraw a concession which does not appear to please the debenture-holders or benefit the company. There is only £1,850,000 of 4 per cent. debenture stock outstanding, and the interest of £74,000 a year is covered by earnings, last reported at £956,000. Given this handsome security with which to bargain, the task of coming to terms with the debenture-holders should not present insuperable difficulties. As we go to press we note that the directors proposals have been approved (see page 1082).

Swedish Ball Be aring Co.—The report and accounts for 1929 of A/B Svenska Kullagerfabriken (S.K.F.), the largest group of manufacturers of ball and roller bearings in the world, supplying over one-third of the world's requirements, are voluminous and informative. The report declares that the favourable trade conditions which began in 1928 culminated in July, 1929, and in the last quarter of the year a somewhat reduced demand was noticeable. The output from the Swedish factories reached a new high level, and the factories in France and Germany considerably increased their production. In the United States and in Great Britain factory extensions have been made. In Germany the various ball-bearing factories acquired have been merged into a single unit, and this control has given the company the same predominating influence on the German ball-bearing market as it secured in France in 1928. Thus it has been able to continue its policy of standardising and rationalising the European ball-bearing industry. The earnings and distribution of profits for the past three years are shown:—

	1927.	1928. (Thousand Kr.)	1929.
Net profit	17,319	26,035	30,809
Depreciation and tax, &c.	6,471	8,863	9,573
Available for ordinary shares	10,848	17,172	21,236
Per cent. earned	*11·7*	*16·2*	*16·3*
Per cent. paid	10·0	12·0	12·0
To reserve	1,161	Nil	Nil
Carry forward	1,057	5,509	11,145
Issued capital	92,000	106,000	130,000

The directors point out that the profits are derived from manufacturing in Sweden and from the dividends declared by subsidiary and other companies, and that only a portion of the subsidiary companies' profits has been distributed. Moreover, the new investments in the German factories, coming into effect as from July 1st last, have not contributed to the company's dividend income. A consolidated balance sheet for the S.K.F. group as a whole is given with the report, together with comparative figures for the preceding three years. As at December 31, 1929, the working capital (earned assets less current liabilities) of the group was over 121 million kroner. During the year the company's shareholdings showed a net increase of 26.4 million kroner, chiefly on account of the new German investments and the taking over of minority holdings in the company's French factories, and for this reason the capital of the company was increased by the issue of 24 million kroner in " B " shares, to the present total of 130 million kroner in 92 million kroner " A " shares and 38 million kroner " B " shares. The " B " shares are internationally quoted. On the London Stock Exchange they are currently valued at £12¾ cum dividend.

I.-G. Farbenindustrie.—The net profits of the German chemical trust in 1929 were somewhat lower than in the preceding year. The annual report is not yet available, but the falling off is generally ascribed to less favourable conditions in the nitrogen trade. After writing off 70.1 million marks, against 71.8 million marks in the preceding year, the company shows net profits of 104.6 million marks, against 118.5 millions for 1928. Five million marks are deducted from profits for welfare purposes, but reserves are not increased. The dividend is unchanged at 12 per cent. on a capital of 800 million marks, of which 250 million marks of convertible debentures carry 6 per cent. interest. The stockholders (who at the beginning of 1928 and of 1929 received a stock dividend) this year receive a cash payment of 2 per cent. on the common shares and of 1 per cent. on the debentures, from funds received by the company from the release of property sequestrated in America. The company's factories and selling undertakings in the United States were confiscated during the war, and the amount received by the American Alien Property Custodian has now been released, the company obtaining some 21 million marks in cash.

American Tobacco Consumption.—With reference to our leading article last week, on " American Tobacco Companies," it may be of interest to record a gain in cigarette production in the United States for the first three months of 1930. Output reached the record total of 27,788 million cigarettes, as against 26,912 million in the first quarter of 1929, a gain of 3.25 per cent. The production of cigars continued its downward trend, the total for the three months ending March being 1,300 million, as against 1,356 million in the corresponding quarter of 1929, a decline of 4.13 per cent. Nevertheless, the 5 cent cigar increased in popularity and accounted for 62.4 per cent. of the total cigar production up to March. Neither Liggett and Myers nor Reynolds Tobacco manufacture cigars. American Tobacco has its interest in this trade through the American Cigar Company, which has started an intensive sales campaign on the 5 cent cigar. Lorillard is the only one of the four large cigarette companies directly competing in the cheap cigar business. At this stage of development, however, profits on the 5 cent cigar are of modest dimensions.

Indian Gold Mining. — Our mining correspondent writes:—Considerable irregularity is shown by the results of the Kolar group for the year, the balance being on the wrong side. Balaghat paid the same dividends as before—1s. 6d. on the preference, 6d. on the ordinary—but the ore reserves indicate a substantial reduction. With the Champion Reef a marked advance in grade was, to some extent, offset by decline in tonnage milled and consequent increase in cost ratio; still, a fresh expansion in dividend was practicable, 1s. 3d. per share being disbursed as against 1s. for 1928 and 9d. in respect of each of the three preceding years. In the main the reduction in the profits of the Mysore is attributable to the exhaustion of the old tailings dump, which caused both a shrinkage in revenue and an advance in the cost per ton milled, which now has to include the whole of the fixed charges. At £279,350 the net liquid assets at the date of the balance sheet are lower by £31,950; the year's capital expenditure amounted to £52,200. The company's incursion into Canadian mining has proved unfortunate. The interests held are now written down to £34,600 by the appropriation of £55,000 from the reserve fund. For last year the Mysore dividend total was cut from 2s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per share. An appreciable relapse has occurred in the ore reserves.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher, " Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

The following tabulation contrasts the salient features of the results of the past three financial periods of the five companies:—

	Tons of ore milled.	Mill yield per ton.	Working profit.	Carried forward.*	Ore reserve tonnage.
		Dwts.	£	£	
Balaghat—					
1927	45,250	13⅜	30,140	5,650	70,390
1928	47,950	12½	24,150	7,580	74,130
1929	50,100	13	26,040	7,080	56,000
Champion Reef—					
1927	95,150	†11¼	40,930	4,390	260,220
1928	111,160	†9½	39,120	4,690	269,360
1929	101,280	†11	52,370	4,250	278,100
Mysore—					
1927	221,900	†9½	179,900	18,510	557,200
1928	217,200	†9½	177,890	20,040	569,620
1929	213,040	†9½	130,710	8,670	517,020
Nundydroog—					
1927	126,250	8¾	80,750	7,220	221,160
1928	126,640	9¾	93,170	12,770	246,460
1929	129,860	10¼	108,080	11,190	265,600
Ooregum—					
1927	150,000	†12¼	145,640	10,150	353,330
1928	150,000	†11	99,930	9,990	295,130
1929	165,450	† 8¾	76,560	13,760	270,800

* Subject to directors' percentage. † Average assay value.

Thanks to a further all-round improvement, especially in the value of the ore opened up, the Nundydroog has been able to disburse 2s. 6d. per share—continuing the progressive increase of recent years. With the Ooregum, a fall in grade has proved the outstanding adverse influence. Last year's dividends on the ordinary shares totalled only 1s. as against 1s. 9d. for 1928 and 2s. 3d. for 1927, and the outlook is uncertain. Here, also, Canadian interests have been written down by an appropriation from reserve. Little change is shown in the financial position, the net liquid assets on December 31st amounting to £126,600. The shares of all the companies have lately fallen in price owing to the disturbances on the field. Conditions having become more settled, Champion Reef and Nundydroog may be worth the attention of the speculative investor.

Anglo - American Corporation. — The outstanding feature of last year was the expansion which took place in the scale of operations, the balance-sheet total of £15,200,900 being nearly £4,000,000 up. In part this arose from the issue of 281,550 shares at £2; but in a larger degree from increase in the deposits by affiliated companies and others, these figuring at £6,052,600 as against £4,516,600. Shares and interests now stand for £7,313,850, in place of £5,311,300; debtors at £3,232,150, against £1,229,000. Cash has risen by £436,400 to £1,144,300; nevertheless, the position is anything but liquid. The additional capital, being embarked in Northern Rhodesia, did not immediately earn its keep, while conditions during a large portion of 1929 did not favour the business of finance companies. Thus the net profit declined £50,000 to £721,000. The capital now ranking for dividend is £2,000,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference stock and a like amount in 10s. ordinary shares. Upon the former a half-year's distribution was required; upon the latter 2s. 3d. per share, or 22½ per cent., has been paid, as against 12½ per cent. upon £3,718,450 in £1 shares for 1928. The sums absorbed were respectively £510,000 and £464,800. Once again the appropriation account receives an adventitious contribution in the shape of taxation reserve written back. In the present statement the net premiums on the new share issue, also the dividend equalisation reserve of £250,000, are taken to credit. By the appropriation of £450,000 the reserve for stabilisation of diamond interests is raised to three-quarters of a million, while £240,000—representing two year's requirements—is set aside as a preference stock dividend reserve. Both are employed in the business. As usual, short particulars are given of the company's principal holdings, which comprise South African gold, diamond and land interests and a participation in the Northern Rhodesian copper industry through the Rhodesian Anglo-American. The ordinary shares of the Anglo-American Corporation are quoted at 1 5/16 and the preference stock at 93, showing a return of about 8½ and 6½ per cent. respectively.

Waihi.—The report for last year makes much more agreeable reading than could have been expected. In the 1928 document the directors emphasised the deterioration which had taken place in the developments, and at the meeting the chairman intimated that continuation of the dividend rate could not be expected after 1929. Meantime, the prosecution of underground work has been attended with satisfactory results, and the superintendent reports that "there are many points in the mine at which further investigation is warranted." In these circumstances the ore reserves show only a small decrease, though they do not represent more than eighteen months' supply. At £117,500 the profit is up to the extent of a few thousands; but reference to the accounts indicates the revenue to have been swollen by a special amount of £12,540, "reduction of bullion in process of treatment." Special appropriations require much the same as before, and the directors declare a final dividend of 1s. per share tax free, making a total of 2s., the same as for eight preceding years. The outstanding feature in the position is the strength of the finances. The company holds gilt-edged securities to a total of £371,000, and in September next year is due to receive from the New Zealand Government £212,500 in respect of its hydro-electric works. These amounts together represent about 12s. per Waihi 5s. share, now quoted at 14s. cum 1s. dividend.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Great Western of Brazil Railway, Union Bank of Scotland, London and Lancashire Insurance, London Assurance, Equitable Life Assurance Society, Friends' Provident and Century Life Office, Scottish Union and National Insurance, Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance, Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, London Asiatic Rubber and Produce, Rembau Jelei Rubber, Kepong (Malay) Rubber Estates, Anglo-American Debenture Corporation, Spillers, and Howard and Bullough. At the London Asiatic Rubber and Produce Company meeting the chairman said that the crop produced during the past year totalled over 4,900,000 lbs., and exceeded that of 1928 by 1,250,000 lbs., while, as a result of the increase in the crop harvested, the cost of production was the lowest in the history of the company. Presiding at the forty-third annual meeting of Spillers, Ltd., Mr. E. A. V. Baker said that German oats, comparable with the best oats grown in this country, had been sold at prices to which there was no parallel since 1894, while Russia had exported barley to this country at prices as much as 10s. below the ruling values. At the annual meeting of the Great Western of Brazil Railway Company the chairman reminded shareholders that the improvement of general trade depended largely on the price of sugar, and said that arrangements were being made to export half a million bags now with the object of stabilising local prices during the next season.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

New issues this week were heavy, and, in some cases at least, appeared to be based less on the absorptive capacity of the market than on the financial exigencies of the borrowers. The trustee issues of the week included a *New Zealand Government* loan, giving a shade over 5 per cent. for 19 years—an excellent issue by a popular borrower, which was largely over-subscribed—and the debenture stock of the *Agricultural Mortgage Corporation*, which, at par, was somewhat dearly priced. The *Unilever* issue of 2,000,000 £1 ordinary shares at £3, with preferential consideration to existing shareholders, was affected by market movements which, unfortunately, wiped out the " turn " on the new shares. The company would have been well advised, in view of the very large amount of the issue, to fix the issue price at a somewhat lower premium than 200 per cent. The cover for the *Rhodesia and Mashonaland Consolidated* debentures was not unusually wide, but a rapid expansion of traffic has characterised the results of recent years' working, and potentialities in connection with the development of the Rhodesian copper areas are, of course, very considerable. *The Home and Foreign Investment Trust*, which offered £353,420 of 5 per cent. debenture stock at 95, is a small but successful trust established in 1926, with the managing director of G. and J. Weir on its board. This issue, also, was highly priced.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to May 3, 1930, £116,538,084.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to May 3, 1930, £177,138,108.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended May 3, 1930, £100,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to May 3, 1930, £550,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Unilever, Ltd.	2,000,000	...	6,000,000	500,000	5,500,000
New Zealand Govt. Inscribed Stock	5,500,000	...	5,445,000	275,000	5,170,000
Home and Foreign Investment	353,420	...	335,749	335,749	...
Sutton Gas	26,672	...	26,139	8,002	18,137
Rhodesia Railways	2,500,000	...	2,512,500	125,000	2,387,500
Agricultural Mortgage Corporation	3,500,000	...	3,500,000	175,000	3,325,000
Total offered to Public, week ended May 10, 1930	13,880,092	...	17,819,388	1,418,751	16,400,637
To Shareholders only.					
Hanipha (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber, 25,000 £1 shares at £2	25,000	...	50,000	50,000	...
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended May 10, 1930	25,000	...	50,000	50,000	...

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Jan. 1 to date—	£	
1930	195,107,496	134,507,472
1929	155,213,838	141,634,618
1928	...	194,583,872
1927	...	175,057,451
1926	...	83,638,688
1925	...	56,804,718
1924	...	47,242,119
1923	...	112,484,455

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	13,047,628	...	14,671,332
National Mortgage Bank of Greece, £1,000,000 7% Sterling B. Bonds at 94½% (April 24)	945,000	97¼	972,500
Total, week ended May 10, 1930	945,000	...	972,500
Total to date, 1930	13,992,628	...	15,643,832
Total to date, 1929	18,770,574	...	26,670,746

New Zealand Government.—Issue of £5,500,000, 5 per cent. inscribed stock, 1949, at £99 per cent. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The proceeds of the issue will be allocated entirely to production purposes, and the stock will be repaid at par on December 15, 1949. The gross public debt of the Dominion on March 31, 1930, was approximately £267,380,000, as against £264,190,000 on March 31, 1929.

Grace National Bank
Hanover Square, New York, U.S.A.
A thoroughly organized international bank, giving special attention to the requirements of European banking correspondents.
Special Representative
148 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.

Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.—Issue of £3,500,000 5 per cent. debenture stock, 1959-1989, at £100 per cent. The stock is a trustee investment, and will be redeemed over the years 1939-89 by the operation of a cumulative sinking fund of ½ per cent. per annum, to be applied in the purchase of stock for cancellation, at or under par. Repayable on July 1, 1989, but the company reserve the right to repay at par on any interest date on or after July 1, 1959, on three months' notice.

Unilever, Limited.—Issue of 2,000,000 £1 Ordinary shares of £1 each at £3 per share. The company was incorporated in November, 1927, under the name of Margarine Union, Ltd., changed in March, 1930, to Unilever, Ltd. The present issue is being made in order to provide the company with additional working capital. Net profits for the period from November, 1927, to December, 1928, were £1,666,849, and for the year to December 31, 1929, were £3,524,784. In each case a dividend of 10 per cent. was paid on ordinary capital.

Rhodesia Railway, Limited, and Mashonaland Railway Company.—Issue of £2,500,000 6 per cent. consolidated debentures at £100½ per cent. The debentures will be to bearer in denominations of £500 and £100, and will be repayable at par on February 1, 1962, the companies having the right to redeem at 101 per cent. on February 1, 1937, or any subsequent August 1st or February 1st, on six months' notice. Net revenue before deduction of debenture interest totalled £1,757,759, covering interest on debentures, including this issue, approximately 1.6 times.

Home and Foreign Investment Trust.—Issue of £353,420 5 per cent. debenture stock, 1953-63, at £95 per cent. The stock will be repayable at par on November 1, 1963, but the company reserve the right to repay in whole or part on or after November 1, 1953, on three months' notice. Net profit for the year ended March 31st, before deduction of interest on debentures, totalled £61,050, covering interest on debentures, including this issue, 2.4 times.

Gosport District Gas Company.—Issue by tender of £10,000 consolidated ordinary stock ranking for a standard dividend of 6 per cent. equally with existing similar stock, now receiving £7 7s. 9d. per cent. Minimum price of issue, £105 per £100 stock. Also £3,800 6 per cent. redeemable debenture stock. Minimum price par, redeemable at par on January 1, 1940.

Sutton Gas Company.—Issue of £26,672 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock at £98 per cent., payable 30 per cent. on allotment. Payment in full may be made on any of the instalment dates under discount at 4 per cent. per annum.

Southampton Gas Company.—Sale by tender of £100,000 5½ per cent. preference stock, minimum price of issue £97½ per £100 stock. Dividends payable on March 1st and September 1st in each year.

Sutton District Water Company.—Sale by tender of £60,000 7 per cent. maximum ordinary stock, at a minimum price of £121 per cent., in lots of £100 each.

The following particulars are issued " for information only " with a view to Stock Exchange introduction. **Philips' Incandescent Lamp Works Holding Company, Eindhoven.** Issued capital Fl. 72,667,000, in 6 priority shares of Fl. 5,000 each, 18,846 cumulative preference shares of Fl. 1,000 each, and 53,791 ordinary shares of Fl. 1,000 each. Incorporated in 1912, and is now second largest manufacturer of incandescent lamps outside U.S.A.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices and dividend announcements, will be found on page 1082 under the heading " Company News."]

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
January	206,094	217,027	195,481	194,953
February	195,996	196,649	191,786	185,967
March	213,708	204,000	200,435	192,392
April	204,876	206,234	203,780	...
May	207,818	200,130	203,798	...
June	223,418	218,745	204,603	...
July	207,448	206,877	196,016	...
August	199,860	214,077	196,528	...
September	193,646	201,625	190,354	...
October	197,501	182,032	198,308	...
November	200,481	201,689	195,386	...
December	208,016	189,319	197,884	...
Total Gold	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,374,359	...

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

GOOD RESULTS DESPITE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.
INSURANCE POSITION AND PROSPECTS.
MR PASCOE RUTTER'S REVIEW OF WORLD CONDITIONS.

The sixty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at the chief administration offices, 7, Chancery Lane, London, Mr F. W. Pascoe Rutter (governor of the company) presiding.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said :—From an examination of the report and accounts you will have found some new features. The novelties I will refer to later. The bare facts of the underwriting results I will now point out to you.

Our fire premiums at £3,410,039 show a small reduction as compared with the previous year. Similarly, the profit at £398,010, while yielding a surplus of 11.67 per cent., is 3 per cent. less than that of 1928.

In the accident department there is a slight increase in the premiums, which amount to £2,455,736, and the profit of £120,845 or 4.9 per cent., is approximately 1 per cent. less than in the previous year.

The marine results are exceptionally good, constituting a notable testimony to the ability of our underwriters. The total premium income of "The Marine" and "Standard" combined is £1,489,096, and the profit is distinctly the largest since the war, amounting to £239,158, or 16.06 per cent., which is nearly 3½ per cent. better than the good year of 1928.

These results have been achieved notwithstanding an increase in the cost of obtaining and working the business, our expenses having gone up by nearly half of 1 per cent., which means £30,000 per annum.

The total premiums, summarised, amount to £7,354,871, a reduction of £5,652 on the previous year, and the total profit, of course before deducting British income tax, is £758,013, or 10.31 per cent., against £840,317, or 11.42 per cent., last year.

Now that account is, in my judgment, having regard to all the difficult circumstances, not only a good account, but surprisingly good. If you knew all the inner workings as I do, you would, I think, be astonished that, in such times, and under such conditions, we have been able to do so well.

To say that 1929 has been a year of hard work would be a mere platitude. That goes without saying. But I do think that it has had its own special anxieties—not so much in actual events as in the causes for apprehension as regards the future.

THE WORLD SITUATION.

Permit me for a moment to invite your attention to the world situation. For you must always bear in mind that our results are not merely an epitome or reflex of the state of affairs in Great Britain, but of those throughout the wide world—our Dominions and Dependencies, and nearly every foreign country as well.

It happens that I have recently returned from another visit abroad—South Africa this time—where I found our affairs being well and conscientiously administered, but where it is necessary, at present, to proceed warily. South Africa, with all its natural productivity, is not immune from the universal economic and financial anxieties to which I am about to refer.

But such an absence has a dual advantage. It enables one to study not only the conditions of the country visited, but the conditions of our own country and the rest of the world. It is often only by going abroad that one can form a really detached and unprejudiced opinion of things at home.

To the City "crash" and the United States slump he attached no real significance in considering the world situation, the former demonstrating a period of undue optimism and speculation and the latter a natural sequence of over-production and of speculation in industrial stocks.

The simple fact was that the shadow of the war was still with us, and likely to be. Britain's paramount position as the greatest creditor nation had dramatically changed. As trade followed credit, so America displaced us from the position we held. Our total exports and imports, which in 1913 amounted to 15·24 per cent. of the world's trade, had fallen in 1928 to 13·13 per cent., whereas the corresponding figures for the United States showed an advance from 11·15 per cent. to 13·65 per cent. Even before the war our imports exceeded our actual exports, but this economic drawback had been emphasised much further since, the margin of imports over exports having risen from 20 per cent. in 1913 to 45 per cent. in 1929.

BRITAIN'S TRADE POSITION.

The difference was accounted for by invisible exports, of which part was due to shipping, banking and insurance—the three, and still great, pillars of what used to constitute our international supremacy. But if the business activities of this country continued to be hampered by the myopia of legislation, and if something was not done soon in the way of a reciprocal economic understanding with the Colonies and Dominions to enable the Empire as an entity to vie with outside competition, this valuable portion of our invisible exports must be a diminishing factor. The remainder of the invisible exports—income from overseas investments—represented the extent to which we were living on the fruits of past savings, and to have to live on one's fat was not a position anybody could regard without anxiety. As a nation of traders, therefore, we should not improve our position until we produced more of our internal requirements, thus importing less; and by greater productive capacity increased the volume of our real and visible exports.

Europe was impoverished and over-populated, with twenty million souls dependent upon the charity of either their Governments or of individuals. Even the United States was now in the same plight, having to tackle a grave unemployment problem. Coupled with this, a disastrous period of over-production and low prices had had its baleful effect throughout the whole of the world.

The troubles, therefore, were not only our own, but world-wide. They were affecting Australia and India—two great countries—upon which they as an insurance company relied for much revenue and profit. Australia had suffered by the fall in the price of wool, the adverse exchange, and by disturbances in the coal and timber trades. India had suffered not only through its internal unrest, but by depression and strikes in its great industries, jute and cotton. Their letters this week from India indicated a deplorable state of business stagnation.

HOME TRADE.

As regarded our home trade, 1929 seemed to indicate some definite, if unimportant, advance, placed by the Board of Trade at as much as 5 per cent., but 1930 did not support that improvement. If only our statesmen could realise that the country had reached a critical condition, when only drastic measures could save us from disintegration! We had got beyond the stage of expedients, and what it all narrowed down to was work—real, intense work, such as was evoked by the war, and which was just as necessary now in the testing period we are passing through.

The Budget simply cast a limelight upon the country's serious financial position and the pressing urgency of retrenchment and reform, but it was what brought the Budget about, and not the Budget itself, which occasioned the anxiety. On top of the heavy war debt was the prodigal expenditure on social services, which would surely react on those perpetrating this economic tragedy. Moreover, the country was manacled by an ironbound system restricting the hours of labour for skilled workers, while increasing benefits were conceded to those who did not work. How could we possibly expect to regain lost ground until there was a premium put on good work and a discount on malingering and mediocrity? (Hear, hear.)

INTENSIVE COMPETITION FOR INSURANCE BUSINESS.

This brief survey was obviously not inspiring, but would help to a realisation of the difficulties the company had been and was encountering. At home two factors had affected the fire results for the year, one, which was a passing incidence, being the heavier loss ratio. British fire losses in 1929 were estimated to have been £11,700,000, against £8,600,000 in 1928. The other factor was more important, the company having met special and intensified competition, due to depressed business, low prices, decreased values, and with a reduced demand for insurance, every company striving to avoid losing ground.

In the markets of the world it was difficult at present to see a field for expansion. Even the United States had called a halt in its development, and there also the growth of insurance organisations made business more difficult to secure. The result of their fire business in the States, a profit of over 7 per cent., was therefore good. It was hoped that the reductions in rates had been justified by the improvement in building construction and the lessening of what used to be regarded as the ever-present conflagration hazard.

On the accident side of the company's business the margin beyond losses and expenses was steadily diminishing, the rebates on workmen's compensation and other concessions, coupled with a heavier loss ratio, having had their combined effect. The quality of motor-car business also was deteriorating, great discrimination being required to produce a profit. He was apprehensive that some of the provisions of the Road Traffic Bill, and enforced contributions by injured motorists to hospitals where they were treated, would place additional burdens on insurance companies.

LIFE INSURANCE—SATISFACTORY YEAR FOR LAW UNION AND ROCK

Life insurance business, which the company transacted entirely through its ally, the Law Union and Rock, again had been very satisfactory. That company since 1919 had considerably developed its fire and accident business, but its high-class life business had also improved in volume, and the handsome 45s. compound bonus which again had been declared was a testimony to its quality. The Law Union and Rock had just closed a quinquennium, and the resulting profit to the London and Lancashire, which held all the shares, was £160,920, one-fifth of which would be credited in this and each of the succeeding four years.

Life insurance since the war had been more sought for, and perhaps more exploited by various schemes and suggestions than formerly, and the Law Union, having been alive to this, had correspondingly benefited. Whether the development was likely to continue was a moot question. It was obviously influenced by increased income-tax, which must reduce the interest earned, and was also affected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's repression of single premium cases, which it might be difficult to replace by a corresponding volume of whole life business.

INTEREST AND DIVIDEND.

The net interest income for the year amounted to £527,412, which, with the £32,184 from the life department, almost provided for the dividend being paid of £561,818. Having nearly balanced interest and dividend, the directors decided to intimate a prospective increase of dividend for 1930 by 1s. per share, and the final dividend of 10s. now being paid would be supplemented by an interim dividend of like amount next November.

In addition to the usual transfer of £30,000 to the pension fund, £10,000 had been contributed to the new staff widows' fund, a mutually contributory scheme which he was glad to see. The concession naturally had been greatly welcomed by the staff, and he was convinced the company would also benefit by this important step in the consideration of the welfare of their employees.

COMPANY'S RESERVES.

Reference to the form of balance sheet required by the new Companies Act led to the Governor pointing out that the great bulk of the company's reserves were wrapped up in the holding of shares in allied or subsidiary companies, the whole of whose assets and liabilities were held by the London and Lancashire. The subsidiary companies numbered 26. Six, including the most significant, were in Great Britain, and every share of those was held by the London and Lancashire. Of the remaining twenty, every share was held except 63. As aptly described by one of his colleagues, they owned a great strong box containing 26 compartments, and held the key to them all.

The value of these subsidiary companies was £8,729,961, which was the break-up value, or the amount by which the assets exceeded the liabilities. The financial outcome of their acquisition had been consistently profitable, substantial dividends having been derived, while their remaining profits had been sufficient to wipe out all the provisions made for the cost of their respective goodwills. Their present value of £8,729,961 was actually £350,074 more than was originally paid for them.

RATIONALISATION.

In fusing so many companies in years gone by, the London and Lancashire, with other insurance companies, were really pioneers in the field of what was called rationalisation. Rather late in the day rationalisation has been resorted to as a remedy for British industrial ills, but it should not be regarded as the perfect panacea. Its value depended upon how it was employed. If by combination and amalgamation of scientific methods it sensibly increased the business of the country, especially in its export trade in competition with the ingenious activities of other countries paying less wages and working longer hours, then it would be a successful help in time of need. But if it only resulted in some diminution of expenses without increasing the trade of the country, and therefore of the output, then t might in some cases quite easily result in an actual increase in unemployment.

Rationalisation, as the London and Lancashire had undertaken it, had been both successful and profitable. By the utilisation of the best brain power and the elimination of waste they had, almost without exception, so improved the quality and so developed the volume of the businesses acquired that there had been no necessity to diminish the number of the staffs. Indeed, generally speaking, the staffs of allied companies were now considerably larger than when they came under the aegis of London and Lancashire control.

VALUES OF INVESTMENTS.

You may be further interested to know, the Governor continued, that the handsome margin of market values of our investments in excess of the book values continues—with some small modification, it is true—but the seven-figure inner reserve still exists. 1929, as you know, lost a good deal of the appreciation which 1928 had shown, but it only affected us to the extent of 3·36 per cent., and more than one-half of this, or, to be exact, 2 per cent., has been recovered during the four months of this year.

INCREASED PAID-UP CAPITAL.

I now come to the transaction which has in some quarters been euphemistically dubbed as our bonus to shareholders. I have no doubt you would have welcomed a real bonus, either of cash or shares, but for us it would not be good finance, and I do not wish you to be under any illusion.

The step taken simply means this : that whereas at present out of an issued capital of £3,639,310—that is to say, 727,862 shares of £5 each—there is £1 per share, or £727,862 paid up, we now propose, and a resolution will be moved at this meeting, to transfer from the balance carried forward a similar amount—namely, £727,862—which will then make the capital £1,455,724, or £2 per share paid up. (Hear, hear.)

This transaction is in sequence to what we did ten years ago, and perhaps in another ten years, if we are sufficiently prosperous, we may be justified in repeating the process. What amounts to little more than a book entry does not put any actual money into the pockets of any shareholder, but, by reducing the liability to the extent of a further £1 paid up, it should relieve the minds of any anxious shareholders, if there are any, as to the amount which they would be required to pay in the event of our going into liquidation.

After giving effect to this transfer, our various funds, exclusive of capital, will amount to £9,919,617, or 134·87 per cent. of our premium income.

THE OUTLOOK.

Reverting then to what I said at the commencement, I may briefly summarise the insurance outlook as follows :—

In the fire department we must look for restricted values and intensified competition.

In the accident department we cannot count upon any appreciable improvement in the two largest sections—motor-cars and workmen's compensation—and, therefore, we must contemplate a comparatively modest result.

In the marine department, the result last year having been so exceptional, and the losses to date in 1930 being already heavier, it would be the extremity of optimism to expect such a year as we have been able to record for 1929.

You may, therefore, anticipate for companies generally a period of diminished prosperity. But I still believe what I have always felt : that British insurance business continues to maintain its high standard and its prestige. There is an admirable cohesion and spirit of good will permeating the companies as a whole. There is the willingness and the desire to consider the requirements and even the idiosyncrasies of insured in regard to their particular risks, especially when they themselves happen to be struggling against the tide. And there is the encouragement accorded to employees, for I am satisfied that whatever concessions have been made have been justified and have proved a stimulus to continued good work.

So far as we are concerned, I have no apprehension. We are as sound as a bell. The "London and Lancashire" has weathered many a storm, and gone through many trials when we were less able to bear them. And, relying as we do upon the marked capacity and energy of our general manager, Mr. Hendry, of Mr. Rogers, his associates and the staff I am confident that, whatever the general experience may be, and whatever new difficulties have to be met, we shall retain the relatively high position which we have for so many years had the privilege to occupy in the insurance world.

Mr. Charles G. Hamilton (the deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which, on being put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT AND CENTURY LIFE OFFICE.
FAVOURABLE RESULTS FOR 1929.
BONUS YEAR—RECORD NEW BUSINESS.

The annual meeting of the Friends' Provident and Century Life Office was held, on the 7th instant, at the Holborn Restaurant, London, Mr Harold J. Morland, M.A., F.C.A. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—Although the year 1929 saw important changes in the political world and ended with a serious fall in the prices of Stock Exchange securities, our office was able to surmount the adverse conditions without real difficulty, and experienced on the whole a favourable year.

You have in your hands not only the directors' report on the transactions of the year, but also very full particulars of the quinquennial valuation, which has enabled the actuary to recommend a bonus which is a cause of gratification, I am sure, to all the members of the office. It appears, therefore, to be a suitable opportunity for briefly reviewing our position and considering the progress which we have made during the past five years, 1925-1929, as well as during the particular year to which the accounts refer—namely, 1929.

NEW LIFE ASSURANCES.

The sums assured on policies issued during the quinquennium, after deducting reassurances, totalled £7,151,000, nearly £1,000,000 more than the total for the previous five years. The "bonus year," 1929, produced a record new business of £1,645,844, about £262,000 more than in 1924, which was the last "bonus year." It is gratifying to note that the proportion effected under whole life was appreciably larger than under endowment assurance tables. Although without-profit rates of premium have never before been so low, nevertheless another important trend is in favour of the assurance entitled to participate in profits.

MORTALITY.

The profit from favourable morality in the quinquennium was about £337,000. During 1929 the amount of claims was 74 per cent. of the expectation, as compared with an average of 61 per cent. for 1925-29 and 61 per cent. also for 1920-24.

REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

The premium income of the valuation period has been affected by fluctuations in the amounts of single premiums received from year to year. If this disturbing factor be excluded, the remaining recurrent premium income for 1929 was £513,000, an increase of £93,000 as compared with 1924. The life and annuity fund advanced equally satisfactorily. If the sum of £380,000 refunded to the Century at the end of 1926 as consideration for cancelment of reassurances be taken into account, the total advance in the life and annuity fund was £1,946,000, of which the record increase of £436,000 took place during 1929.

The average rate for the five years was £5 2s. per cent., clear of income tax, while the rate for 1929 was £5 4s. per cent., as compared with £4 19s. per cent. for 1925, the first year of the quinquennium, and with £4 14s. 5d. per cent. for 1924.

CENTURY ACCOUNTS.

The premium income for the year 1929 in the general departments of the Century advanced by £52,430 and amounted to £736,640. The fire and accident accounts each secured a modest profit, notwithstanding the special adverse circumstances of the year, but it was necessary to strengthen the marine fund by the transfer thereto of the sum of £15,000. On balance the operations of these three departments resulted in a loss of £2,480.

CENTURY INSURANCE TRUST, LTD.

During the year the Century board decided to transfer the investments in subsidiary insurance companies at cost to a trust company formed for the purpose. The Century Insurance Trust, Ltd., was accordingly established with a paid-up capital of £300,000, divided into 150,000 six per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each (possessing also certain participating rights after the ordinary shares have received 8 per cent.), and 150,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. For its first financial period of about seven months the trust has paid dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference and 8 per cent. on the ordinary capital.

As regards the Century itself, after crediting interest received not attributable to other accounts, and paying the usual 12 per cent. dividend on the paid-up capital, £13,805 was added to the balance carried forward in the profit and loss account, making it up to £103,546.

The Century funds, including paid-up capital, amounted at the close of 1929 to £3,301,090, an increase of £55,417 in the year.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT BALANCE SHEET.

As stated in the annual report, the assets of the Friends' Provident have been reviewed by a committee of the directors specially appointed for the purpose.

The depreciation on the year was the moderate proportion of about 2 per cent. of the fund, and was covered by internal reserves.

QUINQUENNIAL VALUATION RESULTS.

The bases employed for the valuation of the life assurance and annuity contracts have been similar to those employed on the occasion of the 1924 valuation. It has been gratifying to ascertain, as a result of the valuation, that there was a record surplus of £650,935, after having provided intermediate bonuses of £56,019 to policyholders during the five years. It has been decided to carry forward £30,328 to the current valuation period and to utilise the sum of £620,607 in providing bonuses for the members on a scale unequalled since the new series of with-profit assurances was instituted in 1902.

The bonus applicable to particular policies varied from £2 2s. to £6 per cent. per annum, calculated on the original sum assured.

FUTURE VALUATION—INTERIM BONUS.

The one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Friends' Provident Institution (which was the title by which this office was known until 1920) will be celebrated during 1932. By arranging for the next valuation to take place at the close of the centenary year the office naturally passes on to a system of triennial profit distributions, which appears to accord with a popular desire of the present day. In practice the members already have the benefit of annual distributions, because in the event of policies maturing or being surrendered they will be given the benefit of an interim bonus at the full ordinary rate just declared, viz., £2 2s. per cent. per annum compound. The directors reserve the right to vary the rate of interim bonus during the three-year period should they find it desirable to do so. The similar reservation made five years ago was made use of by the directors to increase the interim rate even beyond the full rate allotted at the 1924 division.

BUDGET PROVISIONS.

Three weeks ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer increased the standard rate of income tax from 4s. to 4s. 6d. in the pound, a change which will have an appreciable adverse effect upon the income of all life offices, and, therefore, upon bonus prospects.

Another feature of the new Budget is the proposal to disallow for the purpose of surtax returns interest payable on certain loans against life or sinking-fund policies. This office had issued a few assurances on these lines, mainly for the whole of life or for a term of years, thus providing valuable cover for dependents or for death duties. We invariably declined to issue contracts having little or no life assurance cover.

WHOLE-LIFE ASSURANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DEPENDENTS.

I am afraid that in this country we are not quite so advanced in our conception of the primary reasons for life assurance as is the case in the United States of America and some of our Dominions. In the countries where life assurance is most utilised I believe the assurer obtains little benefit by way of saving of taxation, but effects life assurance because he is trained to realise his responsibilities to his dependents. Whole-life assurance is the type of cover principally in demand because it is realised that it is only by its means that sufficient protection can be secured for the family with the amount normally available (even with some measure of self-sacrifice) for the purpose. I do not wish to suggest that the longer-term endowment assurances fill otherwise than a useful place, as they are a safe and lucrative means of providing for the later years of life, and afford substantial cover in the meantime, while shorter-term endowment assurances are quite suitable for persons of middle age who wish to make good in part the decrease in their incomes which will follow retirement from business activities. For young people with new responsibilities of wife and family, it is clear that whole-life assurance is the appropriate form, while even in later life a large proportion of one's assurances should be whole-life rather than endowment assurance. It is pleasing to me to find that in our own office whole-life assurance is in the ascendant—and 1929 was no exception in this respect.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

I should be doing less than my duty if I did not, before closing, direct your attention to the services rendered by the whole of our staff at our two head offices and our various branches. I believe that throughout all grades there is the determination to do their very best for the office, and you will, I know, cordially approve the action of the directors in distributing a general bonus for the five years proportioned to that which you have yourselves received.

The resolution was seconded by Mr Robert H. Marsh, the deputy-chairman, and carried.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.
IMPROVED VALUE OF INVESTMENTS.
FAVOURABLE OUTLOOK.

The annual general court of the London Assurance was held, on the 7th instant, at 1 King William Street, London, Mr Colin F. Campbell (the Governor) presiding.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The life department has again made substantial progress and has done very well. The fund has increased by £394,000, and the total increase during th last three years has amounted to no less than £1,175,000. The premium income was about the same as in 1928, and the rate of interest earned was £5 9s. 3d. per cent., against £5 9s. 8d. per cent. in the previous year. There was no great change in the expenses of management or commission paid, but with a steadily expanding business a slight increase is inevitable. The mortality experience was again well below that anticipated from the tables, the number of deaths being 72 per cent. of that expected. In 1928 it was only 63 per cent., but it was not probable that so low a figure would be repeated in 1929. During the year we reduced the rates for deferred assurance for children, and this has led to a considerable increase in new sums assured in this section. We have also started a house purchase scheme, which seems to meet a public need.

The investments held by the life department continue to be of high class, as in past years, and I am glad to say that, notwithstanding the fall in prices that occurred towards the end of 1929, the usual valuation taken at December 31st last revealed a substantial surplus on the book values.

We are now in the last year of the quinquennium, and I can only repeat what I said a year ago, that the prospects for a favourable result are very encouraging.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The fire account is not up to the average and is in fact rather a disappointing one. The figures in the statement in your hands are not comparable with those of previous years, because they represent the business transacted by the "London" only, and do not include the operations of our allied companies. The profit realised including interest amounting to £67,407, was £85,292, and the fire fund of £1,300,000 represents 94·1 per cent. of the premium income. We have transferred £135,831 to profit and loss account.

The general experience of the fire offices was less favourable than in 1928. The aggregate losses for the United Kingdom are estimated to be at least three and a quarter millions sterling in excess of the total for 1928. We had no severe individual loss, but our home loss ratio is higher than for several years past.

The general foreign field was also rather disappointing, the losses on both direct and treaty business being considerably in excess of normal percentages.

Last year I referred to the unsatisfactory conditions of fire business in the United States. We had the expectation of a fair profit there up to the end of October, but, as a sequel to severe weather in the closing weeks of the year, our figures were adversely affected to the extent of £25,000. There has been some lessening in the volume of fire wastage, but commission and other expenses continue to rise. Competition has been intense, and so continues; during the past two years no less than 70 new companies have undertaken fire business. The insurance Press of America has had numerous references to the usefulness of gains on investments as an offset to poor trading results, but recent events may have somewhat curtailed that form of recoupment, and may lead to greater attention being given to actual underwriting in future.

MARINE BUSINESS.

Turning to the marine account, I am happy to be able to report that the improvement I ventured to foreshadow when addressing you a year ago has taken place. The marine fund, which stands at £838,802, represents 91·8 per cent. of the premium, whereas in the preceding account the reserve shown was 87·6 per cent. This result has been arrived at after making a transfer of £80,000 to the marine account of our affiliated company, the British Law. The latter company undertakes certain business for which we are responsible, and it is in this connection that we have thought it prudent to strengthen their account by this transfer, although I would add that the business thus underwritten has been reduced considerably during the last two years, and will probably continue to diminish in volume.

Our 1928 account, which has now been closed, came out almost square, and would have shown a profit but for some losses attributable to previous years. This, I need hardly say, is in sharp contrast with the results for 1926 and 1927.

With regard to the 1929 account, it is always dangerous to prophesy, but, so far as it has gone, it shows a slight improvement over 1928.

When making a general survey of the conditions of the marine insurance market, it is impossible not to be disappointed at the slow progress made in the direction of raising rates of premium; increases have been secured here and there, but competition remains as keen as ever. The closer co-operation that now exists between those interested in marine insurance business has already begun to make its influence felt, and this will no doubt increase as time goes on, but I am fully convinced that a profit is to be looked for from the more careful selection of risks and the elimination of certain classes of business on the part of our own underwriter, which is a policy that he has been following for the last three years.

ACCIDENT ACCOUNT.

The accident account, though set out under three separate headings, can really be considered as one. Our desire is to develop and increase this side of our business, and, with this object in view, we have established in recent years connections in the Dominions, Colonies and in several foreign countries. Unfortunately, last year some of these accounts were unprofitable, mainly due to losses sustained on reinsurance contracts and to heavy claims under motor-car policies. We have therefore transferred £25,803 from profit and loss to strengthen the general accident account.

Our home account, on the other hand, showed an increased premium income and a satisfactory loss ratio.

It would be foolish to be discouraged in our policy of development because of one small setback in the foreign field, and we shall therefore continue in the confident expectation of a favourable balance as a result of this year's operations.

The motor insurance business continues to expand, but the claims experience for light cars is still too high.

YEAR'S RESULTS.

The interest received, apart from that credited to the different departments, amounts to £131,284, which is a satisfactory increase of £10,000 over that of last year, and the total interest receipts show a margin of £27,000 beyond the sum required for the payment of the dividends, as against £23,000 a year ago.

The balance sheet calls for no special comment beyond noting that the total of £11,775,000 shows a decrease of £330,000 as compared with a year ago. This is due to the elimination of the figures of two of our subsidiary companies, so that, had the accounts been prepared in precisely the same manner as in previous years, it would have been seen that our total assets had increased by over £300,000 to nearly 12¼ million pounds.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a final dividend of 5s. 10d. per share, less income tax, was declared.

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
RECORD NEW LIFE BUSINESS.
TOTAL ASSETS OVER 15¼ MILLIONS.

Mr T. M. Murray, W.S., chairman, presided at the 105th annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company, held at Edinburgh, on May 7, 1930. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts for the year 1929, he referred to the continued expansion of the company.

Notwithstanding the adverse industrial conditions, a fresh record falls to be registered in the amount of new life business transacted, which reached a total of £2,085,000, as against the previous record of £2,025,800 in 1928. The claims by death, amounting to £545,630, are up by £165,000. The endowment assurance maturing, and amounting to £265,000, are practically the same as in 1928.

FIRE INSURANCE ACCOUNT.

In the fire insurance account, the premium income reveals an increase of over £11,500, and, having regard to the tremendous competition in these days, this result is satisfactory. Losses, including fire brigade charges, show an increase of some £62,000. Commission and expenses combined are just about the same figure as in the previous year's account. Notwithstanding the heavier losses referred to, the amount—£181,000—now transferred to profit and loss account is the fourth largest sum transferred from the fire account in any one year.

ACCIDENT, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS.

Taking the accident, employers' liability and miscellaneous accounts together, the premiums total £245,000, and show an increase over the previous year of £18,000. The profits realised and transferred to the profit and loss account amount to £19,600, which shows a decrease of some £5,000 on the profits realised in 1928.

In the marine account a sum of £15,000 is transferred to profit and loss account, being a similar transfer to that made the previous year.

The profits realised from the various accounts, excluding life, and transferred to profit and loss account, exceed the substantial sum of £215,000.

FIRE INSURANCE FUND.

Last year the chairman referred to the advisability of building up the fire insurance fund, and it is proposed to continue this policy by transferring a further £50,000 to the special reserve in the fire insurance account, bringing that special reserve up to £750,000, the fund now being fully 106 per cent. of the year's income in the fire account.

The carry forward of £541,400 is practically the same as the previous year.

THE DIVIDEND.

During 1929 £156,000 was paid in dividend, but this year, with the alteration in the income tax to 4s. 6d. in the £, the dividend, payable at the same rate, will only require £151,125, and to meet this there are net interests in 1929 of £155,664. It is interesting to note that had the 1929 interests been subject to income tax at 4s. 6d. in the £ the total net interests would still have been in excess of the dividend payment by fully £700.

TOTAL ASSETS—LARGE INCREASE.

The total assets of the company now amount to more than fifteen and a half million pounds, the increase during 1929 amounting to no less than £447,000. The assets during the last five years have increased by over two and a quarter million pounds.

Notwithstanding the general fall in prices towards the end of 1929, accentuated as it was by the Hatry sensation and by the American debacle, the assets suffered depreciation as at December 31, 1929, of only about 3 per cent. as compared with the values at December 31, 1928, and a valuation of the Stock Exchange securities as at December 31st last shows a substantial excess over the figures at which they stand in the balance sheet.

EAGLE STAR AND BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

SOLID PROGRESS.

Presiding at the general meeting of the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, Ltd., held on the 2nd instant, Sir Edward Mountain, Bart., J.P. (chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the life department had again shown a remarkable expansion and development. New policies, numbering 3,348, were issued for sums assured of £2,661,225 gross, of which £2,613,125 were retained. Their premium income continued to expand, the new premiums being more than sufficient to make good the wastage which was necessarily experienced in their closed funds. The rate of interest earned on the whole of their life funds, after deduction of income tax, was £4 15s. 3d. per cent.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The premiums in the fire department were £986,324, against £979,382 in the preceding year. A falling off of business occurred in the United States, which was more than offset by developments elsewhere, and it was particularly satisfactory that their home fire business showed an increase notwithstanding the unsatisfactory trade position. The underwriting profit for the year amounted to £36,169, or 3.66 per cent., which, under the circumstances, was quite satisfactory. They had transferred another £25,000 to the additional reserve fund created in this department, bringing it up to £75,000.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

The ordinary premiums in the accident department amounted to £72,127, and the special premiums to £83,769. A sum of £36,469 had been transferred to profit and loss account.

In the general insurance department the premiums amounted to £1,228,520, and the claims to £619,320. From this department they were able to transfer to profit and loss account the sum of £42,196.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

The premiums for the year in the marine department, less reinsurances and commissions, amounted to £638,814, while claims were £643,130. The marine fund carry-forward was £532,447, which represented 83.3 per cent. of the premium income, as against 79.3 per cent. last year. In addition they had set up a further reserve fund of £25,000. Business generally in the marine market continued to be in an unsatisfactory state.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

They would see from the profit and loss account that interest from investments last year amounted to £146,682, and, adding to this an item of interest of £707 in the employers' liability account, they got a total net interest income of £147,389, which was only £380 less than the net cost of the dividend on all classes of their shares. They had written £11,000 off the office equipment account and £15,000 off the house property account. Moreover they had transferred £35,000 to investment fluctuation account, £25,000 to the additional fire reserve account, and £25,000 to the additional marine reserve account, while the balance carried forward was slightly larger than last year.

Their premium income for the year in the fire and general department had increased by £108,501, while the total assets of the company and subsidiaries now amounted to £22,341,064.

In conclusion, the chairman added that the present year had opened favourably and he thought that they could look forward with great confidence to the future expansion and profits of the company.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

SPILLERS, LIMITED.

GRAIN MARKET DIFFICULTIES.

ACTION OF THE CANADIAN WHEAT POOL.

"IDEA OF BRITISH MILLERS' BOYCOTT UNTRUE."

MR. EDGAR BAKER'S REVIEW OF THE POSITION.

Mr E. A. V. Baker, presiding at the forty-third annual general meeting of Spillers, Ltd., at Cardiff, on the 3rd instant, said that the result of the trading year had necessitated the transfer of £150,000 from the contingent reserves and suspense account. The contingencies against which parts of this reserve had been held had disappeared, and the balance remaining in that account was sufficient to meet the company's requirements.

The general and specific reserves had been utilised to the extent of £1,077,568 for the purpose of providing for depreciation for the year under review, obsolescence, loss on sale of surplus properties, expenditure in connection with the milling trade rationalisation scheme and to reduce the value of the present properties to well below replacement value. The account drawn upon was a figure of £2,277,567, the excess value of assets of associated companies, which were liquidated in 1927.

Owing to the liquidation of Spillers Overseas Industries, Ltd., which circumstances had rendered it unnecesary to continue in being, there was a large reduction in the amount due to subsidiary companies and a correspondingly large reduction in investments in and amounts due from those companies.

INVESTMENT DEPRECIATION RECOUPED.

The shrinkage in stocks and values during the year largely accounted for the increase in the investments and loans, which had gone up by £180,000. Of the total trading loss of £221,510 upwards of £40,000 represented depreciation on British Government and other securities held by the company, which had by now been practically made good by the upward course of the stock markets in the last few months.

The fluctuations in the wheat market during the past year had been violent, and the position had been rendered more difficult by the action of the Canadian Wheat Pool in withholding supplies notwithstanding the demand from importing countries. The idea in Canada that British millers were boycotting Canadian wheat was untrue, but, owing to competition in the milling industry, British millers had to buy in the cheapest market available.

The grain side of the business was the principal cause of the unsatisfactory results of the year. Similar losses had been suffered by the grain traders throughout the country, and the year 1929 would stand out as one of the most phenomenal and disastrous years ever experienced in that trade.

EFFECT OF BOUNTY-FED COMPETITION.

The price of raw grain had fallen by as much as 40 per cent., largely owing to the bountiful European crops of 1929 and the export to the United Kingdom of large quantities of wheat, oats and other grain under bounties paid by the countries of origin.

German oats, comparable with the best oats grown in this country, had been sold at prices to which there was no parallel since 1894, and, although the farmers were the principal sufferers, all those who had to carry stocks of grain had lost heavily.

Other factors contributing to the difficult position in this trade were the arbitrary and unforeseen export by Russia to this country of barley at prices as much as 10s. below the ruling values; the heavy drop in freights between the beginning and end of the company's last financial year amounting some cases to nearly 50 per cent.; and the financial crash on Wall Street in the autumn, which had serious effect on the purchasing power of many European countries.

THE SUGGESTED COMPULSORY QUOTA OF BRITISH WHEAT.

The intention expressed by the British Government of compelling millers to use a fixed quota of British wheat could not be implemented unless some serious practical difficulties were overcome, particularly the ensuring to British millers of an adequate and regular supply of suitable British wheat, and the provision of safeguards to ensure that overseas millers should not be enabled to compete with British millers on even more favourable terms than they could at present.

In regard to the flour milling, the establishment of the Millers' Mutual Association had had the effect of making the outlook more favourable than it had been for many years past. The rationalisation scheme did not indicate an attack on consumers, but was concerned with the shutting down of redundant mills and aimed at reducing costs in that way and by its corollary—viz., delivery within economic distances of the mills. There was no reason why the consumer should pay any more for millers' products as a result of the scheme. The effect on the company's business of the formation of the association, which only took place in the autumn, had, of course, not been felt materially during the past year.

FUTURE POLICY AND PROPOSED DIRECTORATE CHANGES.

The board were giving grave consideration to the policy to be adopted in view of the bad results of the last year's trading, but would not be stampeded into panic legislation. They had curtailed operations in grain in the autumn, and were continuing to do so. Their ultimate object was gradually to concentrate on the manufacturing side of the grain business rather than dealing in raw grain.

It was, further, the intention of the board to take into consultation some of the largest shareholders and others, with a view to placing before the shareholders at an adjourned meeting proposals for an alteration in the personnel of the board. At another meeting certain revisions in the company's articles of association, rendered necessary by the new Companies' Act, would be dealt with.

The Chairman concluded by expressing the thanks of the directors and shareholders to the staff for their work during the year.

The report and accounts were adopted and the retiring directors and auditors re-elected.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

ANOTHER YEAR OF PROGRESS.

The 168th annual general meeting of the Equitable Life Assurance Society was held, on the 7th instant, at 19 Coleman Street, London, Sir Evan Spicer (the president) presiding.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the new business for 1929 was remarkable in some ways. The new sums assured were less by a trifling amount than in 1928, but the new premium revenue of £55,000 showed a substantial increase over the corresponding figure of £42,000. The explanation was that during 1929 new pension schemes were arranged with the society by various employers, and the development of this kind of business provided the society with new connections and with a permanent premium income. Their net rate of interest last year was £4 15s. 6d., which was 2s. higher than in the previous year. This was explained because they had included the profit on reversions which had fallen in during the year. The mortality for 1929 was light, and the amount appearing in the accounts for claims by death showed a decrease of £130,000.

Owing to the wonderful results shown for whole-life policies, where on the average they paid more than twice the sum assured, there was a temptation to ignore the results of the endowment assurances. The table at the end of the report showed that they ought to be as proud of their endowment assurances as of their whole-life policies.

The funds of the society had increased during the year by over £350,000, and there was a substantial margin between the book value of the assets and the market-value as at December 31st last.

Their subsidiary companies continued to make excellent progress. The reversionary societies had proved to be a most profitable investment, and the University Life Office had recently declared, for a broken period of four years and eight months, the same bonus as was declared in the previous five years, the bonus being far in excess of that guaranteed to the policyholders by the shareholders.

In regard to new business, about 62 per cent. of the new sums assured had been obtained without an immediate right to share in profits, and the pension or deferred annuity and the sinking fund business also took no share in profits. Their rates of premium for non-participating policies were the lowest rates published, and they were able to offer these terms because they spent so little in obtaining new business.

Mr H. L. M. Tritton seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED POSITION—RESUMPTION OF ORDINARY DIVIDEND.

The ordinary general meeting of the Great Western of Brazil Railway Company, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, London, Mr Follett Holt, the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The total ton-miles handled by the railway was the greatest in our long history, and the financial and operating results obtained serve to reflect the sustained and successful efforts of our colleague, Mr Gudin, and of our general manager, Dr Assis Ribeiro, to place our affairs in Brazil once again into good order. We were favoured during the past year with a substantial sugar crop, upon which so much of the prosperity of our zone depends, and this helped largely to make amends for the depressing commercial situation which obtained not only in Brazil, but in all parts of the world.

The actual sterling balance obtained as the result of operating the railway is slightly in excess of our record year, 1913. In that year exchange was at 16d., and last year, with exchange at under 6d., we were called upon to handle approximately 40 per cent. more traffic for the same result. The situations we have had to face during the intervening years have been most difficult, and we can only hope that the improved conditions under which we are now working will afford a safeguard to your capital and provide a fair remuneration upon it during the remainder of the lease.

ALLOCATIONS.

As our lease expires in 30 years, when the railway reverts to the Brazilian Government, it is necessary to provide for the redemption, during this period, of the capital involved in the undertaking. You will see from the accounts before you that the sum of £72,149 has been allocated from the revenue of the year as the corresponding quota for this purpose. After meeting this charge and debenture interest we are able to recommend to you the payment of the full interest on the preferred shares, and a 3 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares—the first that has been paid, as you too well know, for 16 years. It was necessary to place £20,000 to a reserve for contingencies and to increase the carry-forward in order to be covered against the settlement of claims and counterclaims in Brazil. When we have been working for some time longer under the new regime we shall, I hope, at the end of each year know more definitely our position, but in the meantime we must go warily and be prepared for difficulties should they arise.

In common with railways in practically every part of the world we have met with competition, from road transport, and although we are still faced with this competition, we have by the adjustment of rates regained a considerable proportion of traffic which left the railway when the full effect of the increased tariffs was first felt during the earlier months of the year. Experience is being gained in many directions as to the use and abuse of roads in relation to railroads; the subject is being watched carefully, and it is possible that we may in the north of Brazil find it advisable to establish road services as an auxiliary to the railway.

CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES.

Our relations with both Federal and State authorities in Brazil, I am happy to say, have been most cordial throughout the year. It is a matter for satisfaction to all concerned in the welfare of Brazil that the recent Presidential elections were carried through with no more disturbance to public business than we are accustomed to in our own country. We who have been so closely allied with Brazilian affairs for now over half a century are watching with the greatest sympathy the great efforts that are being made to handle the national resources to the best advantage. The country has immense potentialities and latent wealth, and offers to the statesman and economist a field as wide and as fruitful for good work as is to be found in any part of the world.

During the last two or three months we have had some decline in our receipts, mainly due to the last cane crop having been an early one, leaving less sugar to come down to the ports in these months. The last cable advice from the general manager tells us that the next crop may be slightly inferior to the last. He also reminds us that the improvement of general trade in our zone depends largely on the price of sugar, and gives us the satisfactory news that arrangements are being made to export half a million bags now with the object of stabilising local prices during the next season. At this period, however, the extent of the crop can only be gauged by the area planted and the present condition of the young cane. It is therefore too early to predict with any safety the volume of sugar that will be realised when cane cutting commences in August next. We can only believe and hope that when we meet you next year we shall have no sorry tale to unfold to you.

Mr H. C. Allen seconded the resolution, which was carried.

THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

CENTENARY YEAR.

The Duke of Atholl, presiding at the centenary meeting of shareholders, held in Glasgow, on the 7th instant, referred to the progress and prosperity that had marked the hundred years. He said that all along it had been the endeavour of the management to conduct the institution on sound banking principles and that shareholders had every reason to be proud of the position now attained. To mark the centenary it was proposed to issue a new class of shares with no uncalled liability, partly as bonus shares and partly on bonus terms. It was also fitting that a handsome bonus to the present staff and retired officers had been paid.

A year ago it was possible to report a slight improvement in trade generally with considerable hopes that this might continue. Unfortunately, a falling off had been witnessed and there were, meantime, few redeeming features. Contributory factors included the General Election, the orgy of speculation, particularly in the United States, with the inevitable smash in October, and a world-wide fall in commodity prices.

Reports from all over Scotland mentioned the plight of the arable farmer notwithstanding, and, perhaps, partly due to, fine weather and excellent crops of potatoes and cereals. In the case of oats, steps should be taken to deal with the dumping here of subsidised foreign grain. Further conversion of arable land to grass appeared inevitable, with resultant unemployment and falling off of food production, both to be deplored from a national point of view.

The output of the iron and steel trades had been well maintained, but it was to be deplored that, when the industry looked to be turning the corner, coal mining should once more have become the plaything of politicians, thus rendering the attraction of fresh capital necessary for development more difficult than ever. Shipbuilding had a satisfactory output, but prices continued on a basis showing little profit. Freights were low and there was an excess of tramp tonnage for existing world trade. The outlook was not good.

Financially, the year had not been easy with its eight changes in Bank rate, which, at 3 per cent., is under average, but it was a tribute to the management of the Bank that its figures were well maintained and that the year had been so satisfactory.

The Duke concluded on a note of warning, pointing out that the country was spending more on social services than it could afford. Direct taxation on a small section when carried to excess must eventually harm the whole community. If death duty rates continue at present level there would, twenty years hence, be few large fortunes remaining, which, in turn, meant reduction of potential payers of income and surtax and of the suppliers of capital for industry. It seemed clear this country was living beyond its means, and this could have only one ending.

BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

Sir Ludovic J. Grant, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, referred to the increase in deposits which, at 28¼ million pounds, shows an improvement of almost one million on the 1929 figures; deposits, of course, included the Bank's considerable inner reserves. There was every reason to be satisfied with the progress of the small deposit accounts movement; customers, large and small, receive the same courteous treatment. Reserves and carry-forward were £1,685,000, much in excess of paid-up capital of £1,000,000. Investments totalled 9¾ millions; not only was market value very appreciably greater than this figure, but the surplus valuation was actually greater than at April 2, 1929. Advances again showed a record, being 1½ millions higher than a year ago, evidence of the Bank's policy of lending freely to assist industry.

Declared profits at £339,000 showed a small increase of £3,000 after full provision for contingencies and bad and doubtful debts, which, for the year under review, were of modest dimensions and actually under average. The Bank was not affected directly or indirectly by, or interested in, the recent notorious financial scandals. The rate of dividend, again 18 per cent., was a modest return on the real capital employed.

Sir Ludovic, in paying an eloquent tribute to the services of the staff and management, pointed out that the bank's prosperity during its long history had never been a matter of luck or chance, but that it was directly due to the industry, loyalty and zeal of the staff and the wisdom and enterprise of the management. He referred to the high qualifications of the seven general managers who had held office, and made particular mention of the eminent services rendered to the bank by James Anderson, the first, and Norman Hird, the present general manager.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting the proposals for increasing the bank's capital by £200,000 were approved.

LONDON ASIATIC RUBBER AND PRODUCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFIT—LOW RECORD PRODUCTION COST.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of the London Asiatic Rubber and Produce Company, Ltd., was held, on the 5th instant, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 2, 3 and 4, Idol Lane, London, Mr H. J. Welch (the chairman) presiding.

Mr J. O'May, representing the secretaries (Messrs Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.), having read the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—The annual accounts show practically no changes during the year in our issued capital or reserves. The amount of £17,598 has been spent on the upkeep of immature rubber and on new planting; £1,422 upon the purchase of good new land adjoining two of our existing estates, and £6,571 on new buildings and machinery. Under the latter heading, however, depreciation calculated on a generous basis and amounting to £7,400 has been written off from profits, so that the net increase in our capital expenditure is £18,191.

NET COST PER PLANTED ACRE.

The net balance-sheet cost per acre of our planted area, ascertained by deducting the excess of liquid assets over liabilities from the issued capital, and allowing for the dividend and all other appropriations now recommended, is still under £27 per acre.

Throughout the year which has just closed the estates were on full production (on the moderate system of tapping which we employ), the restriction of output having gradually come to an end during 1928. The crop produced, of over 4,900,000 lbs., exceeded that of the previous year by over 1,250,000 lbs. It equalled 500 lbs. per acre tapped, and 464 lbs. per acre of the total mature areas, part of which were being rested in accordance with our conservative agricultural programme. Owing to the larger crop harvested the cost of production per lb. was further reduced, and like the previous year, achieved another low record of cost in the history of this company. This was achieved by the lightening of fixed charges consequent upon the increased yields, and by the further success of our managers in aiming at the utmost economy in working, subject to the full provision of all requirements for the welfare of the properties.

The latter qualifying cause is, in the minds of the directors, of the first importance; this company owns large areas of rubber giving very fine yields, which we believe are largely due to adequate cultivation in past years, and it is still our policy to assist the trees by cultivation and periodical resting, to attain the maximum development and producing capacity of which they are capable.

CONDITION OF THE ESTATES.

During the year under review further improvement works have again been approved by the board on a considerable scale, and we have no doubt that the results of this work will be as satisfactory as those we see in our statistics of yield and in the reports we receive of the splendid growth of our immature areas. The visiting agent's reports show that the company's estates are all in thoroughly good order and well and efficiently managed. Labour has been adequate throughout the year, and health conditions satisfactory on all the properties.

The immature areas amount to 2,645 acres, out of the total of 13,217 acres planted at December 31st last. They include 277 acres which were planted during the past year, all with the finest selected seed obtainable, and most of which will have alternate trees budgrafted this year, when the appropriate stage of growth is reached. For the current year we have planned extensions on a somewhat larger scale, totalling about 600 acres.

The crop which we expect to produce during the year is about 4,500,000 lbs., after allowing for the agreed cessation of tapping throughout the present month. The extent of the support accorded to the scheme for cessation of tapping in May, by both British and Dutch producers and companies domiciled in the East and also by Asiatic owners of rubber estates, is a most hopeful feature. Had we, however, been harvesting an unrestricted crop we had estimated to produce it at even a lower cost than last year, which, as I have said, was already the lowest recorded by this company. I do not propose now to discuss the general position of the rubber industry, as I shall do so fully on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust on Thursday of this week.

The net profit on the year's working, £69,884, was decidedly better than that shown for the previous year, which was £53,951. From these profits we recommend the payment of a final dividend of 10 per cent., making a total of 15 per cent. for the year. We shall then carry forward £97,000, as against £95,600 last year.

After paying a tribute to agents and staffs the chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Mence Wilkinson seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

THE RUBBER PLANTATIONS INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

THE TEA AND RUBBER INDUSTRIES.

MR WELCH ON THE OUTLOOK.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 8th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Mr H. J. Welch (the Chairman) presiding.

Mr E. J. Johnson, F.C.I.S., representing the Secretaries (Messrs Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The outstanding feature of 1929 was the depression of the markets in both the commodities in which this Trust is interested.

Production in India, Ceylon and the Dutch East Indies during 1929 amounted to 840,000,000 lbs., the figures for each of the countries concerned establishing fresh high records. For the years 1928 and 1927 the comparative figures were 787,000,000 and 761,000,000 lbs. World consumption (net imports or market absorption) for 1929 is estimated at 953,000,000 lbs., in comparison with 927,000,000 in 1928, and 888,000,000 in 1927. This steady progress in consumption is most encouraging as being proof of the increasing popularity of tea as a beverage.

TEA STOCKS.

At the end of February of this year the London stocks (which are estimated to represent about 90 per cent. of the total for the United Kingdom) had reached the highest figure then recorded, namely, 267,000,000 lbs. The latest figures available, viz., those for April 30th, showed the stocks at 234,000,000 lbs., in comparison with 222,000,000 in 1929. The average price obtained for all tea sold in public sale and garden account during 1929 was 1s. 4¼d., compared with 1s. 4⅞d. in 1928 and 1s. 7d. during 1927.

It being generally realised that there has been over-production of the lower unattractive classes of tea, concerted efforts were made to arrange a reduction in these classes. Agreement having been reached between India, Ceylon and the Dutch East Indies producers, steps are being taken to correct the over-supply, and to improve the quality of the teas manufactured. It is estimated that the effect of the combined agreement to restrict outputs during 1930 will be to reduce the normal unrestricted production by not less than 57,000,000 lbs. of manufactured tea. This, in a time of increasing consumption, should result in stocks being reduced to a normal amount towards the end of the year, and it may not be until that time that its full effect on prices will be felt.

THE RUBBER INDUSTRY.

The production of plantation rubber during 1929 amounted to about 840,000 tons, and greatly exceeded all estimates made a year ago, the divergence being mainly due to the output of native rubber from Malaya. The large increase in production was fortunately accompanied by a large increase in the absorption by manufacturers. The United States used over 470,000 tons in 1929, against 440,000 in 1928, and 375,000 in 1927. The deliveries to manufacturers "in other countries" in 1929 far surpassed expectations, and amounted to 330,000 tons, against 240,000 in 1928, and 215,000 in 1927. Whatever may happen to the absorption of the United States during the next few years, there can be little doubt that the trend of absorption of the rest of the world will be steadily upward, notwithstanding the fact that the use generally of reclaimed rubber is also increasing.

The future extension of motor traffic is closely related with the mileage of fully metalled roads. It is therefore worth while to observe that the estimates show that the whole Continent of America contains about only one-third of the mileage in fully metalled roads that exist in Europe. Europe contains more than one-half of the estimated total mileage of metalled roads in the whole of the world, America less than one-fourth, and the rest of the world about one-fifth.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

Turning now to the prospects for the current year, we are again face to face with several uncertain factors. It is generally anticipated that the Malayan native output in 1930 is not likely to be greater than it was last year. The output of Ceylon will probably not exceed that of 1929, and the production of estate rubber in the Nederlands East Indies is expected to show only a small increase. Without the cessation of tapping in May it seems probable therefore that the total world production of crude rubber during 1930 would not have been very much greater than it was in 1929, unless, of course, the price rose to a level which would attract labour to the native gardens in the Nederlands East Indies.

The absorption by manufacturers in the United States is generally estimated by them at its 1929 amount of 470,000 tons, and this appears to be a safe figure to work upon, in view of the existing trade conditions there. With regard to other countries, although world trade as a whole, and especially that concerned in the production of raw commodities, is passing through a period of depression, the expansion of motor transport in those countries is not likely to be unduly retarded. It seems probable, therefore, that the rest of the world will use not less than 360,000 tons during 1930. At the present moment, however, all estimates are unusually difficult.

THE TAPPING HOLIDAY.

The steady increase in the world's stocks, and the resulting depressed price of the commodity which has obtained since September last, has had one highly important result which may have a far-reaching effect on the accumulation in the future of unwanted stocks. I refer to the agreement to cease tapping during this month of May. The response which this scheme has elicited from the British, Dutch and other Continental and the Asiatic estate owners is highly gratifying. The scheme has the support of producers of nearly one-half of the estimated output of plantation crude rubber for 1930, and it is said will keep from 30,000 to 35,000 tons of rubber off the market during the summer months at a time when the demand is likely to be at its maximum.

With the increasing stocks and the selling price at or below the average all-in cost of production of European estates it was natural that the question of restricting outputs should again be raised. Doubt is felt by some people as to whether any practicable scheme for restriction of output will prove to be of permanent benefit to the plantation industry. As far as I can judge at present, however, the adverse effects of the Government restriction scheme are not likely to follow restriction when the price is at or below the average cost of production of well-managed European estates, notwithstanding that such restriction is effected only by a section of the producers, provided they cease to restrict when prices rise above such average cost. If and when, as at present, surplus stocks obviously exist, and the net price is only about or is below such average cost of production, it seems to me quite reasonable to stop adding to such excess stocks. Excess stocks have to be paid for by the producers in depressed prices twice over—once whilst such stocks are accumulating, and afterwards whilst they are being absorbed.

IMPORTANCE OF COST OF PRODUCTION.

It would be very unwise, however, for producers to ignore the important fact that native areas, apart from what are known as "Asiatic-owned estates," probably now represent at least two-fifths of the total area planted, and no one knows their full productive capacity.

However advisable, therefore, may be temporary restrictions of output, such as that in force this month, our real and permanent interests will doubtless be found, not in restriction of output, which increases the cost, but in lowering the cost of production by every method consistent with the preservation of the agricultural value of our estates.

It follows from what I have said that, in my opinion, if any future agreement for restriction affecting a section of the producers only becomes necessary, it should depend upon the net market price at the time of restriction not exceeding the average cost of production of well-managed European estates.

Taking a view covering, say, five to ten years ahead, I am optimistic as to the future of the rubber producing industry, with or without any further restriction schemes, and in its ability over such a period of giving fair average returns in dividends. I believe that, fortunately, owing to the increasing consumption, our present troubles are only temporary, and that before long the growing demand for rubber will again overtake the supply.

A net profit of £252,552 was earned during the year, or over 11 per cent. upon our issued capital. This compared with £310,564 earned during 1928. It is proposed to transfer £50,000 from the dividend equalisation reserve and to pay a final dividend of 7½ per cent.

The estates include 8,119 acres of mature and 1,547 acres of immature tea, and 26,038 acres of reserve land. The planted areas are reported to be in excellent condition agriculturally, the tea vigorous and healthy, and all buildings, machinery, etc., have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Mr Eric Macfadyen (vice-chairman), in seconding the resolution, referred to his visit to the tea estates, which, he said, whether for extent or for level of cultivation and equipment, were unsurpassed, so far as his experience went, in any tea-producing country. He had never seen the estates looking better or the bushes more healthy, and, quite apart from manuring, there had been steady progress in methods of cultivation

The resolution was carried unanimously.

HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, LIMITED.

PROLONGED DEPRESSION IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

The thirty-sixth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Howard and Bullough, Ltd., was held, on the 7th instant, at Globe Works, Accrington. The chairman of the company, Sir George Bullough, Bart., presiding.

In moving the adoption of the reports and accounts, the Chairman said: Since we last met the prolonged depression in the cotton industry has become more acute. Throughout the world the demand for cotton-spinning machinery has been of such a restricted character that it has seriously affected our trade. This is reflected in the reduced turnover, you will notice, in the accounts for the year under review.

Having fully in mind the scarcity of work in our own business as textile machinery makers, we are constantly keeping in view any avenues of work in any other line for which our equipment is suitable. Further serious consideration has been given to the question of amalgamation or regulation of selling prices by the various machine makers, and meetings and consultations have taken place, but so far without tangible results. It must, however, be borne in mind that no schemes of rationalisation or combinations on the part of machine makers can furnish a remedy for the lack of demand in the trade which, after all, remains the dominating factor in the situation.

With your kind permission we will take the report and balance-sheet as read. Turning to some of the items in the balance-sheet, I have to explain that, owing to the fluctuations in the Bank Rate, it was found advantageous to wipe out our bank overdraft by realising some of our investments. That accounts for the reduced amount shown under the heading of investments. On the other hand, instead of a bank overdraft of £385,000, we now have a balance to credit of £88,000.

I take this opportunity of informing our shareholders that of the £250,000 debentures in our company we hold at present £56,520 as part of our investments, which reduces the liability to outside debenture holders to £193,480, thereby strengthening the position of our concern. At the half-year business was sufficiently active to justify your directors in declaring an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares. We had at that period a fair amount of important inquiries on hand which are expected to fructify in time to come within the operations of the financial year now under review. Protracted negotiations, however, caused delays, and much of the business which we have secured will thus come within the scope of our next financial year.

The second half-year's output was, therefore, lower than anticipated, and the total for the year is much less than the previous year's output. When low turnover is coupled with a low price level for the manufactured article as now ruling, it is difficult to make ends meet. But fortunately during our more affluent years we were able to build up a reserve fund to provide for difficult times such as we are passing through. Our balance sheet shows but a slender margin on the right side, and for the 2½ per cent. dividend on ordinary shares already declared and paid we are able to draw upon our dividend reserve fund to cover. For this and the preference dividend and debenture interest we propose to withdraw £55,000. The directors do not consider it advisable to deplete further dividend reserve fund at the present time.

The resolution was carried after being seconded by Mr James Stephenson, of Blackpool.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

ANGLO-AMERICAN DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND AGAIN INCREASED.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-American Debenture Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 8th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr Richard S. Guinness (the Chairman) said that it was again his privilege to submit accounts disclosing an increase in revenue, a further strengthening of the already strong financial position, and, what in these times was of more than usual interest to shareholders, recommending an increased dividend for the fifth year in succession. After deducting expenses and debenture interest, and making provision for income tax, there was a balance of £123,694. They had again transferred £25,000 to the general reserve account, bringing the disclosed reserve up to £275,000, or 61 per cent. of the ordinary capital. After paying the preference dividend they had £70,007 available for dividend on the ordinary stock, and in view of this very satisfactory surplus the directors had decided to recommend an increase in the distribution from 14 per cent. to 15 per cent.

They had prepared the usual estimate of the revenue likely to be received during the current year, and, although they had had to allow for a reduction in revenue from certain of their holdings, owing to generally unsettled conditions, the estimate indicated that the present revenue ought not only to be maintained, but in probability a reasonable increase would be shown, always provided, of course, that conditions did not become worse. It was always difficult to forecast revenue in respect of a large number of holdings such as this company possessed, and it was especially so on this occasion, when trade was so depressed throughout the whole world, either through the heavy fall in the prices of commodities or in consequence of political troubles or fears of political troubles.

The valuation of the investments was not quite so satisfactory as last year, when he was able to state that it had improved by £100,000. During the year this improvement had disappeared, but there was still a very substantial appreciation upon the balance-sheet figure. Without giving the exact figures of the valuation he would go so far as to say that the present market price of the ordinary stock was, in his view, justified by it.

It was difficult in these times to point to any industry or to any country where the outlook was hopeful, but, despite the fact that the coming year was likely to be as difficult as that through which they had just passed, he felt that the position of this company was such that they might look forward to the future without undue apprehension.

The report was unanimously adopted.

KEPONG (MALAY) RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND 27½ PER CENT.

The twenty-fifth annual general meeting of the Kepong (Malay) Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held, on the 8th instant, at the Great Eastern Hotel, London.

Sir Francis Voules, C.B.E. (the chairman) said that last year the company produced 2,144,397 lbs., compared with 1,686,276 lbs. in 1928, and the gross average price realised was 11·1d. London landed terms, compared with 1s. per lb. in the previous year. The net profit for the year was £45,917, an increase of £7,000, the greater crop collected and a satisfactory reduction in costs accounting for the better result. It was proposed to pay a final dividend of 17½ per cent., making 27½ per cent. for the year, to write off £6,063 from administration and development account, and to carry forward the slightly increased amount of £20,357. The crop for 1930 was originally estimated at 1,988,000 lbs., but the cessation of tapping during the whole of the present month would probably modify this figure. They were in the fortunate position of having still 181,440 lbs. to deliver under forward contracts at the handsome price of 2s. 3d. per lb. This would all come out of the 1930 crop.

Although the average yield over the areas tapped during the past year had been over 500 lbs. per acre, the year's crop had been produced without in any way taxing the productive capacity of the estate. The total capitalisation of their properties worked out at £28 per acre, and they therefore had a considerable hidden reserve in that the cost of planting the area to-day would probably be about £70 per acre. Rubber, like all other commodities, was suffering from an excess of production, but it was one of the few articles which had continued to be in ever-increasing demand. The world consumption for 1929 must be taken as 785,000 tons, an increase of 110,000 tons over 1928. The statistical position, showing stocks of approximately 100,000 tons in London and Liverpool, in addition to heavy stocks in America, could not be considered satisfactory. But for a true comparison these figures had to be taken in conjunction with the consumption figures, and the present stocks, at their worst, represented only seven months supplies, as compared with over 14 months supplies at the end of 1921.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

REMBAU JELEI RUBBER, LIMITED.

PLANTING POLICY—INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

The sixth annual general meeting of Rembau Jelei Rubber, Ltd., was held, on the 2nd instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr T. W. Hodge, chairman of the company, presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that they had harvested 2,798,890 lbs. of rubber, against 2,140,986 lbs. in 1928, which, over the mature area of 5,863 acres, worked out at 478 lb. per acre. The all-in cost showed a reduction of slightly over 1d. per pound, offset by a fall in the average price realised from 11.73d. per pound to 10.22d. per pound.

He had had the pleasure of visiting the company's properties early this year. The various estates were in good order, and he found the immature rubber looking particularly well; he was much impressed by the appearance of the budgrafted areas.

The estimated output for next year was originally 2,767,000 lbs., but since then the company had consented to stop tapping during the month of May. It was estimated that stoppage of tapping in May would keep between 20,000 and 30,000 tons of rubber off the market. That might afford temporary alleviation, but he doubted whether a permanent solution of the difficulties in which the industry stood could be found in any such artificial expedients.

A sounder solution of the problem would appear to be offered by trying still further to reduce costs of production, and by relying on a period of low prices to cause a reduction of output and an increase in consumption. As to the planting of a further 268 acres at Jeram Padang during the current year, it was the board's policy to consider adding similarly small areas year by year. The reason was that it was necessary to keep abreast of new planting methods. The clearings would be put out in accordance with the latest practice, and budgrafted with proved high-yielding clones.

There was £46,046 for disposal, and the board recommended a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 7½ per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £26,046.

As to the suggested increase of £50,000 in the authorised capital, the sole reason was to provide for the possibility of their acquiring a small estate adjoining Jeram Padang. The property concerned had a grant area of 1,308.83 acres, of which 699.29 acres were planted. The acquisition would not involve an issue for cash, and the board did not contemplate issuing more than the mere number of shares involved in the purchase.

The report and accounts were adopted, and the increase of capital approved.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended May 3, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	13,304	From Revenue	10,340
Interest, &c., on Debt	12,538	Increase in Debt	15,464
Sinking Fund	525	Decrease in Balances	616
Sundries	53		
	26,420		26,420

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £10,340,400, as compared with £12,181,000 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was higher at £2,262,000, against £2,135,000, but surtax, at £610,000, was £70,000 lower. Estate duties brought in £890,000, as compared with £1,570,000, while Customs amounted to £2,219,000, against £2,158,000, and Excise to £814,000, against £979,000. Miscellaneous receipts brought in £1,356,700, against £2,232,000. The National Debt was increased by £15,463,600, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£
Treasury Bills	+ 3,561
National Savings Certificates	+ 100
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 1,892
Public Department Advances	+ 8,400
Bank of England advances	+ 1,500
Sundries	+ 11
	+15,464

The floating Debt was increased by £13,445,000 to £628,130,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31, APRIL 1 TO MAY 3.

	£		£
Expenditure	81,166,088	Revenue	62,187,528
		Decreases in balances	3,670,097
		Amount borrowed	15,308,463
	81,166,088		81,166,088

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	May 3, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	292
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,082	1,082
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	590	573
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	54
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,526	7,541
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	113	113
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,654

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

Ways and Means Advances Outstanding –	May 4, '29. £	Mar. 31, '30. £	May 3, '30. £	Movement, week ended May 3, '30. £
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	1,500,000	+ 1,500,000
Advances by Public Departments	41,535,000	48,530,000	52,930,000	+ 8,400,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	704,070,000	588,885,000	573,700,000*	+ 3,545,000
Total Floating Debt	745,605,000	637,415,000	628,130,000	+ 13,445,000

* Includes £15,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on May 2, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £52,235,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 6d., about 75 per cent., and Saturday at £99 9s. 8d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months; £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 7	30,000,000	57,810,000	3 4 0·72
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to May 3, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to May 4, 1929.	Week Ended May 3, 1930.	Week Ended May 4, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—				
Income Tax	16,236,000	16,024,000	2,262,000	2,135,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	5,350,000	4,990,000	610,000	680,000
Estate, &c., Duties	7,830,000	8,250,000	890,000	1,570,000
Stamps	1,350,000	1,980,000	410,000	340,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	70,000	70,000	10,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	30,836,000	31,324,000	4,182,000	4,725,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	10,829,000	11,144,000	2,219,000	2,158,000
Excise	10,064,000	10,739,000	814,000	979,000
Total Customs and Excise	20,893,000	21,883,000	3,033,000	3,137,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	662,000	1,637,000	233,000	755,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	3,150,000	3,050,000	1,450,000	1,250,000
Crown Lands	140,000	150,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	4,317,976	4,217,180	85,704	82,021
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,188,552	3,061,748	1,356,650	2,231,959
Total Ordinary Revenue	62,187,528	65,322,928	10,340,354	12,180,980
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	3,200,000	3,850,000	550,000	750,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	2,149,000	1,909,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	5,349,000	5,849,000	550,000	750,000
Total	67,536,528	71,171,928	10,890,354	12,930,980
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,740,000	480,000	380,000	70,000
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	221,673,000	309,610,000	51,681,000	67,833,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	25,041,883	...	1,891,883	...
By National Savings Certificates	4,150,000	4,000,000	900,000	850,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	55,120,000	106,055,000	27,150,000	18,320,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	17,038	23,221	10,682	14,539
	1930. £	1929. £		
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—				
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
Total	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
£	381,403,663	523,712,673	92,903,919	100018519

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 3, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 4, 1929.	Issues Week Ended May 3, 1930.	Issues Week Ended May 4, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	1,740,000	480,000	380,000	70,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,000,000	800,000	...	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	236,855,000	305,820,000	48,120,000	69,305,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	3,600,000	4,100,000	800,000	800,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	29,159,505	...	213,435
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	49,220,000	101,570,000	17,250,000	14,035,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	1,870,044	...	...
	378,948,546	521,162,209	93,520,497	100742706
Balances in Exchequer— May 3, 1930. £ / May 4, 1929. £				
Bank of England	...	...	−140,164	−171,415
Bank of Ireland	2,455,117	2,550,464	−476,414	−552,772
Total £	381,403,663	523,712,673	−616,578	−724,187

Treasury, May 5, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, May 7, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
in Circulation	358,490,698	Other Government Securities	232,893,904
In Banking Department	65,081,772	Other Securities	11,628,697
		Silver Coin	4,462,299
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	163,572,470
	£423,572,470		£423,572,47

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	56,362,629
Rest	3,192,794	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	16,211,092	Discounts and Advances	£6,554,872
Other Deposits—		Securities	9,609,075
Bankers	£68,534,385		16,163,947
Other Accounts	36,034,433	Notes	65,081,772
	104,568,818	Gold and Silver Coin	929,924
7-Day and other Bills	12,568		£138,538,272
	£138,538,272		

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

Both Departments.	Amount. May 7, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	358,490,698	− 331,179	− 4,303,263
Public deposits	16,211,092	− 4,791,282	+ 7,531,375
Bankers' deposits	68,534,385	+ 2,372,146	+ 5,311,262
Other deposits	36,034,433	− 526,574	+ 502,842
Seven-day bills	12,568	+ 859	+ 6,802
Total, outside liabilities	479,283,176	− 3,276,030	+ 9,049,018
Capital and rest	17,745,794	+ 29,520	+ 4,926
Government debt and securities	300,271,633	− 2,878,985	+ 13,285,221
Discounts and advances	6,554,872	− 200,356	− 5,052,328
Other securities	21,237,772	− 389,332	− 2,442,545
Silver coin in issue department	4,462,299	+ 3,562	− 358,379
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	164,502,394	+ 218,601	+ 3,621,975
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	66,011,696	+ 549,780	+ 7,925,238
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	54 11/16 %	+ 1 11/16 %	+ 11/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	34 1/16 %	+ 1/16 %	Nil

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar 19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	3
26	415,145,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 3, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 4, 1929.	Issues Week Ended May 3, 1930.	Issues Week Ended May 4, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	36,031,210	34,842,874	12,538,001	8,353,083
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	188,624	183,035	...	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	292,223	435,366	53,296	36,188
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	41,178,150	31,958,860	13,304,200	6,550,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	77,690,207	67,420,135	25,895,497	14,939,271
Sinking Fund	3,475,881	4,075,067	525,000	630,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	3,200,000	3,850,000	550,000	750,000
Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	5,349,000	5,849,000	550,000	750,000
TOTAL	86,515,088	77,344,202	26,970,497	16,319,271

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion.	Both Depts. Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Mar. 19	244884874	10651478	154245375	33 15/16	41481563	6060054	16258430	65355174 58 3/16
26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33 11/16	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754 58 1/16
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	54021909	10309949	12705909	59860036 50 15/16
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33 3/16	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155 52 1/16
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	33 1/16	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466768 50 3/16
23	243912989	11629001	163843217	33 5/16	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812 51 3/16
30	243912989	11628274	164283793	34 1/16	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916 52 3/16
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394	34 1/16	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696 54 1/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to April 23	12,713,431	594,637	965,638	14,273,706
Week ended April 30	790,898	34,521	54,240	879,659
Week ended May 7	770,956	40,995	69,905	881,856
Total to date, 1930	14,275,285	670,153	1,089,783	16,035,221
Total to date, 1929	14,454,613	686,596	1,108,330	16,249,539
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 179,328	− 16,443	− 18,547	− 214,318
	= 1·2%	= 2·4%	= 1·7%	= 1·3%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of April. 1929.	1930.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to April 26. 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	25	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,126,000	10,138,000	+ 0·1	49,313,700	46,598,000
BRADFORD	5,388,000	3,879,000	−28·0	22,453,300	17,193,300
BRISTOL	4,738,000	4,191,000	−11·5	22,050,000	19,854,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	89,593,300	86,336,800
HULL	3,876,000	3,402,000	−12·2	16,505,500	14,796,600
LEEDS	4,061,000	4,006,000	− 1·3	18,816,600	18,069,900
LEICESTER	3,490,000	2,855,000	−18·1	14,839,000	13,368,100
LIVERPOOL	32,936,000	27,781,000	−15·6	146,942,600	127,209,100
MANCHESTER	55,057,000	45,298,000	−17·7	236,793,600	207,421,300
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,003,000	6,537,000	+ 8·8	26,457,800	26,897,300
NOTTINGHAM	2,533,000	2,419,000	− 4·5	11,665,900	11,198,400
SHEFFIELD	4,043,000	3,528,000	−12·7	18,974,200	17,290,300
Total	132,251,000	114,034,000	−13·7	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Returns of the Banks of Canada and Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of April 26; Poland, Russia, Italy, Austria and Roumania in May 3.

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

RESOURCES.	May 9, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,840,950	3,031,490	3,048,530	3,072,660	3,068,170
Total bills discounted	962,020	213,800	211,490	233,450	237 450
Bills bought in open market	157,180	302,410	256,870	209,560	175,200
Total U.S. Govt. securities	149,490	535,390	527,390	529,510	527,840
Total bills and securities	1,281,910	1,061,480	1,004,960	982,220	951,090
Total resources	5,097,570	5,142,210	5,016,060	4,973,880	4,936,020
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,663,680	1,547,870	1,518,340	1,507,270	1,492,990
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,330,030	2,380,130	2,363,310	2,384,720	2,349,440
Total deposits	2,389,210	2,443,130	2,422,190	2,433,930	2,413,000
Capital paid in and surplus	410,570	451,090	451,180	451,140	451,120
Total liabilities	5,097,570	5,142,210	5,016,060	4,973,880	4,936,020
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	74·3%	80·4%	81·8%	82·5%	83·0%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted)

	May 9, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Total bills discounted	276,890	43,920	34,130	41 270	57,180
Bills bought in open market	44,000	127,370	74.080	49,790	37,010
Total U.S. Govt. securities	16,550	200,950	192,860	195,170	192 860
Total bills and securities	340,640	380,090	308,270	293,930	295,660
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	940,310	968,560	957,670	991,130	947,990
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	77·8%	76·3%	82·0%	84·3%	83·4%

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 12, 1929.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,472	6,806	7,115	7,315	7,007	7,134
Subsidiary coin	114	124	126	127	122	126
Bills discounted	9.273	8,651	8,859	9,445	9,060	8,614
Investments	596	823	805	1,043	1,016	1,091
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	509	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,569	7,689	7,393	8,436	8,565	7,891
Government deposits	1,659	1,870	2,580	2,450	1,851	1,815
Bankers' deposits	4,922	4,852	4,954	4,737	5,011	4,533
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	47·4%	46·7%	47·6%	45·8%	45·0%	47·6%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 12, 1929.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.
Total securities	21.38,45	29,92,55	30,12,14	30,18,57	30.03,19	30,04,37
Loans	19,05.44	9,25.64	9,19.54	10,05,27	13.07.07	14.05.68
Cash credits	29.84.51	31,90,69	31,43.09	31,74,27	31.99.54	32,19,12
Inland bills	10,63.94	7,06,16	7,27,89	7,11,77	6,81,35	6,39,75
Foreign bills	48.69	33.30	44.01	40,11	48,79	50.84
Dead stock	2,83,75	2,80,90	2,80,92	2,80,94	2,80.56	2,80.75
Bal. with other banks	26,24	20,10	50,92	29,02	8.25	21.60
Cash	9,84,75	16,11,33	19,44,68	19,18,46	14,31,52	13,05,22
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62.50	5,62,50	5.62.50	5,62,50	5,62.50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	81,03.65	86,15.04	89.58.21	90,11,94	86,24,47	85,89,17
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,058	843	1,204	1,049	916	1,020
Advances in London	899	768	880	880	2,144	2,126
Cash &c., at other Banks in London	189	151	382	213	55	160

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 3, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.
Gold	36,462,461	42,324,670	42,333.653	42,350,815	42,350,022
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	8,044,770	6,897,550	6,937,539	6,901 833	6,885,787
Bills discounted	18,464,115	18,769,509	18,778,095	18,753,348	18,748,376
Commercial bills discounted at home	6,351,583	4,646,900	4,710,999	5.657,909	...
Advances against sec. To the State	8,998,339	8.594,858	8.594,858	8.594,858	8.594,858
Other advances	2,440,199	2,651,990	2,622,959	2,591,847	2,749,826
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	5,831,344	2,982,675	2,699,095	2,764,386	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	63,828,155	71.245,076	70,899.825	70,770.213	72,372,801
Public deposits	11,286,905	6,522,708	6,300,088	6,553.930	5,593,939
Private deposits	6,743,362	6,460,712	6,764,909	6,666.101	6,382.839
Other liabilities	2,294,190	2,639,656	2,712,386	2,624,752	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 27, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,891,575	2,550,125	2,557,053	2,565.502
Of which deposited abroad	172,708	149,788	149,788	149.788
Reserve in foreign currencies	99.372	357,433	354,895	327,384
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,926.597	1,765,727	1,630,539	2,016,121
Silver and other coin	134.503	142,647	153,060	133,433
Notes of other German banks	7.243	18.261	23,294	4,969
Advances	262,077	67,381	55,358	135,480
Investments	92.899	93,090	93,133	93,094
Other assets	535,399	606,612	627,716	580,692
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,631,496	4,308,719	4,109,876	4,664,194
Other daily maturing obligations	585.119	638,330	732,476	536,528
Other liabilities	290.654	160,300	158,769	162,026

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	May 2, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May. 1, 1930.
Gold	(b)	962,034	1,182,432	1,182,949	1,182,960	1,194,551
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	454,948	613,143	635,005	615,270	654,113
Silver and other coin		1,590	3.754	3,771	4,005	4,007
Securities	697,600	720,256	829,332	840,834	829,356	826,836
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,468,191	2,901,813	2,896,312	2,876,531	2,931,692
Current accounts	112,125	50,752	77,693	96,296	90.363	94,734

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	April 29, 1929.	April 7, 1930.	Apr. 14, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 28, 1930.
Gold	163,092	432,203	431,953	431,944	431,940	431,933
Silver	8,436	21,235	27,028	25,719	25,131	25,960
Home Bills discted.	153,504	172,259	51,486	51,163	51,647	52,105
Foreign Bills		89,382	204,394	209,348	210,071	213,210
Loans and advances in current acct.		123,672	104,192	99,044	94,744	93,169
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	841,093	820,304	816,387	813,007	830,310
Deposits	5,016	26,980	12.843	16,852	16,473	17,992

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	May 4, 1929.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May3, 1930.
Gold	22,971	162,201	170,400	169,700	169,300	168,700
Silver	29,785	22,353				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	135,748	141,800	139,000	147,600	148,300
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	302.791	276,100	271,800	269,400	272,500
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	35,336	43,300	42,700	52,200	49,100

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold	171,175	492,591	560,996	566,131	566,143	578,769
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	246,882	344,313	347.978	372,042	391,035
Discounts	...	137,135	40,151	35,191	35,398	37,490
Advances	103,000	64,127	45,486	43,305	41,520	45,996
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	875.354	885,922	860,767	851,824	916,284
Deposits	33,750	111,920	108,069	153,415	176,230	153,754

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 4, 1929.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.
Gold	234,557	243,562	243,468	243,397	243,353
Government securities—Swedish	5,755	22,556	22,554	22,246	21,942
" " Foreign	73,774	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	231	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	246,480	170,009	157,847	142,878	112,429
" " abroad	56,597	96,599	96,911	98,006	123,513
Balance abroad	53,358	115,115	120,768	178,520	169,703
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	63,532	38,058	47,439	34,066	38,208
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	509,323	518,856	516,043	499,314	545,091
Government deposits	177,691	172,480	182,408	179,047	160,601
Private deposits	6,325	7,521	12,992	47,144	10,710

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,826	146,600	146,603	146,600
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	55,931	41,395	44,328	41,573
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	9,558	26,083	26,083	29,359
Discounts and loans	76,911	272,610	237,849	238,524	239,732
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	308,398	312,308	310,020	310,165
Deposits at sight	7,188	113,778	74,044	80,437	83,525

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,691	172,337	172,328	172,291	172,202
Loans & discounts	88,470	100,128	102,381	91,539	100,058	106,763
Debtors abroad	24,102	86,492	102,657	125,213	97,637	83,270
Securities	11,988	33,924	30,256	36,120	45,267	47,055
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	359,411	346,789	352,277	356,840	361,958
Deposits	6,698	33,081	34,513	29,007	30,768	30,842

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 4, 1929.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,559,917	2,468,760	2,468,889	2,469,333	2,469,729
Silver	728,600	716,299	710,173	708,329	713,627	712,445
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,820,791	2,091,695	2,067,321	1,991,276	2,044,533
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,339,909	4,447,457	4,447,295	4,395,038	4,440,457
Deposits	477,500	1,041,115	839,095	837,155	840,721	816,007

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 24, 1929.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,506	8,740	8,724	8,893	8,901
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	313,563	175,667	185,529	194,320	200,246
Discounts	278,747	336,363	336,900	336,056	332,522
Government loans	1,733,455	1,530,684	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,992
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,797,638	1,899,371	1,899,025	1,888,352	1,877,959
Deposits	69,520	83,204	85,722	66,026	84,468

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,622	162,630	162,624	162,626	162,627
Drafts and notes	33,032	8,344	8,140	7,548	10,201
Silver coin and bullion	10,166	10,108	10,158	10,310	10,266
Inland bills, warrants and securities	370,248	210,267	200,052	202,320	248,141
Advances to the Treasury	92,257	82,866	82,866	82,866	82,866
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	485,452	406,876	385,390	369,887	463,672
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	153,650	53,873	60,625	73,148	24,988

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,534	1,261,979	1,262,036	1,262,112	1,262,153
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,687,602	1,890,395	1,864,645	1,860,942	1,871,893
Discounts and advances	652,907	578,254	499,953	476,251	515,320
State notes debt balance	4,023,053	3,692,940	3,690,964	3,688,386	3,686,744
Other assets	706,945	595,627	593,573	596,228	659,836
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	7,132,518	6,652,655	6,301,387	6,120,652	6,854,433
Check account balances	466,280	643,629	873,213	1,026,687	401,333
Other liabilities	205,649	214,523	228,183	228,192	231,792

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold	92,167	96,388	96,463	96,513	96,608
Other coin and notes	17,871	18,120	18,181	18,295	17,912
Foreign credits	191,290	294,619	264,169	266,178	262,674
Bills	1,370,517	1,102,288	1,092,881	1,083,220	1,077,386
Government advances	4,201,067	4,129,390	4,127,390	4,125,398	4,123,399
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,212,045	5,386,987	12,487	12,502	12,502
State credits	227,797	183,926	5,244,329	5,137,528	5,221,043
Deposits	1,058,853	1,828,595	1,896,644	2,019,718	1,923,550

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,519,427	1,573,492	1,574,373	1,575,671	1,576,072
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	1,325,056	717,846	759,164	785,686	765,973
Discounts and advances	1,463,865	1,245,202	1,249,475	1,221,804	1,173,866
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,166,616	1,251,593	1,252,020	1,252,000	1,252,959
Bank notes in circulation	4,188,359	3,350,397	3,371,278	3,792,861	3,408,073
Sight liabilities	2,885,873	1,780,003	1,801,884	1,680,252	1,618,437
Deposits	466,500	317,700	317,047	315,158	314,805

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold	568,163	627,148	628,353	629,889	630,204
Gold exchange	4,716,405	3,745,071	3,769,543	3,644,948	3,654,417
Other foreign exchange	1,127	3,816	3,810	3,774	3,773
Bills discounted	41,519	120,772	120,258	108,743	92,962
Advances	72,613	173,970	154,798	149,202	147,591
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,527,123	4,890,274	4,936,234	5,027,455	5,154,038
Deposits and current accounts	1,750,706	1,938,445	1,879,646	1,669,487	1,686,062
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,443,032	979,442	976,830	894,235	738,679

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Apr. 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,717	304,016	303,799	303,725
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	674,392	1,060,310	1,091,029	1,062,234
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	335,251	335,251	335,251
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,481,459	1,193,418	1,154,098	1,130,812
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,495,795	1,428,285	1,435,004	1,401,850
Deposits at notice	21,225	254,252	348,155	345,557	318,641

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 23, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,243	6,461	6,464	6,470	6,471
Net foreign exchange	19,495	19,800	19,671	19,204	19,459
Subsidiary Estonian coin	627	1,616	1,580	1,473	1,178
Home bills discounted	15,061	14,988	14,971	15,006	14,639
Loans and advances	14,868	13,358	12,420	12,864	11,897*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	35,631	33,169	32,586	33,088	34,166
Sight deposits and current accounts	16,922	19,269	18,544	16,973	15,174
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	48·97%	50·08%	51·11%	51·28%	52·55%

* Includes Ekr. 7,478,520·83, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 1, 1929.	Apr. 2, 1930.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,824	23,972	23,974	23,982	23,982	23,987
Silver coin	4,742	6,325	6,273	6,228	6,061	6,035
Balance abroad	55,983	48,612	50,238	51,502	52,682	52,760
Treas. notes and sm. change	9,516	12,173	12,838	13,522	11,660	12,862
Short term bills	86,693	93,199	92,902	92,108	92,521	90,537
Loans against securities	55,969	55,030	55,103	54,567	55,931	56,292
Other assets	17,726	14,371	12,883	13,279	14,390	14,627
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	45,898	47,535	47,333	47,591	48,959	47,507
Capital paid up	15,581	17,010	17,010	18,735	18,735	18,735
Reserve	3,091	3,662	3,662	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,760	16,595	16,680	16,810	16,844	17,009
Current accounts	53,762	62,774	53,233	53,099	53,751	54,416
Government accounts	106,128	93,182	102,193	104,618	105,429	107,309
Other liabilities	14,733	9,425	10,598	6,483	5,658	4,273

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold	34,354	35,155	35,163	35,187	35,193	35,199
Silver	4,352	4,068	4,088	4,160	4,123	4,178
State Treasury coins	1,835	1,673	1,677	1,686	1,672	1,672
Foreign currency	42,110	80,343	84,566	81,268	77,642	73,712
Discount and credit	87,502	84,762	83,568	89,629	92,495	94,261
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,200	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	91,743	94,840	99,303	101,381	102,135	101,815
Deposits	67,098	98,149	96,391	98,020	97,701	94,130

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Feb. 15, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Coin and bullion	2,503	3,413	3,167	3,516	3,227	3,521	3,369
Of which gold coin	8	12	12	112	116	116	116
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,495	3,401	3,155	3,403	3,111	3,405	3,252
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	13,407	12,779	14,502	11,518	15,347	12,062	14,820
Bills of exchange	24,128	18,872	20,155	20,565	21,809	19,297	19,425
Loans	100	20	...	140	...	20	...
Foreign exchange	16,032	11,429	13,328	10,338	9,472	10,842	12,384
Other bals. on dem'd	1,081	24	32	7	22	25	7
Securities	3,403	2,703	2,703	2,703	3,666	3,666	3,666
LIABILITIES.							
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	37,402	31,012	36,045	31,615	36,661	32,055	36,207
Deposits on demand	2,107	1,842	1,696	1,746	1,659	1,778	2,084

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	Apr. 20, 1929.	Mar. 22, 1930.	Mar. 29, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,125,779	955,543	955,878	954,383	950,353
Discounts	41,740	709,812	666,096	679,296	682,128	678,509
Advances	70,540	76,182	76,669	75,921	76,116	76,495
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,197,824	1,128,346	1,270,153	1,122,405	1,114,989
Govt. deposits	87,340	566,901	531,915	474,245	473,288	443,161
Other deposits	11,440	368,391	325,934	232,016	382,417	359,136

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 12, 1929.	Mar. 14, 1930.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.
Gold at home	60,853	63,238	63,245	63,228	63,210
Gold abroad	473,490	354,891	324,127	340,160	341,408
Discounts and advances	83,747	114,470	110,505	128,497	157,551
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	363,015	348,408	346,514	355,788	360,520
Deposits	175,273	105,270	80,367	105,770	126,945
Drafts	7,958	16,044	16,044	7,240	8,676
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	May 1, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 5, 1930.	May 6, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 2, 1930)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2¼	2⅛–3/16	2⅛–3/16	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
3 months' do.	2 3/16	2⅛–3/16	2 1/16–⅛	2 3/32–⅛	2⅛–3/32	2⅛	2⅛
4 months' do.	2 3/16	2¼–⅜	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼
6 months' do.	2½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2¼	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16
3 months'‡	2¼	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16–⅛	2 1/16–⅛	2⅛	2 1/16
Loans—Day to day	...	1–2	1–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–¾
Short	1½	1¾–2	1¾–2	1¾–2	1¾–2	2	2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

1930.	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Apr 16	2½–5	2½	2 9/16	2⅝	3½	3¾	4
24	2½	2½ 7/16	2 9/16	2⅝	3½	3¾	4
May 1	1½	2 3/16	2 3/16	2½	3	3	3½
8	2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	May, 9, 1929.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85⅛–3/16	4·86 1/16–3/16	4·85 13/16–·86
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88 1/16–88 3/16	4·86⅞ 87	4·87½–·88
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·15–20	123·91–94	123·86–88
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·46–46½	20·36–36½	20·36–36½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·06⅝–06⅞	12·07⅛–·07⅜	12·07⅜–07
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·94½–95	34·82¾–83½	34·82–82½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·62–65	92·77–79	92·65 68
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·18¾–19½	25·07–07½	25·08–08½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–20	18·16–16½	18·15½–16½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–16½	18·08¾–09¼	18·10½–11
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20½–21	18·16–16½	18·16–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	33·98–34·01	39·21–24	39·70–73
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108¼	108¼–⅜	108¼–⅜
Vienna	schligs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34 52–55	34·45–48	34·43–48
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164	164–164¼	163⅞–164
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾–276½	274¾–275	274¾–275
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–87	27·79–82	27·78–82
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–819	817–819	817–818
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	668–673	668–673
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375½	374½–375½	374½–375
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	994–998	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–44	†9·43¾–45¾	†9·437–456
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–43 7/16	43 5/16–7/16	†43 5/16–7/16
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193⅛	193–193½	192⅞–193⅛
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–18·23	18·21–28	18·22–29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25·25	25·17–27	25·17–27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–97 9/16	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 11/16–47 13/16	42½–⅞	43 11/16–13/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 13/16–5 15/16	5 23/32–27/32	5 25/32–27/32
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½–48½	45 45½	45½–46½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·64	39·92	39·94
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	12·80 nom.	12·72½ nom.
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–15/16	1/5 31/32–1	1/5 31/32–1
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–15/16	1/5 31/32–1	1/5 31/32–1
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 29/32–15/16	1/5 31/32–1	1/5 31/32–1
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅝–2/0 1/16	1/6 1/16–1/6 3/16	1/6⅛–1/6⅜
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5½–2/6⅛	1/10½–1/11⅛	1/10½–1/11½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 13/16 15/16	2/3 13/16–15/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 9/16–⅝	2/0 13/16–15/16	2/0 25/32–27/32
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 1/16 d.	2/0 1/16	†2/0 1/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·05 10·10	10·10–35	10·15–35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	April 23, 1930	5½	6
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3				
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	May 9, 1929.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	14	4	4	4	4	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4	4	4	4	3¾
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3	3⅛	3⅛	3	2⅞
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛	2⅞
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅛	3½	3½	...	3½	3
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	4	4	...	4	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	May 9, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·80 1/16	4·83⅞	4·83⅞	4·83
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85 7/32	4·86⅜	4·86 7/32	4·85⅞
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 15/16	4·86 5/32	4·86	4·85⅝
Paris ......cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅝	3·92 1/16	3·92¼	3·92⅛
Brussels "	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·955	13·95¾	13·95
Switzerland "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·255	19·38	19·38½	19·36⅝
Italy "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23⅝	5·23¾	5·23¾	5·24
Berlin "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·69	23·85½	23·85½	23·84
Vienna "	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·08½	14·10	14·09½
Madrid "	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·28	12·47	12·41	12·28
Amsterdam "	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·17	40·21	40·235	40·22
Copenhagen "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·635	26·75½	26·75½	26·74
Oslo "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·645	26·75½	26·75½	26·74½
Stockholm "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·70	26·85	26·86	26·83½
Athens "	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·295	1·29⅜	1·29½	1·295
Montreal "	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅝ dis.	5/64 dis.	⅛ dis.	21/64 dis.
Yokohama "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·75	49·35	49·35	49·40
Hong Kong "	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·50	37·45	37·20	36·90
Shanghai "	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	60·05	47·25	46·87½	46·37½
Calcutta "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·13	36·15	36·10	36·08
Buenos Aires "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·75	113	114·6	112·40
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·83	11·70	11·85	11·90
Valparaiso "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Limited, quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	"	25·60
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	"	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	"	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	"	9·83
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	½% dis.	par to ½% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅞% "	⅛% dis.	¼ to ⅜% "
30 days	1⅞% "	1⅛% "	⅜% "	⅛% "
60 days	2½% "	1⅜% "	1¼% "	⅛% "
90 days	3⅛% "	1⅝% "	1⅞% "	⅝% "
20 days	3⅜% "	1⅞% "	2 5/16% "	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93½	95⅝	...	...	106¼	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93¼	95	105⅝	103¼	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104⅞	103	105⅛	104
60 days	91⅞	92⅜	...	...	104 1/16	102½	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 13/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104⅝	103⅜

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1, to May 3, 1930, were £3,680,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended May 8, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—	
France	5,027
British S. Africa	1,136,754
Australia	3,050,000
Total declared value of imports	4,191,781

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
To—	
Denmark	275
Poland	1,710
Germany	255,000
France	1,336,814
Switzerland	15,360
Austria	5,060
Egypt	1,000
British India	34,811
Other countries	683
Total declared value of exports	1,421,213

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	Arrivals.	£	1930.	Withdrawals.	£
May 2	Sovs. from abroad...	1,000,000	May 2	Bars sold	5,172
,, 3	Sovs. from abroad...	1,000,000		Sovs. for export.....	6,000
,, 5	.....	Nil	,, 3	Bars sold	501,559
,, 6	Sovs. from abroad...	300,000	,, 5	Bars sold	1,463,573
,, 7	Sovs. from abroad...	1,050,000	,, 6	Bars sold	267,400
,, 8	.....	Nil	,, 7	Bars sold	881,546
			,, 8	Bars sold	1,188,477
				Sovs. for export.....	25,000
	Total.....	3,350,000		Total.....	4,338,727

Net withdrawals, £988,727.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co., write on May 7, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £163,341,964 on the 30th ultimo (as compared with £162,887,487 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £17,381,880 since January 1st last. The week has seen a substantial efflux of gold to France, and besides withdrawals from the Bank of England a large proportion of the gold offered in the open market was also acquired for that country. There was in consequence a good demand for the £837,000 of South African gold available yesterday, and the price was fixed at 84s. 11½d. per fine ounce. France secured £515,000 and Germany £208,000, bids from the latter quarter being mostly limited to lower prices. The balance was divided between India (£60,000), the Home trade (£24,000), and the Continental trade (£30,000). Movements of gold at the Bank of England have resulted in a net influx of £223,057 during the week under review. Receipts totalled £3,350,000, composed of £3,050,000 in sovereigns from Australia and £300,000 in sovereigns from South Africa. Of the withdrawals, amounting to £3,126,943, about £3,100,000 was in bar gold for France.

SILVER.

The market has developed an easier tendency. China has continued a seller at current rates and offerings from this quarter and from America have more than offset the demand from the Indian Bazaars. The latter have continued to buy, but the demand has been less insistent and orders have again been limited to prices rather below those fixed. Quotations have, in consequence, shown a tendency to sag, and have ruled at a slightly lower level than that of last week. The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 28th ult. to mid-day on the 5th inst. :—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
France	138,024	British India	119,193
U.S.A.....	34,299	Other countries	12,986
Belgium	43,644		
Switzerland	27,300		
Mexico	43,526		
British West Africa ...	9,277		
Other countries	38		
	£296,108		£132,179

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	Apr. 30.	Apr. 22.	Apr. 15.
Notes in circulation.....	17,390	17,332	17,366
Silver coin and bullion in India ...	11,060	11,003	11,037
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India ...	3,227	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)...	3,073	3,072	3,072
Securities (British Government)...	30	30	30

The stocks in Shanghai on the 3rd instant consisted of about 97,900,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 17,100,000 Saigon dollars, and 13,840 silver bars, as compared with about 97,600,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 18,100,000 Saigon dollars, and 14,980 silver bars on the 26th ultimo. Mail

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
May 2.....	84 11½	19⅜	19 5/16	May 11, 1923	32 7/16
,, 3.....	84 11½	19⅜	19 5/16	,, 9, 1924	33 11/16
,, 5.....	84 11½	19⅜	19⅜	,, 8, 1925	31⅝
,, 6.....	84 11½	19⅜	19½	,, 7, 1926	29 15/16
,, 7.....	84 11½	19½	19 7/16	,, 6, 1927	26 1/16
,, 8.....	84 11½	19½	19 7/16	,, 10, 1928	27 3/16

NOTICES.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new branch at 261-3, Stanley Road, Bootle.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that the sub-office of the bank at Tutbury is now converted into a full branch.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at 384, Neasden Lane, Willesden, N.W.10.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that its court of directors has accepted, with much regret, the resignation of Mr Percy F. H. Hodge, who, after 45 years' service, retired on pension on May 2nd. Mr Hodge has occupied the important positions at the head office of account (from 1902-1917) and secretary (from 1917-1929).

The Legal and General Assurance Society, Ltd., announce the formation of a local board of directors for the West End of London. This is the first local board set up by the Society. The following directors have been appointed :—Mr Harold Bellman, M.B.E., F.S.S., F.R.Econ. S., general manager of the Abbey Road Building Society, chairman; Mr T. R. Chandler, F.I.A., secretary of the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, vice-chairman; Mr G. R. Ellis-Danvers, a partner of Messrs Ellis and Ellis, the well-known Parliamentary solicitors of The Sanctuary, Westminster.

The Universal Automobile Insurance Company, Ltd., whose head office is situated at 162, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1, have opened a City office at 3, Newman's Court, Cornhill, E.C.3. Telephone : Avenue 8740.

BANKS.

THE DAI-ICHI GINKO, LIMITED.—The following tables show the position of this bank on December 31, 1929 :—

Liabilities.	Yen	Assets.	Yen
Capital	57,500,000	Cash on hand and at Bank of Japan	66,001,922
Reserve funds	63,800,000	Money at call and short notice	10,400,000
Staff superannuation fund	1,203,600	Government and municipal bonds	202,786,910
Deposits	628,730,794	Debentures and shares.....	82,277,259
Foreign exchange	820,079	Bills discounted.....	89,224,684
Due to correspondents.....	8,207,255	Loans and advances	296,699,355
Acceptances	3,439,438	Securities loaned	2,719,604
Rebate on Bills	9,001,890	Foreign exchange	2,357,330
Suspense account	1,430,528	Correspondents	2,526,765
Profit for the half-year..... (Balance from last account, Yen 1,757,627).	5,794,135	Acceptances	3,439,438
		Bank premises and real estate	21,494,452
	779,927,719		779,927,719

Dr. Appropriation of Profit.	Yen	Cr.	Yen
Reserve fund	550,000	Profit for the half-year	4,036,507
Bonus	199,240	Balance brought forward ...	1,757,628
Staff superannuation fund ...	79,690		
Dividends at 11% p.a.	3,162,500		
Balance carried forward to next half-year	1,802,705		
	5,794,135		5,794,135

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BRYNYMOR STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.—The tenth annual report and accounts shows a profit for the year ended March 31, 1930 (after providing for depreciation), of £16,044 (last year, £11,374). Deducting interest, audit fees and directors' fees, there is a balance of £8,605 (last year, £6,774), which, with the amount brought forward, gives a total of £11,432. Dividends have been paid at the same rate as last year, *i.e.*, 7 per cent. on the 6 per cent. participating preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which call for £8,840 (against £7,176 last year), leaving £2,592 to be carried forward (last year, £2,827). The report states that freights in the early part of the company's year were satisfactory, but are now on a very low basis. Meeting : Swansea, May 13, 1930, at 3 p.m.

GENERAL REFRACTORIES, LIMITED.—The thirtieth annual report and accounts show a profit for the 15 months ended December, 31, 1929, of £12,839. This is without taking into account profits of the associated companies, in which the company owns interests and the report states that the proportion of the latter applicable to the company's interests is £9,465, which, with the above £12,839, makes a total trading profit for the period of £22,305. To the profit of £12,839 is added £4,316 brought forward and £2,815 deducted for interest charges, etc., leaving £14,340, from which the directors propose the payment of a 12½ per cent. dividend, and reserving £2,500 against depreciation, leaving £4,614 to be carried forward.

GUEST, KEEN & NETTLEFOLDS, LTD.—At the meeting of debenture stockholders of the company, held on Thursday, at Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, the voting was as follows :—In favour of the resolution, 1,028 (representing debenture stock to the value of £964,271); against the resolution, 52 (representing debenture stock to the value of **£67,457**).

J. COMPTON, SONS AND WEBB, LIMITED.—The Seventeenth annual report and accounts shows a net profit for the year 1929 of £60,099 (last year, £59,842). Adding the amount brought forward there is a total of £65,929, from which is deducted preference dividend, £8,400; interim ordinary share dividend of 10 per cent., £14,000; a final dividend recommended by the directors of 17½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 27½ for the year (last year, 25 per cent.), and £13,500 proposed to be transferred to reserves, leaving £5,529 to be carried forward. Meeting : May 16, 1930, at 12 o'clock at Great Eastern Hotel, E.C.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended May 2, 1930. (c) Week ended May 3, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended May 4, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 18 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	227	228	127	355	582	3,659	3,835	2,321	6,156	9,815
Do. for 1929...	3,751	212	241	122	363	575	3,714	3,954	2,366	6,320	10,034
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	330	421	275	696	1,026	5,556	7,308	4,918	12,226	17,782
Do. for 1929...	6,365	331	462	251	713	1,044	5,624	7,432	4,978	12,410	18,034
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,957½	487	559	259	818	1,035	8,197	9,853	5,008	14,861	23,058
Do. for 1929...	6,952½	484	623	256	879	1,363	8,401	10044	5,345	15,389	23,790
Southern	2,179	309	85	32	117	426	5,009	1,349	570	1,919	6,928
Do. for 1929...	2,172	291	85	29	114	405	4,957	1,352	640	1,992	6,949
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·7	...	...	3·9	36·6	586·7	...	...	72·4	659·1
Do. for 1929...	59	32·4	...	...	3·8	36·2	567·9	...	...	70·0	637·9
†Undgd. E. R.(c)	...	320	...	...	...	320	5,260	...	...	...	5,260
Do. for 1929...	...	290	...	...	...	290	4,852	...	...	...	4,852
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	46·1	...	...	...	46·1	762	...	...	...	762
Do. for 1929...	...	41·6	...	...	...	41·6	688	...	...	...	688
B'l'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·4	...	...	·7	3·1	37·1	...	...	12·9	50·0
Do. for 1929...	80	2·2	...	...	·8	3·0	36·1	...	...	16·3	52·4
*GreatNorthern b	562	12·1	...	...	16·2	28·3	...	...	...	...	446
Do. for 1929...	562	11·4	...	...	15·9	27·3	...	...	...	...	468·4
GreatSouthern b	2,187	27·3	...	...	45·8	73·1	...	...	...	...	1,201
Do. for 1929...	2,187	25·9	...	...	44·6	70·5	...	...	...	...	1,225

* Aggregate 16 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal	13weeks	Mch 31	1,289	Rs. 544,000	− 17,714	Rs. 2,21,98,733	− Rs. 8,76,755
Barsi Lt. Ry.....	2 weeks	Apr 12	202	1,16,700	+ 43,500	1,16,700	+ 43,500
Bengal & N.Western	2 weeks		12	2,080	13,45,423	+ 47,569	13,45,423	+ 47,569
Bengal-Nagpur ...	52weeks	Mch 31	3,085	23,14,000	− 278304	9,24,55,139	+ 5,36,379
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	4weeks	Apr 26	3,031	23,86,000	− 196000	90,43,000	− 5,73,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	52weeks	Mch 31	3,228	22,87,000	− 407060	9,28,40767	−24,14,435
Nizam'sGuarantd.(a)	52weeks		31	1,167	585,404	− 309147	2,3488272	+12,55,326
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	2 weeks	Apr 12		572	2,80,177	+ 29,346	2,80,177	+ 29,346
South Indian	52weeks	Mch 31		2,348	18,88,874	− 99,343	6,6737370	+ 4274,701
ARGENTINE (a).					£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.....	44weeks	May 3		753	18,400	+ 1,300	687.900	+ 700
Argentine Trans'dn.	44weeks		3	111	4,159	− 897	205,472	− 8,498
B.A. and Pacific.....	44weeks		3	2,806	150,000	− 48,000	6,760,000	− 937 000
B.A. Central	44weeks		4	...	12,253	− 1,674	567,739	− 58,464
B.A. Gt. Southern...	44weeks		4	4,875	197,000	− 71,000	10,478,000	− 624,000
B.A. Western	44weeks		4	1,926	80,000	− 20,000	3,758,000	− 730,000
Central Argentine...	44weeks		3	3,319	203,000	− 84,000	10,073,000	−1,912,000
Cordoba Central....	44weeks		3	1,218	45,000	− 17,000	2,512,000	− 528,200
Entre Rios.....	44weeks		3	789	22,100	− 6,800	1,218,800	− 128,400
CUBAN.					£	£	£	£
United of Havana...	44weeks	May 3		1,374	76,425	− 1,583	2,890,492	− 459,851
URUGUAYAN.					£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay.....	44weeks	May 3		273	31,829	+ 1,166	1,381,431	+ 48,091
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	44weeks		3	311	8,331	+ 1,067	325,076	+ 18,836
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	44weeks		3	185	4,217	+ 564	164,164	+ 1,850
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	44weeks		3	211	2,824	− 311	126,088	+ 7,426
CANADIAN.					$	$	$	$
Canadian National	17weeks	Apr 30		20150	†5,618,137	−2257488	70,892,654	−13622822
Canadian Pacific ...	17weeks		30	15217	3,987,000	−1521000	52,414,000	−12978000
BRAZILIAN (b).					£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	18weeks	May 3		1,016	11,500	− 1,809	314,500	− 44,900
Leopoldina.....	18weeks		3	1,856	29,748	− 3,763	614,301	− 24,283
Leopoldina Termni.	18weeks		3	Mirs.	$292,000	− 3,000	5,225,000	+ 237,000
San Paulo	18weeks	May 4		153½	32,940	− 11,078	753,284	− 70,708
CHILEAN.					£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	18weeks	May 4		804	26,250	− 7,840	530,660	− 204,650
Nitrate (½-monthly)	4 mths	Apr 30		410	16,675	− 17,333	178,770	− 135,545
OTHER OVERSEAS.					£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	1 week	Apr 10		608	9,323	+ 341	9,323	+ 341
Gt. Southn. of Spain	16weeks	Mch 19		104	Ps. 102174	− 37,557	1,873,347	− 112,396
Mexican Railway....	16weeks		21	483	$253,300	− 32,700	4,060,700	+ 147,400
Paraguay Central...	44weeks	May 3		274	3,970	− 620	180,620	− 14,990
Salvador.....	44weeks		3	100	4,571	− 810	203,249	− 22,571

(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.
† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway. (c) Total receipts of all lines.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	17weeks	Apr 29	329	81,014	− 9,801	1,427,277	− 73,723
B. Aires Lacrose.....	44weeks	May 4	...	12,222	− 833	517,439	− 41,175
Burnley Corporation	1 week		3	13	2,816	− 364	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	9weeks		3	35½	Rs.108822	− 17,051	...	− 192,491
Chatham & District	16weeks	Apr 24		15	1,204	+ 172	17,259	+ 949
Egyptian Markets	16weeks		24	...	1,864	− 30	31,950	− 2,796
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	16weeks		3	...	3,546	+ 1,359	43,738	− 1,417
Liverpool Corp.....	4weeks	May 3		124	30,202	+ 944	142,650	+ 4,462
L.C.C. Tramways....	4weeks	Apr 30		166	83,470	+ 539	353,332	+ 18
Madras Electric ‡...	17weeks		30	...	Rs. 43,344	+ 3,306	371,903	+ 25,653

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Chicago and North Western Railway	...	...	...	4½	4½
Great Western of Brazil	...	...	Less tax	3	...
Nitrate Railways	4%†	...	...	6	6
South Indian Railway	2%*	...	...	...	...
BANKS.					
Bank of New South Wales	10%*	May 28	Quarterly	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Commercial Union	...	...	...	20/6 p.s.	20/6ps.
Legal Insurance.....	17½%	...	Less tax	...	...
Liverpool and London and Globe	13/6 p.s.†	May 27	Less tax	26/- p.s.	25/- ps.
North British and Mercantile ...	...	...	Less tax	22/- p.s.	21/- ps.
Phœnix Assurance	14/- p.s.	...	Less tax	70	70
Union Insurance Socy. of Canton	24/- p.s.*	plus bon	us of 20%	...	...
Yorkshire Insurance	...	...	Tax free	9/6 p.s.	9/6 p.s.
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Bagan Seral.....	...	...	...	4	8
Budla Beta Tea	15%†	...	Tax free	20	50
Buxa Dooars Tea	10%†	...	Less tax	10	25
Canadian Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	5
Changkat Salak Rubber and Tin (Def.)	...	...	Less tax	7½	15
Chulsa (Selangor) Rubber	5½%†	...	Less tax	8	77½
Cluny Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Darjeeling Consolidated Tea ...	20%†	...	Less tax	30	25
Darjeeling Co.	17½%†	May 16	Less tax	25	5
Drina Tea.....	...	...	Less tax	12½	425
Dindings Rubber Estates	5%†	...	...	10	7½
Djember Rubber Estates	10%†	June 5	Less tax	...	...
Dunlop Rubber	...	...	Less tax	15	20
Dusin Durian Rubber	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	10
Ederapolla Tea	5%†	...	...	10	10
Elmshurst (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber.....	5%*	May 6	Less tax	...	...
Gadek Rubber	...	...	Less tax	3½	...
Heawood Tin and Rubber	...	...	...	10	12½
Henrietta Rubber	...	...	...	5	5
Kelani Valley Rubber	7½	...	...	17½	15
Kenilworth Tea Co.	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Kepong Rubber	17½%†	...	Less tax	27½	22½
Lebong Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	30	30
Ledbury Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Luboh Rubber Estate	...	...	...	6	5
Mahawale Rubber and Tea	...	...	...	Nil	2½
Mayfield (Dimbula) Tea	31½%†	...	Less tax	37½	37½
Merton Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Merton Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Poonmudi Tea and Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
St. George Rubber.....	5%†	...	...	10	10
Straits Rubber	...	...	...	6	7½
Sungei Buloh Rubber	10%†	...	Less tax	20	15
Sungei Kapar Rubber	...	...	Less tax	8½	...
Sungei Kapar	...	...	Less tax	8½	5
Third Mile (F.M.S.) Rubber ...	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Third Mile Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	5
Vereeniging Estates	7½%†	July 25	...	12½	12½
MINING.					
Crovelle Dredging	1/6 p.s.*	May 16	Less tax	...	...
Gold Fields Rhodesian Devt. ...	6d. p.s.*	May 29	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Abbots Investment Trust	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Aktiebolaget Elektrolux	9%†	May 13	...	...	...
Alliance Investment (Def.)	7½%†	...	...	10	10
Anglo-American Corporation ...	...	...	...	12½	12½
Anglo-American Telegraph	1½%†	...	...	...	...
Anglo-French Textile	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Arding and Hobbs	...	...	...	7½	7½
Associated Lead Manufacturers	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Blantyre and East Africa	2½%†	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Bristol College Green Hotel	7%†	...	Tax free	12	12
Brit. & Foreign General Securities	...	...	Less tax	7	7
British Match	4%†	May 15	Tax free	6	6
British Oil and Guano	...	...	Less tax	1/4 p.s.	...
Buenos Ayres Waterworks	...	...	Tax free	6½	6
Cakebread Robey	11½%†	...	Less tax	20	15
Calcutta Electric Supply	7%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Cawnpore Electric Supply	7%†	...	...	10	10
Charterhouse Investment	3½%*	May 15	Less tax	...	...
Chester Northgate Brewery	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Clifford Motor Components	...	...	...	5	...
Cohen and Willis	...	...	...	5	5
Compania Hispano Americana...	10%†	...	Tax free	17	15
Consolidated Trust (Def.)	15%†	...	...	20s	20s
Constantinople Telephone.....	...	...	Less tax	3½	...
Continental Union Trust	3%†	...	...	5	5
Continental Union Trust	3%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Craigpark Electric Cable.....	...	...	...	10	5
Craig and Rose	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Ebonite Container.....	5%†	plus bon	us of 2½	12½	12½
Embassy Wine and Club	...	...	Less tax	100	100
Erinoid	5%†	...	...	10	...
Gaiety Cinema (Manchester)	4%†	...	...	8	8
General Refractories	12½%†	...	...	...	...
German Dye Trust.....	...	...	...	12d	12
Grainger and Smith	7½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Grand Hotel, Eastbourne	5%*	May 14	Less tax	...	...
Home and Foreign Invest. Trust	4%†	...	...	7	7
Hong Kong and China Gas	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Horden Collieries	3½%*	May 29	...	...	...
Hyderabad (Deccan).....	1/6 p.s.	...	Less tax	3/- p.s.	3/- p.s.
Hydro Electric Securities	50c. p.s.*	June 14	...	...	...
Indian and General Investment Trust (Def.)	8%†	...	...	16d	16d
Imperial Gas	12½%†	...	Less tax	17½	15
J. Compton, Sons and Webb ...	17½%†	...	...	27½	25
John Walker and Sons	...	...	Less tax	25	25
Leeds Fireclay	4%*	...	...	...	...
Lloyds Packing Warehouses.....	10%*	May 19	Less tax	...	...
Lochnagar Produce	...	...	Less tax	7½	5
London and Holyrood Trust.....	...	...	...	5	...
London and Provincial Trust ...	10†	...	Less tax	8	8
Lothian Coal	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Malkin Tiles (Burslem)	8%†	...	Less tax	14	14
Metropolitan Housing	...	...	...	8	...
National Electric	...	...	Less tax	10s	10
North America Co.....	2½%*	June 1	Quarterly	...	...

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
riental Telephone	8%†	...	Tax free	12	12
. and A. Campbell	5%†	...	Tax free	10	10
'ara Telephone	4%†	...	Less tax	6½	...
'eebles Hotel Hydropathic	...	...	Less tax	10	10
'eterborough Electric Traction	...	...	Less tax	5	10
. and J. Dick	12½%*	June 7	Less tax	...	...
t. Andrew Trust	4%†	...	Less tax	6½	6
. and W. Berisford	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Scottish and Canadian General Investment Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	9	...
Scottish and Canadian General Investment	5%†	...	Less tax	9	9
Scottish International Trust	2½%*	...	...	...	...
Scottish International Trust	2½%	May 1	Less tax	...	...
Securities Trust of Scotland	5%*	June 1	Less tax	...	...
Second Mercantile Trust	...	...	...	...	...
Selfridge Provincial Stores	7%*	June 2	...	7½	7
Smith's Potato Crisps	...	...	Less tax	15	...
South African Lighting	5%†	May 29	Less tax	...	...
Swansea Improvements and Tramways	...	...	...	6	6
Texas Land and Mortgage	8%†	...	Tax free	12	12
Third Scottish National Trust	...	...	...	7	6
Triumph Cycle	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Turner and Newall	5%*	June 20	...	...	...
Tyrell and Green	2%*	...	...	...	...
Viking Whaling	6%*	May 20	Tax free	...	...
Wall Paper Manufacturers	5%*	May 31	...	...	...
Warner Estate	1½%†	...	Less tax	4½	6
Wenlock Brewery	10%*	June 2	Tax free	...	...
Whiteaway Laidlaw	...	...	Less tax	8	10
White Horse Distillers	30%†	...	Less tax	40	40
William Dixon	...	...	Tax free	5	2½

a Plus bonus of 10 per cent. b Plus bonus of 5d. per share. c Plus bonus of 4d. per share. d Plus bonus of 2 per cent. e Plus bonus of 2½ per cent. ‡ For nine months. § Fifteen months. ‖ Tax free.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR APRIL, 1930.

	Tons Crushed.		Gold Recovered.			Value.	Profit.
	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Mill.	Cyanide Works.	Total.		
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Blackwater	3,100	...	...	...	...	5,596	...
Cam and Motor	24,000	...	11,078	...	...	46,980	16,637
Dome Mines	...	...	...	...	...	$259886	$89,687
East Rand Proprietary	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,386
Frontino and Bolivia	2,100	...	...	...	...	7,857	...
Geduld Proprietary	82,500	...	26,224	...	...	...	45,007
Geldenhuis Deep	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,885
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,300	...	...	...	...	9,312	422
London and Rhodesian	2,655	...	...	...	...	3,563	...
Lonely Reef	5,600	...	2,743	...	...	...	8,217
Luipaards Vlei	26,300	...	6,426	...	...	...	3,049
Luiri	1,427	...	...	...	...	3,364	...
Modder B	...	...	...	...	...	...	148,359
Modder Deep	42,800	...	22,354	...	...	...	61,594
Modder East	...	...	...	...	...	...	52,727
Mount Lyell	16,264	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Kleinfontein	52,000	...	...	...	...	48,325	5,201
New Modder	...	...	...	...	...	...	548,308
Nourse Mines	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,979
Rezende	6,400	...	...	...	...	...	5,504
Rose Deep	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,276
Sherwood Starr	5,000	...	...	...	...	12,476	7,536
Simmer and Jack	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,286
Sons of Gwalia	13,462	...	...	...	...	12,939	...
Sub Nigel	...	...	...	...	...	...	96,203
Jaquah and Alosso	9,400	...	...	...	...	15,872	3,455
Transvaal Gold	14,450	...	...	...	...	18,450	1,243
Wanderer	15,000	...	...	...	...	16,216	5,546
Witwatersrand	38,000	...	...	...	...	...	Dr.3,794

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Ayer Hitam	101½	Estimated profit, £7,800.
Bangrin	48½	...
Batu Caves	29	Estimated profit, £1,050.
Chenderiang	29	...
Filani	2¼	...
Geevor	65	...
Gopeng	62½	Estimated profit, £3,975.
Hongkong	89½	Estimated value, $62,900.
Idris	29¾	Estimated profit, £974.
Ipoh	40¾	Estimated profit, £2,000
Jantar (Cornwall)	31	...
Jos	17½	...
Kagera	28	...
Kamunting	116	Estimated value, £11,025.
Kent	28½	Estimated profit, £1,010.
Kepong	33	Estimated profit, £579.
Kinta Kellas	18	Estimated value, £1,750.
Kinta Tin	21	Estimated profit, £864.
Lahat	15½	Estimated profit, £32.
Lower Bisichi	4¾	...
Malaya Consolidated	42	...
Malayan	119	Estimated value, £12,090.
Malaysiam	21	Estimated profit, £700.
Meru	24	...
Naraguta Extended	4	...
Nigerian Consolidated	18	...
Offin River Gold	8	...
Pangnga River	56	Estimated value, £5,833.
Pahang	222	...
Penawat	42	...
Pengkalen	48	Estimated profit, £1,650.
Petaling	178½	Estimated profit, £9,391.
Rahman	56½	...
Rambutan	9½	Estimated profit, £115.
Rantau	46	Estimated profit, £933.
Renong	64½	Dredges 2 and 3.
Selayang	24	...
Seone	17¾	(Restricted).
Siamese Tin	122½	...
Siput	21¾	...
South Bukeru	13	...
Southern Malayan	154¾	Estimated profit, £7,390.
Southern Perak	89¼	Estimated profit, £4,445.
Southern Tronoh	60	Estimated profit, £3,061.
Sungei Besi	45	Estimated profit, £1,356.
Sungei Kinta	41	Estimated profit, £2,100.
Sungei Pari	21	...
Sungei Way	77½	Estimated profit, £4,339.
Taiping	36	Estimated profit, £1,283.
Tanjong	30	Estimated profit, £1,085.
Teja Malaya	43	Dredges 1 and 2.
Tekka	42	Estimated profit, £2,030.
Tekka Taiping	51	Estimated Profit, £665.
Temoh Tin	41½	Estimated profit, £2,200.
Tronoh	72	Estimated profit, £2,775.
Ulu Klang	17¾	...
COAL.		
Clydesdale (Transvaal)	44,424	...
Dundee Coal	51,970	...
Durban Navigation Collieries	48,599	...
Natal Navigation Colls.	99,247	...
Singareni Collieries	48,024	...
South African Coal Estates	61,582	...
Tweefontein United	63,450	...
Wankie Colliery	68,502	...
Witbank Colliery	66,110	...
DIAMOND.		
Crown Diamond	61,200	Loads washed.
New Vaal River	349	Carats. Value, £2,868.
Tanganyika Diamonds	1,596¼	Carats.
West African Diamond	16,100	Carats.
ZINC.		
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,605	...
COPPER.		
Bwana M'Kubwa	587	...
Indian Copper	220	...

SAN FINX.—March: Extracted, 2,770 tons; mill crushed 2,272 tons; yield 10 tons tin concentrates, 6·5 tons wolfram; estimated value, £1,775; working costs, £2,200; development, £460; construction and equipment, £220. (All returns are based on metric tons, say, 2,200 lbs.)

BERALT TIN AND WOLFRAM.—March output, 17 tons wolfram, 1½ tons tin Development, 525 ft.

ZINC CORPORATION.—Return for period ended April 5th: Lead concentrates treated, 23,356 *tons of ore, producing* 4,862 tons of lead concentrates and 3,874 tons of zinc concentrates. Estimated gross profit, with lead at average price *for March* (£18 17s. 6d.), zinc at contract flat rate, silver 2s., £8,443.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—The total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal *for* the month of March, 1930, amounted to:—Witwatersrand, £1,083,449; outside districts, £37,767; total, £1,121,216. The estimated working profit in February, 1930, was:—Witwatersrand, £985,152; outside districts, £34,330; total, £1,019,482.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.—*During the four weeks* ended April 19, 9,744 tons of Central mine ore were milled at the Central mine, producing 1,775 tons of leady concentrates, which assayed 53 *ozs.* silver and 65 per cent. lead, together with 2,318 tons of zinc concentrates, assaying 6 ozs. silver, 3 per cent. lead and 50 per cent. zinc. per ton

LYDENBURG PLATINUM.—April: Tons milled, 3,350; total ounces of platinum group metals won, 614. (*March results*, 3,500 tons, 710 ozs.)

ANGLO-ORIENTAL.—April outputs in tons of affiliated companies: Alluvial mines—Changkat 50, Jelapang 28, Kampar Malaya 83, Kampong Lanjut 50, Kramat 60, Kuala Kampar 70, Kundang 29, Larut 45½, Malim Nawar 26, Rawang Cons. 30, Rawang Tin 90, London Tin Corporation 220, Northern Tavoy 54 Tavoy 20, Theindaw 10, Thingandon 9. Lode mines—Toyo nil, Polhigey 26, Wheal Kitty 38½. Total for month was 939. Total for four months 3,521 tons.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BRITISH MATCH CORPORATION, LIMITED.

April 30, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with April 30, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
5¼% Cum. Pref., £1	525,000	+ 413	Goodwill	800,000	} + 21,643
Ord. shares, £1	6,187,500	+ 231	Investments in subsidiaries	5,923,049	}
Owing to subsidiary	7,014	+ 7,014	Owing by subsidiary	173,275	+ 173,275
Creditors	10,772	– 32	Expenses new issue	...	– 19,657
Revenue account	409,842	+ 77,059	Office fittings	3,303	+ 26
			Debtors	58	– 827
			Cash	240,443	– 89,775
Total	7,140,128	+ 84,685	Total	7,140,128	+ 84,685

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
Ord. shares	1,000,000	...	Cash	2,789,608	+ 375,047
Reserve	1,000,000	...	Bills receivable	1,289,202	– 531,299
Current & deposit accounts	4,990,599	– 359,091	Investments	333,094	+ 333,094
Bills payable	7,054	– 17	Other accounts	4,417,642	– 468,792
Other accounts	2,306,011	+ 169,437	Subsidiary coys	49,785	+ 49,785
Bills for collection	1,473,156	– 476,200	Shares in subsids.	2,226	+ 2,226
Profit and loss	158,625	– 23	Premises	580,732	+ 50,245
			Bills for collection	1,473,156	– 476,200
Total	10,935,445	– 665,894	Total	10,935,445	– 665,894

RUBBER COMPANY STATISTICS.

Name.	Financial Year Ends.	Share and Paid.	Shares Issued.	Highest and Lowest, 1929.	Total Div. % for Fin'l Year.	Acres Planted Rubber	Acres in Reserve	Last Published.			Last Financial Year's Output.	Output Jan., 1930.	Output Feb., 1930.	Output Mar., 1930.
								Average Selling Price.	Cost f.o.b.	Cost all in.				
		£									Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Allied Sumatra	Dec. 31	1	1,400,000	20/7 12/9	5	21,884	21,959	0/9·83	0/6·40	...	3,696,056	402,142	351,640	227,201
Ampat	Sept. 30	2/0	700,050	5/3 2/4	Nil	2,665	3,772	0/9·58	0/6·01	...	672,402	69,200	68,800	61,400
Anglo-Dutch	Dec. 31	1	2,350,350	44/3 29/6	10	31,442	129,426	0/9⅝	0/6·99	...	9,314,063	1,181,000	990,694	1,218,000
Anglo-Java	Mar. 31	2/0	7,386,750	5/3 2/6	5	31,124	7,787	0/9·68	...	...	10,337,536	975,500	857,200	808,200
Anglo-Johore	Dec. 31	1/0	1,500,000	1/0½ 0/4½	7½	1,439	525	1/1·84	0/10½	...	346,000	31,000	34,000	30,000
Anglo-Malay	Dec. 31	1	412,507	28/1½ 13/1	4	5,660	2,710	0/9·65	0/8·50	0/9·96	1,266,946	133,631	109,192	110,834
Ayer Kuning	Dec. 31	1	140,000	53/9 28/3	10	3,080	2,035	0/9·7	0/5	0/5·88	1,059,635	95,000	82,000	80,000
Badek	Dec. 31	1	123,208	48/9 23/9	10	3,112	...	1/10·03	0/6·42	...	988,047	113,266	98,473	106,464
Bah Lias	Oct. 30	1	351,213	45/0 21/3	5	8,799	7,867	0/9·59	0/8·73	...	1,589,584	151,185	115,677	97,399
Bandar Sumatra	July 31	1	99,847	38/3 18/9	7½	2,392	1,334	0/9·41	0/7·70	...	753,000	72,000	59,500	57,500
Banteng (Selangor)	April 30	1	99,000	40/0 23/0	15	1,886	333	0/10·10	...	0/6·11	908,578	90,000	75,000	69,000
Batang Consol.	Dec. 31	2/0	2,458,840	2/0 0/11½	Nil	2,671	...	0/9·48	0/5·55	0/7·81	857,394	94,646	77,523	78,271
Batu Tiga	Dec. 31	1	221,666	41/3 22/6	10	6,156	758	0/10·44	0/7·12	0/8·67	...	233,000	...	170,300
Bekoh Consol.	June 30	2/0	2,993,007	2/3 0/9	5	2,672	616	0/9·19	0/3·2	0/4·81	1,167,297	100,828	82,170	66,894
Bertam Cons.	Mar. 31	2/0	3,340,000	6/3 3/8	12½	9,077	5,542	0/9·35	0/4·55	0/5·78	3,070,618	314,024	236,877	228,870
Besoeki	Dec. 31	1	110,000	47/6 27/6	15	2,037	1,131	1/0·14	0/6·32	...	660,333	98,000	87,000	87,000
Bikam	Dec. 31	2/0	1,885,000	3/3 1/6	7½	3,110	1,704	0/9·21	0/7·61	0/9·7	711,200	89,700	86,500	86,500
Biting	Mar. 31	2/0	750,000	2/0⅝ 0/9½	Nil	982	67	0/8·75	0/5·49	...	234,603	28,000	23,700	25,500
Bradwall	Dec. 31	1	90,000	42/0 20/3	7½	2,789	359	0/8·88	0/5·73	0/7·23	639,500	53,200	40,700	41,600
Brooklands	June 30	2/0	1,750,000	6/0 2/9	15	4,944	...	0/10·47	0/7·14	...	1,525,770	136,000	113,000	103,000
Broome	June 30	1	135,000	21/3 13/6	5	1,803	220	0/10·56	0/4·75	...	300,916	70,000	54,000	56,000
Bukit Kajang	June 30	1	175,000	38/9 20/0	5	4,735	583	0/9·01	0/5·93	0/6·60	1,218,638	133,971	104,284	101,180
Bukit Mertajam	Mar. 31	2/0	3,000,000	5/1½ 2/5½	10	7,374	3,841	0/10·10	0/5·5	0/6·75	2,363,726	252,735	198,340	165,864
Bukit Selangor	Mar. 31	2/0	2,330,881	1/7⅞ 0/9½	Nil	2,468	856	0/11·12	0/7·27	0/8·56	845,369	80,693	69,509	60,327
Bukit Sembawang	Dec. 31	2/0	3,339,550	2/6 0/11½	Nil	5,870	...	0/8·39	0/7·04	...	1,578,299	135,305	...	103,906
Castlefield	June 30	2/0	1,000,000	8/0 3/9	15	3,324	152	0/9·16	0/5·14	0/6·39	1,324,683	111,854	84,476	77,400
Ceylon (Para)	Dec. 31	2/0	700,000	12/3 5/3	10	3,446	744	0/9	0/6·16	0/7·49	1,414,560	134,530	78,128	28,283
Ceylon T. Plant., Ord.	Dec. 31	1	376,000	6⅜ 95/0	40	5,165	13,511	0/8·28	0/8·18	...	1,437,437	...	...	...
Chembong (1920)	Mar. 31	2/0	2,782,694	1/10½ 0/11½	5	2,662	162	0/10·48	0/6·93	0/8·89	1,009,168	104,400	73,200	75,300
Chersonese (F.M.S.)	Dec. 31	2/0	2,700,000	3/6 1/10	8½	2,950	...	0/9·35	0/6·43	...	625,936	81,600	74,900	Nil
Cheviot	Dec. 31	2/0	2,300,000	4/6½ 2/9	10	4,544	638	0/9·32	0/4·96	0/5·30	1,694,248	167,000	148,000	153,000
Cicely Ord.	Mar. 31	2/0	1,334,312	8/3 4/0	22½	5,020	715	0/11·70	0/5·30	...	1,482,090	183,027	166,196	153,829
Consolidated Malay	Dec. 31	2/0	750,000	8/4½ 3/11½	16⅔	3,509	1,525	0/9·36	...	0/8·29	1,006,664	120,900	109,600	109,000
Dennistown	Dec. 31	2/0	1,678,820	2/2½ 0/9½	3	3,452	209	0/9	0/5·37	0/6·34	858,016	80,181	66,690	57,660
Djember	Dec. 31	1	164,496	42/6 20/1½	10	3,108	3,442	0/8·51	...	...	850,016	...	85,000	...
Eastern Produce Ord.	Dec. 31	1	333,000	5⅛ 78/9	35	3,246	4,375	0/8½	...	...	647,134	71,062	85,579	40,731
F.M.S. Rubber Plntrs.	Dec. 31	1	210,000	45/7½ 27/6	10	5,878	1,925	0/9·72	0/6·01	...	1,513,700	225,410	181,620	183,120
Gadjah	April 30	2/0	350,000	7/7½ 2/9½	15	2,023	6,622	0/10·54	0/5·74	0/7·14	520,590	41,000	34,000	32,000
General Ceylon	Dec. 31	1	305,000	41/0 23/9	10	4,160	2,708	0/8·86	...	...	1,342,805	159,000	70,878	76,060
Glen Bervie	Sept. 30	1	85,069	39/0 20/0	5	2,264	50	0/8·14	...	0/6·52	738,566	71,000	44,000	35,000
Glenshiel (1919)	Dec. 31	1	175,000	22/1½ 11/0	7½	2,123	139	pft.	per lb.	0/5·26	699,637	73,372	53,521	59,[illegible]
Golconda Malay	Dec. 31	1	113,000	35/0 21/1½	10	2,199	61	0/8·14	0/5·31	0/5·67	968,214	91,235	82,169	52,012
Golden Hope	Dec. 31	1	280,720	34/4½ 20/3	10	7,043	2,828	0/9·92	0/8·05	...	1,434,240	238,702	196,399	176,[illegible]
Grand Central	Dec. 31	1	1,225,000	32/4½ 16/0	5	16,098	5,660	0/11·62	0/7·82	0/9·48	4,291,995	584,993	312,693	268,458
Hewagam	Dec. 31	1	240,000	17/9 10/0	6	2,756	600	0/9·68	0/7	...	1,030,067	122,600	59,700	60,600
Highlands & Lowlands	Dec. 31	1	309,481	45/0 26/0	10	6,802	792	0/9·54	0/5·15	0/6·07	1,904,871	163,300	138,500	133,200
Inch Kenneth	June 30	1	30,000	60/6 25/0	7½	1,481	199	0/9·57	0/7·41	0/8·53	441,446	42,600	32,350	33,[illegible]
Insulinde	June 30	2/0	1,211,820	2/11½ 1/0	5	2,339	10,613	0/10·3	0/6·68	0/6·45	573,011	49,500	42,200	36,7[illegible]
Java Amalgamated	Dec. 31	1	185,000	37/9 20/0	17½	3,920	...	0/9·89	...	...	1,288,475	141,000	136,700	139,500
Java Rubber Plant	Dec. 31	2/0	699,660	5/10½ 3/0	5	2,159	187	0/7·5	0/6·68	...	754,000	85,000	70,000	70,000
Java United	Dec. 31	1	150,000	47/0 27/6	15	2,320	3,500	1/0·8	0/9·3	...	595,438	86,000	77,000	80,000
Jeram	Mar. 31	1	112,500	35/7½ 20/0	10	3,054	...	0/9·19	0/5·58	...	711,637	88,900	75,548	65,570
Jong-Landor	June 30	1	89,500	44/9 25/0	12½	2,342	358	0/10	0/5·40	0/6·83	1,106,464	87,747	69,530	57,420
K.M.S.	June 30	1	169,554	31/9 17/6	10	3,518	1,017	0/11·81	0/5·87	0/6·26	1,022,599	101,000	69,000	88,000
Kali Glagah	Mar. 31	2/0	985,100	4/6½ 1/11½	15	3,870	...	0/9·08	0/4 apx.	...	793,960	88,600	85,200	82,000
Kali Java	Dec. 31	2/0	668,147	3/0 1/4½	4	1,027	1,024	0/8·09	...	...	269,470	35,100	29,100	28,300
Kampong Kuantan	Dec. 31	2/0	835,499	8/0 4/0	20	2,707	596	0/3·78	0/5	0/6·60	988,000	90,000	78,000	77,000
Kamuning Rub. & Tin	June 30	2/0	2,010,000	4/3 2/0	12½	3,304	500	0/9·76	...	0/5·87	1,543,336	151,000	131,000	120,000
Kawie (Java)	Mar. 31	2	750,000	7/3½ 3/7½	20	2,266	223	0/9·93	...	...	975,865	83,000	83,500	81,100
Kepitigalla	Mar. 31	2/0	1,375,000	2/4 0/10	Nil	2,826	680	0/9·60	0/8·09	...	698,579	...	...	8,428
Kepong (Malay)	Dec. 31	2/0	1,180,000	8/3½ 4/11½	27½	5,115	511	1/0	...	...	1,686,276	192,278	160,622	165,433
Kinta Kellas	Mar. 31	2/0	1,300,000	5/3 3/0	10	3,559	779	0/8·87	0/5·98	...	1,014,100	98,500	87,140	80,660
Klanang Produce	Dec. 31	2/0	870,000	7/3 3/0	17½	2,578	874	0/9·54	0/5·21	...	1,150,840	101,411	85,790	83,171
Kuala Selangor	Dec. 31	2/0	775,000	6/3 3/10½	12½	1,953	...	0/8·92	...	0/5·90	695,417	88,994	78,182	68,[illegible]
Labu (F.M.S.)	Dec. 31	1	234,564	45/0 28/9	10	4,792	775	0/9·25	0/5·07	0/5·38	1,784,000	179,000	159,000	151,[illegible]
Lanadron	Dec. 31	1	360,000	27/6 13/0	5	5,391	6,310	0/10·64	0/7·69	...	1,130,117	107,612	100,680	104,[illegible]
Langen	Aug. 31	1	125,000	40/0 21/3	10	3,070	1,287	0/9·07	0/6·07	...	1,037,517	100,442	96,258	93,[illegible]
Langkat Sumatra	Dec. 31	1	123,971	29/4½ 13/0	4	2,854	...	0/9·16	0/8·18	...	598,000	60,000	50,000	26,000
Langkon N. Borneo	Mar. 31	2/0	1,093,680	1/9 0/6	Nil	1,633	10,264	0/9·21	...	0/9·80	340,000	...	32,000	29,000
Laras	Mar. 31	2/0	3,003,920	4/9 2/1	2½	9,498	11,515	1/9·17	...	...	2,771,624	269,042	227,538	219,121
Ledbury	Dec. 31	1	108,600	41/6 25/0	10	2,431	556	0/10·12	0/8·01	...	587,944	68,050	58,650	57,400
Linggi Plant. Ord.	Dec. 31	1	560,000	38/6 22/4	7½	11,516	4,534	0/10·01	0/6·32	...	2,890,800	328,000	254,000	257,000
London Asiatic	Dec. 31	2/0	4,920,869	6/4 3/7	15	12,940	7,072	...	...	...	3,642,952	424,200	361,200	372,000
Lumut	Sept. 30	1	211,482	58/9 35/7½	22½	3,759	148	0/10·02	0/4·70	0/5·72	1,410,440	128,500	100,080	93,000
Malacca Ordinary	Dec. 31	1	541,613	47/9 23/1	7½	21,430	10,222	0/10·17	0/6·83	0/7·33	4,763,404	594,000	475,000	519,000
Malayalam Plan.	Mar. 31	1	1,789,508	37/9 23/10½	12	18,095	34,947	0/9·82	0/7·15	...	3,886,468	476,471	Nil	363,508
Mendaris (Sumatra)	Dec. 31	1	430,862	28/1½ 15/0	5	6,441	6,326	0/9·47	0/7·07	...	2,117,305	194,422	168,651	151,0[illegible]
Merlimau Pegoh	Dec. 31	2/0	5,947,795	4/10 2/1	5	10,587	...	0/9·69	...	0/6·62	2,722,162	296,000	234,500	250,5[illegible]
Mount Austin	Mar. 31	1	600,000	28/9 15/0	6	11,303	598	pft.	per lb.	0/4·11	2,622,967	270,729	227,124	...
Nagolle	Dec. 31	1	185,141	21/10 11/3	4	2,023	218	1/4·60	...	...	585,577	70,148	37,310	28,306
Nordanal (Johore)	Dec. 31	1	280,000	19/4½ 10/0	5	3,086	1,163	pft.	per lb.	0/4·84	749,769	67,000	61,500	53,500
North Hummock	Mar. 31	1	240,000	24/0⅝ 11/4½	3	3,276	809	0/8·40	0/6·15	0/6·88	917,874	94,261	85,482	82,975
Pataling	Dec. 31	1	225,007	26/3 15/6	12½	2,146	519	...	...	...	653,330	72,420	61,560	58,690
Perak Rubber Plant	Mar. 31	2/0	890,000	4/4 2/7	10	1,775	350	0/8·53	0/5	...	717,072	82,200	71,400	71,900
Pernambang	Dec. 31	1	448,591	19/6 9/4½	Nil	5,431	3,137	0/9·16	0/8·86	...	1,268,506	202,923	158,802	168,629
Port Dickson	Mar. 31	2/0	2,464,633	3/6 1/6	6	4,483	114	0/9·87	0/6·34	0/6·75	1,356,873	167,000	128,000	144,000
Prye Rubber, &c.	Mar. 31	1	99,247	15/6 6/6	5	1,166	2,842	0/9·59	...	...	265,026	30,116	12,884	18,778
Rangoon Para	Dec. 31	1	187,551	13/6 5/4½	Nil	2,692	514	0/8·62	...	0/9·33	610,312	65,000	20,500	76,500
Rani (Travancore)	Dec. 31	1	275,000	19/10 11/3	2½	3,937	1,457	0/10·34	0/7·65	...	1,298,290	134,530	...	112,928
Rembau Jelei	Dec. 31	1	400,000	36/6 20/0	10	6,423	1,822	1/0·6	0/7·67	...	2,140,986	241,796	192,326	189,547
Rubana	June 30	1	330,000	25/0 17/3	10	4,537	131	pft.	per lb.	0/6·70	1,713,737	151,500	134,000	118,000
R. Estates of Johore	Dec. 31	1	187,500	21/3 12/0	4	2,647	1,917	...	...	...	738,662	60,612	47,370	48,330
R. Estates of Krian	Dec. 31	2/0	1,200,000	2/10½ 1/4½	5	1,721	36	0/9	0/5·54	...	554,347	75,000	64,317	58,294
Sampang	Dec. 31	2/0	730,000	4/0⅝ 2/0	5	1,825	1,119	0/10	...	0/1½	581,256	...	39,500	43,500
Sapong Rubber, &c.	Dec. 31	1	120,000	44/4 22/6	10	3,254	16,746	1/3·36	0/10·37	...	839,280	77,000	67,000	51,000
Seafield	Dec. 31	1	200,000	31/10½ 17/0	15	2,562	3,396	0/9·03	0/4·77	0/5·94	1,227,012	100,348	97,030	94,147
Seaport	June 30	1	187,500	23/9 12/9	6	1,937	...	0/8·87	0/6·20	...	750,000	70,000	65,000	61,000
Sedenak	Oct. 31	1	153,843	36/3 18/6	10	3,555	2,839	0/8·93	0/5·60	...	1,410,365	121,300	116,800	103,300
Selangor	Dec. 31	2/0	1,200,000	4/7½ 2/3	5	2,663	...	0/9·17	0/5·80	0/6·99	664,800	65,029	54,110	53,379
Sempah	Mar. 31	1	127,910	20/1½ 7/0	Nil	1,997	37	0/9·40	0/9·60	...	404,083	46,054	37,590	28,068
Sendayan	Sept. 30	1	250,000	32/0 17/0	5	4,699	556	...	...	...	914,739	164,000	127,000	124,000
Sennah	Dec. 31	1	600,000	48/1 23/9	5	7,606	...	0/10·66	...	...	2,609,131	223,465	187,170	206,130
Serdang Central	Dec. 31	1	88,478	35/0 18/9	10	1,815	581	0/10·66	0/8·48	...	406,000	38,000	32,000	27,000
Seremban (1920)	Dec. 31	1	400,000	11/3 6/0	Nil	3,117	121	0/8·55	0/7·23	...	835,643	72,113	61,586	58,955
Sialang	Jan. 31	1	300,000	45/0 22/0	10	6,819	2,515	0/10·72	0/7·78	...	2,039,059	210,684	150,612	140,442
Singapore Para	June 30	2/0	2,386,666	2/0⅝ 0/10½	4	3,553	458	0/10·44	0/6·92	0/7·46	994,336	108,151	87,344	87,862
Straits Rubber (1919)	Dec. 31	1	1,050,000	27/6 15/0	7½	10,298	1,683	profit	per lb.	0/6·61	3,044,209	359,500	301,000	288,000
Sumatra Consolidated	April 30	1	125,000	32/1 13/6	3⅔	2,282	1,763	0/9·61	0/5·67	...	515,328	42,500	30,600	30,900
Sumatra Para	June 30	2/0	1,999,335	5/4 2/8	10	4,942	...	0/9·32	0/5·12	...	1,540,921	148,000	145,000	122,000
Sungei Choh (1920)	Dec. 31	1	200,000	22/9 14/9	6	2,469	625	0/8·72	0/4·65	...	995,560	96,720	75,400	56,150
Sungei Salak	Dec. 31	1	100,000	50/0 32/6	6	3,395	778	0/9·77	0/6·52	0/7·20	1,008,400	165,000	147,200	139,300
Sungkai-Chumor	June 30	2/0	998,546	4/3⅝ 2/2½	7½	2,276	139	1/1·8	0/9·98	...	773,436	70,859	59,528	56,711
Taiping	Sept. 30	2/0	2,910,636	2/7 1/1½	7	3,601	1,617	0/10·67	0/4·44	...	1,275,487	138,000	120,000	122,800
Tambira	Dec. 31	1	59,833	42/6 26/3	Nil	4,027	13,191	0/11·99	0/11·71	...	340,360	60,800	49,500	44,600
Tandjong	June 30	1	250,000	47/6 24/9	10	6,151	2,237	0/9·67	0/7·88	0/10·13	1,684,663	147,000	125,000	84,000
Tebrau	June 30	1	165,000	37/6 17/6	6	4,839	2,945	0/10·12	0/6·13	0/7·08	1,054,900	...	...	...
Telogoredjo	Dec. 31	1	595,219	54/0 28/0	6	27,905	31,478	0/10·57	0/7	...	3,303,733	435,535	420,577	405,284
Tremelbye	Mar. 31	1	276,000	19/4½ 8/4½	4	2,826	...	0/9·5	0/6·13	0/7·46	878,561	85,123	64,136	66,442
United Serdang	Aug. 31	2/0	14232725	6/1 3/3	7½	32,132	39,361	6/10·25	...	0/5·5	6,804,112	699,820	542,898	469,396
United Sua Betong	Dec. 31	1	500,000	88/9 48/9	15	22,113	13,517	0/10·89	0/6·52	0/6·75	4,337,855	635,000	466,000	547,000
United Sumatra	Dec. 31	2/0	2,200,000	3/5 1/6	10	3,841	5,439	0/9·6	0/5·88	...	863,495	81,342	28,769	51,772
United Temiang	July 31	2/0	2,000,000	3/11½ 1/9	6	4,507	1,963	0/10·72	0/7·44	0/7·83	1,087,792	115,000	87,000	86,000
Waterfall	Sept. 30	2/0	3,351,480	2/3 1/2	Nil	7,031	162	0/9·56	...	0/8·32	2,266,469	231,100	189,800	189,800
Way Halim	Mar. 31	2/0	517,615	3/6 1/7½	6	1,328	4,158	0/8·9	0/6·40	...	390,489	46,000	41,000	41,000

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.				
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Banks.											
Union Bank of Scotland ...	Apr. 2	100,743	339,310	440,053	...	180,000	18	125,000	135,053	336,239	18
Breweries.											
Walker (John) and Sons ...	Mar. 31	151,503	647,365	798,868	105,000	247,275	25	270,000	176,593	744,917	25
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Bournemouth and Poole Electricity	Dec. 31	6,268	148,610	154,878	13,775	119,005	15	54,200	7,798	163,632	15
Cawnpore Electric Supply...	Dec. 31	3,824	78,944	82,768	14,000	20,700	10	41,827	6,241	75,064	10
Richmond (Surrey) Electric Light.....	Dec. 31	9,792	39,910	49,702	...	22,000	11	22,907	4,795	46,486	11
Rubber, &c.											
Bukit Sembawang Rubber..	Dec. 31	15,911	6,123	22,034	...	...	...	600	21,434	5,415	Nil
Central Travancore Rubber	Dec. 31	7,145	5,141	12,286	...	...	...	3,000	9,286	13,074	3
Chulsa (Selangor) Rubber...	Dec. 31	2,423	9,547	11,970	...	6,400	8	1,500	3,070	7,014	7½
Heewood Tin and Rubber...	Dec. 31	5,749	12,362	18,111	...	10,000	10	3,000	5,111	21,466	17½
Kinnanis Rubber	Dec. 31	4,340	9,648	13,988	...	3,900	2½	5,000	5,088	9,043	2½
Lubok Rubber	Dec. 31	3,315	6,636	9,951	...	3,348	6	3,000	3,603	2,215	5
Malaysia Rubber	Dec. 31	12,142	5,532	17,674	...	3,375	7½	2,000	12,299	3,987	2½
Sungei Kapar Rubber	Dec. 31	12,390	11,132	23,522	...	6,458	8½	4,401	12,663	3,414	5
Tanjong Batu Rubber.....	Dec. 31	1,660	*Dr. 466*	1,194	...	...	...	...	1,194	104	Nil
Tjiaderia Rubber and Tea	Dec. 31	2,813	6,707	9,520	...	3,500	2½	3,000	3,020	9,354	5
Shipping.											
Britain Steamship	Dec. 31	24,069	19,810	43,879	...	6,250	1½†	35,000	2,629	*Dr.54,285*	2½†
Shops and Stores.											
Bolsom Bros. (1928)	Dec. 31	4,656	6,195	10,851	6,300	...	...	3,459	1,092	...	...
Tea.											
Craig Tea.....	Dec. 31	4,330	10,445	14,775	...	7,500	15	2,500	4,775	10,595	12
Lebong Tea.....	Dec. 31	6,179	24,372	30,551	...	20,862	30	4,000	5,689	21,181	30
Poonmudi Tea and Rubber	Dec. 31	3,191	9,949	13,140	...	4,912	5	5,000	3,228	9,489	5†
Standard Tea Co. of Ceylon	Dec. 31	34,622	65,665	100,287	...	47,600	40	15,000	37,687	63,810	35
Telegraphs, &c.											
Anglo-American Telegraph	Mar. 31	65,625	210,000	275,625	161,542	48,458	3¾ ord. 1½ def.	...	65,625	209999	3¾ ord 1½ def.
Oriental Telephone	Dec. 31	34,425	99,521	133,946	13,215	68,424	12†	12,500	39,807	89,550	12†
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Rangoon Electric Tramways and Supply Co.....	Dec. 31	20,624	148,122	168,746	15,000	46,667	11·66†	85,293	21,786	...	...
Trust.											
Abbots Investment Trust ..	Apr. 15	3,648	22,980	26,628	...	19,687	5	...	6,941	13,648	5
Anglo-American Deb. Corp.	Mar. 31	24,025	123,695	147,720	28,688	67,500	15	25,000	26,532	110,399	14
Anglo-Celtic Trust.....	Apr. 5	11,975	65,227	77,197	23,928	23,500	7½	...	14,269	...	...
British Shareholders' Trust..	Mar. 31	30,139	100,477	130,616	...	37,675	7	62,500	30,441	170,097	7
Continental Union Trust ...	Mar. 31	906	55,537	56,443	23,625	23,550	5	6,000	3,268	...	...
Home and Foreign Investment Trust.....	Mar. 31	9,073	32,008	41,081	14,797	14,175	7	...	12,109	...	...
Scottish Mortgage and Trust	Mar. 31	6,988	131,575	138,563	31,242	67,781	11½	30,194	9,346	100,981	11
Third Scottish National Trust.....	Mar. 31	5,046	45,230	50,276	17,942	16,701	7	5,000	10,633	28,862	6
Waterworks.											
Antwerp Water Works	Dec. 31	9,810	32,792	42,602	...	17,625	7½	15,419	9,658	31,189	6¼
Province of Buenos Ayres Waterworks	Dec. 31	11,222	88,302	99,524	9,375	44,161	6½†	33,098	12,890	74,638	6†
Other Companies.											
Associated Automatic Machine	Mar. 31	...	*Dr. 49,065*	*Dr. 49,065*	...	...	...	...	*Dr49,065*	...	...
Associated Lead Manufactrs.	Dec. 31	28,348	107,063	135,411	47,825	29,489	2½	32,000	26,097	101,691	2½
Burton, Son and Sanders ...	Dec. 24	26,856	48,636	75,492	10,219	36,043	11·535 p.c. 5 d.c.	...	29,230	49,007	10
Compton (J.) Sons and Webb	Dec. 31	5,830	60,099	65,929	8,400	38,500	27½	13,500	5,529	...	...
Craig and Rose.....	Mar. 31	6,887	10,120	17,017	5,000	5,000	5†	...	7,017	13,050	5†
Craigpark Electric Cable ...	Mar. 31	1,200	19,025	20,225	2,850	3,750	10	10,000	3,625	17,703	5
Dunlop Rubber	Dec. 31	801,278	1,576,585	2,377,863	295,313	924,461	15	375,761	782,228	637,907	20
Embassy Wine and Club ...	Mar. 31	2,772	22,226	24,998	11,737	5,425	100	4,750	3,086	23,360	100
Lowrie (W. P.) and Co....	Mar. 31	180,821	127,689	308,510	14,175	186,953	34⅜	5,600	101,782	133,921	25
Metropolitan Housing Corp.	Mar. 31	...	56,167	56,167	...	36,619	8	9,379	10,169	...	...
Oxendale and Co. (Proprietors).....	Feb. 28	6,166	27,478	33,644	...	27,875	10	...	5,769	29,014	10
West (George) (Weatherproofs).....	Dec. 31	4,276	12,800 §	17,076	7,500	...	...	4,749	4,827	16,824	6
Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co.	Feb. 28	24,826	91,226	116,052	41,500	47,150	8†	1,000	26,402	92,158	10

† Free of income tax. ‡ Period from November 13, 1928, to March 31, 1930.
§ Includes £4,749 profit on sale of lease of 484 Oxford Street.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.—The results for the month of April are as follows :—Production of oil, 35,770 tons; deliveries, 35,330 tons.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended April 16 :—Venezuela, 37,833 barrels; Trinidad, 15,246 barrels; total, 53,079 barrels. Production for the week ended April 23rd : Venezuela, 37,144 barrels; Trinidad, 12,967 barrels; total, 50,111 barrels. Production for the week ended April 30th :—Venezuela, 40,019 barrels; Trinidad, 14,424 barrels; total, 54,443 barrels.

HECTOR WHALING, LTD.—Catch report to April 13, 1930 :—

	Season 1928-29.	Season 1929-30.
Number of expeditions reporting ...	Three	Three
Catch for week ending April 13th in barrels of oil	3,200	4,400
Total catch to date in barrels of oil	123,600	*194,500

* Including expedition returned.

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LTD.—The total production during the month of March amounted to 136,427 barrels, or approximately 19,489 tons.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY, LTD.—Production for the week ended April 12, 1930, was 272,000 barrels. The production for the week ended April 19, 1930, was 258,000 barrels.

SERVICE PETROLEUM.—Production from the company's wells as Gura-Ocnizei and Ceptura for the week ended February 23rd was 1,329 tons (9,303 barrels). Production from the company's wells at Gura-Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ended March 2, 1930, was 1,207 tons (8,449 barrels). Production from the company's wells at Gura Ocnitzei and Ceptura for the week ending March 9, 1930, was 1,182 tons (8,274 barrels). Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei, Ceptura and Moreni for week ending March 23rd was 2,371 tons (16,597 barrels).

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LTD.—Production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of April was 73,310 tons.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.—Oil produced during March, 44,450 tons; oil purchased during March from other companies, 44,550 tons. Oil produced during April, 32,550 tons; oil purchased during April from other companies, 44,550 tons.

VENEZUELAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended March 21st, 2,567 barrels (367 tons). Production for the week ended March 29th, 2,555 barrels (365 tons). Production for the week ended April 5th, 2,463 barrels, 352 tons. Production for the week ended 12th instant, Fyzabad property, 3,585 barrels, 370 tons. Production for the week ended April 19th, 2,337 barrels (334 tons). Production for the week ended 26th instant (Fyzabad property only), 2,334 barrels (334 tons). Production for the week ended 3rd instant, 2,397 barrels (343 tons). This production is from the company's Fyzabad property only.

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS, LTD.—Production for the week ended March 22nd was :—Bolivar district, 122,690 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,398 metric tons; total, 129,088 metric tons. Production for the week ended March 29th was :—Bolivar district, 114,677 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,650 metric tons; total 121,327 metric tons. Production for the week ended April 5th was :—Bolivar district, 100,471 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,422 metric tons; total, 106,893 metric tons. Week ended April 12 : Bolivar district, 95,572 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,700 metric tons; total, 102,272 metric tons. Production for the week ended April 19th was : Bolivar district, 93,998 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 7,449 metric tons; total, 101,447 metric tons. Production for the week ended April 26th was :—Bolivar district, 91,598 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 7,335 metric tons; total, 98,933 metric tons.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Favourable climatic conditions have continued over the United Kingdom, and both cereal crops and pastures present a healthy appearance. A full acreage has been laid down to oats and barley, and, so far, germination is satisfactory, while winter wheat gives every promise of a good yield. Supplies of native wheat on the principal Statute markets was in excess of requirements, and prices showed an easier tendency, while influenced by competition from French wheat and flour, which has been selling freely to United Kingdom outports of late. On the import market, no important change occurred in the general position, slight price fluctuations being registered in sympathy with North American cables, also weather and crop prospects. Australian varieties have been purchased by Italy, and fair quantities of Canadian and American hard winter grades were taken by United Kingdom and Continental millers, but in the aggregate, business remains much below normal for the time of year. Neither Canadian nor American sellers are disposed to force sales pending further progress of new crop sowings, though offers are fairly plentiful and prices compare favourably with good quality Plate wheat. Southern hemisphere shipments continue on a light scale, but the North American quota is steadily increasing, and again assumes chief importance in the International situation. Meanwhile, definite offers of Indian wheat are on the market, and sales resulted in choice white Karachi, May-June, at 39s. 6d. to the United Kingdom. France continues to offer freely, and further chartering is reported of Russian grain for May shipment. The outlook is somewhat uncertain, but greater pressure to market North American holdings is likely to arise when new crops become more assertive, and, in any event, consumers are assured of ample supplies of grist at reasonable prices. The demand for home-milled flour is fairly satisfactory, though largely confined to pressing needs. North American offers were again slightly reduced, but still above market parity here, though adversely affected by attractive prices of French makes. Feeding-stuffs quiet, and Plate maize easier on lack of demand in forward positions; also competition from Danubian varieties, which are selling more freely. Advices from South Africa indicate that the crop will be available much earlier than anticipated.

WHEAT.—Steady. No. 1, Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 43s. 9d.; No. 2, ditto, 43s.; No. 3, 42s.; No. 4, Manitoba, 40s. 6d.; No. 5, ditto, 38s. 9d.; No. 6, 31s. 3d.; No. 2 hard winter, 39s. 9d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 37s. 3d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s. 6d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 39s.; Australian, 41s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 8d.-8s. 10d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Quiet. London, straight run, 35s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries, and 34s. 6d. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 31s.-32s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, May, 32s.-32s. 3d.; export, ditto, 29s. 6d.-30s.; Australian, 28s.-28s. 6d.; French, prompt, 24s. 6d.-25s. 6d. per 280 lbs.; Argentine, low grade, May, £5 17s. 6d. per ton.

MAIZE.—Quietly steady. Plate, landed, 30s. 6d.; ex ship, 29s. 6d.; March-April, 26s.; new, April-May, 25s.; May-June, 24s. 6d.; June-July, 24s. 6d.; No. 2 white flat African, 31s. landed, per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 5s. per ton, ex ship.

BARLEY.—Dull. Californian, old, landed, 36s.-42s.; new, ex ship, 36s.-42s., as to sample; Chilian brewing, 36s.-44s.; Chevalier, 40s.-44s.; Australian, 40s.-41s.; Smyrna, 40s.-41s. per 448 lbs.; Black Sea, ex ship f.a.q., 18s. 6d.; landed, on sample, 19s. 6d.-20s. 6d. Persian, landed, 18s. 9d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s. 3d.-10s. 6d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Weak. Plate, landed, 14s.; ex ship, to arrive, 12s. 9d. Chilian, white, 20s. 6d.; ditto, tawny, 15s. German, landed, 19s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 17s. 3d. Mixed Canadian feed, 13s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1 week to May 3	161,749	167,009	289,262	142,128
35 weeks to May 3.....	8,133,718	8,721,146	8,986,274	10,282,175
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 9 0	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 10 10	s. d. 11 8

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Qr.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
April 26	174,140	69,063	22,545	9 0	7 9	6 8
May 3	161,749	48,855	21,810	9 0	7 10	6 8
May 1, 1926	235,649	64,456	42,210	12 10	9 6	9 8
April 30, 1927 ...	131,805	25,054	36,363	11 6	10 11	8 7
May 5, 1928	289,262	36,820	32,802	10 10	11 6	12 10
May 4, 1929	167,009	35,021	28,040	9 11	10 1	9 10

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	May 8, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	113⅛	148⅛	109	105½	105
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅛	106⅛	130⅛	104⅛	101⅛	100⅛

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 73,499,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 1,132,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 75,496,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—The South Yorkshire market continues weak in all sections and decidedly in favour of buyers, although rather more export inquiries are about. On prompt account best steams are quoted at 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d. f.o.b.

There is still a considerable surplus on offer. A leading colliery has seceded from the Central Collieries Commercial Association. House coal has been reduced 1s. and 2s. per ton. Blast-furnace coal has declined to 15s. per ton at ovens.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In spite of a moderate improvement in the shipping trade, the market generally remains weak. Coal is in excessive supply in all districts, and is accumulating, so that there is extensive short-time working at the pits. Among round coals flint coals in Lanarkshire have been a weak feature lately, and among smalls, trebles and doubles are offering at cheap prices. Current quotations for shipment are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports):—LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 16s.; splint second, 15s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 3d.; singles, 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s.; dross, 10s. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.; secondary steam, 12s.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 3d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement this week in the state of business on the Cardiff coal market. There has been no expansion of current inquiries and the market is still without any official information concerning the placing of the Egyptian contract. The period for which the tenders were open expired on Wednesday and up to the afternoon of that day none of the Cardiff firms who had sent in tenders had been informed either of the acceptance or the rejection of their offers. Production is declining owing to the closing of some pits and the irregular working of most of those situated in the steam-coal area. Prices, however, are being maintained solely on the strength of the loyalty of the members of the Marketing Association, and in view of the increase in the cost of production due to lost shifts some colliery companies are suggesting an advance in prices. German statistics show a very considerable increase during the March quarter in the export of German coal to France, Belgium and the Netherlands, and notwithstanding The Hague coal agreement, German shipments to Italy show only a very small decrease compared with those in the corresponding period last year. At the request of the colliery owners, the representatives of the South Wales Coal Trade Conciliation Board have this week discussed the probable effects of a reduction of hours on the economic position of the industry, but the miners' representative turned a deaf ear to the owners' suggestion that Part III. of the Coal Mines Bill should be replaced by a clause providing for a 45-hour week or a 90-hour fortnight. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 3d. to 12s.; foundry coke, 27s. 6d. to 30s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 9d. to 27s.

THE SLUMP IN COMMODITIES

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

A STOCKBROKER'S NOTEBOOK

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IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of The London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Trade in iron and steel continues to run on a disappointing scale. For the time being the home market is rather more active, but even so, the volume of trade is still below the normal for the time of year. The British works are experiencing a limited and irregular demand, but in some departments at least are benefiting from the confusion into which the efforts of the European Steel Cartel to establish its price policy has thrown the market for Continental steel. The home demand for pig iron is steady, but insufficient to prevent the accumulation of stocks. Prices, however, are maintained, as the producers are of opinion that no reduction in prices would stimulate buying in the present state of business. The demand for finished steel materials has improved somewhat, and there have been fair purchases of Continental material. The British works, however, continue to take a good share of this business in districts where they are prepared to compete for orders. The overseas demand has brightened somewhat and an active inquiry recently developed from India, which was followed by a certain amount of buying, the demand being principally for steel sheets. Buyers in other markets, particularly in the Far Eastern, have shown little inclination to depart from the cautious policy they have shown for some time past. Generally speaking, it may be said that business in the finished steel department has improved slightly, but the increase in the demand is only of slow growth.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron continues very quiet. Consumers are not making forward purchases, being content with the contracts already entered into which will carry them on for several weeks, and in the meantime they prefer to watch the course of events. Deliveries under current contracts are taking up the small amount of iron produced that is available for the open market, and stocks are being reduced to some extent. Makers, therefore, are not perturbed about the absence of new business at the moment, and look for increased buying later on. At the weekly market on Tuesday only a few small lots of No. 3 were sold for early delivery on home account at 67s. 6d. per ton, and other qualities remained unchanged, viz., No. 1, 70s.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. The demand for hematite is still confined to small quantities for early delivery, both home account and for export. Two furnaces have been put out at Linthorpe works, but the stoppage has come rather earlier than was expected. This leaves only thirteen producing hematite in the district, and makers are hoping that the reduced production will prevent any further fall in prices, but stocks at the furnaces are heavy. Works are still accepting 74s. for mixed numbers. Merchants have rather considerable unsold stocks and are willing to shade this price. The total shipments of iron and steel from Middlesbrough last month showed a loss of just over 20,000 tons on March, the figures being as follows:—

	March.	April.
Pig iron	20,208	14,345
Manufactured iron	2,204	1,589
Manufactured steel	58,579	44,379
	80,991	60,313

Up to 6th of this month the pig iron clearances amount to 4,123 tons against 2,900 tons to April 6th. In the steel trade no new business of importance is reported. Home prices under the rebate scheme are unchanged, viz., plates, £8 15s.; joists, £8 10s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d. Other home prices are heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; iron crown bars, £10 15s.; 21-24 gauge black sheets, £9 12s. 6d.; and 24 gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12. New transactions in ore are practically unheard of, curtailment of deliveries under current contracts being the rule. Best Bilbao rubio is nominally 21s. c.i.f., and the rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early tonnage remains about 5s. 6d. Coke is offering very freely, and although the general quotation for good average furnace qualities is 18s. delivered works, a good order could be placed at 3d. to 6d. less. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is now reduced to 37.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The iron and steel trade in North Lincolnshire is at last feeling the general depression acutely, and production has been curtailed at two of the largest works there. At these establishments considerable stocks of ingots and billets have accumulated. The Sheffield works report no improvement in demand and inquiries and short time is almost general. There is practically no forward buying. A few sections of the industry are doing fairly well, notably bright steel strip, heat-resisting steels, and forged boiler drums. Several firms are well employed on forgings for commercial motor vehicles. The railway steel department has lately booked increased work from home sources, but trade overseas has been extremely meagre for

several years and does not improve. Export business generally is abnormally quiet for the time of year. The pig iron market continues stagnant as regards long contracts. Building trade demand for light castings is below the level of a year ago. Makers of hand tools, cutlery and plate, report unfavourably of the state of their order books.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In West of Scotland trade circles things seem rather brighter this week, improvement being noticeable in several directions. In the pig iron market business is poor. Steelmakers report somewhat heavier bookings, although work coming in is not nearly sufficient to keep plants running at full capacity. There is a distinct improvement in the tonnage of galvanised sheets for export placed with Glasgow sheetmakers, and business in black sheets is also rather better. Among recent orders placed in Glasgow, one which has given much satisfaction and prospects of employment for considerable numbers, is that placed with the North British Locomotive Company, of Springburn, for 25 locomotives. It is also reported that Messrs William Denny and Brothers, Ltd., of Dumbarton, have received an order for a turbine steamer for the Stranraer–Larne service of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, Ltd. It is announced this week that the Dundee Harbour Trustees have agreed to accept the offer of Messrs Fleming and Ferguson, Ltd., of Paisley, for the construction of a steam hopper barge amounting to almost £22,000, subject to the approval of the Unemployment Grants Committee.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—On the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday it was reported that inquiries were fairly general, and that most works were well booked up to June and some up to September. Competition in the bar trade has been accentuated by the offer of cheap foreign bars, which are now quoted at £5 9s. per ton or less, compared with the £6 3s. to £6 10s. quoted for the South Wales bar. The prices of tinplates are unaltered at from 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per basis box, and of galvanised sheets from £11 17s. 6d. to £12 10s. per ton. Shipments were normal last week and stocks were slightly lower than in the previous week.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—In the standard market, values suffered a further sharp set-back on heavy liquidations, also depressing Eastern cables. A good deal of irregularity occurred at times, but a fair business transpired at the lower levels and market recovering. So far, restrictive measures have not been effective in keeping down world's supplies, particularly in view of decreased consumption, and some time must elapse before any benefit is felt in this respect. Standard cash sold £149 7s. 6d.-£142 5s. and £145 10s.; three months, £151 10s.-£143 10s. and £147 7s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £154 10s.-£146 15s. and £148 17s. 6d. ton c.i.f.

COPPER.—Irregular, but prices lower on balance following the reduction in America, and the possibility of a further decline there. Business, however, was on a fairly liberal scale at some recovery. Standard, cash, changed hands at £49 12s. 6d.-£48 5s. and £50 2s. 6d.; three months, £49 15s.-£48 2s. 6d. and £50.

LEAD in fair support, but values fluctuated slightly in view of liberal offerings. Good soft foreign pig, May, sold £16 18s. 9d.-£17 10s.; June, £16 17s. 6d.-£17 11s. 3d.; August, £17 2s. 6d.-£16 15s. and £17 11s. 3d. ton.

SPELTER.—Market weaker, supplies being in excess of requirements, while heavy American stocks tend to discourage buyers. May sold £16 6s. 3d.-£16 2s. 6d.; June, £16 12s. 6d.-£16 6s. 3d. and £16 13s. 9d.; July, £16 15s.-£16 10s.; August, £17 2s. 6d.-£16 12s. 6d. and £17 2s. 6d. ton.

ANTIMONY quietly steady. English regulus, £40-£46 10s. Chinese ditto, spot, £29-£29 10s.; May-June, £26 5s.-£26 10s. Chinese crude, May-June, £16 15s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—May-June, £26 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., May-June, 3s. 6d.; ditto, 60 per cent., 4s. 3d. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM quiet. Chinese, May-June, 24s. 3d.; Burmese ditto, 24s. per unit c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £21 15s. net per bottle.

TIN PLATES steady, with moderate dealings. I.C. coke, prompt, and forward, 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

ZINC OXIDE dull. Values range from £27 to £33 per ton, as to quality, delivered U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: May 7th.

Prices on the week show a reduction of 12 to 20 points, the new crop positions showing the greater weakness. Crop news for the past week has been favourable, some rains in Texas and Oklahoma have fallen and given partial relief from the drought. Some warm rains in the Eastern and Central belts would help germination, but on the whole conditions are very good. The American Cotton Crop Service reports that preparations for the whole of the belt are well forward, with planting about completed in the southern half and only a decrease in acreage of probably under 5 per cent. The New York Cotton Exchange estimates the consumption of American cotton during March at 1,074,000 bales against 1,063,000 bales in February and 1,291,000 bales in March last year. The difference in New York between the old and new crop, say, July and October,

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has again widened, and now shows a difference of 200 points, and this has had the effect of mills, both in U.S.A. and the Continent, further curtailing production until more is known of the intentions of the Farm Board and new crop prospects. The Farm Board received over 250,000 bales on the May tenders in New York and New Orleans. Spot sales for the week 1st to 7th (inclusive) are 24,000 bales, of which 12,370 are American, 4,800 Brazil, 3,000 Peru, 1,950 Egyptian, 1,250 African, and 630 sundries. Imports for the same period are 59,756 bales, of which 17,065 are American, 217 Brazil, 342 Argentine, 944 Peru, 23,500 Egyptian, 5,095 African, 11,209 East Indian, and 1,384 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·51; Egyptian Sakel, 14·00, Uppers, 10·25; Brazil Fair, 7·76; Peru G.F. Smooth, 8·86; West African Middling, 8·36, and East African G.F., 9·01.

MANCHESTER, May 7th.

Conditions throughout the market have been decidedly unfavourable to activity. Although there continues extensive curtailment of production in spinning and weaving, the sales this week in yarn and cloth have been much less than the output. The easier tendency of raw material rates has had some effect upon the attitude of buyers. In piece goods for India, demand for the time being has dried up, and according to advices received by merchants the boycott of foreign goods in the bazaars is now complete. Deliveries against old contracts are being taken, and it is reported that clearances of India-made cloths are improving. News from China does not improve, and the sales at the auctions in Shanghai remain decidedly small. Fresh business has been almost non-existent. Scattered transactions have been put through for Singapore, South America and the West Coast of Africa, but manufacturers as a body are having very little to do at the moment. The special propaganda has stimulated demand for goods in the retail establishments, and the prospects for the home trade are rather brighter. American yarns have been irregular in price and slow of sale. In Egyptian yarns the most interesting development has been the arrangement of three leading combines to put up prices. The success of this movement will depend upon the attitude of outside firms.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Apr. 15.	Apr. 23.	Apr. 30.	May 7.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·50	d. 8·48	d. 8·62	d. 8·51	d. 11·71	d. 10·26
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·80	14·30	14·20	14·00	21·60	17·88
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12½	12½	17	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13	13	13	12½	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21½	21½	22	32	26
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 27 0	s. d. 25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 9	24 9	24 9	24 6	29 6	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 6	13 6	13 6	13 4½	15 9	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 1	12 1	12 1	12 0	14 7½	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—Locally, the partial strike of operatives is causing more or less dislocation, especially as employment on the reduced rates of wages is fairly general in the spinning section of the industry, whereas combing and weaving mills are practically at a standstill on account of the refusal of the overlookers to accept the Macmillan recommendations. All the indications point to the majority of the employees being prepared to accept the employers' offer, but little real progress can be made so long as the so-called "key men" resist. Taking a broader view of the wool textile industry and ignoring the dispute in the West Riding, it must be admitted that conditions are more favourable than they have been at any time during the last few years. The fall in wool values seems to have been arrested, and all reports from the primary markets indicate that buyers are operating freely and with confidence. There has been a marked appreciation in the price of wool since the resumption of the auctions in Australia, and the South African and South American markets are also more active on the new level of values. This return of confidence in the raw material position is reflected in renewed activity in the chief Continental centres, a feature being a further pronounced reduction in the stocks of tops. In Bradford business is being carried on with difficulty, but there is a good deal of inquiry for tops for prompt delivery, and also some interest on forward account. In view of the rise in wool values topmakers are adopting a firmer attitude, and a firm market in London next week will tend to strengthen their position. Yarns are well held, but there is no big volume of business. In the piece-goods section there is a good seasonal demand, and the question of delivery is of more importance than that of price in many cases.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The quantity available for the third series of London sales which will commence next Tuesday is 143,200 bales, which is 19,200 bales more than was sold last series, when the quantity carried forward was 61,000 bales. The quantity available will be quite sufficient for all the requirements of the industry in this country, particularly crossbreds. The quantity of New Zealand wool is 54,000 bales, and there are 30,000 bales of South American, chiefly new clip Puntas. It is to be hoped that the home trade will be able to buy freely, but it is a little difficult to make any forecast about the movement of prices. A good deal will depend upon the Continent, especially in regard to merinos. These may show an appreciation of about 5 per cent., but the state of trade in Yorkshire does not justify any advance. At the same time, there is every probability that the series will be a good one, and if there is an active demand at firm prices, with good support from the home trade, it will be very convincing testimony of the soundness of the situation. All overseas cables received this week have indicated a good general demand, with prices fully maintained. Most descriptions of wool are now making 7½ to 10 per cent. more than a month ago, and one very important factor in establishing prices has been the operations on Japanese account. The "futures" market at Roubaix has been reopened, and daily quotations can now be expected. It may take some little time to get this going, but eventually important transactions will take place daily. The establishment of a terme market in New York has also been mentioned.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

A very steady tone continues to prevail in the market for hides and skins from home-slaughtered cattle, and any change in values is in favour of sellers. At the auctions held in the north so far this week fractional advances have been again recorded on certain weights of ox and heifers, and it is expected that the sales held during the week-end will show a similar tendency. Business in the imported hide market is dull, and with little inclination on the part of buyers to take more than is absolutely necessary for immediate needs the tendency of values appears to be weaker, although at the moment prices are more or less unchanged. This perhaps is more due to the fact that shippers at certain origins are not prepared to operate on the present basis of prices than to the amount of actual business transacted of late. Although there has not been the same inquiry for frigorifics as of late, Argentine ox are still selling at the equivalent of 7 15/16d., light ox at 6 11/16d., and Montevideos at 7⅛d. The home trade have not been buyers of these, but a few parcels of second bulls have changed hands for this country at from 2¾d. to 3d. The trade here has also been interested in dry River Plates, which have commanded 8⅝d. for M.V. Americanos, 8½d. for Sierra Cordobas, 7½d. to 7⅝d. for B.A. Americanos, and 4⅝d. for Inservibles. African hides are steady with dry Capes selling at 8½d. and 7½d. for firsts and seconds, and 7⅝d. and 6⅝d. for dry salted 20/30 lbs. Mombassas are in fair demand at 6½d. Prices for Australians are erratic, while latest cable advices from the United States report the market as steady, with Chicago native steers selling at 14 cents. There seems to be a slight improving tendency so far as the market for sole leather is concerned, and although the amount of business actually transacted still falls short of what it should be for the time of the year, the number of inquiries coming to hand are more numerous than has been the case for several weeks past. Shoe manufacturers have been in the market for bends suitable for their purposes, and several sales of light weights in the medium-priced grades have been brought off. Repairing bends have also received more attention and some fairly satisfactory business has been put through. Shoulders and bellies continue to go out regularly with quite a decent inquiry all the time. Prices for the home-produced article are generally unchanged, but with a fair amount of Continental sole leather on offer at rather low figures a certain amount of anxiety is felt in some buying quarters regarding the future in this direction. On the other hand tanners seem fairly confident of the position; stocks are not large and there seems every indication that as the season advances the call for footwear will be greater with a corresponding increase in the demand for leather. No new feature can be reported in connection with the sale of upper leather, trade for the most part running on steady if somewhat quiet lines. Demand to a greater or lesser degree covers most descriptions, the bulk of the inquiry being in connection with brown glacé kid, and black and iron suede. Willow calf is moved off regularly in small quantities, but there does not appear to be much inquiry for either box calf or patent leather, sales of both kinds being very restricted. Curriers, also, continue to find business very slow, and even when an inquiry is received it is usually for a small quantity quite easily negotiated from stock. Novelty leathers and reptile skins are slow, and generally speaking the greater part of the demand for the latter is in connection with imitation grains. Shoe manufacturers are better placed for business in most centres, but buying is still on the small side. The number of orders coming to hand, however, is larger than before the holidays.

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VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Much quieter conditions rule, and generally markets have an easy tone. Linseed oil is in poor demand, despite lower prices, current values for raw oil on spot being £40 per ton, naked, ex Hull mill, and £39 10s. for May delivery, later positions being at a substantial discount. Cotton oils are steadier, and crude in better demand. Present quotation for crude Egyptian is £28 10s. ex Hull prompt, and for common edible £31 10s. Other seed oils are quiet, and soya palm kernel and ground nut quoted lower. In the oilseed section linseed is neglected, crushers here and on the Continent hardly operating at all. Plate has receded to £18 on spot at Hull, and at hand and April-May shipment, to £17 5s. (paid). A small business has been done in Indian linseed to the Continent, £18 10s. being paid for Calcutta; and £18 12s. 6d. for small Bombay. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe is now 123,900 tons, or 4,400 tons less than last week. Cotton seed is in slow request, and black Egyptian to Hull has declined to £7 10s. on spot, and for April and May loadings. Oilcakes are in very poor demand, and prices are easier.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—The slow tone prevalent for some time past was fully in evidence to-day, and apart from attending to immediate requirements, trade buyers are not interested. Very moderate sales in British refined and home-grown granulated took place at previous rates. General undertone is weak and less reserve is marked with regard to offers from several producing countries. Estimated Java shipments for last month of 114,000 tons are on a liberal scale for the time of year. Terminal sections weaker, as sellers were in evidence, but a fair amount of business was effected. Of raw, May delivery sold 6s. 5¼d., to 6s. 3¾d.; August, 6s. 6¾d. to 6s. 6½d.; December, 7s. to 6s. 9¾d.; March, 7s. 1½d. to 7s. 9d.; May, 8s. 0¾d. to 8s. White, August delivery, sold, 8s. 10½d. Czecho, granulated, free, May-June, sellers, 8s. 9d.; November-December, 8s. 10½d. f.o.b. Hamburg. Dutch too dear for the U.K. market. White Java, July-December, to Calcutta, sellers-9s. 6d. c. and f. terms. Cuban, 96 per cent., May, quoted, 7s. 1½d.; June, 7s. 2¼d.; July, 7s. 3d.; and 88 per cent. Continental beet, 6s. 10½d. c.i.f. U.K. Cuban receipts of new crop last week total 151,941 tons, against 164,461 same time last year; exports, 148,145, against 135,927; stocks, 1,754,746, against 1,537,163. Receipts, old crop, 277 tons, against 966; exports, 2,269, against 1,049; stocks, 619, against 1,532. Centrals still at work, 91, as compared with 40 last year. Stocks of raw sugar in the three principal ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 3rd totalled 157,077 tons, compared with 135,009 at corresponding period last year. Home refined closed 3d. to 1s. 6d. cwt. lower.

COFFEE.—Market continues fully steady for all qualities showing attractive liquor in the cup and move off with fair freedom. Medium, also common, come to a slow market.

COCOA.—Small sales resulted on the spot at barely steady prices. Forward positions easier. Accra, F/F, May-July, sold, 34s. 6d. to 34s. f.o.b. Terminal, June delivery, sold, 38s. to 37s. 6d.; July, 38s. to 37s. 6d.; September, 38s. 6d.; December, 39s.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week embraced some 54,364 packages. All finest also clean common kinds met quite a brisk demand at full rates, the latter being mostly ½d. dearer, but plain and medium grades while in full supply ruled occasionally easier. Ceylon auctions amounted to 29,722 packages. An irregular and easier market resulted, general tone being quieter than of late, even after making due allowance for a falling off in quality. Export demand at the moment is generally found wanting. Finest descriptions of leaf and broken teas brought steady rates, but otherwise a decline of ½d. to 1½d. was observable. Java and Sumatra auctions proceeded on quiet lines, and buyers were favoured regarding price alterations.

RICE.—Business on European account continues small, but shippers require steady rates. Spanish oiled, May, 14s. c.i.f. London; Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, 14s.; May-June steamer, 12s. 9d. c.i.f. London/Continent; No. 3 Burma, to Levant, quoted, 12s. 6d. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. 6d. c.i.f. S.Q., to Cuba, 12s. 9d.; Saigon No. 1 round grain, May-June, to Europe, 12s. 10½d.; Siam Super, May-June, 17s. 4½d.

BEANS.—Quiet. Madagascar butters, spot, 33s. 6d. to 35s. as to quality; March-April and April-May, quoted. 33s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 11s. as to sample; May, 11s. 6d. to 12s. c.i.f. Ohtenashi, spot, London, 20s.; May-June, 18s. 6d.; Danubian H.P., spot, London, 20s.; May-June, 20s. 6d. c.i.f. To Glasgow, North African new, July-August, £8 7s. 6d. c.i.f.

PEAS dull. Japanese, old crop, spot, London, 14s. 6d. to 15s.; new, 15s. 9d. to 16s.; afloat, 15s. 3d.; April-May, 14s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 17s.; small hand-picked blues, April-May, 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lbs.), April-May, 43s. 9d. Karachi, June-July, 42s. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, May-June, 57s. Tasmanian A grade, new, afloat, 66s. c.i.f.; April-May, 65s. 6d.

LENTILS firm. Bold Bombay, April-May, 61s. 3d.; Calcutta Patna, to arrive, new crop, April-May, 59s. 6d.; Bombay Patna, 60s. 3d. c.i.f. (504 lbs.).

SPICE.—Pepper firmer in forward positions as buyers were more in evidence. Lampong, April-June, quoted, 9¾d.; May-July, sold, 9¼d. to 9⅜d.; August-October, 8¾d. Muntok, white, April-June, sold, 11¾d.; May-July, 11¼d. to 11⅜d.; August-October, 11¼d. to 11½d. Pimento flat and May-June steamer to London quoted 43s. 6d.; July-August, 42s. 6d. c.i.f.; spot lots, 6d. Cloves and tapioca quiet unaltered. Sago flour, April-May, to the U.K., quoted 11s. 1¾d.; and May-June, 11s. c.i.f. Ginger idle. London stocks of black increased 22 tons on the week to 994, against 1,227 same time last year. White reduced 23 at 761, against 591 last year.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants firm, with a fair trade passing. Pyrgos quoted 36s. 6d.; Amalias, 38s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-46s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 43s.-58s. Sultanas quiet of sale. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 31s.-45s. Dates move off slowly. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins: Small sales occurred in Valencias, quarter-boxes at 36s.-38s. Figs tend easier. Genuine, 21s.-25s.; good average, 18s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Spot market easier, with a moderate business passing. Apricots meet with fair attention, and there was rather more inquiry for medium-size plums, but peaches move off quietly. Forward positions remain weak under the influence of larger prospective new crop supplies. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 60s.; 40's-50's, 55s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.; fancy, 87s. 6d.-62s.; Australian, 50s.-60s.; South African crop, 1929, 42s. 6d.-52s. 6d.; 1930 crop, 45s.-57s. 6d. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds steady. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-125s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 142s. 6d.; Barcelona, 142s. 6d. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s. to 137s. 6d., ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—There is rather more inquiry for Australian varieties, but Californian moves slowly and sellers inclined to grant concessions in order to reduce stocks. The demand for Singapore pines is gradually improving and late rates were maintained. Italian tomatoes tend easier on spot, but shippers refrain from pressing forward offers.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady and general trade improving. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s. 6d.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-26s. 6d., and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters sparingly offered, halves ranging from 135s.-140s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, three-quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Market quiet, but generally firm for ox tongues and beef. Lunch tongues in better demand, with improved inquiries also for cooked hams on spot.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market quiet and slightly easier. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 31s.; machine skimmed, ditto, 20s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums (two in a crate), 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 37s. 6d.; machine skimmed, ditto, 22s. 3d. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 61s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 27s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 36s. 9d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 3d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum, 1 ton lots; smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 19s.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 6d. per case basis, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market generally quiet, supplies being adequate for requirements. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 37s.-40s. Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 37s. 6d. San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s. Mexican, 35s. Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

Business was on an extended scale while assisted by firmer cables from the East, and larger buying orders mainly on covering account. Standard sheet spot and May sold 6¾d. to 7d. and 6 15/16d.; June, 7d. to 7 1/16d. and 7d.; July-September, 7⅛d. to 7 3/16d.; October-December, 7⅛d. to 7 1/16d.; January-March, 7⅛d., 7 1/16d., 7⅛d. London stocks increased 1,456 tons on the week, landings being 2,653; deliveries, 1,197; stocks 75,540, against 31,580 last year. Liverpool stocks 331 higher; landings, 548; deliveries, 217; stocks 23,877, against 4,614 same time last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A quiet market continued, but prices steady, as sellers are in no way pressing. Firsts, April-May also May-June, Continent, quoted £24 12s. 6d.; new crop, August-September and September-

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	42	0
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	9	0
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	10
Oats, " " "	6	8
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	30	6
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 33 6	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12 3	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
H.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 6	5	0
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 4	8	4
N.Z. frozen " 3 2	4	2
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 6 4	8	0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt. 104	0 128	0
Danish..... 98	0 106	0
Canadian..... 102	0 0	0
Dutch 87	0 98	0
HAMS—Irish..... 0	0 0	0
Canadian..... 0	0 0	0
American 93	0 102	0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt. 130	0 134	0
Australian 110	0 130	0
New Zealand 114	0 146	0
Danish..... 132	0 134	0
CHEESE—		
Canadian ..... per cwt. 92	0 100	0
New Zealand 80	0 88	0
English Cheddars	nom.	
Dutch 42	0 73	0
COCOA—		
(Duty, British grown, 1s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt. 40	0 41	0
Trinidad 62	0 65	0
Grenada 48	0 53	0
COFFEE—		
(Duty, British grown, 1s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt. 125	0 140	0
Costa Rica, good to fine... 145	0 167	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine 110	0 135	0
Kenya, bold sizes 115	0 138	0
Colombian, mid to fine... 105	0 118	0
EGGS—		
English..... per 120 10	0 13	0
Danish..... 10	6 12	6
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs. 0	0 0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes 0	0 0	0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia		
½ cases 300 14	0 39	0
360 14	0 22	6
504 14	6 20	6
Lemons, Naples.... boxes 0	0 0	0
Sicilian ..... boxes 6	0 11	0
" ..... cases 6	0 14	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1 0	0 0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls. 0	0 0	0
" (var.) boxes 0	0 0	0
" Tasmanian boxes 10	0 17	0
" Australian 10	0 14	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	7	6	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	9	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	84	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	55	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	2	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1		1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	6
Java, white, c.&.f. India, May	9	6	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	10½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	3	25	9
Crushed.....	24	0	24	6
Granulated.....	21	6	22	4½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	7½	21	0
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	9½	2	4½
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	2	3
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	5
Broken Orange.....	0	11½	2	11
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	7½
" strips	0	5½	1	0
COTTON— TEXTILES.		d.		
Mid-American..... per lb.		8·51		
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....		14·00		
Yarns, 32's twist.....		12½		
60's twist.....		22		
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	60	0	0	0
Pernau HD	55	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"..	26	0	27	10
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.–June..	29	0	30	0
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
May–June		24	15	0
Aug.–Sept.		26	0	0
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	10	6	12	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	3	19	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	0	18	6

	s.	d.	s.	d.
WOOL—				
English Southdown, washed per lb.		d. 16		
" Lincoln hog, washed		12		
Queensland, scd; super cmbg.		26		
N.S.W. greasy, super "		13		
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50"56		12		
Crossbred 40–44		9½		
Tops—				
Merinos 70's		30		
" 64's		29		
Crossbred 48's		16½		
" 46's		16		

MINERALS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
COAL—				
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	6
METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	56	0	59	0
Sheets (strong)	87	0	0	0
Standard	48/7/6		48	10
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	18	15	0	0
Soft Foreign	17	5	17/7/6	
Spelter G.O.B.	16/2/6		16/17/6	
Tin—English ingots ...	146	5	146	15
Standard cash	145	3	145	10

MISCELLANEOUS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
CHEMICALS—				
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	8½	0	0
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	2½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	10	26	0
CEMENT—				
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton May–June	21/8/9		0	0
Smoked South Sea May–June	20/5/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

	s.	d.	s.	d.
HIDES—				
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4½
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	6½
Best cow	0	3½	0	5½
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.—				
per lb.	1	2	2	2
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	0	0	0
Rape, refined	39	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	34	0	0	0
Palm.....	25	0	27	10
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	10	10	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— May-June.	17/7/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— Apr.-May.	18/12/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	39	6	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Beds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	16	10	19	10
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6½	0	6
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	130	0	132	6
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—			£	s. d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.			18	0 0
Do. 2½ x 7 "			18	0 0
Do. 2 x 4 "			18	0 0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "			17	0 0
Pitchpine ..... per load			9	0 0
Rio Deals ..... per std.			32	0 0
Teak ..... per load			20	0 0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.			0	11 6
African " "			0	6 6
Amer. Oak Boards .. "			0	6 0
Do. Ash " "			0	6 0
English Oak Planks "			0	7 0
Do. Ash "			0	6 6

October, £26; Lightnings, May-June, £23 15s.; new, August-September, £24 10s.; Hearts, May-June, £22 5s.; Tossa, assortment, £25; and Daisee ditto, £23 10s., c.i.f.

HEMP.—Business in Manila parcels conducted quietly, and with sellers predominating general tone of market proved weak. J No. 2, May-July, quoted £26 15s.; K, March-May, sold £25 to £24 15s.; K, July-September buyers, £25 5s.; ditto, August-October, £25 10s.; L, No. 1, May-July, quoted £24 10s.; L No. 2, July-September, sold £23 10s.; M No. 1, May-July, sold £23 10s.; M No. 2, sellers, £23. African sisal: No. 1, May-July sellers, £30 10s.; No. 2, £29 10s.; No. 2, £29 10s. sellers c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 26,000 bales, against 34,000 last year and 33,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 33,000, week after, 30,000. Manila shipments last week: 11,000 to the U.K.; 4,000, Continent; 16,000, U.S.A.; 2,000, Japan; other countries, 1,000; local consumption, 1,000; and stocks now 153,000 bales.

SHELLAC dull of sale. T.N. spot, 127s. 6d.; May quoted, 119s.; August, 121s.; October, 123s. Forward steamers, 112s. c.i.f.

COPRA quiet of sale, and trend of prices lower. Straits S.D., May, to Rotterdam, sellers £21 8s. 9d.; June, £20 6s. 3d.; Dutch East Indies, May, sold at £21 7s. 6d.; Ceylon, £22 15s. sellers; South Sea, sun-dried, £20 12s. 6d. To Marseilles, mixed, Dutch East Indies, April-May, quoted £20 10s. Smoked, South Sea, £20 5s. Manila in bulk, £20 c.i.f.

PALM KERNELS, to Hamburg, April-May, £15; May-June, £15 2s. 6d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, May-June, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—April 30.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 4	6 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8	9 4
Short Horns	...	...	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 4	6 0
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 4	12 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—April 30.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	6	4	0
" " " whites.....	2	3	2	6
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	3	3
" " " whites.....	2	0	...	
Arran Chief	2	0	...	
New Spanish.....	18	0	19	0
" Canary	17	0	...	

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY has been distinctly more usable this week. New capital issues and prepayments on Conversion Loan had taken a certain amount off the market, and in the middle of the week up to 2½ per cent. was paid. Thursday, to

was viewed with some anxiety owing to the heavy turnover of funds on that day caused by the repayment of the Treasury Bond maturities on the one hand and by its being the last day for the payment of the final Conversion Loan call on the other hand. Prepayments of this call during preceding weeks had reduced the latter item, so much so that it was calculated that the market would gain two millions on balance. Even so, with only a small balance resulting from a big turnover, it was clear that temporary conditions of acute stringency could easily arise.

* * * *

As it turned out, the double operation was managed so well that comfortable conditions prevailed, and though money was rather scanty in the middle of the day, it re-appeared again in the afternoon. Discount rates have been a shade firmer this week, partly owing to gold losses and partly owing to the higher level of money rates. Brokers have been charging $2\frac{5}{32}$ per cent. for three months' bills, and the clearing banks called the rate $2\frac{5}{16}$ per cent. Competition, however, at times drove the rate down to $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., so that the net rise in discount rates has been almost insignificant. The Clearing Bank averages quoted in a subsequent paragraph show an accretion between March and April of £26 million in the bank's bill portfolio. This reflects part of the recent purchases of short bills by the banks, and further purchases have been made in May since the averages were compiled. The total magnitude of this increase is sufficient to explain to some extent the recent low level of discount rates.

	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3½	3	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1½	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount { Call	1½	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses { Notice	1¾	1½	1½	1½	1¾ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2½ – 9/16	2 5/16	2⅛	2⅛	...

After being higher on Tuesday, so that the market gold went to Germany at 84s. 11⅛d. per ounce, the franc exchange has again fallen, and further gold has been withdrawn on French account from the Bank. As a result of this and previous French withdrawals, the week's Bank return to Wednesday last reveals a net loss of £1,155,000. As, however, £2,036,000 of notes returned from circulation during the week, the reserve has increased by £881,000. With gold stocks in excess of £163,000,000 the French withdrawals need cause little anxiety—indeed, the Bank of England is believed to be assisting in maintaining easy monetary conditions. It is true that the Bank return shows a turnover of some £10 million from bankers' to public deposits, but this probably represents Conversion Loan prepayments. The reduction of £3,570,000 in Government securities is less easy to explain.

* * * *

The April statement of the nine English clearing banks reveals increases of £30.2 million in deposits and £9.4 million in cash.

	Apr., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	Apr., 1930.
Capital and reserves.....	130·8	130·5	130·5	130·5	130·5
Acceptances	206·3	164·4	159·8	159·5	159·0
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.).....	1,743·8	1,767·5	1,714·2	1,682·0	1,712·2
Total liabilities	2,080·5	2,062·4	2,004·5	1,972·0	2,001·7
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	251·0	248·0	234·6	235·3	244·7
Money at call.....	140·8	139·9	125·7	130·6	131·7
Investments	244·1	259·6	255·3	251·8	251·7
Discounts	191·5	242·9	218·3	181·5	207·5
Loans and advances	985·8	969·1	972·2	974·7	968·0
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	267·3	202·9	198·4	198·1	198·1
Total assets	2,080·5	2,062·4	2,004·5	1,971·9	2,001·7

Call money and investments are unchanged, while advances have been reduced by £6.7 million. The increase of £26.0 million in discounts, alluded to in a previous paragraph, show that the banks have put most of their additional resources into bills.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables: Money is easy, no change having followed the mid-month dividend payments of about $250,000,000, nor is any expected next week, when Treasury bill tenders of $100,000,000 are called for. Half of the latter amount is required to meet maturing bills, while the balance is made necessary by Farm Board borrowing to take up deliveries of wheat bought to support prices. The banks are buying bonds unwillingly, owing to their inability to place all their surplus funds elsewhere. The Reserve statement shows a further decline in credit outstanding, which is, at $920,000,000, at the lowest level for five years, as a result of a further cut in discounts, which stand $700,000,000 below the figure of a year ago. Holdings of bills and Government securities show little change. The Reserve ratio stands at 83.6 per cent.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The week opened inauspiciously in the Stock Markets, the weight of "undigested" new issues, the unfavourable April trade returns, and the lower earnings reported by industrial companies, all being depressing factors. A stronger tone became in evidence, however, as the week progressed. Gilt-edged recovered their earlier losses, but unsatisfactory traffic figures brought out further selling of Home Rails. Industrials were slightly harder, taking their tone frequently from New York. Rubber and tea shares lost ground, but the satisfactory "Shell" dividend induced firmness in oil shares, and the better tendency of base metal prices was reflected in the price of mining shares.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The general situation remains depressed and uncertain. A slight steadying in the coal market is the result of control of supply rather than of improved demand. Competition in the iron and steel industries is intensified by the depressed state of the trade abroad, and the only consoling element in the situation is that the condition of the industries in this country appears to be no worse than that abroad. Plates and sheets are apparently the strongest section of the trade. Overseas markets for the cotton industry remain thoroughly discouraging.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market was fairly active this week, with considerable irregularity in many currencies. The tendency at the opening was rather markedly against this country, but sterling recovered satisfactorily at the close. The New York rate opened at 4.85⅞ and, after being lower, rose to $4.86\frac{1}{32}$ on Thursday, having been at one time $4.86\frac{3}{32}$. Montreal improved from 4.87¾ to $4.86\frac{1}{2}$. Paris gained a point on balance at 123.86, but on Tuesday was 123.93. Brussels was quiet, but a point better, at $34.81\frac{1}{2}$. Milan lost 4 points at 92.69. Madrid was hesitant and weaker at 39.80, against 39.55 last week. Amsterdam moved sharply in our favour from $12.07\frac{1}{2}$ to $12.08\frac{5}{8}$. Berlin was ⅜ worse on balance at $20.36\frac{5}{8}$ after 20.36. Switzerland was irregular and lost nearly five points at $25.12\frac{3}{4}$ after 25.13. In the Far East the rupee was weaker with the political situation at 1s. $5\frac{5}{8}\frac{3}{4}$d. The yen was firmer on the new loan at 2s. $0\frac{13}{32}$d., but Batavia was weaker by ¼ at $1,207\frac{1}{2}$. In the forward market interest centred chiefly in the franc, as a result of funds being wanted in Paris for the Bank of International Settlements issue on May 20th, but quotations were not much affected, in spite of this, and gold shipments to France at 7 and 12 centimes discount. New York was at $\frac{3}{32}$ cent discount for one month after being higher, and at $\frac{7}{32}$ cent discount for three months. Brussels was unchanged. Milan was a point weaker for cash quotations at 13 and 32 centesimi discount. Amsterdam was uncertain and stood at ¼ and ⅝ cent discount on Thursday. Berlin was firmer at reduced discounts of 1½ and 4¼ pfennigs. The silver market was quiet, but prices fell by ⅜d. for spot at $19\frac{1}{16}$d. and by $\frac{5}{16}$d. for forward at the same quotation, chiefly as the result of China selling in the absence of support from the bazaars. The China silver exchanges were weaker, Hong Kong losing ⅜d. at 1s. 5¾d. and Shanghai ¾d. at 1s. 10¼d.

THE CHANGES OF TWENTY YEARS.

LAST week King George V. completed the twentieth year of his reign, and the congratulations offered to him by the nation are the more deeply sincere because with them is mingled a national sense of keen relief at the current evidence of recovery from his recent severe illness.

Twenty years! Has any full reign, even Queen Victoria's, sustained so great a shock of happenings or seen so great a degree of revolution and evolution, both political and economic, as have been crowded into the first two decades of this Georgian era? The Victorian age, it is true, saw the coming of steam and the great miracle of industrialisation. The Georgian period—not yet one-third of the span of the Victorian—has seen already such phenomena as the greatest war in history, the evolution of democracy, the passing of the world idea of nationality into one of internationalism, the giant strides of science and its application to industry, the maturing of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the world-wide enthronement of the Peace ideal and the establishment of the basic machinery for its attainment.

By whatever acid test we assay the past two decades they emerge as the most notable in British history. It is, or was until recently, the habit to speak of "those happy pre-war days." He who accounts them happy is indeed a *laudator temporis acti se puero*. What were the outstanding public features of the scene from which King Edward VII. passed in 1910? The constitutional crisis over the House of Lords question was at its height and was threatening deadlock to the workings of the Parliamentary system; the Irish crisis was apparently at its bitterest, and yet grew more bitter day by day till the Great War alone averted civil strife; Europe was an armed camp and armament competition grew month by month, drawing the world nearer to the edge of the precipice; the suffragettes were using force to back their demand for a limited female suffrage. We need go no further before we look across the gulf of war ordeal at the things of to-day. Who imagines to-day that the reformation of the Second Chamber, though as yet unaccomplished, will create internal strife? Ireland is a peaceful and loyal member of the British Commonwealth. Europe, and more than Europe, concentrating slowly and painfully, not on armament rivalry, but on the means of securing peace; the British democracy fully developed into a system of almost complete manhood and womanhood suffrage.

If we cannot yet claim the banishment of war, we may at least hail the steady discrediting of belligerency in favour of co-operative effort. This process is as visible in the domestic as in the international sphere. In 1910 Europe and the world were practically without the machinery of arbitration, conciliation or the peaceful settlement of international disputes. In 1910 in Britain the trades unions were busy "rationalising" themselves into big units in preparation for the great struggle with unorganised capital, which came inevitably to its climax in 1926. In 1930 we have at Geneva the common consulting ground for the rulers of the nations and the means, at least, of the widest co-operation; on paper the Kellogg Pact has outlawed war; the treaties of Washington and London have substituted restriction for unfettered competition in naval preparations; the economic activities of the League and such events as the establishment of the International Bank have not merely countered the dire effects of the world war, but have set the feet of the nations into the way of peaceful and co-operative self-help. At home the belief in brute force and "direct action" as effective industrial weapons has given way to the realisation that, however difficult the road of give and take, and common pursuit of efficient and economic production, it is the only road by which Capital and Labour can reach the goal of prosperity.

It may be that the historian will divide the first twenty years of King George's reign into four periods, each, though short, with very distinctive features. The first four years, 1910-14, of turbulent domestic politics, and in Europe of a riot of militarism irresistibly bringing nearer the threat of imminent war. The next four and a half years of nightmare—of strife, ordeal, effort, death, suffering. Then from 1919 to 1924 spasmodic, often ill-directed efforts at "clearing up the wreckage." Finally, the last six years of concentration (sometimes feeble, sometimes interrupted, but always gaining ground) on applying the lessons of the decade for the common good of the nations and their peoples.

This last period is not yet ended. Scenes are still changing fast. In our own country, for instance, we are learning the new art of Minority Government; and we are witnessing a great shift of the centre of gravity of British industry from North to South. We still face a surfeit of baffling problems. Events in India and the long struggle in China remind us of the clash of East and West, which demands a new evolution of political wisdom; the great world-wide slump in trade shows up luridly the gaps in economic organisation which wait to be filled. Yet as we look backward over the chequered years and forward into the uncharted future we may claim some grounds for satisfaction and some for confidence. The net result of these dire years of victory and defeat, of progress and setback, of achievement and disappointment, has on balance been progress all round. If we have not achieved the unachievable "Parliament of Man and Federation of the World" we have yet gone some way towards substituting the co-operative for the competitive spirit in international and in industrial and social policies; if we have not found the key to prosperity—and who, indeed, would expect to find that key quickly amid the ruins of war-impoverishment—we have at least done something towards a better distribution of wealth, towards the establishment of higher standards of living, towards reaching a greater degree of material well-being for the greater number. The task of the coming years is so to organise the system of production, credit and exchange that the means for the sustentation of higher standards are forthcoming. That and the gradual perfection of the newly and roughly forged instruments of international confidence and co-operation—these are the two supreme problems of the next decade. If responsible leaders in the political and economic spheres succumb to the spirit of "defeatism" or surrender to frenzies engendered by the pressing troubles of the present, these problems will not be solved. But we are confident of their progressive solution—and this for three (if no more) reasons:—science and invention have placed and are placing in our hands new weapons of incalculable power; the cataclysm of the recent past have taught lessons which history sometimes takes centuries to teach; the peoples of civilised countries have had their eyes sufficiently opened to see the difference between the strait path of united effort that leads ultimately into the fertile valleys and the broad road of belligerency that leads directly into the inhospitable mountains of distress. We believe, therefore, that when the full tale of the reign of George V. comes to be told—and far off may that time be—the final balance of progress and achievement over trial and failure will be greater than, amid our many troubles, we can realise to-day.

THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND IN INDIA.

THERE has been little change during the week in the Indian situation. The disturbance at Solapur, which broke out towards the end of last week, continued over the week-end and resulted in the city being occupied and placed under martial law. On the frontier a air demonstration has been made against the Haji of Tangzai and his forces, and a march of volunteers to raid the salt works at Dharsana led by Mr Gandhi's successor, Mr Abbas Tyabji, was stopped by the police. The new leader and fifty-nine of his companions were arrested and have been sentenced to imprisonment. Considering that the week included the anniversary of the outbreak of the mutiny and the Moslem festival of Bakr' Id, which is commonly an occasion for disorder, it is a matter for qualified satisfaction that there have been no more serious developments. The Viceroy has chosen this moment to issue a statement to the people of India giving in very restrained terms an account both of the Government's policy and its offer to India, and of the development of the civil disobedience campaign. He concludes with a warning against the dangers of the present course and the grave wrong that would be done to India if, as a result of misguided counsel, the extremists caused their countrymen to lose the opportunity of a great step forward towards the goal of responsible government.

This statement, together with answers given in the House of Commons, have also served to outline the precise time table of future developments. The Secretary of State's announcement was to the effect that Volume I of the Statutory Commission's report will be simultaneously published in England and India on June 10th, and that the second volume will be published on June 24th. The Round Table Conference is to meet in London on or about October 20th, and it now emerges from correspondence between Mr MacDonald and the Viceroy, that, in order that representation should be fairly distributed amongst the sections of those who desire and have a title to be heard, the delegates will not be elected but will be invited in consultation, where possible, with the interests concerned. The Viceroy reached this conclusion after discussing the matter freely with men of widely differing opinions.

Meanwhile, an all-parties conference had been summoned by the moderate parties to meet on Wednesday in Bombay to see if a way could be found for settling communal differences before the London Conference comes into being. But the situation has not been favourable to compromise. Half the members of the committee who should have been present have found one reason or another for not attending. Certain Hindu leaders, whose attitude has at critical moments been hesitating, are unwilling to commit themselves; some of the moderate leaders profess dissatisfaction that the Viceroy's declaration did not contain some more definite assertion with regard to Dominion Status—though there was clearly never any hope that anything specific could be said on the eve of the publication of the Simon Report—while the Moslem leaders are unable to see their way clearly in view of the uncompromising attitude of the high caste Hindus and the general preoccupation with the civil disobedience campaign. It is, therefore, anticipated that instead of discussing the central problem of communal relations, this Bombay conference will debate whether the leaders of any party should attend the London conference at all. Under all the circumstances there seems little likelihood that there will be any clear or definite change in the situation generally until the proposals of the Statutory Commission are made public.

In the meantime the annual statement* on the moral and material progress of India in 1928-29, which has just been issued, will enable the British public to fill in some of the background of the Indian scene. This document is, as usual, mainly a record of the events of the year, and devotes considerable space to political events which centre round the visit of the Statutory Commission and the attitude of the various parties towards it. Prominent in the category of events are the controversy over the Public Safety Bill, the riots in Bombay in February, 1929, with their death roll of 139 persons killed, and the failure of Moslem and Hindu to reach any understanding. These are among the depressing features of a story which is, however, relieved by the record of many achievements in the social and economic field. Mr Coatman's report also covers the preliminary stages of the latest efforts that have been made to deal with the question of child marriage. These have since been brought to a successful conclusion.

But perhaps the greatest value of this report lies in the chapters which deal with the economic situation in India. Mr Coatman does well to remind us at the outset of the statistical importance of the Indian village population. Out of 319 million inhabitants in 1921, less than 8¼ millions lived in towns of a population of 100,000 and upwards, while another 3½ millions lived in towns whose population was between 50,000 and 100,000. Apart from these, less than 21 millions lived in places that can be called towns, even if we include in this category villages of a population of less than 5,000. But the remaining 286 millions are living remote from the modern world of industry and highly organised communications, and still gain their livelihood with primitive implements and methods of cultivation. Nevertheless, even the Indian village is not entirely unaffected by the changes that have taken place in the past few decades. "The spread of railways and roads in India has done much to break down the ancient isolation of her villages, and a majority of her people must at any rate have seen motor-cars, whilst millions of them have actually ridden in them at some time or other." The post-Reform developments in local self-government have also given the villages a new status, and their residents new interests and functions. Boards have been set up to deal with water supply, the cleansing of public roads, tanks and wells, and have been brought into contact with the administrations of the provinces. Small industries, too, are beginning to spring up in the countryside. "As the traveller drives about the country now he will hear frequently from many of the villages which he passes the sound of a little engine working a sugar-cane crusher, an oil presser, a little rice hulling mill, and so on." Yet again, the cultivator is producing to an increasing extent for more distant markets. Surplus harvests can now be disposed of, and the Indian "money crops"—tobacco, oilseeds, jute, cotton, tea—are assuming an ever-increasing importance.

Since 1913 India has risen from sixth to fifth place among the trading countries of the world. Fifty years ago India's exports were valued at approximately 60 million rupees, but in 1925 they almost reached 4,000 million rupees, and the greater part of the increase has taken place in the last two decades. The picture is thus one of a country with a primitive agricultural life which, however, is beginning to participate in modern material progress. The rate of increase of India's foreign trade has been, and still is, great, but its achievements to date are small as compared with its immense potentialities. There is, however, another side to the picture. "Although an appreciable improvement has taken place in the standard of living of the Indian agricultural masses during the past quarter of a century, this only represents the genesis of what has yet to be accomplished. There is a vast amount of what can only be termed dangerous poverty in the Indian villages—poverty, that is, of such a kind that those subject to it live on the very margin of subsistence." From this poverty arise all the difficulties associated with dependence upon the money lenders. Mr Coatman relates something of the history of the efforts that have been made by co-operative credit societies, Agricultural Loan Acts, etc., to solve this problem.

Hand in hand with poverty goes disease which, in the phrase of the report, is the cause "of immense economic wastage." In this connection the report recalls the resolution of the Conference of Medical Research Workers which in 1926 declared that "the average number of deaths resulting every year from preventable disease is about five to six millions, that the average number of days lost to labour by each person in India, from preventable disease, is not less than a fortnight to three weeks in each year." Mr Coatman adds that the fragmentation of holdings and certain social and religious customs, such as excessive expenditure on weddings and funerals, and the custom of child marriage, are also hampering influences.

Wherever one turns in India there is clearly a vast field for scientific research, and the report describes some of the work that has been done in producing and distributing new types of seed, in improving the breed of cattle and in the study of the prevention of disease, to say nothing of irrigation. In these directions, and in the development of road and railway communications, there is a record of progress of which the Administration may well be proud, and although, as is well known, the Indian cotton industry, like the cotton industry elsewhere, has for years been in a state of depression, the internal carriage of goods as well as the external trade of India advanced during the year under review to record dimensions. This glance at the record of work done, and to be done, is a useful complement to the wearisome story of political unrest, and its lesson is plain. The raising of India from her poverty is a task in which the Government has done much, but it cannot possibly hope to achieve adequate results without Indian co-operation.

* "Statement Exhibiting The Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the Year 1928-29." London: H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway. 5s. net.

THE YOUNG PLAN AT WORK.

THE Young Plan has been ratified, the Bank for International Settlements is formally in existence, and its first official board meeting has been held. After confirming the appointments of the personnel of the Bank, which had already been announced, the first task of the board was to deal with the issue of its own capital. The date for the subscription of the capital has been fixed for May 20th. The central banks of six of the seven signatory countries, and the New York Banking group are to be allotted 16,000 of the 200,000 shares of 2,500 Swiss francs each, of which the capital of the bank consists. No public issue of the British quota will be made in London, and presumably the shares will be placed privately.

These allocations account for 112,000 of the shares. Of the balance, the Swiss National Bank, the Netherlands Bank and the Swedish Riksbank are each to take 4,500, and the remainder are at the moment in abeyance. Other preliminary questions to be disposed of by the bank include that of the suggested appointment of Mr Siepmann as head of the Liaison Department. No definite statement as regards this has yet been made, but it is to be hoped that even if Mr Siepmann is unable to accept the appointment, provision will be made for the inclusion of one or more English representatives among the senior officials of the bank. That the City shares this hope is evidence of London's desire to co-operate.

Apart from these internal questions, the first task that is engaging the attention of the directors of the bank is that of the Reparations Loan. As was inevitable in a task of this complexity, the preliminary negotiations have been protracted, and are not yet complete. One of the chief reasons for this delay appears to be the difficulty of determining the form of the bonds and coupons. The issue, it will be recalled, is to be made simultaneously in a number of centres, including not only those of the signatories to the Young Plan, but also other centres, such as Amsterdam and Stockholm. The question on which there appear to have been differences of opinion is whether the bonds and coupons should be expressed and be payable in a single national currency or in several. The Young Plan contemplates national bonds—though suggesting that they may express on their face an equivalent in other currencies. In any case the principal is to be payable on the basis of the gold equivalent of the currency in question. As to the coupon, the Young Plan suggests two possibilities. The first is that the coupon, in whatever currency expressed, shall be payable at the exchange rate of the day in all markets on which the bonds are quoted; the second, that, after 10 years, the Bank may issue bonds "the service of which is payable in different currencies at par at the holder's option." In other words it may issue really international bonds with an international coupon. It has been suggested that bonds of this international character should be issued forthwith; but to this objection has been raised. From one point of view the suggestion seems attractive, for it would make the bonds more marketable, and so render it possible to place them on better terms from the issuer's point of view. On the other hand, bonds of an international character are less likely to remain permanently domiciled in their original country of issue, and if such transfer from one centre to another takes place on a large scale, it means that the capital actually subscribed will come from the various countries in quite different proportions to the quota originally allotted, and the careful attempts to adjust these quotas to the capacity of various markets will be so much time wasted.

This question of the form of the bonds is of special interest to London owing to its exceptional position as an international capital market, and in view of the vulnerability of the Bank of England to calls upon its gold stock, there may be some advantage to London in not making it too easy to transfer other portions of the loan to this country. It is, perhaps, for these reasons that the British Treasury appears to have attached importance to the point and taken a hand in the discussion in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement signed in January at the Hague, which entrusts the B.I.S. with the task of mobilising these bonds. The relevant clause runs as follows:—

"No issue of an international character may, however, be made in the market of any of the countries the Government of which has signed this Trust Agreement without the approval of that Government both as regards the amount of the issue and as regards the conditions on which it shall be authorised."

As a result of the discussions to date, it has been agreed that the bonds themselves are to be national bonds, but the form of the coupon has apparently not yet been agreed upon. We hope this matter will be quickly settled and the uncertainty as to this large loan which is now hanging over markets removed. After all, it is easy to exaggerate the importance of the point at issue, for bonds of almost any country in the world will find a market in London if the price is sufficiently attractive, and if the issues in other countries are too large for their national markets, there is a considerable probability that they will be transferred here. If, as is said to be the case in France, it will prove possible to sell her quota of the bonds at a higher price than in London or New York, the issue at different prices will itself tend to prevent the transfer, provided the experts are successful in adjusting the quota to the absorbing power of the markets. If they are not successful, the bonds will find a home wherever capital is available, no matter what the currency in which they are issued.

It is, of course, true that with a national issue of small dimensions there is likely to be a very poor market in London. Moreover, by giving the bonds a "national" as opposed to an "international" character, the transfer to London of amounts in excess of those which may be allocated to us will be delayed, so that instead of a sudden and severe strain being thrown upon the London market by the issue of the loan, such transfer of bonds to London

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as does occur will spread the strain over a longer and more indefinite period.

The exact terms of issue will obviously vary slightly in each market, in accordance with current possibilities as measured by the market price of existing bonds of a similar character. Probably all the bonds will carry the same nominal rate of interest, and the differentiation between the various markets will be obtained by means of the price of issue in each market. It seems likely that the nominal rate will be 5½ per cent., and while this means that in certain centres—notably London and New York—the bonds will have to be offered at a discount, there are other considerations which outweigh this objection.

The French quota is to be offered on terms including exemption from French taxation. The reason for this is that the French issue will largely take the form of a conversion operation in exchange for existing French bonds which are already exempt from taxation. This consideration does not apply to other centres, and in London in particular it is legally impossible—even if it were desirable—to free the bonds from the incidence of British taxation.

The sinking fund provisions have also to be determined. A meeting with the issuing bankers was held on Thursday, and this point was possibly considered, though no details are forthcoming at the time we go to press. There is, however, a final point that it is necessary to make. The fate of recent new issues has shown that this is hardly a propitious moment to launch an important new loan in London, and conditions in New York are little better. The Bank for International Settlements is, strictly speaking, authorised to determine the moment when reparation bonds can suitably be issued; but whatever discretion it may have in the future, on this occasion it has no option but to do its best to carry out the intentions expressed by the Powers at the Hague, and to bring the loan out at an early date. The fact that the reasons for this course are political and not financial does not, unfortunately, diminish their urgency. These considerations must be given some weight in times like these; but they are essentially matters of detail. They are not of such importance as to justify our withholding co-operation in an issue which, for political reasons, the world has accepted as a necessary accompaniment of the Young Plan. The difficulties of the bankers do, however, illustrate the disadvantages of making these great financial operations dependent on political exigencies, and stress the case of the Paris experts who endeavoured to remove the whole problem into the purely financial sphere. We should like to think that this is the last time that political influences will thus intervene.

ECONOMICS OF FASCISM.

THE creation of a new body of economic theory is a long-cherished ambition of the leaders of Fascism, and Fascists have frequently reproached Italian economists with their slowness in evolving such a theory, accusing them of wilful aloofness from Fascism owing to their liberal intellectual background and congenital inability to adapt their minds to new experiences. Lately, however, the progress of corporative legislation, which is spreading its net more and more widely in Italy over the field of prices and wages, has been accompanied by the appearance of a growing body of literature whose purpose is to discuss the theoretical principles underlying Fascist economics.

A very pronounced step towards the final embodiment of these principles in legislation has been recently taken in the passing of the Bill on the National Council of Corporations, whose main provisions were summarised in the *Economist* of December 7 last. The new Act is designed to bring into existence the "Corporation," an impartial higher body—not directly representative of the employers' and employees' syndicates—which was provided for in the Labour Charter of 1927, but which had not yet come into being. Under the provisions of the Act a council is to be created, to function as a sort of industrial parliament, principally for the purpose of giving advice on industrial matters, but endowed also with legislative powers. Hitherto the collective bargains reached by the employers' and employees' syndicates were legally binding, even upon non-members, but they were strictly confined to wages, hours and other purely labour matters, and the syndicates were expressly forbidden to meddle in the conduct of industry. Under the new Act, legal recognition is accorded to the impossibility of thus segregating economic matters in watertight compartments, and the council is empowered to "formulate compulsory rules regulating collective relations between different categories of production," and to "rectify agreements on the same matters reached by the interested recognised associations." If, for example, wheat or sugar beet producers think that the price paid by millers or sugar manufacturers is too low to enable them to pay the standard agricultural wage, they may, with the consent of the Prime Minister and of the producers' syndicate concerned, bring the matter before the Council, whose decision shall be legally binding. In the debate on the Bill several members hailed the Council as superseding old parliamentary institutions, and as the forerunner of a new social or corporative order.

On the face of it there appear to be strict limits to the exercise of the regulating power of the Council. The associations concerned must agree upon the reference to the Council, and if one party objects the matter does not reach it. Thus the power of the Council is not so much that of a legislator acting on his own initiative as that of an arbitrator having legal power to enforce his award, provided the dissentients agree to have recourse to him. If associations were self-governing bodies in which it were possible for dissenting members to make their voices heard, and for majorities to refuse their consent to a request by other associations for reference to the Council, the reform, though important, would remain in the realm of permissive arbitration.

The misgivings of Italian employers about the working of the new statute might at first sight seem incomprehensible, since, according to the letter of the law, if they fear an award, they need only refuse to invoke the Council. Actually, however, the position is not so simple. In the first place, the syndicates are public bodies to which nobody dare, in practice, refuse to belong, and in any case decisions are binding on non-members. In the second place, they are in fact governed from above; the presidents and secretaries are not elected but nominated. Thus the last word is with the Prime Minister, who may at times prefer to legislate under the outward form of an award of the National Council of Corporations, following a request from the associations affected, instead of by royal decrees or through the medium of a nominated Parliament. As one member pertinently asked in debate, illustrating his point from a recital of the numerous stages in the progress from broken iron to finished ship at which disagreements on the question of price might arise, what of the private initiative which the Labour Charter considered the basis of corporative economy?

Another illustration of the subordination of the individual to the presumed good of the community is afforded by a recent ruling of the Fascist Grand Council. Instances were already numerous of the seizure by the State of lands whose owners were not utilising them to the best advantage. The current *Countryman* reproduces a recent decree of this nature, based, it is true, on pre-Fascist legislation, but on legislation which no previous Government attempted to enforce. Now it has been decreed that owners of reclaimed land in the Po valley must adopt a system of *métayage*, and wherever possible must employ a specified minimum number of men per acre. The underlying principle of these decrees, a principle which was laid down in the Labour Charter, is that private property implies duties, and is not an absolute right but a revocable trust to be exercised for the benefit of the community.

It is therefore not surprising that Signor Arias, one of the economic theorists of Fascism,* should seek the kernel of the new doctrine in an endeavour to appropriate rents (by which he understands not the "rent" of economic theory, but rather, "unearned income") for public ends, among which ends is a redistribution of wealth. He points out that in the Corporative State, *rentiers* as such have no place. Holders of bank deposits and public securities have no standing in a syndicate of their own, and only the producer, whether employer or employee, is a full citizen. Signor Fovel, in another book† on Fascist economics, quotes the compulsion to employ a minimum number of men per acre referred to above, the legal prohibition of lockouts and the virtual prohibition of closing down during slack times, as instances of the tendency to encroach on capitalist incomes for the benefit of labour.

Signor Arias, on the other hand, takes the view that the interesting point in Fascism is not the redistribution of income but the motive to which the change is due. Whereas the driving force of "liberal" economics is the interest of the individual, that of Fascist economics is pursuit of the ends of the State. Thus prices or wages or profits or rent may be fixed in the usual competitive or monopolistic ways, but it will be on a different level and therefore with different results.

For our part, we are inclined to agree with Signor Pagni,‡ who scouts both these views and prefers to regard economics as a science whose principles, if properly formulated, can be equally well applied to liberalism, socialism or corporativism. He believes that self interest, in the present state of human nature, is likely to remain the fundamental motive of economic actions. If this be accepted, it is impossible not to sympathise with Italian employers in their uneasiness as to the future. The margin for new saving is being reduced, and capitalists are afraid to invest in view of the risk of sudden State intervention. Imperfect as may formerly have been the bulwark provided by Parliament against this peril, at least it meant discussion and delay. Now there is no safeguard against unforeseen decisions by the Fascist headquarters staff, and Italian employers are learning, at great cost, that their most urgent need is for certainty as to the future.

* "L'Economia Nationale Corporativa." By Arias. (Rome), Libreria del Littorio. 10 lire.

† "Economia e Corporativismo." By N. Massimo Fovel. (Ferrara), S. A. T. E. 10 lire.

‡ "A Proposito di un Tentativo di teoria puro del Corporativismo." By Carlo Pagni. (Turin). Ditta Fratelli Pozzo.

THE DIRECTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE.

THE Board of Trade analysis, in the April Trade Returns, of the origins and destinations of our imports and exports in the first quarter of 1930, reveals certain noticeable changes. While total imports fell from £305,963,000 in the first quarter of 1929 to £283,484,000 in January-March, 1930, imports from foreign countries in Europe rose from £99,920,000 to £107,107,000 in the same period, and whereas British exports fell from £181,168,000 to £164,132,000, exports to Europe only fell from £56,590,000 to £55,144,000. A corollary of this is a marked decline in the proportion both of our imports and of British exports which is accounted for by British countries, as is shown below. The table is based on figures from the current *Board of Trade Journal*, and for the sake of comparability with 1913, trade with the Irish Free State is not included.

DISTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS TRADE AS BETWEEN BRITISH AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	January to March.		
	1913.	1929.	1930.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Imports from :—			
Foreign countries	74·71	70·68	73·74
British Countries	25·29	29·32	26·26
Exports (British produce) to :—			
Foreign countries	62·04	57·99	59·11
British Countries	37·96	42·01	40·89
Exports (imported merchandise) to :—			
Foreign countries	88·41	89·20	87·15
British Countries	11·59	10·80	12·85

In the case both of imports and exports, however, the proportion of Imperial trade to the total is higher than in 1913, and the proportion of re-exports going to British countries is higher than in either 1913 or 1929.

The second table is derived from the same source, and again omits trade with the Free State :—

CONTINENTAL DISTRIBUTION OF BRITISH OVERSEAS TRADE.

Class of Trade.	Europe.	Africa.	Asia.	North America.	South America.	Oceania, &c.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Imports : Jan.–Mar.						
1913.....	36·69	8·03	12·78	23·48	9·46	9·56
1929.....	30·98	9·75	13·21	25·17	9·73	11·16
1930.....	36·74	7·61	12·39	22·78	10·05	10·43
Exports (British produce) :— Jan.–Mar.						
1913.....	33·84	9·95	24·67	12·21	9·78	9·55
1929.....	30·01	11·95	24·38	13·59	9·79	10·28
1930.....	32·78	12·57	22·91	11·92	9·03	10·79
Exports (imported merchandise) : Jan.–Mar.						
1913.....	53·40	2·92	2·54	35·87	1·69	3·58
1929.....	69·88	3·77	2·44	19·91	1·35	2·65
1930.....	72·64	4·41	3·66	14·62	1·71	2·96

This shows marked changes in the origin of our imports, the share of Europe having risen from 30.98 to 36.74 per cent. at the expense principally of Africa and North America. The proportional distribution of our exports has changed less, but here also there has been a definite rise in the European share and a fall in the proportions going to North America and Asia. The African percentage has slightly increased. The principal changes in re-exports are a rise in the European share and a sharp drop in the proportion taken by North America.

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The next two tables show imports and exports from foreign countries within and without Europe respectively:—

TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
JANUARY TO MARCH.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				British Exports to			
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia	6,634	2,021	3,165	4,81[illegible]	2,610	798	729	1,127
Finland	...	1,707	1,821	2,152	...	713	763	475
Estonia	...	372	253	464	...	86	67	73
Latvia	...	1,790	909	1,475	...	188	196	194
Sweden	2,378	4,169	4,500	5,096	1,780	2,367	2,107	2,692
Norway	1,909	3,158	3,474	3,704	1,455	2,025	1,804	2,017
Denmark	5,490	12,437	12,043	13,188	1,543	2,310	2,311	2,671
Poland	...	1,264	1,039	1,679	...	1,326	948	722
Germany	19,427	15,427	14,306	16,166	9,236	10,893	9,207	7,492
Netherlands	6,783	14,724	14,786	13,762	5,744	8,377	7,773	7,254
Belgium	6,089	12,221	10,407	11,316	3,638	4,745	5,136	4,982
France	12,936	17,794	15,415	14,800	8,538	8,033	9,227	10,013
Switzerland	2,861	3,660	3,371	2,896	1,049	2,488	1,707	1,628
Portugal	852	1,146	1,077	1,276	1,611	2,280	2,040	2,098
Spain	4,133	5,807	5,773	5,747	3,013	2,843	3,504	3,180
Italy	2,289	4,109	4,185	4,076	3,893	3,619	4,250	4,122
Austria	} 2,036	611	547	869	} 1,278	752	660	707
Hungary		108	111	219		279	276	219
Czechoslovakia	...	2,181	1,335	1,390	...	556	559	501
Greece	231	455	427	279	562	1,325	1,274	1,091
Roumania	327	317	338	1,019	313	890	620	711
Turkey in Europe	330	410	203	147	308	529	488	482
Other European countries	14	458	435	573	53	1,027	944	693
Total	74,719	106,346	99,920	107,107	46,624	58,249	56,590	55,144

Imports from almost all European countries except the Netherlands, France and Switzerland have risen, and the increase is particularly marked in the case of the Scandinavian and Baltic countries. Exports to Europe, which declined by only £1½ million, show small changes as far as individual countries are concerned, except for Germany. The decline of nearly £1¾ million in our exports to her is greater than the fall in our exports to Europe as a whole. Exports to Russia show an increase of some £400,000.

Outside Europe there have been a few increases in imports, but these are far outweighed by certain heavy declines:—

TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE EUROPE.
JANUARY TO MARCH.
(000's omitted.)

	Imports from				British Exports to			
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Turkey in Asia	989	256	336	278	1,269	209	143	83
Egypt	8,579	7,234	7,491	5,018	2,324	3,070	3,507	3,140
Iraq	...	503	474	248	...	670	682	505
Persia	140	2,035	2,166	2,357	188	486	593	721
China	1,167	3,266	3,379	2,780	3,246	2,927	4,115	2,803
Japan	1,156	2,839	2,324	2,461	3,204	3,507	3,166	2,689
United States	39,704	51,150	57,843	48,046	7,728	11,609	11,145	9,363
Cuba	449	1,864	1,111	817	549	486	582	479
Mexico	655	659	730	776	644	740	592	641
Colombia	209	521	550	269	443	771	910	352
Peru	663	1,004	1,249	839	364	511	490	429
Chile	1,107	2,231	1,934	2,198	1,612	1,353	1,876	1,712
Brazil	3,806	1,068	1,299	3,918	3,348	4,017	4,038	2,313
Uruguay	838	3,373	1,792	2,246	712	697	835	992
Argentine	10,845	20,983	21,098	16,393	5,232	8,549	7,417	6,913
Other foreign countries (non-European)	1,570	5,341	4,123	4,228	1,505	2,243	2,824	2,592
Total	71,877	104,327	107,899	92,872	32,368	41,845	42,915	35,728

Imports from the United States have fallen by practically £10 million, and those from the Argentine by nearly £5 million. From Chile, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay they increased slightly, but imports from the remaining Latin-American countries in the table fell, and there was a decline of £2½ million in imports from Egypt. Foreign, non-European exports showed an almost uniform decline, slight rises being recorded only in exports to Persia, Mexico, and Uruguay. Exports to the United States, China, Japan and Brazil fell substantially.

Trade with British countries, shown below, has undergone the most marked decline of all, as far as imports are concerned, and a decline in exports not very much less than in those to foreign non-European countries and very much greater than in exports to Europe:—

JANUARY TO MARCH.
(000's omitted)

	Imports from				Exports to			
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1913.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Irish Free State	...	8,736	9,504	9,742	...	8,708	8,013	8,569
West Africa	1,222	3,998	4,350	2,945	1,446	3,733	3,220	13,025
South Africa	3,982	9,196	7,770	6,615	5,614	8,018	8,093	7,434
India and Ceylon	13,827	20,980	19,983	17,068	18,227	24,964	23,429	20,324
Straits Settlements	4,514	3,124	3,360	2,877	1,412	3,012	3,167	2,282
Australia	11,469	16,753	15,927	13,665	9,239	13,489	12,488	11,418
New Zealand	7,018	16,621	16,538	14,283	2,781	4,562	5,161	5,246
Canada	4,682	11,230	10,983	9,086	5,878	7,029	9,311	6,155
West Indies	375	1,001	1,181	983	420	1,152	1,026	1,105
Other possessions	2,550	7,436	8,560	6,241	3,300	7,176	7,754	7,702
Total	49,639	99,075	99,156	83,505	48,317	81,843	81,662	73,260

The only part of the Empire separately shown in the table from which our imports have increased is the Irish Free State, and there have been very serious declines in imports from India and Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand, partly attributable to the heavy decline in the prices of raw materials which form a large part of our imports from those countries. The Free State is also the only part of the Empire which has taken substantially more of our exports, though there have been small rises also in our exports to New Zealand and the West Indies. Exports to Canada have fallen by over one-third, and India has taken over £3 million less than in the first quarter of last year. In view of the increasing tendency, to which we have more than once called attention, for European countries to trade with each other rather than with other parts of the world, it is interesting that the only part of the Empire with which our trade shows a steady expansion should be the Irish Free State, and the only other part which records even a small increase so far this year, the British possessions in Europe.

The remaining table shows re-exports in the first quarter over a period of several years:—

RE-EXPORTS.—JANUARY TO MARCH.
(000's omitted.)

	1913.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia	2,490	677	3,097	2,293	2,455	357	439	827
Sweden	334	397	372	370	219	322	249	219
Denmark	121	349	306	214	186	195	178	213
Germany	5,893	9,370	8,605	4,785	7,541	8,362	7,188	5,188
Netherlands	1,465	2,095	1,784	1,348	1,118	1,203	1,212	1,242
Belgium	1,826	3,041	2,888	2,256	2,349	3,086	2,687	1,965
France	3,012	5,313	5,062	7,377	4,521	5,999	5,389	4,549
Italy	263	724	794	897	542	668	478	251
United States	9,720	7,497	7,418	9,038	4,822	5,233	4,895	2,600
Other foreign countries	2,356	2,884	2,451	2,275	2,166	2,224	1,873	2,027
Irish Free State	...	3,207	2,990	2,932	2,482	2,372	2,509	2,560
South Africa	468	350	428	392	352	386	411	330
India and Ceylon	480	242	362	346	422	408	342	408
Australia	867	1,335	1,190	591	654	611	533	417
New Zealand	242	219	277	190	238	189	197	227
Canada	995	657	856	688	411	550	469	453
Other British countries	551	886	1,038	1,056	960	1,074	1,049	1,006
Total	31,083	39,243	39,918	37,048	31,438	33,239	30,098	24,482

There has been a practically unbroken decline since 1924, and this is particularly marked in re-exports to the United States, Australia and Canada, while those to Denmark, India and Ceylon and New Zealand are approximately holding their own. As compared with last year, the most marked declines were in re-exports to Germany, Belgium and the United States, while those to Russia, the Netherlands, the Irish Free State, New Zealand, India and Ceylon increased.

If a list be made from the above tables of countries with which our trade in both directions, excluding re-exports, expanded in the period under consideration as compared with the first quarter of last year, it will be found to contain nine European countries together with Persia, Mexico and Uruguay, and no British country except Ireland. A corresponding list of countries with which trade in both directions declined contains fourteen foreign countries, of which eight are in Europe, and six Empire countries, including India, South and West Africa, Australia and Canada. So many disturbing elements,

especially recent changes or projected changes in tariffs, have entered into the determination of trade during the quarter under review that it is dangerous to generalise from these results, but when all allowance is made for merely temporary influences the impression still remains that they afford strong support of the statement recently put forward in a League of Nations publication, that the older industrialised countries of Europe are to an increasing extent finding their best markets in each other.

SAFEGUARDING: MORE RESULTS.

IN a recent issue (*Economist*, May 13, 1930) we examined the effects produced during the past five years by the lace duty, whose date of expiry is June 30th. The other Safeguarding duties which expire during the present year, at the end of their appointed five-year term, are those on gas mantles, certain kinds of cutlery, and gloves of leather and cotton fabric—all imposed on December 22, 1925. The results of these duties are also worth brief examination in the light of the available trade returns.

So far as gas mantles are concerned, there is little positive evidence as to the duty's effects. The industry in this country is small, employing less than 2,000 workpeople. In 1924, according to the submissions of the applicants at the 1925 Safeguarding Inquiry, British production of mantles amounted to 290,000 gross, as compared with retained imports of 165,000 gross. Since the imposition of the duty retained imports have fallen to the negligible figure of 10,000 gross in 1929, but exports, which amounted in 1924 to about 8 per cent. of British production, have shown no expansion whatever. Moreover, the fact that after the duty was imposed an agreement was concluded between the British Associated Manufacturers and their German competitors, providing for the reservation of the British market for home producers in return for (1) a toll levied on British production, and (2) allocation of other markets to Germany, makes it impossible to prove whether the duty by itself would have ever shut out foreign imports. All that can fairly be said is that the duty has enabled the British manufacturers, who maintain—so the Safeguarding Committee was informed—"a price association which practically eliminates price competition," to free themselves, in an inelastic home market, from the spur of competition. The consumer has borne the burden.

Turning next to the cutlery duty, we show in the following table (the figures in which are taken from the Annual Statement of Trade and the answers to questions given by the President of the Board of Trade in Hansard of February 27, 1929, and April 17, 1930) the course of retained imports and British exports of cutlery of dutiable kinds in 1924 and in post-duty years:—

FOREIGN TRADE IN DUTIABLE CUTLERY.

	1924.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	'000 doz.	'000 doz.	'000 doz.	'000 doz.
Knives—				
Retained Imports	445	369	424	468
British Exports	936	893	976	912
Scissors, &c.—				
Retained Imports	411	407	432	491
British Exports	67	63	70	73
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
*Razors**—				
Retained Imports	118	179	178	†
British Exports	161	293	359	344
Total Dutiable Cutlery—				
Retained Imports	288	315	327	574
British Exports	913	971	1,061	974

* Including safety blades, &c. † Not available.

It will be observed, firstly, that in the case of knives and scissors the duty has had no visible effect either in restricting imports or stimulating exports, whose decline was found by the Census of Production in 1924 to have been the main cause of the failure of British output to expand since 1907. As we have pointed out before in these columns (*vide Economist* of November 10, 1928), the import trade in cutlery takes predominantly the form of cheap Solingen-made lines of pocket knives and scissors, which Sheffield, whose staple cutlery production (unaffected by competitive imports) is table knives, is not organised to replace. For the cheap goods which he requires the consumer, once again, has paid the duty, without any benefit being conferred on the British industry. Only in the case of razors has the position of the British manufacturer improved since the duty; and it is difficult to say that the improvement has been due to it. Blades for safety razors are here the important factor, and it is satisfactory to note that, under conditions of rapidly increasing world demand, the British manufacturer has succeeded in largely expanding his exports. But retained imports have also increased, and the production of Gillette-type blades in this country was going ahead fast before the duty was imposed. Moreover, when the aggregate values of all kinds of cutlery on which the Safeguarding duty was imposed are considered, it will be seen that between 1924 and 1929 retained imports have risen by £286,000 (nearly 100 per cent.), and British exports by only £61,000, or less than 7 per cent.

There remains the case of the glove-making industry. It may be recalled that the Census of Production in 1924 showed that in the leather section of the trade production amounted to 532,900 dozen pairs, as compared with 608,700 dozen in 1912, the average increase in selling price being 153 per cent. Retained imports amounted to 63 per cent. (as compared with 75 per cent. in 1912) of the total home consumption—the average price declared at the Customs being £1 17s. 6d. per dozen, against £3 10s. 3d. per dozen for all British-produced gloves, and exports amounted to 7½ per cent. of British output, against 40 per cent. in 1912. The explanation of this great discrepancy between the values per unit of the foreign imports and the British output was that our purchases from abroad were mainly of the cheaper "light" leather gloves not produced in this country.

As regards cotton fabric gloves, British production, which had never represented more than a trifling proportion of our total consumption, amounted in 1924 to about 137,000 dozen pairs, of which 59,000 dozen were exported, against retained imports of 817,000 dozen. The following table gives the foreign trade figures for 1924 and 1927-29:—

FOREIGN TRADE IN GLOVES.
Thousand dozen pairs.

	1924.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Leather and Fur—				
Retained Imports	851*	759	775	621
British Exports	41*	48	49	53
Cotton Fabric—				
Retained Imports	817	1,131	1,335	1,035
British Exports	59	19	20	21

The conclusions suggested by the foregoing figures are (1) that the import duty has shut out a proportion of the lighter type of inexpensive leather gloves which we formerly purchased from abroad, and (2) that the exclusion of these imports has stimulated, in spite of the duty, our purchases of foreign-made cotton fabric substitutes. When the totals for both leather and cotton gloves are combined, it will be noted that net imports in 1929 amounted to 1,656,000 pairs, against 1,668,000 pairs in 1924, while exports had fallen from 100,000 to 74,000 pairs. In short, there is little evidence that the duty has done more than add to the price of gloves without materially benefiting the industry. The British output of fabric gloves has continued to represent a tiny fraction of the total consumption; there has been little improvement in the industry's employment position; and there has been a serious increase in the price of "popular" light leather gloves, while the Lancashire spinners who supply the yarns for the manufacture of fabric gloves in Saxony have been seriously affected by the duty's repercussions.

In this examination of the effects of the four Safeguarding duties which come to an end in 1930 we have not been concerned to try to prove that a particular industry cannot be stimulated by tariff protection. A tariff may very well produce that effect, and the case for Free Trade does not rest on the assumption that individual beneficiaries of Protection cannot gain a selfish advantage. The trouble with protective tariffs is that the benefit is gained at the expense of others and ultimately turns to the impoverishment of all. What we are entitled to conclude at the end of this brief survey of the history of the lace, gas mantle, cutlery and glove-making industries since

1924 is that the consumer has paid heavily in 33⅓ per cent. duties for negligible benefits to the trades concerned. If these industries are now protesting against the expiry of the duties it is because they have failed, since 1924, to organise their production in such a way as to give them confidence that they can stand on their own feet, not because the duties have been to them of much advantage.

Notes of the Week.

The Government and the Press.—The prominence given to the recent action of the Government towards certain London newspapers, in connection with "intelligent anticipation" of the decision to arrest Mr Gandhi, reveals how cherished a British possession is the freedom and independence of the Press. On the eve of the arrest three London newspapers announced that the Cabinet had decided to approve this step. The Prime Minister, fearing serious consequences and assuming that improper leakage of information must have occurred, consulted the Attorney General and set in motion the machinery of the Official Secrets Act (Section 6), which, when improper disclosure is suspected, lays on the discloser the obligation to give to the police the fullest information as to the source from which the statement was obtained. Police interviews with two editors, one acting editor and one Lobby correspondent followed and the matter was fully ventilated in the House of Commons at question time on Monday. The upshot was the establishment of two facts. First, that there had been no leakage of Cabinet secrets; secondly, that neither the editors nor their Parliamentary correspondents had been guilty of any departure from ordinary and justifiable conduct of their difficult business. The correspondents had merely done what they must in the nature of things always be doing—talking with prominent politicians, and endeavouring to glean enough material for forming their own views as to the probable course of events. It came as a shock to the Press to discover that the mere performance of this legitimate and delicate task laid journalists open to police interrogation and to the demand, on pain of severe penalties, to disclose sources of information. So seriously was the incident regarded that a representative meeting of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association was held on Tuesday, at which strongly-worded resolutions were passed declaring the action of the Government to be unjustifiable and asking for an amendment of the Official Secrets Act. Undoubtedly the Government blundered. The section of the Act under which action was taken is clearly intended for dealing with serious cases of espionage and not for hampering journalists in their proper function of intelligent forecast. It is clear from the Prime Minister's remarks in the House that his action was prompted by the fact that there has recently been too much leakage of Cabinet secrets. As it turned out, the Government found no more than a mare's nest. Whether any amendment of the Official Secrets Act is desirable there is room to doubt. No one wishes to weaken the powers of the authorities to deal with espionage or improper disclosure of State secrets. But if the Act is to stand as it is, two things are necessary. One is, an assurance that the powers conferred by the Act will only be used in big and serious cases; the other is a clear public statement by the Prime Minister exonerating the newspapers and journalists concerned in this incident. An incidental reflection suggested by the affair is that, all circumstances being considered, improper leakages are surprisingly few.

Mr Baldwin Stands Firm.—At Sheffield, last week, Mr Baldwin addressed the first meeting of the Conservative "Home and Empire" campaign, and the chief feature of his speech was that he made no concession whatever to the demands made on him by Lord Beaverbrook and his "Empire Crusaders." The latter, of course, recognise as clearly as the late Joseph Chamberlain that taxes on foreign imported food are an essential basis of the policy which they describe as "Empire Free Trade," and wish to drive the official Conservative Party into promising to impose them. Mr Baldwin adheres to the position which he took up some months ago. "I will not ask the people of this country," he reiterated at Sheffield, on May 8th, "at the forthcoming general election to put any tax on foreign goods." What he will do is this: If returned to power he will hold an Imperial Conference to discuss "every possibility for increasing Imperial trade," and "if, as a result of those discussions there should be any form of treaty or agreement which would involve on our part the taxation of foreign foodstuffs, or any foreign foodstuffs, then that agreement, or treaty, or whatever it may be, shall be put before the judgment of our people by means of a poll." By "poll" Mr Baldwin presumably means a referendum, and he used that word in the same context at Reading this week. This is precisely the same policy as that which, two or three weeks ago, Lord Beaverbrook found to be "not in consonance" either with his Empire Free Trade policy or "with the arrangement under which we accepted the referendum." So the struggle between Mr Baldwin and Lord Beaverbrook for the body of the Conservative Party goes on. The latter's strenuous efforts at the West Fulham by-election did not yield a result sufficiently striking to alarm Mr Baldwin into further concessions. Now, at the Central Nottingham by-election, the Conservative candidate is fighting on a policy of no food taxes and the retention and extension of safeguarding. At Sheffield Mr Baldwin somewhat enlarged upon his previous statements on safeguarding. He wants safeguarding for three reasons: "For the protection of our standard of life; for bargaining with foreign countries; for retaliating." In safeguarding he sees the only road to freer trade in the world: "Of one thing I am convinced, that, so long as we keep this country as the world's dumping ground, you will never see 6d. taken off any duty in any country." The idea that the way to lower world tariffs is for the great Free Trade nation to join the already overcrowded ranks of tariff warmakers is unconvincing as a theory, and becomes completely fantastic to anyone who takes the trouble to study the tariff experience and tariff history of recent years.

The Breakdown of the Egyptian Negotiations.—The breakdown of the negotiations between Mr Henderson and Nahhas Pasha occurred at 12.45 p.m. on Thursday, May 8; and while the door has been expressly left open for resumption of negotiations as from the point reached in this abortive attempt at a settlement, no date for resumption has been fixed. The breakdown is the more regrettable when we consider how very near the point reached actually was to the goal. Indeed, complete agreement appears to have been reached on all matters that were discussed in the Chamberlain-Sarwat conversations of 1927; that is, on three out of the four points reserved in the British unilateral declaration of February, 1922. These points are the security of British Imperial communications in Egyptian territory and territorial waters; the defence of Egypt against attack by a third Power; and the protection of native minorities and foreign residents in Egypt. It will be remembered that in 1927 the crux was British Imperial communications, or, in concrete terms, the question of where in Egyptian territory, and for how long, British troops should continue to be stationed. To have achieved agreement on this point is a substantial success from the point of view of both parties; and although this agreement has not been implemented, owing to the breakdown of the negotiations over another matter, it is to be hoped that it will be accepted in both countries as definitive, even if other Governments happen to be in power in London and Cairo when negotiations are started again—whenever that may be. Meanwhile, this latest attempt to arrive at a comprehensive Anglo-Egyptian settlement has miscarried over the fourth of the four reserved points, namely, the Sudan—a point which, in the Chamberlain-Sarwat conversations, was deliberately set aside for consideration at some later date. This breakdown over the Sudan is disappointing, in view of the fact that agreement has been attained over all questions concerning the direct relations of Egypt and the British Empire with one another, and the further fact that, last year, the Sudanese question, which is most clearly a matter of direct and vital concern to Egypt, was settled in detail, and to the satisfaction of all parties, by the conclusion of the Nile Waters Agreement. Thus it is a failure to agree over the political status of the Sudan, and this alone, that has thrown us back upon the situation established by the declaration of February, 1922. What were the stumbling-blocks here? It is hardly profitable to examine them until after the publication of the White Paper which is promised for next week; but we may note provisionally that they appear to have been created by two Egyptian demands: first, that the Sudan should be thrown open to immigration from Egypt without leaving the Sudanese Government those powers of control and restriction which it now exercises; second, that the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of 1899, by which the Anglo-Egyptian condominium in the Sudan was established, should be placed on the table, for review by negotiation, within a year. We propose to deal with these and other matters in greater detail when the White Paper appears.

Relapse in China.—The long-threatened military collision between the forces of the Kuomintang Central Government at Nanking, on the one side, and the confederate armies of Fêng Yu-hsiang ("the Christian General") and Yen Hsi-shan ("the Model Tüchün") on the other, seems at last to have begun—though, in the light of all the precedents in China, it is still not impossible that the quarrel may be patched up by some financial bargain at the eleventh hour. This would, of course, mean a further diversion of public funds from constructive work to the pockets of generals and politicians, and a further postponement of political stabilisation; yet it would not be so bad as a recrudescence of civil war on the new alignment. For this war, if it really takes place, will have the two most calamitous characteristics that a Chinese civil war can have: it will be on the grand scale and it will leave everything as utterly undecided as ever. The omens point to the probability that the pair of Northern War Lords will win the first round. They will probably overrun the provinces of Shantung and Honan and may even reach the northern bank of the Yangtse. Yet it is not really conceivable that they should hold the Yangtse Valley permanently, or occupy the southern littoral at all; and the principal effect of successes on their part will be to unite all elements in the south against them—unless, of course, Yen and Fêng first fall out with one another, as is extremely probable. In any case, no new Central Government can spring from their precarious alliance. On the other hand, even if the second round in the struggle were to end in the Nanking Government's favour, it is equally unlikely that Chiang Kei-shek would prove strong enough to drive Fêng out of his home province of Shensi or Yen out of his home province of Shansi. The division of China between rival military Powers would continue. At the same time, this outcome would offer greater hope for the future than the break-up of the Nanking Government; for this Government is the single potentially constructive political force which China has thrown up since the outbreak of the Revolution nineteen years ago; and if Chiang Kai-shek's enemies complain that he is just another war lord, it may be replied that in their Finance Minister, Mr T. V. Soong, the Nanking Government have produced a statesman who, under enormous difficulties, is doing solid work of the kind that the country needs. We may prophesy this much: a union of the Yangtse Valley with the southern littoral, such as the Nanking Government has achieved, will be the nucleus out of which the new Chinese State will grow; and the political capital of this State will remain within the radius of a day's journey from its financial and economic capital Shanghai. There are forces in operation here which neither warfare nor diplomacy can overthrow.

Four Months' Foreign Trade.—The April trade returns are, in some respects the worst since the abnormal days of 1926, and, even after allowance has been made for Easter, such results are far from satisfactory. Nor are the figures for the first four months of the year much better. Declines since 1929 of 10.4 per cent. in imports and 12.6 per cent. in exports are not indicative of progress.

MONTH OF APRIL.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Inc. or Dec. on April, 1929.		Inc. or Dec. on April 1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	83,922	−20,206	−19·4	−12,887	−13·3
British exports	46,861	−13,383	−21·4	− 8,407	−15·3
Re-exports	7,844	− 2,532	−24·4	− 3,111	−28·3
Total exports	54,706	−15,915	−22·5	−11,518	−17·0
Excess of imports over total exports	29,216	− 4,292	−12·8	− 1,370	− 4·5

FIRST FOUR MONTHS.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Increase or Decrease as compared with			
		1929.		1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	367,342	−42,674	−10·4	−39,222	− 9·6
British exports	210,994	−30,419	−12·6	−26,211	−11·1
Re-exports	32,325	− 8,149	−20·1	−11,869	−26·8
Total exports	243,319	−38,568	−13·7	−38,080	−13·5
Excess of imports over total exports	124,023	− 4,105	− 3·2	− 1,142	− 0·9

The real question is how much of this shrinkage is due to the world-wide fall in prices, and how much to an actual contraction in volume? The *Economist* wholesale price index number averaged 12 per cent. less for the past four months than for the corresponding period of 1929, which suggests that the fall in prices accounts for the whole of the contraction. Unfortunately, in so far as British export trade is concerned, there is a flaw in this argument, for British exports consist mainly of finished goods, and their prices have certainly fallen by much less than the 12 per cent. of the wholesale price index numbers which are based mainly upon foodstuffs and raw materials. In fact, the usual Board of Trade calculations, the latest of which cover the first quarter of the current year, show that between 1929 and 1930 the average price of exports of finished goods has only fallen by 3.2 per cent., while there has been a volume shrinkage of 8.8 per cent. This result is confirmed by the following table, which includes April as well as the first quarter of each year:—

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.
(Quantity.)

		First Four Months.		
		1928.	1929.	1930.
Coal	tons	15,745,017	17,882,080	19,435,310
Railway material	,,	257,920	169,533	161,232
Total of iron and steel	,,	1,402,846	1,491,208	1,251,842
Textile machinery	,,	41,208	42,493	33,696
Total machinery	,,	188,940	184,707	170,930
Cotton yarns	lbs.	58,642,100	57,296,600	49,585,700
Cotton piece-goods	sq. yds.	1,365,742,600	1,388,797,400	1,111,096,700
Wool tops	centals	126,782	111,145	95,441
Woollen tissues	sq. yds.	44,752,700	37,559,800	30,571,700
Worsted tissues	,,	11,712,400	17,165,700	13,395,400
Linen piece-goods	,,	27,161,500	24,221,500	24,323,500
Jute piece-goods	,,	60,536,800	58,010,300	41,535,700
Boots and shoes	doz. prs.	358,577	292,960	324,080
Leather	cwts.	154,072	103,456	92,913
Locomotives	tons	14,570	11,599	16,826
Motor-cars and chassis	number	9,798	14,165	11,357

The only increases are in coal, linen piece-goods, boots and shoes and locomotives, and some of the decreases exceed 20 per cent. Thus the British overseas trade position is far from encouraging, and it is cold comfort to see that the United States are passing through a similar experience.

Mr Snowden's Speech to the Bankers.—Though Mr Snowden, in his speech at the annual dinner of the British Bankers' Association, had little new to say, he touched on several topics of current political and financial interest. In reply to Mr Goodenough, who, in proposing his health,

upheld the view that high taxation was a definite burden upon industry, Mr Snowden said that he had two guiding principles in his financial policy. One was that the country must pay its way, and the other was that it was no use paying a debt with borrowed money. It was this latter principle which explained his decision to increase the Sinking Fund this year. In an allusion to the recent increase in unemployment, Mr Snowden called attention to the existing disparity between wholesale and retail prices, and proceeded to denounce Protection as a quack remedy for the disease. Possibly the most interesting passage in Mr Snowden's speech was his allusion to this year's reduction in the Floating Debt. Mr Snowden did not claim that the Government's policy in redeeming Treasury bills was the sole cause of the recent reduction in money rates, but he did claim that it was a contributory factor. He proceeded to argue that the net result would be a substantial saving in the cost of the Floating Debt. As regards the tax increases in his Budget, the Chancellor, while agreeing as to the burden of high taxation, defended himself on the ground that he inherited a deficit and had to meet expenditure to which the country was already committed. A disappointing point about the speech was his insistence on the difficulties of achieving economy.

The Lords and the Coal Bill.—The Coal Bill has been having a rough passage in the House of Lords, and a number of highly important amendments have been made during the first two days of the Committee stage. After Lord Gainford, supported by the Government, had unsuccessfully attempted to reinstate the central export levy which was deleted by the House of Commons, the Peers, bowing to Lord Melchett's argument that they should have both levies or none, logically decided to remove the district levy also. This is a change for the better; for an inland subsidy on certain classes of coal would have caused almost as serious difficulty as the export levy originally contemplated. Amendments were also made excluding the so-called " mixed mine " from the operation of the quota and providing that the minimum quota to be fixed for each district should not be less than the district's own home consumption of coal. Though the subject is highly controversial, a good case can be made out for giving preferential treatment to mixed mines, which are part of iron and steel or other industrial undertakings. Certainly the original arrangements would have caused dislocation in these cases, and would have interfered with important vertical combinations. The new minimum district quota has much less in its favour, for besides preventing inter-district competition and granting semi-monopolistic powers where it may be operative, it will help to keep inefficient units alive instead of hastening the concentration of production in the most efficient undertakings. Much more important is the deletion of the Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission and the transfer of their functions to the Board of Trade. These changes, which were proposed by Lord Gainford and the Duke of Northumberland respectively, cut the heart out of the amalgamation proposals of the Bill; and the debate on them showed that the coal owners are as much opposed as ever to compulsory or thoroughgoing amalgamation. It is obvious that the Commons will not accept these amendments, which rob an essential part of the Bill of its effective force and leave the marketing and quota arrangements with all their original disadvantages unqualified by any hope of speedy and drastic reorganisation of the industry. In a number of other directions the Lords made further changes which, while avowedly designed to provide safeguards for one set of interests or another, in fact make the machinery of the Bill more cumbersome and less workable than before. Still other highly controversial changes are also on the order paper, notably the hours spread-over, which is practically certain to be made in the face of the miners' opposition; while in the background is a Conservative threat to reject the whole Bill, or various parts of it, if, after the Committee stage, it does not commend itself to the House of Lords as a whole. Plainly, the Bill is not yet out of the woods; and, plainly also, a situation is developing in which the relations between the Lords and Commons will be at the least highly interesting.

The Safeguarding Debate.—The Conservative Opposition took advantage of the vote for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Trade to raise in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, the question of Safeguarding and the Government's decision to allow existing duties to lapse at the end of their current term. In view of the by-election now in progress at Nottingham, the debate was appropriately opened by Sir H. Betterton, one of the members for the lace-making town. He claimed that " just as the duty had saved the trade, so taking off the duty would ruin it." In a recent issue of the *Economist* we examined at some length the experience of the lace trade under Safeguarding and found no evidence to support such a claim; nor was any such evidence produced by Sir H. Betterton. Indeed, Mr Graham, who replied for the Government, was given nothing more formidable to answer than the inadequately based assertions with which we are already familiar. After reminding the House of the narrow field of industry covered by the Safeguarding experiment, and warning members not to try to build a tariff case on so slender a foundation, the President of the Board of Trade briefly examined the particular case of the lace industry and found that the facts were " against the industry." From this he passed to broader aspects of the fiscal problem and claimed that the last general election yielded " a great majority for Free Trade principles," and averred his own faith:—" Free Trade, in my judgment, is not a negative principle; it is a great positive force. The more we restrict in these matters, the more we add to the volume of unemployment." Another telling point in Mr Graham's speech was his reminder that Mr Baldwin, when Prime Minister, had stated that these safeguarded industries, in his view, were entitled to a five-years' experiment, but that if they could not put their house in order, or make some kind of progress in that time, they were not entitled to further safeguarding.

Bankers' Industrial Development.—The full list of shareholders of the Bankers' Industrial Development Company is as follows:—The " A " shares: Barclays Bank; Baring Brothers and Company; A. P. Brandt and H. B. Brandt; E. Clifton Bower, of Brown Shipley and Company; District Bank; Erlangers; G. Farrer, of H. S. Lefevre and Company; Robb, Fleming and Company; Glyn, Mills and Company; Grace Brothers and Company; Guinness, Mahon and Company; Hambros Bank; Higginson and Company; Kleinwort, Sons and Company; Lazard Brothers and Company; Lloyds Bank; Martins Bank; Midland Bank; Samuel Montagu and Company; Morgan Grenfell and Company; M. Samuel and Company; National Provincial Bank; North of Scotland Bank; Robt. Benson and Company; L. N. de Rothschild and A. G. de Rothschild; Royal Bank of Scotland; J. Henry Schroeder and Company; Seligman Brothers; S. Japhet and Company; Stern Brothers; British Linen Bank; British Overseas Bank; British Shareholders' Trust; Central Mining and Investment Corporation; Clydesdale Bank; Commercial Bank of Scotland; the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland; Manchester and County Bank; National Bank; National Bank of Scotland; Union Bank of Manchester, Union Bank of Scotland; Westminster Bank; Williams Deacon's Bank. This accounts for 44 of the 45 " A " shares, the remaining share has been allotted to Mr N. L. Campbell, of Helbert, Wagg and Company. As previously announced, the 15 " B " shares are under the direct control of the Bank of England. Fourteen have been allotted to the Securities National Trust, Ltd., and the fifteenth to Mr Norman himself. A perusal of the list of " A " shareholders makes it clear that with the exception of the insurance companies every important financial interest in the City is represented. This means that the new scheme has received full recognition, and that it is assured of a successful start.

Cotton Trade and Arbitration in Labour Disputes.—For many years, writes our Lancashire correspondent, the cotton industry has had a reputation for conciliation in settling disputes between the employers and the operatives, but latterly there have been frequent instances of trouble arising at individual mills over minor matters, and some difficulty has been experienced in bringing such disputes to a close. A recent particular case is that at the Broadstone Mill at Reddish. This dispute began about a month ago, and on April 22nd the operatives came out on strike as a protest against the management dismissing one of the workpeople. It was stated on behalf of the employers that the dismissed employee (a spinner) was found eating a meal and reading a newspaper behind the machinery shortly before 9 o'clock in the morning. The employers stated that this action amounted to a serious breach of discipline which jeopardised the firm's property and the regular employment of his fellow workers. On behalf of the operatives it was contended that it had been the custom for the workpeople to have their meals behind the mules. The stoppage of the mill continued, and in the middle of last week the Ministry of Labour intervened and a joint conference took place on Friday last between representatives of the Master Spinners' Federation and the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation. This conference was adjourned until Tuesday last, when a settlement was reached. It was decided to refer the dispute to arbitration. Work at the mill was resumed on Thursday morning, with the exception of the pair of mules in dispute. It is understood that the dismissed operative will not be reinstated pending the arbitration. In connection with this matter an important development is the official statement that the Joint Committee of employers and trade union officials is of opinion that the principal of arbitration in disputes at individual mills might be more frequently adopted. With that object in view it was agreed that both sides should at once endeavour to organise such machinery as will be effective in avoiding stoppages at individual mills where disputes have passed through the usual procedure at present recognised and negotiations have failed. It will certainly be a big advantage to the trade as a whole if some means can be found to stop these irritating disputes at individual mills.

Lancashire and Fiscal Policy.—In accordance with the recent decision of the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to take a referendum of the members on fiscal policy, details have been published this week of the proposed vote. The directors have had some difficulty in deciding upon the questions to be asked and numerous suggestions from the sections of the Chamber have been made. The questions to be put to the members are:—

(1) Are you in favour of the policy generally known as Free Trade?
(2) Are you in favour of a settled policy of imposing protective duties in the manner generally known as " Safeguarding? "
(3) Are you in favour of a general protective tariff on imports, including raw materials and foodstuffs?
(4) Are you in favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting raw materials?
(5) Are you in favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting foodstuffs?
(6) Are you in favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting raw materials and foodstuffs?

Only one question out of the six is to be answered by the member voting and the papers have to be returned not later than May 31st. The Secretary of the Chamber, in an explanatory letter, which is being sent with the voting papers, says:—" You are particularly requested only to answer one of the questions. Thus, if you answer ' Yes ' to No. 1 the others fall to the ground and need no reply. If you answer ' Yes ' to No. 2 you are not committed to any of the other alternatives, although it will be equally clear that you are opposed to the first. By having only one answer from each member we shall obtain a clear result as to how many members actually give first preference to each alternative, whilst if more than one question were answered it would not be clear how opinions were divided." In Manchester commercial circles this week some difference of opinion has been expressed as to whether this referendum will show very clearly the consensus of opinion of the members of the Chamber of Commerce on this important matter, but there is considerable interest in the decision to take a ballot and it is expected that the result will be announced early in June.

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS).

OVER 400 BRANCHES IN

THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
NORTHERN & SOUTHERN RHODESIA
KENYA · TANGANYIKA · UGANDA · NYASALAND
PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA SOUTH WEST AFRICA
BRITISH WEST AFRICA BRITISH WEST INDIES
BRITISH GUIANA · EGYPT · SUDAN · PALESTINE
MALTA · GIBRALTAR · MAURITIUS

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER NEW YORK Agency HAMBURG

FACILITIES FOR THE IMPORT OF PRODUCE ARRANGED.

HEAD OFFICE:
54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Iron and Steel Production in April.—The production figures of iron and steel for April, which have just been issued, reflect, for the first time, the quieter market conditions which set in some months ago. The number of blast furnaces in operation declined by six during the month to 151, compared with 170 at the end of August last; production of pig iron declined from 665,800 tons in March to 619,600 tons in April, a reduction in the daily rate of about 4 per cent., while steel production declined from 826,100 tons in March to 696,100 tons in April. Part of the decline in the case of steel is due to the Easter holidays, but there is no doubt that the figures indicate a definite downward tendency. Imports of iron and steel amounted to 234,800 tons, compared with 280,900 tons in March, while exports, at 268,000 tons, were not only 69,700 tons lower than in March, but were the lowest of any month since February, 1927. The Board of Trade's price index number for iron and steel (1913=100) fell from 114.9 in March to 114.3 in April. The contraction in iron and steel activity was clearly foreshadowed at the end of last year, when the International Steel Cartel decided to reduce output by 10 per cent., for it indicated that Continental countries no longer had full order books, and that competition from that quarter might be expected to increase. Another cause of the decline is the unsatisfactory shipbuilding position: this was revealed in a recent report of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation, in which it was stated that 69 per cent. of the shipbuilding firms did not receive a single order during January, 84 per cent. did not get an order in February, 80 per cent. did not get an order in March, and 50 per cent. of the firms did not receive a single order throughout the whole of the quarter. The contraction in iron and steel production on this occasion is not confined to this country. Although, apparently, Continental manufacturers underestimated the extent of the slump, and were loth to curtail production, there is no doubt that April production in each Continental country was lower than in any month in the first quarter of the year. In the United States, production of pig iron at 3,182,000 tons was 480,600 tons lower than in April last year.

Unemployment Insurance in Germany.—Our Berlin correspondent writes:—Unemployment insurance has been the most important domestic political issue in Germany for a year and a half. It was on this issue that the Müller Cabinet was overthrown. The Socialists were afraid at that time that the acceptance of a finance law demanded by the bourgeois parties would lead to a reduction of benefit. It is now clear how baseless that fear was. Following the acceptance of that finance law, the new Cabinet of the Right can do nothing that was not done before by the Cabinet of the "Great Coalition," that is, it must grant to the "Reichsanstalt für Arbeitslosenversicherung" (the institution from which benefit is paid) sufficient money or credits to make it possible to maintain relief at the present level. That the Government fully understand this is shown by a speech recently made by the Minister of Labour, Herr Stegerwald, in which he said:—"So far as Germany is concerned, I am of the opinion that at the present time, a time of mass unemployment, drastic reforms for the purpose of reducing costs can hardly be carried through, since the chief abuses were already done away with in October, 1929. Otherwise we shall see the same state of affairs as in England. There social insurance is not so comprehensively organised as with us. The result is smaller payments for social insurance, but very much higher expenses for charitable work. An increase of municipal budgets for charitable relief would be much more disastrous economically in Germany than an increase of the premiums on insurance or a special tax." The Minister's reference to the reform of October, 1929, referred to a law passed at that time by which benefit for workers in the building and other outdoor trades was reduced, for the reason that unemployment in the winter months was not due in their case to depression alone, but was a regular condition in the trade in which they worked. The German People's Party regards this law as insufficient. Herr Stegerwald, who is undoubtedly supported in this matter by his party, the Centre, is obviously unwilling to consent to any further reductions, since he regards himself as the leader of the Christian Trade Unions, which compete strongly with the Socialist Trade Unions for the favour of the labouring classes. As Christian labour leader he cannot grant what his Socialist predecessor, Herr Wissell, decisively rejected. The Minister has called on the managing committee of the unemployment insurance institution to report on the possibility of a reform. But it is hardly likely that this report will lead to any positive result that could bring about important economies. Meanwhile conditions on the labour market are growing steadily worse. The national Budget includes 230 million marks as the Reich's contribution to unemployment insurance, and the insurance department will be able to pay the required benefit provided the average yearly number of unemployed does not rise above 1,200,000. This figure was until recently regarded as very conservative. Now it is evidently too low, and the money granted by the Reich will not be sufficient. Especially disquieting is the smallness of the improvement brought by this spring. On March 31st last the number of unemployed was only some 150,000 above the number on the same date last year (2,053,380 against 1,899,121), but on April 30th it exceeded the 1929 figures by more than 600,000 1,760,863 against 1,126,078), in spite of the fact that the spring of 1929 was handicapped by extraordinarily unfavourable weather.

The Hong Kong Currency Problem.—Our Hong Kong correspondent writes:—The Hong Kong Government has appointed a Committee of Inquiry to examine and report on the currency question. It is now six months since the Hong Kong dollar started to descend from what was regarded as its normal level of 2s. The first drop of about 2½d. brought it nearly to a par with silver, thereby eliminating the substantial premium at which the notes, issued by the three authorised banks, were standing. When, as silver began to decline, the dollar followed, and at to-day's rate of exchange the pound sterling costs about 25 per cent. more in local currency than it did last October. The break in exchange has seriously disturbed trade. Adjustment of local prices has enhanced the value of stocks imported before last autumn, but it has upset the normal course of import business, and it will probably be many months before merchants and dealers can adapt their order books to the new conditions. Chinese dealers in particular are reluctant to abandon hope of a return to a higher level of exchange, and in the meantime they are adopting a hand-to-mouth policy, although every banker predicts still lower rates of exchange in the absence of any support for silver. While the unfortunate result of being tied to a silver standard is accepted by most people here with philosophic calm, there are many who feel that the time has come for the Colony to abandon a silver basis and stabilise its dollar on a gold standard. This school of thought takes as parallel cases the adoption of a gold standard by the Straits Settlements in the late nineties and by French Indo-China early in the present year, but it has not put forward any practical suggestion for providing a gold reserve, nor has it indicated what the cost would be. However, the Government Committee has been set a series of six questions, the last of which is as follows: "Is it desirable in the interests of the Colony that the value of the dollar be stabilised? If so, can any effective steps be taken to that end?" The answer to that question is eagerly awaited, but there is every reason to fear that even if the first part is in the affirmative, there will be insuperable difficulties in giving a satisfactory reply to the other part. At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held last week, the currency problem occupied a good portion of the chairman's review of the past year. While declining to pronounce an opinion as to whether high or low exchange was beneficial to the Colony, the chairman asserted that the commercial prosperity of the Colony could not have been achieved, and was not likely to be maintained, without full consideration being given to the economic policy of the neighbouring provinces. His main contention was in favour of a *laisser faire* policy, but he went on to deal with the embarrassing situation brought about by the heavy importation of silver dollars. So far the banks have been unable to depress the rate of exchange for the Hong Kong dollar to a point where it is no longer profitable to import silver. The consequence is that minted dollars have been steadily arriving here and threaten to become a most serious burden. With the leaders of commerce bewildered by the situation, and with the man in the street crying out for some relief from the pressure brought about by the sudden rise in the cost of living, the Government Committee of Inquiry are undertaking no light task.

Liquor Legislation in Switzerland.—Our Geneva correspondent writes:—An important referendum took place in Switzerland in April, when the electorate, by 487,340 votes against 314,316, accepted the new regulations for the sale of liquor proposed by the Government. The new legislation brings under State control a series of alcoholic drinks made of fruit and fruit residues and known under the local name of "schnaps." Before 1885 "schnaps" was made of potatoes by agriculturists and drunk in many regions, especially in German-speaking Switzerland and the alpine valleys. "Schnaps" was even given to children, and, in order to check that evil, the Federal Government was at that time empowered to buy out the national production of potato alcohol and to use it for industrial and medicinal purposes. Since 1910, in consequence of the development of fruit cultivation, new sorts of "schnaps" were made of fruit and fruit residues, the yearly production being about one million gallons, nearly one-sixth of the total fruit production being used in producing alcohol. The consequence was that consumption of liquor in Switzerland was the highest per head of population of any country in the world. The new law provides, on the one hand, for an increase in the price of all liquors, for the purchase by the Federal Excise of the whole "schnaps" production and the sale by it of the quantity strictly needed by the country, the remainder being used in industry and for medicinal purposes. On the other hand, the new law provides for a better and cheaper organisation of fruit transport so as to facilitate the distribution and sale of fruit throughout the country. The profit thus made—about one million a year—will be employed for purposes of social insurance and old age pensions. The enforcing of that legislation will not only benefit the country's health, but also afford the Government the necessary means for developing social insurances, which could only have been done by the setting up of new taxation.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during April amounted to 868,606 ozs. of fine gold, as compared with 889,370 ozs. produced during March. In April, 1929, the output amounted to 872,123 ozs. of fine gold. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ...	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,452	882,801
February ...	760,617	753,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284	818,188
March	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529	889,370
April	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,907	872,123	868,606
May.....	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598	...
June	773,053	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,363	856,029	...
July.....	829,437	818,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480	...
August ...	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,863	889,601	...
September	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553	...
October ...	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	888,690	...
November	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593	...
December	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134	...
Total ...	9,597,634	9,599,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066	...

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	Aug., 1929.	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	March, 1930.	April, 1930.
Gold mines	190,062	190,567	189,739	186,941	184,280	190,663	196,752	200,134	202,434
Coal mines	15,867	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326	15,288	15,495	15,250	15,109
Diamond mines	5,071	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811	5,889	6,584	7,002	5,565
	211,000	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417	211,840	218,831	222,386	223,108

There was an increase in the number of natives employed in the gold mines during April.

Commercial Union Assurance.—As is the case with other large composite companies, the 1929 report of the Commercial Union, in addition to the usual consolidated balance sheet, includes for the first time a balance sheet of the parent company to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1929. A study of these reveals the fact that out of total fire, accident and marine funds of £14,938,000 some £5,290,000 belongs to subsidiary companies, by far the largest of which is the Ocean Accident, with an accident fund alone of £4,186,000. The life fund of the parent company is nearly £17½ million, in addition to which there are five closed life funds of acquired companies. Shares in subsidiary companies account for £5,079,000 out of total assets, excluding the life fund, of £18,024,000. The book value of these subsidiaries represents original cost, approximately £9 million, less amount written off, and includes £700,000, being goodwill of recently acquired businesses now in process of being eliminated. When this has been effected the book value will be equivalent to the break-up value at dates of purchase without any allowance for the subsequent considerable increase in surplus assets. Here, evidently, is a position of very great strength. The underwriting results of 1929 not unnaturally reflect the prevailing conditions, except in the marine department, which on this occasion has surpassed itself by yielding a profit of £200,000 on a premium income of £685,000. Details of the last two years' results are shown below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	552,365	7·3	306,823	4·0
Accident	399,327	4·5	155,336	1·8
Marine	100,000	15·7	200,000	29·2
Life:				
Commercial Union	28,088		28,088	
Union Life Fund ...	5,000		5,000	
Hand in Hand Fund	20,000		80,000	
Sinking Fund	5,000		...	
	1,109,780		775,247	
Less items debited to Profit & Loss Acc'nt	286,902		256,783	
Total net trading surplus	822,878		518,464	

The dividend has been maintained at the same rate as in 1928, namely, 41 per cent., and requires £1,149,784, compared with which net interest earnings amount to £1,000,089.

Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance.—Last year was the beginning of a new era for this famous company, which for some few years has been controlled by the Royal, although preserving its individuality and its organisation. Upon the retirement of the respective general managers of each company in 1928, the new general manager, Mr Robert McConnell, was appointed as chief officer of both companies, and the new London manager was similarly established in charge of both London offices. With a view to the achievement of a greater measure of unified control it was also announced that the board of directors of each company was to be similarly constituted. The first report to be issued under the new *régime* is a satisfying document. Excluding the life department, which administers a premium income of £810,000, the aggregate premium income for 1929 amounted to £11,119,035, this figure being some £148,000 greater than the 1928 total. This tremendous total comes as to £5,428,000 from miscellaneous business (accident, and particularly motor insurance), as to £4,846,000 from fire, and the balance from marine, personal accident and employers' liability, in that order. The table below of the details of the past two years' underwriting shows that net trading surplus, largely owing to a reduced profit from the miscellaneous department, is less favourable than for 1928. The comparison, however, is a severe one, since 1928 was, except for the boom years immediately after the war, the best in the company's history:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£	%	£	%
Fire	294,848	6·3	260,242	5·4
Personal Accident	−297	...	900	·4
Employers' Liability	11,550	6·6	20,142	11·6
Miscellaneous	247,769	4·6	146,652	2·7
Marine	25,117	6·1	33,435	8·3
Life	23,000		23,000	
	601,987		484,371	
Less Items debited to Profit and Loss Account	150,237		154,636	
	451,750		329,735	

The dividend for 1929 has been raised to 65 per cent. from 62½ per cent., and, after deducting the cost of this from interest earnings, there remains a sum of £291,000 wherewith to augment free reserves as a result of the operations of the year, thus increasing the break-up value by 11s. per share.

Yorkshire Insurance.—The underwriting results for 1929 of this company exhibit the general characteristics of those of many other composite offices whose accounts have already appeared, namely, reduced profits both in the fire and accident departments. The causes are also the same

—in the fire department an increased claims ratio particularly in this country and in the United States, and in the accident department heavy claims on account of motor accidents. The premium income, on the other hand, has been well maintained and, in fact, somewhat increased, that in the fire department now amounting to £1,068,000 and in the accident department to £1,383,000. In addition there is a marine premium income of £517,000 the increase in which during the year has been brought about largely as a result of higher rates of premium. Details of the last two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£	%	£	%
Fire	148,354	13·9	74,044	6·9
Accident and General	51,772	4·2	28,919	2·1
Marine	−10,328	− 2·1	− 471	− ·1
Life	4,740		9,610	
Profits from reversions	5,000		5,000	
Excess Profits Duty recovery	121,300		...	
	320,838		117,102	
Less Items debited to Profit and Loss	85,968		108,366	
Total net trading surplus..	234,870		8,736	

The 1928 figures were swollen by a "windfall" described in the report as "the amount recovered on the final determination of excess profits duty liability, together with the balance of the special reserve in marine underwriters' profit account, not now required." For the first time the general reserve fund has passed the £1,000,000 mark, having been increased during the year from £854,000 to £1,068,000. The increased reserve has been due largely to the rearrangement of capital and to the premium arising from the recent new issue of shares. The dividend for 1929 is at the rate of 47½ per cent., and corresponds to that paid last year.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Share Market — Trend of Business — Copper Position — Mr Hoover and the Tariff Bill.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, May 6.

ATTENTION of the financial community and of the country generally this week has been focussed on the share market. While it had been plain enough for the past month that the speculative bubble built up on illusions of trade improvement and the desire to recoup the heavy losses suffered last autumn must break before long, the sharpness of the decline and the immense volume of trading seemed to take the financial community by surprise. It raised fresh apprehensions lest the panicky conditions of October and November would be repeated and discouraged those who felt that at last trade improvement was really in sight. The decline has been a natural enough deflationary movement, following the upbuilding of the price structure in anticipation of business improvement which did not take place in the first quarter. In the first three trading days of this month share market values dropped nearly 10 per cent., but they have recovered virtually half the loss in the subsequent rally. Opinion here is that the bulk of the inevitable liquidation is over and that, regardless of what happens in the next week or so, a period of staleness is in prospect for the remainder of the spring and early summer at least. It is felt that prices are now in much better harmony with the state of trade, and that the market will be in a favourable position to advance with the first signs of real improvement, as it will have very easy money in its favour for some time to come.

Reduction of the Federal Reserve Bank's buying rate on bankers' bills to 2¾ per cent., which was done after the discount rate cut last week, has had the effect of maintaining fairly well the system's portfolio, new purchases offsetting maturities. Just now the open market rates are showing signs of weakening. At the same time, the rate on time funds has declined ¼ of 1 per cent. to 3½ to 3¾ per cent. Commercial paper also is easier at 3¾ per cent. The unsettlement of the share market has had a sympathetic unfavourable reaction on the bond market, and new capital issues have been scarce for the past several days. However, the effect of easier money is expected to take shape shortly, and several sizeable offerings are on the ways. It is believed that a Japanese loan of perhaps $100,000,000 will be taken care of before the reparations issue is ready. There is talk of an Austrian loan, but nothing will develop for several months.

The record of business for the first quarter as shown by corporation earnings is now fairly complete. The decline amounted to 19 per cent. as compared with the same period of last year, for industrial corporations, and to 40 per cent. for the railroads. The railroads earned at the annual rate of 3.56 per cent. on their property investment, as against 5.35 per cent. last year. Industrial profits, according to a calculation made by the National City Bank, turn out to have been 2.8 per cent. on "net worth" (that is, the stockholders' equity, made up of preferred and common stock outstanding, surplus account and undivided profits, taken at the beginning of the fiscal year) in the first quarter, against 3.9 per cent. last year and 3.2 per cent. in 1928. That calculation is based on the increase of about $1,000,000,000 in capital stock and surplus for 1930. Actual net profits were 4 per cent. larger than in the first three months of 1928, so that actual business has not been so very poor, measured on standards of any but a boom year.

Trade statistics continue to be unfavourable, but nevertheless a better feeling is apparent in some lines of business. Employment has not increased much through other than purely seasonal operations, but outdoor work is becoming more plentiful. The steel industry is maintaining its operating rate at close to 80 per cent., although prices have declined to the lowest in over a year. The motor trade is a trifle better, and, while no marked increase in sales is expected in the next few months, the slackening may be less noticeable than it usually is in the summer, since the spring advance was small. Contract awards and building permits made a better seasonal showing in April than for the first quarter, but actual construction is still far below that of the past two years. Meanwhile, the railroads, after spending liberally for maintenance and improvement in the first quarter, are now reducing their purchases, partly because their needs for the year have been largely met and partly because their revenues have been falling rapidly. Car loadings for the last week of April were sharply reduced, following a few weeks of improvement.

Buying having failed to follow the cut in copper to 14 cents, a further reduction to 12½ cents has been made. Wages at most of the mines have come down, since they are based on the price of the metal, and production also has been curtailed further. Another good-sized addition to stocks, it is believed, was made in April. Consumers' needs for copper in this country are fairly large, but the buyers have felt too sure of their advantage to place orders at the higher prices. Copper company shares have steadily declined, but now seem to be attracting good investment buying.

No great change has taken place in the banking position. Security loans, which rose steadily in the New York district throughout the past month, are expected to show a substantial deflation this week. Member banks, which increased their borrowings at the Federal Reserve over the month end, have this week paid off most of the debt. It is quite possible, therefore, that Federal Reserve credit in use has decreased, but demand is so slack that the withdrawal is unnoticeable. Gold imports have been negligible for the past week.

Next week the Treasury likely will announce mid-month financing to take care of a $56,000,000 bill maturity on the 19th. In addition to that sum, recent calls for Treasury cash from the Farm Board and others have made it necessary to borrow, and the forthcoming bill tender probably will reach from $75,000,000 to $100,000,000. Very favourable terms are a certainty.

In spite of the petition presented to President Hoover by more than a thousand of the country's leading economists, urging a veto of the tariff bill, there is little likelihood that he will not sign, unless something particularly objectionable slips into the measure before final passage. As the measure of his party, the bill, however objectionable it may be to Mr Hoover, runs no great risk of defeat from presidential veto.

FRANCE.

National Insurance — Reparations Loan — Prices.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, May 14.

THE outstanding topic of the week here—apart from the pending issues of the French portion of the capital in the International Settlements Bank and the Paris portion of the issue of German reparations bonds which is to follow—is the coming into operation in July of the national insurance scheme. It is already evident that even now, after the double re-casting that the scheme has undergone, it is by no means complete. Evidence of this was given a few days ago when it was announced that a special decree, extending the benefits of the law to domestic servants, had been signed by the President of the Republic, during his official visit to Algeria in connection with the centenary celebrations there. This decree deals primarily with the valuation, as part of the money wage, of the board and lodging accommodation generally received by indoor servants as part of their pay. In towns of 200,000 inhabitants or over, this form of payment is fixed as having a wage value of 7 francs per day, or 210 francs per month; in smaller towns at 5 francs a day, and in rural houses at 3 francs a day. Industry in general is loud in its protests against the new law. The general assembly of the presidents of the French Chambers of Commerce, at their meeting a few days ago, passed resolutions strongly condemning the insurance plan as being based "only on conjectures, hypothesis, eventualities and approximations," and "rejecting all responsibility as to the consequences of a measure which will weigh heavily on the economic destinies of the country."

Information received here from private and other sources in Basle during the week fully confirm the indications given in the last number of the *Economist* as to the difficulties that still exist in regard to the pending issue of the first part of the international German reparations loan. These difficulties, which concern practically all the essential features of the issue (except, apparently, the yield from the scrip, which has been fixed at 5½ per cent.), proved so impossible of solution by the Treasury experts at their Paris Conference, that the whole matter was referred to the full board of the Bank for International Settlements, who discussed it at their meeting at Basle on Monday. Down to this evening, as far as can be gathered, none of the problems have been resolved, but there is a confident hope at Basle that they will be before the end of the week, and that the issue will be made "before the end of the month." The refusal by the German representatives to give the special guarantees asked of them, in connection with the redemption of their own $100,000,000 of the loan, appears to be definite.

The outstanding difficulty, so far as the British portion is concerned, lies in its amount and in the form of the scrip to be adopted. The French portion is to be issued free of all taxation, which removes what was at first feared would be a serious blot on the "internationalising" of the bonds. According to reports from reliable quarters tonight, the British demand for a special form of bond is likely to be granted, but the whole of the remaining national issues will conform to a uniform type, although the yield in some countries may vary slightly, owing to the special incidence of local fiscal laws. The question of the issue price appears likely to vary also, which will constitute another factor of difference as regards yield. In the case of the bonds which are to be issued here, representing the French capital in the International Settlements Bank, the Government has made it clear that, as this will technically constitute a foreign issue in France, only scrip belonging to the French portion will be allowed to circulate in this country. One effect of this proviso will be to facilitate the accomplishment of the French desire for the international commercialisation of the German reparation debt, which is looked forward to here as likely to prove effective against any intention Germany may manifest in the future to make default in payment of her annuities. The desire not to concentrate too large a proportion of the reparation bonds in France, with this factor in view, is one of the reasons why the French are not anxious to take up a larger share than necessary in the pending issue. For the rest, the success of the French portion of the issue may be regarded as undoubtedly already assured. It is said that applications have already been received by the banks for more than three times the total of the $80,000,000 which it is stated are to be allotted to Paris.

The index figure of the Statistique Générale for wholesale prices at the end of April is 561 (1914=100). This shows a drop of four points since March, 14 since February, 27 since January, and 83 since January, 1929. The detailed figures are as follows:—

	Commodities.	End of months of Feb.	March.	April.
General index figure	45	575	565	561
French products	29	611	600	596
Imported products	16	510	501	497
Foodstuffs (general figure)	20	529	523	529
Vegetable foods	8	430	422	432
Meats	8	624	617	614
Sugar, coffee, cacao	4	536	536	532
Raw materials	25	615	601	592
Minerals and metals	7	584	577	544
Textiles	6	544	528	537
Various	12	676	659	654

The index figure representing wholesale prices of French products, which at the end of 1927 was 67 points below that for imported products, is now 99 points above the latter. While the figure for imported goods has dropped 163 points since 1927, that for French products has actually increased three points in the same period, though it is now 35 points below the figure for the end of 1928. Reduced to gold value, the French general figure for April works out at 114, as against 125 in March for Great Britain (Board of Trade), 141 for the United States, 126 for Germany, 119 for Italy (Milan Chamber of Commerce) and 112 for Belgium. Retail prices in Paris, as far as can be gauged by the quotations for the 13 articles of common necessity covered, continue their trend downward. The index figure returned for these at the end of April is 586, as against 626 in May, 1929 (highest last year), and 522 in February, 1928 (lowest in that year). The cost of living for a Paris working-class family of four persons during the first quarter of 1930 is represented by an index figure of 565 (the same as for the previous quarter), equivalent to 115 in gold, as compared with a figure of 157 in Great Britain for March, 111 for Austria, 117 for Poland, and 149 for Germany.

GERMANY.

Discount Rates — Ruhr Gas Company — A. E. G. — Railway Rates.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, May 13.

CONTRARY to all expectations, the Reichsbank has not yet reduced its discount rate, but it is generally believed that it will do so within the next few days, for its situation is growing steadily and rapidly easier and money rates in the open market are falling day by day. The rate for bankers' acceptances, which, last week, at 4½ per cent., was already far below the Reichsbank rate, has now fallen to 3¼ per cent. The Reichsbank, however, hesitates to lower its rate to 4½ per cent., although in the first week of May its holdings of commercial paper fell off by 86 millions (against 7 millions in the first week of May, 1929), its holdings of treasury certificates by 70

millions, its advances by 82 millions (53 last year), and its note circulation by 260 million marks (189 millions last year). I pointed out last week the reasons for the Reichsbank's hesitation. It appears, however, that, in addition to consideration for the capital market, it is also being guided by special consideration of the banks' ability to earn profits. The rapid decline in interest rates is creating a difficult situation for the German banks. They were able to maintain their dividends for 1929 only with the aid of their reserves. And now that their earnings from interest are declining rapidly, there is no way of offsetting this. The overhead expenses of the German banks to-day take 80 per cent. of their gross income; before the war they did not reach 40 per cent. Hence only a relatively small margin exists beyond which a further decline in receipts will make it impossible to meet the expenses of operation. Formerly the reduction of the banks' profits as a result of falling interest rates could be compensated for by the fact that the easing of the money market made it possible to bring about increases of capital of existing concerns, to organise new ones, issue loans, and, above all, to take advantage of the greater activity of the bourses. But the capital market is still unable to absorb new funds and the turnover on the bourses remains small, though there has been some strengthening in the last few days. Notwithstanding all these considerations, the Reichsbank will not be able to maintain its isolated position unless, contrary to expectations, the next few days bring a stiffening of money rates in London and Paris.

The Ruhrgas-Aktiengesellschaft reports great progress. This, it will be recalled, is the subsidiary company of the Rhenish-Westphalian Cokeries, which was created in 1928 for the purpose of organising the supply of gas from the Ruhr district to remote towns and industrial districts. All the members of the coal syndicate are interested in it as stockholders and sellers of gas. In 1929, 300 kilometres of new pipes were laid. The supply of gas began on April 1, 1928. In December, 1929, 47 million cubic metres of gas were being furnished monthly, and the figure rose above 60 million in April of this year. The monthly income from the gas business is now twice as high as a year ago, and 744 kilometres of gas-pipe lines have been laid. The company has concluded contracts with a great number of industrial undertakings and with a number of cities. Recently it also made an offer to the City of Frankfort to cover its additional requirements of gas, and also declared its readiness to buy some undeveloped coalfields, which the city, together with Cologne, bought at a high price two years ago in order to head off the Ruhrgas A.G. This transaction would free the two cities from a financial embarrassment.

The A.E.G., which has been showing marked activity since it came under the influence of the General Electric Company, has now secured a footing in Saxony through a surprising step. There existed there formerly two independent electro-technical factories, one of which, the Poege A.G., was in difficulties a few months ago, so that its stock capital had to be reduced at a ratio of 6 to 1. By the issue of new shares, however, the company's capital was increased by three million marks, and nobody knew who was the owner of these new shares. Now it is admitted that the A.E.G. was behind the transaction, but it transpires that the A.E.G. was not so much trying to gain an influence over the Poege concern as over the much greater Sachsenwerk, in which the banking house of the Arnhold Brothers is closely interested. In this it was successful. The Sachsenwerk is now fusing with the Poege, and in addition to the Sachsenwerk shares that were exchanged for Poege shares, it is to hand over to the A.E.G., a further two millions of Sachsenwerk shares. The condition precedent to this transaction is an agreement with Schroeder, of London, which must first announce its surrender of an option on Sachsenwerk shares given it in connection with a loan. A working agreement will be concluded between the A.E.G. and the Sachsenwerk, under which the former guarantees a dividend of 7 per cent. on the latter's common stock. The aim of the A.E.G. is obvious: it desires not only to get rid of an uncomfortable competitor in electrical industrial machines, but also and, above all, to effect an entrance into the business in Saxony, where the Sachsenwerk heretofore enjoyed a certain preferment.

The Reichseisenbahnrat, an advisory commission for railway questions, made up of representatives of all branches of Germany's economic life, has approved an increase of freight rates for sundry freights and baggage, but rejected any increase of rates for carload lots. The commission also proposed an increase of passenger rates to secure the 150 million marks demanded yearly by the railway company. The Cabinet has already approved the increase in rates for sundry freight and baggage, which assures an additional 70 million marks for the railway. An increase of passenger rates remains to be considered. In addition to the competition from motor-buses, the financial situation of the railway company has been especially affected by the fact that a part of the system, particularly bridges and tunnels, requires immediate improvement. The neglect during the war and inflation years is now making itself more strongly felt than was anticipated when the German railway company was organised. And on top of all this comes the enormous decline in business as a result of the unfavourable economic situation.

BELGIUM.

Coal Industry — Employment — Public Works — Agriculture — Capital Issues.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, May 9.

THE present general plight of the Belgian coal industry is beginning to cause uneasiness. In 1929 this industry enjoyed very favourable conditions—the balance sheets at December 31st showed substantial profits. Since the beginning of 1930 the coal market has become weaker every month, though until to-day selling prices have not given way very much. The National Railways Company, Ltd., obtained, on the basis of previous terms, a discount of 10 francs per ton on ordinary coal and of 14 francs on compressed fuel, the schedule of prices for industrial coal has diminished 15 to 20 francs, and household coal quotations have dropped about 25 francs. The fall is expected to continue.

Stocks are at present about 1,500,000 tons, and have been increasing 300,000 to 400,000 (metric) tons a month, that is about one-seventh of the output. Stocks at the pithead have never exceeded 1,850,000 tons, even in the most critical moments. They were only 280,000 tons last October, but on March 31st they had risen to 1,100,000 tons. It should, however, be noted that so high a level of stocks at the pithead may be (and in this case probably is to some extent) evidence of the financial power of the coal companies, which allow stocks to accumulate rather than sell at very unfavourable prices.

The present difficulties in the coal industry are consequent on the curtailment of demand for fuel by the industrial depression, but they have been emphasised by the very mild winter, which caused slackening in orders for household coal. Yet the output of coal, reduced in 1929 on grounds of labour shortage, has increased ever since the beginning of 1930. At one time, in order to recruit the necessary labour, pitowners had granted voluntary additional wage increments to pitmen, so that the miners' wage index has been above that of the cost of living. In view of the present situation the companies would like to cut part of these voluntary increments; the proposed reduction would be 5 per cent. of the present wages. This is resisted by the trade unions, and a strike in the coal industry is not impossible. The situation appears to be becoming really difficult. Though practically all the pitowners adhered to the " Comptoir des Charbons " instituted a year ago for the uniform regulation of prices and standing terms, its action has not been keenly felt, nor has it been tested by a crisis. There is at present some scepticism as to its efficiency.

Nevertheless the technical conditions of working in the Belgian coal mines have manifestly improved; daily output per man has reached 590 kilos. This figure is far below the corresponding rate of extraction for England and Germany, but one ought always to take into account that the working of the Belgian coal seams is less easy and that a great number of men are employed here at the pithead in sorting and washing the coals. The average daily production per man was only 561 kilos for 1928 and 525 for 1913. The use of machinery has been very much extended, and it is estimated at 71 per cent. of the total output for 1926 and 86 per cent. for 1928.

In general, though Belgium has suffered from the worldwide recession, she has not been very seriously affected. The latest available statement on unemployment records that on April 5th, out of 1½ million workmen, there were 13,700 totally and 21,900 partially unemployed. The resumption of outdoor work in agriculture and in the building industry will absorb this slight excess. Last year there was so acute a labour shortage that the execution of public work under construction was hampered.

This year big extension works have been pushed forward with the help of abundant funds and energetic action from the Ministry for Public Works. The extension works of the Antwerp port are proceeding rapidly. One section of the projected direct canal Liége-Antwerp (across the Campine), which will be navigable by river craft of 2,000 tons, has been started, and the Government will presently contract for the digging of other sections. The enlargement works in sections between Brussels and Clabecq on the Charleroi-Brussels canal are drawing to an end. After the programme of public works was passed in 1928 a special Bill organised an autonomous Fund for Extension Works of the waterways network, endowed with 1,800 million francs to be granted in allotments from 1928 to 1931; the increase in prices has raised the estimates to 3,000 million. The carrying out of these extension plans will, of course, mitigate to a certain extent the effects of the economic depression.

The situation in agriculture has been put seriously to the test in the last five months by the fall in the prices of sugar, flax and oats. Nevertheless, it can resist more successfully than it does in other countries, since the main revenue of the Belgian farming class proceeds from slaughter cattle and butter, for which profitable prices are still available. On the financial market, the leading trend seems in general firmer. Net issues of shares, which often exceed 1½ milliards monthly, shrank to 60 million francs in March. Funds are so abundant that banks grant only 1 per cent. interest, less income tax, on sight deposits.

NORWAY.

Money Market — Conversion Loan — Trade — Industry — Trondhjem Fair.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TRONDHJEM, May 10.

THE recent reduction of the Bank of England rate has, as usual, brought into the foreground the question of a similar step on the part of the Norges Bank. The bank return of May 8th shows ample evidence of the easier conditions governing the domestic market at the present, and furnishes some ground for the belief that was prevalent in banking circles on Thursday last that a reduction of the Bank rate was likely. There was, for instance, a net increase of the balance of foreign exchange of 2.6 million kroners, and the amount representing interest-bearing securities in portfolio had been increased by nearly 5 million kroner, although, on the other hand, balances with foreign banks decreased by 2 million kroner. Sight deposits rose from 83.5 to 87.1 million kroner, loans and discounts were reduced by 6.5 million kroner, and notes in circulation showed a similar contraction. However, as yet no reduction has been announced, and it is at any rate likely that the Norges Bank will postpone this step pending developments on the international markets.

In connection with the plans of the Government for the conversion of the 6 per cent. loan of 1920 (the so-called Landslaan) announcements are now forthcoming of the floating of a new Government loan for 100,000,000 kroner at 5 per cent. Of this amount 50 million kroner will be taken over by banks, insurance companies and other large holders of the old loan, while the remaining 50 million kroner will be offered to the public at a rate which has not yet been definitely fixed. Authorisation has also been given by the Storting for the Government to arrange for the conversion of the 6 per cent. loan that was raised in England in 1921. Of this loan £3¾ million is still outstanding, but is redeemable as from July 1, 1931, only, so that this question is not of immediate moment.

The general fall in world prices continues to influence conditions in Norway, especially as regards shipping and export industry. Otherwise, general trade is still good and the turnover in the various branches of retail trade is on the increase. The result of this year's fisheries has been very satisfactory, and the output of Antarctic whaling amounts to 1.2 million barrels, representing a value of well over 100 million kroner. In comparison it may be noted that last year's total world production, including that of the Antarctic as well as the summer season, amounted to 1¾ million barrels.

Foreign trade statistics for March reveal an excess of imports over exports of about 27 million kroner, against 23.6 million kroner in the same month last year. Imports during the first quarter of the year exceed exports by 64.4 million kroner, as compared with 58.6 million kroner during the same period last year. The increase of the adverse balance is chiefly due to the value of the imports having risen from 86.3 million kroner in March last year to 91 million kroner this year, the value of exports at the same time showing an increase of about 1 million kroner.

Industrial developments continue favourable, and the reports of a number of concerns for 1929, recently published, reveal satisfactory results and give promising forecasts for the current year. The recent capital issue of the Norsk Hydro (Azote) was very successful. An amount of 27,447,300 kroner was offered to the old shareholders in the proportion of one new share for three old shares, at par. Unemployment figures at April 15th show a decline of 2,704 unemployed persons from the preceding month, while, compared with the position at the same time last year, there is a decline of about 2,400. The cost of living index of the Statistical Bureau for April 15 is 175, a reduction of one point from the preceding month.

A big fair will be opened in Trondhjem on June 1st next in conjunction with the great Cathedral festivities that have just been instituted to-day in celebration of the ninth centenary of St. Olav—the founder of the Cathedral. The fair will be a splendid review of Norway's fisheries, industries, agriculture, etc. with a large number of exhibitors of all branches of trade and industry.

FINLAND.

Money Market — Foreign Bond Loan — Labour Market — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HELSINGFORS, April 22.

AN appreciably easier tendency was felt during March and at the beginning of April on the Finnish money market. It is principally the position of the Bank of Finland and of the joint-stock banks that has improved, as the easier state of things has not yet had time to affect trade and industry to the same extent. The reduced stringency is a consequence of the combination of several circumstances. By the taking up of loans abroad fresh capital has been brought into the country, while at the same time the redemption of foreign short-term indebtedness has strengthened the position. Lumber work is on a more restricted scale, work at the sawmills has been reduced considerably, and restrictions have been put into force in other branches of industry. Building, which was active a year ago, is at a standstill. As, in addition, the balance of

trade with other countries is far more favourable than during the last few years, it will readily be understood that the demand for credit has been less than usual.

The credits of joint-stock banks also showed a falling off of 14 million marks, whereas in March, 1929, they grew by 144 millions, and the year before by 294 millions. On the other hand, the banks' deposits increased by 226 million marks, compared with 163 millions a year before. This increase was due partly to the fact that some of the proceeds of the loan taken up by the Central Bank for the Co-operative Credit Societies were deposited for the time being in the joint-stock banks. The increase in money actually saved was still very small. By this means the difference between credits and deposits was reduced to 1,805 millions, compared with 2,157 millions a year ago.

With regard to the Bank of Finland, it should be noted that the supply of foreign currency was augmented in March by 194 million marks and in the first week in April by a further 36 millions, while the total credits fell off by 111 and 68 million marks respectively. In this way the cover for the note issue was raised from 60.8 per cent. at the end of February, to 66.5 per cent. at the end of March and 70.1 per cent. on April 8th. The proportion a year ago was 53.5 per cent.

A continued improvement in the state of the money market may be expected, for the falling rates of interest abroad have made it possible to take up two long-term loans in addition to that already referred to. In the middle of April the new sterling loan of the Industrial Mortgage Bank was issued in London, Stockholm and Helsingfors, this having been taken up from a syndicate with Messrs J. Henry Schröder and Company and Hambros Bank, Ltd., at its head. The loan is for two million pounds at a nominal rate of 6 per cent. and for a period of twenty-five years. Although part of these funds will be employed for redeeming short-term foreign indebtedness, some new capital will be introduced into the country. The psychological effects of this, on the Stock Exchange, for example, are already making themselves felt in advance.

The labour market, which had been very bad in January, has improved to some extent since then as a result of ordinary seasonal circumstances. The number of unemployed registered at the labour exchanges dropped from 12,751 at the end of January to 10,784 and 10,062 at the end of the following months and to 9,120 by the middle of April. The number of unemployed is, however, still about three times as large as it was a year ago.

Foreign trade was again exceptionally satisfactory in March. For the whole of the first quarter the value of imports was 953 million marks, compared with 1,188 and 1,690 millions in the two preceding years. The value of exports amounted to 844 million marks, compared with 687 and 744 millions in the preceding years, the easy ice conditions having exercised some influence this year. While Finland had a surplus of imports in the first quarter of 1928 of 947 million marks and one of 501 millions last year, the figure has dropped this year to only 109 millions. Although some fortuitous circumstances have contributed to this record result, it is nevertheless possible to expect that the adverse balance of trade of last year, and particularly of 1928, will not be repeated this year.

CANADA.

Budget — Tariff Revision — British Preference — National Finances — Trade — Politics.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, May 2.

ON May 1st Mr Dunning, the Minister of Finance, submitted his first Budget to a crowded House. Its appearance formed the climax of the session, and had been awaited everywhere with great interest, as there was a general realisation that in its contents and their reception by the country the fortunes of all parties in the approaching election campaign were deeply involved. Forecasts in the Press had prepared the public for extensive tariff changes, but few people anticipated the most comprehensive measure of tariff revision offered to Canada since the late Mr Fielding, in the Budget of 1897, introduced the principle of British preference. The Budget, which is a notable departure from the traditional fiscal policies of the Liberal Party, has many protectionist features obviously devised by way of retaliation for the penalties imposed by the Smoot-Hawley tariff on Canadian produce, and the general effect of the changes, which affect more than 500 out of a total of 1,188 schedules in the tariff, is to encourage a substantial diversion of trade from American to Canadian and British hands. There has been every disposition to show ample consideration for Canadian industry, but Imperial trade co-operation is also aimed at through the widespread and generous extension of the British preference, which will give British goods free entry to the Canadian market under 589 schedules. Mr Dunning said that the Government had no desire to indulge in a tariff war with anybody, and he declared that the changes were the expression of the spirit in which Canada would approach the forthcoming Imperial Economic Conference, and were planned not merely to increase British exports to Canada, but to enable the Canadian people to buy more freely from such countries as gave a kindly welcome to Canada's most important products. He estimated that the changes would affect a range of business valued annually at least 200 million dollars.

The most important alterations are in the iron and steel schedules, which are completely readjusted. In some cases the general rates under which American imports enter are raised, and in others there is either an extension or a free listing under the British preference. A similar policy is adopted in regard to a long list of machinery items of all kinds, engines, electrical equipment, typewriters, lighting fixtures, and also to a variety of household ware, like china, refrigerators and aluminium ware. The net result will be to place in jeopardy a considerable proportion of the exports in these lines which the United States has been shipping to Canada to the annual value of some 330 million dollars.

But these are not the only blows aimed at the United States. To meet the complaints of the fruit and vegetable growers, who have suffered from the dumping of surplus American produce at bargain-counter prices, the rates of the general tariff on these products are stiffened in many cases by a minimum specific duty, and they are all made free under the British preferential rate. The object of this latter change is to help British Colonies like Bermuda and the British West Indies to capture the Canadian market for vegetables and fruits during the winter season. Furthermore, a direct reprisal for the Smoot-Hawley tariff is planned in the shape of a countervailing duty upon a list of commodities, chiefly farm products like livestock, eggs, flour and meats, on which Canada will impose rates equivalent to those imposed by the country of origin upon the corresponding Canadian products, when these rates are higher than those existing in the Canadian tariff. In announcing this provision Mr Dunning explained that countries who interchange in trade these particular commodities with Canada will have it at any time in their power to secure by reciprocal action the reduction of Canadian duties to their normal level.

The coal industry is helped by a bounty of 49½c. per ton on Canadian bituminous coal when it is converted into coke for smelting purposes, to be continued as long as the present rebate on imported bituminous coal exists. Then the clamour of the dairymen of Canada against the heavy inflow of New Zealand butter is being met by a double move. The rates on butter, which are at present 3c. per lb. British preference, 4c. intermediate and 5c general, are raised to 4c., 6c. and 7c respectively, and Mr Dunning also announced that the existing trade arrangements with New Zealand would terminate by mutual consent on October 12th of this year; this means that New Zealand butter, which is now admitted at a rate of 1c. per lb. under the terms of the Australian trade treaty subsequently made applicable to the sister Dominion, will now have to face a duty of 4c. per lb. Mr Dunning, however, intimated that on October 12th Canada would extend her full British preference to New Zealand, and that negotiations were afoot for a direct trade agreement between the two Dominions. He also reported that a new trade agreement with Newfoundland was on the verge of completion.

A detailed arithmetical survey of the tariff changes is impossible here, but they can scarcely fail to effect a temporary dislocation of the currents of Canadian business and also to give the authors of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill much food for thought. At the close of his speech Mr Dunning said that his investigations had convinced him that more British goods could be sold in Canada, but he added that British sellers, even with the advantage of the British preference, must seek the Canadian buyers through sales and service organisations comparable with those of their most effective competitor.

Revenue for the last fiscal year is estimated at $447,372,000, as compared with $461,847,000 in the previous year, and as Mr Dunning placed expenditure at $402,805,000, as compared with $380,311,496, he claimed a surplus of 44½ million dollars. He declared that the Government was entitled to credit for retiring out of surplus revenue last year two loans totalling 80 million dollars, and reducing the debt interest charges since 1922 by 20 million dollars to a present figure of 113½ million dollars. He gave the total of the country's funded and unfunded national debt at the close of the fiscal year as $2,250,837,336, of which, roughly, $1,637,000,000 was repayable in Canada, 311½ millions in London, 166 millions in New York, and 136 millions alternatively in Canada or New York. Mr Dunning announced a cut in the sales tax from 2 to 1 per cent. and some minor concessions in regard to the income tax.

His account of the financial position of the Canadian National Railways was less encouraging, for their revenues last year had declined to $36,389,058, and they had fallen short of meeting the interest charges due to the public by nearly nine million dollars without taking any account of the large annual sum of interest owned by the railway on advances made by the Government. When the deficit of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine and other items were added, the total drain during the past year made by the State-owned railway upon the Federal Treasury was just a little short of 10 million dollars. Furthermore, Mr Dunning had to admit that, during the past year, the Canadian National Railways had found it necessary to float, with the help of Government guarantees, loans aggregating 120 million dollars, of which only a small proportion was used for refunding purposes.

Exports in 1929, at 1,145 million dollars, were 244 millions lower, and since imports amounted to 1,248 million dollars there has been an adverse trade balance of 103 million dollars. Mr Dunning pointed out, however, that for this situation the grain market impasse was largely responsible, as exports of grain to the United Kingdom alone had fallen off by 138 million dollars. In his review of the general economic condition of the Dominion he asserted that, although agriculture had had a troubled and disappointing year, industrial production had reached a new peak figure, and that an expanding development of substantial dimensions had been visible in the general business economic structure of the Dominion. He contended that Canada had effectively marshalled her resources to meet the grain market crisis and the stock market *débâcle* of last autumn, and that underlying business conditions were essentially sound and full of hopeful augury for the future.

The supporters of the Government are enthusiastic about the Budget, and are confident that it will materially assist to revive the fortunes of the King Ministry, which in recent months have been decidedly on the wane as the result of the grain market crisis, the unemployment situation and other factors. The general impression in Ottawa is that, if the Conservatives obstruct or even offer fairly resolute opposition to the Budget, Mr King will lose little time in dissolving Parliament and appealing to the country. It is, however, going to be very difficult for the Conservative Party to oppose a Budget which has such a strong flavour of Empire co-operation, and they may content themselves with criticisms of details. In that event the Government would find it impossible to make the Budget a national issue, and would probably carry on for some time longer in the hope that a promise of good crops and a business revival might create greater appreciation of their merits among the voters for an election in the late autumn. Meanwhile, all preparations for the contest are going ahead.

Letters to the Editor.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr. Herbert G. Williams complains that I do not appreciate his own special brand of humour, or, alternatively, that I myself am lacking in that "saving grace." When Mr Williams wrote that Mr Beard (including, I presume, all other Free Traders) "was of course writing nonsense," I endeavoured to exercise a becoming restraint in merely describing his views as "bigoted." I now gather that Mr Williams was only humorous, and therefore I apologise for and withdraw the offending expression.

When it comes to Mr Williams' "serious" arguments in his last two letters to the *Economist* I frankly confess that I do find them extremely humorous. Mr Williams first of all defined the Free Trade position as equivalent to "sending a ship backwards and forwards without discharging its cargo." Then, when caught in the net of his own false analogy, he attempts to extricate himself by repeating the same argument with a few verbal alterations. He bases his new position "on the complete absurdity and economic waste" of sending, *e.g.*, steel rails to the Argentine, and buying back interchangeable and identical goods, say, from Belgium. Let us see. In the first place, the steel rails we send to the Argentine are not, in fact, identical with the goods we import from Belgium, and even if they were, at the worst, we should be selling "dear" and buying "cheap," which I believe is a good business proposition. Secondly, suppose we put an embargo on the *assumed* identical steel we import from Belgium, as the protectionists advocate, all that would happen would be that, although we should make more steel, we should lose the reciprocal trade which, either directly or indirectly, the purchase of Belgian steel involves.

Fundamentally, the answer to Mr Williams is that Free Trade does not consist in the exchange of goods, identical both in price and quality, but in the exchange of goods for goods which we cannot advantageously produce ourselves, and Mr Beard makes a good suggestion in asking Mr Williams to visit any of our ports and see for himself. Finally, let me

THE UNIQUE CHARM OF SOUTHWOLD.

THIS PICTURESQUE SMALL TOWN on the Suffolk Coast is an ideal place for those who desire a few days' complete change and rest. The Town itself, with its wonderful Church and quaint "greens" and great, high Common commanding extensive views over sea and land, is different from the usual seaside resorts.

Across the river is WALBERSWICK, the haunt of nearly all artists and of many famous authors for some fifty years past, and from here are many beautiful walks or rides, either along the beach or across the silent marshes, to the lost city of DUNWICH, or over hilly gorse and heather commons flanked by woods to BLYTHBURGH, with its noble church, or WENHASTON, with the large mediæval picture of "The Doom."

From Southwold delightful short motor excursions may be made to FRAMLINGHAM (20 miles), with its vast castle and church, with splendid monuments of the tragic Howards, or to WINGFIELD CASTLE (21 miles), the great Manor House of the ill-fated Dukes of Suffolk, with the beautiful effigy of Elizabeth Plantagenet in the church adjoining, or to ALDEBURGH THORPENESS (18 miles) and ORFORD, remote from modern life, with the great Norman keep still dominating town and coast.

Southwold provides excellent sea angling, and there is an attractive 18-hole golf course. By train from London it is about two hours to SAXMUNDHAM (14 miles) and a little more to DARSHAM (7 miles), HALESWORTH (9 miles), where motors from hotels meet visitors by appointment.

There is THE SWAN HOTEL (h. & c. water in every bedroom) in the Market Place, a well-known and most comfortable hotel with a century's reputation (Tel. 5), and also a smaller, THE CROWN HOTEL, an old Georgian Inn recently reconstructed (Tel. 53), both well known for the excellence of their catering.

add that if protectionists would only envisage foreign trade from this true point of view, and omit the confusing element of *money payments*, which have no theoretical bearing on the issue, I believe this would do much to clarify their mental processes.—Your obedient servant,

FRANK MORRIS.

Constitutional Club, Northumberland Avenue.
May 13, 1930.

BROADCASTING: BRITISH AND FOREIGN SYSTEMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—I have read with considerable interest the article in the May 3rd issue of your excellent paper entitled "Broadcasting: British and Foreign Systems—II."

Your correspondent makes several statements in respect to American broadcasting which I feel I cannot let pass without criticism.

First, ". . . the average American station has to live by the amount of custom it can secure. . . ." Actually, the *average* American station is owned by a commercial organisation (a manufacturing company, a "store," a newspaper, etc.), and its primary purpose is to advertise this organisation; incidentally, it very often pays for its way by selling hours to other concerns.

Next, ". . . an advertiser who broadcasts tedious, over-vulgar or over-highbrow material in his 'hour' will eventually discover that he is losing money, and will then change his programme. . . " Actually, the more important broadcasting stations and/or systems have concise statistics showing the type of programme most in keeping with the product to be advertised and the hour at which it will do most good; in practice, these statistics have proved to be more than accurate.

Again, ". . . listeners pay little attention to the name of the corporation which purchase the hour to which they listen. . ." This statement is very far removed from the truth. The names of the different programmes are literally household words, and any radio "fan" in the United States and Canada will tell you over what station and at what times he can listen to the General Motors, Ipana, Lucky Strike, etc., "hours."

Lastly, ". . . the commercialisation of broadcasting acts not merely positively in introducing rubbish, but negatively in discouraging the unusual and good. . . " To refute this argument I need merely quote two of the highbrow series of programmes which are broadcast in America—those recently sponsored by the General Electric Company in the United States and Imperial Oil, Ltd., in Canada, featuring Mr Walter Damrosch and Mr Reginald Stewart respectively in a series of illustrated microphone lectures on Symphony Orchestra construction, very similar to those recently given in this country by Sir Walford Davies.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

3, Regent Street,
British Columbia House,
London, S.W.1.
May 12, 1930.

RADIO PUBLICITY, LTD.,
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Director.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Memorandum on International Trade and Balance of Payments, 1926-1928. Vol. II. *Balance of Payments*. (Geneva) League of Nations.

This volume contains details of the international balance of payments of twenty-nine countries, so far as they are available, in the years 1924-28, preceded by a very valuable introduction.

The Theory of Interest. By Irving Fisher. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 25s. net.

Begun as a revision of Professor Fisher's earlier book, "The Rate of Interest," this dissertation has developed into an almost entirely new work, though the author's theory is modified less in substance than in presentation.

The Influence of Communications Internal and External upon the Economic Future of China. By Ming-Ju Cheng. With an Introduction by W. Tetley Stephenson. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 7s. 6d. net.

An important study of transport and other communications in China, and their relation to the economic future of the country.

The Future of Empire Trade. By J. E. Ray, with a foreword by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 2s. net.

A short statement of the case for increased economic co-operation within the Empire.

Legal Aspects of Commercial Letters of Credit. By Herman N. Finkelstein. With an Introduction by Karl N. Llewellyn. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 37s. 6d. net.

A remarkably full and well-documented volume with an excellent index.

Public Companies and the Investor. By A. E. Cutforth. (London) G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., York House, Portugal Street. 10s. 6d. net.

The author, who is an accountant, has devoted great care to the initiation of the investor into the science of interpreting balance sheets and prospectuses. His book is clear and readable without being unduly elementary.

Income Tax up to Date. (London) The Financial News, 20, Bishopsgate. 9d.

One of the more useful representatives of a numerous species, this booklet makes it possible, with the aid of its clear examples and tables, for any income-tax payer to calculate the amount of his own liability under the new rates.

The Directory of Directors, 1930. (London) Thomas Skinner and Company, 330, Gresham House, Old Broad Street. 25s. net.

This indispensable work of reference now contains over 32,000 names and there have been over 6,000 changes in the current edition.

Oil Facts and Figures, May, 1930. (London) Frederic C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue. 1s. 6d.

Contains financial particulars of oil companies, with a table of output statistics.

The Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. (London) John Murray, Albemarle Street. 15s.

Of the special articles, which cover a wide range of subjects of agricultural interest, that which perhaps has the greatest interest for the general reader is the paper by Sir William Haldane on "The World Shortage of Cattle—its Future Effects on British Agriculture."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Suez Canal: Annual Return of Shipping and Tonnage for the year 1929. 2d. net.

Eighteenth Report of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, being for year ended December 31, 1929. Cmd. 3561. 1s. 6d. net.

The List of Applications will close on or before Saturday, 24th May, 1930.

IRISH FREE STATE

Third National Loan

(4½% Registered and Inscribed Stock, 1950-1970.)

ISSUE OF £6,000,000

Price of Issue £93½ PER CENT.

Interest payable 1st April and 1st October.

First Dividend payable on 1st October, 1930, as follows:—

	Per cent.
(a) On instalment allotments	£0 18 6
(b) On fully-paid allotments	£1 12 6

Principal repayable at par on 1st October, 1970, the Government of the Irish Free State having the option to redeem the stock in whole or in part, at par, on or after the 1st April, 1950, on giving three calendar months' notice in *Iris Oifigiuil*.

Both the Principal and Interest of this Issue will be a charge on the Central Fund of the Irish Free State.

The following banks are authorised by the Government of the Irish Free State to offer for subscription £6,000,000 of the above Stock authorised to be issued under Act of the Oireachtas, entitled the Central Fund Act, 1930 (No. 7 of 1930):—

BANK OF IRELAND.
HIBERNIAN BANK.
MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK.
NATIONAL BANK.
NATIONAL CITY BANK, DUBLIN.
NORTHERN BANK.
PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND.
ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND.
ULSTER BANK.
GUINNESS, MAHON & CO.

Payment will be required as follows, viz.:—

£10	per cent. on application.	
£20	" "	allotment, 10th June, 1930.
£20	" "	10th July, 1930.
£20	" "	8th August, 1930.
£20	" "	5th September, 1930.
£23 10s.	" "	

Payment in full of instalment applications may be made after allotment, and discount at the rate of two per cent. per annum will be allowed. Where payment is made in full between two instalment dates, discount will be calculated as from the instalment date next succeeding the date of such full payment.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date, the amount previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

In case of partial allotment, the balance of the amount lodged with the application will be appropriated towards payment of the instalment due on allotment.

Applications must be for sums of £10 or multiples thereof.

The Registered and Inscribed Stock of this issue is a Trustee Investment in the Irish Free State authorised by the Trustee Act, 1893, and trustees may invest therein, even though the price at the time of investment exceeds the redemption value of £100 per cent.

The Government of the Irish Free State undertake to set aside on 1st April and 1st October of each year a sum equal to 2½ per cent. of the total nominal amount of the loan. After deducting therefrom the amount required for payment of interest, the balance of the sum so set aside will be carried to a Sinking Fund which will be applied to the purchase of the Loan for cancellation or otherwise invested for the benefit of the Sinking Fund.

Arrangements will be made to enable stock of this Issue to be accepted at its face value, with due allowance for any unpaid interest accrued thereon, as the equivalent of cash in satisfaction of amounts due on account of Death Duties payable in respect of any property passing on a death, provided that such stock has formed part of that property continuously up to the date of death from the date of the original subscription or for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the date of death.

The Books of this issue will be kept at separate Registers at the Head Office of the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and at the principal Office of the same Bank in Cork, and transfer between the Registers in Dublin and the Registers in Cork will be free of charge.

Stock may be inscribed as transferable in the Stock Transfer Books, or may be registered as transferable by Deed.

Inscribed Stock will be exchangeable for Registered Stock, or *vice versa*, without payment of any fee.

Stock will be transferable in any sums which are multiples of a penny.

Powers of Attorney for the transfer of Inscribed Stock and Deeds for the transfer of Registered Stock will be free of Stamp Duty.

Dividends on Stock will be paid by warrant, which will be sent by post.

Dividends on Stock of this issue will be paid without deduction of Income tax, but the income derived from such dividends will be assessable to Income tax in the hands of the recipients at the rates of tax appropriate to their respective incomes.

Stock of the present issue and the dividends payable from time to time in respect thereof will be exempt from all taxation of the Irish Free State, present or future, if it is shown in the manner directed by the Minister for Finance that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of a person who is neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the Irish Free State.

Fully-paid Allotment Letters may be "Inscribed," transferable in the Stock Transfer Books, or "Registered," transferable by Deed.

A Commission of 5s. per cent. will be allowed to Bankers, Stockbrokers, and Financial Houses on allotments made in respect of applications bearing their stamp.

The Stock now offered will be officially quoted on the Dublin and Cork Stock Exchanges.

Application Forms may be obtained from any Bank or Post Office, from Messrs. Butler and Briscoe, 18–19 College Green, Dublin, from any other Stockbroker, from the Department of Finance, Dublin, and from the High Commissioner for the Irish Free State, York House, Regent Street, London.

Instalments may be paid without additional charge through any of the Offices of the aforementioned Banks.

DUBLIN, 10th May, 1930.

The List of Applications will close on or before Saturday, 24th May, 1930. **Form A**

APPLICATION FOR "INSTALMENT" ALLOTMENT. *No.*.....

IRISH FREE STATE

(4½% Third National Loan, 1950-1970)

ISSUE OF STOCK

Price of Issue £93½ per cent.

To the Bank of Ireland, Hibernian Bank, Munster and Leinster Bank, National Bank, National City Bank, Dublin, Northern Bank, Provincial Bank of Ireland, Royal Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, Guinness, Mahon and Co.

In terms of the Prospectus dated the 10th May, 1930, I/we hereby apply for an Instalment Allotment of £....., say.....pounds of the above-mentioned issue.

And I/we hereby engage to pay the instalments as they shall become due on any allotment that may be made in respect of this application as provided in the said Prospectus.

The sum of £....., being the amount of the required deposit (at the rate of £10 for every £100 applied for), is enclosed herewith.

I/We request that any allotment made in respect of this application may be—

1. Inscribed as Stock—"transferable in the Stock Transfer Books,"
   at* Bank of Ireland, Dublin / Bank of Ireland, Cork
2. Registered as Stock—"transferable by Deed"
   at* Bank of Ireland, Dublin / Bank of Ireland, Cork

One or other of these two categories must be selected, and the one not selected must be struck out.

Signature.....

Name of Applicant in full.....

Communications to be addressed to:—

Name.....

Address.....

Date.....1930.

PLEASE WRITE DISTINCTLY.

* Strike out the place not selected.

The Stock Exchange.

THE TIN OUTLOOK.

THE tin-producing industry had sufficient experience of falling prices last year to be convinced of the wisdom of the classic advice of agreeing quickly with one's adversary. The industry agreed that its adversary was over-production and, without attempting closely to define that elusive term, the British section of the tin-producing industry took speedy steps to deal with it. The Tin Producers' Association was formed, and at the beginning of this year proposed a scheme for the restriction of output in British Malaya and Nigeria, for which it obtained the support of the Patino and Aramayo groups of Bolivian mines. Following upon the formation of the Tin Producers' Association, a merger of four of the five principal smelting plants in the British Empire was arranged under the title of Consolidated Tin Smelters, Ltd. (the Straits Trading Company being left outside), which was intended to facilitate the buying of tin ore from scattered producers and prevent haphazard marketing of the metal. This concerted move towards "rationalisation" encouraged the tin-producing industry at the beginning of this year to believe that with the spot price of tin down to £176 a ton—as compared with £223 at the beginning of 1929—the worst had been seen.

Nevertheless, last week was the blackest experienced since 1922. The spot price in the London metal market fell to £142 8s. 9d. a ton—a decline of 38 per cent. from the 1929 high level of £229 15s. and of 55½ per cent. from the 1926 peak of £321 2s. 6d. a ton. The occasion of the fall was the heavy and unexpected increase in the "visible supply" returns and in the stocks held in the East. The following figures, published by the Metal Exchange, show at a glance how the statistical position of the tin industry has deteriorated since 1927 and how sharp was the increase in stocks in April this year:—

	Visible Supply.* Tons.	Carry-over in the Straits Settlements.† Tons.	Total. Tons.
December, 1927	15,733	1,450	17,183
December, 1928	24,563	1,235	25,798
December, 1929	28,140	4,725	32,865
January, 1930	29,032	4,730	33,762
February, 1930	33,581	4,330	37,911
March, 1930	32,972	3,085	36,057
April, 1930	36,595	5,664	42,259

* Stocks landing or warehoused in Great Britain, U.S.A. and Holland, and tin afloat to Great Britain, U.S.A. and Europe from the East.

† Figures of Messrs Ricard and Freiwald.

It is difficult to explain the abnormal increase in the "visible supply" and "carry-over" returns for April except on the assumption that the smelting companies in the East have been working off some of their accumulated stocks. It can scarcely be due to any increase in production, for the restriction scheme which the Tin Producers' Association has now brought into effect has already resulted in a considerable curtailment of output. An announcement of the Tin Producers' Association, reported in the *Economist* of April 19th, declared that producers with a normal output of 137,799 tons of metallic tin a year had agreed to curtail output to the extent of 24,096 tons and that an aggregate curtailment of 30,000 tons a year should not be unattainable. The actual reduction in mining output for the first three months of 1930, as reported by the Metallgesellschaft of Frankfurt, was as follows:—

Mine Production in terms of Metallic Tin (Metric tons).

	Monthly Average for 1929.	January, 1930.	February, 1930.	March, 1930.
British Malaya	5,873	6,443	4,989	6,055
D.E. Indies	2,959	3,379	2,312	2,056
China, &c.	1,776	2,080	1,657	1,819
Nigeria	890	961	905	794
Bolivia	3,922	4,200	3,200	2,500
Other Countries	845	860	838	855
	16,265	17,923	13,901	14,079

These figures clearly show the effect of curtailment of output. On the basis of the January production figure the world total mine output for 1930, if uncontrolled, might have been estimated in the neighbourhood of 216,000 metric tons, against 195,185 metric tons in 1929. If the 30,000 tons curtailment proposed by the Tin Producers' Association be applied to the former figure, the 1930 production may be put at 186,000 tons. If, however, the monthly output for the rest of the year be calculated on the March level of 14,000 metric tons the total "probable" output for the year comes out at about 172,000 tons.

The question arises as to whether—in view of the world setback in trade and industry this year—a curtailment of output of 30,000 tons or even 44,000 tons this year will be sufficient to bring supplies into line with a reduced demand. Deliveries in America for the first four months this year amounted to 26,210 tons, as compared with 30,958 tons in the corresponding period of 1929—a decline of over 15 per cent. Last year world consumption, according to the estimates of the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation, which are stated to cover about 90 per cent. of world trade, would appear to be in the neighbourhood of 184,320 tons. This is probably a conservative figure, since the Metallgesellschaft estimate for 1928 consumption was as much as 174,200 tons. If it is reasonable to assume, having regard to American deliveries in the first four months of this year, that world demand will fall 10 per cent. below that of 1929, the total consumption for 1930 may be about 166,000 tons, as against an estimated mining output, at the lower of the two figures mentioned above, of 172,000 metric tons. In other words, if the rate of world consumption this year is no better than that of the first four months, the curtailment of output which the Tin Producers' Association has brought into effect will not be sufficient to bring supply into complete equilibrium with demand.

The situation, however, may not be quite so unpromising as these figures indicate. In the first place, there is a possibility that the consumption of tin in America may improve before the end of this year. In the first three months of 1930 the output of the American automobile industry was only 68 per cent. of the corresponding 1929 figure. Nevertheless, the Ford Motor Company in this period was steadily increasing its output and is now producing nearly 9,000 cars and trucks a day, its passenger cars accounting for nearly 45 per cent. of the total American output of that class of vehicle. If the recovery of the Ford Motor Company points to a general changeover to the lower-priced car it is not impossible that the American motor industry will justify the prognostications of sanguine American observers and reach a higher level of output before the autumn.

In the second place, the slump in the price of tin may ultimately do more to effect curtailment of output than all the schemes of the Tin Producers' Association. How far Chinese mines have been forced by the present level of prices to suspend operations, or how far the leading producers in Bolivia have restricted their output in deference to the restriction programme of the Tin Producers' Association and the expressed wishes of the Bolivian Government, must remain uncertain until further shipment returns are published. It is not unreasonable, however, to suppose that, if there is no sharp recovery in the price of the metal, the tin production of the world this year may well be less than the estimated total of 172,000 tons. Mr E. J. Cornish, Vice-President of the Patino Mines, who may be presumed to be an authority on mining costs, has recently declared, in so many words, that the price of tin is more powerful than any cartel, since it is impossible at the moment for many tin mines to operate at a profit.

While the uncertainty as to the statistical position remains, however, both the metal and the share markets are likely to be highly sensitive to the publication of monthly returns of stocks. Have the stocks held in the East been completely disclosed? Are tin stocks held in warehouses in this country—estimated at over 18,000 tons—in strong hands or are they likely to find their way on to the market at inconvenient times? These are questions that cannot as yet be answered. At the moment of writing sentiment has improved and the price of the metal has recovered to £147 12s. 6d. a ton. The following table shows that the market prices of tin shares are slightly above the bottom:—

	1929. High.	1930. High.	1930. Low.	Present Price.	Last year's Divs.
Malayan Tin, 5s.	30/3	28/9	23/9	24/6	60%
Southern Malayan, 5s.	17/6	17/9	15/–	14/9	30% (est.)
Kamunting, 5s.	17/10½	10/6	7/7½	8/3	10%
Tronoh, 5s.	22/10½	23/–	18/4½	19/–	32½%
Patino Mines, $20	9 11/16	5 3/16	4¼	4¼	12/–

Altogether, the available evidence suggests that the present price of tin is abnormally unfavourable from the producer's point of view. When world consumption resumes its normal rate of increase and the world's visible tin stocks are reduced, it is more than possible that there will be another of those sharp recoveries in prices on the Metal Exchange which are as much against the interests of producers as the extreme slump which we are now witnessing. It has been pointed out that since 1900 (apart from the abnormal period of 1919-1921) tin prices have always reached a "peak" every six years. The last peak was in 1926. If a similar time-table operates for the next cycle, a fresh peak will be reached in 1932, when the experts may be expected duly to bring forward figures to show that the world's consumption has "outpaced" its productive capacity.

SOME AMERICAN RAILROAD FIGURES.

THOUGH the American rail market in London is but the ghost of its pre-war self, there are still many British investors, public and private, who hold these stocks, and have been interested to discover that market opinion is even more divided as to railroad prospects in America than in Great Britain. Without venturing, however, on the thorny question whether road competition will, or will not, steal traffic and profits from the railways in America, as it has done in England, we may point out that railroad stocks have, in fact, recovered this year, only about 17½ per cent. of the ground lost during last year's slump in Wall Street, while industrials generally have regained 38½ per cent., and public utility stocks 55½ per cent. of their losses, according to the index figures prepared by the Standard Statistics Company. The railroads are, naturally, feeling the effect of the recession in American industrial activity. The total freight-car-loadings in the first quarter of 1930 showed a decline of 7 per cent. as compared with 1929, while the net earnings of 28 companies for the first three months of this year showed a drop of no less than 32 per cent. The following figures are instructive:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.
Average weekly freight-car loadings (Thous. cars)	979	993	1,014	837	876	883
Average monthly gross earnings, thirty railroads (Million $)	353	351	363	298	296	...

These introductory remarks may enable our readers to put into a rough perspective the detailed results achieved by three well-known American systems last year which have been summarised by our New York correspondent.

Southern Pacific.—The income from this company's lines and its solely controlled affiliated companies was equivalent in 1929 to $12.99 per share on the average capital outstanding, an increase of $2.28 over the preceding year. The property investment of the system increased by $69,891,889 to $322,914,542, and the total assets, at $426,625,319, were $74,070,394 higher than at the end of 1928. The total railway operating revenues for 1929 reached $310,969,138, and were the largest in the company's history, showing an increase of $10,865,110 over the revenues of 1928. The gain was largely the result of an increase of 5.03 per cent. in the volume of revenue freight carried, but partly reflected a windfall of $2,096,312 from a retro-active mail pay increase for the period from May, 1925, to July, 1928.

A few significant figures from the income accounts for the past two years may be set out as follows:—

	1928. $	1929. $
Operating revenues	300,104,027	310,969,138
Operating expenses	216,734,202	219,698,403
Net from railway operations	83,369,825	91,270,735
Railway tax accruals	21,525,425	22,263,607
Net railway operating income	54,908,101	59,741,859
Non-operating income	13,300,658	17,852,215
Interest and other deductions	29,180,126	30,178,744
Net income	39,028,633	47,434,930
Dividends	22,342,884	22,342,900

The total assets of the system at the end of the year were $2,277,779,543, an increase of $34,392,089, while funded debt increased by $7,514,592.

For the first three months of 1930 the Southern Pacific Company has reported gross receipts of $63,689,423 and net railway operating income of $7,130,739. These figures compare with $72,135,190 and $11,474,544 respectively during the same period last year.

Union Pacific.—The 1929 gross operating revenues of the Union Pacific system showed an increase of $2,187,347, and net income from transportation was $1,506,573 higher. Inclusive of other income the net earnings available for the common stock, after paying preferred dividends, were $45,264,328, equivalent to $20.36 per share, compared with $42,125,148 ($18.95 per share) in the previous year. The company's freight revenue was $2,177,477 higher than in 1928, but passenger revenues dropped by $563,254. Significantly enough, the system's revenue from highway motor-coach services dropped $280,599, although it is now operating motor lines from Chicago and St. Louis to Los Angeles and Portland, with feeder routes, over 7,000 miles of highway. Its investment in properties for this service, made in order to maintain its position in passenger transportation, amounted to about three million dollars at the end of 1929.

The company retired funded debt to a total of $47,242,000, leaving $362,116,420 in the hands of the public on December 31, 1929.

The principal items of the income account are shown:—

	1928. $	1929. $
Operating revenues	215,169,245	217,356,592
Operating expenses	146,256,488	147,026,561
Net from transportation	43,818,995	45,325,568
Income from other sources	20,346,558	21,598,472
Fixed and other charges	18,058,681	17,667,998
Net income	46,106,872	49,256,042
Dividends	26,210,884	26,210,884
Carried forward	19,895,988	23,045,158

Investments in other than affiliated companies are valued at $170,146,114, plus United States Government bonds and notes of $32,013,361, while a surplus of $330,590,046 was shown.

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé.—The gross operating revenues of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway for 1929 set a new high record, aggregating $264,695,984, against $248,074,187 in 1928. The net income available for dividends and surplus increased from $49,930,430 to $61,036,803, or from the equivalent of $18.09 to $23.76 a share on the common stock.

The President of the company, in his annual report, criticised the proposed allocations of other lines to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé system under the tentative grouping plan drawn up by the Interstate Commerce Commission last December. He declared that "properties which are joined in consolidation should integrate well," and that this condition did not apply to "a considerable part of what is tentatively allocated" to the company.

The operating statistics of the company showed an increase last year of 10,057,349 passenger miles, or 0.82 per cent., but passenger revenues were $445,372 lower than in 1928. The total freight ton-miles increased by 1,404,176,066 (8.19 per cent.). The principal items of the income account follow:—

	1928.	1929.
	$	$
Operating revenues	247,632,836	267,189,178*
Operating expenses	171,992,255	175,243,236
Railway tax accruals	17,772,346	20,340,961
Net railway oper. income	55,332,525	68,652,330
Other income	6,224,256	5,827,913
Interest on bonds	11,094,119	12,766,878
Net corporate income	49,930,430	61,036,803
Carried forward	...	30,447,244

* Includes $2,493,193 back "mail pay."

The report for the first quarter of 1930 showed a decline in gross operating revenues from $58,432,498 to $53,166,586. The net railway operating income fell from $12,250,175 to $4,884,856, a large part of the decline being chargeable to the heavy maintenance programme, including rail renewals. According to the President, Mr W. B. Storey, however, a "normal" profit for the year is expected.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
May 20.	May 22.

The week opened in quiet fashion, with the investment markets burdened with large amounts of undigested stock from recent new issues and industrial shares quiet in view of the continued rise in the unemployment figures, the unfavourable April trade returns and the bad showing made by published company reports, especially in the textile industries. As the week progressed, however, the undertone became slightly firmer. Gilt-edged prices strengthened, new stocks being absorbed, on the whole, more quickly than had been anticipated, and elsewhere such fractional changes as were recorded were usually on the right side, while mining shares benefited from the harder tone of the base metal markets. Stock Exchange sentiment, in short, remains undecided, and is revealing the week-to-week fluctuations, with no definite trend, characteristic of a period in which cheap money on the one hand and of the visible signs of trade depression on the other, are pulling against each other.

Gilt-edged stocks showed a "psychological" improvement after a depressing start. Funding Loan fell appreciably on Monday, and the 4½ per cent. Conversion issues on Tuesday. From Wednesday onwards, however, better investment demand was in evidence, particularly as regards War Loan. News from India again proved a bear point for India loans, the 4½ per cent issues being the chief sufferers. Australian loans came on offer, with, however, a stronger tone in mid-week.

The outstanding development in the Foreign market was the opening of dealings in the new San Paulo 7 Per Cents., which, after touching 1⅞ discount, improved to 1 11/16 discount. Other Brazilians were dull, the appearance of the new stock inducing sales by tired bulls of the older issues. Japanese bonds were steady on the success of the new Conversion issue. German 7 Per Cents. improved, but scattered realisation of other Europeans was in progress.

Though a moderately favourable traffic showing would probably have brought out appreciable buying of Home Railway stocks, the week's batch of figures was, in fact, unsatisfactory. All the groups except the Southern showed an appreciable drop in gross earnings, to which the market attached the greater significance in view of the restoration, as from May 1st, of the 2½ per cent. previously deducted from wages. Great Western and London, Midland and Scottish came back to the lowest levels of the year, and some selling occurred of prior charge stocks. Among foreign rails, Argentine stocks were heavy on further traffic losses. The maintenance of the Leopoldina dividend at 5 per cent. had been generally anticipated, though the stock showed a modest rise.

Industrial shares had an undistinguished week, the market being more susceptible than usual to the tone of Wall Street, which, on the whole, was firmer. A fair business was done in motor shares, Leylands obtaining most attention. Courtaulds were better supported than of late. The bad showing made by the week's company reports was a deterrent to business in the textile market. The Fine Spinners' figures, however, had been fully discounted, and the shares enjoyed a modest recovery. Breweries were steady, but demand for tobacco shares was again on quiet lines. International Tea rose on rumours of the company's possible absorption by the Unilever interests. Symptoms of increasing interest were discernible in the gramophone market, H.M.V. being prominent. Electrical shares were undecided, and in the "heavy" group, interest was centred chiefly on Wm. Cory, in anticipation of a higher dividend. The White Star report (discussed on page 1121) was not conductive to activity in Royal Mail issues, though Argentine Navigation were in demand on a satisfactory dividend announcement. Internationals, as a whole, were marked up on New York developments. Insurance shares again had a downward trend, and bank shares were irregular.

Despite the stronger tone of rubber, following the new "restriction" plan, outlined in the speech of the chairman of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust (described on page 1121), the share market remained inactive, a slow but steady stream of selling being in evidence. Tea shares were depressed, partly on Indian "political" fears, and partly on dividend uncertainty, emphasised by the disappointing Consolidated Tea and Lands declaration. The oil share market was influenced less by the more reassuring news regarding the Californian "conservation" position than by the maintenance of the "Shell" dividend on an increased capital. The latter caught out numerous bears, all the leading stocks, in fact, being strong on the news.

The mining share markets were more active, with a cheerful undertone. Northern Rhodesians were again in the van, though the influences at work were severely professional. Congo Borders touched 19½. N'Changa also moved up and Bwanas, Chartered, Loangwas and Roan Antelope all strengthened. Kaffirs were mainly firm, Anglo-American being well supported, while Brakpan, Modderfontein and East Rand improved fractionally. Metal prices were harder. Rio Tinto recovered sharply on better price prospects for copper, but later lost part of the rise. Tin shares were steady, but the metal failed to show the expected signs of greater stability. Kampar Malaya and Penang were firm, but Southern Malayan and Ipoh were weaker. Of the Canadians, Vipond rose on good development rumours. Lena Goldfields declined on the decision of the Soviet Government to take over the concession.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	May 8.	May 9.	May 12.	May 13.	May 14.	May 15.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,221	1,334	1,711	1,408	1,371	1,376
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,048	1,052	1,198	941	1,034	1,125
Commercial and Industrial*	1,893	1,995	2,540	2,080	2,109	2,075
Banks, Insurance and Financial	507	486	650	483	499	530
Mines (including Nitrate)	485	506	644	533	623	558
Oil	133	156	187	183	215	217
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	133	184	228	189	203	188
Total	5,420	5,713	7,158	5,817	6,054	6,069

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	May 8.	May 9.	May 12.	May 13.	May 14.	May 15.
90·6	82·0	86·3	86·6	86·5	85·9	86·0	86·1

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Business sentiment is a trifle more cheerful, with a stoppage of large-scale liquidation in the share market, although statistical evidence of improvement is lacking. The steel industry is operating at a slightly lower rate, around 76 per cent., and railroad traffic remains at about 1924 levels. Building contracts and permits for April are somewhat higher than for March, but are still far below those of last year. Heavy buying of copper is in progress, and the price is stiffening at 13 cents a pound, but it is hoped that no further rise will take place sufficient to cause a repetition of over-production. There will probably be a small decrease in surplus stocks for May, but their total is still large. The present tariff deadlock is disliked even more than the actual passage of high duties would be. It is likely, however, that the Bill will go through and obtain Presidential signature. Copper shares have rallied on better metal prices, and public utilities are in improved demand. The motor group, however, is weaker on continued unsatisfactory sales for all but low-priced cars, although the used-car situation is improving. Rails have rallied moderately on the appearance of investment buying and the belief that the worst traffic losses have now been witnessed. United States Steel and other pivotal issues are merely marking time, and the volume of transactions has fallen to about half the total of March and April. Continued dullness is expected for some time, and will be welcomed, on the whole, in good quarters. Bonds are also quiet and a shade easier. New capital issues are of moderate proportions, and no great amount is expected until after the Reparations issue, which, it is believed, should go well.

(By Cable.)

	May 1.	May 8.	May 15.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	104 18/32	105 4/32	105 11/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112	112 1/32	112
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100 1/32	100 4/32	100 8/32
Do. 4½% '32-47	101 11/32	101 9/32	101 13/32
Do. 4½% '33-38	101 28/32	102 4/32	102 4/32
Atchison	219½	223	224½
Ches. & Ohio	211	212	214
Erie	48	46½	47½
Illinois Central	128	126	128
N.Y. Central	169½	171½	173½
Pennsylvania	75 1/32	77½	78
Southern Pacific	117½	120½	121
Southern Rly.	102½	112½	111½
Union Pacific	219	223	225½
Am. Can.	141	136½	142½
Alleghany Corp.	27½	26½	27
Amer. Smelting	68½	69	70
Anaconda	59½	59	60½
Bethlehem Steel	97½	94	96
Chrysler Motor	35½	31½	33½
Corn Produce	102½	102	105
Eastman Kodak	242	238½	245
Gen. Electric(New)	84½	77½	83
Gen. Motors	46½	45½	47½
Int. Harvester	106	102½	104½
Montg. Ward	43½	41½	43½
Natl. Biscuit	84½	84½	85
Phelps Dodge	35½	38	38
Pullman	77	78½	77½
Sears-Roebuck	85½	81½	83½
Studebaker	37½	36½	36½
Un. Fruit	92½	92	92½
U.S. Leather	11½	11½	11½
U.S. Rubber	28½	27½	28½
U.S. Steel	178	168½	171½
Westinghouse	183½	172	177
Woolworth	64	63½	62
Worthington Pump	138½	122	139
Am. Pow. & Light.	110	98½	105½x
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	248½	245½	247
Electric P. & L.	92	81½	89
Int. Tel. Teles.	71½	62½	64½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	53½	45	46½
Radio Corpn.	62½	46½	49½
Utilities P. & L.	43½	39½	40½
W. Union Tlg.	175	181	182
Associated Gas "A"	39½	39	39
Mid-Cont. Pet.	31	28	27½
Pan Amer. B.	62	58½	63½
Sinclair Oil	28½	26½	28½
Std. California	70½	68	70½x
Do. N.J.	80½	75	79

x Ex dividend.

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LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. May 8.	May 15.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	77 1/32	77 11/32	+ 3/32
Do. 4½% 1944	98⅜	98⅜	...
Do. 5% 1944-64	102½	102⅝	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	101⅜	101 13/32	+ 1/32
Consols 4%	87⅜	87½	+ ⅛
Funding 4%	89½	89 13/32	+ 1/32
Victory Bonds 4%	93½	93 15/32	+ 1/32
Local Loans 3%	63½	64½	+ 1
Treasury 5% (B)	102½	102 17/32	+ 1/32
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	101	101	...
India 3½%	62	61½	− ½
Do. 4½% 1958-68	82	81½	− ½
Australia 5% 1945-75	91½	91	− ½
N.S.Wales 5%1935-55	89½	88½	− 1
N. Zealand 5% 1946	101	101	...
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)	101⅛	101	− ⅛
Argentine 4% Recins.	88	88	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103½	103½	...
Belgian 7%	109½	110	+ ½
Brazil 6½% (1927)	86½	86	− ½
China 5% (1912)	47½	45½	− 2
Egypt Unified 4%	78	77½	− ½
French 5%	20⅝	20⅝	− ⅛
French 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
German 7%	105½	106⅝	+ 1⅛
Greek 7% Refugee	101⅛	101½	...
Hungary 7½%	102⅛	102½	− ⅛
Chili 6%	96⅛	96⅛	...
Poland 7%	88	88	...
Mexican 5% (1899)	19	19	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	91⅛	90½	− ⅝
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946-56	101	101	...
Bristol 5% 1950-60	101	101	...
L.C.C. 3%	64x	64x	...
E. London 5% 1960-70	98	99	+ 1
Sydney 5½% 1954	90x	90x	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	95	94⅝	− ⅛
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	86½	85	− 1½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	9⅜	9⅜	...
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	29⅛	29	− ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	50⅛	49⅛	− ⅛
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	67	66½	− ½
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77⅛	77⅛	...
Southern Def. Stk.	31	30⅜	− ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	72½	71⅜	− ⅛
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Do. Income Bonds	110	107	− 3
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	205½	214	+ 8½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	84½	84½	...
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	83½	82½	− ⅛
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	93	91	− 2
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	74⅛	72⅛	− 2
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	78⅛	76	− 2⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	17	17	...
G.W. of Brazil £10	3½x	3½x	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	54½	55	+ ½
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	188½x	188½	...
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$28½	$28⅛	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	18	17	− 1
Beira Rlwy. no par	1⅛	1⅛	...
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	252	249	− 3
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅝	2⅝	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅜	3⅜	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅜	13⅛	− ⅛
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$112½	$112	− ½
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15	14½	− ½
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	20	20	...
Com. Un.£2½ fully pd.	24½	23½	− ½
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	28½	27	− 1½
Pearl (£1)	13½	13½	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	13⅜	13⅞	+ ½
Roy.In.£1, with 10/ pd.	7⅞	7⅞	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅜	⅜	− ⅛
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 3/32x	2 3/32x	− 1/32
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	⅜	⅜	− 1/32
Cory, William (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	¼	¼	− 1/32
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1⅛	1	− 1/32
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Vickers (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅞	1⅝	− 1/32
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/32
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅞	− ⅛
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅞	1⅛	− ⅛
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	− ⅛
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛x	1⅛x	...
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
City of London (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/32
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	45½x	48	+ 2½
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Imp. Continental Stk.	385	385	...
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless A Ord.	49	53	+ 4
Cables and Wireless B Ord.	23	24½	+ 1½
Canadian Marconi	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	2	2	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Dennis (1/)	2⅛x	2⅛x	+ 1/32
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Leyland (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Napier (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅛x	2⅛	− ⅛
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26⅛	26⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Cons. Tea&Luds. (£10)	24½	18½	− 6
London Asiatic (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4½	4⅜	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅜	⅜	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4½	4½	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	...
Royal Dutch (£3½)	33	33⅛	+ ⅛
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$47⅛	$51⅛	+ 4
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	...
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9	9⅛	+ 1/32
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛x	5⅛	+ 1/32
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/32
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/32
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/32
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
International Holdings	6⅛	6⅛	+ ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can.	32⅞	34⅛	+ 1⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	32⅛	32⅛	− ⅛
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9	9⅛	+ 1/32
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛x	5⅛	+ 1/32
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/32
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	+ 1/32
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
Hudson's Bay (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/32
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/32
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
Swed. Match, B(kr 100)	16⅛	16⅛	− 1/32
Tate and Lyle (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/32
Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/32
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/32
United Molasses (£1)	3⅛xb	3⅛	+ 1/32
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
De Beers Def. (£2½)	8⅛	8⅛	− 1/32
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	+ 1/32
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅛	⅛	− 1/32
Johan. Cons. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/32
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	2⅛	4⅛	+ 1⅛
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	17⅛	19⅛	+ 1⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	39⅛	40⅛	+ ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/32
UnionCorp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛

the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	May 1.	May 14*.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	167·1	163·5
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	135·9	136·9
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	262·5	256·2
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	177·3	174·0
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·25%	4·31%

* Base of computation changed from Thursday to Wednesday.

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	May 7.	May 8.	May 9.	May 10.	May 12.	May 13.	May 14.
202·4	166·5	180·2	181·2	183·3	186·6	186·4	189·4	189·8

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	May 8.	May 9.	May 10.*	May 12.	May 13.	May 14.	May 15.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	3,747	3,001	1,877	3,015	2,681	3,168	2,671
Bonds (Value—Thous. $)	10,393	10,835	5,651	7,711	8,741	11,070	9,235
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	866	809	507	812	675	804	856

* 2-hour session.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

A Glut of New Issues.—"Cheap" money and competition among issuing houses at a time when the reopening of the market has admitted a long queue of borrowers, are being reflected in a flood of new issues at prices which do not invariably square with market ideas. The large amounts of these issues which have been left with underwriters, in many cases, may be seen from the following enumeration:—

Borrower.	Total Issue (Nominal).	Running Yield.	Left with Underwriters. Per cent.	Amount.
	£	£ s. d.		£
San Paulo	8,000,000	7 5 9	87	6,960,000
West Ham	800,000	5 1 6	84	670,000
New Zealand	5,500,000	5 1 0	...	...
Agricultural Mortgage Corp.	3,500,000	5 0 0	85	2,970,000
Rhodesia and Mashonaland Railways	2,500,000	5 19 6	68½	1,710,000
Unilever Co.	2,000,000*	...	59	3,540,000(*a*)
Japan	12,500,000†	6 2 3	...	...
Grimsby ...	670,000	5 0 3	42	280.000
L.C.C.	4,055,000‡	4 14 9	(*b*)	(*b*)

* At premium of 200 per cent.
† Conversion Loan; actual cash issue not yet known.
‡ Includes £1,055,000 for Conversion purposes.
(*a*) Cash. (*b*) Result not announced at time of going to press.

By all outward indications, the above figures should argue severe congestion in the market. While, however, some observers agree that this is the case, others maintain that underwriters are actually "getting out" of the majority of issues within a few days at figures which leave them some profit. On the whole, the "subscription" figures may give a pessimistic idea of the capacity of the market, and many recent issues would conceivably have obtained quite a fair response had the yield offered been, say, ¼ per cent. higher. Actually, the effective rate for "long-term" capital accommodation appears still to be somewhat higher to-day than in recent years, despite the fall in "short-term" rates during the last few months:—

Year.	Average Bank Rate. %	Average Yield on Corporation Loans Issued During Year. %	Average Yield on New Foreign Govt. Bonds. %	Average Yield on Dominion and Colonial Govt. Loans. %
1924 ...	4·00	4·81	7·66	4·99
1925 ...	4·55	4·84	*	4·97
1926 ...	5·00	5·02	7·42	5·10
1927 ...	4·65	4·96	7·29	5·08
1928 ...	4·50	4·75	6·76	5·02
1929 ...	5·50	4·96	7·21	4·97

* No issues.

In this connection reference may be made to certain significant features of the international flow of capital in recent years, which have been revealed in a recent memorandum of the League of Nations. The figures show that the three main reservoirs of long-term international capital—the United States, Great Britain and France—all released somewhat large resources for employment in other countries during 1927-28, and severely restrained their facilities in 1929. The flow even yet would appear not to have entirely resumed its customary volume, and the position, as far as this country is concerned, has, at the moment, an air of abnormality, in view of the desire of those concerned to keep the stage as clear as possible for the coming Reparations loan. In the circumstances, borrowers would be well advised to study all the available indications as regards the trend of *long-term*, and not merely short-term, accommodation, and, particularly, to avoid any danger of the market's becoming congested with large issues offered on an unduly low-yielding basis.

Tea Regulation.—After a period of fair strength tea shares have given way to some extent recently, partly owing to inevitable, though unsubstantial, "political" fears (induced more particularly by disturbances in Calcutta), and partly on disappointing dividends, such as those of the Finley group of companies. Apart from incidental fluctuations in values, however, the outlook for the industry, as a whole, has improved during the last three months, during which average London prices have risen by about fifteen per cent., and stocks are estimated to have fallen from 296 million lbs. to 261 million lbs. The industry is, in fact, reverting to an expedient followed with success more than once in the past—finer plucking. On this occasion, however, the producers of India and Ceylon have secured the co-operation of the Dutch growers of Java and Sumatra. A tentative agreement of February last was implemented last month by a definite scheme, under which the four areas chiefly concerned will reduce their 1930 crops on the following lines, according to *The Rubber and Tea Quarterly*.*

Area.	1929 Crop. (Million lbs.)	Amount of of Reduction Envisaged. (Million lbs.)	*Percentage of Reduction.*
Northern India	370¾	32	*8·63*
Southern India	52¼	4	*7·65*
Ceylon	251½	11	*4·37*
ava and Sumatra	158¾	10	*6·30*

Restriction, as we have frequently urged, cannot provide a permanent solution for the economic difficulties of any industry, and the tea growers are keenly alive to the necessity of broadening the world basis of tea consumption. Great Britain alone consumes over 50 per cent. of the tea exported from the East, and the British Empire and the United States, together, no less than 80 per cent. Tea drinking, in fact, is largely a habit of work to be done among both "Eastern" and "Western" races, all of which have given tangible evidence of a susceptibility to the charms of the plant once they have made its acquaintance. In the meantime, it is urged that restriction in the tea trade stands on a somewhat different footing from restriction in other trades, since *less* tea means *better* tea. This factor should be particularly in evidence under the present scheme as regards teas from Java. These have, in the past, contained a proportion of ultra-coarse leaf, which will now be left on the bushes or destroyed. Many well-wishers of the industry attach great importance to the possibilities of future co-operation between Empire and non-Empire growers, towards which this year's agreement is a first step. Such a policy, they argue, should be facilitated by the fact that the Dutch growers find it necessary to market the lion's share of their crops, not in Holland, where any import duty equal, at present prices, to about 50 per cent., obtains, but in London, where a free market has been in existence for the last thirteen months. The potentialities in this direction will be put to a practical test during the next few months.

* Published by Messrs. Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson, 38, Mincing Lane, E.C. 3.

Rubber—A New Restriction Scheme?—The speech of Mr Welch, at last week's general meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, has caused something of a stir in the rubber market. The latter has put up prices from 6⅞d. to 7 1/16d. a pound on the strength of Mr Welch's proposals for a new restriction scheme. Broadly, Mr Welch declared that a voluntary agreement might be negotiated between British and Dutch rubber growers, at the conclusion of the present month's "tapping holiday." Under this scheme tapping would be suspended for seven consecutive specified days in every month, following any month in which the average London spot price of standard quality smoked sheet rubber did not exceed 9d. a pound. Such a scheme, Mr Welch declared, would not seriously disorganise labour, would cease to operate as soon as a "profit-making price" was obtained, should not bring out more native rubber or antagonise manufacturers, and would decelerate the accumulation of unwanted stocks. Mr Welch, however, made it clear that the price aimed at must do no more than cover the all-in costs of production on well-managed European estates, and that the industry must build its hopes of permanent recovery, not on this or any restriction scheme, but on the growth of consumers' demand (which he predicted might increase by 100 per cent. within the next ten years), and on the lowering of the cost of production by every practicable means. It has long been evident that, while the May "holiday" may reduce the weight of visible rubber stocks to some extent, it does not touch the fringe of the industry's main problem of restoring equilibrium between supply and demand. To those growers who supported the Stevenson scheme the new proposals may appear superficially attractive. They are, in effect, a new species of Stevenson scheme, less rigid than the old (being based on a lower pivotal price with one month instead of three as the datum period), and, if Dutch support is secured, more extensive than the earlier scheme. More will doubtless be heard of these proposals, which presumably have the support of Harrisons and Crosfield and other powerful names in the industry. We trust, nevertheless, that producers will think twice before committing themselves once again to the difficulties and dangers of any restriction scheme. Rubber is not alone in suffering from a temporary setback to consumption. The effect of the world industrial recession of the last few months is eloquently shown by the American trade figures, which show that the tyre and other rubber-consuming industries absorbed only 105,309 tons of rubber in the first three months of this year against 129,326 tons in the corresponding period of 1929. On a long view, the present depression is only an incidental phase in the history of an industry which, by every appearance, is destined to show rapid progress for many years to come. The best answer to the increasing use of reclaimed rubber (of which 213,000 tons were used in the United States last year, against 41,000 in 1922) is not the artificial restriction of supplies of crude rubber, but the cheapening of the latter's production by every possible means, including the exploitation of "budding" and other scientific methods.

White Star Line.—The publication of the accounts of the White Star Line, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1929, increases the difficulty of understanding the ambiguous statement which was issued by the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, as trustees of the 6½ per cent. preference shares, in February last. This statement, which was made on Lord Kylsant's authority, was to the effect that the White Star earnings for 1929 would be practically identical with those of 1927 and 1928. Actually there was a considerable difference between the earnings of 1927 and 1928—the latter being higher by nearly £100,000—and it now emerges that the 1929 earnings are even lower than those of 1927, as the following table will show:—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Profits after depreciation	456,200	508,645	437,627
Interest	195,182	148,811	162,401
General expenses	5,274	7,804	4,681
Earned for dividend	*255,744*	*355,030*	*270,545*
Preference dividend	158,901	260,000	260,000
Earned on ordinary (%)	*12·1*	*11·9*	*1·05*
Paid on ordinary (%)	6	6	Nil
Expenses written off	Nil	31,262	Nil
Carried forward	48,843	64,610	75,155

* From January 12th to December 31st.

The preference dividends (which are guaranteed by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) were only just earned last year. The directors' report gives no explanation of the reduction in profits. The shareholder is left to discover for himself that the company's chief subsidiary, the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company, which owns the Atlantic White Star fleet, distributed dividends of £400,000, as in the previous year, and that the decline in the profits of the parent company must therefore be attributable to lower earnings of the seven steamers of the Commonwealth Line—on which considerable alterations and improvements were carried out last year—and to lower dividends from other subsidiaries. The balance sheet of the Oceanic Steam Navigation Company reveals a bank overdraft of £896,840, and loans repayable from 1930 to 1946, secured on ships and properties, of £2,413,750, together with a surplus of creditors over debtors and cash of £377,000. That of the White Star Line discloses the following amounts still due on various purchases: On the shares of the Oceanic Steam Navigation £2,350,000, payable by 1936; on the purchase of other shares, payable during the next five years, £500,000; and on the purchase of the Australian Commonwealth Line, £1,485,000, payable by nine annual instalments—a total of £4,335,000. Preliminary expenses and commission, remaining to be written off out of profits, amount to £261,100. The 6½ per cent. preference shares are quoted at 10s. 9d., as compared with a high level of 23s. in 1929 and 14s. 6d. this year.

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J. and P. Coats.—At the last annual meeting of this famous cotton thread company, the chairman announced that the returns for the first few months of the current year were behind those for the corresponding period in 1928. The accounts for the year ended December 31st last now reveal a decline of £750,484 from the record net profit of £3,929,058 attained during the previous twelve months. Percentage earnings on an ordinary capital of £14,750,000 are down from 24.4 to 19.4, while a reduction in the bonus from 1s. to 6d. per share brings the total distribution down to the traditional level of 17½ per cent.

	Year ends December 31. 1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	3,729,642	3,929,058	3,179,574
Brought forward	108,504	676,896	825,954
Preference dividends	330,000	330,000	330,000
Rate %	6	6	6
No. of times covered	*11·3*	*10·4*	*9·6*
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*3,399,642*	*3,599,058*	*2,849,579*
Paid £	2,581,250	2,950,000	2,581,250
Earned %	*23·0*	*24·4*	*19·4*
Paid %	17½	20	17½
Other allocations	250,000	500,000	...
Carried forward	676,896	825,954	1,094,278

In 1927 the sum of £250,000 was placed to dividend reserve, while last year £500,000 was written off buildings and machinery as "extra depreciation." This year, however, the whole of the surplus is being carried forward, making, with the amount of £825,954 brought in, a total of £1,094,278. In the main, though the present result is the least satisfactory for the past three years, it cannot be taken as indicating any permanent falling away in the company's profit-earning power. An examination of the company's returns over a long period reveals constant fluctuations, while the present earnings on the ordinary capital of 19.4 per cent. compare favourably with the average rate of 18 per cent. earned during the past ten years. The market apparently expected better things, however, and the shares were marked down 1s. 3d. on the report. Every branch of the cotton trade, in fact, is feeling the effect of the prevailing depression, as is evidenced, not merely by the drop in Coats' profits, but by the unfavourable figures published this week by the Fine Cotton Spinners and Crosses and Winkworth (both of which will be found summarised on page 1140), and the "Slubbers" (summarised below). At £3 2s. 6d. the ordinary shares of J. and P. Coats give a yield of about £5 14s. 3d., allowing for a final dividend and bonus of 1s. 3d. per share.

British Cotton and Wool Dyers.—The report of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association for the year ended March 31st last, reveals a further considerable drop in revenue. Net profit at £64,685, before deducting an amount for directors' fees not yet determined, is less by £26,362 than the total for 1928-29, and is less than half the amount earned in 1927-28. Following a reduction in percentage earnings from 17.3 in 1927-28 to 11.8 in 1928-29 (when the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares was maintained), the company's capital has this year earned only 8.4 per cent. The dividend is reduced to 7½ per cent.

	Year ends March 31. 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	133,668	91,047	64,685*
Brought forward	25,176	21,427	30,057
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*133,668*	*91,046*	*64,685*
Paid £	77,417	77,417	58,062
Earned %	*17·3*	*11·8*	*8·4*
Paid %	10	10	7·5
To reserve	50,000	...	...
Other allocations	10,000	5,000	5,000
Carried forward	21,427	30,057	31,680

* Before deduction of directors' fees.

No further allocation has been made to reserve account, which was increased to £230,000 by the allocation of £50,000 in 1928. Liquid assets, ignoring the shares in subsidiary companies, amount to the sum of £432,009, against which there are creditors' claims for £95,509. The depreciation fund now stands at £82,336, following this year's allocation of £25,000, against a figure of £54,106 in the balance sheet to March, 1929. Stock in trade is valued at £101,170, against £130,210, and investments are down from £197,463 to £81,817. The ordinary 5s. shares are quoted at par and yield about £8 2s. per cent.

Forestal Land.—Owing to continued depression in the tanning industry, the gross profit for 1929 was £153,292 lower at £684,409. During the year £1,000,000 was issued in 6 per cent. 10-year notes, interest on which absorbed £86,717, but as this was partly offset by a decline of £34,743 in the depreciation charge, and a release of "reserves no longer required," amounting to £17,061, the net profit was £189,304 lower at £303,244. Although only 5.16 per cent. was earned on the ordinary shares the directors recommend a dividend of 6½ per cent.

Years ended December 31.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net earnings	571,929†	492,548	303,244
Preference dividend	111,951	111,951	111,951
Number of times covered	*5·1*	*4·4*	*2·7*
Ordinary { *earned*	*12·4%*	*10·2%*	*5·16%*
Ordinary { paid, less tax	9%	7½%	6½%
Ordinary { amount of dividend	333,795	278,163	241,074
To reserve	125,837	50,000	...
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	+ 346	+ 52,434	— 49,781

† Including £65,078 from exchange adjustment account.

The most striking alteration on the assets side of the balance sheet is the decrease of £395,987, to £2,755,271, in subsidiary company investments and advances, while on the liabilities side creditors are down by £402,654 to £528,453. Debtors show a slight fall, and as cash is £138,535 greater, at £555,616, the surplus of liquid assets has increased considerably—from £62,995 to £591,494. In their report the directors state that, despite optimistic signs, the industry has not regained normal conditions. The ordinary shares, at 16s. 10½d., yield £7 14s. 1d.

Shell Union Oil.—The report of the Shell Union Oil Corporation for the year 1929 shows an increase in gross income by no means proportionate to the increase in its capital. Actually, there was a reduction in net income on account of the larger amount allowed for depreciation and drilling expenses, and an increase in the interest charges. Moreover, the amount available for the ordinary shares was further reduced by the dividends payable on the preference shares which were issued in June, 1929. The net result was that the ordinary dividends of $1.40 per share payable on over 13,000,000 shares (instead of 10,000,000) were not fully earned, $1,757,736 being taken from reserve for the payment of this distribution. The results for the past two years compare as follows:—

	1928.	1929.
	$	$
Gross income	68,538,816	72,955,012
Depreciation, drilling, &c.	44,012,282	50,478,786
Interest on debentures, &c.	4,199,486	4,796,874
Minority interest	12,227	106,104
Preference dividends	...	1,045,000
Available for common shares	20,395,021	16,528,249
Earned	*$2·04**	*$1·26†*
Paid	$1·40	$1.40
Carried forward	37,023,379	35,265,642

* On 10,000,000 shares of no par value.
† On 13,068,497 shares of no par value.

The directors refer in their report to the fact that a great deal of expenditure was incurred which normally would have produced results during the year, but which, owing to "conservation restrictions," was not fully productive. They recite the various restriction agreements in the producing fields to which the corporation was a party. The extent of this restriction is brought out by the fact that the actual daily production of the combined companies at December 31, 1929, was at 114,690 barrels a day, net, while the amount of production shut in was no less than 186,000 barrels a day. The refining capacity of the group was increased from 240,000 barrels a day to 290,000 barrels a day, and further extensions were made to the pipe-lines and distribution facilities. The marketing of "Shell" products was extended to the Atlantic seaboard last year by the purchase of existing marketing facilities, a policy which the directors claim to be sounder than the construction of new marketing stations. The rapid expansion of the Shell Union companies in the American markets over the past few years has entailed a heavy capital expenditure programme. The following issues of capital have been made by Shell Union since 1927:—

May, 1927	$50,000,000 5% gold debentures.
Nov., 1927	$30,000,000 5% gold debentures (Shell Pipe Line).
Dec., 1928	$30,000,000 3,000,000 ordinary shares at $10.
June, 1929	$40,000,000 5½% convertible preferred shares of $100.
Sept., 1929	$50,000,000 5% debs. with purchase warrants.
	$200,000,000

This is a large sum of money to raise in three years, and the Shell Union may be compelled to wait for higher refined oil prices before it realises the full benefit of its expansion. The balance sheet at December 31, 1929, with a total of $661,996,416, shows the usual strong financial position, the surplus of current assets over current liabilities being $105,005,135. No less than $47,559,138 is held in "short-term and demand loans," $8,297,668 in cash, and $2,873,279 in marketable securities. The common shares are quoted in New York at $23¾ to yield 6.15 per cent. on the basis of $1.40 dividends.

Ever Ready Company.—The accounts for 1929-30 continue the story of unbroken progress. Net earnings of £243,284 compare with only £64,000 in 1923-24, when, however, the issued capital was much smaller. The programme of expansion of manufacturing facilities inaugurated a few years ago is apparently not completed, additional expenditure amounting to £30,000 having been sanctioned and put in hand since March 31st last. Some £92,000 has been similarly expended over the period covered by the following table:—

(Year ended March 31).	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	187,964	209,804	243,284
Preference dividend	20,000	20,000	20,000
Number of times covered	9·4	10·5	12·2
Ordinary { *Earned*	*45·39%*	**34·96%*	*41·13%*
Ordinary { Paid	35%	†35%	35%
Ordinary { Amount	129,500	148,000	189,980
To reserves	35,000	41,130	30,000
Increase in carry-forward	3,464	674	3,304

* On capital outstanding at year end
† Interim, 10%; cap. bonus, 20%; final, 25%.

There have been several developments of importance in the last two years. Two items which appeared amongst assets for the first time a year ago are "Trade Investments," now valued at £209,716, and an investment of £96,000 in the deferred shares of Ever Ready Trust and Finance Company. No details of the former have been given to shareholders, but they are understood to include a substantial holding in Lissen, Ltd., ordinary shares. The Ever Ready Trust was floated in November, 1928, under the auspices of the Anglo-Eastern Finance Corporation, a company at that time controlled by the Horne group. The trust's main operations so far have been the acquisition of a £500,000 interest in Lissen, Ltd., preference shares and a holding of 128,845 ordinary shares in the parent company at a cost of £151,000. A minor interest is an investment of £5,000 in Steel Industries of Great Britain. What the value of the parent's holding in the trust deferred shares may be is problematical. No quotation is available, but the price of the ordinary is at about 50 per cent. discount. Allowing for the final dividend, Ever Ready shares at 18s. 9d. yield 10 per cent. It is uncertain how far this high yield reflects the attitude of investors to the policy of association with the Associated Anglo-Atlantic Company in 1928, and the subsequent new financial departures. Shareholders would welcome further information regarding the position of Lissen, Ltd. In December, 1929, this company had only a small issued capital; but by the capitalisation of reserves (it is not known just how these were created) the capital was increased to £700,000 in £500,000 preference and £200,000 ordinary. The latter are 10s. shares, and Ever Ready is understood to hold 199,996, or just under half. The whole of the preference are held by the Ever Ready Trust.

Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation.—The report of the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation for the year ending February 28, 1930, is a voluminous document which discusses, at length, recent developments in the tin-producing industry. It refers in particular to the absorption by London Tin Corporation of the Tin Selection Trust and the Malayan Tin Trust early this year. As the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation had large holdings in these two trusts it became the largest individual shareholder in the London Tin Corporation. Further, it increased its shareholding by selling to the London Tin Corporation, in exchange for shares, all its investments other than its holdings in Anglo-Oriental and General Investment Trust, Anglo-Oriental (Malaya), Ltd., Ashanti Goldfields, Ltd., and British-American Tin Corporation. The Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation are now acting as technical managers (and the Anglo-Oriental Trust as secretaries and registrars) for the London Tin Corporation and its associated mining companies. The earnings of the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation for the year to February 28, 1930, show a decline of over 50 per cent., which is not surprising in view of the

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fall in the price of tin from £220 to £173 per ton over this period. The comparative figures are:—

	Period to Feb., 1929	Year to Feb., 1930
	£	£
Net profits	220,228	96,466
Taxation Reserve	10,000	10,000
Investment Reserve	30,269	15,000
Earned for Divs.	179,959	71,466
7½% Pref. Divs. paid	56,466	60,000
Earned for further Pref. Div.	30,873	2,866
Extra Pref. Div. paid	10,000	3,229
Earned for Ord.	92,620	8,600
Earned %	46·3	4·4
Paid %	15	5
Carried forward	83,493	82,043

The preference shares confer the right to a fixed cumulative 7½ per cent. dividend and participate to the extent of one-fourth in the surplus profits distributed by way of dividend. The balance sheet shows investments at cost £1,312,499, the depreciation on which, at present market prices, is slightly over 10 per cent. Creditors and debtors almost balance, and there remains cash at £54,465. The reserve accounts stand at £70,000, and are being increased by appropriations out of profits this year to £95,000. The 7½ per cent. participating preference shares, which were issued to the public in February, 1928, at 21s., are now quoted at 14s. 3d., and the ordinary shares of 5s., which were issued at 10s. per share, at 6s. 4½d.

Central Mining.—Our mining correspondent writes:—In view of the conditions prevailing during the greater part of last year, an appreciable setback in the earnings of this financial undertaking was to be expected. As the receipts and profits are lumped together, no exact idea can be gained of the headings under which the diminution took place; but seeing that the dividends on the Witwatersrand Gold Mines, in which interests are held, were fairly well maintained, the inference is that the difference is to be sought in other directions. Of late years, of course, the Corporation has gone into fields far removed from mining, and no very striking change has been recorded in the earnings. Even now the shrinkage of £162,400 does not entail any cut in the dividend, being practically counterbalanced by the absence of any fresh transfer to reserve. A total of 20s. per share, or 12½ per cent., has now been disbursed for six successive years. Our usual table is appended:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Shares, investments, etc.	8,129,340	8,250,370	7,810,730
Debtors, less reserves	126,220	236,990	1,502,290
Creditors and dividend	6,123,880	7,021,810	6,039,860
Loans	2,873,170	2,898,560	1,805,270
Cash	216,490	1,007,620	293,460
Dividends, profits, etc.	836,820	832,720	668,520
Management, etc., expenses	50,021	47,110	42,170
Taxes	59,670	59,930	63,070
Net profit	727,130	725,680	563,280
Earned per cent.	21·4	21·3	16·6
Dividends, amount	425,000	425,000	425,000
Rate per cent. (tax free)	12½	12½	12½
To reserve fund	150,000	150,000	...
For income tax	115,000	115,000	115,000
Brought forward	69,630	71,350	71,730
Carried forward*	71,350	71,730	71,890

* After deduction of directors' percentage.

Securities for which quotations are available—representing 76 per cent. of the total—have been entered at or below market values as at December 31st. The usual review is given of the company's varied holdings. A new departure is the acquisition of interests in Bolivia. A participation has been taken in a company formed to amalgamate the well-known tin properties of Cerro de Potosi, also in another company formed to acquire and treat "large adjacent accumulations of low-grade tin and silver ores." At 18 cum final dividend of 12s. the yield shown on Centrals is just under 6 per cent. tax free.

Tin Dredging Results.—Widely different experiences were enjoyed last year by the two Malayan tin companies whose annual reports have been issued this week. Both concerns, of course, were adversely affected by the decline in the metal. In the case of the Tekka-Taiping there was also some falling off in average yield and an appreciable advance in costs, so that the profit came out at £29,650 in place of £38,850. The dividend total was reduced by 3d. to 1s. 9d. per share, the balance available being swollen by the addition of £7,000 income tax reserve no longer required. The forecast of the manager that during the first few months of the coming year the returns were likely to be low has been fully justified by events. When No. 3 dredge comes into full operation, however, "a large increase in output is anticipated, with a considerable reduction in the working costs per cubic yard." Meantime the shares appear fully valued at 21s. In the case of the Peng Kalen the output was more than doubled owing to the installation of an additional dredge. Consequently, although the revenue from sale of power fell off slightly and that from tributes in a relatively sharp degree, the net profit amounted to £72,800, as against £46,260. Dividends on the ordinary shares totalled 40 per cent. in place of 25 per cent., leaving the slightly increased balance of £21,800 to go forward. As in view of the concession granted to the Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company the Government was unable to renew the Peng Kalen Company's licence to sell power, there will be no further revenue from this source, which last year provided £35,350. The 5s. shares are quoted at 14s. It is of interest to note that costs last year at the Tekka-Taiping were £66 per ton of ore and at the Peng Kalen £41 with the new dredge. Hence there is a fair margin of profit even with metallic tin at £150—equal to about £105 per ton of ore or concentrates.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—British Bank of South America, Alliance Assurance, Commercial Union Assurance, Yorkshire Insurance, British Shareholders' Trust, Mining Trust, British Match Corporation, Dunlop Rubber, Province of Buenos Ayres Waterworks, Calcutta Electric Supply, Cawnpore Electric Supply, Cluny Rubber Estates, Lanadron Rubber Estates, Ledbury Rubber Estates, Wiggins Teape and Company, and Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Company. Presiding at the Mining Trust meeting, Mr Leslie Urquhart discussed the Mount Isa Development position. He said that in the short space of 2½ years they had developed 28 million tons of ore, made experiments of the highest importance, built a dam and impounded 1,400 million gallons of water, and laid out and nearly completed the building of a town. To bring Mount Isa to the production stage it was estimated that a further £500,000 would be required, and the Mount Isa Company was issuing £1,500,000 debenture stock. At the Dunlop Rubber Company meeting the chairman said that the company had pursued the policy of broadening the basis of their manufacture, so that they were now interested in many products such as general rubber goods, shoes, garments and the like. The turnover in commodities unconnected with the automobile industry now represented 25 per cent. of the whole.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

Underwriters had no respite this week—the subject of congestion in the new issue market is dealt with in an Investment Note on page 1120—but fared better on the whole than for some time past. The £12½ million cash and conversion loan for *Japan* (5½ per cent. Conversion, redeemable 1965) met with a good reception. For cash subscribers the yield was £6 2s. 3d. flat or £6 4s. on redemption—an attractive return seeing that the credit of Japan is generally rated under 6 per cent. To holders of the 4 per cent. 1905 Loan, due January next, the conversion terms were generous. Domestic issues were honourably

represented by *Grimsby*, with £670,000 5 per cent. stock at 99¾, repayable in 1960, and *London County Council* with £3,000,000 4½ per cent. stock, issued for cash at 95, and £1,055,000 of the same stock offered for conversion of 5¾ per cent. bonds, due on October 31st this year. Both these loans will add their mite to the development of domestic trade, but that of London was, in the opinion of the market, dearly priced in the light of contemporary conditions. The only trade issue was that of *R.M.C. Textiles* (1928), a company formed in 1928 to acquire a cloth manufacturing business founded in 1914 and specialising in what are described as "high-quality suitings and mantle fabrics." The high yield of the 8 per cent. preference shares offered at par denotes the risks of the trade and the apathy of the investor in this class of issue. A good reception was extended to the issue, at par, of the ordinary shares of a new trust—*C.L.R.P. Investment Trust*—formed under the auspices of the City of London Real Property Company to carry on the business of an investment trust on orthodox lines. The issue was not underwritten. The *Irish Free State Loan* was designed, primarily, as an Irish internal issue—the Third National Loan—giving a flat yield of 4.82 per cent. The stock is a trustee issue in the Irish Free State, and will be quoted on the Dublin and Cork Stock Exchanges. Both the principal and interest of the issue will be a charge on the Central Fund of the Irish Free State. Special arrangements have been made (presumably on the model of British Victory Bonds) for the acceptance of the stock at its face value in payment of Irish Death Duties. The stock is free of Irish taxation in the hands of outside holders. At its issue price, its immediate appeal to British investors is limited, but the flotation of the Loan on the terms offered is itself a tribute to the high level of Irish Free State Government credit.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to May 10, 1930, £134,507,472.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to May 10, 1930, £195,107,496.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended May 10, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to May 10, 1930, £600,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
C.L.R.P. Investment Trust	600,000	...	600,000	30,000	570,000
R.M.C. Textiles (1928)	100,000	...	100,000	12,500	87,500
Grimsby Corporation	670,000	...	668,325	33,500	634,825
Japanese Government	12,500,000	11,250,000	...	...	...
London County Council	4,055,000	1,002,250	2,850,000	150,000	2,700,000
Total offered to Public, week ended May 17, 1930	17,925,000	12,252,250	4,218,325	226,000	3,992,325
To Shareholders only.					
Anglo-Portuguese Telephone	143,515	...	143,515	...	...
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended May 17 1930	143,515	...	143,515	...	...

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Jan. 1 to date—	£	£
1930	211,771,586	138,919,312
1929	173,043,064	147,060,110
1928	...	205,824,233
1927	...	178,834,951
1926	...	84,276,834
1925	...	79,918,671
1924	...	75,412,567
1923	...	141,486,583

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	13,992,628	...	15,643,832
Phillips' Incandescent Lamp Works Holding Co., Eindhoven, 400,000 units of 10 florins, Subscription price 67/3	1,345,000	68/6	1,370,000
Bahia Blanca Waterworks 3,500 6% Debs. at 104½	365,750	105¼	370,125
Total, week ended May 17, 1930	1,710,750	...	1,740,125
Total to date, 1930	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929	19,585,505	...	27,895,040

Imperial Japanese Government 5½ per cent. Conversion Loan of 1930 for £12,500,000 at £90 per cent.—Subscriptions to this loan will be applied towards the conversion and redemption of the outstanding balance of the Imperial Japanese Government 4 per cent. bonds, issued in November, 1905. Subscriptions may be made in cash or in Imperial Japanese Government 4 per cent. bonds of 1905, the latter receiving preferential allotment. The Government undertake to establish a fixed cumulative sinking fund as from July 1, 1935, calculated to redeem the entire loan at latest by May 1, 1965, and reserve the right to redeem the whole of the loan outstanding at par at any time after ten years from the date of issue, on ninety days' notice.

Irish Free State Third National Loan.—Issue of £6,000,000 4½ per cent. registered and inscribed stock, 1950-70, at £93½ per cent. The principal is repayable at par on October 1, 1970, the Government of the Irish Free State having the option to redeem the stock, in whole or part, at par on or after April 1, 1950, on three months' notice. Trustees may invest in this stock. The issue allows a flat yield of £4 16s. 3d. per cent., and a redemption yield of £4 17s. 6d. per cent.

London County Council.—Issue of £3,000,000 4½ per cent. consolidated stock, 1945-85, for payment in cash at £95 per cent. and £1,055,000 in exchange for holding of London County 5¾ per cent. bonds, due October 31, 1930. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. If not previously redeemed, 4½ per cent. London County consolidated stock, 1945-85, will be repaid at par on April 5, 1985, but the Council reserve the right to redeem the stock at par at any time on or after April 5, 1945, on three months' notice. Outstanding debt of the Council on March 31, 1930, was £103,003,000, while the assessable value of the County of London is approximately £54,659,000, a rate of one penny yielding about £227,700.

Grimsby Corporation.—Issue of £670,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1950-1960, at £99 15s. per cent. The stock will be repaid at par on October 1, 1960, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the Corporation will have the option of redeeming the same at par at any time on or after October 1, 1950, on six months' notice. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The rateable value of the borough is £434,926, and a rate of one penny will produce £1,649.

C. L. R. P. Investment Trust.—Issue of 120,000 shares of £5 each at par, to be later sub-divided and converted into £3 of preference stock and £2 of ordinary stock, the preference stock to bear a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum from November 30, 1930. The company has been incorporated for the purpose of carrying on the business of an investment trust in all its branches.

R. M. C. Textiles (1928), Ltd.—Issue at par of 100,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each. The company was incorporated in February, 1928, to acquire as a going concern the clothing business of R.M.C. Textiles, Ltd. Net profit for the year ended December 31, 1929, totalled £40,005, covering dividend on the present issue five times over.

Hampton Court Gas Company.—Issue by tender of £40,000 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock, redeemable at par on July 1, 1950. Minimum price of issue, £95 per £100, at which price the redemption yield is £5 9s. 2d. per cent. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31st last was £12,480, covering interest on loan capital, including the present issue, more than four times.

Harrogate Gas Company.—Sale by tender of £53,000 6 per cent. preference stock, minimum price par. On completion of the issue the dividends on the whole of the company's preference stock will be covered by net profits, carry-over balance and reserve fund more than four times.

The following particulars have been issued "for information only" with a view to Stock Exchange introduction:—**Clapton Stadium, Ltd.** Issued capital, £91,013 15s. in 364,415 shares. Incorporated as a private company in November, 1927, and converted into a public company in November, 1928. **Bahia Blanca Water Works Company, Ltd.** Particulars of an issue of 3,500 6 per cent. registered debentures of £100 each, redeemable at £105 per cent. on or before August 1, 1970. Net receipts of the company for year ended June 30, 1929, were £50,576, covering interest on above issue approximately 2½ times. **City of Wellington, New Zealand.** Particulars of an issue of £60,000 5 per cent. debentures to bearer, of £100 each. The proceeds of the issue will be used to provide drainage and sewerage extensions.

[*Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, dividend announcements and summary of balance sheets will be found on page* 1140 *under the heading "Company News."*]

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.
BURDEN OF TAXATION.
SIR ERIC GEDDES ON THE POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

The thirty-first ordinary general meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Ltd., was held, on the 9th instant, at the Whitehall Rooms, Whitehall Place, London.

The Right Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, G.C.B., G.B.E. (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—The total profits from all sources for 1929, after providing full depreciation in the accounts of the whole group of companies, amounted to £2,307,354, as compared with £1,359,894 for 1928. The year, therefore, shows an increase in profit of £947,460 over 1928. The board has decided to transfer to taxation reserve £225,761, and £150,000 has been transferred to general reserve. We recommend the payment of a final dividend, less income tax, on the ordinary shares at the rate of 9 per cent., making a total dividend for the year of 15 per cent., and a balance of £782,329 is carried forward.

The general reserve has been increased by the premiums on shares issued during the year, £193,393, and the transfer of £150,000 from profit and loss account brings it up to £3,373,105.

World trading conditions in 1929 were exceptionally difficult. This was due almost entirely to the abnormal condition of the international money market, which was brought about by the credit demands of speculators in connection with the international Stock Exchange boom centred in New York. This caused a serious outflow of European funds to America. With a view to checking this, money rates were raised to a high level, thirteen Central European banks, led by the Bank of England, adopting this course during the first six months of the year. Having shown the effect, he proceeded to say :—These conditions affected different countries in different degrees. Of European countries, France suffered least, and maintained a good level of trade and employment till almost the end of the year. Germany, where credit had for a long time been abnormally dear, and international political conditions still exercised a depressing effect, suffered perhaps most, and our own country came midway between these two, suffering a gradually increasing reaction in both home and foreign business during the last half of the year. Amongst adverse influences which particularly affected business in this country were the political uncertainties attending on the change of Government.

MCKENNA DUTIES.

The automobile industry felt these conditions in common with others, and was specially affected by the threat to the McKenna Duties, which undoubtedly resulted in the holding up of a considerable volume of business. We ourselves had to contend also with the severe reaction in rubber prices.

In the McKenna Duties we, as a company, are interested in two ways—first, in their effect upon the automobile manufacturers in this country. Our tyres are their principal accessory, and their prosperity means more business for us. There are four or five principal automobile manufacturing countries in the world. America, with her great size and enormous wealth, has a fully protected market within her own frontiers, and her registration of automobiles is 77 per cent. of the total automobiles of the world. Her manufacturers, assured of their enormous home market, and benefiting by the consequent spread of their overhead expenses, have obtained in the export market an almost corresponding percentage of business.

Since the war our automobile manufacturers, under the provisions of the McKenna Duties, have attained a measure of volume, but their protection has only been half-hearted, and has never been continuously assured to them. As recently happened, they have been kept in a state of doubt almost from month to month, whether their protection was to be maintained or taken from them. It is only partial even to-day, and was never certain, and they are competing in an industry where every producing country is highly protectionist.

If ever there was an industry which justified protection because of its industrial structure and methods of production, the automobile industry justifies it, but the industry does not know whether its position will be fundamentally altered by the withdrawal of the McKenna Duties a year hence. That uncertainty must retard enterprise, development and growth, and is, therefore, bad for this company and for you as shareholders. The second interest we have in the McKenna Duties is in so far as they are applied to tyres, and the disadvantage of uncertainty here is, to a great extent, superimposed upon and cumulative to the disadvantages which we suffer under because of the uncertainty of the automobile manufacturers. Tyres were not safeguarded in the original imposition of the McKenna Duties, and this company laid its plans and made its great recovery after the catastrophes following the year 1920 without protection. We were included under the McKenna Duties at a subsequent date, namely, in 1927, without our request and for revenue purposes.

EFFECTS OF THE DUTIES.

The protection of the McKenna duties as applied to tyres had two immediate effects. In 1926 well over 1,000,000 motor tyres were imported, and in 1929 only 120,000 were imported, but the capacity of this country for the manufacture of tyres had been enormously increased. Foreign manufacturers built works in this country. We increased our capacity—we had no option. The buyers of the 1,000,000 imported tyres had to be supplied with tyres of home manufacture. We cannot stand still and so great additional capacity has been provided in the country and the export trade has been well maintained, even allowing for the fact that tyres wear so much longer than they did a few years ago. Prices have fallen to an even greater extent than the cost of the raw materials used in manufacture, and in spite of the fact that quality has steadily improved. In the tyre industry, therefore, the imposition of the duties has substantially benefited the trade and employment in this country, and there has been no detriment to the consumer, but in fact the consumer's position has also improved for other reasons. To my mind, it is inconceivable in fairness and justice that Parliament in these circumstances should remove the import duties placed upon tyres. I am convinced that, given adequate protection and security in its continuance, the British automobile industry would make enormous strides in export, to the benefit not only of the industry, but to us as the tyre makers. Protection was imposed upon us, and it appears to me to be monstrous to think that that protection could now be withdrawn when by its imposition Parliament has forced us into expenditure which we would not otherwise have incurred. (Applause.)

SUCCESS OF "FORT DUNLOP" TYRE.

Last year proved to be an exceedingly difficult year for business, not only in this country, but throughout the world. At home we have had to face intense competition, but I am glad to assure you that, in spite of this competition, we have more than maintained our volume of business. One of the features of our trading last year has been the immediate and outstanding success of the "Fort Dunlop" tyre. This tyre was originally designed to give that reserve of strength which is necessary to withstand abuse either in road surface, high temperature, or high speed, but its success shows us very clearly that a large number of motorists will have the best, and in the end they achieve the lowest cost per mile.

Last year the plantations made a trading profit of £341,000, more than two and a half times the amount necessary to pay the preference dividend, and therefore leaving a substantial ordinary dividend to this company. In 1929 we cropped almost 19,500,000 lb. at the rate of 416 lb. per acre, at a f.o.b. cost Singapore of 5½d. All these figures are records. For 1930 we forecast a 10 per cent. increase in crop at a f.o.b. cost of less than 5d. per lb., but we do not think we have reached the lowest limit of costs. We feel that there is a big future for the plantation industry provided scientific production and economic management are attained. We are extending our plantations with the finest bud-grafted material possible, and we believe that we will be able to make money as planters even if prices for raw rubber remain at a low level.

We have pursued a policy of broadening the basis of our manufacture, so that we are now interested in many products, such as general rubber goods, shoes, garments, etc., the object being to help and stabilise the profit-earning position of the company. Our turnover in commodities unconnected with the automobile industry now represents 25 per cent. of the total.

Eighteen months ago we completely reorganised our export organisation, and our sales in overseas markets during last year, in spite of the most intense competition and general trade depression, showed marked improvement.

POSITION SUMMARISED.

To summarise the 1929 position : The quality of our products, as proved by very complete records, was never so high. Our plant throughout the organisation was never so up-to-date or in better condition. The efficiency and economy of our tyre and rubber factories was never greater, and the wages of our employees have improved with the increased efficiency, and have steadily risen since the reconstruction. Our relations with our employees have never been better, and are excellent. The demand for our products generally throughout the world has never been so high. We have sold more tyres in this country in 1929 than ever before, and the volume of our export business is rising.

So far as primary products are concerned, our plantations are producing at the lowest figure that they have ever attained, and with a record weight of rubber per acre and in total. Our cotton mills have produced a record quantity and at the lowest factory cost. These are facts which you ought to know, and which I give with a full sense of responsibility. Incidentally, they will enable you to judge the value of the rumours which were so assiduously circulated last year.

OUTLOOK FOR 1930.

With regard to the outlook for 1930, to date we are doing very well—I might say extremely well. While tyre prices show a downward tendency world conditions in the industry are steadier than they were in 1929, and our activities outside the automobile industry are increasing and becoming more profitable. We have made very substantial economies indeed in our productive cost, to some extent resulting from prudent capital expenditure in the past; to some extent due to increased efficiency and economies of a managerial and scientific character; to some extent due to increased output from our workers, the benefit of which we have shared with them in regularity of employment and increased earnings.

Our sales force was never keener than it is to-day—our quality was never higher.

Our relations with our competitors were never sounder or more friendly, and an influence making for stability is increasing throughout the industry. I feel that with this greater stability and our enormous goodwill (which, I may remind you, stands at nothing in our balance sheet) we stand to share in that prosperity which I ardently hope for, and frankly expect, in the motor tyre industry. I look also with hope to our business other than motor tyres.

At home, however, no thoughtful man can deny that in business circles, and in public circles of a sufficient financial status to be possible customers in the automobile market, there is a feeling of uncertainty.

On the one hand, increased taxation, and further increases are feared.

On the other hand, there is still grave uncertainty about the McKenna duties and other safeguards.

That this Government means well in its own estimation of what is good for the country I do not doubt, but some of the utterances of its less responsible members promise us still further increased taxation, which creates a reluctance to buy on the part of the very class of people who can afford to run a motor car.

"The old automobile will do," "a repaired type or a patched tyre will see it out," "the second automobile must be done without," "we cannot afford a motor car this year." Those are the thoughts of our possible customers.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

There are those in high and responsible quarters who say that heavy income taxation does not withdraw funds from business and industry. You will realise that such a statement is fundamentally wrong, but the speech of the chairman of the Dunlop Rubber Company reaches far beyond the walls of this room. Many people will read it who do not realise how public companies are taxed.

As you all know, you receive your dividends less tax. That is what is called income "taxed at the source," but what actually takes place is this :—

We prepare our accounts, and after careful consideration make prudent provision for all contingencies, and the final net profit is appropriated as follows— :

A. To general reserve.
B. To pay dividends.
C. The balance carried forward.

The State is as directly interested in the continued prosperity of a business as are the shareholders and employees. One would think, therefore, that the State would encourage conservative finance and would only levy tax upon the profits arrived at after provision for all contingencies, and after setting aside sums necessary for the development of the concern.

The Inland Revenue Department does not accept the basis of ordinary prudent business consideration, but arrives at a profit figure of its own. It says, in effect, for example : "You may think such a rate of depreciation on plant and buildings right, but we fix a much lower rate. You may consider it prudent to create a fund to provide for future obsolescence, reserves for contingencies and for the general development of the business, but we shall not allow these."

SUBSIDIARIES—AN ARBITRARY VIEW.

In a company such as ours, owning holdings in a very large number of subsidiaries, we adopt the principle of taking into our accounts the dividends of our subsidiaries and making full provision for the losses of our subsidiaries. The law evidently recognises the soundness and importance of this principle because of the note which you will see on the lower right-hand corner of the profit and loss account. Yet the Inland Revenue, in arriving at the figure of profit upon which we are taxed, assesses us upon our profits from subsidiary companies, but makes no allowance for the losses on other subsidiary companies.

In these and other ways that Department arrives at a figure of hypothetical profits upon which we are taxed. To illustrate what this means in the aggregate, taking the years from 1924 to 1929, you as shareholders have paid income tax personally on the dividends that you have or will receive in respect of those years. But the Inland Revenue has, or will have, levied income tax on a total of approximately £3,700,000 over and above the dividends paid in respect of those years.

The whole of this £3,700,000 has been retained in the business to provide for contingencies and development, but the State has levied income tax upon the whole of this sum.

DRAIN ON INDUSTRY.

In these circumstances I do not see how any sane man can deny that money is being taken directly out of industry which, in the interest of the industrial prosperity of the country, ought to be left in the industry, or that you as income tax payers are in effect paying in taxation far more than 4s. 6d. in the pound, as you pay upon the dividend you receive as individuals, but you also pay upon sums which you have not received, and which ought to be left, and are left, in the business in order to strengthen and develop it.

No business can succeed in the long run unless it has funds with which to keep its productive capacity up to date, and with which to develop itself to its maximum capacity. If one examines the history of any of the old and successful businesses of to-day, it will be found that in the past the development of the concern has been largely financed out of profits. There are many who say with truth that we have far too many out-of-date plants in this country. In my opinion this is largely due to the fact that the State has taken from industry funds which would otherwise have been available for the replacement of plant and the general development of the business. (Hear, hear.) In consequence of these heavy inroads in the available profits of industry, further capital has to be raised to finance development, obsolescence, etc., and that further capital falls as an additional burden upon production. As taxation has risen this burden has become more and more serious, and if this continues the poor goose that lays the golden egg will be killed.

Now this taxation situation and political uncertainty are undoubtedly factors which, in looking to the future, we cannot disregard, but it is not only at home that we trade; a large proportion of our business is export business, and when one looks at the unrest and disturbance, financial, political and economic, in every quarter of the globe—Australia, India, China, Egypt, South America, Russia, Poland—I doubt whether in the history of organised business there has ever been a time when greater uncertainty existed.

Notwithstanding, therefore, the increased strength disclosed by our balance sheet, the ever-growing efficiency and economy in our business, and our hopes for an improved competitive situation, your board, in common with other prudently-managed industrial concerns to-day is adhering to a very conservative policy.

Your accounts have never been compiled on a more conservative basis than the ones now presented to you. We have never more carefully scrutinised the value of your assets than in presenting these accounts to you. We have never more rigorously conserved your resources. We have been prudent, as we felt that the vast majority of our shareholders would wish us to be.

CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

We view the future with confidence, and in the knowledge of our conserved strength.

What we require is the renewal of trade, so long overdue. We are fully equipped to cope with it. Pessimism is an unfortunate epidemic and highly infectious. It leads people to gloomy exaggerations and to despairing and disparaging statements which have no foundation in fact, and by which only the "bears" on the Stock Exchange benefit.

The people of this country must not allow this spirit to dominate them.

So far as we are concerned, we shall go on in faith and courage, developing the great organisation which you have entrusted to our hands.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

OUTLOOK BRIGHTENING.

The sixty-seventh ordinary general meeting of The British Bank of South America, Ltd., was held on the 15th instant, at the head office, 117 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr R. J. Hose (the chairman) said that 1929 had witnessed a state of commercial depression and uncertainty almost world-wide, and with regard to the economic position of Great Britain, the trend of affairs during the past few years had not afforded many grounds for optimism, for not only was the country's proportion of world trade apparently declining, but an unduly heavy surplus of visible imports continued to be recorded. Whatever degree of satisfaction might arise from official recognition of the necessity to study the country's export markets, it was disappointing that the financial policy pursued at home was often inconsistent with such steps.

The necessity for rationalisation brought about by the drastic post-war changes in world economic conditions was surely not confined to industry alone, but extended equally to Government policy. Just as it was vital for business interests to adjust their ideas and methods to meet rapidly and constantly changing world conditions, so it was clearly of at least equal importance for any Government to keep unceasing watch upon the effect—especially on export trade—of their fiscal policy, and to adjust that whenever and wherever it might be of benefit to industry. Flexibility, and not uncompromising rigidity, should be the keynote of the taxation system.

Brazil was subject to alternating periods of prosperity and depression, and unfortunately the past year had witnessed one of the most severe crises in her history, principally owing to the difficulties of the coffee-producing industry.

The stability of Brazilian exchange was naturally intimately connected with the coffee market. They might hope for the ful adoption of the terms of the Monetary Reform Decree, which was designed to modernise the currency system on a gold basis in accordance with accepted principles of stabilisation, including the establishment of a central banking organisation. In that connection, it was a matter for congratulation that President Washington Luiz, in his message read at the opening of the National Congress on the 3rd inst., had expressed the hope that a Central Bank of Issue and Re-discount might be created shortly. In the report submitted to the President of Brazil by the Montagu Mission in 1924, the view had been expressed that, with wise and prudent handling, the Bank of Brazil might be made a powerful and efficient central bank, to which the control of the currency might be safely entrusted. The report emphasised, however, the absolute necessity of the central bank being of an independent character. If the success which had attended the establishment of a similar institution in Chile could be any criterion, Brazil would derive many benefits from the step. As to Brazil, there appeared to be a brighter outlook by reason of recent outstanding developments.

A BUDGET SURPLUS.

The improvement in the position of the national finances of Brazil, reported in 1927, continued in 1928, and a surplus had also been announced for 1929, as shown in the cable just received from the bank's Rio de Janeiro branch: "The President of the Republic stated in his message to Congress on 3rd inst. that national revenue in 1929 totalled 2,399,600 contos, this being 188,829 contos in excess of the estimate, while expenditure was 2,017,693 contos, or 99,678 contos below the estimate. The net surplus, after providing 206,923 contos for extra budgetary expenditure, is 174,983 contos. The President also dealt with the question of the revision of the present taxation system under which import duties are collected by the Federal Government and export duties by the individual States, thus creating conflicting interests, as well as revision of the Customs House tariffs which at present hamper internal trade and hinder commercial treaties with friendly countries. The message dealt with the further question of modifications to the existing laws which permit States and municipalities to contract loans without permission of the Federal Government. The President expressed the hope that, provided the necessary capital arrangements can be made, a central bank of issue and rediscount will be created before the end of the year, the law regulating the fiscalisation of banks being perhaps revised in the interval."

In all the circumstances, a reduction in gross profits was inevitable, but, in view of the very difficult times through which they had passed, the result might be considered very satisfactory, especially as there had been a correspondingly greater reduction in general charges. The net profit for the year was virtually unaltered at £99,977, and enabled the board to recommend the payment of a final dividend for the 12 months of 10s. per share, thus maintaining the total distribution at 10 per cent.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROGRESS.

NET NEW LIFE BUSINESS EXCEEDS £3,000,000.

The annual general court of the Alliance Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, at the head office, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.

Mr C. E. Barnett (the chairman) said that the new life business completed during the year, after deduction of the sums reassured, amounted to £3,027,438, this being the first occasion on which the net new life business transacted in any one year had exceeded 3 million sterling. The figures included substantial amounts under policies issued under two special schemes. One of these related to policies issued to borrowers from building societies in order to cover outstanding balances of mortgages upon houses in the event of death. The other related to deferred assurances for children. It was hoped that the children thus assured might, later on, become valuable connections of the company. The claims by death during the year were somewhat larger than usual, but in this the directors believed that the company's experience was not exceptional.

The net premium income on the active alliance account was £1,379,387, and the alliance life fund during the year increased by nearly £700,000, and amounted at the close of the year to £14,910,735. The total life and annuity funds, including the closed funds, amounted to £21,793,031.

FIRE ACCOUNT.

In the fire account the premium income was £2,059,809, being £17,030 in excess of that of the previous year. This was a very satisfactory feature because, owing to the continually increasing competition, there was a tendency for the rates to be reduced, and it was therefore very difficult to maintain the premium income. The claims were substantially higher, and the profits therefore considerably less than in 1928. There could be no doubt that the protracted drought during the first nine months of the year contributed to a great extent to the exceptionally heavy fire losses during that period. It should be remembered, however, that the loss ratio in 1928, as in 1927, was exceptionally low, and the year now under review might really be regarded as an average year for the company. In the circumstances, the fact that the account showed a profit of over 16 per cent. on the premium income must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory.

MARINE ACCOUNT.

As to the marine account, he was afraid that they could not regard the position of the marine insurance market in this country as at all satisfactory. It was believed that the rates of premium on hull business had been brought to a basis on which there was a reasonable prospect of a small profit being earned, but as against this there was the fact that, owing to the great shortage of freights, an unusually large number of vessels had been laid up, and this must have an unfavourable effect on the result.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

In the accident department the company's business continued to grow, notwithstanding that there had been a slight setback in the workmen's compensation premiums owing to the depression in trade. The account showed a satisfactory profit, viz., 7.3 per cent. of the premium income, after allowing for an increase in the amount reserved for unexpired risk. In this department the miscellaneous account included all sorts of accident and contingency risks, and motor insurance provided a large proportion of the premium income. In connection with this, the increasing number of motorists and frequency of collisions and other accidents in which motor vehicles, and, incidentally, their occupants, were involved, were causing the directors some concern. The enormous vans, lorries and motor 'buses that travelled at great pace—often on unsuitable roads—did not tend to allay that feeling any more than they added to the security of other users of the roads. A disturbing feature to the companies was the tendency of juries to award what sometimes appeared to be unduly generous damages to injured persons.

The Road Traffic Bill now before Parliament was being very carefully watched by the insurance interests concerned. The directors were glad to see that stringent penalties were proposed for the reckless driving of motor-cars. He hoped this proposal might have the effect of improving the standard of driving and thus reducing the number of accidents.

In the profit and loss account they had carried £50,000 to general reserve and £50,000 to pension reserve, in addition to £16,500 to the widows' and orphans' fund, and the balance carried forward to the current year was £1,231,963.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 18s. per share, less income tax (of which 8s. per share was paid as an interim dividend in January last), was declared.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED PROGRESS OF THE BUSINESS.

The sixty-eighth annual general meeting of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 13th instant., at 24, Cornhill, London, Sir Percy W. Newson, Bart. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said :—The premium income of the fire department amounted to £7,640,967, an increase of £142,430 upon that of the previous year. It will be remembered that in 1927 and 1928 there were considerable reductions in the income occasioned by the revision of our business in the United States of America. This revision is now completed, and the revenue from that country showed an increase last year. Notwithstanding the adverse economic and political conditions in various countries our general overseas business has also increased.

Last year your chairman referred to the difficulty of maintaining the home income owing to the fall in rates of premium. It is gratifying, therefore, to be able to state that, in spite of this fall and the depressed condition of trade in many districts where the company has large interests, the volume of business derived from this country has been maintained. The loss experienced has been generally good, but the home losses were unusually heavy.

After providing the additional reserve for unexpired liability due to the increased income, there is an underwriting profit of £306,822, of which £275,000 has been transferred to profit and loss account, leaving the fire insurance fund at £7,831,577.

MARINE BUSINESS.

The net premiums amounted to £684,887, an increase of £47,961 compared with 1928; £200,000 was transferred to profit and loss account, leaving the marine insurance fund at £1,155,412 at the end of the year, being 168.7 per cent. of the premium income.

ACCIDENT ACCOUNT.

The premiums of this department amounted to £8,785,582, an increase of £26,236 on the previous year. The continuance of the policy of revising our accident business in the United States has resulted in a diminished income from that country, but elsewhere there has been satisfactory development. The use of motor traction at home and abroad increases rapidly, and our operations being world-wide in extent, it is natural that our income from motor-car insurance should have grown to very considerable dimensions. The increase in the number and amount of the claims has, however, also been considerable.

After adjusting the reserves, the accident business for the year resulted in an underwriting profit of £242,922, of which £200,000 was transferred to profit and loss account, leaving the accident insurance fund at £5,951,028.

Summarising the three underwriting departments with which I have just dealt in detail—fire, marine, accident—the total premiums amounted to £17,111,436, the losses £9,348,292, and commission and expenses £7,094,015. After adjusting the reserves set aside for unexpired risks, the underwriting profit amounted to £752,496, as against £951,415 in 1928, while the trading surplus was £669,129, against £701,654.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

In the life department we issued 7,440 policies assuring over £4,290,000 gross or, after deducting reassurances, over £3,975,000 net. These figures are slightly below those of 1928, but they exceed those for 1927 which, being a bonus year, showed a substantial increase. The declaration of exceptional bonuses in May, 1928, gave a special impetus to new business in that year which could not in the nature of things recur. The premium income increased by over £35,000 and the life fund by over £1,100,000, while the expenses and commission, both absolutely and relatively to the premium income, showed a reduction.

Interest, dividends and rents, less income tax, amount to £1,117,225, being an increase of £11,000 on the corresponding figure last year. The directors recommend a final dividend of 10s. 3d. per share, less income tax, which will make a total distribution for the year of £1 0s. 6d. per share, less income tax. The statutory balance sheet discloses a very sound financial position. The assets, including the closed life funds, amount to £44,707,343, as compared with £61,447,749 shown in the consolidated balance sheet.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 13th instant, in York, Sir James Hamilton (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The year just closed has been a somewhat hard one for most business organisations throughout the world, and insurance has not been exempt, yet we have increased our premium income in the fire, accident and marine departments by £175,000; we have raised the funds of these departments by £83,000, and have added £10,000 to the general reserve out of trading, thus augmenting our future interest earnings. The life fund is also increased by £283,000. It is true the margin of profit on our general account, following the common trend, is lower than for the previous year; nevertheless, it contributed £61,900 to the profit and loss account. I think, therefore, there is no occasion for us to be other than thankful that our results are so good.

LIFE AND FIRE ACCOUNTS.

The new life sums assured, after deduction of reassurances, amounted to £1,570,160, being less by £160,000 than the net sums assured in 1928, the figures for which constituted a record. The decrease is largely due to diminution in the amount of single premium assurances effected, a class of business never sought by us. The number of policies issued was actually greater than in 1928. The claims by death, £182,000, are higher by £32,000, but are well within the mortality expectation.

The fire account shows a small increase of premium at £1,068,000, and in prevailing conditions we have good reason to be satisfied that we have not only maintained our income, but are able to report a slight improvement. The loss ratio is 52.9 per cent., as compared with 47.5 per cent. in the previous year, and reflects the experience of many of the companies, the year having been noticeable for an abnormal number of fires at home and in certain sections of the foreign field. Taking everything into consideration, it is satisfactory that we have been enabled to transfer £107,700 to the profit and loss, and also strengthen the reserve.

ACCIDENT AND GENERAL ACCOUNT.

In the accident and general account, the premiums again show a substantial advance—£138,000—and now stand at £1,382,000. This is mainly attributable to motor insurance, which entails increasingly anxious attention in view of the ever-growing number of vehicles on the road, and, unfortunately, an increased number of accidents. It remains to be seen whether the removal of the speed limit and the introduction of more stringent regulations as to dangerous driving will improve matters.

The loss ratio in this general account corresponds very closely with that of the previous year, and after increasing the reserves for unexpired liability and balance carried forward from £754,000 to £810,000, £61,900 is carried to the profit and loss account.

In the marine account the premiums have increased from £484,000 to £517,000—due, in great measure, to increased rates on certain sections of the business—while the losses are less. There is still much to be done in the direction of improving other sections of the marine business, but it can at least be said that something has been achieved. However, the position does not justify any departure from our conservative policy, and the transfer to profit and loss of £20,000 represents the interest credited to the account, the profit on the trading being allowed to remain in the fund, the balance carried forward being increased to £581,000. The 1927 account, now more or less closed, is satisfactory.

PROFIT AND LOSS AND DIVIDEND.

The departmental sums brought into the profit and loss account total £204,000, while interest is £44,500, £9,000 in excess of last year. After payment of the dividend and other charges, including £41,000 Colonial and Foreign State taxes, and providing £57,500 for home income tax, £10,000 has been added to the superannuation fund, £10,000 to general reserve and £140,000 is carried forward.

The general reserve fund has been increased by £214,000, and now stands at £1,068,000. To bring this fund above the million mark has long been one of our aims, and it is satisfactory that this has now been achieved. The gross rate of interest earned on the funds is £5 4s. 8d. per cent., and the net rate is £4 9s. 5d. per cent.

The directors recommend the dividend be 9s. 6d. on the fully-paid shares and 4s. 9d. on the partly-paid shares, which, on the rearranged capital, is the same as for the previous year. The dividend is paid free of tax, and therefore the increase in the rate of income tax from 4s. to 4s. 6d. in the £ raises the corresponding gross dividend.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE BRITISH SHAREHOLDERS TRUST, LIMITED.

CAPITAL AND RESERVES INTACT.
PROTECTION OF LABOUR.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of The British Shareholders Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr Follett Holt (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr F. Charlton Fry, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman moved "That the report and accounts to March 31, 1930, submitted to the meeting be and they are hereby approved and adopted."

Mr Edgar W. Crammond (the managing director) seconded the resolution.

The Chairman, continuing, said:—You will observe from the accounts before you that, after defraying the expenses of our issuing house and the management of our investments, the net profit realised for the year amounted to £100,476, a figure which appears to us to be satisfactory, particularly in view of the difficulties in New York and London, which seriously affected all financial business.

You will see from the balance sheet that our investments at March 31st stood at a book value of £876,284, and these showed a depreciation of 3 per cent. only, from which you will have gathered, as was the case, that we were in no way involved in any of the disastrous proceedings or investments which caused so much trouble last year. From the profits of the year to cover this comparatively small depreciation we have transferred the sum of £30,000 to a depreciation reserve, and also £30,000 to strengthen our general reserve account, and £2,500 to our staff pension fund. From the balance remaining we propose to you to approve a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent., less tax, for the year on the company's capital; the balance carried forward, at £30,441, being practically the same as last year.

After providing for the dividend the sum of our capital, capital and general reserve, and carry forward to-day amounts to £900,000, which is intact and represented by cash, British Government securities, and other well-selected and spread investments, conservatively valued. We are, therefore, well on the road to reach the first goal we have aimed at—that is, to have in the treasury of the trust £1,000,000 sterling in cash and securities with which to support and develop the shareholders' position, and as ancillary evidence of our ability to afford financial assistance to our national industries and undertakings.

POLICY OF THE BOARD.

There may be a few shareholders who would prefer a more showy policy in the shape of larger dividends, but these I would ask to bear in mind that the trust has only been in existence for some six years, and that during this period our object has been to lay soundly the foundations of a reliable British issuing house, which will have and hold the confidence of the market. This, I venture to think, has already happened, and with a little more patience the reward will certainly appear in revenue to the shareholders as it has already appeared in capital increment.

I wonder sometimes whether the great financial institutions of the country have always consulted amongst themselves on the extent of the assistance that should be given to industrial firms concerned in cut-throat competition in the same home or foreign field. To-day everyone is thinking on the lines of pooling resources in brains, in research, and in buying and selling. If these essentials are insisted upon as part of the price of further assistance, I do not think that as much of the nation's capital would be lost in the future as has happened in the past. Loss of capital must mean the loss of employment of labour, and the protection of labour, whether on the farm or in the factory, is surely the outstanding necessity of our time and the essential to our very existence as a great nation. I mention this subject to preface the information that we have subscribed to a share in the Bankers Industrial Development Company, which has been formed to afford help where it may be most needed to develop and preserve our great industries.

I will not close my remarks without again expressing on behalf of my colleagues our acknowledgment of the good services rendered to the trust by the managing director, Mr Edgar Crammond, and the officers and staff at 3 Lombard Street. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the formal business having been transacted, a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, *6 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.*

BRITISH MATCH CORPORATION, LIMITED.

FURTHER PROGRESS

The third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the British Match Corporation, Ltd., was held on the 14th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., Sir George Paton (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The secretary (Mr H. E. Hobson, A.C.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The net revenue this year is £493,930 12s., as against £420,673 9s. 0d., which, with the carry forward, £51,208 10s. 2d., against £35,854 13s. 2d., makes £545,139 2s. 2d., against £456,528 3s. From this have to be deducted interim dividends £135,297 0s. 8d., leaving available for distribution by this meeting £409,842 1s. 6d., against £332,782 15s. 4d. Your directors recommend that £3,301 12s. 1d. be written off office fittings and furniture, leaving this item at £1; that £80,000 be written off goodwill, rights, etc.; the payment of the preference dividend for the half-year to April 30, 1930, at 5½ per cent., less income tax, £11,574 1s. 3d., and dividend of 4 per cent., free of income tax, on the ordinary shares, absorbing £247,500, a total of £342,375 13s. 4d., leaving to be carried forward to next account £67,466 8s. 2d., against £51,208 10s. 2d. brought in from last year.

BRYANT AND MAY'S RESULTS.

I will try to give you some idea of the magnitude of your business by summarising the interests you hold in subsidiary companies.

The principal one, as you know, is Bryant and May, and that company's accounts for the year ended March 21st were submitted to the annual meeting on April 29th. The year's working again proved very satisfactory, the net profit being £528,038, against £531,642 in 1929, which, as you may remember, was a record year. The directors of that company paid dividends the same as in the previous year, put £50,000 to the reserve fund, bringing it up to £400,000, and made a grant of £10,000 to the employees' benefit fund. They wrote off plant, properties, machinery account £100,000, bringing this account down to £974,092, which, at one time, was over £1,870,000. I need hardly tell you that the plants could not be replaced at anything like the figure at which they now stand in the books.

Trade during the year has been, although difficult, very satisfactory, and we have not only held our own against all competitors, but increased the turnover considerably, largely due to the maintenance of high quality, good salesmanship and good service. The investments held by Bryant and May, of which over £50,000 is represented by Government securities, continue to be very remunerative and provide a large proportion of the profit shown in the accounts.

J. John Masters and Company's business continues to give a satisfactory return on the money invested there.

TARIFF WALLS.

It has been rightly said, "Export or we starve." How true, but how can we increase or even maintain our export trade when every nation in the world, and even our own Dominions, have erected tariff barriers in order that their workpeople may be kept in full employment. Capital may climb these tariff walls, but Labour cannot follow, so the numbers of the unemployed at home continue to increase alarmingly. It must appear to every right-thinking man, who is not first a politician, that if this unemployment problem is to be solved, this question of tariffs must be considered apart from politics ere it is too late and we sink into a second-rate, if not a third-rate, business nation.

Bryant and May (Brazil) comes next in importance of your subsidiary companies. I said last year that this would prove a good investment for your company, and, although conditions in Brazil have been, to say the least of it, deplorably bad, we have had a satisfactory year, with every prospect of good, steady business in the future. Even when trade or employment is bad people must have matches; thus we are not greatly affected by every turn of the tide of trade.

In Australia we are very busy. The Government have just increased the tariff on many articles, matches included, so that the imported goods are practically shut out, and our factories there will be taxed to their fullest capacity to meet the demand.

In New Zealand the trade is a steady and regular one, but with considerable competition from imported goods, particularly from Belgium.

In Canada the factories belonging to the Eddy Match Company, in which we hold a controlling interest, do over 90 per cent. of the trade, and this company has given a very good account of itself. Here again we have the protection of a tariff. I propose to visit the factories in Canada in a few weeks' time.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE MINING TRUST, LIMITED.

THE MOUNT ISA DEBENTURE ISSUE.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Mining Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 15th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., for the purpose of receiving a report on the position of the company's interests to date.

Mr Leslie Urquhart (chairman of the company) presided.

After dealing with the position of the New Guinea Goldfields, North Charterland, the French Interests and the Lawn Hill Concession, the chairman went on to refer to Mount Isa, in regard to which he said:—The large ore reserves already proven and the enormous possibilities of future development put Mount Isa into the class of a manufacturing proposition rather than that of a short-lived mining problem, and the variation in the grades of the different ore bodies will enable us to suit our production to the world's demand for metals.

It is because of the huge size of its metal deposits that Mount Isa is destined to be not only the world's greatest individual producer of lead and later of zinc also, but the cheapest producer of lead ever known.

THE PROJECTED ISSUE.

To bring Mount Isa to the production stage, it is estimated that a further £500,000 will be required, and the Mount Isa Company is now making an issue of debenture stock for that purpose and in order to repay all indebtedness and clear the balance sheet for dividend purposes. Let me say that this issue is strictly in accordance with programme, for it was decided on more than 18 months ago, but the issue itself was deferred to the latest possible date, until we were on the eve of production, in order that the figures of cost, profits, &c., put forward in support of the issue should have been checked and re-checked, leaving no vestige of doubt as to their accuracy. That is the position to-day.

The issue which the Mount Isa Mines is now making, and details of which will be sent you over the week-end, consists of £1,500,000 8 per cent. convertible and redeemable debenture stock at par, carrying the right for three years to convert into Mount Isa shares at the rate of one £1 fully-paid share for every £1 10s. of debenture stock—perhaps more popularly expressed as convertible at 30s. per share.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

It gives me great pleasure to state that to the extent to which this issue may not be subscribed, the Queensland Government has agreed to guarantee finance to the company up to a total of £500,000. I am confident that we shall not have cause to call for such assistance, but by this action the Queensland Government has once again evidenced its confidence in Mount Isa, and I am sure shareholders will wish me to express our united thanks to the Queensland Government and to the Agent-General in London, Mr Macartney.

The issue will constitute a first charge on the whole business, and will enable the Mount Isa Company to repay all loans and liabilities of every kind, complete the plant and put the mine on a dividend-earning basis. Even at present low metal prices, the estimated profit from the first mill unit alone will cover debenture interest nearly six times, and if all the debenture stock is converted into shares and the outstanding options exercised, the net profit from the first mill unit alone, based even on present abnormally low metal prices, will show a return of over 27 per cent. on the total issued share capital.

That is, of course, looking three years ahead, by which time metal prices must recover and, together with plant additions at Mount Isa, permit of a much higher earning on the share capital; but it is sufficient to illustrate that the option to convert debentures into shares on a basis of 30s. per share may be regarded as of great value.

CONSIDERATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS.

Criticism has been levelled that the terms of the issue are too generous to subscribers and impose an unnecessary obligation on the Mount Isa Company. To the latter I reply that Mount Isa is of such magnitude and its profit-earning capabilities so great that such an obligation is negligible. That the terms of the issue are generous we admit, but any criticism under this head has been met by the arrangement now made, namely that, preferential consideration will be given to applications, firstly from Mount Isa shareholders, and secondly from shareholders in the Mining Trust.

Based on our shareholding in Mount Isa, the Mining Trust is entitled to an allotment of £1,000,000 of stock. We are therefore applying firm for that amount, leaving £500,000 for allotment to other applicants in the preferential order mentioned.

I think I have said enough to indicate how attractive the debenture stock is, and I have no doubt that shareholders will take full advantage of the preference in allotment which we have obtained for you.

PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES WATERWORKS COMPANY, LIMITED.

CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICE.
MR P. ASHLEY COOPER ON THE PROSPECTS.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Province of Buenos Ayres Waterworks Company, Ltd., was held, on the 9th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr. P. Ashley Cooper (the chairman and managing director) said: This is the twenty-first annual general meeting, and shareholders will, I think, agree that on attaining its majority the company shows every sign of having grown up strong and healthy, in spite of some years of illness in its youth. And there is no reason to believe that it will not continue its course in health and strength. Shortly after our meeting last year I paid another visit to Buenos Aires to study our future development. During my visit I had the honour of being received by the President, who showed the greatest interest in our affairs. Naturally, a service such as ours appeals to Dr. Irigoyen, who has the welfare of his people so close at heart. So much so that he invited me to submit to him some suggestions for the improvement and development of sanitary services throughout the country.

NEW STATION AT MONTE CHINGOLO.

During my visit we inaugurated, in the presence of the public authorities, the large station at Monte Chingolo about which I told you last year. This station is now in use and is proving most valuable in helping us to deal with the large extensions—the biggest number of new consumers in any year in the company's life—in our districts. I am glad to say our service continues to improve and is being appreciated more and more by the people and by the public authorities.

In the province a new Cabinet took office on May 1st. In Senor Crovetto and his Ministers we have men of great business experience, and we can, I believe, look forward with confidence to constructive co-operation from them. Before I sit down I should like to record our great appreciation of the services of our local committee and our management. You know them all well by now, and their splendid work speaks for itself.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 6½ per cent. for the year, was declared.

WHITEAWAY, LAIDLAW AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The twenty-second annual general meeting of Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 9th instant, at 5, Cripplegate Buildings, London. Mr Mence Wilkinson (chairman and managing director) presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The trading profit, £133,927, compares with £145,933. This is after debiting managing director's remuneration, which a year ago was charged under the heading of directors' fees, so the actual shrinkage in profit is £9,000 only. The board propose that the balance be appropriated as follows:—To pay a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 8 per cent. per annum, free of tax, and carry forward the balance of £26,401. Your directors cannot but feel disappointed with the results of the year's trading. You will recognise that we have had to contend with exceptional difficulties and circumstances quite beyond our control. The political conditions in India are mainly responsible for the fall in profits.

In Burma the unsatisfactory condition of the rice trade has continued throughout the year, and the purchasing power of our customers, who are mostly natives of the country, has been restricted. Our branches in Ceylon have done well, in spite of the low price now prevailing for rubber, one of the principal exports of that country. Trading conditions have been difficult in the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, also due to the slump in rubber and tin, but, with one exception, all our branches have made a fair amount of profit. Siam has proved a disappointment, but a change in management at our branch in Bangkok will, we hope, result in an improvement during the current year. Our branches in Java and Sumatra have improved on last year's results.

As our branch in Uganda was proving an unprofitable unit it has been closed, and the stock and premises have been disposed of. The branches in Kenya Colony have contributed slightly more to the general result than they did a year ago. As regards China, sales have been well maintained in spite of the unsettled condition of the country, but owing to a very severe fall in the price of silver and a consequent depreciation in the exchange value of the dollar profits have not been up to the previous year's level. Your directors, however, feel that the managers at Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Tientsin have come through a difficult period very creditably.

Mr J. H. Lewis seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

CLUNY RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

RESULTS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY.

MR CHARLES McARTHUR ON THE OUTLOOK.

The twentieth ordinary general meeting of the Cluny Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 2, 3 and 4, Idol Lane, London, E.C., Mr Charles McArthur (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr John McInnes, representing the agents and secretaries (Messrs Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, with your permission I propose to take as read the directors' report and accounts as published.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

Supplementing the printed report, I comment as follows: On the liabilities side of the balance sheet, general reserve has been increased by the amount of £1,500 which you authorised to be transferred from profits a year ago. Taxation reserve, with the addition of the tax to be deducted from the dividend we recommend for 1929, will more than cover our liability payable in 1931. A new item of £2,513 6s. 4d. for staff provident fund reserve appears for the first time in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, and you will note that it is squared by a similar entry on the assets side of the balance sheet. Although I have referred to this every year since its inception, I will repeat that it is a genuine asset belonging to the company, and forms part of the Lanadron, Ledbury and Cluny provident fund reserve, which has been set aside and separately invested to ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that Cluny's annual contribution to the provident fund shall be forthcoming whether the annual trading results of the company be good or bad. It is, therefore, in the nature of a trust guarantee fund, the principal of which belongs to the company, but is not available for its ordinary business.

On the assets side of the balance sheet, rubber in stock and in transit appears at the moderate figure of £3,908 4s. 5d. The bulk of this has since been realised by sale, and the small unsold balance of 22,229 lb. has been valued at a safe figure. It will be noted that the unspent balance of capital and reserves, plus the balance in profit and loss account at December 31, 1929, are all held in cash or easily realisable assets.

PROFIT FOR THE YEAR.

Turning to the profit and loss account, as the combined incidence of a reduced market price on greater output, we have realised a profit of £5,924 0s. 9d., or about £271 short of our profit for 1928, a result which I hope you will regard as satisfactory considering market conditions throughout the year.

I am sure you will wish, as usual, to express your appreciation of the continuous loyal and efficient services of the estate manager and staff, our Eastern agents and the visiting agents, without which services such a result would have been impossible.

In the published report your directors have made their recommendation for disposal of profits. With regard to the proposed transfer of £1,500 to general reserve, it will be noted that during 1929 we added only 20 acres to the planted area, which you will see from the acreage statement now stands at 1,210 acres. For a long time, owing to inadequate funds, our planted area stood at 977 acres. From 1926 to 1929 we have, as funds and labour conditions permitted, added to this figure a total of 233 acres in pursuance of the policy of insurance against the possibility of failing crops in the old areas, and of making the estate a more economic unit of production. We have authorised a further extension of 118 acres to be opened up during the current year, and, if you sanction the transfer to reserve now proposed of £1,500, we shall have adequate unspent capital to develop and bring to the bearing stage all immature areas. The total planted area will then be 1,328 acres.

The proposed carry-forward in the profit and loss account of £7,193 3s. constitutes a fund entirely available to finance the ordinary requirements of the company's business, and may be considered sufficient for the purpose.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

On the subject of prospects for the current year, it is impossible to be optimistic. Like the great majority of rubber producers, we have ceased tapping throughout the whole of this month, and this will naturally increase the cost per pound of our production. What the effect of cessation of tapping is likely to be on world stocks can be estimated, but in regard to market price I fear that the advantage of a reduction in stocks will be offset by the world-wide depression of market conditions for all commodities, and that no real prosperity can be expected until world trade shows signs of revival.

In the case of any company it is difficult to foresee anything but a lean year in 1930. It is at least satisfactory to be able to state that we have delivered, or have still to deliver, about 60,000 lb. out of current year's crops at a net sale price of 1s. 0½d. per pound.

I now move: "That the report and accounts for the year to December 31, 1929, be received and adopted," and shall ask Mr Macfadyen to second that, and, after he has done so, I shall endeavour to answer any questions that shareholders may desire to ask.

Mr Eric Macfadyen seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously in the absence of question or comment, and the dividend recommendation was also unanimously approved.

The retiring director, Mr C. McArthur, and the auditors, Messrs Wyatt Williams and Company, having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the agents, manager and staff on the estates terminated the proceedings.

WIGGINS, TEAPE AND COMPANY (1919), LIMITED.

PROGRESS IN 1929.

OUTPUT AND SALES INCREASED.

The eleventh annual general meeting of Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919), Ltd., was held, on the 13th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., Mr Leslie W. Farrow (deputy-chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to be able to report progress both as regards output and sales.

You will be interested to know that the mills of this company had an output for 1929 of 4 per cent. more than that of 1928, the output for which year, you will remember, showed a considerable increase on the output for 1927. The Stoneywood Mills of Alex. Pirie and Sons, Ltd., had an increased output of 23 per cent. compared with that for 1928. It is a source of satisfaction to your board to be in a position again to inform you that with the exception of the necessary shuts for alterations to the plant and machinery, we have been able to keep all our mills running full time.

You will remember the late chairman referring last year to increased sales, both at home and abroad, during 1928 compared with 1927. I am glad to be able to report that in 1929 both the home and export sales showed a further increase of 8 per cent. compared with the sales for 1928.

ACQUISITIONS IN 1930.

The increase of capital early this year was mainly for the purpose of providing the necessary additional shares to enable your company to acquire the whole of the ordinary share capitals of Portals (John Allen and Sons), Ltd., W. Howard and Sons, Ltd., and the Roughway Paper Mills, Ltd., all of these companies being engaged in the manufacture of similar papers to those made by your company. We were subsequently able to acquire, either by exchange of shares or for cash, the whole of the share capital of the Basted Paper Mills Company, Ltd., whose mills are also engaged in the production of high-grade papers. Your board consider that in these acquisitions a most important step has been taken in the rationalisation of the high-grade paper industry in this country. A position has now been reached in which your company controls a very large proportion of the number of paper-making machines in this country engaged on the production of high-grade tub-sized papers.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

With regard to the current year, the results for the first four months compare favourably with those for the corresponding months in 1929. In addition, the company's order books are, on the whole, in a satisfactory condition. Unless, therefore, some adverse circumstances operate, I think your board may look forward with confidence to meeting you this time next year with another satisfactory balance sheet. At the meeting held on March 3rd last, the late chairman, when referring to the position created by our recent acquisitions, stated that, as a result of these fusions, he was able to view the future of your company with far greater confidence than he had experienced for many years past. Your board heartily subscribe to that view. It is the intention of your board to consider the payment of an interim dividend on December 1st next.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The dividend of 10 per cent. as proposed was approved, the retiring directors were re-elected, and the auditors were re-appointed.

CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

CONTINUED EXPANSION OF BUSINESS.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at 3 and 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, London.

The Right Hon. Lord Meston of Agra and Dunottar, K.C.S.I. (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that 1929 had been a period of progress and prosperity. The former was reflected in some measure in the capital account; the latter was apparent from the revenue returns. In spite of the general political unsettlement, and in spite also of a good deal of labour trouble in other industries, which to some extent reacted on the corporation, their work of providing material comfort and industrial power had continued almost unchecked. They had sold 170 million units during the year, in contrast with 148 millions in 1928.

The net result was that their gross receipts were £1,058,629, or nearly 11 per cent. higher than in 1928, and their working and maintenance charges were £597,508, or an increase of just under 8 per cent. The resultant gross profits, that was, before meeting their heavy capital charges, British taxation, etc., were £461,121, or about 15 per cent. better than last year's figure of £401,803.

It would have been obvious that the numerous developments and improvements now in course of execution or in contemplation would require a considerable addition to their capital resources. So far they had been careful to avoid the raising of new capital before it could be profitably employed, but, as the increase of their share capital could not be indefinitely postponed, they thought it desirable, and, indeed, their duty, in the present circumstances of the money market to take advantage of the cheap accommodation available. They had, therefore, within the last few weeks issued privately, through Messrs Robert Fleming and Company, on favourable terms, a comparatively small block of 220,000 preference shares. It was their hope to issue, certainly before this time next year, and probably a good deal earlier, a substantial amount of ordinary shares, which it was their intention to offer to the holders of their existing ordinary share capital on terms which it was trusted would be regarded by them as satisfactory.

To conclude, he might summarise the situation by describing the company as in a strong financial position, and its prospects as satisfactory.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CAWNPORE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

INCREASED OUTPUT—EXTENSIONS TO PLANT.

The meeting of the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 13th instant, at Winchester House, London, Mr John G. B. Stone (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that there was no change in the share capital, but the 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures had been reduced by £60, and the 5 per cent. debentures had been reduced by £5,060 through the operation of the sinking fund. The reserves at £52,293 have increased by £10,369 during the year.

As to the profit and loss account, from 1928 £18,524 had been brought in, and after paying the final dividend for that year and the directors' commission thereon, there remained a balance of £3,824 to be added to the balance from the revenue account, making a total of £83,768. Out of that the board had paid the interim dividend, two half-yearly preference dividends, the directors' commission thereon, and had transferred to depreciation and renewals £27,500, to the general reserve £2,500, to the income-tax account £4,000, and to the debenture sinking fund £7,827, leaving £20,941 5s. 11d., and they recommended the payment of a final dividend of 7 per cent., leaving £6,241.

A considerable part of the company's business lay in the supply of power to the mills and other industries in Cawnpore. The year under review had not been good from an industrial point of view, but in spite of that, they had increased output, and it had brought with it an increase in the maximum demand upon the company's plant. There were signs of an improvement in trade, and the board had received and were discussing further contracts for the supply of power. The board had thought it desirable, therefore, to make arrangements for extending the Riverside Power Station. Two of the existing turbines were to be replaced with others of greater output, and a new turbine and alternator were to be added. That addition necessitated the extension of their buildings, but not any addition to the boiler plant at present. A further alteration and improvement was that, owing to the increased generating capacity of the power station, they had found it advisable to put in larger and more modern switchgear.

The construction of that plant was well in hand; the first shipment was now being made, and the board hoped that by about the end of this year they would have the use of the new machinery, with which they would be able to handle a greater demand, and obtain still further economy in the cost of production.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

LEDBURY RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

STRENGTH OF COMPANY'S POSITION.

MR ERIC MACFADYEN ON PROSPECTS.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Ledbury Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, at 2, 3 and 4, Idol Lane, London, E.C., Mr Eric Macfadyen (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Our share capital remains unaltered at £108,600, against which our estates have cost £134,788. Allowing, therefore, for the general reserve, including to-day's allocation thereto, we have an unspent balance on capital account of £13,812, which is more than sufficient to meet our present capital commitments. Our balance-sheet assets, taking investments at cost, exceed liabilities by £28,854, after deducting the amount required for the dividend of 10 per cent. Our finances are therefore in good shape, and we feel justified in distributing the greater part of the year's earnings.

We are not wholly dependent upon rubber for our income, but are interested also in tin mining through the Sione Tin Company, formed to dredge the low-lying portion of our Sione Estate. Our net revenue from tin was £2,420 last year. The tin market, like the rubber market, is depressed for the time being, but a certain revenue will continue to accrue to us by way of royalties, even if for some time we receive no dividend on our shares.

Our other investments, together with sundry minor receipts, produced £1,155 last year. Rubber contributed £8,250, bringing the total profit up to £11,825. This compares with a profit of £11,398 for 1928 and £18,324 for 1927.

Although we are better off than many rubber companies, owing to our having had good years in the past and having laid by against a rainy day, it is plain that we must not count upon an equally good year in 1930. In 1927 our average net price realised was 18.7d. per pound. In 1928 it was 10.12d. In 1929 it was 9.11d., and, as we all know, the market has so far continued to decline throughout 1930.

LOW CAPITALISATION.

I want our shareholders, however, to realise the strength of their position. Last year we harvested an increased crop, and this year's output would have been still higher but for the May tapping holiday, in which we have agreed to participate. Last year was also our cheapest year, and our costs in 1930 will, I anticipate, be as low or even a shade lower. Even this year we are so far covering expenses on revenue account. Allowing for our share in Sungei Sabaling, I calculate that a purchaser of our shares at par is buying rubber, fully equipped and over 80 per cent. mature, at a net capitalisation per acre of £30, taking our tin interest and our other investments at cost. Anyone who set out to plant a new rubber estate to-day would have to wait seven or eight years for a return on his outlay, and would be remarkably lucky if his capitalisation came out no higher than double that figure. When the inevitable change in the psychology of markets comes about, sooner or later, anyone who may have picked up Ledbury shares at to-day's price will have reason to congratulate himself.

GOOD CONDITION OF ESTATES.

I visited the estates once more myself a few months ago, and was well satisfied with the progress made on the agricultural side. Kinrara, to which old Ledbury is now attached for administrative purposes, has never, in my knowledge of it, been better looked after. The health problem there, which for many years prevented the establishment of an altogether satisfactory labour force, now presents no serious difficulty, thanks to the thoroughgoing co-operation of our manager with our medical officer in planning and carrying out malaria-prevention measures. As a result we now have an ample and settled Tamil labour force, and the advantage of this is apparent in our cost of production. The improved conservation of soil and rainfall and the conservative tapping system adopted some years ago have resulted in a great improvement in the condition of the trees, and our bark position is definitely in a sounder state than when I saw the estate four years ago, and still more so than it was nine or ten years ago. We may expect an output from these old areas on pretty much the same scale as last year, and at a slight reduction in cost for a good many years to come.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the dividend of 10 per cent. was declared.

LANADRON RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

MR ERIC MACFADYEN'S SURVEY.

The twenty-second ordinary general meeting of Lanadron Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held, on the 14th instant, at 2, 3 and 4 Idol Lane, London, E.C., Mr Eric Macfadyen (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Our capital expenditure during last year included over £4,400, representing our share of the expenditure on Sungei Sabaling Estate and about £2,000 spent on further development and buildings on Lanadron and Jementah. After allowing for depreciation reserve—to which we have transferred £2,000 not required in our reserve for taxation—the net addition to the book cost of our estates is £4,391, which brings it up to £360,774. This corresponds very closely with our issued capital, leaving our reserve of £60,000 virtually intact.

CONDITION OF THE ESTATES.

As I visited the estates again a few months ago you may care to know the impression I derived from them. Lanadron, which was one of the pioneer rubber estates, continues to hold its own very well. The losses due to disease and accident in the course of time have gradually reduced the average stand, until to-day the ground could certainly support more trees per acre with advantage from the point of view of production. Many difficulties are met with in rehabilitating areas thinned out by storms and disease, but we are making some progress in this work on Lanadron, and where areas which have become uneconomic are, as one may say, rejuvenated, planting material is used which far exceeds in potential productive capacity that of the original trees.

Against a relatively low average yield, an old estate has certain substantial compensations. The problem of making it healthy has been studied, and as the result of experience it has been made attractive both to staff and to labour, so that drawbacks are absent which, in other cases, explain a high cost of working. The net profit per pound earned by Lanadron this year, on an average net sale price of under 8¾d. net, affords an instance of what I mean.

On Jementah I found conditions distinctly better and more hopeful from the agricultural point of view. We are still under the necessity of conserving bark on Jementah, and have to be content with a very low crop, so that this estate was worked at an actual loss last year.

NEW ESTATE'S DEVELOPMENT.

The new estate over which we have entered into partnership with the Ledbury Company is opening out remarkably well. It is situated in a district of Negri Sembilan, which is noted for high yields. The soil is good and the general configuration and lay-out of our block will lend themselves to economical working once it is planted up. In the development of this new property we are employing methods which we believe will give us in the end an estate which in point of yield will far surpass the results of the best of the old estates.

Our finances are so strong as to justify us, in our opinion, in proposing a 4 per cent. dividend, although that will mean a small reduction in the carry forward. I am afraid that, in view of market conditions, I do not foresee any prospect of an immediate improvement in our earning capacity, and our dividend policy must not be taken as implying that we count upon that, although there is, in my view, ground for hoping that 1930 may prove to be the zero year for rubber growers. But our shareholders have shown great self-restraint in the past in laying by for a rainy day. Our accounts show liquid resources (including rubber in stock and in transit) little short of £100,000, and we think it not unreasonable, at the present stage, to distribute a little more than the actual earnings of an exceptionally unremunerative year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and the dividend of 4 per cent. was declared.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended May 10, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	4,750	From Revenue	10,047
Interest, &c. on Debt	1,214		
Sinking Fund	630		
Sundries	203		
Decrease in Debt	2,787		
Increase in Balances	463		
	10,047		10,047

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £10,047,200, as compared with £9,212,100 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and super-tax were higher at £1,582,000 and £950,000, against £799,000 and £540,000 respectively. Customs brought in £2,354,000, as compared with £2,295,000, while Excise amounted to £936,000 against £1,061,000. Miscellaneous receipts were lower at £204,300, against £438,200. The National Debt was reduced by £2,787,000, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+1,713	Public Department Advances	−7,800
National Savings Certificates	+ 50	Bank of England Advances	−1,500
4½% Conversion Loan	+4,750		
	+6,513		−9,300

The Floating Debt was reduced by £7,600,000 to £620,530,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31, APRIL 1 TO MAY 10.

	£		£
Expenditure	87,963,206	Revenue	72,234,691
		Decreases in balances	3,207,052
		Amount borrowed	12,521,463
	87,963,206		87,963,206

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	May 10, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	354	354
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	811	811
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	266	296
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	321	321
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,176	2,176
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	381	381
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	246	246
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	554	554
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,082	1,082
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	590	575
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	48	45
Other Capital Liabilities	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,526	7,538
	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	113	113
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,639	7,651

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	May 11, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	May 10, '30.	Movement, week ended May 10, '30.
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	— 1,500,000
Advances by Public Departments	40,610,000	48,530,000	45,130,000	— 7,800,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	702,210,000	588,885,900	575,400,000*	+ 1,700,000
Total Floating Debt	742,820,000	637,415,000	620,530,000	— 7,600,000

* Includes £2,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on May 9, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £47,225,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 3d., about 44 per cent., and Saturday at £99 9s. 5d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 14	30,000,000	48,495,000	2 15 8·77
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to May 10, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to May 11, 1929.	Week Ended May 10, 1930.	Week Ended May 11, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	17,818,000	16,823,000	1,582,000	799,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	6,300,000	5,530,000	950,000	540,000
Estate, &c., Duties	9,450,000	9,840,000	1,620,000	1,590,000
Stamps	1,510,000	2,280,000	160,000	300,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	70,000	70,000	...	...
Total Inland Revenue	35,148,000	34,553,000	4,312,000	3,229,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	13,183,000	13,439,000	2,354,000	2,295,000
Excise	11,000,000	11,800,000	936,000	1,061,000
Total Customs and Excise	24,183,000	25,239,000	3,290,000	3,356,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	1,519,000	1,913,000	857,000	276,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	4,450,000	3,900,000	1,300,000	850,000
Crown Lands	140,000	150,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	4,401,825	5,280,032	83,849	1,062,852
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,392,866	3,499,960	204,314	438,212
Total Ordinary Revenue	72,234,691	74,534,992	10,047,163	9,212,064
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	4,200,000	4,600,000	1,000,000	750,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	2,149,000	1,999,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	6,349,000	6,599,000	1,000,000	750,000
Total	78,583,691	81,133,992	11,047,163	9,962,064
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,210,000	630,000	470,000	150,000
(c) For other Issues: By Treasury Bills	265,551,000	366,564,000	43,878,000	56,954,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	29,791,883	...	4,750,000	56,954,000
By National Savings Certificates	4,950,000	4,800,000	800,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	63,660,000	113,690,000	8,540,000	7,635,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	17,038	23,221	...	...
	444,763,612	592,961,213	69,485,163	75,501,064
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April—	1930. £	1929. £		
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total £	450,888,826	599,213 737	69,485,163	75,501,064

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 10, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 11, 1929.	Issues Week Ended May 10, 1930.	Issues Week Ended May 11, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,210,000	630,000	470,000	150,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,000,000	1,200,000	...	400,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	279,020,000	364,625,000	42,165,000	58,805,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	4,350,000	4,950,000	750,000	850,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	...	29,159,505	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	67,060,000	110,130,000	17,840,000	8,560,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	1,870,044	...	...
	447,970,664	596,342,658	67,022,118	75,180,449
Balances in Exchequer—	May 10, 1930. £	May 11, 1929. £		
Bank of England	2,397,227	2,269,193	...	...
Bank of Ireland	520,935	601,886	2,918,162	2,871,079
			+364,045	+241,615
			+ 99,000	+ 79,000
Total £			450,888,826	599,213,737
			+463,045	+320,615

Treasury, May 12, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, May 14, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	356,454,998	Other Government Securities	232,893,331
In Banking Department	65,928,590	Other Securities	11,629,179
		Silver Coin	4,461,890
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	162,383,588
	£422,383,588		£422,383,588

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	52,792,629
Rest	3,197,304	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	24,547,936	Discounts and Advances £6,403,528	
Other Deposits—		Securities 10,989,410	
Bankers £58,310,637			17,392,938
Other Accounts 36,457,341		Notes	65,928,590
	94,767,978	Gold and Silver Coin	964,289
7-Day and other Bills	12,228		
	£137,078,446		£137,078,446

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

Both Departments.	Amount. May 14, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	356,454,998	− 2,035,700	− 6,335,879
Public deposits	24,547,936	+ 8,336,844	+ 15,257,138
Bankers' deposits	58,310,637	−10,223,748	− 2,760,226
Other deposits	36,457,341	+ 422,908	+ 378,741
Seven-day bills	12,228	− 340	+ 6,595
Total, outside liabilities	475,783,140	− 3,500,036	+ 6,536,369
Capital and rest	17,750,304	+ 4,510	− 3,654
Government debt and securities	296,701,560	− 3,570,073	+ 11,658,669
Discounts and advances	6,403,528	− 151,344	− 3,183,487
Other securities	22,618,589	+ 1,380,817	− 3,079,891
Silver coin in issue department	4,461,890	− 409	− 360,525
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	163,347,877	− 1,154,517	+ 1,486,959
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	66,892,879	+ 881,183	+ 7,842,838
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	56%	+ 1⅛%	+ ⅜%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	34½%	− ½%	− 1⅝%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mar 26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Mar. 26	244001980	11537685	155996569	33	44766909	6110557	13300861	63692754	58
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	54021909	10309949	12705909	59850036	50
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33⅛	55861909	6288218	11063111	61531155	52
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	33⅛	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466768	50
23	243912989	11629001	163843217	33⅛	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812	51
30	243912989	11628274	164283793	34⅛	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916	54
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394	34⅛	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696	55
14	243908931	11629179	163347877	34⅛	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879	56

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to April 30	13,504,329	629,258	1,019,878	15,153,365
Week ended May 7	770,956	40,995	69,905	881,856
Week ended April 14	743,649	34,970	58,332	836,951
Total to date, 1930	15,018,934	705,123	1,148,115	16,872,172
Total to date, 1929	15,194,604	722,673	1,169,358	17,086,635
Increase or decrease in 1930	− 175,670	− 17,550	− 21,243	− 214,463
	= 1·1%	= 2·4%	= 1·8%	= 1·2%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of April.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to May 10.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	25	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,126,000	10,138,000	+ 0·1	51,432,600	48,866,900
BRADFORD	5,388,000	3,879,000	− 28·0	23,610,100	17,850,300
BRISTOL	4,738,000	4,191,000	− 11·5	23,147,000	20,993,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	94,467,900	91,032,800
HULL	3,876,000	3,402,000	− 12·2	17,305,500	15,575,200
LEEDS	4,061,000	4,006,000	− 1·3	19,576,300	18,745,200
LEICESTER	3,490,000	2,855,000	− 18·1	15,593,300	13,906,700
LIVERPOOL	32,936,000	27,781,000	− 15·6	155,963,900	133,796,300
MANCHESTER	55,057,000	45,298,000	− 17·7	249,080,800	217,730,800
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,003,000	6,537,000	+ 8·8	27,734,500	28,268,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,533,000	2,419,000	− 4·5	12,249,700	11,710,600
SHEFFIELD	4,043,000	3,528,000	− 12·7	19,784,500	18,123,000
Total	132,251,000	114,034,000	− 13·7	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Canada appeared in the *Economist* of April 26; Russia and Roumania in May 3; Denmark, Lithuania, Danzig and Japan in May 10.

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

Resources.	May 16, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,838,120	3,048,530	3,072,660	3,068,170	3,074,080
Total *bills* discounted	914,600	211,490	233,450	237,450	210,490
Bills bought in open market	146,110	256,870	209,560	175,200	171,030
Total U.S. Govt. securities	155,830	527,390	529,510	527,840	527,900
Total bills and securities	1,224,350	1,004,960	982,220	951,090	920,020
Total resources	5,235,040	5,016,060	4,973,880	4,936,020	5,030,440
Liabilities.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,646,660	1,518,340	1,507,270	1,492,990	1,464,900
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,319,890	2,363,310	2,384,720	2,349,440	2,379,360
Total deposits	2,365,510	2,422,190	2,433,930	2,413,000	2,420,830
Capital paid in and surplus	410,690	451,180	451,140	451,120	451,090
Total liabilities	5,235,040	5,016,060	4,973,880	4,936,020	5,030,440
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	75·1%	81·8%	82·5%	83·0%	83·6%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	May 16, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Total bills discounted	254,370	34,130	41,270	57,180	30,300
Bills bought in open market	35,120	74,080	49,790	37,010	35,310
Total U.S. Govt. securities	22,730	192,860	195,170	192,860	177,860
Total bills and securities	314,130	308,270	293,930	295,660	252,070
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	931,020	957,670	991,130	947,990	972,570
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	78·9%	82·0%	84·3%	83·4%	86·8%

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

Assets.	Apr. 19, 1929.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,385	7,115	7,315	7,007	7,134	7,599
Subsidiary coin	115	126	127	122	126	132
Bills discounted	8,693	8,859	9,445	9,060	8,614	7,689
Investments	596	805	1,043	1,016	1,091	1,049
Liabilities.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,233	7,393	8,436	8,565	7,891	7,642
Government deposits	2,374	2,580	2,450	1,851	1,815	2,103
Bankers' deposits	4,832	4,954	4,737	5,011	4,533	4,549
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·5%	47·6%	45·8%	45·0%	47·6%	51·6%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In *rupees* (000's *omitted*).

Assets.	Apr. 19, 1929.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.
Total securities	21,47,11	30,12,14	30,18,57	30,03,19	30,04,37	29,86,19
Loans	18,04,19	9,19,54	10,05,27	13,07,07	14,05,68	14,00,25
Cash credits	28,90,04	31,43,09	31,74,27	31,99,54	32,19,12	32,44,54
Inland bills	10,45,70	7,27,89	7,11,77	6,81,35	6,39,75	5,77,14
Foreign bills	47,84	44,01	40,11	48,79	50,84	47,60
Dead stock	2,83,88	2,80,92	2,80,94	2,80,56	2,80,75	2,81,23
Bal. with other banks	37,83	50,92	29,02	8,25	21,60	31,67
Cash	11,93,58	19,44,68	19,18,46	14,31,52	13,05,22	12,01,78
Liabilities.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	81,13,66	89,58,21	90,11,94	86,24,47	85,89,17	84,28,70
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,113	1,204	1,049	916	1,020	1,060
Advances in London	880	880	880	2,144	2,126	2,128
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	285	382	213	55	160	240

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 10, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Gold	36,525,431	42,333,653	42,350,815	42,350,022	42,350,438
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,987,715	6,937,539	6,901,833	6,885,787	6,889,208
Bills discounted	18,446,725	18,778,095	18,753,348	18,748,376	18,716,501
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,743,588	4,710,999	5,657,909	4,950,691	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	8,998,339	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances	2,415,400	2,622,959	2,591,847	2,749,826	2,642,371
Other assets (excluding *forward exch.*)	3,543,478	2,699,095	2,764,386	2,989,347	...
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	63,420,111	70,899,825	70,770,213	72,372,801	71,612,307
Public deposits	11,528,202	6,300,088	6,553,930	5,893,939	5,971,635
Private deposits	6,509,303	6,764,909	6,666,101	6,382,839	7,520,406
Other liabilities	2,203,062	2,712,386	2,624,752	2,919,328	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In *Reichsmarks** (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,765,619	2,557,053	2,565,502	2,565,417
Of which deposited abroad	59,897	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	53,580	354,895	327,384	330,198
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,985,418	1,630,539	2,016,121	1,860,421
Silver and other coin	127,896	153,060	133,433	138,030
Notes of other German banks	16,242	23,294	4,969	15,314
Advances	208,725	55,358	135,480	53,645
Investments	92,899	93,133	93,094	93,064
Other assets	514,026	627,716	580,692	606,038
Liabilities.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,442,428	4,109,876	4,664,194	4,403,696
Other daily maturing obligations	584,768	732,476	536,528	601,382
Other liabilities	294,813	158,769	162,026	163,122

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold *reserve is calculated* in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 28, 1914.	May 8, 1929.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May. 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Gold	(b)	962,183	1,182,949	1,182,960	1,194,551	1,194,708
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	455,400	635,005	615,270	654,113	646,447
Silver and other coin		1,575	3,771	4,005	4,007	4,073
Securities	697,600	732,992	840,834	829,356	826,836	802,217
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,469,907	2,896,312	2,876,531	2,931,692	2,906,675
Current accounts	112,125	63,878	96,296	90,363	94,734	95,839

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30,1914.	May 6, 1929.	Apr. 14, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 28, 1930.	May 5, 1930.
Gold	163,092	437,042	431,944	431,940	431,933	431,923
Silver	8,436	20,754	25,719	25,131	25,960	25,569
Home Bills discnted.	153,504	143,035	51,163	51,647	52,105	53,238
Foreign Bills		121,744	209,348	210,071	213,210	224,308
Loans and advances in current acct.		134,148	99,044	94,744	93,169	129,954
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	850,665	816,387	813,007	830,310	865,920
Deposits	5,016	16,482	16,852	16,473	17,992	13,246

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30,1914	May 11, 1929.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.
Gold	22,971	162,043	169,700	169,300	168,700	168,100
Silver	29,785	21,568				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	136,136	139,000	147,600	148,300	150,700
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	307,847	271,800	269,400	272,500	278,400
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	31,093	42,700	52,200	49,100	48,200

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Gold	171,175	496,074	566,131	566,143	578,769	578,789
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	250,701	347,978	372,042	391,035	371,389
Discounts	...	133,313	35,191	35,398	37,490	36,285
Advances	103,000	59,943	43,305	41,520	45,996	48,783
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	848,228	860,767	851,824	916,284	877,567
Deposits	33,750	126,923	153,415	176,230	153,754	189,849

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,500	5,201,500	5,201,900	5,205,500	5,203,600
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,879,600	4,858,400	4,925,800	4,986,200	5,025,100
Other cash	236,900	225,300	219,800	225,100	224,300
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,801,600	1,801,600	1,799,700	1,799,700
Discounts	3,730,600	3,049,000	3,017,400	2,947,100	2,974,700
Advances	1,792,800	1,328,600	1,081,700	1,104,600	1,383,600
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,047,000	755,000	755,600	755,400	755,400
Government securities	1,042,800	1,052,300	1,051,000	1,063,300	1,063,200
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	16,272,900	16,321,500	16,094,700	15,866,300	16,862,400
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,841,700	1,429,400	1,399,800	1,599,000	1,509,300
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	54·33%	55·73%	56·92%	57·36%	57·23%

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. April, 1930.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
Assets.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency *notes* and balances with the Bank of England	35,899	1,640	2,889	37,664	7,896	41,158	3,473	28,496	28,283	3,322	190,720
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	8,722	606	1,015	9,118	2,530	13,493	153	9,028	8,511	922	54,098
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,580	919	...	...	...	...	...	3,499
Money at call and short notice	25,647	2,118	2,881	27,455	4,480	19,729	4,115	19,687	27,472	2,224	135,808
Bills discounted	42,040	840	763	35,608	3,345	53,047	2,101	27,533	43,302	992	209,571
Investments	52,596	3,923	6,432	34,034	17,006	33,459	15,285	33,501	38,125	6,014	240,375
Advances to customers and other accounts	172,342	11,115	15,110	197,558	43,712	215,373	16,124	152,377	142,040	18,502	984,253
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	21,937	587	2,716	49,661	6,109	35,201	27	16,826	24,966	975	159,005
Bank premises account	5,839	372	695	7,111	2,278	10,458	788	6,177	5,199	984	39,901
Investments in affiliated banks	7,274	...	...	6,687	...	7,122	...	2,514	2,992	...	26,589
	372,296	21,201	32,501	407,476	88,275	429,040	42,066	296,139	320,890	33,935	2,043,819
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	11·07	8·81	10·32	11·34	10·60	11·21	9·21	10·94	10·20	11·04	10·90
Liabilities.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,433	1,500	9,479	9,320	1,875	73,495
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,508	13,433	1,455	9,479	9,320	1,000	59,975
Current, deposit and other a/cs.	324,251	18,614	27,981	331,999	74,482	366,973	37,705	260,355	277,270	30,085	1,749,715
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	21,937	587	2,716	49,661	6,109	35,201	27	16,826	24,966	975	159,005
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,379	...	14	...	1,415
Reduction of bank premises a/c.	...	...	214	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
	372,296	21,201	32,501	407,476	88,275	429,040	42,066	296,139	320,890	33,935	2,043,819

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 11, 1929.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.
Gold	234,450	243,468	243,397	243,353	243,316
Government securities—Swedish	5,740	22,554	22,246	21,942	21,849
Foreign	73,774	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	177	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	239,670	157,847	142,878	112,429	104,337
" abroad	57,748	96,911	98,006	123,513	127,050
Balance abroad	49,514	120,768	178,520	169,703	175,442
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	57,827	47,439	34,066	38,208	32,857
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	490,433	516,043	499,314	545,091	516,538
Government deposits	179,932	182,408	179,047	160,601	165,070
Private deposits	7,469	12,992	47,144	10,710	32,009

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,819	146,603	146,600	146,597
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	51,498	44,328	41,573	39,612
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,393	26,083	29,359	33,988
Discounts and loans	76,911	268,916	238,524	239,732	233,181
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	304,703	310,020	310,165	303,922
Deposits at sight	7,188	110,300	80,437	83,525	87,146

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

Assets.	Position, May 30,1914.	May 11, 1929.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,560,017	2,468,889	2,469,333	2,469,729	2,469,902
Silver	728,600	713,564	708,329	713,627	712,445	710,967
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,771,989	2,067,321	1,991,276	2,044,533	2,040,779
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Liabilities.						
Circulation	901,550	4,354,976	4,447,295	4,395,038	4,440,457	4,466,428
Deposits	477,500	1,067,935	837,155	840,721	816,007	810,327

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted)

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	365494	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634
Foreign exchange		218,054	219,013	231,101	230,520
Other foreign exchange†	345,371	334,750	340,702	364,905	364,290
Bills discounted	190,921	132,793	123,864	145,986	130,018
Gov. Debt	109,811	108,448	108,448	101,577	101,532
Liabilities.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	9,283	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	932,640	886,204	847,129	982,424	911,777
Deposits	83,145	83,446	120,719	36,200	89,897

† In dollar and sterling only.

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

Assets.	May 1, 1929.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,457	8,724	8,893	8,901	9,071
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	304,572	185,529	194,320	200,246	210,406
Discounts	277,510	336,900	336,056	332,522	329,367
Government loans	1,724,627	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,992
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	1,829,952	1,899,025	1,888,352	1,877,959	1,886,056
Deposits	66,781	85,722	66,026	84,468	61,626

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengö.

(000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,622	162,624	162,626	162,627	162,631
Drafts and notes	33,202	8,140	7,548	10,201	13,918
Silver coin and bullion	9,565	10,158	10,310	10,266	9,977
Inland bills, warrants and securities	363,851	200,052	202,320	248,141	218,562
Advances to the Treasury	92,219	82,866	82,866	82,866	82,831
Liabilities.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	460,716	385,390	369,887	463,672	429,468
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	178,204	60,625	73,148	24,988	40,917

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K.

(000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,559	1,262,036	1,262,112	1,262,153	1,262,197
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,696,658	1,864,645	1,860,942	1,871,893	1,885,064
Discounts and advances	583,104	499,953	476,251	515,320	390,276
State notes debt balance	4,020,715	3,690,964	3,688,386	3,686,744	3,678,608
Other assets	675,712	593,573	596,228	659,836	672,806
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,851,286	6,301,387	6,120,652	6,854,433	6,439,857
Check account balances	619,246	873,213	1,026,687	401,333	706,537
Other liabilities	239,622	228,183	228,192	231,792	234,169

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 8, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Gold	92,276	96,463	96,513	96,608	96,714
Other coin and notes	17,994	18,181	18,295	17,912	18,198
Foreign credits	198,205	264,169	266,178	262,674	261,329
Bills	1,370,182	1,092,881	1,083,220	1,077,386	1,100,930
Government advances	4,201,069	4,127,390	4,125,398	4,123,399	4,121,399
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	5,302,726	12,487	12,502	12,502	12,531
State credits	227,799	5,244,329	5,137,528	5,221,043	5,286,280
Deposits	1,018,250	1,896,644	2,019,718	1,923,550	1,853,384

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold and silver holdings ...	1,521,481	1,574,373	1,575,671	1,576,072	1,577,370
Balances abroad and foreign currencies ...	2,308,310	759,164	785,686	765,973	736,782
Discounts and advances ...	1,471,376	1,249,475	1,221,804	1,173,866	1,109,678
Advances to the Treasury..	3,685,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up ...	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves ...	1,166,576	1,252,020	1,252,000	1,252,959	1,253,051
Bank notes in circulation ..	4,365,639	3,371,278	3,792,861	3,408,073	3,302,085
Sight liabilities ...	2,711,365	1,801,884	1,680,252	1,618,437	1,737,009
Deposits ...	466,478	317,047	315,158	314,805	314,597

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold ...	569,996	628,353	629,889	630,204	620,728
Gold exchange ...	4,692,037	3,769,543	3,644,948	3,654,417	3,420,283
Other foreign exchange ...	1,053	3,810	3,774	3,773	3,742
Bills discounted ...	37,953	120,258	108,743	92,962	93,656
Advances ...	70,165	154,798	149,202	147,591	139,601
Debt to the State ...	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,488,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up ...	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation ...	5,617,182	4,936,234	5,027,455	5,154,038	4,991,217
Deposits and current accounts ...	1,856,414	1,879,646	1,669,487	1,686,062	1,524,715
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,422,861	976,830	894,235	738,679	706,077

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

	Apr. 30, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold ...	623,037	701,906	702,031	702,075	702,185
Of which held abroad ...	195,402	219,046	219,046	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies ...	576,410	441,420	412,956	403,577	409,589
Bills discounted ...	697,539	623,593	608,803	607,038	590,563
Loans against securities ...	89,563	81,219	80,236	81,477	86,959
Reserve fund securities ...	68,957	84,028	83,073	83,171	83,171
Liability of the Treasury...	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital ...	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds ...	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation ...	1,274,240	1,324,023	1,278,465	1,248,846	1,325,985
Current accounts ...	491,233	337,154	338,185	364,194	301,738
Government accounts ...	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

	Position, May 30, 1914.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold ...	35,091	301,623	303,799	303,725	303,539
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	669,516	1,091,029	1,063,234	1,069,616
Finnish and Foreign Government securities ...	21,826	301,708	335,251	335,251	335,251
Discounts and loans ...	105,151	1,476,661	1,154,098	1,130,812	1,041,703
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ...	123,941	1,556,167	1,435,004	1,401,850	1,439,878
Deposits at notice ...	21,225	179,595	345,557	318,641	207,216

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

	Apr. 30, 1929.	Apr. 7, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold coin and bullion ...	6,271	6,464	6,470	6,471	6,477
Net foreign exchange ...	19,803	19,671	19,204	19,459	18,169
Subsidiary Estonian coin ...	745	1,580	1,473	1,178	1,471
Home bills discounted ...	14,973	14,971	15,006	14,639	14,373
Loans and advances ...	15,075	12,420	12,864	11,897	12,044*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation ...	34,728	32,586	33,088	34,166	32,327
Sight deposits and current accounts...	18,451	18,544	16,973	15,174	16,324
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities...	49·03%	51·11%	51·28%	52·55%	50·66%

* Includes Ekr. 7,320,168·18, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

	May 8, 1929.	Apr. 9, 1930.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
ASSETS.						
Gold bullion and coins ...	23,826	23,974	23,982	23,982	23,987	23,992
Silver coin ...	4,754	6,273	6,228	6,061	6,035	7,047
Balance abroad ...	58,966	50,238	51,502	52,682	52,760	52,220
Treas. notes and sm. change	9,533	12,838	13,522	11,660	12,862	13,853
Short term bills ...	87,048	92,902	92,108	92,521	90,537	90,591
Loans against securities...	56,576	55,103	54,567	55,931	56,292	55,904
Other assets ...	17,571	12,883	13,279	14,390	14,627	15,316
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ...	45,770	47,333	47,591	48,959	47,507	46,613
Capital paid up ...	15,581	17,010	18,735	18,735	18,735	18,735
Reserve ...	3,091	3,662	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve ...	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits ...	12,790	16,680	16,810	16,844	17,009	17,109
Current accounts ...	54,319	53,233	53,099	53,751	54,416	55,357
Government accounts ...	112,623	102,193	104,618	105,429	107,309	108,811
Other liabilities ...	11,602	10,598	6,483	5,658	4,273	4,446

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

	Position, May 31, 1914.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
ASSETS.						
Gold ...	1,571	3,605	3,801	3,828	3,835	3,847
Govt. securities ...	2,084	47,595	45,129	44,297	43,875	43,386
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	2,400	27,732	27,215	25,726	25,470	25,301
Govt. deposits ...	2,315	19,912	20,148	19,883	20,126	17,397
Other deposits ...	2,600	17,954	17,180	16,785	16,470	16,804

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	Apr. 12, 1929.	Mar. 21, 1930.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.
ASSETS.					
Gold at home ...	60,853	63,245	63,228	63,210	63,245
Gold abroad ...	473,490	324,127	340,160	341,408	337,121
Discounts and advances ...	83,747	110,505	128,497	157,551	111,803
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	363,015	346,514	355,788	360,520	353,876
Deposits ...	175,273	80,367	105,770	126,945	85,391
Drafts ...	7,958	16,044	7,240	8,676	8,956
Paid-up capital ...	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	May 8, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 12, 1930.	May 13, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930) ...	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛–1/16	2⅛–1/16	2⅛
3 months' do. ...	2¼	2¼	2⅛	2⅛–1/16	2 3/32–1/16	2⅛–1/16	2⅛
4 months' do. ...	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼	2¼–3/16	2¼–3/16	2¼
6 months' do. ...	2⅜	2⅜–⅓	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months' ...	2 1/16	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16–⅛
3 months'‡ ...	2 1/16	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛–3/32	2⅛–3/32	2 1/16–⅛
Loans—Day to day ...	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	2–2½	2–2¼	2
Short ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice ...	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week:—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Apr. 24	2½	2⅛ 3/16	2 5/16	2⅜	3½	3½	4
May 1	1½	2 3/16	2 3/16	2¼	3	3	3½
8	2	2⅛	2¼	2¼	3	3¼	4
15	2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	May, 16, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
New York ...	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·85 1/16–3/32	4·85 15/16–·86	4·86–1/32
Montreal ...	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88 1/16–88¼	4·87¾–·88	4·86 7/16–86 9/16
Paris ...	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124·15–18	123·86–88	123·85–·87
Berlin ...	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·42–42½	20·36–36½	20·36½–36⅞
Amsterdam ...	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·06⅝–06⅞	12·07⅜–07	12·08⅜–·08⅝
Brussels ...	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·93½–94	34·82–82½	34·81–81½
Milan ...	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·65–68	92·65 68	92·67–·69
Zurich ...	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·18½–19	25·08–08½	25·12–12½
Oslo ...	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¾–20½	18·15¾–16¼	18·16–·16½
Stockholm ...	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–16½	18·10½–11	18·12–·12½
Copenhagen ...	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–20½	18·16–16½	18·16–·16½
Madrid ...	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	34·01–·04	39·70–73	39·78–·81
Lisbon ...	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108⅛–⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna ...	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·53–56	34·43–48	34·44–·48
Prague ...	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅞–164	163⅝–164	163⅞–164⅛
Belgrade ...	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾–276½	274½–275	274¾–274½
Budapest ...	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–86	27·78–82	27·79–·83
Bukarest ...	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–819	817–818	817–818
Sofia ...	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	668–673	668–673
Athens ...	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375	374½–375	374¾–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	997–1002	1025 nom.	1025 seller
Moscow ...	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–9·43	†9·437–456	†9·433–452
Warsaw ...	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–43 7/16	†43 5/16–7/16	†43 5/16–7/16
Helsingfors ...	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193⅛	192⅝–193⅛	192⅞–193⅛
Kovno ...	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49	48½–49
Reval ...	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–18·23	18·22–29	18·22–·29
Riga ...	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25·25	25·17–27	25·17–·27
Alexandria ...	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 15/32–97 17/32	97 7/16–9/16	97 15/32–17/32
Buenos Aires .	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47½–47 9/32	43 11/16–13/16	42 15/16–43
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 55/64–5⅞	5 55/64–57/64	5 27/32–29/32
Montevideo ...	pence to peso	T.T.	51	48¼–48¾	45¾–46½	45½–45¾
Valparaiso ...	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·57	39·94	39·88
Lima ...	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	12·72½ nom.	12·73¾ nom.
Calcutta ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–13/16	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 13/16–27/32
Bombay ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–13/16	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 13/16–27/32
Madras ...	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–13/16	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 13/16–27/32
Hong Kong ...	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11¾–2/0⅛	1/6½–1/6⅝	1/5½–1/6
Shanghai ...	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5½–2/5⅞	1/10¾–1/11½	1/10–1/10½
Singapore ...	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3¾–2/3 27/32	2/3 11/16–13/16	2/3 25/32–27/32
Kobe ...	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 1/16–1/10⅛	2/0 25/64–27/64	2/0⅜–7/16
Manila ...	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 5/16 d.	†2/0 5/16	†2/0 5/16
Mexico ...	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·00–10·25	10·15–35	10·10–·30
Siam ...	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam ...	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo ...	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens ...	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris ...	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Batavia ...	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague ...	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade ...	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria ...	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin ...	Mar. 24, 1930	5½	5	Reval ...	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels ...	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3	Riga ...	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Bucharest ...	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome ...	April 23, 1930	5½	6
Budapest ...	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Sofia ...	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta ...	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Stockholm...	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Copenhagen ...	May 1, 1930	4½	4	Swiss Bank places ...	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Danzig ...	May 1, 1930	5½	5	Tokio ...	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Helsingfors ...	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½	Vienna ...	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Kovno ...	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6	Warsaw ...	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Lisbon ...	July 28, 1926	9	8	Irish ...	May 1, 1930	4½	4
New York Federal Reserve ...	May 1, 1930	3½	3				
Madrid ...	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	May 16, 1929.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money ...	10	4	4	4	3	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	4	4	4	3⅜	3⅜
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days ...	5⅜	3⅛	3⅛	3	2⅝	2⅝
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days ...	5⅝	3⅜	3⅜	3⅛	2⅝	2⅝
Ineligible, 90 days ...	6⅛	3⅛	...	3⅛	3	3
Commercial accept., 90 days ...	5½	4	...	4	3⅛	3⅛

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	May 16, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.
London— 60 days ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79 15/16	4·83⅞	4·83	4·83⅝
Cable ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·85 1/16	4·86 1/32	4·85⅞	4·86
Cheques ...	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·845	4·86	4·85⅝	4·85¾
Paris ... cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·905	3·92½	3·92⅛	3·92⅛
Brussels ... "	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·95½	13·95	13·95
Switzerland ... "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·25½	19·38½	19·36½	19·33½
Italy ... "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·235	5·23½	5·24	5·24
Berlin ... "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·73	23·85½	23·84	23·85
Vienna ... "	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·10	14·09½	14·10
Madrid ... "	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·22	12·41	12·28	12·20
Amsterdam ... "	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·16	40·235	40·22	40·19½
Copenhagen ... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·63½	26·75½	26·74	26·75
Oslo ... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·64½	26·75½	26·74½	26·75
Stockholm ... "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·69½	26·86	26·83½	26·81½
Athens ... "	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·295	1·29½	1·29½	1·2975
Montreal ... "	Can. Cents for $1	100	11/16 dis.	⅛ dis.	3/32 dis.	1/16 dis.
Yokohama ... "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·55	49·35	49·40	49·40
Hong Kong ... "	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·45	37·20	36·90	36·15
Shanghai ... "	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	60	46·87½	46·37½	45·37½
Calcutta ... "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·13	36·10	36·08	36·07
Buenos Aires... "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·75	114·6	112·40	114·60
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·83	11·85	11·90	11·85
Valparaiso ... "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador ...	Sucres to £ ...	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela ...	Bolivares to £ ...	25·25	"	25·60
Colombia (Bogota) ...	Pesos to £1 ...	5	"	5·06
Nicaragua ...	Cordobas to £ ...	4·8665	"	4·92
Salvador ...	Colones to £ ...	9·73	"	9·83
Bolivia ...	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T. ...	...	⅛% dis.	par to ¼% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand ...	1¼% dis.	⅜% "	1/16% dis.	¼ to 1/16% "
30 days ...	1⅞% "	5/16% "	¾% "	7/16% "
60 days ...	2⅛% "	¾% "	1¼% "	5/16% "
90 days ...	3⅛% "	15/16% "	1½% "	3/16% "
20 days ...	3⅞% "	1⅛% "	2 1/16% "	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T. ...	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106¼	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93⅜	95	105⅝	103¼	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 3/16	93 3/16	...	...	104⅞	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91¾	92¾	...	...	104 1/16	102½	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 15/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104⅞	103½

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to May 10, 1930, were £4,680,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on April 30, 1930:—

	£	£
In India ...		Nil
In England:		
Cash at the Bank of England ...	4,074	
Gold ...	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills:—Value as on April 30, 1930 ...	9,173,176	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities:—At or below market value on April 30, 1930 ...	28,670,416	
		40,000,000
		40,000,000

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended May 15, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To—*	
France ...	7,211	Poland ...	1,700
Venezuela ...	4,100	Germany ...	628,825
Brazil ...	45,950	Netherlands ...	1,593
British W. Africa ...	42,542	France ...	3,970,282
British S. Africa ...	936,411	Switzerland ...	22,200
Australia ...	1,000,000	Austria ...	10,925
New Zealand ...	2,812	British India ...	53,826
British Guiana ...	2,494	Ceylon ...	1,000
		Other countries ...	137
Total declared value of imports ...	2,041,520	Total declared value of exports ...	4,690,488

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
May 9	...	Nil	May 9	Bars sold ...	202,419
" 10	...	Nil	" 10	Bars sold ...	274,248
" 12	Sovs. from abroad ...	500,000	" 12	Bars sold ...	524,416
" 13	Foreign Coin ...	2,985	" 13	Bars sold ...	3,760
" 14	Bars bought ...	1,364	" 14	Bars sold ...	479,530
	Sovs. from abroad ...	1,000,000	" 15	Set Aside ...	20,833
" 15	...	Nil		Sovs. for export ...	15,000
				Bars sold ...	412,973
	Total ...	1,504,349		Total ...	1,933,179

Net withdrawals, £528,830.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on May 14, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £163,572,470 on the 7th instant (as compared with £163,341,964 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £17,612,386 since the 1st January last. In the open market yesterday £434,000 of bar gold from South Africa was disposed of at 84s. 11⅜d. per fine ounce. With the French exchange momentarily more favourable to this country, there was no competition from that quarter, but Germany was again in the market and secured £400,000. Of the balance, India took £16,000 and the Home and Continental trade £18,000.

Movements of gold at the Bank of England have resulted in a net efflux of £1,193,501 during the week under review. Receipts totalled £1,504,349, which included £1,000,000 in sovereigns from Australia and £500,000 in sovereigns from South Africa. Of the withdrawals, amounting to £2,697,850, about £2,669,000 was in bar gold for France and £25,000 in sovereigns taken for export.

SILVER.

The tone of the market has continued easy and price movements have been gradually downward. The demand from India has been more limited and as this quarter was the chief cause of the recent steadiness the market has rather reflected the lack of support. China exchanges have shown weakness and there has, in consequence, been a certain amount of selling by Chinese operators, besides which America was disposed to sell more freely during the latter part of the week. Buying has been mostly confined to bear covering operations by China and the Indian Bazaars. To-day the premium on cash delivery disappeared, prices being quoted even at 19 1/16d.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 5th instant to mid-day on the 12th instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
France ...	148,026	China (including Hong Kong) ...	95,340
Switzerland ...	39,840	British India ...	308,185
Greece ...	62,685	Other countries ...	8,644
Mexico ...	91,772		
Canada ...	37,243		
Other countries ...	847		
	£380,413		£412,169

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	May 7.	April 30.	April 22.
Notes in circulation ...	17,342	17,390	17,332
Silver coin and bullion in India ...	11,012	11,060	11,003
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India ...	3,228	3,227	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India...	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government) ...	3,058	3,073	3,072
Securities (British Government) ...	44	30	30

The stocks in Shanghai on the 10th instant consisted of about 98,000,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 15,900,000 Saigon dollars and 12,760 silver bars, as compared with about 97,900,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 17,100,000 Saigon dollars and 13,840 silver bars on the 3rd instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
May 9 ...	84 11¼	19⅜	19 5/16	May 11, 1923	32 1/16
" 10 ...	84 11⅜	19 5/16	19¼	" 9, 1924	33 1/16
" 12 ...	84 11⅜	19¼	19 3/16	" 8, 1925	31⅝
" 13 ...	84 11⅜	19 3/16	19⅛	" 7, 1926	29 13/16
" 14 ...	84 11⅜	19 1/16	19 1/16	" 6, 1927	26 1/16
" 15 ...	84 11½	19	18 15/16	" 10, 1928	27 1/16

NOTICES.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 10 Mill Street, Macclesfield. Additional offices have also recently been opened at 6 Princes Crescent, Bare, Morecambe; Auction Mart, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire; Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire; The Strand, Sheldon, near Teignmouth, Devon; and at 67 London Road, Stockton Heath, near Warrington, Lancs.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The registered office of the London Iron and Steel Exchange, Ltd., is now 28, Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telephone number will be Central 6565.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening, on May 12th, of a new branch at Watford Cross Roads (151 The Parade, High Street, Watford).

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new sub-branch at Sawston, Cambridgeshire.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.—The profits (subject to audit) for the year ended March 31, 1930, amount to £253,081, against £196,995 for the previous year. The directors recommend a cash dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, on the deferred ordinary stock, and a bonus of 10 per cent. fully-paid £1 deferred ordinary shares, being at the same rate as last year. These distributions entitle the holders of the 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference stock to a further 1.89 per cent. by way of participating dividend, making 7.89 per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1930. A balance of £65,547 is added to undivided profits account.

CROSSES AND WINKWORTH CONSOLIDATED MILLS.—A decrease in profit of £114,267 is reported for the year ended March 31, 1930. After allowing for interest charges and management expenses, the profit is £31,323, as against £145,590 for 1929. There is available, including a transfer of £20,000 from reserve for income tax no longer required, £80,012, and after depreciation, £50,000, and interim dividend on the preference shares, paid December 1, 1929, £23,539, there remains to be carried forward £6,473, as against £28,689 brought in. The last dividend paid on the ordinary capital was 10 per cent. for the period to March 31, 1921.

Meeting, Bolton, May 21st, at 12 noon.

FINE COTTON SPINNERS.—For the year ended March 31, 1930, the profits of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, including a transfer from reserve in respect of reparations, and after charging £180,000 to depreciation, against £200,000 last year, and providing for bonuses to management, amount to £517,518, in contrast with £632,618 for the previous year. Adding the balance brought in of £214,167 and £50,000 transferred from reserve for equalisation of dividends, there is a total of £781,685, against an available total last year of £933,067, when £200,449 was brought in and £100,000 taken from dividend equalisation reserve. The ordinary dividend is reduced from 9 per cent. to 6 per cent. for the year. The carry forward is £183,135.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA INVESTMENT CORPORATION.—The preliminary figures have arrived by cable, and they show a total revenue from dividends, interest on call loans, and revenue from stock dividends sold, of $654,802. After deducting $267,072, interest at 4½ per cent. on $6,000,000 of bonds outstanding, and $71,926 for management and general expenses, there is a balance of $315,804 available for the dividend on the 5 per cent. preferred stock. This dividend for the year calls for $200,000, leaving a net surplus after the payment of the dividend, of $115,804, which is carried forward. It is stated that the net depreciation of the securities held by the corporation at the end of the fiscal year amounted to 2.12 per cent. The report gives a complete list of the bond and stock holdings of the trust.

LAKE VIEW INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.—The following are some of the principal features of the report, as compared with last year :—

	Year to Mar. 31, 1929.	Year to Mar. 31, 1930.
Dividends and interest received, less income tax ...	131,389	150,082
Net profit ...	93,409	102,133
To reserve from revenue ...	20,000	25,000
To reserve from surplus on changes in investments ...	30,000	25,000
Ordinary dividend ...	12½ p.c.	13 p.c.
Carried forward ...	10,448	12,972

In the report the directors state that the values of the investments largely exceed in the aggregate the amount at which they stand in the balance sheet. A list of investments, numbering 450, will be found on pages 7 to 26 of the report. On page 6 of the report will be found a classification of the investments, showing the character of the undertakings, their geograhpical positions and the denominations of the securities.

SIEMENS BROTHERS AND COMPANY.—A profit of £314,465 for 1929 was made by Siemens Brothers and Co., against £335,758 for 1928. Deducting interest on and redemption of 4½ per cent. debenture stock, £67,439, the year's dividend of 10 per cent. on cumulative preference shares, £55,000, and an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on ordinary shares, £55,625, there remains £136,401. It is proposed a final dividend of 5 per cent., making total dividend for year of 7½ per cent., less tax, as last year, requiring £111,250, leaving £25,150, which, with the brought forward of £313,360, gives £338,511 to carry forward.

Meeting, Central Hall, Princes Street, S.W., May 22nd, at 12 noon.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended May 9, 1930. (c) Week ended May 10, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended May 11, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 19 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	217	216	115	331	548	3,876	4,051	2,436	6,487	10,363
Do. for 1929...	3,751	217	240	117	357	574	3,931	4,194	2,483	6,677	10,608
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	316	390	253	643	959	5,872	7,698	5,171	12,869	18,741
Do. for 1929...	6,365	319	434	266	700	1,019	5,943	7,866	5,244	13,110	19,053
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	462	554	240	794	1,256	8,659	10406	5,249	15,655	24,314
Do. for 1929...	6,957½	483	601	270	871	1,354	8,884	10645	5,615	16,260	25,144
Southern	2,179	294	78	26	104	398	5,303	1,427	596	2,023	7,326
Do. for 1929...	2,172	288	80	29	109	397	5,245	1,432	669	2,101	7,346
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·2	...	...	4·0	36·2	618·9	...	...	76·4	695·3
Do. for 1929...	59	31·4	...	...	3·8	35·2	599·3	...	...	73·8	673·1
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	310	...	...	...	310	5,570	...	...	...	5,570
Do. for 1929...	...	286	...	...	...	286	5,138	...	...	...	5,138
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	45	...	...	45	807	...	...	...	...	807
*Do. for 1929...	...	41	...	...	41	729	...	...	...	...	729
B'l'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·4	...	...	·9	3·3	39·5	...	...	13·8	53·3
Do. for 1929...	80	2·1	...	...	·9	3·0	38·3	...	...	17·2	55·5
*GreatNorthern b	562	11·2	...	...	15·1	26·3	...	...	...	...	472·3
Do. for 1929...	562	10·9	...	...	16·1	27·0	...	...	...	...	495·4
GreatSouthern b	2,187	27·4	...	...	44·9	72·3	...	...	...	...	1,273
Do. for 1929...	2,187	27·7	...	...	46·4	74·1	...	...	...	...	1,299

* Aggregate 18 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	2weeks	Apr. 12	1,217	6,74,000	− 1,371	6,74,000	− 1,371
Barsi Lt. Ry.	3weeks	19	202	60,300	− 42,400	1,77,000	+ 1,100
Bengal & N.Western	3weeks	19	2,080	7,55,384	− 59,382	21,00,807	− 11,813
Bengal-Nagpur ...	52weeks	Mch 31	3,085	22,14,000	− 278304	9,24,55,139	− 5,36,379
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	5weeks	May 3	3,031	24,72,000	+ 36,000	1,15,15,000	− 5,37,000
Madras, & S. Mahr.	3weeks	Apr. 19	3,228	19,17,000	− 77,512	50,53,000	− 3,18,099
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	3weeks	19	572	1,52,369	+ 7,022	4,32,646	+ 36,368
South Indian	3weeks	19	2,371	12,77,111	− 18,740	34,93,011	− 26,262

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

				£	£	£	£
ARGENTINE (a).							
Argentine N.E.....	45weeks	May 10	753	13,800	− 1,700	701,700	− 1,000
Argentine Trans'dn.	45weeks	10	111	4,097	+ 775	6,677	+ 7,723
B.A. and Pacific.....	45weeks	10	2,806	150,000	− 55,000	6,910,000	− 992,000
B.A. Central	45weeks	11	...	11,349	− 3,457	579,088	− 61,921
B.A. Gt. Southern...	45weeks	10	4,875	214,000	− 45,000	10,692,000	− 669,000
B.A. Western	45weeks	10	1,926	75,000	− 30,000	3,833,000	− 760,000
Central Argentine...	45weeks	10	3,319	200,000	− 81,000	10,273,000	− 1,993,000
Cordoba Central....	45weeks	10	1,218	49,000	− 16,000	2,561,000	− 544,200
Entre Rios.....	45weeks	10	804	19,200	− 7,300	1,238,000	− 135,700
CUBAN.							
United of Havana...	45weeks	May 10	1,369	69,444	+ 4,372	2,959,936	− 455,479
URUGUAYAN.							
Central Uruguay.....	45weeks	May 10	273	29,861	+ 930	1,411,292	+ 49,021
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	45weeks	10	311	7,502	+ 853	332,578	+ 19,689
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	45weeks	10	185	3,709	− 832	167,873	+ 1,018
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	45weeks	10	211	2,781	− 385	128,869	− 7,811
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	18weeks	May 7	20150	4,252,358	− 957268	75,145,012	− 1,458,090
Canadian Pacific ...	18weeks	7	15209	3,260,000	− 778000	55,674,000	− 13756000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil..	19weeks	May 10	1,016	11,300	− 2,000	325,800	− 46,900
Leopoldina.....	19weeks	10	1,856	33,536	− 3,153	647,837	− 27,436
Leopoldina Termnl.	19weeks	10	Mtrs.	312,000	+ 27,000	5,537,000	+ 264,000
San Paulo	19weeks	11	153½	51,570	− 675	804,854	− 71,383
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	19weeks	May 11	804	30,090	− 3,295	560,750	− 207,945
Nitrate (½-monthly)	4 mths.	Apr. 30	410	16,675	− 17,333	178,770	− 135,545
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta.....	16weeks	Apr. 20	608	8,409	− 84	17,732	− 257
Gt. Southn. of Spain	18weeks	May 3	104	Ps. 111328	− 8,883	2,089,051	− 122,963
Mexican Railway....	18weeks	7	483	$229,300	− 25,500	4,617,800	+ 78,400
Paraguay Central...	44weeks	3	274	3,970	− 620	180,620	− 14,990
Salvador.....	45weeks	10	100	3,885	− 531	207,134	− 23,102

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	18weeks	May 6	329	89,590	− 2,624	1,516,867	− 76,347
B. Aires Lacroze....	44weeks	4	...	12,222	− 833	517,439	− 41,175
Burnley Corporation	2weeks	10	13	2,856	− 178	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	10weeks	10	35½	100,447	− 25,007	...	− 17,498
Chatham & District	16weeks	Apr. 24	15	1,204	+ 172	17,259	+ 949
Egyptian Markets	17weeks	May 1	...	1,935	− 113	33,885	− 2,909
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	17weeks	Apr. 30	...	2,329	+ 196	46,067	− 1,221
Liverpool Corp.....	19weeks	May 10	124	30,150	+ 431	1,728,001	+ 4,894
L.G.O. Tramways....	5weeks	7	166	83,655	+ 1,242	437,391	+ 1,239
Madras Electric ‡...	17weeks	Apr. 30	...	Rs. 43,344	+ 3,306	371,903	+ 25,653

* Including motor 'buses ‡ Fortnightly figures.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
India General Navigation & Rly.	...	...	Tax free	6¼	10
BANKS.					
Bank of London and S. America	4%*	June 11	...	...	...
British Overseas Bank	3%*	June 10	...	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Cornhill Insurance	...	...	...	7½	...
Pioneer Life Assurance	9d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	1/6 p.s.	1/6 p.s.
Sun Insurance Office	14/- p.s.†	...	...	26/- p.s.	25/- ps.
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Aibheel Tea.....	17½%†	May 30	Less tax	20	20
Alliance Tea of Ceylon	12½%†	...	...	18	18
Anglo-Sumatra Rubber.....	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Bagracote Tea.....	16%†	June 14	Less tax	20	20
British Darjeeling Tea	15%†	...	...	20	25
British Indian Tea	12½%†	June 13	Less tax	15	25
Chubwa Tea	10%†	June 4	Less tax	15	35
Chulsa Tea	21%†	June 14	Less tax	25	25
Dangua Jhar Tea	5%†	June 6	Less tax	5	7½
Deundi Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	15
Emerald Rubber and Cocoanut..	6%†	...	Less tax	6	8
F.M.S. Rubber Planters	10%†	...	...	15	10
Foothills Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Golden Hope Rubber	...	...	Less tax	8	10
Hanwella Rubber.....	...	...	...	2½	Nil
Imperial Ceylon Tea	10%†	...	...	14	12
Java Amalgamated Rubber	...	...	...	7½	10
Jhanzie Tea.....	12½%	June 12	Less tax	15	40d
Klabang Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Kuala Selangor	2d. p.s.†	...	...	4d. p.s.	3d. p.s.
Lethenty Tea Estates	3%†	...	Less tax	9	16
Limbuguri Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	25	37½
Luiggi Plantations	31½%†	June 12	...	5	7½
Mayfield Tea	...	...	Less tax	37½	...
Niboda (Ceylon) Rubber.....	5%†	...	...	5	4
Pelmadulla Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	30
Pernambang Rubber	...	...	Less tax	3	Nil
P.P.K. Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	3
Shelford Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	10	8
Sungei Batu	...	...	Less tax	7½	12½
Sungei Chimoh Rubber	...	...	Less tax	7½	5
Sungei Kenching Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Sylhet Tea.....	2½%†	June 4	Less tax	2½	7½
Telok Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	5	12½
United Kingdom Tea.....	...	...	...	10	10
United Lankat Plantations	...	...	Less tax	5	5
Windsor Rubber.....	...	...	Less tax	3	5
MINING.					
Lonely Reef Gold Mining	10%*	July 31	...	...	...
Mount Lyell Mining and Railway	1/- p.s.*	June 23	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberdeen, Ceylon & Eastern Trst.	...	...	Less tax	4	...
Adamant Investment Trust ...	26½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Agar, Cross and Co.	5%	June 2	Tax free	...	...
Alexander Fergusson & Co.	...	...	Less tax	12½a	12½a
Angostura Bitters	4%*	...	...	...	...
Argentine Navigation Co.....	7%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Benger's Food.....	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Bovis (1928)	...	...	Less tax	1½d. p.s.	1½d.p.s
British Cotton & Wool Dyers ...	...	...	...	7½	10
British Electric Traction	...	...	...	5e	5e
British Oil and Guano	...	...	Less tax	1/4 p.s.	...
Brush Electrical Engineering ...	...	...	...	10	10
Buchanan-Dewar	4½%†	...	...	35	30
Canadian & Foreign Investment..	25%†	...	...	7½	7
Ever Ready (Gt. Britain)	3%†	...	...	35	35
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	3%*	May 30	Less tax	6	9
Foreign Rlys. Investment Trust	3%*	May 31	Less tax	...	...
Frederick Sage	4*	...	...	...	...
Fremlin's	8½%†	...	Less tax	12½c	12½c
Fullers' Earth Union	8†	...	Less tax	8	...
Gaiety Cinema (Manchester) ...	7½%*	May 21	...	...	...
Goodlass Wall	8*	June 17	...	...	...
Harrods (Buenos Aires).....	10%†	...	Less tax	...	...
House Property and Investment	7½%*	June 2	Less tax	...	...
Ind. Coope	12½††	...	Less tax	18	17½
Industrial and General Trust ...	25c p.s.*	...	Quarterly	...	...
International Nickel	8½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
John Rowell and Son	...	...	Tax free	22½	22½
Jones and Co.	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Kalgoorlie Elec. Power & Lightng	...	...	...	10b	10b
Kingsley and Thackeray Hotels	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Liverpool Storage	...	...	...	...	...
London & Provincial Sporting	...	...	Less tax	10	10
News Agency.....	19†	...	Less tax	14½	14
LondonGeneral Investment Trust	2%†	...	Less tax	3	3
Mansion House Chambers.....	1/9 p.s.	...	Less tax	3/- p.s.	3/9 p.s.
Melbourne City Properties	7½%†	...	...	12½	7½
Methuen and Co.	4%†	...	Tax free	7	7
Montevideo Gas and Dry Dock	5%†	...	Tax free	15	6
Newton Chambers.....	2½%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Packing Materials Association ...	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Peebles Hotel-Hydropathic	5%*	May 31	Less tax	...	...
Phillips' Rubber Soles	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Primitiva Holdings	...	...	...	1d. p.s.	...
Quicktho (1928)	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Reserves Securities Trust.....	...	...	...	2	...
Rice Bros.	10%†	...	...	20f	20f
Richard Whitaker and Sons	12½%†	...	...	...	...
Rubber & Industrial Trust (Def.).	...	...	Less tax	7½	7
Scottish Drapery Corporation...	5%†	...	...	10b	10b
Southdown Motor Services	...	...	...	6½	6
St. Andrew Trust	1/- p.s.	...	Less tax	...	...
Sheffield Brick	1/6 p.s.†	...	Less tax	15	15
Short's (Def.)	5%†	...	...	7½	7½
Siemens Bros.	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Taylor's Eagle Brewery.....	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Third Edinburgh Invstmnt Trust	...	...	...	5	...
Town Properties of Buluwayo (S.A.)	...	...	...	10	15
Tweedales and Smalley	2½%†	...	Less tax	8	...
United Cattle Products	10†	...	Less tax	10	10
Val de Travers Asphalte Paving	1/6 p.s.†	...	Less tax	...	...
W. Abbott and Sons	2½%*	May 23	...	5	...
Winterbottom Trust	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Wylie & Lochhead	...	...	Less tax	20	20
Wyman and Sons	12½%†	...	...	...	...

a Plus bonus of 7½%. b Plus bonus of 5%.
e Plus bonus of 1/- p.s. d Plus bonus of 100%.
e Plus bonus of 10%. f Plus bonus of 20%.

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR APRIL, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
GOLD.							
Ashanti Goldfields	10,648	...	...	...	...	51,664	26,631
Associated Gold	5,282	...	...	...	...	7,301	...
Boulder Perseverance.	6,501	...	...	...	...	15,604	2,484
Central Manitoba.....	4,982	...	...	...	...	$38,404	...
Chosen	9,440	...	...	...	...	12,340	2,428
Globe and Phœnix ...	6,008	...	5,748	...	...	...	12,483
Golden Horse Shoe ...	33,708	...	...	...	...	6,055	2,580
Great Boulder	9,232	...	...	...	...	24,160	...
Lake View and Star ..	6,157	...	...	...	...	21,238	6,578,
South Kalgurli	8,360	...	...	...	...	14,350	...
West Mexican.....	1,840	...	...	...	...	$38,500	...

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
TIN.		
Anglo-Nigerian.....	83½	...
Aramayo	273	...
Baba River.....	12	...
Batura Monguna	1¼	...
Bisichi	65	Restricted.
Consolidated Tin	94	...
East Pool	83	Black tin.
Ex Lands Nigeria	50	...
Jantar Nigeria	26	...
Kaduna Prospectors.....	23	...
Kaduna Syndicate	37	...
Kassa	15½	...
Kay Yew.....	32½	...
McCreedy Tins	13½	...
Naraguta	26½	...
Naraguta Durumi.....	16½	...
Naraguta Karama.....	23	...
Patino	1,602	Long tons.
Ribon Valley	21½	...
Temengor Tin.....	14	...
Tin Fields of Nigeria	6½	...
Yardi Kerri	10	...
Zaaiplaats	30	...
COPPER.		
Namaqua	171	...

MESSINA (TRANSVAAL).—April: Concentrates produced, 1,291 tons containing 515 tons copper. (March, 585 tons.)

TETUHE.—April: Ore treated, 13,923 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 2,522 tons; lead concentrates produced, 1,162 tons.

THE

STANDARD BANK

OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa; and to the Governments of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Tanganyika.

CAPITAL Authorised and Subscribed	£10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,500,000
RESERVE FUND	£3,164,170
CAPITAL UNCALLED	£7,500,000
	£13,164,170

Board of Directors.

William Relerson Arbuthnot, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
Stanley Christopherson, Esq.
Edward Clifton-Brown, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
Solomon B. Joel, Esq.
Horace Peel, Esq.
Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G.
William Smart, Esq.
Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., F.R.S.
Sir Roderick Roy Wilson.

Joint General Managers in South Africa—John Jeffrey, James S. Shiel.
Deputy General Managers in South Africa—G. F. Le Sueur, W. K. Robertson.
Assistant General Managers in South Africa—Francis E. King, Herbert G. Hoey.
London Manager—Bertram Lowndes.
Secretary—T. D. Williams.

Head Office: 10 CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET,
and 77, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.
London Wall Branch: 63, LONDON WALL, E.C. 2.
West End Branch: 9, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C. 2.
NEW YORK AGENCY: 67, WALL STREET.
HAMBURG AGENCY.
Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 49-58, SCHAUENBURGER-STRASSE
Over 370 Branches, Sub-Branches, and Agencies in SOUTH, EAST and CENTRAL AFRICA.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE BUSINESS CONDUCTED.

COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

The Bank has over 370 Branches in Africa, and Agents and Correspondents throughout the World. The closest touch with Trade and Industrial conditions is maintained, with special attention to Commercial and Credit Intelligence. This service is available to Exporters, Importers and others wishing to develop trade with South, East and Central Africa.

THE STANDARD BANK MONTHLY REVIEW is sent post free on application. It gives the latest information on all South, East and Central African matters of Trade and Commercial Interest.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
British Bank of S. America	Dec. 31	108,648	99,977	208,625	...	100,000	10	...	108,625	100,718	10
British Italian Banking	Dec. 31	...	25,022	25,022	...	...	...	...	25,022	...	...
Breweries.											
Buchanan-Dewar	Mar. 31	105,447	1,367;248	1,472,695	259,430	1,106,667	35	...	106,598	1,226,175	30
Rowell (John) and Son	Mar. 31	30,596	21,879	52,475	2,500	12,500	12½	7,025	30,450	21,734	12½
Canals and Docks.											
La Guaira Harbour Corp. ..	Dec. 31	23,512	11,653	35,165	...	...	...	...	35,165	2,050	...
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Calcutta Electric Supply ...	Dec. 31	41,130	403,621	444,751	48,889	190,553	14½	163,668	41,621	374,303	13⅜
Kalgoorlie Electric Power...	Dec. 31	623	3,808	4,431	...	3,000	6	...	1,431	10,842	6
Gas.											
Imperial Continental Gas ..	Mar. 31	198,015	468,238	666,253	...	270,465	17½	72,705	323,083	387,259	15
Montevideo Gas	Dec. 31	21,986	42,780	64,766	...	42,000	7*	...	22,766	41,179	7*
Financial Land, &c.											
Texas Land and Mortgage	Mar. 31	11,127	32,221	43,348	...	19,800	12*	13,300	10,248	33,085	12*
Warner Estate	Mar. 31	4,953	55,820	60,773	15,600	14,625	4½	25,000	5,548	51,180	6
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Albion Steam Coal	Dec. 31	*Dr.81,748*	*Dr.12,599*	*Dr.94,347*	...	...	...	...	*Dr94,347*	*Dr22,761*	...
Rubber.											
Bukit Tupah Rubber	Dec. 31	3,065	*Dr. 934*	2,131	...	...	...	1,000	1,131	*Dr. 242*	...
Changkat Salak Rubber and Tin	Dec. 31	5,951	14,403	20,354	7,437	6,650	7½	395	5,872	28,035	15
Cluny Rubber	Dec. 31	6,969	5,924	12,893	...	4,200	6	1,500	7,193	5,895	6
Dusun Durian Rubber	Dec. 31	33,369	37,361	70,730	...	26,003	12½	11,500	33,227	26,470	10
F.M.S. Rubber Planters	Dec. 31	10,130	35,565	45,695	...	31,500	15	...	14,195	20,154	10
Foothills (Malaya) Rubber	Dec. 31	3,121	2,573	5,694	...	1,000	2½	2,000	2,694	2,342	5
Golden Hope Rubber	Dec. 31	21,534	23,632	45,166	...	15,046	8	10,500	19,620	21,364	10
Hanwella Rubber	Dec. 31	1,744	5,675	7,419	...	4,000	2½	1,000	2,419	93	...
Henrietta Rubber	Dec. 31	7,269	7,950	15,219	...	4,812	5	3,000	7,407	3,178	5
Java Amalgamated Rubber	Dec. 31	10,412	10,077	20,489	...	13,875	7½	...	6,614	17,916	10
Kapoewas Rubber	Dec. 31	655	988	1,643	...	...	...	...	1,643	*Dr.2,715*	...
Kelani Valley Rubber	Dec. 31	2,871	6,937	9,808	420	6,125	17½	...	3,263	7,276	15
Klabang Rubber	Dec. 31	17,554	21,625	39,179	...	12,375	7½	12,500	14,304	19,387	7½
Kuala Selangor Rubber	Dec. 31	8,550	12,301	20,851	...	12,916	12½	...	7,935	12,767	12½
Lanadron Rubber	Dec. 31	17,536	11,951	29,487	...	14,400	4	...	15,087	19,901	5
Langkat Sumatra Rubber	Dec. 31	8,650	*Dr. 1,135*	7,515	...	...	...	...	7,515	3,474	4
Mahawale Rubber and Tea	Dec. 31	9,762	*Dr. 517*	9,245	...	...	...	...	9,245	4,040	2½
Pelmadulla Rubber	Dec. 31	12,952	17,144	30,096	...	11,520	10	3,757	14,819	32,108	30
Pernambang Rubber.....	Dec. 31	25,502	23,739	49,241	...	14,199	3	16,000	19,042	14,049	...
St. George Rubber	Dec. 31	2,309	10,385	12,694	...	7,000	10	2,000	3,694	8,091	10
Sungei Batu (Malay) Rubber	Dec. 31	18,090	9,834	27,924	...	6,187	7½	4,000	17,737	11,005	12½
Sungei Siput Rubber	Dec. 31	11,332	6,171	17,503	...	...	...	800	16,703	4,294	2½
Windsor (F.M.S.) Rubber...	Dec. 31	10,627	2,716	13,343	...	2,475	3	...	10,868	4,619	5
Shipping.											
Brynymor Steamship	Mar. 31	2,827	8,606	11,433	3,640	5,200	10	...	2,593	...	...
White Star Line.....	Dec. 31	64,610	270,545	335,155	260,000	...	...	...	75,155	328,347	6
Tea.											
Alliance Tea Co. of Ceylon...	Dec. 31	8,538	32,005	40,543	...	27,000	18	6,000	7,543	30,565	18
Bordubi Tea	Dec. 31	15,280	44,350	59,630	...	40,500	45	10,000	9,130	51,191	45
Darjeeling Consolidated Tea	Dec. 31	4,961	29,459	34,420	3,000	22,500	30	4,000	4,920	37,063	25
Ederapolla Tea Co. of Ceylon	Dec. 31	2,428	4,800	7,228	...	3,480	10	1,101	2,647	4,148	10
Imperial Ceylon Tea.....	Dec. 31	7,092	22,269	29,361	...	14,000	14	7,500	7,861	16,734	12
Koomsong Tea	Dec. 31	7,465	33,518	40,983	...	26,250	35	5,000	9,733	27,083	45
Lethenty Tea Estates	Dec. 31	1,707	3,293	5,000	...	3,562	9	...	1,438	5,969	15
Mayfield (Dimbula) Tea	Dec. 31	6,931	19,017	25,948	1,980	11,493	37½	5,000	7,475	18,315	37½
Textiles.											
Bright (John) and Bros. ...	Mar. 31	43,150	38,998	82,148	...	...	...	15,033	67,115	22,967	10
Trusts.											
Alliance Investment	Apr. 15	23,000	63,764	86,764	23,963	20,737	7½	18,051	24,013	59,930	10
Consolidated Trust	Apr. 15	...	65,365	65,365	18,329	29,203	20	...	17,833	61,191	20
English and Internatl Trust	Apr. 5‡	...	43,402	43,402	21,002	15,000	3p.a.	5,643	1,757	...	...
Industrial and Gen. Trust...	Mar. 31	88,372	401,880	490,252	62,409	248,325	18	85,000	94,518	378,237	17½
Lake View Investment Trust	Mar. 31	10,448	102,133	112,581	12,047	62,562	13	25,000	12,972	93,409	12½
London and Holyrood Trust	Mar. 31†	...	41,043	41,043	18,000	11,625	5p.a.	4,716	6,702	...	...
London and Provincial Trust	Mar. 31	12,510	31,566	44,076	8,859	15,688	8	...	19,529	31,098	8
Monument Property Trust	Feb. 28	1,834	14,294	16,128	5,905	5,813	7½	2,000	2,410	...	...
Scottish and Canadian General Investment.....	Mar. 31	4,259	29,847	34,106	8,930	12,550	9	8,000	4,626	...	...
Winterbottom Trust.....	Mar. 31‖	...	39,176	39,176	18,752	12,501	10p.a.	6,785	1,138	...	...
Other Companies.											
Alexander, Fergusson & Co.	Dec. 31	6,656	14,727	21,383	2,800	10,850	20	...	7,733	...	...
Bovis	Dec. 31	2,358	34,643	37,001	9,375	14,128	10 1/12	12,000	1,498	18,174	12½
Bridges & Co. (Proprietors)	Feb. 17	1,009	458	1,467	...	...	...	...	1,467	...	...
British Match Corporation	Apr. 30	51,209	493,931	545,140	23,121	371,250	6*	83,302	67,467	420,673	6*
Brush Electrical Engineering	Dec. 31	...	56,944	56,944	...	48,743	10	8,201	...	65,362	10
Ebonite Container	Dec. 31	3,234	13,674	16,908	...	9,375	12½	...	7,533	...	...
Egyptian Markets	Dec. 31	14,203	21,974	36,177	...	21,183	11	...	14,294	21,845	11
Ever Ready Co.(Gt.Britain)	Mar. 31	30,696	244,555	275,251	20,000	189,980	35	31,271	34,000	209,804	35
General Refractories.....	Dec. 31	4,317	10,024	14,341	...	7,227	12½	2,500	4,614	...	...
Liverpool Storage	Mar. 31	11,127	5,697	16,824	...	4,498	10*	...	12,326	8,278	10*
Lomas (Robert) (Proprtrs.)	Jan. 31	2,476	§	2,476§	...	...	...	...	2,476§	...	...
Malkin Tiles (Burslem)	Feb. 28	5,562	23,862	29,424	4,227	5,500	14	11,024	8,673	...	...
North British Rubber	Dec. 31	25,987	74,662	100,649	11,250	...	...	62,246	27,153	104,559	5
Wylie and Lochhead	Feb. 28	4,839	17,321	22,160	2,500	7,500	5*	5,000	7,160	16,188	5*

* Free of income tax. † For period from March 15, 1929, to March 31, 1930. ‡ For period from February 2, 1929, to April 5, 1930.
§ Loss unstated. ‖ Period from January 9, 1929, to March 31, 1930.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BRITISH COTTON AND WOOL DYERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ord. shares.....	774,165	...
4% deb. stock	620,000	...
Deb. int. accrued ...	6,200	...
Reserve	230,000	...
Depreciation fund...	82,336	+28,230
Investment contingency fund.....	45,000	...
	80,078	−20,752
Creditors.....	94,742	−20,882
Profit and loss		
Total	1,932,521	−13,404

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Land, plant, &c.	1,343,296	− 4,269
Stocks	101,170	− 29,040
Debtors.....	145,365	− 37,738
Shares in subsidiaries	138,380	+138,380
	82,547	+ 34,909
Cash	39,945	
Trustees for debs.	81,818	−115,646
Investments		
Total	1,932,521	− 13,404

FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS COMPANY.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Pref. shares £1 ...	1,865,852	...
Ord. shares £1 ...	3,708,837	...
General reserve...	1,438,000	+ 197
Trade contingencies and exchange reserve	85,000	...
Insurance reserve	30,884	+ 3,687
Depreciation account.....	2,155,485	+ 168,713
6% 10-year notes	1,000,000	+1,000,000
Creditors	528,454	− 401,654
Due to subsidiaries	81,735	+ 15,501
	29,542	− 1,908
Pref. dividend ...	444,743	− 86,871
Profit and loss ...		
Total	11,368,532	+ 697,665

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Freehold forests and other lands, &c.	2,132,987	+ 1,764
Buildings & plant	942,107	+ 10,016
Town buildings, &c.	886,864	+ 35,733
Railways in Argentina	994,656	− 560
Research laboratory at Harpenden	15,191	+ 720
Shares in subsidiary cos. at cost	1,614,706	+ 53,449
Advances to subsidiaries	1,140,566	+ 342,539
	426,344	− 11,715
Other investments	216,423	− 513
Livestock		
Stocks of extract and felled timber	1,343,052	+ 120,960
	424,402	+ 5,035
Stocks of stores ...	635,492	− 11,849
Debtors	40,116	+ 13,751
British Govt. stks.	555,616	+ 138,535
Cash.....		
Total	11,368,532	+ 697,665

WHITE STAR LINE, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
6½% cum. pref. £1	5,000,000	...
Ord. shares £1 ...	1,000,000	...
Balance purchase price, A. C. L. Steamers	1,485,000	− 165,000
Creditors	60,232	− 317,682
Due to subsidiaries	329,629	
Balance purchase price Oceanic steamship.....	2,350,000	...
Secured balance of purchase price of other shares	500,000	+ 500,000
	75,155	− 37,455
Profit and loss ...		
Total	10,800,016	− 20,137

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Fleet	2,132,265	+ 232,265
Shares in subsidiaries	7,910,820	
Due by subsidiaries	349,665	+ 349,665
Stores, furniture, etc.....	13,872	+ 13,872
Debtors.....	80,000	− 534,665
Formation expenses	167,563	+ 20,063
Commission on issue pref. shrs.	93,750	...
Cash	52,081	− 101,337
Total	10,800,016	− 20,137

OIL OUTPUTS.

ATTOCK OIL COMPANY.—April output, 15,972 barrels.

BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY.—Production of crude oil by this company for the month of April amounted to 36,386 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended May 7:—Venezuela, 50,132 barrels; Trinidad, 17,201 barrels; total, 67,333 barrels. Production for April:—Venezuela, 164,738 barrels; Trinidad, 59,841 barrels; total, 224,579 barrels. Deliveries for April:—Venezuela, 145,511 barrels; Trinidad, 89,045 barrels; total, 234,556 barrels.

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA.—Total production during the month of April amounted to 137,504 barrels, or approximately 19,643 tons.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY.—Production for the week ended May 3, 1930, was 236,000 barrels.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Further rains and cold winds experienced over the United Kingdom during the past week tended to retard vegetation and germination of spring crops, but agricultural prospects generally are excellent both here and on the Continent, and all cereals will respond quickly to a spell of sunshine and warmth. Native wheat proved slow of sale and prices further moved in buyers' favour. Recent large sales of French wheat and flour to United Kingdom outports at competitive rates were a feature of the market, and it is stated that one prominent London firm have booked nearly sixty vessels ranging from 200 to 3,000 tons for early shipment. Fair quantities of Canadian wheat were also taken by United Kingdom millers, with Continental purchases of Manitoba, American hard Winter, and Australian descriptions, the latter also selling to Italy. Despite the favourable outlook for new crop sowings in most of the great exporting countries, sellers as a rule refrained from pressing, which resulted in a fairly steady tone. The export movement from North America, although increasing slowly, is by no means sufficient to appreciably reduce surplus holdings, nor do prospects appear hopeful of any great expansion in European purchases during the remainder of the cereal year. In these circumstances, the position of Canadian and American sellers appears difficult in finding an outlet for present supplies before new crops become available, which indicates selling pressure to make elevator room. Meanwhile, the market remains very sensitive to weather and crop reports, and although sowings have made a good start, final results must depend on climatic conditions up to harvest. The market for flour remained steady, sellers being less disposed to grant concessions, and a fair business resulted in home milled to cover current needs. Of imported, North American makes moved off quietly, but Australian and French were taken up with fair freedom. The restricted movement of Plate maize, due to adverse climatic conditions, resulted in a better demand for European varieties, recent arrivals from the Danube showing better condition. Prices ruled easier, especially for near positions, owing to a slow consumptive demand. Barley dull and weak, with further large bookings of Russian. Oats quiet and trend of values in buyer's favour.

WHEAT.—Steadier. No. 1, Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 44s.; No. 2, ditto, 43s. 6d.; No. 3, 42s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 41s. 3d.; No. 5, ditto, 39s.; No. 6, 32s.; No. 2, hard winter, 39s. 9d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 37s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 39s. 9d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 39s.; Australian, 42s. 3d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 4d.-8s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Maintained. London straight run, 35s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries, and 34s. 6d. London area. Of imported: Manitoba patents, 32s. 6d.-35s. 6d.; Buffalo, 32s. 6d.-35s. 6d.; Australian, 30s. 3d.-31s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms: Manitoba top patents, May-June, 31s. 6d.-32s.; export ditto, 29s.-29s. 6d.; Australian, 28s.-28s. 6d.; French prompt, 24s.-24s. 6d. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, May, £5 17s. 6d. per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier for near positions. Plate, landed, 29s. 6d.; ex ship, 28s.; March-April, 26s.; new, April-May, 25s. 3d.; May-June, 25s.; June-July, 24s. 9d.; No. 2 white flat African, 30s. 6d. landed, per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 5s. per ton, ex ship.

BARLEY.—Dull and weak. Californian old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship, f.a.q., 17s.; landed on sample, 18s. 6d.-19s. 6d.; Persian landed, 17s. 3d. per 400 lbs.; English malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Dull. Plate, landed, 14s.; ex ship to arrive, 12s. 9d.; Chilian white, 20s.; ditto tawny, 15s.; German, landed, 19s.; ex ship to arrive, 17s.; mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to May 10	Qrs. 183,867	Qrs. 152,984	Qrs. 278,460	Qrs. 162,543
36 weeks to May 10	8,317,585	8,874,130	9,264,734	10,444,718
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 11	s. d. 9 11	s. d. 11 2	s. d. 12 0

FIGURES OF ASSURANCE

By careful and prudent administration the A.M.P. has made more than £42,000,000 for the benefit of its Policyholders since its establishment in 1849, and this, after providing for all expenses of management, commission, taxes, etc. A.M.P. premiums are low, Bonuses high and policies, as befits the largest British Mutual Life Office, world-wide. Assets £74,000,000. Annual Income £10,500,000. Full particulars on application.

A.M.P.

MUTUAL AUSTRALIAN PROVIDENT SOCIETY

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D. E. WALKER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
May 3	161,749	48,855	21,810	9 0	7 10	6 8
May 10	183,867	55,840	23,827	8 11	7 10	6 10
May 8, 1926	289,379	56,017	37,544	13 2	9 4	9 7
May 7, 1927	142,128	25,191	57,138	11 8	10 9	8 11
May 12, 1928	278,460	28,965	30,425	11 2	10 10	12 11
May 11, 1929	152,984	24,324	28,994	9 11	10 0	9 10

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	May 15, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7 1930.	May 14, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	114	148⅛	105¼	105	105⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅛	105⅛	130⅛	101⅛	100⅛	102⅜

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 69,542,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 3,957,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 76,688,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports no real improvement in the South Yorkshire coal trade, although export inquiry has improved a little and the cutting of prices appears to have run its course. Best steams are quoted at 15s. 3d. f.o.b. Contracts for blastfurnace coke are being offered at 16s. at ovens, but such fuel can be bought on the open market at rather less. Demand is poor. Deliveries are suspended in numerous cases. The marketing board has reduced its subsidy on export orders from 3s. to 2s. per ton. It was increased in April from 1s. 6d. to 3s.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Though the market has steadied a little lately, it is to be feared the reason is not improved business, but smaller supplies as the result of curtailed output, although an additional influence appears to have been a better supply of shipping tonnage. Best steam qualities in Fife and splint coal in Lanarkshire are the steadiest spots about round coal, while in nuts trebles and doubles have improved their position. Current quotations for shipment (f.o.b. district ports): Lanarkshire.—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 16s.; splint second, 15s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; steam, 12s. 6d.; Hartley, 18s.; trebles, 12s.; doubles, 11s. 3d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s.; dross, 9s. 6d. Fife.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-13s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.-11s. 9d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. Lothians.—Prime steam, 12s. 3d.; secondary steam, 12s.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. Ayrshire.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no improvement this week in the position on the Cardiff coal market, and the volume of the export trade has further declined. The traffic returns of the Great Western Railway Company show that last week the total quantity shipped, foreign and coastwise, at the South Wales ports was only 492,400 tons compared with 594,600 tons in the previous week, and with 531,772 tons in the corresponding week last year. The stocks on the colliery and railway sidings are estimated at about 1¼ million tons, equivalent to nearly 1½ weeks' output, and collieries in most of the districts are losing time. The marketing scheme, however, is preventing the slump in prices which would otherwise have been inevitable, and the customs returns for April actually show a slight increase in the declared average f.o.b. value compared with the previous month. The Egyptian State Railway contract has been placed with a South Wales firm, but it is not expected that Monmouthshire collieries will profit from this particular contract to anything like the extent they have done under previous Egyptian locomotive contracts. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; anthracite best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 3d. to 12s.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 3d. to 25s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—The British iron and steel industry is suffering from the depression which is affecting practically every country in the world. The home market, although business is worse than for the past year or two, is more active than most of the foreign markets. The British steelmakers, however, complain that the poorness of the demand from overseas markets has intensified the competition for orders in the domestic market. This, combined with the policy of consumers in buying from hand-to-mouth and for near delivery, has created a difficult position in practically all branches of the industry. Reports from the pig-iron producing districts of the country indicate that stocks are increasing notwithstanding the steady if comparatively small volume of business that is moving in this department. Conditions in the semi-finished steel market are not good, but British steelmakers continue to secure a fair share of the business passing. On the other hand the Continental makers complain that their trade with British steelmakers has declined during the past few months. Business in finished steel is irregular. Now and again inquiry becomes more active, but this is seldom followed by important buying. Stocks in the export markets are believed to be low, and this encourages the belief that some improvement must develop within the next few weeks.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron is dull. Consumers are making no move in regard to purchases to follow current contracts, and indications are that they will delay doing so as long as possible. There are no favourable features likely to influence earlier buying and as many purchases made after the reduction in prices about the middle of March have still some weeks to run, a quiet time seems likely to continue. There is only a moderate quantity of Cleveland iron available for the open market after producers' requirements for their own consuming works are provided for. Only eight furnaces are in operation and these will be reduced to seven by the end of next week. Very little business was transacted at the weekly market on Tuesday and prices were unchanged viz.: No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. There is little, if any, improvement in the demand for hematite and the production is to be further reduced. It is hoped that the lessened make will have the effect of steadying prices, but in the meantime no appreciable difference is noticeable, as makers are still willing to book mixed numbers at 74s. for early delivery, and transactions are confined to small parcels. Merchants are still in the position of having fair quantities of iron on their hands and are willing to underquote makers where their contract conditions allow them to compete. Shipments of pig iron are only on a poor scale, the clearances to 13th inst. being 6,693 tons, against 6,730 tons to April 13th. In the manufactured trades new business continues quiet. Prices are unchanged from last week. The ore market is idle. Best Bilbao rubio continues to be quoted nominally 21s. c.i.f., and the current freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough is round 5s. 6d. for early loading. Coke is being pressed for sale and is weaker in price. Good average furnace qualities are now offering at 17s. 6d. delivered consumers' works for this and next month's delivery.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The paucity of business from overseas markets, notably India, China and Australia, continues to be the outstanding feature of the local steel situation and the turnover as a whole continues at a low level. The depression on the Continent tends to intensify competition from that quarter, and prices are very unsatisfactory. The buying of raw materials is still hand to mouth; there is a dearth of substantial orders in all departments. The enquiries coming in do not suggest an early revival. In the open-hearth steel department production has been curtailed at works in Sheffield and North Lincolnshire. There is a moderate call for special steels, cold wrought steel, and stampings and forgings for the motor trade. Tool makers report quietude in most branches, and the output of the plate and cutlery works is below the average of last year. New plant is being installed for the more economical production of scissors.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—In the sheet trade in Glasgow and district business is being fairly well maintained at recent level, and the tonnage of galvanized sheets booked during the present week is, considering the present state of the galvanized sheet trade generally, quite satisfactory. In the black sheet trade also there has been quite a good amount of business passing, including sheets for oil company's requirements involving considerable tonnage. Other branches of the iron and steel industry are finding things rather difficult. Practically all the orders being placed are for small lots for immediate delivery, and the absence of forward bookings is a source of anxiety to the steelmakers. Prices are unchanged at £8 15s. for ship plates and £8 7s. 6d. for sections (both subject to the rebate of 10s. per ton). There is no increase in the demand for semi products, and the pig iron market remains quiet.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Fairly stable conditions continue to prevail in the tinplate industry. Prices on the Swansea Metal Exchange on Tuesday showed little variation compared with those in the previous week, while shipments were higher. Foreign competition continues to affect unfavourably the market for local steel bars, and in the sheet trade the Indian trouble is causing anxiety. Galvanized sheets are unchanged at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton, but both production and exports are substantially lower than at the corresponding period last year.

OTHER METALS.

Tin.—In the standard market values continued on a downward course on selling pressure, offers being moderately absorbed, though Eastern advices came steady. Cash also forward 30s.-32s. 6d. lower. Standard cash quoted £147 10s. to £147 15s.; three months, £149 5s. to £149 10s.; Settlement price, £147 10s. Sales amounted to 500 tons, cash at £148 5s. to £147 10s.; three months, £150 to £149 5s. English ingots quoted £148 10s. to £149. In the East, 450 tons reported sold on the basis of £151 5s. ton c.i.f.

Copper.—In fair support, but with sellers more in evidence a weaker market resulted. Cash on balance 20s., and forward 17s. 6d. per ton down. Standard cash quoted £55 5s. to £55 10s.; three months, £55 to £55 2s. 6d.; Settlement price, £55 5s. 700 tons changed hands, three months at £55 10s. to £55; electros, £60 to £61 10s.; wire bars, £61 10s. per ton.

Lead.—Quiet and easier on liberal offerings. 350 tons sold. Good soft foreign pig, August, £18 to £17 17s. 6d.; September, £17 17s. 6d.; Settlement price, £17 17s. 6d.; English quoted £19 10s. per ton.

Spelter.—Steady at the recent decline, but dealings restricted. 350 tons sold. May, £16 7s. 6d.; June, £16 13s. 9d.; July, £16 18s. 9d.; August, £17 2s. 6d.; Settlement price, £16 7s. 6d. per ton.

Antimony.—Quiet, steady. English regulus, £40 to £46; Chinese ditto, spot, £28 10s. to £30, according to quantity; May-June, £25 5s.; crude May-June, £16 12s. 6d. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Oxide.—May-June, £26 15s. per ton c.i.f.

Antimony Ore.—50 per cent. May-June, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. per unit c.i.f.

Wolfram.—Steady. Chinese May-June, 23s. 6d.; Burmese ditto, 23s. per unit c.i.f.

Aluminium, Quicksilver and Tin Plates.—Unchanged.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Liverpool, May 14th.

Values show some slight improvement on those ruling a week ago. The U.S.A. figures of consumption of American cotton during April are to-day given as 532,000 bales against 633,000 bales last year and 533,000 bales last month. Trading continues in very limited quantity. During the week some rains have fallen in the Eastern States, and this has caused some relief, but the West continues to receive too much. Spot sales for the week 8th to 14th (inclusive) are 19,000 bales, of which 12,570 are American, 1,400 Brazilian, 90 Argentine, 1,500 Peruvian, 1,010 Egyptian, 1,200 African, 760 East Indian and 470 sundries. Imports for the same period are 22,638 bales, of which 11,935 bales are American, 201 Peruvian, 5,884 Egyptian, 624 African, 2,701 East Indian, 1,293 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·62; Egyptian Sakel, 14·05; Uppers, 10·32; Brazil Fair, 7·87; Peru G.F. Smooth, 8·97; West African Middling, 8·47, and East African G.F., 9·12.

Manchester, May 14th.

The conditions prevailing in the market have shown very little change. In some quarters there has been slightly more inquiry, but actual business remains very limited, and at the moment spinners and manufacturers cannot sell the considerably curtailed production. The disturbances in India continue to have a vital effect upon trade. Rather more attempts are being made to cancel contracts, and some cases are reported of customers on the other side asking for deliveries to be delayed. The news from China has not been at all encouraging, but occasional lines have been booked in dyed cloths. Retail quantities of white shirtings have been sold for Egypt, and some fair orders have been put through in finishing styles for South America. Steady support has been given by home trade buyers in a variety of goods. The industrial situation in Lancashire weaving towns tends to become worse. American yarns for home use have moved off slowly at irregular rates. Prices in Egyptian counts have been rather firmer with a few more sales. A few contracts have been put through in bundle yarns for India.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930. Apr. 23.	Apr. 30.	May 7.	May 15.	Corresponding Date. 1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·48	8·62	8·51	8·62	11·53	10·12
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair	14·30	14·20	14·00	14·05	21·15	17·85
" Egyptian..... per lb.	12½	12½	12½	12½	16½	15
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	13	13	12½	12½	17½	15½
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	21½	21½	22	22	31½	26
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.						
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	22 0	22 0	21 9	21 9	26 9	25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 9	24 9	24 6	24 6	29 6	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 6	13 6	13 4½	13 4½	15 6	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 1	12 1	12 0	12 0	14 6	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—In all West Riding centres there is a pronounced tendency for the operatives to drift back to work on the reduced rates of wages, and in several cases, particularly in spinning mills, work is almost normal. On the other hand, the wool combers and the weaving overlookers in the Bradford district are still putting up a dour fight, and this is causing a good deal of inconvenience. The inability of some manufacturers to guarantee delivery of seasonal goods is undoubtedly resulting in loss of trade, some of the orders being diverted to the West of England and others to Scotland. It is also feared that some of the business which would have come to this centre will be turned over to the Continent. With so many worsted spinners working, the stocks of tops have been considerably reduced, and lots for prompt delivery now command very full quoted rates. Quotations for tops are also much firmer in sympathy with the advance in the raw-material markets, and when work is resumed in the combing section it will be necessary to run day and night for a time. The difficulty with most spinners is that they cannot get manufacturers to take up deliveries owing to the partial stoppage in the weaving, but quotations for yarns remain firm, the question of replacement now being one of considerable importance. Confidence in wool values seems to have been restored, and the restricted buying in recent months, especially on Continental account, is now causing importers to operate freely with a view to meeting requirements between now and the opening of the new season. As regards piece-goods, the Whitsuntide trade is being seriously retarded on account of the strike; this, indeed, is the most troublesome aspect of the dispute, which, in other respects, has caused little dislocation.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

[From a correspondent.]

The third series of London sales commenced last Tuesday, and though the position of the home trade is capable of considerable improvement, values for merinos appreciated fully 7½d., and crossbreds 7½d. to 10 per cent. This shows unmistakably that the industry is in much better heart. The movement of prices in London has fully confirmed the improvement that has taken place since the second series closed, notwithstanding that fully half the mills in the West Riding are standing. Continental buyers were very much in evidence in competing for merinos, while the home trade were the principal operators in crossbreds. This series there is a big offering of the latter, but this is not likely to be detrimental to their ready disposal, and it is not too much to anticipate that all the offerings will be cleared without much, if any, reaction. Overseas news is also very encouraging. The offerings at the selling centres in Australia are still good, and being disposed of readily. Growers must now realise that there is no necessity to adopt drastic measures to improve the selling value of wool. The information that splendid rains have fallen over large areas in the Commonwealth is also extremely welcome. An excellent clip may be expected next season. The quantity should be about the same as the current one. The immediate concern, however, is an expansion of manufacturing requirements. These will ensure good prices, and Australia will need every sovereign that can be realised for wool, wheat and dairy produce.

Increasing Interest in South American Markets

Estd. *1862*

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HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

English market hides showed a further slight advance at the auctions held during the early part of the week, several weights in both clear and warbled ox and heifers making ¼d. per lb. more money at the sales held at Manchester. Calfskins and sheepskins are steady at round about last figures. Little alteration has occurred in foreign hides; the market remains steady with only a limited amount of business passing for tanners in this country. A fair trade has been done at origin with the United States in connection with frigorific hides, Argentine ox having changed hands on the basis of 7 $\frac{7}{16}$d., with 6 $\frac{15}{16}$d. accepted for light ox, and 7¼d. for cows. Dry River Plates are steady with B.A. Americanos selling at 7⅞d., Inservibles at 4⅜d., and Sierra Cordobas at 8¼d. In African hides Capes have changed hands at 8¼d. and 7¼d. for first and second drys, and 7⅜d. and 6⅜d. for dry-salted. The American market is cabled as steady, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 14 cents. Inquiry for sole leather has been rather better over the past week, and although actual business continues to be confined to small quantities, there is a feeling that a further increase in the amount going into consumption will soon be experienced. Bends for manufacturing purposes are going out regularly, the call for the most part being for the lighter averages in the medium to better qualities. The repairing trade has also bought more, and fair quantities of suitable selection in both English and wetsalted have been moved off. Heavy bends and the commoner descriptions of bottom leather are not so much sought after. The offal market continues satisfactory, and average quantities of both shoulders and bellies change hands. In the upper leather sections the bulk of the business passing is in connection with the darker shades of brown in glacé kid, together with suède leather. A fair inquiry is also experienced for reptile skins, especially for imitation; willow calf is a moderate sale; so is patent leather in the medium to cheaper qualities. Semi-chrome leathers are difficult to move, and even where business is negotiated, the price accepted shows very little in the way of profit. Curriers, also, report trade as quiet, with keen competition for any business that may be going around. Shoe manufacturers have experienced an increase in the inquiries for footwear, and although some of these have not resulted in actual business, the prospects for the future are considered brighter.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, May 14th.

The jute trade is still awaiting some definite decision from Calcutta regarding the curtailment question. Rumours are now circulating the market that it is merely a case of fixing the extent to which production will be cultailed. Suggestions are made that the mills will revert to 54 hours' working per week as from July 1st next. It will be remembered that on July 1st last year an increase in hours was made from 54 to 60 per week. The additional quantity of jute goods which has been placed on the market each week has amounted roughly to five million yards, though even the former output was more than the world could absorb, so that prices have depreciated to a considerable extent. Stocks of goods at all producing and consuming centres have accumulated, and enormous quantities will have to be disposed of before the market can be materially affected by any restriction of production, but the moral effect should at least tend to prevent prices from falling. Outside Indian production has been very much curtailed. Few establishments in Dundee are running more than three days per week, and Continental producers are no better off. Prices of raw jute are maintaining a level above those obtainable for cloth and yarns. Old crop First Marks and Lightnings are practically unobtainable now, and are not being offered to this centre. Daisee assortment is quoted at £25, threes at £24 10s. and £23 for fours, while Tossa assortment rules at from £26 5s. to £27 5s., according to mark, threes at £26 and fours at £24, May-June. New crop best Lightnings have been reduced this week by 10s. per ton to £27 10s. August and £27 September, and Daisee assortment has been offered at £25 10s. and Tossa assortment at £28, September-October. Jute yarns are quiet, but firm all round. Common 8-lb. cops have been sold on several occasions at 2s. 8d. and 8-lb. spools at 2s. 9d. for delivery within two months, but for forward delivery 2s. 9d. and 2s. 10d. respectively would only be accepted by a few spinners. Twist is very firm at 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are steady at 3¼d. for 24-lb. weft and 4¼d. for 8-lb. chains. Jute waste and cuttings are so scarce that rove is difficult to obtain, in consequence of which prices are tending dearer. For 48 lb. £28 is lowest, and for 200 lb. £18 to £19 is wanted. Fine yarns are selling fairly well for near delivery, but carpet qualities are quiet. Jute cloth orders are mostly for small quantities for early delivery. Prices, however, are very steady, and manufacturers are refusing to accept anything less than 3 $\frac{9}{16}$d. for 10¼-oz. 40-in. hessians and 2 $\frac{9}{16}$d. for 8 oz. Linoleum qualities are slow and heavy goods continue dull. The Calcutta goods market has ruled very steady, showing little or no change since last report.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Variable conditions have ruled, and only a moderate volume of business has been put through. At lower levels of value the demand for linseed oil expanded, a fair trade having been done down to £39 10s. for prompt and May delivery ex Hull. Current prices are for "spot," £40 5s., and for May, £39 15s., later positions being at a discount of 20s. to 30s. per ton. Cotton oil is quiet, crude Egyptian offering at £28 10s., and common edible at £31 10s. ex Hull prompt. Other seed oils are quiet and inclined easy. In the oilseed section linseed is in only poor request in view of the slowness of the demand for the oilcake product, and Plate declined to £17 10s. for all positions. There are very few offers of Indian linseed with Calcutta for May-June loading quoted £19. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe has increased to 137,300 tons, which is 13,400 tons more than last week. Cotton seed is easy, and black Egyptian has dropped to £7 5s. for "afloat" and May loading, and this has served to arouse a little more interest on the part of buyers. Bombay cottonseed offers obtain no response, as they are in advance of the market. The demand for oilcake is extremely dull.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Prices for spot parcels remained without change from recent decline, but there is only a slow movement, trade buyers measuring their requirements day by day. Slackness attaching to the sale of raw refining sugars epitomises at one stroke the actual state of business in consuming centres. There is a slight improvement in inquiries on Far Eastern account for parcels of old crop white Java offering from second-hands. At 8s. 6d. f.o.b. London, some interest arises on the part of exporters for Dutch J and Dinteloord granulated, in which the Irish Free State figures. Terminal sections firmer and quite a fair amount of business negotiated, mostly in the August position. Sales include: May delivery, 6s. 0$\frac{3}{4}$d. to 6s. 4¼d.; August, 6s. 3d. to 6s. 6d.; December, 6s. 7½d. to 6s. 10½d.; March, 7s. 7½d. to 7s. 10½d.; May, 7s. 9d. to 7s. 11$\frac{3}{4}$d. Cuban, 96 per cent. June, sellers, 6s. 9d. c.i.f. U.K., with Continental beet, prompt, 6s. 6d. ditto. Czecho, granulated, ready, free, sellers, 8s. 5¼d. f.o.b. Hamburg. New crop Java sugar quiet, unaltered. U.K. imports last month, 94,998 tons, against 178,089 last year; consumption, 162,749, against 169,420; stocks, 186,050, against 210,250; stocks of home grown, 41,150, against 28,900. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 10th amounted to 153,088 tons, against 131,045 last year. Cuban receipts last week amount to 105,224 tons, against 109,653 same time last year; exports, 113,866, against 103,331; stocks, 1,745,895, against 1,543,222. Centrals working, 70, against 22 last year. Total Java shipments for last month approximated to estimate of 114,000 tons, viz., 108,000, against 31,000 last year. British India contributed 59,000, against 9,000; Japan, 14,000, against 4,000; China, 24,000, against 9,000; with nil to Port Said, compared with 5,000.

COFFEE.—There was a better tone about this mark $\frac{2}{3}$ during the greater part of the week. Increased quantities were absorbed at firm rates with extreme prices paid for attractive qualities of foreign cleaned Costa Rica.

COCOA.—A very dull market on spot. Some fine red Grenada sold 52s. Forward positions very depressed. Accra, F/F, May-July, 32s.; and mid crop, 29s. f.o.b. Terminal: June, sold, 36s. 7½d.; and later December at 35s. 4½d.

TEA.—48,981 packages Indian offered in auction during the week accorded good general support and no material change resulted in prices. Best liquoring and tippy sorts came to a firm market. Ceylon sales of 28,217 packages evidenced a much better demand, export interest having revived and quite a cheerful market prevailed. Prices firm to dearer and orange pekoes from ½d. to 1d. higher. Java and Sumatra sales met a good reception and a firm tone ensued.

RICE.—A very quiet market continues, and prices for Burma disclose increased weakness; most other descriptions held for previous rates. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, sellers, 13s. 3d.; May-June, 12s.; Spanish, oiled, May shipment to London, 14s. to 14s. 3d. c.i.f.; No. 3 Burma, to Levant, quoted, 12s. 4½d. c.i.f., double bags; American blue rose from 23s. to 24s. 6d. c.i.f.; S.Q., to Cuba, 12s. 6d.; Saigon No. 1, round grain, May-June, to Europe, 12s. 6d.; Siam Super, May-June, 17s. 3d.

BEANS.—Market quiet. Madagascar butters, spot, 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d. as to quality; afloat, 32s. 6d. to 33s.; April-May, 32s. 6d. c.i.f. London. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 11s. 0d.; April-May, 11s. 6d.; Ohtenashi, spot, London, 19s.; May-June, 18s. 6d.; Danubian H.P., spot, London, 20s. to 20s. 6d.; May-June, 20s. 6d. c.i.f. To Glasgow, North African new, July-August, £7 17s. 6d.; Chinese ditto, £8.

PEAS.—Dull. Japanese, old crop, spot, London, 14s.; new, 15s.; afloat, 14s. 6d.; April-May, 13s. 9d. to 14s. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s. to 15s. 6d.; small hand-picked blues, 11s. to 13s. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lbs.), May, 43s. 6d. Karachi, May, 41s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, May-June, 58s. 6d. Tasmanian A grade, new, afloat, 66s. c.i.f.

LENTILS slow. Bold Bombay, May-June, 61s. 6d. Calcutta Patna, to arrive, new crop, April-May, 59s. 3d.; Bombay Patna, 60s. 3d. c.i.f. (504 lbs.).

SPICE.—Pepper market quite steady and a moderate inquiry prevailed. London stocks of black 5 tons lower on the week at 989 tons, against 494 same time last year; white 47 down at 714, against 646. Lampong, April-June, quoted, 10½d.; May-July, sold, 9¾d.; August-October, 8¾d. to 9d. Muntok, white, April-June, quoted, 1s. 0½d.; May-July, 1s.; August-October, 11¼d. Cloves quiet on former terms. Tapioca quietly steady. Sago flour, April-May, Liverpool, quoted, 11s.; May-June, 10s. 10½d. c.i.f. Pimento, for shipment, held for 50s. c.i.f. London. Ginger dull.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants steadier and trade improving. Pyrgos quoted, 36s. 6d.; Amalias, 38s.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-in better request. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 32s.-45s. Dates quiet. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins steady, but sales limited. Valencias, quarter-boxes, at 36s.-38s. Figs easier. Genuine, 19s.-25s.; good average, 16s.

OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month ended April 30.		4 Months ended April 30.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	8,214,828	5,028,272	30,300,686	22,893,190
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	697,327	475,813	3,128,198	2,376,407
C. Meat	10,155,863	10,888,234	36,213,901	39,106,481
D. Animals, living, for food	984,339	1,133,164	4,717,441	5,454,279
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	16,180,970	13,817,710	70,054,898	61,424,635
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	5,601,986	4,546,471	24,782,576	20,496,773
G. Tobacco	806,644	842,682	5,010,377	5,102,215
Total, Class I.	42,641,957	36,732,346	174,208,077	156,853,980
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,942	1,830	13,163	9,730
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	494,271	430,120	1,822,450	1,819,459
C. Iron ore and scrap	518,145	536,873	1,888,326	2,268,962
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,639,440	1,244,211	5,628,106	4,985,882
E. Wood and timber	1,801,585	1,955,112	7,908,544	9,003,833
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	6,364,933	3,255,359	32,529,615	20,009,681
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	9,124,688	4,522,435	31,333,492	22,560,463
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	125,585	144,407	660,278	773,816
I. Other textile materials	1,321,784	1,001,946	6,543,631	5,331,949
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins and gums	4,189,890	3,112,455	16,503,165	12,675,801
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,912,187	1,390,299	7,675,082	6,902,649
L. Paper-making materials	964,292	1,047,667	3,463,960	3,926,301
M. Rubber	1,331,823	1,197,255	5,565,131	4,752,534
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,107,831	821,565	4,035,434	3,903,072
Total, Class II.	30,899,396	20,661,534	125,570,377	98,924,132
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,515	126	5,031	4,546
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	938,353	905,924	3,338,418	3,633,493
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,326,002	1,916,242	7,562,546	8,806,097
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	3,242,570	2,736,478	11,903,821	11,257,315
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	820,570	720,827	2,852,397	2,409,811
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	397,260	489,815	1,648,958	2,500,445
G. Machinery	1,573,955	1,698,584	5,880,312	6,444,786
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	894,957	748,618	2,875,620	3,194,175
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	889,630	768,661	3,418,952	3,359,861
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,842,053	1,115,728	6,285,175	4,983,681
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,178,823	994,963	4,611,428	4,007,395
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,649,009	1,255,651	5,703,921	5,371,511
M. Apparel	1,738,786	1,635,634	6,526,322	6,835,300
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,367,561	1,089,451	5,378,793	4,734,402
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	3,961,236	3,759,699	14,215,776	16,207,657
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,313,853	1,234,937	4,960,549	5,050,209
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,781,847	1,289,587	5,307,543	5,646,048
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,057,053	660,551	3,595,109	2,556,519
S. Rubber manufactures	314,623	391,277	1,149,487	1,497,467
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,893,153	2,229,667	9,996,408	8,993,335
Total, Class III.	30,182,809	25,642,420	107,216,566	107,494,053
IV.—Animals, not for food	190,770	210,292	895,232	1,113,038
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	213,799	675,809	2,125,101	2,956,454
Total	104,128,731	83,922,401	410,015,353	367,341,657

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.).

	Month ended April 30.		4 Months ended April 30.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	441,761	329,376	1,594,043	1,540,079
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	371,841	186,348	1,242,946	783,594
C. Meat	140,691	108,776	556,489	500,633
D. Animals, living, for food	24,875	13,156	51,411	47,993
E & F. Other food and drink	3,186,475	2,199,684	10,506,665	9,850,845
G. Tobacco	811,178	774,963	3,080,427	3,230,268
Total, Class I.	4,976,821	3,612,303	17,031,981	15,953,412
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	3,865,895	3,698,737	14,221,197	16,450,899
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	175,248	157,662	591,974	646,437
C. Iron ore and scrap	131,825	42,214	521,889	241,280
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	198,149	90,062	750,002	308,941
E. Wood and timber	26,172	24,667	120,779	94,542
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	114,271	52,651	465,700	251,481
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	933,881	470,624	3,670,226	2,011,277
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	5,211	1,803	11,778	6,522
I. Other textile materials	24,737	18,893	113,215	108,467
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	505,386	272,916	1,769,558	1,436,674
K. Hides and skins, undressed	276,883	138,445	1,246,382	673,289
L. Paper-making materials	119,384	80,973	453,667	427,608
M. Rubber	24,395	16,656	91,610	68,360
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	397,743	311,908	1,538,998	1,303,588
Total, Class II.	6,799,180	5,378,211	25,566,975	24,029,363
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	259,408	197,663	1,359,427	1,201,507
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	1,025,549	939,214	4,169,901	4,190,459
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	5,247,755	4,224,352	22,585,415	19,613,468
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,616,856	1,059,953	6,053,050	4,808,412
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	712,856	621,934	2,847,912	2,596,116
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	1,163,890	935,449	3,951,776	4,204,071
G. Machinery	4,150,722	3,861,488	17,490,221	16,816,086
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	214,246	163,283	830,734	717,871
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	11,791,941	7,543,679	49,397,455	37,828,771
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	3,447,820	2,567,467	18,265,184	14,725,363
K. Silk and silk manufactures	185,003	134,645	709,777	575,657
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,092,059	1,459,343	8,746,235	7,398,572
M. Apparel	1,955,374	1,658,669	8,235,283	7,490,113
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	2,055,495	1,985,295	8,442,400	8,184,153
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	632,168	591,184	2,765,745	2,708,606
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	594,105	471,935	2,286,629	1,965,126
Q. Paper and cardboard	731,310	654,438	2,926,087	2,998,696
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	5,807,553	4,902,184	18,104,121	15,946,336
S. Rubber manufactures	298,647	242,625	1,085,197	997,415
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	3,163,340	2,482,225	12,040,796	10,083,977
Total, Class III.	47,146,097	36,697,025	192,293,345	165,047,735
IV.—Animals, not for food	94,056	121,336	490,553	483,708
V.—Parcel Post	1,228,251	1,052,586	6,029,490	5,479,548
Total	60,244,405	46,861,461	241,412,344	210,993,766

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Business tends to expand, as prices are fairly attractive. Plums move off freely, especially medium sizes, and fair sales occurred of South African apricots. Peaches and pears, however, were rather scarce. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 60s.; 40's-50's, 55s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; Australian, 50s.-60s.; South African, crop 1929, 42s. 6d.-52s. 6d.; 1930 crop, 45s.-57s. 6d. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds maintained. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-125s.; Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 39s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 72s. 6d. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 142s. 6d.; Barcelona, 142s. 6d. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-137s. 6d. ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Climatic conditions have not so far favoured the movement of Californian fruits and a spell of warm weather is needed to stimulate consumption. Holders are disposed to shade their limits in order to effect sales, also in view of a larger new pack. Australian varieties meet with fair attention, but stocks of English fruits are in small compass. Singapore pines move off slowly, both spot and forward, on about former terms. Italian tomatoes lack interest, spot supplies being in excess of requirements.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady, with moderate inquiries. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 47s. 6d.-49s.; pink talls, 24s. 6d.-26s. 6d.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 7d.-90s. Lobsters scarce, while new pack prices are easier than last year, halves ranging from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—General position unaltered, except that supplies of corned beef, ox and lunch tongues, also tinned hams, are more plentiful. Trade requirements appear to be well covered by contracts, and deliveries are moving slowly. Consumptive demand remains poor owing to unseasonable weather.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market quiet and prices occasionally the turn easier. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 31s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 20s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 60s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 9d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 36s. 9d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s. 3d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. per case, basis usual packing.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—	s.	d.		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb.	42	6		
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	11		
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.	7	10		
Oats, ,, ,, ,,	6	10		
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	29	6		
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb.	33	6	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	12	0	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6		
Tapioca, per cwt.—				
B.I. flake, fair spot	21	0	0	0
Medium pearl	23	0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.	3	0	4	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—				
English long sides	5	8	6	4
Argentine chilled hinds	4	6	4	10
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—				
English wethers	7	0	8	0
N.Z. frozen ,,	3	2	4	0
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	6	8	8	0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Irish per cwt.	96	0	112	0
Danish	88	0	98	0
Canadian	94	0	0	0
Dutch	80	0	91	0
HAMS—Irish	0	0	0	0
Canadian	0	0	0	0
American	91	0	104	0
BUTTER—				
Irish creamery per cwt.	128	0	130	0
Australian	112	0	128	0
New Zealand	124	0	142	0
Danish	130	0	132	0
CHEESE—				
Canadian per cwt.	94	0	100	0
New Zealand	80	0	86	0
English Cheddars	nom.			
Dutch	39	0	73	0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)				
Accra f.f., per cwt.	39	0	40	0
Trinidad	60	0	65	0
Grenada	48	0	52	6
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)				
B.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125	0	142	0
Costa Rica, good to fine	145	0	170	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0	135	0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0	135	0
Colombian, mid to fine	105	0	118	0
EGGS—				
English per 120	10	6	14	0
Danish	11	0	12	9
FRUIT—				
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0	0	0	0
Jaffa boxes	0	0	0	0
Oranges— Denia and Valencia				
½ cases 300	9	6	22	0
360	9	6	17	0
504	13	6	18	6
Lemons, Naples... boxes	12	0	26	0
Sicilian boxes	10	0	13	6
,, cases	12	0	18	0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0	0	0	0
,, (var.) boxes	0	0	0	0
,, Tasmanian boxes	10	0	16	6
,, Australian	10	6	14	0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT (*continued*)—				
Onions, Valencia:— case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags	8	0	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	80	0	90	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	55	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	1	0¾	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	6	0	0
Jamaica, *ord. to good*	60	0	90	0
Mace per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's	1	6	1	9
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	6
Java, white, c.&f. India, *July-Sept.*	9¾	0	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	20	4½	0	0
Cubes	24	9	25	3
Crushed	23	3	23	9
Granulated	21	0	21	10½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	3	20	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe	0	9	2	2½
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	2	1
Orange Pekoe	1	0½	2	3½
Broken Orange	0	11½	3	10½
TOBACCO— (Duty 8/10-11/2¼ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
,, strips	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
,, strips	0	5½	1	2

COTTON— TEXTILES.

	d.			
Mid-American per lb.	8·62			
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	14·05			
Yarns, 32's twist	12½			
60's twist	22			
FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	55	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.C. per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, May-July "J2"	25	15	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May	nom.			
Sisal African, Apl.-June	28	10	29	10
Mexican	nom.			
JUTE—	£	s.	d.	
Native 1st mks. per ton May–June	23	15	0	
Aug.–Sept.	24	10	0	
SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton per lb.	9	6	11	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	17	3	19	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	16	0	18	6

	d.
WOOL—	
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
,, Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super	14
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50-56	12
Crossbred 40-44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31
,, 64's	30
Crossbred 48's	17
,, 46's	16½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house	20	6	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough	215	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	6
METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	60	0	61	10
Sheets (strong)	87	0	0	0
Standard	56	5	56	10
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	15	0	0
Soft Foreign	18	5	0	0
Spelter G.O.B.	16/10/0		17/2/6	
Tin—English ingots	150	5	150	15
Standard cash	149/2/6		149	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	7¼	1	8
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	2¾
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	10	26	0
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton May–June	21/12/6		0	0
Smoked South Sea May–June	20/7/6		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co.	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4¾
West Indian	0	3¾	0	4¾
Cape	0	4¼	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape	0	7	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5¼	0	6¼
Best cow	0	3¾	0	5¼
Best calf	0	8¾	0	11
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.—per lb.	1	3	2	3
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8½	1	1
Dressing Hides	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	0	0	0
Rape, refined	39	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude	33	10	0	0
Palm	25	0	27	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	10	10	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— May-June.	17	15	0	0
Calcutta, per ton— May.-June	19	0	0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.	39	0	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910	82	6	0	0
,, 950	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American per ton	16	15	19	10
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	7 1/16	0	8
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	8	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	125	0	127	6
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. ,,	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	d.	
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	
Do. 2½ x 7 ,,	18	0	0	
Do. 2 x 4 ,,	18	0	0	
Can'dn Spruce, Dis. ,,	17	0	0	
Pitchpine per load	9	0	0	
Rio Deals per std.	32	0	0	
Teak per load	20	0	0	
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African ,, ,,	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards ,, ,,	0	6	0	
Do. Ash ,, ,,	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks ,,	0	7	0	
Do. Ash ,, ,,	0	6	6	

HONEY.—Market generally quiet and prices without material change. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; *good amber to fine pale*, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 37s.-40s.; Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 37s. 6d.; San *Domingo*, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

A moderate volume of business was arranged, and a steady tone resulted. American consumption last month, 40,200 tons. Sheet spot and May sold 7 1/16d. to 7d.; July, 7¼d.; July-September, 7½d.-7 5/16d.-7¼d.; October-December, 7½d.-7 9/16d.-7½d.; January-March, 7⅝d. to 7 13/16d. to 7¾d.; and April-June, 7 15/16d. *London stocks* increased 578 tons; landings for the week, 2,025; deliveries, 447; stocks, 76,118, against 31,127 last year. Liverpool, 122 down; landings, 114; deliveries, 266; stocks, 23,755, against 4,384.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A slightly steadier tone was observable, sellers showing some reserve in face of reports as to local Calcutta mills resorting to reduced working hours in the near future. But something definite upon this point is awaited. Firsts, April-May also May-June, Continent, quoted £24 12s. 6d.; new, August-September and September-October, £25 15s.; Lightnings, May-June, £23 10s.; August-September, £24 10s.; Hearts, £21 17s. 6d.; Daisee assortment, £23 10s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Only a comparatively small business resulted, and market ruled easier, as sellers were more prominent. J No. 2, **May-July**, quoted £25 15s.; K sellers, £24 15s.; ditto, August-**October**, £25; L No. 1, May-July, £24 10s.; L No. 2, £23 5s.; M No. 1, **£23 10s.**; M No. 2, £29 15s.; G, May-July, held for £27 10s.; H, £26. **African** sisal dull, and No. 1, May-July, including Portuguese, sellers, **£29 10s.**; No. 2, £28 10s. c.i.f. Manila receipts last week, 30,000 bales, against 30,000 last year, and 22,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 29,000, and week after 31,000. Manila shipments last week, U.K., 1,000; Continent, 2,000; U.S.A., 3,000; Japan, 5,000; other countries and local consumption, 2,000, making stocks 169,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Market steady, quiet. T.N., spot, 127s. 6d.; May, 120s.; August, 124s.

COPRA.—A quiet market, and closing *tone easy*. *Straits* S.D., May, to Rotterdam, sellers, £21 10s. Dutch East Indies, May, £21 10s. Ceylon, £22 17s. 6d. To Marseilles, mixed, Dutch East Indies, May, £21 10s. Smoked South Sea quoted £20 7s. 6d. *Manila* bulk, £20 5s. Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £20 17s. 6d.

PALM KERNELS, to Hamburg, April-May, £14 17s. 6d.; May-June, £15 c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, *bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.*; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, May-June, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 3d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—May 14.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d
Beasts—Norfolk	6 4	6 10	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge	6 4	6 6	Sheep—Downs	8 0	9 4
Short Horns	...	...	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 4	6 0
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	11 4	12 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—May 14.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	4 0
,, ,, ,, whites	2 3	2 6
Essex King Edward	3 0	3 3
,, ,, ,, whites	2 0	...
Arran Chief	2 0	...
New Spanish	12 0	13 0

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Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY this week has been in short supply, and 2¼ to 2¾ per cent. was paid on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is not clear how the stringency arose, and though callings by the clearing banks was the usual explanation, it hardly seems adequate. Possibly the withdrawals of the French balances, which gave rise to the month's gold shipments,

the true cause of the shortage of money. Discount rates were a little higher than they were earlier in the month, three months' bills being quoted up to 2 3/16 per cent. This rise was largely psychological, being due to the gold losses to France, and was checked before it had gone very far by the improvement in sterling registered this week, and by the small supply of bills now in the market. Money also became easier on Thursday.

* * * *

This week's sudden improvement in sterling against the franc coincided with the opening and closing of the subscription lists in Paris for the shares of the Bank for International Settlements. This makes it clear beyond doubt that the preparation for mobilisation of funds by would-be subscribers to the issue was the cause of this month's withdrawals of French balances from London and the consequent loss of gold. These circumstances are dealt with in greater detail in a subsequent "Note," which shows that the total amount of application money paid over to the Banque de France was equivalent to £63,000,000, or to over five times the sum of £11,500,000 which has lately been withdrawn from London in gold. It is understood that the Banque de France is arranging to return to unsuccessful applicants the bulk of their money at once, and the City is consequently wondering what chance there is of London recovering at least a portion of her gold losses.

* * * *

This, of course, is a possibility that must not be ruled out, and some authorities are inclined to hope that some of the gold will eventually come back. It is, however, by no means certain that, even if the funds released after the allotment of the B.I.S. shares are reinvested abroad, gold shipments from France will necessarily take place, or that the gold will not go to Berlin or Brussels instead of London. On the whole it seems wisest to write off the lost £11,500,000 altogether, and for the market to readjust its ideas accordingly. The week's general improvement in the foreign exchanges, which lifted the dollar rate to $4.86\frac{1}{8}$ and the mark rate temporarily to 20.37½ mks., or comfortably above the export gold point, will assist this process of readjustment. For one thing, unless an unknown buyer intervenes, there is a fair chance that the Bank may secure the bulk of next week's Cape gold arrivals of £442,000, though Thursday's reaction against sterling in the Berlin exchange shows that Germany may once more be able to bid for the gold.

	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount { Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses { Notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¾ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2 5/16	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛ – 3/16	...

The week's Bank return shows that the Bank's gold stocks have fallen to £158,444,000, which is £6,059,000 below the highest point for the year, touched a fortnight before. The shrinkage is due to the French withdrawals, offset to some extent by the final arrivals from Australia. Even so, the Reserve still stands at £63,749,000 and the Proportion at 54¾ per cent., figures which are amply high enough for our needs. This places the gold losses in their proper perspective.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Wall Street expects the American portion of the Reparations Loan to give $80,000,000 in actual receipts, with an even larger face-value offering, depending on the price. Morgan's have made an allotment of 16,000 shares of B.I.S. Bank stock among 100 banks at par, the price and number of shares depending on the size and importance of the banks. No public offering is likely. There is a general belief that Hoover will sign the Tariff Bill if it is passed in its present form, and, while it is not liked on Wall Street, there is a feeling of relief at having it settled. The bond market is creeping forward with the further weakening in money rates, but no movement is likely in discount rate in advance of the Bank of England. New capital issues have been fairly heavy, and a Japanese loan was well taken. Brokers' loans fell off 8 millions, 67 millions of subscription stock rights in the week offsetting the other factors. The Reserve System discount rate and holdings of Government securities remain unchanged. Bills are up 15 millions, mostly on sales by dealers under repurchase agreements, while total credit outstanding is up 11 millions, with the ratio at 83.5.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The week in the stock markets was dull and uneventful. Gilt-edged held their own, with a little to spare. Recent new issues, of high-grade character, were absorbed in satisfactory fashion. Home rails touched low points for the year, in some cases, on further unfavourable gross traffic figures, and Argentines suffered as a result of the decision not to pay interest on Cordoba Central second debenture stock. The public's attitude to industrials was apathetic. Tea and rubber shares were lower on balance, and the undertone of the oil market was less substantial, despite the satisfactory dividends recently declared by some of the leading companies. The mining markets were quiet, but little selling took place.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

Industry has been doing little more than mark time. In most districts the coal situation remains unrelieved, but there is a shade of improvement in the Glasgow area. Apart from the plate and sheet sections, the iron and steel trades are doing little business, but it is said that British works are once more displacing Continental producers from the home market for semi-finished steel. Stagnation in the Lancashire cotton industry continues widespread. Owing to the wages dispute, Yorkshire is to a large extent prevented from benefiting from what appears to be a definite improvement in the wool textile trades. The timber trade is active. The hide market is steady, but there is not much bulk business in leather or footwear. Vegetable oils and oilseeds are in general a quiet market. Wheat has gained very slightly on the week.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Irregularity with only moderate activity marked the Foreign Exchange market during the week, but at times business revived for short periods, especially in the franc, which fluctuated a good deal. New York, after hesitation, moved in our favour to 4.86⅛. Montreal was better by ⅛ at 4.86⅜. The Paris rate rose from 123.86 to 123.96 for reasons discussed elsewhere. Brussels was weaker at 34.82¾, Lisbon unchanged at 108.30, while Milan lost a point at 92.70. Madrid again fluctuated rather widely, and moved from 39.80 to 39.95, after being as high as 40.00 and as low as 39.64. Amsterdam lost ⅛ at 12.08¾, as did Berlin at 20.36¾ after 20.37⅜. Switzerland moved sharply against us at 25.11⅝, as compared with 25.12¾ last week. Stockholm was better at 18.12⅜. Rio was fairly steady round about 5 7/8d., Buenos Aires lost ⅛d. at 42 7/8d., and Montevideo ⅛d. at 45⅛d. In the Far East the rupee was firmer at 1s. 5 55/64d. The yen was unchanged at 2s. 0 13/32d. Batavia lost a point at 12.08½. In the forward market New York was more wanted at rather narrower discounts of 1/16 and 3/16 cent. Paris went from 7 and 12 centimes discount to 2½ centimes premium for both periods. Milan was a little more in request at 12 and 30 centesimi discount against 13 and 32 last week. Madrid was in better demand at 2½ and 7½ centimos premium, against 1 and 4 last week. Amsterdam moved against us to ⅛ and ⅜ cent discount, and Berlin also improved to 1¼ and 3 pfennigs discount. The silver market saw a fall of ⅜d. in both spot and forward to 18⅝d. and 18 9/16d. respectively, chiefly owing to local exchange weakness in China and lack of support from the bazaars, combined with steady, if small, selling by the United States. The China silver exchanges again declined, Hong Kong losing ¼d. at 1s. 5½d. and Shanghai ¼d. at 1s. 10d.

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THE GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE House of Commons has been engaged most of this week in discussing in one form or another the problem of employment and the state of trade, and in the latter half of the week the resignation of Sir Oswald Mosley, as a protest against the Government's refusal to adopt a more active policy, has precipitated a political crisis which may possibly lead to an appeal to the country. It is true that Tuesday was devoted to the second reading of the Finance Bill, but that debate is to be included in the story of the week, for, although the Bill covers an immense variety of topics, the chief arguments, whether of criticism or of defence, were as to the effect upon industry of the new taxation which the Budget imposes at a time of depression and of difficulty.

It is natural and proper that the House of Commons should concentrate on this problem, for the unemployment figures have mounted week by week, at a time of year when they should be showing some improvement, to the neighbourhood of 1¾ millions, which is nearly half a million higher than six months ago, and, except for a short period during the coal strike, can be compared only with the level reached in 1921. It is true that the sharp set back of trade is a world-wide phenomenon, but this makes it none the less imperative that each country should devote its utmost attention to dealing with its own problem. Speakers of all parties, except those of the extreme Left, concurred in the opinion that, although unemployment might thereby be increased, the rationalisation of industry was essential, and the extent to which quack remedies have gone out of favour was illustrated by the fact that even Mr Lansbury, of Poplar fame, though paying lip service to the doctrine that in the last analysis nothing can cure unemployment short of universal Socialism, concurred in the view that rationalisation was necessary, and clearly implied that it is as impossible to get rid of the burden of the national debt as to abolish the social services. Another section of the House had, of course, their protectionist remedy to offer, but no one was able to explain how this would help our cotton and other export industries, or, if adopted over a wide field, avoid doing more harm than good. Indeed, this discussion moved the *Times* to observe that "neither protectionist nor free trade, neither mainly exporting nor mainly importing countries are immune from unemployment"; and to add that "the percentages of the population unemployed are, in the United States 4.8, in Germany 4.4, and in Great Britain 3.8." We agree with the *Times* that the experience of one country may afford no analogy whatever for dealing with the economic condition of another; it is this consideration which lends point to the request that we should be told how safeguarding can cure unemployment, seeing that the worst of the trouble is to be found in what Mr Kingsley Griffiths called the "quite unprotectable trades."

Effective replies, however, to the socialists, debt repudiators, and the protectionists did not make Mr Thomas's story anything but disappointing, and although he claimed that there are 100,000 people directly or indirectly employed on schemes sanctioned by the Government (independent of the railway scheme) involving a capital expenditure spread over a number of years of £95,000,000, he admitted that anyone who assumed that the problem could be solved by any expenditure of this kind was living in a fool's paradise. Whether this programme has been speeded up as much as possible, whether there has been delay in starting these operations, and whether other specific projects mentioned in the course of the debate could have been more rapidly launched, the discussion did not really elucidate. In the circumstances, the most important point in the opposition case was the argument that the employment problem had been aggravated by the Budget. This was advanced both by those who hold that in present circumstances the Government should suspend its debt redemption programme rather than impose new taxation at all, and by those who are of opinion that Mr Snowden should have added to indirect rather than to direct taxation.

The Chancellor, stating his case far more moderately than many of his supporters are accustomed to do, nevertheless, seems to us to minimise unduly the harmful effects of taxation. Mr Churchill and his supporters, on the other hand, while quite justified in arguing that an increase in income and surtax has some harmful reactions on industry, put their case too high. Nothing has happened since 1927 to lead us to question the conclusion reached on this matter by the Colwyn Committee. Both the majority and the minority of that Committee agreed that income taxes do not directly affect the prices of commodities. They recognised, however, that they tend to diminish savings. To what extent this happens depends on how the money is spent. If the revenue so collected is used for the repayment of debt, it is probably reinvested and is not lost to the nation's total savings. But even this transfer tends to handicap speculative and pioneer enterprise and to increase the resources seeking investment in safe securities. On the whole, the Committee took the view that income tax had not been a factor of major importance in comparison with the wider causes which have affected our export trade. It was quite properly emphasised, however, in the course of the debate, that additional direct taxation, in so far as it falls upon profits set aside to reserve, diminishes the resources which, to use a trans-Atlantic phrase, are "ploughed back" into business, and thus restricts the flow of capital into industry through that channel which experience has proved to be the most suitable and convenient way of developing industrial undertakings.

If Mr Snowden's choice of direct taxes as the source for balancing his Budget has had the psychological effect of awakening the public to the burden of taxation, we have no regrets, for if we realise that we must cut our coat according to our cloth, Parliament is more likely to insist upon applying sound standards of criticism, instead of being carried away by lavish promises, whether in the form of indiscriminate and growing payments under the heading of social services, or the offer of bounties to selected agricultural or industrial interests. While the debate revealed no argument for departing from the policy of paying our way, it underlined very definitely the need of scrutinising expenditure with the utmost care.

But if this is the state of our national finances does this not mean that the task undertaken by Mr Thomas is a hopeless one? At the last general election all parties competed for the opportunity to deal with the problem of unemployment and offered their respective cures. It fell to the lot of Mr Thomas to make good his promise. If we would be fair, we must admit that no Government, however active it had been in this field, could have prevented this country from feeling the effect of the world-wide depression that has since occurred. But it is open to the critics of Mr. Thomas to claim that more could have been achieved than he has attempted, and it is open to them to claim that action could have been taken without involving an undue additional strain upon the resources of the country. The Government has increased and enlarged the range of unemployment benefit, it has loosened the conditions for obtaining benefit and has widened the scope of the pensions acts in cases for some of which, at all events, it is difficult to plead extreme need or urgency. The most valuable idea behind Mr Lloyd George's scheme of a year ago was that instead of adding to the eleemosynary payments which we are to-day increasing, we should set the unemployed to work to produce something of value to the country. Has this sound conception been exploited by Mr Thomas to the extent that the occasion required?

To this question Sir Oswald Mosley apparently returns an emphatic negative. At the time of writing, his memorandum has not been made public, but it is generally assumed that he has proposed a scheme of

capital works involving the expenditure of some £200 millions of capital, coupled with the immediate raising of the school age and the lowering of the pensionable age. His programme has been rejected by the Government on the grounds that the additional money cannot be found for pensions and raising the school age, and that loans of the magnitude proposed required for his public works are impossible to-day. When the full facts are disclosed, it will also probably be found that the great administrative difficulty of getting capital undertakings quickly under weigh were vital considerations in the Government's decision. We may, however, assume that it is the contrast between promise and performance, enormously accentuated as it has been by the downward trend of trade, rather than the nature of the Mosley proposals themselves, that is responsible for the support that he has received and made his resignation a serious menace to the Government.

But it is also clear that no party is as sure as it was a year ago that it can deal with the situation on party lines, and it is significant that the hint in the Commons of an internal truce on the tariff question and a renewed suggestion in the Lords for an all-party conference on unemployment aroused an immediate interest. The idea propounded a year ago that a "jolt" administered by a large programme of public works would reduce a high steady figure of unemployment to a lower level and increase internal purchasing power obviously has to be modified when the country is caught in the swing of a major world-wide recession. But if for the time being we have to deal with a big increase in the numbers of the unemployed, it is surely urgent that we should endeavour to devise some other plan than that of merely maintaining these large numbers in idleness. If only the House of Commons could disencumber itself of the entanglements of party tactics, the emergency should be dealt with by discussion and agreement. It certainly cannot be resolved by arousing again the bitter passions of a General Election.

M. BRIAND'S PLAN FOR EUROPEAN PEACE.

Is there any hopeful method for exorcising war from Europe and establishing peace and confidence for her peoples, other than by drawing together in a closer circle of contact and co-operation? M. Briand, after years of first-hand study of Europe and her problems, long ago concluded that there is not. Last autumn he chose the occasion of the annual Assembly of the League of Nations for elaborating his idea of a United States of Europe, and the result was a unanimous invitation to M. Briand from the twenty-seven European States, represented at the Assembly, that he should draw up a memorandum for presentation to and discussion by the European Governments. This memorandum has now been produced and published.

When M. Briand flew his kite at Geneva, several serious objections were promptly raised. The mere phrase "the United States of Europe" suggested the idea of a close federation connoting a surrender of individual national sovereignties, for which the world is not ready. It suggested, too, the idea of separating the world into hostile economic units, and it even conjured up in some minds the establishment of a rival institution to the League of Nations. Such main initial fears are dissipated by the document issued this week. It is not unity but union—in the sense of effective co-operation—at which M. Briand aims. No sacrifice of national sovereignty is asked. On the economic side customs unity—if the published summary may be accepted—is not mentioned, although, of course, M. Briand's plan might lead logically and eventually to that; in which case Britain in her dual rôle of member of Europe and member of the British Commonwealth would have to think twice or thrice. Finally, as regards the League, the "subordination" of the newly proposed institution to the League is emphasised, and the provision made that only European members of the League should be admitted to the new organisation. Europe, M. Briand proposes, is to be a "regional entente" existing in conformity with Article 21 of the Covenant and "within the framework of the League." The machinery suggested consists of (*a*) an authoritative European Conference representative of the Governments; (*b*) an executive body in the form of a Government Political Committee; and (*c*) a Secretariat. Among the subjects outlined for discussion and co-operative effort are "general economy" (by which is meant the furthering in Europe of the League's economic policy), communications and transit, finance, labour, hygiene, inter-Parliamentary relations, etc.

Were such a plan as that which M. Briand unfolds to succeed in the fullest sense, we should expect two main advantages to accrue. There would be established in Europe the machinery of continuous consultation and co-operation on European problems, such as should prove capable of smoothing out many of those difficulties, misunderstandings and irritations, which so often threaten to be the source of a real menace to the general peace. Secondly, the League, burdened with a volume of world-wide problems, would be the stronger and the more effective for possessing inside its organisation a subordinate League (consisting of its own members) whose exclusive efforts were concentrated on furthering the dual cause of establishing security, and organising economic recovery in just that part of the world where these two problems are the most baffling. If there is any conceivable chance of these two results being achieved, then it is the clear duty, as it is the clear self-interest, of every Government in Europe to make what contribution it can towards bringing M. Briand's dream to fruition. Nor do we see why, if the plan in its initial stage shows sufficient signs of practical possibility, the British Government should withhold any jot or tittle of its maximum support. There are those who think that Britain's co-operation in a Pan-Europa would be awkward for the British Empire. To them we would recall the fact that at this very moment a seat is being kept vacant for Canada on another regional organisation, the Pan-American Union, which, incidentally, does not even happen to be co-ordinated with the League of Nations, although all except three of its present twenty-one members are also members of the League. No one, surely, supposes that when to-morrow Canada takes this seat, the British Empire will be disrupted, or even impaired in prestige. *A fortiori*, there need be no fear for the integrity of the British Empire if, the day after to-morrow, the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State take their seats in a Pan-European Union, specially designed to be within the framework of the League. British interests and European interests point in one and the same direction—always provided that M. Briand's plan approaches the problem from the right angle.

Our first impression is that this condition is amply fulfilled. In the forefront of his "Principles of Organisation" M. Briand puts "the need of subordinating the economic problem to the political." That is obviously right, since the tariff walls which are crippling Europe's economic growth like the thongs that bind a Chinese girl's feet are expressions of political disunity and distrust every whit as much as armaments are. Armaments and tariffs are the greatest problems facing the world to-day, and Europe is the *locus classicus* of both. The task of the League in approaching both these vital problems should be effectively assisted by their initial consideration in a subordinate council chamber where the representatives of the nations most concerned can meet together on common ground. So the angle of approach is right—the political angle. And as to the other reassuring points, which we have mentioned before, the Memorandum insists on the retention of national sovereignty and in terms eschews all hostile or discriminatory aims towards the non-European world.

Here, then, is a scheme which must be taken very seriously, and we trust that the British Government will between now and July 15th (the date by which M. Briand requests a reply) give its full, favourable, and constructive attention to the Memorandum. "It is the decisive hour for Europe," says M. Briand, "to listen and to

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choose her fate. To unite in order to live and prosper; that is the necessity which confronts European nations to-day." Flamboyant words, perhaps. But who will be bold enough to deny their justification when he looks out upon a Europe plunged in economic depression, fettered with economic restrictions, impoverished by war burdens, war preparations, and obstructed by the lack of co-ordinated effort? Who, equally, will deny their urgency when he reads in the very newspapers which contained these proposals, the speech of one of Europe's greatest rulers in which armaments and national egotism are held out as the most "beautiful treasures" of a civilised nation. At the psychological moment M. Briand has given the Governments of Europe something concrete to work upon. If there are real statesmen in Europe to-day, his spade-work will not have been done in vain.

SINGLE PREMIUM POLICIES AND THE BUDGET.

To assist the individual in the evasion of taxation is no part of the function of life assurance institutions, and there is little doubt that the great majority of British life offices will welcome the recent action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in putting a closure to a method of obtaining relief from surtax which has been increasingly popular in recent years.

The main features of the single-premium surtax-saving policy are too well known to necessitate any detailed explanation at this juncture. It will be remembered that the policyholder pays but a small proportion of the premium in cash, the balance being advanced by the assurance company, and the subsequent payments of interest on the loan rank as a charge on income for surtax assessment. Originally the policies usually took the form of short-term with-profit endowment assurances, and, in some cases, of whole-life assurances; and, apart from the high-yielding security obtained, the sur-tax payer obtained a fair amount of life cover. During the past two years, however, a large proportion of the total business of this class has been transacted by certain assurance companies on a pure endowment basis—that is, a policy, usually for a term of five years, containing no life assurance cover at all, but providing for the payment of the sum assured at the expiration of the term with suitable payments on death or surrender in the interim. Thus the policy had no attractive features, save as a means of obtaining relief from surtax.

The popularity of single-premium policies is clearly revealed by the figures in the table from our Insurance Supplement of last year, shown below, which gives the single premiums received for each year since 1924, the year in which the policy made its initial appearance. The figures for the past year are not yet available, but it is almost certain that the increase shown over the period has been maintained:—

	Single Premiums Received. £
1924	3,211,868
1925	7,245,091
1926	6,466,359
1927	9,679,223
1928	11,792,123

It does not follow that the whole of the single-premium policies effected during the past six years have been for the sole purpose of evading surtax, but there is little doubt that a large proportion owed their origin to this reason. From the point of view of the State, the loss of surtax revenue may be conservatively estimated at £500,000 in any one year, although it must be borne in mind that, in the case of policies involving some element of life assurance—endowment assurances, or whole-life assurances—there is some possibility of gain to the Exchequer. Should a claim arise by premature death the enhanced value of the assured's estate would result in an increased revenue through the medium of death duties.

The attitude of the life offices towards the single-premium tax-saving policy has been curiously mixed. As is well known, a large proportion of the total business was completed by one office, but, whereas a number of companies were prepared to accept business of this type, others steadfastly refused to countenance the practice in any shape or form. Perhaps the most general attitude was that of accepting such cases somewhat reluctantly at a slightly higher rate of interest than that normally charged for loans on policies.

The increasing popularity of the single-premium tax-saving life policy, coupled with the innovation of the pure-endowment type, naturally caused anticipation in the minds of life assurance officials of action by the Inland Revenue authorities. During the past few months it was a fairly open secret that the Treasury were examining the whole question, and it was, therefore, no surprise to the life offices in general when Mr Snowden revealed in his Budget speech that the loophole was to be closed.

In his speech, however, the Chancellor, while stating in no uncertain terms that steps would be taken to prevent any further relief by this means, left the exact provisions in some doubt, with the result that it was uncertain if his proposals were to be retrospective, or if they were to affect only policies taken out in the future. With the appearance of the Finance Bill, however, all doubt is at an end, and, if the terms of the Bill in their present form become law, there is little doubt that a large number of surrenders will inevitably follow.

Under Clause 12 of the Bill no deduction is to be allowed in computing the total income in any one year for the purpose of surtax in respect of interest on any loan which has been applied, directly or indirectly, towards the payment of a single premium in respect of a life policy or any similar contract. This is applicable equally to policies

already in existence as well as to policies effected in the future, provided, in the former case, that the loan was originally advanced by the insurance company. It is also intended that certain annual-premium contracts shall be brought within the scope of this Section, and it is definitely stated that any interest on borrowed money applied towards payment of premiums for whole-life or endowment assurances where the premiums are limited to a period of less than eight years, or where the premium payable in any one year exceeds 10 per cent. of the sum assured, is ineligible as a set-off for the purpose of surtax assessment. Finally, there is a provision, the effect of which is apparently to continue surtax relief on annual-premium policies otherwise excluded to the extent only, however, of interest of £100 per annum.

It will be seen that the terms of the Bill are extremely comprehensive, and, in our opinion, too drastic. We are forced to the conclusion that the Chancellor, in his efforts to eradicate an evil which, as we have shown, is relatively small in its effect, has laid himself open to a charge of unwarranted interference in the normal sphere of life assurance. If the actual figures could be obtained it is probable that, excluding the pure-endowment "tax-saving" policy, and bearing in mind the compensating gain through increased revenue from death duties, the actual loss to the Exchequer through the medium of the ordinary life assurance single-premium policy, would be found to be ridiculously small. The case against surtax-saving policies is thus based more on political grounds than on grounds of loss of revenue. It would, of course, be difficult to provide any adequate defence for the continued existence of the pure endowment single-premium policy; but it is doubtful if the Chancellor would not have been better advised to confine his attention to this particular type of contract and possibly to the short-term endowment assurance. All other forms of single-premium policies contain the element of life assurance to such an extent that this, in itself, should constitute a sufficient reason for leaving their position unchanged. The suggested clauses regarding annual premium contracts will be even more strongly resented by all connected with life assurance, and it is difficult to see any justification for their inclusion. In this connection we are forced to exclaim at the unnecessarily tortuous and complicated phraseology of the entire Clause, and particularly the use of the double negative in describing the modifications in favour of certain classes of annual-premium contracts. While we realise the necessity for adequate safeguards in a measure of this nature, the general effect is to render the particular clauses relating to annual-premium contracts almost unintelligible.

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS OF CAPITAL.

One of the most satisfactory symptoms of the diffusion of economic knowledge is the steady transference of public interest from the merchandise balance of trade to the balance, visible and invisible, of payments. The question of the total balance of payments has been of particular interest during the last few years, when immense international transferences of capital in respect of reparations and inter-allied debts have had to be provided for, and when, further, some countries of first-rate economic importance, as, for example, Germany, have had an insatiable hunger for foreign capital, while others, France, for instance, have had a large volume of capital available for investment abroad. To this growing interest in the subject corresponds a steady improvement in the substance and arrangement of the data collected each year by the Economic Section of the League of Nations,* which are now presented in a form which renders them more nearly comparable.

The position, on balance, in respect of capital movements and interest payments, of some of the principal countries is shown in the following table, which is based on a much fuller table in the Memorandum. Comparison of the last two columns shows that Britain made a net addition to her investments abroad of $725 million, as compared with interest received from abroad of nearly double that amount. America, on the other hand, invested much more than she received as interest:—

Capital Movements and Net Payments on Account of Interest and Dividends in 1928.

	Million Dollars.				
	Capital Movements.				Balance of Interest and Dividends.
	Long-term.		Short-term	Total.	
	Outward.	Inward.	Outward (−) or Inward (+) Balance.		
United Kingdom	...	...	...	− 725	+ 1,387
U.S.A.	3,293	2,607	− 401	− 1,087	+ 683
Sweden	101	52	+ 10	− 39	+ 7
Denmark	48	90	− 42	0	− 13
Czechoslovakia	133	84	− 2	− 51	− 18
Norway	24	70	− 11	+ 35	− 19
Roumania	18	46	(a)	+ 28	− 24
Poland	17	46	+ 89	+ 118	− 31
New Zealand (b)	12	37	− 28	− 3	− 40
South Africa (c)	1	31	− 5	+ 25	− 80
India (d)	53	51	+ 3	+ 1	− 118
Australia (e)	...	...	...	+ 265(f)	− 170
Germany	486	906	+ 647	+ 1,067	− 176
Argentine (g)	—	110	+ 25	+ 135	− 182

(a) Included in long-term figures.
(b) Year ended March 31, 1928.
(c) 1927.
(d) Year ended March 31, 1929.
(e) Year ended June 30, 1928.
(f) Net change only. funded public debt
(g) Year ended September 30, 1928.

Of all the countries whose official estimates were available to the League, only the United Kingdom, the United States, Holland, Switzerland, the Irish Free State and Sweden enjoy a net income from foreign investments, but a private estimate quoted by the League places French net interest receipts for 1928 at 137 million dollars, which would give her third place in the list. The United Kingdom is by far the biggest recipient, though the figures given are not comparable with those of other countries, as they exclude interest on short-term investment and outstanding Government debts. It is pointed out in the Memorandum that the British income on account of private long-term investments alone covers one-third of Europe's passive balance of merchandise trade as recorded, and a larger proportion of that balance as it would appear if allowance were made for defects in trade statistics. The net income of the United States on interest account rose by $100 million during the period 1923-28. The chief outlets for British capital are the British possessions in Asia, Africa and Oceania, though the share of South America is rapidly growing. United States lending is increasingly directed towards North and Latin America, whose combined share rose from 10 per cent. in 1924 to 32 per cent. in 1929, while the proportion lent to Asia and Oceania declined in the same period from 28 per cent. to 5 per cent.

The majority of countries are debtors, and those with the biggest interest charge are India, the Dutch East Indies, the Argentine, Australia, Germany and Canada. The following table illustrates the burden of interest charges:—

Net Interest Payments (−) or Receipts (+) per head of Population in 1927.

	$		$
Australia	− 26·0	Hungary	− 2·4
New Zealand	− 27·2	Germany	− 1·9
Canada	− 22·7	Poland	− 0·8
Argentina	− 16·0	Japan	− 0·1
South Africa	− 10·4	U.S.A.	+ 5·7
Norway	− 5·7	U.K.†	+ 30·4
Denmark	− 3·8		

† Private receipts on account of long-term investments only.

Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Bolivia and China also have very high interest payments.

There have been some noticeable changes during recent years. Canada, who owes more than any other country, has been steadily reducing her indebtedness since 1923. France is believed to have been exporting about $500 million annually in 1925-27, but this movement received a check in 1928, when large quantities of gold were imported, and French exports of capital were presumably again low in 1929, as the trade balance was passive and there were heavy flotations on the home market. Sweden, from a capital-importing country in the years immediately following the war has now become an exporter of capital.

The two latest years for which data are available, 1927 and 1928, were years of exceptionally voluminous capital movements, as the following table shows:—

Net Outflow or Inflow of Capital in Dollars per Head of Population.

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Australia*	+ 0·1	+ 29·9	+ 9·2	+ 42·7
Germany†	+ 14·7	+ 3·8	+ 17·9	+ 16·8
Argentine	+ 8·3	...	+ 12·7	...
Norway	+ 9·9	+ 2·4	+ 8·1	+ 12·5
Hungary	...	+ 3·0	+ 9·9	+ 10·3
Poland	+ 2·1	− 0·05	+ 1·7	+ 3·9
South Africa	+ 2·7	+ 9·5	+ 3·3	...
Denmark	− 0·8	+ 3·4	+ 3·2	+ 0·03
Yugoslavia	...	+ 0·6	+ 2·0	...
Roumania	...	+ 0·5	+ 0·3	+ 1·6
Japan	+ 1·2	+ 2·1	+ 0·4	...
New Zealand	+ 23·0	+ 46·7	‡− 2·0	...
Canada	− 18·8	− 9·1	− 2·0	...
Czechoslovakia	− 0·7	− 3·8	− 4·7	− 3·5
Sweden	− 5·3	+ 1·2	− 4·0	− 6·4
U.S.A.	− 5·4	− 1·2	− 4·0	− 9·1
Netherlands	...	− 16·6	− 13·2	...
France§	(− 12·3)	(− 12·8)	(− 12·0)	(− 5·3)
United Kingdom‖	− 5·8	− 1·0	− 12·2	− 15·8

* Years ending June 30th. Funded public debt only.
† Years ending September 30th. ‡ Year ending March 31, 1928.
§ Private estimate.
‖ Excluding Government transactions. Figure for 1925 probably too low.

Particularly conspicuous is the increase in Australian borrowing, upon which we have had occasion to comment before, while Germany, Norway and Hungary also, in a less degree, expanded their borrowings during the two years in question. New Zealand, on the other hand, in 1927-28 turned a heavy inward capital movement into a small export. This was achieved partly by heavy purchases of foreign securities and still more by substantial short-term lendings abroad.

The movements are mainly dependent on the supply of capital from the chief lending countries, and whereas the net capital export of the United States and the United Kingdom was in 1926 abnormally small, in 1928 that from the United States more than doubled and that of the United Kingdom increased by nearly one-third. It was not until 1929 that European money began to be attracted on a large scale to New York for participation in the Wall Street boom, so that next year's Memorandum may be expected to show some interesting changes in capital movements.

The other invisible elements in world trade show no very marked changes. Shipping earnings in foreign traffic show a decline in 1928 as compared with 1927. No returns for the calendar year are, however, reproduced for the United States. Total maritime freight earnings for the world in 1927 are estimated at something over $2,175 million, of which $1,615 million were earned by European ships. Approximately $350 million of the total was represented by passenger fares. Emigrants' remittances to those countries which made returns for 1928 were in most cases substantially higher than in 1927. Tourist expenditure was also considerably higher in 1928 than in the preceding year, for which the world total under this head is estimated at well over $1,150 million.

These figures are all subject to a wide margin of error, but on the basis of them it is possible to make a rough estimate of the proportion of world payments which arose from "invisible" items of trade in 1927. Interest and dividend payments of twenty-eight countries alone, not including those of the United Kingdom, amounted to nearly $2,000 million. This, with $2,175 million for shipping earnings, $300 million for emigrants' remittances from Canada, the United States and the Argentine alone, and $1,150 million for tourist expenditure, brings the total up to $5,625 million, and every item in this total is substantially underestimated. World exports of merchandise for that year amounted to $31,308 million, so that if bullion movements be excluded, invisible items gave rise to something very much more than 15 per cent. of total payments. That the ratio might be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent. is suggested by the following table, based on totals which include movements of bullion:—

Percentage of Total Payments and Receipts on Revenue Account formed by "Invisible" Items in Latest Available Year.

	Credit Payments. (Exports). % "Invisible."	Debit Payments. (Imports). % "Invisible."
Argentine	1	22
Canada	28	34
Czechoslovakia	11	13
Denmark	11	7
Germany	12	21
India	3	19
Holland	14	1
New Zealand	6	21
Sweden	15	4
South Africa	3	23
United States	23	26

Unfortunately the British estimates only show for each item the balance between debits and credits, so that the figures cannot be compared with those of other countries, and world totals are seriously impaired by the omission of the British figures. It is high time that individual countries should take a hint from this careful analysis by the League, and do everything in their power to present items which represent over one-fifth of the international balance of payments with the fullness and accuracy that they deserve.

THE NEWSPRINT SITUATION IN CANADA.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

The pulp and paper industry of Canada passed through a somewhat critical year in 1929. A drastic reduction in the price of newsprint, which was the fruit of overproduction, seriously affected the prosperity of the industry, and the stocks of all the companies manufacturing it suffered a sharp decline. It is true that, during the year, the newsprint mills operated at 85 per cent. capacity, as compared with 82 per cent. in 1928, and the aggregate output showed an increase of, roughly, 15 per cent., but the profits earned by most of the mills showed a serious falling off, and practically nothing was available for the common stockholders of several important companies. Newsprint comprises the bulk of the exports of paper products, and the exports of it showed a gain of over 15 per cent. in volume, although their gain in value was only about 5 per cent. The United States, which takes most of Canada's newsprint exports, was responsible for part of the increase, but exports to Britain and other parts of the Empire rose about 60 per cent. One notable feature of the year was Canada's increase in her lead over all other countries as a producer of newsprint. In 1928 the production of Canada's newsprint mills exceeded that of American mills by 67 per cent., but last year the American output was only half the Canadian. The subjoined table, which gives details of the output, exports and imports of newsprint of the different countries of the world gives some indication of Canada's commanding position in this particular field:—

	Products.	Exports.	Imports.
Canada	2,729,000	2,511,000	...
United States	1,392,000	19,000	2,421,000
Great Britain	636,000	108,000	408,000
Germany	623,000	172,000	...
Japan	286,000	57,000	...
Sweden	275,000	216,000	7,000
Newfoundland	256,000	258,000	...
Finland	215,000	191,000	...
France	210,000	13,000	214,000
Norway	189,000	184,000	...
World total (including other countries)	7,308,000	3,851,000	3,239,000

But in recent months the problem of over-production has been aggravated as a result of the business recession in the United States, which provides the market for about 90 per cent. of Canada's output. The setback has been responsible for a considerable decline in advertising during the first quarter of the present year, and newspaper publishers have felt it necessary to cut expenses through a reduction in reading matter. Accordingly, not a few

* "Memorandum on International Trade and Balances of Payments, 1926-28. Volume II.: Balances of Payments." Geneva. 6s.

American papers are substantially smaller than they were a year ago.

As a result of this situation, Canada's exports of newsprint for the month of March, valued at $12,918,086, although they were 3½ million dollars above the figure for February, which is always low, showed a decline of $2,694,656, or 16 per cent., compared with the figure for March, 1929. The total volume of newsprint production for the first quarter of the present year, given by the Bureau of Statistics as 602,934 tons, is rather less than the 624,538 tons produced in the first quarter of 1929, and is far below the 733,968 tons which were produced in the last quarter of 1929 before the effects of the business recession began to manifest themselves. The newsprint manufacturers have reduced wages and resorted to all sorts of economies, but they still insist that they are unable to make adequate profits, and the records of the newsprint stocks indicate the pessimistic view of their plight still taken by the Stock Exchanges.

The newsprint industry of Canada is now dominated by three large corporations, the International Paper and Power Company, which is controlled from Boston, the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company, in which a Chicago group is heavily interested, and the Canada Power and Paper Co., which is under the ægis of the Holt-Gundy group of Montreal. There still remain outside a number of smaller companies like Price Bros., the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company, and the Mersey Pulp and Paper Company, which recently began operations at Liverpool in Nova Scotia with the advantage of a mill on tidewater, but their contribution to the aggregate annual newsprint output is negligible compared with that of the three great corporations.

Last autumn the Canadian newsprint manufacturers made a concerted effort to secure an increase in the price of newsprint to around $60, and their attempt was strongly backed by the provincial Premiers of Ontario and Quebec, who took the ground that, since many of the pulpwood limits were Crown lands, they were justified in interfering to ensure returns for the industry which would enable it to pay decent wages and offer a reasonable standard of living to its workers. At one period the two Premiers hinted at price-fixing legislation, but they did not persevere with the idea. The newsprint manufacturers might have gained their increase if they had been able to present a solid front, but the International Power and Paper Company had committed itself to contracts with the Hearst newspaper interests for large supplies of paper for several years at a price which is said not to have been much above $52. The other American publishers were naturally averse to paying a price substantially higher than what the Hearst papers were paying, and when they stood firm against the manufacturers' demands, and found support from the newspaper publishers of Canada, the producers had to capitulate and accept a price of $55.20. They would only make it a provisional bargain for the first months of 1930, and have intimated to the publishers that the arrangement would terminate at the end of June. There have been frequent conferences in New York and Montreal between the newsprint manufacturers and the publishers, but so far no agreement seems to have been reached. The producers want an increase of $5 per ton; they claim that the heavy capital expenditure entailed for a newsprint plant makes it necessary to maintain a high operating ratio if a reasonable return on the investment is to be earned. They aver that the operating ratio of 85 per cent. which prevailed in 1929 was poor enough, but coincident with the lessened demand there has been an increase in daily capacity, and, during March, the newsprint mills were only able to operate at the very low ratio of 68.4 per cent. They argue that, as the United States is every year becoming more and more dependent upon Canada for its newsprint supplies, it would be better for the consumers to meet them halfway and permit a higher price which will enable them to tide over their present difficulties. They hold that, in view of the rapid depletion of the forest resources of North America the Canadian mills will sooner or later be able to demand and get their own price for newsprint, and that it would pay the newspaper publishers in the long run to remain on amicable terms with them.

The publishers, on their side, in opposing a price increase contend that business conditions do not warrant it at the present juncture and that it cannot be considered until there is a real revival of prosperity and an increase of advertising revenue. They also make the accusation that the capitalisation of a number of the producing companies is too high in relation to the actual capital invested, and they feel no obligation to furnish revenues for the payment of dividends upon watered stocks. In the latter charge there is some justification as at different times a good deal of water has been injected into the stock of various prominent newsprint companies, and there has been a peculiar recklessness about the expansion of the newsprint industry in recent years. Now, although it is a belated move, the provincial government of Quebec, which controls more pulpwood limits than any other administration, has announced its intention of permitting the establishment of no more newsprint mills until the output of the existing plants can be profitably disposed of.

Meanwhile the *Financial Post of Toronto* suggests that the price dispute between the publishers and the producers should be settled by a board of arbitrators who would command the confidence of both parties. The newsprint manufacturers would probably be agreeable to a compromise, and, apparently, they have put forward a tentative proposal for an advance of $1 per ton on July 1st and a further rise at the end of the year to $57.50 per ton. Lately, in the hopes that some such compromise might be reached, there has been an upward movement of the stocks of some newsprint corporations, but there is little confidence behind it, as even an increase of $2.30 per ton would not enable most of the newsprint mills to pay dividends upon their common stocks after making proper allowance for depreciation and reserves. So the prospects are that the holders of Canadian newsprint stocks will have to cultivate patience and await the revival of real business prosperity in the United States before they can hope for adequate returns on their investments.

But there is one alleviating feature in the situation. It happens that each of three great newspaper companies are owners of very valuable power sites whose development and utilisation ought to yield very substantial revenues. The International Paper and Power Company has been responsible for gigantic power developments on the Gatineau and other rivers and has been able to dispose of its power at profitable prices. Now it is announced that the Abitibi Company is turning its attention to its power sites on the Abitibi River and has entered into a contract with the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario under which the latter will buy 100,000 horse-power which the company will develop at Abitibi Falls. Under competent management the power resources of the newsprint companies should become a steadily-increasing source of revenue and, unlike pulpwood limits, they are not of a wasting character.

THE STRUGGLE FOR FREER TRADE.

The tardiness with which tangible results have followed the tariff reduction recommendations of the World Economic Conference has caused increasing anxiety in many countries and much hard thinking as to methods of achieving progress. Interest is most active in the low-tariff countries, as is shown by the following article, which comes to us from an experienced Scandinavian observer.

When in 1927 the Economic Conference proclaimed that it would be in the interest of the world as a whole and of the individual countries to reduce economic barriers and to move in the direction of freer trade, public opinion in Scandinavian countries generally and wholeheartedly supported this proclamation. These countries themselves have more rigidly refrained from introducing new, or increasing old, protective duties than any other group of nations. They have, no doubt, on the whole benefited from their policy—a fact of which they are fully aware—but at the same time certain branches of their economic life are suffering from the many protective measures introduced in other countries, and in particular from the dumping practised by them. Those who suffer naturally ask for protection; and public opinion is beginning somewhat to waver, and to wonder whether it is right simply to do nothing in the face of the destructive measures introduced by other parties.

Hitherto Scandinavia has waited to see what might come out of the work for economic collaboration in Geneva; but after the failure of the tariff truce conference, to achieve a real tariff holiday, as proposed by the President of the Board of Trade of Great Britain, faith in the League's work on present lines in the economic field is being shaken. The League tries to work by the common consent of all interested parties. But a reduction of tariffs will probably never be effected if the League has to wait for the approval of those who are shielded by tariffs and who think they benefit from them. Probably such a change in economic policy can only be achieved after a fierce political struggle, in which those who would benefit from freer trade must make their contribution and work through their political representatives. That a body of experts in Geneva should be able to effect this change is not to be expected. Geneva can provide the machinery for negotiations; but it can hardly itself take the initiative in these controversial questions, particularly since there will have to be a struggle within each country, and the League can scarcely take it upon itself to provoke such struggles.

But if Geneva cannot act effectively, who can? It would seem that those governments who are really interested in the advancement of freer trade must boldly take the initiative. There are strong reasons in favour of common action on their part, and there is particularly one question that would seem to be suited for such common action—the question of measures against dumping. The practice of dumping is not always harmful to those who receive the dumped goods. Manufacturing firms in Holland and Switzerland and even in Great Britain have benefited in the past and benefit to-day from the fact that they get their raw materials at a lower price than their German competitors. But it cannot be denied that in many cases dumping is really damaging. It can, for example, be very disturbing to normal industrial activity if it is intermittent; and a guarantee that the foreigner will always supply the dumped goods at a low price can, of course, never be given. In the end, when the "dumper" has destroyed the production of a particular commodity in the country in which he dumps, he may increase the price and recoup himself at the expense of the consumer.

To the economic harm which may be done by dumping should be added the psychological harm. Dumping is generally carried out with the aid of a tariff. The low price charged abroad is the result of export premiums. Sometimes—as in the case of agricultural produce exported from Poland, Germany and France—there are open export premiums. The agriculturalist in the importing countries must feel it very unfair that his competitor should be able to reduce his price with State aid. It is this complaint of unfair competition which makes the strongest impression on public opinion, at least in a country like Sweden. "Unfairness" becomes the best weapon in the armoury of the protectionist.

But can nothing be done against this dumping? Experience in those countries which have tried to introduce anti-dumping measures—*e.g.*, Canada—shows that such measures are of little or no avail when taken by a single country. For any effect to be achieved, several countries must act together. In a proposal regarding the agricultural position put forward last January to the Diet by the Liberal Party in Sweden it was suggested that the Swedish Government should get into touch with other Governments with a view to some common step against dumping. No details of the proposal were given; but the idea would seem to be that the freer trade countries in Europe, such as England, Sweden, Holland, Belgium and perhaps Switzerland and Denmark, might make it clear to those countries which are dumping that the dumping will not be tolerated. Poland, Germany and France might be informed that, unless they themselves stopped dumping, which they could do in several ways, the protesting countries would take countervailing measures. These countries can point to the system adopted in the Sugar Convention of 1902. In this convention the protective duty on sugar was limited to an equivalent of six gold francs per 100 kilogrammes. If a country had a higher duty, as Sweden and Italy had, it was not allowed to export sugar in any form.

To-day the three countries who, by means of protection, subsidise their export trade, might be asked to refrain from export in all cases where the protection granted is equivalent to an export subsidy.

If the exporting countries refused to agree to an arrangement corresponding to that of the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, then the protesting countries would have to carry out their threat. That would mean, *inter alia*, giving up the most-favoured-nation clause, as measures taken against some countries would not automatically and equally apply to all others. The Scandinavian countries have stood out for this clause more strongly than anybody else. But if no progress is made in the work for collaboration on the basis of this clause, it may be better to let the clause go. It may even be that the countries in favour of free trade must get together and investigate whether, in common action against the high protectionist countries, they may not even consider it advantageous to take some measures *de combat*.

Some years ago it was suggested in Geneva that the different countries should be classed in different groups according to the height of their tariffs, and that any reduction of a duty by a given country should automatically apply only to countries in the same or lower groups, and should thus be withheld from countries which have very high duties. That would mean that any country which was contemplating an increase of its tariff would have to consider whether such an increase would bring it into a new group and automatically subject its export industries to higher duties in foreign countries. The disadvantage of such a contingency would naturally tend to make exporters resist an increase in the tariff. As matters stand at present, exporters often fail to appreciate that they are in any way affected by an increase in import duties in their own country. Under the proposed plan their real interests would be brought home to them more clearly. Each nation would have to consider the repercussions of any modification of their commercial policy—how it would effect their relationship with important producing countries on the Continent, with the various members of the British Empire, and with the United States.

The latter country would probably be included in the group of the highest tariff countries, and its manufacturing industries, which export a part of their produce, would no doubt, if any scheme of the kind suggested came into operation, be subject to higher duties than the same products from countries with a low tariff or none. It should, however, at the same time, be pointed out that the U.S.A. might stand to gain from measures taken against dumping of agricultural produce. In the present state of the market, with a demand for cereals which remains stationary or expands very slowly, the export of wheat, etc., at artificially low prices from Poland, Germany and France is to the disadvantage of the agricultural sections of great cereal-producing countries, such as the U.S.A., Canada and the Argentine. For these countries it would also be very necessary to consider all aspects of the problem before they decided in favour or against the measures taken in common by the "freer" trade countries.

It is not with any satisfaction that one contemplates the introduction of such a complicated commercial system as that to which the giving up of the most-favoured-nation clause treatment would lead, but it is worth considering whether it may not be more advantageous in the long run to follow a road, however risky and difficult, which holds out some hope in the future than to accept placidly the present conditions. It would, therefore, seem to be high time that those Governments which have the same interests should come together to deliberate on these questions, and on the possibility of common action.

Notes of the Week.

Lord Beaverbrook and Mr Baldwin.—As we recorded last week, Mr Baldwin, in his recent speeches, has reaffirmed that the official policy of the Conservative Party is to exclude food taxes from the programme for the next General Election, leaving that question to be decided by a subsequent referendum in the case of a Conservative victory followed by a bargain with the Dominions on Imperial trade. Lord Beaverbrook, having long ago declared this to be unsatisfactory, has become increasingly restive, and has now taken the definite step of rejecting the referendum proposal. So the rift in the Conservative lute becomes complete. Mr Baldwin continues to tour the country with his "Home and Empire" campaign, outlining a policy which the *Times* describes as consisting of "the immediately practical policy of Safeguarding with a postscript paying tribute to the desirability of the slower and more difficult policy of Empire Free Trade." Not unnaturally, the relegation of his policy to a "postscript" is resented by Lord Beaverbrook, and a battle royal has been joined between the two camps into which the Conservative Party is divided. Upon the result depends the fate of Mr Baldwin as leader and probably the fate of the Conservative Party for the next ten years. For who can believe that a Party going to the country with the "stomach tax" would have any chance of victory in these days of adult enfranchisement? Meanwhile, the eternal public discussion of the fiscal question continues. This week the House of Lords has taken its turn, and on Wednesday night debated a motion by Lord Elibank advocating an "omnibus" policy of Safeguarding, anti-dumping and Imperial economic unity—or, in other words, a whole-hogging policy of Protection and Preference. The debate, in which Lord Melchett and Lord Beaverbrook supported the motion and Lord Arnold resisted on behalf of the Government, proceeded for the most part on familiar lines. But it threw up one new and rather significant feature. The Marquess of Huntley proposed an amendment calling for a non-Party conference of all Parties to investigate causes of and remedies for unemployment, and Earl Beauchamp accepted the idea as one that commended itself to Mr Lloyd George and the Liberal Party. With the Labour Government in trouble over the unemployment problem and the Conservative Party split over their policy, Mr Lloyd George may not be the only political leader who finds the Marquess's proposal attractive.

Two Voices from Italy.—Fascismo is like the Scriptures: you can find authoritative texts in the Law and the Prophets for almost any doctrine you choose. Sometimes it is the Duce himself who utters both texts in a pair of—are we to say "complementary" or "contradictory"?—pronouncements. Sometimes the oracle comes in a kind of antiphonal chant—the prophet saying one thing and some trusted disciple the other. This was the method adopted in the latest revelation, which was inaugurated by Signor Grandi on May 8th in the Chamber at Rome and concluded by Signor Mussolini on the 18th at Florence in the Piazza delle Signoria. Signor Grandi's part was reasonable and precise and European, Signor Mussolini's was flamboyant and vague and Italianissimo; and for the ignorant man in the street, whose ear is untrained to this futurist kind of political music, it is extraordinarily hard to harmonise the two voices and apprehend any common theme. Signor Grandi was rendering an account of the Reparations Conference at the Hague and of the Naval Conference in London; and *à propos* of the former he emitted a sentiment which could not be improved upon by the best friends of peace and reconstruction. "The treaties," he submitted, "are not eternal; but if we wish that they should endure for as long as possible it is necessary to adapt them gradually and in good time with a sense of justice to new needs and new realities." Again, he explained Italy's participation in the Naval Conference of 1930, in contrast to her abstention from the Conference of 1927, by the conclusion, during the interval, of the Multilateral Treaty of Paris for the Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy—thereby publicly attributing, on behalf of Italy, that same fundamental importance to the Kellogg-Briand Pact as has been attributed to it, on behalf of the United States and Great Britain, by President Hoover and Mr MacDonald. On concrete points, his disappointment at the French reception of the Italian proposals of last autumn for Franco-Italian preliminary discussions was not unjustified; his concept of "parity" as an expression of mutual trust and not a mathematical formula showed that he had got to the heart of the matter; and in sustaining the thesis that naval needs are not "absolute" but "relative," he was taking what, to the mere layman, is the reasonable point of view. The one serious stumbling-block in his speech was his insistence upon reckoning by "global tonnage"; but such questions of technical methods are eminently amenable to adjustment. In fine, Signor Grandi's speech—closing on the note that Franco-Italian co-operation was essential for Europe's recovery—was an admirable overture to the publication of Monsieur Briand's plan. And then, on the very day on which this French proposal for achieving European solidarity was published, the other voice in the Fascist antiphony blared out: "The Italian people, rather than remain prisoners within the sea that once belonged to Rome, would be capable of sacrifices far beyond the common." "To-morrow you will see an armed review of impressive character . . . because, although words are beautiful things, rifles, machine guns, ships, aeroplanes and cannon are still more beautiful . . . ." What is bewildered Europe to make of the Grandi-Mussolini duet?

The Week's Events in India.—The past week in India, like the second act of a five-act tragedy, has contributed no essentially new development, but has seen an intensification of the forces and activities already at work. At the end of last week Mrs Naidu, the wearer for the time being of Mr Gandhi's mantle, started for Dharasana with some fifty *Satyagrahas*. Stopped by the superintendent of police with a force of some sixty strong, she refused to retreat, and finally fell to writing letters by the roadside, where she remained for over twenty-four hours. Ultimately some 224 volunteers were arrested and remanded for a week, and on Wednesday, after a mass attack two thousand strong on the salt pans, Mrs Naidu and some of the other leaders, including Mr Gandhi's son, were arrested. Meanwhile another salt raid, which the police were not sufficiently numerous to prevent, took place at Wadala, and led to the arrest of over four hundred persons, though the police apparently only arrested those individuals who made it quite impossible for them to do otherwise. A bomb outrage at Moultan, in connection with the attachment of a shopkeeper's property for the payment of water tax, led to 40 arrests, and bombs were also thrown in an attack on the police in Madras. This growth of mob violence, with increasing use of explosives and the consequent necessity for the employment of force by the police, is a disquieting feature of the situation. Indeed, a change in the policy of the Government is possible as the result of the decisions at Allahabad of the Working Committee of the Congress, which has practically abandoned its profession of non-violence and has decided to organise more open rebellion in defiance of the law. Its resolutions include a boycott of foreign cloth and of British financial, insurance and shipping companies, and propaganda for the non-payment of taxes. In consequence the Government, which has hitherto treated the Congress policy as not intrinsically unlawful, is said to be considering the question whether the Congress has now forfeited all claim to the protection of the law, and whether the movement should not be resisted by every possible means. An official inquiry into the Peshawar riots is to be held by Mr Justice Shah Muhammad Sulaiman, of the High Court of Allahabad, and Mr Justice Panckridge, of the High Court of Calcutta. A court of inquiry has already found that the misbehaviour ascribed to a certain regiment at Peshawar was confined to two platoons, which are to be dealt with by the normal procedure of military law. The situation in Peshawar city is now said to be normal. Twenty-three persons have received court-martial sentences for breach of martial law at Sholapur, but the rumours of atrocities alleged to have been perpetrated during the Sholapur riots are officially denied by the Bombay Government. Meanwhile various bodies have continued their discussion of the situation. Early in the week the Council of the National Liberal Federation issued a statement defending Mr Gandhi's policy but alleging that the response it provoked was due to economic and political discontent brought about by the present irresponsible system of administration. The statement expresses disapproval of the Press Act and urges a cessation of the civil disobedience campaign on the one hand and a release of political prisoners on the other, to be followed by a conference between the Viceroy and the Indian leaders. The following day the Committee of the All-Parties Conference concluded its sittings and issued a communiqué to the Press in which it declared that no decision of the Simon Commission could affect its views on the communal question and on the general problem of minorities, which must be settled in order to arrive at a maximum amount of agreement on questions of a purely constitutional character. The communiqué concluded with an appeal for co-operation among the leaders of all parties. A sub-committee was set up to report by the end of June on the settlement of the Hindu-Moslem question and the problem of minority communities. These two announcements suggest that, in spite of the contagious character of the mob outbreaks increasingly reported, responsible Indian opinion must ultimately make its influence felt on the side of an amicable settlement.

The Ecclesiastical Dispute in Malta.—Light is thrown upon the possibilities of settling the ecclesiastical dispute in Malta by the materials for a concordat with the Vatican which were prepared about a year ago and were published on May 16th in the *Malta Government Gazette* by permission of the Governor. It should be noted that these materials were produced by the Maltese Ministry (Malta now possessing "semi-Dominion status") in consultation with the Apostolic Delegate, and that His Majesty's Government in Great Britain were in no way responsible for them. In these drafts it is declared that the idea and intention of the proposed agreement is to establish the Church's independence in all spiritual matters consistently with the position of Malta as a British dependency and a self-governing member of the British Empire. And to an outsider it would appear that this dual object would be achieved if the draft terms of agreement were brought into force. The general basis of agreement seems to be the reasonable one that the secular power should not impugn the ecclesiastical power's claim to jurisdiction in the strictly ecclesiastical field, while in return the ecclesiastical power should undertake to exercise its traditional prerogatives in certain specific matters on the borderline between the two spheres in such a way as to avoid embarrassing the secular power in the discharge of its secular functions. Under the old Crown Colony *régime* in Malta, an understanding between the British Government and the Vatican appears to have been completed in 1889 as the result of a special mission to Rome undertaken by the British Governor of the day. The situation has, of course, been altered since the war by the grant to Malta of a large measure of responsible parliamentary government; since this has opened up a new domain of public affairs in which the respective prerogatives of Church and State are at present unregulated by any agreement between the two powers. It was precisely here that the trouble arose—the Maltese prelates having taken measures, and effective measures, to influence the Maltese elections in order to bring pressure to bear upon the secular power in a dispute between Church and State over their respective powers in a case of ecclesiastical discipline. It is principally with this new field of affairs that the drafts for a concordat deal, and this in the only possible manner, that is, by providing that the hierarchy shall abstain from interference in politics, while incidentally certain just claims of the Church on minor matters are conceded by the State. Now these proposals were drafted by the Maltese Ministry and the Apostolic Delegate in consultation; the Apostolic Delegate appears to have expressed the personal opinion that a definite formal concordat was desirable; and the Governor appears to have suggested to the Foreign Office that negotiations should be started at an early date. But all this was a year ago, and meanwhile troubles have not ceased. Who is responsible for this delay—a delay from which all parties concerned have been suffering?

Dr. Nansen and the League.—A Geneva correspondent writes:—Dr. Nansen was one of the most beloved of all who came to Geneva on the business of the League. "This brave, just and compassionate man," as the Secretary-General so well described him, with a physique and personality of the finest steel, was a delegate at every Assembly. No institution could wish for a better personification of its purpose, and it was his honour that the League benefited not only by the practical services he rendered it, but also by the respect which his name everywhere commanded. In the end, his fame was as much that of a League of Nations man as that of a distinguished explorer. He obviously brought the same qualities to bear in both reputations. He was a pioneer in making the letter of the Covenant a living reality. Neither during the Corfu affairs, the disastrous period of the Special Assembly, nor at any other crisis did he fear to step on diplomatic corns. If he felt there were things that needed saying, he said them. He considered an obligation to be an obligation; he applied to everything the standards of personal honour and decency, and feared no one. It was typical of him that in the days before Germany was a member of the League he not only advocated her membership, but went off to Berlin to try to persuade the German Government to apply for admission. It was not everywhere appreciated at the time; perhaps it was diplomatically premature. But it was obviously right, and he went for it, quietly but unswervingly. The unique fact about Dr. Nansen's great services to the League is that he not only played his part in shaping the organisation, but he also did what might be termed important field work for it. It is for his unflagging zeal and resource on behalf of war prisoners and refugees that he is best known, and it is there that his impulse to decisive action had its main outlet. Even before the first Assembly he had started, at the request of the Council, on the repatriation of prisoners, and by 1922, having won the confidence both of Russia and Germany (sullen outsiders), he was able to report that 428,000 prisoners of twenty-six different nationalities had regained their homes at an average cost of below one pound sterling a head. It was also in the first year of the League that he began his work for refugees. Over a million and a half Russians scattered over Europe and the Near East were made his special care. He was the man to whom the League turned for emergency measures for 25,000 refugees threatened with starvation in Constantinople, and he it was also who drew the Assembly's attention in 1922 to the plight of the three-quarters of a million Greek refugees after the Greco-Turkish hostilities. The Assembly turned to Dr. Nansen once more to organise relief measures, which he at once undertook with amazing energy. In 1927 he shouldered the cause

of, and brought assistance to, 40,000 Armenian refugees in Syria, and his efforts in later years were devoted to a scheme, which he was working hard to put through, for the establishment of Armenian refugees in the Republic of Erivan. It is a great story of humane service. His name is secure in the annals of the League.

The Reparations Loan.—No definite progress has yet been made towards settling the details of the loan, though it is possible that something may be decided at the Paris meetings of the Treasury experts and bankers, which at the moment of going to press seem likely to last over the week-end. The only tangible result of the Basle meetings last week was that the legal experts dealing with the loan were requested to draft the form of the bond. Unfortunately their request seems to have proved premature, for the lawyers found themselves unable to get to work until certain outstanding questions had been settled. Meanwhile, in answer to a question, Mr Snowden repeated last Tuesday the generally known fact that the quota of the loan to be offered in London would not exceed the British Empire's share of the proceeds. The question referred to in last week's *Economist* as to whether the coupons attached to the bonds should be " international " or expressed solely in the currency of their original country of issue, however, has not yet apparently been settled, and some doubt is now believed to be felt as to the practicability of issuing, as at one time was suggested, a national bond with an international coupon. It is to be hoped that the bankers at their Paris meeting on Friday of this week will prove to have succeeded in solving this and other questions still remaining open, so that further delay can be avoided.

The B.I.S. Share Issue.—The Bank for International Settlements formally opened its doors on May 17th, and on the same day the final payments under the Dawes Plan were made by the Agent-General for Reparations. The Agent-General has also handed over to the B.I.S. 73.3 million marks in German currency, and the equivalent of a further 109 million marks in foreign currencies, deposited in England, France and New York. He has made sundry final payments to France and Germany, and has closed his banking accounts in various centres, and these final tasks completed, his organisation is in process of liquidation. Meanwhile the shares of the B.I.S. were issued on May 20th. The French quota of 16,000 shares were offered to the public, and as had been made abundantly clear by preliminary " unofficial " dealings at prices running up to a premium of 150 per cent., the issue was enormously oversubscribed, applications for more than 2½ million shares being lodged with the Bank of France. The total amount of application money therefore amounted to 7,830 millions of francs, or to £63,000,000. The Belgian quota of 16,000 shares was also offered to the public, and is reported to have been over-subscribed twelve times. Warned by the confusion, which it was obvious several weeks ago was arising in Paris, the Central Banks of other countries participating in the issue and the American banking group representing the United States are not making a public issue, though in some cases the shares may be placed privately. It is conceivable that the French and Belgian authorities regret that they did not follow a similar course, and, as is shown below, much unnecessary pressure upon the foreign exchanges and upon London's gold stocks in particular would have been avoided had no public issue of shares taken place.

The French Gold Shipments.—The withdrawal on French account during the first three weeks of May of £11½ million of gold from the Bank of England was an episode which does not altogether do credit to those who are working for closer international monetary co-operation, designed *inter alia* to promote economy in the use of gold. Paradoxically enough, its primary cause seems to have been the inauguration of the Bank for International Settlements, which henceforward will be one of the main agencies in promoting co-operation. Rightly or wrongly, the Banque de France decided to issue their quota of 16,000 shares to the public, and, as described above, there was such a rush to subscribe that application money totalling Frs. 7,830,000,000 was received by the Banque de France, or the equivalent of about £63,000,000. In anticipation of this rush, funds had to be mobilised in advance, and with this end in view French institutions were drawing heavily on their foreign balances right up to a day or two before the date of issue. It is, therefore, perhaps not surprising that £11,500,000 had to be taken in gold from London. According to the most recent reports, every effort is being made to return the surplus application money promptly, and it seems reasonable to suppose that part of it may find its way abroad once more and bring with it some of the gold. Unfortunately things only rarely work out that way in practice. For one thing, disappointed applicants may decide to keep their funds mobilised in readiness for the Reparations Loan issue, and in any case once foreign balances have been brought home they may be kept at home and used for other purposes. Finally, even if France parts with some of her newly-acquired gold, there is no guarantee that it will return to London. Summing up this somewhat unnecessary episode, the main gain to London is that some more of the " bad " French money—to apply to it a market expression for money whose movements are subject to incalculable influences—has been shed, and to that extent the menace to the Bank's gold stocks has been diminished. Moreover, it has gone at a time when the Bank is well able to bear the loss. Still, it is impossible to resist the thought that had a little more foresight been exercised, the episode need never have taken place.

Large Incomes and Taxation.—A question asked by Major Nathan in the House of Commons elicited from the Chancellor of the Exchequer very important information about the burden of taxation at present resting on large incomes. The present figures continue estimates made by the Colwyn Committee, which showed the amount of income tax and surtax on incomes of various sizes, and the insurance premium which is necessary in order to secure an amount at death equal to the estate duty payable, and, therefore, leaving the original fortune intact. The following tables show for 1913-14 and 1930-31 the amounts payable under these headings on incomes wholly from investment and on incomes half-earned and half from investment:—

Total Income.	Equivalent Capital.	Income Tax.	Sur- (or Super-) Tax.	Net Insurance to provide for Estate Duty.	Total.
£	£	£	£	£	£
A. On Income wholly from Investment.					
Year 1913–14.					
5,000	100,000	292	...	298	590
10,000	200,000	583	175	725	1,483
25,000	500,000	1,458	550	2,000	4,008
50,000	1,000,000	2,917	1,175	5,176	9,268
Year 1930–31.					
5,000	100,000	1,007	306	819	2,132
10,000	200,000	2,132	1,381	2,322	5,835
25,000	500,000	5,507	5,881	8,583	19,971
50,000	1,000,000	11,132	14,506	25,349	50,987
B. On Incomes half from Investment and half from Earnings.					
Year 1913–14.					
5,000	100,000	292	...	113	405
10,000	200,000	583	175	290	1,048
25,000	500,000	1,458	550	906	2,914
50,000	1,000,000	2,917	1,175	2,000	6,092
Year 1930–31.					
5,000	100,000	951	306	274	1,531
10,000	200,000	2,076	1,381	812	4,269
25,000	500,000	5,451	5,881	3,012	14,344
50,000	1,000,000	11,076	14,506	8,167	33,749

These figures are very striking. Considering only income tax and surtax (or super-tax in 1913-14), the " free " income left, after paying taxes, to a man whose income is half earned and half derived from investment, amounted, in the case of incomes of £5,000 to £4,708 in 1913-14, against £3,743 in 1930-31; in the case of a man whose income is £10,000 to £9,242 in 1913-14, against £6,543 in 1930-31; in the case of a man whose income is £25,000 to £22,992 in 1913-14, against £13,668 in 1930-31; in the case of a man whose income is £50,000 to £45,908 in 1913-14, against £24,418 in 1930-31. In the case of persons whose incomes are wholly from investment, a little less is left, though the difference is not important. Indeed, allowing for the rise in prices, it appears that the real value of the share of £5,000 and £10,000 incomes remaining after taxes have been paid (but without allowing for estate duty) is only about half what it was before the War; while that of a £25,000 income is only about two-fifths, and that of a £50,000 income only about 35 per cent. So far as insurance is concerned, the figures given in the foregoing table represent the average annual premium without profits of a man aged 45 years; and, of course, the amount insured for is also liable to death duty. Relief on the premium is given at two shillings in the pound on one-sixth of the statutory income. The figure shown for purely investment incomes of £80,000 a year means that a man with such an income cannot afford to insure sufficiently heavily to pass on his capital to his heir. Such estates can only be transmitted at their original value if invested in ways in which capital appreciates or yields more than 5 per cent. or if the owner secures some earned income. While the age at which insurance is effected is important, it is by no means the dominating factor. Thus, a man of 30 would have to pay 61.1 per cent. of the premium payable by a man of 45; a man of 35 would have to pay 70.9 per cent.; a man of 40 would have to pay 83.6 per cent., and a man of 50 would have to pay 121.8 per cent. The number of incomes falling within the range of this very heavy taxation was, in the year 1927-28, 17,916 between £5,000 and £10,000; 7,218 between £10,000 and £25,000; and 1,029 over £25,000. It is quite plain that the margin for further increases in progressive taxation on incomes of this size is not very large, if, indeed, there is any margin at all.

Employment and Cost of Living in April.—Employment showed some improvement during the first half of April, but by the end of the month the position was somewhat worse than at the end of March. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, among the 12.1 million workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the percentage unemployed at April 28th was 14.6. This compares with 14.0 per cent. at March 24th and 9.8 per cent. a year ago. The total number of registered applicants for employment was approximately 1,752,000 at April 28th, as compared with 1,731,000 at March 30th and 1,198,000 at April 29, 1929. According to the latest announcement by the Ministry of Labour, however, the numbers on the registers at May 12th had dropped to 1,739,500. With regard to the cost of living during April, there was a reduction of two points in the index number of the Ministry of Labour, which at May 1st stood at 55 per cent. above the level of July, 1914, and compares with 57 per cent. a month ago and 61 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the index recorded 40 per cent. at May 1st, as compared with 43 per cent. at April 1st and 49 per cent. a year ago. The reduction shown by the general index was chiefly accounted for by decreases in the prices of butter, milk and coal.

American Cotton Crop.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—This week the Department of Agriculture of the United States Government has issued revised figures relating to the cotton crop for 1929. The area planted is now given as 47,067,000 acres, against 46,946,000 acres in the previous year. The area picked is returned at 45,793,000 acres, as compared with 45,341,000 acres in the previous season. The yield per acre is given as 155 lbs., against 152.9 lbs. in 1928, the total production being 14,828,000 bales, against 14,478,000 bales in 1928. The carry-over at the end of last season was 4,400,000 bales, so supplies for the season are 19,200,000 bales. A striking feature of the last twelve months has been the decline in world consumption of American cotton, and it is probable the requirements of spinners during the year will not be more than 13,600,000 bales, against 15,076,000 bales in the previous season. The carry-over, therefore, next July should be about 5,600,000 bales, or 1,200,000 bales more than twelve months earlier. At this time of the year there is always great interest in trade circles in the prospects for the new growth. On the whole, planting has now been completed, but the Government will not publish an estimate of the area under cultivation until the beginning of July. A few months ago there was a strong agitation in the United States for reducing the acreage by 10 per cent., but it is not expected that the decline will be more than 3 per cent. The policy of the Farm Board is meeting with much criticism, and the activities of that organisation have brought about a most abnormal situation. The relation between prices in Liverpool and New York is now uneconomic, and it is quite impossible for Liverpool merchants to import. The Farm Board holding of May and July futures in New York has forced prices for those months on to an artificial level, and spinners throughout the world are restricting their purchases. Farmers in America have, of course, watched the trend of events and have not been disposed to reduce their acreage owing to the anticipation of a continuance of Government support to prices. The outlook for the new crop is generally favourable. There are complaints of too much moisture in some parts of the belt and dry conditions in other sections, but the pointers at the moment are for a substantial yield, and in view of the poor trade demand and consumption buyers are exercising caution in committing themselves to contracts.

Fining in Cotton Mills.—In Lancashire cotton trade circles, writes our Manchester correspondent, there has been considerable interest in the test case in the courts relating to the custom of fining weavers for faulty work. The case has just been heard in the Chancery Division. Nominally, the defendants were a Nelson firm of manufacturers, but they are being supported by the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association. The plaintiff weaver is being backed by the trade union. On behalf of the defendants it was held that their action was in accordance with a well-established custom of the industry. The deduction of one shilling from the operative's wages was made in respect of damage to cloth as a result of the plaintiff's negligence. Mr Justice Farwell, after hearing the evidence, found that the custom of fining in the cotton weaving industry was illegal, and he gave a verdict in favour of the plaintiff. At a meeting in Manchester this week of the Central Committee of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association it was decided to instruct their solicitors to lodge an appeal against the decision of Mr Justice Farwell.

The C.W.S. and Depreciation.—A correspondent writes:—An important decision by the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society with reference to the rates of depreciation on property was announced by Mr H. J. A. Wilkins, the president, at the last half-yearly meeting. At the outbreak of the European War the total liabilities of the society were £11¾ million and the reserves and depreciation fund totalled £5 million, or 43 per cent. of the total liabilities. Now the liabilities—including share capital—are £62¼ million, and the reserves are £15¼ million, or 24 per cent. The percentage of reserves to liabilities has thus declined by 19 per cent. to a figure which the directors feel is insufficient, in view of the amalgamations, combines and trusts which are being formed touching every stage in the manufacture and sale of the commodities produced by the C.W.S. In 1920-21 a sum of £1½ million, representing plant, machinery and fixtures, previously charged to revenue account, was utilised to meet the losses of the year. This has now been replaced, and practically the whole of the losses have

been made up. To lessen the charges on the various productive undertakings of the C.W.S. the rates of depreciation were reduced in 1923 from 2½ per cent. to 1¼ per cent. on land; from 5 per cent. to 2½ per cent. on buildings; and from 7½ per cent. to 5 per cent. on fixtures. Since then considerable sums have been devoted to special depreciation in the case of works erected or acquired at war prices. Out of the profit of the past half-year £207,547 was allocated as a further instalment in this direction. The time has now arrived when the directors feel they can revert to the original rates of depreciation. For by adequate depreciation the capital charges on the various industries are reduced and the C.W.S. enabled to give substantial advantage to the societies in membership. Thus the effects of the slump that followed the Armistice boom have been practically wiped out.

Canadian Currency in the United States.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—Considerable interest has been aroused in Canada by a plan sponsored by the Federal Reserve Board to limit the charges for handling Canadian funds in the United States. Heretofore, when Canadian exchange is at par in New York, Canadian money has been accepted at par at points of the border like Detroit and Buffalo, but elsewhere it has been subject to a discount which is always considerably higher than the prevailing rates of exchange, and since the American dollar is always accepted at par in Canada, Canadian travellers in the United States who have been mulcted anything from 1 to 5 per cent. on their money have often been very resentful. The new plan, which came into operation on April 15th, provides that the Federal Reserve banks will offer their facilities to member banks for the collection and conversion of Canadian paper currency into American currency at the current rate of exchange; they will absorb the cost of shipping Canadian paper currency from the member banks to themselves, but will deduct an allowance to cover the actual exchange charges and insurance and shipping charges, if any, from the Federal Reserve banks to the points where it will be converted into American currency. It is anticipated that the new plan will result in a substantial reduction in the cost of collecting Canadian currency, and that if the member banks give their cordial co-operation and pass on the benefits of this service to their customers, Canadian travellers in the United States should henceforth have little difficulty in getting Canadian dollars accepted at something near par. The scheme is also understood to contemplate the handling of all drafts against Canadian business houses on the same basis, and American currency would flow back into Canada in the same way as would drafts on business houses. It is stated also that Detroit has been chosen as the concentration and transfer point in the United States to which all Canadian currency will be shipped. Leading Canadian bankers, however, seem to be critical of the scheme, and Mr Beaudry Leman, the President of the Canadian Bankers' Association, has complained that neither his association nor any Canadian bank as far as he knew had been approached in the matter. Mr Phipps, general manager of the Imperial Bank, also declared that the arrangement ignored the vital fact that the dollars of the two countries are separate items of value.

International Codification.—Though the first Conference for the Codification of International Law, which took place recently at the Hague under the auspices of the League of Nations, has not attracted very much public attention, there can be no doubt of the desirability of steps being taken such as this gathering attempted. The Conference was, from the inherent difficulties of the problems before it, unable to carry matters very far, but it recorded some progress, and further steps will, in consequence of its labours, be easier of accomplishment. In recent years it has become more and more apparent that the legal systems of the nations, having developed under influences varying from place to place, could with advantage be co-ordinated in certain respects. There has been a call for adjustments to prevent inconveniences and hardships resulting from conflict between divergent rules. These inconveniences were felt first in connection with trading intercourse, and mercantile laws in different lands have long tended to develop on similar lines. Now the movement towards unification has broadened its scope, and national laws regulating activities of many kinds are being examined to see whether they admit of some degree of standardisation. Steps towards the progressive codification of international law were suggested in the early days of the League by the jurists who drew up the scheme for the Permanent Court of International Justice, and the subject has been much discussed in the United States. After a good deal of preliminary investigation the League selected three subjects for the first conference, namely, nationality, territorial waters, and the responsibility of States for damage caused in their territory to the person or property of foreigners. As to the third subject, the recent Conference, which opened in March and continued for about four weeks, found that little beyond examination by a committee was feasible, but with reference to nationality and territorial waters some progress was made. As to nationality, the principal difficulties arise where persons have more than one nationality, or none at all, and in connection with the nationality of married women and children. Accepting the position that it is for each State to determine under its own law who are its nationals, the Conference drew up a number of provisions on the points of difficulty, and also adopted some recommendations for the revision of national laws with a view to preventing the occurrence of the anomalous results which now frequently cause trouble. As to the important question, on which so much diversity of rule prevails, of the width of the belt of territorial sea, it was found impracticable to reach agreement, and the Conference had to content itself, for the time being, with the preparation of a series of articles dealing with the legal status of the territorial sea. On the basis of the experience gained, however, it may be practicable to prepare further work on various subjects more effectively, so that the actual Conference discussions may more readily yield definite results.

Sun Insurance Office.—In a year beset with such underwriting difficulties as 1929, the Sun—the oldest insurance office in the world—has achieved the creditable feat of producing a total net trading surplus in excess of 1928. This extremely satisfactory result has been made possible largely by the increased profits in the burglary and general department, counterbalancing a falling off in the fire department, though in the latter case an underwriting profit of 8.7 per cent. of the premiums is still very good. Last year's premium income amounted in total to £4,291,030, of which £2,572,000 was due to the fire department and £1,117,000 to the burglary and general department. For the first time since 1925 a net transfer was made to profit and loss account from the marine account, which, with a premium income of £406,000, now has a fund of £455,000. The detailed results of the past two years are set out below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	281,916	10·7	224,633	8·7
Personal accident	3,022	7·2	9,569	19·4
Employers' liability	2,982	2·0	5,504	3·7
Burglary and general	29,689	2·8	75,656	6·8
Marine	...	...	20,000	4·9
	317,609		335,362	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	120,860		121,789	
Total net trading surplus	196,749		213,573	

A further increase in the rate of dividend has been declared, the rate now being 65 per cent., compared with 62½ per cent. in 1928, and the payment is fully covered by interest earnings, leaving the sum of £220,000 as the net addition to free assets from the results of the year's working. Since the share capital consists of 240,000 shares of £10, with £2 paid up, this sum is equivalent to 9s. per share. In addition to the general reserve fund of £1,000,000, there is a credit balance in profit and loss account of £1,083,194, and from this balance the directors propose to transfer £120,000 to capital account for the purpose of paying up a further 10s. per share.

Royal Insurance Company.—Accompanying the 1929 report is a report by the actuary on the progress of the life department during the past five years and on the results of the quinquennial valuation made on December 31st last. During this period new policies have been issued for sums assured of £17,148,047, but the corresponding increase in sums assured and bonuses in force has been only £7,406,697, and the difference is a reminder of the extent of the wastage from deaths, maturities and lapses taking place every year in old-established offices, such as this. The life and annuity funds combined have risen from £16½ millions to £22 millions, and this expansion has been accompanied by a satisfactory increase from £1,394,000 to £1,645,000 in premium income. With regard to the quinquennial valuation, a net premium valuation at 3 per cent. on the same basis as before has been made, and the results, together with those of the 1924 valuation for comparison, are as follows:—

	1920–1924.	1925–1929.
	£	£
Surplus earned during quinquennium	1,516,357	2,654,796
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	95,263	311,611
	1,611,620	2,966,407
Allocations:		
To bonuses to policyholders	1,170,009	1,854,879
,, shareholders	130,000	200,000
,, carried forward to next quinquennium	311,611	911,528
	1,611,620	2,966,407

In spite of the greatly increased distribution to policyholders there still remains a large margin of surplus earnings unappropriated, and the carry-forward has consequently been nearly trebled. The rate of reversionary bonus for the quinquennium just ended is 42s. per cent., compared with 30s. per cent. five years ago, and confidence in the future outlook is such that interim bonuses on claims occurring in the year 1930 are to be paid at the rate of 45s. per cent. Turning now to results in other departments, the outstanding feature is the success of the general department, which, on a slightly reduced premium income of £5,013,000, has produced an underwriting profit of £292,817—equal to more than double the rate of profit earned in 1928. This result has gone far towards counterbalancing somewhat reduced profits on fire, personal accident, and employers' liability business, as will be seen below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	818,066	11·9	562,541	8·1
Personal accident	6,152	2·7	4,800	2·2
Employers' liability	68,933	17·6	58,844	15·8
General	126,546	2·5	292,817	5·8
Marine	85,309	7·2	104,489	8·8
Life	26,000		40,000	
Profit on sales of investments	53,090		...	
	1,184,096		1,063,491	
Less items debited to profit and loss account	385,616		504,991	
Total net trading surplus	798,480		558,500	

A dividend of 62½ per cent. has been declared, as against 60 per cent. in 1928, and the cost is nearly covered by interest earnings, leaving altogether a sum of £507,532—equal to about 2s. per share—wherewith to augment free surplus assets.

Phœnix Assurance Company.—The largest department for some years past of the Phœnix, excluding the life, has been the general department, and last year's premium income in this department showed a small increase to £3,624,000. The underwriting results, at any rate during the last five years, have been disappointingly small, and last year's figures are no exception to this experience. Altogether out of total premiums during the last five years amounting to over £18 million, underwriting profits have yielded no more than £189,000. Profits for 1929 in the other departments are, in the light of conditions prevailing last year, satisfactory, as will be seen from the details set out below:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	1928. Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	1929. Percentage of Premiums.
	£		£	
Fire	204,494	6·1	120,809	3·7
Personal accident	7,417	4·7	3,624	2·2
Employers' liability	15,268	9·4	16,082	10·6
General	93,638	2·6	34,321	·9
Marine	...		...	
Life:				
Phœnix fund	40,000		40,000	
London Guarantee and Accident	30,000		Nil	
Law Life fund	nil		83,174	
	390,817		298,010	
Less items debited to profit & loss account	195,267		121,207	
Total net trading surplus	£195,550		176,803	

The contribution from the Law Life fund last year has arisen as a consequence to the quinquennial valuation due to take place on December 31 last, and that, and the reduced allocation to pension fund, has helped to produce a net trading surplus very little less than that in 1928. There is a large and flourishing life department, with total funds, including closed funds of acquired companies, of £15,452,000. Last year's new business amounted to £2,965,830 net of reassurances compared with £3,043,304 in 1928. In addition, a sum of £143,887 as compared with £95,864 was received as consideration money for new annuities granted. With regard to the marine account, no contribution appears in the table above in respect of either 1928 or 1929, and in fact no transfer either to or from profit and loss account has been made in any of the last five years. First-year claims have shown a steady improvement, and during the last three years second-year claims have shown a like reduction. The premium income is now £707,000, and the fund is £662,000. For the third year in succession the dividend has been maintained at 14s. per share, and owing to the automatic increase in interest earnings the gap has been reduced to £24,072. The net result of the year's operations has been to add a sum of £152,731 to surplus assets, equivalent to 15 per cent. of the nominal paid-up capital.

Overseas Correspondence.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Work of the Council Meeting — Palestine — Hungarian Optants — Arbitration and Security.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

GENEVA, May 19.

THE short session of the Council of the League of Nations covered a good deal of ground, though some of the main problems concerning the League's work as a whole were necessarily left over for the September Assembly. These included the proposed amendments to the Covenant to bring it into harmony with the Paris Pact, the report of the Committee on Arbitration and Security, and other subjects.

The various Foreign Ministers present took the opportunity to engage in conversations on current diplomatic questions, notably those between France and Italy in connection with naval problems and cognate issues. Mr Henderson, M. Briand and M. Grandi had several private

meetings; the German Foreign Minister, Dr. Curtius, who attended the Council for the first time, discussed with M. Briand the final evacuation of the Rhineland and the negotiations regarding the Saar, and the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, M. Marinkovitch (who presided at the Council session), discussed with the Press the improved relations between Italy and Yugoslavia, but he caused some apprehension in his references to the situation between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria arising out of the minorities agitation in Macedonia.

Nothing very precise arose, or could have been expected to arise, out of the conversations between the French and Italian Ministers, but the renewal of contact so soon after the breakdown in London has been something gained. It seems generally agreed that, though the prospects are difficult, the meetings were of a friendly character, and both Ministers accepted Mr Henderson's offer to be of any assistance if they considered his services might be usefully employed. M. Briand seems to have given assurances, which have received some subsequent confirmation, that the final evacuation of the Rhineland would take place at the end of June, and the negotiations regarding the Saar, which have been hanging on for some months, are to be resumed with a little more vigour and purpose. The general temper of all these discussions seems to have been good; a successful issue to them is, in fact, essential if anything whatever is to come of M. Briand's ambitious if still rather sketchy ideas on the organisation of a " sort of " federal union for Europe.

Mr Henderson informed the Council of the steps which had been taken in Palestine, and announced that the British Government was examining the problem of devising means, within the framework of the Mandate, of satisfying legitimate aspirations and of removing any apprehensions still entertained. The Council agreed to three neutrals whose names he submitted as the members of the commission to settle the claims of Jews and Moslems in connection with the Wailing Wall. The three members are M. Lofgren, former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sweden, M. Barde, a Swiss judge, and M. van Kempen, a Dutchman who was formerly Governor of Sumatra.

December 1st was provisionally fixed as the date of the conference for the limitation of drug manufacture, for which a plan as a basis of discussion has already been communicated to Governments with a request for their observations within three months. The manufacturing countries are to discuss the limitation of quotas, and the Advisory Opium Committee is to meet during the second fortnight of August to prepare a draft convention on the basis of this further information for submission through the Council to the conference, which will be attended not only by manufacturing countries but by the principal consuming countries.

Mr Henderson expressed unreserved satisfaction at the settlement and removal from the agenda of the question of Hungarian optants, for which he had been the unhappy *rapporteur* on the Council. Another matter for satisfaction was the receipt of a communication from the Bolivian and Paraguayan Governments announcing the final settlement of the difficulties which had arisen between them over the Chaco district, and the resumption of diplomatic relations. The President recalled the useful contribution which had been made by the Council in securing a peaceful settlement—a contribution which was officially acknowledged in the letter from the Bolivian Government.

The Council approved of the programme for collaboration between the League Health Organisation and China in the field of public health, to which the Chinese Government is devoting a special credit of a million Mexican dollars for the creation of the necessary institutions. Incidentally, among the new members of the League Health Committee is Dame Janet Campbell, of Great Britain, and the Chinese Health Minister. Another point of note is the final suppression of the Committee of Control in connection with the financial reconstruction scheme in Hungary. This marks the successful completion of one more of the League's series of reconstruction schemes.

Amongst the list of references to the Assembly is the report of the recent meeting of the Arbitration and Security Committee on its efforts to produce a draft convention for the strengthening of means to prevent war, and to complete the scheme of financial assistance in the form of limited guarantee for loans raised by the injured state in case of war or threat of war. The British Government at the last Assembly asked that an attempt should be made to transform into a general convention the model treaty which had been prepared on German initiative; this contained the principle that the contracting parties should undertake beforehand that in any dispute they would carry out provisional recommendations of the Council with the object of preventing steps prejudicial to a settlement subsequently proposed by the Council, and in the event of hostilities having already begun, to comply with Council recommendations designed to stop them. The usual insistence by the French, Poles and others, that such a convention must also carry an enlargement of sanctions, and the preference of the Italians and the Japanese for bilateral treaties, prevented the Committee from reaching a single text. There will, therefore, be a resumption of the controversy at the Assembly, and some aspects of the sanctions question will also arise, probably, in connection with amendments to the Covenant.

On the financial assistance scheme, the Arbitration Committee was more successful; a draft convention was prepared for submission to the Assembly, though certain points of importance are left to the discretion of the plenipotentiaries who establish the final text. One of the bones of contention here is that the British insist upon its entry into force being dependent upon a general convention for the reduction of armaments. Others would like to have no such condition attached.

UNITED STATES.

Congress — Building — Industry — Loan Market — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, May 13.

BUSINESS, security markets and Congress are doing little more than marking time. Sentiment is a trifle better, the present state of dullness being preferred to the acute weakness in the share market and the renewed apprehensions of deepening trade recession which it stimulated. When the Tariff Bill went into conference a few weeks ago it was hoped that the differences between the House and the Senate would be patched up and a vote taken by the end of this month at least. Just now a stalemate has developed, and hope of early action is rather slender.

So far as rates are concerned, only three main schedules, those on lumber, cement and silver, are in controversy. The principal dispute has arisen over the export bounty proposed by the farm bloc of Republicans and Democrats for farm products and the " flexible rate " provision, giving the President power to change rates without consulting Congress. The latter apparently is the chief bone of contention, and a vote on the portion of the Bill already agreed upon or on the separate items in dispute is being held up by Democratic Congressmen and Republican nonconformists. Democratic leaders threaten to hold up the Bill until midsummer, but the extreme heat of a Washington summer usually operates to bring about adjournment of Congress. Most observers feel that a way will be found out of the deadlock which will send the Bill to the President within another month at least.

Convincing evidence of business improvement continues to be scanty. Some brightening is noted in building prospects. Contracts for construction let in April in principal cities east of the Rocky Mountains, as compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, were 6 per cent. larger than in the preceding month, and were the largest for

any month since August, but the total was 9 per cent. below that of April of last year, and contracts let in the first four months were 17 per cent. lower than a year ago. Permits to build awarded last month were about 12 per cent. in excess of the March total. Actual building construction, while increasing moderately as a result of the open weather, is still rather backward, particularly in residential building, which had been overdone, and which is still finding some difficulty in obtaining mortgage money.

The steel industry maintains itself well, with the operating rate about 76 per cent. of capacity. Unfilled orders as of the end of April, reported by the United States Steel Corporation, fell 216,433 tons, but the month was marked by a heavy rate of shipments rather than by diminishing orders. Orders for steel, unaccompanied by specifications, have no great significance in these days of hand-to-mouth buying. Prices continue weak, and with production running slightly lower than in the first quarter it is highly improbable that steel mill earnings in the second quarter will come up to those of the first three months.

Motor production in April, estimated at 460,343 vehicles, was somewhat better than had been hoped for, and shows a gain of about 9 per cent. over April. Expectations of further gain for this month are encouraged. Sales conditions are improving slowly, and the motor industry's steel orders would be satisfactory were the heavier cars not doing so poorly. The great bulk of the production is by light car makers. Ford is now estimated to be making nearly one-third of the total output.

After some sales of copper were reported as low as 12¼ cents a pound the price stiffened to 13 cents. Heavy buying, both for foreign and domestic account, has made possible the firmer quotation, and tends to support the view of the industry that the trouble has been not so much in poor demand for the metal as in the high price. If the " buyers' strike " has been broken, some of the low-cost producers may increase output. Stocks of metal for April increased about 45,000 tons, although a slight drop in May is possible. Recent heavy sales are not, of course, the same thing as deliveries, but they are heartening. It is estimated that 325,000,000 pounds of copper have been sold since the first of the month, so that, eliminating this copper from stocks, the supply should be smaller at the end of the month, even though output is as large as in April.

The lull in new security offerings is not expected to be disturbed much until after the Reparations issue has been disposed of. This week's offering of the American portion of the Japanese loan was quickly taken, demand being particularly good in Chicago and other Western centres where no great response had been expected. The bankers who will handle the German loan have strong hopes of a successful operation, but nevertheless everything is being done to promote quick disposal of the bonds.

Meanwhile the Treasury will enter the market shortly. A bill issue of $56,000,000 matures next week, and it will be replaced by a fresh issue of non-interest-bearing Treasury bills of $100,000,000. Additional borrowing has been made necessary by renewed drafts on Treasury cash by the Farm Board, which is reported to have taken up large quantities of wheat on deliveries of May contracts. These " futures " were bought for the part of the Farm Board in an effort to arrest falling prices. It should be noted that the major portion of the May bills falling due were devoted to Farm Board needs. Increasing concern is being felt in high circles lest Farm Board wheat buying operations will eventually present a considerable financing problem for the Treasury, and even affect the income-tax rate. It is thought that the coming bill tender will attract bids of around 2¾ per cent.

Treasury officials have discussed the question of taking steps on the June 15th tax date toward refunding the remainder of the Liberty Loan issues. First 3½'s are outstanding in the amount of $1,989,000,000, due in 1932, and Fourth 4¼'s, due 1933, are out in the amount of $6,964,000,000. A little over half a billion of convertible 4 and 4¼ per cents. are also outstanding, besides about $2,000,000,000 in short terms. It is not believed, however, that anything will be done in June. The First Libertys cannot be called before 1932, and while the money market is favourable to a refunding operation, doubtless the first step will be to refund some of the short-term indebtedness.

No great change in Federal Reserve system accounts is looked for this week. The system is doing nothing actively one way or the other, after last week's cut in the bill buying rate to the level of dealers' asking rates, action which is calculated to expand Reserve Bank holdings. A decrease of approximately $100,000,000 in bankers' acceptances during April probably will be shown by the Acceptance Council report, to be issued shortly. Growing scarcity of bills, due partly to seasonal influences and partly to slack trade and weakening money rates generally, is responsible for the falling bill rates. Ninety-day asking rate is now 2½ per cent., which would suggest a further lowering of the New York discount rate. Nothing is anticipated in the immediate future at least, although a further cut in the open market bill rate is believed to be near.

FRANCE.

Reparations Loan — Bank for International Settlements — Capital Issue Market — Capital Equipment Scheme.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, May 21.

THE conditions for the issue of the first part of the International Reparations Loan are proving a much harder nut to crack than the optimists who, a few weeks ago, were predicting the issue " before the end of May," allowed themselves to suspect. It is now evident that, whatever the bankers and other financial experts may think, the political factor in the situation will have to be given its due importance before there can be any question of the proportional distribution of the issue being definitely fixed. From the French point of view, the vital factor in the mobilisation of the German reparation debt is that it shall be really internationally commercialised. " We must always bear in mind," writes M. Gignoux this morning, " that now the Rhineland guarantee has disappeared, one sole guarantee alone remains to us—the internationalisation of the German debt. The scrip representing the German debt must be distributed in such a manner that, in the event of a German default, the Reich will find itself faced—not, as in the past, merely by the French creditor alone, but by creditors in a large number of countries. The failure of the debtor to keep his engagements must mean the ruin of his credit in *all* the important financial centres. Short of that, the operation will lose all its primary essential meaning, as defined in the Young Plan." This exactly expresses the attitude French opinion has taken in regard to the mobilisation of the debt, since the time when it was taking practical shape during the preliminary discussions that resulted in the drafting of the Young Plan. The financial aspects of the mobilisation scheme have always been and still are of a distinctly secondary importance. The suggestion made in some of the foreign centres to the effect that the French are anxious to limit their share of the issue to as little as possible is untenable. Estimates in reliable quarters here forecast over a week ago that, according to then existing indications, the anticipated French share of $80,000,000 of the loan might be already regarded as likely to be subscribed at least three times over, and nothing has occurred since to justify any reduction of this prognostication.

Tuesday's issue of the French share of £1,600,000 in the capital of the Bank for International Settlements was one of the most remarkable on record. The conditions of the issue called for the deposit, on application, of 25 per cent. of the nominal value of each £100 bond (or, to speak exactly, 3,078.10 francs per unit), which would be equivalent, for the whole offer, to £400,000, the balance of 75 per cent. remaining an " uncalled liability " on the

shares. It was officially announced by the Bank of France last night that the issue had been applied for 158 times over; in other words, 16,000 bonds were offered and 2,541,717 were applied for. The application money sent in totalled 7,823,659,000 francs, or over £63,000,000. The Bank of France issued a statement this morning to the effect that subscribers who have accounts with it have been, or will be, credited with 90 per cent. of their subscription money, as from this morning. As will be seen, only about one-fifth of this mass of application money could have been derived from the £12,000,000 of gold which has been moved from London and added to the Bank of France reserve since the beginning of the month. To what greater extent the gold balances of the French banks in London were drawn upon for the funds required here it is impossible to say. Nor can any clear idea be obtained as to the reason for this extraordinary rush for the B.I.S. loan, unless it be the firm faith of the French banker-capitalist that the new institution will really make sufficient profits to return a full 12 per cent. per annum to the holders of its scrip. The bonds are being dealt in here to-day, on the outside market, at a premium of 2,700 francs (as against a pre-issue premium of 4,000 francs). The only previous issue to be anything like as overwhelmingly subscribed, if memory serves correctly, was the great Ouest Etat railway issue, shortly before the war, when the application money lodged by the general public (equivalent to 10 francs per bond) totalled eleven times the amount of the entire issue.

Meanwhile, the tentative efforts that are being made by a large number of countries to float loans in the Paris market are proving increasingly difficult owing to the questionable practice which has been adopted since the war by many foreign borrowers, who have taken advantage of the depreciation of the franc to pay in paper, instead of gold, interest and redemption due to French holders. Definite judgments to pay in gold have been given by the Hague International Court against Brazil and Serbia, but these have so far been ignored by some twenty other foreign debtor States, municipalities and companies. An outstanding case is that of the city of Tokio. Judgment was obtained against this debtor in one of the provincial French courts some time ago. In a subsequent action, brought in Paris, the Court decided in favour of the borrowers. The matter is now before the Court of Cassation, whose decision is understood to be imminent. A few days ago the Finance Minister, M. Paul Reynaud, in reply to a question, stated that the issue in the Paris market of a portion of the Japanese loan, which is now being offered in New York and in various European centres, would depend on the manner in which the city of Tokio thought fit to treat the claims of French holders of its scrip.

The first business to be taken in hand when the Chambers reassemble at the beginning of June will be the translation into law of the great scheme for development by means of public works which, it is claimed, is the last remaining portion of the programme submitted by the Tardieu Cabinet when it took office. The Comité de l'Outillage National met yesterday, under the presidency of M. Tardieu (who was accompanied by the eight Ministers whose departments are interested), to consider the exact distribution of the 5,000,000,000 francs (over £40,000,000), which is to be devoted to the scheme, at the rate of 1,000,000,000 francs per annum, as from the next financial year. According to the original draft, the money is to be distributed approximately as follows:—1,750,000,000 francs to agriculture, for rural electrification, afforestation, agricultural research, opening up of isolated districts and improvement of rural telephone and wireless communications; 1,450,000,000 francs for public health and educational requirements, covering tuberculosis prevention, hospital construction, and subsidies to schools, laboratories and workshops for technical education; 1,797,000,000 francs for commercial and industrial purposes, including roads, internal waterways, ports and lighthouses, sea fisheries, mutual shipping credit, hydraulic and electric power.

Imports of merchandise in April were 4,565,770,00 francs, against 4,431,115,000 francs in March, and 5,138,426,000 francs in April, 1929. Exports were 3,887,769,000 francs, compared with 3,958,428,000 francs in March, 1930, and 4,427,906,000 francs in April, 1929.

GERMANY.

Discount Rate — Stock Market — Agrarian Programme — Unemployment Insurance — Proposed Mortgage Extension.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, May 20.

THE Reichsbank reduced its discount rate on Monday, May 19th, from 5 to 4½ per cent. Since May 1st, when the rate was lowered in New York, London and Paris, this step had been expected from the Reichsbank, as it had long been called for by the situation of the German money market and the cover of the note circulation, but the Reichsbank hesitated to make the reduction, and did not make its decision until the Young Plan went into effect and the placing of the international Reparations loan was thus assured. A lowering of the German discount rate might result in driving short-term foreign credits out of Germany. Such a development would only be welcome to German industry if a corresponding influx of foreign long-term money were assured in their place. The issue of the Young Loan brings this about, and so removes the most important reason for not reducing the discount rate. The other reasons, which have been set forth in recent numbers of the *Economist*, have had to give way before the Reichsbank's desire to help German industry and trade by lowering the rate. A reduction by 1 per cent. to 4 per cent. was even considered, as appears from the Reichsbank's official statement, but this action was temporarily postponed. The position of the Reichsbank, as the subjoined table shows, would have justified this:—

(In million marks.)

	1928. May 15,	1929.	1930.
Total loans, discounts and advances	2,046	2,890	1,654
Gold and exchange	2,252	1,820	2,876
Note circulation	3,987	4,167	4,196
Reserve against notes (per cent.)	56·5	43·7	68·5

The German private banks have been placed in a difficult position by the reduction of the discount rate. They were obliged, according to the usual custom in Germany, to reduce the rate of interest paid on time deposits. This reduction has now been made, from an average of 8 per cent. to 7½ per cent. But a simultaneous corresponding reduction of the interest on all interest-bearing accounts could not be carried out; only a part of these are reduced from 2½ per cent. to 2 per cent., but for other deposits 3 per cent. and even in part 5 per cent. is being paid, since the competition of the municipal savings banks makes it impossible for the private banks to set a lower figure. These savings banks are still able to pay 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. on deposits, since even at this figure they can invest their funds profitably as a result of the high money requirements of the German cities.

As a result of the reduction of the discount rate, the stock market has received a sharp stimulus, and the movement this time extended not only to bonds but also to shares. With the exception of iron and coal stocks, which suffered from unfavourable reports of sales, all shares rose. The greatest increase was recorded in potash; the shares of the Salzdetfurth and associated companies occupied the centre of the stage and advanced considerably.

The Government of the Reich has finally reached an agreement with the Prussian Government as to the form which assistance to the agriculturists in the eastern part of Germany shall take. This is an important political success for Herr Bruening. The Prussian Government is dominated by the Socialists, who form the Opposition in the Reich. This Opposition, if indeed it be not compelled to abstain from any criticism at all, cannot in any event indulge in sharp criticism of measures that are approved and supported by Prussia, and the Chancellor may undoubtedly be glad of the support he has won from the Prussian Government and its Socialist Premier Braun against the exaggerated demands of the farmers; he will at all times be in a position to point to the fact that he must give heed to Prussia's demand for a strict selection of the farmers to be helped, since Prussia would otherwise not grant her support, which is of great advantage financially for the agriculturists. In addition to the round 500 million marks credits for which the Reich assumes the guarantee, Prussia guarantees a further 250 millions. On top of this, the Reich will in the course of five years give outright another 500 millions.

The practical misgivings concerning the character of the aid to be given are, however, scarcely reduced by the co-operation of Prussia. The Prussian Government, which is not politically dependent on the agricultural associations, will undoubtedly strive for a more economical employment of the funds appropriated and will probably achieve this, but it remains doubtful whether it will not prove impossible to secure the return of the greater part of these credits, with the result that the Reich and the State of Prussia will have to make good their guarantee. Prussia, which has recently succeeded in balancing its budget only by a socially most undesirable burdening of all payers of house rentals, can secure additional means no more easily than can the Reich.

That the Agrarian policy of the Bruening Government gives rise to very grave misgivings is demonstrated by a new memorandum of the National Association of German Industry. This association, on the basis of a report by four prominent agrarian economic experts, declares that self-help is more important for the agriculturists than help from the State. This self-help, it asserts, which must, however, be furthered by aid from the State, is to be found above all in an improvement of the quality of farm products and in a better sales organisation. In no event should protective tariffs for farm products go so far that the conclusion of commercial treaties is rendered impossible and German export thereby endangered.

The action of the heads of the unemployment insurance department in proposing a substantial limitation of benefit came as a decided surprise. The total contributions amount to roundly a thousand million marks, the Reich Government's plans call for a further 230 millions from the Reich for the current year, and now, although a deficit of at least 330 millions remains to be met, 115 millions are to be secured by a reduction of the amount of benefit granted and a further 140 millions by increasing contributions by ½ per cent. of wages, making the total contribution 4 per cent. The Reich is to meet the remainder through credits. The deficit of 330 millions is based on an estimate of an average number of 1,500,000 unemployed for the year. The reduction of payments proposed is rather drastic. The amount of benefit, which is fixed in proportion to wages, is to be reduced in the higher wage classes to contributors who apply for benefit more than once within a year. In addition to this, juvenile workers under 17, and workers above 65, who are eligible for old-age pensions —small though these are—are to receive no benefit. The Minister of Labour has indicated that he will approve an increase in the contributions, but no decision has yet been reached concerning the economies.

On January 1, 1932, according to the present state of the law, those mortgages become due that were assumed before or during the war, were later on rendered worthless by the inflation, and in 1924 established at 25 per cent. of their face value through the valorisation legislation. The total amount of such mortgages is about five thousand million marks. If they should actually have to be repaid on January 1, 1932, a continuance of stringency in the capital market would result in great hardship, and many debtors, unable to secure the required funds, would be compelled to see their property sold by auction. Hence the Government of the Reich has drafted a Bill to make the transition easier. Mortgages are to become due only if the mortgagor expressly demands payment. The mortgagee can protest against the demand before a special arbitration body, and a maximum term of three years more will be granted him provided he can prove that he cannot secure a sufficient loan on mortgage, at an interest rate fixed by the Government, to enable him to pay off the mortgage then due. This interest rate for such mortgages after 1932 is to be set at a figure that will make it possible to negotiate the mortgages at their face value. This was not the case at the former rate of 5 per cent., which was in effect under the valorisation laws. It is believed that under the new regulation first mortgages given to banks will for the most part be permitted to run further, and that the arbitrators will in the main have to deal only with second mortgages.

IRISH FREE STATE.

Budget — Debt Redemption — New Loan — Agricultural Marketing Inquiry.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, May 17.

THE Free State Budget was a very humdrum affair in comparison with Mr Snowden's surprise packet. The only changes in taxation are the reduction of duties on light and sparkling wines and the imposition of an annual licence fee on motor hawkers. None of the principal taxes, direct or indirect, is altered, and it is estimated that the existing taxes will yield a small surplus this year. Mr Blythe, in his Budget speech, indicated that in his opinion both revenue and expenditure have reached a stable level about which they will remain for some years. No expansion of revenue is to be looked for, but, on the other hand, all increases in expenditure will be sturdily resisted. The extension to the Free State of social services on the British scale is definitely ruled out as beyond the means of the country.

The recent increase in the rates of direct taxation in Great Britain has brought into prominence the possibility of attracting rich people to transfer their residence to the Free State, where the income tax is only three shillings in the pound and both super-tax and death duties are lower than in England. Mr Blythe stated that a certain number of people had come to live in the Free State as the result of the shilling difference in income tax, and that more might be expected to do so now that the difference has been increased. Many rich English people, not tied to reside in any particular locality, might find it well worth their while to transfer their homes to Ireland, which possesses an advantage over foreign countries in this respect because of the arrangements regarding double taxation relief. Such people could retain their British investments and yet pay income tax at the three-shilling rate. On the subject of income tax in general Mr Blythe had much to say that would scarcely find favour with Mr Snowden. He asserted, for example, that a high income tax acts as a direct burden on industrial enterprise, by preventing the accumulation of capital, and emphatically refused to accede to the demands of his opponents among the Labour Party that direct taxation should be increased.

In view of the imminence of the flotation of a fresh public loan, it is not surprising that the position of the country as regards debt received a good deal of attention in the Budget speech. The gross amount of the public debt on March 31st amounted to £25,218,000, against which the Government possessed assets valued at £11,215,000, leaving the net debt at £14,003,000. The total debt represents about 60 per cent. of one year's normal revenue, and amounts to less than £5 per head of the population. There are also certain annual payments due to Great Britain under the Treaty, the capitalised value of which may be estimated at about £6,000,000. No country in the world, it was stated, makes more ample provision for sinking fund, and the debt might be expected to disappear in fifteen years. Further borrowing, it was promised, would not be resorted to except for reproductive works. The position of the Free State as a debtor—therefore as a potential borrower—was shown to be exceptionally sound.

Within a fortnight of the presentation of this rosy picture a further loan of £6,000,000 was floated on what appeared at first sight somewhat unfavourable terms to lenders. The price of this loan was 93½, and the rate of interest 4½ per cent., so that the net yield (not allowing for redemption, 1950-70) is £4 16s. 3d. per cent. It is provided that twice yearly a sum amounting to 2⅝ per cent. of the nominal amount of the loan is to be set aside for interest and sinking fund. This loan will be accepted at par value for the payment of death duties. The money raised is needed for funding floating debt, which was incurred mainly in connection with the Shannon works. The issue has been very well received, and there is no doubt that the full amount will be subscribed before the list closes at the end of the week. That such a substantial sum could be obtained so easily and so cheaply from the Irish investor is a notable tribute to the confidence felt in the present Government by the propertied classes.

A tribunal has been set up by the Ministry for Agriculture to inquire into:—" (1) The marketing of butter produced in the Free State during the five years ending December 31, 1929, with special reference to the effect of combined marketing on the demand for and prices of butter produced in co-operative creameries, and (2) the method of marketing butter in future which would conduce most effectively to increase the demand for butter produced in the Free State, and the price obtainable for such butter relative to the prices obtainable for other butters, without adding unduly to the cost of marketing." The real subject of inquiry will turn out to be the working of the Irish Associated Creameries, established in 1928. This body handled the butter produced last year by 80 per cent. of the creameries in the Free State. Its activities have been the subject of a certain amount of criticism, while, on the other hand, the failure of a minority of the creameries to deal with it has also been the subject of some hostile comment. The whole subject is ripe for inquiry, as nothing is of such importance to the country at the present time as the adoption of the very best methods of marketing agricultural produce.

INDIA.

Budget — Trade Returns — Prices.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY (by air mail), May 10.

THE political situation is not unsatisfactory. Government have followed a policy of patience towards Mr Gandhi and his followers, but in the interest of law and order it has been found necessary to restrict Mr Gandhi's activities. He was imprisoned on May 5th as his campaign to overthrow the Government has, as the happenings in Chittagong, Peshawar, Sholapur, and elsewhere have proved, not been on non-violent principles. The breaking of the salt law has turned out to be, as every right thinking man anticipated, a failure. The picketing of liquor shops has not been peaceful. The one part of Mr Gandhi's programme which gives rise to uneasiness in business circles is the boycott of foreign cloth. Mr Patel, until recently the President of the Legislative Assembly, has been in Bombay and has been speaking in favour of a constant boycott of foreign cloth, a view strongly supported (perhaps not always openly) by the Indian millowner. The picketing of cloth shops is harassing to the owners. The millowner must needs keep on good terms with him. As President of the Ahmedabad Labour Union he has kept labour from striking, and has thus put scores of rupees into the owners' pockets. Mr Gandhi holds in a religiously minded country like this a position of unusual distinction. His position is illustrated in the ancient Sanskrit verse: " Do not tell me of holy waters or stone images; they may cleanse us, if they do, after a long period. A saintly man purifies us, at sight."

Moderate Hindu opinion (and most business men belong to this category), and Mohammedans, as well as the depressed classes, are utterly opposed to the extremism of Mr Gandhi and his campaign of civil disobedience. When the Simon Report is published, it is expected that these elements will become more vocal in favour of the Government, and on the advantages of peace and prosperity enjoyed under the British Raj. We do not doubt that the firm and sympathetic policy now being followed will lead to good results at the Round Table Conference.

The second budget of Sir George Schuster, which has recently passed the Central Legislature, is a piece of constructive statesmanship, and the considerable improvement in Indian credit in the last two months is undoubtedly due largely to this balanced budget. Indeed, it is a budget that is more than balanced, because it anticipates the demands that will be made on it by provincial governments for their nation-building services as a result of the forthcoming Report of the Simon Commission. Even after a strict attention to expenditure, it was found necessary to raise new taxation in the form of higher import duties on cotton goods, sugar, and the import duty on silver. In the Assembly agricultural interests opposed the raising of the cotton duties from 11 to 15 per cent. with a special protective duty of 5 per cent. on non-British goods. The special duty of 5 per cent. gave rise, not unnaturally, to a hue and cry because it was alleged to introduce Imperial preference which in India is unpopular because she is an exporter of raw materials and unlikely to gain from any such scheme of preferential tariffs.

The tax on silver is justified because the precious metals are imported not for currency purposes but for making ornaments, and with silver at such a low level the silver import duty will not hit hard the poorer classes. It will, indeed, raise the value of the ornaments in which their savings are to a considerable extent invested. There is, too, the new factor that the Government, being possessors of surplus stocks of silver and having a new refinery of silver in Bombay, are themselves " producers " of silver. Sir George Schuster has stated that, " if the other interests concerned show any desire to consider the possibility of joint action for the regulating of sales in order to meet the present situation, the Government of India would willingly co-operate." The protective duties on cotton goods, an unmixed blessing to Bombay's premier industry, will yield 125 lakhs of rupees, the sugar duty 180 lakhs of rupees, and the silver duty 100 lakhs of rupees (1 lakh of rupees=£7,500). The Budget provides for a real surplus from regular sources of revenue. All additional expenditure on normal increments and new services is balanced by economies, mainly on military expenditure; weak spots in the system of debt redemption as, for example, in regard to the cash certificate liability, have been removed, and the new revenue to be raised is so designed as to reduce restrictions on economic action and to lighten the burden of the poorer classes. The Finance Minister concluded his Budget by stating that " whatever political clouds may be hanging over us, or whatever political changes may be in store, it will ever be the determination of the Government of India to keep Indian finance firmly secured on an unshakable foundation."

The seaborne trade returns for the twelve months ended March are published and afford interesting reading. Exports of Indian merchandise are 310,80 lakhs rupees, as against 330,13 lakhs rupees in the preceding year. Imports of merchandise are 240,76 lakhs rupees, as against 253,31 lakhs rupees last year. The malady of a falling price level has affected India as other countries. The net imports of gold on private account are 1422 lakhs rupees, and of silver 1180 lakhs rupees, as against 2120 lakhs rupees and 1304 lakhs rupees respectively last year. The remittance of funds through purchases of sterling and other Government remittances to the United Kingdom during 1929-30 show a considerable fall—2039 lakhs rupees, as against 4102 lakhs rupees in the preceding year. Financially the year has been difficult for the Government owing to the exceptionally adverse circumstances in London, Paris, and New York last autumn, and the Government has still to face a falling price level. Their reserves are strong, and can be used when necessary. " It looks," says Sir George Schuster, " as if prices are now so low that the world will soon begin to take more interest in the products of India and be prepared to enter into commitments for the future. There is reason to hope, therefore, that a recovery from the present economic depression will not be long delayed! "

The index number of wholesale prices is now 137 (July, 1914=100). A year ago it was 149. There has been a slump in raw cotton, which is 14 per cent. above the pre-war price, while a year ago it was 42 per cent. higher. There has been a general fall in food grains, sugar, and cotton manufacturers. The cost-of-living index for the working classes in Bombay city has fallen five points since the beginning of the year. In March it was 42 per cent. above the pre-war level, the average for 1929 was 49 per cent. The high-water mark was reached in October, 1920, when it was 93 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

The fall in the discount rate of the Imperial Bank of India of from 7 to 6 per cent. on April 3rd has been beneficial to trade. There has been a rise in mill shares, and these shares have recovered considerably from the low levels reached some time ago. The Stock Exchange was closed for three days this week owing to the arrest of Mr Gandhi. When it opened there was an improvement in the price of 3½ per cent. Government paper, as there was less political tension. Sir Purshottandas Thahordas and other leading Indian merchants have protested strongly against the habit of closing down business on political grounds for a period of days, since it has a bad effect on commerce and industry, and is viewed with very great suspicion.

Letters to the Editor.

TARIFFS: AN AMERICAN VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Your readers may be interested in the views of an American business man, occasionally visiting England, on the subject of protection and free trade.

There are 43,000,000 people in your little Island, dependent largely on foreign food and raw material, for which you can only pay by the export of British labour in the shape of manufactured goods. The lower price of nearly all world commodities is, of course, seriously curtailing the purchasing power of your customers abroad, but I do not see how you would be helped by a tariff on manufactured goods. Such a tariff is simply a confession of weakness, and if I were an Englishman, I would almost view with pleasure the proposed increased tariff on food entering the United States and Germany, as it means a continuance of cheap food for Great Britain, and cheap food, after all, is the basis for good and cheap labour.

After the war your wages were rapidly increased to offset the depression in the value of the pound sterling, but now that sterling is back to par and wholesale prices in Great Britain only about 20 per cent. higher than pre-war level, there has as yet been no marked reduction in wages. I know it is unpopular to talk about lower wages, but it is necessary to face economic facts as they are, and you are now competing with cheaper Continental wages and with the lower scale of living in the Orient.

During the year ending June 30, 1914, the total export of cotton from the United States was 9,146,114 bales, of which the United Kingdom took 3,437,000 bales, practically 38 per cent., and Japan took 336,890 bales. For the calendar year 1929 the United States exported 7,580,383 bales, of which the United Kingdom took 1,533,929 bales, or about 20 per cent., while Japan increased her purchases to 1,100,837 bales. In the meantime the manufacturers of English mill machinery have been selling up-to-date machines to Japan, and, no doubt, furnishing skilled foremen to instruct Japanese labour how to work them, with the result that with their cheaper labour Japan is underselling Lancashire in China and India, and the sooner labour wakes up to this fact and consents to reduce wages, where necessary, the better it will be for British trade as a whole.

During the past year we have had some interesting lessons in the United States as to the way in which tariffs are made. The Senator from Oklahoma, an oil-producing State, wants a duty on oil for the benefit of his immediate constituents, and proposes to the Senator from Louisiana, who wants an increased duty on sugar, and the Senator from Massachusetts, who wants an increased duty on cotton cloth, that if they will vote for a duty on oil, he, in his turn, will vote for an increased duty on sugar and cloth. These bargainings are still going on, but, unfortunately, no one thinks of the ultimate consumer, who pays the tax.

Business, after all, is nothing but an exchange of goods or services. Why put artificial barriers in the way?—Yours truly,

The Cudahy Packing Company, GEORGE MARPLES.
111 West Monroe Street,
Chicago.
April 16, 1930.

A PROTECTIONIST FALLACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Mr Frank Morris, in your issue of the 17th, like most Free Traders, seeks to confuse the mind of the public by simultaneously putting forward two arguments, namely the price argument and the balance of trade argument, and therefore let me ask him to apply the scientific method which, if he had ever worked in a laboratory, he would know consists of retaining all other factors and circumstances and varying only the one in order to see what happens. According to the Free Trade exposition of the balance of trade, it is a matter of indifference, from the point of view of employment in this country, whether, when I go into a shop, I buy a pair of boots of American manufacture at 20s., or a pair of boots of British manufacture at 20s. The Free Trade explanation is that if I buy American boots at £1 then £1 has to go abroad to pay for them, and of necessity in the long run this £1 will not go in gold but in goods, and therefore the import of the American boots must create an equal export of some other British commodity.

If, however, instead of buying the American boot I buy the British boot, that also has to be paid for, and clearly there must be a movement of commodities from the part of the country in which the boot is bought to the part of the country in which it is made, in order to pay for the pair of boots; in other words, if the boots are bought in London and made in Northampton, then in the long run there must be an export direct or indirect from London to Northampton to pay for them.

When I buy the American pair of boots one act of production takes place in the United Kingdom and the other act of production takes place in the United States. When I buy the British pair of boots both acts of production take place in the United Kingdom.

So far as the price argument is concerned, it is the practice of the Free Trader to allege that an import duty leads to a general rise in prices of all the goods of a similar kind to those taxed, whether produced in this country or imported. This served well enough as an argument when we were without practical experience to test it, but under the various Safeguarding duties there is now such an accumulated mass of experience to the contrary that no intelligent student of the problem can any longer accept this Free Trade dictum. The explanation is familiar to those who are acquainted with factory conditions, namely that with a larger production overheads are spread over a larger production and as a consequence the costs of production are reduced.

Adjoining the Constitutional Club there is a chemist's shop where Mr Morris, after reading my letter, can go and buy some aspirin. If he had visited that shop in pre-war days he would only have been able to buy German aspirin and the price would have been at least 10d. for 25 5-grain tablets, but some shops charged as much as 1s. 3d. for this same article. As a result of the Safeguarding of the aspirin industry by Mr Lloyd George in Part I of the Safeguarding of Industries Act of 1921, it is now firmly established in the United Kingdom, and if Mr Morris suffers from any form of headache as the result of reading this letter he can relieve it with a British product, the price of which may vary anything from 4½d. to 8d. per 25 tablets, and taking the higher price of 8d., equivalent in pre-war purchasing power to 5d., he will then be able to contrast that with the pre-war price of 10d.; in other words, Mr Lloyd George, by Safeguarding, has at least halved the real price of aspirin.—Yours, truly,

351, Abbey House, HERBERT G. WILLIAMS.
Victoria Street, S.W.1.
May 20, 1930.

Books and Publications.

TARIFF WALLS.

EVERYONE who has followed at all closely the discussions of recent years in regard to the tariffs of Europe is aware of the interest which has been stimulated in this question by Sir Clive Morrison-Bell's now famous map of European tariff walls. The ingenious device of constructing a map in which the frontier of each country is represented by miniature walls proportionate to the height of its tariffs illustrates in a remarkably vivid form the large number of obstacles to trade which exist in this comparatively small area of the globe, and brings home far more forcibly than tables or statistics the meaning of protection. The display in this material form of the situation in Europe to numerous parliaments, chambers of commerce, international conferences and other gatherings of those who largely create opinion in these matters has been a contribution of real value in stimulating interest in one of the great problems of the day. Sir Clive is to be congratulated on his persistence and untiring patience in this good work.

The adventures of the producer of this map during the course of what he aptly calls " A European Crusade " are described in a book* which, while making no attempt to debate the fundamental issue of the tariff problem, throws a very interesting light on the psychological background. Sir Clive inevitably became involved in controversy with the people of various countries as to the method of calculating the height of their various tariffs, but he was fortunate in having behind him the work done on this question by the Secretariat of the League of Nations in preparation for the World Economic Conference. He keeps in the background his own views upon tariffs, and his only answer to those who ask " What do you propose to do about it? " was that, at all events, the first step should be a tariff holiday. Indeed, he circulated a leaflet making this suggestion at the Geneva Conference, and in commenting on his effort observes:—" Though I cannot find that any notice whatever was taken of this idea, it is possible that some seed was unknowingly sown there, destined to flower later on." Sir Clive, as a Conservative member of Parliament, has often had to answer the comment of those who asked why he bothered about Europe when the really important thing to work on was an increase of Imperial trade. To this he replies in his introduction that for the last three years he has regarded himself as " seconded " from the Imperial movement for service elsewhere, and that when so many are working for this great end, " surely the activities of one private individual will not be missed if he leaves the ranks of this great army temporarily and turns to the problem of the European markets, where there is so much to hold and so much more to win." This last sentence might well be pondered by some of the more extreme of our Empire crusaders. The account of these adventures will be found of much interest at a moment when M. Briand has called attention once more to the political and economic relations of the countries of Europe in his memorandum on the project for a United States of Europe.

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS.†

YEAR-BOOKS and statistical abstracts grow increasingly more numerous, but there are still very few which reach the level of the *Statistisches Jahrbuch des deutschen Reichs*, for it combines an exceptionally full collection of German official statistics with an international comparative section.

In the main part of the book, which relates to Germany, very skilful selection has been made from the abundant material provided by the Census and other official Federal and State figures, and the well-arranged tables which result make it possible to answer almost any statistical question, from the number of oak trees in Mecklenburg-Strelitz to the average rate of exchange on Siam during March, 1929. As is inevitable in any comprehensive collection of official statistics, the data in many cases do not go beyond 1927, but always the latest available are given, and figures for a few years back (in one case as far back as 1493) are shown for comparison.

Not the least valuable part of the book is the international survey, in which comparative tables of the more important statistics are given for a very large number of countries. The tables throughout are conveniently arranged and indexed, and as a work of reference the volume is in many ways exemplary.

* "Tariff Walls." By Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, Bart, M.P. (London) John Murray, Albemarle Street, 7s. 6d. net.

† "Statistisches Jahrbuch des deutschen Reichs." (Berlin) Verlag von Reimar. Hobbing.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Hours of Work in Coal Mines. (London) International Labour Office, 12, Victoria Street.

Report of the discussion of this item on the agenda of the Fourteenth International Labour Conference.

Europa und die Weltwirtschaft. Das Widersinn der Reparationen und die Internationale Bank. By Prof. Attilio Cabiati. (Berlin) Verlag Robert Klett and Company.

A German translation of a little Italian book which examines, for the benefit of the general reader, the effects of the international movements of capital involved in the payment of reparations.

Die Reichsschuldenverwaltung und ihre Aufgaben. By Dr. S. Schultzerstein. (Berlin) Wilhelm Christians Verlag, Unterwasserstr. 8. 4.4 Rm.

This first of a projected series of German financial studies discusses the public debt of the Reich and the problems which arise in connection with it.

La Guerra e le Classi Rurali Italiane. By Arrigo Serpieri. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 21s. net.

This addition to the Carnegie Endowment series constitutes a very comprehensive study of the rural population of Italy and the effects upon it of the war. The text is in Italian.

International Labour Review, May, 1930. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street. 2s. 6d.

Includes articles on " Industrial Relations in the London Traffic Combine, II.," and " The Campaign Against Unemployment in Italy."

Empire Review, May, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 2s.

Interesting contributions to this number are: " The Palestine Report," by Major E. W. Polson-Newman, and " Vocational Psychology," by Eric Farmer.

The Rubber and Tea Quarterly, May 15, 1930. Issued by Wm. Jas. and Hy. Thompson. (London) London General Press, 8, Bouverie Street. 1s.

This number includes a special article on " Regulating Tea Production."

The Ceylon Economic Journal, March, 1930. (Colombo) Ceylon Economic Society, Ceylon University College.

Includes an article on the incidence of taxation in Ceylon, by Sir Marcus Fernando.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in the Dominion of New Zealand to October, 1929. 2s. 6d. net.

Report of a Committee Representative of the Local Education Authorities in England and Wales Recommending a Procedure for the Award of Maintenance Allowances in respect of Children between the Ages of 14 and 15 years. Cmd. 3570. 3d. net.

Report of the Committee on Agricultural Co-operation in Scotland. Cmd. 3567. 9d. net.

ROUTLEDGE :: KEGAN PAUL

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ECONOMIC THEORY

Compiled by HAROLD E. BATSON, B.Sc. (Econ.), with an Introduction by Professor LIONEL ROBBINS. 7s. 6d. net.

Part One is a Subject Bibliography, and includes scope of Economic Science, Systematic Treatises, Production, Value and Distribution, Fluctuation, Public Finance, etc. Part Two is an Author Bibliography, English, French and German.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OVERSEAS EMPIRE

Volume Two. By the late Professor L. C. A. KNOWLES and C. M. KNOWLES. 640 pages. 12s. 6d. net.

"Economic historians will welcome this completion of the late Dr. Knowles's invaluable work on the Empire. Part One is devoted to a comparative examination of Dominion problems and Part Two to Canada. Like the preceding volume, this work fills a serious lacuna in economic literature."—*Economist.*

ECONOMIC LIFE OF ANCIENT WORLD

By J. TOUTAIN. 6 maps. 16s. net.

"A lucid and attractive volume, mainly concerned with Greece and Rome. But he sketches the beginning of trade in primitive society, the history of Carthage, and the dawn of commerce in prehistoric Italy. Those who imagine capital a modern phenomenon may be commended to the chapter on Capitalism in Republican Rome."—*Spectator.*

GABRIEL BONNOT DE MABLY

By ERNEST A. WHITFIELD. 12s. 6d. net.

An account of a much-neglected French moralist and political philosopher, with a critical analysis of his theories. De Mably is typical of moderate revolutionary opinion, and should take a place beside Montesquieu and Rousseau.

THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF CHINA

By MING-JU CHENG. 7s. 6d. net.

This is an important, and in many ways a unique, study of transport and other communications in China, and their effect on the economic development of the country.

LONDON LIFE IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

By M. DOROTHY GEORGE. 464 pages. 7s. 6d. net.

"A popular edition at an amazingly low price of this invaluable contribution to the economic and social history of London. One of the best pieces of research which has appeared for many years."—*Nation.*

Studies in Social and Economic History

Edited by R. H. TAWNEY and EILEEN POWER

WOMEN WORKERS AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

By IVY PINCHBECK, Lecturer in Modern History, Bedford College, University of London. 15s. net.

"A careful study, full of information, well arranged. All students will be grateful for the new light she throws on the subject. The best part of the book is concerned with agricultural village life."—*Times Literary Supplement.*

ANGLO-IRISH TRADE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

By A. K. LONGFIELD, LL.B., M.A. 12s. 6d. net.

"A very interesting account of Irish trade with England."—*Sunday Times.*

HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH CORN-LAWS

By DONALD GROVE BARNES, Professor in the University of Oregon. 15s. net.

"A useful piece of economic investigation which will not soon be superseded."—*Manchester Guardian.*

Broadway House, Carter Lane, London, E.C.

The Stock Exchange.

STOCK EXCHANGE PROSPECTS.

GREAT events cast their shadows behind as well as before, and though a full six months have passed since Wall Street touched bottom in last year's slump, the secondary effects of that turbulent episode are still influencing business on every Stock Exchange in the world. A study of the factors involved in the break of 1929 is, in effect, a study of prospects for the summer of 1930, and though the last few weeks have scarcely produced much food for optimism they have clarified the outlook to a significant extent. It is now possible to give an approximate answer to the "key" question, so far as the immediate future is concerned: Was last year's catastrophe merely a "market" affair, due to vicious technical conditions, which, having received drastic correction, have left no obstacle in the way of recovery, or was it one aspect of a far-reaching recession in world economic activity? At the time of the slump, and after, the former hypothesis was popular in official and other circles in America; to-day, the weight of informed opinion, here and elsewhere, is coming more and more unanimously to the latter view.

In both America and Great Britain the rise of values which preceded last year's slump was centred chiefly on industrial "equity" shares. The following table, based upon two well-known indices, shows the course of prices during the past year and a half:—

BOOM AND SLUMP.

Centre.	Nature of Index.	Boom.		Slump.		*Drop from High to Low (% of Peak Level).*
		Highest Point Touched.	Date of "Peak" Point.	Lowest Point Touched.	Date of Lowest Point.	
New York	Standard Statistics, 402 stocks. (weekly) 1926 = 100.	228·1	Mid-Sept., 1929.	140·3	2nd week, Nov., 1929.	*38·5%*
London ...	*Investors' Chronicle*, "All Business" (End-month) 1926 = 100.	127·0*	End Jan., 1929.*	95·7	End Feb., 1930.	*24·7%‡*

* 114·7 at end August, 1929. ‡ 15·0% drop from end August, 1929, level.

RECOVERY AND SECONDARY RECESSION.

	Recovery.			Secondary Recession.
	Highest Point Reached.	Date.	*Amount of Ground regained (% of Total Loss during slump).*	Present Level of Prices.
New York.....	184·8	2nd week April, 1930.	*50·7%*	174·0
London.....	101·0	End March, 1930.	*16·9%*	96·6†

† Estimated.

American stock prices, even after the "secondary recession" of the last few weeks, have succeeded in retaining their "reconquest" of 38.4 per cent. of the ground lost during last year's slump.

Hair-splitting comparison between the two indices is impossible, owing to differences in their content, and, particularly, to the fact that the American is an end-week and the British an end-month index. The figures, however, illustrate certain cardinal features, which are particularly relevant at the moment. (1) The "slump" was a much longer-drawn-out affair in London than in New York. The British decline started eight months before the American catastrophe, and continued for over three months when American prices were in the first stages of recovery. (2) The extreme limits of fluctuation were much wider in America than in Great Britain, and whereas American stocks had regained half the lost ground before the "secondary recession" of last month, British stocks had regained less than a fifth. (3) Though the pace of the American recovery of December-April may have been too hot to last, there is no sign whatever of prices going back to anything like the point touched after the slump. (4) To-day American values are about 75 per cent. higher than in 1926, whereas British values stand, approximately, at the 1926 level.

An American economist of the first rank, Professor Irving Fisher, has recently published a survey* of the Wall Street crash which is of special interest at the moment. Broadly, Professor Fisher believes that between two-thirds and three-fourths of the stock market rise, between 1926 and September, 1929, was justified. The proper study of the investor, he declares in effect, is earnings. Whereas from 1899 to 1922 net production per American worker scarcely increased at all, it subsequently rose in a steeply ascending curve to the highest rate known in history. Three features which have commonly been regarded as indicative of weakness in the market were, Professor Fisher points out, merely a legitimate and inevitable "economic" response to this tendency. First, given so rapid a rise in profits, the public was right in swinging over from bonds and preferred stocks to common stocks, because the former were automatically shut out from any share of the proceeds of expanding earnings. Secondly, the rise in the curve of common stock prices was steeper than that of *total* industrial earnings, because common stocks "went up to the extent that bonds and preferred stock could not go up." In other words, "earnings per share" rose appreciably faster than "net profits." The extensive resort of American managements to the practice of "ploughing back earnings into the business" further emphasised this tendency. Thirdly, the old rule-of-thumb method of estimating ten times the annual earnings as a fair selling price for common shares presupposed a stationary or slowly rising curve of earnings, and was entirely irrelevant when the whole *tempo* of industry had been decisively accelerated. It was only in the three months preceding the "crash," Professor Fisher believes, that the public lost its head and ignored yields and earnings. At the same time commodity prices were showing a somewhat rapid decline, and the American investment trusts had issued $1,000 million of new securities and reinvested only part of this immense sum in the purchase of existing securities. These conditions were aggravated by the Federal tax on *capital* profits, which discouraged "profit-taking" and encouraged the buying of new securities, by individuals, with the help of loans.

On this diagnosis, such "technical" factors as have just been mentioned rendered the market vulnerable to panic selling, in the course of which security prices were driven down below an "economic" level. Had industry maintained its increased *tempo* a subsequent recovery of a very considerable part of the ground might have been a perfectly justifiable phenomenon. But, unfortunately, a new factor has been introduced into the equation since last September, in the shape of a substantial *decline* in industrial earnings. In a recent article (see *The Economist*, May 10, 1930, page 1,059) we showed how this phenomenon had affected different industries. From figures subsequently available, it appears that 212 representative American companies have suffered a decline of 18.5 per cent. in earnings in the first quarter of 1930, as compared with 1929, the average decline for different groups being: General industry, 13.0 per cent.; public utility concerns, 10.5 per cent.; and railroads, 32.0 per cent.

* "The Stock Market Crash—and After." By Irving Fisher. (New York) The Macmillan Company.

The "business conferences" called by President Hoover during the crash, and the "prosperity propaganda" they put forth, were designed to cope merely with the psychological effects on industry of what was deemed to be a purely stock market reaction. On both sides of the Atlantic, however, economic observers are now accepting the view that the present setback in industrial activities is a major "cyclical" movement, not peculiar to any one country. Its intensity is, happily, very much less than that of its predecessor, the depression of 1920-21, though it has been heralded by the same phenomenon—rapidly falling commodity prices, which have impoverished the raw material and foodstuff producing countries overseas and slackened the wheels of industry in the manufacturing countries. The initial weapon against such a costly recession—cheap money—has been swiftly and courageously applied, but it is clear that recovery will be gradual rather than dramatic. The realisation of this latter fact has abruptly halted the rally in Wall Street values, and caused a sympathetic, though less pronounced, movement in sentiment on this side.

For both British and American securities, therefore, (other than those beneficially affected by cheap money, such as gilt-edged and senior industrial fixed-interest stocks), the spring and summer of 1930 are likely to be a quiet period. By the autumn it may be possible to see how far the forces of recovery are making headway.

The facts elicited in the course of this survey, however, suggest that the ultimate rally in American values is likely to start from a higher point, relative to the recent past, than that in British security prices. In other words, American shares, as a whole, are not necessarily overvalued because they stand to-day some 75 per cent. above their 1926 level while British "business" shares are back at scratch. Apart from the investment factors already mentioned, American industrial earnings increased by an average of 9 per cent. annually from 1922 to 1927, and the first nine months of last year showed an increase of 20 per cent. in profits over the corresponding period of 1928. In the case of Great Britain, our industrial profit figures show a much slower annual expansion, while the Board of Trade Production Index last year was only 11½ per cent. above the level of 1924. The securities of established British profit-earning concerns rose far less rapidly, before last year's slump, than their American counterparts, because they had no rapidly advancing "earnings ratio" on which to base a spectacular advance. The "boom," in fact, was confined in Great Britain largely to mushroom concerns, and came to an end with the first rise in Bank rate, in February, 1929.

The investor may therefore be advised during the next few months to follow the course of general economic and industrial indications even more closely than usual, particularly as regards the earliest signs of increasing stability of commodity prices and slowly expanding production, not in one but in *many* industries. There is no reason to doubt but that the process of rapid exploitation of America's economic opportunities, now suffering a temporary interruption, will sooner or later be resumed, and the investment factors relevant to a somewhat steep upward curve of earnings, to which reference has been made above will come again into play. Under such conditions, a wide field may again be opened, in America, to the long-term investor. The recovery in Great Britain will call possibly for somewhat more "selective" investment treatment, with special reference to the "newer" industries, which have an appreciable amount of virgin territory to occupy. Into this category may fall the best artificial silk, motor and electrical trades, certain companies and industries whose expansion will reflect the progress of the "southward shifting" of the centre of gravity of British trade, and various concerns which are exploiting new ideas, methods and organisation in retail selling.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
June 3.	June 5.

THE week left markets much as they started. The cessation of the gold drain to France was followed by talk of a further reduction in Bank rate, but this found slight credence in the "House," and gilt-edged stocks lost, after the "No change" announcement, just about as much as they had gained the previous day. New York did nothing to speak of, and industrials had an undistinguished week, a slow sagging of prices reflecting, possibly, the further rise in the unemployment figures and the weakening of the Government's position, or, more probably, the mere fact that neither the public nor the Stock Exchange could foresee anything much to go for, one way or the other, during the next few weeks. Our own view on the market outlook is set out in a leading article on the previous page.

After a quiet start, gilt-edged stocks presented a firmer appearance in mid-week, on a fair investment demand. War Loan was prominent and the old Four and a Half per Cent. Conversion Stock was outstanding on Wednesday, though a recessionary tendency followed the announcement of an unchanged Bank rate. Rumours of a coming War Loan Conversion issue were persistent, but entirely unofficial, the secret, if any, being well kept. India loans were weak on the announcement of the new issue of £7,000,000 of Six per Cents., but developed strength on the early closing of the lists. Dealings in the new loan opened on Thursday at ½ premium, and after touching 1 came back to 1⅜ premium. Only a moderate business was done in Australians, but New Zealand Five per Cents. showed conspicuous strength.

A fair business was done in foreign bonds, with increased interest in Brazilians. The discount on the new San Paulo bonds was steadily reduced. Japanese loans ruled firm on the success of the new issue, which rose to 1⅛ premium after allotment on the basis of 10 per cent. European stocks were steady, with a fair volume of dealings.

The week was depressing for railway stockholders. The home railway traffic figures afforded a comparison with the pre-Whitsun week of 1929, but, even so, were clearly unsatisfactory. Though the railways are undoubtedly feeling the effects of trade depression, the market is unable to form any clear judgment in the absence of net earnings' figures. Argentine prices were lower, the Cordoba Central decision to pay no interest on its second debenture stock coming as a severe blow. The Rhodesia and Mashonaland Railway debentures moved off satisfactorily, having risen to a small premium by Tuesday afternoon.

The industrial share market had the lethargic appearance which has become habitual in the last few weeks. No liquidation was in progress, but prices receded by a small fraction each day on a complete lack of public interest. Cables and Wireless partially recovered after a bad start, the market continuing to look forward to next month's report without particular pleasure. The Lancashire Coal and Steel scheme (described in an Investment Note on page 1176), was regarded rather as a portent in the sphere of rationalisation than a matter of market interest. Though a moderate provincial demand kept textile shares steady as a whole, sporadic selling of Fine Cotton Spinners continued on the publication of the report (dealt with on page 1177). Breweries were steady, Allsopps attracting some attention, but tobacco shares were undecided. Marks and Spencer obtained fresh support on the strong financial position disclosed in last year's accounts, and Ner-Sags were marked up on the pleasant surprise provided for shareholders by the announcement that assets in the winding-up would realise not less than £2 a share. After a dull period, Newspapers were more active on Thursday following the disclosure of increased profits by Amalgamated Press. H.M.V. and Columbia remained dull, and Vocalions were irregular, the carry-over again disclosing a bear account in these shares. Bank shares became

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. May 15.	Closing Prices. May 22.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%.....	77 11/16	78½	+ 13/16
Do. 4½% 1944	98⅜	99½	+ ⅜
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	102⅜	102½	+ ⅜
War Loan 5% 1929-47	101 15/16	102	+ 1/16
Consols 4%	87½	88 5/16	+ 13/16
Funding 4%.....	89 11/16	90 1/16	+ ⅜
Victory Bonds 4% ...	93 15/16	94⅜	+ 7/16
Local Loans 3%	64½	65	+ ½
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)...	101	101½	+ ½
Argentine 4% Recins.	88	87½	− ½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	103½	104	+ ½
Belgian 7%	110	109½	− ½
Brazil 6⅓% (1927) ...	86	87½	+ 1½
China 5% (1912).....	45½	46	+ ½
Egypt Unified 4% ...	77½	77	− ½
French 5%	20⅝	20⅜	− ¼
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56.	101	101½	+ ½
Bristol 5% 1950–60...	101	101	...
L.C.O. 3%.....	64x	64	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	85	84½	− ½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	9¾	9½	− ¼
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	29	27½	− 1½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	49¼	49	− ¼
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66½	66½	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	7 7/16	7 7/16	...
Southern Def. Stk. ...	30⅜	30⅜	− 1/16
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	7 1/16	7 1/16	− 1/16
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16
Do. Income Bonds	107	109	+ 2
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	214	214	...
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	84 1/16	86 1/16	+ 2
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	249	249	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2 7/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1 1/16	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3 3/16	+ 1/16
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 3/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	20	19 3/16	− ⅛
Com. Un. £2½ fully pd.	2 3/16	2 3/16	...
Lon. & Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27	27	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	2 3/16 x	2 7/16	+ 1/16
Baldwin (4/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1) ...	3/16	3/16	+ 1/16
Cory, William (£1) ...	3 1/16	3 1/16	− 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	1/16	1/16	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1 5/16	1⅛	− 1/16
Brit. Celanese Ord(10/)	3/16	3/16	− 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16 x	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)..	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	− 1/16
Calenders (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
City of London (£1)...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 1/16	2⅛	− 1/16
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	385	365x	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless — *A Ord.*	53	50	− 3
Cables and Wireless — *B Ord.*	24½	23	− 1½
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1 1/16	1 1/16 x	...
Dennis (1/)	2 1/16 x	2 1/16	− 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Furness Withy (£1)...	1⅛	1 1/16	+ 1/16
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	18½	20½	+ 2
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4 7/16	4 3/16	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	1/16	1/16	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4 3/16	+ 1/16
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 5/16	1⅛	− 1/16
Braz. Traction, no par	$51⅛	$49⅛	− 2
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	...
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9 1/16	9	− 1/16
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5 3/16	5 1/16	− ⅛
Distillers (£1)	3 7/16	3 1/16	+ 1/16
Dunlop (6/8).....	1/16	1 1/16 x	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	5 1/16	5	− 1/16
Guinness (A) (£1) ...	5 7/16	5 1/16	− 1/16
Harrods (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	...
Hudson's Bay (£1) ...	4 1/16	4	− 1/16
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	− 1/16
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	8⅛	8⅛	...
" *Chartered* " 15/f.p...	1 3/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	1/16	⅛	− 1/16
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2 1/16	2	− 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	1/16	⅛	+ 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	1/16	1/16	...
London Tin (£1).....	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/16
Treasury 5% (B).....	102 7/16	102 11/16	+ 1/16
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	90	− 1
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	101	101	...
India 3½%	61½	62	+ ½
Do. 4½% 1958-68...	81⅝	82⅜	+ 1
Australia 5% 1945-75	91	90⅛	− ⅛
N.S.Wales 5%1935-55	88½	88⅜	...
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	101	101	...
French 4% (Brit.) ...	20	20	...
German 7%	106⅜	106½	− ⅛
Greek 7%, Refugee....	101½	101	− ½
Hungary 7½%	102⅜	102½	...
Chili 6%	96½	96	− ½
Poland 7%	88	88	...
Mexican 5% (1899)...	19	19	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%...	90½	92½	+ 2
E. London 5%1960-70	99	99	...
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	90x	90	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	94⅜	94⅛	− ⅛
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	82½	80½	− 2
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	91	88½	− 2⅜
B.A.Western Ord.Stk.	72⅛	69⅜	− 3⅛
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	76	73⅛	− 2⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	17	14	− 3
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	3¼x	3¼	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	55	54⅜	− ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk....	188½	187⅛	− 1
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$28½	$28½	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	17	17⅛	+ 1/16
Beira Rlwy. no par...	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13 11/16	13 7/16	− 1/16
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1/16	1/16	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$112	$112	...
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	14⅞	15	+ ⅛
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	13⅛	− 1/16
Phœnix, £1 fully pd...	13⅞	14	+ 1/16
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	7⅞	7⅞	...
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)....	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	1	1	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3⅛	3⅜	− 1/16
Vickers (6/8).....	1/16	1/16	...
Courtaulds.....	2 7/16	2 1/16	− 1/16
Linen Thread (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Listers (£1)	1/16	1/16	...
General Electric (£1)....	2⅛	2 1/16	− 1/16
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6 1/16	6⅛	− 1/16
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1 1/16 x	1 1/16	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	48	46⅜	− 1½
Midland Counties (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk...	103	103	...
Canadian Marconi ...	1 7/16	1⅜	− 1/16
Marconi Marine (£1)	2	2	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Leyland (£1).....	3 1/16	3 3/16	+ 1/16
Rolls Royce (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Napier (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	26⅛	25⅛	− 1
London Asiatic (2/)...	1/16	1/16 x	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16 x	...
United Serdang (2/)	1/16	1/16	− 1/16
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	1/16	+ 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	1/16	1/16	...
Royal Dutch (£3½) ...	33⅛	33½	− ⅜
Shell (£1)	4 1/16	4⅛	+ 1/16
International Holdings	6½	6½	− ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can...	34⅛	33	− 1⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	32½	30⅜ x	...
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6	6⅛	+ ⅛
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	1/16	1/16	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Savoy Hotel (£1) ...	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16
Swed. Match. Bk'r 100)	16⅝	16⅜	...
Tate and Lyle (£1)...	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Tilling Thos. (£1) ...	4 1/16	4 1/16	+ 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	3 1/16	3⅛	− 1/16
Unilever (£1)	3⅜	3 3/16	− 1/16
United Molasses (£1)..	3 1/16	3⅛	+ 1/16
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	− 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	4 1/16	4 1/16	...
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	...
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	19½	21½	+ 2
Rio Tinto (£5)	40½	40⅝	+ ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅝	1 7/16	− 1/16
Tanganyika (£1)	1 1/16	2	+ 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3 1/16	3 1/16	− 1/16

irregular after obtaining unobtrusive support, but only small business was done in insurance shares.

The rubber market was dull, the few shares in which any volume of business was done being all lower on balance. Tea was in quieter demand at the week's auctions, and business in the shares was on a narrower basis. Consolidated Tea and Lands, however, obtained support after being marked down on the big cut in dividends (the reasons for which are discussed on page 1,176). The leading oil company dividends were on eminently satisfactory lines, but the undertone of the market was not altogether healthy, Californian " conservation " developments being far from reassuring. The tone of the mining market was quiet, though there was no sizeable reaction, and Congo Borders reached £21¼, while N'Changas were prominent on the report, and other descriptions held their gains. Kaffirs were inactive, the only feature being the price adjustment brought about in Gold Fields and Amalgamated Mining, following the announcement of a fusion (discussed on page 1,179). Brakpans were again on offer, while Geduld lost a hard-earned improvement. Tin shares were irregular, following the mid-week decline and subsequent slight improvement in the metal. Rio Tintos went ahead to 41 on better copper prices and Tharsis added a fraction. Wilunas, in the Australian section, were inquired for on the latest developments at depth.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	May 15	May 16.	May 19.	May 20.	May 21.	May 22.
Government and Municipal Loans.....	1,376	1,419	1,800	1,447	1,522	1,441
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities.....	1,125	1,034	1,159	916	845	856
Commercial and Industrial*	2,075	2,162	2,226	1,939	1,866	1,777
Banks, Insurance and Financial	530	505	579	489	456	493
Mines (including Nitrate) ...	558	567	552	430	429	493
Oil	217	255	275	248	203	169
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	188	166	188	230	213	147
Total	6,069	6,103	6,785	5,699	5,534	5,376

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	May 15.	May 16.	May 19.	May 20.	May 21.	May 22.
90·6	82·0	86·1	86·0	85·7	85·6	85·5	85·5

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The stock-market trend has been downward most of the week, but is now showing signs of rallying on its oversold condition. The volume of trading is drying up, and turnover is averaging 2,000,000 shares daily, or about the early winter rate. There is as yet little sign as to which way markets will move when they break out of the present trading rut, which, in turn, is not regarded as an early probability. It is believed that trading is about three-fourths by professionals, most of whom are bearishly inclined. There is nothing in the business outlook on which to base a bull movement, and dividend reductions continue, especially among copper companies, though, on the other hand, prices have already discounted any adverse developments in sight. Holders are unwilling to part with stock, and are equally reluctant to buy more. The public is taking almost no interest. There is some talk of a break up in the Exporters' Association, but it is believed that nothing is likely to happen at the moment. Railroad earnings for April are proving slightly better than earlier in the year, though they are still well below a year ago. Rail shares are somewhat better. The April motor output showed a good rise over March, and, while it was much below last year, it was nevertheless the best of previous years. Few companies are making money except Ford and General Motors. The steel industry is maintaining its operations around 74 per cent., and Steel Corporation at 80 per cent., but prices are still weakening and are now the lowest since about 1922.

(*By Cable.*)

	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
U.S. 3¾% T. Bds.	105 7/16	105 1/16	105½
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112 7/16	112	112 1/16
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100 5/16	100⅛	100 3/16
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101 7/16	101 1/16	101 1/16
Do. 4¼% '33-38	102 5/16	102⅛	102 3/16
Atchison	223	224½	226
Ches. & Ohio	212	214	221
Erie.....	46½	47½	47⅝
Illinois Central.....	126	128	127
N.Y. Central	171½	173½	175
Pennsylvania.....	77⅞	78	78½
Southern Pacific...	120½	121	121
Southern Rly.	112½	111½	112
Union Pacific.....	223	225½	225⅞
Am. Can.	136⅜	142½	141
Alleghany Corp....	26⅛	27	26⅜
Amer. Smelting...	69	70	70⅛
Anaconda	59	60⅛	58⅝
Bethlehem Steel...	94	96	95⅜
Chrysler Motor ...	31⅜	33⅝	34⅜
Corn Produce.....	102	105	103
Eastman Kodak...	238½	245	235½
Gen. Electric(New)	77⅜	83	80
Gen. Motors	45⅜	47½	50½
Int. Harvester ...	102½	104½	100½
Montg. Ward	41⅛	43⅝	42½
Natl. Biscuit	84½	85	89⅜
Phelps Dodge	38	38	36
Pullman	78½	77½	76½
Sears-Roebuck	81⅜	83⅝	84
Studebaker	36½	36⅛	36⅜
Un. Fruit.....	92	92½	90
U.S. Leather	11⅛	11⅛	11
U.S. Rubber	27½	28⅛	28½
U.S. Steel	168½	171⅜	169⅛
Westinghouse	172	177	169⅜
Woolworth	63½	62	62½
Worthington Pump	122	139	145⅛
Am. Pow. & Light.	98½	105½ x	99½
Am. Tel. & Tg. ...	245⅛	247	244½
Electric P. & L. ...	81½	89	84½
Int. Tel. Teles.	62⅞	64½	62
Nat. Pow. & Lt. ...	45	46⅜	44⅜
Radio Corpn.	46⅞	49⅜	48⅛
Utilities P. & L. ...	39½	40⅜	39
W. Union Tlg. ...	181	182	182
Associated Gas "A"	39	39	37⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	28	27⅜	27
Pan Amer B.	58⅛	63½	61
Sinclair Oil	26⅞	28⅛	28⅛
Std. California.....	68	70½ x	69
Do. N.J.	75	79	76

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926=100) :—

	1928. Lowest.	1928. Highest.	1929. Lowest.	1929. Highest.	1930. Beginning of Year.	1930. May 14.	1930. May 21.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	163·5	158·2
33 Rails.....	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	136·9	136·7
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	256·2	2e5·5
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	174·0	168·6
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·31%	4·48%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	May 14.	May 15.	May 16.	May 17.	May 19.	May 20.	May 21.
202·4	166·5	189·8	186·1	187·1	187·2	183·1	184·4	183·3

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	May 15.	May 16.	May 17.*	May 19.	May 20.	May 21.	May 22.
Stock Exchange— Shares (Thous.)	2,671	2,083	789	2,410	3,522	2,074	1,856
Bonds (Value— Thous. $).....	9,235	7,750	3,466	7,776	10,843	8,638	8,533
Curb — Shares (Thous.)	866	820	367	736	1,022	696	597

* 2-hour session.

AMSTERDAM.

During the first half of the month, the tendency on 'Change was decidedly better than in the second half, especially for Industrials. In the first place, the results disclosed by the publication of several balance sheets, such as those of Unilever and Philips Lamp Works, did not fail to make their influence felt. The report of the Philips Works for 1929 was considered disappointing, and this had a depressing effect on the level of prices. The effects of the ups and downs of the American stock markets were also apparent in Amsterdam. As a result, the market assumed a reserved aspect, so that no business of any importance was transacted. Generally speaking, prices were irregular. In tobacco shares, however, there was a firmer tone, on the satisfactory dividend of the Deli Company (21 per cent.). Sugar shares also recovered somewhat from the lowest point, partly on bear covering. A very weak tendency characterised Van Berkel's Patent on unfavourable rumours as to the business of the company. Margarine Unie shares have been in a depressed state recently, but a comparatively good demand sprang up during the last few days, which brought about an improvement in the level of prices. The demand, it appears, came chiefly from England. The market is such that there is not much stock on offer at the prevailing level, so that even a small demand causes an advance in prices. Oils were somewhat better, but little interest was taken in shipping shares.

	Mar. 15.	Apr. 15.	May 15.
4½% Gov. Bds., 1916	101¼	100 11/16	101⅜
4% Bonds, 1916...	97⅝	97 7/16	98 1/16
4½% Bonds East Indies	96 1/16	96½	96⅝
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	99⅝	99 3/16	99⅞
4½% Rotterdam, 1930	98⅛	98⅝	99⅛
Amsterdam Bank	187½	192	194⅝
Koloniale Bank ...	200½	195½	176
Ned. Ind. Handels-bank	150⅛	154⅞	152
Neth. Trading Soc.	170¼	174	169
Rotterdam Bank.	112⅛	114⅝	108
Van Berkels Pat..	145	141½	115½
Central Sugar.....	49⅜	51	49
Shipbuilding Wilton	48⅜	...	...
Dutch Art. Silk ...	85	90	85
Margarine Unie ...	302½	356	302†
Kuechenmeist Acc.	111	137½	135½
General Art Silk...	95	120	112½
Dutch Ford	251	269	283
Philips Elect. Lamp	435	479½	436
Swedish Match ...	301½	320	307⅜
Kreuger & Toll ...	539	630	588
Intern. Cred. Trad.	239	255½	216
Redjang Lebong...	101	96½	80
Singkep Tin	174½	184	157
Bolton.....	160	157	153
Algem. Explorat.	168	190	195½
Aniem.....	301½	334	318½
Ned. Ind. Gas.....	227	237½	220
Royal Dutch	382½	408	406½
Amsterdam Rub'r	134½†	150	143½
Deli Batavia	103	109	94
East Java	228	245½	191
Hessa Rubber ...	185½	183	160
Serbadjadi Sumatra	107½	120	106½
Allied Sumatra ...	78	85½	72
Holland Amer. Line	32⅜	36	34
Royal Packet ...	208½	...	209½
Neth. Shipping U.	169½	180½	175½
Navigation " Nederland "	165½	170½	166
Royal Steamship	79⅜	79	69
Java China Japan Line	147½	148⅞	130x
Vorstenlanden ...	94½	91½	83
Trading Co. Amsterdam	552	526½	482½
Java Plantations...	398	378	336
Neth. India Sugar	237	231½	218
Besoeki	...	370	...
Deli Batavia	376	410	363½
Deli	337	376½	362½
Senembah	388	414½	395

x Ex dividend. † Ex rights.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Stock Exchange and the Naturalised Member.—A " House " correspondent writes:—The Stock Exchange Committee have before them a question of re-election to the Stock Exchange of members of foreign birth who, although naturalised British subjects, were not re-elected to membership during the war. According to the Stock Exchange rules in force before the outbreak of the war, it was necessary for any applicant for election or for re-election to have been a naturalised British subject for a certain number of years. In August, 1914, there were 126 members whose country of birth was Germany, Austria and Hungary. While it must be said that, at a time when national feeling was on edge, some of these members acted in a scarcely tactful manner, others had sons who fought on the British side, frequently with distinction. When the question of re-election came before the Committee, a sub-committee was appointed, and each case received separate attention. The sub-committee did its best to weigh the evidence carefully and conscientiously, and, in the event, the applications for about eighty members were refused, no reason being given for the step. Of the others, a few men came back into the " House," while others preferred to stay away during the war. There remained, however, a good many who, after living in retirement, are now having their cases considered, as a whole, by a Stock Exchange Sub-Committee. One of the duties of this body is to ascertain the general " House " feeling as to reopening the case, if applications for re-election should be made. For several years before the war, the German influence was undoubtedly felt throughout the Stock Exchange markets. It was not entirely without reason that members said one heard more German than English spoken in certain sections of the Stock Exchange. The German method, as elsewhere, was to cut profits very fine and to ensure that business should be retained within certain sets of hands. A good deal of business was undoubtedly attracted to the " House " in the process. To-day there is very decided conflict of opinion on the matter. Some members main-

tain that if the London Stock Exchange endeavours to run counter to the whole trend of modern conditions towards internationalisation, business will go elsewhere, while others contend that what are called "German methods" have done the Stock Exchange no good in the past, and can be profitably dispensed with. Of the Stock Exchange Committee in power at the beginning of the war, there now remain only four members out of thirty, so that the present Committee can be said to approach the subject with an open mind. In some quarters a referendum of Stock Exchange opinion is suggested. A very limited and unofficial canvass has suggested that the majority of members are against re-admission, but this impression might not be borne out of a full vote. The matter is exciting some attention outside the immediate precincts of the Stock Exchange.

India Borrowing.—The terms of the £7,000,000 loan issued by the Government of India this week were identical with those of the £6,000,000 loan issued last February, namely, 6 per cent. bonds at 99, except that the present series are repayable over the period 1933-35, whereas the previous series were redeemable in 1932 or 1933. As the Bank of England is prepared to accept these bonds as "floaters," that is, as equal security to British Treasury bonds for borrowing purposes, a satisfactory response to the issue was assured. Indeed, in spite of the political situation in India, the terms may be regarded as generous. It may be fitting to reiterate that while it is incorrect to say—as is still being said in certain quarters on the Stock Exchange and in the popular Press—that India loans are guaranteed or "backed" by the Imperial Government, the investor, nevertheless, has the assurance of the Secretary of State that the Labour Government has no intention of allowing a state of things to arise in which the repudiation of India's debt could become a practical possibility. As regards the present loan, the prospectus tersely stated that the proceeds would be used to provide funds for capital expenditure on railways in India and for general purposes. In an article in the *Economist* on February 22nd last, we pointed out that the India Government had a fairly heavy crop of maturing loans, mostly internal, to meet during the next seven years, and that it was committed to a development programme calling for heavy capital expenditure on railways and irrigation. The capital programme has already had to be curtailed on account of the difficulty of raising money at the present time and the tight squeeze in the Central Government's finances. Finding it impossible to float a rupee loan the India Government cannot be blamed for making sure of obtaining a favourable response to the present sterling loan, which no doubt represents its minimum requirements. The following table shows how the prices of India loans to-day compare with those of a year ago:—

	Price, May, 1929.	Flat Yield %	Present Price.	Flat Yield %
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
India 2½% perpetual	50	4 19 0	45	5 11 0
India 3½% perpetual	69	5 0 9	63	5 12 0
India 4½% 1950–55	89½	5 0 0	83½	5 7 6

The 6 per cent. loans issued this year are not exactly comparable with the above, seeing that they are short-dated, but it is to be observed that the India 5½ per cent. loan, repayable in January, 1932, is quoted at 101½ to yield £5 10s. per cent., or £5 11s. per cent. on redemption. To offer the investor £6 1s. 3d. per cent. for three or five years is, therefore, a generous policy, whose justification is to be found in the exceptional conditions of the moment.

Lancashire Coal and Steel Scheme.—A fresh chapter in the story of Armstrong-Whitworth reorganisation, and the first in the published annals of the Securities Management Trust, opens with the announcement of the merger of five Lancashire coal, iron and steel companies—Pearson and Knowles (with Rylands Bros.), Moss Hall Coal, Wigan Junction Colliery, Partington Iron and Steel, and Wigan Coal and Iron. The first four are all members of the Pearson and Knowles group, which were acquired by Sir W. G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co. in the post-war boom. Wigan Coal and Iron is one of the oldest-established concerns in the Lancashire coalfield, and was registered sixty-five years ago. The company paid regular dividends on its £1,809,725 of called-up capital until 1924, but has distributed nothing since. The scheme has been under consideration for some time, a provisional agreement being announced by the Wigan Coal and Iron Company three months ago. The plan includes the formation of two new companies—the Wigan Coal Corporation (the "Coal Company"), with a capital of £1,746,555, and the Lancashire Steel Corporation (the "Steel Company"), with a capital of £5,750,000—to take over the joint assets indicated by their respective titles. The capitalisation of the two concerns will be as follows (in £1 shares throughout):—

Coal Company.	Steel Company.
266,743 7% Non.-Cum. Pref.	1,250,000 7% Cum. Conv. Red. 1st Pref.
591,924 "A" Ord.	1,000,000 7% Non-Cum. Red. 2nd Pref.
887,888 "B" shares.	3,000,000 "A" Ord.
	500,000 "B" Ord.
£1,746,555	£5,750,000

The Securities Management Trust, which was formed recently under the auspices of the Bank of England to assist in British industrial rationalisation, will subscribe for the "B" shares of the steel company, which carry control. The trust will also indirectly control the coal company through the allotment of the latter's "A" shares, with special voting rights, to the steel company. The first directors of both companies will be selected by the Bank of England. Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Company, the well-known City "house," will obtain fresh capital for the combine by issuing the 1,250,000 7 per cent. first preference shares of the steel company at par. The remaining capital will be apportioned between the five merging companies on the following lines:—

	Coal Company.	Steel Company.
Pearson and Knowles.	120,237 "B" Ord. ...	325,678 "A" Ord.
	19,419 7% Non-Cum. Pref.	443,319 7% 2nd Pref.
Moss Hall ...	106,706 "B" Ord. ...	71,137 "A" Ord.
	19,643 7% Non-Cum. Pref.	...
Wigan Junction.	37,831 "B" Ord. ...	25,220 "A" Ord.
	13,981 7% Non-Cum. Pref.	...
Wigan Coal	623,114 "B" Ord. ...	773,835 "A" Ord.
	213,700 7% Non-Cum-Pref.	200,868 7% 2nd Pref.
Partington...	...	1,665,268 "A" Ord.
	...	254,244 7% 2nd Pref.

On the administrative side, the measure will enable large economies to be achieved, as a result of the improvement and modernisation of plant and methods. The construction, at Irlam, of a new dock on the Manchester Ship Canal, together with a new steel plant on the most up-to-date lines, will be carried out, as soon as the new capital becomes available, in accordance with detailed plans prepared in consultation with Messrs H. A. Brassert and Company, of London and Chicago, whose reputation as steel-plant engineers is an international one.

Lower Tea Profits.—It is unfortunate for holders of tea shares that a tangible improvement in the underlying conditions of the commodity market (which we discussed in a "Note" in last week's *Economist*, page 1120), has synchronised with the publication of a batch of unfavourable company reports for 1929. The accounts of four important companies, of which James Finlay and Company, of Glasgow, are agents and secretaries, show a heavy contraction in profits. The consequent reductions of dividends (particularly severe as regards the largest company of all,

Consolidated Tea and Lands) has come as a severe blow to the market:—

		Consolidated Tea and Lands.	Amalgamated Tea Estates.	Kanan Devan Hills.	Anglo-American Direct Tea.
Tea crop (thous. lbs.)	1928	19,559	6,147	12,820	7,888
	1929	21,125	6,476	12,893	8,456
Average price per lb.	1928	14·25d.	17·55d.	18·01d.	16·04d.
	1929	11·76d.	15·53d.	16·38d.	14·03d.
Profit	1928	£412,095	£233,242	£412,473	£195,890
	1929	£210,415	£133,561	£311,076	£148,093
Earned per ord. share	1928	22·1%	16·6%	36·2%	17·3%
	1929	5·4%	7·7%	19·5%	7·8%
Dividend per share	1928	22·5%	17·5%	35·0%	17·5%
	1929	5·0%	7·5%	20·0%	10·0%

These four companies produced 5½ per cent. more tea in 1929 than in 1928, but marketed it at a price about 22 per cent. lower. Total profits fell off by over a third, though the decline in earnings available per ordinary share was, naturally, much greater. An appreciable part of the total income of all four concerns is obtained from dividends on investments—including cross-holdings—the aggregate figure under this head, for the four companies, being £460,785 in 1928 and £331,366 in 1929. Consolidated Tea has been particularly unfortunate in that, though it owns numerous gardens in Indian and Ceylon, a considerable part of its produce comes from Sylhet. These teas, being of the "plain" variety, have suffered keenly by reason of the competition of large supplies of common tea from Java and Sumatra. Recent figures show that the Dutch market has been in a position to take less than 20 per cent. of the Dutch East Indian output, over 55 per cent. of which has come to an already glutted London tea market. The abolition of the tea duties in their entirety by Mr Churchill last year swept away the preference which Empire teas had formerly enjoyed—a condition which markedly affected the competitive position of teas from Caehar and Sylhet. By the same token, this year's agreement for co-operation between Empire and non-Empire growers in the matter of production, if it be followed up, should be of special interest to "quantity" producing companies in the future.

Fluctuations in Textile Profits.—Shareholders in British textile concerns have been prepared for the publication of unfavourable financial results by a variety of indications—consistently gloomy accounts of conditions in Lancashire, unsatisfactory foreign trade returns, and the Board of Trade's estimate that British textile production last year was only 98.5 per cent. of the 1924 figure, against an average of 111.6 per cent. for the whole of British industry. Recently published reports have borne out this view. The profits of J. and P. Coats, for instance, in the last accounting period show a decline of 19 per cent., as compared with the previous twelve months; those of the Fine Cotton Spinners (whose figures are revealed in detail on this page) a drop of 25 per cent.; the earnings of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers are down by 29 per cent., and those of Crosses and Winkworth by 78 per cent. The last-named company does not pay ordinary dividends; the other three have all reduced their distribution this year. Those investors whose experience of the Stock Exchange aspect of the industry is of long standing do not minimise the importance of these unfavourable developments or regard the immediate outlook as anything but obscure. They point out, however, that extensive fluctuations in profits have always been characteristic even of the strongest concerns in the industry. The following table shows how great these annual variations have been in the case of the three dividend-paying concerns already mentioned, the amounts earned for dividend in 1924 being taken as 100 in each case:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
J. and P. Coats	100	118	65	120*	111†	102‡
Fine Cotton Spinners(a)	100	57	44	83	47	36
British Cotton and Wool Dyers(a)	100	81	40	98	68	48

* Twelve months to December 31; previous figures to June 30th each year.
† After allowing for special depreciation.
‡ Estimated.
(a) Twelve months to March 31st of year following.

Even the giant of the cotton thread trade, J. and P. Coats, is liable to wide annual variations in earnings. In the case of the other two concerns, earnings, it will be seen, have never regained the 1924 level, and in the last few years have had an unmistakably downward trend. The future is bound up necessarily with the progress of the efforts to put Lancashire on her feet again.

Fine Cotton Spinners.—This old-established company has again suffered from the effects of the depression in the textile industry. Net profit for the financial year ended March 31st last totals £390,568, compared with £522,618 for 1928-29 and £944,223 for 1927-28. With the addition of £214,167 brought forward from the last account, and £50,000 taken from dividend equalisation reserve, there is available for dividend the sum of £654,735. Preference and preferred ordinary dividends require £197,000. The ordinary shares receive a distribution of 6 per cent., against 9 per cent. last year, while percentage earnings, which in 1928 well covered a dividend of 15 per cent., have now shrunk to 4.4 per cent.

Year ends March 31.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	944,223	522,618	390,568
Brought forward	214,726	200,449	214,167
Preference dividend	150,000	150,000	150,000
Rate per cent.	5	5	5
No. of times covered	*6·3*	*3·5*	*2·6*
Preferred ordinary dividend	47,000	47,000	47,000
Rate per cent.	5	5	5
No. of times covered	*4·8*	*2 7*	*2·0*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*747,223*	*325,618*	*193,568*
Paid £	661,500	396,900	264,600
Earned per cent.	*16·9*	*7·4*	*4·4*
Paid per cent.	15	9	6
To general reserve	*Dr.50,000*	...	...
To dividend equalisation reserve	100,000	*Dr.100,000*	*Dr.50,000*
Other allocations	50,000	15,000	10,000
Carried forward	200,449	214,167	183,135

The sum of £10,000 is transferred to welfare fund, while the carry-forward item at £183,135 reveals a drop of £31,032 on the amount brought in. Few changes are recorded in the balance sheet on either side. Reserves are still substantial at £1,157,959, but available assets at £1,010,379 are considerably below potential liabilities, while cash has fallen from £143,709 to £3,328. Sundry

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additions to properties during the year bring the fixed capital item to £6,130,281, after due allowance has been made for depreciation, but the balance-sheet total is slightly reduced at £15,206,922. At their present price of £1⅛, the £1 ordinary shares give a yield of £5 9s. 1d., allowing for a final dividend of 3 per cent.

Salts (Saltaire).—In view of the unfortunate results revealed by the accounts of this old-established firm of worsted spinners and worsted stuff manufacturers for the financial year ended March 31st last, the optimistic tone of the chairman at the recent annual meeting came somewhat as a surprise. The company records a trading loss for the year of £287,978, compared with a trading profit of £45,234 for 1928-9. Income from investments totals £89,691, rents from house properties £20,865, and income tax recoverable £6,744, but the deductions of £63,284 for debenture interest, £40,000 for depreciation fund, £4,000 for directors' fees, and £17,882 for bank interest, increase the net deficit to £295,844. After allowance has been made for the sum of £65,722 brought in from the last account, there remains a debit balance of £230,122 to be carried forward.

Year ends March 31.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Trading profit	133,728	45,234	*Dr. 287,978*
Income from investments	85,454	85,814	89,691
Other income	...	...	27,609
Debenture interest	66,199	64,280	63,284
Income tax	16,875	29,467	...
Depreciation	40,000	40,000	40,000
Directors' fees	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other charges	...	...	17,882
Net profit	92,108	52,235	*Dr. 295,844*
Brought in	5,379	97,487	65,722
Preference dividend	...	84,000	...
Carried forward	97,487	65,722	*Dr. 230,122*

No dividend has been paid on the ordinary shares since 1923, while the preference shareholders have been scarcely more fortunate, last year's allocation of £84,000 being in respect of arrears for the year ended March 31, 1926. The bank overdraft has increased from £404,056 to £495,257, and stocks have been written down from £788,721 to £320,951, following a heavy slump in value. The increase in investments from £710,782 to £967,734 is almost entirely accounted for by the fusion of the company's interests with E. M. Gates and Company, by which it is hoped that "considerable economies will be effected." Some of the causes to which the board attribute responsibility for the current depression have done duty in other cases as "whipping-boys," and importance must necessarily attach to the proposed measures for the internal "rationalisation" of the company, and not merely to indefinite prognostications of an improvement in the general conditions of the industry.

Marks and Spencer.—Last year's figures of this highly progressive "chain" company were even more satisfactory than would appear at first sight. The net profit rose by £94,939 to £298,588 and, as usual, was struck after charging interest on loans, which last year were £641,232 higher at £1,003,050. The directors have declared a dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary capital, on which 38.42 per cent. was earned.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net profit	139,621	203,549	298,588
Preference shares—			
Paid	31,500	35,000	35,000
No. of times covered	*4·43*	*5·81*	*8·53*
Ordinary shares—			
Earned per cent.	*14·6*	*28·09*	*38·42*
Paid per cent.	13	15·0	20·0
Amount	43,066	78,802	132,000
To Reserves, &c.	59,827	77,500	117,500
Added to carry-forward	5,229	12,247	14,088

The balance-sheet figure of properties has increased by £708,257 to £2,396,465, and furniture and fittings are £80,977 higher at £267,394. Creditors are £93,472 more at £275,742, and stocks have risen by £120,991 to £346,281. Marks and Spencer, being a "cash and carry" concern, is liquid in every respect. The turnover is large and stock in trade represents only 115 per cent. of the net profit. The shares at their present price of £6 3s. 9d. yield £1 12s. 4d. per cent. on dividends and £3 2s. 1d. on earnings. The figures pay a high compliment to the directors' policy.

The Affairs of R. E. Jones.—The regrettable dispute in which the directors of this unfortunate company are involved has made little, if any, progress towards a settlement during the past four weeks. Following the poll at the extraordinary general meeting, on April 17th, and the consequent decision not to declare the result pending legal proceedings, two motions were heard before Mr Justice Clauson in the Chancery Division last week. The first, in the name of Sir N. Grattan-Doyle and two other directors, sought an injunction to restrain the declaration of the poll, on the ground that the proxies given in favour of Messrs Moxon and Bickerton were invalid, by reason of misrepresentations contained in a circular issued by Mr John Smith on April 11th. The other motion was by Messrs Moxon and Bickerton for an injunction to restrain Mr Batchelor, Sir N. Grattan-Doyle, and his two co-plaintiffs from acting as directors and from appointing a managing director. Mr Justice Clauson said that he failed to appreciate why Mr Batchelor did not declare the result of the poll, and both motions were held over for a week to enable the result to be made known. In a subsequent statement, which took the form of an affidavit, Mr Batchelor showed that all the resolutions submitted by Messrs Moxon and Bickerton had been heavily defeated, but that in each case "he had not allowed any proxy votes in favour of John Moxon or Thomas Bickerton, on the ground that neither of them used or exercised in the poll the votes of the members who had signed proxies in their favour." If this be so, and the proxies were actually not used, it is difficult to understand the *raison d'être* of the motion quoted above to restrain the declaration of the poll because certain proxies were given as the result of misrepresentation. In any case, it is not likely that shareholders will be satisfied, since the disregarding of the proxies obviously makes the declaration of the poll quite meaningless. Unless the dispute takes a happier turn, the present *impasse* suggests the likelihood of protracted and fruitless litigation.

White Star Meeting.—At last week's annual meeting, Lord Kylsant attributed the lower profit to the disappointing year experienced by the Aberdeen and Commonwealth Line. Although White Star sailings were somewhat reduced last year, he declared, the number of passengers was fairly well maintained. It has now been decided not to proceed immediately with the construction of the "Oceanic," but the "Britannic" is to make her maiden trip in June, and a sister ship is under construction. Referring to the Atlantic trade competition, Lord Kylsant said that, though the number of passengers travelling is much less than in 1913, the number is annually increasing, and the average total of passengers carried by the company on each voyage is tending to rise. The American Government has practically decided to give all its mail contracts to American ships. This development will further affect the company's earnings, but compensations are expected from the "tourist third-class," which is increasing in popularity. In view of the depression in Australia the prospects of the company's trade on this route are at present not very encouraging.

Moroccan Loan Dispute.—We are requested by the British Chamber of Commerce at Marseilles to draw attention to the lawsuit which is being brought in the Courts at Tangiers, against the Moroccan Government, by British and American holders of the Loan of 1904. This loan of 62,500,000 francs was originally contracted by the Maghzen of Morocco, its interest and sinking fund being secured on 60 per cent. of the Customs duties, with a special resident delegate of the bond holders controlling the Customs, and having the right to determine the amounts to be levied in metallic currency of Morocco in order to pay holders in "francs of France, at all times without rebate or excuse." The remaining 40 per cent. of the Customs duties constituted a guarantee for the bondholders in the event of the above provision proving insufficient. The contract was officially recognised in the Algeciras Pact, but in 1918 the French Government suppressed the bondholders' privileges, substituting its own authority for that of the bondholders' delegate, and assuring the service of the debt in depreciated paper francs. The bondholders attacked this decision in the French Courts, but, after winning their case before the Marseilles Tribunal, lost it before the Aix Court of Appeal, which maintained that Morocco, being a Sovereign State, could not be sued in France. Meanwhile, the Morocco Protectorate proposed to redeem the loan in advance of the due date. This latest example of the difficulties which the orgy of inflation during and after the war has left behind it, will be followed, on its merits, with keen interest by British bondholders outside those immediately concerned. In some respects, the Moroccan bondholders have a good case. The difficulties involved, as a result of the use of the phrase "francs of France" in the original contract, however, draw attention to a point which has frequently been urged in respect of foreign lending generally—that payment should be specified not in terms of even the soundest currency, but of gold itself.

Oil Dividends.—Favourable dividend announcements by four leading companies have served to save the oil share market from the general quietude which has settled down on Stock Exchange business. The Shell Transport and Trading Company has declared a final dividend of 15 per cent. tax free in respect of 1929, making 25 per cent. tax free for the year. This is the same distribution as for 1928, but is made on a capital increased by the issue a year ago of one new share for every five shares held, and requires £6,030,340 (taking tax at 4s. in the pound), as against £4,996,902 in the previous year. At the same time the Royal Dutch Company has declared a final dividend of 14 per cent., making 24 per cent. for the year, which is also the same as for 1928. This dividend, again, is payable on a capital 20 per cent. larger than a year ago. The Burmah Oil Company followed the Royal Dutch-Shell group with an announcement of a final dividend of 20 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year, as against 20 per cent. for 1928. After making the usual appropriations to insurance and field expenditure reserves, but increasing the general reserve appropriations from £200,000 to £500,000, and writing down investments in subsidiary companies by £500,000, the carry forward is increased from £151,085 to £399,775. It would, therefore, appear that the company's profits have increased by over 50 per cent. last year. This is not surprising seeing that the company had the benefit of settled oil prices in India at a higher average level than in 1928 (six months of which was covered by the price-cutting war), and had also received two dividends from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company instead of one, namely an interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in December, 1929, as well as the final dividend in respect of 1928 paid in July. The Anglo-Persian, which will publish its report next month, is also expected to increase its distribution. For the nine months ending December, 1928, it paid dividends at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum. Last year it had the benefit of the rise in petrol prices in Great Britain, and the additional revenues from its partnership with the Royal-Dutch-Shell group in the Eastern markets outside India and China. It should, therefore, provide a very satisfactory report and be able to increase its dividends to, say, 15 per cent. or even 17½. Finally, Lobitos Oilfields has declared a dividend of 12½ per cent., as compared with 10 per cent. for 1928. After placing £50,000 to reserve account against nil last year, it carried forward £211,583, against £233,453. This did not point to great improvement, and the market was inclined to be disappointed. It is well to bear in mind that there is no change in the general oil situation in the United States. The American industry is still endeavouring to maintain prices by tightening up restriction of output. Curtailment in California is now legally enforceable. Nevertheless, the recent proposal of the California General Conservation Committee to bring down the output of the State, which is now 635,000 barrels a day, by a further 20-30,000 barrels a day, has not met with success, and the Standard Oil Company of California has in consequence cut the price of crude oil at Santa Fé Springs drastically by amounts varying from 42 cents to 95 cents per barrel. As regards other producing districts, it is by no means certain that restriction will be maintained in Oklahoma in the summer months when the demand for gasoline improves. With nearly eight months' supply of oil in storage the oil situation in America cannot be regarded as over-promising.

A Finance Fusion.—Our mining correspondent writes: —There is possibly little ground for surprise in the proposed amalgamation of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa with the Amalgamated Mining Trust and the South African Gold Trust. All the companies are in the same office, have much the same directorate, and hold very similar interests. In the circumstances—as one of the circulars relative to the proposal observes—"no reason exists for the continued separate existence of these companies." Nevertheless, the scheme came as a bolt from the blue to the Stock Exchange, which immediately proceeded to adjust the quotations of the several shares in accordance with the absorption terms. The latter had been based upon a valuation of the assets. But for the fusion it is probable that the shares of the Amalgamated Trust would have been sharply marked down instead of being advanced. In the year ended March 31st last the net profit amounted to only £25,000, as against £196,400. The falling off is attributed by the directors to the unfavourable market conditions which prevailed during the period. Still, it seems strange that the company should have fared so much worse than its stable companions. In respect of 1928-29, the Trust disbursed a total of 20 per cent., besides placing £50,000 to reserve. For last year a final dividend of 2½ per cent. is to be paid, the total of 7½ per cent. being substantially in excess of the net earnings; moreover, £20,000 depreciation is written off reserve. For each of the past two financial years both the Gold Fields and the Gold Trust have paid 15 per cent.; the balances being struck at June 30th and December 31st respectively. Three Consolidated Gold Fields shares are to be given for every five Amalgamated shares, and in respect of every four Gold Trust shares, the preference capital of the latter company being replaced by a corresponding amount of Gold Fields shares. On the completion of the scheme the issued capital of the Consolidated Gold Fields will stand at £1,750,000 in 6 per cent. first cumulative preference, £1,250,000 second preference, and £2,248,000 ordinary shares. Doubtless the proposals will find general acceptance, although apparently favouring the junior concerns.

N'Changa Copper.—By the issue last year of 300,000 shares at £2 premium, this Northern Rhodesian enterprise was provided with ample funds for the prosecution of development and the erection of plant. At December 31st £60,060 had been received on account of capital and £439,700 on account of premium; from the latter amount, £34,400 underwriting and other expenses have been written off. Capital expenditure during the year totalled £114,200, and at the date of the balance sheet the cash stood at £338,000, the bulk being on deposit—£100,000 with the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa and a corresponding sum with the Union Corporation. A further £400,000 has to come in from the issue already mentioned. An interest has been taken in the Northern Rhodesian Power Corporation, "formed with a view to investigating the possibilities of developing a central power scheme." The directors report that the

extension of the Rhodesian Railway's branch line from N'Kana to N'Changa is expected to be completed by May next year. Some surprise will doubtless be occasioned by the retirement from the board of Messrs A. Chester Beatty and W. Selkirk, although their resignation is attributed to pressure of other business. From the report of the Technical Committee it appears that the ore reserves in the New Discovery on the Dambo lode are estimated at 54,170,000 tons, averaging 3.77 per cent. copper, plus the original 8,193,000 tons worth 3.74 per cent. On the River lode, from the surface to 400 ft., the reserves are computed at 2,278,000 tons, containing 4.21 per cent. copper. Last week a cable announced that a further borehole on this deposit showed 9½ per cent. copper over 12 ft. The great bulk of the material continues to be oxidised, the treatment of which has yet to be solved. In these circumstances the quotation of N'Changa £1 shares at over £4 seems a little premature.

Associated Tin.—Having regard to the fall in the price of the metal, the showing made by the report for 1929 is no worse than might have been expected. The output of 3,060 tons is almost identical with that of the preceding period, which covered 18 months. Costs, at £82 8s. per ton f.o.r. Bukern are lower by nearly £12, and it is intimated that further substantial reductions have been effected during the current session. Due to the factor already mentioned, the profit came out at £98,500, in place of £174,600. In view of "the conditions prevailing in the metal market and in the world's trade generally," the directors consider that it would not be desirable to declare a dividend at the present juncture, but they promise a substantial interim distribution as soon as tin recovers to a more remunerative level. It may be recalled that the company has so far made one disbursement of 50 per cent., whereof 30 per cent. was in respect of 1926-27 and the balance interim on account of 1927-28. The ore reserves have been increased to 22,100 tons, representing over seven years' supply at the 1929 rate of production.

Lonely Reef.—Our mining correspondent writes:—Even if hopes in regard to developments have not been completeiy fulfilled, the shareholders in this Rhodesian proposition have had the satisfaction of a repetition for last year of the 25 per cent. dividend total paid in respect of 1928. An increase in both the tonnage and average value of the ore milled was accompanied by a modest further reduction in costs, while as regards treatment of accumulated slimes, expansion in tonnage and reduction in expense ratio more than counterbalanced some decline in the yield per ton. At £98,600 the working profit was higher by £12,100. By the appropriation of £850 the reserve (premiums on shares) is raised to a round £10,000, leaving the substantially increased balance of £16,200 to go forward. The reserve just mentioned has been established for the purpose of providing for the acquisition of new mining interests in Southern Rhodesia. Interests have already been secured in certain options, which are being prospected. On the Lonely Reef property the ore reserves have shrunk by 23,250 tons to 72,960 tons, the value being ¾ dwt. up at 15.93 dwts. The total, which represents little more than one year's supply for the mill, is irrespective of a substantial tonnage of low-grade material, from which 30 per cent. of the ore milled last year was drawn. An increased proportion of this ore is expected to be utilised during the current year; the consulting engineer also looks for a renewed economy in costs. An interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., as before, has been declared. The £1 shares are quoted on the Stock Exchange at 17s. 6d. Obviously they fall into the speculative category.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance, Incorporated Accountants, Licenses and General Insurance, Imperial Continental Gas Association, Power Investment Corporation, La Guaira Harbour Corporation, United Kingdom Tobacco, and Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation. At the annual meeting of the Imperial Continental Gas Association the chairman said that their tariffs were among the lowest in the world. For electricity at Brussels their average receipt was 2¼d. per unit for current for lighting, 1d. per unit for motive power supplied at low tension and just under ¾d. per unit for current supplied at high tension. Presiding at the annual meeting of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., Mr W. R. Glazebrook stressed the need for co-operation between insurance companies as being essential in the interests of the insuring public as well as of the companies themselves. The benefits of co-operative effort from the point of view of insurers and insured had been strongly emphasised by Royal and Special Commissions appointed to investigate the subject. At the Power Investment Corporation meeting the chairman announced that the company's investments were composed of 39.79 per cent. high-class bonds, 8.03 per cent. preference shares, and the remaining 52.58 per cent. of ordinary shares.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The new issue market remained active, three borrowers raising between them £9,250,000, nominal. The largest issue, that of the *Government of India* came somewhat as a surprise, but was well received. A "Note" on this operation appears on an earlier page. The corporation issue of the week, on behalf of *Newport (Mon.)*, was "only a little one," but conditions were unfavourable, underwriters being compelled to take up 82½ per cent. The issue of convertible and redeemable debentures of *Mount Isa Mines* followed hard upon Mr. Leslie Urquhart's glowing review at last week's Mining Trust meeting. The object of the issue is to pay off outstanding debts, and enable the first unit to start its productive career in the autumn. The Queensland Government, which has been of no little assistance to the company on previous occasions, has apparently had sufficient confidence in the future of the undertaking to guarantee £500,000 of the loan. The debentures have a speculative value, for those who are interested, in view of the right of subscribers for the present issue to convert their holdings within three years into £1 ordinary shares at 30s. per share.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to May 17, 1930, £138,919,312.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to May 17, 1930, £211,771,586.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended May 17, 1930, £150,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to May 17, 1930, £750,000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
Mount Isa Mines	1,500,000	...	1,500,000	150,000	1,350,000
Newport (Mon.) Corporation...	750,000	...	744,375	37,500	706,875
Government of India	7,000,000	...	6,930,000	350,000	6,580,000
Total offered to Public, week ended May 24, 1930	9,250,000	...	9,174,375	537,500	8,636,875
To Shareholders only.					
Imperial Continental Gas Ord. Stk. at £250	300,000	...	750,000	...	750,000
Total offered to Shareholders only, week ended May 24, 1930	300,000	...	750,000	...	750,000

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Jan. 1 to date—		
1930	221,845,961	148,993,687
1929	178,349,788	152,366,834
1928	...	214,921,583
1927	...	185,551,591
1926	...	86,799,334
1925	...	88,839,591
1924	...	86,177,814
1923	...	148,338,191

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Whole year—		
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended May 24, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929	20,735,505	...	29,212,540

Government of India 6 per cent. Bonds, 1933-35.—Issue of £7,000,000 6 per cent. bonds, 1933-35, at £99 per £100 stock. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The proceeds will be used to provide funds for capital expenditure on railways and for general purposes. If not previously redeemed, the bonds will be repaid at par on June 15, 1935, but the Secretary of State for India reserves the right to redeem at par on or after June 15, 1933, on three months' notice. At the price of issue, the stock gives a flat yield of £6 1s. 3d. per cent., and a redemption yield of £6 4s. 9d. per cent.

Newport (Mon.) Corporation.—Issue of £750,000 1947-67 5 per cent. redeemable stock at £99 15s. per cent. This is a trustee security. The stock will be redeemed at par on September 1, 1967, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the Corporation will have the option of redeeming at par in whole or part at any time after September 1, 1947, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the Borough is £598,758, and a rate of one penny is estimated to produce £2,383.

Mount Isa Mines.—Issue at par of £1,500,000 8 per cent. convertible and redeemable debenture stock. The Queensland Government has agreed to guarantee £500,000 of this issue, while the Mining Trust, Ltd., will be allotted £1,000,000 in the terms of the prospectus. Proceeds of the issue will be used to repay all loans and liabilities and provide working capital for the first mill unit now being completed. The stock is convertible at the holder's option on one month's notice into £1 ordinary shares of the company to the nominal value of £2 for each £3 of stock. Any stock not converted will be redeemed at par on or before May 31, 1944, but the company reserves the right to redeem outstanding stock at £105 per £100 at any time after May 31, 1933, on six months' notice. The company was incorporated in January, 1924, and owns extensive lead-silver-zinc mines in Queensland.

Guildford Gas Light and Coke Company.—Sale by tender of £27,750 5 per cent. redeemable debenture stock, to be redeemed at par on June 30, 1950. Minimum price of issue £95 per £100 stock, yielding, at that price, allowing for redemption, £5 9s. 2d. The net revenue of the company for the year ended December 31, 1929, was £14,070, covering interest on debenture stock, including the present issue, nearly four times.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices and summary of balance sheets, will be found on page 1192 *under the heading "Company News."]*

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended May 14th:—Venezuela, 41,438 barrels; Trinidad, 14,836 barrels; total, 56,274 barrels.

TAMPICO OIL, LTD.—The total production on the company's properties in Mexico during March was 23,315 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,749 barrels. Total production on the company's properties in Mexico during April was 22,416 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,681 barrels.

Grace National Bank

Hanover Square, New York, U.S.A.

A thoroughly organized international bank, giving special attention to the requirements of European banking correspondents.

Special Representative

148 Leadenhall St. London, E.C. 3.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
West of India Portuguese Guaranteed Ry.	5*	plus bon	us of 1½%	...	...
BANKS.					
Banco di Roma	...	...	...	6	6
Ionian Bank	6*	June 3	Less tax	...	...
INSURANCE.					
Canton Insurance Office	...	...	...	...	...
Phœnix Assurance	...	...	Less tax	14/- p.s.	14/- p.s.
Planet Assurance	...	...	...	6	5
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Aibheel Tea	17½†	...	...	20	20
Amalgamated Tea Estates	5%†	...	...	7½	17½
Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading	...	...	...	10	17½
Anglo-Sumatra Rubber	5%*	May 31	Less tax	...	...
Balijan Tea	10†	...	Less tax	15	20
Baru (Java) Estates	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Borhat Tea	4%†	...	Less tax	4	10
Bradwell (F.M.S.) Rubber	6%†	...	...	10	7½
British Estates of Java	...	...	Less tax	5	6
Consolidated Tea and Lands	...	...	...	5	22½
Deltenul Ceylon Tea	4%†	...	...	7	10
Deundi Tea	...	...	...	5	15
Doom Dooma Tea	...	...	...	...	...
Glenshiel Rubber	...	...	...	4	7½
Jetinga Valley Tea	15%†	May 26	Less tax	...	...
Kanan Devan Hills Produce	15%†	...	...	20	35
Kurau Rubber Estate	...	...	...	2½	5
Limbuguri Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	25	37½
Nordanal Rubber	...	...	...	Nil	5
Pabbojan Tea	20%†	...	...	40	55(a)
Sabrang Rubber	...	...	...	6	10
Tara Tea	40%†	...	Less tax	50	50
Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	2	4
United Patani Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	5
United Sua Betong	10%†	...	Less tax	15	...
MINING.					
Chinese Engineering and Mining	5%*	May 30	Tax free	...	...
Hodbarrow Mining	2½%*	...	Less tax	5	5
Pena Copper	...	...	...	7½	7½
OTHER COMPANIES.					
A. B. Fleming	10%†	plus bon	us of 2½%	15	...
Aboukir Company	...	...	Tax free	5	5
Advance Laundries	...	...	...	Nil	5
Aldred Investment Trust	$½ p.s.*	June 2	...	...	...
Alvis Car and Engineering	...	...	...	...	...
Amalgamated Mining Trust	6d. p.s.†	...	Less tax	7½	20
Amalgamated Press	8%†	...	...	15	15
Bankers' Investment Trust (Def.)	9%†	...	Less tax	11½	11
Berkeley Property & Investment	4%†	June 2	Less tax	7	...
Berlin City Electric	...	...	...	10	...
Brampton Brewery	11%	...	Tax free	16	...
British and Irish Steam Packet	...	...	...	5	6
British Tanker	...	...	Tax free	6	10
Burmah Oil	...	...	...	30	20
Butler's Wharf	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Cape Asbestos Co.	10%†	...	...	15	15
Cape Town & District Gas Light	5%†	...	...	8	7
Chester Brewery	10%*	plus bon	us of 7½%	25	25
Chloride Electrical	...	...	Tax free	25	30
City and West End Properties	4½%†	...	Tax free	7½	6½
Consol. Gas, Elec. Light & Power	90c. p.s.*	July 1	Quarterly	...	...
Country Life	...	...	...	15	15
Crosfield's Oil and Cake	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Direct Spanish Telegraph	...	...	Tax free	8	10
Dutton's Blackburn Brewery	2½%†	...	...	5	7½
East India Tramways (Def.)	10*	May 31	Tax free	...	...
Egyptian Delta Land and Investment	1/- p.s.†	June 16	...	...	...
Fine Cotton Spinners	...	...	...	6	...
Gartsides (Brookside Brewery)	7½%†	plus bon	us of 6%	21	21
Grainger and Smith	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Government and General Investment (Def.)	7½%*	June 2	...	...	...
Hastings Pier	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Holborough Cement	2%*	May 15	...	...	...
Horne Bros.	2½%†	...	...	5	5
House Property and Investment	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Isle of Wight Electric Light and Power	4%	...	Tax free	8	8
John Yeo and Co.	...	...	Less tax	10	...
Land and House Property	5½%*	June 12	Less tax	...	...
B. Laborte	...	...	Less tax	9	8
Leeds Shipping	...	...	Tax free	5	...
London and Provincial Sporting News Ag.	...	...	Less tax	10	...
London Scottish American Trust	5%	June 2	...	...	...
Marks and Spencer	...	...	...	20	15
Melbourne Electric Supply	5%*	June 2	Tax free	...	...
Metropolitan Properties	5%†	...	Less tax	8	...
Nelson Financial Trust	12½*	June 11	Less tax	...	...
Northern Loan Co.	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Offiler's Brewery	7½%*	June 3	Less tax	...	...
Polyphonwerke	...	...	...	4	4
Porritts and Spencer	10%†	...	...	17½	17½
Reardon Smith Line	...	...	Tax free	5	6¾
Richard Johnson and Nephew	...	...	...	8	8
Royal Automobile Club Buildings	...	...	...	5	...
Second Guardian Trust	...	...	...	7	6½
Shanghai Electric Construction	7½%†	...	Tax free	12½	12½
South African Lighting	...	...	Less tax	5	4
South Hetton Coal	...	...	Less tax	1½	...
Stevenson and Howell	11%†	...	Tax free	16	16
Stroud Brewery	15*	Mar. 23	...	...	...
Tadcaster Tower Brewery	4%*	June 2	Less tax	...	...
Tate and Lyle	4%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Taylor's Eagle Brewery	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment	1/6 p.s.*	...	...	...	...
Trust and Mortgage of Iowa	...	...	...	...	...
W. H. Baxter	...	...	Tax free	2	...
Whessoe Foundry & Engineering	17½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Yorkshire (Woollen District) Electric Tramways	...	...	...	6	...

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

IMPERIAL CONTINENTAL GAS ASSOCIATION.

YEAR'S RECORD PROFITS.
INCREASED DIVIDEND.
COL. H. LE ROY-LEWIS' STATEMENT.

The 182nd ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Imperial Continental Gas Association was held, on the 21st instant, at Winchester House, London. Colonel H. Le Roy-Lewis, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that this year it has not been necessary to make any provision for amortisation; the charge last year was £51,000; our new subsidiary companies have placed to amortisation and other reserves the sum of £73,000, so that, taking the consolidated result, reserves prior to the formation of our own profit have increased by £22,000; our profit itself has increased by £80,000; our year's trading, therefore, shows a total improvement of £102,000.

AVAILABLE PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

The sum available for appropriation is £666,000, out of which an interim dividend of 5 per cent. has already been paid, leaving for final appropriation the figure given in the balance sheet of £587,000. This figure of £666,000 constitutes a record for this company. If we exclude the years which benefited by the adventitious profits accruing from the liquidation of our German undertakings, the nearest approach to to-day's figure was in 1911, when the profit available for appropriation amounted to £583,000. It must be remembered that in 1911, in addition to the towns we supply to-day, the association owned the gas supply of Berlin, Hanover and Aix-la-Chapelle, and a substantial investment in the Frankfurt Gas Company. Those undertakings are now lost to us, and in the years immediately succeeding the war you received very substantial cash sums out of the proceeds of their liquidation.

I will not say that the association has risen phœnix-like from its ashes, although during the dark days of the war complete reduction to the ash stage did not seem far away; nevertheless, without indulging in any exaggerated claims, I think we are entitled to congratulate ourselves that the company has made such a good recovery.

The revival in our fortunes is largely due to the great development which has taken place in the sale of electricity, for whereas in 1913 our output of current amounted only to two million units, during the year under review the companies in which we are interested sold 148 million units of current.

On the other hand, our output of gas, which during last year amounted to 282,000,000 cubic metres, shows a drop upon the output of 1913, when it stood at 465,000,000 cubic metres.

You will see that our position, roughly, is that there has been a drop in our gas sales of 183,000,000 cubic metres and an increase in our sales of current of 146,000,000 units. It should not be deduced from this that gas has failed to make headway; the reverse is, in fact, the case, as the 1929 consumption of the towns which we still supply shows an increase of 41 per cent. upon the consumption of those towns in 1913. The drop in question is entirely due to the loss of our German undertakings. I remain hopeful, however, that in the course of a very few years, if the development which we have in mind for our gas interests does not disappoint us, we shall stand again at the 1913 gas consumption.

WORLD'S LOWEST TARIFFS.

The tariffs by means of which our profits have been earned are among the lowest in the world. Our average price at Antwerp for gas supplied for ordinary private consumption during last year, without any discount, was the very modest figure of 2s. 10d. per 1,000 cubic feet, or 7½d. per therm.

For electricity at Brussels our average receipt was 2¼d. per unit for current for lighting, 1d. per unit for motive power supplied at low tension, and just under ¾d. per unit for current supplied at high tension.

The extreme moderation of these prices proves that the exaggerated control to which public utility companies are subjected in England does not achieve the object which it has in view, for we, while operating under a system which, although not without restraints, gives public utility enterprises much greater latitude than exists in this country, are able to supply gas and current at lower prices and still earn a fair rate of remuneration on our capital. In view of the profit which is available for appropriation, your board feel justified in recommending to you an increase of the rate of dividend from 15 per cent. to 17½ per cent., less tax.

I deprecate any idea of turning ourselves into a financial undertaking. I do not wish you to understand, however, that if a brilliant sale of one of our companies were to come within the region of possibility it would necessarily be our duty to refuse to negotiate, and I hope you will understand that your board is not adverse in principle to the idea of a possible sale. As regards the programmes of the development of the Belgian companies, not merely have we had to lend back to our operating companies in Belgium the whole of the sums which they were due to pay us by way of dividend, but we have had to supply them from here with a further £350,000 of cash.

CAPITAL OUTLAYS.

During last year our enterprises spent on capital development a sum of £621,000, apportioned approximately as follows: £212,000 on the modernisation of our gas-producing works, £51,000 on our power stations, £171,000 on the development of our gas-distributing systems, and £187,000 on our electrical-distributing system. In addition, considerable sums have been spent in acquiring holdings in other undertakings. We estimate that the programme of capital expenditure of the company will leave us with a deficit at the end of this financial year of £750,000. We came to the conclusion that advantage should be taken of this situation to give our shareholders an increased share in the prosperity of the company. Proprietors will therefore be allotted rights to apply for £300,000 of new stock at a price of £250 per £100 of stock, which will give the association the additional capital sum of £750,000 it requires. This will mean that for every £100 of either new or old stock which you possess you will be entitled to subscribe for £12 of new stock which will cost you £30 in cash. Letters of rights will reach you the day after to-morrow. You will be required to pay for each £12 of new stock, £15 upon application and a further £15 on July 1st. Although by the time we receive your second instalment one-quarter of our accounting year will have gone, we intend that this new stock shall rank equally with all existing issues as if it had been in existence on April 1st last, so that it will receive its full share of any dividend or bonus which we may pay in respect of this year. The effect of this new issue will be to raise our issued capital from £2,500,000 to £2,800,000.

FINANCIAL POLICY.

At the time of our last issue it was impossible to foresee the full extent of our financial requirements, and I do not wish any of you to assume that this new issue represents finality. It is useless for us to ask you to subscribe unnecessarily large instalments of capital, as the higher cash subscription might have the effect of inducing you to sell instead of exercising your rights as we like to see you do. It would also be bad management on our part to call up more capital than we can legitimately hope to put to work within a reasonable space of time. We therefore propose to be moderate in our calls for fresh capital, and to come to you only from time to time as our requirements reveal themselves.

The suggestion has been made to me that our reserves are too big, and that they should be made the subject of a special distribution I would point out that before any distribution of this kind can be contemplated, it is necessary to examine the character of the assets which are behind these reserves. The assets in question are an integral part of our undertaking, and, if the suggestion were put into effect, it would involve a curtailment of our true sphere of activity.

It will, I estimate, be three to four years before we complete the tasks immediately before us. At the end of that time, if all goes well, the moment may be propitious for a complete reorganisation of our capital, but there are already too many unhappy examples of undertakings which have put what they would euphemistically call the "rationalisation" of their capital before the rationalisation of their industry. The prestige of our company stands high in the City, and your board are determined to be doubly sure of their ground.

I therefore ask you to dwell in pleasurable contemplation upon our reserves in the knowledge that our investments are valued on a conservative basis, and that our real reserves are far in excess of the figure maintained in the balance-sheet.

The report was adopted, other ordinary business was transacted, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

RECORD TOTAL INCOME EXCEEDS £13,000,000.
FUNDS INCREASED TO OVER £24,000,000.

Mr W. R. Glazebrook, chairman of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, Ltd., presiding in Liverpool, on the 21st instant, at the 94th annual general meeting of the company, had some interesting references to make to the results of the year and to insurance conditions in general throughout the world.

The total revenue of the company now exceeds £13,000,000 sterling, which constitutes a new high record, whilst the total underwriting profits amount to £484,000, against £601,000 in 1928.

Considering that fire losses in Great Britain and some countries overseas had been substantially heavier during the year, and that the results of casualty insurance in the U.S.A. were less profitable than formerly, these figures cannot be regarded in the circumstances as other than eminently satisfactory. In the U.S.A. fire department the improved level of 1928 has been maintained, and in the accident department at home and abroad the premiums have been increased and claims costs slightly reduced. In the marine section the percentage of profit is again satisfactory. The company's total interest earnings, other than interest on life funds, increased during the year by over £22,000 to £539,000.

"COST" OF LIFE ASSURANCE.

In the life department the new business for 1929 was £1,716,000, an increase of £11,000 over 1928.

The chairman said that the expression, "Cost of life assurance," was something of a misnomer. The immediate payment of premium was of little relative importance compared with the ultimate benefits received under the contract. For example, "Globe" endowment assurances at younger ages give, at maturity, a yield of approximately 4 per cent. per annum compound interest on all premiums, with the benefits of life assurance cover thrown in.

STOCK EXCHANGE SECURITIES.

The appreciable decline which took place last year in the value of the company's Stock Exchange securities, particularly of British Government securities, had not involved the writing down of the company's securities.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The need for co-operation between insurance companies was stressed by the chairman as essential in the interests of the insuring public as well as in the interests of the companies themselves. The vast advance which had taken place in the scope and variety of the companies' activities, and the increasingly keen competition which had to be encountered in every country of importance, made it more than ever desirable that offices should co-operate to the advantage of their clients and to their own mutual benefit, in order that the expansion which each company keenly desired should not be achieved at a price too costly for success. The benefits of co-operative effort, from the standpoints of insurers and insured, had been strongly emphasised by Royal and Special Commissions appointed to investigate the subject.

The chairman referred to the marked increase in legislation affecting insurance, either directly or indirectly, which the year 1929 had witnessed, and commented upon the changes in the form of the company's accounts involved by the Companies Act of 1929.

ROAD TRAFFIC BILL.

In the Road Traffic Bill now pending there was, he said, a measure which would probably affect one of the largest individual classes of insurance business—motor insurance. Road accidents continued to increase in number, and some form of compulsory insurance, which had been engaging widespread attention on the Continent and in the United States, was likely to become an accomplished fact in this country. The object of the Bill in its present form was to compel owners of motor vehicles to hold a security bond or to effect an insurance policy sufficient to assure the payment of reasonable compensation for personal injury caused to members of the public. Whether the effect of such legislation would be to raise the rates of motor premiums remained to be seen, but the companies had decided that no increase should take place unless experience made it necessary. So long as companies are free to select their own risks, competition will ensure rates being kept to a minimum.

The report and accounts were adopted, and a final dividend of 13s. 6d. per share was declared, making 26s. per share, less income tax, for the year, against 25s. in 1928. The election and re-election of directors was approved, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the management, staff and agents. A warm vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

LICENSES AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Licenses and General Insurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 22nd instant, at 24, 26 and 28, Moorgate, London, E.C.

Mr. A. W. Ruggles-Brise, D.L., J.P., C.C. (the chairman), after expressing regret at the death of Lord Dewar, said that 1929 was in many ways one of the least profitable years experienced for some time. The trade of the world had been depressed; financial troubles had been in evidence, and politics had been obscured, all those factors combining to affect adversely the available revenue to insurance, while, on the other hand, claims and the cost of claims had increased substantially.

With regard to the fire department, it was well known that the general conditions for fire insurance had been bad. Their account was comprised of three sections—home business, foreign business and re-insurances. Of the first two they had nothing of which to complain—advances having been registered.

The reduction in the income of the re-insurance department was entirely traceable to the re-insurance received from other offices. The reason for such shrinkage was found in the fact that the available income from which their treaty companies could re-insure was smaller all round. The quality of the treaties was not in question. They believed 1929 to be an isolated instance of a disastrous fire year. They did not anticipate that the experience would be repeated. Indeed, it was quite safe to say that 1930, so far as it had gone, was encouraging, as it revealed a much improved position. The reserves for claims in suspense were adequate, and the underwriting reserves had been strengthened to a greater degree than formerly.

The effect of bad trade was evidenced in the personal accident and employers' liability departments; while the former account had slightly increased, the effect of the number of unemployed was evidenced in the latter.

The general account, which showed a satisfactory increase of £22,792 in premiums, comprised all those classes of business not specifically mentioned, such as license, burglary, third party and motor. The claim payments showed a not unsatisfactory ratio at 53 per cent., and at 56 per cent. after taking into account a substantial addition to claims in suspense. That, with the additional unexpired risk reserve required on the increased income, made a total of £18,000 retained within the revenue account, and they were still able to carry forward to profit and loss a profit of £19,676.

Comparing the position ten years ago with the present one, he said that the total premium income of the company in 1920 amounted to £270,489, and was at such figure a little restricted in character. In the nine years under review, which included the years immediately following the war, the income on a much wider and broader basis had advanced by no less than £251,214, with the accompaniment of a doubling of the underwriting reserves. To-day he could present a balance sheet in which, on the liabilities side, apart from capital, out of seventeen items, four only did not refer to reserves of one kind or another, while on the assets side no single item was other than absolutely gilt-edged and recoverable pound for pound as shown. He thought, therefore, that they could take credit for to-day's position. The bare goodwill of the company having been more than doubled, they could say truly that their company stood in a position of considerable strength, and that they could look forward with confidence to the future.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and a dividend of 20 per cent., less tax, for the year was approved.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

POWER INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

INCREASED PROFITS.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CHEAP MONEY.
MR R. O. HAMBRO'S STATEMENT.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Power Investment Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at 41, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., Mr R. O. Hambro (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr A. E. Bendixson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen, you will recall that at our last meeting I warned you that times were looking less favourable for finance companies such as ours, and events have proved that the warning was justified.

On the other hand, I did not mean that I was not confident of our ability to make money, and even this year our profits show a satisfactory increase, but I foresaw the considerable fluctuations in prices, which, as you will see from the valuations of our investments, have, in fact, taken place.

On the other hand, at to-day's valuation this depreciation is less, and, in any case, our experience during last year was in common with all investment companies, and, although we were able to foresee the fall in American prices and liquidate the major portion of our American holdings, we have suffered considerably from the ruling prices of artificial silk shares, of which we are holding a fairly large quantity.

These, however, are confined to the largest German and Italian companies, and we are confident that the prices at which they are quoted are well below their intrinsic value.

ACTUALLY A NEW COMPANY.

In comparing ourselves with other investment companies, I should like to mention that the description of our annual meeting as the tenth annual meeting is misleading. We are actually a new company, and this is only the second annual meeting since we took over the shell of another company, and, therefore, we have not yet had time to build up reserves comparable to those shown by the older companies. In fact, as much as 93 per cent. of the present issued capital has been subscribed in the last three years, and the company has only been working with its present capital since November, 1928.

THE INVESTMENTS.

With regard to the items of the balance sheet, our investments are composed of 39·79 per cent. in high-class bonds, 8·03 per cent. in preference shares, and the remaining 52·58 per cent. in ordinary share holdings, of which the only large single group is the artificial silk holding, to which I have already referred.

Although we are confident that in the long run the valuation of our investments will show an improvement, in view of the present depreciation we feel that the only wise policy to pursue to-day is to strengthen our position. You will see, therefore, that we propose, out of the balance of £60,530 available after paying the preference dividend, to restrict the dividend on the ordinary stock to 5 per cent., less income-tax, or the same as last year, which will take £20,785, and to carry forward the balance of £39,745 to next year.

BANK LOANS ITEM.

Turning to the accounts which are before you, I do not think that there is much that I need comment on, but I should like to say a word on the subject of the item of £449,222 representing bank loans. You will, no doubt, have noticed that this item is considerably larger than at the corresponding period last year. But since that date the whole course of money rates has changed, and with the low rates now ruling, we felt it was an opportunity of which the company should take advantage, and which is to-day paying us well.

I should again like to point out in connection with the note on the balance sheet that of the total of £1,573,872 invested, the unquoted securities mentioned as being at directors' valuation total £279,656, of which £156,148 is in secured loans and bonds, £40,995 in preference shares, and the comparatively small amount of £82,513 is in ordinary shares.

The chairman, having replied to questions, moved the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the proposed dividends.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Glenconner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors (Mr R. O. Hambro, the Rt. Hon. Lord Glenconner, and Mr E. H. Lever) having been re-elected and the auditors (Messrs George A. Touche and Company) reappointed, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

ANGLO-ORIENTAL MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SUCCESS OF CO-OPERATION AMONGST PRODUCERS.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Oriental Mining Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 22nd instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Mr John Howeson, the chairman, who presided, said that, with the co-operation of the great majority of British tin-mining companies, there had, at length, been established in the Tin Producers' Association an organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of all concerned. It was, however, only fair to add that, without the wholehearted support of the great mining interests of Bolivia, and also the assurances given by the producers of the Dutch East Indies, those plans could not have been carried to so satisfactory a conclusion.

It must be regarded as a wonderful achievement that the association should have obtained the support of producers representing more than 70 per cent. of the world's output of tin, which, expressed in tons of metal, meant that out of 190,000 tons, which the world was estimated to produce in 1930 without regulation, 140,000 tons were subject to regulation, and the amount of curtailment resulting from such co-operation when carried on for a full year would exceed 30,000 tons.

While on these premises they must look forward with confidence to the reduction of surplus stocks to a figure that would ensure a fair and reasonable price for tin, the present situation was, nevertheless, grave, the need for expedition imperative, and the firm and unequivocal adherence of every British producer vitally necessary.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

He could discern only one alternative to the programme of the Tin Producers' Association, and that was to leave matters alone and so encourage each producer to pursue his own course, bidding the devil take the hindmost. Without any check upon over-production, stocks would continue to mount up and prices to fall until sufficient producers were temporarily driven to the wall. That, let them make no mistake, would be a slow, hard and costly process, for while money could be raised to pay wages there was always hope, and it would inevitably take many more months of ever-increasing loss throughout the industry before enough production was closed down to restore the balance between supply and demand. Moreover, that method of eliminating the surplus producer could only end, as it always had ended, in a shortage of production, thus stimulating renewed speculation, which would drive prices again to dangerous heights, turn consumers' minds to the finding of substitutes, and so work incalculable harm to all producers. Stability, the prime need of the industry, would then be more remote than ever. To leave things alone was the policy of despair, and the price of despair was disaster.

Producers had made their choice; let them now concentrate on the game, and follow implicitly and with all expedition the recommendations of their council. The ball was at their feet; it had only to be picked up and the game should be won for all time. They alone were responsible for the quantity of tin that was produced. The supply should be adequate, but not excessive, so that the price paid for it, while fair to the consumer, might also be equitable to those whose money had built up the industry. It was futile for producers to squander their exhaustible resources by continuing to throw upon an unwilling market a quantity of tin, beyond that which consumers immediately required.

The more they examined the question of tin supplies and read the opinions of the biggest consumers, the more shareholders would become convinced, apart altogether from their present difficulties, of the value and the necessity of the Tin Producers' Association. Nothing short of a really strong and enduring co-operation could save the tin industry from the past wild fluctuations of prices.

Dealing with their own accounts, the Chairman said that the revenue for the year under review amounted to £110,835, and the board were asking the shareholders to approve the modest distribution of 3d. per share on the ordinary shares, which would entitle the preference shareholders to participate to the extent of a further 1d. per share. After transferring £25,000 to reserves, £82,042 was carried forward, which covered the preference dividend for the whole of 1930-1931, and left £22,000 over.

The chairman, reviewing the present outlook, dealt extensively with the principal consuming industries and expressed the view that, taking everything into consideration, the prospects of consumption were by no means discouraging. As to production, the industry had had its lesson, for which a very high price had been paid. But order was emerging out of chaos; producers had earned the need for co-operation, and were determined to restore the industry to prosperity. Should further action be necessary, the means were now at hand.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the increase of capital to £1,750,000 was approved.

CROWN MINES, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.)

INCREASED BURDENS.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held in Johannesburg, on April 24th.

The chairman (Dr. Samuel Evans) in the course of his speech, said : Since the end of the year your directors have acquired for the company the farm Diepkloof No. 9, covering an area of 2,084 morgen and 435 square roods, including a mynpacht equal to 864 claims in extent. The price paid is 40,000 Crown Mines, Ltd., shares; *i.e.*, 34,087 ex-enemy shares and 5,913 of the reserve shares. The Diepkloof mynpacht is situated on the northern portion of the farm and adjoins the southern boundary of the Mooifontein mining area, which we acquired from the Government in 1926. We are selling to the Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Ltd., the portion of the mynpacht in extent about 274 claims situated immediately south of their property. The Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Ltd., are paying the cost of these claims to us. The portion of the mynpacht which we retain is equal to approximately 590 claims and brings the total mining ground acquired since the amalgamation in 1909 up to 1,710·1013 claims.

With the addition of our share of the Diepkloof mynpacht, we had on December 31st last 742·8593 intact Main Reef Leader claims and 957·6593 intact South Reef claims more than when the enlarged company came into existence 21 years ago. In this connection, there are, however, three important considerations which we have to bear in mind. In the first place, the ore in our present intact claims is at a greater vertical depth than the average depth of the ore in our intact claims at the time of amalgamation. Then stoping operations were being carried on at an average depth of 1,300 feet vertically. The average depth of the stopes which are being worked at present is about 3,600 feet. In the second place, the cost of equipment and the working expenses generally are very much higher to-day than in 1909 owing to the increases that have taken place in European wages, the cost of stores, &c. And, thirdly, the direct taxation burden which this industry has now to carry is three times that which existed when the amalgamation took place. Here is a comparison of the distribution of the net profits of the Crown Deep, Ltd., in the 2½ years ended June 30, 1909, and of the Crown Mines in the past two years :—

	Crown Deep. 1907–09. Annual Average.		Crown Mines. 1928–29. Annual Average.	
	Total.	%	Total.	%
Dividends	384,000	90·56	553,837½	69·079
Taxes	40,038	9·44	129,472½	16·149
Miners' phthisis levy	...	...	97,604	12·174
Miners' phthisis liability fund	...	...	20,832	2·598
	424,038	100·00	801,746	100·000

In addition to the above burdens, customs duties and railway rates are much heavier than they were prior to 1909.

FAVOURABLE FEATURES.

So much for the increased burdens which South African gold mines have now to carry. Let me add that there are a couple of favourable features which should not be overlooked :—

(1) In the first place, the improvement in the technique of the mining industry has been greater than was anticipated in 1909. For instance, the average cost of ordinary machine development is now about 47s. 6d. per foot, as compared with 58s. 8d. in 1912. There has also been a steady improvement in stoping efficiencies in recent years, the cost per fathom last year being 29s. 9d., as against 32s. 3d. in 1928; 34s. 6d. in 1927; 35s. 3d. in 1926; and 79s. 8d. in 1912. The mining costs per ton mined, excluding development, were 10s. 7·4d. in 1912 and 11s. 2·5d. last year, so that, in spite of the additional expenditure on ventilation, winding, pumping and support of workings, necessitated by the greater depth of our stopes, costs have not gone up to the extent which might have been expected as the result of the increases that have taken place in wages, the price of stores, &c. This is due to the improvements in rockdrills and other appliances, to careful study of the various operations by the management and to the very useful work performed by the investigations committee of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Ltd. Had it not been for the improvements mentioned, and others, the additional burdens placed on us since Union would have made it difficult, if not impossible, for us and many other mines on the Rand to work at a profit.

(2) In the second place, it was pretty generally believed twenty-one years ago that the reef would decrease in value in depth. Our experience goes to prove that that is not so to any material extent. The grade of the ore developed in our deeper ground has, on the whole, been better that was anticipated when the enlarged company was formed. I think you will agree that the following comparison of the ore reserve position and of the results of last year's development with the average figures of the fifteen years 1914–1928 is distinctly encouraging.

	Annual Average, 15 years, 1914–28.	1929.
Payable ore developed, tons	2,079,826	1,950,864
Estimated value, dwts.	6·5	6·7
Percentage payable of the number of feet driven on reef	65·0	65·5
Ore reserve :		
Available tons	8,124,526	8,896,270
Estimated value, dwts.	6·1	6·45
Total tons	9,482,834	10,841,457
Estimated value, dwts.	6·29	6·66
Tons mined	2,592,970	3,038,841
Percentage sorted	10·6	13·0
Tons milled	2,318,040	2,643,000
Yield, total in fine ounces	728,508	856,005
Yield, per ton milled, dwts.	6·286	6·478

The satisfactory feature of the figures I have quoted is the remarkable steadiness of the values over the past sixteen years. The yield per ton showed a declining tendency up to 1914, but that since 1914 the grade has been strikingly uniform, the maximum yield being 6·596 dwts. in 1927 and the minimum 5·907 dwts. in 1921. From 1921 onwards there has been a gradual improvement both in the quantity and in the value of the ore reserves. The quantity of ore mined and the output of gold were greater than in any previous year.

REVENUE AND DIVIDEND.

The revenue was lower than in 1919, 1923 and 1924, owing entirely to the premium on the gold sold in those years. The working expenditure showed an increase to £30,000, as compared with 1928, whilst the net profits were £13,000 below the 1928 figure. Last year's results compare favourably with the average results of the previous 15 years.

The dividend distributed to shareholders last year was £599,990 12s. 6d., as compared with an average dividend of £521,574 per annum during the fifteen years ended December, 1928. The costs per ton show an increase of 4s. 10d. since 1914. Had our working costs and taxation been the same last year as they were in 1914, we should have made an additional profit of £639,000. As I have already indicated, a part of the increase in costs is due to the greater depth at which we are working, but the main cause of the increase is the high taxation and other policies pursued by the Government since the Transvaal was merged into the Union.

Our revenue last year totalled £3,687,453, compared with £3,668,195 in 1928 and £3,556,679 in 1927.

Our disbursements last year compare as follows with those of 1927 and 1928 :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Working Expenses, including Miners' Phthisis Levy, Realization Charges, Head and London Offices' Expenses, Donations, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, etc.	2,570,751	2,687,220	2,719,320
Government and Provincial Taxes	146,466	133,949	124,996
Capital Expenditure	243,813	277,311	199,446
Miners' Phthisis—Provision on account of Outstanding Liability	17,517	20,112	21,552
Annuity in respect of Undermining Rights	9,926	9,926	9,926
	2,988,473	3,128,518	3,075,240
Net Profit	568,206	539,677	612,213
Add : Balance Unappropriated at beginning of year	369,038	314,177	346,171
Bringing the Grand Total up to	937,244	853,854	958,384
Less : Dividends paid	623,067	507,684	599,991
Leaving a Balance Unappropriated at 31st December, of	314,177	346,170	358,393

The balance of £358,393 is composed of cash, after allowing for liabilities, £101,380 11s. 9d., and stores, materials on hand, interest in co-operative and other concerns, sundry debtors and payments in advance, £257,011 18s. 4d.

The working expenses per ton milled were practically the same last year as in 1928, but very much higher than in 1914.

The expenditure on account of capital last year shows a considerable decrease as compared with the capital expenditure in the previous two years.

During the next couple of years our capital expenditure will be high, but afterwards it is anticipated that it will be well under £100,000 per annum.

CURRENT YEAR'S RESULTS.

The results obtained in the first quarter of this year compare as follows with those of the corresponding period of last year :—

	1929.	1930.
Fathomage broken	48,834	47,899
Tons mined	704,456	780,158
Tons milled	613,000	681,000
Percentage of waste sorted	13·3	12·6
Yield—		
Total—fine ozs.	204,142	217,215
Per ton milled, dwts.	6·660	6·379
Value of Yield—		
Total, including silver and osmiridium	£868,446	£923,869
Per ton milled	28s. 4·0d.	27s. 1·6d.
Working Costs—		
Total	£638,444	£695,973
Per ton milled	20s. 10·0d.	20s. 5·3d.
Working Profit—		
Total	£230,002	£227,896
Per ton milled	7s. 6·0d.	6s. 8·3d.

The increase of 68,000 tons in the quantity of ore milled this year is due to an improvement in the native labour supply. The decrease in the profit per ton is attributable mainly to the greater development footage accomplished and partly to the fact that the average grade of the ore mined in the first quarter last year was abnormally high.

The development operations during the first quarter of this year compare as follows with those of the same period in 1929 :—

	1929.	1930.
South Reef :		
Footage sampled	2,740	3,050
Payable footage	1,510	1,540
Average value of payable footage, inch-dwts.	283	276
Main Reef Leader :		
Footage sampled	9,280	8,830
Payable footage	6,140	6,060
Average value of payable footage, inch-dwts.	374	397
Total development footage	20,117	26,101

You will observe that the values are satisfactory, and that the percentage of payability is well maintained.

The health conditions on the mine were better last year than in 1928 and about the same as in 1927.

To Gold Mining Companies it is satisfactory to note that the commodity we produce is now firmly established as the world's standard of value and medium of exchange. There are to-day more countries and more people using currencies based on gold than has ever been the case before, and the commodity value of gold is higher than it has been at any time since 1914.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

LA GUAIRA HARBOUR CORPORATION, LIMITED.

PROPOSED HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS.

The ordinary general meeting of the La Guaira Harbour Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 21st instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr J. G. B. Stone (the chairman) said that the profit was £71,344, against £64,876 for 1928. After meeting interest the surplus was £11,653, which, with the balances from 1926–28, made £33,164, held, in effect, in suspense. Gross receipts increased by £23,413, and working expenses by £16,944, of which £4,221 represented items which did not appear in 1928. The tonnage handled was 262,529, an increase of 17,257 tons, and the first quarter of 1930 showed increase over the corresponding months of 1929.

Mr H. H. Broughton (a consulting engineer, who had joined the board), after visiting La Guaira, advocated reconstruction of the jetties to make their length 1,309 ft. (against 735 ft.); with three railway tracks (in place of one) and railway sidings to facilitate speedy and economical handling. He advised also that, on the south side of the harbour, now vacant shore, nine acres be reclaimed and a quay constructed to accommodate three large steamers, with three large transit sheds and railway tracks its full length. The capital involved should be under £300,000, and the time in which the work could be carried out should not be more than two years. The consulting engineers estimated the resultant economies at fully £37,500 a year on an annual tonnage of 250,000.

The board considered that an opportune time had now arrived for such works. Their conclusions had been arrived at independently of certain proceedings by the Venezuelan Government to compel the corporation to carry out certain works—proceedings now in abeyance owing to negotiations opened by that Government for the purchase of the undertaking.

For the Macuto Railway four new tramcars were being provided, and there was every reason to expect improved results when they were in operation.

Mr H. C. Dean expressed warm appreciation of the action of the board in informimg the shareholders of the situation by circular, thereby protecting them against the danger of sale of their securities in ignorance of impending events.

The report and accounts were adopted.

At a subsequent extraordinary meeting, on a motion (which was unanimously passed) to increase the borrowing powers to £1,520,000, shareholders congratulated the directors on the excellence of the prospects now apparent, and, in reply to a question, the chairman said that the raising of £300,000 should not present any difficulty.

UNITED KINGDOM TOBACCO COMPANY (1929.)

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—BENEFITS OF RATIONALISATION.

The first annual general meeting of the United Kingdom Tobacco Company (1929), Ltd., was held, on the 19th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London.

Mr Arthur Donn (the chairman), in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : The first year of any business was almost invariably extremely difficult. However, he thought that their first year had been not at all unsatisfactory, showing, as it did, a considerable improvement on the results of the previous year, 1928.

Like all the leading manufacturers of cigarettes, they had been compelled to enter into the field of gift schemes. For some time there had been an ever-growing public demand for cigarettes with free coupons, which could be exchanged for gifts varying in value according to the number of coupons returned. Competition was fierce in every branch of the business, but in no section was it as fierce as in that free coupon business. The company had spent considerable time and money in creating and developing a brand of cigarettes, namely, Bandmaster, in that field. Everything pointed to the success of that policy, and the sales of that new line were very gratifying.

They had written off entirely the preliminary and formation expenses account of £7,821. They were able to do that by allotting the value of sundry assets acquired from the vendors, which were not valued in the apportionment of the purchase price, the profits earned prior to incorporation, and £949 taken from profits earned during 1929. In the profit and loss account there remained a surplus of £15,027 after the payment of income tax, the balance of preliminary expense and the Preference dividend and after making ample allowance for depreciation. They proposed to carry that balance forward instead of making a distribution on the ordinary capital.

With regard to the acquisition for £315,000 of the 600,000 ordinary shares of the company by Godfrey Phillips, Ltd., events had proved that that was a move in the right direction. Although he was not enamoured of the word "rationalisation," he was convinced it was a necessity among the independent concerns of the tobacco trade owing to severe competition from the combine. They had been able to effect many economies already, and had been able to avoid a capital expenditure of £100,000 on a new factory. The measure for centralising factories would come into operation during the current year; so the full benefits were still to come.

The report and accounts were adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached :

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INCORPORATED ACCOUNTANTS.

VITAL QUESTION OF "REGISTRATION."

The forty-fifth annual general meeting of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors was held, on the 19th instant, at the Incorporated Accountants Hall, Victoria Embankment, London. Mr Henry Morgan (president) presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the president, in the course of his address, said : The accounts cover our first year in Incorporated Accountants Hall and the first year of the Branches and District Societies scheme. After debiting £149 17s. 6d. for depreciation of furniture, and £1,258 for the service of the reserve fund for redemption of debentures, there remains a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £1,157 6s. 2d., which is a satisfactory financial result for the year. From the point of view of the accountancy profession, the outstanding feature and the most important event for many years past has been the revival of an immediate issue of the vital question of registration. Even the strongest opponent of registration would be prepared to admit that, had a Registration Act been passed twenty or twenty-five years ago, the difficulties from which the public and the profession are suffering to-day would be practically non-existent. You must be fully aware of the course of recent events. Following upon the important statement by Sir Thomas Robinson, M.P., chairman of the Local Legislation Committee, the Society and the English and Scottish Chartered Accountants joined in a deputation to the President of the Board of Trade to request that he would set up a Departmental Committee to consider the question of registration. A Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Goschen, was appointed, and has already taken a great deal of evidence, and that given by the Institute and the Society was published two or three days ago. It is regrettable that the Institute of Chartered Accountants are not in agreement with us in regard to our views on this question and are opposed to registration. The Institute has said that it wishes to be excluded from the operation of any legislation having as its objective the registration of the profession. The Society is opposed to any such exclusion. (Applause.) A Registration Bill must deal with the profession as a whole, and, although the Institute and the Society are incorporated in different ways, the charter does not confer upon the Institute any powers which are not enjoyed by the Society. They have the right exclusively to create chartered accountants in England and Wales. We have the right exclusively to create incorporated accountants. Beyond this, and *vis-à-vis* the public and the rest of the profession, the form of incorporation has not established a monopoly in either case. Neither chartered accountants nor incorporated accountants owe their outstanding positions to the legal form of their incorporation. Such position has been established by their reputation and character and professional skill and ability. As far back as 1907 Mr Justice Warrington, in the Chancery Division, in granting an injunction against the misuse of the term "incorporated accountant," stated that the designation conferred upon members of the society the privilege of being looked upon by persons who had dealings with accountants as holding a certain definite status indicating real reliability and integrity.

ALLEGATION OF MONOPOLY.

Objection has been taken to registration because it might constitute an attempt to obtain a monopoly of all accountancy work. I agree that the days of monopolies have passed. The principles upon which our society was founded and has carried on its work are entirely opposed to anything in the nature of a monopoly. Any person with proper professional experience, who can pass our examinations, is able to obtain the qualification of incorporated accountant, which is second to none, and the society does not debar properly qualified men or women who are not in a position to serve articles of clerkship. Under our proposals these means of entering the profession would be continued. We do not ask for any monopoly of work, and it cannot reasonably be argued that any such monopoly is implied by the stipulation that those persons who hold themselves out to the public as ready to undertake the business of professional accountants should be properly qualified by experience and by examination, and be subject to disciplinary control. As to the extent of a demand for registration within the profession and the need for the protection of the public, our information is that incorporated accountants are entirely in favour of the profession being controlled as a whole. But in advocating registration we are not actuated by selfish motives. We believe that it is a policy in the best interests of the public generally. We await with interest the findings of the departmental committee. In the meantime, our members may rest assured that the Council will put forward every effort to protect the interests of incorporated accountants.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended May 17, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	6,375	From Revenue	10,521
Interest, &c. on Debt	2,231	Decrease in Balances	— 277
Sinking Fund	495		
Sundries	32		
Decrease in Debt	1,665		
	10,798		10,798

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £10,521,700, as compared with £11,370,200 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax was lower at £273,000, against £1,060,000, but sur-tax was higher at £710,000, against £340,000. Estate duties brought in £1,300,000, as compared with £1,790,000 while customs and excise amounted to £1,596,000 and £4,960,000, against £1,365,000 and £6,970,000 respectively. Receipts from sundry loans brought in £1,430,000, as compared with nil last year. The National Debt was reduced by £1,665,100, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+ 9,653	Public Department Advances.	— 3,000
National Savings Certificates	+ 150	Treasury Bonds paid off	—24,568
4½% Conversion Loan	+16,500	Post Office and Telegraph Money	— 400
	+26,303		—27,968

The Floating Debt was increased by £6,655,000 to £627,185,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31, APRIL 1 TO MAY 17.

	£		£
Expenditure	97,097,042	Revenue	82,756,390
		Decreases in balances	3,484,302
		Net Amount borrowed	10,856,350
	97,097,042		97,097,042

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	May 17, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	585
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	42
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,479
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,606

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

Ways and Means Advances	May 18, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	May 17, '30	Movement, week ended May 17, '30.
Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	40,600,000	48,530,000	42,130,000*	— 3,000,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	702,240,000	588,885,000	585,055,000*	+ 9,655,000
Total Floating Debt	742,840,000	637,415,000	627,185,000	+ 6,655,000

* Includes £4,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £30,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on May 16, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £37,750,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 4d., about 58 per cent., and Saturday at £99 9s. 6d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £30,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 21	30,000,000	53,885,000	2 1 10·16
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to May 17, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to May 18, 1929.	Week Ended May 17, 1930.	Week Ended May 18, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	18,091,000	17,883,000	273,000	1,060,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax ...	7,010,000	5,870,000	710,000	340,000
Estate, &c., Duties* ...	10,750,000	11,630,000	1,300,000	1,790,000
Stamps	1,870,000	2,480,000	360,000	200,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	70,000	70,000	...	...
Total Inland Revenue...	37,791,000	37,943,000	2,643,000	3,390,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	14,779,000	14,804,000	1,596,000	1,365,000
Excise	15,960,000	18,770,000	4,960,000	6,970,000
Total Customs and Excise	30,739,000	33,574,000	6,556,000	8,335,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	655,000	808,000	*Dr.864,000*	*Dr1105000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	5,150,000	4,650,000	700,000	750,000
Crown Lands	140,000	150,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	5,831,832	5,280,032	1,430,007	...
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,449,558	3,500,113	56,692	153
Total Ordinary Revenue	82,756,390	85,905,145	10,521,699	11,370,153
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	5,200,000	5,350,000	1,000,000	750,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	1,131,000	1,105,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	8,480,000	8,454,000	2,131,000	1,855,000
Total	91,236,390	94,359,145	12,652,699	13,225,153
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,810,000	720,000	600,000	90,000
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	314,979,000	415,710,000	49,428,000	49,146,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	46,291,883	...	16,500,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	5,800,000	5,600,000	850,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	73,460,000	125,310,000	9,800,000	11,620,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	17,038	23,221	...	...

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April —	1930. £	1929. £				
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917				
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607				
Total			6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total ..... £			540,719,525	674,094,890	89,830,699	74,881,153

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 17, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 18, 1929.	Issues Week Ended May 17, 1930.	Issues Week Ended May 18, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	39,476,745	40,195,911	2,231,333	4,452,188
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	420,601	373,330	29,061	26,867
Other Consolidated Fund Services	295,665	436,538	3,442	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	52,303,150	41,958,860	6,375,000	5,900,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	92,496,161	82,964,639	8,638,836	10,379,055
Sinking Fund.....	4,600,881	5,190,067	495,000	615,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office.....	5,200,000	5,350,000	1,000,000	750,000
Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	1,131,000	1,105,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	8,480,000	8,454,000	2,131,000	1,855,000
TOTAL	105,577,042	96,608,706	11,264,836	12,849,055
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,810,000	720,000	600,000	90,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,400,000	1,200,000	400,000	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off.....	318,795,000	413,740,000	39,775,000	49,115,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off.....	5,050,000	5,850,000	700,000	900,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,209,505	24,568,113	50,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid...	79,860,000	121,760,000	12,800,000	11,630,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917.....	...	1,870,044	...	...

	May 17, 1930. £	May 18, 1929. £				
Balances in Exchequer—						
Bank of England	2,059,262	2,443,699	...	...	— 337,965	+ 174,506
Bank of Ireland	581,650	674,478	2,640,912	3,118,177	+ 60,715	+ 72,592
Total ..... £			540,719,525	674,094,890	— 277,250	+ 247,098

Treasury, May 19, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, May 21, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	354,694,062	Other Government Securities ..	232,895,148
In Banking Department ...	62,804,006	Other Securities	11,629,318
		Silver Coin	4,460,434
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue ...	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	157,498,068
	£417,498,068		£417,498,068

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	49,787,629
Rest	3,203,333	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	21,177,728	Discounts and Advances ... £6,837,628	
Other Deposits—		Securities 13,642,672	
Bankers £57,836,199			20,480,300
Other Accounts 37,235,455		Notes	62,804,006
	95,071,654	Gold and Silver Coin	945,481
7-Day and other Bills	11,701		
	£134,017,416		£134,017,416

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

Both Departments.	Amount. May 21, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation.....	354,694,062	— 1,760,936	— 7,669,712
Public deposits	21,177,728	— 3,370,208	+ 5,877,980
Bankers' deposits	57,836,199	— 474,438	+ 328,897
Other deposits	37,235,455	+ 778,114	+ 1,920,757
Seven-day bills	11,701	— 527	+ 6,370
Total, outside liabilities	470,955,145	— 4,827,995	+ 464,292
Capital and rest	17,756,333	+ 6,029	— 22,124
Government debt and securities ...	293,697,877	— 3,003,683	+ 7,962,048
Discounts and advances	6,837,628	+ 434,100	— 78,050
Other securities	25,271,990	+ 2,653,401	— 2,770,218
Silver coin in issue department	4,460,434	— 1,456	— 367,864
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve) ...	158,443,549	— 4,904,328	— 4,303,748
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department.....	63,749,487	— 3,143,392	+ 3,365,964
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	54⅜%	— 1½%	— 1%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio") ...	33⅜%	— ⅜%	— 1%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Apr. 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.		Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."	
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
Apr. 2	244006148	11537499	157125492	33	5402 1909	10309949	12705909	59860036	50⅛
9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33⅜	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155	52½
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	33⅜	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466768	50⅛
23	243912989	11629001	163843217	33⅛	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812	51⅜
30	243912989	11628274	164283793	34⅛	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916	52⅜
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394	34⅛	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696	54⅛
14	243908931	11629179	163347877	34⅛	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879	56
21	243910248	11629318	158443549	33⅛	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487	54⅜

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to May 7	14,275,285	670,153	1,089,783	16,035,221
Week ended May 14	743,649	34,970	58,332	836,951
Week ended May 21	783,693	35,868	61,822	881,383
Total to date, 1930	15,802,627	740,991	1,209,937	17,753,555
Total to date, 1929	15,802,075	754,007	1,220,580	17,776,662
Increase or decrease in 1930.....	+ 552	— 13,016	— 10,643	— 23,107
	nil	= 1·7%	= ·87%	= ·13%
Total for year, 1929.....	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928.....	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929.....	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of April. 1929.	Month of April. 1930.	Month of April. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Jan .1 to May 17 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Jan .1 to May 17 1930.
Number of Working days	25	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM.....	10,126,000	10,138,000	+ 0·1	53,974,700	51,284,900
BRADFORD	5,388,000	3,879,000	— 28·0	24,647,800	18,541,900
BRISTOL	4,738,000	4,191,000	— 11·5	24,398,000	22,196,000
DUBLIN.....	...	...	...	99,023,700	96,189,600
HULL	3,876,000	3,402,000	— 12·2	18,175,100	16,320,400
LEEDS.....	4,061,000	4,006,000	— 1·3	20,757,200	19,756,500
LEICESTER	3,490,000	2,855,000	— 18·1	16,432,400	14,757,000
LIVERPOOL	32,936,000	27,781,000	— 15·6	163,659,300	140,200,000
MANCHESTER.....	55,057,000	45,298,000	— 17·7	252,696,500	228,613,200
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,003,000	6,537,000	+ 8·8	29,422,600	29,704,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,533,000	2,419,000	— 4·5	12,912,600	12 283,800
SHEFFIELD	4,043,000	3,528,000	— 12·7	20,715,800	18,955,100
Total	132,251,000	114,034,000	— 13·7	746,815,700	668,783,300

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Canada appeared in the *Economist* of April 26; Denmark and Lithuania in May 10; Norway and Egypt in May 17.

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

RESOURCES.	May 23, 1929.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,841,900	3,072,660	3,068,170	3,074,080	3,076,460
Total bills discounted	904,430	233,450	237 450	210,490	210,000
Bills bought in open market	137,990	209,560	175,200	171,030	186,880
Total U.S. Govt. securities	153,290	529,510	527,840	527,900	528,320
Total bills and securities ...	1,203,520	983,220	951,090	920,020	931,600
Total resources	5,056,800	4,973,880	4,936,020	5,030,440	4,951,350
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,639,550	1,507,270	1,492,990	1,464,900	1,452,660
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,275,750	2,384,720	2,349,440	2,379,360	2 374,170
Total deposits.....	2,324,510	2,433,930	2,413,000	2,420,830	2,438,910
Capital paid in and surplus	410,680	451,140	451,120	451,090	451,180
Total liabilities	5,056,800	4,973,880	4,936,020	5,030,440	4,951,350
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined.....	75·9%	82·5%	83·0%	83·6%	83 5%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	May 23, 1929.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1130.
Total bills discounted.....	197,330	41,270	57,180	30,300	29,280
Bills bought in open market	27,440	49,790	37,010	35,310	50,550
Total U.S. Govt. securities ..	20,680	195,170	192,860	177,860	178,060
Total bills and securities.....	247,370	293,930	295,660	252,070	262,290
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	913,100	991,130	947,990	972,570	971,590
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	84·4%	84·3%	83·4%	86·8%	86·5%

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

ASSETS.	Apr. 26. 1929.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion.....	8,049	7,315	7,007	7,134	7,599	7,529
Subsidiary coin	114	127	122	126	132	128
Bills discounted	9,138	9,445	9,060	8,614	7,689	7,884
Investments.....	616	1,043	1,016	1,091	1,049	1,104
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	8,755	8,436	8,565	7,891	7,642	7,726
Government deposits	2,392	2,450	1,851	1,815	2,103	2,452
Bankers' deposits	5,140	4,737	5,011	4,533	4,549	4,739
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·5%	45·8%	45·0%	47·6%	51 6%	49·6%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 26, 1929.	Mar. 28, 1930.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11. 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.
Total securities	22,49,16	30,18,57	30,03,19	30,04,37	29,86,19	29,78,46
Loans	17,17,56	10,05,27	13,07.07	14,05.68	14,00.25	12,46,27
Cash credits	28,89,75	31,74,27	31.99.54	32,19.12	32.44,54	32.08.72
Inland bills.....	10,29.08	7,11,77	6,81,35	6,39.75	5,77.14	5,97,21
Foreign bills	46.81	40,11	48,79	50.84	47,60	56.09
Dead stock	2,83,94	2,80,94	2,80.56	2,80.75	2,81,23	2,81,39
Bal. with other banks	38.02	29,02	8.25	21.60	31,67	17,65
Cash	13,66,71	19,18,46	14,31,52	13,05,22	12,01,78	16,17,03
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits.....	84.75,36	90,11,94	86,24,47	85,89,17	84,28,70	86,54,94
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,152	1,049	916	1,020	1,060	1,100
Advances in London	930	880	2,144	2,126	2,128	2.275
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	286	213	55	160	240	132

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 17, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	36,534,411	42,350,815	42,350,022	42,950.438	43,187,320
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,941,968	6,901,833	6,885,787	6,889.208	6,896,477
Bills discounted ...	18,385,576	18,753,318	18,748,376	18,716,501	18,699,720
Commercial bills discounted at home...	6,097,010	5,657,909	4,950,691	5,126,285	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	8,968,689	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances ...	2,367,483	2,591,847	2,749,826	2,652,371	2,678,029
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,127,886	2,764,386	2,989,347	3,016,224	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation...	62,863,907	70,770.213	72,372.801	71.612.307	71,130.689
Public deposits	11,886.250	6.553.930	5.593,939	5.971.635	5.372,127
Private deposits	6,453,649	6.666.101	6.382 839	7.520.406	8,207,535
Other liabilities	2,219,218	2,624,752	2,919,328	2,841,537	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 30. 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,764,785	2,565.502	2,565,417	2,577,665
Of which deposited abroad	59,257	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	56,085	327,384	330.198	297,819
Bills of exchange and cheques.....	2,672,388	2,016.121	1,860.421	1,584,886
Silver and other coin	141.942	133.433	138,030	156,119
Notes of other German banks	22,511	4,969	15.314	17,956
Advances	216,523	135.480	53.645	69,067
Investments	92.899	93.094	93,064	93.045
Other assets	588,767	580,692	606,038	615,471
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319.608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,167,321	4,664,194	4,403,696	4,196,275
Other daily maturing obligations	648,507	536,528	601.382	556,035
Other liabilities.....	297,675	162,026	163,122	165,791

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 24, 1930.	May. 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.
Gold	(b)	962,195	1,182,960	1,194,551	1,194,708	1,196,267
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	460,157	615.270	654,113	646,447	665,057
Silver and other coin		1,637	4.005	4,007	4.073	4,053
Securities.....	697,600	731,097	829,356	826,836	802,117	819,528
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation ..	934,150	2,476,661	2,876.531	2,931,692	2,906,675	2,902.796
Current accounts ...	112,125	66.691	90,363	94,734	95,839	119,729

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	May 13, 1929.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr 28, 1930.	May 5, 1930.	May 12, 1930.
Gold	163,092	437.037	431,940	431,933	431,923	431,919
Silver	8,436	25,131	25,960	25.569	25.515	25.515
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504	131.959	51,647	52,105	53.238	53,429
Foreign Bills		137,329	210,071	213,210	224,308	236,622
Loans and advances in current acct...		110,170	94.744	93,169	129,954	97,026
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	826,348	813,007	830,310	865,920	835,457
Deposits	5,016	15,771	16,473	17,992	13.246	33,019

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	May 18, 1929.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.
Gold	22,971	162.203	169,300	168,700	168,100	166,400
Silver	29,785	22,117				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	132.259	147,600	148,300	150,700	146,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	305.061	269,400	272,500	278,400	275,700
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	28.689	52,200	49,100	48,200	45,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	171,175	496,087	566,143	578,769	578,789	578,795
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	245,970	372,042	391,035	371,389	369,649
Discounts	...	126,340	35,398	37,490	36,285	34,445
Advances	103,000	53,826	41,520	45,996	48,783	44,256
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	823,606	851,824	916,284	877,567	845,013
Deposits	33,750	145,202	176,230	153,754	189,849	226,225

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 10, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May. 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,600	5,201,900	5,203,500	5,203,600	5,203,600
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,906,700	4,925,800	4,986,200	5,025,100	5,072,300
Other cash	247,400	219,800	225,100	224,300	226,300
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,801,600	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,799,700
Discounts	3,723,900	3,017,400	2,947,100	2,974,700	2,911,500
Advances	1,549,100	1,081,700	1,104,600	1,383,600	1,181,000
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,047,000	755,600	755,400	755,400	755,400
Government securities	1,042,900	1,051,000	1,063,300	1,063,200	1,062,800
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	16,143,400	16,094,700	15,866,300	16,862,400	15,854,200
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,653,200	1,399,800	1,599,000	1,509,900	1,393,500
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·44%	56·92%	57·36%	57·23%	58·56%

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

Assets.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 18, 1929.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,560,266	2,469,333	2,469,729	2,469,902	2,470,071
Silver	728,600	715,409	713,627	712,445	710,967	712,619
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,751,222	1,991,276	2,044,533	2,040,779	2,006,013
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Liabilities.						
Circulation	901,550	4,317,524	4,395,038	4,440,457	4,466,428	4,436,864
Deposits	477,500	1,110,543	840,721	816,007	810,327	844,500

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

Assets.	May 8, 1929.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,438	8,893	8,901	9,071	9,048
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	308,466	194,320	200,246	210,406	219,974
Discounts	279,731	336,056	332,522	329,367	325,170
Government loans	1,728,068	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,684
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	1,834,827	1,888,352	1,877,959	1,886,056	1,901,080
Deposits	59,946	66,026	84,468	61,626	71,793

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted)

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,575
Foreign exchange	197,190	219,013	231,101	230,520	231,223
Other foreign exchange†	346,014	340,702	364,905	364,290	364,803
Bills discounted	186,581	123,864	145,986	130,018	102,622
Gov. Debt	109,811	108,448	101,577	101,532	101,532
Liabilities.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	9,283	10,272	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	892,206	847,129	982,424	911,777	873,904
Deposits	120,061	120,719	36,200	89,897	101,798

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengő (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,622	162,626	162,627	162,631	162,631
Drafts and notes	29,026	7,548	10,201	13,916	10,566
Silver coin and bullion	9,710	10,310	10,266	9,977	10,094
Inland bills, warrants and securities	351,287	202,320	248,141	218,562	201,771
Advances to the Treasury	92,219	82,866	82,866	82,831	82,831
Liabilities.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	424,145	369,887	463,672	429,468	397,458
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	195,703	73,148	24,988	40,917	49,475

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (Note: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

Assets.	May 16, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	May. 1, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	17,975	30,348	31,385	32,454	32,451
Other precious metals	4,327	3,079	2,909	2,823	2,786
Foreign bank notes	8,558	5,717	6,175	6,098	6,007
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	280	299	299	303	295
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	81,861	116,557	118,232	123,322	123,391
Liabilities.					
Bank notes	112,286	155,598	158,475	164,629	164,943
Balance to which notes may still be issued	714	402	525	371	57

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 8, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,300	303,725	303,539	303,370
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	680,611	1,063,234	1,069,616	1,166,128
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	335,251	335,251	343,242
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,465,060	1,130,812	1,041,703	956,284
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,505,220	1,401,850	1,439,878	1,388,991
Deposits at notice	21,225	214,553	318,641	207,216	262,538

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,591	1,262,112	1,262,153	1,262,197	1,262,234
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,650,002	1,860,942	1,871,893	1,885,064	1,888,882
Discounts and advances	415,403	476,251	515,320	390,276	354,789
State notes debt balance	4,013,153	3,688,386	3,686,744	3,678,603	3,673,858
Other assets	664,337	596,228	659,836	672,806	673,135
Liabilities.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,544,477	6,120,652	6,854,433	6,439,857	6,167,047
Check account balances	711,511	1,026,687	401,333	706,537	941,975
Other liabilities	220,904	228,192	231,792	234,169	235,488

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 22, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	92,358	96,513	96,608	96,714	96,838
Other coin and notes	18,056	18,295	17,912	18,198	18,570
Foreign credits	183,485	266,178	262,674	261,329	231,352
Bills	1,342,003	1,083,220	1,077,386	1,100,930	1,095,299
Government advances	4,201,078	4,125,398	4,123,399	4,121,399	4,119,398
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	5,115,172	12,502	12,502	12,531	12,531
State credits	227,808	5,137,528	5,221,043	5,286,280	5,143,438
Deposits	1,104,455	2,019,718	1,923,550	1,853,384	1,816,277

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000's omitted).

Assets.	Apr. 5, 1930.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	11,531,466	11,634,490	11,692,498	11,419,312	11,151,273
Commercial bills	9,714,415	9,718,993	9,630,336	9,541,290	9,420,634
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	19,740,013	19,893,421	20,496,292	19,253,862	19,080,312
Other sight liabilities	8,191,210	8,002,071	7,390,706	7,944,354	7,846,079

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,523,746	1,575,671	1,576,072	1,577,370	1,578,246
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,268,129	785,686	765,973	736,782	814,052
Discounts and advances	1,498,425	1,221,804	1,173,866	1,109,678	1,078,447
Advances to the Treasury	3,685,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,166,576	1,252,000	1,252,959	1,253,051	1,250,270
Bank notes in circulation	4,337,858	3,792,861	3,408,073	3,302,085	3,448,592
Sight liabilities	2,665,654	1,680,252	1,618,437	1,737,009	1,633,179
Deposits	465,682	315,158	314,805	314,597	313,687

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Gold	571,377	629,889	630,204	620,728	621,770
Gold exchange	4,933,291	3,644,948	3,654,417	3,420,283	3,864,962
Other foreign exchange	1,154	3,774	3,773	3,742	2,607
Bills discounted	37,175	108,743	92,962	93,656	92,731
Advances	70,188	149,202	147,591	139,601	141,330
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,512,763	3,488,763	3,488,763
Liabilities.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,721,209	5,027,455	5,154,038	4,991,217	4,946,667
Deposits and current accounts	1,751,235	1,669,487	1,686,062	1,524,715	1,453,263
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,465,353	894,235	738,679	706,077	1,254,335

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 20, 1929.	Apr. 10, 1930.	Apr. 20, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 20, 1930.
Gold	623,515	702,031	702,075	702,185	702,234
Of which held abroad	195,402	219,046	219,046	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies	557,696	412,956	403,577	409,589	416,968
Bills discounted	716,611	608,803	607,038	590,563	593,137
Loans against securities	90,152	80,236	81,477	86,959	80,061
Reserve fund securities	68,949	83,073	83,171	83,171	83,162
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Liabilities.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,182,847	1,278,465	1,248,846	1,325,985	1,255,861
Current accounts	566,166	338,185	364,194	301,738	354,376
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 18, 1929.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.
Gold	234,348	243,397	243,353	243,316	243,266
Government securities—Swedish	5,719	22,246	21,942	21,849	21,789
" " Foreign	73,774	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	177	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	236,894	142,878	112,429	104,337	92,678
" " abroad	55,634	98,006	123,513	127,050	127,952
Balance abroad	51,213	178,520	169,703	175,442	168,859
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	57,648	34,066	38,208	32,857	37,517
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	478,803	499,314	545,091	516,538	508,722
Government deposits	194,822	179,047	160,601	165,070	169,210
Private deposits	5,578	47,144	10,710	32,009	21,852

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 7, 1929.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,277	6,470	6,471	6,477	6,476
Net foreign exchange	19,483	19,204	19,459	18,169	17,983
Subsidiary Estonian coin	751	1,473	1,178	1,471	1,581
Home bills discounted	14,659	15,006	14,639	14,373	14,269
Loans and advances	14,282	12,864	11,897	12,044	11,681*
Liabilities.					
Notes in circulation	33,309	33,088	34,166	32,327	31,380
Sight deposits and current accounts	18,369	16,973	15,174	16,324	16,983
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	49·84%	51·28%	52·55%	50·66%	50·57%

* Includes Ekr. 7,301,545·04, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 16, 1930.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,840	23,982	23,982	23,987	23,992	23,995
Silver coin	4,751	6,228	6,061	6,035	7,047	7,265
Balance abroad	56,736	51,502	52,682	52,760	52,220	50,756
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,654	13,522	11,660	12,862	13,853	16,457
Short term bills	86,644	92,108	92,521	90,537	90,591	90,244
Loans against securities	56,288	54,567	55,931	56,292	55,904	55,421
Other assets	17,602	13,279	14,390	14,627	15,316	14,337
Liabilities.						
Notes in circulation	44,408	47,591	48,959	47,507	46,613	44,364
Capital paid up	15,581	18,735	18,735	18,735	18,735	18,734
Reserve	3,091	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,887	16,810	16,844	17,009	17,109	17,123
Current accounts	55,385	53,099	53,751	54,416	55,357	57,228
Government accounts	109,651	104,618	105,429	107,309	108,811	108,456
Other liabilities	14,012	6,483	5,658	4,273	4,446	4,718

BANK OF DANZIG.—In Danzig gulden (000's omitted).

Assets.	May 15, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 15, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion	2,804	3,167	3,516	3,227	3,521	3,369	3,603
Of which gold coin	8	12	112	116	116	116	116
Danzig subsidiary coin	2,796	3,155	3,403	3,111	3,405	3,252	3,487
Bal., Bk. of Eng., inc. notes	11,841	14,502	11,518	15,347	12,062	14,820	11,610
Bills of exchange	23,592	20,155	20,565	21,809	19,297	19,425	20,273
Loans	...	...	140	...	20	...	...
Foreign exchange	14,189	13,328	10,338	9,472	10,842	12,384	10,753
Other bals. on dem'd	1,052	32	7	22	25	7	11
Securities	3,403	2,703	2,703	3,666	3,666	3,666	3,666
Liabilities.							
Capital paid up	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Notes in circulation	33,603	36,045	31,615	36,661	32,055	36,207	31,770
Deposits on demand	2,156	1,696	1,746	1,659	1,778	2,084	2,476

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

Assets.	Position, June 30, 1914	May 4, 1929.	Apr. 12, 1930.	Apr. 19, 1930.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,126,856	954,383	950,353	940,320	935,630
Discounts	41,740	714,708	682,128	678,509	672,209	671,058
Advances	70,540	78,016	76,116	76,495	76,294	75,966
Liabilities.						
Notes	362,270	1,256,479	1,122,405	1,114,989	1,185,859	1,166,821
Govt. deposits	87,340	549,156	478,288	443,161	408,921	417,240
Other deposits	11,440	302,812	382,417	359,136	284,295	291,788

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

Assets.	Apr. 26, 1929.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.
Gold at home	60,892	63,210	63,245	63,245	83,236
Gold abroad	463,189	341,408	337,121	336,006	197,386
Discounts and advances	88,150	157,551	111,803	98,411	109,256
Liabilities.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	365,644	360,520	353,876	350,239	345,571
Deposits	171,769	126,945	85,391	75,431	80,675
Drafts	4,287	8,676	8,956	...	...
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	May 15, 1930.	May 16, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 19, 1930.	May 20, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2⅛	2⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16
3 months' do.	2⅛	2⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 5/32–3/16	2 5/32–3/16	2⅛–3/16
4 months' do.	2¼	2 3/16–¼	2 5/16–⅜	2 5/16–⅜	2 5/16–⅜	2 5/16	2¼–5/16
6 months' do.	2⅜	2⅜–½	2⅜	2⅜	2½–⅝	2½	2 7/16–½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2 1/16–⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
3 months'‡	2 1/16–⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16–3/32
Loans—Day to day	2	1½–2	1½–2	2–2¼	2–2¼	2–2¼	2–2¼
Short	2	1–2	2	2	2	2–2¼	2–2¼
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May 1	1½	2 5/16	2 5/16	2¼	3	3	3½
8	2	2¼	2¼	2¼	3	3½	4
15	2	2⅜	2⅜	2¼	3	3½	4
22	2–2¼	2¼–5/16	2¼–5/16	2 7/16–½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	May, 23, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·84 27/32–·84⅞	4·86–1/16	4·86⅛–⅛
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88½–·88⅝	4·86 7/16–·86 9/16	4·86½–·86⅝
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124 1/16–124⅛	123·85–·87	123·93–·95
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·37¾–·38	20·36½–36⅝	20·36½–37
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·06¾–·07	12·08⅜–·08⅝	12·08⅝–·08⅞
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·12–·14	34·81–81½	34·82¼–·82¾
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67–·70	92·67–·69	92·70–·73
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·19¼–·19¾	25·12–12½	25·12–·12½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¼–·19¾	18·16–·16½	18·16–·16½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14¾–·15	18·12–·12½	18·11¾–·12¼
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20½–·21	18·16–·16½	18·16–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	34·12–·14	39·78–·81	39·97–40·0[illegible]
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108⅛–⅜	108¼–⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·51–·54	34·44–·48	34·45–·48
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅝–163¾	163⅞–164⅛	163⅞–164
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾–276¼	274¾–274½	275–275½
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–·86	27·79–·83	27·80–·84
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–819	817–818	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	668–673	668–673
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375	374¾–375½	374¾–375¼
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	996–1001	1025 seller	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–9·43	†9·433–452	†9·433–·452
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	†43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–7/16
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193	192⅞–193⅛	192 15/16–193 1/16
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48¼–49	48¼–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–18·23	18·22–·29	18·22–·29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25·25	25·17–·27	25·17–·27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 15/32–17/32	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 5/16–47 7/32	42 15/16–43	42⅞–42 15/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 55/64–57/64	5 27/32–29/32	5 27/32–⅞
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	48⅝–48⅞	45¼–45¾	45–45½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·51	39·88	†39·93
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	12·73½ nom.	12·77½
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 57/64–29/32	1/5 13/16–27/32	1/5 13/16–27/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 57/64–29/32	1/5 13/16–27/32	1/5 13/16–27/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 57/64–29/32	1/5 13/16–27/32	1/5 13/16–27/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅛–2/0⅛	1/5½–1/6	1/5½–1/5¾
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5–2/5⅝	1/10–1/10½	1/9 15/16–1/10 1/16
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3¾–2/3 27/32	2/3 25/32–27/32	2/3 11/16–13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 7/16–1/10½	2/0⅜–7/16	2/0 13/32–15/32
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 5/16 d.	†2/0 5/16	†2/0 5/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·00–10·25	10·10–·30	10·15–·30
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Belgrade	July 26, 1921	...	6	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	May 19, 1930	5	4½	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9				
Budapest	Mar. 28, 1930	6½	6	Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5	Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6	Vienna	Mar. 21, 1930	6½	6
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3	Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	4	4	3	3	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	9	4	4	3¾	3¾	3½
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅛	3	2⅝	2⅝	2½
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	3⅛	3⅛	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅛	...	3¼	3	3	2¾
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	...	4	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	May 23, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79⅝	4·83	4·83⅝	4·83 11/16
Cable	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·84 13/16	4·85⅞	4·86	4·86⅛
Cheques	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·845	4·85⅝	4·85¾	4·85⅞
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90⅝	3·92⅛	3·92⅛	3·92
Brussels "	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·95	13·95	13·95
Switzerland "	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·245	19·36½	19·33½	19·36
Italy "	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·53⅛	5·24	5·24	5·23⅞
Berlin "	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·77	23·84	23·85	23·85
Vienna "	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·09½	14·10	14·10
Madrid "	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·215	12·28	12·20	12·15
Amsterdam "	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·15	40·22	40·19½	40·20
Copenhagen "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·74	26·75	26·75
Oslo "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·63	26·74½	26·75	26·75
Stockholm "	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·71	26·83½	26·81½	26·82
Athens "	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·295	1·29½	1·2975	1·293½
Montreal "	Can. Cents for $1	100	11/32 dis.	23/32 dis.	⅝ dis.	5/32 dis.
Yokohama "	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·45	49·40	49·40	49·40
Hong Kong "	Cents for H. Kong $	...	48·25	36·90	36·15	35·60
Shanghai "	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	59·25	46·37½	45·37½	44⅜
Calcutta "	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·15	36·08	36·07	36·02
Buenos Aires "	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·80	112·40	114·60	114·90
Rio de Janeiro "	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·83	11·90	11·85	11·80
Valparaiso "	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	"	25·63
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	"	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	"	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	"	9·92
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	⅛% "	1/16% dis.	⅛ to 1/16% "
30 days	1⅞% "	5/16% "	⅜% "	7/16% "
60 days	2½% "	⅜% "	1⅛% "	5/16% "
90 days	3⅛% "	13/16% "	1½% "	3/16% "
20 days	3⅞% "	1⅛% "	2 1/16% "	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106¼	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93¼	95	105⅜	103½	106 1/16	104⅜
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104⅝	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91¼	92¼	...	...	104 1/16	102¼	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 13/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104⅝	103½

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to May 17, 1930, were £4,700,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended May 22, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To—*	
France	17,403	Poland	3,400
British S. Africa	823,371	Germany	422,030
Australia	1,000,000	France	4,074,126
Other countries	160	Switzerland	22,200
		Spain	7,000
		Austria	13,965
		British India	199,462
		Other countries	866
Total declared value of imports	1,840,934	Total declared value of exports	4,743,049

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows :—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
May 16	Bars bought	443	May 16	Bars sold	1,787,781
May 17	Sovs. from abroad	1,000,000	May 17	Bars sold	2,662,867
				Sovs. for export	2,000
May 19		Nil	May 19	Bars sold	500,694
May 20		Nil	May 20	Sovs. set aside	500,000
May 21		Nil		Bars sold	194
			May 21	Bars sold	214
May 22		Nil	May 22	Bars sold	195
				Sovs. withdrawn	3,000
	Total arrivals	1,000,443		Total withdrawals	5,456,945

Net withdrawals, £4,456,502.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write as follows on May 21, 1930 :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £162,383,588 on the 14th instant (as compared with £163,572,470 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £16,423,504 since January 1st last. Gold from South Africa to the value of £824,000 was available in the open market yesterday. At the fixed price of 84s. 11d. per fine ounce, £400,000 was taken for Germany and £306,000 for a destination not disclosed, but believed to be Belgium. India took £50,000, the Continental trade £30,000, and the Home trade £28,000. At the Bank of England heavy withdrawals of gold for France were again a feature during the past week, being exceptionally large on the 16th and 17th instant, when the sales of £1,787,781 and £2,662,867 respectively were announced. Altogether, withdrawals totalled £5,902,556, of which about £5,360,000 was in bar gold for France and £520,833 in sovereigns set aside. Receipts included £1,000,000 in sovereigns from Australia. The net efflux during the week under review is £4,902,113. It is believed that the withdrawals for account of France were mainly due to the need for funds by applicants for the French share of the capital of the Bank for International Settlements, the subscription lists of which closed yesterday. The French exchange is now considerably firmer, rendering further shipments of gold from London unprofitable for the present.

SILVER.

Although there have been fluctuations in silver prices, the market has shown a marked downward tendency. News was received on the 16th instant of an order made by the Chinese Government prohibiting the export of gold bars and the import of foreign silver coin. Hesitation on the part of sellers, possibly whilst considering the effects of this measure, and a demand for some bears to cover their commitments caused a sharp rise of ¼d., prices being quoted at 19¼d. and 19 3/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively. Subsequent movements, however, were downward, and after two successive falls of ¼d., prices touched 18¾d. and 18 11/16d. on the 19th instant. There was a slight reaction of 1/16d. yesterday, but to-day, with further selling and a lack of support, quotations lapsed to 18⅝d. and 18 9/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively, which price for cash is equal to the lowest on record.

China selling has been the chief cause of the weakness, but the Indian Bazaars were also inclined to take a bearish view, making fresh forward sales, besides purchases for near delivery. America, too, has been a seller, offerings on occasion having been made with some freedom.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 12th instant to mid-day on the 19th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
France	30,343	British India	79,038
U.S.A.	17,484	Other countries	2,305
Netherlands	8,300		
Other countries	8,660		
	£64,787		£81,343

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	May 15.	May 7.	Apr. 30.
Notes incirculation	17,341	17,342	17,390
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,011	11,012	11,060
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,228	3,228	3,227
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	3,058	3,058	3,073
Securities (British Government)	44	44	30

The stocks in Shanghai on the 17th instant consisted of about 98,300,000 ounces in sycee, 143,000,000 dollars, 16,900,000 Saigon dollars and 11,620 silver bars, as compared with about 98,000,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 15,900,000 Saigon dollars and 12,760 silver bars on the 10th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

•	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
May 16	84 11½	19¼	19 3/16	May 18, 1923	32⅜
" 17	84 11½	19	18 15/16	" 16, 1924	33 11/16
" 19	84 11½	19	18 15/16	" 15, 1925	31 3/16
" 20	84 11	18 13/16	18¾	" 14, 1926	30¼
" 21	84 11½	18⅝	18 7/16	" 13, 1927	26
" 22	84 11½	18⅝	18 9/16	" 17, 1928	27⅝

NOTICES.

Sub-branches of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., are now opened at 124 High Street, Hornchurch, and at 146 Port Tennant Road, St. Thomas, Swansea.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that they have opened new sub-branches at Knowle, Warwickshire, and at Dorridge, Warwickshire.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new sub-branch at 2 Eling Lane, Totton, Hants.

Company News.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	March, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	April, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	90,000	141,009	45,012	84,500	134,034	42,548
City Deep	97,000	109,246	748*	93,000	106,466	1,965*
Consolidated Main Reef	60,000	88,982	13,011	56,500	87,067	12,041
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	237,000	821,898	80,964	229,000	315,875	81,359
Durban Rdooprt. Deep	41,200	58,104	5,111	40,200	58,178	4,518
East Rand Proprietary	150,000	174,469	10,772	145,500	169,095	10,811
Geduld Proprietary	86,000	116,915	46,947	82,500	112,341	46,947
Geldenhuis Deep	64,900	64,381	5,028	64,500	65,043	4,755
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,400	9,442	501	6,300	9,312	422
Government Areas	203,000	389,179	230,115	194,000	377,066	219,013
Kleinfontein, New	54,000	...	4,616	52,000	48,325	5,201
Langlaagte Estate	81,000	118,819	33,048	77,000	114,957	32,030
Meyer and Charlton	17,000	19,919	2,013	17,200	19,816	2,412
Modderfontein B.	72,500	111,517	48,044	67,500	102,524	43,583
Modderfontein Deep	44,200	96,850	62,185	42,800	95,331	61,594
Modderfontein East	70,000	87,234	17,834	66,500	83,000	16,305
Modderfontein, New	154,000	309,812	181,165	149,000	302,844	177,835
New State Areas	78,000	151,128	70,067	75,000	151,991	72,027
Nourse Mines	63,500	79,754	5,153	59,500	79,256	5,224
Randfontein Estates	218,000	224,162	30,210	195,000	214,305	25,187
Robinson Deep†	132,000†	151,348	25,322	137,000	151,951	25,588
Rose Deep	62,000	52,207	2,548	57,000	52,997	3,062
Simmer and Jack	78,000	86,061	8,564	73,300	88,077	10,522
Springs Mines	69,000	143,855	66,028	66,000	134,034	42,548
Sub-Nigel	29,200	96,386	35,036	28,700	100,592	41,000
Transvaal G.M. Estates	14,620	21,889	2,230	14,450	18,450	1,243
Van Ryn	42,000	42,472	4,230	40,500	40,791	4,204
Van Ryn Deep	65,000	108,580	41,488	64,000	102,856	37,684
West Rand Consolid'td	90,000	99,640	20,009	88,500	99,461	20,015
West Springs	68,000	78,205	18,673	65,000	75,102	16,200
Witwatersrand Deep	44,200	39,107	458*	38,000	35,686	3,794*
Witwatersrand Knight's	55,000	52,001	5,591	53,000	50,780	4,554

* Loss. † Includes the returns from Village Deep.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended May 16, 1930. (c) Week ended May 17, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended May 18, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 20 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,751	215	217	125	342	557	4,091	4,268	2,561	6,829	10,920
Do. for 1929	3,751	276	247	125	372	648	4,207	4,441	2,608	7,049	11,256
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	310	397	250	647	957	6,182	8,095	5,421	13,516	19,698
Do. for 1929	6,365	396	434	271	705	1,101	6,339	8,300	5,515	13,815	20,154
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	460	551	235	786	1,246	9,119	10957	5,483	16,441	25,560
Do. for 1929	6,957½	676	595	267	862	1,538	9,560	11240	5,882	17,122	26,682
Southern	2,179	292	81	28	109	401	5,595	1,508	624	2,132	7,727
Do. for 1929	2,172	374	83	27	110	484	5,619	1,515	696	2,211	7,830
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·3	4·0	...	...	36·3	651·2	80·4	...	...	731·6
Do. for 1929	59	33·5	3·8	...	...	37·3	632·8	77·6	...	...	710·4
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	306	...	...	...	306	5,876	...	...	...	5,876
Do. for 1929	...	288	...	...	...	288	5,427	...	...	...	5,427
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	45	...	...	...	45	852	...	...	...	852
Do. for 1929	...	42	...	...	...	42	771	...	...	...	771
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·3	·8	...	...	3·1	41·8	14·6	...	...	56·4
Do. for 1929	80	2·2	·9	...	...	3·1	40·5	18·1	...	...	58·6
*GreatNorthern b	562	10·1	15·6	...	...	25·7	...	...	...	...	498·1
Do. for 1929	562	10·7	16·1	...	...	26·8	...	...	...	...	522·3
GreatSouthern b	2,187	25·5	43·3	...	...	68·8	...	...	...	...	1,342
Do. for 1929	2,187	24·4	43·4	...	...	67·8	...	...	...	...	1,367

* Aggregate 19 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.							
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	3weeks	Apr 19	1,217	3,62,000	− 49,280	10,36,000	− 47,909
Barsi Lt. Ry.	4weeks	26	202	55,400	− 36,700	2,32,400	− 35,600
Bengal & N.Western	4weeks	26	2,080	7,66,056	− 49,013	28,66,863	− 60,826
Bengal-Nagpur	3weeks	19	3,085	15,85,000	− 365323	47,29,000	− 7,04,422
Bombay,Bar.,& C.I.	6weeks	May 10	3,031	23,36,000	+ 101000	1,38,51,000	− 4,36,000
Madras. & S. Mahr.	3weeks	Apr 19	3,228	19,17,000	− 77,512	50,53,000	− 3,18,099
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	3weeks	19	572	1,52,369	+ 7,022	4,32,546	+ 36,368
South Indian	4weeks	26	2,371	12,64,078	− 84,226	47,57,089	− 1,10,488

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	1930.	+ or −	1930.	+ or −
ARGENTINE (a).							
				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	46weeks	May 17	753	16,600	− 100	718,300	− 1,100
Argentine Trans'dn.	46weeks	17	111	5,075	+ 239	214,644	− 7,484
B.A. and Pacific	46weeks	17	2,806	*140,000*	− *58,000*	*7,050,000*	− *1,050,000*
B.A. Central	46weeks	18	...	11,829	− 3,186	590,917	− 65,107
B.A. Gt. Southern	46weeks	17	4,875	228,000	− 33,000	10,920,000	− 702,000
B.A. Western	46weeks	17	1,926	75,000	− 25,000	3,908,000	− 785,000
Central Argentine	46weeks	17	3,319	191,000	− 98,000	10,464,000	− 2,091,000
Cordoba Central	46weeks	17	1,218	42,000	− 24,000	2,603,000	− 568,200
Entre Rios	46weeks	17	804	20,200	− 5,300	1,258,200	− 141,000
CUBAN.							
				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	45weeks	May 10	1,369	69,444	44,372	2,959,936	− 455,479
URUGUAYAN.							
				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	46weeks	May 17	273	28,706	+ 234	1,439,998	+ 49,255
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	46weeks	17	311	7,201	+ 300	339,779	+ 19,989
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	46weeks	17	*185*	3,563	− 698	171,436	+ 320
C.Urug.(West. Ext.)	46weeks	17	211	3,027	− 228	131,896	− 8,039
CANADIAN.							
				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	19weeks	May 14	20150	5,135,279	− 837550	94,860,381	− 15417640
Canadian Pacific	19weeks	14	15217	43,182,000	− 873000	58,856,000	− 14629000
BRAZILIAN (b).							
				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	20weeks	May 17	1,016	13,300	− 500	339,100	− 47,400
Leopoldina	20weeks	17	1,856	32,890	− 4,022	680,727	− 31,458
Leopoldina Termnl.	20weeks	17	Mlrs.	266,000	+ 19,000	5,803,000	+ 283,000
San Paulo	20weeks	18	153½	44,118	− 11,912	848,972	− 83,295
CHILEAN.							
				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	20weeks	May 18	804	26,800	− 12,870	587,550	− 220,815
Nitrate (½-monthly)	4½ mths	15	410	16,720	− 14,660	195,490	− 150,205
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	4weeks	Apr 30	610	8,239	− 157	25,971	+ 100
Gt. Southn. of Spain	19weeks	May 10	104	Pes111057	− 5,629	2,200,108	− 128,592
Mexican Railway	19weeks	14	483	$242,100	− 16,000	4,859,900	+ 62,400
Paraguay Central	45weeks	10	274	4,670	− 50	185,290	− 15,040
Salvador	46weeks	17	100	3,283	− 1,976	210,417	− 25,078

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	19weeks	May 13	329	83,365	− 6,005	1,600,232	− 82,352
B. Aires Lacroze	46weeks	18	...	11,786	− 323	540,723	− 42,785
BurnleyCorporation	19weeks	17	13	2,747	− 203	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	19weeks	17	35½	Rs.103600	− 20,363	...	− 237,861
Chatham & District	18weeks	8	15	1,109	+ 115	19,538	+ 1,186
Egyptian Markets	18weeks	8	...	1,397	− 453	35,282	− 3,362
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	18weeks	7	...	2,259	+ 251	48,326	− 970
Liverpool Corp.	20weeks	17	124	29,642	− 303	202,443	+ 4,590
L.C.C. Tramways	6weeks	14	166	82,644	− 437	520,445	+ 787
Madras Electric ‡	4½ mths	15	...	Rs. 45,842	+ 1,485	417,745	+ 28,138

* Including motor 'buses. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

MONTHLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

AMERICAN RAILROAD GROSS AND NET RECEIPTS.

This table is extracted from the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York.

Date.	Miles of Road. 1928.	1929.	Gross Earnings. 1929.	Increase or Decrease.	Net Earnings. 1929.	Increase or Decrease.
			$	$	$	$
Jan.	240,417	240,833	486,201,495	+28,853,685	117,730,186	+23,578,231
Feb.	242,668	242,884	474,780,516	+18,292,585	126,368,848	+17,381,336
Mar.	240,427	241,185	516,134,027	+10,884,477	139,639,086	+ 7,516,400
Apr.	240,956	240,816	513,076,026	+38,291,124	136,821,660	+25,937,085
May	240,798	241,280	536,723,030	+26,179,817	146,798,792	+17,754,001
June	241,243	241,608	531,033,198	+28,577,315	150,174,332	+22,659,557
July	241,183	241,450	556,706,135	+43,884,198	168,428,748	+30,793,381
Aug.	241,253	241,026	585,638,740	+27,835,272	190,957,504	+16,758,860
Sept.	241,447	241,704	565,816,654	+ 9,812,986	181,413,185	+ 2,612,246
Oct.	241,451	241,622	607,584,997	− 9,890,014	204,335,941	−12,183,372
Nov.	241,326	241,695	498,316,925	−32,806,074	127,163,307	−30,028,982
Dec.	240,773	241,864	468,182,822	−27,767,999	106,315,167	−32,186,071
	1929.	1930.	1930.		1930.	
Jan.	242,350	242,175	450,526,039	−36,102,247	94,759,394	−23,005,176
Feb.	242,348	242,113	427,231,361	−48,034,122	97,448,899	−28,128,967

OVERSEAS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Month. 1928–29.	+ or −	Aggregate Receipts. 1928–29.	+ or −
CANADIAN.							
Canadian National	3 mths	Mar. 31	Gross	$18,724,187	− 4163855	52,582,630	− 8,722,117
			Net	$ 2,456,750	− 3063345	4,564,521	− 6,617,740
Canadian Pacific	3 mths	Mar. 31	Gross	$14,205,000	− 3334000	38,930,000	− 8,932,000
			Net	$ 2,099,000	− 1858000	3,686,000	− 3,958,000
BRAZILIAN.							
State of Bahia	12 mths	Apr. 30	52	2,103	− 604	61,785	− 16,471
CHILE AND PERU.							
Peruvian Corp.	10 mths	Apr. 30	31066	142,345	− 9,463	1,538,046	+ 50,573
Taltal	9 mths	Mar. 31	174	12,205	− 1,440	127,523	− 4,267
URUGUAYAN.							
				£	£	£	£
Midland Uruguay	10 mths	Apr. 30	319	19,149	+ 2,128	200,957	+ 16,594
N.-W. Uruguay	*10 mths*	*Apr. 30*	113	5,319	− *106*	*64,298*	− 663
Uruguay North	10 mths	Apr. 30	73	2,085	+ 170	24,680	− 3,193
OTHER OVERSEAS.							
				£	£	£	£
Alcoy & Gandia	4 mths	Apr. 30	33	3,119	− 190	14,787	− 2,275
Algoma Cent. & Hudson Bay (a)	9 mths	Mar. 31	Gross	$241,845	+ 15,820	1,622,226	− 176,428
Beira and Mashonaland	...	Feb. 28	740	121,590	+ 37,426	...	...
Bilbao River	4 mths	Apr. 30	15	3,891	− 1,000	12,942	− 584
Bolivar	4 mths	Apr. 30	170	13,000	− 100	51,050	− 1,700
Colombia Rlys.&c.	9 mths	Mar. 31	Gross	21,606	− 13,873	236,342	− 98,309
Costa Rica	7 mths	Jan. 31	188	46,712	+ 24,183	277,984	+ 38,584
Dorado Railway	3 mths	Mar. 31	70	22,800	− 14,400	73,700	− 333,000
Dorado Rope. Ex.	3 mths	Mar. 31	45	3,700	− 1,300	9,400	− 6,400
International of Central America	1 mth	Feb28	Gross	16,815	− 10,254	...	...
			Net	$82,414	+ 233	...	...
La Guaira & Car.	4 mths	Apr. 30	22½	12,235	+ 1,455	47,080	− 2,990
Mid. of W. Aust.	9 mths	Mar. 31	277	19,466	− 4,936	176,203	− 3,291
Rhodesia Rail'ys	...	Feb. 28	1403	187,404	+ 54,730	...	...
Samana&Sant'go	3 mths	Mar. 31	...	2,270	+ 254	6,810	− 660
Sante Fe Prov.	...	Mar. 31	...	136,627	− 42,251	...	...
Zafra and Huelva	3 mths	Mar. 31	112	Ps.389,751	− 101,128	1,188,779	− 53,054

(a) Railway receipts only.

TRAMWAY AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

Name.	Period.	Ending.		Receipts for Month.	+ or −	Aggregate Receipts.	+ or −
BarcelonaTrac rcpts.in pstas.	2 mths	Feb.28	Gross	Ps9,167,725	+ 545,866	28,776,272	+ 2,047,169
			Net	Ps6,109,095	+ 202,557	19,385,274	+ 394,729
Barton Transport	7 mths	Apr.30	Gross	10,195	− 219	69,557	+ 2,161
BrazilianTrac. receipts in $	3 mths	Mar.31	Gross	$4,047,036	+ 118,486	11,577,092	+ 130,731
			Net	$2,291,685	+ 81,530	6,657,946	+ 73,392
Brit. Columbia Electric, &c.	9 mths	Mar.31	Gross	$1,258,375	+ 14,783	11,110,713	+ 567,360
			Net	$357,456	− 80,784	3,363,281	− 192,436
Burma Electric Supply Co.	...	Mar.31	...	Rs. 72,758	+ 3,765	...	− 23,007
CapeElec. Tram.	8 mths	Mar.31	Gross	38,214	...	...	...
Catalinas Warehs	2 mths	Mar.31	...	9,400	+ 700	18,500	+ 2,000
Cities Service Co.	12 mths	Mar.31	Gross	5,369,668	+ 2116386	50,907,114	+ 14727759
			Net	4,661,969	+ 2020376	42,130,017	+ 11909524
E. African Power	11 mths	Jan. 31	Gross	11,502	+ 1,933	11,502	+ 1,933
Imp. Airways	11 mths	Feb.28	Gross	38,234	+ 14,703	545,083	+ 129,967
KalgoorlieElec Tramways	1 mth	Jan. 31	Gross	1,454	...	1,454	...
			Net	...	...	...	...
La Guaira Harb.	2 mths	Mar.31	...	18,114	+ 5,245	...	...
Madeira-Mamore	9 mths	Mar.31	Gross	Contos 161	− 90	1,159	− 416
Manchester Ship Canal	3 mths	Mar.31	...	106,859	− 7,844	323,704	− 12,623
Mexico Light in Pesos	3 mths	Mar.31	Gross	Ps.1883344	+ 113,377	5,855,314	+ 393,479
			Net	Ps.900,190	+ 34,091	3,023,670	+ 284,539
Mexico Trams in Pesos	3 mths	Mar.31	Gross	Ps.877,870	− 69,375	2,491,460	− 232,180
			Net	Ps.23,860	− 72,021	*Dr. 145,370*	− 245,425
Para Electric	4 mths	Mar.31	Gross	14,976	+ 5	57,647	+ 281
			Net	5,480	− 496	21,354	+ 695
Rangoon Electric	3 mths	Mar.31	Gross	Rs.487,390	+ 60,782	1,279,378	+ 188,727
			Net	Rs.262,830	+ 49,162	814,350	+ 166,912
Shanghai Elec.	4 mths	Apr.30	Mex.	$308,840	− 27,784	1,372,562	+ 82,228
Singapore Trac.	6 mths	Mar.31	...	$143,000	+ 10,000	798,000	+ 102,000
Tokyo Electric		Mar.31	Gross	917,243	+ 28,574	...	...
United Electric T. of Caracas	8 mths	Feb.28	Gross	Bol.188676	+ 6,068	1,654,380	+ 38,79[illegible]
Winnipeg Elec.	3 mths	Mar.31	Gross	$571,157	− 1,335	1,767,705	+ 16,3[illegible]
			Net	$203,666	− 3,778	635,806	− [illegible]

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.				
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Breweries.											
Brampton Brewery	Mar. 31	57,535	36,804	94,339	5,500	20,000	16†	10,000	58,839	35,870	16†
Chester's Brewery	Mar. 31	68,544	151,516	220,060	18,156	91,845	25	38,000	72,059	150,940	23½
Financial Land, &c.											
Aboukir Co.	Mar. 31	10,900	15,641	26,541	...	15,000	5†	...	11,541	16,225	5†
City & West End Properties	Mar. 25	25,188	86,741	111,929	15,356	397,699	7½†	30,000	26,804	97,733	6⅞
Forestal Land, Timber and Railways	Dec. 31	253,450	303,244	556,694	111,951	241,074	6½	...	203,669	492,548	7⅛
House Property & Investm't	Mar. 31	9,731	33,556	43,287	14,765	11,625	10	7,500	9,397	32,686	9
Hyderabad (Deccan)	Dec. 31	6,754	34,641	41,395	...	33,600	3/- p.s.	2,000	5,795	38,564	3/- ps.
Power Investment Corp.	Mar. 31	2,182	85,168	87,350	26,819	20,785	5	...	39,746	...	...
Trust & Mortgage Co. of Iowa	Feb. 28	11,034	8,738	19,772	...	7,000	4	...	12,772	...	...
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Criterion Restaurant	Mar. 31	14,227	41,542	55,769	...	28,125	12½	13,000	14,644	27,068	10
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Burntisland Shipbuilding	Mar. 31	7,334	32,365	39,699	...	9,412	8	25,000	5,287	9,884	6
Park Gate Iron and Steel	Mar. 31	*Dr. 37,772*	42,007	4,235	...	...	...	...	4,235	31,248	...
Richardsons, Westgarth and Co.	Dec. 31	3,656	*Dr. 17,212*	*Dr. 13,556*	21,000	...	...	*Dr. 35,000*	444	30,089	2½
Motor Car and Cycle.											
Alvis Car and Engineering	Dec. 31	12,514	15,688	28,202	6,000	3,875	5	5,739	12,588	32,372	10
Oil.											
Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields	Dec. 31	250,190	449,806	699,996	...	423,278	{ 22½B 39C }	69,438	207,280	424,266	22½
Rubber.											
Baru (Java) Estates	Dec. 31	9,999	19,366	29,365	...	12,000	10	7,562	9,803	17,753	10
British Rubber Estates of Java	Dec. 31	15,970	42,083	58,053	...	35,993	5	10,000	12,060	67,100	6
Nordanal (Johore) Rubber	Dec. 31	18,619	5,834	24,453	...	...	...	...	24,453	15,158	5
Remfield Rubber	Dec. 31	5,656	7,029	12,685	...	...	...	2,500	10,185	7,578	...
Shelford Rubber	Dec. 31	4,267	9,921	14,188	...	8,000	10	...	6,188	7,816	8
Tebing Rubber	Dec. 31	17,827	2,605	20,432	...	...	...	...	20,432	6,942	5
United Patani (Malay) Rub'r	Dec. 31	40,246	41,706	81,952	...	25,000	5	10,000	46,952	34,521	5
United Sumatra Rubber	Dec. 31	13,475	6,766	20,241	...	...	...	...	20,241	13,453	10
Shipping.											
British & Irish Steam Packet	Dec. 31	22,418	163,602	186,020	90,000	75,000	5	...	21,020	186,010	6
India Genl. Navigation, &c.	Dec. 31	24,897	123,207	148,104	12,202	49,168	7½†	61,679	25,055	159,725	10†
Nitrate Producers' Steamship	Apr. 30	15,485	75,617	91,102	...	15,630	10†	60,000	15,472	71,158	10†
Tea.											
Amalgamated Tea Estates	Nov. 30	50,589	94,660	145,249	21,000	71,752	7½	...	52,497	179,946	17½
Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading	Nov. 30	50,453	56,264	106,717	16,542	63,434	10	...	36,741	126,064	17½
British Darjeeling Tea	Dec. 31	3,850	18,363	22,213	...	14,400	15	4,500	3,313	26,577	25
Consolidated Tea and Lands	Dec. 31	223,989	133,244	357,233	78,000	60,000	5	...	219,233	332,682	22½
Jettinga Valley Tea	Dec. 31	4,473	15,873	20,346	3,068	9,665	15	4,000	3,613	15,034	20
Kanan Devan Hills	Nov. 30	110,188	178,677	288,865	33,000	150,000	20	...	105,865	304,052	35
Telegraphs, &c.											
Great Northern Telegraph Co. of Denmark	Dec. 31	224,823	438,433	663,256	...	400,000	20	33,333	229,923	438,848	20
Textiles.											
British Cotton & Wool Dyers	Mar. 31	30,057	89,685	119,742	...	58,062	7½	30,000	31,680	119,196	10
Crosses & Heatons' Associated Mills	Mar. 31	27,630	*Dr. 55,273*	*Dr. 27,643*	...	...	...	22,781	*Dr 50,424*	13,485	...
Crosses & Winkworth Consolidated Mills	Mar. 31	48,689	*Dr. 18,677*	30,012	23,539	...	...	...	6,473	95,590	...
Fine Cotton Spinners	Mar. 31	214,167	380,568	594,735	197,000	264,600	12	*Dr. 50,000*	183,135	522,618	9
Grainger and Smith	Dec. 31	6,432	22,618	34,050	7,239	13,377	7½	671	7,763	27,713	7⅛
Salts (Saltaire)	Mar. 31	65,722	*Dr. 295843*	*Dr. 230121*	...	...	...	...	*Dr 230121*	92,235	...
Tweedales & Smalley (1920)	Apr. 30	87,308	55,631	142,939	...	46,000	10	...	97,939	80,179	15
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Southdown Motor Services	Mar. 31	23,778	61,483	85,261	...	33,750	15	30,000	21,511	52,154	15
Trusts.											
Bankers' Investment Trust	Apr. 30	26,536	171,569	197,105	40,500	103,500	11½	26,000	27,105	138,319	11
Gresham Trust	Apr. 30	27,775	59,161	86,936	24,000	...	...	20,000	42,936	92,746	32
Nineteen Twenty-Eight Investment	Mar. 31	5,655	58,062	63,717	29,844	19,375	5	9,000	5,498	38,989	5
Nineteen Twenty-Nine Investment	Mar. 31*	...	27,996	27,996	15,750	10,333	5	583	1,329	...	...
Second Guardian Trust	May 5	10,472	63,642	74,114	19,687	27,500	7	15,000	11,927	62,098	6⅞
Second Mercantile Trust	May 5	20,283	66,181	86,464	19,688	29,375	7½	10,000	27,401	64,107	7
Stock Conversion and Investment Trust	Feb. 28	*Dr. 4,407*	*Dr. 4,396*	*Dr. 8,803*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 8,803*	...	...
Other Companies.											
Advance Laundries	Mar. 31	1,018	20,816	21,834	20,800	...	...	...	1,034	28,751	5
Auto-Made Sales	Mar. 27‡	...	16,480	16,480	...	...	...	16,480	...	...	...
Johnson (Richard) & Nephew	Mar. 31	10,834	40,673	51,607	16,537	18,600	8	...	16,370	...	...
Morris and Jones	Dec. 31*	9,486	24,797	34,283	10,500	...	...	...	23,783	34,755	6
Quicktho (1928)	Jan. 31	1,551	5,162	6,713	...	5,208	4⅛	328	1,177	...	...
Royal Sovereign Pencil	Dec. 31	3,722	22,112	25,834	6,595	10,821	5	5,000	3,418	23,962	5
Shanghai Elec. Construction	Dec. 31	12,028	136,763	148,791	...	75,000	12½†	62,951	20,840	165,172	12½†
Siemens Bros. and Co.	Dec. 31	313,360	247,026	560,386	55,000	166,875	7½	...	338,511	268,319	7½
Smith's Potato Crisps (1929)	Mar. 31§	...	72,112	72,112	...	38,187	15	15,000	18,925	...	...
United Premier Oil & Cake	Dec. 31	27,180	33,746	60,926	34,431	...	...	...	29,495	...	...
Val de Travers Asphalte Paving	Dec. 31	22,742	41,107	63,849	...	37,049	10	5,000	21,798	53,815	10

* For six months. † Free of income tax. ‡ Period from November 1, 1928, to March 27, 1930.
§ Period from February 11, 1929, to March 31, 1930.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

GOVERNMENT STOCKS, &c.

LONDON COUNTY FIVE-AND-THREE-QUARTER PER CENT. BONDS, 1930.—The list of applications for the conversion of £1,000,000 of these bonds into 4½ per cent. London County Consolidated Stock, 1945-85, will be closed on or before Wednesday, May 28, 1930. The terms of conversion (at the rate of £105 10s. of 4½ per cent. London County Consolidated Stock for each £100 of London County 5¾ per cent. Bonds surrendered) and other particulars respecting the offer are given in the prospectus dated May 13, 1930, copies of which may be obtained on application at the Bank of England or at the offices of the London County Council. The London County 5¾ per cent. Bonds not converted will be redeemed at par on Friday, October 31, 1930.

RAILWAYS.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.—The dividend for 1929 is 7 per cent. as before. It is proposed to transfer £100,000 to the reserve account, and, after making provision for a contribution to the company's staff benevolent fund, reserve for income tax, and writing off the cost of stamp duty and expenses of the consolidated ordinary stock issued in 1929, the balance forward will be approximately £265,000, compared with £241,616 last year. It has been decided to summon the general meeting for Tuesday, June 10th, at 12.30 p.m.

LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.—Subject to final audit. After providing for debenture interest and interim dividends on the preference and ordinary stock, and transferring £60,000 to general reserve account, £30,000 to reserve for flood damage, £23,000 to reserve for redemption of 4 per cent. debenture stock, £14,930 to writing off balance of expenses on issue of terminable debentures, the net revenue account for the year, made up to December 31, 1929, including the sum of £103,457 brought forward, shows a balance of £389,800, out of which the board propose to pay a balance dividend of 2¾ per cent. for the half-year (less income tax) on the preference stock, making 5½ per cent. for the year, and a balance dividend of 3 per cent. (less income tax) on the ordinary stock, making 5 per cent. for the year, leaving £115,432 to carry forward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AMALGAMATED PRESS.—Profits for the year ended February 28, 1930, amounted to £923,744, as against £873,717, and after adding amount brought in, £123,901, there is a total available for distribution of £1,047,645. Debenture interest takes £187,985, and after paying preference and ordinary dividends and taking £220,000 to general reserve, as compared with £180,000 last year, and £10,000 to pensions and allowances fund, there remains £134,660 to be carried forward. The ordinary dividend is again 15 per cent., and absorbs £180,000.

CAMMELL, LAIRD AND COMPANY.—The Second (4½ per Cent.) debenture-holders of Messrs. Cammell, Laird and Company, Ltd., at their adjourned meeting at Liverpool on May 16, defeated the resolutions put before them by the company to postpone the repayment of the debentures due in July for five years, the rate of interest to be increased meantime to 5½ per cent. The position is that while the first and third debenture holders have approved the company's proposals, the second have rejected them. The scheme was dealt with in the *Economist* of April 26 (page 954).

FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS.—A correction:—We regret that, in our issue of May 17, it was stated that the interest on the new 6 per cent. 10-year notes absorbed £86,717. This figure should have been £35,000, the remaining £51,717 being discount on the issue and expenses. The sentence immediately following the table should read "The most striking alteration on the assets side of the balance sheet is the *increase* of £395,987 to £2,755,271." We should be glad if our readers would kindly note these corrections.

INDUSTRIAL AND GENERAL TRUST.—A special resolution for the purpose of adopting a new set of articles was submitted to shareholders of the Industrial and General Trust at the ordinary general meeting to be held on May 22nd, the purpose being to provide articles in accordance with modern practice and the Companies Act (1929).

IMPERIAL CONTINENTAL GAS.—The Directors announce that they propose to offer to the stockholders on the register when the transfer books were closed on May 8, 1930, £300,000 new capital at the price of £250 per cent., ranking for dividend as from April 1st last *pari passu* with the stock already issued. Letters of right (with renunciation forms) entitling holders to subscribe for the new stock at the rate of £12 new stock for each £100 of stock now held, will be posted on May 22, 1930.

METROPOLITAN HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED.—The First report from the date of incorporation, March 21, 1929, to March 31, 1930, shows a net profit, before providing for income tax, of £70,378. Deducting £14,211 provision for income tax there remains a balance of £56,167, from which the directors recommend transferring £7,378 to reserve, £2,000 to special reserve for social services, and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, which leaves £10,169 to be carried forward. As £12,621 already stands to reserve, being proportion of dividend received from Metropolitan United Estates, Ltd., applicable to period prior to incorporation of the Corporation, the above allocation makes the reserve £20,000.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

AMALGAMATED PRESS, LIMITED.

February 28, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Feb. 29, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Feb. 29, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
7% Cum. Pref.(£1)	4,500,000	...	Copyrights and goodwill at cost	5,326,602	} − 45,136
Ord. shares (10s.)	1,200,000	...	Properties plant	1,353,327	
5½% deb. stock	3,390,021	− 55,792	Investments on subsidiaries at cost	2,190,280	} + 62,457
Int. accrued	74,580	− 1,228	Owing by subs.	422,132	
General reserve	180,000	− 167,060	Trade investments at cost or under	548,393	+ 143,652
Pensions fund	220,000	...	Stocks	72,158	− 3,765
Creditors	607,539	+ 11,679	Debtors	308,898	− 18,180
Owing to subs.	250	+ 250	Cash	411,260	+ 56,640
Profit and loss	460,660	+ 60,759	Preliminary exps.	Nil	− 347,060
Total	10,633,050	− 151,392	Total	10,633,050	− 151,392

FINE COTTON SPINNERS' AND DOUBLERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
5% cum. pref.	3,000,000	...	Properties, &c.	6,130,281	+ 31,352
5% cum. pref. ord.	940 000	...	Investments	3,271,545	− 1,441,187
Ord. shares	4,410,000	...	Furniture, &c.	15,358	...
4% deb. stock	2,000,000	...	Stock-in-trade	3,423,820	+ 189,590
4% ext.deb.stock	750,000	...	Debtors	1,007,051	− 331,221
Deb. interest	44,000	...	Cash	3,327	− 140,382
Reserves	1,157,959	− 50,000	Prepayments	10,693	+ 10,693
Insurance	196,255	+ 8,338	Loans to subsidiaries	1,344,747	+ 1,344,747
Research fund	8,460	− 582	Patents & Trade Marks	100	+ 100
Welfare fund	7,081	− 13,646			
Loans	581,569	+ 17,247			
Creditors	1,595,487	− 280,599			
Bank	102,176	+ 102,176			
Profit and loss	413,935	− 119,232			
Total	15,206,922	− 336,308	Total	15,206,922	− 336,308

MARKS AND SPENCER, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
Preference shares	350,000	...	Properties	2,396,465	+ 708,257
Ordinary shares	600,000	+ 23	Furniture and fittings	267,394	+ 80,997
"A" Ordinary shrs.	60,000	+ 60,000	Motor lorries	400	− 1,100
Reserve	253,866	+ 6	Stock	346,281	+ 120,991
Loans	1,003,050	+ 641,232	Debtors and prepayments	5,000	− 132
Creditors	275,742	+ 93,472	Cash	1,149	+ 77
Bank	121,690	− 3,623			
Pref. div. res.	22,500	+ 7,500			
Contingency fund	11,730	+ 3,194			
Profit and loss	318,111	+ 107,286			
Total	3,016,689	+ 909,090	Total	3,016,689	+ 909,090

SIEMENS BROTHERS AND CO., LIMITED

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31,1928.
	£	£		£	£
10% cum. pref. shares (£1)	550,000	...	Properties	1,193,526	− 2,688
Ord. shares (£1)	2,450,000	+ 450,000	Materials, &c.	1,057,977	+ 44,007
4½ deb. stock	724,300	− 33,400	Colonial agencies net assets	79,212	− 360,743
Creditors	508,679	+ 128,855	Investments and loans to subsidiaries	737,917	+ 737,917
Pref. div. (half-yr.)	27,500	...	Invest. in Caxton Electric	670,000	...
Due to subsidiaries	99,081	+ 99,081	Disbursements	3,085	− 445
Deb. redemp.fund	310,553	+ 34,845	Debtors	748,894	+ 130,387
Sundry reserves	72,490	+ 4,019	Investments	272,683	− 117,722
General reserve	148,643	...	Trade investments	482,683	+ 190,474
Buildings reserve	43,600	...	Cash	138,630	+ 98,614
Profit and loss	449,761	+ 36,401			
Total	5,384,607	+ 719,801	Total	5,384,607	+ 719,801

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Lack of sunshine and cold winds are adversely affecting cereal crops in the United Kingdom, and in some districts winter wheat lacks colour, while spring sowings are backward in growth. The young plants have had sufficient moisture, and a spell of warm weather is now needed to ensure a good start. Native wheat is sparingly offered at the principal statute markets, but owing to lack of demand, rates marked no improvement on the week. Imported descriptions met with moderate support, and rates are maintained with difficulty in face of liberal Canadian offerings, also renewed competition by Argentine varieties, several cargoes of the latter being sold to United Kingdom millers, 63½ lbs. Rosario old crop, at 37s. 4½d., and 62½ lbs. ditto, new crop, 37s. 1½d., early shipment. The general position remains unaltered, and market sensitive to weather and crop reports, which, to a large extent, will govern the future course of prices. Available supplies, however, must not be overlooked, and much will depend on

extent of European purchases during the next few months. So far, new crop prospects are favourable in all parts of the world, though excessive moisture and lack of sunshine is retarding growth in Europe. With Southern Hemisphere shipments decreasing, larger quantities must be taken from North America, and signs were not wanting of increased purchases of Canadian on European account. Recent heavy bookings of cheap Continental grades by United Kingdom millers require a certain amount of strong wheat for mixing purposes, and points to a steady demand for Manitobas, but there is yet little indication of any substantial export movement necessary to reduce large surplus holdings. Meanwhile, North American sellers refrain from pressing unduly, pending further progress of new sowings. Flour prices were advanced slightly both on spot and for shipment parcels, but buyers still restrict purchases to immediate needs. Feeding stuffs experienced a slow movement and values are again on a downward course following freer offers of new crop Plate maize, also from the Danube and South Africa. At the moment, shipments are retarded owing to recent unfavourable climatic conditions, but lack of consumptive demand counteracts any firming influence. Barley and oats dull and lower to sell.

WHEAT.—Easier. No 1 Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 44s.; No. 2, ditto, 43s. 3d.; No. 3, 43s.; No. 4, Manitoba 41s. 6d.; No. 5, ditto, 39s.; No. 6, 33s.; No. 2 hard winter, 40s. 6d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 37s. 9d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 39s.; Australian, 43s.; choice white Karachi, 41s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 4d.-8s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Quiet. London straight run, 36s. per sack for country deliveries, and 35s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 30s. 3d.-31s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, May-June, 32s.-32s. 6d.; export, ditto, 29s. 6d.-30s.; Australian, 28s.-28s. 6d.; French, prompt, 24s.-26s. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, May, £6 per ton.

MAIZE.—Dull. Plate, landed, 29s.; ex ship, 27s. 9d.; afloat, new, 27s.; April-May, 26s. 3d.; May-June, 25s. 9d.; June-July and July-August, 24s. 9d.; No. 2 white flat African, 29s. 6d. landed, per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £8 per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £6 per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Inactive. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s., as to sample; Chilian brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship to arrive, f.a.q., 17s. 9d.; landed, on sample, 18s. 3d.-19s. 3d. Persian, 17s. per 400 lbs. English, malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Dull. Plate, landed, 13s. 9d.; ex ship, to arrive, 12s. 9d.; Chilian, white, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 15s. German, landed, 18s. 3d.; ex ship, to arrive, 16s. 9d. Mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to May 17	Cwts. 130,531	Cwts. 88,053	Cwts. 251,856	Cwts. 170,754
37 weeks to May 17	8,448,116	8,962,183	9,516,590	10,615,472
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 9	s. d. 10 0	s. d 11 3	s. d. 12 4

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
May 10	183,867	55,840	23,827	8 11	7 10	6 10
May 17	130,531	46,234	20,428	8 9	7 9	6 8
May 15, 1926	115,208	21,864	23,972	13 4	9 4	9 6
May 14, 1927	162,543	27,134	59,907	12 0	11 2	9 4
May 19, 1928	251,856	25,855	25,228	11 3	11 0	12 11
May 18, 1929	88,053	17,386	18,407	10 4	10 4	9 9

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	May 22, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	May 7 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	122	113½	148⅜	105	105⅛	107⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	103	130¼	100⅜	102⅜	103⅛

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 66,306,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 3,236,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 75,623,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent reports a slightly improved export demand for coal and an increase in prices owing to the reduction of the subsidy. The general position of the industry is no better and there has been a further set back in blast-furnace coke, the price of which has dropped to 14s. at ovens. Even this concession fails to tempt business, as buyers still refuse to place contracts.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Business in the coal trade has been a little brisker this week and in one or two instances prices have become firmer. Among nuts, trebles and nuts are about 6d. to 1s. dearer than a week ago, with Fifeshire qualities in a stronger position than Lanark or the Lothians. In round coals, Lanarkshire splint qualities are firmly inclined. Shipping prices are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports):—LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 15s. 6d.-16s.; splint second, 14s. 6d.-15s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 16s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s.; dross, 9s. 6d. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-14s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.-11s. 9d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s.; secondary steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The past week has been another period of unrelieved depression on the Cardiff coal market. In the seven days ended May 17th shipments from the South Wales ports totalled 507,200 tons, compared with 572,670 tons in the corresponding week last year, and it is anticipated that this week's volume of trade will also show a decrease. Collieries are losing time in practically every district, and the diversion of business under the new Egyptian contract is reacting unfavourably on Monmouthshire coals. All the sidings are congested with loaded wagons and the continued low level of outward rates of freight is having no effect on the demand for tonnage. Prices, however, are stationary on the basis of scheduled minima. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; coking smalls, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 12s. 3d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 9d. to 26s.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron & Steel Exchange:—Rather more business has been stirring of late, and this improvement, slight as it is, has afforded some relief to the British steelmakers, as in many districts works were finding it difficult to keep their plant in operation. The improvement is the result of some expansion in export business, but the home trade, although still below normal, remains the more active of the two departments. The buying of pig iron continues on hand-to-mouth lines, and while producers state that they anticipate an increase in cost as a result of the Coal Bill, and see no prospect of decreasing their prices, consumers believe that the slackness in the demand and the gradual accumulation of stocks will bring about a reduction. There has been a certain amount of buying of semi-finished steel, the greater part of the business having gone to the British works. The character of this market appears to have materially altered during the past month or two. Not long ago the bulk of the trade in this description of steel went to the Continental steelworks; but of late the British works appear to have recaptured the market, and few transactions in foreign semi-finished steel are heard of. The demand for nearly all descriptions of finished steel is unsatisfactory. Some of the export markets are showing more life, but generally speaking the overseas demand is almost stagnant.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—There is no improvement in the volume of business passing in Cleveland iron, and transactions are confined to odd parcels that are required in excess of purchases made some time ago; but the tonnage of iron available for the market from the current make is practically all going into consumption and stocks at the furnaces are not large. Before long further purchases will have to be made to renew contracts that will expire, and producers prefer to wait rather than try to induce business by further reducing prices which might not have the desired effect with consumers in their present mood. The market on Tuesday was decidedly quiet and business confined to a few small lots on home account, there being nothing doing for export. Prices remained at 70s. for No. 1, 67s. 6d. No. 3, 66s. 6d. No. 4 foundry, and 66s. No. 4 forge f.o.b. or f.o.t. In the hematite trade there is a slightly better feeling in view of the reduction of output, but this is not yet reflected by any great

increase of business. Makers, however, are less keen to cut prices and adhere to 74s. for moderate lots of mixed numbers, but for large quantities for early delivery they would probably accept 73s. 6d. Shipments of pig iron are on about the same scale as last month, the clearances to 20th inst. being 11,404 tons, against 11,685 tons to April 20th. In manufactured steel new business is slow to mature, but Dorman, Long and Company, Ltd., are understood to have secured a useful order for 13,500 tons steel rails and fishplates for the Union of South Africa for early delivery. In shipbuilding, Smith's Dock Company, Ltd., of South Bank, are reported to have received an order for nine whalers for Norwegian owners, to be delivered by June, 1931. Prices for steel materials under the rebate scheme for home consumption are unaltered at: Plates, £8 15s.; joists, £8 10s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d. In other lines iron crown bars are £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 21/24-gauge black sheets, £9 12s. 6d.; and 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £12, also for home use. The demand for sheets is slightly better. In the ore market there is still no buying, best Bilbao rubio is quoted nominally 21s. c.i.f., but less would be accepted. The current freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough remains about 5s. 6d. Coke is difficult to dispose of and the production is being reduced. Good furnace qualities are freely offering at 17s. 6d. per ton delivered works, and less has been accepted for odd prompt lots. The number of furnaces in blast on the North-East coast at present was 36, but the two at Jarrow are going out this week-end.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Business is still shrinking, especially in the heavy sections. There has been a rather severe curtailment of the production of open-hearth steel since the beginning of the month. Fewer furnaces are operating than at any time since the coal dispute in 1926, and the depression is now affecting the Lincolnshire steel works which had been running full time for a long period. Here bookings have fallen off, and the works cannot see business for more than a week ahead. Stocks are accumulating at several blast furnace plants. There is no bulk demand for foundry pig iron, steel billets or scrap. In the lighter branches activity is confined to cold rolled strip, hacksaws, and engineers' small tools. Business is meagre from China, India, Australia, and other export markets. Cutlery and plate makers report reduced turnovers compared with a year ago. Prices generally are weak, with no official changes.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Dullness characterises all departments of the iron and steel industry in the West of Scotland. Steel-making plants continue operations at far below output capacity, and buyers are confining their purchases to present needs only. In the manufactured and semi-finished sections there is also generally a poor demand. Sheetmakers are doing a steady business both for home and export, and are able to keep plants fairly well employed, although not fully so. In the tube trade there is a slight improvement in demand.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Fairly normal conditions have prevailed on the Swansea tinplate market this week. With their order books well filled makers are not pressing sales, but inquiries are described as satisfactory and prices are steady at from 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per basis box. Galvanised sheets are unaltered at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton, while prices of bars are stationary at last week's figures.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Market depressed and prices moved to lower levels due to liberal offerings and a slow demand, together with weaker Eastern cables, but later irregularity ensued. Standard cash changed hands at £143 15s. to £141 15s. to £144 to £142 12s. 6d., and three months, £144 10s., £146, £143 5s. and £143 8s. 9d. to £145 17s. 6d. to £144 12s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £148 5s. to £146 2s. 6d. to £145 2s. 6d. to £148 5s. per ton c.i.f.

COPPER in fair request, but with sellers to the fore prices exhibited irregularity and weakness resulted, closing firm. Standard cash sold, £54 1s. 3d. to £55 5s. to £54 12s. 6d., with forward dates showing slight irregularity, three months moving from £53 to £54 and £53 15s. to £55 2s. 6d. to £54 10s. ton.

LEAD opened firmer, but with business restricted, values subsequently gave way on selling pressure. Good soft foreign pig, May, sold, £17 15s. to £17 13s. 9d.; June, £17 13s. 9d. to £17 17s. 6d. and £17 13s. 9d. to £17 16s. 3d.; July, £17 16s. 3d.; August, £17 15s., £17 18s. 9d. and £17 15s. to £17 17s. 6d. ton.

SPELTER firm with fair general inquiries. May, sold, £16 7s. 6d.; June, £16 12s. 6d. to £16 13s. 9d. to £17; July, £17 to £17 5s.; August, £17 2s. 6d. to £17 5s. to £17 10s.; September, £17 6s. 3d. to £17 12s. 6d. ton.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £21 14s. net, per bottle.

TIN PLATES steady, with a moderate trade passing. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 4½d. to 18s. 6d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

ZINC OXIDE quiet at £27 to £33 as to quality, per ton, delivered United Kingdom.

ANTIMONY quiet and tendency easier. English regulus, £40 to £45; Chinese regulus, spot, £28 10s.; May-June, £25; crude, May-June, £16 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—May-June, £26 15s. per ton.

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ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., May-June, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM quiet. Chinese, May-June, 23s.; July, 22s. 9d.; Burmese, May-June, 22s. per unit c.i.f.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, May 21st.

There is very little change in values from those ruling a week ago. Business has been very quiet and fluctuations have been within a narrow compass. Crop news on the whole has been rather favourable, though in the earlier part of the week there were fears of too much rain in certain sections. The U.S. consumption of cotton during April was 532,000 bales, against 509,000 bales in March and 632,000 bales in April last year. The total consumption of cotton in U.S.A. for the first nine months of the season was 4,856,000 bales against 5,306,000 bales for the same period last year. Spot sales for the week 15th to 21st (inclusive) are 18,000 bales, of which 8,220 are American, 2,100 Brazil, 170 Argentine, 900 Peru, 4,320 Egyptian, 1,050 African, 460 East Indian, and 780 sundries. Imports for the same period are 59,253 bales, of which 6,654 American, 97 Brazil, 3,133 Argentine, 1,046 Peru, 25,507 Egyptian, 2,509 African, 19,626 East Indian, and 681 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·57; Egyptian Sakel, 13·85; Uppers, 10·16; Brazil Fair, 7·87; Peru Smooth, 8·97; West African Middling, 8·47; and East African G.F., 9·12.

MANCHESTER: May 21st.

In some respects the market has not been quite so dull as during the last two or three weeks, there being a little more activity for certain minor outlets, but conditions generally remain depressed, and the business transacted has been considerably less than the requirements of producers. In the cloth section great interest continues to be centred on the situation in India. Trade continues practically at a standstill, and there is a little more uneasiness with regard to the completion of old contracts, as finance is getting more difficult. The outlook with regard to China is still poor, and the quantities sold at the auctions in Shanghai are of retail dimensions. A few more contracts have been arranged in white shirtings for Egypt and in printed and dyed goods for South America and the West Coast of Africa. A fair miscellaneous business has also been done in home trade fabrics. Curtailment of production throughout Lancashire is now on a very large scale, and probably the output of yarn and cloth is smaller than on any previous occasion, except when there has been a strike or lockout. Restricted quantities of American and Egyptian yarns have been sold at irregular rates.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	Apr. 30.	May 7.	May 14.	May 21.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·62	d. 8·51	d. 8·62	d. 8·57	d. 12·63	d. 10·28
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·20	14·00	14·05	13·85	21·55	17·85
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12½	12½	16½	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	13	12½	12½	12½	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	22	22	22	31½	26
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 22 0	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 78 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 9	24 6	24 6	24 6	29 6	27 9
36-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 6	13 4½	13 4½	13 4½	15 6	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 1	12 0	12 0	12 0	14 6	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—On account of the restricted turnover in tops and yarns, due to the partial stoppage in the West Riding mills, it is difficult for traders here to form an unbiassed opinion as to the outlook. Difficulties are being encountered in the manipulation of material at all stages, but chiefly in the combing and weaving sections of the industry, and the dislocation naturally tends to become more acute with the passing of time. In the circumstances, mill owners are inclined to give all their attention to the present trouble and leave the future to take care of itself. On the Continent, however, conditions are very different, and all reports from the chief centres emphasise the increasing activity. Employment in France and Germany is more regular, and prices of tops are hardening. In short, Continental spinners and manufacturers appear to have confidence in current values of wool, and it may be that they are also getting a certain amount of business which would have come to the West Riding if there had been no strike. Wool is selling freely in the primary markets and in London at very firm rates, and in Australia, Japanese buyers are operating in a spectacular manner. It would appear, therefore, that

has been re-established as a world commodity, and there seems to be a general desire in most countries to replenish depleted stocks. In Bradford, quotations for tops and yarns are very firm, but there is only a restricted demand for lots for prompt delivery; speculative buying is negligible. Meanwhile a certain amount of seasonal trade is being lost owing to the inability of firms to guarantee delivery, and for this reason the outlook is viewed with some anxiety.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Continent is exercising the strongest influence in deciding the prices for merinos at the London sales, while the big quantities of crossbreds catalogued daily are being readily taken up by the home trade. The small proportion of withdrawals clearly shows that the market is good, and it now seems certain that there will be a firm finish at the end of next week. Notwithstanding strike conditions in Yorkshire it is recognised that wool is right at its present price. This week 30d. has been paid for greasy Tasmanian merino wool There has also been a very good display of greasy New England fleece, which has sold up to 21½d. The demand for these superfine wools has been good, showing how much the trade appreciates quality. The improvement seen at the opening is fully maintained, and on the whole we think the demand for both merinos and crossbreds has broadened, resulting in the bulk of the wools realising a further 2½d. to 5 per cent. improvement. Better reports are forthcoming from France. There has evidently been some improvement during the month. Considerable orders for tops have been received, and no doubt the Russian business has helped to move some of the stocks at several centres. There is also fairly healthy demand for the finest yarns from Germany.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

The upward tendency of the market for hides and skins from home slaughtered cattle continues, at the auctions held in the north this week advances of from ½d. to ⅝d. per lb. were recorded for most weights in the former. Calfskins were a better market, and here also higher prices were realised. Tanners are growing rather anxious about the position of market hides, as despite the continual rise in the price of raw material it is impossible, for the time being at any rate, to obtain compensating advances for finished leather. The tone of the foreign hide market also shows an improvement, and there appears a greater inclination on the part of tanners to do business on the present basis of values. In the South American market frigorific hides are slightly firmer, Argentine ox having changed hands on the basis of 7¼d., with Montevideo ox realising 7 5/16d., and light ox 6 13/16d. Saladero hides have also received rather more attention, 8,700 Liebigs having changed hands at satisfactory prices. In dry River Plates B.A. Americanos have made 7¾d., Cuyabanos 6¾d., Sierra Cordobas, summer haired, 6d., and B.A. Inservibles 4⅞d. A fair amount of business has been put through in connection with Africans, drysalted Capes having been sold at 7⅞d. to 6¾d., and drys at 8¼d. and 7¼d. The American market is cabled as slightly firmer, with Chicago heavy native steers selling at 14½ cents. Little change has occurred over the week in connection with the demand for sole leather, and considering the general state of trade of late, the market continues more or less satisfactory. Although shoe manufacturers continue to take up limited supplies of bends suitable for their trade business seems to be rather unevenly distributed, with the result that some firms are inclined to view the position as a little less favourable. Demand from the repairing section is fairly well maintained, and a regular day to day trade is being done with this branch in both English and wetsalted bends in the medium to better qualities. Bellies and shoulders continue to move fairly freely. The price position is maintained in the face of a market more or less clear of accumulations, and it is only in the hope of obtaining something like a bulk order that any concession is suggested. Demand for upper leathers covers most descriptions, but the usual run of orders being received is for small quantities only. Glacé kid, suède and patent are all enquired after, with business in connection with the latter only possible at low prices. Willow calf is also a steady seller, while the call for reptile skins is mainly confined to pythons, imitations to a large extent are taking the place of real lizards. Shoe manufacturers report business as steady, with no large orders coming to hand.

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THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Imports of European sawn building woods were higher in April by some 12,470 Petrograd standards (of 165 cubic feet), and in the four months by nearly 60,000 standards than in the corresponding periods of 1929. On the other hand, planed and dressed wood imports were lower by some 400 standards in April and 85 standards less in the first four months. The demand for these general building woods has been keeping up well during the past four or five weeks, but it is to be feared that although the selling may prove satisfactory as regards volume, profits are not very satisfactory. The question of a successful year's turnover will depend largely upon building trade requirements this season. Official returns of costs of buildings for which plans were passed during the first quarter of this year and even before that have been very encouraging. An analysis of the April returns in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, however, shows that early future timber consumption conditions are not of so cheering a character, showing a drop in building costs of over £1¼ millions sterling, which includes one of £677,600 on new houses. These deficiencies may be accounted for to some extent by the Easter holidays, the immediate and the pre- and post-Budget fears, so that it would be better to reserve judgment as to the decline until the returns for this month are published in the second half of June. Rumour has been busy in the spot and forward markets for building and joinery woods on the subject of an early understanding between the British consortium of timber importers and the Russian shippers, for the former to buy Russian wood in bulk. This is looked upon with great favour by the majority of the largest importers. The object of such an understanding—stabilising the market for Russian goods—seems to be more necessary now than ever, as it would have some effect in maintaining a steady spot market for all building woods, and give more measure of confidence in buying forward. On the other hand, there are other importers who consider that as things have gone so far, a free market is the best, and are conducting their businesses accordingly, but even they cannot feel and work comfortably. The uncertainty is undoubtedly delaying forward business, and negotiations are mostly for early delivery. The hard and fancy woods section of the trade continues dull. For mahogany logs the results of the auction sales in London this week indicated that buyers cannot face shippers' reserve limits, even though stocks in first hands are low, and not much is expected. For other logs the demand is slow, and with few slight exceptions—selected logs of cedar, Black Sea walnut, boxwood—shipments are not advisable. Teak supplies at ports of shipments continue scarce, and forward values remain firm, stocks here being sufficient at the moderate rates of demand. American lumber shipments in April, unfortunately, in view of the poor demand, were again on the heavy side. Plywood imports were down in April by 3·9 million square feet, but up by 36 million square feet for the four months compared with a year ago.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Market conditions generally are quiet in most sections, and only a small volume of business is reported. Linseed oil is in somewhat improved demand, and is firmer. Current value of raw oil on spot being £41 15s., and for May delivery £41 ex Hull. Later positions are at a substantial discount, and have attracted some interest. Cotton oils are in slow request, crude Egyptian offering ex Hull at £28 10s. and common edible £31 10s. Other seed oils are quiet and inclined easy. In the oilseed section linseed is in very poor demand, but values are about steady. Plate on passage to Hull has been done at £17 10s., and June shipment to Liverpool at £17 12s. 6d., while Calcutta for shipment has been done at £18 12s. 6d. and £18 15s. The quantity of linseed now on passage to Europe is 121,100 tons, or 16,200 tons less than last week. Cottonseed is very quiet, the market being characterised by an almost complete absence of demand. Prices have thus further eased, and black Egyptian to Hull, June loading, has changed hands at £7 2s. 6d., which represents current value. Demand for oilcakes is better, and about normal for the season of the year.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—General position remains unaltered, with a fair business passing in British refined goods also home-grown granulated at late rates. Raw refining kinds experience a moderate movement, but Java markets remained dull. T.L. granulated ex refinery, 20s. 4½d.; ex wharf, 20s. 3d. Cuban, 96 per cent., afloat, 7s.; June, 7s. 0¾d.; July, 7s. 1½d.; Peruvian ditto, June, 7s. 0¾d., c.i.f. U.K. White Java to India, July-September, 9s.; October-December, 9s. 1½d.; Hungarian crystals ditto, October-December, 9s. 9d.; German crystals, June, 8s. 7½d. c. and f. Terminal markets steadier, with dealings on a fair scale. Raws, May, sold 6s. 3d.; August, 6s. 5½d. to 6s. 6d.; December, 6s. 9¾d.; March, 7s. 10½d.; May, 8s. 0¾d. cwt. White kinds quiet. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 17th, 152,925 tons, compared with 132,072 at same time last year. Cuban receipts for past week totalled 115,901 tons, against 101,261 last year; exports, 151,455, against 119,556; stocks, 1,704,714, against 1,524,379. Centrals working, 30, against 11.

COFFEE.—A steady tone governed the spot market, offerings being fairly well absorbed, particularly medium grades, while bold sizes showed slight irregularity. Kenya medium, 65s. to 70s.; Costa Rica, common to fine, bold, 90s. to 150s. 6d.; peaberry, 108s. 6d. to 171s.; Vera Paz, good to fine, bold, 135s. to 146s. 6d.

COCOA.—Market remained dull on spot. Trinidad fine quoted 65s.; Grenada, 52s. 6d.; Accra, 38s. 6d. Forward positions steady. Accra, F.F. grade, May-July, quoted 32s. 6d.; and mid crop London contract, 28s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal market, after being firm, assumed a quiet and easier tone. July sold 35s. 3d. to 34s. 9d.; September, 36s.; December, 36s. 1½d. cwt.

TEA.—In auction, Indian offerings for the week totalled 54,993 packages. Opening rates were firm under good support, particularly for clean common and medium descriptions, but later the market displayed quieter features in view of heavy supplies catalogued for next week, and rates were barely maintained. 28,453 packages Ceylon met a generally quiet movement, and with quality falling off, prices marked a good deal of irregularity, while mostly ½d. to ¾d. per lb. lower on balance. Finest brokens and some thick fannings, however, sold steadily. Export inquiry was restricted, and all the plainer kinds of leaf teas were a weak feature. Java and Sumatra descriptions met a moderate demand, and trend of prices in buyers' favour.

RICE.—Market quiet, but fully steady. Two stars, Rangoon, spot, London, 13s. 3d.; May, also June, 12s. 1½d.; American blue rose, 23s. to 24s. 6d.; Siam No. 1, May-June, 12s. 4½d. c.i.f. Beans quiet. Madagascar butters, afloat, also April-May, 32s. 9d. Japanese peas, April-May, also May-June, 13s. 9d. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper market firmer, with improved inquiries, sellers showing more reserve. Lampong, black, April-June buyers, 10¼d.; May-July, 9¾d.; August-October, 8¾d.; white Muntok, April-June, sold, 1s. 0¼d.; May-July, 11⅞d.; August-October, 11⅝d. Cloves quiet. Zanzibar, spot, 11¾d.; May-June, 11⅞d. per lb. Pimento strong and June-August sold 64s. cwt. c.i.f. Tapioca dull. Singapore flake to Havre, May-June, 12s. 9d.; Penang seed to Hamburg, 14s. Sago flour, May-June, 10s. 10½d. c.i.f. U.K. Desiccated cocoanut quiet; fine cut, also medium, spot, 31s.; halves, afloat, 30s.; May-June, 29s. c.i.f. Ginger dull. London stocks of black, 156 tons up on the week, at 1,145 tons, against 1,526 at same time last year, white 21 tons lower at 693, against 678 tons last year.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants firm with fair inquiries. Pyrgos, quoted, 36s. 6d.; Amalias, 38s.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-45s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 40s.-62s. Sultanas firm and Australians sell freely. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 32s.-45s. Dates quiet. Hallowie, spot, 19s.-21s.; Khadrowie, 15s.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins firm with moderate sales. Valencias, quarter-boxes at 36s.-38s. Figs easier. Genuine, 19s.-25s.; good average, 16s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS were in better request, particularly apricots and plums, low rates being maintained. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 60s.; 40's-50's, 55s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; Australian, 50s.-60s.; South African, 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-52s. 6d.; 1930 crop, 45s.-55s. 6d. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 110s.; Majorcas, 107s. 6d.-120s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 180s.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f. Sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, spot, 142s. 6d.; Barcelona, 142s. 6d. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-137s. 6d. ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—The demand for Californian fruits is improving but prices slightly irregular, packers showing more disposition to market stocks in view of larger new pack prospects. Australian descriptions move off steadily at about late rates. Singapore pines quiet on spot, with prices barely steady for shipment parcels. Italian tomatoes experienced a slow movement, but sellers adhered to former terms.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady with improved inquiries. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 24s.-26s.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters in limited supply, halves ranging from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Corned beef, ox and lunch tongues, also tinned hams, were in fair supply, but trade requirements fail to expand due to unseasonable weather.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—There is a good business doing at slightly reduced prices. Dutch condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 31s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 19s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56 lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk: Full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders: 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 60s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 80s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders: roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 38s.; ditto, 1 cwt. kegs, 36s. 9d.; ditto, 1 cwt. cases, 36s. 3d., all per cwt. All English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller quantity 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. basis per case usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull, available supplies being in excess of requirements. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 37s.-40s.; Cuban pale, 40s.; light amber, 37s. 6d.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s.; New Zealand, light amber, 50s.-85s.; white and water whites, 65s.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

Market steady but dealings restricted. Plantation standard sheet, spot, sold 6¾d. to 6 13/16d.; May, 6¾d. to 6 13/16d.; July-September, 6 13/16d.; October-December, 7 1/16d. to 7¼d.; January-March, sellers, 7¼d.; January-December, 7¼d. per lb. London landings for the past week amounted to 2,427 tons, deliveries, 1,613; stock, 76,932, against 30,955 at corresponding period last year, being an increase of 814 tons on the week. Liverpool landings, 850; deliveries, 157; stock, 24,448, against 4,216 at same time last year, showing an increase of 693 tons on the week.

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	43	0
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	9
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	7	9
Oats, " " "	6	8
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	29	0
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 34 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12 0	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 21 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 23 0	24	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3 0	3	9
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 4	6	0
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 4	4	8
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	8	0
N.Z. frozen " 3 2	4	0
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 6 0	7	4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	94	0	112 0
Danish.....	89	0	98 0
Canadian.....	94	0	0 0
Dutch	81	0	91 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0	0 0
Canadian.....	0	0	0 0
American	89	0	104 0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	126	0	0 0
Australian	116	0	128 0
New Zealand	114	0	150 0
Danish.....	130	0	134 0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	94	0	106 0
New Zealand	80	0	87 0
English Cheddars		nom.	
Dutch	39	0	74 0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	37	6	38 6
Trinidad	58	0	65 0
Grenada	49	0	52 6
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	125	0	142 0
Costa Rica, good to fine....	145	0	170 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0	135 0
Colombian, mid to fine....	105	0	118 0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	10	6	12 0
Danish.....	10	6	13 0
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0	0	0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	0	0	0 0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	8	6	25 0
360	8	6	19 0
504	12	0	19 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	13	0	22 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	8	6	13 0
" ..... cases	7	0	17 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) bris.	0	0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	0	0	0 0
" Tasmanian boxes	10	0	15 0
" Australian	11	6	18 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia t— case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	6	9	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	9	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	80	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	55	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	0½	1	1½
Black Lampong	0	10½	0	11½
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	3	1	5
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	1	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	5	1	9
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	6
Java, white, c.&.f. India, July-Sept.	9	0	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	0	25	6
Crushed.....	23	6	24	0
Granulated.....	21	3	22	1½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	4½	20	7½
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	2
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	2	3
Orange Pekoe		9½	2	4½
Broken Orange.....	0	11½	3	0½
TOBACCO— (Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
" strips	0	5½	1	2

TEXTILES.

COTTON—	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·57
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·85
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	22

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau RD	55	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	61	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	50	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"...	25	10	0	0
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.–June..	28	5	29	0
Mexican		nom.		

JUTE—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£		s.	d.
May–June	24		10	0
Aug.–Sept.	25		12	6
SILK—				
Canton ..... per lb.	9	6	11	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	16	6	18	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	15	6	18	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12½
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super "	14
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12½
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31½
" 64's	30½
Crossbred 48's	17
" 46's	17

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	6	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—	£	s.	£	s.
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	4½	18	6

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	60	10	61	10
Sheets (strong)	87	0	0	0
Standard	55	0	55	5
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	5	19	10
Soft Foreign	17	15	17/17/6	
Spelter G.O.B.	16	15	17	10
Tin—English ingots ...	144	15	145	5
Standard cash	143	15	144	0

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	7½	1	8
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2½	1	2½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	10	26	0

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton May–June	21/5/0		0	0
Smoked South Sea May–June	20/5/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4½
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	6½	0	8
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	7
Best cow	0	3½	0	5½
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	3
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	41	10	0	0
Rape, refined	39	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	33	10	0	0
Palm.....	24	15	26	15
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	10	10	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— May–June.	18/17/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— May.–June	18	0	17	6
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	39	0	0	0

MINERAL OILS—	£		£	
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0

ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	16	10	19	5

RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	7½	0	0

SHELLAC—	£	s.	£	s.
TN Orange ... per cwt.	127	6	130	0

SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards.. "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	6

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Market quiet but generally steady. Firsts, to Continent, May-June, sellers, £24 10s. 6d.; new crop, August-September, £25 10s.; Lightnings, May-June, £23 10s.; August-September, £24 2s. 6d.; Hearts, May-June, £21 7s. 6d.; Daisee assortment, £23 7s. 6d., and Tossa ditto, £24 15s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila dull and easier, with sellers more in evidence. No. 2, J grade, May-July, sellers, £25 10s.; K, ditto, £24; July-September, sold, £24 10s.; L, No. 1, quoted, £24 5s.; No. 2, sellers, £22 15s.; M, No. 1, quoted, £23 5s.; No. 2, £22 15s.; H., £25 15s.; G., £27 5s.; streaky twos, £36 15s.; threes, £33 15s.

c.i.f. African sisal dull. No. 1, May-July, including Portuguese, £29; No. 2, £28 5s. c.i.f. Receipts for past week totalled 28,000 bales, against 31,000 at corresponding period last year, and 27,000 bales in 1928. Estimate for this week 28,000, and following week 31,000 bales.

SHELLAC quietly steady. T.N., spot, 127s. 6d.; August, 124s.; October, 127s. 6d. To arrive April-May, also May-June, 115s. c.i.f.

COPRA quiet and trend of values in buyers' favour. Straits, sun-dried, to Rotterdam, May-June, sellers, £21 5s.; Dutch East Indies, ditto, £21 5s.; Ceylon, £22 12s. 6d.; South Sea, sun-dried, £20 12s. 6d. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, May, £20 6s. 3d.; smoked, South Sea, £20 5s.; Manila in bulk, £20 2s. 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, May-June, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—May 21.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	6	6	10
Irish	...		...	
Cambridge.....	...		...	
Short Horns	6	4	6	6
Herefords	...		...	
Devons	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...	
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	s.	d.	s.	d
Canadian	...		...	
Sheep—Downs	8	4	10	0
Half bred	...		...	
Ewes	5	0	5	8
Scottish	...		...	
Lamb—Downs	11	4	12	0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—May 21.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	3	0	3	9
" " " whites.....	1	6	2	3
Essex King Edward.....	3	0	3	6
" " " whites.....	1	6	2	3
New Spanish.....	10	0	...	
" Jersey	18	0	...	
" Cherbourg	13	0	...	

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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Vol. CX. SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1930. No. 4,527.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was stringent early in the week, and on Tuesday up to 2¾ and even 3 per cent. was paid. There is no doubt that the withdrawals of French money earlier in the month have left the market rather short of funds, and another cause of the stringency is that the Bank of England is known to hold a large number of May and June

maturities. As and when these bills are paid, the money goes into the Bank, and so is lost to the market, and this week's reduction of £6,370,000 in the Bank's earning assets may be an illustration of the extent to which this factor is at work. Nevertheless, the Bank is thought to be taking care to prevent money from becoming overscarce, and it is believed that on Tuesday the Bank bought some short bills at 2⅛ per cent.

* * * *

Partly owing to the shortage of money, discount rates are definitely higher than earlier in the month. Early June bills are regarded as equivalent to "money," and so were quoted as high as 2½ per cent. Late June bills were 2⅛ and July bills 2⅛-$\frac{3}{16}$ per cent. The market rate on three months' bills was on Wednesday a full 2$\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., while longer dates were quoted at 2¼ per cent. for four months and 2½ per cent. for six months. The three months' rate was fractionally easier the following day. There is no change in the supply of bills in the market. Some German bills have been offered by German banks at 2$\frac{3}{16}$ per cent. and at times "$\frac{1}{32}$ under," but holders of German bills are now much more inclined to keep them until maturity, in preference to discounting them in London than they were several months ago. There have been some purchases of bills on Dutch account, but Paris is at present not a buyer.

* * * *

Early this week there were rumours of an impending reduction in Bank rate, and, on Wednesday, these imparted some strength to the gilt-edged market. It has, however, been clear all along that a reduction this week was most unlikely. There is no sign of any real improvement in the Paris exchange, and while some authorities are inclined to share the view expressed in last week's *Economist* that London is well quit of some more of the French money lodged here, it is recognised that the Bank has lost a fair amount of gold and that at the moment there is little prospect of the losses being recovered. Germany is still buying the major portion of each week's supply of Cape gold, and lately an "unknown buyer" has been in evidence. This is believed to be Belgium, and, in any case, the Belga now stands at a point where gold could be shipped at a profit, if the Belgian authorities thought fit. Finally, next week the Government are issuing, in preparation for the War Loan dividend, £45,000,000 Treasury bills against maturities of £30,000,000. This should raise discount rates again, a fact which argues against a reduction in Bank rate.

	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount { Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses { Notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¾ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛—$\frac{3}{16}$	2⅛—$\frac{5}{32}$	...

The current week's Bank return shows that even after the French gold withdrawals the Bank occupies a strong position. The reserve has fallen by £1,764,000, this being mainly the result of an increase of £1,437,000 in the note circulation, but, as described above, the Bank's earning assets have fallen by £6,370,000, so that the proportion stands at the very high figure of 57¼ per cent. On the liabilities side the main change is a fall of £7,936,278 in public deposits.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The influence of month-end dividend and holiday cash preparations on the money market is negligible; payments total $750,000,000. The Treasury is expected to sell $500,000,000 of certificates on June 15 to meet a like amount maturing. Brokers' loans are up $7,000,000, probably all due to the remainder of the conversion of American Telephone bonds, which involved cash payments. There is no sign yet of the trade recovery, and none is anticipated before late summer or autumn; but business is only poor compared with 1929. The Reserve System return shows that the gold movement has virtually stopped. Discounts are up 38 millions, due to the month end; bill holdings are down 11 millions; Government securities are unchanged, and a moderate rise in circulation for holiday cash has brought down the Reserve ratio to 82.9 per cent. A feature of the brokers' loan report is the drop of 81 millions on account of out-of-town banks and 32 millions on corporation account, all of which has been taken over by local banks.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The stock markets had again a dull appearance, investors being disinclined to move until the full extent of contemporary depression was made clearly ascertainable. Gilt-edged, however, continued to improve, rumours of a War Loan conversion being persistent. Home Railway stocks held their ground in a listless market, but fresh weakness occurred in Foreign Rails. The industrial markets were featureless, and dealings in rubber, tea and oil shares were greatly restricted. Though base metal prices showed signs of greater stability, mining shares were generally neglected.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The trade depression shows no signs of recovery. Business in most coal districts continues to decline, though Glasgow reports a slight expansion in shipping activity. Improvement in the iron and steel industries is hard to find; such buying as is taking place is in small lots for immediate delivery. Raw cotton has fallen a few points on favourable crop reports and continued slackness of demand, and there is no sign of recovery in Manchester. The better position of the world wool markets is maintained, but the Bradford situation remains unchanged. The jute trade remains depressed. Hides and leather remain firm, with a fairly satisfactory outlook but no great bulk of business actually passing. The demand for vegetable oils and oilseeds is slightly better. Wheat is firmer.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Conditions were very little changed in the Foreign Exchange market this week, but business was perhaps a little quieter owing to the holiday on the Continent on Thursday. New York was uncertain, and the rate declined from 4.86⅛ to 4.85$\frac{15}{16}$, after 4.86 on Wednesday and 4.86⅛ on the 22nd. Montreal improved fractionally to 4.86¼. Paris gained three points at 123.98, after being over 124. Brussels was stronger at 34.81¾, but Milan lost seven points at 92.77, after 92.82 and 92.72. Madrid was uncertain, and after improving from 40.00 on the 22nd to 39.77 on the news of a Government inquiry in the exchange, the rate reacted to 39.95. Amsterdam went against us from 12.08¾ to 12.07⅞, after being higher and lower, as was Berlin before settling fractionally stronger at 20.36½. Switzerland gained 25.11½. Stockholm appreciated sharply from 18.11, while Oslo and Copenhagen gained ¼ and tively at 18.16. Of the South American exch was hesitant and lost $\frac{1}{32}$d. at 5$\frac{27}{32}$d. Buenos steady on the whole, but lost ⅛d. at 42¾d., a video lost ¼d. at 45d. In the Far East the ru to local conditions, and lost $\frac{1}{16}$d. at 1s. 5$\frac{15}{16}$ forward market dollars were unchanged at $\frac{1}{16}$ discount. Paris was in better demand at premiums of 3½ centimes for both deliveries. weaker at wider discounts of 13 and 34 centesim 12 and 30 last week, as was Madrid at prem and 7 centimos, these last rates representing ⅛ in each case. Amsterdam was unchanged at cent. discount, but Berlin was rather firmer at 1$\frac{1}{16}$ 3 pfennigs discount, against 1¼ and 3 pfennigs. silver market established new low records for both s and forward, owing to selling by China and the bazaar and the absence of any real support. Spot fell to 18d. and forward to 17$\frac{15}{16}$d., a loss of ¼d. in each case. The China silver exchanges declined in sympathy, Hong Kong losing 1⅛d. at 1s. 4⅜d., and Shanghai 2d. at 1s. 8d.

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g Portuguese, totalled 28,000 ear, and 27,000 following week

August, 124s.; June, 115s. c.i.f.

ur. Straits, sun-tch East Indies, ea, sun-dried, Indies, May, ulk, £20 2s. 6d.

25s. per 100. 10s.; Ceylon, or shipment,

MONTHLY TRADE SUPPLEMENT.

We publish this week our Monthly Supplement, in which will be found an appreciation of the trade situation at home and abroad, together with statistical information on the foreign trade, price movements, currency, and production of the leading commercial countries of the world. Its contents include an index of electricity production, and a series of indices of British trade activity.

WESTMINSTER AND WORK.

The threat of an early General Election has been removed by the Government's victory in the House of Commons on Wednesday, when Mr Baldwin's censure motion on the unemployment issue was defeated. From one aspect the victory was not convincing, for it was only achieved through the decision of the Clydeside malcontents and the whole of the Liberal Party to abstain from voting. But no matter how the majority of twenty-nine was secured, the fact that it was secured is entirely satisfactory, for the simple reason that a General Election at this juncture could do the country no good and might perform for it a great disservice. It would, on the one hand, merely delay the production of those schemes of productive work whose rapid completion is essential to a forward unemployment policy, and it would also mean that the country would be distracted by political strife and the position of the Cabinet placed in jeopardy at a moment when it requires all the prestige and confidence which can be derived from security of tenure in order to deal with the Indian situation. In abstaining from the lobby, therefore, Mr Lloyd George and his Liberal colleagues have rightly interpreted their duty to the country, and there can be little doubt that politicians themselves of all parties are glad to be relieved of the necessity of placing their own disunited policies before the gaze of a critical electorate.

So the crisis has ended. But if we read last night's debate aright, its occurrence has served a useful purpose. The chief interest in the discussion centred around the apologia of Sir Oswald Mosley, whose resignation from the Cabinet was the immediate occasion of the storm. In a cogent speech, which had a remarkably good reception in the House, Sir Oswald gave a summary of the schemes which he had unsuccessfully pressed upon the Cabinet. There is nothing very new about them; for the most part they follow in essentials the lines of those which were propounded a year ago by Mr Lloyd George on the Liberal side and Mr Thomas on the Labour platform, although in scope they go much further. Sir Oswald would get rid of one large lump of unemployment by a general gift of pensions at the age of sixty and at the other end of the scale by raising the school age, both of which proposals figured prominently in Mr Thomas's election speeches. Within limits there is much to be said for both. It was proposed a year or two ago that a limited pensions scheme for coal miners then 60 or over should be instituted, the means to be provided out of a special fund in order to meet the special grave emergency in that industry. Sir Oswald, with the enthusiasm of inexperience, would apply the system to the whole industrial field—an exuberant extension, fruitful in implications, which rightly caused Mr Thomas to reject the idea. Nor can Sir Oswald carry conviction with his comprehensive schemes by which he proposes to put 800,000 men in work at a budgetary cost of £10 million, a project which seems far to outbid Mr Lloyd George's famous pledge and was, indeed, rather contemptuously dismissed by the Liberal leader. Further, Sir Oswald was guilty of a cardinal blunder in pressing for the immediate raising of large scale loans, before the schemes on which the money is to be spent have been worked out. The only possible order of events is schemes first and loans afterwards.

Nevertheless, Sir Oswald hit one nail firmly and truly upon the head, and that is the most important nail of all. The great merit of his exposition of the unemployment problem lay in his recognition that, if real progress is to be made, the question must be regarded by the Government of the day as one of grave national emergency, and that emergency measures must be taken to sweep away red tape and departmental circumlocution. Sir Oswald quoted the analogy of the great war, and submitted that, for the special purpose of curing unemployment, there was need of an administrative reorganisation comparable with that which was found indispensable in the pursuit of victory in the field. The real complaint against the Government is that they have not concentrated on this problem as the one great vital national emergency. The explanation is obvious. The driving force necessary can only come from the head of the Government, and for the most of his first year in office it has so happened that Mr MacDonald has been very heavily engaged in fruitful work in the sphere of international politics. Possibly the most hopeful feature of Wednesday's debate is the assurance that the Prime Minister himself intends to concentrate his attention upon unemployment, and is also ready to co-operate in a real sense with leaders of other parties who may have anything to contribute. In our view Mr MacDonald would have done well to seek such co-operation at the outset of his term of office. Had co-operative effort in dealing with unemployment succeeded, the Government would have had the credit; had it failed, the blame would almost certainly have been placed, rightly or wrongly, on the failure of other party leaders to support the Government of the day in emergency measures which they considered necessary. For we must remember that the last election was fought out on the unemployment issue, and any Government returned to power at that election could claim that the country had demanded of it that all necessary measures should be taken.

As a result, then, of the political events of the last ten days we expect to see one good result, and that is the introduction of more driving power into the machinery which Mr Thomas is charged with directing. It must be confessed that the speeches of Mr MacDonald and Mr Thomas were both eloquent illustrations of the urgent need of outside stimulus. The Prime Minister revealed a lack of grip of the subject which, as we have suggested, is explicable by his prolonged immersion in other matters of an exacting and absorbing nature, while Mr Thomas's defence of the measures he has taken is stultified in the eyes of those who make a practice of judging by results. At the same time, Mr Baldwin had nothing to contribute and Mr Churchill did little more than repeat his new policy of a tariff for revenue, which is rather like applying a mustard plaster to an open wound. There was nothing, indeed, in the speeches of the leaders of the official Opposition to suggest that they would deal with the position more successfully than the present Government, and it was just because they were as unsuccessful in their five-year term as Mr Thomas has been in his first year that the country displaced them from office.

Much of the increase of our unemployment is due, as Mr MacDonald correctly expounded, to world causes. So far as they are operative, the Government of the day can do no more than patiently pursue a constructive liberal policy in international relations; and there the Government's record is better than that of its predecessor. But there are domestic influences also at work, and there are domestic remedies within the power of the Government to apply. The position is too serious for party tactics, too serious, indeed, for anything but "all hands to the pump." The responsibility must of necessity rest upon the Government. But no party will avoid the censure of the country if it puts grit rather than oil into the machinery. We believe that the attitude of the country, now that the political crisis is past, is to say to the Government, "Get on with the job and make up for lost time. Speed up the conception and perfection of sound and reproductive work schemes and create emergency machinery to secure their rapid commencement and vigorous prosecution." If a minority Government is to obey that call it must have, not merely freedom from political and departmental obstruction and destructive criticism, but an assurance of active co-operation and support for sound and effective measures. Such co-operation Mr Lloyd George has promised on behalf of the Liberal members. But co-operation will not flourish unless the right atmosphere is created, and it lies mainly in the power of the Prime Minister to create it.

SUDAN: THE STUMBLING-BLOCK.

In commenting upon the breakdown of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations at the moment when it occurred, we promised to return to the subject as soon as the publication of a White Paper gave us an exact and authoritative account of the course of the negotiations and the position in which their failure—within an ace of success—has left us. The White Paper has now appeared;* and, as we had hoped, it throws a flood of light not only upon the past but upon the future.

The most important passage in this very full collection of documents is the concluding paragraph of the first Paper: the "Memorandum on the Negotiations":—

"The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs made it clear to the Egyptian Delegation that, if they found after their return to Egypt, and after discussion with their friends there, that there was any hope of the draft treaty becoming an accepted instrument, it was still available, and he and his colleagues were prepared to try to reach agreement with regard to the few remaining passages in the note annexed to the treaty in order to make signature possible."

This means that, at any rate during the lifetime of His Majesty's present Government in Great Britain, the Egyptians can have for the asking a settlement of Anglo-Egyptian relations on terms which are acceptable to them in respect of three out of the four points reserved in the British Government's unilateral declaration of February, 1922. The one outstanding point of difference is the question of the Sudan; and even in regard to the Sudan the regulation and allocation of the Nile Waters has already been settled to the satisfaction of all parties by the Nile Waters Agreement of 1928. The residue of the Sudanese problem ought not to prove intractable to the joint efforts of Anglo-Egyptian statesmanship—especially when we take into account the cordiality of the atmosphere in which the recent negotiations came to an end. Neither in Egypt nor in Great Britain, this time, have there been any recriminations. There have only been expressions of goodwill; and Nahas Pasha's references to his British colleagues have been as friendly since his arrival in Egypt as before his departure from London. In these circumstances it is worth examining closely what the exact points of difference are in regard to the Sudan, and considering what the prospects of overcoming them may be.

In the British draft for an Anglo-Egyptian treaty, which was handed to the Egyptian Delegation on April 17th, the Sudan was dealt with in one Article, as follows:—

"While reserving liberty to conclude new conventions in future modifying the conventions of 1899, the High Contracting Parties agree that without prejudice to Egypt's rights and material interests the status of the Sudan shall be that resulting from the said conventions. Accordingly, the Governor-General shall continue to exercise on the joint behalf of the High Contracting Parties the powers conferred on him by the said conventions."

The Sudan was dealt with further in three heads of a draft exchange of Notes, by which the British draft for a treaty was supplemented. The question of the indebtedness of the Sudan to Egypt was to be examined with a view to settlement on fair and equitable lines by representatives of the Treasury and the Egyptian Ministry of Finance as soon as the treaty came into force. There was to be no discrimination in the Sudan between British subjects and Egyptian nationals in matters of commerce and immigration or the possession of property. If the treaty were worked in a friendly spirit, the British Government were to consider sympathetically a proposal for the return to the Sudan of an Egyptian battalion simultaneously with the withdrawal of the British forces from Cairo. Finally, for making international conventions applicable to the Sudan, a procedure was suggested which was calculated to make it clear that, in the international status of the Sudan, both Great Britain and Egypt were concerned on an equal footing.

Over the question of finance and treaty-making no difficulties seem to have arisen. The crux was the question whether or not the treaty should give Egypt a positive title to negotiate for a revision of the Conventions of 1899. On this, the British negotiators sought to meet the Egyptian point of view by introducing into the treaty a general provision entitling either party to initiate friendly discussions, within one year from the coming into force of the treaty, with regard to any question arising out of the application of any Article in respect of which any difficulty might have arisen. The Egyptians, however, did not care for this general Article; and they made a series of counter proposals, in which the Sudan was dealt with specifically.

The first Egyptian counter-proposal was to replace the Sudan Article in the British draft treaty by one of two alternative drafts, providing that the question of the Sudan should be reserved for future negotiations within one year from the ratification of the treaty, or alternatively that the question of the Sudan should be reserved for future negotiations without any specification of time-limit, but that in that case the *de facto* position obtaining in the Sudan before 1924 should be restored meanwhile.

This second alternative, of course, would have meant restoring the Egyptian personnel in the Sudan administration and the Egyptian units in the garrison and reincorporating the Sudan Defence Force into the Egyptian Army. That is, it would have meant rescinding measures which had been taken in 1924 as a matter of urgency because a number of Egyptian officials and officers in the Sudan had then been seeking, by political agitation, to make the task of the British Governor-General impossible. The British negotiators were unwilling to entertain this suggestion for fear that Egyptian officials and officers, if reintroduced into the Sudan, might attempt to prejudice the situation there in the same manner as before.

The second Egyptian counter-proposal was that the British draft for the Sudan Article in the treaty should stand with two minor amendments, on condition that a statement of the Egyptian position should be written into the settlement in the form of a Note declaring that the Sudan Article did not in any way affect Egypt's right of sovereignty over the Sudan and the joint administration thereof by the two High Contracting Parties. The British negotiators were ready to agree to the proposed amendments to the text of the Article in the treaty, but found the combination of the Article, thus amended, with the proposed Egyptian Note unacceptable.

Finally, the Egyptian Delegation agreed to the original British text of the Sudan Article with the addition of a sentence applying to the Sudan specifically that provision for friendly discussions, within the period of a year, of any difficulty arising, which the British negotiators themselves had suggested as a clause of general application. This third Egyptian counter-proposal seemed to offer a way out of the difficulties over the Sudan which had arisen so far; but at this point the Egyptian negotiators raised the question of immigration into the Sudan from Egypt; and it was over this that the negotiations actually broke down.

In this matter the Egyptians were not content that there should be no discrimination between British subjects and Egyptian nationals—the formula that the British draft for an exchange of Notes had proposed. They wished it to be made clear that the immigration of Egyptians into the Sudan would be subject to no restriction. And the fresh formula—suggested on the British side—that the Governor-General should not exercise "unreasonably" the right which any Government must possess to control immigration in the interests of its own nationals had to be abandoned, because the Egyptian Delegation insisted on the omission of the word "unreasonably." The issue over which the negotiations broke down is thus clear and concrete. Can a solution be discerned which will satisfy both parties and so remove the last impediment to a comprehensive Anglo-Egyptian settlement?

The question of "political" immigration may first be cleared out of the way; for Egypt can hardly dispute the Governor-General's right, within reason, to exclude would-be immigrants on political grounds. Down to their expulsion in 1924, a number of Egyptians in the Sudan did deliberately take advantage of their residence there in order to prejudice the situation by political agitation. It is not reasonable that the Sudan Administration should be exposed to the risk of this occurring again. Whatever the final settlement of the Sudan question may be, it evidently ought to be reached by free and peaceful negotiation, to the exclusion of any kind of illegitimate pressure.

The crux is the question of *bona fide* immigration from Egypt into the Sudan for the purposes of commerce or agriculture. And here, again, it seems impossible to take away the Governor-General's right to restrict immigration, within reason, on strictly economic grounds. True, the Sudan is a large country with great possibilities of supporting an increased population. But it is not a country like Manchuria, or the Middle West of Canada and the United States, where a squatter can simply settle down and plough the land. It is a country like Palestine or 'Iraq or parts of Australia, where settlement must keep step with the development of irrigation schemes which have, by their nature, to be under Government control. Subject, however, to this vital economic consideration, might it not be agreed that the Egyptian peasant who is *bona fide* seeking a homestead in the Sudan should be given priority over any other applicant? After all, Egypt's need for an outlet for a surplus agricultural population is, or very soon will be, greater than the need of any of the tropical African territories of the British Empire. By agreeing that the Egyptian peasant should have this priority over agricultural colonists of British nationality we should be recognising one of Egypt's very pressing material needs. And we suggest that, if once this priority were conceded, the Egyptians could afford to wait until the question of the ultimate political destiny of the Sudan settled itself. After all, the people who colonise a country eventually become the owners of that country in every sense. And from the British point of view there is no objection to a *bona fide* colonisation of the Sudan by Egyptian peasants up to the limits of the economic capacity of the Sudan for absorbing immigrants at any given time. We need only insist on the Governor-General retaining a free hand to restrict *bona fide* immigration within these limits and to exclude political agitators. Is not some agreement possible on these lines?

* Egypt No. 1 (1930): Papers regarding the recent negotiations for an Anglo-Egyptian Settlement, March 31-May 8, 1930. (Cmd. 3575); price 9d. net.

THE WORLD DEPRESSION.

For some months past the survey of the state of trade which we publish in our Monthly Supplement has been growing more definitely discouraging. Those people who can find comfort in adversity from the knowledge that their misfortunes are widely shared will derive consolation of this chill character, for what it is worth, from the Supplement which accompanies this issue of the *Economist*, for the fact which it brings out most clearly is the universal character of the present trade depression. Details vary widely from country to country, as reference to the Supplement will show, but certain broad characteristics are to be found in such marked degree in almost every industrial country as to merit fuller consideration.

The most universal symptom of the stagnation which has overtaken trade throughout the world since the seismic upheaval of last autumn on the New York Stock Exchange, is the fall in wholesale prices. The table below, based on fuller tables which will be found in our Supplement, shows the movement of wholesale prices in six countries, during the last thirteen months:—

Wholesale Prices Indices.

	France. July, 1914=100	Germany. 1913=100	Belgium. April, 1914=100	Italy. 1913=100	United States. 1926=100	United Kingdom. 1913=100
1929—						
March	653	140	869	461	98	138
June	623	135	848	447	96	132
September	610	138	846	437	98	132
October	602	137	838	436	96	130
November	596	136	834	431	94	127
December	588	134	823	425	94	127
1930—						
January	576	132	808	417	93	124
February	575	139	791	408	92	121
March	565	126	774	400	91	119

With the single exception of Germany, all these countries had a lower price level in November than in any preceding month of 1929, yet by March, 1930, there had been a further fall of 7.2 per cent. in Belgium and Italy, 6.0 per cent. in the United Kingdom, 6.7 per cent. in Germany, 5.2 per cent. in France and 3.8 per cent. in the United States. Owing to the very varied composition of these indices it is difficult to compare details of the movement in the respective countries, but two groups, foodstuffs and textiles, stand out as having fallen universally by very much more than the average amount. The importance of the part played by the decline in textiles is perhaps the most universal characteristic of the movement, as the figures below show:—

Percentage Decline between December, 1929 and March, 1930.

	In Total Index.	In Textiles Index.
France	4·0	10·0
Germany	5·8	11·0
Belgium	6·0	14·7
Italy	6·0	8·5
U.S.A.	3·5	4·3
United Kingdom	6·0	11·6

On the other hand metals and minerals have everywhere fallen less than the average, and hides and leather, where they are separately shown, have generally not declined more than the average of all prices. Some light on this may be thrown by the following table of stocks in the principal centres:—

Stocks of Raw Materials.
(000's omitted.)

		1928.	1929.
Cotton (world visible, bales)	December	7,766	8,098
Silk (U.S.A., bales)	December	72	118
Copper (N. & S. America, short tons)	December (refined)	65	171
	,, (blister)	250	266
Tin (world visible, long tons)	December	25	28
Zinc (at U.S.A. refineries, short tons)	December	45	77
Lead (U.S.A. and Mexico, short tons)	November	157	162
Crude petroleum (U.S.A., barrels)	December	484	535
Hides and skins (U.S.A., lb.)	December	268	271
Rubber (world, long tons)	October	178	280
Wheat (world, quarters)	December	61,330	67,440

This shows, as was to be expected, a sharp increase in the stocks of textiles and wheat, an uneven, but on balance less than average increase in the stocks of base metals and only a negligible increase in the stocks of hides and skins in the U.S.A. The existence of these stocks is at once a witness to the degree of depression in the markets for raw materials, and an evil portent for the immediate future.

The present depression has something of the character of an acute attack, supervening upon a chronic form of the same disease. For over a decade now, as was pointed out by Mr A. Loveday in the January issue of *Index*,* world economy has been suffering from the maladjustment consequent upon a general shifting of demand from staple articles to products of a more luxurious and more varied character. This has three important consequences: in the first place it renders a large part of the equipment of certain industries permanently superfluous, and requires a change-over from the production of coarser to finer grades of food, textiles and other articles of universal consumption; secondly, it

* (Stockholm.) Svenska Handelsbanken.

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reduces the scope for mass production with its attendant economies; and lastly, as demand for luxury goods is more fickle than that for staple articles of food and clothing, it means not merely an immense initial adaptation of industry to new conditions, but a permanent state of comparative instability in which similar acts of adaptation over smaller areas of production at a time will constantly be required. As this change in the general character of demand is consequent upon the levelling up of the standard of living and the increase of leisure which have been going on steadily since the war, and will, it is to be hoped, continue, this increased instability of industry must be accepted as a new element in world economics which has come to stay.

Concurrently with this development has come the industrialisation of backward countries, so that markets which might have taken the coarser products of the textile industries in the older countries, when the home demand shifted to finer products and to silk and rayon, have instead been supplied to a large extent from their own newly established factories, and the world productive capacity has become redundant. As a result of the war the productive capacity of the mineral, metallurgical, engineering and shipbuilding industries is also in excess of world requirements. This situation was being slowly but steadily taken in hand by a process of rationalisation, when, just as the patient was beginning to show signs of recovery, the monetary events of last autumn caused a critical relapse, and it is perhaps significant that in the United States, where the staple industries are most fully rationalised, and where a large part is played by such luxury goods as, for example, radio, motor cars and gramophones, as lend themselves to mass production, the fall in prices during the last few months has been the least pronounced.

A further symptom of the universality of the present trouble is to be found in the recent foreign trade returns of the principal countries. Those for which April figures are available are shown below:

EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL.

(000,000's omitted.)

	Imports.			Exports.		
	April, 1929.	March, 1930.	April, 1930.	April, 1929.	March, 1930.	April, 1930.
Germany (Rm.)	1,255	884	888	1,231	1,104	977
France (Fr.)	5,138	4,431	4,566	4,428	3,958	3,888
U.S.A. ($)	411	300	308	426	370	334
Holland (Fl.)	234	226	204	169	156	142
Switzerland (Fr.)	244	229	236	178	159	163
United Kingdom (£)	104	93	84	71	62	55

Every country in the above table carried on less foreign trade in April this year than last, and all except Switzerland exported less in April than in March, though imports went up in April in every country except Holland. Of the twenty-eight countries whose March trade returns will be found in our Supplement, only six show an increase in both imports and exports as compared with March, 1929. They are: Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Estonia and Lithuania—all North European countries. Eleven countries experienced a decline in both imports and exports.

The causes of so widespread a lack of confidence are necessarily complex. Some have been indicated above, but the suggestion of remedies is even more difficult. So far as credit policy is concerned, it is clear that, however prominent a part monetary troubles may have played in the accentuated depression of the last few months, there are other causes of the trouble which require more than purely financial means for their eradication. As the public is acutely conscious, the failure of retail prices to keep pace to anything like a reasonable extent with the fall in wholesale prices has helped to prevent the slump from bringing its own ultimate remedy in the form of stimulated consumption, and the history of the restriction policies which have recently been adopted by the producers so many raw materials suggests that the only way to make a fortune nowadays is to create, not wealth, but scarcity. There are signs that this discrepancy between wholesale and retail prices is at last beginning to be reduced, but the widening margin, even among wholesale prices, between the cost of raw materials and the cost of finished goods suggests that rationalisation has not yet sufficiently reduced production costs. The experience of the United States has taught the world that reduction in labour costs does not necessarily mean reduction in wages, but reduction in labour costs, as in all other costs, there must be, if the present abundance of the world's available resources is to cease to be a menace and become the foundation stone of prosperity.

NATIONAL INCOME OF U.S.A.

THE American national income is one of the most important economic factors in the modern world. It has been stated that the 120 million inhabitants of the United States enjoy a national income roughly equal in size to that of the 480 million inhabitants of Europe, or of the 1,000 million inhabitants of the rest of the world outside Europe and the U.S.A. If this is the case, then American income constitutes approximately one-third of the total income of the world; but even if this fraction is not exact, accurate knowledge concerning it is a matter of great consequence, both because of its size and because of the importance of its fluctuations from year to year.

Fortunately we are now in the position of possessing fairly full and reasonably precise information upon this vital topic. The latest researches carried out by Dr. Willford I. King* show in definite form the astonishing growth of wealth which has characterised and been responsible for America's industrial development during the last twenty years. The table which follows shows the estimated "realised income" of the United States both in millions of "current" dollars—*i.e.*, the actual yearly figure—and in millions of "1913 dollars"—*i.e.*, of dollars with a purchasing power over consumable goods approximately equal to that of the dollar in the pre-war year:—

U.S.A. ESTIMATED REALISED INCOME.

(Millions).

Year.	"Current" dollars.	"1913" dollars.	Year.	"Current" dollars.	"1913" dollars.
1909	29,605	31,300	1919.....	65,949	38,017
1910	31,430	32,380	1920.....	73,999	37,573
1911	31,858	32,920	1921.....	63,371	36,710
1912	33,977	34,656	1922.....	65,925	40,565
1913	35,723	35,756	1923.....	74,337	45,164
1914	35,647	35,250	1924.....	77,135	46,758
1915	37,205	36,636	1925.....	81,931	48,412
1916	43,288	39,559	1926.....	85,548*	50,421*
1917	51,331	40,242	1927.....	88,205*	52,892*
1918	60,408	40,150	1928.....	89,419*	54,022*

* Preliminary estimate.

The "realised income" shown in the foregoing table represents that part of the aggregate income of individuals which remains after eliminating changes, whether positive or negative, in the values of stocks or property of any kind. It includes an estimate of the value of services rendered to their owners by durable, direct or consumers' goods. This item—which Dr. King terms "imputed income"—is arrived at, in the case of non-residential property, by applying a fixed rate of interest—namely, 6 per cent.—to the estimated value of these goods in the hands of consumers; and, in the case of residential property, by directly estimating the rental value of urban homes occupied by their owners. In 1913 the "imputed income" was estimated at 2,330 million dollars and in 1928 at 5,300 million dollars. The estimated "realised income" excludes, on the other hand, the value of services rendered by housewives and householders to their own families; the value of services rendered by individuals to themselves; the value of goods and services received by employees in the guise of expense accounts; and money earned through odd job em-

* "The National Income and its Purchasing Power." By Dr. Willford I. King. New York National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. Price $5 net.

ployment. Within the limits thus defined, the American national income in "current" dollars increased 150 per cent. between 1913 and 1928 and the "real" incomes in terms of "1913 dollars" by over 50 per cent. in the same period. Between 1921 and 1927 the increase in purchasing power amounted approximately to 44 per cent.; and Dr. King is amply justified in commenting that "It is probable that no other nation at any time in history has ever enjoyed such a marked advance in income in anything like the same space of time. In most of the older sections of the world, indeed, the attainment, even in a century, of such a proportionate increase of income would be regarded as remarkable."

From what industries is this immense income mainly derived, and what have been the fluctuating fortunes of the various industries? The latest year for which complete figures are available is 1925. In that year the largest item was manufacturing, which accounted for 20.59 per cent. of the total income. The unclassified group of trades—which includes road transport and most of what Americans term "servicing" industries—contributed 20.08 per cent., or nearly as large an amount. Mercantile operations—*i.e.*, wholesale and retail dealing and the like—accounted for 14.64 per cent.; agriculture occupied fourth place with 11.09 per cent.; and the transportation group (comprising railroads, pullman services, express services, water transport, street railways, private electric light and power, and telephones and telegraphs) accounted for 8.22 per cent. Of the remaining quarter, mines, quarries and oil wells accounted for 2.65 per cent.; construction and building for 4.22 per cent.; banking for 1.34 per cent.; local and national government for 7.48 per cent.; and miscellaneous—including a large proportion of "imputed income"—for the remainder.

These proportions have not, however, all been maintained throughout the entire period covered by Dr. King's estimates. Thus, agriculture, which declined in relative importance between 1909 and 1914, increased vigorously during the war period, and then declined abruptly between 1919 and 1921, has since barely maintained itself on the 1921 level. Thus in 1928 the share of agriculture was only 9.27 per cent., against 11.09 per cent. in 1925, nearly 18½ per cent. in 1919, and, roughly, 15 or 16 per cent. in the pre-war quinquennium.

While agriculture is the only industry which registers a serious decline, changes have taken place in the other industries as well. The share of merchandising and distribution has risen from, roughly, 12½ per cent. before the war to, roughly, 14½ per cent. at the present time; the share of government has increased from about 5½ per cent. to about 7½ per cent.; manufacturing and the unclassified group—together accounting for over 40 per cent. of the national American income—have maintained their proportions of one-fifth each. Banking shows a small increase; transportation (other than road transport) a small decrease; and the remaining groups are fairly constant.

How do these figures compare with the distribution of the occupied population between various industries? Whilst an exact computation cannot be made because of the inclusion of "imputed income," the following table shows the broad movement for 1913 and 1925:—

OCCUPIED POPULATION AND INCOME—BY INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

	1913. Proportion of Occupied Population. %	1913. Proportion of National Income. %	1925. Proportion of Occupied Population. %	1925. Proportion of National Income. %
Agriculture	23·79	14·37	19·72	11·09
Manufacture	23·74	20·52	24·28	20·59
Mines, quarries and oil-wells	3·31	3·23	2·73	2·65
Construction	4·85	4·27	4·10	4·22
Banking.....	0·48	1·27	0·63	1·34
Mercantile	11·00	12·56	13·19	14·64
Government.....	5·08	5·55	6·24	7·48
Transport*.....	7·74	8·99	7·56	8·22
Unclassified	20·02	19·95	21·54	20·08
Miscellaneous	...	9·28	...	9·69
	100	100	100	100

* Railways, pullman, express, water-transport, street railways, private electric light and power, telephones and telegraph.

The gainfully occupied population numbered 37,028,000 in 1913, as compared with 43,844,000 in 1927. The most significant disparity between the distribution of the gainfully occupied population and the share contributed to the national income occurs in the case of agriculture. The figures in the foregoing table amply reflect the depressed state of this industry during the post-war years.

Dr. King's estimate of total "realised income" is made up of two parts: first, the share of *entrepreneurs* and other property owners; and, secondly, the share of employees, including wages, salaries, pensions and compensation for injuries, etc.—the last item being a very small one and totalling little more than one per cent. of the whole. "The classification here adopted," to use his own words, "classifies the income and not the recipients"; in other words, wage-earners' and salary-earners' receipts from property of one kind or another are included with the *entrepreneurs'* share and not with the employees' share. Within these limits an important and significant change has taken place during the last twenty years. In 1909 *entrepreneurs* and employees shared the national income almost equally, *entrepreneurs* and property owners taking 49.03 per cent. and employees taking 50.97 per cent. By 1913 the employees' share had increased slightly to 52.69 per cent., with a corresponding decline in the share of *entrepreneurs* and property owners. Since the war, however, the share of employees has substantially increased, and now ranges between 57 and 58 per cent., with a corresponding reduction in the share of *entrepreneurs* and other property owners. This development is primarily due to a large increase in the share of the national income going to salaried workers; for, whereas wage-earners received between 35½ and 37½ per cent. both before and since the war, the share of salaried workers has increased from, roughly, 14½ per cent. in 1909 to nearly 20 per cent. in 1928. This tendency, associated with the growth of the mercantile and servicing industries, also reflects the expansion of the American home market.

The effects of the growth in the American income on the prosperity of various classes depends naturally on the distribution of wealth. Considering, first, certain averages, the following table shows the "realised income," (*a*) *per capita* and (*b*) per person gainfully employed, in "current" dollars for 1913 and 1927 and for 1927 in "1913 dollars" also. It also shows the average annual earnings per salaried employee and per wage-worker, while the average percentage increases have likewise been added:—

	Actual Values in "current" dollars. 1913.	1927.	Increase.	1927, in terms of "1913 dollars."	Increase.
Realised income:	$	$	%	$	%
Per capita (*a*).....	368	748*	*103*	448*	*22*
Per person gainfully occupied	965	1,928*	*100*	1,156*	*20*
Average annual earnings:					
Per salaried employee (*b*)	1,066	2,084*	*96*	1,220*	*14*
Per wage-worker (*b*)	594	1,205*	*103*	705*	*19*

* Preliminary estimate.
(*a*) Total population of continental United States.
(*b*) Based upon the numbers *attached to* industries, and not upon the numbers actually employed.

The table shows that between 1913 and 1927 nominal income practically doubled and real income increased by, roughly, one-fifth, except for salaried employees, where the increase was only one-seventh. The table likewise brings out the fact that, in spite of the large increase in the number of salaried workers, and in their proportion of the gainfully occupied population, their relative position has somewhat worsened. But these average figures do not tell the whole story; indeed, they conceal the most important part of it. Between 1914 and 1926 there was a slight decrease in the proportion of the population having incomes of 5,000 "1913 dollars" or less, and also a slight, though somewhat larger, decrease in the proportion of the national income going to this class. In 1914, persons in this lowest income class comprised 99.333 per cent. of all income recipients, whereas in 1926 they

comprised 98.928. Their share of the national income amounted to 89.782 per cent. in 1914, and to 87.277 per cent. in 1926. Individuals with incomes (all in terms of "1913 dollars") of from 5,000 dollars to 25,000 dollars; from 25,000 dollars to 150,000 dollars; and from 150,000 dollars upwards, all increased in number, in their proportion of all income recipients, and in the proportion of national income which they received. Thus, on the whole, there has been a tendency during the post-war period for the inequality of income distribution to increase.

The existing position is best shown in terms of "current" dollars by the following table:—

DISTRIBUTION OF U.S.A. INCOME, 1926.

(Current dollars).

Incomes.*	Number.	Aggregate Income. $ millions.	Average Income. $	Average Income. £
Below $8,309	44,194,550	73,125	1,655	331
$8,309–$41,543	429,300	6,095	14,198	2,840
$41,543–$249,255	47,250	3,177	67,238	13,448
Over $249,255	2,450	1,388	566,531	113,006
Total over $8,309	479,000	10,660	22,255	4,451
Total	44,673,550	83,785	1,875	375

* Incomes of $8,309, $41,543, and $249,255 in "1926 dollars" are equivalent, in "1913 dollars," to incomes of $5,000, $25,000, and $150,000 respectively.

This table, to which have been added figures showing the sterling equivalent of the dollar figures, shows the extreme opulence of the wealthier classes of Americans. Roughly speaking, there are well over five or six times as many persons in the super-tax class in the United States as in Great Britain, whereas the American population is less than three times as large as the British population. Alongside of this great wealth there exists in America very great poverty also—as is well known to all close students of American conditions, and particularly to readers of Mr and Mrs Lynd's "Middletown," that striking study of Middle Western conditions. Nevertheless the figures show that even if it were practicable to equate all incomes at a common level, the resultant increase accruing to those in the lowest class would be considerably less than the increase that, actually occurred between 1922 and 1926 as a result of the general progress of American industry.

FINANCE OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE problem of providing the capital required for industry is a fundamental one in the socialised, as in the capitalistic, community. In a country where there are no large individual fortunes it is not sufficient to rely on the accumulation of individual savings; the State must frame machinery of its own whereby the necessary capital is made available by the various wealth-getting institutions which have taken the place of the great capitalists. In Soviet Russia the problem presented itself as a very urgent one at an early stage. The difficulties were aggravated partly on account of the great need of capital for reconstruction purposes after the losses due to war and revolution, and partly because, owing to the Soviet Government's attitude with regard to past debts, it was not possible to borrow substantially from abroad. In consequence, almost from the commencement of Lenin's New Economic Policy, attempts were made to organise the provision of capital. These attempts formed part of the economic plans that were adopted each year by the Government, and in course of time a more or less regular system was developed.

The Five-Year Plan is a further stage which grew out of the former annual plans. In essence it is a plan for providing the capital for the economic reconstruction and development of the country. To this end it seeks to mobilise and draw upon all possible sources of fresh capital—the proceeds of taxation; the profits of the State trusts, syndicates and other bodies operating the industries and trade of the country; the creation of new bank credit; the savings of individuals; and insurance and other investible funds in the hands of the Government. It even takes account of the betterment of equipment, plant and tools which may be effected in the different branches of economic life during the year whether by the peasant, on the one hand, or by the great industrial trust, on the other hand. On the opposite side of the account, the Plan apportions the available capital resources among the different spheres of economic activity of the community according to their needs—industry, electrification, trade, agriculture, house-building, other social services, and the rest. The grand total sum envisaged by the Plan may be taken as 86,000 million roubles (about £9,000 million if converted at par). It seems at first sight an improbably large sum until it is realised how many items it includes, and that it does not represent liquid funds only. Even so, it is clear that a very great effort will have to be made if the capital side of the Plan is to be carried out.

In order to compare the Plan with realities and understand its application in detail, it is best to test the figures for a selected branch of economic life. For this purpose we may take industry and electrification, which together form one of the most interesting and important parts of the whole, and are also most easily compared with data from other sources. The term "industry" covers all the manufacturing industries of the country usually, or to a large extent, conducted in large-scale factories. It excludes, for the present purpose, agriculture, forestry and non-manufacturing economic activities, such as trade and banking, and also house-building and other social services. Electrification also is dealt with separately, presumably on account of its special importance in the Soviet scheme of things. Out of the total capital sum of 86,000 million roubles to be accumulated and applied in the five years under the Plan, 13,500 millions are to be devoted to industry and 3,200 millions to electrification. Together, they are equivalent to an average annual sum of 3,340 millions; but the amounts to be provided increase during the five years, and were to be lowest in the first year, that ending September 30, 1929. The first year's provision was planned to be 2,100 million roubles for industry and 370 millions for electrification.

These sums, considerable as they seem, were based largely on the actual results obtained in the previous year. The Five-Year Plan continued the same machinery for the collection and distribution of capital as had been worked out in the years preceding. It had for some time been established that one of the principal agencies for collecting and distributing the capital resources of the community was the State Treasury or Budget. The Budget, on the receipts side, draws in the proceeds of taxation and of loans; to these both private persons and the industrial, commercial and other organs contribute. But there are also direct transfers of profits from the latter wherever profits have been earned. One of the largest items on the expenditure side of the Budget is the payments made to industry, electrification, agriculture, and other branches of economic life. For the most part these payments are of a capital nature. The share of industry and electrification in this large source of available capital is very large. In 1927-28, the year preceding the commencement of the Five-Year Plan, it was about 900 million roubles, rising to 1,200 millions in the first year of the Plan, and to about 2,000 millions in the year now in progress. The local budgets must be considered in the same way, though they amount to much smaller sums, both in total and in the proportion devoted to economic life. In 1927-28 a sum of about 150 millions was paid out of the local budgets as capital to industry and electrification, and this sum has grown in subsequent years.

Next in order of importance, as a source of industrial capital, is the banking system. The amounts made available by the banks to industry and electrification by way of increased loans and advances has each year been very large. Of these sums a part may be regarded as the increased working capital needed as industry develops;

the total sums provided for under the Plan include a part for working capital. The remainder, representing new long-term loans by the banks, is to a small extent provided out of special funds contributed out of industrial profits and paid over to the banks, and for the rest is credit specially created by the banks.

The third large source of capital is the profits of the industrial enterprises themselves. The net profits of industrial and commercial undertakings are divided up—after a first deduction has been made for taxation—in accordance with a prescribed scale. The four most important shares in this division are that of the State Budget, that of the undertaking itself that has made the profit, that paid over to various central capital funds for the assistance, through the banks, of other concerns, and that set apart for improving the conditions of the workers. The percentages have varied in different years, but the Budget's share has usually been rather less than half, the share of the undertaking itself about a third, and the other two about ten per cent. each.

What profits, it may be asked, have been made by industry in recent years, and how much has been retained in this way by the trusts that have earned them? The writer of this article has made a careful calculation of the net profits earned by State industrial and electrical undertakings from the various sources available—tax returns, Budget figures, balance sheets, etc. The figures are as follows:—

Financial year ended—	Roubles (millions).
September 30, 1923	100
„ 1925	270
„ 1926	400
„ 1927	650–700
„ 1928	700–750
„ 1929	1,058

The last of these figures, that for the year 1928-29, is an official Soviet estimate, which has just recently appeared, and largely confirms the estimates calculated from independent sources. The share which was appropriated out of the net profits for 1927-28, the year prior to the commencement of the Five-Year Plan, was rather over 200 million roubles. It follows that the total received from the three principal sources of capital enumerated above and applied to industry and electrification was in that year not less than 2,250 million roubles. When it is remembered that the amount provided for the first year of the Plan, 2,470 millions, includes the value of current improvements to plant and equipment and other items not financed from the three main sources, it will be seen that the provision for the first year of the Plan was in reality a moderate one, and there is no reason to doubt the Soviet Government's claim that it has more than been fulfilled on the investment side. In fact, the figures suggest that over 2,700 million roubles was provided for capital investments in industry and electrification during the year in question. In much the same way the programme of output was fully realised in the first year. If the net profits figure for 1928-29 above quoted is correct, a very considerable advance in output must have been made on the year preceding. It is more difficult to estimate whether the annual increases in investment and output, anticipated in the Plan for the four later years, will be achieved. On the basis of the actual profits in 1928-29, and the Budget estimates already announced for 1929-30, there seems every probability that the increased sums for capital investments in industry and electrification will be forthcoming in the future.

Enough has been said—although only two sections of economic life have been examined—to show the scale on which the Five-Year Plan is conceived, and its relation, on the side of the provision of capital, to ascertainable data. In this respect, at least, it is not the wildly optimistic phantasy that it has sometimes been represented. The anticipated rate of progress is, of course, still in doubt; but as a programme of economic reconstruction, on a scale vast beyond all precedent, yet still based on realities, the Five-Year Plan merits more serious consideration than it has yet received in this country.

PAN-EUROPA.

WE discussed last week the terms of M. Briand's proposals for European union, and considered them in the light of the present facts of Europe's and Britain's position. The importance of these proposals is so great that we make no apology for returning to the subject and examining it from a broader aspect and against the background of political experience. The main question suggested by M. Briand's Memorandum is this: Is Europe—the Europe of our times—in any sense an entity? And, supposing that it is, is it the sort of entity which is susceptible of organisation on the political plane by some kind of union between the European States?

Evidently a case could be made out for answering these questions in the negative. On the cultural plane, for instance, it might be pointed out that while Western Europe is the mother of a civilisation that has spread beyond the boundaries of the Continent until it has embraced the whole world, Eastern Europe has had no part or lot in creating this civilisation, and is indeed a passive recipient of it, on the same footing as the Islamic World or India or the Far East. Culturally, the gulf between Western and Eastern Europe is comparable with the gulf between Western Europe and Egypt or Persia or China, and is far greater than the spiritual distance between Western Europe and the Americas. On the economic plane, moreover, Europe—a tiny patch of the habitable surface of the earth which lies wholly within a single climatic area—is hardly nearer to being self-sufficing than the European countries taken separately (taking those of the largest calibre, like Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy). It is certainly much less capable of being self-sufficing than some of the single countries of the great outer world (*e.g.*, the United States or China). In the modern world, the scale of operation of all major economic activities is becoming world-wide; and any territorial unit of economic activity, short of the maximum unit embracing all the habitable lands and navigable seas on the surface of the planet, has become a dwarf and an anachronism. It does not much matter whether we try to operate with San Marino or with Italy or with Europe or with the British Empire. All these fractions of the modern economic integer suffer from the same fatal defect of being merely parts instead of the whole. As an economic universe-in-itself, a Pan-Europa would be still-born. It ceased to be capable of independent life from the moment when tropical sources of supply and tropical markets became essential elements in the European economy.

There remains the political plane; and it is significant that Monsieur Briand, who is one of the ablest and most experienced practical statesmen alive in Europe to-day, propounds, in his Memorandum, the thesis that the European problem is primarily a political problem which has to be grappled with, in the first instance, in political terms. Let us try to approach it in these terms ourselves.

When we examine the present political map of the Western World and look for some feature which distinguishes Europe, on this political map, from the rest of the picture, we observe at once that an extraordinarily large proportion of the existing states that are "fully self-governing" (*i.e.*, that are enrolled, or eligible for enrolment, in the League of Nations) are concentrated on European soil. Out of about 65 existing states that come within this category, no fewer than 27 lie in Europe, even taking the term Europe in the narrowest possible sense, to the exclusion of both Turkey and the U.S.S.R. Thus, more than one-third of the "fully-self-governing" states of to-day are crowded together on this small patch of land; and even when we allow for the fact that a considerable portion of the non-European area (*e.g.*, almost the whole of Africa) is taken up by the non-self-governing dependencies of European states, it is evident that the amount of territory now distributed among the non-European states—which are less than two-thirds of the total muster—is still so great that the average territorial magnitude of states in Europe must be markedly lower than the world average. And so, indeed, it proves to be. With the sole exception of

Central America and the Antilles, no region in the contemporary world can compare with Europe in the degree to which it is sub-divided politically.

What does this fact mean? In terms of the past it means that Europe was till recently the focus of political power in the world—the region in which political pressure was greatest, and in which the mechanism of the Balance of Power consequently operated most effectively to keep the average size of states small. The norm was set by Great Britain, which served as the regulator; and for four centuries Great Britain has successfully defeated all attempts to construct an empire in Europe that would outclass Great Britain herself—the attempts made in succession by Philip the Second of Spain and by Louis the Fourteenth of France and by Napoleon and by Imperial Germany. It is only on the periphery, where the political pressure has been either much lighter or even absent altogether, that self-governing states of a vastly larger calibre have been able either to come into existence or to enter the system intact from outside—states of the calibre of the United States and Canada and Brazil, and the Argentine and Australia and India and China and the U.S.S.R. This vast political growth in the non-European fringes of the Western World went on unchecked and almost unnoticed by the European Great Powers—and this at a time when the European Powers in concert could have imposed their fiat upon the rest of the world—because in the early stages these embryo states of supra-European calibre were either too distant or too backward in culture or too little developed economically or too much handicapped economically by under- or over-population to exercise any appreciable political influence upon the European Balance of Power. And so, unnoticed and unhindered, they grew in stature until, in this post-war world, in which they are successfully coming to maturity, they have rather suddenly begun to dwarf the states of Europe and overshadow them—primarily in economic power, and ultimately in the political power which economic power sustains.

And what does this mean in terms of the future? The best way of reading the answer to that riddle is to glance at similar situations in the past, in which we happen to know the end of the story. Turn back the pages of the historical Atlas till you come to the sixteenth-century map, in which the states of Italy lie huddled together and dwarfed and overshadowed by the trans-Alpine states of vastly greater calibre—Spain and Portugal, France and England, Austria and Sweden—in that new world which the culture of the Italian Renaissance had called into being. Turn back further still, till you come to the political map of the third-century B.C., and mark there the states of Greece surrounded, in just the same way, by the vast and menacing shapes of the Roman and Carthaginian powers in the West and of the Macedonian "successor-states" in the former domain of the Persian Empire—all of them new political growths in the great Hellenistic world which had been called into existence by Greek culture to upset the balance of the little Hellenic world of Pericles and Plato.

What was the end of the story in these two earlier instances? In both Hellenistic Greece and Renaissance Italy the vision of a Pan-Helles or a Pan-Italia was cherished by great practical statesmen—an Aratus, an Antigonus, a Machiavelli, a Julius II. In both, the tradition of political disunity and dissension proved too strong. And in both the penalty was political eclipse—a political eclipse of Ancient Greece which inaugurated the decline and fall of Ancient Civilisation and a political eclipse of Renaissance Italy which gravely retarded the modern Western World's advance. Is Monsieur Briand's project for a Pan-Europa to have the same fate, with the same consequences for the general fortunes of the world, as those historic projects of his Italian and Hellenic congeners? Or is Modern Europe, which is still the soul of the Modern World, to have a happier destiny than Mediæval Italy or Ancient Greece? That question is proof in itself that the political problem of European union is one of immense importance in our generation; and we ought to be profoundly grateful that it has now been placed before us in a concrete form by a practical statesman speaking authoritatively for the Government of a Great European Power.

Moreover, when we look into the Briand Memorandum, we find, as we should expect, that its distinguished author hits all the nails on the head. "Begin on the political plane." Obviously right; for are not armament and tariffs the outstanding subjects of Europe's present disunion? "Construct your European political organisation within the framework of the League of Nations." Right again, for in any event Europe is, and will remain, an inseparable part of a greater social entity—that Western society that has become co-extensive with the world. "The objective of the proposed federal organisation of Europe should be union, not unity." Right likewise, for no plan would stand a chance if it ignored that political idol of the Modern West—the sovereign independent national state. "Now is the moment" when we have just finished clearing up the aftermath in Europe of the world war. "Start with' a general pact, however elementary, proclaiming the principle of European moral unity and solemnly consecrating the solidarity established between European states.'" Monsieur Briand is a good political psychologist. He knows that political affirmations create—or, rather, are—political facts.

Notes of the Week.

The Indian Situation.—The week's news from India has been mixed. On the debit side of the account must be set the signs of increasingly violent agitation by the undisguisedly revolutionary elements in the Congress Party, the serious mob disorders in Bombay, Lucknow and Rangoon, and the brutal murder of Mr D. B. Murphy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, at Mardan. The situation in the North-West Frontier Province, where the "Red Shirt" movement is apparently making some headway in the villages, clearly requires firm handling; and the punitive action carried out by Air Force units on Wednesday against the followers of Badshah Gul, the Haji of Turangsai's son, shows that the authorities do not shrink from strong action. On the other hand, outside Gujarat, the countryside is little disturbed; evidence of revulsion on the part of responsible Indian circles from the anarchic results of the Congress campaign is to be found in the assurances of support sent to the Viceroy by such bodies as the central organisation of land-holding classes in the Bombay Presidency and the association of Calcutta Marwari merchants; and Moslem opinion has been rallied strongly in favour of the Government by a declaration from the Nizam of Hyderabad appealing to his co-religionists "to realise that their common welfare lies in orderly progress," and to join with him in contributing to the success of the Round-Table Conference, which is to follow in due course the publication of the Report of the Statutory Commission. That Report has this week been signed, and will be issued simultaneously in India and Great Britain in two parts—the first on June 10th, the second on June 24th. The month of July will clearly be a critical period in India, since extreme agitators may be relied upon to do their utmost at that juncture to inflame opinion by exploiting disappointment of exaggerated expectations. Perhaps the best augury for the future is to be found in the fact that the House of Commons this week, in a debate maintained for the most part on a high level, showed a general disposition to endorse both Mr Wedgwood Benn's recapitulation of the declared aims of British policy in India, as announced by Lord Irwin last November, and his recognition of the duty of Government to maintain at all costs peace and order as an essential part of its functions.

British Policy in Palestine.—At the request of the Permanent Mandate Commission, a statement of British policy in Palestine has been submitted to them by His Majesty's Government in Great Britain a fortnight in advance of their forthcoming session, in which the situation in this mandated territory will come up before the Commission for review. Meanwhile, the statement has been published here as a White Paper (Cmd. 3582 of 1930). The statement is clear-headed and courageous. It disposes of the minor points, focusses attention on the central issue, and looks this issue in the face. The British Government subscribe to the opinion, put on record by the Permanent Mandates Commission in 1924, that the mandate for Palestine has imposed on the Mandatory Power a twofold duty, viz., that of promoting the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in addition to that of administering the country in conformity with the interests of the population as a whole. They further agree that the result has been to create a conflict of interests between which a balance has to be held. In probing the Palestinian problem to find the crucial point, they lay their finger upon the question of immigration. (It may be noted in passing that the question of immigration has also proved to be the crucial point in the problem of the Sudan.) "The policy which they have adopted, and which they have endeavoured to follow, is based on the principle that immigration shall 'not exceed the economic capacity of the country at the time to absorb new arrivals.'" They submit that "everything turns upon" the absorptive capacity of the country being correctly gauged. And for this reason they rightly attach the utmost importance to the mission of investigation into this matter, on which Sir John Hope Simpson has lately proceeded to Palestine on their behalf. In the meantime they announce that the question of a temporary suspension of immigration is under examination, and that legislation is to be introduced with the object of controlling the disposition of agricultural lands in such a manner as to prevent the dispossession of the indigenous agricultural population. They propose to refrain from making a further and more explicit statement of policy until Sir John Hope Simpson's report has been received. All this is good as far as it goes; but the statement contains certain ominous passages:

> The conditions under which remedial measures can be applied are strictly limited; they are governed by the terms of the mandate and by the dual obligation which it imposes. . . . It must be a primary condition of any constitutional change in Palestine that the Mandatory Government should reserve to itself the power of carrying out the obligations imposed upon it by the mandate. . . . It has been made clear to the Delegation [of Palestinian Arabs which lately came to England] that no measure of self-government could be considered which was not compatible with the requirements of the mandate.

And in paragraph 9 it is virtually admitted that the Jewish colonies in Palestine will have to stand in a permanent posture of self-defence, supported by armed force. This picture cannot fail to rouse deep misgivings. What are the prospects of colonisation that has to be carried on behind a permanent screen of armed force? And what will happen when the Arab majority in the population of Palestine sees itself surrounded on every side by independent Arab states: Syria, Iraq, Najd-Hijaz and Egypt? More and more nakedly the spectre of a Palestine held by armed force emerges.

The Nottingham Election.—The salient features of the Central Nottingham by-election are that, compared with the General Election a year ago, the Conservative poll rose from 14,571 to 14,946, the Labour poll fell from 11,573 to 7,923, and the Liberal poll fell from 8,738 to 4,648. Thus the Conservative majority has been increased from 2,998 to 7,023, and the Conservative vote is now in an absolute majority over that of both the other parties. In interpreting this result it must be remembered that the by-election was fought on the same register as was in force a year ago, and intervening deaths and removals account to a limited extent for the shrinkage of 7,365 in the total poll. Still this by no means accounts for the whole of the shrinkage, and it is clear that there was a certain turnover of votes to the Conservative candidate, and a larger number of abstentions on the part of Liberal and Labour voters. The reason for this is not far to seek. One of Nottingham's staple industries is the lace trade, and the main issue at the by-election was the imminent lapse of the safeguarding duty upon imported lace, and as the campaign proceeded it was clear that the Conservatives were leaving no stone unturned to appeal to the narrow sectional interests of those in receipt of the supposed benefit of a particular duty, which, if it accrues, is gained at the expense of the nation at large. The Labour candidate made little attempt to combat this attack, and the Liberal candidate's able defence against the onslaught proved of little avail. The result is claimed as a triumph for the cause of safeguarding. In reality it merely shows how irresistible is the narrow, selfish appeal of Protection when that appeal is made sectionally with every circumstance favourable to it—especially bad trade and disillusionment over the Government's unemployment policy. For Labour to have won Central Nottingham would have been, in all the circumstances, nothing short of a portent, and the result offers little guide to the trend of the political thought of the country.

Late Hours in the Commons.—The Finance Bill debate, which began in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon, was prolonged until 8.15 on Wednesday morning. Most readers of the discussions, which were often irritable and petulant and often trivial, will derive two main impressions: The first that too much of the time of the House of Commons is completely wasted, and, secondly, that M.P.s, like most other mortals, are not at their intellectual best in the early hours of the morning. On the same day a *White Paper was issued containing the Report of a Select Committee on "The Hours of Meeting and Rising of the House." This Committee was concerned with two main questions:—(1) Whether the House could advantageously meet earlier and rise proportionately earlier; (2) whether there was any simple means of avoiding very late sittings. Party leaders and Whips were cross-examined, but the Committee, over which a former Speaker, Lord Ullswater, presided, was not able to produce any very helpful conclusions. They ruled out morning sittings because of the Committee work already done in the morning hours, of the obstruction of the Ministers' departmental work, and of the fact that such an arrangement would practically debar business men from membership. A two o'clock start, with stumps drawn at 10 or 10.15, might be possible, but they found a consensus of expert opinion to the effect that this would defeat its own ends by making all-night sittings more frequent—presumably because members would be readier to support the suspension of a 10 o'clock than of the present 11 o'clock rule. The Committee therefore content themselves with recommending "that Governments should be strongly discouraged as much as possible from suspending the 11 o'clock rule," and that the Friday hours of session should be changed (from the present 12 to 5) to 10 to 8. The most important paragraph in the Report is the statement that "the time is rapidly approaching when an exhaustive review of the whole of parliamentary procedure will have to be made" by a committee with wide terms of reference. We agree; and among the questions to be discussed will clearly be mainly those of devolution and of the checking of human loquacity by time limit or by increased powers of closure for Speaker or Chairman.

The Syrian Constitution.—On Thursday, May 22nd, the French High Commissioner for Mandated Territories in the Levant promulgated the long-delayed Organic Statute of the Republic of Syria. The delay has been due first to the circumstances—amounting to military conquest—in which the French originally asserted their mandatory authority over the territories of the Syrian Republic in 1920; then to the Syrian insurrection of 1925-26; and finally to the political deadlock which has existed since the summer of 1928, when a Syrian Constituent Assembly refused to withdraw certain clauses in the draft constitution which were regarded by the French as being incompatible with the exercise of their mandate. The contentious points were the control of foreign policy and of armed forces and the prerogatives of pardon and amnesty. The Syrian Constituent Assembly insisted that

these powers should be vested in the organs of the Syrian State; the Mandatory Power insisted on retaining them in its own hands. At last the deadlock seems to have been overcome by a formula that writes into the treaty a sufficient instalment of the Syrian desiderata to satisfy the Syrian sense of *amour propre*, subject to an overriding clause which reserves to France the powers necessary for exercising her mandate, unless and until these powers are transferred to the Syrian Republic by agreement between the two parties. British experience in Egypt shows the drawbacks, as well as the advantages, of this method of reserving contentious questions in order to get to work at once in non-contentious fields. Nevertheless, it is a great step forward to have set up a genuine Syrian Government with a very wide sphere of authority in which it will be master in its own house. The constitutions of the other component parts of the French Mandated Territory—the Republic of the Greater Lebanon, the Autonomous Sanjaq of Alexandretta, and the two districts of the 'Alawiyah and the Jabel Druz—are working already. The Syrian Republic now comes into line with the rest; and the next step will be to establish effective co-operation between the five States under the auspices of the mandatory authorities. The most urgent problems of co-operation are economic; and, now that the Syrian desert has been conquered, we may expect to see a growing movement towards economic solidarity between all the Asiatic Arab countries that were formerly provinces of the Ottoman Empire. Thus the progress of Syria affects the position of Great Britain in relation to 'Iraq and Palestine. We have no need to worry about 'Iraq. Owing to a wise policy on both sides she is already well on the way towards admission to membership in the League of Nations. It is in Palestine that our shoe is likely to pinch. And for Palestine the moral of what is happening in Syria is clear: It means that the time at our disposal for educating Palestine up to being a fully-self-governing State is short. For when once all the Arab countries around her—including not only Egypt and 'Iraq and the Najd-Hijaz, but Syria too—have become self-governing, it is inconceivable that Palestine can survive as an exception to the general rule.

Independence for the Philippines? — On Friday, May 23rd, the Committee of the United States Senate on Territories and Insular Affairs reported favourably, by eight votes to four, on a Bill providing for the relinquishment of American sovereignty over the Philippines by stages. The Administration is opposed to the Bill, and that is almost a sufficient reason in itself for expecting the Senate to pass it. It is possible, however, that it may be rejected by the House. Nevertheless, there is one substantial motive for passing it which is likely to have a wide appeal. So long as the Philippines are a territory of the United States they are inside the United States tariff-wall, and in certain lines of agricultural production the American farmer is exposed to Filipino competition—a competition which can make itself felt severely in the case of products that grow best in a tropical climate and require abundance of labour (since Filipino labour is cheap beyond comparison with labour in the continental United States). On this point, the provisions of the Bill are significant. The period of transition from political dependence to independence is fixed at five years; and during this same quinquennium the Philippines are to have fiscal independence thrust upon them too. In fact, at the end of the five years they will find themselves simultaneously admitted to the goodly company of sovereign independent States, and marooned on the wrong side of the American tariff-wall. Thus, at the moment when our British Empire Crusaders are shouting to us that we might as well dissolve our Empire if we cannot get Imperial Free Trade, their brother-protectionists in the United States are proposing to dissolve their Empire if they cannot get rid of Imperial Free Trade by any less drastic remedy. The two schools would do well to study one another's doctrines, for, whichever may be right, it is certain that one of the two must be wrong. It is also interesting to see the Americans embracing the method of " gradualness " in liquidating an Oriental dependency at a moment when, in British India, " Eric or Little by Little " is in such hot water. For learning to stand by oneself " under the strenuous conditions of the modern world," five years seem a fully short period of probation. Of course, there is a vast difference in scale between the Philippines, with their twelve millions of souls, and British India, with more than three hundred millions. Yet, in miniature, the problems of British India reappear in American Indonesia. The Philippines, too, have their babel of tongues, their backward tribes, and even their communal feud—in this case between a slower-witted minority of Muslims and a quick-witted majority of Catholics, who play the part of the Hindus. Moreover, the Philippines—an island community at the very jaws of Japan—will be faced with a far more serious problem of defence than India has to contemplate. If the Bill goes through, it may well affect the equilibrium of the Pacific.

Free Trade and Labour.—The General Council of the Trade Union Congress have rapidly and completely disposed of a suggestion that a report upon Empire economic and trade relations, prepared for the Council by its Economic Committee, pledged the Congress to the support of the Empire Free Trade movements. After passing a resolution condemning the publication of the report, which was described as a private and confidential document, and repudiating the interpretation placed upon it by a section of the Protectionist Press, the Council proceeded on Wednesday to discuss the report itself. It is understood that some difference of opinion arose during the discussion, and ultimately it was decided to refer the report back to the drafting committee. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Empire Crusaders had no justification for their attempt to use this incident as evidence that the Trade Union Congress was swallowing these nostrums. Meanwhile, the Free Trade Convention, organised jointly by members of the Liberal and Labour Parties, was held on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The case for Free Trade, as opposed to Protection, under its various aliases of Safeguarding and Empire Free Trade was ably stated in general terms by Mr Snowden, Lord Arnold, Sir Herbert Samuel, Sir George Paish, Mr Henry Bell, Mr George Hicks, and other speakers. It is too early to judge of the eventual outcome of the Convention, especially as Mrs Snowden stated in her inaugural address that a subsequent Convention would be held at a later date. There is no doubt, however, that this week's meeting has given a good send-off to the Free Trade campaign. Doubtless those responsible for its inauguration will now consider the need of marshalling the facts and figures needed to refute the Empire Crusaders' extravagant claims, and their appeal to sectional rather than to national interests. While it is essential to re-state the general Free Trade case to a generation that has grown up since the Tariff Reform campaign of nearly thirty years ago, it is still more necessary to provide its exponents with ammunition of the kind used so effectively by Mr Asquith in his succession of hammer-strokes against Mr Joseph Chamberlain in days which now seem so long ago. This is the real task that lies before the Convention, which by itself can only inaugurate the campaign.

Shipowners and Trade Barriers.—For his Presidential address to the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Baltic Conference, held this week at Copenhagen, Mr W. A. Souter found an only too painfully obvious topic in the present acute depression of the cargo shipping trades and of " tramp " freights. With 4½ million deadweight tons by shipowners of long experience as worse than at any time since 1882-83. The immediate causes were the world-wide reaction in trade which followed the financial crises of last autumn and the fact that international shipments of wheat had been reduced abnormally as the result partly of the trade reaction itself and partly of the high yield of 1929 crops in the chief importing countries. At the same time, wider and more permanent influences were at work. Although the increase of tonnage in 1914-29 had been much less than that recorded in the fifteen years before

the war, cargo-carrying capacity exceeded the world's requirements largely because the war had resulted in an increased sense of nationalism throughout the world, which unfortunately had taken the false direction of each country attempting to make itself self-contained. " Agricultural countries now wish to produce their own manufactures, and, on the other hand, many great industrial countries, particularly in view of the fact that they have to make huge external debt payments, are doing their utmost to restrict their imports of food. Both agricultural and industrial countries are producing articles at greater cost to themselves than they could buy at elsewhere, with consequent loss, not only to their own communities, but to the whole world. To-day we see the spectacle of a huge over-production . . . on the one side—it would almost seem as if nature's bountiful increase is going to waste—and, on the other, amongst the industrial nations, millions of unemployed. It would be idle to pretend that the peoples of the world are all adequately fed, clothed and housed. There is a need for these excess quantities of goods. Trade, however, can only be carried on by the exchange of goods, and it would seem that the processes of exchange have to some extent broken down." This verdict by a shipowner on the reactions caused by nationalistic tariff policies on the world's flow of commerce may be commended particularly to protectionists in this country, whose shipping forms such a vital element of the whole economic structure.

The Reparations Loan.—Negotiations between the Treasury experts and bankers of the various countries directly interested in the reparations loan were continued in Paris during the past week, but it is not clear how much real progress has been made. One question that is believed to have come to the front during the past few days is that of the legal guarantee behind the loan. Inasmuch as Germany has to furnish to the Bank for International Settlements a general bond in respect of her total reparations liability, she has been unwilling to provide another bond to cover the reparations loan on the ground that this would mean a duplication of her liabilities. Some form of bond, of course, has to be behind the loan before it can be issued at all, and the solution of this problem has apparently been one of the chief causes of delay. Another cause seems to be whether, in the case of a partial default by Germany, in respect of the unconditional annuities, holders of the reparations loan will enjoy any priority over other claimants. Our Paris correspondent, writing on Wednesday last, calls attention to the question of German guarantees, and adds that no news is yet forthcoming as to the issue price of the loan or the quota to be allotted to each market. Apparently as recently as that date Paris was hoping that the issue could be made next week, though doubts had then arisen as to whether the issue might not have to be postponed until after Whitsun. There seems, according to him, to be no doubt that the French quota will be over-subscribed; and he states that it is understood that the Banque de France and the Caisse d'Amortissement are between them prepared to take up at least £4,800,000 of the presumed total of £16,000,000, and that the Paris banks will absorb the balance, if necessary. The fact that the French exchange has not moved much in favour of sterling since the closing of the B.I.S. share lists and the return of their money to unsuccessful applicants suggests that some of this money may have been retained in preparation for the reparations loan, though naturally its owners will not reach any decision until the terms of issue are known. The arrangement of the loan has proved a far more intricate matter than originally seemed likely, but in view of the general uncertainty caused by the delay in the appearance of the loan, it is to be hoped that all difficulties will be solved before long.

British Production.—The volume of production of British industry in the first quarter of 1930, as estimated by the Board of Trade, was 2.6 per cent. below that of the fourth quarter of 1929, but 0.4 per cent. above that of the corresponding quarter a year ago. The following figures (those of the London and Cambridge Economic Service have been added for comparison) confirm the impression conveyed by the *Economist* indices of business activity, that up to the end of March the full effects of the trade recession had not been reflected in the rate of industrial output:—

	1924 = 100. March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.
Board of Trade:				
1929	110·4	111·9	110·6	113·9
1930	110·9	...	...	...
London and Cambridge:				
1929	108·3	111·0	108·2	114·8
1930	110·1	...	...	...

It will be seen from the table below that, as compared with the last quarter, the large decline in the non-ferrous metals, textile and food groups was partly offset by an increase in the mining, engineering and shipbuilding and leather groups:—

Group.	March Quarter, 1929.	June Quarter, 1929.	Sept. Quarter, 1929.	Dec. Quarter, 1929.	March Quarter, 1930.
1. Mines and quarries	98·9	92·6	94·4	100·3	102·0
2. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	112·4	117·8	113·7	112·2	112·8
3. Non-ferrous metals	115·7	128·7	114·6	123·0	105·7
4. Engineering and shipbuilding	120·0	124·7	119·3	120·0	125·7
5. Textiles	102·0	99·8	91·4	100·7	92·4
6. Chemical and allied trades	108·3	112·9	118·5	119·8	107·5
7. Leather and boots and shoes.....	100·3	100·7	95·2	97·9	108·5
8. Food, drink, and tobacco	97·5	109·0	111·8	105·7	96·9
Total of manufacturing industries, 2–8	113·4	116·8	114·7	117·4	113·2
Total of all groups, 1–8.....	110·5	111·9	110·6	113·9	110·9

The output of coal was about 4 per cent. greater than last quarter, and nearly 3 per cent. greater than in the corresponding period last year. Shipbuilding and electrical engineering are mainly responsible for the improvement in Group 4. The drop of over 10 per cent. in the chemical group over the last quarter is noteworthy, and the trend of textiles is definitely downwards, especially in the cotton and wool industries. The advance in the mining, engineering and shipbuilding industries showed signs of weakening in March, and there is little doubt that the index for the second quarter of the year will reflect the general depression to a much more marked extent.

World's Cotton Yarn Production.—The Cotton Trade Statistical Bureau has published an interesting survey of the cotton industry of the United Kingdom and the world in 1929. The following table of the estimated world production of yarn shows the extent to which the British cotton industry has lost ground, both absolutely and relatively, during the past five years:—

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF YARN.

(Expressed as percentages of 1924.)

	Europe.				
Period.	U.K.	(excl. U.K.).	Asia.	America.	World.
1924	100	100	100	100	100
1925	112	123	107	118	116
1926	96	132	118	123	120
1927	106	139	117	132	127
1928	96	142	112	120	121
1929	94	141	122	125	125

Whereas total production abroad has increased by about 30 per cent. since 1924, British production actually declined by 6 per cent. The advance in foreign production was due to the rapid expansion of the cotton industry in Central Europe—particularly in Germany—in Japan, and in the United States of America. Compared with 1928, foreign production increased last year by 5 per cent. It will be seen, however, that this increase was by no means general, but was confined to Asia and America. Continental production suffered a slight setback towards the end of 1928, which was felt throughout 1929. It is significant that the world export trade did not expand during 1929, and that the increased output was mainly absorbed by the home markets. The outlook for the current year is not very bright, and it is doubtful whether world production will be maintained at last year's level. The industry in Europe is still suffering from the depression which has deepened since the end of last year, and American output in the first quarter was about 20 per cent. lower than that of the corresponding period last year.

Lancashire and Arbitration.—No time has been lost, writes our Manchester correspondent, in publishing the result of the arbitration proceedings relating to the labour dispute at the Broadstone Mills, Reddish. The trouble began owing to a spinner being discharged for neglect of work. This man was found sitting behind one of the machines eating food and reading a newspaper a little before 9 o'clock in the morning, and the management dismissed him. The matter was taken up by the trade union, who said that it had always been the custom for the men to have their meals behind the machines, and with the object of securing his reinstatement the workpeople at the mills (about 700) came out on strike on April 22nd. The company was financially supported by the Master Spinners' Federation. The Ministry of Labour ultimately took action, and representatives of the Master Spinners' Federation and the Operative Spinners' Amalgamation met on May 9th and adjourned until May 13th, when it was agreed that the dispute should be settled by arbitration. The workpeople returned to work on May 15th, the mill having been stopped for over three weeks. Sir Felix Pole was appointed arbitrator, and he heard the evidence of the two sides on May 21st. He has now given his award, his finding being that in the circumstances prevailing the discharge of the spinner was justified on the grounds of indiscipline and neglect of work. The employers, therefore, have won the case. Recently, in Lancashire cotton trade circles, there has been a greater tendency to favour arbitration as a means of settling disputes at individual mills, and an attempt is now being made to draw up a scheme whereby differences can be settled without strikes or lockouts.

The Wool Textile Dispute.—The stoppage of work, incomplete but sufficiently widespread to be a real disaster, in the wool textile industry has now lasted for seven weeks. The sums already lost by the operatives in wages and by the employers in missed seasonal orders are very serious for Yorkshire, and for the whole country, which has looked impatiently for signs of the termination of a dispute which has been kept in being by an obstinate refusal on the workers' part to acknowledge defeat. The necessity for lower labour costs in the industry was never open to doubt; Lord Macmillan's recommended figure, 9.25 per cent., represented a reduction which can scarcely be described as exceeding the requirements of the case; and the present costly and embittered struggle has really been waged in the hope that the trade unions concerned, by securing a compromise fractionally more favourable than the arbitrator's award, may be able to "save face" and claim credit for a "draw," in circumstances in which there is no prospect of victory. The employers' conduct of the early negotiations was signally lacking in tact, as we pointed out at the time; and to this extent they share some part of the blame for the present *impasse*. But they, at any rate, have been on solid ground in standing by the Court's award. It is satisfactory, therefore, that several of the unions should now at last have decided to take another ballot of their members on the question whether that award should not now be accepted. If additional arguments for its acceptance need be sought, they are to be found in the appreciable decline in the cost of living which has taken place since Lord Macmillan held his inquiry.

Peruvian Exchange Position.—Within recent years, writes a correspondent, it had been the declared intention of the Peruvian Government to provide for definitive stabilisation of the Peruvian pound on a basis of equality with four U.S. dollars, which would have given an equivalent value to the £ sterling of approximately 21½ per cent. premium over the Peruvian pound. In fact, the exchange on London was steadily maintained over a long period, namely, from May, 1928, to November, 1929, at between 19 and 21½ per cent. premium. Owing, however, to the depression in the Peruvian commercial markets, and especially in those for the chief export products, cotton and sugar, in addition to other factors, a difficult situation arose towards the later part of November, 1929, and sharp depreciation threatened. In consequence of these circumstances, during the closing weeks of 1929 the exchange position became abnormal and quotations nominal. Thereupon, the Government contemplated negotiations for a foreign loan and the deposit abroad of the surplus gold reserve held against the note circulation by the Banco de Reserva del Peru, the purpose being to secure interest on the gold and to bring about legal currency stabilisation. Ultimately, on February 10th last, a new Monetary Law was promulgated in Peru establishing the gold sol as the monetary unit of the Republic in place of the former Peruvian pound. The Banco de Reserva del Peru will convert into drafts on New York or London circular cheques and notes intended for international use. The notes issued by the Banco de Reserva will henceforth be representative of gold soles, the present notes being re-stamped until the new minting is effected. The law also stipulates that 10 gold soles are exchangeable for one Peruvian pound of the new currency. The coin of 10 soles will weigh 6.6872 grammes, nine-tenths fine, and will, therefore, contain 6.0185 grammes of fine gold. The gold parity of the new sol is 40 United States cents, or 12.166 soles to the £ sterling, and the exchange on London is now quoted on the latter basis. The secondary currency is designated centavos, of which 100 are equivalent to one gold sol. The quotations for exchange on London, New York, Holland, Japan, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, and Hong Kong are now given in soles per unit of the foreign currency, and those on Paris, Rome, Madrid, Switzerland, Brussels, and Berlin per 100 units. A decision was taken by the local Bankers' Association in Lima that, with effect from February 28th last, bank balance sheets will be published in gold soles, while, with effect from April 1st last, all accounting systems of the banks are being carried out in the new currency. It is of interest to note that, on the basis of the new parity of the gold sol, the old Peruvian pound would have stood at 21.65 per cent. premium on the £ sterling. At the current rate, *i.e.*, 12.81¼ gold soles to the pound sterling, the old Peruvian pound would have been at approximately 22¾ per cent. premium. Towards the end of March last, and under the operation of the Monetary Law, a decision was taken for the Reserve Bank to export the gold represented by the profit arising from the revaluation of the currency, amounting to about £1,100,000, and in fact the necessary shipments have taken place. It is understood that these gold deposits have not yet been drawn upon. In current circumstances, however, it appears not improbable that such drawings will have to be made in order to maintain exchange, especially having regard to the outlook for the Peruvian economic situation as a whole. Credit conditions are still somewhat difficult, while the markets for cotton, sugar, wool, and copper continue to be dull in tone. This, however, must be attributed largely to the generally difficult market conditions for staple commodities abroad due to over-production. A satisfactory feature is that prospects for the coming Peruvian cotton crop are reported to be good. Undoubtedly the introduction of the new currency unit provides a basis for stability, and, given freedom from political disturbances and a wise use of the gold deposits abroad, an improvement in the general situation may reasonably be anticipated.

Hambros Bank and Foreign Loans.—The friendly attitude of the London issuing houses to the Bankers' Industrial Development Company was expressed by Sir Eric Hambro at the general meeting of Hambros Bank on Thursday of this week. The connection between British industry and London issuing houses, he said, had never hitherto been close. British industry had been built up largely with its own capital and with bankers' short loans; but Sir Eric Hambro believes that to-day the issuing houses can help British industry, and for that reason he welcomed the advent of the Bankers' Industrial Development Company. Sir Eric went on to protest against the fallacy of the argument that issuing houses are guilty of an unpatriotic action when they issue a foreign loan, *i.e.*, that they are supplying the foreigner with capital which would otherwise be available for British industry. He contended that it is just as important to finance the buyer of British goods as it is to finance the seller, and that foreign loans have been the necessary concomitant of the development of British industry. It is not, however, true to say that foreign loans must inevitably react favourably on our trade balance. Foreign lending arises out of the fact that our international balance of trade, visible and invisible, is favourable (although smaller to-day than it was before the war), and that we must lend abroad to the extent that the goods and services we buy from foreigners fall short in value of the goods and services which we supply to them. Our actual loans abroad can be in excess of this favourable balance of trade by the amount which foreigners are investing in England or are repaying to this country in respect of former debts. If they are even more than this we must export gold. Issuing houses, Sir Eric Hambro contends, know well enough when the margin of safety is likely to be reached, and for that reason he regards as unnecessary any official restriction of loans to foreign countries. On practical considerations we would agree with him, for even if a foreign loan is prohibited, nothing can stop the private export of capital for investment on some foreign Bourse if a particular loan appeals to British investors. In fact, the practical effect of an embargo on foreign loans is to deprive London issuing houses of the issuing profits without stopping the export of British capital or gold. No doubt, however, something could be done by issuing houses themselves in the way of giving priority to and facilitating loans which have incidental advantages to this country, and, in particular, are likely to be spent directly on British goods. Although it may not be practicable or desirable to control or direct the stream of British investment without involving a degree of interference that might have extremely harmful reactions, it is very desirable that both issuing houses and investors should be alive to the reactions of what they are doing on the whole economy of the country, and should recognise that, if they can contribute to the general prosperity, they are contributing to their own.

Canada's Political Outlook.—The die has been cast for a general election, writes our Ottawa correspondent. On May 6th Premier Mackenzie King announced that the Government had decided that the sooner the verdict of the electorate was taken the better. It was desirable to end an uncertainty which was bad for business, and, moreover, it was equally desirable, in view of the great importance of the forthcoming Imperial Conference in September, that the Ministers who would be Canada's delegates should have a clear mandate. Mr King's announcement followed a vigorous arraignment of the Budget by the Conservative leader, who reviewed at length the financial operations of the King Government during the last few years, and contended that it had been guilty of gross mismanagement. Turning to the tariff aspects of the Budget, he argued that, while the increases in the British preference looked fine for the stimulation of inter-Imperial trade, many of them were merely an empty gesture because they affected commodities which either Canada did not import at all or Britain had no chance of selling successfully in Canada. Furthermore, he contended that even these preferences, illusory as many of them were, should not have been given away for nothing, but should have been the subject of bargaining for reciprocal concessions from the British. He declared that, while he believed in the British Empire and the development of inter-Imperial trade, his primary concern was for Canada, and he would not sacrifice her interests even for the Empire. His general line was that the Liberal Party, having revealed itself as completely devoid of principle in tariff matters, could not safely be entrusted with the administration of the country's fiscal policy. The election will, therefore, be fought mainly on the Budget, with the Liberals parading it as a measure of wonderful economic statesmanship and the Conservatives branding it as a fraud which was concocted to save the Liberal Party from annihilation. Great interest attaches to the attitude of the Independent Progressive group, which still retains a good deal of strength in the prairie country. They are far from enthusiastic about the Budget, and one of them, Mr Irvine, who intervened in debate, advised the Premier to get his election over as soon as possible because the more the Budget was examined the less satisfactory would its contents appear to the people of the prairies. The United Farmers of Saskatchewan have already passed a resolution describing it as disappointing on the ground that it leans as much to the side of higher protectionism as to freer trade, and does not give any real help to the farmer. Moreover, the *Manitoba Free Press*, the leading Liberal paper in western Canada, is unexpectedly cold in its editorial comment; it thinks the Budget is an ingenious and successful performance politically, but is doubtful whether the tariff changes will be efficacious in diverting trade to Britain. It even suggests that one of the foremost fruits of the Budget may be increased protectionism for the iron and steel interests, which will in due course raise the cost of farm implements and other instruments of production needed in the primary industries. It holds that this is the very thing that Canada cannot afford to do at present in view of the competition with which she is faced in world markets.

Insurance in Germany.—Our Berlin correspondent writes:—The yearly report of the Allianz und Stuttgarter Verein, Germany's largest insurance concern, was awaited with great interest this year, since the year 1929 brought unusual difficulties for the German insurance companies and, as a result of the collapse of the Frankfurter Allgemeine concern, appeared to cause a loss of confidence. As will be recalled, immediately after the collapse of the Frankfurter became known the Allianz announced its readiness to take over all the regular insurance policies of that company, and since the directors of the Frankfurter accepted the offer, all the policyholders of the Frankfurter were saved from any loss and even from any delay in paying out insurance for losses incurred. In contrast to numerous small insurance companies, the Allianz's own business for 1929 shows an upward development. Premiums on property insurance amounted to 187.5 million marks, against 178 millions in the preceding year, and, despite unusually heavy payments for damage by frost and fire, there remained, after writing off large sums, net profits of 4,350,000 marks, as against 4,160,000 in 1928. The dividend remains unchanged at 12 per cent., and the large subsidiary concern, the "Allianz Leben," which handles the life insurance business, was even able to raise its dividend from 15 to 16 per cent. This concern now has 2,800 million marks of insurance in operation. The effect of the taking over of the Frankfurter's business is shown in the Allianz's yearly balance sheet. It paid roundly 10 million marks for the Frankfurter's business, and, after writing off 1 million, enters at 9 million marks the shares of the newly organised "Neue Frankfurter Versicherungsgesellschaft." The participations of the Allianz Leben have in like manner increased by 6 million marks. Developments since the taking over of the Frankfurter have been satisfactory in all branches of business. It is again demonstrated that the collapse of the Frankfurter was caused by business transactions which had nothing to do with insurance.

Reliance Marine Insurance Company.—This company is a subsidiary of the Guardian and its operations are incorporated in the accounts of the parent company. The Reliance Marine transacts the larger part of the marine insurance in the group, and had a premium income in this account last year of £139,565. The 1928 marine account was closed, leaving a profit of £9,767, equal to 7.2 per cent. of the premiums to be transferred to profit and loss account. First-year claims in the 1929 account have been relatively heavy, as have also been expenses, with the result that there remains at the end of the first year's operations a sum equal to 58.5 per cent. of the premiums, compared with 64.4 per cent. of the 1928 premiums at the same stage a year previously. In each of the two preceding years, 1927 and 1928, the fire account was closed with a substantial profit, amounting to 16.8 per cent. of the premiums in 1927 and 11.2 per cent. in 19

Last year, however, as a result of a heavy increase in the claims ratio from 52.4 per cent. to 74.3 per cent. there was a loss of £5,170, equal to 7.5 per cent. of the premium income of £69,228. After making allowance for various items appearing in profit and loss account, there was a net trading loss in 1929 of £5,845, compared with a profit in 1928 of £10,361. The dividend has again been maintained at 25 per cent. and is covered by interest earnings with a small margin.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Trade Outlook — Reparations Loan — Foreign Trade — Prices — Employment — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, May 20.

UNCERTAINTY over the trade outlook is as pronounced as ever, and in consequence the principal financial markets have lapsed into a state of apathy which increasingly cheap money has failed to affect. Hopes of an early passage of the Tariff Bill have been roused by the defeat in the Senate this week of the farm export debenture scheme and the withdrawal of opposition to the "flexible" provision of the measure, which gives the President power to change rates on recommendation of a special commission. The administration had insisted on this latter clause, and it was opposed to the debenture plan. These were the principal obstacles in the way of White House signature. Some of Mr Hoover's friends assert that he will veto the Bill anyhow, on the ground that, in making an all-round upward revision of duties, Congress has gone much beyond the purposes of the session. Henry Ford, for instance, is quoted in the Press as predicting a veto. Most influential men in Wall Street, while personally regarding the new Bill as highly objectionable, expect President Hoover to sign it. A veto, they feel, would bring on a break with Republican Party leaders which Mr Hoover is particularly anxious to avoid. If the Bill is enacted the new law is bound to become unpopular. It will bring no real relief to agriculturists, and the number of manufacturers who may appear to be aided will be exceeded by those who will find—and, in fact, are already finding—that tariff reprisals elsewhere are hurting their trade.

Interest in the forthcoming Reparations issue is fairly keen. It is expected that it will be offered the first week in June, and this country's allotment will probably be sufficient to bring in $80,000,000 actual payment. Bankers predict that the issue will be successful. If it is, it is certain that it will be followed by a strong bond market and a considerable increase in new capital issues. Much business is being held up on account of the German loan, while the market for old bonds is quiet, awaiting a clue from the outcome of Reparations. J. P. Morgan and Company have made allotment of the 16,000 shares of stock in the Bank for International Settlements which came to this country. The shares were distributed among about 100 banks, the amounts which each received varying with the size and importance of the bank. The stock was eagerly applied for. No public offering will, of course, be made.

Optimistic statements on business continue to issue from President Hoover's Cabinet. The Secretary of Commerce, Mr Lamont, said this week that he expected a definite upturn in the next two or three months. Few people in the financial community here see much sign of improvement. Railroad traffic is still lagging, and the steel industry has dropped to not much above 70 per cent. of capacity, against about 85 per cent. in 1928 and 95 per cent. a year ago. Prices for steel are the lowest since 1922. The motor trade also is faring poorly, apart from Ford and General Motors. Makers of medium to high-priced cars are probably selling not more than half as many as last year. However, the second-hand situation is improving, and actual sales of cars to new buyers are not much, if any, under normal. Production figures for April were 442,630, compared with 401,382 in March and 621,910 in April of last year. In the first four months' production of 1,466,590 units was nearly 30 per cent. under 1929, but was greater than for the corresponding period of any preceding year.

Foreign trade figures for April were poor, as foreshadowed by the cotton consumption and export report. While more cotton was used by spinners in April than in March, there was a sharp drop below the level of a year ago, and exports were the lowest for the month in recent years. All merchandise exports fell to $334,000,000, compared with $425,000,000 last year and $370,000,000 in March. Imports were $308,000,000, against $410,000,000 last year and $300,000,000 in the previous month. April shipments were the smallest for that month since 1923, and the lowest for any month since June, 1925.

The fall in wholesale prices is showing some signs of halting, but retail prices, which so far have fallen very little, are beginning to decline. The Bureau of Labour Statistics index of wholesale prices for April stands at 90.7; a drop of only one-tenth of 1 per cent. from March, but about 6⅓ per cent. below that of a year ago. Farm products were on the whole higher, while metals weakened. Raw materials were higher, against declines in semi-manufactured articles and finished products. Of the 550 commodities measured, 103 were higher, 171 were lower and the remainder were unchanged. Indices for some of the principal groups were as follows:—

	April, 1929.	March, 1930.	April, 1930.
Farm products	104·9	94·7	95·8
Foods	97·7	93·9	94·6
Hides and leather products	107·9	103·2	102·7
Textile products	95·5	86·5	85·5
Fuel and lighting materials	80·6	77·4	77·9
Metals and metal products	106·4	100·6	98·8

Employment during April was little changed from March. The Department of Labour notes more work in six industrial groups out of thirteen surveyed, exclusive of construction. As a whole the various groups showed a loss of two-tenths per cent., and pay-rolls were seven-tenths per cent. smaller. There was, however, a marked increase in the building trades, particularly in Federal, State and municipal construction work, which is being forced in order to relieve unemployment.

Interest rates continue to sag with the rising surplus of credit seeking employment. Open market rates have been cut another one-eighth per cent., bringing the 90-day asking rate for bankers' bills to 2⅜ per cent. Federal Reserve Bank buying rates have been adjusted to changes in the bill market. Time money and commercial paper rates also have fallen. Sixty-day money is offered at 3¼ per cent., with little demand, and commercial paper is 3½ per cent. for best names. Call rate on the Stock Exchange is pegged at 3 per cent., but banks are finding it impossible to place all their surplus at 2½ per cent. in the outside market. While the open market leaves the 3 per cent. Federal Reserve Bank discount rate rather useless, no early change is expected. Member bank borrowings in this district are only 30 millions, against 254 millions a year ago, and the reserve ratio of the local bank is 86.8 per cent. For the system discounts are 210 millions, and total credit outstanding, at 920 millions, is the lowest in five years. Obviously there is no lack of credit, and rates are low enough to give all the stimulation which can come from them. Slack trade is the principal cause of easier money here, and until business improves decisively, or a new boom in the stock market takes place, it will continue.

FRANCE.

Politics — Revenue — Tariff Changes — Industry — Bourse.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, May 28.

THE Chambers are to reassemble on Tuesday for a brief session that will last until the middle of July, when the long summer recess will begin. Exactly what developments may be expected it is difficult to forecast. There are renewed vague reports that M. Tardieu, as soon as he has secured the passage of his plans for strengthening the national economic and social equipment—which is the only unaccomplished portion of the programme laid down by the Government when it took office—will formally present the collective resignation of his Cabinet to the President of the Republic. This is generally regarded as both unlikely and uncalled for. It must not be overlooked, however, that M. Tardieu, as the offers he made to M. Chautemps during the last Ministerial crisis showed, is anxious to have the support of the Radical Socialist Party, and to extend his majority further to the Left, thus following the policy adopted by M. Poincaré, until the historic snatch vote at the tail end of the Angers Radical Congress rendered its continuance impossible.

At the time of the recent crisis the Radical section flatly refused to take office under M. Tardieu, who thereupon demonstrated that he could dispense with them. Since then many things have happened. The Socialists, in spite of their apparent working arrangement with M. Herriot and his colleagues, have won several by-election victories at the cost of the Radical Socialists; and, when reproached with these tactics, have crudely given their victims to understand that they have no need of their friendship. Last Sunday, in speeches made in the provinces, two of the Radical leaders showed more or less clearly that the party's recent experiences have convinced them of the hopelessness of being able to bring about any real alliance with the Socialists, and that they are likely in future to be much less hostile to M. Tardieu than in the past. All this is the subject of much newspaper comment, and there are indications that M. Tardieu's desire for a real Ministry of Republican Concentration is now appreciably nearer realisation than it was a few weeks ago.

The revenue returns for April indicate a total yield from all "normal and permanent sources" of 3,493,800,000 francs, as against 3,962,000,000 francs in April, 1929, and 3,549,000,000 francs in 1928. The falling off, as compared with the receipts in April, 1929, however, as the Finance Ministry points out, is much more apparent than real. Owing to the extension of the old financial year, for instance, demands notes for direct taxation have not yet been served, whereas the revenue for April last year included an appreciable sum from this source. There are also several other reasons which render impossible all real comparison between the past month's revenue and that of April, 1929. One of the most important of these is the fact that since April last year a large proportion of the recent reductions of taxation (amounting to about £44,000,000) have come into operation. In view of the large mass of tax reductions, either already accorded or contemplated, the Finance Minister budgeted for a total revenue for April (exclusive of direct taxes and certain similar imposts) of 3,202,626,000 francs, whereas the actual yield was 3,659,710,000 francs, or a surplus of 457,000,000 francs for the month. So far, notwithstanding heavy reductions of taxation, and the latent economic crisis which is believed in many quarters to exist, the national revenue shows no serious falling off. The total yield from the various forms of turnover tax, although 22,000,000 francs lower than in April, 1929, was actually 847,000,000 francs, or over 44,500,000 francs above Budget estimate. Customs showed a falling off of 123½ millions, as against April, 1929, but 80,000,000 francs of this was due to reimbursements arising in connection with wheat exports, under laws passed since the Budget was drafted.

Union Bank of Switzerland
(Union de Banques Suisses)
ZURICH.
Bahnhofstrasse 45
Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Locarno, Lugano, Montreux, St. Gall, Vevey, Winterthur, etc.
Capital & Reserves - Fr.131,500,000
Total Assets - - - - Fr.992,000,000
ALL BANKING TRANSACTIONS
INVESTMENT FACILITIES. Administration of Private Estates.

A decree of May 20th brought into operation what is known as "the padlock law" in regard to cereal imports, which increased the duties on foreign wheat from 50 francs to 80 francs per quintal. The Customs duty on crushed grain for bread-making purposes, containing more than 10 per cent. of flour, is raised to 128 francs per quintal, and that on flour to 128 francs, 160 francs and 185 francs, according to quality. The price of bread in Paris (where, as in all other parts of France, the selling price of this commodity is fixed every fortnight by prefectorial degree) remains at the equivalent of between 6½d. and 6¾d. per four-pound loaf, as compared with 8d. in London.

Iron and steel production figures for April show a sharp falling off under both headings, due partly to the general slowing down of export trade throughout Europe and the efforts of the European Steel Cartel to keep up prices by limiting output. Pig-iron production during the month was 859,000 tons, as against 899,000 tons in March and monthly averages of 871,000 tons in 1929 and 841,000 tons in 1928. The output of crude steel was 791,000 tons, against 849,000 tons in March and monthly averages of 805,000 tons in 1929 and 783,000 tons in 1928. The fear is expressed here that the American Steel Trust, in view of reduced consumption in the United States, may start keen competition in the European markets through its subsidiary at the Hague. Reports that the British steelmasters may possibly enter the European Cartel in the near future are again current here. It is considered in Paris that the British concerns have been delaying a decision on this point for some time, in the hope that improvement in their own market would enable them to enter the Cartel on better terms than have latterly been likely to be granted. The opinion is expressed that the keen competition now offered by French and Belgian steels in the export market may induce the British firms to accept an agreement which, although it might involve concessions on their part, would yet improve their situation in their home market.

The situation of the Bourse may be gauged by the fact that, according to the revenue returns, the yield from the tax on Bourse operations in April was only 27,161,000 francs, or 16,732,000 francs less than in April, 1929, which was in its turn substantially below the yield in April, 1928. The Budget estimate of the yield from this tax last month was 60,000,000 francs, whereas actual recoveries were 32,839,000 francs below that figure, or less than half. All kinds of reasons are being put forward to explain why the ordinary investing public has for many months past left the Bourse severely alone, but none commend themselves as adequate. The recent reductions of taxation appear quite unlikely to restore prosperity to the Bourse, as they still leave the burden on securities and dealings in them much heavier than in London and other centres, and thus render largely nugatory the present efforts to develop Paris into a great international market. Similarly, the new scale of Coulisse brokers' commission rates, which is to come into operation on June 2nd, and which provides for a reduction in rate from 4 francs to 3.50 francs per cent. per unit (in the case of scrip ranging from 650 francs to 1,000 francs), is regarded in many quarters as still too

onerous, except for large professional operators. The secret of the present trouble appears to lie in the fact that the Paris market, unlike many others, is essentially more an investment market than a speculative one, and that any efforts to transform it into a miniature copy of Wall Street is foredoomed to failure.

GERMANY.

Threatened Deficit — Unemployment Insurance — Business Men in Politics — Business Forecast — Prices — Insurance Results.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, May 27.

THE steady deterioration of the economic situation in Germany confronts the financial policy of the Reich with the task of finding new sources of income. Despite the great increases of taxation in December and March a deficit is threatened if the programme at present before the Reichstag be followed in the fiscal year 1930. Unemployment insurance is responsible for the greater part of the deficit. A contribution of 230 million marks for this insurance is provided for from the Reich for this year—to be partly covered in a dubious manner by extraordinary receipts—but the heads of this department have already discovered that this sum will be far from sufficient. Even if the payments to the unemployed be materially reduced and the contributions from employers and employees be raised from 3½ to 4 per cent. of wages, there will still be a deficit according to present estimates of from 75 to 100 millions. These estimates were based on an average number of 1,500,000 unemployed in receipt of benefit, and meanwhile the Government has realised that it must count on 1,800,000 as a conservative estimate. This alone means an increased expenditure of perhaps 350 millions.

To this must be added the serious increase in the number of recipients of emergency relief—that is, relief to certain classes of unemployed who are ineligible for further benefit because they have been out of work more than 26 weeks. Further, the Reich will ultimately be obliged to come to the aid of the municipalities, which threaten to break down under the burden of their payments for welfare purposes. Finally, there are heavy declines in receipts from taxes, although the estimates in the budget made only a few weeks ago were regarded as conservative. On the assumption that the economic situation in the fiscal year will remain the same as it is to-day, the Government counts on increased needs far exceeding 700 million marks, which must be met either by increases of taxes or by economies.

The contributions to unemployment insurance will probably be raised one per cent., instead of a half per cent., and perhaps there will also be a further increase in the tax on beer, as part of the proposed increase in March was foregone, in response to the demand of the Bavarian People's Party. However, the sum involved is so large that it means serious political embarrassment and even a grave danger for the Government, for it was generally hoped in economic circles that the Bruening Government would give the taxpayers the benefit of the savings under the Young Plan, and these circles have been most deeply disappointed in their expectations. The Government has not yet abandoned the plan of lowering at least a few of the most burdensome taxes at first by 1931. But in view of the heavy expenditures involved by the programme for the relief of the eastern districts and by the apparently permanent contributions required by unemployment insurance, the present profoundly unfavourable economic situation will have to be followed by an unexpectedly speedy improvement if it is to be possible to carry out the plan. But the Government does not seem to feel itself politically strong enough for a great financial reform through which the heavy taxation burdens could be so dealt with as no longer to hamper the recovery of economic life.

At the meeting of the National Association of German Industry, Dr. Duisberg, president of the association and chairman of the supervisory council of the I-G Farbenindustrie, directed an appeal to the heads of German undertakings " to participate politically as much as their time and energy would permit in the legislatures of the Reich, the States and municipalities." The German industrialist has heretofore made little direct use of the possibilities granted him by democracy of employing his political influence. It is true that the associations of employers exercise an influence on the political parties, but there are in the Reichstag and also in the State Parliaments, as representatives of industrialists, many more officials of associations than actual undertakers. Immediately following the war such leading industrialists as Stinnes, Siemens and Vögler had themselves elected to the Reichstag and took part in its work. But this attempt was speedily abandoned, and the few employers of labour who still belong to the parliaments are not leading personalities, and they take little part in the proceedings unless special questions affecting their own interests arise.

It has frequently been complained in Germany that the English example of the politically active business head is so little followed. Though the " Syndicus," the official representative of business and industry, may be able to acquire special legislative knowledge because he has more time and energy to devote to political matters, though he may cut a better figure as a specialist in parliamentary committees than the man whose time is taken up by his economic undertakings, he can nevertheless not establish that close touch between State and economic life that would be so infinitely valuable for both. To-day a very large section of the German industrialists and big business men cherish bitter feelings toward the State, because they regard it solely as a relentless extractor of taxes and as the creator of burdensome and inquisitorial social and economic legislation. They have no first-hand appreciation of the difficulties of government in a country in which the intellectual, social and economic influences of America and Western Europe mingle with those of Bolshevist Russia—a country that has furthermore suffered a complete collapse of all authority and, in addition, all the political and economic consequences of a defeat. In like manner the psychology of their own workmen is generally alien to them, because, while they regard themselves as the technical and economic leaders of their employees, they are never in the position of having to sue for their support as citizens of the State. And hence the counsel given the economic leaders by Dr. Duisberg is assuredly good both for themselves and for the State. Even the Socialist *Vorwärts* says:—

" Both the general public and the working class would rejoice if German employers would appear in the Parliaments in greater numbers. If they assume responsibility there they will come to realise at first hand the difference between criticism and responsible action."

The " Deutsches Institut für Konjunkturforschung " issues the following forecast of economic developments in Germany in the near future:—

"Economy exhibits the symptoms of a depression that is approaching its lowest point. The falling off in economic activity will probably come to a standstill in the next few months and be followed by a period of stagnation. Subsequent development will be favourably affected by the improving supplies of capital and to a certain degree also by price developments." The Institute regards as an especially depressing factor at present the decline in world economic activity, which has brought to a standstill the steady increase of the last few years in German exports. But the Institute regards as unavoidable an improvement in the capital market, since the gap between the low money rates and the high interest rates for capital has become impossibly wide. Hence " increasingly more favourable conditions of issue can be counted on for the rest of the year 1930."

The ability of economy to adjust itself to the situation is to-day undoubtedly being strongly handicapped by the price policies of the cartels. The lowering of prices is a remedy by means of which economic depression tends to bring about its own cure, but in Germany a section of the price level, especially the price of iron and coal, remains inflexible, because it is maintained by the activity of the combinations, so that the whole weight of the depression has to be borne by the prices of the products of those industries in which no effective cartels exist. The index of the uncontrolled prices of industrial raw products and half-finished wares amounted, according to the statistics of the Konjunkturforschungsinstitut, in January to 90.4 per cent. of the figure for 1926, and dropped to 85.3 per cent. in April. The controlled prices, however, still stand, as then, at 105 per cent.

DENMARK.

Discount Rates — Prices — Foreign Trade.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COPENHAGEN, May 16.

IMMEDIATELY after the recent reductions of the discount rates in London and New York the official Danish discount rate was reduced from 4½ per cent. to 4 per cent., which is the lowest rate on record since September, 1911. It is maintained, however, that the money market is not very easy. Mr Axel Nielsen, Professor of Political Economy at Copenhagen University, made the following statement in a newspaper article appearing shortly after the reduction of the Nationalbank rate: " This is evidently caused by the reductions abroad, and, as the foreign exchange holding of the Bank was practically unchanged from last month, the Nationalbank reduced its rate to 4 per cent. Nevertheless, a rather pronounced tightening of the money market is noticeable in this country and this would undoubtedly have been felt by the Nationalbank if it had carried on any business of importance. Naturally, the first and foremost cause of this is the heavy decline of the prices of agricultural produce, which results in reduced income, and, consequently, in reduced savings or even the consumption of savings." In most localities the strange condition prevails that the interest on deposits is above the rate at which the Nationalbank will lend money (according to the article it should be remembered in this connection that the Nationalbank is not prepared to lend money at the official rate to the public or to banks to the extent which the market may require). The Professor further points out that evidently the Nationalbank does not desire to take the lead. " It even hardly desires to do anything to make the new discount rate effective in the market, as nothing appears to indicate any endeavour on the part of the Nationalbank to influence the prices of bonds, so as to make the 4 per cent. basis effective." In other words the position is that the official interest policy of the Nationalbank has not become effective, whether this be due to the wish of the Bank itself, or to lack of co-operation on the part of the other financial institutions.

Mr John Maynard Keynes recently stated in an article, which was also published in this country, that it is still necessary to endeavour to make the lower discount rates in Europe and the United States fully effective, and this problem likewise plays a big part in the discussion of interest rates in Denmark. On the other hand, it is pointed out that surprise, created by the difference between the interest of 5 per cent. obtainable by the investment in safe bonds, and the official discount of 4 per cent., is not justified. Actually it is an old, well-known phenomenon that sudden and pronounced changes in the discount rates are only faintly reflected by the prices of bonds. Nor is this peculiar to Denmark. To quote an article in the *Berlingske Tidende:* " In this connection reference may be made to conditions in England, where the official discount rate was 3½ per cent., while 4½ per cent. Government bonds were quoted 97 to 98 per cent., which means a yield of just over 4½ per cent. History tells us that in periods of rising interest and of declining interest alike there has, as a rule, been a considerable difference between the two categories. The discount rate has moved first and appears to have been the motive power, which has slowly and with difficulty dragged the interest for long-period loans in the same direction."

Economic development in this country is still under the influence of the declining level of prices. For April the official wholesale price index (1913=100) was 135, against 136 in March, 140 in February, 143 in January, and 150 a year ago (April, 1929). The index for import goods and export goods was as follows—

	April, 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	April, 1930.
Import goods	150	143	142	139	135	132	133
Export goods	145	159	156	146	146	137	128

From this it appears that lately the proportion between the prices of import goods and export goods has changed unfavourably. This is principally due to the decline in prices of agricultural produce; the index for animal products was 159 in November, 1929, while in April, 1930, it had declined to 127 (against 144 in April, 1929). The cost of living index in this country is published every quarter and it also shows a continued decline. Recent figures have been:—July, 1914=100; April, 1929, 174; July, 1929, 173; October, 1929, 172; January, 1930, 170; April, 1930, 167. As will be noted, this index changes rather slowly, the decline from January to April, 1930, being only 1.8 per cent. Foreign trade returns for the first three months of 1930 are as follows:—

	Imports. Kr.	Exports. Kr.	Excess of Imports. Kr.
January	148,000,000	146,000,000	2,000,000
February	139,000,000	122,000,000	17,000,000
March	149,000,000	134,000,000	15,000,000
Total	436,000,000	402,000,000	34,000,000

For the corresponding period of 1929 there was an excess of exports amounting to Kr. 20,000,000.

AUSTRIA.

Trade Treaties — Industry and Trade — Bank Balance Sheets.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, May 17.

THE economic difficulties have not become less acute recently; indeed, in some directions they have been accentuated. In view of this fact, the endeavours of industry and agriculture to improve the position through tariff protection have intensified. The result of the negotiations, which concerned trade-treaty amendments, is at the moment unsatisfactory. For instance, the new treaty with Germany is very disappointing, as the concessions which Germany has made are quite inadequate. The increased protection of cotton yarn, which was looked forward to by the Austrian textile industry as a result of the alteration of the trade treaty with Germany, has not been gained. On the other hand, a number of German machines have had to be admitted to the list of free imports. Slight concessions which Germany made on the import of sawn timber were bought with the abolition of the Austrian tax on logs. Agrarian interests expected facilities in the export of cattle, but none were achieved, and the Vienna market is at present swamped with German pigs, which enter Austria on account of the premiums and railway-tariff cuts granted on this export trade in Germany.

Notice of cancellation of the trade treaty with Hungary was given at the request of the industrialists and agriculturalists. If an understanding is not arrived at in the meantime, there will be no trade treaty at all between Austria and Hungary in July. In return for their agreeing to increases of the Austrian duty on individual farm products. Hungary claims the right still further to protect its own industries. The Austrian paper industry complains of the new mills in Hungary and of the danger of a rise in the Hungarian duty on paper. At the request of farming interests, negotiations with Yugoslavia have been started, but up to the present little progress has been made.

For some time now the situation has not been very favourable for the heavy industries. For instance, the output of the Alpine Montangesellschaft (iron trust) is considerably behind that of last year. Orders on hand are estimated at 50 per cent. lower than this time last

year. In consequence, the intention of declaring an increase of dividend on Alpine shares has been abandoned.

In consequence of the transfer of a number of industrial concerns from the former Bodencredit-Anstalt, amalgamations must be effected. This can be done only at the cost of sacrifices on the part of the shareholders and on the part of the bank, combined with the discharge of many workers. In many cases the Bodencredit-Anstalt kept enterprises going for reasons of prestige only, although they were no longer profitable.

Though general unemployment has receded somewhat and the number of unemployed in receipt of benefit has sunk to 81,620 in Vienna, it is still 13,700 higher than last year. The serious crisis in the metal industry accounts for 5,000 to 6,000 more unemployed in Vienna this year than last. The great expectations entertained in regard to activity in building have only been partially fulfilled. In this connection, the political conflicts between the Government and the Social Democrats play a part. For the buildings which the Social Democrats erect with municipal rates they also want a subsidy from the State. Furthermore, they wish to keep the rents of houses erected with public funds so low that there is no profit on them, but this prevents any private activity in building with State assistance since, in the case of larger buildings, such activity must count upon a profit. In addition, the housing loan has not yet been concluded. The banks have repeatedly declared themselves prepared to advance a sum of 20 million schillings, but the housing loan will probably not be considered before autumn.

Since the return of the Federal Chancellor, Dr. Schober, greater hopes have been entertained that it will be possible to launch the investment loan before long. In this case, there would be prospects of the execution of various investments by the Federal Railways and the State enterprises. On the strength of this prospective loan, the Federal Railways have received from the banks advances which they have used for investment purposes. Shopkeepers complain that very few foreign visitors have arrived in Austria up to the present. Furthermore, several rather big stoppages of payment have occurred, which were hardly surprising, as they were attributable to causes of rather long standing. They go to prove the severity of the crisis existing in all luxury trades. For example, one of the largest hotels on Semmering, a mountain two hours' run from Vienna, namely, Hotel Panhans, in which German capital was interested, is in difficulties. The stoppage of payments at the big drapers, Ludwig Zwieback, Kärntnerstrasse, is still more significant; the creditors are offered 35 per cent. in settlement of their claims. This big shop, in the best part of Vienna, had long exhausted its own capital, and for a number of years had been working with bank credits only. The conversion from luxury trade to goods suited to the demands of wider classes took place too late. Both these collapses are in a large measure due to the burden of taxation. It is true that the Government recently issued instructions that the tax authorities should be more lenient, but a direct reduction of taxes has not been granted. It is characteristic of the overtaxation that the estimated expenditure of the Federal States was 781 million schillings in 1928, 800 millions in 1929, and 855 millions in 1930. The actual revenues were, however, much higher and often brought in an excess of 20 to 30 per cent. The taxable capacity of the population is truly astounding in view of the crisis. Several of the monopolies, such as the tobacco monopoly, show increases.

Though the balance of trade for the first quarter of the current year shows a surplus of 216.1 million schillings in favour of imports, which is 51.9 millions less than in the same period of last year, this is partly due to the fall in prices as well as to the general weakness in industry and the consequent diminished demand for raw materials and semi-manufactured goods. As no improvement may be expected for the time being in this direction, fresh efforts have been made for the promotion of emigration, and an agreement has been concluded with the French Government for the employment of 15,000 workers in France.

Recently a number of bank balance sheets have been published. The three big banks, namely, Credit-Anstalt, Bankverein and Escomptegesellschaft have all decided to distribute lower dividends. The Bankverein dividend has been dropped from 1.50 schillings to 1 schilling, that of the Escomptegesellschaft from 12½ schillings to 10½ schillings, that of the Credit-Anstalt from 4 schillings to 3.40 schillings. The Bankverein, which in previous years engaged less in industrial business than in normal commercial business and had for the most part commercial customers, displayed a reserved attitude last year, in order to protect itself against losses. The most important question for the Bankverein is, however, whether it will be possible to reduce overhead expenses. The Escomptegesellschaft caused some surprise with its balance sheet, which included the fusion with the Vereinigte Elektrizitäts-A.G. The bank, which for some time now has been greatly interested in the development of hydraulic power and the promotion of electricity generation and distribution, desires to open a special department for this purpose and to attach the electricity enterprises to it. The bank leaves no doubt as to its opinion that for the immediate future no increase in revenue is to be expected from normal bank business, while something may be hoped for from its participation in industry.

The Credit-Anstalt has presented in its balance sheet the results of its own business only. The resources of the Bodencredit-Anstalt are still administered separately. Like the other Vienna banks, the Credit-Anstalt suffered from the decline in security and consortium business. Current bank business did not develop unfavourably, but large revenues still accrue from the foreign business of the Credit-Anstalt. The bank has already started the reorganisation of various industries associated with the Bodencredit-Anstalt, and the next balance sheet will be greatly influenced by the success in this direction. In regard to the future, the Credit-Anstalt takes a much more optimistic view than the Escomptegesellschaft, and is very much more optimistic than the Bankverein.

HUNGARY.

Ratification of the Hague Agreement — Foreign Loan Projects — Trade Returns — Economic Conditions.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUDAPEST, May 17.

THE second reading of the Budget was interrupted by the urgent Bill for the ratification of the Hague and Paris Agreements relating to the obligations resulting from the Treaty of Trianon, commonly known as the Eastern Reparations. It will be remembered that in January, at the Hague, Hungary agreed to pay on accounts other than reparations a constant annuity of 13,500,000 gold crowns (£560,000), as from January 1, 1944, and during the years 1944 to 1966 inclusive. It should be remembered that the reparation payments of Hungary were fixed at the outset of the League's Reconstruction Plan in 1924, for twenty years from 1924 to 1944 at 200 million gold crowns. During the ratification debate Prime Minister Count Bethlen explained that the Government, though reluctantly, has accepted the Hague Agreement to liquidate all claims and counterclaims, reparation or others, resulting from the war and the Trianon Treaty, because a refusal to comply with the determined wish of the Powers might have placed Hungary in an undesirable and isolated position. The advantages of the Hague settlement for Hungary are, that the country recovers her financial sovereignty and that the *impasse* in the Optants case will be settled by the constitution of an agrarian fund which is to satisfy the claimants in 4 per cent. bonds issued on January 1, 1933, in the nominal value of 219,500,000 gold crowns. Considering that 68.8 per cent. of the payments into the agrarian fund are supplied from the contribution of France, Italy, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria, and only 31.2 per cent. are supplied from the Hungarian annuities, the settlement—from the point of view of the Hungarian balance of payments—is undoubtedly satisfactory.

The Finance Minister has introduced a Bill to authorise Parliament to contract a foreign loan up to the amount of 500,000,000 million pengös (£18,000,000). There is little doubt that the Bill, which will be discussed before the end of May, will become law, as the Parliamentary parties are unanimously in favour of contracting a State loan for investments and credit schemes for agricultural purposes. It seems, however, that no long-term loan will be concluded before the autumn, as conditions on the international markets, where the flotation of the loan is projected, are not at present favourable. The projected loan will be secured on the surplus of the Customs, sugar duty, tobacco and salt receipts, which are at present earmarked for the service of the League's Hungarian Loan issued in 1924. The proposed loan will rank immediately after that loan and after the American relief credits. Pending the issue of the long-term loan there is good reason to believe that the Finance Minister will conclude an immediate short-term loan of $20,000,000 with an American banking group in order to secure the funds necessary to the financing of the harvest. The short-term loan will be repaid from the proceeds of the projected long-term State loan.

That Hungary needs long-term loans from abroad in order to develop the economic resources of the country cannot be questioned. But it is of paramount importance that such loans should be used only for purposes sufficiently productive to cover the comparatively high service of the loan. It should also be remembered that the League and Reconstruction Loan issued in 1927, amounting to 250 million gold crowns, has been used in several portions in three successive budget years, together with the internal resources of the country, for capital expenditure and altruistic credit schemes. Therefore, it is highly desirable, if a big State loan is concluded, that its proceeds should be called in several portions extending over more than one year. The last annual report of the National Bank, which deals exhaustively with the problem of borrowing abroad, calls attention to the fact that the huge foreign trade deficits experienced in 1927 and in 1928 were principally due to foreign borrowing, and adds that the pace must be slowed down. The great improvement of the foreign trade balance in 1929 is explained mainly by the cessation of foreign borrowing in the second half of that year. The reduction of the adverse balance of trade from 370 million pengös (£13,500,000) in 1928 to 22.6 million pengös (£800,000) in 1929 affords ample evidence that Hungary could pay for her merchandise imports with her exports without recourse to foreign loans.

The improvement of foreign trade continues. Trade returns for the first quarter of 1930 show an active balance of 21.5 million pengös, against an adverse balance of 63.9 million pengös in the corresponding quarter of 1929. Exports have risen in January-March, 1930, to 219.6 million pengös, as against 183.4 millions in the same quarter of 1929. The improvement of the export trade is the more remarkable because the prices received for agricultural commodities were considerably lower than a year ago. Imports have decreased from 247.2 million pengös in the first quarter of 1929 to 198.1 millions in 1930. The falling off is due to the diminished purchasing power of the population, caused partly by the cessation of foreign borrowing and to the discrepancy between the low prices of agricultural products and the high prices of the industrial commodities. In the twelve months from April 1, 1929, to March 31, 1930, the value of exports amounted to 1,076.4 million pengös, thus exceeding by 62.7 million pengös the imports, which aggregated 1,013.7 million pengös.

It is highly desirable that the satisfactory development of exports should be maintained, and even increased, because Hungary as a borrowing nation cannot pay the interest and the amortisation of her foreign indebtedness by any other means, as her international balance of payments contains no other active item of importance. The future trend of the Hungarian balance of trade depends mainly on the crops and the amount borrowed from abroad. Crop reports are very satisfactory so far, and, in spite of the very low export prices, it seems that the favourable balance of trade will be maintained provided the harvests are good, and the spending power of the country is successfully stimulated by foreign funds.

The economic outlook is somewhat better. It is hoped that the ratification of the Hague Agreement, which has settled many thorny points between Hungary and her neighbours, will contribute to the betterment of trade relations in the future. The immediate prospects, however, are not very encouraging, because Austria and Czechoslovakia have denounced their tariff treaties and desire to increase the wheat and flour duties, by which, of course, Hungarian exports are hard hit. The money market is easy. Short-term loans are abundantly offered at 5-5½ per cent., but in view of the slackness of business there is very little demand for them as the banks can hardly lend their own deposits for three months' notice. The Stock Exchange is dull, and quotations in many cases have reached their lowest level.

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ROUMANIA.

Export Taxes — Methane Monopoly — Control of Insurance Companies — Telephone Concessions — Commercial Treaties — Economic Situation — Politics.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 22.

THE Economic Delegation of the Government has advised the suppression of taxes on wheat, flour and raw wool, and the release of crude oil for export. It is well known that the export taxes have long interfered with the foreign trade of Roumania, and the internal market for crude oil is glutted in consequence of the constantly increasing production of the petroleum companies. The decision of the Economic Delegation is therefore important, as it shows that the authorities are aware of the situation, but unhappily it does not go far enough. Exports, especially of agricultural produce, should be encouraged as much as possible, and business circles think the Government would be well advised to abandon all agricultural export taxes. They form an unfair charge on the home producer, especially in these times of world-wide depression.

A Bill is now before Parliament by which the exploitation of methane from the gas deposits is constituted a State monopoly. It has raised considerable discussion, as the exploitation of these deposits has been in the hands of certain companies who have regarded it as their vested right. The law affects principally Transylvania, where there are important deposits which are exploited for the purpose of lighting and motive power. It is argued that the project of the Government creates a very important precedent in so far as it interferes with the vested rights of the present companies, and that it opens disturbing possibilities of similar interference in other branches of the exploitation of the subsoil. On the other hand, it is

asserted by the Government that by means of the monopoly a more equitable, cheap and remunerative exploitation and distribution of the gas is secured, and that, in addition, the Bill provides a just plan for the indemnification of the companies.

The Government intends to bring in a Bill for the organisation of a Control Office for insurance companies. This is done partly at the instigation of the chief companies themselves. The Bill has special provisions with regard to the establishment of foreign insurance companies. Whereas the minimum capital of a Roumanian company for each of its principal branches of activity is fixed at two million lei, the capital for foreign companies must be double that amount. It is left entirely to the discretion of the Cabinet whether to grant or refuse an application for the establishment of a foreign company; but it is intended to make it easier to establish in Roumania branches of companies belonging to countries with which reciprocity agreements exist. The Bill has special provisions with regard to investments, reserves, guarantees and cash deposits in banks. It gives the Control Office fairly wide powers of supervision, and even of active intervention in the conduct of the companies, and constitutes a very important addition to the legislation governing the insurance companies of the country.

There are reports that it is intended to grant the concessions of the telephones to a group of foreign firms. The groups of Tel and Tel, Ericson, and the German firm of Siemens and Halske—with the assistance of Blairs—are supposed to have made offers. It is said that these firms may probably work the concessions together, as the financial arrangements are too complicated for a single firm to take the responsibility.

Negotiations for commercial treaties with various countries, including England, are proceeding. As has been pointed out before, those with Germany present the greatest difficulties. It is reported that Germany now proposes to reduce her duties on barley with a view to taking a substantial quantity from this country. This would be a welcome concession to Roumania, whose stocks of unsold barley are still very great in consequence of the closing of the German frontiers. Naturally, compensations for these concessions are expected. As far as maize is concerned, an arrangement is supposed to be reached on the basis of the monopoly of the maize import. A German delegation is on its way to Bucharest, accompanied by representatives of cereal firms who are to conclude purchase contracts, to be executed when an accord has been made.

The economic situation does not show any sign of improvement. The banks are accumulating funds, and money is being invested in State bonds, but facilities for trade and commerce are lacking. The note circulation of the National Bank has decreased and, on the other hand, exports have not yet brought any addition to the stock of gold and foreign exchange. The banks prefer to place some of their funds in the short-term cash bonds of the National Bank, which have reached the total of 923 million lei, *rather than grant commercial* loans, while interest on such loans has decreased to an average of 14 per cent. This unwillingness to lend is due to the insecurity of conditions, and is not surprising in view of the number of failures which occur daily and the increasing tendency of merchants to force their creditors to come to an arrangement by the *concordat preventif*. It may he said that the law of the *concordat* had contributed a great deal to accentuating the present crisis. Protests against it, and petitions for its modification or entire repeal are multiplying. It is hoped now that when the project of the new commercial code, of which it is ultimately to form part, is published, as it is expected to be after the first of July, certain changes will be made. The international congress for safeguarding the interests of creditors will shortly be held in Vienna, and the discussions there may be of assistance to the Roumanian legislators.

The struggle between the two principal parties—the National Peasant Party, which is at present in power, and the Liberals under Vintila Bratianu—continues with increased bitterness. The latter allege that the Government is in favour of recalling Prince Carol, the father of the present King, to the throne. The dynastic issue is unhappily made an object of party politics, and it is regrettable that the Government has not yet taken an unequivocal stand on a quèstion which is of such far-reaching importance for the country. Instead of meeting the accusations with frank denials, the Government confiscates the Liberal newspapers, and we are confronted with the unedifying spectacle of the police parading the principal streets in force, endeavouring to prevent the sale of these papers. This proceeding is entirely contrary to the general principles which the National Peasant Party has always defended in its programme, and does considerable harm to the reputation of the Government. The whole Press is united in blaming it in the most severe terms.

It will be remembered that the Liberal Party was chiefly instrumental in causing Prince Carol to resign the throne in favour of his son, during the last year of King Ferdinand's reign. Its antagonism to a return of the Prince can therefore be understood. On the other hand, there is no doubt that in certain circles his return would be viewed favourably. But it is a pity that the question has been raised at all. With the passage of time it would gradually fall into oblivion, and at the present juncture of reorganisation and reconstruction the effect of this campaign, combined with the violent fight for political supremacy between the two parties, is very upsetting.

CANADA.

Crop Conditions — Business — Maritime Provinces — St. Lawrence Waterway — Prices.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, May 7.

CANADA has experienced her first spell of really warm weather this year, so that the farmers have been able to make rapid progress with the cultivation of their land. While seeding is well advanced in the Eastern provinces, it is virtually completed as far as wheat is concerned on the prairies; it is finished in Manitoba, and 5 per cent. which remains to be sown in Alberta and Saskatchewan will be completed this week, which will mean that the seeding season is a week earlier than in 1929. Moreover, anxiety about the abnormal dryness of the soil on the prairies, particularly in Saskatchewan, has been greatly relieved during the past week by copious rains, which descended over a large part of the prairies and have given the new wheat crop a moist seed-bed which is badly needed for a good start. Not even rough estimates of the Western wheat acreage are yet possible, but the indications point to a slight decrease which is far from being deplored; indeed, there is a general feeling abroad in the West that, in view of the over-production of wheat which now exists, it would pay the prairie farmers to raise less grain and devote more attention to mixed farming.

Business continues very variable and decidedly sluggish in many lines, and is not expected to show any real improvement until there is a definite prospect of a good crop. However, the last business survey of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for April shows that Canadian business entered the second quarter of the year on a basis well above the average for the last five years and not seriously below the level of a year ago. For its monthly index, in which the average index during the past five years, 1925-29, is taken as 100, the results are:—Pig iron, 101; bank clearings, 107; steel, 111; car loadings, 90; building permits, 96; imports, 102; exports, 84; coal, 94; coke, 129. The car-loading figure covers the third week of April, and the others reflect conditions during the month of March.

The present index would look much worse, as the comparisons were made with the parallel index for 1929. The movement of merchandise continues to be on a much slower scale, and the car loadings for the week ending April 19th, at 52,009 cars, showed a decline of 5,071 cars compared with the previous week, and of 13,634 cars compared with the parallel week of 1929. For the year to date the shrinkage in Canada's railway traffic has been, roughly, 9 per cent., and during the first quarter of the year the net earnings of the C.P.R., at 7½ million dollars, were actually less than half the figure for the first quarter of 1929. On the other hand, the April figures of new construction, estimated at a value of $48,778,600, showed an increase of 12.7 per cent. over the figure recorded for April, 1929, due largely to business buildings and engineering enterprises in Ontario and Quebec. The iron and steel foundries, too, have been rather busier, and the equipment plants have a fair amount of work on hand, but the output of motors is only running at half the level of a year ago, and the coal mined during March, estimated at 1,129,571 tons, showed a decline of 7.6 per cent.; the flour mills are also very slack, owing to the weakness of foreign demand, and the sugar refineries have been affected by the collapse in the market for raw sugar. It is expected that the export movement of grain will be quickened by the reopening of navigation on the St. Lawrence, but so far there has been no marked acceleration, and grain prices have fallen back under the influence of the reports of rains, which have improved crop conditions in the winter-wheat producing areas of the United States. Wholesale trade is reported to be fairly satisfactory, but retail trade has been quiet and needs the stimulus of the present spell of warmer weather, which will induce the public to purchase summer clothing and other seasonable goods.

Perhaps the part of Canada which is at present faring best economically is the Maritime provinces. For half a dozen years they have been suffering from a severe depression, but the clouds now seem to be lifting. For one thing the long-delayed reorganisation of the financial structure and management of the British Empire Steel Corporation, which dominates the whole industrial life of Nova Scotia, is in process of being carried out and high hopes are cherished that it, coupled with the additional protection supplied by the Budget, will lead to a revival of the fortunes of the coal-mining industry and the iron and steel plants of the Province. The local factories are all reasonably busy, and not only is the pulp and paper mill of the Mersey Paper Company in operation, but a high-grade bleaching sulphite pulp mill at Campbellton, in New Brunswick, has commenced production. The fishing fleets on the "Banks" have been handicapped by stormy weather, but the inshore fishing boats are doing well and the lobster season has so far been successful. The farmers are getting good prices for their potatoes, and the apple trees have wintered well, so altogether the economic outlook for the Maritime provinces is more roseate than it has been for some years.

There have been no further developments in connection with the St. Lawrence deep waterway at Ottawa, and progress is being held up pending the settlement of the controversy between the Federal Government and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec about power rights, but meanwhile there are some interesting developments about the St. Lawrence channel in other directions. The Federal Government is carrying out this year an extensive scheme of dredging and deepening the channel between Quebec and Montreal in order to permit vessels of larger draft to reach the latter port. Again, the improved Welland Canal, which connects Lakes Erie and Ontario through the Niagara Peninsula, was opened for a part of its length, and part of the old canal will be used until the remaining new sections are ready for the formal opening to take place on July 1st. But the larger make vessels cannot benefit much by the new canal until the channel between the other end of Lake Ontario and the port of Prescott, which has been fixed by the Government as the trans-shipment point for the lower canals, has been deepened to 27 feet. The government is spending a good deal of money on docks and other facilities at Prescott, but in some places the selection of this harbour is regarded as wrong, and its rival, the ancient city of Kingston, is being assisted to challenge its supremacy by two groups of capitalists who are arranging for the erection of grain elevators at the older lake port. If Kingston, therefore, becomes the trans-shipment point, a great deal of expenditure on Prescott will be wasted.

The financial world of Canada and the Bank of Montreal in particular suffered a great loss on April 25th through the sudden death at the early age of 62 of Mr Hugh B. Mackenzie, the general manager of the bank. It occurred from a sudden attack of cerebral hæmorrhage which befell him as he was in his office preparing for the directors' weekly meeting. Mr Mackenzie was trained in the Bank of British North America and rose with great rapidity to be its general manager. When the Bank of Montreal absorbed the smaller bank, it gladly enlisted his services and he was attached to the head office. Later he was for a period manager of the Royal Trust Company, but he returned to banking in 1925, and last autumn was appointed the general manager in succession to Sir Frederick Williams Taylor. He was regarded as one of the ablest bankers in Canada, and in addition held very enlightened views on economic and other questions; he was popular with all classes of the community and will be greatly missed in Montreal. Following his demise the directors decided to embark upon what is a common practice in British banks, but is an experiment in Canada, and assigned the duties of general manager to be shared by two individuals. Their choice has fallen upon Mr Jackson Dodds and Mr W. A. Bog, both of whom have had extensive experience of all phases of banking.

Commodity prices were virtually stationary last month and the wholesale index of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for April 1st at 91.9 showed a trivial change. Among the various items, 67 quotations were higher, 120 were lower, and 315 remained unchanged. The most notable change was in "non-ferrous metals and their products," which dropped sharply from 93.1 to 86.8.

Letters to the Editor.

THE TIN OUTLOOK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In reference to your very interesting article, "The Tin Outlook," in your issue of May 17th, may I enumerate a few points with which I do not agree.

(a) You state that the T.P.A. scheme has already resulted in considerable curtailment of output and you quote as proof the statistics of Metallgesellschaft, which go only up to March and which show reduction particularly in two directions, namely:—

(1) Dutch East Indies, February 2,312 tons and March 2,056 tons, compared with 1929 monthly average of 2,959

THE OLD-WORLD CHARM OF SOUTHWOLD.

THIS PICTURESQUE SMALL TOWN on the Suffolk Coast is an ideal place for those who desire a few days' complete change and rest. The Town itself, with its wonderful Church and quaint "greens" and great, high Common commanding extensive views over sea and land, is different from the usual seaside resorts.

Across the river is WALBERSWICK, the haunt of nearly all artists and of many famous authors for some fifty years past, and from here are many beautiful walks or rides, either along the beach or across the silent marshes, to the lost city of DUNWICH, or over hilly gorse and heather commons flanked by woods to BLYTHBURGH, with its noble church, or WENHASTON, with the large mediæval picture of "The Doom."

From Southwold delightful short motor excursions may be made to FRAMLINGHAM (20 miles), with its vast castle and church, with splendid monuments of the tragic Howards, or to WINGFIELD CASTLE (21 miles), the great Manor House of the ill-fated Dukes of Suffolk, with the beautiful effigy of Elizabeth Plantagenet in the church adjoining, or to ALDEBURGH THORPENESS (18 miles) and ORFORD, remote from modern life, with the great Norman keep still dominating town and coast.

Southwold provides excellent sea angling, and there is an attractive 18-hole golf course. By train from London it is about two hours to SAXMUNDHAM (14 miles) and a little more to DARSHAM (7 miles), HALESWORTH (9 miles), where motors from hotels meet visitors by appointment.

There is THE SWAN HOTEL (h. & c. water in every bedroom) in the Market Place, a well-known and most comfortable hotel with a century's reputation (Tel. 5), and also a smaller, THE CROWN HOTEL, an old Georgian Inn recently reconstructed (Tel. 53), both well known for the excellence of their catering.

tons. Since the Dutch authorities have declared that, in fact, they will decrease merely to the extent of a few hundred tons during 1930, the decrease in February and March can be safely considered due to a seasonal decrease in smelting which will be made up again during the year.

(2) Bolivia, viz.:—March 2,500 tons, compared with the 1929 average of 3,922 tons, equal to a decrease of 36 per cent., which cannot be considered as permanent. It is true that some of the smaller mines will very likely have to close down altogether unless the price improves, but the largest producers have, so far, not indicated any intention of decreasing more than 16-20 per cent.

(3) Imports to the Straits Settlement from F.M.S. and other sources. Last year's monthly average was 8,707 tons; January, 1930, was 9,712 tons, February 7,984 tons, March 8,496 tons, April 8,473 tons. Certainly these figures do not denote considerable curtailment.

(*b*) On the score of American consumption you quote the increase in the Ford Motor output; but evidently this increase is balanced by a decrease in the production of other automobile manufacturers. Also you ignore the chief consuming industry, *i.e.*, tin plates, which manufacturers produced during the first four months of 1930 at the same rate as 1929; unfortunately, however, they were over-optimistic, and appear to be working now 30-40 per cent. less.

The T.P.A. scheme is undoubtedly sound, but all along the originators have been too sanguine in regard to consumption, thus the restriction figure had to be extended from 15,000 to 30,000 tons, and may have to grow further.

Apparently most producers are over-gallant in standing back in the hope that the other fellow will enter first into the reduction chamber. If they pursue these tactics for another month they will have to reduce 40 per cent. during July-December in order to obtain 20 per cent. reduction for the year. In the meantime excessive supplies, over-doctoring and general industrial *malaise* are weighing down the price which has reached an uneconomic level for many producers; until an industrial improvement sets in, which cannot be looked for yet, the only remedy seems to be in whole-hearted, immediate restriction of output, *acta non verba*.—Yours, etc.

London. X.

May 23, 1930.

Books and Publications.

GENEROUS HANDFULS.

Messrs Moody's Investors Service have now produced the first two* of their five "manuals," covering "Government and Municipal" and "Bank and Finance" securities respectively. Each of these immense volumes is tightly packed with invaluable information and kept up to date by the issue of weekly supplements. The volume on Governments includes detailed descriptions of the securities of almost every country, and nearly all of them are rated according to Messrs Moody's very useful system. A very wide range of statistical data bearing directly or indirectly on the investment value of these stocks is provided—so much so that the volume has become a valuable work of reference on international statistics even for people who are not interested in investment questions. The "Bank and Finance" volume includes no ratings, but is a mine of information about the classes of activity covered, and contains a useful account of the Bank for International Settlements and the Young Plan. The unique value of this series lies in the imagination with which it is compiled. Its editors seem to have anticipated with extraordinary skill almost every possible question which might be referred to one or other of these volumes, and to have spared no pains in supplying as accurate and up-to-date an answer as it lay in their power to provide.

* "Moody's Manual of Investments." American and Foreign, 1930. Governments and Municipals; Banks.—Insurance Companies.—Investment Trusts.—Real Estate.—Finance and Credit Companies. (London) Moody's Investors Service, Ltd., King William Street House, E.C. 4. £6 6s. each volume.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Story of Money. By Norman Angell. (London) Cassell and Company, Ltd., La Belle Sauvage Yard. 21s. net.

A beautifully printed and illustrated history of money throughout the ages, written for the purpose of making the ordinary reader more intimate with the nature and functions of currency. The last three chapters are concerned with the money problem in the modern world, and the final chapter summarises some of the current suggestions for monetary reform.

Lay-off and its Prevention. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $1.50.

A discussion of possible methods of preventing or moderating the fluctuations in business activity which necessitate variations in the numbers employed. The technique of mitigating the hardships involved by these temporary dismissals is also considered.

Prosperity Reserves of Public Works. By Vernon Arthur Mund. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 2, Great Smith Street, for the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

A well-documented discussion of the possibility of so timing the placing of public works contracts as to mitigate trade depression.

Review of the Legal Aspects of Industrial Agreements. (Geneva) League of Nations.

One of a series of studies which are needed to pave the way for a general application of the recommendations of the Geneva Economic Conference of 1927. This document will be a useful work of reference on the subject of anti-trust legislation in various countries.

The Retreat from Parenthood. By Jean Ayling. (London) Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Company, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 10s. 6d. net.

The theme of this book is the problem of mitigating the at present—in the authoress' view—intolerable burdens imposed by family life on the professional classes. Miss Ayling is full of ingenious suggestions for preventing parenthood from interfering with the normal social and professional activities of the parents.

Kelly's Directory of Merchants, Manufacturers and Shippers of the World. In two volumes. (London) Kelly's Directories, Ltd., 186, Strand. 64s.

Contains the usual comprehensive information, for each country, of its imports and exports, its ports and principal towns, with classified lists of consuls, bankers, merchants, brokers, shipping agents, buyers of British goods and manufacturers of goods exported. Volume I embraces foreign countries and Volume II British countries.

Europa-Wirtschaft. (Berlin-Grunewald) Verlag Dr. Walther Rothschild. 1 mk.

Among a number of articles of European interest is one on "Russia and the Idea of a European Economic Union."

Austria To-day. (Vienna) Vienna Chamber of Commerce.

A pamphlet of diagrams illustrating Austria's economic progress.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

International Labour Conference: Report to the Minister of Labour by the Government Delegates of H.M. Government in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. Twelfth Session, May 30-June 21, 1929. Cmd. 3558. 9d. net; *Thirteenth Session, October 10-26, 1929.* Cmd. 3559. 6d. net.

Papers regarding the recent Negotiations for an Anglo-Egyptian Settlement, March 31-May 8, 1930. Cmd. 3575. 9d. net.

Agricultural Statistics: Report on the Acreage and Production of Crops and Number of Livestock in England and Wales. 1s. 3d. net.

Forty-Seventh Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 1929. 4d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

AMERICAN "AMUSEMENT" SHARES.

The British investors' present attitude towards the film industry is, to say the least, conservative, and certain melancholy experiments have recently tended to emphasise this feature. The position affords a significant contrast with conditions in America, where leading "amusement" stocks are among the most active on the New York Stock Exchange. The big American combines, engaged in every branch of the film industry from production to distribution (renting) and exhibition, and possessed as theatre-owners of a vast amount of real estate, have received the backing of some of the leading Wall Street banks. Although the first cinema theatre was opened in the United States only twenty-five years ago, the American film industry is now the fourth largest in the country.

The basis of the film industry's prosperity is the ingrained habit of the American public of "going to the movies," which is not relinquished even in hard times, as was demonstrated in the serious depression of 1922. To-day there has been some talk of bad trade having affected the attendances at American cinema theatres, but it is difficult to say, as yet, whether the decline in attendance is more than the seasonal trend that accompanies summer weather. The advent of the "talkies," in spite of the crudities of the early sound pictures, has undoubtedly increased the popularity of the cinema-going habit. The average American theatre, converted to talking pictures, did 30 per cent. more business last year than in 1928. But many expert observers believe that it does not really matter whether "talkies" stay or go, so long as the public demand for novelty is satisfied. The use of sound and talk in motion pictures is still at an early stage of development, but there are other developments—such as colour, the wide screen, and the stereoscopic film—which are following in its train.

The statistics relating to the American film industry are certainly impressive. There are 22,600 cinema theatres in the United States, and the total box-office receipts of these theatres have been put at over $800,000,000 a year. About 80 per cent. of this total, however, is ascribed to the first-class theatres with large seating capacity, which number about 4,000. The total capital invested in the American film industry is estimated at $2,600,000,000, production and renting accounting for one-third, and the theatres for two-thirds of this total. The four large groups in the industry—Paramount Publix, Warner Brothers, Fox Film and Loew's Incorporated disclosed net earnings last year available for their common stockholders of no less than $51,285,178.

In parenthesis, it may be pointed out that the "talkie" revolution has played into the hands of the big combines. The change-over involved a new capital investment estimated at $50,000,000 for the producing units, and at least $100,000,000 for the theatres. Moreover, the "sound" manufacturers are now powerful allies of the film industry. The American Telephone and Telegraph controls the Western Electric which owns the Vitaphone (sound-on-disc) and Movietone (sound-on-film) systems; while the Radio Corporation of America owns the Photophone (sound-on-film) system which was developed by General Electric Company engineers. Radio Corporation now control Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation, a large producer of films with a circuit of 200 vaudeville houses. Western Electric and Warner Brothers jointly control the Vitaphone Corporation, while Mr William Fox and Mr William Randolph Hearst are interested in Movietone jointly with the Electrical Research Products of the American Telephone and Telegraph. In one sense, the great electrical manufacturers, who control the sound patents, have become the trustees of the stability of the film industry, and, if popular rumour is correct, are actually aiming at its control.

The following table shows the growth in the earnings of the four yarge groups over the past three years:—

	Net earnings (after interest and tax, but before pref. dividends, if any).		
	1927.	1928.	1929.
	$	$	$
Paramount	8,057,998	8,713,063	15,544,544
Warner Bros.	30,427*	2,044,841	14,514,628
Loew's, Inc.	6,737,205	8,568,162	11,756,956
Fox Film Corp.	3,120,557	5,957,218	9,469,050

* Before Stanley Company and First National were acquired.

Paramount Famous Lasky, now known as Paramount Publix, is the biggest producer, distributor and exhibitor of moving pictures in the world. It has a loan capital of $14,323,000 and 2,685,313 common shares at December 31st last, standing in the balance sheet at $98,979,175. It operates about 975 theatres in the United States and many theatres abroad, including the Plaza and the Carlton theatres in London. It has also a 50 per cent. interest in the Columbia Broadcasting system. It is ably managed by its two chief executives, Mr Adolph Zukor and Mr Jesse Lasky. Warner Brothers is the next most important group, with a loan capital of $19,205,000 (apart from mortgages of $50,818,622) and a capital stock at August 31st, 1909, of 288,056 preferred shares, and 2,627,405 common shares of no par value, standing in the balance sheet at $61,176,112. Through control of the Stanley Company of America (which it acquired at the end of 1928) it operates 350 cinema theatres. It also acquired, in 1928, the well-known producing company called First National Pictures. Warner Brothers were the pioneers of the "talkies." When everyone had rejected the Vitaphone system of the Western Electric, Warner Brothers staked their whole resources on the future of talking films, and took a 50 per cent. interest in the Vitaphone Corporation. They are now reaping the benefit of this investment, for the film producer pays the sound patentees a royalty of no less than $500 on every reel (1,000ft.) using the sound process.

The rise of Fox Film Corporation and Fox Theatres, under the Napoleonic management of Mr William Fox, is one of the romances of the cinema industry. For many years Mr Fox had been building up a strong producing unit, and was only twelve months behind Warner Brothers in taking up the talking film. At the end of 1928, Fox Theatres, by buying the Roxy and other large circuits, had obtained control of 600 theatres, while the Fox Film Corporation, through subsidiary companies, owned about 450. Unfortunately, Mr Fox was not content to rest with these theatre acquisitions. In the course of last year he acquired nearly a one-third interest (433,000 shares) in Loew's Incorporated. This company has a loan capital of $38,411,475, and a share capital of 146,763 preferred shares and 1,372,108 common shares of no par value, with a balance-sheet value of over $46,000,000, and owns a circuit of 200 vaudeville and cinema theatres, and a first-class production company, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. In order to obtain a controlling interest in Loew's, Mr Fox formed a syndicate of friends and bought in the open market an additional block of 227,000 shares. The two blocks gave him approximately a 60 per cent. interest, and made Loew's Incorporated to all practical purposes a Fox subsidiary. These purchases cost approximately $70,000,000. Next Mr Fox sent an emissary over to Great Britain, and bought for $20,000,000 a majority interest in a syndicate controlling Gaumont British. At this time the Fox Film Corporation had a loan capital of $13,142,980 and a capital stock of 820,660 class "A" and 100,000 class "B" common shares of no par value, with a balance

sheet, as at December 31st, of $42,605,000. To finance the Loew and Gaumont British purchases, Mr Fox resorted to short-term notes. As a result of the Wall Street slump, Mr Fox got into difficulties and signed over control of his companies to three trustees: Mr Stuart, of Halsey Stuart, Mr Otterson, of Electrical Research Products and himself. This was the beginning of a great legal fight. Mr Fox accused his friends of tricking him into a sale of control, and having obtained fresh banking support from Banc-America-Blair and Dillon Read, endeavoured to get back control from his co-trustees. He was defeated, and in the end the rival banking interests came together. Mr Fox sold out his interest in Fox Film and Fox Theatres to General Theatres Equipment. Halsey Stuart and Dillon Read have joined forces with other finance houses in making an issue of General Theatres Equipment convertible debentures and common shares to finance the purchase. Mr Fox has the consolation of receiving a salary of $100,000 a year as chairman of an advisory committee.

The next table shows the earnings, dividends and yields of the four leading stocks:

	High, 1929.	Present Price.	1929. Earned.	Paid.	Yield on Earnings.	Yield on Divs.
			$	$	%	%
Paramount ...	74⅞	68	6·34*	4·0	9·35	5·88
Loew†	84½	91½	7·91	3·75§	8·64	4·10§
Warner Bros.†	64½	57⅛	6·34	4·0	11·03	6·96
Fox Film "A"	105⅝	50½	10·29	4·0‡	20·38	7·92

* On 2,444,794, average number of shares outstanding.
† Financial year ends August 31st.
‡ Paid in scrip.
§ Includes extras of 75 cents. Div. yield on $3·0 would be 3·28 per cent.

It is generally agreed that Paramount Publix and Loew's Incorporated are the most "seasoned" of these investments. Paramount's earnings for the March quarter this year showed an advance of 86 per cent. over those of the corresponding period of last year, and it is expected that net income this year will amount to about $7 per share on the equity stock, which has been increased from 2,685,313 to 3,256,479 shares, mainly by the purchase of the outside stock in Famous Players Canadian Corporation. Loew's Incorporated earnings for the twenty-eight weeks ended March 14th this year (the fiscal year ends in August), were 59 per cent. above those of the previous year. It is estimated that by August 31st the company will have earned $11 per share on 1,372,108 shares, against $7.91 on 1,363,993 shares in 1928-29. Warner Brothers is regarded as a more speculative stock because the recent growth in earnings has been based on a successful "gamble" on the talking pictures. The company earned $3.67 per share on 2,606,211 shares in the six months to March 31, 1930, and is expected to earn $7.12 per share for the year to August 31st, against $6.34 in the previous year. As for Fox Film, until this company settles down to business under its new management, its shares must be regarded as having possibilities which are considerable but difficult of assessment.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
June 3.	June 5.

The Stock Exchange experienced another uneventful week, with all indications pointing to the markets' having reached a period of "dead centre." Liquidation came to an end some time ago, and its recrudescence is no longer treated as a factor in market calculations. On the other hand, the public steadily refuses to act on the assumption that prices have reached rock-bottom, and to initiate even the most discriminating of buying movements. The prominence given to the hard facts of industrial depression by unemployment figures and recent House of Commons debates is, possibly, the largest single force making for quiet markets. Until investors know how far trade recession has gone, and is going, it is obviously impossible to say whether present Stock Exchange prices have or have not fully discounted the potential falling off in industrial earnings. On this hypothesis, the present period of quietness on the Stock Exchange is capable of enduring for some little time to come.

The Gilt-edged markets alone experienced an accession of business, Four and-a-Half per Cent. Conversion being particularly prominent on Wednesday, when influential buying found the market short of stock. Reports of an impending Five per cent. War Loan conversion operation were persistent, the date generally suggested being early next month. India loans were steady despite the news of further rioting in Bombay and elsewhere. The new India Sixes advanced to 1⅛ premium. Dominion and Colonial stocks were featureless, apart from a steady absorption of the last New Zealand Loan. Home Corporation stocks, new and old, remained in fair demand. Interest in the Foreign market was chiefly centred on European stocks, particularly those of France.

Though Home Railway quotations, on the whole, were maintained, the market remained apathetic. The traffic figures afforded comparison with those of Whitweek in 1929, but only two groups, the L.M.S. and the Great Western, showed an ostensible gain in gross receipts. The favourable decision of the House of Lords Committee on the preamble to the Underground Bill for an extension in the outer suburbs of North London obtained despite the strong opposition of the London and North Eastern, encouraged buying of Undergrounds in mid-week. The Foreign Railway market remained depressed, a fresh slump in Cordoba Central ensuing upon the publication of a circular asking for a year's grace for the payment of Second Debenture arrears. Other Argentine issues had a heavy appearance, and Leopoldinas fell as a result of selling by nervous holders despite the good report, which is dealt with on page 1231.

The Industrial markets had a fairly satisfactory undertone, but suffered from a general paucity of business. Similar conditions obtained in New York, and international stocks had an undistinguished week, losing ground slightly on balance. The maintenance of the interim distribution of Carreras brought a modest accession of business in tobacco shares, but breweries were subjected to scattered sales. Courtaulds showed a slight improvement, but other rayon shares remained undecided. The Cook (St. Paul's) reconstruction scheme (discussed on page 1229), was regarded as improving the immediate dividend prospects of the preference and ordinary shares. Apart from Rolls Royce (which, with its narrow market, is always a law to itself), motor shares were heavy. In the coal and steel share market William Cory were again harder on anticipations of an increased dividend, but the news that the new £6,000,000 Cunard liner was to be built by John Brown caused some slight selling of Swan Hunter. Electrical shares held their ground in a quiet market. British Can encountered sharp profit-taking. Bank shares had a firmer tendency, and insurance descriptions attracted increased investment attention as the week progressed.

Rubber shares were steady for the most part, despite a fresh setback in the price of the commodity. A larger turnover left Rubber Trusts lower on the week. The tea share market had an easy tendency, the week's commodity auctions being characterised by larger supplies and a more irregular tendency. Oils failed to benefit from a decrease in Californian crude production, the market being in a mood to listen rather to the warning note sounded in the Burmah report (dealt with on page 1231).

Mining shares lost the sparkle which characterised some of last week's operations. Brakpan, in the Far Eastern list, were again in demand, and Modder Deep also finished a trifle better, but several other descriptions receded fractionally. Rhodesian copper shares were dull, but fairly steady, apart from Congo Borders and N'Changa, which were again easier. The Rhodesian Anglo-American report is dealt with on page 1232. Ashanti Goldfields were somewhat freely offered on disappointment over recent development results. Lake View and Star was a strong feature in the Australian market, but profit-taking led to a decline at the close. The price of tin showed further recession, but the share market maintained a lethargic appearance, Southern Malayan alone gaining ground.

"Financial News" Daily Bargain Index.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	May 22	May 23.	May 26.	May 27.	May 28.	May 29.
Government and Municipal Loans.....	1,441	1,322	1,615	1,261	1,416	1,435
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities.....	856	827	1,114	977	911	1,016
Commercial and Industrial*	1,777	1,810	2,262	1,933	1,805	1,692
Banks, Insurance and Financial	493	503	588	496	510	501
Mines (including Nitrate) ...	493	463	452	337	413	393
Oil	169	192	192	175	154	177
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	147	173	230	211	203	155
Total	5,376	5,230	5,451	5,390	5,412	5,369

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"Financial News" Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Stocks (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	May 22.	May 23.	May 26.	May 27.	May 28.	May 29.
90·6	82·0	85·5	85·5	85·3	85·3	85·1	84·9

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Business in all markets continued dull and was cut into by the three days' holiday. The tone of the share market is improving slightly, and prices are supported by a large short interest together with moderate investment trust buying. Bears have been able to crush prices in volatile specialties, but the effect on the market is offset by a strong forward movement in public utilities. Railroad shares are only moderately depressed, and April earnings statements show a decline of 33 per cent. in net income compared with a year ago, which is a slightly lower drop than that of the previous month. Car loadings are still at the 1924 level, and there have been declines in three successive weeks. Merchandising shares are up on reports of better retail trade, but wholesale trade is lower, and commodity prices are still falling. Food company shares are reaching high levels owing to the growing spread between raw material costs and retail prices. Further dividend reductions have been made and more are expected next week, including Kennecott Copper, but in most cases they have been anticipated by the market. Bonds are sluggish in spite of easy money, but new capital issues are being absorbed at the rate of $200,000,000 weekly. The reparations issue is expected to go quickly, and an increase in other offerings, especially foreign, will probably follow.

(By Cable.)

	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
U.S. 3¾% T. Bds.	105¹¹/₃₂	105¹/₃₂	105⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112	112¹/₃₂	112⅜
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100⅜	100⅜	100¹⁵/₃₂
Do. 4½% '32-47	101¹³/₃₂	101¹³/₃₂	101⅓
Do. 4½% '33-38	102¼	102²⁵/₃₂	102²⁵/₃₂
Atchison	224½	226	223⅜
Ches. & Ohio	214	221	212
Erie.....	47½	47⅜	46
Illinois Central.....	128	127	128½
N.Y. Central	173½	175	174¼
Pennsylvania	78	78¼	78⅛
Southern Pacific...	121	121	119⅜
Southern Rly.	111¼	112	106½
Union Pacific.....	225½	225½	227½
Am. Can.	142½	141	148
Alleghany Corp....	27	26¼	26⅜
Amer. Smelting...	70	70⅜	72⅝
Anaconda	60½	58¼	60⅜
Bethlehem Steel...	96	95½	95⅜
Chrysler Motor ...	35⅝	34⅜	36⅜
Corn Produce.....	105	103	108½
Eastman Kodak...	245	235½	239¼x
Gen.Electric(New)	83	80	84
Gen. Motors	47⅛	50⅛	51
Int. Harvester ...	104½	100½	96⅜
Montg. Ward	43⅝	42⅛	44⅝
Natl. Biscuit	85	89⅜	92⅜
Phelps Dodge	38	36	37
Pullman	77⅛	76½	76
Sears-Roebuck	83⅛	84	87½
Studebaker	36⅜	36⅜	36⅛
Un. Fruit.....	92⅜	90	92
U.S. Leather	11½	11	11⅛
U.S. Rubber	28⅛	28½	31⅞x
U.S. Steel	171⅜	169¼	173⅝x
Westinghouse	177	169⅜	182⅜
Woolworth	62	62½	63
Worthington Pump	139	145½	168½
Am. Pow. & Light.	105½x	99½	108⅜
Am. Tel. & Tlg. ...	247	244¼	231⅞
Electric P. & L. ...	89	84½	94⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	64½	62	64½
Nat. Pow. & Lt. ...	46⅜	44⅜	49⅛
Radio Corpn.	49⅜	48½	54⅜
Utilities P. & L. ...	40⅜	39	40½
W. Union Tlg. ...	182	182	182
Associated Gas "A"	39	37½	37⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	27⅛	27	28⅛
Pan Amer. B.	63½	61	62⅜
Sinclair Oil	28⅛	28½	27⅜
Std. California.....	70½x	69	70½
Do. N.J.	79	76	80½

x Ex dividend.

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. May 22.	Closing Prices. May 29.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%.....	78½	78⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	99⅛	98¹⁵/₁₆	− 1/16
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	102½	103½	+ 1
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102	102	...
Consols 4%	88⅛	88⅛	+ ⅛
Funding 4%.....	90⅜	90½	+ ⅛
Victory Bonds 4% ...	94⅜	94½	+ ⅛
Local Loans 3%	65	65½	+ ½
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)...	101½	101½	...
Argentine 4% Recisa.	87⅛	87⅛	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	104	104	...
Belgian 7%	109½	110	+ ½
Brazil 6⅓% (1927) ...	87⅛	87	− ⅛
China 5% (1912).....	46	46	...
Egypt Unified 4% ...	77	76½	− ½
French 5%	20⅜	20⅛	+ ⅛
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56.	101½	101	− ½
Bristol 5% 1950–60...	101	101	...
L.C.C. 3%.....	64	64	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	84½	84½	...
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	9⅛	9⅛	− ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	27⅛	27	− ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	49	49½	+ ½
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66½	66⅛	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77⅛	77	− ⅛
Southern Def. Stk. ...	30⅜	30⅛	− ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	71⅛	71⅛	...
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅜	+ 1/16
Do. Income Bonds	109	110½	+ 1½
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	214	212½	− 1½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	86½	85½	− 1½
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	249	251	+ 2
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅞	13⅛	+ 1/16
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	⅛	1	+ 1/16
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$112	$112½	+ ½
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15	15⅛	+ ⅛
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19⅛	19½	− ⅛
Com. Un.£2½ fully pd.	23⅛	22⅞	− ⅛
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27	27½	+ ½
Pearl (£1)	13⅛	13	− ⅛
Phœnix, £1 fully pd...	14	14⅛	+ ⅛
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	7⅛	7⅛	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16
Baldwin (£/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Cory, William (£1) ...	3½	3½	+ 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	...
Powell Duffryn (£1)...	1/16	1/16	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
Thornycroft, John (£1)	⅜	⅜	− 1/16
Vickers (6/8).....	⅛	⅛	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅛	⅛	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛x	3⅛	− 1/16
Courtaulds.....	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Linen Thread (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)..	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/16
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
General Electric (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6¼	6¼	...
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
City of London (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	46⅛	48⅛	+ 1
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	365x	360	− 5
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
S. Metropolitan Stk...	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless — *A Ord.*	50	48½	− 1½
B Ord.	23	22	− 1
Canadian Marconi ...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Marconi Marine (£1)	2	1⅛	− 1/16
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1⅛x	1⅛	− 1/16
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Leyland (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/16
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ 1/16
Napier (5/-)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Furness Withy (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	− 1/16
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25⅛	25⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	20⅛	21	+ ⅛
London Asiatic (2/)...	⅛x	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1⅛x	1⅛	− 1/16
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅛	⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	− 1/16
Royal Dutch (£3½) ...	33⅛	33⅛	...
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$49⅛	$51	+ 1⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	− 1/16
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9	8⅞	− ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	5⅛	+ ⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Dunlop (5/8)	⅛x	⅛	− 1/16
Gramophone Co. (£1)	5	4⅞	− 1/16
Guinness (A) (£1) ...	5⅛	5⅛	− 1/16
Harrods (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)...	4	3⅞	− ⅛
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
International Holdings	6¼	6¼	...
Inter. Nickel of Can...	33	34⅛	+ 1⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	30⅜x	30	− ⅜
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6⅛	6⅛	...
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Savoy Hotel (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Sweed. Match, B(kr 100)	16x	16	...
Tate and Lyle (£1)...	2⅛	2	− 1/16
Tilling Thos. (£1) ...	4⅛	4⅞	+ 1/16
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
United Molasses (£1)..	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Watney Combe Dl.(£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	8⅛	8⅛	− ⅛
"*Chartered*" 15/f.p...	1⅞	1⅞	...
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	...
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅜	⅜	− 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	2	1⅞	− 1/16
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	4⅛	3⅞	− ⅛
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16
Rhodesian CongoBorder (£1)	21½	19½	− 2
Rio Tinto (£5)	40⅜	40	− ⅜
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Tanganyika (£1)	2	1⅞	− 1/16
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices. (1926=100) :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	May 21	May 28.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	158·2	161·7
33 Rails.....	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	136·7	135·8
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	245·5	255·0
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	168·6	172·3
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·48%	4·34%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	May 21.	May 22.	May 23.	May 24.	May 26.	May 27.	May 28.
202·4	166·5	183·3	184·0	186·1	187·6	187·9	187·5	189·0

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	May 22.	May 23.	May 24.*	May 26.	May 27.	May 28.	May 29.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,856	2,154	959	2,243	2,254	2,402	2,201
Bonds (Value—Thous. $).....	8,533	7,665	4,190	6,852	8,640	8,493	7,612
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	597	697	354	642	671	999	756

* 2-hour session.

CANADA.

The Canadian stock markets have recently pursued an erratic course. Trading is still limited in volume and speculative operations are mainly confined to professional traders. During the latter half of April the general tendency was in an upward direction, but in the opening days of May the violent break in New York found immediate reflection in the Canadian markets, though the losses of the leading issues did not approach those experienced in New York. For some days the markets remained in confusion, but about May 8th began to respond to a brisk buying movement and became gradually steadier, though many former favourites were completely neglected. Brazilian Traction is still the most popular trading counter. Rumours are current crediting American interests (represented by the American and Foreign Power Corporation) with a desire for control, and a willingness to pay $60 per share for the common stock. A merger of three of the smaller pulp and paper companies has had no noticeable effect on pulp and paper stocks. Despite rumours of an impending merger between Distillers-Seagram and Hiram-Walker, distillery and brewing stocks still lack effective market sponsorship. Uncertainty regarding the immediate business outlook is a depressing factor, but hopes have been raised by good reports of the Western wheat crop. No considerable revival, however, is looked for until the autumn. Bonds continue to be popular.

	Mar. 27 1930.	May 1. 1930.	May 29. 1930.
Abitibi Power & Paper	33½	34	31
Asbestos Corp.	3	2½	1⅜
Bank of Montreal	308	312	303
Brazilian Traction ...	44⅜	51	49½
British Col. Power "A"	39½	41½	41
Calgary Power	165	150	150
Can. Bank Commerce...	250	255	Nobid
Canadian Car	25⅜	25½	24½
Canada Cement	Nobid	18½	16
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	8	7⅞	7½
Canada Power & Paper	15½	16	16½
Can. Steamship Lines..	17	18	17
Cockshutt Plow.....	19½	19	19
Cons. Mining	243	218	227
Dominion Bridge	71½	67½	64
Dom. Textile (New) ...	65	70	68

	Mar. 27. 1930.	May 1. 1930.	May 29. 1930.
Fraser Companies	...	...	12½
Hollinger Gold Mining	5⅝	6⅜	6½
International Nickel ...	41½	33⅜	33½
Massey Harris	37	34	34½
Montreal Light	136½	133	126
National Breweries ...	32	30⅜	35⅜
Nat. Steel Car	68	64	68⅞
Port Alfred Pulp	77½	80	Nobid
Power Corp., Canada...	77½	84	83½
Price Bros.	83	Nobid	74
Quebec Power	65½x	65½	63½
Royal Bank of Canada ...		305	300
Shawinigan	74	75	74½
Southern Can. Power...	33	34	33
Steel of Canada	44	48	48⅞
Winnipeg Electric ...	44	42½	44⅛

x Ex dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

The Stock Exchange and the Investor.—The internal organisation and policy of the Stock Exchange have been in the limelight this week. In the first place, the Stock Exchange Committee has successfully checked an attempt by an outside concern to manipulate the market in Edison Bell shares. The Committee imposed a temporary ban on the marking of these shares, which was removed on a public announcement by the company disclaiming any knowledge of the operation. In the second place, a writer in the *Financial News* has stoutly arraigned the present organisation of the Stock Exchange, declaring that the latter's personnel is unduly numerous, its financial basis unduly narrow, and its charges unduly high. Many of the points made have frequently been the subject of discussion within the Stock Exchange itself, and call for detailed treatment. Meanwhile, the following remarks on the alleged shortcomings of the Stock Exchange have been forwarded by a member of the "House." "At a representative Stock Exchange function this week, where views were expressed on a variety of 'House' matters, speaker after speaker agreed that the duties of the Chairman of the Stock Exchange involved whole-time attention, and that members of the Committee were required to spend an increasing number of hours in carrying out their task—on a purely honorary basis. It was pointed out that many men who would be excellent candidates for election are unable to spare the time from their own businesses. The result is, naturally, that some members are drawn from the ranks of those who have practically retired from active business. There is a real need for younger and more energetic members, on the Committee, but, so long as the present system of voting remains in force, no change is likely to be made. This voting is in accordance with a principle laid down more than a century back, and reaffirmed in 1876. What was good enough for fifty or a hundred years ago is totally unsuited for present-day conditions, and the very first thing the would-be reformer must undertake, if he sets his hand to Stock Exchange reform, is the recasting of the manner in which the Stock Exchange Committee is elected. Members of the 'House' again, are not afraid to confess that a great deal more could have been accomplished in the past to safeguard the interests of the investor and the speculator. It is felt now that too lax a method was adopted in the procedure regarding 'permission to deal.' Much more might have been done to prevent the negotiation of shares in companies which, from their outset, had little chance of making good. The Stock Exchange Committee cannot be expected to exercise powers of discrimination as regards the probable future earning power of the shares of new companies, which have been formed under *bona fide* auspices. It is felt, however, that there may have been too ready a willingness to let through stocks and shares, dealings in which appeared tolerably certain to involve the 'House' in discredit and the public in pecuniary loss. Within the last few months more discrimination has been applied to new issues. In some cases, for instance, their sponsors have been requested to postpone application for leave to deal until some indication of earnings possibilities was available. This is a wholly healthy sign. The 'House' has come through the Hatry Settlement, the American crashes, and a number of minor difficulties in a matter which has evoked public appreciation. It is not too much to say that the Stock Exchange, realising the confidence which clients repose in its integrity, is eager to do whatever is possible to ensure the financial protection of the community."

Base Metals—A European Alliance.—Alliances inevitably breed counter-alliances, whether their avowed purpose be defence or defiance. That the American Copper Exporters', Incorporated, have bowed to the storm and cut copper prices has not relieved the discontent evoked among European industrialists by their policy of holding the market up for many months in opposition to clear economic tendencies. For some time, accordingly, there have been reports of a new grouping in the European base metal industry. These are now confirmed by the announcement that the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, Ltd., is about to effect a substantial exchange of shares with the Metallgesellschaft of Frankfurt, while negotiations are in an advanced state for a similar arrangement with the Société Générale des Minerais, of Brussels. The declared object of these transactions is "to secure co-operation in certain directions" (which are not specified), and to facilitate the provision of raw materials needed by the smelters and refineries. Each of the groups concerned will be represented on the board of the other. The Amalgamated Metal Corporation is a fusion of the British Metal Corporation and Henry Gardner and Company, carried out last December, whose influence extends throughout the non-ferrous metal industry of the British Empire. The Metallgesellschaft has been, since October, 1927, the paramount power in the base metal industry of Germany and Central Europe, while the Société Générale des Minerais fills the same rôle in Belgium. It is understood that the way has been left open for subsequent French adherence, if desired. The formation of a strong European base metal *bloc* is symptomatic of the tendency of contemporary industrial organisation to override international boundaries, though its more immediate object is the alignment of the European side of the industry against American encroachment—a process which the unfortunate policy of the American Copper Exporters has appreciably hastened. It remains to be seen whether the immediate outcome will be an intensification of hostility between the American and European interests, or an ultimate "deal" between the two, aiming at some sort of co-operation. In the meantime, the Amalgamated Metal Corporation may find it necessary to ask its shareholders to authorise an increase of its capital, though there is no question of control remaining in other than British hands, the suggested exchange of shares with the Metallgesellschaft being, it is understood, on a 15 per cent. basis.

Cook (St. Paul's) Capital Scheme.—In consultation with Sir William Plender, the directors of the wholesale drapery and warehousing business of Cook, Son and Company (St. Paul's) propose to reorganise the company's capital. The concern became a public one during the 1920 boom, and suffered appreciably during the depression of 1921, its losses being subsequently written off by the chairman's taking 1s. deferred shares in place of 289,820 ordinary shares. Under the present scheme the 7 per cent. cumulative participating preference shareholders will be repaid, in cash, 10s. in the £ of their capital, out of gilt-edged securities which the directors believe "cannot usefully be employed in the company's business." They will also be given one deferred share of 1s. for every 20 preference now held, as compensation for yielding up their rights to 25 per cent. of available profits after the existing ordinary and deferred shares have received non-cumulative dividends of 7 per cent. and 1s. per share respectively. The ordinary shares will have 5s. in the £ written off, in order to extinguish the goodwill item (which stands in the balance sheet at cost, £325,000), but will be entitled to a non-cumulative dividend of 9½ per cent., instead of 7 per cent., before anything is paid on the deferred shares. The attitude of shareholders towards these proposals will be governed by their views as to the probable course of the company's future earnings. If it be assumed that profits will not rise much above the 1927 level, both preference and ordinary shareholders stand to gain under the new terms. The former will receive 10s. in cash for half their holdings of a share, valued on the Stock Exchange, before the announcement, at only 16s. 6d. On the remaining half of their capital they will receive the same rate of payment as at present (7 per cent.), plus (possibly) a further ½ per cent. under the guise of deferred dividend. The ordinary shareholders will, in effect, receive dividends equal to 7⅛ per cent. on their present holding, instead of 7 per cent. If profits were significantly enhanced, however, the scheme would appear much less attractive from the points of view of both classes of holders. What, in fact, are the prospects in this direction? Profits since 1924 have shown, generally, a declining tendency:—

Year.	Profit. £	Year.	Profit. £
1924	322,101	1927.....	216,099
1925	266,446	1928.....	195,663
1926	179,672	1929.....	166,183

The company has naturally suffered by reason of the depression which has settled on all branches of the textile trades, accentuated by the tendency of the big stores to go to the manufacturer direct. The board has, in fact, closed some of the company's smaller premises recently, and the return of capital to the preference shareholders can be interpreted only in one way—as a gesture that the company is not likely to require new working capital for its business for some time to come. The present scheme, indeed, represents a *volte face* of directorial opinion, since as recently as February 18th last the chairman announced that (1) the company would be "weakened by any reduction of capital which involved a distribution of part of its surplus funds," and (2) that goodwill would be dealt with *by way of the general reserve*, when the latter stood at £325,000. On the evidence, shareholders may elect to support the board's proposals, without taking an exaggerated view of the "savings resulting from the proposed reorganisation of the company's capital," to which the circular makes more than one reference.

John Brown Proposals.—The accounts of John Brown are an eloquent commentary on the state of the heavy industries. Profits, which have been declining since 1922-23, have shrunk to negligible proportions, only £24,184 being available after providing for debenture interest. No distribution has been made on the ordinary shares since 1924-25, and the preference dividend, which, although paid, had not been fully earned in the last two years, is now passed. The balance sheet shows that the excess of current liabilities over liquid assets is no less than £1,013,433, as compared with £540,728 two years ago. It is clear that the company has reached a serious position, and no surprise will be felt that the capital reconstruction foreshadowed by the chairman last year is now brought forward. The effects of the reconstruction on the various securities are as follow:—The first and second short-term debentures, having currencies of 3, 5, 7 or 10 years, are to have their dates of maturity extended to December 31, 1965, and the rates of interest (which have been variable up to 6½ per cent.) fixed at 6 per cent. and 6½ per cent. respectively as from June 30, 1930. A sinking fund is to be established for the purpose of redemption by purchase in the market at or below par or by drawings at par, commencing in 1935. The company may also redeem the whole or part of the debentures on six months' notice on any half-yearly interest date, and, providing such redemption takes place before

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INVESTMENT SECURITIES
GOVERNMENT, MUNICIPAL, RAILWAY, PUBLIC UTILITY, INVESTMENT TRUST AND INDUSTRIAL FINANCING

January 1, 1934, premiums varying from 3 per cent. to 1 per cent. are provided for. It is further proposed to take power to charge assets (other than specifically mortgaged properties) in priority to the existing debentures for the purpose of securing bank loans, etc. Authority is to be given permitting the transfer of the Atlas Works, Sheffield, and Scunthorpe Works to "any other company or amalgamation of companies," on the condition that shares or other consideration received for such transfer are charged for the debenture holders. The preference shares, of a present denomination of £10, are to be split into ten shares of £1 each, and holders are asked to sanction a writing-off of 8s. per £1 share. The resulting 12s. shares are then to be subdivided into "A" and "B" shares of 6s. each, following which each two "A" shares will be consolidated into one "A" share of 12s. The "B" shares will remain of a denomination of 6s., holders being given the right of conversion into ordinary shares of the same nominal value up to June 30, 1935. Arrears of dividend from June 30, 1929, are to be cancelled and the fixed dividend to be made 7 per cent. non-cumulative from July 1, 1930, in place of 5 per cent. cumulative as heretofore. Provision is made that in the event of a winding-up holders shall be entitled to 1s. 8d. for every 1s. of capital paid up. A sum of 14s. per share is to be written off the ordinary capital, reducing the nominal value to 6s. per share. Some 1,250,000 shares are at present 15s. paid, and will become only 1s. paid following the writing down. The balance of 5s. per share is to be called up in two instalments of 2s. 6d. each, payable November 29 next and May 30, 1931, respectively. The result of these proposals will be to reduce the paid-up share capital by £2,625,000. In addition to this, it would appear from the *pro forma* balance sheet that the contingency account of £325,000 will be absorbed, together with £100,000 from the general reserve and the carry-forward of £115,109, making a total of £3,165,109. The writing down of assets will reduce the total to £4,693,964, as compared with £7,859,073 as shown in the balance sheet now presented. In a circular letter to the proprietors the chairman, Lord Aberconway, refers to the enormous shrinkage in the demand for the company's heavy products since the war. Immediately after the scheme has been carried out it is proposed that the position in regard to the Atlas and Scunthorpe Works shall be dealt with in a rationalisation scheme. Negotiations were, in fact, in progress some little time ago with the English Steel Corporation, but were apparently abandoned in the latter part of last year. The company's tender for the new express Atlantic liner for the Cunard Company has been accepted. The least satisfactory feature of the scheme is that the company is not replenishing its working capital, despite the big deficit of liquid resources. Apart from the £312,500 which the calling up of the unpaid capital will produce, no new money is being introduced, and a large amount of liabilities will remain unliquidated. As regards the sacrifices asked of proprietors, the proposals would appear to favour the ordinary as compared with the preference holders. The latter might reasonably contend that their non-cumulative dividend, if paid, should produce not less than the cumulative dividend they are asked to give up.

New Cammell Laird Scheme.—Following the refusal of the Cammell Laird 4½ per cent. debenture stockholders to consent to variations in the conditions governing the redemption of their holdings, the proposed terms have now been revised. With regard to the 5 per cent. first mortgage stock, it is proposed that the repayment date be extended for five years from July 1, 1930, and interest be increased from 5 to 5½ per cent. The company, on giving three months' notice, is to have the right of redemption at any time at £110, instead of at £103 as at present provided. The restrictions on the payment of dividends on other shares prior to redemption remain unchanged. As regards the 4½ per cent. debentures, the repayment date is to be extended to July 1, 1935, in respect of only half the stock, the balance to be repaid *in cash* on July 1 next at the present redemption rate of £102½. On the unredeemed portion the rate of interest is to be increased from 4½ per cent. to 5½ per cent., while redemption is ultimately to take place at £110. The company is to be at liberty, however, to redeem the whole of the balance up to July 1, 1931, at £104, to 1932 at £105½, 1933 at £107, and 1934 at £108½. With regard to the 5 per cent. debenture stock, such modifications are to be made in security as may be involved in giving effect to the above variations. The final redemption date remains unchanged at April 1, 1947, but the rate of repayments is altered from £103½ to £105 up to April 1, 1935, £107½ to April 1, 1940, and £110 up to April 1, 1947. The suggested modifications, it will be seen, are all favourable to the debenture-holders, and the approval of the revised scheme, at the forthcoming meeting, would appear to be in the interests of all concerned.

James Finlay.—The results of James Finlay have been awaited with more than normal interest, in view of the reduction in earnings and dividends shown this month by four of the company's tea subsidiaries, particularly Consolidated Tea and Lands. The report for the year ended December 31st last, however, throws no light on this matter, the year's receipts including dividends received by the parent company only up to the end of last year. The company's Imperial interests are extensive, embracing large holdings in jute, tea, cotton and other produce business, merchant banking and shipping, and, at home, cotton manufacture and bleaching. The results of the past three years are shown:—

	£ 1927.	£ 1928.	£ 1929.
	Years ended December 31.		
Receipts from trading.....	174,793	147,109	83,172
Dividends, &c., on gilt-edged, pref. and deb. stocks*.....	103,534	108,800	113,809
Div. on ord. shares	264,188	290,590	265,146
Net profits (after tax)	502,516	506,500	430,000
Preference dividend.....	30,000	30,000	30,000
No. of times covered	*16·7*	*16·9*	*14·3*
Ordinary { *Earned*	*31·5%*	*31·8%*	*26·6%*
Ordinary { Paid	25·0%	25·0%	25·0%
Ordinary { Amount	375,000	375,000	375,000
To reserve	100,000	100.000	Nil†
Carried forward	277,062	278.562	303,562

* Including railway and bank shares.

† Profit of £52,980 on sales of investments credited to general reserve.

The company draws its revenue from three sources. Of these, receipts from trading operations have been steadily falling, and last year were less than half of those of 1927. Dividends from Gilt-edged and other "outside" securities are stable, while the decline in receipts from ordinary shareholdings last year brought these back approximately to the level of 1927. The market, which feared a cut in the ordinary dividend, has tended to regard the maintenance of the latter at 25 per cent., at the expense of the customary allocation to reserves, as a token of the directors' confidence in the outlook. In view of the known conservatism of the board, this interpretation may be correct, though some observers point out that the decline in receipts from subsidiaries this year will be substantial. Of the four tea subsidiaries, Consolidated Tea has just reduced its ordinary dividend from 22½ per cent. to 5 per cent., Amalgamated Tea from 17½ per cent. to 7½ per cent., Kanan Devan from 35 per cent. to 20 per cent., and Anglo-American Tea from 17½ per cent. to 10 per cent. The directors may probably have been influenced in their present policy by the fact that general reserve obtained nearly £53,000 in the past year as a result of a "windfall"—the selling of certain investments at a profit. At 4 3/16, the shares, cum a final dividend of 3s., yield £6 4s. 4d.

John Lewis and Company.—The accounts of this company of Oxford Street drapers for the financial year ended January 31st last are again accompanied by a report of an exhaustive character. Trading profit for the year reveals a decline of some £35,000 from last year's total of £167,549, while net profit (after an amount of £5,753 has been written off improvements and alterations), comes out at £66,753, against a net return for the previous twelve months of 95,542. Preference dividend takes £40,849, and a final dividend of 1 per cent., making 3 per cent. for the year, is to be paid on the ordinary capital, which is vested in trustees for the benefit of the staff, and forms the basis of the company's co-partnership scheme. The balance sheet reveals several movements. Creditors now stand at £132,074, compared with £77,892 a year earlier, while investments are up by £91,092 to £313,856 and debtors by £26,636 to £108,091. In the old "John Lewis" business, considerable improvement in trading was recorded, the total sales of the piece-goods departments being greater by nine per cent. than those of the previous year, and of the furnishing departments by 51 per cent. The decline in profits is largely (if not entirely) attributable to the "difficult year" which the company has experienced on the Harries premises, where structural metamorphoses in mid-season have had their inevitable consequences. In the circumstances, it is gratifying that for the first thirteen weeks of this year the sales in the Harries block exceed those of the same period last year by 35 per cent. In view of the fact that the equity of the company is vested in the staff, the statement in the report that "the results of the present year seem certain to approach and likely to exceed the 'record' figure (of £175,000) earned in 1927," will be of interest to the firm's employers, as well as to the general public.

Leopoldina Results.—The report of this Brazilian railway for the twelve months to December 31st last reveals a satisfactory state of affairs. Gross receipts for the year totalled £2,480,551, against £2,366,008, an increase of £114,543, while working expenses rose only by £28,565 to £1,606,397. Net receipts thus stand at £874,154, compared with £788,176, and, after deduction of all fixed charges, there remains a net profit of £639,934, which represents an increase of £89,028 over the result for the previous twelve months. The amount available for ordinary dividend represents 7.0 per cent. earned, against 5.8 per cent. for the previous year, and a distribution of 5 per cent. is made:—

Year ends December 31.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Gross receipts	2,347.902	2,366,008	2,480,551
Working expenses	1,577,548	1,577,832	1,606,397
Net receipts	770,354	788.176	874,154
Fixed charges	235,433	237,270	234,220
Net profit	534,921	550,906	639,934
Brought forward	94,334	100,580	103,457
Preference dividend.....	156,494	156,494	156,494
Rate %	5½	5½	5½
No. of times covered	*3·4*	*3·5*	*4·1*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*378,427*	*394,411*	*483,439*
Paid £.....	309,181	343,535	343,535
Earned %.....	*5·5*	*5·8*	*7·0*
Paid %	4½	5	5
To reserves	63.000	48.000	113,000
Other allocations	...	...	14,930
Carried forward	100,580	103,457	115,432

The sum of £14,930 is being utilised to write off the balance of expenses on the issue of terminable debentures. The passenger traffic for the year shows an increase in numbers of 3,083,202, and an increase in sterling receipts of £9,437 or 1.78 per cent. From goods traffic there is an increase of £112,804, or 6.99 per cent. The directors report that the construction of the Caratinga Extension in the State of Minas Geraes is actively proceeding, and it is expected that the whole line, consisting of 98 kilometres, will be completed during the current year.

Forestal Land.—The Forestal Land, Timber and Railways Company announces the broad lines of an important scheme under which shareholders will be relieved, as far as possible, from the effects of double taxation, when the Argentine Government introduces an income tax for the first time. Under this plan the company will receive bonds, notes and shares in an Argentine company which is to be formed to acquire its Argentine assets. Unless the present shareholders agree, none of the existing securities will be disposed of by the new company. Forestal Land will act as the distributing agent, in this country, of the products of the Argentine company. It is pointed out that, owing to its predominant position, Forestal Land must necessarily be the prime mover in any effort to nationalise the quebracho industry by means of amalgamations, etc., but that no Argentine or Paraguayan concern would be likely to come in if it became thereby subject to heavy English taxation on dividends, depreciation and reserve allocations, and its shareholders were exposed to the costs and formalities of English probate. Under the scheme, the Forestal company will pay taxation only on its earnings as English distributing agent, and on dividends and interest received from subsidiaries, while the Argentine company will be free from the attentions of the English tax collector.

Totalisators and Others.—It will always stand to the credit of the London Stock Exchange Committee that it refused "leave to deal," in the height of the 1928 new issue boom, to Totalisators, Ltd. The Stock Exchange Committee was in a position to make this decision because no totalisator machine can be used in this country unless it has been "adopted" by the Betting Control Board, and the "Premier" or "Julius" machine sponsored by Totalisator, Ltd., had not even been submitted, at the time, to the Board for consideration. The first report of the company has now been issued. The prices of the machine have been submitted to the Betting Control Board, whose verdict the directors are awaiting. The balance sheet shows that cash has sunk as low as £1,020, but there are calls in arrear of £10,595 on the issued capital of £182,047. Apparently £100,000 was paid in cash to Automatic Totalisators of Sydney, Australia, for the patent rights, £30,115 to the Inventions Exploitations Trust of London, and nearly £25,000 for preliminary expenses. The French, British and Foreign Trust was the issuing house. Other recent reports have thrown fresh light upon certain "boom" promotions. The directors of Direct Produce (London), Ltd., which issued 1,050,000 shares of 2s. to the public in February, 1929, have had to confess that a number of the shops acquired were quite unsuitable for a multiple-shop business, and now propose the formation of a new company, shareholders being given the right to take up one new share of 1s. credited with 8d. paid in respect of each share held. Shareholders may ponder before accepting the scheme. A similar reconstruction plan has been proposed by a committee of shareholders in the case of Electramonic, a company floated in 1928 in the gramophone boom. For every 10s. preferred ordinary share the shareholders are offered a similar 10s. share in a new company, 6s. 8d. paid-up, and for every 1s. deferred share a similar 1s. share, 8d. paid-up. In the cases of Direct Produce and Electramonic, the Stock Exchange Committee had no grounds for refusing "leave to deal." Both were "legitimate" commercial gambles. One may be permitted to hope, however, that some of the lessons of the 1928-29 boom in new issues have now been learned, both by the investor and the Stock Exchange.

Further Oil Reports.—The report of the Burmah Oil Company for 1929 shows an increase of 96 per cent. in total income, and of 149.5 per cent. in net income, after allowing for overhead expenditure, debenture interest and

insurance and field reserves. The results for the past three years are shown in the following table:—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Trading profit	1,903,312	1,558,974	2,956,548
Interest and dividends on investments	804,360	562,347	1,214,240
Total income	2,707,672	2,121,321	4,170,788
Net income after overheads & tax	1,744,772	1,309,626	3,267,472
Preference dividends	268,125	261,875	260,937
Available for ordinary	1,476,647	1,047,751	3,006,535
% *Earned*	*23·8*	*17·4*	*47·5*
% Paid	20·0	20·0	30·0
Reserves	200,000	200,000	500,000
Carry forward	502,417	151,085	399,775

The balance sheet gives an analysis of investments as required by the Companies Act, which suggests incidentally that the low valuation of the company's Anglo-Persian Oil holdings involves a large hidden reserve. On the increased dividend distribution of 30 per cent. for the year, as against 20 per cent. for the previous year, the ordinary shares at the present price of 4 9/16 return a yield of 6.7 per cent. In contrast with Burmah Oil, a very moderate recovery was made by Lobitos Oilfields last year. The recovery was due to Mid-Continent crude oil prices in the United States, on which the company's selling prices are based, being advanced in May, 1929, from $1.20 to $1.45 per barrels, or from $1.44 to $1.85 per barrels, according to grade. The financial results for the past three years compare as follows:—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit before depreciation	89,944	100,599	151,068
Net profit after depreciation	69,524	74,536	125,005
Earned	8·7%	9·3%	16·1%
Paid	10·0%	10·0%	12·5%

The dividend was increased from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent., which allows a yield on the ordinary shares of £5 8s. 8d. per cent. at the present market price of 2⅛. Although the net profit before depreciation last year was 50 per cent. greater than in the previous year, the results fall far short of the average profits of 1924-26, which were about £555,000 per annum before depreciation. As regards the current year, the price of Mid-Continent crude oil in January lost practically the whole of its May, 1929, advance and recovered only half this loss in April. The unsatisfactory level of crude oil prices is no doubt responsible for the reduction from 22½ per cent. to 20 per cent. in the dividends paid to shareholders of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd.

Salzdetfurth.—Twenty-five per cent. of Germany's total production of potash is obtained by the Salzdetfurth group, which embraces three nominally independent companies—Salzdetfurth, Aschersleben and Westeregeln. Salzdetfurth possesses half the stock capital of the other two companies, which, in turn, hold half the Salzdetfurth capital. On the concern's total capital of 72 million marks, therefore, dividends are paid to outsiders on only 36 millions, and the companies together hold bank deposits of precisely this sum. For the last three years Salzdetfurth has paid very conservative dividends of 15 per cent. and Aschersleben and Westeregeln of 10 per cent. At the beginning of 1929 the companies gave their stockholders valuable bonus rights in lieu of an increased dividend. Salzdetfurth offering 12 million marks of common stock and each of the other companies 6 millions to stockholders at par. The new shares were not entitled to dividends till 1930. Reserves have again been greatly strengthened, while the dividend rate remains unchanged. A further increase of capital on attractive terms is looked for, but at the moment the matter is in abeyance pending the completion of plans for building new fertiliser-mixer and other chemical factories.

Rhodesian Anglo-American.—Our mining correspondent writes:—For a week or so before the issue of the annual report, active speculation took place in the shares of this company to the accompaniment of rumours that the document would make an extremely good showing. From one point of view the anticipation has been fully justified. During the period from registration in December, 1928, to March 31st last, a gross profit of no less than £746,400 was made from "dividends, interest, share-dealings and other sources." Doubtless, share-dealings provided the bulk of the amount, as in the spring and summer of 1929 the Rhodesian copper boom, and subsequently the general slump occurred, during which shares sold at high prices could have been cheaply replaced. Of the sum above named, general expenses absorbed 33,700; income tax, £144,200, and preliminary outlay, £27,100. Some £217,800 is transferred to reserve, leaving a balance of £323,600, which is carried forward. The original capital of £2,500,000 was subscribed for at premiums of 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per share, the proceeds being invested in Bwana M'Kubwa, Rhodesian Congo Border, Loangwa, Rhodesia Broken Hill and British South Africa shares. A further issue of 1,871,600 shares was made at 30s. premium at a time when the market price of the shares was about 10s. less. The funds thus provided were principally employed in adding to the holdings of Congo Border, Bwana, and B.S.A. shares. The £3,367,200 premium provided by these various issues (less £85,000 expenses) has been placed to reserve, plus the appropriation from earnings above mentioned. The total of £3,500,000 is equivalent to the present nominal capital of the company. In the balance sheet shareholdings at cost figure at £5,662,400; loans at call, £1,663,700; cash and debtors, £29,300, and creditors and tax, £150,200. In view of the strength of the financial position the proposal to increase the capital by 3,000,000 shares came as a disagreeable surprise to the market. Apparently no immediate offer of further shares is contemplated, the creation of the additional capital being recommended "so that in the event of further issues of shares being necessary in order to provide additional finance for the development of the assets in which the company is interested, such issues could be dealt with promptly." Nevertheless, the proposal, following on the heels of the debenture issue of the Roan Antelope, emphasises the amount of capital requiring to be sunk in the Northern Rhodesian copper industry before the profit-earning stage can be reached. Stock Exchange estimates place the market value of "Rho-Anglo" holdings at the equivalent of 35s. to 45s. per share. As no schedule is given, this computation cannot be accepted without reserve, although it may be based upon data not generally available.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Hambros Bank, Royal Insurance, India General Navigation and Railway, Nitrate Producers' Steamship, Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Gresham Trust, British Overseas and General Investment, Shanghai Electric Construction, and Forestal Land, Timber and Trading Presiding at the annual meeting of the Royal Insurance Company, Mr W. R. Glazebrook declared that the recent decline in the value of Stock Exchange securities, in which many people had invested their savings as a provision for the future, emphasised the value of a life policy as a stable security. At the Fine Cotton Spinners' meeting the chairman said that on the land under cotton they had produced during the last season 476.8 lbs. of lint to the acre, a record for the property and an amount far beyond the average weight produced even by land in the Delta. At the Central Mining and Investment Corporation meeting, the chairman stated that the supply of native labour decreased from 197,646 at the end of March to 184,280 in December, 1929, and, though there had since been some improvement, the available supply was still considerably below the 206,000 required for the full operating capacity of the mines' existing plant.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

With the three issues this week—Port of London Authority, St. Helens Corporation and the Niger Company—out of the way, the capital market is hoping for some respite before the issue of the Reparations Loan. The *Port of London Authority* issue of £2,000,000 5 per cent. stock was a conversion operation to provide for the maturity of a like amount of 6 per cent. stock which had been issued in 1921 when interest rates were high. As the Authority had power to redeem this stock over the period 1930-40 it has called the bonds for redemption on July 1st next. Holders are offered the right to exchange into the new 5 per cents., which are redeemable at par on June 1st, 1970. Cash subscriptions were received at 99½. Why the Port of London Authority loans are not given trustee status may well be asked, seeing that they provide excellent security. The Corporation issues was that of *St. Helens*, which took the form of 5 per cent. stock at 99½, redeemable 1950-70. A guaranteed debenture issue was made by the *Niger Company*, secured as a floating charge, as well as being unconditionally guaranteed as to both principal and interest by Lever Brothers. This issue took the form of £1,500,000 5 per cent. stock at 94 and was for the purpose of refunding a like amount of 7 per cent. second debenture stock which will be repaid next October. The security is good, but the yield offered to the investor is not over generous.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to May 24, 1930, £148,993,687.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to May 24, 1930, £221,845,961.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended May 24, 1930, £200,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to May 24, 1930, £950,000.

	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
To the Public.					
Port of London Authority	2,000,000	1,990,000	...	...	...
St. Helens Corporation	800,000	...	796,000	40,000	756,000
Niger Company	1,500,000	1,410,000	...	...	...
Total offered to public, week ended May 31, 1930	4,300,000	3,400,000	796,000	40,000	756,000
To Shareholders only.					
Hants and Dorset Motor Services, 25,000 ordinary £1 shares at par	25,000	...	25,000	6,250	18,750
Investment Trust, 75,000 preferred and 50,000 deferred £1	75,000 50,000	... ...	75,000 50,000	... ...	... ...
Meakers, 50,000 7% cum. pref. £1 shares at par	50,000	...	50,000	6,250	43,750
Total offered to shareholders only, week ended May 31, 1930	200,000	...	200,000	12,500	62,500

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Jan. 1 to date—		
1930	226,441,961	150,189,687
1929	178,424,788	152,441,834
1928	...	217,294,979
1927	...	187,587,311
1927	...	93,381,314
1925	...	90,164,485
1924	...	93,333,257
1923	...	152,433,966

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
Whole year—		
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended May 31, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929	21,043,754	...	29,550,774

Port of London Authority.—Offer to holders of £2,000,000 Port of London 6 per cent. inscribed stock, 1930-40, of conversion into Port of London 5 per cent. inscribed stock, 1950-70. At £99½ per cent. Principal will be repaid at par on June 1, 1970, the Port of London Authority having the option of redemption, in whole or in part, at par, on or after June 1, 1950, on six months' notice.

St. Helens Corporation.—Issue of £800,000 5 per cent. redeemable stock, 1950-1970, at £99½ per cent. Trustees are authorised to invest in this stock. The principal will be repaid at par on April 1, 1970, unless previously cancelled by purchase or agreement, but the Corporation has the option of redemption, in whole or part, at par, on or after April 1, 1950, on three months' notice. The rateable value of the County Borough of St. Helens is £394,641, and a rate of one penny in the pound produces £1,539.

The Niger Company.—Offer of £1,500,000 5 per cent. consolidated guaranteed debenture stock at £94 per cent. The stock will be unconditionally guaranteed as to both principal and interest by Lever Bros., Ltd. The proceeds of this issue will be applied towards redemption of the 7 per cent. second debenture stock. The present issue will be redeemable by means of a cumulative sinking fund, which will provide for repayment of the whole issue not later than June, 1970. The company reserve the right to redeem, in whole or part, at par on or after June 15, 1940, on three months' notice. Average profit for past three years, after charging interest on the 5½ per cent. debenture stock, was £291,219, covering the interest on the present issue more than three times.

Rugby Gas Company.—Issue by tender of £15,000 6 per cent. redeemable preference stock, minimum price par, to be redeemed at par on July 1, 1950. The net profit of the company for the year ended December 31st last was £8,482, covering dividend on the preference stock and including the present issue 3.5 times.

Particulars of the following have been issued for information only with a view to Stock Exchange Introduction:—
Cable Telephone and General Trust. Issued capital £698,737, in 288,737 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1, 295,000 7 per cent. non-cumulative preferred ordinary shares of £1, and 115,000 ordinary shares of £1. The company was registered in June, 1926, to carry on the business of an investment trust company. **Spanish Government Six per Cent. Internal Loan.** Authorised amount of the loan is 350,000,000 pesetas, of which amount outstanding on May 1, 1930, was 305,142,000 pesetas. **Banco Nacional Ultramarino.** Notice to shareholders of a new issue of 564,811 ⅛ shares of the nominal value of Escudos 90$00. List for subscription to 370,370 shares will be opened on May 31, 1930, and the remaining 194,441 shares have been subscribed by the Governments of the Portuguese Colonies.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets and dividend announcements will be found on page 1252 under the heading "Company News."]

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR APRIL, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Ariston Gold	7,322	...	...	...	...	13,009	2,626
Waihi	15,086	...	5,163	...	...	...	...

	Tons.	Other Notes in Return.
TIN.		
Anglo-Burma	12½	...
Naraguta Korot	9	...
Renong	6½	First half of May.
Siput	4½	...
Teja Malaya	16	First half of May.

EUROPEAN AND NORTH AFRICAN.—Production for April: Iron ore, 3,254 tons; lead concentrates, 86 tons.

WEST END DIAMONDS.—Quarter ended March 31st: Loads washed (consisting of blue ground), 114,000 loads; total yield, 8,200 metric carats; yield per 100 loads, 7·19 metric carats; estimated value, £14,957; working expenses, £14,170; estimated profit, £787.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH.—For the four weeks ended May 3rd, 24,220 tons of crude ore were treated and produced 5,058 tons of leady concentrates assaying 69 per cent. lead and 22 ozs. silver per ton; also 4,318 tons of zinc concentrates assaying 49 per cent. zinc.

ELECTROLYTIC ZINC.—Production during four-weekly period ended April 30th, 4,279 tons zinc, of which 75 tons used at the works. Silver-lead product for shipment to Port Pirie for realisation containing 376 tons lead, 42,000 ozs. silver.

MAZAPIL.—Production for April: Copper matte, 889 metric tons; lead concentrates, 481 metric tons; zinc concentrates, 782 metric tons.

SANTA GERTRUDIS.—April: Dry short tons milled, 44,257; total revenue, after allowing for development and participation of owners, but before deducting reserves for depletion, depreciation, &c., $112,775. (March, $109,134.)

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—April production: 34,995 tons of crude ore were treated, assaying 14·4 per cent. lead, 8·7 ozs. silver per ton and 10·4 per cent. zinc, producing 7,030 tons lead concentrates, assaying 67·5 per cent. lead, 37·2 ozs. silver per ton, and 6·6 per cent. zinc; also 5,950 tons zinc concentrates, assaying 49·1 per cent. zinc, 2·2 per cent. lead and 3·3 ozs. silver per ton.

LYDENBURG PLATINUM AREAS.—Quarter ended March 31st: Ore treated 10,360 tons; estimated recovery of platinum group metals, 2,315 fine ounces; estimated recovery of platinum group metals per ton treated, 4,469 dwts.

SAN FINX.—April: Extracted, 3,734 tons. Mill crushed, 3,284 tons; yields 15·25 tons tin concentrates, 15·5 tons wolfram; estimated value, £3,050; working costs, £2,450; development, £80; construction and equipment, £275. (All returns are based on metric tons—say, 2,200 lbs.)

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

FUNDS EXCEED 41 MILLIONS.

STRIKING LIFE RESULTS—RECORD QUINQUENNIAL SURPLUS.

WORLD-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

The eighty-fifth annual general meeting of shareholders of the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd., was held on Monday, the 26th inst., at Liverpool.

Mr W. R. Glazebrook, chairman of the company, presided over a good attendance.

Mr Robert M'Connell, general manager, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, before proceeding to a review of the operations of the year, I would wish to refer to the loss we have sustained through the death of Mr. Thomas H. Jackson. Mr. Jackson's directorial associations with the company, and with the Queen Insurance Company, of which he was chairman on its amalgamation with the "Royal" in 1891, existed continuously for more than half a century. During that long period, Mr Jackson rendered signal services to the "Queen" and the "Royal," and he retained to the very end of his association the keenest interest in our affairs. We shall miss his presence and familiar figure.

Following upon the decision I had the pleasure of communicating to you at the last annual general meeting, to the effect that closer co-ordination would be developed between the "Royal" and the "Liverpool and London and Globe," the aftermentioned directors of the latter company joined the board: Sir Frederick C. Bowring, Messrs J. Bruce Ismay, Hugh Lewis, W. F. Moore, W. J. Orr and R. Q. Wilson. Unfortunately Mr. Bruce Ismay, who had for many years been a valued member of the board of the "Liverpool and London and Globe," found that he was unable to attend the meetings of the board, and tendered his resignation, which we accepted with great regret. A resolution proposing the re-election of the other directors referred to will be submitted to you at a later stage.

I turn now to the report and accounts for the past year, which are already in your hands and which I presume it will be your wish to take as read.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I am glad to be able to report an increase of £112,000 in the premiums as compared with last year, an achievement brought about without in any way departing from the strict standards of underwriting which we endeavour to maintain. Fire losses, including contributions to fire brigades, were higher by approximately £200,000, representing 47.89 per cent. of the premiums as compared with 45.82 per cent. for 1928. This expansion in the loss ratio was not due to any major catastrophe, or series of fires of exceptional importance, but rather to a general widespread increase in the number of outbreaks. Particularly was this noticeable in this country, where the experience was much more severe than we have been accustomed to for a number of years past. To a certain extent this more adverse loss experience also characterised the general foreign field, but I am glad to report that in North America, where, as you are aware, the company transacts a very extensive business, the results, though not quite on the high level of 1928, were very satisfactory, and reflect great credit on our management, both in the United States and in Canada. The expenses continue to be high and, including commissions, amount to 43.39 per cent.

FIRE COSTS AND PROBLEMS.

The increase in the ratio as compared with 1928 is consequent on a world-wide tendency for the commission costs of our business to advance, a factor which, stimulated as it is by the pressure of competition, is largely outside our control. This question of expenses is one of the most important problems we have to face in the conduct of our business, and constant effort is directed to secure the fullest measure of economy, consistent with the maintenance of a high level of efficiency. The result of the year's working in this department is a profit of £562,000, representing 8.07 per cent. of the premiums, and under all the circumstances I think this can be regarded as very favourable. After the transfer of £100,000 to the additional fire reserve, the percentage of the fire funds to premiums is slightly higher than in the preceding year, and now amounts to 104.18. Our operations in the fire department are world-wide, our results consequently reflecting world conditions, and while the year has possibly been uneventful so far as occurrences of outstanding importance are concerned, the developing competitive elements to which I have referred, and the necessity of meeting the requirements of the public in ever widening forms of insurance protection, have provided problems of their own in maintaining the position and prestige of the company in the forefront of insurance enterprise.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The new policies issued during the past year were 6,123 for a net sum assured of £3,699,593, an amount slightly in excess of the previous year. In the annuity branch the operations are on a more modest scale than last year, the purchase money amounting to £92,563.

On this occasion the life department calls for more extended reference than usual, seeing that at the close of the year the company's actuary made the customary quinquennial investigation into the position of the life and annuity business of the company. His report has been circulated along with our other reports, and I feel sure that the results will be read with satisfaction by you and by our policyholders.

The liability for the large new business written during the past five years, as well as for the old business, including all special reserves, has been provided for up to the full level of the stringent standard adopted five years ago. The surplus disclosed reaches the record total of £2,966,407, which is sufficient to provide a bonus to policyholders at the increased rate of 42s. per cent. on the sum assured for each full year's premium paid during the quinquennium on participating policies. This will absorb £1,854,879, and, after the allocation of £200,000 to the shareholders as their share of the profits of the quinquennium, a balance of £911,528 will remain to be carried forward unappropriated. The result of the valuation of the annuity fund enables the sum of £65,000 to be transferred to the assurance fund, thus bringing the amount carried forward in each section of the life fund more nearly to the same proportion to liabilities.

INCREASED BONUS.

The directors have very carefully considered the question of our rate of bonus. We have maintained an unbroken series of "Royal" bonuses for sixty-five years, without any reduction in the rate, even during the difficulties of the war period, a record attained by few companies. The position now disclosed is so strong, and our valuation basis so stringent, that, notwithstanding that the bonus rate for the past quinquennium is raised to 42s. per cent., the amount carried forward as an additional safeguard against the unknown contingencies of the future is, in the opinion of the actuary, sufficient to cover all fluctuations which can be foreseen, and permit of the payment, during the coming quinquennium, of an increased interim bonus. These striking results have been achieved without in any way impairing the profit-earning capacity of the future. We have, therefore, been able to announce that the interim bonus for "Royal" participating policies terminated during the year 1930 shall be at the rate of 45s. per cent. The subsequent rate of interim bonus will be determined from year to year in continuation of the present practice.

We are satisfied that the company's record in the past, when considered along with the present strong position of the life fund, will enhance the confidence of the public in the safety, and security, of the life assurance contracts of the company. Recent experience of declining markets for Stock Exchange securities, in which many people have put their savings as provision for the future, emphasises the value for such purposes of a life policy as a stable security. The popularity of endowment assurances for a long time past has been very marked, but there can be no doubt that, from the point of view of investment, coupled with the protection and security which the policyholder obtains immediately upon payment of his first premium, a whole life, with-profits policy in the "Royal" is peculiarly attractive.

SINGLE-PREMIUM POLICIES.

During the last few years a considerable increase has taken place in the demand for single-premium policies. Our prospectus has always provided for assurances of this description, but a tendency has developed for policies to be taken out in order to secure loans, the interest on which can be applied for the purpose of ameliorating the incidence of taxation, particularly on large incomes. In the Finance Bill now before Parliament the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes by legislation to disallow the deduction of such interest from the policyholder's income, in calculating sur-tax. No doubt this course has been influenced by the fact that certain forms of policy, issued for a term often as short as five years, and which contain little or no element of life assurance, have been designed to assist in the avoidance of sur-tax payment. We, in common with most of the leading companies, have not issued short-term policies of this type, and our single-premium policies, which represent a comparatively small proportion of our business, all provide the normal life assurance cover. In the interests of our policyholders we would have hoped that the Chancellor's object could have been effectively achieved without interference with their rights, hitherto available, in connection with loan interest under genuine life assurance policies effected by single premiums. There is nothing to prevent the free issue of policies of the kind and, apart altogether from the question of taxation, they should become increasingly popular for the investor who has a fixed sum of money to dispose of, and who in this form secures, without risk of market fluctuations, a permanent and increasing investment in addition to the financial protection provided in the event of early death.

INSURANCE AND INCOME TAX.

The Finance Bill also detrimentally affects the interests of all life policyholders in connection with the rebate of income tax allowable on premiums. The extent to which the payment of life assurance premiums should entitle the policyholder to rebate of income tax was exhaustively considered by a Royal Commission as recently as 1920. The Commission recommended that the relief should bear a definite relation to the standard rate of the tax and that, in the case of policies effected after June 22, 1916, this should be one-half the standard rate. This was adopted in the Finance Act, 1920, and has since been continuously followed. The Chancellor's proposal prejudices our policyholders, in that it alters an arrangement which was based on the findings of a Royal Commission, to whom the subject was specifically referred, and to which we feel the Government should adhere.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

We are again able to show a satisfactory profit in this department, the amount transferred to profit and loss account in respect of the year 1928 being £104,489.

To have attained such a substantial measure of success in this class of business which, as in generally known, has presented particular difficulties in recent years, is very gratifying, and I find much pleasure in again extending congratulations to our underwriters for their careful selection of business.

I do not think there are any points of importance relative to the marine market which call for special comment on this occasion. The joint hull committee has done, and continues to do, good work in gradually improving the hull business, but the competition for cargo business continues to be extremely keen, and it is only by careful underwriting that this business can be successfully written.

The year 1929 has not been a good one as regards the general experience, due rather to the number of claims than to the importance of individual items. The results were very considerably affected by the violence and long continuance of the stormy weather, and recurrent gales, experienced during the later months of the year. Our own first year settlements on the 1929 account are appreciably heavier than in the previous year, the percentage being 29.44 per cent., as compared with 25.15 per cent. I would not like to prophesy in regard to our 1929 account, at the present time, but it is at least clear that we must be satisfied with a considerably smaller return on that year, than we have fortunately secured on the one now closed.

ACCIDENT DEPARTMENT.

In the personal accident section our premiums at £220,000 are approximately the same as last year, and a small profit of £4,800 is produced. The employers' liability account, which represents the operations in this class in the United Kingdom, shows a decrease of some £20,000 in premiums, which is not surprising in view of the continued stagnation in so many of the principal industries in this country. The profit of £58,800 is, under all the circumstances, a matter for congratulation.

The general insurances account includes, as you are aware, a large number of miscellaneous classes of insurance and, while the majority show a normal expansion, there is in the aggregate a decrease of some £65,000, due to a reduction in the United States in the premiums of the Royal Indemnity Company. This follows a period of considerable development, and is a normal reflex of the efforts of the management of that company, under the able direction of their president, Mr F. J. O'Neill, to secure and develop a business of high quality in the difficult casualty field in the United States, rather than merely to aim at volume of premium. The resulting profit of £293,000, representing 5.84 per cent. of the premiums, is very gratifying, and I may say here that the aggregate profit produced by the accident department as a whole of £356,461, has only once been exceeded in the history of the company.

MOTOR INSURANCE.

Our motor business both at home and abroad, which is now an important section of our operations, has continued to expand with the growth of vehicles on the road, but the resultant profit is meagre. The outlook for this class of business is not encouraging, as, despite all efforts, the dangers inherent in the constant increase in the number of vehicles on the road are inevitably reflected in the claims, while competition keeps the premiums down to a very moderate level. This competition may be a healthy feature of the business, and be welcomed from the point of view of the public, but it necessitates the exercise of a rigorous selection, if we are to maintain our present modest ratio of profit.

The Road Traffic Bill at present before a Committee in the House of Commons will, we fear, not lighten our burdens, nor add to our business. As you will be aware, one of its provisions is that motorists must be able to prove their ability, financially, to meet any legal liability for injuries they may cause to third parties, and an insurance policy will be accepted as proof of financial responsibility. We do not contemplate any appreciable increase in our premium income if this Bill becomes law, because, from all the information in our possession, it is not thought that any considerable number of motorists are uninsured, but if the experience of other countries where similar legislation has been introduced may be taken as a guide, claims on companies, both as regards number and amount, will certainly not be reduced.

With the object of strengthening still further the reserves allocated to the general insurances account, we have transferred the sum of £300,000 from profit and loss account, bringing the reserve fund in this account up to 92.37 per cent. of the premium.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The interest and dividends show an increase of over £44,000, as compared with last year, and while the transfers from the individual departments have already been touched upon in my remarks, I would like to direct your attention to the total underwriting profit of £1,063,000. This figure, notwithstanding the less favourable results of insurance business generally as compared with the previous year, falls short of our total profits in 1928 by only £68,000, and the only other occasion, previous to 1928, in the history of the company when a larger underwriting profit was recorded was in the year 1919. Taking into consideration the circumstances of the year under review, I think we are justly entitled to regard this as highly satisfactory.

DIVIDEND INCREASE.

The recommendation with regard to the dividend has already been made known to you and it is a matter of gratification to the directors that they have felt justified in proposing an increase in the final dividend from 3s. to 3s. 3d. per share. This increase would have represented an increase of 1s. 3d. per share on the basis prior to the division of the shares two years ago. Under the provisions of the law the dividend will be paid after deduction of income tax at 4s. 6d., that is to say the rate in force at the time of payment, less the customary small relief in regard to Dominion taxation. Unfortunately, however, payment of income tax is not restricted to that part of the company's total earnings which are distributed in dividend, but is charged also upon portions retained to augment capital and funds required for the carrying on, and development of, our business. The higher rate of tax now imposed will therefore have an influence on our net interest earnings during the coming year, as well as on the amount of tax appearing in profit and loss account in respect of trading profits.

The other items do not call for particular comment, beyond saying that the loss realised on the sale of investments is merely a normal outcome of the continuous process of revising the investments of the company, a task which is one of the constant and paramount preoccupations of your board.

BALANCE SHEET.

You will have noticed this year a change in the form in which our accounts are presented. In addition to the consolidated balance sheet, in which it has been our custom to include the figures of our associated companies whose results are incorporated in the revenue accounts, we are publishing a balance sheet of the Royal

Insurance Company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies' Act, 1929. We have felt, however, that it was advisable to continue to submit to you the consolidated balance sheet with which you are more familiar and which, I think, you will agree, gives a truer and more informing picture of the position of the company. I think the only feature to which I need draw your attention is the further growth in the funds of the company by over a million and a half to not far short of forty-one and a half million pounds. The past year has been a very eventful one in the financial world. On several occasions I have touched upon the market value of our investments, and at the end of 1928 these showed a substantial appreciation over the figures at which they appeared in the balance sheet. During 1929 the gilt-edged market experienced a steady decline, influenced among other factors, by the development of speculative activities in New York, and the attraction of investors to other classes of stocks. In view of our extensive interests in America we were of course largely affected, though as a matter of fact this decline in gilt-edged securities, in which the vast bulk of our investments is engaged, was more marked in this country, and it is satisfactory to record that the percentage of depreciation over all our investments was less than that shown by representative British Government securities. Following the sensational break in the New York stock markets in October and November last year, a recovery took place in gilt-edged securities, which has been further assisted by the fall in money rates both here and in America.

While touching on the investments of the company, it might be appropriate to refer to a new position—that of financial secretary—that has been created during the past year. We have been fortunate in securing in Mr P. M. Spence a gentleman of wide experience in financial and investment matters, and we have no doubt that his collaboration will prove of great assistance to the board, and of benefit to the company.

U.S.A. DEVELOPMENTS.

When speaking to you three years ago I referred to the new building the company had erected in New York. You will be interested to know that an opportunity has presented itself of acquiring the remainder of the block in which the building is situated, and it is our intention to erect an extension, which will cover the entire block. Not only will this satisfactorily round off our property, and provide adequate and dignified accommodation for the concentration of all our varied and important interests in that great city, but will, I am satisfied, prove a thoroughly remunerative investment for the funds of the company.

Following the retirement of our general attorney in the United States, Mr F. B. Kellam, to whose valuable services I pay a warm tribute, Messrs H. A. Fortington, F. J. O'Neill, A. Duncan Reid and Harold Warner were appointed general attorneys of the company, the latter gentleman at the same time assuming the duties of United States fire manager. Mr Fortington, as our financial adviser, and Mr O'Neill, as President of the Royal Indemnity Company, are already known to you. We welcome in the capacities referred to Mr A. Duncan Reid, the President of the Globe Indemnity Company, and Mr Harold Warner, now the United States fire manager, both of our own company and of the "Liverpool and London and Globe," and are confident that the association together of these gentlemen will be a factor of the greatest benefit in developing the varied interests of the United States.

Since our last meeting we have suffered a loss through the retirement from our local board of management in New York of Mr Gates W. McGarrah and Mr Francis D. Bartow. Mr McGarrah has assumed the heavy responsibilities of president of the Bank for International Settlements, and I am sure it will be your wish to be associated with our congratulations to him on his selection to that distinguished position; while in the case of Mr Bartow, his withdrawal is solely on account of other imperious demands on his time. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to know that our associations with Mr Bartow will be maintained, as he has found it possible to retain his membership of the boards of some of our associated companies. I would like to take this opportunity of voicing our sincere thanks to both these gentlemen for the valuable services they have rendered to the company.

"ROYAL" AND "GLOBE."

I referred in my speech last year to the closer co-ordination between the "Royal" and "Globe" which it was our object to achieve, and I am glad to be able to report that progress has already been made both at home and abroad to secure the greatest possible advantages from our association, and extend the scope of useful co-operation to its widest limits. Shortly after the annual general meeting, the general manager, in company with some of your directors, paid a visit to the United States, in connection with our plans regarding the organisation in that country. We are satisfied that this visit was very helpful, and we are already seeing signs of the benefits we have every confidence will ultimately accrue from the steps that are being taken to bring the organisation of the two companies into a closer working harmony.

THE OUTLOOK.

In concluding my remarks it is customary to touch on the outlook for the present year. It is satisfactory to be able to report that, so far, there is no marked deviation from the results achieved in the same period last year. The depression that unfortunately exists in our dominant home industries, and which is not lightened by increased taxation, has its inevitable effect on our business. These conditions are not confined to our own country, however, as business in the United States has also slowed up. Temporary though no doubt it is, this check to the extraordinary growth of prosperity which has been enjoyed by that great country, together with the world-wide fall in commodity prices and the difficult times through which such producing countries as Australia are consequently passing, all touch us closely. There is also the recrudescence of unrest in India, where we have important interests, and the continued turmoil to which China is unhappily subjected. Widespread as our activities are throughout the world, catering for the public needs in the varied forms of insurance protection that is necessary to-day to offer, we are acutely conscious of these disturbances both political and commercial, but, while we cannot anticipate how our future profits may compare with the high level of the past few years, we are satisfied that the "Royal" organisation maintains a standard of efficiency that enables us to look forward to the future with reasonable optimism. (Applause.)

I beg to propose the following resolution :—"That the report, accounts and balance sheets be adopted, and that a dividend of 3s. 3d. per share, less income tax, be payable on and after Tuesday, the 27th instant, making, with the interim dividend paid in November last, 6s. 3d. per share, less income tax, for the year 1929."

Mr A. Allan Paton, C.B., one of the deputy chairmen, in seconding, emphasised the pleasure the directors felt in being able to increase the dividend. (Applause.)

The motion was carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED.

Mr A. E. Pattinson proposed the re-election of the following directors :—Mr W. S. Crichton, Mr F. H. Fox, Mr M. H. Maxwell, C.B.E., Mr W. R. Glazebrook, Mr A Allan Paton, C.B., Colonel Sir James P. Reynolds, Bart., D.S.O., M.P., Mr J. J. Atkinson, Sir Frederick C. Bowring, Mr Hugh Lewis, Mr W. F. Moore, Mr W. J. Orr, C.B.E., and Mr R. Q. Wilson.

Sir Edmund F. Bushby seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr W. G. Sutcliffe Rhodes, seconded by Mr F. E. Townley, Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son were re-appointed auditors.

TRIBUTE TO MANAGEMENT.

Colonel J. G. B. Beazley proposed :

"That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the directors of the company, and to the London board, also to the members of the company's local boards and to its officials and agents at home and abroad, and to the boards of directors and officials of allied companies for their valuable services during the past year."

In view of the very difficult times which were being experienced, he said, the hearty thanks of shareholders were extended not only for the services of directors and officials, but for the most admirable results that had been achieved. (Hear, hear.) The fact that, in spite of the circumstances, it had been found possible to increase the dividend, was the surest testimony to the sound policy of the board in the past in husbanding and reserving its resources against any possible rainy day. The history of the Royal since it was founded in 1845 had been remarkable. There was keen competition in the insurance world, but under the present direction shareholders were convinced that the company, together with its associated companies, would go from strength to strength. This meeting marked the termination of the first year of the general managership of Mr Robert M'Connell, and they were glad to express to him their sincere gratitude for his contribution towards the results of the past year. (Applause.)

Mr W. E. Mounsey having seconded, the motion was carried with acclamation.

The chairman, in acknowledgment, expressed the hope that the results of the present year would be as satisfactory as those under review.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPLY.

Mr Robert M'Connell (general manager), who met with a cordial reception, also responded. He said it was a matter of great satisfaction to the underwriters and managers that in a year of difficulty it had been possible finally to produce an account so very favourable. Those results, of course, were the outcome of the inherent value of the business which had been built up through generations of good management and of the team work which the company obtained all over the world from its staff and officers. He had been greatly helped and encouraged by the directors, and also particularly by his colleagues, Mr Williams and Mr Simpson, the assistant managers, who discharged their duties with great efficiency, ability and loyalty. To Mr Carter, the London manager, to Mr Graves and Mr Briscoe, the sub-managers at Liverpool, and other officials, Mr M'Connell also paid a tribute for their valued co-operation.

The meeting then concluded.

NITRATE PRODUCERS' STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S CRITICISMS OF BUDGET.

The annual general meeting of the Nitrate Producers' Steamship Company, Ltd., was held, on the 29th instant, at 20, Billiter Buildings, London, E.C.

Sir John Latta, Bt. (the chairman), said that, taking into consideration the abnormal depression in world markets, their profits must be regarded as satisfactory. Those were partly due to advance contracts made at rates very much higher than now obtained. He had never known shipping prospects look blacker; they must be prepared for very lean times. There was just one ray of hope; the depression was world-wide, and its severity complete. Traders, perforce, had had to operate within the narrowest limits to escape being left with commodities at constantly falling prices. The inevitable reaction was likely to synchronise in all countries.

He had been asked in several quarters whether they still found the Diesel more profitable than the steamer. For the capital involved, the margin, although slight, in their experience favoured the steamer. The Diesel, however, possessed a wider refuelling radius, and was independent of Welsh coal—factors of great value, but hard to assess. To escape from British coal troubles had undoubtedly had an impelling influence with foreign ship-owners in the rapid strides they had made in developing Diesel vessels. The loss which workers in all industries had suffered through bad leadership in the manipulation of the coal problem was beyond computation. It was the more regrettable as none had suffered more than the miner himself. Just as coal exports had been rapidly recovering lost ground, the horizon had again been darkened by the deplorable Government Coal Bill. Foreign customers might be excused in hesitating to make forward contracts, as they could not but regard the uncertainties surrounding deliveries as interminable. It was the rationalisation of labour that was essential, namely, elimination of inane restriction, demarcations, shop-steward dictation, and an equitable adjustment of wages in sheltered, contrasted with unsheltered, trades. That would allow the ambitious artisan to develop the work that most readily came to his hand, and encompass jobs which demarcation unnecessarily and at greatly increased cost of production assigned to several artisans of different trades.

As to a revival, he feared it would not be stimulated by the Budget. Mr. Snowden had told them that he did not wish to destroy capital. Why make that assertion? It savoured of *qui s'excuse s'accuse*. Legislative power, arising from votes without representation, should be limited in its scope; otherwise, under socialistic theories, the danger of legalised confiscation became immediately apparent. Let them imagine for a moment that they, the proprietors of the company, were compelled to issue free shares—ranking *pari passu* with their own—to the general public, flappers included, and they had a rough parallel of how to-day's Budget would affect the lifelong savings which conscientious people had accumulated to provide for business and family exigencies arising at death. The shortsighted, spiteful confiscatory scale of surtaxes —inordinately vicious on death duties—could not long be sustained, and, as the proceeds were assigned to automatically expanding social services, those who escaped to-day would become the persecuted of to-morrow, and so on down the scale, till "Socialism in our time" had reduced living to the lowest standard.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher, "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
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In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

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GRESHAM TRUST, LIMITED.

A SATISFACTORY YEAR.

SCRIP BONUS FOR SHAREHOLDERS.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Gresham Trust, Ltd., was held, on the 27th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

Sir Arthur Wheeler, Bt., D.L., J.P., the chairman, said that the net profit, after charging all expenses, was £59,161, which, with the amount brought in, made £86,936 available. The 6 per cent. cumulative preference dividend for the year absorbed £24,000, leaving a balance of £62,936. From this sum it was proposed to transfer to general reserve account £20,000, which account would then amount to £72,111. The board's next proposal was to capitalise £16,000 of the remaining profits in the form of fully-paid ordinary shares of 1s. each, and to distribute these as a scrip bonus equally between the two classes of shares. The preference shareholders would therefore receive four fully-paid ordinary shares, free of cost, for every 10 preference shares held, and the ordinary shareholders would receive four new shares free for every 25 existing shares they held. In these times of high taxation, it was felt that a scrip bonus of this description was more acceptable than a distribution in hard cash. There would thus remain to be carried forward £26,936.

In the first place, I cannot emphasise too strongly the difficulties we have experienced during the greater part of the period covered by the accounts before us. It so happens that our financial year, which commenced, as you know, on May 1, 1929, coincided with a twelve months' period of widespread unrest brought about by a number of causes.

I, and my co-directors, are fully aware that we cannot always expect to be sailing in smooth waters, and are prepared to face bad weather as and when it arrives, but we certainly never anticipated having to encounter the tornados that have swept around us, and I feel you will agree that we have weathered the storms satisfactorily, and may be depended upon to achieve increasing success when fairer conditions prevail.

The results achieved prove that profitable business can be done under the most adverse conditions, and if times had been good or even normal during only a part of our year, I have no hesitation in saying that our profits would have been proportionately larger.

The balance sheet I consider to be satisfactory. In it is reflected an increased business, and an indication that more capital can be employed in your company than at present is in issue. Our turnover during the year—if you will permit me to use this word in the sense of the business we have handled—shows a large increase on any previous year, and in handling this turnover, to continue the analogy, we are carrying heavier stocks. Our stocks are represented by investments, by business in course of completion, and in some measure by loans against security. The investments are producing income, and so, of course, is the money we lend from time to time.

In referring to the investments, I would like to draw attention to the depreciation which is shown on the face of the balance sheet. You will perhaps have noticed from the managing director's report that your board does not consider it necessary to write off this depreciation, as we are satisfied that the prices of the securities in question were unduly depressed at the date of the balance sheet.

I am satisfied that there is considerable potential profit in the business we have on hand which more than outweighs the depreciation on our investments.

I recall very distinctly, when I met you this time last year, telling you of the caution which we had had to exercise in the selection of good propositions. We may have missed business, but I am pleased to tell you to-day that every company with which we associated our name is in a better position now than it was at the time we assisted it to find fresh capital. Our interest in a company does not cease when we have succeeded in finding fresh capital for it. We appreciate our responsibilities to those investors who support the issues we sponsor.

Whilst conserving the cash resources of your company to-day, I am aware that in the future a larger allocation of profits will be necessary to maintain previous years' dividends. I look forward to that accomplishment with every confidence. Your board has a great responsibility as a guardian of your money; it is also experienced in employing that money, and when we suggest that it is a time for the employment of further capital, you may rest assured that we have our plans prepared.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the company, and at class meetings of the 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference shareholders and of the ordinary shareholders, subsequently held, resolutions were passed approving the increase of the authorised capital to £750,000, and the issue of 320,000 ordinary shares as a capital bonus as proposed.

THE FINE COTTON SPINNERS' AND DOUBLERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING IN MANCHESTER.
A DISAPPOINTING YEAR—WORLD-WIDE DEPRESSION.
GOOD HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.
MR H. W. LEE'S CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE TRADE SITUATION.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this association was held on Tuesday, the 27th instant, in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square, Manchester. Mr Herbert W. Lee (chairman of the company) presided. There were also present the following directors, namely :—R. W. D. Phillips Brocklehurst and John Graham Peel (vice-chairmen), William Howarth (managing director), Vernon Bellhouse, Alan Murray Gordon Debenham, John Wallace Adam, Percy Ashworth, George Alfred Barnes, Robert Leslie Bellhouse, Robert W. Bennett, Arthur Lyons Carroll, Archibald E. Dixon, Esmond Mills Dixon, Francis Iredale Dixon, Harold Marsh Harwood, John I. Higson, F. Watkin Hiller, Ernest Mather, E. Lomas Oliver, Edwin Oliver, Ian Maurice Lomas Oliver, Wm. Alfred Perry, John Baird Walker, John A. Wanklyn, Philip Bruce Whitehead and Herbert Stowell (director and secretary).

The secretary, after reading the notice convening the meeting, said he had received apologies for absence from two directors—one from Mr Percy Musgrave, who was abroad, and one—a telegram—from Mr Alfred E. Rahr, who was in Liverpool, held up by fog, showing, Mr. Howell added, "We, in Manchester, have some advantages over the rival city." (Laughter.)

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

DEPRESSION: CAUSES AND THEIR REMEDIES.
FUTURE PROSPECTS HOPEFUL.

The Chairman, who was received with cheers from a large assemblage, said: Ladies and gentlemen, I have now to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and I expect you will give me permission to take them as read. You will have noticed that we have been obliged to make a change in the form of the report, and some alteration in the grouping of the figures in the balance sheet. This has been occasioned by the necessity of conforming to the provisions of the new Companies Act of 1929.

On the whole, I think the new arrangement is at any rate quite as good, if not better, than the old. It gives, for this year, a little more difficulty to shareholders who desire to compare the year's figures with those of former balance sheets, but as I run through the various items, I can easily make the comparison between the present figures and those of last year quite clear; and in future balance sheets we shall hope to keep to the same lines as those of the present one, so that no further difficulty on that score will arise. I do not know if you will expect me to make any apology for the result of the year's trading. It is certainly one showing a profit that cannot be satisfactory to you, and to those of us who are not only shareholders, but are also responsible for the working of the association, you may easily imagine it is profoundly disappointing.

The angle of view from which I regard it gives me some comfort, because I ask myself whether, under the circumstances that obtained during the year, we could have expected to do much better. The more I consider the question from this point of view, the more carefully I run over in my mind the difficulties and drawbacks we have suffered in the course of our operations, the less keenly I feel the want of success, from a profit-making point of view, that we have experienced, the more hopeful I am for the future.

DIFFICULTIES OF PAST YEAR.

You will remember that at our last meeting I had to tell you we were then experiencing exceptionally bad trade, and there were a number of events looming on the horizon that I regarded with misgiving, but the most pessimistic chairman—and I am not of that persuasion—could hardly have anticipated the full extent of the obstacles to a revival of trade, and to the making of profits that the course of events brought into operation as the year rolled on.

For my own satisfaction, and for that of my colleagues, I should like to spend a few minutes in reminding you of some of the checks to business we have encountered since we last met, which increased the depression which we, in common with all countries, were labouring under at that time. Some of these events were of world-wide influence, many of them applied only to trade in this country. You will remember that this time last year we were just on the threshold of a general election. The result of the election—I am not going into politics—but I think I am justified in saying that the result did not give confidence to the business world, and the months that have since gone by have not brought that confidence into being. (Hear, hear.) Now, confidence is a very elusive and vague term, and one which I have not time to explain or elaborate, but we all know that it is one of the conditions of absolute necessity if we are to have good trade in this country.

EFFECTS OF NEW BUDGET BURDENS.

This want of confidence was increased by the uncertainty which existed throughout the year as to whether the Government intended to repeal the Safeguarding and McKenna Duties. Acting, no doubt, on reasons that were good to his own mind, the Chancellor refused to give any indication of this, and the uncertainty undoubtedly gravely affected our particular trade as well as the general trade of the country. In addition, the commercial community had the fear that the necessity of economy in national affairs, without which we cannot hope to see a permanent revival in trade, was not realised by the Government. These fears have been justified by Mr Snowden's Budget, and while the taxation in the countries of our competitors, U.S.A., France, Germany, and Italy, which was already lighter than ours, has, this year, been reduced, ours has been heavily and seriously increased. In general finance, the influence of heavy taxation and the hurried return to the gold standard of ten years ago are still having their effect on our trade.

OTHER ADVERSE FACTORS.

To add to these drawbacks, this year we had the great financial collapse in the United States, which, for a time, paralysed trade all over the world, and the effect was increased by the Hatry scandal in this country. Added to all this, and no doubt partly occasioned by it, was the successive advance in the Bank Rate until we arrived at 6½ per cent., a figure under which full trading is impossible. The result of these, and many other factors I have no time to enumerate, forced the whole of the fine spinning section of the trade to follow the example of that of the heavy section, and to resort to short-time running. We ran short time for nearly three months at the beginning of the financial year, and we had no sooner begun to recover from that and to get our spindles fully employed than the dispute over wages arose, which resulted, last August, in a total stoppage of three weeks. Even after this upset we could not for long find full employment, and we have had a certain amount of short-time working from that time to the present day.

ABSURD PRICE CUTTING.

Another factor that has contributed to wreck the profits of the year is the absurd cutting of prices that has taken place during the greater part of it; cutting that was not necessary to retain trade in this country, that did not bring more work for the spindles, and whose only effect was to reduce the margin between the raw material and the finished thread; and when I tell you that the reduction of 1d. per lb. on the production of our Associated mills means a loss of £250,000 sterling per year, you will realise how serious that is. I look upon this as a temporary evil. I put it down as one of the difficulties of the re-construction of the industry. You are all aware that the cotton trade of Lancashire has come to the decision that if it is to regain its position in the markets of the world, it must alter its methods of working, and to that end it must combine in larger units. The 100,000 spindle unit is uneconomical, and units numbering millions of spindles must take its place. We, ladies and gentlemen, ought to be flattered. It is the principle on which we have been working for over thirty years, and which has been largely responsible for the success of this Association. It must, however, be remembered that we started in a comparatively small way. The steady and large growth of the Association has been built up over many years. The growth and education of the management has gone on side by side with the growth of the Association. In the big new combinations, in both the coarse and fine trade, during the past year the promoters have not had that advantage. They have had to jump into being fully grown at a period when business was more difficult than it has ever before been in the history of the trade. My feeling is that in this process the responsibility has been taken

off the individual mills before the central directing body has had time to properly organise the commercial control that is necessary if good working and reasonable profits are to result. (Hear, hear.) I have every confidence, and there are now signs that an improvement in this respect is taking place, and I am hopeful that, when these combinations get fairly into swing, they will be an advantage and not a detriment to our trade.

HEAVY FALL IN VALUE OF ALL MATERIAL.

I will only mention one further factor that has contributed to our unsatisfactory trading. This is a big one, and it is one I have had to comment on at our meetings here before—the heavy fall in the value of all material. Cotton fell heavily during the financial year. I need not go into details on this particular point. Those of you who know anything of the trade will be fully aware of the loss we must inevitably sustain when such a fall takes place. I mention the difficulties we have encountered, not with the intention of depressing you, rather with the hope that you will feel that it is unlikely we should be handicapped to such a great extent in future years.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS—ASSETS.

Turning to the balance sheet, and taking first the assets side, the first item, that of addition to property, is misleading, because, of the £76,481 shown on the balance sheet, £54,223 is not really an addition but is a transfer from the value of our subsidiary investments. For the purpose of management and economy we have linked up one of our subsidiary doubling mills with one of our associated spinning and doubling mills, and have found it desirable to incorporate it among our associated mills for purposes of book-keeping. Deducting this amount, leaves the actual expansion of our associated mills at £22,258, a sum which is spread over a good many mills. It is a small amount for so big an Association, but you will agree with me that the past year has not been one to justify any large extensions.

DEPRECIATION.

You will notice at once that we have this year taken £180,000 for depreciation instead of the £200,000 we have written off profits for a good many years past. As a matter of fact, an exact figure has never been fixed for this purpose: it forms a subject for discussion by the Board every year. For many years we took £140,000. As the price of machinery increased we put up the figure until at the top of the market it stood at £220,000, and of late years we have put on one side £200,000 for this purpose. This year, not only is the cost of renewals less, but in addition we have worked much shorter time, and the Board considered that the sum of £180,000 was a very ample one to set aside for the purpose. Although we have during the year kept our machinery up to perfect condition, you will notice we have only required to expend £134,871. This has resulted in an increase of the amount in the balance sheet at our disposal for the purpose of renewals in the future from £369,378 to a balance of £414,507. In addition, we have spent £96,428 in repairs, which has been written off profit and loss account in the usual way. The final result is a total value of our Associated property of £6,130,280, which is £31,353 more than it stood a year ago.

INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

The next item, that of investments in subsidiary companies, is one in which the form has been changed in the balance sheet by the necessity of following the provisions of the Companies Act of 1929. Up to this year we have always given one figure in our balance sheet which has included our total interest in whatever manner it was held in any concern outside the associated properties of the company. You will see that in this balance sheet we split this figure up into four sections. First, value held in actual shares and debentures, then value held other than by shares, a third item under the title of investments, which represents investments in companies in which we have no controlling influence, and an amount of £100, which represents the value to which our various patents and trade marks have been written down.

The second item of loans, &c., amounting to £1,344,746, may seem to you a large one, but I must remind you that in practically every case where we have bought a concern we have proceeded to enlarge and improve it, and we have in most cases carried this out by means of loans, thus obviating the trouble and expense of turning these sums into shares. In all these cases we own practically the whole of the properties, and it is obviously immaterial whether the value is shown in our books as share or as loan capital.

To give you this year a comparison with last year's balance sheet, I take the figure that appeared in last year's return under that heading of £4,713,732. I must deduct from this £54,224, the value of the mill that I have already informed you has been transferred to the category of associated properties, leaving £4,659,508. Now, if you will add up the four items in this balance sheet, you will find they come to £4,616,391. This is £43,117 less than a year ago, a difference that is easily explained by the smaller profits they have made this year than they did a year ago.

STOCK-IN-TRADE.

The stock-in-trade, at £3,423,820, only shows an increase of £10,172 in value, but it is interesting as illustrating the fall in value during the year to notice that the weight we have in stock this year is actually 4,547,000 lbs. more than it was a year ago. I am satisfied that the stock has been most conservatively taken, and we ought to have little to fear from any future movement in the market, but it is undoubtedly bigger than we like, or ought to hold, and we shall certainly reduce it without undue delay.

Trade and other debtors is £291,528 less than a year ago, a clear proof of the restricted trade from which we have been suffering.

LIABILITIES.

On the other side of the balance sheet the first alteration that appears is the reduction of the reserve for equalisation of dividends from £200,000 to £150,000, which will come into effect if you accept the recommendations of our report.

The insurance fund has increased by £8,338, the difference between the premiums and the claims on the share of insurance we ourselves take.

On the subject of the welfare fund I owe you an explanation. I told you last year that for the time being I thought we should not need to ask you for any further sums on this account. I miscalculated. We have overspent the sum you then provided. We are asking you to-day to pass a further £10,000, and I really think that this amount will cover requirements for some time to come. It is, I know, a source of satisfaction for you to feel that you have led the trade in the care and consideration you have shown for the people who work for you, and I believe that, when the next Factory Act is passed, you will find that you have anticipated the provisions for the well-being of the workpeople that will undoubtedly be incorporated in that measure.

The deposits of the employees and the trustees of the superannuation and pension fund show practically no change in the year. The first, which, as you know, is a contributory fund, is carrying out well the purpose for which it was founded. The pension fund is running a satisfactory course. It will interest you to know that 76 pensions have been granted during the past year. Since its inception 668 pensions have been granted, 219 of our pensioners have died, leaving us with 449 on the books at the present time. By the provision of the trust deed, a report from the actuary falls due this year, and we shall be able to pass on to you at our next meeting any remarks he may make on the progress and position of the scheme.

I should like to take the opportunity, while I am mentioning schemes for the benefit of our employees, to tell you that this year 79 completed forty years of continuous service in the mills of the association. Framed illuminated certificates were handed to each, and they passed very hearty votes of thanks to the shareholders, which I promised to convey to you to-day. We have now in all presented 1,019 of these certificates, of which 7 have been earned by members of the board of directors.

The amounts owing to subsidiary companies are normal, £15,373 more than last year, and the trade creditors are lower than last year by £110,820, the result of the restricted trading of the year.

RESULTS OF SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

Before we pass from the balance sheet I must say a word about the results of our subsidiary companies during the year.

We have, as you know, a number that are practically in the same line of business as our associated firms—mills such as Richard Harwood and Son, Ltd., the Great Lever Spinning Company, Ltd., Robert Platt, Ltd., and other smaller ones that we own. Their experience during the past year was in every way the same as that of our associated mills; they all suffered from the same difficulties and drawbacks, and their returns were not of the character which we are accustomed to receive from them.

BRADFORD COLLIERY.

The Bradford Colliery, thanks to the policy of the board in adopting every improvement that is brought out for the better and more economical working of the colliery, and also to the excellent work of our managing director, Mr F. L. Ward, has made a profit that, under the general conditions of the coal trade, is not unsatisfactory. (Hear, hear.)

COTTON ESTATES

The cotton estates are, I feel convinced, now well on the way to prosperity. On the land under cotton we have produced this last season 476·8 lbs. of lint to the acre, a record for the property and an amount far beyond the average weight produced by land even in the Delta. The extent of land under cotton will this year be increased. We have naturally received the interest on our gold bonds, but the profits considerably exceed the sum necessary for this purpose, and I am confident that, with reasonable good fortune in weather and in prices, we ought to be able, in future years, to draw from these plantations considerable sums in addition to those due on the gold bond issue.

MILLS IN FRANCE.

The mills in France have again had a successful run, during the past financial year—not quite as good as the year before, but still showing a very good dividend on the money we have invested in them. The trade in that country is showing some signs of lessening in activity, and is perhaps hardly likely to keep up to the high standard of the past few years. It may be we can hardly expect to maintain the full dividend we have recently enjoyed, but I see no reason to doubt that we shall have a successful run during the present year and a very good return on the capital invested in these properties.

CLAIMS TO REPARATIONS.

I am glad to be able to report that our claim to Reparations is now at last recognised, and that in the course of the next six months we have every hope of the matter being completely settled. I do not propose to-day to go into details. Our claim is now before the final Court in Paris, and until it emerges from there we shall not know the final sum that we shall receive. But I must warn you that the amount we can receive will not to-day coincide with the damage that was done. The claim was made out after the war in francs. At the time the exchange was round about 40 francs to the pound sterling. The payment will be in francs based on this claim, and as the exchange is now standing at 124 the actual sterling received will only be one-third of the amount it would have arrived at had the payment been made when the claim was presented. In addition to this, we shall have to make considerable repayment to the Inland Revenue under the head of excess profits duty. Then, our accountant and our auditors have yet to make a careful calculation to ascertain what part of the money received can be placed to the credit of profit and loss account, and what part must be considered capital replacement. The certainty, however, that the claim will be met, although only to what we consider an inadequate amount, has enabled us to release a sum that we were holding in suspense, and to credit our profit and loss account with £100,000. It is, you will agree, a happy event that this windfall comes in at a time when a little help towards the payment of a dividend to our shareholders is most welcome.

Other investments connected with our trade, but not involved in actual spinning, have, on balance, made a contribution to the profits of the year, but they have also been affected adversely by the disturbed condition of trade and finance. I think you will agree with me that it is a good thing to have investments varied as to their nature and also varied in the country in which they are domiciled, and that, under present conditions, it may be well to keep in mind that there may be wisdom in encouraging the growth of the association in that direction.

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

Returning to the balance sheet, and looking at the profit and loss account, you will see that we brought into the account a carry-forward of £214,166. We are proposing to transfer from the reserve, put on one side for equalisation of dividends, £20,000; and in view of the fact that the next financial year has opened without any very brilliant immediate prospects, I am sure you will consider the board are wise in not transferring a larger sum from this source. We have then a profit of £517,518, in which is included the sum of £100,000, about which I have already spoken in respect of reparations. This gives us a total sum to deal with of £781,684. From this must be deducted the interest on the debentures, the directors' fees—which, in order to comply with the provisions of the Companies' Act, have to be shown as a separate item—and the £10,000 we are asking you to place to the welfare fund. This leaves a balance of £644,735, which you will pick up again on the front sheet. You will see from there that we have already paid out £230,800 in interim dividends, so that to-day we have a sum of £413,935 to deal with. We must, of course, pay the dividends on our preference and preferred ordinary shares, which absorbs £98,500, and we suggest to you to-day the payment of 3 per cent. on our ordinary shares which brings our dividend for the year to 6 per cent. and leaves the sum of £183 134 19s. 1d. to carry forward.

CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

In proposing to pay 3 per cent. I am sure you will agree that the board has suggested the highest rate of interest which could be reasonably distributed, taking into account the figures of the balance sheet and also the present condition of our trade. It would be absurd for me to tell you that at the present time our trade was good or that prospects were greatly improving. You know as well as I do that the great world-wide depression in finance and trade cannot right itself in a few weeks; and it is to my mind one of the most reassuring factors in the case that the extraordinary lack of demand from which we are suffering is not simply in evidence in our own market, but is equally operative in every country in the world making our class of goods. The fact that the situation is so bad all round is, in my opinion, reassuring because it simply cannot continue and it must only be a question of time before we see more normal trading resumed. The spinning trade in this country is going through what may without exaggeration be called a revolution in its methods; the weaving and merchanting sections of the industry have, in my opinion, also to reorganise their methods, and we have yet to receive, as I feel sure we shall do in the long run, the help and co-operation of the trades' unions in getting over the many vexatious rules and policies that so greatly hamper our attempts at re-organisation. (Cheers.) I do not believe that the day of Lancashire is over. I believe that in the end we shall surmount our difficulties, but, undoubtedly, time and patience will be required, and when you estimate the future prospects of the trade you must take a long view, rather than one which comprehends only the immediate future. If you do that you will be able to take an optimistic rather than a pessimistic view of the situation. The revolution in the spinning trade should have the effect of making co-operation possible in a way that it has not been up to now. We shall have, before long, a few big combinations which can command a general policy, instead of a great number of scattered units impossible to bring to one mind on the—if I may call it so—general politics of the trade. I believe this will make very greatly for the general good of the industry. We want the whole trade to be making a profit and doing well, and in the same way that we ourselves always feel that trade is unsatisfactory unless our customers are making good profits, so we feel that it is also most desirable that our competitors should be doing well. Our association may be in a position and may have advantages which will enable it to more than hold its own in the markets of the world, but you can never expect our results to be really solid unless the rest of the trade, and especially our competitors, are also prospering.

FAVOURABLE FACTORS.

We have gained in the past year some little advantages which will help our future working. The De-rating Act, which is a very valuable help to our overhead charges, only benefits us to the full during the present year's working. Then, we do get a little relief in our wages through the reduction of 6½ per cent. in August last. This is welcome, although it does not bring us to the level of cost that is enjoyed by our competitors abroad, and is not, perhaps, as much as we might have expected if the reduction in the cost of living had been fully taken into account. It is well to remember also that our cost of social services, which must really be added to wages, is very high, much greater than obtains among foreign competitors, and than it used to be ten years ago. Taking account only of National Health Insurance and Unemployment Insurance, where ten years ago we paid 0·54 of 1 per cent. of our wages bill, we now pay 3·44 per cent., and when wages are considered this should be taken into account. Another point in our favour is that there are already reports of considerable trading losses having been made by some of our competitors abroad, who have been largely responsible for cut prices and our loss of business. We have also to-day the advantage of a low bank rate and reasonably low prices for our raw material.

CO-OPERATION AND CONFIDENCE ESSENTIAL.

In contending with our difficulties there is only one course we can take—co-operate with the trade in helping to forward any general re-organisation and re-arrangement that will work for economy in production and distribution. Endeavour to induce the trades unions to join the campaign and work to the same end. Find new uses and new markets for our yarns and regain any loss in old ones. Produce our yarns—and I assure you this is having all our care—in the most economical manner, and, above all, to believe in attaining, if we work in the right way, a prosperous future. There has been too great a tendency in the trade, because of a very difficult period, and so many perplexing and new problems, to give way to inaction and despair. Believe me—and this applies to you shareholders also—it would be fatal to drift into any inferiority complex. It is necessary to feel sure that, though trade is black to-day and we may have still a stormy period to face, in the end we shall come again into the sunshine.

CAPITAL and INTEREST

are both lost if your investments fail.

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TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, there is only one other point I want to say a word on: I should like to assure you that the work of the whole of your staff during this difficult time has been most excellent. As chairman of the company, I am proud of the way they are facing their difficulties and of the cheerful and determined manner in which they are meeting all the problems that press upon them. You are, I can assure you, fortunate in the way you are served. (Loud applause.)

The resolution adopting the report and balance-sheet was seconded by Col. R. W. D. Phillips Brocklehurst, and was passed unanimously.

For a time it seemed as if no questions would be asked. Then there came a question from a shareholder, who suggested that the "goodwill" of the concern should be more clearly stated. The chairman replied, pointing out that the shareholder's request, if carried out, would entail a revaluation of all the property of the association, and that would almost certainly result in a figure larger than that shown on the present balance-sheet.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

The chairman moved and Mr John G. Peel seconded, and it was resolved, "That the following dividends be now declared out of the profits of the undertaking, viz.:—A dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1930, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the £3,000,000 preference shares, numbered 1 to 3,000,000 inclusive; a dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1930, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the £940,000 preferred ordinary shares, numbered 1 to 940,000 inclusive; a dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1930, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the £4,410,000 ordinary shares, numbered 1 to 4,410,000 inclusive."

RE-ELECTION OF RETIRING DIRECTORS.

On the motion of Mr William Howarth, seconded by Mr Vernon Bellhouse, it was resolved, "That Messrs Percy Ashworth and G. A. Barnes, Lieut.-Col. A. L. Carroll, and Messrs A. E. Dixon, E. M. Dixon, I. M. L. Oliver, H. Stowell, and J. B. Walker, be and they are hereby re-elected directors of the association."

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

Mr D. Q. Henriques moved and Mr Joseph Harrison seconded, and it was resolved, "That Messrs Edwin Guthrie and Company, chartered accountants, of 71 King Street, Manchester, be and they are hereby appointed auditors of the association until the next ordinary general meeting of the association, and that they be paid the sum of £1,500 as remuneration for their services, inclusive of out-of-pocket, travelling and hotel expenses."

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN, DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

It was moved by Sir William H. Himbury, seconded by Mr G. St. Clair Robertson, and resolved, with acclamation, "That the thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby tendered to Mr H. W. Lee for the ability and courtesy with which he has presided over this meeting, and to the directors and staff for their work in the past year."

INDIA GENERAL NAVIGATION AND RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

EFFECTS OF THE TRADE DEPRESSION.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th instant, at Winchester House, London, Mr S. G. L. Eustace (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that it was a matter of great regret that, owing to the general trade depression, their earnings, in spite of the extra facilities they had provided in the shape of additions to their fleet, had decreased, as compared with the previous year, to the extent of £35,000. The profit for the year amounted to £123,207, as against £179,725 for the previous year, representing a decrease of £56,518, which was due to the falling off in the demand for carrying space by shippers. There had been a considerable expansion in passenger traffic, as they had carried over 800,000 passengers more than in 1928, 93 per cent. of which had been third class. Two steamers had been lost and one barge sunk, which had affected the earning power of the company. As a set-off to these losses, they had added five steamers, six motor launches, six flats and two barges to the fleet. With regard to capital expenditure, they had a programme which was designed to meet the, up till now, increasing trade demands, but, in view of the fact that last year they had not only been able to meet the peak of, but had been faced with a considerable falling off in, the demand for space, it was felt that they should call a halt in their programme, and for the current year, therefore, only one new mail boat had been ordered. The motor-boat services which they had instituted during the year, while not coming up to expectations, had proved useful.

THE DIVIDEND.

They recommended a final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making a total distribution of 7½ per cent. for the year. As to the current year, up to the present, earnings showed some decrease as compared with last year, which indicated a continuation of the depression in trade. It was with great regret that they had received the news of the loss of their steamer "Condor." That vessel, with a large number of passengers, had been caught in a severe cyclonic storm, which had caused her to founder with a loss, according to telegraphic news just received, of some 86 to 98 lives, including the first and second serangs and the driver. That was the first accident of that nature experienced by the company, and from reports received the storm must have been of very exceptional violence to cause so fine a vessel to founder with such deplorable loss of life.

During the year a Bill, the underlying principle of which was that the Government of India had, for the first time in the history of its legislation, the power and authority to control and interfere with private enterprise, and in this particular instance aimed largely against their company and other inland steamer companies in India, had passed the Legislative Assembly. It would appear that the Bill was framed mainly on racial lines, but its originator appeared to have overlooked the fact that, not only in this company but in many others, much of the capital was held in rupees and by Indians themselves. It was not possible as yet to give shareholders any indication of the possible effects of that legislation, but there were certain clauses which would, it was hoped, safeguard the shareholders' interests.

COMPETITION.

Competition from the railways remained in much the same position, and, in connection with what was known as the Dacca-Aricha Railway, he would like to quote an instance of the hostile attitude taken up by certain Indian members of the Legislative Assembly. A speech in the Assembly on that project stated that the company's steamers had probably been purchased from some Rhine company long ago second-hand at very cheap prices, and that certainly they would not have been allowed to be used in any river in a European country. It was very desirable, therefore, that that monopoly should be ended as early as possible. In reply to that, he (the chairman) would take the opportunity of informing shareholders that not a single steamer, either first- or second-hand, had ever been purchased from a Rhine company, and that all vessels belonging to the company had been built either on the Clyde or the Hoogly, with the exception that they had purchased the steamers belonging to the Eastern Bengal Railway and many years ago a fine steamer from the Indus Flotilla Company, long since removed from their passenger services. In addition, the company had no monopoly for passenger or goods services in the rivers on which it plied, as the rivers were highways and open to all.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CENTRAL MINING AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS MAINTAINED.
FEATURES OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.
SOUTH AFRICAN MINING INDUSTRY.
LIFE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD MINES.
IMPORTANCE TO FUTURE OF THE UNION.
SIR R. SOTHERN HOLLAND'S IMPORTANT REVIEW.

The twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 28th instant, at No. 1 London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.2, Sir R. Sothern Holland, Bt. (the chairman of the corporation), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr R. A. Macqueen) read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the business before us this morning I should like, with your permission, just to say how very much I regret—a regret which, I am sure, will be shared by all of you—that our friend and colleague, Sir Evelyn Wallers, is not in his usual place this morning. Sir Evelyn was seized by an acute attack of appendicitis yesterday and was operated on last night. I am glad to say that the operation was wholly successful and that he is going on very well. (Hear, hear.) I am sure it will be a great disappointment to Sir Evelyn not to have been here. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery to health. (Hear, hear.)

I should also like to make a sympathetic reference to our old friend, Sir Frederick Eckstein. As you know, Sir Frederick at one time occupied the chair of this corporation, but I suppose he is better known, shall I say, as the father of that successful undertaking, Sudan Plantations. Sir Frederick has lain in a serious condition for some weeks, and underwent a further operation this week, which I am told was satisfactory. I am sure that in his case, too, we all wish him a complete recovery to health, and that he may have many years to enjoy a comfortable retirement. (Hear, hear.)

Gentlemen, I presume that it is your wish to follow the usual course of taking the report and accounts as read. (Agreed.) The accounts for the year 1929 have been made up in accordance with the provisions of the new Companies Act, and the balance sheet differs from previous ones in setting out separately your interests in companies which, in the definition of the new law, fall under the category of subsidiary companies. It may be convenient to refer to them first, although our major interests are in what I might describe as associated companies.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES.

In South Africa two of our companies are subsidiary companies—namely, the Transvaal Lands and Mines Proprietary Syndicate, Ltd., and Town Properties, Ltd. The assets of the former are about £68,000 in cash, and only some £300 represent certain mineral rights. The assets of Town Properties consist of about £29,000 in cash and £14,000 in house property and real estate conservatively valued. The loss of £702 5s. 2d. by a subsidiary company disclosed in the balance sheet refers to this company. Some of the houses owned by it are let to members of our staff at nominal rents, and the depreciation and maintenance expenses exceeded the income. On the other hand, as the corporation holds the entire share capital in both companies, no purpose would be served by allowing interest on the cash on deposit with the corporation. The total of £96,000 due under this head to the two companies rightly appears in the balance sheet as a liability, but is, in effect, money belonging to the corporation.

The head office accounts deal with three more subsidiaries: London Wall Estate, Ltd., Messrs Bernhard Scholle and Co., Ltd., and the Anglo-Spanish Construction Company, Ltd. The London Wall Estate owns this building, in which, together with a considerable number of other tenants, we are suitably housed on satisfactory terms of lease. We hold debentures and the majority of the ordinary shares, both of which are sound and valuable securities. The shares yield a good return, which, moreover, is expected to rise considerably in a few years' time after complete redemption of the second debentures.

We do not own a majority in the share capital of Bernhard Scholle and Co., but our voting rights bring that firm within the definition of a subsidiary company under the Act. In the Anglo-Spanish Construction Company we hold debentures and shares, and, in addition, have made the advance of £1,445,000 referred to in the balance sheet repayable from the company's assets in Spain. I shall refer to both companies when dealing in detail with our various interests.

BALANCE SHEET CHANGES.

The transfer of our holdings in subsidiary companies to separate headings naturally affects the comparison with previous years. The change to be noted on the debit side of the balance sheet is the reduction of our liabilities by £982,000. On the assets side, fixed-interest-bearing securities show a decrease of £1,234,000 and an increase in other investments of £794,000. This increase is spread over a very large number of items. In gold mines we have added, among others, to our holding in Rand Mines, Crown Mines and New Modders. In oil shares we have considerably increased our investments in all the companies under our administration, while the interest taken in Bolivia, referred to in the report, and minor acquisitions in Northern Rhodesia account for the heading "Base metals." The total of debtors loans and cash is down by about £542,000.

To recapitulate shortly :—	
Decrease of liabilities	£982,000
Plus increase of investments	794,000
together	£1,776,000
accounted for by :—	
Decrease of fixed-interest-bearing securities	£1,234,000
and reduction of cash assets	542,000
making	£1,776,000

The addition to what may be called our permanent investments has been on a larger scale than for some years, and, while reducing to some extent our liquid resources, a sound position is maintained.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS.

The profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £668,000. A slight and, I fear, only temporary reduction in general expenses is offset by increased Dominion taxation, leaving the net profit at £563,000, compared with £725,000 in the previous year. The reduction is severe, but fluctuations in the rate of profit are unavoidable, especially in these times. The result enables us to maintain the rate of dividend and bonus to which you have become accustomed for some years past. We recommend a final distribution of 8s. dividend and 4s. bonus, making a total of 20s. for the year, free of income tax. For the first time for a number of years, we are unable to recommend an allocation to the reserve fund, which, however, remains at the substantial figure of £1,900,000.

The period covered by the accounts has been a difficult one. Months of great activity, particularly in America, resulted in excessive speculation, over-production and exaggerated prices for securities and commodities. A reaction was bound to occur, and, long before the autumn, when the American boom collapsed in a spectacular fashion, our view of the situation led us to adopt a cautious attitude. As a consequence, we were fortunate in avoiding serious losses. It was, however, a matter for regret that, while gold and oil shares—in which we are more particularly interested—were not favoured by the public during the active period, in the subsequent general decline their prices also gave way. The fall afforded us, as already stated, the opportunity of adding to some of our holdings at attractive prices, but considerable depreciation—affecting not only our holdings in mining and oil shares but also gilt-edged securities; in fact, the whole of our large portfolio—had to be met at the end of the year. After a careful revaluation of our holdings, I am glad to be able to say that the value of our investments at market prices on December 31st last was considerably in excess of book prices. Since the beginning of the year there has been a satisfactory appreciation in a great many stocks.

It is gratifying to record that our income from the regular sources of revenue of our business was highly satisfactory. The result shown on balance has not benefited to any extent from casual profits. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, I feel that you will not be dissatisfied with the results achieved during a difficult period.

OUTPUT AND SALES OF GOLD.

During 1929 the South African producers forwarded their gold for treatment to the Rand refinery as in previous years, and the realisation was effected on similar lines to those in 1928.

The details of disposal are as follows :—	
10,227,037 fine ozs. valued at	£43,377,745
were sold to the Reserve Bank locally under the agreement.	
585,445 fine ozs. valued at	2,484,482
were sold in London to India, of which 517,419 ozs. were shipped from Durban to Bombay, and 68,026 ozs. from Durban to Madras, making a total of :—	
10,812,482 fine ozs., valued at	£45,862,227

The average selling price obtained for the total production was, therefore, 84s. 9·984d., from which have to be deducted the expenses of bullion railed to Durban. The average price for 1928 was 84s. 9·828d.

The sterling-dollar exchange during 1929 did not favour exports of gold from America to India, and hence there was no necessity to adjust the f.o.b. Durban price, which remained at 84s. 10½d. per fine ounce throughout the year.

In addition to the producers' bullion shipments to India, about 3½ million sovereigns were imported into that country by the South African commercial banks; furthermore, consignments of over 1½ million sovereigns were made on competitive terms during 1929 from Australia to India.

The output of silver in the Transvaal Province during 1929 amounted to 1,031,779 fine ozs., of which 694,091 ozs. were shipped to India by the Rand refinery, and the balance was sold to the Royal Mint, Pretoria.

THE GROUP'S GOLD MINES.

The South African gold mines under the administration of the Central Mining-Rand Mines group again experienced a satisfactory year, the results for the period under review being very similar to those of 1928, though there was a slight decrease in average working revenue. There were several noticeable features in the year's operations. An average reduction of a little over 6d. per ton milled was effected in working costs, due in a considerable measure to a reduction in the cost of stores consumed; a further marked improvement was recorded in machine efficiency for development work, the average advance per machine shift being increased from 1·98 ft. in 1928 to 2·12 ft. during 1929, while the cost per foot advanced was reduced by 2s. 2d.; a record fathomage was again broken in stopes and the jackhammer efficiency was more than maintained; shovelling and tramming efficiency increased during the year from 1·72 tons per native to 1·85 tons. On the metallurgical side, the average reduction costs were reduced by 1·4d. per ton milled, while the average residue was practically the same as during 1928. But for the considerable increase in the residue at the Modderfontein East mine, due to the plant being taxed beyond its capacity, there would have been an appreciable improvement in the latter figure. In this connection the additions being made to the reduction plant are nearing completion.

NATIVE LABOUR.

I mention the above facts to show that the work carried on by the investigations committee is being actively pursued and is being attended by valuable results. It is interesting to record that the use of mechanical appliances in handling broken ore is proving very effective on the flat dip mines of the Far East Rand, and they are being installed as rapidly as conditions permit. They have not been found, however, to be economical on the steep dip of the Central Rand. I might also mention that during the year an investigation was made within the group into the methods of control, training and payment of natives, and, subsequently, a report was issued to all the mines under our administration with the object of initiating a vigorous campaign to increase native efficiency and improve the existing methods of training "boss boys." This has already proved of definite value, especially in extending the application of piece work to lashing and tramming boys, which has proved very popular with them.

The question of an adequate supply of native labour for the mines has continued to engage the attention of the industry. During the first three months of 1929 the supply increased from 187,970 at the end of 1928 to 197,646 at the end of March. From this date the supply declined month by month, until at the end of December, 1929, there were only 184,280 natives in employment. In the current year there has been some improvement in the figures, though they are still below the figure of 206,000 estimated to be the number required for the full operating capacity of the mines' existing plant.

FUTURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINING INDUSTRY.

I should like to digress here for one moment to refer to the impression I gathered on my recent visit to South Africa. I was greatly disturbed to find, in spite of so many warnings from those responsible for the management of the mining industry, what little thought or concern was being given to the problem which South Africa will have to face of the steady contraction and final disappearance of the great gold-mining industry, on which the prosperity of the country has rested for so long a period of time.

Let us glance at conditions in the world at large to-day. It is suffering from an actual glut of commodities—wool, grain, cotton, artificial silk, diamonds, copper, platinum, tin, rubber, nitrates, oil—in fact, almost the whole range of minerals, agricultural and other products—while gold, on the other hand, is wanted in greater and greater quantities. There is no limit to its market; it is not subject to economic depression, to fashion, or to a surfeit of production, and always commands a standard price. In the period of depression through which the Union of South Africa, in common with other countries, is now passing, the gold-mining industry is the one stable factor. The prosperity of the Union is founded on its gold mines (though this fact has tended to become obscured by the development of manufacturing and other activities which have grown up in order to satisfy demands created largely by the mines themselves), and South Africa will continue to be dependent on the steady flow of wealth which the mines contribute. The future of the mining industry is, therefore, of the greatest importance to the country, and any contraction in its operations must react on the economic welfare of the Union as a whole.

PLATINUM MINING—A FALLACY.

I even found that the belief was held that the mining of platinum ore will in the near future expand so rapidly that it will largely take the place of a diminishing gold industry. This is a fallacy, which can be clearly seen by a glance at the statistics in regard to platinum.

I think it may be accepted that a figure of about 200,000 ozs. represents the annual world consumption of new platinum, and that the average price during 1929 was between £13 and £14 per ounce, and is now much lower. It has been suggested that at a price of, say, £9 an ounce, consumption might expand to some 300,000 ozs. annually.

To take the best case for the platinum producers of the Union, if one assumed that new uses could be found for the metal at this lower price, and that consumption could be stimulated to, say, 400,000 ozs. per annum, and if South Africa supplied the whole of this amount it would derive a revenue of some £3,600,000 only, which is actually slightly less than the value of the output of the Crown Mines. To produce such an amount of platinum from the Rustenburg district, provided the average contents of the ore so far developed persist, would require the crushing and treatment of less than 2,000,000 tons per annum. This tonnage would be considerably less than that of the Crown Mines, and would probably serve to employ some 1,000 white men and 10,000 natives, while the costs of the plant employed and stores used would certainly be less than half those necessary for the equipment and running of a gold mine, such as the one mentioned.

While I would urge that every encouragement should be given to increase the scale of platinum production, in the development of which industry, I may say, we ourselves are interested, I think it is as well that the position should be clearly understood in order that lack of knowledge and appreciation of facts may not give rise to false hopes.

AN URGENT MATTER.

Now, as regards the gold mines of the Witwatersrand, there are immense tonnages of low-grade ore, and such tonnages are to be found not only in the so-called low-grade mines, which are responsible for 60 per cent. of the total ore mined, but also in the richer mines of the far East Rand. A reduction of costs would have the effect of lengthening the lives of all the mines, rich or poor. A mine, which has once been closed down, whose workings have been abandoned and whose plant and machinery have been dispersed, can

rarely be profitably re-opened. Certain mines to-day are on the border-line of payability, and under existing conditions must cease operations in the comparatively near future. The problem is thus one of immediate importance, one for consideration and settlement to-day and one which cannot safely be deferred.

Gentlemen, I feel it should surely not be beyond the bounds of human ingenuity to devise the necessary means. By the sacrifice on the part of the Government of some revenue to-day, by a modification of the colour bar restrictions, and by other measures to be sought for by those in authority in collaboration with the responsible leaders of the industry, it undoubtedly should be possible to bring about a reduction of working costs to an extent that will ensure the incorporation of the large bodies of low-grade ore into the region of payability, and thus ensure a continuance of the prosperity of the Union for a considerable time to come. Failure to take timely measures to this end will result in a collapse which the country will find it difficult to face.

DANGERS OF LAISSEZ-FAIRE POLICY.

I speak as a South African deeply concerned in the future welfare of the Union, and as one having a full consciousness of the dangers that must inevitably befall the country if supineness, or present political considerations, result in a policy of laissez-faire and the inevitable closing down of mine after mine as their present payable ore reserves become worked out. It is a question on which all parties might agree to co-operate in order to work out a national policy to prolong the life of this great source of wealth so important to the Government and to every individual living within the Union. (Hear, hear.)

I will now refer briefly to a few individual mines :—

VILLAGE DEEP, LTD.

During December, 1929, negotiations between this company and the Robinson Deep, Limited, which had been proceeding for some time, had advanced sufficiently far for a provisional agreement to be entered into for the sale of the company's undermining rights and certain plant and equipment. Since the close of the year this agreement had been ratified by the shareholders of both companies and approved by the Union Government.

As you are aware, this mine has reached a very great depth; it is the deepest working mine in the world. With its single main hoisting shaft, the difficulties of ventilation and efficient working at great depth, and with its inadequate ore reserves, the margin of working profit was necessarily small. The directors of the company, therefore, had little hesitation in recommending agreement to the proposed sale to its neighbouring company, by which mining operations could be carried on with greater facility, and the acceptance of a cash offer which was based on past working results and was calculated to amount to a present value of fourteen half-yearly dividends of 2½ per cent. each.

DURBAN DEEP, LTD.

The capital of this company was recently reconstructed. After cancelling 10,000 unissued shares and 15,912 ex-enemy shares, the nominal value of 424,358 £1 shares was reduced to 10s. per share. 325,642 new shares of 10s. each were created and offered to shareholders. This issue was underwritten jointly by the corporation and the Rand Mines, and received a gratifying response from shareholders, considering the unfavourable market conditions.

The total capital of the company will therefore now be £375,000, in 750,000 shares of 10s. each. The additional funds have been provided for the purpose of enlarging the reduction plant and of liquidating the outstanding debentures and loan indebtedness.

The future prospects of the company appear favourable, and, barring unforeseen circumstances, it is hoped that dividend payments will be resumed in the current year.

CROWN MINES, LTD.

A record tonnage of 2,643,000 was milled, in spite of native labour shortage during the greater part of the year. The profit, at £947,000, was slightly less than that of the previous year on account of a fractional decline in the yield. The available ore reserves were increased by nearly 100,000 tons, and the value was maintained at 6·4 dwts.

Certain additions to the reduction plant were recently completed, and the capacity of the three mills is now 245,000 tons a month. During one month a record tonnage of 240,000 was milled.

Since the close of the year the company had acquired 2,084 morgen of the farm Diepkloof, together with a mynpacht thereon, situated on its south-western boundary. The Consolidated Main Reef Mines have purchased from the company that portion of the mynpacht which adjoins the southern boundary of their property. The company's No. 17 vertical shaft is located about 500 ft. north of the Diepkloof mynpacht, and from this shaft the new area will be developed. The consideration given for the farm is 40,000 shares of the company, and to meet this payment it is proposed to issue the whole of the ex-enemy shares, totalling 34,087, held by the company, and the balance out of shares in reserve. The acquisition of this additional ground will naturally give increased length to the life of the mine, whose general lay-out places it in as favourable a position as possible to work at great depth.

NEW RECORDS.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING.

New records were established by the mine during the year ended June 30, 1929. The tonnage crushed, at £1,713,000 tons, exceeded that of the previous year by 87,000 tons. The working profit, at £2,252,000, was greater by over £10,000.

Development footage was increased from 58,565 ft. to 74,982 ft., with gratifying results. The ore reserves, at 7,857,600 tons of 8·9 dwts., show a slight decline in tonnage and value.

The prospects for the current year are favourable, and our confidence in the future prosperity of the mine remains unabated.

CITY DEEP, LTD.

As I pointed out to you last year and the year before, this mine has been going through a lengthy period of drastic underground reorganisation, rendered necessary by the serious and steady decline of the grade of ore developed and percentage of payability. During the year ended December 31, 1929, an increased operating loss was shown in spite of an increased tonnage milled and a reduction in working costs of 1s. 11d. per ton.

I am glad to say that the strenuous efforts of the management at last appear to be reaping their reward, and in this connection I cannot speak too highly of the work performed by those responsible for the management of this mine. During the quarter ended March 31st of this year working costs were reduced to an average of 22s. 9d. per ton milled, as compared with 25s. 10d. for 1929 and 27s. 9d. for 1928. The working loss for the quarter was greatly reduced.

I cannot do better than quote the opinion of the consulting engineer as to the present position and prospects of the mine: "The outlook at the mine to-day is better than it has been during the past two years. More stable working conditions have been established and costs satisfactorily reduced. The prospects are favourable, with adequate labour, for the maintenance of a mill tonnage approximating plant capacity, and some improvement in the results of future development may be reasonably anticipated. At the same time, in view of the difficulties and heavy fixed charges inevitable with mining at great depth, only small profits can be expected without considerable improvement in the grade of ore available for stoping."

Before passing from our South African interests I wish to pay a tribute to the splendid work of our colleague, Mr John Martin, who represents us with such distinction and ability in that country. In addition to his other important duties he has just concluded a most successful term of office as President of the Chamber of Mines. (Hear, hear.)

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS.

Turning to our oil interests, the results of Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., for the year ended June 30th last were very satisfactory, and a dividend of 30 per cent. was distributed. For ten months of the current financial year production and purchases of that company amount to 793,100 tons, being an increase of 63,450 tons compared with the same period last year. The extensive capital programme on which the company embarked some years ago for the modernisation of refineries and field equipment is now almost completed, and the company will in the near future derive the full benefit of these important improvements. Despite the increased tonnage handled, the revenue for the current financial year shows a considerable falling-off, due to the unsatisfactory prices which have prevailed since August last, and as a result the interim dividend has been reduced from 12½ per cent. to 7½ per cent. World over-production of crude oil, which is entirely responsible for the low prices of products, has for a considerable time past received the close attention of all important oil interests, and the success of their concerted action is reflected in the substantial reduction of approximately 400,000 barrels per day in the United States production from the peak figure reached at the end of August, 1929. Recently oil prices have shown a tendency to harden, which is a further hopeful sign of success in the efforts which have been made to reduce production to a figure more nearly approximating consumption.

OTHER OIL INTERESTS.

A new company, called Siparia Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., with an authorised capital of £500,000, is about to be formed to acquire the freehold land and oil rights of the Venezuelan Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., in the Palo Seco district in Trinidad, together with Government oil rights to be granted over 4,000 acres in the Siparia district. Development results in the Palo Seco area are distinctly promising, and since January last an average production of approximately 4,000 tons per month of high-grade oil has been secured. The Siparia area is considered to possess good prospects. Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., has secured a controlling interest in the new company and has in turn ceded participations to our corporation and to Rand Mines, Ltd.

Our corporation and the other interested parties have continued to finance the operations of the North Venezuelan Petroleum Company, Ltd., the issued capital of which to-day stands at £740,000. Unfortunately, drilling operations at Aguide have not, so far, been successful, but in the light of the experience gained from the two wells already drilled, further test drilling is about to be undertaken. Geological operations throughout the concession are being vigorously pursued, and are now augmented by very active geophysical investigations which we believe may lead to important results.

I am pleased to tell you that the progress made by the Tocuyo Oilfields of Venezuela, Ltd., has been very satisfactory. When the company was floated in October, 1928, it was not anticipated that the revenue-earning stage would be reached for about two years. It is therefore, all the more gratifying, and a testimony to the energy and efficiency with which operations have been carried on by the general manager and all members of the staff, that the company will be shipping its first consignment of oil within the next few weeks. A pipeline approximately 20 miles in length from the field to the shipping port was recently completed, together with the necessary tankage, and loading facilities. The programme of test drilling has been continued with satisfactory results.

SPANISH RAILWAY INTERESTS.

As I indicated would be the case, when referring last year to our railway interests in Spain, the whole of the line from Calatayud to Cidad, a distance of approximately 366 kilometres, is now very near completion.

Towards the end of last year the two sections—namely, Soria to Calatayud southwards and Peñahorada to Trespaderne northwards totalling 144 kilometres—were put into exploitation. The remaining portion from Trespaderne to Cidad should be finished next month or the month following, when the work of construction and equipment of this railway as at present defined by the Spanish Government will have been completed by the Santander-Mediterraneo Railway Company.

As regards the section which in the future may be built from Cidad northwards, the Government last August intimated their decision of a change of route, and gave instructions to the proper authorities for the preparation of a survey to Renedo, where the line would link up with the Norte Railway to Santander. This survey, we understand, has not yet been completed, but you will remember that in the terms of the Royal Decree of 1927, under which the Santander-Mediterraneo Railway Company has carried out its work, it was provided that, should the Government wish to vary the route the Santander-Mediterraneo Railway Company would not be called upon to construct that portion of the line if the distance or cost of the proposed new route were greater than the original plan. The position, therefore, in this connection is uncertain, as, in addition to this fact, the Government now in power has stated in its policy of economic reform that it is unlikely that any new works of this nature will be undertaken at present. Thus it seems clear to us, as regards this particular section of line, that the route to be taken, the time when the work is to be carried out and the conditions and terms on which it will be carried out are deferred indefinitely and will call for consideration anew.

The construction work and general operations under the general manager and those associated with him have been pushed throughout the year with great ability and judgment, and our regular visits to the line have confirmed our confidence in this aspect of the enterprise.

First-class work has been done expeditiously and efficiently, and at a cost in accord with the estimate framed for the construction and equipment of the line Calatayud-Cidad.

METHOD OF FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE.

For the two completed sections put into exploitation towards the end of last year, the payment due from the Government to the Santander-Mediterraneo Railway Company was approximately 95,000,000 pesetas. This amount has been confirmed by the Government, and payment of 25,000,000 pesetas has been received on that account. The balance remaining of 70,000,000 pesetas should be settled in the course of the next few months, and in the meantime interest accrues at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The method of financing this enterprise has been referred to before by me, but it may be well just to repeat that we have made advances to the Anglo-Spanish Construction Company, Ltd., who, in turn, have financed the Santander-Mediterraneo Railway Company with such sums as have been necessary to complete the work.

A portion of the last payment received in Madrid by the Anglo-Spanish Construction Company from the Santander-Mediterraneo Company on account of partial refund of loan has remained on deposit in Madrid, it being, in our opinion, undesirable at the present time to incur the loss that would be sustained by transferring funds to London at the depreciated rate of exchange as ruling to-day. And while those conditions prevail, I fear it will be necessary to carry out the same procedure in regard to the balance of 70,000,000 pesetas that should be paid by the Government in the course of the next few months.

RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS.

Recent political events in Spain, coincident with a heavy depreciation in the country's exchange, have naturally caused us considerable anxiety.

As you know, the dictatorship which had prevailed for the last six years was abolished last January, and a provisional Government was appointed with the intention of bridging over the period until Constitutional Government is resumed. The present Government commands respect and is pursuing steadily a policy of economy and the restoration of confidence, but the political situation of necessity appears at present somewhat confused and uncertain. I have referred to the political situation because it will be clearly realised that the governing factor in this important industrial interest of ours at this juncture is the matter of the country's rate of exchange.

The position is naturally not free from anxiety, and we have endeavoured to obtain from those qualified to express an opinion the probable reason for the present depreciation in Spanish currency, and the course the exchange is likely to follow. We are unable to find in the existing Spanish financial and industrial conditions any justification for the depreciation. Trade, broadly speaking, has remained on fairly steady lines; the adverse visible balance of trade has, similarly, remained steady, and there has been no appreciable currency inflation. In seeking a reason, therefore, one can find it only in the fact that a period of political uncertainty has prevailed in Spain for some time past, and that operations in pesetas, both on capital account and for speculation, may have been coincident with that uncertainty.

I feel that there is reasonable ground for believing in an appreciation of the peseta if the present Government is able to develop a steadiness in the general political situation, pursue its policy of national economy, and thus enable the great financial strength possessed by the country and the Bank of Spain to function effectively.

BERNHARD SCHOLLE AND COMPANY.

Both the profits and the balance sheet totals of Bernhard Scholle and Company, Ltd., were smaller than those of the previous year. This was the natural outcome of the reaction in trade; the world-wide contraction of business and the heavy decline in security prices which were the outstanding features of 1929. Dividends were paid at the same rate which has obtained in the past, and a small addition was made to the carry-forward.

AMALGAMATED METAL CORPORATION.

As regards the British Metal Corporation, Ltd., it was decided early this year to amalgamate the interests of that corporation with those of Messrs Henry Gardner and Company, which has in the past carried on business of a similar nature in many parts of the world. The advantages of such a fusion of interests under present-day conditions will be apparent. Our holding in shares of the British Metal Corporation has been exchanged for shares in the new company, the Amalgamated Metal Corporation, Ltd., and, representing as it does an amalgamation of two of the most important and successful metal enterprises in this country, the future of that corporation can be regarded with confidence.

BOLIVIAN TIN ACQUISITIONS.

You will have been interested to see from the directors' and the consulting engineer's reports that we have acquired an interest in two tin companies in Bolivia, following a favourable report made to us by Dr. Malcolm Maclaren. Associated with us in the business are French friends, the Société Alsacienne and Lorraine

de Recherches Minières and Messrs Mauricio Hochschild and Cia., Ltda., of Valparaiso, an important firm operating in South America which has a large experience of metal business. I am glad to be able to inform you that one of our mining engineers from the Rand has been appointed general manager of the companies. He arrived on the properties last month, and is now engaged in preparing a comprehensive development and mining programme. With the modernisation of mining and metallurgical methods, and the benefit of experienced management, the prospects of satisfactory returns on our investment appear promising.

BANKERS' INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Lastly, you will have seen recently that the corporation have become shareholders in the Bankers' Industrial Development Company, a company formed under the ægis of the Bank of England to assist and finance the reorganisation of groups of British companies engaged in important industries.

THE OUTLOOK.

WORLD'S SUPPLY BELOW DEMAND.

Now, gentlemen, that completes my review of our affairs. Our annual meetings afford the opportunity of giving you a general survey of the enterprises and operations in which we are engaged in many parts of the world, and in covering this wide field I consider it my duty neither to stress nor to minimise the difficulties which we encounter. We have had a difficult year, and, looking ahead, conditions are not encouraging.

The world is at present passing through a phase in which supply exceeds demand, and the effects are felt the more acutely because this condition extends to almost every country and covers almost every commodity. Neither capital nor labour has escaped the consequences. I can only express the hope that before we meet again an improvement will have been effected in the general condition of affairs and that we may share in the benefits of such improvement.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

In conclusion, it is my privilege to testify to the loyalty and efficiency with which all officials and members of the staff, not only of this corporation, but also of the various enterprises in which we are interested, have discharged the duties assigned to them. As I have said, during the early part of this year I paid a visit to South Africa, with the object of making an inspection of all our mining and other industrial undertakings, and I made a special point of getting into close touch with the personnel of our organisation. I cannot speak in terms of too high praise of the splendid body of workers that serve our interests in that country, and of the great efficiency which characterises their work. I firmly believe that it would be impossible to find a more expert, competent and loyal body of mining and industrial managers and men in any part of the world. (Hear, hear.) Your interests are in good and capable hands. I am sure that shareholders will wish to be associated with the board in assuring all those directly or indirectly in the service of the corporation of our appreciation of their continued efforts to promote its success and welfare. (Applause.)

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929, as printed and circulated among the shareholders, be and they hereby are received, approved and adopted; and that the payment of a final dividend of 8s. per share and a bonus of 4s. per share, both free of income-tax, to shareholders registered on the books of the company at the close of business on May 20, 1930, and to holders of coupon No. 36 attached to share warrants, in respect of the year ended December 31, 1929, be and the same is hereby sanctioned."

Mr F. Heim seconded the resolution.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, before submitting the resolution I shall be glad to answer any questions which shareholders may care to ask.

No questions being asked, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I beg to announce that the dividend warrants will be posted this evening and will be payable to-morrow, the 29th May.

Mr F. R. Phillips, M.C., proposed the re-election of Sir R. Sothern Holland and Mr F. Heim, the retiring directors.

Lieut.-Col. S. H. Pollen, C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

On the proposition of Mr Tweedy, seconded by Mr T. E. Paddon, Messrs Cooper Brothers and Company were reappointed auditors of the corporation until the next ordinary general meeting.

The proceedings then terminated.

FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

DOUBLE TAXATION—PROPOSED ARGENTINE COMPANY.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Forestal Land, Timber and Railways Company, Ltd., was held on the 26th instant, at River Plate House, London.

Baron Emile B. d'Erlanger, the chairman, in the course of his address, said: Our trading profits have been very poor, only amounting to £684,000, as against £837,000, being £153,000 less than last year. We have been able to add to this figure some £17,000 from the release of reserves and £488 for transfer fees, etc. The net profit is £303,000, as against £442,000, or £139,000 less than in 1928.

As mentioned in the report, we have been taking energetic steps to expand the sales of tanning extracts, both in this country and in markets as far distant as China.

When we met here last year I did not disguise from you my anxiety as to the immediate prospects. Our first duty was to make ourselves financially strong, and £1,000,000 of six per cent. ten-year notes were placed successfully before the stringency of the money market became acute.

The board immediately set to work to overhaul the whole administration and to enforce the most rigid economy compatible with efficient administration, though the benefits of this economy will only fully reflect themselves in the accounts of future years.

For a long time past I have had in contemplation a step which would greatly benefit the Forestal Company and its shareholders, but which I hesitated for various reasons to submit to your board for its approval and your subsequent sanction. Yet we have been forced to the conclusion that, unless this step is taken, this important company (which, when its career of over 24 years is reviewed, can boast of a proud past, and has, I believe, a successful future ahead of it) might have to pass into foreign hands.

The step which we intend to take is to sell to an Argentine company, to be incorporated for the purpose, all our Argentine assets.

If this plan is carried into execution, the Forestal Company here will act as distributors of the Argentine company's production on approved and commercial terms, and will become a holding company for its Argentine interests.

It is the part of prudence to minimise the effects of double taxation such as it may now exist, or will exist when the Argentine Government adopts the now almost universal system of direct taxation by income tax.

The rationalisation of the quebracho industry by amalgamation certainly will remain beyond the realms of practical politics if our Argentine company is not formed, for the Forestal must be the keystone of any such scheme; but what company engaged in the quebracho industry in Argentina or Paraguay would accept incorporation into an English company at the cost of having to pay heavy British income tax on dividends, depreciation and reserves, and of exposing the Argentine or Paraguayan shareholders in the English company to the costs and formalities of probate?

The result of the year ending 1930 is naturally very difficult to forecast. At the reduced prices now ruling we shall have to sell during the year a larger tonnage than in 1929 to realise the same profit. Whether we shall succeed in doing so depends upon world conditions, and more especially upon the leather trade. We are ahead of our programme of sales, and if the sales for the last seven months of the year equal on average those of the first five months our expectations will have been fulfilled.

Your assets appear to us to have lost none of their value. A complete revision has been made of your timber reserves by our best experts, and on the strength of these it is estimated that the reserves are sufficient to provide the factories working at normal rates, which they are not doing at present, for the next fifteen to twenty years. At the normal rate of production the Forestal is by far the cheapest produced in Argentina and Paraguay.

In South Africa we believe that you have a valuable asset well written down in the books of this company. It appears to have reached the point of being self-supporting.

Given that vegetable tannins retain their popularity and that there is a revival in the leather industry, we should in a few years derive a substantial revenue from our South African company.

You will understand that if the immediate future does not appear to us under a roseate hue and that while we are at present holding our own, we may still have to face a period of great anxieties and strife. Yet the strength of your company remains unimpaired and its potentialities for profit and accretion of value full of promise in a general revival of world conditions and of the leather trade in particular.

The report and accounts were adopted, and a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares was declared, making 6½ per cent., less tax, for the year.

HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED.

SIR ERIC HAMBRO ON FOREIGN LOANS.

The eighteenth annual meeting of Hambros Bank, Ltd., was held, on the 29th instant, at 41 Bishopsgate, London.

Sir Eric Hambro, K.B.E., the chairman, who presided and moved the adoption of the report and accounts, said that at their last meeting he had commented on the rise in money rates throughout the world, due to the wave of speculation which had been sweeping over the New York Stock Exchange. The subsequent history of that speculation was known to all of them. It had led to economic depression throughout the world, the most serious feature of which was certainly the fall in the price of commodities. That had destroyed confidence and had impoverished those countries which produced the raw materials of industry, thus diminishing their power of purchasing manufactured goods and directly increasing the problems of unemployment in England and elsewhere.

They had taken a participation in the Bankers' Industrial Development Co., formed under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Bank of England, to examine, assist and finance the amalgamation, reconstruction and reorganisation on an economic and rationalised basis of groups of British companies engaged in important industries. He thought it was clear that to-day the issuing houses could help British industry, and he welcomed the advent of the Bankers' Industrial Development Co. On the other hand, he would protest against the fallacy which had once again appeared, that issuing houses such as theirs were guilty of an unpatriotic action when they issued a foreign loan, in that they were supplying the foreigner with capital which would otherwise be available for British industry. When a foreign loan was issued, the proceeds of that loan could only be made available to the borrower in sterling. The sterling could only be transferred into foreign currency by a purchase of British goods and services, a repayment of debts owing to England, or an export of gold from England, which only became operative as a last extreme. He therefore regarded as unnecessary any official restriction of loans to foreign countries. Funds for foreign investment were derived from the country's active trade balance, and that was not unlimited. Issuing houses knew well enough when the margin of safety was likely to be reached. Funds for domestic investments were of a different order; they were derived from the savings of the country irrespective of its trade balance. It was just as important to finance the buyer of British goods as it was important to finance the seller, and that form of banking which they practised normally had been the necessary concomitant of the development of British industry.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and at a meeting held subsequently new articles of association were unanimously approved.

SHANGHAI ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADDITIONS TO RESERVES.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Shanghai Electric Construction Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th instant, at Basildon House, Moorgate, London, E.C.

Mr J. S. Haskell (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said:—The accounts which we submit to you to-day show a satisfactory financial position, inasmuch as we have been able to increase the reserve for renewals to £96,000 and the general reserve to £62,000. During recent years additions to renewals account have been very substantially in excess of expenditure under that head, and we hope that this will continue to be the case for several years to come, so that provision is accumulated for the large outlay which will become necessary when the second general renewal of the rails falls due.

Since the date of the accounts the rate of interest which the company was receiving from its bankers on deposit account has fallen with successive reductions of the Bank Rate, and at the present time we hold £75,000 5 per cent. War Loan. We have also a reserve of £7,000 made up of guarantee premiums received from the Singapore Traction Company, which constitutes a surplus except in the improbable event of a liability arising under the guarantee. The Singapore Company is making steady progress and redeeming its debentures out of profits by the operation of a sinking fund, but, for the time being, we regard the guarantee reserve as an item which should stand by itself in our balance sheet.

The true test of the vitality of our business is the number of passengers carried, which has risen from 123,000,000 to 137,000,000, although our total fleet of cars was only increased during the year from 285 to 289. The effective receipts, expressed in Mexican dollars, showed an increase of almost exactly 10 per cent. as compared with the preceding year.

The fall in the value of silver, which appears now to be established at an unsatisfactorily low level, rendered it necessary for us to apply to the municipal council for permission to revise our scale of fares, and a new scale was put into operation on April 20, with results which promised to be satisfactory; but the fulfilment of that promise was cut short by a strike which broke out five days later and resulted in the immediate total cessation of traffic on our system. The strike, which was due, not to dissatisfaction of our employees with their conditions of service, but to Communist machinations accompanied by threats of violence, gradually broke down and normal services were resumed on May 17.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year, was declared.

BRITISH OVERSEAS AND GENERAL INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR.

The first annual ordinary general meeting of the British Overseas and General Investment Company, Ltd., was held, on the 28th instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Mr P. Ashley Cooper (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr H. G. Mardell) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts and the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent., less income tax, for the period ended May 10, 1930, on the issued ordinary stock of the company.

Sir Charles J. Stewart, K.B.E., seconded the motion.

The Chairman: It is said that a company chairman should give his shareholders either a good dividend or a good speech. I believe you will consider that you are receiving a good dividend, and therefore I hope you will not expect me to say much. The fact is, there is not much to tell you yet. As I explained to the shareholders of the Province of Buenos Ayres Waterworks, this company was formed to co-operate with the waterworks company. Our shares were offered in the first place to the waterworks shareholders, the majority of whom readily availed themselves of the offer.

Our principal investment is in the waterworks company. We are gradually maturing our plans, but as we are anxious to build on sure foundations we are proceeding slowly. Shareholders will, I hope, consider this to be a wise policy.

The accounts are in a simple form. You will notice we have started a general reserve. There is little else of note except to point out that our investments, which stand at £240,000 in our books, are worth considerably more than that figure. You will see that, after providing for the dividend of 9 per cent., we carry forward a sum which, as it has paid tax, is equal to rather more than 3½ per cent. on our ordinary stock.

This is our first year, and we have made a start. When we meet you next year I hope we may be able to record further sound progress.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Mr P. Ashley Cooper) was unanimously re-elected, the auditors (Messrs Fookes, Hickman and Company) were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended May 24, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	5,000	From Revenue	8,649
Interest, &c., on Debt	481		
Sinking Fund	1,215		
Sundries	19		
Decrease in Debt	1,864		
Increase in Balances	70		
	8,649		8,649

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £8,649,000, as compared with £6,981,300 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and Sur-tax were higher at £334,000, and £640,000, against £54,000, and £360,000 respectively. Estate Duties brought in £1,990,000, as compared with £2,720,000, while Customs amounted to £3,104,000, against £3,036,000, and Excise to £2,716,000 against

£476,000. The National Debt was reduced by £1,864,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Public Department Advances	+ 5,600	Treasury Bills	— 7,914
National Savings Certificates	+ 200		
4½% Conversion Loan	+ 250		
	+ 6,050		— 7,914

The Floating Debt was reduced by £2,315,000 to £624,870,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31, APRIL 1 TO MAY 24.

	£		£
Expenditure	97,996,604	Revenue	91,405,390
Sinking Fund	5,815,881	Decreases in balances	3,414,745
		Net Amount borrowed	8,992,350
	103,812,485		103,812,485

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	May 24, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4½% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
4% and 5% War Stock	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
National War Bonds	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
4% Funding Loan	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	577
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	48
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,477
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,604

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	May 25, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	May 24, '30.	Movement, week ended May 24, '30.
Ways and Means Advances	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	...	...
Advances by Public Departments	35,040,000	48,530,000	47,730,000	+ 5,600,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	708,310,000	588,885,000	577,140,000*	— 7,915,000
Total Floating Debt	743,350,000	637,415,000	624,870,000	— 2,315,000

* Includes £3,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on May 23, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £48,275,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 0d., about 99 per cent., and Saturday at £99 9s. 2d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
March 28	40,000,000	44,245,000	2 2 2·94
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78
May 23	35,000,000	48,275,000	2 3 5·74

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to May 24, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to May 25, 1929.	Week Ended May 24, 1930.	Week Ended May 25, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	18,425,000	17,937,000	334,000	54,000
Sur-tax including Arrears of Super-Tax	7,650,000	6,230,000	640,000	360,000
Estate, &c., Duties	12,740,000	14,350,000	1,990,000	2,720,000
Stamps	2,090,000	2,590,000	220,000	110,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	90,000	70,000	20,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	40,995,000	41,187,000	3,204,000	3,244,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	17,883,000	17,840,000	3,104,000	3,036,000
Excise	18,676,000	19,246,000	2,716,000	476,000
Total Customs and Excise	36,559,000	37,086,000	5,820,000	3,512,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	655,000	808,000	...	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	4,550,000	4,650,000	*Dr.600000*	...
Crown Lands	240,000	250,000	100,000	100,000
Receipts from Sundry Loans	5,956,832	5,385,675	125,000	105,643
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,449,558	3,519,758	...	19,645
Total Ordinary Revenue	91,405,390	92,886,433	8,649,000	6,981,288
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	7,200,000	7,100,000	2,000,000	1,750,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	10,480,000	10,204,000	2,000,000	1,750,000
Total	101,885,390	103,090,433	10,649,000	8,731,288
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,920,000	850,000	110,000	130,000
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	352,940,000	465,469,000	37,961,000	49,759,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44	46,541,883	...	250,000	...
By National Savings Certificates	6,750,000	6,400,000	950,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	85,995,000	128,605,000	12,535,000	3,295,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	17,038	23,221	...	...
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April — (1930 / 1929)				
Bank of England	5,504,595 / 5,515,917			
Bank of Ireland	620,619 / 736,607			
	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total	597,049,311	730,557,654	62,455,000	62,715,288
Total	603,174,525	736,810,178	62,455,000	62,715,288

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 24, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 25, 1929.	Issues: Week Ended May 24, 1930.	Issues: Week Ended May 25, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	39,958,188	41,051,165	481,443	855,254
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	439,601	555,759	19,000	182,429
Other Consolidated Fund Services	295,665	436,538	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	57,303,150	46,058,860	5,000,000	4,100,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	97,996,604	88,102,322	5,500,443	5,137,683
Sinking Fund	5,815,881	6,675,067	1,215,000	1,485,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	7,200,000	7,100,000	2,000,000	1,750,000
Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	10,480,000	10,204,000	2,000,000	1,750,000
TOTAL	114,292,485	104,981,389	8,715,443	8,372,683

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to May 24, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to May 25, 1929.	Issues: Week Ended May 24, 1930.	Issues: Week Ended May 25, 1929.
OTHER ISSUES.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,920,000	850,000	110,000	130,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,400,000	1,550,000	...	350,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	364,670,000	457,430,000	45,875,000	43,690,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	5,800,000	6,750,000	750,000	900,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,209,505	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	86,795,000	130,615,000	6,935,000	8,855,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	2,219,787	...	349,743
	600,464,056	733,624,139	62,385,443	62,647,426
Balances in Exchequer— (May 24, 1930 / May 25, 1929)				
Bank of England	£ 2,062,819 / £ 2,465,561			
Bank of Ireland	647,650 / 720,478			
	2,710,469	3,186,039	+ 66,000	+ 46,000
Total	603,174,525	736,810,178	+ 69,557	+ 67,862

Treasury, May 26, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, May 28, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	356,131,548	Other Government Securities	232,894,876
In Banking Department	61,053,977	Other Securities	11,629,071
		Silver Coin	4,460,953
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	157,185,525
	£417,185,525		£417,185,525

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	45,577,629
Rest	3,216,885	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	13,241,450	Discounts and Advances	£6,805,493
Other Deposits—		Securities	11,515,774
Bankers £58,963,730			18,321,267
Other Accounts 35,906,848		Notes	61,053,977
	94,870,578	Gold and Silver Coin	931,174
7-Day and other Bills	2,134		
	£125,884,047		£125,884,047

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

Both Departments.	Amount. May 28, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	356,131,548	+ 1,437,486	— 3,975,015
Public deposits	13,241,450	— 7,936,278	— 1,099,258
Bankers' deposits	58,963,730	+ 1,127,531	+ 2,614,687
Other deposits	35,906,848	— 1,328,607	+ 638,228
Seven-day bills	2,134	— 9,567	— 3,234
Total, outside liabilities	464,245,710	— 6,709,435	— 11,824,592
Capital and rest	17,769,885	+ 13,552	— 35,688
Government debt and securities	289,487,605	— 4,210,272	+ 2,234,965
Discounts and advances	6,805,493	— 32,135	— 1,345,670
Other securities	23,144,845	— 2,127,145	— 7,223,514
Silver coin in issue department	4,460,953	+ 519	— 372,820
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	158,116,699	— 326,850	— 5,153,241
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	61,985,151	— 1,764,336	— 1,178,226
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	57 1/4%	+ 2 1/2%	+ 2 11/16%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	34 1/8%	+ 1/8%	— 1/8%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Apr. 9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3
28	417,185,525	356,131,548	13,241,450	58,963,730	35,906,848	316,679 out	3

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	%	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."	%
1930.	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	
Apr. 9	244002296	11537677	160781478	33 1/8	55861909	6288218	11063311	61531155	52 1/8
16	243912989	11628838	160788326	33 1/8	58282629	6386083	10442736	59466768	50 1/8
23	243912989	11629001	163343217	33 1/8	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812	51 1/8
30	243912989	11628274	164283793	34 1/8	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916	52 1/8
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394	34 1/8	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696	54 1/8
14	243908931	11629179	163347877	34 1/8	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879	56
21	243910248	11629318	158443549	33 1/8	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487	54 1/8
28	243909976	11629071	158116699	34 1/8	45577629	6805493	11515774	61985151	57 1/8

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to May 14	15,018,934	705,123	1,148,115	16,872,172
Week ended May 21	783,693	35,868	61,822	881,383
Week ended May 28	821,420	32,685	50,570	904,675
Total to date, 1930	16,624,047	773,676	1,260,507	18,658,230
Total to date, 1929	16,479,677	786,458	1,271,964	18,538,899
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 144,370	— 12,782	— 11,457	+ 120,131
	= 0·9%	= 1·6%	= 0·9%	= 0·6%
Total for year, 1929	39,335,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of April. 1929.	1930.	%	Aggregate Weekly Totals to Jan. 1 to May 24. 1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	25	24			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,126,000	10,138,000	+ 0·1	55,331,600	53,193,800
BRADFORD	5,388,000	3,879,000	— 28·0	25,545,700	19,254,100
BRISTOL	4,738,000	4,191,000	— 11·5	25,066,000	23,195,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	102,620,300	102,374,500
HULL	3,876,000	3,402,000	— 12·2	18,721,300	17,072,600
LEEDS	4,061,000	4,006,000	— 1·3	21,467,800	20,971,700
LEICESTER	3,490,000	2,855,000	— 18·1	16,883,200	15,403,700
LIVERPOOL	32,936,000	27,781,000	— 15·6	168,263,200	145,805,400
MANCHESTER	55,057,000	45,298,000	— 17·7	270,469,100	237,771,500
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,003,000	6,537,000	+ 8·8	30,537,900	30,931,500
NOTTINGHAM	2,533,000	2,419,000	— 4·5	13,266,700	12,746,500
SHEFFIELD	4,043,000	3,528,000	— 12·7	21,165,500	19,762,600
Total	132,251,000	114,034,000	— 13·7	769,338,300	698,482,900

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Canada appeared in the *Economist* of April 26; Denmark in May 10; Egypt in May 17; France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Danzig, Japan, Chile, and Poland in May 24.

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

RESOURCES.	May 31, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,823,720	3,068,170	3,074,080	3,076,460	3,057 310
Total bills discounted	988.190	237,450	210,490	210,000	247.050
Bills bought in open market	117,920	175,200	171,030	186,880	175,560
Total U.S. Govt. securities	144.570	527,840	527,900	528,320	529,770
Total bills and securities	1,258,500	951,090	920,020	931,600	958 780
Total resources	5,034,890	4,936,020	5,030,440	4,951,350	4,902,360
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1.653,690	1,492,990	1,464,900	1,452,660	1,465,870
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	2,285,870	2,349,440	2,379,360	2,374,170	2,346.800
Total deposits	2,331,190	2,413,000	2,420,830	2,438,910	2,420.850
Capital paid in and surplus	410,840	451,120	451,090	451,180	447,450
Total liabilities	5,034,890	4,936,020	5,030,440	4,951,350	4,902,360
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	74·5%	83·0%	83·6%	83 5%	82·9%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	May 31, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
Total bills discounted	11,650	37,010	35,310	50,550	47,320
Bills bought in open market	13,450	192,860	177,860	178,060	179.050
Total bills and securities	221,440	295,660	252,070	262,290	283,600
Deposits — Member bank — reserve account	917,030	947,990	972,570	971,590	990,890
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	86·6%	83·4%	86·8%	86·5%	84·8%

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

ASSETS.	May 3, 1929.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,926	7,007	7,134	7,599	7,529	7,512
Subsidiary coin	108	122	126	132	128	131
Bills discounted	9,599	9,060	8,614	7,689	7,884	8,220
Investments	616	1,016	1,091	1,049	1,104	1,104
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	600	600	600	600
Notes in circulation	9,430	8,565	7,891	7,642	7,726	8,946
Government deposits	1,622	1,851	1,815	2,103	2,462	1,499
Bankers' deposits	4,990	5,011	4,533	4,549	4,739	5,270
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	48·1%	45·0%	47·6%	51·6%	49·6%	47·9%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 3, 1929.	Apr. 4, 1930.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.
Total securities	22.84,90	30,03,19	30,04,37	29,86,19	29,78,46	29,81,46
Loans	14.34.91	13.07.07	14.05.68	14.00.25	12,46,27	12,97,61
Cash credits	28.71.74	31,99.54	32,19,12	32.44.54	32,08.72	32,20,38
Inland bills	9,64,10	6,81,35	6,39,75	5,77,14	5,97,21	5,45,12
Foreign bills	46.99	48.79	50,84	47,60	56,09	58,48
Dead stock	2,83,83	2,80,56	2,80,75	2,81,23	2,81,39	2,81,32
Bal. with other banks	27,82	8.25	21.60	31,67	17,65	10.26
Cash	12,80,09	14,31,52	13,05,22	12,01,78	16,17,03	15,79,91
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	80,58,26	86,24,47	85,89,17	84,28,70	86,54,94	86,37,99
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,087	916	1,020	1,060	1,100	1,000
Advances in London	923	2,144	2,126	2,128	2,275	2,279
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	205	55	160	240	132	69

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,764,596	2,565,417	2,577,665	2,585,859
Of which deposited abroad	59,147	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	146,455	330,198	297,819	342,678
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,521,679	1,860,421	1,584,886	1,519,662
Silver and other coin	154,164	138,030	156,119	167,772
Notes of other German banks	24,956	15,314	17,956	23,157
Advances	97,179	53,645	69,067	53,347
Investments	92,899	93,064	93,045	101,125
Other assets	589,483	606,038	615,471	618,529
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,006,198	4,403,696	4,196,275	4,045,769
Other daily maturing obligations	642,349	601,382	556,035	680,188
Other liabilities	300,468	163,122	165,791	192,245

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	May 23, 1929.	May 1, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
Gold	(b) 232,650 (Gold, Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad, Silver and other coin)	963,313	1,194,551	1,194,708	1,196,267	1,199,790
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad		462,312	654,113	646,447	665,057	672,925
Silver and other coin		1,612	4.007	4.073	4,053	4,060
Securities	697,600	742,552	826,836	802,117	819,528	829,883
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,451,799	2,931,692	2,906,675	2,902,796	2,874,990
Current accounts	112,125	86,991	94,734	95,839	119,729	150,283

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 21, 1929.	Apr. 28, 1930.	May 5, 1930.	May 12, 1930.	May 19, 1930.
Gold	163,092	437,025	431,933	431,923	431,919	431,916
Silver	8,436	20,929	25,960	25,569	25,515	26,458
Home Bills dscnted.	153,504 (Home Bills, Foreign Bills, Loans and advances)	110,535	52,105	53,238	53,429	52,177
Foreign Bills		152,517	213,210	224,308	236,622	236,722
Loans and advances in current acct.		103,850	93,169	129,954	97,026	91,943
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	808,891	830,310	865,920	835,457	816,062
Deposits	5,016	19,831	17,992	13,246	33,019	42,224

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914	May 25, 1929.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.
Gold	22,971	161,820	168,700 (Gold and Silver)	168,100 (Gold and Silver)	166,400 (Gold and Silver)	166,400 (Gold and Silver)
Silver	29,785	22,266				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	133,972	148,300	150,700	146,100	147,100
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	300,369	272,500	278,400	275,700	272,200
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	34,105	49,100	48,200	45,000	50,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Gold	171,175	496,103	578,769	578,789	578,795	578,815
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	—	41,148	391,035	371,389	369,649	373,379
Discounts	...	253,189	37,490	36,285	34,445	35,944
Advances	103,000	54,829	45,996	48,783	44,256	44,480
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	813,572	916,284	877,567	845,013	841,685
Deposits	33,750	144,237	153,754	189,849	226,225	223,888

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 25, 1929.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.
Gold	234,222	243,353	243,316	243,266	243,200
Government securities—Swedish	5,693	21,942	21,849	21,789	21,725
,, ,, Foreign	73,774	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	177	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	232,782	112,429	104,337	92,678	88,613
,, ,, abroad	62,070	123,513	127,050	127,952	125,920
Balance abroad	45,844	169,703	175,442	168,859	170,290
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	52,927	38,208	32,857	37,517	37,955
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	463,187	545,091	516,538	508,722	497,127
Government deposits	193,168	160,601	165,070	169,210	165,246
Private deposits	8,065	10,710	32,009	21,852	33,115

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,812	146,600	146,597	146,595
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	45,400	41,573	39,612	37,772
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,393	29,359	33,988	34,649
Discounts and loans	76,911	272,813	239,732	233,181	229,231
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	302,508	310,165	303,922	303,607
Deposits at sight	7,188	110,224	83,525	87,146	83,170

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 25, 1929.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,560,404	2,469,729	2,469,902	2,470,071	2,470,389
Silver	728,600	719,899	712,445	710,967	712,619	717,642
Loans & Discounts	800,725	1,681,784	2,044,533	2,040,779	2,006,013	1,956,136
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,272,058	4,440,457	4,466,428	4,436,864	4,382,630
Deposits	477,500	1,110,591	816,007	810,327	844,500	842,206

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

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 14, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,439	8,901	9,071	9,048	9,042
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	298,843	200,246	210,406	219,974	223,631
Discounts	287,353	332,522	329,367	325,170	327,452
Government loans	1,718,083	1,530,992	1,530,992	1,530,684	1,530,684
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,832,679	1,877,959	1,886,056	1,901,080	1,878,653
Deposits	66,016	84,468	61,626	71,793	65,365

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 22, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930	May 22, 1930.
Gold	92,455	96,608	96,714	96,838	96,917
Other coin and notes	18,230	17,912	18,198	18,570	18,717
Foreign credits	236,479	262,674	261,329	231,352	252,229
Bills	1,307,367	1,077,386	1,100,930	1,095,299	1,093,883
Government advances	4,201,078	4,123,399	4,121,399	4,119,398	4,117,498
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,032,871	12,502	12,531	12,531	12,531
State credits	227,808	5,221,043	5,286,280	5,143,438	5,866,342
Deposits	1,205,266	1,923,550	1,853,384	1,816,277	1,946,612

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,526,334	1,576,072	1,577,370	1,578,246	1,579,051
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,209,716	765,973	736,782	814,052	759,720
Discounts and advances	1,489,202	1,173,866	1,109,678	1,078,447	1,078,896
Advances to the Treasury	3,665,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,170,366	1,252,959	1,253,051	1,250,270	1,253,600
Bank notes in circulation	4,156,441	3,408,073	3,302,085	3,448,592	3,395,457
Sight liabilities	2,782,350	1,618,437	1,737,009	1,633,179	1,600,611
Deposits	460,183	314,805	314,597	313,687	309,048

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmæ (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	574,752	630,204	620,728	621,770	611,839
Gold exchange	5,350,651	3,654,417	3,420,283	3,864,962	3,799,130
Other foreign exchange	1,151	3,773	3,742	2,607	2,414
Bills discounted	37,719	92,962	93,656	92,731	92,002
Advances	78,534	147,591	139,601	141,330	144,254
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,512,763	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,606,356	5,154,038	4,991,217	4,946,667	4,902,686
Deposits and current accounts	1,902,837	1,686,062	1,524,715	1,453,263	1,494,031
Foreign exchange liabilities	1,872,031	738,679	706,077	1,254,335	1,191,065

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,103	303,539	303,370	303,127
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	631,145	1,069,616	1,166,128	1,160,773
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	335,251	343,242	342,942
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,469,513	1,041,703	956,284	928,408
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,470,389	1,439,878	1,388,991	1,368,653
Deposits at notice	21,225	209,968	207,216	262,538	247,239

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,286	6,471	6,477	6,476	6,486
Net foreign exchange	19,301	19,459	18,169	17,983	17,161
Subsidiary Estonian coin	664	1,178	1,471	1,581	1,721
Home bills discounted	14,865	14,639	14,373	14,269	14,720
Loans and advances	14,389	11,897	12,044	11,681	11,749*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	34,357	34,166	32,327	31,380	29,950
Sight deposits and current accounts	16,511	15,174	16,324	16,983	17,645
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	50·30%	52·55%	50·66%	50·57%	49·68%

* Includes Ekr. 7,170,314·49, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 22, 1929.	Apr. 23, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,842	23,982	23,987	23,992	23,995	23,997
Silver coin	4,782	6,061	6,035	7,047	7,265	7,389
Balance abroad	55,250	52,682	52,760	52,220	50,756	50,338
Treas. notes and sm. change	11,342	11,660	12,862	13,853	16,457	16,917
Short term bills	87,583	92,521	90,537	90,591	90,244	89,939
Loans against securities	58,423	55,931	56,292	55,904	55,421	56,017
Other assets	17,714	14,390	14,627	15,316	14,337	14,372
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	45,492	48,959	47,507	46,613	44,364	44,083
Capital paid up	15,581	18,735	18,735	18,735	18,734	18,735
Reserve	3,091	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	12,919	16,844	17,009	17,109	17,123	17,194
Current accounts	55,889	53,751	54,416	55,357	57,228	58,464
Government accounts	108,966	105,429	107,309	108,811	108,456	103,801
Other liabilities	14,499	5,658	4,273	4,446	4,718	8,838

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 15, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 15, 1930.
Gold	34,358	35,163	35,187	35,193	35,199	35,203
Silver	4,372	4,088	4,160	4,123	4,178	4,265
State Treasury coins	1,825	1,677	1,686	1,672	1,672	1,673
Foreign currency	41,088	84,566	81,268	77,642	73,712	71,699
Discount and credit	85,256	83,568	89,629	92,495	94,261	96,212
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,350	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	86,897	99,303	101,381	102,135	101,815	96,068
Deposits	70,154	96,391	98,020	97,701	94,130	99,586

LONDON RATES.

	May 22, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 26, 1930.	May 27, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16
3 months' do.	2⅛—3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 5/32—3/16	2⅛—3/16
4 months' do.	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16	2¼
6 months' do.	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—9/16	2 7/16—9/16	2 7/16—9/16	2 7/16—9/16	2 7/16—9/16	2 7/16—½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅛	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛
3 months'‡	2 1/16—3/32	2⅛—3/16	2⅛—3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅛
Loans—Day to day	2—2¼	1¾—2	1½	2—3	2—3	2—3	2
Short	2—2¼	1¾—2	2	2	2—2¼	2—2¼	2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week:—

1930.	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May 8	2	2⅛	2¼	2⅜	3	3½	4
15	2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4
22	2—2¼	2⅛—3/16	2¼—5/16	2 7/16—½	3	3½	4
29	2	2⅛—3/16	2¼	2 7/16—½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	May 23, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·84 27/32–·84⅞	4·86⅛–⅜	4·85 15/16–·86
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·88½–·88⅝	4·86¼–·86⅝	4·86–86½
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124 1/16–124⅛	123·93–·95	123·92–·95
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·37⅝–·38	20·36½–37	20·36–36½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·06⅞–·07	12·08⅝–·08⅞	12·07¾–·08
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·12–·14	34·82½–·82¾	34·81½–82
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67–·70	92·70–·73	92·73–·77
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·19½–·19¾	25·12–·12½	25·11½–11¾
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–·19¾	18·16–·16½	18·15¾–·16¼
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·14¾–·15	18·11¾–·12¼	18·10¾–·11¼
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20½–·21	18·16–16½	18·15¾–·16¼
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	34·12–·14	39·97–40·0	39·80–·82
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108¼	108⅛–⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·51–·54	34·45–·48	34·44–·47
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅝–163⅞	163⅞–164	163¾–⅞
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275⅝–276½	275–275½	274⅞–275⅝
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·83–·86	27·80–·84	27·79–·83
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–819	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	668–673	665–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	374½–375½	374½–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	996–1001	1025 nom.	1025 nom.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·42–9·43	†9·433–·452	†9·438–457
Warsaw	sloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43 5/16–7/16	43½–⅝
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193	192 15/16–193 1/16	192⅝–192⅞
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49⅛	48½–49	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16–18·23	18·22–·29	18·22–·29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25·25	25·17–·27	25·17–·27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 5/16–47 7/16	42⅞–42 15/16	42⅞–15/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 21/32–⅞	5 13/16–⅞	5 23/32–⅞
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	48⅜–48⅞	45–45½	44½–45½
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·51	†39·93	39·93
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem.	12·77½	12·85
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–31/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–31/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–⅞	1/5 15/16–31/32	1/5 15/16–31/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11½–2/0⅛	1/5½–1/5⅞	1/4½–⅝ nom.
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/5–2/5⅝	1/9 15/16–1/10 1/16	1/7½–1/8⅛nm
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3⅞–2/3 29/32	2/3 15/16–31/32	2/3 15/16–31/32
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/10 7/16–1/10½	2/0⅝–⅞	2/0⅝–⅞
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 1/16 d.	†2/0 1/16	†2/0 1/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·00–10·25	10·15–·30	10·10–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½
Belgrade	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Berlin	May 19, 1930	5	4½
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	May 23, 1930	6	5½
Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	May 30, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	6	4	3	3	3	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	9	4	3⅜	3⅜	3¼	3¼
Bank acceptances:—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	3	2⅝	2⅝	2¼	2¼
Non-mem.—eligible, 90 days	6⅛	3⅛	2⅝	2⅝	2¼	2¼
Ineligible, 90 days	5⅛	3⅛	3	3	2⅞	2⅞
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅝	4	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	May 30, 1929.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79⅝	4·83⅝	4·83 27/32	4·83⅝
Cable	Dollars for £1		4·85	4·86	4·86⅛	4·86
Cheques	Dollars for £1		4·845	4·85⅞	4·85⅞	4·85⅞
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·91	3·92⅛	3·92	3·92
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·885	13·95	13·95	13·95
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·24	19·33½	19·35	19·35
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·2325	5·24	5·23⅞	5·23 15/16
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·84	23·85	23·85	23·85½
Vienna ,,	Cts.for Austrn.shlg	14·07	14·05	14·10	14·10	14·10
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·10	12·20	12·15	12·21
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·155	40·19½	40·20	40·19½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·75	26·75	26·75
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·625	26·75	26·75	26·75
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·72	26·81½	26·82	26·83
Athens ,,	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29⅝	1·2975	1·293⅛	1·29⅜
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅜ dis.	1/16 dis.	3/64 dis.	1/64 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	44·35	49·40	49·40	49·38
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	48·35	36·15	35·60	34·30
Shanghai ,,	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	58·90	45·37½	44 1/16	42¼
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·08	36·07	36·02	35·97
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·90	114·60	114·90	115·20
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·83	11·85	11·80	11·75
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·56
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·75
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·92
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	1/16% dis.	⅛ to 1/16% ,,
30 days	1⅝% ,,	1/16% ,,	⅛% ,,	1/16% ,,
60 days	2¼% ,,	⅛% ,,	1¼% ,,	1/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	1/16% ,,
20 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 1/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Buying. New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93¼	95⅝	...	...	106½	105
Demand	92⅝	93½	93½	95	105⅝	103½	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104⅞	103	105¼	104
60 days	91½	92⅞	...	...	104 1/16	102½	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 15/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104⅞	103⅜

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

The total remittances from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council from April 1 to May 24, 1930, were £4,720,000 by means of purchases of sterling in India.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended May 29, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
British West Africa	41,564	Denmark	275
British South Africa	441,285	Poland	1,700
Other countries	1,312	Germany	150,944
		France	1,462,786
		Switzerland	18,120
		Spain	3,205
		Italy	4,080
		Austria	11,600
		Nigeria	1,000
		British Indies	52,633
		Other countries	520
Total declared value of imports	484,161	Total declared value of exports	1,706,863

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
May 23	Bars bought	1,530	May 23	Bars sold	12,026
,, 24		Nil		Sovs. set aside	100,000
,, 26		Nil	,, 24		Nil
,, 27		Nil	,, 26	Bars sold	618
,, 28		Nil		Sovs. set aside	100,000
,, 29		Nil	,, 27	Bars sold	207
			,, 28	Bars sold	163
				Sovs. for export	2,000
				Sovs. set aside	100,000
			,, 29	Bars sold	153
	Total	1,530		Total	315,167

Net withdrawals, £313,637.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on May 28, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £157,498,068 on the 21st instant (as compared with £162,383,588 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £11,537,984 since January 1st last. Gold from South Africa to the value of £441,000 was offered in the open market yesterday and realised 84s. 11¼d. per fine ounce. Germany secured £263,000 and an undisclosed buyer (probably Belgium), £100,000. Of the remainder, India took £35,000 and the Home and Continental trade £43,000. The French exchange having remained above the point at which gold exports are practicable, there have been no further withdrawals from the Bank of England for Paris during the past week. Receipts amounted to £1,530 and withdrawals £318,209, of which £300,000 was in sovereigns "set aside," a net efflux of £316,679 during the week under review.

SILVER.

The week under review has seen a further sharp decline in prices. Except for a slight reaction to 18⅞d. and 18 11/16d. on the 23rd instant, movements have been sharply downward and the quotations fixed to-day, 18d. for cash and 17 15/16d. for two months' delivery, constitute a fresh low record for silver. Following the weak advices from China, selling has been general and offerings have met with little resistance, buyers, chiefly bears, being inclined to limit their orders in anticipation of even lower prices.

Selling by China and the Indian bazaars has continued, and America has also been a seller; the latter, however, showing some restraint at the low level. The Continent has not, of late, shown much activity.

Although the outlook must be considered as somewhat uncertain, there seems little indication of sufficient support to withstand any sustained pressure of selling.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 19th instant, to mid-day on the 26th instant :—

Imports.	£	Exports.	£
Germany	6,900	China (including Hong Kong)	36,980
France	64,192	British India	160,992
U.S.A.	96,829	Other countries	4,504
Canada	17,284		
Other countries	2,754		
	£187,959		£202,476

Indian Currency Returns (in lacs of rupees).

	May 22.	May 15.	May 7.
Notes in circulation	17,065	17,341	17,342
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,043	11,011	11,012
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,228	3,228	3,228
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	2,750	3,058	3,058
Securities (British Government)	44	44	44

The stocks in Shanghai on the 24th instant consisted of about 99,200,000 ounces in sycee, 142,000,000 dollars, 15,700,000 Saigon dollars and 10,920 silver bars, as compared with about 98,300,000 ounces in sycee, 143,000,000 dollars, 16,900,000 Saigon dollars and 11,620 silver bars on the 17th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d		d.
May 23	84 11½	18⅜	18 11/16	May 25, 1923	32⅝
„ 24	84 11½	18⅜	18 11/16	„ 23, 1924	34½
„ 26	84 11½	18¼	18 3/16	„ 22, 1925	31 1/16
„ 27	84 11½	18¼	18 3/16	„ 21, 1926	30 1/16
„ 28	84 11	18	17 15/16	„ 20, 1927	26 3/16
„ 29	84 11½	17 7/16	17½	„ 24, 1928	28⅝

NOTICES.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 527 Norwood Road, S.E.27, to be known as the West Norwood Branch.

At the annual general meeting of the British Bankers' Association, held on May 14th, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, chairman of Barclays Bank, Ltd., was elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr J. W. Beaumont Pease, Mr Edmund Godward and Mr Alexander Robb were elected vice-presidents.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 147 Rushey Green, Catford, London, S.E.6, and at 1 Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

Barclays Bank, Limited, announce the opening of a new sub-branch at the Post Office, Pentrevoelas.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of a new branch at 217 North Street, Ashton Gate, Bristol.

The sub-branches of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) at Kalkfontein (South West Africa) and Jamestown (Cape Province) have been converted into full branches.

Facilities for day and night banking are now available at 375 of the 2,070 offices of the Midland Bank, the service being in operation at 80 branches situated within the London postal area and at 295 branches in various important provincial centres.

It is announced that Mr C. Noel Hume, London representative of Central Hanover Bank and Trust Company of New York, is extending his organisation by establishing a new West End Representative Office at 27 Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, S.W.1. This office, which will be opened on June 2nd next, and which will be under the management of Mr W. A. Nichols, will be devoted to the accommodation and convenience of the resident and travelling clientele of the bank.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Colonel Wyndham R. Portal, D.S.O., M.V.O., has been appointed chairman and Mr L. W. Farrow deputy chairman of Wiggins, Teape and Company (1919), Ltd.

Mr L. F. Hovil, actuary and secretary of the National Provident Institution, has been elected a director of the Institution to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Lewis Coward, K.C. Mr Hovil will continue the duties of his present executive positions until January next, when he will be succeeded by Mr H. E. Melville, at present life manager of the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, and a vice-president of the Institute of Actuaries.

The National Provincial Insurance Company, Ltd., announces that Mr Percy F. H. Hodge has been elected to a seat on its board of directors.

It is announced that Mr E. W. Beatty, chairman and president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has joined the board of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Mr W. R. MacInnes, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, will retire shortly. Mr MacInnes has had 45 years' service with the Canadian Pacific Railway. He will be succeeded by Mr George Stephen, who is at present the company's freight manager.

The Royal Exchange Assurance announces that Mr. H. D. Street, the accountant, will retire on pension on May 31, 1930, and that the directors have appointed Mr B. D. Cumming, the assistant accountant, to fill the vacancy from that date.

Mr William MacColin Kirkpatrick has been appointed deputy chairman of Allied Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., and has joined the board of the following companies :—Holborough Cement Company, Ltd., Greaves, Bull and Lakin (Harbury Works), Ltd., The Dunstable Portland Cement Company, Ltd., Smeed, Dean and Company, Ltd., British Standard Cement Company, Ltd.

The head office of the Trust and Loan Company of Canada has been removed to No. 1 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C. 2.

Mr C. F. Trustam, M.A., F.I.A., has been appointed an assistant secretary at the London office of the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd. Mr H. G. Barraud has been appointed fire superintendent at the London office of the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd.

Sir Allan Horne, and Mr S. B. Skevington, director and general manager of Perrier, Ltd., have joined the board of Kia-Ora, Ltd.

The directors of the Phœnix Assurance Company, Ltd., have re-elected Sir Gerald Hemmington Ryan, Bt., chairman, and Mr Arthur M. Walters and Mr P. J. Pybus, C.B.E., M.P., deputy-chairmen.

We are officially informed that the directors of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Ltd., have appointed Mr H. M. Gates, at present manager of the accident department, an assistant general manager of the company as from June 1, 1930.

BANKS.

BANK OF MONTREAL.—The Bank's report for the half-year ended April 30, 1930, shows that the paid-up capital at $36,000,000 is up from $34,548,760 a year ago, while the rest at $38,000,000 as compared with $35,548,760 is now $2,000,000 above the paid-up capital. The total assets are $822,000,000 as compared with $915,000,000 a year ago, and liquid assets are equal to 51·03 per cent. of liabilities to the public. Current loans and discounts in Canada show an increase from $314,000,000 to $335,000,000. The most important variations are in call loans, which show sharp reductions, while total deposits are now $688,000,000. Profits for the past six months have slightly increased from $3,491,651 to $3,543,017.

INSURANCE.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.—At a meeting of the board of directors held on May 26th, Mr W. R. Glazebrook, who has filled the office of chairman of the company since 1924, intimated his desire to relinquish that position, and Mr A. Allan Paton, C.B., who has been a member of the board since 1910 and a deputy-chairman since 1924, was elected chairman. Mr Arthur E. Pattinson and Mr A. Kentish Barnes were re-elected deputy-chairmen, and Mr P. R. England was elected a deputy-chairman.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.—At a meeting of the board of directors held on May 26th, Mr W. R. Glazebrook, chairman of the company, intimated his desire to relinquish that position and Mr A. Allan Paton, C.B., a deputy-chairman, was elected chairman. Mr Arthur E. Pattinson and Mr A. Kentish Barnes were re-elected deputy-chairmen and Mr P. R. England was elected a deputy-chairman.

RAILWAYS.

CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.—Owing to the almost complete loss through drought of the wheat and linseed crops in the company's zone and the subsequent commercial depression, followed recently by strike trouble, the earnings of the railway for the current financial year have suffered severely. The net revenue for 10 months shows a decrease of approximately £608,000. In these circumstances the directors greatly regret that the company will not be in a position to meet at its due date the half-year's instalment of interest payable July 1st next on its 5 per cent. second debenture stock. The board, holding the view that the conditions which have obtained recently are exceptional, has decided to ask the holders of that stock to allow the company, as a temporary measure, 12 months within which to pay the interest falling due thereon from time to time on the understanding that no interest will be paid on the income stocks, while any interest on the 5 per cent. debenture stock is in arrear.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ASHBY'S STAINES BREWERY, LIMITED.—Messrs H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., announce that over 95 per cent. of the holders of ordinary shares in Ashby's Staines Brewery, Ltd., have accepted the offer made under date of May 5, 1930, to purchase their ordinary shares. Arrangements are accordingly being made to complete the sale and purchase of such shares on June 10th next in accordance with the terms of the offer.

BOOTS PURE DRUG COMPANY.—The directors of Boots Pure Drug Company, Ltd., announce that subject to completion of audit that profits for year ending March 31, 1930, amounted to £724,868 (£750,152) and that a bonus will be paid to ordinary shareholders on register May 24th of 1s. per share free of tax (same). Accounts will be posted June 2nd.

INDEPENDENT INVESTMENT COMPANY.—The net revenue for the year ended March 31, 1930, amounted to £20,245 against £22,992 for preceding year. The ordinary shareholders receive 7½ per cent. for the year, the same as for the preceding year. The carry-forward is increased from £19,488 to £19,804. The market value of the company's securities is shown in the balance sheet, and on this basis the value of each £100 on the ordinary stock of the company is £134 12s. 8d. after payment of the dividend now recommended. This calculation is made on the basis of liquidation in which the preference stock would be repaid at par.

ROSARIO NITRATE COMPANY, LTD.—The Board have been for some weeks in negotiation with the new nitrate merger, the Compania Salitrera Nacional, from whom they have now received an offer for the purchase of the undertaking on terms which, subject to satisfactory arrangement of details, they will at the appropriate time unanimously recommend shareholders to accept.

SPILLERS LIMITED.—The directors have interviewed a number of the larger shareholders of the company and other gentlemen qualified to advise them in connection with the question of the constitution and personnel of the Board. Interviews with shareholders are still proceeding, but meanwhile the Board have taken the step of requesting three gentlemen to act in consultation and to advise the Board in the matter. These are Sir Wm. Edgar Nicholls, Sir Gilbert Garnsey, and Mr Harold Brown.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

JAMES FINLAY AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
6% cum. pref. shares, £1	500,000	...
Ord. shares, £1	1,500,000	...
Reserves	2,226,508	+ 152,980
Banking deposits and accounts	593,358	− 31,157
Creditors	454,701	− 81,022
Due to subsidiaries	22,555	+ 22,555
Bills payable	248,809	− 13,034
Profit and loss	528,562	− 75,000
Total	6,074,493	− 24,678

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Properties	306,311	− 5,208
Office f'rnit're, &c.	7,212	− 161
Goods consigned and on hand	595,821	− 104,902
Debtors	986,902	− 96,105
Due by subsidiaries	819,632	+ 819,632
Bills receivable	45,885	+ 10,793
Investments	3,176,232	− 581,295
Cash	136,498	− 67,432
Total	6,074,493	− 24,678

JOHN LEWIS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

January 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £
7% cum. pref. shares, £1	750,000	...
Ord. shares, £1	700,000	...
6% debentures	1,000,000	+ 200,000
Int. accrd. on debs.	30,000	+ 14,000
Depreciation res.	34,208	+ 15,491
Creditors	132,074	+ 11,899
Profit and loss	44,901	+ 11,903
Total	2,691,183	+ 253,293

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Jan. 31, 1929. £
Properties	1,659,428	+ 149,428
Fixtures, &c.	106,865	+ 5,985
Expenditure on improvements, &c.	23,012	+ 23,012
Investments	313,856	+ 91,092
Stock	286,540	+ 57,367
Debtors	108,091	+ 26,636
Cash held by deb. trustees	38,658	+ 38,658
Cash	55,931	− 137,104
Goodwill	25,000	...
Preliminary expenses	73,802	− 1,781
Total	2,691,183	+ 253,293

BURMAH OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
6% pref. shares	250,000	...
6% pref. shares	750,000	...
8% pref. shares	3,000,000	...
Ord. shares	6,858,256	...
5½% deb. stk.	4,000,000	...
Accrued int.	29,414	+ 8,777
General reserve	1,500,000	+ 500,000
Insurance fund	540,000	+ 20,000
Fields expenditure reserve	900,000	+ 150,000
Fire and marine fund	1,099,002	+ 85,103
Sundry creditors	1,867,317	+ 337,337
Due to Sub'diaries	198,047	+ 198,047
Pref. dividends	130,468	− 470
Profit and loss	1,560,223	+ 809,597
Total	22,692,727	+ 2,108,391

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Refineries	1,507,402	+ 43,065
Wells, plant, &c.	350,000	...
Field electrification	509,707	− 19,154
Pipe lines	288,323	− 19,381
Tanks, tankers, &c.	232,465	− 99,409
Property	10,385	+ 10,385
Stocks of plant	1,841,619	− 246,218
Stocks of products	1,213,064	+ 91,417
Investments	12,429,304	+ 806,813
Sundry debtors	418,155	− 1,843,209
Deb. issue expenses	15,184	+ 15,184
Loans to employers	Nil	− 65,384
Owing by sub's.	1,210,518	+ 1,210,518
Associated cos.	1,208,304	+ 1,208,304
Cash and loans	1,458,297	+ 1,015,460
Total	22,692,727	+ 2,108,391

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Atlantic Coast Line	...	...	...	10	10
Bengal Nagpur Railway	15/−%*	July 1	...	...	...
Leopoldina	...	...	...	5	5
BANKS.					
Bank of Nova Scotia	4%*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Continentale Handelsbank	...	...	...	7	7
Crédit Foncier d'Algérie	F17·45p.s †	...	...	F33·95p s.	...
Dutch Bank of the Mediterranean	...	...	...	6	6
Netherlands Bank of South Africa	...	...	...	7	7
INSURANCE.					
British and European Insurance	...	...	...	5	10
Law Union and Rock Insurance	7/-p.s.*	...	Less tax	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Allied Sumatra Plantations	...	...	Less tax	2½	5
Budla Beta Tea	15%†	...	Tax free	20	50
Cheras Rubber	7½%†	...	...	12½	12½
Chubwa Tea	10%†	...	...	15	35
Dalkeith Rubber	5%†	...	...	10	10
Dangua Jhar Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Dima Tea	...	...	Less tax	12½	...
Djember Rubber	...	...	...	10	10
Doolahat Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	25	40
Doom Dooma Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	30	30
Harmutty Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	20	20
Hope Tea	22½%†	...	...	35	35
Kali (Java) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Kramat Pulai	5%*	June 5	Less tax	...	...
Leesh River Tea	25%†	...	Less tax	35	...
Maleber Tea	12½%†	...	...	17½	...
Medini Rubber	...	...	...	12½	12½
Nedeem Tea	10%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Scalana Rubber	...	...	...	5	10
Sialang Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Sungei Purun Rubber	7½%†	...	...	12½	12½
Sylhet Tea	...	...	Less tax	2½	7½
Tea Share Trust	...	...	Less tax	5	12½
Tempeh (Java) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Tjilliwoeng Java Plantations	...	...	...	4	4
MINING.					
Malayan Tin Dredging	...	June 7	Less tax	7½	10
Southern Malayan Tin Dredging	...	June 6	Less tax	5	5
Southern Perak Dredging	...	June 5	Less tax	3¾	5
Tekka	4½d.p.s.*	June 4	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Anderston Foundry	...	...	Less tax	8/- p.s.	...
Becker and Co. (1924)	...	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Bolands	...	...	...	3	Nil
Boston and District Electric Supply	...	...	...	4	...
Boots' Pure Drug Co.	7%*	May 28	...	29/6	29/6
Brickwood & Co.	...	...	...	3 ...	...
British Burmah Petroleum	1½d. p.s.†	...	Tax free	...	...

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
British Oil and Cake	...	...	Less tax	3	6
British Overseas & Genl. Invest.	...	...	Less tax	9	...
British Photographic Industries	...	...	...	10	10
Buff Book	7½%†	...	...	12½	...
Buttons	1/– p.s.	* ...	Tax free	...	...
Carreras	15%*	...	Tax free	...	...
Champdany Jute	...	...	... Rs.	7-8p.s.R	s7-8p.s.
Clover Paint and Composition	6%†	...	...	9	9
Colne Valley Electric Supply	...	...	...	12	12
Cornbrook Brewery	5%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Crysede	...	...	...	5	10
Economic Investment Trust	...	...	...	5	...
Electric Construction Co.	...	...	Less tax	5	5½
Electric Furnace Co.	...	...	...	7	7
Estates and Agency	2%*	May 26	Less tax	...	...
Financial Times	...	...	...	10	...
Fitch and Son	4%†	...	...	8	8
Foots Cray Electricity Supply	...	...	...	10	...
George Beer and Rigden	4%†	June 5	Less tax	8	...
Glenfield and Kennedy	6%†	...	Less tax	10*a*	10
Greater Scala (Birmingham)	5%†	...	Less tax	8	8
Hesketh Estates	...	...	...	5	7
Hull Brewery	7*	May 27	Less tax	...	...
Imperial Tobacco Co. of Canada	1¾%*	June 30	Quarterly	...	...
Independent Investment	5½%†	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Inglis and Co.	15%†	...	Tax free	25	25
Investment Trust Corporation (Def.)	12%†	...	Less tax	20	20
James Finlay	15%†	...	...	25	25
Java Investment Loan and Agency	5%†	...	Less tax	10	12½
John Hunter, Morris and Elkan	...	...	Less tax	10	10
John Swan & Sons	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Lanston Monotype	...	June 2	...	3½	3½
Larmuth and Bulmer	...	...	...	4	4
Lewes and District Electric	...	...	...	8	...
Lewis Berger and Sons	1/–p.s.†	June 6	Less tax	...	...
Lilford Weaving (Leigh)	6d. p.s.*	...	Tax free	...	...
Liverpool Warehousing	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Manitoba & North-Western Land	...	...	Less tax	6	6
Merthyr Electric Traction	...	...	...	2½	2½
Meters	6½%†	...	Less tax	9	9
Montgomerie & Co.	...	June 3	Less tax	15	15
Montreal Light, Heat and Power	38c. p.s.	July 31	Quarterly	...	...
Moor's and Robson's Breweries	10%*	May 23	Less tax	...	...
National Mortgage & Agency Co.	...	...	Tax free	7½	7½
New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency	2%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...
Northwood Electric Light and Power	...	...	...	15	...
Pennsylvania Water and Power	$¼ p.s.	July 1	Quarterly	...	...
Royal Sovereign Pencil	...	...	...	5	5
Second Industrial Trust	5/- p.s.*	June 2	Less tax	...	...
Second Mercantile Trust	...	...	Less tax	7½	7
Sphere Investment	...	...	Less tax	4½	4
Sussex Brick (Def.)	...	May 31	Less tax	7½	7½
Trust and Loan of Canada	...	...	Free of tax	6	6
Tweedles and Smalley (1920)	2½%†	...	...	10	15
Twentieth Century Investment	...	...	...	10	10
Venezuelan Oil Concessions	20%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Wales	7½%†	plus bonus of 6d. p.s.		12½	12½
Weaver and Co.	7½%†	...	...	10	12½
Weston-super-Mare and District Electric	...	...	...	10	10
Whessoe Foundry & Engineering	...	...	Less tax	17½	17½
W. J. Bush	4%†	...	...	8	15
Yates's Castle Brewery	...	...	Less tax	2½	2½
Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Yorkshire Traction	...	...	...	10	10

a Plus bonus of 2½ per cent. *b* Of which 5 per cent. is tax free.

OIL OUTPUTS.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended May 21st: Venezuela, 40,067 barrels; Trinidad, 13,487 barrels; total, 53,554 barrels.

SERVICE PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei, Ceptura and Moreni for week ended May 11th was 6,008 tons (42,056 barrels). Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei, Ceptura and Moreni for week ended May 18th was 5,372 tons (37,604 barrels).

VENEZUELAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Total production for the month of April, 1,495 tons. Production for the week ended May 17th, 2,333 barrels (333 tons). Production for the week ended 24th instant, 2,430 barrels (347 tons). NOTE:—All this production is from the company's Fyzabad property only.

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS.—Output week ended May 10th:—Bolivar district, 93,846 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,694 metric tons; total, 100,558 metric tons. Production for the week ended May 17th was: Bolivar district, 96,413 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,783 metric tons; total, 103,196 metric tons. Production for the week ended May 24th was: Bolivar district, 98,743 metric tons; Maracaibo district, 6,594 metric tons; total, 105,337 metric tons.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended May 23, 1930. (c) Week ended May 24, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended May 25, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 21 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,751	211	220	120	340	551	4,302	4,488	2,681	7,169	11,471
Do. for 1929	3,751	266	193	81	274	540	4,473	4,634	2,689	7,323	11,796
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	313	396	256	652	965	5,495	8,491	5,677	14,168	20,663
Do. for 1929	6,365	394	383	199	582	976	6,733	8,683	5,714	14,367	21,130
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	464	545	231	776	1,240	9,583	11502	5,715	17,217	26,800
Do. for 1929	6,957¼	604	473	152	625	1,229	10164	11713	6,034	17,747	27,911
Southern	2,179	290	81	...	26	107	397	5,885	1,589	650	2,239	8,124
Do. for 1929	2,172	348	74	...	24	98	446	5,967	1,589	720	2,309	8,279
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·0	4·0	...	...	...	37·0	684·2	84·4	...	...	768·6
Do. for 1929	59	35·8	3·2	...	...	...	38·0	668·6	80·8	...	...	749·4
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	311	...	...	...	...	311	6,187	...	...	...	6,187
Do. for 1929	...	338	...	...	...	...	338	5,766	...	...	...	5,766
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	45	...	...	...	...	45	898	...	...	...	898
Do. for 1929	...	52	...	...	...	...	52	823	...	...	...	823
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	2·3	·8	...	...	...	3·1	44·1	15·4	...	...	59·5
Do. for 1929	80	2·6	·8	...	...	...	3·4	43·1	18·9	...	...	62·0
*GreatNorthern b	562	9·5	15·4	...	...	...	24·9	...	...	...	...	523·0
Do. for 1929	562	12·1	15·5	...	...	...	27·6	...	...	...	...	549·9
GreatSouthern b	2,187	25·0	41·4	...	...	...	66·4	...	...	...	...	1408·7
Do. for 1929	2,187	29·8	38·5	...	...	...	68·3	...	...	...	...	1435·8

* Aggregate 19 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or –	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or –
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	17	Apr. 26	1,217	4,01,000	– 11,718	14,37,000	– 59,627
Barsi Lt. Ry.	...	...	202	...	...	...	...
Bengal & N.Western	5	May 3	2,080	7,71,540	– 32,170	36,38,403	– 92,996
Bengal-Nagpur	5	3	3,085	39,300	– 4,100	2,71,700	– 39,700
Bombay, Bar.,& C.I.	7	17	3,031	23,05,000	+ 70,000	16,51,56,000	– 3,66,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	17	Apr. 26	3,228	18,86,000	– 2,12,784	69,39,000	– 5,30,883
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	5	May 3	572	1,46,456	+ 2,223	7,24,692	+ 34,377
South Indian	5	3	2,371	12,40,297	– 73,532	59,97,386	– 1,84,020

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	47	May 24	753	18,000	+ 1,100	736,300	...
Argentine Trans'dn.	47	24	111	3,456	– 1,382	218,100	– 8,866
B.A. and Pacific	47	24	2,806	135,000	– 45,000	7,185,000	– 1,095,000
B.A. Central	47	24	...	12,222	– 2,851	603,139	– 67,958
B.A. Gt. Southern	47	24	4,948	211,000	– 29,000	11,131,000	– 731,000
B.A. Western	47	24	1,926	80,000	– 22,000	3,988,000	– 807,000
Central Argentine	47	24	3,319	192,000	– 82,000	10,656,000	– 2,173,000
Cordoba Central	47	24	1,218	47,000	– 20,000	2,650,000	– 588,200
Entre Rios	47	24	804	24,300	+ 800	1,282,500	– 140,200
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	47	May 25	1,369	48,206	– 11,375	3,070,773	– 471,149
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	47	May 24	273	27,956	– 1,652	1,467,954	+ 47,603
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	47	24	311	6,505	– 1,125	346,284	+ 18,864
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	47	24	185	3,484	– 1,116	174,920	– 796
C.Urug.(West.Ext.)	47	24	211	2,903	– 78	134,799	– 8,117
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	20	May 21	20150	4,214,848	– 950,138	83,657,589	– 16,367,778
Canadian Pacific	20	21	15217	3,129,000	– 806,000	61,985,000	– 15,435,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	21	May 24	1,037	10,500	– 3,100	349,600	– 50,500
Leopoldina	21	24	1,856	32,153	– 4,486	712,880	– 35,944
Leopoldina Termnl.	21	24	Mirs.	272,000	+ 13,000	6,075,000	+ 296,000
San Paulo	21	25	153½	51,323	+ 1,708	900,295	– 81,587
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	20	May 18	804	26,800	– 12,870	587,550	– 220,815
Nitrate(¼-monthly)	4¼†	15	410	16,720	– 14,660	195,490	– 150,205
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	4	Apr. 30	610	8,239	– 157	25,971	+ 100
Gt. Southn. of Spain	19	May 10	104	Ps.111,057	– 5,629	2,200,108	– 128,592
Mexican Railway	20	21	483	$ 258,400	– 20,100	5,118,300	+ 42,300
Paraguay Central	47	24	274	4,710	– 560	194,210	– 15,850
Salvador	47	24	100	3,574	– 2,567	213,991	– 27,645

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or –	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or –
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	20	May 20	329	85,669	– 4,254	1,685,901	– 86,606
B. Aires Lacroze	47	25	...	11,786	+ 162	552,509	– 42,623
Burnley Corporation	20	24	13	2,681	– 675	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	20	24	35½	Rs1,03,771	– 18,928	...	– 256,789
Chatham & District	19	15	15	1,071	+ 28	20,610	+ 1,214
Egyptian Markets	19	15	...	999	– 909	36,281	– 4,271
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	19	14	...	2,219	+ 199	50,545	– 771
Liverpool Corp.	21	24	124	30,033	– 2,442	232,447	+ 2,148
L.C.C. Tramways	7	21	166	82,762	– 5,325	603,613	– 4,557
Madras Electric‡	4½†	15	...	Rs. 45,842	– 1,625	417,745	+ 28,138

* Including motor buses. † Months. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending.	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, &c.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Netherlands Bank of South Africa	Dec. 31	1,036	49,924	50,960	...	32,798	7	17,916	246	44,838	7
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Lancashire Electric Light and Power	Mar. 31	3,308	173,109	176,417	85,811	86,800	7	...	3,806	150,885	7½
Financial Land, &c.											
Berkeley Property and Investment	Mar. 25	4,715	48,707	53,422	...	42,052	7	2,497	8,873	...	...
British Overseas and General Investment	May 10§	...	15,773	15,773	6,043	6,975	9 p.a.	...	2,755	...	...
City of London Real Proty.	Apr. 12	152,208	494,954	647,162	37,438	348,500	5½	100,000	161,224	516,008	5½
Hesketh Estates, Southport	Feb. 28	43,398	30,091	73,489	17,500	30,000	12	10,000	15,989	...	...
St. Martins Le Grand Propty	Mar. 25	...	2,420	2,420	...	...	...	...	2,420	...	...
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Pritchards Restaurants	Feb. 2	2,109	16,547	18,656	12,000	...	...	4,000	2,656	19,218	...
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Brown (John) and Company	Mar. 31	90,925	24,184	115,109	...	...	...	...	115,109	87,262	...
Cooke (William) and Co.	Mar. 31	1,595	*Dr. 46,016*	*Dr. 44,421*	...	...	...	*Dr. 10,000*	*Dr.34421*	*Dr.17527*	...
Oil.											
Lobitos Oilfields	Dec. 31	233,453	125,005	358,458	...	96,875	12½	50,000	211,583	74,536	10
Rubber.											
Cheras Rubber	Dec. 31	15,143	11,180	26,323	...	8,125	12½	2,950	15,248	9,632	12½
Dwa Plantations	June 30	210	9,973	10 183	...	3,115	10	6,856	212	11,572	12
Djapoera (Sumatra) Rubber	Dec. 31	8,800	2,076	10,876	...	...	...	4,500	6,376	2,465	...
Dejapoera (Sumatra) Rubber	Dec. 31	4,972	7,499	12,471	...	6,251	12½	1,000	5,220	7,385	12½
Medini Rubber	Jan. 31	65,603	27,407	93,010	...	15,000	5	12,000	66,010	40,724	10
Sialang Rubber	Dec. 31	6,558	2,068	8,626	...	...	...	5,000	3,626	*Dr.'8*	...
Sungei Matang Rubber	Dec. 31	13,859	12,782	26,641	...	8,125	12½	3,250	15,266	9,853	12½
Sungei Purun (F.M.S.) Rubr.	Dec. 31	5,800	5,399	11,199	...	5,174	5	1,500	4,525	10,405	7½
Tempeh (Java) Rubber	Dec. 31	326	8,998	9,324	3,325	3,016	4	800	2,183	4,897	4
Tjiliwoeng Java Plantations	Dec. 31	41,188	92,012	133,200	...	69,218	15	...	43,982	87,764	15
United Sua Betong Rubber											
Shipping.											
Argentine Navigation	Dec. 31	13,577	287,584	291,161	48,000	160,000	10	90,000	3,161	310,592	10
Claymore Shipping	Mar. 31	226	3,061	3,287	...	...	...	...	3,287	5,857	5
Globe Shipping	Dec. 31	882	1,820	2,702	...	...	...	2,000	702	5,767	...
Shops and Stores.											
Horne Bros.	Feb. 28	58,943	72,307	131,250	38,500	22,500	5	10,000	60,250	86,554	5
Lewis (John) and Co.	Jan. 31	18,398	66,753	85,151	52,500	21,000	3	...	11,651	95,542	...
Marks and Spencer	Mar. 31	37,023	298,588	336,611	35,000	132,000	20	117,500	51,111	203,549	15
Tea.											
Aibheel Tea	Dec. 31	3,694	23,986	27,680	...	20,400	20	2,000	5,280	25,210	20
Chubwa Tea	Nov. 30	32,217	20,494	52,711	3,710	15,900	15	...	33,101	42,121	35
Maleber Tea	Dec. 31	1,211	5,657	6,868	...	4,375	17½	1,250	1,243	4,622	15
Telegraphs, &c.											
Direct Spanish Telegraph	Dec. 31	1,990	10,358	12,348	3,000	5,172	8†	2,000	2,176	2,557	10†
Textiles.											
Porritts and Spencer	Mar. 31	33,225	87,965	121,190	17,447	55,749	17½	14,310	33,684	104,522	17½
Shields (John) and Co.	Dec. 31	*Dr. 12,456*	*Dr. 4,042*	*Dr. 16,498*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.16498*	*Dr. 2,925*	...
Trust.											
Investment Trust Corpn.	May 1	69,389	368,757	438,146	81,000	211,950	20	...	145,196	352,864	20
Sphere Investment Trust	Mar. 31	3,374	50,961	54,335	23,625	17,438	4½	10,000	3,272	38,629	4
Other Companies.											
Amalgamated Press	Feb. 28	123,901	735,759	859,660	315,000	180,000	15	230,000	134,660	684,523	15
Brazilian Warrant Agency, &c.	Dec. 31	83,225	38,398	121,623	35,000	...	...	...	86,623	108,530	...
British Oil and Cake Mills	Dec. 31	30,878	583,331	614,209	403,498	105,000	3	...	104,711	640,885	6
Cape Asbestos	Dec. 31	12,322	39,382	51,704	20,000	15,000	15	3,000	13,704	52,210	7½
Catalinas Warehouse and Mole Co.	Dec. 31	...	40,827	40,827	25,467	15,360	2†	...	...	...	...
Country Life	Mar. 31‡	19,388	30,572	49,960	6,875	25,625	15 p.a.	5,000	19,335	25,652	15
Finlay (James) and Co.	Dec. 31	278,562	430,000	708,562	30,000	375,000	25	...	303,562	506,500	25
Hill (R. and J.)	Mar. 31	423	2,590	3,013	...	...	...	...	3,013	4,739	...
Inglis and Co.	May 3	26,137	67,825	93,962	2,126	34,750	25†	28,595	28,491	64,444	25†
Kassala Cotton Co.	Dec. 31	86,643	*Dr. 24,361*	62,282	...	...	...	...	62,282	*Dr.14980*	...
Laporte (B.) and Co.	Mar. 31	9,519	33,417	42,936	12,038	9,720	9	10,445	10,733	18,390	8
Meters	Mar. 31	5,341	20,311	25,652	5,775	13,977	9	...	5,900	2,319	9
Symons (S.) and Co.	Mar. 31*	...	21,632	21,632	...	20,000	25	558	1,074	...	...
Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical Co.	Mar. 31	1,425	13,804	15,229	...	11,719	10	...	3,510	11,199	10

* Period from January 19, 1929, to March 31, 1930. † Free of income tax. ‡ For 15 months.
§ Period from May 17, 1929, to May 10, 1930.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Climatic conditions were more favourable over the United Kingdom during the past week, spells of sunshine and a higher temperature greatly benefiting cereal crops. In some districts, the wheat plant was losing colour owing to excessive moisture during the past few weeks, and a continuance of warm weather is necessary if full yields are to be secured. The condition of pastures, however, leaves little to be desired. Native wheat continues in light supply at the principal statute markets, and, with a slow demand, prices showed no improvement, while still adversely affected by cheap offers of French grades. On the import market, dull conditions prevailed, but prices were rather dearer on the week in sympathy with improved overseas cables and lack of selling pressure. The market becomes more sensitive to weather and crop reports, and the favourable progress of new crop sowings in most countries tends to check any material upward movement. A moderate business resulted in Canadian and Argentine grades, and more attention is directed to Indian varieties, which is reflected by increased bookings of shipping space from Karachi. It is estimated that upwards of three million quarters will be available for export, some 30,000 tons being already chartered, chiefly for June loading. Southern Hemisphere shipments continue on a light scale, but larger quantities are coming forward from North America, where visible supplies are steadily being reduced. Present conditions do not indicate any great expansion in European requirements necessary to materially lessen stocks in the United States and Canada, and a large carry-over is practically assured at the end of the current cereal year. Flour prices were advanced in sympathy with wheat, but bakers are reluctant to book beyond immediate needs, while higher prices for shipment are not followed by importers. Of feeding stuffs, prices tend easier for maize owing to better climatic conditions in Argentina, together with low prices ruling for milling offals. A few cargoes of Danubian were placed to the U.K. at 23s., and offers of new crop South African are circulating freely. Oats dull of sale, but tone steady, in view of reports that the German bounty on exports will be discontinued at an early date.

WHEAT.—Firm to dearer. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 45s.; No. 2, ditto, 44s. 3d.; No. 3, 44s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 42s. 9d.; No. 5, ditto, 39s. 9d.; No. 6, 33s. 9d.; No. 2, hard winter, 41s. 9d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 38s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s. 6d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 39s. 9d.; Australian, 43s. 3d.; choice white Karachi, 41s. 9d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 4d.-8s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Firm. London, straight run, 37s. per sack for country deliveries, and 36s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 30s. 6d.-31s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, May-June, 33s.; export, ditto, 30s. 6d.; Australian, 28s.; French, prompt, 23s. 9d.-26s. 3d. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, May, £5 15s. per ton.

MAIZE.—Easier. Plate, landed, 28s. 3d.; new, ex ship to arrive, 26s. 3d.; April-May, 25s. 9d.; May-June, 25s.; June-July and July-August, 24s. 6d.; No. 2 white flat African, 28s. landed, per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £5 17s. 6d. per ton, ex ship.

BARLEY.—Dull. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s., as to sample; Chilian brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship to arrive, f.a.q., 17s. 3d.; landed, on sample, 18s.-19s. Persian, landed, 17s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d., per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Firmer for German, owing to reports that the bounty will be discontinued at an early date. Others steady. Plate, landed, 13s. 9d.; ex ship to arrive, 12s. 9d. Chilian white, landed, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 15s. German, landed, 19s.; ex ship to arrive, 17s. 3d. Mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 6d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929–30, 1928–29, 1927–28, 1926–27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to May 24	Cwts. 138,801	Cwts. 141,532	Cwts. 174,515	Cwts. 162,986
38 weeks to May 24	8,586,917	9,103,715	9,691,105	10,778,458
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 10	s. d 11 2	s. d. 12 5

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
May 17	130,531	46,234	20,428	8 9	7 9	6 8
May 24	138,801	21,393	19,652	8 7	7 4	6 7
May 22, 1926	137,437	15,659	19,211	13 7	9 4	9 11
May 21, 1927	170,754	27,011	66,210	12 4	11 4	9 9
May 26, 1928	174,515	12,846	14,868	11 2	10 8	13 1
May 25, 1929	141,532	28,274	27,349	9 10	10 7	9 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	May 29, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) — Cents per 60 lb.	122	109⅞	148⅜	105⅛	107⅞	111
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	97	130⅞	102⅜	103⅜	107⅛

The visible supply of wheat in Canada at 62,528,000 bushels shows a decrease on the week of 3,778,000 bushels. Supplies a year ago stood at 72,431,000 bushels.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The export market for South Yorkshire coal is less favourable than before, as forward bookings are on a comparatively meagre scale and prices weak. The demand for industrial coal is adversely affected by the disorganisation of the textile industries, and sales of house coal have declined. The market for blast furnace coke is weak and unsatisfactory. The price is about 14s. at ovens.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—There has been a moderate improvement in the shipping branch of the coal trade recently, and generally the market has firmed up a little, one or two qualities of nuts being as much as a shilling dearer than a week or so ago. Large coal is, however, still very plentiful, and for good-sized orders the collieries are willing to shade prices. Current quotations for shipment business are round the following (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE:—Ell best, 14s.; splint best, 15s. 6d.-16s.; splint second, 14s. 6d.-15s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; steam, 12s. 6d.; Hartley, 16s.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s.; dross, 9s. 6d. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-14s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.-11s. 9d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s.; secondary steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 6d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 9d.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—On the Cardiff coal market new business continues very scarce, and reports of irregular working have been received during the week from practically every district of the coalfield. Moreover, with no inducement to enter into speculative contracts owing to the reluctance of foreign buyers to extend their commitments, exporters are buying from hand to mouth, while the house coal trade is beginning to feel the effects of the seasonal decline in consumption. Prices, however, are stationary at the minimum schedule, and owners are more united than they have been for some time past in their determination to resist any attempt to reduce the minimum figures. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 9d.; coking smalls, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. to 26s. 3d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Although the depression in the iron and steel markets remains serious, the slight movement in business noticed last week has continued. There has been rather more export buying; but, generally speaking, the overseas markets are in a lethargic condition. All the business transacted appears to have been for small parcels for early delivery, and orders have been subject to keen bargaining. Slight as the improvement has been, however, it has been sufficient to give a more hopeful tone to the market for finished steel, particularly as there has been a certain amount of buying in the home market for stock replenishment. Business in pig iron remains dull, and consumers, who are finding a poor demand for their products, are taking only small quantities to cover their immediate requirements. The producers state that stocks have not yet reached an unwieldy tonnage, and argue that no reduction in prices would stimulate the demand. They are also disinclined to make any alteration in their quotations until increases in cost which may arise from the Government's coal legislation are more evident. The semi-finished steel department has been quiet, and transactions have been for a limited tonnage. Consumers appear to be buying on hand-to-mouth lines and to be placing the greater part of their business with the British works Some transactions in Continental material are reported, but the volume of this class of business has declined considerably of late.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—Extreme dullness still pervades the market for Cleveland iron. A very small business was reported at the weekly market on Tuesday, and this was confined to odd parcels on home account. Makers were firm at recent prices, viz.:—No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. There is practically nothing doing with Scotch consumers on account of the severe competition of Continental and other irons, but a few shipments are going forward against current contracts. In hematite there is a slightly better demand, but the quantities booked are not yet of very large volume. Consumers, however, are rather more inclined to buy in view of the reduced output and the prospect of producers making a firmer stand in regard to prices. For odd lots of mixed numbers works are securing 74s., but for larger quantities for fairly early delivery would accept 73s. 6d. in order to get stocks reduced. Shipments of pig iron do not show any improvement, the clearances to 27th instant being 13,833 tons, against 12,996 tons to April 27th. In the steel trade the Union of South Africa are understood to have placed orders for 47,000 tons heavy steel rails and necessary fishplates with British makers. It was reported last week that Dorman, Long and Company had secured 13,500 tons and the Cargo Fleet Iron Company, Ltd., here are now stated to have booked 10,000 tons. Prices for the different manufactured materials are unchanged from last week. In the ore market new business is at a standstill. Sellers now offer best Bilbao rubio for prompt shipment at 20s. c.i.f., but there are no buyers. On account of the difficulty in getting ore taken out under contracts several of the smaller mines in the North of Spain are reported to have closed down and others are likely to follow unless a change takes place very quickly. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early tonnage is about 5s. 6d. Coke continues much in excess of demand, and the price of good furnace qualities is weaker again at 17s. per ton delivered consumers' works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—There are as yet no definite signs of a recovery from the depression which pervades nearly all branches of the iron and steel industry. All the reports refer to the smallness of orders and the absence of forward contracts. Consumers have not sufficient confidence to buy normally. Competition becomes keener and much of the business being transacted has been accepted at unremunerative prices. More than half of the open-hearth furnaces in this district are standing, while short time is the rule at the rolling mills. The pig-iron market continues lifeless, with prices unchanged. Moderate business is being done in alloy and other special steels. The export markets continue to be the weak spot in the situation. The prevailing trade depression is being felt more or less in the tool, cutlery and electro-plate ections, with the exception of engineers' small tools.

Our Workington correspondent writes:—The steady decline in business in the Cumberland and North Lancashire hematite pig-iron trade during the last few months has compelled makers this week to bring down prices by 2s. to 3s. per ton. East Coast competition is keen, and smelters anxious to maintain production at its present level, the number of furnaces in blast being twelve, have thrown out a bait to tempt users to cover their needs for two or three months ahead. Whether or not there will be a satisfactory response remains, of course, to be seen, but the amount of business done during the two days following the cut in prices was exceedingly small. It is in the smelters' favour that they hold little stock, and that it will be the end of the half-year before orders on their books are completed. Bessemer mixed numbers are now quoted at 72s. 6d. per ton at works, and semi-special and special qualities 2s. 6d. to 5s. per ton higher, while malleable iron is £6 per ton delivered and ferro-manganese £13 per ton home. Continental and American demand is poor, and Midland, Scottish and South Wales requirements are lower. The steel trade is quiet, and no new orders of importance have been booked this month. A period of intermittent working during the summer is now inevitable. The mills at Workington are at present rolling rails for South Africa and sleepers for the Southern Railway. Native ore is in steady request by Cumberland and North Lancashire smelters at 17s. 6d. to 19s., but hardly any metal is being sent to the East Coast or to Scotland. The coal trade has slumped. Scottish owners with lower prices have invaded Cumberland preserves in the Irish market, with the result that shipments are lighter and that short time is being worked at several of the collieries. Best round is 21s. 6d.; washed doubles, 20s.; washed singles, 19s.; small, 17s. 6d., all f.o.b. Best house is 30s.; gas coal, 28s.; local coke, 17s. 9d. to 18s. 3d.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—It is being found increasingly difficult to keep plants in operation as, while demand has shown no further shrinkage during the past week, there has been no expansion of business and stocks are accumulating in spite of the fact that for some little time, in almost every branch of the iron and steel industry, only part of the available plant has been in operation. Some branches of the tube trade and sheetmakers are more favourably placed than other sections, but even here the demand is not equal to works' capacity. The small tonnage of new work placed with Clyde yards is partially responsible for the state of affairs at the steel plants, but there has also been a considerable reduction in the volume of export orders.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been no material change this week in the condition on the South Wales metal trades. In the tinplate industry inquiries have been comparatively inactive, with prices ruling between 18s. and 18s. 3d. per basis box, but the current output is in excess of the effective demand, and it is suggested that allocations under the regulation scheme may have to be further reduced. Quotations for galvanised sheets are unaltered at £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton, while native and foreign tinplate bars are also unaltered at last week's quotations. Shipments last week were a little heavier than in the previous week, but deliveries from the factories were a little heavier and stocks are higher at 206,657 boxes. In the corresponding period last year, however, stocks totalled nearly 239,000 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market displayed firmer features, sellers showing more reserve in face of higher Eastern cables and a fair consumptive demand, but later values reacted on freer offerings. Standard cash changed hands at £142–£143 7s. 6d. and £141 5s.; three months, £143 10s.-£146 to £143 2s. 6d. In the East, sales were reported at £145 2s. 6d. to £147 and £145 12s. 6d ton c.i.f.

COPPER opened a shade firmer, but with buyers reluctant to follow, a quieter tone ensued. Demand was chiefly for forward dates, early June sold £54 2s. 6d. to £54; and three months, £54-£54 2s. 6d. to £53 17s. 6d., and £54 1s. 3d. Cash sold £54.

LEAD dull of sale. Good soft foreign pig, May, sold £18 to £18 2s. 6d.; July, £18 1s. 3d. per ton.

SPELTER easier, with sellers more in evidence and a lack of demand. June sold £16 18s. 9d. to £17 2s. 6d. and £16 17s. 6d.; August, £17 10s.–£17 12s. 6d. to £17 8s. 9d.; September, £17 16s. 3d. to £17 12s. 6d. per ton.

ANTIMONY quietly steady. English regulus quoted £40 to £45; Chinese ditto, spot, £27 10s. to £28; May-June, £24 10s.; crude, May-June, £16 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE, May-June, £26 10s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., May-June, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM dull. Chinese, May-June, 22s. 3d.; Burmese ditto, £21 per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER firmer. Spot, £22 2s. 6d. net, per bottle.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 1½d. to 18s. 4½d. per bottle, f.o.b. Swansea.

ZINC OXIDE dull, at £27 to £33 per ton as to quality, delivered U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, May 28th.

Prices are a few points lower owing to continued favourable crop conditions and poor trade. Demand seems non-existent, and there are reports of further curtailment in the mills. The New York Cotton Exchange Service estimates world consumption of American cotton during April at 1,056,000 bales against 1,063,000 for March, 1,288,000 for April last season, and 1,161,000 bales for April two seasons ago. Total consumption from August to the end of April this season was 10,286,000 bales against 11,435,000 same time last season and 11,966,000 bales two seasons ago. Spot sales for the week 22nd to 28th (inclusive) are 13,000 bales, of which 4,760 America, 1,800 Brazil, 350 Argentine, 1,600 Peru, 1,050 Egyptian, 2,600 African, 710 East Indian, and 130 sundries. Imports for the same period are 35,070 bales, of which 9,067 are American, 2,282 Brazil, 133 Peru, 11,953 Egyptian, 3,695 African, 7,208 East Indian, and 732 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·57; Egyptian Sakel, 13·85, Uppers, 10·16; Brazil Fair, 7·87; Peru G.F. Smooth, 8·97; West African Middling, 8·47; East African G.F., 9·12.

MANCHESTER: May 28th.

The tone of the market has continued very slow and spinners and manufacturers have not been able to report any improvement in demand. A miscellaneous business is done from day to day, but there is a general absence of enterprise and the turnover is much less than the requirements of producers. Operations in piece-goods for India remain very limited. Although the cancellation of contracts is being strongly resisted, some mutual arrangements are being made whereby deliveries can be postponed. The further fall in the price of silver has made the outlook for China trade worse than ever, and replacement buying is impossible at the moment. Some isolated sales, however, have been mentioned for Hong Kong. Printing and bleaching styles have attracted some attention for the West Coast of Africa. Home-trade buyers have operated sparingly. More looms are being brought to a standstill in weaving districts. The yarn market remains depressed. Only small quantities of American and Egyptian counts for home use and export have been sold.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	May 7.	May 14.	May 21.	May 28.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·51	d. 8·62	d. 8·57	d. 8·54	d. 11·47	d. 10·20
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·00	14·05	13·85	13·85	21·90	17·05
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12½	12½	16⅝	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	22	22	21½	31½	25½
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 60's	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 26 9	s. d. 25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 6	24 6	24 6	24 3	29 3	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.....	13 4½	13 4½	13 4½	13 3	15 3	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	14 3	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—Taking into account the peculiar situation brought about by the partial stoppage of production in the West Riding mills, it can be said that the outlook is fairly promising. At the moment, of course, there is more or less dislocation and it is difficult for owners of machinery to see far ahead but a broad survey of conditions in the raw wool markets and in the chief Continental consuming centres certainly suggests that the wool textile industry as a whole can look forward to better trade. The outstanding feature is that confidence in wool seems to have been re-established, and the brisk demand in London and in the overseas markets indicates that users everywhere are in need of supplies. There is, of course, a danger that the advance in raw material prices may be carried too far, but at present there does not appear to be much prospect of this; users are exercising restraint so far as speculative purchases are concerned, but they are operating much more freely in regard to their probable requirements. In all Continental markets the tone is good and prices are firm, and it is encouraging to note the steady reduction in stocks

of tops. In Bradford the position shows little change on the week. There is still a fair demand for spot lots of tops, and where prompt delivery can be given full quoted rates are obtainable. The turnover however, is naturally restricted for although the majority of spinners are working, several manufacturers are not in a position to take delivery of yarn. In all sections there is a steady drift of workers back to the mills but until the opposition from the operative combers and weaving overlookers is overcome, it will be impossible to make progress consistent with the general improvement foreshadowed by the recovery in the raw material position.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The auctions are fast coming to a finish, and the series has certainly been very good. Not only has the attendance remained satisfactory, but competition during the past week has been on a par with the two previous weeks. The selection throughout the series has been exceedingly good, both in merinos and crossbreds, and the large operations of both the Home and Continental trades has left nothing to be desired. Supplies of greasy New Zealand wools have been on the meagre side, so that there has been no difficulty in maintaining a good 10 to 15 per cent. advance over March rates. Slipes have been in very large supply, and although half-bred lambs have not advanced a great deal, 50's and below have met with a very ready sale at about 1d. more than last series. Considering the big quantities of crossbreds which have been available, the sales have gone remarkably well. Large offerings of Puntas have been absorbed by the Continent in a manner which has been remarkable. Throughout the series there have been some very good offerings of merinos, the wools catalogued being better quality than we have seen for a long time. Supplies from Tasmania have been larger, for, in addition to some familiar clips, a good many withdrawn lots out of the Tasmanian sales last January have been offered. These have met with a very hearty reception. Some very good wools from the New England district of New South Wales have also sold exceedingly well, and altogether the bulk of the merinos have maintained the full opening advance. The auctions have established confidence in to-day's values, and done much to remove any lingering pessimism that existed. In view of the labour situation in the West Riding, the majority think that for the time being advances have gone far enough.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

For the time being, at any rate, prices for market hides appear to have touched top, values at the auctions held so far this week showing no alteration. There still appears to be a shortage of supplies in certain weights and classes, but in spite of this an easier tone is being looked forward to. Foreign hides, on the other hand, show a firmer tendency, and with an improvement in the demand for certain descriptions fractional advances have been recorded. In the South African market a fair amount of business has been put through for tanners in the U.S.A. and Europe in connection with frigorific hides, and Argentine ox are now quoted at 7 5/16d., light ox at 7d., and Montevideo cows at 6 9/16d. The market for saladero hides has also been rather more active, a fair number of sales having been effected for Russia. Dry River Plates have followed the upward trend, B.A. Americanos having changed hands at from 8 3/16d. to 8 7/16d., with Sierra Cordobas quoted at 8 5/8d. A fairly active market has been experienced for Africans of most descriptions, sales of Capes having been made at 8 1/2d. and 7 1/2d. for drys, with dry-salted realising 7 7/8d. and 6 5/8d. Satisfactory business has also been put through in connection with unbathed Adis Abebas, which have sold at 6 7/8d. to 7d. for heavies and 6 3/4d. for mediums, while Mombasas 30/40/30 have sold at 6 7/8d. Although the bulk of the business passing in connection with sole leather is confined to small quantities, a rather better inquiry has been experienced and it is hoped that this will eventually lead to a larger turnover. Disappointment continues to be expressed at the way in which the manufacturing end of the trade is taking up supplies, orders being restricted to the smallest possible wants. Bends for the repairing trade are a steady sale, and fair quantities of English and wet-salted in 10 to 12-lb. weights have changed hands for this purpose. Light-weight bends for the production of footwear are taken up in small quantities, while a regular steady trade is done all the time in both shoulders and bellies. Prices are maintained in most directions, and it is seldom one hears of anything in the way of a concession being obtained. A regular trade is passing in connection with upper leathers and the inquiry covers most classes. Glacé kid, willow calf and suede leather are the lines most asked for, while a moderate inquiry is experienced all the time for reptile skins and imitation grains for shoe purposes. Box calf is receiving a little more attention, while there is a limited inquiry for patent in the medium and cheaper grades. Semi-chrome leathers remain quiet, as is also the case with curried upper leathers, the only inquiry in connection with the latter being for a few odd lines in waxed splits and kip butts.

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THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, May 28th.

The Indian Jute Mills' Association are understood to have had a meeting on Monday last to discuss the question of short-time working, but no official intimation of the result has yet come to hand. One or two private messages say that an agreement has been practically fixed up to the effect that the mills, with exception of one small native-owned establishment, which refused to join the Association, will work 54 hours per week from July 1st next instead of 60 hours as at present. Owing to a poor demand for jute goods, prices of all commodities in the jute trade have declined to a very low level, and producers have been running for months at a loss. Outside India spinners and manufacturers have had to curtail their output to a very considerable extent and unemployment has steadily increased to a marked degree. The latest dividends of the Indian mills disclose decided reductions on past results. During the past week, the raw jute market has shown signs of weakness and values are reduced by about 20s. per ton. Five marks of best Lightnings have been sold at £26 15s. for August shipment and good marks are obtainable at £26 10s. for September, while First Marks are named at £29, same shipment. Both new and old crop Daisee assortment are offered at the same price of £24 5s., with threes at £23 15s. and fours at £22 5s., shipment May to October. New crop Motilal Tossa twos are quoted at £26 10s., assortment at £26 5s., and threes at £26, September-October, and old crop full group Tossa assortment could be bought at £25 10s., May-June. Sales have been very few indeed. Encouragement is lacking to spinners in the way of business in jute yarns. The market is very quiet, but no one will break 2s. 8d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 9d. for 8-lb. spools for quick delivery and 1d. more for forward. Even though raw jute has been reduced in value, spinners are still suffering a loss of about £3 per ton. Twist is firm at 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are unchanged at 3 1/2d. for 24-lb. weft and 4 1/2d. for 8-lb. chains. An interesting situation has arisen in rove. Owing to the small turnover in raw jute through the short time and stopping of machinery, jute waste is scarce, and common cuttings cannot be bought at any price, so that spinners are unable to deliver contracts on hand and are unwilling to enter further orders. £18 10s. is the lowest price for 200 lb. rove and £28 10s. for 48 lb. Fine yarns are very steadily held. Only mere trifles of jute cloth are being purchased for quick despatch. Buyers appear to have no use for material for forward delivery, and this branch of the trade is depressed. Manufacturers, however, are not indicating lower prices to induce business, and 3 3/16d. is still the lowest quoted for 10 1/2-oz. 40-in. hessians and 2 15/16d. for 8 oz. Linoleum hessians are dull and nominal, and apart from a large quantity of 10 por. 29-in. tarpaulin placed in Dundee, heavy goods are slow. The Calcutta goods market has shown little change, but prices are firm.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

There is a rather better tone in the markets though the volume of business is small and leaves much to be desired. Linseed oil is in fair demand from consumers, and on scarcity new positions are firmer and forward delivery steady. Current value of raw oil on spot ex Hull is £42 10s., and for May £42 per ton, naked, white. June-August has advanced to £40. Cotton oil is in some demand and is steadier, crude Egyptian now being held for £28 10s., and common edible for £31 10s. prompt, ex Hull. Soya palm kernel and castor oils are easier. In the oilseed section linseed is firmer on a good demand from the Continent. Plate on passag to Hull has been done at £17 7s. 6d., and June-July shipment at £17 10s., since when values are around £17 10s. (sellers) in all positions. Very little Indian linseed is offering, and business in small Bombay, May-June, is reported at £18 17s. 6d. to £19 1s. 3d. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe has now shrunk to 111,200 tons, or 10,000 tons less than last week. Cottonseed is neglected, and black Egyptian easy at £7 afloat and June loading. Soya beans are quiet around £8 12s. 6d. paid for June to the Continent. Oilcakes and meals are in quiet demand, and prices are lower.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Consumers' demand was confined to immediate wants, and late rates were repeated for spot goods. Raw refining kinds the turn in buyers' favour, with moderate interest shown. Java markets quiet but generally steady. T.L. granulated ex refinery, quoted, 20s. 4½d. Crystallised, West India, spot, 20s. to 22s. 6d. as to quality. British West Indies, 96 per cent. preferential, June, 10s. 6d.; Cuban, cargo, July, sold, 6s. 10½d.; Peruvian, 96 per cent., June parcels, quoted, 6s. 10½d. c.i.f. Foreign granulated; Dutch J, prompt, 8s. 9d.; Dinteloord, ditto, 8s. 9d. f.o.b. Amsterdam Polish crystals, ready, 7s. 6d. f.o.b. Danzig. To India, Java, July-September, 9s.; October-December, 9s. 0¾d. c. and f. Calcutta. Hungarian crystals, October-December, 9s. 9d.; German crystals, June, 8s. 7¾d. c. and f. terms. Terminals quiet and tendency easier. Raw, August, sold, 6s. 3¾d. to 6s. 0¼d.; December, 6s. 8¼d. to 6s. 6¾d.; March, 7s. 8¼d. to 7s. 7¼d.; May, 7s. 10¼d. to 7s. 9¾d.; cwt. Cuban receipts for past week totalled 67,424 tons, against 74,564 tons at corresponding period last year; exports, 73,026, against 110,729; and stocks, 1,698,582, against 1,487,652 tons. Centrals, working, 30, against 8. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 24th totalled 153,607 tons, against 122,083 last year. Later British refined reduced 3d. and home grown 1½ cwt.

COFFEE.—Spot market firm, with a good demand for all attractive liquoring grades, fine Costa Rica realising dearer prices. Jamaica blue mountain, sold, 236s. 6d. to 234s.; Kenya, bold, 90s. to 131s.; peaberry, 86s. to 115s. 6d.; Costa Rica, common to fine bold, 100s. 6d. to 180s.; medium, 76s. to 121s.; peaberry, 105s. to 173s. 6d. cwt.

COCOA.—Spot market steady, with fair sales passing, including Trinidad, at 61s. to 63s.; and Granada, 51s. to 52s. Forward firm. Accra, F.F., May-July, quoted 35s.; mid-crop, London contract, 31s.; October-December, 36s. Terminal firm, with business of moderate extent. May, sold, 36s.; June, 36s. 3d.; July, 36s. 6d.; December, 36s. 6d. to 37s. 3d. per cwt.

TEA.—Larger supplies of Indian, totalling 56,946 packages, came to a quieter market, and prices displayed a good deal of irregularity. All clean common descriptions ruled fairly steady, but medium and fine sorts frequently marked a sharp decline. Some high-grown Travancore of good quality sold steadily, but otherwise the inquiry for Southern Indian invoices was restricted, and prices moved against sellers. Ceylon offerings of 32,081 packages met a fairly good demand, with some irregularity in attendance, though allowing for a further deterioration in quality, values showed no material change, except for plain medium leaf teas, which tended in buyers' favour. Java and Sumatra sales passed off with a generally steady tone, and fair competition prevailed.

RICE.—Market rather featureless in absence of European demand. Rangoon, two stars, spot, sellers, 13s.; May-June, 12s.; July, 12s. 3d. Saigon, No. 1, round grain, May-June, 12s. 4½d.; Siam, super, 17s. 4½d. c.i.f. American blue rose and Spanish oiled steady. Brokens quiet. Bran steady. Burma, May-June, £4; July-December, £4 5s. Saigon, May-June, £5 ton c.i.f. Beans quietly steady. Madagascar butters, spot, 31s. 6d. to 33s. 6d., according to sample; April-May, 32s. 6d. Rangoon haricots, spot, 10s. 9d. Peas dull. Japanese, spot, 13s. 6d. to 13s. 9d.; new, 14s. 6d.; May-June, also June-July, 13s. 3d. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s.; small H.P. blues, 11s. to 13s. cwt.

SPICE.—Pepper remains firm and reservedly offered, closing quieter. Black Lampong, April-June, steamer, 11d.; May-July, sold, 10¾d. to 10½d.; August-October, 9¾d. to 9⅝d.; white Muntok, April-June, 1s. 1½d.; May-July, sold, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 0½d.; August-October, 1s. 0⅜d. t0 1s. 0⅛d. London stocks of black show a decrease of 30 tons on the week, at 1,115 tons, against 1,524 tons at corresponding period last year; white, 42 tons increase at 735, against 645 tons at same time in 1929. Zanzibar cloves quiet. Spot, 11¾d. to 1s.; May-June, 11⅞d. per lb. Pimento dearer. May-June, also July-August, quoted, 67s. 6d. Tapioca dull. Singapore flake, to Havre, May-June, sellers, 12s. 6d.; Penang to Hamburg, 14s. Sago flour, to London, 10s. 10½d. Desiccated coconut, fine cut, spot, 31s. 3d.; medium, 30s. 9d.; halves, afloat, 29s. 6d.; May-June, 28s. 9d. cwt. c.i.f. Ginger quiet.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market remains firm with a fair trade passing. Pyrgos, quoted, 36s. 6d.; Amalias, 38s.-39s.; Patras, 39s.-43s.; Gulf, 42s.-45s.; Vostizza, 47s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 40s.-62s. Sultanas: Smyrna quiet but Australians sell freely. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-45s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 33s.-45s. Dates slow of sale. Hallowie, spot, 17s.-19s.; Khadrowie, 14s. 6d.; Siar, 12s.-13s. 6d. Raisins move off slowly. Valencias, quarter-boxes at 36s.-38s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 19s.-30s.; good average, 16s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market steady and peaches continue to sell freely, while apricots tend dearer. Plums quiet on spot, but a fair business transpired for parcels to arrive. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 60s.; 40's-50's, 55s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 56s.-72s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; Australian, 50s.-60s.; South African, 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-52s. 6d.; 1930 crop, 45s.-60s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 112s.; Majorcas, 105s.-115s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 182s. 6d.-195s. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, 149s.; Barcelona, 149s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-137s. 6d. ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Trade has been checked by adverse climatic conditions and prices exhibit some irregularity in view of larger prospective new pack supplies. Australian varieties met a moderate demand at late rates. Singapore pines dull of sale despite attractive prices current and shipment quotations tend easier, but South African sell steadily. Italian tomatoes dull of sale both spot and forward.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady with moderate inquiries. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s. 6d.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 24s.-26s.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters: Only small supplies available and halves range from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Corned beef, ox and lunch tongues, also tinned hams steady and in fair supply, but warmer weather is needed to stimulate consumption.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market uninteresting and featureless. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 30s. 6d.; machine-skimmed ditto, 19s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 58s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 78s. 6d. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 37s. 3d.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 36s.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 35s. 9d., all per cwt. English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or

THE FUTURE OF RUBBER.

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	44	0
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	7
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	4
Oats, " "	6	7
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	3
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 35 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.12	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 20	0	0
Medium pearl..... 22	0	23
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 3	0	3
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5	6	6
Argentine chilled hinds... 4	4	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7	0	8
N.Z. frozen " 3	4	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 6	0	7

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	98	0 114	0
Danish.....	92	0 100	0
Canadian.....	98	0 0	0
Dutch	87	0 96	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0 0	0
Canadian.....	0	0 0	0
American	88	0 106	0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	124	0 126	0
Australian	112	0 126	0
New Zealand	114	0 144	0
Danish.....	132	0 0	0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	90	0 105	0
New Zealand	76	0 84	0
English Cheddars		nom.	
Dutch	39	0 74	0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	123	0 138	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0 165	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0 136	0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0 135	0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0 118	0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	10	6 14	0
Danish.....	10	6 11	6
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0	0 0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	0	0 0	0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases 300	6	6 18	0
360	8	0 14	0
504	8	9 13	6
Lemons, Naples... boxes	10	6 21	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	6	0 15	0
" ..... cases	6	0 16	9
Malaga .... cases 420 No. 1	0	0 0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0	0 0	0
" (var.) boxes	0	0 0	0
" Tasmanian boxes	10	0 23	0
" Australian	10	0 16	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	6	9	8	6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	80	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	55	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	1½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	2	1	4
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	1	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	4	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	6
Java, white, c.& f. India, July-Sept.	8	10½	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	0	25	6
Crushed.....	23	6	24	0
Granulated.....	21	6	22	1½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	4½	20	7½
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	9	2	1
Broken Pekoe	0	9½	1	10½
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	2
Broken Orange.....	0	11½	2	3½
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
" strips	0	5½	1	2

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	8·54
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....	13·85
Yarns, 32's twist.....	12½
60's twist.....	22

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	53	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	50	0	0	0
Manila, May–July "J2"...	24	10	0	0
N.Z., Mar.–May		nom.		
Sisal African, Apl.–June..	27	10	29	0
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton	£	s.	d.	
May–June	23	12	6	
Aug.–Sept.	24	7	6	

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	9	0	10	6
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	15	6	17	6
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	15	0	17	6

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super "	14
N.Z., grey, half-bred 50–56	12½
Crossbred 40–44	10½
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31½
" 64's	30
Crossbred 48's	17
" 46's	15½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	0	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	66	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	1½	18	4½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	60	10	61	10
Sheets (strong)	87	0	0	0
Standard	53	15	53/17/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	10	19	15
Soft Foreign	18	0	18/6/8	
Spelter G.O.B.	16	15	17/8/9	
Tin—English ingots ...	142	5	142	15
Standard cash	141/2/6		141	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	7	1	7½
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	0	25	10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton June	20/16/3		0	0
Smoked South Sea May	19/15/0		0	0
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4¾
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	6½	0	8
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	7
Best cow	0	3½	0	5½
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	9	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8	1	1
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	42	10	0	0
Rape, refined	38	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	29	0	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	33	10	0	0
Palm.....	23	15	25	15
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	10	10	10	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— May-June.	17/7/6		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— May.-June	18	15	0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	39	0	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	16	10	19	5
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6¾	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	7¾	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	127	6	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—	£	s.	£	s.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0	
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0	
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0	
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0	
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0	
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0	
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0	
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6	
African "	0	6	6	
Amer. Oak Boards "	0	6	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	0	
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0	
Do. Ash "	0	6	6	

gradual delivery to the end of June, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum, 1-ton lots. Smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. per case usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull and prices tend in buyers' favour. *Jamaica*, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 36s.-40s.; Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 36s.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand firm on crop shortage. Light amber, 65s.-85s.; *white and water whites*, 82s. 6d.-87s. 6d. cwt.

RUBBER.

Fractionally easier and dealings restricted. Plantation standard sheet, spot, also June sold, 6 $\frac{13}{16}$d., 6¾d.; July-September, 6 $\frac{15}{16}$d., 6 $\frac{7}{8}$d.; October-December, 7 $\frac{1}{16}$d. to 7¼d.; January-March, 7 $\frac{1}{16}$d. to 7 $\frac{3}{8}$d.; April-June, quoted, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$d. lb. London landings amounted to 1,580 tons, deliveries, 1,559; stocks, 76,953, compared with 30,893 tons at same time last year, being an increase of 21 tons on the week. Liverpool landings, 478 tons; deliveries, 204; stocks, 24,722, against 4,665 at same time in 1929, showing an increase of 274 tons on the week.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—*With sellers rather prominent, a quiet and easier market resulted. Firsts, to Continent, April-May sellers, £23 10s.; May-June, also June-July, £23 12s. 6d.; new, August-September, £24 10s.; September-October, £24 10s. Lightnings, May-June, £22 10s. August-September, £23; Hearts, June-July, £21; Daisee assortment, May-June, £23 c.i.f.*

HEMP.—*Manila weak. J, No. 2, May-July, sellers £24; K, ditto, £23; August-October, £23; L, No. 1, May-July, £22 15s.; No. 2, £21 7s. 6d.; M, No. 1, £22; No. 2, £21. African sisal dull. No. 1, May-July, sellers, £29; No. 2, £28 c.i.f. Receipts for past week totalled 31,000 bales, against 32,000 at corresponding period last year and 25,000 in 1928. Estimate for this week 26,000 and the following week 32,000 bales.*

SHELLAC.—*Spot, steady. Fair, T.N., 127s. 6d. Futures quiet; August, quoted, 118s.; October, sold, 122s. To arrive, April-May, also May-June, 112s. 6d. c.i.f.*

COPRA.—*Market weak on lack of buying interest. Straits S.D., to Rotterdam, May sellers, £20 17s. 6d.; June, £20 16s. 3d. Dutch E.I., May, £20 17s. 6d. Ceylon, £21 15s. South Sea, sun-dried, £20; Plantation, £20 5s. To Marseilles: Mixed Dutch E.I., May-June, £19 15s.; smoked, South Sea, £19 15s.; Manila, in bulk, £19 15s. Palm kernels, to Hamburg, June-July, £14 10s.; July-August, £14 12s. 6d.; August-September, £14 15s., c.i.f.*

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, May-June, 4s. 6d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.*

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—May 28.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 6	6 10
Irish	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...
Short Horns	6 4	6 6
Herefords	...	...
Devons	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Canadian	...	...
Sheep—Downs	8 8	9 8
Half bred	...	...
Ewes	5 0	5 8
Scottish	...	...
Lamb—Downs	11 4	12 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—May 28.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	3 0	3 6
" " " whites.....	1 6	2 0
Essex King Edward.....	2 6	3 0
" " " whites.....	1 6	2 0
New Spanish.....	9 0	...
" Jersey	15 0	...
" Cherbourg	13 0	...
St. Malo	12 0	...

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Vol. CX. SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1930. No. 4,528.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

THE payment of the 5 per cent. War Loan dividend at the beginning of the month made money extremely plentiful, and despite the fact that some of these funds were immobilised on Monday by the payment of calls on new issues, money was obtainable at 1½ per cent. R

rates, too, were extremely low over the week-end, $2\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. being quoted for three months' bills at the end of last week. The probable explanation is the continued buying of bills by the clearing banks.

* * * *

The last few days, however, have witnessed a definite change in the tone of the discount market. On Monday, £151,546 in gold was bought from the Bank on German account, while the following day Germany not only bought £537,000 of the £640,000 of market gold available, but also bought a further £684,630 from the Bank. In addition to these losses, the Bank during the week ended Wednesday last had to "earmark" £450,000 in sovereigns, it is believed for Argentine account. Finally, the French exchange fell on Tuesday to below the export gold point, and although gold was actually withdrawn and the pound recovered slightly the following day, it is not impossible that more gold will go to France before long.

* * * *

These actual and potential gold movements were the cause of a complete reversal of opinion in both the discount and the Consol market. Whereas last week rumour favoured an early reduction in Bank rate to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., by Wednesday of this week the three months' discount rate had risen from $2\frac{1}{16}$ to $2\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., and gilt-edged stock quotations had weakened appreciably. On Thursday the three months' discount rate was a shade easier. There is no need to fear an early increase in Bank rate. The German gold withdrawals are mainly the consequence of transfers of French balances from London to Berlin, and while it is true that these are dictated by the higher rates obtainable in Berlin, the fact that Berlin rates are still above the world level means that no special action is called for in London. Again, even if France takes some more gold, it will probably be due to preparation for the reparations loan, and the Bank will be justified in adopting the same attitude as it did towards the circumstances of the B.I.S. share issue a few weeks ago.

* * * *

It is quite likely that matters may so be arranged that Bank rate will remain at 3 per cent. and market rate round $2\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. for some time, and that, if more gold losses occur, the Bank may neutralise them by purchases of bills. The end of the half-year will have its usual passing effect upon the supply of money, though the banks are already well provided with funds, and two of the clearing banks are reported to have bought bills maturing after the turn of the half-year at $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for Julys and $2\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. for Augusts. Money has been lent into July at $2\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. All this suggests that the half-year squeeze may not be so severe as usual, and also gives some indication as to what is believed to be the future course of discount rates.

	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Discount Call	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Houses Notice	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$2\frac{1}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{8}$–$\frac{5}{16}$	$2\frac{1}{8}$–$\frac{5}{32}$	$2\frac{1}{8}$–$\frac{5}{32}$	...

The Bank return shows that the net gold losses of the week amounted to £1,237,614. The note circulation has expanded by £3,667,054, this possibly being due to the approach of the holidays. The War Loan dividend payment probably explains the fall of £4,363,508 in Public Deposits, and the increases of £12,118,123 in Bankers' Deposits and of £12,800,289 in Government Securities. These movements have reduced the Proportion from $57\frac{1}{4}$ to $48\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the reserve ratio of gold to all outside liabilities from $34\frac{1}{8}$ to $32\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Thus, at the moment, the Bank's position is weaker, but it will probably improve after the abnormal factors just described have ceased to operate.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Speaking at the New York Bond Club, Sir Josiah Stamp said he saw no need for a further reduction in the Bank of England rate, which, he considered, would, if left alone, do its work toward stabilising conditions in Great Britain. There was no change in the rate this week, as was generally expected, although two successive cuts in the open-market bill rate brought the quotation for 90-day bills down to $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., the lowest since 1924. Both reductions followed the movement of the Federal Reserve buying rate, apparently a gesture toward easier money. The week's statement shows lower discounts, as the banks were quick to wipe out the month-end borrowings, while the Federal Reserve Bank added $14,000,000 to both the bill holdings and Government securities, outstanding credit being up by $20,000,000, and the ratio being 82.2 per cent.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Industrial depression, a three-weeks' account and the approaching Whitsuntide holidays combined to restrict business in the Stock Markets. Gilt-edged securities suffered a minor setback on Tuesday's gold withdrawal for Germany. The Home Railway traffic figures continued to cause some little uneasiness, and Foreign Rails were depressed by the announcement that United of the Havana could not meet its debenture interest. Industrial shares attracted only a modicum of interest, the forthcoming reports of certain large companies being awaited without enthusiasm. The weakness of such commodities as tin, silver and rubber had a discouraging effect on the "speculative" share markets, accentuated by end-account selling from Paris. Kaffirs held their ground, but Rhodesians continued an orderly retirement.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There is no increase in business in the coal industry, and some pits are contemplating an extended holiday. The iron and steel industries are still extremely quiet. Falling cotton prices on favourable crop reports have intensified the difficulty of obtaining orders in Manchester. The raw wool situation is maintaining its improvement, but inquiries for Bradford products have been slightly fewer. Business in hides, leather and footwear is fairly satisfactory. The vegetable oils and oilseeds market is only moderately active. Wheat is a shade less firm.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Conditions in the Exchange market continued quiet. After the turn of the month there was a general movement in the exchanges against sterling, but this proved to be only temporary and was attributed by some to the transference abroad of part of the War Loan interest distributed on June 1st. After falling away to $4.85\frac{11}{16}$ on Tuesday, sterling on New York improved to $4.85\frac{27}{32}$ at the close. Montreal closed $\frac{1}{4}$ cent below last week's level at 4.86. Paris, after touching 123.89, closed at 123.92, but Brussels continued steady throughout at $34.81\frac{1}{2}$. Milan improved from 92.77 to 92.73. Spain was erratic between 39.80 and 40.20, and finished at 40.07. Amsterdam lost a trifle at $12.08\frac{3}{8}$, while Berlin, after falling below gold export point, rose to 20.36. Switzerland continued to improve at 25.10, and the Scandinavian exchanges all showed minor gains, Stockholm being $18.10\frac{1}{4}$, Oslo $18.15\frac{1}{2}$, and Copenhagen 18.16. In the Eastern exchanges the rupee and the yen were unchanged, as was Montevideo among the South American exchanges. Buenos Aires, however, fell away to $42\frac{5}{8}$d. and Rio was lower at $5\frac{13}{16}$. In the forward market dollars were $\frac{3}{32}$ cent and $\frac{9}{32}$ cent discount for one and three months respectively. Paris was at premiums of 3 and 5 centimes. The Milan, Belgian and Spanish forward rates showed no appreciable change, but with the higher spot rate the Dutch forward rate moved to par for both periods. Berlin was quoted at discounts of $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $3\frac{1}{4}$ pfennigs. Silver continued to be offered from China and the East, and closed at $15\frac{13}{16}$d. for spot and $15\frac{11}{16}$d. for forward delivery. Hong Kong was lower at 1s. $3\frac{1}{2}$d. and Shanghai at 1s. $5\frac{1}{4}$d.

EDUCATION AND THE TAXPAYER.

It is unfortunate that in every issue affecting the upbringing of children there is apt to arise an instinctive antagonism between the "educationist" and the "plain average man," who is by no means hostile to the educationists' ideals, but whose questionings and reservations are assailed by the professional enthusiast as evidence of a reactionary desire to cramp and stifle the cause of enlightenment and educational progress. Yet, as the proceedings of the Commons last Thursday and Friday clearly showed, the general desire of that assembly of "average" men, irrespective of party, is to promote, within the limits of what is practicable, the best possible education for the maximum possible numbers. That, indeed, is the earnest desire of the country, and if we share, to some extent, the doubts widely felt as to the wisdom of the measure now before the House, it is both because of its haste and because it introduces into the educational sphere economic principles of a highly debatable nature.

The present Bill, superseding that introduced last December, incorporates the concordat, whose terms have already been noted with approval in these columns, dealing with the future development of non-provided schools—a fair compromise on the vexed "denominational" issue which should be acceptable, if not completely satisfying, to all shades of opinion. But the crucial questions in the Bill are the raising of the school age for compulsory attendance to fifteen, and the provision for granting, on a scale to be determined by Departmental Order, maintenance allowances to parents of children over fourteen whose attendance at school is to be compulsorily extended.

The desirability of extending education widely beyond the age of fourteen is not open to question. The conception of a servile state is repugnant to the social conscience of our times, and it is idle to pretend that schooling which terminates at fourteen is ideally fitted to produce either the responsible citizen on whom the continuance of democracy depends or even the intelligent worker whom modern industry requires. Though the relative merits of different kinds of training are debatable, and though the adequate mental equipment of an adult of 21 depends on far other considerations than the question whether forcible feeding on "elementary" lines has ceased at fourteen or fifteen, little objection can be raised to the proposition that expenditure on extended free education is in a real sense reproductive expenditure; and there is no doubt that the reorganisation of the primary schools on the lines of the curriculum recommended in the Hadow Report will be facilitated if the "advanced" course from the age of eleven onwards can be spread over four years instead of being crammed into three.

The date, April 1, 1931, on which the school age is to be raised, is open to criticism on the ground that local educational authorities will be unable to provide within that limit of time either adequate buildings to house or competent teachers to instruct the consequent accretion of children in the senior classes. In defending his precipitancy, whose connection with a desire to relieve, to some extent, the employment problem he scarcely troubled to disguise, Sir Charles Trevelyan admitted that in a number of areas—at least until the "bulge period" of classes resulting from the high birth-rate of 1920-21 is passed—there may be imperfections in the machinery. The "very formidable increase" of 13,000 new teachers will be required in 1932-33 if classes are to be kept within a manageable size, and the task of securing these numbers, apart from other questions of accommodation and management, will not be light, for all the Minister of Education's somewhat facile optimism. There was no reason to delay the introduction of the Bill, but it would have been wiser to postpone the date of operation of this reform until, say, 1935, when the "bulge" in numbers would have passed and preparatory arrangements could have been completed.

Moreover, there are other considerations. In the first place, given the existing conditions of national income and weight of taxation, we take it as axiomatic that the limits of aggregate State expenditure cannot be much further stretched. Allowing for other commitments, whose repudiation is not within the sphere of practical politics, the amount of money available for education purposes is therefore limited; and it would be a grave disservice to the cause of better schooling were the system of continuation classes to be starved, as we fear it may be, as a consequence of the cost of the present reform. That cost is not estimated with any precision in the financial memorandum accompanying the Bill, which suggests somewhat vaguely that from 1938 onwards the extra accommodation and staff charges will be £2,500,000 per annum, while by 1935-36 the cost of maintenance grants will have risen to £4,400,000 per annum, subject to "revision after five years." There is little doubt, however, that this is an optimistic under-estimate, and we are inclined to assess the total probable cost of this Bill at a figure nearer £10 million than £7 million per annum.

The costliness of the measure, however, is less important in itself, though the sum is large enough, than the essential principle involved in the grant of compensation to parents whose children are compelled by law to attend school. It is an issue in which goodwill towards the less fortunately placed of the nation's children must be combined with clear thinking and full appreciation of the logical consequences of political action. The *Times* has stated as its unqualified opinion:—"It is wholly against public policy that citizens should be subsidised by the State to enable them to obey its laws." Put thus, the plea is cogent; but we should prefer to argue the matter on a rather different basis. If the State decides, and we approve the decision, that in the collective interest it is desirable that school attendance should generally continue beyond the present age limit of fourteen, then it may do one of three things. It may draw more heavily upon its available resources for the extension to very wide limits of the ladder of scholarship open to ability. Alternatively, it may make attendance at free schools to the age of 15 or over compulsory, with powers to local educational authorities to grant exemptions—if discretionary maintenance grants are not acceptable—in cases where the parents satisfy them either that the child's potential earnings are essential for the family's maintenance, or that the child is not likely to benefit (on the ground either of innate ability or prospective occupation) from additional schooling. Or, finally, the State may do as the Government have done, and decide that since, in the opinion of the community, it is in the general interest that children should be compulsorily educated up to the age of fifteen, the community must shoulder the burden of contributing to the support of families who had relied on contributions from their children as soon as they reached the age—*i.e.*, fourteen—which society had agreed to regard conventionally as the minimum age of "earning capacity."

The Government have chosen this course, and if we were satisfied that this dividing line of age would always be maintained, we should not cavil greatly at the principle of granting, on the basis of a means test, maintenance allowances for children compelled to attend school between 14 and 15, though the proposal of the present Bill, that the scale of maintenance and its conditions should be left to the discretion of the Minister of Education, seems to us to be yet another unwarrantable delegation of powers by Parliament to a Department. But will not the recognition by the State of the right of parents to claim compensation if their children are not allowed by law to earn money after the age of fourteen lead to the acceptance by

the State of the obligation to provide for, or contribute to, the maintenance of children at a still earlier age? Several of the supporters of the Bill in Parliament justified its maintenance clauses not only on the ground that the poorest and least intelligent children most deserved State assistance, but because its cost would involve a redistribution of income, through higher direct taxation, desirable in itself on socialistic grounds.

This argument opens up a controversy whose emergence reinforces the conclusion to which many liberal-minded observers of the Government's financial policy are being driven. If the State desires to remove from parents the financial responsibility for the maintenance (to say nothing of free schooling) of children over a certain age, then the liability should be borne by the community on as broad a basis as possible. If the " social services " are to be further extended on the terms of the existing incidence of taxation, there is a real danger of creating a class enjoying the benefits without sharing the responsibilities of citizenship. On the other hand, to concentrate a steadily increasing burden on a limited class may well prejudice saving and so affect production and employment. Every increase of expenditure of the type now contemplated is a strong reason for broadening the basis of taxation.

THE TREATY AND ITS OPPONENTS.

We have never felt much anxiety over the prospects of the Naval Treaty. We have believed, ever since it was signed, that in due course it would secure ratification by each of the three Governments concerned, and that the usual exchange of ratifications would eventually bring the Treaty into force. We feel less anxiety than ever to-day, when the question of ratification has been disposed of in this country (if anyone ever seriously meant to raise it here); and we look forward with equanimity to the outcome of the discussion in the United States. As for Japan, her people do not indulge in those " Anglo-Saxon attitudes " which are part of the common form of parliamentary politics in the British Isles and North America. So we may expect the Japanese Government to ratify, just like the British and American Governments, but to do it without the accompaniment of a parliamentary flutter. In short, we believe that the London Three-Power Naval Treaty of 1930 will in due course take its place among the agreements whereby the world is gradually consolidating the structure of international peace.

What, then, of the opposition which has declared itself in various quarters during this interval between the signature of the treaty and its coming into force? That which came to a head and evaporated in the debate in the House of Commons last Monday is not difficult to analyse. It was really a domestic affair of the Conservative Party; and it represented what must seem to most outsiders a rather inept compromise between a " die-hard " minority who could not carry their party with them and a party-leader who was not strong-minded enough to insist upon this minority falling into line with the policy approved by himself and by the majority of his followers. Mr Baldwin was undisguisedly apologetic for even introducing his motion for a Select Committee; and he sought to ride away from his embarrassment by representing the issue as being the general question of democratic control over foreign policy. He thus saved his face by placing his head between the lion's jaws, and it was the easiest thing in the world for Mr MacDonald to bite it off by showing that Mr Baldwin's gesture must have one or other of two meanings: it must either be a camouflage for a factious attack on the treaty which the Conservative leader had no desire to press home (and this was, as everybody knew, the true explanation); or else it was a motion to introduce a far-reaching change in the British constitution *à propos* the treaty-making power—a motion which came most strangely from the Conservative benches.

After the Prime Minister had dealt with the leader of the Opposition on this pseudo-constitutional issue, Mr Alexander dealt as effectively with Mr Churchill on the actual merits of the Naval Treaty. The defeat of the motion was a foregone conclusion; and the only result of the debate was to expose the lack of cohesion of the Conservative Party on yet another big issue. Their attitude was so naïve and transparent that we do not believe that capital can be made out of it, to an appreciable extent, by the opponents of the Treaty in America, where the examination of the Treaty in the Senate Committee and in the Senate itself is plodding along on its weary way—to the same goal of ratification, we believe, as has been reached at the cost of one day's debate in the House of Commons at Westminster.

Constitutionally, this discussion in the Senate at Washington is a different matter from the debate in the House of Commons, since, by a combination of written law with tradition, not only a voice, but the last word, in the making of treaties by the United States rests with the Senate after the executive has done its work and said its say. Thus the present discussion in the Senate is part of the ordinary American constitutional routine. Unfortunately, the essence of the routine is that the Senate asserts its powers over against the powers of the President as a matter of principle, without letting the principle go by default on any occasion that arises; and the result is that treaties are hardly ever considered by the Senate on their merits alone.

This did not much matter either to the American people or to the rest of the world so long as the United States was working out its own " manifest destiny " in " splendid isolation." But it has become one of the gravest problems of international affairs now that the United States—whether the American people will it or no—has grown to be the strongest single power in the world and therefore, whether passively or actively, a determining influence in all great international transactions. There was a stage in ancient history when the affairs of the world were caught up and mangled in the wheels of the procedure of the Senate at Rome. There is a real danger to-day that history may repeat itself, and that the tremendous issue of future peace or war may be torn and mis-shaped in the machinery of the Senate at Washington. We do not believe that on the present occasion the Senate is going to throw out the Treaty that is being squeezed through its rollers. We believe that the Treaty will get through. Still, the process is disquieting on account of its general bearing on the problem of international organisation for peace.

Admittedly, the opposition to the Treaty in the Senate is not wholly inspired by the Senate's standing jealousy on behalf of its prerogatives. The jealousy is so widely diffused that probably no single Senator is wholly free from it—so contagious is the spirit of a parliamentary body. At the same time, its effect is not so much to generate opposition to the Treaty directly as to create an atmosphere favourable to the airing of another kind of opposition which is less widespread, and which is specifically directed against the Treaty on its merits. Inside the Senate and outside it the United States has her Churchills too. There is the voice of Mr William Randolph Hearst, who hints, though he refuses to say, " that the unfortunate character of the proposed Naval Treaty is due entirely to the manœuvres of English statesmen to gain some trivial advantage." And there is the voice of Mr William Howard Gardiner, the President of the American Navy League, protesting that " when we realise that, without a disproportionate burden, we could spend on the American Navy over three times what the British spend on theirs, and over ten times what the Japanese could afford, we see what it means when it is said that from their point of view one of their purposes in naval reduction is to reduce the American Navy to a level on which they can afford to compete with us."

Yet the remarkable thing in the United States is not that these Churchillian attitudes are struck, but that they make so little impression upon the opinion of the American

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people as they apparently do. For here is a young nation nurtured in isolation and suddenly brought into contact with its kind; a nation recently grown to full stature and suddenly finding that it has overtopped its fellows. This is an experience which usually goes like strong wine to a people's head; and to a people in this condition " Navalism " is usually the most alluring choice of folly. Consider the history of young Germany from 1871 to 1914, and the history of all the other young nations that trod the same road before her, and one has the measure of young America's originality. Once again, Jeshurun has waxed fat; but this time Jeshurun shows little or no inclination to play his traditional *rôle*. The sober, pacific temper of the great mass of ordinary American people in these circumstances is one of the great hopes for the future of the world; and, in the Three-Power Naval Treaty, this American instinctive good sense has co-operated with Japanese self-control and British experience to make a real practical contribution to the enterprise of organising international peace. And so we return to the conviction from which we started. We are convinced that, when the opponents of the Treaty have shot their bolts in each country, the Treaty will still stand.

WHEAT PROSPECTS.

Already, when statistics for only eight months of the current cereal year are available, it is safe to predict that the season 1929-30 will go on record as one of the most remarkable in the history of the wheat trade. Poor harvests in the principal exporting countries combined with heavy crops in Europe, abnormally large visible supplies combined with the smallest international trade since 1921, and strong measures for export restriction combined with a continued fall in prices, have all co-operated to subvert conventional ideas, based on statistical trends, of the course of the wheat market through its annual cycle.

The first factor in the situation was the very heavy carry-over of wheat from the preceding season, shown in the following table, taken from Vol. VI, No. 2, of the Wheat Studies of the Food Research Institute of Stanford University:—

Approximate Carry-overs in Principal Exporting Countries, Afloat for Europe, and in Ports of the United Kingdom.
(Million Bushels.)

August 1.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
United States*	165	135	111	138	142	262
Canada	41	25	35	48	78	104
Canadian in United States†	3	3	4	5	14	23
Argentina	66	56	61	65	90	120
Australia	38	36	30	34	43	45
Afloat for Europe	42	33	39	46	45	38
United Kingdom Ports	10	9	4	8	10	6
Total of above	365	298	284	344	422	598

* July 1st. Includes flour stocks in city mills.
† Canadian wheat in store in Lake and Atlantic ports of the U.S.A. Dates nearest to August 1st.

The carry-over in each of the principal producing countries has risen uninterruptedly since 1926, and though the total world crop (Russia excluded) was the lowest since 1924, aggregate supplies were higher than in any of these years except 1928. The next table shows the production of wheat during the same years:—

World Wheat Production.*
(Million Bushels.)

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Europe	1,062	1,400	1,209	1,263	1,407	1,405
United States	863	669	839	878	903	806
Canada	262	411	407	479	567	300
British India	361	331	325	334	290	318
Other Northern Hemisphere	121	139	129	144	144	156
Argentina	191	191	219	239	308	140
Australia	164	113	164	117	159	112
Other Southern Hemisphere	56	60	61	71	69	68
Total	3,080	3,314	3,353	3,525	3,847	3,305

* Excluding Russia.

A comparison of the two foregoing tables will show that production plus carry-overs in the principal exporting countries amounted in 1929 to 3,903 million bushels, a decline of 356 million bushels, as compared with 1928, but exceeding the total for any of the four previous years. This unusually heavy supply of wheat, and wheat of high quality at that, was accompanied by abnormally small international trade during the months August, 1929, to March, 1930. Total shipments amounted to 407.6 million bushels, against 631.2 million in the corresponding period of 1928-29, and an average for the period of 531.4 million in the years 1924 to 1929. Moreover, shipments in December-March were 14 per cent. below those of August-November, whereas in the preceding seven years December-March shipments were on the average 15 per cent. above the August-November level.

The cause of both these variations from the usual trend is to be found in conditions in the importing countries. On the supply side, the carry-over in European countries was exceptionally high, and the harvest was both abundant and of very good milling quality. Concurrently with this abundance of home supplies, importing countries in Europe experienced a contraction in their demand for wheat both for human and for animal food. The principal fodder crops were everywhere abundant, and the mild winter permitted a longer period of pasturage than usual, so that the spread between prices of wheat and fodder was sufficiently wide to discourage the feeding of wheat to livestock. Those crops which rival wheat as human food, especially rye, were also abundant, and the general business depression in Europe helped to divert consumption to these cheaper substitutes. Thus natural market developments alone would have tended to diminish greatly the European demand for overseas wheat and to depress prices; and in addition

to these natural forces many European Governments attempted to safeguard agriculture in their own countries by restricting imports. France, Germany and Italy in particular have made determined efforts to close their markets to imported grain.

Many of these influences making for a diminished European demand for wheat gathered force as the winter went on. The trade depression grew more profound, tariff measures increased in strictness, and as old contracts ran off importers grew more and more reluctant to buy on a market which showed no signs of touching bottom. This probably explains the unusual fact that shipments were less in December-March than in August-November.

In order to attempt any forecast of developments during the remainder of the cereal year, it is necessary to sum up the position at the end of March. According to the Food Research Institute, the combined stocks at that date of the four major exporting countries were almost certainly larger than in any previous March except that of 1929, while stocks elsewhere, except in Russia, were probably about average. World stocks, therefore, must have been well above the average. Crop prospects so early in the year are necessarily obscure, but on the available evidence it seems improbable that harvests in the Southern Hemisphere will again be as small as last year, while harvests elsewhere, given normal weather, promise to be fully up to average, so that an approximately normal world production seems at present to be a reasonable expectation. Prices continued to decline until late in March, but the relationship between prices in importing and exporting countries has been growing more favourable to export. In view of this last consideration, together with the improbability that European countries will continue to keep out of the market to the same extent as in the period December-March, it seems probable that the usual trend will be reversed and that exports of wheat in April-July may exceed those of December-March. The estimate of the Food Research Institute as to the probable disposal of this year's and last year's wheat supplies, in the four principal countries, is summed up in the following table:—

APPROXIMATE DISPOSAL OF WHEAT SUPPLIES.

(Million Bushels.)

	United States. (July–June).		Canada. (August–July).		Argentina. (August–July).		Australia. (August–July).	
	1928–29.	1929–30.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1928–29.	1929–30.
Initial stocks	142	262	78	104	90	130	43	45
New crop	915	807	567	300	307	175*	160	125
Total supplies	1,057	1,069	645	404	397	305	203	170
Net exports	147	155	406	205	224	150	109	70
Seed requirements	88	90	45	45	23	24	14	14
Consumed for food	511	515	44	44	61	63	31	31
Feed and waste	49	29	44	15	4	3	4	4
Apparent error in crop estimate			+2	...	−45	...	45	51
Stocks at end	262	280	104	95	130	65		

* Unofficial.

On this showing a net reduction in stocks of some fifty million bushels is likely on the year. Read in conjunction with the forecast of an average crop, as compared with last year's unusually low yields outside Europe, this suggests that the world's wheat supplies are to continue their steady growth, while there seems no particular reason to anticipate any commensurate increase in consumption. The policy, alike of the trade and of the public authorities in many countries, is calculated to foster this consistent over-production, for the Canadian Wheat Pools and the American Farm Board are merely postponing the effect on prices of the maladjustment of supply and demand, while the Governments of a number of importing European countries have given their own wheat producers such convincing proof of determination to shelter them from the impact of world market influences that these growers are under a great temptation to increase their acreage. The wheat situation is becoming a more and more striking instance of the absurdity of an exaggerated striving for self-sufficiency, and of the impotence of Government action to produce stability in a system of forces which are not in equilibrium.

PROHIBITION AND ITS POLITICS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

IT is now more than ten years since the United States embarked upon what President Hoover calls "the noble experiment" of Prohibition, and to-day the 18th Amendment is becoming the most fiercely controversial issue in American politics. The reality of the situation is that in many States, particularly in the South and West, where there is a firm popular sentiment in favour of Prohibition, the system enjoys a substantial measure of success, thanks to the active co-operation of the public and the officials engaged in enforcing it. But in other States, and especially in the great congeries of urban population, Prohibition is simply inoperative for all practical purposes, because the people and the State officials refuse to co-operate with the Federal prohibition agents, and the latter, working alone, are powerless to exercise any control over the illicit liquor traffic. What Prohibition has done in the great urban areas is to give an economic basis to those denizens of the underworld who have always been a troublesome element in the United States. They now derive enormous revenues from their bootlegging operations, and in places like Chicago are able to reduce civic government to chaos. But an equally important development in the "wet" States has been the growth of a widespread sense of resentment against the Federal Government as a hostile power which is attempting to impose a control completely antagonistic to the prevailing conscience of the people. Hence it comes that to-day there is abundance of evidence from almost every quarter of the United States of what appears to be the first genuine popular revolt against Prohibition which has materialised since the system came into force.

The "wets" are now definitely on the offensive and are disseminating a vast volume of propaganda. They are reinforcing the Association Against Prohibition with other organisations; a body called the "Crusaders" has been gaining recruits to the tune of hundreds per day in all the Eastern cities; a powerful women's anti-prohibition association has come into existence under Mrs. Charles H. Sabin, a well-known society leader of New York and an active Republic politician; and most of the leading writers and artists of the country have banded themselves together to employ their talents for the extinction of prohibition. At Washington a committee of Congress has been holding an exhaustive inquiry into the workings of the "dry" *régime*, and the "wets" have bombarded it with evidence of the demoralising and farcical conditions which have developed. While Mr Hoover's Commission on Law Enforcement continues its investigations without showing any signs of reaching a satisfactory verdict, the *Literary Digest*, one of the leading weeklies of the United States, recently tested national sentiment upon the Prohibition question by a popular poll such as it has organised before recent Presidential elections. It distributed in all some twenty million ballot papers, and the interest aroused by the poll is proven by the fact that 4,806,466 papers were returned, or almost double the number secured on the eve of the Smith-Hoover contest. In the ballot the voters were asked to give their verdict for one of three alternatives, and the result was as follows:—

For strict enforcement of the Volstead Law, 1,464,098.

For modification to permit light wines and beers, 1,399,314.

For complete repeal of the Volstead Law, 1,943,052.

The "wets" contend from these figures that if repeal were made a straight issue the great majority of the "modificationists" would vote for it, and that even if only half of them did, the majority for it would be overwhelming. The "drys," on the other hand, argue that if the "modificationists" had wanted repeal they would have voted for it and that the "wets" are not entitled to count upon their support. In industrial States like New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, the "repealers" either had a clear majority over the other two groups' combined vote or were within approachable distance of it, but in rural States like Iowa, Oklahoma and Arkansas the majority for enforcement was just as marked, and the "drys" feel comforted about the impregnability of their legislative position from the fact that 23 States out of 48 gave a majority for the continuance of Prohibition, and under the American constitution the 18th Amendment can only be repealed if two-thirds of the States, or 32 in all, give their assent.

Politically, a situation which has developed in the State of New Jersey is attracting widespread attention. One of its two Senatorial seats is vacant, and Mr Dwight Morrow has entered the race for the Republican nomination. Mr Morrow is one of the most distinguished citizens of the United States, who has done remarkable service for his country in the field of diplomacy at Mexico City and in London, and from the moment of his decision to take an active part in political life it was generally recognised that his election to the Senate would automatically make him a Presidential possibility as a successor to Mr Hoover. Accordingly, particular interest attached to his pronouncement of faith upon the Prohibition question. As New Jersey is a notoriously "wet" State, where the Volstead Act has been openly flouted, it was impossible to evade the issue; and in the opening speech of his campaign, on May 15th, Mr Morrow, who had never been ranked as "dry," took an even more emphatic line against Prohibition.

He declared that the real issue about liquor had become not the merits or demerits of Prohibition as a principle, but whether it was practicable and in the public interest to apply that policy to the United States as a whole through the agency of the Federal Government. It was therefore a problem in government; and he took the view that the way out of the present deplorable situation lay in a repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, which imposes upon the Federal authority the duty of enforcing Prohibition, and the substitution therefor of an Amendment which would restore to the States the power to determine their policy towards the liquor traffic and vest in the Federal Government power to give all possible protection to such States as desire complete Prohibition against an invasion of liquor from States which do not.

The Morrow plan is virtually identical with that which Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, a leading Democratic "wet," has been advocating, and the Press of the United States has agreed in describing it as profoundly significant. The *New York Times* went so far as to declare that Mr. Morrow's speech on Prohibition would live to rank in importance with Lincoln's Gettysburg address. But Mr Morrow's courageous declaration does not necessarily mean his election. He has to reckon with the wrath of the "dry" elements, who have been roused to furious indignation by his condemnation of the present *régime*. The Anti-Saloon League has long regarded the Republican Party as the special instrument for the furtherance of its politics, and that one of the most powerful and engaging figures in that Party should pronounce the present liquor laws unworkable is an unforgiveable offence. So the "drys" have decided that Mr Morrow's political career must be extinguished before it really begins, and for this purpose they have nominated Mr Franklin Fort, a "dry" Congressman, as his opponent in the Republican "primaries." Even if Mr Morrow wins the Republican nomination and enters upon the real contest for the seat with the Democratic "wet" who has already been nominated, the cohorts of the Anti-Saloon League threaten to run an independent "dry" candidate whose intervention would make Mr Morrow's chances of election slim in a State where the margin between the Parties is never large. But Mr Morrow's election to the Senate would constitute a grave embarrassment for the Hoover administration, as his candidature does even now, for it would provide the Republican "wets," a by no means negligible body, with first-rate leadership at Washington, and might lead to an open split in the Party.

The Democrats, for Party purposes, would welcome Mr Morrow's defeat, as it would be interpreted as evidence that the Republican Party was irretrievably committed to the maintenance of Prohibition, and they cherish the belief, not without some justification, that thousands of "wet" Republicans, despairing of their own Party's attitude upon the liquor question, have now reached the point where they are ready to forswear party ties and vote for some reputable Democratic "wet" candidate for the Presidency, like Governor Roosevelt of New York or Governor Ritchie of Maryland. Hence, Mr Morrow, whether he is elected or not, promises to exercise a decisive influence upon the course of American politics.

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PRICES—PRIMARY AND FINISHED.

THE recent fall in wholesale prices has accentuated a problem which has for many years now been of considerable importance, namely, that of the discrepancy between wholesale and retail prices. The actual data can be summarised very briefly in the following table relating to the sirtuation at the end of April, this being the latest date for which the Ministry of Labour's cost-of-living index number is available:—

Date.	Wholesale Prices. *Economist* Index Number (1913 = 100).	Retail Prices. Min. of Lab. Index (July, 1914 = 100).
End April, 1925	161·9	173
End April, 1929	135·0	161
End April, 1930	117·2	155
Percentage fall—		
(*a*) Since April, 1925	27·6	10·4
(*b*) Since April, 1929	13·2	3·7

This table shows that while wholesale prices are only 17.2 per cent. above 1913, retail prices are 55 per cent. above the pre-war level. Further, in the past five years, wholesale prices have fallen far more rapidly than retail prices, as measured by the official cost-of-living index number. It may be added that the *Economist* wholesale price index number for the end of May (details of which will be found among Notes of the Week) was only 15.8 per cent. above 1913, which means that the discrepancy has in all probability become still wider.

Producers of commodities, whether foodstuffs or primary materials, which are sold at wholesale prices, are naturally exercised by this problem. Their receipts can be measured approximately by reference to the movements in the wholesale price index. On the other hand, their costs consist of wages and other expenses which, broadly speaking, are governed by retail prices and the cost of living, and so the discrepancy operates gravely to their disadvantage. It is important, therefore, to ascertain how far this discrepancy is a real one, how far it is inevitable, and how far it is curable by governmental or other concerted action. Some light is thrown on this question by an article by Professor Bowley in the current issue of *Lloyds Bank Monthly Review*. After a

statistical analysis, based mainly upon fluctuations in wholesale and retail food prices, the writer reaches conclusions which can be summarised as follows:—

While wholesale prices relate as a rule to primary foodstuffs and materials or to articles in the earlier stages of manufacture, retail prices relate to finished goods at the time they reach the consumer. Thus the latter must include all the cost of manufacture, transport, commissions and final distribution, beside the cost of the primary product as measured by its wholesale price. The additional costs do not as a rule move at the same time and in the same degree as wholesale prices, and the result is that not only is there a time-lag (calculated by Professor Bowley for food as being two months) between wholesale and retail prices, but retail prices do not fluctuate as much as wholesale prices. Moreover, a substantial reduction in retail prices is dependent in part upon a fall in wages, which is difficult to secure without a preceding fall in the cost of living. This mutual interdependence of wages and retail prices means that even if wages are governed by a cost-of-living scale, a reduction is a very slow process, demanding considerable patience from producers. Professor Bowley finally points out that in converse circumstances, when prices are rising, the time-lag and the relative stability of wages and other costs operate in favour of producers.

It will be seen that the main burden of Professor Bowley's argument is that owing to the relative stability of wages and other costs, finished goods move less in price than primary materials. The theoretical figures which he quotes in support of this view are confirmed in practice from another source. On April 8th last the *Financial Times* published the results of analysing the data from which their wholesale price index number is calculated. Excluding foodstuffs, it was shown that, out of 51 wholesale price quotations for materials, those relating to raw materials had fallen during the fifteen months ending March last by 16.1 per cent.; those relating to semi-manufactured goods by 10.4 per cent., and those relating to finished goods by only 4.2 per cent. It may be added that during the same period the cost-of-living index number fell by 4.2 per cent., or by exactly the same amount as the fall in finished goods.

Professor Bowley's analysis, on the whole, refutes the popular belief that the discrepancy between wholesale and retail prices is the result of " profiteering " by transport and merchanting agencies, retailers and other intermediaries separating producer from consumer. A table included in his article shows very clearly that, if the wholesale price of the raw material falls by 20 per cent. and all other costs remain unchanged, the final retail price will only fall by 9.25 per cent. This calculation, though theoretical, fits in reasonably well with the divergencies cited above.

There are, however, certain other considerations suggested by the nature of the statistical data on which Professor Bowley's conclusions are based. In the first place, since comparison is made between wholesale and retail index numbers, the objection may be made that a price index number based, as is the official cost-of-living index, upon a pre-war period possesses very little meaning. The whole style of living has changed completely during the past twenty years. The introduction of new materials such as rayon, the increased use of tinned foods, the growth of the restaurant habit and other changes are illustrations of this. Hence there is grave doubt whether the official cost-of-living figure is an adequate instrument of measurement, and if this doubt is justified, the whole foundation of the argument has to be laid anew. In any case, wholesale and retail price index numbers do not take account of the same things to the same extent. Thus in the *Economist* wholesale price index number, foodstuffs have a weight of 38 per cent. In the Ministry of Labour's cost-of-living figure they have a weight of 60. Wholesale price index numbers include such commodities as pig iron, copper, cement and linseed oil, which find no place in the family budget. Conversely, the cost-of-living index number includes rent.

Another complication which is not always remembered in discussions of this question is that while wholesale price index numbers, even when based on a post-war year, usually relate their current figures to the year 1913 for purposes of comparison, the cost-of-living index number is based upon July, 1914. The Samuel Commission, in their Report on the coal industry, estimated that to allow for this discrepancy between dates, the cost-of-living index number should be reduced in the ratio of 100 : 98. This would mean that the latest figure should be 151.9 instead of 155, so that the margin between wholesale and retail prices is narrowed by 3.1 points.

On general grounds we would suggest to the responsible authorities that the time is ripe for the recalculation of the cost-of-living index number upon a post-war base (preferably a year subsequent to the restoration of the gold standard) and for the revision of its constituents so as to bring it into harmony with present-day modes of life. There is equally a case to be made out for the compilation of additional price index numbers of raw materials, semi-manufactured goods, and finished goods, including in the latter category goods that have reached a further stage of manufacture than, say, cotton cloth. This would permit of a more accurate measurement of the discrepancy between wholesale and retail prices than is practicable to-day, and might dispose of a certain amount of exaggerated comment on the degree of actual divergence. Professor Bowley's conclusions, together with his rejection of the suggestion that inordinate profits are being earned by intermediaries, are interesting. In the public interest, and to prevent hasty and ill-conceived legislation, it is desirable that they should be supplemented by more definite evidence.

HUNGARY, REPARATIONS, AND THE OPTANTS.

A WHITE PAPER published this week sets forth the agreements reached after protracted negotiations in Paris for the liquidation of Hungary's financial obligations arising out of the war. A basis for these agreements was worked out, and initialled at the Hague Conference in January last, but not only was time insufficient then for the conclusion of a final agreement, but certain of the facts upon which that agreement had to be based had not then been ascertained. It is odd, perhaps, that so much deliberation was necessary in order merely to fill in the details of an already outlined agreement (a summary of which was published in the *Economist* of February 22nd), but the problem is not only complicated in itself, but inextricably entangled with irrelevant political problems and prejudices. This, in fact, is not merely a reparations agreement, but also a settlement of the Optants' Question, raised by the agrarian legislation of Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia, and by the subsequent withdrawal of the Roumanian member of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal which was dealing with claims from expropriated Hungarians. No attempt is now made to decide the principle of the matter; on the contrary, both parties expressly reserve their previous legal attitudes, and the agreement is not intended to justify or to deal with any claims which may be made in the future.

The basis of the agreement is the appropriation of Hungary's reparation payments, along with certain gratuitous contributions from the chief Creditor Powers, for two autonomous Funds, designed to provide compensation respectively for agrarian claimants and for other special claims, arising out of the Peace settlement, put forward by nationals of Hungary against her neighbours. Hungary's present schedule of reparations payments is maintained until 1944, when it terminates; thereafter, until 1966, she agrees to pay in complete and final settlement of all Treaty obligation a constant annuity of 13,500,000 gold crowns. Up to 1944, the annuities are to be paid on the same conditions as are at present in force, save that they will be paid to the Bank for International Settlements for the account of the Creditor Powers; the post-1944 annuities are payable, also through the B.I.S., without any right of suspension whatever. From 1930 to 1943 inclusive, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Portugal will hand over their share of the Hungarian annuities to the Agrarian Fund, while of the 13,500,000 gold crowns payable annually after 1943, the Agrarian Fund is to take 6,100,000 gold crowns, and the " B " Fund 7,400,000.

These payments are not, however, sufficient to make up the Funds to the required totals. In consequence, Belgium, the British Empire, France and Italy agree to hand over to the Agrarian Fund their actual receipts in respect of Bulgarian Reparations up to 1966; the British Empire, France and Italy will also contribute to that Fund the following maximum annuities, namely, in 1931 and 1932, 400,000 gold crowns each by France and Italy; from 1933 to 1943, 827,528 gold crowns by the British Empire, 1,680,000 by France and 1,630,112 by Italy; from 1944 to 1966, 579,269 gold crowns by the British Empire, 1,340,000 by France and 1,260,027 by Italy. These payments are appreciably in excess of those tentatively agreed upon at The Hague. Italy and France also assume the obligation, which was not imposed upon them in the earlier plan, of contributing annuities averaging nearly half a million gold crowns from 1933 to 1943 to a reserve fund available for certain special contingencies arising out of Czecho-Slovak claims; any savings on this fund are to be re-credited to the two Powers.

Agrarian legislation in Czecho-Slovakia is responsible for most of the complications of the agreement; details had also to be worked out for the diminution of the Fund in accordance with compensation paid or to be paid directly by the expropriating countries. The Special Claims agreement is comparatively simple, and it makes no alteration of the sources of the Fund as proposed at The Hague, namely, 3 million gold crowns a year from 1931 to 1943, of which Great Britain pays 20 per cent., France 40 per cent., and Italy 40 per cent., and 7,400,000 from each Hungarian annuity after 1944. The " B " Fund is also entitled to any surplus available from the Agrarian Fund; any saving realised on the " B " Fund is to be distributed between France, Great Britain and Italy in proportion to their contributions.

The Fund, though nominally divisible among the Little Entente Powers, is available only for paying compensation to Hungarian nationals in accordance with judgments pronounced upon their claims by the Mixed Arbitral Tribunals. Payment will be made in bonds, the service of which will correspond to the annuities available for the Fund. The Agrarian Fund is also to issue bonds, at 4 per cent., equal in nominal value to the capital of the Fund, and redeemable by 1966. By these devices the Hungarian claimants will be enabled to obtain cash by realisation of the bonds, although the sums available for the satisfaction of their claims will not be contributed for a number of years. Moreover, the " mobilisation " of these obligations should do for the notorious " Optants' " claims what the issue of reparations bonds is designed to do for Germany's Treaty debt.

Each of the Mixed Arbitral Tribunals, whose competence in these matters was the technical stumbling block in the Optants' dispute, is to be reconstituted by the addition of two nationals of neutral countries, appointed by the Permanent Court; this provision is to apply to all the business of the Tribunals, not, as in The Hague agreement, to agrarian claims only. One Hungarian and three members appointed by the Finance Committee of the League of Nations are to administer the Agrarian Fund, but the Managing Committee of Fund " B " will consist of representatives of France, Great Britain, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugo-Slavia and Roumania. This cannot be described as excessive interference on the part of the three countries whose magnanimous financial aid has alone made possible the settlement of a dispute not their own save in the menace which it held for the peace of Europe.

Notes of the Week.

Cabinet Changes.—The debate on the Naval Treaty, as we record in a leading article, revealed a crucial difference of opinion in the Conservative ranks. On the fiscal issue, also, the rift would appear to be widening, for, in an outspoken article in the *Daily Mail*, Lord Birkenhead has denounced the Referendum, which figures in Mr Baldwin's official policy. Evidence of a more general discontent in the official Opposition party is provided by the resignation of Mr. J. C. C. Davidson from the party's chairmanship. At the same time recent troubles within the Labour Party have resulted in a Cabinet reshuffling, and Mr J. H. Thomas's retreat from the post of Minister for Unemployment follows with almost undignified swiftness upon the protest raised by Sir Oswald Moseley against the inadequacy of the Government's unemployment policy. As generally anticipated, Mr Thomas will be succeeded in his unenviable post by Mr Vernon Hartshorn, who is now free from his labours on the Indian Statutory Commission. But Mr Hartshorn luckily for him, will not have to shoulder the full load of responsibility which rested on his predecessor, for the whole unemployment problem has been referred to a Cabinet Sub-Committee, over which, it is understood, the Prime Minister himself will preside. Mr Thomas as Minister for the Dominions will be charged with the preparations for the Imperial Conference to be held in London in the autumn; while Lord Passfield, gratifying a long-known wish for a lightening of his burden, will retain charge of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. Mr Thomas takes to his new post the dual advantage of experience gained as Colonial Secretary in the former Labour Cabinet and of personal contact with the Dominions. Another Cabinet change, this time without any apparent connection with party dissensions, is the retirement from the Ministry of Agriculture of Mr Noel Buxton, who is elevated to the House of Lords. Dr Addison is his successor, and in the lower ranks of the Government hierarchy, Mr Ben Turner, the Minister of Mines, is succeeded, on resignation, by Mr Shinwell, Mr W. S. Sanders becoming Financial Secretary to the War Office.

Coal—the Lords Amendments. — The amendments which the Upper House had made to the Coal Mines Bill received short shrift in the Commons on Wednesday. Mr Graham was not prepared to make concessions on any of the substantial alterations which the Lords had made, and the amendments excluding mixed mines from the operation of the standard tonnage and quota clauses, transferring to the Board of Trade the functions of the proposed Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission, and providing for a permissive spread-over of hours were negatived by large majorities. On the question of the district levy, which the Upper House had very properly deleted from the Bill, and in whose case the Liberal Party were definitely in favour of the Lords' amendment, the Government majority fell to thirty. Indeed, the reinstatement of the clause was achieved only as a result of considerable " Derby Day absenteeism " on the part of the Conservative Opposition. The attitude of the Lords when the Bill comes up to them again remains to be seen, but we are inclined to doubt whether by insisting on its amendments the Upper House would care, in such an issue as this, to provoke a situation which would contain the makings of an undesirable constitutional crisis. The most serious result to be apprehended from the decisions of the Commons this week is that, in the absence of elasticity in the matter of working hours, the conclusion of wage agreements acceptable to the miners in the districts now working an 8-hour day may be a matter of great difficulty when the Bill becomes law. The opposition of the Miners' Federation to the 90-hour fortnight appears to be inflexible, but it is not certain that if they had been willing to negotiate on the basis of regulating hours by the week or fortnight rather than rigidly by the

day, they could not have secured from the owners a figure lower than the 90 hours suggested. Once again, the Miners' Federation appear to us to have shown themselves singularly lacking in the capacity to make the best available bargain for their members.

Indian Developments.—On the eve of the publication of the first volume of the Simon Commission's Report, which is to be issued next Tuesday, India, so far as actual physical conflict is concerned, appears to be a little quieter. Rioting accompanied a big salt raid over the week-end in Bombay; the Madras police were obliged to open fire on a mob last Monday; and there has been more tribal activity on the North-West Frontier. But the principal developments have been in the political sphere and are mainly indicative of the determination of the Viceroy to govern and of the dissociation of responsible Moslems from the campaign of violence. At the week-end the Viceroy promulgated two Ordinances. The first extends penalties already attaching to non-payment of taxes to all who incite such non-payment; the second prescribes penalties for picketing. The areas to which these ordinances are applicable have been extended during the week. On Wednesday the Viceroy received a very important and significant deputation of Moslem *zemindars* (land-holders). This deputation presented an address in which, to quote the Simla correspondent of the *Times* " expressions of steadfast loyalty and co-operation were combined with frank comments on various questions of public policy." The *zemindars'* uncompromising denunciation of the campaign against law and order, following on the appeal of the Nizam of Hyderabad, is a welcome indication of the attitude of the Moslem community to the present troubles. Having sympathetically answered the deputation's claim for greater Moslem representation in the civil services and the commissioned ranks of the Army, the Viceroy seized the opportunity to re-affirm both the aims of Government policy in the evolution of Indian self-administration and the determination of the Government to maintain law and order. He paid rather striking tribute to the " wise and statesmanlike " attitude of responsible Moslem leaders, " with a few exceptions," and emphasised the fact that progress towards the goal at which British and Indians alike aimed was only possible through a continuance of established Government exercising authority and receiving trust. An incidental point concerning the immediate future of the violence campaign is that a stop must shortly be put to the salt raids by the breaking of the monsoon.

The Civil War in China.—For several weeks, the only news that we have had of the Chinese Civil War is a rival series of *communiqués* from Nanking and from the Shansi-Shensi coalition, each claiming decisive military successes. If we are to interpret these phenomena in terms of the recent Chinese past, we shall conclude that on this front, during these weeks, there has been no fighting at all. It is usually rash to interpret any Chinese phenomenon by anything else that has happened anywhere—including China itself—at any time. Nevertheless, it does look, in this case, as if our shot hits the mark; for there are now faint indications that the decisive action is taking place not on the official military front in Honan and Shantung, but south of the Yangtse in the Nanking Government's rear. While Chiang Kai-shek's army is sitting opposite Fêng Yü-hsiang's and Yen Hsi-shan's armies in the north, making war in that bloodless and comparatively harmless fashion that really civilised people prefer, the south is the scene of events which are neither innocuous nor unaccompanied by bloodshed. With the Kuomintang army immobilised at the front, the forces of disorder—Communists, brigands, " Iron-sides " and the rest—are raising their heads between Canton and Hankow; and the Northern Militarists are pursuing their tactics of masterly inactivity in the expectation that the Kuomintang military front, like the rind of a cheese when the mice have got into it, will be nibbled away from within. But this is not the whole story, for no doubt the magnificent impassivity of the Kuomintang army, *vis-à-vis* their Northern opponents, is inspired by corresponding hopes. The fact is, there are mice in the other cheese too—" Red Spears," for example, in Honan, and a very large specimen of the breed in the shape of the " Young Marshal " Chang Hsüeh-liang in Manchuria. Which cheese will be nibbled away first? That is the question on which the rival war-lords and rival governments are staking their fortunes. But there is one party that is bound to lose, whichever answer the question receives; and that party is the unfortunate Chinese people itself. From 1911 to 1926 the Chinese people lived in darkness and the shadow of death. From 1926 to 1928 they saw a glimmer of light when it seemed as though a stable central government—organised on modern lines and informed by an enlightened spirit—might be established by the victory of the Kuomintang. The gleam was short. It became dim last year, and the present campaigning season has quite put it out. When will the worm turn? When will the Chinese people rouse themselves to take effective steps for bringing their mis-rulers to heel? That is the supreme question in China; but it is also the most difficult Chinese riddle of them all.

The Honours List.—In many respects the list of Honours conferred on the occasion of the King's birthday is out of the common. Leaders of finance and commerce are conspicuous by their absence, Mr F. W. Goodenough, of the Gas Light and Coke Company, who receives a baronetcy, being a notable exception. Pure politicians, too, are few and far between. In fact the only big political honour is the barony conferred on the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Noel Buxton, whose elevation to the peerage causes a by-election in North Norfolk. In other ways, however, the list is of unusual interest. The claims of high scholarship are well satisfied by the conferment of the Order of Merit upon Professor G. M. Trevelyan and Dr. M. R. James, while science is conspicuously represented in the knighthoods awarded to Professor Leonard Hill, Professor J. A. Thomson and Professor A. S. Eddington. Two knighthood grants which strike the popular imagination are those to Mr Henry Lytton, the famous interpreter of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas, and Mr Edward Brown of the National Poultry Council. In view of his tremendous and self-sacrificing labours on the Indian Statutory Commission Sir John Simon, who adds the G.C.S.I. to his other titles, figures most deservedly in the list. The Viceroy's list also includes the Chairman of the Education Committee, the Financial Assessor, and various members of the staff of the Commission.

Another Newspaper Fusion.—An event of real importance in the journalistic world occurred this week in the fusion of the *Daily News* and the *Daily Chronicle*. Every newspaper has characteristics and personality which, in the case of a daily journal, influence in a hundred subtle ways the minds of its readers. It is also a thing which is to be prized in national life that there should be variety and a platform for all sorts of views in the Press which appeals to the great masses of the nation. No one can, therefore, witness the passing, as separate entities, of these two journals of long standing and tradition without regret. A fusion, moreover, of this kind cannot, unfortunately, be carried through without a displacement of staff, unemployment and hardship. On the other hand, the cost of producing a daily newspaper with a national circulation and the increasing amount of news and features of all kinds which it must give to its readers, has produced in all countries a tendency to eliminate all but a few great dailies each having an increasing circulation. Moreover, it cannot be said that the present fusion is entirely unexpected. Our readers are familiar with the story of the *Daily Chronicle's* association with the Inveresk group, but, apart altogether from the financial aspect of this case, it has been evident for a long time past that the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Daily News* were catering for very much the same public, and that they would be very much stronger and effective in association. It is, we believe, some twenty years ago since an agreement for the fusion of the two papers was practically reached between the late Mr George Cadbury and Mr Lloyd, but broke down at the last moment on the question of control; and the project has many times been under discussion since then. The official announcement states that the terms of fusion provide for equal holdings by News and Westminster, Ltd., and United Newspapers, Ltd., respectively, in the company which is to own the copyright, and that the control will be in the hands of five trustees, of whom three represent the *Daily News* side and two represent United Newspapers. The present fusion reduces the number of national dailies with a large popular circulation in Great Britain to four.

Charing Cross Bridge.—The London County Council adopted on Tuesday recommendations from its Parliamentary and Improvement Committees which afford a fair chance of reaching a solution of the Charing Cross Bridge problem. The proposals were that no application should be made for a recommittal of the rejected Bill, and that an advisory committee representing all the interested bodies should be set up for the purpose of preparing, within nine months and at a maximum cost of £12,500,000, an agreed scheme for a road bridge and approaches at Charing Cross. The following are to be represented on the committee:—The Minister of Transport, the L.C.C., Westminster City Council, Lambeth Metropolitan Borough Council, the Southern Railway, the Underground Railway Company, the Port of London Authority, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Royal Academy, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Surveyors' Institute, the Town Planning Institute, and an independent chairman is to be appointed by the Council. In the discussion of these resolutions references were made to the possibility of a new Waterloo Bridge as an alternative to a road bridge at Charing Cross, but it was evidently, and quite rightly, the general view that a determined effort must be made to secure a new Charing Cross Bridge. The Improvements Committee held the view that the amount of evidence awaiting the new committee was such that it ought to be able to formulate a scheme within nine months, and the fact is that with Waterloo Bridge costing £10,000 a year, and enjoying an expectation of life that is almost nil, the Advisory Committee will have no time to lose. Meanwhile they have the opportunity of performing a national service that will win unusually prompt and widespread appreciation.

The Wool Dispute.—Notwithstanding the fact that the ballot of the wool textile operatives was stated by the six unions taking part in it to show a majority of 67 per cent. of those voting in favour of a continuance of the stoppage, it is clear that this deplorable dispute is now entering on its last phase, the gradual disintegration of the unions' powers of resistance. It was perhaps significant that in the result of the ballot the total numbers voting were not disclosed. Certainly the drift back to work has been greatly accelerated during this week, and the decision of the unions on Wednesday that each should endeavour separately to make the best terms it can secure, short of accepting without qualification the Macmillan reduction, suggests that in practice, if not in form, the general resumption of work will not be long delayed, even though the collective resolution of the unions, that no section is to make a preferential settlement while other bodies of operatives are unable to secure any abatement of the full rigour of the employers' terms, may cause delays and difficulties in some districts. We suggest, however, that at this stage the employers would do well to consider the advisability of trying even now to make a collective agreement on the terms of the Macmillan award. They are now fairly on the way to getting the relief in labour costs for which they asked, but it will be unsatisfactory for all concerned in the industry if no effort is made to re-establish the broken machinery of collective bargaining and to restore common standards throughout the Yorkshire mills.

Our Index Number.—The pronounced decline in wholesale prices which has proceeded steadily, apart from a brief upward fluctuation last July, since March, 1929, and has been accentuated during the past five months, made further progress in May. At 80.6 our index number on May 31st showed a fall of 1.6 per cent. on the month, and 12.2 per cent. in comparison with a year ago. Recent movements of the group figures are summarised below:—

AVERAGE, 1927 = 100.

End of—	May, 1929.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	Apr., 1930.	May, 1930.
Cereals and meat	92·6	85·4	84·7	84·9	82·0
Other foods	84·3	83·0	82·7	80·8	79·0
Textiles	94·9	74·7	73·0	72·9	71·1
Minerals	95·7	90·5	89·8	85·6	84·3
Miscellaneous	89·5	87·0	85·5	83·2	84·4
Complete Index	91·5	84·2	83·1	81·6	80·6

After a short phase of relative stability in April, wholesale food values last month showed renewed weakness. Imported wheat, flour, and mutton were dearer, but there were substantial falls in the prices of maize and barley, English beef, potatoes, and tea. In the textiles group, wool prices were firmer, but cotton quotations were slightly lower and there were marked declines in the case of silk, hemp and jute. Renewed weakness in tin and, to a less extent, copper, combined with a seasonal reduction in the price of household coal, lowered the index for the minerals group. Among the commodities in the " miscellaneous " section, a decline in the price of rubber was more than offset by higher values of hides, linseed oil and creosote. Changes in the price of each article included in our index number, as compared with a month ago and with May, 1929, are show below:—

	Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (−) per cent. compared with Month Ago.	Year Ago.
Wheat, Foreign	+ 2·3	+ 2·9	Flax	− 3·3	−26·6
Wheat, English	− 4·7	−12·7	Hemp	− 16·9	−35·5
Flour	+ 4·5	+11·1	Jute	− 6·4	−21·5
Barley	− 6·4	−31·5			
Oats	− 2·5	−32·8	Textiles	− 2·5	−25·1
Maize	−11·1	−22·2			
Rice	...	− 7·7	Pig iron	...	− 5·3
Potatoes	−14·3	−14·3	Steel rails	...	...
Beef, English	−10·0	− 7·3	Iron bars	...	...
Beef, Argentine	+ 0·9	− 0·9	Tinplates	− 0·9	− 1·8
Mutton, English	+ 7·0	+ 4·6	Coal, Welsh exp.	...	...
Mutton, New Zealand	+ 4·5	−16·1	Coal, Durham gas	...	+ 3·2
Bacon, Danish	−11·9	−11·1	Coal, household	− 4·8	...
			Lead	+ 1·3	−22·0
Cereals and meat	− 3·4	−11·4	Tin	− 8·0	−28·3
			Copper	− 2·7	−27·0
Tea	− 6·6	−14·5	Spelter	− 0·7	−36·4
Coffee	...	− 6·1			
Cocoa	− 5·8	− 9·6	Minerals	− 1·5	−11·9
Sugar, cane	− 1·2	− 4·5			
Sugar, refined	− 1·1	− 3·3	Timber, English	...	...
Cheese, Canadian	+ 0·5	− 5·3	Timber, Swedish	...	− 5·3
Butter, Danish	− 3·6	−18·5	Cement	...	...
Coco oil	− 1·5	+ 4·7	Hides	+ 9·1	− 4·0
Tobacco	...	+ 2·3	Leather	+ 7·5	+ 7·5
			Petrol No. 1	...	...
Other foods	− 2·2	− 6·3	Petroleum oil	...	...
			Fuel oil	...	...
Cotton A.	− 0·3	−15·8	Linseed oil	+ 5·9	+47·8
Cotton E.	− 4·6	−21·4	Tallow	− 2·0	− 5·3
Cotton yarn	− 1·0	−18·3	Rubber	− 3·6	−37·2
Cotton cloth	− 1·0	−11·9	Soda, crystals	...	...
Wool, English	...	−36·0	Sulphate of ammonia	...	−24·1
Wool, Australian	+10·2	−34·1	Creosote	+ 3·7	−32·6
Wool tops	+ 7·4	−29·3			
Silk	− 8·5	−20·7	Miscellaneous	+ 1·4	− 5·7

The next table shows the past three months' movement of our index number, converted to a percentage of 1913, averages for 1924, 1928 and 1929 being added for purposes of comparison:—

AVERAGE, 1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	168·5	215·8	214·7	149·3	122·6	166·2
,, 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	115·2	111·2	140·9
,, 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8
End May, 1929	136·6	170·5	149·0	119·7	103·9	131·5
,, Mar., 1930	125·0	167·2	114·6	112·3	99·2	119·4
,, Apr., 1930	125·3	163·4	114·4	107·1	96·6	117·2
,, May, 1930	121·0	159·7	111·6	105·4	98·0	115·8

In comparison with May, 1929, the most notable differences are shown by the textiles and the " cereals and

meat " groups, with declines of 25 per cent. and 11.4 per cent. respectively. If 1924 be taken as 100, the current figure of our index number works out at 69.4, as compared with 70.5 at the end of April, and 79.1 a year ago.

Manchester's Fiscal Policy.—The result of the referendum on British fiscal policy carried out by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce was announced at the beginning of the week. The members were asked to vote for only one of six questions, and the following is a list of the questions with the number of votes recorded:—

(1) In favour of the policy generally known as Free Trade, 607.
(2) In favour of a settled policy of imposing protective duties in the manner generally known as Safeguarding, 986.
(3) In favour of a general protective tariff on imports, including raw materials and foodstuffs, 232.
(4) In favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting raw materials, 196.
(5) In favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting foodstuffs, 27.
(6) In favour of a general protective tariff on imports, excepting raw materials and foodstuffs, 296.

The number of voting papers issued was 3,941, and 2,343 votes were recorded as above, and 38 votes were invalid. The result shows that a total of 1,736 votes were given in favour of some form of Protection or Safeguarding, and 607 votes in favour of Free Trade. On a superficial reading, this result would appear to indicate a big swing of opinion in the citadel of Free Trade; but there are a number of reasons why the *Protectionists' claim that* Manchester has turned in favour of their nostrum is, to say the least of it, premature. In the first place, nearly 1,600 members abstained from voting. Why so? One probable explanation lies in the unfortunate phrasing of the first question: " the policy generally known as Free Trade." Many an anti-Protectionist might well hesitate to endorse a phrase which might be interpreted by many as supporting the extreme of *laisser faire* in all directions and denoting a *non-possumus* attitude towards all remedies for pressing troubles. Nor is the big vote under *question* 2 altogether convincing. Safeguarding for what? For the cotton industry? Who are these 986? Admittedly, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce members are drawn very largely from the various branches of the cotton trade, but they include also representatives of a large number of other industries, especially iron and steel and chemicals. Until we are told the industrial groupings of the voters in the various categories, it is *not possible to assess the meaning of Manchester's little* referendum. It may be that a patient in the throes of grievous pangs of industrial sickness has been goaded into sending to the chemist for a variety of quack medicines to sample. But those who so jubilantly claim the Manchester cotton trade as a convert to Protection in any of its various shapes would be well advised to " wait and see."

Rationalisation in Lancashire.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—The capital of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation, Ltd., was increased this week by £479,000, for the purpose of absorbing a further seven spinning mills. The total capital stands at £3,437,941, represented by 190,619 preference shares, 2,727,400 ordinary shares, and 10,398,440 deferred shares. The Corporation now has in its possession 5,001,060 spindles. Conditional agreements have been signed regarding a further 1,214,930 spindles, schemes of arrangement being prepared involve 1,750,093 spindles, and there are 815,609 spindles in mills with which the Corporation has been " asked to proceed." In addition, it is in various states of negotiations with a further 1,861,537 spindles, making a grand total of over 10 million spindles. Sir Kenneth Stewart, the chairman, in an official statement, said that when complete specifications had been worked out and the necessary reconditioning of mills had been carried out, very marked reductions in cost and improved orders had been the result. The reconditioning of mills was being proceeded with. In the meantime the policy of refusing to sell yarn except at reasonable prices had resulted in improved results in the mills which were running under old conditions. Owing to this policy and to the world-wide conditions of trade, however, only about one-third of the spindles were running, causing the Corporation some loss, but on no serious scale. The many complications involved on the legal side and additional difficulties created by the Companies Act of November last, caused delay in the issue of income debentures and shares, but they will be issued with no unnecessary lapse of time. Further delay had also been caused by a want of co-operation and assistance from certain of the mill companies themselves. Sir Kenneth referred to the rumours of discords and differences, which he said could only be malicious in origin, and the statement that a member of the board of directors had given an adverse report to the Bank of England he dismissed as a deliberate falsehood.

South Wales Coal Audit.—Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Notwithstanding the recent depressed condition in the coal trade, the joint audit of the South Wales coal-mining industry for the three months ended last April showed a profit of £314,324, or 6.71d. per ton, compared with a profit of £484,454, or 9.94d. per ton, in the three months ended last January. Current market prices fell considerably during the period covered by the audit, but on the strength of the higher-priced contracts placed towards the close of 1929 for delivery over the present year, and of the operation of the minimum price schedule of the marketing scheme, the average proceeds were slightly higher than in the preceding three months. The total proceeds at £8,029,023 were slightly lower, owing to a reduced output, than those of £8,259,528 realised under the previous audit, but the average price per ton was 14s. 3.51d., as compared with 14s. 1.47d. The economic wage certified by the auditors under the terms of the wages agreement was only 15.05 per cent. on the 1915 base rates, but under that agreement the workmen are entitled to a minimum wage rate 28 per cent. above the base rates, and the deficiency arising through the payment of this minimum was £576,452, which increases the total deficiency carried forward to the huge total of £14,779,321. Nominally this liability on the net proceeds of the industry is recoverable, but actually it will probably be wiped out on the expiration of the present agreement and the arrangement of a new agreement. An interesting feature of the audit is the light it shows on the operation of the Derating Act. In the three months ended April, 1929, local rates represented an average charge of 5.98d. per ton, while in the three months ended October, 1928, it was 7.17d. per ton. In the three months ended last January, however, the cost to the industry of local rates was only 1.06d. per ton, and in the three months ended last April 1.14d. per ton. The colliery owners have also profited from the decrease in shipment charges which took place last year, partly as the result of a decision of the Railway Rates Tribunal and partly in consequence of the remission by the Great Western Railway Company of a part of the benefit accruing from the relief of the railway companies of 75 per cent. of the burden of local rates under the Derating Act. These two factors account entirely for the credit balances shown by the last two audits, for the higher average proceeds per ton have been counterbalanced by the increased cost of production which has accompanied the decrease in the output.

The End of a Chapter.—The report which Professor G. W. J. Bruins has just issued as Commissioner of the Reichsbank is his last, for one of the effects of the inauguration of the Young Plan is to terminate the participation of the foreign members of the Reichsbank General Council, and also Professor Bruins' functions as Commissioner. The report deals primarily with the past eight months, but it concludes with a general review of the six years during which the Dawes Plan was in operation. In this survey the author traces very clearly the extent of the German recovery from the dark days of the inflation period, but he is equally insistent that the

recovery is only partial. Thus he says that " unemployment is at the present time one of the gravest economic problems with which Germany is confronted . . . the dominant feature of the situation is still the inability of the German formation of capital to satisfy the capital requirements of the country . . . it is not possible to foretell when the balance of payments can attain equilibrium without further import of capital . . . it is this circumstance of foreign indebtedness which has lent its character to the policy of the Reichsbank during this period." Elsewhere the report recalls the sudden exchange crisis of April, 1929, when the Reichsbank lost 500,000,000 marks of its gold and devisen holdings in a few weeks; and this illustrates the dangers arising from Germany's foreign indebtedness. Professor Bruins, however, rightly claims that, as a rule, the mark has lately been one of the strongest currencies, and he notes that recently Germany's economic and commercial troubles have been less a result of her own special difficulties than a reflection of the general world depression. Thus the set-back this year in German prices is " in the main due to developments on foreign markets," and the same doubtless applies to the shrinkage in her exports from the peak figure of 1,247.3 million marks, touched in October, 1929, to the figure of 976.7 million marks for April last. Movements in foreign financial centres, especially in New York, explain the contraction in long-term German loans raised abroad from an annual average of 1,340.5 million marks for 1924-28 to 348.6 million marks in 1929. The world-wide fall in money rates during the past seven months, and the general release of funds following the Wall Street break have made short money more plentiful, but, to judge from the cautious tone of the report, long-term capital, though now coming slowly to Germany, is, in the main, awaiting the issue of the reparations loan. As regards the credit policy of the Reichsbank itself, it has been steadily working towards two allied objectives, these being a lower rate of interest and the restoration of normal money market conditions. The first has now been practically attained. Six years ago, according to Professor Bruins, the Reichsbank discount rate of 10 per cent. had no relation to the far higher level of interest that actually prevailed and was maintained artificially by the rigorous restriction of credits. To-day, the discount rate is down to 4½ per cent., and money and discount rates are many of them as low. The development of the private discount market is proving a slower matter, and here, as in several other respects, recovery is still incomplete. Still, the true measure of comparison is with the dark days when the Dawes Plan came into being, and in the recovery from that time the Reichsbank, in the incarnation which the Dawes Plan gave it, has played a worthy part. Professor Bruins and the retiring members of the General Council can rightly feel proud of their contribution to its work.

The World Depression.—Further light on the prevailing world-wide depression which we analysed in our issue of last week is thrown by the heavy decline in the physical volume of production in nearly all industrialised countries. The extent of this decline is shown in the table below, in which we have converted various indices of the volume of production since October last to a percentage of that of the September quarter, 1929:—

PRODUCTION INDICES AS A PERCENTAGE OF JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1929.

Country.	United States. (Federal Reserve Board.) (b)	Canada. (Monthly Review of Business Statistics.) (b)	France. (Statistique Générale.) (c)	Germany. (Institut für Koujunctorforschung.)	United Kingdom. (Board of Trade.)
1929—July-Sept.	100	100	100	100	100
October...	95·1	105·7	*101·6*	98·2	
November	86·2	104·8	103·1	98·2	103·0
December	80·5	86·3	103·8	92·9	
1930—January...	83·7	100·6	103·8	91·6(a)	
February	67·0	*88·0*	103·1	90·7(a)	100·3
March ...	84·6(a)	89·4	103·8	89·5(a)	

(a) Provisional.
(b) Adjusted for seasonal variations.
(c) Partly adjusted for seasonal variations.

It will be seen from these indices that the decline started in the United States, where, up to March last, it had proceeded furthest. The setback in the United States did not spread immediately to other countries, and this time-lag gave rise to the hope that the repercussions elsewhere might not be so far-reaching. However, during the first quarter of this year the depression spread to Canada and Europe. The full effects have probably not yet made themselves felt in the United Kingdom index, and have not yet become manifest in the index of France. It is noteworthy that, whereas the production of raw materials has generally been maintained, that of the manufacturing industries has been curtailed to a large extent. This has resulted in the piling up of stocks and a heavy fall in the prices of all raw materials. The heaviest decline in North America occurred in the textile, iron and steel, and automobile industries. The depression in the textile industry has already become universal, but production in the heavy industries in Europe was well maintained until March. The latest information suggests that, whereas the trade recession has slowed down in North America, the depression is still deepening in Europe.

The Reparations Loan. — Our Paris correspondent writes:—The final settlement of the conditions of the pending international German reparations loan seemed, on Wednesday, to be almost as far off as ever. Last week the banking representatives of the nine countries in which the loan is to be issued appointed Mr Montagu Norman, Mr Masson (Crédit Lyonnais), Mr Anderson (Morgan and Company), and Dr. Luther as a sub-committee to thrash out what apparently amounts to the entire conditions of the issue, notwithstanding that several weeks have already been occupied, either in Paris or at Basle, in this particular task. The sub-committee has been *sitting twice every day* (including Sunday), yet it was unofficially announced on Wednesday evening that difficulties still remain to be got over concerning both the distribution of the various national portions of the loan and the terms of issue, the guarantees to be given by Germany as to the service of the issue, the manner in which these guarantees shall be inscribed on the bonds, and the conditions of transfer of the amounts subscribed in certain countries and destined for other countries. The German Government has offered a guarantee in the form of a general engagement on the German Budget, but this the Treasury experts of the Allied Powers—and also, it is believed, the chief officials of the Bank for International Settlements—do not regard as acceptable. One of the latest difficulties to be raised, it is asserted in well-informed quarters here, is a totally unexpected one that has come from the American representatives at the conference, who have raised the point that, under American legislation, all loan contracts for issues in the American market must establish a direct liaison between the debtor (which in this case is the German State) and the American subscribers. In the case of the present loan the B.I.S. must necessarily serve as the intermediary for the whole loan, which, it is feared, renders strict compliance with American law impossible. Last week it was semi-officially announced that matters were so far advanced that signature of the contracts would probably take place on June 7th, and the actual issue on June 10th. The date of issue now considered probable is June 15th or 16th, which would, in any case, appear to be a more *suitable date than the day after* Whit-Monday. It was unofficially announced here to-day that the bonds belonging to the French portion of the issue will be handed to the various Paris banks interested at 88, and that the bankers' commission allowed will be four per cent.; that the bonds will be issued to the public at 98; and that the difference of 6 per cent. is to be assigned to the Government for the capitalisation of the loan. In usually reliable quarters it is asserted that the issue prices to the public will range from 87, in the case of Italy to 98 in France (in New York, 91); but all these figures are given here under all reserve. No official information of any kind has been furnished concerning the loan, with the exception of almost daily *communiqués*, during the past three weeks, to the effect that agreement in principle has

been arrived at " on practically all the points at issue." French opinion is beginning to chafe under the continually renewed delay in settling the details of the issue, and at least one journal has pointedly suggested that if the bankers cannot come to agreement the issue had better be postponed definitely until they are prepared to agree.

Australian Banking Position.—Our Melbourne correspondent writes:—The principal feature of the banking position in Australia and New Zealand, as shown by the quarterly average returns of the ordinary banks (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) to March 31st, is the increase of £32 million in advances and securities, as compared with a year ago, accompanied by a decrease of over £15¼ million in deposits. The decrease in deposits is almost wholly in Australia, where the low prices ruling for wool, the prolongation of the wool selling season and the reduced wheat harvest, have combined to curtail exports and to limit the amount of new money available for enlargement of deposits and reduction of country advances usually witnessed between September and March. The increase in advances during the last year has been largely due to country requirements, especially in districts where the season was not favourable, and although the rainfall so far this year has improved the outlook, there are still considerable parts of the country, including Riverine, where rain is badly wanted. The demands upon banking resources represented by the decline in deposits and the increase in advances have been balanced partly by a reduction in local cash holdings and partly by drawing upon London funds, which do not enter into the returns. The following is a comparison of the principal totals of the quarterly average returns (exclusive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia) with those for the previous quarter and a year ago, the figures relating to local liabilities and assets:—

	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Deposits:—	£	£	£
Australia	289,010,198	277,245,549	274,415,881
New Zealand	58,209,834	55,015,135	57,469,326
	347,220,032	332,260,684	331,885,207
Advances and securities:—			
Australia	263,493,202	292,017,154	287,724,823
New Zealand	52,226,395	60,061,739	59,997,095
	315,719,597	352,078,893	347,721,918
Cash items (Australia and New Zealand):—			
Coin and bullion	33,037,436	27,916,205	21,231,604
Australian notes and cash with Commonwealth Bank	29,630,252	21,396,987	27,867,125
Legal tender notes of other banks (New Zealand only)	78,186	75,388	80,156
Total cash items	62,745,874	49,388,580	49,178,885

Of the £21,231,604 coin and bullion, £14,582,765 is in Australia, the decrease as compared with earlier dates being due to the transfer of gold to the Commonwealth Bank for export. The effect of this transfer is not fully shown in the averages for the last quarter.

Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd.—The bulk of the 1929 report is devoted to the life department, in which there was a quinquennial valuation for the five years ended December 31, 1929, but apart from the actual results of this there is much of more general interest. The total new business during the period was not much greater than the corresponding figure for the preceding quinquennium, the 1925-29 total being £6,260,505, nor do the annual returns show much evidence of expansion. A very large proportion of new business is evidently required each year to replace wastage, since sums assured in force increased by no more than £2½ million, *i.e.*, from £13½ million to £16 million. A summary of the constitution of the existing business is worth reproducing, because the changes during the five-year period are, apart from their inherent interest, characteristic of the course of life assurance in many life offices.

SUMS ASSURED AND BONUSES IN FORCE.

	December 31, 1924. Amounts.	Percentages of Totals.	December 31, 1929. Amounts.	Percentages of Totals.
With Profits.	£		£	
Whole life	4,639,423	30	5,215,399	28
Endowment assurances	4,699,569	31	6,593,697	37
Special classes	57,519	0	82,650	0
	9,396,511	61	11,891,746	65
Without Profits.				
Whole life	1,590,065	11	1,595,538	9
Endowment assurances	1,292,712	8	815,958	4
Children's deferred assurances	2,316,985	15	3,123,903	17
Special classes	762,698	5	940,565	5
	5,962,460	39	6,475,964	35
Total	15,358,971	100	18,367,710	100

The increasing preference for " with profits " contracts is a natural reflection of the prosperous state of life offices, while the changes in the proportions of whole life and of endowment assurance policies are symptomatic of the popularity of investment as a preponderating element in the contract. Turning now to the results of the valuation, the figures relating to this and to the preceding valuation are set out below:—

	1920-24.	1925-29.
	£	£
Surplus earned during the quinquennium	655,667	909,273
Investment profits taken credit for	12,223	8,075
Brought forward from previous quinquennium	18,974	39,864
	686,864	957,212
Allocations:—		
To Bonuses to policyholders	500,000	720,000
,, Shareholders	125,000	180,000
,, Investment reserve fund	22,000	...
,, Carried forward to next quinquennium	39,864	57,212
	686,864	957,212

Only 80 per cent. of the divisible surplus belongs to the policyholders, though in spite of this the bonuses allotted on the company's distinctive system are not inconsiderable for policies of long duration. Exact comparison with the more usual simple or compound bonus is difficult, and it will suffice to say that, for whole life policies, the rates now declared for the five years just ended differ according to age at entry and range from about 33s. per cent. for five years in force to about 67s. per cent. for 30 years in force. With regard to the fire and general business the premium income has been increased in all departments and now amounts to £2,106,059. Whereas in former years the Guardian's abstention from the American field of fire insurance has stood it in good stead, last year home business was subject to exceptional losses, and so the company, through its preponderance of home business, finished with an underwriting loss. The details of the operations of the past two years are as follows:—

	1928. Amount of Profit.	Percentage of Premiums.	1929. Amount of Profit.	Percentage of Premiums.
	£	%	£	%
Fire	146,600	13·7	— 1,134	— ·1
Accident	47,920	6·7	39,828	5·0
Marine	3,372	2·1	650	·5
Life	25,000		36,000	
	222,892		75,344	
Less:—				
Items debited to profit and loss account	56,759		167,920	
Transferred to investment reserve and contingency fund	120,000		...	
	46,133		— 92,576	

After paying a dividend of 80 per cent. for five years the rate has been raised to 100 per cent. and the payment necessitates an inroad on the profit and loss account to the extent of £14,812.

Pioneer Life Assurance Company.—The thirty-eighth annual report of this company indicates a setback in the trading results, both in the ordinary branch and in the industrial branch. The company, whose headquarters are in Liverpool, is a small one, the combined funds amounting only to £683,000, and this circumstance must inevitably give rise to a certain amount of year-to-year fluctuations. Since the rate of interest earned was slightly higher than in the preceding year and amounted to £4 18s. 4d. per cent. net, and since the expense ratios show little change when compared with the 15 per cent. experienced in the ordinary branch and 39.9 per cent. in the industrial branch a year ago, the results must presumably be attributed to an unfavourable incidence of death claims. The figures relating to the annual valuation in each branch for each of the last two years are set out below:—

	1928-29.	1929-30.
Ordinary Branch.	£	£
Trading surplus earned during the year	8,593	— 544
Investment profits	3,851	1,564
Brought forward from previous year	1,818	2,262
	14,262	3,282
Allocations:—		
To Shareholders	9,000	...
,, Investment reserve fund	3,000	...
,, Carried forward to next year	2,262	3,282
	14,262	3,282
Industrial Branch.		
Trading surplus earned during the year	19,948	5,094
Investment profits	3,965	1,628
Brought forward from previous year	9,818	9,731
	33,731	16,453
Allocations:—		
To Shareholders	12,000	6,000
,, Investment reserve fund	7,000	...
,, Strengthening of actuarial reserve	5,000	...
,, Carried forward to next year	9,731	10,453
	33,731	16,453

Since the whole of the company's business is transacted on a non-profits basis, no question of distribution of bonus arises, and, as regards the shareholders, the dividend has been maintained at the same rate as before, namely, 9⅜ per cent. The new business secured in the ordinary branch in the year ended March 31, 1930, totalled £102,500, and in the industrial branch £319,717, compared with which the corresponding totals in the preceding year were £89,388 and £321,196 respectively. A note at the foot of the balance sheet states that the investment reserve fund is more than sufficient to meet the depreciation in the book values of the Stock Exchange securities. In the previous year's balance sheet the investment reserve fund stood at £40,000, but £20,000 of this has since been utilised for the purpose of reducing the asset value of establishment expenses from £44,420 to £24,420.

Gresham Life Assurance Society, Ltd.—Although closely allied with the Gresham Fire, the life company pursues a separate legal existence and specialises particularly in foreign and colonial business, from which sources indeed nearly three-quarters of the total is derived. Since the total new business is in the region of £2¼ million per annum, this means that the office is not very much in evidence in this country, where its comparatively low bonus rate has been a handicap. The year 1929 was the closing year of another quinquennium, during which the total new business transacted amounted to £10½ million, compared with £12⅝ million in the quinquennium 1920-24. The net rate of interest earned is a comparatively high one, last year's figure being £4 19s. 9d. per cent., but some portion of the advantage of this is counterbalanced by an expense ratio which, on account of the foreign business, is at the high rate of 24½ per cent. The results of the quinquennial valuation are not comparable with those of the preceding valuation, since the rate of interest assumed has been reduced from 3½ per cent. to 3 per cent., and to this extent, therefore, the reserves are increased. The actual figures relating to the last two valuations are as follows:—

	1920-24.	1925-29.
	£	£
Trading surplus earned during quinquennium	480,082	702,125
Investment profits realised during quinquennium	36,515	56,946
Brought forward from preceding quinquennium	546	11,549
	517,143	770,620
Allocations:—		
To bonuses to policyholders	405,000	630,000
To shareholders	50,594	75,594
To staff pension fund	50,000	50,000
To carried forward to next quinquennium	11,549	15,026
	517,143	770,620

Ninety per cent. of the divisible surplus belongs to the policyholders and 10 per cent. to the shareholders, and the policyholders' proportion is on this occasion sufficient to permit of the declaration of an increased reversionary bonus at the rate of 35s. per cent. per annum, compared with 25s. per cent. five years previously.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Trade Outlook — Railroads — Industry — Congress — Credit — Bond and Share Market.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, May 27.

THE times are proving to be rather a severe test on the patience of the more optimistic, and in spite of further reassuring predictions from members of President Hoover's cabinet, the consensus among bankers and corporation executives is that few, if any, signs of genuine business improvement have yet appeared. Still, the recession does not appear to be deepening, and it is realised that time is working on the side of trade recovery. Predictions of improvement are for the most part based on hope pure and simple, but grounds for that hope are not lacking. Commodity prices are becoming a trifle more stable, harvest will soon begin on good wheat and corn crops, money is abundant and cheap, building contract awards are rising and employment is at least holding its own. Against these factors must be set a further small decline in the rate of steel operations, continued low volume of railroad car loadings, failure of marked recovery in actual building construction to develop, and a record of sharply rising volume of business failures. It is generally admitted that the first signs of improvement will find a ready response, and that industrial expansion might go on rapidly once it starts.

Railroads are reporting their earnings for April. About half the statements have been published. A few show increases over the same month of last year, but the large majority report declines both in gross revenues and in net operating income. Freight traffic last month was nearly 10 per cent. below that of last year, and the smaller volume gave little opportunity for keeping down operating expenses. Still, net income is running at about 31 per cent. below the level of a year ago, which represents some improvement over March, when it was 37 per cent. below. The record for this month ought to be about the same as that for April.

In his summary of trade, the Secretary of Commerce a few days ago estimated that business is about 6 per cent. below normal, as compared with 21 per cent. in 1921. He found encouragement in the fact that retail trade last month was 8 per cent. higher than in 1929,

although this year had the advantage of Easter in April; and he felt that strengthening prices for some commodities, as metals and wool, and the large volume of public construction contracts would help to promote recovery.

The monthly review of the Federal Reserve Board notes that production in basic industries was 2 per cent. larger in April than in March, and that in many important lines output was higher than in 1928. Following President Hoover's suggestions, public works contracts let by municipalities, States and the Federal government have been higher in the first four months than for any corresponding period in the past nine or ten years, amounting, according to the Department of Commerce, to $452,910,000. In the current month these contracts have been running at the rate of about $20,000,000 per business day. Residential construction, however, has not been stimulated as yet by easier credit. The motor industry, outside Ford and Chevrolet, is faring rather poorly, and there is talk of further price cuts. Three-fourths of the total automobile registration in the first three months were for Ford and Chevrolet machines.

Congress muddles along without much prospect of finishing the tariff Bill this month. A special session is probable for consideration of the Naval Treaty. The Senate has voted the Couzens resolution calling for a year's "holiday" on railroad mergers. If the measure passes the House of Representatives, the Inter-State Commerce Commission would be prevented from approving any merger applications until that time. As a practical matter, the Bill strikes only at the Northern Pacific Great Northern application, already partially approved. It is expected that this merger plan will now be abandoned. No other important application is before the commission.

Credit conditions are changing but little, and beyond some firming up at the month-end there is no prospect of higher rates for some time. Dividend and interest disbursements by corporations on or about June 1st will set a new high record, in spite of numerous recent reductions. The total of payments is estimated at $750,000,000. On June 15th the Treasury will have to meet the maturity of approximately $500,000,000 in certificates. The maturing issue carries an interest rate of 4⅞ per cent., and it can be replaced at a 2¾ per cent. rate or lower. Later in the month it may be necessary to sell another bill issue, but much depends on Farm Board operations. June income-tax collections are estimated at $550,000,000, of which half will come from this district.

Not much is being done by the Federal Reserve Banks to promote easier money, but that is not because of any change in policy. With the banks finding difficulty in placing available credit, lower rates would do no particular good. Discounts for the Reserve system for the week of May 21st were stationary, as were Government security holdings. The banks bought about $15,000,000 in bills, mostly under the fifteen-day re-purchase agreement with dealers and, as a result, total credit outstanding rose slightly. It stands at $931,000,000, and from an operating standpoint it is not considered desirable for earning assets to fall much below $1,000,000,000. Federal Reserve notes in circulation continue to decrease, but the gold certificate circulation is rising, there having been little recent net change in volume of currency used. The contingent liability of the system on bills purchased for foreign correspondents dropped $10,000,000, the same decline as in the preceding week.

Everything is ready for floating the first Reparations Bond issue. Response from banks and dealers, which will belong to the selling syndicate, indicates that the issue will go over with a rush, and that it will sell at a premium over the offering price. Here and there a politician has attempted to make political capital out of the affair by denouncing flotation of the bonds in this country, on the ground that it will be saddling European debts on American investors; but the character of the persons advancing such arguments ensures their cold reception generally. Investment houses are growing somewhat impatient of the delay in settling price and other details of the issue, inasmuch as they think the bond market is being retarded for the German offering. Success for the issue will itself stimulate old bonds, and make it easier to sell new issues, many of which are being held up. In spite of the plethora of money, prices for old bonds have moved forward rather slowly. One reason for this is the steady stream of new issues which has been flowing for some time. Last week's total topped $200,000,000, and this has been about the average weekly total for the past two months. Those offerings which have been attractively priced have gone quickly, indicating no lack of investment money, but others have required hard plugging.

Bonds continue to make up the major portion of the new offerings, in sharp contrast to the record of a year ago, when new stock flotations were more numerous than bonds. Many investors, nevertheless, have become "stock-minded" as a result of the remarkable rise in common stock prices from 1924 to 1929, and the popular movement into junior issues during that period. Faith in the common share received a severe test last autumn, but if it has been shaken it has not been broken, and even the current uncertainty in the stock market alongside a highly favourable bond prospect is not having much effect on the small investor.

FRANCE.

M. Tardieu's Speech — Economic Development — Pre-War Loan Repayment Decisions.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 6.

M. TARDIEU'S speech at Dijon, on Sunday, was divided into two quite distinct and only remotely connected sections. The one was devoted to setting forth the trained thinker's conception of the modern State, and the other to a declaration of the Tardieu Government's settled attitude towards the Radical-Socialist Party. The Premier, with characteristic logic, dealt with the purely party political subject first, and thus cleared the ground for what was by far the more important half of his discourse. Unfortunately, the French mind is so constituted that practically the whole of the newspaper comment during the past three days has been devoted to that part of the speech that scornfully dealt with sterile political warfare. M. Tardieu, in his declaration to the Radical-Socialists, made it quite clear that he is ready and even anxious to have the support of the party led by MM. Herriot, Sarraut and their colleagues, but that their association with him must really mean co-operation and certainly not domination, and that, if they are not prepared to accept this basis, the Government's situation in the Chamber and the country is so strong as to enable him quite safely to do without them. All the factors appear to confirm the solid good sense of the Premier's attitude, which makes further comment unnecessary.

M. Tardieu's practical vision of the modern *rôle* of the State is one that might well be pondered by leaders of many other countries than his own. The problem of the modern State, M. Tardieu declared, is to harmonise the two rival forces of the contemporary world, the political and the economic. In France, in regard to national production, the State has latterly had to take initiatives that were unprecedented, except during the war. The policy of systematically aiding the country's vital forces has often found opposed to it "the union of the doctrinaires—from which I conclude that the doctrines of yesterday have been surpassed by the facts, and that, to obtain mastery of the facts, the time has come to define the doctrine of to-morrow." What is to be the doctrine of to-morrow? "Neither laissez-faire nor State Socialism—that is the lesson of experience." The democratic State must be a strong State. Unfortunately, the more the State increases its legal function, the more its authority diminishes. "Never was this authority more necessary than to-day. The war has created or revived an infinite number of conflicts in every country: conflicts between regions, between classes, between professions, between the members of the same profession, between the various categories of public servants, between these public servants and the State itself. The State alone is in a position to arbitrate in these conflicts, and we have the firm will that it shall succeed in putting an end to disorder by solutions of justice and reason that will re-establish loyal, confident and cordial co-operation."

At present, M. Tardieu declared, the State is faced with a system of oligarchies, of various origins, ceaselessly attempting to divert the State from its proper object, to the profit of a conglomeration of private interests, assailing alike the legislature and the executive. The objective to be attained is a precise definition of the rights of the State in regard to groups of every kind—labour, employers, public servants and all others—that all may co-operate in the national interest. "This is not the programme of a Government, you may say," M. Tardieu added, "but the dream of a generation. That may be so; but somebody must begin the work; and if we would act to-morrow, we must know how to think to-day."

The Government's plan for the development of the national economic equipment is now under consideration by the grand commission of the Chamber, and is expected to come up for discussion in the Lower House about June 20th. The necessary funds will be drawn as to 5,000,000,000 francs from the surpluses in the hands of the Treasury, 5,940,000,000 francs from ordinary Budget sources, and the balance of 6,000,000,000 francs from development organisations interested. Several alternative schemes, all involving much heavier expenditure, have been suggested by various members.

Following the decisions given by the Hague International Court, some months ago, in regard to actions brought for interest and redemption payments on Brazilian and Serbian issues to be made to French holders in gold, the Cour de Cassation yesterday handed down judgment in a final appeal concerning similar payments by the Crédit Foncier Canadien, in respect of its European 3 per cent. and 3.40 per cent. issues of 1890, 1896 and 1908. These issues were made in several different markets, and the text of the bonds gave holders the choice of place of payment. The company contended that it could make payment to French holders in present-day paper francs of one-fifth the former value of the franc. Actions were brought in the French Courts by bondholders as long ago as 1922, and in 1923 and 1925 judgments were given in their favour. The company appealed to the Cour de Cassation, which has now, adopting the doctrine of the Procureur-Général, ruled that holders have the right to choose payment either in Paris or in Geneva, in the local currency, as set forth in the conditions of issue. The decision covers payments to a total of 110,000,000 gold francs, and should therefore benefit small French capitalists to the extent of about 440,000,000 paper francs. Other similar instances in which decisions are expected shortly concern loans by the City of Tokio (100,000,000 gold francs), the Port of Rosario (89,000,000 francs), Sosnowic Collieries (20,000,000 francs), and the Heraclea Collieries (15,00,000 francs). Decisions are also wanted in regard to Bulgarian, Mexican, Hungarian and Brazilian issues, as well as one of the Moorish loans. In the latter case both the French and the Moorish Governments, in successive independent actions, have repudiated liability, on juridical grounds. The amount lost by French holders through having been required to accept depreciated francs instead of gold may be gathered when it is stated that it is estimated the loss to the Government in income tax alone amounts to a total of between £1,500,000 and £2,000,000. British holders of scrip in the French loans issued in London during the war are practically in the same position as French holders of the issues mentioned above. In that case, however, payment in paper francs is juridically supported by the text of the conditions, and it is unlikely that holders will receive relief. Both the 5 per cent. and 4 per cent. bonds are quoted in London at a shade over 20.

Union Bank of Switzerland
(Union de Banques Suisses)
ZURICH.
Bahnhofstrasse 45
Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Locarno, Lugano, Montreux, St. Gall, Vevey, Winterthur, etc.
Capital & Reserves - Fr.131,500,000
Total Assets - - - - Fr.992,000,000
ALL BANKING TRANSACTIONS
INVESTMENT FACILITIES. Administration of Private Estates.

GERMANY.

Deficit — Stock Exchange Reform Proposals — Wage and Price Reduction.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, June 3.

DR MOLDENHAUER has now given the budget committee of the Reichstag more detailed information on the new deficit in the Budget for 1930-31. Unemployment requires altogether 600 millions more than had been calculated in the first draft of the Budget, and tax receipts must be estimated at 137 millions less. The Minister plans to secure a round 300 million marks by economies in unemployment insurance and by a rise of 1 per cent. in the contributions. A way of meeting the rest remains to be found, and the Government is now discussing the matter. Since the people can hardly be expected to pay further taxes, as the receipts from those in force are diminishing, the Government intends to try to cancel appropriations. It is not likely that it will be very successful in that. The Government wishes to curtail the salaries of civil servants, reduce leave, and do away with a number of official bodies. In addition, new regulations are to be made governing salaries in the States and municipalities. Some of these proposals amount to a change in the constitution, and hence require a two-thirds majority in the Reichstag, and it is safe to say that such a majority cannot be had. Moreover, considerable savings can be achieved in this manner only over a long period, not for the current year. In any circumstances, therefore, there remains an uncovered balance of several hundred millions.

To meet this deficit the Government is considering a so-called "Notopfer," or "emergency offering," of salaried persons, but this is merely a somewhat pathetic euphemism for a supplementary tax on the income of all persons with fixed incomes above the unemployment insurance level. The political effect of such a "Notopfer" will probably be only a radicalising of those sections of the the people who were not socialistically inclined before. The Socialists, who are now in opposition, will not fail to make use of the argument that the "bourgeois" Government is imposing a special tax on earners of salaries, whereas it has just made the capitalists a present through the announced repeal of the "Kapitalertragsteuer" and of certain Bourse taxes.

The board of the Berlin Stock Exchange has now published proposals for a reform in order to overcome the lethargy on the Bourse. The aim is to increase the turnover and divide it among a smaller number of brokers. It is relatively easy to attain the latter aim. An age limit is to be fixed for brokers—70 years is the limit contemplated—and retiring members of the Bourse are to receive payments from a newly created fund in order to induce those of them who are not well off to take up some other occupation. As a means of increasing the turnover the governors have under consideration, first of all, a law forbidding the banks to carry out buying and selling orders outside the Bourse. The big German banks to-day make their own adjustments of buying and selling orders of the same stock, and thus save the expenses of the Bourse stamp tax and the brokerage. The board feels that this system is prejudicial to the genuine development of quotations, but there is very little prospect that the banks can

be compelled to abandon their system. The largest German bank has already announced that it will not voluntarily make the change.

The Bourse governors are further considering the creating of a new group of Bourse members, the coulissiers. In addition to admission to the Bourse, this group of financially strong private dealers is to receive a rebate on the stamp taxes. These, and numerous other plans of less importance, even if they should be realised, could increase the Bourse turnover only in small degree; a greater abundance of capital in Germany or increased foreign interest in German shares alone can bring about a genuine improvement of the Bourse.

The Rhenish-Westphalian iron industry has made an interesting attempt to give a new impetus to business by lowering prices and wages. The big wage dispute of 1928 was ended by an arbitration award of Dr. Severing, then a member of the Cabinet, which granted certain increases of wages to the workers. Whereas up to that time the wage agreements for every group of workers merely established a minimum wage, which was exceeded in about half the cases by the wages actually paid, Dr. Severing added to his decision a clause providing that wages in excess of the established minimum could not be lowered from the figure in effect at the beginning of the dispute except where working methods had changed. This provision was necessary at that time, since otherwise the mutual antagonisms following the struggle would have resulted in continuing dissensions regarding these wages, as no opportunity remained for dissension regarding the fixed rates. But this clause deprived the wage level of the West German iron industry of the elasticity that is afforded in most other industries by the difference between the established minimum wage and the wage actually paid. The wages were kept at the level of the profitable economic year 1927-28, whereas in many other branches of German production wages exceeding the minimum established by agreements were reduced. In order now to free itself from this rigid obligation, the western iron industry, when the trade unions recently desired certain changes in respect of holidays, etc., and, therefore, denounced their wage agreements, demanded the rescission of the Severing clause. It proved impossible to reach an agreement, and the matter came before the arbitrator, when the employers declared their readiness to employ any sums received from a lowering of wages in lowering prices. The wage reduction is not to exceed 10 per cent., and the employers believe that the workers' earnings will not be reduced, since the lowering of prices will increase the turnover and thus do away with lost time, which had become frequent. The arbitrator has accepted the employers' proposal and—while otherwise granting most of the workers' demands—has rescinded the Severing clause. The syndicates of the German iron industry will now shortly decide to reduce the price of iron, unless unexpected difficulties prevent the carrying out of the arbitrator's decision. The workers have rejected the decision, but the Minister of Labour can decree that it shall be legally binding, and it is believed that he will do so.

This step, however, can improve the economic situation and increase the turnover of the iron industry only if other industries follow its example and thus bring about a general fall in prices. But, despite the somewhat lower cost of living, a general lowering of wages would encounter bitter opposition from the trade unions. Here and there, it is true, the workmen of individual undertakings have declared their willingness to accept a reduction of wages if there be no other way of keeping the undertaking going. But these were all scattered instances under particular conditions. If the State leaves it to the parties concerned to adjust wages, that is, if the Minister of Labour makes little or no use of his right to declare arbitration awards binding, then a reduction of wages of even moderate extent can be achieved only after conflicts whose cost to German economy would not be compensated for by their result. But if the State should interpose and itself compel a lowering of wages, it would assume a task to which it is hardly equal, especially as the political foundation of the Government is at present very narrow and the Cabinet is unable to acquire prestige by achievements in the field of financial policy, precisely the field in which the public is particularly eager for something to be accomplished. Hence great difficulties would be encountered if the action of the iron industry should be regarded as more than a warning to the unions to exercise great moderation in their wage demands this summer, in order to facilitate the carrying out of a rational economic policy.

SWEDEN.

Industrial Activity — Signs of Depression — Prices — Foreign Trade — Riksbank.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, May 17.

EACH time new economic and statistical data are published the question is asked, in Sweden and elsewhere, to what extent do they reflect the international depression? And each time the answer as regards Sweden has been that as yet the indications are surprisingly few. The March figures of production indicate surprisingly active employment. It is true that in certain industries signs of the depression are visible, but, on the other hand, there is a decided increase of production in other markets, and Sweden up to the present appears to have shown an unexpected power of resistance and still holds an exceptional position.

This circumstance is the more remarkable in that the figures for production in February clearly indicated a relative slackening, apart from the timber trade, in which activity was surprisingly great. In the March figures also the index of production is unexpectedly high, but even compared with last year the volume of production shows an increase. " Svensk Finanstidningen's " index number rose from 144 in February to 149 in March. As usual, it is the activity in the pulp industry which mainly explains the high index number, but at the same time the general level has been maintained at a very high point. Only iron and steel continue to show a falling curve. Among the industries represented in the index that is the only one in which employment is less than a year ago.

The favourable elements in the situation are still more emphasised if we compare the average index of production for the first quarter with the corresponding figure of last year. The general index for the first quarter of the year was 149, compared with 140 for the same period in 1929. This is, in fact, a new record, to which the large output of the paper mills contributed in no small measure, though this output was possibly in anticipation of the expected labour dispute, which broke out at the end of April. The iron and steel industry is again an exception for the first quarter, but otherwise there is marked improvement all along the line.

It is evident that this development is the consequence of the peculiar industrial position of the country, in which production relates primarily to high quality necessities and only to a very small extent to luxury articles. In addition, the chief industries work on long forward contracts, for which reason Sweden is able to resist longer the effects of a period of depression. The effect of the international depression on Sweden therefore depends upon its duration, and now that the depression has lasted so long one would expect to see signs of it. And, indeed, such signs are very marked in agriculture and shipping. " Svensk Finanstidningen's " index of wholesale prices fell from 136 in April, 1929, to 126 at the turn of the year. Between December and April this fall continued rapidly to 118, and at the same time the index for vegetable foodstuffs sank to 98, and even 95, in March, compared with 124 a year ago. As such important commodities as butter and eggs are no higher than in 1913, it is clear what difficulties agriculture has to contend with. In shipping the position is the same. The Swedish freight index published by Svenska Handelsbanken had sunk in March to 103, as compared with 138 a year ago and 124 in December.

The effects of the fall in prices have, however, by no means been entirely disadvantageous in Sweden, because they have been confined mainly to imported goods, while export goods have shown greater resistance. This favourable relation has been characteristic of price changes in Sweden during the years since the war. It has been especially accentuated this year. Whereas Svenska Handelsbanken's wholesale price index number for imports and exports was 132 and 145 in March, 1929, the relation in the corresponding period this year was 106 : 139. This to some extent explains the export surplus of recent years, but the longer the depression lasts the more we must expect the fall of prices to affect prices of export goods also.

Foreign trade has run its normal seasonal course. A comparison with previous years is not possible, because last year both imports and exports were completely disorganised by an exceptional ice blockade in February and March, while the first quarter of 1928 was characterised by the great labour disputes. The value of imports in the first quarter of 1930 was Kr. 394 million, against Kr. 299 million in 1929 and Kr. 390 million in 1928. At the same time, the value of exports was Kr. 320 million, Kr. 282 million and Kr. 256 million respectively. Generally speaking, the exports of the staple articles have been very satisfactory, and imports of industrial raw material and semi-manufactured goods have been so considerable that they indicate continued industrial employment, though this is not quite so true of March. Short time also occurred sporadically in April, but it is noteworthy that no curtailment is reported from such a sensitive industry as mechanical engineering.

The labour market has been very satisfactory, and there is a decrease of unemployment as compared with a year ago. There was the usual seasonal increase at the end of last year and in January, but the general level of unemployment was considerably lower than in 1929. The number of unemployed registered in the State Unemployment Commission as seeking relief amounted to 16,600 in January, as against 18,600 in 1929. The number of applications for work at the unemployment exchanges was a maximum of 241 for 100 vacancies, the same as in the preceding year. There was a continuous improvement in February and March.

The money market has been well supplied, and demands for credit have been remarkably small. Whereas normally there is a decided increase of the volume of credit in March, this year the volume sank. The same tendency was visible in April. The abundant supply of money is primarily a reflection of the influence of the depression on interest rates abroad. Of recent years Sweden has exported capital on a considerable scale, and the Swedish commercial banks have year by year increased their deposits abroad. It is evident that the pronounced fall of interest rates abroad must tend to reduce exports of Swedish capital and must stimulate the banks to call in their foreign holdings. Exports of capital have fallen since the beginning of the year. In March the net amount was Kr. 5 million. Last year the tendency was the reverse, and exports in the same month amounted to Kr. 22 million. This in itself must create a larger supply of foreign exchange than is normal for the time of year. The withdrawal by the commercial banks of their foreign holdings tended in the same direction. Whereas usually there is a seasonal demand for exchange and rising rates, this year the opposite has occurred. The market has been dominated by sellers and rates have fallen sharply. The pound especially has been quoted so low for some time past that the Riksbank has been compelled to take up all offers in order to avoid importing gold. For this reason its reserves rose by Kr. 28 million in March and by no less than Kr. 94 million in April, so that they amounted to Kr. 355 million, against Kr. 266 million at the turn of the year.

At the same time, rediscounting claims on the bank have continuously fallen, until at the end of the first week in May they amounted to Kr. 151 million, as compared with Kr. 310 million at the same time last year. Clearly such a development will require a lowering of interest rates corresponding to those abroad.

JUGOSLAVIA.

Budget — Business Improvement — Foreign Trade — Economic Experiments — Money.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELGRADE, May 18.

THE Budget for 1930-31, published by Royal Decree on March 27th, shows that Jugoslavia is still in a period of budgetary expansion. The figure of 13,348,000,000 dinars (£50,000,000) is 883,500,000 dinars (£3,200,000) larger than that for 1929-30, the previous record figure since the creation of the Kingdom. This increase, the Minister of Finance in his explanation avers, is not due to any extravagance, but to the natural expansion of national economy, greater requirements during a period of administrative reorganisation, and to the final settlement of all public debts. Of these, there were settled in the course of last year the war debt to France, the pre-war Serbian debts, and, at the Hague, all outstanding accounts between Jugoslavia on the one hand and Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria on the other. The increase in the debt service is 121,500,000 dinars, the total service amounting to 1,016,000,000 dinars (£3,700,000). Important additions to the Budget have been investments by the Ministry of Communications (141 million dinars), the Ministry of Forests and Mines (55 million dinars), and that of Agriculture (42,700,000 dinars). Of increases for administrative purposes the most important are those of the Ministry of War, 94 million dinars (total 2,523 million dinars); of Interior, 86 million dinars (total 672 million dinars); of Construction, 72 million dinars; and Education, 45 million dinars (total 872 million dinars), largely due to the new scales of payments.

In estimating receipts the Minister emphasises the fact that no new taxes or duties have been introduced, but that a greater income is expected as a logical consequence of expanding economic life. This hope he bases on the fact that last year's Budget receipts practically reached the very high sum required of 12,464,000,000 dinars, partly in consequence of the excellent harvest and partly because of more rigorous collection of direct taxation. The chief increase is under the heading of reparations (263,700,000 dinars more), followed by Customs (90 million dinars more), and direct taxes (87 million dinars more). In conclusion, the Minister declares that circumstances are ripe for the legal stabilisation of the dinar, and that the Government is watching for a favourable opportunity to conclude a foreign loan, although it is not prepared to do so under disadvantageous conditions.

Foreign trade continues to improve. Exports for the first quarter were 1,175,285 tons, worth 1,695,985,000 dinars, or 385,790,000 dinars more than in 1929. Imports amounted to 1,740,400,000 dinars, as against 1,649,200,000 dinars last year, or 91,200,000 dinars more. Of export prospects for the latter part of the year it is still too early to speak until the harvest can be estimated. There has been plenty of warmth in the spring, and corn is fairly advanced. On the other hand, rainfall by the end of April only reached 138 mm., as compared with 215 mm. in 1929 or 167 mm. in 1928. Recent rains have much improved this relation. Much ought to be done for export, however, by the newly formed Privileged Export Company (capital 50,000,000 dinars), set up by Royal Decree, and in which the State is the chief shareholder. It will be the business of this company to protect the producer, stabilise prices during fluctuations, store grain, and act as exporting agent to countries which are not contiguous.

The formation of this company, as well as that of the Privileged Agrarian Mortgage Bank, ushers in a most interesting period of economic experiments. The State has taken the initiative for the foundation of both, has itself subscribed a large sum of money, and insisted on its right of supervision. On the other hand, it has admitted private shareholders, guaranteed them a fixed minimum dividend of 6 per cent., and handed over the management to a body of private persons and appointed

officials, setting the institutions on an independent footing, free from State administration. Thus, since stress is laid on public usefulness and minimum profit, but private shareholders are guaranteed against loss, and since further the State in each case takes the initiative but leaves the management in private hands, an interesting form intermediate between private enterprise and State Socialism is achieved, the progress and success of which will be most instructive to watch.

On the financial market the abundance of liquid but uninvested capital still continues, while money for business purposes is still stringent. That adaptation is progressing is obvious from the decreasing number of bankruptcies, which for the first four months amounted to 303 as against 407 during the same period in 1929. This abundance of money on one side and tightness on the other is probably the reason why the privileged Agrarian Mortgage Bank has decided to postpone calling for the payment of the third and fourth instalment of subscription until the autumn, while it has obtained at the same time credits of 200,000,000 dinars with both the State Mortgage Bank and the National Bank, and a similar amount from the Postal Savings Bank.

TURKEY.

Bondholders and the Treasury — Foreign Exchanges — Industrial Developments.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STAMBOUL, May 14.

IF market rumours and Press commentaries were to be believed the financial outlook for Turkey would be indeed bright and rosy. She would receive a loan of 40 millions sterling from the London money market through the British Treasury, on condition that she agreed to accept simultaneously the services of a British Financial Adviser; another 20 millions sterling would be forthcoming from the Swedish Match Company in exchange for the cession to that group of the Match Monopoly; lastly, a famous finance house would put up six millions against a contract for the extension of the Smyrna harbour works. All this and much more is being repeated *ad nauseam* in the " coulisses " of the Bourse. The matter of collateral for the 40 millions is not even mentioned.

In the meanwhile Mr Wyatt and M. de Closières have left Angora for Paris without registering any marked success in their efforts to induce the Turkish Treasury to abide by the terms of the contract which was signed by them and ratified by the National Assembly so short a time ago. The only concessions made by the Turks during this, the delegate's latest visit, was to agree to their suggestion that a specialist should examine the financial situation of Turkey as a whole and suggest remedies for the ailment from which she is suffering. This task is to be entrusted to M. Rist, the well-known French financial expert.

M. Rist should have no great difficulty in locating the source of all the trouble. The ordinary observer arrived long ago at the conclusion that a situation akin to the present one was bound to arise sooner or later unless the fiscal and financial policy of the Government was subjected to appreciable modification. A glance at any one of Turkey's Budgets for the past few years should suffice to show that, if she has not been spending more than she has been earning, too large a proportion of her outgoings, at all events, has gone into economically unproductive investments. In this year's Budget, for instance, the vote for national defence and subsidiary armed forces absorbs about 36 per cent. of the aggregate expenditure, whereas the amount set aside for interest and sinking fund of the external debt—the payment of which now forms the subject of a threatened default—does not exceed 6 per cent. Moreover, allowance must further be made for an unknown percentage of the 33 million lire to be expended on public works, a proportion of which is to go towards the building costs of certain railway lines, the construction of which it is difficult for the ordinary observer, with first-hand knowledge of the physical configuration of Anatolia, to explain on economic grounds.

That the leaders of post-war Turkey are wide awake to the tangible benefits and advantages which would accrue to the State by the intensive and sustained economic development of the Fatherland is patent from the reports of proceedings in the House of Assembly. But this goal can be reached only by the expenditure of large sums of money. Those large sums of money Turkey does not possess. They must come from the foreign money markets. It is surely in the highest interests of state for Turkish Ministers to consider whether they are going the right or the wrong way about encouraging the foreign capitalist to look upon Turkey as a reliable prospective borrower with whom he may safely and profitably invest his money. The Turkish Press reports that, times being bad, a strong current of opinion has manifested itself in the Chamber in favour of applying the £2 million odd, which should go to the bondholders, to the economic development of the country. The deputies who are of this mind—and, apparently, the Cabinet share their views, as the threat of default has come from the Council of Ministers—appear blind to the fact that the Turkish Government themselves hold the key to the world's money markets upon which the economic regeneration and ultimate salvation of Republican Turkey depend.

That stability of the national currency has been attained in this country there is no gainsaying. The fluctuations of the official rates of sterling during the past three months have barely varied by a piastre or two a day above or below 1,030. It is interesting, however, to weigh up the cost at which this very desirable state of affairs has been brought about. Whereas currency stability is usually secured by means of either gold reserves, gilt-edged Government stock, foreign credits in sound and stable currencies, or by all three, here we have stability brought about by legislative measures exclusively, and legislative measures, moreover, conceived and framed mainly in the spirit which inspires part of the Decalogue, " Thou shalt not. . . ."

The needs of the mercantile community in the matter of foreign exchange for overseas trade settlements have been neither ignored nor disregarded, it is perfectly true, but the satisfaction of those requirements has been hedged in by so many bewildering restrictive measures that, in practice, the *bona fide* purchaser of foreign exchange finds himself in a very difficult and unenviable position. Exchange operations for legitimate mercantile requirements have diminished considerably in volume — imports and exports have fallen off in bulk, and, as a consequence, the Customs revenues have contracted seriously. The severe penalties attaching to a disregard of the decrees, moreover, have had the undesirable effect of rendering even *bona fide* exchange operators nervous and apprehensive. Rather than run the risk of suspicion and consequent exposure to the rigours of the law, timorous prospective purchasers of exchange prefer to abstain and let business go by.

The rates have been so even and stable since the drastic legislative measures were enforced that the Consortium of Constantinople banks has had to sell but little exchange in order to maintain the value of the Turkish lira. This group, which was formed at the instigation of the Treasury some few weeks ago, does not comprise all the local financial establishments, the Ottoman Bank and Crédit Lyonnais being notable absentees. The Turkish banks, with the " Ish Bankassi," or Trade Bank, at their head, participate to the extent of 50 per cent. in the pooled exchange reserve fund of £1 million sterling, within the limits of which the Consortium is prepared to operate by sales in the event of a bad break in the rate of the Turkish pound. The duration of the present restrictions and regulations has been fixed by the National Assembly at three years. It is hoped in Treasury circles that before that period has run its course the value of the national currency will have been stabilised by the creation of the State Bank, or " National Bank of the Turkish Republic," to give that projected institution its full title. Whether the mere foundation of that establishment will prove the panacea so earnestly sought for, time alone will show.

Indications are accumulating that if, in the matter of State loans, the foreign capitalist is not attracted to Turkey as things now are, industrial developments in this country, on the other hand, are having the attention of a steadily widening circle of foreign industrial magnates and manufacturers. Two British gramophone companies, His Master's Voice and Columbia, have erected factories in the neighbourhood of this city, Nestlé's Swiss Milk Company have captured the local market by producing their chocolate in Constantinople, the Ford Motor Car Company have fitted out large erecting shops on the shores of the Bosphorus, whilst three factories, one German, one French and the other Japanese, are engaged in turning out pharmaceutical products in bulk for local consumption and overseas markets.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Parliament — Women's Enfranchisement — Portuguese Labour Question — Motor Transport Bill — Business Conditions — Reserve Bank Report.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, May 14.

THE Riotous Assembly Bill has passed the third reading. There was a certain amount of cross-voting, as several Labour members of the Pact side voted against the Bill, while four South African Party members from Natal voted for the Bill. Except to critics possessing orthodox South African views of the colour question, the Bill is a curious measure for ordinary application in a democratic state.

The Select Committee on the Representation of Natives in Parliament Bill has been granted powers to call for papers and to hear evidence. The Prime Minister also moved that the Coloured Persons' Rights Bill and the Native Lands Act (Amendment) Bill be referred to the same committee. The calling of witnesses presumably amounts to co-operation with natives and with Europeans who endeavour to advise them—a principle for which the South African Party have contended since the proposed native legislation was first mentioned. The Bills cannot now come before Parliament this session.

There were serious disturbances recently at a native meeting at Worcester (Cape Province), in which five natives were killed and several police injured. A somewhat similar incident occurred at Carnarvon in January, and the natives in several parts of the Western Province have lately been in a rather sullen frame of mind. The inquiries which follow these " incidents " seem always to attribute them to a public and private habit of drift and neglect and " sitting on the safety valve " in native questions. The result—the natural result—of such procedure is the occasional development of circumstances in which the essential immediate tool is the rifle.

The back-bench Nationalists have pursued a curious course in regard to the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. Briefly, it consisted in casting ridicule on a Bill which they could not defeat. At the same time, unless there is trouble with the Senate, the Nationalists are likely to profit substantially by the Bill, if it is passed in its present form. Every woman of European race in the Union will be able to vote, not even receipt of poor relief constituting a bar. Thus the European vote will be more than doubled, and the result will presumably be a permanent alteration in the political complexion of some of the Cape constituencies.

At the annual meeting of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, the chairman, Mr P. M. Anderson, referred to a new difficulty which has arisen in regard to Portuguese labour in the mines. Although the Convention and its supplementary agreements provide that Portuguese native subjects immigrant to the Union shall be offered the choice of repatriation or work on the mines, there are some thousands at work on the Natal sugar estates. They are clandestine emigrants from Portuguese territory, and are, consequently, free from the various regulations and fees which afflict their brethren on the Reef. They come and go as they please, and, of course, they suit the sugar planters. The mining interests naturally hope that the Union Government will take effective steps to divert this labour, but, in view of the care with which the sugar industry is always nursed, perhaps the hope is not very well based.

A further example of the Government's fondness for taking things entirely into its own hands is provided by the Motor Carrier Transportation Bill. In the not very distant past most South African Governments were wont to build railways to please political supporters. The Railway Administration is thus saddled with many a mile of track which never has paid and never can pay. Moreover, the rating system is open to criticism; most of all, it is arguable that, under South African conditions, road transport is bound to be a formidable competitor of the railways. The Railway Administration themselves run road motor services over mileages comparable with their track mileage. For some time past, private competition on the roads has been hitting them very severely, both in their own road services and on the rail. The remedy proposed is the setting up of a Road Transportation Board responsible to the Minister of Railways. The function of this board will be to grant licences to persons wishing to operate transport services: if the board considers existing facilities adequate they are not to grant licences to intending competitors. Public opinion of adequacy will not always coincide with the opinion of an official board responsible to the Minister of Railways. Well as successive occupants of that Cabinet seat have entrenched themselves, the public is not yet willing to see land transport in all its forms become a State monopoly. In the debates in the House the Minister has referred to the enormous amount of capital sunk in the railways—ignoring the fact that South African business men and economists do not always agree with the accounting methods, and that if the system is obsolete or inefficient its entrenchment would be an ill-service to the country.

Not quite so much has been heard lately of " the slump," and, consequently, it is possible to form a more correct picture of such change of circumstances as has really taken place. Bank reports indicate a continuance of quiet trade at the moment, but a growth of optimism for the future. The current estimate of the value of the principal farming exports for the year to end in June next is about £20 million. In 1927-28 it was £29 million. At its highest, the figure for agricultural produce is only about 30 per cent. of the total, so that the loss of a third of this means a loss on the whole which may be important, but is hardly disastrous.

The Report of the South African Reserve Bank will be presented to the stockholders on June 11, 1930. The profit, after allowing for depreciation of fixed property and furniture, and appropriation to pension and guarantee funds, was £299,731. Of this, dividends of 10 per cent.—£100,000—were paid to stockholders, £119,865 was allotted to reserve, and the Government received £79,866 in terms of the Currency and Banking Act. The reserve fund now stands at practically £600,000, while the property account stands at £81,000 for property which cost more than twice as much.

The Minister of Finance has introduced a Bill to amend the Act under which the bank operates—the general effect of the proposals being to enable the bank to engage in most classes of ordinary business. In particular, the bank will be authorised to make advances on unsold crops. This proposal has a good many implications. The farmers may regard the bank as a sort of Government department and put pressure on it to lend in cases refused by the commercial banks, who were compelled to subscribe part of the Reserve Bank capital.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The World's Population Problems and a White Australia. By H. L. Wilkinson. (London) P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 14, Great Smith Street. 18s.

An interesting discussion, lavishly illustrated with statistical tables, diagrams and maps, of the problem presented by the existence of the sparsely populated Australian continent on the one hand and the increasingly overpopulated continent of Asia on the other. The author's conclusion is that Australia must hasten to populate herself with members of the white race before a coloured population is forced upon her.

The English Investment Trust Companies. By George Glasgow. With a Foreword by Dr. Gerald T. Moody. (London) Eyre and Spottiswoode (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Great New Street. 50s. net.

This publication fills a want that has for some time been acutely felt. Part I. is devoted to the principles of investment trust finance; Part II. consists of tabulated summaries of the results of a very large number of individual companies.

History of Chinese Political Thought. By Liang Chi-Chao. (London) Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Company, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 10s. 6d. net.

An extremely able translation of a most fascinating book. The occidental reader will be surprised to find in how familiar a world of thought he is moving.

Gabriel Bonnot de Mably. By Ernest A. Whitfield. With an Introduction by Professor Harold J. Laski. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane. 12s. 6d. net.

An account of the life, and an analysis of the theories of a pre-Revolutionary French philosopher.

The Country Banker. By George Rae. (London) John Murray, Albemarle Street, 7s. 6d. net.

A posthumous, revised edition of a text book which has retained its popularity for fifty-five years. This longevity is largely attributable to the fact that the author's intimate familiarity with his subject enabled him to write in a way that makes the reader feel the subject to be real, and of personal interest to himself.

The Past and Present of Unemployment Insurance. By Sir William Beveridge. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 2s.

This reprint of the last Sidney Ball lecture makes accessible to readers a most interesting review of unemployment insurance in this country.

An Economic History of Europe, 1760-1930. By Arthur Birnie. (London) Methuen and Company, Ltd., 36, Essex Street. 10s. 6d.

A short history of the rise and development of industrialism in modern Europe.

Economics of Modern Industry. By Percy Ford. (London) Longmans, Green and Company, Ltd., 39, Paternoster Row. 4s. 6d.

A small text book for business students which approaches economic theory from the standpoint of its relation to the individual business.

The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-29. (New York) National Industrial Conference Board, Inc., 247, Park Avenue. $2.50.

Equally valuable as a study of method and as an investigation of the facts.

La Double Imposition et l'Allègement de sa Charge dans les Travaux de la Société des Nations. By A. N. Sack. (Paris) A. Pedone, 13, Rue Soufflot.

An interesting discussion, in French, of the possibility of reducing the burden of double taxation and of the work attempted in this connection by the League of Nations.

Geschiedens van de Nederlandsche Bank, 1814-1864. With a Foreword by Mr G. Visserling. In two volumes. (Amsterdam) The Netherlands Bank.

This is the handsomest of the numerous beautifully-printed and illustrated histories of great financial institutions that have reached us lately. Readers who know Dutch will find in it much that is of interest for the history of finance.

El Precio del Aceite de Oliva. By Antonio Bermúdez Cañete. (Madrid) Industrial Gráfica, Palma, 44, 7. Norte, 21.

A short discussion, in Spanish, of the crisis in the Spanish olive oil industry.

Syllabus on Extra-territoriality in China. By the Citizens' League (Nanking) Committee on the Abolition of Extra-territoriality in China. (Nanking) 3, Tou Tiao Hsiang, Drum Tower.

A pamphlet whose purpose is to show why extra-territoriality in China should be abolished.

The New Way in Industry. (London) The *Times*, Printing House Square. 6d.

A reprint of the articles on rationalisation which recently appeared in the *Times*.

Memorandum on International Trade and Balance of Payments, 1926-28. Vol. III. (Geneva) League of Nations. 10s. net.

Contains detailed foreign trade statistics for 1926-28 of 64 countries. The merchandise figures are analysed both by commodities and by countries.

Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Part II, 1930. (London) Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace. 7s. 6d.

Includes an article by the Editor of the *Statist* on "Wholesale Prices in 1929," and the text of Mr Ellinger's paper on "Japanese Competition in the Cotton Trade," with the discussion which followed.

Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire, April, 1930. (London) Empire Parliamentary Association, Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament. 10s. net.

Extracts from the most important debates in the Spring sessions of Parliament in England, Canada, South Africa, the Irish Free State and India, and in the November sessions in Australia and New Zealand.

The Round Table, June, 1930. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 5s. net.

Includes, *inter alia*, articles on "The Gandhi Movement," "Puritans and Profligates in Finance," and "The Problem of Japan."

The Railway Year Book for 1930. (London) The Railway Publishing Company, Ltd., 33, Tothill Street. 5s. net.

Contains a very comprehensive collection of miscellaneous railway statistics, with maps of the principal railways of the world. Particulars are given of many of the principal foreign companies, and for Great Britain there is also a Who's Who of important persons in the railway world. There is a very good bibliography.

Rotterdam Statistics of Trade, Industry and Traffic. January-April, 1929. (Rotterdam) Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The beginning of a new series of extremely full and detailed statistics, to be issued every three months, covering the industry, trade and traffic of Rotterdam.

The Oil and Petroleum Year Book, 1930. Edited and published by Walter E. Skinner, 15, Dowgate Hill, Cannon Street. 7s. 6d. net.

A very useful book of reference containing production statistics, particulars of several hundred companies, and lists of directors, secretaries and consulting engineers. There are also a directory, a glossary, and various other convenient reference sections.

Annuaire Statistique de la Belgique et du Congo Belge. (Brussels) Imprimerie Lesigne, Rue de la Charité, 27. 15 francs.

An invaluable compilation of official statistics of Belgium and the Belgian Congo. It includes very full extracts from the census figures, excellent tables on public finance, and sections covering the usual social and economic matters.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Poor Law: Report of a Special Inquiry into Various Forms of Test Work. Cmd. 3,585. 9d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Chile, November, 1929. 3s. net.

Imperial Shipping Committee: General Report on Hudson Bay Marine Insurance Rates, 1930. Cmd. 3,586. 3d. net.

Twenty-second General Report of the Public Trustee. 2d. net.

Empire Marketing Board, May, 1929, *to May*, 1930. 1s. net.

Cocoa: World Production and Trade, May, 1930. 1s. net.

British and Foreign State Papers, 1925. *Part II. Vol. CXXII.* £1 7s. 6d.

The Stock Exchange.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

THE London Stock Exchange is one of the most typically "British" of the great institutions in the London capital market. Like the Bank of England, it has had a long and honourable history, going back many years beyond the laying of the foundation stone of its present building in 1801. Like the Bank, it aimed, even in the days of its small beginnings, at becoming a national rather than a localised metropolitan institution, and when success in the carrying out of this object involved it in a choice between trusteeship for the narrow, if legitimate interests of its proprietors, and trusteeship for the wider prosperity of the public it served, it chose, wisely, the latter *rôle*. To its historical readiness to overhaul its methods it has owed the maintenance of its position as the leading Stock Exchange of the Western World. When the London capital market acquired a markedly international perspective, the Stock Exchange offered ready "hospitality" to new overseas securities, and can justly claim to have played a major part in the economic development of many nations.

The far-reaching changes of the post-war decade, however, have not left the Stock Exchange unaffected. In particular the rapid growth of the New World (particularly of the United States of America), in wealth and importance, has deprived London of any "monopoly" powers it may ever have possessed. Business has become "international" in a new sense. The British investor is no longer merely a pioneer in the development of virgin territories, but a critical buyer of the securities of established profit-earning concerns in America, Europe and elsewhere. The overseas capitalist is, simultaneously, acquiring a larger interest in British domestic securities. Investors are no longer exclusively dependent on London as a buyer or seller of stock, and the London Stock Exchange is being compelled to face the competition of the bourses of New York, Paris, Berlin, etc., at a time when the rationalisation of many depressed basic British industries has emphasised the need for adequate supplies of new capital *at the lowest possible cost*.

To these conditions, rather than to any desire to "attack" the Stock Exchange, may doubtless be attributed the suggestion, recently made in the financial Press, that the *modus operandi* of the Stock Exchange should be extensively overhauled. It is no exaggeration to say that, in the last few years, the "House," while undeniably progressive in its outlook, has tended to concentrate its attention on a special part of the investment field—the prevention of abuses of its facilities. It has tightened its regulations in the matter of publicity. Its influence was decisive in the discussions of the Committee whose recommendations preceded the passing of the last Companies Act. Within the next few months new rules of the "House" will almost certainly be adopted, to prevent the manipulation of markets by unscrupulous outsiders. In the meantime, the Committee has intervened to check abuses on its own responsibility, and has taken the initiative in arousing the Board of Trade to a more active interpretation of its powers.

These efforts to uphold the "House's" deservedly high reputation for "clean" dealing are assured of support from all investors, but a feeling, nevertheless, exists that constitutional questions have been somewhat overshadowed by them. The dual control of internal affairs by the Trustees and Managers and by the Committee for General Purposes respectively, is an old subject of controversy. The general public is chiefly concerned with the position of the latter body, and the conviction is growing that the position of the Committee could be greatly strengthened. The whole of its thirty members serve in an honorary capacity and are expected, in addition, to carry on their own business. The cares of office have steadily increased, so that to-day the chairmanship, at least, involves whole-time duties, and many of the young and active members of the "House" are unwilling to serve by reason of a natural reluctance to burn the candle at both ends.

The Stock Exchange, in fact, alone among great City institutions, maintains the ideals of a pure Hellenic democracy. All other "business" organisations (including the Bank of England itself), have been compelled to place considerable executive power in the hands of full-time and more or less permanent "managing directors," or "governors," and the Stock Exchange can scarcely hope permanently to resist this tendency.

Another crucial issue is the serious "leakage" of receipts which results from the splitting of commissions. It is recognised that the agent who obtains new orders performs a valuable function in every trade, but to give him a remuneration comparable with that of the broker who carries out the order, not merely on the first but on all subsequent transactions, is certainly quixotic. The Stock Exchange, of course, cannot well afford to dispense with the services of such outside bodies as the joint-stock banks, particularly in the provinces, where the local bank manager has intimate personal contact with his clients and enjoys the opportunity (if nothing more) of affording them sound investment advice. The banks, indeed, strenuously opposed the tentative suggestion, made some time ago, that the modification of the present arrangements might be considered. If the Stock Exchange were eventually to determine to develop its own contacts with the public, and to provide facilities for investors to get into touch with it direct, the question of the adoption of a policy of judicious and carefully restricted advertising would immediately arise. Whether the future may compel a partial raising of the ban on advertising is an open question. In the meantime, however, the ban is absolute, and the Committee has no option but to enforce it.

The problem of reducing the cost of dealing must necessarily be viewed in the light of the progressive "internationalisation" of business to which reference has already been made. At present, the machinery of the Stock Exchange is well adapted to facilitate the "placing" of foreign securities in London, but once these are placed, dealings in them are undoubtedly more expensive than in New York or Paris. Stamp Duties are, admittedly, many times heavier than in New York, and the interests of London would be furthered by their relaxation. As regards commissions, which are within the discretion of the "House" itself, an exact arithmetical comparison of rates per cent. may be misleading. By general admission, it is almost always possible to obtain closer and "better" prices in London than elsewhere. The segregation of the functions of broker and jobber does not always work as advantageously for the client in practice as in theory where other than *active* stocks are concerned, but there is some ground for the claim that "air pockets" (resulting from a complete absence of buyers of a given stock) which proved so costly a phenomenon in last year's New York slump are practically unknown under the British *régime*.

The broker and jobber system is too firmly rooted to be abolished at the present time. It inevitably tends, however, to make the membership of the "House" more numerous than that of representative foreign Stock Exchanges. Whether the comparatively large personnel carried by the "House" is a factor in the high apparent rate of commission charged to clients, has often been debated. For good or ill, membership of the London Stock Exchange has always been an individual rather than an institutional prerogative. It involves no severe

financial test, the immediate "out-of-pocket" expenses of a new member (apart from the acquisition of certain assets which can be sold when membership is relinquished) being only £735, with three sureties of £500 each.

The "House" is famous for the number of its members who have risen to high standing from obscure beginnings. Its rules also permit large firms to have numerous partners on the floor of the "House," while a number of members are virtually clerks in their employ. On the other hand, there are definite objections to the presence in any market of men of straw. The complaint, sometimes made by trust companies and other large investors, that the jobbing system fails to provide a free market in stocks which are not particularly active, may hinge largely on the weak financial backing of many jobbers. Any movement for a reduction in the personnel of the "House" would undoubtedly run counter to present feeling, but whether the Stock Exchange can maintain its present membership conditions without setting up special machinery to consolidate its underlying financial position is doubtful. In the long run, in may be found advisable to provide a permanent arrangement for mobilising its collective "credit," similar to the system of corporate financial responsibility successfully employed at Lloyd's. The "Hatry" crisis, indeed, produced an *ad hoc* development which came close to this idea.

The next few years may be momentous in the evolution of the London Stock Exchange. Rationalisation is in the air, and not even the oldest of established British institutions can resent being called to the bar of efficiency. The Stock Exchange Committee has already done much to ensure *bona-fide* dealing, and from it, in the first place, must come the initiative in the further task of reducing the *cost* of dealing. While any committee which set its hand to this task would have the support of much progressive opinion, the accomplishment of reform would be a matter of years rather than months. In the meantime, some provision for continuity of office might be in the interests of all concerned.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

Ticket.	Account.
June 24.	June 26.

A three-weeks' account, including Derby Day, and occurring in the middle of a world-wide industrial depression, can scarcely be an exciting affair. From this point of view the past week's business came fully up to expectations. Even gilt-edged stocks, the sheet-anchor of the markets, were affected, Tuesday's withdrawal of gold for Germany—the effect, not of special coincidences such as applied to the earlier French withdrawals, but of "normal" monetary forces—banishing early hopes of a 2½ per cent. Bank rate. Industrial news remained unfavourable, and the pending reports of large concerns like Royal Mail were awaited with some anxiety. The further weakness of primary commodities, like rubber, tin and silver, simultaneously restricted business in the more speculative markets. Altogether, the week's events suggested in unmistakable fashion that the Stock Exchange had still some distance to go before sighting the turning point.

Gilt-edged stocks opened firm on the reinvestment of War Loan interest, but Tuesday's withdrawal of gold for Germany abruptly checked the movement, though a harder tendency supervened when numerous stocks had been marked down. The setback was particularly in evidence in Conversion issues and the Four per Cent. "Consols." Unconfirmed reports of further new borrowing depressed Australian stocks, but the New Zealand Five per Cents. again showed strength. Recent new issues met a firm market, Port of London stock opening at ⅝ premium and Johannesburg Five per Cents. at ⅜ premium.

The outstanding feature in the foreign bond market was the weakness of Chinese issues on the further fall in silver, the 1912 Loan being the chief sufferer. Japanese stocks were dull in sympathy. Nearer home, European descriptions held their ground in a narrow market, German Seven per Cents. being in steady demand.

The week's Home Railway traffic figures suggested an accentuation of the unsatisfactory revenue position, especially on the London, Midland and Scottish, whose ordinary stock was sold down to 48¼ — the lowest level of the year. The position is discussed on page 1286. Undergrounds ruled steady on a further small increase in revenue. Following last week's Cordoba announcement, the Foreign Railway market was further depressed by an intimation that United of Havana could not meet its debenture requirements, for reasons which are set out on page 1288. Antofagastas and Nitrate Railways held their ground, and Leopoldinas were steady on the general manager's favourable prognostications. The outlook for the Argentine lines, however, was not favourably regarded, the market being flat on the further traffic losses shown by the week's figures.

Trading for the new account in the Industrial markets opened in spiritless fashion. Scattered liquidation made an unwelcome reappearance in the middle of the week. A fair business was done in Columbia and H.M.V., but finished in a lowering of prices. The near approach of the Royal Mail report caused a recrudescence of rumours of financial rearrangement, the ordinary stock being marked down as low as 17½. Nitrate shares were the turn harder, despite market fears of over-capitalisation of the merger company, "Cosana" (discussed on page 1287). Provincial buying on a moderate scale gave a firmer appearance to Courtaulds, Bleachers and other textile leaders, but rayon shares remained out of favour. Cables and Wireless were again the sport of nebulous but pessimistic rumours, but a firmer tendency marked the later days of the week. Scattered selling of brewery and tobacco shares was in progress. Unilever were a weak spot, and the Swedish Match group declined on unfavourable Continental reports. Forced liquidation of Harrods was in progress. Bank shares were irregular, with no change on balance, but insurance shares held their ground with a little to spare.

Rubber shares continued to sag, a limited business leaving Trusts a few pence lower each day. The commodity again declined, reaching the lowest level on record. Dealings in tea shares were scanty, but the reduced dividends announced by Assam and Jokai caused a fresh marking down of prices. Paris was a seller of oil shares in mid-week, and American market advices were mildly discouraging. Anglo-Persians, however, showed strength on an eminently satisfactory preliminary statement (analysed on page 1289).

The mining markets were dominated by events on the Metal Exchange, where tin and silver were conspicuously weak. The significance of the week's price movements is discussed on page 1289. Tin shares as a whole were marked lower, especially in the Anglo-Oriental group. Kaffirs showed slight change, but Paris selling depressed De Beers. Central Mining continued to sag. Northern Rhodesian issues obtained no inside support, Congo Borders receding further from their recent "peak." Rio Tinto had a partial rally after being offered from Paris. Westralians again obtained fair attention, Wiluna being firm on the latest progress report.

"Financial News" Daily Bargain Index.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	May 29.	May 30.	June 2.	June 3.	June 4.	June 5.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,435	1,338	1,530	1,353	1,374	1,337
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	1,016	936	1,006	976	856	919
Commercial and Industrial*	1,692	1,725	2,035	1,802	1,719	1,759
Banks, Insurance and Financial	501	508	529	447	517	483
Mines (including Nitrate)	393	452	418	347	411	438
Oil	177	212	181	156	168	171
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	155	193	193	177	155	175
Total	5,369	5,364	5,892	5,258	5,200	5,282

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"Financial News" Daily Average of 30 Industrial Ordinary Stocks (1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	May 29.	May 30.	June 2.	June 3.	June 4.	June 5.
90·6	82·0	84·9	84·4	84·0	83·8	83·2	83·0

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

Brokers' loans have risen $79,000,000, which was unexpected in view of the dull markets. The explanation seems to be not only that recently some stocks have been passing from strong to weak hands, but, in addition, the extremely low call rates, at 2½ per cent., probably caused some shifting in commercial borrowing to brokers for account business. Bond prices are improving moderately, with some sagging in stocks due to selling on further dividend reductions. All classes of shares were weakish, particularly motors, on price-cutting, tyres weakening for the same reason. Steels weakened on a further recession in operating rates, and also public utilities, which were overbought. Oils were fairly firm, due to better gasoline prices and merger rumours; food stocks declined on falling prices of grains and other farm products. The fresh decline in silver had an unfavourable effect on sentiment and it was generally realised that trade lost ground in May, and will probably have a further recession during this and other summer months, hopes for a recovery being centred on the autumn. President Hoover declares he has an open mind as regards signing the tariff, but this is not interpreted as meaning veto.

(*By Cable.*)

	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	105½	105 9/16	105 23/32
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112 1/16	112⅝	112⅞
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100 7/32	100 13/32	100½
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101 13/32	101¾	101 13/16
Do. 4¼% '33-38	102 7/32	102 5/32	102 7/16
Atchison	226	223¾	223
Ches. & Ohio	221	212	211
Erie	47⅝	46	43¾
Illinois Central	127	128¼	127
N.Y. Central	175	174½	172½
Pennsylvania	78¼	78¼	76½
Southern Pacific	121	119½	119¾
Southern Rly.	112	106½	106¼
Union Pacific	225¾	227½	224
Am. Can.	141	148	144½
Alleghany Corp.	26½	26½	25¾
Amer. Smelting	70½	72⅝	69¼
Anaconda	58½	60⅞	56½
Bethlehem Steel	95¼	95⅛	93⅛
Chrysler Motor	34⅝	36⅝	34½
Corn Produce	103	108½	106½
Eastman Kodak	235½	239½x	239
Gen. Electric (New)	80	84	81¼
Gen. Motors	50½	51	49¼
Int. Harvester	100½	96¾	96¼
Montg. Ward	42¼	44¾	44⅜
Natl. Biscuit	89⅜	92⅜	89¾

	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
Phelps Dodge	36	37	37½
Pullman	76½	76	73¾
Sears-Roebuck	84	87½	84⅞
Studebaker	36¾	36⅛	35¾
Un. Fruit	90	92	91
U.S. Leather	11	11½	11½
U.S. Rubber	28½	31⅞	29½
U.S. Steel	169⅛	173⅜x	168½
Westinghouse	169¾	182⅝	176⅞
Woolworth	62¼	63	63¼
Worthington Pump	145½	168½	157
Am. Pow. & Light.	99½	108⅜	104
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	244¼	231⅞	228½
Electric P. & L.	84½	94¾	90⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	62	64½	63½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	44¾	49½	47½
Radio Corpn.	48¼	54⅝	49⅝
Utilities P. & L.	39	40⅞	39½x
W. Union Tlg.	182	182	182⅞
Associated Gas "A"	37¾	37¾	36½
Mid-Cont. Pet.	27	28½	27⅞
Pan Amer. B.	61	62½	61
Sinclair Oil	28½	27¾	28⅜
Std. California	69	70½	69½
Do. N.J.	76	80½	78½

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926=100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	May 28.	June 4.
337 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	161·7	161·4
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	135·8	132·6
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	255·0	253·9
Total, 404 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	172·3	171·5
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·34%	4·36%

Daily Average of 50 Industrial Common Stocks (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	May 28.	May 29.	May 30.	May 31.	June 2.	June 3.	June 4.
202·4	166·5	189·0	189·8	†	189·0	186·7	187·8	184·8

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. May 29.	Closing Prices. June 5.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices. May 29.	Closing Prices. June 5.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.							
Conv. Loan 3½%	78 9/16	77 9/16	− 1	Treasury 5% (B)	102 13/16	102⅝	− 3/16
Do. 4½% 1944	98 11/16	98¼	− 7/16	*Canada 4% 1940-60*	90	91	+ 1
Do. 5% 1944-64	103½	103⅛	− ⅜	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	101	99x	+ ½
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102	102	...	India 3½%	62	60¼x	− ⅝
Consols 4%	88 13/16	88	− 13/16	Do. 4½% 1958-68	83	82½	− ½
Funding 4%	90½	89¼	− 1¼	Australia 5% 1945-75	90¼	87x	− ¾
Victory Bonds 4%	94½	94¼	− ¼	N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	87¼	86¼	− 1
Local Loans 3%	65½	64⅞x	− ⅝	N. Zealand 5% 1946	102	99x	− ¼
Foreign Government Securities.							
Japanese 6% (1924)	101½	101½	...	French 4% (Brit.)	20	20	...
Argentine 4% Reciss.	87½	87¾	+ ¼	German 7%	106¼	106⅝	+ ⅜
Austrian 6% 1923-43	104	101½x	+ ¼	Greek 7% Refugee	101	101¼	+ ¼
Belgian 7%	110	110½	+ ½	Hungary 7½%	103	102¾	− ¼
Brazil 6½% (1927)	87	87	...	Chili 6%	96½	96½	...
China 5% (1912)	46	44½	− 1½	Poland 7%	87½	87½	...
Egypt Unified 4%	76½	75½	− 1	Mexican 5% (1899)	18	18	...
French 5%	20½	20½	...	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	91½	91½	− ¼
Corporation Stocks.							
B'mgham 5% 1946-56	101	102	+ 1	E. London 5% 1960-70	99	97	+ ½
Bristol 5% 1950-60	101	101	...	Sydney 5½% 1954	89½	89½	...
L.C.C. 3%	64	64	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	95	95	...
British and Foreign Railways.							
G. Western Ord. Stk.	84½	83½	− 1	B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	79	78½	− ½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	9¼	8⅝	− ⅝	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	88	87½	− ½
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	27	26	− 1	B.A.Western Ord.Stk.	69	67½	− 1½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	49½	48½	− 1	C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	71	70	− 1
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66½	66	− ½	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	13	14	+ 1
Met. District Ord. Stk.	77	76½	− ½	G.W. of Brazil £10	3	3	...
Southern Def. Stk.	30½	29¾	− ¾	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	52	49½	...
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	71½	71	− ½	San Paulo Ord. Stk.	187½	187½	...
Underground Ord. £1	1 3/16	1 5/32	− 1/32	Int. Rlys. Cent. Am.			
Do. Income Bonds	110½	108½	− 2	no par	$28¼	$27¼	− 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	212½	207½	− 2½	Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	15	9½	− 5½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	85½	84½	− 1	Beira Rlwy. no par	1 1/16	1	− 1/16
Banks.							
Bank of England Stk.	251	251	...	Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13 13/16	13 13/16	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2 13/16	2 13/16	...	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1 11/32	1⅜	− 1/32	Hongk.and S. ($125)	$112½	$109½	− 3
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3 5/32	3 5/32	...	St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15⅛	15¼	+ ⅛
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 13/16	3 25/32	− 1/32	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 15/16	3 15/16	...
Insurance.							
Alliance £1, fully paid	19½	19½	...	Pearl (£1)	13	13	...
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	22¾	23	+ ¼	Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14¼	14¼	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27½	27½	...	Roy. In. £1, with 10/ pd.	7⅞	7⅞	...
Coal, Iron and Steel.							
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	½	½	...	Guest, Keen (£1)	1 13/16	1 13/16	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 29/32	2 13/16	− 3/32	Powell Duffryn (£1)	7/16	⅜	− 1/16
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	...	Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1¼	1 3/16	− 1/16
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	25/32	25/32	...	Swan, Hunter (£1)	1 1/32	1	− 1/32
Cory, William (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...	Thornycroft, John (£1)	3¼	3¼	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	7/32	7/32	...	*Vickers* (6/8)	11/32	11/32	...
Textiles.							
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1 3/16	+ 1/16	*Courtaulds*	2 5/16	2 3/16	− ⅛
Brit. Celanese Ord. (10/)	25/32	11/16	− 3/32	Linen Thread (£1)	1 13/32	1 13/32	...
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3 1/32	3 1/32	...	Listers (£1)	11/16	11/16	...
Electrical Manufacturing.							
Associated Elec. (£1)	1 11/32	1 5/16	− 1/32	*General Electric* (£1)	2 15/32	2½	+ 1/32
British Insulated (£1)	3 13/16	3 13/16	...	Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6¼	6 7/32	− 1/32
Callenders (£1)	3 31/32	3 31/32	...	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	1 29/32	1⅞	− 1/32
Electric Light and Power.							
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 13/32	1⅜	− 1/32	*Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.*	48¼	47¾	− ½
City of London (£1)	1 21/32	1 21/32	...	Midland Counties (£1)	1 13/32	1⅜	− 1/32
County of London (£1)	2 11/32	2 11/32	...	*Newcastle-on-Tyne* (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.							
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	15/16	15/16	...	Primitiva (£1)	1 13/32	1 11/32	− 1/16
Imp. Continental Stk.	360	365	+ 5	S. Metropolitan Stk.	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.							
Cables and Wireless A Ord.	48½	43½	− 5	*Canadian Marconi*	1⅜	1 5/16	− 1/16
				Marconi Marine (£1)	1 15/16	1⅞	− 1/16
Cables and Wireless B Ord.	22	21	− 1	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2¾	2¾	...
Motors.							
Austin (5/-)	1½	1⅜	− ⅛	*Leyland* (£1)	3⅜	3 5/16	− 1/16
Dennis (1/)	2 3/16	2⅛	− 1/16	*Rolls-Royce* (£1)	2¼	2¼	...
Ford Motors (£1)	3 21/32	3 9/16	− 3/32	Napier (5/-)	19/32	19/32	...
Shipping.							
Cunard (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2¼	2 3/16	− 1/16
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	25½	17½	− 8
Tea and Rubber.							
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 7/16	1 13/32	− 1/32	London Asiatic (2/)	5/16	5/16	...
Bah Lias (£1)	1⅛	1	− ⅛	*Rubber Trust* (£1)	1 3/16	1⅛	− 1/16
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	21	20¾	− ¼	United Serdang (2/)	5/32	⅛	− 1/32
Oil.							
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4 9/16	4 7/16	− ⅛	*Canadian Eagle, no par*	21/32	⅝	− 1/32
Attock (£1)	1¼	1⅛	− ⅛	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	⅜	⅜	...
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	7/32	3/16	− 1/32	*Royal Dutch* (£3⅓)	33½	33	− ½
Burmah Oil (£1)	4 17/32	4½	− 1/32	*Shell* (£1)	4 27/32	4 13/16	− 1/32
Miscellaneous.							
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1 9/32	1¼	− 1/32	*International Holdings*	6½	6½	...
Braz. Traction, no par	$51	$50½	− ½	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	34¼	32½	− 1¾
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5 13/16	5 11/16	− ⅛	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr.100)	30	29¼	− ¾
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	8⅞	8 7/16	...	Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6⅛	6⅛	...
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5 21/32	5½	− 5/32	Maypole Dairy (2/-)	5/32	5/32	...
Distillers (£1)	3 15/32	3 7/16	− 1/32	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2 5/16	2¼	− 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	⅝	19/32	− 1/32	Savoy Hotel (£1)	1 11/16	1 11/16	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 17/32	4½	− 1/32	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	16	15⅝	− ⅜
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅝	5 7/32	− 13/32	Tate and Lyle (£1)	2	1 15/16	− 1/16
Harrods (£1)	3 3/16	3 9/32	+ 3/32	Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅞	4 27/32	− 1/32
Hudson's Bay (£1)	3⅛	3 1/16	− 1/16	Turner & Newall (£1)	3 5/16	3 5/16	...
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1 9/32	1¼	− 1/32	Unilever (£1)	3 1/16	2 31/32	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 7/32	1 3/16	− 1/32	*United Molasses* (£1)	3 9/16	3 11/32	− 7/32
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅞	4 13/16	− 1/16	Watney Combe Df. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	...
Mines.							
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1 5/16	1 9/32	− 1/32	*N'Changa* (£1 with 17/6			
De Beers Def. (£2½)	8⅝	8 9/16	− 1/16	pd.)	3¾	3⅝	− ⅛
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	1 27/32	1 13/16	− 1/32	New Modderfontein 10/-	4 5/16	4¼	− 1/16
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅝	19/32	− 1/32	*Rhodesian Congo Border*			
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	27/32	13/16	− 1/32	(£1)	19½	17¼	− 2¼
Johan. Cons. (£1)	1 13/32	1 13/32	...	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	40	38	− 2
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅜	⅜	...	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1 5/16	1 5/16	...
Loangwa (5/-)	9/32	7/32	− 1/16	*Tanganyika* (£1)	1 13/32	1⅜	− 1/32
London Tin (£1)	1 1/32	1 1/32	− 1/16	UnionCrp. (12/6 fu. pd.)	3¼	3 13/16	− 7/16

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	May 29.	May 30.	May 31.*	June 2.	June 3.	June 4.	June 5.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	2,201	†	†	1,706	1,746	1,690	2,387
Bonds (Value—Thous. $).....	7,612	†	†	9,399	8,005	8,372	8,691
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	756	†	†	599	630	858	1,194

* 2 hour session. † Holiday.

PARIS.

Throughout the past month, the tendency of the Paris stock markets was unfavourable, despite the lowering of discount rates in Belgium, Great Britain, France and the United States, values continued to fall, and the most tentative of buying movements proved costly to those undertaking them. After the heavy liquidation of the middle of the month, however, a slightly harder tone was temporarily in evidence, assisted by a reduction in market rates for money. Apart from this, neither the belief that ready subscription would be forthcoming of the French *tranche* of $80,000,000 of the Young Loan, nor the spectacular success of the capital issue of the Bank for International Settlements was able to shake the bourse out of its lethargy. Among the few groups in which a relatively firm tone prevailed may be mentioned gold mining and copper shares (especially Rio Tinto), oils and electrical stocks.

"*Valeurs à Terme*":	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Banque deFrance	34,200	23,365
Banque Algéric...	15,325	15,660
Paris Pays Bas...	3,100	2,950
Union Parisienne	2,095	1,985
Cie. Algérienne...	2,270	2,125
Comptoir Nat....	1,960	1,927
Crédit Commer....	1,605	1,469
Crédit Foncier....	5,635	5,380
Crédit Lyonnais..	3,110	3,180
Suez	18,100	18,100
O. de F. Nord.....	2,450	2,420
O. de F. Santa Fé	2,730	2,625
Soc. Lyon. Eaux	3,505	3,225
Parisienne Elect.	3,405	3,440
Gén. Electricité..	3,530	3,480
Littoral Médit....	1,480	1,470
Elect. Nord Fr...	1,180	1,125
Courrières.....	1,557	1,464
Mines de Lens ...	1,282	1,199
Penarroya.....	1,070	946
Dives.....	2,575	2,475
Etab. Kulmann..	1,072	1,000
Phosph. Gafsa....	938	799
Pechiney.....	3,410	3,255
Air Liquide	2,055	1,985
Caout. Indo-Ch..	910	675

"*Valeurs à Terme*":	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Citroën	1,000	952
Norvég. Azote ...	1,776	1,655
Hotchkiss.....	2,160	2,015
"*Valeurs au Comptant*":		
Union-Vie	2,725	2,460
Urbaine Seine ...	1,995	1,930
Union Mines.....	1,525	1,505
Indo-Chine	4,715	4,030
El. Loire Centre	700	675
Dolfus Mieg	10,550	10,740
Chatillon-Comm.	6,025	5,760
Denain & Anzin..	3,200	2,925
Alsac. Construct.	2,755	2,600
Rhône-Poulenc ..	2,610	2,180
St Gobain Chauny	5,200	4,970
Givet.....	8,810	8,510
Kali Ste Thérèse	16,835	14,650
Rosario	23,000	22,505
J. Damoy	1,600	1,570
Poliet Chausson	3,045	2,950
S. Fr. Viscose ...	16,100	15,200
Ass. Generale Vie	6,700	6,150

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Home Railway Prospects.—Home railway stockholders have viewed the recent falling off in railway gross traffic figures with some disquietude. By general admission, railway revenues are suffering mainly from trade depression, but partly from continued road competition. The following table shows the receipts of each group for the first twenty-two weeks of this year, as compared with the corresponding period (*a*) of 1929 and (*b*) of 1928:—

(000's omitted).

	London Midland and Scottish Railway.	London and North Eastern Railway.	Great Western Railway.	Southern Railway.
(*A*) *1930 compared with 1929.*	£	£	£	£
Passengers, &c. ..... —	603	—251	—183	— 87
Merchandise, &c. ..... —	252	—211	—159	+ 1
Coal and coke..... —	325	— 38	— 11	— 65
Total goods..... —	577	—249	—170	— 64
Total Goods and Passengers.. —	**1,180**	**—500**	**—353**	**—151**
(*B*) 1930 *compared with* 1928.				
Passengers, &c. ..... —	957	— 486	—321	—211
Merchandise, &c. ..... —	816	—525	—156	— 74
Coal and coke..... +	17	+540	+199	+ 14
Total goods..... —	799	+ 15	+ 43	— 60
Total Goods and Passengers.. —	**1,756**	**—471**	**—278**	**—271**

Some interesting conclusions are suggested. The railways are still losing passenger revenue, but not to the extent of earlier years, except on the L.M.S. (The 1930 figures do not include the Whitsun holiday traffic.) Merchandise receipts are already showing the effect of the contraction in British trade, but coal traffic is holding last year's recovery comparatively well. The L.M.S. is again a significant exception. Some reduction in expenditure may have followed upon the decline in goods traffic. The railways in recent years have made large economies as a result of "rationalisation" under the grouping scheme, but these have long passed their zenith. The 2½ per cent. "cut" in wages has disappeared as from the beginning of May last, and, on the basis of last year's figures, the addition to the wages' bill for May to December of this year will be approximately £725,000 on the L.M.S., £550,000 on the L.N.E.R., £315,000 on the G.W.R., and £200,000 on the Southern Railway. The interests taken by the railways in the shares of road transport concerns may produce slightly higher receipts from sources other than railway working, but clearly these cannot offset more than a part of the reduction. Some stockholders may take a conservative view, and assume, on the one hand, that reductions in expenditure will not offset more than a small part of the decline in revenue, and, on the other, that the decline in traffic as a result of trade depression may become rather more pronounced in the next few weeks. The maximum reduction in revenue for the first half of the year may then be as follows (expressed in terms of amounts required for dividend): 1½ per cent. on L.M.S. ordinary, ¾ per cent. on G.W. ordinary, under ½ per cent. on Southern deferred, and 1¼ to 1½ per cent. on L.N.E.R. preferred. Last year, however, the last company earned about 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock over and above the amount distributed. On the whole, the L.M.S. may conceivably reduce its interim dividend next month to something like the level of 1928 (1¼ per cent.), while the Southern may pay the usual 2½ per cent. on its preferred ordinary, and the Great Western 2 per cent. (against 2¾ per cent.) on its ordinary stock. The second preference dividend on the L.N.E.R. should certainly be more than covered by earnings, but it would not be surprising if the directors followed the cautious policy of recent years and postponed any distribution till the full year's results were available.

Cables and Wireless.—The fresh decline in the prices of Cables and Wireless stocks must be alarming to those holders who had expected that a merger of the prosperous Eastern Cable and Marconi groups, authorised and blessed by the State, would at least earn its "standard" revenue. It is unfortunate that the recommendations of the official committee which investigated this merger contained provisions whereby the charges of the combine were to be reduced if more than the "standard" revenue was *earned*—which was *£1,865,000*, or roughly 6 per cent. on the capital employed in the Communications Company—but did not provide for an increase in charges in the event of the "standard" revenue not being realised. This created the impression that the "standard" revenue would be earned in the first year. To-day, however, it appears that the "standard" revenue is not likely to be earned for two or three years. Moreover, the expectation that there has been a considerable falling off in cable traffics as a result of the world depression in trade has been responsible for fresh liquidation in the market. The following table compares the market valuation of Cables and Wireless at this week's prices with that at the highest prices recorded in 1929:

	Par. £	High. 1929.	Market Capitalisation. £	Present Price.	Market Capitalisation. £
5½% Pref.	23,500,000	99	23,265,000	91⅛	21,502,500
7½% A Ord.	21,200,000	90½	19,186,000	41	8,692,000
B Ord. ...	9,000,000	104	9,360,000	18	1,620,000

The Government cannot altogether escape responsibility for part of the "paper" loss suffered by the shareholders of this combine. The charges against the Post Office of unwillingness to co-operate with Cables and Wireless in wireless telephony, and to make use of the company's beam services for telephonic communications with the Dominions have been thrashed out at length in Parliament and the Press. The revenue which would accrue from this source, if the Post Office had contracted with the company for wireless telephony, is not important, but the Post Office attitude has undoubtedly had a psychological effect on the market. The latter does not now look for earnings of more than 3 per cent. on the 7½ per cent. "A" ordinary stock, after payment of the 5½ per cent. preference dividends.

Chilean Nitrate Finance.—Further particulars have been published this week regarding the new company, "Cosana," which is to take over the whole of the Chilean nitrate industry. The company will create a first charge of at least £30 millions in order to take over the debt obligations, debentures and preference shares of existing producers. This will be raised to £47 millions by the provision of a further £17 millions for new plant and working capital. In addition, it will have a share capital of £75 millions, half of which will go to the Chilean Government, and the other half to the companies taken over, which will have the option of accepting either 7 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference shares or Ordinary shares. Estimated figures of available profits are given, based on a potential reduction of £1 in the selling price of nitrate, to be covered by economies in its handling, transport and finance. These estimates, after deduction of prior charges, rise from £4 millions in the twelve months ending June 30, 1931, to £9 millions four years later. Such figures are necessarily hypothetical, the selling price of nitrate, the output of the industry and the expenses of the new company being all matters which experience must obviously decide. It would seem, however, that "Cosana" will be no exception to the rule that in industrial mergers on the grand scale a certain "watering" of capital is inevitable. The Guggenheim interests (who, it is expected, will effectively control the policy of the company), are desirous of concentrating production on their Maria Elena plant, which has been in operation for the last few years, and on its counterpart, which will come into operation on the Lautaro grounds next year. The older "Shanks" maquinas will be kept open only to the extent that it is found necessary to supplement the two great mass production plants. It may be expedient to buy out the "Shanks" producers in order to shut them down, but clearly a significant part of the prior charges and the Preference and Ordinary capital of "Cosana" must be represented at the outset by non-earning assets. The £37,500,000 of capital allotted to the Chilean Government, again, will not be directly productive until the reserves which the Government is to make over to the company have come into production.

Newspaper Profits.—Thanks to a slight delay in publication, as compared with last year, the accounts of Allied Newspapers (the "Berry" group) to December 29th last have appeared simultaneously with those of Associated Newspapers (the "Rothermere" group) to March 31st. The latter show a rise of £40,000 in profits, which, in the circumstances, is highly creditable:—

(Years ended March 31.)	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Profit	1,170,835	1,205,666	1,245,323
Preference dividend.....	25,000	25,000	25,000
Ordinary dividend	42,000	42,000	42,000
Deferred { *earned*	*49·0%*	*50·6%*	*52·4%*
paid.....	40%	40%	40%
amount of dividend....	900,000	900,000	900,000
Reserve fund	...	...	200,000*
Pension fund	...	40,000	...
Increase or decr. in carry-forward	+203,835	+198,666	+78,323

* Reserve for special publicity.

Whether the allocation of £200,000 to "Reserve for Special Publicity" has any association with the company's "offensive" in the newspaper war in the Provinces, is a point on which shareholders may be enlightened at the meeting. The splitting of the investment item reveals that investments other than in subsidiary companies account for £1,297,279 of a total of £2,867,005. Altogether the company holds cash and liquid securities (including British Government, American and Canadian holdings) to a total of £1,500,000. Its shares in subsidiaries stand below present market prices at £1,569,725. Goodwill and copyrights disappeared from the balance sheet two years ago. Allied Newspapers makes a less favourable showing. Profits are down by £44,000, despite the fact that a 5 per cent. tax-free dividend of £50,000 was received for the first time from Allied Northern Newspapers. The reserve allocation is maintained, but the dividend is cut to 10 per cent.:—

	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Profits after taxation	686,144	694,517	650,378
Debenture interest	41,740	40,372	39,172
Net earnings.....	644,404	654,145	611,206
Preference dividend.....	304,000	304,000	304,000
Number of times covered	*2·1*	*2·1*	*2·0*
Ordinary { *Earned*	*21·2%*	*21·8%*	*15·3%*
paid, less tax	14%	14%	10%
Amt. of dividend	224,000	224,000	158,000
To general reserve	110,000	110,000	110,000
Increase in carry-forward.....	6,404	16,145	39,206

The company's advertising revenues have been affected by the falling off in the number of new prospectuses, and the newspaper war has left its mark on the earnings both of Allied Newspapers and Allied Northern. The accounts suggest, indeed, that in this ding-dong affray the verdict for the first round must go to Associated Newspapers on points. At their present price of £1 3/16, including final dividend, Associated Newspapers ordinary yield about 6 per cent., less tax, and the deferred 5s. shares at £1⅜ (cum final dividend) yield about £7 8s. per cent., less income tax. At £1⅜ (cum 4 per cent. final dividend) Allied Newspapers ordinary return about £7 9s. per cent., less income tax. We refer on page 1270 to the latest development in the newspaper world—the merging of the *Daily Chronicle* with the *Daily News*.

Armstrong, Whitworth.—Since the drastic writing-down of capital fifteen months ago, Armstrong, Whitworth (under its new name of Armstrong, Whitworth Securities Company) has become, like Vickers, entirely a holding company. Two new subsidiary operating companies, one for general engineering and one for shipbuilding, came into existence in July, 1929, and a third ("Ironfounders"), was formed to operate as from the beginning

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of 1930. Consequently the report and accounts for the year to December 31, 1929, cover a period when the concern was functioning first as an operating, and later as a holding, company, with substantial reorganisation of works going on all the while. The net income amounted to £108,984, which is reduced by debenture interest (£41,441), directors' fees (£1,403), and provision for losses of subsidiary companies (£54,426), to £11,715, which is carried forward. For 1928 the net income was £137,219, but, owing to the changes of structure, this cannot be regarded as a comparable figure. Moreover, depreciation was not then allowed for, whereas in 1929 it appears that depreciation has been charged against profits by all the subsidiaries except one. The reduction of the burden of interest on loans and prior charges from £689,189 in 1928 to £41,441 in 1929 shows up the sternness of the capital reconstruction, but strikingly vindicates the principle of making it a cardinal point in such a scheme that the company shall start as free from fixed charges as possible. The financial position is liquid. In the consolidated balance sheet floating assets total £3,752,685, against only £530,676 of obligations to creditors. Like the new Vickers concern, Armstrong, Whitworth Securities has become a species of industrial bank, financing a group of specialised companies. Besides the three new subsidiaries, its interests extend to Craven Brothers (Manchester), producing machine tools and cranes, which is reported to be nearing the profit-earning stage, and also, through Pearson and Knowles, to the two new Lancashire amalgamations whose creation under the auspices of the Bank of England was dealt with in the *Economist* of May 26th last (page 1126). As a profit of only £145,441 would cover all the debenture and preference charges, even a moderate future improvement may bring the day of ordinary dividends in sight. Nine-tenths of any ordinary distribution would accrue to the Bank of England, as holder of the " B " shares, one-tenth only going to the publicly-held " A " shares. Significant changes are recorded in the composition of the Board.

Cordoba and Havana Railway Debenture Postponements.—The effects of declining trade and falling commodity prices on the economic prosperity of " primary " producing countries have been brought sharply to the notice of railway stockholders in the last few days. Both the Cordoba Central and the United Railways of the Havana have found it necessary to ask for postponement of the payment of debenture interest. In the first case the market had a certain presentiment, but the second came as a shock, which was all the greater by reason of the relatively high investment status of the company's prior charges. For the twelve months ended June 30, 1929, the Cordoba Central Railway covered its debenture interest (requiring, in all, £624,421) with over £300,000 to spare, but its net revenue for the present year to date has declined by approximately £608,000. The directors, however, take the view that the conditions are exceptional, and, while proposing to pay interest on the 4 per cent. debenture stock, are asking for a year's grace as regards payment on the 5 per cent. debenture stock. The matter is to come up for discussion at a meeting on June 24th. The total debenture service of the United Railways of the Havana called last year for £667,056 (including sinking funds), and was covered with £369,821 to spare, before allowing for taxation and special allocations. For the current year the gross traffic figures have declined by £471,000, and as recently as February it was announced that receipts would not cover the final dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference. The 4 per cent. debentures and debenture stock will be paid the half-year's interest due next month, but as regards the remaining debentures, a scheme of arrangement is being prepared. The company's troubles have been due to ruinous conditions in the Cuban sugar industry, intensified by road competition. The announcements have resulted in an extensive marking down of all the stocks of both groups, and can scarcely be regarded as an encouraging portent of forthcoming dividend announcements on South American railway stocks, particularly those of the larger Argentine systems.

Boots Pure Drug.—Last year's results continue the satisfactory story of this enterprising concern, though the net profit has fallen by £25,283.

	Year ended March 31, 1928. £	Year ended March 31, 1929. £	Year ended March 31, 1930. £
Net profit	701,973	750,152	724,869
Preferred { paid	96,750*	96,750*	96,750*
Preferred { *times covered*	*7·25*	*7·75*	*7·49*
Deferred { *earned*	*40·3%*	*43·5%*	*41·9%*
Deferred { paid	27·75%	29%	29%
Deferred { dividend	416,250	435,000	435,000
To reserves	150,000	200,000	190,000
Increase in carry-forward	+38,973	+18,402	+3,119

* Of which £8,200 represents dividends on preference shares and £88,550 dividends on preferred ordinary shares.

During the year properties were increased by £264,006 to £2,156,391, while stocks and plant rose respectively by £88,538 and £40,802. The subsidiaries paid off their indebtedness to the parent company to the extent of £196,020, the outstanding amount now being £627,983. Creditors decreased by £78,343 to £519,495, but there was a slight increase in the amount due to subsidiaries. The surplus of liquid assets over current liabilities at March 31st last was £453,642, compared with £584,878 a year earlier. At £6, the deferred shares yield £4 16s. 8d. per cent.

Brazil Traction.—A further expansion of earnings is revealed in the 1929 report of this important South American utility company. Its subsidiaries include the San Paulo Tramways Light and Power, San Paulo Electric, and Brazilian Hydro-Electric, and in January last year it acquired nearly all the ordinary shares of City of Santos Improvements. The combined gross earnings of the subsidiary companies increased by 15.4 per cent. and net earnings by 12.8 per cent., as compared with those of the previous year. This was very satisfactory in view of the depression in Brazilian trade as the result of the coffee crisis. The distribution of profits for the past three years are given in the following table:—

	1927. $	1928. $	1929. $
Gross operating revenue	38,319,989	42,774,813	49,351,215
Net revenue	12,526,241	14,762,619	17,605,179
General expenses and interest	278,572	341,015	394,013
Extra depreciation	300,000	300,000	350,000
Preference dividends	529,278	54,392	30,462
Available for ordinary	11,418,391	14,067,212	16,830,634
% *Earned on ordinary*	*10·7*	*2·56**	*2·93**
% Paid	6%†	3½%† and 88 cents.‡	2·00
General reserve	4,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000
Carry forward	8,893,907	9,947,366	11,306,892

* On average number of shares outstanding.
† On ordinary stock of $100 par value.
‡ On no par value shares.

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Before striking the net revenue figure, $6,763,328 has been set aside for depreciation of the physical properties of the subsidiary companies, against $6,230,511 in the previous year. The issued ordinary capital at December 31, 1929, consisted of 6,295,385 common shares of no par value. In February this year a stock dividend of 1 per cent. (1/100) on the common shares was given, the new shares ranking for dividend from March 1, 1930. The balance sheet showed a very strong liquid position. Floating assets exceeded floating liabilities by $14,113,132. The acquisition of three electrical and five telephone companies brought the capital account up to $332,160,875 from $293,373,448. The balance standing to the credit of general amortisation reserve and depreciation and sinking fund reserves of subsidiary companies was $61,815,928. The book value of the no par value common shares amounted to $46.8. At the price of $51 the shares allow a yield of £3 18s. 6d. per cent. on the basis of $2 dividends. There is a persistent rumour on the Stock Exchange that American interests are negotiating for the purchase of control of the Brazilian Traction company, but the president's report is silent upon that all-important subject. His speech at the general meeting to be held in Toronto on June 19th will be the more eagerly awaited.

Oil Profits.—The preliminary statement of the Anglo-Persian Oil directors, announcing a final dividend of 15 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, against 12½ per cent. p.a. in the previous period, discloses net profits of £5,206,761, out of which £352,465 is applied to extra depreciation, £11,250 to discount on debentures and £1,800,000 to several reserve funds (against £400,000 in the previous period of nine months). After payment of the ordinary share dividends, £687,064 is carried forward, against £1,204,017 a year ago. It is not clear from this statement how the net profit figure is arrived at, but it would appear that the net income of the company has increased by nearly 40 per cent. This may be attributed to the higher prices for petrol realised in Great Britain last year, and to the new partnership with the Royal Dutch-Shell group in the Eastern markets outside India and China. That the producing oil companies did not fare so well last year as the producing, refining and marketing combines appears from the slight reduction in profits disclosed by the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd. These amounted to £1,085,666 for 1929 on a production of 6,469,206 metric tons, as compared with 5,084,580 metric tons in 1928. It may be recalled that the 999,553 shares of this company held by the V.O.C. Holding Company, together with certain new shares issued, were distributed this year among the V.O.C. Holding shareholders share for share to enable the V.O.C. Holding Company to be wound up. In 1928 the V.O.C. Holding shareholders received a dividend of 22½ per cent., and for 1929 they are now, as shareholders of Venezuelan Oil Concessions, to receive a dividend of 20 per cent. This distribution calls for a payment of £1,067,759 gross, against £1,114,877 gross paid by the Concessions Company for 1928. The new 1,800,000 shares issued by the Concessions Company for cash in March last do not, of course, rank for the 1929 dividend.

Tin Mining Results.—Of the septette of annual statements of tin companies to hand this week, writes our mining correspondent, all but one show profits permitting satisfactory distributions. The Siamese Syndicate, indeed, earned £51,800, as against £27,000. Dividends of 10 per cent. each were paid in May, October and December, but owing to the drop in the metal there is no final distribution. After writing off £6,850 from investments, the reduced balance of £5,370 goes forward. In respect of 1928, a total of 20 per cent. was disbursed; this somewhat exceeded the profits. Last year's output of 970 tons showed an increase of 462 tons: hence the expansion in profits. The net results of the subsidiary Bangrin undertaking were of a very different character. At £39,300 the operating surplus indicated only a moderate falling off, but, mainly because the depreciation allowance was raised from £13,400 to £24,200—the net profit came out at only £11,450, against £28,600. The sum of £5,000 is now placed to reserve, leaving £16,900 to go forward—substantially more than was brought in. Presumably the heavy writing off above referred to was made in view of the financial position, the surplus liquid assets on December 31st amounting to barely £15,000. On account of 1928 an interim distribution of 10 per cent. was made. In respect of 1929, the effects of the increase of 200 tons, to 700 tons, in output was largely offset by additional expenditure. From the dividend standpoint the experiences of the associated Kinta and Tanjong undertakings were identical. Both distributed an aggregate of 20 per cent. in place of 25 per cent. previously. The details of operations relative to the first-named company reveal a noteworthy reduction in costs. With the Idris a distinct falling-off took place in the value of the ground treated, the output being 450 tons, in place of 553 tons. The net profit declined from £46,000 to £30,300, and a more than corresponding cut was made in the dividend rate, 20 per cent. being paid in place of 40 per cent. These five are Eastern enterprises. The Kaduna Syndicate and Kaduna Prospectors operate chiefly in Northern Nigeria. The former company made a gross profit of £23,500, against £17,200 in the year ended October, 1928, and again paid 20 per cent. This called for only £8,000, the balance being applied to depreciation, reserve and the like. The Kaduna Prospectors had available the slightly increased balance of £13,100, but paid only 10 per cent. in place of 20 per cent., the surplus being devoted to special appropriations. All these companies are now faced with a much reduced price for their produce. During the past week tin has fallen below £134 per ton—the lowest for 20 years, irrespective of the drop to £120 which occurred in 1914, owing to the outbreak of war. Instead of show-

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CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,500,000
RESERVE FUND	£3,164,170
CAPITAL UNCALLED	£7,500,000
	£13,164,170

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ing the hoped-for contraction, the visible supplies at the end of May—40,060 tons—were actually 3,800 tons more than a month earlier, and 15,260 tons in excess of the supplies of a year ago. So far, restriction of output has failed to counterbalance decline in consumption.

The Slump in Silver.—Following a succession of declines with small intermittent rallies, silver has this week fallen substantially below the lowest price ever previously recorded, 1s. 3 13/16d. being touched on Wednesday. In the main the present position as regards this metal arises from the growing demonetisation of silver, and the debasement of silver "token" coinage where this is still current—in Great Britain, for example. Other factors are the state of affairs in China; persistent "bear" speculation; and restriction of purchases by consumers, who are looking for still lower values. A special point in connection with silver is that a large proportion of the output is in the nature of a by-product. For example, in its last financial year Broken Hill South turned over 1¾ million ounces of silver, which was incidental to the production of 45,450 tons of lead and 36,500 tons of zinc. In such a case the price of silver is of no great consequence, provided the quotations for the other metals are satisfactory. With the Burma Corporation, silver, although only one of several products, is an important one; with companies such as the Santa Gertrudis it is of primary importance. As it is difficult to see grounds for any sustained recovery in silver, the outlook for such undertakings as the last-named appears discouraging.

New Capital Issues in May.—In the following table we show the new capital raised in London by issue to the public and to shareholders in May, and in recent periods:

(000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1924	7,051	6,023	4,370	17,444
1925	12,918	5,077	1,356	19,351
1926	10,765	4,431	4,036	19,232
1927	17,240	8,318	4,039	29,597
1928	21,965	5,263	3,526	30,754
1929	16,502	5,081	2,186	23,769

Monthly Average.	Govt. £	Other. £		
Jan.–Mar., 1929	*617*	*18,757*	*8,797*	*4,147*	*32,318*
Jan.–Mar., 1930	12,803	11,973	5,360	1,120	31,256
April, 1929 ...	*150*	*25,558*	*3,686*	*1,865*	*30,959*
April, 1930 ...	450	10,223	1,228	10,869	22,770
May, 1929 ...	*Dr. 200*	*9,746*	*15,406*	*241*	*25,193*
May, 1930 ...	500	15,821	16,438	893	33,652

Flotations during May were in excess, both of those of the previous month and of May, 1929. While nearly £10,000,000 less than in April was taken for "foreign" employment, over £15,000,000 more was raised for use in British possessions. The Japanese Government's issue of £12,500,000, being a conversion operation, is not included in the above figures. Sales of National Savings Certificates exceeded encashments by £500,000. The overseas members of the British Commonwealth, who figured as borrowers during May, were the Indian Government—which raised £7,000,000 in 6 per cent. bonds at 99—and New Zealand—which borrowed £5,500,000 in 5 per cent. Inscribed Stock at the same price. British public bodies were again in evidence, the largest flotations being those of the "Farmers'" Corporation (with £3,500,000 in 5 per cent. Debenture Stock at par), and the London County Council, which offered £3,000,000 in 4½ per cent. Conversion Stock at 95. Among the remaining borrowers, the most influential were the Rhodesian Railways, Mount Isa Mines (of Queensland), the Unilever Company and Niger Company. Apart from three small capital increases by existing companies the issues were offered directly to the public.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Leopoldina Railway, Guardian Assurance, Suez Canal, Argentine Navigation, City of London Real Property, Investment Trust Corporation, General Mining and Finance, John Lewis and Company, Ever Ready (Great Britain), Associated Tin Mines of Nigeria, "Chade," Rhodesian Anglo-American, W. J. Bush, Lobitos Oilfields, Geduld Proprietary Mines, East Geduld Mines, and Modderfontein Deep Levels. The chairman of John Lewis and Company described the objects of the company's employee share-partnership scheme, and appeal to shareholders in the business, and their friends, to help to create a market in the preferred ordinary shares of the John Lewis Partnership, Ltd. At the City of London Real Property meeting Mr W. E. R. Innes dealt with the effect of the heavyfi burden of current taxation, and dismissed as unfounded the suggestion that business was leaving the City and moving westwards. The President of the Suez Canal Company announced important reductions in charges, to take effect from September 1st next.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The new issue market was not ungrateful for the breathing space vouchsafed to it in Derby week. The *City of Johannesburg* loan was well-timed and well-priced (giving a running yield of £5 2s. 6d. per cent. and a redemption yield of £5 3s. 1d. per cent.), and the lists closed "with a snap." The 6½ per cent. cumulative "A" preference shares of *Ilford, Ltd.*, are a reasonable fixed interest security in a concern which has played a leading part in the "rationalisation" of the British photographic trade. On a conservative computation the dividend was covered four times last year. Holders will have the right to veto the creation of any debentures ranking in front of their shares. The company has an assured status in its trade, but competition with the Kodak interests is severe. The *Southern Stockholders' Investment Trust*, which offered £250,000 terminable debentures, was registered in June, 1928, under good auspices. The debentures are repayable either on a fixed date, or the death of the holder.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to May 31, 1930, £150,189,687.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to May 31, 1930, £226,441,961.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended May 31, 1930, £200,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to May 31, 1930, £1,150,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Ilford Limited	500,000	...	500,000	62,500	437,500
City of Johannesburg	1,000,000	...	975,000	50,000.	925,000
Endell Street Estates 7½% Deb. Stk. at par	100,000	...	100,000	5,000	95,000
Southern Stockholders Investment Trust, £250,000 5½% Term. Debs	250,000	...	250,000	...	250,000
Total offered to Public, week ended June 7, 1930	1,850,000	...	1,825,000	117,500	1,707,500
To Shareholders only.					
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

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Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
Jan. 1 to date—	228,466,961	152,214,687
1930	179,308,103	153,325,149
1929	...	222,365,975
1928	...	189,897,311
1927	...	102,037,414
1926	...	92,731,651
1925	...	93,409,332
1924	...	167,800,441
1923	...	

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
	£	£
Whole year—	488,764,940	285,239,400
1929	693,100,056	269,058,073
1928	...	365,165,970
1927	...	230,782,600
1926	...	232,214,500
1925	...	209,326,101
1924	...	271,399,173
1923	...	573,675,653
1922	...	

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended June 7, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930.....	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929.....	21,799,755	...	30,336,900

City of Johannesburg.—Offer of £1,000,000 5 per cent. *inscribed stock*, 1950–1960, at 97½. A cumulative sinking fund will be provided sufficient to redeem the stock at maturity. The population is estimated at 343,000; the total debt is £11,495,000; the accumulated redemption fund, £6,019,011. The rate imposed during the last financial year was 6¼d. per £1, the rating power being 7d. per £1. The loan is a first charge on revenue and all assets of the city. The loan will be used for Electricity Extension, Gas Extension, Tramways, Sewerage and other general purposes.

Ilford, Limited.—Issue of £500,000 6½ per cent. Cumulative "A" preference shares at par. This company manufacture and distribute photographic materials. The issued capital is £764,200 in 190,000 £1 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares and 5,742,000 £1 ordinary shares. Net profits have risen steadily from £56,746 for 1924 to £121,512 for 1929. On October 31st last the assets of the company were £489,925, composed of land and buildings, £75,251; plant and machinery, £40,544; and cash, debtors and investments, £374,130, against which were liabilities of £112,083. These figures are reached after making allowance for bank loans and £376,692, the purchase price of share capital in a subsidiary company, and are exclusive of goodwill, £70,000.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets and dividend announcements will be found on page 1305 under the heading "Company News."]

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT STATISTICS.

Name of Mine.	April, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.	May, 1930. Ore.	Est. Yield.	Est. Profit.
	Tons.	£	£	Tons.	£	£
Brakpan	84,500	134,034	42,548	86,000	140,955	45,069
City Deep	93,000	106,466	1,965*	102,000	112,719	577*
Consolidated Main Reef	56,500	87,067	12,041	61,000	93,193	13,058
Crown Mines (10s. shs.)	229,000	315,875	81,359	250,000	335,742	83,011
Durban Rdeoprt. Deep	40,200	58,178	4,518	41,500	61,023	4,500
East Rand Proprietary	145,500	169,095	10,811	155,500	181,403	12,033
Geduld Proprietary ...	82,500	112,341	46,947	86,000	116,817	47,275
Geldenhuis Deep	64,500	65,043	4,755	70,800	68,046	5,107
Glynn's Lydenburg ...	6,300	9,312	422	...	...	...
Government Areas ...	194,000	377,066	219,013	212,000	405,541	240,099
Kleinfontein, New.....	52,000	48,325	5,201	52,400	47,447	2,735
Langlaagte Estate.....	77,000	114,957	32,030	82,000	118,644	33,051
Meyer and Charlton ...	17,200	19,816	2,412	17,700	19,656	2,659
Modderfontein B.	67,500	102,524	43,583	71,500	103,895	43,138
Modderfontein Deep...	42,800	95,331	61,594	45,900	101,933	65,936
Modderfontein East ...	66,500	83,000	16,305	69,500	86,075	16,415
Modderfontein, New ...	149,000	302,844	177,333	160,000	316,244	183,139
New State Areas	75,000	151,991	72,027	79,000	158,560	76,018
Nourse Mines	59,000	79,256	5,224	62,400	77,272	260
Randfontein Estates...	195,000	214,305	25,187	226,000	235,252	32,542
Robinson Deep	137,000	151,951	25,588	146,000	158,798	25,755
Ross Deep	57,000	52,997	3,062	62,000	57,139	4,583
Simmer and Jack.....	73,000	88,077	10,522	78,500	89,478	9,712
Springs Mines.....	66,000	134,034	42,548	72,500	150,552	68,078
Sub-Nigel	29,700	100,592	41,000	29,900	106,930	46,585
Transvaal G.M. Estates	14,450	18,450	1,243	15,434	21,048	1,385
Van Ryn.....	40,500	40,791	4,204	42,000	42,479	4,140
Van Ryn Deep	64,000	102,856	37,684	67,000	107,276	49,097
West Rand Consolid'td	88,500	99,461	20,015	92,000	104,889	20,523
West Springs	65,000	75,102	16,200	69,500	79,929	17,980
Witwatersrand Deep...	38,000	35,686	3,794*	43,500	42,256	1,088
Witwatersrand Knight's	53,000	50,780	4,554	57,000	54,607	5,744

* Loss.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended May 30, 1930. (c) Week ended May 31, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended June 1, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 22 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	214	223	118	341	555	4,516	4,711	2,799	7,510	12,026
Do. for 1929...	3,751	226	236	121	357	583	4,699	4,870	2,810	7,680	12,376
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	337	406	243	649	986	6,832	8,897	5,920	14,817	21,649
Do. for 1929...	6,365	350	425	244	669	1,016	7,083	9,108	5,958	15,066	22,149
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	496	530	229	759	1,255	10079	12032	5,944	17,976	28,055
Do. for 1929...	6,957½	518	571	235	806	1,324	10682	12284	6,269	18,553	29,235
Southern	2,179	303	89	33	122	425	6,188	1,678	683	2,361	8,549
Do. for 1929...	2,172	308	88	28	116	424	6,275	1,676	749	2,425	8,700
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·5	4·1	...	...	36·6	716·7	88·5	...	...	805·2
Do. for 1929...	59	32·2	3·9	...	...	36·1	700·8	84·7	...	...	785·5
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	311	...	...	...	311	6,497	...	...	...	6,497
Do. for 1929...	...	305	...	...	...	305	6,069	...	...	...	6,069
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	46	...	...	...	46	943	...	...	...	943
Do. for 1929...	...	45	...	...	...	45	868	...	...	...	868
B'ff'st&Co.D'wnb	80	3·1	·7	...	...	3·8	47·2	16·1	...	...	63·3
Do. for 1929...	80	2·8	·9	...	...	3·7	45·9	18·8	...	...	65·7
*GreatNorthern b	562	10·9	17·6	...	...	28·5	...	...	...	...	551·5
Do. for 1929...	562	11·8	17·8	...	...	29·6	...	...	...	...	579·6
GreatSouthern b	2,187	26·2	41·7	...	...	67·9	...	...	...	...	1476·6
Do. for 1929...	2,187	28·6	45·7	...	...	74·3	...	...	...	...	1510·1

* Aggregate 21 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				Rs.		Rs.	
INDIAN.							
Assam Bengal ...	18	May 3	1,217	38,10,000	− 6,550	18,18,000	− 66,177
Barsi Lt. Ry.	19	10	202	46,400	+ 800	3,18,100	− 39,100
Bengal & N.Western	6	10	2,080	7,75,684	− 36,328	44,14,087	− 1,29,324
Bengal-Nagpur	5	3	3,085	39,300	− 4,100	2,71,700	− 39,700
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	8	24	3,031	22,75,000	− 32,000	1,84,31,000	− 3,26,000
*Madras & S. Mahr.	18	3	3,228	18,68,000	− 1,39,132	88,07,000	− 6,70,015
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	6	10	572	1,37,673	+ 3,610	8,62,365	+ 37,987
South Indian	5	3	2,371	12,40,297	− 73,532	59,97,386	− 1,84,020

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

ARGENTINE (a).					£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E. ...	48	May 31	753	3,303	− 608	221,403	−	9,474
Argentine Trans'din.	47	24	111	3,456	− 1,382	218,100	−	8,866
B.A. and Pacific...	48	31	2,806	130,000	− 39,000	7,315,000	−	1,134,000
B.A. Central	48	June 1	...	13,968	− 1,792	617,107	−	69,750
B.A. Gt. Southern	48	May 31	4,948	222,000	− 9,000	11,353,000	−	740,000
B.A. Western	48	June 1	1,926	80,000	− 17,000	4,068,000	−	824,000
Central Argentine...	48	May 31	3,319	191,000	− 79,000	10,847,000	−	2,252,000
Cordoba Central ...	48	31	1,218	52,000	− 13,000	2,702,000	−	601,200
Entre Rios	48	31	804	25,800	+ 1,500	1,308,300	−	138,701
CUBAN.								
United of Havana	48	May 31	1,369	49,314	− 7,554	3,120,087	−	478,703
URUGUAYAN.								
Central Uruguay...	48	May 31	273	31,002	+ 857	1,498,956	+	48,460
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	48	31	311	6,974	− 328	353,258	+	18,536
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	48	31	185	4,218	+ 96	179,138	−	700
C.Urug.(West.Ext.)	48	31	211	3,363	+ 1,222	138,162	−	6,895
CANADIAN.								
Canadian National	20	May 21	20150	4,214,848	− 950,138	83,657,589	−	16,367,778
Canadian Pacific...	20	21	15217	3,129,000	− 806,000	61,985,000	−	15,435,000
BRAZILIAN (b).								
Gt. West. of Brazil	22	May 31	1,035	9,400	− 2,400	359,000	−	52,900
Leopoldina	22	31	1,856	33,936	− 1,912	746,816	−	37,856
Leopoldina Termnl.	22	31	Mrs.	280,000	+ 15,000	6,355,000	+	311,000
San Paulo	22	June 1	153½	38,804	− 15,383	939,099	−	91,432
CHILEAN.								
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia).....	21	May 25	804	25,980	− 6,380	613,530	−	227,195
Nitrate(½-monthly)	22	31	410	16,622	− 7,995	212,112	−	158,200
OTHER OVERSEAS.								
Egyptian Delta ...	18	May 10	610	7,909	− 66	33,880	+	34
Gt. Southn. of Spain	20	24	104	Ps.104,071	− 21,240	2,402,759	−	177,404
Mexican Railway	22	31	483	$351,300	+ 18,500	5,486,900	+	78,100
Paraguay Central	48	31	274	4,570	− 500	198,780	−	16,350
Salvador	48	31	100	3,694	+ 664	217,685	−	26,981

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	21	May 27	329	86,372	+ 6,129	1,772,273	− 80,477
B. Aires Lacroze...	48	June 1	...	11,087	+ 100	563,596	− 42,523
Burnley Corporation	22	May 31	13	2,704	− 247	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	22	31	35½	Rs.100,668	− 18,568	...	− 2,75,357
Chatham & District	20	22	15	1,092	− 190	21,702	+ 1,023
Egyptian Markets	20	22	...	1,766	+ 1,109	38,047	− 3,162
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	20	21	...	2,200	− 923	52,745	− 1,694
Liverpool Corp. ...	21	24	124	30,033	− 2,442	232,447	+ 2,148
L.C.C. Tramways	8	28	166	83,281	− 585	688,249	− 5,141
Madras Electric‡...	5†	31	...	Rs. 42,494	− 180	4,60,239	+ 27,958

* Including motor 'buses. † Months. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

JOHN LEWIS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE ORGANISATION.
STAFF AND PARTNERSHIP SHARES.
REPLY TO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.
MR J. SPEDAN LEWIS'S STATEMENT.

The second annual general meeting of John Lewis and Company, Ltd., was held on the 30th ultimo, at the company's premises in Oxford Street, London.

Mr J. Spedan Lewis (chairman of the company) presided, and, before inviting questions upon the accounts and report of the directors, remarked that, as on the previous occasion, the report had given all the information usually given only in the speech of the chairman. This new departure had been strongly commended by leading organs of the Press both in this country and abroad, and the board proposed to adhere to it. On the previous occasion he had offered no observations at all before inviting questions, but there were a few remarks that he felt he ought to make in view of the special circumstances of the present meeting.

REMUNERATION OF THE STAFF.

In the first place, he mentioned that, as recently as last Sunday, a newspaper had endeavoured to produce upon the minds of its readers an impression that payments mentioned in the report of the auditors as having been charged to associated companies or to himself should really have been charged to the profit and loss account. The directors had endeavoured to make clear in their report that this was not the case, but, in view of the importance of the point, he thought that he should repeat that the amount charged to the profit and loss account in respect of remuneration of the staff had been the full normal percentage of turnover. That was to say, that an ordinary management seeking to make in the ordinary way profit for themselves would not have needed to spend upon obtaining the services of employees any more than the total sum that had been charged to the profit and loss account.

In the second place, he thought that the shareholders would agree that it would have been better if there had been time for what would have been the rather difficult task of deciding how to shorten the report without making any regrettable omission. He thought that in future the report should be two-thirds, or at most three-quarters, of the present length. (Several shareholders expressed agreement, although after the meeting one intimated that any shortening whatever would have been regrettable.)

STRENGTH OF THE PREFERENCE POSITION.

In the third place, more emphasis should, perhaps, have been laid in the report upon the fact that no Preference shareholder could lose one penny until he (the chairman) had lost the whole of his estate. The shareholders might trust him to part with the control of the company long before that point was reached. The shareholders had really nothing whatever to worry about. The truth was that an operation so big as the taking over of the Harries business could not be judged properly upon a twelve month view. No doubt yearly publication of accounts, as required by law, worked well normally, but it did not work well in a special case of this kind, which was rather of the nature of a three-year operation. In the same way, if in ordinary circumstances companies had to publish their accounts weekly, or even monthly, the figures would be often alarming, although by the end of the year no cause for alarm would appear.

He was glad to be able to tell them that the recent attacks did not appear to have increased the normal volume of share transfers, but it was, of course, very regrettable that the price obtained by those who had occasion to sell at this particular time should have been affected either by natural misapprehension of the true significance of the accounts of the last year, or by such grossly incompetent or deliberately misleading comments and suggestions as had appeared in a few newspapers of minor standing.

REPLY TO QUESTIONS.

The chairman then invited questions, and a shareholder inquired whether the board had any means of knowing how a certain newspaper had obtained what appeared to be advance information of a confidential character.

The chairman answered that the directors had no reason to doubt the trustworthiness of any of the employees of the company, and the auditors, who, as he thought all the shareholders were probably aware, were one of the most eminent firms in the world—(hear, hear)—were, of course, extremely careful in the same direction, and had likewise no reason for doubt. He was inclined to think that it might have been a case of the putting forward of a mere guess as a piece of definite advance information, but the shareholders were aware that in the present state of the law that sort of thing could be done to a considerable extent with impunity, and that a certain type of journalist was not above doing it.

At this point the chairman quoted a letter from a shareholder who had written that, in his opinion, the recent attacks in a certain section of the Press would have been very unlikely if the company had been large advertisers. (Laughter.) The chairman observed that this opinion was natural and, indeed, obvious common sense, but that he felt at the same time that he ought to take that occasion to say quite definitely that he had been deeply impressed by the entire fairness with which the Press as a whole had always treated another drapery company with which he was connected, and which was likewise one of the few drapery companies that were conspicuously not advertisers.

There were no other questions, and the accounts and report were thereupon approved unanimously, as were the other motions upon the paper.

TRADE CUSTOMERS.

In seconding a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was likewise carried unanimously, a shareholder drew attention to the fact that most, if not all, of the large West End drapery companies gave trade customers a specially favourable price, whereas John Lewis and Company, Ltd., made no such distinction between trade customers and the ordinary public.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, observed upon the latter point that he was fully persuaded that a genuine wholesale trade in uncut pieces could be undertaken advantageously only upon a quite separate stock, and that trade customers, in the common West End draper's sense of the words, could not be served more cheaply than the ordinary public. It followed, therefore, that, unless they were going to be served really at a loss, the giving of a special trade price must necessarily mean that the ordinary public were charged an unnecessarily high rate of profit. This was, in fact, what happened, and the fact went far to explain the very conspicuous success of that part of their business.

In addition to the foregoing summary of the proceedings of the meeting, it is thought desirable to reproduce here the two following sections of the report that was issued with the accounts.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMPANY.

If this report were not so long already, we should have included a note upon the main differences of character between the former Harries trade and our own, but, though we think that this might be of interest to a good many of our readers, we feel that it is better not to trouble them upon this occasion with anything of that kind. For the same reason we are deferring to another occasion the detailed description of our partnership system to which we referred in the forty-sixth paragraph of our last report.

But we ought, perhaps, upon this occasion to recall to your minds the following facts: When the chairman had become the sole and exclusive owner of the business of John Lewis and Company, he was advised that, if he were willing to "sell out," he could realise his business interests for about £1,000,000, which he could then have invested in securities of the highest class in this country or elsewhere.

Instead of doing this, he put the whole of his fortune at the "tail end" of the capital of your own company and of its associates, and he did this in such a way that all of the profit will go to the staff while he lives upon his capital, of which he reckons that there will be enough for his lifetime and for such bequests as he will wish to make. Under this arrangement he will never receive at any time from first to last a penny more than the original capital sum for which he was advised that he could sell out then completely for immediate cash. Had he chosen to realise his interests and to invest the proceeds, he would have had thenceforward from securities of the highest class a yearly income of about £50,000, whereas, under the arrangement that he actually made, he will receive from all this property no income or profit whatever, either now or at any future time.

Moreover, the "tail-end" charge in the safest of businesses obviously cannot be nearly so safe as a set of investments judiciously distributed among the choicest securities of the most stable countries of the world.

At best the chairman was incurring years of somewhat anxious and somewhat arduous work, and, of course, he was taking a real risk that unforeseeable developments of politics or other irresistible causes might lose him quite a large part of his capital.

He took this course because he has always felt that it is highly desirable that those who have the luck to be the heirs of successful business men and who do not desire to make for themselves fresh business profits and who are inclined to a life of public service should not withdraw their capital from business and, having invested it securely, devote themselves to a Parliamentary or similar career, but should "stick to the shop" and work patiently and carefully at the task of reforming industry from within, and so make some return to that particular field from which their own fortunes came.

The ordinary course means freedom from all private business and financial cares, and the great interest and pleasure and social attractions of a career in public life. But, in the chairman's opinion, there are too many public-spirited men in Parliament and elsewhere outside the world of business, and too few in positions of actual expert control of large industrial organisations.

When the first Factory Acts were got through Parliament, and hideous abuses, in the way of child labour and so on, were thereby brought to an end, the career of the Yorkshire manufacturer, Mr. Fielden, was of immense use to those who were in charge of the Bills.

They had to meet the obviously sincere and highly influential opposition of such men as John Bright, who constantly assured the House that the proposed reforms would be disastrous to British industry.

The supporters of the Bill were able to keep on answering: "Look at Fielden. He has actually done all these things that you say are crazy. And for a time he himself was called crazy for doing them. But he has made himself a millionaire"—(and in those days millionaires were rarities)—"and now people are saying that he has shovelled his money out to his workpeople and God has shovelled it back again."

In the chairman's opinion the magnificent labour force in this country has been brought into such a deep-seated chronic condition of irritation at the idea that it is exploited grossly by profiteering captains of industry, who charge far too much for their admittedly indispensable services, and by profiteering dealers in money, who likewise charge far too much for their admittedly indispensable capital, that, sooner than continue to make such profits for those parties, it will prefer, and is preferring, to half-starve itself and all our country along with itself. To-day, May 20th, *The Times* tells us that the number of days lost in 1929 in industrial disputes was 8,287,000.

Far-reaching sincere experiments to discover reforms that will distribute industrial income less unequally and that will increase rather than diminish industrial discipline are, in the chairman's opinion, the supreme need of our times and he is taking, accordingly, the steps that have just been mentioned to do in that regard his own duty as he sees it.

Among other reasons for which it has been thought desirable that these matters shall be mentioned again upon this occasion is the fact that certain newspapers made recently upon your company attacks that they could not have made if they had exercised ordinary care in the way of making previous inquiries. It is thought that, if they had realised the special character of the business, they might have been more careful to conform to the usually very high standards of the British Press.

POSSIBILITY OF CO-OPERATION BY SHAREHOLDERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

As in the case of any similar company, shareholders and their friends can materially increase our business by their own patronage and recommendation, and in the case of this particular company they can also materially stimulate the zeal and so increase the efficiency of the staff by investing in preferred ordinary shares of the John Lewis Partnership, Limited.

Any such help in the creation of a "market" in these shares will hasten the development of the full advantages of our system, because the shares are the form in which the staff get their "partnership benefit," and it is extremely desirable that they shall be able, if they choose, to sell their shares readily and for a fairly satisfactory price, say, at present, twenty shillings, or even a little less, though in a few years the shares should stand higher. The mere regular payment of the dividend (7½ per cent. yearly, cumulative, and payable on December 1st and June 1st) will remove eventually every difficulty, but the company was formed only last year, and in the meantime, while the quantity of shares issued so far (150,000) is still comparatively small and the company under the disadvantage of being new both in itself and in its character, buyers of even a few of these shares will be rendering valuable help as well as getting a share entitled to a cumulative dividend of 7½ per cent. and having, in our judgment, a good prospect of not inconsiderable capital profit.

It is hoped that some of those who read this notice may feel inclined to do what is in their own power to hasten the development of the new idea that lies behind our own system.

It has been very warmly praised by experts of the highest eminence, and its details have been settled upon the very best professional advice.

It is already succeeding, but it is very desirable from every point of view that its success shall be as rapid as possible. Anyone who at this stage provides members of the staff with an opportunity of selling some of their shares will be giving really valuable help in that direction, and the chairman will be very grateful for it.

It may be thought that the staff ought to retain the shares themselves, but people whose incomes are quite small and who have homes to buy or children to educate or other important needs of ready-money, are bound to be much more delighted and encouraged at finding themselves receiving a share that they can turn into ready-money, than at finding themselves receiving a share that they are not allowed to sell and that merely produces them an income of ninepence at the end of each six months.

As a matter of fact, there is already appearing among the staff a very definite tendency to be reluctant to part with shares. In this, of course, they are well advised, for there is every likelihood that the shares will receive, in fact, an absolutely punctual dividend and will be saleable in a few years time for a price substantially better than they will fetch at present. But it would not have been surprising if people who are for the most part quite unused to the idea of being shareholders at all should have been unable to feel the reality of these and of other motives for holding.

This is the only reason for which we have felt some regret at what we consider to be the necessity of the new practice of requiring the staff actually to sell shares in order to get income during absence from duty. Obviously, there is a risk that, if people once begin to sell, they will not stop until they have killed and eaten the whole of their little goose that would lay for them golden eggs of dividend.

Inquiries regarding the shares should be addressed to the secretary, the John Lewis Partnership, Limited, 21, Holles Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1.

ARGENTINE NAVIGATION COMPANY (NICOLÁS MIHANOVICH), LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

The annual general meeting of The Argentine Navigation Company (Nicolás Mihanovich, Ltd.) was held, on the 3rd instant, at Winchester House, London, the Right Hon. Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G. (chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: The results for 1929, although not quite up to the level of the previous year, are satisfactory. The company's operations were comparatively free during the year under review from labour troubles affecting its own personnel, but this favourable factor was counterbalanced to some extent by the effect upon our business of the general depression in trade which prevailed in the latter months of 1929. We have again added to the reserve account, increasing it by £90,000 to the substantial sum of £290,000. It now stands at a higher figure than it did prior to the prolonged and disastrous labour troubles which occurred a few years ago, as the result of which the whole of our previous reserve was used up. The insurance fund now amounts to £246,128, which is slightly less than the previous year. This reduction was caused through the sinking of the s.s. "Triton," which I am pleased to say involved no loss of life, whilst the vessel was subsequently salved. After making ample allowance for depreciation and providing for income tax, insurance, etc., and making the transfer to reserve to which I have already referred, the divisible profits amount to £197,584, out of which we recommend the payment of the further dividends, making 12 per cent. for the year on the preference shares and 10 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, less income tax. The rate of exchange with Argentina was lower last year and involved this company in a loss on exchange of over £11,000, compared with under £600 for 1928.

Whilst, owing to the universally prevalent depression, the current year may not prove a satisfactory one for general trade, countries so richly endowed by nature as those which we serve should continue to prosper.

So far as this company is concerned, the steady and continuous replacement of obsolescent or uneconomical units of the fleet by the most efficient and up-to-date vessels, combined with rigid economy in every direction and careful management, as well as the consolidation of existing services and the development of any new business that springs up, should secure the continuance of satisfactory results.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.

EXCELLENT RESULTS FOR THE YEAR.

The seventy-sixth annual meeting of the Suez Canal Company was held on Monday, June 2nd, in Paris.

The Marquis de Vogüé (the President) presented the report of the Council of Administration, which was substantially as follows :—

The results of the year 1929, which we have to submit to you, have shown further marked progress in the development of your business, in addition to the remarkable progresses realised in preceding years. Transit receipts, at 1,116,000,000 French francs, exceeded by 4 per cent. those of the preceding year, which till then were the record. This allows us, in spite of increased expenses, to increase the gross dividend from 644 fr. 57 to 667 fr. 01, an increase of 3½ per cent.

In accordance with the traditional policy of your company, we have considered it our duty to make this prosperity benefit the shipping clients of the Canal. We have, therefore, decided to make, from September 1st, a remission of 25 centimes. In addition, from the same date, the charge for vessels in ballast which up to the present was always 2 fr. 50 less than the normal, will be fixed at one-half of that rate. In taking this decision we have not lost sight of the falling off of traffic which has been evidenced during the last three months, and which makes one anticipate that the brilliant results of 1929 will not be maintained in the current year. But we have thought that this consideration ought not to prevent us from a gesture of co-operation particularly opportune and relied upon. The eventual loss of receipts caused by this remission, moreover, will be, during the current year, much lessened since the new charge will only be in operation during the last four months. Next year we hope that the economic crisis will be, if not ended, at least much improved.

The total receipts for the year, at 1,189,958,441 fr. 03, show an increase of 22,846,353 francs over those of the preceding year.

Expenses amounted to 311,243,234 fr. 56. The increase of 17,357,621 fr. 70 over 1928 is due to important work on the Canal banks and repairs necessitated by the condition of certain of our gear. It was caused also in part by the increase in traffic, which naturally caused an increase in certain working expenses.

We propose allocating, as last year, 25 million francs to the writing down and renewal of material, and the same sum to the special fund for the construction of houses in Egypt.

On the other hand, the provision for improvement works on the Canal, to which we allotted 100 million francs last year, can, without any disadvantage, be lowered to 80 million francs this year.

After all allocations, the excess of receipts over expenses amounted to 738,634,581 frs., to which has to be added 4,105,646 frs. brought forward from 1928, making a total of 742,740,227 frs. Of this sum, it is proposed to distribute among the shareholders 737,478,309 frs., and to carry forward 5,261,918 frs. We propose a dividend of 667 frs. gross and 589 frs. net.

The general traffic for 1929, as compared with 1928, which itself had surpassed all previous results, showed an increase of 1,560,112 tons net, or 4·9 per cent. It thus amounted to 33,466,014 tons. The number of transits through the Canal was 6,274 as against 6,084 in 1928.

The average time of transit through the Canal was 14 hours 57 minutes, which is the lowest recorded. The number of passengers in 1929 was 325,855, an increase of 8,137 on the preceding year.

Dividing the shipping into nationalities, British-owned ships, as always, are first with 57.1 per cent. of the total traffic, as against 56.8 per cent. in 1928. It reaches again the same percentage as in 1927. Second comes the Netherlands, followed closely by Germany. Germany's tonnage, at 3,455,402 tons, passed all her previous results, even counting the period before the war. Then comes France and Italy.

The total weight of merchandise through the Canal rose to 34,516,000 tons, exceeding by 1,894,000 tons the maximum realised in 1928. This increase is shown in both directions of the transit. The outward movement showed a marked activity in metals and machinery, which passed 3½ million tons, an increase of 20 per cent. on the preceding year; their principal destinations being British India, China, Japan and the Netherland Indies. Equal progress is shown in refined sugar, manures, cement and coal; the last, at 771,000 tons, passed all results obtained since 1923.

With regard to the return movement, this has increased by 961,000 tons in spite of an important fall in the sending of cereals.

The progress shown in 1929 has not been maintained during the current year.

Happily, there is a hope that the economic crisis will be of short duration, a great monetary ease in the greater number of European countries being an efficacious stimulant to industrial activity. If the Canal traffic appears to be at a lower level this year than last, we can think that a recovery will not be long in showing itself.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD LIFE PROFITS—GRATIFYING QUINQUENNIAL RESULTS

The ordinary meeting of the Guardian Assurance Company, Ltd., was held, on the 2nd instant, at 68 King William Street, London.

The Hon. Evelyn Hubbard (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said :—I may curtail my remarks as to the life business in 1929, because it is reflected in the transactions of the quinquennium which terminated at the end of the year. Perhaps, so far as 1929 is concerned, it is sufficient to point out that there was a slight increase in the new business ; that the net amount of the claims by death was £248,124 arising under 272 policies; and that the net sums paid under matured endowment and endowment assurances amounted to £237,289.

Several factors have contributed to what we shall all, I think, consider a very gratifying result. I will mention some salient points, such as the relatively high interest obtainable during the quinquennium, increased in effect by the writing down of securities between 1914 and 1919; the profit from mortality, due primarily to the care in selection of lives; and to a strict hold on the expenses of the department. However it may be viewed, whether actually or relatively, we have total life profits to deal with larger than ever before in the history of the company. Of the total surplus for the five years, £957,211—this includes the balance brought forward—it is proposed to divide £900,000, and of this sum the proprietors take £180,000—that is, £36,000 in this and four succeeding years.

VESTING OF BONUSES.

We have modernised our practice with regard to the payment of bonuses by removing a long-standing restriction on the payment of a bonus on a policy on which less than five years' premiums have been paid. The result is that the holder of a policy effected on the with-profit plan from the very beginning of his contract can rely on an increase in the amount for which he is assured in respect of each premium paid, no matter whether the policy is effected just before or just after a division of profit or at any time during the bonus period.

It has also been decided to allow the surrender of a reversionary bonus for its declared cash equivalent so soon as the policy to which it is attached has acquired a surrender value.

To show you that we have good grounds for our belief that the distribution of the unprecedently large sums proposed should not prove a strain on the resources of the company, I may mention that, notwithstanding the somewhat difficult conditions which prevailed at December 31st last, the market values of the Stock Exchange securities included in the life fund of the "Guardian" exceeded the book values in the aggregate by a very large figure, constituting a hidden reserve of an extremely solid and substantial nature. The fact that 20 per cent. of the life profits goes to the proprietors tells against us in the competition for new business. The trend of our connections is more and more to "with-profit" assurances, and the directors feel that 90 per cent. of the declared profits of the life department should henceforth belong to the participating policyholders. We propose very soon to call a special meeting that we may obtain your assent to this course, which cannot, however, affect the proprietors until the end of 1934. We anticipate that this concession to the policyholders should stimulate our life business, and we must hope that new assurances thus attracted will compensate the proprietors for the 10 per cent. that they will be handing over to the policyholders.

The Chairman then dealt with the trading accounts, fire, accident and marine.

DIVIDEND RAISED.

Continuing, he said :—We consider that, although we must expect some fluctuations in the sources from which the dividend is drawn—and particularly that we must expect after the end of 1934 a much smaller contribution from the life department—we hope we shall not unduly strain our resources in recommending that the annual dividend be raised from 8s. to 10s., less tax, on the ordinary and staff shares. You will, no doubt, have observed that the enhanced dividend will be paid on 414,157 ordinary shares, as compared with 400,000 last year, and approximately on 35,000 staff shares out of the 50,000 staff shares authorised. While we certainly hope that the condition of business will permit the continuance of the dividend of 10s. per ordinary share, it is not at all likely that it will be further raised yet awhile, and that the only change which is likely to happen (assuming that business remains good) is that the payments could be equalised—that is to say, we may propose in December next to pay 5s. interim, leaving 5s. for the final dividend in June next.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a resolution was passed expressing regret at Mr Hubbard's approaching retirement from the chair, and voting him an honorarium as a mark of appreciation of his invaluable work during the thirty-eight years he had been associated with the company.

CITY OF LONDON REAL PROPERTY COMPANY, LIMITED.

REVIEW OF YEAR'S RESULTS.

MR W. E. R. INNES ON GOVERNMENT'S TAXATION POLICY.

The ordinary general meeting of the City of London Real Property Company, Ltd., was held, on the 2nd instant, at Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, London, Mr W. E. R. Innes (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr L. A. Kingscote) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said : The net revenue after all charges, including rates (which were more by 2d. in the £), amounted to £494,954, as compared with £516,008 last year, a reduction of £21,000. To the £494,954 has to be added £152,208 brought forward, making a total of £647,162. The preference dividend absorbs £37,438, and the directors recommend that a dividend be declared for the year on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5½ per cent., less tax—the same as last year—of which three quarterly payments, amounting together to 3¾ per cent., have already been made. This will require £348,500 and leave a balance of £261,224, out of which it is proposed to place £100,000 to reserve, making the total £1,200,000, and to carry forward £161,224, an increase of £9,015 18s. 4d. I am afraid the net dividend when received will be smaller because income tax must be deducted at 4s. 6d. in the £.

BALANCE SHEET ITEMS.

The most important alteration in the balance sheet is the transfer of the income tax reserve of £70,000, which is no longer required owing to the success of the company in resisting the claim made against it, and the rebuilding reserve of £150,000 to a sinking fund for replacement of freehold buildings, the interest on which will require a sum commencing at £8,000 a year. In about 40 years, at 4 per cent., this fund should amount to a million, which will still be greatly below the value of the houses.

To maintain our buildings up to the standard of modern requirements, it is necessary to set aside a large sum every year for rebuilding, even though it may not be possible owing to existing tenancies to have always a new building in course of construction. Tenants are no longer content with the class of house with which they were satisfied a few years ago, and if the company is to maintain its position, and the buildings be kept up to date, they must be replaced largely out of income in the same way that depreciation of machinery is provided for, and not by raising new capital, as it is necessary not only to write off the cost of the old buildings but also part of that of the new, since, after replacing the former, the new rents received are not sufficiently above the old to provide reasonable interest on the whole of the fresh outlay, except in very favourable positions. The problem that faces owners of small sites, where the percentage of space to be given up for lifts and services is out of proportion to the area, is a very difficult one. Money saved and spent on new work provides employment, which can only be paid for out of savings after deducting outgoings of which the cost of rates and taxes already exceeds three times the pre-war figure, and that of repairs more than double.

NEW CITY BUILDINGS.

Our new buildings, 37 Lime Street, and 37-38 Fenchurch Street, are now each about three-quarters occupied, and we are at present replacing the old buildings of 51-54 Gracechurch Street, with a very handsome and well-lit office building, which we hope will be completed about the end of September.

Considering the general condition of trade, I think we may congratulate ourselves that we have maintained our income as well as we have. Like other businesses, we depend on the prosperity of our customers, and people with long experience tell me they can never remember a time when the depression was so general. The want of confidence results in new buildings letting slowly, and to some extent it is a case of tenants leaving old buildings to move into new ones. Of the houses built recently in the City for letting, I have been struck with the very large amount of floor space which has been taken by the Government Departments, mostly in connection with income tax.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

As to the future, it is impossible to prophesy. If additional burdens are not placed on us, I have no doubt trade will recover, but we have something quite fresh in the very severe depression, with taxes at an abnormal figure and increasing rapidly, while politicians clamour for more. In this connection I hope you will bear with me while I make a few remarks pointing out how the company is affected, though these are not addressed to those of you who are City men, as you are only too familiar with the subject. But there are others, very clever people, and more capable than most of us in other respects, who, having been engaged in other ploys, do not appear to believe that, like the rules of health, the guiding principles of finance are immutable and cannot permanently be avoided by manipulation, and when broken have to be paid for. Taxes and new legislation are altogether overdone, and are becoming a nightmare to those having to conduct businesses. Fresh measures are passed every year so involved that no one can understand them, and the Inland Revenue is no longer content to construe the law in the way it has been accepted and acted on for numbers of years past. If there seems a chance of obtaining a new decision which will produce more revenue they attempt to get it, and in this way the burden of taxation is added to. In the present Finance Bill there are new clauses relating to the valuation of property under which we are advised we may lose the allowance that has always been made for empty offices, and we are to have two different valuations in respect of the same property by different taxing authorities with all the attendant expense.

MR SNOWDEN'S UNSOUND TAXATION POLICY.

The Government has given figures showing that half the income of a moderately rich man is taken in income tax and providing by insurance for death duties, without allowing for local and indirect taxation, and more than the whole of the income of a very rich man; and yet the Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated in the House of Commons that in his opinion the limit of taxation that is desirable has not yet been reached. At the same time he emphasises the need of capital saving and complains that not enough is put by.

It is obviously impossible to have it both ways. If wealth were entirely in the form of gold which could all be kept in the country, it might be argued this could be done; but since it is largely in the form of credit and quickly vanishes, it is a different matter. To tax the country to the very limit with no reserve for an emergency is doing the very thing the Chancellor complains of business men doing, and there can be no doubt of the eventual result. Unless there is a change, sooner or later the standard of living for every one will fall, as we live in a competitive world and must produce at a figure at which it is worth while other people buying from us, or we cannot survive.

LIMITS OF SUCCESSFUL TAXATION.

Surely every one ought to be thankful for the success of very capable men, because the trade of the country is so largely helped by their genius and energy, and the more successful they are the more employment is produced. I should have thought what is really wanted is that every one should do well; if the leaders do well it must help in providing work for others.

Beyond a certain measure human beings cannot be treated like bees, as there is a limit, after which they refuse to produce, and what the State is doing is very like putting a weight on a drowning man and telling him to give another kick and he will be all right, and that the trouble is his own fault because he does not kick hard enough. If too much is to be taken from shareholders they may soon demand that, instead of money being put by to conserve businesses, it shall be distributed so they can have it while it is still there, and it may be a very difficult claim to resist. I have been wondering whether it is possible, following the principle of the Income Tax Acts, to devise a system of graduated unemployment payments to give more encouragement to those who might get employment or part-time employment to take it.

Some people have suggested that business is leaving the City and moving westwards, but a view of the new buildings in course of erection by great firms for their own occupation shows this fear is not well founded. The City is extending both northwards and eastwards.

FORMATION OF A TRUST COMPANY.

As you all know from the receipt of prospectuses, we have just recently formed a trust company, which was very well received and substantially over-subscribed, and in which we have invested part of our surplus funds. We have no intention of changing the nature of the company's business, and are prepared at any time to purchase property we believe to be a good investment in the City, but have considered it to our advantage to have another outlet for some of our funds, as by judicious spreading of risks we believe we can obtain a good return. We were also aware that some large shareholders were becoming nervous of having too many eggs in one basket, and therefore considered it desirable to provide some other form of investment. In regard to this we have to thank Lord St. Davids for his invaluable help. As he has been so successful in the management of his companies, we were especially grateful when he offered to provide us with one of his most able assistants to join in the direction of the company.

Sir Edgar Horne, Bart. (vice-chairman), seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

INVESTMENT TRUST CORPORATION, LIMITED.

THE BONUS ISSUES.

MR ROBERT FLEMING'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the Investment Trust Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 4th instant, at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Mr H. A. Vernet presided.

The secretary (Mr Hildred Carlisle) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I have to express regret at the absence of our chairman, Mr Robert Fleming. He has not been very well of late, but I am glad to say that he is very much better than he was. He was in this office yesterday and had hoped to preside at this meeting, but I had a talk with him in the afternoon and he explained that his voice was rather weak. After all, even Mr Fleming is not entirely immune from the effects of advancing years: I hope that those years of his will continue to advance for a considerable time yet. (Hear, hear.) I will now read the speech which Mr Fleming had prepared; it is, as usual, brief and to the point:—

"We will, I suppose, take the report as read. As far as figures go, it is very simple in character.

"The past year has not been such a forward going year in the matter of the price of securities as some of those we have experienced since the close of the Great War. Our great staple trades—iron, steel, cotton, woollen, agriculture—have suffered much; and, doubtful political prospects with dear money for the greater part of the year accompanying that depression, prices in many quarters have crumbled, and values generally have fallen.

SLIGHTLY DECREASED APPRECIATION.

"The Stock Exchange valuation of our 696 securities has fallen a little, the fall, however, being less than 2 per cent. upon last year's figure, which is by no means as great as the depreciation of many other companies. With a return to cheaper money and lower prices for commodities, it is to be hoped that some part at least of that depreciation will disappear. I do not, of course, mean that there is a depreciation of 2 per cent. below the cost. On the contrary, our valuation shows an appreciation of 18½ per cent. over the book cost. By 'book cost' I mean the original purchase price, less amounts written down from year to year.

INCREASED REVENUE.

"We have seen eight years of rising values. Now we have reached a time of wide depression in business, and it will not be a matter of surprise if, when we meet a year hence, the fall in values should have gone further. But, after all, the Stock Exchange valuation of our holdings is of small importance compared to steadiness in the return which they yield. In this respect we have nothing to complain of, for our revenue exceeds that of last year, which was itself the highest recorded by us up to that time.

"Our earnings for the past year over expenses, interest on debentures and dividend on preferred stock (which has now been made cumulative) come to 27·15 per cent. on the amount of our deferred stock, and we propose the same cash dividend as last year—namely, the round 20 per cent.—and we also propose, as in recent years, to issue at par to the deferred stockholders £125,000 of new shares, which will afterwards be converted into preferred and deferred stocks in the same proportions as hitherto. The market price of those stocks is together about 230 per cent., so that the issue at par implies a substantial bonus to the stockholders. Stockholders will realise, however, that this is not quite the same as a normal annual dividend, though during the last four years it has been continued. Times are changed, and we cannot tell what eventualities may arise; but, so far as concerns the near future, I see no reason to question our ability to continue it.

THE INVESTMENTS.

"There is no notable change in the character of the investments. We have 52·1 per cent. in bonds, 24·8 per cent. in preferred stocks and 23·1 per cent. in ordinary stocks. The investments are 696 in number—a large number, implying continuous examination of their security by the directors. As you know, a considerable part of our investments has consisted of short-term bonds, bearing a high rate of interest. This year £179,618 of such bonds have matured and been paid off, and during the past six years £1,064,000 have been so got quit of, strengthening the position of the company, as the securities bought in exchange are of a longer term.

"We have made our usual estimate of the probable revenue for the coming year, and it amounts to quite as great a sum as for the year just ended, and I hope nothing will eventuate to diminish this sum."

I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts as presented be and they are hereby received, approved and adopted, and that dividends of £2 per cent., less income tax, on the preferred stock and £12 per cent., less income tax, on the deferred stock—making, with the interim dividend, 20 per cent. for the year ended May 1, 1930—be and the same are hereby declared."

Sir W. Guy Granet, G.B.E., seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring director, Sir W. Guy Granet, was re-elected; the auditors, Mr C. O. Webb, C.A., and Mr Lionel Baddeley, C.A., were reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors and staff.

"CHADE."

(COMPANIA HISPANO AMERICANA DE ELECTRICIDAD S. A. BARCELONA.)

FURTHER PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY.

INCREASED DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Compania Hispano Americana de Electricidad S.A. was held on Wednesday, May 28th, in Madrid.

Excmo. Sr. Don Juan Ventesa (Vice President of the company) presided, and, speaking of the progress of the company, said:—The increase in consumption of electricity in the City of Buenos Aires and the favourable development of the Province of the same name, induced us some time ago to endeavour to concentrate in this zone the activities of the various undertakings controlled by us. In 1923 and 1924 we purchased the businesses of the concerns supplying electricity to the districts of General Sarmiento, Moreno and La Plata. Later we took over the business of the Magdalena district and, finally, in 1929 we attained direct control of the production and supply of power in Buenos Aires and in a zone of one hundred kilometres around the Federal Capital.

With this object in view, besides acquiring the Electric Power companies of General Rodriguez, Las Heras, Pilar, Coronel Brandzen, San Vicente, Canuelas, Echeverria, Marcos Paz and Escobar, we have obtained control of the Compania de Electricidad de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, which supplies electrical energy throughout the important districts of Almirante Brown, Lomas de Zamora, Quilmes, San Martin, Mantanzas and Florencio Varela. As a result, the zone served by Chade and other directly controlled undertakings in the Province of Buenos Aires, *i.e.*, apart from the Federal Capital, has increased from 1,577 square kilometres in 1920 to 12,497 square kilometres in 1929. The population of the zone served by the Chade group of companies in the Province of Buenos Aires has increased from 269,190 in 1920 to 1,305,100 in 1929. During the past year we also acquired an interest in the Primitiva Gas Company of Buenos Aires, with which we have made an agreement for the co-ordination of the services of both companies.

In accordance with the policy expressed above of endeavouring to concentrate the direct business of the company in Buenos Aires, and in a zone around the Federal Capital, the board decided to take a favourable opportunity to dispose of the interests which our company held in the Empersa de Luz y Fuerza of Mendoza, situated over 1,000 kilometres from the City of Buenos Aires.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS OF THE BUSINESS.

The business of the company in 1929 has been carried on satisfactorily. The increase in the consumption of power produced by the electrical power stations of Buenos Aires has been 15·2 per cent., which is—with the sole exception of the year 1924—considerably better than for any other year during the period 1920 to 1929. The total current consumed has reached the figure of Kw. 625,559,198. During the months of 1930 that have already passed, the increase in consumption has been maintained at a higher level (17 per cent.) than the average for 1929.

As announced in October, the directors decided to purchase immediately a new turbine of Kw. 52,500, which will be installed in the super-power station of Buenos Aires. In spite of the financial difficulties of the world during 1929, the businesses in which our company participates have continued their normal progress. The concerns in which we participate have not only been able to maintain the dividends of former years, but in some cases have been able to increase them considerably.

The item in the balance sheet of "operating surplus, dividends, interest and other revenues" has increased from 114,670,760·73 pesetas in 1928 to 120,756,628·35 gold pesetas in 1929. The balance of net profits available for distribution is 52,718,513·50 gold pesetas against 50,884,559·60 pesetas, equivalent to 42,993,751·69 gold pesetas, for last year.

This enables the board, without departing from their traditional conservative policy, to propose the payment of a total dividend of 17 per cent. gold, free of Spanish taxes, against 15 per cent. gold last year, in spite of this dividend having to be paid on a fully paid-up capital of 260,000,000 pesetas.

EVER READY COMPANY (GREAT BRITAIN), LIMITED.

POSITION FURTHER CONSOLIDATED.

INCREASED SALES AND PROFIT.

The annual general meeting of the Ever Ready Company (Great Britain), Ltd., manufacturers of batteries and electrical sundries, was held on June 2nd at Holloway, London, N.

Mr Magnus Goodfellow (chairman and managing director), who presided, said: In concluding my speech to you at the general meeting a year ago I said: "I feel justified in telling you that we look forward not only to the consolidation of the position that we have succeeded in attaining, but to the further development of our business." The results before you have been obtained in a difficult year and in the face of most severe competition—greater competition than I ever before remember.

The sales for the year show an increase of 22½ per cent. over the sales of the previous year, and the increase in profit, amounting to £34,388, would have been at least proportionate to the increase in sales but for the fall in the values of materials and commodities during February and March, which necessitated our writing down stocks to the lower market values on March 31st. Our low stock values and the lower prices at which we have been able to purchase our materials for the coming year have enabled us to effect reductions in price to the consumer of a number of our productions, which will, I think, still further stimulate the popularity and sale of our products.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY.

During the past year we have not only maintained our technical and chemical efficiency, but we have improved both, and the expenditure on the expansion of the factories and equipment, amounting to £35,571, referred to in our report to you, together with the expenditure on extensions already in hand, amounting to £30,000, should result in a considerable increase in our powers of production and a considerable advance in our technical efficiency during the coming year.

The public use of portable dry batteries in every walk of life has grown continuously during the past twenty years, and it is my belief that new uses will be discovered as time goes on.

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

The consumer and the trade as a whole continue to extend to us their good will, and appreciate the benefits of using and handling stable articles such as ours in preference to the goods imported into this country by our foreign competitors. We intend to continue to give the trade all the service we are capable of, and we believe they will not only continue to support us as heretofore, but strengthen their support against this foreign competition, which in the long run can benefit neither the consumer, the trader, the workpeople, nor the community as a whole.

After dealing with the accounts in detail, he concluded by saying: During the past few months I have read a number of speeches delivered by the chairmen of large and important manufacturing businesses in this country, and I have just recently returned from a visit to our connections on the Continent of Europe, where full details of the position have been placed before me. It appears to me to be generally accepted that the present world-wide trade depression may continue during the coming year, and may even grow worse than it is at present. The cause of the depression appears to be excessive production and lower consumption, due to the fall in spending power in a number of countries.

CONTINUED EXPANSION.

During the four months ended on March 31st last the general trade position did not prevent our own expansion, and for the two months ended May 31st to date our sales are greater than they were for the two months ended May 31st a year ago. We have grounds for the belief, therefore, that the preparations we have made for an increased production will result in our doing an increased business during the coming year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and final dividends of 5 per cent. on the preference shares (making the maximum of 10 per cent. for the year) and of 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares (making 35 per cent. for the year) were declared.

The retiring director (Mr L. P. Lightstone) and the auditors (Messrs Josolyne, Miles, Page and Co.) were re-elected.

At a subsequent extraordinary general meeting the authorised capital of the company was increased to £1,000,000. The chairman intimated that there was no intention to make any immediate issue.

ASSOCIATED TIN MINES OF NIGERIA, LIMITED.

LARGE REDUCTION IN WORKING COSTS.

The third ordinary general meeting was held, on the 30th ultimo, at the Fur Trade Sale Room, Garlick Hill, London, the Hon. Lionel Holland (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The directors' report and the accounts that I have now the privilege to submit for your acceptance make, I think, a not unfavourable showing when we take into consideration the adverse conditions that have prevailed during the period that the accounts cover. The price of standard tin never rose above £229 a ton, and the average for the twelve months was no more than £204. We received then an average price during the financial year for our 70 per cent. tin concentrates of £142 9s. 11d. a ton—an appreciable reduction even compared with the low record, £158 2s. 1d., of the preceding eighteen months that were included in our last accounts.

Our financial year ended on December 31st last; and the results of the year's operations have served to establish the all-important fact that, even with the commodity at a price abnormally depressed, this undertaking, as now organised, can work at a profit.

To this knowledge is added the certain assurance that, with any appreciable recovery in price, this modest rate of profit will be substantially and progressively enlarged until shareholders are rewarded with an adequate return on the capital that they have embarked in the business.

When we met on the occasion of the annual meeting last June I stated in my speech that the working costs for the accounting period of eighteen months with which we were then concerned had averaged £94 5s. a ton. The advantage and economies of the consolidated programme of operations, rendered possible by an amalgamation of mining properties, had only started to make headway, although before the close of the period working costs had been reduced to something under £90 a ton.

WORKING COSTS.

The all-in working costs have realised a very substantial reduction to an average for the twelve months of £82 8s. 3d. a ton free on rail at Bukuru. And this reduction has been and continues to be progressive. The assurance given by the managers in their report that a further reduction in working costs would be effected during the current year has already been confirmed. During the more recent months the working costs have fallen to £74 and less a ton of tin concentrate—over £20 a ton below the average for 1928—and it is our confident understanding that they will be further appreciably reduced.

For the purpose of calculation, however, I will take the higher figure of £74 as the costs in Nigeria up to the delivery of the concentrates at the railhead. To this we must add the subsequent charges before the concentrates are realised, including railway and ocean freight, royalty, insurance, handling and returning charges, and also the secretarial and general expenses. These together amount to approximately £22 13s. 3d. a ton.

We come, then, to an all-in figure of some £96 13s. 3d. to set against the value we receive for our product, which is £105 a ton on our grade of concentrates with the price of standard tin at £150 a ton, and even taking standard tin at the unreasonable price of £140 it would still be £98 per ton.

As the present price of the metal is very substantially below the average world cost of production, it is obvious that such a level cannot endure, while each advance in price represents practically an equivalent net gain, since, except for an increase in royalty and a small addition to insurance and returning charges, these all-in cost figures do not vary with the varying price of the metal.

Continuing, the chairman said that the production for the year was 3,062 tons of concentrates, or just about equal to that of the preceding eighteen months. Since January last they had reduced the rate of production from an approximate monthly return of 250 tons to a maximum of 200 tons a month. They had cordially accepted and would loyally observe the policy recommended by the Tin Producers' Association to reduce output to 80 per cent. of the 1929 figure. The financial position of the company was a reasonably strong one, and until quite recently he had hoped that the directors would have been able to submit a resolution to pay a dividend on the past year's working; but the further heavy fall in the price of the metal that had lately occurred, and the unsettled outlook, both in the metal market and the general trade position, had compelled them to revise their programme. If the price of tin revived the directors would gladly embrace the opportunity of paying an interim dividend when it could be distributed without endangering the prospects of the business. Since January 1st last no less than 9,000 additional tons of payable ore had been located, bringing up the actual reserves to the handsome figure of over 31,000 tons.

The report was adopted.

W. J. BUSH AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

FACTORS AFFECTING PROFITS.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of W. J. Bush and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 2nd instant, at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate, E.C., Mr J. M. Bush (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr J. H. King) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: Comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a big fall in both gross and net profits. Apart from the widespread trade depression throughout the world, which I regret has become accentuated since the accounts were made up, there are some special causes for the decline in our profits. You will recall that at our meeting last year I mentioned that we had disposed of the Potter and Moore branch of our business to a separate company. This has eliminated both the gross and net profits from this source formerly incorporated in our figures. The decline in the value of commodities following the financial crisis in New York in October last has caused us to suffer heavily through the depreciation of our large stock. Another cause of the fall in our profits to quite an appreciable extent was the practical failure of the clove crop. Essential oil of cloves is one of our most important raw materials, and is used in the manufacture of vanillin. The high price of the spice made it difficult for us to meet the competition of vanillin made from other raw material and maintain a normal amount of business and profit.

The accounts show exceptionally heavy expenditure in buildings and plant. I explained at our last meeting that we have made great efforts and devoted a lot of money to building up a fine chemical industry in this country under the encouragement of the Safeguarding of Industries Act. A development of this kind must of necessity be spread over a series of years. The continuance of the Act is obviously of the utmost importance, and we hold the view that it would be a national disaster if the expenditure of time and money spent by the manufacturers of fine chemicals in the establishment of complicated processes were prematurely exposed to the attacks of foreign dumping, of which there is abundant evidence.

We make the following recommendations: The payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making with the interim dividend already paid 8 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward the balance of £69,192 9s. 8d.

The report and accounts were adopted.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS, LIMITED.

FINANCIAL POSITION STRENGTHENED.

Presiding at the meeting of Lobitos Oilfields, held, on the 3rd instant, the Right Hon. Lord Forres, P.C. (chairman), in moving the adoption of the report, said: For the past three or four years test wells have been sunk in various outlying districts which our friends in Peru had taken up for exploration purposes. These tests have not given satisfactory results, and the districts have, therefore, been abandoned. On the other hand, the lands comprised in the development concession of about 205 square miles continue to open up satisfactorily and beyond our expectations. You are aware that the policy we have followed, in view of unremunerative prices, has, for the past two or three years, been to maintain production, but not to make special efforts to increase it. There were 28 wells drilling or unfinished at the end of the financial year, as compared with 46 two years ago. As I pointed out last year, this restrictive policy has enabled us to dispense with a number of employees and to restrict expenditure upon drilling plant, &c. One effect has been to increase cash capital in our hands. This capital will, I hope, some day be required for an extension of the drilling programme, or in other developments for the benefit of the company. Meantime we believe we are right in following a conservative policy. We have now £700,000 in British Government securities, and will be able to take advantage of more favourable conditions as and when they present themselves. Meantime the Peruvian Company has not been idle in increasing its efficiency.

Reference has been made to an improved price ruling during part of 1929. As the price of our sales is based upon a sliding scale, benefit was derived from that advance. Unfortunately, the price has not been maintained, and since the close of the financial year a decrease has taken place. It is now at a level where the Peruvian Company is making nothing, but I need hardly say that to close down would be disastrous. The immediate prospect for producers can only be described as uncertain. The production of crude, despite efforts to restrict, has only been reduced to a small extent. The shut in potential production is large. Stock of oil above ground in the United States was 48,250,000 barrels on March 31, 1929, and grew to 55,239,000 barrels on March 31, 1930. It is for that and other reasons that we think it desirable to place £50,000 this year to the credit of reserve account, thus further strengthening the company's financial position.

The report was unanimously adopted.

GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION MAINTAINED.

Presiding at the annual general meeting of the General Mining and Finance Corporation, Ltd., held in Johannesburg on June 3, 1930, the chairman, Sir George Albu, Bart., stated that stocks and shares would have shown a greater increase but for the considerable fall in the market price of certain holdings necessitating writing them down by £169,119. A very large proportion of this depreciation was due to Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., shares which, owing to unfavourable conditions in world oil markets, had declined considerably during the year, but have since recovered substantially owing to improved prospects. Although at one time the corporation's interests were mainly centred in South Africa, these have gradually been extended to other parts of the world. It had never been their policy nor had it been thought desirable to give full details of investments, but approximately two-thirds were represented by stocks and shares in South African concerns, and the remaining third elsewhere. There is, more especially in the latter, a large percentage of sound, readily realisable securities such as railway and municipal stocks, which naturally greatly strengthens the more liquid resources.

To summarise the position, apart from shares in mining and other companies which in themselves are an extremely valuable asset, the more realisable and what may be described as gilt-edged assets —in which category there was no hesitation in including the debt of the West Rand Consolidated—show a surplus of about three-quarters of a million pounds over current liabilities, which is indeed most satisfactory.

The directors could not recommend the payment of a dividend, especially as it is very necessary in a business such as the Corporation's to maintain the strongest possible financial position, not only to meet ordinary obligations but for undertaking remunerative business when offering and financing associated companies when necessary. A good example of the latter is the large advances made to the West Rand Consolidated, with the result that the mine is now established on a firm basis with the practical certainty of a long and successful life, which otherwise would have been unattainable.

In concluding, he stated that the Corporation has maintained an extremely sound financial position, which was bound to be of immense benefit when the existing depression ended and it gave place, by the usual swing of the pendulum, to more normal times.

RHODESIAN ANGLO AMERICAN, LIMITED.

EMPIRE COPPER DEVELOPMENT.

The first annual general meeting of this company was held, on the 3rd instant, at Winchester House, London.

Sir Edmund Davis (deputy chairman) said that the balance of profit for the period under review was £712,713, which he was sure would be regarded as very satisfactory. They had had to provide for income tax, £144,204, had written off the whole of the preliminary expenses, £27,141, and had transferred to reserve £217,763, leaving £323,603 to be carried to the balance sheet. The reserve account had been brought up to £3,500,000, being the same as the capital. The underlying idea in the minds of those responsible for the formation of the company was that it should have a large and permanent interest in the copper mining business of Northern Rhodesia. The large amount of work which had

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI
(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND
Established 1889.

been done on these fields since the company was formed amply confirmed the view that the business offered a most attractive avenue for profitable investment. It should be realised what the development of these copper fields meant. The question of available resources of supplies of copper within the Empire had been solved, and attention would have to be given in the early stages to the question of the yearly tonnage of Northern Rhodesian copper which the world, with its steadily growing requirements, might be able to consume. All those interested should have but one object in view, that within the field there should be maintained the same spirit of mutual help and co-operation which had attended its opening out and development to date, and if they all worked to attain this end, they would, in the course of time, prove to everyone's satisfaction that they had managed to create a huge and profitable and lasting industry in Northern Rhodesia which would be a credit to this country and to all those who had been concerned in its achievement.

The chairman then dealt in detail with the individual enterprises in which the company was interested, and said that the various mines were likely to reach the production stage in the following order: Roan Antelope, 50,000 tons of copper per annum; N'Kana, 70,000 tons; and Mufulira, 70,000 tons: making a total of 190,000 tons as the estimated output from these properties on the basis of their initial scale of equipment. Taking the copper position in Northern Rhodesia as a whole, they estimated that by the end of the current year drilling would have established the existence of a total of 585,000,000 tons of 4¼ per cent. ore. It was estimated that the total operating costs would be about £37 10s. c.i.f. European ports per long ton of copper of best selected grade.

The report was unanimously adopted, and a resolution was passed increasing the capital to £5,000,000.

GEDULD PROPRIETARY MINES, LIMITED.

IMPROVED RESULTS.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd., was held at Johannesburg on May 13th.

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

The ore mined reached 1,211,768 tons, exceeding the previous record by 34,869 tons; the quantity milled totalling 1,008,100 tons, an advance on the previous record of 24,600 tons; while the average working costs per ton milled were a shade under 16s. 6d., or about a penny below the previous lowest average. The average yield of gold per ton of ore milled was 4d. above that of the previous year.

The working profit was £522,188, equivalent to 10s. 4d. per ton milled, or 5.26d. above the previous year's average. Sundry revenue amounted to £26,588, making the total profit £548,776, which was £36,520 more than the 1928 total. Taxation absorbed £69,100 and charities £2,673, leaving £477,003 to be carried to the appropriation account. Out of this a further £6,000 was set aside towards the company's liability to the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund; £456,518 was distributed in dividends, and the additional remuneration to the directors absorbed £1,800. This left a surplus of £12,685, which increased the carry-forward in the apropriation account to £190,272. In regard to the two dividends distributed for the year, I would point out that, although the total rate for the year was 2½ per cent. less than that for he previous year, the amount involved was £8,300 more, due, of course, to the increase of the capital by £132,805 in April of last year.

SATISFACTORY DEVELOPMENT WORK.

Development work proceeded on virtually the same scale as in the previous year, the total footage accomplished being 16,078. The results obtained in the course of this work have been communicated to you in the quarterly reports, from which you will have noted wide fluctuations in the values and the percentage payable. These fluctuations were foreshadowed in my address at the last annual meeting, when I intimated that a high proportion of the work would be devoted to the exploration of areas hitherto considered to be less promising. In the circumstances the results have been quite satisfactory. For the last quarter the values exposed were above the average, and this state of affairs has continued into the current year. During the first four months of this year the payable portion of the development on reef has averaged 602 inch-dwt., the footages being 5.487 feet developed, 4,430 feet on reef and sampled, 1,400 feet payable.

ORE RESERVES.

The ore reserves at December last amounted to 5,900,000 tons, valued at 6.7 dwt. over an estimated stoping width of 58 inches, which virtually maintains the position of the year before. Owing to the lighter type of machine drills now in general use, a stoping width of 2 inches less has been adopted by the consulting engineer for the purpose of his estimate and this change has had the effect of diminishing the quantity of ore by 200,000 tons but increases the average value by a fifth of a pennyweight.

Last year's record milling rate has been fully maintained during the current year. The yield per ton milled has exceeded last year's average by about 2d. per ton, and the working costs show a further reduction of 2d. per ton milled to an average of 16s. 4d., so that the working profit per ton milled is about 4d. better. The total for the four months is approximately £8,845 more than was earned in the corresponding period of last year.

EAST GEDULD MINES—INCREASED CAPITAL.

In regard to the interest held by your company in the capital of the East Geduld Mines, Ltd., the circular issued to you on the 7th of last month informed you of the further increase of that company's capital to £1,500,000 for the purpose of providing the necessary funds for the erection of a reduction plant of the most modern type, with a capacity of 60,000 tons per month, and of your directors' decision to exercise your company's option to participate equally with the Union Corporation, Ltd., in the subscription of the £500,000 additional capital at par in terms of the agreements between your company and the Corporation. Ample funds were available for the purpose out of the proceeds of the share issue made by your company last year. You were informed at the same time that your directors had consented to your company joining the Union Corporation in an offer of a parcel of these new shares to the other East Geduld shareholders at the price of 32s. 6d. per share. The confidence in the prospects of the East Geduld Mines and the popularity of this offer is evidenced by the fact that 96 per cent. of the shares offered has been taken up. After providing our proportion of the shares accepted we have the very substantial interest of approximately 35½ per cent. in the whole issued capital of the company, and, in addition, we hold the right to participate equally with the Union Corporation in the provision at par of any further capital which the East Geduld Mines may need up to a total of £300,000.

The position of the East Geduld Mines at the end of last year was that it had completed 33,005 feet of development on reef, which indicated ore reserves of 2,400,000 tons, having a value of 6.75 dwt. over a stoping width of 57 inches. Development during the first four months of this year has shown values appreciably above the reserve, namely, 13.2 dwt. over 48 inches, or 636 inch-dwt., for the 46 per cent. payable out of 1,710 feet sampled. The sinking of the shaft, together with the preparations for the erection of the reduction plant are well under way, and, provided that no serious interruption occurs in the progress of the work, it is anticipated that everything will be in readiness for the commencement of production late in the third quarter of next year.

The report and accounts were adopted.

EAST GEDULD MINES, LIMITED.

ORE RESERVES—GRATIFYING FEATURES.

The third ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the East Geduld Mines, Ltd., was held at Johannesburg on May 13th.

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

During the last financial year the registered capital was increased from £350,000 to £1,000,000 and the paid-up capital from £235,700 to £521,510 10s.

CAPITAL.

Since the turn of the year the registered capital has been further increased to £1,500,000 by the issue of an additional 500,000 ordinary shares. This issue has been subscribed at par by the Union Corporation, Ltd., and the Geduld Proprietary Mines, Ltd., in terms of the agreements referred to on previous occasions, 2s. per share having been paid up on subscription, the balance of 18s. to be called up as required by the company. The funds thus made available are estimated to suffice for the completion of the No. 1 Vertical Shaft, for the further development work necessary prior to milling, for incidental expenses and for the erection of the reduction plant. By arrangement with the subscribers, some of these new shares were offered to the other shareholders in the company at the price of 32s. 6d. per share. The acceptance of 96 per cent. of the shares so offered has been gratifying to your directors, affording as it does striking evidence of the confidence of shareholders in the prospects of the mine and in the administration of the company's affairs.

MINING OPERATIONS.

With regard to the mining operations carried out on our behalf by the Geduld Proprietary Mines, in all 17,305 feet of development

were accomplished and, in addition, 1,053 feet of driving in connection with stations and 460 feet of vertical shaft sinking. Of the development footage, 12,555 feet were on reef and the sampling of this disclosed 42 per cent. to be payable, the average assay value of this portion being 12.7 dwt. over a channel width of 42 inches, equivalent to 534 inch-dwt. This average value was more than 10 per cent. better than that of the previous two years, while the percentage of payability was maintained. The year's work brought the total development since operations were commenced in January, 1927, to 47,670 feet, of which 33,005 feet were on reef and sampled and 42 per cent. have been found to be payable, the average value of this portion being 12.8 dwt. over a channel width of 39 inches, equivalent to 500 inch-dwt. While comparatively little ore has been completely blocked out for stoping in the progress of this work, a considerable quantity of payable ore has been indicated, and your consulting engineer has estimated that at the end of last year the partially developed ore amounted to 2,400,000 tons of an average value of 6.75 dwt. calculated over an assumed stoping width of 57 inches.

CURRENT YEAR.

During the first four months of the current year a further 4,458 ft. of development have been completed, of which 3,685 ft. have been on reef. These operations have disclosed ore of the highest average value so far exposed, the sampling results indicating a payability of 46 per cent. and an average value of 13.2 dwt. over a channel width of 48 in., or 636 in.-dwt. This development will tend to increase both the quantity and the average value of the indicated ore reserves. It is a most gratifying feature of the development work that the richest ore has been opened up by the most recent and deepest workings, and that these improved values are continuing.

As you have been kept regularly informed regarding the progress of development work and its results, the decision of the directors to proceed with the installation of a reduction plant, conveyed to you in the Circular issued on the 7th of last month, will have occasioned no surprise, for it was, of course, a natural corollary. Orders for this plant, which will have a nominal capacity of 60,000 tons per month, are being placed with all possible despatch, and, provided that there is no delay in delivery of any section, it is anticipated that the installation will be completed in the third quarter of next year. The completion of this work is, as you know, scheduled to synchronise with the completion of the sinking and equipment of the No. 1 Vertical Shaft. The sinking of this shaft has proceeded normally, and at the end of last month the depth was 794 ft. The rate of progress thus far has necessarily been slow for the reason that the sinking operations from a depth of 54 ft. have been in water-bearing dolomite formation, which has involved delays arising from the need to deal effectively with the water encountered. When addressing you a year ago I indicated that this dolomite formation was expected to continue to a depth of about 850 ft. Information recently obtained by means of a borehole put down from a pump chamber shows that the dolomite extends to a depth of a little over 1,000 ft. It is not anticipated that this greater thickness will involve any modification of the forecast I then gave you that the shaft would be in full commission for the purpose of hoisting stope ore within 2½ years from that date or 1½ years from now.

The report and accounts were adopted.

THE MODDERFONTEIN DEEP LEVELS, LIMITED.

ANOTHER MILLING RECORD.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Modderfontein Deep Levels, Ltd., was held at Johannesburg on May 13th.

Mr P. M. Anderson, chairman of the company, presided, and in the course of his remarks said :—A new milling record was set up for the fourth successive year by the crushing of a total of 531,500 tons of ore, this being 1,200 tons in excess of the previous year's record.

The yield per ton was 44s. 11d., and the working costs, after including development, were 15s. 8.4d.

PROFITS AND DIVIDEND.

The profit on working was £777,402, or 29s. 3d. per ton milled, and exceeded the corresponding figure for the previous year by £3,796. Sundry revenue was £17,517, increasing the working profit to £794,918. Taxation absorbed £110,337 and charities £2,041, leaving a net profit of £682,540, or £3,846 more than in 1928, to be carried to the appropriation account.

After making the provision for the year towards the company's liability to the Miners' Phthisis Compensation Fund, the balance of the net profit was insufficient by £7,460 to maintain dividends at the same rate as those declared for the previous four years, namely, 135 per cent., or 6s. 9d. per share. In view of your company's sound financial position this shortfall was provided out of the balance carried forward in the appropriation account, thus reducing that balance to £143,273.

There was an expansion in the scale of development work undertaken, the respective footages being 6,600 in 1929 and 4,782 in 1928. 5,319 feet of this work was on Hanging Wall Leaders, the footage accomplished in these horizons being nearly 60 per cent. greater than in 1928. Attention is now also being directed to the Leader 200 feet above the Main Reef, the horizon of which is being developed from four cross-cuts recently completed. It is intended to continue prospecting all areas of the mine in which there is a possibility of the exposure of payable ore in these Upper Leaders.

The recalculation of the developed ore reserves at the end of the year disclosed that those on the Main Reef amounted to 2,550,000 tons of an average value of 8.8 dwt. over a width of 79 in., the quantity being 450,000 tons less and the value a fifth of a pennyweight less than a year previously, the width remaining unchanged. In addition to these Main Reef ore reserves, there were calculated to be developed 110,000 tons of an average value of 4.7 dwt. over a width of 60 in. in Hanging Wall Leader Blocks, bringing the total reserves to 2,660,000 tons, or 340,000 tons less than at the end of the preceding year. This decrease must be regarded as satisfactory, seeing that nearly double that tonnage was mined during the year. Of the ore stoped last year 8 per cent. was derived from Upper Leaders.

THE CURRENT YEAR.

For the first four months of the current year last year's milling rate has been maintained, a total of 174,300 tons having been dealt with, as compared with 175,100 for the corresponding period of 1929. The revenue per ton milled has been about 1s. below last year's average, due in a great measure to the decrease in the value of the ore reserves. Working costs at 15s. 9d. have remained at approximately the same level, so that the working profit is about £10,000 less than was earned for the first four months of last year. Development operations have proceeded on a similar scale to last year and continue to be confined mainly to the Upper Leaders, which show little variation either in percentage of payability or in average value, namely, 16 per cent. payable, having a value of 331 in.-dwt.

The report and accounts were adopted.

LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD YEAR.

Presiding, on the 3rd instant, at the general meeting of this company, Mr Oliver R. H. Bury said that the passenger traffic continued to develop year by year, 26,580,000 passengers, or rather over 3,000,000 more than in the preceding year, having been carried in 1929. Unfortunately, a large number, travelling at absurdly low rates from Rio to the suburbs and *vice versa*, had been carried at a loss, and so far they had not been able to increase the fares. As to goods traffic, £743,575 had been received from coffee and £147,371 from sugar—those together forming slightly more than half of the total receipts from goods. With regard to the Leopoldina Terminal Company, just as the shareholders of the railway company had had to wait patiently for authority to increase their fares, so the Terminal Company was now waiting and expecting the authority to increase its tram fares. As to prospects, it was estimated that the total tonnage of coffee to be carried would be equal to that of last year. The latest telegram indicated that traffic prospects were now somewhat brighter. Generally they had had a good year, and presented the best results since the formation of the company. The aim and hope of the board was that, having earned and paid a 5 per cent. dividend for two years in succession, they might be able to maintain it.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended May 31, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	6,296	From Revenue	7,154
Interest, &c., on Debt	1,542	Increase in Debt	1,591
Sinking Fund	495		
Sundries	395		
Increase in Balances	17		
	8,745		8,745

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £7,153,600, as compared with £6,496,100 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and surtax were lower at £440,000 and £610,000, against £513,000 and £670,000 respectively. Estate duties brought in £3,220,000, against £1,550,000, while Customs amounted to £2,253,000, against £2,226,000, and Excise to £720,000, against £827,000. The National Debt was increased by £1,591,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Treasury Bills	+ 4,541	Public Department Advances	— 2,800
National Savings Certificates	+ 200	Sundries	— 350
	+ 4,741		— 3,150

The Floating Debt was increased by £1,745,000 to £626,615,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31, APRIL 1 TO MAY 31.

	£		£
Expenditure	106,229,030	Revenue	98,558,956*
Sinking Fund	6,310,881	Decreases in balances	3,397,605
		Net Amount borrowed	10,583,350
	112,539,911		112,539,911

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
4% and 5% War Stock	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
National War Bonds	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
Funding Loan	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
4% Victory Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Treasury Bonds	...	...	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
National Savings Certs.	...	267	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
Other Debt*	...	1,306	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	582
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	45
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,479
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,606

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	June 1, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	May 31, '30.	Movement, week ended May 31, '30.
Ways and Means Advances	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—	...	...	...	...
Advances by Bank of England	2,500,000	48,530,000	44,930,000	— 2,800,000
Advances by Public Departments	45,715,000	588,885,000	581,685,000*	+ 4,545,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	728,060,000			
Total Floating Debt	776,275,000	637,415,000	626,615,000	+ 1,745,000

* Includes £7,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £45,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on May 30, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £54,260,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 9s. 4d., about 86 per cent. above in full, and Saturday at £99 9s. 6d., and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £40,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
April 4	40,000,000	43,100,000	2 10 9·58
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78
May 23	35,000,000	48,275,000	2 3 5·74
May 30	45,000,000	54,260,000	2 2 0·65

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to May 31, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to June 1, 1929.	Week Ended May 31, 1930.	Week Ended June 1, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	18,865,000	18,450,000	440,000	513,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	8,260,000	6,900,000	610,000	670,000
Estate, &c., Duties	15,960,000	15,900,000	3,220,000	1,550,000
Stamps	2,480,000	3,330,000	390,000	740,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	110,000	70,000	20,000	...
Total Inland Revenue	45,675,000	44,660,000	4,680,000	3,473,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	20,136,000	20,066,000	2,253,000	2,226,000
Excise	19,396,000	20,073,000	720,000	827,000
Total Customs and Excise	39,532,000	40,139,000	2,973,000	3,053,000
Motor Vehicle Duties (Exchequer Share)	655,000	808,000	...	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	4,050,000	4,150,000	*Dr500,000*	*Dr500,000*
Crown Lands	240,000	250,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	5,956,832	5,803,700	...	418,025
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,450,124	3,571,839	566	52,081
Total Ordinary Revenue	98,558,956	99,382,539	7,153,566	6,496,106
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	8,700,000	8,350,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	11,980,000	11,454,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
Total	110,538,956	110,836,539	8,653,566	7,746,106
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(*a*) For Capital Expenditure Issues : Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(*b*) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,920,000	910,000	...	60,000
(*c*) For other Issues :				
By Treasury Bills	400,081,000	528,834,000	47,141,000	63,365,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	46,541,883	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates	7,700,000	7,200,000	950,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(*d*) Ways and Means Advances	93,530,000	147,875,000	7,535,000	19,270,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	17,038	23,221	...	...
	1930. £	1929. £		
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April —				
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total £	667,454,091	828,051,284	64,279,566	91,241,106

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1930, to May 31, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from April 1, 1929, to June 1, 1929.	ISSUES Week Ended May 31, 1930.	ISSUES Week Ended June 1, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	41,499,933	74,451,381	1,541,745	33,400,216
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	689,851	555,759	250,250	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	440,446	834,993	144,781	398,455
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	63,598,800	51,990,610	6,295,650	5,931,750
Total Ordinary Expenditure	106,229,030	127,832,743	8,232,426	39,730,421
Sinking Fund	6,310,881	7,290,067	495,000	615,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	8,700,000	8,350,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	11,980,000	11,454,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
TOTAL	124,519,911	146,576,810	10,227,426	41,595,421

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues— Week Ended May 31, 1930.	Week Ended June 1, 1929.
	Apr. 1, 1930, to May 31, 1930.	Apr. 1, 1929, to June 1, 1929.		
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—	£	£	£	£
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	2,920,000	910,000	...	60,000
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,750,000	1,550,000	350,000	...
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	407,270,000	501,075,000	42,600,000	43,645,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	6,550,000	7,450,000	750,000	700,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,309,505	...	100,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	97,130,000	136,710,000	10,335,000	6,095,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	2,219,787	...	...
	664,726,482	825,819,560	64,262,426	92,195,421

	May 31, 1930.	June 1, 1929.		
	£	£		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,023,959	1,901,247	...	...	— 38,860	— 564,314
Bank of Ireland	703,650	330,477	2,727,609	2,231,724	+ 56,000	— 390,001
Total			£ 667,454,091	828,051,284	+ 17,140	— 954,315

Treasury, June 2, 1930.

The OCEAN ACCIDENT and GUARANTEE CORPORATION, Limited.

ASSETS - - - - £9,046,500
CLAIMS PAID - - - £56,933,000

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

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

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, June 4, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	359,798,602	Other Government Securities	232,892,247
In Banking Department	56,189,987	Other Securities	11,629,215
		Silver Coin	4,463,438
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	155,988,589
	£415,988,589		£415,988,589

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	58,380,547
Rest	3,230,209	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	8,877,942	Discounts and Advances ... £6,476,057	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 12,716,840	
Bankers ... £71,081,853			19,192,897
Other Accounts 36,908,849		Notes	56,189,987
	107,990,702	Gold and Silver Coin	890,496
7-Day and other Bills	2,074		
	£134,653,927		£134,653,927

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

Both Departments.	Amount, June 4, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	359,798,602	+ 3,667,054	— 1,778,170
Public deposits	8,877,942	— 4,363,508	+ 366,498
Bankers' deposits	71,081,853	+ 12,118,123	+ 734,882
Other deposits	36,908,849	+ 1,002,001	+ 963,335
Seven-day bills	2,074	— 60	— 514
Total, outside liabilities	476,669,320	+ 12,423,610	+ 286,031
Capital and rest	17,783,209	+ 13,324	— 6,490
Government debt and securities	302,287,894	+ 12,800,289	+ 11,913,362
Discounts and advances	6,476,057	— 329,436	+ 260,955
Other securities	24,346,055	+ 1,201,210	— 4,553,849
Silver coin in issue department	4,463,438	+ 2,485	— 368,882
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	156,879,085	— 1,237,614	— 6,972,045
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	57,080,483	— 4,904,668	— 5,193,875
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only (" proportion ")	48 13/16 %	— 8 1/4 %	— 5 11/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes (" reserve ratio ")	32 13/16 %	— 1 1/2 %	— 1 1/4 %

Date.	Issue Department.		Banking Department.			Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
	Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.		
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Ap. 16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3
28	417,185,525	356,131,548	13,241,450	58,963,730	35,906,848	316,679 out	3
Jne. 4	415,988,589	359,798,602	8,877,942	71,081,853	36,908,849	1,208,775 out	3

Date.	Issue Department.		Both Depts.	Banking Department.			
	Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the " Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ %
Apr. 16	243912989	11628838	160788326 33 3/16	58282629	6386083	104427 36	59466768 50 13/16
23	243912989	11629001	163843217 33 7/16	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812 51 7/16
30	243912989	11628274	164283793 34 1/16	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916 52 13/16
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394 34 3/16	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696 54 1/16
14	243908931	11629179	163347877 34 3/16	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879 54 3/16
21	243910248	11629318	158443549 33 13/16	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487 54 1/16
28	243909976	11629071	158116699 34 1/16	45577629	6805493	11515774	61985151 57 1/16
June 4	243907347	11629215	156879085 32 13/16	56380547	6476057	12716840	57080483 48 13/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to May 21	15,802,627	740,991	1,209,937	17,753,555
Week ended May 28	821,420	32,685	50,570	904,675
Week ended June 4	755,588	36,939	54,472	846,999
Total to date, 1930	17,379,635	810,615	1,314,979	19,505,229
Total to date, 1929	17,309,159	826,371	1,333,435	19,468,965
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 70,476 = 0·4%	— 15,756 = 1·9%	— 18,456 = 1·4%	+ 36,264 = 0·2%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807 = 1·6%	+ 27,599 = 1·5%	+ 39,342 = 1·3%	+ 691,751 = 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of May.			Aggregate Weekly Totals to Jan. 1 to May 31	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	26	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,216,000	11,403,000	+11·6	57,729,800	55,666,600
BRADFORD	5,124,000	3,544,000	—30·8	26,949,200	20,183,111
BRISTOL	4,808,000	5,098,000	+ 6·0	26,179,000	24,272,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	106,965,900	107,961,500
HULL	3,386,000	3,475,000	+ 2·6	19,408,400	17,838,300
LEEDS	4,245,000	4,294,000	+ 1·1	22,231,400	21,621,300
LEICESTER	3,070,000	2,973,000	— 3·1	17,451,700	15,934,000
LIVERPOOL	33,049,000	27,610,000	—16·4	175,599,500	151,491,900
MANCHESTER	51,107,000	45,726,000	—10·5	281,104,400	247,014,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,373,000	6,383,000	+ 0·1	31,920,200	32,155,100
NOTTINGHAM	2,536,000	2,492,000	— 0·7	13,786,100	13,245,900
SHEFFIELD	4,210,000	4,020,000	— 4·5	22,069,000	20,435,300
Total	128,124,000	117,018,000	— 8·5	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Denmark appeared in the *Economist* of May 10; Egypt in May 17; Poland, Russia, Roumania and Danzig in May 24; Portugal, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Java, Latvia, Estonia, and Jugoslavia in May 31.

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

RESOURCES.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,843,970	3,074,080	3,076,460	3,057,310	3,060,580
Total bills discounted	977,440	210,490	210,000	247,050	239,730
Bills bought in open market	112,750	171,030	186,880	175,560	189,240
Total U.S. Govt. securities	147,330	527,900	528,320	529,770	543,830
Total bills and securities	1,247,440	920,020	931,600	958,780	978,650
Total resources	5,103,320	5,030,440	4,951,350	4,902,360	4,973,470
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,653,690	1,464,900	1,452,660	1,465,870	1,457,320
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,321,340	2,379,360	2,374,170	2,346,800	2,411,730
Total deposits	2,365,780	2,420,830	2,438,910	2,420,850	2,464,520
Capital paid in and surplus	411,900	451,090	451,180	447,450	447,510
Total liabilities	5,103,320	5,030,440	4,951,350	4,902,360	4,973,470
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	74·4%	83·6%	83·5%	82·9%	82·2%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
Total bills discounted	209,940	30,300	29,280	52,830	48,570
Bills bought in open market	18,170	35,310	50,550	47,320	74,650
Total U.S. Govt. securities	23,590	177,860	178,060	179,050	182,880
Total bills and securities	253,620	252,070	262,290	283,600	309,950
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	941,170	972,570	971,590	990,890	999,540
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	83·3%	86·8%	86·5%	84·8%	81·8%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Feb. 28, 1929.	Nov. 30, 1930.	Dec. 31, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.
Cash and bank balances	421,199	495,609	468,789	391,344	382,614
Bank balances abroad	73,026	94,029	101,652	88,066	83,959
Call and short loans	596,556	531,947	507,451	449,171	427,541
Securities	530,186	475,370	448,410	431,312	422,953
Loans in Canada	1,359,665	1,576,245	1,531,720	1,499,100	1,481,748
Loans abroad	257,254	241,319	250,638	257,516	266,219
Other assets	197,525	219,436	212,419	204,404	205,053
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	162,333	187,004	175,497	156,062	158,630
Deposits—					
Goverament	160,515	205,313	173,305	132,339	112,152
Public in Canada	2,166,014	2,181,938	2,163,720	2,084,327	2,061,271
Foreign	393,530	453,598	441,622	400,764	394,136
Bank balances—					
Canadian	11,978	13,463	14,865	14,450	13,545
Foreign	138,295	135,488	107,983	96,050	88,131
Bills payable, &c.	104,141	132,328	120,785	107,790	108,215
Capital and rest	271,233	300,795	301,029	302,445	303,195
Other liabilities	5,461	9,847	5,480	5,836	7,864

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

ASSETS.	May 10, 1929.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	8,131	7,134	7,599	7,529	7,512	7,090
Subsidiary coin	106	126	132	128	131	154
Bills discounted	8,530	8,614	7,689	7,884	8,220	7,934
Investments	616	1,091	1,049	1,104	1,104	1,109
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	600	600	600	719
Notes in circulation	8,804	7,891	7,642	7,726	8,946	8,048
Government deposits	1,383	1,815	2,103	2,462	1,499	1,547
Bankers' deposits	4,842	4,533	4,549	4,739	5,270	4,789
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	50·3%	47·6%	51·6%	49·6%	47·9%	48·4%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 10, 1929.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.
Total securities	23,00,50	30,04,37	29,86,19	29,78,46	29,81,46	29,69,74
Loans	13,42,20	14,05,68	14,00,25	12,46,27	12,97,61	13,42,04
Cash credits	28,43,13	32,19,12	32,44,54	32,08,72	32,20,38	32,72,23
Inland bills	9,51,36	6,39,75	5,77,14	5,97,21	5,45,12	4,92,91
Foreign bills	39,70	50,84	47,60	56,09	58,48	52,64
Dead stock	2,84,09	2,80,75	2,81,23	2,81,39	2,81,32	2,81,60
Bal. with other banks	19,55	21,60	31,67	17,65	19,26	5,66
Cash	12,53,61	13,05,22	12,01,78	16,17,03	15,79,91	13,29,17
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	78,93,71	85,89,17	84,28,70	86,54,94	86,37,99	84,07,07
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	1,012	1,020	1,060	1,100	1,000	942
Advances in London	935	2,126	2,128	2,275	2,279	2,202
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	137	160	240	132	69	44

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.
Gold	36,596,433	42,950,438	43,187,320	43,802,414	43,808,866
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,805,026	6,889,208	6,896,477	6,878,890	6,872,940
Bills discounted	18,466,712	18,716,501	18,699,720	18,673,583	18,696,3 4
Commercial bills discounted at home	5,762,129	5,126,285	4,569,882	8,774,418	...
Advances against sec.	8,968,689	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
To the State	2,443,808	2,652,371	2,678,029	2,621,153	2,540,751
Other advances					
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	4,839,320	3,016,224	2,913,683	2,696,580	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	64,316,379	71,612,307	71,130,689	70,907,040	73,078,814
Public deposits	11,431,298	5,971,635	5,372,127	4,853,860	5,363,093
Private deposits	6,808,059	7,520,406	8,207,535	13,579,726	9,688,320
Other liabilities	2,306,865	2,841,537	2,929,618	2,704,270	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,764,529	2,577,665	2,585,859	2,591,135
Of which deposited abroad	59,147	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	299,147	297,819	342,678	350,844
Bills of exchange and cheques	3,004,819	1,584,886	1,519,662	1,958,223
Silver and other coin	108,100	156,119	167,772	128,610
Notes of other German banks	1,582	17,956	23,157	4,132
Advances	254,776	69,067	53,347	187,748
Investments	92,899	93,045	101,125	101,067
Other assets	458,695	615,471	618,529	596,393
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,606,388	4,196,275	4,045,769	4,812,469
Other daily maturing obligations	628,170	556,035	680,188	401,086
Other liabilities	307,593	165,791	192,245	216,670

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	May 30, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 28, 1930.
Gold	(b) 232,650	963,274	1,194,708	1,196,267	1,199,790	1,199,765
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad		491,085	646,447	665,057	672,925	672,455
Silver and other coin		1,661	4,073	4,053	4,060	4,091
Securities	697,600	743,502	802,117	819,528	829,883	830,211
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,497,531	2,906,675	2,902,796	2,874,990	2,909,367
Current accounts	112,125	96,073	95,839	119,729	150,283	126,459

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	June 3, 1929.	May 12, 1930.	May 19, 1930.	May 26, 1930.	June 2, 1930.
Gold	163,092	436,901	431,919	431,916	431,912	431,936
Silver	8,436	21,403	25,515	26,458	26,824	26,026
Home Bills discted.		88,164	53,429	52,177	52,407	52,422
Foreign Bills	153,504	171,537	236,622	236,722	236,194	237,394
Loans and advances in current acct.		112,854	97,026	91,943	91,181	95,797
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	826,758	835,457	816,062	804,242	846,860
Deposits	5,016	18,148	33,019	42,224	54,240	25,003

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 20, 1929.	Apr. 20, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May. 10, 1930.	May 20, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,125,600	5,203,500	5,203,600	5,203,600	5,205,600
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,923,800	4,986,200	5,025,100	5,072,300	5,078,800
Other cash	243,800	225,100	224,300	226,300	229,200
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,797,800
Discounts	3,742,900	2,947,100	2,974,700	2,911,500	2,883,000
Advances	1,317,700	1,104,600	1,383,600	1,181,000	847,900
Credit with " Istituto di Liquidazioni "	1,047,000	755,400	755,400	755,400	755,400
Government securities	1,043,200	1,063,300	1,063,200	1,062,800	1,083,700
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,038,900	15,866,300	16,862,400	15,854,200	15,593,300
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,692,800	1,599,000	1,509,900	1,393,500	1,544,000
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·73%	57·36%	57·23%	58·56%	58·92%

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	171,175	496,119	578,789	578,795	578,815	578,831
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	...	260,748	371,389	369,649	373,379	376,002
Discounts	...	120,748	36,285	34,445	35,944	35,369
Advances	103,000	60,661	48,783	44,256	44,480	44,402
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,923	871,605	877,567	845,013	841,685	907,924
Deposits	33,750	110,271	189,849	226,225	223,888	169,270

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 1, 1929.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	234,169	243,316	243,266	243,200	243,114
Government securities—Swedish	5,684	21,849	21,789	21,725	21,665
" " Foreign	73,774	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	167	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	272,644	104,337	92,678	88,613	84,555
" " abroad	61,666	127,050	127,952	125,920	117,346
Balance abroad	47,236	175,442	168,859	170,290	178,752
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	71,227	32,857	37,517	37,955	57,559
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	525,749	516,538	508,722	497,127	556,959
Government deposits	199,483	165,070	169,210	165,246	172,740
Private deposits	4,841	32,009	21,852	33,115	4,602

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 22, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,810	146,597	146,595	146,593
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	43,359	39,612	37,772	36,398
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,393	33,988	34,649	36,230
Discounts and loans	76,911	275,140	233,181	229,231	226,748
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	301,757	303,922	303,607	299,277
Deposits at sight	7,188	110,924	87,146	83,170	84,468

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	June 1, 1929.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,560,512	2,469,902	2,470,071	2,470,389	2,470,575
Silver	728,600	719,515	710,967	712,619	717,642	718,312
Loans & Discounts	800,725	3,230,892	2,040,779	2,006,013	1,956,136	2,012,143
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,260,800	4,466,428	4,436,864	4,382,630	4,391,123
Deposits	477,500	894,138	810,327	844,500	842,206	841,708

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,634	168,634	168,575	168,557
Foreign exchange	192,845	231,101	230,520	231,223	235,103
Other foreign exchange†	342,099	364,905	364,290	364,803	368,981
Bills discounted	188,674	145,986	130,018	102,622	87,796
Gov. Debt	109,811	101,577	101,532	101,532	101,532
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	10,272	10,272	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	862,077	982,424	911,777	873,904	845,418
Deposits	144,264	36,200	89,897	101,798	123,941

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengo (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,623	162,627	162,631	162,631	162,632
Drafts and notes	26,631	10,201	13,916	10,566	12,227
Silver coin and bullion	10,080	10,266	9,977	10,094	10,317
Inland bills, warrants and securities	352,210	248,141	218,562	201,771	198,389
Advances to the Treasury	92,219	82,866	82,831	82,831	82,831
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	387,132	463,672	429,468	397,458	368,051
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	229,787	24,988	40,917	49,475	76,061

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000 s omitted).

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	May 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,629	1,262,153	1,262,197	1,262,234	1,296,095
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,646,993	1,871,893	1,885,064	1,888,882	1,987,199
Discounts and advances	437,243	515,320	390,276	354,789	318,860
State notes debt balance	4,012,771	3,686,744	3,678,608	3,673,858	3,671,197
Other assets	649,213	659,836	672,806	673,135	677,614
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,409,749	6,854,433	6,439,857	6,167,047	6,073,892
Check account balances	834,055	401,333	706,537	941,975	1,126,218
Other liabilities	236,451	231,792	234,169	235,488	242,467

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Gold	578,418	620,728	621,770	611,839	612,857
Gold exchange	5,663,411	3,420,283	3,864,962	3,799,130	3,727,863
Other foreign exchange	1,154	3,742	2,607	2,414	3,232
Bills discounted	34,574	93,656	92,731	92,002	94,926
Advances	76,440	139,601	141,330	144,254	141,902
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,438,338	4,991,217	4,946,667	4,902,686	4,886,407
Deposits and current accounts	1,829,990	1,524,715	1,453,263	1,494,031	1,420,501
Foreign exchange liabilities	2,390,030	706,077	1,254,335	1,191,065	1,171,298

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 23, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Gold	35,091	300,952	303,370	303,127	302,952
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	581,239	1,166,128	1,160,773	1,144,527
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	343,242	342,942	342,942
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,489,080	956,284	928,408	921,292
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,435,843	1,388,991	1,368,653	1,333,860
Deposits at notice	21,225	203,574	262,538	247,239	246,772

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	May 18, 1929.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,129,055	940,320	935,630	929,936	932,757
Discounts	41,740	702,896	672,209	671,058	659,647	655,407
Advances	70,540	77,572	76,294	75,966	76,323	76,019
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,132,115	1,185,859	1,166,821	1,067,867	1,032,373
Govt. deposits	87,340	537,314	408,921	417,240	428,378	427,709
Other deposits	11,440	444,652	284,295	291,788	368,000	385,139

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 3, 1929.	Apr. 11, 1930.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.
Gold at home	60,950	63,245	63,245	83,236	63,233
Gold abroad	261,178	337,121	336,006	197,386	331,817
Discounts and advances	99,258	111,803	98,411	109,256	125,361
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	373,482	353,876	350,239	345,571	354,021
Deposits	165,576	85,391	75,431	80,675	80,492
Drafts	4,287	8,956	...	...	...
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	May 29, 1930.	May 30, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	Jne. 2, 1930.	Jne 3, 1930.	Jne. 4, 1930.	Jne. 5, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 3/16	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16–3/32	2⅛	2 3/16	2¼
3 months' do.	2⅛–3/16	2⅛	2⅛	2 3/32	2⅛	2 3/32–1/16	2⅛
4 months' do.	2¼	2 3/16–¼	2 3/16–¼	2 3/16	2¼	2¼–5/16	2¼
6 months' do.	2 7/16–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2⅜–½	2½	2½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅛	2⅛	2 3/32–⅛	2 1/16–3/32	2 1/16–⅛	2⅛–3/16	2⅛
3 months'‡	2⅛	2 3/32–⅛	2 1/16–⅛	2 1/16–3/32	2 3/32–⅛	2 3/32	2⅛
Loans—Day to day	2	1½	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2
Short	2	2	2	2	1¾–2	1¾–2	1¾–2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills.			Trade Bills.		
		3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May 15	2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4
22	2–2¼	2⅛–3/16	2¼–5/16	2 7/16–½	3	3½	4
29	2	2⅛–3/16	2¼	2 7/16–½	3	3½	4
June 5	1¾–2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	June 8, 1929.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·84⅞–·84 15/16	4·85 13/16–·86	4·85¾–·85 13/16
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅝	4·88⅜–·88½	4·86–86½	4·85 13/16–·85 15/16
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124–124 1/16	123·92–·95	123·90–·92
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·33½–·33⅝	20·36–36½	20·36–36½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07⅞–·08⅛	12·07¾–·08	12·08⅛–·08⅜
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·91½–·92	34·81½–82	34·81½–·81¾
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67–·70	92·73–·77	92·74–·77
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·19–·19½	25·11½–11¾	25·09½–·10
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19¾–·20	18·15¾–·16¼	18·15–·15½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·13½–·13¾	18·10¾–·11¼	18·10–·10½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20½–·20¾	18·15¾–·16¼	18·16–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	34·75–·78	39·80–·82	†40·01–·03
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108⅛–⅜	108⅛–⅜
Vienna	schllgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·51–·53	34·44–·47	34·43–·46
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163⅝–163¾	163¾–⅞	163¾–⅞
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾–276¼	274⅞–275⅜	274⅞–275⅜
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–·84	27·79–·83	27·77–·81
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817–818	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	665–675	665–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375¼	374¾–375¼	375–375¼
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1010–1015	1025 nom.	1025
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·41¼–·43¼	†9·438–457	†9·43 1/16–·45 1/16
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43¼–⅜	43¼–⅜
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅞–193	192⅞–192⅛	192¾–193
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49⅛	48½–49	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–·23½	18·22–·29	18·22–·29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–·25	25·17–·27	25·17–·27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 15/32–17/32	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47⅛–47 5/32	42¾–13/16	42 9/16–11/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 55/64–⅞	5 53/64–55/64	5¾–13/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½–48	44¾–45½	45⅛–45⅝
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·58	39·93	39·93
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19⅝% prem	12·85	13·02½
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 53/64–1/5 55/64	1/5 25/32–13/16	1/5 25/32–13/16
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 53/64–1/5 55/64	1/5 25/32–13/16	1/5 25/32–13/16
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 53/64–1/5 55/64	1/5 25/32–13/16	1/5 25/32–13/16
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11⅞–15/16	1/4⅛–⅜ nom.	1/3–1/4
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/4 1/16–⅛	1/7½–1/8½nm	1/6–1/6¾
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 23/32–13/16	2/3 11/16–13/16	2/3 11/16–13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/9 23/32–1/9 25/32	2/0 25/64–27/64	2/0 25/64–27/64
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 1/16 d.	†2/0 1/16	†2/0 1/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·05–10·20	10·10–·35	10·15–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Quotation for previous day.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½
Belgrade	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Berlin	May 19, 1930	5	4½
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† 7†
Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	May 23, 1930	6	5½
Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	June 8, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	3	3	3	3	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	3¾	3¾	3½	3½	3½
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2½	2¼	2¼
Non-mem. eligible, 90 days	5⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2½	2¼	2¼
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅛	3	3	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞
Commercial accept., 90 days	5¾	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	June 8, 1929.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79⅝	4·83 27/32	4·83⅝	4·83½
Cable	Dollars for £1		4·84 31/32	4·86⅛	4·86	4·85⅞
Cheques	Dollars for £1		4·84 7/16	4·85⅞	4·85¾	4·85⅝
Paris cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·9075	3·92	3·92	3·91 15/16
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·95	13·95	13·94½
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·24½	19·35	19·35	19·35½
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·23	5·23⅞	5·23 11/16	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·82	23·85	23·85½	23·85
Vienna ,,	Cts. for Austrn. shig	14·07	14·05	14·10	14·10	14·10
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	13·79	12·15	12·21	12·125
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·13	40·20	40·19½	40·19½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·75	26·75	26·74½
Oslo ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·625	26·75	26·75	26·75
Stockholm ,,	Cents for 1 kroner		26·72	26·82	26·83	26·82½
Athens ,,	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅜	1·293⅛	1·29⅜	1·29⅜
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	23/32 dis.	5/64 dis.	1/64 dis.	1/64 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	43·65	49·40	49·38	49·40
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong $	...	47·35	35·60	34·30	30·80
Shanghai ,,	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	57·10	44 7/16	42¼	36·50
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·00	36·02	35·97	35·90
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	105·10	114·90	115·20	115·70
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·83	11·80	11·75	11·70
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·00

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·56
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	25·75
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·92
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa.		Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London.	
	Buying.	Selling.	Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅜% ,,	5/16% dis.	¼ to 9/16% ,,
30 days	1⅞% ,,	9/16% ,,	¾% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2½% ,,	¾% ,,	1¼% ,,	5/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	15/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	3/16% ,,
20 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2 5/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand.				Australia and New Zealand on London.			
	Buying.		Selling.		Buying.		Selling.	
	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106¼	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93½	95	105⅝	103½	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104¾	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91½	92¾	...	...	104 1/16	102½	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 11/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104¾	103½

INDIA COUNCIL REMITTANCES.

No remittances were made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India in Council during the week ending May 31, 1930.

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended June 5, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
Irish Free State	8,100	Poland	1,700
British South Africa	641,007	Germany	1,532,700
Other countries	508	Netherlands	2,103
		France	807,099
		Switzerland	18,760
		Austria	8,875
		Kenya	1,700
		British Indies	2,540
		Other countries	70
Total declared value of imports	649,615	Total declared value of exports	2,375,547

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
May 30	Sovs.	8,100	May 30	Sovs. set aside	350,000
	Bar gold	3,196		Bar gold	221
		57	,, 31	Sovs. set aside	100,000
,, 31	Bar gold	7	June 2	Bar gold	151,546
	Foreign gold coin	Nil	,, 3	Bar gold	684,630
June 2		Nil	,, 4	Bar gold	3,585
,, 3		70,000	,, 5	Bar gold	151
,, 4	Sovs.	Nil			
,, 5					
	Total	81,360		Total	1,290,133

Net withdrawals, £1,208,773

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on June 4, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £157,185,525 on the 28th ultimo (as compared with £157,498,068 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £11,225,441 since January 1st last.

In the open market yesterday £641,000 of bar gold from South Africa was available. There was a keen demand from Germany, and at the fixed price of 84s. 11½d. £524,000 was taken for that country. India took £50,000, the Continental trade £37,000, and the Home trade £30,000.

In addition to the gold purchased in the open market there have been withdrawals on German account from the Bank of England. Receipts amounted to £81,360, including £70,000 in sovereigns received from abroad, and withdrawals totalled £1,290,135, of which about £830,000 was in bar gold for Germany and £450,000 in sovereigns "set aside." The net efflux during the week under review is £1,208,775.

SILVER.

The weakness of the market developed rapidly during the past week. Advices from Shanghai indicate that the market there has become demoralised and the swift decline in the tael exchange resulted in heavy sales of silver on an unwilling market. The offerings from China have been augmented by selling from other quarters, particularly America, and save for some inquiry from the Indian bazaars at strictly limited prices, the market has received little or no support.

The week under review opened with a fall of 3/16d. for cash and 11/16d. for two months' delivery, and except for a comparatively slight rally on the following day, the decline has been heavy and continuous, prices being quoted 16 5/16d. and 16 3/16d. yesterday, a fall of ⅞d. for both deliveries. With further heavy selling to-day and the market showing no resistance, prices were fixed ½d. lower at 15 13/16d. and 15 11/16d., establishing yet another low record.

There are, at the moment, no signs of encouragement, but the presence of a large speculative element must necessarily afford to the market a great measure of uncertainty.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 26th ultimo to mid-day on the 2nd instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
France	10,005	China (including Hong Kong)	15,234
Switzerland	81,539	British India	175,160
Mexico	84,259	Other countries	7,683
Canada	25,483		
British West Africa	22,360		
Other countries	7,801		
	231,447		198,077

No fresh Indian Currency Returns have come to hand.

The stocks in Shanghai on the 31st ultimo consisted of about 100,700,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 14,500,000 Saigon dollars and 10,560 silver bars, as compared with about 99,200,000 ounces in sycee, 142,000,000 dollars, 15,700,000 Saigon dollars and 10,920 silver bars on the 24th ultimo.

Statistics for the month of May last are appended:—

	Bar Silver per oz. std. Cash delivery.	Bar Silver per oz. std. Two mos. delivery.	Bar Gold per oz. fine.
Highest price	19 3/16d.	19½d.	84s. 11½d.
Lowest price	17 7/16d.	17¼d.	84s. 11.
Average price	18·849d.	18·782d.	84s. 11·39d.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

1930.	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
May 30	84 11½	17 9/16	17½	June 5, 1924	35 1/16
,, 31	84 11½	17 7/16	17 5/16	,, 5, 1925	30⅜
June 2	84 11½	17 3/16	17 1/16	,, 4, 1926	31 1/16
,, 3	84 11½	16 5/16	16 3/16	,, 2, 1927	26¼
,, 4	84 11½	15 13/16	15 11/16	,, 7, 1928	27 9/16
,, 5	84 11½	16¾	16 9/16	,, 6, 1929	24

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., give notice that in order to prepare the interest warrants due June 24, 1930, on Eastbourne Corporation 3 per cent. redeemable stock 1920/40, the books will be closed from June 11, 1930, to June 24, 1930, inclusive.

RUBBER, &c.

CENTRAL PERAK RUBBER COMPANY.—The fourth annual report and accounts for year 1929 shows the crop was 1,192,334 lbs., which realised an average price of 8.87d. per lb. (last year 816,975 lbs. realised an average price of 9.77d. per lb.). The output for the current year is estimated at 1,223,500 lbs., subject to cessation of tapping during May, 1930 (last year 1,085,600 lbs.). The profit for the year was £13,774 (last year £10,557). Adding balance brought forward £6,621 (last year £11,844), less building and machinery reserve £2,000 (last year the same), there is an available balance of £18,395. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 2½ per cent., which will absorb £10,000 (last year the same), leaving a balance to be carried forward of £8,395 (last year, subject to estate staff commission, £6,901). Meeting: June 11, 1930, at 2.30 p.m., at King William Street House, E.C.4.

LINGGI PLANTATIONS LIMITED.—Profit for 1929 amounted to £36,085, against £50,578 for 1928. The ordinary dividend is reduced from 7½ per cent. to 5 per cent. for the year. The carry-forward is £22,121 (subject to commission to Eastern staff). Since the close of 1929 there has been created convertible and redeemable 7 per cent. debenture stock. £270,000 was issued on January 1, 1930, at par. The stock is convertible at holder's option on or before December 31, 1935, into ordinary shares of £1 for each £1 10s. of stock. Meeting June 10th at 12.30 p.m. at 2–4 Idol Lane, E.C.3.

MALACCA RUBBER PLANTATIONS.—The following table shows financial results for the past three years:—

Year to December 31st.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Profit	114,545	53,766	54,018
Brought in	25,370	36,810	24,246
Available	139,915	90,576	78,264
Deb. interest	10,378	8,895	8,802
Pref. div.	11,500	8,626	8,625
Ord. div. amount	54,161	40,620	...
Ord. div. rate %	10	7½	...
Deb. redemption	10,000	5,000	5,000
To reserve	10,000	...	...
Staff commission	7,066	...	...
Forward	36,810	*27,435	*55,837

* Subject to staff commission.

Meeting, 2–4 Idol Lane, June 11th, at 2.30 p.m.

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED.

(*Registered in Japan*, 1899.)

Capital Subscribed - - - Y15,000,000
Capital Paid Up - - - - Y13,125,000

Head Office - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.
London Office 40/41, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2

BRANCHES:
Amoy, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Foochow, Hankow, Hongkong, Keelung, Kobe, New York, Osaka, Semarang, Shanghai, Singapore, Soerabaya, Swatow, Tainan, Tokyo, Yokohama, &c., &c., and Correspondents in every principal town of the world.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY.—The following table shows the salient figures in comparison with the previous three years :—

Year.	Gross Profit.	Net Profit.	Pref. Stock.	Pref. Ord. Stock.	Def. Ord. Stock.	Undivided Profits Account.
	£	£	%	%	%	£
1926/27 ...	301,044	252,487	8·00	8A	15B	304,378A
1927/28 ...	311,908	259,404	7·50	8	15B	172,226
1928/29 ...	330,822	276,474	7·67	8	15B	186,251
1929/30 ...	396,261	332,560	7·89	8	15B	251,798

With regard to (A) in above table, £132,626 (part of the sum of £304,378 standing to the credit of undivided profits account), equal to 10 per cent. on the ordinary stock was capitalised and distributed to the ordinary stockholders in fully-paid £1 deferred ordinary shares. At the same time the ordinary stock was converted into an equal amount of 8 per cent. non-cumulative preferred ordinary stock. With regard to (B), payable as to 5 per cent. in cash and 10 per cent. in £1 deferred ordinary shares. The annual general meeting will be held on June 16, 1930.

LEVER BROTHERS, LIMITED.—Holders of the 8 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares of 5s. each in Lever Brothers, Ltd., have been asked to exchange their holdings for 20 per cent. cumulative preferred ordinary shares in the proportion of two 20 per cent. for every five 8 per cent. held, with payment for fractions in cash. There is at present in issue £952,462 of the shares affected, while the present issued 20 per cent. shares amount to £3,787,312.

FINANCIAL TIMES, LIMITED.—The second annual report reveals a profit of £131,337 after payment of directors' fees, depreciation and making provision for income tax. For 1928 the profit was £191,179. The sum of £10,000 is transferred to capital reserve account and £10,000 to general reserve. For 1928 £81,964 was put to general reserve. The ordinary shareholders receive 10 per cent. for 1929, against 7½ per cent. for 1928. The carry-forward is £38,465, against £22,816 brought in. The allocation of £10,000 to reserve makes general reserve £91,964. It is recommended that £31,964 be written off preliminary expenses, reducing that item to £50,000 and leaving general reserve at £60,000. Cash is at £87,033, against £80,159.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

ALLIED NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

December 3, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Jan. 18, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Jan. 18, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
8% cum.pf.shs. £1	4,750,000	...	Properties	8,332,414	+99,812
Ord. shares, £1 ...	2,000,000	...	Debtors.....	404,326	−63,166
5½% deb. stock....	879,945	− 30,500	Stocks	83,191	−26,798
Int. accrued	3,076	− 217	Investments.....	80,827	+37,978
Creditors.....	605,645	− 47,446	Cash	237,631	−34,413
Savings funds	79,862	+ 8,370			
General reserve ...	470,000	+110,000			
Profit and loss ...	349,861	− 26,794			
Total	9,138,389	+ 13,413	Total	9,138,389	+13,413

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
5% cum.pf.shs.,£1	500,000	...	Properties, plant, &c....	1,420,423	+361,750
7% cum.ord.shs.,£1	600,000	...	Stocks	689,441	+ 63,753
Def. shares, £1 ...	2,250,000	...	Investments	2,867,005	+212,904
Reserve account...	400,000	...	Loan to Empire Paper Mills at 5% per annum..	...	−420,000
Pension funds.....	192,000	+ 1	Debtors.....	731,361	+ 19,106
Sundry shr'hldrs. for dividends ...	27,561	− 704	Cash	703,595	+288,540
Creditors & resvs. against contingencies	1,443,928	+448,433			
Profit and loss	998,336	+ 78,323			
Total	6,411,825	+526,053	Total	6,411,825	+526,053

BOOTS PURE DRUG COMPANY, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£		£	£
Ord. and pref. capital 2,900,000		...	Properties.....	2,156,391	+264,006
Creditors	519,495	− 78,343	Plant	647,984	+ 40,802
Subsidiary cos.	69,292	+ 13,282	Stock.....	876,660	+ 88,538
Staff pension fund	224,942	+ 34,522	Debtors.....	86,970	− 19,070
Depreciation fund..	447,886	+ 29,248	Amounts owing by subsidiaries..	627,983	−196,020
Works development fund	100,000	...	5% War Stock ...	248,125	...
Freehold property reserve	...	− 10,000	Cash	79,351	+ 8,794
Reserve fund	910,000	+210,000	Investments in subsidiaries ...	942,979	+ 4,777
Profit and loss.....	494,828	− 6,882			
Total.....	5,666,443	+191,827	Total	5,666,443	+191,827

J. AND P. COATS, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.	ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£		£	£
Pref. shares	2,500,000	...	Capital expenditure, goodwill, &c., less depreciation	2,067,008	−14,683,777
Pref. "B" shrs...	3,000,000	...	Book debts, &c.	1,613,126	− 523,714
Ord. shares.....	14,750,000	...	Stocks	3,131,162	− 117,939
Divs. and interest outstanding....	499,871	− 7,773	Cash	4,113,773	− 567,434
Bills payable	40,905	+ 40,905	Bills receivable	77,179	− 104,659
Creditors	4,200,407	+2,348,578	Investments, &c.	15,022,141	+12,846,340
Underwriting accounts	1,000,000	...	Advances, dividends due, &c.	8,474,538	+ 5,124,057
Div. reserve	2,550,000	...			
Women Thread Workers' Benefit Fund.....	591,590	+ 591,590			
War contingencies fund.....	3,000,000	...			
Pension fund ...	350,000	− 400,000			
Profit and loss....	2,016,154	− 600,426			
Total	34,498,927	+1,972,874	Total	34,498,927	+ 1,972,874

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Bombay, Baroda, &c.	3%†	...	Less tax	6	6
BANKS.					
Dominion Bank	3%	...	...	...	...
Ottoman Bank	...	...	...	2½	2½
INSURANCE.					
Sun Life Assurance	16s. p.s.	July 1	Tax free	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Assam Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	7½	15
Assam Frontier Tea	4½%†	...	Less tax	6	7½
Batang Consolidated Rubber ...	2%†	...	Less tax	6	Nil
Borbheel Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	25	...
Bordubi Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	45	...
Bradwall Rubber	6%†	...	Less tax	10	7½
Bukit Rajah Rubber.....	4%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Devon Estates (Malacca)	2½%	June 30	Less tax	...	...
East Java Rubber	...	June 19	Less tax	3½	5
Jokai (Assam) Tea	12½%†	...	Less tax	17½	30
Jugra Estate	10%†	...	Less tax	15	25
Koomsong Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	35	...
Lankapara Tea	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Ragawella Produce	2½%*	June 24	Less tax	...	...
Singlo Tea	15%†	July 1	Less tax	17½	30
MINING.					
Santa Gertrudis	7½*	July 10	Less tax	...	...
Siamese Tin.....	...	...	Less tax	30	20
OTHER COMPANIES.					
African & European Investment	...	July 31	...	6	6
Allied Newspapers.....	...	...	Less tax	10	14
Amalgamated Dental.....	...	...	Tax free	3d. p.s.	3d. p.s.
Associated Newspapers	...	...	...	40	40
Associated Reinsurers	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Barnagore Jute Factory	20%†	...	Less tax	35	75
Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries ...	10	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Bluemel Brothers	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Boots Pure Drug	...	...	...	29	29
British Columbia Power	50 cts. ps	July 15	...	...	...
British Maritime Trust	6	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Brownlee and Co.	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Callender's Cable	10%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Canadian General Electric	1½%	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Central Picture Houses (Sheffield)	...	...	Less tax	10	8
Cory (William) and Son.....	12½%†	...	Less tax	17½	17½
Dalliton and Co.	6%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Dundee Ice	...	...	Less tax	8	8
Ewart and Son	16%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Field (J. C. and J.).....	...	...	Less tax	10	10
General Scottish Trust	...	...	Less tax	5	5
General Securities Investment...	4%†	...	Less tax	7½	...
Hallamshire Coal Supplies	½d. p.s.*	...	Less tax	...	...
Hyde's Bird Seed	15	June 30	Less tax	...	...
Ilford, Ltd.	5%*	June 27	Less tax	...	...
Manchester Collieries Pref.	7%	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Mirrlees, Bickerton and Day.....	...	...	Less tax	7	7
Neuchatel Asphalte	...	...	Less tax	5	6½
Newcastle Breweries	2%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Niddrie and Benhar Coal.....	...	...	Tax free	5	Nil
Northampton Brewery	5%*	July 1	Tax free	...	...
Penarth Electric Lighting	...	...	Less tax	7½	...
Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills	7½%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Allied Investors	2%	...	Less tax	...	...
Smith (Frederick)	15%†	...	Less tax	20	17½
Spicers	...	...	Less tax	5½	5½
Spiers and Pond	9%†	...	Less tax	15	15
Thomas Hart	15%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Tredegar Iron and Coal	...	...	Tax free	5	2½
United Discount.....	6	June 30	Less tax	...	...
United Tobacco (South) Ord. ...	6d. p.s.*	June 30	Tax free	...	...
Do., Def.	6d. p.s.*	June 30	Tax free	...	...
Usher's Wiltshire Brewery	8	May 30	Less tax	...	...

SENA SUGAR ESTATES.—In view of the uncertainty of the outlook in the sugar market, the directors have come to the conclusion that no interim dividend on the 7½ per cent. cumulative participating preference shares for 1930 should be declared until the trading results for 1930 have been ascertained with some degree of certainty, and accordingly they do not propose to pay an interim dividend on July 1 next.

ALLIED IRONFOUNDERS, LTD.—The directors of Allied Ironfounders, Ltd., officially announce that the report and accounts will be forwarded to shareholders in about three weeks' time, and that they will recommend the payment of the dividend on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares for the year ending March 31, 1930, but no distribution will be made on the ordinary shares.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period. Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.					
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.			Net Profit.	Dividend.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Banks.											
British Italian Banking	Dec. 31	...	25,022	25,022	...	...	...	...	25,022	...	...
Breweries.											
Marston, Thompson and Evershed	Mar. 31	102,924	131,747	236,671	15,000	60,000	15*	50,000	109,671	...	...
Canals and Docks.											
Grand Junction Company ..	Mar. 31†	2,737	26,424	29,161	7,027	19,948	5	...	2,186	48,913	4
Financial Land, &c.											
Australian Sheep Farms ...	Mar. 31	*Dr.91,081*	*Dr.62,718*	*Dr153,799*	...	...	...	...	*Dr153799*	*Dr15,341*	...
Mortgage Co. of Egypt	Mar. 31	50,000	135,744	185,744	50,000	50,000	20	11,460	74,284	...	...
Trust and Loan Company of Canada.....	Mar. 31	21,191	91,033	112,224	...	81,000	6*	10,016	21,208	86,299	6*
Westminster City Properties	Mar. 31	2,488	*Dr.15,973*	*Dr. 13,485*	...	...	...	...	*Dr13,485*	...	...
Gas.											
Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Light and Coke	Mar. 31	13,400	42,063	55,463	...	33,763	8	4,000	17,700	37,840	8
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Niddrie and Benhair Coal...	Mar. 31	*Dr.10,761*	26,506	15,745	...	10,000	5	...	5,745	83	...
Wilsons and Clyde Coal	Feb. 28	8,710	5,003	13,713	3,500	...	...	...	10,213	3,981	...
Oil.											
Burmah Oil Company	Dec. 31	151,084	3,437,472	3,588,556	260,937	1,757,844	30	1,170,000	399,775	1,479,626	20
Scottish Oils	Mar. 31	46,436	183,405	229,841	163,352	...	...	...	66,489	182,151	...
Rubber, &c.											
Allied Sumatra Plantations.	Dec. 31	101,839	39,869	141,708	...	35,000	2½	...	106,708	70,497	5
Djember Rubber.....	Dec. 31	2,429	23,098	25,527	...	16,450	10	3,333	5,744	15,578	10
Kaduna Syndicate	Oct. 31	2,666	17,744	20,410	...	8,000	20	8,769	3,641	12,982	20
Kaduna Prospectors	Oct. 31	2,988	7,768	10,756	...	3,000	10	5,114	2,642	...	...
Linggi Plantations	Dec. 31	14,736	36,085	50,821	700	28,000	5	...	22,121	50,578	7½
Telogoredio United Plantations	Dec. 31	14,915	34,137	49,052	...	...	...	15,000	34,052	27,215	6
Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber	Mar. 31	7,171	5,455	12,626	...	5,520	2	...	7,106	12,531	4
Tea.											
Borbheel Tea	Dec. 31	5,431	5,881	11,312	...	5,550	25	...	5,762	12,254	55
Dangua Jhar Tea.....	Dec. 31	2,484	3,687	6,171	800	2,000	5	1,171	2,200	6,717	7½
Jhanzie Tea	Dec. 31	24,936	56,682	81,618	...	62,700	15	...	18,918	92,986	40
Mazdehee Tea	Dec. 31	1,356	*Dr. 2,418*	*Dr. 1,062*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.1,062*	1,309	5
Pandan Tea	Dec. 31	4,603	29,989	34,592	...	15,000	5	13,500	6,092	34,644	10
Textiles.											
Armitage (Sir Elkanah) and Sons	Mar. 29	*Dr. 454*	*Dr.17,211*	*Dr.17,765*	...	...	...	*Dr.20,000*	2,335	*Dr.7,446*	—
Coats (J. & P.)	Dec. 31	825,954	3,179,575	4,005,529	330,000	2,582,250	17½	...	1,094,279	3,929,058	20
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Calcutta Tramways Co.	Dec. 31	11,020	70,687	81,709	12,500	42,292	1/2½	13,633	13,284	147,957	6½*
Mansfield and District Tramways	Dec. 31	3,367	931	4,298	...	...	...	3,108	1,190	...	...
Trust.											
General Scottish Trust	Apr. 30	482	5,169	5,651	2,362	1,550	5	1,000	739	4,994	5
Independent Investment ...	Mar. 31	19,488	20,245	39,733	10,080	9,849	7½	...	19,804	22,992	7½
Tea Share Trust	Mar. 31	6,844	7,923	14,767	...	5,906	5	...	8,861	12,869	12½
Other Companies.											
Allied Newspapers	Dec. 29	138,655	611,206	749,861	304,000	158,000	10	110,000	177,861	654,145	14
Associated Newspapers	Mar. 31	695,013	1,245,323	1,940,336	25,000	942,000	7 p.o. 40d.o.	200,000	773,336	1,205,666	7po 40do
Becker and Co. (1924).....	Mar. 31	180	4,952	5,132	3,375	1,500	7½	...	257	...	...
Boots Pure Drug Co.	Mar. 31	226,709	724,869	951,578	8,200	4,523,550	7 p.o. 29 o.s.	190,000	229,828	750,153	29
Burton (Joseph) & Sons	Apr. 12	23,206	19,545	42,751	11,954	2,500	5	4,000	24,297	20,791	7
Cope Bros. & Company.....	Mar. 31	54,668	42,139	98,407	...	36,703	12½	5,000	55,104	34,809	12½
Electric Construction	Mar. 31	5,888	14,874	20,762	4,385	15,000	5	...	1,368	8,739	5½
Financial Times	Dec. 31	22,815	131,337	154,152	56,000	39,687	10	20,000	38,465	183,147	7½
Holbrooks	Mar. 31	20,724	68,802	89,526	2,946	60,000	20*	6,000	20,580	...	...
McColl (R. S.)	Apr. 25	6,709	25,555	32,554	9,450	8,813	12½	7,500	6,501	26,253	7½
Metropolitan Assn., &c.	Mar. 31	784	8,251	9,035	...	7,568	5	500	967	9,307	5
Owen (Thomas) & Company	Mar. 31	1,204	*Dr. 5,467*	*Dr.4,263*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.4,263*	9,333	...
Swan (John) and Sons	Apr. 30	12,627	13,721	26,348	...	5,500	10*	7,000	13,848	14,029	10*

* Free of Income Tax. † Fifteen months.

OIL OUTPUTS.

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.—The results for the month of May are as follows :—Production of oil, 33,400 tons; deliveries, 32,740 tons.

STEAUA ROMANA (BRITISH), LTD.—The production of the Steaua Romana Company, Bucharest, for the month of May was 82,410 tons.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.—Oil produced during May, 31,550 tons; oil purchased during May from other companies, 44,750 tons.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended May 28, 1930 : Venezuela, 36,775 barrels; Trinidad, 13,549 barrels; total, 50,324 barrels.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY, LTD.—The production for the week ended May 24, 1930, was 236,300 barrels.

SERVICE PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—Production from the company's oil wells at Gura-Ocnitzei, Ceptura and Moreni for week ended June 1st was 5,149 tons (36,043 barrels).

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

A spell of fine weather over the United Kingdom during the past week has greatly enhanced agricultural prospects, all cereal crops responding to warmth and sunshine, so that arrears of growth are speedily overtaken. Winter wheat now presents a healthy appearance, as colour is fast becoming restored, while spring sowings are also in good condition. Trade in native wheat continues on a small scale, but sellers show more reserve and prices maintained a firm level. Very little business was reported on the import market, Canadian and Indian descriptions being chiefly favoured. The general tone, however, keeps very steady, as holders refrain from pressing, while influenced by stimulating Argentine and North American cables. Shipments were of fair extent from the Northern Hemisphere, though the total quantity is still quite moderate, with passage supplies to Europe gradually increasing. Weather and crop news are the governing factors in the international situation, and indifferent reports from the United States, also some Continental countries, imparted a firming influence, but favourable climatic conditions during the present month will considerably improve harvest prospects. Primary receipts in Canada and the United States are increasing and, despite the continued policy of withholding supplies, selling may become more assertive later in the year when the new harvests are pressing. Larger Indian offerings and a good demand for shipping space confirm expectations of liberal exports, and latest estimates show an increase of nearly 7,000,000 quarters on the previous yield. Plate shipments are running light, and in view of the small chartering movement no appreciable increase from this contributor is likely for some while ahead, consequently the wants of deficiency countries must be made good in North America. Flour ruled firmer in sympathy with wheat, but bakers show no disposition to enter into forward commitments at this juncture, while higher offers on c.i.f. terms also fail to interest importers. Feeding stuffs proved quiet of sale, but values steady for maize on unfavourable Argentine climatic conditions interrupting transport of new crop supplies. Barley and oats are difficult to sell and rates a shade easier.

WHEAT.—Quiet. No. 1, Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 45s. 9d.; No. 2, ditto, 45s. 3d.; No. 3. 44s. 6d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 43s. 3d.; No. 5, ditto, 40s. 3d.; No. 6, 34s. 3d.; No. 2, hard winter, 42s.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 38s. 9d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 41s. 3d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 40s. 3d.; Australian, 43s. 3d.; choice white Karachi, 41s. 6d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 4d.-8s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Firm. London straight run, 37s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries, and 36s. 6d. London area. Of imported: Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 30s. 6d.-31s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms: Manitoba top patents, May-June, 33s.; export, ditto, 30s. 6d.; Australian, 28s.-28s. 6d.; French, prompt, 24s.-25s. per 280 lbs. Argentine low grade, May, £5 15s. per ton.

MAIZE.—Firmer forward in sympathy with advanced c.i.f. offers. Plate, landed, 28s.; new, ex ship to arrive, 26s. 6d.; April-May, 26s. 6d.; May-June, 25s. 9d.; June-July and July-August, 25s. 3d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 10s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £5 15s. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Quiet. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s. as to sample; Chilian, brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship to arrive, f.a.q., 16s. 9d.; landed on sample, 18s.-19s.; Persian, landed, 16s. 9d. per 400 lbs.; English malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Slow for Plate descriptions. Plate, landed, 14s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 13s. 6d.; Chilian, white, landed, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 15s. 6d.; German, landed, 18s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 17s. 6d.; mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 9d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to May 31	Cwts. 134,308	Cwts. 95,098	Cwts. 262,838	Cwts. 131,275
39 weeks to May 31	8,721,225	9,198,813	9,953,943	10,909,733
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 9	s. d 11 2	s. d. 12 6

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Cwts.	Cwts	Cwts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
May 24	138,801	21,393	19,652	8 7	7 4	6 7
May 31	134,308	36,554	17,479	8 7	7 3	6 5
May 29, 1926	189,992	31,574	26,266	13 7	9 3	10 0
May 28, 1927	162,986	18,326	50,231	12 5	11 5	9 11
June 2, 1928	262,838	21,247	24,637	11 2	10 10	12 11
June 1, 1929	95,098	10,078	14,691	9 9	9 9	9 5 8

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	June 5, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	115	148⅜	107⅛	111	111⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	107	130⅞	103⅛	107⅛	105⅛

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The export market and prices of South Yorkshire coal have weakened further, quotations having declined by 6d. to 1s. per ton. Few contracts are being placed. Small fuel is accumulating at the pits, owing to the limited consumption at the textile factories and other industrial concerns. Prices tend downward. Demand for house coal is below the average of June. Coke has slumped further. Supplies are superfluous and holders of stocks have reduced their prices one or two shillings per ton. For inland trade blast-furnace coke can be bought at 12s. at ovens. For export, the price is even lower.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Washed nuts continue to be the only firm spot in the coal market, and this is due rather to the collieries' enforced short-time working and consequent restricted supplies than to improved business. Enquiries generally are still running on quiet lines, and with land-sale business slack, as is usual at this time of the year, extra supplies of coal are being thrown on to shipping market. Current prices for shipping business are approximately as follows:—LANARKSHIRE: Ell best, 13s. 3d.; splint best, 15s. 6d.; splint second, 14s. 3d.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 16s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d.; dross, 9s. 6d. FIFE: Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.- 17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-14s.; doubles, 11s. 9d.-12s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 10s. 9d. LOTHIANS: Prime steam, 12s.; secondary steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE: Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 10s. 9d.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—Notwithstanding the approach of the holidays, there has been no appreciable improvement this week in the shipping position of the South Wales ports, and on Tuesday 37 tips were officially reported idle. There is an almost

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entire absence of new business, and collieries have been working irregularly in all parts of the coalfield. So heavy are the stocks that one or two companies are contemplating the stoppage of some of their pits for the whole of next week. Prices are nominally unchanged, and for practically every description they are ruling at the minimum schedule figures. The following are the current approximate quotations:—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; black veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 9d.; coking smalls, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; anthracite best, large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 22s. to 27s.; machine made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 12s. 3d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 9d. to 26s.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—Conditions in the iron and steel markets show few signs of improvement. The difficulties between the merchants and the Continental Steel Cartel are reported to be nearing a settlement, but the uncertainty regarding the position has had the effect of checking business. These difficulties have to some extent operated in favour of the British steelworks, which of late have taken a certain amount of orders which in the ordinary way would have gone to the Continent. Nevertheless, the total volume of business has been very unsatisfactory. The position has been made worse by the gradual falling-off of orders from the shipyards, owing to the completion of work which has not been made up by new orders. Conditions in the pig iron market remain moderately steady, but the demand is restricted principally to small parcels, although one large order for delivery over a long period is reported to have been placed. The position in the semi-finished steel market is irregular, but in general the British works are competing keenly for any business about, and securing a good share of the orders going. Export business continues on a disappointing scale; but there is perhaps rather more life in some of the overseas markets than has been apparent for some time.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron does not improve and business is on the same restricted lines. It is expected that consumers will have to come on the market to make further purchases before long, as many contracts will be running out; but their attitude at present is to delay this as long as possible. The weekly market on Tuesday was again very quiet and the amount of business transacted on a small scale. Makers adhered to recent prices, viz.: No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. In the hematite trade business is slightly better and the sale just made by Pease and Partners, Ltd., to one of the large Sheffield combines of 175,000 tons special analysis hematite for delivery over five years is having a good effect and may induce further orders of a similar nature. The contract is made on a sliding scale arrangement in regard to price, but details are not available. For early deliveries of mixed numbers some makers are obtaining 74s. for small lots, but for quantities of a few hundred tons would accept 73s. 6d. and even 73s. for still larger lots, as they are anxious to get stocks on hand reduced. The total shipments of pig iron and manufactured materials for May are just slightly ahead of those of April, the details being as follows:—

	April.	May.
Pig iron	14,345	17,878
Manufactured iron	1,589	1,678
Manufactured steel	44,379	43,277
	60,313	62,833

In the steel trade, work is becoming irregular in some departments, but the recent orders for rails for the Union of South Africa have come in very opportunely. Local works are in the running for one or two large bridge contracts for abroad and there are other important jobs pending. Prices for steel for home consumption under the rebate scheme are unchanged, viz.: Plates, ⅜-in. up, £8 15s.; joists, £8 10s.; sections, £8 7s. 6d. Other lines are also unaltered at £10 15s. for iron crown bars; £8 10s. for heavy steel rails; £9 12s. 6d. for 21/24 gauge black sheets; and £11 15s. for 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, all for home use. The ore market is stagnant as regards new business and dealers are experiencing great difficulty in getting consumers to take out their period contract quantities. Best Bilbao rubio is freely offering for prompt delivery at 20s. per ton c.i.f., but it is impossible to say what price would have to be accepted if a forced sale became necessary. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early loading remains about 5s. 6d. Coke is very difficult to dispose of. With consumption reduced there is a considerable surplus on the market and prices are weak. Good furnace qualities are offering may 17s. delivered works and less would be accepted. The number at furnaces in blast in the district is reduced to 33 by the blowing out of a basic furnace at Dorman, Long and Company's Newport works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Holiday preparations have disorganised the iron and steel markets and buying of materials, as regards bulk quantities, is practically at a standstill. The large steel works are suspending operations for seven and ten days. The situation at the blast furnaces tends to grow worse, and if consumption does not improve soon, several will have to be damped down. Steel makers are struggling against a crop of adverse influences—the slump in cotton and wool, the depression of nearly all the foreign markets, and the quietude in shipbuilding, shipping and coal. All these industries are customers of steel in some form or another, and their buying is far short of normal. All authorities for the trade state May was the worst month experienced for a long period. There is no sign of the resumption of the many suspended deliveries of raw materials. A general revival is not anticipated until after the stocktaking at the end of the month. In the alloy steel section and engineers' tools a moderate amount of business is passing, and the motor industry is consuming a considerable weight of steel castings and forgings, tool steel and tools. The cutlery and electro-plate branches report that business is extremely poor in London and the provinces.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Business in the West of Scotland iron and steel markets remains unsatisfactory. At the steel works a short week is becoming the normal week, and notwithstanding the curtailment of output, there is no shortage of supplies. Users of manufactured sections for structural work, &c., are certainly giving a greater preference than hitherto to the home product, and there is a fair amount of business passing for their requirements. The market for shipbuilding material is poor. In the sheet trade the position is very much as indicated a week ago, plants being fairly well, though not fully employed. Prices are unchanged at the low levels which have been current for some little time.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The most serious development in the South Wales iron and steel industry this week has been the decision of Richard Thomas and Company, Ltd., to close their rolling mills department at the Cwmfelin tinplate works on June 28th next, and the finishing departments as soon as the works' stocks of bars have been exhausted. The steel furnaces at these works ceased operations last year, and the total number of workmen affected is over 1,000. Slightly easier conditions prevailed on the tinplate market during the week, and prices ruled between 18s. and 8s. 3d. per basis box compared with 18s. to 18s. 6d. the previous week. Tinplate bars were stationary at last week's prices, but tin and spelter were quoted a shade lower. Shipments last week were substantial, and stocks have been reduced to 189,196 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Market depressed and values gave way sharply following the publication of the monthly statistics for May, which show a further increase in the total visible supply. This induced a good deal of selling pressure, and liberal offerings were moderately absorbed. Market closed firmer on lighter offers and higher Eastern advices. Stock and landing in the United Kingdom on May 31 amounted to 19,791 tons, against 18,275 tons in April. Total visible supplies 40,055, against 36,251 tons. Shipments from the East during May were 10,054 tons, embracing 4,900 tons to the United States; 2,238, United Kingdom; 1,988, Continent; and 838 tons other countries. Standard cash sold £139 10s. to £134, £137 12s. 6d.; three months, £142 to £135 15s. to £137 to £139 12s. 6d. In the East, sales were recorded at £143 12s. 6d. to £144 and £139 5s. per ton c.i.f.

COPPER in slow support, and with sellers more in evidence a weaker market resulted, with slight irregularity in attendance. Standard cash changed hands at £53 10s. to £53 and £52 17s. 6d.; three months, £53 15s. to £53 17s. 6d. and £53 2s. 6d. per ton.

LEAD proved a generally dull market, though later assumed a steadier tone on improved buying orders. Good soft foreign pig, June, sold, £17 16s. 3d. to £17 18s. 9d.; July, £18 to £18 1s. 3d.; August, £18 2s. 6d.; September, £18 to £18 3s. 9d. and £18 1s. 3d. to £18 2s. 6d. There was a fair amount of carrying from June to September at 5s. contango.

SPELTER was in fair support, but with sellers to the fore, values took a downward course, but later developed firmer features.

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DEPOSITS, &c. (31st Dec., 1929)	£337,439,214

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London: 5, Walbrook, E.C.4, and 4, St. James's Street, S.W.1

June sold £16 15s. to £16 7s. 6d.; July, £16 16s. 3d. to £16 13s. 9d.; August, £17 3s. 9d. to £16 18s. 9d. and £17 5s.; September, £17 6s. 3d. to £17 2s. 6d. and £17 10s. per ton.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade £95, export £100 ton.

ANTIMONY easier in sympathy with a decline in silver. English regulus, £40 to £44; Chinese ditto, spot, £28; June-July, £23 15s.; crude, June-July, £15 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—June-July, £26 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—June-July, 50 per cent., 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., 4s. per unit.

WOLFRAM quiet and easier. Chinese, June-July, 21s. 3d.; Burmese, ditto, 20s. per unit c.i.f.

QUICKSILVER quiet. Spot, £22 2s. 6d. per bottle.

ZINC OXIDE dull at £27 to £33 per ton, as to quality, delivered U.K.

TIN PLATES quiet. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 1½d. to 18s. 4½d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, June 4th.

Values have fallen during the week some 25 points on favourable weather reports and lack of business. The weather during May was favourable on the whole, rains in the West doing good, and in the East were very beneficial. Spot sales for the week May 29th to June 4th (inclusive) are: 13,000 bales, of which 3,720 bales are American, 3,900 Brazilian, 480 Argentine, 1,500 Peru, 950 Egyptian, 2,130 African, 170 East Indian and 130 sundries. Imports for the same period are: 34,184 bales, of which 12,408 are American, 1,774 Argentine, 2,417 Peruvian, 11,542 Egyptian, 3,631 African, 2,168 East Indian, and 244 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·43; Egyptian sakel, 13·50; uppers, 9·93; Brazil fair, 7·65; Peru G.F. smooth, 8·68; West African Middling, 8·28; and East African G.F., 8·93.

MANCHESTER, June 4th.

Cloth manufacturers have reported a slack demand, and it is only in isolated instances that sales have been arranged. There has been an almost complete absence of inquiry for India, but news from Calcutta has been rather more reassuring. Some merchant houses have received instructions to restart shipments. News from China remains discouraging, and it is impossible to expect trade developments with silver at its present record low price. Buyers for the remaining minor outlets both East and West have adopted a policy of looking on, owing to the possibility of lower prices. Taking the market as a whole, there are too many adverse factors present for buyers to operate on a freer scale. A larger number of spinning firms in the American section shut down last week-end for an indefinite period, and extended holiday stoppages are likely next week. The turnover remains small and prices poor. Only retail sales have taken place in Egyptian numbers. The aggregate amount of business done in yarn and cloth is not equal to the limited production, and the opinion is still held that the position might easily get worse before an improvement sets in.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	May 14.	May 21.	May 28.	June, 4.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·62	8·57	8·54	8·43	11·48	10·26
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	14·05	13·85	13·85	13·30	21·70	17·25
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12¼	12¼	12¼	12¼	17	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	22	21½	21½	31½	25½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 60's	21 9	21 9	21 9	21 9	26 9	25 3
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 6	24 6	24 3	24 3	29 3	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 4½	13 4½	13 3	13 3	15 3	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	14 3	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent, writes:—In all sections of the industry the employees are steadily drifting back to the mills. Even in the wool combing establishments many operatives have resumed, and there is a growing belief that the strike will completely collapse after the holidays. Actual business in all departments is uneven, and inquiry for tops has fallen off somewhat this week. Merino tops are possibly a shade cheaper, though it is difficult to obtain any concession on prices quoted for small lots of good standard types for immediate delivery. Crossbreds appear to be steady, but neither for merinos nor for crossbreds is there any demand on forward account. Spinners, of course, are confronted with difficulties owing to the inability of manufacturers to take delivery of yarns, and in most cases standard counts are being put into stock in preparation for the re-opening of the weaving mills. Repeat orders for piece goods have been disappointing, mainly because manufacturers have been unable to guarantee delivery in time for the seasonal trade, but stocks of cloth have been considerably reduced during the last few weeks. Wholesale fabric buyers appear to have more confidence in values, and it is thought that with continued firmness in the raw wool markets, business in piece goods will show an expanding tendency once the wages dispute is out of the way. Reports from the Continent, particularly from Germany and France, indicate steady recovery and increasing machinery consumption, this being reflected in a marked reduction in the stocks of tops.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

There have been excellent rainfalls in practically every State in Australia. Mid-winter is now approaching, and the rains will do an immense amount of good for both pastoralists and agriculturalists. They will help to put wool into good condition by improving the pastures and washing out much of the dust. The forthcoming clip may be expected to be a very good one in every respect. It should be particularly well grown, and in light condition. There is reason to expect stability in prices, particularly with the improvement which has come about in Continental manufacturing conditions. The balance of the current clip is being marketed quickly, and apparently there is sufficient buying power to lift it. Another 43,000 bales will find their way into the hands of the trade this week, and it is not expected that there will be any big weight to carry forward into next year. General satisfaction has been expressed with the London sales which finished last week. The Continent did well to absorb 69,000 bales, mostly merinos, the home trade taking 41,000 bales, and America 2,000 bales, whilst the carry over is 48,500 bales. Altogether the series was the best held this year, and prices may be expected to remain firm.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Although prices for cattle hides were steady at the auctions held at Manchester on Tuesday there is a feeling that values for tanners' raw material from domestic cattle must yet come a trifle lower before business can be considered on a satisfactory basis. Calfskins are inclined to be easier, while sheepskins generally sell at last prices. Business in connection with foreign hides has not been quite so easy to transact as compared with the past fortnight on account of certain origins forcing the advances recently registered at what many consider a too rapid rate. In the South American market fair sales of frigorifics have been made on the basis of 7 5/16d. for Argentine ox, with light ox selling at 7d. and Montevideo ox at 7⅞d. Business in Saladero hides has been less, and apart from sales of Bovril ox at 6⅞d., and light ox at 5 5/16d., there is little of interest to report. Dry River Plates in certain kinds have changed hands, but business has been restricted on account of the prices asked by shippers. The same remark applies to African hides, where the advancing tendency of values is also marked. Capes are now being quoted at 8⅜d. and 7⅜d. for first and second drys, with dry salted on offer at 8d. and 7d., for 20/30 lbs., and 7⅜d. and 6⅜d. for 30/40 lbs. The near approach of the holiday has to some extent interfered with the sale of sole leather, but in spite of this the turnover has been maintained fairly well and all things considered the position is satisfactory. Light bends of the better description English and wetsalted are being taken up well, while there is a steady call all the time for 10/20 lb. weights. For averages above the latter the call is not good, and little improvement is looked for until shoe manufacturers turn their attention to the heavy grades of footwear. Light dry hide bends for manufacturing purposes are also accounting for a satisfactory inquiry, but only in the better descriptions, common and heavy weights being a slow sale. Home-produced offal is not in such good request. Fair stocks of Continental bellies and shoulders are on the market at prices at which it is impossible for English tanners to compete, and these are largely responsible for the restricted business passing at the present time. Regular day-to-day trade is the general experience of most producers and distributors of upper leathers, with no large business passing in any particular line. Glace in brown, together with willow calf are as good selling lines as any, while the call for both black and brown suede leather shows signs of further expansion. Reptiles are a dropping sale all the time; best part of the business being in connection with python and certain lines of lizard. Imitation reptile grains are a regular inquiry with a satisfactory turnover all things considered, while the call for patent leather is usually concentrated on the cheaper grades. Semi-chrome leathers are quiet, as is also the case with most descriptions of curried leathers.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Only moderately active conditions prevail. Linseed oil continues somewhat scarce for prompt and early delivery and is firm around £42 10s. for spot and £41 10s. for June delivery ex Hull. More interest has been taken in the forward positions, especially July-August. Cotton oil is in slow demand and not so firm. Crude Egyptian offers at £28 10s. and common edible at £31 5s. ex Hull, prompt. Other seed oils are inclined easier. In the oil-seed section linseed is in only small demand, but is steady, Plate on spot being held for £17 15s. and June shipment, £17 10s. Calcutta linseed has been in better request at somewhat lower figures. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe has increased to 123,000 tons, which is 11,800 tons more than a week ago. Cottonseed is easy owing to lack of support, black Egyptian on spot and for June and July loadings having declined to £6 13s. 9d., while for August £7 has been accepted. Oilcakes and meals have been further reduced in price, but the demand continues poor.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—The market remained without change for all spot goods and consumers' demands disclosed some revival. There are signs of a gradual further extension of trade interest, especially on manufacturing account and this, in conjunction with the fact that offers from the leading producing countries are now being made with more reserve, imparts an improved tone to the commodity in general. Several factories, now that their supplies of home-grown roots have been worked up, will apparently have a complete overhaul of machinery and await next crop, instead of continuing in operation on imported raw sugar. A glimpse into the state of the market a year ago reveals the August position in the raw Terminal section standing at 7s. 1½d., compared with 6s. 3d. at present. And certainly the statistical situation is no worse now; on the contrary, invisible supplies are at vanishing point. Just recently, the market felt the effects of Natal and Mauritius sellers coming to the fore, but such offers were readily absorbed. Terminal sections manifested more steadiness and business in raw proved of fair dimensions. Sales include August delivery at 6s. 3d. to 6s. 3¾d.; December, 6s. 6¾d. and 6s. 7½d., combined to 6s. 7¼d.; March, 7s. 8¼d. to 7s. 9¾d.; May, 7s. 11¼d. to 8s. Cuban, 96 per cent., July, to the United Kingdom, held for 6s. 1½d.; and August, 7s. c.i.f. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 31st amounted to 131,240 tons, against 120,049 last year. Cuban receipts last week cabled 27,837 tons, against 54,842 same time last year; exports, 34,269, against 103,179; and stocks, 1,701,274, against 1,439,050. Centrals at work, 18, against 3.

COFFEE.—There was an increased movement on the spot, in which medium and even common qualities joined. These went off at steady prices. All really attractive grades in the cup sold readily at firm to dearer rates.

COCOA.—Only a moderate demand ensued for spot lots, but rates remain steady. Some fine Granada, sold, 52s. 6d.; Trinidad, 64s.-65s. Forward positions easier. Accra, F.F., May-July, 34s. 6d.; mid crop, 30s.; and October-December, 35s. 6d. f.o.b. Terminal: September delivery, sold, 37s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week totalled 47,617 packages. There was a much quieter market for all common and plain liquoring medium qualities and these ruled ¼d. to 3d. down. Better medium and really fine teas about steady. Ceylon sales of 28,431 packages came to a comparatively quiet market, and with the exception of a few coloury fannings and flavoury leaf teas, prices declined ¼d. to 1d. per lb. Quality from many gardens continues to fall off. Withdrawals from auction a more frequent occurrence both regarding Indian and Ceylon. There is quite a good demand for China tea, spot, London, and Keemuns sold freely at 1s. 9d. to 2s. New season's much smaller production and quality poor in many instances owing to rain-damage.

RICE.—With marked reserve on the part of Burma shippers owing to difficulty attaching to shipment, these qualities held for higher rates. Spanish, also Italian, steady, though quiet. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, sellers, 13s.; June, sellers, 12s. 4½d.; July, 12s. 5½d. Spanish oiled, May shipment to London, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; Italian, 14s. 6d. c.i.f. No. 3, Burma to Levant, quoted, 12s. 2½d. c.i.f., double bags. American blue rose from 24s. to 25s. c.i.f. S.Q., to Cuba, 12s. 4½d. Saigon No. 1, round grain, June-July, to Europe, 12s. 4½d. Siam, Super, June-July, 17s. 3d. Californian nominal. Landed last week, 443 tons. Delivered, exclusive of the quantity ex ship, 163 tons. Stock, 1,212 tons, against 4,582 tons at this time last year.

BEANS.—The market remains quiet. Madagascar spot 32s. to 34s. as to sample; afloat 32s. to 32s. 6d. as to position; April-May, 32s. 6d. Ohtenashi, spot, 19s. 6d.; May-June, 18s. 6d. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 11s. 3d.; June-July, 10s. 9d. c.i.f. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 18s. 6d. to 19s. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, 7s. 9d. c.i.f. Chinese ditto, 7s. 7½d.

PEAS.—A dull market was experienced, and prices favour buyers. Japanese, new crop, spot, London, 14s.; old, 13s.; afloat, 13s. 6d.; May-June, also June-July, 12s. 9d.; and new crop, September-October, held for 14s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s.; small hand-picked blues, 10s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lb.), May-June, 43s. Karachi ditto, 41s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1, New Zealand, new crop, June-July, 61s.; f.a.q., May-June, 56s. 6d. Tasmanian, "A" grade, new, afloat, 66s.; June-July, 63s. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper received moderate support and firmness characterised the market. Lampong, April-June, quoted, 11⅛d.; May-July, 10⅞d.; August-October, 9¾d. Muntok, white, April-June, quoted, 1s. 1¼d.; May-July, 1s. 1d.; August-October, 1s. 0¼d. Cloves: market nominal, trade at a standstill. Tapioca unaltered. Sago flour easier, and May-June to Liverpool, quoted, 10s. 4½d. c.i.f. Ginger shows no improvement.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market steady, with a better demand. Patras quoted 39s.-43s.; Zante, 38s.; Gulf, 40s.-42s.; Vostizza, 44s.-58s.; Australian new crop, 40s.-62s. Sultanas: Smyrna quiet, but Australians in fair request; Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-35s. Dates quiet of sale. Hallowie, spot, 17s.-19s.; Khadrowie, 14s.; Siar, 12s.-14s. 6d. Raisins dull. Valencias, quarter boxes at 36s.-38s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 18s.-30s.; good average, 16s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market generally steady. Apricots were less in demand, and pears mostly cleared, while peaches experience a moderate movement. Plums quiet of sale, and the turn easier. Plums, Californian new crop, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 40's-50's, 52s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots, South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-67s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 95s. Peaches: Californian choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; South African 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-50s.; 1930 crop, 42s.-58s. Apples: Californian spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 112s.; Majorcas, 105s.-115s. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 185s.-192s. 6d. Apricot kernels: Indian sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, 149s.; Barcelona, 150s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s., ex-wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—Trade is slow to expand, in view of increasing supplies of fresh fruits, also unsettled climatic conditions, buyers restricting purchases to immediate wants. Prices disclosed some irregularity regarding Californian varieties, but Australian move off steadily. Singapore pines experienced a quiet sale, with ample supplies available, and forward position still weak. Italian tomatoes dull of sale both for spot and shipment parcels.

CANNED FISH.—Market generally quiet. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted 48s. 6d.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 24s.-26s.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters: halves range from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—Corned beef, ox and lunch tongues, also tinned hams steady, but trade restricted owing to unseasonable weather.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market continues in a dull state. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 30s.; machine skimmed ditto, 19s.; full cream, sweetened, 56 lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5 cwt. casks, 40s.; machine skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 58s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 78s. Dutch machine skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1 cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56 lb. tins, crated, 37s. 3d.; ditto, 1 cwt. kegs, 36s.; ditto, 1 cwt. cases, 35s. 9d.; all per cwt. English prices basis, carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are nett, ex-store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of July, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum, 1 ton lots; smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 17s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. basis per case usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull and rather featureless. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 30s.-40s.; Cuban pale, 40s.; light amber, 36s.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian 50s.; light amber, 45s.; New Zealand, 65s.-95s. cwt.

RUBBER.

A very quiet tone pervaded this market, but prices held together fairly well. Standard sheet spot and June sold, 6 11/16d.; July-September, 6 13/16d.; October-December, 7 1/16d.; January-March, 7 5/16d. and April-June, 7 3/16d. London stocks increased 245 tons on the week, landings being 1,893; deliveries, 1,648; stocks, 77,198, against 31,539 last year. Liverpool stocks 804 tons up, landings, 1,048; deliveries, 244; stocks, 25,526, against 4,642 same time last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A dull and weaker market was evidenced, as spinning demand on European accounts fails to extend and offers made with fair freedom by holders. Firsts May-June and June-July quoted, £22 17s. 6d.; new crop, August-September sold £23 15s.; September-October, quoted, £23 15s. Lightnings, June-July, £22 7s. 6d.; August-September, £23. Hearts, June-July, £20 10s. c.i.f.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS
DECEMBER 31st, 1930.
INTERIM BONUSES INCREASED.
48 Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb.	44	6
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	7
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.	7	3
Oats, " " "	6	5
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	28	0
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb.	35 6	0 0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	12 4½	0 0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.		23 6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot	20 0	0 0
Medium pearl	22 0	23 0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.	2 6	3 0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides	5 4	6 2
Argentine chilled hinds	4 3	4 8
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers	7 0	8 8
N.Z. frozen "	3 4	4 4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.	6 4	7 4

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish per cwt.	102 0	114 0
Danish	95 0	100 0
Canadian	98 0	0 0
Dutch	87 0	96 0
HAMS—Irish	0 0	0 0
Canadian	0 0	0 0
American	90 0	106 0
BUTTER—		
Irish creamery per cwt.	124 0	0 0
Australian	111 0	125 0
New Zealand	113 0	150 0
Danish	132 0	0 0
CHEESE—		
Canadian per cwt.	100 0	106 0
New Zealand	75 0	85 0
English Cheddars		nom.
Dutch	39 0	74 0
COCOA— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
Accra f.f., per cwt.	39 0	0 0
Trinidad	60 0	65 0
Grenada	51 0	53 0
COFFEE— (Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)		
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	123 0	138 0
Costa Rica, good to fine	145 0	180 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110 0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115 0	135 0
Colombian, mid to fine	105 0	118 0
EGGS—		
English per 120	9 6	14 0
Danish	9 6	12 6
FRUIT—		
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0 0	0 0
Jaffa boxes	0 0	0 0
Oranges—		
Denia and Valencia ¼ cases	300 6	0 15 0
	360 6	0 13 0
	504 8	0 13 6
Lemons, Naples boxes	10 0	20 0
Sicilian boxes	8 0	10 9
" cases	9 0	15 6
Malaga cases 420 No. 1	0 0	0 0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0 0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	0 0	0 0
" Tasmanian boxes	9 0	20 0
" Australian	9 0	19 0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia:— case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags	0	0	0	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	80	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	6	55	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White	1	1½	0	0
Black Lampong	0	11	0	0
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	2	1	4
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	1	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	41	0	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good	60	0	90	0
Mace per lb.	2	0	2	9
Nutmegs 65's	1	4	1	8
SUGAR— (Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22	6
Java, white, c.&.f. India, July-Sept.	8	8½	8	10½
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals	20	4½	0	0
Cubes	24	9	25	3
Crushed	23	3	23	9
Granulated	21	3	21	10½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	4½	20	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe	0	8½	2	2
Broken Pekoe	0	9	2	1
Orange Pekoe	0	10	2	6½
Broken Orange	0	10½	2	9
TOBACCO— (Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4	0	8
" strips	0	5½	1	2

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American per lb.	8·43
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.	13·30
Yarns, 32's twist	12½
60's twist	21½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	53	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. per ton	50	0	0	0
Manila, June-Aug. "J2"	24	0	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May		nom.		
Sisal African, June-Aug.	27	0	28	0
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks. per ton		£	s.	d.
June-July		23	0	0
Aug.-Sept.		23	17	6

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton per lb.	8	6	10	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	15	0	17	0
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	14	0	16	6

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	16
" Lincoln hog, washed	12
Queensland, scd. super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super "	14
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12½
Crossbred 40–44	11
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31½
" 64's	30½
Crossbred 48's	17
" 46's	16½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty. ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best *house*	20	0	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No. 3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough	215	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy	170	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	1½	18	4½

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	60	10	61	10
Sheets (strong)	87	0	0	0
Standard	52/17/6		53	0
Lead Eng. Pig per ton	19	10	0	0
Soft Foreign	17/17/6		18/1/3	
Spelter G.O.B.	16/7/6		17/2/6	
Tin—English ingots	136	0	136	10
Standard cash	135	0	135	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	7	1	7½
Nitric	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1	2½
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper per ton	25	0	25	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton June	20/6/3		0	0
Smoked South Sea June	19/3/9		0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co.	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4¾
West Indian	0	3¾	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape	0	6¾	0	8
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	7
Best cow	0	3½	0	5½
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	8	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	8
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	8	1	1
Dressing Hides	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5

VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	45	10	0	0
Rape, refined	38	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	28	10	0	0
Coconut, crude	33	10	0	0
Palm	22	0	25	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	9	15	10	0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new—June-July	17	10	0	0
Calcutta, per ton—June-July	18/11/3		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.	38	9	0	0

MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910	82	6	0	0
" 950	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American per ton	16	5	19	0

RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6½	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	7½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange per cwt.	125	0	127	6
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals per std.	32	0	0
Teak per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	0
English Oak Planks "	0	7	0
Do. Ash "	0	6	6

HEMP.—General demand for Manila qualities quiet, but sellers asked steady prices, while receiving some encouragement from light weekly receipts. J, No. 2, May-July, quoted at £24; K, August-October, £23; L, No. 1, May-July, £22 10s.; L, No. 2, July-September, £21 5s.; M, No. 1, August-October, £22; M, No. 2, September-October, £21 5s.; C, No. 3, May-July, £17 10s.; G, June-July, £24 15s.; and H grade, £24 c.i.f. Africal sisal dull, and No. 1, May-July, including Portuguese, sellers, £28 10s.; No. 2, £27 15s. c.i.f. Receipts last week cabled 24,000 bales against 34,000 last year and 24,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 31,000, and week after 29,000. Manila shipments last week: U.K., 6,000; Continent, 4,000; U.S.A., 18,000; Japan, 4,000; others, 1,000; local consumption, 1,000, making stocks 153,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Spot market steadier. T.N., 125s.; Fine Orange, 150s. to 250s.; A.C. Garnet, 145s.; R.L.J. Button Lac, quoted 170s. Futures steady. August, sold, 114s.; October, 118s. To arrive, April-May, sellers, 112s.; May-June, 112s.

COPRA.—Market without new feature and prices easier. Only retail sales resulted on former terms. Straits, F.M.S., June, to Rotterdam, sellers, £20 6s. 3d.; Dutch East Indies, £20 5s.; June sold, £20 11s. 3d. Ceylon, £21 7s. 6d. Sun-dried, South Sea, £19 7s. 6d. Plantation, £19 17s. 6d. H.A.D., £19 15s. To Marseilles: Mixed D.E.I., Padang excluded, June, £19 7s. 6d. Smoked, South Sea, sellers, £19 3s. 9d.; and Manila in bulk, sellers, £19 c.i.f.

PALM KERNELS, to Hamburg, May-June, £14; June-July, £14; July-August, £14 2s. 6d., c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 15s. to 25s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, June-July, 4s. 3d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—June 2.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6	6	6	8
Irish	...		...	
Cambridge	...		...	
Short Horns	6	4	6	6
Herefords	...		...	
Devons	...		...	
Leicester runts	...		...	
Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...		...	
Canadian	...		...	
Sheep—Downs	8	4	9	4
Half bred	...		...	
Ewes	5	0	5	6
Scottish	...		...	
Lamb—Downs	10	4	11	0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—June 2.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	2	6	3	0
" " whites	1	6	2	0
Essex King Edward	2	6	3	0
" " whites	1	6	2	6
New Jersey	11	0	...	
St. Malo	10	0	...	

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY, which last week had been made artificially easy by the distribution of the War Loan dividend financed in part by temporary Government borrowings from the Bank, has this week been much more stringent. The fact that Monday was a holiday meant that calling by

the banks for making-up purposes had to be concentrated into three days instead of the normal four, and on Wednesday new money commanded 3 per cent., while the market narrowly escaped resort to the Bank. Discount rates are also stiffer. On Wednesday a firm 2¼ per cent. was quoted for three months' bills, and the following day the absence of Continental buying helped to drive the rate up to 2 5/16 per cent.

* * * *

The main development of the week was the decision of the Bank of England to deliver for the time being standard gold against its sales in place of fine gold, as had been its practice during recent years. The implications of this change in procedure are dealt with on another page. So far the net result has been to move the gold export point of the Paris exchange from 123.89 francs, first to 123.64 francs, and later, after one of the London refiners had reduced his charges, to 123.78 francs. The establishment of this new gold export point also made it possible for buyers on French account to bid up to 85s. 0⅜d. per oz. for this week's Cape fine gold, and on Wednesday £444,000 of the £476,000 available in the market was taken at this price. France also took £230,739 of gold from the Bank, this presumably being standard gold sold at the Bank's statutory selling price.

* * * *

Market opinion seems divided on the question as to whether the Bank was justified in changing its procedure. As pointed out elsewhere, the Bank is only bound to deliver standard gold, and the holidays afforded a good opportunity for it to revert to the strict letter of the law with the least possible dislocation to all concerned. On the other hand, the opinion has been expressed that the appearance of the reparation loan and the release of the funds mobilised in Paris in preparation for it may mean that the drain of gold to France has nearly ended. If so, it is argued that the Bank might well have waited to make the change until such time as Paris, the only centre affected, was no longer drawing gold from London. It is also said that any suspicion that obstacles are being placed in the way of foreign centres withdrawing gold may promote rather than check the outflow. This makes it all the more important to make it clear beyond question that the Bank is simply reverting to its legal obligations of delivering standard gold, that it is doing so not as a matter of policy but because its stocks of fine gold are running low, that the change may not be a permanent one, and finally that, as pointed out elsewhere, the existing apparent premium upon fine gold in the market finds its counterpart in pre-war experience.

	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount ∫ Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses \ Notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2 3/16–3/16	2 3/16–5/32	2 3/16–5/32	2 5/16	...

The Bank return reflects mainly the Whitsun holidays and the return to normal after the distribution of the War Loan dividend. The former factor accounts for the increase of £4,203,665 in the note circulation and for the decrease of £3,902,343 in the reserve, while the latter explains the contractions of just over twelve millions in Government Securities and bankers' deposits, these last being now back at the low level of £58,822,000. The reduction in the banking department's outside liabilities has outweighed the fall in the reserve, so that the proportion has improved from 48¾ per cent. to 51⅛ per cent.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables :—Money is a drug on the market, and promises to be still easier early next week in connection with Treasury tax date financing. The Treasury $400 million issue has been six times oversubscribed. Call funds are unlendable at 2 per cent., and brokers' loans for the week are down $103 million, more than cancelling the increase of the past three weeks. The Federal Reserve System has again added largely to its Government bond holdings, but has reduced its bills, and member banks have paid off $29 million of discounts, bringing down the total of reserve credit by $35 million. The New York banks are entirely out of debt to the Reserve. The ratio of the system is up to 83 per cent.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

Though the direct effect of Wall Street liquidation was confined mainly to international counters, the Stock Markets remained dull and apathetic after the Whitsun holiday. Gilt-edged stocks were easier on the unfavourable trend of the foreign exchanges, but European bonds were steady as a whole, on the eve of the Reparation Loan issue. Home Rails were marked down on disappointing receipts from holiday traffic. Industrial stocks suffered a further slight recession, but for the most part withstood the cold wind from Wall Street more successfully than might have been expected. Royal Mail stock became a nominal market on the appointment of a special committee to overhaul the group's organisation and finance. Rubber shares remained idle, with the commodity at a " record " low level. The effect of satisfactory oil company dividends was largely negatived by unfavourable developments in other centres, and the weakness of base metal prices tended stringently to limit business in many shares, with the exception of Kaffirs.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The Whitsuntide holidays have accentuated the stagnation which already prevailed in most markets. Coal stocks are heavy, demand poor, and prices consequently easy. There is not much new business in iron and steel, and no sign of activity in cotton. The raw wool situation remains favourable and with the termination of the wages dispute Bradford is hopeful of regaining some of the lost ground. Conditions in the jute industry remain idle. The hide and leather markets have been fair, when account is taken of the holidays. Vegetable oils and oilseeds, especially cotton seed, are very inactive.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The Foreign Exchange market was only fairly active, the main feature being the sharp fall in the Paris rate discussed in another column. New York went rather against us from 4.85 27/32 to 4.85¾. Montreal gained ¼ at 4.85¾. Paris moved sharply from 123.92 to 123.78 after 123.67. Brussels was better by ⅛ at 34.81⅜. Milan was unchanged on balance, after hesitation, at 92.73. Madrid was again erratic, and fell away from 40.07 to 41.00 offered. Amsterdam gained 1/16 at 12.08 5/16. Berlin was unchanged after some fluctuation at 20.36. Switzerland moved sharply against us from 25.10 to 25.06½, and was at one time below that level. The Scandinavian exchanges all moved against us, Stockholm falling from 18.10¼ to 18.09¼, whilst Oslo gained ¼ at 18.15½, and Copenhagen ½ at 18.15½. Of the South American exchanges, Rio lost ⅛d. at 5 11/16d., and Buenos Aires ⅜d. at 42¼d. Montevideo was weaker again at 44½d. In the Far East the rupee was firmer and gained 1/16d. at 1s. 5 13/16d., as was the yen at 2s. 0 13/32d., which advanced also by the same amount. Batavia was firmer at 12.07. In the forward market, New York was unchanged at 3/32 cent and 2/32 discount. Paris went from 3 and 5 centimes premium to either side of par for both periods. Brussels was steady at one and 2½ centimes discount. Milan was at 10 and 27 centesimi discount, and Madrid at one and 4½ centimos premium for the two periods respectively. Amsterdam moved from par to discounts of ¼ cent and 5/16 cent, while Berlin remained unmoved at 1¼ and 3½ pfennigs discount. Silver recovered to 16⅞d. for spot, and 16 11/16d. for forward. The China silver exchanges rallied in sympathy, Hongkong gaining ⅛d. at 1s. 3⅝d., whilst Shanghai rose by 1⅛d. to 1s. 6¾d.

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THE INDIAN COMMISSION—SURVEY.

THE first volume of the long-awaited Report of the Indian Statutory Commission has been issued this week, and has had the immediate effect of focussing attention on the essentials of the Indian problem. This volume is confined to a description of the situation and of the progress made under the Reforms, leaving to the second volume, which is to follow a fortnight later, the Commission's recommendations and proposals. Some have doubted the wisdom of this division, particularly as it prolongs for a little while a condition of uncertainty. But the care with which the Report has been studied, and the attention paid to it in the Press, have amply justified Sir John Simon's experiment, for it is quite certain that, if the whole Report had appeared simultaneously, attention would have been given merely to the specific proposals, whereas under the present scheme the public have a little time to ponder on the striking picture that the Commission have painted. This period for consideration is invaluable, for though the British public through Parliament are responsible for India, it cannot be said that the conditions described are known to more than a tiny handful.

The chief impression made by the Report, salient features of which are summarised on later pages, is that of the complexity and many-sidedness of the problem. The vastness of the country, the tiny proportion of literates, the multitude of races, religions, castes and languages, the acute problem of communal differences and the difficulty of electing a representative parliament from constituencies some of which are as large as England and Wales, are set out with striking illustrations, but at the same time with obvious sympathy and understanding. Clearly, the Commission are inviting Great Britain, on the one hand, and India, on the other, to face up to perhaps the most difficult constitutional problem in history. But it is obvious that they do not set out these difficulties as an indication that the task set them is impossible, for after referring to the historic declaration of 1917, the Commission declare that " the only proposals worthy to be considered are proposals . . . inspired with the honest purpose of giving " to that declaration " its due effect." Again, almost at the end of this volume, reverting to the state of opinion in India, they make the significant observation :—" While the experienced Indian member of the Services will admit the benefits of the British Raj and realise the difficulties in the way of complete self-government; while the member of a minority community, putting the safety of his community first, will stipulate for safeguards; and while the moderate may look askance at extremist methods which he will not openly denounce; all alike are in sympathy with the demand for equal status with the European and proclaim their belief in self-determination for India." In other words, they recognise that in spite of all differences and difficulties India, like other eastern countries, has found a bond in the universal desire for nationhood and equality of status.

While, therefore, this Report does not present a case for doing nothing, it does suggest that the solution is not one that can be attained merely by adopting some existing constitution, whether from Europe or from some country overseas, seeing that there is no case which is in the least comparable. That of the United States is perhaps the most analogous in point of size of territory and population, but the American constitution was created by a small and comparatively homogeneous population; the vast influx of people of many races and tongues came later and adapted themselves to the structure already existing. In India the problem is to create a constitutional structure for a vast population—nearly three times as big as that of the United States—and to accommodate it to their history, their traditions and the passive state of the mass of the people.

The constitution of 1919 was the first serious attempt to develop self-government. At the Centre it created a Parliament consisting of a Legislative Assembly and a Council of State, but it did not give this body control of government, for though it votes the budget and legislates, it can be over-ruled by ordinances of the Viceroy or by the certifying of financial measures. In the Provinces the experiment was carried further by the device of dyarchy, in the hope that by placing such services as education, health, etc., under Ministers selected from the Council, while retaining law and order and finance in the hands of members of the bureaucracy, an opportunity would be given for gaining experience in parliamentary government, training a number of Indian politicians in leadership and administration, and developing a sense of responsibility with regard to a group of Government activities vitally concerned with the life of the people.

It would be a profound mistake to regard this constitution as having been a failure. At the Centre, although the Government has had reserve powers, it has rarely used them, and has been able commonly to command a majority with the aid of official and nominated members, it has been subject to public questionings, and has had to defend itself in open debate. Members of the Civil Service, trained to administer rather than to talk, have had to play the politician, and in many cases have done it with remarkable success. The Report fairly describes the growing influence which Indian opinion, acting through the Assembly, has been able to exercise and the tendency of the Government to defer to it. One of the most striking illustrations of this deference to India's wishes is the Fiscal Convention which was recently described in the *Economist*. In the Provinces great efforts have been made to develop the social services and any impartial observer would admit that for this, among other reasons, a great change is coming over the conditions of life and the social customs of the country.

At the same time, the account given by the Commission indicates the very definite limits of the progress which can be made under the present *régime*. In the Legislative Assembly opposition has often tended to be factious, and criticism has been made not with a sense of responsibility, but—as Mr Patel recently admitted—for the purpose of embarrassing the Government. In the Provinces, the Ministers have tended to become part of the governmental machine, and, except in certain cases, there has been little sign of the creation of parties in their support. They have also had entirely inadequate resources to develop the great services entrusted to them. The system has, of course, worked very differently in the various Provinces. In the densely peopled but poor province of Bihar and Orissa, the Council, meeting for only two or three weeks in the year, has on the whole very little influenced the course of government. In Bengal, with a population larger than that of Great Britain, but with a very straitened budget and with Moslem and Hindu communities almost equally divided, Ministers have constantly been the object of bitter attack, accentuated by communal feeling; and for a period their functions were taken over by the Government. In Madras, something much more like parliamentary government has evolved, and it is not surprising that the Government of Madras as a whole recommended to the Commission that a unitary cabinet should be set up in that Province, responsible to the Council. This varied development is complicated by the existence of the Indian States, many of them enjoying treaty relations with the Crown and with varied rights and privileges, but none of them subject to the Government of British India. Nevertheless Sir John Simon's letter of October 16th to the Prime Minister made it clear that, in the Commission's opinion, the problems of British India could not be entirely separated from those of the Indian States, and the scheme of the Round-Table Conference was designed to secure " the full co-operation of all

parties and interests in the solution of the Indian problem as a whole."

It is not surprising, then, that the first impression of the Report should be unsatisfying to those in India who are disposed to think that a short cut is possible to responsible government by means of the importation into India of some ready-made constitution, and that they should have jumped to the conclusion that the Commission will turn down India's demands; or that it should have been received by those in this country who hold that autocracy is the appropriate method of government for India and that we should revert to the method of a firm hand, as lending support to their view. Both of these opinions, however, miss the true moral of this Report, which is that, while India has begun to take a hand in shaping her own destiny, the constitutional problem which she presents is unlike any other in history and calls for a solution adapted to her own special circumstances. If this preliminary Report succeeds in bringing home this idea to the public opinion of Britain and of India, it will have achieved its purpose.

MR BALDWIN AND THE FARMER.

In his recent trek round the country on his "Home and Empire" campaign Mr Baldwin has been addressing industrial audiences, and to them he has been expounding the blessings of "Safeguarding." On Whit Monday, for a change, he faced a purely agricultural audience in the purely agricultural area of Suffolk, and was naturally constrained to produce the Conservative remedy for the agricultural *malaise*. The result is most uninspiring, for the remedy is the old, old remedy trotted out in 1923—a guaranteed wheat price to be financed out of the revenue on industrial tariffs, with the added bait of restrictions on imports of barley and oats. So, after seven years, Mr Baldwin has re-committed himself to precisely the same policy, of safeguarding for industry and wheat subsidy for the farmer, which led himself and his party to destruction seven years ago. Nobody is satisfied, except, apparently, the National Farmers' Union, and even to them we shall venture to suggest some second thoughts. Lord Beaverbrook is positively angry, if we may judge by the contumely hurled at Mr Baldwin in the *Evening Standard*, and the split in the Conservative party has been widened and deepened.

The gist of Mr Baldwin's speech is this:—Industrial troubles we can deal with by safeguarding, but agricultural troubles cannot be dealt with that way, because the towns are too dog-in-the-manger to allow the country to share in the supposed benefits of tariffs. Therefore, says Mr Baldwin in effect, we must look for another way. We will *promise* the farmer a remunerative price for his wheat, and the money necessary for this will be derived from the revenue we shall obtain from protective duties on industrial imports. Mr Baldwin naïvely supposes that he has devised a scheme for extracting the farmer's subsidy from the townsman's pocket without the latter noticing it. For ourselves we rate the intelligence of the townsman rather higher; and as for the farmer himself, although this old promise re-dressed may look at first sight like "ninepence for fourpence," we would counsel him to look again. As we shall show in a minute, if adequate revenue is to be provided to subsidise a wheat price such as the farmer desires, a very wide measure of industrial protection will have to be introduced, and the farmer will find his costs rising on all hands. Mr Baldwin, when speaking to Paul the farmer, says: "I will rob Peter to pay you." But is the farmer certain, when he reviews the whole of Mr Baldwin's policy, that he will not in the end find himself playing the rôle of Peter? In many countries and at many times farmers have had that sad disillusionment over a protectionist policy which looked alluring at first sight.

Now let us look a little closer at Mr Baldwin's pledge to the farmer. He ventures on no figure for the guaranteed wheat price. He will "arrange" one in close consultation with the farmer—a rather ominous prospect for the consumer or taxpayer. But the farmer, through the Union, has already told him the price—55s. per quarter. This means that on the basis of recent prices the cost might reach nearly £1 per quarter as the subsidy from the public funds. On the basis of current wheat production that means an annual bill of some £5 million. But we presume that Mr Baldwin's aim is to encourage and increase wheat production at least to the pre-war average, and if he succeeds up goes the bill to some £7 million. That sum would have to be found out of "Safeguarding" revenue, and since in the full year 1928-29 the total revenue received from all existing safeguarding duties was only £2¼ million, the extension of duties on industrial goods which Mr Baldwin contemplates must be very formidable indeed. Incidentally, since memories are short, we may remind the heavily-burdened taxpayer that the operations of the Wheat Commission in its brief span of life cost the Exchequer no less than £104 million. Once bitten, twice shy.

So much for Mr Baldwin's promise. But what about the possibility of his fulfilling it if the country allowed him to try? If the subsidy is to be of any use to the farmer, says Mr Baldwin, "it is of the utmost importance to make this firm for a period of years, and to make it so firm that it will be almost impossible for any Government to interfere with it, after we have done." How this permanence is to be achieved is not explained, nor can it be explained. No Government can bind its successors in the matter of expenditure of public money, and least of all in this case, where the money is to be derived from protectionist duties which are only too likely to be swept away by an alternative Government. To put it bluntly, Mr Baldwin's promise to the farmer regarding the permanence of a subsidy is not worth the paper on which it is written.

The essence of what has happened is that Mr Baldwin has once again stumbled up against one of the supreme difficulties which always beset the Protectionist. If you set up tariffs on industrial imports you raise agricultural costs and the farmer has to be compensated somehow, although, as the tariff history of the United States and Canada shows, the farmer seldom finds that the compensation proves adequate. So you promise public support to the farmer. The picture is idyllic—the towns saving themselves by taxing the wicked foreigner, and the duties paid by the foreigner used to save the farmer. The foreigner is the *deus ex machina*. Really this is *vieux jeu*, and if the country would not believe it from the lips of a fervent Joseph Chamberlain, they are hardly likely to accept it from a timid Baldwin after a quarter of a century of fiscal education and discussion.

Mr Baldwin's attitude to the economic troubles of this country (both industrial and economic) is as much out of touch with realities as is his *bizarre* description of the agricultural labourer as "about the last surviving specimen of the skilled craftsman in this country." The supreme need of agriculture, as of industry, is reorganisation for the achievement of more economic and more efficient production and marketing. What Mr Baldwin offers is an artificial jerry-built shelter behind which all present inefficiencies may be sustained and perpetuated. All may have their reasons for deploring the decline of British agriculture, and may resent the fact (which is none the less a fact) that, as a nation, we have found it desirable, in this age of intense international specialisation, to concentrate more upon industrial production and to buy more of our food from abroad. Nor do such facts as these absolve us from the need to study the means by which the efficiency of what is still our greatest industry may be increased. Every avenue of science and research, of practical co-operation, of security of tenure, of joint marketing, of selective production (and under this head Mr Baldwin's insistence on wheat must be critically examined) should be explored, and explored as a non-party question by the best experts wherever they are to be found. Agriculture and industry have their separate problems. But they have this in common, that they cannot hope to achieve salvation through a policy which throws their burdens on the taxpayer and absolves them from the urgency of setting their own houses in effective good order.

A RESTORATION À LA ROUMAINE.

If one is born Prince Charles one seems to be marked down by destiny for exile and restoration, but apparently the restoration is apt to miss fire unless one has the luck to be born Charles II. Certainly, on the morrow of the successful restoration of Charles II Hohenzollern to the throne of Roumania, the most friendly wish that any Englishman can offer up for him is that he may reign as long and as comfortably as his namesake Charles II. Stewart, and may escape the meteoric career of poor Prince Charlie. By every rule of superstition, King Carol's chances are good, for it is obviously the magic number that does the trick. At any rate, the luck does not depend on the kind of vehicle in which the aspiring *deus ex machinâ* descends upon his ancestral soil. The vehicle, after all, is a mere creature of the day. It did not avail Prince Charlie that he descended on British shores, as did Charles II, in a wooden sailing-ship; and, contrariwise, Prince Carol has not been wrecked by descending on Roumania, as Charles Hapsburg descended on Hungary nine years ago, in an aeroplane. With that, we leave the occult side of our subject to the consideration of astrologers, psycho-analysts and historians, and proceed to the order of the day.

The order of the day in this case seems to be "business as usual," for, happily, this Roumanian restoration is not an earth-shaking affair. The peace of Europe is not threatened; and even the domestic life of Roumania herself does not seem likely to be seriously ruffled. The Roumanian regents have proved as accommodating as our own Protector Richard Cromwell. (May they die in their beds, as he did!) Without bloodshed, the exile is on the throne; and the incident boils down to a personal question. King Charles II is presumably pleased; Mr. Vintila Bratianu is undisguisedly disgruntled; and as for little ex-and-future King Michael, who knows what he is feeling? After all, he has tried the job, while his father has not. Perhaps the newly-created Grand Voivode of Alba Julia knows already that it is not all beer and skittles being "a crowned head."

When one turns from the personal to the political side, the key to the situation is to be found in the fact that Prince Carol fell out with the Liberal Party, which, being interpreted, is the Brothers Bratianu. It was the Bratianu *régime* that caused his departure from the country and his legal exclusion from the succession to the throne—an act accomplished on the 4th January, 1926. This key-fact was sufficient to throw Prince Carol into the arms of the Bratianus' opponents; and from this point of view King Carol's return is a natural sequel to the downfall of the Liberal Party and the accession of the Peasant-Transylvanian coalition to power last year.

Now the fortunate fact is that the side on which King Carol finds himself in Roumanian politics (whether by statesmanlike choice or by lucky chance, we need not inquire) happens to be the side of the angels. The present Government is the first reasonably democratic and disinterested Government that Roumania has enjoyed since—we might almost say, since the creation of the Roumanian State. And it is of immense importance that this Government, long overdue, should endure. With her territory doubled since the War and her social and economic life turned upside down, Roumania is perhaps more desperately in need of reconstruction than any other country in Europe at this moment. And this is a matter of European interest; for if Greater Roumania were to collapse, half the peoples of the Continent would be by the ears. Except on her Polish and Czechoslovak frontiers, Greater Roumania is surrounded by enemies. She is also—or, rather, therefore—a member of the Little Entente and of the French system of military alliances, a factor whose implications are obvious.

We have said enough to show that the restoration of King Carol is interesting politically in so far as it bears on this question: Is the Liberal Party going to remain out of power? Is the Transylvanian-Peasant Coalition going to remain in office? For a moment, Monsieur Maniu's resignation made it seem as though the whole political situation in Roumania were going into the melting pot; but later news indicates that he resigned, not because the restoration was a blow to his *régime*, but partly on a question of etiquette and partly because he was taken by surprise. Under whatever leadership, the Coalition looks like holding together, whereas the Bratianu family has already split—and if the family splits to-day, the Roumanian Liberal Party will split to-morrow. On the whole, then, it appears that the restoration of Charles II will have a stabilising effect on Roumanian political life—the beneficiaries being just those elements which ought to be stabilised in the best interests of Roumania herself and of her neighbours. So we may set out minds at rest, ignoring the slight shiver of apprehension which runs through the shell-shocked nerves of our post-war generation whenever these Balkanic alarums and excursions occur.

One general reflection suggests itself: South-Eastern Europe is a kind of "birds' sanctuary" for the restitution of the Monarchy, which is almost everywhere else extinct outright, or worn to a shadow, in the modern world. This is partly just because the Balkans are backward; but the prestige of Monarchy there is perhaps also partly explained by the fact that it still has a positive function to perform. For all these Balkan States, the supreme task, since they came into existence, has been to naturalise themselves as members of the western family of nations; and one of the practical ways in which they have set about doing this has been to take dynasties for themselves from among the lesser branches of the international royal family of Western Europe. When the modern history of Roumania and her Balkan neighbours and contemporaries comes to be written in perspective, this function of their adopted royal families will probably stand out as a factor of considerable social and cultural importance; and the undoubted political importance of these dynasties probably flows from this. Their political importance certainly surprised us during the War; and the latest news from Roumania shows that it has not diminished since then.

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THE REPARATIONS LOAN.

At midnight on Tuesday the negotiations over the Reparations Loan were completed, and on Thursday morning the prospectus of the London quota was advertised. The lists opened on Friday and were due to close on or before the following day. Thus the Reparations Loan, or, to give it its official title the "German Government International 5½ per cent Loan, 1930," has now at last made its appearance.

The Loan is to be issued in Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America. The allocation is apparently as shown in the following table:—

		National Currency (000's omitted)	Dollars
Belgium	belgas	35,000	4,870
France	frs.	2,515,000	97,900
Germany	mks.	36,000	8,390
Great Britain	£	12,000	58,390
Holland	fl.	73,000	29,400
Italy	lire	110,000	5,800
Sweden	kr.	110,000	29,500
Switzerland	frs.	92,000	17,750
U.S.A.	$	98,250	98,250

If these amounts are reduced to a common currency, the fact emerges that France and the United States have each make themselves responsible for 28 per cent. of the total, Great Britain for 17 per cent., and Holland and Sweden for 8½ per cent. each. The remaining 10 per cent. is shared among the other participants, Germany herself taking only 2.4 per cent. The total amount of the Loan is somewhat in excess of $300,000,000, but when the issuing bankers' commissions have been deducted, it is estimated that the effective yield will be approximately $300,000,000.

The details given in the British prospectus clear away many doubts that had arisen in the minds of the public during the course of the negotiations. The British bonds are to be to bearer, in denominations of £100, £500 and £1,000. Principal and interest will be payable in sterling at the Bank of England, London, but " payment, at the option of the holder, may also be obtained on any foreign market where the Loan is quoted, in the currency of that market at the current rate of exchange." The German Finance Minister's statement amplifies this clause in the prospectus by saying " payment may be obtained in any foreign market where any issue of the Loan is quoted. . . ." In other words, the bond is a " national " bond with a " national " coupon. The fact that payment can only be obtained in other centres at the rate of the day proves this, and even including the German amplification the clause grants no further concession than is usually to be found in loans appearing simultaneously in several centres.

The nominal rate of interest is 5½ per cent., and the price of issue is 90 per cent. in all centres except Paris, where the fact that the French quota is free of French taxation has enabled it to be offered at 98¼ per cent. It is believed that the price as between the borrower and the issuing banker is in many centres 86 per cent., the latter taking 4 per cent. as their commission. The margin of 8¼ per cent. by which the French issue price exceeds the foreign issue price will be paid over to the French Government through the Caisse d'Amortissement. The whole Loan will be redeemed by a cumulative sinking fund, calculated to extinguish the Loan by June 1, 1965. It will be applied by purchase in the open market at a price which is at or under par, and by drawings to be made each April, when necessary to supplement purchases. The German Government also has the option to redeem the whole Loan on July 1 of 1935, or any subsequent year. Interest is payable on June 1st and December 1st, and a first payment of £1 17s. per cent. will be made on December 1, 1930. The flat yield is £6 2s. 2¾d. per cent., and the yield, allowing for redemption on the terms specified above, is £6 13s. 8d.

The Loan is the direct and unconditional obligation of the German Government, and if, in return for this special guarantee over and above the general obligations of the Young Plan, the German Government has obtained any subsidiary assurances from the creditor Powers, it but serves to strengthen the bondholder's security. The sums required for the service of the Loan will be paid over monthly to the Bank for International Settlements, who are the Trustees for the bondholders. With the exception of bonds issued for the capitalisation of part of the unconditional annuities for the purpose of the internal conversion of the National Debt of a creditor Power, all further issue of bonds must be made through the B.I.S. and will rank *pari passu* with the present Loan. The German Government has created a fixed direct annual tax of 660,000,000 marks on the German Railway Company for 37 years, to act as a guarantee for the service of the Young Plan annuities.

The German Finance Minister also recalls that the unconditional annuities amount to 612,000,000 marks, excluding the service of the Dawes Loan, whereas the service of the present Loan only requires 95,700,000 marks. Moreover, only two-thirds of the proceeds of the present Loan represent the capitalisation of a portion of the unconditional annuities. The remaining one-third is retained by the German Government and will be used to provide for German railway, post office, and telegraph requirements. The service of this last portion will naturally come not out of the unconditional annuities but out of the general revenue of the Reich.

The net result is that a small proportion of the unconditional annuities has been mobilised, and the German Government is also raising a loan of approximately $100,000,000 for its own purposes. The flat yield of about 6⅛ per cent. compares very favourably with that of 7⅝ per cent. represented by the issue price of the Dawes Loan, and is also the same as that of the Japanese Loan issued a few weeks ago. The cost to Germany, however, is high, judged by the rate at which British Government loans can be raised, and it is conceivably higher than it would have been had the Loan been postponed until the Young Plan had had a fair chance to prove itself. Precipitancy is the main criticism that might be made of the decision to issue the Loan this summer, and had those concerned seen fit to wait for a year or two, mobilisation might have been possible on less onerous terms. Inasmuch as the total amount of the annuities is fixed and the service of the Loan is a direct charge upon them, the burden falls in reality not upon Germany, but upon the recipient powers. Had they waited they might well have found that they could have bartered a smaller proportion of the annuities and still received the same amount of ready cash.

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE fact that a Government which, in the words of Mr H. J. May, the retiring President of the Co-operative Congress, " is nominally the most favourable to co-operation," is now in office, has sobered the political enthusiasts who have dominated of recent years the annual assembly of the co-operative movement; and that which opened on Whit Monday at York has steadily applied itself to matters of internal organisation, and has discussed co-operative rationalisation and the dubious entry of credit trading in a cool and calculating mood.

On the first day a cold douche was unexpectedly administered by Mr May, whose position as secretary of the International Co-operative Alliance gives him an authoritative place in the movement. Last year at the Torquay Congress he questioned the wisdom of the introduction of the mutuality clubs into the movement, and on Monday he referred to the system as the abrogation of the co-operative position. The sales of the retail societies last year rose 7 per cent.; but there was an increase of 18 per cent. in the debts of members and of 20 per cent. in the accounts owing by members in connection with credit clubs. Having thus startled the delegates on the economic side, he went deeply into the political policy that has latterly thrown the co-operators into the Labour arena, and criticised the attitude of the Co-operative M.P.s with regard to the Coal Mines Bill, the Local Authorities Enabling Bill, and the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. Such an introduction was well calculated to send the annual assembly along the consideration of its own internal matters.

The past year was a period of progressive advance, and the sales and capital of the retail distributive societies rose surely and steadily. The sales of the wholesale and the retail societies totalled well over £335,000,000, and 240,000 workers were employed in co-operative factories, mills, and shops. It is, however, the figures with regard to the retail societies which present the really accurate view of the position of the movement. There are now 6,378,000 members of distributive societies with a share capital of £110,353,000 and a loan capital of £14,051,000 —increases of 11 and 15 per cent. respectively in the past year. More than £61,000,000 has been invested in the co-operative federations and in Government and municipal stocks. Rather less than £40,000,000 is represented in land, buildings, and fixtures used in trade, and just over £20,000,000 in stock-in-trade. The sales were £224,465,000 and there was a profit of £27,000,000, which, after paying £4,685,000 as interest on share capital, was available for distribution as dividend on purchases.

Such were the main developments upon which the President of the Congress based his address. As one of the business directors of the movement, he naturally also dwelt upon internal policy and advocated that the local retail societies should be less concerned with the return of high dividends on purchases than with the lowering of the retail prices to a national fixed level. Those responsible for the policy of the Co-operative Wholesale Society have often challenged the practice that now exists of different prices being enacted for co-operative productions in various parts of the country. Delegates to the Congress endorsed his view that the time has come for national fixed prices for co-operative productions being established by the central body in collaboration with the local units.

But wider issues have also come before the Congress and in its Report the Central Board of the Co-operative Union pointed to the modern " Empire Free Trade " campaign as being " disguised Protection," and declared that " an Empire is not enough for the Co-operative Commonwealth and while the British co-operative movement has done more for the establishment of effective trade relations in staple commodities between the Dominions and Great Britain than the loudest of Empire orators, co-operators recognise that no ties of blood, race or sentimental kinship can claim prior consideration to the common ties of universal human co-operation." Attention was drawn to the view that " international cartels must be counterbalanced by international co-operative commerce, and the sooner the movement realises the desperate urgency of the pooling of co-operative productive resources and sources of raw materials the more hopeful will be the prospect." Some of the leaders of the C.W.S. have endorsed this view, Mr J. T. Davis, one of the directors, voicing the Free Trade position, and another, Mr W. R. Blair, describing " Empire Free Trade " as a wayward child of Protection. The necessity of developing inter-co-operative trade was urged by the delegates from the co-operative movements of France, Germany, Sweden, Russia and Switzerland, and the way to overcome trading barriers between the co-operative movements of the various countries will be more fully considered at the forthcoming International Co-operative Congress at Vienna. The efforts made to impose a merely Empire bond of Free Trade had evidently aroused the co-operators to a keener interest in the international movement. It will stimulate the demand for the removal of tariff barriers between the nations where co-operative business is widening beyond their own boundaries. The co-operative productive enterprises of the Continent are studying the free imports of raw materials which are helping British producers, and the possibility of a changed economic outlook is indicated.

Immediately Congress resumed on the second day, the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander rose to tell the co-operators that they could do better inside the Government than out, and that they could not do more till they obtained a majority Government. But the speech did not remove from the minds of delegates the disturbing impression made by Mr H. J. May on the previous day. Leaders like Mr W. Gallacher, of Glasgow, made further protests against the neglect of the co-operative viewpoint by the Government, and the administration of the Ministry of Health under Mr Arthur Greenwood was instanced as an example of the influence of permanent officials on Cabinet Ministers. Altogether, it was clear that the incursion into the political arena has aroused antipathies not easily overcome.

Getting again to business matters, Congress grew steadier when the organisation of a national co-operative milk supply was considered, and it was resolved to set up Trade Advisory Boards to co-ordinate the work of the wholesale and retail societies along departmental lines. Milk, meat, coal, and other commodities, the control of which has been threatened by the advocates of municipalisation in the Labour Party, are to be separately organised.

This was the most important decision of the Congress, which regarded the setting up of these National Co-operative Trade Boards as a means of competing with the Proprietary Articles Traders' Association and of counterbalancing the schemes of rationalisation in progress in several of the distributive trades and the productive businesses that supply many of the co-operative societies with their stocks. Thus the Congress came back to concern itself with the consumer *per se*—the original purpose of the movement.

INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION REPORT.—VOL. I.

In view of the great importance of the Report of the Indian Statutory Commission we give below a summary of the salient features of the First Volume, issued last Tuesday. Reference to the sections of the Report dealing with the Army in India and Indian Education will be found in Notes of the Week. In our next issue we propose to summarise the Commission's survey of the System of Public Finance.

IN presenting their Report on the momentous issue of the future government of India, the Statutory Commission have clearly been impressed both by the magnitude of the question which they were called upon to solve and by the consideration that its solution must ultimately depend not only on the nature of their recommendations but on public opinion. The education of such opinion to appreciate the essential factors in the situation was, indeed, an important part of the Commission's task, and the statement of the reasons for issuing the first volume* of their Report, entitled " Survey," a fortnight in advance of Volume II., merits quotation.

" The problems connected with the future constitutional development of India are of such complexity and importance that we are unwilling to see our proposals for their treatment thrown into the arena of discussion and controversy before there has been time to examine and digest the survey of the present position on which our recommendations are based. . . . In handling matters so various and so vital, it appears to us to be absolutely necessary first to establish the greatest possible measure of agreement as to the fundamentals of the Indian problem, before hastening to consider the method, the pace and the direction of the advance that can now be made along the road to its ultimate solution."

As to the eventual goal, the Report from the outset leaves little room for doubt. Under the terms of the Royal Warrant the Commission was " appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the working of the system of government, the growth of education, and the development of representative institutions in British India . . . and [to] report as to whether and to what extent it is desirable to establish the principle of representative government, or to extend, modify, or restrict the degree of responsible government existing therein." The opening pages of the Introduction, however, recall the nature of the historic announcement made by Mr Montagu to the House of Commons on August 20, 1917:—

" The policy of His Majesty's Government . . . is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. . . . Progress in this policy can only be achieved by successive stages. The British Government and the Government of India . . . must be judges of the time and measure of each advance, and they must be guided by the co-operation received from those upon whom new opportunities of service will thus be conferred and by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility."

This declaration was recapitulated in the Government of India Act, 1919, from Section 84A of which the Commission's appointment derives, and has recently been reaffirmed and emphasised. The Report, accordingly, states unequivocally:—

" We enter upon our task, therefore, upon the basis and assumption that the goal defined by Mr Montagu represented the accepted policy to be pursued, and that the only proposals worthy to be considered are proposals . . . inspired with the honest purpose of giving to it its due effect. . . . On the one hand . . . whatever the obstacles, the object stands as the declared goal of British-Indian policy. On the other hand . . . . the decision as to the immediate future must largely depend upon a just estimate of the results and consequences of the steps already taken."

To the framing of such an estimate the Commission have addressed themselves in the present volume. But

* Cmd. 3568. H.M. Stationery Office. 3s. net.

before doing so they have presented, first, " in a compendious form, a statement, as accurate and impartial as we can make it, of what India is," and, secondly, a concise objective picture of the existing constitutional structure, administrative and judicial systems, and the system of public finance, with whose working since 1919 they were primarily concerned.

Background of the Problem.

The description of the " Conditions of the Problem " begins by emphasising the fact that India, with an area twenty times that of Great Britain, and a population nearly two and a half times that of the United States, is not a country but a sub-continent, holding a " variegated assemblage of races and creeds," though " a sense of unity is growing." Agriculture and pasture occupy 71 per cent. of the population, only 10 per cent. of which live in urban areas, and " the main characteristics of village life are still those of the centuries anterior to British rule." On the other hand, apart from the great Indian landlords and the " capitalists," in whose hands " large-scale manufacture is being superimposed on the ancient fabric of an elaborately subdivided and predominantly rural society," there is emerging an educated class prominent in the leadership of Indian political opinion, who have imbibed the traditions and thought of the West, and yet are " keenly conscious of unity with the mass of the Indian people whose minds are set in the immemorial traditions of the East."

Such a contrast illustrates the complexity of the background of the Indian problem, which is, in fact, not that of an entity but of a conglomeration of diversities. The Commissioners point out that the existence of 70 million Mahommedans, dispersed among 216 million Hindus representing a widely different type of culture, gives rise to a basic antagonism expressed both in economic competition and in violent communal feuds. The social structure is further complicated by the caste system among Hindus and the position of the " depressed classes," who constitute 30 per cent. of the Hindu population. Moreover, apart from the separate existence of the Indian States, of which the Report remarks with reference to the Butler Committee† : " The future development of India cannot be envisaged without bearing fully in mind . . the Crown's obligations to them," the Commission was evidently struck by the diversity of the features, racial and economic, of the Provinces of British India proper, and significant emphasis is laid on the distinctive character of Burma.

In this great sub-continent, lacking even the unity which Western Europe may be said to possess, government before the reforms of 1919 had three cardinal features :—

(1) The concentration of authority at the centre;
(2) The control over legislative functions exercised by the Executive;
(3) The ultimate responsibility of the Imperial Parliament for the whole of Indian government.

The " over-riding unity " of the Centre, and the subordination of the provinces to it, may be traced back to the Charter Act of 1833, by which the Governor-General of Bengal became the Governor-General of India; the Indian Councils Act of 1861 and 1892 set up bodies that were essentially deliberative in character, so that even after the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 the Executive's control of legislation was fully preserved; and, down to the introductions of the Montagu Reforms, " behind the Governor-General in Council, and co-extensive with all executive action, lay the theoretical responsibility of the Secretary of State " in Whitehall.

The Act of 1919.

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report laid down four governing principles to be embodied in the new constitutional structure :—

(i) There should be, as far as possible, complete popular control in local bodies and the largest possible independence for them of outside control.
(ii) The Provinces are the domain in which the earlier steps towards the progressive realisation of responsible government should be taken. Some measure of responsibility should be given at once, and our aim is to give complete responsibility as soon as conditions permit. This involves at once giving the Provinces the largest measure of independence, legislative, administrative, and financial, of the Government of India which is compatible with the due discharge by the latter of its own responsibilities.
(iii) The Government of India must remain wholly responsible to Parliament, and saving such responsibility, its authority in essential matters must remain indisputable, pending experience of the effect of the changes now to be introduced in the Provinces. In the meantime, the Indian Legislative Council should be enlarged and made more representative, and its opportunities of influencing Government increased.
(iv) In proportion as the foregoing changes take effect, the control of Parliament and the Secretary of State over the Government of India and provincial Governments must be relaxed.

† Report of the Indian States Committee. Cmd. 3302 of 1929.

The Act of 1919 accordingly set up in each of the eight major " Governors' " provinces (a ninth, Burma, was added in 1923) a " unicameral and triennial legislature called a Legislative Council." At least 70 per cent. (in Burma 60 per cent.) of the members were to be elected, and it was intended that the franchise should be " broad." It was found possible, however, only to confer the franchise on about one-tenth of the adult male population, the normal qualification being residence in the constituency, plus the payment of a small amount in land revenue, rent or rates; and even so " a large proportion of the voters are illiterate." The distribution of seats has also been complicated by the concession to Mahommedans and Punjab Sikhs of communal electorates, so that they may vote for candidates of their own faith, and the system of " reserved " seats for minorities also exists in Madras, Bombay, and elsewhere.

Bills passed by a provincial legislature require the assent both of the Governor and of the Governor-General, and the Governor may overcome unwillingness of the legislature to pass proposals put before it by certifying that the passage of a Bill (or a " grant," *i.e.*, a Vote in Supply) is " essential for the discharge of his responsibility for the subject." This power of " certification," however, relates only to " reserved," as opposed to " transferred," subjects—a distinction fundamental in the system of provincial " dyarchy " to which the Act of 1919 led.

The System of Dyarchy.

Since that Act, and the Rules made under it devolving certain subjects to the provinces, the Government of a province has been committed in relation to " reserved " provincial subjects (notably Irrigation, Land Revenue, Famine Relief, Justice, and Provincial Borrowing) to the Governor-General in Council—members, not exceeding four, appointed by the Crown—and in relation to " transferred " provincial subjects (notably Local Government, Health, Education, and Public Works) to the Governor acting with Ministers. These Ministers are appointed by the Governor and theoretically hold office at his pleasure, but the power of the Legislative Council to refuse supply makes " the continuance of the confidence of the Council essential to their retention of office." In the dyarchical distribution of functions, the Commissioners observe, the extension of responsibility to others has not " lightened the burden which rests on the Governor's own shoulders."

Passing from the provinces to the Centre, the Report proceeds to describe the structure of the post-1919 Indian Legislature, consisting of the Governor-General and two Chambers—the Council of State, or Upper House, and the Legislative Assembly. The former, whose membership is limited to 60 (of which 34 are elected members) has " a character distinct from that of the Legislative Assembly " as a result of the extremely restricted franchise of its electorate. The Legislative Assembly consists of 145 members (105 elected), and the franchise for its electorate follows the provincial model, including the system of " communal electorates," but with somewhat higher electoral qualifications.

Theoretically the Central Legislature is entitled to legislate for the whole field of government, but for practical purposes a real distribution of legislative power exists, following the distinction between central and provincial subjects in the Devolution Rules already mentioned. In the financial sphere expenditure on certain lines is authorised by the Governor-General in Council without being voted, and the Governor-General, as well as vetoing any Bill, may secure the enactment of any " essential " Bill by certification—a power used on four occasions since the Reforms. In the event of a difference of opinion between the two Chambers, the Governor-General may convene a Joint Sitting, whose decision is deemed to be the decision of both Chambers, either of which he can dissolve at his discretion, though this power has never yet been exercised.

Thus, in all essential matters the authority of the Government of India—*i.e.*, the Governor-General and seven Members of the Executive Council—remains indisputable save for its accountability to the Imperial Parliament.

" None of its Members are constitutionally ' responsible ' to the Central Legislature. . . . In constitutional theory, therefore, the Government of India is a subordinate official government under His Majesty's Government, though in actual practice this relation of agency is qualified by the extent to which (1) authority is left in the hands of the Government of India to be exercised without reference to . . . the Secretary of State, and (2) influence is exerted by the Indian Legislature upon the acts and policies of the Central Executive."

The Government of India not only administers the " Central " subjects (notably Defence, Relations with the States, Customs and other sources of all-India revenues), but has the power of superintendence, direction and control over provincial Governments in respect of all " reserved " provincial subjects, and it is responsible for the administration of all subjects in areas of British India not included within the boundaries of the nine Governors' Provinces. The Governor-General himself—or Viceroy, as he is alternatively called—occupies the " most responsible, as it is the most picturesque and distinguished, office in the overseas service of the British Crown." Upon him rests a direct personal share in the main burden of government such as pertains to no other representative of the Sovereign within the Empire.

The Working of the Reforms.

Having thus described the nature of the statutory structure of the Government of India, the Report goes on to give the Commission's views as to the success with which the machinery of Government, including the administrative and judicial system, has worked since the Reforms. The Commission's judgment on the working of the provincial franchise is that

" The adoption of property qualifications . . . . gave a predominance and sometimes a monopoly in the vote to certain classes of the population . . . . (with) the anomalous result that a large proportion of the electors are illiterate, although the total number of registered electors is less than the total of adult male literates recorded in the Census."

The unwieldy size of constituencies is also criticised as militating against personal contact between member and voter, and the formation of intelligent opinion among the electorate, while the complex character of the Councils has largely precluded the formation of political parties, so that the minds of an untrained mass of voters have been further confused by elections fought mostly on personal or communal issues.

" The only really well-organised and disciplined party with a definite programme (though, it is true, a negative one) is that of the Swarajists. Only in Bengal and the Central Provinces did they, even temporarily, achieve their initial object of making dyarchy unworkable, and . . . . with the detachment of most of their original Moslem members, they have grown more definitely into a communal party."

On the other hand, the rise in the percentage of votes polled, from 29 in 1920 to 42.6 in 1926, is regarded by the Commission as indicating that, though the elections are " very largely a contest of persons," real interest on the part of the voters is being awakened.

The absence of organised parties is found to have had adverse effects also on the working of the provincial legislatures, and of the dyarchic provincial constitution. In theory, Ministers are jointly responsible to the legislature for the " transferred " half of government. In practice, lacking a majority of supporters' votes and forced to rely largely on the nominated official *bloc*, they have had their influence over the legislature weakened through accusations of becoming " Government men."

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" In the light of experience, it may be doubted whether the object aimed at could be attained as long as both halves of Government have to present themselves before the same Legislature. The practical difficulty in the way of achieving the objective of dyarchy and of obtaining a clear demarcation of responsibility arises not so much in the inner counsels of Government as in the eyes of the Legislature, the electorate, and the public.

Provincial Legislatures were by the nature of the constitution set the difficult task of discharging two different functions at the same time. In one sphere, they were to exercise control over policy; in the other, while free to criticise and vote or withhold supply, they were to have no responsibility. The inherent difficulty of keeping this distinction in mind has been intensified by the circumstances under which the Councils have worked to such an extent that perhaps the most important feature of the working of dyarchy in the provincial Councils, when looked at from the constitutional aspect, is the marked tendency of the Councils to regard the Government as a whole, to think of Ministers as on a footing not very different from that of Executive Councillors, to forget the extent of opportunities of the Legislatures on the transferred side and to magnify their functions in the reserved field. . . . The resulting almost irresistible impulse towards a unification of Government has probably been all to the good from the point of view of the efficient conduct of business; but the underlying and fundamental conception of the dyarchic system—complete responsibility of Ministers in a certain defined field, and in that field only—has become almost hopelessly obscured."

At the same time, the Commission place on record their view that though the provincial legislatures cannot altogether be acquitted of occasional irresponsibility, most of them have attained a " very general measure of success " and " have also in many instances exerted a useful influence, and thrown an informing light upon the proceedings of Government."

Government, Legislature, and Administration.

Passing to the working of the Centre, the Report emphasises the inevitability, in consequence of vast constituencies separated by great distances from Delhi, of the divorce of the representative from the life of his constituency. In the Indian Legislature, as in the Provincial Councils, parties are predominantly communal groups, with the official *bloc* solidly backing a Government which, in contrast to the position at Westminster, no Opposition can hope to turn out or be required to undertake the responsibility of succeeding. None the less—

" On the one hand, while the attitude of the Assembly has often been strongly influenced by its constitutional irresponsibility, it has co-operated with the Government in a good deal of constructive work. On the other hand, the Executive has been far from unresponsive to the criticism and to the suggestions of the Legislature."

Up to 1928, no less than 199 Government Bills were passed by the Assembly, and only four had to be certified; and in the Council of State the Government has been able to rely on support in all crucial questions. On the other side, the direct and indirect influence of the Legislature, through putting questions and moving resolutions, through its financial power over votable items in

the Budget, and through its standing committees on Finance and Public Accounts, is pronounced to be greater than is realised by its members.

Having commented briefly on the practical relation between the Government of India and the provincial governments—a relation in which co-ordinating powers take the form of advice and suggestion, rather than of command—and on the extent to which Parliament has delegated (though it has not by statute devolved) responsibility to the Governor-General in Council, the Report examines at some length the working of the administrative services, "all-India" and provincial, since 1919. Having noted the rapid progress of Indianisation in the "transferred" fields, and the relatively small total number of Europeans in Government employ (3,500 out of 5,250 in the "all-India" and equivalent central services) the Commission remark:—

"The anticipation that officials would under the Reforms rapidly pass from being administrators into the position of advisers has only been very partially fulfilled. . . . The circumstances of the last ten years have called forth all their energies in the discharge of the primary duties of government. A constant watch has had to be maintained for extremist movements. . . . It is . . . action and decision that have been demanded."

One result of the Reforms, however, has been to increase the call for officials to serve at headquarters, with a resulting diminution of contact with village life, noted by the Commissioners with evident regret. Having emphasised the potency of the "personal touch" in India, and the fact that "the great mass of the people desire personal rule, and we believe that for many years to come there can be no adequate substitute for it," the Report adds:—

"No changes or adjustments are likely to alter the central fact that the District Officer must remain a very important person, the embodiment of effective authority, and the resource to whom the countryside turns in time of difficulty or crisis. The respect in which he is held, and the influence which he wields, reflect the preference for personal and visible authority, which will endure though that authority is the spokesman and instrument of responsible government. In no future that we can foresee will the post of a District Officer cease to be one which calls for those qualities of integrity and decision which so many of the best kind of public servants have exhibited in the service of India."

This fitting tribute to a service unique in the history of civilisation deserves to be remembered.

Politics and Public Opinion.

There remain finally to be considered the two important sections of the Report in which the Commission trace the course of Indian politics since 1919 and try to estimate how far any political consciousness exists among the peoples of India.

The first section is largely the history of "Non-Co-operation," a movement born originally from Moslem agitation against the Turkish peace terms, but given new shape, and different racial bias, by the intervention in politics of Gandhi and his adherents, and the formulation of the somewhat nebulous principles of Swaraj. Having recounted the later development of the nationalist movement, no longer resting on a Hindu-Moslem alliance, but begetter of "a Hindu-Moslem antagonism which has ever since been a dominating factor in Indian politics," the Report emphasises the unfortunate influence on opinion exercised by an Indian-owned Press which exhibits, in attacking the Government and in "the undermining of respect for authority and good order in general," with few exceptions, "a licence to which it would be difficult to find a parallel." At the same time, interest in politics is still necessarily confined to a small minority, and in a country where the number of literates is very small, rumour and the spoken word count far more than reading in the formation of public opinion, whose development is "one of the prime factors to be considered in estimating . . . the possibilities of future action." On the one hand, the Report concludes:—

"All the world over the peasant, except in a few small countries, is not continuously interested in politics. . . . But the small extent to which political consciousness has developed among the inhabitants of the 500,000 villages of British India is not caused solely by conditions which exist in rural communities all over the world. It is very largely due to special circumstances. The idea that the course of government should be affected or controlled by the opinion on political matters of himself and his fellows is wholly foreign to the traditions of the Indian "ryot." . . . . Communal and sectional feelings are nearest to the surface, and it is inevitable that they should take precedence over more general political conceptions. When the last Census was taken 90 per cent. of the 320,000,000 who were then counted were found to be living in the same district in which they had been born, and of the balance, two out of three were found in a contiguous district. The growth of political consciousness is, therefore, hindered, not only by the tradition which so widely prevails that policy is a matter for Government, and not for citizens, to decide, but by the practical obstacles of distance and ignorance to be overcome, even after that tradition has been broken down."

On the other hand, the Commissioners consider, though the politically-minded in India are only a tiny minority, they may be able to sway masses in the countryside responsive to personal appeals or religious and communal emotions. And against this background stands out the remarkable absorption by educated India, fraction though it be, of Western thought.

"Down to 30 or 40 years ago India stood entirely outside the influence of the course of political ideas which at length produced democratic self-government in some other parts of the world. But in the last generation she has been swayed, at once and the same time, by the force of several conceptions which in Europe had followed a certain sequence. Thus, the struggle for power between rival religious communities, the rise of an intense national spirit, the spread of toleration, the growth of democracy, and the controversies of socialism, mark fairly well-defined epochs in European history. But in India these various influences are contending side by side for the allegiance of the politically minded. The growth of national self-consciousness is retarded by communal separatism. The movement towards Western industrialism is countered by the return to the spinning wheel. The equality of Asiatic and European is claimed, while the clash of Brahmin and non-Brahmin, or caste and outcast, is intensified. Ultra-democratic constitutions are propounded, although the long process which was a necessary antecedent to democracy in Europe—namely, the breaking down of class and communal and occupational barriers, has only just begun. Indian political thought finds it tempting to foreshorten history, and is unwilling to wait for the final stage of a prolonged evolution. It is impatient of the doctrine of gradualness."

Having remarked once more that Indian politicians are apt to under-estimate the existing effect of public opinion on the Government and, mistakenly, to regard political power as non-existent unless given explicit statutory form, the Report emphasises the force and unanimity of educated Indians' demand for equal status with the European and belief in self-determination for India.

"The British people, so long accustomed to self-government, are bound to sympathise with this movement, even though they may deplore some of its manifestations. We are pledged to help India along her way, and constructive effort is needed. . . . We desire to see the forces of public opinion which exist in India concentrated and strengthened for the practical work of reform. It is only when the difficulties of constructive policy are really faced that the inadequacy of general phrases begins to be realised."

On this note of tempered encouragement the Commission's survey ends.

Notes of the Week.

The Government and Unemployment.—On Tuesday next, June 17th, at the Guildhall, the Prime Minister will preside at a conference of local authorities, specially summoned for the purpose of discussing ways and means of expediting work on existing schemes and possibilities of enlarging present work programmes. Of considerable significance is the evidence which the summoning of this conference provides that Mr Ramsay MacDonald, freed from exacting labours in the international sphere, is now concentrating his energy and authority upon the unemployment problem. This is welcome, for there is truth in the remark of Mr Lloyd George in the House of Commons debate on May 28th that "no one can put this thing through, however able he may be, except the head of the Government." The driving force must come from the top, and in the debate referred to the Prime Minister's speech showed that other preoccupations had up to then precluded him from grasping the essential details of the situation. Six points for discussion have been circulated for the consideration of the local authorities who will be represented at the conference. These questions seem to have been suggested by the resignation speech of Sir Oswald Mosley, who trenchantly described the departmental and other obstacles which were holding up the actual launching of schemes. So far as departmental obstacles are concerned, they can only be swept away by forceful action by the Prime Minister. In the case of external obstacles, such as delaying tactics by landowners and other interests, it is possible that emergency powers may be required; and Mr Lloyd George has promised to support the Premier in requesting the House of Commons to give him any emergency powers that may be necessary and proper. We may therefore hope that Tuesday's conference may result in at least some acceleration of the cumbersome machinery of providing productive work for the unemployed, and that the whole problem will henceforth be regarded a little more in the light of a national emergency.

The Imperial Press Conference.—Most important, perhaps, of all the conferences being held in London this month is that to which the centre of the Empire welcomes representatives of the Press from every quarter of its far-flung territories; and perhaps the direct technical business of the conference is its least important side. Discussions on communications, the provision of news services, advertising and so on will doubtless prove useful to many editors and proprietors, but it is the less tangible results of personal contacts and of atmosphere from which most good may be expected. Anyone who has travelled in the distant parts of the Empire must have been acutely aware of a feeling that not only the Mother Country but also other component parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations were far-off misty unrealities, and that their affairs were only seen through a glass darkly. In London this month those who are responsible for guiding public opinion in widely separated British territories are meeting each other and learning anew of the similarities and differences of their several outlooks and problems. At the same time, they are all meeting and hearing the views on broad Imperial affairs of many of those leaders of British public life who have played big parts in guiding the Empire through critical stages of evolution. The delegates cannot fail to return to their posts with a clearer vision of Britain's own peculiar problems, and with a riper experience of Imperial problems, responsibilities and potentialities. Moreover, the conference is felicitously timed, for the delegates will have all these contacts and impressions fresh in mind as a valuable help towards judging the proceedings of this autumn's Imperial Conference and of helping to form in all parts of the Empire sound opinions upon the work which the statesmen will then attempt.

India's Military Problems.—There are few of the final recommendations of the Statutory Commission which will be awaited with keener interest than those relating to the future of the Army in India, whose present position and problems are described in a most important section of the first volume of their Report. Having regard to the fact that the solution of "the tremendous question" involved in this connection by the constitutional future envisaged for British India in the Declaration of 1919 was not then really faced, the report summarises "the special features of India's military problem which must be provided for before Army administration can be a function of a self-governing India." As regards external defence, the strategic requirements of the North-West Frontier are noted as constituting a problem "without parallel elsewhere in the Empire," and as involving "a difficulty in developing self-government which never arose in any comparable degree in the case of the self-governing Dominions." But a second consideration also makes the case of India unique. Not only is the Army normally employed to an extent not paralleled elsewhere for the purpose of maintaining or restoring internal peace—and in disturbances of a communal complexion reliance tends to be placed predominantly on the British soldier as a "neutral"—but a further complication is entailed through the unequal distribution between the martial and non-martial races of the sources of recruitment for Indian regiments. Thus, excluding 19,000 Gurkhas recruited from Nepal, the Punjab contingent amounts to 62 per cent. of the whole Indian Army.

"The plain fact is that the formation of an Indian national Army drawn from India as a whole, in which every member will recognise the rest as his comrades, in which Indian officers will lead men who may be of different races, and in which public opinion will have general confidence, is a task of the greatest possible difficulty. . . . As things are, the presence of British troops and the leadership of British officers secure that the fighting regiments shall not be a menace to the millions who are conducting their civil occupations without any thought of the consequences which might ensue if British troops were withdrawn and the Indian Army consisted of nothing but representatives of the Indian fighting races."

"Indian statesmen," the Commissioners remark, "in developing their ideas of self-government for India as a whole will, as it seems to us, have to face these questions in a practical spirit," and with less facile assumptions than those made in the so-called Nehru Report of 1928. On the other hand, the Report emphasises the importance of recognising that these difficulties must not be treated as insurmountable. Having described briefly the progress of Indianisation of commissioned ranks under the Eight Units Scheme started in 1923, and the arrangements made for providing vacancies for Indians at Sandhurst, Woolwich and Cranwell, following the Skeen Report in 1926, the Commission state frankly:—

"It is not to be supposed that units recruited in Britain and officered by British officers are going to be mercenaries in some future India where the ultimate military authority rests with an Indian Minister of War, or with an Indian Cabinet, responsible to an Indian elected Assembly."

Discussing possible directions of advance, the Report concludes by remarking that "the objective which many Indian politicians naturally and properly put before themselves is to develop Indian Army organisation upon a purely Indian basis and officered by Indians." The pace at which this can be done depends upon the practical efficiency of the new instrument for its essential purpose. Internal order is manifestly a primary task of the forces of a self-governing area; external defence, on the other hand, may be viewed as the concern not only of India, but of the whole Empire.

"We are only concerned here to convey a double warning—a warning, on the one hand, that Britain cannot indefinitely treat the present military organisation of India as sacrosanct and unalterable, but must make an active endeavour to search for such adjustments as might be possible; and a warning, on the other hand, that Indian statesmen can help to modify the existing arrangement in the direction of self-government only if they too will co-operate by facing the hard facts and by remembering that those who set them out for further consideration are not gloating over obstacles, but are offering the help of friends of Indian aspirations."

It is evident from this section of the Report that the Commission's recommendations on the problem of India's defence will be of crucial importance.

Indian Education.—The problem of education in India, whose growth the Statutory Commission was required by the terms of its Royal Warrant of appointment to survey, had already been the subject of an interim report* giving the findings of an Auxiliary Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Philip Hartog, which the Commission set up. Those findings, which were discussed in the *Economist* of October 26, 1926, page 761, are generally endorsed in the present Report of the Commission. The magnitude of the task of spreading education among the masses of India is frankly recognised, and the Commission are satisfied that, as the Auxiliary Committee found, though "so far as mere quantitative increase in the numbers under instruction is concerned, there has been a phenomenal advance since the inception of the Reforms," the advance towards effective literacy has been somewhat illusory. The encouraging growth of public interest in education is noted, but so also are the "futility and waste of time, effort and money which have resulted through excessive haste to achieve quantitative expansion without an adequate supply of teachers or proper organisation of inspection." The need for good and independent inspection of schools is particularly emphasised, and the view is strongly expressed

* Cmd. 3407. H.M. Stationery Office, 4s. net.

that Governments will have to devote themselves for a long period to reforming the organisation and administration of this vital service " to prevent expansion being unfruitful and the ground still uncultivated remaining sterile." As the Commission remark, " literacy alone affords no guarantee of the attainment of real political capacity, but the ability to read at least increases the probability that statements and discussions of political issues and political programmes will reach the elector." As male literates in British India were found by the census of 1921 to amount to only 14.4 per cent., the importance of the educational issue can hardly be exaggerated.

The Crisis in Malta.—The trouble in Malta grows. On Whit Sunday Archbishop Caruana, who has been conducting a violent political campaign against the Prime Minister, Lord Strickland, and against the party which Lord Strickland represents, was the object of hostile demonstrations which made it necessary for the police to intervene. This was only to be expected sooner or later; for the Maltese prelates themselves have temporarily paralysed the normal, constitutional politics of Malta by threatening to excommunicate anybody who voted for Lord Strickland and his colleagues, with the result that the elections had to be suspended at the last moment. Nor can the crisis be resolved by local action. The local situation depends on relations between the Imperial Government and the Holy See; and here there is a deadlock. Peace can only be restored by the negotiation of a concordat, and the British Government is unwilling to negotiate unless the Holy See first takes steps to restrain the two Maltese prelates from their present political course, while the Holy See refuses to enter into negotiations on these conditions. This is strangely inconsistent with a provision—forbidding ecclesiastics to take part in politics—which appears in the concordat concluded between the Holy See and Italy last year. If the Holy See thinks that right in one Catholic country, why is it unwilling to agree to it in another? Is it a question of " face "—an unwillingness to have a preliminary condition for negotiation laid down by the other side? But if " face " is to be saved, it must be saved all round; and the Holy See did not consider British or Maltese " face " when it allowed the prelates in Malta to put a spoke in the wheel of constitutional government. Moreover, the Holy See's part in the prelates' political campaign has been one not of merely supine tolerance but of active incitement. Strange light is thrown on this point by the correspondence with the Holy See relative to Maltese affairs which has just been published as a Parliamentary Paper* in this country. The crucial document is a note of July 2, 1929, from the Cardinal Secretary of State to the British diplomatic representative at the Vatican, enclosing two documents which he had already despatched to the Bishops of Malta and Gozo—a *résumé* of an *aide-mémoire* addressed by eye-witnesses (unnamed in the document) to the Holy See on activities of Lord Strickland in Malta and a letter addressed to the two prelates by Cardinal Gasparri himself. The *résumé* is a vituperative denunciation of the present political situation in Malta; the letter is virtually an exhortation to the two prelates to persist in a political campaign against the Maltese Ministry. The inexplicable fact is that this unheralded declaration of war was launched within less than a month of the return to the Vatican of a Delegate Apostolic, Monsignore Pascal Robinson, who had just been investigating the whole Maltese situation on the spot. The Holy See says that it was partly on Monsignore Robinson's advice, and on the strength of his report, that it acted thus. The British Government says that the Monsignore, after a full and friendly discussion with the Maltese Ministry and with the Governor, was able to collaborate with them in drafting the heads of a concordat. Presumably the Monsignore's lips are sealed by authority; but his missing evidence is indispensable for judgment on the case. Meanwhile, we can only assume that the Holy See has shown less than its usual judgment in the affairs of this world.

* Holy See No. 1 (1930). Cmd. 3588.

The Situation in China.—The development which we foreshadowed when last we referred to China seems, unfortunately, to be maturing. The two allied Northern war lords, Fêng and Yen, are gaining ground on the main front in Honan and Shantung because the Nanking Government's forces are paralysed by a threat from the rear, *i.e.*, from the South. It is now reported that they have lost Changsha—the capital of Hunan—to the combined forces of " the Kwangsi group " and Chang Fat-kwei, the commander of " the Ironsides "; and Changsha is connected by railway with Yochow on the Yangtse and with Hankow. Thus the southern insurgents are within measurable distance of reaching the line of the Middle Yangtse and joining hands with the Northern war lords somewhere in Hupeh. If that were to happen, it would look to outsiders as though the days of the Nanking Government were numbered; but, according to all Chinese precedents, that would be just the moment for them to make a brilliant recovery—profiting strategically by their interior lines or diplomatically by the extremely probable contingency that their southern and northern adversaries would only join hands in order to fall out with one another. But this stage may never be reached, for the Nanking strategists have not played their last card. Finding how uncomfortable it is for themselves to be attacked from the rear, they have taken steps to make the southern insurgents suffer the same discomfort; and already the anti-Nanking forces from Kwangsi who have triumphantly entered Changsha are being hotly pursued by pro-Nanking forces from Kwantung, who may succeed in triumphantly occupying Changsha in their turn, while " the Ironsides " are spreading on towards Hankow. All this would be amusing if it were not so tragic for the unfortunate civil population of China and so detrimental to the interests of the world at large.

The Channel Tunnel—An Obituary.—The White Paper in which the Government explain their reasons for refusing to sanction the Channel Tunnel project is a remarkable document, in which the effect of three reasonable contentions, which not even those who dissent from them can despise, is entirely wrecked by the introduction, as a clinching argument, of a museum piece. They say that the economic success of the Tunnel must remain uncertain until £5½ million have been sunk in the pilot tunnel, and that there is very little support for the scheme among representatives of trade and industry; they say that the employment afforded for the first five years would only be equivalent to that which could be provided by the expenditure of about £250,000 per annum on road construction, and would be partly counterbalanced by the effects of reduced expenditure by railway and shipping companies; and they make the very important point that, however firmly they disclaim any intention of providing public money for the furtherance of the scheme, they would, in fact, be unable to avoid some moral responsibility for seeing it completed, should the supply of private capital prove inadequate. These, especially the last, are arguments of some substance; but the Government, having fired these telling volleys into the heart of the scheme, make assurance doubly sure by bringing out a crossbow from the ancestral armoury and letting fly an arrow in the direction of the corpse. We are told that the provision of adequate defence for the Tunnel would be both costly and unsatisfactory, and that " no attempt can be made to describe the multiplicity of the forms of attack to which the Tunnel would be exposed under modern conditions, nor the ingenious means proposed for its protection." These ingenuities were devised by the General Staff, who apparently reconnoitred the whole area on the spot; but to the mere civilian, contemplating the rapid development of aerial warfare, invasion by Tunnel seems about as likely as an attack by an owl on a fieldmouse's nest *via* the neighbouring rabbit warren. Indeed, if we are to be invaded at all, an invading army which has only one dimension in which to move seems considerably less formidable than an aerial force with three dimensions at its disposal. However, the Tunnel is not to be, and as the day of its maximum potential usefulness is probably already past, it seems unlikely that the project will again be raised unless and until some as yet undreamed of means of transport on *terra firma* displaces the aeroplane and airship.

May Overseas Trade.—The preliminary figures of overseas trade in May, published in the *Board of Trade Journal*, show, as was to be expected, a decline in both imports and exports as compared with May, 1928, and a still heavier decline as compared with May last year:—

MONTH OF MAY.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Inc. or Dec. on April, 1929.		Inc. or Dec. on April 1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	91,037	−12,455	12·0	− 8,393	− 8·4
British exports	51,012	−16,425	24·4	− 7,542	−12·9
Re-exports	9,075	− 1,396	13·3	− 2,746	−23·2
Total exports	60,087	−17,821	22·9	−10,288	−14·6
Excess of imports over total exports	30,950	+ 5,366	21·0	+ 1,895	+ 6·5

This further decline in May means that the figures for the year to date are heavily below those for the first five months of either of the last two years, as the following table shows:—

FIRST FIVE MONTHS.
(000's omitted.)

	1930.	Increase or Decrease as compared with			
		1929.		1928.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	458,328	−55,178	−10·7	−47,665	− 9·4
British exports	262,006	−46,843	−15·3	−33,753	−11·4
Re-exports	41,401	− 9,545	−18·8	−14,514	−26·0
Total exports	303,407	−56,388	−15·7	−48,367	−13·8
Excess of imports over total exports	154,921	+ 1,210	+ 0·8	+ 702	+ 0·5

Unfortunately, the decline in imports is very much more marked in the raw materials class than among manufactured goods, imports of which are only £1¼ million lower than in the first five months of last year, whereas exports of British manufactures have declined from £246 million to £205 million. The exact significance of this cannot, however, be gauged until the Trade Returns are published and we are therefore obliged to postpone comment until next week.

Shipping Freight Index Number.—Renewed weakness of rates for most homeward voyages, offset in consequence by slightly firmer outward quotations, characterised the " tramp " shipping freight market last month. On balance, our index number, calculated on the basis of monthly averages, recorded in May, as compared with April, a decline of 1.3 per cent. The latest figure, which represents 88.5 per cent. of the average for 1898-1913, is nearly 22 per cent. lower than at this time last year. The following table summarises recent movements of the index number:—

AVERAGE 1898–1913=100.

	Average, 1913.	May, 1929.	Mar., 1930.	April, 1930.	May, 1930.
European Waters	110·0	119·6	96·3	94·4	95·1
North America	113·1	115·6	87·7	91·2	88·5
South America	123·4	122·6	91·9	95·9	91·6
India	106·3	109·0	94·2	94·8	94·2
Far East and Pacific	117·4	112·6	77·8	76·3	74·6
Australia	127·9	99·7	79·2	85·5	87·2
Total	116·3	113·2	87·9	89·7	88·5

There was still no recovery in the volume of sea-borne grain moving last month. The homeward Plate market was particularly depressed, partly through the general apathy of charterers, and partly on account of delays in maize shipments caused by bad weather. The North American group of routes was equally dull; rates in Europe were affected by restricted business in ore; and the volume of whole-cargo business east of the Suez Canal was exceptionally small. The month's changes in the index of each group and sub-group are shown in the following table, the figure 100 representing in each case the average rate during the basic period 1898-1913:

	Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.		Index Number	Inc. or Dec. Points.
Home trade	76·3	− 0·4	South America—outwards	116·9	+ 7·1
Bay—outwards	113·8	+11·1	South America—homewards	66·3	−15·8
Bay—homewards	111·3	− 9·7	India—outwards	115·8	+ 6·3
Mediterranean—outwards	98·1	+ 3·8	India—homewards	72·6	− 7·6
Mediterranean—homewards	94·9	...	Far East, &c.	74·6	− 1·7
North America	88·5	− 2·7	Australia	87·2	+ 1·7

Expressed as a percentage of the average for 1913, the total figure of our index number for May works out at 76.1, as compared with 77.1 in April, and 97.3 a year ago. With the dull season of mid-summer approaching, the prospects for " tramp " shipowners are far from propitious; and even when allowance is made for the fact that 4½ million tons are laid up, it may be difficult, in the absence of concerted action, to prevent a further decline in many rates.

The Bank and Gold Shipments.—On Friday afternoon of last week the Bank of England let it be known that for the time being it was only going to sell standard gold of eleven-twelfths, or 0.916⅔, fineness. This presumably means that at present it proposes to adhere to the strict terms of the Gold Standard Act of 1925, under which it is only bound to sell 400 ounce bars of standard gold. There is reason to believe that it deliberately made that announcement immediately before the holidays so as to give all concerned ample time to adjust themselves to the new conditions that the Bank's decision brought into existence. As regards foreign exchange dealings with most centres, the Bank's decision to deliver standard gold instead of fine gold possesses little significance, for most central banks are prepared to buy standard gold, and in fact the American authorities specially encourage the delivery of gold nine-tenths fine, this being the fineness required by the American mint. The Banque de France, however, is bound by the French Stabilisation Law not to accept gold of a less fineness than 0.995, and so henceforward purchasers of gold from the Bank of England for transmission to the Banque de France will have to bear the cost of bringing it up to the required fineness, and also the loss of interest on the time occupied in the process. Originally the cost of refining in London amounted to 2d. per ounce gross, but last Wednesday, stimulated perhaps by the prospect of a large accretion of business as a result of this change in the Bank's procedure, a London refiner reduced his charges to ½d. Adopting this last figure, and taking interest at 3 per cent., the net result is that the export gold point of the London-Paris exchange is reduced from Frs. 123.89 to just under Frs. 123.80, and one authority expects Frs. 123.78 to be the practical working rate. A consequence of this is that so long as Paris is the effective buyer of the fine gold offered in the London market each week, the price of gold will rise above the price of 84s. 11½d. per ounce, which is the fine gold equivalent of the Bank's statutory selling price of 77s. 10½d. per ounce for standard gold, eleven-twelfths fine, and the amount of the increase will clearly

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equal the extent to which the gold export point of the French exchange has been lowered, *i.e.*, the cost of bringing standard gold up to the fineness required by the Banque de France. This is why the Cape gold in the market on Wednesday was sold at 85s. 0⅝d. It is possible that those unacquainted with the technicalities of the bullion market may deduce from these changes that Great Britain is departing from the gold standard, or at any rate that obstacles are being placed in the way of its normal operation. In reality nothing of the kind has happened. During the past few years the Bank has only delivered fine bars as an act of grace, and its decision to adhere for the time being to the letter of the law is based solely on the fact that it only has a limited quantity of fine bars left in its vaults. Nor is there anything unprecedented in the fact that fine gold in the market now commands a slight premium over the Bank's selling price, for in the last quarter of 1907—when the full gold standard was unquestionably in operation—fine bars were selling at a premium of 2⅛d. over the Bank's statutory selling price. It is true that the Bank's action has lowered the export gold point of the Paris exchange, and inasmuch as London refiners can only deal with approximately £200,000 worth of gold in a day, the daily outflow of gold to France may be restricted. Still, the Bank is not bound to exhaust its stocks of fine bars in order to facilitate shipments to France, and the outside observer will be disposed to argue that the fault lies in the French law which imposes on the Banque de France a restriction on its power to buy gold which does not generally exist. In other words, the Bank of England is playing according to the strict rules of the gold standard game, and others who make their own rules have no ground of complaint.

The Public Trustee.—The annual reports of the Public Trustee are interesting in that they direct attention to the steady growth of an institution, the magnitude of whose operations is not always fully appreciated. The twenty-second general report, covering the twelve months ended March 31, 1930, shows that up to that date the total number of trusts which the office had accepted was 27,073, with an aggregate value of £300,272,159. Of these, 9,634 had been completely distributed, leaving 17,439 under administration, with a capital value of £220 million. During the year, new trusts accepted numbered 1,004, with a total value (including some accretions to old trusts) of £13,883,458. The use made of the Office by testators of small means is illustrated, however, by the fact that 560 of last year's new trusts had a value of less than £5,000. The Office, which earned from fees a net surplus last year of £26,498, is assisted by an honorary Investment Advisory Committee, and it is of interest to note that on March 31st the investments held in trust, totalling £200,770,648, were distributed over a fairly wide range of securities, the principal holdings being British Funds, £59 million; Colonial Government and Colonial and Foreign Corporation Stocks, £30 million; and British railways, £27 million. Financial trusts, insurance and banks accounted for £16 million, and commercial and industrial securities for nearly £14 million. In its twenty-two years of sound and economical administration the Office of the Public Trustee has amply justified its existence.

The Empire Marketing Board.—The Empire Marketing Board, whose fourth Annual Report* has just been issued, is a non-political body containing representatives of all three parties, and was established in 1926 in order to "improve the quality and increase the quantity of Empire products marketed in the United Kingdom and to make Empire buying a national habit." The Board conceives its functions in a large-minded way. It recognises the immense complexity and widespread ramifications of the modern marketing processes, and it aims at contributing to the growth of Empire trade by increasing knowledge at every stage on the long road from the producer to the consumer. The Board's work falls essentially into three main parts, viz., research and development; economic investigation and marketing inquiries; and publicity. The importance of the Board's work in research and development may be seen from the fact that expenditure of £482,000 was included in the 1929-30 estimates in consequence of their work. The schemes approved range from banana research in the West Indies and copra research in Malaya and Fiji, through low-temperature research and animal husbandry and breeding, to entomological work both at home and abroad; mycology and plant pathology; economic botany and dietetic studies. Under the heading of economic investigation and marketing inquiries, the Board are assisting the work undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture; they are extending statistics and marketing intelligence; making researches into wastage in imported fruit; and carrying out a series of retail market services. The publicity work (for which £360,000 was provided in the estimates for 1929-30) includes newspaper advertisements, posters, leaflets, lectures, broadcasting and co-operation in exhibitions and shopping weeks, trade meetings and cinema publicity. The current report shows that the Board is making an important contribution to the development of Empire trade and that it is giving valuable encouragement to the extension of the scientific knowledge which is vital to the well-being and future development of the Empire.

* "Empire Marketing Board, May, 1929, to May, 1930." E.M.B. 28. London. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 1s. net.

Tourist Traffic in Canada.—Our Ottawa correspondent writes:—The tourist traffic from the United States has for some years been recognised as a growing factor in Canada's national economy, and a bulletin recently published by the Bureau of Statistics reveals it as so important that it ranks next to agriculture and manufacturing as a major industry of the Dominion. The Bureau estimates the value of the tourist trade to Canada in 1929 at $299,188,000, which is claimed to be an increase of 30 and 69 million dollars respectively over its estimated values in 1928 and 1927. On the other hand, it is estimated that Canadian tourists spent in foreign countries about 111 million dollars, but Canada's favourable balance from tourist traffic is, therefore, no less than 188 million dollars. The bulletin further points out that so far comparatively little advantage has been taken by Canadians of the sales opportunities presented by this annual influx of thousands of prosperous visitors, for the money expended on purchases in Canada amounts only to a fraction of the hundred dollars' worth of goods which American visitors are permitted to take back home without payment of duty at the frontier. Suggestions have been made from various quarters that British exporters should take advantage of the new preferences of the latest Canadian Budget to place upon the Canadian market a number of lines of luxury goods like chinaware and leather articles which would have an alluring appeal to American visitors.

Hungarian Borrowing.—With reference to the projected loan operations of the Hungarian Government, described in our issue of May 31st (page 1221), our Budapest correspondent writes:—There is no connection between the $20,000,000 short-term agricultural credits for the financing of the harvest and the projected Hungarian State Loan which will be issued in London and on other principal money markets when international monetary conditions will permit it. It is rumoured in Budapest that the London portion of the Loan will amount to £3,000,000, out of a total of £10,000,000. The like sum will be issued in New York and the rest will be offered in Holland, Switzerland and in Italy at the same time.

Transvaal Gold Output.—The total output of gold of the mines of the Transvaal during May amounted to 916,213 ozs. of fine gold, as compared with 868,606 ozs. produced during April. In May, 1929, the output amounted to 897,598 ozs. of fine gold. The following table shows the monthly output since the beginning of 1923:—

Months of	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.	Fine Ozs.
January ...	796,768	823,692	796,270	839,782	843,857	876,452	882,801
February .	760,617	753,925	753,924	779,339	816,133	815,284	818,188
March	795,671	825,479	834,340	860,511	877,380	866,529	889,370
April	768,923	787,519	803,303	824,014	825,907	872,123	868,606
May.....	809,003	813,249	849,214	859,479	886,186	897,598	916,213
June	773,053	780,251	852,145	855,154	862,363	856,029	...
July.....	829,437	818,202	860,134	851,861	867,211	889,480	...
August ...	809,571	808,218	843,854	863,345	891,863	889,601	...
September	799,422	797,247	839,939	842,118	857,731	849,553	...
October ...	827,583	812,832	853,296	855,743	897,720	888,690	...
November	802,313	787,633	840,276	848,059	872,484	861,593	...
December	825,273	791,455	836,157	851,225	859,761	851,134	...
Total ...	9,597,634	9,599,702	9,962,852	10,130,630	10,358,596	10,414,066	...

The number of natives employed by members of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and Contractors over the past few months was as follows:—

	Sept., 1929.	Oct., 1929.	Nov., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Jan., 1930.	Feb., 1930.	March, 1930.	April, 1930.	May, 1930.
Gold mines	190,567	189,739	186,941	184,280	190,663	196,752	200,134	202,434	202,182
Coal mines	15,733	15,533	15,320	15,326	15,288	15,495	15,250	15,109	15,028
Diamond mines	4,814	4,555	4,561	4,811	5,889	6,584	7,002	5,565	5,340
	211,114	209,827	206,822	204,417	211,840	218,831	222,386	223,108	222,550

There was a slight decline in the number of natives employed in the gold mines during May.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Trade — Wheat Prospects — Money Market — Capital Issues.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 3.

The trade position in this country is, to say the least of it, growing no stronger, and well-informed persons expect little, if any, improvement before autumn. Security markets are in the doldrums and commodity price weakness throughout the world is a disturbing factor. Further delay over the tariff is not helping matters much, though it now looks as though the bill will be passed and signed within the next two or three weeks. A good deal of pressure is being brought to bear on President Hoover to veto the bill, but opposition is coming mainly from economists and business men who perhaps are less influential at Washington than are the Republican politicians close to the President. As a matter of party regularity, President Hoover will doubtless feel obliged to sign the measure, however much he may disagree with many of the increased duties which it contains. At all events, business men prefer an unsatisfactory tariff bill to continued uncertainty, and settlement of the matter will bring great relief.

Recent changes in the business situation are of no great significance. Steel production has dropped another point or so, and railroad traffic is slightly lower. Ford and a maker of high-priced motor-cars have cut prices, a rather unusual step for this season. Commodity prices continue to decline, Dun's index for May showing a drop of eight-tenths per cent., compared with declines of nine-tenths per cent. in the two preceding months. All groups except breadstuffs declined.

Mr Julius H. Barnes, the chairman of President Hoover's business survey conference, has issued another report in which he attempts to look on the bright side of things. Mr Barnes reports a considerable increase in public building, but a drop in residential construction. He also finds that the railroads in the first four months spent $97,000,000 more than in that period last year. Delinquencies and repossessions in instalment purchases decreased in April, he reports, and retail store sales rose. However, the all-round recovery in business which the conference reports of earlier months seemed to indicate has obviously not taken place. As the matter is summed up by the National City Bank in its monthly review: "The condition of general business has continued unsatisfactory during May, and business men who have been hoping for signs of a definite turn in the situation have had to reconcile themselves to further waiting. Business, indeed, has shown a progressive increase in activity as compared with the early months of the year, but this has to be viewed in the light of the normal seasonal tendency, which is always upward during the spring." The bank, in analyzing the first quarter's earning statements of 273 dividend-paying industrial corporations, finds that current dividend requirements were earned with a margin of 28 per cent.

The wheat harvest is about to begin in the south-west, and the crop will be only moderate. In many sections the yield per acre promises to be so small that, with current prices, the farmers scarcely will come out even. On the whole, farm income probably will not be much below that of a year ago, and the influx of "new money" into the farming country shortly is calculated to stimulate trade later in the summer. The Farm Board is making strenuous efforts throughout the west to induce farmers to organize co-operative societies, and much more attention is paid to that than to promises of better prices through direct market support.

There is every indication of a long period of low money rates. The holiday demands for currency and end-of-the-month dividend and interest disbursements made scarcely a ripple on the market, which is under the influence of two main factors making for easier credit. Since the middle of April a decline of $60,000,000 in currency in circulation has taken place, and in the past four months gold imports have been a little more than that. Currency circulation is down $200,000,000 on the year, and there has been a net gain of about the same amount in the gold stock since the beginning of 1930. The reduction in member bank reserve requirements, on the one hand, and the increase in available reserves, on the other, has brought a considerable rise in unemployed credit, with a consequent weakening of rates. Gold has come largely from Japan and South America, and while it is not expected that the inflow will amount to a great deal during the summer, none is likely to be lost, nor is circulation threatening to rise. Slack business, accompanied by reduced payrolls and falling commodity prices, precludes any important demand on bank reserves for several weeks at least. A possible pull on credit is from the share market, but in the past fortnight brokers' loans have risen only $15,000,000, following a drop in the preceding two weeks of $267,000,000 on the early May break in prices, and the present stagnation in stock market trading virtually removes that as a firmer money danger.

Improving bond prices are in prospect. Recently member banks of the Federal Reserve system have reported increasing purchases of bonds. Most of the banks are out of debt at the Federal Reserve Banks, and the demand for loans on securities and for commercial purposes is too small to absorb the supply of credit. Member bank bond holdings in the past three months have risen about 6 per cent. Bank investments have gone into new security offerings rather than into old bonds, the market for which has been about as sluggish as that for shares.

New issues in April, as computed by the Federal Reserve Bank, amounted to $950,000,000, about $150,000,000 more than in the same month of last year and the largest in any month this year to date, but the May volume probably was not far from that of April. Refunding loans took up only $50,000,000 of the total and about 70 per cent. consisted of bonds. Last month public utility financing came to the fore, displacing largely the railroad capital flotations, which were especially prominent in the earlier months. Summarising the capital issues of the first four months, the Reserve Bank finds domestic corporate issues were $2,000,000,000. While bond offerings rose about 65

per cent. this year over the same period of 1929, the sale of shares fell off sharply, principally on account of the drying up of investment trust and financing company offerings. Share flotations were about $800,000,000 smaller. State and municipal financing rose about 40 per cent., and foreign borrowing rose markedly, the gain being 70 per cent.

Treasury financing at the mid-month tax date probably will consist of $500,000,000 of short-term notes or certificates, bearing not more than 2¾ per cent., and will be used for refunding a like amount of maturing certificates. Around the tax date the banks here are expected to have approximately $200,000,000 of temporary surplus credit, which will make extremely easy money until tax checks can be collected and the usual Treasury overdraft at the reserve banks paid off.

FRANCE.

Politics — Coal Trade — Silk Industry Depression — Crop Prospects.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 11.

WHILE the chief interest this week has been the bankers' negotiations with regard to the Reparations Loan, the principal political event was the annual French International Socialist Party Congress at Bordeaux, which has been marked by a renewed definite repudiation, by M. Léon Blum and his followers, of all question of any working agreement with the Radical Party. M. Blum accepted as a matter of fact the disappearance in the near future of the Radical Socialists as a party, and devoted himself solely to the question of the necessity for his own army to take the opportunity of benefiting as largely as possible from the Radical disintegration. " I am not one of those who wish for the rapid—or rather, too rapid—disappearance of the Radicals," he remarked. " We have already won a good many seats from them, and we shall take still more, but the death struggles of the Radicals must be made to last as long as possible, which will be all to our benefit." The Socialist leader's cold-blooded declarations have left M. Herriot and his supporters in a quandary. The Socialists will have nothing to do with them, and M. Tardieu has made it clear that, if they are prepared to co-operate with him, they can only do so on his and not their own terms. Meanwhile, the Socialists have during recent months increased their strength as a Parliamentary group from 100 to 107, while the Radicals are now only 114, and are practically certain, between now and the next General Elections, to lose seats both to the present majority parties and to the Socialists. All this confirms the belief that M. Herriot and his friends are now faced with the alternative of combining with the present majority (and thus assuring the adoption of a stable national policy of economic development and progress) or suffering little short of extinction as an effective political fighting force.

The strenuous effort which British coal exporters are making in their fight for supremacy in the European markets, in spite of their failure, so far, to secure the proposed export bounties, is strikingly shown by the French coal import returns for April, which are published this week. British coal exports to this country during April totalled 1,358,000 tons, as against 947,580 tons in March, or an increase of over 30 per cent. German coal entries in April (reparations coal included) were 533,675 tons, or slightly over 25 per cent. more than the March tonnage. Belgian, Dutch, Polish and Russian exports to France all showed a substantial decrease. The French output in April (25 working days) was 4,580,000 tons, against 4,800,000 tons in the previous month (26 working days). British, Belgian and German exporters have all brought their selling prices down, but French coalowners have not yet done so. The French decline of nearly 5 per cent. in output was due to the slight slowing down of industry in general. The slowing down in steel production is confirmed by the drop in the output of metallurgical coke by the colliery plants, whose production tonnage in April is returned as 419,848 tons, as against 443,909 in March. The April tonnage, nevertheless, was still 25,000 more than in April, 1929. French coal consumption in 1929 reached the new high record figure of over 90,000,000 tons, of which the country's own mines, although they produced 10,000,000 tons (or 13 per cent.) more than in 1928, were able to furnish only 60 per cent., against over 65 per cent. in 1928. Two-thirds of the increased requirements (which have grown still larger this year) had, therefore, to be covered by imported coal.

The annual report of the French Association of Tissue Manufacturers attributes the crisis which marked the industry in 1929 to, first, the smaller quantity of textiles used by women, owing to the recent change in fashions; secondly, to competition by artificial silk and the greater cost of present-day stockings; and in the third place to the drop in the price of raw wool. Further, owing to constantly changing present-day taste, manufacturers of piece-goods are now compelled to make in smaller quantities and to produce a far larger number of new designs. Other causes for the depressed condition of the French textile industry have been intense foreign competition, " new menaces of British protectionism," prohibitive American tariffs, and " the deliberate and systematic pillage of high-class dress designs by certain American firms." French exports of dresses and piece-goods in 1929 represented 198,000 metric quintals, with a value of 1,698,000,000 francs, against 215,514 quintals (1,802,000,000 francs) in 1928. Imports were 12,788 quintals (152,682,000 francs) in 1929, against 9,941 quintals (117,568,000 francs) in 1928, or an increase in value of 22 per cent.

The Minister of Agriculture's report on the crop situation (May 1) forecasts another excellent harvest this year, both better in quality and larger in volume than in 1929. French wheat production has not decreased in volume, in spite of the diminution of culture area. The " flight to the towns " and the enormous proportional loss of manpower by the peasant class during the war have been more than compensated for by the adoption of modern intensive methods of agriculture and the systematic fostering by the Government of the use of better (and cheaper) chemical fertilisers.

GERMANY.

Price-wage Negotiations — Budget Deficit — Relations between Reich and Thuringia — Reichsbank.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, June 10.

THE attempt of the West German iron industry to give a new impetus to business by a simultaneous lowering of prices and wages has developed into action on a broader basis. The leading employers' associations—Reichsverband der Deutschen Industrie and the Vereinigung Deutscher Arbeitgeberverbände—have during the last few days been negotiating with the trade unions for the working out of a common plan for reducing industrial production costs. Details have not yet been made public, but it is said that a reform of the social insurance system and of taxation policy is also being considered. That trade unions and employers' associations are discussing these matters is certainly welcome news, especially since it implies that the employers intend to lower wages only in agreement with the unions. Whether these discussions will have any direct success is the question. As to the attitude of the " free " unions, the Socialist press, which is in close touch with them, declares, as was to be expected, that in no circumstances will they consent to a reduction in real wages. The Christian trade unions will, if only for competitive reasons, be unable to take a different attitude. Hence lowering of wages will at best be possible only in direct proportion as the cost of living falls, but how much and how rapidly the cost of living can be influenced by reductions in the prices of industrial products, when at the same time the newly operative increases in import duties on food are making themselves felt, and gas and electrical companies and street railways are being obliged to make further increases in their prices in order to balance municipal budgets, is more than doubtful.

Such action would, of course, be very valuable if it succeeded. It would make German industry better able to compete with foreign productions and would, by increasing confidence. It would also diminish the tension in the political situation if workers and employers could come to a direct understanding. The attempt to bring about negotiations between employers and employees would, indeed, hardly have been made but for a general feeling that the authority of the present Government is already so seriously impaired that it could not by its own action decisively effect an improvement in the situation by economic and financial measures. But can the lack of energetic leadership on the part of the State—and especially in Germany, where the people are accustomed to depend on the State for help—be compensated for by a pact among economic organisations? There have been plenty of attempts along this line, especially in the inflation period: there was once a " Zentralarbeitsgemeinschaft " of the trade unions and employers, and also the idea which underlay the organisation of the Reichswirtschaftsrat was that the State could leave great developments of economic policies to be dealt with through an understanding among the economic groups. But all these expectations failed to materialise in practice.

The Minister of Finance now calculates at 850 millions the deficit that has arisen in the new 1930-31 Budget. To the deficit in the unemployment insurance and to the reduction in receipts from taxes, for which compensation must be found, there have been added a hundred millions needed for a programme for creating employment—chiefly the building of houses and increased orders from the post and railways. This creating by the State of opportunities for employment will probably arouse anew in Germany the dispute well known in England. Does the State aid the labour market when it, on the one hand, withdraws capital either through taxes or loans—that is, when it reduces the possibility of employment—in order, on the other hand, to furnish employment? In view of the present economic situation in Germany this question cannot so confidently be answered in the negative as the purely theoretical economist might otherwise answer it, for in Germany to-day it is extraordinarily important to revive the courage to make investments, and in practice it is a great help if the State sets the example.

The Minister of Finance proposes to cover the deficit as follows: Increase of contributions to unemployment insurance, Rm. 220 million; savings in unemployment insurance, Rm. 115 million; supplement to income-tax of salaried persons (Civil Servants and private employees and unmarried persons), Rm. 350 million; sale of Reichsbahn preferred shares, Rm. 100 million; earlier payment dates for cigarettes taxes, Rm. 50 million. The " Notopfer " (emergency offering) by salaried persons, which was held to be justified by the fact that these people are not exposed to the risks of unemployment, has meanwhile been almost unanimously rejected by public opinion. There are also some misgivings over the fact that another 100 millions of preferred shares of the Reichsbahn are to be sold, after 150 million marks' worth have already been included in the current budget in order to meet the extra requirements of unemployment insurance foreseen at that time. The worst error of the financial programme, however, is that it utterly fails to take into account the urgent financial requirements of the states and municipalities, and thus compels these to adopt measures especially undesirable from an economic standpoint.

The statement of the Reichsbank on June 6th shows, as against the preceding week, receipts of 27.6 millions in gold, bringing the total up to 2,619 million marks. Holding of foreign exchange bills eligible as legal reserve rose by 28.9 millions to 380 millions. The gold comes mainly from the Bank of England. Some German banks did not miss the opportunity afforded by the favourable position for this purpose of the sterling exchange, although gold arbitrage is not desired by the Reichsbank. Gold and exchange available as reserve against notes have now risen to exactly three thousand millions. On June 7th last year they amounted to only 2,072 millions. On the other hand, holdings of negotiable paper dropped 81.2 millions, Reich Treasury certificates 73.6 and advances 120.6 millions in the first week of June. Parallel with this went a reduction of the note circulation by 240 millions. The new bank report again raises for the Reichsbank the very pressing question whether it will not again have to lower its discount rate. The last reduction to 4½ per cent. was from the beginning a tentative step. The Reichsbank did not dare to reduce to 4 per cent. immediately, and so it has lost touch still more with the market. The demand for negotiable paper is very large, although both the Reich and the postal department have recently issued considerable amounts of Treasury certificates, which are finding a good market.

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ZURICH.
Bahnhofstrasse 45
Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Locarno, Lugano, Montreux, St. Gall, Vevey, Winterthur, etc.
Capital & Reserves - Fr.131,500,000
Total Assets - - - - Fr.992,000,000
ALL BANKING TRANSACTIONS
INVESTMENT FACILITIES. Administration of Private Estates.

BELGIUM.

Depression — Wages — Sugar Consumption — Public Finance.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LOUVAIN, June 9.

THE trend of business is still slackening and most of the usual economic indices are unfavourable. The report of the " Institute for Economic Sciences " of Louvain University, which has undertaken scientific research on trade cycles and economic forecasting, has just been issued. According to this report a downward movement developed in Belgium in the course of last summer and has since been growing more pronounced. This movement is now well advanced, though it is not yet quite completed. Hence the anticipation is that this unfavourable general trend will continue a little longer, without becoming really acute.

The crisis has been reflected by serious difficulties in the iron and steel industries, which, despite the measures taken by the Continental Steel Cartel and the establishment of special " Comptoirs," are able to make sales only with difficulty and at very unfavourable prices. One blast furnace has been blown out in consequence of the present difficult situation, and it is anticipated that four others will soon follow.

Unsold stocks of industrial coal at the pithead have been increasing. The house-coal market has been a little less bad than it was, but selling prices are in general on the decline, and the intervention of the " Comptoir des Charbons," which ought surely to be able to control the coal market, is proving ineffective. A fortunate development is the good understanding between the pit-owners and the workers on the question of miners' wages, which are to undergo a cut of 5 per cent. from the beginning of July onwards. Thus the threatened conflict will be avoided unless the pitmen refuse to accept the terms agreed to by their representatives.

Very valuable information on the wage trend in Belgium has been published by the Bulletin of the National Bank of Belgium; which shows that there has been a rapid advance in wages since the first months following stabilisation.

MEAN WAGE INDEX.
(Dec., 1925 = 100.)

	Brussels.	Belgium.
December, 1925	100	100
December, 1926	119	127
December, 1927	132	141
August, 1929	184	180
November, 1929	196	196

The increase in wages has thus manifestly exceeded the advance required in respect of monetary devaluation and has even further exceeded the increase in the cost of living, so that real wages are now substantially higher than they were a few years ago. Wages have been reported as stationary since the beginning of 1930. In recent weeks the cost of living has been falling slightly, but this movement is partly seasonal. Retail prices have fallen very little, to the disappointment of the public, which expected a substantial decline. Unemployment, without being really threatening, has been increasing. The latest available statistics of employment, which relate to the end of April, show that out of 1,500,000 workmen there were 30,000 partially (against 12,000 in April, 1929) and 13,000 totally unemployed (against 2,500).

A symptom of uneasiness is to be found in the general attitude of the real estate market. Conveyance prices of land show that its purchase value has fallen on the average by 10 per cent. in the last year. In the big towns, especially in Brussels and Antwerp, there are many flats and offices to let and for sale. The progressive restrictions of the operation of the Rent Act, added to the supply of numerous new buildings and the decline in demand, is responsible for the plight of this market. There is, nevertheless, still a shortage of working-class dwellings.

The sugar-consumption problem is at present engrossing the agricultural and political associations. The output of Belgian sugar has reached about 260,000 tons per annum, while domestic consumption has attained only 225,000 tons. The part which is allotted to the home market has been sold at profitable prices, since imported sugar is subject to a duty of 60 centimes per kilo., but for the remainder, which is exported, only very unfavourable prices are obtained. Efforts are now to be made to stimulate home consumption in order to sell off here the part of the output which is at present exported. So far, yearly consumption is only 27 kilos. per inhabitant, against 46 kilos. in Great Britain; but on account of its low price (2½d. per lb. avoirdupois) sugar has become one of the cheapest foodstuffs in Belgium.

The position of public finance remains good, but the Minister of Finance has issued a warning against the excessive expense which would certainly be incurred if a private members' Bill for the augmentation of war pensions and other allocations to old soldiers of the war were passed. The burden of the social services is becoming more and more heavy, while the present depression has reduced public receipts. The Budget estimates have been attained, but the substantial surplus of last year will certainly not be repeated.

ITALY.

The Corporative State and its Cost — Labour Agreements — Tax Changes — Sinking Fund — International Trade — Industrial Dividends.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TURIN, May 19.

EVEN apart from international events, the last few weeks have been full of important political and economic developments. The inauguration of the National Council of Corporations is the crowning of the new corporative State. Signor Mussolini rightly stated that schedule 12 of the law creating the Council meant nothing short of an economic revolution; because the new body is empowered, if such questions are referred to it by agreement of the associations concerned, to legislate on prices, on quantity to be produced and all other possible points concerning industry. The network of syndicalism appears to be now complete. On March 1, 1930, there were in existence six employers' confederations (industry, agriculture, commerce, land transport, sea and air transport, banking) with 661 subordinate associations; 6 corresponding employees' confederations with 3,549 subordinate associations. The cost of this extensive structure is estimated in the report for 1930-31 of the Budget Committee of the Chamber, as follows: 25.5 million lire paid to the Corporations Department for general purposes; 24.1 million lire to be paid into a fund guaranteeing the observance of collective contracts entered into by syndicates; 20.5 millions to be paid to the after-work, Balilla, care of mothers and infants, anti-tuberculosis and other social funds; 67.3 millions to the central confederations; 118.1 millions to the regional, provincial and local syndicates and federations. This sum of 255.6 million lire includes only compulsory contributions paid by employers and employees whether they are or are not members of the associations, and consists therefore of true public taxes, of which account is taken in a sort of appendix to the State budget. To this sum there must be added the voluntary contributions paid by members of associations. As these are deemed to be a private matter, no account of them is published.

The Budget Committee report observes that, as a set-off, Italy has saved the cost of strikes and lock-outs, which in the last four years of the old *régime* caused the loss of 53 million days' work in the two years 1919 and 1920, and 15 millions in 1921 and 1922. The strike epidemic was subsiding; but the new legislation put a stop to it altogether. Between January 1, 1929, and January 31, 1930, there were concluded 1,238 local and single shop labour agreements; and between April 3, 1926, and March 10, 1930, there were registered 199 inter-provincial and national labour agreements. As syndicates and associations are public bodies, it can be said that to-day conditions of labour are almost completely regulated by public authorities.

A succession of changes in taxation has kept the public keenly interested. The octroi or internal customs barriers which encircled almost all medium and great Italian cities have been abolished. The reform was welcomed because internal barriers obstructed commerce, and sometimes created protected territories of grotesque smallness. As, however, somebody must pay the piper, wine and meat were subjected to a general consumption tax. Wine, for instance, previously paid little in the country and small towns, and was substantially hit only in octroi cities. Now all consumers must pay, whether they reside in the country or the cities. Unfortunately, the wine industry is suffering at present from low prices and sales difficulties.

In consequence of this programme for the reform of local taxation and the redemption of land and other public works, stamp duties have been increased and succession duty reintroduced. Succession duty was abolished in 1923 in the family group, between parents and sons, ascendants and descendants in general, husband and wife, brothers and sisters, uncles and nephews, descendants of brothers and sisters if they succeed by right of representation. The tax is now re-established in full, at rates intermediate between those of 1914 and 1923, but estates passing between parents and sons, or husband and wife, in families where there are or have been at least two sons, are exempt.

The most recent decree concerning taxation enforced an all-round increase of about 20 per cent. in the price of tobacco sold by the State monopoly. The increase is estimated to yield 500 million lire yearly, which will be paid into the Debt Sinking Fund. This fund was created by a decree of August 5, 1927; and was made to rely mainly on budget surpluses. But, as budget surpluses, in our system of accounting, are not synonymous with hard cash, the old fund made little headway. The new Sinking Fund will be presided over by the Governor of the Bank of Italy, and will have a special administration. The yield of the increase in the price of tobacco will be paid at once into a current account at the Bank of Italy, so as to insure the prompt purchase in the market and cancellation of public debt certificates. Only Consols can be purchased and cancelled.

The practical working of this excellent plan is conditional on prevention of any increase in the total State debt. According to the last published Treasury account, the total of internal public debt increased from 87,124 million lire at June 30, 1929, to 88,026 million at March 31, 1930. If the new sinking fund is to be effective, the grand total of public debt must be lowered.

Statistics of international trade show a big decrease in the passive balance. In 1929 imports were only 21,300 million lire, against 21,920 in 1928. As exports increased from 14,559 to 14,889 million, the excess of imports over exports decreased from 7,361 to 6,411 million. The change has been accentuated in the first four months of 1930, when imports totalled 6,078 million, against 7,723 million in the corresponding period of 1929; and exports 4,139 million, against 4,665 million; so that the excess diminished from 3,058 to 1,939 million lire. It is doubtful, however, if the decrease in imports is wholly to the advantage of the country. It may, indeed, readily be granted that a decrease of 1,237 million lire in the wheat imports in 1929, against 1928, and of 389 million lire in the first three months of 1930, against the corresponding period of 1929, is a net gain; but what of the decrease in the imports of raw materials of industry?

Complaints of bad trade are the loudest in the textile industry. The silk industry carries large stocks, which it has not been possible to sell, as usual, in the United States. The cotton and wool trades complain of sales difficulties in the Levant, the Far East and South America. Directors of joint stock companies, who, in fixing dividends, are more under the influence of prospects for the current year than of results achieved in the past year, to which dividends refer, are in a prudent mood. Out of 130 companies, dividends for 1928 (fixed in 1929) were unchanged as against the preceding year in 64 cases, increased in 55 and decreased in 11 cases only. Out of 135 companies, dividends for 1929 are now unchanged in 79 cases, increased in 31 and decreased in 25 cases. This prudent dividend policy checked the tendency toward better quotation of securities in Stock Exchange. Perhaps the announcement to-day of a new lowering of the official rate of discount from 6 to 5.50 per cent. can be viewed as a consequence of abundance of money. Discounts at the Bank of Italy were low, because ordinary banks did not need to rediscount, and first-rate customers obtained accommodation at less than the official rate.

BULGARIA.

Cabinet Changes — Foreign Trade — General Business Conditions.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, May 25.

THE apathetic and unconvinced behaviour of M. Liaptcheff's majority in Parliament during the Budget and other recent debates, made it definitely clear that some parts of the mechanism were beginning to wear out and that repairs and replacements were growing more and more urgent. On the close of the Budget voting the negotiations between the constituent groups of the Sgovor (the party in power) took a more realistic shape. The outcome of long and arduous combinations was the replacement of the Ministers for Education, Commerce, Public Works, Agriculture, Justice and Railways by new elements, admittedly representing more adequately the different subdivisions of the party. A noteworthy fact is that four of the new Ministers, MM. Al. Tzankoff, D. Mishaïcoff, G. Danaïloff and P. Staïnoff are university professors well acquainted with economic and administrative matters. This is generally interpreted as evidence of the serious intentions of M. Liaptcheff's Government to grapple at last with the financial and economic difficulties of the country. Expectations in business circles are perhaps not as sanguine as that, but there are reasonable grounds for hoping that much more attention will be paid in future to economic and financial matters and that the problems will possibly be dealt with in a more systematic, if not a more business-like, manner.

The formation, within the Government itself, of a group of specialists able to face things in a disinterested way, unbiassed by party politics, is one of the urgent needs of the day. Important and extensive tasks are awaiting the new Cabinet. It is no longer a secret that the proceeds of the Stabilisation Loan have proved completely inadequate for the most essential requirements of the financial reconstruction of the country. In consequence of the heavy fall of prices of agricultural products in all markets abroad, the question of agricultural reorganisation aiming at better yields, cheaper production of standard grades of goods, and quicker and better means of transport can no longer be postponed. The practical solution of issues connected with irrigation and afforestation, live stock breeding and marketing, and long-term credits to peasant farmers and producers also requires prompt attention. An efficient and properly-managed utilisation of the Compulsory Labour System very probably contains extensive potentialities in this connection, as is shown by the conclusive experiences of the Refugees Settlement Office. Before the resources needed for all these reforms are found abroad in the form of new loans, there is a large amount of preparatory work, both legislative and administrative, to be carried out. It would appear that M. Liaptcheff's present team may succeed in dealing with all these tasks, in spite of the unavoidable difficulties which party politics and local parliamentary habits will place in its way.

The state of trade, although still unsatisfactory, appears to be showing the first symptoms of a change for the better. Protested bills and suspensions of payments are still in the neighbourhood of record heights. Credit continues to be scarce and difficult to obtain, and dear money prevails almost everywhere in the country. The changes in monetary conditions abroad do not yet appear to have had any substantial effect on the local money market, owing probably to the fact that there is no active offering of foreign credits, and such credits as are offered to banks here are not willingly placed at the disposal of trade and industry until the position of the market becomes sufficiently clear. However, imports remain within reduced limits and exports are steadily growing. Foreign trade for the first three months of 1930 shows an active balance of 370 million leva, as against a passive balance of 297 million leva in 1929 and of 274 million leva in 1928. In April last there was again a credit balance of 134 million leva. Exports of eggs have shown a remarkable activity in March and April; there is an excess of round 1,000 carloads exported as compared with the same four months' period last year. Tobacco exports are also at satisfactory high levels. Tobacco of the 1929 crop is being bought from the peasant producers and brought into the depôts for treatment. Although prices are unprofitable, maize is being brought to the market and sold for export.

As a consequence of this gradual disposal of agricultural produce held in reserve during the autumn and winter months, there is a slow but steady revival in demand for manufactured goods, and there is much probability of the heavy stocks of merchandise held by local wholesale and retail traders being gradually depleted up to the end of next autumn. If this depletion actually takes place, and if the crops turn out as good as the present forecasts appear to promise, imports of foreign goods may be safely resumed on a moderate scale, but only after a thorough study of the position of purchasing firms. Many changes have occurred in the standing of local trading and industrial firms, and these changes have not always been for the better. The Bulgarian market will no doubt become sounder and regain a great part of its credit abroad, but over-optimistic statements appear to be out of place, for the present at least.

ARGENTINA.

Trade — Lord Beaverbrook's Speech — Money Markets.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, May 6.

ARGENTINA is slowly recovering from the pessimism which was so pronounced during the first quarter of 1930. Yet this better feeling is due to the reasonable hope that things will improve on the production side rather than to any present increase of business, either inwards or outwards. Never, as far as can be ascertained, were ocean freights lower than they are to-day, open charter fixtures to Europe having been booked at 10s. per ton, a figure manifestly unprofitable to shipowners, and lower, having regard to changes in values, than the 7s. which was quoted in the season of 1906-07. Cereal shipments during April were only 281,000 tons of wheat, 287,000 tons of maize, 119,000 tons of linseed, and 47,000 tons of oats; and although wool is going forward a little more freely the export movement is much below that of the corresponding period last year. Prices for all cereals have fluctuated but little during the month, latest spot quotations being $9.85 paper per hundred kilos. for wheat, $6 for maize, $19.80 for linseed, and $4.60 for oats.

This reduced export movement is largely responsible for the present depreciation of the Argentine peso. Exporters have few bills to offer, and, although it was assumed that the Banco de la Nacion would be drawing against the short-dated loan of $50,000,000 (U.S. currency) negotiated in New York early in April, down to the time of writing those funds do not appear to have been brought into the Argentine market. Meanwhile the decline in imports has not been sufficient to counterbalance the lack of offers of export paper. In all likelihood the comparatively heavy permanent charges which Argentina must always settle abroad are playing an unusually important part at the present time.

A most unfortunate effect has been produced here by the remarks attributed to Lord Beaverbrook, who is reported to have described the Argentine farmer and his family as dancing the tango while they collect £70,000,000 from the British consumer. This speech was cabled out *in extenso* and published in practically every Argentine newspaper, the more serious journals taking the trouble to point out a fact that had evidently escaped the noble lord's memory, namely, that Argentina is to-day one of Great Britain's largest markets for manufactures and for coal; adding that the reason why the Argentine farmer buys his agricultural machinery from the United States is merely that none of the mechanical implements he uses to-day are manufactured by England to meet his oft-expressed requirements. Such a speech, made at a time when every effort is being made both here and at home to cut down the American lead in Argentine imports, is the greatest disservice to British manufacturers that could be imagined.

In the Argentine money market conditions are unaffected by the pronounced fall in the Bank rate, accommodation remaining at 6 to 7 per cent., with a growing stringency due to the fact that gold deposited in the Argentine Legations abroad is being rapidly released by payments of the equivalent in paper currency to the Conversion Office here—a course which, *ipso facto*, removes that amount of currency from circulation. There is now small likelihood of the Conversion Office being reopened for some time to come, and it is significant that Señor Carlos Alfredo Tornquist, the well-known Argentine banker, recently interviewed in New York, gave it as his considered opinion that such reopening would be inadvisable unless it were combined with the establishment of a central bank enjoying the privileges of rediscount and control of the issue of currency. A financial writer in *El Diario*, the leading Buenos Aires evening daily, goes a step further, and frankly asks whether any good object would be served by reopening the Conversion Office at the present time. He suggests that before such a step is taken modifications must be made in the present Conversion Law—a dangerous suggestion, unless indeed these modifications were confined to the establishment of a central bank taking over the existing stock of specie. Indeed, one of the worst risks inherent upon the continued closure of the Conversion Office is the temptation that such a condition presents to would-be monetary reformers, whose panacea is invariably based on some system whereby the present percentage of gold to paper might be altered. And one of the greatest advantages which would accrue upon the establishment of a wisely constituted central bank would be the abolition of Argentina's dual currency, which at present serves no useful purpose but leaves the door open to manipulations that might easily, and almost insensibly, pave the way to inflation, with all the evils that this must infallibly bring in its train.

Letters to the Editor.

TIN RESTRICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Referring to the letter from "X" in the *Economist* of May 31st, the following facts may b eof interest to your readers:—

First, in connection with Bolivia, where it says: "It is true that some of the smaler mines will very likely have to close down altogether." The American Vice-Consul, Edward F. Trueblood, cabling from La Pas on April 24th, said: "It has been officially reported that over 100 of the smaller tin mines have abandoned operations altogether." He pointed out the larger mines are continuing operations, but scores of the less important companies have shut down and many more are considering such action.

With reference to American consumption, "X" says with regard to the increase in Ford motor output: "Evidently this increase is balanced by a decrease in production of other automobile manufacturers." This is not the case, because considerbly more than half of all the automobile business of America is in the field of low-priced automobiles, and the sharp upward trend in the sales of low-priced cars has far more than compensated for the downward trend in the high-priced vehicles. Out of a total of 235,266 United States registrations in February, the low-priced group represented 144,006, and the general prognostication in the American papers is that between 4,500,000 and 4,750,000 passenger cars and trucks may be produced in 1930. Although this will be below last year, it will probably equal the 1928 production of 4,601,000. The motor vehicle production in April, 1930, in the United States, at 442,630, is the greatest for any April except 1929.

With regard to the tinplate industry, which "X" states appears to be working at 30 per cent. or 40 per cent. less than last year, the latest figures show that this is incorrect. The figures for American production are just under 20 per cent. lower for the first four months, but, on the other hand, the world demand for tinplates has increased, the British export trade for tinplate being 19 per cent. up on their monthly average, while the American export monthly average is also up by 10.5 per cent. As regards the world demand for tinplate, the fact is that the combined export this year, at 73,110 tons a month, is *the largest total on record*, being an increase of 4½ per cent. on the monthly rate in 1929.

With regard to the canning industry as the biggest consumer of tin, Mr C. C. Conway, chairman of the Continental Can Company, states that: "Fruit crops are apparently much larger than in 1929, and 1930 is a promising year."—Yours, etc.,

AN OBSERVER.

London.
June 9, 1930.

Books and Publications.

POST-WAR FRENCH FINANCE.

THE present work* is the first in a series of social and economic studies of post-war France which a group of American scholars has prepared. Their work has been sponsored by the Columbia University Council for Research in the Social Sciences; the editor of the whole series is Professor Carlton J. H. Hayes; the other volumes include a study of inflation in France; surveys of the economic and industrial development of post-war France, and of the French labour movement; and three volumes dealing more particularly with political questions, viz., one (by Professor Hayes himself) on "France, a Nation of Patriots"; one on French domestic politics; and one on French foreign policy. Much of the work has been done in Paris with the assistance of the best French authorities; and the series makes a notable and valuable contribution to the English-speaking world's knowledge of post-war France.

Professor Haig's book on French finance is an especially valuable study, the full merits of which will perhaps be appreciated only by those who have themselves already studied the complexities of post-war French finance. It covers the whole ground of French post-war finance down to M. Poincaré's successful efforts at stabilisation in 1926-27. It contains a most useful explanation of the French system of taxation and of its post-war reform, and makes clear—so far as clarity is possible—the incredible intricacy and elaboration of the French fiscal machine. Anglo-Saxon readers never fail to be baffled by French financial methods, which appear always to choose the labyrinthine path rather than the straight one; but Professor Haig shows that the choice rests upon, and is the fruit of, a long historical development.

By no means the least useful part of his book is a catalogue of some of the errors he has found in French financial statistics, and a code of caveats which his own experiences enable him to offer other workers in this field. To quote only one of the errors. The official statement of the Ministry of finance showed the amount of the French internal debt (other than floating debt) to be 97,779 million francs in 1918. The Budget *projet* for 1920 and the *Annuaire de Statistique*—both likewise official statements—gave a figure of 67,779 million francs—a discrepancy of exactly 30 milliards or, say, £1,000 *millions*. "When the discrepancy was called to the attention of the officials," writes Professor Haig, "they at first stated that the stenographer had probably made an error in copying the data. But upon investigation they reported that the figure in their table was correct and that the published figure was really 30 (milliard francs) too low!" By clearing a pathway through this jungle of mistakes and complexities, by pointing out the chief configurations of the terrain, and by giving in a compact historical and analytical form the fruits of his long and arduous researches, Professor Haig has made an important contribution to the study of French finances since the war. Alike to contemporary students and future enquirers his book is as indispensable as it is noteworthy.

* "The Public Finances of Post-War France." By Professor Robert Murray Haig. London: Humphrey Milford. Price 27s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Bankers' Credits. By William F. Spalding. Third edition. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 10s. 6d. net.

A new edition of a well-known textbook in which almost every kind of bankers' credit receives a chapter to itself, and there is a special chapter on legal cases. Special attention is given to the practice of the United States and of the British Dominions.

Porto Rico and its Problems. By Victor S. Clark and Associates. (Washington, D.C.) The Brookings Institution. $5.00.

An extremely full and detailed economic and social survey which is likely to become the standard work of reference on Porto Rico. It is pleasantly illustrated and contains a number of valuable statistical tables.

Commercial Policy of the Moguls. By D. Pant. Foreword by the Right Hon. Lord Meston. (London) Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Company, Ltd., 38, Great Russell Street. Rs. 6.

An economic survey of India up to the beginning of the eighteenth century which contains a wealth of new and valuable material.

Rusticus Loquitur. By Malcolm Lyall Darling. (London) Oxford University Press, Warwick Square. 15s. net.

This is a diary of a journey made by the author through the Punjab for the purpose of observing the activities and as far as possible discovering the views of the peasants. The results are very interesting, but suffer somewhat in readability from the lack of arrangement and co-ordination imposed by the diary form.

Die Meistbegünstigung im modernen Völkerrecht. By Dr. Klaus Bonhoeffer. (Berlin) Verlag von Julius Springer. Linkstrasse 23-24. Rm. 4.80.

A monograph, in German, on the most-favoured-nation clause. The treatment is that of an international lawyer rather than of an economist.

Business Conditions at the Present Time. International Chamber of Commerce. (Paris) Secretariat Général, 38, Cours Albert 1er, VIIIe.

Twenty reports, from national committees, on business conditions in their respective countries. The reports were collected for the purpose of throwing light on the present world depression.

The Future of Rubber. By Lieut.-Colonel J. C. G. Kunhardt. (London) Institution of the Rubber Industry, 10, Charing Cross Road. 2s. 6d. post free.

A most interesting economic and statistical study of the position as at the end of March, 1930.

New York Stock Exchange. Report of the President, May 1, 1929-30. (New York) The Stock Exchange, 11, Wall Street.

The report is of more than usual interest this year, and the appendices are, as always, a most valuable source of Stock Exchange statistics.

Annual Report of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, 1929-30. (London) Chamber of Shipping, 28, St. Mary Axe.

Contains a most valuable collection of shipping statistics, and discussions of relevant matters.

The 100 Best Investments, May, 1930. (London) The British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, B.F.C. House, Gresham Street. 1s. net.

A supplement to the annual volume, preceded by two articles, one of which discusses the outlook in the United States.

A Short Dictionary of Legal, Commercial and Economic Terms. (London) Gee and Company (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 6s. net.

A conveniently slender dictionary, whose slimness has been purchased at the cost of a sometimes excessive brevity in its definitions, but which is nevertheless useful.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

The Channel Tunnel: Statement of Policy. Cmd. 3591. 1d. net.

Survey of the Import Trade of India for the Fiscal Year April 1, 1929, *to March* 31, 1930. May, 1930.

Report of the Food Investigation Board for the year 1929. 2s. 6d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in the Netherlands, 1929. 3s. net.

Indian Statutory Commission:

Vol. I.—*Report of the Indian Statutory Commission—Survey.* Cmd. 3568. 3s. net.

Vol. III.—*Reports of the Committees appointed by the Provincial Legislative Councils.* Cmd. 3572. 9s. net.

Memoranda submitted by the Government of:

Vol. IV.—*India and the India Office.* Part I. 9s. net.

Vol. V.—*India and the India Office.* Part II. 11s. net.

Vol. VII.—*Bombay.* 7s. 6d. net.

Vol. VIII.—*Bengal.* 6s. 6d. net.

Vol. IX.—*The United Provinces.* 7s. net.

Vol. X.—*The Punjab.* 8s. 6d. net.

Vol. XI.—*Burma.* 7s. net.

Vol. XII.—*Bihar and Orissa.* 4s. net.

Vol. XIII.—*The Central Provinces.* 10s. net.

Vol. XIV.—*Assam.* 6s. 6d. net.

is not seriously entertained, and the cause of efficiency may, possibly, be best served by the entire relinquishment of certain subsidiary concerns. The drawing together of other shipping interests, on scientifically "selective" lines, would, however, tend largely to reduce their capitalisation, by eliminating extensive cross-holdings. According to *Fairplay*, the group embraces thirty-three companies, with a total paid-up ordinary and preference capital of £70,138,250. The following table shows the extent to which the capital of nineteen of these companies (accounting for 68 per cent. of the total capitalisation), is held by the Royal Mail, its directors and its subsidiaries:—

ROYAL MAIL HOLDINGS.

Subsidiary.	Capital.				
	Amount Issued.	Held or controlled by R.M.S.P.			
		By Parent Co.	By Directors.	By Subsidiaries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
African Steamship	2,500,000	...	1,200	1,994,735	1,995,935
Argentine Navigation	2,000,000	375,500	...	754,000	1,129,500
Belfast Steamship	500,000	...	10,000	475,000	485,000
British and African S.N.	2,350,000	...	102,500	2,339,920	2,442,420
British and Irish Steam P.	3,000,000	...	942,500	1,320,000	2,262,500
Burns and Laird Lines	500,000	...	...	499,491	499,491
Coast Lines	4,625,000	1,226,350	...	2,884,205	4,110,555
Elder, Dempster	8,485,000	433,444	596,040	...	1,029,484
Elder Line	1,000,000	...	2,500	989,960	992,460
Imperial Direct Line	500,000	...	...	495,960	495,960
Lamport and Holt	4,240,000	900,000	50,000	1,994,997	2,944,997
MacAndrews	1,000,000	890,500	4,000	100,000	994,500
David MacIver	700,000	284,000	186,000	...	470,000
James Moss	1,000,000	348,000	...	649,400	997,400
Nelson S.N.	1,550,000	1,997,497	...	...	1,997,497
Pacific S.N.	1,500,000	1,492,900	...	...	1,492,900
R.M.S.P. Meat Transports	1,000,000	987,993	12,002	...	999,995
Union Castle	5,480,000	1,365,990	6,020	1,364,990	2,737,000
White Star Line	6,000,000	1,496,100	4,000	2,498,900	3,999,000
Total, 19 Subsidiary Co.'s.	47,930,000	11,798,274	1,916,762	18,361,558	32,076,594

It will be seen that over one-fourth of the issued capital of these nineteen concerns is held by the Royal Mail Company or its directors, while another one-third represents "cross-holdings."

It is believed that the announcement of a preliminary scheme of financial reconstruction will not be long delayed, though reorganisation on the administrative side will call for prolonged consideration. The constitution of the new committee is, however, such as to command general confidence, and the co-operation of stockholders should readily be forthcoming for concrete measures of reform which they may suggest.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
June 24.	June 26.

The "House" resumed business after the holiday in circumstances calculated to intensify rather than relieve the pre-Whitsun dullness. The fresh onset of heavy selling in New York markedly affected international stocks, but was otherwise received with apathy, British security-holders being pre-occupied with a series of sufficiently formidable domestic problems. Gilt-edged suffered by reason of the weakness of the exchanges, the firmer tendency of bill rates, and preliminary sales to finance Reparation Loan applications. Industrials were affected by scattered but persistent liquidation, though their loss of ground was not considerable, while the more speculative markets were again overshadowed by the fall in commodity prices, accentuated by rumoured divergencies of view among the leading interests in more than one branch of activity. Opinion is crystallising on the possibility of a continuance of quiet conditions till the summer is over, though the experience of more than one large Stock Exchange firm shows that business is obtainable on broader lines than might be expected, provided special efforts are made to obtain it.

Last week's easier tone in gilt-edged was continued this week, the market being distinctly "professional." The chief exception to the prevailing tendency was the Five per Cent. War Loan, while Victory Bonds were steady in view of the pending annual drawings. India loans were well maintained, the first volume of the Simon Commission's Report being regarded as a sound "common-sense" document, though its contents gave a less obvious clue than had been expected to the nature of the Commission's final recommendations. Business in Dominion and Colonial stocks was meagre. Recent new trustee issues were easier on the placing of the underwriting for the Reparations Loan on terms which were regarded as not unattractive.

In the Foreign Market, Chinese bonds again came on offer, on the weakness of silver, and on fears that the Chinese "war" would develop into a struggle *à outrance*. Apart from some slight selling of German Sevens, European bonds remained steady on the eve of the new loan. A moderate inquiry for Brazilians caused a disproportionate appreciation of values in a narrow market.

Bad trade more than offset good Whitsuntide weather on the railways, gross receipts last week being below the level of Whitsuntide, 1929. The showing made by the London, Midland and Scottish and the North-Eastern was particularly disappointing, and though little selling occurred, stocks were appreciably marked down. Undergrounds were again a conspicuous exception to the general tendency, both as regards traffic and prices. Among foreign rails, a better feeling was in evidence as regards Havana debentures, and a modest recovery occurred in Cordoba issues. The "heavy" Argentine stocks were, however, further depressed by unsatisfactory traffic returns—particularly those of the Central Argentine—which more than offset the improvement in the peso exchange. Canadian Pacifics suffered in the Wall Street liquidation. A further £500,000 of Four per Cent. Non-Cumulative Preference stock has been privately placed in London, and is being marketed at 80.

Industrial shares made a better showing than might have been expected in view of the setback in Wall Street. Internationals were marked down, but London prices were generally slightly above New York parity. The junior Royal Mail issues became a better market after the announcement referred to on an earlier page, in spite of the prospect of a scheme involving a heavy writing-off of ordinary capital. Cables and Wireless were sold on Sir Basil Blackett's speech (summarised on page 1338), but showed a moderate improvement in mid-week. The Callender's Cable report, however, surpassed expectations and had a steadying influence on electrical manufacturing shares. The Hudson's Bay figures, on the other hand, were frankly disappointing. After a dull opening, motor shares showed slight improvement on the decision of Leylands to pay off preference dividend arrears. Weakness in the gramophone group was accentuated by developments in Wall Street. Occasional inquiries from Northern England gave textile shares a better appearance, but iron and steel issues were neglected. Brewery and tobacco shares showed a further disposition to sag, British-American Tobacco prices reflecting the fear that the company's Far Eastern trade would be prejudiced by the fall in silver. A limited business left bank shares slightly lower on balance, and insurance shares were easier where changed.

The decline in rubber to the "record" low level of 6d. a pound caused further small share losses, but surprisingly little stock came out, and Rubber Trusts, among others, quickly responded to the better tone of the commodity market on Thursday. Tea shares remained idle, with prices lower when tested. The favourable figures of the Royal Dutch, Shell and Anglo-Persian companies (dealt with on pages 1340 and 1341) did not affect sentiment in the oil share market, which was oppressed by the weakness of New York and further sales from Paris. Mexican and Canadian Eagles, however, were better before and after the announcement of participating preference and ordinary dividends.

The mining markets opened under depressed conditions. The Cape, however, came in to support Kaffirs, on a record May output. Rhodesians had a crowded hour of strength on Tuesday, but, generally speaking, no great effort was made to support the market before the Roan Antelope debenture issue. Comparatively little selling of tin shares occurred, despite the weakness of the metal and the unfavourable construction put upon the outlook (which is discussed in a "Note" on page 1339).

Rio Tintos made a partial recovery, but a mild rally in Burmas was checked by the reduced dividend announcement.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.
(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	June 5.	June 6.	June 9.	June 10.	June 11.	June 12.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,337	1,269	Bank Holiday.	1,353	1,292	1,389
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	919	924		951	866	949
Commercial and Industrial*	1,759	1,565		1,800	1,555	1,813
Banks, Insurance and Financial	483	425		583	483	511
Mines (including Nitrate)	438	432		445	422	400
Oil	171	134		179	172	178
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	175	162		171	132	126
Total	5,282	4,911		5,482	4,922	5,371

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

"FINANCIAL NEWS" DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS.
(1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (Mar. 4).	June 5.	June 6.	June 9.	June 10.	June 11.	June 12.
90·6	82·0	83·0	82·6	Bank Holiday.	82·2	82·3	82·0

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The German Loan is meeting with great success and selling at a premium of 1¼ points with a large demand all over the country. The banking syndicate made firm offers to dealers, and hence actual subscriptions could total only the amount offered. While markets are relieved at the flotation of the issue, pessimism and nervousness are so great as a result of several days' succession of sharply declining prices on the share market that the operation failed to help much, and the market is now concentrating on the outcome of the tariff, with the chances favouring its passage by Congress and signature by President Hoover. The measure is heartily opposed by the principal banking and industrial interests and by economists, but political jockeying has made its enactment possible. Wall Street feels, however, that even a bad Bill would be better than uncertainty. All the market gains of the earlier part of the year have now been wiped out, and share prices are at the lowest levels since the end of last year, with the best quality stocks showing the most pronounced weakness. Prices are still above the lowest levels of last November. The volume of transactions has doubled on the decline, and much stock has been sold for weakened margin accounts, but, at the same time, the short interest has been unusually large, and investment trusts and others are buying moderately. Copper has dropped to 12½ cents per pound, and the gain of 7,000 tons in stocks of refined may be due mainly to slack domestic buying. There have been a few bank failures, but they are mostly unimportant. Dividend reductions by corporations continue, but they are chiefly made by minor companies. The steel industry and the motor trade are still losing ground, but both these movements are seasonal.

(By Cable.)

	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	105⅞	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	106⅛
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112⅜	112²⁄₃₂	113¹⁄₃₂
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100¹³⁄₃₂	100¹⁄₃₂	100⁹⁄₃₂
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101⅛	101¹³⁄₃₂	101¹⁵⁄₃₂
Do. 4¼% '33-38	102⅜	102¹⁄₃₂	102⁹⁄₃₂
Atchison	223½	223	218
Ches. & Ohio	212	211	182
Erie	46	43⅜	39
Illinois Central	128½	127	122½
N.Y. Central	174½	172½	167
Pennsylvania	78½	76½	74⅜
Southern Pacific	119¼	119⅜	117
Southern Rly.	106½	106¼	107
Union Pacific	227½	224	219
Am. Can.	148	144½	132
Alleghany Corp.	26½	25⅜	22
Amer. Smelting	72⅜	69½	66⅜
Anaconda	60⅜	56½	54
Bethlehem Steel	95½	93½	87½
Chrysler Motor	36⅜	34⅛	31
Corn Produce	108¼	105½	100
Eastman Kodak	239½x	239	219
Gen. Electric(New)	84	81¼	73½
Gen. Motors	51	49½	44⅜
Int. Harvester	96⅜	96½	89
Montg. Ward	44¼	44⅜	40
Natl. Biscuit	92⅜	89⅜	84½
Phelps Dodge	37	37½	36
Pullman	76	73⅜	69½
Sears-Roebuck	87½	84⅜	77
Studebaker	36½	35⅜	31
Un. Fruit	92	91	87½
U.S. Leather	11⅛	11¼	10
U.S. Rubber	31⅜	29½	24⅜
U.S. Steel	173⅛x	168⅛	163
Westinghouse	182⅜	176½	152
Woolworth	63	63½	59½
Worthington Pump	168½	157	141½
Am. Pow. & Light.	108⅜	104	93
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	231⅞	228½	216
Electric P. & L.	94⅜	90⅜	79⅜
Int. Tel. Teles.	64⅛	63½	54
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	49½	47⅜	41½
Radio Corpn.	54⅜	49⅜	41
Utilities P. & L.	40⅞	39½x	36
W. Union Tlg.	182	182⅜	169½
Associated Gas "A"	37⅜	36½	35
Mid-Cont. Pet.	28½	27⅜	25⅜
Pan Amer. B.	62½	61	57⅜
Sinclair Oil	27⅜	28⅜	25½
Std. California	70½	69½	64½
Do. N.J.	80½	78⅜	71

x Ex dividend.

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. June 5.	Closing Prices. June 12.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	77⅞	77⅞	— ⅛
Do. 4½% 1944	98½	98½	...⅜
Do. 5% 1944-64	103⅝	103⅜	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102	102⅛	+ ⅛
Consols 4%	88	87⅝	— ⅜
Funding 4%	89½	88⅜	— ⅛
Victory Bonds 4%	94¼	94⅛	...
Local Loans 3%	64⅜x	63⅜	— ⅝
Treasury 5% (B)	102⅜	102	— ⅜
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	99x	99	...
India 3½%	60½x	61	+ ½
Do. 4½% 1958-68	82½	83	+ ½
Australia 5% 1945-75	87x	86½	— ½
N.S.Wales 5%1935-55	86½	85½	— 1
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	99x	100	+ 1
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)	101½	101½	...
Argentine 4% Recns.	87⅜	88	+ ½
Austrian 6% 1923-43	101½x	101½	...
Belgian 7%	110½	110½	...
Brazil 6⅛% (1927)	87	87	...
China 5% (1912)	44½	40	— 4½
Egypt Unified 4%	75½	74½	— 1
French 5%	20⅛	20⅜	+ ⅛
French 4% (Brit.)	20	20½	+ ½
German 7%	106⅜	106¼	— ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee	101¼	101¼	...
Hungary 7½%	102½	102½	...
Chili 6%	96½	97	+ ½
Poland 7%	87½	88	+ ½
Mexican 5% (1899)	18	18	...
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	91½	90⅜	— ⅛
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56	102	102	...
Bristol 5% 1950–60	101	101	...
L.C.C. 3%	64	64	...
E. London 5% 1960-70	97x	97	...
Sydney 5½% 1954	89½	88½	— 1
Berlin 6% Ster.	95	95	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	83½	82½	— ½
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	8⅜	8	— ⅜
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	26	23½	— 2½
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	48½	47	— 1½
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	66	65	— 1
Met. District Ord. Stk.	76½	76½	...
Southern Def. Stk.	29⅜	29	— ⅜
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	71	70½	— ½
Underground Ord. £1	1⅝	1⅝	— ⅛
Do. Income Bonds	108½	107½	— 1
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	207½x	203	— 4½
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	84½	83½	— ½
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	78½	78½	...
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	87½	86⅝	— ⅜
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	67½	66½	— 1
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	70	67½	— 2½
Cordoba Ord. Stk.	14	14½	+ ½
G.W. of Brazil £10	3	2⅝	— ⅜
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	49½x	47½	— 2
San Paulo Ord. Stk.	187½	183	— 4½
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$27½	$27½	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	9¼	11¼	+ 2
Beira Rlwy. no par	1	1 1/32	+ 1/32
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	251	250½	— ½
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅜	1⅜	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅝	3⅝	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13⅛	...
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1 1/32	1 1/32	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$109¼	$107	— 2¼
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15½	15½	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	19½	19	— ½
Com. Un.£2½,fully pd.	23	23	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27½	27½	...
Pearl (£1)	13	13	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14¼	14	— ¼
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	7⅛	7⅛	— ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅞	⅞	— 1/32
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Baldwin (4/-)	⅜	⅜	— 1/32
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	⅝	⅝	...
Cory, William (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Dorman, Long (£1)	⅞	⅞	— ⅛
Guest, Keen (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅜	⅜	...
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅝	1⅝	...
Swan, Hunter (£1)	1	⅞	— 1/32
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3¼	3⅛	— ⅛
Vickers (6/8)	⅝	⅝	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ 1/32
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅝	⅝	— 1/32
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3⅛	3	— 1/32
Courtaulds	2⅛	2⅛	...
Linen Thread (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Listers (£1)	⅝	⅝	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	— 1/32
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	— 1/32
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6⅛	6⅛	+ 1/32
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
City of London (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	— 1/32
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	47⅛	44	— 3⅛
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	365	360	— 5
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
S. Metropolitan Stk.	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless A Ord.	43½	40	— 3½
Cables and Wireless B Ord.	21	19	— 2
Canadian Marconi	1⅛	1⅛	— ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Dennis (1/)	2⅛	2	— ⅛
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	— ⅛
Leyland (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Rolls-Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	— 1/32
Napier (5/-)	⅝	⅝	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	— ⅛
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	17⅛	17⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Bah Liss (£1)	1	1	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	20½	20	— ½
London Asiatic (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4⅞	4½	— ⅜
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅞	⅞	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	— ⅛
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅜	⅜	...
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅜	⅜	...
Royal Dutch (£5½)	33	32⅜	— ⅝
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Brax. Traction, no par	$50½	$46½	— 3⅞
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛	— ⅛
Carreras "A" Ord.(£1)	8⅛x	7⅞	— ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	5⅛	4⅛	— 1⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅞	3⅛	— ⅛
Dunlop (6/8)	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	— ⅛
Guinness (A) (£1)	5⅞	5⅞	— ⅛
Harrods (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ 1/32
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
International Holdings	6⅛	5⅞	— ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can.	32⅛	27⅛	— 5⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	29⅛	28⅛	— ⅛
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6⅛	5	— ⅛
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Sweed. Match, B(kr 100)	15⅛	15⅛	— ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Tilling Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	...
Unilever (£1)	2⅛x	2⅛	— ⅛
United Molasses (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	— ⅛
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3⅛	— ⅛
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
De Beers Def. (£2½)	8⅛	7⅞	— ⅛
"Chartered" 15/f.p.	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	— 1/32
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅛	⅛	— 1/32
Johan. Cons. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	...
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
London Tin (£1)	1⅛	⅛	— 1/32
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	3⅛	2⅛	— ⅛
New Modderfontein 10/-	4⅛	4⅛	— ⅛
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	17⅛	14⅛	— 2⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	38	37⅛	— ⅛
Roan Antelope Opr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	— 1/32
UnionCrp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	— ⅛

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926 = 100) :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	June 4.	June 11.
335 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	161·4	147·6
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	132·6	127·2
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	253·9	231·7
Total, 402 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	171·5	157·6
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·36%	4·70%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jan. 17.)	June 4.	June 5.	June 6.	June 7.	June 9.	June 10.	June 11.
202·4	166·5	184·8	184·8	181·7	177·5	172·6	177·8	171·3

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	June 5.	June 6.	June 7.*	June 9.	June 10.	June 11.	June 12.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	2,387	2,150	2,244	4,638	4,773	4,471	3,895
Bonds (Value-Thous. $).....	8,691	9,281	5,000	9,793	10,154	10,016	10,896
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,194	1,016	647	1,586	2,054	1,537	1,992

* 2-hour session.

BERLIN.

In the first half of May a better tendency set in on the Berlin Bourse. Gains of a few points were mainly due to the activity of professional speculators and purchases by banks, impelled by the favourable development of the money markets. After May 23rd, however, the tendency was again downward. The effect of the delay in issuing the Reparation Loan was accentuated by the unfavourable development of the German economic situation. More industries have been discharging men. Published profit figures are unsatisfactory, and numerous dividends have been passed. The sharpest decline in May was suffered by rayon shares, but electricity, coal and iron also declined. The index of 70 leading shares has dropped in the last two weeks from 141.5 to 137. The yields on first-class securities are still out of proportion to interest rates in the open market.

Official " Cash " Quotations in all cases.

	May 5, 1930.	June 6, 1930.		May 5, 1930.	June 6, 1930.
Banking and Insurance.			*Industrials—cont.*		
Berliner Handelsg.	176	173½	Daimler-Benz	41	37
Commerz und Privat	150	150	Dessauer Gas	168	164
Darmstädter	228	227½	Deutsche Erdöl....	103	98½
Deutsche and Disconto	142	140	Deutsche Linoleum	243	234
Dresdner	144	141½	Dynamit Nobel....	88	88½
Reichsbank.....	299	293	Farbenindustrie ...	185	173x
Allians und Stuttgarter	208	209	*Feldmühle* Papier.	178	166x
Nordstern	245	250	Gelsenkirchen.....	139	136½
Communications.			Görlitzer Waggon	106	102
Deutsche Reichsbahn	95½	95⅝	Harpener	125	125½
Hamburg-Amerika	112	111	Hirsch Kupfer	122	139
Hamburg - Süd - Amerika.....	171½	172⅝	Kali Aschersleben	228	224½
Hansa.....	160	150x	Karstadt	135	129
Norddeutscher Lloyd.....	112	111⅛	Lindström	631	604
Industrials.			Mannesmann	106	103
Allg. Elektrizität	172	164⅜	Nationale Autom.	18½	18½
Augsburg - Nürnberg. Masch.	76½	83	Orenstein und Koppel.....	93	78½
Bemberg	140	110	Polyphon	284	270½x
Bergmann.....	185	183½	Rütgers	70½	66½
Continental Gummi	175x	180	Salzdetfurth	400	412½
			Sarotti	135	121
			Schlesische Textilwerke.....	19	17½
			Schultheiss-Patzenhofer	302	314½
			Siemens und Halske	243	245½
			Tietz.....	151	156
			Verein. Stahlwerke	98	94⅜
			Zellstoff Waldhoff	183	167½x

x Ex Dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Another Wall Street Setback.—Reviewing the Wall Street outlook a month ago we suggested that the recovery in American share prices, in some groups at least, had been based on a premature assumption of industrial revival, and that a period of irregularity and hesitation might be expected during succeeding weeks. This view has been borne out by events, particularly during the last few days, when large-scale selling has reappeared, accentuated by professional bear speculation. The movement can best be viewed by reference to the following table, which is based on figures supplied by the Standard Statistics Company :—

(1926 average = 100.)

	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Feb. 13, 1930.	Apr. 17, 1930.	May 7, 1920.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
Group indices :							
335 Industrials	218·9	134·5	157·6	172·7	157·0	161·4	147·6
33 Rails	173·5	127·8	144·6	142·1	134·6	132·6	127·2
34 Utilities ..	330·4	177·6	233·3	266·0	243·2	253·9	231·7
Total, 402 stocks	228·1	140·3	167·5	182·7	167·1	171·5	157·6

Broadly speaking, the recovery from the bottom, initiated before the end of last year, was in part a reaction due to the elimination of unhealthy " technical " market influences during the slump, and in part the result of a nation-wide belief in an early recovery in industrial activity. The former influence had largely exhausted itself by mid-February, when prices suffered a minor setback, but the upward movement of values was nevertheless resumed in March. The comparatively severe reaction, which began in mid-April, was directly attributable to the publication of industrial earnings figures for the March quarter showing that trade depression was far more severe than had been anticipated. This movement carried prices back again to the mid-February level. It was succeeded by four weeks of irregular fluctuations above and below this level, with a very slight upward trend. The latest period of selling is generally associated, firstly, with the tendency among industrial observers to put forward the beginning of industrial recovery beyond the autumn of this year—a date generally forecast a few weeks ago; secondly, with the further weakness of commodity prices, particularly those of base metals; and, thirdly, with the preliminary indications that this year's crops are likely to be sufficiently plentiful to prevent any early firming of agricultural prices. This week's decline has noticeably affected amusement shares, and other stocks whose recent activity has stood out in sharp contrast to the prevailing trend. The American investor, like his British colleague, finds himself unable as yet to see the bottom of the slump in trade, and the course of security prices in both markets may continue for the time being to reflect, not necessarily the growing intensity of depression, but the increasing availability of statistical evidence of its extent and character.

Cables and Wireless.—Sir Basil Blackett's Speech.—In an Investment Note in the *Economist* of June 7th we referred to the heavy depreciation in the stocks of Cables and Wireless. The speech which Sir Basil Blackett, chairman of the Communications Company, delivered to the Imperial Press Conference last week enlightened, but unfortunately *did not* reassure, the market. Sir Basil frankly confessed that the directors were concerned about the falling-off in their cable and wireless traffics, 85 per cent. of which were commercial. Trade depression reflected itself more sharply in telegraph receipts, he said, than in almost anything else, and in spite of reduced rates traffics were still declining. Foreign wireless competition had become more intense, and was giving the company serious trouble. The big American combines, Sir Basil remarked, were making a determined bid to establish a dominating position in world communications, and their competition was likely to increase. If Cables and Wireless, *Ltd.*, were to prosper, increased facilities would have to be provided and rates reduced. They were at present negotiating with the Governments in India, Australia and South Africa for an amalgamation of cables and wireless services in those countries, and as soon as an agreement was reached they intended to reduce the cable rates to the level of the wireless rates. Reductions in rates, he added, could justify themselves only if they led to a substantial increase in the volume of traffic carried. With regard to wireless telephony, Sir Basil declared that it was a great disappointment to them when the Post Office refused the company's offer to co-operate with them in providing the wireless link for the overseas telephone services in this country. He regarded it as against the true interests of the country that there should be competition between the Government and the Communications Company. Outside this country, however, he acknowledged that the company was receiving valuable support from the British Post Office in the field of wireless telephony, and that it hoped shortly to be able to announce the conclusion of agreements for establishing wireless telephony services in a number of places within and outside the Empire. But the burden of Sir Basil's text was that Imperial communications had to be worked as a whole if uneconomic competition between cables and wireless was to be eliminated and if the company was to maintain its position in the face of foreign competition. The company, he said, was an experiment in a new synthesis of private enterprise and public control. We gather that this experimental synthesis has still to prove its practical possibilities in an industry dominated by international competition.

Tin Restriction.—Since we last discussed the prospects of the tin-producing industry (vide *Economist* of May 17th), it has become evident that the restriction programme of the Tin Producers' Association may call for revision—a fact which has been emphasised in our correspondence columns. Consumption had apparently been estimated at too high a figure—American deliveries for the first five months having been only 31,920 tons as compared with 40,635 tons in the corresponding period of last year—and new production this year at too low a figure. As a result of the heavy addition to visible supplies disclosed by the returns for April and May the Tin Producers' Association have decided to accelerate the restriction programme. An international committee of producers has been appointed, representing a majority of the production in Malaya, Nigeria, the Dutch East Indies and Bolivia, and it is believed that the committee favour the shutting down of mines immediately for a period of two months. It is certain that with tin selling at under £140 per ton, some drastic action will have to be taken. The average minimum costs are almost certainly well in excess of the present spot price. The costs of production in Malaya—the cheapest area outside the Dutch East Indies—are estimated at £65 per ton of concentrates, or £90 per ton for metal for the *cheapest* producers, to which must be added overhead charges, transport, smelting costs and export tax, amounting to about £38 per ton, and an amortisation rate of, say, £18 per ton, based on a fifteen years life—making a total cost of £146 per ton without allowing for profit. The *average* costs of mining would be much higher. Producers can, of course, by ignoring amortisation and profits, continue to produce at a loss for an indefinite period, but the Tin Producers' Association have in the abnormally low market prices a powerful weapon to wield in forcing the adoption of a more drastic policy.

J. Lyons and Company.—The " forward " policy of the directors of this company in recent years continues to bring its reward, the latest profit figure establishing a new " record." The amount earned on the ordinaries and " A " ordinaries was 129.38 per cent. and 35.6 per cent. respectively. The same dividends rates were paid as in 1929, and £100,000 was added to reserves, which now total £1,300,000 :—

	(Years ended March 31) 1928. £	1929. £	1930 £
Profit	832,516	908,950	935,870
5% preference dividend	32,353	32,353	32,353
7% preference dividend	190,167	259,192	280,000
8% preference dividend	80,000	80,000	80,000
6% preferred ordinary dividend...	24,000	24,000	24,000
Ordinary and "A" ordinary — paid per share...	4/6	4/6	4/6
Ordinary and "A" ordinary — amt. of dividend	357,474	357,474	360,849
Proportional and "B" proportional profit — paid per share	10·8d.	10·8d.	10·8d.
Proportional and "B" proportional profit — amt. of div....	42,750	42,750	42,750
To reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000
Increase in carry-forward	+ 5,772	+ 11,494	+ 15,918

Though eight new branches were opened during the year, the valuation of buildings, etc., is £54,804 lower at £9,927,678. Shares in subsidiaries and associated companies have risen by £411,074 to £645,970. The ordinary shares, at their present price of £4 15s., yield £4 14s. 9d. per cent.

J. and P. Coats.—In view of the depression in the textile industry, shareholders in this company have more reason for satisfaction with the result of the past year's operations than appears at first sight. The greater part of the revenue is received from dividends from subsidiaries, which were £799,743 lower at £2,971,272, but interest received increased by £55,669 to £295,186. The net profit was £749,483 lower at £3,179,575.

	Year ended Dec. 31, 1927. £	Year ended Dec. 31, 1928. £	Year ended Dec. 31, 1929. £
Net profit	3,729,642	3,929,058	3,179,575
Dividend on preference shares ...	150,000	150,000	150,000
Dividend on " B " pref. shares ...	180,000	180,000	180,000
Ordinary — *earned*.....	*23·0%*	*24·4%*	*19·3%*
Ordinary — paid.....	17½%	20%	17½%
Ordinary — amount of dividend....	2,581,250	2,950,000	2,581,250
Extra depreciation	...	500,000	...
To reserves	250,000	...	...
Increase in carry-forward	568,392	149,059	268,325

The balance sheet has been drawn up on somewhat different lines to that presented a year ago. Investments, which were shown as £2,175,801 in 1928, are valued at £15,022,141, while goodwill, buildings, machinery, patents, etc., appear at £2,067,008, against last year's items of " capital expenditure " £16,750,785. Bracketing these two items, their total, at £17,089,149, shows a fall

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of £1,837,437. Advances and dividends due were £5,124,057 greater at £8,474,538, and debtors were £523,714 down. On the liabilities side creditors increased by £2,348,578. The ordinary shares at their present price of £3 ex div. yield £5 16s. 8d. per cent.

Bleachers' Association.—In common with the majority of concerns, large and small, dependent upon the textile industry, this company has suffered in the prevailing depression. Profits, after rising in 1928-29, fell off by 22.3 per cent. last year:—

(Years ending March 31.)	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Trading profits	898,577	901,358	767,642
Depreciation fund	200,000	200,000	200,000
Debenture interest	101,250	101,250	101,250
Net earnings	597,327	600,108	466,392
Preference dividend	135,988	135,988	136,613
Number of times covered	*4·3*	*4·4*	*3·4*
Ordinary *earned*	*12·1%*	*12·2%*	*8·6%*
Ordinary paid	10%	10%	6⅔%
Ordinary amount of dividend	379,374	379,374	254,582
Superannuation fund	...	...	19,413
General reserve fund	75,000	100,000	59,187
Increase or decr. in carry-forward	+ 6,965	— 15,254	— 3,403

The most striking items in the balance sheet are stocks and debtors. The former, which includes carts, lorries, etc., is £776,413 lower at £42,877, and the latter £869,237 lower at £96,504. A new item—advances to subsidiaries—of £1,303,854 has been brought into the balance sheet, after being, probably, bracketed with sundry debtors a year ago. On the liabilities side creditors are down by £415,462 at £822,889. Liquid assets are thus £786,096 greater than current liabilities. A year ago the latter showed an excess of £248,926. The yield on the ordinary shares, at 18s. 9d. is £7 2s. 2d. per cent.

Crosse and Blackwell.—Following the post-war reconstruction, this company's profits have shown a steady increase. Last year the gross figure rose by £14,898 to £287,510, while the net profit was £9,123 greater at £211,204. As the state of the trade is held to necessitate "conservation of the company's resources," the directors, after paying the preference dividend of £168,750, have transferred £50,000, but pay no dividend on the ordinary capital, on which 16.1 per cent. was earned.

(Year ending December 31.)	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Net profit	170,372	202,081	211,204
First preference dividend	168,750	168,750	168,750
No. of times covered	1·01	1·19	1·25
Ordinary *earned* %	...	*13·3*	*16·1*
Ordinary paid %	...	...	...
To reserve account	...	25,000	50,000
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	+ 1,622	+ 9,331	— 7546

The balance sheet has been overhauled, under the Companies' Acts, and now includes the item "goodwill and patents," £1,372,772. To provide funds to redeem the 6½ per cent. notes, to repay the bankers' loans and generally provide funds for expansion, £1,500,000 was raised in November last in the form of 6½ per cent. debentures. The acquisition of interests in certain companies last year is reflected in a rise of the total investments in subsidiaries and associated companies by £173,537 to £1,705,322, while advances to these companies, at £737,092, are down by £632,058. Creditors and amounts due to subsidiaries have risen respectively by £73,566 and £96,230. At their present price of 2s. 6d. the 1s. ordinary shares show an "earning value" of £6 8s. 10d. per cent.

John Brown Meeting.—The annual meeting of this company, held on Friday of last week, was of special importance in view of the reconstruction proposals of which notice had already been given. At the meeting the chairman, Lord Aberconway, referred to the effects of the Washington Agreement of 1922 on the company's shipbuilding activities. Following the virtual suspension of capital shipbuilding for nine years there had only been two large warships, the "Australia" and "Canberra," and four destroyers to occupy the "Admiralty" section of the yard, which formerly accounted for nearly 50 per cent. of the shipbuilding orders. This situation had been accentuated by the London Naval Conference, which further postponed prospective orders for capital ships. Reference was made to the placing of orders by the smaller foreign States with Italian yards, owing to the subsidy provided by that Government, and to losses in contracts for passenger vessels, which are being built in Continental yards for similar reasons. As a result, not only have operations at the company's yards been on a smaller scale, but the repercussions have extended to the steelworks, which are laid out for supplying the necessary machinery and equipment. At the separate meetings which followed the general meeting the capital reorganisation schemes (a summary of which was given in the *Economist* of May 31 last, page 1229) were passed by the ordinary and preference shareholders. As regards the two classes of debentures, it was agreed, after discussion, to adjourn the meetings until June 20th to enable the company's advisers to confer with the representatives of the debenture-holders.

Royal Dutch Shell.—The shareholders of the Royal Dutch Petroleum and Shell Transport and Trading companies have good reason to be gratified by the excellent trading results which their directors present to them each year. They must, however, be somewhat mystified by the comments which the directors of the Royal Dutch make upon the world oil situation in their report for 1929. "Generally speaking," to quote from their report, "it may be said that 1929 was a year of excessive competition, and that in consequence some petroleum companies saw their profits diminish. . . . A striking feature has been the fact that the over-production of crude oil and its derivatives caused the selling prices in various importing countries to drop to a level below the figure representing the export prices in the countries of origin plus freight to ports of importation and all other charges." If conditions were so adverse, how did it come about that the Royal Dutch were able to increase their profits by 22.35 per cent. and the Shell by 23.37 per cent.? Being holding companies, their profits are derived from dividends distributed by their subsidiaries, and it can only be assumed that as the parent companies desired to distribute a larger sum in dividends this year on account of the increase in their ordinary share capital, they merely caused the subsidiary companies to distribute a larger proportion of their earnings, which they could well afford. The crude oil production of the Royal Dutch-Shell group increased last year from 22,063,411 to 25,184,387 metric tons, which represented nearly 12 per cent. of the world's total output. A feature of the Royal Dutch report which deserves more attention than it has received is the reference to the manufacture of synthetic petrol from coal or crude oil, in regard to which they have decided to pool their interests with those of the Standard Oil and Farben Industrie in order to exchange experience and patents and to develop the hydrogenation process jointly. In a few years' time this development may prove to be of great importance. The following table shows the net income and distribution of profits of the Royal Dutch and Shell companies over the past three years:—

ROYAL DUTCH.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	Fl.	Fl.	Fl.
Ordinary capital	412,103,000	414,703,000	503,624,000
Net income	101,978,637	103,367,780	126,471,391
Preference dividend	1,342,500	1,342,500	1,342,500
No. of times covered	*75·96*	*77·0*	*94·2*
Balance for ordinary	100,636,137	102,025,280	125,128,891
Earned %	*24·4*	*24·6*	*24·88*
Paid %	24	24	24
Carried forward	423,438	1,015,025	2,219,313

SHELL TRANSPORT.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£
Ordinary capital	19,654,274	19,987,607	24,121,361
Net income	5,569,694	5,447,893	6,483,386
Preference dividend	450,000	450,000	450,000
No. of times covered	*12·38*	*12·11*	*14·4*
Balance for ordinary	4,919,694	4,997,893	6,270,991
Earned %	*25·03*	*25·00*	*26·00*
Paid %	25 tax free	25 tax free	25 tax free
Carried forward	236,612	237,604	240,650

The balance sheets continue to show extraordinary financial strength. Shell Transport has no less than £1,158,483 in cash and over £10,000,000 in gilt-edged securities, while Royal Dutch has 82,512,355 florins in cash and a surplus of debtors over creditors of 345,000,000 florins. The present prices of the shares and the yields obtainable compare as follows:—

	High, 1929.	Present.	Yield. £ s. d.
Royal Dutch	38¼	32¾	6 2 0
Shell Transport	5 1/16	4 25/32	5 4 6 (tax free)

The comparatively high yields shown are, of course, no reflection on the admitted efficiency and prosperity of the Royal Dutch-Shell group.

Anglo-Persian Oil.—The directors' report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company adds nothing to the explanations given in an Investment Note in the *Economist* of June 7th of the remarkable increase in this company's profits last year. The production of crude oil was well maintained—the Royal Dutch directors estimate the Persian output at 6,022,092 metric tons, against 5,600,138 metric tons in the previous year—and was supplemented in the last month of the year by the first delivery of oil from the new oilfield at Haft Kel, which is destined, according to the directors, to play a very important part in the future production programme. The company's distributing organisation was further extended and sales continued to expand. Further extensions of the refining plant in Abadan are now in course of construction. This is all the information which the report contains. The following table shows the results for the past three years:—

	12 months to Mar. 31, 1928.	9 months to Dec. 31, 1928.	*Equivalent for 12 months.*	12 months to Dec. 31, 1929.
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary capital	13,425,000	13,425,000	*13,425,000*	13,425,000
Net profits	4,300,803	3,738,239	*4,984,319*	7,500,579
Debs. and note interest	254,397	216,206	*288,275*	279,717
Directors' fees	21,294	22,326	*29,768*	15,017
Persian Gov. royalty (est.)	250,806	305,816	*407,755*	1,161,589
Income tax	661,776	360,933	*481,244*	832,514
Balance	3,112,529	2,832,958	*3,777,277*	5,206,762
Preference dividends	875,000	656,250	*875,000*	875,000
Balance for ordinary	2,237,529	2,176,708	*2,902,277*	4,331,762
Earned % (after tax)	*16·67*	*21·62*	*21·62*	*32·3*
Paid % (subj. to tax)	7·5	12·5 p.a.	*12·5*	20·0
To deb. stock redn. reserve, etc.	200,000	206,250	*275,000*	211,250
Extra deprec. & res.	1,053,267	651,052	*868,068*	1,952,465
Carry-forward	2,224,246	1,771,645*	...	687,064

* Less £567,627 payment for excess profits duties, etc.

It will be observed that the 1929 net profits showed an increase at the rate of 49 per cent., and that, although the distribution was put up from 12½ per cent. per annum to 20 per cent., a very conservative dividend policy is still being pursued. Liberal appropriations have been made to reserves—the preference share reserve taking £500,000, amortisation reserve £100,000, general reserve £1,000,000 and extra depreciation £352,465. Incidentally, the estimated royalty payable to the Persian Government, which would appear to have a political rather than an economic significance, shows a very large increase, but it is impossible to say on what basis this royalty is calculated. The balance sheet continues to show a strong liquid position, cash amounting to £2,120,118 and British Government securities to £3,279,503. The surplus of current assets over current liabilities amounted to £7,650,124. The ordinary share capital remains at £13,425,000, of which the British Government own £7,500,000 and the Burmah Oil Company £3,561,990. The £1 ordinary shares are quoted at £4 9/32 to yield £4 16s. per cent. on the basis of 20 per cent. dividends.

Glanzstoff Results.—The report of the artificial silk trust, Aku-Glanzstoff, for 1929, has been awaited with unusual interest. The trust controls the plants of the quondam Enka Company in Holland and the entire capital (75 million marks) of the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken, in Elberfeld. In 1928 both companies paid 18 per cent., their turnover as independent concerns being 115 million marks. In 1929 the total turnover was 120 million marks, about two-thirds of the production falling to the German Glanzstoff factories. The profits of the Vereinigte Glanzstoff-Fabriken dropped from 14 million marks to 6 millions, but it was found necessary to write off no less than 66 million marks, the resulting loss being offset by a reduction in reserves from 78 to 28 millions. The loss was due only in part to bad trade in Europe, much the larger share resulting from an unsuccessful venture in the United States. In the last four years

Glanzstoff has established three undertakings in America —two production companies (American Bemberg and American Glanzstoff), and one financing and holding company (Associated Rayon Corporation), about 50 per cent. of the shares, in every case, being held by Glanzstoff. The market value of these shares has recently fallen, on the average, from 100 to 20, and the adjustment in values has involved the parent company in an adjustment of values of approximately 50 million marks. The Aku-Glanzstoff concern can, therefore, be now regarded as clear of dead wood, but its earning capacity is not yet assured, and stockholders cannot confidently expect a dividend for 1930 unless costs can be reduced or an agreement be brought about between international groups of producers. Aku-Glanzstoff, as well Courtaulds (which holds more than 10 per cent. of the former's capital) and Snia Viscosa (which is controlled by Courtaulds and Aku together), have for months been vainly trying to reach such an agreement.

Zellstoff-Fabrik Waldhof, Mannheim.—This, the largest wood-pulp and paper concern in Germany, has declared a dividend of 12 per cent. for 1929, against 13½ per cent. for 1928. The reduction came as a surprise, since no reduction in profits was shown. At the beginning of 1929 the company increased its capital by 10 million marks, a part of the new shares being taken over by the English firm of Helbert, Wagg and Company, which has also taken over the 8 per cent. preferred shares of a newly-organised subsidiary in Finland, whose dividend is guaranteed by the parent company. The year 1929 was a year of "spade work" in Finland, but the new Finnish factory will eventually work more cheaply than the German factories. The company complains of depressed prices in the world market, but, in view of its favourable operating conditions and good connections, its prospects are deemed entirely satisfactory.

African and European Investment.—As during the past year this concern absorbed the Transvaal Estates and Development Co., no effective comparison of results can be made. The broad fact, however, is that it is able once again to pay 6 per cent. Thus, the former shareholders in the Investment Co. are no worse off than before, while on their new scrip the former shareholders in the "Devels" Co. will receive an increased dividend total. The issued capital now stands at £2,045,560; the debentures outstanding remain at £368,950. Following the absorption above-mentioned, farms and outlay figure at £1,102,000, against £813,800; investments at £1,398,400, against £1,117,900; and advances at £407,900, against £292,500. A satisfactory point is that the market value of the quoted holdings—£1,076,650—somewhat exceeds the amount at which they stand in the books. The company publishes a schedule of its holdings. Of these the most important is the block of nearly 270,000 shares in the Vereeniging Estates. The Grootvlei and sundry other Eastern Rand enterprises are still waiting upon events, but encouragement is derived from the latest developments on the East Geduld property. The African and European is now the largest land-holding company in the Transvaal. The £1 shares are quoted at about 15s. 6d.

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Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway, Farmers National Mortgage Institution, Alexanders Discount, Armstrong Whitworth Securities, Burmah Oil, John Brown and Company, Trowbridge Tyre and Rubber, Associated Newspapers, J. and P. Coats, Electric Supply Corporation, Calcutta Tramways, Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Sialang Rubber Estates, Malacca Rubber Plantations, Nirmala (Java) Plantations and Lands, Siamese Tin Syndicate, and Bangrin Tin Dredging. The chairman of Associated Newspapers declared that the successful inauguration by Northcliffe Newspapers, Ltd., of new evening papers in Newcastle and Bristol would be followed by the launching of a similar journal at Cardiff on October 1, and on later dates at Hull, Birmingham, Preston, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Middlesbrough and Leeds, but this programme will, presumably, be modified in the light of the agreement with the Berry group, announced some days after the meeting. In the course of a most informative survey of the activities of the Armstrong Whitworth companies, and of the outlook for world trade and finance, Major-General G. P. Dawnay emphasised the vital importance of export trade. He revealed that out of a total value of orders booked last year by the engineers' and shipbuilders' companies of the group—in the aggregate over £3,000,000—in the case of the former company over 84 per cent. in value, and in the case of the latter nearly 98 per cent. in value were for the external trade. At the Burmah Oil meeting, Sir John T. Cargill, Bt., declared that the improvement of the last three years was due to immunity from price-cutting conditions, economies in working costs, and increased income from interest and dividends on investments.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

The week was notable for the appearance, after some weeks of official discussion and unofficial rumours, of the *German Government International Loan*, otherwise known as the "Reparations Loan." This issue is a landmark in European post-war history, and from London's special point of view its flotation is likely to have far-reaching consequences. The Loan is dealt with at length in a leading article on page 1317 of this week's *Economist*. *The Roan Antelope Copper Mines* debenture issue, with its conversion rights into ordinary shares, has a necessarily speculative flavour, and will appeal to those who are impressed by the possibilities of the rich mineral area of Northern Rhodesia, and to the company's powerful backers, who have guaranteed £1,000,000 of the total subscription.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to June 7, 1930, £152,214,687.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to June 7, 1930, £228,466,961.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended June 7, 1930, £200,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to June 7, 1930, £1,350,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Payment.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
German Government International Loan	12,000,000	...	10,800,000	600,000	10,200,000
Roan Antelope Copper Mines...	1,500,000	...	1,485,000	150,000	1,335,000
Total offered to Public week ended June 14, 1930	13,500,000	...	12,285,000	750,000	11,535,000
To Shareholders only.					
Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading—					
22,429 6% Cum. £10 at par...	224,290	...	224,290	22,429	201,861
2,803 Ord. £10 at par	28,030	...	28,030	2,803	25,227
General Refractories, 40,000 Ord. Shares, 10s. at par.....	20,000	...	20,000	6,000	14,000
London General Investment Trust, 16,250 Def. Shares, £4 at £5	65,000	...	81,250	16,250	65,000
Standard Trust, 100,000 Ord. £1 at 30s.	100,000	...	150,000	150,000	...
Total to Shareholders only, week ended June 14, 1930....	437,320	...	503,570	197,482	306,088

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions.
Jan. 1 to date—	£	£
1930	241,455,531	165,203,257
1929	191,125,692	159,591,342
1928	...	228,016,225
1927	...	195,175,311
1926	...	108,634,498
1925	...	98,343,965
1924	...	96,747,777
1923	...	176,868,661

Total Offered for Subscription—	Including Conversions.	Excluding Conversions
Whole year—	£	£
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended June 14, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930.....	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929.....	22,647,170	...	31,343,580

German Government.—Offer of £12,000,000 5½ per cent. German Government International Sterling Bonds at 90, payable £5 on application, £25 on July 3rd, £30 on July 31st, and £30 on September 1st. The loan is redeemable on June 30, 1975, by means of a cumulative sinking fund, but the German Government reserves the right to redeem, on or after June 1, 1953, the whole of the outstanding bonds, at par, in multiples of $30,000,000 (U.S.A. dollars). The bonds will be redeemable, in their country of issue, at the equivalent of the present gold value. The issue is made under the Hague Agreement of January 20, 1930. All interest is payable by the Bank for International Settlements. To guarantee the service of the annuities, the German Government has created a fixed annual direct tax of 660,000,000 Reichsmarks on the German Railway Company for 37 years. The payment of principal and interest is a direct and unconditional obligation of the German Government.

Roan Antelope Copper Mines, Limited.—Offer of £1,500,000 7 per cent. 15-year debenture stock at 99. Every holder of this stock will, till June 30, 1935, have the right to convert his holding into 50 5s. shares in the company at a price of £2 per share for every £100 of debenture stock held. This company has mining rights under special grants from the British South Africa Company over approximately 10,788 acres in Northern Rhodesia. A sinking fund will be provided to redeem the issue on or before June 30, 1945, at 105, or at any previous date at 105 after three months' notice, or by purchase in the open market at a lower price. One-tenth of the issue will be redeemable on June 30, 1936. The company's authorised capital is £1,500,000 in 6,000,000 5s. shares, of which 4,795,741 are issued and fuly paid, the paid-up capital being £1,198,935. Expenditure to April 30, 1930, on development is £2,925,471. Operating costs are estimated at £37 10s. c.i.f. European ports per long ton of copper, which on May 31, 1930, was selling at £60 per ton. The annual output is estimated at 50,000 tons, as the company now has plant for dealing with 2,000,000 short tons of ore per annum, which is estimated to yield 50,000 tons of copper. The estimated ore in the property is 100,000,000 tons. Interest will be payable on June 30th and December 31st, first payment December 31, 1930.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets and dividend announcements will be found on page 1362 under the heading "Company News."]

OIL OUTPUTS.

THE BRITISH BURMAH PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.—Production of crude oil by this company for the month of May, 1930, was 36,877 barrels.

BRITISH CONTROLLED OILFIELDS, LTD.—Production for the week ended June 4th:—Venezuela, 37,572 barrels; Trinidad, 15,362 barrels; Total, 52,934 barrels. Production for May: Venezuela, 183,363 barrels; Trinidad, 65,955 barrels; Total, 249,318 barrels. Deliveries for May: Venezuela, 182,723 barrels; Trinidad, 27,515 barrels; Total, 210,238 barrels.

THE KERN RIVER OILFIELDS OF CALIFORNIA, LTD.—The total production during the month of May amounted to 130,872 barrels, or approximately 18,696 tons.

THE MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY, LTD.—Production for the week ended May 31, 1930, was 236,000 barrels.

TAMPICO OIL, LTD.—The total production on the Company's properties in Mexico during May was 21,921 barrels, in respect of which the royalty due to Tampico Oil, Ltd., amounted to 1,644 barrels.

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended June 6, 1930. (c) Week ended June 7, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended June 8, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 23 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	289	226	114	340	629	4,805	4,937	2,913	7,850	12,655
Do. for 1929...	3,751	243	240	125	365	608	4,942	5,110	2,935	8,045	12,987
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	394	343	222	565	959	7,226	9,240	6,142	15,382	22,608
Do. for 1929...	6,365	345	394	244	638	983	7,428	9,502	6,202	15,704	23,132
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	664	519	226	745	1,409	10743	12551	6,170	18,721	29,464
Do. for 1929...	6,957½	532	592	238	830	1,362	11214	12875	6,508	19,383	30,597
Southern	2,179	395	72	18	90	485	6,583	1,750	701	2,451	9,034
Do. for 1929...	2,172	341	75	21	96	437	6.616	1,751	770	2,521	9,137
Metropolitan (c)	59	33·9	4·1	...	...	38·0	750·6	92·6	...	...	843·2
Do. for 1929...	59	32·4	3·9	...	...	36·3	733·2	88·6	...	...	821·8
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	319	...	...	...	319	6,817	...	...	...	6,817
Do. for 1929...	...	295	...	...	...	295	6,365	...	...	...	6,365
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	46·7	...	...	...	46·7	990·1	...	...	...	990·1
Do. for 1929...	...	42·9	...	...	...	42·9	911·3	...	...	...	911·3
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	3·1	·7	...	...	3·8	50·3	16·8	...	...	67·1
Do. for 1929...	80	2·6	·6	...	...	3·2	48·5	20·4	...	...	68·9
*GreatNorthern b	562	11·7	12·0	...	...	23·8	...	...	...	...	575·2
Do. for 1929...	562	12·9	11·4	...	...	24·3	...	...	...	...	603·9
GreatSouthern b	2,187	29·5	42·1	...	...	71·6	...	...	...	...	1548·3
Do. for 1929...	2,187	27·5	43·6	...	...	71·1	...	...	...	...	1581·2

* Aggregate 22 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.		Rs.	
Assam Bengal ...	18	May 3	1,217	38,10,000	− 6,550	18,18,000	− 66,177
Barsi Lt. Ry.	7	17	202	39,800	− 4,800	3,57,900	− 43,900
Bengal & N.Western	6	10	2,080	7,75,684	− 36,328	44,14,087	− 1,29,324
Bengal-Nagpur ...	5	24	3,085	22,75,000	− 32,000	1,84,31,000	− 3,26,000
Bombay, Bar.,& C.I.	9	31	3,031	22,82,000	+ 47,000	2,07,13,000	− 2,79,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	19	10	3,228	17,20,000	− 1,12,836	10,527,000	− 7,82,851
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	6	10	572	1,37,673	+ 3,610	8,62,365	+ 37,987
South Indian	6	10	2,371	12,00,066	− 92,043	71,97,452	− 2,76,063
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E. ...	23	June 7	753	18,800	+ 2,900	775,300	+ 6,400
Argentine Trans'dn.	49	7	111	2,541	− 1,433	223,944	− 10,907
B.A. and Pacific...	49	7	2,806	128,000	− 40,000	7,443,000	− 1,174,000
B.A. Central	49	8	...	12,222	+ 3,744	629,329	− 73,494
B.A. Gt. Southern	48	May 31	4,948	222,000	− 9,000	11,353,000	− 740,000
B.A. Western	48	June 1	1,926	80,000	− 17,000	4,068,000	− 824,000
Central Argentine...	49	7	3,319	164,000	− 99,000	11,011,000	− 2,351,000
Cordoba Central ...	49	7	1,218	51,000	− 20,000	2,753,000	− 621,200
Entre Rios	49	7	804	25,700	+ 1,100	1,334,000	− 137,600
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	49	June 7	1,369	41,864	− 13,092	3,161,951	− 491,795
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay...	49	June 7	273	30,187	+ 1,758	1,529,143	+ 50,218
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	49	7	311	6,703	+ 31	359,961	+ 18,567
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	49	7	185	4,374	+ 540	183,512	− 140
C.Urug.(West.Ext.)	49	7	211	2,905	+ 620	141,068	− 6,275
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	22	May 31	20150	6,248,671	− 1553300	89,906,260	− 17,921,078
Canadian Pacific...	23	June 7	15217	3,460,000	− 518,000	70,546,000	− 16,756,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	23	May 31	1,035	9,000	− 4,000	368,700	− 56,200
Leopoldina	22	31	1,856	33,936	− 1,912	746,816	− 37,856
Leopoldina Termni.	22	31	Mirs.	280,000	+ 15,000	6,355,000	+ 311,000
San Paulo	23	June 8	153½	33,845	− 21,004	972,944	− 112,436
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia).....	22	June 1	804	28,550	− 4,130	642,080	− 231,325
Nitrate(½-monthly)	5†	May 31	410	16,622	− 7,995	212,112	− 158,200
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta ...	18	May 10	610	7,909	− 66	33,880	+ 34
Gt. Southn. of Spain	22	31	104	Ps. 76,650	− 42,364	2,479,409	− 219,768
Mexican Railway	23	June 7	483	$231,700	− 2,800	5,718,600	+ 75,300
Paraguay Central	49	7	274	5,340	+ 180	204,120	− 16,170
Salvador	49	7	100	2,376	− 4,432	220,061	− 31,413

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.
(a) Converted at par. (b) Converted at the current rate of exchange.

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	22	June 3	329	81,705	− 2,604	1,853,978	− 83,081
B. Aires Lacroze...	49	8	...	11,786	+ 873	575,382	− 41,650
Burnley Corporation	23	7	13	2,691	− 329	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	23	10	35½	Rs.100609	− 21,415	...	− 296,772
Chatham & District	21	May 29	15	1,118	− 41	22,820	+ 982
Egyptian Markets	22	29	...	1,690	+ 10	39,737	− 3,152
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	21	28	...	2,271	− 226	55,016	− 1,920
Liverpool Corp. ...	22	June 8	124	30,562	+ 1,233	293,354	+ 3,067
L.C.C. Tramways	22	4	166	84,110	+ 862	772,765	− 4,298
Madras Electric‡...	5†	May 31	...	Rs. 42,494	− 180	460,239	+ 27,958

* Including motor 'buses. † Months. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH SECURITIES COMPANY, LIMITED.

FIRST ACCOUNTS OF THE NEW RÉGIME.
PROGRESS OF SHIPBUILDING AND ENGINEERING BRANCHES.
SOME VITAL PROBLEMS OF OUR OVERSEAS TRADE.
MAJOR-GEN. GUY DAWNAY'S SURVEY.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of Armstrong Whitworth Securities Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Major-General G. P. Dawnay, C.B. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr W. T. C. Cochrane) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Gentlemen, The figures cover a period during half of which your company was still an operating company, and during the other half of which it had become a holding company, the subsidiary operating companies having only then begun their separate existence. This somewhat complicates consideration of the figures.

On the liabilities side of the balance sheet you will notice that out of the profit for the year of £66,140 we have reserved provision for the losses of subsidiary companies incurred during the period in which they were operating as separate entities, thus reducing the carry-forward to £11,714. During the first half of the year under review the company was an operating company carrying on all current contracts in hand at the end of December, 1928, for its own account, and had to bear not inconsiderable losses. During the second half of the year, however, the position showed a very marked improvement.

Of the losses in respect of the first half of the year, for which provision has been made, considerably more than one-half represents your share of the loss made by Craven Brothers, in which you have a considerable interest. This company shows a very decided improvement as a result of its reorganisation, but it had not had time to reap the benefits of that reorganisation in the period under review. Colonel Ionides, your vice-chairman, became chairman of the company, and under his leadership a drastic reorganisation of the staff and personnel was put in hand, with very satisfactory results. The working of the first quarter of the current year shows that the period of loss has been put an end to, and I feel entitled to say that the company may reasonably be expected to enter the profit-earning stage in the near future.

SUBSTANTIAL SHIPBUILDING ORDERS.

Turning to the two Armstrong operating companies, their difficulties have been mentioned in our report. In so far as rationalisation means economic regrouping, elimination of redundant capacity and reduction of overlapping and unnecessary overhead charges, schemes put forward in its name will be assured of our co-operation wherever possible. We have become members of the National Shipbuilders' Security, Ltd., and in the exploration of the position in the locomotive industry our co-operation is already promised. The yards of the Shipbuilders' Company have been fairly well employed during the year, having completed in 1929 ten vessels of various types. During the same period orders were booked for 13 new vessels, three of which have been launched since the end of the year, leaving ten still under construction. The great majority of these orders are for oil-carrying vessels, for which the company has a reputation unsurpassed by any other shipbuilding firm. The present-day tanker is the direct development of the pioneer work of our company 44 years ago. During 1929 our shipyards also executed extensive repairs to several vessels. Our shipbuilding facilities have been considerably improved by the provision of the most efficient machinery, the extension of fitting-out wharves and improved cranage, and, generally speaking, the shipyards are well equipped to meet the severe competition that prevails in the industry to-day.

ENGINEERING WORKS ACTIVELY EMPLOYED.

With regard to the engineers' company, the year was a difficult one for the heavy engineering industry. In spite of this, however, the total sales of the company show a very considerable improvement on those for 1928, and we were able to keep our works fairly actively employed. The works have been well maintained, both as regards the shops and their equipment. Obsolete plant has been scrapped, up-to-date machinery installed to meet modern conditions, and I believe that our works are in the forefront of the engineering establishments in this country.

The installation of the marine engine department was completed early in the year. Since then, owing to the activity in our shipyards, it has been working at full capacity. We are now in the satisfactory position of being able to manufacture all the marine engines and boilers—steam and Diesel—required for the shipyards. The volume of general engineering work has shown a gratifying increase at satisfactory prices, on the whole, and the results of active development of existing, as well as certain promising new, lines are encouragingly favourable. After a very careful survey of modern transport conditions as affecting railways, we have embarked on the design and production of Diesel electric rail units, working in collaboration with Messrs Sulzer Brothers, of Winterthur, Switzerland. We believe that in this direction is to be sought the solution of many of the problems which confront the railway companies at the present day, both at home and abroad.

THE LOCOMOTIVE BRANCH.

In the locomotive business, prices obtainable during the year were generally unremunerative, owing mainly to foreign competition. The British railways came into the market for very few locomotives, but we secured our share of the orders placed for South America—the Argentine in particular. The prospects for the present year are somewhat brighter. We have obtained our share of the orders already placed. There were numerous inquiries from India, but the bulk of the orders—to a value of over £1,000,000—were placed on the Continent, principally in Germany, at prices averaging 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. below the lowest British tender.

INDIAN ORDERS FOR THE CONTINENT.

In connection with this I would draw attention to the following facts. During the period January to October of last year very large orders for locomotives and locomotive boilers for the Indian railways were placed on the Continent. Complete records of spare-part orders, wheels and axles, &c., are not available; but such orders, placed abroad, were very considerable. In any case, the full value of the orders lost to the British locomotive firms amounted to about £1,000,000, and of this amount contracts placed in Germany reached the figure of almost £898,000. Now, translating that great figure into terms of output, the securing of all the Indian orders would have increased the British locomotive builders' total locomotive output during the period by over 36 per cent., and their total boiler output by over 53 per cent., with so great an advantage in respect of absorption of overhead charges alone, even at the cut prices quoted, as would have made a vast difference to their successful operation.

The difference in the aggregate amount of the tenders, taking our own figures as representative of the British tenders, was about £179,500 in favour of the Germans—equal to 16⅔ per cent. lower than the total of our tenders. This seems to be more than accounted for by the fact that German labour in the trades concerned is paid about 20 per cent. less than the British. Actually, of course, we were not by any means always the lowest British tenderer. If I had the figures of the lowest British tender in every case, the total saving made by India in purchasing from Germany would have been still smaller, and the percentage difference would have been less than 16⅔ per cent.

EFFECT ON THE HOME UNEMPLOYMENT.

Now, I had worked out for me what would have been the additional numbers of workmen employed in this country if the British manufacturers had obtained the Indian orders. This was worked out by categories in detail—fitters and turners, boilermakers, platers, machinemen, unskilled men, etc. The Indian orders having gone to Germany, these British workmen were unemployed—some thousands of them; and it is estimated that they drew during the period nearly £184,000 in unemployment benefit, or a sum quite considerably in excess of the difference between the German tenders and our own. On the one hand, therefore, German firms obtained the orders at £179,500 below the Armstrong prices—probably no more than £170,000 below the prices of the lowest British tenderer in each case; and, on the other, the loss of these orders cost the unemployment funds nearly £184,000—an appreciably greater amount.

But, and here is a fact to be emphasised, if the British firms had obtained the orders, the British workmen would not have been required to subsist on the pittance of the unemployment benefit. Instead of the £184,000 which they drew from that source, the same persons would have drawn, in greater or lesser degree and to their immense advantage, over £348,000 in wages.

Nor is this the whole story. Of the value of the materials used in the manufacture of the locomotives and boilers for India nearly £431,000 represents direct labour costs. In other words, the loss to British labour of the Indian orders represented, during the period, £348,000 plus £431,000, or the sum of £779,000; a very great sum surely, in relation to the total value of orders of just over or just under £1,000,000.

UNECONOMIC STATE OF AFFAIRS.

These calculations take no account of indirect advantages to labour by increase of employment in ancillary trades, or of generally increased circulation of spending power. They merely demonstrate that if a less sum than that unremuneratively expended in unemployment benefit could, by some means—I am not suggesting by what means—have been made available for enabling India to pay for the product of British instead of German labour, the effect would have been to put into the pockets of British labour considerably more than three-quarters of a million pounds sterling, which in the actual circumstances were lost to our people. I need only add that, in addition, the more assured and less unprofitable trade done by the British locomotive firms, if they had obtained the Indian orders, would have constituted an important additional security for the maintenance of continuous employment in this branch of British industry.

These facts, I think, provide a pertinent instance of some of the difficulties under which our business is carried on. They indicate why it seems to me that the existing circumstances disclose a state of affairs in this particular branch of our industry which is definitely uneconomic—uneconomic particularly from the point of view of British labour, uneconomic also from your point of view as shareholders, and uneconomic apparently from the point of view of the national balance sheet.

REPARATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

While I do not propose here even to attempt to elaborate suggestions as to how these evils should be remedied, I may say that there are those who believe, and not without some appearance of justification, that the difficulties, of which our locomotive business with India provides a particular instance, are not unrelated to the fact that a questionable economic policy after the war imposed upon the Central European Powers the necessity of paying great sums in respect of reparations. The obligation to make those payments, which must mainly be made in the form of goods or services, by making the finding of a market for such goods and services an absolute unescapable necessity, may indeed be a contributory factor in forcing down the price of their labour, in stimulating subsidisation and so forth, and so enabling the Germans to accept lower prices than we can and to obtain orders which we lose.

WAGES FACTOR IN PRODUCTION COSTS.

But that is certainly not the whole story. Let me turn for a moment to the question of wages. I wish immediately to remark that I do not believe that the wages paid to our people are too high. As the managing director of one of your subsidiary companies said to me in Newcastle only a few days ago: "The only thing which keeps us going is that the British workman, man for man, does more and better work than his Continental competitor." That is a tribute which I very gladly pay to British labour. Moreover, it is a mere platitude to observe that the products of labour in the United States of America, paid much higher rates than are paid in this country, are not, in fact, as a result of those high rates of wages, debarred from the world's markets.

The wages question itself, in fact, is a highly complex one, affected by a large number of factors. The United States of America, with the highest wages in the world, has an enormous and, subject to inevitable fluctuations, continually expanding and expansible home market. Manufacturers in that country are able, therefore, in general, to find a market in their own country for the great bulk of a standardised production; to them the export trade is secondary—a means of paying for a limited number of essential imports and of disposing of surplus products.

Germany, on the other hand, with low wage rates—much lower than those in this country—has passed through a period of devaluation of currency, with the corollaries of that process—namely, reduced internal indebtedness and fixed charges, and an incentive to turn melting cash balances into new plant and equipment with the greatest possible speed, so stimulating the creation of a highly efficient and modernised industrial equipment. Our difficulty, as I see it, is that we have, in general, neither the vast and increasing home market of the Americans, which would enable us to rely less than at present we have to rely on our export trade, nor the low wages, combined with up-to-date plant and reduced industrial indebtedness, of Germany.

I have mentioned wages because the costs of labour in this country are so frequently spoken of as being the chief cause of our difficulties. I believe it to be more true, however, that wage costs in businesses like ours, which are largely dependent on the export trade, are actually low in proportion to wages costs in the sheltered trades on the whole. It is true to some extent that the high wages costs in the latter are an indirect burden on the exporting trades.

BURDEN OF TAXATION.

So, moreover, are the great and ever-increasing costs of what are known as the "social services." And with the vast expenditure in these directions, involving an ever-increasing burden of taxation, is closely connected the present-day course and direction of that taxation. If it be true, as it appears to me that it most certainly is, that this country with its comparatively huge population in proportion to its area is obliged to rely for the maintenance of its population largely upon its export trade, then I think that a case may easily be made out for considering that too heavy a burden of overhead charges, direct and indirect, is being placed upon the export trade—partly, *inter alia*, because of the wages costs of the sheltered trades, partly because of the taxation levied in respect of social services, which economically it is more than doubtful if we can afford, and partly, again, owing to the direction, or the particular application, of the taxation so levied.

CHANGED CHANNELS OF TRADE.

There is one other factor to which I feel inclined to make a brief reference, always on the assumption that the export trade is the life-blood of this country. Our economic policy has been based, and soundly based, in the past on a general theory aiming at facilitating so far as possible the natural channels of trade. Since the Great War the natural beds of those rivers have been dammed up here, have silted up there, and have been violently deflected elsewhere, till the old map, as a result of that great cataclysm, is hardly recognisable.

On the other hand, the post-war settlements have, so to speak, resulted in the artificial construction of new canals of trade, representing the flow of reparations payments from Central Europe to the allied and associated Powers, and representing the flow of war debts payments between those Powers themselves and to the United States of America. In such a complete alteration of the map as that, what country would be likely to suffer the most? Surely the country whose economic policy has been built on freeing the old rivers of trade as far as possible, owing to its dependence on external trade, would be the one naturally to suffer most from these violent alterations. Is not that country our own?

EXPORTS VITAL TO THE COUNTRY.

I have tried very briefly and obviously by no means exhaustively to touch upon some of the salient factors which press upon our export trade. Our export trade is vital to us. We cannot pay for our vast volume of essential imports without it. We cannot find the means sufficiently to expand the purchasing power of the home market without it. It is of primary importance to you. Out of a total volume of orders booked last year by your engineers' and shipbuilders' companies—in the aggregate over £3,000,000—in the case of the engineers' company over 84 per cent. in value, and in the case of the shipbuilders' company nearly 98 per cent. in value, were for the external trade.

There is another school which, in effect, says: "Do not consider our export trade as an external trade. Deflect the channels so that they begin and end within the Empire. Look upon the whole Empire as your home market." This may or may not be an ideal, the avenues towards which may be worth exploring. But on any analogy that we know, it must predicate eventual freedom of trade between the various parts of the Empire, and protective tariffs between the Empire and the outside world, a goal which, whether or not desirable, is certainly not within immediate reach.

SOME REMEDY POSSIBLE.

I do not say that there may not be some value in the most diverse suggestions. But it appears to me that the root factor is to use every immediate means in our power to bring health and activity into our external trade as it is to-day. We have recently heard proposals for the establishment of Import Boards. Might there not, perhaps, be a scarcely less plausible case for the establishment of some form of Export Board, with more extended powers than any existing organisation possesses; powers to promote measures to assist the export trade, taking any case of difficulty in any branch of industry concerned in that trade as an individual case on its own merits, and hearing and dealing with it accordingly?

I know that, in bringing into relation on the one hand the difference in prices which causes a loss of orders to British manufacturers, and on the other the unremunerative expenditure on unemployment benefit which is necessitated by that loss of orders, I shall be told that I suggest subsidising wages. I am fully aware of the difficulties underlying that suggestion in a general way. But I do say that, if one remedy is undesirable, for whatever reason, it is not, and cannot be, beyond the wit of man to devise some remedy which is at least better and more economically sound than certain of the evils under which we at present suffer.

A TRIBUTE TO MR FRATER TAYLOR.

I have only this further to add. I know you will associate yourselves with us in recording, as we do in our report, our high appreciation of Mr Frater Taylor's services to the company, and our very great regret that he is no longer able to take part in the direction of your affairs. I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues for their invaluable help and support. I have also to thank our staff and employees for a year of loyal co-operation and excellent work.

Finally, I am happy to say that our relations with labour have been good during the year. The spirit of our personnel has been, and is, excellent; and it is largely due to the good feeling which prevails that the difficulties of existing conditions in the industry have not been greater.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The forty-second annual general meeting of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway Company, Ltd., was held, on the 10th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr A. W. Bolden (chairman and managing director), who presided, said that the gross receipts of £1,997,328 exceeded those of the previous year by £155,486, and it was interesting to record that that year, in turn, had showed an increase of £151,872 over 1927. Nitrate, copper and tin, the items which constituted the chief down traffics, had all contributed to the improved receipts. Nitrate gave 638,101 tons, as compared with 614,085 tons in 1928. In the early part of the year they were hopeful of even a better tonnage than actually resulted, but later sales of nitrate fell off, and in the second half of the year there was a tendency towards decreasing production. The tonnage of copper was 137,596, compared with 119,510 in 1928. During the major portion of the year traffic in the ore was good, but conditions changed, and towards the end they found themselves facing a decreasing tonnage. Mainly as the result of the increased output of the mines of the Patino Mines and Enterprises Consolidated Incorporated, the traffic in tin from Bolivia for 1929 constituted a record in the company's history.

Everything possible had been done to meet road competition. The speeding up of the parcels service and rearrangement of tariff bases had had good effect, and shareholders could rest assured that the board would continue to take whatever steps were necessary to secure to the railway such traffic as there was offering.

Working expenses exceeded those of 1928 by £139,342, the percentage of operation costs to gross receipts for the railway and waterworks combined being 62.54 per cent., as compared with 60.26 per cent. for the preceding year. The net receipts were £748,161; £194,349 was brought into the accounts as a result of 2½ years' interest on the 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds in the Bolivia Railway Company, and income from other investments and certain discounts realised £25,560; £241,616 was brought forward, giving a total credit of £1,210,121. The directors had decided to continue the conservative financial policy hitherto followed, and had appropriated £100,000 to reserve; to the staff benevolent fund was allocated £15,000, and it was proposed to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent. on the consolidated ordinary stock, making 7 per cent. for the year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

FARMERS' NATIONAL MORTGAGE INSTITUTION. BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

PRESIDENT COUNT HADIK'S SURVEY AT THE FIFTIETH JUBILEE MEETING.

The fiftieth annual general meeting of the Farmers' National Mortgage Institution, Budapest, Hungary, was held on May 27, 1930. Count John de Hadik presided at the jubilee meeting at which the Government and the foremost financial and political personalities were represented.

TRIBUTE TO COUNT BETHLEN AND DR. BUD.

The President stated with satisfaction that the institution which has done so much in the past for the agricultural community has been reorganised with the help of the Government after the disastrous period of inflation which has completely paralysed the agricultural credit provision. Count Hadik therefore thanked, in the name of the farmers, Prime Minister Count Bethlen, and the then Finance Minister, Dr. Bud, who, recognising the urgent need for the reorganisation of the institute, placed the necessary funds at the disposition of the institute by subscribing nine million pengös founders' share for the Treasury.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR FARMERS.

The president recalled the fact that the precarious state of agriculture throughout the world prompted Governments to come to the aid of the farmers, and it is only natural that the Hungarian Government is resolved to do its best for them. The Farmers' National Mortgage Institution works on altruistic lines. Its object is not profit-making, but the cheap credit provision of the small holders. Considering that in the pre-war days the institution granted mortgage loans up to the amount of 700 million gold crowns (£16,600,000), and that it has the efficient organisation throughout the country, there is good reason to believe that with the improvement of the monetary conditions, the institution will be able to help the small holders to convert their onerous short term debts into long term loans.

Count Hadik pointed out that at the present time about 90 per cent. of the debt of the farmers consist of short term loans which are expensive and uncertain. Therefore it is of paramount importance for the economic welfare of the country that the farmers in need should be helped at the earliest date with cheap long term loans.

CO-OPERATION WITH PROVINCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

The President emphasised the fact that the institution in order to widen the field of co-operation entered into agreement with 134 provincial financial institutions which are bound to grant credits on the altruistic lines prescribed by the statutes of the institution. Count Hadik finished his exposé in the hope that the institution will be able to perform its manifold duties toward the agricultural community in the following years as it did in the past to the general satisfaction of everybody.

The following data shows the results achieved during the past year. The total amount of loans granted by the institution on mortgages increased by 9·6 million pengös in 1929 and stood at 26 million pengös at the end of the year. The value of the bills discounted during 1929 amounted to 112·7 million pengös, and the bill portfolio at the end of 1929 was 22·8 million pengös.

The institute participated in the formation of the co-operative Association for the carrying out of the financial part of the Land Reform.

The allotment activities of the institution are responsible for the parcelling of 5,995 cadastral yokes (1 cadastral yoke = 1·4 acres) among 637 small holders, and 13 allotments are now in progress.

SAVINGS DEPOSITS AND DEPOSITS ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS.

The savings deposits and deposits on current accounts increased from 22,161,615 pengös at the end of 1928 to 34,551,688 pengös on December 31, 1929.

The mobility of the institution corresponds to 96 per cent., and the careful credit policy is demonstrated by the fact that from 4,085 mortgage loans granted during the last three years there are only 7 defaulters.

The institute is the trustee of the American Loan of the Protestant Churches Credit Union, and the proceeds of the Protestant loans has been paid into the institution. Up to the end of 1929 the Institute paid out approved loans up to the amount of 7 million pengös to the Protestant Churches.

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

RECORD PROFITS.

NORTHCLIFFE NEWSPAPERS SUCCESSES.

SIR GEORGE SUTTON ON NET SALES.

The twenty-fifth annual ordinary general meeting of the Associated Newspapers, Ltd. (proprietors of *The Daily Mail*, the London *Evening News*, and the *Sunday Dispatch*), was held, on the 11th instant, in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London.

Sir George A. Sutton, Bt., managing director, presided.

The secretary (Mr J. P. Hobbs, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the annual report and balance sheet, said:—

With your consent I will follow the usual practice and take the balance sheet and report as read.

The total profits of the company for the year to March last, after making ample provision for depreciation of plant and machinery, buildings, etc., amounted to £1,245,322 17s. 2d., approximately £40,000 in excess of the year 1929. Having regard to the adverse trading conditions which have existed during this year, the increasing unemployment, and the general trade depression, the directors consider the result of the year's trading extremely gratifying.

Dividends on all classes of the company's shares have been paid at the same rates as the previous year, namely, 5 per cent. on the preference, 7 per cent. on the ordinary, and 10 per cent. per quarter on the deferred shares. It has been thought advisable this year to set aside the sum of £200,000 for the purpose of special items of publicity expenditure.

The sum of £773,336 2s. 1d. is carried forward, compared with £695,013 4s. 11d. last year.

The new Companies Act requires that any amount for goodwill in the books of the company shall be given under a separate heading in the balance sheet, but, as you are aware, there is nothing in the accounts to show this very valuable asset. The value of the buildings, machinery and plant has been considerably increased, due to extensions in both London and Manchester offices. Stocks of paper, etc., are larger than last year and fully safeguard the requirements of our newspapers.

The investments amount to £2,867,004 and consist, apart from the very valuable holdings in the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company and other allied companies, of British Government and American and Canadian securities of a high-class nature.

Very considerable extensions have been made to the paper-making plant of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Ltd., in which your company has such a valuable holding. Our paper requirements being fully provided for, your directors, after careful consideration, decided that the mill at Greenhithe was no longer necessary to the company. A very good offer in cash having been received for the shares held by your company in the Empire Paper Mills (1922), Ltd., it was accepted by your directors and they agreed to accept a debenture on the assets of that company in security of the balance of the loan due.

Cash at banks on deposit and current accounts amounting to £703,595 is more than ample for the requirements of our business.

You will gather from these figures that your publications have done exceedingly well.

HIGHEST NET SALES IN THE WORLD.

The Daily Mail stands unrivalled with the highest net sale of any daily newspaper in the world. *The Evening News* has the highest net sale of any evening newspaper in the world. The *Sunday Dispatch* has maintained the progress in sales and advertising revenue on which I commented last year. The *Over-Seas Daily Mail* has also made further strides in its policy of linking up readers in all parts of the world with the Old Country

The *Atlantic Daily Mail* is still proving a boon to Atlantic passengers, and is now published in no fewer than 22 liners. It is a constant source of wonder to travellers in these vessels to find available every morning in mid-ocean an attractively printed journal containing a reliable wireless summary of world events.

During the year *The Daily Mail* has again accomplished many journalistic feats. It is still far ahead of all other British morning journals in the amount of exclusive news it contains. I will mention a very recent one—in connection with aviation. In this field *The Daily Mail* has always led. The huge prizes given in the past, beginning with the prize paid to M. Bleriot in 1909, the £10,000 prize flight to Manchester in 1910, and the non-stop Atlantic flight in 1919, for which the paper awarded the same amount, are well known. Now we are proud to be associated with the remarkable feat of Miss Amy Johnson in flying alone to Australia. *The Daily Mail* not only secured the exclusive rights in her complete narrative, but, for the benefit of its readers, it has also retained Miss Johnson's services on her return to England in a few weeks at a cost of £10,000. *Daily Mail* readers all over the country will then be able to see and hear this remarkable young woman, and she is assured of the magnificent reception which she deserves.

NORTHCLIFFE NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

As most of you are aware, your company has a very large interest in Northcliffe Newspapers, Ltd., a company which was formed to create a chain of provincial newspapers in various important centres. During the last year, two of these evening papers have been produced and have met with truly remarkable success.

The Newcastle *Evening World*, within a few weeks of its inception, achieved the largest net sale of any evening paper published in the North-East, and to-day it still retains that proud position of supremacy. Its last certified net sales figures were 172,349 copies per day.

The Bristol *Evening World* has been just as great a success, and, allowing for the less densely populated area in which it circulates, its latest certified net sales figure of 110,605 copies per day is just as remarkable as that of the Newcastle *Evening World*.

The success of these first two ventures is proof of the need of better evening papers in the provinces, and is an incentive to push ahead with the extended programme which has been announced in the columns of *The Daily Mail*. Ample financial resources are at the disposal of Northcliffe Newspapers, Ltd., and, in this respect, the new company enjoys an overwhelming advantage. The normal experience in the past has been that it takes four or five years before a new paper can be placed upon a profit-earning basis; but the rapid success of the *Evening Worlds* in Newcastle and Bristol seems to indicate that we shall not have so long to wait before your company derives substantial financial benefits from its interest in Northcliffe Newspapers, Ltd. Meanwhile, the new papers are proving invaluable as advertising media for your publications, and we feel that, as they increase in number and strength, they will form an unrivalled asset to this business.

ADVERTISERS AND NET SALES.

While on the question of advertising, I would emphasise that advertisers and advertising agents should exercise the greatest care in the placing of announcements in the provincial press. This is particularly important during the present difficult time in industry and finance. Many provincial newspapers have, in the past, obtained quite a considerable advertising revenue owing to misconceptions as to their sales and their influence. From investigations recently made, it is perfectly clear that there are only two or three morning papers in the provinces with any considerable sales left. The sales of the remainder are, for the most part, microscopic, and do not justify anything like the advertising rates which are asked. The same is true of quite a number of evening papers. Advertisers would be well advised to confine their announcements only to newspapers which publish at regular intervals their certified net sales. The morning newspaper field is most efficiently covered by the great national morning papers like *The Daily Mail* and *Daily Mirror*, the supreme picture paper, which give much better results for each pound spent than any of these rapidly declining provincial morning papers. Provincial evening papers which give certified net sales—like the Newcastle and Bristol *Evening Worlds*—offer another excellent field for the national advertiser who wants full value for his money.

It is important to note that these new evening papers have not only the largest, but also the best quality sale in Newcastle and Bristol. Amongst the best class houses in these areas, there is hardly one in which the *Evening World* is not the favourite paper. The reason is obvious, for these new Northcliffe newspapers are first-rate productions, comparable to the best evening papers in London, and far ahead of anything hitherto available in the provinces. A glance at the Bristol *Evening World* or the Newcastle *Evening World* will convince any unbiassed person in a moment of the "quality appeal" of these new papers. Certified net sales figures are published at frequent intervals, so that the advertiser

is in possession of complete information. As a final point, I would emphasise that the only figures of this kind to which any importance can be attached, are net sales figures certified by a first-class firm of chartered accountants and published in the columns of the paper, so that they may be subjected to careful scrutiny. Unless these conditions are fulfilled, any so-called net sales certificates which may be quoted will be found to be misleading and valueless.

IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION RECORD.

Further success has attended the activities of the exhibition department.

The *Daily Mail* Schoolboys' Exhibition, held at the Horticultural Halls in January last, broke fresh ground and attracted an attendance of over 80,000 visitors. This exhibition will be considerably developed when held at Olympia in January of next year.

The *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition broke all previous records for attendance. During the 22 days' run of the exhibition no fewer than 617,038 visitors paid for admission.

For both the Schoolboys' Exhibition and the Ideal Home Exhibition of next year many applications for exhibition space have already been received, and plans and features are now in preparation which are calculated to make them even more attractive than their highly successful predecessors.

GREATEST ADVERTISING MEDIA.

Let me now refer to the advertisement side of the business. It is a remarkable reflection of the increasing strength of your newspapers that revenue from trade publicity constitutes a record figure. The reason is plain. It must surely be that enterprising manufacturers find through their advertisements in *The Daily Mail*, *The Evening News*, and the *Sunday Dispatch* that they can to a great extent counteract the effects of the general depression in trade.

The year under review has been an abnormal one in the City, involving a serious curtailment of prospectus advertising. Consequently a similar increase in financial advertising cannot this year be reported.

Nevertheless, it is gratifying to note that your newspapers carried a very large share of financial publicity in comparison with similar journals.

It is hardly necessary for me to remark that *The Daily Mail* maintains its position as the greatest national advertising medium in Great Britain.

In advertising circles its pulling power is regarded as the vital factor in business development, not only in selling to the public but also in building up distribution among retailers. In all parts of the country advertisers continue to report excellent results obtained through *The Daily Mail*.

Here I have in mind not only the manufacturers, commercial institutions, and the big stores, but, in addition, traders' organisations. I may instance the "Eat More Fish" campaign which in one year developed £1,000,000 of new business, due in no small measure to advertising in your newspapers.

THE FAMOUS FRONT PAGE.

More than 90 per cent. of those advertisers who last year used that greatest marketing space in British advertising, *The Daily Mail* front page, have already renewed their bookings for 1930. That speaks for itself.

It says much for the popularity of this page with advertisers and the public, especially women, that *The Daily Mail* is now the only national daily newspaper with simultaneous printing in London and the North of England with its whole front page devoted to advertisers' announcements.

The demand for front page spaces, from the West End stores in particular, is such that a continuation of the front page to page 3 is now a welcome feature of every Monday's issue.

Another important pioneer development is that for months now experts have been preparing an exhaustive survey of the British Isles as a market for all classes of goods. This is the first time that such a survey has been undertaken in this country by a great newspaper and it will undoubtedly prove a service of incalculable value to advertisers, present and prospective. The completed volume of nearly 300 pages of facts and figures is now ready for publication.

DOMINANT "EVENING NEWS."

In evening journalism *The Evening News* becomes increasingly important as a great publicity medium. Advertisers are realising that by reason of present economic conditions London and the Home Counties represent a vast, densely populated territory of comparative prosperity.

The Evening News, with its world's record evening net sale and great influence in home circles, is the dominant evening medium in the south, and as such carries a greater amount of national advertising, leading stores publicity, house property and entertainment announcements than any other evening newspaper in the country.

In Sunday journalism the *Sunday Dispatch* maintains its high position and huge net sale and retains the confidence of advertisers as the great national Sunday medium.

Increasing use of the paper is shown in higher advertisement revenue from trade publicity which more than balances the general decrease in financial advertising.

During the past year we have had more than ever the co-operation of the advertising agents throughout the country. Our relations with them have been extremely cordial. It is believed that the success of the whole advertising business will be more directly due to them in the future than it has ever been.

In achieving the excellent results I have had the pleasure of placing before you to-day, we have again had the loyal support of an enthusiastic staff. I would like, therefore, on your behalf, to thank very heartily the members of all departments of the business in London and Manchester, and all the workers at Grand Falls in the employ of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co.

In regard to the present year, I may say that newspaper competition is keener than ever, but this company, as you have seen, has large liquid resources, and it is equipped in a thoroughly efficient way, mechanically and otherwise.

The capital of the company is not overborne by debentures. The sum required to pay prior charges amounts to only £67,000, so the directors look forward to the future with complete confidence, even though next year the affairs of the country may give cause for anxiety.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected.

The meeting then terminated.

SIALANG RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The twenty-first annual ordinary general meeting of the Sialang Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on the 6th instant, at 2, 3 and 4 Idol Lane, London, E.C.

Mr H. Eric Miller, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the crop was almost identical with the crop harvested in the previous year, in spite of a change in their tapping system which materially reduced the rate of bark consumption. Expenditure had been very strictly controlled, and kept down to the minimum compatible with proper husbandry. The sale price obtained for the crop reflected credit on all concerned. By payment of reasonable compensation for fruit trees, etc., they had secured for their own use an area of 287 acres on Tebing Tinggi Estate, formerly regarded as Kampong reserve land, of which 250 acres was considered to be good plantable land.

A further 2s. 6d. per share was paid in June last on their holding of 50,000 £1 shares in the Namoe Tongan Rubber Estates, Ltd., which now stood in the balance sheet at £31,250. In a report recently issued by that company it was stated that they now had nearly 5,000 acres planted with highly selected planting material. The directors had no doubt that the company's investment, which represented the equivalent of about 550 acres of budgrafted rubber, would prove a valuable asset.

The estates were reported to be in a good state of upkeep, and had been kept free from weeds and lalang. Tapping work had been carried out efficiently with a moderate consumption of bark on all estates. The usual high standard of manufacture had been maintained.

The net profit for the year, after writing off £5,600 for depreciation of mature areas, amounted to £27,407. Adding thereto the unappropriated profit from last year, the total amount to be dealt with was £93,010. The directors proposed that £2,000 be transferred to taxation reserve, £10,000 to special cultivation reserve, and that a dividend of 5 per cent. be paid (less income tax), leaving £66,010 to be carried forward. Their balance sheet showed a strong financial position, which was a matter for congratulation at a time like the present, when the industry was faced with difficulties and depression. They were suffering still from over-production, but in common with other commodities they were also having to stand up to a spell of under-consumption, which was world-wide in character. But demand would in due course inevitably overtake supply, and holders of shares in sound rubber-producing companies like Sialang would be well advised to see things through to ensure participation in the better times which lay ahead.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BURMAH OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.
DIVIDEND INCREASED TO 30 PER CENT.
CAUSES OF THE IMPROVED RESULTS.
ANGLO-PERSIAN AND "SHELL" INTERESTS.
SIR JOHN CARGILL ON THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Burmah Oil Company, Ltd., was held, on the 6th instant, in the Merchants' Hall, 30 George Square, Glasgow.

Sir John T. Cargill, Bt. (chairman of the company), presided, and there was a large attendance of shareholders.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—Having here the certificate of the due posting of the notice calling this meeting, I propose, with your permission, to hold it as well as the report and accounts as read, and to ask the secretary to read the auditor's report.

The Secretary (Mr F. G. Holdsworth) having read the auditor's report,

The Chairman, continuing said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I propose at once turning to the accounts. Broadly stated, the improvement on the results of the last two years is due to three main causes, namely:—

1. Immunity in the period from price-cutting conditions in the kerosene market of India which ruled between September, 1927, and June, 1928;
2. Economies in working costs and benefits resulting from the changes in your marketing arrangements in India; and
3. A considerable increase in income from interest on loans on the market and from dividends from investments.

PROFIT AND ALLOCATIONS.

Reference to the profit and loss account will show you that, after charging £528,455 18s. 4d. for depreciation, or £146,720 16s. 4d. more than in 1928, the balance of profit of £2,956,548 9s. is greater than that of that year by £1,397,574 18s. 6d. Transfer fees and interest and dividends, yielding together £1,214,239 14s. 6d., or £651,892 6s. 8d. more than in the preceding year, increase the balance of profit to £4,170,788 3s. 6d., and, deducting from that figure the cost of directors' and the auditor's fees, income tax, subscriptions, employees' provident fund, interest on the five-and-a-half per cent. debenture stock, and the outstanding balance of issue expenses of that stock amounting in all to £733,315 18s. 2d., the balance of profit carried down is up by £1,957,846 2s. 10d. at £3,437,472 5s. 4d. Adding the 1928 "carry forward" of £151,084 7s. the disposable amount becomes £3,588,556 12s. 4d., from which your board has made the following allocations, namely:—

To general reserve £500,000, bringing it up to £1,500,000;
To insurance reserve £20,000, bringing it up to £540,000;
To fields expenditure equalisation reserve £150,000, bringing it up to £900,000;

and has applied to the writing down of shares in subsidiary companies £500,000.

These allocations absorb £1,170,000, as compared with the £370,000 utilised in 1928 for the three normal reserve accounts, and the amount left to be carried to the balance sheet is thus some £800,000 in excess of the 1928 figure at £2,418,556 12s. 4d., of which the preference dividends and the interim ordinary dividend for the year took £858,332 13s. 8d., and of the balance of £1,560,223 18s. 8d. your directors recommend that £1,160,449 1s. 9d. be utilised in payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 4s. per share, less tax at 3s. 1¾d. per £, or the United Kingdom rate of 4s. 6d. less Dominion income tax relief, making, with the interim dividend, 30 per cent. for the year, as compared with the 20 per cent. of the two preceding years. There is left a balance of £399,774 16s. 11d., which it is recommended should be carried forward.

COMPARISON OF BALANCE-SHEET FIGURES.

If you will now turn with me to the balance sheet I shall endeavour to show you how in its new form, required by the provisions of the new Act, the figures compare with those of last year.

On the liabilities sides you will find the capital position unchanged.

The amount appearing under the new heading of "Debts due to subsidiary companies" is mainly on account of the company's employees' provident trust fund. The amounts of "Sundry creditors and credit balances" are up £337,336 14s. 4d. on 1928, whereas, on the other side of the balance sheet, you will find that "Sundry debtors and debit balances" of £418,155 7s. 9d. are ostensibly down on 1928 by £1,843,208 2s. 11d. Actually, however, they are £590,796 19s. higher since the comparable figure is the aggregate of the amounts now shown separately under the headings respectively of "Loans to employees" and "Indebtedness." The real comparison between those two headings of the old balance sheet therefore shows a net increase on the assets side of £55,413 13s. 3d.

I have already referred to the increase in general, insurance, and fields expenditure equalisation reserve accounts. The fire and marine insurance account of £1,099,001 12s. compares with £1,013,899 9s. 5d. in the preceding year's balance sheet; the increase representing premia charged internally on risks covered less claims during the year.

On the assets side the first item, refineries (including land and buildings), stands in the books at £1,507,402, which is an increase as compared with the previous year of £43,000. The second item, oil wells, boring plant, &c., remains at the very low figure at which it has stood for many years. "Fields electrification" and "Pipe lines" are each down by some £19,000 odd; "Tanker and tank installations" by almost £100,000; and "Stocks of plant and stores" by nearly a quarter of a million, whereas "Stocks of products" are up by over £90,000. Our financing of the Assam Oil Company, Ltd., represents the indebtedness of the subsidiary companies, and the balance sheet itself explains the indebtedness by associated companies.

INVESTMENTS.

You will see that our investments are split up under four headings. British and Indian Government securities at £2,676,945 7s. 8d., have increased by some £1,288,000, and since the date of the balance sheet have been still further added to. The "Miscellaneous" investments include our direct holding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd. The ordinary shares of that company held meantime by us through the B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust, Ltd., are included in "Investments in subsidiary companies," where they stand at par. Under the "Miscellaneous" heading the holding of these ordinary shares is, as the balance sheet states, valued at 11s. 8½d. per share. We have had to give this figure since it represents neither cost nor under, for you will remember that on the occasion of our last share bonus issue in June, 1926, we wrote our holding up from its cost to us to par, but the subsequent share bonus issue by the Anglo-Persian again brought it back to the original cost figure, and the sale by us of the 700,000 of these shares to the B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust, Ltd., at par resulted in a profit which was applied to writing down the book value of the shares we directly retained.

Under this "Miscellaneous" heading is also included the company's holding of ordinary shares in the Shell Transport and Trading Company, Ltd., increased since the 1928 balance sheet by the 166,667 shares taken up out of the new issue at par which that company made in January, 1929. The £7,380,488 4s. 6d. book value of these "Miscellaneous" investments represents a net increase on their corresponding value in 1928 of over £100,000.

SUBSIDIARY AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES.

The next division of the investments—subsidiary companies—includes the holding of ordinary and preference shares in the Assam Oil Company, Ltd., at cost, less the £500,000 written off out of the year's profit, to which I will refer later, as also the shares of the B.O.C. Anglo-Persian Share Trust, Limited, which holds the 700,000 shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., at par, to which I have just referred. There is also included the debenture and share interest in the Tinplate Company of India, Limited.

Lastly, the investments in associated companies comprise your interest in Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company of India, Limited, and in Candles, Limited, at, in aggregate, some £46,000 less than the figure at which they appeared in 1928. Together these four divisions show a net increase in your total investments of over £800,000.

There remains only the item of loans, deposits, and cash, which at £1,458,296 18s. 3d. shows an increase on 1928 of over £1,000,000.

I am sure you will all agree that the results for the year are most satisfactory, and that they have been secured in the present not too

satisfactory state of the petroleum industry as a whole complete justification of the conservative policy which, with your steady approval, has characterised the treatment by your board of the profits and finance generally of your company since its inception, and which it is continuing in the accounts now before you. For while your board has the confidence that this policy has placed you in a position from which you can regard with comparative composure the normal ups and downs to which the industry is peculiarly subject, it is alive now, as always, to the unusual hazards which attach to its raw material, and there are to-day special reasons both political and economic why your directors have considered it prudent and advisable to deal with profits on such a conservative basis and add so materially to reserves.

CONDITIONS IN INDIA.

India, because of its preponderatingly agricultural habits, is possibly feeling more than most countries the effects of the present world-wide economic depression, and while this, and the added cloud of the political unrest there, continue, prudence demands the qualification of our broad confidence in the future both of India and of your company with continued caution. Happily neither condition has so far prejudicially affected the outlet there for your products or your operations generally, and your properties and operations were equally fortunate in escaping damage from the earthquake which recently played so much havoc in Burma and from the unfortunate communal riots which resulted in such loss of and injury to life in Rangoon.

These political and economic uncertainties, and the still imperfectly balanced relation between supply and demand for the products of the industry, cannot, and should not, be ignored in any forecast of the future and themselves sufficiently warrant a continuance of that conservative policy to which I have just referred.

Those best placed to attempt the correlation of potential resources of natural petroleum with the increasing demand for it may, and indeed, in the very nature of the hypothetical data which must to a great extent be involved, do in fact, arrive at varying conclusions. All at least agree, however, that not the most optimistic of their conclusions can justify, whether in the interest of the industry or of the pocket ultimately of the consumer, the over-production which has been so much the characteristic of recent years. These efforts then should, and do, have the best wishes of all of us, but we have so often seen failure come of similar efforts in the case of raw materials in smaller volumes and in closer and fewer and therefore fundamentally more manageable hands than is the case with petroleum that one cannot rely too completely on the success of the efforts here. As it is, coming nearer home, new outside importations, forced by these conditions to try to find an outlet somewhere, have this year been appearing on the Indian market, where they are already a disturbing factor.

THE DUTIES ON KEROSENE.

It is in these conditions, which may mean so much for the smaller indigenous producing companies of India, that the Government of India have in this year's Budget reduced the difference between the import duty and the excise duty on kerosene from 1a. 6p. to 9p. per gallon. As chairman of the Assam Oil Company, Ltd., at its annual meeting on the 26th ultimo in London, I criticised this step in its relation to that struggling company and others similarly placed in India and Burma, and I do not propose saying more here that that so far as your company is concerned this potential change was to some extent discounted by us as far back as 1905, when we initiated our kerosene price limitation policy. For the operation of that policy has during many of these years meant giving away more than the ostensible protection represented by the excess of the import over the Excise duty, and during the remainder of the period a considerable portion of it.

Our price limitation policy was intended, and has served, as some recognition that we neither asked for nor required the advantage of these fiscal conditions. The protection was there and automatically it came our way. But we largely gave it back by this price limitation policy, which has on average all these years of its existence given India a much cheaper kerosene bill than but for it she would have had to foot. It is for these reasons then that, just as we made no claim for protection during the recent war of rates in India, so now we have made no representation against this fiscal change. For we are securely established and prosperous enough to meet fair competition successfully, and are quite competent and prepared to rely on ourselves.

THE "ASSAM OIL" COMPANY.

In such conditions as those through which the Indian industry passed in 1927 and 1928, and in conditions of world-wide over-production forcing petroleum products on to the market at uneconomic levels, one can, however, only view with anxiety the effect which this reduction may have on the smaller indigenous companies, and it is for this reason that your board has thought it well to utilise some portion of your past year's results to write down the cost of your holding in the Assam Oil Company, Ltd., by £500,000.

These friends, under our management and with our financial assistance, have increased their production sixfold since we acquired our interest in the company in 1920; but added to the natural handicap of their geographical position which involves increased production moving at greater transport cost towards the seaboard, where lower values are increasingly met—since selling prices in India are determined by seaboard prices plus charges to the up-country markets—there was the setback of the nine months' rate-cutting in India during 1927-28; and now there is the damage, actual and potential, of this worsening of their fiscal position. These happenings, entirely beyond our friends' control, have unhappily largely reduced, if they have not already cancelled, the real advances they have made, so that while they have reason to expect very shortly now to reach the increased crude oil production for which they have already completed their refinery, it is going to take much more time, and further careful nursing because of these conditions, before they can expect to clear off the loss at the debit of their profit and loss account and begin to repay to you the loans you have made.

There is really nothing to add to the report and what I have already said as to your own producing, refining, and marketing operations or as to the prospects for the current year. These up to date have been quite favourable, and, subject to the adverse conditions referred to, we anticipate being able again to submit to you in due course a favourable report.

ANGLO-PERSIAN AND SHELL RESULTS.

In these days of world-wide industrial depression we are glad in these accounts to have been able to submit such an excellent report, and we can further congratulate ourselves as well as our friends on the excellent results which the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., and the Shell Transport and Trading Company, Ltd., have recently made known. We are reasonably confident that we can look forward with assurance to the steady and continued progress of both these companies, and to the enhancement of the value of our investments in them. The dividends from these and from our other investments and our interest account contribute very substantially to the company's profits. Almost 40 per cent. of the £4,170,788 of your profit and loss account came from such sources and from operations outside of India, while the actual trading of your products in the United Kingdom itself was responsible for an infinitesmal fraction of this 40 per cent.

That the 60 per cent. or so of your profits which has come out of India has been secured at selling prices which have given the smaller indigenous companies quite inadequate returns for a business of this nature, and that if anything they have been under world parity, is all that needs stating as to their reasonableness from the consumer's point of view. But unfortunately for these smaller companies, your results as a whole, and not their results secured merely from trading in India, are taken as the criterion of their ability, unprotected, to continue their contribution to the nationally very valuable and important indigenous industry, no regard being apparently paid to the fact that some 40 per cent. of these results of yours has nothing whatever to do with the company's trading operations in India, and that the same sources of revenue are not available to them.

TINPLATE COMPANY OF INDIA.

A word as to the Tinplate Company of India, Ltd. The strike engineered at its works by outside political agitators for purely political purposes which was in force when I addressed you last year ended with the realisation that there were only these reasons, and no economic justification for it ever having started. Since then operations have been maintained steadily and satisfactorily up to capacity, and I refer to it here now merely to mention that the political agitators responsible for it and for sympathetic trouble at the time of the Tinplate Company's strike with labour at the Calcutta installation of Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company and at other companies' installations there, accompanied their campaign with the most scurrilous libels on your company in that type of the Indian Press to which the Government of India had recently to direct its attention and suppress. This curtailment of this sort of licence by people against whom one can have no satisfactory remedy through the Courts was long overdue.

From the special notice accompanying that of this meeting you will have seen that an extraordinary general meeting has been summoned at the registered office for Friday, June 20th, to adopt new articles, in the main to bring them into conformity with the requirements of the new Act. Prints can be seen at the registered office here or at the London office or at the office in Glasgow of Messrs. Miller, Thompson, Henderson and Company, Solicitors, 190 St. Vincent Street.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

And once again it is my privilege, as I am sure it is also your pleasure, that I should take this opportunity to express the keen appreciation all of us have of the efficient, loyal, and fruitful efforts of your administrative and executive staff here at home and in the East of which the results I have put before you are the reflection. I can assure you that there is a spirit of co-operation and of keen interest and pride in your company actuating these men which forms not the least of your "hidden reserves."

I have now to propose "That the report of the directors and audited statement of accounts, including the balance sheet and profit and loss account to December 31, 1929, now presented to this meeting, be received, approved, and adopted," and I shall call on Mr R. I. Watson, your managing director, to second the motion. After it has been seconded, but before putting it to the meeting, I shall be pleased to reply to any questions which shareholders may care to put.

Mr Watson: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The Chairman: Any questions, ladies and gentlemen? There being none, I have now much pleasure in putting formally to the meeting the motion which I have just proposed, and which Mr Watson has seconded.

The motion was then put to the meeting by the Chairman, who declared it carried unanimously.

DIVIDEND RESOLUTION.

The Chairman: I have now pleasure in moving: "That the dividend on the ordinary shares recommended by the directors at the rate of 20 per cent. (4s. per share), less tax, making, with the interim dividend paid in November last, 30 per cent., less tax, for the year, be adopted, and that same be hereby authorised to be paid on June 13th, and that the balance of £399,774 16s. 11d. be carried forward."

Mr James S. Harvey: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The Chairman: I am quite sure you are all agreeable to that, ladies and gentlemen. (Cheers.) I have now much pleasure in moving: "That Sir Campbell K. Finlay be re-elected a director of the company."

Mr William J. M'Conie: I have much pleasure in seconding.

The Chairman: Are you all agreeable?

The motion was approved.

The Chairman: I have also pleasure in moving: "That Mr D. W. T. Cargill be re-elected a director of the company."

Mr S. Excell: I have much pleasure in seconding that, Mr Chairman.

The resolution was unanimously carried.

The Chairman: Finally, I have to move that Sir David M'Cowan be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr K. J. Brown: I have very much pleasure in seconding the re-election of Sir David M'Cowan.

The Chairman: Are you agreeable, ladies and gentlemen? (Cheers.) I will ask Mr Couper to move the next resolution—the reappointment of the auditor.

Mr J. B. Couper: I beg to propose the reappointment of Mr James Herbert Wilson, C.A., as auditor for the current year.

Mr Forrester Carlow seconded, and the motion was adopted.

The Chairman: That is all the business.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr Robert F. Barclay: Mr Chairman, I am sure is the wish of everyone in this room not to go from this meeting without according a very cordial vote of thanks to Sir John Cargill not only for his conduct in the chair to-day but for his never-tiring exertions in the interests of the great company over which he presides. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Since we last met together a tragic personal sorrow has come to Sir John, and I am sure that I speak the truth when I say that the heartfelt sympathy of every shareholder of the company and of the whole community went forth to Sir John on that occasion. (Hear, hear.)

Notwithstanding the difficulties and anxieties during the year industrial, political, and financial—to which Sir John has referred, he and his co-directors have presented us with a truly magnificent report. I am sure it transcends even the most sanguine expectations of the most sanguine shareholder (hear, hear), and I am sure that his speech to-day has once again convinced us, if we required any convincing, of his wonderful grasp and knowledge of the affairs of the company. (Hear, hear.) We are convinced that under the chairmanship of Sir John Cargill the affairs of the company will be managed, in the future as they have been in the past, with courage, with caution, and with the greatest business sagacity. I ask you to accord Sir John a very hearty vote of thanks. (Cheers.)

CHAIRMAN'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen,—While I greatly appreciate the vote of thanks which has been proposed in such kind and sympathetic terms by Mr Barclay, and so cordially endorsed by you all, I have felt for some time, and as the years go on, that this vote of thanks ought to take a more comprehensive basis and that it should certainly include Mr Watson and Mr Whigham, who, as I said last year, are a combination for managing director and assistant managing director which, I personally think, it would be impossible to beat (cheers), and should also include your staffs, both at home and in the East, for it is to the untiring efforts and the outstanding ability of these two gentlemen and to the loyalty, enthusiasm, and efficiency of your whole staff that the wonderful progress of this company, and the splendid position it stands in to-day, are so largely due. While personally I naturally feel very great pride in the record and the position of this company, what I feel a much greater pride and satisfaction in is the loyalty—I think I might even go a step further and say the affection—in which I have been held by practically everyone with whom I have worked and who have worked under me during the twenty-six years I have been chairman of this great company. (Hear, hear, and cheers.)

STRONGEST BALANCE SHEET IN COMPANY'S HISTORY.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say to you that of all the very fine balance sheets I have put before you at these meetings the one I have put before you to-day is by a long way the strongest. I think that must be patent to all of you and to all of those who have followed the course of the operations and the accounts of this company. (Cheers.) In anything approaching normal times I would have spoken to you to-day of the future of your company with the greatest of confidence; in fact, for once in a way I think I might even have gone the length of being optimistic. (Laughter and hear, hear.) But in these trying and uncertain times, which are world-wide, he would be a very bold man who would prophesy what the position of almost anything will be twelve months hence, and I will just content myself with saying that never in the history of your company has it been in a stronger position than it is to-day to face up to trying times if by any possibility these should come along. And, as I have already said, short of something in the nature of a world-wide upheaval of trade and of the petroleum industry, I feel confident that a year hence we will be able to lay before you another satisfactory report and a very satisfactory statement of accounts. (Cheers.) I thank you again for the very kind vote of thanks you have given me, for your sympathetic reception, for your attentive hearing, and I hope sincerely that we will meet again under equally auspicious circumstances. (Loud cheers.)

The meeting then terminated.

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ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASE OF CAPITAL APPROVED.

MR C. F. CAMPBELL ON THE REQUIREMENTS.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of Alexanders Discount Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at the offices of the company, 24 Lombard Street, London, E.C., Mr Colin Frederick Campbell (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr A. K. Bruce) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: I do not propose to take up your time to-day discussing the ordinary business of the company or the general financial situation, beyond saying that we have done reasonably well since we met you five months ago, and we have, therefore, no reason to be in any way discouraged with this year, as far as it has gone.

OBJECT OF THE MEETING.

The object of the meeting to-day is to obtain your approval to an increase in the authorised capital of the company from £1,500,000, to £1,800,000, and also to calling up 225,000 ordinary shares of £2 each, on which £1 will be paid.

The effect of this will be that the authorised and subscribed capital will both be £1,800,000, composed of £200,000 in 100,000, preference shares of £2 each, fully paid, and £1,600,000 in 800,000 ordinary shares of £2 each paid up as to £1, thus making the paid-up capital altogether £1,000,000.

I would also point out here that the reserved liability of £1 per share on the ordinary shares can only be called up in the event of the company being wound up.

The price fixed by the directors is £2 15s. per share, or, in other words, a premium of 35s. per share. It would have been possible in our opinion, to have made the price higher without much difficulty but we came to the conclusion that this issue afforded an opportunity of allowing the ordinary shareholders to participate in the prosperity of the company, and so we propose this bonus to you, which is no doubt acceptable.

The premium of 35s. a share is a substantial one in itself, and when the amount is added to the existing published reserve we arrive at a total of £968,750, or only £31,250 less than the paid-up capital. I need hardly say that it will be the object of the directors and the management to raise the reserve fund to a million as soon as possible.

REASONS FOR THE ISSUE.

The question may arise in the minds of some of the shareholders why we require this large increase in capital and reserve, as it is not so very many years since we worked with about a quarter of this sum. There are several answers that I can give you.

The first is that we have to look on this company to-day from a totally different point of view to that of even ten or twelve years ago. In those days it was, to a great extent, a family business, whereas now it is a great public company, with nearly 500 shareholders. As such, we have to look to a steady development of the business, requiring increased resources from time to time, so that it is the duty of your directors to look well ahead and to provide the funds required for such natural development.

Then, secondly, I would ask you to bear in mind, without wishing to speak in any boastful spirit, that the company has won its way into the front rank of those operating in the discount market. From this point of view, therefore, it behoves us not only to maintain, but to increase our strength as opportunity offers, and we think the present time to be one of those opportunities.

The last reason, which is, perhaps, the simplest and most practical, is that we think we can turn the further capital to good account. (Hear, hear.)

An increase of capital is, of course, an additional responsibility thrown both on the management and on the board, but, nevertheless, we bring these proposals to you with all confidence that they are in the best interests of the shareholders.

The resolutions were carried unanimously.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, *6 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.*

JOHN BROWN AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE CAPITAL REORGANISATION SCHEME.

The ordinary general meeting of John Brown and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 6th instant, at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Aberconway (chairman of the company) said that the changes which had come over the three great trades in which they were interested, viz., shipbuilding, heavy steel and engineering, and coal, had made it necessary in the interests of the holders of the various classes of the company's stock to revise the financial position of the company. All the other great armament firms had already done that on a most drastic scale, and several of the largest steel and colliery concerns had followed a similar course.

Great sums had been spent by the armament firms during the war on plant for Government requirements which was now not likely to be of use, and, owing to the incidence of Excess Profits Duty, most of those firms, including this company, had been unable adequately to write down their capital expenditure out of the revenue then earned.

EARNING CAPACITY.

With regard to the earning capacity of the company, the Washington Agreement of 1922 had suspended all capital shipbuilding for nine years with three exceptions, and the situation had been accentuated by the London Naval Conference just concluded. Again, there had been a great reduction in the number of passenger vessels ordered in this country by foreign owners, and the number of high-class passenger vessels built for British owners had also decreased. The consequences of all that had been felt at their steel works in Sheffield. They had succeeded in the competition for the construction of an express steamer for the Atlantic service of the Cunard Line, which would ensure continuity of work at Clydebank for some years. This work is following upon the "Empress of Britain" for the Canadian Pacific Steamships, which is the biggest vessel now building in the country. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will honour Clydebank by another visit on Wednesday next to launch this great ship, and we can be proud of the fact that Clydebank still retains its position in the forefront of the British shipbuilding industry.

We are the owners of 850,000 shares out of the 1,000,000 issued ordinary shares of Thos. Firth and Sons, Ltd., that highly successful, well-managed and profitable company, engaged largely in the lighter steel trades of Sheffield, and negotiations are now proceeding for a merger or closer co-operation of part of the plants and businesses of these two companies, which is intended to have the effect of large savings in cost and of adding greatly to the value of the shares of John Brown and Company, Ltd., and also to the security of the debenture-holders.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

DEBENTURE-HOLDERS' MEETINGS.

Separate meetings of the holders and first and second mortgage debentures and of preference and ordinary shares followed to consider the proposed scheme for the reorganisation of the capital.

Addressing the debenture-holders, the Rt. Hon. Sir Edwin Cornwall, Bart., the chairman appointed by the Court, after explaining the scheme as it affected the debenture-holders, said that the principal bankers of the company were willing, if the scheme of arrangements became effective, to continue and extend financial facilities to the company on terms which the directors considered reasonable.

The company had a fine record to look back upon. It had never made a loss. It had one of the best-equipped and finest shipyards in the country at Clydebank and very large interests in collieries, which were improving. It had also a large majority of ordinary shares of Thos. Firth and Sons, Ltd., the highly successful company engaged largely in the lighter steel trades of Sheffield.

SHAREHOLDERS' APPROVAL.

After discussion it was agreed at each meeting that it should be adjourned until June 20th to enable the company's advisers to confer with representatives of the debenture-holders.

Lord Aberconway, presiding at the meetings of the preference and ordinary shareholders called to consider the scheme, said that the causes which had led up to the present proposals were set out in his circular. The company was one of the last of the great armament and shipbuilding companies to reorganise its capital structure with a view to the rationalisation of its business. They regretted that it had been found necessary to call up the 5s. per share on their partly-paid ordinary capital. The working capital thus obtained would not only benefit the company, but would, they believed, make the shares, when fully paid, more marketable than they were with the uncalled liability.

At each meeting of shareholders a card vote was taken, and in each case the chairman announced that the resolution had been carried by an overwhelming majority, and that the result would be reported to the Court in due course.

J. AND P. COATS, LIMITED.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The fortieth annual ordinary general meeting of J. and P. Coats, Limited, was held, on the 12th instant, in Glasgow.

There was a large attendance of shareholders.

Mr. J. O. M. Clark (the Chairman), presided.

The Chairman then said:—

Before I deal with the general situation of the company I would like to make a few observations about the balance sheet, which is drawn up this year in a slightly different form from what has hitherto been customary to comply with the requirements of the Companies Act.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The total of the balance sheet is 34½ million as against 32½ million last year. You will see on the assets side a figure of £23,496,678 and on the liabilities side £2,223,839. In former balance sheets this has been shown as a net figure and, of course, the new way of expressing it causes the total figure to be increased.

The £23,496,678 is made up, as you will see, of shares in subsidiary companies, loans, current accounts, and general investments. Formerly we split this differently, showing the amounts invested in holdings of subsidiary companies separately from the amounts advanced for stock and working expenses.

Turning again to the assets side, the first item represents buildings and machinery at our Ferguslie Works, Paisley, less depreciation, and the second goodwill, less amounts written off in the books of J. and P. Coats, Ltd.

ADVERSE FACTORS DURING PAST YEAR.

I cannot pretend that the results for the past year are anything but disappointing. This is particularly the case when I recall the fact that at our annual meeting this time last year I informed you that there were signs of improved trade in many directions.

I will endeavour to outline the principal causes which have contributed to this unsatisfactory result.

Within two months of our annual meeting an almost complete stoppage of the textile trade took place in Lancashire, whence we draw a large proportion of our supplies of yarn. The dispute lasted for about three weeks, leaving behind it effects which must still be felt in that area.

Following a period of unsettled financial conditions in this country brought about by the Hatry disclosures, there occurred in October the slump on the New York Stock Exchange, the story of which is pretty generally known, and so far as our American Companies' business was concerned, it had the effect of causing a sharp decline in our sales during the concluding months of the year.

Led by the President, the leaders of American finance and business made a strong effort to persuade the public that the losses arising from the Stock Market crash were not such as to affect the basis of the prosperity of the country, that the position of business was fundamentally good and that all that was necessary was to be optimistic and "keep it good." This experiment in mass psychology was undoubtedly successful to a considerable extent, but whether it was advantageous in the long run appears doubtful, as it tended to blind a large part of the people of the United States to the realities of the situation.

Among other set-backs which occurred during the later months of the year, but which were of a more restricted nature, I might mention the weakness in the Brazilian exchange and the disturbed conditions in China.

PROBLEM OF STIMULATING DEMAND.

Sewing cotton is one of the articles of general use in which it is perhaps most difficult to stimulate an increased demand when the normal requirements of a market have been satisfied. In making this remark I leave out of account, of course, the simple expedient of reducing prices and so taking away trade from your competitors. This is an expedient which can only be profitably used within certain well-defined limits. This difficulty of stimulating the demand for thread is probably due to the fact that it can only be used in conjunction with other materials which cost very much more than the thread itself. It has been calculated that to make up £100 worth of goods about £1 of sewing cotton is required. The figures will naturally vary very much with the value of the material used, but this ratio 100 to 1 is approximately how it works out on an average. In a suit of men's clothes costing £2 10s. the value of the thread required to make it up varies from 1¾d. to 2½d., according to the quality used. Assuming that the thread was given to the tailor for nothing, the actual saving to him would be unlikely to result in his selling a larger number of suits of clothes.

RUSSIA.

With regard to Russia there has been no change in the situation so far as we are concerned, since I addressed you last year. Diplomatic relations have been resumed; a temporary commercial agreement has been signed and the export credit scheme is being made applicable to exports intended for Russia.

Our connections with that country date back over half a century, while our thread was to be found in practically all households in European and Asiatic Russia. The interests of this company in pre-war days were twofold. We were large shareholders, as you know, in several mills in St. Petersburg, or, as it is now called, Leningrad, from which approximately three-fourths of the Russian market's thread requirements were supplied. We had, in addition to this, a considerable export trade from this country, employing about 800 workers in our Paisley mills.

The present position is that the mills in Russia have been confiscated, or perhaps I should say nationalised, and are being worked by the Soviet. In addition to supplying the Russian market they are being used to export thread to various foreign countries. The methods of sale and the prices asked indicate that in certain cases these exports are being deliberately made at a loss in order to obtain supplies of foreign currencies. You will thus see that we have meantime lost not only all our interest in the mills in Russia, but the trade which we formerly did from this country and which, under present circumstances, it is impossible to resume. On the other hand, there is nothing to prevent the Russians from exporting their thread to any other country.

You will appreciate that as actual manufacturers in Russia our interests in a settlement differ from the interests of those firms who come into the category of traders, many of whom had no pre-war connection with Russia but hope by means of a general settlement to open up new business there.

FIRM ATTITUDE NEEDED IN REGARD TO CLAIMS.

It has been stated in the press recently that negotiations with the Soviet representatives in regard to the matter of claims and counter-claims are to be opened up. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the hope that not only we but other British claimants will receive fair treatment, and that the firm attitude in financial dealings with foreign powers hitherto adopted by our present Government may be maintained; an attitude which is most welcome in comparison with that of previous Governments since the war, whose standpoint so frequently seems to have been that it is the duty of Great Britain always to give and never to receive.

THE OUTLOOK.

To sum up the position as it is to-day, I must frankly tell you that the general trade outlook for the near future is not promising. The principal reason for this unsatisfactory outlook is, of course, the substantial fall in the prices of almost every raw material throughout the world and the many repercussions arising from this downward movement in values. The processes of adjustment and stabilisation will, even under favourable conditions, take some years to complete themselves, and during this period we cannot expect any startling improvements in the general trade outlook.

Nothing is to be gained by refusing to face the facts, and it has to be admitted that so far as our own mills in this country are concerned we are not in as good a position to-day to face foreign competition as we used to be owing to high costs from one cause and another. On the other hand, our position abroad is stronger than it has ever been. As more than 80 per cent. of our trade is a foreign trade, the position of the company as a whole is undoubtedly strong, and however depressed things may be at the moment we can look forward with confidence to being able when the tide turns, as undoubtedly it some day will, to take full advantage of the opportunities that will be offered.

COST OF PRODUCTION AT HOME AND ON CONTINENT.

I have had a comparison made of the costs, exclusive of raw material, at which we are able to produce at the mills of one of our associated companies on the Continent where the same or similar machinery to that used here is installed, running that machinery at approximately the same speeds, and producing a quality well up to our home standard, and it shows that what costs us 100 pence to manufacture in Paisley can be produced at 53 pence at the foreign mill in question.

I now beg to move that the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, 1929, as submitted to this meeting, be and are hereby adopted, and that the payment of dividends and of a bonus of sixpence per share, less income tax, on the ordinary shares, all as stated therein, be and are hereby confirmed.

The Marquis of Linlithgow seconded the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the proceedings.

VENEZUELAN OIL CONCESSIONS, LIMITED.

THE PROBLEM OF OVER-PRODUCTION.

The annual general meeting of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at Winchester House, Old Board Street, London.

Mr Andrew Agnew, C.B.E., who presided, said that the proceeds of oil and value of oil stocks was £4,885,597. That was an increase of £443,246 over the corresponding figure for 1928. While the net production had increased from 5,084,580 tons in 1928 to 6,469,206 tons in 1929, the average price per ton received for their production had been 15s. 1d. per ton, as against 17s. 6d. per ton in 1928. The balance of profit brought forward from 1928 was £190,005, to which the profit for the year 1929 had been added, £1,085,665, making a balance at the credit of profit and loss account of £1,275,671. They recommended payment of a dividend of 20 per cent. less income tax at 4s. 6d. in the £ on both classes of shares.

Their profits for 1929 were less than those for 1928, despite the fact that in 1929 they had produced and delivered about 30 per cent. more oil than in 1928. That was almost entirely due to the bad prices which maintained throughout last year for oil of the grade which they produced. As shareholders knew, a very large percentage of the content of their oil was fuel, and the average price which maintained in the important markets of the world was lower in 1929 than in any year since 1922.

There had been a small reduction in the cost per barrel of oil produced and delivered as against 1928 costs, and the improvement in production cost would have been somewhat greater but for the fact that drilling was being diverted gradually from the shore towards the interior, which was necessarily attended by increased expenditure upon items such as construction of additional roads, longer pipe-lines, &c.

THE PRESENT YEAR.

As regarded the present year, the crude oil production up to May 31st was approximately 2,515,900 metric tons. That was equivalent to a rate of a little over 6,000,000 metric tons per annum. He anticipated that the total production for the year would amount to somewhat less than that figure. The lesser production was in line with what the chairman had told them the last time they met that in consequence of their belief in the need for the restriction of production all over the world, and their determination to do their share in bringing about the desired results, the drilling programme was being considerably reduced. At the present time their drilling programme consisted of only 9 strings.

The restriction of drilling activity had been accompanied by very considerable reduction of expenditure in all directions, the benefits of which were already being realised. It had further been found possible to postpone a large part of the reclamation scheme at Lagunillas which had been described in their report last year. In the La Rosa-Cabimas-Ambrosio area recent drilling results had been disappointing. At Lagunillas, on the other hand, more encouraging results had been obtained by the stepping-out wells which had been drilled towards the interior.

LA PAZ AND CONCEPCION.

He felt sure it had been a source of satisfaction to the shareholders that altered conditions had enabled them to reopen the La Paz and Concepcion fields in the Maracaibo district at the end of last year, as had been mentioned in the report. While those fields were closed in they had valuable assets lying idle, and depreciation of the buildings and equipment was continuing at very much the same rate as if they had been in active use. With the exception of the older La Paz wells, which were only capable of producing by pumping, all the productive wells in the La Paz and Concepcion fields were now in regular operation. Their production since reopening had been fully up to expectations. Drilling had been resumed with one string in each field at the beginning of the present year, and the programme had recently been increased by the addition of a second rotary string at Concepcion. A further satisfactory feature of the Maracaibo district development was that the oil now being obtained commanded substantially higher prices than any crude obtainable from the Bolivar district.

In connection with the probable trend of development towards the interior of the Bolivar district, they had commenced the drilling of a well on a structure known as the Curaçao anticline situated about 15 kms. due east of La Rosa.

POSSIBILITIES FOR 1930.

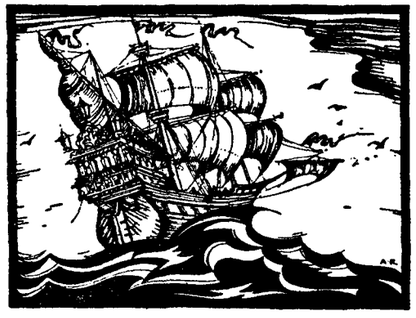
He was sure the shareholders would want some indication from him as to the possibilities of the year 1930, but he was equally sure that they all knew that it was not their policy to prophesy without having very reliable information upon which to base any prophecy Their prospects were so closely bound up with the future trend of world prices of oil products that it was quite impossible for him to make anything other than a very general estimate. All he could say was that a measure of co-operation which did not formerly exist between the large companies had attended the more recent efforts to place the petroleum industry as a whole on a sounder footing.

The problem of over-production augmented by the enormous accumulated stocks had been carefully studied during the last few months with full recognition that the position was injurious to the entire industry—to both large and small companies—and prejudicial to the future supplies of the world. Definite progress had been made towards solution of the problem, and he had some hope that ultimately the many and difficult features facing curtailment of wasteful production throughout the world might be solved.

As regarded their own particular problems, he had already referred to increased expenditure which was being necessitated by their new wells being situated further from the shore, and they had deemed it necessary to increase their rates of amortisation, particularly on casing. A careful study of the decline curves of the production from the wells in the Bolivar district of Venezuela had made it apparent that their method of amortising the casing in those wells at the rate of 10 per cent. was inadequate. In the 1929 accounts they had corrected that, and they were hoping that the new rate of 15 per cent. would prove to be sufficient. They would realise that that meant a further addition to their production expenses. It also meant that they must maintain an adequate drilling programme to provide against the regular decline of producing wells. Happily the geological indications on their territory led them to expect that they had sufficient drilling ground for a good many years, and whilst he considered that that information should be placed before the shareholders, he did so with the assurance that, so far as one could humanly see, they could maintain their production, and that, by careful management and strict economy, they hoped to keep the cost of production within reasonable bounds.

Sir John N. Barran, Bt., referring to the visit he paid to the company's oilfields last autumn, said that he found in Venezuela a highly organised machine for the handling of their important interests in all their varied aspects—political, financial and technical; a fine *esprit de corps* pervading the company's staff and workers; and a property, so far as one might presume to judge on a first visit, whose limits of profitable development were not yet in sight and might well not be for many years to come.

The report was unanimously adopted.



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CALCUTTA TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE MOTOR BUS COMPETITION.

The ordinary general meeting of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. Mr John G. B. Stone, the chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the tramway receipts showed a reduction of £5,030, due to general trade depression, intensified omnibus competition, the non-recurrence of exceptional Congress traffic in the latter part of 1928, coupled with the loss of one extra day's receipts due to Leap Year, and continual labour troubles in the jute mills. The expenditure decreased by £1,845. Their omnibus receipts showed a decrease of £3,404, due generally to the same causes, the expenditure was less by £4,137, and, after charging depreciation, the loss was £28,171, compared with £28,904.

The final result was that, after providing the first and second debenture interest, second debenture sinking fund, preference dividend, and ordinary interim dividend, £49,834 was available. It was proposed to contribute £7,383 to the staff provident fund, to pay a final dividend of 10d. per share, tax free (making 1s. 2½d. tax free, for the year), and to carry forward £13,284.

Speaking of the omnibus position, the Chairman said that in 1926 there were some 400 motor omnibuses owned by nearly as many individuals on the streets of Calcutta. The intense competition had rendered most concerns unremunerative. This company had made tentative proposals to the corporation which would have meant some move towards co-ordination, but they had met with no response. The suggestion that tramway systems were obsolete and should be replaced by omnibuses had been assiduously fostered, but it seemed evident that if such substitution was made the poorer classes would have to pay more for their travel, and ratepayers generally would have to bear increased charges for the maintenance of their roads.

In Calcutta only a small proportion of the people could afford to ride at all, and for them the cheapest form of transport was essential. They endeavoured in their tramway system to provide that, and they carried about one quarter of a million passengers daily.

For fifty years the company had not failed, nor would they fail, to meet the requirements of the public.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SIAMESE TIN SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

LARGER OUTPUT AND PROFIT.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Siamese Tin Syndicate, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr William H. P. Stevens (the chairman) said that the past year's mining operations resulted in a total revenue from ore sales amounting to £235,729, an increase of £55,327 compared with the previous year, the total output, 1,661.44 tons, having shown an increase of some 511 tons. The net average price per ton received, before deduction of Government duty, was £141 17s. 8d., against £156 17s. in 1928. The net profit amounted to £51,812, compared with £27,013 in the previous year. Three interim dividends of 10 per cent. each were paid during 1929, and £5,367 was being carried forward.

They had been offered an option covering some 9,000,000 cubic yards of tin-bearing ground in close proximity to that part of their Ngow Estate, which was being worked by their No. 1 dredge. If, on check boring the area in question, satisfactory results were obtained and the option was exercised, this would mean a very substantial extension to the life of the Ngow Estate, as there would probably be an additional ten years' work for No. 1 dredge.

The production from the five dredges of the company of a total of 1,661 tons in 1929 was a very good indication of the value of the company's properties; and, if the average price of tin had been anywhere near that obtained over the previous five years, the profit on the company's small capital would have been very large indeed. The price of tin at the moment was, from the point of view of the producer, anything but satisfactory.

The directors had thought it undesirable for the company to become a member of the Tin Producers' Association, considering it preferable in all the circumstances to maintain an entirely independent position.

Although the clouds looked dark at the present time, in the long run the silver lining was pretty sure to be revealed, and, even in the conditions which had so far prevailed this year, the profit earned was sufficient to justify the directors in determining, as they had done that morning, to declare an interim dividend of 10 per cent. in respect of the current year's working.

The report was unanimously adopted.

BANGRIN TIN DREDGING COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCREASED REVENUE—IMPROVEMENT OF PLANT.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Bangrin Tin Dredging Company, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at Winchester House, London.

Mr William H. P. Stevens (the chairman) said that the total revenue from mining operations during the past year amounted to £98,154, compared with £77,596 in the previous year. The output of 698.93 tons of ore—compared with 498.36 tons in 1928—was obtained from the operation of their three dredges, but No. 3 dredge on the Bangrin Extended property only commenced operations during July. The average price obtained for ore sold in the East had been £140 8s. 9d. per ton, compared with £155 14s. 1d. in the previous year. The balance of profit, including the amount brought forward, was £21,920, and the directors recommended that £5,000 be added to the reserve, increasing it to £10,000, and that £16,920 be carried forward. He regretted that they were unable to recommend a dividend, but shareholders would appreciate that, in the difficult times through which the industry was passing, it was undesirable that the cash resources of the company should be dissipated.

In viewing the operations of the year, it should be borne in mind that they had been working with a plant which was mainly new and incomplete, and that one unit was not even brought into operation till more than half the year had gone. The conversion of No. 1 dredge from steam to electric power was satisfactorily completed early in the present year, and they heard by cable last week that the elimination of the jigs, and the installation, in their place, of tables on No. 2 dredge, had also been completed.

In the opinion of the board, the present condition of the plant left nothing to be desired. They knew the tin contents of the ground to be satisfactory, and the only "fly in the ointment" was the present price of tin, which was, from the point of view of the producer, anything but satisfactory. The steps which had up to the present been taken to restrict output did not appear to have had the desired effect; but when general trade conditions throughout the world revived, there was bound to come an increasing demand for tin, and an enhancement of prices was bound to follow.

The report was unanimously adopted.

NIRMALA (JAVA) PLANTATIONS AND LANDS COMPANY, LIMITED.

LARGER GROSS PROFIT.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Nirmala (Java) Plantations and Lands Company, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at 5, Fenchurch Street, London.

Mr Walter Hilliers, the chairman, said the gross profit was £5,700 higher than in the previous year, and after payment of debenture interest and preference dividend it was proposed to pay 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, to transfer £250 to staff furlough fund, and to carry forward £1,806.

The tea crop was not satisfactory, owing to the effects of blight on the Nirmala Division. It was the more regrettable, as this division produced really high quality tea, for which they had the benefit of a satisfactory forward contract for both the current year and next year. A large part of the division had responded well to intensive cultivation, and there was reason to hope that the effects of any future attacks would be largely minimised, though the full benefit of what was being done was likely to take some little longer time to materialise. The Nirmala Division consisted mainly of very fine gardens and under normal conditions should be a valuable tea estate.

One of the important matters to which he had to give thought when in Java last year was the building of the road connecting Nirmala with the main road. The division had been greatly hampered through its isolation, and various solutions of the matter were considered, but owing to the line the road would have to take there were difficulties which only recently could be settled. The work had made a good start, but would have to proceed gradually.

Turning to rubber, they owned the rubber area on Nanggoeng as well as the estates of Kahoeripan in Java and Tebat, Goenoeng in Sumatra. The two first were in full tapping and were in first-rate condition in regard to upkeep. Costs of production were most reasonable.

Tebat Goenoeng estate would not be ready for full tapping until towards the middle of next year, but it already produced a fair quantity of rubber and the results promised well. It would, no doubt, be a cheap producer.

The negotiations in connection with expropriation had been terminated, and they could do no more now than wait until the Government survey was finished, doing whatever was in their power to accelerate its progress.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

THE TROWBRIDGE TYRE AND RUBBER COMPANY (1929), LIMITED.

COMPLETION OF THE NEW FACTORY.

INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND OUTPUT.

The first annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Trowbridge Tyre and Rubber Company (1929), Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at the offices of the Rubber Growers' Association, 2 Idol Lane, London, E.C.

Mr Lionel Caswell (the chairman and managing director) said :—Gentlemen,—In some quarters I have no doubt that disappointment has been felt with the result as shown in the accounts, but I shall be able to prove that the result obtained, having regard to the many difficulties with which your directors have been faced, is not nearly so disparaging as would appear.

In the first place, it was anticipated that we should have our works at Trowbridge in full working order by the end of June last year, but as the work proceeded it was found that the contractors we had engaged to install the necessary new plant and machinery had been too optimistic in their forecast.

Each piece of machinery took longer to get into position than the experts had estimated; consequently a delay of approximately seven months took place before the factory was fully equipped and ready to manufacture the whole of our output. It was imperative that the manufacture of solid tyres should be continued; the dual working had interfered to some small degree with the manufacture of solid tyres, which had naturally reflected in the manufactured article, thus causing some loss to your company.

LOSS THROUGH FACTORY DELAY.

The delay referred to has naturally had a curtailing effect on the profit for the year we are reviewing, as for practically the whole of this time we were compelled to have our Giant and Car pneumatic tyres manufactured in another factory—which was much more costly than if we were manufacturing them in our own works. I estimate that this delay showed a loss of at least £10,000 to your company—to say nothing of being in the regrettable position of being unable to quote for several large contracts for which we were invited to tender.

Another matter to which I would call your attention is the condition of the rubber market, and in this respect would draw attention to the qualifications which our auditors saw fit to include in their report. You are all aware raw rubber has steadily declined in price since March of last year, when it stood at approximately 1s. per lb. In this business, where we hold various contracts covering a period of from one to two years, you will realise that it is vital we buy our rubber requirements well ahead, especially when the price of the commodity is abnormally low—being as it has for the last year round about the cost of production.

In this respect the market has been against us, and we have a stock of raw rubber which is in excess of market price. This is not a serious position, in so far that we are covered with our tyre contracts at rates which will show us a good profit—taking our rubber on the basis of cost.

With the present abnormally low price of rubber, it is just possible that 12 months hence we might be in the position of being able to congratulate ourselves on our rubber commitments.

THE FORWARD COMMITMENTS.

Our "forward" rubber commitments are well covered for our mileage contracts, which are protected as regards cost of manufacture during the current year. Contracts for raw rubber entered into this year are more advantageous than those of the past year, and, with the benefit of reduced costs, brought about through the whole of our manufacture being now under one roof, places us in a better position for the present year.

The smaller profits are mainly due to the fact that we were forced to have our pneumatic tyres made for us for a much longer period than we had budgeted for. To an extent the collapse of the rubber market, together with the reduced selling prices have also been contributory causes.

Continuing, the chairman said that all the contracts held at the incorporation of the company had been retained, and other very important accounts opened. In addition to being sole contractors to Thomas Tilling, Ltd., Eastbourne Corporation, Hants and Dorset Motor Services, Bournemouth, and United Dairies, they were also large suppliers to such concerns as Pickfords, L.M.S. Railway, Watney, Combe and Reid, G.W.R., Eastern Counties Road Car Company, and the Anglo-American Oil Company. They also held a contract for twelve months to supply the L.G.O.C. with "Rubber Buffers," or assistant bearing springs, as standard equipment.

The report was adopted.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

EXPANSION OF BUSINESS.

The twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at Winchester House, London, E.C.

Mr John G. B. Stone (the chairman) said that in the report was set forth the various undertakings in which the company held the electricity orders or in other companies in which they were shareholders. The number of the undertakings in their own hands was reduced this year by the exclusion of Jedburgh, Dollar and Exmouth. The list of company undertakings was the same as last year, with the exception of Wellington, with which they had parted. The lamp connections of their own undertakings showed an increase of 28,504, which was a normal figure.

As to the other company undertakings, Hendon showed a steady increase; Steyning figures for 1928 had been omitted, as before their acquisition of the company the records had been kept differently; Haywards Heath could not extend rapidly until they had the bulk supply from the Central Electricity Board; Petersfield, which had changed over to bulk supply in the latter part of the year, showed a gratifying increase; Alton was also progressing with an increase of nearly 50 per cent.; Newhaven and Seaford was developing rapidly; and Peterhead, which operated only during the latter part of the year, had made a good beginning.

Comparing the results with those of 1928, in 1928 on their own undertakings revenue had exceeded working costs by £40,316. For 1929 the figure was £35,119. In 1928 the interest on investments had amounted to £15,151, whereas in 1929 it was £21,028. Finally they carried to the balance sheet £43,289, against £38,902 in 1928. He thought they might congratulate themselves on those figures. They recommended a transfer of £5,373 to the repairs, renewals and depreciation fund, bringing it up to £75,000. They recommended also the distribution of a final dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which was the same as last year, and they proposed to carry forward £20,415, compared with £17,012 brought in in 1928.

They endeavoured to let their consumers benefit by the expansion of the company's business by reducing their prices wherever practicable. They could not exactly forecast the immedate effect of such reductions; consequently it was necessary to carry forward a substantial amount.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MALACCA RUBBER PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.

FAVOURABLE FORWARD SALES.

The twenty-fourth annual general meeting of the Malacca Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held, on the 11th instant, at the offices of the Rubber Growers' Association, 2-4 Idol Lane, London, E.C.

Mr Charles Emerson (chairman of the company), in the course of his speech, said: The conditions under which we meet are depressing. The only consolatory observation I can offer is that it appears to me that rubber is more likely to come into its own again at a comparatively early date than many other commodities.

Our crop for the year amounted to 6,419,547 lb. of rubber, as against 4,988,910 lb. for 1928, and it is pleasant to be able to state that the cost at which it was produced is once again the lowest we have ever been able to record. For the current year our estimated outturn was 6,484,000 lb., but this must now be taken as subject to the May abstention from tapping. Our profit works out at £54,018 3s. 8d., as contrasted with the £53,766 9s. 1d. which we recorded for the previous year, which is, in itself, looking at the conditions which have been prevailing, eminently satisfactory.

I now come to the question of the oil palms. We have now concluded negotiations having for their object the unification of the interests of the three companies concerned, namely, Linggi Plantations, Ltd., United Sua Betong Rubber Estates, Ltd., and this company. The arrangement which has been come to is, shortly, as follows: We transfer our lands and the palms which we have planted on them to a new company registered with an authorised capital of £600,000, and in exchange we receive fully-paid shares of the value of £1 each for all the expenditure we have incurred up to December 31, 1929, with a cash payment for the comparatively small sum which we have expended since that date. It is the intention to extend the present area of 5,967 acres, 4,988 acres of which have been planted up by Linggi Plantations, and approximately 979 acres by your company, to 8,300 acres during the next few years, and further extensions will very possibly be put in hand thereafter.

Once again I am in a position to give you favourable information with regard to the important matter of forward sales, and you will see from the report that of our 1930 crop 800,800 lb. have been sold forward at 11·21d. per pound landed London terms.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a resolution was passed approving the agreement come to with reference to the unification of the oil palm interests.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended June 7, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	8,250	From Revenue	9,991
Interest, &c., on Debt	47,785	Increase in Debt	46,457
Sinking Fund	620	Decrease in Balances	400
Sundries	193		
	56,848		56,848

The ordinary revenue for the week amounted to £9,991,000, as compared with £8,748,300 in the corresponding week last year. Income tax and surtax were higher at £992,000 and £440,000, against £82,000 and £420,000 respectively. Estate duties were lower at £780,000, against £1,220,000 last year. Customs brought in £2,154,000, against £2,094,000, and Excise £904,000 against £812,000. *The National Debt was increased by £46,250,000,* as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£
Bank of England Advances	+ 12,500
Public Department Advances	+ 8,850
Treasury Bills	+ 24,900
National Savings Certificates	+ 200
	+ 46,250

The Floating Debt was increased by £46,250,000 to £672,865,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31, APRIL 1 TO JUNE 7.

	£		£
Expenditure	162,457,324	Revenue	108,549,954
Sinking Fund	6,930,881	Decreases in balances	3,797,550
		Net Amount borrowed	57,040,701
	169,388,205		169,388,205

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
5% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	607
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	66
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,628	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,525
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,652

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

Ways and Means Advances	June 8, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	June 7, '30.	Movement week ended June 7, '30.
Outstanding—	£	£	£	£
Advances by Bank of England	6,000,000	...	12,500,000	+ 12,500,000
Advances by Public Departments	43,805,000	48,530,000	53,780,000	− 8,850,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	745,720,000	588,885,000	606,585,000*	+ 24,900,000
Total Floating Debt	795,525,000	637,415,000	672,865,000	+ 46,250,000

* Includes £32,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £40,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on June 6, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £44,515,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Tuesday to Friday, at £99 8s. 11d., about 72 per cent. above in full, and Saturday at £99 9s. 1d. in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £38,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
April 11	30,000,000	48,985,000	2 10 2·21
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78
May 23	35,000,000	48,275,000	2 3 5·74
May 30	45,000,000	54,260,000	2 2 0·65
June 6	40,000,000	44,515,000	2 3 6·59

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to June 7, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to June 8, 1929.	Week Ended June 7, 1930.	Week Ended June 8, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	19,857,000	18,532,000	992,000	82,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	8,700,000	7,320,000	440,000	420,000
Estate, &c., Duties	16,740,000	17,120,000	780,000	1,220,000
Stamps	2,750,000	3,560,000	270,000	230,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	110,000	120,000	...	50,000
Total Inland Revenue	48,157,000	46,662,000	2,482,000	2,002,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	22,290,000	22,160,000	2,154,000	2,094,000
Excise	20,300,000	20,885,000	904,000	812,000
Total Customs and Excise	42,590,000	43,045,000	3,058,000	2,906,000
Motor Vehicle Duties Exchequer Share)	964,000	1,114,000	309,000	306,000
Post Office (Net Receipt)	4,550,000	3,850,000	500,000	Dr.300000
Crown Lands	240,000	250,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	7,833,454	7,228,624	1,876,622	1,424,924
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,215,500	5,981,228	1,765,376	2,409,389
Total Ordinary Revenue	108,549,954	108,130,852	9,990,998	8,748,313
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	9,700,000	9,350,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	12,980,000	12,454,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	121,529,954	120,584,852	10,990,998	9,748,313
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 to 1930	...	30,000	...	30,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,220,000	910,000	300,000	...
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	472,271,000	599,684,000	72,190,000	70,850,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940-44	46,541,883	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates	8,550,000	7,950,000	850,000	750,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932-34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	128,870,000	161,135,000	35,340,000	13,260,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	49,389	36,571	32,351	15,350
	781,032,226	916,450,423	119703349	94,651,663

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April —	1930. £	1929. £		
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917		
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607		
	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total	787,157,440	922,702,947	119703349	94,651,663

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from		Issues	
	Apr. 1, 1930, to June 7, 1930.	Apr. 1, 1929, to June 8, 1929.	Week Ended June 7, 1930.	Week Ended June 8, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	89,285,091	94,481,799	47,785,158	20,030,418
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	882,987	719,187	193,136	163,428
Other Consolidated Fund Services	440,446	891,818	...	56,825
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	71,848,800	58,990,610	8,250,000	7,000,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	162,457,324	155,083,414	56,228,294	27,250,671
Sinking Fund	6,930,881	7,790,067	620,000	500,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	9,700,000	9,350,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	12,980,000	12,454,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL	182,368,205	175,327,481	57,848,294	28,750,671
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,220,000	910,000	300,000	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	1,750,000	1,550,000	...	...
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928—				
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	...	30,000	...	30,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	454,585,000	554,265,000	47,315,000	53,190,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	7,200,000	8,250,000	650,000	800,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,309,505	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	111,120,000	148,380,000	13,990,000	11,670,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	2,219,787	...	...
	784,829,776	920,260,231	120103294	94,440,671
	June 7, 1930.	June 8, 1929.		
	£	£		
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	2,013,873	2,054,239	...	...
Bank of Ireland	313,791	388,477	2,327,664	2,442,716
			− 10,086	+ 152,992
			− 389,859	+ 58,000
Total £	787,157,440	922,702,947	− 399,945	+ 210,992

Treasury, June 10, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, June 11, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	364,002,267	Other Government Securities	232,892,247
In Banking Department	52,259,190	Other Securities	11,629,173
		Silver Coin	4,463,480
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	156,261,457
	£416,261,457		£416,261,457

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	46,310,547
Rest	3,234,552	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	8,238,879	Discounts and Advances ... £6,804,409	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 13,943,043	
Bankers ... £58,822,236			20,747,452
Other Accounts 35,383,438		Notes	52,259,190
	94,205,674	Gold and Silver Coin	918,950
7-Day and other Bills	4,034		
	£120,236,139		£120,236,139

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

Both Departments.	Amount, June 11, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	364,002,267	+ 4,203,665	+ 1,943,316
Public deposits	8,238,879	− 639,063	− 2,342,097
Bankers' deposits	58,822,236	− 12,259,617	− 2,278,261
Other deposits	35,383,438	− 1,525,411	− 139,684
Seven-day bills	4,034	+ 1,960	− 300
Total, outside liabilities	466,450,854	− 10,218,466	− 2,817,026
Capital and rest	17,787,552	+ 4,343	− 49,944
Government debt and securities	290,217,894	− 12,070,000	+ 6,738,004
Discounts and advances	6,804,409	+ 328,352	+ 1,129,018
Other securities	25,572,216	+ 1,226,161	− 3,333,985
Silver coin in issue department	4,463,480	+ 42	− 369,014
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	157,180,407	+ 301,322	− 7,030,993
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	53,178,140	− 3,902,343	− 8,974,309
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	51⅜%	+ 3⅛%	− 5⅜%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33⅜%	+ ⅜%	− 1⅛%

Date.	Issue Department.		Banking Department.			Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
	Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.		
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
Ap. 23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½
30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3½
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3½
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3½
28	417,185,525	356,131,548	13,241,450	58,963,730	35,906,848	516,679 out	3½
June 4	415,988,589	359,798,502	8,877,942	71,081,853	36,908,849	1,208,775 out	3½
11	416,261,457	364,002,267	8,238,879	58,822,236	35,383,438	269,124 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department.		Both Depts.	Banking Department.			
	Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Govt. Securities.	Discounts & Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Apr. 23	243912989	11629001	163843217 33⅛	58052629	6804492	10273976	61658812 51
30	243912989	11628274	164283793 34⅛	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916 53
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394 34⅛	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696 54
14	243908931	11629179	163347877 34⅛	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879 56
21	243910248	11629318	158443549 33⅛	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487 54
28	243909976	11629071	158116699 34⅛	45577629	6805493	11515774	61985151 52
June 4	243907347	11629215	156879085 32½	58380547	6476057	12716840	57080483 48
11	243907347	11629173	157180407 33⅛	46310547	6804409	13943043	53178140 51

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to May 28	16,624,047	773,676	1,260,507	18,658,230
Week ended June 4	755,588	36,939	54,472	846,999
Week ended June 11	651,227	30,063	53,930	735,220
Total to date, 1930	18,030,862	840,678	1,368,909	20,240,449
Total to date, 1929	17,956,310	861,035	1,392,662	20,210,007
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 74,552	− 20,357	− 23,753	+ 30,442
	= 0·4%	= 2·1%	= 1·7%	= 0·1%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of May.			Aggregate Weekly Totals Jan. 1 to June 7.	
	1929.	1930.	%	1929.	1930.
Number of Working days	26	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,216,000	11,403,000	+11·6	61,147,300	58,522,700
BRADFORD	5,124,000	3,544,000	−30·8	27,959,000	21,094,800
BRISTOL	4,808,000	5,098,000	+ 6·0	27,428,000	25,488,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	112,577,900	113,105,800
HULL	3,386,000	3,475,000	+ 2·6	20,257,400	18,629,700
LEEDS	4,245,000	4,294,000	+ 1·1	23,172,400	22,521,800
LEICESTER	3,070,000	2,973,000	− 3·1	18,235,400	16,701,500
LIVERPOOL	33,049,000	27,610,000	−16·4	183,517,900	157,630,100
MANCHESTER	51,107,000	45,726,000	−10·5	295,141,800	259,192,600
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,373,000	6,383,000	+ 0·1	...	...
NOTTINGHAM	2,536,000	2,492,000	− 0·7	13,287,690	13,923,300
SHEFFIELD	4,210,000	4,020,000	− 4·5	23,367,800	21,627,300
Total	128,124,000	117,018,000	− 8·6	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Egypt appeared in the *Economist* of May 17; Russia and Danzig in May 24; Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada and Czechoslovakia in June 7.

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

RESOURCES.	June 14, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,875,630	3,076,460	3,057,310	3,060,580	3,079,500
Total bills discounted	933,910	210,000	247,050	239,730	210,480
Bills bought in open market	114,120	186,880	175,560	189,240	148,170
Total U.S. Govt. securities	169,870	528,320	529,770	543,830	578,710
Total bills and securities	1,227,820	931,600	958,780	978,650	943,210
Total resources	5,150,750	4,951,350	4,902,360	4,973,470	4,951,200
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,644,220	1,452,660	1,465,870	1,457,320	1,447,000
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,328,230	2,374,170	2,346,800	2,411,730	2,408,800
Total deposits	2,376,220	2,438,910	2,420,850	2,464,520	2,463,200
Capital paid in and surplus	412,330	451,180	447,450	447,510	447,490
Total liabilities	5,150,750	4,951,350	4,902,360	4,973,470	4,951,200
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	75·2%	83·5%	82·9%	82·2%	83·0%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	June 14, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
Total bills discounted	225,700	29,280	52,830	48,570	28,140
Bills bought in open market	28,520	50,550	47,320	74,650	40,750
Total U.S. Govt. securities	45,340	178,060	179,050	182,880	200,530
Total bills and securities	301,470	262,290	283,600	309,950	273,260
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	940,090	971,590	990,890	999,540	1,005,500
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	80·3%	86·5%	84·8%	81·8%	85·7%

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

ASSETS.	May 17, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,950	7,599	7,529	7,512	7,090	6,935
Subsidiary coin	113	132	128	131	154	163
Bills discounted	8,415	7,689	7,884	8,220	7,934	7,923
Investments	616	1,049	1,104	1,104	1,109	1,110
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	600	600	719	720
Notes in circulation	8,318	7,642	7,726	8,946	8,048	7,565
Government deposits	1,803	2,103	2,462	1,499	1,547	2,113
Bankers' deposits	5,053	4,549	4,739	5,270	4,789	5,309
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	51·7%	51·6%	49·6%	47·9%	48·4%	46·5%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 17, 1929.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.
Total securities	23,35,00	29,86,19	29,78,46	29,81,46	29,69,74	29,58,41
Loans	11,64,38	14,00,25	12,46,27	12,97,61	13,42,04	13,61,73
Cash credits	29,31,93	32,44,54	32,08,72	32,20,38	32,72,23	32,10,01
Inland bills	8,06,22	5,77,14	5,97,21	5,45,12	4,92,91	4,98,86
Foreign bills	39,91	47,60	56,09	58,48	52,64	48,61
Dead stock	2,85,28	2,81,23	2,81,39	2,81,32	2,81,60	2,81,85
Bal. with other banks	16,05	31,67	17,65	10,26	5,66	35,16
Cash	13,96,04	12,01,78	16,17,03	15,79,91	13,29,17	15,44,16
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	78,14,06	84,28,70	86,54,94	86,37,99	84,07,07	85,99,28
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	979	1,060	1,100	1,090	942	1,074
Advances in London	937	2,128	2,275	2,279	2,202	2,138
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	121	240	132	69	44	264

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 30, 1930.	June 5, 1930.
Gold	36,602,836	43,187,320	43,802,414	43,808,866	43,817,560
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,512,884	6,896,477	6,878,890	6,872,940	6,878,201
Bills discounted	18,502,915	18,699,720	18,676,583	18,696,344	18,683,501
Commercial bills discounted at home	6,667,819	4,569,882	8,774,418	7,611,582	...
Advances against sec.					
To the State	8,968,689	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances	2,429,467	2,678,029	2,621,153	2,540,751	2,720,394
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,244,900	2,913,683	2,696,580	2,713,879	...
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	63,486,423	71,130,689	70,907,040	73,078,814	72,558,993
Public deposits	11,581,099	5,372,127	4,853,860	5,363,093	4,952,042
Private deposits	6,450,037	8,207,535	13,579,726	9,688,320	8,214,780
Other liabilities	2,387,473	2,329,618	2,704,270	2,708,993	...

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 6, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,764,424	2,585,859	2,591,135	2,618,781
Of which deposited abroad	59,147	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	308,548	342,678	350,844	379,754
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,856,514	1,519,662	1,958,223	1,803,516
Silver and other coin	120,009	167,772	128,610	131,321
Notes of other German banks	9,822	23,157	4,132	12,172
Advances	113,410	55,347	187,748	67,113
Investments	92,891	101,125	101,067	101,046
Other assets	491,699	618,529	596,393	612,753
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,372,539	4,045,769	4,812,469	4,572,744
Other daily maturing obligations	632,125	680,188	401,086	448,833
Other liabilities	310,257	192,245	210,670	210,952

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.

The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	June 6, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
Gold	(b)	980,796	1,196,267	1,199,790	1,199,765	1,199,846
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	477,160	665,057	672,925	672,455	706,540
Silver and other coin		1,690	4,053	4,060	4,091	4,110
Securities	697,600	736,825	819,528	829,883	830,211	803,892
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,475,729	2,902,796	2,874,990	2,909,367	2,922,749
Current accounts	112,125	80,426	119,729	150,283	120,459	93,634

(b) In thousand francs.

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	June 8, 1929.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold	22,971	161,744	166,400	166,400	166,300	166,700
Silver	29,785	23,020				
Discounts, advances, and other investments		77,567	143,154	146,100	147,100	147,500	141,400
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation		109,499	306,732	275,700	272,200	272,700	276,400
Deposits and bills payable		11,250	34,716	45,000	50,000	49,400	49,600

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 10, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 20, 1930.	June 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,126,000	5,203,600	5,203,600	5,205,600	5,205,600
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,925,700	5,025,100	5,072,300	5,078,800	5,036,900
Other cash	240,600	224,300	226,300	229,200	253,400
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,797,800	1,797,800
Discounts	3,577,200	2,974,700	2,911,500	2,883,000	2,865,200
Advances	1,323,800	1,383,600	1,181,000	847,900	1,074,900
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,045,000	755,400	755,400	755,400	753,000
Government securities	1,058,100	1,063,200	1,062,800	1,083,700	1,155,100
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,108,000	16,862,400	15,854,200	15,593,300	15,943,500
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,660,400	1,509,900	1,393,500	1,544,000	1,543,600
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·63%	57·23%	58·56%	58·92%	57·88%

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 8, 1929.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold	234,043	243,266	243,200	243,114	242,998
Government securities—Swedish	6,074	21,789	21,725	21,665	21,533
Foreign	75,705	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	164	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	265,610	92,678	88,613	84,555	98,118
" " abroad	62,994	127,952	125,920	117,346	111,174
Balance abroad	49,135	168,859	170,290	178,752	185,833
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	61,616	37,517	37,955	57,559	49,223
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	496,350	508,722	497,127	556,959	534,285
Government deposits	204,611	169,210	165,246	172,740	174,066
Private deposits	5,961	21,852	33,115	4,602	10,884

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	May 31, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,793	146,595	146,593	146,590
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	45,600	37,772	36,398	41,092
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,398	34,649	36,230	36,230
Discounts and loans	76,911	277,531	229,231	226,748	231,670
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	304,929	303,607	299,277	307,793
Deposits at sight	7,188	112,485	83,170	84,468	82,541

NATIONAL BANK OF DENMARK.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	May 31, 1929.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Coin and bullion	76,644	172,636	173,528	172,291	172,202	172,262
Loans & discounts	88,470	101,161	91,539	100,058	106,763	110,870
Debtors abroad	24,102	88,131	125,213	97,637	83,270	97,891
Securities	11,988	33,221	36,120	45,267	47,055	47,469
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	157,266	358,173	352,277	356,840	361,958	371,149
Deposits	6,698	28,742	29,007	30,768	30,842	30,488

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30, 1914.	June 8, 1929.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,560,808	2,470,071	2,470,389	2,470,575	2,470,810
Silver	728,600	717,676	712,619	717,642	718,312	715,231
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,091,026	2,006,013	1,956,136	2,012,143	2,012,782
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,311,348	4,436,864	4,382,630	4,391,123	4,444,652
Deposits	477,500	940,425	844,500	842,206	841,708	828,028

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

ASSETS.	May 29, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,697	9,048	9,042	9,014	8,996
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	300,183	219,974	223,631	217,119	218,011
Discounts	280,690	325,170	327,452	323,415	323,429
Government loans	1,718,547	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,813,363	1,901,080	1,878,653	1,862,107	1,861,281
Deposits	54,670	71,793	65,365	73,312	101,467

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,634	168,575	168,557	168,557
Foreign exchange	195,148	230,520	231,223	235,103	257,702
Other foreign exchange†	343,306	364,290	364,803	368,981	393,765
Bills discounted	225,372	130,018	102,622	87,796	132,675
Gov. Debt	109,811	101,532	101,532	101,532	101,532
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	10,272	10,272	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	997,795	911,777	873,904	845,418	1,021,864
Deposits	47,639	89,897	101,798	123,941	39,137

† *In dollar and sterling only.*

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengo (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,623	162,631	163,631	162,632	162,633
Drafts and notes	18,613	13,916	10,566	12,227	18,805
Silver coin and bullion	9,823	9,977	10,094	10,317	9,905
Inland bills, warrants and securities	380,741	218,562	201,771	198,389	219,584
Advances to the Treasury	92,218	82,831	82,831	82,831	82,831
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Notes in circulation	446,354	429,468	397,458	368,051	440,940
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	190,114	40,917	49,475	76,061	30,895

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 5, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,850	23,992	23,995	23,997	24,001	24,005
Silver coin	4,854	7,047	7,265	7,389	7,371	7,405
Balance abroad	50,999	52,220	50,756	50,338	49,085	48,941
Treas. notes and sm. change	13,535	13,853	16,457	16,917	15,420	15,200
Short term bills	88,407	90,591	90,244	89,939	89,290	89,952
Loans against securities	57,878	55,904	55,421	56,017	56,283	56,054
Other assets	17,604	15,316	14,337	14,372	14,701	14,916
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	43,449	46,613	44,364	44,083	45,078	44,689
Capital paid up	18,581	18,735	18,734	18,735	18,736	18,736
Reserve	3,090	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	13,076	17,109	17,123	17,194	17,225	17,362
Current accounts	51,874	55,357	57,228	58,464	59,605	57,172
Government accounts	112,088	108,812	108,456	103,801	100,603	103,782
Other liabilities	15,469	4,446	4,718	8,838	7,053	6,881

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000 s omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 8, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	92,583	96,714	96,838	96,917	97,019
Other coin and notes	18,443	18,198	18,570	18,717	18,022
Foreign credits	228,710	261,329	231,352	252,229	251,659
Bills	1,253,866	1,100,930	1,095,299	1,093,883	1,067,716
Government advances	4,201,094	4,121,399	4,119,398	4,117,498	4,113,407
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,092,016	12,531	12,531	12,531	12,531
State credits	227,824	5,286,280	5,143,438	5,866,342	5,280,705
Deposits	1,049,640	1,853,384	1,816,277	1,946,612	1,658,176

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA.—In lei (000 s omitted).

ASSETS.	Apr. 26, 1930.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May 24, 1930.
Gold & gold exchange	11,419,312	11,151,273	10,969,358	10,860,158	10,771,761
Commercial bills	9,541,290	9,420,634	9,381,861	9,145,659	8,945,029
State debt, advances to State, &c.	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426	5,797,426
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	19,253,862	19,080,312	19,104,165	19,069,468	18,677,000
Other sight liabilities	7,944,354	7,846,079	7,497,718	7,259,869	7,402,977

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,531,392	1,578,246	1,579,051	1,580,208	1,581,367
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,094,865	814,052	759,720	805,802	857,689
Discounts and advances	1,522,999	1,078,447	1,078,896	1,005,275	982,888
Advances to the Treasury	3,645,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,171,188	1,250,270	1,253,600	1,253,624	1,253,724
Bank notes in circulation	3,977,155	3,448,592	3,395,457	3,409,092	3,364,123
Sight liabilities	2,875,601	1,633,179	1,600,611	1,576,959	1,705,562
Deposits	458,438	313,687	309,048	308,852	288,427

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May. 31, 1930.
Gold	581,393	621,770	611,839	612,857	603,099
Gold exchange	5,526,961	3,864,962	3,799,130	3,727,863	3,783,277
Other foreign exchange	1,354	2,607	2,414	3,232	3,023
Bills discounted	37,382	92,731	92,002	94,926	97,183
Advances	79,730	141,330	144,254	141,902	143,566
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,414,846	4,946,667	4,902,686	4,886,407	4,942,696
Deposits and current accounts	1,801,620	1,453,263	1,494,031	1,420,501	1,460,035
Foreign exchange liabilities	2,318,738	1,254,335	1,191,065	1,171,298	1,118,844

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 20, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	624,428	702,185	702,234	702,290	702,355
Of which held abroad	195,402	219,046	219,046	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies	538,478	409,589	416,968	391,428	379,979
Bills discounted	742,207	590,563	593,137	583,198	594,354
Loans against securities	92,456	86,959	80,061	79,849	87,418
Reserve fund securities	68,948	83,171	83,162	83,162	84,150
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,244	1,325,985	1,255,861	1,200,609	1,332,,684
Current accounts	532,132	301,738	354,376	378,054	252,388
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	May 31, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,101	303,127	302,952	302,824
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	586,969	1,160,773	1,144,527	1,170,595
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,708	342,942	342,942	351,441
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,515,362	928,408	921,292	903,292
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,480,876	1,368,653	1,333,860	1,391,667
Deposits at notice	21,225	191,350	247,239	246,772	221,879

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 7, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,295	6,476	6,486	6,493	6,500
Net foreign exchange	19,296	17,983	17,161	17,117	16,918
Subsidiary Estonian coin	765	1,581	1,721	1,553	1,606
Home bills discounted	14,422	14,269	14,720	14,502	14,620
Loans and advances	13,548	11,681	11,749	11,746	12,008*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	31,587	31,380	29,950	31,645	30,812
Sight deposits and current accounts	18,240	16,983	17,645	14,537	15,503
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	51·35%	50·57%	49·68%	51·12%	50·56%

* Includes Ekr. 6,923,637·94, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LITHUANIA.—In lt. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 15, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Gold	34,361	35,187	35,193	35,199	35,203	35,223
Silver	4,401	4,160	4,123	4,178	4,265	4,269
State Treasury coins	1,820	1,686	1,672	1,672	1,673	1,659
Foreign currency	39,017	81,268	77,642	73,712	71,699	72,966
Discount and credit	83,531	89,629	92,495	94,261	96,212	96,165
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve	1,350	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553	1,553
Banknotes in circulation	85,488	101,381	102,135	101,815	96,068	97,968
Deposits	68,988	98,020	97,701	94,130	99,586	98,930

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30,1914	May 25, 1929.	May 3, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May. 24, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,129,599	935,630	929,936	932,757	924,612
Discounts	41,740	704,882	671,058	659,647	655,407	657,276
Advances	70,540	76,573	75,966	76,323	76,019	76,078
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362,270	1,188,162	1,166,821	1,067,867	1,032,373	1,075,275
Govt. deposits	87,340	530,347	417,240	423,378	427,709	414,880
Other deposits	11,440	411,057	291,788	368,000	385,139	352,306

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 17, 1929.	Apr. 18, 1930.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.
Gold at home	61,305	63,245	83,236	63,233	63,239
Gold abroad	466,714	336,006	197,386	331,817	338,726
Discounts and advances	69,994	98,411	109,256	125,361	112,730
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	369,867	350,239	345,571	354,021	349,160
Deposits	154,849	75,431	80,675	80,492	80,734
Paid-up capital	90,625	90,832	90,832	90,832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Jne. 5, 1930.	Jne. 6, 1930.	Jne. 7, 1930.	Jne. 9, 1930.	Jne. 10, 1930.	Jne. 11, 1930.	Jne. 12, 1930.
	%	%	%		%	%	%
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	3	3	3	Bank Holiday	3	3	3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2¼	2 3/16	2 3/16		2 3/16—¼	2¼—⅝	2¼
3 months' do.	2⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16		2 3/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16
4 months' do.	2¼	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16		2 5/16—⅜	2⅜—7/16	2⅜
6 months' do.	2½	2½	2½		2½	2½	2½
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16		2 3/16	2¼—5/16	2¼—5/16
3 months'‡	2⅛	2 5/32—3/16	2 5/32—3/16		2 3/16	2¼	2¼
Loans—Day to day	1½—2	1½—2	1½—2		2 —2½	2 —2¾	2½—3
Short	1¾—2	1¾—2	1¾—2		2	2	2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1		1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1		1	1	1
At notice	1¼	1¼	1¼		1¼	1¼	1¼

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	4 Months.	6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May 22	2—2¼	2⅛—3/16	2¼—5/16	2 7/16—½	3	3½	4
29	2	2⅛—3/16	2¼	2 7/16—½	3	3½	4
June 5	1¾—2	2⅛	2¼	2½	3	3½	4
12	2	2¼—5/16	2⅜	2½	3—¼	3½—¾	3¾—4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	June 13, 1929.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·84 15/16–·85	4·85⅞–·85 15/16	4·85 13/16–·85⅞
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅔	4·89 1/16–·89 3/16	4·85 13/16–·85 15/16	4·85¾–85⅞
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	124–124 1/16	123·90–·92	123·80–·82
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·33⅞–·34⅛	20·36–36¼	20·35¾–36¼
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07¾–·07⅞	12·08¼–·08⅜	12·08–·08¼
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·91½–·92	34·81½–·81¾	34·81½–81¾
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67–·70	92·74–·77	92·73–·75
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·20–·20½	25·09½–·10	25·07–07½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–·20	18·15–·15½	18·15–·15½
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·12½–·13	18·10–·10½	18·09½–·09¾
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–·20½	18·16–16½	18·15½–·15¾
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	33·91–·93	40·01–·03	41·18–·22
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108–108½	108¼–⅜	108¼–⅜
Vienna	schilgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·51–·54	34·43–·46	34·43–·46
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164¼	163⅝–163⅞	163⅝–⅞	163⅝–⅞
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¾–276	274⅞–275⅜	274½–275
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–·84	27·77–·81	27·77–·81
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	816–818	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	665–675	665–675
Athens	drachmæ to £1	T.T.	375	374½–375	375–375½	374½–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1004–1007	1025	1025 offd.
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·41½–·43½	†9·43 1/16–·45 1/16	†9·434–453
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 5/16–7/16	43¼–⅜	43¼–⅜
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192¾–193	192¾–193	192¾–193
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48½–49½	48½–49	48½–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–·23½	18·22–·29	18·22–·29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–·25	25·17–·27	25·17–·27
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97½	97 13/16–15/16	97 7/16–9/16	97 7/16–9/16
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47½–47 9/16	42 9/16–11/16	41 15/16–42 1/16
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 21/64–27/64	5¼–⅜	5 11/16–13/16
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½–48	45½–45⅝	44½–44⅝
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·59	39·93	39·91½
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19½% prem.	13·02½	13·02½
Calcutta	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–1/5 29/32	1/5 13/16–15/16	1/5 13/16–27/32
Bombay	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–1/5 29/32	1/5 13/16–15/16	1/5 13/16–27/32
Madras	pence to rupee	T.T.	18	1/5 27/32–1/5 29/32	1/5 13/16–15/16	1/5 13/16–27/32
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11 11/16–13/16	1/3–1/4	1/3¾–⅞
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/4 15/16–2/5 1/16	1/6–1/6¼	1/6¼–1/6⅜
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 13/16–2/3 15/16	2/3 11/16–13/16	2/3 11/16–13/16
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/9¾–1/9 27/32	2/0 15/32–17/32	2/0 13/32–15/32
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 1/16d.	†2/0 1/16	†2/0 1/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·10–10·20	10·15–·35	10·15–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅜	1/10⅜	1/10⅜

† Rate for previous day. ‡ 90 day sight.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½
Belgrade	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Berlin	May 19, 1930	5	4½
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve	May 1, 1930	3½	3
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	{6† 7‡}
Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Swiss Bank places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	May 23, 1930	6	5½
Warsaw	Mar. 14, 1930	8	7
Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
‡ 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	June 13, 1929.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	8	3	3	3	3	3
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Bank acceptances:—		Selling Rates.				
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅝	2⅝	2½	2½	2½	2½
Non-mem. eligible, 90 days	5⅝	2⅝	2½	2½	2½	2½
Ineligible, 90 days	6⅛	3	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞	2⅝
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅝	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	June 13, 1929.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
London— 60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79 9/16	4·83⅝	4·83½	4·83⅝
Cable			4·84 13/16	4·86	4·85⅞	4·85¾
Cheques			4·84 5/16	4·85¾	4·85⅝	4·85½
Paris ......cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90625	3·92	3·91 15/16	3·92⅜
Brussels ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88½	13·95	13·94½	13·94½
Switzerland ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23½	19·35	19·35½	19·37½
Italy ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·22⅞	5·23 11/16	5·23½	5·23½
Berlin ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·81	23·85½	23·85	23·84½
Vienna ,,	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·045	14·10	14·10	14·09½
Madrid ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·30	12·21	12·125	11·93
Amsterdam ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12	40·19½	40·19½	40·18½
Copenhagen ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·75	26·74½	26·74½
Oslo ,,			26·62	26·75	26·75	26·75
Stockholm ,,			26·73	26·83	26·82½	26·83
Athens ,,	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29⅝	1·29⅝	1·29⅝	1·29 11/16
Montreal ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	11/32 dis.	1/64 dis.	1/64 dis.	1/128 dis.
Yokohama ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	43·8	49·38	49·40	49·40
Hong Kong ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	47·35	34·30	30·80	31·60
Shanghai ,,	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	57·85	42¼	36·50	38·62½
Calcutta ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	35·95	35·97	35·90	35·90
Buenos Aires ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	105·10	115·20	115·70	116·70
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·85	11·75	11·70	11·50
Valparaiso ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·00	12·02

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·56
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	26·00
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·92
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates;—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅜% prem.
Demand	1¼% dis.	⅝% ,,	1/16% dis.	⅜ to 7/16% ,,
30 days	1½% ,,	15/16% ,,	⅜% ,,	7/16% ,,
60 days	2¼% ,,	⅞% ,,	1¼% ,,	9/16% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	1 3/16% ,,	1¾% ,,	11/16% ,,
20 days	3⅞% ,,	1⅞% ,,	2 5/16% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	New Zealand.	Selling. Australia.	New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106½	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93½	95	105⅝	103½	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 1/16	93 1/16	...	...	104¾	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91¼	92¼	...	...	104 1/16	102½	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 11/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104¾	103½

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Reserve was held on May 31, 1930:—

	£	£
In India		Nil
In England:		
Cash at the Bank of England	3,633	
Gold	2,152,334	
British Treasury Bills:—Value as on May 31, 1930	10,422,407	
Other British and Dominion Government Securities:—At or below market value as on May 31, 1930	27,421,626	
		40,000,000
		£40,000,000

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended June 12, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
Venezuela	3,900	Poland	1,700
British West Africa	36,495	Germany	3,400
British South Africa	975,785	France	25,255
Australia	70,000	Switzerland	18,840
		Austria	10,790
		Kenya	2,120
		British Indies	84,858
		Other countries	520
Total declared value of imports	1,086,180	Total declared value of exports	147,483

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
June 6		Nil	June 6		Nil
,, 7		Nil	,, 7		Nil
,, 10	Sovs.	500,000	,, 10		Nil
	Foreign gold coin	14	,, 11	Bar gold	230,739
,, 11		Nil	,, 12	Bars sold	101,417
,, 12	Sovs. released	500,000			
	Total	1,000,014		Total	332,156

Net arrivals, £667,858

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Co. write on June 11, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £155,988,589 on the 4th instant (as compared with £157,185,525 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £10,028,505 since January 1st last. An interesting position has arisen in the London gold market owing to the fact that the Bank of England is now giving out bars of standard fineness (about 9166/10000) instead of fine bars (ranging from 9950/10000 upwards) which buyers had been accustomed to receive from that institution. Under the Gold Standard Act of 1925 the Bank of England is entitled to sell bars of any fineness provided not lower than the standard of sovereigns (916⅔-1000). For many months past the Bank's stock of fine gold bars has been heavily depleted by withdrawals for the Continent, whilst the bulk of its receipts has been in the form of sovereigns, as will be seen by the following figures:—

From June 1, 1929, to May 31, 1930.

Bar Gold. Received.	Withdrawn.	Sovereigns. Received from abroad.	Withdrawn for export.
£18,334,000	£63,615,000	£39,651,000	£452,000

It is therefore only natural that the Bank should decide to exercise its legal right of selling bar gold of standard fineness only. As the Bank of France does not accept bars of a lower fineness than 9950, a consequence of this change of practice is to lower the Gold Export point to France by the cost of refining the standard gold, and accordingly the rate fell rapidly yesterday from about 123·88 to 123·70 when the Bank's decision became known. It will be readily understood that there was unusually keen demand for the £476,000 of bar gold from South Africa in the open market to-day, as this was the only fine gold available for France. All but £30,000, which was required for India and the trade, was bought by France at the fixed price of 85s. 0⅜d. per fine ounce, a premium of ⅞d. for delivery of fine gold being established over 84s. 11½d., which has been the maximum price for dealings in the open market since the restoration of the Gold Standard in 1925. Movements of gold at the Bank of England during the week resulted in a net influx of £269,124. Receipts included £500,000 in sovereigns from South Africa. The withdrawals amounted to about £230,000, all in the form of bar gold—taken from the Bank to-day for despatch to France after refining.

SILVER.

The market continues in a very sensitive state, and during the week under review there have been violent fluctuations in the prices, resulting in a net gain of ⅜d. for cash and 5/16d. for forward delivery over the record low level reached last Wednesday. A fair amount of support has been received from both China and India to cover bear positions, but at the higher level China is inclined to make fresh forward sales. America on the whole, has not been very active. The outlook is still very uncertain, and is likely to continue so whilst the situation in China remains unaltered.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 2nd instant to mid-day on the 7th instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
Mexico	189,792	China (including Hong Kong)	83,583
Germany	6,340	British India	156,274
Greece	13,850	Other countries	3,364
Canada	8,213		
Other countries	620		
	£218,815		£243,221

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	May 31.	May 22.	May 15.
Notes in circulation	16,778	17,065	17,341
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,053	11,043	11,011
Silver coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,228	3,228	3,228
Gold coin and bullion out of India	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	2,436	2,750	3,058
Securities (British Government)	61	44	44

The stocks in Shanghai on the 7th instant consisted of about 100,900,000 ounces in sycee, 146,000,000 dollars, 13,700,000 Saigon dollars and 11,320 silver bars, as compared with about 100,700,000 ounces in sycee, 144,000,000 dollars, 14,500,000 Saigon dollars and 10,560 silver bars on the 31st ultimo.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
June 6	84 11½	16½	16 3/16	June 20, 1924	34 13/16
„ 7	84 11½	16 13/16	16⅝	„ 19, 1925	31 11/16
„ 9	Bank	Holiday		„ 18, 1926	30 7/16
„ 10	84 11½	16⅞	16 11/16	„ 17, 1927	26⅜
„ 11	85 0⅜	16 7/16	16¼	„ 14, 1928	27⅝
„ 12	85 0½	16 7/16	16	„ 13, 1929	24 5/16

NOTICES.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening of the following new branches: High Street, Sidmouth; 70, Bond Street, South Shore, Blackpool.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce that they have opened a new branch at St. Helen's Square, York.

Lloyds Bank Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at Newerne, Lydney.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., announce that an agency has been opened at Bwana Mkubwa, Northern Rhodesia.

The National Provincial Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at 77 and 79, Ebury Street, S.W.1.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new sub-branch at Hilgay, Norfolk.

A branch of the Bank of London and South America, Ltd., has been opened at Avellaneda, in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING
IS CO-OPERATION PRACTICABLE?
By HARTLEY WITHERS

THE MARKET FUTURE
OF THE
REPARATIONS BONDS

ROYAL MAIL FINANCE

LEADING OIL REPORTS
SHELL-ROYAL DUTCH-ANGLO PERSIAN

SEE
The Investors' Chronicle and Money Market Review
THIS WEEK.

The Investors' Chronicle may be obtained at all bookstalls and newsagents throughout the country, price 6d., or from

The Publisher:
"THE INVESTORS' CHRONICLE"
20 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

Company News.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Ord. shares (£1)	13,425,000	...
8% cum. pref.	7,000,000	...
9% cum. pref.	3,500,000	...
5% deb. stock	5,304,500	+ 179,500
6½% notes	...	− 739,584
Deposits by subsidiary cos.	2,361,205	+ 909,992
Sundry creditors	5,984,354	+2,947,452
Reserves	7,908,129	+1,800,000
Profit and loss	3,357,064	− 329,425
Total	48,840,252	+4,767,935

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Properties	5,533,969	− 390,973
Stocks	1,349,045	+ 167,457
Investments in subsidiaries—Shares at cost or under	15,426,329	+ 422,674
Advances	8,815,018	−2,803,843
Investments in allied cos.	4,081,414	+3,198,372
Stocks of crude oil, &c.	4,169,162	+ 475,843
Sundry debtors.	4,065,694	+ 756,389
Cash	2,120,118	− 76,059
Investments in BritishGovernment stocks	3,279,503	+ 494,615
Total	48,840,252	+4,767,935

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Ord. stock	5,000,000	...
5% pref. stock	900,000	...
6½% cum. stock	2,900,000	...
4½% deb. stock	1,400,000	...
5% deb. stock	5,100,000	...
Div. int. accrued	127,200	− 81,400
Divs. unclaimed	1,068	− 402
Reserve fund	1,450,000	...
Insurance acct.	1,040,133	− 291,580
Bills payable	269,016	− 152,455
Passage money prepaid	206,407	
Creditors	551,861	− 388,522
Deposits—Subsidiaries	216,783	
Allied cos.	41,317	
Profit and loss	151,422	− 45,457
Total	19,355,207	− 959,816

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928.
	£	£
Fleet at cost	3,377,507	− 2,876,248
Coal and stores	75,776	+ 5,834
Premises	1,384,650	− 144,360
Plant	49,000	+ 21,000
Unex. insurances	10,107	+ 1,011
Loans to and due by—Subsid. cos.	163,441	− 78,691
Allied cos.	398,455	
Investmts. in—Subsids. at cost	7,670,000	
Allied cos. at cost	3,455,317	
Other subsidiaries at cost	140,000	+12,446,904
Other allied cos. at cost	1,240,000	
Sundry investments at cost	296,982	
Freights	200,857	+ 41,600
Pending voyages	164,628	+ 7,847
Cash, bills, rec., &c.	590,487	− 524,093
Discount and expenses, deb. issue	144,000	− 18,000
Total	19,355,207	− 959,816

J. LYONS AND CO., LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ordinary shares	400,000	...
"A" ordinary	1,203,773	+ 7,500
5% pref. shares	647,065	...
7% pref.	4,000,000	...
8% pref. shares	1,000,000	...
6% pref. ord. shrs.	400,000	...
Prop. profit shares	500,000	...
"B" prop. profit shares	225,000	...
4% deb. stock	300,000	...
4½% deb. stock	18,029	− 2,760
4¼% deb. stock	125,000	...
6% deb. stock	66,820	...
Mortgages	1,794,926	+ 60,023
Interests accrued	28,571	+ 2,100
Creditors	2,224,701	− 127,877
Subsidiary cos.	215,559	+ 215,559
Divs. uncl'aimed	3,622	+ 144
Reserve	1,200,000	+ 125,000
Profit and loss	410,129	− 8,019
Total	14,763,195	+ 271,871

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929.
	£	£
Land, buildings, &c.	9,927,679	− 54,803
Stock	2,870,191	+ 13,726
Debtors	593,817	− 250,794
Investments in associated cos.	228,717	+ 6,181
Cash	540,715	− 44,715
Subsidiary cos.: Shares at cost or under	417,254	
Loans	159,677	+ 602,076
Current acc'nts	25,145	
Total	14,763,195	+ 271,871

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

May 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Compared with May 31, 1929.
	£	£
Ord. shares, £1	2,492,224	+ 492,224
5% cum. pref., £5	2,000,000	...
Creditors	1,220,901	− 597,878
Capital reserve	610,000	+ 45,000
Reserves—Share premium account	4,476,672	+1476672
Insurance act	150,000	...
Equalisation of dividends	300,000	...
Saleships extension	300,000	...
Buildings	370,000	+ 85,000
Allocations—Officers' & servants' pensns.		
Provident & welfare fund	25,000	...
Land settlemt. & advertising	12,000	...
Edmonton improvements	...	− 8,000
Land account	7,200	− 240,400
Profit and loss	1,469	− 373,697
Final dividend	314,667	+ 314,667
Total	12,555,133	+1193588

ASSETS.	Amount.	Compared with May 31, 1929
	£	£
Cash	315,823	+ 221,675
New issue	1,565	+ 1,565
Freehold & leasehold premises in London	996,000	− 945
Shares in other companies	783,317	+ 16,352
Debtors	1,523,508	+ 218,370
Ships & steamers	76,900	− 9,634
Merchandise on land and in transit	2,880,218	− 226,173
Land, buildings, & equipment in Canada	5,342,600	+ 365,013
Suspense account	635,202	+ 607,365
Total	12,555,133	+1193588

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Ordinary. Amount.	Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Dividend.
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of British West Africa	Mar. 31	53,611	121,822	175,433	...	72,000	6	50,000	53,433	128,331	6
Hambros Bank	...	91,073	320,869	411,942	...	195,150	22½ 6A	125,000	91,792	347,670	22½ 6A
Electric Lighting, &c.											
Madras Electric Supply Co.	Dec. 31	6,906	65,868	72,774	17,974	37,856	8*	9,500	7,444	65,933	8*
Financial Land, &c.											
Armstrong, Whitworth Securities	Dec. 31	...	64,141	64,141	...	...	...	54,426	11,715	...	...
Hudson's Bay Co.	May 31	[161,000	297,670	458,670	100,000	350,000	17½†	...	8,670	460,916	25†
Java Investment Loan &c.	Mar. 31	23,871	52,991	76,862	...	31,500	10	21,684	23,678	56,176	12½
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Lyons (J.) and Co.	Mar. 31	17,308	935,871	953,179	416,353	403,600	22½	100,000	33,226	908,950	22½
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Pease and Partners	Mar. 31	*Dr1060634*	*Dr.95,148*	*Dr1155782*	...	...	...	...	*Dr1155782*	*Dr222615*	...
Motor and Cycle.											
Karrier Motors	Dec. 31	*Dr327,117*	2,096	*Dr325,021*	...	...	...	...	*Dr325021*	...	...
Oil.											
Anglo-Persian Oil	Dec. 31	1,204,018	4,643,046	5,847,064	875,000	3,885,000	20	1,600,000	687,064	2832958§	12½
Rubber, &c.											
Batang Consolidated Rubber	Dec. 31	15,049	135,51	28,600	...	11,679	6	...	16,921	6,004	...
Dahan Rubber Estates	Dec. 31	529	*Dr. 4,000*	*Dr. 3,471*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.3,471*	...	...
Emerald Rubber & Cocoanut	Jan. 31	15,519	19,015	34,534	...	11,288	6	8,000	15,246	21,595	8
Hongkong (Selangor)	Dec. 31	2,266	11,437	13,703	...	5,625	12½	3,500	4,578	2,361	5
Malacca Rubber Plantations	Dec. 31	24,246	35,216	69,462	8,625	...	...	5,000	55,837	44,872	7½
Nirmala (Java) Plantations	Dec. 31	2,346	8,258	10,604	1,631	6,917	2½	250	1,806	1,698	...
Riverside (Selangor) Rubber	Dec. 31	533	4,162	4,695	...	...	...	1,000	3,695	6,035	4
Rubber Estates of Kriar	Dec. 31	59	8,841	8,900	...	6,000	5	...	2,900	6,093	5
Scottish Malay Rubber	Dec. 31	2,275	5,237	7,512	...	...	...	3,000	4,512	18,058	6
Shipping.											
Royal Mail Steam Packet	Dec. 31	46,879	336,149	383,028	116,750	...	...	114,855	151,423	457,216	5
Tea.											
Assam Consolidated Tea	Dec. 31	7,403	11,811	19,214	16,000	...	...	2,881	333	46,103	5
Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea	Dec. 31	16,410	3,482	19,892	4,750	3,000	2½	...	12,142	25,406	12½
British Indian Tea	Apr. 30	20,421	13,266	33,687	825	12,773	15	350	19,739	21,171	25
East India and Ceylon Tea	Dec. 31	10,031	6,073	16,104	6,000	...	...	...	10,104	16,588	10
Endogram Tea	Dec. 31	216	*Dr. 3,048*	*Dr. 2,832*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.2,832*	...	...
Glentaffe Tea Estates	Dec. 31	1,313	2,790	4,103	...	...	...	...	4,103	1,279	4
Noyapara Tea	Dec. 31	25,263	8,260	33,523	...	7,500	7½	...	26,023	12,251	15
Textiles.											
Bleachers' Assn.	Mar. 31	282,818	666,391	749,209	136,613	254,582	6⅝	278,600	279,414	800,107	10
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
British Electric Traction	Mar. 31	...	253,081	253,081	56,281	131,253	8 p.o.‡ 15 d.o.	65,547	...	196,996	8p.o. 5d.o.
Lisbon Electric Tramways	Dec. 31	16,880	178,311	195,191	25,533	106,573	7*	35,000	28,085	161,399	7*
Worcester Electric Traction	Dec. 31	2,144	5,121	7,265	...	4,770	5	...	2,495	8,113	5
Trust.											
Indian and General Investment	Apr. 30	...	29,876	29,876	7,351	19,171	18	3,354	...	25,848	18
Second Co-operative Investment Trust	Mar. 31†	5,737	28,664	34,401	1,327	26,793	2½	...	6,281	32,428	3
Witan Investment Co.	Apr. 15	21,841	234,043	255,884	51,480	114,400	10	65,000	25,004	...	...
Waterworks.											
Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water	Mar. 31	10,031	24,855	34,886	...	20,684	7	...	14,202	32,130	7
Other Companies.											
Associated Biscuit Manufacturers	Mar. 31	3,187	198,807	201,994	45,201	140,014	11*	12,936	3,843	197,601	13½*
Brownlee and Co.	Mar. 31	38,597	52,213	90,810	3,937	31,495	10*	15,000	40,378	53,770	10*
Callender's Cable &c.	Dec. 31	570,246	330,412	900,658	56,000	167,400	15	248,730	428,528	297,081	15
Crosse and Blackwell	Dec. 31	60,071	211,204	271,274	168,750	...	...	50,000	52,525	202,081	...
Dominion Gramophone Records (Foreign and Colonial)	Dec. 31	...	*Dr. 19,511*	*Dr. 19,511*	...	...	...	...	*Dr19,511*	...	...
Hart (Thomas)	Mar. 31	2,082	5,247	7,329	...	3,487	15	...	3,842	4,081	15
Hovis	Mar. 31	21,498	89,777	111,275	9,600	47,100	15	32,000	22,575	87,851	15
Lewis (Henry G.) and Co.	Dec. 31	2,002	51,832	53,834	...	...	...	50,000	3,834	72,203	...
Molassine Co.	Mar. 31	1,679	30,050	31,729	12,100	8,621	10.3 d.s. 2/1.9 d.s.	9,755	1,243	18,745	34½
Selangor Oil Palm	Dec. 31	3,031	2,925	5,956	...	...	...	...	5,956	...	...
Shorts	Mar. 31	3,038	45,167	48,205	15,500	26,250	15	3,000	3,455	45,760	15
Trowbridge Tyre & Rubber Co. (1929)	Mar. 31‡	...	3,137	3,137	...	...	...	...	3,137	...	...
Williamson (H.)	Mar. 31	...	*Dr. 5,589*	*Dr. 5,589*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 5,589*	*Dr63,794*	...

* Free of income tax. † For six months. ‡ Period from March 5, 1929, to March 31, 1930. § About 15 months.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CALLENDER'S CABLE AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LTD.—Total profit for 1929 was £684,369, against £625,723 for 1928. General expenses amounted to £207,142, against £197,869. The sum of £50,000 is again set aside for depreciation. Provision for income tax again absorbs £10,000, while pension fund also has £10,000 allocated to it as before. The ordinary dividend is again 15 per cent., but absorbs £167,400, against £120,000 for 1928. Last year's carry-forward was £570,246, but of this £238,730 has been transferred to reserve, making the amount brought in £331,516, which has been increased to £428,528, the amount carried forward to 1930. The meeting will be held on June 19th, in the Great Hall, River Plate House, London, at noon.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.—The net profit for year ended May 31, 1930, was £218,469, as compared with £475,083 for preceding year. Including the amount brought in and £150,000 transferred from the land account, there is available £529,469, as against £789,334, which figure included £200,000 from land account. The ordinary dividend is reduced from 25 per cent. to 17½ per cent. The former figure included a dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, in respect of sales of land, while this year's dividend from the same source is only 7½ per cent., tax free. Interest on new issue absorbed £58,000, and the carry-forward is reduced from £161,000 to £1,469. Meeting, Beaver House, E.C.4, June 27th, at 11.30 a.m.

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY, LTD.—Mr. F. Massingberd Rogers, of Greater London and Counties Trust, Ltd., the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Hilton Young, P.C., G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P., Mr Percy Horsfall, of Messrs Lazard Brothers and Company, Ltd., and Colonel Wade Hampton Hayes, of Chase Securities Corporation, have joined the board of the company, and, in accordance with the scheme for reorganisation of the capital of the company, the following directors have resigned, viz. : Sir Charles E. Ellis, G.B.E., K.C.B., Sir John A. F. Aspinall, D.Eng., M.Inst.C.E., and Lt.-Col. Sir John H. Mansell, K.B.E., D.L.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div.			Dividend for Whole Years.	
	Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Latest Year.	Previous Year.
BANKS.				%	%
Bank of British West Africa	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Guaranty Trust of New York	1½%†	...	Tax free	10	9
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Badek Rubber	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Besoeki Plantations	5%†	...	Less tax	8	15
Bogawanta Town Tea	22½%†	...	Less tax	32½	30
Darby Tea	2½%	July 3	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Assam Tea	...	...	Less tax	10	20
MINING.					
Ayar Hitam Tin	2½%*	July 10	Less tax	...	...
Pari Tin	2½%*	June 26	Less tax	...	...
Southern Tronoh Tin	2½%*	July 10	Less tax	...	...
Tronoh Mines	5%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Barclay Perkins and Co.	7%†	...	Less tax	11	11
Barrow Paper Mill	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Cardinal Investment Trust (Def.)	6%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Charrington, Gardner, Locket	10%†	...	Less tax	20	...
Forsters Glass	...	...	Less tax	5	5
General Securities Invest. Trust.	4%†	...	Less tax	7½	7½
Goldsbrough, Mort and Co.	5%†	...	Less tax	10	15
Greenwood and Batley	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds	5%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Henekeys	8%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Lautaro Nitrate (Prefd.)	3/6 p.s.	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Millars' Timber (Pref.)	3%	July 2	Less tax	...	...
Mirlees, Bickerton and Day	...	...	Less tax	7	7
Nasmyth Wilson	...	...	Less tax	5	7½
Rawang Concessions	2½%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...
Ribble Motor Services	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
New Zealand & River Plate Land	4½%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Seymour Mead	...	...	Less tax	8	10
Shawinigan Water and Power	8‖	July 10	Tax free	...	...
South African Breweries	12½%†	...	Tax free	17½	16⅔
Stuttaford and Co.	4½%	...	Tax free	...	...
Tempus Shipping	2½%†	...	Tax free	5	5

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Winter crops in the United Kingdom continue to progress satisfactorily under favourable climatic conditions, colour being restored to the wheat plant, which now appears strong and healthy. Spring cereals have also benefited by warmth and sunshine, and give every prospect of full yields. Trading in native wheat continues restricted, and prices are without material change, with offerings on a light scale. Quiet conditions also prevailed on the import market under holiday influences, trading being confined to Indian descriptions, which offer freely, with occasional sales of Canadian and Argentine grades. Prices, however, displayed some irregularity, early advances occasioned by firm overseas advices being subsequently lost owing to increased selling pressure, and improved crop conditions both in Europe and the principal exporting countries. The market just now is particularly sensitive to weather and crop reports, so that prices fluctuate almost daily, and will continue to do so until harvest. Meanwhile, a large carry-over is assured, as the restricted requirements of European importers can account for only a small portion of the North American surplus during the remaining seven weeks of the cereal year. There is a fair demand for home milled flour, and the general tone is firm, while little pressure arises to sell North American makes for shipment. Imported fully steady on spot, with moderate inquiries, best Canadian makes being rather scarce. A rather better movement resulted in feeding stuffs, and in view of the interruption to Argentine maize shipments by adverse climatic conditions, more attention is given to afloat and early loadings. Danubian and South African exporters offer with reserve in face of improved inquiries for both afloat and shipment supplies. Barley ruled easier on liberal offerings, and a good line of Russian was sold to U.K. outports for shipment from July to September at 15s. 9d., also Danubian at the same price. Oats neglected, and tendency of values in buyer's favour.

WHEAT.—Slightly irregular. No. 1 Northern Manitoba (Atlantic shipment), ex ship, 45s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 44s. 9d.; No. 3, 44s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 42s. 9d.; No. 5 ditto, 39s. 9d.; No. 6, 33s. 9d.; No. 2 hard Winter, 41s. 3d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 37s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62½ lbs., 40s. 9d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 40s.; Australian, 43s.; choice white Karachi, 41s. per 496 lbs. English, 8s. 2d.-8s. 6d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Quiet. London, straight run, 37s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries, and 36s. 6d. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 33s.-36s.; Buffalo, 33s.-36s.; Australian, 30s. 6d.-31s., ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, May-June, 33s.; export ditto, 30s. 6d.; Australian, 28s.-28s. 6d.; French, prompt, 24s.-25s. per 280 lbs. Argentine, low grade, May, £5 15s. per ton.

MAIZE.—Quiet and easier. Plate, landed, 26s. 9d.; new, ex ship to arrive, 25s. 6d.; May-June, 25s. 6d.; June-July and July-August, 24s. 9d., per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £5 15s. per ton, ex ship.

BARLEY.—Dull. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s., as to sample; Chilian, brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship to arrive, f.a.q., 16s. 9d.; landed on sample, 18s.-19s. Persian, landed, 16s. 9d. per 400 lbs. English, malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Dull and rather easier for Plate descriptions. Plate, landed, 14s.; ex ship to arrive, 12s. 9d. Chilian, white, landed, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 15s. 6d. German, landed, 18s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 17s. 6d. Mixed Canadian feed, 12s. 9d. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27 :—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to June 7	Qrts. 84,388	Qrts. 67,167	Qrts. 174,435	Qrts. 214,579
40 weeks to June 7	8,805,613	9,265,980	10,128,378	11,124,312
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 11 0	s. d. 12 9

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929 :—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Qrt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrts.	Qrts	Qrts.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
May 31	134,308	36,554	17,479	8 7	7 3	6 6
June 7	84,388	14,572	7,372	8 7	7 6	6 5
June 5, 1926	118,455	17,413	19,295	13 6	9 3	9 10
June 4, 1927	131,275	10,481	31,288	12 6	11 6	9 11
June 9, 1928	174,435	18,566	13,576	11 0	10 11	13 0
June 8, 1929	67,167	9,771	11,888	9 7	10 0	9 6

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929 :—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	June 12, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 60 lb.	122	114⅛	148⅜	111	111⅛	114⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	105⅛	130⅛	107⅛	105⅛	104⅛

The visible supply of wheat in Canada shows an increase of 540,000 bushels on the week, at 57,970,000 bushels, which compares with 66,344,000 bushels last year.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—The tendency of the conditions of the South Yorkshire coal market continues to favour buyers, prices having again eased since our last report. The Whitsun stoppage was rather longer than usual, but in spite of curtailed working, supplies are ample. Overseas contracting is far from active. Some collieries have reduced the price of house coal one or two shillings per ton. Blast-furnace coke is a drug on the market, and prices are lower than for several years past.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—Conditions in the coal trade show little change this week. Among round coals, Fifeshire first steams are fairly well placed, but the collieries are in need of orders for other qualities, which are therefore easing in price. Singles and pearls are making steady prices in the market for washed nuts, but trebles and doubles are still offered freely and for good-sized orders. the market quotations would doubtless be discounted. Prices for shipment are approximately as follows : LANARKSHIRE.—Ell best, 13s. 3d.; splint best, 15s. 6d.; splint second, 14s. 3d.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 16s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s.-12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 9s. 6d. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-14s.; doubles, 11s. 9d.-12s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 10s. 9d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 12s.; secondary steam, 11s. 6d.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s. 3d.; pearls, 10s. 9d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—It is not expected that the output of coal in the South Wales coalfield this week will represent more than about 25 per cent. of the normal weekly average. The pits were officially closed for the first three days, but owing to the heavy accumulations on the sidings and the general slackness of demand, some companies kept their pits idle for the whole week. During the holidays there was a slight increase in the volume of tonnage in dock, but the dock authorities reported 29 idle tips on Wednesday morning. The Coal Exchange was closed on Monday and Tuesday, but there was a general dearth of inquiry when it was reopened on Wednesday morning. Prices are nominally unchanged at the minimum schedule figures. The following are the current approximate quotations :—Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 6d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 18s.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 9d.; coking smalls, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 45s.; rubbly culm, 11s. to 12s. 3d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 25s. 9d. to 26s.

IRON AND STEEL.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes :—The usual weekly market was not held on Tuesday on account of the holidays. The position in regard to Cleveland iron is unchanged. The large consuming works closed down until Wednesday morning and this has caused some increase in stocks at the furnaces, but deliveries are now generally resumed. There is very little fresh buying in evidence in any direction and makers' prices remain unchanged, viz. : No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4, foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. In hematite there is only a moderate business passing, but prospects seem more encouraging. Moderate-sized lots of mixed numbers are being booked by makers at 73s. 6d. per ton, but for larger quantities 73s. would still be accepted, and even 72s. 6d. for very big lines for early delivery. Shipments of pig iron are disappointing, the total cleared to 10th inst. being only 3,226 tons against 6,358 tons to May 10th. In the manufacturing trades most of the large plants were closed down until Wednesday morning and there are no fresh orders of importance reported. Prices are unchanged from last week. The ore market is idle. Dealers are offering best rubio at 20s. c.i.f., but there are no buyers. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early loading remains about 5s. 6d. The production of coke is being considerably reduced, but there is still a surplus on the market. Ordinary furnace qualities are freely offering at 17s. delivered works and less would be accepted. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is 33.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes :—Work is still scarce, short time is fairly general and there is no present sign of a coming buying movement. The prospect of stocktaking at the end of the month militates against a revival, as in such circumstances consumers keep down as far as possible deliveries of raw materials. Not more than a third of the open-hearth furnaces are operating. The depression is less acute in the lighter and finished branches, but here there has been a loss of trade with a number of overseas markets. Several orders for files and tools are on hand from Russia, but the quantities are not comparatively large. To a large extent trade with Australia is suspended. The engineering industry ensures a regular supply of orders for tool steel, alloy steel, and shop tools. The season for farm and garden tools is scarcely equal to last year's standard. Prices of iron and steel materials are weak but unchanged. In the finished departments price-cutting is rife.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes :—Business is still dull in the iron and steel industries in the West of Scotland. While some of the steel plants are relatively better employed than others, none are at the moment overwhelmed with work and very little new business is being placed. The demand for small diameter tubes, which of late has been poor, shows some improvement this week. In the sheet trade there has been no alteration as regards prices and the export business, both for black and galvanised sheets, remains only moderate. Purchasers of pig iron are continuing to buy only in small lots, and there seems to be no better demand for bar iron or for re-rolled steel bars than for some months past.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes :—The position in the South Wales iron and steel trades is unaltered. The Swansea Metal Exchange was closed on Tuesday, but current prices of tinplates are steady at from 18s. to 18s. 3d. per basis box f.o.b. Galvanised sheets continue a somewhat depressed market. Steel-bar prices are unaltered.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—The standard market displayed dull features, and prices gave way under selling pressure and lack of support, with slight irregularity in attendance. Standard cash changed hands at £137 12s. 6d., £137 15s. and £134 15s.; three months, £139 12s. 6d.-£139 15s. and £136 15s. In the East, sales were reported at £144 to £138 15s. per ton, c.i.f. terms.

COPPER.—In fair support, but values took a downward turn on realisations. Business was largely confined to forward dates, comprising three months at £52-£51 to £50 13s.; cash at £50 10s. to £49 16s. 3d.

LEAD met a fairly brisk demand, but market barely steady. Good soft foreign pig, June, sold £17 18s. 9d. to £18; July, £18 3s. 9d. to £17 18s. 9d.; September, £18 2s. 6d. to £18 per ton.

SPELTER.—Quiet, and values tended in buyers' favour under liberal offerings. June, sold £16 11s. 3d. to £16 10s.; July, £16 15s. to £16 13s. 9d.; September, £17 5s. to £17 2s. 6d. per ton.

ANTIMONY.—Quietly steady. English regulus, £40 to £45; Chinese ditto, spot, £28; June-July, £23; ditto, crude, £15 10s. per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—June-July, £25 15s. ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., June-July, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent., ditto, 4s. per unit c.i.f.

JACK SHEPPARD
the
Notorious Robber.

THE CHATWOOD SAFE

The value of a safe is the degree of service rendered when attacked by the burglar or tested by the ordeal of fire.

To appreciate this important fact it is only necessary just for once to see a safe lying amongst the burning debris after the collapse of a building following a fire.

Then to visualise what your own safe contains and ask yourself what your position would be and how you would feel in similar circumstances.

The Chatwood Safe will give you contented confidence. It has stood the greatest of all tests—the test of time, and is the cheapest Safe that can be bought having regard to the degree of security offered.

J. E. S.

THE CHATWOOD SECURITY

THE CHATWOOD SAFE CO., Limited,
Bankers' Engineers,
SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND.

WOLFRAM.—Quiet. Chinese, June-July, 21s.; Burmese, ditto, 20s. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM.—Dull. Home trade, £95; export, £100 per ton.

QUICKSILVER.—Steady. Spot, £22 2s. 6d. per bottle.

TIN PLATES.—Generally steady, with moderate sales passing. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. 1½d. to 18s. 4½d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: June 11th.

Spot sales for the days 5th, 6th, 10th and 11th (inclusive) are 9,000 bales, of which 3,010 bales are American, 1,200 Brazil, 300 Argentine, 1,700 Peru, 1,800 Egyptian, 490 African, 200 East Indian and 300 sundries. Imports for the week 5th to 11th (inclusive) are 17,821 bales, of which 5,645 bales are American, 1,362 Argentine, 2,477 Peru, 7,671 Egyptian, 341 African, 134 East Indian and 191 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 8·04; Egyptian Sakel, 12·75; Uppers, 9·50; Brazil Fair, 7·34; Peru G.F. Smooth, 8·34; West African Middling, 7·94; and East African G.F., 8·59.

MANCHESTER: June 11th.

The Whitsuntide holidays have disorganised the market, and very little business has been attempted. Cloth merchants have again reported a dearth of offers from abroad, and the general situation shows very little change. Now and again there are rumours of the boycott in India not being quite so pronounced, but fresh buying is still in abeyance. There are no indications of any improvement in the offtake for China just at present. Shippers to most of the minor outlets have shown very little interest and, apart from holiday influences, the decline in raw material rates has made buyers hold aloof. There has been no activity whatever in American and Egyptian yarns. In all spinning and weaving districts the usual holiday stoppages have been extended and production throughout the week has been decidedly small.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	May 21.	May 28.	June, 4.	June. 11.	1928.	1929.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	d. 8·57	d. 8·54	d. 8·43	d. 8·04	d. 11·20	d. 10·14
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·85	13·85	13·30	12·95	20·30	16·80
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12¼	12¼	12¼	12	16¾	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12¾	12¾	12¾	12½	17	15¼
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	22	21½	21¼	21	30½	25¼
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 9	s. d. 21 6	s. d. 26 6	s. d. 25 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 6	24 3	24 3	24 0	29 0	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 4½	13 3	13 3	13 1½	15 1½	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	11 10½	14 1½	13 4

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—Though it is recognised that big losses have been incurred during the nine weeks' strike, and there has been far too great an accumulation of stocks of yarns, general satisfaction is expressed that the operatives are returning to work. If orders for tops, yarns and piece goods during the remainder of the summer season are anything like normal some of the lost ground will be recovered, but it will be two or three weeks before it is known how the weaving overlookers and "twisters in" are settling down. If looms cannot be got going, it will not be long before there is a bigger accumulation of yarn than will allow spindles to keep on running. During the past fortnight the price of tops has shown a slight easing tendency, and it will now be possible to buy a good warp 64's at 29d., though some firms are quoting 29½d. Even crossbreds are slightly easier, and it would have to be a very superior 46's combing to realise more than 16d. Nevertheless, there is general confidence in the future of wool values, and this will be strengthened if the looms can be kept running. Manufacturers say that the summor trade in dress goods is over, and preparations will now have to be made for getting out new fabrics for next winter. Preparations are also being made for next spring.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Within the past fortnight 80,000 bales of wool have been catalogued at Brisbane. This must be a record offering for that centre, and the absorption of such a big weight of wool will have reduced stocks very considerably. Next month shearing will become general in Australia, particularly in Queensland and the northern areas of New South Wales, and, as feed and water have been plentiful, the sheep should turn off heavy fleeces of good quality. Cables received this week from Australia indicate a more satisfactory market, although the news from Melbourne is to the effect that prices are slightly in buyers' favour. No one need attach any importance to that, for wool is costing quite as much as can be made for tops in either Bradford or Roubaix. So long as there is a steady absorption of offerings, ½d. decline need not be regarded as a sign of weakness. Further business can be done around the current level of values, and there is no reason why there should not be a steady expansion of consumption in all manufacturing countries. It is generally agreed in Bradford that French and German manufacturers have benefited substantially from the nine weeks' strike in the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was quite evident from the very commencement of the dispute that the lower rate of wages recommended by the Macmillan Report would have to become general. Even now the difference between wages paid to Yorkshire and Continental operatives is such as to give a decided advantage to those who employ the latter. Unfortunately, it will probably be difficult for operatives and their extremist leaders to realise that a considerable amount of business has been driven from this district by the mere fact of ceasing work. Meanwhile, the return of the sorters, and the resumption of work in the combing mills, will enable an increased quantity of wool to be absorbed.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Hides from home-slaughtered cattle were generally unchanged at the auctions held during the week-end, when supplies were sold for two weeks. Calfskins were slightly easier, as was also the case with certain classes of woolled skins. Business in connection with imported hides has been rather limited, but at the same time a feeling of confidence is more or less apparent in view of the fact that shippers at origin are beginning to realise that any effort on their part to force the market for tanners' raw material is doomed to failure. In the South American market business in connection with frigorifics has been mainly on account of the United States, to which country Argentine ox have changed hands at the equivalent of 7 $\frac{7}{16}$d., second ox at 6d., and ticky at 5 $\frac{11}{16}$d. Prices for dry River Plates are generally steady, although a few sales have been made in B.A. Americanos at down to 8d., with M.V. Americanos sold at 8$\frac{3}{8}$d. Business has been done in Capes at 8$\frac{3}{4}$d. and 7$\frac{3}{8}$d. for first and second drys, with dry salted sold at 8d. and 7d., while unbathed Adis Abebas have changed hands at up to 7d. The market for sole leather has not been very active this week on account of the Whitsun holiday, which in some shoe centres was extended to Wednesday and even Thursday. However, all things considered, turnover was fairly well maintained up to the closing down and there is every hope that as soon as the factories resume something like normal operations a better flow of business will result. In bends, inquiry for the most part has been in connection with light dry hide stock, while there has also been a fair inquiry for medium to heavy weights in some of the better descriptions. The offal market still remains very difficult, and it is only in connection with certain lines, such as pinned bellies, that any activity is apparent. Upper leather manufacturers are also short of orders this week, but as the majority of shoe manufacturers have for some time past adopted a hand-to-mouth policy of buying, better business is expected as soon as work is resumed in earnest. Dropping sales have been made of box and willow calf, together with glacé kid in the various brown shades. Reptile and imitation grains, together with suède leather are expected to be in request again shortly, but the outlook for patent does not appear to be any too bright. Curried leathers are quiet, and even where inquiries are received prices generally show little in the way of profit.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE: June 11th.

Idle conditions prevail throughout the jute trade. The quietness is accentuated by the holidays, and all sections are suffering from a lack of demand. Prices of most commodities are steadily declining, very favourable prospects for the next crop of jute being mainly responsible for the fall in raw material values. The Calcutta mills have failed so far to come to an agreement respecting the new conditions under which they are to work from July 1st next. It is practically assured that they will revert to working 54 hours per week, instead of 60 as at present, but there are several other minor clauses which remain to be settled before official intimation of their policy can be published. There is also the possibility that the mills may close down for one or perhaps two weeks before the end of the year. This would go a long way to reduce the existing stocks of hessians and heavy goods, which have accumulated to an enormous extent during the past year. The low prices now ruling for raw jute are very reasonable, but consumers lack incentive to purchase. Business has been done in several small parcels of Daisee assortment at £23 for September-October shipment and Tossa assortment rules at £25 for new crop. Old crop jute is of very little interest now, as spinners have all good stocks owing to the manner in which production has been curtailed for many months past. New crop First Marks are quoted from £28, and best Lightnings are obtainable at £26, August-September, while Heart Ram tops have been sold at £23 10s., same shipment, and at £22 10s. for June-July. The working costs of spinning have been increased by the lessened turnover, so that spinners are making a determined stand against reducing their prices for yarns. Buyers are showing no interest in hessian descriptions, so that the rates of 2s. 8d. for common 8 lb. cops and 2s. 9d. for 8 lb. spools remain unchanged, but nominal. Twist is from 4 $\frac{15}{16}$d. to 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are selling in small lots at from 3$\frac{3}{8}$d. for 24 lb. weft and 4$\frac{3}{8}$d. for 8 lb. chains. Rove is scarce, owing to lack of waste caused through the use of less raw material, and prices are firm at from £28 for 48 lb. and £18 10s. for 200 lb. Fine yarns and carpet qualities are quiet, unchanged. Cloth business is confined to the merest trifles, and prices are not being seriously tested. The value of 10$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 40 in. hessians is from 3$\frac{1}{2}$d. and 8 oz. from 2$\frac{1}{2}$d. Linoleum hessians are dull and nominal, while sacking, bagging and tarpaulin are slow. Calcutta goods have shown distinct weakness during the past few days owing to absence of demand, especially in the near positions.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Rather easier conditions rule in the markets for oilseeds and their products. Plate linseed is inactive but steady, with no pressure to sell at current values, which are for seed on spot at Hull £17 10s. and for shipment to August £17 5s. A fair trade, however, is reported in Indian descriptions, Calcutta for June shipment to Hull being done at £18 5s. and £18 7s. 6d., and bold Bombay to London at £19 2s. 6d., which figure has also been paid for July-August to the Continent. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe is now 113,000 tons, or 10,000 tons less than last week, comparing with 185,000 tons a year ago. Cotton seed has displayed further weak symptoms and very low figures have been accepted for black Egyptian, which has declined to £6 12s. 6d. May and June loadings, and £6 13s. 9d. July. Little or nothing is doing in Bombay cotton seed, which is quoted nominally £6, May-June. Linseed oil, after a period of quietness, is steady, raw oil on spot ex Hull being quoted £42 15s., and for June delivery, £42. Cotton oil is easier, crude Egyptian offering at £27 10s. and common edible at £30 15s. ex Hull, prompt.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—Market remained without new feature, trade demand being restricted to immediate wants, but late rates were repeated for British standards. Home-grown maintained. Anglo-Scottish group, ready quoted, 20s. 7½d. to 20s. 10½d.; July-August, 20s. 10½d. to 21s. 1½d.; September, 21s. to 21s. 3d. ex factory. T.L. granulated, 20s. 1½d. ex refinery. Raw refining kinds barely steady. Cuban, 96 per cent., July, quoted, 6s. 7½d.; August, 6s. 9d. c.i.f. U.K. Continental granulated inactive. Terminals quiet and tendency easier. Raws: August, sold, 6s. 2½d. to 6s.; December, 6s. 6¾d. to 6s. 4½d.; March, 7s. 7½d. to 7s. 5½d. White: August, sellers, 8s. 3¾d.; December, 8s. 11½d. cwt. Cuban receipts for past week totalled 55,534 tons, against 64,273 tons at corresponding period last year; exports, 72,702, against 82,305; stocks, 1,683,033, against 1,417,449 tons. Centrals working, 10, against 2 at same time in 1929. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending June 7th totalled 140,480 tons, compared with 111,520 last year.

COFFEE.—Spot market steady with fair inquiries for all the finer liquoring grades.

COCOA.—Spot market steady. Forward dull. Accra, F.F., mid-crop, London contract, quoted, 29s. 6d.; October-December, 34s. f.o.b. Terminal quiet and the turn in buyers' favour. July, sold, 35s. 6d.; September, 36s.; December, 36s. 6d. cwt.

TEA.—Market quiet, unaltered, pending the resumption of public sales next week.

RICE.—Market about unchanged, with a lack of European demand. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, sellers, 13s.; June, sellers, 12s. 1½d.; July, 12s. 3d. Spanish oiled, May shipment to London, 14s. to 14s. 3d.; Italian, 14s. 6d. c.i.f.; No. 3 Burma, to Levant, quoted, 12s. 3d. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 24s. to 25s. c.i.f. S.Q., to Cuba, 12s. 4½d. Saigon, No. 1, round grain, June-July, to Europe, 12s. 4½d. Siam Super, June-July, 17s. 1½d.

BEANS.—Quiet. Madagascar, spot, London, 32s. to 33s. 6d.; May-June, 32s. Ohtenashi, spot, 20s. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 11s. to 11s. 6d. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 18s. 6d. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, 7s. 10½d. c.i.f. Chinese ditto, 7s. 1½d.

PEAS.—Dull, but fully steady. Japanese, new crop, spot, London, 15s.; old, 14s.; afloat, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; June-July, 12s. 9d.; and new crop, September-October held for 14s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 15s.; small hand-picked blues, 10s. to 12s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lb.), June-July, 43s.; Karachi, ditto, 41s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, June-July, 61s.; f.a.q., May-June, 56s. 6d. Tasmanian A grade, new, afloat, 65s.; June-July, 62s. 6d. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper quiet and trend of prices in buyers' favour. Lampong black, April-June, sellers, 10$\frac{3}{8}$d.; May-July, 9$\frac{5}{8}$d.; August-October, 8½d.; white Muntok, April-June, 1s. 0$\frac{3}{8}$d.; May-July, 1s.; August-October, 11½d. Cloves steady. Zanzibar, spot, 11$\frac{3}{8}$d.; May-July, 11½d.; August-October, 11½d. c.i.f. Pimento, spot, 8d. per lb.; ditto, May-June, sellers, 7¾s.; July-August, 72s. c.i.f. Tapioca dull. Singapore flake, to Havre, June-July, 12s. 3d.; Penang, seed, to Hamburg, 13s. 9d. Sago flour, to London, June-July, 9s. 9d. Desiccated cocoanut easier. Fine cut, spot, 30s.; medium, 29s. 6d.; halves, afloat, 28s. 6d.; May-June, 27s. 6d. c.i.f. Ginger quiet, unaltered. London stocks of black show a decrease of 95 tons on the week at 951 tons, against 1,682 at same time last year; white, 34 tons lower at 655, against 593.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market firm. Patras, quoted, 39s.-43s.; Zante, 38s.; Gulf, 40s.-42s.; Vostizza, 44s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 40s.-62s. Sultanas: Smyrna's in better demand, but Australian quieter. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, 34s.-35s. Dates quietly steady. Hallowie, spot, 17s.-19s.; Khadrowie, 14s.; Siar, 12s.-15s. Raisins steady, with limited supplies available. Valencias, quarter-boxes, at 36s.-38s. Figs quiet. Genuine, 18s.-30s.; good average, 16s.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market generally steady, with a slight improvement in demand. Californian plums, to arrive, attract more attention, particularly large sizes, while Australian apricots, also pears, move off with fair freedom. Other descriptions unaltered. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 57s. 6d.; 40's-50's, 52s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 50s.; 40's-50's, 48s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-67s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 92s. 6d. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; South African, 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-50s.; 1930 crop, 42s.-58s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 112s.; Majorcas, 105s.-122s. 6d. Bitter-Jordan, new crop, 185s.-192s. 6d. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde, 149s.; Barcelona, 150s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s. ex wharf London. For shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—The demand for Californian varieties is slow to expand, despite somewhat attractive prices current. Australian and English also in slow request, while influenced by large prospective supplies of fresh fruit. Singapore pines dull of sale both for spot and shipment parcels, the latter denoting weakness, but South African and Hawaiian steadily held. Italian tomatoes sell slowly on spot, while shipment offers fail to attract.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady, with a moderate trade passing. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s. 6d.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 24s.-26s.; and halves, 34s. 6d.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters: Halves range from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—There was an improved demand for all descriptions, larger deliveries being made ex contracts, and prices were well maintained for tongues and hams.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market remains quiet and without material change. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 30s.; machine skimmed ditto, 19s.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 58s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 78s. Dutch machine skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 37s. 3d.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 36s.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 35s. 9d.; all per cwt. English prices basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store London/Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of July, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle.

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COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

GRAIN, &c.—		s.	d.
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....		43	6
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.		8	7
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....		7	6
Oats, " "		6	5
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.		26	9
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb.....	36 6	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.	12 1½	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.		23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—			
E.I. flake, fair spot.....	20 0	0	0
Medium pearl.....	22 0	23	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt....	2 6	3	6
Beef, per 8 lbs.—			
English long sides	5 4	6	2
Argentine chilled hinds...	4 4	4	8
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—			
English wethers	7 4	8	8
N.Z. frozen "	3 4	4	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs....	5 8	7	0

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	100 0	114	0
Danish.....	93 0	100	0
Canadian.....	98 0	0	0
Dutch	86 0	96	0
HAMS—Irish.....	0 0	0	0
Canadian.....	0 0	0	0
American	90 0	106	0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	124 0	130	0
Australian	114 0	126	0
New Zealand	116 0	144	0
Danish.....	134 0	136	0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	104 0	0	0
New Zealand	76 0	84	0
English Cheddars	nom.		
Dutch	38 0	74	0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 2s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	39 0	0	0
Trinidad	60 0	65	0
Grenada	51 0	53	0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 2s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	123 0	138	0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145 0	180	0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110 0	138	0
Kenya, bold sizes	115 0	135	0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105 0	118	0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	10 6	14	6
Danish.....	10 6	12	6
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0 0	0	0
Jaffa ..... boxes	0 0	0	0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases	300 11 0	19	0
	360 12 0	17	0
	504 14 0	17	0
Lemons, Naples... boxes	17 0	30	0
Sicilian ..... boxes	6 0	14	0
" ..... cases	10 0	17	6
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0 0	0	0
Apples: Amer. (var.) brls.	0 0	0	0
" (var.) boxes	0 0	0	0
" Tasmanian boxes	8 6	12	0
" Australian	8 6	18	0

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s. d.
Onions, Valencia :— case 4s.	0	0	0 0
case 5s.	0	0	0 0
Egyptian, bags.....	2	0	4 6
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0 0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0 0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0 0
LARD—			
Irish bladders	72	0	80 0
American boxes 56 lbs.	54	3	55 3
SPICES—			
Pepper, per lb.—			
Muntok, fair White.....	1	1½	1 1½
Black Lampong	0	10½	0 11
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	2	1 4
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0 0
Ginger—per cwt.—			
African	41	0	0 0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90 0
Mace..... per lb.	1	10	2 9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	3	1 8
SUGAR—			
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)			
B.W.I., crystallised	20	0	22 6
Java, white, c.&.f. India, July-Sept.	8	8½	8 9
REFINED—London—			
Yellow Crystals.....	20	4½	0 0
Cubes.....	24	9	25 3
Crushed.....	23	3	23 9
Granulated.....	21	3	21 10½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	4½	20 10½
TEA—			
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.			
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2 2
Broken Pekoe	0	9	2 1
Orange Pekoe	0	10	2 6½
Broken Orange.....	0	10½	2 9
TOBACCO—			
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)			
Virginia leaf—			
Common to fine	0	10	2 6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1 6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1 8
" stripe.....	0	10	1 10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0 8½
" stripe	0	5½	1 2
COTTON— TEXTILES.		d.	
Mid-American..... per lb.		8·04	
Sakellaridis, f.g.f.....		12·95	
Yarns, 32's twist.....		12	
60's twist.....		21	
FLAX—	£	s.	£ s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0 0
Pernan HD	52	0	0 0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0 0
HEMP—			
Italian P.C. ..... per ton	50	0	0 0
Manila, June-Aug. "J2"	24	0	0 0
N.Z., Mar.-May		nom.	
Sisal African, June-Aug. '26	0	26	15
Mexican		nom.	
JUTE—			
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s. d.
June-July		22	10 0
Aug.-Sept.		23	10 0
SILK—	s.	d.	s. d.
Canton ..... per lb.	8	6	10 0
Tussah	5	0	8 0
Japan	15	0	17 0
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	14	0	16 6

WOOL—		d.	
English Southdown, washed per lb.		16	
" Lincoln hog, washed		12	
Queensland, sc&s super cmbg.		27	
N.S.W. greasy, super "		14	
N.Z., grey., half-bred 50–56		12½	
Crossbred 40–44		11	
Tops—			
Merinos 70's		31½	
" 64's		29	
Crossbred 48's		16½	
" 46's		16½	
MINERALS.			
COAL—	s.	d.	s. d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0 0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0 0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	0	21 0
IRON AND STEEL—			
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0 0
Bars, M'brough 215	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box 18	0	18	3
METALS—	£	s.	£ s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	58 0	61	0
Sheets (strong)	87 0	0	0
Standard 49/13/9		49/16/3	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19 10	0	0
Soft Foreign	18/0/0	18/3/9	
Spelter G.O.B. 16/11/6		17/2/6	
Tin—English ingots ... 136	0	136	10
Standard cash 134/17/6		135/10/0	
MISCELLANEOUS.			
CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s. d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	6½	1 7
Nitric.....	0	2½	0 4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0 4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	2	1 2½
	£	s.	£ s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9 10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38 0
Sulphate	10	0	12 0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40 0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		8/12/6
	s.	d.	s. d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0 0
Do. powder	12	6	0 0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11 9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0 3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11 0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45 0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10 6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5 3
	£	s.	£ s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	0	25 10
CEMENT—	s.	d.	s. d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48 0
COPRA—			
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton June 19/7/6	0	0	
Smoked South Sea June 18/12/6	0	0	
DRUGS—			
Camphor—	s.	d.	s. d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2 6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95 0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0 0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14 9

HIDES—		s. d.	s. d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.		0 4½	0 4½
West Indian		0 3½	0 4½
Cape		0 4½	0 5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...		0 6½	0 8
Market Hides, London—			
Best heavy ox & heifer		0 5½	0 7
Best cow		0 3½	0 5½
Best calf		0 8½	0 11½
INDIGO—			
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.		5 6	6 6
LEATHER—			
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.		1 3	2 4
Bark Tanned Sole		2 6	3 3
Shoulders fm DS Hides		0 8	0 11
Do. Eng. or WS do.		1 0	1 3
Bellies from DS do.		0 6	0 7
Do. Eng. or WS do.		0 8	1 1
Dressing Hides.....		1 6	1 9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.		4 0	6 0
Aust. Bends.....		1 1	1 5
VEGETABLE OILS—		£ s.	£ s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net		43 9	0 0
Rape, refined		38 0	0 0
Cotton-seed, crude		28 10	0 0
Coconut, crude.....		33 0	0 0
Palm.....		22 0	24 0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton		9 15	10 0
Oil Seeds—Linseed—			
La Plata, p. ton new— June-July.		17/6/3	0 0
Calcutta, per ton— June-July.		18 5	0 0
		s. d.	s. d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....		40 3	0 0
MINERAL OILS—			
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.		1 0	0 0
Water-White		1 1	0 0
Lubricating—		£	£
Pales.....		10/5/0	21/7/6
Reds		11/10/0	20/15/0
Cylinder		14/5/0	38/10/0
Fuel—		s. d.	s. d.
B.G. 395, 910.....		82 6	0 0
" 950.....		67 6	0 0
ROSIN—		£ s.	£ s.
American.....per ton		16 0	19 0
RUBBER—		s. d.	s. d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.		0 6½	0 6
Fine Hard Para per lb.		0 7½	0 0
SHELLAC—			
TN Orange ... per cwt.		120 0	122 6
SHELLS—		£ s.	£ s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "		3 10	11 10
TIMBER—		£	s. d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.		18	0 0
Do. 2½ x 7 "		18	0 0
Do. 2 x 4 "		18	0 0
Can'dn Spruce, Dia.. "		17	0 0
Pitchpine ..... per load		9	0 0
Rio Deals ..... per std.		32	0 0
Teak ..... per load		20	0 0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.		0	11 6
African "		0	6 6
Amer. Oak Boards... "		0	6 6
Do. Ash "		0	6 6
English Oak Planks "		0	7 0
Do. Ash "		0	6 6

3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum 1-ton lots. *Smaller* quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side: Full cream, sweetened, 18s. 6d.; machine skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market *remains dull.* Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 36s.-40s.; Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 36s.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, *45s.*; *New Zealand*, 65s.-95s. cwt.

RUBBER.

Market continued dull and *prices irregular. Plantation* standard sheet, spot, sold 6 1/16d. to 6d. and 6⅛d.; June, 6d.-6 1/16d. to 5 15/16d., and 6⅛d.; July, 6 1/16d. to 6d. and 6⅛d.; July-September, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d. to 6⅛d.; October-December, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d. and 6⅛d.; January-March, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d. per lb. London landings for past week were returned at 1,765 tons, deliveries 1,347, and stocks 77,616, against 31,635 tons at corresponding period last year, being an increase of 418 tons on the week. *Liverpool landings:* 76 tons; deliveries, 282; stocks, 25,320, against 4,750, making a decrease of 206 tons on the week.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Market remained quiet and without new feature. *Firsts*, to Continent, May-June, also June-July, sellers, £22 12s. 6d.; new, August-September and September-October, sold, £23 10s.; lightnings, old, quoted £21 15s.; new, August-September, £22 10s.; September-October, £22 7s. 6d.; Hearts, June-July, £20 5s.; Daisee assortment, £22; and Tossa ditto, £23 5s. c.i.f.

HEMP.—Manila opened steadier, but later assumed a quieter tone, with sellers more in evidence. J, No. 2, July-September, sellers, £24 5s.; K, June-August, £23; L, No. 1, £22 15s.; No. 2, £21 10s.; M, No. 1, sellers, £21 15s.; No. 2, £21 5s.; G, £25 15s.; H, £24 5s. per ton c.i.f. Receipts for past week totalled 24,000 bales, against 25,000 at same time last year and 28,000 in 1928. Estimates for this week 32,000 and the following week 30,000 bales. African *sisal dull*, and No. 1, June-August, including Portuguese, sellers, £26 15s.; No. 2, £26 c.i.f.

SHELLAC.—Spot market dull, T.N. 120s. Fine orange, 130s. to 230s. A.C. Garnet, 130s. R.L.I. Button Lac quoted 155s. Futures easier. August sold 111s. to 105s.; October, 114s. to 108s. To arrive, June-July, 100s. to 97s. 6d.

COPRA.—Market dull and weak. Straits S.D., June, quoted £19 7s. 6d.; July-August, £19 10s., to Rotterdam. D.E.I., £19 12s. 6d. Ceylon, July, £20 12s. 6d. Sun-dried, South Sea, £18 10s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch Indies, June, quoted £18 5s. Smoked, South Sea, £18 12s. 6d.; Manila, £18 10s. Palm kernels, to Hamburg, June-July, £13 2s. 6d.; July-August, £13 5s.; August-September, £13 7s. 6d., c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, *quoted, 16s.* to 24s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, June-July, 4s. 1d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, *2s. 4d.*

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—June 11.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 6	6 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 4	9 4
Short Horns	6 4	6 6	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 0	5 6
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	10 4	11 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—June 11.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
Lincoln King Edward	2 6	3 6
" " " whites.....	1 6	2 5
New Jersey	8 6	9 0
St. Malo	7 6	8 0
Roscoff	7 0	7 6

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WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette and Railway Monitor

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A. JOEL, *Manager.*

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

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THE MONEY MARKET.

MONEY was stringent early in the week, but became easier on Wednesday, when 1½-2 per cent. was charged for new money. The market has been *paying* 2¾ per cent. for money into July, but the clearing banks are not lending over the half-year and have ceased buying

bills. The general expectation is that money will continue to be wanted up to the end of the month, and while some hope that the half-year squeeze will be less severe than usual, the market is prepared to find that when the time comes, the usual half-year stringency will prevail.

* * * *

Three months' bills are now quoted at $2\frac{7}{16}$-$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or only $\frac{1}{2}$-$\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. below Bank rate. This is the first time this year that an abnormally large margin has not existed between Bank rate and market rate, and on the basis of present rates, brokers are now at last able to earn a profit. Unfortunately brokers are still holding bills acquired a few weeks ago at lower rates, such as $2\frac{1}{8}$ and $2\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., so that they are still some way from obtaining the full benefit of the margin between the present rate for three months' bills and the rate of 2 per cent. at which they borrow their weekly money.

* * * *

The cause of the rise in bill rates is simply the lack of demand for bills. There is no Continental buying in evidence, while at home there is no doubt that the supplies of short money are dwindling. Again, the Government is now having to issue Treasury bills each week in excess of maturities in order to finance its current needs, and thus the supply of bills is increasing. Last week the rate at which the new Treasuries were issued was £2 8s. 10d., as against £2 3s. 6d. per cent. the week before, and some expect it to rise to a level $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. this week. In short, the supply of money is decreasing, and the number of bills on offer is growing, and this explains the recent rise in discount rates.

	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	$3\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Discount \ Call	1	1	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$ (May 1, '30)
Houses / Notice	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	$2\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{5}{32}$	$2\frac{1}{8}$-$\frac{5}{32}$	$2\frac{5}{16}$	$2\frac{7}{16}$-$\frac{1}{2}$	...

The May statement of the nine English clearing banks reveals an increase of £20.2 millions in deposits, but a decrease of £5.4 millions in cash:—

	May, 1929.	Feb., 1930.	Mar., 1930.	Apr., 1930.	May, 1930.
Capital and reserves.....	130·8	130·5	130·5	130·5	131·4
Acceptances	196·4	159·8	159·5	159·0	144·1
Deposits (including undivided profits, &c.).....	1,732·3	1,714·2	1,682·0	1,712·2	1,742·4
Total liabilities	2,059·5	2,004·5	1,972·0	2,001·7	2,017·9
Coin, notes, balance at bank, and cheques in course of collection	245·3	234·6	235·3	244·7	239·3
Money at call.....	141·0	125·7	130·6	131·7	135·3
Investments	269·3	255·3	251·8	251·7	257·9
Discounts	194·9	218·3	181·5	207·5	246·1
Loans and advances	976·4	972·2	974·7	968·0	955·8
Cover for accept., premises, &c.	232·6	196·4	198·1	198·1	183·5
Total assets	2,059·5	2,004·5	1,971·9	2,001·7	2,017·9

As had been foreshadowed by the trend of events in the discount market, the banks' bill portfolios have registered in the aggregate the substantial increase of £38.6 millions, and the banks now hold £51.2 millions in bills more than they did a year ago. Advances were lower in May than in the previous month, and also than in May of last year, but their ratio to deposits is still 35 per cent.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—The money market has recovered from the effects of tax date financing, which involved a Treasury overdraft of $100 millions. The positive action taken, however, in the past few days by the Reserve Bank in cutting the bill rate, followed on Thursday by the reduction of the discount rate to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (the lowest figure in the annals of the Federal Reserve system), indicates the concern which is felt at the extent of trade recession, and the earnest desire of the authorities to stimulate recovery, which it is still hoped may take place in the autumn or at least before the end of the year. The drop in the discount rate somewhat surprised the market, in spite of the fact that open rates had dropped a full 1 per cent. below the discount rate and money was a drug on the market. Call funds are hard to place at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and time money at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for all dates. The effect of the drop in the discount rate will be largely sentimental, as at present the New York banks are entirely out of debt at the Reserve Bank, and the total borrowings for the whole district are only $24 millions. Only negligible changes are shown in the leading items of the weekly statement of the Federal Reserve System.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

The week opened under depressing conditions in the stock markets, forced liquidations being in evidence in some quarters, while Wall Street continued to exert an unfavourable influence on market sentiment. Gilt-edged were steadier, after losing ground at the outset. The Reparation Loan fell to a discount on "stag" selling. Home Rails were marked down after the publication of unexpectedly bad traffic returns. Industrial share values touched the lowest point this year, though a steadier tone obtained in the latter part of the week. The rubber and tea share markets were featureless. Oils were heavily sold at the beginning of the week. Apart from Kaffirs, the mining markets continued to reflect the instability of metal prices, but showed evidence of latent recuperative powers on a slight recovery in tin and copper prices towards the end of the week.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

The quietness of most markets is still more pronounced. Dealings in coal become fewer and fewer, and authorised production in South Wales for the September quarter is to be on a reduced scale. The iron and steel trades continue quiet and the small size of orders is tending to increase costs of production. The decline in cotton prices has further unsettled trade in Manchester, but there have been rather more inquiries this week than of late. The West Riding woollen industry remains inactive in spite of the firmer position abroad, but raw wool values are maintained. The vegetable oils and oilseeds markets are depressed. Wheat has fallen sharply.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

No great activity prevailed on the Foreign Exchange market this week, but several currencies were irregular, notably the franc and the peseta. New York, after being rather steadily against us, closed unchanged on balance at 4.85¾. Montreal remained at 4.85¾ as well. Paris gained two points at 123.76 after being just under 123.83. Brussels was worse at 34.83, a loss of $1\frac{5}{8}$. Milan lost three points at 92.76. Madrid was again very erratic and closed at 41.00, against 41.00 last week, after touching 42.70. Amsterdam moved slightly in our favour at 12.08½, as did Berlin at 20.36½, against 20.36 last week. Switzerland fluctuated a good deal and closed three points worse at 25.09½. Of the Scandinavian exchanges, Stockholm gained $\frac{1}{4}$ at 18.09 and Oslo $\frac{1}{8}$ at 18.15¼, but Copenhagen was $\frac{1}{4}$ worse at 18.15¾. The South American exchanges were all rather weak and irregular, Rio losing $\frac{5}{32}$d. at 5 17/32d., Buenos Aires $\frac{11}{16}$d. at 41 9/16d., and Montevideo a penny at 43½d. In the Far East, the rupee was firm at 1s. 5 13/16d., and the yen gained $\frac{1}{32}$d. at 2s. 0 7/16d. Batavia lost a point at 12.07⅝. In the forward market dollars were better at $\frac{1}{16}$ cent and $\frac{3}{16}$ cent discount. Paris went from either side of par for both quotations at 2 centimes and 4 centimes premium for one and three months respectively. Brussels was steadier at reduced discounts of $\frac{1}{2}$ centime and one centime respectively. Milan lost two points for three months' delivery at 29 centesimi discount, but the discount for one month remained unchanged at 10 centesimi. Madrid was very firm at 2 and 5 centimos premium. Amsterdam was at rather wider premiums of $\frac{3}{8}$ cent and $\frac{3}{4}$ cent, while Berlin lost a little at discounts of $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 pfennigs. The silver market saw renewed falls in prices, with continued sales by China and the bazaars and little support. Spot declined by $\frac{5}{8}$d. to 15 13/16d., and forward by $\frac{7}{8}$d. to 15 3/8d. The China silver exchanges fell away in sympathy, Hong Kong losing $\frac{3}{8}$d. at 1s. 3½d., and Shanghai ½d. at 1s. 6½d.

PARLIAMENT AND THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM.

PARLIAMENT adjourned for the Whitsuntide recess under the shadow of the crisis caused by the resignation of Sir Oswald Mosley as a protest against the ineffectiveness of the Government's unemployment policy. On its reassembly this week the House of Commons was inevitably plunged—after an all-night sitting on the Finance Bill—straight into this perennial issue, which was the subject of a full-dress debate on Wednesday. On the previous day the Prime Minister and other members of his Cabinet had met and conferred with delegates representing local authorities, the purpose of the conference being to explore the possibility of extending or speeding-up the provision of work on roads and other development schemes. But both conference and debate, while revealing a widespread anxiety as to the unemployment situation in the next six months, afforded little evidence that existing procedure was adapted to meeting a serious emergency. On the contrary, they supplied an apt illustration of the thesis of Mr Winston Churchill, who delivered the Romanes lecture at Oxford last Thursday. In the course of this address Mr Churchill, though paying glowing tribute to the success of our parliamentary system in meeting the political needs of Great Britain, dilated upon the unsuitability of Parliament as a body to deal with economic problems, which, in contrast with pre-war times, far transcend in importance the purely political issues of the day.

What emerges from this week of concentrated thinking and talking about unemployment and its economic causes, its remedies and its possible palliatives? On the theoretical side the most reassuring point is the clear recognition, especially in the speeches of the Prime Minister and Mr Lloyd George, that the whole problem has substantially changed in nature as well as in scope. Two years, even one year, ago it was possible to take a far narrower and more domestic view of British unemployment than it is to-day. It was then permissible to regard British industry as stagnating or marking time in the midst of a world which was enjoying, if not general, at least sectional prosperity, and consequently to think of the unemployment problem in terms of the provision, at such cost as the nation could afford, of an artificial stimulus to set the clogged wheels of industry in motion which, it was hoped, would be naturally sustained or accelerated by early world economic improvement. Since then the whole aspect of the problem has changed. Instead of recovery, acute economic depression has spread around the world, and the spectre of large-scale unemployment has stalked through the chief countries of the earth. The idea of stimulating British industry into a peculiar activity amid the universal *malaise* of to-day is no more practical than the idea that the British Government can cure the world slump by an attempt to control the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion. The immediate problem rather is how far, on balance of economic and social advantage, it is desirable and proper to devise work schemes and to antedate productive activities in order that a grave period may be tided over, the State receive some compensation for its relief expenditure, and some at least of the army of the workless be rescued from the demoralisation of prolonged idleness.

This realisation that the nature of the problem has changed is the chief thing that emerges on the theoretical side. On the practical side the Guildhall conference with local authorities produced little that was new or helpful; but the Prime Minister's speech in the House of Commons contained two items of real importance. The first was an invitation to the leaders of the Opposition parties to participate in a non-party conference, and the second the announcement of the creation of a special Civil Service body, consisting of permanent advisers from the appropriate departments with Sir John Anderson at its head, to become a focus and a liaison for action in connection with unemployment measures. The invitation to a conference was accepted during the debate by Mr Lloyd George. But it has been, we understand, refused by Mr Baldwin, who did not take part in the discussion. Mr Lloyd George's acceptance was wholehearted, and although he confessed himself not very hopeful about agreement on certain points, the purport of his answer was that, in this grave emergency, he would rule no suggested remedy out of examination and discussion. The reasons given by Mr Baldwin for his refusal have not been published, but we can only imagine that his *apologia* for refusing to contribute anything to the common pool was on these lines: "We Conservatives say that there is one remedy and one only—namely Protection. The Government rule out Protection. Therefore it is useless for us to join in a conference." If that is so, the episode provides a sharp and convincing confirmation of Mr Churchill's assessment of Parliament's inefficacy in facing economic problems.

In this assessment Mr Churchill is indisputably right. The two facts that in these days economic problems dominate political, and that democratic Parliaments are not suited for their handling, have long ago received recognition in many countries, of which Germany with her Economic Parliament provides the most conspicuous example. Even here in Britain Mr MacDonald has recognised the truth of Mr Churchill's thesis, by the appointment last year of the Economic Advisory Council and now again by the creation of a new Civil Service *ad hoc* body. Mr MacDonald and Mr Churchill are pursuing the same object. The important difference between them is that they are approaching it from different angles, the Prime Minister confining his new machinery within the machinery of Government, and the ex-Chancellor contemplating an independent consultative body. Attractive in some ways though Mr Churchill's idea may be, and convincing as he was over the need for new machinery to supply the defects of the legislature, there is room for doubt whether his rather vague suggestions as to the composition of his "economic sub-Parliament" contain the clue to the appropriate alternative. It is difficult to believe that a body one-fifth the size of the political Parliament and chosen by it in proportion to the present strength of parties would shed its partisan affiliations and discuss and vote upon the economic problems of the day "with fearless detachment from public opinion." In order to create this non-partisan atmosphere it would seem essential to substitute for, or to combine with the plan of Mr Churchill some non-party method of selection. The suggestion raises constitutional issues of far-reaching importance.

Meanwhile the upshot of the week is the spectacle of the Government determined on a new "drive," still groping, as it and its predecessors have groped for years, in search of appropriate policies, yet armed with the assurance of a firm majority for any emergency measures which may pass the test of Liberal conscience and judgment. There are those who will scent danger in this new prospect, and will dream nightmares of reckless finance and wild-cat schemes. Such fears, we think, may be set at rest by the evidence, to which we have alluded, of a new orientation to a changed problem. We do not see any reason for thinking that a sudden unbalanced audacity will replace the timidity which has hitherto marked the Government's policy. What we expect and hope to see is a new stimulus applied to those who are in charge of work schemes; quick measures to disable all interests which are improperly obstructing their initiation; and a careful balancing of the profit and loss account of national advantage—as, for instance, the balancing of the merits of marginally unproductive work against the deadweight of eleemosynary State payments and the social cancer of idleness. We hope, too, that an impetus may be given to the study by the Economic Advisory Council and the new Civil Service body of such germane problems as the

discrepancy and time-lag between the fall of wholesale prices on the one hand and retail prices and wages on the other, of the effect of " sheltered " wages and of high taxation, and of the other influences so capably analysed by Professor Clay in his recent address to the Royal Institute. It would be folly to suppose that we are about to cure, though we may curtail the evil effects of unemployment. But we welcome this week's events as holding out some promise that prompter and more effective action will be taken to put into effect such measures as are just and proper for the State to employ in a real emergency which shows little sign of early passing.

THE WORLD POWER CONFERENCE.

THE Second World Power Conference, which opened at Berlin this week, takes place exactly six years after the First, which was held at Wembley, and it will serve to consolidate a work of international co-operation which originally could only be regarded as tentative and experimental. Important developments have undoubtedly thrown the whole question of power into a new and, in some ways, disturbing perspective. In 1924, attention was concentrated above all on purely technical problems arising from the large scale production, distribution and consumption of electricity; and discussion at Wembley centred on the possibilities of harnessing more effectively water-power resources, of co-ordinating effectively all power potentialities in the principal markets of the world, and of using such co-ordination for extensive industrialisation. The super-power zone was conceived as the new method of stimulating and guiding economic expansion and, somewhat uncertainly, limits of achievement and of technique were described. At that time, when the political, financial and industrial situation in Europe had not been stabilised, and the Dawes' Plan had only been formulated, but not introduced, some hesitancy might be expected.

Now, however, reality has far outstripped prophecy. The main problem is no longer to create large units, evolve immense power zones, accelerate the reorganisation and re-equipment of industry, but to control what has already been elaborated. When generating units of 208,000 kilowatts are being installed in place of a maximum of 30,000 kilowatts described in 1924, when main transmission lines at 380,000 volts are linking up Holland with the Black Forest and Switzerland, when it is seriously proposed, as in one of the Berlin papers, to carry power across the Baltic from Scandinavia to Germany, when Chicago exchanges electrical energy with New York and foreign trade in electricity has become important in Central Europe and Canada, when steam pressures of 1,200 lbs. per square inch and temperatures of 600° Cent. are employed in steam-raising plants—the difficulties are no longer technical, but economic and administrative.

In a sense, too, the Berlin Conference comes at the end of a chapter in the recovery of Germany: it displays what exactly has been achieved in the immense work of rationalising and reorganising the German industrial machine, and may indicate the most urgent dangers inherent in the process now virtually concluded. Electrification, even in 1924 a matter of some doubt, has been universally adopted, with the result that more than 70 per cent. of the motive power plant of the world is engaged in generating electricity, and almost 90 per cent. of all new plant added to the world's manufacturing capacity each year since 1924 is driven by electrical power. The electricity output of the world has risen from about 150,000 million units in 1924 to more than 300,000 million units in 1929.

Those statistics are necessary to comprehension of the real significance of the Berlin Conference, and appreciation of the immense mass of material prepared for it. Rather more than 400 papers from 37 countries have been submitted by principal authorities and experts engaged in the study and control of power under all its aspects; the transactions will be published in twenty volumes covering thirty-four main sections, while about 3,000 members and delegates will participate in the discussions. The greatest contribution comes from the United States in the form of 69 papers and surveys; the British Empire follows with 54; Germany with 39 and France with 27; while Japan and Argentina are distinguished by the strength of their representation. The procedure to be adopted at the Conference itself is quite simple and, on the whole, effective. The original documents, ranged in thirty-four sections corresponding to various aspects of power, are summarised in general reports of about 2,000 words, each prepared by international authorities on the subject in question. Those reports propose main lines of discussion and set up a number of problems of outstanding interest. The general reports combined with the discussions should give, therefore, a very full survey of the state of international opinion and knowledge regarding power development. A preliminary examination of the main papers submitted, and the general reports, shows certain broad tendencies which may be summarised:

(1) Economic motives and principles are at last being studied with care as essential to the elaboration of a national and international power policy. When countries like Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Austria, Poland, New Zealand, Tasmania, British South Africa, Federated Malay States and the Dutch East Indies have either initiated national power schemes or, as in the case of Canada and Australia, carried out co-ordination schemes over wide territories, the real economic significance of electrical development comes into prominence in discussion and examination.

(2) With such movements must be grouped administrative and political problems. The legal definition of the functions performed by the State, the relation between industrial production and power supply, the conclusion of commercial, military and financial agreements to cover the transmission of power from one country to another—all enter tentatively into the power situation and are discussed from many points.

(3) A further problem has been explored in connection with the methods by which the policy of rationalisation in industry may be fitted into a policy of scientifically co-ordinated power expansion, and in the examination of electric power consumption itself as a reliable index of industrial activity. A number of American, German and Russian papers and one lengthy British study deal with these matters on broad lines without evolving, however, concrete proposals or principles.

(4) Instead of revelling in description of technical achievements in the elaboration of large units, engineers and scientists are now more concerned to justify achievement in the light of experience, and by the test of economic results. The Berlin Conference covers a much wider field than the Wembley Conference, so much so that it can combine addresses by Sir A. S. Eddington and Professor Einstein on pure science with addresses on the political and economic importance of a European super-power zone (Dr. Oskar Oliven) and the tariff complications arising from international power exchanges (Prof. Serruys), while its political significance inside Germany itself may be deduced from the fact that President Hindenburg is the President of the Conference.

The ideal of international co-operation in power has undoubtedly gathered in strength through the series of sectional conferences which have been held at Basel, Barcelona, London and Tokyo since 1924, and it will probably be seen at its highest in the Berlin deliberations. It is significant, perhaps, that the Conference should open simultaneously with the flotation of the new Reparation loan. Both events are symbolical of the new spirit in Europe which has allowed the war period to be finally liquidated, brought to prominence again the interests of peace, and with it peaceful collaboration in economic and scientific development.

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GENERAL ELECTION IN CANADA.

(BY OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT.)

THE General Election campaign in Canada is now in full swing, and the country is being inundated with political oratory and propaganda. At the Dissolution the King Government had 132 supporters in a House of 245 members. Of these 123 were " Simon Pure " Liberals and nine counted as Liberal-Progressives, who did not attend the Liberal caucus but were unswerving in their devotion to the Government. The Conservatives numbered 90, and the Farmer Progressive group 18, while there were three Labourites and two Independents. Therefore, with the Speaker eliminated, the Government had a majority of 18 over any possible combination of the opposing parties, and they can afford to lose eight seats on the balance and still retain a narrow majority. On the other hand, the Conservatives, before they can gain a clear majority, must win 33 seats on balance.

The Liberals are claiming a renewal of their mandate on the general ground that for the last nine years they have given the country sane and progressive Government, and that, under their *régime*, Canada has, on the whole, enjoyed prosperity. They will also claim credit for such measures as the old age pension scheme, in which the co-operation of Provincial Governments has been secured, and for advancing the political status of Canada by the establishment of direct diplomatic relations with foreign countries. Finally, they will point to the Budget as a master-stroke of statesmanship which, without penalising the Canadian consumer, will afford a proper chastisement to American fiscal selfishness and at the same time stimulate inter-Imperial trade. In the prairie provinces, particularly, they are claiming the gratitude of the western farmers on the plea that by their tariff concessions they have already created in Great Britain a fund of fresh goodwill towards Canada which should result in a better market for Canadian wheat and other exports. Indeed, Mr Lapointe, the Minister of Justice, in a recent speech declared that the higher interests of the country and the Empire urgently demanded that the King Government be given a mandate to represent Canada at the approaching Imperial Conferences because the Conservative leaders stop short at oratory about Imperial co-operation and even show a disposition to oppose practical measures for the stimulation of inter-Imperial trade.

In this charge there is a certain degree of truth, for Conservative politicians and newspapers have criticised the increases in the British preference, partly on the ground that they exposed Canadian industry to unfair competition from their British rivals, and partly on the ground that further preferences to Britain should have been withheld until reciprocal advantages had been secured by bargaining at the Imperial Conference. Mr Bennett, the Conservative leader, both in his speech on the Budget and in the opening address of his campaign which he delivered in Winnipeg, took a strong nationalist-protectionist line and declared that, while he yielded to nobody in his affections to the British Empire, his first love was for Canada. His argument and that of other Conservative leaders is apparently that, since the North American continent has now become the chief centre of economic momentum and power in the world, it is immensely important for the future of the whole British Commonwealth that the British nation situated on North American territory should be economically strong and self-sufficient and able to hold its own against the puissant United States. Therefore, they contend, a policy of stiff domestic protectionism, which will build up Canadian industries and give the country a well-rounded national life, will in the long run be of more benefit to the general Imperial fabric than a policy which aims to assist a few British industries now struggling with grave embarrassments.

The Conservatives are also warning the western farmers that, in view of the world wide surplus of wheat and the pending threat of Russian competition, they must reconcile themselves to much keener competition in international markets, and that, in the light of this prospect, they would do well to support fiscal policies which, by promoting the growth of domestic industries and permitting an expansion of population, should tend to enlarge the domestic market for foodstuffs. They are also pledging themselves that, if they are returned to power and permitted to represent Canada at the Imperial Conferences, they will exert all their influence to gain for Canadian foodstuffs valuable preferences in the British market.

The Labour Party will only contest a limited number of urban constituencies and will do well if it returns its three former members, but the Independent Progressive group threatens to cause the Government considerable trouble in the three prairie provinces. Apart from the anti-Catholic sentiment which is rampant in the prairies and must operate powerfully against a Ministry dominated by Quebec influences, the western farmers are dissatisfied with Mr King on other grounds. They are suspicious that the Budget contained as large a dose of increased protectionism as of freer trade, and they are disposed to think that the Liberal Party is too much under the thumb of eastern capitalist influences. They are not ready to vote for the Conservative policy of higher protectionism, but they are almost in the same mood as in 1921 when the Progressive Party, then newly founded, carried three-fourths of the seats in the prairies. At present it holds 16 rural constituencies, and its leaders declare that the election will double its parliamentary strength.

A further factor in the situation is that the Roman Catholic hierarchy, which exercises a great deal of influence in the politics of Quebec, especially since women have been given the vote, has become very much exercised over the anti-Catholic agitation which has developed in the prairie provinces. They have seen with dismay the people of Saskatchewan turn out a Liberal

administration—largely on the ground that it was too subservient to the wishes of the Roman Catholic Church—and instal a Ministry which has passed very drastic legislation planned to diminish clerical influence in educational matters. They know that the dominant influence which the Quebec bloc exercises in the councils of the Liberal Party is greatly disliked in the west and is a theme of constant denunciation both by Conservatives and Progressives. Consequently they are afraid that anti-Catholic sentiment may permeate all the English-speaking provinces and result in a situation which will be very embarrassing to the interests of the Roman Catholic Church. Obviously the best course would be to secure some influence with the Conservative Party, to whose banner the anti-Catholic elements even of Liberal political faith are being attracted, and it is an open secret that some of the most influential figures in the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec are now saying publicly that it is time for the Province of Quebec to send a larger contingent of Conservative members to Ottawa.

It is significant that, in accepting renomination for his old constituency, Mr Henri Bourassa, the old Nationalist leader, who is credited with being one of the chief political counsellors of the hierarchy of Quebec, told his supporters that while in most matters he took the Liberal view, he intended henceforth to give the Conservatives his support on tariff questions on account of his dislike for the British preferential provisions of the Budget. He argued that although England, like other European countries, might be passing through a severe economic crisis, there was no reason why Canadian interests should be sacrificed to help the British unemployment problem. He declared that as long as the British preference was maintained on a sentimental basis he would oppose it and complained that Britain was not meeting Canada half way, at any rate in the matter of her purchases of wheat and butter.

With the campaign only just begun, prophecies about the result are perilous, especially in a country like Canada, where local and sectional issues bulk so largely in Federal politics. But it is quite plain that the King Government is definitely on the defensive and its fortunes are not being helped by the comparative stagnation of business which persists, nor by the slump in the stock markets which the last few days have witnessed. On the other hand it is difficult to visualise the Conservatives getting a clear majority which would open to them the gates of office, and at the time of writing the judgment of well-informed political experts is that polling day on July 28th will produce a stalemate between the two old parties and that a strengthened Independent Progressive Party will hold the balance of power. Such an outcome would involve a very complicated and puzzling situation and Parliament, as Premier King foreboded in his speech in Parliament before the session ended, would have to be summoned at once to decide what sort of Ministry should hold office and represent Canada at the Imperial Conferences.

THE WORLD'S TIMBER TRADE.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

In spite of all the alarms of an approaching world timber famine, the anxieties of timber traders within recent years have been more in connection with a glut than a shortage of wood supplies, and their concern has been chiefly how to stimulate consumption. Fortunately, the world is consuming more sawn deals, battens, boards and planed woods than ever before, although since the end of the War the increase in the usage of "wood-like" substitutes—plywood and various composition boards—has been amazing.

European supplies of "softwoods"—*i.e.*, building and joinery woods—are used almost exclusively, as might be expected, on this side of the world, and an analysis compiled by the Timber Department of Messrs William Brandt's Sons and Co., of London, shows that the average annual export by European timber shipping countries during the past five years was 4,295,200 Petrograd standards (of 165 cubic feet), as against 3,970,500 standards exported in 1912—a fair average pre-War year. The total export figures for 1912 and 1927-1929 are as follows:—

Year.	Total Exports. Standards.	Exports to U.K. Standards.
1912	3,970,500	1,742,000
1927	4,690,500	2,114,000
1928	4,406,000	1,610,000
1929	4,617,000	1,915,000

Since 1912, the distribution of exports between the wood manufacturing countries of Europe has undergone great changes as the result of the Russian revolution, which transferred to Finland and the new Baltic States a large part of Russia's pre-War production. But the progress of wood manufacture by the Soviet Government during the past five years has been remarkable, and shows the determination of the authorities in that country to extend their timber trade as speedily as possible. Exports from Russia during the past three years have risen from 446,000 to 829,000 standards; and owing to the proposed "invasion" of Russian timber into the United Kingdom in 1929, and the possibility of the British market being thereby "unstabilised," a syndicate of British importers bought the whole of the Russian shipments intended for this country. Attempts were made to come to a similar agreement for this year's shipments—which are expected to be on a much larger scale—but without effect, although negotiations for a concordat on similar lines are pending.

The uncertainty arising from these protracted negotiations and the absence, in the meanwhile, of buying orders from the consortium of British importers are the reasons why Russian shippers have recently been making concessions in prices, and offering certain guarantees to stimulate sales. The main problem that confronts importers and merchants is how to get the larger shipments of Russian wood into consumers' hands at a profit. That problem is also creating anxiety in timber shipping circles, especially in Finland and Sweden. The latter countries, faced by the "ruinous" competition of Soviet wood, may reduce their United Kingdom trade this year; on the other hand, given cheap timber, demand from the building trade in the United Kingdom may develop; but neither of these eventualities is certain. Whatever the outcome may be, all European shippers will have to recognise the fact that, unless something unforeseen happens, the timber production of Russia will extend largely year by year, not only in European Russia but also in the Russian Far East, where the Siberian virgin forests will compete with western American and Canadian output in the Japan, China and other Eastern markets.

The position of supplies in the other large timber-producing continent, America, is somewhat similar to that in Europe, and lumber manufacturers are complaining of unremunerative prices. In the United States of America there are schemes in operation for the curtailment of "hardwood" output; but, judging by the large quantities of American "hardwoods" shipped to the United Kingdom in the last eighteen months, and the disparity of shippers' prices, restriction of output does not seem to have had much effect, thanks largely to the business depression in the States. American "softwoods" for export consist principally of the pitchpine varieties from the Southern States and Douglas fir from the Pacific Slope. The latter wood is increasingly popular in the United Kingdom, not only on account of its intrinsic qualities, but also for the cheap price at which it is being offered on this side. The Pacific Slope export trade, however, is suffering from the effects of the wars in China and the depression in Japan.

With regard to the future of timber supplies, it is of interest—particularly in view of recent campaigns for greater inter-Imperial trade, to consider the Empire timber position. Large corporations in this country are using Empire woods for reasons both sentimental and practical, but apart from Canada the various Empire countries are not sufficiently advanced in lumber production methods to supply woods either in the enormous quantities required in the United Kingdom to-day, or at

competitive prices. Nevertheless, the fact remains that we cannot depend upon the United States to send us 58 per cent. of our sawn "hardwoods" for very many more years, and in time the forests of India, Australasia and Africa will be called upon for the bulk of our "hardwood" requirements. It will be principally to the British Empire and the undeveloped forest areas of South America that we shall have to look in the long run for the very large supplies of furniture and cabinet woods that we require.

In the case of "softwoods," there are still enormous resources available in Europe, and supplies are being eked out by the ever-increasing manufacture and usage of plywood, for which the scope of demand and supply is almost illimitable. In the United Kingdom alone no less than 417,170,500 square feet of plywood were imported last year, a figure which will give an idea of the future prospects of this material in timber importing and manufacturing countries.

Although the alarmist reports of approaching timber famines during the past thirty years have been, to say the least, wide of the mark, they have served a useful purpose in reminding governments and private owners of the intrinsic value of their forests. The wanton destruction of clearing areas by burning has now given place to more practical care, prevention of fire outbreaks, and the general protection of trees. Moreover, it is realised to-day that the profits of sawmills rest largely on the proper utilisation of sawmill waste. An account of a practical and shining example of economy in converting timber is to be found in the current issue of the *Bank of Finland Monthly Bulletin*. In that we are told that wood waste in the Finnish sawmills comprises as much as 43.2 per cent. of the total raw material used, a proportion large but quite reasonable when the manufacture of "ends" and woods of even smaller dimensions is considered. Of this sawmill waste, 8.3 per cent. is used in the manufacture of sulphate cellulose; 78.4 per cent. is consumed as fuel; and charcoal is derived from 2.4 per cent. The rest, 10.9 per cent., still remains waste, but some of that may become a paying proposition before long.

When we think of the past, when forest lands were wilfully burned for clearing purposes (the United States sacrificed untold wealth in this way), when waterways were blocked up with sawdust, impeding navigation at great loss, it is surprising, not that we have comparatively so few forests left, but that we have so many. It is a matter for real satisfaction that first-class brains are now being utilised in virgin forest work, in which the world's concern must be not only the timber requirements of a generation or two, but the continuity of supplies for the distant future. Given adequate planning and forethought, economies in methods of manufacture, and the use of the substitute to which reference has been made, it should not be impossible to make our timber resources last indefinitely.

WHEN WILL AMERICA RECOVER?

Heavy liquidation in Wall Street has been a feature of this week's American news. The extent of the downward movement in security values may be gathered from the indices (1926 = 100) *of the Standard Statistics Company, which show that the average value of* 402 *representative stocks, standing on June 4th at* 171.5 *(as compared with* 228.1 *at the crest of last year's boom, and* 140.3 *at the nadir of the autumn slump), had fallen by June* 11*th to* 157.6, *and suffered a further decline by the middle of this week to* 142.0. *Thus in the last few weeks American stocks have lost practically all the ground recovered during the winter and spring. In his weekly cable on p.* 1393 *our New York correspondent deals with the outstanding features in the recent wave of selling, the chief cause of which appears to have been the growing public realisation that the depression in industry has deeper roots than the authorities have hitherto been prepared to admit. The following article, written before the latest "break," gives the impressions of the underlying situation reached by a well-informed observer during a recent visit to the United States.*

Throughout the first quarter of 1930 one side of Times Square, in New York City, carried an immense hoarding which bore the legend, amusingly ingenuous to the eyes of the stranger unversed in American methods, "Forward America! They can't beat US! Business is Good. Keep it Good!" Smaller copies of this poster were to be found on other hoardings and occupying spaces in the daily Press. Its anxious reiteration was typical of the methods in use for exorcising the evil spirits loosed by the Stock Market crash. Even earlier evil influences had been abroad; but the disastrous miracle (for New York will accept no responsibility for it) of the crash transferred them violently from the few to the many. The herd rushed towards the cliff, and Mr Hoover and his associates stood across their path, a thin but determined White House line. In the circumstances, they were not too careful in their choice of methods, and their speeches were often misleading.

They met with some, possibly too much, success. The optimism they inculcated enabled the Stock Exchange to lever prices up to a level from which they are still falling, and almost completely obscured the real business situation. Thus, after a mass of "cheer-giving" statements from Mr. Hoover and Secretary Lamont, interspersed between conferences with business leaders, one found Mr Mellon, the cautious and usually silent Treasurer, stating with obvious sincerity last December: "Forecasting the future of business can never be done with certainty. . . . I see nothing, however, in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism. During the winter months there may be some slackness or unemployment, but hardly more than at this season of each year. I have every confidence that there will be a revival of activity in the spring."

Looking back, one is astonished that it should have been possible to hold this opinion. Between September and December the Federal Reserve Board's index of factory employment (1923-25=100) had fallen from 103.4 to 94.8, while during that period its index (same base) of industrial production had dropped precipitously from 123 to 95. The decline in employment has continued, the last figure published, for March, 1930, being 92.7. Yet on January 21st Mr Hoover announced: "The tide of unemployment has turned in the right direction." He was immediately challenged by Miss Frances Perkins, the Industrial Commissioner for the State of New York, who pointed out that in New York State unemployment in January was proving worse than in December, which in its turn showed the ugliest record of any similar month since 1914. Again, in March, Miss Perkins had to challenge the accuracy of White House employment figures put out on the basis of estimates supplied to Mr Hoover by Secretaries Lamont and Davis. In each case the facts have been on Miss Perkins' side.

It is impossible to form any exact estimate of the numbers of unemployed in the United States. The index of employment quoted above covers only some 3,500,000 workers engaged in manufacturing industries. It takes no account of mining, agriculture, finance, or of the very important distributive trades. But undoubtedly unemployment, at any rate during the first quarter of 1930, was very severe, and may easily have exceeded 4,500,000. The much advertised and brutally dispersed Communist meetings in New York were really gatherings of the unemployed, leavened by a few Communist speakers and agitators. Destitution was great and begging general.

Industrial production, it is true, picked up slightly during January and February to 103 and 109, but slipped back to 106 in March, when an increase is normal. Indeed, the Stock Market crash merely precipitated a business readjustment that was already due. The industrial production index of the Reserve Board had, by May, 1929, increased by 25 per cent. over the average for 1923-25. In July, 1929, a hesitation in the trend was noticeable, and if it had not been for the Hatry incident, the situation would have developed along well-established lines, a market break coming as a consequence of prior industrial

difficulties. The collapse on the Stock Exchange in October upset the sequence of events, and raised so great a dust that it is only now that the real outlines of the industrial landscape can be seen. Moreover, apart from the dust raised by the falling in of Stock Exchange prices, the real situation had been obscured by the failure of wholesale prices to rise in conformity with normal "boom" practice. The wholesale commodity price index of the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics recorded average prices throughout 1928 that were 2.3 per cent. lower than in 1926. In July, 1929, at the peak of the production boom, prices were still 2 per cent. below the 1926 level, and showed singularly small variation from those ruling annually since 1920.

This stability of wholesale prices has been continuously called in evidence to support the view that trade activity in recent years was not more than normal. Thus, after the great Stock Market break of October 24th, when 12,894,000 shares changed hands, Mr Hoover stated: "The fundamental business of the country, that is production and distribution of commodities, is on a prosperous and sound basis. The best evidence is that, although production and consumption are at a high level, the average price of commodities as a whole has not increased. . . ." The facts were true, the deduction false. Actually, costs of production had been falling so sharply since 1923 that ruling prices were a sufficient incentive to induce manufacturers to double and treble their plants until they reached the position of being able to pour new goods into the market before a demand for them had been more than half-created. The difficulty of the manufacturers was not to produce enough goods to take advantage of rising prices—the usual phenomenon in trade booms—but to prevent their huge productive capacity from washing away existing and highly profitable prices.

Armed with such a wealth of productive weapons, manufacturers endeavoured to avoid defeat by falling prices by various strategies. They not only formed numerous price-fixing organisations; they bullied or cajoled the public into purchasing more and ever more goods on credit, by use of the instalment system. As a consequence, prices remained reasonably stable, and stocks did not accumulate—at least statistically, although they undoubtedly piled themselves up in the houses and garages of the consumers. Now that the consumer has lost confidence, the best weapon of the manufacturers has failed them; prices—in spite of conferences and agreements—have commenced to fall; and it is improbable that they have reached their nadir. Second quarter industrial reports are not expected to be better than the first quarter's, and the realisation of this was chiefly responsible for the success of the Whitsun raid of the bears on Wall Street. It is, however, still doubtful if many people understand in the United States the full significance of what the country is going through. Mr Hoover and the Federal Reserve authorities are discredited; certain Wall Street figures have lost their haloes; but, outside very narrow circles, it would not be admitted that the country is passing through the regular downswing of a trade cycle.

How far America will be forced to this conclusion will depend very largely on the results of the 1930 world harvests. Large crops this summer will entail a further fall in cotton and grain prices, and will place the farmer in a very serious situation. His difficulties may well precipitate banking troubles in the Middle West, where the tendency throughout the boom—when regular commercial and industrial customers found they could satisfy their requirements more economically by the sale of common stock—has been for the banks to involve themselves more and more in long-term advances to agriculture and in loans against Stock Exchange collateral. With the simultaneous collapse in commodity and security prices, many of these banks find themselves "frozen." The Stock Market collapse has forced back to them increasing numbers of their old customers, but they have been unable adequately to meet their needs. The result has been a sudden renewal of activity in the commercial bill market. The volume of commercial paper afloat, as reported by the 25 leading dealers, has increased from $285,000,000 in October, 1929, to $529,000,000 in March, 1930, and the main growth has occurred, as might have been expected, since December, 1929, when the outstanding amount of paper was $334,000,000. The appearance of a number of new but first-class names is reported, and the volume of bills outstanding in March was higher than in any month since May, 1928.

There need, however, be little anxiety about the banking situation as a whole. It is true that there is no sign of any appreciable reduction in Member Bank loans against Stock Exchange collateral. During 1929 these touched a peak of $8,746,000,000 (in November), but throughout the year as a whole they averaged $7,716,000,000. As against this they stood at May, 1930, at $8,259,000,000. This compares with loans of $5,943,000,000 in May, 1927, $6,968,000,000 in May, 1928, and $7,371,000,000 in May, 1929, and shows an increase of 12 per cent. over May, 1929, and of 39 per cent. over May, 1927. These figures are often used—and by very reputable, if slightly disgruntled authorities—to show that the banks are still excessively financing stock operations. But not all the money borrowed on Stock Exchange collateral goes into the market. Even if it did, the increase since 1927 in loans on such collateral is not necessarily excessive, since the total market value of stocks and bonds officially quoted on the New York Stock Exchange was still 60 per cent. higher in May, 1930, than in May, 1927.

But if the banking situation is generally sound, cheap credit and liquidity do not in themselves put an end to trade depressions. They are ladders up from the pit, but cripples do not climb easily. America must make up her mind to a longer period of convalescence than it anticipated in March and April. If cotton and grain crops are only moderate, her recovery may be easier. But should 1930 prove a first-class harvest year (as at present seems quite probable) the worst of her troubles may yet be ahead.

THE INDIAN FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

In addition to the more specifically political sections, which we summarised last week, Vol. I. of the Indian Commission's Report contains a survey of the public finances of India. This section begins by setting forth the salient features of the Indian situation, whose character at once influences and explains the general financial system which has developed. In the first place, India is predominantly a rural country, almost the whole of whose exports, except manufactured jute, consists of agricultural produce, whereas manufactured articles form the bulk of its imports. The villages, whose isolation is only now beginning to be modified by motor transport, are still largely self-sufficient economically, consuming what is grown in the vicinity; and "more than four-fifths" of the cultivated area of the country is dependent upon a precarious rainfall, whose uncertainty is "a serious and disturbing factor in all budgetary calculations." The standard of living attained by the mass of the population is extremely low; even taking the most optimistic of recent estimates, "the average income of India per head in 1922 was . . . less than £8, while the corresponding figure for Great Britain was £95"; and the use of averages serves to conceal "the great disparity in the incomes of different classes."

These factors "explain why Indian revenues are so largely derived from land and from taxes on consumption." Income tax, first introduced in 1860, but not now charged on agricultural income, has never been as important a source of revenue in India as in industrialised Western countries; the self-sufficiency of the villages has limited the scope of internal excises to a few articles, *e.g.*, salt, not locally available; and land revenue has consequently been by far the most important item in Indian finance until quite recent years, when it has been surpassed by the rapid growth of customs revenue.

Inherited from the Mogul Empire by the East India Company, the land revenue system, so far as Bengal, Bihar and Orissa are concerned, was the subject, in 1793, of a "permanent settlement," whereby the assessment of rental values and the proportion to be paid by the *zemindars*, whose original function was merely to collect the land revenue for the Government, were fixed in perpetuity. This "permanent settlement" had two consequences—(1) an "amazing growth of sub-infeudation," with sometimes "as many as 50 or more intermediate interests . . . between the *zemindars* at the top and the actual cultivator at the bottom"; and (2) the virtual immunity from direct taxation of present-day holders of urban site values. In the rest of India, however, the "settlements" of land revenue are subject to periodic revision, and except in a large part of the United Provinces, in the Punjab, and in the Central Provinces, where a *zemindar* class similarly "intervenes between the Government and the cultivating tenants," the Government "deals direct with the cultivators and discharges some of the functions of a landlord."

Against the background of these fundamental factors, the history of Indian public finance from 1858 onwards is largely a history of the gradual devolution to provincial Governments of power at first concentrated exclusively in the hands of the Governor-General in Council. In the last half of the nineteenth century, fresh functions were devolved on the provincial Governments, and grants were made to finance them; but gradually this system gave place to that of "divided heads of revenues," which means that a proportion of certain taxes was assigned to the provinces in which they were collected. But, "since no theoretical or objective standard of needs had ever been worked out, the allocations to the provinces were largely the result of history and tradition," and had no scientific fiscal basis.

The authors of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms considered that this system of "divided heads" involved an interference in provincial matters by the Centre; and, as they desired to give the provinces the greatest possible degree of fiscal autonomy, they proposed to sweep it away and substitute a complete allocation of sources of revenue to the provinces and the Centre respectively. Their suggestions were examined in detail by a Financial Relations Committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Meston, whose report was issued in 1920. The recommendations of this Committee, modified by a Joint Select Committee of Parliament, resulted in a set of financial Devolution Rules which govern the present distribution of the sources of revenue. The more important sources of provincial revenue are as follows:—

(1) Receipts accruing in respect of provincial subjects (which include irrigation, land revenue, forests, excise on alcoholic liquors and narcotics, stamps, and minerals).

(2) A share in the growth of revenue derived from income tax collected in the provinces, so far as that growth is attributable to an increase in the amount of income assessed.

(3) The proceeds of any taxes which may be lawfully imposed for provincial purposes.

The new taxes which the provinces may levy require sanction by the Governor-General in Council, except in the case of succession duties and taxes on betting, advertisements, amusements and specified luxuries. The sources of revenue of the Central Government are those appertaining to the Central services, including customs, income tax, salt, post and telegraphs, railways and the cultivation of opium. It was, however, recognised that this allocation would leave the Central Budget with a deficit. The scheme, therefore, provided for temporary contributions from the provinces to the Centre, based upon the increase in revenue which, it was anticipated, this new allocation of sources would yield to the various provinces.

The question also arose whether, under the dyarchical system introduced in the provinces, the provincial budget was to be framed as a whole or in separate portions relating to "reserved" and "transferred" subjects. The system ultimately embodied in the Act of 1919 provided that, failing agreement between the two sides of a provincial administration, a decision as to the allocation of revenue should rest with the Governor. In practice, the Commission note with satisfaction, agreement has invariably been reached without the necessity of the employment of the Governor's arbitrary powers.

Having thus described the evolution of India's existing fiscal system, the Report proceeds to examine its working since the Reforms of 1919. The keynote of their conclusions is the emphasis laid on financial stringency in the provinces:—

"It had been hoped that the substantial initial surpluses which the provinces were expected to get (according to the calculations on which the Meston scheme was based) would enable Ministers, when they took charge of transferred departments in 1920, to develop the 'nation-building' services entrusted to them without the imposition of additional taxation, at any rate in the earlier years. . . . Circumstances over which neither the Government of India nor the provincial Governments had any control rendered the realisation of these hopes impossible. India, like every other country that had taken part in the war, was at the time of the introduction of the Reforms passing through an acute financial crisis."

Consequently, during the first three years after the Reforms, both the Central and provincial Governments were compelled to struggle to achieve financial equilibrium by drastic economy as well as additional taxation, and the "Meston Settlement" became the subject of bitter criticism in the provinces. In 1924 the majority of the Muddiman Committee reported that "difficulties arising from finance have formed one of the main obstacles to the success of the Reforms." Fortunately, following the curtailment of Central expenditure (particularly retrenchment on the army) from 1922-23 onwards, and a substantial increase in the yields of customs, the financial position at the Centre improved; and under Sir Basil Blackett's *régime* the "provincial contributions" were gradually reduced, and in 1927-28 finally extinguished. This remission benefited certain provinces much more than others; indeed, some had been placed in so straitened a financial situation by the allocation of 1920 combined with the higher cost of government, that they had paid no contribution at all. The abolition of the contributions, in fact, revealed what the Committee describe as the defects of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme of allocated revenues.

After a brief survey of the chief items of the Central and provincial budgets, the Report concludes with a brief survey of the control of Indian finance, first, by the legislatures of India, and, secondly, by the Secretary of State in Council.

"The system of control by Indian legislatures over finance, established by the Government of India Act, 1919, is, in its essential features, very similar to that of the British system on which it is so largely modelled."

The demands of the Government for supply in respect of certain services are presented annually to the legislatures, but such items as debt charges, army expenditure and certain other services are not subject to vote. There are attached to the Central and provincial legislatures Standing Financial Committees whose function is to scrutinise proposals for fresh expenditure, and whose influence is noted by the Commission as having been considerable. Moreover, the Commission observe, the legislatures can exercise indirectly some influence even over the non-votable expenditure through moving resolutions in connection with expenditure ancillary to it. On the other hand, the refusal of the Assembly to vote demands is not necessarily effective, as the Governor-General in Council has the right to certify expenditure as essential. In connection with the annual Finance Bill, the Commission remark that such an annual Act is not "constitutionally necessary."

Although control over expenditure on the transferred services definitely passed to the provincial legislatures in the Act of 1919 and the budgets of the provincial governments are not now submitted either to the Government of India or to the Secretary of State for approval before they are presented to the provincial legislatures, the regulation of provincial borrowing "provides the Secretary of State and the Central Government with an effective instrument of control by which the financial stability of the provinces is secured." Interest charges have priority over all other charges on provincial revenues save only the statutory contributions to the Central Government; and as regards provincial "reserved" subjects, although there has been a considerable relaxation of control in practice, the Secretary of State in Council still retains fairly wide statutory powers of interference.

Finally, the Secretary of State still maintains over the financial administration of the Central Government

" a control more rigid than over any other sphere of administration, except, perhaps, defence and foreign relations."

" Indeed, although there has been a general tendency for his control to be relaxed, the Government of India would, we think, contend that on some occasions in the past the directions of the Secretary of State on some financial questions have reduced the Government of India to the position of a subordinate agency. . . . The budget proposals, particularly those affecting taxation, are invariably submitted to him and his orders obtained before the Budget is presented to the Central Legislature."

In order that the Secretary of State's control may be effective, the Auditor General is logically appointed directly by the Secretary of State and is at once the official audit authority in India and an important part of the machinery through which the legislatures enforce regularity and economy in the administration of finance. He has thus a dual responsibility to the Secretary of State on the one hand, and to the Indian legislatures on the other, and is, in addition, responsible for the compilation of the accounts which the Secretary of State is required to lay before Parliament every year. This combination of duties, a relic of the centralised pre-1919 system, is described by the Commission as " anomalous."

Notes of the Week.

The Conservative Party Crisis.—Events this week have moved swiftly to a crisis within the Conservative Party. On Tuesday Lord Rothermere's paper, the *Daily Mail*, published, with strong editorial endorsement, a letter from Lord Beaverbrook appealing for subscriptions from Conservatives to raise a sum " sufficient to enable us to place a candidate in the field in every constituency where there is no one who supports Empire Free Trade." The explanation given for this *démarche* was that Mr Baldwin in his Whit Monday speech had himself supplied the arguments which would be employed during the taking of a Referendum to oppose taxation of food imports, and that it had " now become abundantly obvious to Empire Crusaders that they have little assistance to expect from members of the Conservative Front Bench." The consequences of this open denunciation by Lord Beaverbrook of the concordat, based on the promise of the Referendum, which had been reached between him and the Conservative leader, were twofold. On the one hand, the Executive Committee of the National Union of Conservative Associations met on Wednesday and passed a resolution recording its " astonishment and regret " at reading a letter " which seems to repudiate the agreement reached with Mr Baldwin and is calculated to injure that unity of action which alone can carry the policy of Empire economic unity." On the other hand, in North Norfolk, where a by-election is pending, the local Conservative Association promptly announced that its adopted candidate, while fighting on the official policy of the party and " loyally supporting " Mr Baldwin, will give " wholehearted support " to the Empire Crusade and will "accept it and all it implies." Lord Beaverbrook, however, was not disposed to be content with North Norfolk's " implied," though amusingly two-faced, message of revolt against Conservative headquarters and on Thursday the *Daily Mail* contained a further letter from his lordship frankly challenging the leadership of the Conservative front bench, whose " one desire is to return to office . . . not through any merits of their own policy but through the sins of the Socialists." The letter concluded by appealing for a special meeting of the National Union of Conservative Associations " in order to decide on the policy of the Conservative Party. Let that meeting . . . give Mr Baldwin the opportunity of putting to the test the grave issues which now confront his Party." Here, clearly, is war *à outrance*. The challenge can hardly be ignored, and the rank and file of the Party will presumably have to decide in the not distant future whether it is to be led by Mr Baldwin or by Lord Beaverbrook, with Lord Rothermere, we suppose, as *amicus curiæ*. For our part, we hold as little brief for Mr Baldwin's Safeguarding plus agricultural subsidies as we do for his rival's programme of food import taxes, and if the Conservative Party decides that Lord Beaverbrook's career and character (the *Daily Mail* emphasises notably his " proved gifts of energy, initiative, and intuition ") fit him better for leadership than Mr Baldwin's less " uncloistered " virtues, that is its own affair. But it is to be regretted that in a time of great moment and difficulty the official Opposition Party should be reduced by dissension to a condition of ineffectiveness, instead of performing its proper function of constructive criticism.

The New American Tariff.—The signature by President Hoover of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Bill at Washington is the tragi-comic finale to one of the most amazing chapters in world tariff history, and it is one that Protectionist enthusiasts the world over would do well to study. The reason for tariff revision was a desire to restore a balance of protection which had been tilted to the disadvantage of the agriculturalist. But so soon as ever the tariff schedules were cast into the melting-pot of revision, log-rollers and politicians set to work stirring with all their might, and a measure which started with the single object of giving satisfaction to the farmer emerges as a full-fledged high tariff Act in which nearly 900 duties have been raised, some extravagantly. Such is the inevitable result of vested interests working through political influence, ending in signature by a President, antagonistic to the Bill, under compulsion of political necessities. No one, except the interests who fancy their own pockets may benefit, wanted the tariff; big business in the East is against it, the economists of America have condemned it in unison; the motor manufacturers have implored Mr Hoover to use his veto; and the fear of its economic consequences at home and abroad was mainly responsible for the heaviest slump of the year in Wall Street. Yet it is now the law of that land, and we have the spectacle of a great country, at a moment of severe trade depression, and faced with a growing necessity to export her manufactures, deliberately erecting barriers against trade with the rest of the world. Here, indeed, is a classic example of what happens to a country which once starts on the slope of protection. Protection, meant to be a good servant, becomes a dominant and costly master. President Hoover, we see, endeavours to coat the pill by suggesting that the " flexible " provisions will be used to mitigate the effects of the tariff, where it may be found to be irksome. This hope is surely illusory, as similar hopes held out in the past have proved to be. In the first two years of President Coolidge's administration a number of duties were raised, but only two reduced—namely, on the vital items of bran and live bobwhite quail. We are compelled to accept the view expressed some years ago by Dr Taussig that " the interests involved in tariff-making are so powerful, and can exert such influence on the party in power, that disinterested and non-partisan administration of the flexible provisions is a vain dream." If there is any comfort to be derived from this latest chapter in tariff folly, it is the belief that American eyes will be forcibly opened to the fact that they are faced by a *reductio ad absurdum*. Incidentally, every week brings new evidence of the realisation by American business leaders of the dangers of the fiscal path which America is treading. In a contribution to the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science Mr Edward A. Filene, while disavowing Free Trade convictions, argues powerfully that a lowering of American tariffs is essential for the stimulation both of world trade in general and American exports in particular. *Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*

The Crisis in Egypt.—On Tuesday, June 17th, the Egyptian Prime Minister, Nahas Pasha, tendered his resignation to the King on the ground that he has been obstructed in his purpose of carrying legislation for safeguarding the maintenance of Constitutional Government. The news caused great excitement in the Chamber, which passed a unanimous vote of confidence in Nahas Pasha's Ministry. It was natural that the Leader of the Wafd should have introduced such legislation upon returning to office last year, since he was succeeding to a *régime* under which the Constitution had been arbitrarily suspended by Royal Decree. Indeed, there is no knowing how long this unconstitutional *régime* might have continued but for Mr Henderson's insistence, last year, that an Anglo-Egyptian agreement, if reached, must be ratified by Parliament in both countries. The Wafd may be grateful to the British Government for having given the unconstitutional *régime* in Egypt the push that sent it staggering to the ground; but it is obvious that a Constitution is neither stable nor healthy until it is secured by sanctions independent of any external influence or action. For this reason it was not only natural, but inevitable that Nahas Pasha should have taken measures for safeguarding the Constitution as soon as he returned to power; and it is interesting that King Fu'ad should now venture upon a course of obstruction. Does he reckon that the failure of the recent Anglo-Egyptian negotiations has weakened the Wafd's prestige? It will be remembered that he carried out his anti-constitutional *coup d'état* of 1928 after Nahas Pasha and his followers had rejected the draft treaty that had been negotiated by Sarawat Pasha with Sir Austen Chamberlain. Does King Fu'ad contemplate attempting the same manœuvre again? If he imagines that, because Nahas Pasha has failed to agree with Mr Henderson, British public opinion would look on complacently at the overthrow of Nahas and of Constitutional Government with him, we suggest that he is mistaken.

France and the Optional Clause.—On June 12 the Chamber of Deputies in Paris, by an overwhelming majority, voted two Bills: one for ratifying the General Act of Arbitration which was approved by the Assembly of the League of Nations during its Ninth Session in 1928, the other for ratifying the declaration of adherence to " the Optional Clause " of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice—a declaration that was made on September 19 last by the French delegation to the Tenth Assembly at Geneva. This is a notable contribution to the organisation of peace, and a contribution which is all in line with French policy since the Armistice. Indeed, the French delegation to the Fifth Assembly in 1924 had already made a declaration of adherence to " the Optional Clause " after that Assembly had approved the Geneva Protocol; and this earlier declaration would assuredly have been ratified five years ago if the Geneva Protocol had not fallen through. We must admit that French policy is consistent, and that it aims, no less than British policy, at the organisation of peace—without prejudice to the question which line of policy is the more likely to realise the common object. In introducing the two Bills in the Chamber last week, Monsieur Briand made the inevitable declaration that the Peace Treaties were sacrosanct, and that arbitration was not to be made a pretext for reopening questions which these treaties purport to have settled once and for all. He also made the more interesting declaration that he intended to pursue his project for the federation of Europe. We believe that he will do so; and, what is more, we believe that—assuming the permanence of the post-war policy of France—any other French statesman who becomes responsible for the conduct of French foreign relations will sooner or later tread the same road. We believe this because, given the territorial terms of the Peace Treaties, there would appear to be only two possible alternatives in the long run. Either the post-war frontiers in Europe will have to be revised, or frontiers in general will have to be rendered so unimportant a factor in the life of Europe that it really ceases to matter very profoundly how or where they are drawn. Since France will never willingly consent to the former alternative, the logic of events should drive her more and more into becoming the advocate of the only other way out.

The Greco-Turkish Settlement.—Last week a Greco-Turkish agreement was signed at Angora in settlement of all the outstanding controversies over the execution of the Exchange of Populations Convention which was annexed to the Peace Treaty of Lausanne. Financially, it is Greece who pays—to the tune of £450,000, which is to be apportioned among Greeks of Turkish nationality domiciled in Constantinople, former Greek inhabitants of Turkey who have been forbidden to return, and Turks of Greek nationality in the Greek province of Western Thrace. But beyond doubt Greece can afford to pay, and politically the settlement is cheap at the price. Indeed, it may rank as one of the notable achievements of Monsieur Venizelos' statesmanship if it is followed up, as the Greek Prime Minister evidently intends, by a really good understanding between the two countries concerned. Monsieur Venizelos began his political career at Athens as a great peace minister; and though, from 1912 until his final return to power a few years ago, his energies were diverted and his activities interrupted by the *force majeure* of international events, it looks as though the last chapter of his extraordinary history will signalise him as a great peace minister once again. In the relations between Greece and Turkey the present agreement, completing the peace settlement of Lausanne, marks the end of an epoch in Near Eastern history which has lasted for about a century and a half. A hundred and fifty years ago the Greek and Turkish peoples were living geographically intermingled with one another and with half a dozen other nationalities throughout the then enormous extent of the Ottoman Empire. To-day the remnants of these two peoples are completely disentangled from one another and from their neighbours, and are each concentrated in a compact national state of their own. The process has demanded an appalling sacrifice of life, wealth and happiness; and he would be a bold Turk and a bold Greek who would venture, in retrospect, to contend that it has been worth the price. The best that can be said is that the long agony has at last been brought to an end, leaving on the map a Greek and a Turkish " successor state " of the Ottoman Empire which both fit into the international pattern of the modern world. The economic recovery of Greece from the wars of 1912-22—wars which culminated in a disaster that brought more than a million and a quarter refugees into a defeated and prostrated country—has been one of the remarkable events of the post-war period. Turkey, emerging victorious from the same ordeal, is to-day showing signs of economic distress. But at least this statesmanlike agreement between the two countries will promote political stability in a region where the tension between Italy and France makes such stability eminently desirable in the general interests of peace.

Results of the Belgrade Trial.—On Saturday, June 14th, the treason trial at Belgrade ended in the acquittal of Dr. Metchek, Colonel Begitch and six of their fellow-prisoners, and in the condemnation to various terms of imprisonment of the fifteen others, including Professor Jellashitch, who bears a name that is famous in the history of Croatian nationalism. Except for the professor, most of those condemned are young and obscure, and they appear on the whole to have been guilty of the offences with which they were charged, however excessive the penalties with which these offences are visited under the present *régime* may appear to be in the sight of foreign observers. The most striking point about the trial, however, is not the sentences passed, but the clear establishment, in the course of the proceedings, of the fact that the police at Zagreb had extracted false statements from a number of the prisoners under torture. There is no doubt about the torture. It was the kind of thing that was done, for the same purpose, in Western Europe in the 17th century; and the fact that at Zagreb, last year, it was done without the elaborate apparatus of racks and thumb-screws does not make it a bit less ugly. If the new map of Europe means retrogression from the twentieth to the seventeenth century, the unhappy peoples of the Continent may come to look back with regret to the Hapsburg, Hohenzollern and Romanov Empires. Bad as they were, they were not so bad as the conditions which the Belgrade treason trial has just revealed as part of the dispensation by which the pre-war empires have been replaced. It is true that there is another side to the

picture. These damning facts could not have come to light at the trial if the presiding judge had not been independent and courageous; and these are remarkable virtues in a special court working under a dictatorship. It is evident that the spirit of truth and justice and humanity, which is the spirit of civilization, is not altogether extinct in Jugoslavia. Unfortunately, it is a rare spark which only illuminates the darkness here and there. Until this spirit informs the life of the country, it will avail Jugoslavia nothing that, by right of conquest, she has become one of the " successor states " of the Hapsburg monarchy, for she will not have become a member of the comity of civilised nations. Within her expanded frontiers she will remain morally the self-same Balkan State that she was before.

The Tientsin Customs.—Nothing could demonstrate more clearly the miserable fact that China has relapsed into the old condition of civil war than the recrudescence of the problem of the Maritime Customs. The Maritime Customs are an All-China service, built up and still partly controlled by foreign officials in the Chinese Government's employment. And even when the service of the various foreign loans that are secured upon the Customs Revenue has been met, the surplus is the most substantial and certain source of income at a Chinese Government's disposal. When China is under the effective rule of one central Government no problem arises; and that was the situation during the latter part of the nineteenth century when the Maritime Customs Administration was being built up, and again—after the interregnum of 1911-1928—when the Kuomintang armies entered Peking and brought the whole of China inside the Great Wall under the authority of a new central Government at Nanking. On the other hand, during the foregoing period of civil war, the problem of allocating the Customs surplus was acute, as it threatens to become again to-day. There was a time, for instance, when the Kuomintang Government, then established at Canton, was in the same position towards the now defunct central Government at Peking as Yen Hsi-shen and Fêng Yü-hsiang are in to-day towards the Kuomintang Government—now become the All-China Central Government at Nanking. A local *de facto* Government which has revolted against the central Government of the moment in the hope of bringing it to the ground and eventually reigning over all China in its stead, finds the local representatives of the Maritime Customs Service not only still collecting the Customs Revenues in the local ports, but transmitting the surplus to the local *de facto* Government's enemies at the centre. Thus, in 1926, the Ankuochün Central Government at Peking was fighting the Kuomintang Government at Canton with sinews of war that were partly remitted from the Customs duties collected in Canton harbour and transmitted to Peking. And thus, again, to-day the Kuomintang Central Government at Nanking has been fighting Yen Hsi-shen with revenues partly drawn from the Customs receipts of Tientsin, within Yen's *de facto* domain, and transmitted to Shanghai. Yen seems to have made the reasonable proposal that the local representatives of the Maritime Customs at Tientsin should continue to do their work, but that the revenues which they collected should be deposited in some neutral safe custody pending the outcome of the present conflict between Yen and Nanking. Nanking, however, has rejected this proposal, whereupon Yen has appointed at Tientsin a local Customs Commissioner of his own. Thus the Chinese Civil War again threatens to break up the most valuable and efficient administrative service of the Chinese State.

The Completion of the Dawes Plan.—The final report of the Agent-General for Reparation Payments contains a summary of the history of the Dawes Plan from its inception, and a wealth of information about economic conditions in Germany at the moment of entering upon the execution of the Young Plan. The transfers made under the Dawes Plan and their distribution among the creditor Powers are shown below:—

TRANSFERS UNDER THE DAWES PLAN, SEPTEMBER 1, 1924—MAY 17, 1930.

(In thousands of gold marks).

Transfers to Creditor Powers:—	
France	3,939,183
Great Britain	1,654,410
Italy	555,130
Belgium	527,499
Jugoslavia	275,160
U.S.A.	300,431
Roumania	67,244
Japan	45,078
Portugal	44,895
Greece	23,734
Poland	1,417
Total	7,434,181
Service of German External Loan, 1924	439,831
Other prior charges, principally costs of Inter Allied Commissions	74,977
Total transfers	7,948,989

As for the economic conditions in which Germany enters upon the Young Plan, Mr Parker Gilbert observes that the mark, during the last twelve months, has been one of the strongest currencies in the world; that the Reichsbank is in a very strong position; that Germany has succeeded in restoring equilibrium in her foreign trade, and, what is more important, has done so almost entirely by increasing exports rather than by diminishing imports; and that the physical volume of production in 1929 exceeded that even of the two preceding years, though, as the working population is at the moment increasing at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, a more rapid increase will be necessary if the unemployment problem is to be solved. Unfortunately, however, in addition to the disturbing forces which exist in the present depressed state of business throughout the world, Germany's economy has been subject to increasing pressure from the growing difficulties of public finance. The revenue, Mr Gilbert repeatedly insists, is adequate to cover all legitimate expenditure and to leave a margin for contingencies, but public expenditure has tended more and more to exceed, not only revenue, but even the possibilities of borrowing. The root causes of the trouble are: failure to reform the financial arrangements between the Reich, the States, and the communes, and to rationalise public administration; the practice of adopting new measures without previous examination of their financial consequences; and, lastly, the remarkable obscurity in which the Budget is wrapped and which effectively protects it from intelligent public scrutiny. That Germany has now both the means and the incentive to put her house thoroughly in order is repeatedly emphasised. She has achieved this in her foreign trade, in her currency, and to a large extent in her principal industries; and in this fact lies the best hope that reform in her public finance will not be too long delayed.

Our Investments Overseas.—Economists and others have reason to be grateful to Sir Robert Kindersley for his enquiries into British capital overseas, the latest results of which are published in the *Economic Journal* for June. Sir Robert covers a more limited field than in his previous investigation, one of his reasons being the difficulty of estimating that section of British capital abroad which takes the form of holdings in foreign and colonial companies. In the present paper Sir Robert deals only with the bonds of foreign and colonial Governments and local authorities; as regards British companies operating abroad, he has utilised the results published in the *Economist* of March 1st and March 22nd; and he has left foreign and colonial companies entirely on one side for the time being. It may be noted here that the *Economist* has itself been pursuing enquiries into the latter group of overseas investments, and when the results are published shortly it is believed that, though far from being as complete as one would have wished, they will go far to remedy the deficiency which Sir Robert Kindersley notes. The article under review shows about £1,400 million of British capital invested in the stocks of foreign and imperial governments and corporations at the end of 1928, the interest paid thereon in 1928 totalling £61.9 million. This gives an average rate of interest of 4.4 per cent., which illustrates the importance of distinguishing nominal and market valuations of capital, since the yield obtainable on first-class Dominion or Foreign Government bonds is over 5 per cent. The market value of the nominal £1,400 million can scarcely be more than £1,200 million, and is probably less. As in his previous enquiry, Sir Robert has been chiefly concerned with current repayments of capital, which, in respect of the £1,400 million, he computes at £15.6 million in 1928, raised to £22 million by the addition of capital redemptions in the field covered by the published *Economist* investigation. At least, this amount must be deducted from the total of new investments in overseas securities if we are to arrive at a figure of national savings destined for abroad, but the gross figure of new issues for the Empire and foreign countries, which Sir Robert uses, is itself too large by the discounts and costs of issue which remain in the country and by foreign participation in new issues, and too small by the net increase of British investments in existing securities, an item of considerable and growing importance. There are thus a number of points on which further knowledge is needed before we can get a complete picture of our foreign investments, or an accurate analysis of their ebb and flow. Sir Robert has, however, done great service in making this study of some of the most important items.

The Foreign Trade Decline.—Last week's *Economist* contained the preliminary figures of Overseas Trade in May, as published in the *Board of Trade Journal*. The detailed returns, which are now available, confirm the broad impression given by the preliminary figures that overseas trade was still on the down-grade. The most that can be said is that the May figures are better than those for April, which were affected by the Easter holidays, and that they are up to the average for 1930, which is hardly an encouraging standard by which to judge them. Details of our export trade, which are given in the following table, indicate plainly the ground that has been lost in comparison with preceding years.

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.

(Quantity.)

		First Five Months.		
		1928.	1929.	1930.
Coal	tons	20,232,049	23,210,341	24,491,358
Railway material	"	299,097	215,772	193,380
Total of iron and steel	"	1,761,863	1,933,982	1,546,571
Textile machinery	"	50,564	55,867	42,175
Total machinery	"	238,971	243,319	216,918
Cotton yarns	lbs.	72,708,900	73,322,600	62,038,600
Cotton piece-goods	sq. yds.	1,654,677,300	1,710,247,400	1,329,184,500
Wool tops	centals	159,360	145,279	114,470
Woollen tissues	sq. yds.	54,038,400	45,208,000	35,875,700
Worsted tissues	"	14,215,300	20,803,900	16,021,700
Linen piece-goods	"	32,274,400	31,431,500	30,753,800
Jute piece-goods	"	77,693,000	73,185,000	52,397,700
Boots and shoes	doz. prs.	455,218	381,397	401,230
Leather	cwts.	187,432	139,646	125,697
Locomotives	tons	19,307	15,977	20,383
Motor-cars and chassis	number	13,034	18,120	14,356

Among the chief export industries, coal alone shows improvement, and even this fact must be qualified by the knowledge that if May be considered alone, the 1930 figures were 272,000 tons below those of the preceding year. The textile trades and heavy industries continue to show up very badly, and the small improvement in locomotives and boots and shoes are far from being an adequate compensation for those retrograde movements. It is clear that the corner has yet to be turned.

Iron and Steel Production in May.—Production of iron and steel continues to decline. In the case of pig iron the number of blast furnaces in operation at the end of May was ten less than at the beginning and numbered only 141, which is less than at any time since February, 1929. Production of pig iron fell from 619,600 tons in April to 614,500 tons in May, a reduction of 4 per cent. when allowance is made for the smaller number of days. April production had also been 4 per cent. less than the previous month. Steel production declined from 696,100 tons in April to 692,800 tons in May, but this is not the true measure of the decline, since April was affected by the Easter holidays. The output of 692,800 tons in May compares with 826,100 tons in March and 843,800 tons in May of last year. Imports of iron and steel amounted to 233,700 tons, a slight decline compared with April, and exports rose from 268,000 tons in April to 294,700 tons in May. In May, 1929, exports totalled 442,800 tons. In spite of the declining demand, prices have been fairly well held and the Board of Trade price index number for May was 114.0 (1913=100), compared with 114.3 in April and 114.5 in May, 1929. The stability of the iron and steel price index is in contrast with the " all commodities " index which declined from 123.7 in April to 122.0 in May, compared with 135.8 in May, 1929. The decline in iron and steel production is general among all iron and steel-producing countries, as will be seen from the following table:—

(In thousand tons).

	Pig Iron.		Steel.	
	April, 1929.	April, 1930.	April, 1929.	April, 1930.
U.K.	611·3	619·6	808·6	696·1
Germany	1,094·7	887·3	1,394·2	1,017·2
France	857·4	845·6	797·3	778·6
Belgium	330·9	308·4	336·6	307·7
Luxemburg	231·4	217·8	222·6	195·2
U.S.A.	3,662·6	3,181·9	4,938·0	4,143·2
	6,788·3	6,060·6	8,497·3	7,138·0

Production figures are not yet available in all cases for May, but it will be seen from the above table that, compared with April, 1929, production of pig iron and steel in April, 1930, showed falls of 10 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively.

Cotton Looms per Weaver.—Our Manchester correspondent writes:—Lancashire cotton manufacturers are making a determined effort to remove the restrictions which now exist with regard to the number of looms worked by individual weavers. It is significant that the trade unions do not place any limitation on the number of automatic looms worked by a single weaver, but at present there is a recognised custom that one weaver shall not work more than four ordinary looms. For the purpose of considering the situation, a joint conference was held in Manchester on Tuesday last between representatives of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and the Operative Weavers' Amalgamation. On behalf of the employers an application was made that the system of running more looms to a weaver should be extended to all districts in the county. After a discussion, the representatives of the workpeople said that they would place the matter before the monthly meeting of their General Council at the end of this week, and their considered reply would be given in writing. Mr Thomas Ashurst, the Secretary of the Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, has stated that the employers are asking for freedom in this matter because they regard it as necessary for the continuance of the industry. The cost of production must be lowered if employers are to compete successfully in the markets of the world. It has been officially stated that the substitution of the eight-loom for the four-loom system would result in a saving of about 18½ per cent. in the wages bill of the employers. It is recognised that this change would entail some displacement of labour, but the alteration would be gradual, and quite a number of firms might not find it advantageous to make any change whatever. Unemployment, of course, in the weaving section of the Lancashire cotton industry is on a large scale, and it is estimated that out of 700,000 looms in Lancashire there are fewer than 400,000 running to-day.

Employment and the Cost of Living in May.—According to *The Ministry of Labour Gazette*, there was a further increase in unemployment during May. Among the workpeople insured against unemployment in Great Britain and Northern Ireland the percentage unemployed in all indus-

tries at May 26th was 15.3. This compares with 14.6 per cent. at April 28th and 9.7 per cent. at May 27, 1929. The estimated numbers of insured persons in work at these dates were approximately 9,724,000, 9,799,000 and 10,260,000 respectively. The number of those registered as wholly unemployed (with the exception of those normally in casual employment) at the end of May was 1,164,468. This was 6,359 more than a month ago, and 384,783 more than at the end of May last year. Those temporarily without employment amounted to 589,621 at May 26th, as compared with 447,244 at the end of April, and 273,469 a year ago. With regard to those in casual employment, 95,962 were unemployed at the end of May, showing an increase of 2,929 over the corresponding figure for last month, and of 16,835 over that recorded at the end of May, 1929. The cost of living at the end of May, as recorded by the Ministry of Labour's index number, was 54 per cent. above that of July, 1914, and compares with 55 per cent. at the end of April and 60 per cent. a year ago. For food alone the corresponding figures were 38 per cent., 40 per cent. and 47 per cent. respectively.

Test Work for the Able-Bodied.—The Ministry of Health recently set its inspectorate to make a special inquiry into the various forms of test work in application in different unions, with special reference to the effect of test work on employability, the opportunities afforded for finding independent work, and the question of hardship or degradation. The result is a White Paper* which makes interesting and, on the whole, encouraging reading. Out of 631 unions, 277 had no able-bodied men in receipt of outdoor relief, 146 had able-bodied men in receipt of outdoor relief but did not apply test work, and 208 had some form of test work. In 13 of these latter the men relieved were employed for wages by the local authority, and the amount of their relief was paid to the authority by the Guardians. Of a round total of 70,000 able-bodied men receiving out-relief, about 41 per cent. were in unions in which test work was in operation and about 12 per cent. were employed on test work. This work was of a very varied nature, ranging from boot-making and mat-making to wood-chopping, gardening, road-making and scavenging. There is a general consensus of opinion that unskilled work is preferable, as every man has a fair chance of performing it satisfactorily, and most of the men like it best. The inspectors almost all found that the work was having a good effect in maintaining the morale, physical fitness and general employability of the recipients of relief, and, on the whole, the men engaged on it seemed to share that view, many of them expressing a preference for test work to idleness. The reports were unanimous in declaring that test work involved neither hardship nor degradation, but they suggested that in some instances the arrangements for allowing time off for the quest of permanent work might be improved. Training classes were found to vary greatly in popularity, and a comparison of the reports from different districts suggests that everything depends upon their administration; the principle appears to be thoroughly sound. In Sheffield, for example, nearly 80 per cent. of the men sent to the centres were restored to ordinary employment in ten months, and in the opinion of the inspectors, very few of them would have been so restored without the training scheme. The impression left by the Report is that it is to be regretted that not more than 12 per cent. of the able-bodied recipients of out-relief are subjected to a system which seems to redound greatly to the advantage of those who come under it. No doubt one obstacle to its extension is the great difficulty, referred to in the Report, of finding enough suitable work, but the ingenuity in overcoming this which has been displayed in some districts might with advantage be more widely extended.

* "Poor Law: Report of a Special Inquiry into various forms of Test work." Cmd. 3585. H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net.

Agriculture in 1929.—The statistics recently published by the Ministry of Agriculture* show that the decline in the acreage under crops was less in 1929 than in 1928, and was partly offset by the exceptionally favourable harvest. The total acreage under crops and grass in England and Wales was 25,437,679 acres in 1929, compared with 25,505,252 acres in 1928. Of this, 9,947,758 acres were arable; 4,695,863 acres permanent grass for hay, and 10,794,058 acres permanent grass not for hay. Rough grazings increased from 5,177,958 acres in 1928 to 5,282,884 acres in 1929. Details of the principal crops are given below:—

ACREAGE, YIELD AND TOTAL PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CROPS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1929.

	Area.	Yield per Acre.	Total Produce.	Average Yield, 1919–28.
	Thousand Acres.	Bushels.	Thousand Quarters.	Bushels.
Wheat	1,330	34·0	5,650	31·4
Barley	1,120	36·0	5,047	31·5
Oats	1,854	45·3	10,499	39·9
Beans	144	26·1	472	28·2
Peas	79	28·5	281	25·0
Potatoes	519	6·9†	3,588†	6·1†
Turnips and swedes	698	11·9†	8,303†	12·5†
Mangold	299	19·0†	5,687†	18·8†
Hay (from clover, etc.)	1,524	22·9§	1,748†	27·8§
Hay (from permanent grass)	4,696	15·3§	3,588†	20·3§

† Thousand tons. ‡ Tons. § Cwt.

This shows a remarkable increase over the ten years' average in the yield of all crops except beans, turnips and hay. On the other hand, the arable area diminished throughout England, and as in the two preceding years the decline was most marked in the South Eastern and the two Midland divisions. In Wales there was a net increase in the arable area. The decline in the principal classes of livestock continued, but fowls and turkeys increased by 7 and 17 per cent. respectively. The output of meat in England and Wales for the year ending May, 1929, at 17,804,000 cwt., was 403,000 cwt. more than in the preceding year, while the output of milk, at 1,131 million gallons was 16 million gallons less. There was a further reduction in the number of male agricultural workers, and whereas in 1928 the reduction was in respect of casual workers, in 1929 it was in respect of regular employers. The estimated value of the produce sold off farms in recent years is shown in the table below:—

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PRODUCE SOLD OFF FARMS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

(000's omitted.)

	1924–25.	1925–26.	1926–27.	1927–28.	1928–29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Livestock and livestock products	154,140	153,430	143,990	149,000	154,320
Farm crops	56,650	46,080	47,840	47,720	43,120
Fruit, vegetables, flowers, etc.	24,270	24,630	20,860	23,860	23,930
Total	235,060	224,140	212,690	220,580	221,370

Unfortunately the data do not exist for estimating the annual changes in farmers' costs, without which the above figures do not necessarily provide any indication of the variations in net receipts. It is noteworthy that sales of farm crops only contributed 19 per cent. of the total last year, against 24 per cent. in 1924-25. The only farm crop whose value shows an increase during the period is that of sugar beet, sales of which amounted to £3,560,000, against £480,000 in the earlier year.

The Slump in Japan.—According to Mitsui Gomei Kaisha's half-yearly analysis of profits of Japanese joint-stock banks and industrial joint-stock undertakings, both banking and industrial earnings are falling sharply, writes our Tokyo correspondent. The aggregate net profit of 250 banks for the second half-year of 1929 shows a substantial decline of 7.8 million yen at 80,982,000 yen, as against 88,787,000 yen for the first half of that year. The decreased banking earnings are mainly ascribable to the heavy fall in the demand for credit during the period due to the anticipation of a return to gold. On the other hand, net profits of 1,000 industrial companies totalled 261,502,000 yen, representing a marked decline of 41.8 million yen against those earned by the same concerns in the first half of 1929. The most noteworthy decrease is that of the textile group, which is principally accounted for by the heavy losses of a few large woollen mills, although the net earnings of cotton mills in general were lower. A further shrinkage in the value of the foreign trade took place in April. The April returns show that, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, imports fell in value by 64.9 million yen, or 30.4 per cent., and exports by 59.2 millions, or 33.5 per cent., both being the lowest April figures since 1921. Such a sharp contraction is obviously more than a mere matter of prices. Though there are almost general contractions throughout the whole list, the most noteworthy declines on the import side are those of raw cotton (−31 millions), raw wool (−5.5 millions), and iron and steel (−4.8 millions), while on the export side notable declines are recorded by raw silk (−39.1 millions), cotton goods, (−13.5 millions), and silk manufactures (−2.7 millions). The adverse balance of trade, excluding the gold movement, totalled 31.2 millions, or 5.6 millions lower than in April, 1929. Gold efflux has slowed down. Net gold exports during April amounted to 22.5 millions, bringing up the total withdrawal since the removal of the embargo to 199 millions. Wholesale prices continue to fall with not much diminished severity. The Bank of Japan's index number for April registered a further drop of 1.6 per cent. on the month, and of 14.3 per cent. in comparison with April, 1929. Out of 56 products, thirty declined, ten advanced, and sixteen remained unchanged. The heavy declines occurred in copper, coal, raw silk and wheat, while notable rises are recorded by sugar and cotton yarn after their consecutive falls of many months. A severer depression prevailed in the stock market throughout last month. The aggregate value of shares listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was down by 9.6 per cent. on the month, and by 34.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

* "Agricultural Statistics, 1929." Vol. LXIV. Part I. H.M. Stationery Office. 1s. 3d.

Guardian Assurance—A Correction.—We regret that an injustice was inadvertently done to this company in our recent review of the accounts for 1929 (*Economist*, June 7, 1930, p. 1274). Although the report did not specifically mention this important fact, it appears that for the first time the figures relating to a former subsidiary, the "Guardian Eastern," have been incorporated in the accounts of the "Guardian." Accordingly, instead of a loss of £1,134 in the Fire Department there was, in fact, a profit of £23,677, and the true profit in the Accident and General Department works out at £46,819 instead of £39,828. The net trading result of the year, allowing for items debited to profit and loss account, is thus a loss of £60,774 instead of £92,576 as previously stated.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Share Market — Dividends — Industry — Railroad Traffic — Money Market — Tariff.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 11.

AFTER a month of dullness and a downward drift in share prices, the market this week again broke badly. At the moment the downward movement appears temporarily to be checked, and an extensive short interest is covering; but the fresh break in shares was a reflection of increasing pessimism over the business prospect. Hopes of any real improvement this summer have been definitely abandoned, and have been supplanted by fears that even the autumn will turn out a disappointment.

So far, no signs of an upward turn are visible, and the usual summer recession promises to make itself felt more than ever. Retail price cutting is becoming more pronounced, but it is doubtful whether any real increase has recently occurred in public purchasing power. Moreover, the urge to spend money freely has subsided greatly, and the weakness of stocks, though it affects the public directly much less than at any previous time in recent years, is, nevertheless, upsetting because of the implications of a prolonged business depression. So much of the blame for slack trade since last autumn has been placed, by high Government officials and others, on the market crash of the autumn that the prestige of the share market as a barometer has risen sharply.

It is argued, on the other side, that Stock Exchange prices are still too high with regard to actual corporation earnings; that the early May decline and the recent break have done little more than wipe out the February-March rise, which itself was unjustified by business conditions; and that if the market has done any forecasting, it has been of a bullish nature.

Dividend reductions continue. Since the beginning of the year, 257 corporations have eliminated or reduced payments on 264 separate issues of preferred or common shares. Payment of extras, increases in regular rates and dividend inaugurations have exceeded in number the reductions, but in nearly all cases the higher disbursements reflected the prosperity of 1929 or previous years Reductions have been widespread among copper companies, but that group has not taken the lead. By far the largest proportion of cuts has come among the investment trust and financing companies. This is not surprising, since dividend payments by these companies last year obviously were not based on assured earning power, but rather indicated the hope of managements that it would always be possible to make large profits in speculation.

One of the chief disappointments of the business year is the failure of the building industry to improve. Expenditure for public works and certain other large construction projects have risen, but residential and general building is still dormant. Awards for new building and engineering projects in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains, according to the F. W. Dodge Corporation, were 5 per cent. lower in May, and the decline from a year ago amounted to 22 per cent. For the five months there has been a falling off of 18 per cent. Permits to build, as compiled by Bradstreet's, issued in all cities of the country last month, were 2.1 per cent. under April and 33 per cent. less than a year ago. The decline in permits for the five months is 53 per cent. The poor showing of permits as against contracts let is due largely to the fact that the former do not include large engineering projects outside the cities and much of the public building construction.

Railroad traffic also is still slack. Holidays reduced car loadings sharply for the last week in May, but for the past several months the freight carried has been the smallest since 1924. The record of earnings for April and the first four months of the year is now complete. The net income of the first-class roads fell 33.8 per cent. in April, the loss for the four months was 32.5 per cent., and earnings were at the rate of only 3.56 per cent. on property investment, compared with 5.39 per cent. last year. The motor industry is entering a season of declining sales, but much has been done to clear away the excessive stocks of used cars in the past few months. Sporadic price cutting is noted, but no general declines have yet taken place. Production in May is estimated by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce to have been 7 per cent. under that of April and 32 per cent. below that of May last year, while the decline for the first five months was 31 per cent.

Seasonal recession is lowering the operating rate of the steel mills, but the industry continues to be the most encouraging of the basic lines. Orders for structural projects are now growing, and the pipe mills are active, thanks to the expansion of natural gas distribution. The average operating rate for the trade is about 69 per cent., as against 72 per cent. last week. At the end of May the unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation had fallen 294,993 tons, which reflects weakness in price

rather than a drop in actual consumption. The average decline for the month in the past several years has been around 400,000 tons. Steel ingot output for all companies was at the daily rate of 149,066 tons in May, compared with 159,764 in April and 195,790 last year. Operations were 74.4 per cent. of capacity, against 78 per cent. in April and 99.8 per cent. last year. Pig iron output fell 1.7 per cent. from April and 14.5 per cent. from a year ago.

Principally on account of the state of trade, money is becoming easier than ever. At the end of this week and early next week the market will have the additional credit to be pumped in by Treasury financing. Approximately $550,000,000 maturing certificates will be paid off, and income tax collections for the second quarter will be made. The bulk of the maturing issue will be provided for by a $400,000,000 note offer, to which subscriptions of $2,397,000,000 have been announced by the Secretary of the Treasury. The coupon rate of 2⅞ per cent. compares with 4⅞ per cent. on the maturing certificates. The new issue is a one-year maturity, and the heavy over-subscription is due to the liberality of the rate in view of the present credit market and the tax-free features of the issue.

The new tariff pleases nobody. Farm rates are exceptionally high, but the farming regions realise that any advantages which might come to them will be offset by the steep rise in duties on manufactured products. The Eastern manufacturing interests, on the other hand, are divided on the wisdom of increased duties, fearing reprisals abroad. Motor manufacturers have been especially antagonistic to the Bill.

FRANCE.

Treasury Surplus — Bourse Stagnation — Production Indices — Proposed Protection for Investors — Prices.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 18.

THE incomprehensible lack of system which still characterises French public accounts has again been demonstrated this week in the course of the examination, by the Finance Commission of the Chamber, of the Government's proposals for developing the economic equipment of the nation. It is proposed to meet part of the cost of the plan by drawing to the extent of 5,000,000,000 francs on the surplus balances in the hands of the Treasury. These surpluses were declared a few months ago by M. Chéron, then Finance Minister, to total between 19,000,000,000 francs and 20,000,000,000 francs. The revelation of the figure proved in every way regrettable, for since then "every demagogic appetite in the Chamber," as one critic has expressed it, has been sharpened to an extent that has resulted in a large proportion of the money having been voted, largely in spite of the protests of the Government, to meet all kinds of expenditure not provided for under the Budget.

When the question of allocating the proposed 5,000 millions to economic development came up in the Finance Commission, however, the statement of M. de Chappedelaine, the Commission's *rapporteur*, to the effect that it would not now be possible to take such a large sum from the Treasury's balances, and that it would be necessary to have recourse to an issue of Treasury Bonds, was received with a gasp of surprise. The *Rapporteur's* figures had been drawn from official sources; nevertheless, the unbelieving members of the Commission decided to hear the Finance Minister himself on the subject. There was renewed surprise when M. Reynaud, figures in hand, declared that the Treasury's available resources actually amounted to 12,948,000,000 francs, of which 7,075,000,000 francs must be regarded as earmarked for expenditure that is certain to arise, and should therefore be excluded from the total actually available. This consequently left 5,873,000,000 francs available to meet the 5,000 million required; or, if the "permanent deposit" of 408,000,000 francs required in respect of the International Settlements Bank were deducted, 5,465,000,000 francs. Subsequent discussion elicited that this sum included the credit balance of the Treasury's *current account* at the bank, which amounted on June 6 to 3,180,000,000 francs (or slightly less than the 3,200,000,000 francs which the bank was required to advance to the Treasury as a "loan without interest," under the Stabilisation Act, to furnish it with a fresh start). Eventually, after five successive votes, the Commission decided, by majorities due to the abstention of the Socialist members, that the available balance was "over 5,000,000,000 francs." The Socialists, in a *communiqué* issued to explain their reasons for abstention, insisted that, owing to the serious divergences between the Finance Minister's verbal statements and those contained in his Note of May 27th, "it is impossible, at the present moment, to know the amounts of the Treasury's available balances and of its needs."

The present deplorably incoherent and even critical situation of the Bourse is the outstanding subject of attention in the political and business world. With the exception of Rentes, which, for various reasons—of which the chief is their freedom from taxation—have remained firm throughout, every department of the Bourse has been almost stagnant, with steadily falling quotations, and an almost total abstention by the ordinary investing public, for many weeks past. Many reasons are advanced in explanation, but none appears to the impartial observer to be adequate. The Wall Street crash last October, which is largely blamed, would perhaps appear to be a plausible explanation but for the fact that there has never been any real liaison between this market and New York. The number of American stocks quoted here is microscopically small, and the vast majority of transactions between Paris and New York consists of dealings carried through by Americans resident or visiting here, rather than by native French operators. Paris is essentially an investment market, rather than a speculative one, and there is every indication that it will be many years before the French will emerge sufficiently from their existing provincialism to constitute a factor that will be anything more than negligible, from the Wall Street point of view. Neither can the drop in raw material prices be held to have had any serious influence on the Paris Bourse. Industrial stocks have certainly been depleted, in view of the uncertain outlook, but the general slump which has occurred in the United States and most other countries has had only a negligible repercussion here.

Production figures for April, which have just been announced, disclose higher output in several cases, and no serious decline. The general index figure (1913=100) for production in April is 144, or the same as in March and in December, against a monthly average of 139 in 1929 and 127 in 1928. The leather, paper and textile index figures are all slightly higher. Metallurgy has dropped three points on the month to 129, which was the average figure in 1929. Motor-car construction stands at 685 (against 686 in March, an average of 657 in 1929 and of 610 in 1928), the rubber industry at 908 (against 913 in March, 861 throughout 1929 and 587 in 1928), and engineering at 161 (unchanged; against 157 in 1929 and 138 in 1928). Indirect taxation is coming in more than satisfactorily, according to a statement made this week by the Minister of Commerce, to the effect that the recoveries in May were 300,000,000 francs more than Budget estimates for the month. The index figure representing Bourse quotations of 300 French issues of variable yield in May is returned as 462 (base: 100 in 1913), against 486 in April, 496 in January, and an average of 507 throughout 1929 and of 415 in 1928. The average interest offered on bond issues in May was 4.70 per cent., against 4.85 per cent. in March and April, 5.36 per cent. throughout 1929 and 6.3 per cent. in 1928. The average return from issues with variable yield in May was 3.11 per cent., against 2.96 per cent. in April, 2.70 per cent. in 1929 and 2.72 per cent. in 1928. Money rates remain incredibly low. The rate paid for carrying over money at last Monday's settlement in the Parquet was ⅜ per cent. per annum. (a low level never previously known here), against ¾ per cent. a fortnight before. The amount available which was unable

to find employment, even at this rate, was reported to be "several millions."

It seems, evident, therefore, from the above figures, that the curious doctrine which is being so zealously propagated here to the effect that trade has slowed down because Bourse quotations have fallen off, has no foundation in fact. The real key to the present exceptional stagnation of the Paris Bourse is to be found in the long list of "measures for the better protection of the investor" which, so the Finance Minister announced a day or two ago, are to be pushed forward in the near future, although he was careful not to emphasise the evils which these measures will be designed to remedy. The mere recital of this list suggests plainly where the French investor's shoe is pinching him to the extent of causing him to keep away from the Bourse.

Among the measures contemplated is one for dealing with the manipulation by directors of plural voting shares (the abuse of which has, in hundreds of cases during the past few years, taken all control over his money entirely out of the hands of the ordinary shareholder); the reform of the system of *démarchage* (or what is known in England as "share-pushing"); the reform of the law concerning financial publicity (to render it illegal, for instance, for company notices of vital importance to the shareholder to be limited to obscure journals which he will certainly never see); for strengthening control over auditors and directors; for fostering the development of holding companies (ostensibly "to enable capitalists to distribute their risks," but really to furnish the ignorant investor with skilled advice and greater protection); and for assuring proper security behind mortgage bond issues. As a first step, the Government's Bill for purging the banking profession of persons who have undergone condemnation by the Courts has this week been approved by the Senate, and is to come into effect forthwith.

The wholesale index price for the end of May, as published by the Statistique Générale, is 553, or eight points lower than that for April, 12 below that for March, 35 below December, and 81 below the mean for 1928. The May figure works out in gold as 112 (on the basis of 100 in 1914), as compared with April figures of 124 for Great Britain, 141 for the United States, 127 for Germany, 117 for Italy, and 112 for Belgium. The detailed figures are as follows:—

	Dec., 1929.	End of April.	May.
General index figure	588	560	533
French products.....	620	595	590
Imported products.....	530	495	485
Foodstuffs	546	523	523
Raw materials	625	592	579

The most striking figures, perhaps, are those which indicate that, whereas in 1928 wholesale prices of imported commodities averaged 41 points higher than those of products of French origin, French commodities at the end of May were 105 points higher than imported goods. The index of retail prices in Paris is 590 for May.

GERMANY.

Opposition to Proposed Taxation — Foreign Trade — Reparations Loan.

BERLIN, June 17.

THE storm of protests against Herr Moldenhauer's plan to collect an "emergency offering" from all civil servants and salaried private employees with long-term contracts is increasing from day to day, and something approaching a Cabinet crisis is in the air. Of the parties belonging to the Government coalition, only the Centre, the Chancellor's Party, is supporting the Cabinet's taxation policy. The German People's Party, to which the Minister of Finance himself belongs, has rejected the "emergency offering" in a statement adopted by an almost unanimous vote, and the Democrats have reached a similar decision.

The Government plan can, in fact, hardly be defended. For years economists have agreed that the German income hits the recipients of medium-sized incomes especially hard. Now an extraordinarily high supplementary tax—4 per cent. of the income—is to be imposed on precisely these classes. In addition to this, only salaried income is affected, that is, a sort of tax-privilege is to be introduced for incomes consisting of profits and other returns from property. The only explanation the Government can give for this is that otherwise the danger of an exodus of capital from the country would be too great. Now, since there is no prospect that Parliament will approve the "emergency offering," the Government has already begun negotiations for a compromise. The "emergency offering" is to be reduced to 2 per cent. of income, and compensation is to be sought in an increase of the taxes on beer and tobacco. But here, too, great difficulties present themselves. Determined opposition to the beer tax is to be expected from the Bavarian People's Party, and it is very doubtful whether the Government, with its prestige undermined as it is, can overcome this. The Prussian Government also rejects Herr Moldenhauer's plan in its original form, and is apparently making its assent to a modified form of the plan dependent on conditions which cannot be fulfilled. The Reich Government can hardly carry through a financial reform without the support of the Prussian Government, for the Reichsrat, the conference of the representatives of the different states, possesses under the constitution a sort of suspensory veto, and Prussia naturally has an important influence in this body.

It was from the beginning one of the worst features of the "emergency offering" that it did not even provide any guarantee that this tax, so dubious both on social and economic grounds, would soon be repealed. The only provision was that the Cabinet was to be "empowered to modify or repeal" the measure after April 1, 1931. The Minister of Finance might perhaps induce the State Governments, which are suffering from the greatest financial stringency, to consent to a modified "emergency offering" if he would promise to hand over to them after April 1, 1931, the proceeds of this tax, but this concession, by implying that the "emergency offering" was to be *permanent*, would bring upon the Government the keenest opposition from all thinking persons in and outside the Reichstag.

The strongest and almost the only support which the Bruening-Moldenhauer Cabinet still finds consists in the scant inclination of other personages and political groups to assume at this moment responsibility for financial policy. The counter-proposals which Herr Moldenhauer, for instance, has received from his own party are no better than his original plans. Here the idea of a poll tax, to be collected by the municipalities, again crops up, though it has long been clear that such a tax, which is perhaps even more unjust socially than the Moldenhauer "emergency sacrifice," would also bring in only a negligible sum. The perplexity is great and general, and in itself constitutes a dangerous situation, since it is probably all but impossible to overcome the serious economic depression without first strengthening confidence in the economic and financial policies of the State.

The German balance of trade for May, 1930, shows an excess of exports over imports of 265 millions. Imports fell by 57 million marks, exports increased by 119 millions. Every month since the beginning of the year, with the single exception of January, has shown an active balance of trade. The international lowering of the prices

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Bahnhofstrasse 45
Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Locarno, Lugano, Montreux, St. Gall, Vevey, Winterthur, etc.
Capital & Reserves - Fr.131,500,000
Total Assets - - - - Fr.992,000,000
ALL BANKING TRANSACTIONS
INVESTMENT FACILITIES. Administration of Private Estates.

of raw materials contributed greatly to this result, for since Germany, with the exception of coal, exports virtually no raw materials, but only imports them, her balance of trade was greatly relieved through the fall in the prices of these materials in the world market. It is even probable that the effects of this lowering of prices, and hence the surplus of exports in the first five months of 1930, were in reality greater than the statistics show, for experience has taught that in times of large price changes in the world market statistical records in Germany do not keep pace with the developments sufficiently to prevent substantial differences from arising. According to the statistics, the first five months brought an export surplus of 415 million marks. A second cause of this is the economic depression in Germany, for on the one hand it reduced industrial requirements of raw materials, and, on the other hand, by reducing the domestic purchasing power, it compelled industry to force its export trade.

The Reparation loan scored a decided success in Germany also. For the 36 millions to be placed here, subscriptions for about 98 millions were received. This is at first sight somewhat astonishing, for the loan gives an interest return to the subscriber of only 6.4 per cent., whereas other loans of the Reich—for instance, the Rheinhold loan of 1927—yield almost 7 per cent., and municipal loans bringing in over 8 per cent. can be had in Germany. That the loan was nevertheless oversubscribed almost three times is due in the main to two reasons. In the first place, the sum placed here is very small. To the gigantic consortium formed under the leadership of the Reichsbank, and to which all the larger banks and bankers belong, the 36 millions naturally is an inconsiderable sum even in these hard times. Secondly, it may be assumed that a very large part of the subscriptions to the German share of the mobilisation loan came from abroad, for the conditions of the loan are much more attractive to foreign investors than to German capitalists, and many subscriptions appear to have come from abroad in the assumption that they would be more likely to secure a part of the loan than they would have been in the subscribers' own countries.

One must not be deceived by the success of the loan into overlooking the fact that its conditions have met with very sceptical criticism in Germany. A much higher price of issue had been counted on here, and assent was only given at The Hague to the combining of the mobilisation loan and the Reich loan in the hope that thus more favourable conditions could be secured than would be possible if the German Reich should put an independent loan on the market. This was an error, for the Reparation loan not only represents much dearer borrowing than the Kreuger loan, but is also less favourable than terms proposed in the loans, firm offers of which were made months ago by leading American groups at a time when the international level of interest rates was considerably higher than to-day. The main thing, however, is that the obstacle that has interfered with the mobility of the international capital markets for months has now been removed and hence it is believed that Germany can again hope for an ampler influx of foreign loans.

AUSTRIA.

Commercial Policy — Tariff —Federal Railways — Alpine Montangesellschaft — Capital — Money Market.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, June 5.

COMMERCIAL treaty policy is playing an important rôle in Austria at the moment. The Minister of Commerce, Dr Hainisch, is contemplating a State grain and flour monopoly, to be used for the purpose of forcing those States who wish to export grain and flour to Austria to take a certain quota of Austrian industrial products. In a lesser degree the Austrian tobacco monopoly is observing a policy of this kind, for, as a buyer in Bulgaria and Greece, it sees to it that certain industrial orders are placed in Austria as a consideration for the tobacco purchased in those two countries. Other members of the Cabinet are not in entire agreement with this project of the Minister for Commerce; nevertheless, he recently declared that he would stand or fall by his proposal.

For the time being a new Customs tariff is being set up by the Government, which desires to meet the demands of the farmers and of industry and, in part, of commercial interests, and is, therefore, distinctly in favour of protection. Up to the present the duty on wheat amounts to two gold crowns, and is to be raised to six gold crowns. Furthermore, the Government is to have the right to supplement this duty sufficiently to make cultivation of grain a paying proposition. Similar Customs arrangements are also planned for other kinds of grain. After difficult negotiations, Hungary has agreed to the principle; in regard to Yugoslavia, the understanding is far advanced, but the Government declares that, if Yugoslavia does not give its consent, there is nothing to do but to create a State monopoly to cover the matter. The farmers are the strongest party in Austria for the time being, and it was also under their influence that, by means of various measures, the dumping policy of the German pig breeders was curbed in Austria, while in regard to Poland, too, more stringent limits will shortly be imposed on importation.

The Customs tariff provides for important increases in the duties on textiles, underwear, furniture and machines; and German interests, therefore, feel that they, too, are placed at a disadvantage, after forcing through the recently concluded commercial treaty between Austria and Germany, which undoubtedly implied a sacrifice on the part of Austria. Certain Customs duties, such as the new duties on aluminium, artificial silk, jute, sheet metal, fuses and explosive charges, are to come into force later, while others are to apply as soon as possible in order to alleviate the present difficult position of Austrian industry. The tariff may, however, be modified in various respects before it finally passes through Parliament.

A second question which is engaging the attention not only of economic circles, but also of the political parties, is the reform of the law governing the Federal Railways. The commercialisation of the railways has not fulfilled its promise, and the men in office until recently were unable to make headway against the political activities of the railway employees. They were obliged to make concessions to both the left wing and the right, which was bad for discipline and weakened the influence of the more educated employees. In addition, it appears that the commercialised Federal Railways had at their disposal funds which were not always well managed. For the future the State influence upon the railways is to be considerably increased. A chain of authorities is to be created and the freedom of action of the chairman and of the general manager of the railways is to be greatly curtailed.

There was another sensation on the occasion of the publication of the balance sheet of the Alpine Montangesellschaft (iron trust). The general manager of the company pointed out that the policy of investment, which, it should be said, had for many years been followed by him personally, had not proved to be satisfactory. He asserted that, on account of advances in wages and of levies for social purposes, the measures of rationalisation had not been efficacious. He took the opportunity of complaining bitterly of the economic policy of the Government and demanded in regard to the approaching loan better utilisation than would be possible under the present *régime*. The Government has sharply refuted these reproaches. The Association of Banks took a similar, though somewhat milder attitude towards the general manager of the Alpine, while the industrialists supported him. In any case, the big German stockholders of the Alpine Montangesellschaft have had much to do with the expression of opinion, and the demand has been put forward that the general manager, Dr Apold, should resign or a change should take place in the board of directors. The State Commissioner attached to the Alpine Montangesellschaft may also give up his position. It is possible, however, that, as has happened before, the whole affair may be settled by compromise.

In spite of a slight fall in the unemployment figures, economic conditions are still very unfavourable. Only four share companies have been founded so far this year and 25 have increased their capital. The banks are still feeling the effect of the absence of business on the Stock Exchange. The general aversion to speculation in shares still obtains, and domestic capital has suffered too serious losses to avail itself of the very low quotations, which in regard to some shares mean a yield of 8 to 9 per cent. Consideration is therefore being given to the formation of share trusts abroad. The level of prices on the Vienna Exchange has declined. The exchange index in May for Austrian shares was 1,585, against 1,608 in April and 1,632 in March. The Czechoslovakian and Hungarian shares negotiated in Vienna have also fallen.

In spite of the last reduction of the Bank rate of the Austrian National Bank to 5½ per cent., the reluctance of lenders to accord any credits which do not afford absolute security still continues. The consequence is that firms, who through their bank connections are able to contract credits in foreign currencies, pay 5 per cent. to 5½ per cent., inclusive of all expenses, while big concerns requiring schilling credits can hardly procure them below 11 per cent. For some time now the banks have been trying to call in the credits they have accorded. This means that many notices of withdrawal of credit have been given, and the process of liquidation of weaker concerns is progressing, which is not unhealthy. The discounts of the National Bank are lower, and, though at the end of May there was a great increase, this was largely due to the discounting of short-term commitments. On the other hand, the influx of foreign means of payment into the National Bank continues. Bank deposits are increasing, but this is attributable to the continued reluctance to invest in stocks, even those bearing fixed rates of interest. The banks and savings banks which desire to maintain these deposits have been obliged, in spite of the reduction in the discount rate of the National Bank, to refrain from lowering the rates they pay on time money.

GREECE.

British Capital — New Mortgage Bank — Foreign Loans — Tobacco Production — Foreign Trade — Public Finances — Bank of Issue's Reserve.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 30.

IT was announced the other day that the Société Générale Hellénique having failed to raise in London the funds required for completing the electric and transport works of Athens and the Piræus, an arrangement had been made with the Whitehall Securities, Ltd., of London, in virtue of which the latter acquired a controlling interest in the enterprise and undertook to provide the necessary capital. Mr Pierson, chairman of the Whitehall Securities, Ltd., had an interview with the Minister of Communication in the course of which, it is reported, the lines were laid down along which all matters concerning the production and distribution of electric light and power, and the communication by electric cars and buses of the two cities, will hereafter be arranged by a sincere and friendly co-operation. It will be remembered that in the Société Générale Hellénique British interests have been represented hitherto by the Power and Traction Company, Ltd., of London.

French interests, in co-operation with the Bank of Athens, will establish, in the course of this year, a new mortgage bank in Greece, under the title Greco-French Mortgage Bank. This will be the second bank of this kind in Greece, the first one—the National Mortgage Bank of Greece—having been founded in 1927 by the National Bank, and having taken over from the latter its mortgage credit branch. The National Mortgage Bank, with the security of the properties hypothecated to it and the guarantee of the National Bank, has already issued on the London market loans of a nominal capital of £4,000,000, while another £1,100,000 will be raised later this year. With the impending establishment of the new mortgage bank, French capital is making the first step towards occupying again its former position in Greek financing, which the war had obliged it to abandon. Considering the insatiable demand for capital for building purposes in Greece, there is ample room for the existence in this country of two banks of this kind.

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Following the agreement recently concluded with the London issuing houses for an advance to the Greek Government against the second portion of the Productive Works Loan, to be floated towards the end of this year or early in 1931—the first part of which was issued in London in December, 1928—negotiations are now taking place in Athens with representatives of American banks for a similar advance against the American portion of the loan in question. This time the three banks concerned—the National City Company, Messrs Speyer and Company and Messrs Seligman and Company—are co-operating, and though progress in the negotiations is, as usual here, rather slow, no difficulty is anticipated in reaching a final agreement. On the other hand, the Swedish financial group of Kreuger and Toll has submitted offers for a loan of £1,000,000, the proceeds of which will be utilised for building public schools. This offer has been accepted by the Government. The loan will be undertaken by the bankers at 85, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and repayable within 24 years. The service of the loan is to be covered by the rents paid now for the houses used as public schools. Furthermore, the National Bank of Greece, as bankers to a syndicate of Greek building and contracting companies, has offered to advance the funds required for carrying out various municipal works in the cities of Athens, the Piræus and Salonica, pending the conclusion for this purpose, in two or three years' time, of a big external loan of the three cities, with the guarantee of the State.

The cultivation and production of tobacco—the principal article of export—shows the following development during the last two years:—

	Area Cultivated. Acres.	Quantity Produced. Kg.
1928.....	228,072	52,725,584
1929.....	306,974	79,263,718

According to provisional returns of foreign trade, imports from abroad for the first four months of the current year amounted to 803,221 tons, valued at Drs. 3,678 millions, against 901,448 tons of a value of Drs. 3,381 millions for the corresponding period of last year; while exports totalled 303,273 tons, with a value of Drs. 1,775 millions, as compared with 220,842 tons and Drs. 2,931 millions for the period January-April, 1929. With a view to protecting agriculture in consequence of the fall in prices abroad, the Government has recently increased the import duty on wheat from 4.30, and on flour from 8.82, gold drachmas per 100 kilogs., to 6 and 10.70 gold drachmas respectively.

Gross revenue receipts assigned for the service of the national debt amounted for the first three months of 1930

to Drs. 877 millions, as against Drs. 978 millions for the corresponding period of last year. Revenue receipts subject to the distribution of surpluses show, for the same period, a small increase over the past year. The Budget for the financial year ended March 31, 1930 is now expected by the authorities to close with a final surplus of not less than Drs. 300 millions. In consequence of sales of exportable articles, principally tobacco, and of transfers of funds, the reserve of the bank of issue has increased from Drs. 3,116 millions on December 31st last to Drs. 3,222 millions on May 15th, its sight liabilities having decreased from Drs. 6,723 millions to Drs. 6,409 millions. Accordingly, the proportion of the reserve to the note circulation and sight liabilities of the bank has correspondingly increased from 46.35 to 50.28 per cent.

CANADA.

Tariff — Dissolution of Parliament — Negotiations with Newfoundland — Agriculture — Business.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, June 3.

THE Budget passed the Canadian House of Commons on May 15th by 114 to 86. The majority was slightly above the normal figure, owing to the reinforcement of the normal strength of the Liberal and Liberal-Progressive parties by two bolting Conservatives, while the Conservative member for another Nova Scotia seat paired in favour of the Budget. The shrewder Liberals realise that this defection may in the end do their party more harm than good, as the fact that the Budget is acceptable to three notorious apostles of high protection will accentuate the suspicions of the western farmers that the iron and steel industries are receiving a great deal of additional protection smuggled through in the Budget. The Progressives, who, along with the Labourites, joined the Conservatives in voting against the Budget, will certainly make effective use of the support given to the Budget by these Tory members for the iron and steel ridings to demonstrate in the campaign that the Liberal party is hopelessly subservient to protectionist influences.

The new fruit and vegetable duties are proving very unpopular in the country, as they have already caused a sharp rise in prices, and prominent dealers have been attacking them as wholly indefensible. They point out that in many cases the duties will be double the former level, and that the Canadian consumer is being asked to pay increased prices all the year round for the benefit of the Canadian growers, who are only able to supply the local market for a very limited period—rarely over ninety days. Mr Glen, a Liberal-Progressive, bluntly informed the Government that he and his friends would not tolerate this extravagant protectionism, and, as a result of this and other protests, the Finance Minister intimated that there would be a readjustment of these duties, which, among other things, would put a seasonal limit to their application, covering the period when the Canadian growers could supply the local market. During the discussion Mr Dunning was strongly pressed to offer some estimate of the amount of trade which would be diverted to Great Britain by the tariff changes of the Budget, but he declined to hazard even a rough guess, asserting that everything depended upon the initiative and industry which British manufacturers would apply to using the trade opportunities opened up to them by the Budget, and upon the sacrifices which American manufacturers would be prepared to make to retain their Canadian business.

By working overtime during last week, Parliament managed to get through all the indispensable business before it in time for prorogation, to take place on May 30th. It has thereby become possible to hold the General Election on July 28th, and, immediately after prorogation, dissolution was announced. For all practical purposes the campaign has already begun, but the party leaders will probably not take the field for at least another week.

For some time past negotiations have been in progress between the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland about a new commercial treaty to replace the pact concluded a few years ago which never really became operative owing to a difference of opinion about the interpretation of some of its terms. Newfoundland, which offers a good market for a variety of Canadian exports like flour, meat, agricultural machinery, fishing equipment, etc., can give preferences which would probably divert to Canadian hands a substantial amount of trade now going to the United States, but, unfortunately, Canada has very little to offer in return. Of Newfoundland's chief exports, fish, paper and iron ores, she has no need to import the first two, and the iron and steel plants which use Newfoundland ores object to the imposition of any duty on them. What Canada has offered is a subsidy of $35,000 per annum on the steamship service between Nova Scotian ports and Newfoundland, and she would add a lump sum of $160,000 to cover arrears of subsidies which would have been paid if the old treaty had come into operation. But the Newfoundland Ministry is not satisfied with this offer and has made a counter-proposal that St. John's, Newfoundland, should be made a port of call for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine service of steamers which runs between Halifax and Bermuda and the British West Indies. This proposal was given consideration at Ottawa and it was discovered that it would seriously upset the time tables of the West Indian Service; at least one additional steamer would have to be put on the service and the deficit which is already piling up would be increased. So the negotiations are at a standstill and will not be resumed until the Canadian election is over. Newfoundland is anxious for direct steamship connection with the West Indies, where she hopes to expand the market for her fish and other products, and at the same time to secure cheaper and fresher fruit and vegetables.

Weather conditions in Canada have been satisfactory during the past fortnight. On the prairies the weather has been cool, with intermittent showers, and the young wheat crop, if its growth has been slow owing to the absence of heat, is said to be in excellent condition. It is now in most places from 4 to 6 inches above ground, and the plants are well rooted and in a healthy condition. In some districts severe night frosts have been responsible for considerable damage, and elsewhere high winds have caused some soil drifting, but the aggregate loss up to date is not large, and the experts are predicting a crop of between 300 and 400 million bushels. At present there is enough moisture to go along with, but the reserves are not great, and much will depend upon what amount of rainfall is vouchsafed the crop throughout June—the really critical month. The prairie farmers have been busy planting oats and other coarse grains, and about 85 per cent. of these are now seeded. They have been greatly encouraged by the recent upward movement in grain prices and by reports that a large number of vessels have been chartered to take grain out of Montreal during June and July.

The flour-milling industry is suffering from the weakness of overseas buying demand, and the sugar refineries have been hard hit by the abnormal decline in the price of sugar. There have been heavy importations of refined sugar from Cuba, and the price is lower than it has been for years. The trade figures continue to be very unsatisfactory; exports for April were valued at $50,744,139, as compared with $65,727,599 in April, 1929, and there was an even sharper fall in imports, which were only valued at $71,401,839, as compared with $97,517,207. This decline in trade is now finding reflection in the customs and excise returns, whose yield for April, given at $17,059,567, shows a fall of $5,617,129. In industry there is considerable variation of fortune; the boot and shoe factories and the furniture plants are pretty busy, and the motor firms have been increasing their output, but the textile mills all complain of a shortage of orders and absence of profits. Many manufacturing and distributing businesses are now engaged in adjusting their trade arrangements in accordance with the tariff changes decreed by the Budget, and the preoccupation of many people with the General Election contest will be a disturbing factor during the next two months. Great hopes are once

more being pinned upon the western grain crop, for until it is safely reaped and sold at a decent price, the western farmers, whose purchasing power has been very light during the last six months, will have nothing to spend except on bare necessities. In most of the western cities there is, even near midsummer, a great deal of unemployment, and it is a good thing that comparatively few immigrants are entering the country. For one thing, the farmers now need fewer extra hands in summer, and, for another, the mining industry, which every year absorbed a large number of workers during the summer, is in a decidedly unhappy condition. The fall in the price of copper has caused several low-grade copper mines to shut down, and it is now extremely difficult to get the public to give financial support to new mining enterprises, however promising they may look.

NORTHERN IRELAND.

Budget — Transferred Taxes — Road Fund — Imperial Services.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BELFAST, June 17.

THE Northern Ireland Budget for 1930-31 shows an estimated total expenditure of £11,603,000, made up of £761,000 for Consolidated Fund Services, £8,881,000 for Supply Services, £1,811,000 for Reserved Services, and £150,000 (provisional) as contribution to Imperial Services. On the revenue side, the yield of "reserved" taxes is placed at £7,013,000, while non-tax revenue is expected to amount to £1,795,000—the principal items being £663,000 from Land Purchase Annuities, and £900,000 from Post Office receipts. Other receipts, consisting of payments under Section 34 (i) of the Government of Ireland Act, and under the Re-Insurance Agreement with Great Britain amount in all to £866,000. The sources of revenue already referred to aggregate £9,764,000, leaving a sum of £1,929,000 to be found from sources directly under the control of the Northern Ireland Government. A sum not exceeding £420,000 is being taken from the Rating Relief Suspense account, so that the sum to be raised by "transferred" taxes is £1,509,000.

Mr Pollock is adopting the increased rates of Estate Duties made in the British Budget, and anticipates an additional £25,000 from this source in the present year and £60,000 in a full year. The estimated yield of Estate Duties in 1930-31 is £650,000. Stamp duties are expected to bring in £237,000, and "transferred" excise licence duties and entertainment tax £130,000.

The most noteworthy change in "transferred" taxation is in connection with motor vehicle duties. A year ago the state of the Northern Ireland Road Fund led Mr Pollock to appoint a Departmental Committee to examine its position and to make recommendations in regard to motor vehicle taxation, so as to place the Fund on a self-supporting basis. During the course of its investigations this Committee obtained from local authorities an estimate of the future expenditure likely to be required on roads during the next five years. Apparently, annual charges on the Road Fund are likely to amount to about £507,000 during this period. On the present basis of taxation, however, receipts are only expected to average £440,000 per annum, leaving a deficit of something over £60,000 per annum. Accordingly, from January 1st next, a number of increases in the rates of taxation on commercial goods vehicles will come into force. No changes are made in taxation on private cars, but the fee for a driving licence will be increased from 5s. to 10s. The total effect of these changes will be to augment the Road Fund by £43,000 in a full year and by £25,000 this year. The estimated yield from motor vehicle taxation in the present year is £495,000, giving an aggregate figure of £1,512,000 in respect of "transferred" taxes; and Mr Pollock is thus able to balance his Budget with a margin of £3,000.

A significant feature of the Budget is the provision of only £150,000 in respect of contribution to Imperial Services. This figure contrasts with £874,000 in 1929-30 and £8,000,000 in 1920. The increasing cost of social services has reached a point when Northern Ireland local expenditure is almost equal to the total revenue of the area, and Mr Pollock found himself impelled in his Budget speech to "warn the local authorities and the ratepayers of the Province that, in respect of State assistance, the limit has been reached, and that they must rely on their own resources for any further expenditure they contemplate." In this connection, it is significant that an Inter-Departmental Committee is being appointed to inquire into the position which has arisen as a result of derating. The curtailment in the rateable basis as a result of derating means that any reduction in State grants to local authorities will produce startling results to the remaining ratepayers. Yet, in Mr Pollock's words, "educational expenditure can hardly continue to be borne as fully by the State in future as at present."

Letters to the Editor.

ANOTHER NEWSPAPER FUSION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In your note on the amalgamation of the *Daily Chronicle* with the *Daily News*, you say that some twenty years ago "the fusion of the two papers was practically reached between the late Mr George Cadbury and Mr Lloyd, but broke down at the last moment on the question of control."

Allow me to inform you that the discussions which took place twenty years ago had reference to the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Morning Leader*, and negotiations were carried on between the late Professor James Stuart, chairman of the *Star* and *Morning Leader* company, Mr Frank Lloyd, Mr Ernest Parke, and myself. An agreement was practically reached, but Mr. Harry Lloyd had some qualms about the Lloyds owning the *Star*, which, quite wrongly, he thought was mainly a racing paper. Then, at the last moment, Mr Frank Lloyd raised a new point as he did not wish Mr Parke to take a responsible position in the management of the combined paper. This may have been an afterthought, or it may have been a strategic form of retreat. In any case, it was not treating Mr Parke fairly, and it was not in the interest of the property, as Mr Parke was then in his prime and was one of the ablest newspaper men in London.

The question of bringing the *Daily News* into the fusion was mooted. It was Mr Lloyd's idea, and Mr Parke, I think, favoured it. I opposed the scheme as I objected to the fusion of the three Liberal morning papers in one. I was against it for political as well as journalistic reasons. I fear I was short-sighted, but think that at the time, and as things were, I was right.—Yours truly,

41 Rutland Gate, S.W.7. ROBERT DONALD.
June 11, 1930.

[There is documentary evidence that, apart from the negotiation to which Sir Robert Donald refers, the amalgamation of the *Daily News* and the *Daily Chronicle* was discussed at least on one other occasion before the war, and that the stumbling-block was the question of control.—*Ed.* ECON.]

SWEDISH "INTERNATIONAL" SHARES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—We have read with much interest the article in your current issue on Swedish "Internationals" and while we agree that "S.K.F., Separator and Electrolux are more vulnerable to trade depression than are Swedish Match and Kreuger and Toll," we venture to take you to task for not giving more importance to the fact that "the margin between earnings and dividends shown . . . is sufficient to allow of at least a moderate recession of profits without undue prejudice to the position of shareholders," in the case, particularly, of S.K.F.

We would draw your attention to the following points:—

(*a*) The *Consolidated Earnings* of S.K.F. (about 21 per cent.) exceed the dividend (12 per cent.) by 75 per cent., and it seems to us a depression has got to be very severe, and last for a very long time, before this safety margin is depleted, and a possible decrease in earnings makes an inroad into the funds required for the maintenance of the current dividend.

(*b*) The undistributed profits (or surplus) are sufficient for the payment of nearly two years' dividend at the current rate.

(*c*) The financial policy of the company has always been very conservative, and actual earnings are believed to be considerably in excess of the disclosed consolidated earnings.

(*d*) The outstanding feature of all the principal Swedish industrial concerns has always been the stability of the dividend distribution, which has been ensured by the maintenance of a large margin between earnings and distribution at all times. We think it very improbable that any temporary decline in earnings, however severe it may be, will be sufficient to induce the directors to lower the current rate of distribution.—Yours faithfully,

THE ANGLO-NORDIC FINANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

24, Lombard Street, London, E.C. 3.
June 18, 1930.

Books and Publications.

A HISTORY OF MONEY.

MR NORMAN ANGELL has done his very best to achieve the object aimed at by his new book,* namely a more intelligent knowledge of money matters diffused among the general public. Profuse illustrations, chiefly of different forms of currency, diligent research in the by-ways of his subject, copious anecdote, a temperate judgment and an earnest desire to make mankind in its relations with money master of a good servant rather than the puzzled slave of a capricious tyrant—all these qualities distinguish his work. Students will find plenty of matter in its pages that will edify and instruct, but whether the layman, for whom Mr Angell is writing, will lay it down with a much clearer view as to what ought to be done about money, is doubtful. In the first place, Mr Angell does not tell him definitely what money is, and secondly, with a modesty that is rare and admirable, but confusing in its results, he ends his survey of his subject with what he calls an " anthology " of the great monetary controversy of the day—in other words, with a very ample set of quotations showing what the various schools of experts think about the gold standard, managed currencies, stabilisation, and other matters on which expert opinion is very much at variance. Out of this well-appointed gramophone, records by all the leading performers charm the ear of the listener, but Mr Angell is too modest to give that guidance that the patient and puzzled public needs and wants.

By money, Mr Angell seems to mean economics in general. He says, for example:—

> " The public has to pass its opinion upon the question as to whether the tariff shall be raised or lowered; whether this or that trade shall be allowed to die in the pursuit of newer methods; whether prices shall be higher or lower; what shall be done about the bank rate; whether there shall be more or less money; restricted or expanded credit; whether taxation shall be direct or indirect. And because the public is, speaking broadly, possessed by certain dominant fallacies of the mercantilist order, it has strong opinions which in practical policy it imposes again and again as against the specialist knowledge of the economist. Thus it happens that while 99 per cent. of the trained economists are broadly Free Trade, 99 per cent. of the governments of the world responsible for actual policy, and dependent upon the general feeling of their publics, are incurably and increasingly Protectionist in tendency. Where the trained economist distinguishes clearly between the individual and the general interest, the voter is hopelessly confused."

This discrepancy between expert opinion, much as it varies, and the public prejudices which have so much influence on governmental action seems a reason, not for increasing the influence of the public on money matters, but rather for restricting their conduct to the hands of the bankers who have at least succeeded in providing the world with a workable currency, and leaving the experts to educate the bankers. Mr Angell lays great stress on the extent of the recent breakdown of what he calls the money device, and with good reason; but he is surely wrong in saying that " in the countries most affected, governments of law and order were in power, expert bankers were controlling the monetary machine." In Germany and Austria the new and timid governments that perpetrated the great inflation may have certainly wished for law and order, but their financial policy consisted in compelling the " expert bankers " to print paper, and the control of the latter was in abeyance.

On the historical side Mr Angell's book tells the familiar tale with many pleasant embellishments and some new additions—for instance, the interesting example of a perfectly successful currency, with no value behind it, which for generations formed at times the chief money of Canada. It was made of playing cards and lasted in one form or another from 1685, the date of the first issue, until well past the middle of the eighteenth century. It happened because the Intendant of Canada, at the date named, lacked funds; the colony and the troops—especially the troops—wanted money; there was no printing press; but the troops had cards. The Intendant requisitioned all the packs of cards, Mr Angell tells us, and having the amount each represented written on its face and signed by himself, he produced a form of paper money difficult to forge, resistant, well adapted to the needs of the occasion. It became exceedingly popular and remained current during the whole of the remainder of that century and the first half of the next.

* " The Story of Money." By Norman Angell. Cassell & Co. 21s. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

Problems of the Pacific, 1929. Edited by J. B. Condliffe. (London) Cambridge University Press, Fetter Lane. 22s. 6d. net.

An account, with maps, diagrams, documents and a summary of the discussions, of the recent Kyoto conference.

Standard Statistical Bulletin Base Book Issue, 1930-1931. (New York) Standard Statistics Co., Inc., 200, Varick Street. $5.

A remarkable collection of statistics of an industrial and financial character, covering almost every branch of economy in the United States over a long period of years. It is classified by industries and includes prices, production, consumption, stock indices, interest rates, banking statistics most conscientiously classified, and a variety of business indices.

Il Volto E L'Anima Della Moneta. By Mario Alberti. (Milan) A. Mondadori.

A stimulating Italian textbook on monetary theory. It is liberally illustrated with photographs of famous banks and famous bankers, and there is a short bibliography with useful comments.

Roumania, January-March, 1930. (New York) Society of Friends of Roumania, Inc., 36, West Forty-fourth Street.

This number includes, among a number of articles of interest to Balkan countries, one on " Roumania and Russia."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2:—

Department of Overseas Trade: Report on the Trade of British West Africa, May, 1930.

Indian Statutory Commission: Return of Engineering and submitted by the Government of Madras. 8s. net.

Electricity Commission: Return of Engineering and Financial Statistics Relating to Authorised Undertakings in Great Britain for the year ending 31st March, 1929. 15s. net

Report of the Ministry of Labour for the Year 1929. Cmd. 3579. 2s. 6d. net.

Report of the Overseas Settlement Committee for the Year ended December 31st, 1929. Cm. 3589. 9d. net.

Department of Overseas Trade: Economic Conditions in Sweden, February, 1930. 1s. 6d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE RUBBER SHARE OUTLOOK.

LAST week, for the first time on record, the London spot price of rubber fell below 6d. a pound. In its comparatively short history of twenty-odd years, the Eastern rubber plantation industry has seen its product selling in the market at 12s. a pound in the pre-War boom, 6¾d. in the post-War slump, 4s. 8d. in the 1925 " squeeze," and one-ninth of that price in 1930. Such extreme instability is, happily, characteristic of few markets for essential primary commodities. Rubber company shareholders, who bear the brunt of these movements, have at least the consoling philosophy that the present depression, if experience is any guide, is likely to be no more permanent than past periods of prosperity. So long, however, as selling prices remain about their present level, only the best producers can hope to make a modest profit, while a large section of the industry can barely cover its prime costs. The extent and the " time-table " of prospective future revival are thus matters of the closest concern to rubber shareholders.

At no time in the annals of the industry have supply and demand remained in equilibrium for any appreciable time. The invention of the motor car created a new demand for rubber, which the inflow of capital into the Eastern plantations, before the War, more than satisfied. The War itself postponed the inevitable day of reckoning after the " rubber boom," but the adoption, about 1920, of the cord tyre, with its economy in rubber and its longer life, placed supply definitely ahead of demand. The phenomenal advance in popularity of the low-priced car, however, in the years from 1923 onwards, completely reversed the situation, and the inopportune restriction of British supplies, under the Stevenson Scheme, ushered in the minor boom of 1925-26. This, in its turn, stimulated the use by manufacturers of reclaimed rubber, at a time when large " native " rubber areas were coming increasingly into production. The abandonment of British restriction showed that the productivity of well-managed European estates had been seriously underestimated, and the super-imposition of a world-wide industrial depression on an already delicate situation precipitated the slump in prices from which the industry is now suffering.

So much for past fluctuations of prosperity in a most " unquiet " industry. The effect of recent vicissitudes on the production and earnings of representative British companies may be inferred from the following table:—

	Rubber Production Thous. Lbs.	All-in Costs per Lb.	Selling Price per Lb.	Profits.	Ordinary Dividend.
		d.	d.	£	%
Average London Selling Price 1925	...	...	*35·06*	...	...
Average London Selling Price 1929	...	...	*10·26*	...	...
Allied Sumatra 1926†	3,552	10·11	22·10	184,815	7½
Allied Sumatra 1929	4,160	‡	9·45	39,869	2½
Batang Consol. 1925	501	‡	‡	38,357	17½
Batang Consol. 1929	1,133	‡	‡	13,551	6
Grand Central Rubber 1925	4,328	‡	30·51	342,310	27½
Grand Central Rubber 1929	5,912	‡	9·52	57,416	5
Linggi 1925	2,654	9·10	30·25	240,704	32½
Linggi 1929	3,362	‡	‡	36,085	5
Malacca 1925	3,375	10·82	27·46	203,453	35
Malacca 1929	6,419	‡	‡	40,216	Nil
Rembau Jelei 1925	1,560	10·04	26·94	111,320	20
Rembau Jelei 1929	2,799	‡	‡	44,526	7½

† Company's first year. ‡ Not stated.

The contrast between 1925, when restriction was at its maximum, and 1929, when British estates obtained their record " output " is striking. An increase of nearly 50 per cent. in the total output of these six companies has been accompanied by a decrease in average costs from 9d.-11d. to, possibly, 5d.-8d. per pound, though nearly all the companies, on a short-sighted policy, have suppressed their returns of cost and selling prices in the most recent period. Ordinary dividends have fallen to a level decidedly low for a speculative industry, and their payment at all, for 1929, was due as a rule to the companies having secured average selling prices appreciably above the London " spot " quotations, as a result of favourable forward contracts. Few companies, however, have made advantageous forward contracts for 1930 or 1931.

Looking back, there is general agreement that the termination of the Stevenson Scheme left the industry with much more " slack " to take up than was realised two years ago. Subsequent reductions in cost have been due not merely to the economies of increased output, but also to a decided increase in efficiency, under the spur of difficult conditions. Even the most ardent advocates of a new policy of restriction have admitted that, with costs at their present level, the industry cannot hope to maintain future selling prices at anything like 1s. 9d., the " pivotal " figure of the Stevenson Scheme in its later days. Mr H. J. Welch, the chairman of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust (a Harrison and Crosfield spokesman), while fathering a scheme for the cessation of production on a number of days each month, declared that such a plan must attempt only to cover bare costs of production (including selling charges and overhead expenses but not, apparently, depreciation), and suggested 9d. as a reasonable pivotal figure. Other important interests have proposed a flat curtailment of production by 25 per cent., but the disappointing result of the much-advertised " tapping holiday " on British and Dutch estates last month is doubtless responsible for the lukewarm reception of these proposals.

There are many reasons why rubber shareholders should hesitate to give their approval to any shackling of the industry with a new scheme of restriction. Out of six million acres under rubber in the East, nearly three million are owned by Asiatic planters, who cannot and will not come into any such scheme on a considerable scale. Restriction by only 50 per cent. of the industry has little chance of success, seeing that the control by British estates, in 1922, of 65 per cent. of the world's output did not save the Stevenson Scheme from eventual failure. In Ceylon the most active hostility to restriction prevails, and even in Malaya support of the May " holiday " was forthcoming only because many growers regarded Dutch co-operation as a precedent worth an immediate sacrifice. The crucial argument, however, is that rubber is sharing its present depression with a multitude of other primary industries—tea, wheat, coffee, sugar, tin, copper, silver, diamonds, to name only a few—a fact which suggests, *prima facie*, that its present troubles are the result of imponderable world movements beyond the control of any one industry. The decisive factor in the present situation, in short, is generally believed to be the probable trend of world consumption. The world's absorption of rubber has more than doubled in the short space of seven years, despite a rapid increase in the production of reclaimed rubber. The following table merits careful study:—

RUBBER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, ETC.
(Monthly Averages—Thousand Tons).

	Production.*		Consumption.			Reclaimed Rubber Production in U.S.A.
	British Areas.	Total World.	U.S.A.	Great Britain.	Total World.	
1922	21·8	33·3	21·2	0·8	32·9	4·5
1923	19·8	33·9	22·9	2·4	36·6	5·9
1924	18·4	35·6	25·1	1·8	38·8	6·3
1925	21·3	43·1	29·5	2·5	46·4	10·3
1926	28·7	51·2	27·5	3·4	45·6	14·0
1927	24·8	50·4	28·5	3·7	49·2	14·4
1928	29·6	54·1	33·9	4·0	56·2	17·3
1929	44·5	71·9	36·3	6·0	66·0	17·5
1930†	46·7	74·7	36·4	5·6	51·6	16·1

* Shipments from producing areas. † To date.

Taking a long view, the above evidence strongly suggests that the upward trend of rubber consumption will be resumed as soon as the contemporary world-wide cyclical depression in trade has passed away. The motor vehicle, which " consumes " some 80 per cent. of the world's rubber, has established itself as an indispensable instrument of modern transport. The fact that 76 per cent. of the world's motor vehicles are to be found in the United States gives an idea of the scope for the expansion of motor transport in the rest of the world. While we do not necessarily accept the forecast of the chairman of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust that consumption will show a further 100 per cent. increase in the next decade, it is clear that the most efficient British estates have more to gain by tightening their belts for the moment, and continuing to meet the market with a view to making the most of recovery when it comes, than by fettering themselves with any new scheme of restriction. This attitude has additional relevance in view of the largely unknown but certainly impressive possibilities of increased output and lower costs under a *régime* of scientific bud-grafting.

Meanwhile, though " sixpenny rubber," has produced surprisingly little selling of rubber shares, the latter have fallen significantly during recent months :—

	Highest, 1925–26.	Highest, 1929.	Highest this Year.	Present Price.	Yield at Present Price.
					£ s. d.
Allied Sumatra (£1)	1¼	1 1/16	11/16	13/16	4 5 0
Batang Consol (2/-)	4/1½	2/-	1/4½	1/-	12 0 0
Grand Central Rubber (£1)	2 13/16	1⅝	15/16	¾	6 13 3
Linggi (£1)	3 13/16	1 13/16	1 5/16	1 1/16	4 17 0
Malacca (£1)	6 1/16	2 13/16	1 13/16	1 1/16	Nil
Rembau Jelei	3 7/16	1 13/16	1 1/16	13/16	8 0 0

The yield figures given in the last column should be cautiously interpreted, as the earnings of the great majority of companies may be appreciably lower this year than last, failing an early improvement in the commodity market. If the long-term view suggested in this survey is correct, however, the restoration of earnings to a reasonable (though not a spectacular) level, is likely to follow the emergence of world trade and industry from the present trough of depression. Holders of rubber shares may therefore be advised not to confine their attention too narrowly to the affairs of their own industry, but to sweep the international horizon for the first signs of a major trade revival. As the United States still accounts for anything up to two-thirds of the world's rubber consumption, the course of American events should be followed with particularly close scrutiny.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET.	ACCOUNT.
June 24.	June 26.

THE week opened dismally, forced liquidation giving unexpected and unwelcome evidence of " weak spots." The downward movement of prices in all markets, from gilt-edged to mining counters, persisted for some days, though sentiment tended to become brighter on Thursday, following a recovery in some sections of the commodity markets. The week's trend was associated partly with the further hammering of prices in Wall Street, partly with selling from Paris, and partly with difficulties in at least one outside financial quarter. Recent new issues had a somewhat depressing experience, the German Government Loan relapsing at the first tentative withdrawal of " inside " support, while the San Paulo Bonds—large blocks of which came on offer—suffered a further relapse.

Gilt-edged stocks lost ground, partly on selling to meet commitments elsewhere. A better tone obtained, however, in the latter part of the week. War Loan, exceptionally, was supported and Five per Cent. Conversion Loan was harder. The rise in India loans was checked, the market deciding to await the Simon Commission's recommendations, next Tuesday, before increasing its commitments. A meagre business was done in Dominion and Colonial loans, at fractionally lower prices.

In the Foreign market, the dullness of Brazilian stocks was noteworthy, the new San Paulo Seven per Cents. falling to 4¼ discount. The seizure of the Tientsin Customs was a bear point for Chinese loans, despite assurances as to the inviolability of the Customs revenue. The Reparations Loan opened at par, but fell at one time to 2 discount, with a subsequent recovery to 1¼ discount. German Seven per Cents. were easier in sympathy, and other European loans lost ground.

The week's batch of Home Railway traffic returns was much worse than expected, after all allowance for the normal reduction of goods traffic in Bank Holiday week. Though little stock came out, prices were marked down as a precautionary measure, London, Midland and Scottish being the chief sufferer. Southerns, exceptionally, were steady, the company alone showing a rise in earnings. Undergrounds again made a favourable traffic showing, and obtained fair support. Argentine rails were heavy on bad trade and the falling peso exchange, B.A. Great Southerns being offered on a considerable scale. Among Brazilians, San Paulos were particularly weak. Canadian Pacifics were sold in Montreal and New York, the traffic figures continuing to show a falling off.

The industrial markets had a more forlorn appearance than for some weeks past. Internationals were marked down to New York levels, while a number of leading domestic issues were affected by forced liquidation. Imperial Chemical Industries were fairly steady, but Cables and Wireless remained depressed, though the market refused to believe that the preference dividend would not be fully covered by earnings. Columbia and H.M.V. came within the orbit of American selling, but subsequently showed firmer symptoms. Among motor shares, Leylands were sold despite the company's decision to pay off the remaining preference arrears. Courtaulds were comparatively steady on the company's decision to take on more men, the significance of which is discussed in a note on page 1395. General Electrics were easier, despite the excellent accounts (analysed on page 1396). Coal and steel shares remained quiet, and only a modicum of business was done in general textiles. Breweries were undecided, and tobacco shares irregular, British American Tobacco suffering from further selling on the Chinese situation. The trend of gilt-edged stocks, as always, was paralleled by bank and insurance share movements, early recession being succeeded by slightly firmer conditions.

The slight hardening in the price of rubber, after a temporary decline below 6d., had no effect on the share market, which was listless and idle, with quotations fractionally lower where changed. The outlook for rubber shares is discussed in a leading article on the previous page. The tea share market was as dull as ever, with no change in the slow downward trend of values. The week-end burst of selling in the oil market was continued on Monday, but steadier conditions supervened. Sentiment, however remained, to say the least, highly conservative, developments on the Pacific Coast causing some uneasiness.

The mining market rallied partially after a very depressing start. Paris at first came in as a seller in the Kaffir section, but reversed her rôle on Thursday. Gold Fields receded on disappointment with regard to the amalgamation terms. Northern Rhodesian descriptions made a poor showing, Congo Borders continuing to recede. An improvement set in later, however, and N'Changas marked a sharp advance. Tin dropped at one time as low as £133 3s. 9d., and share movements were downwards without exception, while the recovery in the metal to over £138 on Thursday brought but slight relief. Tintos were depressed following a mid-week slump in copper, but recovered on subsequent Paris buying. The main features of the copper position are described on page 1398. A feature of the week was the fall in 'Friscos, following the passing of the interim dividend.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.

(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	June 12.	June 13.	June 16.	June 17.	June 18.	June 19.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,389	1,244	1,480	1,368	1,207	1,158
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	949	934	1,155	985	923	975
Commercial and Industrial*	1,813	1,495	1,957	1,848	1,791	1,738
Banks, Insurance and Financial	511	446	494	591	492	445
Mines (including Nitrate)	400	404	546	497	513	581
Oil	178	155	187	134	151	173
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	126	125	135	183	160	151
Total	5,371	4,803	5,954	5,656	5,237	5,221

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS.

(1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (June 17).	June 12.	June 13.	June 16.	June 17.	June 18.	June 19.
90·6	79·3	82·0	81·6	80·5	79·3	79·7	80·0

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

The share market is steadier, with evidence of at least a temporary halt to liquidation. The worst of the forced selling is finished, and prices are at levels calculated to tempt investment buying. This is inducing a moderate amount of short covering by the bear interest, which is now believed to be quite large. The best classes of shares have suffered most, selling being heaviest in railroads, public utilities, chemicals, motors and steel shares. The decline was mainly the result of growing pessimism over falling commodity prices, the non-arrival of business recovery, dividend reductions, and, to some extent, to tariff legislation, although the effect of the last-named has doubtless been exaggerated in the Press. Bonds have been slack on selling to support stocks, and, more recently, to secure funds for placing in the higher-yielding shares. Several failures have occurred this week, including a brokerage house, a cotton brokerage firm, and a Chicago grain firm. These, however, are unimportant, Financial houses generally are in a sound position, but many baseless rumours are, naturally, in circulation. The victory of Mr Dwight W. Morrow in securing the nomination for the Senate in the New Jersey primary elections is highly gratifying to Wall Street, being held to insure the sound leadership which is badly needed at Washington. The coming conference of the International Committee of Bankers on the Mexican debt is regarded with only mild optimism in view of the increasing difficulties of Mexico, resulting from the fall in silver prices and the poor oil situation. The reduction in the discount rate indicates the concern felt by the authorities at the extent of trade recession, and the earnest desire to stimulate trade recovery, which it is still hoped may take place before the end of the year.

(By Cable.)

	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	105 21/32	106⅜	106 1/16
Do. 4¼% T. Bds.	112⅞	113 1/16	112⅞
Lib.Ln.3½%'32-47	100½	100 27/32	100 25/32
Do. 4¼% '32-47	101 13/16	101 13/16	102
Do. 4¼% '33-38	102 7/16	102 23/32	102 13/16
Atchison	223	218	213
Ches. & Ohio	211	182	180
Erie	43⅝	39	37½
Illinois Central	127	122½	117
N.Y. Central	172½	167	161⅛
Pennsylvania	76½	74⅝	72
Southern Pacific	119⅝	117	112⅛
Southern Rly.	106¼	107	104⅝
Union Pacific	224	219	214½
Am. Can.	144⅛	132	121½
Alleghany Corp.	25⅝	22	20½
Amer. Smelting	69¼	66⅝	57⅛
Anaconda	56½	54	49¼
Bethlehem Steel	93⅛	87⅛	83⅝
Chrysler Motor	34⅛	31	26⅝
Corn Produce	106⅛	100	95⅛
Eastman Kodak	239	219	205
Gen. Electric (New)	81¼	73¼	71⅞
Gen. Motors	49½	44⅝	41⅝
Int. Harvester	96¼	89	82½
Montg. Ward	44⅝	40	36⅝
Natl. Biscuit	89⅝	84⅛	79

	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
Phelps Dodge	37⅛	36	31
Pullman	73⅝	69½	66
Sears-Roebuck	84¾	77	73½
Studebaker	35⅝	31	26
Un. Fruit	91	87½	88
U.S. Leather	11⅛	10	11⅝
U.S. Rubber	29¼	24⅝	22
U.S. Steel	168⅛	163	160⅜
Westinghouse	176⅞	152	140
Woolworth	63¼	59¼	55
Worthington Pump	157	141⅛	127
Am. Pow. & Light.	104	93	84
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	228½	216	211
Electric P. & L.	90⅜	79⅝	68⅛
Int. Tel. Teles.	63¼	54	44⅛
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	47⅛	41⅛	35⅜
Radio Corpn.	49⅜	41	38⅜
Utilities P. & L.	39⅛x	36	28½
W. Union Tlg.	182⅞	169½	163⅛
Associated Gas "A"	36⅛	35	31½
Mid-Cont. Pet.	27⅞	25⅜	24⅛
Pan Amer. B.	61	57⅝	57
Sinclair Oil	28⅜	25½	22⅜
Std. California	69⅛	64½	61
Do. N.J.	78⅛	71	66

x Ex dividend.

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. June 12.	Closing Prices. June 19.	Rise or Fall.		Closing Prices. June 12.	Closing Prices. June 19.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.							
Conv. Loan 3½%	77 5/16	77 1/16	− ¼	Treasury 5% (B)	102	102 3/16	+ 3/16
Do. 4½% 1944	98¼	98¼	...	Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
Do. 5% 1944-64	103⅜	103⅞	+ ½	S. Africa 5% 1945-75	99	99	...
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102 5/16	102 9/16	+ ¼	India 3½%	61	61¾	+ ¾
Consols 4%	87⅝	87¼	− ⅜	Do. 4½% 1958-68	83	84¾	+ 1¾
Funding 4%	88⅜	88¼	− ⅛	Australia 5% 1945-75	86¼	87	+ ¾
Victory Bonds 4%	94¼	94 5/16	+ 1/16	N.S.Wales 5% 1935-55	85½	85½	...
Local Loans 3%	63⅞	63 13/16	− 1/16	N. Zealand 5% 1946	100	100	...
Foreign Government Securities.							
Japanese 6% (1924)	101½	101¼	− ¼	French 4% (Brit.)	20¼	20¼	...
Argentine 4% Reciss.	88	88½	+ ½	German 7%	106¼	105⅜	− ⅞
Austrian 6% 1923-43	101½	101½	...	Greek 7% Refugee	101½	101½	...
Belgian 7%	110½	110½	...	Hungary 7½%	102¾	102½	− ¼
Brazil 6½% (1927)	87	84½	− 2½	Chili 6%	97	97¼	+ ¼
China 5% (1912)	40	39	− 1	Poland 7%	88	88¼	+ ¼
Egypt Unified 4%	74½	73½	− 1	Mexican 5% (1899)	18	17¼	− ¾
French 5%	20⅜	20¾	+ ⅜	S. Paulo Coffee 7½%	90⅜	87	− 3⅜
Corporation Stocks.							
B'mgham 5% 1946-56	102	102	...	E. London 5% 1960-70	97	97	...
Bristol 5% 1950-60	101	101	...	Sydney 5½% 1954	88½	88½	...
L.C.C. 3%	64	64	...	Berlin 6% Ster.	95	95	...
British and Foreign Railways.							
G. Western Ord. Stk.	82¾	81¼	− 1½	B.A.&Pacific Ord.Stk.	78¼	74¼	− 4
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	8	7⅝	− ⅜	B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	86¾	83¼	− 3½
Do. 5% Pref. Stk.	23¼	22	− 1¼	B.A.Western Ord.Stk.	66¼	63	− 3¼
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	47	45¼	− 1¾	C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	67¼	64	− 3¼
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	65	64	− 1	Cordoba Ord. Stk.	14¼	14¼	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	76½	76	− ½	G.W. of Brazil £10	2¾	2⅜	− ⅜
Southern Def. Stk.	29	28	− 1	Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	47½	43½	− 4
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	70½	70¼	− ¼	San Paulo Ord. Stk.	183	172½	− 10½
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1 5/32	+ 1/32	Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$27½	$26	− 1½
Do. Income Bonds	107½	109	+ 1½	Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	11¾	12	+ ¼
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	203	196½	− 6½	Beira Rlwy. no par	$1 3/16	$1 1/16	− ⅛
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	83½	81	− 2½				
Banks.							
Bank of England Stk.	250½	252½	+ 2	Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13 13/16	13 13/16	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2 13/16	2 13/16	...	Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅝	1⅝	...	Hongk.and S. ($125)	$107	$106½	− ½
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3 5/16	3 5/16	...	St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15¼	15	− ¼
Midland £1, fully pd.	3 13/16	3¾	− 1/16	W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3 13/16	3 13/16	...
Insurance.							
Alliance £1, fully paid	19	18¾	− ¼	Pearl (£1)	13	12¾	− ¼
Com. Un. £2½, fully pd.	23	22¾	− ¼	Phœnix, £1 fully pd.	14⅛	13⅞	− ¼
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27½	27½	...	Roy.In.£1, with 10/ pd.	7⅝	7½	− ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.							
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	7/32	7/32	...	Guest, Keen (£1)	1 11/16	1¾	+ 1/16
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)	2 13/16	2 25/32	− 1/32	Powell Duffryn (£1)	⅞	13/16	− 1/16
Baldwin (4/-)	5/16	⅜	+ 1/16	Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1)	23/32	11/16	− 1/32	Swan, Hunter (£1)	13/16	13/16	...
Cory, William (£1)	3 1/16	2 15/16	− ⅛	Thornycroft, John (£1)	3 1/16	3	− 1/16
Dorman, Long (£1)	3/16	7/32	+ 1/32	*Vickers* (6/8)	13/16	13/16	...
Textiles.							
Bradford Dyers (£1)	1 7/32	1 3/16	− 1/32	*Courtaulds*	2 3/16	2 1/16	− ⅛
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	13/16	11/16	− ⅛	Linen Thread (£1)	1 13/16	1¾	− 1/16
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	3	2 15/16	− 1/16	Listers (£1)	13/16	11/16	− ⅛
Electrical Manufacturing.							
Associated Elec. (£1)	1½	1 7/16	− 1/16	*General Electric* (£1)	2 7/16	2 7/16	...
British Insulated (£1)	3⅝	3 21/32	+ 1/32	Henleys (W.T.) (£1)	6¼	6¼	...
Callenders (£1)	3 13/16	3 11/16	− ⅛	*Johnson & Phillips* (£1)	1 27/32	1 13/16	− 1/32
Electric Light and Power.							
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1 13/16	1 25/32	− 1/32	*Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.*	44	41½	− 2½
City of London (£1)	1 13/16	1 13/16	...	Midland Counties (£1)	1 13/16	1 13/16	...
County of London (£1)	2 5/16	2¼	− 1/16	*Newcastle-on-Tyne* (£1)	1½	1 7/16	− 1/16
Gas.							
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	15/16	15/16	...	Primitiva (£1)	1 13/16	1 11/16	− ⅛
Imp. Continental Stk.	360	350	− 10	S. Metropolitan Stk.	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.							
Cables and Wireless A Ord.	40	37	− 3	*Canadian Marconi*	1 3/16	1 1/16	− ⅛
				Marconi Marine (£1)	1 13/16	1¾	− 1/16
Cables and Wireless B Ord.	19	16½	− 2½	Oriental Telephone (£1)	2½	2½	...
Motors.							
Austin (5/-)	1 5/16	1 5/16	...	*Leyland* (£1)	3 5/16	3⅛	− 3/16
Dennis (1/)	2	2	...	*Rolls-Royce* (£1)	2 9/32	2¼	− 1/32
Ford Motors ($1)	3 5/16	3 9/32	− 1/32	Napier (5/-)	13/16	25/32	− 1/32
Shipping.							
Cunard (£1)	1 1/32	1	− 1/32	P. & O. Defd. (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	...
Furness Withy (£1)	1⅝	1 19/32	− 1/32	Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	17½	18½	+ 1
Tea and Rubber.							
Anglo-Dutch (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...	London Asiatic (2/)	3/16	3/16	...
Bah Lias (£1)	1	1	...	*Rubber Trust* (£1)	1¼	1¼	...
Cons. Tea & Lnds. (£10)	20	20	...	United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.							
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4½	4⅜	− ⅛	*Canadian Eagle, no par*	⅝	17/32	− 3/32
Attock (£1)	1½	1 7/16	− 1/16	*Mexican Eagle* (£1/0/6)	⅝	19/32	− 1/32
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	5/16	5/16	...	*Royal Dutch* (£3½)	32⅝	31¾	− ⅞
Burmah Oil (£1)	4 13/16	4¾	− 1/16	*Shell* (£1)	4 13/16	4 11/16	− ⅛
Miscellaneous.							
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1½	1 7/16	− 1/16	*International Holdings*	5⅜	5 3/16	− 3/16
Braz. Traction, no par	$46¼	$41¾	− 4½	*Inter. Nickel of Can.*	27¼	24	− 3¼
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅜	5 5/16	− 1/16	*Kreuger & Toll* (kr.100)	28½	27½	− 1
Carreras, "A" Ord. (£1)	7⅞	8⅛	+ ¼	Marks & Spencer (10/-)	6	5½xb	...
Columbia Graph. (10/)	4 13/16	3 15/16	− ⅞	Maypole Dairy (2/-)	5/16	5/16	...
Distillers (£1)	3 13/16	3 25/32	− 1/32	*Pinchin Johnson* (10/-)	2¼	2 3/16	− 1/16
Dunlop (6/8)	13/16	25/32	− 1/32	Savoy Hotel (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	4 5/16	3 13/16	− ½	*Swed. Match, B* (kr 100)	15⅛	14⅞	− ¼
Guinness (A) (£1)	5 5/16	5 3/16	− ⅛	Tate and Lyle (£1)	1 13/16	1 13/16	...
Harrods (£1)	3 5/16	3¼	− 1/16	Tilling, Thos. (£1)	4 13/16	4¾	− 1/16
Hudson's Bay (£1)	3 7/16	3⅜	− 1/16	Turner & Newall (£1)	3 5/16	3 7/32	− 3/32
Imp. Airways (£1 15/p)	1¼	1 3/16	− 1/16	Unilever (£1)	2 13/16	2 23/32	− 3/32
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1 3/16	1 3/16	...	*United Molasses* (£1)	3 1/16	2 15/16	− ⅛
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4 13/16	4 13/16	...	Watney Combe Df. (£1)	3 5/16	3 5/16	...
Mines.							
Anglo-Amer. of S.A. (£1)	1½	1 7/16	− 1/16	*N'Changa* (£1 with 17/6 pd.)	2⅞	3¼	+ ⅜
De Beers Def. (£2½)	7¾	7½	− ¼	New Modderfontein 10/-	4 1/16	4	− 1/16
" Chartered " 15/f.p.	1 13/16	1 25/32	...	*Rhodesian Congo Border* (£1)	14¾	15¼	+ ½
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	5/16	5/16	...	*Rio Tinto* (£5)	37½	34¾	− 2¾
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	13/16	13/16	...	*Roan Antelope Cpr.* (5/)	1 5/16	1¼	− 1/16
Johan. Cons. (£1)	1 13/16	1 25/32	− 1/32	*Tanganyika* (£1)	1 13/16	1 13/16	...
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅞	27/32	− 1/32	UnionCrp. (12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅜	3 5/16	− 1/16
Loangwa (5/-)	7/32	7/32	...				
London Tin (£1)	13/16	¾	− 1/16				

the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926 = 100) :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	June 11.	June 18.
335 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	147·6	132·3
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	127·2	121·1
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	231·7	205·4
Total, 402 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	157·6	142·0
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	4·70%	5·26%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (June 18.)	June 11.	June 12.	June 13.	June 14.	June 16.	June 17.	June 18.
202·4	153·0	171·3	170·4	171·7	168·3	158·5	158·7	153·0

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	June 12.	June 13.	June 14.*	June 16.	June 17.	June 18.	June 19.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	3,895	2,218	1,253	5,650	5,007	6,416	3,756
Bonds (Value-Thous. $).....	10,896	9,783	4,916	10,917	12,118	14,088	10,795
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,992	2,185	1,517	1,783	1,557	2,019	1,111

* 2-hour session.

AMSTERDAM.

AN extremely dull tendency characterised the Stock Exchange during the past month. At first there was hardly any trading worth mentioning, and even in the leading favourites the turnover only amounted to a few shares. Not until after the Whitsun holidays did some movement in quotations become noticeable, and then prices showed a gradual decline, in sympathy with the tendency in New York. As a result, the market became more sensitive, and bull sales and forced liquidation caused many shares to suffer decided losses. Philips and Margarine Unies, in particular, were freely on offer, and both issues registered new low levels. In sugar shares, H.V.A. (Trading Company, Amsterdam) were very weak, on the report that about 90 per cent. of the Java sugar crop for 1930 was still unsold. Oil shares also joined in the general decline, and Royal Dutch were decidedly lower. The satisfactory annual report failed to bring the decline to a standstill. The low price of rubber contributed to a further decline in rubber shares, while shipping shares also receded. The annual report of the A.K.U. did not meet with a favourable reception on 'Change, and quotations dropped to below par. On Friday, June 13th, however, the general decline of quotations was arrested, and a better tendency was noticeable all round.

	Apr. 15, 1930.	May 15. 1930.	June 16. 1930.
4½% Gov. Bds., 1916	100⅜	101⅛	101⅜
4% Bonds, 1916...	97⅞	98⅛	99
4½% Bonds East Indies	96½	96⅝	96⅜
4½% Amsterdam, 1913/1914	99⅛	99½	100⅜
4½% Rotterdam, 1930	98⅜	99½	100⅜
Amsterdam Bank	192	194½	181½
Koloniale Bank ...	195½	176	158
Ned. Ind. Handelsbank	154½	152	146
Neth. Trading Soc.	174	169	154½
Rotterdam Bank.	114½	108	107½
Van Berkels Pat..	141½	115½	101
Central Sugar.....	51	49	52½
Dutch Art. Silk ...	90	85	80½
Margarine Unie ...	356	302†	255
Kuschenmeist Acc.	137½	135½	120½
General Art Silk...	120	112½	90
Dutch Ford	269	283	268½
Philips Elect. Lamp	479½	436	353
Swedish Match ...	320	307⅜	281
Kreuger & Toll ...	630	588	528
Intern. Cred. Trad.	255½	216	207
Redjang Lebong...	96½	80	154½
Singkep Tin	184	157	102
Bolton.....	157	153	94

x Ex dividend.

	Apr. 15, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	June 16, 1930.
Algem Explorat.	190	195½	171
Amem.....	334	318½	300½
Ned. Ind. Gas.....	237⅜	220	218½
Royal Dutch	408	406½	387
Amsterdam Rub'r	150	143½	114
Deli Batavia	109	94	77
East Java	245½	191	170
Hessa Rubber ...	183	160	130
Serbadjadi Sumatra	120	106½	77
Allied Sumatra ...	83½	72	54⅜
Holland Amer. Line	36	34	30
Royal Packet ...	....	209½	176½
Neth. Shipping U.	180⅜	175½	152
Navigation "Nederland"	170½	166	139½
Royal Steamship	79	69	59
Java China Japan Line	91½	83	78½
Vorstenlanden ...	148⅞	130x	124⅜
Trading Co. Amsterdam	526½	482½	412
Java Plantations...	378	336	319
Neth. India Sugar	231½	218	198x
Besoeki	370	...	340
Deli Batavia	410	363½	306
Deli	376½	362½	335
Senembah	414½	395	356

† Ex rights.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Stock Exchange Dual Control.—In a leading article a fortnight ago (see the *Economist*, June 7, 1930, page 1,283) we discussed the possibility of a modification of Stock Exchange procedure along the lines of maximum efficiency. The discussion arising out of this article has prompted the suggestion that the emphasis laid, in our article, on the position of the Stock Exchange Committee may cause a certain confusion in the minds of some readers as to the precise powers possessed by that body. The Committee, broadly speaking, are responsible for all matters connected with actual dealings within the "House," but their power does not extend to matters of internal finance, which are the concern of a separate body of some nine trustees and managers. The Stock Exchange is, constitutionally, a private concern registered under a Deed of Settlement, with a present paid-up capital of £720,000 in 20,000 shares with £36 paid. The liability of these shares is unlimited, but no call may exceed £2 a share, nor can more than one call be made during any period of twelve months. For some time past every new member of the Stock Exchange has been required to be a shareholder, while every trustee and manager must have been a member for the five years preceding his election, and must hold not less than ten shares. All matters appertaining to the finances of the Stock Exchange which affect the shareholders, *qua* shareholders, are absolutely at the discretion of the managers. The latters' responsibilities range from crucial issues such as the possible extension of the Stock Exchange building, to the menu for Stock Exchange Committee lunches and the number of matches available per member at those functions. Every decision taken by the Committee for General Purposes involving, directly or indirectly, a question of internal finance, or affecting in any way the conditions of the Stock Exchange Deed of Settlement (which has been altered on eight occasions since it was first made in 1875) must go to the trustees. The latter have the right to veto it, without giving their reasons, and have in the past exercised their right on more than one occasion. The personal relationship between the two bodies is, of course, marked by mutual respect and sympathy. Inevitably, however, the viewpoint of the managers, as trustees for the interests of shareholders in a private institution, tends to be narrower than that of the Committee, who are particularly concerned, to-day, with the implications of trusteeship for the broader interests of the investing public. Many of the Committee's decisions must necessarily impinge upon questions of internal "House" finance. Conversely, such matters as the advisability of extending the accommodation of the Stock Exchange or accumulating a larger reserve out of "profits," may be intimately connected with the quality of the services the "House" renders to its clients. The possible modification of the present system of dual control is a matter the "House" itself must decide, but its policy will be followed with much interest by a large section of the investing public.

Royal Mail—Lord Kylsant's Speech.—Lord Kylsant's speech at Wednesday's Royal Mail meeting may not unfairly be said to have emphasised the difficulties of the group's position rather than contributed to their solution. Contrary to the interpretation put by some observers on last week's announcement, the position as regards the short-term engagements of the parent company has not been settled, since the Treasury has not yet seen its way to grant the request for a five years' extension of the £2,550,000 of Trade Facilities Loans falling due in the autumn. Presumably, however, the members of the committee of investigation would not have agreed to take office without some understanding as to possibilities in this direction, and a definite official statement will doubtless be forthcoming in due course. Lord Kylsant also revealed, at the meeting, that Messrs Price, Waterhouse & Co. had, at the request of the court of directors, worked out a comprehensive scheme of "rationalisation" some months ago. As, however, at least six to twelve months would have been required in order to give effect to the scheme, the directors deferred its consideration until more pressing problems had been resolved. In reply to a stockholder, indeed, Lord Kylsant declared that, in view of the committee's appointment, it was unlikely that any definite reconstruction scheme would be put forward for some months. As regards the financial structure of the Royal Mail group, Lord Kylsant pointed out that of a total capital of £70 millions as much as £49 millions was represented by inter-group shareholdings. From the figures given, it would appear that a combined fleet of some 2,600,000 gross registered tons is carried in the books at approximately £20 per ton, its average are being about 11½ years. The deduction of reserves totalling £11,600,000 (apart from insurance funds) would bring the value per ton down to about £15 10s., but it is not certain to what extent these reserves, which are invested entirely in the business, can be regarded as available solely for the purpose. These, and kindred matters, will doubtless be fully gone into by the new director, Mr Walter Runciman (who has now been made deputy chairman), in conjunction with the committee. It may be taken for granted that any recommendations put forward will have due regard to the past history and traditions of the Royal Mail group, to which, as the tenour of Lord Kylsant's speech clearly showed, the chairman personally attaches great importance. In the meantime, the Stock Exchange would welcome a policy of keeping stockholders as completely and promptly posted with future developments as is consonant with the intricacy and delicacy of the matters at stake.

Courtaulds and the Rayon Position.—The news that Courtaulds are taking on large numbers of employees who have been "standing off" during recent months has come as a pleasant surprise to shareholders. The step is a sequel to the slow but healthy recovery which the home section of the industry has been making in the last two months. Progress, however, has been poor in the export markets for cotton and rayon piece-goods. The fall in commodity prices has restricted business in many markets, writes a technical correspondent, while the financial crisis in Australia and political disturbances in India have tended to restrict business in two most important overseas outlets. During the next two or three months, consumption of rayon yarns for the production of autumn fabrics should reach a higher level, reasonably good weather having enabled consumers to clear off stocks of summer fabrics. In April, Courtaulds brought out a new price list, which not only brought the prices for their higher quality yarns more into keeping with those of their special cheap grades, but also reduced the number of deniers marketed, thus furthering the possibilities of mass production. Though there has not been a really large demand for the lower quality yarns, price-cutting has fortunately not been as acute as in the early part of the year, the improvement being partly due to the closing down of several factories, and partly to the policy of some of the smaller concerns which were unable to compete in the bulk lines and turned their attention towards special qualities. Altogether, Courtaulds is now in a stronger position in relation to the industry as a whole than a year ago. The weeding-out process among the producing companies may have to go still further, but in the meantime the industry's position is steadily becoming more "rational." Progress is being made with technical developments which promise an expansion in rayon consumption for some time to come. Yarn production is being consolidated in fewer hands, and a large number of firms on the weaving and knitting side, who entered the rayon trade for quick returns, are now leaving the field to the more experienced firms. As a result, the policy of sacrificing quality for price is much less in evidence.

Some Investment Trust Reports.—The recently-published reports of investment trust companies show the effects of a valuation of investments at March 31st or later when the New York markets had temporarily recovered some of their lost ground. The valuation of the holdings of the old-established Investment Trust Corporation at May 1st showed an appreciation of about £1,575,000 over the book cost of £8,480,739. From the previous report it would appear that these holdings declined only 1.7 per cent. in market value in the year to May 1, 1930, a surprisingly good result in view of the 14.6 per cent. decline in the *Investors' Chronicle* index of "all securities" over this period. British Electric Traction, on the other hand, do not give the market value of its investments of £4,142,276 at March 31st. The Nineteen Twenty-Eight Trust, after two years' operation, showed a depreciation at March 31st on the £1,377,280 book cost of its holdings of £28,000, or 1.3 per cent. before crediting reserves and carry-forward of £19,498. The Nineteen Twenty-Nine, which was formed in the month of January, 1929, when security values in London began their historical decline, is able to state that the market values of its holdings at March 31, 1930, show the aggregate amount at which they stand in the balance sheet—£1,008,960—to be fully represented. As far as we know such a result for a new company is unique. An examination of the investment policy followed by these three trusts is, therefore, of special interest. The distribution of holdings is as follows :—

	Investment Trust Corporation. Per cent.	Nineteen Twenty-Eight. Per cent.	Nineteen Twenty-Nine. Per cent.
Bonds, debentures, etc.	52·1	35·3	30·7
Preference stocks.....	24·8	28·5	26·1
Ordinary and deferred stocks...	23·1	36·2	43·2

Both Nineteen Twenty-Eight and Nineteen Twenty-Nine have broken away from the orthodox distribution of holdings—the latter to the extent of having 43.2 per cent. of its holdings in ordinary and deferred shares. The geographical distribution of holdings also reveals some striking contrasts :—

	Investment Trust Corporation. Per cent.	Nineteen Twenty-Eight. Per cent.	Nineteen Twenty-Nine. Per cent.
Great Britain	37·2	37·5	23·9
U.S.A.	15·2	13·5	29·3
Continental Europe.....	18·2	19·3	26·1

The Nineteen Twenty-Nine has invested its reserves in the United States of America and countries outside Great Britain to a much greater extent than is customary. How the recent slump in the New York market has caught the Nineteen Twenty-Eight and the Nineteen Twenty-Nine can only be guessed. The earnings and distribution of profits of the companies for the last fiscal year are shown in the next table :—

	Investment Trust Corporation. May 1, 1930.	Nineteen Twenty-Eight. Mar. 31, 1930.	Nineteen Twenty-Nine. Mar. 31, 1930.	British Electric Traction
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary or deferred capital	1,350,000	500,000	400,000	167,676
Net earnings*	368,758†	58,061	27,412	253,081†
Preference dividends (net)	81,000‡	29,843	15,750	162,383§
Times covered	*5·7*	*1·9*	*1·7*	*1·5§*
Earned on ordinary or deferred	*27·2%*	*7·2%*	*5·6%‖*	*54·0‖*
Paid on ordinary or deferred	20·0%	5·0%	5·0%	5·0
Reserves.....	...	9,000	...	...
Carry-forward	145,197	5,498	1,329	251,798

* After tax. † After debenture interest. ‡ Gross.
§ Includes pref. ord. and part div. on pref. ‖ On deferred shares.

The Investment Trust Corporation has allotted 75,000 preferred and 50,000 deferred shares of £1 to the deferred stockholders at par in the proportion of three preferred and two deferred shares for each £54 of deferred stock. The market price of the deferred stock at the present time is 463 xd to yield 4.32 per cent. on dividends.

Nineteen Twenty-Eight and Nineteen Twenty-Nine are quoted at 116xd and 103½, to yield 4.31 per cent. and 4.83 per cent. respectively. The British Electric Traction deferred stock is quoted in the market at 1500 per cent.

General Electric Company.—The results of the General Electric Company to March 31st last have been received with considerable satisfaction. The upward trend of earnings still continues, profits, before debenture interest, showing an increase of £90,355, at £1,174,432. Debenture interest takes £14,328 less than in 1929, but £18,639 more is set aside for depreciation, the net profit, after the addition of £27,182 to the pension fund, being £83,624 higher at £714,604. After paying the "A" and "B" preference dividends, covered 6.1 times and 2.8 times respectively, a dividend of 14 per cent. is paid on the ordinary capital, on which 20.4 per cent. was earned.

(Years ending March 31).	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Profits	1,057,867	1,084,077	1,174,432
Debenture interest	229,190	222,380	207,952
Depreciation	195,433	206,055	224,694
Pension fund	21,405	24,662	27,182
Net earnings	611,839	630,980	714,604
"A" preference dividend	117,000	117,000	117,000
Number of times covered	*5·2*	*5·3*	*6·1*
"B" preference dividend	135,000	135,000	135,000
Number of times covered	*2·4*	*2·5*	*2·8*
Ordinary *earned*	*15·9%*	*16·7%*	*20·4%*
Ordinary paid	10%	10%	14%
Ordinary amount of dividend	225,365	225,365	315,510
To reserve	130,000	130,000	130,000
Increase in carry-forward	4,474	23,615	27,094

The most outstanding alterations in the balance sheet include the rise of £67,670 in plant to £866,361, while debtors have dropped by £130,764 to £3,336,207, and stocks show an increase of £122,486. Creditors and amounts due to subsidiaries have this year been shown separately, and show an aggregate decline of £144,836 at £2,086,163. Cash being down by £122,519, liquid assets exceed the current liabilities by £2,643,343—a decrease of £211,733 as compared with last year. In their report the directors state that the company's overseas trade has shown a considerable increase. New high-tension switch gear and transformer and cable-manufacturing works have been constructed. The ordinary shares at £2 8s. 9d. yield £6 1s. 10d. per cent.

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds.—Despite long drawn-out depression in the iron and steel trades, Guest Keen's profits have been well maintained in recent years. Two-thirds of the assets are now represented by shares in subsidiary companies. After a slight decrease in 1929, the net profit has risen by £12,627 to £968,698. After paying preference dividends the ordinary shares receive their customary 10 per cent.:—

(Years ended March 31.)	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Profit	966,244	956,071	968,698
First preference dividend	86,000	86,000	87,250
Second preference dividend	225,759	229,259	229,857
Ordinary *earned*	*10·3%*	*10·1%*	*10·3%*
Ordinary paid, tax free	10%	10%	10%
Ordinary amt. of dividend	630,447	630,447	630,447
Increase in carry-forward	+24,038	+11,365	+21,144

During the year the Abercynon Colliery and other colliery interests were sold to a new company—Welsh Associated Collieries, Ltd.—and the British (Guest, Keen, Baldwins) Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., took over the Dawlais and Cardiff Steel Works. In 1929 "investments in subsidiaries" would appear to have been included in the conglomerate item "investments." On this assumption the items "shares in subsidiaries" (£14,610,511), "due by subsidiaries" (£1,604,060), and "investments" (£1,988,520) show a combined increase this year of £5,162,478 at £18,153,091. Owing to the disposal of the assets, properties are down by £1,436,498, at £2,036,782. A new liability appears this year, under the heading "due to subsidiary companies," £1,546,083. If this item may be assumed to have been included with "creditors" in 1929, their combined total of £2,167,102 represents an increase of £1,165,049. The ordinary shares at 33s. 1½d. yield £6 4s. 6d. per cent.

William Cory.—This company's record of persistent prosperity was scarcely interrupted last year, its profits, though showing a decline of £43,602 at £696,687, covering the preference dividend 16.4 times. After paying 17½ per cent. on the ordinary capital (on which 22.2 per cent. was earned), adding £50,000 to reserve, and writing £54,993 off goodwill, the carry-forward is increased by £39,856 to £701,854:—

(Years ended March 31.)	1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Profit	696,047	777,289	733,687
Debenture interest	37,000	37,000	37,000
Net earnings	659,047	740,289	696,687
Preference dividend	42,500	42,500	42,500
No of times covered	*15·5*	*17·4*	*16·4*
Ordinary and employees' shares *earned*	*21·1%*	*23·8%*	*22·2%*
Ordinary and employees' shares paid	17½%	17½%	17½%
Ordinary and employees' shares amt. of div.	511,094	512,220	513,338
To reserve	100,000	150,000	100,993
Increase in carry-forward	5,452	35,569	39,859

In the latest balance sheet land, buildings, goodwill and shares in subsidiaries are shown separately, their total, at £3,731,157, being £808,911 less than a year ago. Debtors have decreased by £381,204 to £2,677,647, while creditors and reserves for contingencies are down by £777,127 to £1,919,653. Premiums on shares totalling £440,000 have been utilised to write down goodwill to £54,994—the item disappearing altogether as a result of the appropriation from revenue, mentioned above. Owing to the grouping of debtors and contingency reserve, the amount by which liquid assets exceed current liabilities cannot be precisely stated. At their present price of £3 0s. 7½d. the ordinary shares yield £6 0s. 5d. per cent.

John Brown Debentures.—As a result of the conference between the debenture-holders and the company's advisers (referred to in the *Economist* of June 14th last, page 1340), an agreement regarding details of the proposed scheme has now been reached. Originally it was proposed that the date of maturity of the debentures should be postponed until December 31, 1965. This scheme is now to be modified, and holders are to have the right to repayment on December 31, 1937, at 103 per cent. on six months' notice being given. The company may redeem all or part of the debentures on six months' notice, on any interest date, at prices ranging from par on January 1, 1932, to 103 after December 31, 1933. The cumulative yearly sinking fund will be applied by purchase in the market at or below 103 per cent. or by drawings at 103 per cent. commencing in 1938. The proposal that the directors should be empowered to dispose of the Atlas Works, Sheffield, or the Scunthorpe Works is to be modified so that the sanction of the debenture-holders will first have to be obtained. Also the power to mortgage or charge assets (other than specifically mortgaged properties) will be limited to guarantees or undertakings given by, or on behalf of, the company for the due performance of Government and other contracts. The amended scheme would appear largely to meet the objections previously raised, which chiefly centred round the extended date of maturity.

Colliery Amalgamation Results.—The measures of rationalisation recently effected by several of the leading northern colliery companies would appear now to be bearing fruit. In the report of the Yorkshire Amalgamated Collieries, Ltd., for the financial year ended March 31st last, the directors state that "the working results of all the companies show a substantial improvement as compared with the preceding year." Net profit for the year amounts to £85,672, including £20,000 set aside last year for a suspense reserve which was not required. This result compares favourably with the meagre profit of £1,530 for the previous twelve months. An amount of £5,000 is set aside as the basis of an Investment Reserve, leaving, with £5,448 brought forward, the sum of £86,120 available for dividend. As the "B" shares are not entitled to participate in dividends declared in respect of any financial period before January 1st, 1930, the profits have been divided between the period ended December 31st, 1929, and the period from that date to March 31st, 1930. The profits for the former period, including the amount brought forward, amount to £76,324, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 6d. per share on each ordinary share in groups "A," "D" and "E," which absorbs £44,018, leaving a balance of £32,306. The profits of the second period, amounting to £9,796, bring this surplus to £42,102, out of which a dividend of 3d. per share is to be paid on each ordinary share of the "A," "B," "D" and "E" groups, absorbing £26,000, leaving a balance of £16,102 to be carried forward to the next account. Meanwhile, the Court has confirmed the resolutions to reduce the capital of the Rossington and Maltby companies, though the writing down of their capital does not affect the balance sheet of the Yorkshire Amalgamated. Another company which has recently taken over control of several concerns, the Manchester Collieries, Ltd., also records a considerable advance since March, 1929, when the scheme of amalgamation came into effect. The accounts for the period show a disposable profit of £108,215 after providing for directors' fees, amortisation and depreciation of rolling stock. Dividend for the period from March 12th, 1929, to March 31st, 1930, is to be paid on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares, absorbing £90,647, while the balance of £17,569 is to be carried forward to the next account. In both cases, the figures relate to a period of considerably improved conditions in the industry as a whole. The next few months may provide a more trying test of the increased efficiency of "rationalised" production, but the results already achieved, so far as they go, provide a fairly hopeful augury for the future success of that policy.

International Telephone and Telegraph.—The history of this vast organisation for the year 1929, in the words of the report, has been "notable for its achievements in the continued progress and expansion of the corporation's world-wide activities in the field of communications, as well as in the acquisition of new and important manufacturing interests in foreign territories." The network of telephones for which the Corporation and its subsidiaries are now responsible has increased by no less than 220,000 instruments during the year, compared with a mere 30,000 in 1928, while it appears that the International System can communicate with approximately 86 per cent. of the world's telephones. The consolidated earnings of the company stand in the accounts at $89,291,335, or $17,846,571 more than the $71,444,764 earned during 1928. Total income amounts to $100,340,590, compared with $81,234,824, while total expenses have increased only by $14,728,556, bringing the net earnings figure to $27,431,038, against $23,053,829 for 1928. After deduction of debenture interest and other charges, there remains a net income of $17,732,159, against $14,596,337. With the addition of $21,471,677, being surplus on January 1, 1929, and $133,053 for sundry surplus credits, the sum of $39,336,890 is available for dividends, which absorb $10,853,419. Interest on debenture bonds converted into stock during the year takes $428,763, leaving a surplus of $28,054,707, increased to $76,465,576 by the addition of a capital surplus of $48,410,869, or more than twice the carry-forward of the previous year. The items in the balance sheet emphasise the progressive tendency in the activities of the company, the total this year being no less than $145,289,256 up at $535,203,589. A separate item of $3,995,073 appears under deferred charges for research and development expenses, instead of being incorporated as before with prepaid accounts. The present report merits unusually close perusal, since it contains an informative resumé of the development of the company since its incorporation in 1920.

Standard Oil of New Jersey.—Despite its nominal dissolution into thirty-three separate parts by the 1911 dissolution decree of the Supreme Court, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey is still by far the largest producer, marketer and refiner of oil in the United States. The gross revenues and profits of the company are exceeded only by those of United States Steel, American Telephone and Telegraph and General Motors. In spite of over-production, large surplus stocks of crude petroleum and refined products, and generally unsatisfactory prices, Standard Oil in 1929 earned $4.75 a share, against $4.43 in 1928, on a capital increased by 934,749 shares. The company paid its regular $1 dividend, together with extras totalling 87½ cents per share, while at last February's meeting the board declared the usual 25 cent quarterly regular rate, with a 25 cent extra payment.

(000's omitted.)	1926. $	1927. $	1928. $	1929. $
Gross earnings	1,283,555	1,256,505	1,302,779	1,523,386
Operating charges	1,119,236	1,117,308	1,075,102	1,278,865
Oper. income	164,319	139,197	227,677	244,521
Deprec. and taxes	72,075	99,016	110,642	116,598
Net oper. income	92,244	40,181	117,035	127,923
Non-oper. income	25,409	18,081	17,361	26,075
Total income	117,653	58,262	134,396	153,998
Interest	...	8,518	8,533	9,088
Profit	117,653	49,744	125,863	144,910
Minority interest	...	9,321	17,377	23,997
Net profit	117,653	40,423	108,486	120,913
Preferred dividends	13,998	3,499	...	...
Common dividends	23,231	35,066	36,583	46,520
Carried forward	80,424	1,858	71,903	74,393

The company's production of crude oil last year was 101,100,098 barrels, an increase of 17.37 per cent. Of this output the company obtained 49,442,546 barrels from foreign fields, its own production accounting for 51.6 per cent. of the crude oil run through the stills. Its refinery production was 196,797,000 barrels, an increase of 15,000,000 barrels. The company's tanker fleet now includes 118 vessels, totalling 1,250,000 deadweight tons. On the completion of the tankers now

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under construction, Standard Oil will own more than one-tenth of the world's tanker fleet. The company was especially active last year in developing its natural gas business, which is making an increasingly important contribution to its income account.

Copper Position.—The phenomenal buying of copper by consumers the world over during the first half of May—when after months of waiting the latter were able to cover their present and, in many cases, future requirements at about 13 cents per pound—was followed, not unnaturally, by a marked lull, writes a trade correspondent. The duration of this movement is difficult to foresee, since the metal-consuming industries are suffering, with most other trades, from severe depression. Contrary to expectations, the end of May witnessed a further increase in refined copper stocks, and the Custom smelters, nervous of accumulating metal with such huge reserves above ground, began cutting prices in the States. Copper Exporters Incorporated were compelled to fall into line, and reduced their price to 12 cents—which is equivalent to about £56 15s. 0d. c.i.f. English port manufacturers, however, are doing no more than cover their sales, and if buying on a big scale is to be encouraged, it is evident that a more attractive price must be forthcoming. The metal is now being talked down to 11 cents., or even lower. Statistically, copper is in a very unfavourable condition, for in addition to current production (which is certainly able to take care of present consumption), there are stocks in producers' hands of close on 600,000 short tons which must be reduced by at least a quarter of a million to restore equilibrium. This can be effected only by increased consumption, the sole means to this end being the maintenance of a low price for a prolonged period. By holding up the value at 18 cents for twelve months the producers did great harm to the consuming end of the trade, and as a combined—if not united—body they may be prone to repeat their previous error. A speedy return to untrammelled trading methods, it is generally agreed, would be in the best interests of all concerned.

Mexican and Canadian Eagle Dividends.—The increase in the production of the Mexican Eagle company last year, and the refining by Canadian Eagle at its new refinery in Aruba Island of increased quantities of crude oil purchased from the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, Ltd., prepared the market to expect good reports from these two companies, but the declaration of dividends on the ordinary as well as on the participating preference shares of both companies came distinctly as a surprise. The dividends, also, were not easy to decipher. When the old Mexican Eagle transferred its assets outside Mexico to the new Canadian Eagle, its shares were reduced from 10 to 4 Mexican pesos (1 peso equals 24½d.). Its first preference shares continued to rank for a cumulative 7 per cent., its participating preference shares next for a non-cumulative 8 per cent., its ordinary shares next for a non-cumulative 8 per cent. and thereafter the participating preference and ordinary shares ranked equally. The Canadian Eagle first 7 per cent. preference shares are of the denomination of three Canadian dollars, while the participating preference and ordinary shares are of no par value. After a cumulative 7 per cent. dividend is paid on the first preference, the participating preference rank for 23.88 Canadian cents, and the ordinary for a similar amount, after which they rank equally. The following table shows the actual dividends paid in respect of 1929 on the participating preference and ordinary shares, and the yields obtainable at current market prices:—

	1929 Divs.	Market Price.	Yield %
Mexican Eagle 8% Participating Preference $4 (Mex.)	8%	12/-	5·40
Mexican Eagle Ordinary, $4 (Mex.)	6%	12/1½	4·04
Canadian Eagle Participating Preference no par value	23·88 cents	12/6	7·80
Canadian Eagle Ordinary, no par value	12 cents	11/6	4·35

It would appear from the great dissimilarity in yields that the market has not yet adjusted itself to the new dividend rates or made up its mind about the relative prospects of the two companies.

Venezuelan Oil Concessions.—In an Investment Note in the *Economist* of June 7th, we referred to the merger of the V.O.C. Holding Company with the Venezuelan Oil Concessions and to the slight reduction in profits which the latter had suffered in 1929 in spite of an increased production of crude oil. The chairman, at the general meeting of the Venezuelan Oil Concessions, on June 12th, attributed this fact to the bad prices which ruled throughout the year for the heavy oil of the grade which the company's fields produce. This is primarily a "fuel oil," crude, and the average price of fuel oil in 1929 was lower than in any year since 1922. Moreover, production costs per barrel were not reduced as much as they might have been with an increased turnover, the gradual diversion of drilling from the shore to the interior having necessitated additional expenditure on roads and pipe-lines. Further heavier depreciation was allowed for on account of the sharp production declines of many of the wells—an unwelcome feature. The following table shows the remarkable increase in the company's output since 1924:—

(Metric tons.)

1924	391,134	1927	2,978,219
1925	692,485	1928	5,084,580
1926	1,802,943	1929	6,469,206

The bulk of this production is obtained from the "heavy" crude oil fields—La Rosa to Lagunillas—in the Bolivar district on the east side of Lake Maracaibo, but in December the light oil fields at La Concepcion and La Paz on the west side were opened up, producing 22,558 metric tons in that month. The financial results are shown in the next table:—

	1928. £	1929. £
Oil proceeds, &c.	4,449,993	4,888,021
Field expenses	1,985,107	2,240,129
General expenses, Venezuela	596,767	747,167
,, ,, London	216,718	81,502
Depreciation	444,971	733,556
Net profit	1,206,430	1,085,666
Per cent. earned	122·9	20·1†
Per cent. paid	111½%	20%†

† On new capital basis.

The 1928 dividend was paid on a capital of £1,000,000 and the 1929 dividend on £5,398,795, this being the amount of the V.O.C. Holding Company's capital at December 31, 1928, plus £448 subsequently issued. The balance sheet does not disclose a very liquid position, but the company has subsequently made an issue of 1,800,000 shares to shareholders for cash. As regards the future prospects of the company, Mr Agnew, who presided at the meeting, declared that it had sufficient drilling ground for a good many years, and that production should be maintained, and costs kept within reasonable bounds. He warned shareholders, however, that the heavier rate (15 per cent.) of amortisation now allowed would increase production expenses. The higher prices obtained for the oil now being produced from the west side of the lake should, however, offset this adverse factor to some extent. At the current level of 2½ the ordinary shares would yield 8 per cent. if the 20 per cent. distribution were maintained on the increased capital.

The Rand Midsummer Dividends.—A rather mixed showing is made, writes our mining correspondent, by the dividend declarations of the Witwatersrand gold-mining companies for the first half of this year. The most notable decrease is shown by the Brakpan, a decline of 3¾ per cent. as compared with the December and of 2½ per cent. as compared with the June rate last year, reflecting the shrinkage in profits resultant upon the less favourable developments of 1929. Substantial increases are shown by two of the "Johnnies" subsidiaries—the Langlaagte Estate and the Witwatersrand Gold; but a renewed decline occurs in the announcement of the Van Ryn Deep, which has passed its prime, as we took occasion to remark in our last annual article. A similar observation might now be made regarding the New Modderfontein. After progressive upward steps over a period of some seven years, this wonderful mine now records a small retrogression. Maintenance of its percentage by the Modder B is somewhat surprising in view of the trend of profits during the period; but the cash position, of course, is extremely strong. After an absence of eighteen months the Rose Deep re-enters the list, while the Geldenhuis increases its rate. These are short-lived properties. All hopes of a larger return from the Sub Nigel were disappointed, the requirements for capital expenditure doubtless impelling conservatism. Our usual table is given:—

Company.	Total, 1928	June, 1929	Dec., 1929	Total, 1929	June, 1930
	%	%	%	%	%
Brakpan	48¾	23¾	25	48¾	21¼
Consd. Main Reef	11½	5	5	10	3¾
Crown Mines	55	32½	32½	65	32½
Geduld Proprietary	33¾	15	16¼	31¾	16¼
Geldenhuis Deep	2½	2½	2½	5	3¾
Government Areas	90	45	45	90	45
Langlaagte Estate	15	7½	7½	15	10
Modderfontein "B"	80	40	40	80	40
Modderfontein Deep	135	65	70	135	65
Modder East	18¾	10	10	20	20
New Modderfontein	140	70	70	140	67½
New State Areas	12½	7½	5	12½	7½
Nourse	5	...	2½	2½	2½
Rose Deep	2½	...	...	...	2½
Springs Mines	33¾	17½	18¾	36¼	17½
Sub Nigel	60	20	20	40	20
Van Ryn Gold	5*	2½*	2½*	5*	2½*
Van Ryn Deep	40	17½	17½	35	15
Village Deep	2½	2½	2½	5	...
West Springs	8¾	5	5	10	5
Witwatersrand Gold	2½	...	2½	2½	5
Johannesburg Consd.	15*	7½*	7½*	15	7½†
New Era Consd.	15	5	5	10	...
Rand Mines	100	50	50	100	50
Rand Selection	25	15	10	25	...

* Tax free. † Less tax.
This table does not include declarations made at dates other than June and December.

Quite recently a sharp fall has taken place in the shares of the Anglo-American Corporation and its associates on the fear that their commitments in diamond and Northern Rhodesian enterprises would entail a cut in, if not the passing of dividends. That these apprehensions were well grounded is indicated by the absence of any declarations by the New Era and Rand Selection undertakings. In reference to the latter, the board intimate that they consider it desirable to husband the resources of the company "pending the improvement in business conditions." The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company will again pay 7½ per cent. interim—subject, however, to tax instead of tax free as in so many past years.

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

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Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Gresham Life Assurance, Royal Mail Steam Packet, Anglo-Persian Oil, Madras Electric Supply, British Electric Traction, Marks and Spencer, Callenders Cable and Construction, Indian Copper, Hovis, City Deep, and International Telephone and Telegraph. At the Royal Mail Steam Packet meeting Lord Kylsant said that the company still had under consideration the laying down of one, and possibly two, new fast passenger vessels for their South American mail service. While the plans for such a type of vessel had been carefully prepared, orders to proceed with the work of construction had not yet been given. A discussion of the main features of Lord Kylsant's speech appears on page 1394. The chairman of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company informed shareholders that rapid strides had been made in advancing their knowledge of the new field at Haft Kel, which lies 35 miles south-east of Masjid-i-Suleiman, and a structure exceeding nine miles in length by approximately two miles in width, with a vertical head of oil exceeding 1,600 feet, had already been proved. Discussing the past and future development of the company, Mr Simon Marks, presiding at the fourth annual meeting of Marks and Spencer, stated that during the past year they had built, equipped and opened eighteen new stores and had materially enlarged six others, while since the beginning of the present financial year, in April, they had opened five new stores and four large extensions of existing stores.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

After last week's heavy Reparation Loan operation the market enjoyed a brief respite. Only two new issues made their appearance, the proceeds in both being destined for employment in the brewery industry. The debentures of *Courage and Company*, covered 11 times by earnings and giving a flat yield of £5 12s. 3d. per cent., were regarded as a good industrial investment. The lists were quickly closed but the debentures were dealt in on the Stock Exchange at a small discount on Thursday. The "funding" of another brewery purchase was also the *raison d'être* of the *H. and G. Simonds* preference share issue. The shares are well covered, and give a moderate yield.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to June 14, 1930, £165,203,257.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to June 14, 1930, £241,455,531.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended June 14, 1930, £50,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to June 14, 1930, £1,400,000.

To the Public.	Nominal Capital. £	Conversions or Repayments. £	New Money Cash Subscription. £	First Payment. £	Further Liability. £
Courage and Co.	800,000	...	784,000	78,400	705,600
H. and G. Simonds	400,000	...	400,000	50,000	350,000
Total offered to public, week ended June 21, 1930	1,200,000	...	1,184,000	128,400	1,055,600
To Shareholders only.					
Buchanan Estates, £50,000 6½% Debenture Stock at 96½	50,000	...	48,250	2,412	45,838
Rhodesian Anglo-American, 600,000 10s. shares at £1 10s. per share	300,000	...	900,000	225,000	675,000
Sumatra Para Rubber Plantations, 500,665 shares of 2s. each at par	50,066	...	50,066	50,066	...
Total to shareholders only, week ended June 21, 1930	400,066	...	998,316	277,478	720,838

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Total offered for Subscription— Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	243,687,847	167,435,573
1929	194,554,634	163,229,034
1928	...	420,860,861
1927	...	199,298,664
1926	...	117,252,324
1925	...	111,261,974
1924	...	103,674,781
1923	...	181,301,661

Total offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced. £	Prices at which Dealings Began. £	Total Cash Involved. £
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended June 21, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929	22,746,170	...	31,343,580

Courage and Co.—Issue of £800,000 5½ per cent. Redeemable debenture stock, 1970, at £98 per cent. The stock will be redeemed on December 1, 1970, at par, but the company reserves the right to repay the whole on or after June 1, 1940, but not later than June 1, 1945, on six months' notice, at £105 per cent. and after June 1, 1945, at £103 per cent. The company also reserves power to purchase stock in the open market at or below par, plus accrued interest. Net profits of the company, after deduction of all prior charges, totalled £478,396 in 1929, covering interest on the present issue 11 times. The proceeds of the issue will be utilised for or towards repaying temporary bank advances obtained for completing the purchases of ordinary shares of Noakes and Company, Ltd., and for general development.

H. and G. Simonds.—Issue of 400,000 6½ per cent. Cumulative preference shares of £1 each at par. The brewery business was originally acquired by the company in 1885. Profits before deducting income tax averaged £92,295 for the past three years, covering dividends on preference shares, including the present issue, approximately 2·7 times. The object of the issue is to enable the company to repay part of the money borrowed from the company's bankers for the purpose of acquiring shares in Ashby's Staines Brewery, Ltd.

PENDING ISSUE.

Marks and Spencer, Ltd.—An issue will be made on Tuesday next of £1,000,000 6 per cent. first mortgage registered debenture stock at £102 per cent., and 1,000,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each at 21s. per share, repayable in a winding-up at 22s. 6d., together with arrears of dividend, if any. The debenture stock will be redeemed by an annual cumulative redemption fund, commencing August 1, 1935, calculated to complete the redemption at 105 per cent. on or before August 1, 1970, to be applied in purchases in the market at or below 105 per cent., or by drawings at 105 per cent., with power to the company to repay the whole or a part at 105 per cent. on August 1, 1960, on six months' notice. The interest on the debenture stock is covered by the average net profits of the last three years over 4½ times, and by the net profits of the last year over six times. The dividend on the preference shares now to be issued is covered by the average available net profits of the last three years over 2½ times, and of the last year over 3¾ times.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets and dividend announcements will be found on page 1419 under the heading "Company News."]

RHODESIAN GOLD OUTPUT.

Month.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
January	206,094	217,027	195,481	194,953
February	195,996	196,649	191,786	185,967
March	213,708	204,000	200,435	192,392
April	204,876	206,234	203,780	193,522
May	207,818	200,130	203,798	...
June	223,418	218,745	204,603	...
July	207,448	206,877	196,016	...
August	199,860	214,077	196,528	...
September	193,646	201,625	190,364	...
October	197,501	182,032	198,308	...
November	200,481	201,689	195,386	...
December	208,016	189,319	197,884	...
Total Gold	2,458,862	2,438,404	2,374,359	...

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended June 13, 1930. (c) Week ended June 14, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended June 15, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 24 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western...	3,751	285	167	69	236	521	5,090	5,104	2,982	8,086	13,176
Do. for 1929...	3,751	257	246	124	370	627	5,199	5,356	3,059	8,415	13,614
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	429	323	192	515	944	7,655	9,563	6,334	15,897	23,552
Do. for 1929...	6,365	364	420	269	689	1,053	7,792	9,922	6,471	16,393	24,185
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	605	421	142	563	1,168	11348	12972	6,312	19,284	30,632
Do. for 1929...	6,957½	550	589	249	838	1.388	11764	13464	6,757	20,221	31.985
Southern	2,179	384	67	20	87	471	6.967	1,817	722	2,538	9.505
Do. for 1929...	2,172	341	82	28	109	450	6.957	1.833	798	2,630	9.587
Metropolitan (c)	59	35·4	3·4	...	...	39·8	786·0	96·0	...	...	882·0
Do. for 1929...	59	32·4	3·9	...	...	36·3	765·6	92·5	...	...	868·1
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	...	...	...	...	346·9	...	...	...	...	7164·0
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	304·1	...	...	...	...	6669·1
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	...	...	...	...	53·0	...	...	...	...	1043·1
Do. for 1929...	...	...	...	...	...	44·9	...	...	...	...	956·2
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	3·2	7	...	...	3·9	53·5	17·5	...	...	71·0
Do. for 1929...	80	2·8	·9	...	...	3·7	51·3	21·3	...	...	72·6
*GreatNorthern b	562	13·3	13·7	...	...	27·0	...	...	...	...	602·3
Do. for 1929...	562	12·3	14·9	...	...	27·2	...	...	...	...	631·1
GreatSouthern b	2,187	34·3	...	...	38·3	72·6	...	...	...	...	1620·8
Do. for 1929...	2,187	30·3	...	...	41·7	72·0	...	...	...	...	1653·2

* Aggregate 22 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ...	20	May 17	1,306	3,74,000	− 25,796	25,58,000	− 1,14,911
Barsi Lt. Ry.	8	8	202	37,000	− 6,800	39,49,000	− 50,700
Bengal & N.Western	8	24	2,080	7,74,183	+ 29,389	59,76,246	− 86,584
Bengal-Nagpur ...	6	10	3,085	19,07,000	+ 18,274	1,04,89,000	− 7,22,482
Bombay, Bar.,& C.I.	10	June 7	3,031	22,70,000	+ 105,000	2,29,83,000	− 1 74,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	21	May 24	3,228	18,18,000	− 1,19,251	1,40.77,000	− 11,80,512
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	8	24	572	1,44,844	+ 26,188	11,50,661	+ 80,730
South Indian	7	17	2,371	12,36,486	− 79,175	84,33,938	− 3,55,238

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E. ...	50	June 14	753	17,800	+ 3,800	793,100	+ 10,200
Argentine Trans'din.	50	14	111	3,030	− 466	226,974	− 11,373
B.A. and Pacific...	50	14	2,806	120,000	− 44,000	7,565,000	− 1,218,000
B.A. Central	50	14	...	12,310	− 3,576	641,639	− 77,070
B.A. Gt. Southern	50	14	4,948	202,000	− 39,000	11,751,000	− 801,000
B.A. Western	50	14	1,926	72,000	− 13,000	4,210,000	− 862,000
Central Argentine...	50	14	3,319	177,000	− 95,000	11,188,000	− 2,446,000
Cordoba Central ...	50	14	1,218	52,000	− 17,000	2,805,000	− 638,200
Entre Rios	50	14	804	24,400	+ 2,400	1,358,400	− 135,200
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	50	June 14	1,369	40,512	− 9,366	3,202,463	− 501,161
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay...	50	June 14	273	27,149	+ 1,463	1,556,292	+ 51,681
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	50	14	311	6,744	+ 606	366,705	+ 19,173
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	50	14	185	3,866	− 111	187,378	− 271
C.Urug.(West.Ext.)	50	14	211	2,768	+ 636	143.836	− 5,639
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	22	June 7	20150	4,291,410	− 733,268	94,197,670	− 18,654,346
Canadian Pacific...	24	14	15242	3,376,000	− 778,000	73,922.000	− 17,534,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	24	June 14	1,035	9,000	− 4,400	377,700	− 60,600
Leopoldina	24	14	1,856	31,828	− 14,595	808,039	− 59,421
Leopoldina Termnl.	24	14	Mirs.	291,000	+ 8,000	6,963,000	+ 327,000
San Paulo	24	15	153½	24,047	− 33,813	996,991	− 146,249
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia).....	22	June 8	804	27,730	− 7,510	669,810	− 238,835
Nitrate(‡-monthly)	5‡†	15	410	12,498	− 13,627	224,610	− 171,827
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta ...	18	May 10	610	7,909	− 66	33,880	+ 34
Gt. Southn. of Spain	22	June 7	104	Pes 83,448	− 43,232	2,562,857	− 263,000
Mexican Railway	24	14	483	$242,200	− 11.600	5,960,800	+ 63,700
Paraguay Central	50	14	274	4,830	+ 430	208,950	− 15,740
Salvador	50	14	100	2,977	− 133	223,038	− 31,546

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
				£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ...	23	June 10	329	87,146	+ 1,644	1,941,124	− 81,437
B. Aires Lacroze...	50	14	...	11,349	− 873	586,731	− 42,523
Burnley Corporation	23	14	13	3,077	+ 64	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	23	14	35‡	Rs.104416	− 18,669	...	− 315,441
Chatham & District	22	5	15	1,142	+ 85	23,962	+ 1,067
Egyptian Markets	22	5	...	1,706	+ 25	41,443	− 3,127
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	22	4	...	2,329	− 154	57,345	− 2,074
Liverpool Corp. ...	24	14	124	31,882	+ 1,598	325,236	+ 4,666
L.C.C. Tramways	23	12	166	87,151	+ 2,951	860,331	− 1,357
Madras Electric‡...	5‡†	15	...	Rs. 46,216	+ 1,099	506,455	+ 29,057

* Including motor 'buses. † Months. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE and TELEGRAPH CORPORATION.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1929.

The International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation was organized to co-operate and assist technically and financially in the general development of electrical communications in a broad international sense, and, with respect to the organization and development of national communications systems, it is the purpose of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation to develop truly national systems operated by the nationals of each country in which the International Corporation is or may become interested. The International Corporation was not organized with a single profit-making purpose to itself nor with the desire of imposing American practices in its foreign activities. There appeared to be a fruitful field of service to be rendered in bringing together under one general organization electrical communications systems, and the extension by the International Corporation to the Associated Companies of the technical and financial facilities and direction that might be needed for their intensive and efficient development. The best American practices have been suggested but never imposed. On the contrary, the International Corporation has always been ready and quick to adjust American practices to local conditions and to adopt such local practices as were conducive to the successful development of the various entities. The combined and co-ordinated effort of the Associated Companies of the International System is to-day justifying the plans and purposes of your Corporation.

To the STOCKHOLDERS:

May 28, 1930.

The year 1929 which this report covers has been notable for its achievements in the continued progress and expansion of your Corporation's world-wide activities in the field of communications, as well as in the acquisition of new and important manufacturing interests in foreign territories.

In order that the Stockholders of the Corporation, the number of whom increased during the year under review from 16,568 to 53,594, may be fully acquainted with the comprehensive and continued growth and progress realised in the various branches of electrical communications, your corporation's activities in this field will be referred to generally and briefly.

So that a better perspective may be had of the many accomplishments in which your Corporation has played an important part in the development of electrical communications in all its branches in 47 countries of the world, it is believed at this time that the following chronological history of the Corporation will be interesting especially to those who have recently become stockholders in the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation:

1920–21.—International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation was incorporated and acquired a controlling interest in the Porto Rico Telephone Company and the Cuban Telephone Company together with a one-half interest in the Cuban American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which was organized to own and operate combined telephone and telegraph submarine cables connecting the lines of the Cuban Telephone Company with those of the Bell System, the remaining one-half interest being owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

1922.—Radio Corporation of Cuba and Radio Corporation of Porto Rico formed to operate radio broadcasting stations and to be prepared to take any position in the radio industry which subsequent developments in that industry might indicate was advisable.

1923.—International Telephone Securities Corporation formed to facilitate financial transactions incident to the development of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

1924.—Concession granted by the Spanish Government providing for the creation and operation of a general telephone service extending throughout continental Spain and its contiguous territories, and Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España, a Spanish corporation organized to develop the telephone system of Spain under this concession.

1924.—International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (España) organized to assist technically and financially in the development of the Spanish Telephone System.

1925.—A substantial interest in the Compagnie des Téléphones Thomson-Houston, a company manufacturing telephone apparatus and supplies, acquired from the Compagnie Française pour l'Exploitation des Procédés Thomson-Houston.

1925.—International Western Electric Company, manufacturers and distributors of telephone apparatus and supplies and related electrical products, purchased from the Western Electric Company, Incorporated, and name changed to International Standard Electric Corporation. The Associated and Affiliated companies of the International Standard Electric Corporation at the time of acquisition were:

Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company (Belgium).
China Electric Company, Limited (China).
Compañía Standard Electric Argentina (Argentina).
Lé Matériel Téléphonique (France).
Nippon Denki Kabushiki Kaisha (Japan).
Standard Elettrica Italiana (Italy).
Standard Electric Aktieselskap (Norway).
Standard Telephones and Cables, Limited (England).
Standard Telephones and Cables (Australasia), Limited.
Teléfonos Bell S.A. (Spain).

1925—Controlling interest acquired in the Mexican Telephone and Telegraph Company, a company operating a general telephone system in Mexico.

1926—Controlling interest acquired in the Vereinigte Telephon- und Telegraphenfabriks Aktien-Gesellschaft Czoija, Nissl and Company (United Telephone and Telegraph Works), a company manufacturing telephone apparatus and supplies in Austria.

1926—Standard Eléctrica, S.A., organized to manufacture telephone apparatus and supplies in Spain and Teléfonos Bell, S.A., liquidated.

1927—Controlling interest acquired in All America Cables, Incorporated, operating telegraph cables between New York and Central and South America and the West Indies.

1927—Controlling interest acquired in the Montevideo Telephone Company, Ltd., and Sociedad Cooperativa Telefónica Nacional, both of which operate general telephone services in Uruguay.

1927—Controlling interest acquired in the Chili Telephone Company, Limited, which operates a general telephone service in Chile.

1927—Controlling interest acquired in the Companhia Telephonica Rio Grandense, which operates a telephone service in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

1927—Controlling interest acquired in the Compañía Telefónica Argentina, which operates a telephone service in the city of Buenos Aires.

1927—Standard Villamossági Részvény Társaság (Hungary), organized to take over the telephone manufacturing department of the United Incandescent Lamps and Electrical Company, Ltd.

1928—Postal Telegraph and Cable Corporation formed to acquire a controlling interest in the Mackay Companies, which operates, through its subsidiaries, a telegraph service throughout the United States, with connections to Canada and cable services to Europe and Asia.

1928—Following companies formed to operate radio telephone and telegraph in South American countries:

Compañía Internacional de Radio (Argentina).
Radio Internacional, Limitada (Brazil).
Compañía Internacional de Radio, S.A. (Chile).

1928—Controlling interest acquired in Creed and Company, Limited, manufacturing printer telegraph apparatus in Great Britain.

1929—Controlling interest acquired in Ferdinand Schuchhardt Berliner Fernsprech- und Telegraphenwerk Aktiengesellschaft, which manufactures telephone apparatus and supplies in Berlin, Germany.

1929—All America Cables, Incorporated, took over the operation of the United States and Hayti Telegraph and Cable Company's cable from New York to Cape Haytien and the cables of the French Antilles System connecting Cuba, Hayti, Santo Domingo, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, Curaçao and Venezuela.

1929—Radio Telephone and Telegraph concessions acquired by All America Cables, Incorporated, in Peru and Colombia.

1929—International Communications Laboratories, Inc., formed to carry on development and research work for the wire, cable and radio telegraph operating services in the United States, and International Telephone and Telegraph Laboratories, Incorporated, and Laboratoire International de Téléphonie et Télégraphie, Inc., formed to take over the communications development and research work formerly carried on by the International Standard Electric Corporation and its Associated Companies.

1929—International Standard Electric Corporation of Mexico organized as a subsidiary of the International Standard Electric Corporation.

1929—Controlling interest acquired in the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, which operates a general telephone service in Argentina.

1929—International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, Sud, America organized to assist technically and financially in the operation of the telephone operating properties of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in South America.

1929—The name of the Postal Telegraph Building Company changed to International Telephone Building Corporation, which owns and operates the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation buildings in New York City.

1930—Controlling interest acquired in the Compañia Peruana de Teléfonos, Limitada, which owns and operates a telephone system in Peru.

1930—International Marine Radio Company, Limited, organized to handle radio electric communications between land and ships, land and aircraft, and ships and aircraft, as well as other forms of mobile services.

1930—Substantial interest acquired in the Constantinople Telephone Company, Limited, which owns and operates the telephone system in Constantinople.

1930—Creed Telegraphenapparate G.m.b.H. formed to manufacture and distribute Creed high-speed telegraph printer equipment in Germany.

1930—Controlling interest acquired in Osterreichische Telephon-Fabrik Aktiengesellschaft vormals J. Berliner, manufacturing telephone apparatus and supplies in Austria.

1930—Standard Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft, Berlin, organised with the following subsidiaries:

Ferdinand Schuchhardt Berliner Fernsprech- und Telegraphenwerk Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin.

Telephonfabrik Berliner Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin.

Mix & Genest Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin.

Suddeutsche Apparate Fabrik G.M.B.H., Nuremberg.

1930—Substantial interest acquired in C. Lorenz Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin, manufacturer of various types of electrical communications equipment.

The following data are given as an interesting complement to the above summary:—

	December 31, 1921.	December 31, 1929.
Total assets	$32,563,394·45	$535,203,588·65
Total number of employees	1,352	94,939
Total number of shareholders	846	53,594

TELEPHONE OPERATING COMPANIES.

During the year 1929 the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited (Argentina) was added to the International group, and early in the present year the Compañía Peruana de Teléfonos, Limitada, (Peru), was also added and a substantial interest acquired in the Constantinople Telephone Company, Limited. The acquisition of the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, together with the improvements and extensions made to the other telephone operating companies resulted in an increase of 264,413 telephones operated by the International System Companies.

As recited in last year's Annual Report the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, which operates telephone systems in Buenos Aires and other principal cities of the Argentine, with connecting long-distance lines, became associated with the International Corporation as of January 1, 1929.

At the end of the year 1929 the United River Plate Telephone Company System served approximately 216,000 telephone stations. This total reflected a gain of 21,427 telephones, or about 11% for the first year of operation under this Corporation's management. The growth in stations and the increase in long-distance traffic necessitated a considerable amount of construction. Over 675 miles of long-distance lines and 2,100 miles of long-distance wire were added in 1929. Aerial and underground cables were installed which contained a total of more than 300,000,000 conductor feet, and 350,000 duct feet of conduits were placed in Buenos Aires and other important commercial centers. In Buenos Aires a new twelve story general office building which will also house the Avenida automatic exchange was opened.

A growth of 30,000 telephones is anticipated for the year 1930. This growth will involve the continuation of the heavy construction program of 1929. It is expected to put into service approximately 100 new telephone exchanges during this year, and further provision will be made for the relief and expansion of areas which are now congested. By the end of 1932 it is planned that all of the telephones of the company in Buenos Aires will be of the automatic type.

Ownership of the Compañia Peruana de Teléfonos, Limitada, was formally transferred to this company on January 3, 1930. It operates upwards of 10,000 stations located in the cities of Lima, Callao, La Punta, Miraflores, Barranco, Chorillos and Magdalena. The ultimate plans for this system contemplate its connection by means of radio telephony with the other South American units and with North America and Europe.

The Constantinople Telephone Company, Limited, in which the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation recently acquired a substantial interest, operates under an exclusive concession granted by the Turkish Government in 1911 for a period of from 30 to 40 years. It renders a general telephone service to the three cities comprising what is known as Constantinople—Stamboul, Pera, and Scutari. With the affiliation of this Company, the International Corporation now operates telephones in nine countries, the others being Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Southern Brazil, as well as the island of Porto Rico.

In Chile, a comprehensive telephone concession was granted on January 16, 1930. The concession, which is granted for a period of 50 years, authorizes the establishment throughout the republic of local and long distance telephone service employing both wire and wireless construction with auxiliary and supplemental services and connections with foreign services. A proviso is included making the concession automatically self-perpetuating in periods of thirty years each, should the Government not exercise its right of purchase at the end of the 50-year period.

The concession gives to the Company the right to earn a return upon its net investment adequate to assure the financing of its necessary plant extensions, including the right to adjust its rates in order to provide such return.

A very satisfactory growth in business has been realized in Chile during the past year. The number of telephones installed showed an increase of over 4,000, making a total of more than 35,000 at the year's end. Long-distance business within the country during the year increased approximately 76%, and international long-distance traffic gained about 71% over the year 1928.

The Companhia Telephonica Rio Grandense, which operates in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, continued to show an increase in the number of telephones served and in the revenue derived from the local and long-distance telephone service. This Company also furnishes a service for the transmission of written messages. This auxiliary service transmitted during the year 1929 more than 800,000 messages, exceeding by about 200,000 the number transmitted the previous year.

In Uruguay, pending the completion of negotiations for a new concession, no major reconstruction program has been undertaken and the activities of your Corporation are being directed toward reconditioning and maintaining the existing plant in order to render the best service possible with the facilities already in operation. In addition, development plans have been prepared for execution, should our application for a new concession be granted, which would permit of the installation of a complete automatic system in the City of Montevideo and the extension of modern telephone service throughout the Republic of Uruguay.

The outstanding feature of the year in the development of the Mexican Telephone and Telegraph Company was the conversion of the telephone system in Mexico City to full automatic on December 21, 1929. The growth of this company for the year amounted to 2,140 telephones, making the total in service at the end of the year 34,225. Exchange service revenues showed a gain of 26%, and long-distance revenues a gain of 60% over those of the previous year. Of particular interest was the signing of a contract in February, 1930, by the Mexican Telephone and Telegraph Company whereby it took over the private telephone system of the Federal District Government.

In Cuba, in spite of the depressed condition of business which prevailed during the year 1929, the Cuban Telephone Company showed a 4·3% gain in the number of telephones and a 5·1% increase in operating revenues. The total number of telephones in service at the end of the year was 75,432, of which 62,606 were of the automatic type. It is worthy of note that the telephones of the Cuban Telephone System have increased 38,622 since 1921.

The Cuban American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which is jointly owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, and operates the three Key West-Havana cables, showed for the year 1929 a continued satisfactory increase in telephone traffic. In order to meet the growing demand for this class of service, which has increased considerably during the past two years, more particularly during the tourist season, an order has been placed and the necessary plans made for laying another submarine telephone cable connecting the two countries. The cable, which will be approximately 110 nautical miles long, reaching between Key West and Havana, will be the first deep sea telephone cable of such a length to employ a wide range of frequencies up to about 30,000 cycles. It will be non-loaded and multiplexed by telephone carrier current, and initially will be equipped to provide three telephone circuits and one telegraph circuit. It is expected that the new cable will be in operation by the end of the present year.

The Porto Rico Telephone Company during the year 1929 has practically completed the repairs necessitated by the cyclone of 1928, but the after effects of that great storm are still being felt and are reflected in general business depression which has continued throughout the year. Until the economic situation in the Island is substantially improved it can hardly be expected that a normal growth in the Company's operations will be realized.

In Spain the initial five-year construction period specified in the contract between the Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España and the Spanish Government ended on August 29, 1929. Under the terms of the concession, provision was made for the completion during this initial period of an extensive construction and reconstruction program. It is gratifying to note that at the date of its termination the company had completed substantially more than was specified in the concession. At the end of last year 2,280 communities were enjoying service over the Spanish Telephone Company's system compared with 581 five years before, when the concession was granted, and it may be said that unquestionably Spain to-day has one of the most modern and efficient telephone systems in the world. A substantial growth in both exchange and toll service occurred during the year. Additional telephones to the number of 38,753 an increase of 28·5%, were added to the System and long-distance messages handled increased 37·7% These increases resulted in a gain of 35·4% in the gross revenues of the Company.

The Company's new building in Madrid was completed early in the year. It is a stately edifice, one of the finest in the city, and one of which the system may justly be proud.

The growth of the Company necessitated a large amount of new construction. During the year, 35,000 miles of long-distance circuit were added to the system, five new buildings were constructed, service was carried for the first time to 229 communities of which 63 have both long-distance and local service, and 166 have long-distance service only; 7 new automatic exchanges were put in service and a second submarine cable was laid from Spain to Morocco. At the end of the year 63% of the telephones installed in Spain were of the automatic type.

The rapid growth experienced in the business of the Spanish Telephone Company last year is expected to continue throughout 1930, during which it is anticipated that 50,000 more telephones will be added to the System. This is particularly gratifying because it serves to confirm one of the major premises upon which the International System was founded—that the demand for telephone service is largely stimulated by improvement in the grade and dependability of service rendered.

TELEGRAPH AND CABLE COMPANIES.

Telegraph and cable traffic showed substantial increases in the year 1929 as compared with the business done during 1928.

The year 1929 was outstanding in the history of the Postal Telegraph System and in the improvement of its plant, personnel and service. A comprehensive construction and reconstruction program was successfully carried out with particular and substantial progress toward the improvement and expansion of the plant. The entire personnel of 21,000 employees located throughout the country has been stimulated and directed toward higher achievements. Improvements in working conditions, wages and employee benefits were put into effect. Schools for the education of salesmen, operators and messengers were established.

Great strides were made during the year in the improvement of the service. Particular attention was given to improvements in the plant. New extensions were made only when definite advantage from a revenue or service standpoint could be foreseen. During the year, 173 new offices were added, of which 52 were in towns where the Company had not previously maintained offices. The most up-to-date telegraph operating rooms were installed in Chicago, together with a new public office of the counterless type. The counterless office is a recent development in telegraph service and it has been introduced by the Postal Company in order to promote the more rapid dispatch of business as well as the comfort and convenience of its customers. Similar offices were opened in Cleveland and Washington.

During the year, typing telegraph machines installed in the offices of customers increased from 300 to 2,074. At the same time rapid progress was made in changing the main and branch office operations from morse to typing telegraph, and at the close of 1929 over 70% of all traffic handled was by printer telegraph equipment.

In touching briefly on the above improvements we might add that the effect on the morale of the organization has been felt throughout the service. Morale has been further improved by the adoption of pension, benefit and group insurance plans and by the opportunity to purchase shares of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation stock on a partial payment plan.

It is gratifying to note that in spite of the general business depression which prevailed in the latter part of 1929 and which had a substantial repercussion on the telegraph business of the country, the commercial telegraph toll revenue of the Postal Telegraph System during the year exceeded by 8% that of the year 1928.

It is also a source of satisfaction to report that during the year 1929 the traffic over the Commercial Cable System continued to increase considerably. The total number of words handled was 75,463,329, as compared with 63,530,662 in 1928, an increase of 11,932,667 words, or over 18¾%. The increase would have been substantially larger had it not been for the interruption of some of the Company's cables due to a severe earthquake on November 18, 1929 which caused over twenty-four breaks south of Newfoundland in twelve of the submarine cables of the various transatlantic cable companies.

Four of the Company's cables, broken by the earthquake in November, remained interrupted for the balance of the year 1929, thus affecting the company's capacity for handling traffic during that period. The Company's full capacity was restored early in the present year.

The repairs of the breaks in the Company's cables, in some instances in depths of over two miles, were effected under the most severe winter conditions, and the officers and crew of the cableships *John W. Mackay* and *All America* are deserving of the highest commendation.

The Company's plant and equipment have been maintained in first-class condition, and its engineers, who are constantly working on the problem of increased efficiency in operation, have succeeded in getting effective further increase in carrying capacity.

All important events of international interest during the year, whether political, commercial or sporting, were fully covered by special facilities provided by The Commercial Cable Company, and the Company has in all cases maintained its reputation for rendering efficient service. Its close contact with its Associated Company, All America Cables, Incorporated, and the co-ordinated efforts of the two have resulted in providing an unexcelled service between Europe and all parts of the West Indies (including Cuba) and Central and South America.

The policy of providing more convenient facilities for the prompt exchange of cablegrams between the offices of its customers and the Company, by means of printers or private telephone installations, has been continued throughout the year.

An outstanding accomplishment of The Commercial Cable Company during the year was the expeditious transmission of the 30,000 word text of the Young Plan from Paris to New York. This was referred to by the United Press as one of the most remarkable feats of news transmission in the history of communications.

All America Cables, Incorporated, directly serving South America, Central America, the West Indies and North America, has during the year 1929 operated with increased efficiency, handling satisfactorily over 400,000 more messages than in 1928.

As announced in the Annual Report for the year 1928, an agreement was entered into with the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques to operate for that company, for a period of twelve years, the cables of the United States and Hayti Telegraph and Cable Company and the Antilles Cable System, connecting Cuba, Hayti, Santo Domingo, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, Curaçao and Venezuela, and the consent of all the Governments concerned has been granted to All America Cables, Incorporated, to operate this system.

In addition to the authorization to operate the cables of the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, All America Cables, Incorporated, has been granted a concession from the Venezuelan Government which permits the laying of its own cables from La Guaira and Maracaibo to connect with other points of the Company's system.

With the purpose in mind of having the West Indian, Central and South American systems all operated by the All America Cables, Incorporated, The Commercial Cable Company of Cuba was taken over in October, 1929, and is now being operated as an integral part of All America Cables System.

The Government of Peru and All America Cables, Incorporated, signed a new contract on May 29, 1929, to supersede the old concession which had expired. The new concession, which is pending ratification by the Peruvian Congress, enlarges the scope of the Company's activities by authorizing the laying of telephone cables, primarily for international service, and the erection of radio telephone and radio telegraph stations for communication with other parts of Latin America, the United States and Europe.

It will be noted that both cable companies showed appreciable increases in traffic and net income in 1929 over 1928. The Commercial Cable Company handled 18·78% more traffic and showed a growth in net income of 25·59%. The corresponding figures for All America Cables were 13·88% and 9·27%, respectively.

Through the death of Mr W. Emlen Roosevelt on May 15, 1930 the Directors and Officers of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation lost an able and resourceful counselor.

For many years Mr Roosevelt successfully directed the activities of All America Cables, Incorporated. He continued as Chairman of All America Cables, Incorporated, when that Company became associated with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation on May 11, 1927.

It is with the deepest regret and sympathy that we record his death.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

As you have been previously advised of the tentative plan of your Corporation to acquire the communications facilities of the Radio Corporation of America, it may be well to bring to your attention the latest developments in this connection.

Under the existing laws of the United States the merger or consolidation of companies furnishing written communications whether by land wire, cable or radio may not be effected if the result of any such merger or consolidation would be substantially to diminish competition. In connection with a bill introduced in the United States Senate designed to provide for the regulation of all electrical communications companies, certain of our officers appeared and testified before the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the United States Senate which has conducted extensive hearings in this matter. These officers urged that the laws of the United States should be so amended as to provide for the merger or consolidation of communications companies furnishing written communications, when found to be in the public interest, on the same basis as the laws now provide for the merger or consolidation of competing telephone companies. The co-ordination of facilities which could be brought about under such an amendment to the existing law, through the elimination of unnecessary duplication of plant and the attendant savings in operating expenses, should make possible the establishment of lower rates. Your Directors earnestly hope that both Congress and the public may eventually be convinced that legislation along these lines should be adopted.

The year 1929 witnessed several important developments in your Corporation's transoceanic, ship to shore, and point to point radio telephone and telegraph services. The first transoceanic radio telegraph circuit established by the International System was that between San Francisco and Honolulu on May 1, 1929. This service will be extended to other Pacific points.

Marine radio telegraph service was extended by the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company at its newly-completed coastal station at West Palm Beach, Florida. This service includes the handling of ship to shore and shore to ship messages with coastwise, Central and South American and European vessels plying in the South Atlantic ocean.

On the Pacific coast additional facilities in the form of modern short wave equipment were installed at the shore to ship and point to point stations at Portland, Oregon, San Francisco and Los Angeles, California, considerably improving the service which these stations rendered. On the Atlantic Coast commercial marine radio service was opened at New York City and Sayville, Long Island.

Another step in the expansion of Mackay Radio's facilities will be the opening during 1930 of its new stations at Las Pinas, near Manila, Philippine Islands. The station has been completed and is in condition for experimental tests with San Francisco.

On December 11, 1929 under authorization contained in the old contract, direct radio telegraph service between the new station of All America Cables at Lima and the station of the Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company at Sayville, Long Island, was successfully opened and the event was celebrated by an exchange of friendly greetings between President Hoover and President Legula of Peru.

A new contract between the Colombian Government and All America Cables, Incorporated, was signed on June 3, 1929, under which the Company was authorized to construct radio telegraph and radio telephone stations for international service and to communicate with ships and aircraft.

On March 8, 1929, All America Cables, Incorporated, entered into a contract with the Government of Nicaragua under which the Company was authorized to connect Managua with San Juan del Sur by radio telegraph or radio telephone or by wire, and to build other radio stations in the Republic, if requested by the Government and with a guarantee against loss. Under the authorization contained in this contract radio telegraph stations are being erected at San Juan del Sur and Managua.

The Compañía Internacional de Radio, S.A. (Chile), which was organized to operate radio telegraph and telephone service, has received authority from the Chilean Government to proceed with the installation of the necessary equipment for the opening of radio telephone service in connection with our international radio telephone network. Wavelengths have already been granted for radio telephone service to Spain and the United States, and a group of wavelengths has been reserved for other foreign services. It is expected that the station will be completed this year.

Inauguration of radio telephone service by the Associated Companies of the International System between Spain, Argentina and Uruguay took place on October 12, 1929. The link-up between Uruguay and Spain was accomplished as follows: From Montevideo to Buenos Aires via the subfluvial cable, thence by wireless to Madrid and from Madrid to Sevilla by the land lines of the Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España (Spanish Telephone Company). High officials and other invited guests participated in this important event. At Sevilla, H.R.H. the Infante Don Carlos de Borbón presided over the ceremony. All those who attended the ceremony at Montevideo, Buenos Aires and Sevilla were most enthusiastic in their praise of the quality of the transmission.

An outstanding event in the progress of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in the field of radio telephony and foremost in point of American public interest was the opening of radio telephone service over the first two-way circuit, linking the continents of North and South America.

This newly established circuit is maintained and operated by the Compañía Internacional de Radio (Argentina)—an Associated Company of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation—from its terminal near Buenos Aires, and by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's terminal at Lawrenceville and Netcong (New Jersey). This service, which was officially inaugurated by an impressive exchange of cordial and friendly greetings between President Hoover and President Ibáñez of Chile and President Campisteguy of Uruguay, linked for the first time over a circuit covering 6,000 miles, over 270,000 telephones in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay with approximately 21,000,000 telephones in the United States, Canada, Cuba and Mexico. The circuit, which is radio as far as Buenos Aires, connects with the Transandean land lines operated by the International System from Buenos Aires to Chile. Throughout the official ceremonies the voices from South America came in as distinctly as on a local call. The conversations were broadcast by radio to Europe and Asia, as well as the Americas, so that the people of four continents were able to listen to the exchange of official greetings. An exchange of greetings took place a few days later between President Hoover and President Irigoyen of the Argentine Republic over this new circuit.

In South America the service is available to all subscribers of the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, and of the Compañía Telefónica Argentina in the Argentine and those of The Chili Telephone Company, Limited, and the Montevideo Telephone Company, Limited, in the cities of Santiago (Chile) and Montevideo (Uruguay) respectively. At the northern end of the circuits connection is made with the networks of the Bell System in the United States and the principal cities of Canada and also with the Cuban Telephone Company and the Mexican Telephone and Telegraph Company. Telephone subscribers in South America, Mexico and Cuba are able to make use of this new circuit, not from special telephone booths in cities where terminals exist, but, as in the United States, from every telephone of the companies concerned.

The opening of this extensive circuit is the newest page in the remarkable history of communications progress which is being made in Latin America by the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited, the Compañía Telefónica Argentina, the Compañía Internacional de Radio (Argentina) in the Argentine, the Montevideo Telephone Company, Limited, the Sociedad Cooperativa Telefónica Nacional in Uruguay and The Chili Telephone Company, Limited, all members of the International System. In addition to improvements in the internal telephone systems in these three countries, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, they have been connected in as short a time as three years by international circuits with each other, by radio telephone with Spain, and now through the opening of the North-South America service, they are connected with the United States, Canada, Cuba and Mexico.

Another special development in the field of radio communications, was the opening of regular commercial telephone service from ship to shore, when conversations were carried on between London and the White Star liner *Majestic* one thousand miles off the English coast. The service on the ships was opened by International Marine Radio Company, Limited, an Associated Company of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation. The steamship *Olympic* is now also provided with similar facilities and service for both liners has since been extended, via Great Britain, to include France, Belgium, Holland and Spain and, via the American Telephone and Telegraph Company radio terminal, to include the United States, Canada, Cuba and Mexico.

Radio telephone service between Spain and the Argentine was extended to Chile on April 11th of this year, thereby forging another link in the chain which already afforded the most extensive telephone connections in the Spanish speaking world. On this occasion an official exchange of greetings took place between His Majesty King Alfonso and His Excellency General Ibáñez, President of Chile, in the presence of a large gathering of officials and other guests assembled at Madrid and Santiago de Chile, respectively. Another impressive feature of this ceremony was a radio telephone conversation which was held between King Alfonso and the Captain of the s.s. *Olympic* then in mid-Atlantic.

It is of particular interest to note that of the three transatlantic liners which offer extended radio telephone service, two of the steamers, namely, s.s. *Majestic* and s.s. *Olympic* have been equipped by the International Marine Radio Company, Limited, an Associated Company of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.

The manufacturing units of the International System include the Associated Companies of the International Standard Electric Corporation established throughout the world, the Compagnie des Téléphones Thomson-Houston (Paris). the Standard Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft, A.G. with its four Associated Companies in Germany, Creed and Company, Limited, of Croydon, England, which now has a newly organized Germany associate, and C. Lorenz Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin. All of these companies, with the exception of Creed and Company, Limited, manufacture and distribute a general line of telephone apparatus and supplies and related electrical equipment. Creed and Company, Limited, manufactures and supplies telegraph printer equipment.

The International System extended its position in the manufacturing field in Germany early in the present year through the organization of a holding company in co-operation with certain important banking interests and the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft and Felten and Guilleaume. This German holding company has obtained a controlling interest in several German companies manufacturing telephone and electrical equipment.

The International Standard Electric Corporation acquired control of the Osterreichische Telephon-Fabrik A.G. in Vienna during the present year, and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, on May 7, 1930, acquired a substantial interest in C. Lorenz Aktiengesellschaft of Berlin.

The German companies now associated with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation have an outstanding position in that field. They handle a total of 30% of the Reichspost business and have a combined turnover of approximately $15,000,000 per year.

The gross sales of the manufacturing companies, not including the newly acquired German companies, amounted for the year 1929 to $55,730,000, as compared with $52,435,000 for 1928, and orders on hand at January 1, 1930, amounted to $36,323,000, as against $32,030,000 at January 1, 1929.

Some of the more important manufacturing activities of the year are referred to below. These major items, of course, are only part of the large volume of all kinds of telephone apparatus, cables, supplies and related equipment which was produced.

Standard Telephones and Cables (London) manufactured the greater portion of the radio telephone equipment used for the radio link between Spain and the Argentine, and the equipment used to establish permanent radio telephone service on the steamers *Majestic* and *Olympic*. This Company also manufactured the new automatic telephone equipment installed in the City of Dublin and that recently cut into service in the Temple Bar and Fulham exchanges in the City of London.

The Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company (Antwerp) installed and cut into service a total of 138,510 lines of rotary automatic equipment during 1929. The installations were made in 28 cities located in 10 different countries. At the end of the year the Antwerp Company had on hand sufficient orders to insure its continued activity for 1930.

Under the program for the complete conversion of the Paris telephone exchanges from manual to automatic service, Le Matériel Téléphonique installed, during the year 1929 and the first quarter of 1930, 48,000 lines of rotary automatic equipment. By the end of 1930 an additional 38,000 lines will have been cut into service. The French Government has expressed its entire satisfaction with the service rendered by the automatic exchanges already placed in service by this Company.

The Standard Eléctrica, S.A. (Madrid) has expanded its manufacturing activities to a point where it is now able to supply a greater part of the telephone equipment required by the Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España. Its cable factory at Santander has received large orders for lead-covered cable and is fully assured of capacity business for the year 1930.

The Standard Electric Aktieselskap (Oslo) received a number of very important orders during the year 1929 for installation of automatic equipment, toll-line equipment, carrier systems and radio-broadcasting equipment in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

The Standard Villamossági Részvény Társaság (Budapest) has practically completed a 70,000-line rotary automatic installation for the City of Budapest and has received orders from the Hungarian Postal Administration for 28 positions of toll switchboard and 8,000 lines of rotary automatic equipment.

In spite of the unsettled conditions in China, the sales of the China Electric Company, Limited (Shanghai) established a record in 1929 over business done in 1928. Continued progress in the activities of this Company is looked for during the current year.

In August, 1929 the China Electric Company, Limited cut into service a rotary automatic exchange in Canton. This project included both the installation of central office equipment and the engineering and construction of the entire outside plant.

The Compagnie des Téléphones Thomson-Houston (Paris) showed both an increase in sales and in orders on hand at the end of the year compared with 1928.

During the first three months of 1930 orders have been received by Creed and Company, Limited, covering installations of printer telegraph equipment in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, Holland, South Africa, India, the Argentine and Australia. There appears to be a growing demand for this type of equipment, which it is anticipated will result in large future orders.

The introduction of rotary automatic telephone equipment, which is manufactured under patents controlled by the International System, is rapidly becoming more and more general. Already approximately 680,000 lines of this type of equipment are in operation and 440,000 more are on order, making a total installed and on order of over 1,100,000 lines.

Another example of the extensive penetration of rotary automatic equipment in telephone systems throughout the world was the contract concluded in February by the International Standard Electric Corporation with the Copenhagen Telephone Company. The contract provides for the supplying of from 40,000 to 80,000 lines of rotary equipment during the next seven years. At the present time the Copenhagen Company has six rotary exchanges with a total of 24,660 lines in service, while 15,400 lines are in process of manufacture.

Other orders received for rotary equipment since January 1, 1930 were for Zürich, Brussels and Liège, and for extensions to existing exchanges in Holland and New Zealand in addition to orders from the Spanish Telephone System.

There are at present over 77 cities with rotary telephone equipment in operation and 27 cities where this type of apparatus is now being installed, making a total of 104 cities including the following 14 capitals: Brussels (Belgium), Bucharest (Roumania), Budapest (Hungary), Cairo (Egypt), Copenhagen (Denmark), The Hague (Holland), Lima (Peru), Madrid (Spain), Mexico City (Mexico), Oslo (Norway), Paris (France), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), Wellington (New Zealand).

Orders for step by step automatic equipment have also been placed with System Companies for exchanges in Great Britain, Australia, Argentina, and Chile.

An important order received by System manufacturing branches was for the new toll cable in Great Britain linking London and Liverpool. The order was placed early this year with Standard Telephones and Cables, Limited, by the British Post Office.

THE LABORATORY COMPANIES.

Three main laboratories, located respectively in New York, London and Paris, are engaged in research work. Among their scientists and engineers, 17 different nationalities are represented.

The primary efforts of the New York laboratories at present are concentrated on telegraph and cable problems. It is expected that work now in progress will lead to the development of methods for increasing the traffic capacity of both telegraph lines and cables.

The work of the London and Paris laboratories is mainly concerned with the solution of problems presented by the manufacturing companies. These laboratories handle the experimental work which

in past years was done at the various factories. During the course of the year they have conducted special studies on general telephone apparatus and equipment, including automatic equipment, toll cable, including its associated equipment, such as loading coils and repeaters, carrier equipment, public address systems, together with investigations into the nature and use of basic materials such as magnetic and insulating materials.

Extensive studies have been conducted in the field of radio communication as a result of which the laboratories have been able to render valuable assistance in connection with the installation and operation of several radio telephone and telegraph links and the installation of radio telephone service on ships at sea. Prior to the inauguration of the commercial ship to shore telephone services previously mentioned, successful two-way radio telephony between the land and a ship at sea was publicly demonstrated in July, 1929, when conversations were carried on between the s.s. *Berengaria* in mid-Atlantic and the experimental radio station of the International Laboratories at Trappes, near Paris. About 40 newspaper representatives listened in on the conversations at the Paris end, and the event was most favorably commented upon in the European Press.

GENERAL OFFICES IN NEW YORK.

During the year the building formerly occupied by The Mackay companies at 253 Broadway was sold to the Corn Exchange Bank, and The Commercial Cable building at 20 Broad Street was acquired by the New York Stock Exchange.

Early in the summer of 1929 the construction of an addition to the International Telephone building at 67 Broad Street, New York, was begun. This new addition will contain approximately the same area of floor space as the original structure and it is expected that shortly after the issue of this report the addition will be completed and ready for occupancy. The building as expanded, fronts on Broad Street and occupies the entire block between Beaver and South William Streets. It is one of the most modern edifices located in the downtown section of the City of New York. There are 33 floors having an aggregate office space of approximately 454,000 sq. ft. The architecture of the building is of Spanish design modified to conform to the requirements of the New York building code and it presents an outstanding feature of the skyline from New York harbor. The International Telephone Building will provide the executive offices of the International Telephone System, and also some of the operating rooms of the Associated Companies.

Appreciating that the success of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation depends primarily on the conscientious and intelligent effort of each employee in the daily performance of his or her duties, particular attention has been given in the construction and arrangements of this new building to the comfort and convenience of the personnel. The Medical and Dental Departments, with their adjoining rest room, an attractive library where employees may study or read, and a Club Restaurant where meals of good quality may be had at reasonable prices, all tend to give a sense of happy surroundings and pleasant associations in the atmosphere of an organisation in which a well-established *esprit de corps* prevails.

ORGANIZATION.

Great credit for what has been accomplished during the year is due to the concentrated attention to duty, loyalty and co-operation of the 95,000 employees distributed throughout practically all the countries of the world. It is felt that the spirit exhibited by the organization fully justifies the special benefits which the Corporation has extended to employees in the shape of the pension and benefit plan, the group insurance plan and the stock purchase plan which have been referred to in previous annual reports.

During the year an additional offer of shares for subscription by employees was made. Under this offer each employee in the service of the Corporation on July 1, 1929 became entitled to purchase one share of stock without par value for each $300 of annual salary at the price of $50 and to pay for such shares by deductions from salary at the rate of $2 per share per month. Approximately 26,000 employees took advantage of this offer and applied for a total of 102,864 shares.

FINANCIAL.

As stated in the last year's Report the Stockholders of the Corporation at a special meeting held on May 8, 1929 approved a change and increase of the authorized capital stock of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation from 2,500,000 shares of the par value of $100 each to a total of 15,000,000 shares without par value. On December 31, 1929 there were outstanding 5,858,984 shares without par value compared with 1,422,785 shares of the par value of $100 each on December 31, 1928.

The increase in the outstanding capital stock for the year amounted to 1,590,629 shares without par value. These shares were issued for the following specific purposes: 728,759 shares in connection with the acquisition of the United River Plate Telephone Company, Limited; 501,763 shares were issued to Stockholders under the offer of one additional share at $50 for each 10 outstanding, which expired on July 5, 1929, and 50,176 shares, being 10% of the amount offered to Stockholders, were issued at $50 per share to trustees and were set aside for future subscription by employees; 21,870 shares were issued in acquisition of common stock of the Postal Telegraph and Cable Corporation; 4 shares were issued to acquire common stock of All America Cables, Incorporated; and 288,057 shares in conversion of ten-year Convertible 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds of 1939 which were presented for conversion.

Since January 1, 1930, two major financial operations have occurred. On February 1st, $50,000,000 principal amount of twenty-five year 5% Gold Debenture Bonds were sold and the proceeds realized have been used principally in liquidating indebtedness contracted by the Corporation in financing its Associated Companies during the year 1929 and in financing the requirements of the early months of the current year. On March 13, 1930 your board authorized an offer of additional capital stock for subscription by Stockholders at the price of $50 per share and in the proportion of one share for each eight registered in their respective names at the close of business on March 21, 1930. Rights to subscribe under this offer expired on May 1st last. The proceeds of this issue will be used in the extension and improvement of the International System and for other corporate purposes.

The International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation registered a large increase in stockholders during the year 1929, from 16,568 on December 31, 1928, to 53,594 on December 31, 1929.

Consolidated telephone, telegraph, cable and radio operating revenues and gross profit on sales for the year 1929 amounted to $89,291,335.64 compared with $71,444,763.79 for the year 1928. The amounts for both years do not include the Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España since the accounts of that Company are not consolidated. Consolidated net income for the year not deducting $428,763.32 interest on bonds converted into stock during the year (which is charged to surplus), amounted to $17,732,158.89, an increase over the previous year of $3,135,821.98. The increases shown in these two items were of course due in large part to the acquisition of new properties during the year. However, as indicated elsewhere in the report, properties already owned showed a normal growth in both gross revenues and net income.

Regular dividends at the rate of $2 per year on each share of stock without par value were distributed quarterly.

The consolidated balance sheet and the consolidated statement of income and surplus account which are presented in this report reflect the many important extensions and acquisitions which have taken place in the International System during the past year. In particular the increase in the Plant and Property Account, amounting to more than $88,000,000 or 42%, furnishes a striking evidence of the growth realized by the system, in the acquisition of new properties and the expansion of existing properties.

The balance sheet contains an item of deferred charges which has not previously appeared on the Company's reports, namely, research and development expense, $3,995,072.66. The research and development expenditures which have been deferred to be charged against future operations have previously been classified under prepaid accounts and other deferred charges and amounted to $1,334,034.12 at the end of 1928. These expenditures are primarily expenditures by our three laboratories for research and development not applicable to completed work, as well as certain expenditures incurred in the development of new properties, which might be capitalized as intangible property, but which have been set up as deferred charges to be amortized.

The net earned surplus was increased at the end of the year by $6,583,029.69, and the total earned and capital surplus amounted to $76,465,576.16 at December 31, 1929.

The work which has been accomplished since the Company's last previous Annual Report constitutes a long stride in the further consolidation of the position of the International Telephone and Telegraph System.

In previous Annual Reports attention has repeatedly been directed to the fact that newly acquired companies generally will not demonstrate their potential earning power and consequently will not contribute their full share to the earnings of the System until they have completed a period of relatively heavy reconstruction and development. This period of reconstruction is being rapidly passed by the Associated and Affiliated Companies already comprised within the System. In addition, a vigorous campaign for the elimination of duplication has been instituted throughout the entire System, which has for its objective the introduction of all possible economies consistent with efficiency and the maintenance of International System standards.

In conclusion, it may be said that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, with its diversified interests, in many countries, presents great promise for its continued and future development. Its lines of communication traversing the submerged mountains and valleys which form the floors of the Atlantic and Pacific and its land lines passing through a terrain as varied in its physical characteristics as that encountered between the two extremes of tropical jungles and snow-coated mountain peaks, with their connections and interconnections, stand ready at all times to facilitate the rapid and accurate interchange of ideas of peoples wherever located throughout the world.

Finally, we would be committing an injustice if the fullest credit were not given to the large International family, composed of loyal and enthusiastic nationals of so many countries, whose indefatigable work and co-operation have made comparatively easy a task which otherwise would have been almost impossible.

With the enthusiastic efforts and devotion of every one of our large body of workers we face with confidence the great work yet to be accomplished.

HERNAND BEHN, President.

Approved by the Board of Directors,

SOSTHENES BEHN, Chairman.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CORPORATION AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

ASSETS.

	$	$
Plant and Property		297,693,105.84
Patents, Licences, &c.		39,189,210.58
Investments in and Advances to Associated and Allied Companies :—		
Associated companies not consolidated	43,625,855.80	
Allied companies	8,367,748.87	
		51,993,604.67
Special Deposits		2,278,158.25
Deferred Charges :—		
Bond discount and expense in process of amortization	6,540,321.25	
Research and development expenses	3,995,072.66	
Prepaid accounts and other deferred charges	7,147,223.09	
		17,682,617.00
Miscellaneous Accounts and Investments		12,981,393.37
Current Assets :—		
Cash in banks and on hand	27,213,238.94	
Marketable securities	17,573,734.47	
Accounts and notes receivable	38,435,625.54	
Merchandise, materials and supplies	29,340,891.51	
Deposits to meet matured interest, dividends, &c.	483,107.54	
Sundry current assets	338,900.94	
		113,385,498.94
		$ 535,203,588.65

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

	$	$
Capital Stock :—		
Common stock of International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation —authorised, 15,000,000 shares of no par value—		
Issued and outstanding, 5,858,984 shares		195,299,466.67
Preferred stock of associated companies		39,900,668.05
Minority Stockholders Equity in Common Stock and Surplus of Companies herein Consolidated		9,138,340.42
Funded Debt :—		
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation—Twenty-Five Year 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds, due July 1, 1952—Outstanding	35,000,000.00	
Ten Year Convertible 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds, due January 1, 1939—Outstanding	37,706,200.00	
Associated companies	63,877,545.55	
		136,583,745.55
Deferred Liabilities :—		
Subscribers' deposits	366,170.92	
Employees' benefit and pension reserve	9,121,471.28	
		9,487,642.20
Current Liabilities :—	$	$
Notes and bills payable	22,679,312.21	
Accounts and wages payable	19,891,178.70	
Notes receivable discounted	289,110.19	
Interest and dividends payable	6,881,831.99	
Accrued interest and taxes	3,952,938.27	
Sundry current liabilities	340,865.34	
		54,035,236.70
Reserves :—		
For depreciation, replacements and renewals	14,056,706.82	
For contingencies, &c.	236,206.08	
		14,292,912.90
Surplus :—		
Capital and paid-in	48,410,869.23	
Earned	28,054,706.93	
		76,465,576.16
		$535,203,588.65

EDWIN F. CHINLUND, Comptroller.

STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND SURPLUS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1929.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME ACCOUNT.

	$	$
Earnings :—		
Telephone, telegraph, cable and radio operating revenues and gross profit on sales	89,291,335.64	
Fees for services	3,196,285.57	
Interest	4,488,684.06	
Dividends (including $694,974.96 from associated company not consolidated)	1,779,408.84	
Miscellaneous	1,584,876.17	
		100,340,590.28
Operating, Selling and General Expenses, Taxes and Depreciation		72,909,552.33
Net earnings (after provision for depreciation, replacements and renewals of $7,458,443.03)		27,431,037.95
Deduct—Charges of Associated Companies :—		
Interest charges	2,860,843.64	
Dividends on preferred stock	2,754,166.80	
Minority stockholders' equity in net income	906,355.12	
		6,521,365.56
Net Income before Deducting Interest on Debenture Bonds		20,909,672.39
Deduct :—		
Interest on Twenty-Five Year 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds	1,575,000.00	
Interest on Ten Year Convertible 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds not converted into stock*	1,602,513.50	
		3,177,513.50
Net Income		$17,732,158.89

* Exclusive of interest on bonds converted into stock during the year, such interest being deducted from surplus below.

CONSOLIDATED SURPLUS ACCOUNT.

	$	$
Earned Surplus—Jan. 1, 1929		21,471,677.24
Add :—	$	
Net income as above	17,732,158.89	
Sundry surplus credits—net	133,053.42	
		17,865,212.31
		39,336,889.55
Deduct :—		
Dividends	10,853,419.30	
Interest on Ten-Year Convertible 4½% Gold Debenture Bonds converted into stock during the year	428,763.32	
		11,282,182.62
Earned Surplus—December 31, 1929.		28,054,706.93
Capital and Paid-in Surplus—January 1, 1929	13,238,083.69	
Additions during the year—net	35,172,785.54	

	$
Capital and Paid-in Surplus—December 31, 1929	48,410,869.23
Total Surplus—December 31, 1929....	$76,465,576.16

EDWIN F. CHINLUND, Comptroller.

INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CORPORATION ASSOCIATED AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES.

All America Cables, Incorporated ..... New York, N.Y.
Cuban All America Cables, Incorporated, The ... New York, N.Y.
Chili Telephone Company, Ltd., The ..... Santiago, Chile.
Compagnie des Téléphones Thomson-Houston ..... Paris, France.
Companhia Telephonica Rio Grandense ..... Porto Alegre, Brazil.
Compañía Internacional de Radio (Argentina) ..... Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Compañía Internacional de Radio S.A. (Chile) ..... Santiago, Chile.
Compañía Peruana de Teléfonos, Limitada ..... Lima, Peru.
Compañía Telefónica Argentina ..... Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Compañía Telefónica Nacional de España ..... Madrid, Spain.
Constantinople Telephone Company, Ltd....Constantinople, Turkey.
Creed and Company, Ltd. ..... Croydon, England.
Creed Telegraphenapparate G.M.B.H. ..... Berlin, Germany.
Cuban American Telephone and Telegraph Company Havana, Cuba.
Cuban Telephone Company ..... Havana, Cuba.
Havana Subway Company..... Havana, Cuba.
Radio Corporation of Cuba ..... Havana, Cuba.
International Communications Laboratories, Inc. ... New York, N.Y.
International Marine Radio Company, Ltd. ..... London, England.
International Standard Electric Corporation ..... New York, N.Y.
Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company ..... Antwerp, Belgium.
China Electric Company, Ltd. ..... Shanghai, China.
Compañía Standard Electric, Argentina...Buenos Aires, Argentina.
International Standard Electric Corporation of Mexico ..... New York,N.Y.
International Telephone and Telegraph Laboratories, Incorporated (Del.) ..... London, England.
Laboratoire International de Téléphonie et Télégraphie, Inc. ..... Paris, France.
Le Matériel Téléphonique .....Paris, France.
Nippon Denki Kabushiki Kaisha ..... Tokyo, Japan.
Osterreichische Telephon-Fabrik Aktiengesellschaft.....Vienna, Austria.
Standard Electric Aktieselskap ..... Oslo, Norway.
Standard Eléctrica, S. A..... Madrid, Spain.
Standard Elettrica Italiana ..... Milan, Italy.
Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd. ..... London, England.
Standard Telephones and Cables (Australasia), Ltd. ..... Sydney, Australia.
Standard Villamossági Részvény Társaság ... Budapest, Hungary.
Vereinigte Telephon-und Telegraphenfabriks Aktien-Gesellschaft Czeija, Nissl & Company ..... Vienna, Austria.
International Telephone and Telegraph Company, Ltd. ..... London, England.
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (España) ..... Madrid, Spain.
Compañía Internacional de Radio (España)..... Madrid, Spain.
International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, Sud America ..... Buenos Aires, Argentina.
International Telephone Building Corporation .....New York, N.Y.
International Telephone Securities Corporation .....New York, N.Y.
Mexican Telephone and Telegraph Company... Mexico City, Mexico.
Montevideo Telephone Company, Ltd. .....Montevideo, Uruguay.
Porto Rico Telephone Company .....San Juan, Porto Rico.
Radio Corporation of Porto Rico .....San Juan, Porto Rico.
Postal Telegraph and Cable Corporation .....New York, N.Y.
Mackay Companies, The.....New York, N.Y.
Commercial Cable Company, The.....New York, N.Y.
Commercial Cable Company, Ltd. ..... London, England.
Commercial Cable Company of Massachusetts.....Boston, Mass.
Commercial Pacific Cable Company .....New York, N.Y.
Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company (Cal.) ..... San Francisco, Calif.
Mackay Radio and Telegraph Company, Inc. (Del.).....New York, N.Y.
Postal Telegraph System .....New York, N.Y.
Radio Communication Company, Inc. .....New York, N.Y.
Radio Internacional, Limitada ..... Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Sociedad Cooperativa Telefónica Nacional ... Montevideo, Uruguay.
Standard Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft ..... Berlin, Germany.
Mix & Genest Aktiengesellschaft ..... Berlin, Germany.
Ferdinand Schuchhardt Berliner Fernsprech- und Telegraphenwerk Aktiengesellschaft ..... Berlin, Germany.
Deutsche Telephonie Aktiengesellschaft ... Berlin, Germany.
Suddeutsche Apparate Fabrik G.M.B.H....Nuremberg, Germany.
" Telephonfabrik Berliner Aktiengesellschaft..... Berlin, Germany.
United River Plate Telephone Company, Ltd. ..... Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

A PROSPEROUS QUINQUENNIUM.
INCREASED BONUSES.

The eighty-first annual meeting of the Gresham Life Assurance Society, Ltd., was held, on the 12th instant, at the head offices, Fleet Street, London.

Sir Reginald MacLeod (of MacLeod), K.C.B. (the chairman), presided.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—

In laying before you our eighty-first annual report I am pleased to be able to congratulate you upon the society's continued prosperity. The new sums assured for the past year amount to £2,354,156, with new premium income of £114,314. These figures are slightly less than in the previous year, although the number of policies issued was 5,753—an increase of 158 cases. The total premiums received amounted to £886,670, inclusive of single premiums of £4,499, being an increase of £29,614. Interest less tax amounted to £375,487, again showing an increase on the same item for the year 1928. The income of the society from all sources amounted to £1,272,196, showing an increase of £30,707.

The death claims with bonus additions required £247,500, being only 73 per cent. of the amount expected according to the table used in the valuation. This favourable rate is not only indicative of the great care exercised in the selection of our risks but also of the value of a widespread business which lessens the adverse effect of any epidemic in a particular country. The total assets of the society have increased during the year by £398,592, and amount to £8,152,334. The rate of interest earned on the funds was £4 19s. 9d. per cent. after deduction of income tax, which must be regarded as a very favourable figure. There was a slight reduction during the year in the expense ratio. This is very satisfactory.

DEATH DUTY POLICIES.

Before dealing with the results of the quinquennium, I should like to refer to a matter of great and general interest, viz., the Estate Duties. I trust it is not too much to hope that either the present Chancellor of the Exchequer or some future Chancellor will grant a concession long overdue and for which the public have been clamouring for years, viz., that the moneys of life policies taken out specifically to provide death duty payments should be exempted from such duty. Under the law as at present existing no encouragement whatever is given by the State to this form of foresight, as these policies are reckoned in the aggregate of a deceased's estate, with the result that not only is Death Duty payable thereon, but the effect may very well be to enhance the rate of that duty over the whole of the estate. There is a very strong case for the exemption of Death Duty insurances from the purview of the tax-gatherer on practical as well as on equitable grounds, as such policies would enable everyone with anything to leave to cover by instalments in his lifetime the burden of an impost which may wreck his estate, or his business, for his successors. Such concession would greatly mitigate individual hardships, and I do not think in the long run that the Exchequer would suffer thereby.

THE ACTUARY'S REPORT.

Turning to the actuary's report, it will be seen that the quinquennium just expired has been one of unexampled prosperity. The mortality experienced during the whole period has averaged only 65 per cent. of that expected according to the table employed in the valuation. The rate of interest earned upon the funds during the five years has been £5 0s. 3d. per cent. after deducting income tax. It will be seen from the report that although the valuation has been actually computed at an assumed rate of 3½ per cent. as in former years, an additional reserve has upon this occasion been made of a sum exceeding £300,000 which it is estimated is sufficient to place the valuation upon a 3 per cent. net basis.

The surplus shown in the valuation balance sheet is £770,620, out of which the directors have decided, in accordance with the actuary's recommendation, to divide the sum of £700,000 amongst the participating policyholders and shareholders of the society. Nine-tenths of this sum falls to the policyholders and will provide a bonus varying from £1 15s. per cent. per annum to £3 per cent. per annum on the sum assured according to the class and duration of the policy. The present rate therefore forms a very satisfactory increase upon the previous figures. It should also be borne in mind that the rates of premium charged by our society for participating assurances are distinctly below those required by most other British companies.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE GROUP.
LORD KYLSANT'S REVIEW.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was held, on the 18th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.

The Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G. (chairman of the company), in the course of his address, said : Last autumn the company celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of its incorporation by Royal Charter in 1839.

The earnings for the first part of 1929 showed improvement over those for the previous year, but, owing to the accentuation of the universal depression in trade during the latter part of 1929, the results for the whole year were somewhat less favourable.

The balance for the year under review, including the amount brought forward from 1928, is £704,027, and after transferring £300,000 from the insurance fund, paying debenture interest for the year, dividends on preference stocks for the half-year ended June 30th, 1929, and all expenses, and providing £414,855 for depreciation, the balance remaining is £151,422, which we propose to carry forward.

The reserve fund amounts to £1,450,000 and the insurance fund now stands at £1,040,000, together totalling £2,490,000.

FLEET.

The Fleet of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, exclusive of the vessels owned by the R.M.S.P. Meat Transports, Ltd., cost over ten millions sterling and has been written down in the books to under £3,400,000, showing that in the matter of providing depreciation the court of directors has always followed a conservative policy.

The number of saloon passengers to and from South America did not vary much from those carried in the previous year, but there was a gratifying increase in the volume of emigrant business, notwithstanding the greater restrictions imposed by the Governments of some of the Central European States.

The two fine motor passenger vessels, "Alcantara" and "Asturias," and the other mail boats of the "A" class continue to be popular with the travelling public, as well as our "D" steamers which carry on a regular service between Liverpool and South American ports.

I mentioned last year that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had under consideration laying down one or possibly two new fast passenger vessels for our South American mail service. Whilst the plans for such a type of vessel have been carefully prepared, orders to proceed with the work of construction have not yet been given.

This company was one of the pioneers in providing pleasure cruises by ocean liners and during the past year our cruising programme has again been extended. We have brought into the cruising service the fine vessel "Atlantis," of 15,600 gross register tons, which has been specially fitted and is equipped with the latest facilities for the utmost comfort and enjoyment on an ocean pleasure cruise.

For several years past conditions as regards freight in the South American trade have been very difficult, owing to the extremely keen competition on this route. I am glad to be able to record that, as regards refrigerated cargo, our freight earnings in 1929 showed an increase over those for the previous year.

POSITION OF GROUP.

I will now deal with the position of what is commonly known as the Royal Mail Group of shipping companies.

The fleet of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and its subsidiary and allied shipping companies, which is the largest merchant fleet in the world, represents nearly one-seventh of the entire British mercantile marine.

When considering the financial position of the group, it is often overlooked that the large amounts of depreciation annually written off the book value of the vessels are available either in reduction of loans for shipbuilding or in payment otherwise for new vessels, or for strengthening the general position of the companies.

As at January 1, 1930, the total reserve funds of the Royal Mail group of shipping companies amounted to over £8,950,000, the insurance funds aggregated over £3,650,000, whilst other reserves and profit and loss account balances totalled over £2,650,000, making altogether over £15,250,000.

During the last four years the gross profits of the Royal Mail group of shipping companies, before charging interest or depreciation, have averaged even in these difficult times over five millions sterling per annum, viz. :—

For 1926	over £4,827,000
For 1927	over £5,697,000
For 1928	over £5,010,000
For 1929	about £4,900,000

In October, 1929, we applied to the Treasury and the Government of Northern Ireland for an extension of the dates of repayment of certain short-dated Trade Facilities Loans amounting to four and a half million pounds made to three shipping companies, as the term of these loans, viz. : five to seven years, was found to be too short to enable the companies to deal with them in these abnormal times.

The Secretary of the Trade Facilities Act Advisory Committee subsequently wrote asking what additional security could be given if the short-term loans were extended, and each of the three shipping companies concerned gave the extra security required.

In October, 1929, the court of directors instructed Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company to make a full report on the position of the various groups of shipping companies. They made a comprehensive and detailed report, which was carefully considered by the directors and shown to the Trade Facilities Committee and the Government of Northern Ireland and to our bankers.

The court of directors then requested Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company to prepare a scheme of rationalisation of the various shipping companies. This scheme received the careful consideration of the court, but as it was considered that it would take as least 6 or 12 months to put into effect, it was felt that the matter must be deferred until some definite arrangement had been come to with regard to the extension of the short-dated Trade Facilities Loans to which I have referred.

On May 19, 1930, we called a conference of our bankers and of representatives of the Trade Facilities Act Advisory Committee and the Government of Northern Ireland, when I placed before them full information as to the position of the group.

A COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

A small committee was appointed which, after going very fully into the whole position, reported to a further meeting of the conference of bankers held on June 10th, as the result of which a public announcement was, as you know, made to the effect that it had been arranged that this committee, consisting of Mr F. Hyde (managing director of the Midland Bank, Ltd.), Brig.-Gen. A. Maxwell (managing partner in Glyn Mills and Company), and Sir William McLintock, should confer with the court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and with the boards of directors of its various subsidiary and allied companies on matters relating to management, administration and finance, whilst the chairman of the Trade Facilities Act Advisory Committee (Sir William Plender) will come into consultation with the Committee.

In addition, an invitation was extended to the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., to join the boards of the various shipping companies.

As announced, this committee will retain office until December 31st next, unless that period is extended.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made with the Trade Facilities Act Advisory Committee and the Government of Northern Ireland to continue their facilities and with the banks and discount houses to continue the financial accommodation they have afforded to the group.

In view of the past record of this group of shipping companies, of which our country may justly be proud, I trust that before long the Treasury may see their way to extend these short-dated Trade Facilities Loans for a further five years.

We are very glad to welcome the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., as a director and deputy-chairman of the company.

GENERAL POSITION.

It is estimated that there are at present four-and-a-half to five million tons of shipping laid up in the ports of the world, owing to the fact that there is less cargo to be carried and rates of freight are practically the lowest on record.

This has come about at a time when many of the leading maritime nations other than Great Britain are encouraging their shipowners to increase their fleets and greatly assisting them to do so, thus accentuating world competition.

As you know I have never been a pessimist about British shipping, and provided we continue to receive the support of our friends, I feel certain that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the group of shipping companies with which it is so closely associated, whose gross profits during the last four difficult years have, as already mentioned, averaged over five millions sterling per annum, will, sooner than many people anticipate, experience a return of prosperity.

After the chairman had replied to some questions, the report and accounts were adopted.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR—A RECORD PROFIT.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., was held, on the 17th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., Sir John Cadman, G.C.M.G., D.Sc. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The year under review has been one of ordered progress, and there is little subject for comment in the accounts. The net profit amounted to the record figure of £5,206,761, which more than justifies the forecast made by me on the occasion of the last meeting. The balance available has enabled us to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent. (less tax), making 20 per cent. for the year, and leaving £687,064 to be carried forward.

PRODUCTION.

Persia.—The net production of oil from Masjid-i-Suleiman was approximately 5½ million tons—the rate of production differing but little from that of the preceding year. In reality, the actual crude output of the fields was in excess of this figure, but refinery operations at Abadan resulted in a temporary excess of residue and consequent storage congestion, which threatened to interrupt the continuity of refining. This excess was dealt with in a novel way. After some research and the fullest consideration of the many questions involved, and as a result of our unique knowledge of the reservoir conditions as Masjid-i-Suleiman, we decided to reverse the pumping in one of the pipe-lines, and, at little expense, we pumped this residue back to the fields and injected it into certain gas wells, connected only with the upper part of the oil structure.

Rapid strides have been made in advancing our knowledge of the new field at Haft Kel, which lies thirty-five miles south-east of Masjid-i-Suleiman. A structure exceeding nine miles in length by approximately two miles in width, with a vertical head of oil exceeding 1,600 feet, has already been proved. One well, when tested, produced oil at the rate of 5,400 tons per twenty-four hours, with a flow head pressure of 630 lb. per square inch.

Iraq.—Our investment in the Iraq Petroleum Company continues to increase with the inevitable additions to the capital required for proving and developing a modern oilfield.

Transport of oil to the coast will involve the laying of what is likely to prove one of the most costly pipe-lines yet constructed. This will mean an outlay of many millions of pounds, which can only prudently be made when reserves of oil are proved sufficient in volume not only to fill the pipe-line, but also to transport continuously through it a quantity of oil sufficient to meet pumping costs and the interest and amortisation charges on the huge expenditure anticipated. This proof is well in sight.

The petroleum industry as a whole is faced at times with very difficult problems, arising from the fact that the natural constituents of crude oil are by no means proportionate to the market demands for each and all of them. In pre-motor days petrol was practically a waste product, and was accordingly destroyed. To-day the situation is entirely reversed, and were it not for the immense advances made in the processes of distillation and refining, and, above all, in cracking heavy oils into lighter products, the world demand for petrol would automatically have involved the continuous production of large excesses of other products, and, besides wasteful earlier depletion of the crude, would have created a problem of the first dimension.

Our refinery programmes are under constant review with these considerations uppermost in mind. We are well abreast of the times, and the plant and equipment already completed, or now under construction, are capable of converting the crude oil into the constituents which the market most needs.

MARKETING.

Sales in all markets continued to show satisfactory expansion. Prices remained remarkably stable from March onwards, and no important changes have since occurred, notwithstanding the high freight rates ruling towards the end of the year.

I told you last year of the steps which we had been taking to enhance the quality of our motor spirit; I am glad to say that our new "B.P." spirit had a most satisfactory reception from the British motoring public and that its popularity continues. We can claim to have a spirit admirably adapted to the requirements of the modern engine and representative of a notable achievement in industrial research.

What are our prospects? The world demand for petroleum continues to expand. With it this company can look for a parallel expansion of its business, and, failing the intervention of unfavourable and unforeseen factors, all the causes I have named should contribute to another successful year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

INDIAN COPPER CORPORATION, LIMITED.

PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Indian Copper Corporation, Ltd., was held on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Sir Godfrey B. H. Fell, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that net proceeds of copper, with stocks in hand, amounted to £143,134 10s. 6d., to which must be added sundry receipts £4,315 15s. 10d. and transfer fees £511 2s. 6d., making a total of £147,961 8s. 10d. After defraying operating costs £74,425 14s. 5d., mine administration and general expenses £15,969 9s. 9d., London office administration and general expenses £5,380 0s. 11d., directors' fees £2,216 13s. 4d., and interest £4,554 6s., there is a gross profit of £45,415 4s. 5d., which is taken to the balance sheet. Out of this falls to be met debenture interest for nine months from 1st April to 31st December, amounting to £16,779 10s. 7d., and after deducting this amount there remains a sum of £28,635 13s. 10d. to be disposed of. We propose to deal with this sum as follows: Firstly, by transferring to development redemption reserve the sum of £10,798 13s. 6d. Secondly, by writing off from mining development and general expenditure a sum of £8,077 6s. 9d.

The balance of £9,759 13s. 7d. it is proposed to carry forward to the next account.

I now propose to examine briefly the progress of the company's operations during the past year. You will recollect that the programme we set before us was the treatment of 100,000 short tons of ore in a full year. Actually the mine despatched to the mill 82,912 short dry tons of ore, of which 52,089 tons were despatched in the second six months of the year. For the first quarter of the current year the output was 31,783 short tons. The average grade of underground ore reserves has been re-estimated by your general manager at 3·38 per cent. The average grade of ore raised during the year was 2·72 per cent. While it would no doubt be practicable to supply the mill with higher-grade ore, by limiting the stoping widths, it would, in the opinion of the board's technical advisers, be a wrong policy to adopt, seeing that stoping has revealed much greater widths of payable ore than was at first thought to be the case. While, of course, a lower grade of ore requires the treatment of greater tonnage in order to attain the desired output of refined copper, the underground reserves are greatly increased and the life of the mine prolonged. In spite of the fact that development during the year was limited in the main to the sinking of three winzes below the 5th level and to the opening up of a larger number of working faces above the 5th level, the underground ore reserves at the close of the year showed an increase of 64,577 short tons, while 81,740 short tons were also broken in stopes during the year for transmission to the mill. You will notice from your general manager's report that the average value of the ore reserves shows a steady and most gratifying improvement in depth.

The operation of the mill was extremely satisfactory throughout the year.

The results obtained from the smelter are summarised in the extracts from your general manager's report, which are before you. Considering that labour had to be trained in every operation, I think that these results may be regarded as very satisfactory.

Before I conclude my remarks, I should like to give a very brief résumé of the progress achieved since the end of the year under review. At the mine, vigorous efforts have been made to increase the output of ore, which attained its highest monthly output to date in April. The grade is also improving. Good progress has been made with the driving of No. 3 Intermediate Level. The output of the refinery has amounted to 1,095 long tons in the first five months of the year, an average of 219 tons a month.

Excellent progress has been made with the rolling mill, to which I referred in my speech last year. It is practically completed in every respect, and trial runs should be made in the course of this month. Your directors attach the greatest importance to this addition to your plant.

The recent heavy fall in the world price of copper is a matter which, unfortunately, cannot be ignored. I do not propose to venture on prophecy as to the future trend of the price. We must accept the situation, and devote our energies to reducing our costs of production so as to counteract, as far as possible, the lower price obtained for our copper. Fortunately, the various improvements and additions to the plant which have been made should enable us to achieve this object. With the help of our friends, Messrs Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co., of Calcutta, who, as managing agents of Anglo-Oriental India, attend to the marketing of our copper, and to whom we are grateful for the great interest which they have taken in this matter, we are hopeful of disposing of the whole of our increased output, either in the form of copper ingot or of sheet, at prices which are still remunerative, and which we may see improve before long.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

MARKS AND SPENCER, LIMITED.

FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PROFITS.

SUCCESS OF MERCHANDISING AND EXPANSION POLICY.

IMPROVED VALUES AND SERVICE.

MUCH LARGER TURNOVER FOR CURRENT YEAR.

TERMS OF ISSUES OF NEW CAPITAL.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Marks and Spencer, Ltd., was held on Tuesday last, the 17th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Mr Simon Marks (chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr E. Berry, F.I.S.A., F.C.W.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to submit a report which again shows a substantial increase in profits. The net profit for the past year amounts to £335,175, which is an increase of £100,059 on the previous year. A comparison with the previous years since 1928 shows profits on a like basis (*i.e.*, after providing for directors' fees, management remuneration, depreciation, and other charges, but before providing for income tax):—

	£
1928	167,243
1929	235,116
1930	335,175

As shareholders we have every reason to be gratified with the results, particularly when we take into consideration the difficulties and the unfavourable trading conditions of the past year. Despite the contraction of the spending power of the public, our sales have increased by a very large percentage. This, I venture to say, is due to the continuation of our merchandising and expansion policy, which I will discuss in greater detail later in my speech.

A pleasing feature is the continued increase in the volume of business transacted in our older stores. Our policy of giving better value merchandise to the public is gaining for us a customer satisfaction and goodwill, which is of inestimable value to our business.

Shareholders will derive even greater satisfaction from the figures presented to-day when they learn that many of the new stores were trading for part of the year only, and that, in addition, we have had to bear a considerable interest strain on expenditure which was, for the time being, unproductive. This year we shall have a full year's trading from all these stores and we are confident that they will contribute their due share to the profits of the company for this and succeeding years.

ALLOCATION OF PROFITS.

The net profit of £335,175, after deducting £36,586 for income tax, leaves a balance of £298,589, which, together with £37,022 brought forward from the previous year, makes a total of £335,611 available for distribution. The dividend on the 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares for the full year to March 31, 1930, amounting to £35,000, has been paid, leaving an available balance of £300,611, which the directors recommend should be appropriated as follows:—

	£	*Against.*
Preference share reserve fund	7,500	The same as before.
Properties contingency fund	10,000	Ditto.
General reserve fund	100,000	£60,000.
Payment of a dividend on the ordinary and "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the year ended March 31, 1930.....	132,000	£78,802.
By carrying forward to next year's accounts..... (Which is £14,089 more than was brought in this year.)	51,111	

EXPENDITURE ON PROPERTIES.

On reference to the balance sheet, you will see that the expenditure on freehold properties acquired during the past year, together with additions and alterations, amounted to £569,667. The expenditure on leasehold and leased premises during the same period was £138,590. The increase in furniture and fixtures is £80,997, and is in respect of furnishing new stores.

It is interesting to note that in the past four years we have depreciated our assets, fixtures and fittings, etc., by no less a sum than £102,187, whilst we have spent on repairs and renewals for the upkeep of our older stores £49,733 9s.

I would like to take this opportunity of pointing out that the balance sheet contains no item for goodwill, and that out of slightly over £3,000,000 assets, £2,400,000 is invested in freehold and long leasehold properties.

MERCHANDISING POLICY.

The function of our business organisation is to correlate, in ever-increasing measure, mass production with mass distribution.

The rationalisation of production and distribution carried out on our principles brings retail prices down to a considerably lower level.

An examination of the value of our goods will prove, I believe, that we are working on right lines. The buying public is recognising the values and the service which we bring them, with the result that our business has been constantly expanding, not only by the addition of the new stores, but in those stores where we have been established some time.

Our policy is to concentrate as much as possible on the purchase of British-made goods, and it is gratifying to note that about 90 per cent. of our merchandise is manufactured in this country.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

During the past year we have built, equipped and opened 18 new stores and have materially enlarged 6 others. Since the beginning of this financial year in April, we have opened for business 5 new stores and 4 large extensions of existing stores. Our immediate building programme comprises 15 new stores and 5 considerable enlargements of old stores. We contemplate, as opportunity arises, acquiring other sites, so that our extensions for the present year will show a satisfactory advance on those of 1929.

We are satisfied that, as a result of this year's efforts, providing nothing unforeseen occurs, the earning capacity of the company will be very largely augmented; in fact, we hope and believe that the increase in profits this year will show a satisfactory advance over that of last year.

I am glad to be able to report to you that since the beginning of this financial year—that is, about 10 weeks' trading—our turnover has increased very considerably over the corresponding period of last year.

FINANCE.

In considering the form of the finance which the company requires for its further development, your board has taken into account not only their present, but also their probable future capital requirements. The scheme that they have evolved, they believe, should enable the company to obtain the monies necessary to develop their business at the progressively increasing rate contemplated, and at the same time protect the rights of the various classes of shareholders. The scheme, briefly stated, is as follows:—

In order to satisfy our needs for the immediate future, we are asking you to authorise an issue of £1,000,000 debenture stock and £1,000,000 preference shares.

The debenture stock will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and will be repayable at 105 per cent. by means of a cumulative sinking fund, which will redeem the loan by 1970. The right is reserved to repay the issue in whole or in part at any time during the preceding 10 years. We propose to issue this debenture stock at a price of 102 per cent.

The preference shares will be cumulative and bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent., payable half-yearly. They will be issued at 21s. and are repayable on liquidation at £1 2s. 6d. per £1 share.

THANKS TO OFFICERS AND STAFF.

I wish to take this opportunity of paying a warm tribute to the energy and enthusiasm which have characterised the work of the officers and staff during the past year.

DIVIDEND.

I will now propose that the report and accounts to March 31 1930, as submitted, be received and adopted, and that the cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the year to March 31, 1930, already paid to the preference shareholders, be and is hereby confirmed, and that the payment of the dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary and "A" ordinary shares for the year to March 31, 1930, be declared, and payable by warrant to be posted this evening to those members whose names appear in the register of members on this day.

I will ask Mr Sieff to second the resolution.

Mr I. N. Sieff, B.Com. (vice-chairman), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director, Mr R. F. Norland, was re-elected; Messrs Edwin Guthrie and Company were appointed, jointly with Messrs Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Company, as auditors of the company.

ISSUE ON BONUS TERMS.

The secretary read out the resolution in connection with the capitalisation of £66,000, being part of the undivided profits of the company, for appropriation amongst the holders of the existing ordinary and "A" ordinary shares of the company, in the proportion of one "A" ordinary share for every 10 existing ordinary

and "A" ordinary shares held, which was unanimously approved and adopted.

The secretary read out the notices and resolutions at separate class meetings of the holders of the 10 per cent. cumulative preference shares and of the ordinary and "A" ordinary shares, and also at the combined extraordinary general meeting of the company.

The resolutions at all the meetings in connection with the alteration of the articles of association; the extinguishment of the preference share reserve fund; the creation of new 7 per cent. preference shares, and the alteration of the borrowing powers of the board, were unanimously approved and adopted.

On the proposition of Sir George May, K.B.E., seconded by Mr A. I. Belisha, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, directors and the staff, and the proceedings then terminated.

MADRAS ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

YEAR OF PROGRESS.

The annual meeting of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held, on the 17th instant, at No. 1 Queen Victoria Street, London, Mr John G. B. Stone (chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said: The aggregate kilowatt hours sold during 1929 exceeded the previous year by 3·81 per cent. The kilowatt hours sold for lighting and fans showed an increase of 9·24 per cent. on 1928. The supply for street lighting was 6·9 per cent. greater than the previous year—notwithstanding that I explained last year that we could not look for much extension from this source as most of the principal streets are already lighted by electricity. The increase for power was 0·82 per cent. only. When I addressed you last year I said: "We foresee a marked increase in this direction, although events move slowly in Madras." I had then in view the completion of an agreement with the South Indian Railway Company for a supply of current to operate their lines in and around the City of Madras. The negotiations took longer than was anticipated, but an agreement is on the point of completion which will add materially to the demand for current. The average rate obtained for the complete supply for 1929 was As. 2·47 per kilowatt hour, compared with As. 2·44 for 1928.

Turning to the financial side of the accounts, a balance of £65,868 remains as net revenue for the year, to which has to be added £6,906 brought forward, making a total of £72,774. After deducting the dividend paid on the preference shares for nine months to September 30, 1929, and the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (actual) paid free of income tax on the ordinary shares, there remains for distribution £47,463. The directors recommend that this be appropriated as follows: (1) Provision for three months' preference dividend accrued to December 31, 1929 £4,493; (2) payment of a final dividend of 5½ per cent. (actual) on the ordinary shares (making 8 per cent. for the year), free of income tax, £26,026; (3) transfer to reserve for contingencies, £1,500; and (4) transfer to general reserve fund, £8,000 (bringing that fund up to £110,000). These provisions make a total of £40,019, leaving to be carried forward to next year's accounts £7,444. The result of the tramway company's working for 1929 showed, after providing for debenture interest, £1,300 for sinking fund and £7,500 for depreciation and renewals, an available balance of £10,444, out of which the dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares was paid, and £4,444 carried forward.

The report was unanimously adopted.

164 Branches in Finland

CAPITAL AND RESERVES: Fmk.426,000,000.
TOTAL ASSETS (31/12/29): Fmk.2,941,645,000.

KANSALLIS-OSAKE-PANKKI

(National Joint Stock Bank)

HEAD OFFICE: HELSINKI (HELSINGFORS), FINLAND

Established 1889.

CALLENDER'S CABLE AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PROFITS.

IMPORTANT CONTRACTS SECURED.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on the 19th instant, in London, Sir J. Fortescue Flannery, Bt., D.L., M.Inst.C.E. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr Howard Foulds, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the manufacture and supply of electric cable and appliances had fluctuated during 1929, because, especially during the early part of the year, one of the chief sources of demand, namely, what was known as the grid system, was suspended for a considerable time. The company had received a very important contract in connection with this system, but great delay, and consequent heavy loss, arose in the Electricity Board arranging the necessary wayleaves upon which the execution of the contracts depended. Advantage had been taken of the opportunity to develop the company's plant so as to reduce the cost of manufacture, and some £67,000 had been expended in this way. They were therefore ready in the fullest and most modernised sense for the improved demand in the latter part of the year, and the output as a whole had been satisfactory, the financial results showing a substantial increase as compared with previous years.

A year ago the shareholders were informed that the board had arranged the purchase of another old-established firm of cable makers, namely, Messrs. W. T. Glover and Company, and sufficient time had now elapsed to enable them to report that the result had been satisfactory and presented an encouraging outlook. The Anchor Cable Company, at Leigh in Lancashire, had been well occupied in the manufacture of special cable, and there was no reason to doubt that it would continue to be satisfactorily occupied.

THE PAST YEAR.

The past year had been a difficult one, and, like others engaged in world-wide trade, they had had to face severe competition, especially in their export business, but they were still widening their scope and pushing their operations in new fields. They were not always allowed to do so, for in Australia, for instance, the Dominion Government had forced them into a difficult position by the threat of a 35 per cent. tariff on electric wires and cables.

The management had devoted special attention to economies of production. Many improvements in process and handling at the factories had been effected, some of them large, some small, but all useful. The financial crisis in the United States last year had interfered with much of the work for which cables were required, and had delayed the expected advance in the Okonite-Callender business, but in spite of this, that company had finished the year with a substantial credit balance.

Dealing with the accounts, the chairman said that the profit available for distribution amounted to £403,911, and the directors recommended a final dividend of 10 per cent. (making 15 per cent. for the year) leaving £428,528 to be carried forward.

In conclusion, he said that the position of the company was thoroughly satisfactory, and he would draw attention to this very noticeable fact, that the reserve of £800,000 and the carry forward of £428,528, totalling £1,228,528, were considerably larger than the ordinary share capital. (Applause.)

SIR TOM CALLENDER'S REMARKS.

Sir Tom O. Callender, Kt., J.P. (deputy chairman and managing director), in seconding the motion, said that they had devoted much time and energy to economies in their production and in the disposal of their cables by improved machinery and methods.

They were ceaseless in their care of their overseas connections, which might be fairly described as world-wide. India was their oldest and one of their most important fields of operation, and, in spite of internal disputes and uprisings, of riot and commotion, the company was steadily pursuing its way, extending in old districts and opening up new areas. Their men had been singularly free from interference in their cable-laying and overhead erection. They were carrying out an important contract for the cable system to supply the South Indian Railway in Madras. They had nearly completed the distribution mains for the United Provinces Electricity Authorities. The Government of India, in co-operation with that of the Punjab, had placed with the company, the contract for the construction of the widespread network throughout the Punjab, and they were carrying out work in other towns and districts in India which were too numerous to mention.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

VALUE OF DEFERRED STOCK.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the British Electric Traction Company, Ltd., was held, on the 16th instant, at Winchester House, London, E.C., Mr J. S. Austen (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profits during the past year had increased by £56,000. That figure had been arrived at after the deduction of income tax, which meant that they had really had to make £70,000, which, for a company which derived its income from dividends of a miscellaneous character, was a very considerable sum. He did not know what the shareholders had expected, but personally it was larger than he had anticipated.

Dealing with the position of the deferred stock, the Chairman said that the real object of its creation had been so that by that means the stockholders might recover the serious losses of capital which they had sustained. Therefore, they must not look for any increase in dividends on that stock, at any rate this year. So far, their present system had worked extremely well, but it could not go on for ever, and sooner or later they must see whether they could not form some other scheme by means of which they could extract from the company the very last ounce of capital value which was inherent in it. When that time came they would know a little better than they did to-day exactly how they stood. He would like to give them an indication of its present value based on the earning power of the company. In the first place, he had assumed a value of 1,500 per cent. Then he multiplied the present amount of stock by 15, and as a result they got £2,500,000 as being the capitalised value of that stock. To pay 6 per cent. on a sum of £2,500,000 took £150,000 a year. Comparing that with the income of the past year, by putting that income on a gross basis, that was before deduction of tax, he found they had £109,000, which left a deficiency of £41,000.

They must not be disappointed with that deficiency, because since the end of the year their subsidiary, the Birmingham and District Investment Trust, in which they held £847,000, had declared a bonus of 100 per cent. in 6 per cent. preference shares, which would bring them in a very comfortable £50,000 a year. Those figures, he thought, indicated that a value of 1,500 per cent. for the stock was justified, without taking into account the future possibilities of the company.

The report and accounts were adopted.

HOVIS, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The ordinary general meeting of Hovis, Ltd., was held, on the 18th instant, at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London.

Mr A. H. Dence (the Chairman) said that since they had last met the country had passed through long months of almost unprecedented slackness and depression in trade and finance generally, but Hovis had been one of the few bright spots amid the general gloom. The report presented was one which proved that they had faced all their difficulties with undaunted optimism and had steered their business through both successfully and profitably. During the year that had ended the wheat markets of the world had undergone considerable fluctuations. The crop of Canadian wheat had not been so heavy as in the two preceding harvests, but that had been offset by the large supplies from the 1929 Argentine harvest, and, speaking generally, the year had been one of cheap wheats, consequently of cheap flours and bread. The business of Marriage, Neave and Company, one of their subsidiaries, had proved entirely satisfactory, and Humphries and Bobbett, of Bristol, had maintained their past turnover and largely increased their output of Hovis.

Amongst the new steps they had embarked upon during the past year was that of providing Hovis in Paris, where there had been quite a useful start made. Another important addition to their output should be the arrangements they had entered into with Messrs Rowntree and their subsidiary companies to place biscuits made with Hovis flour in various forms on the market. That had been made possible by making a special flour for that purpose, ordinary Hovis flour not being of a suitable character to ensure good flavour in the biscuit.

The balance of the profit and loss account was the largest they had had, and taking into consideration the difficult times they had gone through, would, he was sure, meet with the shareholders' approval. They were recommending a final dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year. That was the third year in succession that they had been able to pay that very handsome return.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

CITY DEEP, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.)

IMPROVED OUTLOOK.

MR J. MARTIN ON ORE RESERVES.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of City Deep, Ltd., was held in Johannesburg, on May 23rd.

The Chairman (Mr John Martin) said:—The past year was again a very difficult and anxious one for the City Deep. It is admittedly disappointing that the mine has not yet been re-established upon a profit-making basis, but the problems confronting us, and in the main the problem represented by the heavy and persistent decline in recent years both in the grade of ore mined and developed and in the percentage of payability—a decline the rapidity of which is without precedent in Central Rand mining—have proved more formidable even than had been anticipated. Much good and effective work has, however, been accomplished during the period under review and, although the situation still embraces a number of uncertain factors, it is now possible to say that the general outlook is more promising than it has been any time during the past two years.

The working loss for the year was £139,234, and the total loss, after adding the differences between sundry items detailed in the working expenditure and revenue account and in the appropriation account, amounted to £153,461. The net cash liability at the beginning of the year was £288,995, to which had to be added the total loss just mentioned, also a net expenditure (after allowing for receipts from sales of plant, material and freehold property) of £3,608 on capital account and the undermining rights annuity of £6,560. After deducting from these a decrease of £9,783 in cash assets, the net cash liability at the end of the year was £422,841, against which the company had £114,328, partly invested in shares and interests in co-operative and other concerns, and partly represented by stores and materials and by sundry debtors and payments in advance.

The Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Ltd., and the Rand Mines, Ltd., have continued to give invaluable financial assistance to the company and agreed to increase the limit of their joint loan to £400,000. This loan carries interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

The gross capital expenditure last year was £25,256. The capital expenditure for the current year is estimated at less than £30,000, which should amply cover the completion of the present programme. No further capital expenditure of any importance is anticipated for some time to come.

WORKING COSTS.

Working costs per ton milled were reduced from 27s. 9d. in 1928, to 25s. 10d. in 1929. The consulting engineer points out in his report that, in the early part of the past year, the proportion of small, scattered workings and of new stope faces continued to be unduly large, to the detriment of efficiencies and costs, and, although the reduction of working costs by 1s. 11d. per ton milled was, in the circumstances, satisfactory, the average costs for the year were still high and capable of further substantial reduction. Working costs during the first four months of the current year have, indeed, been lowered to an average of 22s. 10d. per ton milled, a figure which compares well with those of earlier years, when the workings were not so deep and the stope-width was considerably greater.

The favourable effect of the larger tonnage milled during the past year and of the reductions in working costs and in stoping width was unfortunately nullified by a further disappointing decrease in the average yield, which fell from 5·96 dwts. per ton in 1928 to 5·46 dwts. per ton in 1929. The average yield for the last quarter of 1929 was 5·27 dwts. and the average for the first four months of the current year was practically the same, at 5·22 dwts. This difficult question of the present low level of grade is intimately linked up with that of the unsatisfactory ore reserve position.

The development accomplished during the year amounted to 48,017 ft., or 1,493 ft. more than the corresponding figure for 1928. It is satisfactory to note that, despite this increase in footage, the total cost of development was reduced from £158,529, or 3s. 1·0d. per ton milled, in 1928, to £137,763, or 2s. 6·5d. per ton milled, in 1929.

ORE RESERVES.

The ore reserve, as recalculated at December 31, 1929, totalled 1,617,100 tons of an average value of 6·42 dwts. per ton over an estimated stoping width of 43·8 in. Deducting the tonnage in shaft and safety pillars which cannot at present be stoped, the available reserve amounted to 1,323,400 tons averaging 6·21 dwts. per ton over 42·8 in., showing, as compared with the position twelve months earlier, a decrease of 121,700 tons in quantity and an improvement of 0·1 dwt. per ton in average value, due largely to a reduction of 8·6 in. in the estimated width, consequent on the extended use of the resuing method of stoping.

BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT POLICY.

One of the difficult problems confronting the Board is to strike the correct balance between the demands of economy, enforced by our adverse financial position, and the obviously important claim for greater expenditure upon increased development. During the four months to April 30th, the monthly development has averaged 3,390 ft., as compared with 4,001 ft. for 1929 and 3,877 ft. for 1928. During the present month, we hope that the total development will again approach 4,000 ft. While it is most important that the rate of development should be increased, to such extent as is practicable, in order to augment the ore reserves, it is satisfactory that the work at present in hand is proportionately more productive of tonnage for stoping than hitherto.

It is anticipated that, if all goes well, the tonnage milled in May will exceed 100,000 tons, that working costs will be about 22s. 3d. per ton milled, and that any loss recorded will be nominal.

The strenuous efforts made during the past two years have resulted in the mine being placed on a stronger basis. The outlook, although still an anxious one, is, as I have already said, better than it has been at any time in the last two years, and there is now reason to anticipate that, given reasonable good fortune, we can look forward to profits instead of losses.

The reports and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended June 14, 1930 :—

(000's omitted.)

Expenditure.	£	Receipts.	£
Supply Services	8,570	From Revenue	4,956
Interest, &c., on Debt	2,616	Increase in Debt	6,904
Sinking Fund	495		
Increase in Balances	179		
	11,860		11,860

The Ordinary Revenue for the week amounted to £4,955,800, as compared with £6,786,400 in the corresponding week last year. Income Tax was lower, at £450,000, against £685,000, and Surtax at £380,000, against £400,000. Estate Duties amounted to £1,010,000, as compared with £1,320,000, while Customs brought in £1,582,000, against £2,488,000, and Excise £815,000, against £1,472,000. The National Debt was increased by £6,904,000, as shown below :—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Bank of England Advances	− 3,750	Treasury Bills	+ 11,754
Public Department Advances	− 750	National Savings Certificates	+ 50
Sundries	− 400		
	− 4,900		+ 11,804

The Floating Debt was increased by £7,240,000 to £680,105,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31, APRIL 1 TO JUNE 14.

	£		£
Expenditure	173,643,237	Revenue	113,505,773
Sinking Fund	7,425,881	Decreases in balances	3,618,644
		Net Amount borrowed	63,944,701
	181,069,118		181,069,118

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930-31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE. £

Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	618
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	62
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,532
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,659

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

Ways and Means Advances	June 15, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	June 14, '30.	Movement week ended June 14, '30
	£	£	£	£
Outstanding—				
Advances by Bank of England	...	...	8,750,000	− 3,750,000
Advances by Public Departments	53,305,000	48,530,000	53,030,000	− 750,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	756,830,000	588,885,000	618,325,000*	+ 11,740,000
Total Floating Debt	810,135,000	637,415,000	680,105,000	+ 7,240,000

* Includes £18,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the account.

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on June 13, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £39,375,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 7s. 7d., about 92 per cent., and Saturday at £99 7s. 9d. and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
April 17	30,000,000	43,805,000	2 10 5·25
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78
May 23	35,000,000	48,275,000	2 3 5·74
May 30	45,000,000	54,260,000	2 2 0·65
June 6	40,000,000	44,515,000	2 3 6·59
June 13	35,000,000	39,375,000	2 8 10·06

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to June 14, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to June 15, 1929.	Week Ended June 14, 1930.	Week Ended June 15, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE	£	£	£	£
Inland Revenue—				
Income Tax	20,307,000	19,217,000	450,000	685,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	9,080,000	7,720,000	380,000	400,000
Estate, &c., Duties	17,750,000	18,440,000	1,010,000	1,320,000
Stamps	3,350,000	3,980,000	600,000	420,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	110,000	120,000	...	...
Total Inland Revenue	50,597,000	49,487,000	2,440,000	2,825,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	23,872,000	24,648,000	1,582,000	2,488,000
Excise	21,115,000	22,357,000	815,000	1,472,000
Total Customs and Excise	44,987,000	47,005,000	2,397,000	3,960,000
Motor Vehicle Duties Exchequer Share)	1,080,000	1,114,000	116,000	...
Post Office (Net Receipt)	4,550,000	3,850,000	...	...
Crown Lands	240,000	250,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	7,833,454	7,228,624	...	...
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,218,319	5,982,652	2,819	1,424
Total Ordinary Revenue	113,505,773	114,917,276	4,955,819	6,786,424
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	10,700,000	10,350,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	13,980,000	13,454,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	127,485,773	128,371,276	5,955,819	7,786,424

Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:	1930. £	1929. £
Bank of England	5,504,595	5,515,917
Bank of Ireland	620,619	736,607

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to June 14, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1928, to June 15, 1929.	Week Ended June 14, 1930.	Week Ended June 15, 1929.
OTHER RECEIPTS.	£	£	£	£
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 to 1930	...	90,000	...	60,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues:				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,560,000	910,000	340,000	...
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	527,355,000	658,071,000	55,084,000	58,387,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	46,541,883	...	...	...
By National Savings Certificates	9,250,000	8,750,000	700,000	800,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,120,000	...	...
(d) Ways and Means Advances	140,210,000	171,975,000	11,340,000	10,840,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	49,389	36,571	...	...
	854,452,045	994,323,847	73,419,819	77,873,424
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April: —				
Bank of England	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Bank of Ireland				
Total £	860,577,259	1,000,576,371	73,419,819	77,873,424

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to June 14, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to June 15, 1929.	Issues Week Ended June 14, 1930.	Issues Week Ended June 15, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	91,901,004	110,963,198	2,615,913	16,481,399
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	882,987	744,745	...	25,558
Other Consolidated Fund Services	440,446	891,818	...	...
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	80,418,800	62,590,610	8,570,000	3,600,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	173,643,237	175,190,371	11,185,913	20,106,957
Sinking Fund	7,425,881	8,405,067	495,000	615,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	10,700,000	10,350,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Road Fund	3,280,000	3,104,000	...	...
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	13,980,000	13,454,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL	195,049,118	197,049,438	12,680,913	21,721,957
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,560,000	910,000	340,000	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	2,150,000	1,950,000	400,000	400,000
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1928—				
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	...	90,000	...	60,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	497,915,000	601,525,000	43,330,000	47,260,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	7,850,000	9,050,000	650,000	1,000,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,309,505	...	...
	126,960,000	155,720,000	15,840,000	7,340,000
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	...	2,219,787	...	...
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	858,070,689	997,842,188	73,240,913	77,581,957
Balances in Exchequer—				
Bank of England	...	...	+ 108,906	+ 211,467
Bank of Ireland	2,506,570	2,734,183	+ 70,000	+ 80,000
Total £	860,577,259	1,000,576,371	+ 178,906	+ 291,467

Balances in Exchequer—	June 14, 1930. £	June 15, 1929. £
Bank of England	2,122,779	2,265,706
Bank of Ireland	383,791	468,477

Treasury, June 16, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, June 18, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	359,247,209	Other Government Securities	232,889,623
In Banking Department	57,362,801	Other Securities	11,629,060
		Silver Coin	4,466,217
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	156,610,010
	£416,610,010		£416,610,010

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	46,475,547
Rest	3,304,572	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	16,577,610	Discounts and Advances	£7,098,791
Other Deposits—		Securities	16,640,653
Bankers £58,331,534			23,739,444
Other Accounts 35,687,253		Notes	57,362,801
	94,018,787	Gold and Silver Coin	879,517
7-Day and other Bills	3,340		
	£128,457,309		£128,457,309

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

Both Departments.	Amount, June 18, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	359,247,209	− 4,755,058	− 1,056,380
Public deposits	16,577,610	+ 8,338,731	− 4,685,419
Bankers' deposits	58,331,534	− 490,702	+ 2,094,384
Other deposits	35,687,253	+ 303,815	+ 132,751
Seven-day bills	3,340	− 694	− 844
Total, outside liabilities	469,846,946	+ 3,396,092	− 3,515,508
Capital and rest	17,857,572	+ 70,020	− 35,032
Government debt and securities	290,380,270	+ 162,376	+ 8,460,051
Discounts and advances	7,098,791	+ 294,382	− 497,707
Other securities	28,269,713	+ 2,697,497	− 5,135,383
Silver coin in issue department	4,466,217	+ 2,737	− 366,411
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	157,489,527	+ 309,120	− 6,011,090
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	58,242,318	+ 5,064,178	− 4,954,710
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	52 11/16 %	+ 11/16 %	− 3 1/16 %
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	33 11/16 %	− 1/16 %	− 11/16 %

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£		%
Ap. 30	423,341,964	358,821,877	21,002,374	66,161,239	36,561,007	460,539 in	3½
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3½
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3½
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3½
28	417,185,525	356,131,548	13,241,450	58,963,730	35,906,848	316,679 out	3½
June 4	415,988,589	359,798,602	8,877,942	71,081,853	36,908,849	1,208,775 out	3½
11	416,261,457	364,002,267	8,238,879	58,822,236	35,383,438	269,124 in	3½
18	416,610,010	359,247,209	16,577,610	58,331,534	35,687,253	346,983 in	3½

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£ %	£	£	£	£ %
Apr. 30	243912989	11628274	164283793 34 1/16	59237629	6755228	9998830	65461916 52 11/16
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394 34 1/16	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696 54 11/16
14	243908931	11629179	163347877 34 1/16	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879 56
21	243910248	11629318	158443549 33 11/16	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487 54 11/16
28	243909976	11629071	158116699 34 1/16	45577629	6805493	11515774	61985151 57 1/16
June 4	243907347	11629215	156879085 32 1/16	58380547	6476057	12716840	57080483 48 11/16
11	243907347	11629173	157180407 33 11/16	46310547	6804409	13943043	53178140 51 11/16
18	243904723	11629060	157489527 33 11/16	46475547	7098791	16640653	58242318 52 11/16

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to June 4	17,379,635	810,615	1,314,979	19,505,229
Week ended June 11	651,227	30,063	53,930	735,220
Week ended June 18	755,946	33,668	56,515	846,129
Total to date, 1930	18,786,808	874,346	1,425,424	21,086,578
Total to date, 1929	18,718,392	897,289	1,453,779	21,069,460
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 68,416	− 22,943	− 28,355	+ 17,118
	= 0·4%	= 2·6%	= 1·9%	= 0·1%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807	+ 27,599	+ 39,342	+ 691,751
	= 1·6%	= 1·5%	= 1·3%	= 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of May. 1929.	Month of May. 1930.	Month of May. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals Jan. 1 to June 14. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals Jan. 1 to June 14. 1930.
Number of Working days	26	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,216,000	11,403,000	+ 11·6	63,524,000	60,394,100
BRADFORD	5,124,000	3,544,000	− 30·8	28,795,800	21,717,500
BRISTOL	4,808,000	5,098,000	+ 6·0	28,535,000	26,199,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	117,163,300	117,294,000
HULL	3,386,000	3,475,000	+ 2·6	20,930,900	19,269,500
LEEDS	4,245,000	4,294,000	+ 1·1	24,030,900	23,107,300
LEICESTER	3,070,000	2,973,000	− 3·1	19,149,500	17,270,000
LIVERPOOL	33,049,000	27,610,000	− 16·4	190,756,300	162,737,000
MANCHESTER	51,107,000	45,726,000	− 10·5	307,404,200	266,390,800
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,373,000	6,383,000	+ 0·1	34,744,000	34,627,400
NOTTINGHAM	2,536,000	2,492,000	− 0·7	15,213,800	14,360,300
SHEFFIELD	4,210,000	4,020,000	− 4·5	24,129,900	22,123,200
Total	128,124,000	117,018,000	− 8·6	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of the Bank of Danzig appeared in the *Economist* of May 24; Canada in June 7; Italy, Roumania, Greece, Poland, Denmark, and Lithuania in June 14.

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

RESOURCES.	June 21, 1929.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,880,300	3,057,310	3,060,580	3,079,500	3,067,200
Total bills discounted	959,100	247,050	239,730	210,480	206,790
Bills bought in open market	87,030	175,560	189,240	148,170	132,780
Total U.S. Govt. securities	139,460	529,770	543,830	578,710	597,650
Total bills and securities	1,198,760	958,780	978,650	943,210	942,570
Total resources	5,199,330	4,902,360	4,973,470	4,951,200	5,049,930
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,649,190	1,465,870	1,457,320	1,447,000	1,419,270
Deposits—Member bank—reserve account	2,291,770	2,346,800	2,411,730	2,408,800	2,408,360
Total deposits	2,368,670	2,420,850	2,464,520	2,463,200	2,464,630
Capital paid in and surplus	412,810	447,450	447,510	447,490	446,630
Total liabilities	5,199,330	4,902,360	4,973,470	4,951,200	5,049,930
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	75·8%	82·9%	82·2%	83·0%	83·3%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	June 21, 1929.	May 29, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
Total bills discounted	251,660	52,830	48,570	28,140	124,080
Bills bought in open market	11,960	47,320	74,650	40,750	35,670
Total U.S. Govt securities	15,540	179,050	182,880	200,530	211,470
Total bills and securities	284,970	283,600	309,950	273,260	274,570
Deposits — Member bank — reserve account	928,020	990,890	999,540	1,005,500	997,220
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	81·1%	84·8%	81·8%	85·7%	85·9%

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

ASSETS.	May 23, 1929.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930	May 23, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	7,961	7,529	7,512	7,090	6,935	6,866
Subsidiary coin	112	128	131	154	163	165
Bills discounted	8,606	7,884	8,220	7,934	7,923	7,955
Investments	616	1,104	1,104	1,109	1,110	1,111
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve fund	600	600	600	719	720	720
Notes in circulation	8,243	7,726	8,946	8,048	7,565	7,429
Ratio of cash to liabilities to [illegible]	2,250	2,462	1,499	1,547	2,113	2,256
Balances with reserves to public	4,925	4,739	5,270	4,789	5,309	4,955
	49·5%	49·6%	47·9%	48·4%	46·5%	46·5%

IMPERIAL [illegible]ARY [illegible]AL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS. [illegible]ith	May 24, 1929.	Apr. 25. 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.	May 23, 1930.
Total securities [illegible]was	23,57,65	29,78,46	29,81,46	29,69,74	29,58,41	29,54,65
Loans [illegible]	10,97,91	12,46,27	12,97,61	13,42,04	13,61,73	13,88,47
Cash credits [illegible] ag[illegible]	29,45,06	32,08,72	32,20,38	32,72,23	32,10,01	32,30,62
Inland bills [illegible] cor[illegible]	7,16,14	5,97,21	5,45,12	4,92,91	4,98,86	4,58,20
Foreign bills [illegible] ain[illegible]	33,80	56,09	58,48	52,64	48,61	51,77
Dead stock [illegible]	2,85,40	2,81,39	2,81,32	2,81,60	2,81,85	2,82,22
Bal. with other ban[illegible]he	24,30	17,65	10,26	5,66	35,16	37,87
Cash [illegible]	16,24,75	16,17,03	15,79,91	13,29,17	15,44,16	14,28,91
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up [illegible] ks	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve [illegible]	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits [illegible] Adv[illegible]	79,18,34	86,54,94	86,37,99	84,07,07	85,99,28	84,87,29
The above includes[illegible] A[illegible]						
Deposits in Londo[illegible]						
Advances in Londo[illegible]						
Cash, &c., at othe[illegible]	£	£	£	£	£	£
Banks in London [illegible]	1,043	1,100	1,000	942	1,074	1,090
De[illegible]	980	2,275	2,279	2,202	2,138	2,124
BANK [illegible]	182	132	69	44	264	273

[illegible] OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 14, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 30, 1930.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
Gold	36,609,919	43,802,414	43,808,866	43,817,560	43,899,986
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,439,795	6,878,890	6,872,940	6,878,201	6,864,153
Bills discounted	18,531,259	18,676,583	18,696,344	18,683,501	18,683,760
Commercial bills discounted at home					
Advances against sec.					
To the State	6,274,965	8,774,418	7,611,582	4,923,900	...
Other advances					
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	8,968,689	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
LIABILITIES.	2,415,007	2,621,153	2,540,751	2,720,394	2,734,344
Notes in circulation	3,200,650	2,696,580	2,713,879	3,008,668	...
Public deposits					
Private deposits	70,140,820	70,907,040	73,078,814	72,558,993	71,936,033
Other liabilities	716,192	4,853,860	5,363,093	4,952,042	5,450,835
	028,098	13,579,726	9,688,320	8,214,780	8,279,835
	555,174	2,704,270	2,708,993	2,901,267	...

THE REICHSB[illegible]NK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 31, 1930.	June 6, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued				
Gold and bullion	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Of which deposited abroad	1,764,382	2,591,135	2,618,781	2,618,787
Reserve in foreign currencies [illegible]ed	59,147	149,788	149,788	149,788
Bills of exchange and cheques	318,515	350,844	379,754	422,206
Silver and other coin	2,632,411	1,958,223	1,803,516	1,543,825
Notes of other German banks	134,949	128,610	131,321	151,998
Advances	16,277	4,132	12,172	17,014
Investments	125,808	187,748	67,113	50,064
Other assets	92,891	101,067	101,046	101,026
LIABILITIES.	471,503	596,393	612,753	619,951
Reduced capital				
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Reserve	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Notes in circulation	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Other daily maturing obligations	4,191,840	4,812,469	4,572,744	4,278,808
Other liabilities	602,637	401,086	448,833	537,365
	319,863	210,670	210,952	219,771

* Equal to one billion paper mar[illegible]
The gold reserve is calculated in[illegible]
pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reic[illegible]

[illegible]rks or one Rentenmark.
[illegible] accordance with the new legal prescription of one [illegible]hsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	June 13, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 12, 1930.
Gold	(b)	998,545	1,199,790	1,199,765	1,199,846	1,200,292
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	459,784	672,925	672,455	706,540	714,840
Silver and other coin		1,654	4,060	4,091	4,110	4,112
Securities	697,600	733,050	829,883	830,211	803,892	785,410
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,474,129	2,874,990	2,909,367	2,922,749	2,919,512
Current accounts	112,125	105,256	150,283	126,459	93,634	125,807

(b) In thousand francs.

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	June 10, 1929.	May 19, 1930.	May 26, 1930.	June 2, 1930.	June 10, 1930.
Gold	163,092	436,893	431,916	431,912	431,936	431,931
Silver	8,436	21,189	26,458	26,824	26,626	25,593
Home Bills discted.	153,504	75,123	52,177	52,407	52,422	52,386
Foreign Bills		171,601	236,722	236,194	237,394	237,432
Loans and advances in current acct.		103,063	91,943	91,181	95,797	91,857
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	804,013	816,062	804,242	846,860	817,164
Deposits	5,016	14,703	42,224	54,240	25,003	44,757

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	June 15, 1929.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Gold	22,971	161,619	166,400	166,300	166,700	163,500
Silver	29,785	21,757				
Discounts, advances, and other investments	77,567	149,710	147,100	147,500	141,400	147,500
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	308,632	272,200	272,700	276,400	279,300
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	39,647	50,000	49,400	49,600	47,400

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Gold	171,175	496,137	578,815	578,831	578,834	578,869
Foreign Bills and Balances abroad	—	258,092	373,379	376,002	367,066	365,927
Discounts		116,956	35,944	35,369	36,509	36,673
Advances	103,000	57,761	44,480	44,402	43,669	41,216
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	275,925	815,037	841,685	907,924	876,626	849,271
Deposits	33,750	140,715	223,888	169,270	185,297	219,085

BANK OF SWEDEN.—In kronor (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Gold	233,909	243,200	243,114	242,998	242,944
Government securities—Swedish	6,052	21,725	21,665	21,533	21,305
Foreign	75,705	62,312	62,312	62,312	62,312
Other Swedish bonds quoted on foreign bourses	164	113	113	113	113
Bills payable in Sweden†	263,317	88,613	84,555	98,118	88,079
" " abroad	63,068	125,920	117,346	111,174	108,024
Balance abroad	47,107	170,290	178,752	185,833	189,089
Advances made on government securities and bonds†	61,150	37,955	57,559	49,223	41,585
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	500,520	497,127	556,959	534,285	525,317
Government deposits	205,299	165,246	172,740	174,066	173,779
Private deposits	6,737	33,115	4,602	10,884	7,885

† The sum of the items "Bills payable in Sweden" and "Advances made on Government Securities and Bonds" excludes advances and cash credits which are *not* available as cover for the note issue.

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	June 7, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 27, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,791	146,593	146,590	146,576
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	43,620	36,398	41,092	41,595
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,393	36,230	36,230	36,230
Discounts and loans	76,911	269,566	226,748	231,670	223,970
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	302,993	299,277	307,793	303,993
Deposits at sight	7,188	104,352	84,468	82,541	82,333

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	June 15, 1929.	May 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,561,039	2,470,389	2,470,575	2,470,810	2,470,894
Silver	728,600	719,653	717,642	718,312	715,231	716,317
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,034,002	1,956,136	2,012,143	2,012,782	1,979,072
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,279,828	4,382,630	4,391,123	4,444,652	4,403,045
Deposits	477,500	956,757	842,206	841,708	828,028	805,448

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

ASSETS.	June 5, 1929.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,696	9,042	9,014	8,996	8,963
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	304,159	223,631	217,119	218,011	223,411
Discounts	280,387	327,452	323,415	323,429	317,140
Government loans	1,722,362	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,860,430	1,878,653	1,862,107	1,861,281	1,893,763
Deposits	49,012	65,365	73,312	101,467	70,483

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,575	168,557	168,557	168,549
Foreign exchange	194,712	231,223	235,103	257,702	253,930
Other foreign exchange†	342,700	364,803	368,981	393,765	389,461
Bills discounted	212,963	102,622	87,796	132,675	112,879
Gov. Debt	109,714	101,532	101,532	101,532	101,487
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	10,272	10,272	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	942,048	873,904	845,418	1,021,864	961,830
Deposits	89,860	101,798	123,941	39,137	70,986

† In dollar and sterling only.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF LONDON CLEARING BANKS.

(000's omitted.)

Average Weekly Balances. MAY, 1930.	Barclays Bank, Limited.	Coutts and Co.	Glyn, Mills and Co.	Lloyds Bank, Limited.	Martins Bank, Limited.	Midland Bank, Limited.	National Bank, Limited.	National Provincial Bank, Limited.	Westminster Bank, Limited.	Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.	Aggregate.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coin, bank and currency notes and balances with the Bank of England	35,195	1,598	2,898	35,758	7,868	41,445	3,270	29,496	29,015	3,239	189,782
Balances with and cheques in course of collection on other banks in the United Kingdom	8,883	620	1,030	7,644	2,267	12,031	139	7,470	8,812	955	49,851
Items in transit	...	...	...	2,175	877	...	...	...	...	...	3,052
Money at call and short notice	26,385	2,493	3,734	30,807	5,775	20,485	4,003	18,404	24,623	2,637	139,346
Bills discounted	51,026	966	1,014	39,114	3,610	58,527	1,928	36,388	54,504	951	248,028
Investments	52,717	3,923	6,449	39,037	17,006	34,882	15,336	33,150	38,001	6,147	246,648
Advances to customers and other accounts	169,336	10,660	14,126	195,087	42,250	214,587	16,531	151,410	139,904	18,479	972,370
Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c.	19,707	525	2,621	45,302	6,061	30,522	21	15,198	23,236	935	144,128
Bank premises account	5,837	372	695	7,190	2,298	10,543	788	6,239	5,233	985	40,180
Investments in affiliated banks	7,274	...	...	6,687	...	7,122	...	2,514	2,992	...	26,589
	376,360	21,157	32,567	408,801	88,012	430,144	42,016	300,269	326,320	34,328	2,059,974
Ratio of cash to current, deposit and other accounts	10·64	8·57	10·29	10·58	10·59	11·14	8·68	11·08	10·20	10·61	10·66
LIABILITIES.											
Capital paid up	15,858	1,000	1,060	15,810	4,160	13,892	1,500	9,479	9,320	1,875	73,954
Reserve fund	10,250	1,000	530	10,000	3,508	13,892	1,455	9,479	9,320	1,000	60,434
Current, deposit and other accounts	330,545	18,632	28,142	337,683	74,267	371,838	37,668	266,113	284,428	30,518	1,779,834
Acceptances, endorsements, &c.	19,707	525	2,621	45,302	6,061	30,522	21	15,198	23,236	935	144,128
Notes in circulation	...	...	...	6	16	...	1,372	...	16	...	1,410
Reduction of bank premises account	...	...	214	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
	376,360	21,157	32,567	408,801	88,012	430,144	42,016	300,269	326,320	34,328	2,059,974

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengo (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Metal reserve—	176,524	162,631	162,632	162,633	162,633
Gold coin and bullion	15,620	10,566	12,227	18,805	21,773
Drafts and notes	9,656	10,094	10,317	9,905	9,757
Silver coin and bullion	363,857	201,771	198,389	219,584	206,187
Inland bills, warrants and securities	92,180	82,831	82,831	82,831	82,797
Advances to the Treasury					
LIABILITIES.	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	414,734	397,458	368,051	440,940	407,006
Notes in circulation	200,504	49,475	76,061	30,895	54,120
Current accounts, deposits, &c.					

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,233	1,262,234	1,296,095	1,312,688	1,312,923
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,729,502	1,888,882	1,987,199	2,052,341	2,065,789
Discounts and advances	624,935	354,789	318,860	318,934	309,480
State notes debt balance	3,994,927	3,673,858	3,671,197	3,666,385	3,659,182
Other assets	724,512	673,135	677,614	778,951	764,107
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,876,603	6,167,047	6,073,892	6,895,514	6,565,894
Check account balances	684,998	941,975	1,126,218	490,840	801,589
Other liabilities	245,914	235,488	242,467	234,557	235,610

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 8, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 22, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 8, 1930.
Gold	92,817	96,838	96,917	97,019	97,133
Other coin and notes	18,712	18,570	18,717	18,022	18,312
Foreign credits	224,948	231,352	252,229	251,659	278,669
Bills	1,226,243	1,095,299	1,093,883	1,067,716	1,101,709
Government advances	4,201,096	4,119,398	4,117,498	4,113,407	4,092,441
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,161,820	5,143,438	5,866,342	5,280,705	5,272,303
State credits	227,827	1,816,277	1,946,612	1,658,176	1,658,684
Deposits	950,290				

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,533,805	1,579,051	1,580,208	1,581,367	1,583,129
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	2,013,429	759,720	805,802	857,689	934,246
Discounts and advances	1,522,257	1,078,896	1,005,275	982,888	969,522
Advances to the Treasury	3,625,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,172,514	1,253,600	1,253,624	1,253,724	1,253,362
Bank notes in circulation	4,007,763	3,395,457	3,409,092	3,364,123	3,501,957
Sight liabilities	2,723,640	1,600,611	1,576,959	1,705,562	1,577,060
Deposits	455,939	309,048	308,852	288,427	288,262

RUSSIAN STATE BANK.—Note-Issuing Department.

(In Tchervonetz—000's omitted.) (NOTE: 1 Tchervonetz = 10 gold roubles.)

ASSETS.	June 17, 1929.	May 1, 1930.	May 15, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 16, 1930.
Gold in coin and bullion	18,098	32,454	32,451	34,470	36,462
Other precious metals	4,233	2,823	2,786	2,734	2,578
Foreign bank notes	8,982	6,098	6,007	5,566	5,554
Drafts in sterling (less 10%)	280	303	295	298	298
Bills and Securities (less 10%)	89,406	123,322	123,391	127,932	133,109
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes	119,730	164,629	164,943	170,087	177,426
Balance to which notes may still be issued	1,270	371	57	913	574

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	June 8, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold	35,091	300,801	302,952	302,824	302,516
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	578,268	1,144,527	1,170,595	1,206,912
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,707	342,942	351,441	347,556
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,523,770	921,292	903,292	868,490
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,478,610	1,333,860	1,391,667	1,388,006
Deposits at notice	21,225	155,266	246,772	221,879	222,27

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 7, 1929.	May 15, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,301	6,486	6,493	6,500	6,503
Net foreign exchange	18,875	17,161	17,117	16,918	15,943
Subsidiary Estonian coin	791	1,721	1,553	1,606	1,717
Home bills discounted	14,089	14,720	14,502	14,620	14,451
Loans and advances	13,034	11,749	11,746	12,008	11,724*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	30,913	29,950	31,645	30,812	29,904
Sight deposits and current accounts	17,392	17,645	14,537	15,503	16,441
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·11%	49·68%	51·12%	50·56%	48·43%

* Includes Ekr. 7,137,837·75, guaranteed by the Government.

BANK OF LATVIA.—In lats (gold francs) (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 12, 1929.	May 14, 1930.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
Gold bullion and coins	23,850	23,995	23,997	24,001	24,005	24,013
Silver coin	4,930	7,265	7,389	7,371	7,405	7,319
Balance abroad	48,966	50,756	50,338	49,085	48,941	48,152
Treas. notes and sm. change	15,274	16,457	16,917	15,420	15,200	15,046
Short term bills	88,184	90,244	89,939	89,290	89,952	89,450
Loans against securities	58,885	55,421	56,017	56,283	56,054	55,183
Other assets	17,835	14,337	14,372	14,701	14,916	14,990
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	42,552	44,364	44,083	45,078	44,689	44,851
Capital paid up	15,581	18,734	18,735	18,735	18,735	18,735
Reserve	3,091	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352	4,352
Special reserve	2,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Deposits	13,048	17,123	17,194	17,225	17,362	17,527
Current accounts	55,388	57,228	58,464	59,605	57,172	59,388
Government accounts	108,455	108,456	103,801	100,603	103,782	100,306
Other liabilities	17,306	4,718	8,838	7,053	6,881	5,493

BANK OF JAPAN.—In yen (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, June 30, 1914	June 1, 1929.	May 10, 1930.	May 17, 1930.	May. 24, 1930.	May 31, 1930.
Cash & bullion	221,320	1,129.198	929,936	932,757	924.612	924,612
Discounts.....	41,740	709.272	659,647	655,407	657,276	668,932
Advances	70,540	79,128	76,323	76,019	76,078	91,718
LIABILITIES.						
Notes	362.270	1,298.904	1,067,867	1,032,373	1,075,275	1,186,259
Govt. deposits	87,340	491.700	423.378	427,709	414,880	528,226
Other deposits	11,440	371,309	368.000	385,139	352,306	222,555

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.—In £E (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	Apr. 30, 1929.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.	Apr. 30, 1930.
Gold	1,571	3,621	3,828	3,835	3,847	1.852
Govt. securities ...	2,084	47,095	44,297	43,875	43,386	42,722
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	2,400	26,813	25,726	25,470	25,301	25,178
Govt. deposits ...	2,315	20,233	19,883	20,126	17,397	15.091
Other deposits ...	2,600	16,990	16,785	16,470	16,804	16,546

By authority of the Egyptian Government British Treasury Bills were deposited in lieu of gold.

CENTRAL BANK OF CHILE.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 17, 1929.	Apr. 25, 1930.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.
Gold at home	61.305	83,236	63.233	63,239	63.236
Gold abroad.....	466.714	197,386	331.817	338,726	363,218
Discounts and advances.....	69,994	109,256	125,361	112,730	87,217
LIABILITIES.					
Notes of the bank in circulation	369,867	345,571	354.021	349,160	338.313
Deposits	154,849	80,675	80,492	80,734	89,582
Paid-up capital	90.625	90,832	90.832	90.832	90,832

LONDON RATES.

	Jne. 12, 1930.	Jne. 13. 1930.	Jne. 14, 1930.	Jne. 16, 1930.	Jne. 17, 1930.	Jne. 18, 1930.	Jne. 19, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2⅛	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 7/16	2⅛	£2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½
3 months' do.	2⅛—1/16	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½	2⅛	2 7/16—½	2 7/16—½
4 months' do.	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛—1/16
6 months' do.	2⅜	2⅜—⅜	2⅜	2⅜—⅜	2⅜—⅜	2⅜—⅜	2⅜—⅜
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2⅛—1/16	2⅜—⅛	2⅜—⅛	2⅜—⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
3 months'†	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Loans—Day to day.....	2½—3	1½—2	1½—2	2—2½	2—2½	2	2
Short.....	2	2—2½	2—2½	2—2½	2	2	2
Deposit allowances: Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
May 29	2	2⅛—⅛	2⅛	2 1/16—⅛	3	3½	4
June 5	1½—2	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	3	3½	4
12	2	2⅛—⅛	2⅜	2⅛	3—½	3½—½	3½—4
19	2	2 1/16—½	2⅛—⅛	2⅛—⅛	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	June 20, 1929.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅛	4·84 27/32—84 29/32	4·85 1/32—85/32	4·85 29/32—85 1/32
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86⅛	4·88 5/32—88 7/32	4·85 1/32—85/32	4·85 1/32—85 1/32
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	123·98-124·01	123·80—82	123·75—·77
Berlin.....	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·32½—·33	20·35/32—36/32	20·36/32—·37
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07 1/32—·07 3/32	12·08—·08 1/32	12·08 1/32—·08 3/32
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·92½—93½	34·81 1/32—81 3/32	34·82½—·83
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·68—·70	92·73—·75	92·73—·75
Zurich.....	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·19 1/32—20 1/32	25·07—·07 1/32	25·09—·09 1/32
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19 1/32—·20	18·15—·15 1/32	18·14 1/32—·15 1/32
Stockholm	kronor to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·09—·09 1/32	18·09 1/32—·09 3/32	18·08 1/32—·09 1/32
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20 1/32—·21	18·15 1/32—·15 3/32	18·15 1/32—·16
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T	25·22½	34·25—·27	41·18—·22	41·12—·17
Lisbon.....	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108—108½	108 1/32—⅛	108 1/32—⅛
Vienna	schligs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·49—·52	34·43—·46	34·41—·44
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163 3/32—163/32	163 1/32—⅛	163 1/32—⅛
Belgrade.....	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275 3/32—276	274 1/32—275	274 1/32—275 1/32
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81—·84	27·77—·81	27·76—·79
Bukarest.....	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	817—818	817—819	817—819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668-673	665-675	665-675
Athens	drachmas to £1	T.T.	375	374 3/32—375	374 3/32—375 1/32	374 3/32—375 1/32
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1005-1010	1025 offd.	12025
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·41 1/32—43 1/32	†9·43 1/32—·453	†9·432-·451
Warsaw	sloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43 1/32—⅛	43 1/32—⅛	43 1/32—⅛
Helsingfors.....	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192 3/32—193	192 3/32—193	192 3/32—193
Kovno	lite to £1	T.T.	48·66	48 1/32—49 1/32	48 1/32—49	48 1/32—49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16 1/32—23 1/32	18·22—·29	18·22—·29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15—·25	25·17—·27	25·15—·25
Alexandria.....	piastres to £1	Sight	97⅛	97 15/32—⅜	97 1/16—⅛	97 1/16—⅛
Buenos Aires .	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 1/16—47 1/16	41 15/16—42 1/16	41 15/16—⅞
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 23/32—⅞	5 11/32—⅜	5 11/32—⅜
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47⅛—48	44 1/32—44 3/32	44 1/32—3/32
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·57	39·91 1/32	39·92
Lima.....	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19 1/32 prem.	13·02 1/32	13·27 1/32
Calcutta	pence	T.T.		1/5 31/32-1/5 33/32	1/5 31/32—⅜	1/5 31/32—⅜
Bombay	to	T.T.	18	1/5 31/32-1/5 33/32	1/5 31/32—⅜	1/5 31/32—⅜
Madras	rupee	T.T.		1/5 31/32-1/5 33/32	1/5 31/32—⅜	1/5 31/32—⅜
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11 15/16—2/0	1/32—1/32	1/32—1/32
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/4 15/16—2/5 1/16	1/63-1/63	1/6-1/6 1/32
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 15/16—⅜	2/3 31/32—⅜	2/3 31/32—⅜
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/9 31/32-1/9 33/32	2/0 15/16—⅜	2/0 31/32—⅜
Manila	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 3/16d.	†2/0 15/16—⅜	†2/0 15/16—⅜
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·05-10·25	10·15—·35	10·15—·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅛	1/10⅛	1/10⅛

† Rate for previous day. ‡ 90 days sight.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam.....	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3
Athens.....	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½
Belgrade	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Berlin.....	May 19, 1930	5	4½
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3
Bucharest.....	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9
Budapest.....	May 28, 1930	6	5½
Calcutta.....	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6
Copenhagen.....	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Danzig.....	May 1, 1930	5½	5
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½
Kovno...	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6
Lisbon.....	July 28, 1926	9	8
New York Federal Reserve....	June 19, 1930	3	2½
Madrid.....	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½
Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Paris.....	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Prague	Mar. 8, 1927	5½	5
Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Stockholm..	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Swiss Bank places.....	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Tokio.....	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Vienna	May 23, 1930	6	5½
Warsaw.....	June 13, 1930	7	6½
Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.
† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	June 20, 1929.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.	June 18, 1930.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call money	7	3	3	3	3	2½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Bank acceptances:—	Selling Rates.					
Members—eligible, 90 days.....	5⅝	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Non-mem. eligible, 90 days ...	5⅝	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½
Ineligible, 90 days.....	6⅛	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Commercial accept., 90 days.....	5⅜	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	June 20, 1929.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.	June 18, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·79 3/32	4·83 1/32	4·83 3/32	4·83 1/32
Cable			4·84 15/16	4·85 1/32	4·85 3/32	4·85 1/32
Cheques.....			4·84 1/32	4·85 1/32	4·85 1/32	4·85 1/32
Paris .....cheques	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90875	3·91 15/16	3·92 3/32	3·92 1/32
Brussels..... ,,	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·88	13·94 1/32	13·94 1/32	13·94
Switzerland ... ,,	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·23	19·35 1/32	19·37 1/32	19·36
Italy ..... ,,	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·22 1/32	5·23 1/32	5·23 1/32	5·23 1/32
Berlin ..... ,,	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·84	23·85	23·84 1/32	23·85 1/32
Vienna..... ,,	Cts.for Austrn.shig	14·07	14·04	14·10	14·09 1/32	14·10 1/32
Madrid ..... ,,	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	13·95	12·125	11·93	11·72
Amsterdam..... ,,	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12 1/32	40·19 1/32	40·18 1/32	40·17
Copenhagen ... ,,	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·74 1/32	26·74 1/32	26·74 1/32
Oslo ..... ,,			26·63	26·75	26·75	26·75
Stockholm..... ,,			26·79	26·82 1/32	26·83	26·84 1/32
Athens..... ,,	Centsfor1drachma	1·297	1·29 1/32	1·29 1/32	1·29 15/16	1·29 31/32
Montreal ..... ,,	Can. Cents for $1	100	1/16 dis.	3/32 dis.	11/32 dis.	par
Yokohama..... ,,	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	43·95	49·40	49·40	49·45
Hong Kong ... ,,	Cents for H.Kong$	...	47·95	30·80	31·60	31·15
Shanghai ..... ,,	Cts.for 1 Shng.tael	...	58·15	36·50	38·62 1/32	37·00
Calcutta ..... ,,	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	35·95	35·90	35·90	35·95
Buenos Aires... ,,	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	105·25	115·70	116·70	119
Rio de Janeiro ,,	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·25	11·70	11·50	11·35
Valparaiso..... ,,	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·05	12·00	12·02	12·02

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange :—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	26·00
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·95
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates :—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Selling.
T.T.	...	1/16 dis.	par to 1/16 pm.	1/16 prem.
Demand	1 1/16 dis.	1/8 ,,	1/16 dis.	1/32 to 1/16 ,,
30 days.....	1 3/16 ,,	1/16 ,,	3/32 ,,	1/16 ,,
60 days.....	2 1/16 ,,	3/16 ,,	1 1/16 ,,	1/16 ,,
90 days.....	3 1/16 ,,	1/4 ,,	1 3/16 ,,	1/16 ,,
20 days.....	3 1/16 ,,	1 3/16 ,,	2 1/16 ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. New Zealand.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93 1/32	95 1/32	...	...	106 1/32	105
Demand	92 1/32	93 1/32	93 1/32	95	105 1/32	103 1/32	106 1/32	104 1/32
30 days	92 1/32	93 1/32	...	...	104 1/32	103	105 1/32	104
60 days	91 1/32	92 1/32	...	...	104 1/32	102 1/32	105 1/32	103 1/32
90 days	90 1/32	92 1/32	...	...	103 1/32	102	104 1/32	103 1/32

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended June 19, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise :—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£
From—	
France	9,506
Brazil.....	52,765
British South Africa	668,887
Other countries	1,016
Total declared value of imports.....	732,174

Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
To—	
Poland	1,700
Germany.....	27,744
Netherlands	766
France.....	221,559
Switzerland	10,300
Austria	7,375
Egypt	17,000
British India	33,334
Other countries	1,690
Total declared value of exports	321,468

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows :—

1930. ARRIVALS.	£
June 13	Nil
June 14	Nil
June 16	Nil
June 17	12
June 18 Bars bought	
June 19 Sovs. released from set aside	250,000
Total	£250,012

WITHDRAWALS.	£
June 13 Bars sold	23,791
June 14 Bars sold	3,495
June 16 Sovs. set aside	20,833
June 17 Bars sold	3,493
June 18	Nil
June 19	Nil
Total	£51,612

Net arrivals, £198,400.

Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Company write on June 18, 1930, as follows :—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £155,988,589 on the 11th instant (as compared with £156,261,457 on the previous Wednesday) and represents an increase of £10,301,373 since January 1st last. £668,000 of bar gold from South Africa was available in the open market yesterday. In view of the lowering of the gold export point to France occasioned by the events of last week, there was again a keen demand from French buyers, who secured £605,000 at the fixed price of 85s. per fine ounce. Home and Continental trade requirements absorbed £38,000 and India £25,000.

There was only a small withdrawal of gold from the Bank of England for France. The exchange being slightly more favourable to this country, further withdrawals were impracticable in view of the cost of refining standard gold to a fineness acceptable to the Bank of France.

Movements of gold at the Bank of England during the week resulted in a net influx of £346,983. Receipts consisted of £500,000 in sovereign "released," and withdrawals included £101,000 in bar gold for France and 20,833 sovereigns "set aside." With reference to our remarks last week concerning the change in the Bank of England's practice regarding the fineness of gold bars which it sells, we would point out that the Bank is not necessarily limited even to standard fineness, as the Gold Standard Act of 1925 makes no restrictions on the delivery of bars of lower quality. The Bank of England from time to time buys gold of lower than standard quality, particularly foreign gold coin of 900/1,000ths fine, and there is no legal reason to prevent its delivering bars melted from such coin should it desire to do so.

SILVER.

The recovery seen in prices last week was short lived and the market has since shown renewed weakness. The fall was due in large measure to an absence of support, although sharp declines in rates in China and India were reflected by further selling from these quarters. From 16 5/16d. and 16d. for cash and two months' delivery, quoted on the 12th instant, quotations moved quickly downwards until yet another low record was established when 15 11/16d. and 15 7/16d. were fixed on the 16th instant. Bear covering attracted by the low prices and a little Indian buying for shipment helped in a small recovery yesterday, quotations reacting to 15 11/16d. and 15 5/8d., but to-day, in the absence of further buying, were fixed ⅛d. lower at 15 11/16d. and 15½d.

America has both bought and sold moderately during the week. The demand for silver has been mostly for near delivery either to cover bear sales or for early shipment. This has served to maintain the premium on cash, which was ⅛d. on the 14th and 16th instant, and 3/16d. for the remainder of the week.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 7th instant to mid-day on the 16th instant :—

IMPORTS.	£
U.S.A.	14,419
Other countries	11,030
	£25,449

EXPORTS.	£
British India	97,470
Other countries	4,745
	£102,215

INDIAN CURRENCY RETURNS (in lacs of rupees).

	June 7.	May 31.	May 22.
Notes in circulation	16,749	16,778	17,065
Silver coin and bullion in India	11,024	11,053	11,043
Silver coin and bullion out of India...	...	...	...
Gold coin and bullion in India	3,228	3,228	3,228
Gold coin and bullion out of India ...	...	...	...
Securities (Indian Government)	2,436	2,436	2,750
Securities (British Government)	61	61	44

The stocks in Shanghai on the 14th instant consisted of about 102,000,000 ounces in sycee, 148,000,000 dollars, 12,700,000 Saigon dollars and 10,840 silver bars, as compared with about 100,900,000 ounces in sycee, 146,000,000 dollars, 13,700,000 Saigon dollars and 11,320 silver bars on the 7th instant.

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver— Per Ounce. Cash	Silver— Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
June 13.....	84 11 1/2	16 3/16	16	June 20, 1924	34 13/16
,, 14.....	84 11 3/4	15 5/8	16	,, 19, 1925	31 11/16
,, 16.....	84 11 3/4	15 11/16	15 7/16	,, 18, 1926	30 7/16
,, 17.....	85 0	15 13/16	15 5/8	,, 17, 1927	26 1/2
,, 18.....	85 0	15 11/16	15 1/2	,, 14, 1928	27 7/16
,, 19.....	85 0	15 11/16	15 11/16	,, 13, 1929	24 5/16

NOTICES.

Owing to the appointment of Major Patrick Campbell Anderson as a director of Messrs M. Samuel and Co., Ltd., Mr Frank M. Hindle, until now manager of the Anglo-Czechoslovakian Bank, Prague, has been nominated as European representative of the Commercial National Bank and Trust Company of New York.

The Westminster Bank announce the opening, on June 16th, of a new branch at 188, High Street, Ryde, I.O.W.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at Goitre Villa, Killay.

Martins Bank, Ltd., have opened a new branch office at 32, Lowndes Street, London, S.W. 1.

The Midland Bank announces the opening of new branches at 73, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1, and at 160, Kenton Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

Company News.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
RAILWAYS.				%	%
Bengal and North Western	9%*	July 28	Less tax, 2/6 in £.	...	...
Rohilkund and Kumaon	7%*	July 28	Less tax, 2/6 in £.	...	...
BANKS.					
Bank of Adelaide	4%†	...	...	9	10
Barclays Bank (Dom., Col. and Overseas) A. and B.	2½%*	July 17	Less tax	...	...
Imperial Bank of Persia	7/- p.s.†	plus bon	us of 2/ p.s.	13/ p.s.	11/p.s.
Koloniale Bank of Amsterdam...	...	...	...	10	15
INSURANCE.					
Associated Reinsurers	7½%†	...	...	12½	12½
Eagle Star and British Doms.	5%	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Victory Insurance	...	...	...	...	...
TEA AND RUBBER.					
Badek Rubber Estate	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Bamgaon Tea	20%†	July 10	Less tax	25	...
Borhat Tea.....	...	...	...	4	10
Chokidinghi Tea	...	...	Less tax	5	...
Chota Rubber	...	...	...	7½	5
Deamoolie Tea	30%†	...	Less tax	40	50
Dhendai Tea	17½%†	...	...	25	32½
Eastern Assam Tea	20%†	July 5	Less tax	30	40
Ghoir Allie Tea	...	...	Less tax	10	25
Holyrood Rubber	...	...	...	7½	5
Hunwal Tea	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	17½
Jorehaut Tea	15%†	...	Less tax	20	27½
Khota Tampan Rubber	...	...	...	Nil	2½
Madingley (Malay) Rubber	...	...	...	4	4
Makum (Assam) Tea	12%†	...	Tax free	22	22
Merliman Pegoh	5%†	...	Less tax	10	...
Nedeem Tea.....	...	...	Less tax	10	10
North Hummock (Selangor) Rubber.....	3%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Rajmai Tea	30%†	...	...	67½	75
Rungajaun Tea	2½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Rupai Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	30	40
Scottish Assam Tea	...	...	...	10	20
Shakomato Tea Estates.....	5%†	...	Less tax	5	10
Singlo Tea	...	...	...	17½	30
Straits Plantations.....	10%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Tanah Datar Rubber.....	...	...	...	5	5
Teekoy Rubber	...	...	...	3	6
United Planters of Ceylon.....	7%†	July 1	Less tax	10	...
Yam Seng Rubber	...	...	...	10	15
MINING.					
Bullcroft Main Collieries	9d. p.s.†	...	...	...	...
Cam & Motor Gold Mining (1919)	10%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Clydesdale (Transvaal) Collieries	8½%†	...	...	...	...
Consolidated Main Reef	3½%	...	...	...	...
Crown Diamond Mining.....	2½%†	Aug. 18	...	10	Nil
Crown Mines	32½%	...	...	...	...
Durban Roodepoort Deep.....	2½%	...	...	...	...
Geldenhuis Deep.....	3½%	...	...	...	...
Gopeng Consolidated	9d. p.s.*	July 7	Less tax	...	...
Govt. Gold Mining Areas.....	45%	...	...	...	...
Johannesburg Consolidated	1/6 p.s.	...	Less tax	...	...
Langlaagte Estate	10%	...	...	...	...
Modderfontein "B"	40%	...	...	...	...
Modderfontein East	10%	...	...	...	...

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. — Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. — Latest Year.	Previous Year.
Natal Navigation Collieries	3¾%†	...	...	7½	8¾
New Consort Gold Mines	7½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
New Modderfontein	67½%	...	...	...	...
New State Areas	7½%	...	...	...	...
Nourse Mines	2½%	...	...	...	...
Poderosa Mining	5%†	...	Less tax	10	5
Rand Mines	50%	...	...	...	...
Rezende Mines	12½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Robinson Deep	1/6 p.s.*	Aug. 1	...	...	...
Rose Deep	2½%	...	...	...	...
South African Coal Estates	2½%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Sherwood Starr Gold Mining	15%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Sub Nigel	20%†	Aug. 1	...	...	...
Van Ryn Deep	15%	...	...	...	...
West Canadian Collieries	2½%†	...	...	5	6¼
Willoughby's Consolidated	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	5
Witwatersrand Gold Mining	5%	...	...	...	...
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Aberthaw & Bristol Channel Portland Cement	5%†	...	Less tax	8¾	8¾
Albert Baker and Co.	10%†	...	...	12½	12½
Anthony Hordern and Sons	...	...	...	7	...
Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields	15%*	July 16	Less tax 2/5·054d. in £.	...	...
Associated Bakeries	4½%†	...	Less tax	8	7½
Associated Telephone and Telegraph	$1 p.s.	...	...	...	...
British Borneo Petroleum	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	12½
British Empire Trust (Def.)	5%†	...	...	9	9
British Industrial Corporation	...	...	...	Nil	4
Butterley Company	4%†	...	Tax free	5	2½
Ceylon Estates Investment Assn.	17½%†	...	Less tax	27½	35
Cork Manufacturing	7½%†	...	Less tax	10	7
Cranston's Hotels	...	...	...	25	25
Debenture Corporation	4%*	June 30	...	...	...
Delhi Electric Supply & Traction	8%†	...	...	12	12
Dominion & General Trust	6%†	...	...	9	9
East Kent Gas	...	...	Less tax	4½	4½
East Kilbride Dairy Farmers (Def.)	7½%†	...	Less tax	12½	7½
Edgar Allen and Co.	...	...	Less tax	6d.p.s.	6d.p.s.
E. Pollard and Co.	6d. p.s.	...	Less tax	...	...
General Electric	...	...	Less tax	14	10
General Tobacco Co.	...	...	Less tax	6	...
Glamorgan Wagon	2½%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Globe Telegraph & Trust	5/- p.s.	...	...	10	10
Goldsbrough Mort.	10†	...	...	10	10(b)
Greene, King and Sons	6%†	plus bon	us of 6d.	18	...
Greening (N.) and Sons	3½%†	...	Less tax	6½	7½
Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds	5%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Hall and Co.	1/- p.s.†	plus bon	us of 2/- p.s.	20	17½
Harrison, Barber and Co.	2½%*	July 4	Less tax	...	...
Holyhead & North Wales Gas and Water	...	...	Less tax	4	4
Hotel York	5%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Hyde's Bird Seeds	15*	...	Quarterly	...	...
Ibich, Hargreaves and Co.	...	...	...	3	2½
International Telephone and Telegraph	50c.p.s.*	July 15	Quarterly	...	...
J. and E. Atkinson	...	...	...	7	10
John Hunter Morris and Elkan	...	...	...	10	10
London Produce Clearing House Trust	12*	July 16	Less tax	...	...
London Stockholders Investment Trust	2½%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
L. Smith and Co.	10%†	...	Tax free	20	20
Malta and Mediterranean Gas	5%†	...	Tax free	10	9
Morgans Brewery	3½%*	July 5	Less tax	...	...
National Dominion and Investment	3½%*	July 5	Less tax	...	...
Neuchatel Asphalte	...	June 27	...	5	6½
Notting Hill Electric Lighting (Def.)	5/- p.s.*	July 31	...	...	...
Ohlsson's Cape Breweries	7%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Pentland Investment Trust	...	...	Less tax	4	...
P. Phipps and Co.	5%*	June 30	Tax free	...	...
Real Estate Corporation of S.A.	5%†	...	...	8(a)	8(a)
Reckett and Sons	3½%*	July 1	Quarterly	...	...
R. Hood Haggie and Son	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Rio Claro Railway and Investment	4%*	June 24	Less tax	...	...
Rochdale Canal	1%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Scottish Stockholders' Investm'nt	2½%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
S.D.H. Pianos	...	...	...	8	20
Style and Winch	5%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Sunlight Laundries	8½%*	July 1	Less tax	...	...
Taylor's (Cash Chemists) Trust	10%†	...	Less tax	20	33½
Telephone Rentals	2½%†	...	Less tax	5	...
Thames Grit & Aggregates	10%†	...	Less tax	15	...
Thomas Brown and Sons	5%†	June 15	...	5	7½
Tredegar Iron and Coal	...	...	...	5	2½
T. Seymour Mead	...	...	...	8	10
Twyfords	5%†	...	...	10(c)	10(c)
United States Trust Co. of Scotland (Def.)	7%†	...	Less tax	14	14
United Velvet Cutters	3d. p.s.†	...	...	10⅝	10⅝
Whitehead Iron and Steel	5%†	...	Less tax	10	10
Yeast-Vite (Def.)	5%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...

(a) Plus bonus of 2%. (b) Plus bonus of 5%.
(c) Plus bonus of 2½%.

BURMA CORPORATION.—Final dividend of 4 annas per share, together with a bonus of 2 annas per share, free of Indian and British income taxes, payable August 15th, making a total distribution of 13 annas, free of tax, for the year ending June 30, 1930. Shareholders on the London register will be paid this dividend and bonus in sterling at an exchange of 1s. 6d. per rupee (equal to 6·75d. per share). For 1928–29 the total distribution was 16 annas per share.

CANADIAN EAGLE OIL.—Dividend in respect of 1929 of 23·88 Canadian cents per share will be paid on the participating preference shares, and of 12 Canadian cents per share on the ordinary shares; this on the capital issued is equal to 3 per cent. on the participating preference shares, and approximately 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares. No dividend was paid on these shares last year.

LEYLAND MOTORS.—The dividend on the six per cent. preference shares for the half-year ending June 30, 1930, will be paid on July 1. The dividend on the seven-and-a-half per cent. preference shares for the 2¼ years to June 30, 1930, will be paid on July 10. In July, 1929, two years' arrears of dividend on the seven-and-a-half per cent. cumulative preference shares were paid, and in January, 1930, five years' arrears were paid.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

The directors of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company, Ltd., have appointed Mr F. J. Cottle and Mr G. A. Rutter, assistant secretaries of the company.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANGLO-FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED, AND CARMELITE TRUST, LIMITED.—On June 13th, it was announced that Anglo-Foreign Newspapers, Ltd., has issued a writ against the Carmelite Trust, Ltd., claiming a very substantial sum from the Carmelite Trust, Ltd. In a circular to shareholders, dated June 18th, the Carmelite Trust state that their Board has been advised by counsel that Anglo-Foreign Newspapers, Ltd., has not any effective claims against the Carmelite Trust. The Board of the Carmelite Trust feel that no useful purpose would be served at this stage by discussing the merits of the claims made, but state that the interests of the company will be fully protected.

CROSSE AND BLACKWELL, LIMITED.—The tenth annual report and accounts shows a total income for the year ended December 31, 1929 (after charging depreciation and providing for preference dividends on the shares of subsidiary and associated companies not held), of £287,510 (last year, £272,612), sundry expenses and directors' fees absorb £33,011 (last year, £38,056), and interest £43,294 (last year, £32,475), leaving £211,205. Adding £60,070 brought forward, and deducting £84,375 preference share dividend to June 30, 1929, there is a balance of £186,899, from which the further six months' preference dividend has since been paid. The directors recommend that £50,000 be transferred to reserve account (last year, £25,000), leaving £52,524 to be carried forward. The report mentions developments during the year: (a) Acquisition of Champion and Slee, Ltd., and Sarsons, Ltd.; (b) acquisition of shares of Chocolat Tobler, Ltd., and rights to manufacture in Great Britain and Irish Free State; (c) acquisition of controlling interest in the Sweet Cake Flour Packing Co., Ltd., of Cape Town; (d) the fusion of the subsidiary in France with S.A. Rodel et Fils Frères and Dandicolle and Gaudin, S.A., is proceeding.

GAUMONT-BRITISH PICTURE CORPORATION.—The following statement by Lord Lee of Fareham relates to the control of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, Ltd.:—My attention has been drawn to various statements, to which considerable publicity has been given, to the effect that the control of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, Ltd., has passed into the hands of the Fox Film Corporation of America. There is no truth in this statement, which is sufficiently disproved by the fact that the Metropolis and Bradford Trust Company, Ltd., of which I am the permanent chairman, owns, in its right, over 3,000,000 out of the 5,000,000 ordinary shares of the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation and thus holds the control by a substantial voting majority. Moreover, the constitution of the Metropolis and Bradford Trust Company, and my appointment as its chairman, were specifically designed to ensure and preserve British control, and there is no intention of surrendering this control to any foreign interest.

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.—At a special meeting of the court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, held June 16th, the Right Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P., LL.D., was appointed to be a director and the deputy-chairman of the company.

S. SMITH AND SONS (MOTOR ACCESSORIES), LIMITED.—We are officially informed by S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd., that they have sold to Messrs Joseph Lucas, Ltd., the electric lighting and starting and magneto portion of their business. The result of this sale will enable both companies to concentrate their efforts on those lines in which they have specialised for many years. S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd., point out that there is no question of any amalgamation between the two firms, but arrangements are being considered by which the servicing of Smith instruments will be carried out at the depots and service stations of Messrs Lucas throughout the country, as well as at the present Smith depots and service stations. Should it be possible to make this arrangement as to service, it would prove a great convenience to the motoring public. We are also informed by the chairman of S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd., that the demand for the new lines introduced by them last year, including the thermostatically controlled radiator shutter, will more than fill the loss in turnover created by the sale of their lighting and starting business.

SPIERS AND POND, LIMITED.—On December 31, 1930, the contracts for the catering over the Southern Railway (the principal part of which the company has held for over forty years) will be terminated. While the board regret the termination of an association extending over so many years, they think it is proper that the shareholders should be given an indication of the results under existing conditions. For the year ended December 31st last, the total takings under the contracts amounted to £606,201. The total sum paid to the Southern Railway by way of rental, amounted to £93,141, while the profit accruing to your company was £2,382. In arriving at this profit, however, no charge was included either for head office management and expenses, or for interest on the substantial capital invested in plant, &c. It will be seen, therefore, that apart from any departmental profit made in the stores departments of the business, the contracts under existing conditions involve the company in a substantial loss. This section of the company's business will cease at the end of this year, when the plant involved will, in accordance with the terms of the contract, be taken over at a fair market valuation, this capital thereby becoming available for further extension of the company's business in other directions. The remaining departments of the company's business have continued to make satisfactory progress.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

BLEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £
Ord. shares (£1)	3,818,737	+ 25,000	Land, buildings, &c.	9,380,903	− 777,275
Pref. shares (£1)	2,487,500	+ 15,000	Stocks, &c.	42,877	− 775,413
4½% deb. stock	2,250,000	...	Debtors	96,504	+ 434,617
Unpaid divs.	914	− 357	Cash	9,541	− 15,414
Sundry creditors	822,889	− 415,462	Investments	284,029	+ 1,100
General reserve	990,812	+ 115,812	Shares in subs.	744,213	+ 744,213
Div. reserve	90,000	...	Advances to subs.	1,303,854	+ 434,617
Superannuation fund	380,587	− 11,953			
Fire insur. fund	379,692	+ 1,979			
Investments contingencies fund	57,635	...			
Profit and loss	583,155	− 118,191			
Total	11,861,921	− 388,172	Total	11,861,921	− 388,172

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £
Def. ord. stock	167,676	+ 19,788	Investments	4,142,276	− 229,116
8% non-cum. pref. ord. stock	1,326,263	...	Leasehold premises	39,184	− 151
6% cum. ptg. pref. stock	712,744	...	Furniture	2,604	+ 134
Debentures	1,620,012	...	Debtors	195,927	+ 61,302
Mortgage	6,400	+ 6,400	Treasury bills	...	− 49,335
Reserve	520,000	...	Cash	158,931	+ 76,331
Creditors	30,396	+ 10,855	Bal. of purch. a/c of Pelotas undertaking	247,989	+ 247,989
Interest on deb.	38,520	...			
Undivided profits account	186,251	+ 14,025			
Revenue account balance	178,649	+ 56,086			
Total	4,786,911	+ 107,154	Total	4,786,911	+ 107,154

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £
Ord. shares	2,253,645	...	Freehold land and buildings	3,352,980	+ 9,002
Pref. shares	3,600,000	...	Plant, &c.	934,301	+ 67,670
7% deb. stock	2,919,590	− 48,470	Loose plant, goodwill, &c.	3	...
Due to subsidiaries	201,248	+ 201,248	Sundry debtors	3,336,207	− 130,764
Sundry creditors	1,884,915	− 346,084	Stock-in-trade	2,247,551	+ 122,486
Reserve	1,360,000	+ 130,000	Trade investment	1,649,732	+ 1,245
Profit and loss	694,675	+ 107,239	British Govt. stks.	1,079,522	− 3,187
			Cash	313,777	− 122,519
Total	12,914,073	− 56,067	Total	12,914,073	− 56,067

GUEST, KEEN, AND NETTLEFOLDS, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £
5% cum. pref. shares	1,817,850	+ 97,850	Land, buildings, collieries, &c.	2,036,782	− 1,436,498
5% 2nd pref. shares	4,687,084	+ 121,914	Stock	370,189	− 145,954
Ord. shares	6,304,474	...	Debtors	458,201	− 683,559
4% deb. stock	1,850,500	...	Subsid. cos.—		
Reserve fund	3,849,944	+ 1,068,510	Shares in...	14,610,511	+ 16,213,572
Sundry creditors	621,019	− 781,034	Debentures, advances, &c.	1,604,060	
Subsidiary cos.	1,546,083	+ 1,546,083	Investments	1,938,520	− 11,051,094
Profit and loss	740,200	+ 27,993	Cash and bills	399,890	+ 180,848
Total	21,417,153	+ 3,077,315	Total	21,417,153	+ 3,077,315

"SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
5% pref. shares	2,000,000	...	Prop. account	26,613,209	− 71,667
7½ 2nd pref.	5,000,000	...	Debtors	103,214	− 18,695
Ord. shares	24,121,361	+ 4,133,754	Balance of divs. in sundry cos.	6,250,704	+ 957,191
Reserve	6,881,610	+ 527,445	Investments	10,462,500	+ 3,835,399
Sundry creditors	77,458	+ 42,264	Cash at bankers	1,158,483	+ 1,026,352
Divs. unclaimed	65,857	− 11,368			
Divs. accrued on pref. shares	170,833	...			
Profit and loss	6,270,991	+ 1,036,485			
Total	44,588,110	+ 5,728,580	Total	44,588,110	+ 5,728,580

WILLIAM CORY AND SON, LIMITED.

March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £	ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Mar. 31, 1929. £
5% cum pref. shares	850,000	...	Land, buildings, &c.	1,033,008	− 808,911
Ord. shares	2,850,094	+ 5,626	Goodwill	54,994	
Employees' shrs.	87,487	...	Investments in subsidiaries	2,643,155	
4% deb. stock	700,000	...	Stock, &c.	107,607	+ 29,235
4½% debs.	200,000	+ 1,487	Debit balances	2,677,647	− 381,204
Unpaid dividends	16,196	− 440,000	Invests. on behalf of staff funds	105,662	...
Premium on new ord. shares	...	+ 150,000	Investments	2,531,003	+ 80,000
Reserve	1,250,000	...	Cash	33,795	− 1,973
Staff pensions	118,604	− 777,127			
Credit balances	1,919,653	− 19,865			
Profit and loss	1,194,837				
To	9,186,871	− 1,082,853	Total	9,186,871	− 1,082,853

MINING OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR MAY, 1930.

	Tons Crushed. Mill.	Tons Crushed. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Mill.	Gold Recovered. Cyanide Works.	Gold Recovered. Total.	Value.	Profit.
GOLD.	Tons.	Tons.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	£	£
Associated of Western Australia	5,358	...	...	...	...	8,538	...
Ashanti Goldfields	10,555	...	...	...	...	53,140	27,368
Balaghat (April and May)	4,150	...	...	...	1,954	...	...
Blackwater	4,000	...	...	...	...	7,158	1,917
Boulder Perseverance	7,029	...	...	...	...	16,857	1,601
Cam and Motor	2,400	...	...	...	...	47,835	17,022
Central Manitoba Mines	3,321	...	...	...	...	$29,789	...
Champion Reef (April May)	8,900	22,707	4,890	1,001	7,508	...	...
Geduld Proprietary	9,176	...	...	...	...	24,029	1,502
Golden Horse Shoe (New)	36,632	...	...	...	...	6,524	2,937
Globe and Phœnix	6,062	...	...	...	5,451	...	11,149
Glynn's Lydenburg	6,800	...	...	...	...	9,106	103
Lonely Reef	6,000	...	...	...	3,831	...	7,940
Luipaards Vlei	28,300	...	...	...	7,118	...	4,185
Mysore	17,239	...	...	...	8,387	...	...
Nundydroog (April and May)	12,011	16,012	6,507	1,001	7,508	...	...
Ooregum (April and May)	13,500	24,500	4,932	1,104	6,036	...	...
Rezende	6,400	...	...	...	...	11,595	5,502
San Francisco of Mexico	29,630	...	...	...	...	$162772	$38,707
Sherwood Starr	5,000	...	...	...	...	13,980	8,228
Sons of Gwalia	13,522	...	...	...	...	13,934	...
South Kalgurli	8,874	...	...	...	...	15,555	2,287
Taquah and Abosso	9,600	...	...	...	...	15,922	...
Wanderer Cons.	15,800	...	...	...	...	17,147	6,007

	Tons.	Other Notes in Brief.
TIN.		
Amari	6	...
Anglo-Nigerian Corporation	94	...
Anglo-Oriental	768½	Output, 5 months to end of May, 3,319½ tons.
Anglo-Oriental (Affiliated Nigerian Companies).	459	Output, 5 months to end of May, 1930, 2,389 tons.
Ayar Hitam	95½	Profit, £5,500.
Baba River	16½	...
Bangrin	53½	...
Batura Monguna	1½	...
Batu Caves	27	Estimated profit, £816.
Bisichi	65	...
Chenderiang	42	Estimated value, £3,389.
Consolidated Mines	77	...
Fabulosa	112½	...
Filani (Nigeria)	2½	...
Geevor	...	Tons crushed, 4,942; output, £4,900.
Gopeng	62½	Estimated value, £5,295; profit, £2,920.
Kamunting	106	Estimated value, £9,147.
Kinta	24	Profit, £653.
Kinta Kellas	29½	Estimated value, £2,683.
Mawchi	220	...
Meru	13¾	...
Naraguta	26½	...
Offin River	8	...
Pahang	...	Ore treated, 15,600 tons; black tin produced, 222 tons; alluvial, 2·85 tons.
Pangnga River	64	Estimated value, £5,887.
Patino	1,527	Long tons.
Penawat	85·55	...
Pusing	...	Profit £193.
Rahman Hydraulic	71½	...
Rambutan	9	Loss, £50.
Rantau	48	Estimated profit, £700.
Rebon Valley	20	...
South Bukera Areas	10	...
South Crofty	64½	Total value, £6,402.
Southern Malayan	154½	Profit, £6,066.
Southern Perak	98½	Profit, £4,352.
Southern Tronoh	81	Profit, £4,574.
Teja Malaya	19½	Dredges 1 and 2.
Tekka	36	Profit, £1,145.
Tekka-Taiping	57	Profit, £820.
Temengor	13½	...
COPPER.		
Indian Copper	224	...
Messina (Transvaal)	641	1,478 tons concentrates produced.
COAL.		
Chinese Engineering	113,000	Sales of coal week ended May 31st.
South African Coal	62,395	...
Tweefontein United	64,513	...
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Crown Diamond	...	71,900 loads washed; yield, 10,702 carats.
Lydenburg Platinum	...	Tons milled, 3,650; ounces won, 778.
Mount Lyell Mining (four weeks to May 21)	18,347	Tons of ore, producing 3,753 tons concentrates.
New Vaal River Diamond	...	627 carats, realising £4,502.
Rhodesia Broken Hill	1,635	Tons of 2,240 lbs. slab zinc.
Tetlulue	...	12,440 tons; zinc concentrates produced 2,330 tons; lead concentrates produced 1,129 tons.
West African Diamond	...	16,100 carats.

ZINC CORPORATION.—Return for period ended May 3rd: Lead concentrator treated 24,197 tons of ore, producing 4,922 tons of lead concentrates and 4,113 tons of zinc concentrates. Estimated gross profit with lead at average price for April (£18 6s. 10d.), zinc at contract flat rate, silver 2s., £10,852. Variation for each £1 fluctuation in price of lead, £3,355.

WORKING PROFIT, TRANSVAAL.—Total estimated working profit of the gold mines of the Transvaal for the month of April, 1930, amounted to: Witwatersrand, £1,041,739; outside districts, £42,765; total, £1,084,504. The estimated working profit in March, 1930, was: Witwatersrand, £1,083,449; outside districts, £37,767; total, £1,121,216.

BWANA M'KUBWA COPPER.—May operations resulted in an output equivalent to 546 tons of refined copper.

WANKIE COLLIERY.—Return for May: Coal sales, 70,648 tons; coke sales, 6,535 tons.

LYDENBURG PLATINUM AREAS.—Maandagshoek section: Milled in May, 3,650 tons; platinum group metals won, 778 oz.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation.					Corresponding Period Last Year.	
					Dividend.			Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.		
					Prefce.	Ordinary.				Net Profit.	Dividend.
					Amount	Amount.	Rate.				
Banks.		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Bank of Adelaide	Mar. 31	38,875	138,107	176,982	...	112,500	9	15,000	49,482	145,411	10
Imperial Bank of Persia	Mar. 31	35,601	124,279	159,880	...	65,880	13/p.s.*	50,000	44,880	125,956	11/p.s.*
Financial Land, &c.											
Ceylon Estates and Investment Assn.	Mar. 31	1,030	6,734	7,764	...	6,064	27½	...	1,700	8,939	35
New South Wales Land and Agency	Jan. 31	5,211	15,518	20,729	...	15,687	12	...	5,042	12,845	12
Gas.											
Malta & Mediterranean Gas.	Mar. 31	19,925	11,148	31,073	3,454	7,500	10*	...	20,119	15,631	9*
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Cranston's Hotels	May 17	13,083	36,097	49,180	8,547	15,925	15	10,000	14,708	36,977	25
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Consett Iron	Mar. 31	23,255	318,011	341,266	40,000	...	...	200,000	101,266	163,255	...
Cory (Wm.) and Son	Mar. 31	677,497	685,187	1,362,684	42,500	513,338	{17½ / 12½ E}	104,993	701,853	740,289	17½
Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds	Mar. 31	243,855	968,698	1,212,553	317,106	630,448	10*	...	264,999	956,071	10*
Keith (James) and Blackman	Mar. 31	13,740	43,741	57,481	2,112	27,125	17½	12,000	16,244	38,787	15
Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies	Mar. 31	50,434	20,143	70,577	11,000	...	...	...	59,577	21,112	2½
Yorkshire Amalgamated Collieries	Mar. 31	5,448	65,672	71,120	...	72,222	{3¾ / 2½ E}	*Dr.15,000*	16,102	1,530	...
Oil.											
British-Borneo Petroleum	Mar. 31	38,316	28,316	66,632	...	31,250	12½	...	35,382	43,059	12½
Shell Transport and Trading	Dec. 31	237,604	6,483,386	6,720,990	450,000	6,030,340	25*	...	240,650	5,447,894	25*
Tocuya Oilfields of Venezuela	Dec. 31†	...	*Dr. 3,529*	*Dr. 3,529*	...	...	...	...	*Dr. 3,529*	...	...
Rubber, &c.											
Besoeki Plantations	Dec. 31	8,557	13,786	22,343	...	8,800	8	...	13,543	23,735	15
Brusch Rubber	Mar. 31	5,984	5,927	11,911	...	2,166	5	681	9,064	5,319	7
Chota Rubber	Dec. 31	3,302	8,688	11,990	...	5,591	7½	2,500	3,899	4,559	5
Java United Plantations	Dec. 31	9,525	17,594	27,119	...	4,500	3	...	22,619	2,361	5
Lok Kawi Rubber	Dec. 31	8,466	496	8,962	...	...	...	...	8,962	12,200	5
Travancore Rubber	Dec. 31	35,174	5,372	38,546	...	1,858	3	...	36,688	6,176	7½
Yam Seng Rubber	Mar. 31	10,348	8,144	18,492	...	7,131	10	1,300	10,061	12,332	15
Shipping.											
Burns Philp and Co.	Nov. 15	24,743	231,932	256,675	...	150,000	10	75,000	31,675	...	...
Shops and Stores.											
Baker (*Albert*) and Co.	Mar. 31	18,420	30,663	49,083	...	25,000	12½	...	24,083	28,467	12½
Debenhams	Jan. 31	...	712,764	712,764	415,677	297,087	{10A / 35½B}	...	...	945,347	{10A / 76B}
Sanders Bros. (Stores)	Apr. 26	40,163	108,431	148,594	21,000	36,661	12½	45,000	45,933	114,388	12½
Tea.											
Borhât Tea	Dec. 31	23,980	7,995	31,975	...	7,220	4	...	24,775	18,433	10
Dhendai Tea	Dec. 31	4,157	8,987	13,144	...	2,400	7½	...	10,744	12,161	32½
Ghoir Allie Tea	Dec. 31	2,125	254	2,379	...	500	10	...	1,879	1,092	25
Kacharigaon Tea	Dec. 31	5,936	3,230	9,166	192	3,158	7½	...	5,816	5,106	10
Makum (Assam) Tea	Dec. 31	1,691	26,792	28,484	...	24,420	22*	1,493	2,571	25,162	22*
Nedeem Tea	Dec. 31	11,266	52,986	64,252	11,138	21,937	10	19,750	11,427	24,262	10
Rajmai Tea	Dec. 31	13,383	37,134	50,517	...	37,800	67½	...	12,717	41,848	75
Southern India Tea Estates	Feb. 28	1,258	3,024	4,282	438	...	...	...	3,844	19,261	15
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Ribble Motor Services	Mar. 31	38,647	50,942	89,589	13,000	30,114	10	4,444	42,031	53,842	10
Trust.											
A. W. Second Stock Trust	May 31	...	1,639	1,639	...	...	...	...	1,639	...	...
British Empire Trust	Apr. 30	9,304	68,485	77,789	17,022	37,482	{7 / 9}	...	23,285	82,496	{7PC / 9DC}
First Scottish American Trust	May 1	29,525	52,458	81,983	7,560	32,760	26	10,000	31,663	51,648	25
Pentland Investment Trust	May 31‡	...	17,854	17,854	10,843	5,690	4p.a.	...	1,321	...	...
Second London Scottish American Trust	Apr. 30	9,009	51,044	60,053	24,000	17,300	5½	10,000	8,753	51,456	5
United States Trust Co. of Scotland	May 31	6,750	39,248	45,998	10,631	22,050	14	5,000	8,317	38,969	14
Waterworks.											
New River Co.	Mar. 25	4,860	35,727	40,587	...	26,000	20*	7,000	7,587	34,772	20*
Other Companies.											
Beechams Pills	Mar. 31	24,874	150,387	175,261	76,800	67,062	25	...	30,799	210,449	40
Brown (Thos.) and Sons	Jan. 31	581	29,361	29,942	7,425	6,750	5	...	15,767	27,781	7½
Charrington, Gardner, Locket and Co.	Mar. 31	11,597	50,376	61,973	...	42,400	20	5,962	13,611	50,189	20
Decca Record	Mar. 31	...	*Dr. 89,683*	*Dr. 89,683*	...	...	...	...	*Dr89,683*	...	...
Dent, Allcroft and Co.	Jan. 15	50,036	31,371	81,407	27,625	...	...	...	53,782	31,182	...
Filmophon	Mar. 31§	...	31,427	31,427	...	...	...	27,095	3,332	...	...
General Electric	Mar. 31	362,071	741,790	1,103,861	252,000	315,510	14	157,182	379,165	861,698	10
General Tobacco	Mar. 31‖	...	8,340	8,340	...	4,568	6	2,000	1,772	...	...
Hazel, Watson and Viney	Mar. 31	27,516	57,943	85,459	4,800	34,888	10*	16,600	29,171	47,197	9*
Mirrless, Bickerton and Day	Mar. 31	8,504	32,134	40,638	3,065	25,280	7	...	12,283	31,895	7
S.D.H. Pianos	Feb. 28	4,563	41,545	46,108	12,000	12,000	8	17,497	4,611	43,384	20
Smithfield Argentine Meat	Dec. 31	*Dr. 28,093*	*Dr. 1,860*	*Dr. 29,953*	...	...	...	...	*Dr29,953*	*Dr. 8,957*	...
Thames Grit, &c.	Mar. 31	...	77,709	77,709	7,884	17,625	15	47,899	4,301	...	...
Twyfords	Mar. 31	38,752	59,111	97,863	...	43,576	12½	12,500	41,787	56,119	12½
Victoria Dwellings Assn.	Apr. 30	245	2,993	3,238	...	2,168	3½	600	452	1,964	3
Victoria Wine	Feb. 28	7,850	44,277	52,127	20,000	18,750	12½	...	13,377	41,095	12½
White (A. J.)	Mar. 31	72,719	41,811	114,530	...	37,500	15	...	77,030	40,205	12½

* Free of income tax. † Period from October 10, 1928, to December 31, 1929. ‡ Period from March 7, 1929, to May 31, 1930.
§ Period from December 18, 1928, to March 31, 1930. ‖ Period September 1, 1928, to March 31, 1930.

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Cereal crops in the United Kingdom are developing rapidly under a continued spell of warmth and sunshine, and similar conditions are reported from most Continental countries, so that harvest prospects are now much better than appeared possible a few weeks ago. There is not much improvement in demand for native wheat, but offerings were on a small scale, and sellers reluctant to grant concessions. A better demand, however, was dealt with on the import market, United Kingdom millers, in particular, booking fairly large quantities of Canadian at declining prices. Pressure to sell North American grades has become more pronounced under competition from Argentina and India as these shippers appear anxious to market surplus supplies. A sharp break occurred in the United States, where wheat is now below the dollar level, and subsequent liquidations were reflected by the weakness of Winnipeg cables. Large holdings in North America present a difficult problem, particularly in face of improved new crop prospects, and unless the present rate of export is materially increased, total supplies at the end of this season's harvest will prove very burdensome and difficult to finance. The policy of withholding wheat from the market adopted by Northern sellers for some considerable time past, under official support, has been successfully countered on the adoption by European importers of a restricted buying policy, and in consequence, large surplus stocks remain on hand. It appears likely that considerable efforts will be made to lighten these before the next harvest. Supplies of foreign wheat in Europe, however, are by no means large, and the recent sharp advance on German markets suggests a shortage of domestic reserves. Additional overseas purchases will be required, particularly by Italy, in view of reduced crop estimates, but the higher import duties imposed may restrict foreign buying to actual wants. Home milled flour sells steadily at easier prices, although the decline is less pronounced, owing to the small outlet for wheatfeed, even at the extremely low prices ruling. Best imported makes, however, are fairly maintained on scarcity of spot offerings. Feeding stuffs move off quietly, with prices ruling in buyers' favour.

WHEAT.—Easier in sympathy with the c.i.f. position. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 42s. 3d.; No. 2, ditto, 41s. 6d.; No. 3, 40s. 9d.; No. 4 Manitoba, 39s. 6d.; No. 5, ditto, 37s. 3d.; No. 6, 32s.; No. 2 hard Winter, 38s. 9d.; No. 2 mixed Durum, 34s. 9d.; Rosafe, 62 lbs., 38s. 9d.; Barusso, new crop, 62¾ lbs., ex ship to arrive, 38s. 3d.; Australian, 41s. 6d.; choice white Karachi, 39s. 3d. per 496 lbs.; English, 8s. 2d.-8s. 4d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Tends easier. London, straight run, 36s. per sack for country deliveries, and 35s. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 32s. 6d.-35s. 6d.; Buffalo, 32s. 6d.-35s. 6d.; Australian, 30s.-30s. 6d. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, June-July, 32s.-33s.; export, ditto, 29s. 6d.-29s. 9d.; Australian, 27s.-27s. 9d.; French, prompt, 24s. 6d.-25s. per 280 lbs.; Argentine, low grade, May, £5 15s. per ton.

MAIZE.—Occasionally easier. Plate, landed, new, 25s. 9d.; old, 25s. 3d.; new, ex ship, arrived, 24s. 6d.; old, to arrive, 24s.; new, May-June, 24s. 6d.; June-July and July-August, 23s. 6d.; August-September, 23s. 6d.; Bessarabian, 23s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 10s. per ton, f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £5 12s. 6d. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Dull. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s., as to sample; Chilian, brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 34s.-40s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. 38s.-44s.; Australian, f.a.q., 15s. 6d.; landed, 16s. 9d. Black Sea, ex ship to arrive, f.a.q., 15s. 6d.; landed, 16s. 9d. Persian, landed, 16s. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Quietly steady. Plate, landed, 13s. 6d.; ex ship to arrive, 12s. 3d.; Chilian white, landed, 20s.; ditto, tawny, 15s. 3d. German, landed, 18s.; ex ship to arrive, 17s.; mixed Canadian feed, 12s. per 320 lbs.; English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929–30, 1928–29, 1927–28, 1926–27:—

	1929–1930.	1928–1929.	1927–1928.	1926–1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to June 14	Qrs. 164,371	Qrs. 70,952	Qrs. 183,780	Qrs. 118,930
41 weeks to June 14	8,963,984	9,336,932	10,312,158	11,243,242
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 7	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 11 0	s. d. 12 9

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE.
SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL
INSURANCE COMPANY.
ASSETS EXCEED - £15,500,000
FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 5 Walbrook, E.C.4, and 4, St. James's Street, S.W.1

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Cwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
June 7	84,388	14,572	7,372	8 7	7 6	6 5
June 14	164,371	18,533	20,276	8 7	7 2	6 3
June 12, 1926	115,321	19,420	21,069	13 5	9 2	9 11
June 11, 1927	214,579	17,409	51,221	12 9	11 6	10 0
June 16, 1928	183,780	12,202	13,709	11 0	11 2	12 9
June 15, 1929	70,952	15,106	11,468	9 7	10 3	9 6

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	June 19, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.	June 18, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba) —Cents per 50 lb.	122	116⅞	148⅜	111⅛	114⅛	101
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)— Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	109⅛	130⅞	105⅛	104⅛	96⅜

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Demand for South Yorkshire coal continues unsatisfactory, and the holiday stoppage at the pits was longer than usual. Continental competition is keen for export trade and prices have again eased. Best steams are quoted at from 14s. 9d. to 15s. f.o.b. Large stocks of industrial fuel are on hand, especially smalls. The coke market goes from bad to worse and blast furnace sorts have been sold at as low as 11s. per ton. Consumption is down and users cannot be induced to place new business.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The position in the South Wales coal trade is practically unchanged. Current inquiries continue very scarce and collieries in many districts are working irregularly. On Monday the Executive Committee of the Marketing Association considered the question of allocations for the September quarter and the authorised production in that period is to be on a reduced basis. The actual allocations have not been disclosed, but they are stated to be in the neighbourhood of one-fourth of the annual quota fixed when the scheme was inaugurated. Prices are at the minimum for practically all classes, but under the influence of contracts average values are better than last year, the Customs returns of declared prices giving an average for May of 18s. 9¾d. compared with 18s. 5¾d. per ton in April, and of 18s. 4d. in the corresponding month last year. Shipments from the South Wales ports last week totalled only 287,600 tons owing to the intervention of the Whitsun holidays. In the previous week they totalled 568,200 tons and in the corresponding full week last year 601,173 tons. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiraltics, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 9d.; coking smalls, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein, large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 44s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 6d. to 12s. 3d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 36s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 3d. to 26s. 9d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—The iron and steel trades have now entered upon the period of summer trading when business is normally quiet, but as business has been quiet for several weeks past, little change is noticeable in the state of the market. Comparatively few important contracts have been given out during the past month or two, and most British steel works are in the position of working off orders more quickly than new business is coming forward. The consuming trades generally appear to be experiencing a quiet demand for their products, and as a consequence the buyers of iron and steel are adhering to a conservative policy, and are placing orders only for their immediate requirements. Manufacturers complain that the orders now being given out are for such small tonnages, and comprise such varied specifications that the costs of production are considerably increased. In the pig iron department buying is sluggish, but prices generally are held. Orders for semi-finished steel are scarce, and in spite of the official Cartel quotation, Continental makers seem to be keenly competing with each other for any business in the British market. In fact the situation in the Continental markets would appear to be worse than in this country, and the Continental works are eagerly pressing for orders. The demand for finished steel materials is on a disappointing scale. Overseas markets are buying irregularly, and cabled offers are frequently limited to unacceptable prices.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The position of Cleveland iron does not improve, and transactions continue to be of a hand-to-mouth nature. Consumers are looking for a reduction in prices, which they consider is justified by the reduced prices of raw materials, and refuse to enter into forward contracts at present figures. Makers, on the other hand, contend that there is no margin to allow of a reduction, and at Tuesday's weekly market reaffirmed the prices that have ruled for some time past, viz.:—No. 1, 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s., f.o.b. or f.o.t. Very little business was done, purchases being confined to small lots by home consumers to cover early requirements. There was practically no demand for export. In hematite, home orders are restricted to lots of very moderate size, but there is just a little more doing in some departments of the export trade, where East Coast brands command a premium over Continental makes. Producers are anxious to reduce the stocks of iron on hand, and now quote 72s. for reasonable quantities of mixed numbers, although for small lots they are obtaining more. Shipments of pig iron are behind those of last month, the clearances to 17th inst. totalling only 8,348 tons, against 11,036 tons to May 17th. The steel trade is very quiet as regards new business, and it is difficult to keep all departments regularly employed. Prices under the rebate scheme for home consumption are so far unchanged, viz.:—plates, ⅜ in. and up, £8 15s.; joists, £8 10s.; and sections, £8 7s. 6d. Other materials are also unchanged, viz.:—Iron crown bars, £10 15s.; heavy steel rails, £8 10s.; 21-24-gauge black sheets £9 12s. 6d. and 24-gauge galvanised corrugated sheets, £11 17s. 6d., all for home use. No transactions are reported on the ore market. Best rubio is offering freely at 20s. c.i.f. for early delivery but consumers are overbought and unable to entertain additional purchases. The rate of freight Bilbao/Middlesbrough for early tonnage rules round 5s. 6d. Coke continues in abundant supply and good furnace qualities can now be obtained at 16s. 9d. delivered works.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—The lifeless conditions in all branches of iron and steel continue much as before, and there is still no sign of a break in the cloud of depression. Contraction of output is the rule in pig iron and part-manufactured steel, and all the finished departments report reduced turnovers. A feature of the situation is a marked decline in the call for steel parts and tools for the automobile industry, which for several years has been one of the most important sections of Sheffield's light steel trade. Cutlery makers are rather busier, following a general stoppage of production in Whit week. The silver and electro-plate branches are severely depressed. Best tool steels are selling fairly well in the home market, but exports tend to decline.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—It was announced at the beginning of this week that two of the new P. and O. liners are to be built at Clyde yards, although the names of the firms to be entrusted with the work have not been announced. It is also reported that Messrs. William Beardmore and Company, Ltd., Dalmuir, have secured a contract from the Clan Line for auxiliary steam turbines of the Bauer-Wach system, to be installed in seven of their vessels. These contracts will ensure employment for some months to a considerable number of men. Otherwise the position in the West of Scotland is unfortunately much the same as during recent months. At the steelworks makers are finding it increasingly difficult to keep the plants in operation fully occupied. The demand for semis is poor, and is so for practically all iron and steel products at the moment. In the sheet trade there is a steady business in both black and galvanised sheets for the home market, but the export business is not satisfactory. Prices show no change.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The Welsh tinplate market remains comparatively quiet, but the most of the works are well sold up to the end of August, and prices are stationary at from 18s. to 18s. 3d. per basis box. Allocations of production for July are on the same basis as for June, but works may voluntarily curtail their output. The galvanised sheet trade is still depressed, but there has been no further fall in prices, which continue to be quoted at from £11 17s. 6d. to £12 per ton. Both native and foreign bars are unchanged.

FIGURES OF A.M.P. ASSURANCE

By careful and prudent administration the A.M.P. has made more than £42,000,000 for the benefit of its Policyholders since its establishment in 1849, and this, after providing for all expenses of management, commission, taxes, etc. A.M.P. premiums are *low*, Bonuses high and policies, as befits the largest British Mutual Life Office, world-wide. Assets £74,000,000. Annual Income £10,500,000. Full particulars on application.

MUTUAL AUSTRALIAN PROVIDENT SOCIETY

73-76 King William St., London, E.C.4 Established 1849.

D. E. WALKER, Manager for the United Kingdom.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—In the standard market a fair demand was dealt with, but prices further gave way under selling pressure, and weak foreign advices. The closing tone was firmer and sellers more reserved. Standard cash changed hands at £133 12s. 6d.-£132 7s. 6d. and £138 5s.; three months, £135 10s.-£133 10s. and £140. In the East, sales were reported at £136 7s. 6d.-£137 5s. and £135 10s. and £137 5s. per ton, c.i.f. terms.

COPPER disclosed a good deal of irregularity, and dealings were on a fairly liberal scale, but prices ruled easier on balance as offerings proved excessive, while also influenced by the weakness of American markets. Market closed firmer. Standard cash sold £47 2s. 6d. to £50 5s.; three months, £48-£47 and £50 10s.

LEAD market generally steady and sellers more reserved in face of a good demand. Good soft foreign pig, June, sold at £17 12s. 6d. to £17 17s. 6d.; July, £17 15s.-£17 17s. 6d.; August, £17 15s.-£17 17s. 6d. and £17 13s. 9d.; September, £17 12s. 6d. to £17 17s. 6d. per ton.

SPELTER dull, with prices showing irregularity and weakness, closing steadier. July sold £16 12s. 6d.-£16 8s. 9d. and £16 16s. 3d.; August, £16 15s.-£16 16s. 3d. and £16 15s. and £17 2s. 6d.; September, £17 1s. 3d. to £16 18s. 9d. and £17 3s. 9d. per ton.

ANTIMONY nominal, owing to an absence of offers from China. Chinese regulus, spot, £27 10s.; June-July, £23; Chinese, crude, June-July, £14 per ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY OXIDE, June-July, £24 10s. to £25 ton c.i.f.

ANTIMONY ORE, 50 per cent., June-July, 3s. 6d.; ditto, 60 per cent., 4s. per unit c.i.f.

WOLFRAM dull and easier. Chinese, June-July, sold 19s. to 18s.; Burmese ditto quoted 17s. per unit c.i.f.

ALUMINIUM steady. Home trade, £95; export, £100 ton.

QUICKSILVER steady. Spot, £22 2s. 6d. per bottle.

TIN PLATES steady, with moderate dealings. I.C. coke prompt and forward, 18s. to 18s. 3d. per box, f.o.b. Swansea.

ZINC OXIDE dull and easier, at £26 to £32 as to quality, per ton delivered U.K.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL: June 18th.

In common with other commodities cotton has shown a further fall, owing to poor trade conditions the world over and to brilliant crop accounts. At the moment the market looks like steadying a little on the covering of part of a "short" interest which undoubtedly exists. Spot sales for the week 12th to 18th (inclusive) are: 13,000 bales, of which 4,360 bales are American, 1,460 Brazilian, 550 Argentine, 2,150 Peruvian, 2,530 Egyptian, 1,300 African, 110 East Indian, and 540 sundries. Imports for the same period are: 47,251 bales, of which 9,740 are American, 631 Brazilian, 1,005 Argentine, 1,425 Peruvian, 9,041 Egyptian, 3,545 African, 21,247 East Indian, and 617 sundries. Quotations to-day are: American Middling, 7·52; Egyptian Sakel, 12·25; uppers, 8·81; Brazil Fair, 6·85; Peru G.F. Smooth, 7·85; West African Middling, 7·45; and East African G.F., 8·10.

MANCHESTER: June 18th.

The most interesting development has been the decline in raw material prices. American and Egyptian cotton have dropped about ½d. per lb. Traders have been slow to recover from the Whitsuntide holiday influences, and a very unsettled feeling has prevailed. Some spinners and manufacturers have experienced rather more inquiry, owing to a desire on the part of buyers to know the revision in rates. Most merchants still take a gloomy view of the outlook for piece goods for India, but, on the other hand, certain houses have received more cables during the last few days asking for prices to be wired out. Scattered sales have occurred, chiefly in light goods, for Calcutta and Madras. There has not been any move on the part of shippers to China, and the unsatisfactory exchange makes trade practically impossible. Retail quantities of bleaching and printing cloths have been sold for the Near East and South America. Varied reports have been received from the home trade. Quotations in American and Egyptian yarns have been very irregular when tested, and trading has been of limited dimensions. Curtailment of production continues on a large scale.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	May 28.	June 4.	June 11.	June 18.	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·54	8·43	8·04	7·55	11·45	10·20
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·85	13·30	12·95	12·45	20·50	16·40
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12	11½	16½	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12½	12½	12½	12	17	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21½	21	20½	30½	25½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	21 9	21 9	21 6	21 3	26 4½	25 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 3	24 3	24 0	23 10	29 3	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	15 3	13 3	13 1½	13 0	15 4½	16 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 0	12 0	11 10½	11 9	14 3	13 4

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—With the exception of the weaving overlookers, practically all sections of the operatives have returned to work, or rather have applied for work, but in many cases there is nothing for them to do, and this position will become more acute if the weaving overlookers do not soon make up their minds to fall into line with their fellow-workers. During the nine weeks of the partial stoppage, stocks were greatly reduced in tops and piece goods, but yarns tended to accumulate in the hands of spinners because so few manufacturers were in a position to take up deliveries. Now, with combs running and sorters working, the depleted stocks of tops will soon be made up, especially as the spinning section continues to be the "bottle-neck" of the industry. Perhaps it is because of the somewhat dreary outlook in this connection that business has again fallen off in all departments. Spinners show little or no interest in tops, and manufacturers are bound to be unresponsive to offers of yarns so long as they are unable to give particulars and accept deliveries. The raw material markets show no sign of weakening—indeed, foreign competition is still very keen—but the general state of trade in the home market and the aftermath of the strike have evidently had a most depressing effect upon users in the West Riding. Firm raw material markets and increasing activity in the Continental centres indicate that confidence in wool values has been restored abroad, but in the home trade there is little of an encouraging nature and quotations for tops and yarns show a sagging tendency in spite of the maintenance of wool prices.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

At the moment there seems to be far more confidence in the general stability of raw material values among Continental users than in the home trade, and when the situation here is weighed up carefully, this is not surprising. Since the close of the last London sales there has been some indication that a slight reaction in wool values was expected. Buyers are evidently satisfied with their recent purchases in Australia and New Zealand, and are not supporting overseas markets freely. What influences are working behind the scenes is a little difficult to say, but there is no doubt that the after-effects of the strike are beginning to be felt. The refusal of weaving overlookers, "twisters in" and warp dressers to go back to work is keeping thousands of looms standing, but the great majority of manufacturers state that there is no urgent need to start this machinery running because so very little new business is developing in piece goods. This is the real weakness of the situation to-day, so far as the industry in this country is concerned, and accounts for the more hesitant attitude recently seen among spinners and manufacturers. Meanwhile the news received from Sydney and Melbourne shows that there is still good competition for wool with values mostly on the firm side. The first winter sale of the season was held last Tuesday at Wellington, when the bulk of the offerings comprised crutchings. These called forth keen competition, and prices were slightly dearer in sympathy with the last London sales. Everything seems to indicate a general firmness of values. Already attention is being directed towards the opening of the next series of London sales, for which the quantity expected to be available is about 130,000 bales. The offerings should be good in both merinos and crossbreds, and there is every likelihood of Continental buyers being prepared to absorb a fair share. The signing of the new United States tariff by President Hoover is another step in the efforts of that country to make its users of wool independent of imports. The raising of the duty makes it next to impossible to import our domestic raw material, and is certain to induce developments among woollen manufacturers.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The markets for oilseeds and their products are depressed and are feeling the unsettlement in other directions. Plate linseed is easier in sympathy with the weakness of Argentine options and has dropped to £17 on spot and £16 13s. 9d. has been accepted for June-July to Hull. Indian linseed is in fair request at the lower levels, June shipment of Calcutta for Hull having been done at £17 15s. and afloat at £18. Cotton seed is steady, with black Egyptian on Cut and afloat held for £6 15s., July and August being at a small 37s.-40s. m. The new Egyptian crop is now offering, but prices are 50s.; ligh d approximately £7 for September and October loadings 6d. November-December. Linseed oil is not so steady,

RUBBER. of raw oil for June delivery being £41 5s. per ton ill mill, and July-August £40. Demand is only

Market stea ton oils are in want of trade. Crude Egyptian offers near positions. ; and common edible at £30 10s. ex Hull. Palm July, 6½d. to 6 ther seed oils are quoted lower. Oilcakes continue December, 6⅝d. t June, 6⅞d. to 6 13/16d.

Landings, 1,232; o

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

last year. Liverpool liveries, 257; stocks, consumption last mont &c.

arrivals, 40,740, against ne which recently took possession of this 55,400; and stocks, 146, nsified to-day. Apart from attending to

GENERAL. ts, trade buyers are not interested, but no t quotations. Supplies of home-grown

JUTE.—A quiet and ty well cleared up. Resumption of buying meagre sale attaching to tly, as weather favours consumption, and of a bumper coming ng account will have to be attended to. £22 10s.-£22 7s. 6d.; Jul d fair movements in raw, but prices ruled September, sold, £23 delivery sold 5s. 9½d.; December, 6s. 4½d

European Finance

40-Page SUPPLEMENT

THERE has never been a moment when the affairs and the aspirations of France have attracted so much attention in the world of finance as they do to-day. Every aspect of commerce, banking and Economics is clearly reflected in

THE FRANCE of TO-DAY 27th JUNE, 1930

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OVERSEAS TRADE RETURNS.

IMPORTS (Value C.I.F.).

	Month ended May 31.		5 Months ended May 31.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	7,383,707	5,921,795	37,684,393	28,814,985
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	781,092	532,865	3,909,290	2,909,272
C. Meat	10,947,453	10,851,558	47,161,354	49,958,039
D. Animals, living, for food	991,195	1,202,501	5,708,636	6,656,780
E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	17,337,044	15,655,410	87,383,349	77,080,045
F. Other food and drink, dutiable	5,618,232	4,726,544	30,369,872	25,177,917
G. Tobacco	1,115,401	680,182	6,125,747	5,776,566
Total, Class I.	44,174,124	39,570,855	218,342,641	196,373,604
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	2,225	2,641	15,388	12,371
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	482,019	575,878	2,304,469	2,395,337
C. Iron ore and scrap	550,925	561,160	2,439,251	2,830,122
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	1,786,654	1,295,324	7,414,760	6,281,206
E. Wood and timber	2,584,852	2,780,938	10,493,396	11,784,771
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	6,554,730	4,647,294	39,084,345	24,656,975
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	7,556,715	4,682,221	38,890,207	27,242,684
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	137,362	99,004	797,640	872,820
I. Other textile materials	1,311,991	839,360	7,855,622	6,171,309
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins and gums	3,493,464	3,437,373	19,996,629	16,113,174
K. Hides and skins, undressed	1,406,652	1,390,499	9,081,734	8,293,148
L. Paper-making materials	1,449,406	1,019,294	4,913,366	4,945,595
M. Rubber	1,067,229	985,031	6,632,360	5,737,565
N. Miscellaneous, raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	835,275	801,327	4,870,709	4,704,399
Total, Class II.	29,219,499	23,117,344	154,789,876	122,041,476
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	1,659	225	6,690	4,771
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	961,888	931,886	4,300,306	4,565,379
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	2,319,602	1,974,717	9,882,148	10,780,814
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	3,240,125	2,436,619	15,143,946	13,693,934
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	733,673	794,304	3,586,070	3,204,115
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	434,557	517,201	2,083,515	3,017,646
G. Machinery	1,802,323	1,853,472	7,682,635	8,298,258
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	1,027,563	706,193	3,903,183	3,900,368
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	872,852	810,830	4,291,804	4,170,691
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	1,219,839	1,105,831	7,505,014	6,089,512
K. Silk and silk manufactures	1,100,888	1,124,077	5,712,316	5,131,472
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	1,409,890	1,512,296	7,113,811	6,883,807
M. Apparel	1,527,918	1,656,438	8,054,240	8,491,738
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours	1,342,387	1,221,492	6,721,180	5,955,894
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	4,153,106	4,686,137	18,368,882	20,893,794
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	1,323,798	1,373,522	6,284,347	6,423,731
Q. Paper and cardboard	1,566,005	1,561,100	6,873,548	7,207,148
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	1,153,872	673,376	4,748,981	3,229,895
S. Rubber manufactures	346,064	408,872	1,495,551	1,906,339
T. Miscellaneous articles, mainly or wholly manufactured	2,681,344	2,343,214	12,677,752	11,336,549
Total, Class III.	29,219,353	27,691,802	136,435,919	135,185,855
IV.—Animals, not for food	191,488	203,405	1,086,720	1,316,443
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	618,811	453,957	2,743,912	3,410,411
Total	103,423,275	91,037,363	513,399,068	458,327,789

EXPORTS of PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES of the UNITED KINGDOM (Value F.O.B.).

	Month ended May 31.		5 Months ended May 31.	
	1929.	1930.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco—				
A. Grain and flour	448,381	421,640	2,042,424	1,961,719
B. Feeding stuffs for animals	286,540	168,726	1,529,486	952,320
C. Meat	146,883	118,938	703,372	619,571
D. Animals, living, for food	18,547	20,749	69,958	68,742
E & F. Other food and drink	2,921,808	2,336,455	13,428,473	12,187,300
G. Tobacco	781,756	743,950	3,862,183	3,974,218
Total, Class I.	4,603,915	3,810,458	21,635,896	19,763,870
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
A. Coal	4,279,204	4,204,323	18,500,401	20,655,222
B Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	243,370	145,223	835,344	791,660
C. Iron ore and scrap	222,507	42,617	744,396	283,897
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	201,438	82,695	951,440	391,636
E. Wood and timber	40,446	30,388	161,225	124,930
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	131,325	58,456	597,025	309,937
G. Wool, raw and waste, and woollen rags	1,123,201	390,391	4,793,427	2,401,668
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	2,606	1,963	14,384	8,485
I. Other textile materials	56,454	29,338	169,669	137,805
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	566,437	325,442	2,335,995	1,762,116
K. Hides and skins, undressed	319,341	133,222	1,565,723	806,511
L. Paper-making materials	172,618	98,926	626,285	526,532
M. Rubber	24,735	17,850	116,345	86,210
N. Miscellaneous raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	403,392	284,138	1,942,390	1,587,726
Total, Class II.	7,787,074	5,844,972	33,354,049	29,874,335
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	263,302	237,656	1,622,729	1,439,363
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	1,434,258	1,222,809	5,604,159	5,413,268
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	6,715,254	4,942,281	29,300,669	24,555,749
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	1,835,025	1,080,349	7,888,075	5,888,761
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	905,548	677,498	3,753,460	3,272,614
F. Electrical goods and apparatus	1,288,888	1,043,173	5,240,664	5,247,244
G. Machinery	5,527,880	4,470,870	23,018,101	21,286,956
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	396,018	201,168	1,226,752	919,039
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	12,328,784	7,847,252	61,726,239	45,676,023
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	4,178,277	2,411,867	22,443,461	17,137,230
K. Silk and silk manufactures	165,914	152,480	875,691	728,037
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	2,439,932	1,866,129	11,186,167	9,264,701
M. Apparel	1,996,518	1,434,222	10,231,801	8,924,395
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	2,457,061	2,045,556	10,899,461	10,229,709
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	791,570	779,194	3,557,315	3,487,798
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	781,191	631,550	3,067,820	2,594,676
Q. Paper and cardboard	985,645	805,528	3,911,732	3,804,226
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	4,853,897	4,987,408	22,958,018	20,933,744
S. Rubber manufactures	351,014	277,402	1,436,211	1,274,817
T. Miscellaneous articles mainly or wholly manufactured	3,702,623	2,701,742	15,743,419	12,785,719
Total, Class III.	53,398,599	39,816,334	245,691,944	204,864,069
IV.—Animals, not for food	181,435	111,004	671,988	594,712
V.—Parcel Post	1,465,575	1,429,416	7,495,065	6,908,964
Total	67,436,598	51,012,184	308,848,942	262,005,950

to 6s. 2½d.; March, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 3¾d.; May, 7s. 8½d. to 7s. 6d. Cuban, 96 per cent., July, quoted 6s. 7½d. c.i.f. U.K. Stocks of raw sugar in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending May 14th amounting to 134,416 tons, against 128,909. Cuban receipts last week amount to 46,746 tons, against 43,934 last year; exports, 68,077, against 91,996; stocks, 1,659,262, against 1,369,114. Centrals at work, 8, against 2.

COFFEE.—A rather featureless market resulted during the greater part of the week. *Fair quantities at auction were only partially* absorbed at prices manifested some irregularity. Demand for Brazilian varieties becomes lessened of late, and it sems that the Continent prefers mild liquoring descriptions in place of the bricky grades.

COCOA.—Spot market quiet, but prices about steady. Forward positions unsettled and trade conducted slowly. The depressed state of the market is difficult to explain, as given normal consumption, the article cannot be said to be over-produced, but consumption appears to be falling off in America. Accra, F/F, October-December, quoted 34s. f.o.b. Terminal, July, sold 35s. to 34s. 9d.; September, 34s. 9d.; December, 36s. to 34s. 7½d.

TEA.—Indian auctions during the week amounted to 50,942 packages. A fair general demand was evidence, and no material change occurred in prices. New season's Darjeelings were in request, especially leaf teas. Ceylon sales of 32,693 packages came to a somewhat quiet and irregular market. Some fine teas sold steadily, but generally prices ruled irregular, and frequently ½d. to 1d. down. Falling off in quality accounted for most of the decline. Export demand was found wanting. Java and Sumatra auctions quiet, and rates favoured the buyer.

RICE.—General demand still sluggish, and Spanish moves against the seller. Most other descriptions rendered more or less nominal. Two Stars, Rangoon, spot, London sellers, 12s. 10½d.; June, sellers, 11s. 10½d.; July, 12s. Spanish, oiled, May shipment to London, 14s. to 14s. 6d. Italian, 15s. to 15s. 3d. c.i.f. No. 3 Burma to Levant, quoted 12s. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 24s. to 25s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 3d. Saigon No. 1, round grain, June-July to Europe, 12s. 3d. Siam super, June-July, 17s. 1[illegible]

BEANS *quiet and very featureless.* Madagascar, spot, 31s. 6d. to 33s. to 33s. 6d.; May-June, 32s. Ohtenashi, Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 9d. to 11s. 3[illegible] H.P., spot, London, 18s. 6d. To Glasgow, North Afr[illegible] August, 7s. 10½d. c.i.f. Chinese ditto, 7s. 1½d.

PEAS dull. Japanese new crop, spot, Londo[illegible] 12s. 3d.; afloat, 13s.; June-July, 12s. 9d.; and new[illegible] October, held for 14s. c.i.f. Dutch marrowf[illegible] small hand-picked blues, 10s. to 12s. 6d. f.o.b. t[illegible] 504 lbs.), June-July, 43s. Karachi ditto, 41[illegible] No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, June-July, 56s. 6d. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, 62s. 6d. c.i.f.

SPICE.—Pepper met with quiet suppor[illegible] were not of much importance. London st[illegible] 17 tons for black at 968, against 1,683 s[illegible] being 30 tons lower, at 625, against 5[illegible] April-June, steamer, quoted 10½d.; May-J[illegible] 8⅝d.; Muntok, white, April-June, 1s.; 1[illegible] October, 11½d. Cloves quite nominal. [illegible] sellers, 11d. Continental demand for tapic[illegible]

	corresponding date.	
	1928.	1929.
	d.	d.
[illegible]5	11·45	10·20
[illegible]5	20·50	16·40
[illegible]½	16½	15
[illegible]½	17	15½
[illegible]½	30½	25½
	s. d.	s. d.
[illegible]3	26 4½	25 0
[illegible]0	29 3	27 9
[illegible]0	15 4½	15 0
[illegible]4	13 3	13 4

ith quiet trading in the London market for the all-favoured Java. ago flour dull, and June-July quoted 9s. 6d.; July-August, 9s. 7½d.; d August-September, 9s. 9d. c.i.f. Ginger quiet, but steadily held. nnamon steady. One circle, spot, London, 1s. 5d.; two, 1s. 4d.; ree, 1s. 3d.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market quiet, but prices generally aintained. Patras, quoted, 39s.-43s.; Zante, 38s.; Gulf, 40s.-2s.; Vostizza, 44s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 40s.-62s. ultanas: Smyrna's in small supply, but Australian sell well. myrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 2s.-65s.; Australian, old, 34s.-35s.; new, 45s.-75s. Dates dull. allowie, spot, 15s.-17s.; Khadrowie, 14s.; Siar, 11s.-14s. Raisins ove off quietly. Valencias, quarter-boxes, at 36s.-38s. Figs: old, quiet, but there is some inquiry for new crop. Genuine, 18s.-0s.; good average, 16s.; September shipment, 18s. 6d. c.i.f.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Trade is slow to improve but general osition unaltered. The demand for plums still runs chiefly on arge sizes, with parcels to arrive obtainable on slightly easier erms. Apricots mostly cleared regarding lower qualities, but ears are available at reasonable rates. Peaches and fruit salad teady, while apple rings meet with better support. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 55s.; Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-67s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 34s.; extra, 92s. 6d. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; ancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; South African, 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-50s.; 1930 crop, 42s.-58s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 112s.; Majorcas, 105s.-122s. 6d.; Bitter-Jordan, 185s.-192s. 6d. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Kerasunde cleared; Barcelona, 155s. French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s. ex wharf London. For shipment, 130s. cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—A spell of fine weather has stimulated demand, and most descriptions of Californian fruit move off more freely than of late. Sellers, however, were obliged to come into line with buyers' views in order to effect business. A few offers received so far for shipment parcels fail to attract much attention. Australian and English unaltered, and of the latter, only small supplies of old pack are available. Singapore pines in fair request on spot, but buyers still indifferent regarding shipment parcels.

CANNED FISH.—Market steady, with improved inquiries. Salmon: Alaska red talls, quoted, 48s. 6d.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 24s.-26s.; and halves, 34s.-36s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d.-90s. Lobsters: Halves range from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1-lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—There was a good demand for all descriptions, due to a spell of fine weather, and prices were well maintained, especially for ham and tongues.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—The market is somewhat better and undertone firm, offers from condenseries being slightly harder. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 30s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 19s. 3d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, 50s.. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 40s.; machine-skimmed ditto, 22s. Dutch full cream milk powders: 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 58s.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 78s. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders: roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 26s. 6d.; spray ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 37s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 36s. 3d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 36s.; all per cwt. English prices, basis carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of July, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s. Minimum 1-ton lots. Smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 18s. 6d.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 3d. basis per cases, usual packing.

HONEY.—Demand has fallen off considerably and with increased arrivals stocks are accumulating. The quality of new crop this year is very satisfactory, with result that the supply of better grades is more plentiful than usual. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to fine amber, 36s.-40s. Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 36s.; San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s-36s.; Mexican, 35s.; Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s.; New Zealand, 65s.-95s. per cwt.

RUBBER.

Market steady but quiet, with chief attention given to near positions. Standard sheet, spot and June, sold, 6¼d. to 6d.; July, 6¼d. to 6d.; July-September, 6 3/16d. to 6 1/16d.; October-December, 6⅛d. to 6 5/16d.; January-March, 6⅛d. to 6 3/16d.; April-June, 6⅛d. to 6 13/16d. London stocks increased 488 tons on the week. Landings, 1,232; deliveries, 744; stocks, 78,104, against 31,142 last year. Liverpool stocks, 1,326 higher; landings, 1,583; deliveries, 257; stocks, 26,646, against 4,733 last year. American consumption last month, 40,000 tons, against 49,180 last year; arrivals, 40,740, against 49,000; quantity afloat, 68,160, against 55,400; and stocks, 146,200, against 97,190 same time last year.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—A quiet and easier market which still suffers from the meagre sale attaching to all jute-manufactured goods and prospects of a bumper coming crop. Firsts, June-July, Continent, sold, £22 10s.-£22 7s. 6d.; July-August, sellers, £22 7s. 6d.; new, August-September, sold, £23 2s. 6d. to £22 15s.; September-October,

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

MARKS AND SPENCER, LIMITED

An Issue will be made on Tuesday, June 24th, of

£1,000,000 6 per cent. First Mortgage Registered Debenture Stock

at 102 per cent., Redeemable at 105 per cent.

AND

1,000,000 7 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each

at 21/- per Share, repayable in a winding-up at 22/6

SHARE CAPITAL:	Issued and fully paid or about to be issued.
Authorised.	
£350,000 in 10 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	£350,000
£1,000,000 in 7 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (now being issued)	£1,000,000
£600,000 in 1,200,000 Ordinary Shares of 10/- each	£600,000
£250,000 in 500,000 "A" Ordinary Shares of 10/- each	£126,000
£2,200,000	£2,076,000
DEBENTURE CAPITAL:	
£1,000,000 6 per cent. First Mortgage Registered Debenture Stock (now being issued)	£1,000,000

Directors:

SIMON MARKS (Chairman and Managing).
I. M. SIEFF (Vice-Chairman and Assistant Managing).
A. ISAACS (Assistant Managing).
J. L. GREEN. N. LASKI. R. F. NORLAND.

Trustees for the 6% Debenture Stockholders:

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD., 142, Holborn Bars, E.C.1.

The Prospectus will show inter alia:—

1. The Company was founded over 40 years ago, and operates a chain of 131 large stores and shops in London, its suburbs, and many of the provincial towns of Great Britain. The current year's programme so far includes the building of 15 new stores, the sites for which have been acquired, and the extension of 5 existing stores.
2. The net assets as at 31st March, 1930, together with the net proceeds of the present issue, but excluding Goodwill, cover the Debenture Stock **over three times,** and the value at that date of the freehold and leasehold properties to be specifically mortgaged covers the Debenture Stock **more than twice,** whilst the interest on the Debenture Stock is covered by the average net profits of the last three years **over four-and-a-half times,** and by the net profits of the last year **over six times.**
3. The 7% Preference Shares now offered are covered by the net assets as at 31st March, 1930 (after allowing for the Debenture Stock and the 10% Preference Shares), together with the net proceeds of the present issue, but excluding Goodwill, **more than twice,** and the dividend on these shares is covered by the average available net profits of the last three years **over two-and-half times;** and of the last year **over three-and-three-quarters times.**

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Application will be available on Monday, 23rd June, from

HELBERT, WAGG & CO., LTD., 41, Threadneedle Street, E.C.2.
THE INDUSTRIAL FINANCE & INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD., 39/41, New Broad Street, E.C.2.
MIDLAND BANK LTD., Poultry, E.C.2, and Branches.
BELISHA & CO., 82, King William Street, E.C.4.
CAZENOVE & AKROYDS, 10, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, and from the **Registered Offices of the Company,** 35-6-7 Chiswell Street, E.C.1.

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	40	9
Eng. Gaz. av., per cwt.	8	7
Barley, Eng. Gaz. av.....	7	2
Oats, " " "	6	3
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	25	9
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d.		
280 lb..... 34 6	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 10½	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 20 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 22 0	23	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 2 0	3	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 8	6	2
Argentine chilled hinds... 4 6	4	10
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	8	0
N.Z. frozen " 3 4	4	4
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 5 4	6	8

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	109	0	114 0
Danish.....	99	0	104 0
Canadian.....	102	0	0 0
Dutch	86	0	98 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0	0 0
Canadian.....	0	0	0 0
American	94	0	108 0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	130	0	134 0
Australian	114	0	132 0
New Zealand	120	0	150 0
Danish.....	138	0	0 0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	82	0	84 0
New Zealand	78	0	85 0
English Cheddars	74	0	86 0
Dutch	36	0	71 0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	38	0	0 0
Trinidad	60	0	65 0
Grenada	48	0	53 0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 9s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	123	0	138 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0	180 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0	135 0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0	118 0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	12	0	16 0
Danish.....	10	0	12 3
FRUIT—			
Oranges,Jaffa(pagoda)bxs.	0	0	0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	0	0	0 0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia			
¼ cases 300	13	0	15 6
360	13	0	16 6
504	15	6	17 0
Lemons, Naples.... boxes	20	0	38 0
Sicilian ..... boxes	14	0	20 0
" ..... cases	14	6	22 6
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1	0	0	0 0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.	0	0	0 0
" (var.) boxes	0	0	0 0
" Tasmanian' boxes	7	0	11 9
" Australian	9	0	15 0

	s.	d.	s.	d.
FRUIT *(continued)*—				
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	4	6	5	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva.....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	80	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	53	3	53	9
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	1½	1	1½
Black Lampong	0	10½	0	11
Cinnamon—1st sort,per lb.	1	1	1	3
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	40	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	1	10	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	3	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	19	6	22	0
Java, white, c.&.f. India, July-Sept.	8	6	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	0	25	6
Crushed.....	23	6	24	0
Granulated.....	21	6	22	1½
Home Grown (nominal)	20	7½	20	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8½	2	0
Broken Pekoe	0	8½	1	11
Orange Pekoe	0	10	2	7
Broken Orange.....	0	11½	2	8
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2½ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" strips.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	8½
" strips	0	5½	1	2

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	7·55
Sakellaridis, f.g.f......	12·45
Yarns, 32's twist.....	11½
60's twist.....	20½

	£	s.	£	s.
FLAX—				
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernau HD	52	0	0	0
Slanetz Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian F.C. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, July-Sept. "J2"	23	10	0	0
N.Z., Mar.-May		*nom.*		
Sisal African, June-Aug.	25	0	25	15
Mexican		*nom.*		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
June-July		22	10	0
Aug.-Sept.		23	0	0

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	8	0	9	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	14	0	15	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	13	0	15	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	15½
" Lincoln hog, washed	11½
Queensland, scd., super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super "	14
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12½
Crossbred 40–44	11
Tops—	
Merinos 70's	31
" 64's	28½
Crossbred 48's	16½
" 46's	16

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	0	21	0
IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215		0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170		0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	0	18	3

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper,Electrolytic, ton	54	0	56	0
Sheets (strong)	83	0	0	0
Standard	47/2/6		47/5/0	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	5	0	0
Soft Foreign	17/17/6		17/16/3	
Spelter G.O.B.	16/7/6		16/18/9	
Tin—English ingots ...	134	10	135	0
Standard cash	133/7/6		133/10/0	

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	6¾	1	7
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, pat.	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	1½	1	2
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Potash—Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	0	25	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0
COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton July 18/7/6		0	0	
Smoked South Sea July 17/17/6		0	0	
DRUGS—				
Camphor—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Japan, refined	2	6	2	6½
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	12	6	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4½
West Indian	0	3½	0	4½
Cape	0	4½	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	6½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	7½
Best cow	0	3½	0	4½
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	8	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	5
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	7½	1	0
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	1	1	5
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	43	0	0	0
Rape, refined	37	10	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	27	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	32	10	0	0
Palm.....	21	0	23	0
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	9	10	9	15
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— June-July.	16/15/0		0	0
Calcutta, per ton— June-July.	17/17/6		0	0
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	40	9	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	15	6	18	6
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6½	0	6
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	7½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	115	0	117	6
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10

TIMBER—	£	s.	d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.	18	0	0
Do. 2½ x 7 "	18	0	0
Do. 2 x 4 "	18	0	0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "	17	0	0
Pitchpine ..... per load	9	0	0
Rio Deals ..... per std.	32	0	0
Teak ..... per load	20	0	0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.	0	11	6
African " "	0	6	6
Amer. Oak Boards .. "	0	6	0
Do. Ash "	0	7	0
English Oak Planks "	0	6	6
Do. Ash "			

£22 15s. Lightnings, June-July, quoted, £21 7s.; August-September, £21 15s.

HEMP.—Met with quiet support and prices manifested a weaker tendency. J, No. 2, July-September, quoted, £23 10s.; ditto, K, £22; L, No. 1, £22; L, No. 2, £21; M, No. 1, £20 15s.; M, No. 2, £20 10s.; G, £24 15s.; H, £23 5s.; Streaky, one, £40 10s.; two, £35 10s.; three, £30 c.i.f. terms. Receipts last week cabled 27,000 bales, against 34,000 last year and 23,000 1928. Estimate for next week, 27,000, and week after, 27,000. Manila shipments last week, 6,000 to the U.K.; 5,000, Continent; 5,000, U.S.A.; 5,000, Japan, other countries 1,000, and local consumption 1,000, making stocks 163,000 bales. African sisal: No. 1, June-August, quoted, £26 10s.; No. 2, £25 15s. c.i.f.

SHELLAC.—Steady. T.N., 117s. 6d.; fine Orange, 130s. to 230s.; A.C. Garnet, 130s.; R.L.I. Button Lac, quoted, 150s. Futures quiet. August sold at 98s. to 103s.; October, 103s. to 105s. To arrive, July-August, sold, 92s.; September-October, 95s.

COPRA.—A poor market was again evidenced, and the position of the commodity seems to have become undermined by fierceness of competition from whale and olive oils. In addition, the low prices quoted for butter exercise a baneful influence. Straits S.D., Rotterdam, £18 2s. 6d.; August, £18 7s. 6d. Dutch East Indies, July, £18 5s. Ceylon, July, £19 7s. 6d. Sun-dried, South Sea, June-July, £17 11s. 3d. Plantation Rabaul and hot-air dried, £18 5s. To Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, July-August, sold, £18. Smoked, South Sea, quoted, £17 17s. 6d. Manila, bulk, £17 15s.

PALM KERNELS to Hamburg, June, £12: September-October, sold, £12 11s. 3d.; October-November, £12 15s. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 24s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £23 to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 10s. to £25 5s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, June-July, 4s.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—June 18.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 4	6 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls	---	---
Irish	---	---	Canadian	---	---
Cambridge	---	---	Sheep—Downs	8 4	9 4
Short Horns	6 4	6 6	Half bred	---	---
Herefords	---	---	Ewes	5 0	5 8
Devons	---	---	Scottish	---	---
Leicester runts	---	---	Lamb—Downs	10 4	11 0

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—June 18.

	Per Cwt. s.	d.	s.	d.
Lincoln King Edward	2	0	3	0
" " " whites	1	6	2	9
New Jersey	6	0	8	6
St. Malo	8	0	---	
Roscoff	7	5	---	

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THE MONEY MARKET.

On Tuesday, June 24th, the market began its preparatory borrowing from the Bank of England in anticipation of the turn of the half-year on Monday next. This week's Bank return shows that up to midnight Wednesday approximately £8,800,000 had thus been borrowed, and

this expansion in the Discounts and Advances is reflected in the increase of £5,444,688 in Bankers' Deposits, which largely represent market resources. Thus at the moment there is a huge artificial surplus of funds, and while money into July commands 3-3½ per cent., day-to-day rates have fallen to 1½ per cent., which means that money is almost unlendable. In other words, the market is now in an abnormal condition, and will remain so until the Bank is finally repaid the sums borrowed over the half-year. Only then will it be possible to estimate the true position.

* * * *

Since last week a radical change has come over the discount market, for the three months' rate which previously had risen gradually until on June 19th it stood at $2\frac{7}{16}$-½ per cent., has since eased abruptly to $2\frac{1}{4}$-$\frac{5}{16}$ per cent., while it is reported that some institutions have bought bills for July delivery at as low as 2⅛ per cent. This decline has probably little connection with the present plethora of money, for, as stated, this is due solely to preparations for the end of the half-year. It is obvious that no one is going to borrow money from the Bank this week at 3½ per cent., knowing that they will need it next Monday, and then buy bills with it at rates of $2\frac{5}{16}$ per cent. or less. Hence other causes must be sought for the recent relapse in discount rates.

* * * *

The key to the change in the London market is probably to be found in the causes underlying the recent reductions in the New York and Berlin rediscount rates. In the United States, bad trade and the renewed weakness of stock prices have had the effect of making short money almost unemployable, and the reduction in the New York rate to 2½ per cent. has done no more than mark the Reserve Bank's sense of this fact, and bring the rate into better alignment with the current low rates obtainable for short money. The Berlin market, too, is at the moment over-supplied with funds, and Germany's power to absorb more foreign money is now very limited. Bad trade and weak stock markets are undoubtedly the explanation in Germany's case as well as that of the United States.

* * * *

Thus, during the last week or ten days, some American short money has undoubtedly come to London in search of unemployment, for the improvement in the sterling exchange from $4.85¾ to $4.86 is sufficient proof of this. Again the mark exchange has lately risen from 20.36½ to 20.39½, which suggests that Germany is ceasing to draw on foreign centres for short money and is very likely repaying some of her previous borrowings. Thus on balance London is probably now in possession of more short money than she was in the middle of the month, and it is the presence of this money and its need for finding employment that has driven down discount rates.

	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.	Previous Rate and Date Changed.
	%	%	%	%	%
Bank Rate	3	3	3	3	3½ (May 1, '30)
Banks' Deposit Rate	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Discount { Call	1	1	1	1	1½ (May 1, '30)
Houses { Notice	1½	1½	1¼	1½	1¾ (May 1, '30)
Market rate (3 months' bills)	2⅛-$\frac{5}{32}$	2 $\frac{5}{16}$	2 $\frac{7}{16}$-½	2¼	...

In many ways it is disappointing that just as bill rates had been pulled up, so that for the first time this year they were only the normal margin of ½ per cent. below Bank rate, an influx of foreign money should have depressed them once more. It also means that the outlook for the market remains a complex one, for there is no guarantee that this American money will not be withdrawn without warning, to finance crop movements or for other purposes. In short, so long as bill rates are kept low by the presence of foreign funds, it behoves buyers of bills to operate with caution.

NEW YORK.

Our New York correspondent cables:—Call money has been down on Thursday to 1½ per cent., the lowest level since 1917. The ease has been accentuated by the accumulation in New York of subscriptions to the $82,500,000 Reparation Loan. Open market discount rates average a weak 2 per cent. for three months', and $2\frac{3}{16}$ for six months', bills. The Reserve System's total credits outstanding are $26 millions down, and the ratio is 83.7 per cent., a reflection of the passing of "tax date" financing.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

In a market depressed by the week-end slump in Transatlantic security values, Gilt-edged stocks were the only really bright feature, following cheaper money rates, and an all-round advance occurred. Home Rails made a poor showing with the publication of a further unsatisfactory batch of traffics, but Undergrounds were firm. Brazilian shares proved weak, and Foreign Rails, especially Argentine, opened with further selling, though an improvement occurred subsequently. Industrials were irregular. Breweries were a strong feature and Carreras advanced, but the Royal Mail Preference Stocks fell heavily. Tea shares were lifeless, Oils improved somewhat, and Rubbers were irregular. Among Mining Shares the Northern Rhodesian counters fell sharply under the lead of Congo Borders.

THE COMMODITY MARKETS.

There is no general improvement in the coal position, but a big South American contract has been placed in South Wales. Transactions in iron and steel, except for a few expensive classes of specialties, are still on a very small scale. Last week's inquiries for cotton goods have not materialised into orders. The Bradford market is very weak, though world wool values are very firm. The Calcutta jute mills have at last agreed to curtail production, but there has been no improvement in the jute markets. The hides and leather markets are uneven, but, on the whole, the outlook appears better. The timber situation is satisfactory. Seeds and oils are quiet. The downward movment in wheat prices continued.

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Only moderate activity characterised the Foreign Exchange market, but the lowering of the Federal Reserve and Reichsbank rediscount rates gave sterling a firmer tendency. New York went from 4.85¾ to 4.86 as did also Montreal. Paris, after being 123.75 and 123.78, was one point worse at 123.77. Brussels gained a point at 34.82. Milan declined by the same margin to 92.77. Madrid was again very erratic, and fell away from 41.20 to 42.25 after some earlier buying. Amsterdam moved rather sharply in our favour to $12.09\frac{11}{16}$, while Berlin again fluctuated, and went from 20.36½ to 20.38⅛. Switzerland also fluctuated within narrow limits, but improved from 25.09½ to 25.07⅜. Of the Scandinavian exchanges, Oslo was better at 18.15, but Copenhagen lost ¼ at 18.16. The South American exchanges were again uncertain. Rio gained $\frac{1}{32}$d. at $5\frac{9}{16}$d.; but Buenos Aires after being 41½d. fell away to $40\frac{7}{16}$d. Montevideo lost a penny at 42½d. The rupee was very firm at 1s. $5\frac{27}{32}$d. The yen was unchanged at 2s. $0\frac{7}{16}$d. In the forward market New York went from $\frac{1}{16}$ and $\frac{3}{16}$ cent discount to $\frac{1}{16}$ cent and $\frac{3}{32}$ cent premium. Paris one month was unchanged, but the premium on three months rose two points to 6 centimes. Milan was less in demand at wider discounts of 13 and 33 centesimi for the two periods. Madrid was unchanged. Amsterdam was better for one month's delivery at a lowered discount of ½ cent, but the discount for three months advanced to 1⅛ cent. Berlin improved to ¾ and 1¼ pfennigs discount, against 1⅛ and 3 pfennigs last week. Silver established new low records during the week, but recovered a little towards the end to $15\frac{9}{16}$d. for spot and $15\frac{3}{8}$d. for forward as a result of small offers, and some speculative support, but the United States and China were both inclined to sell. The China silver exchanges were hesitant in sympathy, Hong Kong being unchanged on balance at 1s. 3¼d., while Shanghai lost ¼d. at 1s. 6d.

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TOWARDS A FEDERAL INDIA.

EVERYONE who carefully studied the first volume of the Indian Commission's Report must have been prepared for the fact that its recommendations would not follow the line of proposing for India as a whole a further instalment of democratic institutions of the type familiar in the West, but would propose something better suited to the peculiarly complicated conditions of the country. The only solution that in any way meets these difficulties is a federal one. The framers of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms to some extent recognised this; but in the end the India Act of 1919 took the orthodox line, and a Central Legislative Assembly was set up, containing, in addition to nominated members, a certain number of representatives elected by small electorates scattered over fantastically large constituencies. This scheme has not worked well; it is entirely unsuited to the more backward parts of India, and is not one into which the Indian States could fit. It is safe to assume that it would never have been suggested for India—in spite of the example of European constitutions—if the makers of the constitution of 1919 had not been designing something which was to grow alongside an existing highly centralised government.

The Act of 1919, however, went a considerable way in the direction of decentralisation, and although during the intervening ten years the proceedings of the Centre have attracted most of the limelight, there has developed a quite active political life in the provinces. The reforms, in short, have to some extent fulfilled the expectation of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report by "breaking up the old structure before building the new." Thus, on the one hand, the main idea underlying the conclusions reached by the Indian Statutory Commission—"that the ultimate constitution of India must be federal"—follows a familiar line and is the natural consequence of what has gone before. On the other hand, in an important respect, the Commission's scheme opens a new era in India's political history; for it proposes to attain this Federal India by continuous evolution without the necessity of periodical inquiries and the radical overhauling of her constitution. It is not a scheme for the creation of the whole edifice at once, but it indicates the outlines of the whole and builds a substantial part of the structure for which the material is already prepared. In this idea of continuous development there should surely be a basis on which Indians who passionately desire that their country should take her place on an equal footing with other self-governing members of the Empire can co-operate with Great Britain.

Among a great variety of interesting suggestions three main features of the Commission's Report may be distinguished, namely, the grant of self-government to the provinces, the re-framing of the central organ of government on a federal basis with a view to the subsequent admission of the States, and the making of the defence of India an Imperial responsibility.

So far as the provinces are concerned, dyarchy is to be abolished and all subjects, including Law and Order, are to be placed under a unitary cabinet responsible to the Provincial Parliament. Experience in the provinces has not been uniform, and the Commission desire to permit variation in the precise form of government. The Governor may, if he chooses, select a Chief Minister, and consult with him as to the membership of the Cabinet. He may include a Service member and it is suggested that various parties and communities may be represented. These Indian provinces may, in fact, have to follow more closely the Continental example of coalition cabinets rather than the British model. But whatever may be done in this respect, the Commission insists that there must be joint cabinet responsibility. The official *bloc* is to disappear, and the Councils are to be enlarged and the franchise widened. To safeguard Ministers from pressure in regard to patronage, civil service appointments will be made by a Public Services Commission. Finally, as self-government can only be a success if the units concerned have adequate financial resources, proposals are made for giving the provinces some extended powers of taxation, for dividing among them a portion of the proceeds of the income tax, and for voting, through their representatives in the Federal Assembly, national excise revenues which will be divided among them on a *per capita* basis. The political independence of these Provincial Governments is limited only by the reserve powers of the Governor to intervene in the case of a breakdown in government, if the peace and tranquillity of the province are at stake, if the Governments impinge on the rights of other provinces or of minorities, concern themselves with matters which affect India's international obligations, or in other ways exceed their prescribed sphere of activity.

The Central Government is to be changed by substituting indirect election by the provincial parliaments for direct election to the Legislative Assembly, which is to be renamed the Federal Assembly. This body is to be enlarged, and instead of being largely nominated as at present it will have only a score of nominated members out of a total membership of from 250 to 280. No specific suggestion is put forward for the inclusion of representatives of the Indian States, but a Council is to be set up at once for the discussion of (as distinct from action upon) matters of common interest to India, including customs and national excises, communications, currency and banking, commerce, Indians overseas and matters arising from India's membership of the League of Nations. The constitution of the Federal Assembly would, however, be adjusted to permit representatives of the States to be included in it on any basis which may be subsequently agreed, if the Princes, after discussion, come to the conclusion that the representation of their States in it is desirable. The Commission, however, was not empowered to visit or to report upon the Indian States, and this part of the problem is very clearly one which must be discussed at the Round Table Conference. The Commission are clear that it would be a mistake to introduce dyarchy into the Central Government, nor do they think that in the present uncertainty as to the final form of the Centre the Governor-General's Council should be responsible to the Assembly. They do, however, express the view that it would be a desirable development if the Council were recruited from Indians who have taken a prominent part in the work of the Assembly. In the first volume the Commission pointed out that, though the present Assembly is not in control of the Executive, it exercises an influence over it. Clearly, the reduction of the official *bloc* to insignificant dimensions will immediately increase the power of the new parliament.

Moreover, acting in its capacity as a body representative of the provinces, the Federal Assembly will be given full power over the taxes which it is proposed should be collected centrally but distributed among the provinces on a *per capita* basis. The Commission clearly envisage this as a very important example of a method of collaboration among the provinces on matters which are of joint concern. It is by thus building up from a basis of provincial or State rights that the "Centre" will gradually assume the character of a truly federal organ and attain full responsibility.

The Commission had, however, first to dispose of the army question. This, they say, cannot yet be placed under an elected body representive of India. If the army is removed from the sphere of the Governor-General in Council and made an Imperial responsibility, combined possibly with a limitation of the charge which India is called upon to pay for defence, it would make the development of responsible government easier; would, if a good bargain were made by India, relieve the Indian taxpayer from a financial burden which is among the half-dozen or so most expensive military charges in the world, and

perhaps be the first step towards a new conception of Imperial defence. Indian Nationalists have endeavoured to maintain that India could quickly take over her own defence, and that meanwhile there is no reason why a free India should not hire the British Army to defend her. But this claim has never been made with any conviction, and Indian Moderates, who have been pressing for Dominion Status, have clearly had defence in mind as one of the problems to be dealt with during what they have described as the "interim period." The Commission's suggestion—associated, as it is, with the proposal that the Government of India, in co-operation with the Central Legislature, might organise certain military or naval forces of its own, independently paid for and controlled, which would contain no British element—is one way of removing this obstacle in the way of constitutional advance.

The Commission's recommendations, a fuller summary of which appears in a later column, will not appeal to those who think that a highly complicated problem can be solved by a phrase or a simple formula, and the Report has been received with a chorus of criticism in India because it has not defined Dominion Status or attempted to indicate the dates of subsequent developments. These criticisms contain many misrepresentations which can only be removed by the study of the Report itself. This will take time; but the more it is examined, the more it will be appreciated how far-reaching are its actual proposals. If its tone is that of a realism "closer to the ground" than is wholly satisfying to the aspirations of Indian sentiment, the "hard facts" of the sub-continent's vast problems, elaborated with no lack of sympathy or understanding in the first volume, provide a standard whereby to judge the magnitude of the changes proposed.

THE CONSERVATIVE DILEMMA.

THE Conservative Party meeting, summoned and addressed by Mr Baldwin on Tuesday, cleared the air in several respects, but it did little towards resolving the internal differences within the party on the crucial matter of fiscal policy. It revealed overwhelming support for Mr Baldwin's determination to offer uncompromising resistance to all attempts at dictatorship by the Press; but it revealed equally clearly both the unpopularity of the device of the Referendum for deciding the food tax issue and the cleavage in the party on that issue itself. Some of the smoke of the battle has been blown away, but the scene is one in which two opposing Conservative armies still face each other. The issue still hangs in the balance.

The task which faced Mr Baldwin was dual—to confute the Press Lords and to satisfy the rank and file as to the soundness of his policy. The first was comparatively easy, and was performed with a vigour and trenchancy which the Conservative leader is unwont to employ. His recital of the facts relating to his bargain with Lord Beaverbrook, which led up to the introduction of the Referendum for the sake of party peace, and of the subsequent actions and words of himself and the two Press Lords, carries to the impartial observer a conviction that Mr Baldwin has adhered more faithfully to the bargain than Lord Beaverbrook. With the tergiversations of Lord Rothermere the Conservative leader made effective play, but his trump card was kept till the close of the speech, when he revealed to an astonished meeting the length to which Lord Rothermere had pressed his claims to dictatorship. In a letter written to a Conservative member as recently as last month Lord Rothermere said:—

> "I cannot make it too abundantly clear that under no circumstances whatsoever will I support Mr Baldwin—and let me beg of you for Mr Baldwin to read the name of any other person who may be leading this Party—unless I know exactly what his policy is going to be, unless I have complete guarantees that such policy will be carried out if his Party achieves office, and *unless I am acquainted with the names of at least eight or ten of his most prominent colleagues in his next Ministry.*"

The italics are ours, and we make no apology for them. In spite of a disclaimer put out by his lordship, the plain man can only read that letter as a claim, if not to dictate, at least to approve or disapprove in advance the personnel for the main posts in the Cabinet. It is an unconstitutional claim and one that goes far beyond the limits of the tolerable; and in spurning such a claim, by whomsoever it is advanced, Mr Baldwin or any other party leader should have behind him not merely his own party but the overwhelming opinion of the country. Incidentally, Lord Rothermere's disclaimer does its author no good, for it puts forward the untenable theory that "the electorate have a right to know when they go to the poll not only who will be Prime Minister, but what Ministers are going to occupy certain key positions, if the party they are voting for is returned to power." That suggestion entails a very far-reaching innovation in present constitutional practice, in which we can see no advantage and many dangers, and for which, we imagine, little, if any, support will be forthcoming from any political quarter.

So, in the first round of the great fight against would-be dictators, Mr Baldwin has won decisively on points, and the verdict is not likely to be reversed. For dictatorship by the Press is abhorrent to the British mind, and in spite of all the forces working for it, it is not likely to be achieved. We are aware, of course, that the case of the part played by the late Lord Northcliffe in dethroning Mr Asquith will be quoted against us as an example of the decisive political potentialities of Press magnates and as a precedent which may possibly be repeated. But that incident was easily explicable by the fact that it occurred at a critical moment of the Great War, when public life was abnormal and the public temperature feverish. It will remain in British history, we believe, as the exception which proves the rule that the people and their elected representatives are not ready to accept dictation either from the Press or any other extra-constitutional force.

But that is only part of the story. The strength of Mr Baldwin's position against Press dictatorship contrasts vividly with the weakness of the position as regards policy into which he has been manœuvred in the unsuccessful pursuit of peace within his party. The truth about the Referendum is that it has no friends. It is a device which is alien to British constitutional needs and ideas, and is in any case a peculiarly unsuitable method for recording the popular will on complicated tariff schedules. In this issue Lord Beaverbrook and, since his recent conversion, Lord Rothermere, occupy the firmer ground. As readers of the *Economist* are well aware, we are equally strongly opposed, on grounds of national advantage, to that form of Protection advocated by Mr Baldwin under his scheme of "extended safeguarding" for industry, plus a subsidy for agriculture, and of that form of Protection, plus Preference, advocated by the Empire Crusaders under the misnomer of "Empire Free Trade." We shall not, therefore, be misunderstood when we say that, as between these two sections of the Conservative Party, the latter are on stronger ground, because they are definite in policy and have the courage to face the essential fact, enunciated long ago by Joseph Chamberlain, that you cannot have effective Imperial Preference without food taxes. On this issue, sooner or later, Mr Baldwin will have to declare himself. If the Conservative Party is to put Imperial Preference in the front of its programme it must accept the policy of food taxes. If it is convinced, as we are, that the country will not have food taxes, then it must realise that an extensive policy of Empire customs preference is ruled out. There is no magic loophole for escape, whether by a Referendum or by other device.

Mr Baldwin's position is, indeed, unenviable at present. His desire to achieve party unity has thrown him on the horns of a dilemma and has not achieved anything in the way of unity. Moreover, the country may rightly expect to know without undue delay what is the policy of the official Opposition party. Nevertheless, we are inclined to take the view, stated by Sir Robert Horne at Tuesday's meeting, namely, that events in the fiscal sphere will move rapidly, and that the passage of time may automatically resolve present Conservative difficulties. For big events are brewing in the fiscal sphere. In September the League Assembly will discuss M. Briand's plan for a European union, which, while it eschews the idea of a Zollverein, might produce important indirect influences on the fiscal policies of individual countries. The Imperial Conference is to be held in London in October. Then in the spring are due the European negotiations on tariffs arising out of the recent Tariff Truce discussions at Geneva. And in the intervening months the world in general, and Europe in particular, will be watching the reactions of America's heightened tariff.

Father Time, therefore, may mow down with his scythe some of the tangled undergrowth which now obscures the field of Conservative policy and enmeshes the feet of its actual and presumptive leaders. Such a consummation is devoutly to be wished. For, as Queen Victoria used to say, we are "neither edified nor amused" by the present spectacle of an acrimonious disunion which diverts attention from the pressing problems at home and abroad which should be absorbing the thoughts of the British public.

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GERMAN BANKING PROGRESS.

(BY OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE steady, quiet development that was characteristic of the German banks in the first years following the stabilisation of the German currency suffered an interruption in the last twelve months. Up to 1929 the deposits of the banks increased year by year, and their earnings also increased steadily, so that, in addition to the relatively small dividends declared, considerable reserves could be accumulated. In the banks' reports the year 1929 was described with justification as a critical year. In the first place the innumerable large and small bankruptcies in industry and trade affected the banks; a not inconsiderable part of their debtors disclosed themselves as "insolvent," and it was possible to save the situation only by cancellations. The large German banks also suffered considerable losses through certain suspensions of payments such as, for example, the collapse of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Versicherungs A/G. In addition to these losses, losses on stocks also played an important part. The banks endeavoured during the past year to check the fall of German stocks, and bought large blocks of them. Since the decline continued despite such intervention, substantial amounts had to be written off at the end of the year on these large holdings. And, finally, there were also reduced profits in 1929 in the deposit business. Loans from abroad, which the large German banks employ in considerable amounts, commanded abnormally high interest rates—much higher than in the preceding year—owing to the influence of the New York Bourse, and it was not possible to shift all this additional charge on to the shoulders of the depositors.

The unfavourable developments of 1929 are hardly reflected in the annual reports of the large banks. Only the smaller and medium-sized institutions in the provinces decided to reduce their dividends; the large Berlin banks without exception declared unchanged dividends for 1929, and at most refrained this time from increasing their "open" reserves to the same extent as in the preceding year. These larger banks felt that considerations of prestige compelled them to avoid a lowering of their dividends, and hence they employed reserves accumulated in former years, and not shown in the balance sheets, to cover their losses through insolvencies and stock transactions. The head of one large bank has rightly pointed out that the aim in accumulating reserves is precisely to assure a stability of dividends in unfavourable years.

The year 1929, which brought the heavy decline referred to in the earnings of the banks, also brought decisive alterations in the structure of German banking. Of the four "D" banks, among which no important differences of proportion existed, two were combined. Since the fusion effected in the autumn of 1929, the Deutsche Bank and the Disconto-Gesellschaft constitute by far the largest German financial institution. Measured by the amount of foreign money administered, the other "D" banks—Danat and Dresdner—follow at a considerable distance, and the fourth largest German bank, the Commerz- und Privatbank, which last year absorbed the Mitteldeutsche Creditbank, is not far behind the other two. All these banks have branches all over Germany, in contrast to two other large banks, whose business is concentrated in Berlin. These are the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft and the Reichs-Kredit-Gesellschaft, which as a rule do business only with large clients. There are in addition to the banks named numerous other small and medium-sized joint stock banks whose activities are in the main confined to limited districts of the country.

Of greater importance for the structure of German banking are the private bankers. A delimitation by fields of activity between joint stock banks and privately-owned banks in Germany is hardly possible. With the exception of mortgage business there is hardly any financial business in which the large banks do not engage; they devote themselves in equal measure to deposit, stock exchange, acceptance and issue business. The same is true of the larger private banks with the single exception that deposits of small clients play only a small part with them. The largest private bankers, such as Mendelssohn and Co., in Berlin, who are on the same footing in respect of strength as the "D" banks, and Warburg in Hamburg and Arnhold in Dresden, are the strongest competitors of the large banks both on the Bourse and in big issue and credit transactions. Unfortunately no statistics are available of the financial means at their disposal, and hence in estimating the German banking structure one must confine oneself to the joint stock banks. The capital, reserves and deposits of these latter are shown below:—

	Capital.	Reserves.	Deposits. Dec. 12, 1929.	Deposits. Apr. 30, 1930.
		(In Millions of Marks.)		
Deutsche Bank und Disconto	285	160	4,942	4,855
Dresdner Bank.....	100	34	2,363	2,341
Danatbank	60	60	2,473	2,461
Commerzbank	75	41	1,666	1,535
Reichs-Kredit-Ges. ...	40	20	626	663
Berliner Handelsges...	28	15	437	411

The concentration in the German banking world has made itself felt still more strongly in the last few months. Numerous small institutions and bankers in the provinces could no longer maintain themselves because of the unfavourable situation and heavy losses on the Bourse, and were compelled to take refuge with the large banks. In connection with this development the financial importance of the provinces has diminished; Berlin plays a steadily larger part in the German banking business.

The backbone of the German banks in 1929 was the deposit business. As a result of the complete stagnation of the German capital market, stock exchange and issue transactions produced only very small profits, and current expenses and profits had in the main to be gained from the margin between interest on debits and credits. In 1930, however, there has been a development which appears to menace this important branch of business as well. The extreme easiness of both the German and the international money market compelled the German banks to reduce their interest rates more and more, but brought them no adequate compensation in the shape of

an influx of cheap capital. As a rule the German banks charge their debtors a rate of interest 1 per cent. higher than the Reichsbank discount figure, and in addition thereto a commission of ½ per cent. a month. During the period in which the Reichsbank rate was 7½ per cent. —the greater part of the year 1929—the debtors therefore had to pay an average of 10½ per cent. per year. The present Reichsbank rate is 4½ per cent., and the average burden on the debtor has simultaneously dropped to 7½ per cent. a year. It is difficult for the banks to secure domestic savings accounts at correspondingly reduced rates, since first-class mortgage bonds and loans can still be had which give a yield of 8 per cent., and the savings banks, which in the main satisfy the requirements for mortgages and municipal credits, still pay from 5 per cent. to 7 per cent. for deposits. In contrast with the steadily increasing deposits in the savings banks, the deposits in the large banks have not increased in the last half-year.

The unfavourable effects of the lowering of interest rates referred to have recently occupied a large place in discussions of the developments in the German banking world, but they must not be over-estimated. Despite the lessened receipts of the last year, the large German banks have at their disposal substantial reserves, which enable them to meet all economic demands on them without loss to their stockholders.

THE HALF-YEAR'S NEW CAPITAL.

The total figures for new capital applications in the London market for the June quarter and for the half-year do not differ widely from the figures for the comparable periods of 1929. But the character of the issues in the two periods was very different. In 1929, whereas rising money rates checked the bond market, share market activities produced an avalanche of industrial, speculative and semi-speculative issues. In the half-year which is now closing, the progressive cheapening of money, coupled with trade depression and share market idleness, has brought share issues to a low ebb, and fixed-interest securities have provided a very large proportion of the total of new emissions. For the first half-year of 1929 the total of £174.4 millions included only £40 millions of issues by British, Colonial and foreign Governments and Corporations, whereas the figure of £169.7 millions for the first half of 1930 includes no less than £117 millions under these heads. Our figures throughout this survey take account only of new money, and exclude issues or parts of issues made for purely conversion or redemption purposes. If the latter were to be included, the aggregate for the total offered for subscription in the past half-year would amount to £245 millions as against £195 millions in the first half of 1929.

DESTINATION OF NEW CAPITAL.

	First Half of Years.					
	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom—						
Government	Nil	7,566,800	67,153,800	85,211,000	1,600,000	39,960,000
Other	20,324,400	58,967,800	89,869,800	99,310,900	103,815,800	66,618,500
	20,324,400	66,534,600	157,023,600	184,521,900	105,415,800	106,578,500
British Possessions—						
Government	14,324,300	22,969,000	12,813,100	31,423,000	23,590,000	27,000,800
Other	28,678,300	9,735,100	21,529,000	8,754,700	26,374,000	10,154,200
	43,002,600	32,704,100	34,342,100	40,177,700	49,964,000	37,155,000
Foreign countries—						
Government	22,629,500	12,700,500	2,657,500	5,745,100	3,650,000	18,480,000
Other	34,403,100	8,826,000	13,540,600	14,318,100	15,363.800	7,442,200
	57,032,600	21,526,500	16,198,100	20,063,200	19,013,800	25,922,200
Grand total ...	120,359,600	120,765,200	207,563,800	244,762,800	174,393,600	169,655,700

Our figure for British Government borrowings is made up of £37,060,000 of new cash, not directly required to meet maturities, raised by the February issue of 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan and £2,900,000 representing the net sales (margin of purchases over encashments) of National Savings Certificates. A very big drop will be noticed in the above table in the amount raised for financing home purposes other than those of the Government. The Foreign Government issues all fell in the June quarter, two-thirds of the total being accounted for by the German Reparations issue, details concerning which will be found in a later table. Below we give a classification of London borrowers for the full years 1923 to 1927 and for each quarter since then.

CLASSES OF BORROWERS.

(£ million.)

	Total.	British Government.	Foreign and Colonial Govt.	British, Colonial and Foreign Corpn.	Foreign Railways.	Mines, Finance, and Exploration.	Rubber and Oil.	Balance (Mainly Home Industry).
Total whole year, 1923	271·4	77·7	95·8	4·8	5·4	15·5	7·7	64·5
Total whole year, 1924	209·3	13·7	90·6	18·8	1·0	12·7	2·3	70·2
Total whole year, 1925	232·2	45·6	30·7	25·3	3·8	18·0	19·1	89·7
Total whole year, 1926	230·7	4·7	54·6	49·2	8·2	26·9	6·2	80·9
Total whole year, 1927	355·1	66·0	67·5	37·9	5·4	33·2	11·0	134·1
Total whole year, 1928	369·0	83·8	56·1	26·4	3·1	49·7	8·7	141·2
Total whole year, 1929	285·2	65·4	30·0	12·1	7·8	41·5	6·4	122·0
1928—1st quarter ...	169·0	85·7	22·7	3·0	1·0	16·7	2·2	37·7
2nd ,, ...	75·7	*Dr.0·5*	14·4	10·0	Nil	11·0	0·6	40·2
3rd ,, ...	45·9	*Dr.0·9*	11·4	4·0	Nil	6·5	0·3	24·6
4th ,, ...	78·4	*Dr.0·5*	7·6	9·4	2·1	15·5	5·6	38·7
Total whole year, 1928	369·0	83·8	56·1	26·4	3·1	49·7	8·7	141·2
1929—1st quarter ...	96·9	1·9	27·2	0·3	3·8	21·2	4·9	37·6
2nd ,,	77·4	*Dr.0·3*	Nil	11·4	Nil	12·9	0·1	53·3
3rd ,, ...	18·7	*Dr.1·4*	2·8	0·4	Nil	2·4	1·1	13·4
4th ,, ...	92·2	65·2	Nil	Nil	4·0	5·0	0·3	17·7
Total whole year, 1929	285·2	65·4	30·0	12·1	7·8	41·5	6·4	122·0
1930—1st quarter ...	87·7	38·4	14·6	15·9	2·7	1·0	6·7	8·4
2nd quarter ...	81·9	1·6	30·8	18·8	Nil	6·3	2·0	22·4

Of all the statistics in this table perhaps the most interesting are the 1930 figures in the last column, which reveal the big decline compared with a year ago in the demands of British industry for new financing, and reflect the depth of the trade depression. A study of the items which go to make up the total heightens the interest, for it shows that the preponderance of such public industrial issues as were floated in the past half-year were in the form of debenture stock or preference shares, whereas a year ago the ordinary share (especially of small dimension) was at the height of its vogue.

The next table carries our analysis a stage further by sub-dividing the past half-year's issues into twenty-nine categories.

ANALYSIS OF NEW CAPITAL APPLICATIONS.

Description.	First Half-Year, 1929.	First Quarter, 1930.	Second Quarter, 1930.	Total First Half-Year, 1930.
	£	£	£	£
British Government Loans	1,600,000	38,360,000	1,600,000	39,960,000
Colonial Government Loans	23,590,000	14,625,800	12,375,000	27,000,800
Foreign Government Loans	3,650,000	Nil	18,480,000	18,480,000
British Corporation, County and Public Board Loans	7,826,000	15,872,700	17,098,600	32,971,300
Colonial Corporations and Public Board Loans	3,483,900	Nil	1,739,000	1,739,000
Foreign Corporations.....	472,500	Nil	Nil	Nil
British railways	1,920,000	1,310,000	2,955,000	4,265,000
Colonial railways	10,200,000	Nil	2,512,500	2,512,500
Foreign railways.....	3,835,000	2,685,000	Nil	2,685,000
Australasian mines.....	12,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
South African mines	1,811,600	162,800	330,700	493,500
Other mines.....	7,448,000	181,700	4,135,000	4,316.700
Exploration, financial and investment trusts.....	24,895,800	738,600	1,854,500	2,593,100
Breweries and distilleries	3,228,300	Nil	1,184,000	1,184,000
Merchants, importers, &c.....	425,300	Nil	Nil	Nil
Stores and trading	2,839,700	798,000	2,422,300	3,220,300
Estate and land	1,796,900	215,900	181,200	397,100
Rubber.....	676,700	405,000	200,800	605,800
Oil.....	4,320,800	6,250,000	1,800,000	8,050,000
Iron, coal, steel and engineering ...	1,895,800	Nil	Nil	Nil
Electric lighting, power and telegraph	10,561,200	750,000	1,021,000	1,771,000
Tramway, omnibus, &c.	279,700	Nil	Nil	Nil
Motor traction and manufacturing	380,700	356,600	25,000	381,600
Gas and water.....	1,356,100	Nil	130,800	130,800
Hotels, theatres and entertainments	2,554,000	Nil	Nil	Nil
Patents and proprietary articles ...	6,604,900	237,500	130,000	367,500
Docks, harbours and shipping.....	544,500	Nil	Nil	Nil
Banks and insurance	4,208,900	500,000	2,523,600	3,023,600
Manufacturing and miscellaneous...	41,975,300	4,282,900	9,224,100	13,507,000
Total.....	174,393,600	87,732,500	81,923,100	169,655,600

The Government of India were twice in the market, in February and May, with issues on the first occasion of £6 millions and on the second occasion £7 millions short-dated 6 per cent. bonds at 99. Other Empire Government borrowers included South Africa, New Zealand, Queensland, Nigeria and Ceylon. Among foreign Governments, Japan and San Paulo were the only companions of Germany. In the class labelled "British Corporation, County and Public Board Loans," fourteen English and Welsh municipalities figure. Current industrial conditions are reflected in the complete absence of public issues for iron, coal, steel or engineering, while the change in the Stock Exchange scene doubtless accounts for most of the big drop recorded by financial and investment trust issues.

The following table shows some of the most important issues during the half year :—

Date of Issue.	Name and Description.	Nominal Amount.	Issue Price.	Price, End June, 1930.
1930.		£		
January ...	Central Electricity Board 5% Stk., 1950–70	7,000,000	97½	101½
January ...	Central Argentine Railway 5% Deb. Stk., 1967–87	3,000,000	89½	89½
February ...	4½% Conversion Loan, 1940–44.....	†92,800,000	95	98½
February ...	Govt. of India 6% Bonds, 1932–33	6,000,000	99	100⅛
February ...	Nigeria Govt. 5% Ins. Stk., 1950–60	2,650,000	99	102
February ...	Metropolitan Railway 3½% "A" Deb. Stk.	2,000,000	65½	69½
February ...	Shell Transport and Trading 7% 2nd Pref. £1	5,000,000	25/-	25/6
March	Union of South Africa 5% Ins. Stk., 1945–75.....	5,250,000	98½	99x
March	Southampton Corporation 5% Stk., 1947–67.....	1,650,000	99	102
March	Tate and Lyle 5½% Deb. Stk	1,250,000	97½	103½
March	Swansea 5% 1945–55	1,500,000	99	100
March	Bristol 5% 1950–60	2,500,000	99½	101½
April.....	New Zealand Govt. 5%, 1949.....	5,500,000	99	100⅜
April.....	State of San Paulo 7% Bds., 1940...	8,000,000	96	3 dis.
April.....	Southern Railway 5% Guar. Pref., 1957	3,000,000	98½	99
April.....	Industrial Mortgage Bank of Finland 6% Bonds	1,000,000	95	92½
May	Indian Govt. 6% Bds., 1933–35 ...	7,000,000	99	100⅜
May	Japanese Govt. 5½% Loan, 1935–65	‡12,500,000	90	91
May	Agricultural Mortgage 5% Deb. Stk.	3,500,000	Par	Par
May	London County Council 4½% Stk., 1945–85.....	3,000,000	95	97
May	Rhodesia Rly. & Mashonaland Rly. 6% Debs., 1937–62	2,500,000	100½	100⅞
May	Mount Isa Mines 8% Deb.....	1,500,000	Par	7 dis.
June.....	German Govt. 5½% International Bds., 1975.....	12,000,000	90	88⅜
June.....	City of Johannesburg 5%, 1950–60	1,000,000	97½	97⅝
June.....	Roan Antelope Copper Mines 7% Deb. Stk.	1,500,000	99	11½ dis.
June	Marks and Spencer 6% Deb.	1,000,000	102	...
June	Do. 7% Cum. Pref., £1	1,000,000	21/-	...

† Includes £55,740,000 for Conversions.
‡ All for Conversion Purposes.

It should be appreciated that the new capital issues included in our quarterly surveys take no account of Stock Exchange "introductions," an aspect of the capital market which was discussed fully in the *Economist* of July 27, 1929 (page 175). In the following table we show the total amounts involved in these "introductions" during the past five quarters. "Cash values" are calculated on the assumption that the whole of the nominal value of the stock "introduced" is taken up at the price at which dealings on the Stock Exchange open :—

TOTAL CASH INVOLVED IN ISSUES BY STOCK EXCHANGE INTRODUCTION.

	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Abroad.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Year 1929—				
1st Quarter	15,191,600	393,700	3,094,400	18,679,700
2nd Quarter	9,465,500	1,284,400	2,166,400	12,916,300
3rd Quarter.....	3,574,700	217,100	5,778,300	9,570,100
4th Quarter.....	733,400	304,400	1,437,500	2,475,300
Total Year 1929 ...	28,965,200	2,199,600	12,476,600	†43,641,400
Year 1930—				
1st Quarter	3,982,300	1,477,000	8,399,900	13,859,200
2nd Quarter	839,600	Nil	2,685,100	3,524,700
Total 1st Half Year, 1930	4,821,900	1,477,000	11,085,000	‡17,383,900

† Nominal amount of capital introduced, £31,519,934.
‡ Nominal amount of capital introduced £15,803,378.

There has been a notable falling off in introductions during the second quarter of 1930.

THE PRICE OF SILVER.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

While the unprecedented decline which has recently taken place in the value of silver presents a grave aspect to those more intimately associated with the fortunes of the metal, the underlying causes of this depreciation are not obscure. Nations faced with the need for strict economy as a result of the war were not slow to realise that, with currencies once more established on a sound basis, subsidiary coinage was of comparatively small importance. New silver coinages were of much lower fineness than the old. Moreover, the new issues involved no fresh purchases of silver, since the metal derived from demonetised coins of higher quality not only provided material for the new issues, but also a large surplus, which found its way to the markets of the world. With an important outlet for silver thus converted into an additional source of supply, the steady fall in the value of the metal can be readily understood.

Under these circumstances, it soon became clear that the burden of supporting silver would rest almost entirely upon the East, particularly upon China, whose currency is still on a silver standard. Unfortunately, China's internal troubles have served further to shake the stability of the white metal. Well-informed authorities have expressed the opinion that, in spite of their huge volume, the stocks of silver now accumulated in China could be absorbed, given settled conditions under which the trade of the country could proceed unhindered. As it is, the silver amassed in the cities for reasons of safety has become, to a large extent, sterilised and acts in the nature of a depressing factor. Thus it is only natural that the dwindling gold value of silver should be viewed with alarm in China, and that the Chinese Government should be seeking a means of stabilising its currency. The Commission appointed to study the question, under the chairmanship of Dr. Kemmerer, whose report was commented upon in a recent issue of the *Economist*, advocated the establishment of a gold standard. To the outside observer, however, present conditions in China would appear to render the adoption of the Commission's schemes extremely remote. In the meantime, artificial palliatives, such as the prohibition of all silver imports into China, would add to the difficulties of the world position of silver. While it is true that such a measure might increase the internal value of the silver held in China, the external value might be further depressed by supplies seeking some other outlet. Moreover, a gold standard for Indo-China has now become an accomplished fact, and affords yet another instance of the movement to forsake silver as a standard for currency. Quantities of Saigon silver dollars, becoming redundant, have been exported to China and now form part of the stocks held in that country, a fact which may have had a great deal to do with the recent order prohibiting the import into China of foreign silver coin.

How far India can give support to the market is somewhat problematical. So far this year Indian demand has provided the principal outlet for supplies, but this may be accounted for by special circumstances. The demand during the early part of the year may have been due in some measure to the hastening forward of many marriages, before the passing of the new marriage laws, which became effective in April. In addition, there was a demand from speculators anticipating—correctly—that an import duty would be imposed on silver when the Indian Budget proposals were announced. But in India silver, besides being a luxury, is the medium chosen by a large proportion of the population for the investment of savings. Provided, therefore, that crops are satisfactory and trade conditions favourable, the absorption of the metal in that country is likely to continue. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that an extension of banking facilities and the education of the masses in the benefits afforded by more profitable investment may tend gradually to diminish the demand, although an appreciable decline may be yet far off.

Perhaps the most interesting question as regards India in relation to silver is that of the stock of surplus silver

held by the Indian Government. That the Government is fully alive to the effect on a sensitive market of such large potential supplies, unless handled with great discrimination, was made apparent by its willingness, as expressed by the Indian Finance Member, to consult with silver producers on the matter should the latter consider it desirable. The wisdom of the Indian Government in surrounding its intentions as regards this stock with a certain amount of secrecy cannot be questioned, seeing that definite pronouncements might give rise to speculative movements to the detriment of interests concerned.

It might perhaps appear at first glance that the decline in silver prices will result in decreased production, but, if we may judge from past experience, it is by no means certain that this consequence will follow. Indeed, a study of the production and price figures for the last few years leads to a contrary conclusion:—

	World Production in fine ounces.	Average London Price of Silver per ounce standard. Cash Delivery. d.	Two Months' Delivery. d.
1920	173,300,000	61·485	60·894
1921	171,300,000	36·886	36·473
1922	209,800,000	34·438	34·278
1923	246,000,000	31·921	31·559
1924	239,500,000	33·987	33·918
1925	245,200,000	32·100	32·025
1926	253,800,000	28·678	28·664
1927	254,000,000	26·034	25·948
1928	257,300,000*	26·754	26·737
1929	254,000,000*	24·455	24·524

* Subject to revision.

The reason why, in the case of silver, prices have less effect on production than is the case with other metals, is simply that silver is produced mainly as a by-product of base metals. The output of silver is, therefore, affected more by the prices ruling for the base metals, in the gaining of which silver is incidentally obtained. There can be little question, however, that silver producers are faced with a serious situation, which is the more difficult in that the slump has the appearance of being more than a passing phase.

INDIAN STATUTORY COMMISSION REPORT—VOLUME II.

We print below in condensed form a summary of the main conclusions contained in the second volume of the Report of the Indian Statutory Commission. A summary of the Report by the Financial Assessor to the Commission, together with the Commission's recommendations relating to Indian Public Finance, will be published in our next issue.

THE Commissioners begin the second volume of their Report by referring to the need for a realisation of the facts of the situation, "those stubborn facts which no amount of rhetoric or appeal to abstract principles can alter," but whose existence "cannot in any way be allowed to invalidate the solemn pledge of the British people with regard to the progressive realisation of responsible government in British India." In the light of those facts, surveyed in Volume I, they "have come to certain general conclusions on matters of principle," which are set forth in the Report in advance of the detailed recommendations.

The first principle is that the new constitution should, as far as possible, contain within itself provision for its own development. It should not be based upon too rigid and uniform a plan, but should allow for natural growth and diversity. Constitutional progress should be the outcome of practical experience. Where further legislation is required it should result from the needs of the time, not from the arbitrary demands of a fixed time-table. The constitution, while contemplating and conforming to an ultimate objective, should not attempt to lay down the length or the number of the stages of the journey.

"The Preamble to the Government of India Act declares that progress in giving effect to the policy of the progressive realisation of responsible government in British India can only be achieved by successive stages; but there is no reason why the length of these successive stages should be defined in advance, or why every stage should be marked by a commission of enquiry. We are profoundly convinced that this method of enquiry at stated intervals has had a most injurious effect on the working of the reformed constitution and on Indian political life. Whatever may have been the merits or defects of the constitution proposed as the result of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report, the time limit of ten years gave it the character of a makeshift affair, and the working of a constitution under a time limit inevitably breeds certain evils."

The Commission declare that the object now to be aimed at is a reformed constitution which provides opportunities for natural development.

The Federal Solution.

Having regard to the ultimate goal of British policy in India pursuant to the Declaration of 1917, the Commission propound their second principle. This is that "any constitutional changes now recommended for British India must have regard to a future development when India as a whole, not merely British India, will take her place among the constituent States of the Commonwealth of Nations united under the Crown." Having described the geographical, political and economic unity of India, and having observed that there are few subjects within the sphere of central government which do not, in fact, interest also the Indian States, the Report refers to the increasing sense of Indian nationality, "a phenomenon which cannot be disregarded by the rulers either of British India or of the Indian States."

"But while we hold that the ultimate development of the Indian polity must lie in the direction of a solution embracing all India, it is absolutely clear that the States cannot be compelled to come into any closer relationship with British India than exists at the present time. Indian Rulers are naturally proud of their historic position and their rights have been repeatedly acknowledged. At the same time, we believe that they recognise more and more the need for adjusting their future relationship to the rest of India. We believe that they will only be ready to come into the larger whole when they can see that their rights and position will be safeguarded. The greater unity will come about when it is felt that it is to the mutual advantage of both sides to pursue it. We desire that the new constitution should provide an open door whereby, when it seems good to them, the Ruling Princes may enter on just and reasonable terms."

It follows, therefore, "that the ultimate constitution of India must be federal, for it is only in a federal constitution that units differing so widely in constitution as the provinces and the States can be brought together while retaining internal autonomy." Furthermore, there are other strong reasons for a reconstruction of the Indian constitution on a federal basis, since, if self-government is to be a reality, it must be applied to political units of a suitable size. A democracy of nearly 250 million people is unprecedented, and apart from the question of dimensions of area and population, "it is only in a federal structure that sufficient elasticity can be obtained for the union . . . of communities at very different stages of development and culture."

The concluding principle laid down is "the paramount necessity of securing that, throughout the period during which India is progressing on the road to complete self-government, there must be full provision made for the maintenance and efficiency of the fundamentals of government."

"While we are prepared to recommend a considerable advance towards self-government, and while we believe that the sense of responsibility can only be taught by making men responsible for the effects of their own actions, we desire to secure that experience is not bought too dearly. There must be in India a power which can step in and save the situation before it is too late. There must be provided, as far as may be, safeguards to ensure the maintenance of vital services. . . . We desire to give the fullest scope for self-government, but, if there is a breakdown, then an alternative authority must operate unhampered."

Starting from these general principles, the Commissioners proceed to work out in detail their application.

The Provinces.

The recommendations of the Commission with regard to the provinces are framed on the basis that their boundaries are those at present existing. In addition, however, to proposing that Burma should be entirely separated from India, the Commissioners recommend that a Provincial Boundaries Commission should be appointed to consider the advisability of an early readjustment of some frontiers and "the creation of proper provincial areas." Having

emphasised the advisability of constructing "a constitutional framework into which all the provinces can fit, but which . . . will enable the constitutional progress of provincial government to be secured by the healthy method of growth rather than by artificial statutory jumps," the Report makes the following recommendations:—

(1) Dyarchy should terminate; the boundary between departments of which Indian ministers may take charge and those hitherto "reserved" departments, from which they are excluded, should be removed.

(2) The conduct of provincial administration as a whole should rest with a provincial Cabinet, the members of which, whether elected members of the Legislature or not, should be chosen by the Governor, and should have joint responsibility for action and policy.

(3) On the administrative side, the Governor should be given statutory power to override his Ministry for the specific purposes of (*a*) preserving the safety and tranquillity of the province; (*b*) protecting minorities; (*c*) securing fulfilment of provincial liabilities in respect of non-votable expenditure; (*d*) securing the execution of orders from the Government of India or the Secretary of State; and (*e*) carrying out any duties statutorily imposed on the Governor personally, *e.g.*, responsibility for certain service questions and backward tracts. Apart from these powers normally to be vested in the Governor, the Provincial Ministry must accept the burden of its own responsibilities, including the important department of Law and Order.

"Self-government in the provinces can only become a reality when the Governor does not come in like a *deus ex machina* to make the wheels go round. The principle which we think ought to be insisted upon is that as long as the normal processes of responsible government are being pursued, the responsibility which properly attaches to government should be jointly borne by those who have the honour and the care of office. We are bound to make the provisions. . . . for the critical cases which may arise when the rights of minorities are put in jeopardy, or the peace and security of the province are put in serious peril, as well as for cases where vital interests not limited to the province are involved. But subject to this, responsibility in the face of the provincial legislature should rest where it constitutionally lies as long as normal constitutional government is being carried on."

(4) In the event of a breakdown in a provincial constitution occurring through such causes as inability to form or maintain in office any Ministry enjoying support from the Legislature, it is proposed that the Governor should have power to vest in himself all the powers normally possessed by the Governor and his Cabinet, but that these special powers should not remain in operation for more than twelve months without the approval of the Imperial Parliament. The Report is emphatic that the introduction into the constitution of these emergency powers "is no denial of self-government; it is an ultimate resource if self-government is repudiated."

(5) It is proposed that the provincial legislatures should be based upon a franchise extended to include 20 per cent. of the adult population, and that the determination of the appropriate modifications in voting qualifications should be referred in each province to a Franchise Committee. Until agreement can be reached upon a better method, the continuance of communal electorates is considered to be necessary for the protection of certain important minorities, and the depressed classes should be represented by some reservation of seats in non-Mohammedan constituencies.

(6) It is proposed that the normal statutory life of provincial legislatures should be extended from the existing maximum of three years to one of five years. The legislatures themselves should be enlarged and the constituencies reduced to a more manageable size. The official block should not be retained, but the Governor should have the power of nomination (more particularly for the purpose of ensuring the adequate representation of women and labour) in respect of not less than 5 and not more than 10 per cent. of the total fixed seats, and members of the Cabinet should be *ex officio* ministerial members of the legislature.

(7) Provincial legislatures should be empowered after a lapse of ten years to recast their own representative system subject to approval by the Governor and the Governor-General, so that each province may advance to self-government on lines which are found to be best suited for its individual needs, subject always to securing that the vote of the majority shall not introduce constitutional changes which prejudice minority rights.

(8) The fiscal needs of the provinces, which have hitherto been inadequate for the very important services assigned to them, are to be met by a revision of the existing allocation of sources of revenue, by giving additional powers of taxation to the provinces, and by providing for the setting up of a Provincial Fund fed by national taxes voted by the Federal Assembly. (*This scheme, which is designed to give them adequate revenues and, at the same time, provide for their fiscal autonomy, will be summarised in our next issue.*)

(9) In the North-West Frontier Province, whose administration cannot be separated from the question of frontier security, executive responsibilities should continue to rest with the Chief Commissioner, but a Legislative Council, partly elected and partly nominated, should be constituted with limited powers of legislation and interpolation, and both that province and Baluchistan should acquire the right to representation at the Centre.

The Centre.

The Report next deals with the Central Legislature and the position of the Governor-General in Council. It is proposed that in place of the present Legislative Assembly there should be constituted a "Federal Assembly," the members of which would not be directly elected by constituencies of voters, but would be mainly chosen by the provincial legislatures by the method of proportional representation; this would ensure that members representing minority communities would be included in sufficient numbers. The Assembly would consist of from 250 to 280 persons. It would include such members of the Governor-General's Council as sit in the Lower House, together with twelve other nominated officials.

With regard to indirect election, the Commission remark that, when the total area to be provided for is so huge, the appropriate solution is to be found through "election by the elected," a method which would have the additional advantage, from the point of view of developing the Central Government on federal lines, that the provinces as such would be represented at the Centre.

"If the hope of seeing the Indian States included, by their own choice, in such a federal union is ever to be realised, some such method of representing the units of federation in a central body, without dividing each of them up into a series of constituencies for central purposes, seems almost essential."

The Commissioners recommend that the Council of State should continue as an integral part of the Central Government, with its existing functions as a body partly of elected, partly of nominated, members chosen in the same proportions as at present. Seats in the Council of State should be allotted to federal units, and the elected members chosen by indirect election carried out by provincial Second Chambers, if such bodies are constituted—a question in which no positive recommendation is made—or, failing this, by the Provincial Councils.

The existing legislative and financial powers of the two Chambers of the Central Legislature should remain as at present, but the Federal Assembly should also have the special function of voting certain indirect taxes to be collected by a central agency, the proceeds of which should be distributed among the different federal units.

The Central Executive should continue to be the Governor-General in Council, but the Governor-General, and not the Secretary of State, should henceforward be the authority who will select and appoint his Executive Councillors. In this connection the Report states:—

"We lay down without hesitation the proposition that dyarchy at the Centre, or any system of divided responsibility resembling dyarchy, is quite impossible. Unity in the central executive must be preserved at all costs. . . . The situation that would arise if the method of dyarchy were introduced in the Central Executive would destroy this constitutional doctrine in a manner which would not only weaken Government but would put the Viceroy in a situation so embarrassing as to be almost intolerable. For he might constantly find that he had to choose between two sets of advisers all of whom were his colleagues, and that while the ultimate policy to be announced was in accordance with his judgment, the constitution permitted some members of his own Government to dissociate themselves from his decision."

Discussing the question of the future development of the Executive Government of India, the Commissioners say that, in their judgment, the Governor-General's Executive Council in the next stage of India's constitutional progress cannot be " responsible " to the Indian Legislature in the same sense that a British Cabinet is responsible to Parliament.

" Our own view is that, until the provinces of India have established themselves, by the working of unitary Governments, as self-governing units, the ultimate form which the Central Government of India will take cannot be finally determined. The question whether Indian States will contribute to the ultimate process has yet to be answered. Federal Executives do not assume a definite or final shape until the units of federation come naturally together. The utmost, therefore, that can be done now is to reduce, by such methods as we have outlined, the rigidity of the structure of the Central Executive, to make the best possible provision for the introduction of authoritative Indians into the Executive, and to recognise that the British system is not the only model, and, indeed, that there are many federal systems in the world which differ from the British model because they have been suitably developed according to the needs of their own areas and populations. It would, we are convinced, be a grave mistake to attempt to reconstruct the Central Government of India on the lines we have suggested for the provinces. At any rate, it would be premature to do so now."

Apart from the control exercised over Governors by the Governor-General, the Commissioners recommend that the superintendence, direction and control of the Governor-General in Council over a provincial Government should be exercisable only over a field defined by the following categories:—

(1) Safeguarding of administration of central subjects;
(2) Matters which may, in the opinion of the Governor-General, essentially affect the interests of any other part of India;
(3) Supply of information on any subject;
(4) Raising of loans;
(5) Employment of All-India Services in the province;
(6) Safeguarding of Imperial interests;
(7) Questions arising between India and other parts of the Empire;
(8) Implementing international obligations.

The Secretary of State, in the exercise of his general powers of superintendence, direction and control of the Governor-General in Council, would still be enabled to issue orders through that authority on provincial questions falling within the field indicated above.

The Army.

Proceeding to examine the constitutional issues involved in the problem of India's external defence and internal security, the Commissioners find no room for doubt that for a very long time to come it will be impossible for the army in India to dispense with a very considerable British element. The ultimate policy of building up an entirely Indian force should be steadily pursued, but in the meantime it would be impossible for the Imperial Government to relinquish, to Ministers responsible to any elected legislature, control over an army partly composed of British troops; nor would it be possible to contemplate the use of British troops to quell civil disturbances at the unrestricted bidding of Ministers popularly elected.

The recommendations which the Commission make with a view to getting over this " block on the line of constitutional advance " are that the protection of the frontiers of India should be recognised " as a matter of supreme concern to the whole Empire which can only be effectively organised and controlled by an Imperial agency. The solution based on this principle would follow these general lines:—The army in India would no longer be under the control of the Government of India, but under an Imperial authority, *viz.* the Governor-General acting in concert with the Commander-in-Chief, who would cease to hold a portfolio in the Government. In return for an annual contribution from Indian revenues (this contribution to be non-votable), the Imperial Government would assume the obligations of Indian defence. As regards internal security, the Commissioners contemplate the continuance unimpaired of the Imperial Parliament's ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of public peace. It is proposed, therefore, that Imperial troops for the purpose of quelling disturbances should be made available on demands made or endorsed by provincial Governors, safeguards against the excessive use of military forces as a substitute for police being provided by requiring a financial adjustment on that account between provincial and central revenues.

The Indian States.

As a first step towards what they term " the federation of Greater India "—a development expressive of India's essential unity, but one whose growth cannot be " artificially hastened "—the Report suggests that it would be valuable at this juncture to set up " some organ, however rudimentary, which will for some purposes, however limited, address itself to the treatment of matters which are of common concern to the whole of Greater India." They recommend accordingly that a schedule should be drawn up " in consultation and by agreement," defining " matters of common concern " to All-India, and that any future Government of India Act should place on record in its Preamble the desire to develop closer association between the Indian States and British India, and should provide in its operative clauses that it should be lawful for the Crown to create by proclamation a Council for Greater India whose function would be to consult on matters specified in the schedule aforesaid.

" The whole scheme for the Council, as we conceive it, is designed to make a beginning in the process which may one day lead to Indian Federation. What we are proposing is merely a throwing across the gap of the first strands which may in time mark the line of a solid and enduring bridge, and we feel convinced that the process must begin in organised consultation between the States and British India."

The Council, for example, would provide an opportunity for taking the Indian States into consultation about changes in the tariff.

The Services.

With regard to the future of civil service personnel, the Commissioners recommend that the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service should continue to be recruited upon an All-India basis by the Secretary of State, who should have power to require Provincial Governments to employ these services in such numbers and in such appointments as he thinks necessary. The rates of recruitment as between Indians and Europeans for these services laid down by the Lee Commission of 1924 should for the present be maintained without change. It is further recommended that the right to retire on proportionate pension should be continued without limit of time, and, as a further safeguard for the existing service personnel, it is proposed that the existing position should be continued whereby changes in the status of the services can take place only with the consent of a majority of the Council of India. Finally, it is proposed that in addition to the existing Public Services Commission for the All-India and the higher central services, there should be established by statute similar bodies covering the provincial and subordinate services in all the provinces. In the view of the Commission, Ministers should be free from the technical work of recruitment and so be relieved from embarrassing demands from their supporters.

" The protection of the services from political influences is an essential condition of the constitutional advances we recommend."

Finally, the charges of all High Courts should be put upon central revenues and their administrative control exercised by the Governor of India, and not by the provincial governments.

India and the Imperial Government.

The Commissioners observe that their recommendations for expanding the responsibility of Indian legislatures for the government of British India involve a corresponding restriction of the control of the Imperial Parliament. The Governor-General in Council would remain in constitutional theory under the direction of the Secretary of State, who would, however, exercise no control over provincial governments, save in so far as he might do so through the special powers vested in the Governor. It is proposed that the Council of India should be reduced in size and its functions, other than those of an advisory nature, limited to control of service conditions and of non-votable Indian expenditure.

The Report concludes with the statement that the peaceful advance of India can only be achieved by co-operation between India and Britain.

" We have grown to understand something of the ideals which are inspiring the Indian national movement, and no man who has taken part in working the representative institutions of Britain can fail to sympathise with the desire of others to secure for their own land a similar development. But a constitution is something more than a generalisation; it has to present a constructive scheme. We submit our Report in the hope that it may furnish materials and suggest a plan by means of which Indian constitutional reconstruction may be peacefully and surely promoted."

In the future of India, say the Commissioners, Indian statesmanship has now a great part to play.

Notes of the Week.

The Government's Programme.—The Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on Wednesday the Government's programme of business for the rest of the session, which, it is at present intended, is to close about the end of July. Normal and essential financial business will claim a large part of the available time, and a considerable jettisoning of cargo is necessary. Among the measures to be postponed to the autumn session are the Consumers' Council Bill, the Education Bill, and the Land Valuation Bill. Clearly it would have been physically impossible to hurry these measures through in the few free days available. The major measures to be proceeded with are the Coal Mines Bill, the Road Traffic Bill, the Housing (No. 2) Bill, the Housing (Scotland) Bill, and the Land Drainage (No. 2) Bill. Apart from these the programme will include nearly a dozen minor and non-contentious measures, and there is also the possibility that the need may arise for emergency legislation in connection with the projected new drive against unemployment. Altogether, even with this lightening of its burden, the House of Commons has a very busy month ahead of it. The most significant fact about the Government's programme was not mentioned specifically in Mr MacDonald's statement, and that is that the Trade Disputes Act Amendment Bill will not be introduced this session. This will cause restive dissatisfaction among a section of the Labour Party. We are inclined to read into this omission a definite policy of avoiding any measures which might jeopardise the Government's majority in the House or obstruct the progress of work on the unemployment problem. If that is the Prime Minister's aim, it is commendable. None of the great problems before the country to-day would advance towards solution through the revival of party controversies, and, least of all, through the heat and fury of an early general election.

The Coal Bill.—Prominent among the measures whose passage the Government desires to secure before the end of the session, is the Coal Mines Bill. On Tuesday the House of Lords had this Bill returned to them from the Commons, whose reasons for disagreeing with the chief amendments made by the Upper House their lordships were asked to consider. Despite a warning from Lord Parmoor that the Government would move to agree with the Commons in every clause, and that the whole Bill might be wrecked by disagreement, the Lords were not disposed to forego their rights as a revisory body. Certain amendments which they had previously carried, whose effect was to substitute the Board of Trade for the proposed Coal Mines Reorganisation Commission, were wisely dropped, though they insisted on an amendment providing that statutory guidance should be given to the Railway and Canal Commission in cases where they may have to ratify amalgamation schemes. The district levy was once more deleted from the Bill, and—a much more important matter—in connection with the " spread-over " of working hours, the original amendment, insistence on which would have given the Government no alternative but to accept, under protest, or lose the Bill altogether, was dropped, but a a new amendment was carried providing that, if an application is made jointly to the Board of Trade by the mine-owners and miners in any district, the Board of Trade shall be empowered to make an order enabling maximum hours to be calculated by the fortnight instead of by the day. The policy of the Government towards this amendment will probably depend largely on the attitude of the Miners' Federation. So far, the miners have shown little disposition to agree to any variation of the strict 7½-hour day, but the new form in which the permissive " spread-over " is now proposed seems to entail so much less risk than before of the miners in any district having forced upon them an arrangement to which they are opposed, that it is difficult to see why it should not be accepted. To abandon the Bill, whose reorganisation clauses do offer a real prospect of eventual betterment in the industry, would be a poor policy of defeatism.

New Naval Construction.—While the Naval Treaty still plods it way through heavy fields of Senatorial obstruction at Washington, the British Government has announced its immediate programme of naval construction. This programme would normally have been presented with the Estimates last March, but no building was then provided for pending the conclusion of the London Conference. On Wednesday the First Lord of the Admiralty informed the Commons that the 1930 programme would consist of three 6-in. gun cruisers, nine destroyers, three submarines, and certain minor vessels, all required for normal replacement purposes. The cost of this modest building project would be £9,000,000, spread over three years, but only £80,000 would be required in the financial year 1930-31, since the vessels would not be laid down until after next December. Mr Alexander emphasised the point that this programme of replacing obsolete vessels, required for " the current duties of the Navy in time of peace " had no relation to the building programmes of other Powers. Unless the programmes for 1931-33 are to be on a much more expansive scale—an unpleasant prospect for Mr Snowden or his successor—it looks as though the Government does not contemplate building up to the maximum cruiser strength permitted by the terms of the Treaty. Further light on this question will perhaps be thrown by the discussion in the Lords, announced for next week.

Government of Malta.—In meeting the emergency in Malta by a temporary suspension of the Constitution, the British Government have shown very sound judgment. It now appears that the report made by the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Pascal Robinson, which is reproduced almost *in extenso* in the Vatican White Book, is the original of the famous " résumé of an aide-mémoire addressed by eye-witnesses to the Holy See on the activities of Lord Strickland in Malta," which Cardinal Gaspari communicated on July 2, 1929, to the British diplomatic representative accredited to the Papal Court. This is a surprise, for the testimony of the Governor of Malta that he had found Monsignor Robinson a reasonable man, together with the non-publication of Monsignor Robinson's report in the first instance, had created the assumption that the Holy See, when it declared war on July 2nd, had acted contrary to the Apostolic Visitor's advice and over his head. What has made the situation so serious is the Holy See's public incitement of the Bishops of Malta and Gozo to put a spoke in the wheels of the constitutional Government of a British Dominion, and the public declaration that the Prime Minister of this Dominion is *persona non grata*. Whether Lord Strickland, in his conflict with the Roman Catholic Church in Malta, has been in the right or in the wrong, the proper procedure for dealing with the difficulty was a private triangular discussion between the Vatican, the British Imperial Government and the Maltese Ministry. In conferring " semi-Dominion Status " upon the people of Malta, the Imperial Government retained sufficient powers in its hands to deal with precisely this kind of contingency. We

are convinced that, if the Vatican had allowed the confidential negotiations to continue, an arrangement would have been worked out that would have satisfied all parties. But the Vatican, instead of leaving it to the Imperial Government to induce the Maltese Ministry to make their contribution towards a settlement, attempted to force the Imperial Government's hand by sabotaging constitutional government in Malta. In these circumstances a general election would be a farce, but the abolition of the Constitution would have been an unwarrantable confession of failure. The temporary suspension of the Constitution makes possible the continuance of government with all authority concentrated in the hands of the Governor, and the Cabinet retained in office in case the Governor cares to consult them, while yet ensuring that as soon as a more reasonable spirit is restored and the matters under contention have been satisfactorily talked out by the disputants, constitutional government will be restored without loss of time.

The Second Colonial Conference.—This week the second Colonial Conference met in London—a tribute to the success of the first Conference, which was convened by Mr Amery in 1927, and which has since maintained an unobtrusive but effective posthumous existence through the sub-committees which it left behind it. This new series of conferences brings together periodically representatives of all the non-self-governing colonies of the British Empire; and it is interesting to see a movement towards co-ordination and consolidation setting in in this part of the Empire when, in the self-governing Dominions and in India, the movement is all the other way—towards differentiation and self-determination. It may be added that the one tendency is as natural as the other, for while the world-wide progress of the political movement called nationalism has been making the self-governing Dominions and India conscious of their separate individualities, the contemporary world-wide process of standardisation and unification on the economic plane has made the new self-governing Colonies conscious of common interests of which they were not aware before. This Colonial Empire was the most haphazard product of the altogether haphazard growth of the British Dominions. Except for the vast continental tracts in Africa, which were the fruits of the " scramble " in the " eighties " and " nineties " of last century, this Colonial Empire is a galaxy of islands and peninsulas acquired by the chance of wars and peace-settlements during the past three centuries. Yet this far-flung archipelago has one common feature which it shares with the African land-masses. With the exception of Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus and the Falkland Islands, it lies almost entirely in the Tropics; and the recent entry of the Tropics into the main current of the economic life of the world has created a specific group of tropical problems of administration in the technical and social fields. It is evident that the British Tropical Colonies—many of which are individually small in extent and limited in resources—are beginning to find it profitable to deal with these problems by joint endeavours. The interesting possibility suggests itself that this movement of co-operation may ultimately be extended beyond the usual and arbitrary limits of one national sovereignty. For the British Colonial Empire is only one of several domains into which the non-self-governing portions of the Tropics are divided. There are French and Belgian and Italian and Portuguese Colonial Empires in Tropical Africa, and a Dutch and an American Empire in Indonesia. It seems not wholly idle speculation to anticipate a day when all these Empires will be working together to administer the Tropics as a collective trust pending the time when the local peoples will have learnt how to stand by themselves. The way to such a development was opened by the inauguration of the mandatory system in 1919, but the Mandatory Powers will need much practice in the art of co-operation before they are ready to tread it.

A Mission to Australia.—At the end of last week Mr Scullin, the Australian Prime Minister, announced that a conference to discuss the Dominion's present economic difficulties was to be held between representatives of the Bank of England, the Australian Government, and the Commonwealth Bank, and that Sir Otto Niemeyer would visit Australia at an early date for that purpose. In reply to a question from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Scullin stated that Sir Otto's visit was not related to Commonwealth Banking legislation, from which it may be inferred that the Central Reserve Bank Bill's progress will not be delayed. The points to be discussed at the conference are such matters as the provision of foreign exchange cover for Australian payments abroad, and Mr Scullin also said that the Australian Loan Council was already in contact with the banks on the same subject—presumably from its own special angle. In view of the extreme difficulty Australia has experienced in obtaining adequate exchange cover this year, it is satisfactory that " at an early date " means " as soon as possible," for Sir Otto Niemeyer has already set sail. This invitation extended to him has created a good impression in the City, and, indeed, suggests that Australia intends to use her own difficulties as a means of strengthening Imperial economic co-operation. Perhaps it was inevitable that the invitation should have been the cause of some passing misunderstandings in Australia, and that some quarters should have regarded Sir Otto's visit as an attempt by the Bank of England to direct Australian economic policy, possibly in the interests of British industrialists, who are suffering from the new Australian import restrictions, rather than in those of Australia herself. This was the view taken on Monday by the Melbourne *Age*, a newspaper of definitely Protectionist opinion; but it is satisfactory to note that, following a denial by Mr Scullin that Sir Otto's visit was in any way " intrusive," the *Age* published on Tuesday a complete recantation, pointing out that the Bank of England was not one of Australia's creditors, and that her action, therefore, was entirely disinterested and was a " gracious gesture " in letting Australia draw upon her for expert advice. The real significance of Sir Otto's journey is that it shows that if any member of the British Commonwealth finds herself faced with difficult problems to solve, she can feel that the other members of the Commonwealth will render her all the assistance within their power.

Trade Unions and Economic Policy.—As we go to press there comes before us the Report of the Economic Committee of the Trade Union Congress on the subject of economic development and Empire trade. We hope in a future issue to devote more space to an examination of this document, but for the moment we must content ourselves with noting one or two important points. One is that the question of tariffs was not discussed by the Committee. Another is that in some essential points the trade unionsts who framed the Report are thinking along the same lines as the industrialists who were responsible for the memorandum on this subject issued in February by the Federation of British Industries. Among the recommendations of the F.B.I. was one to the effect " that an Imperial Secretariat should be established to act as a permanent secretariat to the Imperial Conference." Now the T.U.C. advocates the same thing. It is a good omen that representative employers and workers' leaders should be concentrating on harmonious lines on the construction of practical machinery.

Miners' Hours at Geneva.—Procedure was made for man and not man for procedure. By permitting the reopening of discussion on a slightly revised version of the German motion for a 7¾ hours day, bank to bank, which had been rejected the day before, the Chairman of the Hours of Work in Mines Committee of the International Labour Conference in session at Geneva has enabled a deadlock to be resolved and work on the Draft Convention to proceed. Up to that point, every proposal, from the seven hours, bank to bank, of the workers' representatives to the eight hours of the colliery owners had been rejected; and it seemed impossible that a convention could be framed. The German proposal, as finally adopted, evolved out of a compromise suggestion previously put forward by the International Labour Office. Both the British Government representative, Mr Shinwell, and Mr Cook, withdrew their earlier opposition to it, on the very sound principle that a convention which gave the workers a quarter of an hour was better than none at all, and that, further, the hours adopted by the convention would constitute a maximum and would not prejudice British legislation for further reduction. The mineowners' representatives, however, withdrew from the Committee on this point of procedure, though they are prepared to take part in the discussion in full conference. Considering the advantage to the British coal industry which would accrue from the adoption as a maximum working-day of what is at present the European average, it is surprising that the employers' delegate thought it worth while to take a leading part in this protest against an unconventional method of attaining the object generally desired—that of having some draft to present as a basis of discussion in the full conference.

Egyptian Cotton Rationalisation.—Spinners of Egyptian cotton yarns in Lancashire have this week been considering a rationalisation scheme. It must be remembered, writes our Manchester correspondent, that the slack state of trade in the Egyptian branch of the spinning industry has been due to a falling off in world demand, along with certain changes in fashion, whereas the depression in the American section has been caused in great part by increased competition, chiefly from Eastern countries. The opinion is held, therefore, that if Egyptian spinners will put their house in order and eliminate internal competition, the situation can be improved. The meeting in Manchester last Tuesday consisted of members of the Bolton Master Cotton Spinners' Association and also spinners of Egyptian yarns in towns outside the Bolton area. After discussion, the Drafting Committee was empowered to go forward and prepare a complete scheme to be submitted to the trade at a later date. Mr. William Howarth, the managing director of the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association, explained that the proposals were based upon marginal cost on full-time running in order to secure that no losses shall be made if a mill was fully employed. The scheme provides for the payment into a pool by those members who run over the average time of the section and payment to those who run less than the proper proportion of time. Fuller details are contained in a booklet which has been sent to all firms affected. The scheme will not be put into operation until the owners of 90 per cent. of the 20,000,000 spindles using Egyptian cotton have joined the movement. All firms will be at liberty to run machinery as suits their purpose provided that selling prices maintain the marginal rates over the cost of cleaned cotton. The definite margin of cost for each count will be fixed at a figure which, added to the clean cotton price, will represent a price below which no rate must be made. This system obviates the necessity for grading yarns and permits the fullest latitude in maintaining the special qualities required by any firm's particular trade. The Committee has compiled from information supplied by a substantial number of firms the average full-time production costs of typical counts of yarn, exclusive of capital, interest charges and depreciation. To these production costs they have added a figure to cover interest and depreciation charges on a uniform basis. The uniform basis provides for 6 per cent. interest on an average capital invested of 30s. per spindle for cost of plant and 5s. per spindle for stock and working capital, and an average rate of depreciation of 1s. per spindle per annum. The combined figure thus arrived at will constitute the marginal figure to be added to the cost of clean cotton. Every firm, by joining the convention, will pledge itself not to sell below the marginal rates fixed. There will be no limitation of productive capacity fixed by the convention. Those mills which are able to secure business to run their spindles above the average of the whole of the spindles in the convention will pay into a pool on the excess at a specified rate, and those mills which run less than this average will receive at the same rate on the extent they fall short of the average. The scheme has been much discussed on the Manchester Royal Exchange this week. It is recognised that this movement is more ambitious than any other proposals put forward by the industry to meet the depression and the substantial money losses. In any case the scheme cannot be put into operation for some months though it is understood that tentative support has already been received from spinners owning 80 per cent. of the spindles affected. There is some difference of opinion as to how this marginal basis of costing will work out. The prices which can be taken by mills that have to meet heavy interest charges, as compared with mills that are free from debt, vary considerably, and some doubt is expressed as to whether the scheme will get over these difficulties. Another factor which cannot be overlooked is that if, as a result of this movement, prices are placed on an artificial basis, will not a development of this kind result in increased competition from other countries, and stimulate a larger production of Egyptian yarns in other quarters? Lancashire is still supreme throughout the world as a producer of fine cotton yarns, and it will be unfortunate if a combination of the kind suggested should result in providing an opening for competitors.

The Continental Iron and Steel Industries.—The Committee of the Economic Advisory Council which was appointed to consider the position and prospects of the iron and steel industries, sent a delegation to the Continent to report upon conditions there, and this report has now been published.* France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany and Czechoslovakia were visited, and in Germany alone were the industries found to present similar problems to those in Great Britain. In France, Belgium and Luxemburg the absence of collective agreements leaves the employer free to negotiate individual contracts with his workers, and in those countries there was found to be less disparity between the wages of different grades of workers and between those of corresponding grades of workers in the different departments. The purpose of this similarity of wages is to ensure the mobility of labour between different departments. In none of these three countries was there any unemployment in iron and steel, but rather a labour shortage, and in the Czechoslovakian metal industries unemployment was only about 5 per cent. All the countries studied were reported to have improved greatly the plant and equipment of their metallurgical industries, but in connection with a subsequent visit to representative British works the Delegation reported that " as regards efficiency and management, and the modernity and equipment of certain units of plant, they were equal to, and in some cases superior to, the iron and steel plants which had been seen on the Continent." In Germany the Delegation found a great degree of similarity to British conditions as regards workers' organisation and collective agreements. The percentage of unemployment was 14.1 wholly unemployed, and 16.1 per cent. on short time, and the industries were suffering severely from the competition of Belgium, France and Luxemburg. The difficulties were partly attributed to the high rates of interest on borrowed money. The report contains valuable comparative data on wages and hours, and the following table shows the normal average weekly earnings, inclusive of bonuses and social allowances paid in cash, of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers:

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS.

	Skilled.	Semi-skilled.	Unskilled.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
France	51 6	40 3	32 2
Belgium	53 9	38 10	30 10
Luxemburg	49 2	38 10	32 0
Germany‡	68 6	52 10	47 0
Czechoslovakia	58 5	32 11	23 2

‡ Men over 21 only.

Weekly hours of work in all five countries, with certain qualifications for Germany, are 56 at blastfurnaces, 48 in

* Cmd. 3601. H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net.

rolling mills, and for steel melting shop, Bessemer converter and open hearth workers they range from 48 in Czechoslovakia to 52 in Belgium and Germany.

United States Tariff and Swiss Trade.—Our Geneva correspondent writes:—The adoption of the new Tariff Bill by the United States Congress is causing widespread discontent in Switzerland, whose exports, in particular those of the watch-making, silk, cotton and embroidery industries, will be hard hit by the new duties. The Swiss industrialists and Government did their very best to draw the attention of the United States Government to the serious consequences which the enforcing of the new duties would have on Swiss economic conditions, but it was in vain. The effects in Switzerland of the general economic slump will undoubtedly be aggravated by the raising of these duties. The question of boycotting United States products has been earnestly advocated here by several groups of industrialists and Chambers of Commerce, while the Swiss Government was at the same time urged to raise, by way of retaliation, all duties on United States goods, especially on motor-cars, typewriters, agricultural machines and implements and petrol; but Swiss Customs duties are already high, and it is difficult to raise them again. Not much seems to be being done here in regard to the organisation of a boycott of United States products, though an attempt is being made at doing without American oil and petrol, especially as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is now in a position to supply all the needs of the Swiss market. There is, however, a general tendency towards reducing all purchases in the United States. This is clearly shown by the foreign trade returns for April and May. Imports from the United States, which were £760,635 in March, dropped to £757,232 in April and to £677,000 in May. Imports of United States petrol, which rose until last year, show a drop of about 380,000 lbs. compared with the 1929 average, whereas the total import of petrol was about 2 million lbs. higher in May, 1930, than in May, 1929. Persia, Irak, Roumania and Russia are benefiting from the reduction in United States imports. A similar but smaller drop is also recorded in the import of United States motor-cars, and European countries — Great Britain in particular—should seize that opportunity for developing their sales in Switzerland.

Business Position in Denmark.—Our Copenhagen correspondent writes:—The trade situation in Denmark is to some extent under the spell of the depression prevailing abroad, but various public statements appear to indicate that industrial conditions are not very serious. Pessimism has prevailed more particularly on the Stock Exchange, which is easily influenced by reports from abroad, and the constant decline of prices, in conjunction with reports of slumps on the leading exchanges, have not failed to tell. At the same time the very unsatisfactory state of the freight market has made a bad impression, and the tendency of the Copenhagen Stock Exchange is always very much dependent upon the market for shipping shares. Some encouragement has been provided by the good crop prospects, following upon two years with excellent returns, and, in addition, the price of butter has recovered somewhat. The number of unemployed is now 26,348, against 30,100 a year ago. Some export lines are perhaps hampered by the depression of foreign markets, but, on the other hand, it is reported that several of the biggest concerns are at present working well. According to the *Berlingske Tidende*, the big ship-construction and machine-factory concern of Burmeister and Wain, A/S, is not only fully employed for the present year, but has sufficient orders in hand to provide good employment for next year and some time into 1932. Under present conditions, however, it is more difficult to obtain orders in the shipbuilding line as new tonnage is not required. The electrotechnical industry is well employed, but orders are now coming in a little more slowly. The activity in building has provided increased employment, and the only important signs of depression have been the declining prices of metal, which indicate less employment abroad. Under present conditions the price index is naturally watched with particular interest Wholesale prices (1913=100) declined in May from 135 to 132, against 148 in May last year. While the Danish wholesale price index is now only 32 per cent. above pre-war figures, the cost-of-living index is still 67 per cent. above 1914 figures, and the slow movement of the latter figure is indicated by the decline last year of wholesale prices by 10.8 per cent., while the cost-of-living index is only 4 per cent. lower.

Gresham Fire and Accident Insurance Society, Ltd.—This company was formed in 1910 by the Gresham Life, which now holds two-thirds of the capital. For the first time since the company entered the dividend list payment was passed in respect of the year 1929. This apparently drastic step is due on closer inspection more to reasons of prudence than as a result of special losses suffered in that year. The premium income amounts to £330,000, almost equally divided between fire and general business. The world-wide increase in fire losses last year seems to have affected the Gresham account in a particularly marked degree, for the account closed with a loss equal to 11.7 per cent. of the premium income. In commenting on these results the chairman, at the annual meeting, made the interesting statement that in the United Kingdom the effect of the severe winter of 1928-29, followed as it was by a prolonged period of drought, showed itself not so much in an increased number of fires, but in their severity. The Gresham statistics on this point show that while the number of fires rose by 25 per cent. in 1929, the average cost per claim was double that of the preceding year. Fortunately for the company, the general account was exceptionally favourable, and the profit of 11.8 per cent. of the premiums is rather more than sufficient to counterbalance the losses of the fire department. Taking into account the items debited direct to profit and loss account, the net trading loss on the year works out to £3,736, compared with a profit in 1928 of £10,657. The interest earnings were ample to have permitted of the maintenance of the usual 7 per cent. dividend, but, as already stated, no dividend has been paid, with the result that the whole of the interest earnings amounting to £19,546 were available, after allowing for trading losses, to supplement free surplus assets. The other adverse feature of the year 1929 was, of course, the severe depreciation in Stock Exchange securities, the effect of which on the Gresham was to swallow up the investment reserve fund of £24,000 and a further £13,000 in addition. A statement appended to the balance sheet, however, indicates that the additional £13,000 depreciation had been recovered as at May 22nd last.

Victory Insurance Company, Ltd.—As its name suggests, this company was formed just after the war. Unfortunately it has had anything but a victorious career. A combination of causes, including heavy marine losses, culminated in a drastic reconstruction scheme in 1926, when £100,000 was applied to reduce the capital and to eliminate an adverse profit and loss balance. The business is now confined entirely to fire and general insurance, and a certain amount of progress has been achieved in the past four years, as a result of which a general reserve fund at the end of 1928 had been accumulated amounting to £20,000. The year 1929 brought with it a large accretion of premium income, the amount having risen from £250,000 to £332,000, but unfortunately there was a heavy underwriting deficit amounting to 7.8 per cent. of the premiums. This deficit was increased to a total net trading loss, after allowing for sundry items, of £26,762. The dividend has been maintained at 5 per cent., and, after deducting the balance of interest earnings not used for dividend purposes, there remains a sum of £19,217, representing the total net loss on the year's operations. In order to deal with this it has been necessary to utilise the whole of the general reserve fund. A year ago the shares of 16s., with 6s. per share paid up, stood at 7s. The present price is about 4s. 6d., and the yield on this price is 6⅔ per cent.

Overseas Correspondence.

UNITED STATES.

Trade Prospects — Foreign Trade — Tariff — Money Market — Prices.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, June 17.

PESSIMISM in Wall Street has reached fresh depths within the past week on the volume of liquidation in the share market, and the failure of sustained rallies to develop. The fall during the past fortnight in industrial and railroad share prices has brought the markets to the lowest levels since shortly after the autumn break. Sober-minded observers feel that what has taken place is nothing more serious than the washing away of the price advances built up last winter and spring on hopes of an early trade recovery which failed to materialise. Others, who credit the share market with great barometric value, are fearful lest the current decline forecasts a considerable deepening of the trade recession later in the year.

While Wall Street people who are in closest touch with business conditions throughout the country will not venture to set an approximate date for a trade recovery, they are by no means discouraged over the outlook. Corporation earnings are lagging some distance behind those of last year, but are not really bad. Meanwhile a flood of rumours of an upsetting nature, most of which can be disregarded, has been released by the decline in shares. General wage reductions have been whispered about, but they are unlikely to take place. Another rumour is to the effect that some of the New York banks are loaded up with bad loans on securities. A thorough examination of the position has just been made by the Federal Reserve Bank, and nothing of the sort has been uncovered. Bad loans on stock or bond collateral are confined to comparatively few banks in other sections of the country, and are not a market menace.

The few bank failures which recently have occurred were due either to peculations of officers or employees, or to purely local conditions. Business failures are not running much in excess of normal for this time of year, but new enterprises are not being started. Trade developments of the past week, as indicated by Press reports, were rather unfavourable, but losses in most cases were no more than seasonal. Railroad traffic is still running at 1924 levels, and the steel industry is receding, but slowly. Motor manufacturers are curtailing production pending the introduction of new models. New types of cars are usually shown in late summer or autumn, but an early start is being made this year in the hope of stimulating buying. General Motors sales in May fell off about one-third from the same month of last year, and the situation of our makers, with the exception of Ford, is much worse. Textiles are depressed, and the fall in the price of raw cotton continues. Consumption of cotton in May was 194,633 bales below last year, and exports fell 104,207 bales. April consumption was 58,000 bales larger than May. Both consumption and exports were the lowest for any month in recent years.

The slump in foreign trade is growing worse. May exports of $322,000,000 and imports of $285,000,000 were the lowest for any month in the past seven years. Exports were $10,000,000 less than in April. The chief loss was in cotton shipments, which were $12,000,000 smaller than in the previous month. Falling prices are helping to bring down the trade figures, but there has been a loss in tonnage as well as in dollars. Trade with China and other parts of the Far East is stagnant, and South American business is suffering.

With our export trade declining and with no signs yet of a recovery in domestic business, the new tariff Bill has had a particularly unfavourable reception. Well-informed observers were not taken by surprise, either by the passage of the Bill through Congress or by the Presidential approval. Congress was far less concerned with the economic consequences of high tariff rates than with fulfilment of political pledges, and President Hoover had allowed himself to be jockeyed into a difficult position. Over-estimation of the importance of Senator Borah and other western political leaders led him to call a special session of Congress for tariff revision. It was, of course, idle from the beginning to expect any increases in farm products rates without bargains whereby eastern manufacturers would be given some advantages. Then it is probable that Mr Hoover promised approval of what he considered a bad Bill on the understanding that the flexible rate provision would be retained, and the export debenture plan for farm products eliminated. His conditions were complied with, and there was apparently no way out for him except courageously to flout his party leaders. No one expected him to go as far as that in view of his ardent desire for a re-nomination in 1932.

In his comment on the Bill the President made it clear that he dislikes the measure on the whole. He insisted that the flexible provision would enable him to temper high rates to the trade winds, but that assurance is giving no satisfaction to business men, who feel that trade is bound to suffer. The heavy selling in the share market which coincided with completion of work on the tariff was largely the culmination of a downward movement only indirectly related to tariff matters. Defeat of the measure would no doubt have brought at least a brief rally in stock prices, but too much emphasis should not be placed on the tariff as an immediate market factor.

Meanwhile the credit market is becoming still easier. In the past few days the second quarterly income tax collections have disturbed short-term rates to some extent, but the operation is virtually complete. The turnover yesterday was approximately $2,000,000,000, involving retirement of $550,000,000 in Treasury 4¼ per cent. notes, the sale of $400,000,000 new certificates, payment of $98,000,000 interest on Government securities, receipt of $117,141,000 from foreign governments on account of funded indebtedness to this country, principal and interest, and corporation dividend disbursements.

The Treasury overdraft at the Federal Reserve Bank amounted to a little over $100,000,000, and it brought call rate down to 2½ per cent. on the Stock Exchange, with the banks striving to place money at 2 per cent. outside. At the same time the Federal Reserve Bank has taken the initiative and dropped its buying rate on bankers' bills to 2⅛ per cent., forcing leading dealers to cut their rates to 2 per cent., the third reduction this month. Contrary to rumours, the fresh reduction in rates did not come as a result of investment in the bill market of the proceeds of the German loan. The Reserve Bank is trying to build up its rapidly falling portfolio, and had in mind cheapening of credit for crop moving and other business needs. This summer and autumn agriculture and industry will have the benefit of the largest supply of credit, and the lowest rates seen in a good many years.

Wholesale prices in May declined more sharply than in any recent month. The drop in the Bureau of Labour Statistics price index amounted to 1¼ per cent. to 89.1, compared with 90.7 in April. A decrease of 7 per cent. is shown from a year ago. Farm products fell off nearly 3 per cent., and were 9 per cent. below a year ago. Foods were nearly as weak, losing 2¼ per cent. Textile products were only slightly lower, as were fuel and metals. Building materials declined, and so did chemicals and drugs, but the decreases were less pronounced than those of the farm and food groups. Compared with a year ago, decreases have taken place in all the principal groups, ranging from one-half to over 10 per cent., the latter being in textile products.

On June 2nd, 1930—The Chase National Bank, The Equitable Trust Company and Interstate Trust Company were formally merged as

THE

CHASE NATIONAL BANK

of the City of New York

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GERMANY.

Finance Minister's Resignation — Budget Difficulties — Wage Reduction Proposals — Money —Textile Amalgamation.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, June 24.

THE Finance Minister, Herr Moldenhauer, has resigned at the demand of his own party, which objected strongly to his programme. Chancellor Brüning is still trying to maintain his Cabinet in existence, and is endeavouring to find a new Minister of Finance, but his first attempt was unsuccessful. Herr Höpker-Aschoff, the Prussian Minister of Finance, who is rightly regarded as an exceptionally prudent and energetic politician in this department, refused after brief consideration to accept the portfolio, and now Herr Brüning is obliged to negotiate with less capable candidates, whose chief weakness is their lack of the authority required to carry through victoriously a sound financial programme against manifold opposition.

The difficulties in the way of the formation of a sound German financial policy are at the moment not so much due to the inherent difficulties of the task itself as to the lack of a political basis. The German People's Party will tolerate no further demands on income-tax payers; the Socialist's plan, which contains little that is new, demands a general super-tax on large incomes. The only sensible taxation idea—a productive raising of the duties on alcohol and tobacco—has thus far received little attention, yet only a programme proceeding from this idea can unite on one platform the Socialists and the German People's Party, both of which are indispensable for a future coalition.

Despite the great uneasiness dominating public opinion, despite all political difficulties that have grown out of or threaten to grow out of the financial problem, the real gravity of the situation is still far from being comprehended in all circles. Two dangerous delusions in particular are still prevalent. One is the view held by many that all that is required to bring the finances into equilibrium at once, or at least materially to reduce the deficit, is merely a firm determination to cut down expenditure. For years little opposition has been made to the increase of public expenditure, and every single item in the Budget touches the interest of some group of the population. The Government must be obdurate if it is to curtail expenditure. But how can a Cabinet do this without a broad political basis, without enjoying any authority among the people? Of the round 8 milliard marks of the Budget, about 2 milliards are for reparations, 1.7 milliards for war pensions, and more than another milliard for service on debts. It is virtually impossible to make any reductions in any of these items. Neither can even the most energetic Minister of Finance suddenly eliminate gigantic sums from the other half of the Budget; to achieve any tangible saving requires time. The attempt is repeatedly made to ignore these decisive facts, and herein lies the danger of neglecting to provide for new expenditure through sound taxation.

Similar illusions exist in respect of the question of a wage reduction. The success of efforts to revivify economic life would naturally be the very best remedy for Germany's financial difficulties. It can also hardly be doubted that the wage level has become higher than is consonant with the prosperity of industry. It would have been a great benefit if a halt had been called here in time, but if an attempt is now to be made to reduce wages forcibly, the result will be a series of wage conflicts, which will effect the opposite of an improvement in the economic situation. This is already evident from the opposition of the workers to the attempt to reduce wages, at least in cases where such a reduction was publicly proclaimed as a programme, though unobstrusive reductions of wages that exceeded those fixed by agreement have been introduced in various places and on the whole have been accepted by the workers. The large reduction now recommended as a means of saving the economic situation would be possible only if the respective organisations of the employers and the labour unions reached an agreement—and such an attempt, which never promised success, has already failed—or, if a general law were enacted dissolving all existing wage agreements between employers' organisations and the unions and requiring the substitution of new contracts with lower wages, a course which is, in fact, being advocated in many economic circles. This, however, would mean that Germany would have to pass through a stage of most difficult political and social crises. Such a policy cannot be defended, for if all endeavours were now directed simply to preventing any rise in wages, and at the same time the formation of capital, and thus the reviving of economic life, were furthered through a rational alteration of the system of taxation, it might reasonably be hoped that productivity would soon be increased sufficiently to bear existing wages.

The German Railway Company has now also declared for a reduction of salaries and wages. In a letter to the Chancellor, Herr von Siemens, the chairman, has pointed out that in the first five months of the current year the company's receipts fell off 260 million marks as a result of the economic situation and the consequent reduction of traffic, so that a deficit of more than 500 millions is to be expected for the whole year. Herr von Siemens suggests that the Government take steps to free the railway company from the remaining restrictions in the way of a reduction of personnel expenditures. This would require a premature annulling of the wage agreement between the company and the workers, which runs until March 31, 1931, and an abolition of the legal provisions that prescribe for railway officials the same salaries as are paid officials of corresponding grade in the service of the Reich. Very serious misgivings, however, attend any legislative inteference with existing wage contracts. A reduction of officials' salaries could be defended, for the Reichsbahn was subjected like the other public enterprises to an exaggerated increase of these salaries in 1927. Above all, it is impossible to see any other way of making it possible for the company to preserve its financial equilibrium. Of its budget of 5 milliards, about 3 milliards are for personnel, of which 1.2 milliards go for officials' salaries, 1 milliard for labourers' wages, and the rest in part for pensions and in part for other personnel expenditure. The railway's expenditures for material cannot be reduced except at the expense of imperilling traffic safety. An increase of railway rates in the present economic situation, when the reduced prices of goods would make any increase of freight rates especially burdensome, would have fatal results. Hence a lowering of the expenditures for personnel is the only way out.

The Reichsbank, on June 20, again reduced its discount rate from 4½ to 4 per cent. This is the sixth reduction this year, and, in view of the situation in the German capital market, it is a much more astonishing phenomenon than were the reductions of the discount rates in the other great centres of capital. The difference between the Berlin and the London rate, which was 1½ per cent. at the beginning of the year, has thus been reduced to 1 per cent., and the difference between Berlin and New York from 2 to 1½ per cent. Nevertheless, the influx of foreign currency continues, and the mark still remains firm after this last reduction. At the same time, the banks are undoubtedly exercising the greatest reserve in taking in foreign money, for they find it difficult to place it here. The influx is due principally to the active balance of trade. The banks are now paying only 1½ per cent. for deposits withdrawable without notice. In Westphalia and the Rhineland, however, considerably higher rates are being paid, since the competition of the savings banks there is especially sharp. The cheapening of money is exercising no enlivening effect on business activities. The Bourse, in particular, shows new low records for quotations every day, with very small turnovers. The market for interest-bearing securities also exhibits no symptoms of recovery.

As the result of a long struggle for control between two great textile companies, a new textile trust is now being organised, under the leadership of the Deutsche Bank and the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, which may become the nucleus of a far-reaching concentration in the German

textile industry. The concerns in question are the F. H. Hammersen Aktiengesellschaft and the Christian Dierig Aktiengesellschaft. Dierig has for a long time been the owner of the majority of the Hammersen shares, but the managing director of Hammersen has prevented Dierig from exercising its majority rights, and this has for years furnished the ground for innumerable lawsuits and for disputes in the general meetings. Now these conflicts are to be eliminated by both companies handing in their shares to a common parent company, the Deutsche Baumwoll-A.G. in Osnabrück (Debag), which will increase its former stock capital of 6 millions, all of which was held by Hammersen, to 39 millions, and receive in exchange the outstanding Hammersen and Dierig shares. Community of interest between the two groups is assured on the basis of parity not only financially, but also personally. The two groups complement each other in high degree. Hammersen owns and controls 500,000 spindles and 8,500 looms, Dierig only 60,000 spindles, but 7,000 looms. Dierig has heretofore been a big taker of Hammersen yarns, and, on the other hand, Dierig owns very large equipment concerns which Hammersen can very well use. In view of the severe crisis from which the German textile industry is now suffering, it may be assumed that other textile concerns will soon seek to join the new group.

SWEDEN.

Production — Foreign Trade — Money Market — Conversion Loan — Stock Exchange.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

STOCKHOLM, June 10.

SWEDEN still occupies a surprisingly favourable position compared with most other countries, considering the present depression. The effects of this international depression are clearly visible, sometimes in an acute form, in various fields; but so far as the volume of production in the leading industries is concerned the effects have been remarkably slight. The latest published figures of production for the most important industries are extremely satisfactory. Despite the fact that Easter fell in April, the index number (1923-24 = 100) of *Svensk Finanstidning* remained at 149, the same record level as in March. This figure exceeds that of last year, which is the more remarkable since Easter then fell in March, so that last year production in April was undisturbed by holidays.

The average index number of production for January-April was 141. Even though the index is not an indication of the production of the country in general, it must be remembered that it shows, as regards the staple industries, an extraordinary power of resistance to the effects of the international depression. The explanation can only be found in the still large reserves of orders and in the confident expectation among exporters of an improvement in the situation in the near future. Whatever the explanation, it is clear that such a tempo of production cannot be continued during a prolonged depression. It is to be presumed, therefore, that the next months will show signs of the changed position. From this point of view it is very significant that all Swedish export industries, especially iron ore and pulp, have to an increased extent been pressed to postpone contract deliveries in consequence of the depression.

The deepening depression has influenced foreign trade just as little as production. In March, it is true, a certain setback seemed to appear, but April imports and exports surpassed those of previous years, except the abnormal year 1929. Moreover, as the level of prices is now considerably lower than a year ago, the quantitative increase is considerably greater than the value figures indicate. Imports in April were 149 million kronor and exports 120 million kronor. The excess of imports of 29 million kronor is quite normal for the season, and the same is true of the passive balance of 103 million kronor for the first four months of the year, during which imports amounted to 543 million kronor and exports to 440 million kronor. It should be remembered, however, that wholesale prices in April last year were 136, whereas this year they had fallen to 118, and fell further to 115 in May (1913 = 100).

The money and exchange markets have continued to afford great surprises. April was characterised by the realisation of Swedish investments abroad in consequence of the heavy fall in interest rates, whereas Swedish rates fell only very slowly and to nothing like the same extent. Instead of the normal decline in the balance of payment in April there was a marked advance of 68 million kronor. The net foreign claims of the banks have reached the record sum of 590 million kronor, whereas a year ago they were only 462 million kronor. It is evident that this is largely due to private realisations of foreign securities besides those of the commercial banks. Since at the same time the commercial banks before the turn of the month realised very considerable amounts to the Riksbank, the market was over-supplied with short money. The commercial banks were obliged to take steps to invest their funds abroad again, and this naturally had a decided influence on the Swedish exchange. The consequent depreciation of the Swedish krona ceased, however, in the middle of the month, when a sufficient reinvestment of the cash funds had been effected. Since then the Swedish krona has remained more or less unaltered, with a firm undertone. In consequence of this abundant supply of short money, rediscounting by the commercial banks at the Riksbank has steadily declined, and showed at the end of last month the same anomalous position as in the preceding month. Whereas normally there is a large expansion of rediscounting, almost half the market requirements were satisfied by the commercial banks drawing on their credit accounts with the Riksbank. At the turn of the month the rediscounts and advances of the Riksbank, less the current account credits, amounted to 137 million kronor, whilst the corresponding amount a year ago was 339 million kronor and two years ago 366 million kronor. At the same time the Riksbank foreign exchange portfolio was 358 million kronor, compared with only 183 million kronor a year earlier and 111 million kronor at the end of May, 1928. The connection between these figures is obvious.

The position on the money market has also been exploited for a long-expected conversion loan by the State. Thus in a relatively short period of time no less than three considerable conversions of State loans, amounting to 445 million kronor, have been effected. The first was the 1914 5 per cent. loan of 163 million kronor, which was converted for 1929 4½ per cent. loan at slightly under 99 per cent. There followed a conversion of the 1916-17 5 per cent. loan of 187 million kronor to the 1930 4½ per cent. loan at just under 99½ per cent. The operation just concluded affected the 1918 5 per cent. loan of 95 million kronor, which was converted to 1930 4½ per cent. at a rate of approximately 99¾ per cent. By these operations the State has reduced its annual interest charges by about 2¼ million kronor.

If the depression has thus had very advantageous effects on the money market, the same cannot be said of the Stock Exchange. The month began, it is true, dramatically enough with the unloading occasioned by the renewed collapse in New York. But the effects were unexpectedly transient, and the rest of the month remained flat and dull, reflecting very clearly the perspective of the situation.

ROUMANIA.

Political Situation — Agriculture — Agricultural Credit Bank — Concordat Préventif — Commercial Treaties.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, June 16, 1930.

As was to be expected, the return of Prince Carol to the throne of Roumania has had the most far-reaching effect on the internal political situation. With a restraint, the wisdom of which must be admired, Mr Maniu kept as much as possible in the background until all attempts at creating a Government of concentration had failed, and as a consequence, he has now been called back to power unconditionally. It means that his party has emerged with a considerably increased prestige. The Government is only new in name; all its members, with one exception, served in Mr Maniu's administration before political intrigues connected with the appointment of a new Regent forced certain changes upon him. As a matter of fact, the composition of the Cabinet is almost identical with that which confronted Parliament eighteen months ago, when the National Peasant Party had wrung the power from the hands of the Liberals.

The leaders of the Liberal Party on the other hand have shown by their attitude that they are curiously out of touch with the real feeling of the population which has so enthusiastically received Prince Carol as its King. Although they said ultimately that they would support the new order of things, if it should prove to be for the good of the country, their first declaration that in the constitutional question they would defend the legal order established by the act of late King Ferdinand, on January 4, 1926, which excluded Prince Carol from the succession and banished him from the country, produced a very bad effect. The inevitable occurred: a serious split in the party. Vintila Bratianu, the leader of the party, stands discredited before a large section of his former followers, who have rallied under the banners of his nephew Georges Bratianu, the son of Jon Bratianu, who was, as will be remembered, the predominant political figure after the war until his death a few years ago. Georges Bratianu accepts the situation, and is looked upon by many as the future leader of the party.

The glamour of the romantic return has struck popular imagination, and the people at large have received Prince Carol with enthusiastic manifestations of relief and joy, turning in extravagant hopes to the new King as the saviour from the severe trials through which the country has had to pass during recent years. This situation has its own inherent dangers. It is a difficult task to steer the ship of State through the troubled waters of the extreme economic depression which prevails at present. Progress can only be slow, false moves must have exaggerated effects, and reaction caused by disappointment will be the greater as hopes have been higher. Hence, while the position of Mr Maniu's administration is for the moment unassailable, its responsibilities are undoubtedly increased.

The events of last week have thrown into the background for the moment the economic problems which confront the country. On account of the low world prices the export of cereals has not come up to expectation. The following statements show the harvest of 1929, the amount necessary for internal consumption, the amount available for export, and the export up to December, 1929:—

IN WAGGONS OF 10,000 KGRS.

	Production.	Internal Consumption.	Available for Export.	Export up to Dec., 1929.
Wheat	250,000	250,000	...	...
Rye	33,000	21,000	12,000	...
Barley	255,000	70,000	185,000	75,000
Oats	134,000	74,000	60,000	10,000
Maize	576,000	342,000	234,000	10,000
Various	20,000	10,000	10,000	5,000
Total ...	1,268,000	767,000	501,000	100,000

From December, 1929, to the middle of May of this year the following quantities have been exported:—74,000 waggons of maize, 60,000 waggons of barley, and 42,000 waggons of various products, so that of a total of 500,000 waggons of exportable cereals there were 225,000 still to be exported at the middle of May.

The state of the fields promises a good harvest for the coming season, but unfortunately prices remain unsatisfactory and give the producers little possibility of relief from their present state of indebtedness. The endeavours of the Government, therefore, to arrange cheap credit facilities for the agriculturist are of the highest importance for the country. The creation of the agricultural Credit Bank, however, is encountering difficulties, as shown by a recent decision of the Court of Cassation, which declares unconstitutional certain paragraphs in the law authorising the establishment of this bank as they interfere with the vested rights of the existing Crédit Foncier Rural. What influence this decision will have on the attitude of the foreign financial interests, whose assistance for the creation of the bank will be required, remains to be seen. At any rate, now that the international loans of the Young Plan are placed, the time has come for Roumania's appeal to foreign finance as foreshadowed by ministerial utterances earlier in the year.

The Government has been well advised in hurrying the modification of the law of the *Concordat Préventif*. The new Bill was introduced at beginning of this month. It contains important provisions for the protection of the creditor, fixes the minimum payable at 60 per cent. of the unsecured debts, and makes the duration of the concordat to some extent dependent upon the amount which the debtor agrees to pay. Practice will show whether the concessions to the rights of the creditors are sufficiently far reaching. If they prove to be so, one of the principal obstacles to the amelioration of credit conditions will have been removed.

Recent events have naturally delayed the negotiations for the conclusion of commercial treaties. By a law passed at the beginning of this month, the Cabinet is authorised to continue the negotiations, if, on account of technical difficulties, it has not been possible to conclude the treaties in the time fixed by the Customs tariff of 1929. At the same time, in exceptional and abnormal circumstances, should Roumanian exportable products be submitted by a foreign country to measures likely to damage vital economic interests of Roumania, the Cabinet is authorised to apply to the goods of such country an exceptional tariff up to double the highest rates provided by the Roumanian Customs tariff and to take any steps for the prohibition or restriction of the import from such country. There is no doubt that this law is meant to strengthen the Government's hands in the difficult negotiations which are taking place at present with Germany.

ARGENTINA.

Business Prospects — Railways — Exchange — Crops — Banking — Politics.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BUENOS AIRES, June 7th.

MAY has certainly been the quietest month in the present year, considered from a business standpoint. Yet the outlook in general is brighter than it has been at any time during the past twelve months, although actual improvement, in the shape of increased shipments and better quotations for the Argentine dollar, must not be looked for until August or September. From the standpoint of the British investor the most depressing factor in Argentine affairs is found in the heavy fall in freight receipts, at present characteristic of all the railways, with the exception of the Entre Rios and the Argentine North-Eastern systems. There is, of course, no hope of the reduction being corrected during the present year; at the same time, the local impression is not altogether in agreement with the pessimism of London as indicated by current Stock Exchange quotations. Provided always that Labour difficulties do not crop up in the near future, and that the nascent agitation for cheaper freights goes no further, the first quarter of 1931 should show a marked improvement.

The railway year ends on June 30th, and it is probably in view of this fact that the Stock Exchange has become so markedly downhearted where Argentine rails are concerned. What the dividends will be one cannot say, but shareholders ought not to be too unfavourably impressed by a state of affairs which, though unpleasant, is only temporary. It has to be remembered that the administration of the great Anglo-Argentine Railway Companies is both effective and economical, thanks to the international experience which has in the course of years been embodied in their system. That in addition to reduced freights they have been hard hit by the fall in the Argentine dollar is

too obvious to call for more than passing mention. But here also the prospects for the latter parts of the calendar year promise to be better.

Without regard to the frequent rumours regarding possible foreign loans, rumours emanating principally from New York, one may say that everything points to an important loan being issued shortly before the last quarter of the year opens. For without such an addition to its funds the National Government of Argentina will certainly find itself in serious financial straits. At the moment of writing the exchange market is in a state of suspended animation, with banks' cable drawing rate on London quoted at 42 9/16 and 106.20 on New York. There is, however, nothing doing on either side of the market. Remitters are holding back whenever they can, hoping for an improvement, while exporters have no paper to offer. The volume of exports for the first four months of the current year showed a drop of 2,300,000 tons, and the value a decline of $120,900,000 gold, as compared with the corresponding period of 1929. Moreover, the weather during May has been rainy and damp, thus making maize shipments unusually small, a fact which also explains why ocean freights fell at one time to 9s. per ton to United Kingdom/Continent, though this rate has since recovered, and is now in the neighbourhood of 12s. These very conditions, however, all promise well for the next harvest, and it is probable that the area sown for wheat and linseed will have suffered little if any reduction. Pastoral interests are all in an eminently satisfactory state, and the market for general produce, with the sole exception of hides, is looking up all round.

The banking position is also healthy. For though the demand for money is firm, with rates ruling at anything between 6½ and 8 per cent. per annum, there is no stringency, strictly speaking, and sound business can easily be accommodated. Possibly owing to the difference between rates ruling here and those prevailing in Europe and in the United States, a certain amount of business is being financed outside the country, and the fact that during May £300,000 was deposited to the order of the Argentine Embassy in London—the equivalent, some $3,500,000 Argentine paper, being taken from the Conversion Office here—seems to bear out this conclusion. The enigma of the moment lies in the Argentine Government. Customs receipts from all sources are at least $25,000,000 paper under last year's figures for the corresponding period. This shortage, combined with the comparatively large sums outstanding in unpaid bills, is somewhat seriously disorganising the internal trade of the Republic where imports are concerned. Congress, which ought by law to have met on May 1st, has not yet assembled, for a variety of reasons which in the last resort boil down to a matter of party politics. The sound common sense of H.E. President Irigoyen may, however, be counted upon to prevent these party dissensions from doing undue harm to the major interests of the nation. When he will take action is known only to himself, but everything points to the fact that radical measures of importance calculated to co-ordinate the wealth and magnitude of Argentina's trade with her complicated and ever-growing administrative needs will not be very long delayed.

IRISH FREE STATE.

Proposed Currency Bill — Housing Shortage — Emigration Problem — Shannon Scheme.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, June 17.

THE Government is about to introduce a Bill designed to alter the backing of the currency note issue. The Report of the 1926 Banking Commission, over which Mr. Parker Willis presided, recommended that notes should be issued by the Currency Commission backed by gold, sterling notes or British Government securities. The Currency Act, 1927, as the result of amendments proposed by bankers' representatives in the Senate, provides that the British Government securities held must be repayable within twelve months. This provision limits the range of investments available and lowers the amount of profit obtained from the issue of notes, but it secures beyond any question of doubt the safety of the backing behind the notes. It is now proposed to extend the powers of the Currency Commission to invest in a wide range of British and American Government securities. The wisdom of this change is doubtful. While it naturally enables the profit from the note issue to be increased, it may quite conceivably in certain circumstances have the effect of reducing the value of the backing behind the notes and thus of shaking confidence in the issue.

Considerable attention has been given recently to the housing problem in the Free State. Mr Mulcahy, Minister for Local Government, addressing the Chamber of Commerce last week, gave an account of what the Government had already done in this matter. In 1922 there was an estimated shortage of 43,963 houses, and in that year a million pounds was granted for housing purposes. Two-thirds of the cost of each house was provided by the State and one-third was advanced to local authorities, who would strike a rate of one shilling in the pound for the purpose of repayment. Under this scheme 2,180 houses were built at a cost of £1,605,000. Under further schemes between 1924 and 1929 £1,350,000 was provided and 14,576 houses were built. Another £200,000 is being provided this year, and it is estimated that 31,000 houses are still required. It is obvious that the State cannot continue indefinitely to subsidise building, and Mr Mulcahy made it plain that he looks forward to the day when private enterprise will once more supply this vital social need. Building is at present discouraged by high labour costs, trade union rules, and the Rent Restriction Act. The evil effects of this Act are an eloquent demonstration of the dangers of price-fixing, which should cause some of our politicians to hesitate in their programme of fixing prices for wheat, flour and bread.

The emigration figures show an increase over last year, and the problem of keeping the population at home is again being actively discussed. It is generally recognised that no possible development of agriculture can succeed in giving much additional employment and that the only hope of stemming the tide of emigration is by industrial development. It is becoming equally clear, however, that the necessary industrial development can never be attained as the result of Protection alone. Mr McGilligan, Minister for Industry and Commerce, recently pointed out in the Dail that one half of the "tariffable imports"—that is, of the imports of articles that could conceivably be produced in the Free State—are already protected, and that the result is the employment of 15,000 hands (mostly women and girls). The price of the protected articles is not generally raised, except in the case of furniture, boots and shoes. If Protection were extended to the other half of "tariffable imports" the additional employment given would not exceed 10,000, and prices would certainly be materially raised. It appears from these figures that the utmost Protection could hope to achieve would be to provide employment for less than the number of emigrants in a single year. The problem is admittedly difficult, and all parties are generally anxious to reach a solution. The Opposition party, however, is not making things easier by its talk about repudiating land annuities, controlling the banks and discouraging international movements of capital.

The demand for current from the Shannon has proved larger than was expected, and it is now officially announced that the scheme will be self-supporting in two and a half years, instead of three years as previously estimated. Plans are already being made for the further development of the scheme by building additional embankments to increase the storage capacity of the Shannon lakes.

Books and Publications.

FORECASTING STOCK EXCHANGE MOVEMENTS.*

DURING every recession of share values, a disillusioned public calls aloud to heaven and its stockbroker for a sign. This treatise of Mr L. L. B. Angas on the "technique of trading in shares for profit" is the nearest approach to a text-book on the avoidance of losses that the British investor is likely to have for some time. The author bases his edifice of practical rules on the axiom that, while Stock Exchange *waves* are due usually to "internal" market factors (such as general sentiment, the banking position, available foreign funds, and total new issues), Stock Exchange *tides* reflect major cyclical movements in trade and industry. These usually cover periods of some years, and have definite stages which can be legislated for. The author, indeed, is neither a member of the Stock Exchange nor a professional investor, but a student of the trade cycle who regards major Stock Exchange movements as one of the many by-products of cyclical phenomena. His book, however, is severely practical, and though the writer repeats himself frequently, bears internal evidence of a good deal of self-denying compression of thought. It fails to make out a convincing case for short-term speculation, but its argument that the investor would be the gainer by the application of common-sense rules to a knowledge of industrial conditions is undoubtedly sound. The author's philosophy may be illustrated by the advice he gives to the investor never to do any of the following things: (1) to buy shares of a company whose last report showed a decline in earnings; (2) to buy into an industry where profits have been rising for more than four years; (3) to buy during Stock Exchange booms, or a fall in national profits, or (as regards ordinary shares) at a time when earnings are below 8 per cent. on the market price, or when Bank rate is over 5 per cent. All losses, the writer declares, should automatically be cut when they reach 20 per cent., and at least two-thirds of all "paper" profits taken when they reach 20 per cent. He condemns, in general, the practice of averaging, and has little difficulty in exposing the dangers of all so-called mathematical "systems" of speculation. The directors of trust companies will probably find much that is interesting, though less that is new, to them in this book. To the stockbroker, and even more to the individual investor, it will be a *vade mecum*, the mastering of whose principles will repay in hard cash many hours of study, and make the expenditure of twenty shillings on a book of under 200 pages not altogether a Quixotic proceeding.

* "Investment." By L. L. B. Angas. (London): Macmillan. 20s. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Brief mention of a book in this column does not necessarily mean that it will not receive fuller notice in a subsequent issue.]

(It would be a convenience to our readers if publishers would make a point of notifying us of the prices of books sent for inclusion in this column.)

The Federal Reserve System. By Paul M. Warburg. In two volumes. (London) Macmillan and Company, Ltd., St. Martin's Street. 50s. net.

A history of American banking reform from 1903, in the form of the memoirs of an active participant, supplemented by essays written by the author since 1906. These two substantial volumes form a most interesting and valuable contribution to banking history.

Agricultural Russia on the Eve of the Revolution. By George H. Pavlovsky. (London) George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 67-74, Carter Lane. 15s. net.

A scholarly study of the evolution of Russian farming during the first sixteen years of the present century. The author is to be congratulated upon introducing into the mass of controversial literature upon Russian economics the leaven of a dispassionate account, not of opinions but of facts.

Northcliffe: An Intimate Biography. By Hamilton Fyfe. (London) George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., Museum Street. 16s. net.

Mr Fyfe has taken full advantage of the opportunities of vivid characterisation offered by his subject, and his biography is almost a novel.

Empire Tariff Preferences on Canadian Goods. By William Gilchrist. Second edition. (Ottawa) Department of Trade and Commerce, Commercial Intelligence Service. 25 cents.

A useful summary of the tariff provisions of various members of the British Commonwealth of Nations in so far as they affect Canadian goods.

Stock Exchanges Ten-Year Record of Prices and Dividends. Compiled by C. Mathieson and Sons. (London) F. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall Avenue. 20s.

A unique reference book from which it is possible to see at a glance the highest and lowest prices and the dividends on any officially quoted stock in each of the last ten years.

Guide for the Company Secretary. By Arthur Coles. Third edition. Revised by W. Cecil Wood. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, Ltd., Parker Street, Kingsway. 6s. net.

A revised edition, provoked by the Companies Act, 1929, of a textbook which, while giving full attention to the legal aspects of the subject, specialises in attention to the ordinary requirements of everyday routine.

The Companies Act, 1929, as Affecting Accounts. By Russell Kettle. Second edition. (London) Gee and Company (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 1s. 6d. net.

Reprint of a paper which discusses the difficulties and doubts likely to arise in the practical interpretation and application of the new requirements.

The Accounts and Audit Provisions of the Companies Act, 1929. By Harry C. King. (London) Gee and Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 2s. 6d. net.

A quick-reference précis.

The Working of a Cost System. By R. G. H. Smails. (London) Gee and Company (Publishers), Ltd., 6, Kirby Street. 6s. net.

A small, elementary text book, generously supplied with illustrative examples.

Cost Accounts. By L. Whittem Hawkins. Eighth edition. (London) Gee and Company (Publishers), Ltd., Kirby Street. 10s. 6d. net.

A convenient little textbook on cost accounting.

Vers la Liquidation de la Guerre. Traités de La Haye et de Paris. Exposé de M. Ed. Benes. (Prague) "Orbis," Fochova 62. Kc. 7.

A reprint of the speech in which the Czechoslovakian Minister of Foreign Affairs expounded the Hague Agreement before the Chamber of Deputies.

The Transfer of Stocks, Shares and Other Marketable Securities. By F. D. Head. Fourth Edition. (London) Sir Isaac Pitman, Parker Street, Kingsway. 7s. 6d. net.

A new edition, revised in the light of the Companies Act, 1929, of a very convenient handbook on the law and practice of transfers. A most comprehensive view is taken of the scope of the subject.

Building Societies. By Harold Bellman. (London) London General Press, 8, Bouverie Street. 1s.

A short, explanatory pamphlet.

Wheeler's Company Tables, 1930. (Leicester) Arthur Wheeler and Company, Town Hall Square.

A very useful volume containing tabulated particulars of each of the principal companies, including a summary of the balance sheets over a number of years. There are also extracts from some of the auditors reports.

The Bankers' Magazine, June, 1930. (London) Waterlow and Sons, Ltd., London Wall. 2s. 6d. net.

This number includes, *inter alia*, articles on "The Chancellor and the Bankers," "Banks and Industry in Germany" and "Extravagance in National Expenditure."

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The following may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2.:—

Indian Statutory Commission: Report of the Indian Statutory Commission, Vol. II.—Recommendations. Cmd. 3569. 3s. net.

Final Report of the Third Census of Production of the United Kingdom (1924): *The Textile Trades.* 4s. 6d. net.

Economic Advisory Council: Report of Delegation on the Industrial Conditions in the Iron and Steel Industries in France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Cmd. 3601. 9d. net.

The Stock Exchange.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE HALF-YEAR.

Most stockbrokers would write down the past half-year as the worst in recent Stock Exchange history. This is saying a great deal, for the previous half-year contained two first-class disasters—the Hatry crash and the great slump in Wall Street. But the past six months have seen the development of the world-wide depression in trade of which the stock market disasters last autumn may be regarded as the forerunners. In spite of the lowering of official discount rates in the monetary centres of the world, commodity prices have continued to fall and the numbers of unemployed in this country have continued to rise. The London Stock Exchange did not even enjoy the mixed recovery in industrial share values which went on from January to April in New York on the mistaken assumption that the up-turn in American trade would be early rather than late. Except for a recovery in March—under the influence of cheap money—commercial and industrial shares on the London Stock Exchange have persistently declined. The fresh slump in the New York stock markets, which has followed upon the realisation by the American public of the truth about the state of American trade, has merely deepened the already profound depression. The index of the *Investors' Chronicle* shows that British "general business" shares are now back to 1924 levels. To find lower prices one has to go back to 1920-21.

Under these painful conditions business on the London Stock Exchange, outside the gilt-edged market, fell to a very low ebb. Even the gilt-edged market did not respond as much as it might have done to the influence of cheapening money. This may be attributable to the heavy increase in direct taxation which Mr Snowden imposed in his Budget, to Government conversion operations (the issue of 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan in February involving £60,800,000 cash subscriptions) and to heavy borrowings by the home corporations at somewhat dear rates. The reductions in Bank rate from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. on February 6th, to 4 per cent. on March 6th, and to 3½ per cent. on March 20th, had, of course, a stimulating effect upon the prices of British funds—a rise of 3½ to 5 points being scored on the long-dated securities—but the last reduction to 3 per cent. on May 1st appeared to make no further impression. Australian stocks came under selling pressure—the market being apprehensive at the economic situation in that country—but India stocks, with the help of reassuring official statements, showed some recovery. The following table gives the extent of the changes in market prices in the past six months in British and Colonial Government and home corporation stocks:—

British and Colonial Government and Home Corporation Stocks.

Security.	1930. Highest Price.	1930. Lowest Price.	Price, Beginning of 1930.	Price, June 24, 1930.	Rise or Fall in Half-year.	Yield allowing for accrued interest and redemption where necessary. Beginning 1930.	June 24, 1930.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
British Government Stocks—							
5% War Loan (1929-47)	103⅝	100	100	102⅝	+2⅝	5 0 0	4 15 0
5% Conversion (1944-64)	104½	102½	...	104½	...	...	4 14 0
3½% Conversion Loan ...	80½	74½	74½	77½	+3½	4 15 0	4 11 6
4½% Conversion (1940-44)	100⅞	93½	93½	98½	+5	5 2 0	4 11 6
4% Consolidated Loan ...	90⅞	82⅝	83x	87⅝	+4⅝	4 16 6	4 13 3
4% Funding (1960-90) ...	93⅞	85⅝	85½	89	+3½	4 13 9	4 11 9
5% Treasury Bonds (1933-35)	103	100⅛	100⅛	102½	+1½	4 19 6	4 10 0
4½% India (1950-55)	90	78	81½	85	+3½	6 0 0	5 14 6
Dominion Govt. Stocks—							
Commonwealth of Australia 5% (1935-45)	96½	84	91	87	−4	5 18 0	6 7 9
South Africa 5% (1933-43)	103⅞	99	99	100	+1	5 2 0	5 0 0
Canada 4% (1940-60) ...	91⅛	86⅛	88	91	+3	4 18 0	4 12 6
New Zealand 4½% (1947)	97⅛	92½	92	94	+2	5 1 9	5 0 9
New South Wales 5½% (1947-57)	96⅛	86	93x	88½x	−4½	5 14 6	6 2 6
Birmingham 5%, 1946-56	102½	99½	100	102	+2	5 0 0	4 18 6
London County Council 5%, 1940-60	104	100⅛	101	102	+1	4 17 9	4 19 0
Bristol 5%, 1948-58	102½	99½	101	101	...	5 0 0	5 0 0

x Ex dividend.

It will be seen that, apart from 5 per cent. War Loan and 5 per cent. Conversion Loan, British Government long-term credit is verging on a 4½ per cent. basis. If it were not for the increase in direct taxation and the dead-weight of the £2,000 million block of 5 per cent. War Loan, British funds, with Bank rate at 3 per cent. and the prospect of cheap money prevailing for a considerable time, might well be selling under a 4 per cent. yield basis.

It may also be contended that the effects of a reduction in Bank rate from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent. in the past six months have not yet been fully discounted in the market in other fixed-interest securities. Foreign Government bonds showed a fair rise, and would probably have risen further if it had not been for the economic and exchange difficulties of most of the South American republics, for the undigested issue of the £8,000,000 coffee loan for the San Paulo Government in May (which was dearly priced), and for the fact that a good deal of potential investment in foreign bonds was held back for the issue this month of the German Reparations loan. Other fixed-interest securities have not reflected the lowering of interest rates to any great extent. Indeed, the prior charges of commercial undertakings whose earnings either have declined (for example, Fine Cotton Spinners) or have been causing apprehension (for example, Cables and Wireless) have found lower levels:—

Other Fixed Interest Stocks (Railways excepted.)

Security.	1930. Highest Price.	1930. Lowest Price.	Price, Beginning of 1930.	Price, June 24, 1930.	Rise or Fall in Half-year.	Yield. Beginning 1930.	June 24, 1930.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Foreign Government Stocks—							
Brazil 5% Funded 1914...	84½	71½	72	76	+4	7 1 9	6 14 3
San Paulo Coffee 7½% ...	96	78	83½	88	+4½	9 1 0	8 15 0
German 7% (1924), red. 1925-49	109⅛	103	103½	106	+2½	6 13 0	6 10 0
Japan 6% (1924), red. by 1959	102⅛	98	100	101½	+1½	6 4 6	6 1 6
China 4½% Gold (1898) (English issue), red. by 1943	81½	74	78½	81	+2½	7 12 0	6 17 9
Argentine 5% Internal (1909)	95	90½	91½	94	+2½	5 19 3	5 13 9
Greek 6% Stabilisation ...	93½	86¼	90	93	+3	6 19 6	6 13 0
Public Utility Stocks—							
Port of London 4%, 1940-60	85	80⅜	81½x	83x	+1½	5 7 0	5 2 9
Metropolitan Water Board 3% "B"	67½	62½	62	66	+4	4 16 0	4 12 3
Agricultural Mortgage 5%	103½	98½	99x	100x	+1	5 1 0	5 0 0
Industrial and Miscellaneous Preference Stocks—							
Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) 8% Cum. Pref. (£1) ...	1⅛	1 1/16	1 3/16	1⅛	+ 1/16	5 9 0	5 2 6
Fine Cotton Spinners 5% Cum. Pref. (£1)	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	−	6 8 0	6 13 3
Imperial Chemical 7% Cum. Pref. (£1)	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	...	6 1 0	6 1 0
Yorkshire Electric Power 6% Cum. Pref. (£1) ...	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16	5 1 0	5 3 3
Shell Transport 7% 2nd Pref. (£1)	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16	5 6 9	5 9 0
Cables and Wireless 5½% Pref. Stock	99½	88½	96	88½	−7½	5 14 6	6 5 9

Perhaps the most disappointing of all Stock Exchange markets in the past six months has been that in railway stocks. Cheaper money has as yet had little influence upon railway fixed-interest stocks. As regards ordinary stocks, home railways have been sold on the decline in traffic receipts common to all systems except the London Underground and on the expected increase in operating expenditures occasioned by the ill-timed restoration of the 2½ per cent. cut in wages and salaries to which the four big groups were committed. Foreign railway stocks—particularly Argentine—have also been adversely affected by the decline in traffics following on the world trade depression. The defaulting of the United Railways of Havana in the payment of interest on certain of its debenture stocks was also a depressing influence. It will be appreciated from the next table—the yields in which are based on 1929 dividends—that the market is obviously

discounting a reduction in most railway common stock dividends this year:—

Railway Stocks.

Security.	1930. Highest Price.	1930. Lowest Price.	Price, Beginning of 1930.	Price, June 24, 1930.	Rise or Fall in Half-year.	Yield. Beginning 1930.	June 24, 1930.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fixed Interest Stocks—							
Lon. Mid. & Scot., 4% deb.	83½	76	76x	77x	+ 1	5 5 3	5 4 0
Gt. Western, 5% cons. guar.	101	93	95	99	+ 4	5 4 0	5 2 0
Southern, 5% irred. pref.	98	87½	88	89½	+ 1½	5 15 6	5 13 0
Lon. & N.E.R., 4% 2nd pref.	63⅜	52	60½	68½	+ 8	6 12 3	8 4 11
East Indian Rly., 3½% deb.	63½	55½	62	59	− 3	5 13 6	5 18 9
Canadian Pacific, 4% pref.	80½	76½	78	80	+ 2	5 3 6	5 1 3
Ordinary Stocks—							
London Midland & Scottish	57½	44½	55	44½	−10½	6 16 3	10 2 3
Great Western	94	81	91	81	−10	5 10 0	8 12 9
North Eastern, def.	13½	7⅜	12⅜	7⅜	− 5	Nil	Nil
Southern, def.	32½	27¼	29½	28	− 1½	6 15 6	8 18 6
London Electric	74½	70	71½	74	+ 2½	6 19 9	6 15 3
Canadian Pacific	232	193½	195½	196½x	+ 1	5 2 3	5 1 9
Bengal and North-Western	285	247	274	269	− 5	6 18 6	7 1 3
Pennsylvania ($50).....	88⅜	75	77½x	75	− 2½	4 10 3	4 13 3
Buenos Aires Pacific	90½	75½	85	75½	− 9½	8 4 9	9 5 6
Leopoldina	57½	44	50	44½x	− 5½	10 0 0	11 4 9
Buenos Ayres Gt. Southern	100⅛	84½	97	84½	−12½	8 3 0	9 9 3
Antofagasta	88	79	88	81	− 7	7 19 0	8 12 9

x Ex dividend

As regards other "equity" shares, a representative list of which is given in the next table, it will be found that British "industrials," in spite of the publication of reports which compared on the whole not unfavourably with those of 1928, suffered an almost unbroken decline. There were, however, some exceptions. For example, General Electric improved on account of its bigger profits and increase in dividends. On the other hand, the shares enjoying—or shall we say inflicted with—an active New York market—such as Columbia Graphophone, Gramophone, Brazil Traction, Ford Motors, Hydro Electric, International Nickel—have suffered to a much greater extent than "British" industrials, the present prices showing the scars of the latest Wall Street slump.

Commercial and Industrial Securities.

Security.	1930. Highest Price.	1930. Lowest Price.	Price, Beginning of 1930.	Price, June 24, 1930.	Rise or Fall in Half-year.	Yield. Beginning 1930.	June 24, 1930.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Banking Insurance and Investment Trust—							
Midland Bank (£1 fully pd.)	4⅛	3 3/16	3 3/16	3 3/16	...	4 15 0	4 15 0
Com. Union Assur. (£2½ fully paid)	26½	22½	23½	22½	− 1	4 4 6	4 6 0
Indust. and Gen. Trust, ord. stock.....	363	326	334	350x	+16	5 4 9	5 2 9
Public Utilities—							
Brazilian Traction ord. (no par)	56½	36⅛	37	41½	+ 4½	...	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne Elec. ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16	5 1 0	5 6 9
Cables & Wireless A. ord.	77	34⅛	75⅛	37⅛	−38	...	...
Do. B. ord.	39½	14⅛	37⅛	17⅛	−20	...	...
General Indust. and Commercial—							
Associated Cement (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	1 7/16	1⅛	− 1/16	6 11 3	6 14 9
Assoc. Newspapers, def. (5s.)	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16	6 13 3	7 12 6
Babcock & Wilcox ord. (£1)	3 1/16	2 3/16	3	2 3/16	− 1/16	5 0 0†	5 8 0†
British Celanese (10s.) ...	1 1/16	1/16	1	⅛	− 1/16	Nil	Nil
Coats (J. and P.) (£1).....	3 1/16	2⅛	3 1/16	2⅛	− 1/16	5 18 6	6 0 0
Col. Graphophone (10s.)	7 1/16	3⅛	5 1/16	4	− 1⅛	4 6 9	5 12 6
Courtaulds (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16	− 1/16	5 11 9†	4 12 6†
Dennis Brothers (1s.) ...	2⅛	1 3/16	2⅛	1 3/16	− 1/16	6 13 3	7 10 0
Distillers Co. (£1)	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	− 1/16	5 16 3	6 0 6
Dunlop. Rub. (6s. 8d.) ...	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	− 1/16	9 4 0	8 17 9
General Electric (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16	+ 1/16	4 4 3	5 14 9
Gramophone (£1)	5⅛	3⅛	4⅛	3⅛	− 1⅛	6 13 3	8 0 0
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	...	5 15 0†	5 15 0†
Harrods, ord. (£1)	3⅛	3	3⅛	3⅛	− 1/16	5 15 0	6 8 0
Hydro Electric	57	38⅛	42	39½	− 2⅛	...	...
Imp. Chemical ord. (£1)	1 7/16	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅛	− 1/16	6 2 0	6 18 6
Imperial Tobacco (£1) ...	5 1/16	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛	− 1/16	4 7 9†	4 11 6†
International Nickel	44⅛	22⅛	32	22⅛	− 9⅞	...	...
P. & O. Steam Nav. def. (£1)	2⅛	2 1/16	2⅛	2 1/16	− 1/16	4 11 6†	5 10 0†
Pinchin Johnson (10/–) ...	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	...	6 17 3	6 17 3
Royal Mail, ord. stock ...	36	17	35	20	−15	...	...
Swedish Match	17⅞	14⅛	15	14⅛	− 1/16	...	...
Tilling (Thos.), (£1)	5⅛	4⅛	4⅞	4⅛	− 1/16	4 2 0	4 6 0
Unilever (£1)	3⅛	2⅛	3 1/16	2⅛ xb	...	3 5 0	3 18 0
United Molasses (£1)	6 1/16	2⅛	5 1/16	2⅛ xb	...	3 10 0	...
Vickers ord. (6/8)	⅜	1/16	⅛	1/16	− 1/16	7 2 0	8 8 0
Watney, Combe, Reid, def. (£1)	3 1/16	2⅛	2⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛	7 2 3	6 6 0

x Ex dividend. † Free of tax. xb Ex bonus.

Speculative markets have borne the full brunt of the fall in commodity prices, and it is surprising that share values have not suffered more. Rubber has fallen in the past six months from 8d. to under 6d. per lb., and tin from £180 to £136 per ton. In spite of the fall in copper certain Rhodesian copper shares, where the market is limited and the prospects unbounded, are standing at higher levels than six months ago. Rhodesian Congo Borders have even enjoyed a sensational rise. South African gold shares are slightly lower on balance, but the market has lately seen signs of investment buying. After all, an industry which produces a metal whose money value is fixed should have some attraction for the speculative investor when the money values of all other commodities are falling. Investment interest in oil shares has been sustained by the maintenance of dividends on their increased share capital by Royal Dutch and Shell Transport, by the increase in dividends on Burmah Oil and Anglo-Persian ordinary shares, and by the maiden dividends declared on Mexican and Canadian Eagle participating preference and ordinary shares. Our next table sets out the fluctuations in prices of representative shares in these speculative markets:—

Other Securities.

Security.	1930. Highest Price.	1930. Lowest Price.	Price, Beginning of 1930.	Price, June 24, 1930.	Rise or Fall in Half-year.	Yield. Beginning 1930.	June 24, 1930.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Plantation—							
Rubber Plantation Investment Trust, ord. (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	− 1/16	8 11 6	8 6 9
Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java (£1)	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	− 1/16	6 8 0	7 12 6
Cons. Tea & Lands, ord. (£10)	26⅜	18	23x	20	− 3	9 15 9	2 10 0
Jorehaut Tea, ord. (£1)	3⅛	2 1/16	3⅛	2 1/16	− 1/16	8 2 9	6 16 0
Oil—							
"Shell" Transport, ord. (£1)	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16	...	5 6 0†	5 6 0†
Burmah Oil, ord. (£1) ...	4 1/16	3⅛	3⅛	4⅛	+ 1/16	5 3 3	7 2 9
Anglo-Persian (£1)	4 1/16	3 1/16	3⅛	4⅛	+ 1/16	3 6 9	2 15 6
Canadian Eagle (No par)	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	...	...	...
Mexican Eagle ($4)	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	− 1/16	...	...
Royal Dutch (100 fl.).....	35 1/16	31⅛	32	31⅛	− 1/16	6 2 9	6 4 0
Mining—							
Burma Corporation (Rs.10)	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	− 1/16	9 4 6†	9 12 0†
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (£1)	2 1/16	2 1/16	2⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16	7 0 0†	7 14 9†
Malayan Tin (5/–)	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛	1	− 1/16	22 14 0	15 0 0
Rio Tinto, ord. (£5)	47⅛	33⅛	42½	34½	− 8½	4 14 0	5 2 0
Rwana M'Kubwa (5/–) ...	1⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1/16	− 1/16	Nil	Nil
N'Changa Copper (£1, with 17/6 paid)	4 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	3	+1 1/16	Nil	Nil
Rhodesian Congo Border (£1)	2 1/16	6⅞	6⅞	15½	+8⅛	Nil	Nil
Roan Antelope (5/–)	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	− 1/16	Nil	Nil

x Ex dividend. † Free of tax.

The outlook for ordinary shares now depends upon the turn in commodity prices and the prospects of a trade recovery in America. From the point of view of British industrials, the former is now more important than the latter. As soon as investors feel convinced that commodity prices have touched bottom—and they cannot be far off at the present time—they may be induced, under the stimulus of cheap money, to purchase the common shares of sound industrial undertakings which are now offering comparatively high yields on dividends and earnings. At the same time, we may expect to see a rise in the fixed-interest securities of these companies, which, by reason of the trade depression, have so far failed to reflect the lowering of interest rates.

THE WALL STREET SLUMP.

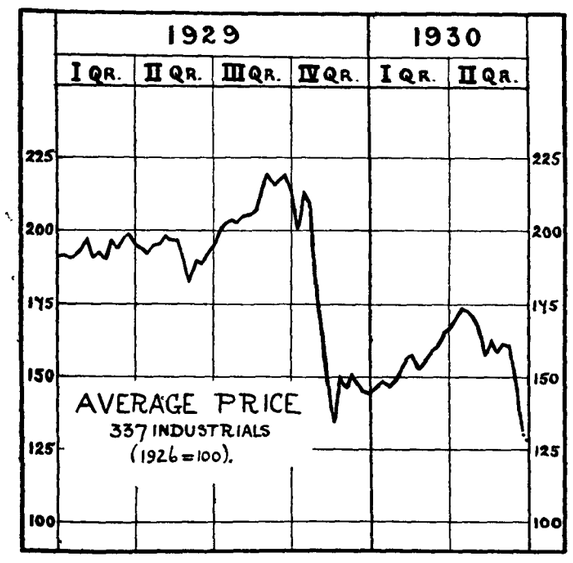
Faith in American industrial and economic prosperity has become so deep-rooted—the slogan that "you cannot go a 'bear' on the United States" has been so often repeated and believed—that the continued slump in the New York stock markets is causing no little amazement, and, among investors and speculators, something like despair. The present liquidation may be distinguished from the stock market crash in the autumn of last year in that it is orderly and more rational. It started in April

when the public began to be sceptical of the " certainty " of the 1930 trade revival on which the stock markets had been rising since December. The first bad " break " came on May 3rd and 4th, by which time the public had realised that the prophecies of better business in the autumn given out by bankers, industrial leaders and the Government spokesmen in Washington, were proving delusive. A short-lived recovery followed, but thereafter break after break in the market has occurred, the recoveries becoming less and less sustained, until average stock prices (except for utilities) are actually below the slump levels of the autumn crash. The following indices are those supplied by the Standard Statistics Company:

(1926 AVERAGE = 100.)

	Highest, 1929.	Lowest, 1929.	Apr. 17, 1930.	May 7, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
Group indices:							
337 Industrials	218·9	134·5	172·7	157·0	161·4	147·6	130·6
33 Rails	173·5	127·8	142·1	134·6	132·6	127·2	117·2
34 Utilities ...	330·4	177·6	266·0	243·2	253·9	231·7	202·8
Total, 404 stocks	228·1	140·3	182·7	167·1	171·5	157·6	139·8

The accompanying chart, representing the average price of 337 " industrials " as compiled by Standard Statistics for each quarter since the beginning of 1929, may enable readers to view the course of American stock markets in due perspective:



The persistent liquidation in the past few weeks has received fresh impetus from the continued fall in commodity prices—particularly wheat, cotton and copper—from " bearish " industrial news, in particular, the further decline in railroad earnings and car loadings, from dividend " cuts " by various corporations, and from the widely expressed fear that the new Tariff Bill threatens the American export trade, particularly in motor vehicles. That the market should have sunk below the panic levels of 1929 is not surprising, for the panic-mongers last autumn had nothing like the present trade depression in sight. Much of the liquidation is said to be coming up from country banks which are still " frozen up " with security loans as a result of the 1929 stock market crash. At the moment of writing there has been some recovery, and the report is current that big banking interests have come to the support of the market. Colonel Ayres, the economist of the Cleveland Trust Company, has expressed the opinion that the " bear " market's life is drawing to a close. If commodity prices were to stop falling, everyone would agree with Colonel Ayres.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS.

THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

SETTLING DAYS.

TICKET. July 8.	ACCOUNT. July 10.

THE recrudescence of hope which spread through the " House " at the end of last week received a rude blow on Monday. Far from inaugurating an extension of business or giving new vitality to the markets, the new account opened in an atmosphere of nervous tension following news of a further sharp setback in Transatlantic shares. Reports during the week were not sufficiently reassuring to bring about any widespread revival, while a depressing list of traffics, a further decline in metal prices, and a feeling that the markets were beset with " weak spots," some of which later materialised, allowed only a very diffident recovery.

Gilt-edged stocks, exceptionally, were firm, with a fair amount of " loose money " available and discount rates lower. War Loan Fives improved $\frac{5}{16}$ to $102\frac{15}{16}$, while Funding advanced anew to $90\frac{1}{8}$ and Conversion Fives, New Consols and Treasury " A " bonds all took on a strong appearance. Corporation stocks attracted some attention, but India loans were almost entirely unaffected by the publication of Part II. of the Simon Report, the " House " preferring to await further developments.

In the Foreign market movements were irregular, the weakest feature being Brazilians, which however took on a slightly better tone following the publication of the President's message. The Reparations Loan fell to $2\frac{1}{4}$ discount on Tuesday, but advanced later to $1\frac{7}{8}$ discount. Chinese bonds were quietly steady after initial weakness, while a significant stir occurred in the Russian list on the better prospects of a debt settlement.

Home rails went from bad to worse, last week's poor traffics being followed by a further unsatisfactory list. On Monday " Brums " dropped to the record low point of $44\frac{1}{4}$, and returned thither after a mid-week improvement, while Berwick Preferred and Southern Deferred shared in the general unpopularity. A small recovery, however, occurred on Thursday. Undergrounds were the one bright spot throughout the list, and received renewed support following the publication of further good traffics.

Foreign rails opened despondently, and Argentine " Heavies " reflected the general uneasiness brought about by the latest crop reports. Later in the week, however, the tone noticeably improved, and despite a depressing set of returns Great Southerns rose 1 to $85\frac{1}{2}$, while Westerns and Centrals shared the rise and Cordobas added $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 18.

The industrial section was upset by New York selling, and though Transatlantic securities subsequently firmed up, the market was disposed to adopt a cautious attitude. Brewery shares continued to provide a good showing, and Guinness led a general advance, adding 1s. to 105s. 3d. Motors were out of favour, and forced selling from the provinces brought about an all-round deterioration. Waring and Gillow were a poor market, following the delay in the publication of their report. Carreras were the bright spot in the tobacco list, which was otherwise weak. General Electric advanced to 50s. after the meeting, but relapsed later. Patons and Baldwins were marked down on the report, while Courtaulds lost ground again. The Royal Mail shipping group suffered from the announcement that Royal Mail would have to meet its guarantee of White Star preference dividends, and the Preference shares of Royal Mail and White Star slumped heavily. Gramophones were active, but a see-saw movement left little change on balance. Guest, Keen added a fraction early, and Lyons in the catering list were strong. Kreuger and Toll and Swedish Match in the Swedish list were at first marked down sharply, but later made some recovery, United Mollasses evinced a marked improvement. Bank and insurance shares were dull, and changes were mostly downward.

The price of rubber improved somewhat to $6\frac{3}{32}$d., and the share market, which had created no disturbance during the week, took on a more cheerful appearance towards the close, and Rubber Trust led several advances, forging ahead to 30s. 9d. Tea shares were somewhat irregular, and the few movements which occurred showed no promise of any likely recovery. Oil shares opened with a fair demand for leading issues, and there were a number of improvements. V.O.C. were initially strong, but relapsed slightly after going ex dividend.

The mining share market again reflected to some extent the continual sagging in metal prices. The " Kaffir " boomlet was temporarily suspended, but several descriptions hardened after an irregular period in mid-week, and Sub Nigel advanced on Johannesburg support to $2\frac{25}{32}$, but Modderfontein, Brakpan and East Rand weakened on lack of interest. Northern issues were all weak, Congo Borders declining $\frac{7}{8}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$, while Bwana M'Kubwa, Chartered and Roan Antelope were all marked down. Burma Corporation receded to 10s. 6d. on renewed silver weakness (discussed in an Investment Note on page 1454), tin shares sagged, following a further drop of £3 in the metal on Thursday.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY BARGAIN INDEX.
(Approximate number of Bargains recorded in Stock Exchange Lists.)

	June 19.	June 20.	June 23.	June 24.	June 25.	June 26.
Government and Municipal Loans	1,158	1,223	1,552	1,302	1,195	1,218
Transport, Communications, and Public Utilities	975	934	1,139	934	859	876
Commercial and Industrial*	1,738	1,851	2,039	1,593	1,525	1,571
Banks, Insurance and Financial	445	464	541	500	392	446
Mines (including Nitrate) ...	581	652	627	361	370	317
Oil	173	196	240	120	94	141
Rubber, Tea and Coffee	151	117	128	128	110	113
Total	5,221	5,437	6,266	4,938	4,545	4,682

* Including iron and steel and breweries.

" FINANCIAL NEWS " DAILY AVERAGE OF 30 INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY STOCKS.
(1928 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 17).	Lowest of 1930. (June 17).	June 19.	June 20.	June 23.	June 24.	June 25.	June 26.
90·6	79·3	80·0	80·5	80·0	80·1	79·7	79·7

FOREIGN STOCK EXCHANGES.

NEW YORK.

A better tone is developing in the security markets. Shares are finding investment support and " shorts " are covering. The market was helped by the resistance shown by United States Steel and other pivotal issues when prices approached the low levels touched last autumn, and, while there is no expectation of a sustained rise at this time, it is becoming evident that selling is losing vigour and that the technical position has been improved by the liquidation of weakly-held stock and the building up of a " short " interest. It is believed that investment trusts have done about an equal amount of selling and buying. The drop of $371 millions in brokers' loans on the week reflects the extent of real liquidation, and is perhaps partly attributable to the working off of unsold bonds from dealers' shelves. Loans are now only $88 millions above the low point reached last autumn. Railroad prices average the lowest level since 1927-28, but industrials and public utilities are still above last November. Bonds have been stagnant despite the extreme ease of money, but the gilt-edged section is now rising. Railroad earnings for May show a decline of more than 30 per cent., and are likely to be the same for June, with car loadings still running at the 1924 level. The steel industry is steadier, with a drop of only 1 per cent. in the rate of operation. Steel Corporation is running at 72 per cent. of capacity, equal to 105 per cent. on the old rating, and is likely to earn $6.60 per share for the first six months of 1930. General Motors' earnings for the six months will probably be $2.35 per share. There has been a sharp drop in bank shares on the decline in interest rates. The new capital market is at a standstill, but an Austrian loan of $20,000,000 is expected here shortly.

(By Cable.)

LONDON ACTIVE SECURITIES.

NOTE.—Shares with a New York quotation or with definite American interest are distinguished by italics.

	Closing Prices. June 19.	Closing Prices. June 26.	Rise or Fall.
British and Colonial Government Securities.			
Conv. Loan 3½%	77⅛	77⅛	+ ⅜
Do. 4½% 1944	98⅛	98⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 5% 1944-64 ...	103⅛	104⅛	+ ⅛
War Loan 5% 1929-47	102⅝	102⅛	+ ⅛
Consols 4%	87⅛	86⅞x	+ 1⅛
Funding 4%.....	88⅛	90⅛	+ 1⅛
Victory Bonds 4% ...	94⅛	94⅜	+ ⅛
Local Loans 3%	63⅛	64⅜	+ ⅜
Treasury 5% (B).....	102⅛	102⅛x	+ ⅜
Canada 4% 1940-60	91	91	...
S. Africa 5% 1945-75	99	99	...
India 3½%	61⅛	61⅛	...
Do. 4½% 1958-68...	84⅛	85	+ ⅛
Australia 5% 1945-75	87	86	− 1
N.S.Wales 5%1935-55	85⅛	84	− 1⅛
N. Zealand 5% 1946..	100	100	...
Foreign Government Securities.			
Japanese 6% (1924)...	101⅛	101	− ⅛
Argentine 4% Recns.	88⅛	88⅛	...
Austrian 6% 1923-43	101⅛	101⅛	...
Belgian 7%	110⅛	110⅛	...
Brazil 6⅛% (1927) ...	84⅛	84⅛	...
China 5% (1912).....	39	40	+ 1
Egypt Unified 4% ...	73⅛	74	+ ⅛
French 5%	20⅛	20⅛	...
French 4% (Brit.) ...	20⅛	20⅛	...
German 7%	105⅛	105⅛	− ⅛
Greek 7% Refugee...	101⅛	101⅛	+ ⅛
Hungary 7½%	102⅛	102⅛	...
Chili 6%	97⅛	97⅛	+ ⅛
Poland 7%	88⅛	90	+ 1⅛
Mexican 5% (1899)...	17⅛	20	+ 2⅛
S. Paulo Coffee 7½%...	87	87⅛	+ ⅛
Corporation Stocks.			
B'mgham 5% 1946–56.	102	102	...
Bristol 5% 1950–60...	101	101	...
L.C.C. 3%.....	64	63	− 1
E. London 5%1960-70	97	97	...
Sydney 5½% 1954 ...	88⅛	88⅛	...
Berlin 6% Ster.	95	95	...
British and Foreign Railways.			
G. Western Ord. Stk.	81⅛	81	− ⅛
L.N.E. Def. Stk.	7⅞	8	+ ⅛
Do. 5% Pref. Stk....	22	22⅛	+ ⅛
L.M.S. Ord. Stk.	45⅛	45	− ⅛
Metropol'an Con. Stk.	64	64	...
Met. District Ord. Stk.	76	77	+ 1
Southern Def. Stk. ...	28	27⅞	− ⅛
Do. Pref. Ord. Stk.	70⅛	70	− ⅛
Underground Ord. £1	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Do. Income Bonds	109	111⅛	+ 2⅛
Can. Pacific Com. Stk.	196⅛	192⅛	− 4
Antofagasta Ord. Stk.	81	77x	...
B.A.&PacificOrd.Stk.	74⅛	76	+ 1⅛
B.A.Gt.Sthn.Ord.Stk.	83⅛	85⅛	+ 2
B.A.WesternOrd.Stk.	63	65	+ 2
C. Argentine Ord.Stk.	64	66⅛	+ 2⅛
Cordoba Ord. Stk. ...	14⅛	18	+ 3⅛
G.W. of Brazil £10 ...	2⅛	2⅛	...
Leopoldina Ord. Stk.	43⅛	43	− ⅛
San Paulo Ord. Stk....	172⅛	167⅛	− 5
Int. Rlys. Cent. Am. no par	$26	$26	...
Utd. Havana Ord.Stk.	12	12	...
Beira Rlwy. no par...	$1⅛	$1⅛x	+ ⅛
Banks.			
Bank of England Stk.	252⅛	252⅛	...
Barclay B. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Barcl. (Dom.&c.) A £1	1⅛	1⅛	...
Lloyds £5, with £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Midland £1, fully pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Nat. Prov. £20, £4 pd.	13⅛	13⅛	...
Comcl. Bk. of Aus. 10/	1⅛	1⅛	...
Hongk.and S. ($125)	$106⅛	$105⅛	− 1
St. of S.A. £20, £5 pd.	15	15	...
W'minster £4, £1 pd.	3⅛	3⅛	...
Insurance.			
Alliance £1, fully paid	18⅛	18⅛	...
Com. Un.£2½,fully pd.	22⅛	22⅛	...
Lon.& Lanc. £5, £1 pd.	27⅛	27⅛	− ⅛
Pearl (£1)	12⅞	12⅞	...
Phœnix, £1 fully pd...	13⅛	13⅛	...
Roy.In.£1,with 10/ pd.	7⅛	7⅛	+ ⅛
Coal, Iron and Steel.			
Amal. Anthracite (£1)	⅞	⅞	...
Babcock, Wilcox (£1)..	2⅛	2⅛	...
Baldwin (4/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Bolsover Ord. (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Cory, William (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛x	...
Dorman, Long (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Guest, Keen (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛x	+ ⅛
Powell Duffryn (£1)...	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Stewarts & Lloyds (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Swan, Hunter (£1) ...	⅛	⅛	...
Thornycroft, John (£1)	3	2⅞	− ⅛
Vickers (6/8).....	⅛	⅛	...
Textiles.			
Bradford Dyers (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit.Celanese Ord(10/)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Coats, J. and P. (£1)	2⅛	2⅛xb	...
Courtaulds.....	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Linen Thread (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Listers (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Electrical Manufacturing.			
Associated Elec. (£1)..	1⅛	1⅛	...
British Insulated (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Callenders (£1)	3⅛	3⅛x	...
General Electric (£1)...	2⅛	2⅛xd	...
Henleys (W.T.) (£1)...	6⅛	6⅛	− ⅛
Johnson & Phillips (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Electric Light and Power.			
Atlas L'ht & P'er (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
City of London (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
County of London (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Hydro-Elec. Com. Stk.	41⅛	38⅛	− 2⅛
Midland Counties (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Newcastle-on-Tyne (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Gas.			
Gas Light & Coke (£1)	⅛	⅛	...
Imp. Continental Stk.	350	345	− 5
Primitiva (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
S. Metropolitan Stk...	103	103	...
Telegraphs and Cables.			
Cables and Wireless { *A Ord.*	37	36	− 1
B Ord.	16⅛	16⅛	...
Canadian Marconi ...	1⅛	1	− ⅛
Marconi Marine (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Oriental Telephone(£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Motors.			
Austin (5/-)	1⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Dennis (1/)	2	1⅞	− ⅛
Ford Motors (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Leyland (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	...
Rolls Royce (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	...
Napier (5/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Shipping.			
Cunard (£1)	1	1	...
Furness Withy (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
P. & O. Defd. (£1) ...	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Royal Mail Ord. Stk.	18⅛	18⅛	...
Tea and Rubber.			
Anglo-Dutch (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	...
Bah Liss (£1)	1	1	...
Cons. Tea&Lnds. (£10)	20	18⅛	− 1⅛
London Asiatic (2/)...	⅛	⅛	...
Rubber Trust (£1) ...	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
United Serdang (2/)	⅛	⅛	...
Oil.			
Anglo-Persian (£1) ...	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Attock (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Brit. Cont. Oils. Ord. $5	⅛	⅛	...
Burmah Oil (£1)	4⅛	4⅛x	...
Canadian Eagle, no par	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Mexican Eagle (£1/0/6)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Royal Dutch (£5½) ...	31⅛	32⅛	+ ⅛
Shell (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛
Miscellaneous.			
Assoc. P. Cement (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Bras. Traction, no par	$41⅛	$41⅛	− ⅛
Brit.-Am. Tobacco (£1)	5⅛	5⅛x	...
Carreras, "A" Ord.(£1)	9⅛	8⅞	+ ⅛
Columbia Graph. (10/)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Distillers (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Dunlop (5/8).....	⅛	⅛	...
Gramophone Co. (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Guinness (A) (£1) ...	5⅛	5⅛	+ ⅛
Harrods (£1).....	3⅛	3⅛	− ⅛
Hudson's Bay (£1)....	3⅛	3⅛	...
Imp.Airways (£1 15/p)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Imp. Chem., Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Imperial Tobacco (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	...
International Holdings	5⅛	4⅞	− ⅛
Inter. Nickel of Can...	24⅛	24⅛	+ ⅛
Kreuger & Toll (kr.100)	27⅛	26⅞	− ⅛
Marks & Spencer (10/-)	5⅛xb	5⅛x	...
Maypole Dairy (2/-)	⅛	⅛	...
Pinchin Johnson (10/-)	2⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
Savoy Hotel (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
Swed.Match,B(kr 100)	14⅞	14⅞	− ⅛
Tate and Lyle (£1)...	1⅛	1⅛	...
Tilling, Thos. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	− ⅛
Turner & Newall (£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Unilever (£1)	2⅛	2⅛	+ ⅛
United Molasses (£1)..	2⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Watney Combe Df.(£1)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛
Mines.			
Anglo-Amer.ofS.A.(£1)	1⅛	1⅛	...
De Beers Def. (£2½)...	7⅛	7⅛	+ ⅛
" *Chartered* " 15/f.p...	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Burma Corp. (Rs. 10)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Bwana M'Kubwa, 5/fp	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
Johan. Cons. (£1).....	1⅛	1⅛	+ ⅛
Lake View & Star (4/)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
Loangwa (5/-)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛
London Tin (£1).....	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛
N'Changa (£1 *with* 17/6 pd.)	3⅛	2⅛	− ⅛
New Modderfontein 10/-	4	4	...
Rhodesian CongoBorder (£1)	15⅛	14⅛	− ⅛
Rio Tinto (£5)	34⅛	34⅛	− ⅛
Roan Antelope Cpr.(5/)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
Tanganyika (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛
UnionCorp.(12/6 fu. pd.)	3⅛	3⅛	+ ⅛

	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
U.S. 3½% T. Bds.	106⅝	106⅞	105¹⁵⁄₁₆
Do. 4½% T. Bds.	113¹⁄₁₆	112⅝	112²⁄₃₂
Lib.Ln. 5½% '32-47	100³²⁄₃₂	100³¹⁄₃₂	101
Do. 4½% '32-47	101¹⁄₃₂	102	102⅛
Do. 4½% '33-38	102³¹⁄₃₂	102¹⁄₃₂	102²⁄₃₂
Atchison	218	213	201
Ches. & Ohio	182	180	175
Erie	39	37½	38½
Illinois Central	122½	117	114½
N.Y. Central	167	161½	157½
Pennsylvania	74¾	72	71
Southern Pacific	117	112½	101
Southern Rly.	107	104½	96½
Union Pacific	219	214½	206
Am. Can.	132	121½	117
Alleghany Corp.	22	20¼	19¾
Amer. Smelting	66⅜	57½	57
Anaconda	54	49¼	50¾
Bethlehem Steel	87½	83⅝	79
Chrysler Motor	31	26⅜	25⅜
Corn Produce	100	95½	93¾
Eastman Kodak	219	205	192
Gen. Electric (New)	73½	71⅜	67½
Gen. Motors	44⅜	41⅜	40
Int. Harvester	89	82½	82½
Montg. Ward	40	36⅜	33½
Natl. Biscuit	84½	79	75¾

	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
Phelps Dodge	36	31	32¾
Pullman	69½	66	63½
Sears-Roebuck	77	73½	63
Studebaker	31	28	26
Un. Fruit	87½	88	85
U.S. Leather	10	11⅜	9⅝
U.S. Rubber	24⅜	22	21¼
U.S. Steel	163	160⅜	156½
Westinghouse	152	140	133½
Woolworth	59½	55	54¾
Worthington Pump	141½	127	127
Am. Pow. & Light	93	84	79½
Am. Tel. & Tlg.	216	211	207½
Electric P. & L.	79¾	68½	65⅝
Int. Tel. Teles.	54	44½	42½
Nat. Pow. & Lt.	41½	35⅝	35½
Radio Corpn.	41	38⅜	35½
Utilities P. & L.	36	28½	31⅜
W. Union Tlg.	169½	163½	159⅜
Associated Gas "A"	35	31½	30⅜
Mid-Cont. Pet.	25⅜	24½	23
Pan Amer. B.	57⅜	57	56
Sinclair Oil	25½	22⅝	21
Std. California	64½	61	58½
Do. N.J.	71	66	64½

By courtesy of the Standard Statistics Company, Inc., of New York and 13, Copthall Avenue, London, we print the following index figures of American values calculated on closing prices (1926 = 100):—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Beginning of Year.	June 18.	June 25.
335 Industrials	132·5	186·4	134·5	218·9	146·0	132·3	130·6
33 Rails	120·5	139·7	127·8	173·5	134·3	121·1	117·2
34 Utilities	128·3	180·6	177·6	330·4	202·2	205·4	202·8
Total, 402 Stocks	130·3	178·9	140·3	228·1	153·0	142·0	139·8
Average yield of 50 Industrial Common Stocks	3·32%	4·42%	3·10%	5·23%	4·83%	5·26%	5·32%

DAILY AVERAGE OF 50 INDUSTRIAL COMMON STOCKS (1926 = 100).

Highest of 1930. (Apr. 10.)	Lowest of 1930. (Jne. 24.)	June 18.	June 19.	June 20.	June 21.	June 23.	June 24.	June 25.
202·4	149·6	153·0	160·3	156·5	151·6	154·8	149·6	151·2

TOTAL DEALINGS IN NEW YORK.

	June 19.	June 20.	Jne. 21.*	June 23.	June 24.	June 25.	June 26.
Stock Exchange—							
Shares (Thous.)	3,756	3,651	1,964	3,832	2,859	3,389	2,268
Bonds (Value-Thous. $)	10,795	11,149	4,840	9,438	9,639	11,200	9,163
Curb—							
Shares (Thous.)	1,111	1,021	558	985	746	941	638

* 2-hour session.

CANADA.

The Canadian stock markets have experienced two sharp breaks during the past month, and the second, which came early this week, was the more severe of the two. Wednesday, June 11th, was the worst day of the slump, when the average price of twenty representative Canadian stocks reached the lowest point of the year at 40.18, as compared with the highest for the year of 48.17 attained in April. Both recessions were sympathetic reactions from breaks in New York, and the decline in Canada in both cases was proportionately less. No improvement, however, is expected here until the New York market turns definitely upward, and on this subject the Canadian view is not very optimistic. However, it is recognised that with the passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill, and the flotation of the German international loan, two bearish factors have been, or are about to be, removed, and the feeling is that the technical condition of the Canadian market is ready to respond to either a bullish movement in New York or good business news in Canada. Yet many people think an improvement in the stock market situation will have to be deferred till the end of the summer, when the general election will be over, and there may be definite assurance of a good Western crop. During the slump International Nickel was very heavily sold, and declined to the low point reached in the panic days of last October. The street did not take a favourable view of the issuance of the new rights, and the fall in the price of copper also affected the stock. Brazilians had a setback, but on the whole held up fairly well. The newsprint stocks are still weak, as there has been a further decline in American advertising, which curtails the demand for newsprint, and the distillery stocks, although earnings are reported to be well maintained, are neglected. There has been no improvement in the mining market, and Noranda, which is regarded as the best of the gold-copper mines, slipped back heavily in sympathy with nickel. This week the Canadian dollar was at a premium in New York for the first time since 1928, and its rise is ascribed to the placing of an issue of $50,000,000 of bonds of the Canadian National Railways in New York last week. There seems also to be ample funds at home available for investment in bonds. Of the $293,000,000 new Canadian issues offered in the first five months of the present year, 75 per cent. was taken up in Canada as against 25 per cent. in the United States.

	May 1, 1930.	May 29, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
Abitibi Power & Paper	34	31	26
Asbestos Corp.	2¼	1⅝	Nobid
Bank of Montreal	312	303	293
Brazilian Traction	51	49½	40½
British Col. Power "A"	41½	41	36½
Calgary Power	150	150	150
Can. Bank Commerce	255	Nobid	240
Canadian Car	25½	24½	19⅝
Canada Cement	18½	16	13½
Can. Indus. Alcohol 'A'	7⅞	7⅛	5⅝
Canada Power & Paper	16	16½	14
Can. Steamship Lines	18	17	12
Cockshutt Plow	19	19	15½
Cons. Mining	218	227	190
Dominion Bridge	67½	64	49
Dom. Textile (New)	70	68	62

	May 1, 1930.	May 29, 1930	June 26, 1930.
Fraser Companies	...	12½	...
Hollinger Gold Mining	6⅝	6½	5⅝
International Nickel	33½	33¼	24⅝
Massey Harris	34	34½	25¼
Montreal Light	133	126	53⅝
National Breweries	30½	35⅝	29
Nat. Steel Car	64	68½	46
Port Alfred Pulp	80	Nobid	Nobid
Power Corp., Canada	84	83½	66⅝
Price Bros.	Nobid	74	60
Quebec Power	65½	63½	54½
Royal Bank of Canada	306	300	...
Shawinigan	75	74½	62⅝
Southern Can. Power	34	33	27
Steel of Canada	48	48⅞	40½
Winnipeg Electric	42⅛	44⅛	38¼

x Ex dividend.

INVESTMENT NOTES.

Silver and the Share Markets.—The slump in the price of silver, which is discussed on page 1435 of this issue, is a cause of trouble to the Stock Exchange at many points. The upset caused to the trade of China and the Far East cannot fail to affect the earnings in some degree of trading companies such as the British American Tobacco and the Shell group, and, of course, the profits of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The China trade may constitute a minor proportion of the exports of British American Tobacco and Shell, but in the case of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank it may just decide the maintenance or dropping of the £1 bonus that is paid (in sterling) with the £6 sterling dividends. More directly, and more heavily, affected by the slump in silver are the silver-lead-zinc producing mines such as Burma Corporation, San Francisco Mines of Mexico and Santa Gertrudis, and to a lesser extent certain copper producers such as Anaconda. The present price of silver is about 45 per cent. below the average selling price (26.15d.) realised by Burma Corporation on its output of 7,376,841 ozs. of refined silver in the year to June, 1930. These companies are, of course, severely hit also by the fall in the prices of zinc and lead. In view of the depressed condition of the base metal market, the directors of San Francisco Mines of Mexico have decided to pass the interim dividend for the six months to March (15 per cent. having been paid in the previous year). Santa Gertrudis has so far maintained its interim dividends of 7½ per cent., but the directors have given "serious consideration to the record low prices for silver," an early recovery in which they do not regard as probable. Burma Corporation has reduced its dividends from 10 per cent. to 8⅛ per cent. tax free for the year. The March quarter's return showed a further contraction of both gross

and net revenue. The following table shows the results for the completed nine months:—

	Quarters ended Sept., 1929.	Dec., 1929.	Mar., 1930
Ore extracted (tons)	118,493	109,543	133,269
Refinery production—			
Lead (tons)	19,507	20,250	20,250
Silver (ozs.)	1,781,594	1,821,000	1,823,686
	£	£	£
Estimated gross revenue	885,045	833,827	765,225
Estimated net profits	235,606	204,120	150,278
Average price silver	24·09d.	22·66d.	20·06d.
Average price lead	£23/4/3	£22/2/4	£20/10/6

Taking a conservative estimate of probable earnings in the June quarter, with silver at 1s. 3d. and lead under £18 per ton, the net revenue for the full year will be approximately £700,000. Adding to this, say, £75,000 for interest, etc., it would appear that total earnings may be in the neighbourhood of £775,000. This is equivalent to 7.6 per cent., tax free, so that in paying 13 annas per share, or 8½ per cent., tax free, the directors have apparently drawn on reserves to a moderate extent. Such a course would be in accordance with the policy of the board as expressed at the last annual meeting. Having regard to the situation in the metal markets, the interest of shareholders naturally centres more on present earnings prospects than on the dividend already declared. In addition to silver and lead, zinc and copper are also produced, although to a much smaller extent. If the prices of the various metals remain at or near their present levels, a quarter's profit would be affected to the extent of £80,000-£90,000. On this basis, and after allowing a reasonable margin for lessened operating expenses and a reduced rate of taxation payment, net mine revenue would be less than £100,000 per quarter, or (expressed as a percentage on the issued capital) under 4 per cent. per annum.

Grocery Store Merger.—An agreement was reached this week for the amalgamation of Home and Colonial Stores, Liptons, Maypole Dairy, Meadow Dairy, Pearks Dairies and International Tea. A new company is to be formed to acquire the undertakings of these companies, other than Liptons, and the preference and ordinary shareholders will receive shares in the new company in exchange for their present holdings. The allotment of preference shares will take into account all preferential rights as to capital and dividends and the allotment of ordinary shares will be based on the respective earning capacities of the companies concerned. The preference and ordinary shareholders of Liptons will be given an opportunity of exchanging their holdings for shares in the new company, but it appears that the basis of the exchange in their case will be different on account of the past record of their company. This is an important merger which will bring under one control approximately 6,000 shops. It is not merely a grocery store deal; it is an alliance between large producers and distributors of foodstuffs under the ultimate control of the great Lever-Margarine trust. Its real meaning, in fact, is that Unilevers are proceeding with the rationalisation of their existing distributive combine and have succeeded in bringing within its fold the International Tea. It should be understood that they already had control of Home and Colonial Stores, which in 1924 had obtained a large interest in Maypole Dairy (including Maypole Margarine Works and Erith Oil Works). In 1929 Home and Colonial obtained a controlling interest in the Meadow Dairy, which in turn controlled Brough's, Neale's Tea Stores, Pearks Dairies and Sherry's Dairy, and in 1927 had become associated in the management of Liptons. Recently a private company, Allied Suppliers, had been formed to act as a central buying organisation for all these associated stores. The International Tea brings into the combine Kearley and Tonge, Ridgeways, James Pegram and the Star Tea, which it acquired in 1928. It is also buying agent and manager on a commission basis of John Quality. The total share capital of the "big five" and Star Tea is £11,551,124, in addition to which Liptons have a loan capital of £1,100,000 and Meadow Dairy of £151,690. The net profits last reported, after allowing for preference and fixed preferred ordinary dividends are shown in the following table:—

	Net Profits. £	Percentage of Total Profits.
Home and Colonial	509,182	30·56
Maypole	437,087	26·23
International Tea	450,636*	27·04
Meadow Dairies	194,165	11·65
Liptons	75,377	4·52
Total	1,666,447	100·00

* These are profits for year to April 30, 1929, and do not include Star Tea.

This table may give an approximate idea of the proportion of ordinary shares in the new company to be allotted to the ordinary or deferred ordinary shareholders of the "big five," but in the absence of up-to-date figures of the earnings of International Tea and Star Tea the percentages must be regarded with extreme caution. It is possible that the profits of International Tea for the year to April, 1930, will show a big increase. The present market prices of the shares are as follows:—

	Highest, 1920.	Present Price.	Divs.
Home and Colonial, 4s. ord.	17/10½	17/–	25%
Maypole, 2s. def.	5/9	5/7½	17½%
International Tea, 5s. ord.	25/–	24/–	30%
Liptons, 1s. ord.	5/4½	5/3	10%

Now that the management and buying for some 6,000 shops is to be centralised, large economies in operating and overhead expenditure should be realised from this grocery store merger. It is an outstanding example of that sound distributive rationalisation which Unilevers have been able to bring about by the control of the raw materials which they exercise. That the International Tea should have considered it prudent to enter the combine, in spite of its present prosperity, suggests that few independent multiple stores will survive in the provision trade.

The Inveresk Paper Transaction.—The recent announcement by the directors of the Inveresk Paper Company, that it is proposed to realise a large block of shares held in a foreign concern, has once more brought the affairs of the company into prominence. Negotiations have apparently been concluded for the sale, subject to contract, of the whole of the Inveresk Paper's 72½ per cent. interest in Koholyt A.G. to Feldmuehle Papier und Zellstoffwerke A.G. "for a substantial sum in cash," of which 50 per cent. is to be received shortly and the balance in two instalments, the payment of which is guaranteed. If, as is generally supposed, the price which has been obtained for the Koholyt shares is £1,000,000, the transaction will have involved Inveresk Paper in a capital loss of some half a million pounds on the purchase price, a depreciation which is, however, easily covered by the company's reserves, which on December 28th last stood at £1,848,971. Despite the fact that Mr B. H. Binder's

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report stated in February last that the outlook for the Koholyt company was "improving," and though the directors had previously decided to "nurse" investments, the market in general would appear satisfied that on the basis of Koholyt's last net profit of £87,000 the shares are not under-valued at the suggested price, and Inveresk Paper quotations are little altered. Interesting repercussions are likely to follow the subsequent announcement that, though the transaction will "alleviate the financial position of the company," which, together with its subsidiaries, was last winter stated to be in debt to its bankers to the tune of £2½ millions, the directors regret that it is impossible for the company to resume dividend payments on the new first and second cumulative preference shares, which consequently will receive no dividend on July 1st. By Article 74 of the prospectus the preference shares were to carry not vote "unless the fixed cumulative dividend of 8 per cent. payable on the preference shares should be in arrear for six calendar months." (This clause was altered during the 1928 reorganisation by the deletion of the words "of 8 per cent. payable on the preference shares.") As a result of the present announcement, the preference shares will each acquire a vote. Seeing that under its present capitalisation, the preference shares of the company number 2,849,135, as against 1,300,000 ordinary shares, it follows that control of the company must pass into the hands of the preference shareholders. As Lord St. Davids, representing certain preference shareholders, has indicated, this change is likely to be followed by further action to put the finances of the group in order.

Elder Dempster.—The accounts of this subsidiary of the Royal Mail group for the year ended December 31st last fulfil the glowing predictions that were made. Gross profits, which for the last ten years have fluctuated between £500,000 and £580,000, have declined this year to £306,504, while net revenue, after deduction of all fixed charges, stands at £201,504, compared with £447,106 for 1928 and £425,294 for 1927. This sum is insufficient to cover even those preference dividends which the directors have decided to pay, and though the final dividend is passed on both the 6 per cent. and 6½ per cent. preference shares, it has been found necessary to draw on the carry-forward to the tune of £15,621. In the circumstances there is naturally no dividend for the ordinary shareholders, who received 4 per cent. in 1928.

	Years ending December 31, 1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Net profit	425,294	447,106	201,504
Brought forward	127,418	139,527	142,838
Preference divid'nds	405,265	410,875	217,125
Ordinary capital:			
Earned £	*20,029*	*36,231*	*Dr. 15,621*
Paid £	57,920	57,920	Nil
Earned %	*1·4*	*2·5*	*Nil*
Paid %	4	4	Nil
To reserve	*Dr. 50,000*	*Dr. 25,000*	...
Carried forward	139,527	142,838	127,217

The directors state that "the losses of subsidiary companies making losses have been charged against the carry-forwards of those companies where such are available, or against this company's investment reserve." As the latter does not appear in the balance sheet as a separate item, the information throws singularly little light on the extent to which subsidiaries may have proved to be a liability during the year. The form of the balance sheet has at last been subjected to considerable revision in the right direction, and the changes made should assist interpretation when the publication of next year's balance sheet makes comparison possible. Meanwhile, it is of interest to note that investments, which last year appeared with "shipping" and "plant" in one item, are now shown separately and account for £11,744,246 out of a fixed assets total of £12,263,000. These investments, many of which no doubt consist of holdings in other companies of the Kylsant group, are included in the balance sheet at their book values, which, according to the auditors' report, "are considerably in excess of their present values under existing conditions." Shareholders must call on their reserves of patience, pending the publication of more detailed information.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—The report of the Globe Telegraph and Trust Company, which specialises in cable and telegraph investments, is interesting because of its large stake in Cables and Wireless, Ltd., acquired in exchange for its holdings in the Eastern cable group. The published list of investments shows that the company holds £4,823,359 5½ per cent. preference stock, £3,131,884 7½ per cent. "A" ordinary stock, and £378,926 "B" ordinary stock of Cables and Wireless. The balance-sheet value of these stocks is given as £2,859,763, out of a total of £4,135,452 for the whole of the company's investments. The present market price, of these Cables and Wireless holdings, even at the present low levels of 87 for the preference, 36 for the "A" ordinary, and 16½ for the "B" ordinary stocks, is £5,386,322. The directors explain that the enlarged powers of investment which the company now holds—enabling it to cover the electrical industries as well as communications—has led to certain changes in securities, and that the dividends credited are not the full amounts which will accrue in a normal year. The results for the past three years are as follows:—

	May, 1928. £	May, 1929. £	May, 1930. £
Net income (after tax)	343,288	347,390	259,439
Do., after net pref. divs.	256,347	260,449	173,177
Percentage earned	10·9	11·1	7·3
Percentage paid (free of tax)	10	10	10
Carried forward	52,322*	77,370	17,460†

* After appropriation to reserve of £20,000.
† Including income tax recovered, £2,313.

The reduction in profits may be explained partly by the fact that on its £3,131,884 7½ per cent. "A" ordinary stock in Cables and Wireless it has not yet received a dividend. The £10 ordinary shares of Globe Telegraph are quoted in the market at £18⅛, as compared with a high level of £29 1/16 last year and £23⅜ this year.

The Affairs of R. E. Jones.—At long last it would seem that the long dispute, in which the directors of this luckless company are involved, may be in sight of settlement. Following the announcement of the result of the poll taken at the extraordinary meeting held on April 17th, Mr Justice Clauson put forward the suggestion that in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the result a further extraordinary meeting should be called, prior to which each party to the dispute should issue one circular only. In pursuance of this advice a fresh meeting was fixed for June 25th, at which shareholders would have a final opportunity of expressing their wishes in unequivocal terms. Each party issued its circular, one being in the names of Mr A. Batchelor, Sir N. Grattan Doyle, Mr A. J. Howell, and Sir T. G. Jones, and the other appearing over the signatures of Messrs J. Moxon and T. Bickerton. In the former document the four directors proposed to invite Sir Francis Towle, of Gordon Hotels, Ltd., to take over the catering establishments of R. E. Jones, including the Piccadilly Hotel. Sir Francis, they declared, would be willing to rely for his remuneration upon an equitable share of any increased profits over and above the average profits of the company's catering establishments during the last three years. In addition, Gordon Hotels, Ltd., would guarantee the average profits of these catering establishments for the past three years, during the continuance of their management agreement. Neither Sir F. Towle nor any representative of his company would be on the board of R. E. Jones, his duties being confined solely to management. The signatories were apparently converted to the idea of a reduced board, and proposed a maximum of seven and minimum of five, instead of a maximum of twelve and minimum of seven directors. Meanwhile, in their counter circular, Messrs Moxon and Bickerton reiterated their previous condemnation of the alleged past inertia of the present board, and held fast to their proposal that Mr R. A. R. Field, of Slaters and Bodega, should be appointed chairman and managing director. The extra-ordinary general meeting duly took place on Wednesday, and all the resolutions of Messrs Moxon and Bickerton were carried on a show of hands by enormous majorities. As before, a poll was demanded, and it remains to be seen whether, in the event of the requisite three-fourths majority not being obtained, the present board will continue to remain in office in the face of this categorical verdict.

Drapery Trust, Ltd.—This company's earnings were detrimentally affected by the collapse of the Hatry group last autumn, considerable losses being incurred through the failure of Austin Friars Trust, Ltd. Gross revenue for the financial year ended May 31, 1930, is down by £20,643 at £381,336. The fact that this year interest absorbed £56,269, while last year no such payment was required, helped to depress the net profits still further, and the total was £59,452 lower at £285,795. After paying the preference dividend of 7 per cent. the directors recommend a payment of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, on which 7.4 per cent. was earned. This leaves £12,795 to be added to the amount carried forward, now standing at £147,265:—

	(Years ended May 31) 1928. £	1929. £	1930. £
Total receipts from dividends and interest (less income tax) and transfer fees	334,235	388,380*	381,336
Head office expenditure (including special expenses in 1927–28 and 1928–29)	28,258	43,133	39,272
Interest	...	...	56,269
Net receipts	305,977	345,247	285,795
Preference dividends—			
Cumulative (7%)	134,400		
Non-cumulative (1%)	19,200	192,000	168,000
Total	153,600		
Times covered by net receipts	*2·0*	*2·0*	*1·7*
Ordinary dividends—			
Amount	96,000	150,000	105,000
Rate	8%	10%	7%
Increase or decrease in carry-forward	−56,376	+ 3,247	+ 12,795

* After setting off £68,400 income tax recovered from dividends paid.

The investments of the company have decreased by £104,897 to £4,638,334, while debtors rose by £43,480 to £67,121, and loans to a subsidiary fell by £13,455 to £329. Loans outstanding reveal a decline of £20,000, while the bank overdraft is down by £36,252 to £3,243. At the same time, a loan from a subsidiary is £123,881 lower at £1,876. In their report the directors state that full provision has been made for the loss incurred through the failure of Austin Friars Trust, and though claims have been made against the company in respect of irregular certified transfers and transfer receipts, it is the belief of the company's legal advisers that these can be successfully resisted. The ordinary shares are not quoted.

Anglo-Argentine Tramways.—Unfavourable weather conditions, which were responsible for a substantial decrease in the wheat and linseed crops and for a loss of nearly 30 per cent. in the maize crop, are cited as a contributory cause of the lower profits earned by this South American company during 1929. A decline in passenger traffic is also to blame, however, since the number of passengers carried has fallen from 570 millions in 1928 to 556 millions for the current year, and passenger receipts from £4,637,194 to £4,520,572. Gross receipts for 1929 stand a £4,602,117, a drop of £117,063 on the total for the previous twelve months. Working expenses, at £3,574,596, amount to 75.17 per cent. of the receipts, whereas last year's figure of £3,693,048 represented only 73.50 per cent. of receipts. After deduction of debenture interest and all fixed charges, net revenue for the year registers a drop of £19,165 at £364,547. The dividend on the 5 per cent. preference shares takes £176,000, while that on the 6 per cent. preference shares absorbs a further £183,000, leaving £91,475 to be carried forward, against £85,928 brought in.

Year ends Dec. 31.	1927. £	1928. £	1929. £
Gross receipts	4,658,618	4,719,180	4,602,117
Working expenses	3,646,978	3,693,048	3,574,596
Interest, fees, etc.	30,841	26,044	5,890
Debenture interest, etc.	668,080	668,464	668,863
Net revenue	374,401	383,712	364,547
Brought forward	45,815	61,216	85,928
5% preference dividend	176,000	176,000	176,000
6% preference dividend	183,000	183,000	183,000
Carried forward	61,216	85,928	91,475

The company appears to be carrying a smaller burden of creditors this year, the item of £1,049,029 representing a drop of nearly a million on last year's figure, while a contingencies reserve of £774,040 has been created, bringing the total reserve account to £1,306,476. Cash at the bankers and in hand appears at the depleted figure of £28,801, compared with a previous amount of £461,470. Traffic conditions in the city of Buenos Aires and the competition of omnibuses are again blamed for the loss of traffic, though shareholders certainly appreciate by this time that these factors are likely to prove of a fairly permanent character. More hope may perhaps be entertained with regard to the proposed revision of tariffs, which, since the previous scheme was turned down by the local authorities, has been placed before the council in a new form.

Stanton Ironworks.—The improvement in the conditions of the iron industry in general, and of this Midland company in particular, envisaged in the last report of the directors, has to some extent materialised. Net profit for the year ended March 31st last totals £150,356, after deduction of all charges, including the usual £50,000 set aside for depreciation. This result represents an increase of £44,320 on last year's revenue, while it exceeds the figure for 1928 by a substantial amount. After deduction of preference dividend, the ordinary capital has earned £129,204, sufficient at last to cover the ordinary distribution of 10 per cent., tax free, which has been maintained

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over a series of difficult years, and yet allow the sum of £15,534 to swell the carry-forward item.

	(Years ending March 31) 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Net Profit	128,308	106,036	150,356
Brought forward	153,159	146,309	117,187
Preference dividend	21,488	21,488	21,152
Rate %	6	6	6
No. of times covered	*5·9*	*4·9*	*7·1*
Ordinary capital:—			
Earned £	*106,820*	*84,548*	*129,204*
Paid £	113,670	113,670	113,670
Earned %	*9·4*	*7·4*	*11·4*
Paid %	10*	10*	10*
Carried forward	146,309	117,187	132,721

* Tax free.

The balance sheet reveals several features of interest. The item of £235,000 which appeared last year as bank overdraft in connection with capital expenditure has now disappeared. Creditors are slightly down, though current liabilities are still not covered by available assets. Reserves are a strong feature, standing at nearly £750,000, or half the issued capital. This year, also, the omnibus item of £3,004,763, which appeared in the last balance sheet as fixed assets and shares in associated companies combined, has been divided into its component parts, which together reveal a small decrease. In a hopeful addendum to their report the directors state that the rebuilding of the company's blast-furnace plant is now practically complete, while the centrifugal plant for making iron pipes has been operating successfully throughout the year. Indeed, though the company continues to be favoured with a satisfactory demand for its products, the recent measures of rationalisation would seem to be chiefly responsible for the gratifying improvement of the past financial year.

Barclay Perkins and Company, Ltd.—Last year was the first period in which this large brewery showed the effect of its issue of new capital during 1928. Gross trading profit was £44,810 greater at £377,801, while interest on investments at £109,565 revealed an increase of £89,414. Other slight increases in revenue caused the net profit to be £95,980 higher at £305,740, after paying debenture interest, which accounted for £26,538 more than in 1929. After paying the preference dividend, the directors have declared a dividend of 11 per cent. on the ordinary capital, on which 12.9 per cent. was earned.

	(Years ending March 31) 1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£
Profits	292,475	279,594	402,112
Debenture interest	67,617	69,834	96,372
Net earnings	224,858	209,760	305,740
Preference dividend	72,000	73,800	75,600
Number of times covered	3·1	2·8	4·05
Ordinary { *earned*	*14·9%**	*11·7%†*	*12·9%*
Ordinary { paid	10%*	11%†	11%
Ordinary { amount of dividend	102,000	127,939	196,198
To contingency account	25,000	10,000	20,000
To provident fund	10,200	8,976	8,064
Increase or decrease in carry-f'wd.	+15,658	− 10,955	+ 5,878

* Calculated on original capital. † On new capital.

During the year the capital was increased by £34,368 to £1,784,122 in the ordinary class and by £36,000 to £756,000 in the preference class. By the issue of £249,000 in 5 per cent. debentures, the bank loan has been lowered by £240,000 to £30,000. In the previous balance sheet "premises" and "plant" were shown together, but are now separate items, standing at £563,114 and £277,471 respectively, an aggregate increase of £33,885. The same applies to "properties" and "loans to publicans," which show a combined increase of £25,663 at £3,015,452 and £558,934 respectively. "Stocks" and "loose plant," standing respectively at £251,930 and £175,366, together reveal a decline of £72,863. As these assets were previously shown in pairs, it is impossible to state how the financial position compares with that of 1929, but on March 31st last there was a surplus of liquid assets over current liabilities of £307,418. Creditors dropped by £84,057 to £138,765, while debtors are down by £28,397 to £166,623. The ordinary capital is secured by net tangible assets of 30s. 4d. per £1 share fully paid, and at their present price of 27s. 6d. per share, the ordinary shares yield £8 8s. 7d. per cent.

Bechuanaland Exploration.—Our mining correspondent writes:—This finance enterprise, which has a very creditable dividend record, did not fare quite so well in the year ended March 31st last as in 1928-29. Still, the profits are sufficient to permit the payment of 7 per cent., the same as for 1926-27 and 1927-28, albeit comparing with 8 per cent. in respect of 1928-29. The shrinkage in net earnings from £37,200 to £26,200 occurred in face of a considerable reduction in the amount allowed for depreciation and development; it may doubtless be attributed to the less favourable market conditions which prevailed. Stocks and shares now figure at the enhanced total of £144,100. The great bulk have a quotation, the aggregate substantially exceeding the balance-sheet valuation. The financial position is quite good. The shares appear a reasonable speculative holding. They are priced at 9s., or 1s. below par value.

Aramayo of Bolivia.—In view of the fall both in tin and silver, it is a little surprising to find that the profits of 1929 exceeded those of the previous year, the net surplus being 6,253,000 Swiss francs against 4,801,100. Evidently the decline in prices of the products was more than offset by the increased output and—probably—saving in expenses. A bonus of 5 per cent. is now declared, making a total of 25 per cent. upon the 25,000,000 francs against 20 per cent. on 21,000,000 francs and 10 per cent. on 4,200,000. Twelve months ago 250,000 francs was placed to reserve, which on this occasion receives nothing. The company is restricting its output of tin, and no distributions have so far been made on account of 1930. For full details of the results the meeting must, as usual, be awaited.

Company Meetings of the Week.—On later pages of this issue will be found the reports of the following companies:—Mexican Railway, Ottoman Bank, Bank of British West Africa, Bleachers' Association, British Empire Trust, General Electric, Telephone Rentals, J. Lyons and Company, Decca Records, Tanah Datar Rubber, Boots, Beecham's Pills, Shell Transport and Trading, Scribbans and Company, Wm. Cory and Son, and Taquah and Abosso Mines. At the annual meeting of the General Electric Company, the chairman, Sir Hugo Hirst, made an important announcement with regard to the company's Australian policy, the proposed change in

OFFER TO NEW READERS.

Any reader who makes his first acquaintance with this journal with this week's issue is invited to fill up the attached:

To Publisher, "Economist Newspaper, Ltd.,"
6, Bouverie Street, E.C.4.

In order to test the value of your publication I should like you to forward this to me by post for the next four weeks. If I then decide to become a subscriber, it is understood that there will be no charge for the copies thus received, but otherwise I shall be willing to pay 4s. to cover their cost.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

which may be regarded as the fruit of Sir Hugo's visit to Australia as a member of the Economic Mission. In view of the fact that Australia is desirous of setting up an electrical industry of her own, the General Electric Company is likely to establish itself in the Commonwealth. To meet the situation, a conference has been held with certain colleagues in the trade with a view to joint action, and a further announcement is likely to be made in the near future. Sir Hugo also expressed his assurance that shareholders would continue to support the board in their endeavour to preserve British control of the company. Presiding at the annual meeting of the Bleachers' Association, Sir Alan Sykes told shareholders that in India the improved seasonal demand for the company's goods in the first three months of 1929 gave place to a lower level of trade throughout the summer, and in the last quarter of the year following the cotton stoppage their exports to that market were only 75 per cent. of the volume in the corresponding period of 1928.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

There is as yet no sign of any general extension in the activities of the new capital market. The *Marks and Spencer* issue of debenture stock and cumulative preference shares, notice of which appeared in the *Economist* of June 21st, p. 1400, proved to be the sole offer of the week. Public interest in the fortunes of this prosperous company has increased of late, and both issues were largely oversubscribed.

ISSUES OF THE WEEK.

By Prospectus or Offer for Sale.

Net total recorded, January 1 to June 21, 1930, £167,435,573.
Total, including conversion recorded, January 1 to June 21, 1930, £243,687,847.

National Savings Certificates.
Net sales week ended June 21, 1930, £150,000.
Total receipts, April 1, 1930, to June 21, 1930, £1,550,000.

	Nominal Capital.	Conversions or Repayments.	New Money Cash Subscription.	First Patymen.	Further Liability.
To the Public.	£	£	£	£	£
Marks and Spencer—					
6% Deb. stock	1,000,000	...	1,020,000	51,000	969,000
7% Cum. Pref. shs. of £1 each	1,000,000	...	1,050,000	50,000	1,000,000
Total offered to the public, week ended June 28, 1930	2,000,000	...	2,070,000	101,000	1,969,000
To Shareholders only	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total offered for Subscription— Jan. 1 to date—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1930	245,907,847	169,655,573
1929	205,719,134	174,393,534
1928	...	244,762,793
1927	...	207,563,814
1926	...	122,745,363
1925	...	114,061,974
1924	...	114,575,914
1923	...	184,697,946

Total offered for Subscription— Whole year—	Including Conversions. £	Excluding Conversions. £
1929	488,764,940	285,239,400
1928	693,100,056	269,058,073
1927	...	365,165,970
1926	...	230,782,600
1925	...	232,214,500
1924	...	209,326,101
1923	...	271,399,173
1922	...	573,675,653

By Stock Exchange Introduction.

	Amount of Capital Introduced.	Prices at which Dealings Began.	Total Cash Involved.
	£	£	£
Amount previously recorded	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total, week ended June 28, 1930	Nil	...	Nil
Total to date, 1930	15,703,378	...	17,383,957
Total to date, 1929	22,871,185	...	31,596,110

Particulars of the following have been issued for information only, with a view to Stock Exchange introduction. **Pirelli-General Cable Works, Ltd.** Issued capital, £500,000, divided into 100,000 ordinary shares of £5 each. Particulars offered of an issue of £600,000 of 5½ per cent. First Mortgage Guaranteed Debenture Stock. The company was incorporated in January, 1914, for the manufacture and sale of india-rubber, gutta-percha and asbestos articles.

[Other Stock Exchange information, including the latest profit and loss figures, shorter notices, summary of balance sheets and dividend announcements will be found on page 1478 under the heading "Company News."]

WEEKLY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

RAILWAYS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

(b) Week ended June 20, 1930. (c) Week ended June 21, 1930.	Miles Open.	Week ended June 22, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total for Week.	Aggregate 25 weeks, 1930. (000's omitted.) Passengers, &c.	Merchandise, &c.	Coal and Coke.	Total Goods.	Total Receipts.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Great Western	3,751	255	219	108	327	582	5,345	5,323	3,090	8,413	13,758
Do. for 1929	3,751	257	237	122	359	616	5,456	5,593	3,181	8,774	14,230
Lon.&N.Eastn.(c)	6,357	376	360	232	592	968	8,031	9,923	6,566	16,489	24,520
Do. for 1929	6,365	383	415	260	675	1,058	8,175	10,337	6,731	17,068	25,243
Lond.,Mid.&Scot.	6,956½	548	527	216	743	1,291	11896	13500	6,527	20,027	31,923
Do. for 1929	6,957¼	561	595	240	835	1,396	12325	14059	6,997	21,056	33,381
Southern	2,179	358	83	25	108	466	7,325	1,899	747	2,646	9,971
Do. for 1929	2,172	372	83	30	113	485	7,329	1,915	828	2,743	10,072
Metropolitan (c)	59	32·3	4·1	...	...	36·4	818·3	100·1	...	...	918·4
Do. for 1929	59	32·0	3·9	...	...	35·9	797·6	96·4	...	...	894·0
†Undgd. E. R. (c)	...	317	...	...	...	317	7,481	...	...	...	7,481
Do. for 1929	...	302	...	...	...	302	6,971	...	...	...	6,971
Lon.& Sub. Gr'up	...	46·5	...	...	...	46·5	1,090	...	...	...	1,090
Do. for 1929	...	44·4	...	...	...	44·4	1,001	...	...	...	1,001
B'lf'st&Co.D'wnb	80	3·7	1·8	...	...	4·5	57·2	18·3	...	...	75·5
Do. for 1929	80	3·7	1·0	...	...	4·1	54·5	22·3	...	...	76·8
*GreatNorthern b	562	12·7	13·7	...	...	26·4	...	...	...	...	628·7
Do. for 1929	562	14·0	15·1	...	...	29·1	...	...	...	...	660·2
GreatSouthern b	2,187	33·8	41·8	...	...	75·6	...	...	...	...	1696·5
Do. for 1929	2,187	34·2	44·2	...	...	78·4	...	...	...	...	1731·7

* Aggregate 23 weeks.
† Includes receipts from independent omnibuses acquired during current year.

OVERSEAS RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
INDIAN.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	20	May 24	1,306	3,93,000	+ 10,492	29,51,000	− 1,04,419
Barsi Lt. Ry.	9	May 31	202	39,200	− 2,000	4,32,100	− 52,700
Bengal & N.Western	9	31	2,079	7,52,519	− 6,368	67,28,765	− 92,952
Bengal-Nagpur	7	17	3,085	18,22,000	− 55,571	1,23,11,000	− 7,78,053
Bombay, Bar., & C.I.	9	June 14	3,031	22,45,000	− 1,06,000	2,52,28,000	− 93,000
Madras & S. Mahr.	21	May 31	3,228	12,93,000	− 2,07,539	1,57,70,000	− 13,88,051
†Rohilk'd&Kumaon	9	31	572	1,47,189	+ 25,704	12,97,850	− 1,06,434
South Indian	9	31	2,371	12,80,838	− 85,304	1,09,95,518	− 5,55,747

† Including Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Gross Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Gross Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
ARGENTINE (a).				£	£	£	£
Argentine N.E.	51	June 21	753	17,100	− 1,800	810,200	− 12,000
Argentine Trans'din.	51	21	111	2,506	− 859	229,480	− 12,232
B.A. and Pacific	51	21	2,806	120,000	− 43,000	7,683,000	− 1,261,000
B.A. Central	51	22	...	11,436	− 3,618	653,075	− 80,688
B.A. Gt. Southern	51	21	4,948	207,000	− 39,000	11,958,000	− 640,000
B.A. Western	51	21	1,926	70,000	− 22,000	4,280,000	− 884,000
Central Argentine	51	21	3,319	180,000	− 93,000	11,368,000	− 2,539,000
Cordoba Central	51	21	1,218	54,000	− 20,000	2,859,000	− 658,200
Entre Rios	51	21	804	22,800	− 100	1,381,200	− 135,300
CUBAN.				£	£	£	£
United of Havana	51	June 22	1,369	36,545	− 16,349	3,239,008	− 517,510
URUGUAYAN.				£	£	£	£
Central Uruguay	51	June 21	273	26,176	+ 1,713	1,582,468	+ 53,394
C. Urug. (East Ext.)	51	21	311	7,019	+ 355	373,724	+ 19,528
C.Urug.(North.Ext.)	51	21	185	3,441	+ 387	190,819	+ 116
C.Urug.(West.Ext.)	51	21	211	2,892	+ 913	146,728	− 4,726
CANADIAN.				$	$	$	$
Canadian National	23	June 14	20150	4,577,216	− 682,383	98,774,886	− 19,336,729
Canadian Pacific	24	21	15242	3,523,000	− 614,000	77,445,000	− 18,148,000
BRAZILIAN (b).				£	£	£	£
Gt. West. of Brazil	25	June 21	1,035	8,200	− 5,400	385,900	− 66,000
Leopoldina	25	21	1,856	35,962	− 16,927	844,001	− 76,348
Leopoldina Termnl.	25	21	Mirs.	281,000	+ 5,000	2,244,000	+ 332,000
San Paulo	25	22	153‡	19,031	− 44,395	1,016,022	− 190,644
CHILEAN.				£	£	£	£
Antofagasta (Chili and Bolivia)	22	June 8	804	27,730	− 7,510	669,810	− 238,835
Nitrate(¼-monthly)	5‡†	15	410	12,498	− 13,627	224,610	− 171,827
OTHER OVERSEAS.				£	£	£	£
Egyptian Delta	18	May 10	610	7,909	− 66	33,880	+ * 34
Gt. Southn. of Spain	24	June 14	104	Pes.82,598	− 43,012	2,645,455	− 306,012
Mexican Railway	24	14	483	$242,200	− 11,600	5,960,800	+ 63,700
Paraguay Central	50	14	274	4,830	+ 430	208,950	− 15,740
Salvador	50	14	100	2,977	− 133	223,038	− 31,546

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

TRAMWAY WEEKLY GROSS RECEIPTS.

Name.	Weeks.	Ending.	Present Mileage.	Receipts for Week. 1930.	+ or −	Total Receipts. 1930.	+ or −
Anglo-Argentine	24	June 17	329	85,174	+ 1,296	2,026,298	− 80,141
B. Aires Lacroze	51	22	...	11,249	− 1,053	598,080	− 43 576
Burnley Corporation	24	21	13	2,620	− 236	...	...
Calcutta Tramways	24	21	35‡	Rs.104375	− 16,762	...	...
Chatham & District	23	12	15	1,367	+ 202	25,329	+ 32,203
Egyptian Markets	23	12	...	4,381	− 305	42,824	+ 1,269
*Isle of Thanet Elec.	23	11	...	3,539	+ 664	60,884	− 3,432
Liverpool Corp.	25	21	124	30,320	+ 399	355,557	+ 1,410
L.C.C. Tramways	10	18	166	82,641	− 909	943,381	+ 5,065
Madras Electric†	5‡†	15	...	Rs. 46,216	+ 1,099	506,455	− 2,514
							+ 29,057

* Including motor 'buses. † Months. ‡ Fortnightly figures.

COMPANY MEETINGS, &c.

THE OTTOMAN BANK.

CONDITIONS IN TURKEY AND THE NEAR EAST.
BUDGETARY AND MONETARY SITUATION.
SIR HERBERT LAWRENCE'S REVIEW OF POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of The Ottoman Bank was held, on the 24th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, G.C.B., occupied the chair.

The Secretary (Mr W. P. Sheppard) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: 'Ladies and gentlemen,—I have been informed that this meeting is properly constituted, and I presume that it is your pleasure that the report and balance sheet circulated among you should be taken as read. (Agreed.) I think it will be of interest to give you a short review of the conditions prevailing in the countries which constitute our field of action.

TURKEY'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

In Turkey the past year has been difficult, although the various crops showed in quantity a general increase over those of the previous year. The production of wheat was 2,000,000 tons, against 1,600,000 in 1928; cotton, 130,000 bales, against 110,000 bales; and tobacco, 40,000,000 kilograms, which was a yield above the average. An exception, however, was the crop of nuts, which is ordinarily an important export, the harvest of which was almost entirely destroyed on the eve of maturity. This meant a loss of at least £1,000,000 to the credit side of the commercial balance of the country.

Two other factors exercised a depressing influence on Turkish exports. One factor was the world depression in agricultural prices, a serious matter for a country which is purely agricultural. The second factor, more particularly Turkish, was the increased competition which its exporters encountered on the world markets for products which had always been essentially associated with Anatolia. In the tobacco market Greece and Bulgaria, in the fruit market California and Australia, in the mohair market America and South Africa, in the carpet market Greece again, have all intensified their production of commodities for which Turkey was previously the prime market.

The results can be seen in the decrease in the value of Turkish exports. Statistics provided by the Customs show a fall from £T.192,000,000 in 1925 to £T.173,000,000 in 1928, and a further fall to £T.155,000,000 in 1929.

It is now recognised in Turkey that a serious effort is needed to encounter this tendency, by standardising the quality of its products. The results of this are seen already with regard to tobacco, thanks to the intelligent initiative of the administration of the monopoly.

With regard to imports, the year 1929 was also unfavourable, because, as we foreshadowed in our remarks last year, large quantities of wheat had to be imported. Further, to avoid the increase in the Customs duties which can into force during the year, there were excessive imports of manufactured goods resulting in an increase of £T.32,000,000 under this heading.

The effect was inevitable, leading to numerous failures, not only in Istanbul, but also in the country districts.

This situation has necessarily restricted the operations of the bank.

DEFICIT IN THE COMMERCIAL BALANCE.

The commercial balance of Turkey for the year shows a deficit of £T.100,000,000, as compared with £T.50,000,000 in 1928. But this is not all. Last year the Turkish Government began to provide in its Budget for the service of its share in the old Ottoman Public Debt, and had to provide the moneys for this service in currencies outside its own country. At the beginning of each month from June, 1929, it paid in to your establishment the provisions for the coupons due for payment on November 25, 1929, and May 25, 1930.

The Government had also to provide the annuity due on the purchase of the Anatolian Railway, and finally the railway programme which was actively carried out on the lines Angora-Sivas, Samsoun-Sivas, and four other railways entailed heavy payments abroad.

GOVERNMENT AND CURRENCY CRISIS.

These various elements produced, towards the end of last year, a sharp depreciation of the national currency. There was a moment of crisis, such as other countries with unstabilised currencies have experienced, but the Government took prompt steps to alleviate the situation. It imposed an economic limitation on exchange operations, and gave a good example by strict economy in administrative expenditure. At the same time, with the assistance of a consortium of banks, it formed a *masse de manœuvre* in order to protect the exchange.

To these remedial measures we contributed our share by extending the credit of £400,000 sterling, lent to the Government over and above our obligations under the Concession. The crisis was duly met without disturbance to the Budget and without seriously affecting internal prices, but it became clear that steps were urgently needed to end the instability of the Turkish pound, and to arrive at an equilibrium in the Budget. We had the honour to be consulted by the Minister of Finance, and we took the occasion of submitting to him the necessity of action on these lines. The Government, in addition to the measures already taken with regard to foreign exchange, studied the possibility of stabilising the currency and constituting a central bank of issue. At the same time it laid before the representatives of the bondholders the effect which the situation could not fail to produce on the External Debt Agreement signed in Paris on June 13, 1928.

A month ago we had the great satisfaction of learning that the Turkish Government, for the purpose of studying the different elements of the budgetary and monetary situation, had invited a study and report from a specialist of world-wide repute, M. Rist, whose advice has been responsible in a large measure for the monetary restoration of Europe.

POSITION IN EGYPT.

In Egypt the political situation has changed considerably since our last meeting. A new Government has been constituted and Parliament restored, but the result of the efforts of these two bodies cannot yet be tabulated. The Government hopes to obtain, by a considerable increase in Customs duties, an improvement in receipts of about £E.3,000,000 annually, to be utilised for the creation of national industries. During 1929 there was a steady fall in price of Egypt's principal product, cotton. The crop for 1928–29 exceeded 8,000,000 kantars, and it is estimated that the crop for 1929–30 will be even greater.

PALESTINE AND CYPRUS.

The branches of the Palestine and Transjordan group have, on the whole, progressed during the year, and the results have been satisfactory. The riots of August last have had, however, a disturbing effect on the commercial community. The improvement of the general economic situation in 1928 and early 1929 was not maintained, and though the orange and grain crops were above the average, prices wereu nsatisfactory and exporters suffered accordingly. Reports of the 1930 agricultural situation are satisfactory.

In Cyprus further economic progress was made. The total revenue of the colony rose from £806,553 to £849,675, and the surplus increased to £41,614.

From an agricultural point of view the year was satisfactory, but the external world conditions retarded exports, particularly of carobs and raisins.

The beneficial effects of the co-operative credit movement, financed by the Agricultural Bank of Cyprus, Ltd., in which we are largely interested, have steadily increased, through the lack of exports has temporarily affected the liquidity of the co-operative societies.

IRAQ, PERSIA AND THE LEVANT.

It had been hoped that trading conditions in Iraq during 1929 would have been better than during the previous year, but agriculture suffered from the flooding of the Euphrates, which damaged about 15 per cent. of the crops, and the cotton crop was also damaged by disease.

In Persia the trading conditions were satisfactory during the first half of the year, but during the latter part were affected by the fall in value of the kran and the substantial decrease in the American demand for carpets of Persian manufacture.

Important progress was made in the construction of the railway line linking up the north and south of Persia, but subsequent difficulties between the Government and the contractors resulted in a temporary suspension of operations.

In the Levant countries under French mandate, the year 1929 was marked by a very abundant harvest, in anticipation of which there was considerable commercial activity, but this was nullified by a fall in price and a restriction of markets which made the disposal of the harvest a matter of difficulty. Our filiale, the Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban, nevertheless increased the volume of its operations, and the profits realised permitted the maintenance of a dividend of 11 per cent.

ECONOMIC CRISIS IN GREECE.

In Greece a serious economic crisis occurred, as a result of which commerce and industry generally suffered. Signs of improvement did not appear until the beginning of the present year. The British-French Discount Bank, Limited, which we established in Athens in 1928, was compelled under these circumstances to restrict its activities; thanks to a prudent policy, the bankruptices and failures only affected the results to a very moderate degree and a profit was realised, which was carried forward to the present year. I recall to you that this bank only began to function in May, 1928, and last year was its first complete year. The branch in the Piræus, which we opened in 1929, we believe to be promising.

The branches which our own establishment maintains in Salonica and Kavalla naturally felt the results of the stagnation which was prevalent on all the Greek markets.

CONTINUED ACTIVITY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

In Yugoslavia the reorganisation of the Banque Franco-Serbe, although its effects could only show themselves during part of the year, has already given excellent results; not only has our new filiale placed its assets on a sound basis, but it has displayed an activity which has led at the same time to an increase in its reserves and a corresponding development in the employment of its funds. Circumstances in general were in favour of the bank; Yugoslavia is essentially an agricultural country, and last year the wheat and maize crops were exceptional. The commercial balance, which showed a deficit in 1927 and 1928, showed last year a balance on the right side of 300,000,000 dinars. This resulted in a considerable increase in the reserves abroad of the National Bank and a continued stability of the dinar, the legal stabilisation of which is now approaching. The abundance of money has favoured continued business activity, by which our filiale has profited. Its accounts show a net profit, which has been carried forward. In October, 1929, it negotiated with the Administration of Monopolies a credit of 100,000,000 French francs to finance the tobacco crop.

As in preceding years, our offices in London and in Paris have contributed their share to the results obtained, although the cheapness of money has affected the conduct of their business. As you will notice, there has been a further development in the acceptances of the bank.

PROFIT AND ALLOCATIONS.

The balance sheet which we submit for your approval has been drawn up with all prudence. Those elements on the credit and debit side which the exigencies of our business compel us to maintain in currencies other than those of the balance sheet have been converted into pounds sterling at the rates ruling on December 31, 1929.

As drawn up the accounts show for the year 1929 an available balance of £229,069, approximately the same as last year. With a carry-forward of £23,248, the sum at our disposal amounts to £252,317.

We propose to you a division of this sum into two different parts, one for distribution to the shareholders, the other to reinforce our provision for contingencies, in continuation of the policy which has had your approval during recent years. If you are in accord with our recommendations a dividend of 5s. per share will be distributed, which in Paris will be paid free of tax. This dividend will be payable from June 30 next in Istanbul, London, and Paris. From the remaining amount of £127,318 a sum of £100,000 will be placed to provision for contingencies, and the balance of £27,318 will be carried forward.

As you will observe in the report, Viscount Goschen has been nominated, subject to your ratification, a member of the general committee. I am sure you will approve our decision in inviting our eminent colleague, as soon as he was free from his high office in India, to fill again the place which he vacated in 1923.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF.

I should not like, ladies and gentlemen, to end this speech without giving once more to our staff the thanks which are due for their continued loyalty and service to the bank. With this, I am sure, you will be glad to associate yourselves. (Hear, hear.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move: "That the report and accounts now read be received and adopted; that the dividend for the year ended December 31, 1929, be fixed at the rate of 5s, per share, and that this dividend be payable in Istanbul, London, and Paris on June 30, 1930." Before I put the resolution to the meeting I am at your disposal to answer any questions addressed to me. M. Raoul Mallet seconded the motion, which, in the absence of question or of comment, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That Viscount Goschen be and he is hereby elected a member of the general committee."

The Earl of Bessborough, C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

The Chairman also proposed: "That Sir Guy Granet, Sir Albert Stern, Monsieur Jean Boissonnas, Monsieur Félix Vernes, the Earl of Bessborough, and Mr A. C. Gladstone be and they are hereby re-elected members of the general committee."

Sir John P. Hewett, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E., seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr G. T. E. Cockerill proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for the very able and clear way in which he had described the conditions which affected the bank, and to the committee of management and the staff, both at home and abroad, for their good work during the past year.

Mr A. Bradbery seconded the motion, which was unanimously accorded; and the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

TANAH DATAR RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR—INCREASED PROFIT.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of Tanah Datar Rubber Estate, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at 7 Martin's Lane, London, Mr W. Arthur Addinsell, the chairman, presiding.

Mr J. Lewis, on behalf of the secretaries, Messrs Bright and Galbraith, Ltd., read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: The pleasure of the knowledge that the profit earned exceeded that of the previous year is to some extent overshadowed by the conditions now ruling, because, at existing market rates of rubber, there is no profit to the majority of producers. Your directors feel justified in recommending a dividend of 5 per cent. in view of the increased profit and we carry forward £4,369, subject to estate staff commission, as compared with £1,332 brought in from last year.

The profit was arrived at after charging £1,623 for depreciation of mature areas. Our property and development account has been written down by this process in recent years to the extent of £8,643. As a consequence the financial position of the company at the moment is quite sound.

The increase in the net profit resulted mainly from a higher output; also we were successful in securing a very satisfactory average price for our produce. The estate is being administered on economical lines, and is in good order throughout.

Last year I referred to the statistics of consumption for the then current year. I think my view of the increased ratio outside America was fulfilled. Unfortunately, the outlook in America took an unfavourable turn, and there has been no improvement to date. As a consequence, the world's consumptive power has been insufficient to take all the rubber produced, and surplus stocks have accumulated. Last week I referred to the possibility of intervention by the governing authorities in the East—primarily for the protection of local communities and incidentally to help the rubber industry. So far as I can see, it is only by regulating output by compulsory measures that there is any chance of adjusting the existing unhealthy state of affairs.

There are some who talk glibly about the survival of the fittest, but those speakers overlook the fact that, although some of the present owners of estates may not survive, the rubber trees would still be growing on the estate, to be acquired at bankrupt prices, and in the hands of new owners most probably forming a greater menace to the industry.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted and the proposed dividend declared.

Orders for the publication in these columns of the reports of Company Meetings should be addressed to the Reporting Manager of THE ECONOMIST, 6 *Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C.*4.

BLEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

RESULTS OF A DIFFICULT YEAR.

MANY ADVERSE FACTORS.

SIR ALAN SYKES REVIEWS THE POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

The thirty-first ordinary general meeting was held at Blackfriars House Assembly Rooms, Manchester, on Friday, June 20, 1930, at 12 noon. The Chairman, Sir Alan J. Sykes, Bart., in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, said :—

Ladies and gentlemen,—Before I begin my speech I wish to refer to the loss which our association has sustained by the death of the chairman of our finance committee, Colonel George Hesketh. Colonel Hesketh had been a member of our finance committee for twenty-four years, and chairman of it for the last fourteen years. His wide experience in the cotton trade was always at our disposal, and by his death we have lost a trusted adviser and valued friend.

THE ACCOUNTS.

Turning to the accounts, you will find that these have been presented in a form which is somewhat different from that employed in previous years. The alterations have been necessitated by the passing of the Companies Act, 1929. A valuation of the assets of the company has been made, and the balance sheet has been remodelled in accordance with that Act.

In previous years the figures of the subsidiary companies of the association were incorporated in detail in relevant sections of the balance sheet, but this year these figures appear in the second and third items amongst the properties and assets of the association under the heading of shares in subsidiary companies and advances to subsidiary companies.

The first of these two items, which includes the value of the good-will and trade marks of the association, which are the properties of the subsidiary companies, amounts to £744,212, and this item was in previous years included in the large item of property and assets.

The second of these items, amounting to £1,303,854, represents advances to the subsidiary companies in the form of working capital, and consists of the debtors of those companies and the stock in hand less the creditors. Items appearing under these heads in the balance sheet are now correspondingly reduced.

The investments stand at approximately the same figure as a year ago. The reserve standing to the credit of the investments contingency fund of £57,635 is more than sufficient to meet the market depreciation.

Among the creditors it will be noticed that the amounts owing to our bankers have been reduced during the year by a sum of over £200,000, thereby improving the cash position by that amount.

During the year the general reserve fund has been increased by £15,813, being the premium on shares issued during the year, and the directors propose to ask the shareholders to increase this by a further sum of £59,187, which will bring the total of the general reserve fund to £1,050,000.

PROFIT AND ALLOCATIONS.

With regard to the profit and loss account, the net profit for the year shows a decrease of £133,716, and this reflects the difficulties that have been met with by the association during the past year, to which I shall again refer later in my speech. The available balance, including the amount brought forward from 1929, amounts to £749,209, showing a fall in the available balance of £148,971.

Before arriving at this figure you will see from the accounts that the sum of £464,964 has been spent on repairs, maintenance, and reorganisation of works, and the shareholders can be assured that this money has been spent in such a manner as to ensure that their property and assets have been kept in a high state of efficiency.

After deducting an interim dividend paid on the ordinary shares during the year of fourpence per share, the directors recommend that after providing for the preference dividend for the year to March 31, 1930, amounting to £136,613, a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the year be paid at the rate of one shilling (1s.) per share, making with the interim dividend a total of one shilling and fourpence (1s. 4d.) per share for the year.

Out of the balance remaining the directors propose to add £59,187 to the reserve fund (making it £1,050,000) and the sum of £19,413 to the superannuation fund (making it £400,000) and to carry forward a balance of £279,414 (as compared with £282,818 a year ago).

THE PAST YEAR.

In addressing you last year I permitted myself an expression of moderate optimism with respect to the future of our trade, basing my opinion largely upon the improvement in the trade in bleached goods in the first quarter of the year 1929, and upon the signs of a general improvement in British industry which were then apparent. At the same time I stressed the importance to us of the maintenance of the purchasing power of our consuming markets, and, on an earlier occasion, I had drawn attention to the paramount necessity of avoiding an appreciable increase in the value of gold in the interest of our exporting industries. It will, perhaps, be interesting if for a moment I briefly review the events affecting the results of our last financial year in the light of the expectations which we felt justified in holding a year ago.

In the year 1929-30 the total exports of bleached goods recorded by the Board of Trade were 1,244 million square yards, compared with 1,376 million square yards in 1928-29, a decrease of 132 millions. More than one-half of the decrease is accounted for by reduced exports to India, which were less by 79 million yards (13·5 per cent.). The decrease in exports to China amounted to 25 million yards (24·5 per cent.) and to the Dutch East Indies to 17 million yards (27·4 per cent.). The last two markets account for more than 30 per cent. of the decrease and with India account for more than 90 per cent. of the total reduction.

The improved demand which was manifest in the first quarter of 1929 continued, although slightly below the level of 1928, until the summer, but in the third quarter of the year a severe check was administered to our trade by the unfortunate stoppage in the spinning and weaving industry.

Of the decrease of 132 million yards in our exports of bleached goods, to which I have just referred, no less than 68 million yards occurred in the last quarter of 1929, and in the first quarter of 1930 we lost a further 52 million yards, making a decrease in the last half of our financial year of 120 millions out of the total decrease of 132 million.

ADVERSE FACTORS.

But there have been forces at work, other than the cotton stoppage of last August, which have been even more detrimental to the prosperity of the cotton trade than that ill-timed dispute.

There is no need for me to remind you of the unparalleled stock market boom in the United States of America which culminated in a crash in October and November last year—a cataclysm which it is now generally believed marks the end of a major business cycle—and which has accelerated in a marked degree that movement of world deflation which has been in operation for some years past.

The inevitable sequence to these events is to be seen in a world-wide reduction of purchasing power which, added to the already serious decline in the prices of agricultural produce and raw materials, has gravely impaired the ability of consumers to absorb the output of our industry. For it must be remembered that the great bulk of our production is taken by those whose means are strictly limited, and who are dependent upon agricultural pursuits for their livelihood.

CONDITIONS IN INDIA.

In India, the improved seasonal demand in the first three months of 1929 gave place to a lower level of trade throughout the summer, and in the last quarter of the year following the cotton stoppage our exports to that market were only 75 per cent. of the volume in the corresponding period of 1928. Trade in the first quarter of 1930 showed the usual seasonal expansion, but did not reach the level of the previous year by some 5 per cent. or 6 per cent.

Since the end of the financial year trade with India has gone from bad to worse. The disturbance to business, due to the uncertainties of tariff revision, has been succeeded by an outbreak of lawlessness, in which determined efforts are being made to prejudice the trade of this country by methods which ultimately must react to the detriment of the natives of India themselves.

Without expressing any opinion upon the political or other issues involved, I have no hesitation in saying that the situation is one that demands the utmost firmness on the part of the authorities, as much in the interest of India herself as in those of the countries who trade with her.

CHINA.

In China the boycott of Japanese cloth, which had assisted our trade in the latter half of the previous year, was removed after April, 1929, but the volume of our exports was well maintained throughout the first half of the past financial year. Since then our trade with this market has been seriously curtailed by the extraordinary fall in the price of silver and the consequent depreciation in exchange. The average spot price of silver which in March, 1929, was 26d. per oz., declined continuously throughout the year, but more rapidly since the autumn, to an average in March this year of 19 $\frac{15}{16}$d. and recently to less than 16d. The purchasing power of China has been effectively reduced by one-third by this decrease in the value of the monetary unit. Additional difficulties have been created by a recrudescence of hostilities, and throughout the second half of the financial year our exports of bleached goods to China have been less than 50 per cent. of the volume exported in the corresponding period of the previous year.

JAPAN.

Competition from Japan in the Far East should be somewhat less difficult to meet since the return of that country to the gold standard. The consequent appreciation of the yen must have reacted upon her competitive power, as also must the abolition of night work for women and children, but the steps taken by Japanese producers to obviate the effects of the latter and the recent substantial reduction of wages afford evidence of their determination to maintain the position which they have established in the world's markets.

ARGENTINE, BRAZIL, &C.

The conditions to which I have referred are world-wide in their reactions. In the Argentine the effect of the fall in wheat prices was not only reflected in consumption, but through its influence upon exchange rates, involved the suspension of gold payments and a temporary abandonment of the gold standard. In Brazil the decline in the prices of rubber and coffee has hindered business, and further difficulties have been created by tariff revisions. In Malaya the fall in the price of rubber and in that of tin have had important influences, and other Eastern markets than China have been prejudicially affected by the fall in the price of silver. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa have suffered from the decline in the price of wool, and in Cuba and the West Indies difficulties have been caused by the low price of sugar. The results of tariff revision are to be seen not only in Brazil, but in India, China, Egypt, Turkey, and Australia.

The list of difficulties which I have summarised might be extended, but I have probably said enough to indicate that in the year which has just closed our trade has been confronted with serious obstacles.

WORLD-WIDE CONTRACTION IN DEMAND.

The contraction in world demand has been felt in all cotton manufacturing countries, and although there is no satisfaction to be derived from the contemplation of other people's troubles, it is somewhat reassuring to keep in mind the fact that our major difficulties are not of our own making. From all quarters the reports are the same—over-production, short-time working, unremunerative prices, and an unwillingness on the part of buyers to commit themselves in view of the uncertainty of the outlook.

The fall in the price of raw cotton has tended to discourage purchasing, and we have been witnessing a tug-of-war between the consumers of cotton on the one hand and the growers, backed by the United States Federal Farm Board and the Egyptian Government, on the other.

How far the latter may be successful in maintaining prices above the level dictated by the laws of supply and demand I will not attempt to say, but there is no doubt that within the past six months we have taken a long step on the road which we have been following for some years to lower values, and, if business is to be prosperous, it is necessary that costs of production should be brought into line with these lower values.

The effect of taxation and the cost of social services, which fall in the main upon industry, are important obstacles to this readjustment, and a solution of our difficulties is well-nigh impossible whilst the product of that industry has to bear the cost of maintaining a large section of the employable population in enforced idleness.

RATIONALISATION.

Evidence of the efforts which were being made to meet existing difficulties is to be found in the consolidations which are taking place in the cotton trade, and it will be remembered that the joint committee of the cotton trade organisations has recorded the opinion that large-scale amalgamations will materially assist in that direction.

These steps towards the rationalisation of the cotton trade should facilitate that co-operative action which is being carefully developed by the joint committee of cotton trade organisations, and which is essential if we are to meet foreign competition successfully. The recent formation of the British Cotton Textile Association is a reminder of the unobtrusive but valuable work which the joint committee is doing and in which, I need hardly say, they have our wholehearted support.

I may, perhaps, be forgiven if in referring to the present trend of reorganisation in the cotton trade, I remind you that the principles upon which that reorganisation is proceeding are the same as those that prompted the formation of this association nearly thirty years ago, and the methods of rationalisation, as they are understood to-day, are much the same as those that, with slight modification, have been applied in the management of this association throughout.

Were it otherwise, I am afraid that the accounts which we have laid before you to-day would reveal a very different picture. A result which shows a decrease of only £133,716 in net profit under conditions of reduced output and after substantial reductions in the price of certain classes of work has only been possible by enforcing the strictest economy, and by close investigation and control of costs at every stage of our processes.

It is in this direction that our efforts are being principally concentrated, as we fully realise that reductions in the cost of production must be effected at every stage if the cotton trade is to hold its own, but, as I have told you before, it is not an easy matter in a business where overhead costs form so large a proportion of the total cost and where labour is by far the largest item of expenditure which we incur.

These problems, inherent in our business, are gravely aggravated by the effect of the decline in output, but, however great the difficulties may be, you may rest assured that your directors will continue unremittingly their efforts to secure the maximum of economy compatible with efficiency and the adequate maintenance of your property.

THE OUTLOOK.

I shall not attempt in any way to forecast the future, but you must have realised from what I have already said that the present year has opened under far less favourable conditions than that which has just closed, and, unless there is a very marked improvement, it would seem to be inevitable that the profits of our business must show a further contraction.

For that improvement we must look not only to the dispersal of the clouds which overhang India and the removal of the hindrances to trade with China, but to a general enhancement of world prosperity. In this, a greater stability of the exchange values of commodities is by no means the least important factor. Signs are not lacking that the present depression has almost run its course, but the general consensus of opinion appears to be that recovery will be slow.

Before I conclude my remarks, I want to ask you to allow me to convey your thanks for and grateful appreciation of all the work that has been put in during the last year by all the members of our staff, and by all our employees. It is common knowledge that in bad times such as we have been passing through, the strain on everyone is greater than in good times. And this last year has been no exception to the general rule.

That our results are as good as they are is due to the hard work and loyal co-operation of everyone. The managing directors and headquarters staff have been backed up by the branch managers and all the employees, and I want them to know (and I am sure you do equally with me) that we realise all the hard work they have put in for the association and thank them for it.

With these remarks I now beg to move : "That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts to March 31, 1930, be and they are hereby approved, and the shareholders hereby declare a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference shares to March 31, 1930, and at the rate of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending March 31, 1930, making, with the interim dividend at the rate of 4d. per share paid in December, 1929, a total of 1s. 4d. per share for the year."

The resolution, which was seconded by Mr A. K. Davies, was adopted.

MR ARNOLD'S VIEWS.

Mr H. W. Arnold then moved : "That the following be and they are hereby re-elected directors of the association—James L. Cross, Arthur K. Davies, Andrew McNab, Alister Reid, Samuel H. Rothwell, John W. Slater, C.M.G., Sir Alan J. Sykes, Bart."

Mr H. W. Arnold said : The Lancashire cotton trade is still faced with the greatest difficulties it has encountered at any rate since the American War. It is being watched by the whole world, and with particular attention by the people of this country. Perhaps for the first time the whole country has realised the magnitude of the cotton trade, and its importance to the country, and the fact that even to-day its exports, which last year were of the value of

£135,000,000, are of far greater value than those of any other ndustry.

We in Lancashire are well aware that our affairs are the object of sympathetic interest to the business community of London and the whole country, and we believe that it is now realised as it has never been realised before, that the prosperity of the whole nation is closely bound up with the solution of our problems.

Such being the case, it is well that those who are so vitally affected and who are watching with every desire to help, and in particular the thousands of shareholders of the Bleachers' Association scattered over England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, should know that some of those who have the responsibility of conducting the cotton trade are not allowing themselves to be overwhelmed by adverse conditions without a struggle, but that on the contrary they are doing, and have done, much to meet a position of unprecedented difficulty which has arisen from causes over which they have very little control.

SPLENDID WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Few besides those engaged in the direction of the Association—and they are the last people to boast of their achievements—are aware of what the Bleachers' Association have succeeded in accomplishing in the improvement of their technical processes under the guidance of their Department of Scientific Research; in increasing the efficiency of their methods of production and by well directed economy reducing the cost of it—or to express it in other words, by putting into successful operation all that is best in the rationalisation which to-day is on everybody's lips, but which the directors of the association have had in practice and development for years past.

It is the simple truth to say that without these improvements combined with a prudent financial policy which alone has enabled them to be carried out, the results of recent years' workings would have been very different, and that this association also would have been among the lame ducks of the trade. It is not true to say that the association has taken advantage of its position to make exorbitant profits because an examination of the balance sheet shows that in its more prosperous year the return on the whole capital employed was 10·88 per cent., and last year 5·72 per cent. It would give a more accurate view of the position to point out that as the profits of the association over the past four years are on a lower scale than those of the previous four years, despite the amounts spent out of earnings on capital account, it would appear to be the case that the association have passed on to their customers the whole of the large reductions of cost which they are known to have effected.

At least it should be borne in mind by all those interested in the welfare of the cotton trade that if this association had not maintained its efficiency, Lancashire would have been less capable than she is of meeting the competition with which she is faced, and that by improved methods and quality the association is bearing its share in the grim struggle in which the whole of the Lancashire cotton trade is engaged.

Sir John Haslam seconded the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr Percy Musgrave moved and Mr Percy B. Brown seconded the following resolution: "That Messrs Jones, Crewdson, and Youatt, and Messrs P. and J. Kevan be and they are hereby appointed joint auditors of the association at a fee of £200 per annum, in addition to the amounts paid by subsidiary companies.

The resolution was agreed to.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN, DIRECTORS AND STAFF.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was moved by Mr D. Q Henriques, who said: I think we should be very ungrateful if we left this hall this morning without tendering to Sir Alan Sykes and the directors our very heartiest thanks for his clear and concise speech and for his conduct in the chair, and I think we should all like to join with these expressions of gratitude our thanks to all those, managing directors, the staff, employees, and to everyone who in this extremely difficult period have achieved the excellent results which have been put before us. I hope Sir Alan may long live to enjoy the position that he occupies, of which I think he should be justly proud. For it is, indeed, a proud position to be chairman of Bleachers' Association—perhaps more to-day than in its more prosperous times, for of all the concerns in Lancashire, this is one of the few which by its policy of concentration, by its pooling of good brains, by its economies, and by its financial policy in the past, in good times putting aside something for a rainy day, we have been able to arrive at the results which have been put before us at this meeting.

We have had such a plethora of oratory to-day that I do not intend to say very much.

I, too, remember the early days, when this association began, and I have always somehow or other connected a new epoch—a prosperous epoch—with this association when they bought the works of the late Mr Gartside at Etherow. I think they were truly fortunate in that decision, which brought in Sir William Clare Lees (then a young but not untried man) who has now risen to such a high position in their counsels and administration. They made at that time what I think is the real secret of rationalisation—they made rivals into colleagues.

After all, their record has been a wonderful one. Since the concern began the Bleachers' Association has made 28,000,000 sterling in profits—it has put aside over £11,000,000 for repairs and depreciation, and it has paid in dividends out of the profits nearly £9,000,000 to its shareholders, placing the balance to reserve, and we are getting the benefit of that in the working of the association to-day.

May I, before I sit down, say one word on your balance sheet. It appears under the new Act in a new guise; the old one gave us very little information—the new one, I think, gives us less. But after these results it would be invidious, I think, to pry into the secrets which your balance sheet so well conceals. There was once a witty Frenchman who made the remark that speech was invented for the concealment of thought. I don't know whether he was a holder of shares, but if so, I think he would have extended the scope of his aphorism a little further.

I hope you will disregard all uninformed criticism of the great profits that you make. We, here, will not quarrel with you about the size of your dividends. You, unlike Governments, have no unfortunate public you can tax. Your pension funds, your social services, the comfort and content of your employees are dependent on your profits, and it is their welfare as well as your shareholders', that you hold in your hands. We are quite content to leave it there, and I ask you to join with me in this vote of thanks.

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, was acknowledged by the chairman, and the proceedings then terminated.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

WIDESPREAD DEPRESSION—POSSIBILITIES IN MOROCCO.

The thirty-sixth annual general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa was held, on the 25th instant, at the offices of the company, No. 37 Gracechurch Street, London.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he had to chronicle a number of official changes since the last meeting.

Sir John Maxwell had retired after long service in West Africa, and had been succeeded by Mr H. S. Newlands. Sir Edward Denham, after a brief experience as Governor of the Gambia, had been transferred to British Guiana in succession to Sir Gordon Guggisberg. Mr H. R. Palmer, C.M.G., C.B.E., the well-known and highly esteemed Lieut.-Governor of Northern Nigeria, had been selected for the Governorship of the Gambia.

Turning to the accounts, he said that their current, deposit and other accounts showed a reduction of £324,000, and there were decreases of £87,000 in the outstanding drafts issued and of £364,000 in the bills for collection held at March 31st. Those were features which would be found in the balance sheets of other banks also, and were the necessary consequence of the deplorable depression of trade.

The profit and loss account showed a profit of £121,821, or £6,509 less; £25,000 had again been transferred to the contingency fund and £25,000 had been allocated against premises and furniture. The balance to be carried forward was practically the same as the amount brought in from last year. He had last year pointed out that the funds in which the bank did business could not escape from the influence of Europe or America, and that if there were a revival of international trade Africa would soon feel the effects and reap the benefit.

Unfortunately, instead of a revival there had been a further setback. Industrial conditions throughout the world were greatly depressed, and the regions in which the board operated had borne their full share of the depression. As an example, since the last meeting, when he alluded to the fall in value of some of the principal exports from West Africa, the downward movement had continued. He now had to record further reductions in the home prices approximating to £10 per ton for palm oil, £4 per ton for palm kernels, £4 per ton for ground nuts, £8 per ton for cocoa, and £62 per ton for tin.

The consequently greatly curtailed purchasing power of the West African Colonies had, of course, decreased the volume of manufactured goods imported from England and elsewhere, and it did not seem likely that the prices, either of raw materials or manufacturers would, within the near future, reach the high levels prevailing during recent years. If any party in the State showed a consciousness of the fact that to-day stringent retrenchments would be more to the advantage of every class in the nation than expenditure on any social or other objects, however excellent, there would be something on which a return of confidence could be based.

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Notwithstanding the bad times railway and road construction was still going on in the Colonies, and those constantly increasing transport facilities would be at any rate a permanent asset to the Colonies concerned. New branches of the bank had been opened at Nkawkaw, Oda and Takoradi in the Gold Coast Colony, and at Gusau in Nigeria, where their new premises at Enugu had been completed, and they had now a total of 59 branches.

In Morocco great developments were taking place both in the French and the Spanish zones, and the board hoped that in the next few years they would see a considerable expansion in the trade of Morocco as a result. He regretted to say, however, that the British share in Moroccan trade still remained disappointing. Why that was so it was not easy to understand, as there were no hostile tariffs to bar the way to British manufactures.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BEECHAM'S PILLS, LIMITED.

"A BETTER SELLER THAN EVER."

The second ordinary general meeting of Beecham's Pills, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, London, Mr Philip E. Hill (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr B. L. Hobrow, A.C.A., having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The profits for the year ended March 31, 1930, amount to £202,887 8s. 9d., which is about £2,000 less than the comparable figure for the previous year, and, under all the circumstances, can only be regarded as satisfactory.

When I had the pleasure of addressing you last year there seemed every prospect of 1929 showing us increased profits. Unfortunately, unforeseen occurrences entirely outside the control of your board have made this impossible—trade depression, reduced spending power of the public in this country and the difficulties which have arisen in India and Australia. These conditions are common to the majority of industrial businesses, but in addition we have had to contend with an unusually mild winter, with the result that the sales of winter seasonal remedies, in which we are interested, have fallen considerably below normal.

On the other hand, I am pleased to say that our main product—Beecham's Pills—has fully maintained its position, and in its eighty-ninth year of existence is certainly as good, if not a better seller than ever. We have been and still are in negotiation for the acquisition of other well-known products and an extension of our sales organisation. I had hoped before this meeting to have been able to make some definite announcement with regard to this, but regret that I am not yet in a position to do so—the matters being still under discussion. The trade outlook, as we all appreciate, is anything but satisfactory, and the maintenance of profits demands the closest possible attention of the board and management—which you may be assured it will have.

I now move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Louis Nicholas seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The dividends, as recommended, were approved: the retiring directors, Mr Philip Ernest Hill and Mr Henry Gregory, were re-elected: the auditors, Messrs Price, Waterhouse and Company, were reappointed; and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS.

The annual general meeting of this company was held on the 25th instant, at Magnet House, Kingsway, London, Sir Hugo Hirst, Bt. (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he was able to open the meeting with a note of satisfaction at the further substantial progress which the company had made. It was gratifying that in a year full of shocks the trading account of the company showed a profit of £1,179,000, an increase of over £90,000 compared with the previous year.

He was sure shareholders would be interested if he gave them a picture of some of their recent achievements. They had, for instance, in large turbo-alternators, successfully undertaken the manufacture of machines up to 30,000 k.w., having a speed of 3,000 r.p.m. The company was the first in the country to obtain an order for machines to run at that speed. Progress had been made in their oil-engine department at Erith. A number of engines have been supplied abroad, whilst the largest oil engine installation in this country is that of a London Power House employing their machines. The development of the grid scheme had called for considerable extensions at their switchgear works, and many noteworthy achievements stood to their credit. In transformers the new high-tension works at Witton had completely revolutionised their position.

ELECTRIC TRACTION.

Progress had also been rapid in electric traction. They had obtained a contract for the Manchester-Altrincham section of the L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. Railways which was the first order ever placed in this country for equipment for trains operating at 1,500 volts, the standard voltage fixed by the Ministry of Transport Committee, whereas previously the usual voltage for traction works was 600. Other contracts included equipments for the new tube railway on the Buenos Ayres Central Terminal system and Diesel electric locomotives for India. The company's position in the traction field was indicated by a contract for 1,000 motors which the London Electric Railway had placed with them.

There had been marked activity in the sphere of illuminating engineering, and many important installations had been carried out.

The year had been noteworthy also for their success in marine work, and there had been marked activity in the sphere of illuminating engineering. Progress in the development of projector lamps had resulted in the production of a number of successful British films for the first time in this country by means of gas-filled lamps. As regarded heating and cooking, a steady development had taken place on domestic cookers, and high-temperature furnaces had been developed for a multiplicity of purposes. Electric furnaces up to one-ton capacity for melting copper, aluminium and other non-ferrous metals have been included in the year's work.

A NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENT.

As regarded wires and cables, high-tension oil-filled cable ranked amongst the most noteworthy developments of the century, and he would refer to the contract which their Pirelli-General cable works had obtained—they were partners in that company to the extent of 50 per cent.—for the 132,000-volt oil-filled cable which linked up the north and south sections of the grid scheme in the London area. At their telephone works there had been a rapid growth in the development of their activities. A great amount of energy had been devoted to the development of "carrier current" systems, and their telephone works had also participated in the development of totalisators and had done much work on talking picture apparatus. In broadcasting sets they continued to hold a leading position in spite of ever-changing designs and great competition.

Their research laboratories have also carried out work on many other subjects.

Alongside this development work, they were committed to constant improvements in designs of thousands of electrical commodities included under the general phrase "domestic electrical supplies."

In the eyes of many the outlook was sad and things looked like getting worse. He was, however, not despondent. He realised the unhappy conditions existing in some of the older industries, the problem of unemployment, and the effect of taxation on industry, but all those were matters which by courage and great efforts might be combated.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent., both less tax were declared.

MEXICAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR VINCENT YORKE ON HIS VISIT.

The 130th ordinary general meeting of the Mexican Railway Company, Ltd., was held, on the 25th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr Vincent W. Yorke (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: At our last meeting I led you to expect that the net receipts for the half-year to December 31st would be in the neighbourhood of £80,000, and so it would have turned out if it had not been for the disastrous strike on the line which took place in December last. Our net receipts for the five months to the end of November were more than £70,000, but the railway was operated at a loss during the month of December, which reduced the total profits for the half-year to little more than £60,000.

The incidence of the strike has made any close comparison of the figures of the half-year with those of the corresponding half-year of 1928 impracticable, and I do not think that I need waste your time by going into them in detail. The amount of gross receipts is not really satisfactory, as it is about 10 per cent. less than the average of the ten preceding half-years. Passenger traffic is less by about 6 per cent. than that of the corresponding half-year, and I fear that the advent of new roads will bring about further decreases in the future. Goods traffic is very slightly greater than in the corresponding half-year, and while national goods have decreased by $139,000, foreign goods have increased by $143,000. Fruit traffic, of which we had good hopes at one time, only shows an insignificant increase. Although I led you to expect that we had reached the probable limit of savings in expenses, I am glad to say that the expenses are $58,000 less than in the corresponding half-year.

REDUCTION OF CERTIFICATES.

If it had not been for the strike we should have been able, I do not doubt, to make a small reduction in the large debit to net revenue account, but, as it is, we have to add to it to the extent of nearly £24,000. Nevertheless, owing to the comparative strength of our financial resources, we have decided to make a further reduction of 10 per cent. in our indebtedness to the holders of "A" certificates, and the total amount owing to holders of "A" and "B" certificates will be reduced as from July 1st next to about £326,000. This will make the fourth half-year in succession in which we shall have made a 10 per cent. reduction in the "A" certificates.

As regards the results of the current half-year, I am glad to say that gross receipts have been fairly satisfactory, both general traffic and fruit traffic having shown distinct signs of revival. Unfortunately, a very serious accident to a freight train in January last, which has probably cost us nearly £20,000, has seriously affected our expenses, and the net receipts to the end of April are less than those of the corresponding half-year by about £15,000. I hope, however, that the total net receipts for the current half-year will be not much less than £100,000.

CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO MEXICO.

And now perhaps you would like to hear some of the impressions of my recent visit to Mexico, from which I only returned in the early part of this month. In the first place, let me say that I have paid now four visits to the country since 1920, the year in which the operation of the railway was restored to us, and that for the first time I found tranquillity prevailing in every part of the Republic.

The condition of the public finances may be considered all the more satisfactory in view of the depression in business which prevails all over the world and is, of course, affecting Mexico. It should be remembered in this connection that Mexico is by no means a one-crop or one-product country, like so many of the Central and South American States. In addition to oil, silver and lead, which are her principal productions for export, she produces many agricultural crops to which must now be added bananas. The production of oil has diminished very appreciably in the last few years; while in 1922 it amounted to 182 million barrels, this sank to 50 million in 1928, and in 1929 is estimated to have been only 42 million.

The price of silver, which has fallen to the altogether unprecedented price of 1s. 3d. per ounce, must also be affecting very seriously the operation of many of the silver mines; nevertheless, the largest mines in the country, situated at Pachuca, were still working full time as lately as April last. The price of lead has fortunately not yet fallen so heavily, while coffee again, owing to its better quality, has not suffered in price as that grown in many other countries. Still, the fact that the public revenue is coming in so well is good proof of the wealth and vitality of the country under peaceful conditions, and augurs well for increased prosperity, given a recovery in business conditions all over the world.

The import of foreign luxuries would seem to be increasing from the figures of foreign traffic given in the report, and the warehouses at Vera Cruz were full to overflowing at the time of m visit. In Mexico City itself business was reported to be slow, but the appearance of the shops, and of the public, and the number of motor-cars in daily use, could only suggest to me a fair measure of prosperity.

THE LABOUR PROBLEM.

The Labour problem was just emerging from a very difficult phase at the time of my visit. The Labour Law, about which I spoke at length and with much apprehension at our meeting last November, fortunately was not passed before Congress adjourned, and has not hitherto been revived. The publication of its provisions, and the support that it received in the highest quarters, led to the development of a spirit of unrest among our employees, and as a result of this, we were presented with a number of demands which appeared to us entirely unreasonable, and which we felt bound to resist to the uttermost. Much the same demands were presented, I believe, by the same Unions to the National Railways at the same time, and were being resisted by their management.

When the Unions saw that their ends could not be gained by negotiation, they resolved to resort to a fight and unfortunately selected our property as the battle ground, and called the strike on our railway, which I have already mentioned. The matters in dispute were then referred by agreement between us and the men to the arbitration of Señor Portes Gil, then acting as President of the Republic. His award, which was promptly given, was almost entirely in favour of the men's demands, and there was then nothing for us to do but to attempt to carry out loyally the terms of his award. This we have now done, and as you will hear from the general manager's telegram, contracts based on the award have now been agreed and signed with all the Unions concerned.

Let me now say that the questions in dispute have been far more questions of principle than questions of money. The immediate increase in expenses will not be great, but grave damage will have been done as regards our power of selection of suitable men for important posts, the system of promotion, and so forth, and, generally speaking, discipline and efficiency which are so desirable in any business will be much impaired. However, we have done our best in making these contracts to live up to the spirit of the award, and I believe the recent negotiations will have left no bad feeling in the minds of either of the parties. We must now wait and see what effect the new arrangements will have on the operation of the railway.

TELEGRAM FROM GENERAL MANAGER.

I will now read a telegram from the general manager: "There are indications of an increase in crops of cereals, potatoes, tobacco, coffee and sugar cane, and also additional output in textile products, and generally improved trade with good tourist travel from the United States. Labour situation improving slowly. All contracts finished. On the other hand, motor competition is active and silver falling in value. National Railways of Mexico situation being taken in hand vigorously."

I consider that a hopeful message. I am particularly glad to hear that tourist travel is good. It was not very good while I was in the country. In this connection you may like to know that important developments are about to be made by the Ward Line, who from August will add two fine new steamers to their service between New York and Vera Cruz. This service, which has recently been shortened to six days, ought to capture the lion's share of passenger travel from the East of the United States to Mexico, and may in time add substantially to our passenger receipts.

Tourist travel from the States to Mexico is now only a minute fraction of what it might become. Propaganda to foment it is much needed, but I believe that this will be forthcoming both from Mexico and New York. Mexico offers to the tourist attractions in the way of climate, scenery and antiquities such as few countries possess. They are absolutely unknown to a public of vast dimensions in the United States, and given a few years of peace and some skilful propaganda at work, there are hardly any limits to the tourist travel which might be developed.

It is again good news to hear that the National Railways' situation is being taken vigorously in hand. I have already told you how important it is for our interests that their administration shall be reorganised.

IMPRESSIONS SUMMARISED.

To summarise my impressions I may say that I came away from Mexico after a stay of six weeks in the country with the strong belief that general conditions had very distinctly improved in the two years which have elapsed since my last visit. In my opinion, in spite of the various setbacks which have recently occurred, the business is in smoother water to-day than for some long time past. Whether the progress we are making in restoring our fortunes, and we are making steady progress in that direction, can be quickened or not is a difficult question to answer, but if the country remains in its present peaceful condition I see no reason why our earnings should not improve.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

J. LYONS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.
PROFIT AGAIN A RECORD.
THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF RATIONALISATION.
THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMODITY PRICES.
MAJOR I. SALMON REVIEW'S COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES.

The thirty-sixth ordinary general meeting of J. Lyons and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, London, W.

Major Isidore Salmon, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., M.P. (one of the managing directors), presided.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The report of the directors for the year ended March 31, 1930, states that:—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The balance from trading account shows:—		
A profit of		935,870 13 1
Amount brought forward from last year	42,307 15 7	
Less Transferred to reserve ...	25,000 0 0	17,307 15 7
		£953,178 8 8

From this amount is to be deducted:—	£ s. d.
Dividend on 5 per Cent. Preference Shares paid to November 30, 1929, and proportion provided for period to March 31, 1930	32,353 5 0
Dividend on 7 per Cent. Preference Shares paid to March 31, 1930	280,000 0 0
Dividend on 8 per Cent. Preference Shares paid to March 31, 1930	80,000 0 0
Dividend on 6 per Cent. Preferred Ordinary Shares paid to September 30, 1929, and proportion provided for period to March 31, 1930	24,000 0 0
Interim Dividend (1s. 8d. per share) on Ordinary and "A" Ordinary Shares already paid for the half-year ended September 30, 1929	133,647 15 0
Interim Dividend (4d. per share) on Proportional and "B" Proportional Profit Shares already paid for the half-year ended September 30, 1929	15,833 6 8
And the Directors propose to deal with the balance as under:—	
To place to reserve (making a total of £1,300,000) ...	100,000 0 0
To pay a dividend of 2s. 10d. per share on the Ordinary Shares and "A" Ordinary Shares for the half-year ended March 31, 1930	227,201 3 6
To pay a dividend of 6·8d. per share on the Proportional and "B" Proportional Profit Shares for the half-year ended March 31, 1930	26,916 13 4
To carry forward to next account	33,226 5 2
	£953,178 8 8

During the financial year the following establishments have been opened:—

74 High Street, Southend.
14 Commercial Road, Bournemouth.
174 King Street, Yarmouth.
138 Rushey Green, Catford.
14 The Parade, Canterbury.
37 Duke Street, W.1.
177 High Street, Wandsworth.
4 Marble Arch, W.1.

Additional premises have been acquired and will be opened in due course, and negotiations for other premises are proceeding.

Messrs G. W. Booth and B. A. Salmon retire from the office of directors, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Messrs G. A. Pollard and A. C. Watkins, employé directors, retire and are eligible for re-election.

Messrs Turquand, Youngs and Company, the auditors, retire and are eligible for re-election.

The dividends received from subsidiary companies have been included in the company's profits for the year. In the aggregate the profits of the subsidiary companies exceeded the declared dividends. Losses of subsidiary companies, so far as they concern this company, have been debited in this company's profit and loss account.

Mr H. H. G. Bennett (one of the joint-secretaries) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—In welcoming you to another annual meeting, at which we are recording the results of the company's thirty-sixth year, I am pleased to announce once again that the profit available for distribution has exceeded that of any previous year, amounting as it does to £935,870. The year has not been without its difficulties, for, although, fortunately, our business is that of providing the main necessities of life, we are naturally somewhat affected by the prosperity of the general public who are our customers. In times of general trade depression the public literally tightens its belt, so that its spending power tends to decrease; but that very tendency makes for more caution in spending and a closer seeking after true value.

Our policy has always been to concentrate on true value, which naturally brings us new customers and some increased trade to offset the decreased spending power. The increase in our profit which we are able to report in these circumstances testifies to the truth of our claim that we are supplying the public with what it wants at competitive prices and shows the wisdom of our policy. Every business has its difficult years, for it is affected by circumstances over which, whatever the ability of the directing force, it can have no control. For example, the present year has unfortunately seen the burden of taxation take an upward trend, the effect of which upon the country's trade has yet to be felt.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

Now, may I turn to the year's results and deal with them in a little more detail? As you know, the new Companies Act came into force in November last, and you will have observed a few changes in the balance sheet consequent upon the new provisions then enacted. Those changes in our case have really meant no more than a few slight alterations in the manner of presenting the account to you—in other words, in the form rather than in the matter. I will deal first with the changes, and then, without boring you by a long recital of the various items, comment briefly, as I did last year, on anything which I feel may be of special interest.

You will have noticed an additional paragraph in the report dealing with the profits and losses of subsidiary companies. As in previous years we have taken into our profits dividends which have been received from them, leaving the balance of profits in the various businesses with a view to the consolidation of their resources and their development. On the other hand, we have made provision in our accounts for the slight losses which arise mainly from the method of accounting in two of our subsidiaries who are trading with us.

In the balance sheet, on the liabilities side, there is a new item—namely, subsidiary companies, current accounts; this now appears separately in conformity with the new Act. It represents amounts due to those companies with which we ourselves are trading; previously it appeared in the general item "sundry creditors, &c." On the assets side under the heading "subsidiary companies," which also appears separately for the first time, the items "shares" and "current accounts" need, I think, no comment. The third item of loans represents necessary additional finance for their operations, the company in this case acting as banker. "Balance of loans to staff" shows the amount outstanding at March 31 of loans made to staff for their purchases of our shares. So much for the changes.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO RESERVE.

As to the other figures, the profit from the year's trading I have already commented on. You will notice we have taken a sum of £25,000 from our last year's carry forward and placed it to the reserve, making that account as it stands in the balance sheet £1,200,000; to it we are again proposing to add a sum of £100,000 out of profits. The issued capital has increased by the "A" ordinary shares issued to managing directors last year. I may mention here that this privilege has been repeated, and 2,500 "A" ordinary shares have been allotted to each of them at par.

The property item on the assets side, freehold land, buildings, &c., is £55,000 less, but as it no longer includes the shareholdings in subsidiary companies, it is, on a true comparison, some £360,000 more—a quite normal growth. Sundry debtors, at £593,000

is some £250,000 less than last year, but the difference is more apparent than real since loans to, and current accounts with, subsidiary companies are not now included in this item.

BURDENS ON INDUSTRY.

I have already referred to the burdens imposed on industry in this country to-day. To devise a means of meeting them is a task which constantly confronts those who control great businesses. The latest theory for the remedying of our commercial ills is rationalisation, of which we hear a good deal just now and which seems to mean different things to different people. If, however, it means keeping your business up to date by availing yourselves of the latest discoveries, both scientific and mechanical, the utilisation to the utmost of the raw materials to be treated, the elimination of waste, whether of material or labour, the grouping of businesses which are related and which may be worked together with a gain in economy, in which the question of transport plays no small part, then I can say that our business has been conducted according to the theories of rationalisation from its commencement, with the effect of reducing prices, increasing wages and giving more employment. The number of our employees has steadily increased from year to year until it has reached the very respectable figure of over 30,000 persons maintained in regular employment—(Hear, hear)—and I must leave you to draw your own conclusions as to the value of a practice based on such a theory.

THANKS TO THE STAFF.

This mention of our staff leads me to say that our and your grateful thanks are due to them for their loyal and untiring efforts on the company's behalf. (Cheers.) Their devotion to the company's interests fully merits the attention to their welfare and happiness we endeavour to give. We have in the past told you something of their sports and social club, the Lyons Club, which is recognised as one of the largest organisations of its kind in existence, with a membership embracing fully 70 per cent. of our total staff. It is run by the members for the members; the company does not interfere or dictate; but it does contribute a substantial sum each year to supplement the members' own contributions and assist where any further extension of the club's activities and amenities is required.

We do not seek to interfere in the private lives of our staff, but we do take an interest in their welfare and by wise assistance and humane consideration of their troubles and difficulties endeavour to make them feel that not only are our interests theirs, but that their prosperity and happiness are ours. (Hear, hear.)

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL BILL.

I should like to say a word on two things which are at present occupying public attention—namely, the Consumers' Council Bill and licensing reform. The Bill, which is now before Parliament, proposes to give to a Council of seven—the number savours of mystic charms and rites of the Middle Ages—wide inquisitorial powers and the duty of reporting to the Board of Trade what they consider a fair price for almost any commodity in general use. It gives the Board of Trade power to fix a maximum price for any such commodity. The Bill ignores the experience gained from similar experiments throughout history; first, that a maximum price becomes a minimum price irrespective of quality and service; and, second, that the standard which is adopted in fixing a price is that of the less efficient, not of the more efficient. I fail to see how the consumer can benefit from that.

The result of such a scheme will be to diminish if not entirely to destroy the value of a goodwill built up on quality and service. It shows an entire disregard for that elasticity which is so necessary in the constantly varying conditions and ramifications of modern trade. How can such a Council or the Board of Trade say what is a reasonable profit when circumstances vary from day to day and from place to place? The basis of such a measure seems to me to be wrong, for it assumes, very improperly, that there is only one motive in business—buying cheap and selling dear—or, in other words, profiteering.

LICENSING REFORM.

I think you will be interested to know that recently the company was invited to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Licensing, and I had the privilege—that may not be quite the right word since it was naturally something of an ordeal—of presenting to that body some of our views. Incidentally, it is gratifying to know, and a fitting tribute to the position of this company, that we were the only individual corporation invited to give evidence, though of course many of the trade associations have done so.

There are many points in the present licensing system as it affects us which, in our opinion, call for reform; mainly, the need for the recognition of a distinction between public-house business and a business such as ours where the provision of food is the main consideration and where the sale of alcohol is ancillary and represents but a small portion of the total business. Another point of importance which arises from this, and is indeed part of it, is the need for a system whereby the conditions requisite for the grant of a licence to an establishment like a new Corner House would be fixed by statute.

THE "TROCADERO."

Before concluding I will mention one other matter which I think will be of interest to you. We have taken advantage during the year of the opportunity which occurred of purchasing on favourable terms the freehold of the remainder of the Trocadero, so that we now own the freehold of the whole of this building—(hear, hear)—which, together with the Coventry Street Corner House adjoining it and the other land fronting Rupert Street and Shaftesbury Avenue—totalling something over 1¼ acre—must be one of the most valuable properties in London. Whenever a favourable opportunity presents itself, it is our policy to acquire the freehold of our various properties, a policy which, I am sure you will agree, consolidates the value of this portion of our assets and serves to preserve the goodwill of our business, which is such an enormous asset, though it does not appear in figures on our balance sheet. (Hear, hear.)

CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this brings me to the end of my review of the company's activities during its thirty-sixth year. If I have called attention in these remarks to one or two of the difficulties which beset the trader in these times, I do not want you to think that we feel anything but a full confidence in the bright future of this business and a justifiable pride in its present achievement. Indeed, I am sure that from what you have seen in our report and balance sheet, supplemented by this brief account of our stewardship and our prospects and plans, you will feel, as we do, that the affairs of the company are as satisfactory and as full of promise for the future as human power can make them. (Cheers.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now propose:—"That the report of the directors and the balance sheet submitted to this meeting be and are hereby adopted; that the payment of interim dividends of 1s. 8d. per share on the issued ordinary and 'A' ordinary share capital of the company and 4d. per share on the proportional profit and 'B' proportional profit share capital of the company for the half-year ending September 30, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed; and that a dividend be paid for the half-year ending March 31, 1930, of 2s. 10d. per share to the holders of ordinary and 'A' ordinary shares of the company, and 6·8d. per share to the holders of proportional profit and 'B' proportional profit shares of the company who were on the registers on June 6, 1930." (Cheers.)

SIR ROBERT DONALD ON FACTORS OF SUCCESS.

Sir Robert Donald: Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,—As an old friend of the founders of this great business, it gives me very much pleasure to second the adoption of the report. You have heard from your chairman an illuminating statement, in which he has clothed the dry figures—perhaps I ought to say the cheerfully refreshing figures—of the report with additional information which I think must have the effect of increasing your confidence in this business and in the statesmanlike manner in which it has been managed. The few observations I would like to make are of a rather general kind, as I have been a close observer of this business since its establishment. In these distressing and doleful days—with emphasis on the dole—(laughter)—the House of Lyons stands out as a beacon on the industrial horizon. As the profits indicate continual expansion, you may expect them to reach the million mark before long. (Hear, hear.)

As I have said, I have watched this business—one of the newest of the great businesses of this country—grow from small beginnings to its present gigantic proportions. To begin with, it was nurtured and tended with infinite care by the far-seeing men who founded it, and it has advanced every year without interruption. Its progress will continue to gather strength from its own momentum, from new developments and expansions which are inevitable and which the board are always watching to take advantage of, and because—indeed, most of all, because—of its good management.

There are no secrets about the success of Lyons. Its recipe is for every one to read and to copy if they can. You will find one item in the policy referred to by the chairman of giving the public the best possible service in the widest sense of that word at the lowest possible cost. Another element is the capacity of your directors to foresee needs just a little before they arrive and also ahead of other people. In this way they are thoroughly progressive, but they blend their progress with caution. You have heard how conservative is their policy in regard to finance and how that is one of the most substantial elements in the impregnability of this business.

EXPERIENCE AND ENTERPRISE IN THE MANAGEMENT.

A great factor in their success is that the directors know their jobs. Catering in one respect is something like journalism; it seems to have an attraction for people who know nothing about it. (Laughter.) Anyone without experience thinks he can run a restaurant, just as anyone without experience thinks he can run a newspaper. I do not know what has happened to those who have ventured into the catering world in a big way without experience, but in the newspaper world the ambitious man who did not know his job has gained a great deal of experience and lost a great deal of money. (Laughter.)

There are few businesses in this country in which the men at the head of them have risen from the humblest positions to the highest posts, as in the case of Lyons and Company. The managers of Lyons study the smallest details in order to improve the service. They search the world in the hope of finding something new, better, and cheaper. In this connection it is interesting to note that they are developing tea plantations in a new Colony which, by and by, with their help, will be one of the greatest producers of that favourite beverage.

Lyons and Company set more than one object-lesson to other firms. You have heard the chairman give an admirable definition of rationalisation. Lyons exemplifies in its best form what rationalisation means to those whom it serves and to those who serve it, and there is nothing new to be learned by Lyons and Company of this so-called new process of rationalisation.

Another thing that strikes me is that one of their great qualities is their capacity for salesmanship. The traders of this country, as you know, are somewhat perturbed that we have lost trade partly because we have not known how to go out and get it, and a Government Committee is now at work studying the best methods of salesmanship, by which our trade can be increased—particularly our export trade. There, again, Lyons and Company offer an object-lesson to other traders.

RESEARCH AS AN AID TO INDUSTRY.

Another extraordinary weakness which we have in this country is our failure to appreciate the value of research as an aid to industry. There is a big Government Department with a lot of money ready to help firms to undertake research, ready to give them 50 per cent. of the expenditure incurred, and, if you read their reports, you will find they express great regret that this offer is frequently not taken advantage of. Lyons did not require the stimulus of a Government Department for them to undertake research; they did it on their own initiative, and I do not know whether shareholders and the general public are aware that one of the finest research laboratories in this country is that founded and carried on by this company. Some people say, "What does a firm of caterers want with research?" It is, however, most essential. Lyons have a staff of chemists and other experts at work examining all the materials which they purchase and the food products which they make. The whole object of this system is to increase the purity and nutritious qualities of their products. That is one of the most valuable departments of Lyons and Company. You will not find it directly reflected in the dividend, but you will find the dividend, and you have the result in the greater purity of the food they supply and in the care which they take in all their departments in order that they may supply only the best quality food at the lowest possible price. (Cheers.)

"A SPLENDID HERITAGE."

I do not think I have anything further to say. I told you I had only some general observations to make, but these things have struck me for many years as the leading characteristics of this firm, and they show how well the founders built—that they built better than they knew. It is very gratifying to find that the second and third generations of the founders are now managing this great business and preserving and enriching the splendid heritage which they handed on. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Cheers.)

The resolution, in the absence of questions, was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr Harry Salmon (a managing director) then proposed the re-election of Mr George W. Booth and Mr B. A. Salmon as directors of the company.

Mr Liverman seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and Mr Booth briefly thanked the shareholders on behalf of his colleague and himself.

Major M. Gluckstein (a managing director) proposed that Mr G. A. Pollard and Mr A. C. Watkins be re-elected employee directors of the company.

Mr Shield seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously, and a suitable acknowledgment was made by Mr Watkins for Mr Pollard and himself.

On the proposition of Sir Richard Sennett, seconded by Mr T. A. Bullock, Messrs Turquand, Youngs and Company were reappointed auditors.

The Chairman then announced that the dividend warrants would be posted that evening.

SHAREHOLDERS' APPRECIATION.

Mr S. Ponder proposed a vote of thanks to the directors and the staff of the company, and particularly to the chairman for his excellent conduct of the meeting. In doing so, he remarked that the difficulties which the directors and the staff had passed through during the last twelve months must have been much greater than any of the shareholders imagined, having regard to the fluctuations in food commodity prices and the fact that they had had to meet requirements of people who had not as much money to spend as had been the case two or three years ago. They had, however, adhered to their policy of giving excellent value for money, so that, whatever happened, they would always attract new consumers. They were all hoping that times would improve, and that the company would continue to benefit by reason of the excellent work of the directors and staff in keeping everything in connection with the business so efficient and up to date. (Applause.)

The vote was seconded by Mrs Fisher and carried with acclamation.

The Chairman expressed the board's appreciation of the vote which had just been passed, and said that they would have pleasure in conveying it to the staff, who so well deserved it. (Hear, hear.)

The proceedings then terminated.

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS—INCREASED PROFITS.

WORLD PRODUCTION—POLICY OF CONSERVATION.

The annual general meeting of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, Ltd., was held, on the 23rd instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Bearsted, M.C. (chairman), presided.

Mr E. A. Smith-Rewse (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Ladies and gentlemen, comparing the accounts with those of the previous year, the balance sheet totals have been increased by approximately five and three-quarter millions. This has been caused primarily by the issue of 3,983,754 ordinary shares allotted at par to the holders of ordinary shares as at January 1, 1929, being an issue at the rate of one new share in respect of every five old shares; and 150,000 ordinary shares issued and sold in Paris at a premium. There is further an increase in profits of £1,036,485, the remaining small difference being principally accounted for by an increase in creditors of £42,000. The premium, less expenses on the 150,000 ordinary shares issued during the year, which will be seen from the balance sheet to have amounted to £527,444, has been added to the reserve account, which now reaches the figure of £6,881,609. The profit and loss balance has increased by £1,036,484 and amounts to £6,720,990. This enables the directors to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 15 per cent., making with the interim dividend of 10 per cent. already paid, a total dividend for the year of 25 per cent. free of tax. This final distribution will absorb £3,618,204, whilst the interim dividend on the ordinary shares paid in January, 1930, and the dividends on the first and second preference shares already paid will have absorbed the sum of £2,862,136, thus leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next year of £240,650, against the balance brought in at the commencement of the year of £237,604. Notwithstanding the issue during the year of 4,133,754 ordinary shares, the directors have been able to recommend that the dividend for 1929—on the increased capital—shall be the same as that paid for the year 1928. No doubt you will all consider this an eminently satisfactory result. (Applause.)

WORLD PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM.

Referring to the world production of petroleum, he went on to say: Again the total figures during the year show a very substantial increase. Unfortunately, also, this increase has been at a greater rate than that of the previous year, which was only 9,000,000 tons, whilst production in 1929, as compared with that of 1928, amounted to not less than 210,600,000 metric tons, against 187,600,000 metric tons for 1928, an increase of 23,000,000 metric tons. Of this increase the United States of America have been responsible for about 14,000,000 tons, and this notwithstanding the fact that real efforts have been made in that country to keep production within bounds in order that the industry might be put on a more satisfactory basis, and supplies of petroleum conserved for the future requirements of the

world. In Venezuela the production increased by about 5,000,000 tons, and here again definite steps have been taken in order to conserve supplies, and I trust that common sense will bring about a situation which will prevent the wastage which has been going on in these two countries, as unless tangible results are achieved in this direction more and more money will be spent unnecessarily, and the policy of leaving the future to look after itself will continue. The production in the other countries throughout the world has been more or less maintained at approximately 1928 level, and therefore it is to the United States of America and to Venezuela that we must look for an improvement in the present situation. I am glad to be able to report that there appears to be a distinct hope of common sense prevailing in this matter of wasteful production, as we are still endeavouring by friendly co-operation to conserve supplies, to produce as cheaply as possible, and to frame our production programme in a manner which will give to the consuming public the best possible advantage from the proved natural resources of petroleum. With regard to our group's production, this has increased from 22,000,000 tons in 1928 to 25,000,000 tons in 1929, the main increases being in Venezuela, where the output went from 7,000,100 tons in 1928 to 8,800,000 tons in 1929; and in Dutch East Indies, where there was an increase of about 750,000 tons.

POLICY OF CONSERVATION.

We are only too willing to bear our full share of any reasonable policy of conservation which may be decided upon throughout the industry, and as a result of the friendly negotiations previously mentioned I trust that our figures of production for the current year will reflect a measure of progress in the policy of conservation. This progress is desirable from two points of view: firstly, that of world conservation, to which I have already alluded; and, secondly, and unfortunately, because of the fact that as the general trade of the world is at present undergoing a period of acute depression, the demand for petroleum products may not show an increase in the same ratio as in the past. Looking at our industry from these two points of view, therefore, it becomes all the more desirable that those who are responsible for the policy and direction of petroleum companies should turn their minds more towards greater efficiency in producing, refining, shipping and marketing, rather than to the further unnecessary depletion of the oilfields throughout the world.

So far as the companies controlled by the "Shell" group are concerned, I am glad to say that we have progressed far along the lines of stimulating the use of petroleum products, not only in connection with those products which are so well known to everyone, but also in connection with special products which we have been able to manufacture from crude petroleum. During the past year we have placed on the market various new commodities manufactured from crude petroleum, and although many of these are still in the introductory stage, I am hoping that before long we shall have made definite progress in finding new outlets. In saying this I am sure that you will be glad to learn that in every case where a new commodity is marketed by us under the "Shell" name, it carries the guarantee of the "Shell" group, which is not given until the most searching and prolonged scientific investigation and commercial tests have demonstrated that it is in every way suitable and reliable for the purpose for which its use is recommended.

We have also introduced during the past year many new methods not only in connection with production, but also—and particularly—in connection with refining and manufacturing. Our technical staff throughout the world is second to none, and it is only by maintaining this condition that we are able to maintain our position in all matters pertaining to petroleum.

TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF.

During the year 1929 the market throughout the world for the primary petroleum products showed very little change compared with 1928. As is normal in the petroleum industry, we have had to meet severe competition, and in many parts of the world prices—because of this competition—were forced to an uneconomical level. That we were able to maintain our fair share of trade is due not only to the unvaried good quality of our products but also to our elaborate and efficient organisation, and to the unremitting loyalty and zeal of our staff in every country in which we do business. I think it is only right that shareholders should realise how great an asset we possess in the shape of our staff. It has been built up over many years by a careful selection of personnel, and this company may well be proud of those who work for it, just as the men and women who serve it are proud of the company for which they work.

Mr Andrew Agnew, C.B.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the Chairman and his colleagues terminated the proceedings.

BRITISH EMPIRE TRUST COMPANY, LIMITED.

SUCCESSFUL RESULTS.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE POWER COMPANY.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the British Empire Trust Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, Mr J. Davidson (Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. M. Cox) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that he was glad to be able to repeat the increased dividends of 7 per cent. on the preferred and 9 per cent. on the deferred shares, paid last year, and to show an amount of £23,285 carried forward as compared with £9,304 last year. Having regard to the exceptionally disturbed financial conditions which prevailed during the year under review, he regarded these results as eminently satisfactory. As shareholders were aware, the company's business interests and investments were largely in Canada. Canada, after a period of four or five years of unbroken prosperity, had suffered during the past year, alike with nearly every other country in the world, from an all-round fall in commodity values. General conditions, however, continued to be sound. The welfare of Canada did not depend upon any one branch of activity. Among the nations or dominions of the world, Canada enjoyed a highly diversified economic life, producing, from her own natural resources, a variety of vital commodities. She occupied a predominant position as a producer of the finest wheat, and her science of farming by machinery was the most advanced in the world. She was also the world's largest producer of pulp and paper, which was now her most important manufacturing industry. Her asbestos and nickel deposits were the world's largest sources of supply of these rare and useful minerals. She was now the third largest producer in the world of gold and silver, and the fourth largest of copper and lead. Last year Canada rose to second position in the manufacture of motor vehicles.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S CURRENT SALES.

After referring to some of the more prominent Canadian companies with which the Trust had been long closely associated, the Chairman dealt with the West Gloucestershire Power Company, and said that during the first five months of the current year units sold were nearly twice the sales of the corresponding period of 1929, having increased from 5,139,506 to 10,145,964, an increase in units of 5,006,458, or 97·4 per cent. This was very gratifying, as it indicated the early wiping out of the remaining deficit on revenue account incurred during the earlier years of operations and also the establishment of a suitable depreciation reserve. Owing to the increasing demand upon the Company's plant, it had been found necessary to extend the boiler house and erect two additional boilers. This work was under contract to be completed in time to meet the greatly increased load which the company anticipated would have to be supplied next winter. The system of transmission mains now extended from Gloucester in the north to the borders of Bristol in the south, and from the borders of the county of Hereford on the west to beyond Stroud on the east. This territory embraced an area of approximately 679 square miles, and the company expected that extension work would be actively pursued for a long time to come. He was glad to say that the company's power station at Lydney was one of the "selected" stations from which the Central Electricity Board will purchase supplies. The company's station would, therefore, be called upon to supply, in addition to the company's own requirements, such further amounts of electricity as the Central Board might require for the purpose of its scheme. Under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1926, payments by the Central Electricity Board would be made on the basis of the cost of generation, plus an assured allowance for interest and depreciation on the capital expended on the works required to give such supplies. The "selection" of the company's Lydney power station for the national scheme would facilitate future development, and would ensure that the company's additional requirements for electricity would be obtained in the most economical manner. It also emphasises the importance of the company's position in the electrical industry. Finally, the Chairman said that the position of the Trust to-day was a very strong one. This was largely due to the conservative manner in which its affairs had been handled and to the fact that safety had not been risked for undue profit. He was satisfied that the success established would be continued and increased in the years to come.

Mr. T. Blundell Brown seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his interesting speech and to the Chairman and directors for the excellent results shown for the past year.

DECCA RECORD COMPANY, LIMITED.

IMPROVED POSITION AND OUTLOOK.

The first annual general meeting of the Decca Record Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Sir Sigismund F. Mendl, K.B.E. (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said; The Decca Record Company was formed to purchase a modern record factory and to acquire the shares of the Decca Gramophone Company, which had then lately been launched as a public company, and which possessed a valuable goodwill and name, and also a successful selling organisation. When the company obtained effective possession of the Malden factory there was no reason to suppose the estimates provided by Mr Balfour would not be reached before the end of the first completed year of the company's trading. Shortly after the statutory meeting at the end of May, as the result of inquiries and examination, the board had reason to entertain the gravest misgivings as to the efficiency of the management and as to the probability of the sales of records being likely to amount to anything like what we had been led to believe.

A committee was set up, and the board lost no time acting in accordance with their advice. A new general manager was appointed in the person of Mr S. J. Avidon, and a few weeks afterwards a new sales manager and a new secretary were appointed. Two new directors, Mr J. W. England, a recognised authority in industrial organisation, and Mr C. F. Entwistle, who adds legal knowledge to considerable commercial experience, were appointed to the board in the latter part of 1929.

The board set up a works committee, and that committee went closely into all the items and details of manufacture and factory organisation. It is sufficient to say that it has succeeded firstly in reducing operating costs and overhead charges to an absolute minimum, and, secondly, almost immediately in increasing production and improving the quality of Decca records, so that it may fairly be claimed that to-day general opinion in the trade, and outside, as to those records, is almost uniformly favourable to them.

IMPROVED QUALITY OF RECORD.

During this period the quality of the record was so much improved that sales began rapidly to expand. At the same time production costs were reduced, while on the selling side the important factor was the withdrawal from circulation of the unsatisfactory records put out in July and August, just referred to. This created a most favourable impression in the trade. The other important factor was the marketing of Decca Records at 2s. I think we can fairly claim that these records are the best value on the market to-day, and sales should continue to increase. As you are aware, we have also recently placed on the market a new series of 12-inch records at 3s. 6d., and these have proved an instantaneous success. We are rapidly opening accounts with the dealers, large and small, in every part of the British Isles.

We attach the greatest importance in the future to our overseas trade, and it is our aim to sell Decca records wherever the Decca gramophone is sold, and that, I may say, is practically in every country in the world.

I should like to draw your attention to the strong financial position of the company's current assets, amounting to a total of £163,451, against current liabilities of £12,685. The company has, in fact, ample resources for the successful development of its business, and I may say here that the combined net liquid assets of the record company and the gramophone company amount to a sum of about £335,000, of which the sum of £129,000 is represented by cash and Government securities, which, I think you will agree with me, indicates a considerable financial strength.

GRAMOPHONE BUSINESS.

I now refer to the gramophone side of the business. We hold 369,790 out of 370,000 shares in the Decca Gramophone Company, and although the companies, from the point of view of their assets, are two separate entities, we must consider them as one enterprise. For various reasons it is convenient to keep the old Decca Gramophone Company alive, but from other points of view the two companies are one. The turnover of the Decca Gramophone Company for the year ending March 31, 1930, was the largest recorded in the history of the business. Our new portables are recognised as a great advance on anything even Decca has produced in the past, and I think we can fairly claim that from our most expensive radio electric gramophone retailed at £95, to our cheapest portable at £2 19s. 6d., we are selling the right goods at the right price. We are not prepared, however, to rest on our laurels, but are ever striving to improve our models, moving, if possible, ahead of the times.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BOOTS PURE DRUG COMPANY, LIMITED.

RECORD SALES AND CUSTOMERS.

The forty-second annual general ordinary meeting of Boots Pure Drug Company, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at Station Street, Nottingham, the Hon. J. C. Boot, J.P., chairman of directors, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Turning to the profit and loss account, you will notice that the balance, after deducting various charges, is £724,868, which is £25,284 less than last year.

After payment of all preference and preferred share dividends and after payment of four quarterly dividends of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares, we have a balance from the year's profits of £268,118, which, together with the balance from last year, amounts to £494,828.

Your directors recommend the payment of a bonus of 1s. per share, free of income tax, on the ordinary shares, absorbing £75,000, and a transfer to the reserve fund of £190,000, leaving £229,828 to be carried forward to next year.

LARGE INCREASE IN CUSTOMERS.

On the whole I think the year was satisfactory. Our sales and number of customers were again a record, the latter being an increase of two and a half millions, and the profits have only been exceeded once, namely, last year, which, as you will remember, was an abnormal one both for cold weather and the amount of sickness, whereas this year there was neither cold weather nor an influenza epidemic. You must bear in mind, too, that there is great shortage of money in many parts of the country, so that it is not uncommon for the purchases of two or three consecutive customers to amount to only 1d. each.

During the year our research department has discovered a number of synthetic chemicals suitable for use in medicine. One of these substances, amyl-meta-cresol, has 250 times the antiseptic value of phenol and is of very low toxicity. We are actively investigating the possibility of extending its use in all those branches of medicine where antiseptics of this type are essential. We have already incorporated it as an ingredient of our new compound glycerin of thymol pastilles, which are having a phenomenal success. Many of our competitors have copied us in marketing a compound glycerin of thymol pastille, but our pastilles differ from all imitations in containing this new antiseptic, amyl-meta-cresol. This substance is also giving promising results as an intestinal and urinary antiseptic. Its discovery may be considered to be one of the biggest advances made in recent years in the search for the ideal antiseptic.

VITAMIN PRODUCTS.

We referred in our last report to our work on vitamins. In view of the importance of, and the public interest in these substances, we have greatly increased our facilities for vitamin testing both for research purposes and for the routine control of our products. Cod liver oil well maintains its prominent position as a source of Vitamins A and D, and we are able to test every delivery biologically to ensure that it complies with our high standard of vitamin content. Our preparation of malt and oil is recognised as being of outstanding merit, only British barley being used, and we also issue a number of preparations containing added Vitamin D, for which we have evolved a very good manufacturing process. In addition to "Vitamalt," we are now issuing "Olivita," or "Sunshine Olive Oil" and Reinforced Cod Liver Oil, both of which contain added Vitamin D.

As a further instance of the high standard of work carried out in the research department, we may mention that the results of some of our scientific investigations have been described in six contributions to the journals of learned societies in the course of the past twelve months.

Our retail companies have opened 41 new shops since our last report and have now 876. The work of renovating and refitting our older shops is carefully kept up, one of the most important alterations during the year being our new corner premises in Bond Street, London, next door to the shop where we have been for many years.

This is one of the most attractive shops in London. The extra room and convenience is greatly appreciated by our customers.

The number of our employees has risen by over 700 during the year, and now totals nearly 17,000, which is the highest figure in the history of the company, and shows that we are doing our part in helping to lessen the unemployment problem.

We have a loyal, enthusiastic and hard-working staff. Our stocks are in good condition and reasonable in amount, and we have sufficient funds to take advantage of any good business opening.

With these assets your directors look forward with confidence and hope to be able to place a satisfactory report before you next year.

Mr J. E. Greenwood, M.A., LL.B., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

TELEPHONE RENTALS, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.

SCOPE FOR INCREASED BUSINESS.

The first annual meeting of Telephone Rentals, Ltd., was held, on the 26th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C.4.

Mr Fred. T. Jackson (the Chairman), in dealing with the accounts for the period ending May 31, 1930, said that the rentals receivable by the subsidiary companies controlled by the holding company amounted to £144,414 at the end of December. A sum of £43,766 had been appropriated for depreciation reserve, bringing the total amount to the credit of this reserve to £314,509, which was a direct offset to the installation account, amounting to £630,273. Taking the net figure of £315,764, it would be seen that the installations were only valued at about two years of the rentals receivable, which was a very conservative figure.

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND.

The profit earned by the subsidiary companies amounted to £68,019, out of which sum £65,375 gross had been received by the holding company in dividends. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent. had been paid on March 31, 1930, and the directors now recommended the payment on July 14, 1930, of a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year. He thought the shareholders would agree that the result for the year was quite satisfactory, especially in view of the fact that general trade conditions during the period under review had been so bad. The profit indicated that the business was not affected by trade depression to the same extent as most industrial concerns. The statement of comparative profits earned over a period of years, embodied in the directors' report, showed steady and satisfactory progress.

The principal reason for not recommending a higher final dividend was because there was a great deal of rental business on offer. This was an unusual state of affairs, considering the present position of industry in this country, and he was not able to give any valid reasons for the increase in the business, beyond the fact that a considerable amount of it was due to improvements in their organisation. However, the fact remained that in the first five months of this year there was an increase of 48·4 per cent. in the number of telephones rented out. The directors considered that it would be extremely foolish on their part to curtail any opportunity of strengthening the backbone of the business—by which he meant the annual rents.

In spite of this increase in business, they might have paid a higher final dividend, but to do so would have necessitated borrowing from the bank, which shareholders might justifiably think would only be a temporary loan; therefore it would be advisable to explain, as clearly as possible, the difference between the nature of the company's business and that of an ordinary manufacturing or trading concern.

FINANCING OF THE COMPANY'S BUSINESS.

The practice of the banks here was to keep their funds in as liquid a state as possible. He thought they were right in their view, and this opinion was arrived at after having had a considerable experience of bank advances. It was quite legitimate and good business, to borrower and lender, to get an advance from a bank for the financing of important contracts, payments for which might be made, according to the terms of the contract, at stated intervals over the period of manufacture or erection, and the balance on satisfactory completion. The company's business was however, a totally different one. They invested capital in the material and labour required for a telephone installation on a customer's premises, which was analogous, on a small scale, to the public telephone service, the laying down of a railroad or any similar enterprise which had an earning capacity in revenue as compared with something that was manufactured and sold outright. The effect, therefore, of investing their own surplus profits, further capital, or bank advances, was that such investments, became what bankers would term "frozen assets," as they only got their revenue in the form of a rental over periods up to ten or twelve years. Part of this rental had to be earmarked for sinking fund purposes in order that, when a contract expired, they had in hand for renewed investment the capital cost involved under the contract. It would be understood from this explanation that if the company borrowed money from a banker for the purpose of expanding their business in the form of additional installations, the sum borrowed would become a "frozen asset," and any sudden demand on the part of the bank for repayment might necessitate the raising of capital on an expensive basis. Usually a bank demanded repayment when money was tight. It followed that any additional finance the company might require should not take the form of permanent capital or bank loans, but instead short-term notes or a short-term debenture.

However, the board did feel that full advantage of any new business on offer should be taken, as it so much strengthened the position of the company, and because, as would be seen from the profit and loss account, their rental revenue was so high to-day that any addition they could make to it would carry a greater ratio of profit than business done in the past, simply because all ordinary overhead expenses were borne out of the existing revenue.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously, and the payment of a final dividend of 2½ per cent. was approved.

TAQUAH AND ABOSSO MINES, LIMITED.

RECORD LOW COSTS.

The ordinary general meeting of this company was held, on June 26, at River Plate House, London.

Mr T. F. Dalglish (the chairman), in the course of his speech, said: The tonnage of ore treated was, for the reason stated in the report, 14,797 less than in the previous year, and the amount of gold recovery was £168,558, a reduction of £5,825. In the year 1928–29 the recovery was 30s. 2d. per ton, as compared with 33s. 5·3d. during the year now under review. On the other hand, the mine working costs, including development redemption, show a reduction of 1s. 1·6d. per ton. For the first two months of the current year, April and May, there is a further reduction of 2s. 11·1d. per ton. After deducting general expenditure, depreciation and other items, there is a credit balance of £2,760 carried to the balance sheet, from which is deducted the balance brought forward from the previous year, less the amount transferred to suspense account, leaving £267 to be brought into the current year's account.

Sinking of the internal shaft is proceeding to connect with No. 18 level now being opened from the bottom of the winze from No. 17 level. This connection will add materially to our reserves. Of equal importance, levels Nos. 16, 17 and 18 north are being pushed on in reef of good values. When the boreholes on No. 13 level north locates the reef, a large lateral development can be undertaken, the economical advantage of which is self-evident.

The benefit during the year of the introduction of jackhammers in large numbers into the mine and the conversion of our compressors to electric drive is reflected in the reduction of our costs. The difficulties at the start in finding a quality of steel for the bits suitable for our hard ore and the prejudice of the native workmen to anything new have been overcome, and we are now looking forward to maintaining a steady output of ore at about the present figures. During the months of April and May of the current financial year we have treated 9,400 tons and 9,600 tons respectively, and the estimated working profits, including development, have been £3,455 and £3,477. During the current month of June they will not be quite so much, as we had a stoppage of three days, due to a breakdown of the winding engine, which has since been put right. We, however, look forward to maintaining a fair average, month by month, during the current financial year. Now that the company is out of debt, these profits will be available for dividend and at present we see no reason why an interim dividend should not be paid before the end of 1930.

You will have observed that we have taken up an additional area north of the Cinnamon Bippo Concession which we hold. Part of the mine of the old Cinnamon Bippo Company, which is defunct, was situated in our concession of that name, and part of the workings extended beyond our border. As it would appear to us that a new era of possibilities has been opened on the Taquah Banket Reef by the use of jackhammers, we considered it advisable to secure a lease of this adjoining property, which would thus secure to us the whole of the ground opened up by the old Cinnamon Bippo Company and beyond. At the suggestion of Mr Campion, the records of that company have been submitted to a very experienced and well-known consulting engineer with considerable knowledge of the mining conditions of the Gold Coast Colony. He has examined these carefully and considers the proposition well worth serious consideration, having in view the geological knowledge obtained in the other mines working on this banket reef, and also the all-important reduction in working costs consequent upon the introduction of jackhammers. The records of the Mines Department show that between 1913 and 1918 a tonnage of 199,099 was crushed and £380,839 recovered, or an average of 38s. per ton. There should still remain 146,875 tons of ore, a good proportion of which could be stoped. Taquah and Abosso Mines, Ltd., can offer many advantages, particularly cheap power, for working this property.

In conclusion, I would repeat that you start the current year with a clean balance sheet. We are out of debt and our working costs have been reduced to the lowest figure experienced in the history of the company. Our ore reserves are at an adequate figure; the bottom of the mine is good and development generally is being pushed on.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SCRIBBANS AND COMPANY, LIMITED.

SATISFACTORY YEAR: PRODUCTS IN INCREASING DEMAND.

The third annual general meeting of Scribbans and Company, Ltd., was held, on the 26th instant, at the Hotel Victoria, London, W.C.

Mr Philip E. Hill (the chairman of the company) who presided, said that the profit for the year of £284,410, showed an increase over the previous year of £63,536. It was proposed to write off the balance of preliminary expenses amounting to £92,650, to place £35,000 to the credit of development account, and to pay final dividends on the ordinary shares and deferred shares, bringing the total distribution for the year to 7 per cent. and 19⅝ per cent. respectively, carrying forward £17,894. The new works in Ireland had been completed, and the business showed a satisfactory return, and the new biscuit works of the subsidiary would be in full working order before the end of the year.

Considerable cuts in the prices charged to the multiple shop companies to enable them successfully to combat competition, had reduced the profits of the company from that section of the business. The board had, however, increased the number of the company's lines, and had opened a large number of new accounts, and being satisfied that an increasing demand for their products existed, had decided to extend the present factory and plant. The biscuit business also undoubtedly possessed scope for expansion.

The allocation of the profits proposed indicated that as against a dividend distribution of £124,666, the sum of £109,264 was being retained in the business, and he might mention that during the past three years the sum of £185,000 had been written off in respect of preliminary expenses, in addition to creating the development account of £35,000 already referred to.

Generally, the business was in a much sounder condition to-day than a year ago; the linking of cakes and biscuits had proved a wise policy, and the decision to increase the number of the company's products should add additional strength. While the outlook was difficult, their business for the present year had so far been well maintained. Profitable expansion appeared possible, and as the company supplied the public with cheap and excellent food commodities, it was only reasonable to assume that they would do as well as most if not better than other people.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

WILLIAM CORY AND SON, LIMITED.

STEADY PROGRESS DESPITE COAL TRADE TROUBLES.

The thirty-fourth annual general meeting of William Cory and Son, Ltd., was held, on the 24th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London.

Sir A. C. Cory-Wright, Bart., the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the trading of the company had resulted in a profit of £733,687.

In spite of various adverse factors which they had had to encounter, and the difficulties and uncertainties that had arisen in the coal trade, brought about to a large extent in anticipation of the Coal Mines Bill, it was gratifying to be able to present a statement of accounts which reflected a very satisfactory position, and which showed that, although there was a slight decrease in the profits earned by the company, it still continued to maintain its record of steady progress.

The company's liquid assets were a source of great strength, enabling the board to take advantage of any favourable opportunity that might occur of extending the company's present trade and finding fresh outlets for profitable development, and during the last few years numerous occasions had presented themselves of making judicious investments in undertakings that had proved useful adjuncts to their business.

He was pleased to be able to report that in practically every branch of their trade they were able to show an increase in the tonnage handled, which, in view of the indifferent trading conditions that had prevailed, both in this country and in all those countries abroad where the company had an established business, was very satisfactory. With very few exceptions all the company's subsidiary companies had returned satisfactory dividends. In all their subsidiary companies the balance sheets were drawn up on the same conservative lines as the parent company, and in every case ample depreciation had been provided and large reserve funds were held.

In his opinion, the coal trade, if it had been left to itself, would have pulled through. It was, in fact, gradually emerging successfully from a long period of unparalleled difficulties, and at great financial cost to the collieries and much sacrifice the turning-point in their fortunes had definitely set in.

It was very pleasing to feel that, whatever might be the difficulties which the Coal Mines Bill would bring to their colliery friends in all districts, the very happy relations which had for so long existed between them and the company were not likely to be in any way disturbed.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Government Returns, &c.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS.

The following table shows the national income and expenditure during the week ended June 21, 1930:—

(000's omitted.)

EXPENDITURE.	£	RECEIPTS.	£
Supply Services	5,550	From Revenue	15,039
Interest, &c., on Debt	15,261	Increase in Debt	7,168
Sinking Fund	1,319	Decrease in Balances	22
Sundries	99		
	22,229		22,229

Total ordinary revenue for the week ended June 21, 1930, amounted to £15,039,300, as compared with £12,325,300 for corresponding week a year ago. Estate, &c., duties yielded £3,830,000, against £1,960,000. Customs amounted to £2,500,000, as against £2,536,000. Excise produced £7,285,000, against £7,041,000. Receipts from Sundry Loans amounted to £1,550,000, against £175,000. Miscellaneous Receipts were £1,112,200, against £485,300.

The National Debt was increased by £7,167,400, as shown below:—

(000's omitted.)

	£		£
Bank of England Advances	− 8,750	5% Conversion Loan	+ 198
		Treasury Bills	+ 4,579
		National Savings Certificates	+ 150
		Public Department Advances	+ 10,99
	− 8,750		+ 15,917

The Floating Debt was increased by £6,810,000 to £686,915,000.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31, APRIL 1 TO JUNE 21.

	£		£
Expenditure	194,552,882	Revenue	128,545,073
Sinking Fund	8,744,881	Decreases in balances	3,640,594
		Net Amount borrowed	71,112,096
	203,297,763		203,297,763

ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 1930–31.

	£		£
Expenditure	731,809,000*	Revenue	789,445,000†
Sinking Fund	55,400,000		
Surplus	2,236,000		
	789,445,000		789,445,000†

* This figure includes the Exchequer Contributions of £44,507,000 to Local Revenues, &c.

† Including appropriation of £16,000,000 from Rating Relief Suspense Account.

SELF-BALANCING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
Post Office	60,275,000
Road Fund	23,560,000
	83,835,000

RATING RELIEF SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Balance on April 1, 1930	20,103,000	Estimated balance of cost of anticipating rate relief for Agriculture	103,000
		To be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1930	16,000,000
		Estimated balance to be appropriated in aid of Revenue, 1931	4,000,000
	20,103,000		20,103,000

NATIONAL DEBT—(Million £).

	Aug. 1, 1914.	Dec. 31, 1919.	Mar. 31, 1926.	Mar. 31, 1927.	Mar. 31, 1928.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1929.	Mar. 31, 1930.	June 21, 1930.
2½% and 2¾% Consols	573	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Other Funded Debt	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Term Annuities	30	20	13	12	12	12	12	12	12
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	166	204	354	354	353	353
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	760	740	832	811	811	790	790
4½% Conversion Loan	...	...	211	211	221	223	223	267	313
5% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	324	324
3½% War Stock	...	63	63	63	...	...	...	...	...
4½% War Stock	...	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
4% and 5% War Stock	...	2,047	2,109	2,154	2,253	2,264	2,264	2,171	2,171
National War Bonds	...	1,509	706	556	194	...	...	...	...
4% Funding Loan	...	409	390	389	385	381	381	377	377
4% Victory Bonds	...	360	292	277	261	246	246	235	235
Treasury Bonds	...	...	482	454	675	681	600	541	516
Exchequer Bonds	20	323	15	15	16	16	16	...	...
National Savings Certs.	...	267	375	372	362	361	359	358	358
Other Debt*	...	1,306	1,111	1,103	1,097	1,087	1,082	1,076	1,076
American Loan (Anglo-French)	...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Treasury Bills	15	1,107	565	599	527	700	780	589	623
Temporary Advances	1	243	139	117	162	37	77	49	64
	654	8,033	7,558	7,555	7,528	7,500	7,676	7,469	7,539
Other Capital Liabilities	57	46	75	98	103	120	113	127	127
Total Liabilities	711	8,079	7,633	7,653	7,631	7,620	7,789	7,596	7,666

* Includes debt to American Government.

POSITION OF THE FLOATING DEBT

	June 22, '29.	Mar. 31, '30.	June 21, '30.	Movement, week ended June 21, '30.
	£	£	£	£
Ways and Means Advances Outstanding —	...	...	...	— 8.750.000
Advances by Bank of England...	...	...	...	— 8.750.000
Advances by Public Departments	51,155,000	48,530,000	64,020,000	+ 10,990,000
Treasury Bills outstanding	755,925,000	588,885,000	622,895000*	+ 4,570,000
Total Floating Debt	807,080,000	637,415,000	686,915,000	+ 6,810,000

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

TREASURY BILLS BY PUBLIC TENDER.

Tenders for £35,000,000 in Treasury Bills were opened on June 20, 1930, and the total amount applied for was £53,090,000. Tenders were accepted for bills at three months, dated Monday to Friday, at £99 7s. 7d., about 4⅛ per cent., and Saturday at £99 7s. 9d. and above in full. The amounts allotted were in bills at three months, £35,000,000.

Date.	Amount Offered.	Amount Applied For.	Treasury Bills at 3 Months. Average Rate.
1930.	£	£	£ s. d.
April 25	30,000,000	46,380,000	2 8 1·80
May 2	30,000,000	52,235,000	2 1 5·99
May 9	35,000,000	47,225,000	2 2 2·50
May 16	30,000,000	37,750,000	2 1 9·78
May 23	35,000,000	48,275,000	2 3 5 74
May 30	45,000,000	54,260,000	2 2 0·65
June 6	40,000,000	44,515,000	2 3 6·59
June 13	35,000,000	39,375,000	2 8 10 06
June 20	35,000,000	53,090,000	2 8 11·88

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

RECEIPTS INTO AND ISSUES OUT OF THE EXCHEQUER.

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1930, to June 21, 1930.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1929, to June 22, 1929.	Week Ended June 21, 1930.	Week Ended June 22, 1929.
ORDINARY REVENUE				
Inland Revenue—	£	£	£	£
Income Tax	20,618,000	19,417,000	311,000	200,000
Sur-tax Including Arrears of Super-Tax	9,520,000	8,040,000	440,000	320,000
Estate, &c., Duties	21,580,000	20,400,000	3,830,000	1,960,000
Stamps	3,390,000	4,740,000	40,000	760,000
Excess Profits Duties and Corporation Profits Tax	...	10,000	...	...
Land Tax and Mineral Rights Duty, &c.	110,000	120,000	...	...
Total Inland Revenue	55,218,000	52,727,000	4,621,000	3,240,000
Customs and Excise—				
Customs	26,372,000	27,184,000	2,500,000	2,536,000
Excise	28,400,000	29,398,000	7,285,000	7,041,000
Total Customs and Excise	54,772,000	56,582,000	9,785,000	9,577,000
Motor Vehicle Duties Exchequer Share)	801,088	962,000	*Dr278,912*	*Dr152,000*
Post Office (Net Receipt)	2,800,000	2,850,000	*Dr1750000*	*Dr1000000*
Crown Lands	240,000	250,000	...	...
Receipts from Sundry Loans	9,383,453	7,403,624	1,549,999	175,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	5,330,532	6,467,980	1,112,213	485,328
Total Ordinary Revenue	128,545,073	127,242,604	15,039,300	12,325,328
SELF-BALANCING REVENUE.				
Post Office	12,700,000	12,250,000	2,000,000	1,900,000
Motor Vehicle Duties apportioned to Road Fund	3,558,912	3,359,000	278,912	255,000
Total Self-Balancing Revenue	16,258,912	15,609,000	2,278,912	2,155,000
Total	144,803,985	142,851,604	17,318,212	14,480,328
OTHER RECEIPTS.				
Temporary Advances Repaid—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	...	...	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920 to 1930	...	210,000	...	120,000
Money Raised by Creation of Debt—				
(a) For Capital Expenditure Issues: Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	...	...	...	...
(b) Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,560,000	910,000	...	...
(c) For other Issues:				
By Treasury Bills	574,949,000	709,659,000	47,594,000	51,588,000
By 4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	46,541,883	...	...	...
By 5 per cent. Conversion Loan 1944–64	198,395	...	198,395	...
By National Savings Certificates	10,050,000	9,500,000	800,000	750,000
By 4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	...	26,123,092	...	3,092
(d) Ways and Means Advances	156,910,000	175,975,000	16,700,000	4,000,000
Repayments—				
In respect of Issues under Land Settlement (Facilities) Acts, 1919 and 1921	49,389	36,571	...	...
Balances in Exchequer on 1st April:—	1930. £ / 1929. £			
Bank of England	5,504,595 / 5,515,917			
Bank of Ireland	620,619 / 736,607	6,125,214	6,252,524	...	...
Total		943,187,866	1,071,517,791	82,610,607	70,941,420

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1930, to June 21, 1930.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet Payments from Apr. 1, 1929, to June 22, 1929.	Issues Week Ended June 21, 1930.	Issues Week Ended June 22, 1929.
ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£	£
Interest and Management of National Debt	107,161,934	112,286,608	15,260,930	1,323,410
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	...	...	...	...
Payments to Northern Ireland Exchequer	927,952	744,745	44,965	...
Other Consolidated Fund Services	494,196	1,069,168	53,750	177,350
Supply Services (excluding Post Office)	85,968,800	69,387,910	5,550,000	6,797,300
Total Ordinary Expenditure	194,552,882	183,488,431	20,909,645	8,298,060
Sinking Fund	8,744,881	9,621,067	1,319,000	1,216,000
SELF-BALANCING EXPENDITURE.				
Post Office	12,700,000	12,250,000	2,000,000	1,900,000
Road Fund	3,558,912	3,359,000	278,912	255,000
Total Self-Balancing Expenditure	16,258,912	15,609,000	2,278,912	2,155,000
TOTAL	219,556,675	208,718,498	24,507,557	11,669,060
OTHER ISSUES.				
Temporary Advances—				
Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	18,458	18,458	...	...
Under the Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930	3,560,000	910,000	...	...
Issues to meet Capital Expenditure—				
Under the Post Office and Telegraph (Money) Act, 1928	2,150,000	1,950,000	...	...
Unemployment Insurance Acts, 1920 to 1930—				
Repayment of Amounts Borrowed	...	210,000	...	120,000
Redemption of Debt—				
Treasury Bills paid off	540,930,000	654,015,000	43,015,000	52,490,000
Principal of National Savings Certificates paid off	8,500,000	9,750,000	650,000	700,000
Principal of Treasury Bonds paid off	24,568,113	29,309,505	...	...
Ways and Means Advances Repaid	141,420,000	161,870,000	14,460,000	6,150,000
Depreciation Fund under the Finance Act, 1917	...	2,219,787	...	...
	940,703,246	1,068,971,248	82,632,557	71,129,060
Balances in Exchequer—	June 21, 1930. £	June 22, 1929. £		
Bank of England	2,039,829	2,020,066	...	... — 82,950	— 245,640
Bank of Ireland	444,791	526,477	2,484,620	2,546,543	+ 61,000	+ 58,000
Total			943,187,866	1,071,517,791	— 21,950	— 187,640

Treasury, June 23, 1930.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Return for Week ended Wednesday, June 25, 1930.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued—		Government Debt	11,015,100
In Circulation	358,531,877	Other Government Securities	232,893,998
In Banking Department	58,350,001	Other Securities	11,628,881
		Silver Coin	4,462,021
		Amount of Fiduciary Issue	260,000,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	156,881,878
	£416,881,878		£416,881,878

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	48,855,547
Rest	3,385,313	Other Securities—	
Public Deposits*	21,504,850	Discounts and Advances ... £15,899,161	
Other Deposits—		Securities ... 15,340,231	
Bankers ... £63,776,222			31,239,392
Other Accounts 36,113,767		Notes	58,350,001
	99,889,989	Gold and Silver Coin	891,412
T-Day and other Bills	3,200		
	£139,336,352		£139,336,352

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

Both Departments.	Amount, June 25, 1930.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Week.	Inc. or Dec. on Last Year.
	£	£	£
Note circulation	358,531,877	— 715,332	— 4,201,008
Public deposits	21,504,850	+ 4,927,240	— 3,209,555
Bankers' deposits	63,776,222	+ 5,444,688	— 3,644,043
Other deposits	36,113,767	+ 426,515	— 45,732
Seven-day bills	3,200	— 140	+ 846
Total, outside liabilities	479,929,916	+ 10,082,970	— 11,099,492
Capital and rest	17,938,313	+ 80,741	— 15,605
Government debt and securities	292,764,645	+ 2,384,375	+ 8,194,426
Discounts and advances	15,899,161	+ 8,800,370	— 11,088,551
Other securities	26,969,112	— 1,300,601	— 5,417,079
Silver coin in issue department	4,462,021	— 4,196	— 370,106
Coin and bullion (bank's reserve)	157,773,290	+ 283,765	— 2,433,787
Reserve of notes and coin in banking department	59,241,413	+ 999,095	+ 1,767,221
Proportion of reserve to outside liabilities—			
(a) Banking department only ("proportion")	48⅜%	—3½%	+ 4%
(b) Gold stocks to deposits and notes ("reserve ratio")	32⅛%	— ⅛%	+ ⅛%

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Issue Department. Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Banking Department. Bankers' Deposits.	Banking Department. Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate.
1930.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%
May 7	423,572,470	358,490,698	16,211,092	68,534,385	36,034,433	223,057 in	3
14	422,383,588	356,454,998	24,547,936	58,310,637	36,457,341	1,193,501 in	3
21	417,498,068	354,694,062	21,177,728	57,836,199	37,235,455	4,902,113 out	3
28	417,185,525	356,131,548	13,241,450	58,963,730	35,906,848	316,679 out	3
June 4	415,988,589	359,798,602	8,877,942	71,081,853	36,908,849	1,208,775 out	3
11	416,261,457	364,002,267	8,238,879	58,822,236	35,383,438	269.124 in	3
18	416,610,010	359,247,209	16,577,610	58,331,534	35,687,253	346,983 in	3
25	416,881,878	358,531,877	21,504,850	63,776,222	36,113,767	237,586 in	3

Date.	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Issue Department. Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Banking Department. Discounts & Advances.	Banking Department. Other Securities.	Banking Department. Reserve & the "Proportion."
1930.	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	%
May 7	243909004	11628697	164502394	34	56362629	6554872	9609075	66011696	54⅜
14	243908931	11629179	163347877	34	52792629	6403528	10989410	66892879	56
21	243910248	11629318	158443549	33⅛	49787629	6837628	13642672	63749487	54⅜
28	243909976	11629071	158116699	34	45577629	6805493	11515774	61985151	57
June 4	243907347	11629215	156879085	32⅛	58380547	6476057	12716840	57080483	48⅛
11	243907347	11629173	157180407	33⅛	46310547	6804409	13943043	53178140	51⅛
18	243904723	11629060	157489527	33⅛	46475547	7098791	16640653	58242318	52⅛
25	243909098	11628881	157773290	32⅛	48855547	15899161	15340231	59241413	48⅛

BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS (000's omitted).

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
1930.	£	£	£	£
January 1 to June 11	18,030,862	840,678	1,368,909	20,240,449
Week ended June 18	755,946	33,668	56,515	846,129
Week ended June 25	648,741	32,168	53,587	734,496
Total to date, 1930	19,435,549	906,514	1,479,011	21,821,074
Total to date, 1929	19,345,578	930,250	1,506,121	21,782,349
Increase or decrease in 1930	+ 89,971 = 0·4%	— 24,136 = 2·5%	— 27,110 = 1·8%	+ 38,725 = 0·17%
Total for year, 1929	39,935,924	1,881,789	3,078,764	44,896,477
Do. 1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
Increase or decrease in 1929	+ 624,807 = 1·6%	+ 27,599 = 1·5%	+ 39,342 = 1·3%	+ 691,751 = 1·6%

PROVINCIAL CLEARING RETURNS.

	Month of May. 1929.	Month of May. 1930.	Month of May. %	Aggregate Weekly Totals Jan. 1 to June 21. 1929.	Aggregate Weekly Totals Jan. 1 to June 21. 1930.
Number of Working days	26	27			
	£	£		£	£
BIRMINGHAM	10,216,000	11,403,000	+11·6	65,694,600	62,510,700
BRADFORD	5,124,000	3,544,000	—30·8	29,707,400	22,223,700
BRISTOL	4,808,000	5,098,000	+ 6·0	29,703.000	27,331,000
DUBLIN	...	...	...	121,796,800	121,543,000
HULL	3,386,000	3,475,000	+ 2·6	21,710,500	20,024,900
LEEDS	4,245,000	4,294,000	+ 1·1	25,009,100	24,027,800
LEICESTER	3,070,000	2,973,000	— 3·1	19.836.300	17,845,300
LIVERPOOL	33,049,000	27,610,000	—16·4	197,515,000	169,262,900
MANCHESTER	51,107,000	45,726,000	—10·5	319,119,100	274,204,100
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE	6,373,000	6,383,000	+ 0·1	36,326,200	35,879,700
NOTTINGHAM	2,536,000	2,492,000	— 0·7	15,770,300	14,857,200
SHEFFIELD	4,210,000	4,010,000	— 4·5	24,982,000	22,902,700
Total	128,124,000	117,018,000	— 8·6	...	...

OVERSEAS BANK RETURNS.

NOTE.—The latest Return of Bank of Danzig appeared in the *Economist* May 24; Banks of Roumania, Lithuania, and Denmark June 14; Egypt, Latvia, Japan, Chile, Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland in June 21.

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

RESOURCES.	June 28, 1929.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
Total gold reserve	2,895,510	3,060,580	3,079,500	3,067,200	3,059,170
Total bills discounted	1,016,750	239,730	210,480	206,790	231,510
Bills bought in open market	82,840	189,240	148,170	132,780	102,310
Total U.S. Govt. securities	149,530	543,830	578,710	597,650	576,970
Total bills and securities	1,262,430	978,650	943,210	942,570	916,040
Total resources	5,147,480	4,973,470	4,951,200	5,049,930	4,879,940
LIABILITIES.					
Federal Reserve notes in actual circulation	1,658,500	1,457,320	1,447,000	1,419,270	1,402,870
Deposits—Memberbank—reserve account	2,343,810	2,411,730	2,408,800	2,408,360	2,386,430
Total deposits	2,419,660	2,464,520	2,463,200	2,464,630	2,459,380
Capital paid in and surplus	413,000	447,510	447,490	446,630	446,670
Total liabilities	5,147,480	4,973,470	4,951,200	5,049,930	4,879,940
Ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined	85·3%	82·2%	83·0%	83·3%	83·7%

NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.—In $'s (000's omitted).

	June 28, 1929.	June 5, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
Total bills discounted	317,590	48,570	28,140	124,080	38,150
Bills bought in open market	14,170	74,650	40,750	35,670	10,160
Total U.S. Govt. securities	24,570	182,880	200,530	211,470	179,940
Total bills and securities	362,140	309,950	273,260	274,570	231,500
Deposits — Memberbank — reserve account	962,820	999,540	1,005,500	997,220	1,001,970
Ratio of total res. to dep. and Federal Res. note liabilities combined	77·2%	81·8%	85·7%	85·9%	88·9%

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN BANKS.—In $'s (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Mar. 31, 1929.	Dec. 31, 1930.	Jan. 31, 1930.	Feb. 28, 1930.	Mar. 31, 1930.
Cash and bank balances	448,105	468,789	391,344	382,614	403,399
Bank balances abroad	88,219	101,652	88,066	83,959	82,029
Call and short loans	559,971	507,461	449,171	427,541	414,786
Securities	523,529	448,410	431,312	422,953	417,664
Loans in Canada	1,412.022	1,531,720	1,499,100	1,481,748	1,474,382
Loans abroad	265,455	250,638	257,516	266,219	278,843
Other assets	196,787	212,419	204,404	205,053	193,771
LIABILITIES.					
Note circulation	188.726	175,497	156,062	158,630	162,861
Deposits—					
Goverament	190.294	173,305	132,339	112,152	123,393
Public in Canada	2,161,382	2,163,720	2,084,327	2,061,271	2,061,080
Foreign	398,742	441,622	400,764	394,136	397,424
Bank balances—					
Canadian	17,304	14,865	14,450	13,545	14,412
Foreign	122.844	107.983	96,050	88,131	73,305
Bills payable, &c.	106.404	120,785	107,790	108,215	95,520
Capital and rest	277,923	301,029	302,445	303,195	304,312
Other liabilities	3,218	5,480	5.836	7,864	5,197

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

ASSETS.	May 30, 1929.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 30, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	8,257	7,512	7,090	6,935	6,866	7,252
Subsidiary coin	94	131	154	163	165	158
Bills discounted	9,404	8,220	7,934	7,923	7,955	8,323
Investments	616	1,104	1,109	1,110	1,111	1,121
LIABILITIES.						
Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Reserve	600	600	719	720	720	720
Notes in circulation	9,709	8,946	8,048	7,565	7,429	8,979
Government deposits	2,050	1,499	1,547	2,113	2,256	1,565
Bankers' deposits	4,994	5,270	4,789	5,309	4,955	5,075
Ratio of cash reserves to liabilities to public	47·1%	47·9%	48·4%	46·5%	46·5%	46·0%

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.—In rupees (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	May 31, 1929.	May 2, 1930.	May 9, 1930.	May 16, 1930.	May 23, 1930.	May 30, 1930.
Total securities	23,68,38	29,81,46	29,69,74	29,58,41	29,54,65	29,51,97
Loans	10,80,04	12,97,61	13,42,04	13,61,73	13,88,47	12,71,60
Cash credits	28,73,65	32,20,38	32,72,23	32,10,01	32,30,62	32,54,76
Inland bills	6,59,55	5,45,12	4,92,91	4,98,86	4,58,20	4,29,38
Foreign bills	30.06	58,48	52,64	48.61	51,77	47,21
Dead stock	2,85,40	2,81,32	2,81,60	2,81,85	2,82,22	2,82,23
Bal. with other banks	18,82	10,26	5.66	35.16	37,87	32,33
Cash	19,21,72	15,79,91	13,29,17	15,44,16	14,28,91	14,17,00
LIABILITIES.						
Capital paid up	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50	5,62,50
Reserve	5,22,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50	5,32,50
Total deposits	80,81,69	86,37,99	84,07,07	85,99,28	84,87,29	83,43,87
The above includes—	£	£	£	£	£	£
Deposits in London	940	1,000	942	1,074	1,090	1,085
Advances in London	922	2,279	2,202	2,138	2,124	2,128
Cash, &c., at other Banks in London	139	69	44	264	273	244

BANK OF FRANCE.—In francs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 21, 1929.	May 30, 1930.	June 6, 1930.	June 13, 1930.	June 20, 1930.
Gold	36,616,599	43,808,866	43,817,560	43,899,986	44,004,890
Foreign assets—					
Sight deposits	7,254,755	6,872,940	6,878,201	6,864,153	6,820,285
Bills discounted	18,469,689	18,696,344	18,683,501	18,683,760	18,787,363
Commercial bills discounted at home	6,366,589	7,611,582	4,923,900	4,863,843	4,807,629
Advances against sec. To the State	8,968,689	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858	8,594,858
Other advances	2,344,757	2,540,751	2,720,394	2,734,344	2,720,875
Other assets (excluding forward exch.)	3,447,932	2,713,879	3,008,668	2,847,720	3,135,382
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	62,970,649	73,078,814	72,558,993	71,936,033	71,486,224
Public deposits	11,410,130	5,363,093	4,952,042	5,450,835	5,018,873
Private deposits	6,519.888	9,688,320	8,214,780	8,279,835	9,001,269
Other liabilities	2,578,343	2,708,993	2,901,267	2,620,961	3,281,438

THE REICHSBANK.—In Reichsmarks* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 22, 1929.	June 6, 1930.	June 14, 1930.	June 23, 1930.
Reichsbank shares not yet issued	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Gold and bullion	1,764,327	2,618,781	2,618.787	2,618,921
Of which deposited abroad	59,147	149,788	149,788	149,788
Reserve in foreign currencies	330,746	379,754	422,206	457,373
Bills of exchange and cheques	2,481,510	1,803,516	1,543,825	1,348,070
Silver and other coin	144,706	131,321	151,998	170,835
Notes of other German banks	19,440	12,172	17,014	21,410
Advances	92,609	67,113	50,064	55,231
Investments	92,888	101,046	101,026	101,022
Other assets	480,142	612,753	619,951	620,500
LIABILITIES.				
Reduced capital	122,788	122,788	122,788	122,788
Increase of capital (shares not yet issued)	177,212	177,212	177,212	177,212
Reserve	319,608	371,139	371,139	371,139
Notes in circulation	4,068,747	4,572,744	4,278,808	4,037,982
Other daily maturing obligations	579,210	448,833	537,365	548,632
Other liabilities	316,015	210,952	219,771	212,870

* Equal to one billion paper marks or one Rentenmark.
The gold reserve is calculated in accordance with the new legal prescription of one pound of fine gold equals 1,392 Reichsmarks.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.—In Belgas (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 28, 1914.	June 20, 1929.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 12, 1930.	June 19, 1930.
Gold	(b)	999,631	1,199,765	1,199,846	1,200,292	1,201,638
Foreign Bills and Balances Abroad	232,650	456,482	672,455	706,540	714,840	715,032
Silver and other coin		1,693	4,091	4,110	4,112	4,012
Securities	697,800	730,260	830,211	803,892	785,410	769,956
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	934,150	2,449,975	2,909,367	2,922,749	2,919,512	2,885,076
Current accounts	112,125	97,601	120,459	93,634	125,807	134,533

(b) In thousand francs.

BANK OF JAVA.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914	June 22, 1929.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.	June 21, 1930.
Gold	29,971	161,429	166,300	166,700	163,500	163,800
Silver	29,785	21,454				
Discounts, advances, and other investments		77,567	155,152	147,500	141,400	147,500	150,200
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	109,499	304,670	272,700	276,400	279,300	276,309
Deposits and bills payable	11,250	43,483	49,400	49,600	47,400	50,628

NETHERLANDS BANK.—In florins (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	June 17, 1929.	May 26, 1930.	June 2, 1930.	June 10, 1930.	June 16, 1930.
Gold	163,092	436,788	431,912	431,936	431,931	431,927
Silver	8,436	21,356	26,824	26,026	25,593	26,210
Home Bills discntd.	153,504	65,386	52,407	52,422	52,386	51,898
Foreign Bills		172,235	236,194	237,394	237,432	237,518
Loans and advances in current acct...		94,067	91,181	95,797	91,857	89,084
LIABILITIES.						
Notes in circulation	316,632	788,661	804,242	846,860	817,164	806,568
Deposits	5,016	15,007	54,240	25,003	44,757	53,595

BANK OF ITALY.—In lire (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 10, 1929.	Apr. 30, 1930.	May 10, 1930.	May 20, 1930.	June 10, 1930.
Gold, coin and bullion	5,126,000	5,203,600	5,203,600	5,205,600	5,205,700
Foreign bills and balances abroad	4,925,700	5,025,100	5,072,300	5,078,800	5,023,000
Other cash	240,600	224,300	226,300	229,200	224,200
Gold deposited abroad due by the State	1,824,700	1,799,700	1,799,700	1,797,800	1,797,800
Discounts	3,577,200	2,974,700	2,911,500	2,883,000	2,742,000
Advances	1,323,800	1,383,600	1,181,000	847,900	963,400
Credit with "Istituto di Liquidazioni"	1,045,000	755,400	755,400	755,400	753,000
Government securities	1,058,100	1,063,200	1,062,800	1,083,700	1,139,500
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	16,108,000	16,862,400	15,854,200	15,593,300	15,755,700
Public deposits	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other deposits and drafts	1,660,400	1,509,900	1,393,500	1,544,000	1,445,800
Ratio of reserve to note and sight liabilities combined	55·63%	57·23%	58·56%	58·92%	58·45%

BANK OF NORWAY.—In kroner (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May 31, 1914.	June 15, 1929.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 16, 1930.
Coin and bullion—Gold	44,224	146,786	146,590	146,576	146,574
Balance abroad and foreign bills	28,533	41,780	41,092	41,596	37,152
Norwegian and Foreign Government securities	8,816	11,393	36,230	36,230	36,230
Discounts and loans	76,911	267,443	231,670	223,970	220,525
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	113,484	305,414	307,793	303,993	304,825
Deposits at sight	7,188	98,251	82,541	82,333	73,870

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

ASSETS.	Position, May 30,1914.	June 22, 1929.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.	June 21, 1930.
Gold	521,775	2,561,262	2,470,575	2,470,810	2,470,894	2,471,044
Silver	728,600	722,317	718,312	715,231	716,317	718,602
Loans & Discounts	800,725	2,036,363	2,012,143	2,012,782	1,979,072	1,948,780
Spanish 4% stock	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475	344,475
Advcs. to Treasury	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
LIABILITIES.						
Circulation	901,550	4,234,918	4,391,123	4,444,652	4,403,045	4,360,957
Deposits	477,500	927,815	841,708	828,028	805,448	810,633

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

ASSETS.	June 12, 1929.	May 21, 1930.	May 28, 1930.	June 4, 1930.	June 11, 1930.
Coin and bullion	9,693	9,014	8,996	8,963	8,953
Of which gold	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577	8,577
Balances abroad	290,225	217,119	218,011	223,411	222,764
Discounts	284,128	323,415	323,429	317,140	317,111
Government loans	1,708,422	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684	1,530,684
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	1,851,150	1,862,107	1,861,281	1,893,763	1,902,089
Deposits	49,597	73,312	101,467	70,483	71,335

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL BANK.—In schillings (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Cash Reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	168,634	168,557	168,557	168,549	168,549
Foreign exchange	191,616	235,103	257,702	253,930	256,391
Other foreign exchange†	340,169	368,981	393,765	389,461	391,316
Bills discounted	204,226	87,796	132,675	112,879	89,320
Gov. Debt	109,714	101,532	101,532	101,487	101,487
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
Reserve fund	9,283	10,272	10,272	10,272	10,272
Notes in circulation	921,668	845,418	1,021,864	961,830	922,503
Deposits	95,485	123,941	39,137	70,986	91,513

† In dollar and sterling only.

NATIONAL BANK OF HUNGARY.—In Hungarian Pengo (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Metal reserve—					
Gold coin and bullion	176,624	162,632	162,633	162,633	162,633
Drafts and notes	11,859	12,227	18,805	21,773	25,002
Silver coin and bullion	9,780	10,317	9,905	9,757	9,820
Inland bills, warrants and securities	355,637	198,389	219,584	206,187	194,145
Advances to the Treasury	92,180	82,831	82,831	82,797	82,797
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital (gold crowns 30,000,000*)	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,756	34,796
Notes in circulation	398,086	368,051	440,940	407,006	393,363
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	199,996	76,061	30,895	54,120	66,697

* Calculated at pre-war parity of exchange.

NATIONAL BANK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—In Cz. K. (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,206,259	1,296,095	1,312,688	1,312,923	1,312,859
Balance abroad and foreign currency	1,710,615	1,987,199	2,052,341	2,065,789	2,078,565
Discounts and advances	581,853	318,860	318,934	309,480	304,233
State notes debt balance	3,989,367	3,671,197	3,666,385	3,659,182	3,658,163
Other assets	678,158	677,614	778,951	764,107	760,084
LIABILITIES.					
Bank notes in circulation	6,706,417	6,073,892	6,895,514	6,565,894	6,363,732
Check account balances	736,807	1,126,218	490,840	801,589	1,003,684
Other liabilities	250,434	242,467	234,557	235,610	238,100

NATIONAL BANK OF JUGOSLAVIA.—In dinar (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 22, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 8, 1930.	June 15 1930.
Gold	92,953	96,917	97,019	97,133	97,196
Other coin and notes	18,035	18,717	18,022	18,312	18,486
Foreign credits	201,251	252,229	251,659	278,669	220,873
Bills	1,202,604	1,093,883	1,067,716	1,101,709	1,110,622
Government advances	4,201,087	4,117,498	4,113,407	4,092,441	4,090,442
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	5,025,759	5,866,342	5,280,705	5,272,303	5,204,860
State credits	227,839	171,938	167,950	165,951	163,951
Deposits	976,609	1,946,612	1,658,176	1,658,684	1,514,955

NATIONAL BANK OF BULGARIA.—In levs (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Gold and silver holdings	1,534,984	1,580,208	1,581,367	1,583,129	1,584,339
Balances abroad and foreign currencies	1,925,917	805,802	857,689	934,246	938,803
Discounts and advances	1,543,294	1,005,275	982,888	969,522	938,291
Advances to the Treasury	3,625,241	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302	3,339,302
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Reserves	1,172,512	1,253,624	1,253,724	1,253,362	1,253,368
Bank notes in circulation	3,981,559	3,409,092	3,364,123	3,501,957	3,439,451
Sight liabilities	2,651,304	1,576,959	1,705,562	1,577,060	1,569,795
Deposits	455,544	308,852	288,427	288,262	288,112

BANK OF GREECE.—In drachmae (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Gold	588,160	612,857	603,099	591,449	592,072
Gold exchange	5,473,429	3,727,863	3,783,277	3,615,168	3,631,141
Other foreign exchange	1,039	3,232	3,023	2,542	3,669
Bills discounted	39,936	94,926	97,183	100,685	102,123
Advances	81,765	141,902	143,566	141,318	141,642
Debt to the State	3,656,305	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763	3,488,763
LIABILITIES.					
Capital paid up	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Notes in circulation	5,466,700	4,886,407	4,942,696	4,921,674	4,851,340
Deposits and current accounts	1,715,946	1,420,501	1,460,035	1,399,108	1,542,247
Foreign exchange liabilities	2,306,219	1,171,298	1,118,844	1,015,570	971,841

BANK OF POLAND.—In zloty* (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 10, 1929.	May 10, 1930.	May 20, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 10, 1930.
Gold	625,003	702,234	702,290	702,355	702,459
Of which held abroad	195,402	219,046	219,046	219,046	219,046
Foreign currencies	519,361	416,968	391,428	379,979	380,940
Bills discounted	733,064	593,137	583,198	594,354	573,752
Loans against securities	91,758	80,061	79,849	87,418	82,488
Reserve fund securities	68,951	83,162	83,162	84,150	84,150
Liability of the Treasury	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
LIABILITIES.					
Share capital	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Reserve funds	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Notes in circulation	1,214	1,255,861	1,200,609	1,332,684	1,260,346
Current accounts	525,601	354,376	378,054	252,388	307,918
Government accounts	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000

* As from October 13, 1927, 8·91 zlotys equals 1 U.S. dollar.

BANK OF FINLAND.—In F. Marks (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	Position, May30,1914.	June 14, 1929.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 14, 1930.
Gold	35,091	301,477	302,824	302,516	302,264
Balance abroad and foreign bills	90,379	563,614	1,170,595	1,206,912	1,164,108
Finnish and Foreign Government securities	21,826	301,707	351,441	347,556	347,556
Discounts and loans	105,151	1,526,988	903,292	868,490	861,373
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	123,941	1,469,837	1,391,667	1,388,006	1,364,751
Deposits at notice	21,225	144,038	221,879	222,278	177,978

BANK OF ESTONIA.—In Est. krones (000's omitted).

ASSETS.	June 15, 1929.	May 23, 1930.	May 31, 1930.	June 7, 1930.	June 15, 1930.
Gold coin and bullion	6,306	6,493	6,500	6,503	6,508
Net foreign exchange	18,498	17,117	16,918	15,943	16,066
Subsidiary Estonian coin	764	1,553	1,606	1,717	1,812
Home bills discounted	14,238	14,502	14,620	14,451	14,115
Loans and advances	13,178	11,746	12,008	11,724	11,339*
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in circulation	31,158	31,645	30,812	29,904	28,870
Sight deposits and current accounts	16,485	14,537	15,503	16,441	17,423
Ratio of reserve to current liabilities	52·06%	51·12%	50·56%	48·43%	48·45%

* Includes Ekr. 6,958,926·74, guaranteed by the Government.

LONDON RATES.

	Jne. 19, 1930.	Jne. 20, 1930.	Jne. 21, 1930.	Jne. 23, 1930.	Jne. 24, 1930.	Jne. 25, 1930.	Jne. 26, 1930.
Bank rate (changed from 3½% May 3, 1930)	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3	% 3
Market rates of discount—							
60 days' bankers' drafts	2 7/16–½	2 7/16–½	2 7/16	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16	2 9/16
3 months' do.	2 7/16–½	2 7/16–½	2 7/16	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16
4 months' do.	2½–9/16	2 9/16	2 9/16	2 9/16	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16
6 months' do.	2½–9/16	2½–9/16	2 9/16	2 9/16	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16–5/8	2 9/16
Discount (Treasury Bills)—							
2 months'	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 11/16	2 9/16	2 7/16	2 7/16–½	2 9/16
3 months'‡	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 11/16	2 9/16	2 7/16	2 7/16–½	2 9/16
Loans—Day to day	2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½–2	1½
Short	2	2	2	2	2–3	2½–3	3
Deposit allowances ‡ Bank	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discount houses at call	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At notice	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½

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

Comparison with previous week—

	Short Loans.	Bank Bills. 3 Months.	Bank Bills. 4 Months.	Bank Bills. 6 Months.	Trade Bills. 3 Months.	Trade Bills. 4 Months.	Trade Bills. 6 Months.
1930.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
June 5	1½–2	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	4
12	2	2½–9/16	2½	2½	3–7/16	3½–9/16	4
19	2	2 7/16–½	2½–9/16	2½–5/8	3	3½	4
26	3	2½	2½	2½	3	3½	4

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

London on		Usance	Par.	June 27, 1929.	June 19, 1930.	June 26, 1930.
New York	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86½	4·84 31/32–4·84 33/32	4·85 15/16–4·85 17/32	4·86 1/32–1/16
Montreal	dollars to £1	Cable	4·86½	4·89–4·89½	4·85 15/16–4·85 17/32	4·86 1/32–1/16
Paris	francs to £1	T.T.	124·21	123·89–92	123·75–77	123·76–78
Berlin	marks to £1	T.T.	20·43	20·34½–35	20·36½–37	20·39–39½
Amsterdam	florins to £1	T.T.	12·107	12·07½–08	12·08½–08½	12·09–09½
Brussels	belga to £1	T.T.	35·00	34·90–90½	34·82½–83	34·82–82½
Milan	lire to £1	T.T.	92·46	92·67–70	92·73–75	92·75–77
Zurich	francs to £1	T.T.	25·22	25·19½–20	25·09–09½	25·07½–07½
Oslo	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·19½–20	18·14½–15½	18·14½–15½
Stockholm	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·08½–09½	18·08½–09½	18·08½–09½
Copenhagen	kroner to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·20–20½	18·15½–16	18·15½–16½
Madrid	pesetas to £1	T.T.	25·22½	34·24–26	41·12–17	42·42–47
Lisbon	escudo to £1	T.T.	...	108 1/16–108 3/16	108½–⅝	108½–⅝
Vienna	schillgs. to £1	T.T.	34·58½	34·48–51	34 41–44	34·41–44
Prague	krone to £1	T.T.	164½	163½–163¾	163⅜–½	163⅜–½
Belgrade	dinars to £1	T.T.	25·22½	275¼–276½	274⅜–275¼	274½–275
Budapest	pengö to £1	T.T.	27·82	27·81–84	27·76–79	27·77–80
Bukarest	lei to £1	T.T.	813·6	816–818	817–819	817–819
Sofia	leva to £1	T.T.	25·22½	668–673	665–675	665–675
Athens	drachmae to £1	T.T.	375	374¾–375½	374¾–375½	374¾–375½
Constantinople	piastres to £1	T.T.	110	1010–1015	1025	1025
Moscow	roubles to £1	T.T.	9·46	†9·41¼–43⅜	†9·432–451	†9·430–445
Warsaw	zloty to £1	T.T.	43·38	43⅛–¼	43¼–⅜	43¼–⅜
Helsingfors	F. marks to £1	T.T.	193·23	192⅝–193	192⅝–193	192⅝–193½
Kovno	lits to £1	T.T.	48·66	48¼–49¼	48⅛–49	48⅛–49
Reval	kroon to £1	T.T.	18·159	18·16½–23½	18·22–29	18·22–29
Riga	lats to £1	T.T.	25·22½	25·15–25	25·15–25	25·15–25
Alexandria	piastres to £1	Sight	97⅛	97 11/16–¾	97 7/16–½	97 7/16–½
Buenos Aires	pence to peso	T.T.	47·62d.	47 3/16–⅜	41 11/16–¾	40½–⅝
Rio de Janeiro	pence to mils.	90 days	16	5 27/32–28/32	5 1/16–⅛	5 1/16–⅛
Montevideo	pence to peso	T.T.	51	47½–48	43½–¾	43½–43⅝
Valparaiso	pesos to £1	90 days	40	39·59	39·92	39·96
Lima	Eng. to Per. £1	90 days	par	19¼% prem.	13·27½	13·12½
Calcutta	pence	T.T.	18	1/5 9/16–1/5 5/8	1/6 1/16–⅛	1/5 15/16–1/6
Bombay	to	T.T.		1/5 9/16–1/5 5/8	1/5 15/16–1/6	1/5 15/16–1/6
Madras	rupee	T.T.		1/5 9/16–1/5 5/8	1/5 15/16–1/6	1/5 15/16–1/6
Hong Kong	ster. to dollar	T.T.	...	1/11½–2/0	1/3–½	1/3–1/3½
Shanghai	ster. to tael	T.T.	...	2/4–2/5⅛	1/6–1/6½	1/5½–1/6½
Singapore	ster. to dollar	T.T.	2s. 4d.	2/3 31/32–2/3 15/16	2/3 11/16–¾	2/3 11/16–¾
Kobe	ster. to yen	T.T.	24·58d.	1/9 15/16–1/9 31/32	2/0 7/16–½	2/0 7/16–½
Manilla	ster. to peso	T.T.	24·066d.	†2/0 3/16 d.	†2/0 5/16	†2/0 5/16
Mexico	pesos to £	T.T.	9·76	10·05–10·25	10·15–·35	10·15–·35
Siam	ster. to baht	T.T.	21·818d.	1/10⅛	1/10⅛	1/10⅛

† Rate for previous day. ‡ 90 days sight.

OVERSEAS BANK RATES.

	Changed.	From %	To %		Changed.	From %	To %
Amsterdam	Mar. 24, 1930	3½	3	Oslo	Mar. 20, 1930	5	4½
Athens	Dec. 2, 1928	10	9	Paris	May 1, 1930	3	2½
Batavia	Mar. 10, 1930	5	4½	Prague	June 24, 1930	4½	4
Belgrade	May 28, 1930	6	5½	Pretoria	Aug. 17, 1929	5½	6
Berlin	June 20, 1930	4½	4	Reval	Oct. 3, 1929	7½	8
Brussels	Apr. 30, 1930	3½	3	Riga	April 1, 1928	7	6† / 7†
Bucharest	Nov. 23, 1929	9½	9	Rome	May 20, 1930	6	5½
Budapest	May 28, 1930	6	5½	Sofia	July 2, 1929	9	10
Calcutta	Apr. 3, 1930	7	6	Stockholm	Apr. 2, 1930	4	3½
Copenhagen	May 1, 1930	4½	4	Swiss Bank			
Danzig	May 1, 1930	5½	5	places	Apr. 3, 1930	3½	3
Helsingfors	Apr. 28, 1930	7	6½	Tokio	Oct. 18, 1927	5·84	5·4
Kovno	Apr. 1, 1930	7	6	Vienna	May 23, 1930	6	5½
Lisbon	July 28, 1926	9	8	Warsaw	June 13, 1930	7	6½
New York Federal Reserve	June 19, 1930	3	2½	Irish	May 1, 1930	4½	4
Madrid	Dec. 19, 1928	5	5½				

Central Bank of Chile.—Discount rate for member banks, 6%; discount rate for the public, 7%.

† 6% applied to banks, &c., charging not more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

† 7% applied to banks, &c., charging more than 11% p.a. for their loans.

CURRENT PRICES IN NEW YORK.

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

	June 27, 1929. %	May 28, 1930. %	June 4, 1930. %	June 11, 1930. %	June 18, 1930. %	June 25, 1930. %
Call money	10	3	3	3	2½	2½
Time money (90 days' mixed coll.)	8	3½	3½	3½	3½	2½
Bank acceptances:—			Selling Rates.			
Members—eligible, 90 days	5⅛	2½	2½	2½	2½	2
Non-mem. eligible, 90 days	5⅛	2½	2½	2½	2½	2
Ineligible, 90 days	6½	2½	2½	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Commercial accept., 90 days	5⅛	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½

Rates of Exchange, New York on—		Par Level.	June 27, 1929.	June 11, 1930.	June 18, 1930.	June 25, 1930.
London—						
60 days	Dollars for £1	4·8666	4·795	4·83⅜	4·83⅜	4·83 7/16
Cable			4·84 11/16	4·85⅛	4·85⅛	4·86
Cheques			4·84½	4·85⅛	4·85 7/16	4·85 9/16
Paris	Cents for 1 franc	3·918	3·90½	3·92⅜	3·92 1/16	3·92 1/16
Brussels	Cents for 1 Belga	13·90	13·885	13·94½	13·94	13·95½
Switzerland	Cents for 1 franc	19·30	19·2325	19·37½	19·36	19·37½
Italy	Cents for 1 lire	5·263	5·22½	5·23½	5·23⅛	5·23½
Berlin	Cents for 1 mark	23·31	23·815	23·84½	23·83½	23·82½
Vienna	Cts. for Austrn. schlg	14·07	14·04	14·09½	14·10½	14·10½
Madrid	Cents for 1 peseta	19·30	14·145	11·93	11·72	11·53
Amsterdam	Cents for 1 guilder	40·195	40·12	40·18½	40·17	40·17½
Copenhagen	Cents for 1 kroner	26·80	26·62	26·74½	26·74½	26·75
Oslo			26·63	26·75	26·75	26·75½
Stockholm			26·79	26·83	26·84½	26·85
Athens	Cents for 1 drachma	1·297	1·29⅜	1·29 11/16	1·29⅛	1·29⅛
Montreal	Can. Cents for $1	100	⅞ dis.	7/16 dis.	par	⅛ dis.
Yokohama	Cents for 1 yen	49·85	43·70	49·40	49·45	49·42
Hong Kong	Cents for H.Kong$	...	47·90	31·60	31·15	31·05
Shanghai	Cts. for 1 Shng. tael	...	57·70	38·62½	37·00	36·25
Calcutta	Cents for 1 rupee	36·50	36·05	35·90	35·95	36 00
Buenos Aires	Gold Pesos for $100	103·65	104·85	116·70	119	120·5
Rio de Janeiro	Cents for 1 milreis	32·42	11·85	11·50	11·35	11·35
Valparaiso	Cents for 1 peso	12·125	12·07	12·02	12·02	12·02

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., quotes the following rates of exchange:—

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Par Value.	Usance.	Rate.
Ecuador	Sucres to £	24·3325	Sight London	24·55
Venezuela	Bolivares to £	25·25	,,	26·00
Colombia (Bogota)	Pesos to £1	5	,,	5·06
Nicaragua	Cordobas to £	4·8665	,,	4·92
Salvador	Colones to £	9·73	,,	9·95
Bolivia	pence to Boliviano	18·0	90 days	18

SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE RATES.

The South African Banks quote the following rates:—

	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From August 27, 1929. London on South Africa. Selling.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Buying.	Union of South Africa. From November 25, 1929. South Africa on London. Selling.
T.T.	...	⅛% dis.	par to ⅛% pm.	⅛% prem.
Demand	1⅛% dis.	¼% ,,	⅛% dis.	½ to ⅝% ,,
30 days	1⅛% ,,	⅜% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,
60 days	2⅛% ,,	½% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,
90 days	3⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,	⅛% ,,	⅝% ,,
20 days	3⅛% ,,	1⅛% ,,	2⅛% ,,	...

OVERSEAS DOMINIONS RATES.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND.

	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Buying. New Zealand.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. Australia.	London on Australia and New Zealand. Selling. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Buying. New Zealand.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. Australia.	Australia and New Zealand on London. Selling. New Zealand.
T.T.	...	...	93⅞	95⅝	...	...	106⅛	105
Demand	92⅝	93⅞	93⅝	95	105⅝	103⅛	106 1/16	104⅝
30 days	92 1/16	93 3/16	...	...	104⅛	103	105⅝	104
60 days	91⅛	92⅜	...	...	104 1/16	102⅛	105 1/16	103⅝
90 days	90 1/16	92 1/16	...	...	103⅝	102	104⅛	103 1/16

BULLION.

The following statistics of imports and exports of gold for week ended June 26, 1930, are issued by the Statistical Department of H.M. Customs and Excise:—

Imported into Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£	Exported from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.	£
From—		*To*—	
France	8,912	Germany	19,272
British West Africa	42,003	Netherlands	383
British South Africa	297,684	France	772,989
Other countries	512	Switzerland	20,500
		Austria	7,500
		Other countries	850
Total declared value of imports	349,111	Total declared value of exports	821,494

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals and withdrawals of gold during the past week, as announced by the Bank of England, have been as follows:—

1930.	ARRIVALS.	£	1930.	WITHDRAWALS.	£
June 20		Nil	June 20	Bars sold	3,442
June 21		Nil		Sovs. for export	2,000
June 23	Bars bought	23	June 21	Bars sold	3,501
June 24	For. gold coin bought	9	June 23	Bars sold	3,503
June 25		Nil	June 24		Nil
June 26		Nil	June 25		Nil
			June 26		Nil
Total		32	Total		12,446

Net withdrawals, £12,414.

Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company write on June 25, 1930, as follows:—

GOLD.

The Bank of England gold reserve against notes amounted to £156,610,010 on the 18th instant (as compared with £156,261,457 on the previous Wednesday), and represents an increase of £10,649,926 since January 1st last. The bar gold from South Africa available in the open market yesterday amounted to about £298,000 only. Demand from India and the trade was small, being £5,000 and £18,000 respectively, and at the fixed price of 85s. 0½d. per fine ounce the balance of £275,000 was secured for France. Movements of gold at the Bank of England during the week resulted in a net influx of £237,586. Receipts included £250,000 in sovereigns "released" and withdrawals consisted of £10,446 in bar gold and £2,000 in sovereigns.

SILVER.

Although the week under review opened with a recovery of ¼d. and 3/16d. to 15 15/16d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively, this was more than outweighed by the falls which followed, still lower records having since been established. Support was again inadequate to offset the selling from China and America—the latter quarter offering with more freedom during the week—and by the 21st instant prices had fallen to the then record level of 15⅛d. and 15 1/16d. A slight reaction of ¼d. ensued, only to be followed by a setback of ⅜d. yesterday, when prices were fixed at 15 7/16d. for cash and 15½d. for two months'—the lowest yet recorded. Buying was still confined to bear covering operations and small Indian Bazaar orders for shipment, but the political situation in India still tends to hamper business with that quarter.

The following were the United Kingdom imports and exports of silver registered from mid-day on the 16th instant to mid-day on the 23rd instant:—

IMPORTS.	£	EXPORTS.	£
U.S.A.	14,558	China (including Hong Kong)	31,250
Netherlands	7,600	British India	35,000
Belgium	5,420	France	6,376
Canada	5,452	Other countries	3,027
Australia	5,000		
France	2,919		
Other countries	446		
	£41,395		£75,653

GOLD AND SILVER PRICES.

	Gold Per Ounce.	Silver—Per Ounce. Cash	Silver—Per Ounce. Forward	Date.	Silver. Cash.
1930.	s. d.	d.	d.		d.
June 20.....	85 0	15 13/16	15 5/8	June 29, 1923	31 1/4
„ 21.....	85 0	15 1/2	15 5/16	„ 27, 1924	34 3/8
„ 23.....	85 0	15 5/8	15 7/16	„ 26, 1925	32 3/8
„ 24.....	85 0 1/4	15 7/16	15 1/2	„ 25, 1926	30 3/16
„ 25.....	84 11 1/4	15 5/16	15 3/8	„ 24, 1927	26 1/16
„ 26.....	85 0	15 1/2	15 5/16	„ 28, 1928	27 1/16

NOTICES.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a branch of the bank is now open at High Street, Orpington. A sub-branch of the bank is also now open at 31, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that a sub-branch of the bank is now open at Barrack Road, Christchurch.

Barclays Bank, Ltd., announce the opening of a new branch at 37, King William Street, E.C.4.

Company News.

REPORTS AND NOTICES.

We are officially informed that Sir Edward M. Mountain, Bart. J.P., chairman and managing director of the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, Ltd., has joined the board of Covent Garden Properties Company, Ltd., and that Mr P. Stanley May has resigned his seat on the board of this company and also his seat on the board of Olympia, Ltd.

We are informed that Mr C. Gerald Eve, of the firm of Gerald Eve and Company, chartered surveyors, 33, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2, and Mr Frank W. Terry, chairman of Joseph Terry and Sons, Ltd., York, have been elected to the head office board of the Yorkshire Insurance Company, Ltd.

Owing to continued ill-health, Mr E. Roger Owen has felt it necessary to tender his resignation as chairman of the board of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd. Mr. Owen retains his seat upon the board. The Honourable Jasper N. Ridley has been appointed chairman. Mr Joseph Powell has been appointed a director of the corporation.

The offices of British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., and Trinidad Petroleum Development Company, Ltd. will, on and after 23rd instant, be transferred from 5 Moorgate, E.C. 2, to River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C. 2.

It is announced that Mr S. S. Taylor, C.M.G., D.S.O., has been unanimously elected a director of the Consolidated Mines Selection Company, Ltd.

Mr E. V. Reid, managing director of Dalgety and Company, Ltd. on retirement from active participation in the management of that company as from June 30th next, on the score of advancing years, will retain his seat on the board of directors and has been appointed deputy chairman of the company.

RAILWAYS.

CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LTD.—At the meeting of the holders of the company's 5 per cent. second debenture stock held June 24th to consider the board's proposal that the company should, as a temporary measure, be allowed twelve months within which to pay the interest falling due from time to time on that stock, Mr W. Sandford Poole, the chairman of the meeting, announced that the directors had agreed to amend the proposal so as to provide for the payment of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the net amount of any instalments of interest so postponed for the period of the postponement. After a discussion, the resolution, as amended, was carried *nem. con.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALLIED IRONFOUNDERS.—The first annual report from the period of incorporation, March 21, 1929, to March 31, 1930, the directors of Allied Ironfounders shows that the dividends receivable from subsidiary companies (including £67,259 distributed from pre-merger reserves for reasons referred to below) after providing for income tax, amount to £160,362. The directors do not propose to pay an ordinary dividend, but they recommend a dividend on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares for the year, less income tax at 4s. 6d., requiring £53,931, leaving to be carried forward £4,247. The directors can definitely state that £62,028 represents the maximum financial loss incurred by the company and its subsidiaries arising out of their connection with Austin Friars Trust. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., June 25th, at 12 noon.

THE AUSTIN MOTOR COMPANY, LTD.—This company makes the following announcement: 6½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, 6 months' interest to June 30, 1930, £42,790. Warrants will be despatched June 30, 1930; payable July 1, 1930. The warrants for the undermentioned payments will be despatched June 28, 1930: 7 per cent. preference and 6 per cent. "B" preference shares, 6 months' dividend to June 30, 1930, £47,460, payable June 30, 1930; 20 per cent. preferred ordinary shares, one year's dividend to December 31, 1929, £150,000, payable June 30, 1930; ordinary shares, one year's dividend, at the rate of 20 per cent., to December 31, 1929, £30,000, payable June 30, 1930; total, £270,250.

DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Name of Company.	Rate % per Annum, except where marked % or Stated in Cash. * Interim div. † Final div. Interim or Final.	Date of Payment.	Method of Payment.	Dividend for Whole Years. Latest Year.	Previous Year.
TEA AND RUBBER.				%	%
Assam Co.	5%†	July 12	Less tax	7½	15
Bidor Rubber Estate	10%†	July 12	...	10	12½
Boroi Tea	...	...	...	10	20
Bukit Mertajam Rubber	4 1/16%†	...	Less tax	...	...
Bukit Rajah Rubber	...	...	...	4	5
Carolina Tea of Ceylon	5%†	June 26	Less tax	...	...
Derby Tea	...	...	...	2½	15
Devon Estates (Malacca)	...	June 30	...	2½	2½
Doloo Tea	...	...	...	5	15
Eastern Assam Tea	20%†	...	Less tax	30	40
Halem Tea	...	...	...	Nil	25
Jokai (Assam) Tea	12½%†	...	Less tax	17½	30
Jorehaut Tea	15%†	...	...	20	27½
Moabund Tea	...	...	...	6	10
Moran Tea	17½%†	...	Less tax	25	...
Mount Austin (Johore) Rubber	...	...	Less tax	5	6
North Hummock (Selangor) Rub.	...	...	Less tax	3	3
Selama (Malaya) Rubber	...	...	...	5	5
Shakomato Tea Estates	...	...	Less tax	5	10
Straits Plantations	...	...	...	10	10
Sungei Krian Rubber	4%†	...	...	10	10
Tyrwangie Tea Estates	...	...	Less tax	10	10
Upper Assam Tea	5%†	...	Less tax	5	12½
MINING.					
Apex Mines	5%*	Aug. 7	...	...	...
Henderson's Transvaal Estates	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Onverwacht Platinum	2½%†	...	...	...	...
Hongkong Tin	5%*	June 30	...	...	...
Ipoh Tin Dredging	7½d. p.s.†	July 12	Less tax	1/3 p.s.	3/- p.s.
OTHER COMPANIES.					
Alex. Findlater	...	...	...	5	5
American Cyanamid	40c. p.s.*	July 2	Quarterly	...	...
Anglo-Ceylon & General Estates	6%†	...	Less tax	10	15
Angela Nitrate	10%*	...	...	...	...
Anglo-Foreign Securities Corp.	3%*	...	Less tax	...	...
Argentine Industrial	...	...	Less tax	7	7
Armitage Brothers	10%†	...	...	15	15
Associated Fireclay	5%†	...	...	7½	7½
Australian Agricultural	2/6 p.s.†	...	Tax free	4/6 p.s.	5/6 p.s.
Barclay Perkins	7%†	...	...	11	11
Booth's Distilleries	...	...	...	7½	7½
Buckley's Brewery	8%†	...	Less tax	10	5
Butterley Company	4%†	...	Tax free	5	2½
C. Arthur Pearson	...	...	...	15	15
Carolina Tea of Ceylon	5%*	June 26	Less tax	...	...
Ceylon Land and Produce	6%*	July 1	...	...	...
Charles Kinloch	...	...	Less tax	5	5
City of Liverpool Investment	...	...	Less tax	12½	12½
Colthrop Board and Paper Mills	...	...	Less tax	7½	6
Consolidated London Properties	4½%†	...	...	7½	...
Denny, Mott and Dickson	...	...	...	6	6
Dominion and General Trust	12†	...	Less tax	9	9
East Surrey Water Co.	...	...	...	10	10
Electric and General Investment	...	...	...	10	10
General Securities Invest. Trust	4%†	...	...	7½	7½
George Newnes	9%†	...	...	15(c)	15(c)
Gilford Motor	7½%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...
Globe Telegraph and Trust	5/- p.s.†	...	Tax free	10/- p.s.	...
Government Stocks and Other Securities	5%*	July 15	Less tax	...	...
Grange Trust	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Greenwood and Batley	2½%†	...	...	5	5
Hardy's Crown Brewery	7/- p.s.†	...	Less tax	18/- p.s.	20/- ps.
Heywood and Roe Aero Mills	1½ p.s.†	...	...	...	...
Leeds and Wakefield Breweries (Def.)	6%*	July 1	...	...	...
Leicester Brewing and Malting	...	...	...	20	20
London Auction Mart	...	...	...	5	5
London Shoe	...	...	Tax free	2/- p.s.	2/6 p.s.
Liebig's Extract of Meat	7/- p.s.*	July 5	Tax free	...	...
Major and Co.	...	...	...	10	Nil
Mercantile Marine Finance Corp.	5%†	...	Less tax	5	8
Mid-Cheshire Electricity Supply	...	...	Less tax	7	5
Monks Investment Trust	...	...	...	5	...
N. of Scot. Canadian Mortgage	3/- p.s.†	July 17	Less tax	15	15
Omnium Investment (Def.)	10*	July 1	...	...	...
Peel River Land and Mineral	3%*	July 22	Tax free	...	...
Phillip Harris and Co.	15%†	plus bon	us of 15%	45	15
Phosferine (Def.)	...	...	...	8	...
Reeves and Sons	6½%†	...	...	9	10
Sawers	1/3½ p.s.†	...	...	10½	10½
Scottish Cities Investment Trust	3½%†	...	Less tax	6	6
Scottish Consolidated Trust	3%*	June 30	Less tax	...	...
Shropshire Beet Sugar (Def.)	...	...	Tax free	20	Nil
Spiers and Pond	...	...	...	15	15
Stanton Ironworks	6%†	...	Tax free	10	10
Third Scottish Northern Invest.	3%*	July 11	Less tax	...	...
Victoria Falls & Transvaal Power	12½%	July 15	...	15	15
West Midland Sugar	...	...	Tax free	10	10
Wickens Pease	...	...	...	4	4
Wm. Mowat	...	...	...	12½	10

(c) Plus bonus of 5 per cent.

CANADIAN WALLPAPER MANUFACTURERS, LTD.—The directors of the Canadian Wallpaper Manufacturers, Ltd., announce the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the common shares for the financial year ending April 30, 1930, as against 6 per cent. for the previous year. A balance of $231,000 is carried forward, as compared with $132,587 brought in from the previous year.

HARLAND AND WOLFF.—The directors state that the company is still engaged in carrying out a large programme of work and the dividend on the first preference shared for the half-year has been earned, but the company is finding difficulty in obtaining new work at remunerative prices. The board have decided to conserve cash resources in the meantime, and it is not proposed, therefore, to pay the dividend on the first preference shares on July 1. This dividend has previously been regularly paid, but the dividend on the "A" and "B" preference shares is in arrear from January, 1925.

MEXICAN EAGLE OIL COMPANY.—Dividend in respect of 1929 of 8 per cent. (16s. 4d. per 25 shares) will be paid on the preference shares, and of 6 per cent. (12s. 3d. per 25 shares) on the ordinary shares. No dividend was paid on the ordinary shares last year.

SUMMARY OF COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS.

Company.	Period Ending	Balance from Last Account.	Net Profit After Payment of Debenture Interest.	Amount Available for Distribution.	Appropriation. Dividend. Prefce. Amount	Dividend. Ordinary. Amount.	Dividend. Ordinary. Rate.	Carried to Reserve, Depreciation, etc.	Balance Forward.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Net Profit.	Corresponding Period Last Year. Dividend.
		£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	%
Breweries.											
Barclay, Perkins and Co. ...	Mar. 31	57,312	305,740	363,052	75,600	196,198	11	20,000	71,254	209,780	11
Booth's Distilleries	Mar. 31	9,347	61,109	70,456	7,810	27,364	{6½ p.o. 7½ ord.}	24,694	10,588	66,283	7½
Kinloch (Chas.) and Co.	Mar. 31	1,785	6,296	8,081	...	3,875	5	...	4,206	...	...
Greene, King and Sons	May 31	27,079	103,885	130,964	10,000	63,000	18	27,290	30,674	103,197	18
Financial Land, &c.											
Cons. London Properties ...	Mar. 25	20,243	38,974	59,217	13,200	24,750	7½	...	21,267	27,065	15
Hotels, Restaurants, &c.											
Spiers and Pond	Mar. 31	6,246	103,438	109,684	32,341	62,394	15	8,000	7,009	97,281	15
Iron, Coal and Steel.											
Allen (Edgar) and Co.	Mar. 31	7,101	23,491	30,592	15,000	7,914	2½*	...	7,678	16,783	2½*
Allied Ironfounders	Mar. 31	...	130,312	130,312	53,931	...	...	72,135	4,246	...	...
Greenwood and Batley	Mar. 31	11,397	26,851	38,248	7,028	17,419	5	...	13,801	28,385	5
Horseley Bridge and Eng....	Mar. 31	8,647	4,157	12,804	...	...	...	...	*Dr.12804*	12,597	5
Manchester Collieries	Mar. 31‡	...	108,215	108,215	90,647	...	...	...	17,568	...	...
Ruston and Hornsby.....	Mar. 31	32,116	29,579	61,695	23,500	...	...	...	38,195	82,709	2½
Stanton Ironworks.....	Mar. 31	117,187	200,357	317,544	21,152	113,671	10*	50,000	132,721	156,037	10*
Tredegar Iron and Coal	Mar. 31	40,693	104,453	145,146	...	86,555	5*	10,000	48,591	46,151	2½*
Whitehead Iron and Steel ..	Mar. 31	10,241	41,150	51,391	...	25,526	10	10,000	15,865	41,108	10
Nitrate.									*Dr10,168*	...	...
Andrade Nitrate.....	Dec. 31	*Dr. 7,182*	*Dr. 2,986*	*Dr. 10,168*	...	...	...	...	1,266	18,999	25
Angela Nitrate	Dec. 31	3,019	3,847	6,866	...	5,600	10	...			
Oil.											
Tankers	Mar. 31	9,467	109,256	118,723	50,049	...	...	65,000	3,674	134,447	...
Rubber, &c.											
Badek Rubber.....	Dec. 31	21,831	19,179	41,010	...	12,602	10	5,000	23,408	16,701	10
Bukit Rajah Rubber	Mar. 31	16,086	16,231	32,317	...	13,340	4	1,000	17,977	15,595	5
Federated (Selangor) Rubber	Mar. 31	4,660	2,808	7,468	...	...	...	...	7,468	2,891	2½
Holyrood Rubber	Dec. 31	1,983	13,030	15,013	...	6,461	7½	5,003	3,549	6,746	5
Khota Tampan Rubber	Jan. 31	495	2,375	2,870	...	...	...	...	2,870	2,262	2½
Ledang Rubber	Dec. 31	24,256	7,607	31,863	...	...	...	...	31,863	5,626	...
Matingley (Malay) Rubber	Feb. 28	2,915	4,079	6,994	...	2,992	4	1,000	3,002	1,858	4
North Hummock (Selangor) Rubber	Mar. 31	4,322	7,769	12,091	...	7,200	3	...	4,891	7,324	3
Selama (Malaya) Rubber ...	Mar. 31	5,907	4,456	10,363	...	2,500	5	3,525	4,338	6,121	5
Sungei Krian Rubber.....	Dec. 31	22,749	22,794	45,543	...	13,948	10	2,145	29,450	18,972	10
Tanah Datar Rubber	Dec. 31	1,333	6,460	7,793	...	3,424	4	...	4,369	3,440	5
Shipping.											
Elder Dempster and Co.	Dec. 31	142,838	201,504	344,342	217,125	...	...	...	127,217	447,106	4
Shops and Stores.											
London Shoe	Feb. 28	2,746	7,699	10,445	3,900	5,000	200*	...	1,545	...	...
Tea.											
Boroi Tea	Dec. 31	8,130	2,666	10,796	...	2,401	10	...	8,395	5,623	20
Derby Tea.....	Dec. 31	17,933	44	17,977	754	806	...	1,461	16,516	3,616	15
Isa Bheel Tea	Dec. 31	10,714	*Dr. 9,807*	907	...	...	...	16	891	*Dr. 2,099*	10
Jokai (Assam) Tea	Dec. 31	70,551	99,068	169,619	6,000	101,181	17½	...	62,438	174,140	30
Jorehaut Tea	Dec. 31	11,558	90,279	101,837	...	80,000	20	10,000	11,837	...	...
Moabund Tea.....	Dec. 31	1,779	11,808	13,587	2,500	7,800	6	...	3,287	12,660	10
Scottish Assam Tea	Dec. 31	5,253	10,753	16,006	...	6,434	10	3,408	6,164	17,515	20
Singlo Tea	Dec. 31	16,405	42,205	58,610	6,825	35,280	17½	900	15,605	76,954	30
Tramways and Omnibuses.											
Anglo-Argentine Tramways	Dec. 31	85,928	445,590	531,518	359,000	...	...	80,043	91,475	383,712	...
Lanarkshire Traction	Dec. 31	*Dr. 5,999*	*Dr. 5,486*	*Dr.11,485*	...	...	...	...	*Dr11,485*	...	...
Carthagena and Herrerias Steam Tramways	Dec. 31	*Dr. 47,233*	*Dr. 11,261*	*Dr. 58,494*	...	...	...	*Dr. 1,508*	*Dr58,494*	*Dr10,827*	...
Trusts.											
Drapery Trust	May 31	134,392	285,873	420,265	168,000	105,000	7	...	147,265	345,247	10
Globe Telegraph and Trust	May 31	77,370	261,751	339,122	86,262	235,400	10*	...	17,460	347,390	10*
The Monks Investment Trust	May 15§	...	26,624	26,624	...	17,625	5p.a.	2,500	6,499	...	...
Taylors (Cash Chemists) Trust.....	Mar. 31	13,235	78,344	91,579	52,662	18,900	20	10,000	10,017	114,426	33½
Dominion and General Trust	Apr. 30	11,303	31,571	42,874	9,094	19,193	{5p.a. 9}	...	14,587	28,756	9
Other Companies.											
Barry & Staines Linoleum	Mar. 31†	114,238	284,361	398,599	2,856	245,931	16½	38,255	111,557	...	...
Cyprus Asbestos	Dec. 31	43,724	45,103	88,827	...	...	...	50,000	38,827	61,037	...
Denny, Mott and Dickson...	Mar. 31	50,879	97,401	148,280	12,000	61,200	6	...	75,080	89,235	6
Grape Produce	Apr. 30	*Dr. 2,381*	*Dr. 1,014*	*Dr. 3,395*	...	...	...	...	*Dr.3,395*	...	...
Findlater (Alex.) and Co. ...	Feb. 28	12,687	1,245	13,932	702	1,168	5	...	12,062	3,898	5
Hall and Co.	Mar. 31	62,596	85,722	148,318	5,940	19,336	20	48,143	74,899	...	...
Harris (Phillip) and Co.	Mar. 31	7,728	17,948	25,676	3,398	9,000	45*	2,500	10,778	18,087	15
Mowat (Wm.) and Sons ...	May 31	1,872	3,516	5,388	1,181	1,938	12½	...	2,269	2,350	10
Neuchatel Asphalte	Dec. 31	67,938	31,612	99,550	10,000	20,994	5	...	68,556	45,278	6½
Newnes (George)	Mar. 31	66,079	150,284	216,363	41,273	92,989	20	25,000	57,101	116,597	20
Pearson (C. Arthur).....	Mar. 31	46,162	71,993	118,155	13,750	39,375	15	30,000	35,030	72,240	15
Phosferine (Ashton and Parsons)	Apr. 30	9,668	52,045	61,713	36,000	8,000	8	8,000	9,713	69,701	{9‖ 8¶
Parkinson and Cowan	Mar. 31	28,930	88,113	117,043	25,364	47,869	10	15,000	28,810	88,282	10
Reeves and Sons	Apr. 30	8,002	18,700	26,702	10,249	9,347	9	...	7,106	25,498	10
Scribbans and Co.	Apr. 30	36,281	233,931	270,212	...	124,667	{7 ord. 19⅜df.}	127,650	17,895	148,284	{5‖ 14½¶
Vitamins (1928).....	Mar. 31	*Dr.10,230*	10,244	14	...	...	...	...	14	...	...

* Free of income tax. † Period from January 1, 1929, to March 31, 1930. ‡ Period from March 12, 1929, to March 31, 1930
§ Period from February 6, 1929, to May 15, 1930. ‖ Ordinary Shares. ¶ Deferred Shares.

SUMMARY OF BALANCE SHEETS.

ANGLO-ARGENTINE TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
1st Pref. shrs. (£5)	3,200,000	...
2nd Pref. shrs. (£5)	3,050,000	...
Ord. shrs. (£4)	2,700,000	...
4% deb. stock	3,552,535	— 69,389
Accrued interest	71,051	— 1,387
4½% deb. stock	1,587,769	— 11,825
Accrued interest	35,725	— 266
5% deb. stock	5,747,265	— 26,089
Accrued interest	23,947	— 109
Deb. stock red. fd.	322,812	+ 111,083
Shr. cap. red fund	172,202	+ 10,383
Renewals res.	532,435	— 12,398
Contingency, &c. reserves	774,040	+ 774,040
Creditors	1,049,029	— 942,505
Due by subsidiaries	50,363	
Int. & divs. unclaimed	6,752	— 104
Divs. accrued	179,500	...
Profit and loss	91,475	+ 5,547
Total	23,146,900	— 163,019

ASSETS.	Amount. £	Compared with Dec. 31, 1928. £
Concessions, property, &c.	20,610,402	+ 152493
Shares in subsidiaries	1,590,301	
Stores	609,080	+ 154865
Furniture	4,376	
Debtors	60,237	
Advances to subsidiaries	47,941	— 23,417
Investments	186,484	— 781
Deposits in Buenos Aires	5,397	+ 5
Cash	28,801	— 432,669
Bills receivable	...	— 17,396
Prepayments	3,881	+ 3,881
Total	23,146,900	— 163,019

Commercial Reports.

THE CORN TRADE.

Mark Lane, Thursday evening.

Continued fine weather over the United Kingdom has considerably enhanced agricultural prospects, all cereal crops responding well to warmth and sunshine, and there is now definite indications of full yields being obtained. Similar conditions have prevailed on the Continent, though in some instances preliminary estimates point to a crop reduction compared with last year. The market for native wheat remained dull, as prices are too dear compared with imported varieties for milling purposes. Supplies, however, are now in small compass, as is only to be expected at this advanced period of the year. The import market was depressed on a further sharp break in prices, buyers operating cautiously pending further developments in the situation. Selling pressure from the United States of new winter wheat now being harvested, together with liquidations of old stock, was the chief cause of the downward movement, and forced Canadian sellers to come into line in order to compete for European custom. In view of favourable new crop prospects, sellers are naturally anxious to reduce stocks as speedily as possible before additional supplies become available. The present situation was not unexpected, and is a sequel to the persistent withholding of the North American surplus under Governmental support over a prolonged period. European importers have always stubbornly resisted the attempt to force prices above international parity, and were materially assisted by bountiful domestic crops. Argentine growers appear anxious to dispose of their smaller surplus this season, offers being made on a lower basis; and, with India still shipping freely, consumers are assured of plentiful and cheap supplies of grist for some while ahead. Flour prices were reduced in sympathy with wheat, though not to the same extent owing to the low values ruling for offals, while best imported makes are still rather scarce on spot. All feeding stuffs encountered a slow demand, and price concessions were frequent in order to trade. Shipments of European maize are increasing, but the Plate movement is still restricted by unfavourable climatic conditions. Barley continues to sell at very low rates, down to 13s. 3d. per quarter being accepted for Persian parcels afloat to Bristol Channel. Oats continue difficult to vend, and prices further moved in buyers' favour.

WHEAT.—Declined sharply. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 39s.-39s. 3d.; No. 2 ditto, 38s.-38s. 6d.; No. 3, 37s.; No. 4 Manitoba, 35s. 6d.; No. 5 ditto, 34s.; No. 6, 29s. 9d.; No. 2, hard winter, 35s. 6d.; No. 2, mixed Durum, 32s. 6d.; Rosafe, 62 lbs., 36s. 9d.; Barusso, new crop, 62½ lbs., ex ship, to arrive, 36s. 3d.; Australian, 39s.; choice white Karachi, 37s. 6d. per 496 lbs. English, 8s.-8s. 3d. per 112 lbs.

FLOUR.—Dull and easier. London straight run, 34s. 6d. per sack for country deliveries and 33s. 6d. London area. Of imported, Manitoba patents, 31s.-33s.; Buffalo, 31s.-33s.; Australian, 29s. 6d.-30s. ex store. On c.i.f. terms, Manitoba top patents, June-July, 30s. 9d.-31s. 3d.; export ditto, 28s. 6d.-29s.; Australian, 26s. 6d.-27s. per 280 lbs.; Argentine, low grade, May, £5 12s. 6d. per ton.

MAIZE.—Steady for near, but distant tends easier. Plate, landed, new, 26s. 9d.; ex ship, to arrive, 25s. 3d. Old, to arrive, 24s. 3d.; new, May-June, 24s. 6d.; June-July, 23s. 6d.; July-August, 23s. 3d.; August-September, 23s. 3d.; Bessarabian, 23s. 3d.-23s. 6d. per 480 lbs. Yellow maize meal, £7 15s. per ton f.o.r. London. Yellow African, £5 12s. 6d. per ton ex ship.

BARLEY.—Slow. Californian, old, landed, 34s.-40s.; new, ex ship, 34s.-40s. as to sample; Chilian brewing, 33s.-37s.; Chevalier, 38s.-44s.; Australian, 32s.-34s.; Smyrna, 34s.-36s. per 448 lbs. Black Sea, ex ship, to arrive, f.a.q., 15s. 3d.; landed, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; Persian, landed, 15s. 6d. per 400 lbs. English malting, 7s. 3d.-8s. 9d.; feed, 7s.-7s. 2d. per 112 lbs.

OATS.—Quiet. Plate, landed, 13s.; ex ship, to arrive, 12s.; Chilian, white, landed, 19s.; ditto, tawny, 15s.; German, landed, 18s.; ex ship, to arrive, 17s.; mixed Canadian feed, 12s. per 320 lbs. English, 6s. 4d.-6s. 8d. per 112 lbs.

COMPARATIVE AVERAGES OF GRAIN.

The following table gives the estimated sales of home-grown wheat during the harvest years 1929-30, 1928-29, 1927-28, 1926-27:—

	1929-1930.	1928-1929.	1927-1928.	1926-1927.
Estimated sales of home-grown wheat—				
1 week to June 21	Qrs. 111,621	Qrs. 71,440	Qrs. 148,160	Qrs. 114,225
42 weeks to June 21	9,081,605	9,408,372	10,460,318	11,357,467
Average price of English wheat per cwt.	s. d. 8 6	s. d. 9 7	s. d. 10 10	s. d. 12 9

The following is a statement showing the Quantities Sold and the Average Price of British Corn in the past two weeks, and for the corresponding week in each of the years from 1926 to 1929:—

Weeks ended.	Quantities Sold.			Average Price per Qwt.		
	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
1930.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
June 14	164,371	18,533	20,276	8 7	7 6	6 5
June 21	111,621	20,680	7,920	8 6	6 6	6 4
June 19, 1926	88,474	13,208	16,125	13 6	8 11	9 11
June 18, 1927	118,930	10,077	36,922	12 9	11 5	10 3
June 23, 1928	148,160	11,241	9,350	10 10	10 10	12 7
June 22, 1929	71,440	8,289	9,083	9 7	9 7	9 5

AMERICAN WHEAT MARKETS.

The following table shows wheat quotations in recent weeks, with comparative figures for 1929:—

Nearest Future.	Jan. 2, 1929.	June 26, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.	June 11, 1930.	June 18, 1930.	June 25, 1930.
Winnipeg (No. 1 Manitoba)—Cents per 60 lb.	122	124½	148⅜	114⅜	101	94⅛
Chicago (No. 2 Winter)—Cents per 60 lb.	116⅜	113⅝	130⅞	104½	96⅝	88⅝

The visible supply of wheat in Canada shows an increase of 1,942,000 bushels on the week at 62,666,000 bushels, which compares with 63,674,000 bushels last year.

THE COAL TRADE.

Our Sheffield correspondent writes:—Exports of South Yorkshire coal are maintaining a substantial level, but the tonnage has shrunk and the business has been obtained only by cutting prices and has not been profitable. Quotations for best qualities are 14s. 6d. to 15s. f.o.b. The industrial demand is weak, and there is a glut of small fuels and coke. Blast-furnace coke has been sold at from 11s. to 12s. f.o.b. Business is weak in house coal.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes: Coal prices are still falling, and current quotations are now at about the lowest points of the year. Demands are still running on very quiet lines, both in the home and the shipping trades, and in spite of extensive short-time working, supplies are accumulating. Nuts are in a stronger position on the whole than round coal, scarcity of orders for which is causing considerable difficulty in negotiations for business in smalls. To-day's quotations are approximately as follows (f.o.b. district ports): LANARKSHIRE: Ell best, 13s. 3d.; splint best, 15s.; splint second, 14s.; navigation, 16s.; navigation second, 14s. 6d.; Hartley, 15s.; steam, 12s. 6d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 12s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 9s. 6d. FIFE.—Screened navigation, 16s. 6d.-17s. 6d.; first-class steam, 12s. 9d.; third-class steam, 10s. 3d.; trebles, 13s.-14s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.-12s.; singles, 11s.; pearls, 10s. 9d. LOTHIANS.—Prime steam, 11s. 6d.; secondary steam, 11s.; trebles, 13s.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s. 3d.; pearls, 10s. 6d. AYRSHIRE.—Unscreened navigation, 16s.; jewel, 16s.; steam, 13s. 3d.; trebles, 12s. 6d.; doubles, 11s. 6d.; singles, 11s. 6d.; pearls, 11s.; dross, 10s. 6d.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—There has been a slight improvement this week in the undertone of the market, and a contract has been placed by the Compania Hispano-Americana de Electricidad, the owners of the largest power concern in Buenos Ayres, for the supply of between 450,000 and 500,000 tons of sized coals over 1931 and 1932. The requirements of the company over this period, as on previous occasions, have been divided between South Wales and German colliery companies. The contracts are on a c.i.f. basis, but although the actual figures have not been disclosed, it is stated that they are calculated on an average freight rate of between 14s. and 14s. 6d. per ton. There has been little or no expansion in the current volume of business, and prices for practically all grades are ruling at the minimum scheduled figures. Many collieries are working irregularly and the docks are only partially employed. At Swansea it has been found necessary to close the South Dock indefinitely for the shipment of coal. The following are the current approximate quotations: Best Admiralties, 20s.; seconds, 19s. 3d. to 19s. 9d.; best drys, 18s. 6d. to 19s.; Black Veins, 18s. 3d. to 18s. 6d.; Western Valleys, 18s. to 18s. 3d.; Eastern Valleys, 17s. 6d. to 17s. 9d.; best small steams, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; cargo smalls, 12s. 3d. to 12s. 9d.; coking smalls, 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d.; anthracite, best large, 36s. to 37s. 6d.; Red Vein large, 22s. to 27s.; machine-made cobbles, 40s. to 45s.; French nuts, 43s. to 46s.; stove nuts, 40s. to 43s.; rubbly culm, 11s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.; foundry coke, 32s. 6d. to 36s.; patent fuel, 20s. to 22s.; pitwood, ex ship, 26s. 6d.

IRON AND STEEL.

We extract the following from the weekly report of the London Iron and Steel Exchange:—The approach of the holiday season, which usually synchronises with a lessening of trade activity, is scarcely noticeable in the quiet conditions which are ruling in the iron and steel markets. There is, of course, a steady business moving, but the volume is much less than for the corresponding periods of the past two or three years. In the pig-iron department the transactions reported consist principally of small tonnages for early delivery, and there is a noticeable disinclination on the part of consumers to renew contracts as they are completed. This is partly due to a lack of confidence in the price position as many buyers regard a reduction in quotations as possible. On the other hand, the producers claim that stocks have not yet reached an unwieldy level, and that present costs and the probability of further advances in the production charges prevent them from making concessions. Business in semi-finished steel is erratic. A few orders have gone to the Continent, but for the most part the buyers seem inclined to restrict their purchases to comparatively small quantities. The position in the finished steel department is causing some anxiety, as the export demand is still of small proportions. Some business is reported from South America, but buying from the important Eastern markets is indifferent and buyers frequently cable unacceptable limits as regards price.

Our Middlesbrough correspondent writes:—The market for Cleveland iron continues very depressed and there are no signs of an early improvement in the position. The buying that is being done is still confined to small lots for early requirements, and this policy is likely to be continued unless a tempting reduction in prices is made. Consumers appear to be quite indifferent about forward supplies, as they are finding orders for their products difficult to secure and do not see any inducement to buy pig iron forward at present figures There was an important inquiry on the market last week for Scotland and the local makers made a serious attempt to secure some of the business, but it is understood that the buying was postponed indefinitely. No changes in prices were made at the weekly market on Tuesday, and No. 1 remains at 70s.; No. 3, 67s. 6d.; No. 4 foundry, 66s. 6d.; and No. 4 forge, 66s. f.o.b. or f.o.t. Hematite is in poor demand. The fresh orders coming to hand are only for moderate quantities, which do not enable producers to get their stocks reduced; but, on the other hand, additions are being made to the large quantities already held, and this is causing considerable inconvenience. Prices are being cut in the hope of attracting more business for early delivery and makers are now willing to accept 71s. 6d. for reasonable quantities of mixed numbers and 72s. for small parcels. Merchants have a free hand for export and are shading these prices, but for home they are restricted as to destinations. Shipments of pig iron are on a very small scale, the clearances of all kinds to 24th inst being only 10,444 tons, against 13,614 tons to the same date in May. In the manufactured trades new business is very slack and orders are being worked off faster than new ones are coming to hand, with the result that irregularity of working increases. Prices are all unchanged from last week. The ore market is dead idle, and 20s. c.i.f. for best Bilbao rubio is purely a nominal figure. The freight Bilbao-Middlesbrough for early tonnage is about 5s. 6d. Coke for early delivery is much in excess of requirements and good furnace qualities can now be obtained at 16s. 6d. delivered works, but a higher price is asked for forward delivery. The number of furnaces in blast in the district is reduced to 32 by the damping down of one at Dimsdale Works.

Our Sheffield correspondent states that productive operations and trade generally are being disturbed by the half-yearly stock-taking. Preparations for this have tended to restrict buying for several weeks past, but there should be a substantial revival next week. The situation at the moment is very bad. Two blast furnaces are being stopped indefinitely at a Lincolnshire works next week. Stocks of pig iron have accumulated at a number of furnaces. Prices will be reconsidered next week and some concessions are possible. Fairly good business is being done in the more expensive kinds of special steels. Not many inquiries are about for heavy and crude steels generally. The home trade for various kinds of hand tools is steady, whereas the chief exports markets are almost stagnant. Engineers' small tools are also in demand from domestic sources. Production of open-hearth steel is still at a low ebb.

Our Glasgow correspondent writes:—Although the shipbuilding work placed and the prospects of further orders have somewhat brightened the outlook in West of Scotland trade circles, there is no material improvement in the situation at the steel works nor in the manufactured trades. At a great many of the West of Scotland concerns stock is being taken at the end of the present month, and this is invariably a quiet period of the year for home trade business. There has been no expansion in the export demand, and meantime the general impression seems to be that little improvement can be looked for till after the annual holidays. In the Falkirk district holidays commence at the end of this week, but in Glasgow and the Lanarkshire area generally the stoppage will not commence for about three weeks.

Our Cardiff correspondent writes:—The Welsh tinplate market continues quiet, but prices are being maintained and the upward tendency in tin is likely to stimulate the placing of new orders. Canada is reported to be inquiring for large quantities, and latterly business has been a little more active on Australian account. The sheet market is lifeless and fears are entertained that more mills may have to close down. Current quotations for tinplates are on the basis of 18s. to 18s. 3d. per box, and for galvanised sheets of £11 17s. 6d. to £12 10s. per ton. Welsh bars are easier at between £6 5s. and £6 10s. per ton, but foreign bars nominally unchanged at about £5 9s. per ton. Shipments last week were considerably below the average, and stocks have consequently increased to about 210,000 boxes.

OTHER METALS.

TIN.—Market opened dull at a material decline in prices due to lower foreign cable advices and pressing offers. Later, however, a recovery occurred on a better demand for forward positions, though dealings disclosed a good deal of irregularity. Standard cash changed hands at £133 15s. to £139 15s. and £138 10s.; three months, £136 to £141 5s. and £138 10s. In the East, sales were reported at £138 5s. to £143 5s. per ton, c.i.f. terms.

COPPER met with moderate support, and with sellers to the fore, values displayed irregularity and weakness. Dealings were mostly confined to forward positions, three months ranging from £48 8s. 9d. to £49 5s., with limited dealings in cash at £48 10s. to £49 5s.

LEAD quiet but fairly steady, as sellers refrained from pressing. Good soft foreign pig, June, sold, £17 18s. 9d. to £18; July, £17 18s. 9d. to £18; August, £17 17s. 6d. to £17 18s. 9d.; September, £17 17s. 6d. to £18; October, £17 18s. 9d. per ton.

SPELTER quiet and slightly easier on liberal offerings. July, sold £16 10s. to £16 5s.; August, £16 15s. to £16 10s.; September £16 18s. 9d. to £16 13s. 9d.; October, £17 to £17 2s. 6d. ton.

QUICKSILVER maintained. Spot, £22 2s. 6d. per bottle.

ZINC OXIDE dull, at £26 to £32 per ton, as to quality, delivered United Kingdom.

TIN PLATES in moderate demand. I.C. coke, prompt and forward, 18s. to 18s. 3d. per box f.o.b. Swansea.

ANTIMONY.—Quiet and easier. English regulus, £38 to £45; Chinese ditto, spot, £27 10s.; June-July, £22 to £22 10s.; crude, June-July, £14 per ton.

WOLFRAM.—Dull. Chinese, June-July, 16s.; Burmese, 15s. per unit.

ANTIMONY OXIDE.—June-July, £24 15s. per ton.

ANTIMONY ORE.—50 per cent., June-July, 3s. 6d.; 60 per cent. ditto, 4s. per unit.

THE COTTON TRADE.

LIVERPOOL, June 25th.

Business has been a little more animated during the past week, and some covering by shorts in the earlier part caused prices to advance some 25 points. This, however, has been lost, and quotations to-day are about 8 points lower than a week ago. Weather news continues to be very favourable, though the Central Belt could do with some rain. Weakness on the New York Stock Market has been reflected here. Sentiment continues to be bearish. Spot sales for the week 19th to 25th (inclusive) are 22,000 bales, of which 10,330 bales are American, 1,850 Brazil, 1,300 Argentine, 2,000 Peru, 3,100 Egyptian, 1,800 African, 1,000 East Indian, and 620 sundries. Imports for the same period are 26,080 bales, of which 5,629 bales are American, 3,607 Argentine, 5,494 Peru, 5,716 Egyptain, 3,473 African, 2,161 East Indian. Quotations to-day are: American, Middling, 7·47; Egyptian Sakel, 12·35, Uppers, 9·33; Brazil Fair, 6·77; Peru G.F. Smooth, 7·77; West African Middling, 7·37, and East African G.F., 8·02.

MANCHESTER, June 25th.

Conditions in the market continue very disappointing. Last week there was an improvement in inquiry and the hopes of spinners and manufacturers were raised, but this week business has not matured and very few buyers have been prepared to make definite offers. There is still much fear of lower prices for raw cotton, and the weakness now and again displayed in yarn and cloth quotations makes buyers nervous. Rumours are occasionally circulated of the boycott in India breaking down. The position in Madras is certainly easier and rather more contracts have been arranged. In the bigger ports, however, of Calcutta and Bombay the position is as bad as ever, and trade is quite out of the question. There is no probability of any freer buying for China just at present and silver has touched a fresh low level. A few more transactions have been mentioned in bleached shirtings for the Near East and scattered sales have occurred in printing and finishing styles for certain African outlets and South America. There has not been any general activity in home-trade goods. The sales in American and Egyptian yarns have been for restricted quantities, and to secure orders spinners have had to accept wretched prices. It is not expected that the scheme proposed for the Egyptian branch will be in operation for some time.

Statement of the Cotton Trade.

	1930.				Corresponding Date.	
	June 4.	June 11.	June 18.	June 25	1928.	1929.
	d	d.	d.	d	d.	d.
Raw Cotton—Mid. American ..... per lb.	8·43	8·04	7·55	7·47	12·13	10·35
" Sakellaridis Fully Good Fair Egyptian..... per lb.	13·30	12·95	12·45	12·35	21·05	15·95
Yarns—32's twist ..... per lb.	12½	12	11½	11½	17½	15
" 40's weft ..... per lb.	12¾	12½	12	12	17½	15½
" 60's twist (Egyptian) ..... per lb.	21½	21	20½	20½	31	25½
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
32-in. Printers, 116 yds., 16 by 16, 32's and 50's	21 9	21 6	21 3	21 0	26 9	25 0
36-in. Shirtings, 75 yds., 19 by 19, 32's and 40's	24 3	24 0	23 10	23 6	29 9	27 9
38-in. ditto, 38 yds., 18 by 16, 10 lb.	13 3	13 1½	13 0	12 10½	15 9	15 0
39-in. ditto, 37½ yds., 16 by 15, 8½ lb. ...	12 0	11 10½	11 9	11 7½	14 7½	13 4½

THE WOOL TRADE.

Our Bradford correspondent writes:—So far as the West Riding wages dispute is concerned, the trouble is narrowed down to the power-loom overlookers, all the other sections of operatives having returned to work. The overlookers, however, are apparently determined to resist the Macmillan scale to the bitter end, and in these circumstances it is impossible to settle down to normal production. True, many manufacturers are managing to carry on without the overlookers, but there is not that free movement of yarns which is essential to promote continuity of employment in all sections. The continued opposition of the overlookers, the loss of trade in recent weeks and, to some extent, financial pressure, combine to undermine confidence and restrict business. The market, indeed, is weaker than it has been for several weeks; the tone is subdued, and neither in tops nor in yarns is there any concerted buying movement. In these circumstances, and in spite of continued firmness in the primary markets, quotations for tops and yarns are inclined to sag, as sellers are willing to make concessions although prices quoted are well below replacement costs based on current prices of raw wool. Buyers are equally indifferent to bye-products in view of the increased production since the resumption of work in the mills. It would appear, therefore, that the West Riding industry is passing through another period of reconstruction, and that for the time being local conditions exercise more influence than world conditions. This appears to be borne out by the good foreign competition for wool in the primary markets, and by the increased machinery consumption in Continental centres, indicating that abroad users are not without confidence in current values.

COLONIAL WOOLS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Cables this week from Australia indicate that firm prices continue, and that both at Sydney and Perth there has been excellent competition, with values fully maintained. We are glad that selling brokers are meeting the market, for there is nothing at the moment to indicate that any higher prices are likely in the near future. It is cause for satisfaction that the different buyers are prepared to compete actively with each other for the wools that are being catalogued, and the good clearances which are being effected shows that users can still find an opening for what they are securing. The Joint Wool Council of Australia has estimated that the new clip will be 2,496,000 bales; 2,248,500 bales will be offered locally, and 1,200,000 bales will be catalogued by the end of the year, assuming that there will be a satisfactory call for the wool. This important authority also estimates a decrease of 112,000 bales in the forthcoming clip, at which some surprise has been expressed. This quantity of wool will not make a great deal of difference to marketing conditions, because all alike are satisfied that the forthcoming Australian clip will be fully equal to all requirements. The new clip should be very good in every respect. Generally, Australia has had a good winter, feed and water being adequate. With the heavy rains of last week coming just before shearing, a good deal of dust will have been washed out of the fleeces, and we fully expect that condition will be slightly better than in the clip of last year. This week Bradford has entertained a party of about twenty New Zealand pastoralists, a wool conference being held. Some important matters were talked over regarding the growing, selling and marketing of the clip, from which much good should result. New Zealand pastoralists were exceedingly pleased and more than satisfied with what they heard and saw as they went round the mills.

THE JUTE TRADE.

DUNDEE, June 25th.

With prices of raw jute and Calcutta goods declining, consumers of all products have shown little inclination to purchase. The Calcutta mills, just after having signed an agreement to work 54 hours per week as from June 30 instead of 60 as at present, are reported to be already considering that negotiations should be opened to restrict production to an even greater extent. It was generally anticipated that when the mills fixed up their agreement to work 54 hours, prices might at least be stabilised; but the immediate effect on the market was a sharp fall in prices, hessians dropping at least 2s. per 100 yards and heavy goods anything from 2s. to 4s. per 100 bags. Very large stocks of goods have accumulated at all consuming centres, and also in Calcutta, owing to the increased production of the mills during the past year, combined with the poor state of trade generally prevailing throughout the world. Dundee and Continental producers have been compelled to work short time and put off machinery to a very considerable extent, and the holiday period in Dundee this year, instead of one week as usual, will in many cases extend to three weeks. Bright prospects for the new crop of jute continue, and a bumper crop is expected, while the carry-over from the last crop is larger than usual. It is understood that the area is larger this year than last, owing to the fact that jute, though low in price, is proving a better proposition to the growers than rice. Best first marks have fallen to £26 15s. and best lightnings to £24 15s. for August-September shipment, while Daisee assortment has been sold by speculative sellers down to £22 and Tossa assortment offered at £24 10s. for September *October* and October-November shipment. Prices of yarns are more or less nominal in the absence of business to test them. Spinners are not quoting less than 2s. 8d. for common 8-lb. cops and 2s. 9d. for 8-lb. spools, and buyers are not offering to pay less. Twist is quiet at from 4⅞d. to 5d. for 3-ply 8 lb., and sacking yarns are about unchanged at from 3⅞d. to 3¾d. for 24-lb. weft and 4⅝d. to 4¾d. for 8-lb. chains. Rove is the firm item and business is passing at from £28 for 48 lb. and £18 10s. for 200-lb. Fine yarns continue firm and carpet qualities are nominal at from 4⅝d. to 4¾d. for 14-lb. warp. The cloth end of the trade is most disappointing, and only occasional orders of any consequence are being placed. For these the manufacturers are taking something less than their quotations of from 3¼d. for 10½-oz. 40-in. hessians and 2¼d. for 8 oz. Linoleum hessians are being bought in small quantities, and narrow tarpaulin is of some interest, but otherwise heavy goods are dull. Calcutta hessians were offered at 21s. 6d. for 10 oz. and 17s. 6d. for 8 oz., June shipment; 22s. and 18s. respectively, July-September; and 22s. 3d. and 18s. 3d. for October-December.

HIDE, LEATHER AND ALLIED TRADES.

Green hides and skins were steady to a slight advance at the auctions held in the North during the early part of the week, several weights in both clear and warbled ox and heifers making from ⅛d. to ¼d. per lb. more money at the Leeds sales. Calfskins were also a better market, and here again slight advances were recorded on certain weights. Business in connection with imported hides has been less active than of late and prices for most descriptions are inclined to be lower. The American Tariff Bill has been responsible for a certain amount of the inactivity in the South American market, where Argentine and Montevideo ox have declined to the equivalent of 7d., while cows have changed hands at 6¾d. In the Saladero market a few parcels of Rio Grande ox and cows have been sold at 6¼d. and 5¼d., but apart from this there is nothing of interest to report. Dry River Plates are also lower, sales of B.A. Americanos having been made at 7⅝d., Sierra Cordobas at 8¼d., and B.A. Inservibles at from 4⅜d. to 4½d. Cape hides have followed the downward tendency, drys now being quoted at 8¼d. and 7½d. for firsts and seconds, with dry-salted selling at 7⅜d. and 6¾d. While business in connection with sole leather is still chiefly confined to the sale of small parcels, there is a more optimistic tone prevailing, and the general impression seems to be that the outlook is brighter. Shoe manufacturers have shown more interest in the position, and although for the time being individual orders are kept to the smallest possible quantities, the aggregate turnover has accounted for quite an appreciable amount. Light dry hide bends in the medium to cheaper grades have been asked for for manufacturing purposes, while the repairing section have been interested in English and wet-salted in the better-class tannages. Shoulders have experienced a rather poor inquiry, and the only degree of activity experienced in connection with bellies has been in connection with pinned sorts. The upper leather market is steady, with a regular day-to-day inquiry for most kinds. Glacé kid in both black and brown is responsible for a considerable amount of the turnover, while a steady business is being done in box and willow calf. A fair trade is also experienced in connection with suède leather, as is also the case with reptile skins. Patent leather hangs fire, and the limited inquiry coming to hand is in connection with the lower grades. Semi-chrome leather also is quiet and is usually wanted at very low prices. Dressed kip leather is a slow sale and the lack of export business has been the cause of several firms considerably curtailing their working hours.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It has been recognised for some months past that the import of European building and joinery timbers would be a large one this season. A good start was made in May when, according to an analysis of the Board of Trade returns, the increase in the receipts of sawn wood from all sources was 24,460 loads (of 50 cubic feet), and as many as 199,240 loads for the five months, compared with the corresponding periods of 1929. In spite of the early period for shipping, especially for Russia, that country almost doubled her exports to the United Kingdom last month compared with May, 1929, while for the five months this year the Soviet shipments reached 168,800 loads compared with 106,260 loads. So far as the initial stage of the timber shipping season is concerned, suggestions that the Russian "invasion" at "ruinous prices" would freeze out the United Kingdom timber business of the other leading shipping countries has not been justified by results, for so far this year larger quantities have come forward from Finland, Sweden and, especially, from Latvia, which latter includes the port of Riga, before the Russian revolution one of the most important wood shipping centres of its kind in the world. Poland also is sending a little more wood compared with 1929, but not nearly so much as in 1928, when she was the largest shipper to the United Kingdom for the first half of the year. Stocks of European timbers on the United Kingdom market generally are large, but the consumption so far has been well maintained. Prices, however, are weak generally,

and auction sale values denote that the market is depressed. The building trade returns for May (£8,310,100) show an advance of £2,295,200 on the previous month, and a surplus of £643,900 compared with May, 1929. Since our last month's notes were written the Russian-United Kingdom timber situation has taken a somewhat dramatic turn in which the Soviet timber authorities have given concessions in c.i.f. prices, making guarantees (on certain conditions) as to their stability throughout the season, and arranging that their customers do not sell below a certain price range. The success or otherwise of the scheme depends almost entirely upon whether United Kingdom consumption keeps up to supply, and whether the other principal shipping countries do not make some serious attempt to secure more business. Experience of past years shows that as summer wanes with the United Kingdom holding back, drastic concessions have had to be made by shippers on occasions to stimulate sales, and that may also be the case this year. There are two outstanding features of the European timber and United Kingdom spot market to-day: (1) This Russian competition is not a thing of the moment but is going to continue, and the other principal shipping countries must recognise that; (2) the United Kingdom spot market is faced with a likelihood of supplies well in excess of demand, and must adopt a system of marketing on modern and more "pulling" lines. The hardwood section of the trade remains dull, but prices generally, especially for logs, are firm, as stocks are in good hands. The weakest spot continues to be American lumber, imports of which are too heavy month by month, the low offers from the other side showing that the wood-consuming industries in the United States cannot be doing at all well. The low c.i.f. values are reflected on all competitive material, home, colonial and foreign. The fact of the more common building, joinery, and furniture woods being in such good supply at easy rates ought to give a stimulus to larger manufacture in the United Kingdom and help to decrease unemployment. An extensive course of building work might prove to be the first good start towards better times.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

Markets are subject to varying conditions. In sympathy with cheaper seed, and on poor demand, linseed oil is easier, current value, ex Hull, for June delivery being £41, and for July-August, £39 10s. Cotton oils are quiet and easier, with crude Egyptian, ex Hull, quoted £27 spot, while for July and August deliveries business is reported done at £25. Other seed oils are quiet and easy. In the oilseed section linseed has further declined, following the fall in grain, etc., in America. Plate having relapsed to £16 15s. per ton on spot at Hull, and £16 5s. for shipment. Some little business is taking place in Indian linseed, Calcutta to London having been done at £17 13s. 9d., July-August. The quantity of linseed on passage to Europe is now 115,000 tons, or 4,200 tons less than a week ago. Cottonseed has attracted more attention, and for old crop black Egyptian for shipment, August and September, £6 11s. 3d. has been paid. A little is also passing in new crop, £7 being conceded for September and £6 17s. 6d. November-January loadings. The demand for oilcakes and meals is extremely poor, and prices have been again revised in a downward direction.

OVERSEAS PRODUCE.

FOOD, BEVERAGES, &c.

SUGAR.—No change occurred in spot prices, and there is only a comparatively small business passing, both on grocery and manufacturing account. A rumour prevalent in the London market of a further extensive deal by Russia is mentioned in cables from New York, but confirmation is not forthcoming. Quantity indicated from the latter quarter, totals 300,000 tons. Raw refining sugars quiet, and the low price of 5s. c.i.f. London, accepted for 500 tons Brazilian, 80 per cent. July-August shipment. Terminal sections opened firmer, but assumed a quieter tone later. Of raw, August sold 5s. 9¾d. to 5s. 10½d.; December, 6s. 1½d. to 6s. 3d.; March, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 2¼d. and 7s. 3¾d.; May, 7s. 6d. to 7s. 5½d. Cuban European last week cabled 32,476 tons, against 50,278 last year; exports, 40,647, against 66,318; stocks, 1,650,910, against 1,371,317. Centrals at work, 3, against nil last year. Stocks of raw sugar in three chief ports of the United Kingdom for week ending June 21st totalled 134,308 tons, against 121,494 last year.

COFFEE.—There is no improvement to note in this market. In fact, affairs of late have become extremely quiet, and it seems that quantities offered in auction are quite beyond absorption powers of trade buyers. Quite a large proportion again bought, while buyers were favoured respecting any alteration in prices. Some fine bold Costa Rica sold 140s. Brazilian varieties dull and undertone still weak.

COCOA.—Spot sales partake of a retail character at about late rates. Forward positions slightly unsettled and general trade slow. Accra, F/F, mid crop, sold 29s. 6d., with guarantee; and October-December, 34s. f.o.b. terms. Bahia quoted 39s., and St. Thome 38s. 6d. c. and f. Terminal, July, sold 35s. 6d. to 35s.; December, 35s.

TEA.—Quantity of Indian brought to auction during the week totalled 50,517 packages. Competition was of a sustained character, especially for qualities up to 10d. per lb., and these cleared at very firm rates. A few really fine teas went well, but some final and semi-final invoices disclosed some irregularity. New season's Darjeelings, though somewhat plainer in character, received fair support. Of Southern Indian, quality of Travancore marked a falling off, and previous rates were not always maintained. 30,357 packages Ceylon came to quite a good steady market. Competition was sustained in most directions and satisfactory progress made. A feature proved strength of demand for good liquoring medium kinds, and these were frequently ½d. to ¾d. dearer. Java and Sumatra sales met a good reception, and a firm market mostly resulted. Quite a steady trade is doing in China qualities.

RICE.—A quiet and generally unchanged market. Two Stars Rangoon, spot, London, sellers 12s. 10½d.; June sellers, 11s. 9d.; July, 11s. 9d. Spanish, oiled, shipment to London, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d. Italian, 15s. to 15s. 6d. c.i.f. No. 3 Burma to Levant quoted 11s. 9d. c.i.f. double bags. American blue rose from 24s. to 25s. c.i.f. S.Q. to Cuba, 12s. 3d. Saigon No. 1 round grain, June-July, to Europe, 12s. 3d. Siam Super, June-July, 17s. 1½d.

BEANS quietly steady. Madagascar, spot, London, 32s. to 34s.; May-June, 32s. Ohtenashi, spot, 19s. Rangoon haricots, spot, London, 10s. 9d. to 11s. 3d.; October-November, 26s. Danubian H.P., spot, London, 18s. 9d. To Glasgow, North African, new, July-August, 7s. 9d. c.i.f. Chinese ditto, 7s. 1½d.

PEAS slow of sale. Japanese new crop, spot, London, 13s. 9d.; old, 12s. 3d.; afloat, 13s. to 13s. 6d.; June-July, 13s. 3d.; and new crop, September-October, 14s. 3d. c.i.f. Dutch marrowfats, prompt, 14s. 6d.; small hand-picked blues, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. f.o.b. terms. Calcutta (per 504 lbs.), June-July, 43s. Karachi ditto, 41s. 6d. c.i.f. Maples: No. 1 New Zealand, new crop, June-July, 62s. 6d.; f.a.q. May-June, 58s. 6d. Tasmanian "A" grade, new, afloat, 64s.; June-July, 63s.

SPICE.—Pepper held steadily and a moderate inquiry prevailed. Lampong, April-June, quoted, 9¾d.; May-July, 9d.; August-October, 8¼d. Muntok, white, April-June, 11¼d.; May-July, 11d.; August-October, 10⅝d. Cloves idle. Sago flour, June-July, to the U.K., 9s. 7½d. c.i.f. Ginger quiet but steady. London stocks of black reduced 13 tons on the week to 955, against 1,658 same time last year, and white 33 tons down at 592, against 495.

FRUIT (Dried).—Currants: Market firm but business restricted. Patras, quoted, 39s.-43s.; Zante, 38s.; Gulf, 40s.-42s.; Vostizza, 44s.-58s.; Australian, new crop, 38s.-62s. Sultanas: Smyrna in small supply and market firm. Smyrna, medium to fine, 44s.-55s.; Cretan, 42s.-60s.; Greek, 42s.-65s.; Australian, old, 34s.-35s.; new, 45s.-75s. Dates dull. Hallowie, spot, 15s.-17s.; Khadrowie, 14s.; Siar, 11s.-14s. Raisins move off quietly. Valencias, quarter boxes at 36s.-38s.; Lexias, 38s.-42s. Figs in light supply. Genuine, 18s.-30s.; good average, 16s.; September shipment, 18s. 6d. c.i.f.

EVAPORATED FRUITS.—Market steady, with a fair business passing in most descriptions. Australian and South African apricots sell readily, while plums experience a better movement at the recent decline. Plums: Californian, new crop, 30's-40's, 55s.; 40's-50's, 52s.; Oregon, 30's-40's, 48s.; 40's-50's, 46s. Apricots: South African Royal, 50s.-112s. 6d.; Australian, 50s.-67s. 6d. Pears: Californian Lake County, fancy, 84s.; extra, 92s. 6d. Peaches: Californian, choice, 50s.-55s.; fancy, 57s. 6d.-62s.; South African, 1929 crop, 42s. 6d.-50s.; 1930 crop, 42s.-58s. Apples: Californian, spot, sliced, extra choice, 35s.-65s.; Canadian, 52s. Almonds firm. Mazagan, 100s.; Mogador, 97s. 6d.; P.G. Sicily, 112s.; Majorcas, 100s.-122s. 6d.; Bitter-Jordan, 185s.-192s. 6d. Apricot kernels: Indian, sweet, spot, 72s. 6d.; China, bitter, for shipment, 35s. c.i.f.; sweet, spot, 70s. Hazel kernels: Barcelona, 155s.; French (shelled) walnuts, 135s.-140s., ex wharf London; for shipment, 130s. cwt., f.o.b. Bordeaux.

CANNED GOODS.

CANNED FRUITS.—A better demand was dealt with for most varieties, consumption being stimulated by favourable climatic conditions, though plentiful supplies of fresh fruits militate against any increased trade expansion. Offers of new pack Californian are made at reasonable prices. Australian steady, but English old supplies are practically cleared. Singapore pines are now meeting with good support and rates tend firmer on spot, while buyers show more disposition to cover forward requirements. Italian tomatoes quiet of sale, with comparatively few offers of new pack available.

CANNED FISH.—Market generally steady with improved inquiries for salmon, but other varieties experience only a moderate movement. Salmon: Alaska, red talls, quoted, 48s. 6d.-49s. 6d.; pink talls, 23s. 6d.-25s. 6d., and halves, 32s.-35s. Japanese crab, best quality, 87s. 6d. Lobsters: Halves range from 130s.-135s. Sardines: Portuguese clubs, quarters, 4s.; 1 lb., 12s. per dozen tins.

CANNED MEATS.—A good demand continued for all descriptions and prices were fully steady, especially for ham and tongues.

CONDENSED MILK AND MILK POWDERS.—Market firmer and a good demand was reservedly met. Dutch condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 32s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 20s. 9d.; full cream, sweetened, 56-lb. drums, 50s. English condensed milk, full cream, sweetened, 5-cwt. casks, 42s.; machine-skimmed, ditto, 22s. 6d. Dutch full-cream milk powders, 26 per cent. butterfat, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 61s. 6d.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 82s. 6d. Dutch machine-skimmed milk powders, roller process, 1-cwt. cases, 28s.; spray, ditto, 2 by 56-lb. tins, crated, 38s. 6d.; ditto, 1-cwt. kegs, 37s. 3d.; ditto, 1-cwt. cases, 37s., all per cwt., English prices basis, carriage paid nearest station. Dutch prices are net, ex store, London-Hull or Goole, and cover prompt or gradual delivery to the end of July, 1930. Stocks available in Newcastle, 3d. per cwt. extra; Liverpool, 6d.; Manchester, 1s.; minimum, 1-ton lots; smaller quantity, 6d. per cwt. extra. On the grocery side, full cream, sweetened, 19s.; machine-skimmed, sweetened, 8s. 6d. basis per case, usual packing.

HONEY.—Market dull, with ample supplies available. Jamaica, white, 48s.-50s.; good amber to fine pale, 40s.-47s. 6d.; dark to

COMMERCIAL TIMES—WEEKLY PRICES CURRENT.

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

LONDON, TUESDAY.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	s.	d.
GRAIN, &c.—		
Wheat, No. 3, N. Man. 496 lb....	37	0
Eng. Gas. av., per cwt.	8	6
Barley, Eng. Gas. av.....	6	6
Oats, " " "	6	4
Maize, La Plata, landed, 480 lb.	26	9
Flour, Lon. stan. ex mill, s. d. 280 lb..... 33 0	0	0
Rice, No. 2 Burma, per cwt.11 9	0	0
Sago, pearl, per cwt.	23	6
Tapioca, per cwt.—		
E.I. flake, fair spot..... 20 0	0	0
Medium pearl..... 22 0	23	0
Potatoes, good English, per cwt.... 6 0	8	0
Beef, per 8 lbs.—		
English long sides 5 6	6	0
Argentine chilled hinds.. 4 10	5	4
Mutton, per 8 lbs.—		
English wethers 7 0	8	8
N.Z. frozen " 3 6	4	6
Pork, English, per 8 lbs.... 5 8	6	8

BACON— OTHER FOODS.

Irish .....per cwt.	103	0	114 0
Danish.....	98	0	104 0
Canadian.....	102	0	0 0
Dutch	86	0	98 0
HAMS—Irish.....	0	0	0 0
Canadian.....	0	0	0 0
American	99	0	112 0
BUTTER—			
Irish creamery per cwt.	132	0	136 0
Australian	116	0	133 0
New Zealand	122	0	146 0
Danish.....	142	0	144 0
CHEESE—			
Canadian ..... per cwt.	82	0	84 0
New Zealand	78	0	84 0
English Cheddars	74	0	90 0
Dutch	39	0	77 0
COCOA—			
(Duty, British grown, 2s. 4d.; foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
Accra f.f., per cwt.	38	0	0 0
Trinidad	60	0	65 0
Grenada	48	0	53 0
COFFEE—			
(Duty, British grown, 2s. 4d., foreign, 14s. cwt.)			
E.I., good to fine, per cwt.	123	0	138 0
Costa Rica, good to fine...	145	0	170 0
Cent. Amer., mid to fine	110	0	135 0
Kenya, bold sizes	115	0	135 0
Colombian, mid to fine...	105	0	115 0
EGGS—			
English..... per 120	12	6	17 0
Danish.....	10	0	12 6
FRUIT—			
Oranges, Jaffa (pagoda) bxs.	0	0	0 0
Jaffa ..... boxes	0	0	0 0
Oranges—			
Denia and Valencia ½ cases	300	17	0 20 0
	360	17	6 19 6
	504	16	0 0 0
Lemons, Naples... boxes		19	0 37 0
Sicilian ..... boxes		16	0 24 0
" ..... cases		15	0 30 0
Malaga ... cases 420 No. 1		0	0 0 0
Apples : Amer. (var.) brls.		0	0 0 0
" (var.) boxes		0	0 0 0
" Tasmanian boxes		6	0 11 3
" Australian		7	0 15 6

FRUIT (*continued*)—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Onions, Valencia :—				
case 4s.	0	0	0	0
case 5s.	0	0	0	0
Egyptian, bags.....	4	6	5	0
Onions, Oporto case	0	0	0	0
Chestnuts, Huelva....bags	0	0	0	0
Grapes, Almeria (Barrels)	0	0	0	0
LARD—				
Irish bladders	72	0	80	0
American boxes 56 lbs.	52	0	52	6
SPICES—				
Pepper, per lb.—				
Muntok, fair White.....	1	1½	1	2
Black Lampong	0	10½	0	11
Cinnamon—1st sort, per lb.	1	1	1	3
Cloves—Zanzibar per lb.	0	11½	0	0
Ginger—per cwt.—				
African	40	6	0	0
Jamaica, ord. to good...	60	0	90	0
Mace..... per lb.	1	10	2	9
Nutmegs 65's.....	1	3	1	8
SUGAR—				
(Duty, 11s. 8d. per cwt.)				
B.W.I., crystallised	19	6	22	0
Java, white, c.&.f India, July-Sept.	8	3	0	0
REFINED—London—				
Yellow Crystals.....	20	7½	0	0
Cubes.....	25	0	25	6
Crushed.....	23	6	24	0
Granulated.....	21	3	22	1½
Home Grown (prompt)	20	4½	20	9
TEA—				
Indian & Ceylon—per lb.				
Pekoe.....	0	8¼	2	1
Broken Pekoe	0	9	1	10½
Orange Pekoe	0	10½	2	4
Broken Orange.....	0	9¼	2	9
TOBACCO—				
(Duty 8/10–11/2¼ per lb., Empire growths, 6/9½ per lb.)				
Virginia leaf—				
Common to fine	0	10	2	6
Rhodesian leaf.....	0	9	1	6
Nyasaland leaf	0	9	1	8
" stripe.....	0	10	1	10
East Indian leaf	0	4½	0	8½
" stripe	0	5½	1	2

COTTON— TEXTILES.	d.
Mid-American..... per lb.	7·47
Sakellaridis, *f.g.f.*.....	12·35
Yarns, 32's twist.....	11½
60's twist.....	20½

FLAX—	£	s.	£	s.
Livonian ZK ..... per ton	58	0	0	0
Pernan HD	52	0	0	0
Slanets Medium 1st sort...	60	0	0	0
HEMP—				
Italian P.O. ..... per ton	49	0	0	0
Manila, July-Sept. "J2"	23	5	23	10
N.Z., ...		nom.		
Sisal African, July–Sept.	23	15	24	15
Mexican		nom.		
JUTE—				
Native 1st mks.... per ton		£	s.	d.
June–July		22	0	0
Aug.–Sept.		22	2	6

SILK—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Canton ..... per lb.	8	0	9	0
Tussah	5	0	8	0
Japan	14	0	15	9
Italian—Raw, fr. Milan	12	0	14	0

WOOL—	d.
English Southdown, washed per lb.	15½
" Lincoln hog, washed	11½
Queensland, scds super cmbg.	27
N.S.W. greasy, super "	14
N.Z., grsy., half-bred 50–56	12½
Crossbred 40–44	11

Tops—	
Merinos 70's	30
" 64's	28
Crossbred 48's	16–17
" 46's	16–16½

MINERALS.

COAL—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Welsh, best Ad'ty...ton	20	0	0	0
Durham, best gas	16	0	0	0
Sheffield, best house ...	20	0	21	0

IRON AND STEEL—				
Pig, Cleveland No.3, ton	67	6	0	0
Bars, M'brough 215	0	0	0	0
Steel Rails, heavy 170	0	0	0	0
Tin Plates, I.C., per box	18	0	18	3

METALS—	£	s.	£	s.
Copper, Electrolytic, ton	54	10	56	10
Sheets (strong)	83	0	0	0
Standard	48	10	48/12/6	
Lead Eng. Pig ...per ton	19	10	0	0
Soft Foreign	17/18/9		0	0
Spelter G.O.B.	16/2/6		16/13/9	
Tin—English ingots ...	140	10	141	0
Standard cash	139	10	139	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICALS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Acid, citric, per lb. less 5%	1	6¾	1	7
Nitric.....	0	2½	0	4
Oxalic, net	0	3½	0	4
Tartaric, English less 5%	1	1¾	1	2
	£	s.	£	s.
Alum, lump .....per ton	9	0	9	10
Ammonia, carb. ..... ton	36	0	38	0
Sulphate	10	0	12	0
Arsenic, lump .....per ton	35	0	40	0
Bleaching powder, per cwt.	7/10/0		6/12/6	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Borax, gran. ..... per cwt.	11	0	0	0
Do. Powder	12	6	0	0
Nitrate of Soda ...per cwt.	10	9	11	9
Sal-Chlorate, net.....	0	3	0	3½
Sulphate .....per cwt.	10	0	11	0
Sal-Ammoniac ... per cwt.	42	6	45	0
Soda Bicarb. .....per cwt.	9	0	10	6
Crystals ..... per cwt.	5	0	5	3
	£	s.	£	s.
Sulphate Copper...per ton	25	0	25	10

CEMENT—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Portland, best Eng. pr. ton	46	0	48	0

COPRA—				
S.D. Straits c.i.f., per ton	July	18/12/6	0	0
Smoked South Sea	July	17/17/6	0	0

DRUGS—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Camphor—				
Japan, refined	2	3½	2	4
Castor-oil	85	0	95	0
Ipecacuanha	11	0	0	0
Peppermint, Wayne Co....	14	6	14	9

HIDES—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wet salted—Australian per lb.	0	4½	0	4¾
West Indian	0	3¾	0	4¼
Cape	0	4¼	0	5
Dry and Drysalted Cape...	0	6½	0	8½
Market Hides, London—				
Best heavy ox & heifer	0	5½	0	7¾
Best cow	0	3¾	0	4¾
Best calf	0	8½	0	11½
INDIGO—				
Bengal gd. red-vio. to fine—per lb.	5	6	6	6
LEATHER—				
Sole Bends 8/14 lb.— per lb.	1	3	2	4
Bark Tanned Sole	2	6	3	3
Shoulders fm DS Hides	0	8	0	11
Do. Eng. or WS do.	1	0	1	6
Bellies from DS do.	0	6	0	7
Do. Eng. or WS do.	0	7½	1	0
Dressing Hides.....	1	6	1	9
Ro. Eng. Calf, 20/30 lb.	4	0	6	0
Aust. Bends	1	0½	1	5
VEGETABLE OILS—	£	s.	£	s.
Linseed, naked, p. ton net	42	0	0	0
Rape, refined	37	0	0	0
Cotton-seed, crude	27	10	0	0
Coconut, crude.....	31	0	0	0
Palm.....	21/7/6		23	10
Oil Cakes, Linseed, Eng., per ton	9	0	9	5
Oil Seeds—Linseed—				
La Plata, p. ton new— July-Aug.	16	5	0	0
Calcutta, per ton— July-Aug.	17/12/6		0	0
	£	s.	£	s.
Turpentine, per cwt.....	39	0	0	0
MINERAL OILS—				
Petroleum—Oil, per 8 lbs.	1	0	0	0
Water-White	1	1	0	0
Lubricating—	£		£	
Pales.....	10/5/0		21/7/6	
Reds	11/10/0		20/15/0	
Cylinder	14/5/0		38/10/0	
Fuel—	s.	d.	s.	d.
S.G. 895, 910.....	82	6	0	0
" 950.....	67	6	0	0
ROSIN—	£	s.	£	s.
American.....per ton	15	5	18	15
RUBBER—	s.	d.	s.	d.
Plantation Sheet per lb.	0	6⅞	0	0
Fine Hard Para per lb.	0	7½	0	0
SHELLAC—				
TN Orange ... per cwt.	115	0	0	0
SHELLS—	£	s.	£	s.
W. Aust. M.-o.-P. "	3	10	11	10
TIMBER—			£	s. d.
Swedish u/s 3 x 8 per std.			18	0 0
Do. 2½ x 7 "			18	0 0
Do. 2 x 4 "			18	0 0
Can'dn Spruce, Dis.. "			17	0 0
Pitchpine ..... per load			9	0 0
Rio Deals ..... per std.			32	0 0
Teak ..... per load			20	0 0
Honduras Mahg. logs c. ft.			0	11 6
African "			0	6 6
Amer. Oak Boards... "			0	6 0
Do. Ash "			0	6 0
English Oak Planks "			0	7 0
Do. Ash "			0	6 6

fine amber, 36s.-40s. Cuban, pale, 40s.; light amber, 36s. San Domingo, good to fine, 37s.-40s.; manufacturing, 35s.-36s. Mexican, 35s. Californian, 50s.; light amber, 45s. New Zealand, 65s.-95s. cwt.

RUBBER.

Market fully steady and business again progressed with fair freedom. Standard sheet, spot and July, sold 6⅛d.; August, 6 1/16d. to 6⅛d.; September, 6⅛d. to 6 3/16d.; October-December, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d.; January-March, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d.; April-June, 6⅛d. to 6 1/16d. To New York, estate sheet, afloat, sold 5 15/16d.; July-August, 6 1/16d. c.i.f. London stocks 784 tons up on the week, landings being 2,220; deliveries, 1,436; stocks, 78,888, against 30,617 last year. Liverpool stocks 708 up; landings, 963; deliveries, 255; stocks, 27,354, against 4,515.

GENERAL.

JUTE.—Market still quiet and prices marked a further slight decline. Firsts, June-July and July-August, Continent, quoted, £21 15s.; new crop, August-September, sold, £22 to £21 15s.; September-October, £22 to £21 12s. 6d.; Lightnings, June-July, quoted, £20 5s.; August-September, £20 12s. 6d.; Hearts, June-July, £19 c.i.f.

HEMP.—A steadier market for Manila, with sellers adopting more reserve. Buyers decidedly more prominent, especially for near parcels. J, No. 2, July-September, quoted, £23 10s.; K, £23; L, No. 1, £22 10s.; L, No. 2, £20 5s.; M, No. 1, August-October, £20 15s.; M, No. 2, £20 10s.; streaky, one, £40; twos, £35; threes, £30; Cebu, No. 2, £20; ditto, No. 3, £17 10s. African sisal dull and No. 1, June-August, sold £24 10s. c.i.f. Mexican sisal reduced to 5½ cents f.o.b. Progreso. Manila receipts last week cabled 20,000 bales, against 28,000 last year and 28,000 in 1928. Estimate for next week 25,000, and week following 27,000. Manila shipments last week, 5,000 to the U.K.; 4,000, Continent; 15,000, U.S.A.; 8,000, Japan; and others, 2,000, making stocks 151,000 bales.

SHELLAC.—Spot steady. T.N., 115s.; fine Orange, 130s. to 230s.; A.C. Garnet, 130s.; R.L.I. Button Lac, quoted, 150s. Futures irregular. August, sold, 105s. to 99s.; October, 108s. to 102s.; to arrive, July-August, sellers, 98s.; September-October, 101s.

COPRA.—Steadiness characterised this market, moderate inquiries being reservedly met. Straits, F.M.S., July to Rotterdam, quoted, £18 17s. 6d.; Dutch East Indies, July, £18 12s. 6d.; Ceylon, July, £19 10s.; sun-dried, South Sea, £18 7s. 6d.; to Marseilles, mixed Dutch East Indies, July-August, £18 7s. 6d.; smoked, South Sea, £18 5s.

PALM KERNELS.—To Hamburg, June, £12 5s.; July-August £12 7s. 6d.; August-September, £12 10s.; September-October, £12 12s. 6d.; October-November, £12 17s. 6d. c.i.f.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Coconuts, quoted, 16s. to 24s. per 100. Coir yarn, Ceylon, £22 10s. to £36 10s.; Cochin, £24 to £43 10s.; Ceylon, bristle, £18 5s. to £24 15s.; cinnamon leaf oil, 5s. 6d.; for shipment, June-July, 3s. 10½d.; citronelle, Ceylon, 2s. 4d.; Java, 2s. 4d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE.—June 25.

British Beasts, per stone of 8 lbs.; to sink the offal. Sheep per stone.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Beasts—Norfolk	6 6	6 8	Beasts—Heavy Bulls ...	...	...
Irish	...	...	Canadian	...	...
Cambridge.....	...	...	Sheep—Downs	8 4	9 4
Short Horns	6 4	6 6	Half bred	...	...
Herefords	...	...	Ewes	5 0	5 8
Devons	...	...	Scottish	...	...
Leicester runts	...	...	Lamb—Downs	10 4	11 8

LONDON POTATO MARKETS.—June 25.

	Per Cwt. s. d.	s. d.
English kidney	6 0	8 0
" rounds	5 0	6 6
Jersey	6 0	6 6
St. Malo	6 0	6 6
Boscoff	5 6	6 0
Palmpol	5 6	6 0

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In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s. 6d.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE new year has opened with feelings of distinctly qualified optimism, and this sentiment was re-echoed at such bank meetings as have so far taken place. It is believed that the progress made during 1929 has fallen considerably short of anticipation, but insufficient allowance has possibly been made both for several factors which place current statistics in too unfavourable a light, and also for the effect upon trade of the many disturbing influences of the year. There is, however, no gainsaying the fact that the approaching budget and the general position of the national finances are viewed in industrial circles with considerable apprehension, and this is having a bad psychological effect upon trade.

Considering these points in succession, when comparing 1929 with 1928, too little regard is often paid to the all-important fact that the 1929 price-level was appreciably lower than that obtaining during 1928. Thus the year's foreign trade returns show that in value exports of British manufactured goods declined by 0.9 per cent., but the official calculations of the Board of Trade show that in volume there has been an increase of 1.3 per cent. Raw material exports have been increased in volume by 13 per cent., this improvement reflecting the recovery in the coal trade. Again, retained raw material imports have risen in value by 6½ per cent., but if allowance be made for the fall in prices, the increase in volume is the substantial one of 11.4 per cent. Considering such unsettling occurrences as last February's frosts, the May elections, and the monetary and stock market crises of the latter part of the year, the progress recorded by these figures, though partial in character, is as great as could be expected. The price factor also enters into the interpretation of such statistics as country and provincial bank clearings, and in general many statistics regarded in their uncorrected form place the position of to-day in an unduly unfavourable light.

Another point to be remembered is that the last few weeks included the Christmas holidays and the period of annual stock-taking. The fall in coal production between November and December is due to the holiday factor, and stock-taking makes January an unreliable month in which to test the position of many trades. A final factor is that of the weather. The mild conditions experienced during the present month have undoubtedly assisted agriculture, but the storms of both December and January have meant increases in unemployment in all other out-door occupations, and early last month these increases partially neutralised the extra employment temporarily available in connection with the Christmas trade.

Yet even allowing for all these factors, the present position of British trade is one of hesitancy. In addition to the seasonal decline in the building industry, unemployment grew worse during early December in mining, cement, pottery, glass, pig iron, leather, and confectionery and in most of the textile trades. Improvements in iron and steel (except pig iron), in shipbuilding, the distribution trades, hotel services and docks and harbours hardly form an adequate compensation for these setbacks.

The iron and steel industries find the opening to the new year somewhat disappointing. There is no improvement in the cotton industry, the woollen industry is still waiting for more stable prices, and the rayon industry is hesitant. The boot trade is variable with only occasional activity, and the freight market is characterised by unrelieved depression. On the other hand, the engineering industry is hopeful, and shipbuilding and marine engineering relatively active. The motor and cycle trades are busy, and the electrical industries are maintaining their activity. Viewing the country as a whole, it seems that most industries are waiting on the arrest of the downward trend of commodity prices, and on more information as to the Government's intentions as regards coal, unemployment, and—most important of all—finance. The lower level of money rates has not so far had much effect either on industry or the stock exchange, but the successful flotation this month of one or two new capital issues is a hopeful sign, whether regarded from the industrial or financial standpoint. Nevertheless, the forthcoming budget remains the dominating factor, and until Mr Snowden's intentions are known, it seems that progress will at the best be slow.

Empire news this month confirms previous reports of the Canadian setback, and unemployment has already become severe in the Western Provinces. Indian weather reports are on the whole satisfactory, and industrial development in South Africa is

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—DECEMBER, 1929.

	Nov.	Dec.	Compared with Dec. '28.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %).....	11·0	11·1	Nil
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)*	5·3	5·0	− 0·1
Iron (thous. ")	631	643	+ 103
Steel (" ")	815	661	− 22
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s) .....108·2		106·6	+ 5·1
Re-exports (" ")	8·2	7·9	− 1·1
Exports (" ")	63·1	66·4	− 3·1
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000) 330		326	+ 2
Shipping Freights (av. level[1])	88·3	86·2	− 27·0
COMMODITY PRICES (" "[2])...	88·3	88·3	− 6·7
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	139	41	+ 9
SECURITY VALUES (av. level[3])	120·9	121·0	− 6·3
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Currency Notes (million £'s)*	357	369	− 11
Bank Deposits (" ")*	1,789	†	†
Bank Advances (" ")*	990	†	†
Banks Cash Ratio [4] (%)*	10·6	†	†
Bank Clearings :			
London (million £'s)*	910	833	+ 30
Manchester (" ")*	12·4	12·0	− 1·2
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)*	5 7/8	4 3/4	+ 1/8
Day-to-day Loans (%)*.....	5 7/8	4 11/32	+ 1 9/32

([1]) 1913 = 100. ([2]) *Economist* Index No.; 1927 = 100. ([3]) *Bankers' Magazine* Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921 = 100. ([4]) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts.

* Average weekly figures. † Not available.

apparently business has not been unduly affected by the Wall Street collapse. European reports announce little change. The coal trade is active, but the iron and steel industries are not quite so prosperous as in recent years. Central European trade conditions remain difficult.

Argentine crop reports are to the effect that this season's harvest may be small. Industrial news from Chile is on the whole favourable, but conditions in Brazil remain depressed by the collapse in coffee prices. In the Far East the fall in the price of silver has seriously affected trade with China. Japan experienced easy conditions at the end of the year, and the 1929 returns show that the adverse trade balance has been cut in half since the preceding year.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Coal.—Export trade is active, with prices firm, except in the West of Scotland. The house coal trade is below the average, this being due to the mild weather. Furnace coke is selling freely and output is increasing. Home demand for industrial fuel is on the quiet side.

Iron and Steel.—The New Year has opened in rather a disappointing fashion. There is a moderate demand for finished steel from the shipyards, but makers of semi-manufactured steel are once more feeling the effects of foreign competition. In the pig-iron section an additional hematite furnace has lately been reopened on the North-East Coast, but business is quiet and new orders are only coming forward slowly.

Engineering.—Prospects in the engineering trade seem fairly hopeful. The marine engineering section is maintaining its activity to a surprising degree, and there is some revival in the agricultural engineering section. Machine tool makers are suffering from intense competition, and business has declined slightly, while makers of prime movers are not doing quite as well as in January of last year. Constructional engineers are benefiting from the open weather, and locomotive manufacturers have now firmly established themselves in the world's markets. There is some room for improvement in the textile machinery branch.

Electrical Industry.—The following index of production in the electrical industry is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations. An explanation of the manner in which it has been computed will be found in page 888 of the *Economist* of November 28, 1925.

INDEX of ACTIVITY in the ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY.
(1920 = 100.)

1926.	Home.	Export.	Total.	1928.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January	75	110	84	January	68	148	88
February	74	106	82	February	68	143	87
March	80	101	85	March	71	141	89
April	83	100	87	April	70	122	84
May	83	104	88	May	68	108	79
June	82	110	89	June	68	105	78
July	80	79	80	July	71	80	74
August	84	83	84	August	74	86	78
September	87	70	83	September	81	102	88
October	89	86	88	October	83	107	91
November	93	103	95	November	85	105	93
December	94	143	106	December	93	103	96
1927.				1929.			
January	95	152	109	January	92	122	99
February	92	159	108	February	92	126	101
March	89	163	107	March	88	126	97
April	90	181	112	April	86	145	100
May	88	200	116	May	84	143	99
June	94	234	128	June	84	149	101
July	93	231	126	July	90	151	106
August	90	236	126	August	88	140	102
September	87	230	122	September	81	150	99
October	81	208	112	October	76	191	106
November	80	192	107	November	71	216	109
December	69	160	92	December	60	228	102

Export trade remains excellent, but except for the orders placed under the national scheme home demand is disappointing. Makers of generating plant, cables, transformers and switchgear are busy on orders for the national scheme, but the industrial motor branch of the industry is very depressed.

Motor Industry.—Private car manufacturers are fairly busy, although there is a falling off in exports as compared with last month. The commercial goods and passenger section remains satisfactory, and exports continue at a fair level. Cycle and motor-cycle manufacturers are meeting with a steady demand, both in the home market and from overseas.

Cotton.—Raw cotton exports from the United States continue to fall away, and Lancashire firms are using outside growths to an increasing extent. Cloth manufacturers have dealt with a larger inquiry. Political developments in India have not been so unfavourable as expected, and more contracts have been secured in light fabrics. Trade for China has again been checked by the fall in silver and low exchange rates. A little more activity has shown itself for the Near East, South America and certain African outlets, but makers have not met with much support from the Continent. Production in weaving towns remains very irregular. Although rather more buying has taken place in American and Egyptian yarns, the position of spinners has not improved.

Wool.—Bradford business remains restricted, and confidence in prices is still lacking. There is a moderate inquiry for merino tops, and some fairly good orders have been accepted for March delivery, but prices generally are too low to be practicable. Demand for yarns is poor, with prices still moving downwards, but considering the industry as a whole it seems likely that a considerable amount of business will come forward so soon as prices become stable.

Linen.—Spinners continue to be steady buyers of Irish and Continental flaxes. Controllers of Soviet and Baltic fibres have also sold bulk quantities. Prices remain without quotable change. Yarn quotations are in favour of purchasers, and well-assorted business has been done at limits that should allow linen goods to compete with other textiles. Damask and fancy linens are favoured.

Rayon.—Hesitancy has been still very noticeable during the past month. There has been a fair turnover in low-grade viscose yarns, but price cutting is still very serious. Hopes are expressed regarding an expansion of the better-class woven fabric trade during the next few weeks. The knitting trade has been rather quiet.

Boots and Shoes.—Some fresh orders have come forward since the New Year, but trade is variable and only a few factories have been really busy. January, however, is often a quiet month, and it by no means follows that the present inactivity will continue for long.

Pottery.—Although the conclusion of the Christmas trade brought with it a substantial increase in unemployment, business in the potteries remains fair. It is encouraging that many firms were able to work full time until a later date in December than is usually the case.

Chemical Industry.—The general tone of the markets during the past month has been quiet, being largely influenced by the holiday period, and business has hardly yet resumed its normal activity. December exports show a substantial increase when compared with those for 1929, ammonium sulphate being still responsible for the biggest advance among heavy chemicals. The only weak spot is coal tar products.

Building Trades.—Unemployment registered a further seasonal increase during December, and much time was lost owing to adverse weather conditions. Employment in the brick industry underwent little change in December.

Agriculture.—Some interference with winter sowing was caused by excessive rainfall, but outdoor work generally has not fallen unduly into arrears. Wheat, barley and oats have been sown on rather smaller areas than last year. Potatoes are keeping well, and root crops were secured and clamped in clean condition during December. The open weather has been favourable to cattle, and breeding ewes have done fairly well. Milk yields are about normal for the time of year.

Shipping.—The cargo freight market has been characterised throughout the month by unrelieved depression. Apart from a slight broadening of inquiry from the Pacific coast of North America, grain chartering has been inactive. A large surplus tonnage has been seeking employment, with the result that outward coal freights have weakened further.

Retail Trade.—The West End stores experienced fairly satisfactory conditions during December, and in contrast with November, trade seemed to have been better with them than in the suburbs of London. One important store adds that in spite of their being so close to Christmas January sales opened well, and sales in almost all departments exceeded expectations. Regarding the country in general, it is believed that the number of customers was higher than that of last year, but there was a falling off in the size of individual purchases.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canadian business conditions at the end of the year were very uneven. The general Christmas trade was satisfactory, but, as expected, there was a big shrinkage in the demand for luxury goods. In the industrial field there has been a gradual contraction of operations in many lines, and unemployment is severe in the West.

India weather reports are satisfactory as regards most parts of the country. The Central Provinces have lately benefited from rainfall. Cotton picking is progressing well there, and winter rice offers good prospects. Reports regarding crops are generally favourable, excepting in the Punjab, where there has been no improvement in the condition of unirrigated crops.

South African reports state that damage to the maize crops has been experienced in some districts, but that in spite of this

the yield may establish a new record. The output of gold for 1929 is valued at over £144,000,000, representing a slight increase over 1928. The production of platinum, copper and other base metals has also increased.

New Zealand reports 1929 to have been a year of general progress. The efforts of the Government in connection with public works and railway schemes effected a reduction in unemployment.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Business at the end of the year was slightly above the seasonal average. The steel industry operated at 60 per cent. of its capacity during December, and automobile production, which was low during the stocktaking period, has since shown a slight improvement. The distributive trades appear to have maintained their position fairly well in view of the autumn financial crisis.

The following indices of American economic conditions have been forwarded to us by Moody's Investors' Service, of New York and London :—

AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS—DECEMBER, 1929.

	Nov.	Dec.	Compared with Dec., '28.
EMPLOYMENT†—(June, 1914=100)	111·3	109·1	— 1·8
PRODUCTION—			
Bituminous coal (Thous. tons)	45,677	45,400*	+ 2,020
Pig-iron („ „)	3,181	2,837	— 533
Steel („ „)	3,513	2,896	— 1,123
Unfilled orders, U.S. Steel Corporation (Thous. tons)	4,125	4,417	+ 440
Building permits (Thous. $)	166,026	123,752	— 87,978
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (Thous. $)	338,553	311,000*	— 77,000
Exports („ „)	435,513	434,000*	— 41,000
TRANSPORT—			
Freight car loadings (Thous. cars)	3,820	3,341	— 306
SECURITIES—			
20 industrial stocks—Highest quotations‡	257·68	263·46	— 36·54
Lowest quotations‡	198·69	230·89	— 26·44
Thous. shares sold during month —(New York)	72,455	83,862	— 8,976
New securities issued (Thous. $)	343,085	509,614	— 476,768
BANK CLEARINGS—			
New York (Million $)	43,090	33,100	— 6,118
Other cities („ „)	21,642	19,479	— 1,583
RETAIL BUSINESS—			
Total sales, mail order houses (Thous. $)	73,698	90,019	+ 15,633

* Preliminary estimates made by Messrs Moody, subject to revision. † Based on reports of U.S. Labour Bureau and of Bureaux of the States of New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. ‡ Average of actual prices.

EUROPE.

The French coal trade remained active as regards industrial fuel, but demand for house coal was slow. Home demand for iron and steel was quiet, and exports irregular. Only a moderate trade is reported by the textile industries.

Activity in the Belgian coal trade is well maintained, but less regular conditions prevail among iron and steel makers. The textile trades are unsatisfactory, and the diamond industry, both in Belgium and Holland, has been seriously damaged by the Wall Street collapse.

The German house-coal trade has been retarded by the mild weather, but the sale of industrial fuel is keeping up well. Demand for steel products is generally limited, and the 10 per cent. restriction of production made by the International Steel Cartel only led to a temporary recovery in export trade. There has been a slight improvement in the textile industries, but the present position is still unsatisfactory.

In Scandinavia, Swedish production and trade have been assisted by the mild weather and the seasonal recession is less pronounced than usual. According to a Norwegian report home trade was rather more active than usual before the holidays. The revival in shipbuilding has also been maintained.

In Central Europe business conditions in Austria remain difficult and unemployment is more severe than it was a year ago. Crop reports at the end of December were favourable.

LATIN AMERICA.

The crop situation in Argentina has been characterised by further general rains over the maize districts. It is as yet too early to estimate the total yield, but it appears that hopes of a bumper crop may have to be modified. The yields of wheat, oats and linseed have been a little less per hectare than last year, and, while quality is good, there is certain to be a short crop, especially of linseed. A decree was signed on January 15th authorising, as in 1925, the issue of currency notes against gold deposits with the Argentine Legations abroad, so as to increase the supply of currency during the crop-moving season. The basic Chilean industries continue favourable and the output of nitrate of soda is maintained, but a slight commercial recession has recently been noted. Brazilian trade continues depressed by the unfavourable position in the coffee market, but some relaxation is reported in the credit stringency. Peruvian conditions have recently been characterised by somewhat severe restriction of credit, which has affected the exchange position. Advices from Colombia state that the River Magdalena is still in fair condition, but that movement of shipping is slow. General commerce in Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Salvador continue quiet, these countries being largely dependent upon the coffee situation, but some improvement is observable in Venezuela.

FAR EAST.

The fall in the price of silver to a new record low level had a serious effect upon trade in China. The latest reports, however, are to the effect that demand for cotton goods from Shanghai has slightly improved, but prices obtainable at the auction remain below replacement values. Still, despite the exchange difficulty, some business is going forward.

Japan passed through the end of the year fairly easily. Quiet business and lower prices meant that money was less stringent than a year ago. The foreign trade balance from 1929 is still adverse at 70 million yen, but this compares with 140 million yen in 1928.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION.

In the *Economist* of July 10, 1926 (pages 57-8), we published a new index of electrical production in the chief industrial areas of Great Britain. We show below a *résumé* of the results achieved during recent periods :—

INDEX of PRODUCTION of ELECTRICITY.*
(Monthly Average 1923-24 = 100.)

Date.	Britain, excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, Ship-building, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, etc.	Textiles, Cotton, and Wool.
1926						
March	135	136	155	161	139	131
April	119	121	128	153	127	114
May	93	88	103	145	99	90
June	100	88	119	157	114	105
July	91	77	123	147	110	97
August	96	84	112	149	110	101
September	105	88	132	163	127	112
October	125	110	148	149	148	131
November	136	119	159	167	161	145
December	148	141	157	183	163	148
1927.						
January	158	155	167	212	179	151
February	157	156	165	212	169	150
March	147	152	153	187	155	140
April	144	144	146	208	151	136
May	138	139	151	198	150	129
June	126	128	136	206	131	114
July	123	118	135	184	140	119
August	123	124	130	201	142	118
September	138	133	157	228	159	132
October	152	146	166	228	175	146
November	166	155	190	236	192	162
December	180	170	200	220	210	172
1928.						
January	174	164	195	232	199	172
February	170	162	188	249	195	164
March	170	165	192	252	195	159
April	149	149	164	226	164	132
May	140	136	170	223	163	125
June	141	138	160	248	158	130
July	131	127	149	248	151	124
August	130	131	131	227	147	116
September	150	145	164	263	175	138
October	161	153	185	245	189	154
November	178	164	215	240	206	169
December	181	171	210	195	210	176
1929.						
January	187	172	234	236	220	190
February	195	182	248	250	222	198
March	173	169	215	268	192	162
April	165	158	201	321	185	152
May	156	150	182	321	170	135
June	156	151	192	318	172	141
July	146	140	187	282	166	130
August	148	151	167	206	175	124
September	156	153	194	241	178	140
October	179	170	224	243	207	166
November	203	192	250	252	240	192
December	192	182	235	186	228	190

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

There was a distinct decline in activity for Britain as a whole, the areas accounting for the decline being the South-West Midlands, Sheffield, and West Lancashire. The average increase over the year is about normal, being 10 per cent.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

THE latest movements of our series of index numbers of business activity suggest that at the end of 1929 industry and commerce were inclined on the whole to pause a little in their stride. In the first place, the volume of employment, though maintained in "miscellaneous services" by the usual Christmas activity, underwent a definite recession in "general" industry. Secondly, apparent consumption of iron and steel, after the high level reached in November, fell back sharply; and the same was true of consumption of cotton. The seasonal decline in shipping traffic was balanced by a sharp rise—also reflecting seasonal influences—in provincial clearings, but exports of British manufactured goods dropped heavily.

On the other hand, retained imports of raw materials made a good showing, which affords some encouragement with regard to production in coming months. In the following table we give comparative quarterly figures in 1928 and 1929 for our indices of raw material imports retained, British manufactured exports, and foreign trade turnover—the last being an index (weighted) based on total net imports and exports:—

Average 1924 = 100.

		1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.
Net imports, raw materials...	*1928*	111	99	83·5	111
	1929	124	105	95	128
Exports, British manufactures	*1928*	108	103·5	108·5	111
	1929	109	106	112	110
Foreign trade turnover.....	*1928*	109	105	102·5	112
	1929	110·5	108·5	109	119

With the exception of the figure for manufactured exports in the last quarter of 1929, the picture presented by the foregoing table (due allowance being made for seasonal variation between quarters) is by no means disheartening.

Moreover, when we turn to the annual averages for 1929 and compare them with previous years we are afforded substantial crumbs of comfort. The expansion of British production and commerce may be as unduly slow, having regard to the needs of our population, as its absolute level, it may be contended, is inadequate. But some progress is unmistakably in evidence. The only index lower in 1929 than in the previous year is that of provincial bank clearings. In certain cases, *e.g.*, manufactured exports and volume of employment, the rate of increase is disappointingly small, but the trend, as disclosed by comparison both between the annual figures and those for the month of December in each year since 1924, is at least in an upward direction.

In the following table we summarise for purposes of ready comparison annual means of nine of the more important indices of the series:—

1924 = 100.

	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Net Imports—				
Raw materials	107	113	101	113
Consumption—				
Cotton	116	113	103	106
Coal	93	106	99	106
Electricity	101	109	110	116
Total employment	101	105	105	107
Provincial clearings	102	102	100	99
Shipping movements	98	105	106	111
Manufactured exports	101	104	108	109
Foreign trade turnover	102	107	106	112
Average	102	107	104	109

The foregoing "crude" averages make no pretence of measuring precisely the amount of change in the rate of business activity. As an indication of *direction* of change, however, they are at once interesting and encouraging.

1924 = 100.

Period.	Net Imports. Raw Materials.	Net Imports. Non-Ferrous Metals.	Consumption of. Iron and Steel.	Consumption of. Cotton.	Consumption of. Rubber.	Consumption of Power. Coal.	Consumption of Power. Electricity.	Volume of Employment. Heavy Industry.	Volume of Employment. "General" Industry.	Volume of Employment. Miscellaneous Services.	Volume of Employment. Total.	Merchandise on Railways.	Provincial Bank Clearings.	Postal Traffic.	Shipping Movements.	London Bank Clearings.	Exports British Manufactures.	Foreign Trade Turnover. (Quarterly Figs.)
Monthly Average.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1919	113	74	96	109	143	89	...	...	...	...	...	109	92	...	59*b*	54	74	79
1920	106	71	99	113	134	91	...	...	...	...	...	100	113	...	69*b*	65	101	87
1921	56	50	43	74	79	69	...	...	...	...	...	81	82	...	66	76	67	68
1922	89	63	34	99	58	87	...	...	...	...	...	84	97	...	91	97	88	85
1923	88	92	69	93	118	91	...	...	...	...	...	97	98	...	101	97	95	94
1924	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925	107	107	89	116	137	93	101	90	103	103	101	98	102	103·5	98	104	101·5	102
1926	107*a*	100	57	98	175	72	92	57	101	104	95·5	88	94	103·5	90	109	94	100
1927	113*a*	106	133	113	197	106	109	87	108	108	105	99	102	109·5	105	117	104·5	107·5
1928	101	113	88	103	212	99	110	82	108	110	105	93	100·5	114	106·5	125	108	106
1929	113	120	103·5	106	271	106	116	84·5	109·5	112	107	...	99	115·5	111·5	130	109	112
"Corrected" average for 3 months ended:																		
1928—Dec.	111	110	76	109	310	103	122	80	108	110	104·5	96	97	116	111	126	111	...
1929—Jan.	134	121	72	117	315	110	126	81	107·5	109·5	104·5	94	101	116	106	129	113	...
Feb.	129	123	66	111	263	114	130	83·5	106·5	110	104·5	89	107	115	99	134	109	110·5
March	124	118	70	116	290	119	128	85	107	110	105	92	106	116	99	136	109	
April	109	117	83	105	259	114	123	86	108·5	111	106·5	92	105	116	100	134	105	
May	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	108·5
June	105	135	106	103	265	98	108	84·5	110·5	113	107·5	94	98	114·5	113	126	106	
July	96	123	105	98	278	94	104	83·5	110·5	113·5	108	94	98	113·5	119	129	111	
August	92	123	114	85	299	95	102	84	110·5	114	108	94	96	113	122	129	109	109
Sept.	96	117	118	76	354	96	102	84·5	110·5	114	108	95	94	113	123	129	111	
Oct.	104*c*	117	119	85	358	99	109	84·5	110	113·5	108	98	92	114	121	125	109	
Nov.	116*c*	114	122	110	339	107	121	84·5	110	113	108	...	95	115	116	131	108*c*	119
Dec.	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	...	99·5	116	111	132	110	
Dec., 1924	124	92	104	133	107	104	108	96	101	100	100	103	101	100	102	99	102	...
Dec., 1925	126	102	74	126	172	101	114	89·5	104·5	103·5	102	101	105	104	100	107	106	...
Dec., 1926	117*a*	98	76	102	134	88	107	54·5	101·5	104·5	95	91	93	106	90	108	90	...
Dec., 1927	105	102	102	111	230	115	125	86·5	107·5	109	105	101	106	110	103	118	109	...
Dec., 1928	111	110	76	109	310	103	122	79	107·5	109	104	96	97	116	111	126	111	...
Dec., 1929	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	...	99·5	116	111	132	110	...

a Excluding coal imports. *b* Excluding Government War Movements. *c* Revised figures.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.
	a	*b k*			*g*		*b*		*j*	*e*		
1913	24,337	1,903	1,189	3,338	15,842	156	748	1,119	665	1,311	1,776	43,088
1924	22,617	1,947	1,265	*c*3,668	9,897	490	2,685	762	944	1,717	2,509	43,213
1925	20,590	1,925	1,063	*c*3,921	11,052	571	2,423	719	983	1,693	2,622	43,988
1926	10,692	2,110	1,214	*c*4,285	12,114	721	2,979	974	1,038	1,703	2,619	49,729
1927	21,355	2,298	1,222	*c*4,315	12,800	777	3,174	1,028	1,006	1,790	2,794	45,197
1928	20,129	2,295	1,264	*c*4,228	12,573	891	3,383	1,036	1,014	1,826	2,650	43,025
				c								
1928—December	19,842	2,175	1,220	4,089	11,819	846	3,449	958	977	1,603	2,890	45,002
1929—January	22,792	2,454	1,342	4,425	13,490	968	4,039	950	1,049	1,865	2,720	53,336
February	21,397	2,115	1,294	4,094	12,104	829	3,295	1,016	977	2,068	2,545	48,934
March	22,949	2,393	1,508	4,562	13,502	924	3,808	1,257	993	2,201	2,915	40,271
April	21,206	2,243	1,341	4,458	13,407	938	3,734	1,264	1,057	2,067	2,738	39,307
May	21,021	2,122	1,250	4,438	12,759	948	3,402	1,143	1,137	2,083	2,713	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	1,243	4,432	13,221	*m* 921	3,503	1,104	1,006	1,770	2,586	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	1,351	4,736	14,362	*m*1,024	4,024	1,023	1,168	1,579	2,569	41,393
August	20,867	2,220	1,398	4,568	14,467	*m* 984	3,942	1,025	1,097	1,576	2,323	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	1,439	4,299	13,480	*m* 958	3,951	928	1,039	1,905	2,499	46,545
October	23,358	2,280	1,556	4,858	14,835	*m*1,071	4,401	978	1,091	1,948	2,687	54,038
November	22,613	2,306	1,585	†4,706	14,157	*m*1,002	4,115	...	1,013	...	...	46,919
December	†20,295	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†46,600

Period. Monthly Average.	LIGNITE. Austria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Germany.	Hungary.
	b	*b k*	*g*	
1913	218	1,927	7,269	460
1924	231	1,705	10,386	529
1925	255	1,566	11,644	460
1926	247	1,589	11,596	485
1927	256	1,669	12,542	520
1928	272	1,726	13,852	543
1928—December	291	1,715	14,105	634
1929—January	315	1,943	14,817	671
February	307	1,670	13,689	607
March	333	2,087	14,727	624
April	278	1,979	14,226	528
May	251	1,743	13,669	477
June	245	1,586	13,763	479
July	280	1,736	14,885	521
August	298	1,844	15,136	516
September	295	1,871	14,220	592
October	325	1,919	16,050	702
November	301	2,142	15,623	662
December	...	...	...	...

PIG IRON

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
					g	*a*	*f*		
1913	869	207	434	114	1,397	212	61	85	2,601
1924	619	237	*c*641	112	651	180	43	50	2,634
1925	530	212	*c*708	121	848	197	36	48	3,082
1926	208	283	*c*786	135	804	213	39	64	3,308
1927	617	313	*c*777	148	1,092	228	35	60	3,068
1928	560	325	*c*834	161	984	231	33	88	3,204
			c						
1928—December	549	345	882	167	883	234	40	105	3,424
1929—January	573	351	905	169	1,098	242	44	189	3,498
February	528	302	781	147	982	209	42	95	3,258
March	600	334	880	174	1,061	237	38	88	3,774
April	621	336	871	178	1,105	235	42	81	3,721
May	665	348	897	186	1,133	248	47	83	3,961
June	668	342	865	188	1,164	242	33	91	3,757
July	683	347	877	185	1,204	250	39	101	3,846
August	693	348	893	182	1,168	251	41	114	3,816
September	675	347	851	174	1,109	240	38	100	3,554
October	700	361	894	179	1,157	259	43	93	3,646
November	642	340	865	169	1,091	247	41	87	3,232
December	653	...	...	...	1,129	...	...	...	2,883

STEEL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
			c		*g*	*a*	*f*		
1913	649	206	391	159	1,467	101	62	88	2,564
1924	694	240	575	121	820	157	46	55	3,117
1925	625	212	621	131	1,016	174	43	64	3,737
1926	304	281	703	145	1,028	187	43	66	3,794
1927	770	309	692	158	1,359	206	43	77	3,675
1928	722	328	770	173	1,210	214	50	105	4,222
1928—December	694	333	828	175	1,091	218	50	105	4,083
1929—January	774	357	837	183	1,470	225	47	118	*h* 4,562
February	793	302	742	161	1,270	195	56	119	*h* 4,395
March	874	349	804	179	1,314	221	59	139	*h* 5,139
April	822	342	810	186	1,415	226	59	124	*h* 5,017
May	857	340	820	188	1,421	230	70	128	*h* 5,358
June	844	349	797	190	1,430	219	49	121	*h* 4,960
July	818	356	815	199	1,466	235	59	132	*h* 4,916
August	765	365	827	192	1,402	238	68	122	*h* 5,006
September	862	347	763	185	1,231	224	61	101	*h* 4,583
October	904	369	847	200	1,377	242	70	118	*h* 4,584
November	828	333	790	179	1,286	231	65	95	*h* 3,569
December	672	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	† 3,043

† Provisional figure. *a* Figures communicated by the "Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques." *b* Present territory. *c* Including Alsace-Lorraine. *d* Saleable coal; since end 1921 excluding Ireland. *e* British Provinces only. *f* "Ekonomisk Oversikt." *g* From 1918 excluding Alsace-Loraine and from 1919 excluding Saar; from 1922, excluding Polish Upper Silesia. *h* Establishments whose production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. *i* Including lignite. *j* Coal sold. *k* Until end 1925 saleable coal. *m* Including coal waste.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K. Board of Trade.	U.K. *Economist.*	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Official).	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.
		a	*f*		*e j*		*i l*					*j*						
1913	100	100	*h*100	*h*100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	*h*100	100
1924	166·2	166·2	573	997	...	488·5	137·3	156	512	267	109·8	172	183	162	174·6	173·3	173	155·3
1925	159·1	160·9	558	1,008	210	549·8	141·8	155	596	253	125·4	183	188	161	161·6	169·5	159	160·3
1926	148·1	149·4	744	954	163	702·6	134·4	145	603	198	*p*181·2	177	181	149	144·5	168·4	148	156·3
1927	141·4	143·7	847	979	153	617·2	137·6	148	495	167	*p*118·6	171	172	146	142·2	167·0	148	152·7
1928	140·3	140·9	843	977	153	620·6	140·0	149	462	161	119·8	177	167	148	144·6	164·7	145	150·8
		b		*d*		*b*	*b*		*b*	*c*	*p k*	*d*	*c*		*c*		*b*	
1928—December	138·3	136·5	855	953	151	623·8	139·9	148	464	157	117·9	177	175	145	143·9	161·8	145	147·7
1929—January	138·3	136·1	867	950	151	630·6	138·9	146	461	154	115·6	177	171	144	142·5	164·2	145	147·7
February	138·4	137·3	865	964	159	638·5	139·3	146	463	155	117·1	178	173	145	142·9	163·4	144	149·5
March	140·1	138·1	869	963	154	639·4	139·6	147	461	155	117·3	179	174	144	141·8	164·7	143	150·2
April	138·8	135·0	862	940	150	626·7	137·1	144	455	154	116·5	180	174	141	140·1	165·3	140	147·0
May	135·8	131·5	851	917	148	622·8	135·5	142	452	152	113·0	181	171	140	139·3	164·0	139	144·4
June	135·6	131·7	848	922	146	610·0	135·1	141	447	151	112·8	180	170	139	139·4	165·3	138	144·7
July	137·4	134·6	858	916	149	613·0	137·8	141	440	152	113·2	180	169	140	142·8	166·6	142	150·0
August	135·8	134·5	850	902	150	596·4	138·1	142	437	154	112·7	181	170	141	142·7	167·8	143	153·3
September	135·8	131·9	846	895	150	597·3	138·1	141	437	154	111·3	182	171	140	142·2	170·8	143	152·0
October	136·1	129·6	838	888	149	589·5	137·2	140	436	154	110·3	181	172	138	142·0	168·4	140	151·1
November	134·0	126·9	834	876	147	583·7	135·5	137	431	152	112·2	...	...	135	139·7	...	...	149·7
December	132·5	126·9	...	...	146	575·8	134·3	...	...	152	...	...	...	...	139·0	...	...	...

a New index. *b* End of the month. *c* 15th of month. *d* Beginning of the following month. *e* Official. *f* Second half of month. *h* 1914. *i* *Frankfurter Zeitung* index discontinued. *j* End year. *k* Average last week of month. *l* Since 1924, new series. *p* Since January, 1926, new index.

Wholesale Prices—*Continued.*

Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States Bureau of Labour.
1913	100	100	100	100
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	144·1
1924	128·7	153·9	206·5	140·5
1925	127·6	159·4	201·7	148·3
1926	123·3	164·1	178·9	143·3
1927	*g*124·0	170·4	169·8	136·7
1928	*g*120·5	160·7	170·9	140·0
	g	*g*		
1928—December	...	159·9	173·7	138·5
1929—January	119·6	160·1	172·2	139·3
February	...	162·4	171·0	138·5
March	...	164·2	171·0	139·7
April	116·6	161·2	169·6	138·7
May	...	161·7	168·6	137·2
June	...	162·6	167·6	138·1
July	114·6	162·7	166·0	140·4
August	...	164·7	165·1	140·0
September	...	167·1	164·4	139·7
October	113·4	168·0	163·4	138·0
November	...	164·7	159·6	135·2
December	...	...	...	...

Index Numbers of Retail Prices. Cost of Living.—(Base=100.)

	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	105	Vienna.	59	12	Paris.	71	Milan.	Madrid.	60	32
Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	April, 1914.	1914.	1914.	Oct., 1913, Jan., April, June, 1914.	Jan.–June, 1914.	1914.	1913.	July 1914.
							a				
1924—July	171	183	*c s* 86	125	*s* 2833	*d* 366	*h* 126·4	*b* 512	184	98·0	*s y* 162
1925—July	173	188	97	133	3014	390	*b* 143·3	598	189	99·3	169
1926—July	170	182	103	174	2886	485	*b* 142·4	649	187	100·0	166
1927—July	164	171	106	204	2788	525	150·0	548	189	98·5	162
1928—July	165	173	108	205	2911	*w* 105	152·6	145	176	99·1	161
					w t	*w x*	*b*				
1928—Dec.	167	...	109	216	105·4	108	152·7	147	187	99·7	162
1929—Jan.	165	177	109	216	105·6	...	153·1	148	184	99·6	161
Feb.	166	...	111	217	108·4	...	154·4	148	183	99·4	161
March	162	...	110	216	109·4	111	156·5	153	184	99·5	160
April	161	173	109	214	110·1	...	153·6	150	184	98·9	159
May	160	...	109	214	111·6	...	153·5	148	182	99·2	159
June	161	...	111	213	111·8	113	153·4	149	179	99·3	160
July	163	174	112	216	112·6	...	154·4	148	177	99·4	162
August	164	...	113	221	107·3	...	154·0	146	178	101·1	163
Sept.	165	...	113	225	106·3	113	153·6	147	178	100·9	163
October	167	179	113	229	...	...	153·5	149	179	100·8	...
Nov	167	...	113	229	...	...	153·0	149	...	...	...
Dec.	166	...	113	...	...	...	152·6	150	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. *b* Gold mark prices. *c* Since 1923 gold prices. *d* Yearly average. *e* Prices of foodstuffs average of quarter. *g* Last Wednesday of month. *h* Average of second quarter. *g* Revised. *s* 15th of month. *t* Excluding clothing and rent. *v* Since November, 1927, new series. *w* Since date of stabilisation gold standard index. *x* Average of quarter. *y* Compiled by National Industrial Conference Board.

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period. End of	United Kingdom. Bank of England Notes. £	Austria. Bank Notes. Schilling.	Belgium. Bank Notes. Francs.	Bulgaria. Bank Notes. Leva.	Czecho-slovakia. Bank Notes. Koruna.	Denmark. Bank Notes. Kron.	Finland. Bank Notes. Markat.	France. Bank Notes. Francs.	Germany. Reichsbank Notes. Reichsmark.	Germany. "Rentenbank." Rentenmks.	Greece. Bank Notes. Drachmæ	Hungary. Bank Notes. Pengö.	Jugo-Slavia. Bank Notes. Dinars.	Netherlands. Bank Notes. Gulden.	Netherlands. State Notes. Gulden.
1913	a 29·6	...	z 1,067	189	...	152	113	y 5,714	g 2,742	i ...	245	k ...	u ...	313	...
1922	398·3	c4,080,177	6,876	3,886	10,064	459	1,421	36,359	1,293,758	...	3,149	75,887	5,040	1,012	32
1923	404·8	713	7,537	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	39,114	f496507,424,772	...	4,681	931,337	5,790	1,066	32
1924	397·6	839	7,873	4,530	8,810	478	1,250	40,885	1,941	1,835	4,866	4,513,990	6,002	935	23
1925	385·3	890	7,814	3,655	8,408	438	1,309	51,085	2,960	1,476	5,395	416	6,063	875	17
1926	381·0	947	9,646	3,485	8,203	386	1,346	52,907	3,736	1,164	4,865	471	5,812	819	13
1927	382·3	1,005	10,951	3,727	8,417	354	1,514	56,551	4,564	716	4,966	487	5,743	797	12
1928	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	63,916	4,930	530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1928—Dec.	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	63,916	4,930	i 530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1929—Jan.	355·6	965	12,847	3,898	7,115	336	1,431	63,867	4,454	513	5,514	485	5,194	782	11
Feb.	352·3	977	12,912	3,894	7,063	342	1,523	64,226	4,553	508	5,465	451	5,159	776	11
Mar.	361·8	1,004	12,812	4,101	7,333	357	1,596	64,575	4,822	504	5,488	458	5,265	835	12
Apl.	361·4	995	12,904	4,366	7,133	359	1,556	62,848	4,631	489	5,617	485	5,212	840	12
May	360·1	998	13,238	3,977	7,183	358	1,481	64,316	4,606	491	5,415	446	5,092	797	12
June	369·1	1,044	13,159	3,972	7,612	366	1,473	64,921	4,839	460	5,494	463	5,196	844	11
July	371·8	1,047	13,894	3,974	7,321	351	1,439	65,679	4,726	434	5,304	491	4,299	812	12
Aug.	364·0	1,046	13,871	4,121	7,500	361	1,448	66,468	4,897	432	5,214	480	5,659	844	12
Sept.	363·3	1,079	13,890	4,222	7,697	353	1,440	66,639	4,914	433	5,414	478	5,695	852	12
Oct.	358·8	1,081	14,360	4,255	7,763	372	1,377	68,267	4,833	407	5,364	526	5,773	826	12
Nov.	354·6	1,072	e13,471	3,900	7,689	370	1,347	68,159	4,916	394	5,173	473	5,690	861	12
Dec.	369·8	1,094	e13,933	...	8,230	367	...	68,571	5,044	397	...	501	5,818	851	11

Period. End of	Italy. Bank Notes. Lire.	Italy. State Notes. Lire.	Norway. Bank Notes. Kroner.	Poland. Bank Notes. Zloty.	Poland. Token Notes and Coins. Zloty.	Roumania. Bank Notes. Lei.	Russia. State Notes. Gd.Rbls.	Russia. Bank Notes. Rbles.	Sweden. Bank Notes. Kronor.	Switzerland. Bank Notes. Francs.	Australia. Bank Notes. £	Canada. Bank Notes and Dominion Notes. Dollars.	South Africa. Bank Notes. £	Egypt. Bank Notes. £E	United States. Bank Notes. Dollars.	United States. State Notes. Dollars.	Japan. Bank Notes. Yen.
1913	d 2,284	w 499	108	m ...	t ...	u 437	v ...	v ...	234	314	o r 10·0	p 116	q 2·3	2·2	726	343	e 426
1922	18,012	2,267	385	...	...	15,126	...	4	584	976	52·0	184	8·3	31·7	3,117	288	1,558
1923	17,247	2,428	396	...	...	17,917	...	237	576	982	52·2	187	8·8	34·3	2,951	308	1,704
1924	18,114	2,400	391	551	151	19,397	229	411	537	914	56·9	177	9·1	40·2	2,555	297	1,662
1925	19,349	2,100	363	381	440	20,222	388	727	530	876	53·9	176	7·2	33·5	2,458	294	1,668
1926	18,340	1,793	337	593	428	20,951	398	797	525	874	49·9	190	6·6	27·8	2,458	298	1,377
1927	17,992	783	331	1,003	309	21,025	480	1,003	526	917	51·8	192	7·2	27·5	2,387	294	1,682
1928	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	...	...	o 1,123	546	953	48·7	...	7·6	...	2,428	295	1,773
1928—Dec.	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	21,321	730	1,091	546	953	48·7	193	7·6	30·3	2,428	307	1,773
1929—Jan.	16,590	157	299	1,222	230	20,391	680	1,037	486	840	46·7	173	7·3	28·4	2,248	295	1,405
Feb.	16,197	120	301	1,249	231	20,325	701	1,056	499	843	45·4	177	7·5	27·5	2,277	283	1,278
Mar.	16,396	117	312	1,333	239	20,964	717	1,073	544	886	44·4	205	8·0	27·7	2,323	285	1,354
Apl.	16,274	104	308	1,274	231	19,968	776	1,120	518	875	43·0	183	7·6	26·8	2,296	278	1,364
May	16,251	99	305	1,244	227	19,080	748	1,103	519	872	42·5	184	7·9	25·1	2,301	290	1,299
June	16,753	96	318	1,298	234	19,113	805	1,192	560	898	42·3	199	7·8	23·3	2,349	263	1,462
July	16,877	96	315	1,293	240	19,188	833	1,238	522	900	41·6	184	7·6	21·8	2,372	244	1,250
Aug.	16,701	96	314	1,359	255	20,340	907	1,330	549	911	41·6	203	7·8	21·2	2,482	250	1,334
Sept.	16,916	90	316	1,354	260	21,393	983	1,428	580	944	41·9	206	7·5	25·2	2,473	266	1,286
Oct.	16,977	83	307	1,392	270	21,774	1,068	1,527	554	944	42·9	201	7·4	28·0	2,495	268	1,297
Nov.	16,828	80	303	1,366	267	21,387	...	o 1,575	573	928	...	...	7·7	...	2,530	276	1,346
Dec.	...	...	318	1,340	...	21,150	...	o 1,537	569	999	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a Until November, 1928, including State notes, then transferred to Bank. b Includes notes called in, but not cancelled. c Kronen. One schilling = 10,000 paper kronen. d In terms of new lire = 8,373 million. e Excluding Government notes. f Milliards. g Marks—including Reichs- und Darlehenkassenscheine. h Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since October, 1926, including Government notes of 5 and 20 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes. i Excluding notes held by Reichsbank. k Until end 1924 paper kronen. (One pengö = 12,500 paper kronen.) l May 31st, 1925: ceased to be exchangeable against Zloty notes. m One Zloty = 1,800,000 P. Marks. n Token coin 170·3 million Zloty. o Gross issue. p Excluding notes held as reserve by Chartered Banks. q Circulation in Union only. r State notes. t Since January, 1926, excluding notes held by Bank of Poland. u Since 1920, including Austria-Hungarian and other notes converted after the war into National Currency. v Since 1926, excluding notes held by the State Bank. w In terms of new lire = 1,829 millions. y In terms of new francs. z Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since Oct., 1926, including Government Notes of 5 and 10 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris. Francs to £1.	Brussels. Belgas to £1.	Italy. Lire to £1.	Switzerland. Francs to £1.	Madrid. Pesetas to £1.	Amsterdam. Florins to £1.	Stockholm. Kronor to £1.	Oslo. Kroner to £1.	Copenhagen. Kroner to £1.	Berlin. Marks to £1.	Vienna. Schillings to £1.	New York. Dollars to £1.	Buenos Aires. Pence Dollars.
Par level	124·21	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58½	4·86⅝	47·58
Highest, 1929	124·37	34·96⅜	93·27½	25·24¾	36·92	12·13	18·18⅜	18·21½	18·22½	20·58	34·75	4·88 7/16	47½
Lowest, "	123·68	34·84¾	92·52	25·08¾	29·67	12·05⅞	18·08⅝	18·18¾	18·17½	20·31½	34·41	4·84 9/16	44
Beginning of—													
July, 1914	25·15	† 25·35½	25·25½	21·16½	26·10	12·11⅞	18·30	18·25	18·30	20·49½	‡ 24·55	4·87⅝	47 1/16
January, 1922	52·32½	† 54·65½	97½	21·70½	28·19½	11·44½	16·97½	26·99½	21·12½	791½	‡ 13,000	4·20	43 1/16
January, 1923	66·30	† 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	‡ 330,000	4·68	44
January, 1924	87·85	† 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅝	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	19½ billions	‡ 305,500	4·29⅜	40 7/16
January, 1925	87·40½	† 94·79½	112·35	24·34½	33·95½	11·71½	17·62½	31·37½	26·85½	19·94½ gld. mks.	‡ 337,500	4·74 13/16	46 5/16
January, 1926	129·31½	†107·00	120	25·08½	34·31½	12·05	18·08	23·83½	19·60½	20·37½ "	34·37½	4·85 5/16	46 11/16
January, 1927	122·81½	34·89	109·62½	25·14½	31·23½	12·12⅞	18·15½	19·04½	18·20	20·43⅞ "	34·42½	4·85 1/16	46 11/16
January, 1928	124·00	34·92½	92·32½	25·27⅞	28·24	12·09½	18·11½	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½ "	34·52	4·87 13/16	47 11/16
January, 1929	124·10½	34·88½	92·64	25·18⅞	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17⅞	20·38½ "	34·44½	4·85 1/16	47⅜
November "	123·86½	34·87½	93·13½	25·17¼	34·39½	12·08⅜	18·15⅜	18·20½	18·20⅜	20·39 "	34·69	4·87⅛	46⅛
December "	123·94	34·87	93·22	25·11½	34·61½	12·09½	18·11	18·20½	18·19½	20·38⅝ "	34·67½	4·88 5/16	46 9/32
January, 1930	123·91	34·88¾	93·22	25·13⅞	36·62½	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20½	18·20½	20·43½ "	34·65½	4·87 21/32	45 15/16

	Rio de Janeiro. Pence to Milreis.	Monte Video. Pence to Dollars.	Valparaiso. Pesos to £1.	Bombay. Pence to Rupee. s. d.	Hong Kong. Sterling to Dollar. s. d.	Shanghai. Sterling to Tael. s. d.	Japan. Sterling to Yen. s. d.	Singapore. Sterling to Dollar. s. d.
Par level	16	51	40	1 6	...	...	2 0½	...
Highest, 1929	5 13/16	51½	39·79	1 6 5/32	2 0 13/16	2 7⅞	2 0 3/16	2 4⅛
Lowest, "	5 9/16	45¼	39·37	1 5 29/32	1 7⅜	2 1 1/16	1 9 13/16	2 3⅝
Beginning of—								
July, 1914	16 1/16	51½	§ 9⅞	1 3 15/16	1 10⅜	2 6¼	2 0½	...
January, 1922	7 1/16	41	40·20	1 4	2 7¼	3 6⅜	2 3¼	2 3⅞
January, 1923	5 13/16	44	34·70	1 4 5/16	2 3¼	3 0⅜	2 1	2 4 3/16
January, 1924	5⅝	43⅜	40·30	1 5¼	2 4⅜	3 4 1/16	2 1⅜	2 4 5/16
January, 1925	5 29/32	50½	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3½	3 1 1/16	1 7½	2 4 1/16
January, 1926	7 5/16	50¾	39·80	1 6 1/16	2 4⅜	3 1 5/16	1 9 13/16	2 4 1/16
January, 1927	5 27/32	50½	39·65	1 6 3/32	1 11 13/16	2 5⅜	2 0 1/16	2 3 15/16
January, 1928	5 25/32	51	39·35	1 6 1/16	2 0⅜	2 7½	1 11 5/16	2 4 3/16
January, 1929	5 27/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/32	2 0 1/16	2 7½	1 10⅜	2 3 29/32
September, "	5⅞	48⅞	39·55	1 5 13/16	2 0 1/16	2 4 13/16	1 11 5/16	2 3 15/16
October, "	5⅞	48½	39·42	1 5⅞	1 11 13/16	2 3 7/16	1 11 5/16	2 3 27/32
November, "	5 27/32	47⅝	39·62	1 5 13/16	1 9⅝	2 3 5/16	2 0 1/16	2 3⅞
December, "	5 23/32	47¼	39·60	1 5 13/16	1 8 13/16	2 3	2 0 1/16	2 3 49/64
January, 1930	5 23/32	46½	39·80	1 5 31/32	1 8	2 1½	2 0 5/16	2 3¾

Place.	Method of Quoting.	1929 Quotations. Highest.	Lowest.	Average.*
New York. Dec., 1928	Dollars to £1.	4·85 13/32	4·84 15/16	4·853
Dec., 1929		4·88 15/32	4·87 13/32	4·882
Year 1929		4·86 11/64	4·85 15/64	4·857
Paris. Dec., 1928	Francs to £1.	124·25	123·95	124·100
Dec., 1929		124·05	123·83	123·916
Year 1929		124·12⅞	123·90 5/32	124·016
Amsterdam. Dec., 1928	Florins to £1.	12·08½	12·07½	12·078
Dec., 1929		12·10⅜	12·08¾	12·095
Year 1929		12·10 7/16	12·08 3/32	12·093
Berlin. Dec., 1928	Rchmks. to £1.	20·39	20·34½	20·360
Dec., 1929		20·43	20·37	20·386
Year 1929		20·43⅛	20·37 7/16	20·399

† Francs to £1. § Pence to Peso. ‡ Krone to £1. * Daily rates.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. Monthly Average.	U.K. £	Irish Free State. £	Belgium. Francs.	Bulgaria. Leva.	Denmark. Kroner.	Estonia. Ekr.	France. Francs.	Finland. Markka	Germany. Mark.	Greece. Drachmæ.	Italy. Lire.	Jugo-Slavia. Dinars.	Netherlands. Gulden.	Poland. Zloty.	Swed'n. Kronor.	Switz'r-land. Francs.	Egypt. £E.	United States. Dollars.
1913	54,931	...	m 386,384	j 15,775	64,785	s ...	701,778	f 41,035	d 897,474	e i 14,828	b 303,803	a ...	325,231	c ...	70,545	f 159,985	2,271	147,932
1923	t 81,474	...	1,099,347	426,987	158,949	777,690	2,738,296	381,105	512,477	502,937	1,432,431	692,470	167,436	160,028	107,877	186,923	3,643	310,981
1924	t 94,789	5,632	1,475,061	463,109	184,874	683,684	3,346,901	385,817	756,901	671,149	1,615,056	685,145	196,961	211,875	118,708	207,000	4,086	297,926
1925	t 97,371	5,162	1,488,378	606,958	161,382	8,046	3,712,700	458,185	1,030,171	850,794	2,183,374	729,407	204,583	229,589	120,535	219,427	4,678	348,018
1926	t 93,105	5,043	1,920,460	520,578	127,319	7,964	4,968,923	470,582	833,454	833,745	2,155,945	635,982	203,496	128,242	124,151	201,209	4,199	367,340
1927	t 91,360	5,012	2,422,921	510,745	131,508	8,035	g4,420,823	529,001	1,185,672	1,037,414	1,697,440	607,191	212,405	240,998	132,030	213,650	3,896	346,924
1928	89,657	4,889	2,620,430	†599300	135,205	10,953	g4,454,022	664,260	1,166,250	...	1,832,797	659,078	223,658	280,180	142,507	228,723	...	339,820
1928—Nov.	96,023	4,744	2,646,689	664,709	125,739	12,613	g 4,735,939	735,051	1,173,785	1,244,357	1,857,981	706,796	222,307	261,084	166,336	243,139	4,872	328,525
Dec.	92,373	4,690	2,776,140	600,307	135,133	9,917	5,212,912	586,127	1,102,584	1,027,224	*2,356,626	622,113	209,747	238,396	130,990	248,498	4,623	334,332
1929—Jan.	106,253	4,822	2,392,608	563,128	121,251	11,175	5,173,343	504,454	1,317,516	1,082,117	1,784,573	560,690	232,599	294,042	122,521	212,128	4,563	358,872
Feb.	81,048	4,339	2,698,172	443,006	87,325	6,322	5,162,237	333,831	1,016,635	901,867	1,799,476	403,986	177,426	264,911	87,035	188,515	4,002	364,188
Mar.	88,607	5,612	3,039,941	643,671	107,057	6,619	4,934,124	349,442	1,021,889	1,128,813	1,988,306	684,571	215,929	233,289	89,020	225,466	3,965	371,215
April	93,792	5,306	2,984,179	766,633	203,078	14,381	5,143,715	710,897	1,254,878	1,267,772	1,976,048	713,679	234,020	321,140	205,786	243,396	4,632	396,825
May	93,020	5,088	3,224,335	931,728	157,403	13,179	5,061,457	819,278	1,132,455	1,160,446	1,888,473	701,204	235,358	271,917	168,031	226,332	4,035	381,114
June	81,882	4,797	3,034,764	788,976	129,081	10,038	5,165,042	645,437	1,077,463	1,013,373	*2,266,753	614,557	229,834	271,746	145,188	212,873	3,779	350,336
July	85,581	z 5,353	3,066,082	831,448	135,602	10,681	4,627,293	639,553	1,229,841	1,098,053	1,567,459	655,474	240,442	266,447	137,685	244,162	4,127	347,133
Aug.	91,973	z 4,784	3,086,975	684,036	142,420	11,200	4,339,533	610,470	1,072,589	902,840	1,413,820	635,460	247,061	226,535	142,533	235,160	4,391	372,929
Sept.	91,633	z 5,138	2,939,266	683,393	158,765	10,923	4,353,136	623,804	1,038,330	1,193,419	1,436,249	656,637	230,557	247,457	171,261	223,097	4,657	356,512
Oct.	101,150	z 5,329	3,203,741	†648000	157,718	10,597	4,515,576	653,513	1,106,682	1,203,316	1,579,395	748,061	257,688	257,247	176,120	244,133	5,128	391,025
Nov.	99,981	z 4,969	2,841,291	...	155,315	9,606	4,789,413	571,187	1,161,208	1,207,637	1,551,341	...	237,720	243,488	166,904	260,027	...	338,553
Dec.	98,637	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268,338	...	†311000

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switz'r-land.	Egypt.	United States.
1913	43,771	...	m 302,882	j 7,778	53,113	s ...	573,351	f 33,482	d 841,436	e i 9,917	b 209,303	a ...	255,453	c ...	68,112	f 114,700	2,626	204,024
1923	t 63,938	...	807,718	294,761	128,217	475,996	2,572,236	363,787	508,527	212,092	924,418	670,737	108,602	171,366	95,175	146,684	4,863	340,893
1924	t 66,747	4,190	1,151,126	408,519	184,874	655,483	2,530,743	407,078	545,971	273,081	1,197,746	794,898	138,388	181,437	105,079	172,511	5,472	374,804
1925	t 64,424	3,615	1,228,662	470,206	149,067	8,054	3,882,676	462,684	h 744,200	378,447	1,522,855	742,045	150,641	182,235	113,318	169,895	4,928	401,560
1926	t 54,234	3,432	1,661,198	468,133	117,131	8,020	4,936,893	467,985	h 827,500	452,479	1,555,877	651,515	145,767	187,192	118,293	153,041	3,435	392,643
1927	t 59,092	3,681	2,218,975	552,262	120,546	8,815	4,577,063	523,876	h 864,600	503,118	1,301,232	533,346	158,309	209,562	134,715	168,604	3,977	396,572
1928	t 60,286	3,779	2,505,935	†538600	128,415	10,596	4,278,900	516,251	h 982,100	387,951	1,207,259	537,058	165,515	208,999	130,578	177,870	...	419,040
1928—Nov.	63,767	4,533	2,550,782	654,433	136,385	9,532	g 4,614,005	620,111	d k938,990	865,770	1,322,297	642,347	169,630	255,113	165,194	197,338	7,312	538,375
Dec.	60,394	3,825	3,355,204	502,057	134,511	8,995	4,733,095	495,461	977,509	1,184,690	*1,637,348	569,339	164,758	209,173	167,280	192,161	5,921	466,232
1929—Jan.	66,880	3,202	2,068,971	575,627	118,034	7,900	3,701,892	309,660	1,035,057	1,088,843	999,526	425,708	152,192	215,834	109,414	153,892	5,376	480,384
Feb.	55,665	3,037	2,391,585	379,755	98,871	5,585	4,117,941	184,156	920,320	629,980	1,088,384	385,074	123,615	167,465	77,448	163,024	4,472	434,531
Mar.	58,623	3,136	2,697,186	543,821	117,432	4,779	4,180,206	192,904	930,385	767,824	1,190,440	499,413	175,091	161,525	95,251	179,840	5,208	481,716
April	60,244	3,309	2,828,081	720,041	147,394	9,637	4,419,445	368,918	1,163,950	449,479	1,247,919	614,982	168,870	214,319	149,514	176,976	5,124	418,085
May	67,437	3,469	2,459,168	550,330	151,329	9,421	3,958,909	497,671	1,098,191	314,669	1,256,092	533,661	175,252	226,840	162,149	170,399	4,012	376,919
June	49,893	3,871	y 3,657,984	563,718	142,507	11,513	4,349,341	675,463	1,016,496	201,661	*1,548,162	530,235	165,389	237,891	168,797	169,818	3,057	393,915
July	66,520	z 3,902	2,516,856	395,096	137,083	13,517	4,269,148	801,616	1,031,164	258,859	1,054,166	621,314	170,247	276,441	168,328	174,836	3,094	393,835
Aug.	63,045	z 4,309	2,559,199	398,868	142,759	12,800	3,804,235	904,418	1,123,349	357,320	1,210,462	1,006,190	182,660	280,717	177,041	173,502	2,824	374,845
Sept.	55,104	z 4,464	2,843,208	517,150	144,921	11,858	4,221,004	714,052	1,136,703	615,289	1,233,150	721,135	181,840	262,013	179,946	180,539	1,649	432,319
Oct.	64,589	z 4,976	2,847,256	†670000	136,940	11,502	4,385,958	730,815	1,164,818	802,827	1,347,690	991,279	184,863	259,427	185,450	199,973	4,517	528,548
Nov.	63,125	z 4,743	2,541,675	...	139,329	9,373	4,267,785	595,126	1,094,035	913,172	1,306,767	...	165,617	256,135	174,315	183,915	...	435,513
Dec.	58,430	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177,760	...	†434000

a Including bullion and specie. b Since 1922 declared values. c Including Dantzig. d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Including bullion. g Declared values. h Returns have been officially revised. i Old Greece only. j Including bullion. k Owing to a change in the compilation of trade returns the import figure for October 28 is too high and the export figure for October and November 29 too low. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." t From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. s Including bullion: until end 1924 Eesti mk. (1 Ekr. = 100 E mk.). x Average of two months. y Including part of the May trade not taken into account in May. z Excluding parcel post. † Provisional figures. * Including parcel post for the half-year.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. Monthly Average.	Value. Australia. £'s.	British India. Rupees.	Canada. Dollars.	New Zealand. £'s.	South Africa. £'s.	Japan. Yen.	Brazil. Milreis.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
1913	g 6,355	b 152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	a 83,958	q 2,721	o ...	3,685	h6,069	e p 84	i ...	3,739	j ...	661	f 494
1923	11,436	184,973	75,253	3,575	4,577	161,924	188,930	2,217	357	4,572	3,890	112	314	1,612	266	556	298
1924	11,960	196,493	67,350	3,995	5,302	240,726	232,463	2,784	482	4,716	3,216	150	376	1,888	201	564	369
1925	12,350	186,899	74,189	4,308	5,459	207,223	281,403	2,772	565	3,954	4,331	175	373	2,117	284	546	414
1926	13,429	196,673	84,028	4,074	5,848	192,101	225,463	2,859	554	3,783	3,606	156	461	2,362	203	590	412
1927	13,212	206,853	90,593	3,655	5,867	174,883	272,764	3,172	613	4,114	5,674	190	523	2,385	409	622	457
1928	...	207,275	101,860	3,674	6,290	...	...	3,293	778	4,092	5,498	313	...	2,485	430	668	...
1928—Nov.	12,937	232,562	102,967	4,680	6,463	161,700	336,589	3,523	987	4,212	5,423	217	683	2,509	373	693	494
Dec.	11,986	186,386	94,621	3,338	6,582	197,420	371,274	3,491	918	4,240	4,547	213	554	2,428	380	655	528
1929—Jan.	13,205	272,324	96,958	4,257	6,804	232,819	324,235	3,099	672	4,316	5,328	225	438	2,347	438	578	540
Feb.	10,593	198,957	97,042	3,623	5,553	235,273	291,610	3,001	513	4,288	3,399	199	365	1,587	411	521	472
Mar.	10,954	225,554	135,329	3,768	6,554	206,296	313,284	3,626	807	4,690	4,164	211	488	1,737	358	703	515
April	11,142	246,341	97,517	3,945	6,677	208,843	277,054	3,598	737	5,073	5,543	266	550	2,330	544	728	490
May	10,659	215,546	125,615	3,186	7,044	214,695	343,502	3,783	827	4,921	5,886	242	564	2,846	484	701	540
June	12,237	166,854	111,949	3,358	6,308	171,128	279,860	3,677	895	5,322	5,896	205	611	2,905	487	709	478
July	12,675	191,246	114,201	4,391	7,271	163,370	209,544	3,973	911	5,062	6,560	250	663	3,041	473	889	527
Aug.	12,267	203,505	111,631	4,207	7,031	164,590	304,626	4,095	918	5,121	6,700	191	651	3,195	418	861	568
Sept.	12,150	193,882	99,380	5,014	6,312	131,861	...	4,160	929	5,151	6,146	237	678	2,867	402	780	493
Oct.	12,729	195,138	116,261	4,359	† 7,718	148,951	...	4,303	893	5,037	6,102	242	608	2,895	384	795	...
Nov.	...	217,594	108,734	a 4,050	† 7,784	† 146,041	...	3,710	954	5,173	5,864	255	...	2,712	317	706	...
Dec.	...	...	...	...	† 5,849	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	738	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
1913	g 6,070	b 200,993	36,333	1,751	c 2,294	52,393	a 81,814	1,740	...	1,840	h 6,143	e p 50	i ...	2,451	j ...	71	f 115
1923	9,363	273,729	84,561	3,718	3,031	117,384	224,753	1,415	o 943	2,075	1,062	36	101	725	1,471	60	186
1924	13,075	308,807	88,171	4,275	3,148	146,741	321,963	1,697	o 1,036	2,449	1,325	34	141	844	1,312	68	153
1925	11,672	330,960	105,916	4,499	3,794	184,968	335,164	1,744	o 1,014	2,532	3,194	47	182	1,028	1,134	67	160
1926	10,801	268,689	105,715	3,648	3,321	164,371	265,880	1,933	o 1,067	2,712	5,048	45	216	1,319	1,859	70	155
1927	11,490	265,459	101,528	3,916	3,995	159,313	303,677	2,019	o 1,167	3,166	3,912	53	169	1,195	1,696	87	168
1928	...	275,346	112,479	4,609	3,987	...	...	2,214	o 1,121	3,423	3,754	52	...	1,310	1,702	81	...
1928—Nov.	15,955	277,475	167,014	3,135	5,690	149,747	294,739	2,041	o 1,219	3,353	4,153	77	222	1,500	1,732	93	167
Dec.	14,916	262,628	130,847	4,292	5,898	168,408	348,238	2,633	1,314	3,262	3,712	59	200	1,377	1,555	78	171
1929—Jan.	13,206	298,386	94,942	8,339	4,361	173,662	334,351	1,651	876	3,006	3,709	54	144	1,223	1,529	60	158
Feb.	15,988	279,891	82,259	7,952	4,154	145,147	322,452	1,590	691	3,273	2,817	57	119	849	1,347	57	150
Mar.	15,417	314,442	114,763	7,450	3,575	162,673	313,106	1,933	1,025	3,108	3,588	65	190	1,140	1,155	81	174
April	11,532	274,448	65,728	5,374	3,565	171,995	319,177	2,225	1,192	3,217	4,608	44	200	1,456	1,527	86	189
May	9,393	257,971	107,473	3,393	3,355	178,751	293,683	2,043	1,078	3,087	4,579	49	172	1,475	1,612	91	176
June	6,766	262,113	112,176	4,016	2,246	154,421	290,945	2,473	1,094	3,617	4,391	62	179	1,375	1,792	92	168
July	6,023	250,796	102,219	2,609	2,948	184,338	352,882	2,188	1,106	3,741	4,817	72	239	1,508	2,140	95	177
Aug.	5,765	268,170	96,265	2,349	2,965	214,978	363,400	2,183	1,093	3,214	5,094	47	266	1,528	2,200	86	205
Sept.	7,595	258,709	87,751	2,083	3,053	187,344	...	2,265	1,005	3,609	5,602	71	319	1,482	1,996	87	189
Oct.	8,989	257,097	119,266	2,233	† 3,359	201,767	...	2,281	1,176	3,217	5,305	82	320	1,503	1,892	129	...
Nov.	...	267,966	111,068	a 2,834	†4,172	† 170,610	...	2,161	1,358	3,314	5,071	85	...	1,474	2,071	97	...
Dec.	...	...	...	...	†5,260	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	...

a General trade. b Sea-borne trade only. c Including ships' stores. e Until Feb., 1923, Julian Calendar; excludes articles shown by number. f General trade, gross weight. g From 1916-21, fiscal year beginning on July 1st. h Including Luxembourg. i Excluding live stock and articles shown by number. j Excluding weight of two animals. o Including a few goods declared by number only. p 1914. q Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." † Provisional figure.

CAPITAL ISSUES.—(000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Czecho-Slovakia.	France.	Germany	Italy.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Roumania.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	British India.	Japan.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Schilling.	Koruna.	Francs.	Mark.	Lire.	Guilder.	Zloty.	Lei.	Kroner.	Francs.	Rupees.	Yen.	Dollars.
		b		d	m	f	ch	v			o			p
1913	16·3	...	...	...	60	23	13	...	20	18	44	56	45	...
1922	47·8	4,227	98	1,274	6,609	232	33	...	245	27	67	37	180	360
1923	22·6	18,206	48	955	*p*	332	19	...	320	19	62	21	176	359
1924	17·4	26,992	31	605	15·0	504	30	3·1	262	20	51	19	219	466
1925	19·4	2·3	21	329	55·1	746	33	7·7	219	16	56	29	204	518
1926	19·2	2·4	24	412	74·8	473	48	6·1	541	13	59	16	228	529
1927	29·6	9·7	31	626	114·1	264	43	17·7	282	22	73	17	255	648
1928	30·8	10·9	60	896	110·0	450	48	23·0	384	31	57	24	335	671
1927.														
July-Sept.	17·4	9·4	21	413	82·7	350	40	21·9	196	9	71	15	202	479
Oct.-Dec..	35·1	14·5	37	870	103·4	177	42	28·3	253	20	43	16	365	728
1928.														
July-Sept.	15·3	9·1	60	726	108·0	580	24	16·7	463	24	23	22	376	386
Oct.-Dec..	26·1	7·5	41	1,310	128·3	415	70	39·1	283	26	38	18	228	919
1929.														
Jan-Mar..	32·3	14·4	35	1,072	118·8	492	49	14·4	318	14	104	37	216	931
Ap.-June	25·8	0·5	27	1,199	112·5	794	20	26·7	479	29	143	127	332	859
July-Sept.	6·2	3·1	108	1,012	64·9	546	15	...	295	15	30	34	200	677
October ...	11·9	3·1	30	2,293	36·0	482	38	...	174	8	85	29	188	843
November	74·5	30·2	96	1,429	39·1	781	43	...	182	22	...	27	150	...
December	5·4	...	...	1,490	...	...	...	...	...	66	...	...	...	...

Unless otherwise stated, the figures represent authorised share issue of new joint stock companies at home, and the increase of capital of existing companies. Bonus shares are excluded from the figures of the U.S.A., Roumania, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In the case of the Netherlands and the U.K. both bonus shares and conversions are excluded. *b* Until end 1924, kronen. *c* Excluding Treasury Bills. *d* Exc. large railway issues. *f* "Rivista Bancaria." *h* Issues exceeding Fls. 100,000 on the Dutch market including Colonial, and since Jan., 1925, foreign issues. *m* Since 1924, excluding amalgamations and conversions. Until end 1922 paper mark. *o* "Société de Banque Suisse," invitation for subscriptions on Swiss market including obligations and Local Govt. loans. *p* India, compiled by "Commercial & Financial Chronicle." *v* Excluding Upper Silesia.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Percentage of persons unemployed in trade unions or in official unemployment insurance schemes (Belgium and U.K.).

End of Month.	U.K.	Belgium.	Denmark.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Norway.	Sweden.	Australia.	Canada.
1921—June	17·8	9·9	16·8	3·0	8·1	20·6	27·7	12·5	13·2
December	16·2	6·6	25·2	1·6	16·6	23·4	33·2	9·5	15·1
	‡								
1923—June	11·3	0·8	8·1	4·1	10·8	7·9	9·8	7·1	3·4
December	10·7	1·7	19·6	28·2	17·3	14·0	14·1	6·2	7·2
1924—June	9·4	1·0	5·1	10·4	7·2	4·3	7·3	8·3	5·9
December	10·7	1·5	13·2	8·1	12·3	12·5	15·5	10·3	11·6
1925—June	11·9	1·0	9·3	3·5	6·6	8·9	8·2	10·2	6·1
December	10·4	2·8	31·1	19·4	16·0	23·7	19·4	8·1	7·9
1926—June	•14·6	0·9	15·6	18·1	5·9	22·6	9·6	6·7	4·1
December	•11·9	2·6	32·2	16·7	12·1	27·7	19·0	5·7	5·9
1927—June	8·8	1·4	18·0	6·3	6·0	22·5	9·5	6·4	3·2
December	9·8	3·6	31·6	12·9	14·9	28·0	18·6	8·9	6·6
1928—June	10·8	0·6	13·7	6·2	4·4	14·4	7·6	11·2	3·2
December	11·2	1·9	28·4	16·7	11·5	22·1	17·3	9·9	6·6
1929—February	12·2	4·6	29·8	22·3	19·8	21·0	14·8	...	6·8
March	10·1	0·9	21·9	16·9	15·1	20·0	14·4	9·3	6·0
April	9·9	0·4	13·4	11·1	3·5	17·1	12·3	...	5·5
May	9·9	0·4	11·4	9·1	3·0	12·5	8·2	...	4·0
June	9·8	0·4	10·3	8·5	2·6	11·3	7·2	10·0	2·9
July	9·9	0·6	9·8	8·6	3·1	10·2	6·7	...	3·0
August	10·1	0·5	9·3	8·9	3·3	10·7	6·5	12·1	3·5
September	10·1	0·5	8·8	9·6	3·2	12·1	7·3		3·7
October	10·4	0·5	10·0	10·9	†3·7	...	8·6	...	...
November	11·0	...	†19·9	13·7	...	...	10·4	...	...
December	11·1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Number of Workers Covered by Last Returns.

Millions	12·1	0·6	0·3	4·6	0·3	0·04	0·3	0·4	0·2

‡ Ex. Irish Free State since Mar., 1923.

• Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure. † Provisional figure.

BANK RATES.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.		
	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of		
	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Nov.	Dec.
London ...	% 3	% 4	% 4	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 4½	% 4½	% 4½	% 5½	% 5½	% 5
Paris	5	5	6	7	7	6	6	6½	5	5	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Berlin	18	90	10	10	9	9	6½	6	6	7	7	7	7½	7	7½
New York*	4½	4½	3½	3	3½	3½	3½	4	3½	4½	4½	4½	5½	4½	4½†
Amsterdam	4	4½	5	4½	3½	3½	3½	3½	4½	4½	4½	4½	5½	4½	4½
Brussels ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	7	7	7	5	4½	4	4	4	4	3½
Rome	5½	5½	5½	5½	7	7	7	7	7	5½	5½	5½	7	7	7
Switzerland	3	4	4	4	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Vienna.....	9	9	12	13	11	9	7½	7	6	6½	6	6½	7½	8	7½
Warsaw ...	12	48	12	12	12	12	12	9½	8	8	8	8	8	8½	8½
Tokyo	8	8	8	8	7·3	7·3	7·3	6·57	5·84	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·4	5·4
Calcutta ...	4	7	6	6	5	6	4	4	5	7	6	7	5	7	7

• Federal Reserve. † 4% as from January 15. ‡ 6½% as from January 13.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913	14,191,275	855,648	1,389,481	16,436,404
1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
1924	35,038,605	1,594,114	2,900,145	39,532,864
1925	35,801,264	1,678,347	2,957,508	40,347,119
1926	35,346,429	1,660,757	2,817,868	39,825,054
1927	36,819,682	1,758,032	2,972,827	41,550,541
1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
1929 (Jan. 16)...	2,007,574	98,187	157,745	2,263,506
1930 (Jan. 15) ...	1,764,794	92,625	148,618	2,006,037

SECURITY VALUES.

Base.	United Kingdom. "Bankers' Magazine." 365 representative securities. Dec., 1921 = 100.			Netherlands. Official. 49 Ordinary Industrial Shares. 1921-25 = 100.	Sweden. Official. 49 Industrial and Shipping Shares. Nominal value = 100	Switzerland. Banque Nationale (*f*) 32 Industrial Shares. Nominal value = 100	Canada. Official. 79 (*i*) Common Industrial Shares 1913 = 100.	United States. Standard Statistics Co. 342 Industrial Shares.
	(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	(*e*)	(*f*) (*h*)	(*g*)		(*d*)
1925—June	108·6	125·5	114·1	96	113	134·4	...	} 88·4
Dec.	108·8	132·5	116·5	95	131	144·6	...	
1926—June	110·0	136·5	118·7	91	146	176·9	93·2	} 100·0
Dec.	109·3	135·7	118·0	91	150	175·4	107·0	
1927—June	110·1	141·5	120·4	102	153	189·9	121·5	} 117·6
Dec.	111·2	146·9	122·8	103	181	223·2	161·6	
1928—June	112·4	152·7	125·4	111	226	243·6	170·0	} 154·3
Dec.	112·1	158·8	127·3	115	252	252·8	237·3	
1929—Feb.	111·7	162·0	128·1	125	253	249·3	292·9	192·3
Mar.	111·1	161·1	127·3	125	242	239·2	266·2	196·0
Apr.	111·9	159·5	127·3	116	244	231·3	269·3	193·4
May	110·4	157·4	125·6	121	240	235·7	269·3	192·6
June	109·8	157·9	125·4	121	246	245·8	264·1	191·0
July	109·3	162·0	126·5	121	256	243·2	271·2	202·7
Aug.	109·0	164·4	127·0	122	250	242·4	293·8	210·3
Sept.	108·9	165·4	127·3	118	241	239·3	315·8	216·1
Oct.	109·3	160·8	126·1	113	226	220·7	255·1	194·4
Nov.	108·5	147·0	120·9	98	215	212·4	...	144·8
Dec.	108·5	147·1	121·0	99	211	215·0	...	146·9

(*a*) Fixed interest. (*b*) Variable dividend. (*c*) Total. (*d*) Monthly average. (*e*) Average of highest and lowest quotations on each Wednesday. (*f*) Shares of companies with a capital of more than 5 millions. The composition of this class, therefore, is not invariable. (*g*) On 25th of month. (*h*) End of month. (*i*) Since Jan., 1929, 92 shares.

U.K. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—(000,000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	Food. Imports.	Food. Exports.	Raw Materials. Imports.	Raw Materials. Exports.	Manufactures. Imports.	Manufactures. Exports.	Imports of Wheat.	Imports of Raw Cotton.	Imports of Sheep's & Lambs' Wool.	Exports of Cotton Piece Goods.	Exports of Iron and Steel.	Exports of Coal.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Cwts.	Centals.	Centals.	Sq. Yds.	Tons.	Tons.
1913	24·2	2·7	23·5	5·8	16·1	34·3	8·8	1·8	0·7	*589	0·41	6·1
1922	39·3	3·0	24·8	8·5	19·1	47·3	8·0	1·2	0·9	349	0·28	5·3
1923	42·5	3·7	27·1	10·9	21·4	48·3	8·4	1·1	0·6	345	0·36	6·6
1924	47·6	4·7	33·4	8·9	25·0	51·5	9·9	1·3	0·6	370	0·32	5·1
1925	47·6	4·6	35·4	7·0	26·7	51·4	8·1	1·6	0·6	370	0·31	4·2
1926	41·9	4·2	32·7	3·9	26·3	44·9	8·1	1·5	0·7	319	0·26	1·7
1927	44·9	4·4	29·3	6·4	26·9	47·0	9·2	1·3	0·7	343	0·35	4·3
1928	44·3	4·5	27·9	5·8	25·7	48·2	8·6	1·1	0·7	• 322	0·36	4·2
1929	44·7	4·6	28·3	6·6	27·9	47·8	9·3	1·3	0·7	306	0·36	5·0
1929—August	45·7	4·5	24·7	6·0	29·5	50·8	9·7	0·7	0·3	321	0·36	5·0
September	45·1	4·8	24·2	6·5	28·4	42·2	12·2	0·6	0·2	238	0·30	5·2
October	51·2	5·4	27·3	7·1	30·2	50·3	11·9	1·3	0·2	266	0·39	5·7
November	48·5	5·7	30·0	6·9	28·2	48·6	9·8	1·9	0·5	284	0·38	5·4
December	46·8	4·9	31·2	6·2	27·8	44·6	6·5	2·0	0·8	274	0·33	5·0

• Yards.

RAILWAY STATISTICS—(000,000's omitted.)

	Great Britain (*g*). Gross Receipts. Passengers.	Gross Receipts. Freight.	Freight Traffic (*f*). Merchandise.*	Coal, &c.	Other Minerals.	Total.	Total. Ton-Miles.	Austria. (*b*) (*h*) Tonnes-Km	Germany. (*a*) Tonnes-Km	Italy. (*e*) (*i*) Tonnes-Km	Canada. (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) Ton-Miles.	United States.† (*d*) (*e*) Ton-Miles.
	£	£	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.						
1926—June	4·4	5·3	4·7	1·9	3·6	10·2	704	1,202	4,695	1,132	2,846	39,237
December	4·7	8·5	4·9	15·9	4·1	24·8	1,392	1,321	5,641	1,094	3,641	40,096
1927—June	6·1	8·8	5·1	15·5	5·8	26·4	1,401	1,249	5,126	1,095	2,611	38,483
December	4·8	8·7	5·1	17·2	4·8	27·2	1,400	1,209	5,398	928	4,128	34,580
1928—June	5·5	8·3	4·8	14·9	5·3	25·0	1,324	1,325	5,528	1,038	3,129	37,304
December	4·6	8·3	4·7	16·1	4·8	25·6	1,352	1,282	4,715	1,030	4,663	37,645
1929—March	4·5	9·3	5·2	18·5	9·1	28·8	1,565	1,350	6,669	1,054	3,653	40,213
April	4·3	8·9	5·3	16·1	5·8	27·2	1,436	1,289	5,746	1,009	3,343	38,334
May	5·0	9·9	5·2	16·5	6·0	27·7	1,465	1,278	5,506	1,076	3,404	42,027
June	5·2	8·4	4·8	15·7	5·6	26·1	1,392	1,335	5,603	1,087	3,318	40,725
July	7·3	9·1	5·2	16·8	5·8	27·8	1,491	1,457	5,976	1,114	3,295	41,991
August	8·3	8·8	5·1	16·9	5·6	27·6	1,483	1,472	5,924	...	2,860	44,944
September	5·6	8·9	5·2	16·6	5·5	27·3	1,480	1,436	5,894	...	3,688	44,219
October	4·4	9·7	5·8	18·1	6·1	30·0	1,603	...	†6,323	...	...	47,814
November.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†5,629	...	...	...

• Inc. live-stock. (*a*) "Reichsbahn." Exc. free-hauled. (*b*) State and private railways, including freight on foreign lines. (*c*) Railways with annual operating revenues of at least $500,000. (*d*) Short tons = kg. 907·18; mile = metres 1,609·34. (*e*) Including free-hauled. (*f*) Excluding free-hauled. (*g*) Long ton = kg. 1,016·05; mile = metres 1,609·34. † Provisional figure. (*h*) Gross tonnage. (*i*) Fiscal year ending June 30.

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The Economist
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In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s. 6d.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

To judge from current reports from the industrial areas, there is little doubt that the New Year has started badly. Too much weight need not be given to the January foreign trade returns (as pointed out in a recent issue of the *Economist*, January, 1929, was an unusually good month), but the steady downward trend of commodity prices, *the further increase in the unemployment figures*, the fact that the better January production figures in the heavy industries are not being balanced by the receipt of new orders, and finally the widespread lack of confidence in industrial circles, all provide a mass of evidence, whose gravamen it is impossible to ignore.

Unfortunately, there is good reason to believe that this setback in British trade is partly the reflection of a general world recession. It is always difficult to obtain from other countries an accurate picture of so important a matter as the extent of unemployment, but to judge from all accounts it is now severe in the United States, Canada, Germany and several other countries. The fall in commodity prices is a world-wide movement. Countries whose main activity lies in the production of staple foodstuffs and raw materials have already been involved in considerable difficulties, and there is a widespread feeling that the consequences of last year's collapse in Wall Street and other stock markets are now making their effect felt upon trade and industry.

It was unfortunate that the collapse of what after all was an unsound speculative movement should have come just at the time when the world was over-stocked with many staple commodities, and so should have had such a prejudicial effect upon production and employment. It must, however, be admitted that the stock market collapse was a *most important* contributory factor. Money to-day is easy—much easier than it was six months ago—and while in some countries such as Italy and the United States it is not over plentiful, elsewhere there is plenty available for financing, on short terms, at least, sound business. Yet although there has been no monetary deflation at all, in the ordinary sense of the word as denoting the supply of currency and credit, commodity prices have fallen heavily, and to judge from the latest index numbers are still falling. It is, therefore, difficult to resist the belief that past losses and present uncertainties have slowed down the rate at which money is circulating, and in short that people are showing a general reluctance to buy commodities or to invest capital.

In England there is to-day a special cause of uncertainty, and that is the position of the national finances, and Government policy with regard to the Budget, the coal industry, and unemployment. The political situation is admittedly intricate, and this has a peculiar bearing upon the final shape in which the Coal Bill reaches the statute book, and so upon the outlook both for the coal industry itself and also for those trades, such as iron and steel, which are heavy consumers of coal.

The Budget, however, is to-day the main cause of the industrial uncertainty. Apart from doubts as to the future of the McKenna and safeguarding duties, there is a widespread fear lest in his forthcoming Budget Mr Snowden may have to add to the burden of direct taxation. The *national accounts* for the financial year now drawing to its close do not look too promising, and, unless corresponding economies are effected elsewhere, the fresh commitments entered into by the Government will make it extremely difficult for the Budget to be balanced *upon the present basis of taxation.*

The question how far, if at all, heavy direct taxation should exercise a retarding influence upon trade is at the present juncture immaterial. The important fact to-day is that rightly or wrongly the industrial world is giving way to its Budget apprehensions, and is therefore holding back until the Budget is disclosed. So soon as the worst is known, it may be found that the new burden is a tolerable one if suitable readjustments are made in order to bear it, but meanwhile it seems that no progress can be expected until budget-day, now nearly seven weeks ahead. Even then much will depend upon the general course of world trade.

As already mentioned, the world situation has lately deteriorated. In the British Empire the further fall in wheat prices is causing difficulty in Canada, where unemployment is severe. Australia and South Africa have similar problems to face in the case of wool, while the

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—JANUARY, 1930.

	Dec. 1929	Jan. 1930	Jan. '29. Compared with
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %)	11·1	12·6	+ 0·4
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)*	5·0	5·3	+ 0·3
Iron (thous. „)	643	650	+ 86
Steel („ „)	661	771	+ 9
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	106·6	101·9	— 14·6
Re-exports („ „)	7·9	8·2	— 1·6
Exports („ „)	66·4	66·4	— 10·3
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000)	326	311	— 5
Shipping Freights (av. level[1])	86·2	81·2	— 28·4
COMMODITY PRICES („ „[2])	88·3	86·1	— 8·6
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	41	45	— 52
SECURITY VALUES (av. level[3])	121·0	121·7	— 7·9
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Currency Notes (million £'s)*	369	356	— 4
Bank Deposits („ „)*	1,811	1,805	— 41
Bank Advances („ „)*	989	985	+ 13
Banks Cash Ratio [4] (%)*	11·3	10·8	— 0·1
Bank Clearings :			
London (million £'s)*	833	847	— 75
Manchester („ „)*	12·0	11·0	— 1·2
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)*	4⅛	4 5/32	— 7/32
Day-to-day Loans (%)*	4 11/32	3 5/16	— 1/16

(1) 1913 = 100. (2) *Economist* Index No.; 1927 = 100. (3) *Bankers' Magazine* Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921 = 100. (4) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts.

* Average weekly figures. † Not available.

restricted purchasing power of the British market is making its effect felt on New Zealand growers of wheat, wool and dairy produce.

In foreign countries American business conditions are variable, but there is definite evidence of a wide, if moderate, recession. The most hopeful sign is the fact that the steel industry has improved its position since the end of last year. The motor industry has also gained a little ground, but is still working at far below capacity. The textile industries are very depressed.

On the Continent, the German situation is far from satisfactory, and the textile trades are still weak in most countries. As regards South America, prospects of a good maize crop have slightly improved the general tone in the Argentine, but Brazilian conditions are still depressed. In the Far East, Japan is sharing in the general depression in the textile trades, and the Chinese outlook is most uncertain.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Coal.—Export trade, which began the year well, has since experienced a marked setback. Remembering their experience during the cold weather a year ago, Continental importers had built up heavy stocks, and this fact, in conjunction with this year's milder weather, has, at the moment, stifled Continental demand. The house-coal trade was inactive early in the month, but has since revived slightly with the colder weather. Home demand for industrial coal is irregular and restricted.

Iron and Steel.—Although the January output figures were relatively good, the industry is badly in need of fresh orders. The present outlook is most uncertain. The most favourable developments are the recent downward trend of coke prices and the increase from 2s. to 4s. per ton lately made by the European Steel Cartel in prices of certain descriptions. Still, even allowing for these factors, there is little doubt that new business is, at the moment, at a low ebb.

Engineering.—Here again a definite setback must be recorded since the opening of the New Year. There has possibly been some slight improvement in the agricultural machinery section, and British locomotive builders are maintaining their pre-eminence in the world's markets. The marine engineering branch has so far remained fairly well employed, but the deplorable position of the shipping industry renders the future more than doubtful. Elsewhere, the position is unfavourable, and, in general, there is little disposition to look for any material progress during the course of the current year.

Electrical Industry.—The following index of production in the electrical industry is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations. An explanation of the manner in which it has been computed was given on page 888 of the *Economist* of November 28, 1925:—

INDEX of ACTIVITY in the ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY.
(1920 = 100.)

1927.	Home.	Export.	Total.	1928.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January	95	152	109	August	74	86	78
February	92	159	108	September	81	102	88
March	89	163	107	October	83	107	91
April	90	181	112	November	85	105	93
May	88	200	116	December	93	103	96
June	94	234	128	1929.			
July	93	231	126	January	92	122	99
August	90	236	126	February	92	126	101
September	87	230	122	March	88	126	97
October	81	208	112	April	86	145	100
November	80	192	107	May	84	143	99
December	69	160	92	June	84	149	101
1928.				July	90	151	106
January	68	148	88	August	88	140	102
February	68	143	87	September	81	150	99
March	71	141	89	October	76	191	106
April	70	122	84	November	71	216	109
May	68	108	79	December	60	228	102
June	68	105	78	1930.			
July	71	80	74	January	68	220	107

There has been some slight recovery in home business, but apart from National Scheme contracts the heavy side of the industry still finds home demand below normal. Export business is active, notably in respect of work for Europe and South America, but there is a falling off in new orders.

Motor Industry.—In the private car section there is a slight improvement from the very low levels previously touched in the home market, but exports have dropped considerably as compared with last year. Commercial goods and passenger vehicle manufacturers are more favourably situated, and maintain a fair demand at home and overseas. Motor cycle and cycle manufacturers continue to be busy, with a steady increase in exports.

Cotton.—There are now indications of rather more stability in cotton prices after their recent heavy fall. No particular decrease in United States acreage is anticipated next season. Sales during the past fortnight improved slightly. A fair business has been done in light bleaching descriptions for India, and, following the New Year holidays, there was an improvement in prices and larger clearances at the Shanghai sales. The Continent, Egypt and the Near East are disappointing, but steady buying has taken place for certain African outlets, and finishing styles have been sold for South America. The home trade has improved. The spinning branch of the industry remains depressed, and there is some talk of curtailing production in the American branch.

Wool.—The decision of the Australian producers to spread the wool sales over until August caused a 5 per cent. hardening of prices during the course of the recent London sales; but, even so, the industry has still to recover its confidence in current values, and so there has been little revival.

Linen.—Russian flaxes of all descriptions are firmly held, but values of Irish material are somewhat easier than lower-grade qualities. Yarn business is restricted to immediate needs, with prices barely steady. New cloth orders have not been arranged to the extent usually done at this season of the year. American buyers are in evidence, but, generally speaking, have only purchased smallish parcels.

Rayon.—The market has remained dull owing to the uncertain position regarding the duties. Prices have been very poor. The trade in woven goods has been similarly affected, though there has been some improvement in business with the Dominions. The hosiery trade is quiet.

Boots and Shoes.—Despite the recent fall in hide prices, there are signs that an improvement in the boot and shoe industry is at last beginning. The revival is so far confined to the men's section, but it is hoped that the spring trade will prove fairly satisfactory.

Pottery.—At the moment business is slow, but some hopes are placed on results of the British Industries Fair, where numerous inquiries have been received.

Chemical Industry.—A month ago business was feeling the effects of the holidays and subsequent stocktaking, but since then heavy chemicals have regained their normal activity, and in this branch of the industry January exports exceeded those of the same period in 1929.

Building Trade.—Bad weather conditions and the normal seasonal decline were responsible for a further setback in employment during January. The brick industry shared in this adverse movement, with the exception of Peterborough, where employment continued good.

Agriculture.—On heavy soils and low-lying land field work was restricted during January, but given dry weather, cultivation should not be unduly in arrears. Owing to the absence of severe frosts, autumn-sown corn made good growth. Very little disease was apparent amongst potatoes. Breeding ewes as a rule maintained their condition, and cattle and sheep were in fair condition, with milk yields as a rule maintained.

Shipping.—Cargo shipping remains in the depths of the most acute depression since 1922. The continued slow movement of grain has gravely disorganised chartering; freights in all directions have fallen to fresh low levels, and despite the laying up of much tonnage, there are no signs of recovery.

Retail Trade.—In the West End of London the January sales were on the whole successful, but the month proved more favourable for medium and lower-class businesses than for the highest class. A leading store reports that an inevitable slight lull was noticeable at the beginning of February, and that so far the new season has hardly got into its normal stride. It adds, however, that the cold spell experienced in the middle of the month should prove beneficial to many departments. The experience of the London suburbs has been less favourable, and provincial reports are of a variable character.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

In Canada the recent course of wheat prices has been most disappointing to the wheat pool and other grain interests, and unemployment has grown worse during the current year. Industrial conditions are uneven. There has been a curtailment of production in the automobile and farm implement industries, and this has adversely affected the iron and steel trades.

The Australian wheat yield amounts to 12,000,000 bushels. A joint conference of the Australian Woolgrowers' Council and National Council of Woolselling Brokers decided to extend sales from June 13 to middle of August next, offerings to be spread as equally as possible over intervening period, and brokers to arrange with clients to ensure that prices will not fall below late levels.

The New Zealand meat, wool and dairy produce interests are feeling the effects of the economic depression in Great Britain. The summer has been comparatively wet, but primary production should not be seriously affected.

In India seasonable weather has been reported from most parts of the country. Even the Punjab, which has been rather unfortunate in this respect for some time past, experienced an improvement in weather. Recent rains in that province seem to have improved the prospects of unirrigated crops, which are now described as "average" instead of "below average," as before. Outturn of crops from other parts is generally expected to be fair to good.

In South Africa a special Government Committee has been set up to consider the situation of the wool industry. Fruit exports for the 1930 season shows a substantial advance over the preceding season. Hide prices have declined, and the depression in the maize market continues.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Recent reports are not too reassuring. The textile industries are depressed, and the declines in car loadings, building permits, iron and steel production and retail business shown since a year ago by the following table indicate that there has been a definite recession. Against this must be set the fact that during the past few weeks the steel industry has recovered to the point where it is now working at 75 per cent. of capacity, and there has also been a slight improvement in the automobile industry. This last, however, is still below capacity.

The following indices of American economic conditions have been forwarded to us by Moody's Investors' Service, of New York and London:—

AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS—JANUARY, 1930.

	Dec.	Jan.	Compared with Jan., '29.
EMPLOYMENT†—(June, 1914=100)	109·1	*a*	*a*
PRODUCTION—			
Bituminous coal (Thous. tons)	46,200	49,000*	+ 5,620
Pig-iron („ „)	2,837	2,827	— 542
Steel („ „)	2,896	3,786	— 233
Unfilled orders, U.S. Steel Corporation (Thous. tons)	4,417	4,469	+ 492
Building permits (Thous. $)	123,499	109,407*	— 100,458
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (Thous. $)	311,000*	312,000*	— 56,636
Exports („ „)	434,000*	417,000*	— 63,317
TRANSPORT—			
Freight car loadings (Thous. cars)	3,341	3,349	— 298
SECURITIES—			
20 industrial stocks—Highest quotations‡	263·46	263·28	— 36·72
Lowest quotations‡	230·89	244·20	— 13·13
Thous. shares sold during month —(New York)	83,862	62,306	— 30,531
New securities issued (Thous. $)	509,614	881,292	— 105,090
BANK CLEARINGS—			
New York (Million $)	33,100	32,031	— 7,187
Other cities („ „)	19,479	18,756	— 2,306
RETAIL BUSINESS—			
Total sales, mail order houses (Thous. $)	90,019	45,151	— 29,235

* Preliminary estimates made by Messrs Moody, subject to revision. † Based on reports of U.S. Labour Bureau and of Bureaux of the States of New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. ‡ Average of actual prices. (*a*) Not available.

EUROPE.

The French house coal trade is dull, but orders for industrial coal are of satisfactory dimensions. French steel works are well booked up, but the pig-iron trade is less satisfactory, and the textile trades show little improvement.

The Belgian coal trade has suffered a further set-back, but the iron and steel industries improved slightly during the past few weeks.

German industrial reports are in the main far from satisfactory, and unemployment is severe. Conditions in the cotton industry are uncertain, and recent developments in the iron and steel trades have on the whole been adverse.

In Scandinavia, Norwegian shipowners are affected by the general depression of the industry. The paper market is quiet. Swedish industries have lately experienced a slight set-back, due, it is believed, to general world conditions.

Italian trade has lately been passing through a period of seasonal slackness, but the announcement that the Fiat Works would operate at full capacity as from February 3rd created a good impression. Steady progress has been made in industrial rationalisation, but money has been stringent.

LATIN AMERICA.

Recent reports from the Argentine maize-growing areas have been fairly satisfactory. The monetary stringency has to some extent been relieved, and the general tone of the commercial markets has been favourably affected by the improved maize prospects.

Chilean commercial conditions are now beginning to reflect the progress and consolidation undertaken in both national finance and industry during the past few years. Retail sales have recently shown a considerable increase on those of a year ago, although some seasonal slackness has been apparent in the wholesale trades.

Brazilian conditions are still characterised by commercial depression, the difficulties of the coffee situation having not yet been resolved, although certain special measures have been adopted, such as the substitution of the finer grades of coffee for stocks of lower qualities and the recommencement of dealings at the official Santos Coffee Exchange.

Peruvian conditions continue to be dominated by the exchange position. The Government is pursuing its avowed object of stabilising the exchange at the equivalent of U.S. $4 to the Peruvian pound, but in the meantime the general commercial situation is dull.

Reports from the cocoa-producing centres of Ecuador continue to be very favourable, and this is reflected in an improvement in the general trade outlook.

FAR EAST.

Early February saw a slight recovery in the Japanese share market, but business in cotton goods and raw silk remains inactive, and even the decisions of the cotton factories to adopt short-time and of silk dealers to keep back part of their stock have not served to stimulate business.

The Chinese outlook is again most uncertain, but nevertheless there has been a very welcome improvement in Shanghai clearances of cotton goods.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION.

In the *Economist* of July 10, 1926 (pages 57-8), we published a new index of electrical production in the chief industrial areas of Great Britain. We show below a *résumé* of the results achieved during recent periods:—

INDEX of PRODUCTION of ELECTRICITY.*
(Monthly Average 1923-24 = 100.)

Date.	Britain, excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, etc.	Textiles, Cotton, and Wool.
1927.						
January	158	155	167	212	179	151
February	157	156	165	212	169	150
March	147	152	153	187	155	140
April	144	144	146	208	151	136
May	138	139	151	198	150	129
June	126	128	136	206	131	114
July	123	118	135	184	140	119
August	123	124	130	201	142	113
September	138	153	157	228	159	131
October	152	146	166	228	175	146
November	166	155	190	236	192	162
December	180	170	200	220	210	172
1928.						
January	174	164	195	232	199	172
February	170	162	188	249	195	164
March	170	165	192	252	196	169
April	149	149	164	226	164	152
May	140	136	170	223	163	125
June	141	138	160	248	158	130
July	131	127	149	248	151	124
August	130	131	131	227	147	116
September	150	145	164	263	175	138
October	161	153	185	245	189	154
November	178	164	215	240	206	169
December	181	171	210	195	210	176
1929.						
January	187	172	234	236	220	190
February	195	182	248	250	222	198
March	173	169	215	268	192	162
April	165	158	201	321	185	152
May	156	150	182	321	170	135
June	156	151	192	318	172	141
July	146	140	187	282	166	130
August	148	151	167	206	175	124
September	156	153	194	241	178	140
October	179	170	224	243	207	166
November	203	192	250	252	240	192
December	192	182	235	186	228	190
1930.						
January	192	176	255	250	231	182

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The general index has failed to record any advance since December, as normally it should have done. The setback is mainly in the iron and steel, shipbuilding and textile areas.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

THE picture presented by the current figures of our series of index numbers of business activity is not wholly re-assuring. In the majority of cases the data relating to the month of January appear indicative of a fairly sharp recession, and next month, when the returns of November, a relatively much more satisfactory month, are displaced by February statistics in the three-monthly averages, it is to be feared that a declining tendency will be still more apparent.

Imports of raw materials, in the calculation of whose index no allowance is made for the strongly-marked seasonal trend of fluctuation, were much smaller in January than a year ago though approximately on a level with the returns of November and December, 1929. Non-ferrous metal imports continued at an encouraging rate, and the apparent internal consumption of iron and steel still ran high; but raw cotton "intake" declined, and rubber consumption seems to have suffered a severe set-back, though it is necessary, in the case of this index number, to bear in mind that changes in an unknown factor—maker's stocks—which cannot be allowed for, must be taken into consideration.

The indices of consumption of power, viewed in conjunction with each other, convey a favourable impression; but the course of the index of British manufactures is unsatisfactory, and the January returns (even with due allowance made for changes in the average price level) made a particularly poor showing in comparison with the results of a year ago. In this connection it will also be noted that, though the latest figure is fractionally higher than that for January, 1929, the index of shipping movements—discounting once more the seasonal trend—has recently lost nearly all its improvement as compared with last year.

London bank clearings continue at a high level, though the increase over January, 1929, is not so large as that recorded a year ago, and it is questionable whether the method provisionally adopted for making allowance in compiling this index for changes in wholesale and retail prices is not resulting in an exaggeration of real activity. In the case of provincial clearings, where the price-adjustment co-efficient is less open to question, the latest figure points to a volume of turn-over substantially smaller than at this period in either of the past two years.

Finally, the indices of volume of employment corroborate only too clearly the suggestion that industrial activity is slackening. Apart from "heavy" industry, unemployment worsened during January to a marked extent; and it is disquieting to note that in the group which we describe as "general industry," the numbers out of work are now larger than at any time since 1923, excluding the abnormal period of the 1926 coal stoppage. The contraction of employment throughout a wide range of manufacturing processes is too marked to be explained except in terms of reduced turnover.

There is no reason, however, as yet to draw conclusions of a wholly pessimistic nature from the present tendency of our series of index numbers. The evidence, to which reference is made in another column, of trade conditions in other countries suggests that a recession world-wide in extent is being witnessed. From the effects of that recession this country could not hope to be exempt, but the progress made last year, as measured by our indices, was sufficiently ample for a reaction to be faced without the need of talk of "national decline."

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

1924 = 100.

Period.	Net Imports. Raw Materials.	Net Imports. Non-Ferrous Metals.	Consumption of Iron and Steel.	Consumption of Cotton.	Consumption of Rubber.	Consumption of Power. Coal.	Consumption of Power. Electricity.	Volume of Employment. Heavy Industry.	Volume of Employment. "General" Industry.	Volume of Employment. Miscellaneous Services.	Volume of Employment. Total.	Merchandise on Railways.	Provincial Bank Clearings.	Postal Traffic.	Shipping Movements.	London Bank Clearings.	Exports British Manufactures.	Foreign Trade Turnover. (Quarterly Figs.)
Monthly Average.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1919	113	74	96	109	143	89	...	...	...	...	...	109	92	...	59b	54	74	79
1920	106	71	99	113	134	91	...	...	...	...	...	100	113	...	69b	65	101	87
1921	56	50	43	74	79	69	...	...	...	...	...	81	82	...	66	76	67	68
1922	89	63	34	99	58	87	...	...	...	...	...	84	97	...	91	97	88	85
1923	88	92	69	93	118	91	...	...	...	...	...	97	98	...	101	97	95	94
1924	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925	107	107	89	116	137	93	101	90	103	103	101	98	102	103·5	98	104	101·5	102
1926	107a	100	57	98	175	72	92	57	101	104	95·5	88	94	103·5	90	109	94	100
1927	113a	106	133	113	197	106	109	87	108	108	105	99	102	109·5	105	117	104·5	107·5
1928	101	113	88	103	212	99	110	82	108	110	105	93	100·5	114	106·5	125	108	106
1929	113	120	103·5	106	271	106	116	84·5	109·5	112	107	...	99	115·5	111·5	130	109	112
"Corrected" average for 3 months ended:																		
1929—Jan.	134	121	72	117	315	110	126	81	107·5	109·5	104·5	94	101	116	106	129	113	110·5
Feb.	129	123	66	111	263	114	130	83·5	106·5	110	104·5	89	107	115	99	134	109	
March	124	118	70	116	290	119	128	85	107	110	105	92	106	116	99	136	109	
April	109	117	83	105	259	114	123	86	108·5	111	106·5	92	105	116	100	134	105	
May	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	108·5
June	105	135	106	103	265	98	108	84·5	110·5	113	107·5	94	98	114·5	113	126	106	
July	96	123	105	98	278	94	104	83·5	110·5	113·5	108	94	98	113·5	119	129	111	
August	92	123	114	85	299	95	102	84	110·5	114	108	94	96	113	122	129	109	109
Sept.	96	117	118	76	354	96	102	84·5	110·5	114	108	95	94	113	123	129	111	
Oct.	104	117	119	85	358	99	109	84·5	110	113·5	108	98	92	114	121	125	109	
Nov.	116	114	122	110	339	107	121	84·5	110	113	108	99	95	115	116	131	108	119
Dec.	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	...	99·5	116	111	132	110	
1930—Jan.	132c	131	126	120	226	114	132	84·5	108·5	112·5	107	...	99	120	107	133	106c	...
Jan., 1925	142	101	100	132	94	103	112	96	101·5	100	100	100	103	101	98	103	103	...
Jan., 1926	142	104	81	136	180	105	119	91·5	104	103·5	102	98	105	106·5	97	107	102	...
Jan., 1927	131a	102	118	116	196	103	115	70·5	102·5	104·5	98·5	93	97	108·5	93	109	91	...
Jan., 1928	106	114	100	106	136	118	127	86·5	107·5	108·5	105	98	106	113	99	120	111	...
Jan., 1929	134	121	72	117	315	110	126	80·5	107·5	109·5	104·5	94	101	116	106	129	113	...
Jan., 1930	132c	131	126	120	226	114	132	84·5	108·5	112·5	107	...	99	120	107	133	106c	...

a Excluding coal imports. b Excluding Government War Movements. c Provisional figures.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.
	d		b k		g		b		j	e		
1913	24,337	1,903	1,189	3,338	15,842	156	748	1,119	665	1,311	1,776	43,088
1925	20,590	1,925	1,047	c3,921	11,052	571	2,423	719	983	1,693	2,622	43,988
1926	10,692	2,110	1,181	c4,283	12,114	721	2,979	974	1,038	1,703	2,619	49,729
1927	21,355	2,298	1,168	c4,315	12,800	777	3,174	1,028	1,006	1,790	2,794	45,197
1928	20,129	2,295	1,213	c4,280	12,573	891	3,385	1,036	1,014	1,826	2,650	43,052
1929	21,736	2,244	1,396	4,486	13,620	...	3,851	1,022	1,052	1,875	...	45,510
			c									
1929—January	22,792	2,454	1,342	4,425	13,490	968	4,039	950	1,049	1,865	2,720	53,336
February	21,397	2,115	1,294	4,094	12,104	829	3,295	1,016	977	2,068	2,545	48,934
March	22,949	2,393	1,508	4,562	13,502	924	3,808	1,257	993	2,201	2,915	40,271
April	21,206	2,243	1,341	4,458	13,407	938	3,734	1,264	1,057	2,067	2,738	39,307
May	21,021	2,122	1,250	4,438	12,759	948	3,402	1,143	1,137	2,083	2,713	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	1,243	4,432	13,221	m 921	3,503	1,104	1,006	1,770	2,586	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	1,351	4,736	14,362	m1,024	4,024	1,023	1,168	1,579	2,569	41,393
August	20,867	2,220	1,398	4,568	14,467	m 984	3,942	1,025	1,097	1,576	2,323	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	1,439	4,299	13,480	m 958	3,951	928	1,039	1,905	2,499	46,545
October	23,358	2,280	1,556	4,858	14,835	m1,071	4,401	978	1,091	1,948	2,687	54,038
November	22,613	2,306	1,585	4,603	14,157	m1,002	4,115	915	1,013	1,566	2,804	46,919
December	21,764	2,237	1,443	4,363	13,652	...	4,000	899	995	1,874	...	46,600
1930—January	†22,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†49,500

LIGNITE.

Period. Monthly Average.	Austria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Germany.	Hungary.
	b	b k	g	
1913	218	1,927	7,269	460
1925	255	1,551	11,644	460
1926	247	1,543	11,596	485
1927	256	1,365	12,542	520
1928	272	1,704	13,852	543
1929	...	1,880	14,598	587
1929—January	315	1,943	14,817	671
February	307	1,670	13,689	607
March	333	2,087	14,727	624
April	278	1,979	14,226	528
May	251	1,743	13,669	477
June	245	1,586	13,763	479
July	280	1,736	14,885	521
August	298	1,844	15,136	516
September	295	1,871	14,220	592
October	325	1,919	16,050	702
November	301	2,142	15,623	662
December	...	2,017	14,530	667
1930—January	...	...	...	...

PIG IRON

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
					g	a	f		
1913	869	207	434	114	1,397	212	61	85	2,601
1925	530	212	c708	121	848	197	36	48	3,058
1926	208	283	c786	135	804	213	39	64	3,277
1927	617	313	c772	148	1,092	228	35	60	3,036
1928	560	325	c832	161	984	231	33	88	3,167
1929	542	341	870	175	1,117	242	40	92	3,580
			c						
1929—January	573	351	905	169	1,098	242	44	189	3,498
February	528	302	781	147	982	209	42	95	3,258
March	600	334	880	174	1,061	237	38	88	3,774
April	621	336	871	178	1,105	235	42	81	3,721
May	665	348	897	186	1,133	248	47	83	3,961
June	668	342	865	188	1,164	242	33	91	3,777
July	683	347	877	185	1,204	250	39	101	3,846
August	693	348	893	182	1,168	251	41	114	3,816
September	675	347	851	174	1,109	240	38	100	3,554
October	700	361	894	179	1,157	259	43	93	3,646
November	642	340	852	169	1,091	247	41	88	3,232
December	653	340	874	173	1,100	245	37	84	2,882
1930—January	660	...	...	...	1,092	...	...	...	2,873

STEEL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
			c		g	a	f		
1913	649	206	391	159	1,467	101	62	88	2,564
1925	625	212	621	131	1,016	174	43	64	3,737
1926	304	281	703	145	1,028	187	44	66	3,794
1927	770	309	691	158	1,359	206	44	77	3,675
1928	722	328	783	173	1,210	214	51	105	4,222
1929	817	344	806	184	1,369	...	60	117	h4,536
1929—January	774	357	837	183	1,470	225	47	118	4,562
February	793	302	742	161	1,270	195	56	119	4,395
March	874	349	804	179	1,314	221	59	139	5,139
April	822	342	810	186	1,415	226	59	124	5,017
May	857	340	820	188	1,421	230	70	128	5,358
June	844	349	797	190	1,430	219	49	121	4,960
July	818	356	815	199	1,466	235	59	132	4,916
August	765	365	827	192	1,402	238	68	122	5,006
September	862	347	763	185	1,231	224	61	101	4,583
October	904	369	847	200	1,377	242	70	118	4,584
November	828	333	786	179	1,286	231	65	95	3,569
December	672	323	813	168	1,156	217	56	84	2,943
1930—January	783	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,847

† Provisional figure. a Figures communicated by the "Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques." b Present territory. c Including Alsace-Lorraine. d Saleable coal; since end 1921 excluding Ireland. e British Provinces only. f "Ekonomisk Oversikt." g From 1918 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1919 excluding Saar; from 1922, excluding Polish Upper Silesia. h Establishments whose production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. i Including lignite. j Coal sold. k Until end 1928 saleable coal. m Including coal waste.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K. Board of Trade.	U.K. Economist.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Official).	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada
		a	f		e		il					j			h100		h100	
1913	100	100	h100	h100	100	100	100	100	100	100	h100	100	100	100	h100	100	h100	100
1925	159·1	160·9	558	1,008	210	549·8	141·8	155	596	253	125·4	183	188	161	161·6	169·5	159	160·3
1926	148·1	149·4	744	954	163	702·6	134·4	145	603	198	p181·2	177	181	149	144·5	168·4	148	156·3
1927	141·4	143·7	847	979	153	617·2	137·6	148	495	167	p118·6	171	172	146	142·2	167·0	148	152·7
1928	140·3	140·9	843	977	153	619·6	140·0	149	462	161	119·8	177	167	148	144·6	164·7	145	150·6
1929	136·5	132·8	851	916	150	609·7	137·2	142	446	153	113·4	...	...	140	141·2	165·7	141	149·2
		b		d		b			b	c	p k	d	c		c		k	
1929—January	138·3	136·1	867	950	151	630·6	138·9	146	461	154	115·5	177	171	144	142·5	164·2	145	147·7
February	138·4	137·3	865	964	159	638·5	139·3	146	463	155	117·1	178	173	145	142·9	163·4	144	149·5
March	140·1	138·1	869	963	154	639·4	139·6	147	461	155	117·3	179	174	144	141·8	164·7	143	150·2
April	138·5	135·0	862	940	150	626·7	137·1	144	455	154	116·5	180	174	141	140·1	165·3	140	147·0
May	135·8	131·5	851	917	148	622·8	135·5	142	452	152	113·0	181	171	140	139·3	164·0	139	144·4
June	135·6	131·7	848	922	146	610·0	135·1	141	447	151	112·8	180	170	139	139·4	165·3	138	144·7
July	137·4	134·6	858	916	149	613·0	137·8	141	440	152	113·2	180	169	140	142·8	166·6	142	150·0
August	135·8	134·5	850	902	150	596·4	138·1	142	437	154	112·7	181	170	141	142·7	167·8	143	153·3
September	135·8	131·9	846	895	150	597·3	138·1	141	437	154	111·3	182	171	140	142·2	170·8	143	152·0
October	136·1	129·6	838	888	149	589·5	137·2	140	436	154	110·3	181	172	138	142·0	168·4	140	151·1
November	134·0	126·9	834	876	147	583·7	135·5	137	431	152	112·2	182	171	135	139·7	165·8	137	149·7
December	132·5	126·9	823	g126·1	146	575·8	134·3	135	425	152	109·3	...	...	134	138·6	161·8	134	150·3
1930—January	131·0	123·7	808	...	143	562·1	132·3	...	417	150	...	...	...	...	135·6	...	...	...

a New index. b End of the month. c 15th of month. d Beginning of the following month. e Official. f Second half of month.
g Since date of stabilisation, gold index. h 1914. i *Frankfurter Zeitung* index discontinued. j End year. k Average last week of month.
l Since 1924, new series. p Since January, 1926, new index.

Wholesale Prices—*Continued.*

Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States Bureau of Labour.
1913	100	100	100	100
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	144·1
1924	128·7	153·9	206·5	140·5
1925	127·6	159·4	201·7	148·3
1926	123·3	164·1	178·9	143·3
1927	g124·0	170·4	169·8	136·7
1928	g120·4	160·7	170·9	140·0
1929	116·1	163·7	166·2	138·3
	g	g		
1929—January	119·6	160·1	172·2	139·3
February	...	162·4	171·0	138·5
March	...	164·2	171·0	139·7
April	116·6	161·2	169·6	138·7
May	...	161·7	168·6	137·2
June	114·6	162·6	167·6	138·1
July	...	162·7	166·0	140·4
August	...	164·7	165·1	140·0
September	...	167·1	164·4	139·7
October	113·4	168·0	163·4	138·0
November	...	164·7	159·6	135·2
December	...	164·7	154·9	135·0
1930—January	...	...	...	...

Index Numbers of Retail Prices. Cost of Living.—(Base=100.)

	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	105	Vienna.	59	12	Paris.	71	Milan.	Madrid.	60	32
Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	1921.	1914.	1914.	Oct., 1913, Jan., April, June, 1914	Jan.–June, 1914.	1914.	1926.	July 1914.
	a		c s	s	d	h		v w	e	d q	s y
1925—July	173	188	97	133	3014	390	b 143·3	598	189	99·3	169
1926—July	170	182	103	174	2886	485	b 142·4	649	187	100·0	166
1927—July	164	171	106	204	2788	525	150·0	548	189	98·5	162
1928—July	165	173	108	205	2911	w 105	152·6	143	176	99·1	161
1929—July	163	174	112	216	...	113	154·4	148	...	100·1	162
					w t	w x	b				
1929—Jan.	165	177	109	216	105·6	...	153·1	148	184	99·6	161
Feb.	166	...	111	217	108·4	...	154·4	148	183	99·4	161
March	162	...	110	216	109·4	111	156·6	153	184	99·5	160
April	161	173	109	214	110·1	...	153·6	150	184	98·9	159
May	160	...	109	214	111·6	...	153·5	148	182	99·2	159
June	161	...	111	213	111·8	113	153·4	149	179	99·3	160
July	163	174	112	216	112·6	...	154·4	148	177	99·4	162
August	164	...	113	221	107·3	...	154·0	146	178	101·1	163
Sept.	165	...	113	225	106·3	113	153·6	147	178	100·9	163
October	167	179	113	229	107·3	...	153·5	149	179	101·1	163
Nov	167	...	113	229	...	...	153·0	149	181	101·5	...
Dec.	166	...	113	228	...	115	152·6	150	...	101·6	...
1930—Jan.	164	179	113	...	...	...	151·6	150	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. b Gold mark prices. c Since 1923 gold prices. d Yearly average. e Prices of foodstuffs average of quarter.
g Last Wednesday of month. h Average of second quarter. q Revised. s 15th of month. t Excluding clothing and rent. v Since November, 1927, new series. w Since date of stabilisation gold standard index. x Average of quarter. y Compiled by National Industrial Conference Board.

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period. / End of	United Kingdom. Bank of England Notes. £	Austria. Bank Notes. Schilling.	Belgium. Bank Notes. Francs.	Bulgaria. Bank Notes. Leva.	Czechoslovakia. Bank Notes. Koruna.	Denmark. Bank Notes. Kron.	Finland. Bank Notes. Markat.	France. Bank Notes. Francs.	Germany. Reichsbank Notes. Reichsmark.	Germany. "Rentenbank." Rentenmks.	Greece. Bank Notes. Drachmæ	Hungary. Bank Notes. Pengö.	Jugo-Slavia. Bank Notes. Dinars.	Netherlands. Bank Notes. Gulden.	Netherlands. State Notes. Gulden.
	a		z						g	i		k	u		
1913	29·6	...	1,067	189	...	152	113	y 5,714	2,742	...	245	...	...	313	...
1923	404·8	713	7,537	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	37,763	f496507,424,772	...	4,681	931,337	5,790	1,066	32
1924	397·6	839	7,873	4,530	8,810	478	1,250	40,604	1,941	1,835	4,866	4,513,990	6,002	935	23
1925	385·3	890	7,814	3,655	8,408	438	1,309	49,993	2,960	1,476	5,395	416	6,063	875	17
1926	381·0	947	9,646	3,485	8,203	386	1,346	52,449	3,736	1,164	4,865	471	5,812	819	13
1927	382·3	1,005	10,951	3,727	8,417	354	1,514	56,301	4,564	716	4,966	487	5,743	797	12
1928	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	62,181	4,930	530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1929	369·8	1,094	e13,933	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	...	...
1929—Jan.	355·6	965	12,847	3,898	7,115	336	1,431	63,867	4,454	i 513	5,514	485	5,194	782	11
Feb.	352·3	977	12,912	3,894	7,063	342	1,523	64,226	4,553	508	5,465	451	5,159	776	11
Mar.	361·8	1,004	12,812	4,101	7,333	357	1,595	64,575	4,822	504	5,488	458	5,265	835	12
Apl.	361·4	995	12,904	4,366	7,133	359	1,556	62,848	4,631	489	5,617	485	5,212	840	12
May	360·1	998	13,238	3,977	7,183	358	1,481	64,316	4,606	491	5,415	446	5,092	797	12
June	369·1	1,044	13,159	3,972	7,612	366	1,473	64,921	4,839	460	5,494	463	5,196	844	11
July	371·8	1,047	13,894	3,974	7,321	351	1,439	65,679	4,726	434	5,304	491	4,299	812	12
Aug.	364·0	1,046	13,871	4,121	7,500	361	1,448	66,468	4,897	432	5,214	480	5,659	844	12
Sept.	363·3	1,079	13,890	4,222	7,697	353	1,440	66,639	4,914	433	5,414	478	5,695	852	12
Oct.	358·8	1,081	14,360	4,255	7,763	372	1,377	68,267	4,833	407	5,364	526	5,773	826	12
Nov.	354·6	1,072	e13,471	3,900	7,689	370	1,347	68,159	4,916	394	5,173	473	5,690	861	12
Dec.	369·8	1,094	e13,933	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1930—Jan.	348·0	981	e13,481	3,260	6,923	347	1,259	70,339	4,653	373	4,907	476	5,586	824	9

Period. / End of	Italy. Bank Notes. Lire.	Italy. State Notes. Lire.	Norway. Bank Notes. Kroner.	Poland. Bank Notes. Zloty.	Poland. Token Notes and Coins. Zloty.	Roumania. Bank Notes. Lei.	Russia. State Notes. Gd.Rbls.	Russia. Bank Notes. Rbles.	Sweden. Bank Notes. Kronor.	Switzerland. Bank Notes. Francs.	Australia. Bank Notes. £	Canada. Bank Notes and Dominion Notes. Dollars.	South Africa. Bank Notes. £	Egypt. Bank Notes. £E	United States. Bank Notes. Dollars.	United States. State Notes. Dollars.	Japan. Bank Notes. Yen.
				m	t	u	v	v			o	p	q				o
1913	d 2,284	w 499	108	...	...	437	...	...	234	314	r 10·0	116	2·3	2·2	726	343	426
1923	17,247	2,428	396	...	...	17,917	...	237	576	982	52·2	187	8·8	34·3	2,951	308	1,704
1924	18,114	2,400	391	551	151	19,397	229	411	537	914	56·9	177	9·1	40·2	2,555	297	1,662
1925	19,349	2,100	363	381	440	20,222	388	727	530	876	53·9	176	7·2	33·5	2,458	294	1,668
1926	18,340	1,793	337	593	428	20,951	398	797	525	874	49·9	190	6·6	27·8	2,458	298	1,377
1927	17,992	783	331	1,003	309	21,025	480	1,003	526	917	51·8	192	7·2	27·5	2,387	294	1,682
1928	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	21,211	730	1,031	546	953	48·7	193	7·6	30·3	2,428	295	1,739
1929	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	...	7·5	26·2	2,463	266	1,633
1929—Jan.	16,590	157	299	1,222	230	20,391	680	1,037	486	840	46·7	173	7·3	28·4	2,248	295	1,405
Feb.	16,197	120	301	1,249	231	20,325	701	1,056	499	843	45·4	177	7·5	27·5	2,277	283	1,278
Mar.	16,396	117	312	1,333	239	20,964	717	1,073	544	886	44·4	205	8·0	27·7	2,323	285	1,354
Apl.	16,274	104	308	1,274	231	19,968	776	1,120	518	875	43·0	183	7·6	26·8	2,296	278	1,364
May	16,251	99	305	1,244	227	19,080	748	1,103	519	872	42·5	184	7·9	25·1	2,301	290	1,299
June	16,753	96	318	1,298	234	19,113	805	1,192	560	898	42·3	199	7·8	23·3	2,349	263	1,462
July	16,877	96	315	1,293	240	19,188	833	1,238	522	900	41·6	184	7·6	21·8	2,372	244	1,250
Aug.	16,701	96	314	1,359	255	20,340	907	1,330	549	911	41·6	203	7·8	21·2	2,482	250	1,334
Sept.	16,916	90	316	1,354	260	21,393	983	1,428	580	944	41·9	206	7·5	25·2	2,473	266	1,286
Oct.	16,977	83	307	1,392	270	21,774	1,068	1,527	554	944	42·9	201	7·4	28·0	2,495	268	1,297
Nov.	16,828	80	303	1,366	267	21,387	1,092	1,538	573	928	42·8	203	7·7	27·2	2,530	276	1,346
Dec.	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	...	7·5	26·6	2,463	266	1,643
1930—Jan.	16,329	...	298	1,247	n 237	19,717	...	o1,500	521	890	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a Until November, 1928, including State notes, then transferred to Bank. b Includes notes called in, but not cancelled. c Kronen. One schilling = 10,000 paper kronen. d In terms of new lire = 8,373 million. e Excluding Government notes. f Milliards. g Marks—including Reichs- und Darlehenkassenscheine. h Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since October, 1926, including Government notes of 5 and 20 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes. i Excluding notes held by Reichsbank. k Until end 1924 paper kronen. (One pengö = 12,500 paper kronen.) l May 31st, 1925: ceased to be exchangeable against Zloty notes. m One Zloty = 1,800,000 P. Marks. n Token coin 186·2 million Zloty. o Gross issue. p Excluding notes held as reserve by Chartered Banks. q Circulation in Union only. r State notes. t Since January, 1926, excluding notes held by Bank of Poland. u Since 1920, including Austria-Hungarian and other notes converted after the war into National Currency. v Since 1926, excluding notes held by the State Bank. w In terms of new lire = 1,829 millions. y In terms of new francs. z Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since Oct., 1926, including Government Notes of 5 and 10 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris. Francs to £1.	Brussels. Belgas to £1.	Italy. Lire to £1.	Switzerland. Francs to £1.	Madrid. Pesetas to £1.	Amsterdam. Florins to £1.	Stockholm. Kronor to £1.	Oslo. Kroner to £1.	Copenhagen. Kroner to £1.	Berlin. Marks to £1.	Vienna. Schillings to £1.	New York. Dollars to £1.	Buenos Aires. Pence Dollars.
Par level	124·21	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58½	4·86⅔	47·58
Highest, 1929	124·37	34·96⅝	93·27½	25·24¾	36·92	12·13	18·18⅝	18·21¼	18·22½	20·58	34·75	4·88 7/16	47½
Lowest, ,,	123·68	34·84½	92·52	25·08¾	29·67	12·05⅞	18·08⅝	18·18¾	18·17½	20·31½	34·41	4·84 9/16	44
Beginning of— July, 1914	25·15	† 25·35⅛	25·25⅛	21·16⅛	26·10	12·11⅝	18·30	18·25	18·30	20·49½	‡ 24·55	4·87⅝	47 1/16
January, 1922	52·32⅛	† 54·65⅛	97½	21·70⅛	28·19¼	11·44½	16·97½	26·99½	21·12½	791½	‡ 13,000	4·20	43 1/16
January, 1923	66·30	† 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	‡ 330,000	4·68	44
January, 1924	87·85	† 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅜	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	19½ billions	‡ 305,500	4·29⅝	40 7/16
January, 1925	87·40⅛	† 94·79⅛	112·35	24·34¼	33·95¼	11·71⅛	17·62½	31·37½	26·85½	19·94½ gld. mks.	‡ 337,500	4·74 13/16	46 1/32
January, 1926	129·31¼	†107·00	120	25·08¼	34·31¼	12·05	18·08	23·83¼	19·60½	20·37½	34·37½	4·85 3/16	46 17/32
January, 1927	122·81¼	34·89	109·62½	25·14¼	31·23½	12·12⅞	18·15¼	19·04½	18·20	20·43⅞ ,,	34·42½	4·85 9/32	46 11/32
January, 1928	124·00	34·92½	92·32½	25·27¾	28·24	12·09⅛	18·11¼	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½ ,,	34·52	4·87 21/32	47 21/32
January, 1929	124·10⅛	34·88½	92·64	25·18¾	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17¾	20·38⅛ ,,	34·44½	4·85 1/16	47⅜
December ,,	123·94	34·87	93·22	25·11¼	34·61¼	12·09½	18·11	18·20½	18·19½	20·38⅜ ,,	34·67½	4·88 3/16	46 9/32
January, 1930	123·91	34·88⅞	93·22	25·13¾	36·62½	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20½	18·20½	20·43½ ,,	34·65½	4·87 21/32	45 11/16
February ,,	124·02	34·904	92·91	25·19¾	37·33¼	12·12	18·12⅛	18·21	18·19⅛	20·36½ ,,	34·54	4·86 7/16	42½

	Rio de Janeiro. Pence to Milreis.	Monte Video. Pence to Dollars.	Valparaiso. Pesos to £1.	Bombay. Pence to Rupee.	Hong Kong. Sterling to Dollar.	Shanghai. Sterling to Tael.	Japan. Sterling to Yen.	Singapore. Sterling to Dollar.
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Par level	16	51	40	1 6	...	...	2 0 9/16	...
Highest, 1929	5 15/16	51¼	39·79	1 6 5/32	2 0 15/16	2 7⅞	2 0 3/16	2 4⅛
Lowest, ,,	5 5/16	45¼	39·37	1 5 23/32	1 7¾	2 1 1/16	1 9 13/32	2 3⅝
Beginning of— July, 1914	16 1/16	51½	§ 9⅜	1 3 31/32	1 10⅝	2 6¼	2 0⅛	...
January, 1922	7 1/16	41	40·20	1 4	2 7¾	3 6⅝	2 3¼	2 3⅞
January, 1923	5 15/16	44	34·70	1 4 3/32	2 3⅛	3 0⅝	2 1	2 4 5/32
January, 1924	5⅝	43⅞	40·30	1 5¼	2 4⅜	3 4 5/16	2 1⅝	2 4 5/32
January, 1925	5 11/16	50⅛	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3⅞	3 1 15/16	1 7⅛	2 4 3/16
January, 1926	7 5/32	50¾	39·80	1 6 3/16	2 4⅜	3 1 3/16	1 9 15/16	2 4 3/16
January, 1927	5 25/32	50½	39·65	1 6 1/32	1 11 13/16	2 5⅝	2 0 3/32	2 3 15/16
January, 1928	5 27/32	51	39·35	1 6 3/32	2 0¾	2 7⅛	1 11 1/32	2 4 1/32
January, 1929	5 29/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/16	2 0 3/16	2 7⅛	1 10¾	2 3 29/32
October, ,,	5⅞	48½	39·42	1 5⅞	1 11 21/32	2 3 7/32	1 11 5/16	2 3 27/32
November, ,,	5 25/32	47⅝	39·62	1 5 29/32	1 9⅝	2 3 3/16	2 0 1/32	2 3⅞
December, ,,	5 27/32	47½	39·60	1 5 15/16	1 8 11/16	2 3	2 0 1/16	2 3 29/64
January, 1930	5 11/16	46⅛	39·80	1 5 21/64	1 8	2 1¼	2 0 3/32	2 3⅞
February ,,	5 25/32	43¾	39·78	1 5 31/64	1 7 1/16	1 11¾	2 0½	2 3 27/64

† Francs to £1. § Pence to Peso. ‡ Krone to £1.

Place.	Method of Quoting.	January, Quotations. Highest.	Lowest.	Average.*
New York. Jan., 1929	Dollars to £1.	4·85⅜	4·84 25/32	4·850
Dec., 1929		4·88 15/32	4·87 13/32	4·882
Jan., 1930		4·88½	4·86 7/16	4·870
Paris. Jan., 1929	Francs to £1.	124·25	123·93	124·077
Dec., 1929		124·05	123·83	123·916
Jan., 1930		124	123·86	123·910
Amsterdam. Jan., 1929	Florins to £1.	12·10⅝	12·07½	12·090
Dec., 1929		12·10¾	12·08¼	12·095
Jan., 1930		12·12½	12·08	12·102
Berlin. Jan., 1929	Rchmks. to £1.	20·43	20·37½	20·40
Dec., 1929		20·43	20·37	20·386
Jan., 1930		20·44	20·35⅝	20·387

* Daily rates.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. / Monthly Average.	U.K. £	Irish Free State. £	Belgium. Francs.	Bulgaria. Leva.	Denmark. Kroner.	Estonia. Ekr.	France. Francs.	Finland. Markka	Germany. Mark.	Greece. Drachmæ.	Italy. Lire.	Jugo-Slavia. Dinars.	Netherlands. Gulden.	Poland. Zloty.	Swed'n. Kronor.	Switz'r-land. Francs.	Egypt. £E.	United States. Dollars.
	t		m	j		s	g	f	d	e	b	a		c		f		
1913	54,931	...	386,384	15,775	64,785	...	701,778	41,035	897,474	i 14,828	303,803	...	325,231	...	70,545	159,985	2,271	147,932
1924	94,789	5,632	1,475,061	463,109	184,874	683,684	3,346,901	392,956	756,901	669,914	1,615,056	685,145	196,961	211,875	118,708	207,000	4,086	297,926
1925	97,223	5,162	1,488,378	606,958	161,382	8,046	3,712,700	459,959	1,030,171	848,069	2,183,374	729,407	204,583	229,589	120,535	219,427	4,678	348,018
1926	92,989	5,043	1,920,460	520,578	127,319	7,964	4,968,923	472,309	833,454	833,745	2,156,571	635,982	203,496	128,242	124,151	201,209	4,199	367,340
1927	91,282	5,012	2,422,921	510,749	131,508	8,035	4,420,823	532,157	1,185,672	1,050,162	1,697,900	607,191	212,405	240,998	132,030	213,650	3,896	346,924
1928	89,716	4,928	2,668,468	586,745	135,350	10,948	4,454,963	667,742	1,166,250	1,035,760	1,826,702	652,944	223,659	280,180	142,330	228,723	4,123	339,820
1929	92,654	z 4,930	2,951,467	691,988	141,305	10,261	4,857,052	582,882	1,119,549	1,105,294	1,779,415	632,982	229,358	259,248	147,708	231,987	4,453	362,056
1928—Dec.	92,373	4,690	2,776,140	600,307	135,133	9,917	5,212,912	586,127	1,102,584	1,027,224	*2,356,626	622,113	209,747	238,396	130,990	248,498	4,623	334,332
1929—Jan.	106,253	4,822	2,392,608	563,128	121,251	11,175	5,173,343	504,454	1,316,756	1,082,117	1,784,573	560,690	232,599	294,042	122,521	212,128	4,563	358,872
Feb.	81,048	4,339	2,698,172	443,006	87,325	6,322	5,162,237	333,831	1,014,766	901,867	1,799,476	403,986	177,426	264,911	87,035	188,515	4,002	364,188
Mar.	88,607	5,612	3,039,941	643,671	107,057	6,619	4,934,124	349,442	1,021,882	1,128,813	1,988,306	684,571	215,929	233,289	89,020	225,466	3,965	371,215
April	93,792	5,306	2,984,179	766,633	203,078	14,381	5,143,715	710,897	1,254,356	1,267,772	1,976,048	713,679	234,020	321,140	205,786	243,396	4,632	396,825
May	93,020	5,088	3,224,335	931,728	157,403	13,179	5,061,457	819,278	1,131,273	1,160,446	1,888,473	701,204	235,358	271,917	168,031	226,332	4,035	381,114
June	81,882	4,797	3,034,764	788,976	129,081	10,038	5,165,042	645,437	1,077,445	1,013,373	*2,266,753	614,557	229,834	271,746	145,188	212,873	3,779	350,336
July	85,581	5,353	3,066,082	831,448	135,602	10,681	4,627,293	639,553	1,226,411	1,098,053	1,567,459	655,474	240,442	266,447	137,685	244,162	4,127	347,133
Aug.	91,973	4,784	3,086,975	684,036	142,420	11,200	4,339,533	610,470	1,072,589	902,840	1,413,820	635,460	247,061	226,535	142,533	235,160	4,391	372,757
Sept.	91,633	5,138	2,939,266	683,393	158,765	10,923	4,353,136	623,804	1,038,321	1,193,419	1,436,249	656,637	230,557	247,457	171,261	223,097	4,657	356,512
Oct.	101,150	z 5,328	3,203,741	668,369	157,718	10,597	4,515,576	653,513	1,106,672	1,203,316	1,579,353	748,061	257,688	257,247	176,120	244,133	5,128	396,168
Nov.	99,981	z 4,969	2,841,291	†683473	155,315	9,606	4,789,413	571,187	1,161,038	1,207,637	1,531,050	621,862	237,720	243,448	166,904	260,027	5,235	332,635
Dec.	98,637	z 4,180	2,906,254	†596000	139,851	8,404	5,019,755	533,344	1,013,078	1,116,092	*2,121,422	599,604	214,464	212,797	160,405	268,338	4,920	310,572
1930—Jan.	93,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208,159	...	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K. £	Irish Free State. £	Belgium. Francs.	Bulgaria. Leva.	Denmark. Kroner.	Estonia. Ekr.	France. Francs.	Finland. Markka	Germany. Mark.	Greece. Drachmæ.	Italy. Lire.	Jugo-Slavia. Dinars.	Netherlands. Gulden.	Poland. Zloty.	Swed'n. Kronor.	Switz'r-land. Francs.	Egypt. £E.	United States. Dollars.
			m	j		s	g	f	d	e	b	a		c		f		
1913	43,771	...	302,882	7,778	53,113	...	573,351	33,482	841,436	i 9,917	209,303	...	255,453	...	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,024
1924	66,747	4,190	1,151,126	408,519	184,874	655,483	2,530,743	414,217	545,971	272,182	1,197,746	794,898	138,388	181,437	105,079	172,511	5,472	374,804
1925	64,448	3,615	1,228,662	470,206	149,067	8,054	3,882,676	464,459	733,208	381,189	1,522,855	742,045	150,641	182,235	113,318	169,895	4,928	401,560
1926	54,421	3,432	1,661,198	468,133	117,131	8,020	4,936,893	469,712	815,265	452,479	1,555,377	651,515	145,767	187,192	118,293	153,041	3,435	392,643
1927	59,090	3,681	2,218,975	552,262	120,546	8,815	4,577,063	527,031	851,952	503,118	1,302,662	533,346	158,309	209,562	134,715	168,604	3,977	396,572
1928	60,286	3,799	2,573,408	519,271	128,752	10,592	4,281,227	520,440	970,050	523,506	1,213,253	537,058	165,515	208,999	131,222	177,870	4,584	419,175
1929	60,796	z 3,839	2,680,778	527,999	134,201	9,789	4,172,695	535,560	1,056,918	582,100	1,240,533	660,142	165,791	234,447	150,480	175,371	4,225	430,923
1928—Dec.	60,394	3,825	3,355,204	502,057	134,511	8,995	4,733,095	495,461	d 977,509	1,184,690	*1,637,348	569,339	164,758	209,173	167,280	192,161	5,921	466,232
1929—Jan.	66,880	3,202	2,068,971	575,627	118,034	7,900	3,701,892	309,660	1,034,962	1,085,843	999,526	425,708	152,192	215,834	109,414	153,892	5,376	480,384
Feb.	55,665	3,037	2,391,585	379,755	98,871	5,585	4,117,941	184,156	920,118	629,980	1,088,384	385,074	123,615	167,465	77,448	163,024	4,472	434,529
Mar.	58,623	3,136	2,697,186	543,821	117,432	4,779	4,180,206	192,904	930,190	767,824	1,190,440	499,413	175,091	161,525	95,251	179,840	5,208	481,710
April	60,244	3,309	2,828,081	720,041	147,394	9,637	4,419,445	368,918	1,163,478	449,479	1,247,919	614,982	168,870	214,319	149,514	176,976	5,124	418,051
May	67,437	3,469	2,459,168	550,330	151,329	9,421	3,958,909	497,671	1,097,420	314,669	1,256,092	533,661	175,252	226,840	162,149	170,399	4,012	377,083
June	49,893	3,871	y 3,657,984	563,718	142,507	11,513	4,349,341	675,463	1,014,652	201,661	*1,548,162	530,235	165,389	237,891	168,797	169,818	3,057	386,799
July	66,520	3,902	2,516,856	395,096	137,083	13,517	4,269,148	801,616	1,030,252	258,859	1,054,166	621,314	170,247	276,441	168,328	174,836	3,094	393,838
Aug.	63,045	4,309	2,559,199	397,868	142,759	12,800	3,804,235	904,418	1,122,902	357,320	1,210,462	1,006,190	182,660	280,717	177,041	173,502	2,824	374,725
Sept.	55,104	4,464	2,843,208	517,150	144,921	11,858	4,221,004	714,052	1,136,377	615,289	1,233,150	721,135	181,840	262,013	179,946	180,539	1,649	431,809
Oct.	64,589	z 4,976	2,847,256	595,449	136,940	11,502	4,385,958	730,815	1,164,650	802,827	1,348,236	991,279	184,863	259,427	185,450	199,973	4,517	522,415
Nov.	63,125	z 4,743	2,541,675	†642131	139,329	9,373	4,267,785	595,126	1,094,035	913,172	1,316,175	814,055	165,617	256,137	174,315	183,915	6,285	435,513
Dec.	58,430	z 3,986	2,758,174	†455000	137,899	9,586	4,396,484	451,925	1,005,163	624,273	*1,393,686	778,653	143,853	254,751	158,102	177,760	5,078	420,622
1930—Jan.	58,232	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147,143	...	...

a Including bullion and specie. b Since 1922 declared values. c Including Dantzig. d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Including bullion. g Since 1927 declared values. h Returns have been officially revised. i Old Greece only. j Including bullion. l Excluding reparation deliveries. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." t From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. s Including bullion: until end 1924 Eesti mk. (1 Ekr. = 100 E mk.). x Average of two months. y Including part of the May trade not taken into account in May. z Excluding parcel post. † Provisional figures. * Including parcel post for the half-year.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. / Monthly Average.	Value. Australia. £'s.	British India. Rupees.	Canada. Dollars.	New Zealand. £'s.	South Africa. £'s.	Japan. Yen.	Brazil. Milreis.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
	g	b					a	q	o			e	i		j		f
1913	6,365	152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	...	3,685	h6,069	p 84	...	3,739	...	661	494
1924	11,960	196,493	67,350	3,995	5,302	240,726	232,463	2,784	482	4,716	3,216	150	376	1,888	201	564	369
1925	12,350	186,899	74,189	4,308	5,459	207,223	281,403	2,772	565	3,954	4,331	175	370	2,117	284	546	414
1926	13,429	196,606	84,028	4,073	5,804	192,101	225,463	2,859	554	3,783	3,606	156	450	2,362	203	590	412
1927	11,890	206,740	90,593	3,655	5,770	174,883	272,764	3,172	613	4,114	5,674	190	528	2,385	409	621	460
1928	11,361	208,172	101,860	3,661	6,291	177,792	307,916	3,293	780	4,112	5,498	197	553	2,488	430	667	487
1929	11,850	208,155	108,249	4,004	6,663	...	...	3,747	836	4,954	5,563	231	...	2,582	424	726	...
1928—Dec.	11,986	186,386	94,621	3,338	6,582	197,420	371,274	3,491	918	4,240	4,548	213	554	2,428	380	655	528
1929—Jan.	13,205	272,324	96,958	4,257	6,804	232,819	324,235	3,099	672	4,316	5,328	225	438	2,347	438	578	540
Feb.	10,593	198,957	97,042	3,623	5,553	235,273	291,610	3,001	513	4,288	3,399	199	365	1,587	411	521	472
Mar.	10,954	225,554	135,329	3,768	6,554	206,296	313,284	3,626	807	4,690	4,164	211	488	1,737	358	703	515
April	11,142	246,341	97,517	3,945	6,677	208,843	277,054	3,598	737	5,073	5,543	266	550	2,330	544	728	490
May	10,659	215,546	125,615	3,186	7,044	214,695	343,502	3,783	827	4,921	5,886	242	564	2,846	484	701	540
June	12,237	166,854	111,949	3,358	6,308	171,128	279,860	3,677	895	5,322	5,896	205	611	2,905	487	709	478
July	12,675	191,246	114,201	4,391	7,271	163,370	209,544	3,973	911	5,062	6,560	250	663	3,041	473	889	527
Aug.	12,267	203,505	111,631	4,207	7,031	164,590	304,626	4,095	918	5,121	6,700	191	651	3,195	418	861	568
Sept.	12,150	193,882	99,380	5,014	6,312	131,861	270,020	4,160	929	5,151	6,146	237	678	2,867	402	780	493
Oct.	12,729	195,138	116,261	4,359	6,781	148,951	...	4,303	893	5,037	6,102	242	608	2,895	384	795	...
Nov.	13,141	225,531	108,734	3,957	† 7,874	143,894	...	3,710	955	5,173	5,864	255	...	2,712	317	706	...
Dec.	10,443	162,986	84,365	a 3,984	† 5,751	†181,000	...	3,933	850	5,292	5,183	251	...	2,592	373	738	...
1930—Jan.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	651	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Value. Australia. £'s.	British India. Rupees.	Canada. Dollars.	New Zealand. £'s.	South Africa. £'s.	Japan. Yen.	Brazil. Milreis.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czechoslovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
	g	b			c		a					e	i		j		f
1913	6,070	200,993	36,333	1,751	2,294	52,393	81,814	1,740	...	1,840	h 6,143	p 50	...	2,451	...	71	115
1924	13,075	308,807	88,171	4,275	3,148	146,741	321,963	1,697	o 1,036	2,449	1,325	34	141	844	1,312	68	153
1925	11,689	330,960	105,916	4,499	3,794	184,968	335,164	1,744	o 1,014	2,532	3,194	47	182	1,028	1,134	67	160
1926	10,821	268,689	105,715	3,648	3,311	164,371	265,880	1,933	o 1,067	2,712	5,048	45	216	1,319	1,859	70	155
1927	11,268	265,405	101,528	3,916	3,984	159,313	303,677	2,019	o 1,167	3,166	3,912	53	169	1,195	1,696	86	168
1928	11,069	275,534	112,489	4,511	4,057	159,095	330,856	2,214	o 1,124	3,427	3,754	54	175	1,310	1,702	81	173
1929	10,005	268,709	98,536	4,472	3,738	...	...	2,147	1,092	3,324	4,570	62	...	1,358	1,753	87	...
1928—Dec.	14,916	262,628	130,847	4,292	5,898	168,408	348,238	2,633	o 1,314	3,262	3,712	59	200	1,377	1,555	78	171
1929—Jan.	13,206	298,386	94,942	8,339	4,361	173,662	334,351	1,651	876	3,006	3,709	54	144	1,223	1,529	60	158
Feb.	15,988	279,891	82,259	7,952	4,154	145,147	322,452	1,590	691	3,273	2,817	57	119	849	1,347	57	150
Mar.	15,417	314,442	114,763	7,450	3,575	162,673	313,106	1,933	1,025	3,108	3,588	65	190	1,140	1,155	81	174
April	11,532	274,448	65,728	5,374	3,565	171,995	319,177	2,225	1,192	3,217	4,608	44	200	1,456	1,527	86	189
May	9,393	257,971	107,473	3,393	3,355	178,751	293,683	2,043	1,078	3,087	4,579	49	172	1,475	1,612	91	176
June	6,766	262,113	112,176	4,016	2,246	154,421	290,945	2,473	1,094	3,617	4,391	62	179	1,375	1,792	92	168
July	6,023	250,796	102,219	2,609	2,948	184,338	352,882	2,188	1,106	3,741	4,817	72	239	1,508	2,140	95	177
Aug.	5,765	268,170	96,265	2,349	2,965	214,978	363,292	2,183	1,093	3,214	5,094	47	266	1,528	2,200	86	205
Sept.	7,595	258,709	87,751	2,083	3,053	187,344	347,929	2,265	1,005	3,609	5,602	71	319	1,482	1,996	87	189
Oct.	8,989	257,097	119,266	2,233	5,278	201,767	...	2,281	1,176	3,217	5,305	82	320	1,503	1,892	129	...
Nov.	10,056	268,749	111,068	2,811	† 4,172	168,719	...	2,161	1,358	3,314	5,071	85	...	1,474	2,071	97	...
Dec.	9,330	233,734	88,520	4,520	† 5,179	†145,000	...	2,239	1,394	3,485	5,274	62	...	1,285	1,779	80	...
1930—Jan.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	...

a General trade. b Sea-borne trade only. c Including ships' stores. e Until Feb., 1923, Julian Calendar; excludes articles shown by number. f General trade, gross weight. g From 1916-21, fiscal year beginning on July 1st. h Including Luxembourg. i Excluding live stock and articles shown by number. j Excluding weight of two animals. o Including a few goods declared by number only. p 1914. q Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." † Provisional figure.

CAPITAL ISSUES.—(000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Czecho-Slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Roumania.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	British India.	Japan.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Schilling.	Koruna.	Francs.	Mark.	Lire.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Lei.	Kroner.	Francs.	Rupees.	Yen.	Dollars.
		b		*d*	*m*	*f*	*ch*	*y*			*o*			*p*
1913	16·3	...	...	...	60	23	13	...	20	18	44	56	45	...
1923	22·6	18,206	48	955	*p*	332	19	...	320	19	62	21	176	359
1924	17·4	26,992	31	605	15·0	504	30	3·1	262	20	51	19	219	466
1925	19·4	2·3	21	329	55·1	746	33	7·7	219	16	56	29	204	518
1926	19·2	2·4	24	412	74·8	473	48	6·1	541	13	59	16	228	529
1927	29·6	9·7	31	626	114·1	264	43	17·7	282	22	73	17	255	649
1928	30·8	10·9	60	896	110·0	450	50	27·5	384	31	57	24	335	676
1929	23·8	7·6	55	1,250	80·2	607	...	...	318	23	81	56	...	850
1927.														
Oct.-Dec..	35·1	14·5	37	870	103·4	177	42	28·3	253	20	43	16	365	728
1928.														
July-Sept.	15·3	7·5	60	726	108·0	580	24	16·7	463	24	23	22	376	386
Oct.-Dec..	26·1	9·1	41	1,310	128·3	415	70	39·1	283	26	38	18	228	919
1929.														
Jan-Mar..	32·3	14·4	35	1,072	118·8	492	49	14·4	318	14	104	37	216	931
Ap.-June	25·6	0·5	27	1,199	112·5	794	20	26·7	479	29	143	127	332	859
July-Sept.	6·2	3·4	105	993	54·9	546	15	...	295	15	30	34	200	677
Oct.-Dec.	30·6	12·2	51	1,737	34·6	594	...	...	179	...	47	25	...	566
November	74·5	30·2	96	1,429	39·1	781	43	...	182	22	15	27	82	231
December	5·4	3·4	28	1,490	28·8	519	...	...	181	66	40	19	...	574
1930.														
January...	13·9	...	...	1,313	163·0	...	...	...	491	16	...	...	...	...

Unless otherwise stated, the figures represent authorised share issue of new joint stock companies at home, and the increase of capital of existing companies. Bonus shares are excluded from the figures of the U.S.A., Roumania, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In the case of the Netherlands and the U.K. both bonus shares and conversions are excluded. *b* Until end 1924, kroner. *c* Excluding Treasury Bills. *d* Exc. large railway issues. *f* "Rivista Bancaria." *h* Issues exceeding Fls. 100,000 on the Dutch market including Colonial, and since Jan., 1925, foreign issues. *m* Since 1924, excluding amalgamations and conversions. Until end 1922 paper mark. *o* "Société de Banque Suisse," invitation for subscriptions on Swiss market including obligations and Local Govt. loans. *p* India, compiled by "Commercial & Financial Chronicle." *y* Excluding Upper Silesia.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Percentage of persons unemployed in trade unions or in official unemployment insurance schemes (Belgium and U.K.).

End of Month.	U.K.	Belgium.	Denmark.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Norway.	Sweden.	Australia.	Canada.
1921—June	17·8	9·9	16·8	3·0	8·1	20·6	27·7	12·5	13·2
December	16·2	6·6	25·2	1·6	16·6	23·4	33·2	9·5	15·1
	‡								
1923—June	11·3	0·8	8·1	4·1	10·8	7·9	9·8	7·1	3·4
December	10·7	1·7	19·6	28·2	17·3	14·0	14·1	6·2	7·2
1924—June	9·4	1·0	5·1	10·4	7·2	4·3	7·3	8·3	5·9
December	10·7	1·5	13·2	8·1	12·3	12·5	15·5	10·3	11·6
1925—June	11·9	1·0	9·3	3·5	6·6	8·9	8·2	10·2	6·1
December	10·4	2·8	31·1	19·4	16·0	23·7	19·4	8·1	7·9
1926—June	•14·6	0·9	15·6	18·1	5·9	22·6	9·6	6·7	4·1
December	•11·9	2·6	32·2	16·7	12·1	27·7	19·0	5·7	5·9
1927—June	8·8	1·4	18·0	6·3	6·0	22·5	9·5	6·4	3·2
December	9·8	3·6	31·6	12·9	14·9	28·0	18·6	8·9	6·6
1928—June	10·8	0·6	13·7	6·2	4·4	14·4	7·6	11·2	3·2
December	11·2	1·9	28·4	16·7	11·5	22·1	17·3	9·9	6·6
1929—March	10·1	0·9	21·9	16·9	15·1	20·0	14·4	9·3	6·0
April	9·9	0·4	13·4	11·1	3·5	17·1	12·3	...	5·5
May	9·9	0·4	10·8	9·1	3·0	12·5	8·2	...	4·0
June	9·8	0·4	10·0	8·5	2·6	11·3	7·2	10·0	2·9
July	9·9	0·6	9·6	8·6	3·1	10·2	6·7	...	3·0
August	10·1	0·5	9·1	8·9	3·3	10·7	6·5	...	3·5
September.....	10·1	0·5	8·7	9·6	3·2	12·1	7·3	12·1	3·7
October.....	10·4	0·5	10·2	10·9	3·5	14·0	8·6	...	6·0
November	11·0	1·1	12·5	13·7	†6·2	15·4	10·4	...	9·3
December.....	11·1	...	19·9	20·1	...	...	16·6	...	...
1930—January.....	12·6	...	20·2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Workers Covered by Last Returns.									
Millions	12·1	0·6	0·3	4·6	0·3	0·04	0·3	0·4	0·2

‡ Ex. Irish Free State since Mar., 1923.
• Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure. † Provisional figure.

BANK RATES.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	
	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of Jan. 1930.
	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	June / Dec.	
	% %	% %	% %	% %	% %	% %	% %	%
London ...	3 4	4 4	5 5	5 5	4½ 4½	5½ 5	5 5	5
Paris	5 5	6 7	7 6	6 6½	5 5	3½ 3½	3½ 3	3
Berlin	18 90	10 10	9 9	6½ 6	6 7	7 7	7½ 7	6½‡
New York*	4½ 4½	3½ 3	3½ 3½	4 5	4½ 5	5 4½	4½ 4½	4½
Amsterdam	4 4½	5 4½	4 3½	3½ 3½	3½ 4½	4½ 4	5½ 4½	4
Brussels ...	5½ 5½	5½ 5½	5½ 7	7 7	5 4½	4 4	3½ 3½	3½
Rome	5½ 5½	5½ 5½	7 7	7 7	7 7	5½ 7	7 7	7
Switzerland	3 4	4 4	4 4	3½ 3½	3½ 3½	3½ 3½	3½ 3½	3½
Vienna.....	9 9	12 13	11 9	7½ 7	6 6½	6 6½	7½ 7½	7½
Warsaw	12 48	12 12	12 12	12 8	8 8	8 8	9 8½	8
Tokyo	8 8	8 8	7·3 7·3	7·3 6·57	5·84	5·48	5·48	5·4
Calcutta ...	4 7	6 6	5 6	4 5	7 6	7 7	5 7	7

• Federal Reserve. † 6% as from Feb. 4. ‡ 4% as from Feb. 6. § 6½% as from Feb. 10.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913	14,191,275	855,648	1,389,481	16,436,404
1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
1924	35,038,605	1,594,114	2,900,145	39,532,864
1926	35,801,264	1,678,347	2,957,508	40,347,119
1926	35,546,429	1,660,757	2,817,866	39,825,054
1927	36,819,682	1,758,032	2,972,827	41,550,541
1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
1929 (Feb. 20)...	6,067,168	284,739	455,765	6,807,672
1930 (Feb. 19)...	5,452,669	277,742	449,775	6,180,186

SECURITY VALUES.

Base.	United Kingdom. "Bankers' Magazine." 365 representative securities. Dec., 1921 = 100. (a)	(b)	(c)	Netherlands. Official. 49 Ordinary Industrial Shares. 1921-25 = 100. (e)	Sweden. Official 49 Industrial and Shipping Shares. Nominal value = 100 (f) (h)	Switzerland. Banque Nationale (f) 32 Industrial Shares. (g)	Canada. Official. 79 (i) Common Industrial Shares 1913 = 100.	United States. Standard Statistics Co. 342 Industrial Shares. (d)
1925—June	108·6	125·5	114·1	96	113	134·4	...	88·4
Dec.	108·8	132·5	116·5	95	131	144·6	...	
1926—June	110·0	136·5	118·7	91	146	176·9	93·2	100·0
Dec.	109·3	135·7	118·0	91	150	176·4	107·0	
1927—June	110·1	141·5	120·4	102	153	189·9	121·5	117·6
Dec.	111·2	146·9	122·8	103	181	223·2	161·6	
1928—June	112·4	152·7	125·4	111	226	243·6	170·0	154·3
Dec.	112·1	158·8	127·3	115	252	252·8	237·3	
1929—Mar.	111·1	161·1	127·3	125	242	239·2	266·2	196·0
Apr.	111·9	159·5	127·3	116	244	231·3	269·3	193·4
May	110·4	157·4	125·6	121	240	235·7	269·3	192·6
June	109·8	157·9	125·4	121	246	245·8	264·1	191·0
July	109·3	162·0	126·5	121	256	243·2	271·2	202·7
Aug.	109·0	164·4	127·0	122	250	242·4	293·8	210·3
Sept.	108·9	165·4	127·3	118	241	239·3	315·8	216·1
Oct.	109·3	160·8	126·1	113	226	220·7	255·4	194·4
Nov.	108·5	147·0	120·9	98	215	212·4	209·4	144·8
Dec.	108·5	147·1	121·0	99	211	215·0	210·0	146·9
1930-Jan.	109·6	146·7	121·7	...	226	231·6	...	144·8

(a) Fixed interest. (b) Variable dividend. (c) Total. (d) Monthly average. (e) Average of highest and lowest quotations on each Wednesday. (f) Shares of companies with a capital of more than 5 millions. The composition of this class, therefore, is not invariable. (g) On 25th of month. (h) End of month. (i) Since Jan., 1929, 92 shares.

U.K. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—(000,000's omitted.)

	Food. Imports.	Food. Exports.	Raw Materials. Imports.	Raw Materials. Exports.	Manufactures. Imports.	Manufactures. Exports.	Imports of Wheat.	Imports of Raw Cotton.	Imports of Sheep's & Lambs' Wool.	Exports of Cotton Piece Goods.	Exports of Iron and Steel.	Exports of Coal.
Monthly Average.	£	£	£	£	£	£	Cwts.	Cantals.	Centals.	Sq. Yds.	Tons.	Tons.
1913	24·2	2·7	23·5	5·8	16·1	34·3	8·8	1·8	0·7	*589	0·41	6·1
1922	39·3	3·0	24·8	8·5	19·1	47·3	8·0	1·2	0·9	349	0·28	5·3
1923	42·5	3·7	27·1	10·9	21·4	48·3	8·4	1·1	0·6	345	0·36	6·6
1924	47·6	4·7	33·4	8·9	25·0	51·5	9·9	1·3	0·6	370	0·32	5·1
1925	47·6	4·6	35·4	7·0	26·7	51·4	8·1	1·6	0·6	370	0·31	4·2
1926	41·9	4·2	32·7	3·9	26·3	44·9	8·1	1·5	0·7	319	0·26	1·7
1927	44·9	4·4	29·3	6·4	26·9	47·0	9·2	1·3	0·7	343	0·35	4·3
1928	44·3	4·5	27·9	5·8	25·7	48·2	8·6	1·1	0·7	322	0·36	4·2
1929	44·7	4·6	28·3	6·6	27·9	47·8	9·3	1·3	0·7	306	0·36	5·0
1929—September	45·1	4·8	24·2	6·5	28·4	42·2	12·2	0·6	0·2	238	0·30	5·2
October	51·2	5·4	27·3	7·1	30·2	50·3	11·9	1·3	0·2	266	0·39	5·7
November	48·5	5·7	30·0	6·9	28·2	48·6	9·8	1·9	0·5	284	0·38	5·4
December	46·8	4·9	31·2	6·2	27·8	44·6	6·5	2·0	0·8	274	0·33	5·0
1930—January.....	42·9	4·6	30·1	6·9	28·0	44·7	7·0	1·7	1·0	315	0·35	5·5

* Yards.

RAILWAY STATISTICS—(000,000's omitted.)

	Great Britain (g). Gross Receipts. Passengers.	Freight.	Freight Traffic (f). Merchandise.*	Coal, &c.	Other Minerals.	Total.	Austria. (b) (h)	Germany. (a)	Italy. (e) (i)	Canada. (c) (d) (e)	United States. (d) (e)
	£	£	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Ton-Miles.	Tonnes-Km.	Tonnes-Km.	Tonnes-Km.	Ton-Miles.	Ton-Miles.
1926—June	4·4	5·3	4·7	1·9	3·6	10·2	704	1,202	4,695	1,132	2,846	39,237
December	4·7	8·5	4·9	15·9	4·1	24·8	1,392	1,321	5,641	1,094	3,641	49,096
1927—June	6·1	8·8	5·1	15·5	5·8	26·4	1,401	1,249	5,126	1,035	2,611	36,483
December	4·8	8·7	5·1	17·2	4·8	27·2	1,400	1,209	5,398	928	4,128	34,580
1928—June	5·5	8·3	4·8	14·9	5·3	25·0	1,324	1,325	5,528	1,038	3,129	37,304
December.....	4·6	8·3	4·7	16·1	4·8	25·6	1,352	1,282	4,715	1,030	4,663	37,645
1929—March	4·5	9·3	5·2	18·5	9·1	28·8	1,565	1,350	6,669	1,054	3,653	40,213
April	4·3	8·9	5·3	16·1	5·8	27·2	1,436	1,289	5,746	1,009	3,343	38,334
May	5·0	8·9	5·2	16·5	6·0	27·7	1,465	1,278	5,506	1,076	3,404	42,027
June	5·2	8·4	4·8	15·7	5·6	26·1	1,392	1,335	5,603	1,087	3,318	40,725
July.....	7·3	9·1	5·2	16·8	5·8	27·8	1,491	1,457	5,976	1,114	3,295	41,991
August	8·3	8·8	5·1	16·9	5·6	27·6	1,483	1,472	5,924	1,063	2,860	44,944
September	5·6	8·9	5·2	16·6	5·5	27·3	1,480	1,436	5,894	1,086	3,688	44,219
October	4·4	9·7	5·8	18·1	6·1	30·0	1,603	1,411	6,367	1,181	3,924	47,814
November.....	3·7	9·3	5·4	18·4	5·7	29·5	1,564	1,311	†5,629	...	3,020	38,723

inc. live-stock. (a) "Reichsbahn." Exc. free-hauled. (b) State and private railways, including freight on foreign lines. (c) Railways with annual operating revenues of at least $500,000. (d) Short tons = kg. 907·18; mile = metres 1,609·34. (e) Including free-hauled. (f) Excluding free-hauled. (g) Long ton = kg. 1,016·05; mile = metres 1,609·34. † Provisional figure. (h) Gross tonnage. (i) Fiscal year ending June 30.

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The Economist
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In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s. 6d.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE year is now nearly three months old, and it is possible to see a little more clearly how it is going to shape. In many ways the position to-day is far from satisfactory. February witnessed a further increase in unemployment to a figure of 13.1 per cent., and the number of unemployed at the end of the month was 1,582,000. This increase occurred mainly in the textile industries, in engineering, shipbuilding and motors, and in the metal trades, furniture and wood-working, paper-making, glass bottles, dock and harbour services, and, finally, in the distributive trades. Improvements in iron and steel, pottery, brick and tile, clothing and lace were only a partial offset.

Similarly, the trade reports given on the next page are far from reassuring, and news from abroad confirms the view that the world is at the moment in the throes of a general set-back. The decline in commodity prices has not yet been arrested, and the most that can be said is that during the last week there have been signs of greater steadiness. The February trade returns for Great Britain were again disappointing, and there has been an appreciable decline in pig-iron production. Shipping freights have again weakened, and there is no improvement in railway receipts. In short, the staples industries of the country are passing through a period of recession and hesitancy, and there is some evidence that in the North of England at least this is spreading to the distributive trades.

So much for the present position, but in considering the curve of trade and business it is important to look at not only its absolute height at the moment, but still more closely at its probable slope in the near future. And here the omens are more favourable, so much so that it is possible to hope that we are now near the lowest point of the curve. In the first place, within three weeks from now the contents of the Budget will be known, and this will put an end to much of the uncertainty with which industry has lately allowed itself to become affected. It is true that it is difficult to see how resort to further taxation can be avoided, but even the certain knowledge of new burdens is likely to have less baneful effects than those arising from the average manufacturer's present frame of mind.

Next, the world-wide fall in money rates has made further progress, and Bank rate in London stands at the lowe figure, for post-war years, of 3½ per cent., with a distinct possibility of 3 per cent. in the near future. Even 3½ per cent. makes the interest obtainable on bank deposits virtually unremunerative, and the recent outbreak of activity in the gilt-edged market has shown that part of this money is already seeking more profitable employment. This revival in investment activity is already spreading to railway and industrial securities of a high-grade character, and before very long offers of sound industrial new capital issues should meet with a ready response.

This will prove of benefit to industry in two important ways. First, it should facilitate rationalisation schemes, which in some cases may have been held up during the past few months by the difficulty of raising fresh capital. Secondly, a revival in the new capital market will immediately assist those industries whose main function is to produce "capital" goods, such as buildings, plant and machinery. As these include the iron and steel and engineering trades, it is clear that important branches of British industry would be benefited by such a revival.

In short, there are signs that the usual sequence of events which attends the emergence from a period of depression is now beginning. The first stage is the return of life to the investment market, beginning with the highest grades of securities. This stage is already reached. The next stage is that of the arrest of the fall in commodity prices, with sporadic signs of returning confidence in industrial circles. This stage is not yet reached, but it seems to be imminent, and signs of approaching stability and confidence can be detected in the Australian wool market, in American industry, in Scandinavia, and even in Austria. Some improvement, too, is apparent in the Argentine credit situation and in the South American coffee market. The heavy wheat stocks in existence in Canada and the United States are still a source of anxiety, and if it prove impossible to continue holding them their release may precipitate a further fall in prices. Yet, on the whole, the air seems to be clearing, and the world's emergence from the trade depression to be in its preliminary stages.

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—FEBRUARY, 1930.

	Jan.	Feb.	Compared with Feb. '29.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %).....	12·6	13·1	+ 10·0
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)*	5·3	5·5	+ 0·2
Iron (thous. „)	650	597	— 77
Steel („ „)	771	776	+ 1
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	101·9	88·2	— 2·7
Re-exports („ „)	8·2	8·6	— 1·7
Exports („ „)	66·4	60·6	— 5·4
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000)	311	311	Nil
Shipping Freights (av. level[1])	81·2	76·5	— 30·2
COMMODITY PRICES („ „[2])...	86·1	84·2	— 11·4
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	45	79	— 28
SECURITY VALUES (av. level[3])	121·7	121·8	— 6·3
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Currency Notes (million £'s)*	356	347	— 7
Bank Deposits („ „)* ..	1,805	1,751	— 63
Bank Advances („ „)* ..	985	988	+ 5
Banks Cash Ratio [4] (%)*	10·8	10·5	Nil
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)*	847	847	— 51
Manchester („ „)*	11·0	12·8	— 1·1
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)*	4 1/32	3 31/32	— 1 15/32
Day-to-day Loans (%)*.....	3 1/16	4 1/32	— 31/32

([1]) 1913 = 100. ([2]) *Economist* Index No.; 1927 = 100. ([3]) *Bankers' Magazine* Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921 = 100. ([4]) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts.

* Average weekly figures. † Not available.

It is, of course, one thing to hope that the world is reaching the end of the fall in the trade curve, but it by no means follows that the upward turn will come within the next few weeks. Recovery is often a slow process, and while reports from the British heavy industries take account of the benefits that may arise in the future from cheaper money, they hint that it may take time for these benefits to reach them. It may be that for a few months the business curve will remain level, and that there will be no real improvement before the autumn, or it may be that the first upward turn in the curve will be a temporary movement, and that the main recovery will be deferred to a later date. All that can be said at the moment is that there are signs that the decline has been arrested. If these are fulfilled, it is as much as can be expected in the immediate future.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Coal.—Export business is still restricted owing to the heavy stocks in existence on the Continent. Cardiff shipments are less than those of early last year, and prices are easier. Sheffield, however, reports more export inquiry for South Yorkshire coal. The home trade is generally quiet.

Iron and Steel.—The main event of recent weeks was the reduction of 5s. per ton in Cleveland pig-iron prices. In order to avoid creating any uncertainty, producers decided to lower prices in a single stage, and now that the cut has been made buyers can rest assured that no further reduction will take place. Orders for steel are still of a hand-to-mouth character, and while benefit should ultimately result from the advent of cheaper money, at the moment business is on a restricted basis.

Engineering.—Activity remains restricted in all branches and no revival is expected until after the Budget. Should the fall in the Bank rate stimulate fresh capital issues of an industrial character the industry will benefit. In any case, if confidence returns after the Budget, there is still time for an improvement before the holidays. Meanwhile little progress is being made.

Electrical Industry.—The following index of production in the electrical industry is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations. An explanation of the manner in which it has been computed was given on page 888 of the *Economist* of November 28, 1925:—

INDEX of ACTIVITY in the ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY.

(1920 = 100.)

1927.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January	95	152	109
February	92	159	108
March	89	163	107
April	90	181	112
May	88	200	116
June	94	234	128
July	93	231	126
August	90	236	126
September	87	230	122
October	81	208	112
November	80	192	107
December	69	160	92
1928.			
January	68	148	88
February	68	143	87
March	71	141	89
April	70	122	84
May	68	108	79
June	68	105	78
July	71	80	74
August	74	86	78
September	81	102	88
October	83	107	91
November	85	105	93
December	93	103	96
1929.			
January	92	122	99
February	92	126	101
March	88	126	97
April	86	145	100
May	84	143	99
June	84	149	101
July	90	151	106
August	88	140	102
September	81	150	99
October	76	191	106
November	71	216	109
December	60	228	102
1930.			
January	68	220	107
February	69	240	112

Export business remains very good, especially with South America, the West Indies and the Malay States. Some small orders are coming from Egypt and New Zealand. General home demand, apart from National Scheme orders, is bad.

Motor Industry.—In the private car section there is a falling off in activity, both in the home market and in exports. Commercial goods and passenger vehicle manufacturers are moderately busy, with a steady demand from overseas. Business in the motor-cycle and cycle section remains fairly good, with exports maintaining a satisfactory level.

Cotton.—The raw cotton situation has been very unsettled, but there are now indications of firmer prices. It is not believed that the reduction in the acreage for the new season will be important. Buying of piece-goods has been on a restricted scale, and most makers have lighter order lists than a month ago. Operations for India have been impeded by the revised import duties and the uncertain political situation. The trade position in China does not improve, and clearances at the auctions in Shanghai remain poor. Only a miscellaneous business has been done for the minor outlets, but a fair demand has been experienced for home trade goods. Demand for American yarns has continued very disappointing, and numerous firms have been compelled to curtail output still further. No particular improvement has shown itself in the offtake of Egyptian yarns.

Wool.—Opening prices at the London sales showed a decline of only 5 per cent. in the case of merino wools. This has steadied quotations of tops in Bradford, and has brought out some fresh business. Demand for dress goods, however, is slow, and this is affecting adversely all branches of the industry.

Linen.—Russian holders of flax have withdrawn from the market, and prices generally are firmer. Demand for yarns remains active, and both home and foreign buyers have been placing fresh contracts in consequence.

Rayon.—Demand for yarns remains restricted on account of the Budget uncertainty and the general stagnation in the textile industries. Despite substantial reductions in output, stocks are comparatively large, and competition is exceedingly keen. There has been a somewhat better demand for high-quality fabrics, but that for bulk lines is much below normal.

Boots and Shoes.—Trade is still uneven, and few factories are fully employed. The usual Easter demand, however, should shortly bring about an improvement.

Pottery.—Business is still pretty quiet, but there are some signs of improvement. Makers of tiles and sanitary ware are fairly well employed.

Chemical Industry.—Markets are still dull, but there has been a fair volume of business in heavy chemicals. In other sections of the industry sales have not been good.

Building Trades.—Weather conditions have been generally favourable for the time of year, and in certain districts employment has been fairly good. The industry, however, has not emerged from its seasonal inactivity, though employment has been appreciably less than during the prolonged frosts of a year ago. There is some improvement in the brick industry.

Agriculture.—Dry weather during February has enabled the slight arrears in cultivation to be overtaken, and good progress was made by autumn-sown crops. Livestock has also benefited from the drier weather, and milk yields were well maintained.

Shipping.—Freights during March have been steadier, but there have been as yet no signs of recovery from the extreme depression of the winter. Inquiry for tonnage to load grain has broadened slightly, but quotations of all routes both outward and homeward remain at a most unsatisfactory level, and the volume of idle tonnage has not been diminished.

Retail Trade.—Business benefited on the whole from the fine weather, and a leading London store reports that the spring season has opened fairly well, and that the dress parades and brighter weather are having a good effect on fashions. Suburban stores report good results on the whole, but in London generally there has been a decline in the sales of men's wear. Reports from Wales and the South of England are favourable, but business in the North is suffering from the general trade depression.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canada reports that the grain situation continues to cause anxiety, and business generally is being adversely affected by the cessation of orders from the Prairie Provinces.

The good summer rains that have taken place in Australia are thought to foreshadow a large wool clip. Meanwhile the wool market is steadier with more competition. Special efforts have been made to increase the area under wheat. Business is less active than a year ago, and unemployment is increasing, but the heavy subscription to the internal Commonwealth Loan gives evidence of public confidence.

Indian weather conditions remained favourable during February, and Punjab crops improved. The second wheat forecast for 1929-30 gives an acreage of 29,871,000 acres, as against 31,159,000 acres for the previous season.

In South Africa the general business recession continues, and the low level of agricultural prices precludes any immediate recovery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Trade improved slightly during February, and the steel industry was operating at 80 per cent. of its capacity. More recently, however, there has been a set-back to 78 per cent. Automobile production has improved slightly, and trade generally responded to the seasonable weather. Car loadings, however, are below the level of a year ago, and building has been passing through its usual seasonal inactivity.

The following indices of American economic conditions have been forwarded to us by Moody's Investors' Service, of New York and London:—

AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS—FEBRUARY, 1930.

	Jan.	Feb.	Compared with Feb., '29.
EMPLOYMENT†—(June, 1914=100)	106·3	106·2	— 6·7
PRODUCTION—			
Bituminous coal (Thous. tons)	49,778	39,615	— 7,656
Pig-iron („ „)	2,827	2,839	— 367
Steel („ „)	3,786	4,068	— 250
Unfilled orders, U.S. Steel Corporation (Thous. tons)	4,469	4,480	+ 335
Building permits (Thous. $)	113,546	111,427*	— 114,491
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (Thous. $)	310,967	281,000	— 90,448
Exports („ „)	404,849	351,000	— 91,456
TRANSPORT—			
Freight car loadings (Thous. cars)	3,349	3,506	— 478
SECURITIES—			
30 industrial stocks—Highest quotations‡	267·14	272·27	— 50·35
Lowest quotations‡	244·20	262·47	— 33·34
Thous. shares sold during month —(New York)	62,306	68,723	— 9,246
New securities issued (Thous. $)	881,292	365,868	— 655,157
BANK CLEARINGS—			
New York (Million $)	32,031	25,988	— 10,035
Other cities („ „)	18,756	15,859	— 2,233
RETAIL BUSINESS—			
Total sales, mail order houses§ (Thous. $)	48,029	46,031	— 367

* Preliminary estimates made by Messrs Moody, subject to revision. † Based on reports of U.S. Labour Bureau and of Bureaux of the States of New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. ‡ Average of actual prices. § Partly estimated.

EUROPE.

Demand for coal in France, Belgium and Germany has lately fallen away, and in Belgium industrial fuel is to be reduced by from 5 to 10 francs a ton as from April 1. The textile industries of these countries are sharing in the general world recession, though the French woollen industry is perhaps not quite so seriously affected as that of other countries. Trade generally is affected by the downward trend of commodity prices.

In Scandinavia, Swedish shipbuilders are fairly well employed, but the paper market is only displaying normal activity. Swedish industries are being affected to some extent by the general trade depression, but despite this there is a fair amount of evidence of increased activity, notably in the iron and steel and engineering industries. In Denmark some difficulty has been caused by the fall in butter prices, but bacon prices have lately improved.

In Central Europe, the Austrian textile trades are passing through a severe crisis, but there are signs of improvement in the iron industry.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Trade prospects in Argentina are largely dependent upon the results attending the maize crop. After allowing for abandonments, it is calculated that harvesting is taking place over a net area of only 9,816,000 acres, and the official report states that a total production below normal is anticipated. Cereal prices in the Buenos Aires market have recently advanced. Monetary conditions have been rendered easier by the issue of additional currency notes by the Caja de Conversion against deposits of gold in the Argentine Legations abroad. In Brazil, there has been an appreciable improvement in market conditions for coffee. Prices are somewhat firmer and the amount coming forward from the interior has been increased. In Sao Paulo, it is hoped that the balance of the 1928-9 crop, estimated at 3,370,000 bags, will be cleared from the interior by about the middle of May. Recent estimates of the Brazilian 1930-31 crop of coffee place the total at rather less than 10,000,000 bags, which is considerably below the previous forecast. In Chile, progress is being made with the restriction of the production of nitrate of soda, and it is hoped that in the course of the next twelve months stocks and output will have been brought into line with demand. The Peruvian Congress has now approved the new Monetary Bill, and the relative Law has been promulgated, providing for the creation of the gold "Sol" and for the stabilisation of exchange on a basis equivalent to one Peruvian pound being equal to four United States dollars. Meanwhile, the commercial situation in Peru shows slightly more confidence. A slight improvement has taken place in conditions in the local coffee markets in Venezuela, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Prospects for the Ecuador cocoa crop are very favourable.

FAR EAST.

Trade in China remains restricted by the uncertain political situation, and only slight clearances have been effected at the Shanghai auctions.

In Japan, money rates have lately become firmer as a result of the inflow of taxes and silk prices have recovered slightly within the last few weeks after their previous relapse.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION.

In the *Economist* of July 10, 1926 (pages 57-8), we published a new index of electrical production in the chief industrial areas of Great Britain. We show below a *résumé* of the results achieved during recent periods:—

INDEX of PRODUCTION of ELECTRICITY.*

(Monthly Average 1923-24 = 100.)

Date.	Britain, excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, etc.	Textiles, Cotton, and Wool.
1927.						
January	158	155	167	212	179	151
February	157	156	165	212	169	150
March	147	152	153	187	155	140
April	144	144	146	208	151	136
May	138	139	151	198	150	129
June	126	128	136	206	131	114
July	123	118	135	184	140	119
August	123	124	130	201	142	113
September	138	133	157	228	159	131
October	152	146	166	228	178	146
November	166	155	190	236	192	162
December	180	170	200	220	210	172
1928.						
January	174	164	195	232	199	172
February	170	162	188	249	195	164
March	170	165	192	252	195	159
April	149	149	164	226	164	132
May	140	136	170	223	163	125
June	141	138	160	248	158	130
July	131	127	149	248	151	124
August	130	131	131	227	147	116
September	150	148	164	263	175	138
October	161	153	185	245	189	154
November	178	164	215	240	206	169
December	181	171	210	195	210	176
1929.						
January	187	172	234	236	220	190
February	195	182	248	250	222	198
March	173	169	215	268	192	162
April	165	158	201	321	185	152
May	156	150	182	321	170	135
June	156	151	192	318	172	141
July	146	140	187	282	166	130
August	148	151	167	206	175	124
September	156	153	194	241	178	140
October	179	170	224	243	207	166
November	203	192	250	252	240	192
December	192	182	235	186	228	190
1930.						
January	192	176	255	250	231	182
February	198	183	260	257	237	184

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The total index number for Great Britain has only recorded a very moderate advance, and the general picture is one of depression. The progress made by the general engineering and chemical index numbers is not so bad, though even here it is below the normal rate. Textiles and marine transport, however, are relatively unsatisfactory.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

THE anticipations expressed a month ago in this column, that the February figures of our series of Index Numbers of Business Activity would be still more strongly indicative of a general trade recession, have, unfortunately, been proved correct by the event. A cursory glance at the appended table will suffice for it to be seen that a definite and fairly steep decline in the curves of the series is in progress.

Bearing in mind that the employment of three-monthly averages necessarily imports a certain " time-lag " in the response of the indices to changes in the rate of production and trade, readers will observe that the rate of decline in the volume of employment was considerably accelerated in February. In " heavy industry " and in " miscellaneous services " there was no measurable alteration in the " corrected " figure, but employment in " general industry " dropped sharply; and though the total figure is still above that recorded a year ago, it must be remembered that the month of February, 1929, was notable for extremely severe weather which temporarily increased the numbers out of work.

Turning to other indices, it will be noted that, though the rate of consumption of coal fuel does not yet show a declining tendency, the February figure is just equal to that of a year ago, and much below that for February, 1928, while consumption of electricity is diminishing, and comparison with a year ago reveals a marked contrast with the steady expansion recorded annually in previous Februaries. Consumption of cotton also shows a downward trend, and internal absorption of iron and steel production is similarly falling off.

As compared with a year ago, even when due allowance is made for the effect of lower prices on the aggregate value of cheques, provincial bank clearings are heavily down. Net imports of non-ferrous metals are a satisfactory exception to the general reactionary tendency, and shipping movements, though lower on the month (seasonal fluctuation is a consideration in this case), are slightly above last year's level at this time, as a result chiefly of larger coal shipments. Postal traffic is also being well maintained, though London bank clearings are lower, but the fall in the index of exports of British manufactures is serious, and there is no indication of better times ahead in the movement of the index of net imports of raw materials. In this instance, the calculation of provisional figures is more than usually open to a margin of error in view of the violence of the decline in wholesale prices, but the trend is unquestionably downwards.

Altogether, the picture presented by our indices is rather depressing, and it would be over-optimistic to look for signs of very early recovery. A fall, such as has occurred during the past few months, in the price of primary products is bound to have repercussions on manufacturing employment and on " finished " trade for a considerable period. The time which must elapse before recovery sets in depends on two factors, neither of which is precisely calculable—the volume of stocks in the hands of manufacturers and distributors, and the rate at which the benefit of cheaper raw material is passed on to the ultimate consumer. On the whole, there seems to be reason to think that normal stocks in most kinds of semi-finished and finished goods in this country are lighter than was the custom before the war. For this reason an upward turn in activity may come sooner than expected, but if " finished " prices fail to move freely in conformity with the " primary " trend, recovery will be by so much the more tardy in arriving.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

1924 = 100.

Period.	Net Imports. Raw Materials.	Net Imports. Non-Ferrous Metals.	Consumption of Iron and Steel.	Consumption of Cotton.	Consumption of Rubber.	Consumption of Power. Coal.	Consumption of Power. Electricity.	Volume of Employment. Heavy Industry.	Volume of Employment. "General" Industry.	Volume of Employment. Miscellaneous Services.	Volume of Employment. Total.	Merchandise on Railways.	Provincial Bank Clearings.	Postal Traffic.	Shipping Movements.	London Bank Clearings.	Exports British Manufactures.	Foreign Trade Turnover. (Quarterly Figs.)
Monthly Average.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1919	113	74	96	109	143	89	...	...	...	...	...	109	92	...	59*b*	54	74	79
1920	106	71	99	113	134	91	...	...	...	...	...	100	113	...	69*b*	65	101	87
1921	56	50	43	74	79	69	...	...	...	...	...	81	82	...	66	76	67	68
1922	89	63	34	99	58	87	...	...	...	...	...	84	97	...	91	97	88	85
1923	88	92	69	93	118	91	...	...	...	...	...	97	98	...	101	97	95	94
1924	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925	107	107	89	116	137	93	101	90	103	103	101	98	102	103·5	98	104	101·5	102
1926	107*a*	100	57	98	175	72	92	57	101	104	95·5	88	94	103·5	90	109	94	100
1927	113*a*	106	133	113	197	106	109	87	108	108	105	99	102	109·5	105	117	104·5	107·5
1928	101	113	88	103	212	99	110	82	108	110	105	93	100·5	114	106·5	125	108	106
1929	113	120	103·5	106	271	106	116	84·5	109·5	112	107	95	99	115·5	111·5	130	109	112
"Corrected" average for 3 months ended:																		
1929—Feb.	129	123	66	111	263	114	130	83·5	106·5	110	104·5	89	107	115	99	134	109	...
March	124	118	70	116	290	119	128	85	107	110	105	92	106	116	99	136	109	...
April	109	117	83	105	259	114	123	86	108·5	111	106·5	92	105	116	100	134	105	...
May	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	108·5
June	105	135	106	103	265	98	108	84·5	110·5	113	107·5	94	98	114·5	113	126	106	
July	96	123	105	98	278	94	104	83·5	110·5	113·5	108	94	98	113·5	119	129	111	
August	92	123	114	85	299	95	102	84	110·5	114	108	94	96	113	122	129	109	109
Sept.	96	117	118	76	354	96	102	84·5	110·5	114	108	95	94	113	123	129	111	
Oct.	104	117	119	85	358	99	109	84·5	110	113·5	108	98	92	114	121	125	109	
Nov.	116	114	122	110	339	107	121	84·5	110	113	108	99	95	115	116	131	108	
Dec.	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	99	99·5	116	111	132	110	119
1930—Jan.	132*c*	131	126	120	226	114	132	84·5	108·5	112·5	107	...	99	120	107	133	106*c*	
Feb.	121*c*	134	123	102	309	114	131	84·5	107	112·5	106	...	100	121	102	132	100*c*	...
Feb., 1925	143	104	100	132	115	104	114	95·5	101·5	100·5	100	98	105	103·5	93	104	105	...
Feb., 1926	135	107	82	127	171	108	115	93	104	104	102·5	97	106	108·5	94	107	105	...
Feb., 1927	129*a*	106	154	115	132	116	118	85	104	105	101·5	94	100	109·5	94	111	91	...
Feb., 1928	107	125	106	107	175	119	124	86·5	107·5	108·5	105	94	106	115	95	122	103	...
Feb., 1929	129	123	66	111	263	114	130	83·5	106·5	110	104·5	89	107	115	99	134	109	...
Feb., 1930	121*c*	134	123	102	309	114	131	84·5	107	112·5	106	...	100	121	102	132	100*c*	...

a Excluding coal imports. *b* Excluding Government War Movements. *c* Provisional figures.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.
	d		*b k*		*g*		*b*		*j*	*e*		
1913	24,337	1,903	1,189	3,338	15,842	156	748	1,119	665	1,311	1,776	43,088
1925	20,590	1,925	1,047	*c*3,921	11,052	571	2,423	719	983	1,693	2,622	43,988
1926	10,692	2,110	1,181	*c*4,283	12,114	721	2,979	974	1,038	1,703	2,619	49,729
1927	21,355	2,298	1,168	*c*4,315	12,800	777	3,174	1,028	1,006	1,790	2,794	45,197
1928	20,129	2,295	1,213	*c*4,280	12,573	891	3,385	1,036	1,014	1,826	2,650	43,052
1929	21,736	2,244	1,396	4,486	13,620	960	3,851	1,022	1,052	1,875	...	45,510
				c								
1929—February	21,397	2,115	1,294	4,094	12,104	829	3,295	1,016	977	2,068	2,545	48,934
March	22,949	2,393	1,508	4,562	13,502	924	3,808	1,257	993	2,201	2,915	40,271
April	21,206	2,243	1,341	4,458	13,407	938	3,734	1,264	1,057	2,067	2,738	39,307
May	21,021	2,122	1,250	4,438	12,759	948	3,402	1,143	1,137	2,083	2,713	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	1,243	4,432	13,221	*m* 921	3,503	1,104	1,006	1,770	2,586	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	1,351	4,736	14,362	*m*1,024	4,024	1,023	1,168	1,579	2,569	41,393
August	20,867	2,220	1,398	4,568	14,467	*m* 984	3,942	1,025	1,097	1,576	2,323	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	1,439	4,299	13,480	*m* 958	3,951	928	1,039	1,905	2,499	46,545
October	23,358	2,280	1,556	4,858	14,835	*m*1,071	4,401	978	1,091	1,948	2,687	54,038
November	22,613	2,306	1,585	4,603	14,157	*m*1,002	4,115	915	1,013	1,566	2,804	46,919
December	21,764	2,237	1,443	4,363	13,652	*m* 958	4,023	899	995	1,894	...	48,859
1930—January	24,150	2,489	1,308	4,884	14,398	*m*1,060	3,806	...	1,054	2,055	...	51,400
February	† 22,506	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†40,890

LIGNITE.

Period. Monthly Average.	Austria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Germany.	Hungary.
	b	*b k*	*g*	
1913	218	1,927	7,269	460
1925	255	1,551	11,644	460
1926	247	1,543	11,596	485
1927	256	1,365	12,542	520
1928	272	1,704	13,852	543
1929	294	1,880	14,598	587
1929—February	307	1,670	13,689	607
March	333	2,087	14,727	624
April	278	1,979	14,226	528
May	251	1,743	13,669	477
June	245	1,586	13,763	479
July	280	1,736	14,885	521
August	298	1,844	15,136	516
September	295	1,871	14,220	592
October	325	1,919	16,050	702
November	301	2,142	15,623	662
December	296	2,017	14,530	667
1930—January	314	1,850	14,008	...
February	...	...	...	...

PIG IRON.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
					g	*a*	*f*		
1913	869	207	434	114	1,397	212	61	85	2,601
1925	530	212	*c*708	121	848	197	36	48	3,058
1926	208	283	*c*786	135	804	213	39	64	3,277
1927	617	313	*c*772	148	1,092	228	35	60	3,036
1928	560	325	*c*832	161	984	231	33	88	3,167
1929	542	341	870	175	1,117	242	40	92	3,580
			c						
1929—February	528	302	781	147	982	209	42	95	3,258
March	600	334	880	174	1,061	237	38	88	3,774
April	621	336	871	178	1,105	235	42	81	3,721
May	665	348	897	186	1,133	248	47	83	3,961
June	668	342	865	188	1,164	242	33	91	3,777
July	683	347	877	185	1,204	250	39	101	3,846
August	693	348	893	182	1,168	251	41	114	3,816
September	675	347	851	174	1,109	240	38	100	3,554
October	700	361	894	179	1,157	259	43	93	3,646
November	642	340	852	169	1,091	247	41	88	3,232
December	653	340	879	173	1,100	245	37	84	2,882
1930—January	660	343	876	174	1,092	250	37	...	2,873
February	607	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,885

STEEL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
			c		*g*	*a*	*f*		
1913	649	206	391	159	1,467	101	62	88	2,564
1925	625	212	621	131	1,016	174	43	64	3,737
1926	304	281	703	145	1,028	187	44	66	3,794
1927	770	309	691	158	1,359	206	44	77	3,675
1928	722	328	783	173	1,210	214	51	105	4,222
1929	817	344	806	184	1,369	225	60	117	*h*4,586
1929—February	793	302	742	161	1,270	195	56	119	4,395
March	874	349	804	179	1,314	221	59	139	5,139
April	822	342	810	186	1,415	226	59	124	5,017
May	857	340	820	188	1,421	230	70	128	5,358
June	844	349	797	190	1,430	219	49	121	4,960
July	818	356	815	199	1,466	235	59	132	4,916
August	765	365	827	192	1,402	238	68	122	5,006
September	862	347	763	185	1,231	224	61	101	4,583
October	904	369	847	200	1,377	242	70	118	4,584
November	828	333	786	179	1,286	231	65	95	3,569
December	672	323	812	168	1,156	217	56	84	2,943
1930—January	783	340	804	185	1,275	216	52	...	3,847
February	789	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,133

† Provisional figure. *a* Figures communicated by the " Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques." *b* Present territory. *c* Including Alsace-Lorraine.
d Saleable coal; since end 1921 excluding Ireland. *e* British Provinces only. *f* " Ekonomisk Oversikt." *g* From 1918 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1919 excluding Saar; from 1922, excluding Polish Upper Silesia. *h* Establishments whose production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. *j* Coal sold.
k Until end 1928 saleable coal. *m* Including coal waste.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K. Board of Trade.	U.K. *Economist.*	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Official).	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.
		a	*f*		*e*		*i*						*j*					
1913	100	100	*h*100	*h*100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	*h*100	100
1925	159·1	160·9	558	1,008	210	549·8	141·8	155	596	253	125·4	183	188	161	161·6	169·5	159	160·3
1926	148·1	149·4	744	954	163	702·6	134·4	145	603	198	*p*181·2	177	181	149	144·5	168·4	148	156·3
1927	141·4	143·7	847	979	153	617·2	137·6	148	495	167	*p*118·6	171	172	146	142·2	167·0	148	152·7
1928	140·3	140·9	843	977	153	619·6	140·0	149	462	161	119·8	177	167	148	144·6	164·7	145	150·6
1929	136·5	132·8	851	916	150	609·7	137·2	142	446	153	113·4	...	...	140	141·2	165·7	141	149·2
		b		*d*		*b*	*b*		*b*	*c*	*p k*	*d*	*c*		*c*		*b*	
1929—February	138·4	137·3	865	964	159	638·5	139·3	146	463	155	117·1	178	173	145	142·9	163·4	144	149·5
March	140·1	138·1	869	963	154	639·4	139·6	147	461	155	117·3	179	174	144	141·8	164·7	143	150·2
April	138·8	135·0	862	940	150	626·7	137·1	144	455	154	116·5	180	174	141	140·1	165·3	140	147·0
May	135·8	131·5	851	917	148	622·8	135·5	142	452	152	113·0	181	171	140	139·3	164·0	139	144·4
June	135·6	131·7	848	922	146	610·0	135·1	141	447	151	112·8	180	170	139	139·4	165·3	138	144·7
July	137·4	134·6	858	916	149	613·0	137·8	141	440	152	113·2	180	169	140	142·8	166·6	142	150·0
August	135·8	134·5	850	902	150	596·4	138·1	142	437	154	112·7	181	170	141	142·7	167·8	143	153·3
September	135·8	131·9	846	895	150	597·3	138·1	141	437	154	111·3	182	171	140	142·2	170·8	143	152·0
October	135·8	129·6	838	888	149	589·5	137·2	140	436	154	110·3	181	172	138	142·0	168·4	140	151·1
November	136·1	126·9	834	876	147	583·7	135·5	137	431	152	112·1	182	171	135	139·7	165·8	137	149·7
December	134·0	126·9	823	*g*126·1	146	575·8	134·3	135	425	152	109·0	182	172	134	138·6	161·8	134	150·3
1930—January	132·5	125·7	808	*g*124·2	143	564·0	132·3	131	417	150	104·8	...	...	131	135·6	158·0	...	149·4
February	131·0	121·0	791	...	140	564·0	129·3	127	408	147	...	...	...	...	133·0	...	...	...

a New index. *b* End of the month. *c* 15th of month. *d* Beginning of the following month. *e* Official. *f* Second half of month.
g Since date of stabilisation, gold index. *h* 1914. *i* *Frankfurter Zeitung* index discontinued. *j* End year. *k* Average last week of month.
l Since 1924, new series. *p* Since January, 1926, new index.

Wholesale Prices—*Continued.*

Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States Bureau of Labour.
1913	100	100	100	100
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	144·1
1924	128·7	153·9	206·5	140·5
1925	127·6	159·4	201·7	148·3
1926	123·3	164·1	178·9	143·3
1927	*q*124·0	170·4	169·8	136·7
1928	*q*120·4	160·7	170·9	140·0
1929	116·1	163·7	166·2	138·3
	q	*g*		
1929—February	*q*	162·4	171·0	138·5
March	...	164·2	171·0	139·7
April	...	161·2	169·6	138·7
May	116·6	161·7	168·6	137·2
June	...	162·6	167·6	138·1
July	...	162·7	166·0	140·4
August	114·6	164·7	165·1	140·0
September	...	167·1	164·4	139·7
October	...	168·0	163·4	138·0
November	113·4	164·7	159·6	135·2
December	...	164·7	154·9	135·0
1930—January	107·3	169·6	152·2	133·8
February	...	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. *b* Gold mark prices. *c* Since 1923 gold prices. *d* Yearly average. *e* Prices of foodstuffs average of quarter.
g Last Wednesday of month. *h* Average of second quarter. *q* Revised. *s* 15th of month. *t* Excluding clothing and rent. *v* Since November, 1927, new series. *w* Since date of stabilisation gold standard index. *x* Average of quarter. *y* Compiled by National Industrial Conference Board.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices. Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)

	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	105	Vienna.	59	12	Paris.	71	Milan.	Madrid.	60	32
Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	1921.	1914.	1914.	Oct., 1913, Jan., April, June, 1914.	Jan.–June, 1914.	1914.	1926.	July, 1914.
	a		*c s*	*s*	*d*	*h*		*v w*	*e*	*d q*	*s y*
1925—July	173	188	97	133	3014	390	*b* 143·3	598	189	99·3	169
1926—July	170	182	103	174	2886	485	*b* 142·4	649	187	100·0	166
1927—July	164	171	106	204	2788	525	150·0	548	189	98·5	162
1928—July	165	173	108	205	2911	*w* 105	152·6	143	176	99·1	161
1929—July	163	174	112	216	...	113	154·4	148	...	100·1	162
					w t	*w x*	*b*				
1929—Feb.	166	...	111	217	108·4	...	154·4	148	183	99·4	161
March	162	...	110	216	109·4	111	156·5	153	184	99·5	160
April	161	173	109	214	110·1	...	153·6	150	184	98·9	159
May	160	...	109	214	111·6	...	153·5	148	182	99·2	159
June	161	...	111	213	111·8	113	153·4	149	179	99·3	160
July	163	174	112	216	112·6	...	154·4	148	177	99·4	162
August	164	...	113	221	107·3	...	154·0	146	178	101·1	163
Sept.	165	...	113	225	106·3	113	153·6	147	178	100·9	163
October	167	179	113	229	107·3	...	153·5	149	179	101·1	163
Nov.	167	...	113	229	107·2	...	153·0	149	181	101·5	162
Dec.	166	...	113	228	105·8	115	152·6	150	181	101·6	...
1930—Jan.	164	179	113	226	...	...	151·6	150	...	102·2	...
Feb.	161	...	112	...	...	...	150·3	148	...	...	...

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	Finland.	France.	Germany.		Greece.	Hungary.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	
End of	Bank of England Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Reichsbank Notes.	"Rentenbank."	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.
	£	Schilling.	Francs.	Leva.	Koruna.	Kron.	Markat.	Francs.	Reichsmark.	Rentenmks.	Drachmæ.	Pengö.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Gulden.
1913	a 29·6	...	z 1,067	189	...	152	113	y 5,714	g 2,742	i ...	245	k ...	u ...	313	...
1923	404·8	713	7,537	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	37,763	f496507,424,772	...	4,681	931,337	5,790	1,066	32
1924	397·6	839	7,873	4,530	8,810	478	1,250	40,604	1,941	1,835	4,866	4,513,990	6,002	935	23
1925	385·3	890	7,814	3,655	8,408	438	1,309	49,993	2,960	1,476	5,395	416	6,063	875	17
1926	381·0	947	9,646	3,485	8,203	386	1,346	52,449	3,736	1,164	4,865	471	5,812	819	13
1927	382·3	1,005	10,951	3,727	8,417	354	1,514	56,301	4,564	716	4,966	487	5,743	797	12
1928	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	62,181	4,930	530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1929	369·8	1,094	e13,933	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1929—Feb.	352·3	977	12,912	3,894	7,063	342	1,523	64,226	4,553	t 508	5,465	451	5,159	776	11
Mar.	361·8	1,004	12,812	4,101	7,333	357	1,596	64,575	4,822	504	5,488	458	5,265	835	12
Apl.	361·4	995	12,904	4,366	7,133	359	1,556	62,848	4,631	489	5,617	485	5,212	840	12
May	360·1	998	13,238	3,977	7,183	358	1,481	64,316	4,606	491	5,415	446	5,092	797	12
June	369·1	1,044	13,159	3,972	7,612	366	1,473	64,921	4,839	460	5,494	463	5,196	844	11
July	371·8	1,047	13,894	3,974	7,321	351	1,439	65,679	4,726	434	5,304	491	4,299	812	12
Aug.	364·0	1,046	13,871	4,121	7,500	361	1,448	66,468	4,897	432	5,214	480	5,659	844	12
Sept.	363·3	1,079	13,890	4,222	7,697	353	1,440	66,639	4,914	433	5,414	478	5,695	852	12
Oct.	358·8	1,081	14,360	4,255	7,763	372	1,377	68,267	4,833	407	5,364	526	5,773	826	12
Nov.	354·6	1,072	14,221	3,900	7,689	370	1,347	68,159	4,916	394	5,173	473	5,690	861	12
Dec.	369·8	1,094	14,175	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1930—Jan.	348·0	981	13,841	3,260	6,923	347	1,259	70,339	4,653	373	4,907	476	5,586	824	9
Feb.	346·0	974	13,992	3,148	6,838	352	1,369	71,116	4,722	365	4,842	441	5,560	826	11

Period.	Italy.		Norway.	Poland.		Roumania.	Russia.		Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Egypt.	United States.		Japan.
End of	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Token Notes and Coins.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes and Dominion Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.
	Lire.	Lire.	Kroner.	Zloty.	Zloty.	Leu.	Old. Rbls.	Rbles.	Kronor.	Francs.	£	Dollars.	£	£E	Dollars.	Dollars.	Yen.
1913	d 2,284	w 499	108	m ...	t ...	n 437	v ...	v ...	234	314	o r 10·0	p 116	2·3	2·2	726	343	o 426
1923	17,247	2,428	396	...	...	17,917	...	237	576	982	52·2	187	8·8	34·3	2,951	308	1,704
1924	18,114	2,400	391	551	151	19,397	229	411	537	914	56·9	177	9·1	40·2	2,555	297	1,662
1925	19,349	2,100	363	381	440	20,222	388	727	530	876	53·9	176	7·2	33·5	2,458	294	1,668
1926	18,340	1,793	337	593	428	20,951	398	797	525	874	49·9	190	6·6	27·8	2,458	298	1,377
1927	17,992	783	331	1,003	309	21,025	480	1,003	526	917	51·8	192	7·2	27·5	2,387	294	1,682
1928	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	21,211	730	1,091	546	953	48·7	193	7·6	30·3	2,428	295	1,739
1929	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·2	2,463	266	1,633
1929—Feb.	16,197	120	301	1,249	231	20,325	701	1,056	499	843	45·4	77	7·5	27·5	2,277	283	1,278
Mar.	16,396	117	312	1,333	239	20,964	717	1,073	544	886	44·4	205	8·0	27·7	2,323	285	1,354
Apl.	16,274	104	308	1,274	231	19,968	776	1,120	518	875	43·0	183	7·6	26·8	2,296	278	1,364
May	16,251	99	305	1,244	227	19,080	748	1,103	519	872	42·5	184	7·9	25·1	2,301	290	1,299
June	16,753	96	318	1,298	234	19,113	805	1,192	560	898	42·3	199	7·8	23·3	2,349	263	1,462
July	16,877	96	315	1,293	240	19,188	833	1,238	522	900	41·6	184	7·6	21·8	2,372	244	1,250
Aug.	16,701	96	314	1,359	255	20,340	907	1,330	549	911	41·6	203	7·8	21·2	2,482	250	1,334
Sept.	16,916	90	316	1,354	260	21,393	983	1,428	580	944	41·9	206	7·5	25·2	2,473	266	1,286
Oct.	16,977	83	307	1,392	270	21,774	1,068	1,527	554	944	42·9	201	7·4	28·0	2,495	268	1,297
Nov.	16,828	80	303	1,366	267	21,387	1,092	1,538	573	928	42·8	203	7·7	27·2	2,530	276	1,346
Dec.	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·6	2,463	266	1,642
1930—Jan.	16,329	76	298	1,247	238	19,717	976	1,466	521	890	42·6	...	7·3	25·7	...	...	1,406
Feb.	16,092	...	297	1,282	m 228	...	...	o 1,536	534	893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a Until November, 1928, including State notes, then transferred to Bank. d In terms of new lire = 8,373 millions. e Excluding Government notes. f Milliards. g Marks—including Reichs- und Darlehenkassenscheine. i Excluding notes held by Reichsbank. k Until end 1924 paper kronen. (One pengö = 12,500 paper kronen.) m Token coin 185·5 million Zloty. o Gross issue. p Excluding notes held as reserve by Chartered Banks. r State notes. t Since January, 1926, excluding notes held by Bank of Poland. u Since 1920, including Austria-Hungarian and other notes converted after the war into National Currency. n Since 1926, excluding notes held by the State Bank. w In terms of new lire = 1,829 millions. y In terms of new francs. z Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since Oct., 1926, including Government Notes of 5 and 10 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris.	Brussels.	Italy.	Switzerland.	Madrid.	Amsterdam.	Stockholm.	Oslo.	Copenhagen.	Berlin.	Vienna.	New York.	Buenos Aires.
	Francs to £1.	Belgas to £1.	Lire to £1.	Francs to £1.	Pesetas to £1.	Florins to £1.	Kronor to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Marks to £1.	Schillings to £1.	Dollars to £1.	Pence Dollars.
Par level	124·21	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58½	4·86⅔	47·58
Highest, 1929	124·37	34·96⅝	93·27½	25·24¾	36·92	12·13	18·18⅝	18·21¼	18·22½	20·58	34·75	4·88 7/16	47½
Lowest, "	123·68	34·84¾	92·52	25·08¾	29·67	12·05⅞	18·08⅝	18·18⅝	18·17½	20·31½	34·41	4·84 3/16	44
Beginning of—													
July, 1914	25·15	† 25·35½	25·25½	21·16½	26·10	12·11¾	18·30	18·25	18·30	20·49½	‡ 24·55	4·87⅝	47 1/16
January, 1922	52·32½	† 54·65½	97½	21·70½	28·19½	11·44½	16·97½	26·99½	21·12½	791½	‡ 13,000	4·20	43 1/16
January, 1923	66·30	† 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	‡ 330,000	4·68	44
January, 1924	87·85	† 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅝	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	19½ billions	‡ 305,500	4·29⅜	40 7/16
January, 1925	87·40½	† 94·79½	112·35	24·34½	33·95½	11·71½	17·62½	31·37½	26·85½	19·94½ gld. mks.	‡ 337,500	4·74 13/16	46 1/32
January, 1926	129·31½	†107·00	120	25·08½	34·31½	12·05	18·08	23·83½	19·60½	20·37½ "	34·37½	4·85 3/16	46 17/32
January, 1927	122·81½	34·89	109·62½	25·14½	31·23½	12·12⅞	18·15½	19·04½	18·20	20·43⅞ "	34·42½	4·85 9/32	46 13/32
January, 1928	124·00	34·92½	92·32½	25·27¾	28·24	12·09½	18·11¼	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½ "	34·52	4·87 29/32	47 25/32
January, 1929	124·10½	34·88½	92·64	25·18¾	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17¾	20·38½ "	34·44½	4·85 1/16	47⅜
January, 1930	123·91	34·88¾	93·22	25·13¾	36·62½	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20¼	18·20¼	20·43½ "	34·65½	4·87 21/32	45 13/16
February, "	124·02	34·904	92·91	25·19¾	37·33¼	12·12	18·12½	18·21	18·19⅛	20·36½ "	34·54	4·86 7/16	42⅛
March, "	124·21	34·88½	92·80	25·14¾	39·80	12·12	18·11¾	18·17¼	18·16½	20·36½ "	34·50½	4·86 3/32	47 9/32

	Rio de Janeiro.	Monte Video.	Valparaiso.	Bombay.	Hong Kong.	Shanghai.	Japan.	Singapore.
	Pence to Milreis.	Pence to Dollars.	Pesos to £1.	Pence to Rupee.	Sterling to Dollar.	Sterling to Tael.	Sterling to Yen.	Sterling to Dollar.
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Par level	16	51	40	1 6	...	...	2 0 9/16	...
Highest, 1929	5 15/16	51¼	39·79	1 6 3/64	2 0 11/16	2 7⅞	2 0 3/16	2 4⅛
Lowest, "	5 5/16	45¼	39·37	1 5 31/32	1 7¾	2 1 1/16	1 9 13/16	2 3⅝
Beginning of—								
July 1914	16 1/16	51¼	§9¾	1 3 31/32	1 10⅝	2 6½	2 0½	...
January, 1922	7 1/16	41	40·20	1 4	2 7¼	3 6⅜	2 3½	2 3⅞
January, 1923	5 13/16	44	34·70	1 4 5/32	2 3⅛	3 0⅝	2 1	2 4 5/32
January, 1924	5⅝	43⅜	40·30	1 5¼	2 4⅜	3 4 3/16	2 1⅜	2 4 5/32
January, 1925	5 11/32	50½	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3⅞	3 1 11/16	1 7½	2 4 3/16
January, 1926	7 9/32	50⅝	39·80	1 6 3/16	2 4⅜	3 1 9/16	1 9 13/32	2 4 3/16
January, 1927	5 15/16	50¼	39·65	1 6 1/32	1 11 13/16	2 5⅜	2 0 5/32	2 3 13/16
January, 1928	5 27/32	51	39·35	1 6 3/32	2 0¼	2 7½	1 11 1/32	2 4 5/32
January, 1929	5 29/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/16	2 0 9/32	2 7¼	1 10¼	2 3 27/32
November, "	5 15/32	47⅝	39·62	1 5 29/32	1 9⅜	2 3 1/32	2 0 1/32	2 3⅝
December, "	5 53/64	47¼	39·60	1 5 15/16	1 8 11/16	2 3	2 0 1/16	2 3 49/64
January, 1930	5 13/16	46½	39·80	1 5 61/64	1 8	2 1½	2 0 5/32	2 3⅞
February, "	5 13/32	43¾	39·78	1 5 59/64	1 7 1/16	1 11⅝	2 0¼	2 3 47/64
March, "	5 11/32	44	39·82	1 6 1/32	1 6 3/16	1 11¼	2 0 11/16	2 3⅜

† Francs to £1. § Pence to Peso. ‡ Krone to £1.

Place.	Method of Quoting.	February, Quotations. Highest.	Lowest. *	Average *
New York.				
Feb., 1929	Dollars to £1.	4·85 15/16	4·84⅝	4·853
Jan., 1930		4·88⅛	4·86 3/16	4·870
Feb., 1930		4·86 17/32	4·85⅝	4·862
Paris.				
Feb., 1929	Francs to £1.	124·37½	124·06¼	124·270
Jan., 1930		124	123·86	123·910
Feb., 1930		124·32	123·95	124·201
Amsterdam.				
Feb., 1929	Florins to £1.	12·13	12·10	12·116
Jan., 1930		12·12½	12·08	12·102
Feb., 1930		12·13½	12·11½	12·123
Berlin.				
Feb., 1929	Rchmks. to £1.	20·47½	20·41½	20·447
Jan., 1930		20·44	20·35¼	20·387
Feb., 1930		20·37½	20·35½	20·366

* Daily rates.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Ekr.	Francs.	Markka.	Mark.	Drachmæ.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Kronor.	Francs.	£E.	Dollars.
1913	t 54,931	...	m 386,384	f 15,775	64,785	s ...	g 701,778	f 41,035	d 897,474	e f i 14,828	b 303,803	a ...	325,231	c ...	70,545	f 159,985	2,271	147,932
1924	94,789	5,632	1,475,061	463,109	184,874	683,684	3,346,901	392,956	756,901	669,914	1,615,056	685,145	196,961	211,875	118,708	207,000	4,086	297,926
1925	97,223	5,162	1,488,378	606,958	161,382	8,046	3,712,700	459,959	1,030,171	848,069	2,183,374	729,407	204,583	229,589	120,535	219,427	4,678	348,018
1926	92,989	5,043	1,920,460	520,578	127,319	7,964	4,968,923	472,309	833,454	833,745	2,156,571	635,982	203,496	128,242	124,151	201,209	4,199	367,340
1927	91,282	5,012	2,422,921	510,749	131,508	8,035	4,420,823	532,157	1,185,672	1,050,162	1,697,900	607,191	212,405	240,998	132,030	213,650	3,896	346,924
1928	89,716	4,928	2,668,468	586,745	135,350	10,948	4,454,963	667,742	1,166,250	1,035,760	1,826,702	652,944	223,659	280,180	142,330	228,723	4,123	339,820
1929	92,654	z 4,930	2,951,467	691,988	141,305	10,261	4,857,052	582,882	1,119,549	1,106,294	1,779,415	632,982	229,358	259,248	147,708	231,987	4,453	362,056
1929—Jan.	106,253	4,822	2,392,608	563,128	121,251	11,175	5,173,343	504,454	1,316,756	1,082,117	1,784,573	560,690	232,599	294,042	122,521	212,128	4,563	358,872
Feb.	81,048	4,339	2,698,172	443,006	87,325	6,322	5,162,237	333,831	1,014,766	901,867	1,799,476	403,986	177,426	264,911	87,035	188,515	4,002	364,188
Mar.	88,607	5,612	3,039,941	643,671	107,057	6,619	4,934,124	349,442	1,021,882	1,128,813	1,988,306	684,571	215,929	233,289	89,020	225,466	3,965	371,215
April	93,792	5,306	2,984,179	766,633	203,078	14,381	5,143,715	710,897	1,254,356	1,267,772	1,976,048	713,679	234,020	321,140	205,786	243,396	4,632	396,825
May	93,020	5,088	3,224,335	931,728	157,403	13,179	5,061,457	819,278	1,131,273	1,160,446	1,888,473	701,204	235,358	271,917	168,031	226,332	4,035	381,114
June	81,882	4,797	3,034,764	788,976	129,081	10,038	5,165,042	645,437	1,077,445	1,013,373	*2,266,753	614,557	229,834	271,746	145,188	212,873	3,779	350,336
July	85,581	5,353	3,066,082	831,448	135,602	10,681	4,627,293	639,553	1,226,411	1,098,053	1,567,459	655,474	240,442	266,447	137,685	244,162	4,127	347,133
Aug.	91,973	4,784	3,086,975	684,036	142,420	11,200	4,339,633	610,470	1,072,589	902,840	1,413,820	635,460	247,061	226,535	142,533	235,160	4,391	372,757
Sept.	91,633	5,138	2,939,266	683,393	158,765	10,923	4,353,136	623,804	1,038,321	1,193,419	1,436,249	656,637	230,557	247,457	171,261	223,097	4,657	356,512
Oct.	101,150	z 5,328	3,203,741	668,369	157,718	10,597	4,515,576	653,513	1,106,672	1,203,316	1,579,358	748,061	257,688	257,247	176,120	244,133	5,128	396,168
Nov.	99,981	z 4,969	2,841,291	655,284	155,315	9,606	4,789,413	571,187	1,161,038	1,207,637	1,530,362	621,862	237,720	243,448	166,904	260,027	5,235	332,635
Dec.	98,637	z 4,180	2,906,253	† 595,801	139,851	8,404	5,019,755	533,344	1,013,076	1,116,092	*2,069,145	599,604	214,464	212,807	160,405	268,338	4,920	309,809
1930—Jan.	93,680	z 4,290	2,934,499	...	142,003	9,390	4,777,565	308,986	1,294,870	918,944	1,501,358	...	220,555	216,668	136,682	208,159	6,257	†312000
Feb.	79,563	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204,956	...	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
1913	43,771	...	m 302,882	f 7,778	53,113	s ...	g 573,351	f 33,482	d 841,436	e f i 9,917	b 209,303	a ...	255,453	c ...	68,112	f 114,700	2,626	204,024
1924	66,747	4,190	1,151,126	408,519	184,874	655,483	2,530,743	414,217	545,971	272,182	1,197,746	794,898	138,388	181,437	105,079	172,511	5,472	374,804
1925	64,448	3,615	1,228,662	470,206	149,067	8,054	3,882,676	464,459	733,208	381,189	1,522,855	742,045	150,641	182,235	113,318	169,895	4,928	401,560
1926	54,421	3,432	1,661,198	468,133	117,131	8,020	4,936,893	469,712	815,265	452,479	1,555,377	651,515	145,767	187,192	118,293	153,041	3,435	392,643
1927	59,090	3,681	2,218,975	552,262	120,546	8,815	4,577,063	527,031	851,952	503,118	1,302,662	533,346	158,309	209,562	134,715	168,604	3,977	396,572
1928	60,286	3,799	2,573,408	519,271	128,752	10,592	4,281,227	520,440	970,050	523,506	1,213,253	537,058	165,515	208,999	131,222	177,870	4,584	419,175
1929	60,796	z 3,839	2,683,778	527,999	134,201	9,789	4,172,695	535,560	1,056,918	582,100	1,240,533	660,142	165,791	234,447	150,480	175,371	4,225	430,923
1929—Jan.	66,880	3,202	2,068,971	575,627	118,034	7,900	3,701,892	309,660	d 1,034,962	1,088,843	999,526	425,708	152,192	215,834	109,414	153,892	5,376	480,384
Feb.	55,665	3,037	2,391,585	379,755	98,871	5,585	4,117,941	184,156	920,118	629,980	1,088,384	385,074	123,615	167,465	77,448	163,024	4,472	434,529
Mar.	58,623	3,136	2,697,186	543,821	117,432	4,779	4,180,206	192,904	930,190	767,824	1,190,440	499,413	175,091	161,525	95,251	179,840	5,208	481,710
April	60,244	3,309	2,828,081	720,041	147,394	9,637	4,419,445	368,918	1,163,478	449,479	1,247,919	614,982	168,870	214,319	149,514	176,976	5,124	418,051
May	67,437	3,469	2,459,168	550,330	151,329	9,421	3,958,909	497,671	1,097,420	314,669	1,256,092	533,661	175,252	226,840	162,149	170,399	4,012	377,083
June	49,893	3,871	y3,657,984	563,718	142,507	11,513	4,349,341	675,463	1,014,652	201,661	*1,548,162	530,235	165,389	237,891	168,797	169,818	3,057	386,799
July	66,520	3,902	2,516,856	395,096	137,083	13,517	4,269,148	801,616	1,030,252	258,859	1,054,166	621,314	70,247	276,441	168,328	174,836	3,094	393,838
Aug.	63,045	4,309	2,559,199	397,868	142,759	12,800	3,804,235	904,418	1,122,902	357,320	1,210,462	1,006,190	182,660	280,717	177,041	173,502	2,824	374,725
Sept.	55,104	4,464	2,843,208	517,150	144,921	11,858	4,221,004	714,052	1,136,377	615,289	1,233,150	721,135	181,840	262,013	179,946	180,539	1,649	431,809
Oct.	64,589	z 4,976	2,847,256	595,449	136,940	11,502	4,385,958	730,815	1,164,650	802,827	1,348,236	991,279	184,863	259,427	185,450	199,973	4,517	522,415
Nov.	63,125	z 4,743	2,541,675	690,038	139,329	9,373	4,267,785	595,126	1,094,039	913,172	1,315,702	814,055	165,617	256,137	174,315	183,915	6,285	435,513
Dec.	58,430	z 3,986	2,758,174	† 454,973	137,899	9,586	4,396,484	451,925	1,005,163	624,273	*1,396,596	778,663	143,853	254,751	158,102	177,760	5,078	420,280
1930—Jan.	58,232	z 3,589	2,205,917	...	138,635	7,256	3,714,387	319,358	1,033,501	728,303	977,336	...	151,858	218,491	111,712	147,143	4,119	†417000
Feb.	51,924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157,436	...	...

a Including bullion and specie. b Since 1922 declared values. c Including Dantzig. d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Including bullion. g Since 1927 declared values. i Old Greece only. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." t From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. s Including bullion: until end 1924 Eesti mk. (1 Ekr. = 100 E mk.). z Excluding parcel post. † Provisional figures. * Including parcel post for the half-year.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Value. Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.										
1913	g 6,355	b 152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	a 83,958	q 2,721	o ...	3,685	h 6,069	p e 84	i ...	3,739	j ...	661	f 494
1924	11,960	196,493	67,350	3,995	5,302	240,726	232,463	2,784	482	4,716	3,216	150	376	1,888	201	564	369
1925	12,350	186,899	74,189	4,308	5,459	207,223	281,403	2,772	565	3,954	4,331	175	370	2,117	284	546	414
1926	13,429	196,606	84,028	4,073	5,804	192,101	225,463	2,859	554	3,783	3,606	156	450	2,362	203	590	412
1927	11,890	206,740	90,593	3,655	5,770	174,883	272,764	3,172	613	4,114	5,674	190	528	2,385	409	621	460
1928	11,361	208,172	101,860	3,661	6,291	177,792	307,916	3,293	780	4,112	5,498	197	553	2,488	430	667	487
1929	11,850	208,155	108,249	4,004	6,663	180,710	...	3,747	836	4,954	5,563	231	559	2,582	424	726	...
1929—Jan.	13,205	272,324	96,958	4,257	6,804	232,819	324,235	3,099	672	4,316	5,328	225	438	2,347	438	578	540
Feb.	10,593	198,957	97,042	3,623	5,553	235,273	291,610	3,001	513	4,288	3,399	199	365	1,587	411	521	472
Mar.	10,954	225,554	135,329	3,768	6,554	206,296	313,284	3,626	807	4,690	4,164	211	488	1,737	358	703	515
April	11,142	246,341	97,517	3,945	6,677	208,843	277,054	3,598	737	5,073	5,543	266	550	2,330	544	728	490
May	10,659	215,546	125,615	3,186	7,044	214,695	343,502	3,783	827	4,921	5,886	242	564	2,846	484	701	540
June	12,237	166,854	111,949	3,358	6,308	171,128	279,860	3,677	895	5,322	5,896	205	611	2,905	487	709	478
July	12,675	191,246	114,201	4,391	7,271	163,370	209,544	3,973	911	5,062	6,560	250	663	3,041	473	889	527
Aug.	12,267	203,505	111,631	4,207	7,031	164,590	304,626	4,095	918	5,121	6,700	191	651	3,195	418	861	568
Sept.	12,150	193,882	99,380	5,014	6,312	131,861	270,021	4,160	929	5,151	6,146	237	678	2,867	402	780	493
Oct.	12,729	195,138	116,261	4,359	6,781	148,951	275,487	4,303	893	5,037	6,102	242	608	2,895	384	795	488
Nov.	13,141	225,531	108,734	3,957	6,865	143,894	272,863	3,710	955	5,173	5,864	255	566	2,712	317	706	487
Dec.	10,443	167,025	84,365	a 3,984	† 5,751	156,804	...	3,933	850	5,292	5,183	251	531	2,592	373	738	...
1930—Jan.	12,255	224,929	84,910	...	† 5,668	† 181,000	...	4,023	630	5,210	6,318	194	...	2,698	320	651	...
Feb.	...	...	...	...	† 5,346	† 159,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	611	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
1913	g 6,070	b 200,993	36,333	1,751	c 2,294	52,393	a 81,814	1,740	...	1,840	h 6,143	p e 50	i ...	2,451	j ...	71	f 115
1924	13,075	308,807	88,171	4,275	3,148	146,741	321,963	1,697	o 1,036	2,499	1,325	34	141	844	1,312	68	153
1925	11,689	330,960	105,916	4,499	3,794	184,968	335,164	1,744	o 1,014	2,532	3,194	47	182	1,028	1,134	67	160
1926	10,821	268,689	105,715	3,648	3,311	164,371	265,880	1,933	o 1,067	2,712	5,048	45	216	1,319	1,859	70	155
1927	11,268	265,405	101,528	3,916	3,984	159,313	303,677	2,019	o 1,167	3,166	3,912	53	169	1,195	1,696	86	168
1928	11,069	275,534	112,489	4,511	4,057	159,095	330,856	2,214	o 1,124	3,427	3,754	54	175	1,310	1,702	81	173
1929	10,005	268,709	98,536	4,472	3,738	175,075	...	2,147	1,092	3,324	4,570	62	232	1,358	1,753	87	...
1929—Jan.	13,206	298,386	94,942	8,339	4,361	173,662	334,351	1,651	o 876	3,006	3,709	54	144	1,223	1,529	60	158
Feb.	15,988	279,891	82,259	7,952	4,154	145,147	322,452	1,590	691	3,273	2,817	57	119	849	1,347	57	150
Mar.	15,417	314,442	114,763	7,450	3,575	162,673	313,106	1,933	1,025	3,108	3,588	65	190	1,140	1,155	81	174
April	11,532	274,448	65,728	5,374	3,565	171,995	319,177	2,225	1,192	3,217	4,608	44	200	1,456	1,527	86	189
May	9,393	257,971	107,473	3,393	3,355	178,751	293,683	2,043	1,078	3,087	4,479	49	172	1,475	1,612	91	176
June	6,766	262,113	112,176	4,016	2,246	154,421	290,945	2,473	1,094	3,617	4,391	62	179	1,375	1,792	92	168
July	6,023	250,796	102,219	2,609	2,948	184,338	352,882	2,188	1,106	3,741	4,817	72	239	1,508	2,140	95	177
Aug.	5,765	268,170	96,265	2,349	2,965	214,978	363,292	2,183	1,093	3,214	5,094	47	266	1,528	2,200	86	205
Sept.	7,595	258,709	87,751	2,083	3,053	187,344	347,929	2,265	1,005	3,609	5,602	71	319	1,482	1,996	87	189
Oct.	8,989	257,097	119,266	2,233	5,278	201,767	338,900	2,281	1,176	3,217	5,305	82	320	1,503	1,892	129	187
Nov.	10,056	268,749	111,068	2,811	5,170	168,719	300,972	2,161	1,358	3,314	5,071	85	323	1,474	2,071	97	211
Dec.	9,330	234,744	88,520	a 4,520	† 5,179	157,107	...	2,239	1,394	3,485	5,274	62	309	1,285	1,779	80	...
1930—Jan.	6,529	264,666	73,507	a 6,309	† 2,575	† 145,000	...	1,998	830	2,908	5,375	67	...	1,394	1,733	75	...
Feb.	...	...	...	...	...	† 118,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	...

a General trade. b Sea-borne trade only. c Including ships' stores. e Until Feb., 1923, Julian Calendar; excludes articles shown by number. f General trade, gross weight. g From 1916–21, fiscal year beginning on July 1st. h Including Luxembourg. i Excluding live stock and articles shown by number. j Excluding weight of two animals. o Including a few goods declared by number only. p 1914. q Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise."
† Provisional figure.

CAPITAL ISSUES.—(000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Czecho-Slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Rou-mania.	Sweden.	Switzer-land.	British India.	Japan.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Schill-ling.	Koruna.	Francs.	Mark.	Lire.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Lei.	Kroner.	Francs.	Rupees.	Yen.	Dollars.
		b		*d*	*m*	*f*	*ch*	*y*			*o*			*p*
1913	16·3	...	...	...	60	23	13	...	20	18	44	56	45	...
1923	22·6	18,206	48	955	*p*	332	19	...	320	19	62	21	176	359
1924	17·4	26,992	31	605	15·0	504	30	3·1	262	20	51	19	219	466
1925	19·4	2·3	21	329	55·1	746	33	7·7	219	16	56	29	204	518
1926	19·2	2·4	24	412	74·8	473	48	6·1	541	13	59	16	228	529
1927	29·6	9·7	31	626	114·1	264	43	17·7	282	22	73	17	255	649
1928	30·8	10·9	60	896	110·0	450	50	27·5	384	31	57	24	335	676
1929	23·8	7·6	55	1,250	80·2	607	29	4·6	318	23	81	56	...	850
1928.														
July-Sept.	15·3	7·5	60	726	108·0	580	24	23·2	463	24	23	22	376	386
Oct.-Dec.	26·1	9·1	41	1,310	128·3	415	70	39·4	283	26	38	18	228	919
1929.														
Jan.-Mar.	32·3	14·4	35	1,072	118·8	492	49	44·4	318	14	104	37	216	931
Ap.-June	25·8	0·5	27	1,199	112·5	794	20	3·1	479	29	143	127	332	859
July-Sept.	6·2	3·4	108	993	54·9	546	15	5·0	295	15	30	34	200	677
Oct.-Dec.	30·6	12·8	51	1,737	34·6	594	33	5·7	179	32	47	25	...	566
November	74·5	30·9	96	1,429	39·1	781	43	3·6	182	22	15	27	82	281
December	5·4	4·5	28	1,490	28·8	519	18	8·7	181	66	40	19	...	574
1930.														
January	13·9	3·8	30	1,313	163·0	318	47	...	491	16	76	28	...	747
February	22·4	...	...	3,261	34·0	...	...	...	369	8	...	...	...	...

Unless otherwise stated, the figures represent authorised share issue of new joint stock companies at home, and the increase of capital of existing companies. Bonus shares are excluded from the figures of the U.S.A., Roumania, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In the case of the Netherlands and the U.K. both bonus shares and conversions are excluded. *b* Until end 1924, kronen. *c* Excluding Treasury Bills. *d* Exc. large railway issues. *f* "Rivista Bancaria." *h* Issues exceeding Fls. 100,000 on the Dutch market including Colonial, and since Jan., 1925, foreign issues. *m* Since 1924, excluding amalgamations and conversions. Until end 1922 paper mark. *o* "Société de Banque Suisse," invitation for subscriptions on Swiss market including obligations and Local Govt. loans. *p* India, compiled by "Commercial & Financial Chronicle." *y* Up to 1928, authorised issues, excluding western departments; since 1929 amounts actually issued, whole territory.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Percentage of persons unemployed in trade unions or in official unemployment insurance schemes (Belgium and U.K.).

End of Month.	U.K.	Belgium.	Denmark.	Germany.	Netherlands.	Norway.	Sweden.	Australia.	Canada.
1921—June	17·8	9·9	16·8	3·0	8·1	20·6	27·7	12·5	13·2
December	16·2	6·6	25·2	1·6	16·6	23·4	33·2	9·5	15·1
	e								
1923—June	11·3	0·8	8·1	4·1	10·8	7·9	9·8	7·1	3·4
December	10·7	1·7	19·6	28·2	17·3	14·0	14·1	6·2	7·2
1924—June	9·4	1·0	5·1	10·4	7·2	4·3	7·3	8·3	5·9
December	10·7	1·5	13·2	8·1	12·3	12·5	15·5	10·3	11·6
1925—June	11·9	1·0	9·3	3·5	6·6	8·9	8·2	10·2	6·1
December	10·4	2·8	31·1	19·4	16·0	23·7	19·4	8·1	7·9
1926—June	*14·6	0·9	15·6	18·1	5·9	22·6	9·6	6·7	4·1
December	*11·9	2·6	32·2	16·7	12·1	27·7	19·0	5·7	5·9
1927—June	8·8	1·4	18·0	6·3	6·0	22·5	9·5	6·4	3·2
December	9·8	3·6	31·6	12·9	14·9	28·0	18·6	8·9	6·6
1928—June	10·8	0·6	13·7	6·2	4·4	14·4	7·6	11·2	3·2
December	11·2	1·9	28·4	16·7	11·5	22·1	17·3	9·9	6·6
1929—April	9·9	0·4	13·4	11·1	3·5	17·1	12·3	...	5·5
May	9·9	0·4	10·8	9·1	3·0	12·5	8·2	...	4·0
June	9·8	0·4	10·0	8·5	2·6	11·3	7·2	10·0	2·9
July	9·9	0·6	9·6	8·6	3·1	10·2	6·7	...	3·0
August	10·1	0·5	9·1	8·9	3·3	10·7	6·5	...	3·5
September	10·1	0·5	8·7	9·6	3·2	12·1	7·3	12·1	3·7
October	10·4	0·5	10·2	10·9	3·5	14·0	8·6	...	6·0
November	11·0	1·1	12·5	13·7	5·3	15·4	10·4	...	9·3
December	11·1	2·4	19·9	20·1	†15·4	18·9	16·6	...	11·4
1930—January	12·6	3·7	20·2	22·0	...	...	13·0	...	...
February	13·1	...	21·3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Workers Covered by Last Returns.									
Millions	12·1	0·6	0·3	4·6	†0·4	0·04	0·3	0·4	0·2

‡ Ex. Irish Free State since Mar., 1923.
* Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure. † Provisional figure.

BANK RATES.

	1924. End of	1925. End of	1926. End of	1927. End of	1928. End of	1929. End of	1930. End of
	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
London	% 4	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 4½	% 5	% 5½	% 5	% 5	% 4½†		
Paris	7	7	6	6	6½	5	3½	3½	3	3		
Berlin	10	10	9	9	6½	6	7	7½	7	6½		
New York*	3½	3	3½	3½	4	4	5	5	4½	4½		
Amsterdam	5	4½	4	3½	3½	3½	4½	4½	5½	4½		
Brussels	5½	5½	5½	7	7	7	5	4	3½	3½		
Rome	5½	5½	7	7	7	7	7	5½	4½	4		
Switzerland	4	4	3½	3½	3½	3½	4½	4	3½	3½		
Vienna	12	13	11	9	7‖	7	6	6½	6	7½		
Warsaw	12	12	12	12	12	9½	8	8	8	8		
Tokyo	8	8	7·3	7·3	7·3	6·57	5·84	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·4
Calcutta	6	6	5	6	4	4	5	7	6	7	5	7

	1930.	
	Mar.	Apr.
London	% 4½	% 4½
Paris	3	3
Berlin	6½	6½
New York*	4	4
Amsterdam	4	4
Brussels	3½	3½
Rome	7	7
Switzerland	3½	3½
Vienna	7½	7½
Warsaw	8	8¶
Tokyo	5·4	5·4
Calcutta	7	7

* Federal Reserve. † Reduced to 4% on Mar. 6; 3½% as from Mar. 20. ‡ 3½% on Mar. 6, 3% as from Mar. 24. § 5½% on Mar. 8, 5% as from Mar. 24. ‖ 3½% as from Mar. 13. ¶ 7% as from Mar. 14. *x* 6¼% as from Mar. 1. *a* 6% as from Mar. 21.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913	14,191,275	855,648	1,389,481	16,436,404
1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
1924	35,038,605	1,594,114	2,900,145	39,532,864
1925	35,801,264	1,678,347	2,957,508	40,347,119
1926	35,346,429	1,660,757	2,817,868	39,825,054
1927	36,819,682	1,758,032	2,972,827	41,550,541
1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
1929 (Mar. 20)	9,207,529	428,764	690,242	10,326,535
1930 (Mar. 19)	8,683,719	417,048	580,948	9,781,715

SECURITY VALUES.

Base.	United Kingdom. "Bankers' Magazine." 365 representative securities. Dec., 1921 = 100. (a)	(b)	(c)	Nether-lands. Official. 49 Ordinary Industrial Shares. 1921-25 = 100. (e)	Sweden. Official 49 Industrial and Shipping Shares. (f)	Switzer-land. Banque Nationale (f) 32 Industrial Shares. Nominal value = 100 (g)	Canada. Official, 79 (i) Common Industrial Shares 1913 = 100.	United States. Standard Statistics Co. 342 Industrial Shares. (d)
1925—June	108·6	125·5	114·1	96	113	134·4	...	88·4
Dec.	108·8	132·5	116·5	95	131	144·6	...	
1926—June	110·0	136·5	118·7	91	146	176·9	93·2	
Dec.	109·3	135·7	118·0	91	150	175·4	107·0	100·0
1927—June	110·1	141·5	120·4	102	153	189·9	121·5	
Dec.	111·2	146·9	122·8	103	181	223·2	161·6	117·6
1928—June	112·4	152·7	125·4	111	226	243·6	170·0	
Dec.	112·1	158·8	127·3	115	252	252·8	237·3	154·3
1929—Apr.	111·9	159·5	127·3	116	244	231·3	269·3	193·4
May	110·4	157·4	125·6	121	240	235·7	269·3	192·6
June	109·8	157·9	125·4	121	246	245·8	264·1	191·0
July	109·3	162·0	126·5	121	256	243·2	271·2	202·7
Aug.	109·0	164·4	127·0	122	250	242·4	293·8	210·3
Sept.	108·9	165·4	127·3	118	241	239·3	315·8	216·1
Oct.	109·3	160·8	126·1	113	226	220·7	255·4	194·4
Nov.	108·5	147·0	120·9	98	215	212·4	209·4	144·8
Dec.	108·5	147·1	121·0	100	211	215·0	210·0	146·9
1930—Jan.	109·6	146·7	121·7	101	226	231·6	209·1	148·8
Feb.	110·1	146·3	121·8	...	228	232·9	...	155·9

(a) Fixed interest. (b) Variable dividend. (c) Total. (d) Monthly average. (e) Average of highest and lowest quotations on each Wednesday. (f) Shares of companies with a capital of more than 5 millions. The composition of this class, therefore, is not invariable. (g) On 25th of month. (h) End of month. (i) Since Jan., 1929, 92 shares.

U.K. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—(000,000's omitted.)

	Food. Imports.	Food. Exports.	Raw Materials. Imports.	Raw Materials. Exports.	Manu-factures. Imports.	Manu-factures. Exports.	Imports of Wheat.	Imports of Raw Cotton.	Imports of Sheep's & Lambs' Wool.	Exports of Cotton Piece Goods.	Exports of Iron and Steel.	Exports of Coal.
Monthly Average.	£	£	£	£	£	£	Cwts.	Centals.	Centals.	Sq. Yds.	Tons.	Tons.
1913	24·2	2·7	23·5	5·8	16·1	34·3	8·8	1·8	0·7	*589	0·41	6·1
1922	39·3	3·0	24·8	8·5	19·1	47·3	8·0	1·2	0·9	349	0·28	5·3
1923	42·5	3·7	27·1	10·9	21·4	48·3	8·4	1·1	0·8	345	0·36	6·6
1924	47·6	4·7	33·4	8·9	25·0	51·5	9·9	1·3	0·6	370	0·32	5·1
1925	47·6	4·6	35·4	7·0	26·7	51·4	8·1	1·6	0·6	370	0·31	4·2
1926	41·9	4·2	32·7	3·9	26·3	44·9	8·1	1·5	0·7	319	0·26	1·7
1927	44·9	4·4	29·3	6·4	26·9	47·0	9·2	1·3	0·7	343	0·35	4·3
1928	44·3	4·5	27·9	5·8	25·7	48·2	8·6	1·1	0·7	322	0·36	4·2
1929	44·7	4·6	28·3	6·6	27·9	47·8	9·3	1·3	0·7	306	0·36	5·0
1929—October	51·2	5·4	27·3	7·1	30·2	50·3	11·9	1·3	0·2	266	0·39	5·7
November	48·5	5·7	30·0	6·9	28·2	48·6	9·8	1·9	0·5	284	0·38	5·4
December	46·8	4·9	31·2	6·2	27·8	44·6	6·5	2·0	0·8	274	0·33	5·0
1930—January	42·9	4·6	30·1	6·9	28·0	44·7	7·0	1·7	1·0	315	0·35	5·5
February	37·3	3·7	24·0	5·8	25·8	41·2	5·6	1·2	0·8	300	0·29	4·7

* Yards.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.—(000,000's omitted.)

	Great Britain (*g*). Gross Receipts. Passengers.	Gross Receipts. Freight.	Freight Traffic (*f*). Mer-chandise.*	Coal, &c.	Other Minerals.	Total.	Austria. (*b*) (*h*)	Germany. (*a*)	Italy. (*e*) (*i*)	Canada. (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)	United States. (*d*) (*e*)
	£	£	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons. Ton-Miles.	Tonnes-Km	Tonnes-Km	Tonnes-Km	Ton-Miles.	Ton Miles.
1926—June	4·4	5·3	4·7	1·9	3·6	10·2 704	1,202	4,695	1,132	2,846	39,237
December	4·7	8·5	4·9	15·9	4·1	24·8 1,392	1,321	5,641	1,094	3,641	40,096
1927—June	6·1	8·8	5·1	15·5	5·8	26·4 1,401	1,249	5,126	1,095	2,611	38,483
December	4·8	8·7	5·1	17·2	4·8	27·2 1,400	1,209	5,398	928	4,128	34,580
1928—June	5·5	8·3	4·8	14·9	5·3	25·0 1,324	1,325	5,528	1,038	3,129	37,304
December	4·6	8·3	4·7	16·1	4·8	25·6 1,352	1,282	4,715	1,030	4,663	37,646
1929—April	4·3	8·9	5·3	16·1	5·8	27·2 1,436	1,289	5,746	1,009	3,343	38,334
May	5·0	8·9	5·2	16·5	6·0	27·7 1,465	1,278	5,506	1,076	3,404	42,027
June	5·2	8·4	4·8	15·7	5·6	26·1 1,392	1,335	5,603	1,087	3,318	40,725
July	7·3	9·1	5·2	16·8	5·8	27·8 1,491	1,457	5,976	1,114	3,295	41,991
August	8·3	8·8	5·1	16·9	5·6	27·6 1,483	1,472	5,924	1,063	2,860	44,944
September	5·6	8·9	5·2	16·6	5·5	27·3 1,480	1,436	5,894	1,086	3,688	44,219
October	4·4	9·7	5·8	18·1	6·1	30·0 1,603	1,411	6,367	1,181	3,924	47,814
November	3·7	9·3	5·4	18·4	5·7	29·5 1,564	1,311	5,792	1,075	3,020	39,723
December	4·5	8·2	4·7	17·6	5·0	27·3 1,426	1,323	4,874	...	...	36,040

* Inc. live-stock. (a) "Reichsbahn." Exc. free-hauled. † Provisional figure. (b) State and private railways, including freight on foreign lines. (c) Railways with annual operating revenues of at least $500,000. (d) Short tons = kg. 907·18; mile = metres 1,609·34. (e) Including free-hauled. (f) Excluding free-hauled. (g) Long ton = kg. 1,016·05; mile = metres 1,609·34. (h) Gross tonnage. (i) Fiscal year ending June 30.

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The Economist
MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT.

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In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," 1s. 6d.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The reports from the different industries, given on a subsequent page, are not encouraging, though it must be remembered that they relate mainly to the weeks immediately preceding the Budget and the Easter holidays. General trade statistics are also in many respects disappointing. Unemployment rose in March to 14 per cent., or four points above the preceding year. Even when allowance is made for the effect of the 1929 Unemployment Insurance Act in bringing persons back to the registers, it is discouraging to note that recent increases of unemployment embrace coal mining, iron and steel, engineering and shipbuilding, the textile trades and, in short, most of the staple industries of the country. The only offset was a seasonal improvement in the building trades. The foreign trade figures for March were also disappointing, while railway traffic receipts are also below their level of the preceding year. Iron and steel production figures, however, appear more promising, though unfortunately there is reason to fear that March output may have been in excess of sales, and that stocks are beginning to accumulate.

Nevertheless, there is perhaps reason to hope that we are at the lowest point of the curve. This does not mean that any sudden or marked improvement is likely, or that industry will do more this year than hold its own, with perhaps a slow upward trend. Still there are one of two facts to-day which support the view that bottom has now been touched.

The first fact is that the contents of the Budget are now known, and, while many industrialists are depressed by the further increases in direct taxation, which was already exceedingly heavy, it is some gain that the worst is now known, and Mr Snowden's assurance that, under normal circumstances, no further increase in taxation need be feared next year, should help to clarify the outlook. The motor industry has responded to the decision to continue the McKenna duties for the present, though in the long run it might have proved better for the industry to have repealed the duties at once, and so put an end to all doubt.

Another important fact is that the fall in some commodity prices seems for the time being to have reached its end. Non-ferrous metals recently had a further break, but agricultural products are much steadier. Wool, in particular, displayed increasing firmness as the recent London sales progressed, and it is most unfortunate that the industry should have been disturbed by labour troubles just at the time when it was obtaining the promise of a more stable basis. The good effect of the check to the fall in cotton prices has also been partially offset, so far as Lancashire is concerned, by the recent boycott proclaimed in India against British goods.

Prices of wheat and other cereals are also more stable, and, partly because of this and partly because of fresh foreign loans, news from South American markets is a little better. Canada also reports steadier grain prices, and there is apparently some hope that the Australian surplus wool will be disposed of more easily than at one time seemed likely. In short, except for non-ferrous metals, the world's commodity markets are now displaying greater firmness, and this is causing some return of confidence, even though it is still of a partial and hesitant character.

There is, unfortunately, one cause of anxiety to be mentioned. If the world price-level is to remain stable, it is clear that a repetition of last year's heavy and abnormal gold movements must be avoided. Unfortunately, there are signs of a further outbreak of speculation on Wall Street, which is causing an increase in brokers' loans and a movement of the dollar exchange against London, while during the past fortnight the Paris exchange has fallen from par practically to the lower gold point. The causes of the fall in the Paris rate are apparently the same as operated last year, namely, a demand for francs in order to finance tax payments and tourist expenditure, leading, as before, to heavy drafts upon French foreign balances. This year there is also an additional factor at work, namely, preparations for the impending reparations bond issue. It would be extremely inconvenient if a further gold influx into France were allowed to develop, and it is to be hoped that the inauguration of the Bank for International Settlements has been used as the occasion to concert measures to prevent so unfavourable a development. One thing that is clear is that the French authorities do not in the least want to have more gold forced upon them.

Such is the general trade position. In certain important

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—MARCH, 1930.

	Feb.	Mar.	Compared with Mar. '29.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %)	13·1	14·0	+ 4·0
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)*	5·5	5·4	− 0·1
Iron (thous. „)	597	666	+ 75
Steel („ „)	776	826	− 34
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	88·2	93·4	− 5·2
Re-exports („ „)	8·6	7·7	− 2·3
Exports („ „)	60·6	61·6	− 7·0
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000)	311	321	− 25
Shipping Freights (av. level[1])	76·5	75·5	− 27·1
COMMODITY PRICES („ „[2])	84·2	83·1	− 13·0
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	79	51	− 86
SECURITY VALUES (av. level[3])	121·8	123·3	− 4·0
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Currency Notes (million £'s)*	347	350	− 25
Bank Deposits („ „)*	1,751	1,719	− 58
Bank Advances („ „)*	988	991	− 5
Banks Cash Ratio [4] (%)*	10·5	10·7	+ 0·1
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)*	847	964	+ 72
Manchester („ „)*	12·8	11·8	− 1·8
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)*	3 11/32	2 21/32	− 2 27/32
Day-to-day Loans (%)*	4 1/16	3 1/32	− 1 31/32

(1) 1913 = 100. (2) *Economist* Index No.; 1927 = 100. (3) *Bankers' Magazine* Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921 = 100. (4) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts.

* Average weekly figures.

respects it is clearer, and not without hope. On the other hand, there are one or two new grounds for anxiety, and it must be emphasised that the recent trade setback and fall in prices have left several countries, notably Australia, with very difficult problems to solve. At home the immediate situation is not bright, and, while an improvement seems more likely than a further recession, it will inevitably be slow. Little real progress, in fact, can be looked for during the present year, and 1931 must probably be awaited for any pronounced forward move.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Coal.—Apart from some slight pressure immediately prior to the Easter holidays, business has remained restricted. Cardiff reports few export inquiries, and stocks are steadily growing. There has been a fair demand for house coal, but this is already beginning to fall away with the approach of summer. Demand for industrial fuel is no better.

Iron and Steel.—Although the March pig-iron production figures were fairly good, orders are slow in coming forward, and in some instances stocks are increasing. Demand for steel is also falling away, and while the output for March was surprisingly good, April is likely to register a decline.

Engineering.—No improvement is apparent, and the Budget and the Easter holidays have delayed any forward movement, though it is still too early to tell what effect the Budget will have on this industry. Some textile machinists are active, and there is a certain seasonal demand for agricultural machinery. Builders of locomotives and rolling-stock are fairly busy, as are makers of boilers and prime movers, and the latter class may experience a further improvement. Work in the shipyards is well maintained, considering the depression in shipping, but the yards are mainly engaged on motor ships and tankers. In general, the current year is not likely to prove so good for the engineering industry as did the last.

Electrical Industry.—The following index of production in the electrical industry is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations. An explanation of the manner in which it has been computed was given on page 888 of the *Economist* of November 28, 1925:—

INDEX of ACTIVITY in the ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY.

(1920 = 100.)

1927.	Home.	Export.	Total.	1928.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January	95	152	109	September	81	102	88
February	92	159	108	October	83	107	91
March	89	163	107	November	85	105	93
April	90	181	112	December	93	103	96
May	88	200	116	1929.			
June	94	234	128	January	92	122	99
July	93	231	126	February	92	126	101
August	90	236	126	March	88	126	97
September	87	230	122	April	86	145	100
October	81	208	112	May	84	143	99
November	80	192	107	June	84	149	101
December	69	160	92	July	90	151	106
1928.				August	88	140	102
January	68	148	88	September	81	150	99
February	68	143	87	October	76	191	106
March	71	141	89	November	71	216	109
April	70	122	84	December	60	228	102
May	68	108	79	1930.			
June	68	105	78	January	68	220	107
July	71	80	74	February	69	240	112
August	74	86	78	March	71	236	113

March witnessed some increase in activity in the home market, mainly as a result of orders for generating plant from London and the Midlands. Apart from a revival in Russian demand, export trade in less active.

Motor Industry.—In the private car section trade is disappointing, there being little indication of the usual seasonal activity. There is, however, a recovery in exports, though these do not compare favourably with the corresponding month last year. Commercial vehicle manufacturers are not so affected, a moderate demand being maintained both in the home market and from overseas. The motor cycle and cycle section continues fairly satisfactory in both home and export trade.

Cotton.—Raw cotton prices have been firmer, but there is less likelihood of any big decrease in acreage. Demand for American cotton is still overshadowed by the buying of outside growths, especially Brazilian. Indian demand for piece-goods has been suddenly checked by the boycott movement, and shippers are anxious as to what will happen to goods at present on their way to India. News from China is disappointing with poor clearances at the Shanghai sales. There has been little activity as regards minor outlets, but home trade is better, and some manufacturers now have slightly heavier order books. There has been an improved turnover in yarn, but prices have not improved, and output is less than 75 per cent. of capacity.

Wool.—Production at Bradford is seriously affected by the stoppage, some combers having all their machinery standing. Prices of wool and tops, however, remain firm, and there is a general opinion that the recent London sales have cleared the air, and that prices are at last becoming stabilised.

Linen.—Flax prices remain very firm, and the destruction last week by fire at Riga of some 8,000 or 10,000 tons of Soviet flax is bound to have a far-reaching effect. Spinners are busy, and March witnessed a large increase in cloth shipments to outside markets.

Rayon.—Some improvement has occurred, and the Budget has clarified the situation. The leading viscose producers have made alterations in their yarn standardisation, and have reduced the prices of many of their standard yarns. Special cheap grade yarns are unaltered in price.

Boots and Shoes.—Easter trade has proved disappointing, while it is feared that the new Australian tariff will have a serious effect. Still some hopes are entertained that a recovery from the present depression is imminent.

Pottery.—Home trade remains quiet, but exports show some improvement over last year. Some anxiety is felt, however, as to the effect of the new Australian and American tariffs.

Chemical Industry.—Markets have been extremely quiet and business unsatisfactory. March exports were below those of last year, the only improvements being in ammonium sulphate, sulphuric acid and zinc oxide. Taking the first quarter of the year, heavy chemicals show a small advance, but this is more than offset by declines elsewhere.

Building Trades.—Apart from a marked seasonal improvement in painting and decorating, employment remained quiet during March. Little change is reported in the brick industry.

Agriculture.—The mild winter has enabled autumn-sown crops to make good progress, except in the north, where March frosts have in places caused some damage. Lambing this year is fully up to the average, and mortality no more than normal. Pastures have made but little growth, and live-stock have only maintained fair condition in those districts where winter keep has been adequate. Milk yields are about average.

Shipping.—Cargo freights during April have been steadier after the violent fall of the past five months, and there have been signs of a slightly more active inquiry for tonnage to load South American grain. Generally, however, "tramp" shipping has continued to suffer from dull trade.

Retail Trade.—A London store reports trade to have been fairly brisk for the time of year, but that Easter records were slightly spoilt by inclement weather.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Some improvement occurred in Canada during March, and the fact that navigation on the St. Lawrence is likely to open this year at an unusually early date is also proving helpful. Wheat prices are now steadier, but the reduced purchasing power of the agricultural provinces is affecting general business.

Trade conditions in Australia remain depressed, and unemployment is increasing. Despite rain shortage in places, wheat crop prospects are normal. Wool awaiting sale amounts to 700,000 bales, as against 292,000 bales a year ago. The adverse trade balance for the past eight months is, including gold shipments, £15,000,000.

Business in South Africa remains quiet. A slight improvement has occurred in the wool market, but prices of hides and skins are still falling. Farming conditions remain satisfactory, and favourable climatic conditions prevail in the citrus-growing areas, where crop prospects are good. Tobacco reaping has begun in most districts. Sugar factories are now closed for the season, the final production being 299,000 tons.

Indian crop reports are on the whole good, but damage has been done by locusts to standing crops in the Punjab, and in some parts of Bihar and Orissa crops have suffered slightly from rain and hail storms. In Bengal, the sowing of jute and paddy is progressing satisfactorily, but more rain is needed.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The business curve turned upwards with the close of the first quarter of the year. Construction contracts registered a notable improvement in volume, and there was a moderate expansion in automobile production, which is now at the 1928 level. Steel mills are operating at 76 per cent. of capacity. Freight movements have undergone a seasonal increase, though still below the level of preceding years. Agricultural prices are recovering, and the distributive trades have improved.

The following indices of American economic conditions have been forwarded to us by Moody's Investors' Service, of New York and London:—

AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS—MARCH, 1930.

	Feb.	Mar.	Compared with Mar., '29.
EMPLOYMENT†—(June, 1914=100)	106·2	*x*	*x*
PRODUCTION—			
Bituminous coal (Thous. tons)	39,615	35,740	— 3,470
Pig-iron („ „)	2,839	3,238	— 476
Steel („ „)	4,068	4,289	— 760
Unfilled orders, U.S. Steel Corporation (Thous. tons)	4,480	4,571	+ 161
Building permits (Thous. $)	111,427*	154,537*	— 211,009
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (Thous. $)	281,790	*x*	*x*
Exports („ „)	348,962	*x*	*x*
TRANSPORT—			
Freight car loadings (Thous. cars)	3,506	3,515	— 316
SECURITIES—			
30 industrial stocks—Highest quotations‡	272·27	286·19	— 35·01
Lowest quotations‡	262·47	270·25	— 26·25
Thous. shares sold during month—(New York)	68,723	96,552	— 9,110
New securities issued (Thous. $)	365,868	911,082	— 138,781
BANK CLEARINGS—			
New York (Million $)	25,988	33,765	— 8,554
Other cities („ „)	15,859	17,618	— 2,563
RETAIL BUSINESS—			
Total sales, mail order houses§ (Thous. $)	46,031	48,501	— 4,912

* Preliminary estimates made by Messrs Moody, subject to revision. † Based on reports of U.S. Labour Bureau and of Bureaux of the States of New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. ‡ Average of actual prices. § Partly estimated. *x* Not available.

EUROPE.

The French coal industry is experiencing a decline in demand, and the iron and steel trades are meeting with keen competition in export markets, and are tending to rely more upon home business. The textile industries are still inactive, but raw material prices are much firmer, and a revival is confidently expected.

The Belgian coal and iron industries are passing through a quiet period, and trade elsewhere is rather inactive. A hopeful sign is the recent slight improvement on the produce markets.

German industrial conditions grew more depressed during March, and in so far as the heavy industries are concerned, little improvement is apparent. Some seasonal improvement is expected in employment, but business is held back by the fact that many traders in all sections of business are operating on a hand-to-mouth basis.

As regards Scandinavia, Norwegian shipowners find business is still depressed, and the paper market remains quiet, while wood pulp prices have a downward trend. There has been no improvement in Swedish business. Demand for pig iron has fallen away, and timber prices have declined. The freight market remains weak.

Dutch industry remains depressed, though there is evidence that many of the leading concerns are standing up well against the trade setback of the last six months. Agricultural conditions are less satisfactory.

In Central Europe, the Austrian building trades are active, but business generally is being affected by severe credit stringency. Hungarian foreign trade figures for early 1930 are satisfactory.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Argentine commercial situation is quiet. The total yield of this year's maize crop is estimated at 7,480,000 tons, which compares with 5,885,000 tons last year and 7,765,000 tons in the 1927-28 season. The Argentine Government has been successful in negotiating a short-term loan of $50,000,000 in the New York market, and the exchange is distinctly firmer than a month ago. The Brazilian outlook is brighter, a loan equivalent to £20,000,000 sterling having apparently been arranged with international banking houses in conjunction with a scheme to control coffee marketing arrangements. Chilean business shows little change. Imports at Santiago tend to increase, and the retail trade turnover is above that of last year. Business in Uruguay is quiet, and orders for imported goods are not being placed freely. A Law has been enacted authorising the Uruguayan Government to purchase over a period of five years the exportable surplus of wheat at a price of 5 pesos per 100 kilos. at port of embarkation for this year's crop. Business in Peru continues dull, but some improvement may take place with the recent stabilisation of the currency. Colombian trade is better. In Ecuador, latest advices regarding the 1930 cocoa crop, although somewhat less favourable, indicate that the harvest should be satisfactory. A steady improvement in business has taken place in Guatemala, where the outlook for the 1930-31 coffee crop is excellent.

FAR EAST.

Japanese business is very quiet, and has been affected to some extent by the restoration of the gold standard and subsequent gold losses. Nevertheless the commodity markets have remained very steady.

The Chinese position remains unsatisfactory, and clearances at the Shanghai auctions are of small dimensions.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION.

In the *Economist* of July 10, 1926 (pages 57-8), we published a new index of electrical production in the chief industrial areas of Great Britain. We show below a *résumé* of the results achieved during recent periods:—

INDEX of PRODUCTION of ELECTRICITY.*

(Monthly Average 1923-24 = 100.)

Date.	Britain, excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, etc.	Textiles, Cotton, and Wool.
1927.						
January	158	165	167	212	179	151
February	157	156	165	212	169	150
March	147	152	153	187	155	140
April	144	144	146	208	151	136
May	138	139	151	198	150	129
June	126	128	136	206	131	114
July	123	118	135	184	140	119
August	123	124	130	201	142	113
September	138	133	157	228	159	131
October	152	146	166	228	175	146
November	166	155	190	236	192	162
December	180	170	200	220	210	172
1928.						
January	174	164	195	232	199	173
February	170	162	188	249	195	164
March	170	165	192	252	195	159
April	149	149	164	226	164	132
May	140	136	170	223	163	125
June	141	138	160	248	158	130
July	131	127	149	248	151	124
August	130	131	131	227	147	116
September	150	145	164	263	175	138
October	161	153	185	245	189	154
November	178	164	215	240	206	169
December	181	171	210	195	210	176
1929.						
January	187	172	234	236	220	190
February	195	182	248	250	222	198
March	173	169	215	268	192	162
April	165	158	201	321	185	152
May	156	150	182	321	170	135
June	156	151	192	318	172	141
July	146	140	187	282	166	130
August	148	151	167	206	175	124
September	156	153	194	241	178	140
October	179	170	224	243	207	166
November	203	192	250	252	240	192
December	192	182	235	186	228	190
1930.						
January	192	176	255	250	231	192
February	198	183	260	287	237	184
March	184	171	240	250	226	172

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The decline in the March figures as compared with February is a seasonal movement, and allowing for this the March results are not discouraging. The textile areas remain the most depressed, and other areas are more active.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

THE general picture presented by the latest figures of our series of indices of business activity suggests that up to the end of March there were no signs of any recovery from the trade depression which began to develop in the autumn of last year. Indeed, a number of the curves point to a deepening rather than a lightening of the depression. The indices of the volume of employment, of the net imports of raw materials and non-ferrous metals, of the consumption of cotton, and of the exports of British manufacturers all show a further decline.

Certain qualifications, however, have to be borne in mind in considering several of these index numbers. In the first place, the usual quarterly estimate published by the Board of Trade, in which the volume of our imports and exports is ascertained by recalculating the figures of declared values in terms of 1924 prices, is unfortunately not available for this issue of the *Economist*. Hence, the index numbers both of British manufactured exports and of retained imports of raw materials probably under-state considerably the actual volume during the past three months. In the case of manufactured exports, the degree of under-statement may not be very substantial, but the decline in price of many primary products purchased from abroad has been so considerable since the last quarter of 1929 (whose price co-efficient forms provisionally the basis for the computation of the last three index figures) that it may be taken as certain that appreciably higher figures will have to be substituted for the raw material import indices during the first three months of 1930. Similarly, the apparent decline in the volume of employment is somewhat exaggerated by the effects of last year's Unemployment Insurance Acts, which have resulted in a fairly substantial number of persons being recorded as unemployed who did not previously figure on the registers. Until the revised totals of insured persons are published next autumn by the Ministry of Labour, in accordance with their usual practice, it is not possible to make allowance as between the different divisions of industrial employment for this special factor.

When due regard, however, is had for these considerations, the fact remains that the indices as a whole afford unmistakable evidence that the position of British industry and commerce is not very satisfactory. As compared with a year ago, the index of provincial bank clearings, which is computed in such a way as to allow for changes in the level of prices, suggests that there has been a definite setback in the activity of domestic trade turnover. The figure of the consumption of cotton index stands at a level eloquent of the depression in the textile industries—now aggravated by the partial stoppage in the wool textile trades; and even though, as already stated, price declines not yet fully allowed for exaggerate the shrinkage both in retained imports of raw materials and in the volume of manufactured goods exported, it is unlikely that these figures, when corrected, will fail even so to indicate a somewhat marked setback as compared with the corresponding figures for March, 1929.

On the other hand, it seems permissible to draw from the appended figures the consoling inference that the business reaction through which this country, in common with the rest of the world, has recently been passing, has not amounted to a particularly violent general slump. Shipping movements, it will be noted, are still higher than in any of the past six years at this time; the apparent consumption of iron and steel continues to be satisfactory; and though the indices of consumption of power do not reveal, in comparison with the figures for March, 1929, the same rate of expansion as was recorded by comparison for the previous twelve months, the percentage increase over the average for 1924 remains by no means discouraging. We discuss in another column the prospects for coming months. It may be some time before our indices of business activity show once more a positive upward movement; but though there can be no doubt that the curve of production and trade during the past quarter has "dipped," the downward fluctuation does not appear to have been quite so pronounced as pessimists would have us believe.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

1924 = 100.

Period.	Net Imports.		Consumption of			Consumption of Power.		Volume of Employment.				Merchandise on Railways.	Provincial Bank Clearings.	Postal Traffic.	Shipping Movements.	London Bank Clearings.	Exports British Manufactures.	Foreign Trade Turnover. (Quarterly Figs.)
	Raw Materials.	Non-Ferrous Metals.	Iron and Steel.	Cotton.	Rubber.	Coal.	Electricity.	Heavy Industry.	"General" Industry.	Miscellaneous Services.	Total.							
Monthly Average.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1919	113	74	96	109	143	89	...	...	...	...	...	109	92	...	59*b*	54	74	79
1920	106	71	99	113	134	91	...	...	...	...	...	100	113	...	69*b*	65	101	87
1921	56	50	43	74	79	69	...	...	...	...	...	81	82	...	66	76	67	68
1922	89	63	34	99	58	87	...	...	...	...	...	84	97	...	91	97	88	85
1923	88	92	69	93	118	91	...	...	...	...	...	97	98	...	101	97	95	94
1924	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925	107	107	89	116	137	93	101	90	103	103	101	98	102	103·5	98	104	101·5	102
1926	107*a*	100	57	98	175	72	92	57	101	104	95·5	88	94	103·5	90	109	94	100
1927	113*a*	106	133	113	197	106	109	87	108	108	105	99	102	109·5	105	117	104·5	107·5
1928	101	113	88	103	212	99	110	82	108	110	105	93	100·5	114	106·5	125	108	106
1929	113	120	103·5	106	271	106	116	84·5	109·5	112	107	95	99	115·5	111·5	130	109	112
"Corrected" average for 3 months ended:																		
1929—March	124	118	70	116	290	119	128	85	107	110	105	92	106	116	99	136	109	...
April ...	109	117	83	105	259	114	123	86	108·5	111	106·5	92	105	116	100	134	105	
May ...	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	108·5
June ...	105	135	106	103	265	98	108	84·5	110·5	113	107·5	94	98	114·5	113	126	106	
July ...	96	123	105	98	278	94	104	83·5	110·5	113·5	108	94	96	113	122	129	111	
August	92	123	114	85	299	95	102	84	110·5	114	108	94	96	113·5	119	129	109	109
Sept. ...	96	117	118	76	354	96	102	84·5	110·5	114	108	95	94	113	122	129	111	
Oct. ...	104	117	119	85	358	99	109	84·5	110	113·5	108	98	92	114	121	125	109	
Nov. ...	116	114	122	110	339	107	121	84·5	110	113	108	99	95	115	116	131	108	119
Dec. ...	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	99	99·5	116	111	132	110	
1930—Jan. ...	132*c*	131	126	120	226	114	132	84·5	108·5	112·5	107	97	99	120	107	133	106*c*	...
Feb. ...	121*c*	134	123	102	309	114	131	84·5	107	112·5	106	...	100	121	102	132	100*c*	...
March	111*c*	119	126	98	356	117	130	84	105·5	111·5	105	...	100	121	102	142	99*c*	...
Mar., 1924 ...	100	102	96	102	42	108	112	102·5	98·5	98·5	99·5	99	102	100	90	104	95	...
Mar., 1925 ...	130	110	105	127	111	107	116	94·5	101·5	100·5	100	100	106	105·5	92	107	107	...
Mar., 1926 ...	120	111	81	125	187	111	113	93·5	104	104	102·5	101	104	110·5	96	110	106	...
Mar., 1927 ...	137*a*	110	175	132	221	111	118	88	105·5	106	103	101	102	111·5	97	114	100	...
Mar., 1928 ...	111	124	102	110	248	114	123	86·5	108	109	105	96	106	117·5	97	125	108	...
Mar., 1929 ...	124	118	70	116	290	119	128	85	107	110	105	92	106	116	99	136	109	...
Mar., 1930 ...	111*c*	119	126	98	356	117	130	84	105·5	111·5	105	...	100	121	102	142	99*c*	...

a Excluding coal imports. *b* Excluding Government War Movements. *c* Provisional figures.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.
	d		*b k*		*g*		*b*		*j*	*e*		
1913	24,337	1,903	1,189	3,338	15,842	156	748	1,119	665	1,311	1,776	43,088
1925	20,590	1,925	1,047	*c*3,921	11,052	571	2,423	719	983	1,693	2,622	43,988
1926	10,692	2,110	1,181	*c*4,283	12,114	721	2,979	974	1,038	1,703	2,619	49,729
1927	21,355	2,298	1,168	*c*4,315	12,800	777	3,174	1,028	1,006	1,790	2,794	45,197
1928	20,129	2,295	1,213	*c*4,280	12,573	891	3,385	1,036	1,014	1,826	2,650	43,052
1929	21,736	2,244	1,396	4,486	13,620	960	3,851	1,022	1,052	1,875	...	45,510
				c								
1929—March	22,949	2,393	1,508	4,562	13,502	924	3,808	1,257	993	2,201	2,915	40,271
April	21,206	2,243	1,341	4,458	13,407	938	3,734	1,264	1,057	2,067	2,738	39,307
May	21,021	2,122	1,250	4,438	12,759	948	3,402	1,143	1,137	2,083	2,713	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	1,243	4,432	13,321	*m* 921	3,503	1,104	1,006	1,770	2,586	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	1,351	4,736	14,362	*m*1,024	4,024	1,023	1,168	1,579	2,569	41,393
August	20,867	2,220	1,398	4,568	14,467	*m* 984	3,942	1,025	1,097	1,576	2,323	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	1,439	4,299	13,480	*m* 958	3,951	928	1,039	1,905	2,499	46,545
October	23,358	2,280	1,556	4,858	14,835	*m*1,071	4,401	978	1,091	1,948	2,687	54,038
November	22,613	2,306	1,585	4,603	14,157	*m*1,002	4,115	924	1,013	1,566	2,804	46,919
December	21,764	2,237	1,443	4,363	13,652	*m* 958	4,023	895	995	1,894	2,886	48,859
1930—January	24,150	2,489	1,308	4,884	14,398	*m*1,060	3,806	958	1,054	2,057	...	51,543
February	22,066	2,274	1,179	4,481	12,168	*m* 985	2,990	824	969	2,273	2,601	41,469
March	† 21,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PIG IRON.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
					g	*a*	*f*		
1913	869	207	434	114	1,397	212	61	85	2,601
1925	530	212	*c*708	121	848	197	36	48	3,058
1926	208	283	*c*786	135	804	213	39	64	3,277
1927	617	313	*c*772	148	1,092	228	35	60	3,036
1928	560	325	*c*832	161	984	231	33	88	3,167
1929	542	341	870	175	1,117	242	40	92	3,580
			c						
1929—March	600	334	880	174	1,061	237	38	88	3,774
April	621	336	871	178	1,105	235	42	81	3,721
May	665	348	897	186	1,133	248	47	83	3,961
June	668	342	865	188	1,164	242	33	91	3,777
July	683	347	877	185	1,204	250	39	101	3,846
August	693	348	893	182	1,168	251	41	114	3,816
September	675	347	851	174	1,109	240	38	100	3,554
October	700	361	894	179	1,157	259	43	93	3,646
November	642	340	852	169	1,091	247	41	88	3,232
December	653	340	879	173	1,100	245	37	84	2,882
1930—January	650	343	875	174	1,092	250	37	88	2,873
February	617	315	810	162	965	231	38	72	2,884
March	676	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,290

STEEL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
			c		*g*	*a*	*f*		
1913	649	206	391	159	1,467	101	62	88	2,564
1925	625	212	621	131	1,016	174	43	64	3,737
1926	304	281	703	145	1,028	187	44	66	3,794
1927	770	309	691	158	1,359	206	44	77	3,675
1928	722	328	783	173	1,210	214	51	105	4,222
1929	817	344	806	184	1,369	225	60	117	h4,586
1929—March	874	349	804	179	1,314	221	59	139	5,139
April	822	342	810	186	1,415	226	59	124	5,017
May	857	340	820	188	1,421	230	70	128	5,358
June	844	349	797	190	1,430	219	49	121	4,960
July	818	356	815	199	1,466	235	59	132	4,916
August	765	365	827	192	1,402	238	68	122	5,006
September	862	347	763	185	1,231	224	61	101	4,583
October	904	369	847	200	1,377	242	70	118	4,584
November	828	333	786	179	1,286	231	65	95	3,569
December	672	323	812	168	1,156	217	56	84	2,943
1930—January	783	340	800	185	1,275	216	52	117	3,847
February	789	321	773	175	1,176	215	56	109	4,133
March	839	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,500

† Provisional figure. *a* Figures communicated by the "Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques." *b* Present territory. *c* Including Alsace-Lorraine. *d* Saleable coal; since end 1921 excluding Ireland. *e* British Provinces only. *f* "Ekonomisk Oversikt." *g* From 1918 excluding Alsace-Lorraine and from 1919 excluding Saar; from 1922, excluding Polish Upper Silesia. *h* Establishments whose production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. *j* Coal sold. *k* Until end 1928 saleable coal. *m* Including coal waste.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K. Board of Trade.	U.K. *Economist*.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Official).	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.
		a	*f*		*e*		*i j*					*j*						
1913	100	100	h100	h100	100	100	100	100	100	100	h100	100	100	100	h100	100	h100	100
1925	159·1	160·9	558	1,008	210	549·8	141·8	155	596	253	125·4	183	188	161	161·6	169·5	159	160·3
1926	148·1	149·4	744	954	163	702·6	134·4	145	603	198	*p*181·2	177	181	149	144·5	168·4	148	156·3
1927	141·4	143·7	847	979	153	617·2	137·6	148	495	167	*p*118·6	171	172	146	142·2	167·0	148	152·7
1928	140·3	140·9	843	977	153	619·6	140·0	149	462	161	119·8	177	167	148	144·6	164·7	145	150·6
1929	136·5	132·8	851	916	150	609·7	137·2	142	446	153	113·4	...	...	140	141·2	165·7	141	149·2
		b		*d*		*b*	*b*		*b*	*c*	*p k*	*d*	*c*		*c*		*b*	
1929—March	140·1	138·1	869	963	154	639·4	139·6	147	461	155	117·3	179	174	144	141·8	164·7	143	150·2
April	138·8	135·0	862	940	150	626·7	137·1	144	455	154	116·5	180	174	141	140·1	165·3	140	147·0
May	135·8	131·5	851	917	148	622·8	135·5	142	452	152	113·0	181	171	140	139·3	154·0	139	144·4
June	135·6	131·7	848	922	146	610·0	135·1	141	447	151	112·8	180	170	139	139·4	165·3	138	144·7
July	137·4	134·6	858	916	149	613·0	137·8	141	440	152	113·2	180	169	140	142·8	166·6	142	150·0
August	135·8	134·5	850	902	150	596·4	138·1	142	437	154	112·7	181	170	141	142·7	167·8	143	153·3
September	135·8	131·9	846	895	150	597·3	138·1	141	437	154	111·3	182	171	140	142·2	170·8	143	152·0
October	136·1	129·6	838	888	149	589·5	137·2	140	436	154	110·3	181	172	138	142·0	168·4	140	151·1
November	134·0	126·9	834	876	147	583·7	135·5	137	431	152	112·1	182	171	135	139·7	165·8	137	149·7
December	132·5	126·9	823	*g*126·1	146	575·8	134·3	135	425	152	109·0	182	172	134	138·6	161·8	134	150·3
1930—January	131·0	123·7	808	*g*124·2	143	564·0	132·3	131	417	150	104·8	...	172	131	135·6	158·0	131	149·4
February	127·8	121·0	791	*g*121·5	140	563·1	129·3	126	408	147	100·6	...	...	128	133·1	153·9	...	146·9
March	124·5	119·4	774	...	136	553·3	126·4	...	400	146	...	...	...	...	131·0	...	...	...

a New index. *b* End of the month. *c* 15th of month. *d* Beginning of the following month. *e* Official. *f* Second half of month. *g* Since date of stabilisation, gold index. *h* 1914. *i* *Frankfurter Zeitung* index discontinued. *j* End year. *k* Average last week of month. *l* Since 1924, new series. *p* Since January, 1926, new index.

Wholesale Prices—*Continued.*

Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States Bureau of Labour.
1913	100	100	100	100
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	144·1
1924	128·7	153·9	206·5	140·5
1925	127·6	159·4	201·7	148·3
1926	123·3	164·1	178·9	143·3
1927	*q*124·0	170·4	169·8	136·7
1928	*q*120·4	160·7	170·9	140·0
1929	116·1	163·7	166·2	138·3
	q	*q*		
1929—March	...	164·2	171·0	139·7
April	116·6	161·2	169·6	138·7
May	...	161·7	168·6	137·2
June	114·6	162·6	167·6	138·1
July	...	162·7	166·0	140·4
August	...	164·7	165·1	140·0
September	113·4	167·1	164·4	139·7
October	...	168·0	163·4	138·0
November	...	164·7	159·6	135·2
December	107·3	164·7	154·9	135·0
1930—January	...	164·7	152·2	133·8
February	...	169·6	151·0	131·9
March	...	174·7	...	...

Index Numbers of Retail Prices. Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)

Monthly Average.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	105	Vienna.	59	12	Paris.	71	Milan.	Madrid.	60	32
Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	1921.	1914.	1914.	Oct., 1913, Jan., April, June, 1914.	Jan.–June, 1914.	1914.	1926.	July, 1914.
			a	*c z*	*s*	*d*	*h*		*v w*	*e*	*d q*	*z y*
1925—July ...	173	188	97	133	3014	390	*b* 143·3	598	189	99·3	169
1926—July ...	170	182	103	174	2886	485	*b* 142·4	649	187	100·0	166
1927—July ...	164	171	106	204	2788	525	150·0	648	189	98·5	162
1928—July ...	165	173	108	205	2911	*w* 105	152·6	143	176	99·1	161
1929—July ...	163	174	112	216	...	113	154·4	148	...	100·1	162
					w i	*w x*	*b*				
1929—March	162	...	110	216	109·4	111	156·5	153	184	99·5	160
April ...	161	173	109	214	110·1	...	153·6	150	184	98·9	159
May ...	160	...	109	214	111·6	...	153·5	148	182	99·2	159
June ...	161	...	111	213	111·8	113	153·4	149	179	99·3	160
July ...	163	174	112	216	112·6	...	154·4	148	177	99·4	162
August	164	...	113	221	107·3	...	154·0	146	178	101·1	163
Sept. ...	165	...	113	225	106·3	113	153·6	147	178	100·9	163
October	167	179	113	229	107·3	...	153·5	149	179	101·1	163
Nov. ...	167	...	113	229	107·2	...	153·0	149	181	101·5	163
Dec. ...	166	...	113	228	105·8	115	152·6	150	181	101·6	163
1930—Jan. ...	164	179	113	226	104·9	...	151·6	150	182	102·2	160
Feb. ...	161	...	112	238	...	...	150·3	148	...	102·0	...
Mar. ...	157	...	111	...	...	115	148·7	147	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. *b* Gold mark prices. *c* Since 1923 gold prices. *d* Yearly average. *e* Prices of foodstuffs average of quarter. Last Wednesday of month. *h* Average of second quarter. *q* Revised. *s* 15th of month. *v* Since November, 1927, new series. *w* Since date of stabilisation gold standard index. *z* Average of quarter. *y* Compiled by National Industrial Conference Board.

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period. / End of	United Kingdom. Bank of England Notes. £	Austria. Bank Notes. Schilling.	Belgium. Bank Notes. Francs.	Bulgaria. Bank Notes. Leva.	Czecho-slovakia. Bank Notes. Koruna.	Denmark. Bank Notes. Kron.	Finland. Bank Notes. Markat.	France. Bank Notes. Francs.	Germany. Reichsbank Notes. Reichsmark.	Germany. "Rentenbank." Rentenmks.	Greece. Bank Notes. Drachmæ.	Hungary. Bank Notes. Pengő.	Jugo-Slavia. Bank Notes. Dinars.	Netherlands. Bank Notes. Gulden.	Netherlands. State Notes. Gulden.
	a		z						g	i		k	u		
1913	29·6	...	1,067	189	...	152	113	y 5,714	2,742	...	245	...	...	313	...
1923	404·8	713	7,537	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	37,763	f496507,424,772	...	4,681	931,337	5,790	1,066	32
1924	397·6	839	7,873	4,530	8,810	478	1,250	40,604	1,941	1,835	4,866	4,513,990	6,002	935	23
1925	385·3	890	7,814	3,655	8,408	438	1,309	49,993	2,960	1,476	5,395	416	6,063	875	17
1926	381·0	947	9,646	3,485	8,203	386	1,346	52,449	3,736	1,164	4,865	471	5,812	819	13
1927	382·3	1,005	10,951	3,727	8,417	354	1,514	56,301	4,564	716	4,966	487	5,743	797	12
1928	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	62,181	4,930	530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1929	369·8	1,094	e13,933	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1929-Mar.	361·8	1,004	12,812	4,101	7,333	357	1,596	64,575	4,822	i 504	5,488	458	5,265	835	12
Apl.	361·4	995	12,904	4,366	7,133	359	1,556	62,848	4,631	489	5,617	485	5,212	840	12
May	360·1	998	13,238	3,977	7,183	358	1,481	64,316	4,606	491	5,415	446	5,092	797	12
June	369·1	1,044	13,159	3,972	7,612	366	1,473	64,921	4,839	460	5,494	463	5,196	844	11
July	371·8	1,047	13,894	3,974	7,321	351	1,439	65,679	4,726	434	5,304	491	4,299	812	12
Aug.	364·0	1,046	13,871	4,121	7,500	361	1,448	66,468	4,897	432	5,214	480	5,659	844	12
Sept.	363·3	1,079	13,890	4,222	7,697	353	1,440	66,639	4,914	433	5,414	478	5,695	852	12
Oct.	358·8	1,081	14,360	4,255	7,763	372	1,377	68,267	4,833	407	5,364	526	5,773	826	12
Nov.	354·6	1,072	14,221	3,900	7,689	370	1,347	68,159	4,916	394	5,173	473	5,690	861	12
Dec.	369·8	1,094	14,175	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1930-Jan.	348·0	981	13,841	3,260	6,923	347	1,259	70,339	4,653	373	4,907	476	5,586	824	9
Feb.	346·8	974	13,992	3,148	6,838	352	1,369	71,116	4,722	365	4,842	441	5,560	826	11
Mar.	357·3	980	14,341	3,350	7,011	357	1,447	70,826	4,806	362	4,890	431	5,363	837	10

Period. / End of	Italy. Bank Notes. Lire.	Italy. State Notes. Lire.	Norway. Bank Notes. Kroner.	Poland. Bank Notes. Zloty.	Poland. Token Notes and Coins. Zloty.	Roumania. Bank Notes. Leu.	Russia. State Notes. Gd. Rbls.	Russia. Bank Notes. Rbles.	Sweden. Bank Notes. Kronor.	Switzerland. Bank Notes. Francs.	Australia. Bank Notes. £	Canada. Bank Notes and Dominion Notes. Dollars.	South Africa. Bank Notes. £	Egypt. Bank Notes. £E	United States. Bank Notes. Dollars.	United States. State Notes. Dollars.	Japan. Bank Notes. Yen.
				m	t	n	v	v			o	p					o
1913	d 2,284	w 499	108	...	...	437	...	...	234	314	r 10·0	116	2·3	2·2	726	343	426
1923	17,247	2,428	396	...	...	17,917	...	237	576	982	52·2	187	8·8	34·3	2,951	308	1,704
1924	18,114	2,400	391	551	151	19,397	229	411	537	914	56·9	177	9·1	40·2	2,555	297	1,662
1925	19,349	2,100	363	381	440	20,222	388	727	530	876	53·9	176	7·2	33·5	2,458	294	1,668
1926	18,340	1,793	337	593	428	20,951	398	797	525	874	49·9	190	6·6	27·8	2,458	298	1,377
1927	17,992	783	331	1,003	309	21,025	480	1,003	526	917	51·8	192	7·2	27·5	2,387	294	1,682
1928	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	21,211	730	1,091	546	953	48·7	193	7·6	30·3	2,428	295	1,739
1929	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·2	2,463	266	1,633
1929-Mar.	16,396	117	312	1,333	239	20,964	717	1,073	544	886	44·4	205	8·0	27·7	2,323	285	1,354
Apl.	16,274	104	308	1,274	231	19,968	776	1,120	518	875	43·0	183	7·6	26·8	2,296	278	1,364
May	16,251	99	305	1,244	227	19,080	748	1,103	519	872	42·5	184	7·9	25·1	2,301	290	1,299
June	16,753	96	318	1,298	234	19,113	805	1,192	560	898	42·3	199	7·8	23·3	2,349	263	1,462
July	16,877	96	315	1,293	240	19,188	833	1,238	522	900	41·6	184	7·6	21·8	2,372	244	1,250
Aug.	16,701	96	314	1,359	255	20,340	907	1,330	549	911	41·6	203	7·8	21·2	2,482	250	1,334
Sept.	16,916	90	316	1,354	260	21,393	983	1,428	580	944	41·9	206	7·5	25·2	2,473	266	1,286
Oct.	16,977	83	307	1,392	270	21,774	1,068	1,527	554	944	42·9	201	7·4	28·0	2,495	268	1,297
Nov.	16,828	80	303	1,366	267	21,387	1,092	1,538	573	928	42·8	203	7·7	27·2	2,530	276	1,346
Dec.	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,150	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·6	2,463	266	1,642
1930-Jan.	16,329	76	298	1,247	238	19,717	976	1,466	521	890	42·6	172	7·3	25·7	2,314	258	1,444
Feb.	15,095	73	297	1,282	225	19,957	...	o 1,536	534	893	43·3	...	7·4	25·5	2,279	270	1,277
Mar.	...	...	305	1,324	m227	...	...	o 1,556	575	918	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a Until November, 1928, including State notes, then transferred to Bank. d In terms of new lire = 8,373 millions. e Excluding Government notes. f Milliards. g Marks—including Reichs- und Darlehenkassenscheine. i Excluding notes held by Reichsbank. k Until end 1924 paper kronen. (One pengő = 12,500 paper kronen.) m Token coin 185·5 million Zloty. o Gross issue. p Excluding notes held as reserve by Chartered Banks. r State notes. t Since January, 1926, excluding notes held by Bank of Poland. u Since 1920, including Austria-Hungarian and other notes converted after the war into National Currency. v Since 1926, excluding notes held by the State Bank. w In terms of new lire = 1,829 millions. y In terms of new francs. z Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since Oct., 1926, including Government Notes of 5 and 10 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris. Francs to £1.	Brussels. Belgas to £1.	Italy. Lire to £1.	Switzerland. Francs to £1.	Madrid. Pesetas to £1.	Amsterdam. Florins to £1.	Stockholm. Kronor to £1.	Oslo. Kroner to £1.	Copenhagen. Kroner to £1.	Berlin. Marks to £1.	Vienna. Schillings to £1.	New York. Dollars to £1.	Buenos Aires. Pence Dollars.
Par level	124·21	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58½	4·86⅔	47·62
Highest, 1929	124·37	34·96⅝	93·27½	25·24⅝	36·92	12·13	18·18⅜	18·21½	18·22½	20·58	34·75	4·88 7/16	47⅞
Lowest, ,,	123·68	34·84⅞	92·52	25·08⅞	29·67	12·05⅞	18·08⅜	18·18⅞	18·17⅞	20·31½	34·41	4·84 3/16	44
Beginning of—													
July, 1914	25·15	† 25·35½	25·25½	21·16½	26·10	12·11¾	18·30	18·25	18·30	20·49½	‡ 24·55	4·87⅝	47 1/16
January, 1923	66·30	† 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	‡ 330,000	4·68	44
January, 1924	87·85	† 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅝	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	19½ billions	‡ 305,500	4·29⅜	40 7/16
January, 1925	87·40½	† 94·79½	112·35	24·34½	33·95½	11·71½	17·62½	31·37½	26·85½	19·94½ gld. mks.	‡ 337,500	4·74 11/16	46 5/16
January, 1926	129·31½	†107·00	120	25·08½	34·31½	12·05	18·08	23·83½	19·60½	20·37½ ,,	34·37½	4·85 1/16	46 7/16
January, 1927	122·81½	34·89	109·62½	25·14½	31·23½	12·12⅞	18·15½	19·04½	18·20	20·43⅞ ,,	34·42½	4·85 9/16	46 13/16
January, 1928	124·00	34·92½	92·32½	25·27⅞	28·24	12·09½	18·11½	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½ ,,	34·52	4·87 13/16	46 13/16
January, 1929	124·10½	34·88⅞	92·64	25·18⅝	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17⅞	20·38½ ,,	34·44½	4·85 1/16	47 13/16
January, 1930	123·91	34·88⅞	93·22	25·13⅞	36·62½	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20½	18·20½	20·43⅛ ,,	34·65½	4·87 11/16	47⅜
February, ,,	124·02	34·904	92·91	25·19⅞	37·33½	12·12	18·12½	18·21	18·19⅜	20·36⅛ ,,	34·54	4·86 7/16	45 13/16
March, ,,	124·21	34·88½	92·80	25·14⅞	39·80	12·12	18·11⅞	18·17½	18·16½	20·36⅛ ,,	34·50½	4·86 3/16	42⅛
April, ,,	124·29	34·86½	92·78	25·13	38·60	12·11⅝	18·10½	18·17	18·16⅞	20·38 ,,	34·51½	4·86½	43 13/16

	Rio de Janeiro. Pence to Milreis.	Monte Video. Pence to Dollars.	Valparaiso. Pesos to £1.	Bombay. Pence to Rupee. s. d.	Hong Kong. Sterling to Dollar. s. d.	Shanghai. Sterling to Tael. s. d.	Japan. Sterling to Yen. s. d.	Singapore. Sterling to Dollar. s. d.
Par level	16	51	40	1 6	...	...	2 0½	...
Highest, 1929	5 15/16	51¼	39·79	1 6 5/32	2 0 13/16	2 7⅞	2 0 1/16	2 4½
Lowest, ,,	5 3/16	45¼	39·37	1 5 27/32	1 7¾	2 1 1/16	1 9 13/16	2 3⅝
Beginning of—								
July 1914	16 1/16	51¼	§9⅞	1 3 31/32	1 10⅝	2 6½	2 0½	...
January, 1923	5 5/16	44	34·70	1 4 5/32	2 3⅛	3 0⅝	2 1	2 4 3/16
January, 1924	5⅝	43¾	40·30	1 5½	2 4⅝	3 4 1/16	2 1⅝	2 4 3/16
January, 1925	5 13/16	50¼	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3⅛	3 1 1/16	1 7¼	2 4 1/16
January, 1926	7 1/16	50⅜	39·80	1 6 1/16	2 4⅝	3 1⅛	1 9 15/16	2 4 1/16
January, 1927	5 13/16	50½	39·65	1 6 1/16	1 11 13/16	2 5⅝	2 0 3/32	2 3 13/16
January, 1928	5 27/32	51	39·35	1 6 3/16	2 0¼	2 7½	1 11 7/32	2 4 3/32
January, 1929	5 27/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/16	2 0 3/16	2 7½	1 10⅞	2 3 25/32
November, ,,	5 27/32	47⅝	39·62	1 5 15/16	1 9⅝	2 3 1/16	2 0 1/16	2 3¾
December, ,,	5 25/32	47½	39·60	1 5 15/16	1 8 11/16	2 3	2 0 1/16	2 3 9/64
January, 1930	5 11/16	46½	39·80	1 5 31/32	1 8	2 1½	2 0 1/16	2 3⅞
February, ,,	5 11/16	43¾	39·78	1 5 27/32	1 7 1/16	1 11¾	2 0¼	2 3 17/32
March, ,,	5 13/16	44	39·82	1 6 1/16	1 6 3/16	1 11½	2 0 11/16	2 3⅜
April, ,,	5 13/16	45½	39·93	1 5 27/32	1 6½	1 11½	2 0 13/16	2 3⅝

Place.	Method of Quoting.	March, Quotations. Highest.	Lowest.	Average *
New York. Mar., 1929	Dollars to £1.	4·85⅝	4·84 1/16	4·853
Feb., 1930		4·86 11/16	4·85 7/16	4·862
Mar., 1930		4·87 1/16	4·85⅞	4·863
Paris. Mar., 1929	Francs to £1.	124·31½	124·12½	124·236
Feb., 1930		124·32	123·95	124·201
Mar., 1930		124·36	124·19	124·260
Amsterdam. Mar., 1929	Florins to £1.	12·12 1/16	12·10	12·115
Feb., 1930		12·13½	12·11½	12·123
Mar., 1930		12·13½	12·11¾	12·124
Berlin. Mar., 1929	Rchmks. to £1.	20·47	20·44½	20·455
Feb., 1930		20·37½	20·35½	20·366
Mar., 1930		20·43½	20·36	20·382

† Francs to £1. § Pence to Peso. ‡ Krone to £1. * Daily rates.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. Monthly Average.	U.K. £	Irish Free State. £	Belgium. Francs.	Bulgaria. Leva.	Denmark. Kroner.	Estonia. Ekr.	France. Francs.	Finland. Markka.	Germany. Mark.	Greece. Drachmæ.	Italy. Lire.	Jugo-Slavia. Dinars.	Netherlands. Gulden.	Poland. Zloty.	Swed'n. Kronor.	Switzerland. Francs.	Egypt. £E.	United States. Dollars.
	t		m	f		s	g	f	d	e f	b	a		c		f		
1913	54,931	...	386,384	15,775	64,785	...	701,778	41,035	897,474	i 14,828	303,803	...	325,231	...	70,545	159,985	2,271	147,932
1924	94,789	5,632	1,475,061	463,109	184,874	683,684	3,346,901	392,956	756,901	669,914	1,615,056	685,145	196,961	211,875	118,708	207,000	4,086	297,926
1925	97,223	5,162	1,488,378	606,958	161,382	8,046	3,712,700	459,959	1,030,171	848,069	2,183,374	729,407	204,583	229,589	120,535	219,427	4,678	348,018
1926	92,989	5,043	1,920,460	520,578	127,319	7,964	4,968,923	472,309	833,454	833,745	2,156,571	635,982	203,496	128,242	124,151	201,209	4,199	367,340
1927	91,282	5,012	2,422,921	510,749	131,508	8,035	4,420,823	532,157	1,185,672	1,050,162	1,697,900	607,191	212,405	240,998	132,030	213,650	3,896	346,924
1928	89,716	4,928	2,668,468	586,745	135,350	10,948	4,454,963	667,742	1,166,250	1,035,760	1,826,702	652,944	223,659	280,180	142,330	228,723	4,123	339,820
1929	92,654	z 4,930	2,951,467	691,988	141,305	10,261	4,857,052	582,882	1,119,549	1,106,294	1,779,415	632,982	229,358	259,248	147,708	231,987	4,453	362,056
1929—Feb.	81,048	4,339	2,698,172	443,006	87,325	6,322	5,162,237	333,831	1,014,756	901,867	1,799,476	403,986	177,426	264,911	87,035	188,515	4,002	364,188
Mar.	88,607	5,612	3,039,941	643,671	107,057	6,619	4,934,124	349,442	1,021,862	1,128,813	1,988,306	684,571	215,929	233,289	89,020	225,466	3,965	371,215
April	93,792	5,306	2,984,179	766,633	203,078	14,381	5,143,715	710,897	1,254,353	1,267,772	1,976,048	713,679	234,020	321,140	205,786	243,396	4,632	396,825
May	93,020	5,088	3,224,335	931,728	157,403	13,179	5,061,457	819,278	1,131,273	1,160,446	1,888,473	701,204	235,358	271,917	168,031	226,332	4,035	381,114
June	81,882	4,797	3,034,764	788,976	129,081	10,038	5,165,042	645,437	1,077,445	1,013,373	*2,266,753	614,557	229,834	271,746	145,188	212,873	3,779	350,336
July	85,581	5,353	3,066,082	831,448	135,602	10,681	4,627,293	639,553	1,226,395	1,098,053	1,567,459	655,474	240,442	266,447	137,685	244,162	4,127	347,133
Aug.	91,973	4,784	3,086,975	684,036	142,420	11,200	4,339,533	610,470	1,072,518	902,840	1,413,820	635,460	247,061	226,535	142,533	235,160	4,391	372,757
Sept.	91,633	5,138	2,939,266	683,393	158,765	10,923	4,353,136	623,804	1,038,321	1,193,419	1,436,249	656,637	230,557	247,457	171,261	223,097	4,657	356,512
Oct.	101,150	z 5,328	3,203,741	668,369	157,718	10,597	4,515,576	653,513	1,106,672	1,203,316	1,579,358	748,061	257,688	257,247	176,120	244,133	5,128	396,227
Nov.	99,981	z 4,959	2,841,291	655,284	155,315	9,606	4,789,413	571,187	1,161,020	1,207,637	1,530,362	621,862	237,720	243,448	166,904	260,027	5,235	332,635
Dec.	98,637	z 4,180	2,906,253	628,448	139,851	8,404	5,019,755	533,344	1,014,634	1,116,092	*1,995,769	599,604	214,464	212,807	160,405	268,338	4,920	302,692
1930—Jan.	93,680	z 4,292	2,934,499	401,026	142,003	9,240	4,777,565	308,986	1,304,860	918,944	1,502,169	560,912	220,460	216,668	136,682	208,159	6,257	316,704
Feb.	79,563	z 4,547	...	...	130,948	7,859	4,807,926	296,906	981,638	852,988	1,492,086	†521,000	201,130	181,669	126,415	204,956	...	281,790
Mar.	85,760	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227,402	...	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
			m	f		s	g	f	d	e f	b	a		c		f		
1913	43,771	...	302,882	7,778	53,113	...	573,351	33,482	841,436	i 9,917	209,303	...	255,453	...	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,024
1924	66,747	4,190	1,151,126	408,519	184,874	655,483	2,530,743	414,217	545,971	272,182	1,197,746	794,898	138,388	181,437	105,079	172,511	5,472	374,804
1925	64,448	3,615	1,228,662	470,206	149,067	8,054	3,882,676	464,459	733,208	381,189	1,522,855	742,045	150,641	182,235	113,318	169,895	4,928	401,560
1926	54,421	3,432	1,661,198	468,133	117,131	8,020	4,936,893	469,712	815,265	452,479	1,555,377	651,515	145,767	187,192	118,293	153,041	3,435	392,643
1927	59,090	3,681	2,218,975	552,262	120,546	8,815	4,577,063	527,031	851,952	503,118	1,302,662	533,346	158,309	209,562	134,715	168,604	3,977	396,572
1928	60,286	3,799	2,573,408	519,271	128,752	10,592	4,281,227	520,440	970,050	523,506	1,213,253	537,058	165,515	208,999	131,222	177,870	4,584	419,176
1929	60,796	z 3,839	2,683,778	527,999	134,201	9,789	4,172,695	535,560	1,056,918	582,100	1,240,533	660,142	165,791	234,447	150,480	175,371	4,225	430,923
1929—Feb.	55,665	3,037	2,391,585	379,755	98,871	5,585	4,117,941	184,156	d 916,472	629,980	1,088,384	385,074	123,615	167,465	77,448	163,024	4,472	434,529
Mar.	58,623	3,136	2,697,186	543,821	117,432	4,779	4,180,206	192,904	928,365	767,824	1,190,440	499,413	175,091	161,525	95,251	179,840	5,208	481,710
April	60,244	3,309	2,828,081	720,041	147,394	9,637	4,419,445	368,918	1,158,881	449,479	1,247,919	614,982	168,870	214,319	149,514	176,976	5,124	418,051
May	67,437	3,469	2,459,168	550,330	151,329	9,421	3,958,909	497,671	1,093,515	314,669	1,256,097	533,661	175,252	226,840	162,149	170,399	4,012	377,083
June	49,893	3,871	y3,657,984	563,718	142,507	11,513	4,349,341	675,463	1,011,154	201,661	*1,548,162	530,235	165,389	237,891	168,797	169,818	3,057	386,799
July	66,520	3,902	2,516,856	395,096	137,083	13,517	4,269,148	801,616	1,028,431	258,859	1,054,166	621,314	70,247	276,441	168,328	174,836	3,094	393,838
Aug.	63,045	4,309	2,559,199	397,868	142,759	12,800	3,804,235	904,418	1,119,371	357,320	1,210,462	1,006,190	182,660	280,717	177,041	173,502	2,824	374,725
Sept.	55,104	4,464	2,843,208	517,150	144,921	11,858	4,221,004	714,052	1,130,362	615,289	1,233,150	721,135	181,840	262,013	179,946	180,539	1,649	431,809
Oct.	64,589	z 4,976	2,847,256	595,449	136,940	11,502	4,385,958	730,815	1,154,192	802,827	1,348,236	991,279	184,863	259,427	185,450	199,973	4,517	522,548
Nov.	63,125	z 4,743	2,541,675	690,038	139,329	9,373	4,267,785	595,126	1,090,583	913,172	1,315,702	814,055	165,617	256,137	174,315	183,915	6,285	435,450
Dec.	58,430	z 3,986	2,758,174	466,768	137,899	9,586	4,396,484	451,925	1,002,701	624,273	*1,309,725	778,663	143,853	254,751	158,102	177,760	5,078	420,672
1930—Jan.	58,232	z 3,589	2,205,917	584,047	138,635	7,256	3,714,387	319,358	1,033,501	728,303	973,674	616,151	151,858	218,591	111,712	147,143	4,119	404,849
Feb.	51,924	z 3,578	...	...	114,037	6,657	4,017,787	258,797	961,784	434,809	1,080,121	...	144,517	218,092	99,624	157,436	...	343,071
Mar.	53,946	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157,930	...	...

a Including bullion and specie. b Since 1922 declared values. c Including Dantzig. d Since January, 1922, gold marks valuation. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Including bullion. g Since 1927 declared values. i Old Greece only. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." t From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. s Including bullion: until end 1924 Eesti mk. (1 Ekr. = 100 E mk.). z Excluding parcel post. † Provisional figures. * Including parcel post for the half-year.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period. Monthly Average.	Value. Australia. £'s.	British India. Rupees.	Canada. Dollars.	New Zealand. £'s.	South Africa. £'s.	Japan. Yen.	Brazil. Milreis.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
	g	b					a	q	o			e	i		j		f
1913	6,355	152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	...	3,685	h 6,069	p 84	...	3,739	...	661	494
1924	11,960	196,493	67,350	3,995	5,302	240,726	232,463	2,784	482	4,716	3,216	150	376	1,888	201	664	369
1925	12,350	186,899	74,189	4,308	5,459	207,223	281,403	2,772	565	3,954	4,331	175	370	2,117	284	546	414
1926	13,429	196,606	84,028	4,073	5,804	192,101	225,463	2,859	554	3,783	3,606	156	450	2,362	203	590	412
1927	11,890	206,740	90,593	3,655	5,770	174,883	272,764	3,172	613	4,114	5,674	190	528	2,385	409	621	460
1928	11,361	208,172	101,860	3,661	6,291	177,792	307,916	3,293	780	4,112	5,498	197	553	2,488	430	667	487
1929	11,850	208,155	108,249	4,004	6,663	180,710	...	3,747	836	4,954	5,563	231	559	2,582	424	726	...
1929—Feb.	10,593	198,957	97,042	3,623	5,553	235,273	291,610	3,001	513	4,288	3,399	199	365	1,587	411	521	472
Mar.	10,954	225,554	135,329	3,768	6,554	206,296	313,284	3,626	807	4,690	4,164	211	488	1,737	358	703	515
April	11,142	246,341	97,517	3,945	6,677	208,843	277,054	3,598	737	5,073	5,543	266	550	2,330	544	728	490
May	10,659	215,546	125,615	3,186	7,044	214,695	343,502	3,783	827	4,921	5,886	242	564	2,846	484	701	540
June	12,237	166,854	111,949	3,358	6,308	171,128	279,860	3,677	895	5,322	5,896	205	611	2,905	487	709	478
July	12,675	191,246	114,201	4,391	7,271	163,370	209,544	3,973	911	5,062	6,560	250	663	3,041	473	889	527
Aug.	12,267	203,505	111,631	4,207	7,031	164,590	304,626	4,095	918	5,121	6,700	191	651	3,195	418	861	568
Sept.	12,150	193,882	99,380	5,014	6,312	131,861	270,021	4,160	929	5,151	6,146	237	678	2,867	402	780	493
Oct.	12,729	195,138	116,261	4,359	6,781	148,951	275,487	4,303	893	5,037	6,102	242	608	2,895	384	795	488
Nov.	13,141	225,531	108,734	3,957	6,865	143,894	272,863	3,710	955	5,173	5,864	255	566	2,712	317	706	487
Dec.	10,443	167,025	84,365	3,927	5,858	156,804	275,506	3,933	850	5,292	5,183	251	531	2,592	373	738	512
1930—Jan.	12,255	230,819	84,662	...	† 5,668	180,940	...	4,023	630	5,210	6,318	194	381	2,698	320	651	...
Feb.	9,390	169,115	80,922	a 4,191	† 5,275	† 159,000	...	...	545	4,383	5,044	189	...	2,371	281	611	...
Mar.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	652	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
	g	b			c		a					e	i		j		f
1913	6,070	200,993	36,333	1,751	2,294	52,393	81,814	1,740	...	1,840	h6,143	p 50	...	2,461	...	71	115
1924	13,075	308,807	88,171	4,275	3,148	146,741	321,963	1,697	o 1,036	2,499	1,325	34	141	844	1,312	68	153
1925	11,689	330,960	105,916	4,499	3,794	184,968	335,164	1,744	o 1,014	2,532	3,194	47	182	1,028	1,134	67	160
1926	10,821	268,689	105,715	3,648	3,311	164,371	265,880	1,933	o 1,067	2,712	5,048	45	216	1,319	1,859	70	155
1927	11,268	265,405	101,528	3,916	3,984	159,313	303,677	2,019	o 1,167	3,166	3,912	53	169	1,195	1,696	86	168
1928	11,069	275,534	112,489	4,511	4,057	159,095	330,856	2,214	o 1,124	3,427	3,754	54	175	1,310	1,702	81	173
1929	10,005	268,709	98,536	4,472	3,738	175,075	...	2,147	1,092	3,324	4,570	62	232	1,358	1,753	87	...
1929—Feb.	15,988	279,891	82,259	7,952	4,154	145,147	322,452	1,590	o 691	3,273	2,817	57	119	849	1,347	57	150
Mar.	15,417	314,442	114,763	7,450	3,575	162,673	313,106	1,933	1,025	3,108	3,588	65	190	1,140	1,155	81	174
April	11,532	274,448	65,728	5,374	3,565	171,995	319,177	2,225	1,192	3,217	4,608	44	200	1,456	1,527	86	189
May	9,393	257,971	107,473	3,393	3,355	178,751	293,683	2,043	1,078	3,087	4,479	49	172	1,475	1,612	91	176
June	6,766	262,113	112,176	4,016	2,246	154,421	290,945	2,473	1,094	3,617	4,391	62	179	1,375	1,792	92	168
July	6,023	250,796	102,219	2,609	2,948	184,338	352,882	2,188	1,106	3,741	4,817	72	239	1,508	2,140	95	177
Aug.	5,765	268,170	96,265	2,349	2,965	214,978	363,292	2,183	1,093	3,214	5,094	47	266	1,528	2,200	86	205
Sept.	7,595	258,709	87,751	2,083	3,053	187,344	347,929	2,265	1,005	3,609	5,602	71	319	1,482	1,996	87	189
Oct.	8,989	257,097	119,266	2,233	5,278	201,767	338,900	2,281	1,176	3,217	5,305	82	320	1,503	1,892	129	187
Nov.	10,056	268,749	111,068	2,811	5,170	168,719	300,972	2,161	1,358	3,314	5,071	85	323	1,474	2,071	97	211
Dec.	9,330	234,744	88,520	4,493	6,304	157,107	282,799	2,239	1,394	3,485	5,274	62	309	1,285	1,779	80	207
1930—Jan.	6,529	265,272	73,507	a 6,309	† 2,575	144,184	...	1,998	830	2,908	5,375	67	195	1,394	1,733	75	...
Feb.	8,692	243,672	66,690	a 5,557	† 2,327	† 118,000	...	...	747	3,327	4,552	60	...	1,291	1,574	65	...
Mar.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75	...

a General trade. b Sea-borne trade only. c Including ships' stores. e Until Feb., 1923, Julian Calendar; excludes articles shown by number. f General trade, gross weight. g From 1916–21, fiscal year beginning on July 1st. h Including Luxembourg. i Excluding live stock and articles shown by number. j Excluding weight of two animals. o Including a few goods declared by number only. p 1914. q Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." † Provisional figure.

CAPITAL ISSUES.—(000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Czecho-Slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Rou-mania.	Sweden.	Switzer-land.	British India.	Japan.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	Schilling.	Koruna.	Francs.	Mark.	Lire.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Lei.	Kroner.	Francs.	Rupees.	Yen.	Dollars.
		b		*d*	*m*	*f*	*ch*	*y*			*o*			*p*
1913	16·3	...	...	...	60	23	13	...	20	18	44	56	45	...
1923	22·6	18,206	48	955	*p*	332	19	...	320	19	62	21	176	359
1924	17·4	26,992	31	605	15·0	504	30	3·1	262	20	51	19	219	466
1925	19·4	2·3	21	329	55·1	746	33	7·7	219	16	56	29	204	518
1926	19·2	2·4	24	412	74·8	473	48	6·1	541	13	59	16	228	529
1927	29·6	9·7	31	626	114·1	264	43	17·7	282	22	73	17	255	649
1928	30·8	10·9	60	896	110·0	450	50	27·5	384	31	57	24	335	676
1929	23·8	7·6	55	1,250	80·2	607	29	4·6	318	23	81	56	...	850
1928.														
July-Sept.	15·3	7·5	60	726	108·0	580	24	23·2	463	24	23	22	376	386
Oct.-Dec.	26·1	9·1	41	1,310	128·3	415	70	39·4	283	26	58	18	228	919
1929.														
Jan.-Mar.	32·3	14·4	35	1,072	118·8	492	49	14·1	318	14	104	37	216	931
Ap.-June	25·8	0·5	27	1,199	112·5	794	20	26·5	479	29	143	127	332	859
July-Sept.	6·2	3·4	108	993	54·9	546	15	11·7	295	15	30	34	200	677
Oct.-Dec.	30·6	12·8	51	1,737	34·6	594	33	24·3	179	32	47	25	...	566
December	5·4	5·2	28	1,490	28·8	519	18	30·6	181	66	40	19	183	574
1930.														
January	13·9	4·8	30	1,313	163·0	318	47	...	491	16	76	26	102	747
February	22·4	1·7	49	3,261	34 0	711	...	...	369	8	272	26	...	...
March ...	57·3	...	...	...	...	394	...	...	...	28	...	...	...	...

Unless otherwise stated, the figures represent authorised share issue of new joint stock companies at home, and the increase of capital of existing companies. Bonus shares are excluded from the figures of the U.S.A., Roumania, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. In the case of the Netherlands and the U.K. both bonus shares and conversions are excluded. *b* Until end 1924, kronen. *c* Excluding Treasury Bills. *d* Exc. large railway issues. *f* "Rivista Bancaria." *h* Issues exceeding Fls. 100,000 on the Dutch market including Colonial, and since Jan., 1925, foreign issues. *m* Since 1924, excluding amalgamations and conversions. Until end 1922 paper mark. *o* "Société de Banque Suisse," invitation for subscriptions on Swiss market including obligations and Local Govt. loans. *p* India, compiled by "Commercial & Financial Chronicle." *y* Up to 1928, authorised issues, excluding western departments; since 1929 amounts actually issued, whole territory.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Percentage of persons unemployed in trade unions or in official unemployment insurance schemes (Belgium and U.K.).

End of Month.	U.K.	Belgium.	Den-mark.	Ger-many.	Nether-lands.	Norway.	Sweden.	Aus-tralia.	Canada.
1921—June	17·8	9·9	16·8	3·0	8·1	20·6	27·7	12·5	13·2
December	16·2	6·6	25·2	1·6	16·6	23·4	33·2	9·5	15·1
	i								
1923—June.....	11·3	0·8	8·1	4·1	10·8	7·9	9·8	7·1	3·4
December	10·7	1·7	19·6	28·2	17·3	14·0	14·1	6·2	7·2
1924—June	9·4	1·0	5·1	10·4	7·2	4·3	7·3	8·3	5·9
December	10·7	1·5	13·2	8·1	12·3	12·5	15·5	10·3	11·6
1925—June	11·9	1·0	9·3	3·5	6·6	8·9	8·2	10·2	6·1
December	10·4	2·8	31·1	19·4	16·0	23·7	19·4	8·1	7·9
1926—June	*14·6	0·9	15·6	18·1	5·9	22·6	9·6	6·7	4·1
December	*11·9	2·6	32·2	16·7	12·1	27·7	19·0	5·7	5·9
1927—June	8·8	1·4	18·0	6·3	6·0	22·5	9·5	6·4	3·2
December	9·8	3·6	31·6	12·9	14·9	28·0	18·6	8·9	6·6
1928—June	10·8	0·6	13·7	6·2	4·4	14·4	7·6	11·2	3·2
December	11·2	1·9	28·4	16·7	11·5	22·1	17·3	9·9	6·6
1929—May.....	9·9	0·4	10·8	9·1	3·0	12·5	8·2	...	4·0
June	9·8	0·4	10·0	8·5	2·6	11·5	7·2	10·0	2·9
July	9·9	0·6	9·6	8·6	3·1	10·2	6·7	...	3·0
August	10·1	0·5	9·1	8·9	3·3	10·7	6·5	...	3·5
September.....	10·1	0·5	8·7	9·6	3·2	12·1	7·3	12·1	3·7
October.....	10·4	0·5	10·2	10·9	3·5	14·0	8·6	...	6·0
November	11·0	1·1	12·5	13·7	5·3	15·4	10·4	...	9·3
December	11·1	2·4	19·9	20·1	12·3	18·9	16·6	...	11·4
1930—January.....	12·6	3·7	20·2	22·0	†12·7	19·0	13·9	...	10·8
February	13·1	...	21·3	23·5	†12·0	...	13·4	...	...
March	14·0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of Workers Covered by Last Returns.									
Millions.....	12·1	0·6	0·3	4·6	†0·4	0·04	0·3	0·4	0·2

i Ex. Irish Free State since Mar., 1923.
* Workpeople in the coal-mining industry, who ceased work on account of the dispute, are not included in this figure. † Provisional figure.

BANK RATES.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of	End of
	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	Feb.	Mar.
London	% 4	% 4	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 5	% 4½	% 4½	% 5½	% 4½	% 3½
Paris.....	6	7	7	6	6½	5	5	3½	3½	3½	3	3
Berlin	10	10	9	9	6½	6	6	7	7	7½	6	5
New York*...	3½	3	3½	3½	4	4	4	3½	5	5	4½	4	3½
Amsterdam...	5	4½	4	3½	3½	3½	3½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4	3
Brussels	5½	5½	5½	7	7	7	5	4½	4	4	4	3½	3½
Rome	5½	5½	7	7	7	7	7	7	5½	5½	7	7	7	6½§
Switzerland...	4	4	4	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½†
Vienna	12	13	11	9	7‡	7	6	6½	6	6½	7½	7½	6½	6
Warsaw	12	12	12	12	12	9½	8	8	8	8	9	9	8½	7
Tokyo	8	8	7·3	7·3	7·3	6.57	5.84	5.48	5.48	5.48	5.48	5.4	5·4	5.4
Calcutta.....	6	6	5	6	4	4	5	7	6	7	5	7	7	7½

* Federal Reserve. † 3% as from April 3. ‡ 6% as from April 3. § 6% as from April 23.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING RETURNS.

(000's omitted.)

	Town.	Metropolitan.	Country.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913	14,191,275	855,648	1,389,481	16,436,404
1923	32,270,373	1,546,565	2,810,654	36,627,592
1924	35,038,605	1,594,114	2,900,145	39,532,864
1925	35,801,264	1,678,347	2,957,508	40,347,119
1926	35,346,429	1,660,757	2,817,868	39,825,054
1927	36,819,682	1,758,032	2,972,827	41,550,541
1928	39,311,117	1,854,190	3,039,422	44,204,729
1929 (Apr. 17)	12,242,152	573,369	924,873	13,740,394
1930 (Apr. 16)	12,236,901	569,282	925,120	13,731,303

SECURITY VALUES.

Base.	United Kingdom. "Bankers' Magazine." 365 representative securities. Dec., 1921 = 100. (*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	Nether-lands. Official. 49 Ordinary Industrial Shares. 1921-25 = 100. (*e*)	Sweden. Official 49 Industrial and Shipping Shares. Nominal value = 100 (*f*) (*h*)	Switzer-land. Banque Nationale (*f*) 32 Industrial Shares. (*g*)	Canada. Official, 79 (*i*) Common Industrial Shares. 1913 = 100.	United States. Standard Statistics Co. 342 Industrial Shares. (*d*)
1925–June	108·6	125·5	114·1	96	113	134·4	...	88·4
Dec.	108·8	132·5	116·5	95	131	144·6	...	
1926–June	110·0	136·5	118·7	91	146	176·9	93·2	100·0
Dec.	109·3	135·7	118·0	91	150	175·4	107·0	
1927–June	110·1	141·5	120·4	102	153	189·9	121·5	117·6
Dec.	111·2	146·9	122·8	103	181	223·2	161·6	
1928–June	112·4	152·7	125·4	111	226	243·6	170·0	154·3
Dec.	112·1	158·8	127·3	115	252	252·8	237·3	
1929–May	110·4	157·4	125·6	121	240	235·7	269·3	192·6
June	109·8	157·9	125·4	121	246	245·8	264·1	191·0
July	109·3	162·0	126·5	121	256	243·2	271·2	202·7
Aug.	109·0	164·4	127·0	122	250	242·4	293·8	210·3
Sept.	108·9	165·4	127·3	118	241	239·3	315·8	216·1
Oct.	109·3	160·8	126·1	113	226	220·7	255·4	194·4
Nov.	108·5	147·0	120·9	98	215	212·4	209·4	144·8
Dec.	108·5	147·1	121·0	100	211	215·0	210·0	146·9
1930–Jan.	109·6	146·7	121·7	101	226	231·6	209·1	148·8
Feb.	110·1	146·3	121·8	101	228	232·9	205·5	202·9
Mar.	112·7	145·3	123·3	97	237	236·0	...	163·0

(*a*) Fixed interest. (*b*) Variable dividend. (*c*) Total. (*d*) Monthly average. (*e*) Average of highest and lowest quotations on each Wednesday. (*f*) Shares of companies with a capital of more than 5 millions. The composition of this class, therefore, is not invariable. (*g*) On 25th of month. (*h*) End of month. (*i*) Since Jan., 1929, 92 shares.

U.K. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—(000,000's omitted.)

Monthly Average.	Food. Imports. £	Food. Exports. £	Raw Materials. Imports. £	Raw Materials. Exports. £	Manu-factures. Imports. £	Manu-factures. Exports. £	Imports of Wheat. Cwts.	Imports of Raw Cotton. Centals.	Imports of Sheep's & Lambs' Wool. Centals.	Exports of Cotton Piece Goods. Sq. Yds.	Exports of Iron and Steel. Tons.	Exports of Coal. Tons.
1913	24·2	2·7	23·5	5·8	16·1	34·3	8·8	1·8	0·7	•589	0·41	6·1
1922	39·3	3·0	24·8	8·5	19·1	47·3	8·0	1·2	0·9	349	0·28	5·3
1923	42·5	3·7	27·1	10·9	21·4	48·3	8·4	1·1	0·6	345	0·36	6·6
1924	47·6	4·7	33·4	8·9	25·0	51·5	9·9	1·3	0·6	370	0·32	5·1
1925	47·6	4·6	35·4	7·0	26·7	51·4	8·1	1·6	0·6	370	0·31	4·2
1926	41·9	4·2	32·7	3·9	26·3	44·9	8·1	1·5	0·7	319	0·26	1·7
1927	44·9	4·4	29·3	6·4	26·9	47·0	9·2	1·3	0·7	343	0·35	4·3
1928	44·3	4·5	27·9	5·8	25·7	48·2	8·6	1·1	0·7	322	0·36	4·2
1929	44·7	4·6	28·3	6·6	27·9	47·8	9·3	1·3	0·7	306	0·36	5·0
1929—November.....	48·5	5·7	30·0	6·9	28·2	48·6	9·8	1·9	0·5	284	0·38	5·4
December	46·8	4·9	31·2	6·2	27·8	44·6	6·5	1·0	0·8	274	0·33	5·0
1930—January	42·9	4·6	30·1	6·9	28·0	44·7	7·0	2·7	1·0	315	0·35	5·5
February	37·3	3·7	24·0	5·8	25·8	41·2	5·6	1·2	0·8	300	0·29	4·7
March.....	40·0	4·0	24·1	6·0	28·1	42·5	8·2	0·9	1·0	281	0·34	4·8

* Yards.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.—(000,000's omitted.)

	Great Britain (*a*). Gross Receipts. Passengers. £	Gross Receipts. Freight. £	Freight Traffic (*f*). Mer-chandise.* Tons.	Coal, &c. Tons.	Minerals and Other Merchandise Tons.	Total. Tons.	Total. Ton-Miles.	Austria. (*b*) (*h*) Tonnes-Km	Germany. (*u*) Tonnes-Km	Italy. (*e*) (*i*) Tonnes-Km	Canada. (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) Ton-Miles.	United States. (*d*) (*e*) Ton-Miles.
1926—June	4·4	5·3	4·7	1·9	5·6	10·2	704	1,202	4,695	1,132	2,846	39,337
December	4·7	8·5	4·9	15·9	4·1	24·8	1,392	1,321	5,641	1,094	3,641	40,096
1927—June	6·1	8·8	5·1	15·5	5·8	26·4	1,401	1,249	5,126	1,095	2,611	38,483
December	4·8	8·7	5·1	17·2	4·8	27·2	1,400	1,209	5,398	928	4,128	34,580
1928—June	5·5	8·3	4·8	14·9	5·3	25·0	1,324	1,325	5,528	1,038	3,129	37,304
December	4·6	8·3	4·7	16·1	4·8	25·6	1,352	1,282	4,715	1,030	4,663	37,645
1929—May	5·0	8·9	5·2	16·5	5·0	27·7	1,465	1,278	5,506	1,076	3,404	42,027
June	5·2	8·4	4·8	15·7	5·6	26·1	1,392	1,335	5,603	1,087	3,318	40,725
July.....	7·3	9·1	5·2	16·8	5·8	27·8	1,491	1,457	5,976	1,114	3,295	41,991
August	8·3	8·8	5·1	16·9	5·6	27·6	1,483	1,472	5,924	1,063	2,860	44,944
September	5·6	8·9	5·2	16·6	5·5	27·3	1,480	1,436	5,894	1,086	3,688	44,219
October	4·4	9·7	5·8	18·1	6·1	30·0	1,603	1,411	6,367	1,181	3,924	47,814
November.....	3·7	9·3	5·4	18·4	5·7	29·5	1,564	1,311	5,792	1,076	3,020	38,723
December.....	4·5	8·2	4·7	17·6	5·0	27·3	1,426	1,333	4,874	1,031	2,580	32,040
1930—January.....	3·8	9·1	5·3	18·9	5·4	29·5	1,537	...	†4,790	...	...	36,664

* Inc. live-stock. (*a*) "Reichsbahn." Exc. free-hauled. † Provisional figure. (*b*) State and private railways, including freight on foreign lines. (*c*) Railways with annual operating revenues of at least $500,000. (*d*) Short tons = kg. 907·18; mile = metres 1,609·34. (*e*) Including free-hauled. (*f*) Excluding free-hauled. (*g*) Long ton = kg. 1,016·05; mile = metres 1,609·34. (*h*) Gross tonnage. (*i*) Fiscal year ending June 30.

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In the following pages we have aimed at compiling tables which will show summary figures for as many nations of the world as possible, and have endeavoured to combine brevity with comprehensiveness. The greater number of the figures are taken from the Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the League of Nations, supplemented from our statistical records. We propose in these columns to give our own appreciation of the trade position, fortified by informed opinion, and to leave the figures to be interpreted by our readers each in his own way.*

* "League of Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics." 1s. 6d.

THE STATE OF TRADE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

No change for the better has taken place during the past month, and it cannot be said that any signs of improvement are yet in sight. It must be remembered that in previous and more fortunate years, a set-back in trade has usually occurred about May and lasted until the end of the summer. Thus it could hardly have been expected that home trade would have begun to emerge from its depression during the early summer months. Abroad, this seasonal factor does not apply to the same extent, but, even so, harvest uncertainties in many countries create a state of mind which is hardly conducive to recovery from one of the major trade recessions of the century.

Thus the summer months can probably be written off as a "total loss," and the main point of interest is whether or not the autumn will witness an improvement. A rapid recovery is pretty clearly out of the question, as the harm done by the depression is too deep to be overcome in a few weeks; but even a slight improvement of no more than the usual seasonal dimensions might suffice to raise the spirits of the industrial world and start the nation on the road to a genuine recovery.

The situation at the moment is only too patent. As the adjoining figures show, unemployment has risen during the past year from 9·7 to 15·3 per cent., while pig-iron production has fallen by 40,000 tons and steel production by 151,000 tons. Imports and exports have fallen heavily in value, no doubt in actual volume also. Railway receipts are £380,000 less than in May, 1929, and commodity prices and shipping freights have both fallen. The unfortunate wool dispute, now practically terminated, accounts for the colossal increase over last year in the number of working days lost through trade disputes.

Comparing May with April, unemployment has increased in coal-mining, shipbuilding, the motor trade, and many of the textile industries, including cotton and linen. There has been a seasonal improvement in building, while the silk and rayon, and also the clothing and boot and shoe industries provided more employment in May than they did in the previous month. Regarding the more important industries separately, the coal and steel industries show no signs of expansion, and the cotton industry has to face on the one hand a further fall in raw cotton prices and on the other hand the virtual closing of her two great overseas markets by the Indian boycott and the collapse of silver and hence of the Chinese exchanges. The woollen industry has yet to measure, as well as to recover from, the losses caused by the recent dispute, and though wool prices now command greater confidence, such a recovery is notoriously a slow process. Shipbuilding and marine engineering have definitely lost ground, and, to sum up the position, the few improvements enumerated in the preceding paragraph are far from sufficient to compensate for the month's set-backs in so many of our important industries. Abroad, the further break on Wall Street, the course of events in India and the Far East, and the depressed state of many European countries do not between them offer an encouraging prospect.

The autumn outlook depends to a large extent upon three factors, the course of commodity prices, the trend of money rates, and the results of the approaching harvests; and in judging the last-named regard must be had not only to the size of the crops but to the prices at which they can be marketed. Commodity prices are still falling, for June has repeated the experience of preceding months when, after it had appeared for a fortnight or so that the downward trend had at last been checked, a renewed decline began. At the same time it should be remembered that wholesale prices are less than 15 per cent. above the 1913 average, and it seems difficult to believe that they can fall much lower. Money rates, in London at least, seem likely to remain stable, and even if Bank rate rises to 4 per cent. in the autumn, this will be a seasonal increase and in any case will not inflict any appreciable burden upon industry. Besides, the recent reductions in the New York and Berlin rediscount rates suggest that the recent downward trend in money rates is only just reaching its end. While no one now expects a 2½ per cent. Bank rate in London, a 4 per cent. rate in the autumn may be avoided.

The harvest outlook is perhaps the most interesting point of all. In the United States there are prospects of a big cotton crop, and while much depends on weather conditions during the next two months, prices have already fallen in sympathy with the current outlook. Hence it seems likely that with the stocks already in the hands of the Federal Farm Board, the world will remain over-

HOME TRADE STATISTICS—MAY, 1930.

	Apr.	May	Compared with May '29.
UNEMPLOYMENT—			
(State Insurance %).....	14·6 ...	15·3 ...	+ 5·6
PRODUCTION—			
Coal (million tons)*	4·5 ...	4·9 ...	+ 0·3
Iron (thous. „)	620 ...	615 ...	− 40
Steel („ „)	696 ...	693 ...	−151
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (million £'s)	83·9 ...	91·0 ...	− 12·4
Re-exports („ „)	7·8 ...	9·1 ...	− 1·4
Exports („ „)	54·7	60·1 ...	− 17·8
TRANSPORT—			
Railway Receipts* (£0,000) 328	... 306	...	− 38
Shipping Freights (av. level[1])	77·1 ...	76·1 ...	− 21·2
COMMODITY PRICES („ „[2])...	81·6 ...	80·6 ...	− 10·9
TRADE DISPUTES (thous. working days lost)	1,300	1,600 ...	+ 1,382
SECURITY VALUES (av. level[3])	124·2 ...	121·9 ...	− 2·3
FINANCIAL DATA—			
Bnk. of Eng. Notes (mill. £'s)* 360	... 356	...	− 6
Bank Deposits („ „)* .. 1,750	1,780	...	+ 10
Bank Advances („ „)* .. 984	... 972	...	− 8
Banks Cash Ratio ([4]) (%)*	10·9 ...	10·7 ...	− 0·1
Bank Clearings:			
London (million £'s)* 862	... 876	...	+ 90
Manchester („ „)*	11·0 ...	10·6 ...	− 1·4
Three months' Bank Drafts (Discount Rate %)*	2 15/16 ...	2 3/16 ...	− 3 3/4
Day-to-day Loans (%)*.....	2 7/16 ...	2 ...	− 2½

([1]) 1913 = 100. ([2]) *Economist* Index No.; 1927 = 100. ([3]) *Bankers' Magazine* Index No. of 365 securities; December, 1921 = 100. ([4]) Cash in hand and at Bank of England as % of total current, deposit, and other accounts.

* Average weekly figures.

supplied and that unremunerative prices will rule. In Canada, the heavy wheat stocks held by the Pools are now beginning to move, but here again harvest prospects seem sufficiently good to keep prices at a low level. Perhaps the most encouraging news comes from Australia, where it is stated that only a small amount of wool will be carried forward to next season; but in general it seems possible that once more the world will find itself in the paradoxical position of enjoying good harvests but having to dispose of them at unremunerative prices. If this is the case—and it must be emphasised that these are early days in which to reach such a conclusion—agricultural prices are likely to remain low, and so any autumn revival in trade will at the best be of an extremely limited character.

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Coal.—Export business remains very restricted, and South Wales reports unofficially that production is to be reduced in the September quarter of the year. Demand for industrial fuel is limited, while the house coal trade is experiencing its customary summer slackness.

Iron and Steel.—Business is still at a low ebb, as at present the effects of the general setback in trade are accentuated by the incidence of the normal summer slackness. Ten furnaces went out of blast in May, and a further two or three during early June. The recent German price reductions only affect the internal market, and so are not likely to influence the British situation.

Engineering.—The general situation is thought by some in the industry now to be a little clearer, and some hopes of a slight autumn revival are consequently entertained. The setback in shipbuilding has affected marine engineering, and there is no improvement in the machine-tool section. Locomotive builders remain active, and textile and agricultural machinists have experienced a slight improvement. Makers of boilers and power equipment are not too badly placed.

Electrical Industry.—The following index of production in the electrical industry is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations. An explanation of the manner in which it has been computed was given on page 888 of the *Economist* of November 28, 1925 :—

INDEX of ACTIVITY in the ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY.

(1920 = 100.)

1927.	Home.	Export.	Total.	1928.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January	95	152	109	October	83	107	91
February	92	159	108	November	85	105	93
March	89	163	107	December	93	103	96
April	90	181	112	1929.			
May	88	200	116	January	92	122	99
June	94	234	128	February	92	128	101
July	93	231	126	March	88	126	97
August	90	236	126	April	86	145	100
September	87	230	122	May	84	143	99
October	81	208	112	June	84	149	101
November	80	192	107	July	90	151	106
December	69	160	92	August	88	140	102
1928.				September	81	150	99
January	68	148	88	October	76	191	106
February	68	143	87	November	71	216	109
March	71	141	89	December	60	228	102
April	70	122	84	1930.			
May	68	108	79	January	68	220	107
June	68	105	78	February	69	240	112
July	71	80	74	March	71	236	113
August	74	86	78	April	72	214	108
September	81	102	88	May	70	209	105

Few fresh orders on home account were received during the month, and trade is very depressed. Export business also is very disappointing.

Motor Industry.—There is a slight improvement in the private car section, with a small increase in exports as compared with last month, but hopes of the usual seasonal revival have not been fully realised. Commercial vehicle manufacturers are not so heavily affected by the general depression, and maintain a satisfactory level of business both in the home market and abroad. The motor cycle and cycle section is moderately active, but the demand from overseas is disappointing.

Cotton.—The new American crop appears to be making good progress, and there is a possibility of a big yield, though much depends on weather conditions during the next two months. The Indian boycott is still in force, but some authorities think that the position will shortly become easier. Chinese trade has been further curtailed by the decline in the price of silver. Business with other foreign markets has been limited, while variable reports have come from the home trade. As a result of these adverse conditions, production in Lancashire was further curtailed, and in most districts the Whitsun holidays were extended.

Wool.—The dispute is now practically over, and as raw material prices are now more stable and command greater confidence, the outlook is perhaps a little better. On the other hand, large stocks of yarns were accumulated during the dispute, and their existence, together with the general trade depression and the business lost through the dispute, is having a depressing influence.

Linen.—Demand for yarn and piece-goods is only of retail dimensions, and output has been slowed down. The Irish flax market has now closed for the season.

Rayon.—The market has improved and the autumn outlook is promising. Stocks of low quality yarn are still excessive, but certain special types, notably crepes, are difficult to obtain. Home trade fabrics have been in active request, but the coarser section of the export trade remains disappointing.

Boots and Shoes.—The approach of the holiday season has brought out some fresh business in women's fancy goods. In the men's section, only a few firms are well employed.

Pottery.—Trade remains very dull. Sales to Australia have been affected by the new import regulations and customs duties.

Chemical Industry.—Demand is restricted, and the depression seems likely to last for a considerable time. The May foreign trade returns revealed a decrease in exports of £411,505 below those of last year, heavy chemicals accounting for half of this deficit.

Building Trades.—May witnessed a further seasonal improvement, but employment was only moderate. The Peterborough brick industry remains relatively well placed.

Agriculture.—The condition of the corn crops was generally satisfactory, this being due to the rapid progress made during the latter part of May. A good crop of early potatoes is anticipated, but a month ago root crops were in need of more sun. Pastures are in good condition, stock showed some improvement, and milk yields have increased.

Shipping.—During June restricted grain movements have continued to be reflected in a general depression of whole-cargo freights. Towards the end of the month chartering from Canada showed signs of increasing a little in volume, and sugar moved more freely; but there was no diminution of the mass of tonnage laid up idle throughout the world.

Retail Trade.—Regarding the country as a whole, there is some evidence that business is being affected by the general trade depression and increase in unemployment. Higher-class shops are finding that the public are concentrating more on the cheaper qualities of goods, and other classes of shops report that in some cases the prevalence of unemployment is the cause of delays in paying hire-purchase instalments. In the West of London, a leading store reports that trade has slightly improved during the past few weeks, and if the fine weather continues a further expansion should take place. In the suburbs, stores are feeling the effects of local unemployment to an increasing degree, and are having difficulty in maintaining their turnover. Results in the North of England are not too discouraging, when due allowance is made for the wool textile dispute. Little change in turnover is reported from the Southern counties.

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canada reports that the accumulated wheat stocks are at last beginning to be liquidated, and this is imparting greater confidence to farmers. The acreage under wheat promises to be greater than last year, and weather conditions are favourable. The tone of general business has responded to the better prospects for agriculture.

Australian trade remains depressed, but good rains have fallen in many areas, and wool is selling briskly at better prices. It is now believed that only small wool stocks will be carried forward to the new season.

South African business conditions are fair. The Transvaal maize crop is now assured, and the yield will probably be considerably above that of last year. Citrus crop prospects are satisfactory, and the wool market has improved.

In India the monsoon burst on June 10th, and rainfall has since been general and seasonable. Standing crops are in good condition, though some sporadic damage has been caused by locusts in the Punjab. The Bengal and Assam standing jute crops are satisfactory.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

May witnessed a slight improvement in business. The steel mills operated at about 74 per cent. of capacity, and automobile production remained steady at 100,000 units per week, output consisting mainly of low-priced cars. Construction contracts and freight movements expanded slightly, and there was a seasonal improvement in wholesale and retail trade, but the textile mills curtailed operations. Money was abundant and cheap, and commodity prices were lower. It remains to be seen how seriously business will be affected by the fresh Wall Street break in early June.

AMERICAN TRADE STATISTICS—APRIL, 1930.

	April.	May.	Compared with May, '29.
EMPLOYMENT†-(June, 1914=100)	104·9	103·2	— 11·4
PRODUCTION—			
Bituminous coal (Thous. tons)	35,860	35,884	— 4,288
Pig-iron („ „)	3,182	3,233	— 655
Steel („ „)	4,143	4,025	— 1,248
Unfilled orders, U.S. Steel Corporation (Thous. tons)	4,354	4,059	— 245
Building permits (Thous. $)	180,042	173,100*	— 74,530
FOREIGN TRADE—			
Imports (Thous. $)	308,000*	285,000*	— 115,149
Exports („ „)	334,000*	322,000*	— 62,993
TRANSPORT—			
Monthly average of weekly car loadings (Thous. cars)	905	920	*x*
SECURITIES—			
30 industrial stocks—Highest quotations‡	294·08	275·07	— 52·01
Lowest quotations‡	276·94	258·31	— 35·11
Thous. shares sold during month —(New York)	111,041	78,040	— 13,244
New securities issued (Thous. $)	870,006	739,091	+ 105,211
BANK CLEARINGS—			
New York (Million $)	33,536	31,429	— 5,353
Other cities („ „)	17,469	17,423	— 1,966
RETAIL BUSINESS—			
Total sales, mail order houses§ (Thous. $)	56,446*	57,928	+ 2,872

* Preliminary estimates made by Messrs Moody, subject to revision. † Based on reports of U.S. Labour Bureau and of Bureaux of the States of New York, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. ‡ Average of actual prices. § Partly estimated. *x* Not available.

EUROPE.

In the French coal industry there is a fair demand for house fuel. Home demand for steel is not very active, but prices are maintained. Export trade is dull. There is a slight improvement in the Roubaix wool trade, but other textile industries are not so well placed. Produce markets are dull.

Belgian news is not satisfactory. Apart from a moderate demand for domestic fuel, the coal and steel trades are dull, and coal stocks are growing. There is a slight improvement in the textile industries, but glass manufacturers have reduced their output.

Little real improvement has yet occurred in Germany, but the May foreign trade returns were better than those for April, and unemployment has been decreasing very slowly. It is hoped that the recent iron and steel price reductions in the home market will stimulate internal trade, but some consumers feel that the reductions are inadequate.

No change is reported from Holland, but industrial reports are beginning to have a more hopeful tone. Agriculture remains depressed.

In Scandinavia, some sections of the Norwegian trade are active, while Danish farmers have benefited from good weather and a slight recovery in prices.

In Central Europe, Austria reports a slight decrease in unemployment, but conditions there are still very unfavourable. There was no change in Czechoslovakia during May. Harvest prospects are good, but unemployment increased slightly.

SOUTH AMERICA.

During the past month further progress has been made with the scheme for "rationalising" the Chilean nitrate of soda industry, and discussions have also continued between the Chilean producers and the synthetic nitrogen interests with a view to finding, if possible, a basis for world-wide co-operation. Generally speaking, Chilean trade is somewhat quieter. The Argentine commercial situation remains adversely affected by the low level of world prices for cereals and other export products. A further fractional decline has occurred in the exchange value of Argentine currency, and conditions in the import markets are becoming even more competitive, although fundamentally the economic position is quite sound. In certain directions there are still indications of some slight improvement in the Brazilian situation, but the credit and exchange position remain difficult. Peru also has a problem in her exchange position, and it remains to be seen as to whether it will be decided to draw upon the surplus gold reserves, resulting from the revaluation of the currency, which have already been exported to New York, in order to maintain rates at around the new parity. As elsewhere, commercial conditions in Peru are depressed on account of the present adverse conditions in the markets for staple export products, such as cotton, sugar, wool, etc. Trade in Mexico continues quiet, whilst in Ecuador business generally is slow and credit stringent. Salvadorean conditions are improved, with shipments of coffee exceptionally heavy. The drought in Venezuela broke towards the end of April, and mail advices state that the outlook for the coffee crop there is very favourable. Trade in Guatemala is quiet.

FAR EAST.

The further fall in the price of silver to new record low levels has brought trade with China almost to a standstill, and the failures of several Chinese banks have added to traders' difficulties.

Conditions in Japan are not satisfactory. Unemployment has increased, and attempts to reduce wages in conformity with the fall in prices have been the cause of unrest. Raw silk stocks have increased, and prices are again lower. Cotton spinners have lost much ground owing to the temporary cessation of Indian buying and the fall in silver.

ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION.

In the *Economist* of July 10, 1926 (pages 57–8), we published a new index of electrical production in the chief industrial areas of Great Britain. We show below a *résumé* of the results achieved during recent periods :—

INDEX of PRODUCTION of ELECTRICITY.*

(Monthly Average 1923-24 = 100.)

Date.	Britain, excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, etc.	Textiles, Cotton, and Wool.
1927.						
January	158	155	167	212	179	151
February	157	156	165	212	169	160
March	147	152	153	187	155	140
April	144	144	146	208	151	136
May	138	139	151	198	150	129
June	126	128	136	206	131	114
July	123	118	135	184	140	119
August	123	124	130	201	142	113
September	138	133	157	228	159	131
October	152	146	166	228	175	146
November	166	156	190	236	192	162
December	180	170	200	220	210	172
1928.						
January	174	164	195	232	199	172
February	170	162	188	249	195	164
March	170	165	192	252	195	169
April	149	149	164	226	164	132
May	140	136	170	223	163	125
June	141	138	160	248	158	130
July	131	127	149	248	151	124
August	130	131	131	227	147	116
September	150	145	164	263	175	138
October	161	153	185	245	189	154
November	178	164	215	240	206	169
December	181	171	210	195	210	176
1929.						
January	187	172	234	236	220	190
February	195	182	248	250	222	198
March	173	169	215	268	192	162
April	165	158	201	321	185	152
May	156	150	182	321	170	135
June	156	151	192	318	172	141
July	146	140	187	282	166	130
August	148	151	167	206	175	124
September	156	153	194	241	178	140
October	179	170	224	243	207	166
November	203	192	250	252	240	192
December	192	182	235	186	228	190
1930.						
January	192	176	255	250	231	182
February	198	183	260	257	237	184
March	184	171	240	250	226	172
April	160	150	204	214	202	146
May	157	146	192	235	193	143

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

The general index is again lower on the month, but the decline is less than that recorded in previous years. The chemical index is appreciably higher.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

WHEN allowance is made for the fact that the month of May did not suffer, as April did, from the interruption of a holiday week, the picture presented by the latest figures of our series of indices of business activity cannot be described as other than depressing. Certain features were distinctly less sombre than others. For example, the index number of apparent consumption of iron and steel underwent only a trifling reaction from its recent satisfactory level and, when seasonal trend is taken into account, the indices of consumption of power are not discouraging. Moreover, shipping movements did not fail to record their usual seasonal increase in the past month, and London bank clearings actually recorded an increase.

On the other hand, there was a serious decline in the volume of employment both in heavy industry and, to a less extent, in general industry. The index of employment in miscellaneous services—occupations naturally less susceptible to the influence of trade depression—showed no alteration, but the total index of employment in all branches showed a further significant decline. The adverse situation of the cotton textile industry is strikingly illustrated by the continued heavy fall in the index of apparent consumption of raw cotton; imports, both of raw materials, classified as such in the trade returns, and of non-ferrous metals, have declined; the downward trend of the index of provincial bank clearings points to a slowing up in the rate of turnover in the home trade; and the index of exports of British manufacturers, at 92, has fallen to the low level registered in May, 1926. Both this index, it should be appreciated, and that of net imports of raw materials are adjusted to compensate for changes in the prices of commodities, as estimated by the Board of Trade on the basis of declared values at ports of entry and of shipment, so that they reflect accurately the severe contraction that has taken place in the physical volume of our overseas trade.

While there is no doubt as to the reality of the present trade depression, whose symptoms are patent without reference to indices of this character, and whose probable duration is discussed in this Supplement in the light of factors affecting the autumn outlook, it is of interest to observe from the comparative figures for the month of May, printed at the foot of the appended table, how much more pronounced the reaction has been in some spheres than in others as compared with a year ago. Prominent among the indices showing heavy falls is that of British manufactured exports. The volume of raw-material imports has also contracted, but the fall is not so marked; the slump in cotton consumption has attained calamitous dimensions; and both the "heavy" and "general" employment indices are seriously down. A remarkable feature is the increase, as compared with May, 1929, in the consumption of iron and steel. In this case, however, a caveat should perhaps be entered that the method of calculating this index number takes no account of possible increases in stocks held by consumers—a not unimportant factor which probably affects also the index of apparent consumption of rubber. The maintenance at a high level of the rate of postal traffic is somewhat surprising, and the striking increase, as compared with a year ago, in the volume of London bank clearings is another unexpected feature. In the calculation of this index number, however, the actual values on which the index is based are corrected to allow for changes in the general price level by using as a coefficient the mean between the *Economist's* index number of wholesale prices and the Ministry of Labour's cost-of-living index. It is possible that during a violent downward movement of wholesale prices this method tends, over a short period, to exaggerate the apparent volume of bank clearings.

INDICES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

1924 = 100.

Period.	Net Imports.		Consumption of			Consumption of Power.		Volume of Employment.				Merchandise on Railways.	Provincial Bank Clearings.	Postal Traffic.	Shipping Movements.	London Bank Clearings.	Exports British Manufactures.	Foreign Trade Turnover. (Quarterly Figs.)
	Raw Materials.	Non-Ferrous Metals.	Iron and Steel.	Cotton.	Rubber.	Coal.	Electricity.	Heavy Industry.	"General" Industry.	Miscellaneous Services.	Total.							
Monthly Average.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)
1919	113	74	96	109	143	89	...	...	...	...	...	109	92	...	59*b*	54	74	79
1920	106	71	99	113	134	91	...	...	...	...	...	100	113	...	69*b*	65	101	87
1921	56	50	43	74	79	69	...	...	...	...	...	81	82	...	66	76	67	68
1922	89	63	34	99	58	87	...	...	...	...	...	84	97	...	91	97	88	85
1923	88	92	69	93	118	91	...	...	...	...	...	97	98	...	101	97	95	94
1924	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1925	107	107	89	116	137	93	101	90	103	103	101	98	102	103·5	98	104	101·5	102
1926	107*a*	100	57	98	175	72	92	57	101	104	95·5	88	94	103·5	90	109	94	100
1927	113*a*	106	133	113	197	106	109	87	108	108	105	99	102	109·5	105	117	104·5	107·5
1928	101	113	88	103	212	99	110	82	108	110	105	93	100·5	114	106·5	125	108	106
1929	113	120	103·5	106	271	106	116	84·5	109·5	112	107	95	99	115·5	111·5	130	109	112
"Corrected" average for 3 months ended:																		
1929—May ...	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	
June ...	105	135	106	103	265	98	108	84·5	110·5	113	107·5	94	98	114·5	113	126	106	...
July ...	96	123	105	98	278	94	104	83·5	110·5	113·5	108	94	98	113·5	119	129	111	...
August	92	123	114	85	299	95	102	84	110·5	114	108	94	96	113	122	129	109	109
Sept. ...	96	117	118	76	354	96	102	84·5	110·5	114	108	95	94	113	123	129	111	
Oct. ...	104	117	119	85	358	99	109	84·5	110	113·5	108	98	92	114	121	125	109	
Nov. ...	116	114	122	110	339	107	121	84·5	110	113	108	99	95	115	116	131	108	119
Dec. ...	128	117	120	122	309	111	130	84·5	109·5	113	107·5	99	99·5	116	111	132	110	
1930—Jan. ...	135	131	126	120	226	114	132	84·5	108·5	112·5	107	97	99	120	107	133	106	
Feb. ...	126	134	123	102	309	114	131	84·5	107	112·5	106	93	100	121	102	132	100	
March	117	119	126	98	356	117	130	84	105·5	111·5	105	93	100	121	102	142	100	107·5
April ...	100*c*	119	124	88	489	111	122	83	104·5	111·5	104·5	...	98	119	101	143	94*c*	
May ...	98*c*	116	123	85	387	111	113	80	104	111·5	103·5	...	95	118	109	147	92*c*	...
May, 1924 ...	89	107	106	95	86	108	102	103·5	100	99·5	100·5	103	103	100	99	105	97	...
May, 1925 ...	99	109	108	128	72	98	101	92	102·5	102	101	98	107	104·5	96	104	99	...
May, 1926 ...	106	105	57	98	229	71	94	72	103	105	99	87	98	99·5	87	111	92	...
May, 1927 ...	123*a*	107	157	116	190	104	109	88	108	108	105·5	103	104	110·5	105	120	104	...
May, 1928 ...	108	116	91	104	246	102	108	85	109	110	106	94	105	113·5	104	124	107	...
May, 1929 ...	111	124	96	110	289	104	115	85·5	110	112	107·5	96	101	116	109	130	112	...
May, 1930 ...	98*c*	116	123	85	387	111	113	80	104	111·5	103·5	...	95	118	109	147	92*c*	...

a Excluding coal imports. *b* Excluding Government War Movements. *c* Provisional figures.

PRODUCTION. (Thousands of Metric Tons.)

COAL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Nether-lands.	Poland.	Canada.	South Africa.	India.	Japan.	United States.
	d		*k*		*g*		*b*		*j*	*e*		
1913	24,337	1,903	1,189	3,338	15,842	156	748	1,119	665	1,311	1,776	43,088
1925	20,590	1,925	1,047	*c*3,921	11,052	571	2,423	719	983	1,693	2,622	43,988
1926	10,692	2,110	1,181	*c*4,283	12,114	721	2,979	974	1,038	1,703	2,619	49,729
1927	21,555	2,298	1,168	*c*4,315	12,800	777	3,174	1,028	1,006	1,790	2,794	45,197
1928	20,129	2,295	1,213	*c*4,280	12,573	891	3,385	1,036	1,014	1,826	2,650	43,052
1929	21,736	2,244	1,396	4,486	13,620	960	3,851	1,022	1,052	1,875	2,663	45,510
1929—May	21,021	2,122	1,250	4,438	12,759	948	3,402	1,143	1,137	2,083	2,713	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	1,243	4,432	13,221	*m* 921	3,503	1,104	1,006	1,770	2,586	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	1,351	4,736	14,362	*m*1,024	4,024	1,023	1,168	1,579	2,569	41,393
August	20,867	2,220	1,398	4,568	14,467	*m* 984	3,942	1,025	1,097	1,576	2,323	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	1,439	4,299	13,480	*m* 958	3,951	928	1,039	1,905	2,499	46,545
October	23,358	2,280	1,556	4,858	14,835	*m*1,071	4,401	978	1,091	1,948	2,687	54,038
November	22,61*k*	2,306	1,585	4,603	14,157	*m*1,002	4,115	924	1,013	1,566	2,804	46,919
December	21,76*k*	2,237	1,443	4,363	13,652	*m* 958	4,023	895	995	1,894	2,886	48,859
1930—January	24,150	2,489	1,308	4,884	14,398	*m*1,060	3,806	958	1,054	2,057	2,601	51,543
February	22,066	2,274	1,179	4,481	12,168	*m* 985	2,990	824	969	2,278	2,520	41,469
March	22,784	2,333	1,197	4,695	12,539	*m* 997	2,827	809	1,025	2,016	2,748	36,581
April	20,023	2,258	1,174	*i* 4,560	11,481	*m*977	2,663	729	977	2,085	...	36,991
May	†19,654	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†37,000

Period. Monthly Average.	Austria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Germany.	Hungary.
		k	*g*	
1913	218	1,927	7,269	460
1925	255	1,551	11,644	460
1926	247	1,543	11,596	485
1927	256	1,365	12,542	520
1928	272	1,704	13,852	543
1929	294	1,880	14,598	587
1929—May	251	1,743	13,669	477
June	245	1,586	13,763	479
July	280	1,736	14,885	521
August	298	1,844	15,136	516
September	295	1,871	14,220	592
October	325	1,919	16,050	702
November	301	2,142	15,623	662
December	296	2,017	14,530	667
1930—January	314	1,850	14,008	672
February	248	1,572	11,372	545
March	268	1,565	11,303	469
April	235	1,514	10,826	452
May	...	...	...	...

PIG IRON.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
	b				*g*	*a*			
1913	869	207	434	114	1,397	212	61	85	2,601
1925	530	212	708	121	848	197	36	48	3,058
1926	208	283	786	135	804	213	39	64	3,277
1927	617	313	772	148	1,092	228	35	60	3,036
1928	560	325	832	161	984	231	33	88	3,167
1929	642	341	871	175	1,117	242	41	92	3,580
1929—May	665	348	897	186	1,133	248	47	83	3,961
June	668	342	865	188	1,164	242	33	91	3,777
July	683	347	877	185	1,204	250	39	101	3,846
August	693	348	893	182	1,168	251	41	114	3,816
September	675	347	851	174	1,109	240	38	100	3,554
October	700	361	894	179	1,157	259	43	93	3,646
November	642	340	852	169	1,091	247	41	88	3,232
December	653	340	879	173	1,100	245	37	84	2,882
1930—January	660	343	875	174	1,092	250	37	88	2,873
February	617	315	815	162	965	231	38	72	2,884
March	676	342	899	182	1,008	249	41	76	3,290
April	630	313	859	168	901	221	42	74	3,233
May	624	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,285

STEEL.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Saar.	Germany.	Luxemburg.	Sweden.	Canada.	United States.
					g	*a*			
1913	649	206	391	159	1,467	101	62	88	2,564
1925	625	212	621	132	1,016	174	43	64	3,737
1926	304	278	703	145	1,028	187	44	66	3,794
1927	770	307	692	158	1,359	206	44	77	3,675
1928	722	325	791	173	1,210	214	51	105	4,222
1929	817	344	805	184	1,369	225	60	117	*h*4,586
1929—May	857	340	820	188	1,421	230	70	128	5,358
June	844	349	797	190	1,430	219	49	121	4,960
July	818	356	815	199	1,466	235	59	132	4,916
August	765	365	827	192	1,402	238	68	122	5,006
September	862	347	763	185	1,231	224	61	101	4,583
October	904	369	847	200	1,377	242	70	118	4,584
November	828	333	786	179	1,286	231	65	95	3,569
December	672	323	812	168	1,156	217	56	84	2,943
1930—January	783	340	800	185	1,275	216	52	117	3,847
February	789	321	772	175	1,176	215	56	108	4,133
March	839	359	849	188	1,201	225	54	119	4,358
April	707	313	791	168	1,033	198	56	104	4,210
May	704	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†4,002

† Provisional figure. *a* Figures communicated by the "Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques." *b* Including ferro Alloys.
d Saleable coal; since end 1921 excluding Ireland, production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. *e* British Provinces only. *g* Since 1922, excluding Polish Upper Silesia. *h* Establishments whose production in 1928 amounted to 94·51% of the total. *i* Including lignite; 104,726 tons in March, 1930. *j* Coal sold.
k Until end 1928 saleable coal. *m* Including coal waste.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

Monthly Average.	U.K. Board of Trade.	U.K. *Economist.*	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	France.	Germany (Official).	Holland.	Italy (Bachi).	Norway.	Poland.	Russia.	Spain.	Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.
			f		*e*		*l*				*p*	*j*						
1913	100	100	*h*100	*h*100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	100	100	*h*100	100	*h*100	100
1925	159·1	160·9	558	1,008	210	549·8	141·8	155	596	253	125·4	183	188	161	161·6	169·5	159	160·3
1926	148·1	149·4	744	954	163	702·6	134·4	145	603	198	181·2	177	181	149	144·5	168·4	148	156·3
1927	141·4	143·7	847	979	153	617·2	137·6	148	495	167	118·6	171	172	146	142·2	167·0	148	152·7
1928	140·3	140·9	843	977	153	619·6	140·0	149	462	161	119·8	177	167	144	144·6	164·7	145	150·6
1929	136·5	132·8	851	916	150	509·7	137·2	142	446	153	113·4	182	171	140	141·2	165·7	141	149·2
		b		*d*		*b*			*b*	*c*	*k*	*d*	*c*		*c*		*b*	
1929—May	135·8	131·5	851	917	148	622·8	135·5	142	452	152	113·0	181	171	140	139·3	164·0	139	144·4
June	135·6	131·7	848	922	146	610·0	135·1	141	447	151	112·8	180	170	139	139·4	165·3	138	144·7
July	137·4	134·6	858	916	149	613·0	137·8	141	440	152	113·2	180	169	140	142·8	166·6	142	150·0
August	135·8	134·5	850	902	150	596·4	138·1	142	437	154	112·7	181	170	141	142·7	167·8	143	153·3
September	135·8	131·9	846	895	150	597·3	138·1	141	437	154	111·3	182	171	140	142·2	170·8	143	152·0
October	136·1	129·6	838	888	149	589·5	137·2	140	436	154	110·3	181	172	138	142·0	168·4	140	151·1
November	134·0	126·9	834	876	147	583·7	135·5	137	431	152	112·1	182	171	135	139·7	165·8	137	149·7
December	132·5	126·9	823	*g*126·1	146	575·8	134·3	135	425	152	109·0	182	172	134	138·6	161·8	134	150·3
1930—January	131·0	123·7	808	*g*124·2	143	564·0	132·3	131	417	150	104·8	...	172	131	135·6	158·0	131	149·4
February	127·8	121·0	791	*g*121·5	140	563·1	129·3	126	408	147	100·6	...	172	128	133·1	153·9	126	146·9
March	124·5	119·4	774	*g*121·0	136	553·3	126·4	122	400	146	100·7	...	172	125	131·0	151·4	125	143·6
April	123·7	117·2	777	*g*120·2	135	548·4	126·7	122	396	145	100·7	...	...	124	129·4	152·8	123	143·3
May	122·0	115·8	774	...	132	541·5	125·7	...	390	144	...	...	...	...	128·0	...	...	...

b End of the month. *c* 15th of month. *d* Beginning of the following month. *e* Official. *f* Second half of month.
g Since date of stabilisation, gold index. *h* 1914. *j* End year. *k* Average last week of month. *l* Since 1924, new series.
p Since January, 1926, new index.

Wholesale Prices—*Continued.*

Monthly Average.	South Africa.	China.	Japan.	United States Bureau of Labour.
1913	100	100	100	100
1923	126·6	156·4	199·1	144·1
1924	128·7	153·9	206·5	140·5
1925	127·6	159·4	201·7	148·3
1926	123·3	164·1	178·9	143·3
1927	124·0	170·4	169·8	136·7
1928	120·4	160·7	170·9	140·0
1929	116·1	163·7	166·2	138·3
1929—May	...	161·7	168·6	137·2
June	...	162·6	167·6	138·1
July	114·6	162·7	166·0	140·4
August	...	164·7	165·1	140·0
September	...	167·1	164·4	139·7
October	113·4	168·0	163·4	138·0
November	...	164·7	159·6	135·2
December	...	164·7	154·9	135·0
1930—January	107·3	169·6	152·2	133·8
February	...	174·7	151·0	131·9
March	...	173·9	148·1	130·1
April	104·0	174·2	145·7	129·9
May	...	...	...	...

Index Numbers of Retail Prices. Cost of Living.—(Base = 100.)

	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	Spain.	Canada.	U.S.A.
No. of Towns and Localities.	630	105	Vienna.	59	65 *i*	Paris.	72	Milan.	Madrid.	60	32
Base.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	July, 1914.	1921.	1914.	1914.	Oct., 1913, Jan., April, June, 1914.	Jan.–June, 1914.	1914.	1926.	July, 1914.
							a				
1925—July ...	173	188	*c g*	*s*	*d*	*h*	*b* 143·3	598	189	99·3	*s* 169
1926—July ...	170	182	103	174	2886	485	*b* 142·4	649	187	100·0	166
1927—July ...	164	171	106	204	2788	525	150·0	548	189	98·5	162
1928—July ...	165	173	108	205	2911	*w* 105	152·6	143	176	99·1	161
1929—July ...	163	174	112	216	*w* 112·1	113	154·4	148	181	100·1	162
					w t	*w x*	*b*		*s*		
1929—May ...	160	...	109	214	111·6	...	153·5	148	182	99·2	159
June ...	161	...	111	213	111·8	113	153·4	149	179	99·3	160
July ...	163	174	112	216	112·6	...	154·4	148	177	99·4	162
August	164	...	113	221	107·3	...	154·0	146	178	101·1	163
Sept. ...	165	...	113	225	106·3	113	153·6	147	178	100·9	163
October	167	179	113	229	107·3	...	153·5	149	179	101·1	163
Nov. ...	167	...	113	229	107·2	...	153·0	149	181	101·5	163
Dec. ...	166	...	113	228	105·8	115	152·6	150	181	101·6	162
1930—Jan. ...	164	179	113	226	104·9	...	151·6	150	182	102·2	160
Feb. ...	161	...	112	238	103·9	...	150·3	148	182	101·9	159
Mar. ...	157	...	111	232	98·3	115	148·7	147	186	101·5	157
April ...	155	168	111	226	94·7	...	147·4	146	...	101·1	...
May ...	...	...	111	...	...	...	146·7	144	...	...	...

a The first of the following month. *b* Gold mark prices. *c* Since 1923 gold prices, since 1926 new series. *d* Yearly average. *e* Prices of foodstuffs and fuel.
f Yearly average. *g* Last Wednesday of month. *h* Average of second quarter. Monthly figures only. *i* Yearly figures: 65 towns, excluding rent.
Monthly figures: 12 towns, excluding rent and clothing. *s* 15th of month. *t* Excluding clothing and rent. *v* Since November, 1927, new series.
w Since date of stabilisation gold standard index. *x* Average of quarter.

FINANCE.

Notes in Circulation. (000,000's omitted.)

Period.	United Kingdom.	Austria.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Czecho-slovakia.	Denmark.	Finland.	France.	Germany.		Greece.	Hungary.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	[illegible]
End of	Bank of England Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Reichsbank Notes.	"Rentenbank."	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	
	£	Schilling.	Francs.	Leva.	Koruna.	Kron.	Markat.	Francs.	Reichsmark.	Rentenmks.	Drachmæ.	Pengő.	Dinars.	Gulden.	
	a		z						g	i		k	u		
1913	29·6	...	1,067	189	...	152	113	y 5,714	2,742	...	245	...	...	313	
1923	404·8	713	7,537	4,139	9,599	473	1,352	37,763	f496507,424,772	...	4,681	931,337	5,790	1,066	[illegible]
1924	397·6	839	7,873	4,530	8,810	478	1,250	40,604	1,941	1,835	4,866	4,513,990	6,002	935	[illegible]
1925	385·3	890	7,814	3,655	8,408	438	1,309	49,993	2,960	1,476	5,395	416	6,063	875	[illegible]
1926	381·0	947	9,646	3,485	8,203	386	1,346	52,449	3,736	1,164	4,865	471	5,812	819	13
1927	382·3	1,005	10,951	3,727	8,417	354	1,514	56,301	4,564	716	4,966	487	5,743	797	12
1928	378·3	1,067	12,358	4,173	8,466	360	1,513	62,181	4,930	530	5,690	513	5,528	854	11
1929	369·8	1,094	e13,933	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1929–May	360·1	998	13,238	3,977	7,183	358	1,481	64,316	4,606	i 491	5,415	446	5,092	797	12
June	369·1	1,044	13,159	3,972	7,612	366	1,473	64,921	4,839	460	5,494	463	5,196	844	11
July	371·8	1,047	13,894	3,974	7,321	351	1,439	65,679	4,726	434	5,304	491	4,299	812	12
Aug.	364·0	1,046	13,871	4,121	7,500	361	1,448	66,468	4,897	432	5,214	480	5,659	844	12
Sept.	363·3	1,079	13,890	4,222	7,697	353	1,440	66,639	4,914	433	5,414	478	5,695	852	12
Oct.	358·8	1,081	14,360	4,255	7,763	372	1,377	68,267	4,833	407	5,364	526	5,773	826	12
Nov.	354·6	1,072	14,221	3,900	7,689	370	1,347	68,159	4,916	394	5,173	473	5,690	861	12
Dec.	369·8	1,094	14,175	3,609	8,230	367	1,361	68,571	5,044	397	5,193	501	5,818	851	11
1930–Jan.	348·0	981	e13,841	3,260	6,923	347	1,259	70,339	4,653	373	4,907	476	5,586	824	9
Feb.	346·8	974	e13,992	3,148	6,838	352	1,369	71,116	4,722	365	4,842	441	5,560	826	11
Mar.	357·3	980	e14,341	3,350	7,011	357	1,447	70,826	4,806	362	4,890	431	5,363	837	10
April	358·8	982	e14,658	3,302	6,854	362	1,440	72,373	4,664	362	4,991	464	5,221	829	7
May	356·1	1,022	e14,547	3,364	6,895	371	1,392	73,079	4,812	353	4,943	441	5,281	847	6

Period.	Italy.		Norway.	Poland.		Roumania.	Russia.		Sweden.	Switzerland.	Australia.	Canada.	South Africa.	Egypt.	United States.		Japan.
End of	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Token Notes and Coins.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes and Dominion Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	Bank Notes.	State Notes.	Bank Notes.
	Lire.	Lire.	Kroner.	Zloty.	Zloty.	Leu.	Gd. Rbls.	Rbles.	Kronor.	Francs.	£	Dollars.	£	£E	Dollars.	Dollars.	Yen.
				m	t	u	v	v			o	p					o
1913	d 2,284	w 499	108	...	...	437	...	...	234	314	r 10·0	116	2·3	2·2	726	343	426
1923	17,247	2,428	396	...	...	17,917	...	237	576	982	52·2	187	8·8	34·3	2,951	308	1,704
1924	18,114	2,400	391	551	151	19,397	229	411	537	914	56·9	179	9·1	40·2	2,555	297	1,662
1925	19,349	2,100	363	381	440	20,222	388	727	530	876	53·9	176	7·2	33·5	2,458	294	1,668
1926	18,340	1,793	337	593	428	20,951	398	797	525	874	49·9	190	6·6	27·8	2,458	298	1,377
1927	17,992	783	331	1,003	309	21,025	480	1,003	526	917	51·8	192	7·2	27·5	2,387	294	1,682
1928	17,295	161	316	1,295	244	21,211	730	1,091	546	953	48·7	193	7·6	30·3	2,428	295	1,739
1929	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,144	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·6	2,463	266	1,642
1929–May	16,251	99	305	1,244	227	19,080	748	1,103	519	872	42·5	184	7·9	25·1	2,301	290	1,299
June	16,753	96	318	1,298	234	19,113	805	1,192	560	898	42·3	199	7·8	23·3	2,349	263	1,462
July	16,877	96	315	1,293	240	19,188	833	1,238	522	900	41·6	184	7·6	21·8	2,372	244	1,250
Aug.	16,701	96	314	1,359	255	20,340	907	1,330	549	911	41·6	203	7·8	21·2	2,482	250	1,334
Sept.	16,916	90	316	1,354	260	21,393	983	1,428	580	944	41·9	206	7·5	25·2	2,473	266	1,286
Oct.	16,977	83	307	1,392	270	21,774	1,068	1,527	554	944	42·9	201	7·4	28·0	2,495	268	1,297
Nov.	16,828	80	303	1,366	267	21,387	1,092	1,538	573	928	42·8	203	7·7	27·2	2,530	276	1,346
Dec.	16,774	80	318	1,340	259	21,144	1,028	1,501	569	999	45·3	188	7·5	26·6	2,463	266	1,642
1930–Jan.	16,329	76	298	1,247	238	19,717	976	1,466	521	890	42·6	172	7·3	25·7	2,314	258	1,444
Feb.	16,095	73	297	1,282	235	19,957	...	o 1,536	534	893	43·3	174	7·4	25·5	2,279	270	1,295
Mar.	16,322	73	305	1,324	234	19,709	...	o 1,556	575	918	44·0	173	7·2	25·3	2,222	270	1,287
April	16,062	73	310	1,326	230	19,080	...	o 1,646	545	916	44·0	b140	7·1	25·2	2,132	278	1,186
May	...	...	308	1,333	m219	18,677	...	...	557	908	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,075

a Until November, 1928, including State notes, then transferred to Bank. b Excluding Dominion Notes. d In terms of new lire = 8,373 millions. e Excluding Government notes. f Milliards. g Marks—including Reichs- und Darlehenkassenscheine. i Excluding notes held by Reichsbank. k Until end 1924 paper kronen. (One pengő = 12,500 paper kronen.) m Token coin 195·8 million Zloty. o Gross issue. p Excluding notes held as reserve by Chartered Banks. r State notes. t Since January, 1926, excluding notes held by Bank of Poland. u Since 1920, including Austria-Hungarian and other notes converted after the war into National Currency. v Since 1926, excluding notes held by the State Bank. w In terms of new lire = 1,829 millions. y In terms of new francs. z Since May, 1922, including Luxemburg. Since Oct., 1926, including Government Notes of 5 and 10 francs to value of 700 to 750 million francs, replacing similar bank notes.

LONDON RATES OF EXCHANGE.

	Paris.	Brussels.	Italy.	Switzerland.	Madrid.	Amsterdam.	Stockholm.	Oslo.	Copenhagen.	Berlin.	Vienna.	New York.	Buenos Aires.
	Francs to £1.	Belgas to £1.	Lire to £1.	Francs to £1.	Pesetas to £1.	Florins to £1.	Kronor to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Kroner to £1.	Marks to £1.	Schillings to £1.	Dollars to £1.	Pence Dollars.
Par level	124·21	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58½	4·86⅔	47·62
Highest, 1929	124·37	34·96⅝	93·27½	25·24⅝	36·92	12·13	18·18⅝	18·21¼	18·22¼	20·58	34·75	4·88 7/16	47⅛
Lowest, ,,	123·68	34·84¾	92·52	25·08¾	29·67	12·05⅞	18·08⅝	18·18¾	18·17½	20·31½	34·41	4·84 9/16	44
Beginning of—													
July, 1914	25·15	† 25·35½	25·25½	21·16½	26·10	12·11⅞	18·30	18·25	18·30	20·49½	‡ 24·55	4·87⅝	47 1/16
January, 1923	66·30	† 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	‡ 330,000	4·68	44
January, 1924	87·85	† 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅝	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	19½ billions	‡ 305,500	4·29⅝	40 7/16
January, 1925	87·40½	† 94·79½	112·35	24·34½	33·95½	11·71½	17·62½	31·37½	26·85½	19·94½ gld. mks.	‡ 337,500	4·74 13/16	46 15/16
January, 1926	129·31½	†107·00	120	25·08½	34·31½	12·05	18·08	23·83½	19·60½	20·37½ ,,	34·37½	4·85 3/16	46 13/16
January, 1927	122·81½	34·89	109·62½	25·14½	31·23½	12·12⅞	18·15½	19·04½	18·20	20·43¾ ,,	34·42½	4·85 9/32	46 13/16
January, 1928	124·00	34·92½	92·32½	25·27¾	28·24	12·09½	18·11½	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½ ,,	34·52	4·87 13/16	47 13/16
January, 1929	124·10½	34·88½	92·64	25·18¾	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17⅞	20·38½ ,,	34·44½	4·85 1/16	47⅝
January, 1930	123·91	34·88¾	93·22	25·13¾	36·62½	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20½	18·20½	20·43½ ,,	34·65½	4·87 13/32	45 13/16
March, ,,	124·21	34·88½	92·80	25·14¾	39·80	12·12	18·11¾	18·17¼	18·16½	20·36½ ,,	34·50½	4·86 3/32	47 1/16
April, ,,	124·29	34·86½	92·78	25·13	38·60	12·11⅝	18·10¼	18·17	18·16¾	20·38 ,,	34·51½	4·86½	43 13/16
May, ,,	123·92½	34·83	92·78	25·07½	39·22½	12·07 11/16	18·09	18·16½	18·16½	20·36½ ,,	34·46½	4·86 11/32	42 13/16
June, ,,	123·91	34·81½	92·75½	25·09¾	40·02	12·08¼	18·10¼	18·15¼	18·16½	20·36½ ,,	34·44½	4·85 29/32	42⅝

	Rio de Janeiro.	Monte Video.	Valparaiso.	Bombay.	Hong Kong.	Shanghai.	Japan.	Singapore.
	Pence to Milreis.	Pence to Dollars.	Pesos to £1.	Pence to Rupee.	Sterling to Dollar.	Sterling to Tael.	Sterling to Yen.	Sterling to Dollar.
				s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Par level	16	51	40	1 6	...	...	2 0 37/64	...
Highest, 1929	5 15/16	51½	39·79	1 6 5/64	2 0 13/16	2 7⅞	2 0 9/16	2 4⅛
Lowest, ,,	5 9/16	45½	39·37	1 5 29/32	1 7¾	2 1 1/16	1 9 13/16	2 3⅝
Beginning of—								
July 1914	16 1/16	51½	§9⅞	1 3 31/32	1 10⅝	2 6¼	2 0½	...
January, 1923	5 13/16	44	34·70	1 4 5/16	2 3½	3 0⅜	2 1	2 4 3/32
January, 1924	5⅝	43⅞	40·30	1 5¼	2 4⅝	3 4 3/16	2 1⅜	2 4 5/32
January, 1925	5 13/16	50½	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3¼	3 1 13/16	1 7½	2 4 3/16
January, 1926	7 3/32	50¾	39·80	1 6 1/16	2 4⅝	3 1 9/16	1 9 13/16	2 4 3/16
January, 1927	5 27/32	50½	39·65	1 6 1/32	1 11 27/32	2 5⅜	2 0 5/32	2 3 13/16
January, 1928	5 29/32	51	39·35	1 6 3/32	2 0⅞	2 7½	1 11 9/16	2 4 3/16
January, 1929	5 27/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/16	2 0 9/16	2 7½	1 10¾	2 3 29/32
January, 1930	5 13/16	46½	39·80	1 5 61/64	1 8	2 1½	2 0 3/16	2 3¾
February, ,,	5 13/16	43¾	39·78	1 5 59/64	1 7 1/16	1 11¾	2 0½	2 3 47/64
March, ,,	5 13/16	44	39·82	1 6 1/32	1 6 5/16	1 11½	2 0 13/16	2 3¾
April, ,,	5 27/32	45½	39·93	1 5 63/64	1 6½	1 11½	2 0 13/16	2 3¾
May, ,,	5⅞	45½	39·92	1 5 61/64	1 6 5/16	1 11¼	2 0⅜	2 3¾
June ,,	5 13/16	45⅝	39·93	1 5 61/64	1 3½	1 6⅜	2 0 13/16	2 3¾

Place.	Method of Quoting.	April Quotations. Highest.	Lowest.	Average *
New York. May, 1929	Dollars to £1.	4·85 15/16	4·84 27/32	4·849
Apr., 1930		4·86 11/16	4·86	4·864
May, 1930		4·86½	4·85¾	4·859
Paris. May, 1929	Francs to £1.	124·25	124·00	124·125
Apr., 1930		124·31	123·88	124·108
May, 1930		123·99	123·80	123·898
Amsterdam. May, 1929	Florins to £1.	12·07½	12·05⅞	12·067
Apr., 1930		12·12½	12·07½	12·098
May, 1930		12·09½	12·07	12·081
Berlin. May, 1929	Rchmks. to £1.	20·49	20·32½	20·427
Apr., 1930		20·39	20·36	20·375
May, 1930		20·37½	20·35¾	20·365

† Francs to £1. § Pence to Peso. ‡ Krone to £1. * Daily rates.

FOREIGN TRADE.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
Monthly Average.	£	£	Francs.	Leva.	Kroner.	Ekr.	Francs.	Markka.	Mark.	Drachmæ.	Lire.	Dinars.	Gulden.	Zloty.	Kronor.	Francs.	£E.	Dollars.
	t		m	f		s	g	f		e f	b	a		c		f		
1913	54,931	...	386,384	15,775	64,785	...	701,778	41,035	897,474	i 14,828	303,803	...	325,231	...	70,545	159,985	2,271	147,932
1924	94,789	5,632	1,475,061	463,109	184,874	683,684	3,346,901	392,956	756,901	669,914	1,615,056	685,145	196,961	211,875	118,708	207,000	4,086	297,926
1925	97,223	5,162	1,488,378	606,958	161,382	8,046	3,712,700	459,959	1,030,171	848,069	2,183,374	729,407	204,583	229,589	120,535	219,427	4,678	348,018
1926	92,989	5,043	1,920,460	520,578	127,319	7,964	4,968,923	472,309	833,454	833,745	2,156,571	635,982	203,496	128,242	124,151	201,209	4,199	367,340
1927	91,282	5,012	2,422,921	510,749	131,508	8,035	4,420,823	532,157	1,185,672	1,050,162	1,697,900	607,191	212,405	240,998	132,030	213,650	3,896	346,924
1928	89,716	4,928	2,668,468	586,745	135,350	10,948	4,454,963	667,742	1,166,250	1,035,760	1,826,702	652,944	223,659	280,180	142,330	228,723	4,123	339,820
1929	92,654	5,020	2,951,467	691,988	141,305	10,261	4,857,052	583,026	1,119,549	1,106,294	1,775,002	632,982	229,358	259,248	147,708	231,987	4,453	360,940
1929—April	93,792	5,306	2,984,179	766,633	203,078	14,381	5,143,715	710,897	1,255,253	1,267,772	1,976,048	713,679	234,020	321,140	205,786	243,396	4,632	396,825
May	93,020	[illegible]	3,224,335	931,728	157,403	13,179	5,061,457	819,278	1,132,235	1,160,446	1,888,473	701,204	235,358	271,917	168,031	226,332	4,035	381,114
June	81,882	[illegible]	3,034,764	788,976	129,081	10,038	5,165,042	645,437	1,077,812	1,013,373	*2,266,753	614,557	229,834	271,746	145,188	212,873	3,779	350,336
July	85,581	5,432	3,066,082	831,448	135,602	10,681	4,627,293	639,553	1,228,035	1,098,053	1,567,459	655,474	240,442	266,447	137,685	244,162	4,127	347,133
Aug.	91,973	4,863	3,086,975	684,036	142,420	11,200	4,339,533	610,470	1,072,620	902,840	1,413,820	635,460	247,061	226,535	142,533	235,160	4,391	372,757
Sept.	91,633	5,222	2,939,266	683,393	158,765	10,923	4,353,136	623,804	1,038,209	1,193,419	1,436,249	656,637	230,557	247,457	171,261	223,097	4,657	356,512
Oct.	101,150	5,423	3,203,741	668,369	157,718	10,597	4,515,576	653,513	1,106,701	1,203,316	1,579,358	748,061	257,688	257,247	176,120	244,133	5,128	396,227
Nov.	99,981	5,058	2,841,291	655,284	155,315	9,606	4,789,413	571,187	1,161,020	1,207,637	1,530,362	621,862	237,720	243,448	166,904	260,027	5,235	332,635
Dec.	98,637	4,281	2,906,253	628,448	139,851	8,404	5,019,755	533,344	1,020,312	1,116,092	*1,995,769	599,604	214,464	212,807	160,405	268,338	4,920	302,692
1930—Jan.	93,680	4,364	2,934,499	401,026	142,003	9,240	4,777,565	308,986	1,304,721	918,944	1,505,483	560,912	220,101	216,668	136,682	208,159	6,257	316,705
Feb.	79,563	4,614	2,699,088	367,349	130,948	7,859	4,807,926	296,906	981,638	852,988	1,494,582	521,070	200,985	181,669	126,415	204,956	9,286	283,713
Mar.	85,760	5,505	2,887,692	387,582	138,368	9,022	4,431,115	347,643	883,610	1,063,922	1,501,785	658,473	226,606	194,960	130,511	227,402	...	304,445
April	76,078	4,700	2,844,639	373,046	146,349	8,406	4,565,779	442,575	888,178	842,605	1,576,223	626,000	204,225	179,415	149,215	233,833	...	307,927
May	91,037	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†831,000	...	1,468,786	...	...	...	...	211,331	...	x285000

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	U.K.	Irish Free State.	Belgium.	Bulgaria.	Denmark.	Estonia.	France.	Finland.	Germany.	Greece.	Italy.	Jugo-Slavia.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Swed'n.	Switzerland.	Egypt.	United States.
			m	f		s	g	f		e f	b	a		c		f		
1913	43,771	...	302,882	7,778	53,113	...	573,351	33,482	841,436	i 9,917	209,303	...	255,453	...	68,112	114,700	2,626	204,024
1924	66,747	4,190	1,151,126	408,519	184,874	655,483	2,530,743	414,217	545,971	272,182	1,197,746	794,898	138,388	181,437	105,079	172,511	5,472	374,804
1925	64,448	3,615	1,228,662	470,206	149,067	8,054	3,882,676	464,459	733,208	381,189	1,522,855	742,045	150,641	182,235	113,318	169,895	4,928	401,560
1926	54,421	3,432	1,661,198	468,133	117,131	8,020	4,936,893	469,712	815,265	452,479	1,555,377	651,515	145,767	187,192	118,293	153,041	3,435	392,643
1927	59,090	3,681	2,218,975	552,262	120,546	8,815	4,577,063	527,031	851,952	503,118	1,302,662	533,346	158,309	209,562	134,715	168,604	3,977	396,572
1928	60,286	3,799	2,573,408	519,271	128,752	10,592	4,281,227	520,440	970,050	523,506	1,213,253	537,058	165,515	208,999	131,222	177,870	4,584	419,175
1929	60,796	3,900	2,680,778	527,999	134,201	9,789	4,172,695	535,560	1,056,918	582,100	1,240,533	660,142	165,786	234,447	150,480	175,371	4,225	429,757
1929—April	60,244	3,309	2,828,081	720,041	147,394	9,637	4,419,445	368,918	d 1,158,881	449,479	1,247,919	614,982	168,870	214,319	149,514	176,976	5,124	418,050
May	67,437	3,469	2,459,168	550,330	151,329	9,421	3,958,909	497,671	1,093,515	314,669	1,256,092	533,661	175,252	226,840	162,149	170,399	4,012	377,076
June	49,893	3,891	y3,657,984	563,718	142,507	11,513	4,349,341	675,463	1,011,154	201,661	*1,548,162	530,235	165,389	237,891	168,797	169,818	3,057	386,804
July	66,520	3,954	2,516,856	395,096	137,083	13,517	4,269,148	801,616	1,028,431	258,859	1,054,166	621,314	70,247	276,441	168,328	174,836	3,094	393,794
Aug.	63,045	4,362	2,559,199	397,868	142,759	12,800	3,804,235	904,418	1,119,371	357,320	1,210,462	1,006,190	182,660	280,717	177,041	173,502	2,824	374,533
Sept.	55,104	4,520	2,843,208	517,150	144,921	11,858	4,221,004	714,052	1,130,362	615,289	1,233,150	721,135	181,840	262,013	179,946	180,539	1,649	431,801
Oct.	64,589	5,037	2,847,256	595,449	136,940	11,502	4,385,958	730,815	1,154,192	802,827	1,348,236	991,279	184,863	259,427	185,450	199,973	4,517	522,378
Nov.	63,125	4,808	2,541,675	690,038	139,329	9,373	4,267,785	595,126	1,090,583	913,172	1,315,702	814,055	165,617	256,137	174,315	183,915	6,285	435,480
Dec.	58,430	4,079	2,758,174	466,768	137,899	9,586	4,396,484	451,925	1,003,210	624,273	*1,309,725	778,663	143,853	254,751	158,102	177,760	5,078	420,578
1930—Jan.	58,232	3,640	2,205,917	584,047	138,635	7,256	3,714,387	319,358	1,033,502	728,303	974,925	616,151	151,858	218,591	111,712	147,143	4,119	404,377
Feb.	51,924	3,624	1,810,136	387,810	114,037	6,657	4,017,787	258,797	961,784	434,809	1,077,845	480,829	144,517	218,090	99,624	157,436	3,050	343,056
Mar.	53,946	3,487	2,760,128	660,199	124,267	6,970	3,958,428	265,682	1,042,732	410,881	1,043,676	599,006	155,982	221,106	108,600	157,930	...	363,170
April	46,861	3,404	2,538,993	507,618	117,034	6,322	3,887,769	323,493	925,808	200,875	1,042,544	†616,000	142,084	208,949	119,902	161,678	...	326,652
May	51,012	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	†1,017,000	...	1,047,232	...	...	...	...	163,273	...	x322000

a Including bullion and specie. b Since 1922 declared values. c Including Dantzig. e Until February, 1923, Julian Calendar. f Including bullion. g Since 1928 declared values. i Old Greece only. m Since May, 1922, figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." s Including bullion: until end 1924 Eesti mk. (1 Ekr. = 100 E mk.). t From April 1, 1923, including trade of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the Irish Free State, and excluding the direct foreign trade of the Irish Free State. x General Trade. y Including part of May trade not taken into account in figure for May. * Including parcel post for the half-year. † Provisional figures.

IMPORTS for Domestic Consumption—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Value. Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Quantity (Metric Tons). Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
Monthly Average.	£'s.	Rupees.	Dollars.	£'s.	£'s.	Yen.	Milreis.										
	g	b					a	q	o		d	e	i		j	d	f
1913	6,355	152,725	54,917	1,785	3,365	60,474	83,958	2,721	...	3,685	h 6,069	p 84	...	3,739	...	661	494
1924	11,960	196,493	67,350	3,995	5,302	240,726	232,463	2,784	482	4,716	3,216	150	376	1,888	201	564	369
1925	12,350	186,899	74,189	4,308	5,459	207,223	281,403	2,772	565	3,954	4,331	175	370	2,117	284	546	414
1926	13,429	196,606	84,028	4,073	5,804	192,101	225,463	2,859	554	3,783	3,606	156	450	2,362	203	590	412
1927	11,890	206,740	90,593	3,655	5,770	174,883	272,764	3,172	613	4,114	5,674	190	528	2,385	409	621	460
1928	11,361	208,170	101,860	3,661	6,291	177,792	307,916	3,293	780	4,112	5,498	197	553	2,488	430	667	487
1929	11,850	208,568	108,249	3,999	6,663	180,710	293,978	3,747	836	4,954	5,563	231	559	2,582	424	726	509
1929—April	11,142	246,341	97,517	3,945	6,677	208,843	277,054	3,598	737	5,073	5,543	266	550	2,330	544	728	490
May	10,659	215,546	125,615	3,186	7,044	214,695	343,502	3,783	827	4,921	5,886	242	564	2,846	484	701	540
June	12,237	166,854	111,949	3,358	6,308	171,128	279,860	3,677	895	5,322	5,896	205	611	2,905	487	709	478
July	12,675	191,246	114,201	4,391	7,271	163,370	209,544	3,973	911	5,062	6,561	250	663	3,041	473	889	527
Aug.	12,267	203,505	111,631	4,207	7,031	164,590	304,626	4,095	918	5,121	6,700	191	651	3,195	418	861	568
Sept.	12,150	193,882	99,380	5,014	6,312	131,861	270,021	4,160	929	5,151	6,146	237	678	2,867	402	780	493
Oct.	12,729	195,138	116,261	4,359	6,781	148,951	275,487	4,303	893	5,037	6,101	242	608	2,895	384	795	488
Nov.	13,141	225,531	108,734	3,957	6,865	143,894	272,818	3,710	955	5,173	5,863	255	566	2,712	317	706	487
Dec.	10,443	167,025	84,365	3,927	5,858	156,804	275,551	3,933	850	5,292	5,193	251	531	2,592	373	738	512
1930—Jan.	12,255	230,819	84,662	4,122	5,714	180,940	242,759	4,023	630	5,210	6,318	194	380	2,698	320	651	575
Feb.	9,228	177,356	80,922	3,897	5,303	157,320	...	3,597	545	5,383	5,044	189	282	2,371	281	611	...
Mar.	10,464	201,950	113,026	3,982	†5,356	178,448	...	3,890	632	4,681	4,469	228	328	2,641	307	652	...
April	8,889	175,728	71,402	...	†5,244	144,905	...	3,462	669	5,521	4,744	193	...	2,441	282	631	...
May	...	...	...	...	†5,100	155,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	663	...

EXPORTS of Domestic Produce—Merchandise Only. (000's omitted.)

Period.	Australia.	British India.	Canada.	New Zealand.	South Africa.	Japan.	Brazil.	Belgium.	Czecho-slovakia.	France.	Germany.	Greece.	Hungary.	Netherlands.	Poland.	Switzerland.	Brazil.
	g	b			c		a				d k	e	i		j	d	f
1913	6,070	200,993	36,333	1,751	2,294	52,393	81,814	1,740	...	1,840	h6,143	p 50	...	2,451	...	71	115
1924	13,075	308,807	88,171	4,275	3,148	146,741	321,963	1,697	o 1,036	2,499	1,325	34	141	844	1,312	68	153
1925	11,689	330,960	105,916	4,499	3,794	184,968	335,164	1,744	o 1,014	2,532	3,194	47	182	1,028	1,134	67	160
1926	10,821	268,689	105,715	3,648	3,311	164,371	265,880	1,933	o 1,067	2,712	5,048	45	216	1,319	1,859	70	155
1927	11,268	265,405	101,528	3,916	3,984	159,313	303,677	2,019	o 1,167	3,166	3,912	53	169	1,195	1,696	86	168
1928	11,069	275,534	112,489	4,511	4,057	159,095	330,856	2,214	o 1,124	3,427	3,754	54	175	1,310	1,702	81	173
1929	10,005	268,781	98,536	4,471	3,738	175,075	321,707	2,147	1,092	3,324	4,570	62	229	1,358	1,753	87	182
1929—April	11,532	274,448	65,728	5,374	3,565	171,995	319,177	2,225	o 1,192	3,217	4,608	44	200	1,456	1,527	86	189
May	9,393	257,971	107,473	3,393	3,355	178,751	293,683	2,043	1,078	3,087	4,479	49	172	1,475	1,612	91	176
June	6,766	262,113	112,176	4,016	2,246	154,421	290,945	2,473	1,094	3,617	4,391	62	179	1,375	1,792	92	188
July	6,023	250,796	102,219	2,609	2,948	184,338	352,882	2,188	1,106	3,741	4,817	72	239	1,508	2,140	95	177
Aug.	5,765	268,170	96,265	2,349	2,965	214,978	363,292	2,183	1,093	3,214	5,094	47	266	1,528	2,200	86	205
Sept.	7,595	258,709	87,751	2,083	3,053	187,344	347,929	2,265	1,005	3,609	5,602	71	319	1,482	1,996	87	189
Oct.	8,989	257,097	119,266	2,233	5,278	201,767	338,900	2,281	1,176	3,217	5,305	82	320	1,503	1,892	129	187
Nov.	10,056	268,749	111,068	2,811	5,170	168,719	300,972	2,161	1,358	3,314	5,071	85	323	1,474	2,071	97	211
Dec.	9,330	234,744	88,520	4,493	6,304	157,107	282,741	2,239	1,394	3,485	5,274	62	309	1,285	1,779	80	207
1930—Jan.	6,529	265,272	73,507	6,261	2,806	144,184	336,318	1,998	830	2,908	5,375	67	195	1,394	1,733	75	248
Feb.	8,692	244,332	66,690	5,512	2,952	115,958	...	1,433	747	3,327	4,552	60	138	1,291	1,574	65	...
Mar.	8,462	274,932	89,595	5,448	†2,169	131,598	...	2,386	871	3,351	4,653	43	195	1,342	1,313	75	...
April	7,207	240,277	50,744	a 3,891	†1,990	113,714	...	2,325	877	3,012	4,405	134	...	1,303	1,354	80	...
May	...	...	...	...	†1,917	†115,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	...

a General trade. b Sea-borne trade only. c Including ships' stores. d Excluding a few articles shown by number. e Until Feb., 1923, Julian Calendar; excludes articles shown by number. f General trade, gross weight. h Including Luxembourg. i Until 1929, excluding live stock and articles shown by number. j Excluding weight of two animals. k Excluding reparation deliveries. o Including a few goods declared by number only. p 1914. q Since May, [illegible] figures refer to "Union Economique Belgo-Luxembourgeoise." † Provisional figure.

THE NATIONAL ACCOUNTS FOR 1929-30.

Last year's Budget closed with a deficit of £14,524,000, the third deficit realised on Mr Churchill's five budgets. The deficit was primarily due to over-estimating receipts from taxation, though under-estimates of expenditure in the last Budget were also partly responsible. The following table compares the realised results with the *Budget* estimates made last spring, after allowing for the effects of dropping certain minor proposals originally contained in the Budget speech. It should be noted that actual expenditure in the year, though £6,820,000 larger than the Budget estimates, was £6,126,000 smaller than the *final* estimates (after allowing for certain book-keeping changes). But for this fact, and for the heavy deficiency in anticipated payments to the New Sinking Fund (1928) the deficit would have amounted not to £14½ million but to over £23 million.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1929–30.*
(£'s thousands.)

REVENUE.	Exchequer Receipts.	Larger (+) or Smaller (−) than Budget Estimates.	EXPENDITURE.	Exchequer Issues.	Larger (+) or Smaller (−) than Budget Estimates.
	£	£		£	£
Customs	119,888	+ 38	National Debt Services:		
Excise	127,500	− 3,050	Interest and Management	307,252	+ 2,652
Total Customs and Excise	247,338	− 3,012	New Sinking Fund (1928)	47,748	− 2,652
Motor Vehicle Duties:			Total	355,000	...
Exchequer share	4,920	+ 220	Payments to Road Fund	21,882	− 718
Paid to Road Fund	21,882	− 718	Local Taxation Accts.	13,314	− 1,686
Total M.V.D.'s	26,802	− 498	Northern Ireland Exchequer	5,526	+ 126
Income Tax	237,426	− 2,074	Other Consolidated Fund Services	3,312	− 188
Surtax	56,390	− 1,610	Total	399,034	− 2,466
Estate, &c., Duties	79,770	− 1,230	Army, Navy, Air Force	113,000	+ 390
Stamps	25,670	− 5,330	Civil Services & Revenue Departments	258,560	+ 8,106
E.P.D., &c.†	2,250	+ 550	Total Supply Services	371,560	+ 8,496
Land Tax, &c.	880	+ 80	Total Expenditure (other than Post Office)	770,594	+ 6,030
Total Inland Revenue	402,386	− 9,614	Post Office	58,900	+ 790
Total Tax Revenue	676,576	− 13,124	Grand Total	829,494	+ 6,820
Crown Lands	1,290	+ 40			
Sundry Loans	32,640	+ 2,090			
Miscellaneous:					
Ordinary Receipts	10,432	− 2,068			
Special Receipts	25,932	− 68			
Post Office, net receipts	9,200	+ 300			
Non-Tax Revenue	79,494	+ 294			
Total Revenue apart from P.O.	756,070	− 12,830			
Post Office self-balancing Revenue	58,900	+ 790			
Grand Total	814,970	− 12,040			
Deficit	14,524	+ 18,860			
	829,494	+ 6,820			

* Including Road Fund payments on both sides of the account.
† Including Corporation Profits Tax.

During the last financial year the net amount, after allowing for the deficit and excess interest on Savings Certificates, which was applied out of revenue for the redemption of debt, was £28,406,000. This sum is, of course, substantially smaller than the amount required to provide for the statutory sinking funds. During the year the Floating Debt was reduced by nearly £100 million. The principal capital changes reported up to date are shown in the following table:—

(£'s thousands.)

RECEIPTS.		ISSUES.	
4½% Conversion Loan, 1940–44	10,870	Treasury Bills paid off	111,366
5% Conversion Loan, 1944–64	154,618	Savings Certificates:—	
4½% Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	26,301	Excess Interest*	4,819
Ways and Means Advances Increased	11,480	Net amount repaid	3,300
Other Receipts†	290	Exchequer Bonds repaid	15,640
		Treasury Bonds repaid	43,981
		Depreciation Fund	5,135
		Other Issues‡	4,794
			189,035
		Deficit	14,524
	203,559		203,559

* Excess over Provision in the Permanent Debt Charge. † Land Settlement loans repaid, £163,000; Exchequer balances decreased, £127,000. ‡ Mainly redemption; Other Debt under War Loan Acts, 1914 to 1919, £4,729,000.

The next table shows the financial results of each year since 1909-10:—

(000's omitted.)

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1909–10	131,696	*157,945	...	— *26,249*
1910–11	203,851	*171,996	+ 31,855	...
1911–12	185,090	*178,545	+ 6,545	...
1912–13	188,802	*188,622	+ 180	...
1913–14	198,243	*197,493	+ 750	...
1914–15	226,694	560,474	...	— *333,780*
1915–16	336,767	1,559,158	...	— *1,222,391*
1916–17	573,428	2,198,113	...	— *1,624,685*
1917–18	707,235	2,696,221	...	— *1,988,986*
1918–19	889,021	2,579,301	...	— *1,690,280*
1919–20	1,339,571	1,665,773	...	— *326,202*
1920–21	1,425,985	*1,195,428	+ 230,557	...
1921–22	1,124,880	*1,079,187	+ 45,693	...
1922–23	914,012	*812,497	+ 101,515	...
1923–24	837,169	*788,840	+ 48,329	...
1924–25	799,436	*795,777	+ 3,659	...
1925–26	812,062	*826,100	...	— *14,038*
1926–27	805,701	*842,395	...	— *36,694*
1927–28	842,824	*838,585	+ 4,239	...
1928–29	836,435	*818,041	+ 18,394	...
1929–30	814,970	*829,494	...	— *14,524*

* Includes Sinking Fund, 1909–14, about £5 million a year; 1920–21, £19·2 million; 1921–22, £22·9 million; 1922–23, £21·8 million; 1923–24, £40 million; 1924–25, £45 million; 1925–26, £50 million; 1926–27, £60 million; 1927–28, £65 million; 1928–29, £57½ million; and 1929–30, £47½ million.

REVENUE.

The next table shows the realised revenue in 1913-14, 1924-25 and from 1927-28 onwards:—

REVENUE (£'s millions).

	1913–14	*1924–25*	1927–28	1928–29	1929–30
Customs	*35·5*	*99·3*	111·6	119·0	119·9
Excise	*39·5*	*135·1*	139·2	134·0	127·5
Total	*75·0*	*234·4*	250·8	253·0	247·4
Motor Vehicle Duties*	...	*16·2*	24·5	25·4	26·8
Estate, etc., Duties	*27·4*	*59·5*	77·3	80·6	79·8
Stamps†	*10·0*	*22·9*	27·0	30·1	25·7
Land Tax, etc.‡	*3·4*	*1·4*	·8	·7	·8
Income Tax	*43·9*	*273·8*	250·6	237·6	237·4
Super Tax	*3·3*	*62·7*	60·6	56·2	56·4
E.P.D.§	...	·7	...	1·7	2·3
Corporation Profits Tax	...	*18·1*	1·8		
Total Inland Revenue	*88·0*	*439·1*	418·1	406·9	402·4
Tax Revenue	*163·0*	*689·7*	693·4	685·3	676·6
Crown Lands	·5	·9	1·1	1·2	1·3
Sundry Loans	*1·6*	*11·9*	23·9	28·1	32·6
Miscellaneous:—					
Ordinary Receipts‖	*2·3*	*14·4*	30·9	13·1	10·4
Special Receipts		*27·0*	30·5	43·4	25·9
Post Office Net¶	*6·2*	*5·1*	6·2	8·1	9·2
Non-Tax Revenue	*10·6*	*59·3*	92·6	93·9	79·5
Total Revenue apart from P.O.	*173·6*	*749·0*	786·0	779·2	756·1
Post Office self-balancing Revenue	*24·6*	*50·4*	56·8	57·2	58·9
Grand Total	*198·2*	*799·4*	842·8	836·4	815·0

* Total receipts, including the Exchequer share from 1926–27 onwards.
† Excluding Fee and Patent stamps.
‡ Land Tax, Inhabited House Duty, Land Values Duties.
§ Including Munitions Levy.
‖ Including receipts from Fee and Patent stamps in 1913–14, 1924–25 and 1927–28. From 1928–29 onwards these receipts were applied as appropriations-in-aid of the Departments concerned.
¶ Total Post Office receipts *less* Post Office self-balancing Revenue.

In 1928-29 Mr Churchill changed the form in which the national accounts were presented, showing separately "Ordinary Revenue and and Expenditure" and "Self-balancing Revenue and Expenditure." The latter item comprises Post Office expenditure and the share of motor vehicle duties apportioned to the Road Fund. In addition, in the new form of accounts, the sinking fund is shown separately from "Ordinary" expenditure. There are very good reasons indeed for excluding Post Office expenditure from the total of national expenditure, for this is a payment mainly commercial in character; but the excess of Post Office receipts over expenditure must be included in any case as part of the national revenue. On the other hand, there is no very clear reason for separating payments to the Road Fund from other revenue and expenditure, for the motor vehicle duties are certainly a tax and Road Fund expenditure is as plainly an outlay as is, for example, the cost of education or of the navy. *Mutatis mutandis*, the same applies to the sinking fund. In the preceding table, therefore, the *total* receipts from the motor vehicles duties are shown as part of the tax revenue; but only *net* Post Office receipts are included in the non-tax revenue. On the other hand, in the final line Post Office self-balancing revenue has been included, and the totals are those found in the national accounts for earlier years. The figures in the table are comparable throughout.

Details of the various sources of revenue will not be available until the Finance Accounts are published in the summer. The summaries which follow, however, and which give the latest figures available, indicate the principal characteristics and chief variations of the main items of revenue in recent years.

Customs and Excise. — Exchequer receipts from Customs and Excise together amounted last year to £247,338,000, and were thus £3 million less than the Budget estimate. Last year's receipts compare with receipts of £252,972,000 in 1928-29, £250,820,000 in 1927-28. £234,472,000 in 1924-25, and £75,040,000 in 1913-14. Since the nominal amount in terms of money has substantially increased during the last six years, whereas prices have fallen heavily in the same period, it is plain that the real burden in terms of goods and services is correspondingly greater. As compared with pre-war, the increase is much more striking.

Exchequer receipts, because of variations in retained balances, always differ somewhat from net receipts as returned in the Report of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, and it is net receipts which are shown in the following table, compiled mainly from the Commissioners' latest report for the year ended March 31, 1929. The areas referred to are the United Kingdom in 1913-14 and Great Britain and Northern Ireland since the war:—

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES—NET RECEIPTS (000's omitted).

	1913–14	*1924–25*	1927–28	1928–29
	£	£	£	£
Spirits	*23,976*	*51,054*	47,368	45,667
Beer	*13,655*	*81,987*	83,319	75,825
Wine*	*1,152*	*3,752*	4,149	4,248
Tea	*6,499*	*5,971*	5,781	5,740
Sugar, etc.	*3,329*	*20,532*	18,742	15,288
Tobacco	*18,284*	*51,913*	58,104	59,087
Matches and mechanical lighters	...	*3,295*	3,954	3,960
Hydrocarbon oils	†	...	...	12,982
Betting duty	...	...	2,669	2,245
Liquor licences, etc.	*4,517*	*4,658*	4,624	4,571
Other revenue duties‡	*3,815*	*11,259*	10,416	11,003
Total revenue duties	*75,227*	*234,421*	239,126	240,616
Hops	...	...	317	290
Silk and artificial silk	...	...	5,992	6,063
"McKenna" duties	...	*110*	3,563	3,515
Safeguarding of Industry duties	...	*476*	2,140	2,335
Total protective duties	...	*586*	12,012	12,203
Grand total	*75,227*	*235,007*	251,138	252,819

* Other than British wine, which was first taxed in 1927 and yielded £118,630 in 1927–28 and £201,745 in 1928–29.
† There was no duty on hydrocarbon oils in 1913–14, but the motor spirit duty (repealed finally as from January 1, 1921) yielded in that year £841,000, which is included with "Other revenue duties."
‡ Including British wine, table waters, cider and perry, cocoa, coffee, chicory and substitutes, dried or preserved fruits, entertainments, railway passenger duty, patent medicines, and miscellaneous.

The foregoing table must be read partly in the light of the changes in consumption during recent years, the chief of which are shown in the following table, and partly in the light of the changes in taxation which are discussed below:—

QUANTITIES RETAINED FOR CONSUMPTION.
(In millions.)

Calendar Years.	*1913.**	*1924.*	1927.	1928.
Tea ....lbs.	*305·49*	*395·50*	410·00	417·42
Sugar (total in terms of refined) ....cwts.	*33·92*	*31·48*	34·34	36·53
Tobacco:—				
Unmanufactured ....lbs.	*94·21*	*127·91*	137·29	140·86
Manufactured ....lbs.	*1·90*	*·95*	·86	·86
Spirits (potable):—				
Home made ....pf. gals.	*26·16*	*12·43*	11·38	10·97
Imported ....pf. gals.	*5·67*	*2·30*	1·78	1·69
Beer ....barrels	*35·32*	*21·93*	20·93	20·51
QUANTITIES PER HEAD OF POPULATION.				
Tea ....lbs.	*6·69*	*8·81*	9·02	9·15
Sugar (total in terms of refined) ....lbs.	*83·22*	*78·50*	84·66	89·68
Tobacco:—				
Unmanufactured ....lbs.	*2·06*	*2·85*	3·02	3·09
Manufactured ....lbs.	*0·04*	*0·02*	0·02	0·02
Spirits (potable):—				
Home made ....pf. gals.	*0·57*	*0·28*	0·25	0·24
Imported ....pf. gals.	*0·13*	*0·05*	0·04	0·04
Beer ....galls.	*27·86*	*17·58*	16·59	16·18

* The figures for 1913 relate to the United Kingdom; those for later years to Great Britain and Northern Ireland only.

Since 1924 a considerable number of changes have been made in Customs and Excise duties. In his first Budget Mr Snowden reduced all the breakfast table duties. The duties on tea, cocoa, coffee, chicory, coffee and chicory substitutes were halved, the tea duty being reduced to 4d. a lb. (against 5d. at the outbreak of war), and the coffee and chicory duties to their pre-war amounts (14s. and 13s. 3d. a cwt. respectively); while the cocoa duty, though also halved, was left substantially above its pre-war level (14s. a cwt. against 9s. 4d. pre-war). The sugar duty was reduced from 25s. 8d. a cwt. to 11s. 8d. (pre-war, 1s. 10d.), while the duty on home-grown sugar, which had been taken off in 1922, was reimposed. The duty on dried fruits was reduced from 10s. 6d. a cwt. to the pre-war level of 7s. a cwt. In addition to these changes, Mr Snowden repealed the war-time duty on sweetened table waters and herb beer, lowered the entertainments tax payable on the cheaper seats (up to seats costing 2s. apart from tax), and allowed the McKenna duties on motor cars, musical instruments, clocks and watches and cinema films to expire at the end of the ten-year term for which they had originally been imposed in 1915.

Mr Churchill's changes during his Chancellorship were even more extensive. Considering first the commodities on which duties existed before the war, he repealed the trifling Excise duty on chicory in 1926, raised the duties on imported wines and on tobacco in 1927, reduced the sugar duties in 1928, and repealed the tea duty in 1929. Even more remarkable were the changes he made in duties which did not exist before the war and the new duties which he imposed, many of them either purely and avowedly protective or else constructed with a definite protective twist. The purely protective duties include the reimposed McKenna duties, the duties on hops, lace, embroidery, cutlery, gloves and incandescent mantles, hose (all imposed in 1925); those on commercial motor vehicles and wrapping paper, together with increases in certain key industry duties (in 1926); the duty on motor tyres and the transluscent pottery duty (in 1927); and the duties on mechanical lighters, on buttons, and on wrought and enamelled hollow-ware (in 1928). In addition the silk and artificial silk duties (imposed in 1925) and the revised duties on matches (made in 1927) had

markedly protective characteristics; and a protective tinge was even given to the petrol duty imposed in 1928. In addition to all these changes, Mr Churchill also imposed various duties on betting in 1926, altering them again in 1928 and 1929; and duties on British wines (imposed in 1927 and increased in 1928). Finally, in 1929, he repealed the railway passenger duty.

The conclusion to which the tables in this section lead is that, so long as present consumption trends continue, the revenues from Customs and Excise will not show their former buoyancy. Both the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise are now confronted with problems at once novel and disturbing.

Motor Vehicle Duties.—Gross Exchequer receipts (*i.e.*, including both the Exchequer share and the portion paid to the Road Fund) in respect of motor vehicle duties amounted last year to £26,802,000 and were £498,000 less than the estimates. The remarkable increase in the yield of these duties in recent years is shown in the following table:—

MOTOR VEHICLE DUTIES.
(000's omitted.)

	Exchequer Receipts. £		Exchequer Receipts. £
1920–21	7,073	1925–26	18,056
1921–22	11,096	1926–27	21,393
1922–23	12,321	1927–28	24,518
1923–24	14,691	1928–29*	25,357
1924–25	16,164	1929–30*	26,802

* Including both the Exchequer share and the amounts paid to the Road Fund, which are shown separately in the National Accounts for these years.

Although the table shows that the increase is still continuing, it is plainly at a lower rate than in earlier years; and the recent failure of these duties to reach the totals anticipated in the Budget statements is somewhat ominous. It suggests that motor taxation, which is now extremely heavy, is hampering further expansion. Since 1926-27 the Exchequer, instead of paying the entire yield to the Road Fund, has earmarked a portion for general purposes, the amounts so applied amounting to £4,020,000 in 1926-27, to £4,852,000 in 1927-28, to £4,226,000 in 1928-29, and to £4,920,000 in 1929-30.

Death Duties.—Last year Exchequer receipts from death duties totalled £79,770,000, or £1,230,000 less than the Budget estimate. The following table shows the Exchequer receipts from death duties in 1913-14 and for the years from 1920-21 onwards. For 1913-14, 1920-21 and 1921-22, the figures relate to Great Britain and Ireland; from 1922-23 onwards to Great Britain only:—

ESTATE, &c., DUTIES.
(In Million £'s.)

	Exchequer Receipts.		Exchequer Receipts.
1913–14	27·36	1924–25	59·45
		1925–26	61·20
1920–21	47·73	1926–27	67·32
1921–22	52·19	1927–28	77·31
1922–23	56·87	1928–29	80·57
1923–24	57·80	1929–30	79·77

Three death duties out of the seven on the Statute Book are applicable to deaths occurring to-day, the estate duty being by far the most important. Although on estates up to £12,500 the pre-war duties are still payable, the rates of estate duty, which the 1925 Budget increased by from 1 per cent. to 6 per cent. on estates exceeding a net principal value of £12,500 and not exceeding a net principal value of £1,000,000, are now much higher in the case of large estates than they were before the war, and their scaling up is more rapid.

The current distribution of fortunes, coupled with the extremely rapid scaling up of the rates of estate duty as the higher ranges of capital values are approached, accounts for the proportions of the total tax contributed by estates of various sizes. In 1928-29 the total number of estates liable to estate duty was 17,683; the net capital value of these estates was slightly more than £525 million; and the net receipts (as distinguished from the Exchequer receipts) from the duty was £72,230,000. Estates of a value not exceeding £10,000 numbered 109,595 (or 93.128 per cent.), represented a net capital value of £159,617,000 (or 30.39 per cent.) and accounted for £4,736,000 of the net receipts (or 6.56 per cent.). The remaining 93½ per cent. of the net receipts came in almost equal proportions from estates exceeding £10,000, but not exceeding £100,000, from those exceeding £100,000 but not exceeding £500,000, and from those exceeding £500,000. The first group—from £10,000 to £100,000—numbered 7,553 (or 6.418 per cent.), represented a net capital value of £203,313,000 (or 38.27 per cent.) and accounted for £22,599,000 of the net receipts (or 31.28 per cent.). The second group—from £100,000 to £500,000—numbered 477 (or 0.405 per cent.), represented a net capital value of £95,511,000 (or 18.19 per cent.), and accounted for £22,075,000 of the net receipts (or 30.56 per cent.). The last group of estates—those over £500,000—numbered 58 (or 0.049 per cent.), represented a net capital value of £66,692,000 (or 12.70 per cent.), and accounted for £22,826,000 of the net receipts (or 31.60 per cent.). Within this last group estates from £1 million to £3 million and those over £3 million numbered respectively 19 and 1; represented respectively net capital values of £26,579,000 and £13,277,000 (or 5.06 per cent. and 2.53 per cent.); and accounted respectively for £9,646,000 and £5,491,000 of the net receipts (or 13.35 per cent. and 7.60 per cent.).

Stamp Duties.—Exchequer receipts from stamp duties (excluding fee and patent stamps) amounted to £25,670,000 in 1929-30 and fell short of the Budget estimates by £5,330,000. The principal variable items in the revenue from stamps are the duties on Stock Exchange transactions and the company duty; and when the details for 1929-30 come to be published, there is no question but that the major part of the decline will be found in these classes of receipts, the natural consequence of the depression from which the Stock Exchange suffered during the last financial year. The next table shows the net receipts from the main heads of duty in recent years and in 1913-14.

STAMP DUTIES: NET RECEIPTS.
(In thousand £'s.)

	1913–14.	*1925–26.*	1927–28.	1928–29.
Land and property ...	*1,879*	*4,660*	4,867	4,856
Stocks and shares, etc.	*3,125*	*8,499*	9,820	11,695
Company Capital Duty	*698*	*2,680*	3,251	4,416
Cheques and bills	*2,322*	*5,368*	4,977	5,122
Receipts	*669*	*2,277*	2,284	2,286
Other	*955*	*1,645*	1,695	1,759
Total	*9,648*	*25,129*	26,894	30,134

Income Tax.—Exchequer receipts from income tax amounted last year to £237,426,000, and were £2,074,000 below the estimate.

The following table shows the Budget estimates and Exchequer receipts of income tax for 1913-14 and from 1920-21 onwards, together with the standard rates of tax for each year:—

INCOME TAX.*

	Exchequer Receipts.	Standard Rate of Tax in the £	Yield per Penny.		Exchequer Receipts.	Standard Rate of Tax in the £	Yield per Penny.
	£'s mlns.	s. d.	£'s mlns.		£'s mlns.	s. d.	£'s mlns
1913–14	43·9	1 2	3·11	1924–25	273·8	4 6	5·06
				1925–26	259·4	4 0	4·92
1920–21	338·9	6 0	4·91	1926–27	234·7	4 0	4·87
1921–22	337·0	6 0	4·81	1927–28	250·6	4 0	4·73
1922–23	314·8	5 0	4·92	1928–29	237·6	4 0	4·95
1923–24	269·3	4 6	4·87	1929–30	237·4	4 0	4·95

* For 1913–14, 1920–21 and 1921–22, the United Kingdom; from 1922–23 onwards, Great Britain and Northern Ireland only.

This table must be read in the light of the changes in income tax which have been made in recent years. The present system was instituted in 1920-21, and was maintained without change in 1921-22. In 1922-23 the standard rate was reduced by 1s., at a cost estimated at £23,500,000 in that year and at £52,000,000 in a full year. Certain other small changes were also made. In 1923-24 the standard rate was again reduced, this time by 6d., at cost estimated at £19,000,000 in that year and at £26,000,000 in a full year. In 1924-25 no change was made. In 1925-26 the standard rate was reduced by 6d. (estimated cost in 1925-26, £24 million; in a full year, £32 million; and the earned income allowance was increased from $\frac{1}{10}$ (with a maximum allowance of £200) to $\frac{1}{5}$ (with a maximum of £250), while at the same time a similar allowance was made on the investment incomes of persons aged 65 or over with incomes not exceeding £500 (estimated cost in 1925-26, £3,000,000; in a full year, £7,500,000). In 1926-27 the only change was one consequential upon an agreement with the Irish Free State respecting double income tax at a cost estimated in that year at £200,000 and in a full year at £300,000. In 1927-28 various minor changes were made, resulting in an estimated net increase in that year of £200,000 and in a full year of £350,000, while Schedule A income tax was collected in one instalment instead of two, with a resultant gain, for 1927-28 only, estimated at £14,800,000. In 1928-29 relief in respect of children was increased from £36 for the first child and £27 for each subsequent child to £60 and £50 respectively, at a cost estimated at £2,100,000 in that year and at £4,500,000 in a full year. In 1929-30 no change was made.

Surtax.—Exchequer receipts from surtax (formerly called super-tax) totalled £56,390,000 last year, and were £1,610,000 below the Budget estimate. This is the third consecutive year in which receipts from super-tax have failed to reach the Budget forecast.

The number of persons assessed to super-tax (as revised at April 30, 1929), the total chargeable income (including the first portion on which no super-tax is payable) and the Exchequer receipts in 1913-14 and since 1920-21 are shown in the following table:—

SUPER-TAX.
(1913-14 to 1921-22 United Kingdom; thereafter Great Britain and Northern Ireland.)

Year.	Incomes Exceeding which Super-Tax Becomes Chargeable.	Number of Persons Charged.	Total Income Chargeable, including First Portion on which no Super-Tax is Payable.	Exchequer Receipt.
	£		Million £'s.	Million £'s.
1913–14	5,000	14,008	176	3·32
1920–21	2,000	79,962	530	55·28
1921–22	2,000	93,273	590	61·73
1922–23	2,000	91,448	530	64·21
1923–24	2,000	93,133	538	60·64
1924–25	2,000	94,736	545	62·68
1925–26	2,000	96,699	553	68·51
1926–27	2,000	97,248	549	65·91
1927–28	2,000	95,592	531	60·60
1928–29	2,000	*	*	56·15
1929–30	2,000	*	*	56·39

* Not available.

The decline in numbers and in total chargeable income is disquieting. A detailed examination of the movements of different grades of incomes reveals that it is the higher ranges which show the largest fall, the total of incomes over £10,000 per annum having actually declined between 1924 and 1927 by nearly 10 per cent. Whether these changes reflect the post-war depression or the after-effects of the coal stoppage or the decline in prices and therefore in certain types of money incomes, they afford ground for anxiety. Will the downward movement continue, and if so, for how long? And are these changes in super-tax isolated phenomena or the precursors of similar changes in income tax? The next few reports of the Inland Revenue will supply the answers.

Excess Profits Duty and Corporation Profits Tax.—Since both these levies have been repealed, and only arrears are now being collected, it is not surprising that together they both yielded only £2,250,000 last year, though this amount was actually £550,000 greater than the Budget estimate.

Receipts from Sundry Loans.—Last year this source of revenue yielded £32,640,000, and was therefore £2,090,000 more than the Budget estimate. In recent years, as the following table shows, these receipts have provided a lucrative and growing yield. As compared with pre-war, when they averaged about £1½ million, the increase is enormous. The table shows the main heads under which payments have been received:—

RECEIPTS FROM SUNDRY LOANS.
(000's omitted.)

	1924–25.	*1925–26.*	1927–28.	1928–29.
	£	£	£	£
Interest, &c., on War Loans:				
Dominions and Colonies..	*6,429*	*6,320*	6,163	8,967*
France	*2,082*	*2,436*	6,043	8,043
Italy	...	*2,000*	4,000	4,000
Other Allied Powers	*24*	*28*	700	850
Interest, &c., on Relief Reconstruction, &c., loans..	*810*	*934*	1,260	1,687
Suez Canal shares	*1,090*	*1,115*	1,546	1,697
Other receipts	*1,506*	*2,111*	4,241	2,867*
Total	*11,941*	*14,944*	23,953	28,111

* See remarks in text below.

Receipts from France and Italy are, of course, under the debt funding agreements. The other Allied Powers who had funded their debts and were making payments in 1928-29 were Greece, Roumania, Portugal and Jugoslavia. The item "Relief, Reconstruction, etc., Loans," includes, *inter alia*, the loans to Austria, Belgium, Hungary, Estonia, Czechoslavakia, Poland and Latvia. In 1928-29 a not unimportant change in accounting practice was made, which apparently increased receipts in that year. In earlier years sums amounting, for example, to about £3,000,000 in 1927-28, had been received from Allies, Dominions, etc., in respect of war contributions and repayments of principal on war loans; but these receipts had been remitted direct to the National Debt Commissioners (who applied them to cancel debt) and therefore did not pass through the Exchequer in those years. In 1928-29, however, these items were brought into "Receipts from Sundry Loans" and paid into the Exchequer, thereby increasing *pro tanto* the revenues of the year and diminishing the funds available for the redemption of debt. This practice was continued last year. In order, therefore, to arrive at figures for 1928-29 and 1929-30, which are strictly comparable with those for earlier years, some £3 million must be deducted from the Exchequer Receipts.

Miscellaneous Ordinary and Special Receipts.—These two sources of revenue proved especially fruitful under Mr Churchill's Chancellorship. They include, *inter alia*, such items as £19 million from the 1926 and 1927 raids on the Road Fund; the Treasury's share (amounting to £2½ million in 1928-29) of surplus interest earned by Post Office and trustee savings banks over and above the amounts paid to their depositors; receipts from the Currency Notes Investment Reserve Account; the £13.4 million balance in the Currency Note Account, surrendered in 1928-29 when the note issues were amalgamated; and the like. They also include the important item of reparations receipts—totalling £19,950,000 in 1928-29, £14,500,000 in 1927-28, £9,608,000 in 1926-27, and £10,150,000 in 1925-26; as well as substantial capital sums—amounting in 1927-28 and 1928-29 taken together to not less than £15-£20 million—derived from the final liquidation of various war accounts. There can be little doubt that most of these nest-eggs have now been gathered, and that few, if any, remain against future times of pressing need.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXATION.

Although there can be no cut-and-dried division between direct and indirect taxation, certain duties, such as the Customs and Excise duties, which are paid by one set of individuals but are then passed on to the consumer, obviously belong in the category of indirect taxes. It may likewise be assumed that stamp duties partake of

the nature of indirect taxes. Assuming that all other sources of revenue from taxation belong to the category of direct taxes, we find that the amounts and proportions of direct and indirect taxation have fluctuated as follows in recent years:—

	Direct Taxation.		Indirect Taxation.	
	In Mln. £	% of Total.	In Mln. £	% of Total.
1903–04	69	*48·5*	73	*51·5*
1913–14	78	*47·9*	85	*52·1*
1921–22	513	*59·9*	344	*40·1*
1922–23	472	*60·9*	302	*39·1*
1923–24	429	*59·7*	289	*40·3*
1924–25	433	*62·7*	257	*37·3*
1925–26	422	*61·6*	263	*38·4*
1926–27	399	*60·1*	265	*39·9*
1927–28	416	*59·9*	278	*40·1*
1928–29	402	*58·7*	283	*41·3*
1929–30	404	*59·7*	273	*40·3*

Though much higher than before the war, the recent slight fall in the proportion of direct to total taxation reflects, on the one hand, the reduction in the standard rate of income tax and various other concessions made to income-tax payers in Mr Churchill's Budgets, and, on the other hand, the growing yield of stamp duties and the increase in protective and so-called luxury taxes, such as the silk duties and the petrol tax.

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

The burden of taxation is still very heavy, and it promises to remain so. In the six years from 1924 to 1929 the tax revenues of the central Government amounted respectively to £690 million, £685 million, £664 million, £693 million, £685 million and £677 million. Sir Josiah Stamp and Professor Bowley, after an exhaustive inquiry, estimated the taxable national income at £4,230 million in 1924. Rounding this figure off to £4,250 million, and taking account of the various changes from year to year in prices on the one hand, and in the volume of physical production, the volume of employment and kindred factors on the other, the national income may be roughly estimated at £4,150 million in 1925, £3,800 million in 1926, £4,350 million in 1927, £4,250 million in 1928, and £4,400 million in 1929. On the basis of these figures it appears that the ratio of tax revenue to the national income was 16.2 per cent. in 1924, 16.5 per cent. in 1925, 17.5 per cent. in 1926, 15.9 per cent. in 1927, 16.1 per cent. in 1928, and 15.4 per cent. in 1929. Taking the national income in 1913 at £2,300 million and the central tax revenue at £163 million, the proportion in that year was 7.1 per cent. The present burden is more than double the pre-war burden, and, while substantially lighter than in the years immediately following 1920, is still excessively heavy. Moreover, there is no prospect of an immediate reduction in national expenditure or of early expansion in the national income in terms of money sufficiently large to reduce the existing burden materially.

Local Rates.—Imperial taxes are by no means the whole burden laid on the community. The nation also has to find a large total for local rates, amounting to £188 million a year in 1928-29 and 1927-28, to £180 million in 1926-27, £166 million in 1925-26, and £160 million in 1924-25. The 1913-14 figure was £79 million. The new rating relief scheme, while reducing the amount raised locally by about £25 million a year, transfers an equivalent sum to the Exchequer and to national taxation.

EXPENDITURE.

The national expenditure in 1913-14 and in the years since 1920-21 is shown in the next table. The altered form of the national accounts (as changed by Mr Churchill in 1928) has been adjusted so as to show the various items throughout on a comparable basis:—

Expenditure (£'s million).

	1913-14.	*1924-25.*	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
National Debt services	*24·5*	*357·2*	378·8	369·0*	355·0*
Other Consolidated Fund services	*12·8*	*36·4*	44·0	44·2†	44·0†
Total Consolidated Fund services	*37·3*	*393·6*	422·8	413·2*†	399·0
Navy, Army, Air	*77·2*	*114·7*	117·4	113·5	113·0
Civil services	*53·9*	*226·1*	229·9	222·5	} 258·6
Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue	*4·5*	*11·0*	11·7	11·6	
Total supply services without P.O.	*135·6*	*351·8*	359·0	347·6	371·6
Total expenditure without Post Office	*172·9*	*745·4*	781·8	760·8	770·6
Post Office	*24·6*	*50·4*	56·8	57·2	58·9
Grand total.....	*197·5*	*795·8*	838·6	818·0	829·5

* Including new Sinking Fund, 1928.
† Including payments to the Road Fund. These items, formerly included in the Consolidated Fund Services, are now shown separately in the accounts.

For 1930-31 the Defence Services are estimated at £110.1 million; the Civil Services at £295.7 million, a figure which includes £15 million formerly paid to Local Government Accounts out of the Consolidated Fund and now included in the new Exchequer grants to Local Revenues under the Rating Relief Scheme; and Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue at £12.1 million. The total estimated expenditure for the Supply Services (excluding the Post Office) is thus £417.9 million. Provided that the Budget makes no change in the provision for the National Debt, the Road Fund or the remaining Consolidated Fund Services, the total for the year may be about £803 million, excluding the Post Office. As the latter is estimated at £60.3 million, the grand total for 1930-31 may be about £863 million. The following sections give details about the main movements under the principal heads of expenditure.

Consolidated Fund Services.—The movements of the National Debt Services are discussed below in the section dealing with the National Debt. Other Consolidated Fund Services cost, roughly, 50 per cent. more to-day than they did at the close of the war. Most of the increase is due to the growth in payments to the Road Fund, which in 1920-21 (when the new arrangements started) amounted to only £8.9 million and in 1921-22 to only £10.8 million, but had risen by 1928-29 to £21.1 million and in 1929-30 totalled £21.9 million. Apart from the Road Fund, payments to Local Taxation Accounts increased from, roughly, £11 million in 1920-21 to, roughly, £13 million last year, most of the growth being due to increased payments under the Agricultural Rates Act of 1923, Under the Local Government Act, 1929, these payments are no longer made out of the Consolidated Fund, but have been transferred to the Civil Services and fused with the new grants in relief of local rates. The remaining items are payments to the Northern Ireland Exchequer (about £5 million), and a miscellaneous group, including, *e.g.*, the Civil List, interest on loans to the Unemployment Fund, and payments under the Trade Facilities Act and the 1925 Tithe Acts.

Fighting Services.—The expenditure on the fighting services has fallen very substantially since 1920-21. In that year the total was £292¼ million, which, of course, included very large sums for war terminal charges. By 1923-24 the total had fallen to £105,800,000, the lowest

figure attained since the war. The movement since 1924-25 is shown in the next table:—

Fighting Services Expenditure (Exchequer Issues).
(000's omitted.)

	Navy.	Army.	Air Force.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1913–14	48,833	28,346	...	77,179
1924–25	55,625	44,765	14,310	114,700
1925–26	59,657	44,250	15,470	119,377
1926–27	57,600	43,600	15,530	116,730
1927–28	58,140	44,150	15,150	117,440
1928–29	56,920	40,500	16,050	113,470
1929–30	*a*	*a*	*a*	113,000
1930–31 (estimated) ...	51,739	40,500	17,850	110,089

a Not available.

The comparison with pre-war is not unfavourable, particularly when account is taken of non-effective charges. According to the 1913-14 estimates, effective charges for the Navy in that year were £43,332,000, as compared with £43,070,000 in 1930, whereas non-effective charges for pensions, etc., totalled £2,977,000 in the 1913 estimates, against £8,669,000 in 1930. For the Army, effective charges were estimated at £24,281,000 in 1913-14, as compared with £32,117,000 in 1930; while non-effective services were estimated at £3,939,000 in 1913, against £8,383,000 in 1930. Thus, for the two senior services, effective charges were estimated at £67,613,000 in 1913, against £75,187,000, this increase of 11 per cent. being entirely due to the larger cost of the Army, and, in any event, substantially less than the rise in prices and in the cost of living. The effective estimates for the Air Force for 1930 are £17,584,000; the non-effective estimates £266,000. Hence the total cost of effective defence services was £92,771,000 in the 1930 estimates, against £67,613,000 in the 1913 estimates, an increase of 37 per cent. Non-effective charges increased from £6,916,000 in 1913 to £17,318,000 (including the Air Force) in 1930, or by 150 per cent.; while the total cost of defence was £74,529,000 in the 1913 estimates and £110,089,000 in the 1930 estimates (the Army and Navy alone totalling £92,239,000 in 1930), an increase of 47½ per cent. in the total (and of 23½ per cent. in the Army and Navy alone).

The next table shows the strength (or establishment) of the three forces in 1913 and from 1924 onwards:—

	Navy. (*a*)	Army. (*b*)	Air Force. (*c*)
1913	142,960	185,600	...
1924	99,453	161,600	31,429
1925	100,284	160,600	32,642
1926	100,791	159,400	34,015
1927	101,916	166,500	30,035
1928	100,680	153,500	30,467
1929	99,800*(*d*)	150,500*	31,070
1930	97,050*(*d*)	148,900*	32,000*

* Estimate.
a Exclusive of Royal Marine Police.
b Establishment (exclusive of India); including in 1924 to 1928 small numbers of Indian troops in the Middle East administered by the Air Ministry; and in the years 1927 to 1930 10,000, 1,000, 500 and 200 respectively required temporarily to cover despatch of extra troops to China.
c Including (except in 1930) about 2,000 paid for by the Government of India.
d Maximum for year.

Navy.—The net estimate for the Navy for 1930-31 is £51,739,000, as against £55,865,000 in 1929-30. The reduction therefore amounts to £4,126,000. It is due mainly to the fact that the provision for new construction is reduced to £5,603,481, as compared with £8,621,626 in 1929. This year's provision for new construction is thus 35 per cent. less than last year's, and shows an even greater decline when compared with the sums provided in earlier years, viz., £9,629,857 in 1928-29, £9,983,446 in 1927-28, and £9,083,693 in 1926-27. The substantial decrease this year is due mainly to the reductions which the Government have felt justified in making in the shipbuilding programmes of 1928 and 1929. The First Lord of the Admiralty, in his statement accompanying the Navy estimates (Cmd. 3506 of 1930), observed that "if the full programmes of these two years had been put into effect, the new construction provision in the estimates must have risen by over £1,000,000 to the neighbourhood of £10,000,000, as compared with the provision of £8,621,626 in 1929 . . . The effect of the changes is, therefore, to reduce expenditure on new construction . . . by over £4,000,000." It must not be supposed, however, that the provision for new construction contained in the estimates will in no case be exceeded; for the First Lord states that while "the Government have decided not to formulate any proposals (as to future shipbuilding) until the results of the Naval Conference are known and have been fully considered," and while, therefore, no provision is made for commencing any further new construction in 1930, nevertheless he clearly intimates the possibility of supplementary estimates for this purpose. In presenting the Navy estimates to the House of Commons, the First Lord pointed out that the actual effective services of the Navy cost £43,070,000 to-day, compared with £48,541,000 (actual) in 1914. Reduced to pre-war values that shows a reduction of 46 per cent.

Army.—The Army estimates for 1930 total £40,500,000, as compared with estimates (including supplementary estimates) of £41,105,000 in 1929. The current estimates differ from those of the past four years in that they include provision for the excess cost of additional troops in China, hitherto met by supplementary estimates, and amounting to £950,000 in 1926, to £3,050,000 in 1927, to £565,000 in 1928, and to £263,000 in 1929. Two other new and special features are the loss of receipts in connection with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine (£950,000)—the loss of which for part of 1929 amounts to £560,000, provided in a recent supplementary estimate—and the omission of the contribution from the Government of Egypt towards the cost of maintenance of British troops in Egypt in consequence of the initiation of negotiations for a treaty with that country (£150,000). At the beginning of the financial year the strength of the British Army, inclusive of British troops in India, will be approximately 10,000 below establishment, due to the abnormal outflow in 1928 and 1929 and the small intake of recruits during the latter year.

Air Force.—The net total of the 1930 Air estimates is £17,850,000. This figure compares with total revised estimates for 1929 of £16,690,000. The memorandum accompanying the Air estimates states that the reduction has been effected by means of economies in the interval, "notwithstanding the increase in the strength of the Royal Air Force, the renewal of its equipment, the progress of civil aviation, and the numerous compelling claims of an advancing science and an adolescent service." The estimates allow, generally speaking, for a broad continuity of air policy and, in particular, the outlines of the Home Defence Scheme are not prejudiced.

Mr Montague, the Under-Secretary for Air, when presenting the Air estimates in the House of Commons, stressed the moderation and unprovocative character of British air policy and expenditure. If consideration is given to comparative air strengths and the trend of air expenditure of such Powers as France, Italy and the U.S.A., the facts emerge that our Air Force is substantially exceeded in terms of first line strength by these three other Powers, that on the basis of metropolitan strengths we have "considerably less than a half-Power standard compared with our nearest neighbour," and that our gross estimates show an actual reduction on the gross estimates of five years ago, the gross figures being the proper comparison when dealing with intentions and policy.

Civil Services.—The movement of the Civil Service estimates during the past two years is distinctly disquieting, even when allowance is made for certain purely book-keeping transactions which are counterbalanced by decreases elsewhere, but which raise the total of these estimates. For 1930 the estimates amount to no less than £295.7 million, against final estimates in 1929 (including supplementaries) of £249.5 million, and Budget estimates of £234.9 million.

Turning first to the increase of £14.6 million shown by the final estimates for 1929 as compared with the

Budget estimates, it appears that large items are due to under-estimating in the last Budget. In this category would fall the extra £1¼ million for the beet sugar subsidy, the substantial Irish ex-gratia grants, and the large excess over the Budget estimate in the provision for de-rating. Other items are due wholly to the account and policy of the present Government, the most important being an increase of £7.65 million in the Ministry of Labour vote in consequence of changes in unemployment insurance.

The Civil estimates for 1930 are £46,199,000 larger than the final estimates for 1929. They contain for the first time full provision for the permanent Exchequer grants to Local Revenues payable under the Local Government Act, 1929, and the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929. The provision in 1929 for expenditure under these Acts totalled £15,660,000. The net increase over this sum in the present estimates attributable to these Acts is £30,023,000, of which approximately £15 million represents an additional charge on the Exchequer and approximately £15 million is counterbalanced by the cessation of payments under Consolidated Fund Services to the Local Taxation Accounts. It should be added that these former payments out of the Local Taxation Accounts do not all appear under Class X (Exchequer Contributions to Local Revenues), but are distributed between several classes, notably Class III (Home Department, Law and Justice) and Class V (Education), and account for some of the apparent nominal increases in expenditure under such heads.

The principal other changes in the main classes of Civil Estimates only are summarised in the following paragraphs.

Class II. Imperial and Foreign.—This class, which includes the Foreign, Dominions, India and Colonial Offices, the charge for the League of Nations, and similar services, accounts for £5,890,000 in the 1930 estimates, as compared with £6,186,000 in the revised 1929 estimates, £9,581,000 actual expenditure in 1924-25, and £1,552,000 in 1913-14. As far as can be judged from the summary accounts, by far the greater part of the increase is due to the taking on of new services. Thus whereas the Foreign and Colonial Offices (including the Dominions Office in 1930), and the Diplomatic, Consular, Dominion and Colonial Services cost £1,552,000 in 1913, £2,709,000 in 1924, and are estimated at £2,778,000 in 1930, entirely new services, non-existent before the war, cost £6,872,000 in 1924, and are estimated at £3,112,000 in 1930. The reduction of £3,780,000 between 1924 and 1930 is partly real, but in part it is only apparent, votes which were formerly borne on Class II of the Civil estimates having subsequently been transferred to the estimates for the Fighting Services. The decrease of £295,000 betwen 1929 and 1930 is mainly due to the omission in 1930 of the ex-gratia Irish compensation grants (costing £797,500 in 1929) and to the reduction in the cost of Overseas Settlement. But for these reductions Class II estimates would have shown an increase in 1929 of over £1¼ million. In 1930 Empire Marketing is put at £550,000, against the same amount in 1929 and nil in 1924. Overseas Settlement is estimated at £833,000 in 1930, against £1,880,000 in 1929 and £395,000 in 1924. The new Colonial Development Fund, which embodies part of Mr Thomas's unemployment policy, is estimated at £812,000 in 1930, against £62,000 in 1929 and nil in 1924.

Class III. Home Department, Law and Justice.—These estimates total £15,896,000 in 1930 against £12,415,000 in 1929. The increase is thus apparently nearly £3½ million, though, in fact, the greater part of this figure represents a mere book-keeping change. The largest items on these estimates are the charges for the police in England and Wales and in Scotland, amounting respectively to £10,405,000 and £1,066,000. It is not practicable to compare these estimates with 1913 because of administrative and financial changes which have taken place in the intervals, the most important alterations being the revision of the scales of pay of the police force, and the grant of widows' pensions, etc., in consequence of the recommendations of the Desborough Committee in 1919 and 1920, and the concurrent increase, both absolute and proportionate, in the Central Government's contribution to the total cost of the police. The fact that the authorised strength of the police in England and Wales has only increased from 54,552 in 1913 to 57,436 in 1928, whereas the total non-loan expenditure (including the Exchequer grant) on the police by English and Welsh local authorities has increased from roughly £7.7 million in 1913-14 to roughly £21 million in 1926-27, sufficiently indicates the improvement that has been made. Just as comparison cannot be made between these estimates in 1930 and 1913 because of the intervening changes, so also comparison between 1930 and 1929 is vitiated by the transfer to the present supply estimates of the substantial grants which were formerly paid out of the Consolidated Fund. This change, which has been made by the Local Government Act, 1929, accounts for the greater part of the nominal increase already referred to.

Class IV. Education.—The 1930 estimates show a total outlay of £55,138,000, an increase of £5,028,000 on the preceding year. The two largest items in this total are the expenditure of the Board of Education—responsible for elementary and secondary education in England and Wales, and a total expenditure of £45,496,000, and the cost of public education in Scotland, which aggregates £7,197,422. Universities throughout Great Britain receive £1,830,000 additional to these amounts. The remaining items are all small.

The Board of Education's estimate for 1930 shows an increase of £3,810,000 over 1929. Of this sum £2,124,000 is the amount actually due to the development and normal growth of the education services, and the remaining £1,686,000 is attributable to changes in financial arrangements brought about by the Local Government Act of 1929.

Class V. Health, Labour and Insurance.—The estimates for 1930 total £96,996,000, after adjustments for transfers under the Local Government and the Local Government (Scotland) Acts, 1929, which if borne on this class in 1930 would raise the total to about £101½ million; but it is with this gross figure that last year's gross total estimates of £86,948,000, and actual expenditure of £62,428,000 in 1924 and (adjusting for book-keeping changes) of roughly £18¼ million in 1913 should be compared. The very substantial increase of £14½ million between 1929 and 1930 is mainly accounted for under six heads. Health Insurance grants absorb £6,730,000 this year as compared with £6,241,000 last year, an increase of £489,000; Housing grants total £13,703,000, against £12,876,000, an increase of £827,000; non-contributory Old-Age Pensions require £36½ million, against £35½ million, an increase of £1 million; Widows', etc., Pensions require £9 million, against £4 million, an increase of £5 million; contributions to the Unemployment (Insurance) Fund total £26,470,000, against £19,498,000, an increase of £6,972,000; and grants in respect of employment schemes under Mr Thomas's policy total £2,250,000, against £2,015,000, an increase of £235,000. The totals of these six items are £94,653,000 this year, against £80,130,000 last year, an increase of £14,523,000. Disregarding the sum of roughly £4½ million included in 1929 but now transferred to Class X (and *not* included in the figure of £96.99 million given above), the balance of expenditure under this class totals roughly £2,300,000 in both years and is due primarily to the cost of administration.

Class VI. Trade and Industry.—This is a large and growing class of expenditure for which the 1930 estimates provide £12,320,000, against £10,634,000 in the revised 1929 estimates, and actual expenditure of £5,126,000 in 1924 and £1,218,000 in 1913. As compared with pre-war the growth is partly due to entirely new services; as compared with 1924, it is mainly due to the beet sugar subsidy. The Board of Trade itself requires £206,700 this year as compared with £207,100 in 1929, £267,600 in 1924 and £359,900 in 1913, when, however, the Board included various departments for which there now are separate votes. The Department of Overseas Trade, which was threatened with extinction a couple of years ago, now accounts for £503,000 as compared with £379,000 in 1929. The beet sugar subsidy again proves a highly costly item, totalling £5.4 million this year, against £4.25 million a year in 1929 and 1928, £4.3 million in 1927, £3.2 million in 1926, and £1.1 million in 1925. In 1924 its cost was small and was included in the Ministry of Agriculture's vote. The Ministry requires £2,312,000 this year against £2,954,000 in 1929. The decline in the 1930 estimates as compared with 1929 is entirely due to a reduction of £918,000 in small holdings grants and an increase of £152,000 in appropriations in aid; but for these items the estimates would have shown an increase of about £500,000. Both agricultural education and research and fishery research receive substantially more this year than in 1929.

Class VIII. Non-Effective Charges (Pensions).—These estimates total £54,244,000 for 1930, against £56,357,000 in 1929, £71,901,000 actual expenditure in 1924 and £784,000 in 1913; but the bulk of current expenditure, which includes war pensions and merchant seamen's war pensions (£373,000 in 1930) did not exist before the war. War pensions, which are estimated at £51,604,000 in 1930, against £53,724,000 in 1929, constitute almost the only class of expenditure which has fallen regularly and largely in recent years. Compared with 1921-22, expenditure on war pensions has fallen about 46 per cent., while even since 1924-25 it has fallen by over a quarter.

Class X. Exchequer Contributions to Local Revenues.—These contributions under the Rating Relief scheme and the Local Government and Local Government (Scotland) Acts, 1929, are estimated at £44,507,000 in this, the first full year, against £15,660,000 last year when, however, the scheme was only partly in operation. This year's total consists of £25,800,000 in respect of loss of rates, £18,370,000 in respect of discontinued grants (*i.e.*, apart from discontinued grants replaced by additional votes in other classes of the Civil estimates), and £7,572,000 new money, a total of £51,742,000. Of this sum £2,811,000 will not be payable in the current financial year, while appropriations in aid from the Road Fund total £5,224,000. Hence the net total is £43,707,000. The remaining £800,000 required to make up this year's total is in respect of Scottish rates relieved last year.

Revenue Departments.—The cost of the revenue departments in recent years is given in the following table, which shows a deplorable upward tendency in recent years:—

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS EXPENDITURE.*
(£'s thousands.)

	1913–14.	*1924–25.*	1928–29.	1929–30. Estimates.	1930–31. Estimates.
Customs and Excise	*2 431*	*4,640*	4,855	4,958	5,080
Inland Revenue	*2,052*	*6,316*	6,782	6,640	7,055
Total	*4,483*	*10,956*	11,637	11,598	12,135

* Exchequer issues to 1928–29; 1929–30, Estimates including supplementaries; 1930–31 Estimates.

Post Office.—The following table shows Post Office expenditure in recent years:—

POST OFFICE EXPENDITURE.
(£'s millions.)

1913–14.	*1924–25.*	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.
24·6	*50·4*	57·2	58·9	60·3

This expenditure is, of course, met by receipts of an essentially commercial character. The table excludes capital expenditure out of loans.

Local Expenditure.—Very large sums are disbursed by local authorities, and the greater part of local expenditure is additional to expenditure by the central Government. Including Scottish authorities, local expenditure to-day probably totals about £575 million, of which about £90-£100 million comes from parliamentary grants, £190 million from rates, and the balance from fees and from the income yielded by trading services. The following table gives details for England and Wales:—

EXPENDITURE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.
(£'s millions.)

Service.	*1913–14.*	1926–27.			
	Total.	Total.	Of which met by: Fees, &c.	Exchequer Grants.	Rates, &c.
Education (Elementary and Higher)	*31·8*	76·0	*3·6*	*39·8*	*32·6*
Public Health ...	*13·8*	35·6	*4·7*	*3·9*	*27·0*
Lunacy & Mental Deficiency	*4·4*	9·6	*1·8*	*1·6*	*6·2*
Housing & Town Planning	*1·0*	26·2	*15·3*	*8·5*	*2·4*
Poor Relief	*12·3*	43·7	*1·9*	*1·2*	*40·6*
Highways and Bridges	*17·0*	49·5	*2·8*	*13·9*	*32·8*
Police	*7·7*	21·0	*·8*	*10·1*	*10·1*
Main Trading Services†	*40·9*	101·8	*98·2*	*·3*	*3·3*
All other Services	*19·4*	38·8	*14·5*	*1·7*	*22·6*
Total Non-loan Expenditure...	*148·3*	402·2	*143·6*	*81·0*	*177·6**
Loan Expenditure	*21·4*	117·4	...	...	...
Total Expenditure	*169·7*	519·6	...	...	...

* The actual amount of rates in this item is £159·0 million. The remainder comes from unallocated grants (£5·9 million), unallocated fees, &c. (£6·2 million), and decrease of balance during year (£6·5 million).

† Water; Gas; Electricity; Trams, &c.; Harbours, Docks, Piers, &c.

Total Expenditure on Social Services.—The following table, compiled from an annual white paper, shows the total expenditure on Social Services in Great Britain, and the sources of revenue drawn upon for the purpose:—

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES IN 1928 (OR LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR).
(£'s millions.)

	Expenditure.	Receipts from: Local Rates.	Parliamentary Votes or Grants.	Other Sources (Fees, etc.).	Total Receipts.	Number of persons(*a*) benefiting directly. (Millns.)
Unemployment Insurance ...	42·8	...	12·0	30·7	42·7	11·8
Health Insur.	37·6	...	7·1	31·7	38·8	17·4
Widows, Orphans & Old Age contributory pensions	11·9*	...	...	23·3*	23·3*	1·0
Old age pensions.....	33·7	...	33·7	...	33·7	1·4
War pensions...	56·9	...	56·9	...	56·9	1·5
Education	94·4	38·3	48·4	7·7	94·4	8·0
Housing	26·7	2·5	10·3	13·9	26·7	...
Poor relief.....	45·5	39·5	3·6	2·9	46·0	1·5
Other†	26·5	9·1	5·1	2·3	16·5	...
Total	376·0	89·4	177·1	112·5	379·0	...

* These figures relate to the Pensions Account and the Pensions (Scotland) Account, surpluses and deficits on which are dealt with by transfers to and from the Treasury Pensions Account, into which an annual contribution (amounting to £4,000,000 in the year in question) is paid by the Exchequer.

† Including reformatory and industrial schools, hospitals for the treatment of certain diseases, maternity and child welfare, and lunacy and mental deficiency.

(*a*) Persons may benefit under more than one head in the above table and hence may be counted twice or oftener in this column.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The service of the National Debt is the largest item of expenditure in the Budget. How serious is the problem of the debt as a whole is shown by the fact that the net total of the deadweight debt is 11½-fold the pre-war total, the service of the debt is fifteen times the pre-war service, the sinking fund is roughly eleven times as large, and the interest charge sixteen times as great; and that whereas in 1913-14 the service of the National Debt amounted to one-eighth of our total expenditure, to-day it amounts to roughly four-ninths of the total. These figures give a rough measure of the magnitude of the problem of the National Debt, a problem which burdens the present and overshadows the future of the national finances.

The course of interest and sinking fund charges, and the net total of the deadweight debt itself are shown in the next table:—

NATIONAL DEBT (£'s millions).

Financial Year.	Net* nominal total dead-weight debt outstanding at *end* of Financial Year.	Interest, Manage-ment, etc.	Sinking Fund.	Total National Debt Services.
1913-14 ...	649·8†	19·3	5·2	24·5
1923-24 ...	7,641·0	307·3	40·0	347·3
1924-25 ...	7,597·8	312·1	45·0	357·2
1925-26 ...	7,558·6	308·2	50·0‡	358·2
1926-27 ...	7,554·6	318·6	60·0‡	378·6
1927-28 ...	7,527·8	313·8	65·0	378·8
1928-29 ...	7,500·3	311·5	57·5	369·0
1929-30 ...	...	307·3	47·7‡	355·0

* *I.e.*, after deducting the nominal total of Funding Loan and Victory Bonds surrendered in payment of death duties and held by the National Debt Commissioners. For these amounts, see large table below.

† Debt at *beginning* of year.

‡ These are gross amounts; the net amounts, after deducting the deficit on the Budget, were £35,962,000 in 1925-26 and £23,306,000 in 1926-27. In 1929-30 the net amount, after deducting the deficit and excess interest on National Savings Certificates, was £28,406,000.

Between 1923-24 and 1927-28 the total National Debt charge was steadily increasing, while the charge for interest and management alone was growing down to 1926-27. During the past six years the cost of interest and management has been consistently under-estimated in the Budget, and the actual outlay has exceeded the Budget forecast by substantial sums. Thus in 1924-25 the actual outlay was £7,161,000 greater than the Budget estimate; in 1925-26 it was £3,229,000 greater; in 1926-27 it was £14,584,000 greater; in 1927-28 it was £8,816,000 greater; in 1928-29 it was £7,491,000 greater; and in 1929-30 it was £2.652,000 greater.

The preceding gross figures of interest do not show the relative importance of the principal fluctuating items. This is brought out in the following table:—

NATIONAL DEBT INTEREST (£'s millions).

	Treasury Bills.	Savings Certifi-cates.	Total of (1) & (2)	Other Interest Charges.	Manage-ment and Ex-penses.	Total Interest, Manage-ment, etc. ((3) to (5)).
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1923-24	17·4	7·2	24·6	281·2	1·5	307·3
1924-25	20·8	7·1	27·9	281·3	2·9	312·1
1925-26	25·3	7·1	32·4	274·6	1·2	308·2
1926-27	28·0	12·3	40·3	276·1	2·2	318·6
1927-28	25·3	15·0	40·3	271·7	1·8	313·8
1928-29	26·2	17·9	44·1	265·9	1·4	311·4

Thus in recent years the rise in the total cost of interest on the debt has been caused first by the high, though fluctuating, charge for Treasury bills, and secondly the steady increase in interest payments on Savings Certificates. The varying cost of management and expenses is due to the variable item of expenses, which includes the cost of certain conversions and cash payments connected with them. The management charge alone is stabilised at about £1 million.

The Sinking Fund.—The sinking fund arrangements are complicated. Until 1923 no satisfactory provision had been made for dealing with the vast burden of the post-war debt. In that year the position was reviewed and the new sinking fund was established, providing £40 million in 1923-24, £45 million in 1924-25, and £50 million thereafter. Because of the deficits caused by the coal subsidy and the coal stoppage, Mr Churchill provided an extra £10 million in 1926-27 and an extra £15 million in 1927-28. In 1928 he discontinued the arrangements which had been made in 1923 and set up a new fixed charge of £355 million a year for both interest and sinking fund—the latter theoretically increasing automatically as interest charges decline; and he added, as a special provision for 1928-29 only, an additional sum of £15 million. The actual sinking fund payments amounted to £40 million in 1923-24, £45 million in 1924-25, £65 million in 1927-28, £57½ million in 1928-29. In 1925-26 and in 1926-27, however, the statutory position was not realised, for though the sums provided in the Budget were actually applied the Budget deficits of those years had to be met by borrowing, and the true reduction of debt effected by net sinking fund payments was only £35,962,000 in 1925-26 (instead of £50 million) and £23,306,000 in 1926-27 (instead of £60 million). In 1929-30 the fixed charge provided only £28,406,000 for the sinking fund, after allowing for excess interest on National Savings Certificates. This remarkable shortfall is due to the fact that the estimated sinking fund (put at £50.4 million in the Budget) was reduced by £2,652,000 owing to excess interest charges, by a further £14,524,000 owing to the deficit, and, finally, by £4,819,000 excess interest on Savings Certificates not met out of the permanent debt charge but paid for by borrowing.

Not all the sinking fund is "free." On the contrary, as the following table shows, most of it is earmarked for the service of specific loans; and in the result the "free" balance fluctuates very widely:—

SINKING FUND.

(000's omitted.)

	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£	£	£	£
Principal of Terminable Annuities	1,813	1,085	1,044	1,027	991
Sinking Fund for—					
3½% Convertion Loan	13,239	14,386	15,099	14,701	16,538
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	9,210	10,000
4% Funding Loan ...	2,529	2,642	2,762	2,892	3,026
4% Victory Bonds ...	2,145	2,231	2,320	2,413	2,510
U.S.A.Government Loan	5,202	4,954	5,141	5,137	5,548
Depreciation Fund for 5% and 4% War Loan	...	7,539	2,720	1,666	1,744
Deficiency on Funding Loan and Victory Bonds surrendered for Death Duties	7,816	6,995	8,405	12,340	11,489
Other securities surrendered for Death Duties	30	177	191	162	24
Total of above.....	32,774	40,009	37,682	49,548	51,870
"Free" balance.....	12,226	9,991	22,318	15,452	5,639
Total Sinking Fund...	45,000	50,000*	60,000*	65,000	57,509

* The net reduction of debt, after allowing for the deficits in these years, was £14,038,000 less than the sinking fund provision in 1925-26 and £36,694,000 less in 1926-27.

Two further changes made by Mr Churchill in the sinking fund arrangements must be described. Prior to 1928-29 no provision was made for the increase in the accrued interest on National Savings Certificates. This item has become important in recent years. Thus, whereas the accrued interest on outstanding certificates totalled about £90 million on March 31, 1925, it had increased to about £122 million on March 31, 1929. As the Colwyn Committee pointed out, the *increase* in this

NOMINAL VALUE OF NATIONAL DEBT AT 31ST MARCH (£'s millions).

	1914.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
INTERNAL DEBT.											
FUNDED DEBT:—											
Pre-war Funded Debt	586·7	315·0	314·8	314·5	314·2	314·0	313·8	313·5	313·5	313·4	313·4
3½% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	266·1	683·6	666·2	708·9	760·0	739·9	832·3	811·0
4% Consolidated Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166·4	204·3	353·9
Total Funded Debt	586·7	315·0	314·8	580·6	997·8	980·2	1,022·7	1,073·5	1,219·8	1,350·0	1,478·3
TERMINABLE ANNUITIES	29·6	19·3	17·7	16·2	13·7	13·5	13·1	12·6	12·2	12·6	12·5
UNFUNDED DEBT:—											
(a) *Other than Floating Debt:*											
3½% War Loan	...	62·7	62·7	62·7	62·7	62·7	62·7	62·7	62·7	...	...
4½% War Loan	...	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8	12·8
5% War Loan	...	1,976·8	1,928·7	1,886·9	2,030·4	2,100·3	1,987·0	2,044·1	2,088·2	2,172·3	2,184·5
4% War Loan	...	64·1	67·0	65·5	64·9	65·9	65·9	64·9	66·0	80·3	79·7
4% Funding Loan*	...	408·9	406·0	403·0	400·4	397·8	394·9	391·9	388·8	385·4	382·1
4% Conversion Loan	...	...	...	...	...	...	210·6	210·6	211·1	220·9	223·1
4% Victory Bonds*	...	359·5	357·7	355·9	353·9	351·9	349·8	347·6	345·3	343·0	340·5
Exchequer Bonds	20·5	318·6	289·6	185·6	150·3	150·3	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6	15·6
National War Bonds	...	1,475·8	1,412·8	1,200·6	953·1	820·1	777·8	705·7	555·3	193·8	...
Treasury Bonds	...	...	23·1	452·8	411·0	457·0	499·2	481·4	454·2	675·4	680·6
Savings Certificates†	...	273·5	285·0	342·0	353·8	366·1	368·8	375·6	371·9	363·1	362·0
Other Debt	...	2·4	2·8	2·1	2·0	1·7	1·7	1·8	1·8	1·7	1·7
Total of (a)	20·5	4,955·1	4,848·2	4,969·9	4,795·3	4,786·6	4,746·8	4,714·7	4,573·7	4,464·3	4,282·6
(b) *Floating Debt:*											
Treasury Bills	13·0	1,107·3	1,120·8	877·2	616·0	588·3	575·6	564·9	599·2	526·9	700·3
Ways and Means Advances	...	204·9	154·5	147·3	193·9	186·2	166·6	139·4	116·6	161·9	37·1
Total Floating Debt	13·0	1,312·2	1,275·3	1,024·5	809·9	774·5	742·2	704·3	715·8	688·8	737·4
Total Unfunded Debt	33·5	6,267·3	6,123·5	5,994·4	5,605·2	5,561·1	5,489·0	5,419·0	5,289·5	5,153·1	5,020·0
TOTAL INTERNAL DEBT	649·8	6,601·6	6,456·0	6,591·2	6,616·7	6,554·8	6,524·8	6,505·1	6,521·5	6,515·7	6,510·8
EXTERNAL DEBT	...	1,230·1	1,129·4	1,085·1	1,155·7	1,125·8	1,121·6	1,110·8	1,101·4	1,095·2	1,084·7
TOTAL DEAD-WEIGH DEBT*	649·8	7,831·7	7,585·4	7,676·3	7,772·4	7,680·6	7,646·4	7,615·9	7,622·9	7,610·9	7,595·5
Funding Loan and Victory Bonds held by National Debt Commissioners	...	2·9	11·0	22·0	30·2	39·6	48·5	57·3	68·3	83·1	95·2
NET TOTAL DEAD-WEIGHT DEBT	649·8	7,828·8	7,574·4	7,654·3	7,742·2	7,641·0	7,597·9	7,558·6	7,554·6	7,521·8	7,500·3

* Including Funding Loan and Victory Bonds which have been tendered for Death Duties and are being held by the National Debt Commissioners until drawn or paid off. The amount so held in each year is shown in the last line but one.

† Including small amounts of National Savings Bonds from 1927 onwards.

liability represents a *pro tanto* reduction in the sinking fund; and Mr Churchill stated in his 1928 Budget speech that the actual reduction in any year equals the difference between the amount actually provided for interest during the year and £20,000,000, which would represent a fair provision for this charge *ab initio*. In 1928-29 this difference amounted to some £2 million. On the other hand, certain sums, paid regularly to the National Debt Commissioners prior to 1928-29, have constituted an additional though invisible sinking fund. These items comprise (*a*) repayments of principal on war, etc., loans from Dominions and Allies, and (*b*) interest on Victory Bonds and Funding Loan surrendered in payment of death duties and held by the National Debt Commissioners. The former item was not counted as revenue prior to 1928-29; the latter item appeared in the Finance Accounts first as part of the interest charge on the National Debt and then as applied to debt redemption. In 1928 Mr Churchill changed these arrangements. On the one hand, he nominally made full provision for interest on National Savings Certificates; on the other hand, he brought repayments of War, etc., Loan principal (item (*a*) above) *into* Exchequer receipts, and he stopped payment of Victory Bond and Funding Loan interest to the National Debt Commissioners (item (*b*) above). The *nominal* increase in sinking fund provision due to the change in Savings Certificates was about £2 million in 1928-29; the *actual* decline in the amount available for debt redemption because of the other changes was about £7 million (half of which came from (*a*) and half from (*b*) above). Hence the net *loss* to debt redemption (and the net gain to Mr Churchill's revenue in 1928-29) was about £5 million. While this arrangement stands the loss to debt redemption in subsequent years will not be less, and will probably be greater.

The second change is at once more conspicuous and more harmful. As is shown above, part of the revenue for the rating relief scheme is derived from the surpluses achieved in 1927-28 and 1928-29. Previously the usual practice was to apply Budget surpluses to the redemption of debt. Mr Churchill's departure from this practice is the more unfortunate since it not merely robs the total sinking fund but complicates the national accounts and the national finances by carrying sums over from year to year and establishes as well a bad and unsound precedent to which needy future Chancellors may have recourse.

Changes in the National Debt.—Since 1920 some £893 million have been applied out of revenue to the repayment of debt, £434 million representing the total of Budget surpluses prior to 1925-26 and £359 million the net provision out of sinking funds. In addition, as the Colwyn Committee pointed out, a further £87 million in cash, derived from various sources and mostly due to non-recurrent transactions, were applied to debt reduction between 1920-21 and 1925-26. Such extra moneys may have totalled £95-100 million by the end of the last financial year.

In spite of the provision of these huge cash amounts for debt redemption, the net nominal total of the dead-weight debt has been reduced by only about £300 million between the beginning of 1920 and the present time. The cause of the discrepancy is, of course, conversions effected below par, which, though in some cases reducing the annual interest charge, increase *pro tanto* the nominal amount of the debt. These conversions, and the changes in the composition of the debt owing to other rearrangements, have been very large, as is shown in the big table above.

LOCAL LOAN DEBT.

In addition to the National Debt there are the outstanding debts of local authorities. At March 31, 1929 the loan debt of local authorities in England and Wales

totalled £1,027.9 million, and that of Scottish authorities totalled rather more than £100 million. The increase since 1914, and the principal purposes for which the debt was incurred, are shown in the following table:—

LOAN DEBT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND AND WALES at March 31st (£'s millions).

	1914.	1921.	1924.	1927.
1. Education (Elementary and Higher)	52·1	45·8	42·6	46·0
2. Sewers and Sewage Disposal	44·1	39·6	46·2	55·2
3. Housing and Town-planning	12·5	92·8	199·5	319·8
4. Highways and Bridges	61·7	62·3	73·6	91·9
5. Waterworks	131·1	137·4	144·8	155·7
6. Gas Works	22·5	21·9	24·7	27·5
7. Electricity Undertakings	30·8	41·0	58·7	79·3
8. Tramways, etc.	37·7	35·8	36·8	39·3
9. Harbours, Docks, etc.	79·6	86·3	87·9	92·8
10. Other Undertakings	90·5	94·8	105·5	120·4
11. Total	562·6	657·7	820·3	1,027·9

Items (5) to (9) are, of course, trading services; and item (10) included in 1927 a further £16.7 million for the debt of other trading services. Sinking funds totalled £35.7 in 1914, £62.3 in 1921, and £61.8 in 1924 and £67.8 in 1927.

A SHORT LIST OF REFERENCES.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

The number of official papers dealing with the national finances, and published every year, is large, and the following list, which is not comprehensive, is intended merely to be a guide to the most important.

The two essential summaries are (1) the "Financial Statement" accompanying the Budget, and (2) the "Finance Accounts," published in the summer, and giving details for the year just closed.

Details for the current financial year appear in the estimates—one each for the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force; the Civil estimates in ten parts, and the estimates for the Revenue Departments (including the Post Office)—and in the memoranda (which accompany the estimates) by the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, the Secretary of State for Air, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and the Board of Education.

Actual expenditure in past years is detailed in the appropriation accounts—for the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, the Civil Services and the Revenue Departments; while the Post Office and Trading Services are dealt with in the "Post Office Commercial Accounts" and the "Trading Accounts and Balance Sheets."

Details about the revenue are contained in the annual reports of the Inland Revenue Commissioners and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, and (for the motor vehicle duties) in the yearly "Report on the Administration of the Road Fund."

Information in regard to the National Debt is contained in two white papers, (1) "National Debt. Return Showing the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State, and the Gross and Net Expenditure charged annually against the Public Revenue"; and (2) "National Debt Return, showing Dead Weight Debt, Other Capital Liabilities and Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State."

Local taxation and expenditure are dealt with in the "Local Taxation Returns, England and Wales," parts 1, 2 and 3.

Amongst other important official documents dealing with Finance may be mentioned the "Report of the Royal Commission on the Income Tax" and the Report of the Colwyn Committee (Cmd. 2800, 1927).

All the above may be obtained from H.M.'s Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2.

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THE PAST YEAR.

WHATEVER may be said of 1929 it cannot be described as an uneventful year. Writing of the prospects a year ago, we called attention to certain favourable omens. The Government's de-rating scheme had been designed to lighten some of the burdens, particularly those on the more depressed of our industries, and the tendency of comparative costs was gradually changing somewhat in favour of British producers. But, looking at the year in retrospect, we are inclined to describe it as one in which these hopeful expectations were disappointed. A salient fact is that the unemployment figures were as high at the end of the year as they were at the beginning. The outstanding influence in bringing about this result has been the monetary situation. The phenomenal Stock Exchange boom in America drew such large amounts of money to New York that Bank rate and other money market rates were pushed up to a high level and maintained there throughout the spring and summer; and, though the situation was radically changed by the Stock Exchange collapse in America in October and November, the reaction was so abrupt and so severe that the immediate advantage of cheaper money was more than outweighed by uncertainty as to the effect of the slump upon purchasing power and employment.

These, however, are the more spectacular features. If we look below the surface there are impressions of a different kind. The index of production given in a chart on a later page shows not only a definitely rising tendency, but a substantially higher level for the year than for 1928. Moreover, this trend is not due merely to the newer industries, as has been so often the case in recent years, but reflects also a definite improvement in two of the depressed industries, namely, coal and iron and steel. At the end of the year shipbuilding also showed some improvement, though the difficulties of the cotton trade do not appear as yet to have been materially lessened by the formation of the Lancashire Textile Corporation. At the close of 1929 the woollen industry was also affected prejudicially by a sharp fall in the price of wool, a drop which has also been experienced in many other important raw materials and foodstuffs. Indeed, the wholesale price index of commodities was very much lower at the end of 1929 than at any time since the war. It is, however, something gained that certain of the depressed trades are in a better competitive position.

In this connection the year has seen many steps forward in the direction of the rationalisation of industry. New combines have been formed in the iron and steel trade on the North-East Coast, in Scotland and in Wales, and further changes are in contemplation. As an offset to this, the Royal Mail shipping group—the largest shipping combine in the world—encountered financial difficulties and has slowed down its programme of new construction. At the end of the year an effort was made to speed up industrial reorganisation by the formation of the Securities Management Trust by the Bank of England, followed by a declaration at Manchester by Mr J. H. Thomas that the City was prepared to back financially well-considered schemes of reorganisation.

A study of the graph to which we have already referred shows an interesting contrast between the increase of production and the increase of the volume of employment. The employment curve, it is true, has steadily risen, for though no impression has been made on the volume of the unemployed, the increasing adult population has, in fact, been absorbed over the last two years. But the increase in the production curve is much more rapid, which is perhaps some indication of increased efficiency. This, it is hardly necessary to add, is an essential condition of our ability to maintain our industrial status. Meanwhile, the large volume of unemployment remains. This problem became the dominating theme at the General Election in May, and, when the Labour Government came into power, the Lord Privy Seal was entrusted with special authority for dealing with it. The idea prevalent at the time of the election, however, that emergency measures could be taken to put into operation schemes of public work has not, in fact, been carried into effect. The Lord Privy Seal has, indeed, endeavoured to promote such schemes, but there have been administrative and Parliamentary delays, with the result that little has, in fact, been done to alter the situation during the current winter. It has, therefore, been necessary for Parliament to overhaul the unemployment insurance scheme and to finance the growing debt of the fund. For this winter, once again, the bulk of the unemployed who cannot be provided with work have had to be supported in idleness.

Apart from the insistent question of unemployment, the chief events of the Parliamentary year were the passage of the late Government's De-rating Act, a Budget remarkable chiefly for optimism as to the future yield of existing taxation, and the introduction shortly before Christmas of the Coal Mines Bill. In international politics, with the exception of civil dissensions in China—complicated by sporadic hostilities with Russia in connection with the Eastern Manchurian Railway—the year was tranquil, and progress towards the maintenance of the world's peace was marked by the adoption of the Young Plan for reparations payments, the British evacuation of the Rhineland, and the decision, reached after Mr MacDonald's visit to the United States, that the Five Power Naval Conference now in session should be convened. An interesting experiment, arising out of the Young Plan, was the agreement to set up the Bank for International Settlements.

The reviews, which follow, of various aspects of British and world commerce during 1929 make up a picture not wholly unfavourable. The monetary storms, already referred to, could not fail to set their mark on the year, and the Stock Exchange had to bear a considerable strain of liquidation, intensified by the Hatry crisis, while the new issue market during the latter half of 1929 had its operations reduced to a minimum. It is satisfactory, however, to note that our foreign trade was well maintained, a decline in textile exports being balanced by larger shipments of coal and iron and steel manufactures.

Prospects for 1930 are somewhat mixed. On the one hand, trade should gradually respond to the influence of cheap money. On the other hand, confidence in this country is being checked to some extent by fears of an increase in the burden of taxes, while the recent drastic fall in the value of a number of important commodities, such as cereals, cotton and wool, is likely to have adverse repercussions for a time on the world's aggregate purchasing power. Tariffs and other trade barriers remain a formidable obstacle to the expansion of international commerce, and much depends on the results which follow from the forthcoming conference on the project of the British Government that the States members of the League should agree to a tariff truce as a first step towards the achievement of greater freedom of trade.

PRODUCTION AND TRADE.

BRITISH INDUSTRY.

After a somewhat slow opening, as a result of the abnormal frost of the later months of winter, industrial activity in 1929 gained momentum steadily during the spring and suffered rather less than the normal amount of seasonal slackening in summer. The usual autumn recovery in the rate of production, however, was retarded to some extent by the influence of dear money and the beginning of a fresh severe decline in the level of commodity prices.

In the following table we have grouped together a number of indices and other data of output and trade for the past three years:—

PRODUCTION AND BUSINESS.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Indices of production—			
London and Cambridge Economic Service	108·1	102·5	110·6
Board of Trade	106·8	105·5	(a)
Output of—			
Saleable coal (Mn. tons)	251	238	255
Pig iron (Mn. tons)	7·3	6·6	7·6
Steel (Mn. tons)	9·1	8·5	9·7
Rayon yarn and waste (Mn. lbs.)	40·2	54·2	56·9
Indices (*Economist*) of Business Activity (1924 = 100)—			
Net imports, raw materials	113(b)	101	113
Exports, British manufactures	104·5	108	109
Total foreign trade turnover	107·5	106	112
Consumption of—			
Iron and steel	133	88	103·5
Cotton	113	103	106
Coal	106	99	106
Electricity	109	110	116
Provincial clearings	102	100·5	99
Volume of employment	105	105	107

(a) For the first nine months of 1929 the figure was 110·8, as compared with 104·3 in the corresponding period of 1928.
(b) Excluding coal imports.

The increase in production recorded by the Board of Trade's and the London and Cambridge Economic Service's indices reflects predominantly the improvement in the output of "heavy industry." Larger coal exports also played a prominent part in the rise in the *Economist's* index of total foreign trade turnover. Shipbuilding and certain sections of engineering were better employed than in 1928; and the higher figures of consumption of coal and electricity point to a fairly widespread expansion of manufacturing activity, reflected also in a rise of nearly 2 per cent. in the volume of employment. On the other hand, the textile trades, both cotton and wool, had an unfavourable year, the rate of expansion of rayon production was checked, and the fractional fall in the index of provincial bank clearings is significant of a slower rate of commercial turnover in several directions. The course during the past five years of the London and Cambridge Economic Service's index of production, and the *Economist's* indices of foreign trade turnover and volume of employment is plotted in the diagram on the next page.

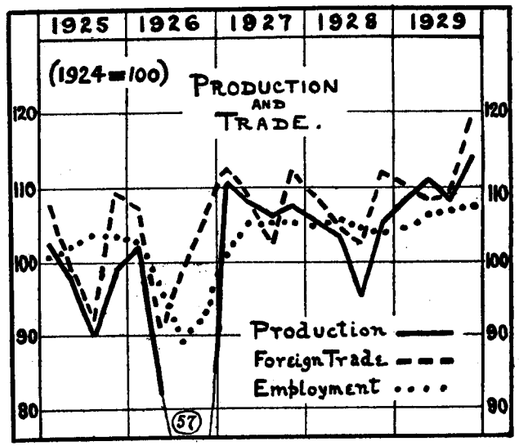
Freight trade traffic increased during the first ten months of the year by 7.6 per cent., as compared with a decline of 7.3 per cent. a year ago. As will be seen from the following table, the bulk of the increase took

place under the head of fuel and minerals, further evidence of the tendency of improvement in 1929 to be confined to the "heavy" industries:—

Description.	Great Britain. (All Standard-Gauge Railways.)		
	Aggregate, Jan.–Oct., 1929.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (–), compared with the corresponding period of 1928.	
Freight train traffic (excluding free-hauled):	Tons.	Units. Tons.	Per Cent.
Merchandise	49,607,631	+ 483,999	+ 0·99
Minerals and merchandise	54,692,077	+ 2,906,421	+ 5·61
Coal, coke and patent fuel	170,566,500	+16,267,120	+10·54
Live stock	2,040,372	– 95,468	– 4·47
Total	276,906,580	+19,562,072	+ 7·60

The aggregate revenue received by the four home railways showed an improvement of £1,290,000 over the "slump" figures of 1928, but was three millions short of the "standard" figure. The fall of £2,168,000 in the passenger receipts was shared by each company, as was the case in the increased receipts of £3,458,000 in goods traffic. The total revenue of the London and North Eastern was £1,355,000 higher, while the growth of £635,000 in Great Western's revenue just failed to offset the declines of

BRITISH INDUSTRY.



The index of production is that compiled by the London and Cambridge Economic Service. The *Economist* index of total foreign trade turnover is a "weighted" figure of retained imports and British exports. The index of employment is based on the aggregate numbers of insured persons, less those recorded as unemployed.

£616,000 and £84,000 in those of London, Midland and Scottish, and the Southern railways respectively. The depressed conditions in Lancashire affected particularly the London, Midland and Scottish, goods receipts being derived mainly from high-grade traffic.

Shipping traffic, as a result largely of increased exports of coal, was well maintained during the first nine months of the year, but during the last quarter demand for cargo tonnage was adversely affected by the fall in grain prices produced by good European harvests and heavy carry-overs in North America. From September onwards freights slumped violently, and at the end of the year the *Economist's* index of whole-cargo charter rates stood at 86.2 (1913 = 100), as compared with 113.2 a year ago. Competition between regular liner services on all routes was again severe.

AGRICULTURE.

In respect of both climatic and market conditions the year 1929 was unusual. The exceptionally severe frosts of the opening months, the later prolonged drought over the greater part of the country, and the excessive rains towards the close were all exceptional. In many ways 1929 was even more favourable for cultivation and cropping than its satisfactory predecessor. The soil was never in better condition for cultivation than after the severe frosts, and although the drought caused some anxiety this proved groundless in regard to most crops, except turnips and swedes and hay. Though there was a further reduction of 161,000 acres (1.6 per cent.) in the total acreage of arable land the acreage actually under crops in 1929 was rather higher than in the previous year. Land returned as bare fallow showed a reduction of over 30 per cent. There was a further shrinkage in the wheat and barley acreages of 66,000 (4.7 per cent.) and 63,000 acres (5.3 per cent.) respectively. There was, however, a marked increase in the acreage of oats and mixed corn which reflects the increasing use of home-grown grain for feeding purposes as an economy in farm management. The sugar beet acreage, over 30 per cent. larger than in 1928, was the largest yet recorded.

Productively, the year 1929 was in many respects better than 1928. All corn crops, except beans, yielded more per acre than in 1928, and well above the ten years' average, and notwithstanding decreases in acreage in some instances the total production of the principal crops was in most cases either greater than, or very little short of, that of 1928. The exceptions were turnips and swedes and hay, the latter being below average by about 20 per cent. The quality of the hay crop, however, was excellent, and this, combined with the mild winter experienced so far, will somewhat ease the problem of winter keep which would otherwise have become serious. Potatoes were an over-average crop of good quality, and fruit crops generally were satisfactory.

There was a further reduction in all kinds of livestock, although the reduction was very much less than in 1928, except in the case of pigs. Cattle were less by 70,400 (1.2 per cent.) and sheep by 296,200 (1.8 per cent.).

The market proved, on the whole, very disappointing. The monthly general index figure of prices of agricultural produce moved within slightly narrower limits than in 1928, but while the minimum at 140 as compared with 100 for the base years 1911-13 was one point higher, the maximum at 152 was one point lower, and the index number for the whole year at 144 was three points lower than in 1928.

The principal indices are as follows:—

1911–1913 = 100.

	1928.	1929.		1928.	1929.
Wheat	132	130	Poultry	149	152
Barley	139	125	Eggs	146	159
Oats	147	125	Fruit	183	159
Fat cattle	138	133	Vegetables	176	164
Fat sheep	167	157	Potatoes	171	117
Bacon Pigs	135	160	Wool	176	126
Milk	161	169	Hops	126	51
Butter	151	152	Hay	111	125
Cheese	173	158	Feeding stuffs	139	139

The relation of imports of agricultural products to home production has received considerable attention during the past year, and there has been much agitation, especially in regard to the effect on the cereal market of imports from Germany of cereals exported under a system of import bonds. It is true that this system does enable cereals to be exported from Germany at a price below that ruling in Germany and possibly below the world price. It is also true that German wheat is similar to the British product and therefore a more damaging competitor in British markets than hard wheats from other sources. How much the influence of German wheat has been exaggerated will, however, be apparent from the fact that during the last four months of 1929 (the first four months of the current cereal year) German wheat amounted to only one per cent. of the total wheat imported, whereas the amount received from Argentina (also a soft wheat) was over 51 per cent. A factor in the competition of foreign produce is that it is often not only cheaper but also marketed in better condition, having been standardised, graded and packed. In this connection the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture in the development of its marketing schemes may be regarded as one of the most important features of

the agricultural year. Somewhat more spectacular, perhaps, but less far reaching in its effect on the farmers' financial position, is the de-rating of agricultural land, which came into operation during the year.

OVERSEAS TRADE.

A modest but definite improvement on the previous year was maintained on the whole throughout 1929, but though the detailed figures contain several points of encouragement, the totals, shown below, were a little disappointing:—

CALENDAR YEAR.
(000's omitted.)

	1929.	Inc. or dec. on 1928.		Inc. or dec. on 1927.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Imports	1,221,591	+ 25,993	+ 2·1	+ 3,250	+ 0·3
British exports	729,555	+ 5,976	+ 0·8	+ 20,474	+ 2·9
Re-exports	109,742	− 10,542	− 8·8	− 13,211	− 11·0
Total exports	839,297	− 4,566	− 0·5	+ 7,263	+ 0·9
Excess of imports over total exports	382,294	+ 29,134	+ 8·5	− 4,013	− 1·0

The rise of nearly £26 million in imports was very widely spread over all groups of commodities, and the only conspicuous exceptions were raw cotton, hides and skins, and leather manufactures. It was accompanied by a small, but definite, improvement in domestic exports, and a decline of £10½ million in re-exports, of which over £7½ million was due to diminished re-exports of rubber. Total exports were over £4½ million lower than in 1928, but it must be borne in mind that wholesale prices averaged nearly 6 per cent. less in 1929 than in 1928, so that the physical volume of exports, according to the Board of Trade, was about 3½ per cent. greater in 1929 than in the previous year. The table below shows the Board of Trade index of the quarterly variations in the volume of trade (average 1924 = 100):—

	Imports.	Re-Exports.	Retained Imports.	British Exports.
1928:				
First quarter	109·3	94·5	111·1	105·1
Second quarter	106·2	98·2	107·2	100·5
Third quarter	96·9	71·6	100·0	103·3
Fourth quarter	110·4	87·3	113·2	109·7
Year	105·6	88·0	107·8	104·7
1929:				
First quarter	110·8	89·1	113·5	106·7
Second quarter	108·0	93·1	109·8	106·5
Third quarter	105·8	76·6	109·4	109·1
Fourth quarter	119·2	80·6	124·0	111·0
Year	110·9	84·8	114·1	108·3

The next table compares retained imports and exports, by economic classes, with those of 1924 and 1928:—

	1924.		1928.		1929.	
	Retained Imports.	Exports.	Retained Imports.	Exports.	Retained Imports.	Exports.
	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.	£ million.
Food, drink and tobacco	541·2	57·0	503·4	54·3	510·2	55·7
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	323·8	106·5	268·2	70·1	285·3	79·1
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	266·0	618·9	291·8	578·9	305·5	573·8

The rise in the figure of retained imports of manufactured goods is fairly evenly distributed and is substantial in iron and steel, non-ferrous metal manufactures, electrical goods, machinery, chemicals, oils and fats, leather and vehicles. In considering this increase, however, it should always be borne in mind that many imported articles returned as in the category of "manufactures" are, in fact, materials destined to be worked up in British factories. Moreover, when the influence of the 20 per cent. fall in prices which has occurred since 1924 is eliminated, the results appear in a more satisfactory light, as is illustrated by the following index numbers, which show changes in the volume and average price of our retained imports and domestic exports of iron and steel and coal:—

1924 = 100.

	Retained Imports.				British Exports.			
	Price per Ton.		Quantities.		Price per Ton.		Quantities.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
Coal	...	...	...	...	67·4	70·1	80·4	96·3
Iron and steel	78·4	80·1	132·8	138·6	79·8	79·3	112·8	115·7

This shows that our exports of coal have recovered during the year from nearly 20 per cent. below the 1924 level to within 4 per cent. of it, and that this increase has coincided with an improvement in values. Iron and steel exports improved during the year and are now nearly 16 per cent. above the 1924 level. The volume of imports, though a shade lower than in 1928, is still very much higher than in 1924. It should, however, be borne in mind—a fact which supports our contention that many of our so-called "manufactured" imports are destined for use as the materials of industry—that the value per ton of our exports of iron and steel in 1929 was over 1¾ times as great as that of our imports of those commodities.

Some of our more important exports are shown below:—

SOME LEADING EXPORTS.
Quantity (000's omitted).

	1924.	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Coal ..... tons	61,651	50,817	51,149	50,052	60,267
Pig-iron and ferro-alloys tons	600	559	331	455	545
Railway material ..... tons	370	421	729	610	487
Total iron and steel manufactures ..... tons	3,851	3,731	4,196	4,261	4,379
Textile machinery ..... tons	104	123	119	125	127
Total machinery ..... tons	463	516	512	566	562
Cotton yarns ..... lbs.	163,056	189,532	200,465	169,207	166,637
Cotton piece-goods ... sq. yds.	4,443,959	4,435,618	4,116,883	3,866,500	3,671,687
Wool tops ..... centals	411	320	420	344	327
Woollen tissues ..... sq. yds.	164,740	132,174	130,914	128,339	108,185
Worsted tissues ..... sq. yds.	56,843	47,302	39,980	42,111	47,281
Linen piece-goods ... sq. yds.	110,786	83,694	73,911	66,135	71,540
Boots and shoes ... doz. pairs	998	986	990	1,079	1,006
Leather ..... cwts.	327	316	433	403	366
Paper and cardboard ... cwts.	4,757	4,989	4,317	4,539	5,047
Locomotives ..... tons	24	30	27	41	40
Motor cars and chassis ... No.	15	29	36	33	43

The improvement in coal, iron and steel, already noted, is the most important development. Except for worsted tissues, all the principal cotton and wool exports showed a decline, but linen piece-goods recovered much of the ground lost in 1928. Leather and boots and shoes have not made a very good showing on the year, but both paper and motor-car exports were considerably greater than at any time during the last five years. Exports of chemicals, which do not admit of inclusion in the above table, increased in value. These results are not capable of pat summarisation, as our most important trades, the heavy industries, on the one hand, and textiles on the other, moved in opposite directions, but they suggest, on the whole, that a certain cautious degree of progress was made.

INDUSTRIAL PROFITS.

Our statistics of the profits of joint-stock industrial companies suggest, at first sight, that the rising trend of earnings was brought to a halt last year, when the accounts of 1,770 industrial concerns showed a negligible rise in profits:—

NET PROFIT (AFTER PAYMENT OF DEBENTURE INTEREST, &C).

	Number of Companies.	Reports Published in		Increase (+) or Decrease (−).	
		1928.	1929.		
		£	£	£	%
First quarter	454	58,965,712	59,869,638	+ 903,926	+ 1·5
Second quarter	639	78,662,794	78,079,238	− 583,556	− 0·7
Third quarter	257	24,039,327	23,327,747	− 711,580	− 3·0
Fourth quarter	420	32,948,898	33,404,593	+ 455,695	+ 1·4
	1,770	194,616,731	194,681,216	+ 64,485	+ 0·0

Lest disappointment be thereby occasioned, in view of the rise in industrial productivity shown by the

Board of Trade's quarterly indices, it should be pointed out, firstly, that part of the latter increase should duly be reflected in company reports published during the next few months; and, secondly, that losses sustained by a small number of companies, in abnormal circumstances, have had a disproportionate effect on the aggregate earnings shown above. For example, the net loss of £2,063,682 shown in the last accounts of British Cement Products and Finance can scarcely be regarded as reflecting the trend of British industrial earnings as a whole. Were the results of this one company omitted from our calculations, the figures for the fourth quarter of 1929 would show a rise of 8.5 per cent. and those for the whole year a rise of 1.2 per cent., as compared with those of the corresponding periods of 1928. The worst showing, on the whole, was made by the textile companies, other "depressed" industrial groups, such as coal, iron and steel, showing a small increase in earnings, though these were insufficient in many cases to permit of the payment of ordinary dividends. The food, drink and tobacco companies continued to show a high rate of earnings. The average ratio of profits to total ordinary and preference capital was 10.5 per cent. last year, as compared with 11.1 per cent. in 1928, 10.5 per cent. in 1927, and 11.8 per cent. in 1926. The average rate of dividend, however, again showed a fractional decline:—

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

	Ratio of Profits to Pref. and Ord.	Average Dividend on Preference Capital.	Average Dividend on Ordinary Capital.
	%	%	%
1909	7·4	4·3	6·3
1910	8·2	4·5	7·0
1911	9·9	4·9	8·5
1912	10·2	5·2	8·5
1913	11·7	5·1	10·2
1920	15·2	5·0	12·6
1921	10·3	5·2	10·2
1922	7·0	5·2	8·4
1923	9·8	5·3	9·3
1924	10·3	5·4	9·8
1925	10·9	5·5	10·3
1926	11·3	5·4	11·1
1927	10·5	5·3	10·8
1928	11·1	5·4	10·6
1929	10·5	5·5	10·5

The average rate of interest paid on debenture capital was 5.15 per cent., as compared with 5.02 per cent. in 1928, while the ratio to total ordinary and preference capital of the amounts carried to reserve was lower at 1.9 per cent., against 2.5 per cent. in the previous year.

COMMODITY PRICES.

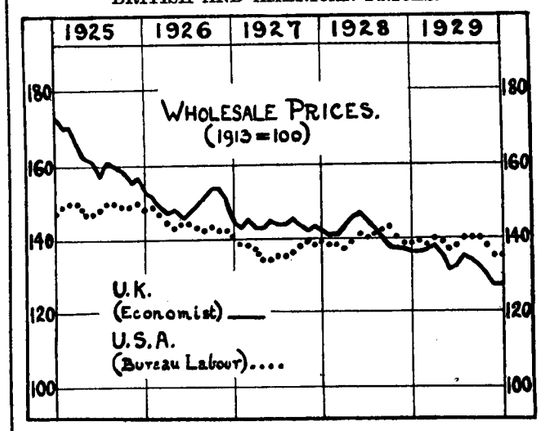
Following a fall of 2 per cent. in 1928 and 4 per cent. in 1927, the average level of wholesale prices in 1929 was nearly 6 per cent. lower than in the previous year. During the first quarter of the year, prices remained comparatively stable on balance, but, apart from an upward fluctuation in grain prices towards midsummer, the last nine months of the year witnessed a general downward movement, led by textiles, and accelerated during the autumn by a heavy fall in cereal and non-ferrous metal values. The following table shows the course of our index number throughout the past year, together with the annual geometric averages since 1924. Between the end of 1928 and December 31, 1929, "cereals and meat" fell by 5.4 per cent., other foods by 7.8 per cent., and textiles by approximately 19 per cent. The declines in the case of minerals and the "miscellaneous" group were relatively trifling, but the net result of the large falls in the first three groups was a drop of about 7 per cent. in the complete index figure during the course of the year.

1927 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1924	114·2	106·7	136·8	119·4	105·6	115·7
,, 1925	114·1	101·0	124·0	111·8	108·7	112·0
,, 1926	102·8	96·6	97·2	119·8	104·0	104·0
,, 1927	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
,, 1928	103·6	93·8	105·1	92·1	95·8	98·1
End Dec., 1927	97·4	98·2	102·5	94·1	101·5	98·8
,, Dec., 1928	97·6	90·2	101·7	94·1	91·4	95·0
,, Jan., 1929	96·7	89·4	101·3	94·8	91·2	94·7
,, Feb., ,,	101·2	88·5	99·9	96·4	91·4	95·6
,, Mar., ,,	100·9	87·3	100·8	99·7	91·4	96·1
,, April, ,,	99·1	86·5	96·7	96·7	90·0	94·0
,, May, ,,	92·6	84·3	94·9	95·7	89·5	91·5
,, June, ,,	95·1	84·1	92·7	96·3	89·3	91·7
,, July, ,,	103·5	84·7	91·6	96·1	91·0	93·7
,, Aug., ,,	101·3	86·2	91·7	96·3	91·0	93·6
,, Sept., ,,	95·8	86·6	87·7	96·2	91·5	91·8
,, Oct., ,,	94·4	85·0	85·2	94·6	90·7	90·2
,, Nov., ,,	90·6	84·0	83·6	92·4	89·8	88·3
,, Dec., ,,	92·3	83·6	82·6	92·4	89·2	88·3
Average, 1929	96·9	85·8	92·2	95·6	90·5	92·4

The fluctuations in the price of individual commodities during the year are shown in detail on pages 67-69. When the position at the end of the year is compared with that on December 31, 1928, it will be noted that increases occurred on balance in the price of imported wheat, pig iron, petrol and linseed oil, while meat prices (except for Argentine beef) were

BRITISH AND AMERICAN PRICES.



on the whole well maintained, and the coal market was also firmer. On the other hand, there were heavy declines in the case of potatoes, tea, cotton, wool, jute and tin, while copper, spelter, hides and leather were also all lower. In most cases the bulk of the decline occurred during the latter half of the year.

In the next table we give the figures of our index number converted to a percentage of the average level of the last pre-war year:—

1913 = 100.

Date.	Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
Average, 1925	168·4	204·2	194·6	139·8	126·2	160·9
,, 1926	151·7	195·3	152·6	149·8	120·7	149·4
,, 1927	147·6	202·2	157·0	125·1	116·1	143·7
,, 1928	152·9	189·7	165·0	115·2	111·2	140·9
End June, 1928	166·4	187·3	172·3	114·2	111·3	144·5
,, Dec., 1928	144·0	182·4	159·6	117·7	106·1	136·5
,, June, 1929	140·3	170·1	145·5	120·4	103·6	131·7
,, Dec., 1929	136·2	169·1	129·6	115·6	103·5	126·9
Average, 1929	143·0	173·5	144·7	119·6	105·0	132·8

It will be seen that a great disparity continues to exist between the indices of the "other foods" and "miscellaneous" groups and the complete index

number, the miscellaneous group being affected largely by the alteration since 1913 in the value of rubber. On the other hand, the index of textile prices is now considerably nearer the general average than was the case a year ago.

In the final table we show the annual changes which have occurred in each group of prices since 1924:—

YEARLY AVERAGES (1924 = 100).

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Cereals and meat	99·9	90·0	87·5	90·7	84·8
Other foods ...	94·7	90·6	93·8	87·9	80·5
Textiles	90·6	71·1	73·1	76·8	67·4
Minerals	93·6	100·3	83·7	77·1	80·0
Miscellaneous ...	102·9	98·4	94·7	90·7	85·7
Complete index	96·8	89·9	86·4	84·8	79·9

It will be observed that, whereas "cereals and meat" have cheapened since 1924 by only 15 per cent., the decline in the case of textiles has amounted in the same period to nearly 33 per cent. The average rate of decline in the complete index has been 4 per cent. per annum.

Retail prices once again failed to reflect fully the decline in the wholesale price-level. The following table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July, 1914, for all the items included in the Ministry of Labour's cost-of-living figure for the past nine years:—

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE SINCE JULY, 1914.—All items (Food, Rent, Clothing, Fuel and Light, &c.).

Month (beginning of).	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January	165	92	78	77	80	75	75	68	67
February	151	88	77	79	79	73	72	66	65
March	141	86	76	78	79	72	71	64	66
April	133	82	74	73	75	68	65	64	62
May	128	81	70	71	73	67	64	64	61
June	119	80	69	69	72	68	63	65	60
July	119	84	69	70	73	70	66	65	61
August	122	81	71	71	73	70	64	65	63
September	120	79	73	72	74	72	65	65	64
October	110	78	75	76	76	74	67	66	65
November	103	80	75	80	76	79	69	67	67
December.....	99	80	77	81	77	79	69	68	67

Last year, it will be seen, the normal seasonal tendency to decline in summer was more strongly marked than in 1928, the index figure for retail food reaching 47 on June 1st. At the end of the year, however, "food" stood at 57, as compared with 59 a year ago.

MONEY AND EXCHANGES.

MONEY MARKET.

In contrast with the preceding year, 1929 witnessed no fewer than five changes in Bank rate. In other important respects, too, it was, in monetary history, one of the most eventful years since the war. It saw the Bank lose £23.0 million of its gold during the first nine months, and recover about £16 million of its losses during the final quarter. On the Continent it witnessed the steady repatriation of French foreign balances, accompanied by heavy and prolonged French gold imports, first from London and then from New York. On the other side of the Atlantic it saw the Wall Street boom rise to its culminating point in early September, only to end a few weeks later in catastrophic collapse.

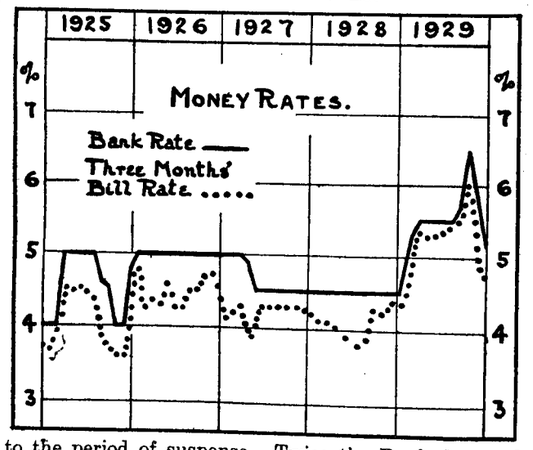
January opened with London experiencing relatively easy conditions after the gold efflux of the preceding autumn. For a few weeks it looked as if the period of strain had come to an end, but in February the gold drain to America was renewed, and in the first week of the month the Bank lost £3,000,000. At once it raised its rate to 5½ per cent.

There followed several weeks of extreme anxiety. Call rate in New York was up to 10 per cent. and even higher, and with the Wall Street magnet proving almost irresistible it seemed likely that a further increase in the Bank rate would be required. Fortunately April witnessed easier conditions. The American banks began to place obstacles in the way of foreign short money seeking to invade Wall Street, while the increases in the Dutch and German Bank rates came as valuable reinforcements to the Bank of England in its stand against New York. The result was an easing of London discount rates, and a slow, but steady, increase in the Bank's gold stocks. At the time of the February rise in Bank rate, the Bank's gold holdings were just under £150 million. By the middle of June they had recovered to £164.2 million, the highest point of the year.

The end of June brought this time of ease to an end. The dollar and mark exchanges fell to the lower gold point, and during the last three weeks of the month the Bank lost £8,500,000 of gold. In July began the most serious drain of all, the efflux of gold to France, which lasted for the rest of the year and showed itself in no way amenable to discount rates.

There followed three months of suspense, during which discount rates were practically coincident with Bank rate, a most unusual development which was clear evidence of the market's sense of strain. The Wall Street boom continued with call money at 8 per cent., and, on August 7th, the New York rediscount rate was raised from 5 to 6 per cent. Paris was taking gold from London in July at the rate of several millions a week. The Bank was severely criticised for not raising its rate immediately, and so putting an end

THE MONEY MARKET.



to the period of suspense. Twice the Bank departed from its traditional policy of silence, and on the occasion of the New York rate increase let it be known that no immediate rise in its own rate was to be apprehended. The Bank clearly felt that a 6½ per cent. rate would not check the outflow of gold to France, and that it would kill all chances of an autumn trade revival.

It was questionable whether the suspense the Bank's inaction inflicted on the country did not do as much harm as an increase in Bank rate would have done, and when, as was inevitable, the increase to 6½ per cent. came at the end of September, it unfortunately coincided with the Hatry crisis on the Stock Exchange. In early October the monetary and financial outlook seemed very dark, but, as events showed, relief was soon to come. At the end of the month came the spectacular Wall Street crash, and the huge supplies of short money accumulated in New York were suddenly released. The 6½ per cent. Bank rate had done its work by showing the world that London was not prepared to tolerate the concentration of all the world's floating money in supporting the Wall Street boom.

The effect on London was instantaneous, and the pound rose in October from the export gold point of $4.85 almost to the import gold point of $4.88. The movement continued, and in December a London bank imported gold from New York. More important still, the depreciation in the dollar diverted the French gold demands from London to New York.

This reversal of the international monetary position in London's favour explains the three reductions, each of ½ per cent., in the Bank rate that occurred in the last two months of the year, though a contributory factor to the final reduction to 5 per cent. on December 12th was the cessation of gold shipments to Paris. This cessation was to prove but temporary, for Paris has continued to take small amounts of gold from London right into the New Year, but in December London was gaining gold from several quarters, and the 5 per cent. rate is fully justified. We append our usual tables of money rates:—

LONDON RATES.

	Whole Year.									
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Changes Bank rate	one %	four %	four %	one %	none %	four %	none %	one %	none %	five %
Highest Bank rate	7	7	5	4	4	5	5	5	4½	6½
Lowest Bank rate	6	5	3	3	4	4	5	4½	4½	4½
Avge. Bank rate	6/14/4	6/2/4	3/13/10	3/13/0	4/0/0	4/11/0	5	4/13/0	4/10/0	5/10/0
Avg. market rate										
Best 3 mths' bills	6/7/11	5/4/3	2/13/0	2/13/0	3/10/9	4/2/0	4/10/3	4/4/10	4/3/0	5/5/4
Difference	6/5	18/1	1/0/10	1/0/10	9/3	9/0	9/9	8/2	7/0	4/8

The course of Bank rate in different countries during 1929 is summarised below:—

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF BANK RATES.

	End of Months of 1929.												
	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
London	4½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	6	6	5½	5	5⅛
Paris	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
Berlin.....	6½	6½	6½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7	7	7⅛
NewYork Federal Reserve	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5	4½	4½	5½	
Amsterdam	4½	4½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	4½	4½	5½	
Oslo	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	6	6	5½	5½	5½	
Stockholm	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	5½	5½	5	5	5	
Copenhagen	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5	5	
Brussels	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4½	3½	
Madrid	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Rome	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Swiss	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	
Helsingfors	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Lisbon	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Prague	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Vienna	6½	6½	6½	7½	7½	7½	7½	8½	8	8	7½	7½	
Tokio	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	5·48	
Calcutta.....	7	8	8	7	6	5	5	5	8	8	7	7	
Athens	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	
Bucharest	6	6	6	6	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	9½	8	7½	
Budapest	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	7½	7½	
Belgrade	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Danzig	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Riga	6	6											

In 1928 the Bank of England average rate was 4½ per cent., the New York rate 4½ per cent., and the Berlin rate 7 per cent.

BANK CLEARINGS.

The total of bank clearings for 1929, shown in the table below, constituted a record for any single year:—

(000's omitted.)

	1929.	Increase in comparison with 1928.		Increase in 1928 in comparison with 1927.	
	£	£	%	£	%
Town clearing	39,935,924	+624,807	1·6	+2,491,435	6·7
Metropolitan clearing	1,881,789	+ 27,599	1·5	+ 96,158	5·4
Grand total.....	44,896,477	+691,751	1·6	+2,654,188	6·3
Country cheque clearing	3,078,764	+ 39,342	1·3	+ 66,595	2·2

The expansion in aggregate town clearings is ascribed mainly to the increasing daily turnover of money in the short loan market. Country clearings, which are rightly accepted as a better index to the course of trade, have risen since 1928 by £39.3 million, which is equivalent to 1.2 per cent. As the general price-level averaged 5.8 per cent. less in 1929 than in the preceding year, this increase in country clearings suggests an expansion in the volume of trade of 7.5 per cent. Unfortunately this optimistic view is not borne out by the provincial clearing figures. Only three of the eleven centres, namely, Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield, recorded increases, and such important cities as Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Nottingham were numbered among the declines. The shrinkage in the case of Bradford was as much as 13.3 per cent., which is a significant commentary on the state of the wool textile industry. The new record achieved by the aggregate London figures is by no means adequate compensation for the shortcomings of provincial clearings. Their aggregate, expressed as an index (1924=100) adjusted so as to make allowance for changes in the wholesale price level, works out at 99 for last year, against 100.5 a year ago.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

The gold standard, for the first time since the war practically universal among the chief trading countries of the world, was put to a severe test during 1929, nowhere more typically than in London. In consequence of this strain, the gold standard itself received several set backs. The *de facto* prohibition of gold exports from Canada was followed, early in December, by the suspension of gold payments by the Argentine Conversion Office; meanwhile in Australia the Commonwealth Bank Bill was being passed with its provisions that, under certain circumstances, gold exports may be banned. On the other hand, Czechoslovakia stabilised *de jure* on a gold basis, Switzerland formally adhered to the gold standard, and late in the year the Japanese Government announced that the gold export ban would be shortly removed. But the fortunes of the gold standard were quite obscured by the movements which resulted from abnormal fluctuations of credit, the principal cause being the high level of short-term money rates in New York. Early in the year this country was a gainer of gold, but with the tremendous attraction of funds which the Wall Street boom exerted, the dollar appreciated till it stood at one time at 4.84 9/16, or well beyond gold export point. London meanwhile had to replace New York as a supplier of funds to Germany, and the mark, after weakening to 20.58 on a report that the Young Committee had broken down, stiffened until Berlin was taking gold from London. But the most serious demand for gold came from Paris, which for a number of reasons drew heavily on its balances here. Throughout the summer the franc stood almost consistently below gold export point, and even fell as low as 123.81 francs. Successive gold losses had very slight effect on the exchange rate. The Wall Street break restored the balance; the drain of gold was arrested and the American exchange rose to a maximum of $4.88 7/16. Nevertheless, the strength of the franc continued and the rate at the end of the year, 123.87 francs, was again below export point. The peseta remained the chief speculative counter, and the efforts of the Spanish Government did not prevent its depreciation from 29.75 pesetas to 36.50 pesetas in the course of the year. The principal South American exchanges, thanks largely to the poor prices current for their exports, depreciated during the year, Buenos Ayres from 47 3/8d. to 45 11/16d., Monte Video from 51d. to 46½d., and Rio from 5 23/32d. to 5 13/32d. The fall of the price of silver to the record low level of 21 5/16d. was reflected in the depreciation of the tael and the Hong Kong dollar, but the efforts of the Japanese Government were rewarded by the improvement of the yen from 1s. 10½d. to 2s. 0⅛d.

The following table is extracted from statistics published by Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company:—

RATE OF EXCHANGE AS COMPARED WITH PRE-WAR PARITY OF THE £ STERLING.

	Pre-war Par Value.	Dec. 31, 1928. *Middle* Rate.	Dec. 31, 1929. *Middle* Rate.	Compared with its Pre-war Par Value the £ Sterling is at a Premium of		Present quotation of the £ Sterling as compared with its Pre-war Value	
				End 1928.	End 1929.	*End* 1928.	*End* 1929.
				%	%	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New York	4·874	4·85¼	4·88⅛	11/25†	3/20	0 19 11	1 0 0½
Montreal ...	4·874	4·86½	4·93⅝	9/50†	1 7/25	0 19 11½	1 0 3
France......	25·207	124·03	123·87	392	391¾	4 18 5	4 18 3¼
Belgium ...	25·207	174·42*	174·32½*	592	591⅔	6 18 5	6 18 4
Italy	25·207	92·68	93·22	268	269⅘	3 13 6½	3 14 0
Holland ...	12·086	12·07 13/16	12·09⅜	1/20†	3/50	0 19 11⅞	1 0 0¼
Spain	25·207	29·74½	36·50	18	44⅘	1 3 7¼	1 8 11½
Sweden ...	18·13	18·13	18·13¼	...	1/100	...	1 0 0
Norway ...	18·13	18·19¼	18·20⅜	17/50	41/100	1 0 8¼	1 0 1
Denmark...	18·13	18·17¾	18·20⅝	13/20	41/100	1 0 6¼	1 0 1
Germany...	20·418	20·38½	20·42½	4/25†	3/100	0 19 11½	1 0 0
Portugal ...	4·5(53¼d)	109¼	108¼	2,328	2,305	24 5 6½	24 1 0
Greece ...	25·207	375	375	1,388	1,388	14 17 6½	14 17 6½
Roumania	25·207	808½	818	3,107	3,145	32 1 5¾	32 9 1
Finland ...	25·207	192⅞	194⅛	665	670	7 13 0½	7 14 0
Czecho-slovakia	24·02	163¾	164¾	582	586	6 16 4	6 17 2
Buenos Aires	47⅝d	47 11/32d	46 5/16d	⅔	3 11/100	1 0 1½	1 0 7½
Rio de Janeiro	16d	5 29/32d	5 27/64d	171	197	2 14 2	2 19 5
Japan	2/0 9/16d	1/10½d	2/0 11/64d	8 19/100	1 31/50	1 1 7½	1 0 4
Shanghai(*a*)	2/4d	2/7½d	2/1⅜d	11 11/100	10 17/50	0 17 9¼	1 2 1
				At Discount of			
Switzerland	25·207	25·18¼	25·12½	1/10	33/100	0 19 11⅞	0 19 11¼
India	1/4d	1/6 1/16	1/5 61/64d	11 21/50	10 22/25	0 17 8½	0 17 10

(*a*) Quotation, 31/7/14. * 1 Belga = 5 Francs. † At discount of
Comparisons cannot be made with pre-war parity for Poland and Austria, as the currency in these countries has been altered in the interval.

GOLD MOVEMENTS.

The estimated gold production of 1929 is identical with that of the preceding year, an increase of £300,000 for the Transvaal being exactly equalled by contractions elsewhere. Details are given in the following table, compiled by Mr. Joseph Kitchin:—

(In Millions of pounds at 84s. 11½d. per fine oz.)

Year.	Trans-vaal.	The Rest of the Empire.	British Empire.	Foreign Countries.	World.
1914	35·7	20·8	56·5	33·9	90·4
1915	38·6	22·0	60·6	35·8	96·6
1916	39·5	20·0	59·5	34·0	93·5
1917	38·3	17·8	56·1	30·2	86·3
1918	35·8	15·2	51·0	28·0	79·0
1919	35·4	14·7	50·1	24·9	75·0
1920	34·7	13·4	48·1	20·9	69·0
1921	34·5	12·9	47·4	20·6	68·0
1922	29·8*	14·8	44·6	20·9	65·5
1923	38·9	14·5	53·4	22·1	75·5
1924	40·7	15·3	56·0	25·0	81·0
1925	40·8	15·3	56·1	24·9	81·0
1926	42·3	15·3	57·5	24·5	82·0
1927	43·0	15·6	58·6	23·9	82·5
1928	44·0	15·4	59·4	24·1	83·5
1929 (est.)	44·3	15·3	59·6	23·9	83·5

* Output temporarily reduced by strike of white miners.

The main gold movements during the year were five in number. First came the outflow to America of £80.2 million during the first three quarters of the year, with a back-flow of £24.9 million in the last quarter as a result of the departure of foreign short money due to the September increase in the Bank of England's rate and the October break on Wall Street. Next came the huge French imports, totalling £78 million, which occurred mainly in the second half of the year. Germany lost £20.8 million net during the year, but all this and more went at the time of the temporary collapse of the mark exchange in the spring, and during the remainder of the year she was, on the whole, gaining gold. Another major movement consisted of the losses by the chief crop-producing countries. These, which occurred mainly at the end of the year and which were the direct result of adverse trade balances, in themselves the consequence of low crop prices, amounted to £4.0 million for Australia (Commonwealth Bank alone) and to £33.5 million for the Argentine. Finally came the fluctuations in the Bank of England's gold stocks, which, owing to London's pivotal position in international finance, were to some extent the resultant of the above movements. During the first three quarters of the year the Bank of England lost £23.0 million, while during the last quarter £15.8 million were regained.

NEW CAPITAL ISSUES.

The wave of new issues which flooded the Stock Exchange in 1928 receded swiftly in the summer of 1929, when Wall Street was attracting money otherwise available for investment in London, and when high money rates rendered borrowing very expensive; indeed, during the third quarter of the year the new issue market was left very nearly high and dry. The total of new issues fell from the high level of £369 million in 1928 to only £285 million, of which the third quarter's contribution was less than £19 million. British Government borrowing, representing the proportion of cash subscriptions to the 5 per cent. Conversion Loan which would be available for reductions of Floating Debt after providing for short-term maturities, less the excess of encashments over sales of Saving Certificates, amounted to £65 million, compared with £84 million in 1928. Domestic issues, other than Government, fell by £47 million to £133 million, issues for the Dominions and Colonies by £2 million to £61 million, and those for foreign countries by £16 million to £26 million. The reduction in the amounts destined for overseas, as compared with 1928, is due to a great falling off in Government borrowing. Indeed, non-governmental issues for the Empire actually increased by £12 millions. Foreign governments practically ceased borrowing. British corporation issues dropped from £14.9 million to £8.3 million, and Colonial corporation issues from £7.3 million to £8.9 million; foreign corporation loans fell away from a total of over £4 million in 1928 to a single issue of less than £500,000 for the City of Abo.

Among the flotations for companies, the decline was very general. Overseas railways provided a notable exception; Colonial railways, which did not borrow at all in London during 1928, called for £10,200,000, namely, a single issue to shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Three Argentine railways borrowed £7,835,000 between them, compared with only £3,070,000 raised for foreign railways in the previous year. Mines, other than South African and Australasian, also raised more than twice as much in 1929 than in 1928, thanks to the boom in the Rhodesian copper share market and to an issue of £2,500,000 for the Rio Tinto Mining Company. South African mines showed a small rise. The only other groups to increase their issues as compared with 1928 were estate and land companies and iron and steel companies; in each case a single large issue was responsible, for Messrs Lysaght and the Hudson Bay Company respectively. Conspicuous falls, on the other hand, were recorded by the exploration and investment trust group, which slackened its unprecedented activity as soon as the upward movement of Stock Exchange prices was arrested, three-quarters of the year's total for this group being issued in the first three months of the year; and by the hotels and entertainments section, which reacted sharply to the misfortunes of the previous year's cinema flotations. It is significant also that practically the whole of the total for "patent and proprietary articles" was raised in the first quarter of the year. The "manufacturing and miscellaneous" group, which is the largest of all, British Government excepted, showed only a comparatively slight fall from £62½ million to £57 million. Over £10 million was raised by Imperial Chemical Industries, and £6 million by the British American Tobacco Company; in each case the issue was offered to shareholders only. Tables of new issue statistics will be found in an appendix.

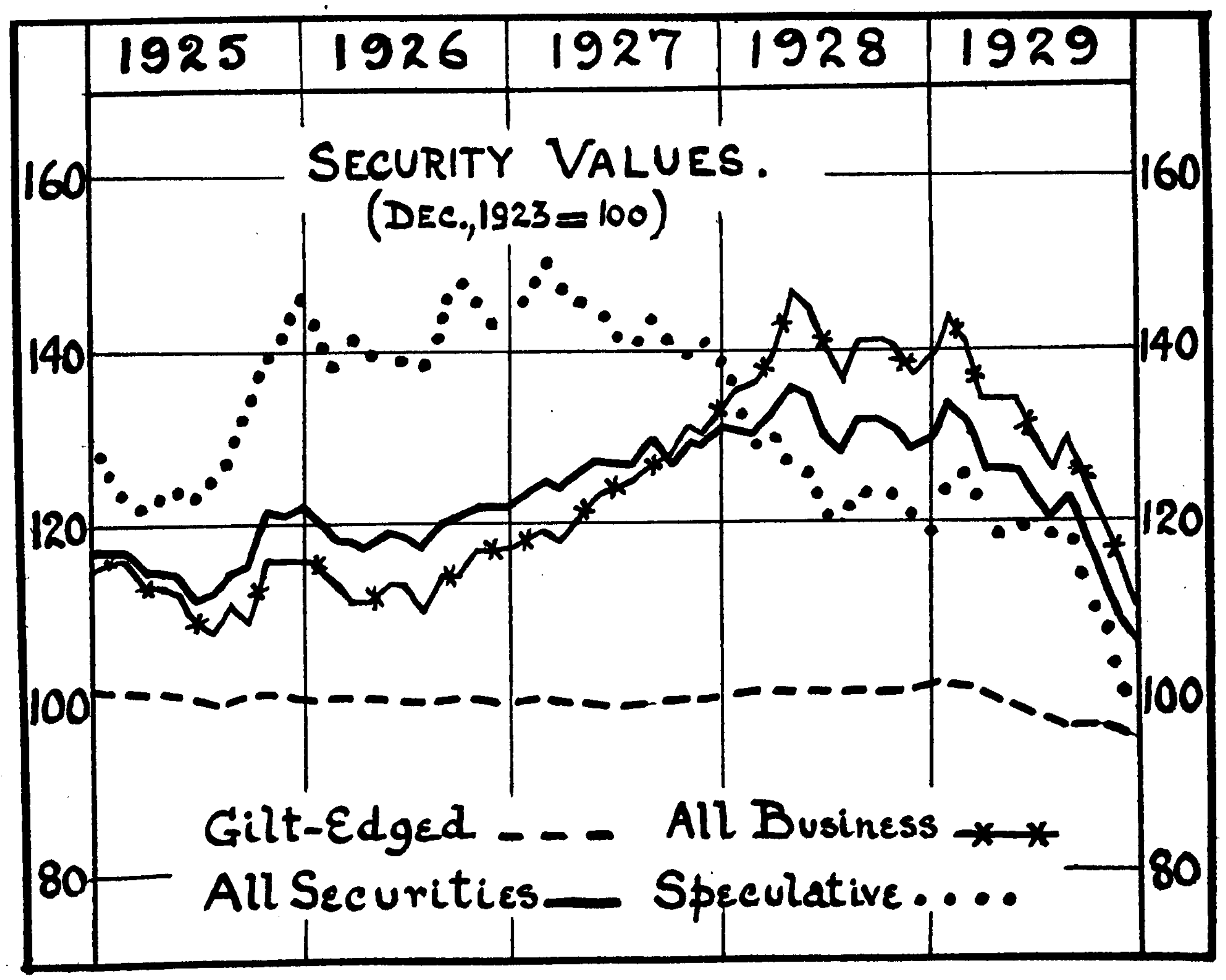
THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

The year 1929 proved in many ways remarkable. The February increase in Bank rate resulted in a sudden check to the rise in prices, and while New York prices were rising at an alarming speed London share values were on the downward trend. The money market was dull, new issues being very few, especially in the last quarter of the year after the Wall Street crisis. During this latter crisis London was called upon to absorb large quantities of unwanted stocks from both sides of the Atlantic. Later, when money became easier, the Bank rate dropped, by gradual degrees, from 6½ to 5 per cent., but the position was affected by the liquidation of unsound concerns and the Hatry "revelations." Consequently the year's lowest prices were realised during December, and 1930 was ushered in under unpromising conditions.

Between 1926 and September, 1929, industrial stocks in America more than doubled in value—in one group, public utility stocks, values were actually more than trebled. After the Wall Street slump industrial prices averaged no more than 50 per cent. above the levels of 1926. In both countries "fixed-interest" securities remained practically constant in price, movements being chiefly confined to industrials and "business" stocks. In London the boom was not the spectacular affair that it was in America, rubber, mining and other so-called speculative stocks being actually on the downward trend. The really sharp rises were confined to new flotations, while in America the boom applied much more noticeably to the stocks of sound and well-established concerns. The bursting of the bubble in Great Britain, however, adversely affected the sounder stocks.

In times such as are described above, the general tendency is to transfer from speculative to gilt-edged stock, but this tendency was affected by the issue of a major Conversion Loan on terms which suggested 5 per cent. to be a reasonable return for British Government stock. Few Dominion or Foreign Government stocks finished the year with a net gain in price. Brazilians were particularly weak on fears regarding the coffee position. The fall in six representative British stocks averaged 4.96 per cent., in four Dominion stocks 4.45 per cent., and in five foreign Government stocks 4.82 per cent. The average fall in the price of five representative Corporation stocks was 3.18 per cent. Industrial preference shares inevitably showed a larger decline, the most noteworthy example being Royal Mail preference, which dropped from 96½ to 42 on fears regarding the position of this important shipping group. Other declines reflected sales made to cover losses by holders of more speculative stocks. Increased freight traffic, especially from the carriage of coal, offset the decrease in the number of passengers carried in two of the four Home railways. Harvests abroad were much less abundant than in 1928, a fact reflected in the quotations of the Canadian Pacific and the Argentine railways.

SECURITY VALUES ("INVESTORS' CHRONICLE" INDEX).



"Gilt-edged" includes British, Dominion and Colonial, and Corporation issues.
"All business" comprises Railway, Banking and Insurance stocks, and representative ordinary shares from eleven industrial groups.
"Speculative" includes representative ordinary shares of gold mining, land, nitrate, oil, rubber, tea, and tin companies.

During 1929 there was an increase in the number of British stocks listed in New York, but despite the publicity given to the abortive " British only " share issue of General Electric Company, business in British securities in Wall Street was not very considerable. The American crisis, however, naturally affected British share quotations; of twenty-four British stocks quoted in Wall Street only three had a higher price at the end than at the beginning of the year, while one was unchanged. The average drop in the value of the other twenty was 27.58 per cent. Even banks, insurance and trust companies were affected by the London slump, an appreciable fall in share values being evident. Shipping shares showed a general falling off, the weakest features being Royal Mail, for reasons already mentioned. The average fall in value among thirteen representative " General Industrial and Commercial " securities was 21½ per cent. Newspaper shares declined on forced selling; artificial silk prosperity was checked; and brewery shares were lower, despite the maintenance of satisfactory profits.

The most remarkable fall in values was revealed by the shares of new concerns which failed to bear out prospectus prophecies or were liquidated after their shares had risen to dizzy heights. Shares in " speculative " concerns producing primary commodities slumped, partly through the atmosphere of markets generally and partly owing to the downward trend of many commodity prices. Measures were discussed, and in some cases put into force, to restrict output in the oil, tin, copper, diamonds, rubber and tea industries. Copper-mining enterprises in Rhodesia enjoyed a boom, based mainly on the discovery of rich deposits. Large professional interests were concerned, but with the depression in other markets it was impossible to maintain prices at their maximum. Kaffirs had a very dull year.

As a whole, the year was the most depressing period on the London Stock Exchange since the slump of 1920-21, but the completion of the postponed " Hatry " settlement on February 13th should remove an incubus from the markets and clear the way for more healthy conditions after the " shake-out " of 1929.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

Industrial peace received something of a set back in 1929. The number of disputes begun was greater than in any of the three preceding years, and the number of days lost by them exceeded that of any year, 1926 apart, since 1923. The Ministry of Labour's figures are given below:—

Year.	Number of Disputes Beginning in Year.	Number of Workpeople Involved in Disputes Beginning in Year.		Aggregate Duration in Working Days of All Disputes in Progress during Year.
		Directly.	Indirectly.	
1919	1,352	2,401,000	190,000	34,970,000
1920	1,607	1,779,000	153,000	26,570,000
1921	763	1,770,000	31,000	85,870,000
1922	576	512,000	40,000	19,850,000
1923	628	343,000	62,000	10,670,000
1924	710	558,000	55,000	6,420,000
1925	603	401,000	40,000	7,950,000
1926	323	2,724,000	10,000	162,230,000
1927	308	90,000	18,000	1,170,000
1928	302	80,000	44,000	1,390,000
1929	420	492,000	40,000	8,280,000

Even when last summer's cotton dispute is eliminated the year's figures remain higher than in 1928. Employment, on the other hand, was rather better, and reached an estimated figure, for insured persons aged 16 to 64 of 10,191,000, as compared with 10,007,000 in 1928 and 10,003,000 in 1927. Unemployment averaged 10.5, as compared with 10.8 in the preceding year. The monthly figures of numbers unemployed are as follows:—

NUMBERS (INSURED AND UNINSURED) REGISTERED AT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES, &C.

(At date of Ministry of Labour Monthly Returns.)
(000's omitted.)

	1928.	1929.		1928.	1929.
January	1,199	1,434	July	1,354	1,188
February	1,139	1,430	August	1,367	1,190
March	1,071	1,168	September ...	1,384	1,217
April	1,171	1,198	October.....	1,421	1,270
May	1,143	1,165	November.....	1,439	1,323
June	1,239	1,176	December	1,312	1,341

Improvement was marked in the coal mining industry, and occurred to a less extent in shipbuilding and ship repairing, but in the cotton industry unemployment was worse, averaging 13.2, as compared with 12.0 in 1928. The following table shows the movements of the unemployment percentage in recent years:—

PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED AMONG INSURED WORKPEOPLE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
End of—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
January...	12·7	11·9	11·5	11·0	*12·0	10·7	12·3
February..	11·8	10·7	11·3	10·4	10·9	10·4	12·2
March.....	11·1	9·9	11·1	9·8	9·8	9·5	10·1
April	10·9	9·7	10·9	9·1	9·4	9·5	9·9
May	10·7	9·5	10·9	*14·3	8·7	9·8	9·9
June	11·3	9·4	11·9	*14·6	8·8	10·7	9·8
July	11·5	9·9	11·2	*14·4	9·2	11·6	9·9
August ...	11·8	10·6	12·1	*14·0	9·3	11·6	10·1
September	11·7	10·8	12·0	*13·7	9·3	11·4	10·0
October...	11·7	11·1	11·4	*13·6	9·5	11·8	10·4
November	11·5	11·0	11·0	*13·5	9·9	12·1	11·0
December	10·7	10·9	10·4	*11·9	9·8	11·2	11·1

* Excluding workpeople in the coal-mining industry who were disqualified for unemployment benefit owing to the dispute.

According to the Ministry of Labour, there was again very little movement in wage rates. Changes, in the industries and services covered by the available statistics, resulted, for 915,500 workpeople, in an aggregate net decrease of about £91,650 in weekly full time rates, and for 137,500 people in a net increase of £12,150. Of the resultant net decrease of about £79,500, over £59,000 occurred in the cotton industry. The average decrease for all industries combined amounted to less than ½ per cent. of the wage rates in operation at the beginning of the year. The Ministry states that when account is taken of all the information in its possession, including that relating to agricultural wages, which are not included in the figures just given, the average increase, between July, 1914, and December, 1929, in the weekly full-time wage rates of the workpeople covered is estimated at between 70 and 75 per cent. Owing to the general reduction in hours since 1914 this implies a greater increase in hourly rates. During 1929, hours of labour underwent little change. According to a preliminary estimate, 4,000 people had their hours increased and 1,000 had theirs reduced. The aggregate net increase was 8,800 hours per week.

II.—CONDITIONS IN PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

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A.—EUROPE.

FRANCE.

General.—The year 1929 was devoted to vigorous measures for the adaptation of the country to the new conditions set up by the legal stabilisation of the franc. The work was continued under the leadership of M. Poincaré until July, and subsequently by M. Briand—under whom M. Chéron continued in office as Finance Minister. The year was marked by almost unbroken industrial peace, a virtual absence of unemployment, exceptionally abundant crops, increased production in practically all industries, abundant available capital, a general lowering of the cost of money, the launching of a widespread programme for improving the economic equipment of the country, a record volume of new capital issues, and a steady increase in public confidence.

Trade and Production.—French exports in 1929 totalled 50,072,348,000 francs (39,888,775 tons), against 51,374,729,000 francs (41,125,930 tons) in 1928, 54,925,759,000 francs in 1927 and 59,677,930,000 francs in 1926. Forty per cent. of the decline in export value was in respect of raw materials, which also accounted for practically the whole decline in export tonnage. Exports of manufactured goods, although nearly 2 per cent. less in value, were 1 per cent. larger in quantity. Imports totalled 58,284,624,000 francs (59,447,195 tons), against 53,448,265,000 francs (49,106,307 tons) in 1928 and 53,049,878,000 francs (49,369,840 tons) in 1927. The increase in imports of raw materials and of manufactured goods in 1929 was over 2,000,000,000 francs in each case. Eighty-five per cent. of the increased import tonnage consisted of raw materials, and less than 1 per cent. of manufactured products. Coal production totalled 55,000,000 tons in 1929, against 52,429,000 tons in 1928, 52,845,000 tons in 1927 (Alsace-Lorraine included) and 40,840,000 tons in 1913. Iron production totalled 10,290,000 tons in 1929 (provisional figures), against 9,821,000 tons in 1928, and 5,126,000 tons in 1913. The total output of steel was 9,525,000 tons (provisional), against 9,348,000 tons in 1928 and 6,976,000 tons (Lorraine plants included) in 1913. The index figure for metallurgical production was returned as 133 in November (1913 = 100). The French iron and steel plants worked to capacity throughout 1929. A production cut of 10 per cent., binding on all countries in the European Steel Cartel, came into effect in November, and is still maintained, mainly in order to keep export prices steady. The monthly index figures for production in the principal industries placed rubber manufactures at the head of the list, with figures rising from 684 in January to 957 in November, against a mean of 587 during 1928. The motor-car industry came next, with an average figure for the eleven months of 660, against a mean of 610 in 1928. The only leading industry that fell off seriously during the year was textiles, the mean figure for which was 99 during 1928 and 92 for the first eleven months of 1929. Railway receipts totalled 15,462,267,000 francs in 1929, against 14,748,691,000 francs in 1928, or an increase of 4·58 per cent. There has been no increase of railway rates since March 1, 1928, when goods rates were theoretically brought to 370 per cent. of their pre-war level. During the year the base rates for foodstuffs and other categories were reduced variously by 5-10 per cent. The number of trucks loaded was 23,776,701, against 23,174,105 in 1928, the index (1913=100) rising from 132 to 134. Both inward and outward shipping tonnage also went to higher levels. Bankruptcies averaged 726 per month, against 684 in 1928.

Labour.—Shortage of labour was experienced in several leading industries, and particularly in agriculture and mining, for which the necessary quotas were recruited from Spain, Italy, Poland, Belgium and other countries.

Crops.—Ministry of Agriculture experts estimated the 1929 wheat crop at rather over 87,000,000 quintals (as against 76,554,000 quintals in 1928 and 63,077,000 quintals in 1927), to meet normal estimated consumption of about 91,000,000 quintals. The 1929 crop was obtained from about 13,000,000 acres, or about 2,000,000 acres less than before the war. The average yield in 1929 was 16·87 quintals per hectare, the largest ever obtained in this country and 2·27 quintals more than in 1928 (by reason of more scientific methods of culture). The sugar beet crop was sufficient to yield 744,376 tons of refined sugar (against 745,677 tons in 1928). The wine, potato and fruit crops were also well above the average.

Commodity Prices.—The mean general index figure representing wholesale prices during 1929 was 638 (based on 100 as representing corresponding prices in 1913), the monthly figure returned having steadily declined from 644 at the end of January to 588 at the end of December. The mean figure in 1928 was 633, and in 1927, 628 as against the high record figure of 854 in July, 1926. The outstanding feature during the year was the reversal of the ratio between the figure representing wholesale prices of native French products and that for imported products, which stood respectively at 639 and 651 in January and at 621 and 530 at the end of December. The figure representing retail prices in Paris at the end of 1929 (13 articles) was returned as 614, as against an average monthly figure of 549 in 1928, 599 at the end of 1926 and 389 in 1924. The figure representing the cost of living by a Paris workman's family of four persons at the end of November, 1929, was 565 (based on 100 for 1914), against an average figure of 519 during 1928, 514 for 1927, and 517 for 1926.

Money and Stocks.—The year 1929, like its predecessor, was marked by an abnormal abundance of unemployed capital, an exceptional penury of opportunities for short-term investments, and record issues of additional capital by banks and other established concerns, to compensate for the wiping out of four-fifths of the real value of their issues under the stabilisation law. The Bank of France discount rate, which had been brought down to 3½ per cent. on January 19, 1928, remained at that figure throughout 1929, and the rate for advances against securities remained similarly unchanged at 5½ per cent. The rate of interest paid by the Caisse d'Amortissement on National Defence Bonds, which had been reduced progressively in earlier years from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent., was reduced to 3½ per cent. on December 20, 1929. Total offers of new capital in 1929 amounted to 15,084,000,000 francs, of which 14,000,000,000 francs, about 93 per cent., represented increases of capital by old companies (6,796,000,000 francs in bonds and 7,278,000,000 francs in shares), new companies' share

capital being 1,010,000,000 francs, or about 7 per cent. of the total. The average rate of interest offered on new bond issues, which was 6.03 per cent. in 1928, had fallen to 4.80 per cent. in October, 5.25 per cent. in November, and 5 per cent. in December. The index figure representing Bourse quotations (300 French issues of variable yield) at the end of December was 463 (base 100 in 1913), against a mean of 415 during 1928. The general figure covering the quotations at the end of December of 35 standard 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. issues (3 per cent. Rentes and 3 per cent. and 4 per cent. Credit Foncier, railway and industrial bonds) stood at 91.6, against a mean of 80.8 during 1928. Six of the eleven issues of Rentes stood at from 5 to 30 points above par on December 24 last, as compared with three at the end of 1928, Irredeemable 3's having improved 18 points to 84 during the year.

Public Finance.—The total revenue for the year, recovered under the General Budget, was 47,780,000,000 francs (against 43,687,000,000 francs in 1928, 41,246,467,000 francs in 1927 and 35,610,000,000 francs in 1926), or 6,605,000,000 francs in excess of Budget Estimates (against a provisional realised surplus of 3,368 millions in 1928). A further sum of 7,812,000,000 francs was received by the Caisse d'Amortissement from the tobacco monopoly and the special taxes allocated to debt extinction purposes, bringing the total raised from taxation (exclusive of posts, telegraphs and telephones, now covered by an independent Budget) to 55,592,874,000 francs, or 5,192,890,000 francs more than in 1928. A large part of the year's surplus was absorbed in taxation relief, and supplementary expenditure in July and December. The Treasury balance at the Bank on December 27 stood at 7,582,000,000 francs and that of the Caisse d'Amortissement at 4,155,000,000 francs. The only direct Government issue of the year was a 4½ per cent. loan offered (at 93½) through the Caisse d'Amortissement in February, for the purpose of converting the outstanding balance of 2,400,000,000 francs of its 6 per cent. "Tobacco" Bonds and as many Defence Bonds as possible. The amount of Defence Bonds offered in exchange for the new loan was 5,352,000,000 francs, which was so largely in excess of the 4,000,000,000 francs of these issues that the Caisse desired to convert that the lists were closed immediately after opening. The amount of "Tobacco" Bonds exchanged was 2,164,000,000 francs, or 93 per cent. of the oustanding balance. During the year, and including this conversion operation, the total Defence Bonds in circulation were reduced from 35,487,000,000 francs to around 28,200,000,000 francs, as compared with a total of 48,000,000,000 francs in 1926. Most of the Defence Bonds extinguished have, of course, been transformed into new Rentes, nevertheless the total debt extinction effected represented for 1929 about 2,500,000,000 francs, with a reduction of the annual interest burden by about 330,000,000 francs; in addition, the extinction of Rentes, by buying in on the Bourse, represented a capital value of over 5,500,000,000 francs and an annual interest charge of 275,000,000 francs.

GERMANY.

Foreign Trade.—In 1929 there was a small export surplus of 47.6 million marks, as against an import surplus of 1,204 million marks in 1928. Exports, excluding precious metals, reached nearly 13,500 million marks, the highest figure since the war. The increase was mainly in manufactured goods, especially iron goods and machinery, but coal and agricultural products also reached higher export figures. There was only a slight decrease in imports, which occurred mainly in foodstuffs. Imports of industrial raw materials were almost unchanged and those of coal, iron ore, copper and cotton even increased. At the end of the year, however, imports fell off sharply and exports also showed a downward tendency.

FOREIGN TRADE (excluding precious metals).
(000,000's omitted.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Imports	13,802	13,650	13,435
Exports	10,376	11,783	12,683
Reparations in kind	579	663	799
Balance	− 2,847	− 1,204	+ 47

Currency and Credit.—After a year of violent fluctuations, the monetary position again became more stable. The combined circulation of Reichsbank and Rentenbank notes at the end of 1929 was slightly lower than a year before at 5,441 million marks, as against 5,460 million marks. The Reichsbank gold reserve dropped from 2,729 million marks to 2,283 million marks. The gold stock fluctuated sharply, and in April touched the low level of 1,765 million marks. Foreign exchange legally admitted as currency reserve increased from 155.3 to 402.6 million marks. The reserve ratio (gold and exchange) to circulation decreased from 58.5 per cent. to 53.3 per cent., but this is still considerably higher than the ratio of two years before (47 per cent.). The Reichsbank discount rate generally followed the world tendency, and was reduced from 7 to 6½ per cent. on January 12th, increased to 7½ per cent. on April 25th, and lowered again to 7 per cent. on November 2nd. Market rates, however, were continuously far above the official figure. Partly in consequence of this fact, partly on account of the sure though slow progress of trade, combined discounts and advances rose from 2,803 to 3,100 million marks during the year.

The capital market was very depressed, and loans and share issues both dropped sharply. The total amount of home loans, including mortgage bonds and municipal debentures, which had been over 3,000 million marks in 1928, was about 2,300 million marks, of which a considerable part again was taken up by other countries. German issues abroad amounted to only 587 million marks, as against 1,573 million marks in 1928. Home share issues decreased by nearly two-thirds, from 1,134 million marks to about 460 million marks. The influx of foreign credits, though still large, decreased considerably; the net capital import was estimated by the Reichskreditbank at 1,720, as against 2,910 million marks in 1928. The last two figures are disputed, but other estimates show a similar proportion of decrease. Savings continued to rise, but the increase on 1928 was less by 10 per cent. than that year's increase on 1927. Savings bank deposits were 9,070 million marks at the end of 1929, compared with 6,990 million marks at the end of 1928.

The Stock Exchange was depressed throughout the year. The official index of share quotations on the Berlin Bourse (1924-6 equals 100) steadily declined from 150.6 at the end of 1928 to 115.6 at the end of 1929. The turnover in securities on the German bourses, in round figures, fell from 57,500 million marks in 1928 to 37,500 million marks in 1929—*i.e.*, by almost 35 per cent. The number of failures increased from 11,000 in 1928 to about 15,000 in 1929. The largest failure was that of the Frankfurt Insurance Company, which involved losses of approximately fifty million marks.

Public Finance.—The Treasury encountered extraordinary difficulties; on two occasions the State was only just saved from having to defer payment of salaries and wages. In May, an emergency loan was offered to the public, but only 180 millions of the nominal 300 million marks was underwritten. An American credit of $50 million, for one year, only temporarily eased the tension. In December, the Treasury had to apply to the banks for a nine months' credit of 350 million marks to cover current liabilities. Revenue receipts for the first eight months of the financial year (April to November) were, in the circumstances, satisfactory at 6,247 million marks, as against 6,253 million marks during the same period in

1928. In proportion to estimates, however, receipts were only 66 per cent. in 1929, as against 70 per cent. in the previous year. Reparation payments, which were partly responsible for the exigencies of public finance, rose (excluding deliveries in kind) from 1,837 in 1928 to 2,150 million marks in 1929. Municipal finance came to a turning point in November, when a compulsory consolidation of the 2,000 million marks floating debt was decided upon and future expenditure made subject to severe limitation.

Industry.—Industrial production was considerably higher than in 1928. The output of pig iron rose from 11,804,000 metric tons to 13,200,000 metric tons; output of steel ingots rose from 14,517,000 to 16,300,000 metric tons. This rise was slightly in excess of the rate of world increase under each of the two heads. Other production figures in the heavy industries are (January-November):—

(Thousand metric tons.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Rolling-mill products	11,782	10,699	11,555
Coal	140,359	139,057	149,785
Lignite	136,673	152,119	160,648

In the Ruhr coal district activity was particularly intense, and coal output increased during the year by 23 per cent., coke and briquette output by about 50 per cent. The engineering industry maintained a high level of production as rising exports made up in quantity—if not in profits—for the diminishing home demand. The electro-technical industry had a dull year, the falling off in demand for its products reflecting the general trade depression; exports, however, were satisfactory. The Rohstahlgemeinschaft (Ingot Steel Syndicate) agreement came up for renewal and, after strenuous discussion, was extended for ten years. No important new amalgamations are reported, but it is thought that the merger of the two largest banks will stimulate further industrial concentration by removing elements of rivalry among the financial interests. In this connection, rumours are afloat concerning a possible merger in the shipping world. Unemployment was comparatively low during the first half of the year, but rose above the previous year's level from October. The monthly average of unemployed in receipt of relief was 1,775,000 in December, 1929, as against 1,702,000 in December, 1928.

Prices and Wages.—The official index of wholesale prices in December, 1929, was 134.3, as against 139.9 in December, 1928 (1913 equals 100). The decrease was mainly in foodstuffs and in raw and semi-manufactured materials, while prices of manufactured goods decreased less. The official cost-of-living index remained almost unchanged:—December, 1929, 152.6; December, 1928, 152.7 (1913 equals 100). The upward trend of wages continued. On the average, the weekly tariff wages of skilled labour increased by 4.8 per cent., those for unskilled labour by 4.3 per cent. during the year. A calculation published by the *Institut für Konjunkturforschung* puts the total yearly incomes of all employees, including civil servants, as follows:—

1927	40,000,000,000
1928	45,000,000,000
1929	46,000,000,000

This means a 2 per cent. rise in the average standard of living during the past year.

Tariffs and Commercial Agreements.—Agricultural import duties were raised in June after the existing commercial agreements with Sweden, Switzerland, France and Finland had been amended. At the end of the year, a further rise in agricultural duties was under discussion with a special provision for sliding scales. The industrial tariff of 1925, which terminated at the end of 1929, was extended without material reductions and the Government is now contemplating additions and increases.

Agriculture.—Favourable crops led to an increase in exports of farm products, while imports were further reduced. Since 1927 agricultural exports have risen by about 260 million marks and imports declined by about 500 million marks.

(Millions of marks.)

	Imports.	Exports.
1925	4,023	520
1926	3,571	504
1927	4,326	441
1928	4,203	631
1929	3,817	701

The prominent feature of the agricultural situation was the rising tide of indebtedness which neither increased duties nor State aid could materially reduce. A thorough official inquiry showed, however, that the financial stringency is most marked in the large estates of the east, while west and south of the Elbe agriculture is tolerably prosperous.

ITALY.

Foreign Trade.—The corrected figures of the Central Institute of Statistics for 1929 and previous years were as follows (precious metals and reparation deliveries excluded):—

(In Millions.)

	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports over Exports.	
	Paper Lire.	Paper Lire.	Paper Lire.	Present stabilised Lire.*
1910-13	3,496	2,528	968	3,553
1920	18,105	8,742	9,363	11,190
1921	17,227	9,300	7,927	7,384
1922	15,765	10,698	5,067	4,551
1923	17,189	12,757	4,432	3,872
1924	19,381	16,529	2,852	2,360
1925	26,200	21,015	5,185	3,931
1926	25,879	21,175	4,704	3,446
1927	20,375	15,632	7,743	4,602
1928	22,042	14,529	7,513	7,513
1929†‡	21,353	14,886	6,467	6,467

* For the sake of comparison the paper lire are converted into old gold lire at the appropriate rate of exchange, and these are in their turn converted into present stabilised lire at the rate of 1 to 3·67.

† Provisional figures.

‡ When expressed in lire of pre-war purchasing power the excess of imports in 1929 amounts to 1,504 millions as compared with the average of 968 millions in 1910-13.

The decrease in the import balance in 1929 is wholly attributable to the second half of the year. In the first half the excess of imports increased from 4,750 to 4,897 million lire. The heavy imports were due to coal, gasoline, corn and broken iron and steel. In the second half of the year, however, owing to lesser imports of wheat (354,000, against 946,000 tons), and of corn (244,000, against 466,000 tons), imports were lower at 8,801 million lire, against 9,251 million lire in 1928; and as the exports were unchanged (6,512, against 6,489 million lire), the excess of imports went down from 2,763 to 1,570 million lire. The hoped-for increase of exports has failed to materialise during the past year, as rationalisation and reduction of costs in industry have not yet produced sufficient result, though in agriculture the wheat campaign has met with better success.

The improvement in the balance of trade becomes almost negligible when expressed in terms of lire of pre-war purchasing power. To the deficit we must add the deliveries on reparation accounts, which are true paid imports, as Italy has to pay over to Great Britain and United States practically the whole amount received by Germany. The most important item in this account is coal, of which we imported 1,727,861 tons in 1925, 2,891,381 tons in 1926, 3,088,906 tons in 1927, 3,539,231 tons in 1928 and 1,927,000 tons in the first eight months of 1929.

Crops.—Agricultural yields generally were better in 1929 than in 1928. Comparative figures for several years are given in the following table.

(Thousands of Tons.)

	1909-14. (average)	1921-25. (average)	1927.	1928.	1929.
Wheat	4,927·3	5,397·1	5,329·1	6,221·5	7,094·4
Maize	2,468·8	2,322·3	2,132·1	1,587·6	2,408·3
Rice	486·7	535·4	696·1	631·5	673·4
Potatoes.....	1,656·2	1,835·1	1,945·3	1,489·8	2,011·1
Sugar beet...	1,723·8	2,400·3	2,015·4	2,861·3	...
Olives.....	1,076·9	1,181·4	1,007·3	1,413·9	...
Raisins	7,047·2	6,695·1	5,795·8	7,503·1	6,347·4
Cocoons* ...	40·8	...	50·7	52·5	53·3
Hemp*	83·5	...	83·0	85·7	87·3

* Average, 1909-13.

Industry.—The production of electric power increased from 6,784.7 million kilowatts in the first ten months of 1928 to 7,317.8 in the corresponding months of 1928. In general, 1929 was not a good year; the effects of the revaluation of the lira were still felt. Goods carried by State railways, which were 63.2 million tons in 1924-25, increased to 65.3 million in 1925-26, but were only 64.5 in 1928-29. The number of passengers carried by State railways fell from 115.7 million passengers in 1927 to 112.2 in 1928, and to 99.2 in the first ten months of 1929, the probable yearly total being but slightly higher than in 1927. The process of liquidation of unsound firms is continuing; failures averaged 944 monthly in the first 11 months of the year, against 933 in 1928, 886 in 1927, 654 in 1926 and 617 in 1913. Transactions passing through the 11 clearing houses fell from 710.1 milliard lire in the first eleven months of 1928 to 678.4 in the corresponding months of 1929, and the decrease was especially felt in end-of-the-month Stock Exchange clearings. The highest level of unemployment was 489,437 in February, as compared with 439,211 in January, 1928; the minimum was 193,325 in June, as compared with 234,210 in July, 1928. In December, 1929, there were 408,748 persons wholly unemployed, as compared with 363,551 in the corresponding month of 1928. From December, 1928, to December, 1929, the greatest relative increases took place in the iron and steel and other metal, textile and chemical industries.

General Economic Indexes.—The following half-year average indices, taken from Mortara's Prospective Economiche for 1930 are useful for an estimate of the present economic trend:—

	Bank Notes Issued.	Paper Price of Gold.	Wholesale Prices.		Cost of Living.	Wages.
			In Paper Current Lire.	In Gold Lire.		
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100
1921—						
1st half-yr.	749	460	551	120	560	589
2nd half-yr.	737	455	525	115	522	567
1922—						
1st half-yr.	728	389	517	133	503	561
2nd half-yr.	728	430	542	126	498	550
1923—						
1st half-yr.	694	401	539	134	495	523
2nd half-yr.	705	442	531	120	493	519
1924—						
1st half-yr.	691	443	545	123	517	517
2nd half-yr.	725	444	562	127	536	530
1925—						
1st half-yr.	725	476	622	131	594	559
2nd half-yr.	760	496	671	135	628	594
1926—						
1st half-yr.	728	491	648	132	653	609
2nd half-yr.	725	510	661	130	653	637
1927—						
1st half-yr.	694	402	568	142	639	...
2nd half-yr.	681	355	486	137	539	...
1928—						
1st half-yr.	636	366	492	135	530	545
2nd half-yr.	628	368	491	133	529	539
1929—						
1st half-yr.	594	368	492	134	547	532
2nd half-yr.	610	368	470	127	543	534

These indices show very clearly that something is still out of joint in the economic mechanism. Gold wholesale prices at 134 and 127 for the two half-years, and 131 for the whole year, seem low in comparison with a 139 level for the United States, 137 for Great Britain, and 140 for France. Cost of living has increased, while wholesale prices decreased; and as money wages were diminishing, real wages have suffered during 1929.

Savings and New Issues.—Deposits in postal saving banks, which, after having risen to 504.4 at the end of 1926 (from the 100 basis of 1913) had sunk to 460 in October, 1927, continued in 1929 to recover the lost ground, reaching 535 in October. Deposits in ordinary saving banks similarly advanced from 475 in June, 1927, to 583.8 in December, 1928, and 591.4 in October, 1929. Deposits in the six largest ordinary banks rose from 542.3 in March, 1927, to 650.8 in December, 1928, and 664.1 in October; but those of people's banks, which had risen from 654.8 in March, 1927, to 696.4 in December, 1928, decreased to 678.3 in June, 1929. The total of remittances from Italian emigrants decreased from 3,757.9 million lire at the end of 1926 to 3,241.5 at the end of 1927, to 2,963.7 at the end of 1928 and 2,731.6 at the end of October, 1929. The net increase in the issued capital of joint-stock companies amounted to 4,605.3 million lire in the first eleven months of 1929, compared with 2,698.1 million in 1928 (whole year) and 1,840.5 in 1927.

Money and Stocks.—The official rate of discount, which was raised from 5.50 to 6 per cent. at January 7, 1929, was again raised to 7 per cent. on March 14th, and remained there during the rest of the year. The market rate of discount for first-rate bills, therefore, increased also from 5.75-6 to 6.75-7 per cent., and prolongation rates from 6.50-6.75 per cent. to 7.25-7.50 per cent. The Bourse was stagnant: the Bachi index number increased at first from 141.3 at the end of 1928 to 143.5 at the end of February, and then fell progressively to 129.2 at the end of November.

Public Finance.—The financial year closed for the fifth time with a surplus. The provisional figure of 382 million lire will probably increase to over 500 million lire in the final accounts. The first six months (July-December) of the current year 1929-30 show a deficit of 218.3 milion lire, owing mainly to a decrease in the yield of the wheat duty, in consequence of the good 1929 crops and the resulting diminution in imports. State internal debt increased further to 87,689 million lire at December 31, 1929.

RUSSIA.

The year 1929 was dominated by the ideas of the so-called Five Years' Plan of National Development and by the attempt to introduce on a big scale collective forms of agriculture. The enormous capital outlays it involved seriously affected every branch of national economy.

Currency and Credit.—The increase of currency circulation was the biggest for the six years since the inauguration of the New Economic Policy. From 1,971 million roubles it rose to 2,642 million roubles, of which Tchervonetz currency increased from 1,090 million roubles to 1,466 million roubles, and Treasury notes from 711 million roubles to 933 million roubles. By December 1st a further rise brought the currency up to 2,872 million roubles. There was again a steady expansion of credit, but, in contrast to the distribution in previous years, heavy industries and agriculture received the biggest share.

Finance.—1929 was the first year of the execution of the Five Years' Plan, which assumes a total expenditure during the five years of 86,000 million roubles, that is to say, the whole of the national income for two and a half years. Such colossal sums obviously cannot be obtained through the channels of the budget system alone. In fact, nearly half this expenditure is expected to come from State domains, nationalised industries, banks, credit and trade. The total resources of the "Finance Plan," "mobilised" during 1929, exceed the estimates by nearly 2,000 million roubles. The estimates for 1930 are fixed at 17,600 instead of 14,000 million roubles, as provided by the Five Years' Plan. These figures tend to show either that the realisation of the Plan is likely to swallow up a much bigger proportion of the national income than was expected, or that the national income is growing at higher speed than that estimated by the Plan.

Agriculture.—The land was again the centre of interest; in the first place because it was the first year of extensive experiments with collective farming and mechanisation of agriculture on a big scale; and secondly because the application of new methods of grain collecting (chiefly "contracting" the grain in the previous winter, giving the peasants selected seeds, implements and monetary advances), enabled the Government to secure a record quantity of grain, over 850 million poods, as compared with 600 million poods for the last two years. Crops were only slightly better than in 1928, but their geographical distribution was more favourable, as the harvest was fair and even good in the grain exporting areas such as the Ukraine, the Lower Volga and the Northern Caucasus. The areas under cultivation underwent considerable changes, the main and most important of which were the deliberate diminution of area by the more prosperous peasants (kulaks), and the extension of cultivated areas by the State farms and the Colhos or collective peasant farms. The total increase of the cultivated area by nearly 5 per cent. on last year is a proof that the so-called "socialised sector of agriculture" is making considerable headway. According to official statistics, there were by October 1st 75,000 Colhos, embracing 1,500,000 peasant holdings, with a total area of over 7,000,000 hectares, under cultivation.

Industry.—The industrial development of 1929 was of the utmost significance. The value of the entire output of industry—that is to say, both of the socialised and privately owned—was 16.8 per cent. above that of 1928, but the significant point to notice is that the output of privately owned industry actually decreased by 8.9 per cent., while that of the State owned increased by 23.7 per cent. This tendency is now so marked that the disappearance of private traders and privately owned industries is clearly foreshadowed. The increase in industrial capital, which amounts to 3,075 million roubles, was derived from the following sources: 1,670 million roubles (54.3 per cent.) profits on industry itself; 471 million roubles (15.3 per cent.), credits, including foreign, and 934 million roubles, allocated by the State Budget. For 1930 the corresponding figures are 2,980 million roubles profits of industry, 544 million roubles credits, and 1,692 million roubles State Budget.

POLAND.

Agriculture and Industry.—The year 1929 was characterised by a deep trade depression. The number of unemployed, which at the end of 1928 amounted to 94,000, reached 175,000 in December, 1929. Nearly all branches of industry are passing through a severe crisis. In 1928 iron production had nearly reached the pre-war level. For steel the index (1913=100) amounted to 93.8, for rolled products to 94.4. The year 1929 brought a set back; the production declined to 75 per cent. of the output in 1913. In the cotton industry the trade depression was very acute. The number of employed decreased from 66,700 at the end of November, 1928, to 55,000 at the end of the same month in 1929. While in 1928 81.8 per cent. of these workmen were employed six days a week, the proportion in 1929 had decreased to 11.5 per cent.—more than two-thirds are working less than four days. Agriculture, the timber trade, the sugar industry, and other branches of the economic activity of the country are suffering very much from the downward tendency of prices on the world markets. In agriculture the losses supported by the producer have entailed a great decrease in the use of fertilisers. The only industry which can look back on the year 1929 as a period of improvement is the coal trade. The average monthly production of coal, which was 3,383,000 million tons in 1928, reached nearly four million tons during the last months of 1929. The total production for 1929 can be estimated at more than 45 million tons, as compared with 40.5 millions in 1928.

Finance.—The revenue in 1929 increased less rapidly than during the previous years, as may be seen from the figures below:—

First Six Months of the Budgetary Years (April to October).

(Million zlotys.)

	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
Revenue	1,419.6	1,634.7	1,705.1
Expenditure	1,253.9	1,574.5	1,686.1
Surplus of revenue...	165.7	60.2	19.0

The Government now has to face the difficult task of maintaining the revenues in equilibrium with the growing expenditure. When the great reserves possessed by the Treasury are taken into account, the situation appears, on the whole, satisfactory. The position of the Bank of Poland has been much strengthened in 1929 as far as the gold reserve is concerned. The amount of gold held by the Bank increased from 621 millions at the end of 1928 to 700 millions at the end of 1929. The total reserve of gold and of foreign currencies amounted to 1,119 millions on December 31, 1929, as compared with 1,148 millions one year ago. The statutory cover of gold and foreign currencies at the end of 1929 was more than 61 per cent. of notes in circulation and deposits.

Foreign Trade.—Imports amounted to 3,112 million zlotys, exports to 2,813 millions, so that the deficit of the trade balance was nearly 300 millions. This is a great improvement on the preceding year, when the passive balance was 853.8 million zlotys. This change is due both to a diminution in imports and to an increase in exports. Since July the trade balance has been favourable. The excess of exports during the second half of the year amounted to 278 millions. Exports, not only of agricultural, but also of industrial goods, showed a marked increase as compared with the figures of 1928.

HOLLAND.

The development of economic conditions in Holland during the past year was favourable, except for a small set back in the last month after the Stock Exchange crisis.

Foreign Trade and Prices.—For the year 1929 imports and exports, in comparison with those of previous years, were as follows:—

	Quantity (in 1,000,000 Kg.)		Value (in Million Guilders).		
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Balance.
1926...	28,346	15,822	2,441·9	1,749·2	692·7
1927...	28,619	14,338	2,548·9	1,899·7	649·2
1928...	29,821	15,725	2,684·0	1,986·0	697·7
1929...	30,989	16,302	2,752	1,989	762·8

Index figures of wholesale prices for the year, in comparison with former years were:—

	General Index Figure. (1913 = 100.)	Foodstuffs Only. (1913 = 100.)
1922	160	160
1923	151	143
1924	156	156
1925	155	155
1926	145	144
1927	148	153
1928	149	157
1929	142	149

Public Finance.—Receipts from direct taxes amounted to 511,223,274 florins, as against 492,305,000 florins for 1928. The higher amount of the dividend and tantièmes taxes has contributed to this rise. The tax on Stock Exchange transactions also yielded a larger amount.

Money and Stocks.—The quotation for prolongations moved between monthly averages of 5.8750 and 4.4758. The average for the year was 4.9003, against 4.1613 in 1928. Bank rate rose from 4½ per cent. to

5½ per cent. on March 23, 1929, and fell to 5 per cent. on October 31, and to 4½ per cent. on November 15th. Issues of new capital amounted to 468 million florins, against 669 million florins in 1928. Of the 1929 total 136 millions or 29.1 per cent. of the total, was raised on foreign account, as against 309 millions, or 46 per cent., in 1928. The private discount rate varied between the average of 4.19 for January and 5.38 for June. The average for November was 4.24. Business on the stock market during the year was very lively. Prices rose sharply at first, especially for industrials, and fell sharply in October. The wild fluctuations caused an active business, which is reflected in the yield from the tax on Stock Exchange transactions, which rose to 8,530,575 florins, against 7,459,000 florins in 1928. The total Stock Exchange index for December, 1929, was 100, against 118 in the previous year. Shipping shares fell from 96 to 61, Colonial shares from 143 to 120, industrials from 115 to 99. The average rate of interest from four groups of bonds rose to 4.75 per cent. in December, 1929, from 4.62 per cent. in 1928.

Shipping.—During 1929 the harbour traffic of the port of Amsterdam totalled 3,974 ships of a tonnage of 9,523,409, as against 3,870 ships of a tonnage of 9,217,128 in 1928. For the port of Rotterdam harbour traffic for 1929 totalled 12,635 ships, with a tonnage of 21,316,853, as against 12,291 ships, with a tonnage of 20,456,343 tons in 1928. There is also a considerable increase mainly due to larger shipments of iron ore.

Bankruptcies.—The number of public bankruptcies during the eleven months of 1929 was 2,523, against 2,976 during the same period of 1928.

BELGIUM.

Production, Prices and Traffic.—Industrial activity progressed till the middle of the summer, and the great demand for labour caused a considerable increase in wages. But, since August, a slight slackening appeared in metallurgy and, a little later, in constructional engineering. The Steel Cartel decided in November and December to curtail the quotas 10 per cent. Activity remained strenuous in the coal industry and prices were firm right to the end of the year, though the general position has been a little less strikingly good. Here, as everywhere, the situation of the textile industry has been unsettled. Unemployment has been practically unknown, though more labour is at present available and the manufacturers are less at a loss to find workpeople. The upward movement of wages has come to a standstill, but the successive increments already granted have been so considerable that many observers doubt whether our ability to compete on foreign markets will be maintained. Wholesale prices increased during the first part of the year; afterwards the index number of wholesale prices declined owing to the fall in raw materials on the leading markets. This index, which stood at 855 (123, if expressed in gold) in December, 1928, dropped to 823 (119 in gold) at the end of December, 1929. Retail prices, supported by a severe winter and a dry summer, continued to advance towards the world level, but this movement slackened at the end of the year. The index rose from 852 (123 in gold) in December, 1928, to 897 (129 in gold) in December, 1929.

PRODUCTION.

(Thousands of metric tons.)

	Coal.	Pig-iron.	Steel.
1913	22,842	2,485	2,467
1926	25,320	3,399	3,339
1927	27,574	3,751	3,605
1928	27,543	3,905	3,820
1929	26,932	4,096	4,012

FOREIGN TRADE (BELGO-LUXEMBURG CUSTOMS UNION).

(In millions of francs.)

	1928.	1929.
Imports	31,564	35,510
Exports	30,145	32,234
Excess of imports over exports	1,419	3,276

Sea-going vessels entered at Antwerp harbour were 24,330,000 tons, against 23,604,000 in 1928 and 14,139,000 in 1913. During the first ten months the railways worked 7,006 million ton-kilometres, against 6,468 for the same period of 1928, while passenger traffic scheduled 5,433 million passenger-kilometres, against 5,229 in 1928.

Money, Exchange and Stocks.—Money has been a little less easy in 1929, though there has been no real tightening. The discount rate of the National Bank stood at 4 per cent., till July 31st, when it was raised to 5 per cent.; it was reduced to 4½ per cent. on November 13th, and to 3½ per cent. on December 31st. Call money varied practically between 2 and 3 per cent.; it was seldom above 4 per cent. and never less than 1½ per cent. The balance sheets of the National Bank record a similar trend to that of last year, an increase in holdings of sterling and dollars, and, on the other hand, a greater demand for credit from the home market. Its reserve has been strengthened by purchases of gold from Berlin and New York, as well as by an increase of holdings of gold-securities. The number of notes in circulation has greatly increased, while the total gold and gold-exchange cover has also been extended a little; metallic cover is noticeably greater.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM.

(In millions of francs.)

	Jan. 3, 1929.	Jan. 2, 1930.
Reserve: (i) Gold	4,517	5,876
(ii) Gold bills	3,075	3,066
Discount	3,361	4,347
Notes in circulation	11,965	13,933
Ratio of reserve to notes and deposits	58·8%	59·10%
Ratio of gold to notes and deposits	34·9%	38·8%

The Belgian exchange stood at a premium during the year 1929. The average rate was 7.186 belgas for the dollar (par of exchange 7.192) and 34.90 for sterling (par of exchange 35.00).

After an actual improvement in February and March, the Stock market was involved in a very acute crisis; from 108, quoted in January, 1929, the share index dropped in December to 75. Colonials were weakest and fell from 100 to 54. Stagnation led to insolvency in a certain number of minor instances, but this had no serious effect on the market. Government securities and bonds have been rising on account of purchases for the Sinking Fund and of a sounder public estimate of their value. Their index rose from 108 to 113. At the Caisse d'Epargne (Savings bank guaranteed by the State) the excess of deposits over withdrawals will reach about 1,100 millions, against 590 in 1928.

New issues have been very considerable, and attained 14,366 millions, against 12,262 millions in 1928 and 6,328 millions in 1927. In recent months, owing to the Stock Exchange crisis, there has been a substantial decline in the amount of new issues. The amount of dividends disbursed by joint-stock companies reached 3,480 millions, against 2,900 millions for 1928.

Public Finance.—Fiscal receipts attained 9,836 millions, against 9,261 millions in 1928. Non-taxation income showed a remarkable increase, on account, *inter alia*, of the growth in the revenue from the State's reserves (foreign portfolio); moreover the share of the State in the profits of the National Bank was 216 millions, against 153 in 1928. In spite of the increase in public expenditure, the financial year 1929 will leave, after the redemption of 1,500 million francs of public debt, a surplus of about 400 million, according to the latest accounts.

On December 31st, 1929, the Belgian Public Debt totalled 54,625 millions, against 56,125 millions at the end of 1928.

SPAIN.

Economically, Spain continues to progress slowly, but surely. Population is increasing at a high rate; emigration is very limited; the means of transport are improving; the number of motor cars in use is very high;

security issues are numerous and the amount of private savings is larger every day. Even the fall of the peseta during the second half of the year 1929 has not been able to stop the growth of imports, and this development reflects unfavourably on the exchange. The most important problem is the conflict between the slow progress of the country and the extraordinary expansion of public expenditures during recent years. Not only the Government, but public corporations and other organisations endorsed by the Government, show eagerness in the undertaking of public works. This is very creditable, but it is doubtful whether it can safely continue as producers are beginning to show signs of lassitude under the burden of heavy taxes and social charges, and it is generally thought that, to normalise monetary conditions, it is necessary to initiate an energetic policy of reduction in public expenditure. The Barcelona and Seville Exhibitions have proved to be a wonderful display of vitality, but they involved an increase in the burden of taxation, which should be taken into account. The Government seems to be of the same opinion, and the execution of some public works, especially the construction of warships, has been postponed.

Production and Trade.—Although 1929 has not been an excellent year with reference to agricultural crops, it represents an improvement on the last two years, as the cereals harvest has been plentiful and the wheat gathered will be sufficient for the needs of consumption. Mining activities during the first eight months show an increase over the same period of the previous year; the figures for the extraction of ores are as follow:—Iron, 3,701,000 tons (against 2,962,000 in 1928); copper, 2,406,000 (2,241,000 in 1928); coal, 4,847,000 (3,787,000 in 1928); lead, 95,130 (83,630 in 1928); zinc, 66,926 (81,903 in 1928). The iron and steel industries also increased their production during the first eight months to 479,929 tons of pig iron (against 318,894 in 1928) and 625,812 tons of steel (against 392,717 in 1928); most other industries remain stationary, but there is an expansion in some, including public services. Spanish external trade has been constantly increasing for the last few years; imports have grown more rapidly than exports, and the index number of imports with reference to 1913 was 110.5 in 1926, 120.4 in 1927, and 139.8 in 1928, whereas the index number of imports was 83.5 in 1926, 88.6 in 1927 and 98.4 in 1928. There are no official data on external trade for 1929, but, according to foreign statistics, the total Spanish imports from Great Britain, the United States, France and Germany amounted to £39,300,000 during the first nine months (£37,500,000 in the same period of 1928), and Spanish exports to those countries amounted to £36,700,000 (against £38,500,000 in 1928).

Finance, Prices and Exchange.—The Minister of Finance has made every effort to balance revenue and expenditure, a result which had never been attained as yet, as, although the ordinary Budget in 1928 and 1929 showed a surplus, the expenditure of the extraordinary Budget remained as a deficit; this has, for the most part, been included in the ordinary Budget for 1930. The revenue increases every year; it amounted to 3,525 million pesetas in 1928 and 3,726 million pesetas in 1929. The total expenditure of the ordinary and extraordinary Budgets amounted to 3,784 millions in 1928 and to 3,861 in 1929, not including the extraordinary expenditure for December, 1929. The Government issued debentures for 500 million pesetas, besides another 500 millions in railroad bonds. In 1929 securities were issued for a total amount of 2,497 millions, against 1,604 millions in 1928, this being the highest figure on record since 1921. Stock Exchange activity declined towards the middle of the year, and, after the New York crisis, heavy falls in the quotations resulted in a reduction of business, which lasted until the end of the year. The mean index number for wholesale prices during the first ten months was 171.5, against 166.3 for the same period of the previous year. The rate of exchange for the peseta has suffered a heavy fall during the year 1929, as in the last months of 1928 the pound was worth less than 30 pesetas, whereas the mean rate during 1929 was 33.13 pesetas to a pound, the lowest quotation being that of 35.43, registered in December.

SWITZERLAND.

Trade and industry in Switzerland were less active than in 1928, as the general economic situation was strongly influenced by the financial crisis in the United States. Conditions were, however, good for banking and hotels, all railway receipts showed an increase, unemployment was smaller, and Federal, Cantonal and Municipal finances improved. There was a surplus of 23,760,000 francs in the Federal accounts for 1928. The Budget of the Confederation for 1929 showed estimated expenditure at 350,930,000 francs, and revenue at 352,800,000 francs, leaving a surplus of 1,880,000 francs. The Budget for 1930 estimates expenditure at 382,900,000 francs, and revenue at 383,000,000 francs, thus leaving a surplus of 100,000 francs. The Public Debt, which total 2,152,664,000 francs at the end of 1928, was reduced by about 30 millions in 1929. Traffic receipts further improved, thanks partly to a reduction in goods transport rates, and partly to the increasing number of tourists during the summer and winter seasons. Receipts of the Federal Railways totalled 429 millions, against 418 millions in 1928, expenditure reached 263 millions, compared with 254 millions in 1928, thus leaving a surplus of 166 millions as against 164 millions the year before. The Railways Board has decided to electrify within the coming seven years another 298 miles of secondary lines at a cost of 82 million francs.

The official discount rate was unchanged at 3½ per cent., while unofficial rates ranged from 3 to 3½ per cent. The sterling exchange opened at 25.18 in January, rose to 25.23 in February and March, and dropped to 25.10 in December. Activity on the Swiss Bourses was very great until the New York slump, when heavy losses were recorded; the average value of 110 industrial securities in the Swiss market dropped from 254.05 per cent. in January to 242.43 per cent. in August, and to 212.43 in November, while that of 12 securities of the Swiss Federal Government dropped from 95.24 per cent. in January to 93.45 per cent. in October, but rose to 95.05 per cent. in November. Crops were, as a whole, very satisfactory, owing to the fine summer and magnificent autumn, and the total value of agricultural production was about 1,470 million francs, compared with 1,456 millions in 1928. Exports aggregated roughly 2,104 millions as against 2,134 millions in 1928, while imports totalled 2,783 millions, compared with 2,744 millions the year before. The adverse balance was therefore 679 millions, against 610 millions in 1928. The number of unemployed fell from 16,284 in January to 4,399 in June, but it rose again to about 9,000 in December owing to seasonal causes. The index number of wholesale prices (July, 1913=100) was 142 in January, 139 in May, 140 in December; that of retail prices (July, 1913=100) was 161 in January and 163 in December. Prospects for the year 1930 are, nevertheless, good, and there is more activity in trade and industry.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.

One of the most disappointing years since the creation of the Republic has just been completed. The efforts to launch the big investment loan were all in vain. Apart from minor transactions no shares or bonds were issued either abroad or at home. The short-term credits available in Austria diminished. Heavy losses were sustained on the stock and share market, and the general level of share values fell by

about 25 per cent. The difficulties under which the Bodencredit-Anstalt had been labouring for a considerable time, led to the fusion of that bank with the Credit-Anstalt, whereby the shareholders of the Bodencredit-Anstalt suffered heavy losses. The export of finished goods rose somewhat, and the deficit on foreign trade in agricultural products was reduced. Nevertheless, the balance of foreign trade closed with a deficit for the year of about 1.1 milliard schillings. Progress can be recorded in one direction, namely, that the Tenants' Protection Act, which had created quite intolerable conditions and had led to the loss of practically all rights of houseowners, was modified slightly. Private enterprise in building is, however, still stagnant and it is planned to stimulate it in the present year by means of legislative measures and the issue of a housing loan. Compulsory compositions with creditors decreased from 2,080 to 1,988, while bankruptcies remained at about the old level of 583. The National Bank extended substantial credits and there were times during the year when the bill portfolio was as much as 150 per cent. higher than in the previous year. The foreign currency cover of the banknotes in circulation was retained at the same high level. The reform of the constitution, introduced last year, is an important landmark, for it strengthened State authority and checked political quarrelling. The heavy industries, which were fairly busy during the greater part of the year, suffered in the last months from increased German competition and difficulty in exporting. For this reason, the unemployment figures underwent a serious increase.

Czechoslovakia.

On the whole, 1929 was less prosperous than 1928, but the country has shown a remarkable power of resistance to the economic depression which seems to be spreading over most European countries. The textile industry, sugar production, the leather industry and the timber trade all showed further signs of falling off; the linen trade especially suffered badly. On the other hand, some other industries, notably glass, iron and coal, have increased their production and exports. In 1929 Czechoslovakia attained the first place among the countries of the world in the export of glass. Compared with 1928, the output of pit coal increased by 7½ per cent., lignite by 7 per cent., coke by 20 per cent., pig iron by 6 per cent., and raw steel by 12 per cent. In 1929 seventeen blast furnaces were in operation out of the total of 23. The activity of the building trades in 1929 did not quite reach that of the boom year 1928, but was still very considerable, and this had a beneficial influence on a great many industries. The number of unemployed during the year remained very much the same as in the previous year. The fact that it never exceeded 35,000, is evidence that conditions were not so bad as some pessimists would have us believe.

The wholesale price index number was 876 in December, 1929, as compared with 955 in December, 1928; the index of retail prices also fell slightly and was 880 on November 15th.

The hopes placed by agriculture in the import duties on cereals have not been realised. These duties did not afford the protection to home production which was expected. In 1929 the harvest of most crops was a little lower than in 1928, but the general situation of the farmers was adversely affected by the slump in the international cereals market and by the crisis in the sugar industry. The resulting decrease in the purchasing power of the country population is having some influence on trade and industry in general.

Perhaps the most notable achievement of the year was the final introduction of the gold standard, or, rather, the passing of a law to continue the state of affairs which already existed. In this connection it should be pointed out that the effect of the liberation of the money market, or rather of the free export of gold and foreign currency was to raise the cost of money and credit for home industry. Before this measure was adopted, Czechoslovak industry enjoyed very cheap credit, since the proceeds of the large foreign trade had to be kept within the boundaries of the country. Now, when the frontiers have been opened, capital finds more remunerative employment in neighbouring countries, where money is still scarce and profits high. The consequence is that, although the official bank rate (5 per cent.) remained unchanged in 1929, and this in spite of the financial upheavals in the international money markets, the rate of interest charged by the banks to trade and industry was higher and money rather scarce. Nevertheless new capital issues (including increases of capital) amounted to some 350 million Czechoslovakian crowns, *i.e.*, 80 millions more than in 1928.

Foreign trade in 1929 no longer shows such a large favourable balance as in previous years: 497 millions, as against 2,033 million crowns in 1928. However, this need not be considered a bad sign. Exports of manufactured goods were maintained at the same high level as before. Imports have increased by 700 million crowns as compared with 1928. (Imports of raw materials alone show an increase of 1,000 millions.) Rather should this be interpreted as a proof that the purchasing power of the country as a whole has increased and, further, that the proceeds of foreign trade were no longer so urgently needed to repurchase Czechoslovak stock abroad and to pay interest and dividends on foreign capital invested in Czechoslovakia.

There was a General Election in Czechoslovakia in the autumn of 1929, as a result of which a new Coalition Government was formed. This new coalition includes the Czech and German Agrarian parties, the Czech and German Socialist groups and a few other parties. Dr. Englis again became the Minister of Finance in the new Government. As a consequence of the General Election the Budget for 1930 was only laid before Parliament at the beginning of January, 1930. It is constructed on similar lines as in 1928 and 1929. The total estimate of expenditure is given as 9,367 million crowns, against a total revenue of 9,420 million crowns, thus showing a surplus of 53 million crowns.

Hungary.

A year of economic and financial crises, 1929 was the most trying period since the operation of the League of Nations reconstruction scheme began in 1924. The crisis was due to three principal causes: the scarcity of money, the low level of the world export prices of agricultural products and last, but not least, to the uncertainty and nervousness brought about by the non-German reparation parleys. The year began under normal monetary conditions, but the upward trend of money rates abroad soon compelled the National Bank to raise its discount rate from 7 to 8 per cent. in April. With the improvement of the international monetary position after the New York Stock Exchange crash the National Bank reduced its rate to 7½ per cent. in November, but up to the end of the year money was scarce and dear. Hungary, as a borrowing nation, has suffered from the uneasiness of London and New York, as it was impossible to float the necessary long-term loans on these markets. Public finance shows a less satisfactory state than in previous years, as the first half of the fiscal year 1929-30 brought a deficit of 28 million pengös (£1,000,000), against a surplus in former years. The change is due both to increased expenditure and to diminished revenue. The falling off of the revenue is due to the economic depression and, in a lesser degree, to tax remissions granted in the past. Crops were, on the whole, satisfactory, but prices on the world market were so low that exports were often made at a loss. Therefore the diminution in the passive balance cannot be taken as a very satisfactory index, as it might appear at first sight. In the first ten months of 1929 exports increased to 797.8 million pengös, as against 652.8 in the same period of 1928; and imports decreased to 897 millions from 973 millions in 1928. Thus the adverse balance of trade decreased from 320.2 million to 90.2 million pengös. Considering that the adverse trade balance is the biggest passive item of the Hungarian balance of payments, it is certain that its deficit will be considerably smaller than last year, when it totalled 500 million pengös. The decreasing deficit of foreign trade is due to the diminished purchasing power of the population, as the necessary foreign credits were not available. The state of trade was not satisfactory. Although some sheltered industries show increased profits, their prosperity has adversely affected the agricultural population. The great discrepancy between industrial and agricultural prices caused the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the tariff system of the country, but nothing further has yet been done, although a downward revision of tariffs is repeatedly asked for by the farmers. Domestic trade has been slack. Insolvencies totalled more than 2,000 in 1929, as against 1,560 in 1928. Some of the commercial banks have published their balance sheets, which show slightly increased profits against last year. The position of the banks is strong and last year's dividends will be maintained. The Stock Exchange was weak throughout the year, and quotations have fallen about 30 per cent. in 1929.

Roumania.

The first seven months of 1929 were characterised by an intense legislative activity. The first and most important measure was the law introducing the legal stabilisation of the currency based on the foreign loan of the newly created Monopoly Institute, which also provided funds to cover the most pressing debts of the State. It was followed by many other laws, culminating in the new Customs Tariff. These measures laid the foundation of the reorganisation of the country's resources after the disastrous effects of the war and the subsequent bad administrations. There has not yet been time for them to produce a decided effect on the economic situation. The harvest last year was fairly abundant. Unfortunately, prices have so far been disappointing. Ultimate results, however, will greatly depend on the prices obtainable next spring. It may be asserted already that nothing like the originally estimated value of the production will be realised. The oil industry has had an unprofitable year owing to the low world prices, although production has been active. Prospects appear better since the agreement for sales in the interior was concluded towards the end of the year. The whole country has been suffering severely from the economic crisis. Protested bills, failures and moratoria reached unprecedented proportions. The depression resulted in a severe decrease in Treasury receipts, which necessitated a very unwelcome increase in taxation. There are, however, signs of recovery. Stabilisation seems assured; the foreign trade balance during the last few months has been active after a long interval of unfavourable returns; foreign capital is being gradually attracted. But it is only by the strictest economy and hard work that Roumania will succeed in striking the road to prosperity, and then only if the political situation remains undisturbed.

Jugoslavia.

The year 1929 has been an excellent year for Jugoslavia, although it began under the worst auspices. Political strife, bad harvests, a severe winter, and an adverse trade balance for 1928 of 1,390 million dinars, did not augur well for the New Year. The tide was turned by a bumper harvest, maize yielding a record of 40 million quintals and wheat 26.4 million quintals. At the end of November the trade balance was active by 148 million dinars, exports being 7,143, imports, 6,995 millions. Foreign capital, encouraged by the cessation of political strife, the improvement in administration and the reform of economic legislation, flowed in unprecedented amounts into mining and industry. The stocks of the National Bank grew to the record figure of 1,767 million dinars, current accounts to nearly 1,300 millions, savings deposits increased correspondingly, while circulation rose only from 5,528 to 5,718 million dinars. Optimism became observable in all directions. Besides mining, the textile, timber, electrical, chemical, cement and paper industries had excellent years, some paying as high dividends as 16 per cent. Banks maintained their dividends of 8-10 per cent., while interest rates fell from 10-16 per cent. to 9-14 per cent. The foundation of the Privileged Agrarian Mortgage Bank (capital 700 millions) will enable peasants to obtain credit at 10 per cent. instead of the 24 per cent. customary in the country. Increased State receipts and the settlement of the war debt to France have improved Government finance. Administratively, the division of Jugoslavia into nine provinces (banovinas), with large powers of self-government, is of first-class importance.

Bulgaria.

Foreign trade was intensely active in 1929, with imports heavily in excess almost throughout the year. The final adverse balance of nearly Leva 2.000 million had unfavourable effects on the monetary and credit position. Scarcity of money, higher rates and curtailment of credit have prevailed everywhere in the country. Owing to reduced consumption and to falling prices of agricultural produce, business activity has suffered considerable reduction in both turnover and profits. Local industries have equally felt the strain and experienced serious difficulties in their sales, especially as the prices of several raw materials have been steadily falling. This state of affairs has much accelerated the readjustment of trade, industry and credit to the real needs and possibilities of the local market, and there is reason to believe that business and credit will work on a sounder basis in 1930. The position of the Treasury has been satisfactory, receipts coming in regularly and slightly in excess of expenditure.

Greece.

Economic conditions were far from satisfactory in Greece during 1929. The country is feeling the effects of the monetary and credit inflation created during and after the war. The economic burden of the refugees and an abnormal growth of the town population are additional handicaps. Particularly difficult is the situation of industrial enterprises established during the boom in a haphazard way and with large immobilisations of capital. The authorities, with the assistance chiefly of the Bank of Greece and the National Bank of Greece, are endeavouring to make the process of liquidation as smooth as possible. To help industry and reorganise it on a sounder basis the Government has decided to grant loans of more than £400,000 from Treasury funds. Assistance has also been given to various banks, especially new institutions, which were in distress. Compulsory or voluntary winding-up and amalgamations are taking place. The prices of stocks in the Athens Stock Exchange have been steadily falling during the past year, partly in consequence of the excessive issue of Government bonds on advantageous terms for the holders and partly as a reflection of the difficulties in the general economic situation. The number of commercial failures has grown and unemployment has been increasing. Agriculture is suffering from over-production of the two principal articles of export, currants and tobacco, the prices of which have consequently declined. There is, however, a hope that the new Agrarian Bank will further the development of agriculture. Industrial output is also smaller, but, happily, the adverse balance of trade is showing a tendency to decrease, and the state of public finance is entirely satisfactory. A surplus, the third in succession, is anticipated for 1930-1931. Thanks to these good results the Government was able to allow some slight tax reductions. On the other hand, public expenditure has been increasing. To finance the execution of various public productive works, a loan of £4,000,0000 was issued in London in December, 1928, and, as soon as the situation of the international markets will allow it, a new loan will be floated abroad. Negotiations have lately taken place with a view to resuming the participation of French capital in Greek

financing, and Italian capital has begun to show an interest in Greece by the establishment of an affiliate of the Banca Commerciale Italiana, and, recently, by the granting of a credit to the Greek Electric Company, in whose administration representatives of the lenders will participate.

SCANDINAVIA.

Denmark.

The Official Danish wholesale price index was 151 in January, 1929, and 146 in both June and December. Concurrently with this slightly declining tendency, the prices of export goods have shown a considerable improvement, and the wholesale index for these was 144 in January, 144 in June, and 156 in December. At the same time the prices of import goods declined from 148 in January to 144 in June and 142 in December. The rise in the prices of export goods was due to the improvement of agricultural prices, especially that of bacon, a development of great importance to our leading trade, which further profited by good crops. In 1929 the exports of bacon aggregated 249,000,000 kilos, against 272,000,000 kilos in 1928, while the exports of butter in casks were 159,000,000 kilos and 147,000,000 kilos respectively. The exports of eggs totalled about 39,000,000 scores in each year. The value statistics improved, as the figures below show:—

Exports of Danish Produce.

	1928. Kr.	1929. Kr.
Live cattle	85,000,000	88,000,000
Bacon, meat, etc.	482,000,000	513,000,000
Butter, cream, milk and cheese	507,000,000	526,000,000
Eggs	84,000,000	84,000,000
	1,158,000,000	1,211,000,000

In 1929 Danish foreign trade comprised imports to the value of 1,792,000,000 kroner and exports aggregating 1,707,000,000 kroner, and there was thus an excess of imports for the year of 85,000,000 kroner. In 1928 the imports aggregated 1,736,000,000 kroner and the exports 1,657,000,000 kroner. The manufacturing trades also showed improvement in the course of the year, and this is reflected in the unemployment records. In December, 1928, the percentage of unemployed was 28.4, and in December, 1929, it was only 19.9. The gross earnings of the mercantile marine in foreign trade are estimated at 205,000,000 kroner in 1929, against 186,000,000 kroner the year before.

Norway.

Stringency prevailed in the money market during the greater part of the past year. The Bank rate remained at 5½ per cent. until September 27th, when it was raised to 6 per cent., after which it was reduced by stages to 5 per cent. at the turn of the year. The movements of the discount rate have been dictated more by the conditions in the international markets than by the position of the Norges Bank, which continued strong throughout the year. The banks have been able to work under quiet conditions and with satisfactory results as far as can be seen from statements hitherto published. Only two banks now remain under public administration. The foreign trade returns indicate a larger turnover than in 1928, and the excess of imports over exports up to November 30th amounted to 292 million kroner, compared with 295·5 million kroner in 1928. Domestic trade was less brisk than had been anticipated at the beginning of the year, but the number of failures and compositions was lower than in 1928. Conditions in the labour market were quiet. Industry worked under favourable conditions during the first half of the year, while developments during the latter months were less favourable. Unemployment diminished by about 20 per cent. compared with 1928, and the general price index remained practically unchanged. The fisheries received lower prices than in 1928, but they gave better results as regards quantities, and the expansion in the whaling industry continued. As a result of the tightness of the money market, the turnover on the Bourse was less than it has been for many years.

Sweden.

From the economic point of view 1929 was the most satisfactory year since the war. Since the crisis which followed the peace there has been a slow but steady expansion, due in the main to abundance of raw materials—timber and iron ore—but perhaps also in a high degree to the financial and organising capacity of certain leaders, who by means of effective rationalisation and wise capital accumulation have succeeded in introducing a number of Swedish enterprises into the international markets. This development, which had assumed important proportions as early as 1927, was interrupted in 1928 by prolonged and comprehensive labour conflicts. But the interruption was only temporary, and the year 1929 constituted a record, thanks to the almost complete absence of labour trouble and to generally favourable conditions. Both production and the volume of trade showed an unparalleled increase, and with the exception of a reaction on the Stock Exchange, there was no reflection in Sweden of the stagnation and setback after the collapse in the United States. This economic progress is the more remarkable in that it took place during a period of pronounced and almost uninterrupted fall in prices, shown by an average index number of 144 for 1928 and 134 for 1929, according to *Svensk Finanstidning*. In the branches of industry included in Svensk Finanstidning's index of production the most important industries of the country, the volume of production for January-November is 135 (1923-24 = 100), whereas in the years 1925-28 the figure rose slowly from 105 to 108 and 113 for 1926 and 1927, and fell, owing to labour disputes, to 106 in 1928. This increased production applies to practically all the major export commodities, though it was most pronounced in iron ore, pulp, paper, and iron and steel. It is, therefore, evident that foreign trade was of large dimensions. It has, indeed, established a record, even though the year of inflation showed larger value figures. The value of foreign trade was probably not much less than Kr. 3,600 million, against Kr. 3,300 million in 1928 and about 3,200 millions in 1927. Whereas the balance of trade in 1928, principally owing to labour disputes, was passive to the extent of Kr. 133 million, we can safely count on an export surplus for 1929, probably somewhat larger than that of 1927, which was Kr. 32 million. Shipments of iron ore amounted to 9.5 million tons, as against 4.2 in 1928 and 9.7 in 1927; pulp amounted to 1.87 million tons (1.33 in 1928 and 1.45 in 1927); timber amounted to 6.3 million cubic metres (5.9 in 1928 and 5.7 in 1927); paper reached 469,000 tons (392,000 in 1928 and 406,000 in 1927). In mechanical engineering there was no similar expansion, but the position was in most instances maintained. There was a decline in electrical machinery and separators, while ball-bearings, motors and telephones showed a continued increase. The money market has been fairly easy throughout the year, not least owing to the ample supply of foreign bills resulting from the pronounced active balance of payments. This, in its turn, was due in part to the discouragement to the export of capital which resulted from the uncertainty of the international money and stock markets. The raising of the discount rate from 4½ to 5½ per cent. in September was due to the fear of the Riksbank of stimulating capital exports of the latter part of the year; when the State 6 per cent. dollar loan of 1919 was redeemed, for which purpose about Kr. 54 million in foreign holdings were required. In the middle of December the rate was again lowered to 5 per cent. and at the turn of the year to 4½ per cent. During the year the amount held abroad by Swedish banks rose from Kr. 515 million to Kr. 584 million during the year. The Stock Exchange could not escape some reaction from the collapse of the Stock Exchange boom in New York, but the only Swedish shares which suffered were those which are quoted abroad. The great majority of domestic stocks were remarkably steady. The value of "A" list shares fell during the year by Kr. 583 million, but as the value of Kreuger stock alone fell by Kr. 676 million, the remainder in fact rose by Kr. 93 million.

Finland.

When the period of vigorous economic advance ceased in the middle of 1928 in consequence of a shortage of capital, economic life in Finland entered upon a phase of less rapid progress, but of steady domestic consolidation. There was a money shortage throughout the whole of 1929 which affected all spheres of economic life. Agriculture, however, enjoyed a satisfactory harvest, its value being estimated at 5,000 million marks, compared with 4,778 millions for the year before. Industrial output suffered from the poor market for the most important articles of export, while the reduced purchasing power in the country had a detrimental effect on the textile, leather and other branches of industry. Notwithstanding this, the gross production of industry is calculated to be about 14,000 million marks, as against 13,721 millions in 1928. In spite of the bad state of the timber market 1,206,800 standards were exported, in comparison with 1,146,500 in the previous year, chiefly owing to several sawmills having worked up their entire stock of logs in order to be able to shut down. Some other branches of industry also increased their exports, for instance, the chemical pulp industry by 2.3 per cent., the cardboard industry by 15.4 per cent., the mechanical pulp industry by 16.8 per cent., and the plywood industry by 17.8 per cent. Altogether exports increased, in spite of falling prices, by 2.9 per cent. to 6,427 million marks, which constitutes a record. Simultaneously imports dropped from the previous year's exceptionally high level by 12.7 per cent. to 6,996 million marks. The surplus of imports that had amounted to 1,768 millions in 1928, fell again to 570 million marks. Building continued during the first part of the year with great liveliness, but then fell off rapidly owing to the difficulty of obtaining credits. As deposits in the banks, savings banks and other financial institutions were fairly small, the banks experienced some difficulty in satisfying the requirements of credit. Rates of interest were, therefore, unchanged at a high level throughout the year. However, in general the banks withstood the pressure of the hard times well and showed approximately as good results as for 1928. The position of the Bank of Finland improved appreciably, the proportion of the cover having risen from 51.7 per cent. at the beginning of the year to 60.8 per cent. at its end. Only three small bond loans were taken up abroad, the Finland Steamship Company's loan of 4 million Swedish crowns at 7 per cent., the Mortgage Society of Finland's loan of 10 million Swedish crowns at 6½ per cent., and the Abo Municipal loan of £500,000 at 6½ per cent. On the other hand some hundreds of millions of marks of foreign capital must have come into the country in other ways.

THE NEW BALTIC STATES.

Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, which are all primarily agricultural, were all affected in their varying degree by the general bad harvest of 1928, from which Lithuania suffered least, as the southern portion of the country escaped the abnormally prolonged wet spell which had such disastrous effects elsewhere. All three States enjoyed a good harvest in 1929, but as this was shared with all their neighbours, and, indeed, with the world at large, no great material benefit resulted. Actually the fall in world prices for many of their principal products such as flax, cereals, timber, dairy produce and wood products reduced profit margins to such an extent that farmers and others were in many cases unable to pay off interest on their loans, and the various Governments were forced to introduce special measures to alleviate the position. On the whole then the year 1929 has been not without its difficulties and anxieties for all of them, but they have been partly overcome, especially in Lithuania, with foresight and application. Considerable leeway has, however, to be made up in the other two States. The great need in most cases is foreign capital, without which the expansion of agriculture and industry on a sufficient scale is not possible, as home resources are inadequate.

Estonia.

The year opened badly with prolonged and abnormal wintry weather, which dislocated shipping and trade by keeping the Baltic icebound, and this added to the critical difficulties created by the failure of the 1928 harvest. Increasing internal consumption, with a consequent expansion of imports, prevailed at this time, and, as a result, stringent conditions and limited credit have hampered the money market during most of 1929. The farmers have not recovered in spite of the good harvest, owing to the fall in world prices of grain and other agricultural produce, with the result that the Government was compelled to come to their aid by the provision, in the Budget of 1929-30, of special facilities for agricultural loans at low rates of interest. Industry continues to expand and has made rapid progress since the war, in spite of the reduced purchasing power of a large proportion of the population. The returns of shipping and railway traffic show an increase over the same period in 1928. The cost of living index, which averaged 116 in 1928 (1913 = 100), touched 122 in March, but fell to 115 by September of this year. Foreign trade has increased considerably in volume since 1927, but about the end of 1928 the balance became unfavourable and has continued so up to the date of the latest returns. The figures for the past few years were as follows:—

(Million kronas.)

	Imports.	Exports.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (−)
1927	96·4	105·8	+ 9·4
1928	131·5	127·1	− 4·4
1929 (nine months)	94·3	87·0	− 7·3

Increased imports of cereals and foodstuffs in part account for these results, but there has also been a considerable increase in the import of machinery and semi-finished products required for the expansion of home industry, so that the outlook is less unfavourable than might at first sight appear. A new trade treaty with Germany is expected to give satisfactory results. Money market conditions showed considerable stringency, which led to an outflow of funds from the Bank of Estonia. Discount rate was raised on October 3rd from 7½ per cent. to 8 per cent. Some improvement resulted, but the reserve held against the note circulation shows a decline as against 1928. The banking position is satisfactory and the Central Bank of Issue has functioned on approved up-to-date lines since the stabilisation of the currency. The extent of the crisis through which the country has passed may be measured by the number of protested bills, which rose to 61,367, value 14,666,000 kronas, during January-September, 1929, as against 30,876, value 7,256,000, for the whole of 1928. The Government finances are sound, and revenue has exceeded expenditure regularly for several years. The surplus in 1928-29 was the seventh in succession and, although less than anticipated, totalled 1,500,000. The Budget for 1929-30 is balanced at 95,000,000 kronas, against 80,000,000 last year.

Lithuania.

Lithuania opened the year with discouraging prospects as a result of the bad harvest of 1928, but rather less so than her neighbours, as the southern portion of her territory escaped the abnormally prolonged wet spell which prevailed throughout the Baltic States. The abnormal winter added to her difficulties, which were not lessened by the tendency to overtrading in the previous year and the reduced purchasing power of the greater part of the population. By the end of the past year, however, many of the obstacles to economic pro-

gress had been surmounted and the outlook is not unpromising. The harvest of 1929 was good, but did little to reduce the farmers' debts to the Government, estimated at 150,000,000 lits, owing to the fall in world prices of cereals and farming produce. Crop production in the past three years in thousands of tons was as shown below:—

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Rye	540	480	560
Oats	550	370	430
Barley	190	150	260
Wheat	140	170	240
Potatoes	1,260	960	...
Other roots	700	330	...
Flax	35	35	39

Dairy farming and stock breeding have grown considerably since the war and now constitute an important branch of the native agricultural industry. This growth is apparent from the following table:—

	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Horned cattle	766,000	1,397,000	1,128,000	1,199,000
Sheep	577,000	1,573,000	1,410,000	1,467,000
Pigs	458,000	1,441,000	1,010,000	1,060,000
Horses	373,000	535,000	617,000	611,000

The failure of the root crop, however, in 1928 and the severe cold in the spring of 1929, with the consequent rise in the price of feed, checked operations, and as a result several dairy farms closed down. In spite of this, owing to better methods, butter production increased, and exports amounted to 1,153 tons in the first half of 1929, as against 932 tons in the whole year 1925. The amount of timber cut has increased, and the annual quota for cutting has been increased from 7,000 to 8,500 hectares. The percentage of semi-manufactured and manufactured wood products to total timber exports increased during 1929, and this to a large degree offset the fall in prices.

Industry other than agriculture is comparatively unimportant. Recovery from war effects is slow and development is checked by a lack of mineral resources. Foreign trade has expanded steadily. In 1928, however, imports increased rapidly and there was a large adverse balance. This rise in imports was largely due to heavy purchases of semi-manufactured goods and machinery, not in itself an unhealthy sign, and this is borne out by the fact that the visible balance of trade tended during 1929 to become increasingly favourable. The improved position in 1929 was largely due to increased shipments of timber and its products, linseed, livestock, meat, furs and hides. The comparative figures of foreign trade in the last three years were as follows:—

(In Millions of Lits.)

	Imports.	Exports.	Surplus (+) or Deficit (−).
1927	265·7	245·9	− 19·8
1928	291·5	257·2	− 34·3
1929	306·4	329·8	+ 23·4

The money market may now be said to be almost normal. The returns of the Bank of Lithuania show an increasingly satisfactory position, especially in the holdings of gold and foreign currencies. The Budget for 1929 balanced at 260 million lits, and for the first nine months revenue stood at 200 millions and expenditure at 178 millions. An eventual surplus is anticipated in spite of unfavourable conditions early in the year. This compares with a revenue of 281.4 million lits and expenditure of 280.5 million in 1928. In the political sphere there is no evidence of factors likely to lead to any greater trouble than the sudden upset of an Administration or a change of President. Externally, however, matters are less satisfactory. The continuance of the disagreement, to use a mild expression, with Poland, in spite of the efforts of the League of Nations to liquidate it, cannot but be a hindrance to the economic development of Lithuania in every sense, and more especially her foreign and transit trade.

Latvia.

Very similar conditions prevailed in Latvia during 1929 as those in Estonia and Lithuania. Internal trade fell off, small traders became involved in difficulties, and the numbers of protested bills and bankruptcies rose in reflection of the stringency in credit and monetary conditions. Foreign trade, however, improved, but the recent raising by Germany, her largest customer, of the import dues on butter may restrict exports in the near future. Cereal production showed an increase over that of 1928, but this was offset by the fall in world prices. As compared with previous years the figures in 1,000's of tons were as follows, values being shown in millions of lats:—

	Rye.		Wheat.	
	1,000 tons.	Value.	1,000 tons.	Value.
1927	53·5	13·9	46·0	16·2
1928	82·7	21·0	58·0	17·4
1929 (10 months)	105·4	23·2	63·9	18·0

All crops showed a far higher production than before the war, and wheat and potatoes were twice as large; but although 1929 was a record crop year it was also a record food import year owing to the crop failure of 1928. Stock breeding showed but little change as compared with previous years. Butter export figures for the first ten months amounted to 12,149 tons, valued at 47.6 million lats, as compared with 13,006 tons (52.5 million lats) in the whole year 1928.

Industry developed favourably, and 501 new undertakings were set up in pottery, metal and machinery, chemicals, leather, textiles and woodworking. The total of all industrial undertakings rose from 2,887 at the end of 1928 to 3,388 at the end of 1929. The numbers employed remained at about 58,000, but the value of their production increased from 306.87 million lats in 1926 to 392.05 million lats in 1928. Shipping advanced satisfactorily, and the tonnage of native bottoms increased by 20 ships of 45,000 tons, as against an increase of only six ships of 28,000 tons in 1928. The total is now 145 ships of 175,000 tons. The banking position is satisfactory, as are the note circulation and cover reserve. The exchange has been practically stable throughout, revenue for the first eight months of 1929 being 111.2 million lats, as against 111.6 million in the same period in 1928 and 106.0 millions in 1927, while expenditure in these respective periods was 11.07 millions, 107.2 millions and 103.3 millions. The figures of foreign trade for the past three years were as follows, January to November only for purposes of comparison:—

	1927.	1928. (Millions of Lats.)	1929.
Imports	221·1	282·3	334·7
Exports	200·5	241·4	253·7
Surplus (+) or deficit (−)	−21·6	−40·9	−81·0

Transit trade increased from 761 tons in the first eleven months of 1928 to 800 in the same period of 1929. The stringency of internal trade conditions is indicated by the number of protested bills, which in

eleven months rose to 162,900, as against 139,504 in 1928, though their value was rather less. Bankruptcies totalled 114 in 1929, as against 90 in the preceding year, but the sums involved here were also rather less.

B.—BRITISH EMPIRE.

CANADA.

The year opened with very auspicious prospects for business, as the West had reaped the largest crop in its history the previous autumn and the purchasing power of the farmers was large. As a result there was a continuous expansion of business during the first half of the year, and in many lines of production new records were attained. The momentum thus secured continued through the third quarter of the year, but the pace of business gained slowed down, and certain adverse factors made their appearance. A drought of unprecedented severity, which lasted almost without interruption throughout July, wrought tremendous havoc, and the aggregate volume of the Western wheat crop was only half as large as in the previous year. As prices had not risen, this short crop inevitably foreboded a recession in business in the West, and the firms with business connections in this region found themselves compelled to curtail their commitments. Then, at the end of October, came the great stock market debacle which caused heavy financial losses to a large section of the Canadian public. In consequence, the demand for such luxury goods as motor-cars and radios dropped sharply. Another disturbing element was the determination of the Western wheat pools and their allies to pursue a policy of holding back their stocks of wheat until European buyers were prepared to pay a satisfactory price. This policy had adverse repercussions in many directions.

Transport, Industry, Mining.—The revenues of all the transportation companies, land and water, suffered severely from the policy of the wheat pools, and a great deal of unemployment was created. During the navigation season of the St. Lawrence shipments of grain from Montreal were only about 90 million bushels, as compared with 211 millions in the previous year. The railways have perhaps been the chief sufferers, and the returns of both the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National for last year are seriously down. The newsprint industry has also continued to labour under the difficulties of over-production, and attempts to increase the price have been successfully resisted by the American and Canadian newspaper publishers. Most of the mills are operating at about 80 per cent. of capacity, but earnings are unsatisfactory, and the stock markets reflect the lack of confidence of the public in the immediate future of the industry. There has been during the year some expansion of the output of the mining industry, but on the whole the results of the branch of it which is devoted to the precious minerals have been inadequate. A great deal of oil drilling has been done in Southern Alberta, and a hectic boom was worked up in the stocks of companies operating in the Turner valley; but the results have not been commensurate with the efforts expended on this field. General business has, however, been on the whole good, and a large proportion of the manufacturing and distributing firms will be able to show satisfactory balance sheets for the year. There was a very large programme of new building construction. The fishermen of the Atlantic coast had a good catch, which was sold at better prices, and the Maritime Provinces have had a substantial recovery from their economic troubles. Great progress has also been made with opening up the Northern hinterland, and the tourist traffic from the United States was a more profitable asset than ever. Canadians therefore have no reason to be discouraged by the results of the past year, and have entered its successor with undiminished confidence, but the more intelligent

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elements realise that there may be a temporary pause in the expansion which the last three years have witnessed.

Foreign Trade.—The foreign trade returns are much less satisfactory than for any recent year, and the subjoined figures covering the twelve-month period ending November 30, 1929, show that rising imports have been accompanied by a sharp decline in exports:—

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30.

	1928. $	1929. $
Imports	1,210,959,686	1,309,248,462
Domestic exports	1,349,297,173	1,224,738,381
Re-exports	23,893,368	26,387,048
Total exports	1,373,190,541	1,251,125,429

A favourable balance of trade amounting to 162 million dollars has thus been transformed into an adverse one of 58 millions. But the drop of 125½ million dollars in domestic exports is more than accounted for by the fall of 193 million dollars in the value of grain products exports, and this same factor also brought down exports to Britain from 459 to 309 million dollars. But Britain had a disappointing share of the increase in imports, for her exports to Canada only rose from 190 to 196½ million dollars, and American exports jumped from 815 to 933 million dollars. In trade with foreign countries the most notable gain was in exports to China, which rose from 14½ to 29 millions.

Finance.—The banking system of Canada has successfully withstood the strain of a somewhat difficult year. In the early part a great deal of credit was diverted to speculative purposes, and the banks were compelled to check this tendency by rigid restrictions. This situation has now been eased by the stock market slump, and, although a large amount of money is still tied up in the unsold crop, the credit situation has been easier in the last quarter. The least satisfactory feature of the banking situation is a substantial decline in savings deposits, which on November 30th were 70 million dollars below the figure of November 30, 1928. The Federal revenues have shown remarkable buoyancy and for the first eight months of the fiscal year ending December 31st amounted to 354 million dollars, a gain of 7 millions, but in the same period expenditure had risen from 268½ to 287½ millions. On December 31st the net national debt amounted to $2,159,214,730, as compared with $2,218,603,484 on December 31, 1928.

Crops.—The crop yield of the Dominion showed a decline in 1928, and the Bureau of Statistics estimates the value of the principal field crops of the Dominion at $986,896,000, as compared with the value of $1,125,000,000 in 1928 and of $1,173,133,000 in 1927, the details being as follows:—

	1928. $	1929. $
Wheat	451,235,000	345,480,000
Oats	210,956,000	169,951,000
Barley	76,112,000	62,448,000
Rye	11,491,000	11,235,000
Flaxseed	5,748,000	4,795,000
Other grains	52,630,000	51,933,000
Potatoes	40,874,000	69,963,000
Hay, clover alfalfa	194,363,000	202,992,000
Root and fodder crops	81,584,000	67,929,000

Prices sagged in the first half of the year, but lately there has been an improvement, and hopes are still entertained that the policy of holding wheat will justify itself. Crops in Ontario were below the average, with the exception of winter wheat, hay and clover; Quebec had average crops, and the Maritime Provinces above the average. There was a good crop of apples, that of Nova Scotia being unusually large and fully 80 per cent. above the previous five-year average, and the fruit crop of British Columbia was also satisfactory. Low prices for the tobacco crop of 1928 caused a reduction of the area planted in 1929, with a resulting decrease of about one-third in production.

Prices.—Commodity prices showed very little change during the year, and the Bureau of Statistics wholesale index (1926=100), which was 94.5 for January 1, 1929, was 96.2 on December 1, 1929. In no single month was there a gain of more than four points, and the range of fluctuation was between 92.4 for May 1st and 98.1 for August 1st. Stock market prices showed great fluctuations. On January 1st the "Investors' Index" of the Bureau of Statistics (base 1926=100) was 207.4. By June it had fallen to 185.6, but thereafter it rose to a peak of 217.1 in September. By October it had fallen to 186.4, and the great debacle caused a drop of nearly 32 points to 154.7 on November 1st. Since then there has been a slight recovery, and the index for December 1st is 156.5.

AUSTRALIA.

Production.—The year ending June 30, 1929, has been very satisfactory as regards the quantity of primary produce yielded, though lower prices have for the most part prevailed. The wool clip totalled 2,863,000 bales (950,000,000 lb.), compared with 2,673,000 bales for 1927-28. Prices were considerably lower, and, up to November last, averaged 11.89d. per lb. for greasy, and 20.38d. for scoured, compared with 16.64d. and 30.71d. respectively for the same period of 1928. The current season's clip is estimated at 925,000,000 lb. The area under wheat for the 1928-29 season was 14,823,000 acres, and the final estimate of the yield is 159,752,095 bushels, compared with 118,199,775 bushels in 1927-28. This season's crop is not expected to exceed 112,000,000 bushels from an area of 14,500,000 acres. The production of butter was estimated at 287,656,032 lb.; and that of wine at 18,399,000 gallons, compared with 17,302,000 gallons last year.

Overseas Trade.—The total overseas trade during 1928-29 amounted to £288,408,208, a decrease of £2,749,832 on the previous year. Of this total, imports were valued at £143,628,033, and exports at £144,780,175; an excess of exports of £1,152,142, compared with last year's excess of imports of £4,731,900. Imports from Great Britain were valued at £55,981,675, compared with £63,098,037 in 1927-28. For the United States of America the figures were £34,958,592 and £35,005,786 respectively. The value of motor chassis imported increased by £2,000,000 to £9,204,871. Imports of apparel and textiles decreased by £1,785,000 to £36,704,000. The drop was principally noticeable in cotton, linen and woollen piece-goods, furs, socks and stockings. The chief countries to which Australian produce was exported were: Great Britain, £54,818,000; France, £15,111,000; Japan, £11,519,000; Germany, £9,677,000; and U.S.A., £5,831,000. The value of exports to Great Britain was £538,300 greater than in 1927-28; for the other countries mentioned the figures were all smaller. The principal items of export are shown in the following table:—

Commodity.	1927–28.		1928–29.		% of Exports to Gt. Britain.
	Lb.	£	Lb.	£	
Wool	742,695,300	66,095,901	810,540,500	61,612,995	29·1
Wheat	3,187,541,400	14,629,899	4,913,774,700	20,336,199	16·5
Flour	867,590,000	5,229,463	1,127,606,600	5,998,600	10·3
Butter	99,164,900	6,905,933	102,442,800	7,545,430	85·6
Frozen Meat	215,457,700	3,566,297	274,019,600	5,054,330	65·3

Finance.—The accounts of the Commonwealth and States for the year ending June 30, 1929, are set out in the following table:—

State.	Revenue.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Loan Expenditure.	Gross Public Debt.
	£	£	£	£
N.S.W.	*20,703,940	*20,110,771	16,092,936	256,791,944
Victoria	26,887,500	26,852,748	7,225,703	160,740,187
Queensland	16,736,188	16,902,145	3,248,429	113,002,049
South Aust.	10,840,914	11,771,772	3,528,212	92,653,531
West. Aust.	9,947,951	10,223,919	4,372,269	69,355,449
Tasmania	2,766,434	2,855,976	348,818	23,324,630
Six States	87,882,927	88,717,331	34,816,367	715,867,790
Commonw'lth	78,984,442	81,343,417	†8,231,147	541,986,111
Total	166,867,369	170,060,748	43,047,514	‡1,257,853,901

* Excluding business undertakings.
† This figure represents loan expenditure on public works, and war and repatriation services. It does not include loans to the States, which amounted to £26,436,799.
‡ After deducting £164,364,539 for debts twice counted, the total gross public debt is £1,093,489,362.

When the Commonwealth Labour Government came into office the Treasurer introduced a supplementary Budget, in which he estimated an additional expenditure of £737,340, and a decrease in the late Government's estimated revenue of £1,694,000; leaving, after allowing for the late Government's estimated surplus, a deficit of £2,070,442. To cover this amount a revised Customs Tariff was put into force in December last, and a super-tax of varying rate has been imposed on all taxable incomes of £201 and over. The tariff is expected to yield an additional £1,200,000, and the super tax £885,000, giving a surplus of £14,558 on the year's transactions.

The Commonwealth raised seven loans during the financial year, totalling £89,201,455. Two loans raised in London amounted to £15,000,000, of which £8,287,674 was devoted to Commonwealth public works, and the remainder to the States, for public works and migration. A third loan was raised in London for the conversion of £12,403,734 Queensland Government securities. Of the four loans raised in Australia, two, amounting to £23,806,040, were solely for conversion and redemption purposes; and two were for the States—one of £7,637,430, mainly for public works, and one of £30,354,251, mainly for the conversion and redemption of State securities.

During 1928-29 the amount applied to Commonwealth debt redemption totalled £6,230,708. State debt redemptions amounted to £4,661,161, of which the Commonwealth contributed £1,752,000. The payments on the combined Commonwealth and State debts amounted to £6,657,795 in Australia and £8,396,502 oversea. The public debt of Australia per head is £172.6.

Banking.—The net profits of the Commonwealth Bank were £745,584 for the half-year and £1,433,475 for the year ending June 30, 1929. Of these amounts £240,356 and £458,623 respectively accrued from purely banking business. For the Commonwealth Savings Bank the profits were £111,920 and £342,235 respectively. The reserve funds amount to £618,584 for the Commonwealth Bank and £1,285,913 for the Commonwealth Savings Bank.

NEW ZEALAND.

In New Zealand the remarkable increase in production of the previous year was maintained during 1929. This increase was not evident in the periodical results because of lower prices for some of the commodities, particularly wool. The total export value was slightly lower than 1928, and imports were about £4 million higher. There was a favourable trade balance of £6,781,086:—

FOREIGN TRADE OF NEW ZEALAND.
(Million £'s.)

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Imports	52·6	49·8	44·7	44·8	48·7
Exports	55·2	45·2	48·4	56·1	55·5

Public Finance.—The following is a condensed statement of the national balance sheet for the past two financial years, and only the principal items of revenue and expenditure and the respective total amounts are shown:—

(000's omitted.)

Revenue.	Year ended March 31st. 1928.	1929.	Expenditure.	Year ended March 31st. 1928.	1929.
	£	£		£	£
Customs	7,942	7,954	Interest	8,397	8,675
Beer duty	609	611	Sinking fund and funded debt reduction	1,360	1,435
Stamp and death duty	3,504	3,575	Pensions	2,511	2,656
Post and telegraphs	3,323	...	Post and telegraph expenses	2,297	...
Income and land tax	4,328	4,461	Education	3,756	3,092
Railways (interest on capital liability)	2,130	2,331			

The gross debt of the Dominion at March 31, 1929, was £264,191,983.

Production.—There was a satisfactory increase in all export lines, particularly in dairy produce. The application of artificial manures to the soil has given greater pastoral yields, and farmers are keenly pursuing this method of improving their holdings. The present year opens with very good prospects. The following are the values of the principal exports for the past two calendar years, the slight fall in wool and meat values being due to lower prices ruling last year:—

	1928. £	1929. £
Wool	16,679,098	15,359,206
Butter	11,302,667	13,227,917
Cheese	6,693,951	7,017,463
Frozen meat	9,631,017	9,111,123

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INDIA.

The preliminary figures of India's overseas trade during the calendar year 1929, as compared with 1928, run as follows, in lakhs of rupees:—

	1928.	1929.
Imports of private merchandise	248,08	248,62
Exports, including re-exports	338,04	328,90
Net imports of treasure	35,67	27,99

Imports were, therefore, approximately on the same level as in 1928, and exports lower by 9.1 crores of rupees. The weather was not very favourable during the year, but crop yields were fair. Prices showed a slight downward tendency. During the eight months April-November, 1929, India's imports from the United Kingdom were valued at 69.01 crores, against 75.55 crores in the corresponding months in 1928; while her imports from all foreign countries during the same months totalled 77.63 crores, against 78.25 crores. Imports from Japan (15.50 crores, compared with 10.99 crores) showed the largest increase. Concurrently India's exports to the United Kingdom totalled 47.89, against 47.65 crores (to all parts of the British Empire 77.86 crores, against 78.28 crores), while exports to foreign countries totalled 131.27, against 136.62 crores. In the import trade the most striking feature has been the further very considerable increase in the imports of Japanese cotton goods, contributory factors including the Japanese effort to increase all exports in connection with the removal of the embargo on gold, apprehensions of higher import duties on cotton goods entering India, and the failure of the Bombay mills to organise more effectively to combat Japanese competition by emulating Japanese technical and commercial efficiency. As noted in the Hardy report, the most obvious features of the cotton import trade are " the predominance of imports from the United Kingdom before the war, their subsequent decline and the rapid growth of imports from Japan. The import totals during the April-November period illustrate this:—

(In thousands of yards.)

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Grey (unbleached):			
From United Kingdom	470,031	361,591	319,278
Japan.....	147,328	140,066	256,086
Other Countries	7,972	4,067	7,720
Total greys.....	625,331	505,724	583,084
Coloured, printed or dyed:			
From United Kingdom	226,983	239,825	192,078
Japan.....	75,905	73,158	98,060
Other Countries	34,466	46,734	34,998
Totals	337,354	359,717	325,136

Industry.—Supported by the Bombay Government, the British Chamber, and the British newspapers in Bombay, the Bombay mills have renewed their appeals for State aid, including higher import duties, to restore confidence and re-establish credit. The following comment in the leading Bombay newspaper epitomises the facts:—" There has been prepared, under the supervision of a firm of accountants of the highest repute, a statement showing the financial position of the Bombay cotton mills. This demonstrates that from the year 1923 to the end of 1928 they worked at a heavy loss. The aggregate of these losses is 11½ crores of rupees, and the number of mills in operation has been reduced from 81 to 73. This is only part of the tale of disaster. Taking the mills which have written down their capital, experienced the pangs of liquidation, and have either been reconstructed or sold to new concerns in the past four years, the total amount of capital lost to the public is approximately 6 crores of rupees. There are also 4 mills in liquidation with a combined capital of a crore of rupees." " The textile industry is the life-blood of the city. Take it away and, although Bombay will remain a first-class port, it must decay into a second-rate city." It appears advisable to add that no assistance Government can render will avail to avert the migration of a considerable percentage of the Bombay cotton-mill companies to centres inland, where costs of production are more favourable to profitable manufacture.

On July 1, 1929, the associated jute mills in Calcutta started to work 60 hours per week, against 54 during the years 1921-29, with the object of retaining for India trade which was passing to mills overseas. The outlook for the coal industry is brighter than for many years past, but tea is suffering from over-production, necessitating restriction of output to reduce stocks and stabilise prices at more profitable levels. The engineering industries are suffering from the drastic curtailment of Government orders due to reduced capital outlay on railways; and the considerable reduction in exports of Indian pig iron is bringing to the front the question of establishing new steelworks to absorb the surplus output. An extension of the duration of the present steel tariff would, however, be an essential preliminary to the raising of capital for this purpose. An interesting development was the inauguration in December of the first internal State Air Mail service, carrying the inward mails from Karachi to Delhi.

Public Finance.—Sir George Schuster's second Budget, which will be submitted to the Central Legislature shortly, is expected to reveal a deficit, necessitating new taxation, which, it is anticipated in India, will take the form of higher import duties on various products, including cotton goods. The outlook for new Government loans, either in India or Great Britain, is considered so unfavourable that some of the Indian Chambers of Commerce are urging recourse to New York. The incidence of the 1s. 6d. exchange ratio continues to engage public attention, and, although the Finance Member maintains the attitude that any further change would be disastrous, Indian commercial organisations are almost unanimously in favour of reverting to 1s. 4d.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Despite a fall in the prices of the principal agricultural exports during 1929, and the more recent setback in the diamond market as a result of the collapse of share prices on the New York Stock Exchange, the hard times which have been foreshadowed in ministerial speeches have not yet arrived.

Public Finance.—Once again the financial year closed with a substantial surplus of £1,620,000, receipts on revenue account reaching £30,490,000, of which £11,400,000, or 37.5 per cent., accrued from Customs and Excise. The prospects for 1929-30 encouraged the Minister to tempt the electorate with a continuance of the rebate of 20 per cent. to income tax payers and increased children's allowances, and when the Government was returned to power the promise was duly redeemed. The latest Exchequer returns suggest that, if imports are maintained at a moderate level for the last three months, the current financial year will again yield a surplus not far short of £1,000,000.

Government Railways.—The net surplus for 1928-29 was £766,500. For the first six months of the current financial year, revenue and expenditure are substantially in accordance with estimates, but there is a fall in passenger earnings, due to the constantly improving facilities for road transport, and the railways are being left more and more with the bulky, low-rated agricultural produce, which is both costly to move and productive of little revenue.

Production.—The most cheering mining result is the new record of gold production which the Transvaal mines have set up in 1929 in the face of increased shortage of native labour. When the December figures are announced, the year's production should approximate to 10,400,000 ounces, as compared with last year's record of 10,359,000. The diamond production for the first six months of 1929 was 1,903,126 carats, of which 758,716 were alluvial (the production of the West Transvaal gradually declining). The coal export and bunker trade has shown some improvement. Industrial activity has fallen below normal in most centres in the second half of the year. The National Wage Board and the Industrial Councils are not working smoothly, and amending legislation is to be expected next session. The fall in wool prices of 30 per cent. is the outstanding feature of farming developments. The official estimate of wool exports (July, 1929-June, 1930) is 302 million bales, as compared with 284 million for the previous period, the quality remaining steady. The increase in production by no means offsets the fall in prices. The maize crop in 1929 was finally estimated at 18½ million bags (19.2 million in 1928). Exports have been slower than last year, and the recent fall in prices does not augur well for the disposal of the remaining 3 to 4 million bags. The local wheat and oats harvests have been exceptionally good.

Overseas Trade.—Tentative estimates place total exports in the neighbourhood of £9¾ million and imports as high as £86 million. In normal years, exports exceed imports by approximately £15 million, and since the export figures for current months are bound to be depressed by world prices of South African produce, it appears inevitable that equilibrium must be restored by a fall in imports during 1930. The value of imports has, in fact, been maintained up to the present only by the very liberal advance policy of the commercial banks, which have lent in the Union large resources deposited overseas and have, to some extent, also liquidated their investments outside the Union in order to increase their advances in South Africa. The Reserve Bank has also, since July, liquidated a large part of its holdings of foreign bills and increased its discounts of domestic bills and of Union Treasury bills. A readjustment will have, however, to be made sooner or later. The Reserve Bank has raised its discount rate, and twice within recent months the commercial banks have increased their interest rates on time deposits in an effort to avoid too drastic a curtailment of advances. A downward adjustment of land values is already taking place in those parts of the country in which inflated tobacco and wool prices have been responsible for ill-advised speculation. Prosperity in 1930 will depend upon very good harvests and careful bank management. The Treasury may also find an import tariff as uncertain a revenue-producing instrument as it is burdensome to the primary industries.

IRISH FREE STATE.

The year 1929 was one of steady, if uneventful, progress in the Irish Free State. The crop and live stock statistics show that, on June 1st, the total area of ploughed land had declined by one-half per cent. from the level of 1928, the area under barley had increased by 2.7 per cent., the number of cattle had increased by 12,332, or 0.3 per cent., the number of sheep by 112,241, or 3.4 per cent., the number of poultry by 374,187, or 1.7 per cent., and the number of pigs had declined by 237,575, or 20.1 per cent. The exports for the twelve months ending in September were slightly lower than in the corresponding period last year, in spite of increases in the exports of cattle, bacon, ham and eggs. The exports of butter showed a slight decrease. This is rather disappointing in view of the great improvements that have taken place both in the manufacture and marketing of butter. The Irish Associated Creameries, Ltd., the central selling organisation of the co-operative creameries, which now handles four-fifths of the creamery butter exported, has attained great economies in transport and has introduced a certain amount of " orderly marketing." The price of Irish butter now compares very much more favourably with that of Danish and New Zealand butter than it has ever done in the past. There is an encouraging increase in the export of manufactured articles. Tractors and tractor parts amounting in value to £938,000 were exported from the Ford works at Cork, principally to Russia. The exports of Guinness's stout have also substantially increased, doubtless as the result of the advertising campaign in Great Britain. Imports, during the same period, show a slight increase, so that the adverse trade balance promises to be rather greater than in 1928. Large increases are shown in the imports of motor cars and machinery, a considerable part of the latter being connected with the final stages of the construction of the electric network of the Shannon scheme. Transmission poles are now a common feature in the Irish landscape, and the whole country is being rapidly linked up with the central power station. The manufacture of electricity has already begun, and the current will soon be sold in Dublin at prices less than those charged by the existing power stations. Much interest is taken in this great project, which is by far the most ambitious undertaking in which the Free State Government has engaged. Slight declines are shown in the imports of articles that have been protected. It is calculated that the result of the tariff has been to provide 15,000 people with employment, and it is roughly estimated that the cost of this increase in employment is represented by an increase in the outgoings of the average farmer amounting to about ten pounds a year. Agricultural interests are naturally alarmed at this increased burden, and the inevitable cry for countervailing protection for farm products is being loudly raised. Such assistance, however, is out of the question owing to the dependence of the Irish farmer on export markets. Dissatisfaction is also felt by the farming class at the failure of the Government to adopt some scheme of derating similar to that in force in Northern Ireland, and the whole question of local taxation is being investigated by a very representative commission. The general industrial situation appears healthy; unemployment is decreasing, and the volume of emigration is slowing down. The reduced American quota was not filled in 1929.

The receipts of the Great Southern Railways showed a decrease of £149,720 compared with those of the previous year. The transport situation has been eased by the merger with the railways of the principal bus companies, as a result of which unreasonable competition has been ended. The cut-throat competition for road traffic in Dublin still continues, and the Dublin Tramway Company is passing through a serious crisis in its history. An attempt to reduce the wages of the employees resulted in a strike in which the men were completely successful.

Dublin bank clearings were £247,752,800, as compared with £251,630,500 in 1928. The Agricultural Credit Corporation is doing good work in providing capital and credit facilities for farmers. The Corporation has issued 4,337 loans, amounting to £526,108, or an average of £121. These figures show that the Bank is catering, as it is meant to do, principally for the smaller farmers. During the nine months ending December 31st the public revenue amounted to £16,657,962, an increase of £232,759 over the corresponding period in 1928, and expenditure amounted to £18,044,599, a decrease of £308,463.

C.—OTHER COUNTRIES.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The past year in American business and finance has been one of sharply contrasting colours. It brought the highest interest rates and the greatest expansion in credit since 1920; share market prices reached heights never before attained, followed by the most severe decline in the history of the New York Stock Exchange; industrial production reached the largest volume of any peace-time year, and the decline in activity in the closing three months was as pronounced as it has ever been in any but a year of severe business depression. Industrial and railroad corporations as a whole earned larger profits and transacted a greater gross volume of business than ever before. These

developments were accompanied withal by gradually declining commodity prices and the greatest issues of new capital by corporations in the history of the country.

Banking and Money.—Credit expansion and high interest rates made 1929 a very profitable year for the commercial banks, although those institutions which operate subsidiary companies dealing in securities had to write off losses of varying amounts as a result of the share market collapse in the autumn. For the Reserve Banks the year was marked by a constant effort to secure reduction in member bank borrowing, a large expansion of credit through increased discounts, and finally the rise in discount rates. The New York Bank rate rose as high as 6 per cent. in August, only to drop to 4½ per cent. before the close of the year, as stock market liquidation enabled the member banks to cut down their borrowings.

The main movements during the year in the Federal Reserve position were an increase of $269,000,000 in the Reserve Banks' gold stocks, due to the heavy inflow of gold during the first ten months of the year; a decrease of $519,000,000 in rediscounts, which occurred mainly at end of the year; and a decrease of $96,000,000 in bills bought in the open market, which was more than offset by an increase in Government securities amounting to $267,000,000. These last figures illustrate both the assistance given by the Reserve Banks at the time of the Wall Street crash and the extent to which this break has enabled member banks to reduce their own commitments. Brokers' loans increased from $5,395 million on January 16th to $6,804 million on October 2nd, after which they declined to $3,424 million on December 31st. The ratio of reserve to deposits and Federal Reserve note liabilities rose from 61.9 on January 2nd to 69.6 on December 31st. Bank clearings amounted to $727,739 million, as against $633,872 million in 1928.

Public Capital Issues.—New financing was the outstanding feature of the past year. The grand total of new corporate issues, exceeding all previous records, amounted to $10,036,361,000, according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle tabulation (inclusive of $1,386,922,000 of refunding operations). Of this $2,223,730,000 was for the account of investment trusts and trading corporations.

Production and Trade.—Steel ingot production in 1929 set a new record at 54,164,348 tons, compared with 49,865,185 tons in the previous year, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute. Operations for the year averaged 88.81 per cent. of the capacity. Pig-iron production was 42,285,769 tons, setting a new peace-time record, and was 5.5 per cent. higher than the previous record of 1923 and 11.7 per cent. higher than in 1928. Public utilities again amounted to more than one-fifth of the total, at $2,442,769,000, against $2,562,288,000 in 1928. Motors and accessories were again low at $87,643,000, compared with $107,153,000 in 1928, while rubbers were almost doubled at $115,234,000, against $64,425,000. Stock sales were 1,124,991,490 shares, against 919,661,825 in the preceding year. The index of stock values reached a maximum of 253.5 on September 7th, and fell to the lowest of the year at 140.3 on November 13th. Bonds were 99.9 on January 22nd and 96.3 on September 25th.

Motor car and truck output attained a new high total of 5,358,361, against 4,358,759 vehicles in 1928, according to Department of Commerce figures. Railroad car loadings were 52,789,789, against 51,589,887 in the preceding year. Exports totalled $5,248,483,000 during the year, as compared with $5,128,356,000 in 1928. Imports also increased from $4,091,444,000 to $4,400,634,000, giving the country a favourable balance of trade for 1929 of $847,849,000, as contrasted with a balance in 1928 of $1,036,912,000. Exports of gold during 1929 totalled $116,583,000, as compared with $560,760,000 in 1928. Imports of gold increased from $168,897,000 to $291,649,000.

Public Finance.—Gross public debt of the United States, less balance in the general fund, was $912,279,744 less on December 31, 1929, than on the same date in 1928. The Government closed the first half of the 1930 fiscal year with an excess of $91,644,655 of receipts over expenditure, according to the Treasury Department. At the end of 1928 the Treasury reported an excess of $168,475,696 of expenditure over receipts. This apparent greater strength of the Treasury is lessened somewhat by the fact that the amount expended to retire the public debt for the first six months of the 1930 fiscal year amounted to only $384,805,403, while during the last half of 1928 a total of $467,036,750 was diverted to this purpose. The third Liberty Loan came due last year and the financing of this obligation made necessary the placing of the larger amount. Customs receipts for the last half of 1929 totalled $302,214,137, against $301,778,637 for the corresponding period of 1928. For the last six months of 1929 income tax receipts amounted to $1,185,317,860, while during the corresponding period in 1928 they reached $1,012,795,591. There were gains also in the total of receipts of principal on foreign obligations, which for the last six months of 1929 amounted to $40,858,179, compared with $28,562,640 for the corresponding six months of 1928. The receipts from interest on these foreign obligations for both periods was in round numbers $80,000,000.

ARGENTINE.

Finance.—During the first quarter of 1929 Argentina's hopes for a markedly prosperous year ran high, and with reason. Politically, the country was tranquil; financially, its position was unquestionably sound; commercially, its exports promised to exceed average totals and to realise normal prices. The close of the year finds these hopes modified by a series of circumstances which, if not easily foreseen in January-February, became latently possible by June, and were almost unavoidable when, on December 16, 1929, the Executive Power decreed the closure of the Conversion Office, thereby aggravating an exchange situation already sufficiently adverse to the Argentine peso. From 47½d., the cable rate for banks' drawings on London in January, 1929, sterling quotations had fallen to 43¼ on December 17, and this weakness continues at the moment of writing. Gold in the Conversion Office on the same date was $419,643,387 gold, as against $490,602,233 gold at the corresponding date in 1928. Insistence on the far-reaching gravity of this step is needless. Officially, the view was held that extraction of gold was chiefly due to speculation, whereas in banking and commercial circles it was plainly recognised that specie shipments were not merely permissible but even advisable, having regard to the unfavourable trade balance resulting from heavy imports of merchandise and sluggish sales of wool and cereals, two of Argentina's principal exports. Immediately following the closure of the Conversion Office came the proposed rediscount of $200,000,000 paper and the loan of £5,000,000 to the Argentine Government in the form of a discount, at 5¾ per cent. per annum, of Treasury bills made out and issued in London, and repayable on December 31, 1930, by means of remittance of minted gold if so desired. This is the first foreign loan transaction negotiated by the Argentine National Government since the accession of H.E. President Irigoyen in October, 1928. The Province of Buenos Aires has, however, accepted an offer for an external loan of $8,000,000 U.S. authorised by Law No. 3,941, American bankers taking the bonds, which carry 6½ per cent. interest and 1 per cent. amortisation, at 90 per cent. The Budget for 1930, which should have been discussed in Congress, has not as yet come forward. It is proposed by the Executive to work on the basis of the 1929 figures, showing a cash expenditure of $704,728,847 paper and issues of Argentine Internal Credit Bonds for $158,000,000. Subsidies and bounties, which are met by special duties, lotteries, etc., are

fixed at an additional $28,812,249 paper. It has also been proposed that the capital in cedulas (mortgage bonds) of the National Mortgage Bank be increased from 1,500 millions to 2,000 millions paper.

Foreign Trade.—Quantitatively exports in 1929 were satisfactory, as the following comparative figures will show:—

	1928.	1929.
Wheat .....tons	5,373,000	6,689,000
Maize .....tons	6,455,500	5,070,800
Linseed.....tons	2,033,000	1,682,000
Oats .....tons	314,500	443,400
Canned meats .....cases	3,107,700	3,258,967
Wool.....bales	315,100	324,500
Frozen beef .....quarters	1,057,000	1,060,000
Chilled beef .....quarters	5,437,000	5,449,500
Mutton and lamb .....carcases	3,369,600	3,884,700

Linseed and meat excepted, prices, however, showed a decided drop, while much of the wheat shipped is reported unsold in Europe at the year-end. Business in the import trade opened briskly, and remained active until the middle of the year. Sales then became difficult, while buyers showed great reluctance to place orders for the 1929-30 season, while commercial failures increased, total liabilities to November 30, 1929, being $147,898,002 paper, as against $129,102,832 paper for the corresponding eleven months of 1928. The local money market was easy down to the end of September, 1929, at 5½ per cent. for first-class trade acceptances, but rose sharply during the last quarter of the year, to touch 7½ per cent., with firm demand and marked competition among banks for deposit funds. Exchange at the year-end was weak, sight drawing rates being quoted as follows:—London, 45 13/16; Paris, 23.55; Swiss, 4.78; Belgium, 6.64; Italy, 17.72; Spain, 6.94; New York, 107.55. In this connection one may point out that these rates show a marked recovery from the set-back experienced on December 17th, a recovery which was not subsequently maintained. Politically, the year ended as it began, in complete tranquillity, and it was generally recognised that the attempted assassination of H.E. President Irigoyen, happily unsuccessful, was but the individual act of a madman, without any ulterior significance.

BRAZIL.

The past twelve months have been a period of somewhat severe commercial depression in Brazil. Difficulties arose in both the financial and commercial situations in mid-December, 1929, and severe credit stringency was experienced. The underlying cause of these difficulties has been the accumulation of large stocks of coffee in the interior, accompanied by a succession of heavy coffee crops. Prices of coffee in overseas markets declined, and the Sao Paulo Coffee Institute, the principal organisation concerned in arranging for the control of marketing of the Brazilian output, experienced difficulty in providing adequate finance. In fact, further loan negotiations were undertaken in overseas markets, and ultimately a comparatively small credit of £2,000,000 was arranged in London. At the time of writing, the general tone of the Brazilian commercial markets shows no appreciable improvement, but conditions in the local money market in both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are somewhat easier.

The Federal Budget estimates for 1930 provide for a surplus of roughly Rs. 24,881,479$360 (paper), or about £560,000 sterling. This result compares with an estimated surplus in the Budget for 1929 of Rs. 55,033,743$837 (paper) and a balanced Budget for 1928. It is to be noted that the revenue estimates for 1930 provide for a greater total of receipts than in 1929, which appears somewhat optimistic in view of the prolonged depression in the commercial situation. The Decree, estimating revenue, authorises the Government to issue, in anticipation of revenue, Treasury Bills up to a total of 50,000 contos, redeemable during 1930.

Guaranty Trust Company of New York

A MERGER OF
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK Organized 1839
GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK Organized 1864

Incorporated with limited liability in the State of New York, U.S.A.

Condensed Statement, December 31, 1929

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES		
Cash on Hand, in Federal Reserve Bank, and due from Banks and Bankers ...	$430,004,522 35	Capital	$90,000,000 00	
U.S. Government Bonds and Certificates ...	170,535,098 93	Surplus Fund	170,000,000 00	
Public Securities	32,134,571 76	Undivided Profits ...	32,636,023 50	
Stock of the Federal Reserve Bank ...	7,800,000 00			$292,636,023 50
Other Securities	49,231,298 14	Accrued Interest, Miscellaneous Accounts Payable, Reserve for Taxes, etc. ...		13,310,986 57
Loans and Bills Purchased	1,105,394,234 05	Agreements to Repurchase United States Securities Sold		53,709,635 61
Real Estate Bonds and Mortgages	971,139 99	Acceptances		192,624,587 30
Items in Transit with Foreign Branches ...	7,504,444 90	Liability as Endorser on Acceptances and Foreign Bills		155,548,545 34
Credits Granted on Acceptances	192,624,587 30	Deposits	$1,224,551,049 63	
Real Estate	13,537,529 75	Outstanding Checks	84,738,503 66	1,309,289,553 29
Accrued Interest and Accounts Receivable	7,381,904 44			
	$2,017,119,331 61			$2,017,119,331 61

32 Lombard Street, E.C.3

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NEW YORK LIVERPOOL PARIS BRUSSELS HAVRE ANTWERP

Dull trade conditions were in evidence in all the important trade centres of Brazil throughout the year 1929, and dealers in imported textile goods in Sao Paulo found themselves overstocked. This situation resulted from the haste with which imports were made towards the end of 1928 and during the earlier part of 1929, in order to secure the arrival of shipments before the application of the new Customs duties. In consequence, negotiations of fresh sales became extremely difficult, so that, even if the difficulties arising from the credit stringency could have been overcome, a long period would have been required before the native industries could have derived benefit from the protective duties. The total number of cotton spinning and weaving factories in the Republic in 1928 was 347, of which 97 were situated in the State of Sao Paulo, 91 in Minas Geraes, 26 in Rio de Janeiro, and 23 in the Federal District. The total value of products was placed at Rs. 929,348:067 $000, of which Rs. 368,900:514 $000 came from Sao Paulo, Rs. 68,542:882 $000 to Rio de Janeiro, and Rs. 161,067:529 $000 to the Federal District.

The presidential elections are due to take place during the next few months, the candidates being Dr. Julio Prestes, a native of the State of Sao Paulo, and Dr. Getulio Vargas, of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, The new President will take office on March 1st next, and thereafter it is hoped that some revival of general trading conditions will take place, especially if by then the coffee position is more clarified.

CHILE.

A favourable political development affecting conditions in both Chile and Peru during the past year was the settlement of the long-standing Tacna-Arica question, by the ratification of the relevant Treaty on July 28th. This statesmanlike settlement will undoubtedly redound to the benefit of both countries—not the least in their commercial relations. In the Chilean nitrate of soda industry, production is maintained at a satisfactory level, and proposals are under consideration for limiting the output from oficinas where costs of production are heavy, in favour of the more cheaply producing oficinas. In August, 1928, the nitrate producers formed a corporation to centralise their sales on lines approved by the Chilean Government. At a meeting of the Association in March last, however, the Statutes were amended to provide for the embodiment in the Association of the selling corporation, so that thenceforth all the interests of the producers would be in the hands of the Association, the life of which was, at the same time, extended until June 30, 1939. At this meeting also the Chilean Government took the opportunity of reiterating its intention to spare no efforts to help the nitrate industry under the ample powers given it under the Nitrate Law, and negotiations during the earlier part of 1929 between the Chilean Minister of Finance and the two largest producers of synthetic nitrogen in Europe resulted in the conclusion of a price agreement between the parties concerned.

In other directions, the Chilean Government remains active in developing and diversifying the sources of national wealth. Thus, agriculture continues to be encouraged by the Government, and they are wisely extending the principle of establishing demonstration farms and encouraging co-operation among farmers. The production of copper is also becoming of increasing importance in the national economy. By means of subsidies, protective tariffs, etc., the Government is endeavouring to foster national manufacturing industries, while, at the same time, the official programme of public works is having the effect of increasing general trade activity, and, indeed, has considerably modified the supply of labour to other industries. The progress in the commercial and industrial activity of Chile is amply demonstrated by official returns. Statistics of the foreign trade of the Republic for 1928—the latest complete year available—showed considerable increases in both imports and exports, particularly in the latter, as will be seen from the following comparative table:—

(thousands of pesos.)

	Imports.	*Exports.*	*Export Surplus.*
1927	1,072,991	1,689,667	616,676
1928	1,169,654	1,965,944	796,290

During 1928, there was a marked increase in the import of automobiles, and substantial advances also occurred in imports of sacks, sugar, comestible oils, and petroleum. Exports of both nitrate of soda and bar copper were decidedly higher.

Even greater activity during 1929 in practically all lines of commerce was indicated by the provisional official figures of foreign trade of the Republic for January-September, 1929, during which period imports were valued at 1,125,800,000 pesos, against 805,700,000 pesos in the first nine months of 1928, while exports also showed considerable expansion at 1,768,700,000 pesos, against 1,412,200,000 pesos. The surplus of merchandise exports for the period was thus 642,900,000 pesos, against 606,500,000 pesos. The aggregate value of textile imports during the first nine months of 1929 was 269,406,000 pesos, and machinery, tools and equipment, etc., were valued at 127,006,000 pesos, while machinery and plant, etc., required for transport services amounted to 130,651,000 pesos. Exports of nitrate during the period were valued at 696,960,000 pesos, those of copper bars at 672,963,000 pesos, and iodine at 67,486,000 pesos. Shipments of raw wool leaving the country were valued at 64,667,000 pesos, and those of copper ore at 40,481,000 pesos.

The Government continues to maintain the national finances in a satisfactory position, and the ordinary Budget estimates for 1930 indicate a total estimated revenue of 1,214,650,000 pesos, including the amount of 45,000,000 pesos brought forward from the 1929 Budget, against which the ordinary expenditure is calculated at 1,159,323,798 pesos, the estimated surplus being, therefore, 55,326,202 pesos. The course of the operations in the financial markets in Chile has continued to emphasise fully the great change in credit conditions which has been effected since the establishment of the Central Bank of Issue, a period of steady and low monetary rates having contrasted sharply with the erratic movements and frequently high levels customary in the years prior to 1926. The total gold held at home and abroad by the Banco Central de Chile amounts to 459,230,000 pesos, representing a gold reserve as high as 97 per cent. of the deposit and note liabilities, and the Republic continues to enjoy the benefits of an extremely stable currency. The maintenance of interest rates at low levels has naturally continued to assist the State in its issues of internal bonds under the large scheme of public works, and the issue of such bonds for a further total of 50,000,000 pesos was successfully made early in 1929. Further external borrowings which have been made under the Extraordinary Budget Law have included issues in New York and London, as well as in Switzerland and Holland. The total external and internal debt at the end of 1928 aggregated 2,395,397,442 pesos—about £60,000,000 sterling—and this figure probably increased during 1929 owing to loan operations on account of the schemes of public works of national economic importance.

OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN STATES.

Colombia.

The general economic situation in Colombia was affected last year by financial stringency, which prevented any general revival of public works activity and expansion in commerce. At the same time, the international financial situation was not propitious for the raising of external loans, and trade in the Republic evinced a general tendency towards dullness, imports being restricted to a minimum. The Banco de la Republica, the Colombian central bank, again carried out with marked success its functions of controlling the credit situation and the currency note issue. The latest available statement of the bank shows an exceedingly strong position, the gold holding representing cover for the total note circulation of over 100 per cent., while exchange rates have been maintained at a slight premium over both sterling and United States dollars. According to a provisional statement of the Controller-General, relating to the year 1928, national revenue for that year amounted to 75,514,381 pesos, and expenditure to 80,087,087 pesos, there being thus a deficit of 4,572,706 pesos. The total deficit was then stated to be 11,274,848 pesos, but, in this connection, it must be borne in mind that the aggregate sum spent on Colombian public works during the past few years has been very substantial, while the Government has apparently made every endeavour in recent months to effect economies in public administration. The production of coffee is a matter of importance in the economic life of Colombia, as in that of other Central American countries, and the fall in market prices for that commodity has therefore been an adverse influence. The coffee-growing interests are carefully watching the Brazilian situation.

Ecuador.

Stable economic conditions have been maintained in Ecuador during the past year, but general trade has been quiet, owing to the poor demand for the country's two principal products, cocoa and coffee. Latterly, however, the cocoa market has been more active, and prices have shown a tendency to recover. The latest reports to hand from the cocoa-producing centres in regard to the interim harvest are of a favourable nature. Exports of cocoa have also been fairly satisfactory. A favourable market has been found in Colombia for Ecuadorian rice, the export of which is a new development. There has been some over-production of sugar, but this also is finding an outlet in Colombia. The production of petroleum continues to increase, and some progress has been made with railway construction. Local manufacturing industries continue to develop; the textile mills are making steady progress and are importing new machinery to extend production. A normal political situation has been maintained.

Peru.

Commercial activity in Peru during 1929 showed on the whole some improvement on the previous year, but, generally speaking, trade has been depressed of late owing to the weak tone of the export markets. During the early part of 1929, serious drought was experienced in practically all the cotton-growing valleys, and conservative estimates placed the total of the 1928-29 crop at 1,081,000 quintals, as against 1,184,000 quintals in 1927-28. Cotton prices at the opening of the season were good, but have since been declining gradually. The next crop, however, may show considerable expansion, as, in view of the low prices ruling for sugar, a large number of planters decided to grind their sugar cane and prepare their land for cotton. The Peruvian Presidential Message to Congress was delivered on October 12, 1929, and included a statement of revenue and expenditure of the Republic for the year 1928. According to the Budget Law for that year, the two items were estimated to balance at £P.11,113,650. The revenue actually received, however, totalled £P.12,198,107, while expenditure also exceeded the estimates, aggregating £P.12,061,163. There was thus a surplus of revenue for the fiscal year 1927 of £P.136,944. The outstanding circumstance in Peruvian conditions last year was the severe financial stringency experienced during the closing months, which affected the exchange to such an extent that dealing became a matter of negotiation and rates nominal. In this connection, it is currently reported that the Government are contemplating legislation which would decree the stabilisation of the Peruvian pound at the exchange equivalent of about U.S. $4, but nothing definite has yet been announced in this connection. Presumably with reference to this proposal, the Government has already issued certain Decrees, among which may be mentioned that of December 14th, providing that contracts, sales and commercial operations contracted in Peru or having effect therein, shall be made out in Peruvian currency. So far as concerns the latter Decree, the difficulties attendant thereupon have already been ventilated by the commercial and industrial interests, and, as the method of application of the measure has not yet been made clear, it is generally anticipated that the Government will shortly issue an amending or explanatory Decree. Meanwhile, there is a natural tendency to restrict commercial commitments.

Uruguay.

The Uruguayan national finances are maintained on a sound basis. The Budget for the financial period 1928-29 was made applicable to the year 1929-30, a small deficit being allowed for, although it is anticipated that actually a small surplus will be realised. The official returns of the foreign trade of the Republic for the first six months of 1929 showed a surplus of exports of 6,430,737 pesos, against 10,657,474 pesos, imports being valued on the Customs basis and exports at market prices. Uruguay was visited in September last year by the British Economic Mission. Discussions took place between the Uruguayan President and industrial interests and the members of the Mission as to the possibilities of encouraging the interchange of export products between Uruguay and Great Britain. The gold holding of the Banco de la Republica represents a proportion of 101 per cent. of the currency note circulation, while the latest available total of the public debt is 219,314,000 pesos, against 215,839,000 pesos at the end of December, 1928. The country has no doubt been affected by the low prices ruling for wool and cereals in overseas markets, and in February last year the exchange value of the peso depreciated.

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A recovery ensued, but, with the qualified restriction of gold exports at present in force, there are no ready means available of supporting the peso.

Bolivia.

There has been some improvement in trading conditions. The conversion of the Banco de la Nacion Boliviana into a central bank of issue has been brought into effect and the new bank—the Banco Central de Bolivia—has opened. Exchange has been steadily maintained, but the frontier dispute with Paraguay remains a disturbing element. During the latter part of the year the severe decline in prices of tin in the consuming markets adversely affected all business.

Paraguay.

Not until the last quarter of 1929 did indications appear of returning confidence in trading circles. The effects of the boundary dispute with Bolivia had a depressing effect on overseas trade. In the first nine months imports amounted to 9,642,696 Argentine gold pesos, against 10,792,285 pesos in 1928; and exports to 10,714,318 Argentine gold pesos, against 12,367,911 pesos. Business is now better than at any time since 1928, but it is reported that many merchants are overstocked. Weather conditions have recently been favourable, but prices are declining.

Venezuela.

The production of petroleum, which, during the calendar year 1928, reached the level of 105,522,733 barrels, against 62,817,000 barrels for 1927, and 36,926,000 in 1926, is estimated for 1929 at some 130,000,000 barrels. The 1928-29 coffee crop was very favourable, realising about 1,000,000 bags of 46 kilos. each. The next coffee crop is expected to be superior. The cocoa crop did not come up to expectations, but the outlook for the next harvest has been reported to be more satisfactory.

Mexico.

Considerable progress has been made in Mexico during the past year in the Government's programme for the building of roads, whilst the success of the authorities in suppressing the revolution in March last, as well as the subsequent settlement of the religious question, have caused a favourable impression in the Republic. The output of petroleum in Mexico has continued to show a reduction, and it is considered improbable that the oil companies will do anything to check a further decrease in output, taking into consideration the present over-production throughout the world; on the other hand, the mining industry has again been more actively employed and the Government has assisted it by removing restrictions. The recent heavy fall in the price of silver must, however, influence the earning capacity of the mines, as the Republic is the world's leading producer of the metal. Notwithstanding that Mexico should be agriculturally self-supporting, quantities of wheat and other foodstuffs have had to be imported, but during the past few years, the Government has invested approximately 50,000,000 pesos in irrigation works, which are expected to increase the total area of arable land by 30 per cent. National production is much lower than in former years, owing to the past political disturbances and other causes, and the purchasing power of the people has declined, while some of the best workers have emigrated, and cotton, woollen and shoe factories, have been compelled to work below capacity. Nevertheless, generally speaking, the outlook is much better than it was twelve months ago, and there has been a slight improvement in general commercial conditions during the past few months. The regulation prohibiting any supplementary expenditure not authorised by Congress, and the drastic reductions already made in expenditure, resulted in a surplus in the national accounts for 1928 of 16,000,000 pesos. The estimates for 1929 provided for revenue amounting to 288,000,000 pesos and expenditure of 287,850,000 pesos, and, notwithstanding the extraordinary expenses incurred by the military campaign, it is anticipated that the final balance will show a small surplus for the fiscal year 1929. The improved position of the Treasury has been achieved at the expense of the national debt, for which no payments on account of interest or amortisation have been made since January, 1928.

West Indies and Central America.

In the West Indies, Cuba, Costa Rica, Panama and Haiti the general commercial situation has been depressed owing to the poor conditions ruling in the consuming markets for the various export products. Financial stringency has been in evidence, while there are indications of the importing houses being fully stocked. In Jamaica and Trinidad, however, business conditions are above average. Trade in Panama has been quiet, the banana farms having been affected by a local crop disease, but cocoa exports have increased. In Cuba, the chief influence has been the low prices ruling for sugar, but a reduced output is expected from the next crop. Costa Rica and Haiti have been especially affected by the coffee situation. The situation in Nicaragua has improved. Guatemala has a problem in the marketing of her coffee, and has also been affected by poor maize harvests, which have necessitated the continuance of imports. El Salvador is particularly dependent upon coffee, and is paying special attention to the reduction of producing costs.

MALAYA.

British trade with the Malay Peninsula showed some improvement last year. Trade conditions in the Peninsula have been satisfactory in spite of some uncertainty as to the future of the Singapore base. Tin prices showed a steady decline during the latter half of the year. The question of the depletion of the potential tin resources of the Peninsular has been engaging the attention of the authorities, and it has been decided that no advantage will be gained by increasing the rate of depletion. No application for mining land or for the conversion of agricultural land into mining land outside the existing mining areas will be entertained in future. In existing mining areas alienation or conversion will only be approved, exceptional circumstances apart, when necessary for the development of existing undertakings. Wide support has been accorded in Malaya to the restriction scheme proposed by the Tin Producers' Association. Rubber has been freed from export restriction for fourteen months, and the price has averaged about 8d.-9d. per lb. There was a marked drop in the price towards the end of November, and the publication of the Report of the Committee of the Rubber Growers' Association on Co-operative Selling failed to arouse any enthusiasm in Malaya, where the proposals are considered impracticable. Shipments of rubber from Malaya were higher last year than for some years past. In spite of the cosmopolitan nature of the population there has been little evidence of unrest to disturb the economic peace of the country, and Sir Cecil Clementi, who succeeds Sir Hugh Clifford as Governor and High Commissioner, comes to a land of contentment, with few prospects of political trouble. Financially the country remains sound, and the revenue is found easily enough without unduly stringent duties, though slight increases in the Excise Duties were made last year. A feature of Malayan life is the growth of co-operative societies, which have increased from 19 in 1923 to 123 at June 30, 1929, while the capital has increased from $73,461 to $1,940,232 in that period.

JAPAN.

During last year trade and finance were overshadowed by uncertainty as to the restoration of an effective gold standard until it was eventually decided upon towards the end of November. The money market passed through another year of excessive ease. Home business was extremely depressed, but foreign trade showed an exceedingly satisfactory record. Production in several staple industries was fairly well maintained. With poor crops of rice and wheat and low cocoon prices the agricultural situation was far from reassuring.

Public Finance.—The revised Budget for 1929-30 estimated expenditure at 1,682,310,000 yen, a saving of 91.2 millions on the original estimates and a decrease of 38.7 millions upon the preceding year. The national accounts for the first seven months ended on October 31st last disclosed revenue amounting to 513,629,000 yen and expenditure to 708,204,000 yen, as compared with 860,120,000 yen and 737,241,000 yen respectively for the corresponding period of 1928. The heavy decline in revenue is chiefly accounted for by the transfer of the preceding year's surplus, new loan and receipts from Government enterprises and property. Tax revenue, however, shows a fairly large increase of 12.7 millions. The Budget estimates for 1930-31 show an estimated expenditure of 1,608,776,000 yen, against an estimated revenue of 1,576,073,000 yen, with a deficit of 32.7 millions to be met from the preceding year's surplus. No new loan is budgeted for the year. It is many years since Japan has had a balanced Budget without recourse to borrowing. The national debt rose by 83.9 million to 5,883,463,000 yen during the first eleven months of 1929.

Money.—Monetary ease continued throughout the year. Funds were plentiful and short loans could sometimes be obtained at as low as 2½ per cent. Though Bank rate remained unchanged, banks' deposit rates were lowered by one half of 1 per cent. in February. The note circulation did not rise far above the average level of 1,200 million yen, except during month-ends. The new capital market was less active than in 1928, the new issue for the first eleven months totalling 1,589 millions, as against 2,289.5 millions. Since the latter half of the year the yen exchange moved higher and was within a measurable distance of parity by the close of the year. The dollar was quoted at 49c. and sterling at 2s. 0 1/16d. on December 21, 1929, as compared with 46c. and 1s. 0½d. at the same date in 1928.

Trade.—From January 1st to December 20th imports were valued at approximately 2,159,869,000 yen and exports at 2,096,184,000 yen. As compared with the corresponding period of 1928, imports and exports expanded respectively by 39.3 and 186.4 millions, the apparent adverse balance being 147 millions lower at 63.6 millions. For the first eleven months imports of raw cotton rose by 55 millions, machinery by 29 millions, ammonium sulphate by 10 millions, beans by 10 millions, and iron and steel by 9.7 millions, while sugar fell by 31 millions, woollen yarns and manufactures by 22.9 millions, timber by 17 millions, and oil-cake by 11 millions. Exports of raw silk rose by 66 millions, cotton yarns and manufactures by 55 millions, silk fabrics by 13 millions, the only appreciable decline was one of 7 millions in sugar.

Production and Prices.—The rice crop is officially estimated at 58,372,000 koku, a decrease of 1,930,000 koku on the actual yields of the preceding year and 602,000 koku below the five years' average. The wheat crop is placed at 20,763,000 koku against 21,120,000 koku in 1928. The output of cocoons totalled 99,163,000 kamme, an increase of 5,304,000 kamme upon the preceding year . The Bank of Japan's index of wholesale prices (July, 1914, = 100) was 167.86 for November last, as against 182.16 a year ago.

THE DUTCH EAST INDIES.

The policy of placing the control of affairs more and more in native hands is being continued by the Dutch authorities in the Netherlands East Indies. This is automatically having the effect of weakening the authority and prestige of the European population and,

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in the opinion of many, the work of emancipating the native is being carried too far and at a too rapid pace. This considered policy of the authorities may well account for much of the political unrest of the past few years. Deliberations have been taking place in Holland on rubber problems, and an Anglo-Dutch Committee has been formed to explore the difficulties which beset the industry. In the meantime, the problem of heavy native tapping with the production of large quantities of "wet" rubber is presenting considerable difficulty. Twelve years of research have led to a claim by a Dutch ex-rubber planter that he has evolved a new tapping method which will increase the volume of latex and the life of the trees. The system involves the use of a special knife and a new time table for tapping. European-controlled plantations, as a whole, have prospered during the past year in spite of the low price of the commodity. The trading position of the Dutch East Indies is enviable indeed, and, once again, in 1928, there was a substantial favourable trade balance—higher than in 1927, but lower than in 1925 and 1926. Figures for 1929 are not yet available. Considerable extensions continue to be made in the oil palm industry, and the area under this cultivation grows rapidly on the East Coast of Sumatra, where the output this year should exceed 20,000 tons. Tea, the culture of which is confined to Java and Sumatra, is also making good headway, and over a third of the capital invested in this is British. Netherlands Indian teas are extremely popular in Australia and New Zealand. Sugar, tobacco, cinchona, coffee and cassava are other crops which have done well. The financial position of the Netherlands East Indies improves each year. Though there is still a deficit in the estimates, this is being steadily reduced, and there is little question as to the financial soundness of the islands. The work of developing this extensive territory is necessarily costly, and there is still much to be done.

CHINA.

The year 1929 in China has been one of disappointment, except for the single fact that the so-called National Government at Nanking is still in office, purporting to control and speak for a united country. Its chief executive agents, Chiang Kai-shek, the Chairman of the State Council, C. T. Wang, the Foreign Minister, and T. V. Soong, the Minister of Finance, although, possibly, by dint of threatening resignation from time to time, have ridden out successive storms, and the year's developments may be summarised by the study of the activities of these three leaders.

At the Disbandment Conference, in January, limits were assigned to specified military commands, and the reduction of the total national army to 700,000 of all ranks was resolved upon. Moreover, it was wisely agreed that all military expenditure should be under the control of the Finance Ministry. Events have, however, shown that no one of these reforms is yet capable of being carried into effect. On the other hand it redounds to Chiang's credit that he has suppressed a revolt in the South on the part of the Kwangsi generals, quelled a mutiny on the Yangtsze, negotiated a truce with Feng Yu-hsiang, and reached a settlement with the Soviet of a railway problem which at one time bid fair to make war with Russia inevitable.

In foreign affairs China's national aptitude for negotiation has had full play. Treaties with the principal foreign Powers, cancelling all provisions in earlier treaties which limited China's right to settle her Customs tariff, have been ratified. In March an agreement was reached with Japan on the much vexed Tsinan affair, the two Governments declaring themselves "ready to dismiss from their minds all discordant feelings attending the incident." The evacuation of Japanese troops from Shantung followed in May. With regard to the question of Extraterritoriality, the British, French, American and Japanese Governments have declared readiness to discuss means for ultimate abolition. No definite progress had been made at the close of the year, whereupon the Government issued a Mandate declaring that from January 1, 1930, "foreign nationals enjoying extra-territorial privileges shall abide by the laws, ordinances and regulations, promulgated by the Central and Local Governments of China." This apparent act of uncompromising defiance was obviously intended for home consumption, and has been explained as meaning no more than that from January 1st the Ministry for Foreign Affairs would only be concerned with ways and means of transferring jurisdiction back to the Chinese Government, which would require further negotiations with foreign Powers.

With an inflated army maintained throughout the year on a war footing, no organisation of national finance has been possible. In the Department of Customs the administrative changes effected at the end of 1928 have caused a return to the Hart *régime*. The new Inspector-General, no longer handicapped by the concerns of the Customs Surplus and its attendant responsibilities assumed under Government Mandate in 1923, has won the confidence of all parties in the political arena. The usual annual statement that the services of all foreign loans secured on the Customs Revenue have been met at due dates adds that the revenue in silver is 88 per cent. higher than that of the preceding year. The new tariff introduced in February is, of course, responsible for this great increase, but, in the absence of details of the collection, no deductions as to the trend of trade derived from Customs Returns are feasible. In Salt affairs, what appeared to be the complete breakdown of the collectorate as organised under provision of the Reorganisation Loan Agreement has proved in effect a re-settlement of this revenue as a national asset. Mr Soong has fulfilled the promises contained in his public statement of November, 1928; he has made a large inroad into the arrears of dependent loan service, and is confident that the loans secured on this revenue will, before long, be brought up to date. The tactics of the Chinese Minister in recovering and retaining control of these two reliable sources of revenue have been subjected to unfair protest and criticism, but the clear aim underlying each step that Mr Soong has taken, coupled with his assurance of full acknowledgment of foreign obligations under hypothecation, are among the evidences of his sagacity and statesmanship.

The condition of Chinese railways shows little sign of improvement. The Northern Railway and the Nanking and Ningpo lines continue to meet their specific obligations, but the overwhelming mass of debt, comprising loan service in arrears and unpaid equipment accounts, is augmented by further arrears and interest, and now amounts to over £6,000,000. It would appear that the Government's control of the Peking-Mukden Railway is of a shadowy nature, the actual direction being in the hands of the Mukden Authorities, who levy a serious distraint upon the railway revenues. The Tientsin-Pukow Railway resumed through-traffic in February, but the control of the line has not yet been assumed by the Ministry of Railways, and its revenues, largely reduced as they are by years of lawlessness and pillage, are still deflected to military use. With the whole national railway system in urgent need of re-habilitation, and with much new construction work awaiting the necessary finance, the practice of treating a railway line as if it were a milch cow is greatly to be deplored. The problem confronting Mr Sun Fo, the Minister, and his assistants is not enviable. So high, however, is the peace-time percentage of profit on all Chinese railways that the problem need not be regarded as insoluble.

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HOME PRODUCE.

I.—THE CORN TRADE.

High quality has characterised all the harvests of 1929 in the North Temperate Zone, and quantity has been affected in very strict relation to rainfall, and the standard of agriculture. Thus, the 2.33-inch fall in England, July 1st-September 30th, did not reduce the wheat and barley yields, and it only reduced that of oats by less than 10 per cent. A less severe drought in Canada cut wheat down to a twelve-bushel yield, and both barley and oats were meagre crops from Vancouver to Quebec. The drought told against United States production of all cereals. On the Continent the crops proved above the mean in bulk.

Production of Wheat.

That the production of wheat in 1929 fell below the world total for 1928 is due to the reduced yield per acre in North America (July-September), which was the more important by reason of the smaller yields, also due to drought, in the Antipodes (December). The great rise in the trade influence of Buenos Aires and Rosario, of Melbourne and Sydney, has resulted in making February and not October the pivotal date for the operators' plan of campaign. The cereal year at Mark Lane still begins September 1st, but until the great December harvests of Argentina and Australia are secured world production cannot be estimated.

To-day all wheat markets would be much dearer if the crop equation of 1929 yields, including those of the Antipodes, were the sole element determining prices, but quantities of unsuitable 1928 wheat have been thrust on millers, and their refusal to buy for the loaf what was not fit for the loaf has resulted in an unprecedented accumulation in warehouse of unsold 1928 wheat. This accumulation is in the New World, but very low freights make it a standing menace. The eight chief countries in the wheat trade show the following production in millions of cwt.:—

	1914.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
British Isles	33·4	27·0	26·0	27·6	29·9	26·0	23·0
U.S.A.	427·3	471·5	366·2	453·6	457·0	480·0	556·0
Canada	86·0	147·0	227·2	219·1	243·0	268·0	160·0
India	171·2	197·0	175·5	174·6	175·0	160·0	173·0
Argentina	85·6	112·9	119·0	117·0	120·0	140·0	112·0
Australia	20·0	83·2	65·0	90·0	68·0	80·0	72·0
Germany	77·4	50·4	59·0	60·0	70·0	75·0	59·4
France	154·8	153·0	177·3	135·0	152·0	160·0	192·0
	1,095·7	1,242·1	1,215·7	1,276·9	1,316·3	1,389·0	1,347·4

British production shows a net decline owing to a fall in area alone. Quantity was a full average, and more than the usual percentage reached a really good milling standard. The United States farmers grumble lustily but continue to increase their wheat area. The group of lesser countries to which last year we assigned a total yield of 332,000,000 cwts., must this year be credited with fully 10 per cent. increase, for Italy has made an even greater net advance, and Roumania, owing to the favourable season, had a 25 per cent. greater yield per acre. The area sown in the autumn of 1928 was exceedingly small; the information from Soviet Russia has centred in news of a determined effort to "break" the more well-to-do cultivators and to establish State "bonanzas," but Nature has worked indifferently for all parties, and the total yield is almost certainly about 10 per cent. above the meagre and barely sufficient yield of 1928. Allowing for about 120,000,000 cwt. for surplus poor wheat in North America, the figures of wheat in the world on December 31st of each of the last six years work out as follows:—

	Thousand cwt.		Thousand cwt.
1924	1,641,100	1927	1,816,300
1925	1,750,700	1928	1,881,000
1926	1,776,900	1929	2,028,600

The depression of the wheat markets is due almost entirely to one cause, the endeavour to escape the 25 per cent. loss involved in selling the 1928 wheat surplus of poor or, as the trade term is, "poultry" corn. The consumers' danger is of having it mixed with the fine 1929 wheat, and this is the cause of the once trusted grades being now challenged. "Fair average quality Canadian" wheat should have a fixed meaning, but No. 3 grade Manitoba, 1928, is not the same thing as No. 3 Manitoba, 1929. Demand per head has risen *per capita* on the year, and confidence seems now to be returning.

Supplies of Breadstuffs.

Our estimate last year that a million tons of home-grown wheat are used annually for human food has proved near the mark. Imports have risen, but lesser uses have taken much of the three lower grades of Canadian imported, and of ordinary American red.

Imports. (Thousands of tons.)

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
January	409	578	466	382	456
February	321	308	427	416	386
March	451	435	524	644	502
April	421	420	538	521	547
May	455	331	523	468	526
June	442	501	654	476	420
July	512	516	475	494	487
August	393	570	565	506	530
September	405	480	535	397	660
October	440	400	410	380	650
November	407	402	519	460	535
December	609	456	431	662	369
Total	5,265	5,396	6,067	5,696	6,068

With the million tons of home-grown grain we get a grand total of 7,068,000 tons, against one of 6,696,000 for 1928. The imports of France and Italy will prove smaller than for 1928, and this has increased the eagerness of the chief exporting countries to sell to Great Britain. It is probable that between six and seven million cwts. have been exported from Germany and between 34 and 35 millions imported.

The Production of Spring Corn.

Maize production does not increase. Great Britain in 1929 imported 1,746,000 tons, which at present-day low prices still represent over thirteen millions sterling. The maize problem seems likely to increase in importance, but the crop ripening in Argentina is of promise, and may secure for us moderate prices for 1930. Barley enjoyed a highly favourable season in Europe, and the home crop showed an unusual percentage of malting quality. This at 12s. to 15s. per cwt. pays the grower. The very dry summer reduced the yield per acre, and especially on porous soils. The United States and Canada do not give barley the good tilth that it asks, with the result that it wilts badly with a spell of trying drought. The result was a far greater falling off in yield than in Great Britain. Very heavy thunder-rains appear to have rendered extremely timely aid to the oats crop in France and Germany.

Production (in millions of cwts.).

	Maize.			Barley.			Oats.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
British Isles	None	None	None	21·0	24·0	19·0	54·0	56·0	50·0
United States	1,237·5	1,361·0	1,224·9	115·5	148·0	138·8	324·0	415·0	365·0
Canada	2·4	2·2	2·0	42·7	62·0	48·2	121·5	143·0	107·0
Australia	4·8	5·0	5·2	1·7	2·5	3·0	2·9	3·0	2·5
Argentina	162·0	200·0	175·0	10·5	14·0	15·4	35·5	30·0	35·0
Germany	None	None	None	43·0	48·0	60·0	137·3	150·0	158·0
France	10·7	12·0	14·0	25·0	27·0	29·7	115·0	112·0	117·6
Total	1,417·4	1,580·2	1,421·1	259·4	325·5	314·1	790·2	909·0	835·1

A fine crop of maize is assigned to Roumania, Jugoslavia and the Balkans, but no really safe returns are available. Of barley 27,000,000 cwts. are assigned to Poland, 39,000,000 to Roumania, and 33,000,000 to Spain, the oats assigned to these three countries being 56,000,000, 27,000,000 and 11,000,000 cwts.

Market Prices.

Low prices have not been an unbroken calamity to the farmer who buys freely of maize, oats, oilseeds and oil-cake. Latterly flour has been rather out of touch with both wheat and bread. Press prices ex mill are no indication of what the small baker pays. Bread is dear in proportion to English wheat, cheap in proportion to Canadian, and the miller holds the balance. Feeding rice and feeding sugar are both cheaper on the year.

Mark Lane Prices per Cwt. at the Beginning of Years Named.

	1914.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Wheat, English	7/3	13/-	12/6	12/3	11/-	9/9	9/9
,, Canadian	8/6	16/-	15/-	13/6	13/-	10/9	12/-
Flour, English	9/-	18/-	17/6	17/-	16/6	13/3	14/-
,, London	10/-	20/-	20/-	17/9	17/6	13/9	15/-
,, Canadian	10/6	21/-	21/-	18/6	17/9	14/3	16/-
Barley, maiting	9/-	20/-	16/-	18/-	16/-	14/-	14/-
,, feeding	6/-	12/6	10/-	9/6	10/6	9/3	8/-
Oats, English	7/-	10/-	10/6	9/-	10/-	10/-	8/-
,, Argentine	5/9	9/-	9/-	8/6	8/3	9/-	7/6
Maize, F.A.Q.	5/6	10/9	10/-	7/6	8/9	10/-	7/6
Rice, feeding	8/-	18/6	16/-	16/6	15/6	15/9	14/6
Peas, maples	12/-	17/6	17/-	18/6	16/-	17/-	15/-
Sugar, feeding	8/-	17/6	14/-	15/9	12/-	10/-	9/-
Potatoes, F.A.Q.	4/-	10/-	8/-	7/-	5/6	4/6	4/-
Bread, household	14/-	23/4	23/4	22/2	21/-	18/8	21/-

Potatoes alone have reverted to pre-war price, and they are exempt from substantial competition. The imports are of luxuries, interfering with profits in a few districts for two or three months. Oats are more affected by foreign competition than either wheat or barley, but the imports of oats have fallen to 353,000 tons. It is maize which undersells, says the trade, yet the price is only 6d. below oats to-day, and it was 1s. 6d. lower in 1914.

The following table shows the quantity and value of our imports of wheat, etc., in 1913, 1928 and 1929:—

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1928.	1929.
Wheat from—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£	£
Russia	5,011,100	...	...	1,984,964	...	...
Germany	447,800	...	...	162,038	...	...
Roumania	38,600	...	...	14,962	...	...
Turkey	41,000	...	...	11,261	...	...
United States	34,067,944	23,662,487	22,265,950	13,953,072	13,186,725	11,742,051
Chile	765,100	...	...	326,244	...	...
Argentine Rep.	14,756,200	24,399,294	45,378,474	6,137,518	13,838,330	22,906,500
Brit. East Ind.	18,766,100	1,546,232	141,169	7,998,552	940,650	78,134
Australia	10,126,658	10,233,345	12,797,402	4,426,629	6,151,952	6,840,517
New Zealand	56,200	...	...	23,210	...	...
Canada	21,787,900	41,005,492	27,192,852	8,803,949	22,083,030	14,162,371
Other countries	13,700	2,730,621	3,993,551	6,774	1,432,332	2,054,925
Total wheat	105,878,102	103,577,471	111,769,398	43,849,173	57,633,019	57,784,498
Wheat meal & flour:						
Germany	455,800	...	...	241,825	...	...
Belgium	32,100	...	...	17,144	...	...
France	301,700	108,169	577,593	137,803	59,981	286,646
Austria / Hungary	99,691	...	...	74,217	...	...
United States	6,157,644	1,913,686	2,536,495	3,247,423	1,419,113	1,850,850
Argentine Rep.	191,300	820,716	758,779	78,173	407,700	330,846
Australia	349,075	980,568	1,332,439	188,218	696,962	878,280
Canada	4,168,563	4,879,538	3,723,966	2,261 783	3,549,075	2,563,214
Other countries	222,280	224,164	774,174	101,185	133,099	423,597
Total	11,978,153	8,926,841	9,703,446	6,347,771	6,265,930	6,333,433
Barley	22,439,248	12,975,345	11,978,171	8,077,100	6,685,233	5,517,689
Oats	18,162,663	7,447,051	7,063,944	5,671,957	3,737,107	2,800,161
Peas	1,978,315	1,702,460	1,681,013	1,006,735	1,907,740	1,627,232
Beans	1,853,468	1,262,612	1,518,342	806,874	805,694	1,092,582
Total of grain and flour*	220,704,110	177,166,218	186,435,276	84,403,247	97,646,183	95,971,665

* Including other items not given above.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

The year as a whole has been favourable, crops of fruit generally were satisfactory, and only black currants, which were a good crop, returned seriously disappointing prices. Even tomatoes commanded better prices than in 1928. The steady position of fruit and vegetable growing is indicated by the acreage returns for 1929, which reveal an increase of 200 acres in "small fruit" set off by a decrease amounting to a similar area of orchards. Orchards in 1929 were returned at 248,000 acres, as against 239,477 acres in 1924. Most vegetables were grown on increased acreages, the most notable exceptions being sprouts and celery. Cabbage for human consumption was more widely grown in most counties. An increase in the potato acreage was accompanied by heavy production, 3,588,000 tons in England and Wales and 1,155,000 tons in Scotland. The result has been an over-supply in markets, and, in the absence of orderly marketing, a serious loss to growers. The progress in the canning of English fruit and vegetables which the last two years have shown suggests that this industry bids fair to become a considerable national asset.—*The Fruit Grower.*

The following table shows the area and yield of potatoes in the last three seasons for this country and some of the largest of the world's producing areas, as estimated by the International Institute of Agriculture:—

	Area (Thousand Acres).			Yield (Thousand Centals of 100 Lbs.).		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
England and Wales	514	489	519	68,432	78 699	75,040
Germany	6,918	7,039	7,004	827,841	909,836	848,879
Poland	5,949	6,189	†	700,148	609,811	530,875
Czechoslovakia	1,608	1,800	1,798	200,826	189,435	204 208
U.S.A.	3,476	3,825	3,370	241,645	278,690	212,400
Totals for 20 countries	22,802*	17,604	17,169	2,494,663*	1,917,234	1.832 779

* 22 Countries. † Not available.

LIVESTOCK.

By the courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture we are able to give the following advance table, showing the numbers of livestock in England and Wales halfway through 1927, 1928 and 1929 respectively, as compared with the average for the years 1918 to 1927. The figures are collected annually as on June 4th:—

	Average 1918-27.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Horses—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Horses used for agriculture (a)	791,401	746,208	732,510	706,765
Stallions being used for service	5,646	3,174	2,995	2,845
Unbroken horses:				
One year and above	186,952	103,711	93,291	89,274
Under one year	72,476	40,214	38,161	37,583
Other horses on agricultural holdings	217,245	183,914	171,503	162,806
Total of horses	1,273,720	1,077,221	1,038,460	999,273
Cattle—				
Cows and heifers in milk	1,962,505	2,096,387	2,066,483	2,054,073
Cows in calf, but not in milk	286,273	307,059	301,774	293,715
Heifers in calf	355,100	387,257	355,231	364,763
Bulls being used for service	1,044,900	88,405	82,112	80,271
Other cattle:				
Two years and above		971,470	925,980	918,878
One year and under two	1,159,768	1,226,498	1,174,956	1,143,640
Under one year	1,150,473	1,198,164	1,119,897	1,102,254
Total of cattle	5,959,019	6,275,240	6,026,433	5,957,594
Sheep—				
Ewes kept for breeding	5,973,711	6,962,142	6,836,712	6,717,258
Rams and ram lambs to be used for service	2,854,149	196,351	191,491	187,209
Other sheep:				
One year and above		2,625,282	2,379,277	2,266,762
Under one year	6,255,758	7,288,500	6,981,930	6,934,224
Total of sheep	15,083,618	17,072,275	16,389,610	16,105,453
Pigs—				
Sows kept for breeding	331,557	392,934	380,063	307,144
Boars being used for service	2,035,411	25,524	26,222	21,925
Other pigs		2,273,056	2,564,758	2,037,474
Total of pigs	2,366,968	2,691,514	2,971,043	2,366,543

(a) Figures for 1927 and 1928 include mares kept for breeding.

Pedigree Cattle.—The past year saw a great number of sales of pure-bred livestock, and a regrettable feature was the relinquishment of their herds by a number of breeders. The trade, however, has been well maintained, and numerous exports have been made, although individual prices have been lower. Australasia will now accept stock through the London Quarantine Station, but at the time of writing North America and Canada remain closed owing to the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Scotland. The Russian Government made many purchases of Herefords and shorthorns in the autumn, and the home demand, especially during the latter part of the year, has been well maintained. There was a steady trade in shorthorns; average prices at the various sales ranged from £30 to £87. Prices for British Friesians fell substantially, and at few sales was an average price reached of over £40. South Devons and Guernseys remained in good demand, and Jerseys experienced a better year. Prices for Welsh Black, Aberdeen-Angus and Highland cattle were lower. Several herds of Red Polls were dispersed during the year.

Horses.—The trade has differed little from that of 1928. Demand for the heavy draught horse has improved, as many firms are finding the horse-drawn vehicle more economical for town use than mechanical traction. Trade

in Shires has been slow, but at steady prices. The best price for a stallion was 800 guineas, but few others reached over 200 guineas. Prices of Clydesdales were slightly lower than in 1928, and those of Suffolk Punches scarcely changed. Hunters and polo ponies met with a good demand.

Pigs.—There was undoubtedly a slight improvement during the past year, but it is a question whether the small advantage is of much benefit to the breeder. Large whites have maintained their popularity, and many first-class animals have been exported. The demand generally from overseas for other old-established breeds has been good, a large consignment of Berkshires being sent to Australia in the autumn. A large number of public sales have taken place, but high prices have been few and far between. Trade in large whites and middle whites has been active and prices better than in 1928, and there has been some improvement in the prices of large blacks. There have been few sales of Berkshires.

Sheep.—The trade in pure-bred sheep showed a considerable improvement on that of 1928. At the various sales, prices were maintained at a satisfactory level, and though in the majority of breeds fancy prices were not reached, a very steady demand was experienced. There has been a great demand, both from North America and Canada, for good stud stock, and had it not been for the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease near Glasgow last September, a record number of sheep would have been sent across the Atlantic. The Kent and Romney Marsh sale at Ashford was the outstanding event of the year, over two hundred head being purchased, many at very high prices, for export to South America. There has been little change in the demand for Oxford Downs. Suffolks, Ryelands, Leicesters, Romney Marsh, Dartmoor, Black-faced Mountain and Cheviots all experienced a satisfactory season, and demand from the Soviet Government and from South America caused an advance in the price of Lincolns. Southdown, Wensleydales and Exmoor Horn commanded rather lower prices than in 1928.—*Mr Harry Brown in "The Farmers' Red Book."*

Fat Stock.—Prices of fat cattle varied less than in 1928. Over the year 1929 the average for second quality cattle was 1s. 6d. per live cwt. less than in the previous year, and the index was five points lower at 33 per cent. above the pre-war level. Fat sheep averaged about ½d. per lb. less than in 1928, and the index fell ten points to 57. In both cases the net decline was due to the fact that prices rose less in spring and early summer than they had in 1928. During the last quarter of 1929 prices were higher than in the corresponding period of the preceding year. Bacon and pork pig prices advanced sharply in the first five months, then fell about 1s. per stone. Prices of pork pigs more than recovered their loss in the autumn, and averaged 13s. 6d. per stone (second quality) in December. Bacon pig prices did not rise again until November and December, and remained below spring level. The following table, based on figures in the *Agricultural Market Report*, shows the percentage increase in prices, as compared with the average, 1911-13:—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Fat Cattle	51	53	51	41	27	38	33
Fat Sheep	87	87	83	57	50	67	57
Pigs, Baconers	57	33	63	80	44	35	60
Pigs, Porkers	71	39	64	84	55	38	65

POULTRY.

The following information is obtained from an annual review by Dr. Edward Brown, of the National Poultry Council:—

The severe atmospheric conditions which prevailed in the earlier months of 1929 delayed hatching and rearing generally, but the gain from postponement of hatching to the natural period probably balanced the loss. Otherwise the year was one of the best which breeders and producers have experienced. Prices and profits have been excellent. Egg farming on specialist lines, as distinct from farm poultry keeping, is no longer a doubtful proposition. The census taken on June 4, 1929, records that there was an increase of adult fowls of 5,207,459 or 24.4 per cent., as compared with 1924; of geese of 81,362 or 15.2 per cent.; and of turkeys of 58,366 or 9.1 per cent. These returns only apply to farms of an acre and upwards. If smaller holdings of all grades were included the increase of fowls would be much greater. Increased production has been accompanied by some enhancement of consumption of home supplies as a result of grading and marketing regulations, the establishment of packing stations to deal with British eggs, and the marking of imported eggs. Marking has not yielded all that its advocates hoped, owing to the fact that

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deficiencies in home supplies have been made more manifest. Had it not been that grading and the national mark were introduced at about the same time the effect might have been disastrous. With the advance of poultry husbandry on specialist lines laying trials are steadily advancing in importance and number, and the dissemination of pedigree stock is doing much to promote greater success. Attention must, however, be given to the decrease in size of body and of eggs as a result of enhanced fecundity. The chief complaint on the part of traders is the small size of British eggs as compared with those imported. Imports of eggs in shell at 24,961,808 great hundreds in 1929 were 5.6 per cent. less than in 1928. Heavy decreases in imports from France, Italy, Egypt, Russia, the United States and Canada were not balanced by the substantial growth in imports from China, Australia and the Netherlands, and the relatively smaller increase in those from Denmark and Belgium. Empire supplies, except those from the Irish Free State, remain a very small proportion of the total. The declared value of this total at £17,855,625 exceeded that of the preceding year by £79,411. Imports of dried and liquid eggs were as follows:—

	Quantities. Cwts.	Values. £	Per cwt. s.	d.
1927	640,028	3,066,344	95	9
1928	583,680	2,718,792	95	4
1929	680,086	3,103,403	92	6

Nearly 99 per cent. came from China, including Hong Kong.

Poultry Imports and Exports.

The imports of live and dead poultry into Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1929 were:—

Country.	Quantities. No.	Values. £
Alive—		
Irish Free State	1,072,820	208,551
Other countries	131,905	14,163
Total alive	1,204,725	222,714
Dead—	Cwts.	£
Latvia	43,504	193,466
France	65,145	423,595
Austria	34,843	170,465
Hungary	44,428	211,335
U.S. America	9,742	72,907
Irish Free State	126,882	746,141
Other countries	229,666	1,141,808
Total dead	554,210	2,959,717
Less re-exports	20,623	121,308
Net total dead	533,587	2,838,409
Gross total poultry		£3,061,123

There was an increase in 1929 over 1928 of quantities by 64,773 cwts. or 15.9 per cent., and in total values of £271,288 or 9.5 per cent.

Estimates based upon Census returns and average values of eggs and poultry for 1929 are:—

	£
Estimated production in England and Wales	24,709,600
Estimated production in Scotland	3,286,000
Estimated production in Northern Ireland	3,869,000
Total production in Britain and Northern Ireland	31,864,600
Imports of eggs and poultry, inclusive of dried and liquid eggs, less re-exports	23,994,335
Total wholesale consumption	55,858,935

The corresponding estimates for 1928 were:—Production, £31,436,995; retained imports, £23,249,342; consumption, £54,686,337.

FISH.

Taking into consideration the fact that more firms than ever are handling their supplies outside the market proper, the figures of which are not included in the official list, it may be estimated that Billingsgate has dealt with a greater bulk of fish of home and foreign origin this year than any previous year in its existence. The official figures, giving the total weight of fish handled at Billingsgate up to the end of November show the arrival of 174,804 tons, of which 20,317 tons arrived by water. The figures for the corresponding period of 1928 were 171,148 tons and 21,311 tons respectively. Working on the average prevailing during the first two weeks of this month, the grand total for the year should not fall far short of 200,000 tons. Supplies of prime fish have fallen compared with those of the previous year. Other classes of fish have been well in evidence, but in both grades, home-caught fish have shown a considerable decline. Offal grades have met a much better market. Foreign supplies have been the mainstay of the trade. Danish fish has been the greatest feature of this section.

Supplies of fresh salmon have shown a slight decline, while values generally have also fallen. The demand for Scotch, English and Irish salmon has been extremely good, and there has been an enormous increase in the frozen salmon trade. Grimsby has had a record year in the total landings of 3¾ million cwts., valued at £4¾ million. Hull has added thirty new trawlers to its fleet, and has made progress in other directions during the year. All the principal ports except Aberdeen have done a very satisfactory year's business.—*Fish Trades Gazette.*

The Board of Trade returns of the landings of sea fish of British taking in 1928 and 1929 include the following:—

Twelve Months ended December 31st.

Kinds of Fish (England and Wales).	Quantity. 1928.	Quantity. 1929.	Value. 1928.	Value. 1929.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
Cod	2,706,712	3,052,400	2,631,681	2,880,281
Haddock	1,944,994	2,059,041	2,065,952	2,308,648
Hake	741,173	711,000	1,583,717	1,642,978
Halibut	125,034	163,923	446,451	540,754
Lemon sole	70,047	74,224	249,340	244,705
Ling	172,218	169,971	126,463	127,660
Plaice	595,743	634,963	1,373,960	1,489,908
Skate and ray	424,724	446,317	573,238	614,729
Sole	69,607	83,327	551,248	605,651
Turbot	63,643	72,556	301,282	324,963
Whiting	306,342	353,995	248,508	272,978
Herring	4,155,826	4,210,385	1,709,438	1,877,007
Mackerel	137,477	130,902	117,804	127,274
Total wet fish*	13,443,626	14,287,099	13,183,830	14,443,992
Oysters.....hundreds	80,577	73,772	87,094	59,647
Total shell fish*	...	...	429,312	378,195
Total value†	...	...	13,613,142	14,822,187
Scotland: Wet fish	6,603,770	6,774,390	4,658,100	4,672,494
Great Britain: Wet fish	20,047,396	21,061,489	17,841,930	19,116,486
Great Britain: Total imports of fresh fish	3,438,435	3,666,370	4,960,635	4,930,315

* Including other items not given above. † Fish of all kinds.

II.—COLONIAL AND FOREIGN PRODUCE.

TEA.

The course of the market during the year has been almost consistently downwards except for fine tea. In January the market price of common tea was 1s. 2d., but very soon the price of this quality began to fall, until it reached about 8d. per lb. in November, since when there has been some slight recovery. The most noticeable feature of the market, however, has been a very marked difference in price between good tea and low tea, with the poorest demand of all for the lower grades of medium, which have now become merged with the common grades.

Growing conditions have been universally favourable, and the world's production for the year will show an increase of 54 million lbs., India (North and South) accounting for 34 millions, Ceylon 15 millions and the Netherland East Indies 5 millions. But the weakest feature is the disappointing demand from out markets, direct shipments from Calcutta showing a fall of 7 millions during the year; Colombo 1½ millions and Java and Sumatra 10 millions. The following tables give the exports from India:—

Exports from N. India to all Countries.
April 1st to December 30th.

	Season 1928-9. Lbs.	Season 1929-30. Lbs.
U.K. (Calcutta and Chittagong)	229,743,955	247,260,265
All other places	47,195,834	44,713,188
Total (lbs.)	276,939,789	291,973,453
Bombay by Rail	4,576,722	3,913,630
Bombay by Sea	3,381,653	5,702,080
Indian Ports	947,039	1,322,639
Burma	2,387,196	2,392,757
Total (lbs.)	288,232,399	305,304,559
From Southern India:—		
United Kingdom	30,833,676	33,331,516
Colombo	2,476,333	2,950,652
All other places	497,426	629,929
Total (lbs.)	33,807,435	36,912,097

As is to be expected with rapid growth, the quality of the crop has again been most disappointing.

The following table gives the exports from Ceylon from January 1st to November 30th:—

	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
United Kingdom	129,140,744	143,744,186
Continent	7,781,307	6,617,032
America	23,445,086	23,491,670
Australia	27,423,299	29,661,221
China	2,064,556	392,012
All other Countries	27,830,503	26,225,389
Total (lbs.)	217,685,495	230,131,510

Ceylon is in a stronger position than the other growing countries owing to the special character of the produce. There have been signs, however, that quality has been sacrificed to quantity by some concerns. Within the British

Empire, tea is also grown in Nyassaland, Kenya and quite lately planting has started in Tanganyika. Tea is also being planted, to a small extent, in Malaya and Burma.

The following tables give exports from the Netherlands East Indies from January 1st to November 30th:—

From Java:

	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
Holland	25,943,691	22,808,095
Great Britain	50,276,081	60,036,867
Australia	20,663,520	17,362,396
U.S.A.	4,224,743	4,682,176
Canada	401,977	238,641
Singapore	623,229	696,502
British India	4,673,533	3,801,882
British South Africa	725,727	516,054
South America	1,960,831	1,180,753
China	1,529,592	593,703
Russia	1,347,243	2,289,208
Mesopotamia	2,976,255	2,984,333
Continent	699,969	531,117
Other Ports	4,586,971	4,310,341
Total (in lbs.)	120,633,362	122,032,068

From Sumatra:

	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
Holland	7,593,969	7,607,026
Great Britain	7,454,335	11,951,489
U.S.A.	326,445	64,638
Australia	1,523,390	440,462
Other Ports	405,346	372,680
Total (in lbs.)	17,303,485	20,436,295

The abolition of the Empire preference on tea has attracted rather more Java and Sumatra tea to London, and unfortunately a great deal of it of very inferior quality. Market prices must be below cost, so that we may reasonably expect these shipments to ease considerably.

The following tables give the exports of China tea—black and green—from the commencement of the season:—

From Shanghai to November 16th:—

	1928. Black Lbs.	1928. Green Lbs.	1929. Black Lbs.	1929. Green Lbs.
Great Britain	4,469,981	220,260	4,003,177	316,397
Continent	1,415,959	3,153,798	1,233,093	1,907,044
Bombay	922,120	2,745,463	1,262,260	1,624,505
Central Asia	14,666	34,395	52,266	20,778
N. African Ports	1,865,056	10,044,505	1,674,520	13,427,657
S. African Ports	55,733	Nil	33,732	Nil
U.S.A.	1,554,132	3,902,675	814,779	3,020,914
Canada	136,398	29,065	118,263	101,064
Russia	3,809,782	3,770,631	5,778,921	1,705,177
Australia	50,799	Nil	58,265	Nil
Total (lbs.)	14,294,626	23,900,792	15,029,276	22,123,536
Total—Black and Green	38,195,418		37,152,812	

Exports from Foochow to November 16th:—

	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
London	721,262	1,212,570
France	129,427	384,530
Germany	522,844	793,832
Holland	688,888	815,525
Russia	Nil	1,075,828
U.S.A. and Canada	129,111	37,535
Australia and N. Zealand	118,850	256,450
S. Africa	3,004	6,745
S. America	1,304	66,090
Italy	70,544	106,520
Other Countries	109,672	95,475
China Coastwise	351,986	Nil
Total (lbs.)	2,846,892	4,851,100
To all Countries—		
Shanghai, Black and Green	38,195,418	37,152,812
Foochow	2,846,892	4,851,100
Total (lbs.)	41,042,310	42,003,912

Exports from Formosa to November 30th:—

	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
U.S.A.	7,861,297	6,173,949
London	1,085,460	1,206,282
Various	208,561	164,365
Total	9,155,318	7,544,596

Owing to the hostilities between Russia and China, and the consequent cessation of Russian buying, the season has been very unsatisfactory. Prices opened on a high level, but subsequently slumped heavily, and in realising holders made heavy losses.—*Messrs. Brooke, Bond and Company.*

The Board of Trade figures for the United Kingdom for 1913, 1928 and 1929 are as follows:—

Imports—	1913. Lbs.	1928. Lbs.	1929. Lbs.
British India	203,459,657	288,819,699	307,629,746
Ceylon	110,936,427	139,280,645	153,167,489
China (including Hong Kong and Macao)	16,272,548	6,580,893	9,209,535
Java, Sumatra, and other Dutch possessions in the Indian Seas, and Netherlands	32,052,717	71,221,607	85,824,044
Other countries	2,322,115	2,954,015	4,889,521
Total imports	365,043,464	508,856,859	560,720,335
Stocks of all kinds at December 31st..	138,005,000	240,738,000	...
Re-exports total	57,555 651	90,025,762	95,061,556

COFFEE.

The sudden collapse in the price of Brazilian coffee in the closing months of last year has materially changed the outlook for the coffee industry throughout the world. Under the defence scheme the attempt is made, not to restrict the

SCOTTISH AMICABLE
LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY
Founded 1826.

President:
The Right Hon. LORD STAMFORDHAM, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.

AN OLD MUTUAL OFFICE
WITH
A GREAT BONUS RECORD

At the latest Division of Profits on 31st December, 1925, the Bonus Additions to ordinary participating Policies ranged from
£2 to £5 13s. per cent. per annum
on the original sums assured.

Interim Bonus increased from 1st January, 1929, to £2 2s.% compound.

EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RATES FOR "NON-PROFIT" ASSURANCES.

Head Office:
35, ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW.
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OVER 10% PER ANNUM

This is the return to a man aged 62 who takes out an Annuity with

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ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Assets of over £36,000,000, under strict Government supervision, ensure the prompt and regular payment of each annuity, which is, humanly speaking, equivalent to a Government pension.

NO RISK. —
— NO TROUBLE. —
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OTHER AGES IN PROPORTION.

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output of Brazilian coffee, but to regulate the flow to the markets strictly in accordance with the world's needs. In the past the funds needed for financing the surplus have been obtained by means of foreign loans. Much of this money has become locked up in the large unsold stocks in Brazil, and, with the big 1929-30 crop, and the difficulty of raising further adequate foreign loans, the problem of finance became acute in the autumn of last year and raised doubts as to the ability of Brazil to maintain control of the situation. These developments had a serious effect on the market, and prices, which had been slowly weakening since March, declined sharply in October and November, and by the end of the year had reached the lowest level recorded for nearly six years. In the 12 months, values were reduced by about half, the price of Rio No. 7 coffee in Brazil on December 31st last being 14$975 per 10 kilos., against 28$875 at the beginning of the year. The outlook remains very uncertain, and much will depend on the future policy of the Defence Institute, which is stated to be considering a scheme for the gradual liquidation of the large stocks in the interior of Brazil. According to current statistics, the world's consumption of coffee in 1929 was slightly less than in 1928, the total being about 22,000,000 bags.

Some reduction of the volume of trade in coffee in this country last year was indicated in the Board of Trade returns. The following are the figures for the past three years:—

	1927. Cwts.	1928. Cwts.	1929. Cwts.
Imports	681,669	656,270	574,385
Re-exports	275,507	324,097	245,832
Home consumption	333,861	325,205	321,828
Stocks in bond	181,000	179,000	191,000

—*Times Annual Commercial Review.*

COCOA.

During recent years the world's supply of cocoa has increased in a remarkable degree, and, although the consumption of cocoa has shown healthy expansion, it has not generally kept pace with the production, so that prices have tended to become cheaper. In 1928 there was a rather sharp drop in values, but in the past year market conditions showed some improvement, and prices moved within narrower limits. The following table shows spot quotations in London:—

	African West Coast.	Trinidad good to fine.	Ceylon good to sup.
December 31, 1925	43/0 to 45/0	66/0 to 73/0	90/0 to 100/0
December 31, 1926	70/0 to 71/0	78/0 to 80/0	80/0 to 87/0
December 31, 1927	62/0 to 65/0	74/0 to 77/0	85/0 to 93/0
December 31, 1928	48/0 to 52/0	61/0 to 65/0	95/0 to 114/0
March 31, 1329	49/0 to 52/0	65/0 to 70/0	90/0 to 110/0
June 30, 1929	46/0 to 50/0	62/0 to 63/0	80/0 to 90/0
September 30, 1929	46/6 to 49/0	62/0 to 65/0	85/0 to 90/0
December 31, 1929	43/0 to 48/0	62/0 to 65/0	85/0 to 96/0

The drop in prices of Ceylon cocoa last year represents a return to normal production, prices having risen in the preceding year owing to a short crop. The world production of cocoa in 1929 is estimated at about 527,000 tons, against 513,000 tons in 1928. Of the 1929 total the Gold Coast provided about 235,000 tons, against 220,000 tons in the preceding year; Nigeria, 55,000 tons, against 50,000 tons; Trinidad, 26,000 tons (about the same quantity as in the preceding year); and Bahia, 62,000 tons, against 72,000 tons. World consumption in the past year is estimated to have increased by about 50,000 tons compared with 1928, the total being placed at 500,000 tons. The greater part of the increase was due to expansion in the United States, which is estimated to have absorbed 200,000 tons, against 164,000 tons in 1928. Some increase in consumption was recorded in the United Kingdom, as will be gathered from the following figures from the Board of Trade returns:—

Raw Cocoa.	1926. Tons.	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Imports	59,461	64,057	63,329	77,406
Home consumption	56,409	55,847	55,566	57,496
Re-exports	9,314	4,490	7,224	10,685
Stocks in bond on December 31, 1929	17,950	20,950	21,600	31,750

An interesting development during 1929 was the formation of the London Cocoa Trade Association, the chief objects of which are to encourage the consumption of cocoa and to co-operate with scientific effort to improve the quality of cocoa. It also proposes to establish uniformity in regard to contracts and to create machinery for arbitration and the settlement of disputes.—*Times Annual Commercial Review.*

The Board of Trade returns for 1913, 1928 and 1929 are as follows:—

IMPORTS, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS.

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1928.	1929.
Raw cocoa—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£	£
Imports	669,639	1,266,594	1,548,130	2,282,573	3,865,616	3,822,032
Home consumption	543,227	1,111,325	1,149,932	...	...	...
Re-exports	135,560	144,484	213,706	475,013	454,964	525,774
Stocks	198,000	432,000	635,000	...	...	...
Cocoa or chocolate prepared—						
Imports	...	207,137	203,417	...	1,463,867	1,411,146
Re-exports	...	3,126	1,535	...	15,843	10,119
British exports	...	171,427	185,775	...	1,091,044	1,136,240

SUGAR.

Prices at the beginning of 1929 were at such low levels that it seemed unlikely that a further prolonged decline would continue, say Messrs Wessels, Kulenkampff and Company. In January, prices for the spot month ranged from 1.99 to 2.05. A fair recovery occurred in February-March, due to scarcity of supplies and greater interest by refiners. The general trade and operators were also buyers in view of a prospective tariff increase before Congress, and under these influences prices advanced to 2.26. As it became evident that Cuban production would exceed 51 million tons, offerings were free, and prices again began to decline. May liquidation brought prices down to 1.65 by June 11. July futures were selling at 1.59. Renewed tariff activity caused a complete change in the sentiment, and a sharp recovery followed, aided by rumours of the establishment of a Single Seller in Cuba. This organisation was finally authorised by a decree of July 26th. Strong interests, including a Cuban Consortum, took delivery of over 20,000 tons in tenders during September liquidation, as a consequence of which prices advanced to 2.31 for September and 2.35 for December, the highest prices of the year. With further postponement of the tariff issue at Washington, prices from this point declined gradually, and under December liquidation went down to 1.83. The Cuban market Single Seller Agency has maintained a firm attitude, and was able to dispose of the larger part of the 400,000 tons of old crop under its control at full prices.

The raw sugar market followed the trend of the futures market. The lowest price for spot sugar was recorded on June 11th at 1.6875c. c. and f., equal to 3.46c. duty paid. In the subsequent recovery raw sugar sold up to 2.3125c., or 4.08c. duty paid, at various times during July-October. Subsequently, offers of Cuban sugars not under the control of the Single Seller and duty free brought prices down again in November to 3.71c. duty paid, equal to 1,937.5c. c. and f. On December 31st last, sales were made at 3.80 to 3.83 for duty-free sugar, parity of 2 1/32 to 2 1/16c. c. and f. New York.

Consumption in the United States rose from 5,542,636 tons refined value in 1928 to a record level of 5,810,980 tons in 1929. World consumption, in thousands of tons raw value was estimated at 26,259 in 1928-29, against 25,548 in the previous year. The total was composed of: United States, 6,113; Europe, 7,053, and non-statistical countries, 13,093.

Licht's latest estimates of European crops are as follows:—

	1927-28. Tons.	1928-29. Tons.	1929-30. Tons.
Germany	1,664,412	1,851,263	1,965,000
Czechoslovakia	1,239,155	1,042,948	1,025,000
Austria	110,004	107,322	120,000
Hungary	186,701	220,062	250,000
France	863,206	903,075	*910,000
Belgium	273,113	279,290	255,000
Holland	259,964	319,937	†270,000
Denmark	142,800	170,000	135,000
Sweden	145,335	160,860	121,000
Poland	566,961	756,889	910,000
Italy	284,276	367,334	445,000
Spain	236,162	262,000	225,000
Jugo-Slavia	83,600	129,000	132,000
Roumania	139,522	130,000	82,000
United Kingdom	217,233	222,590	310,000
Russia	1,501,986	1,446,000	1,075,000
Other countries	111,566	98,757	109,000
Grand total, Europe	8,025,996	8,467,327	8,339,000

* Including 10,000 tons of sugar from Dutch beets.
† Excluding 10,000 tons of sugar from beets exported to France.

Visible supplies at December 31, 1929, were 5,473,000 tons, as compared with 4,349,000 tons a year before. According to Messrs C. Czarnikow, Ltd., the preliminary result shows the cane crop of 1928-29 at 19,051,000 tons raw value and the beet crop at 9,593,000 metric tons, against 17,470,000 and 9,155,000 metric tons in the preceding season. The following figures, taken from the Board of Trade returns, show imports of unrefined sugar into the United Kingdom during the last three years:—

IMPORTS OF UNREFINED SUGAR.
(In thousand tons.)

From	1927.	1928.	1929.
Cuba	7,123	14,088	13,633
San Domingo	2,755	4,179	3,949
Java	205	162	3,377
Peru	2,670	2,006	2,516
Other foreign countries	2,535	2,695	3,428
South Africa	878	1,430	1,928
Mauritius	3,851	3,681	5,444
Australia	1,667	3,029	4,464
British West Indies, etc.	1,846	2,768	1,838
Other British Countries	8	145	528
Total	23,538	34,183	41,105

Exports of refined sugar, including candy, were 1,693,032 tons in 1927; 1,495,338 in 1928; and 3,333,144 tons, valued at £2,745,719, in 1929.

FROZEN MEAT TRADE.

The following table, showing the quantity of beef, mutton and lamb imports over the past three years and the total value of meat imports, has been compiled from the Board of Trade returns:—

Beef—	1927. Cwts.	1928. Cwts.	1929. Cwts.
Fresh—			
From Denmark	...	...	...
,, Other countries	23,849	84,325	45,331
Total	23,849	84,325	45,331
Chilled—			
From Uruguay	336,831	589,659	795,465
,, Argentine Republic	9,986,205	8,644,551	8,160,355
,, Other countries	81,939	330,310	348,603
Total	10,404,975	9,564,520	9,304,423
Frozen—			
From United States of America	78,020	40,764	36,015
,, Uruguay	248,281	186,988	151,752
,, Argentine Republic	1,562,208	768,512	899,969
,, Australia	642,743	1,011,217	926,569
,, New Zealand	324,260	456,163	125,271
,, Other countries	132,291	144,362	226,415
Total	2,987,803	2,608,006	2,365,991
Salted—			
From United States of America	5,058	2,784	1,684
,, Other countries	3,255	2,815	4,715
Total	8,313	5,599	6,399
Tinned, canned, &c. (including Tongues), and extracts and essences, &c.	1,039,512	1,061,127	944,668
Total of beef	14,464,452	13,323,577	12,666,812

Mutton and lamb—	1927. Cwts	1928. Cwts.	1929. Cwts.
Fresh—			
From Netherlands	...	...	...
,, Other countries	13,542	21,725	23,017
Total	13,542	21,725	23,017
Frozen—			
From Uruguay	317,252	403,396	366,605
,, Argentine Republic	1,536,483	1,511,468	1,545,162
,, Australia	624,817	546,527	593,490
,, New Zealand	2,726,972	2,794,805	2,746,087
,, Other countries	303,493	365,571	379,618
Total	5,509,017	5,621,767	5,630,962
Total of mutton and lamb, fresh and frozen	5,522,559	5,643,492	5,653,979
Tinned or canned (including tongues)	48,780	20,626	31,501
Other descriptions (tongues, hearts, livers, kidneys, &c.)	60,708	70,957	81,666
Total of mutton and lamb	5,632,047	5,735,075	5,767,146
	£	£	£
Total value of meat*	103,464,070	109,264,102	113,598,137

* Including other items not given above.

TOBACCO.

The following information is extracted from the *Tobacco Trade Review*:—The schemes being put into operation to prevent price-cutting in tobacco and cigarettes are having their effect, and cutters' shops are having increasing difficulty in obtaining supplies. The Budget estimate of 141 million lbs. clearances was slightly exceeded in 1928-29, but consumption is believed to have been about 141 million lbs. More factories changed from working in bond to paying duty on the raw material and receiving drawback on their exports of finished goods. Net receipts were £213,000 short of the estimate, partly owing to larger clearances of Empire tobacco at the preferential rate. The quantity of Empire unmanufactured tobacco consumed in 1928-29 was 23.6 million lbs., or nearly 17 per cent. of the total. The following tables, compiled from the Board

COMPOUND BONUSES AGAIN INCREASED

Preliminary investigations indicate that the results of the Valuation now in progress should justify a further increase in the rates of Compound Bonuses.

The anticipated annual rates per £100 assured range from
£2. 1. 0 to £2. 5. 0
according to class, on recent Policies, to
£4. 12. 0 to £6. 0. 0
on Policies of long duration.

UNITED KINGDOM PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
196, Strand, London, W.C.2

Chairman: The Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman.

Funds exceed - - - £18,000,000.

SECURITY FIRST

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Total Funds - £39,764,766.

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED.

HEAD OFFICES:
LIVERPOOL NORTH JOHN ST. LONDON LOMBARD ST.

of Trade Returns, show our overseas trade in tobacco during the last three years:—

	Quantities.			Value.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
IMPORTS—	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	£	£	£
Unmanufactured tobacco: From United States of America ...	177,441,802	171,838,580	205,279,535	14,168,251	13,052,874	14,960,816
From Nyasaland Protectorate	13,781,373	12,181,826	10,679,290	1,078,819	837,932	694,599
From British India	8,432,684	10,338,322	9,140,396	370,092	405,284	332,281
From Other Countries ...	22,609,464	23,425,988	14,803,553	2,216,764	1,928,231	1,200,994
Total { Imports Entered for home c'ns'mption ...	222,265,323	217,785,216	239,902,774	17,833,926	16,224,328	17,188,690
	166,994,343	183,344,060	198,882,078	...	...	...
Manufactured tobacco: Imports	1,380,802	1,392,074	1,455,482	1,344,547	1,318,669	1,311,251
Entered for home consumption ...	858,048	855,853	827,508	...	...	...
RE-EXPORTS— Unmanufactured	9,727,488	10,789,509	9,401,330	793,776	840,191	684,153
Manufactured	66,774	90,500	124,293	52,437	64,288	73,328
Exports, total...	36,152,772	39,592,589	47,616,496	8,404,526	9,363,537	9,556,327

RUBBER.

The following is extracted from the *Annual Review of the Rubber Market* published by Messrs Figgis and Company:—

SHIPMENTS OF PLANTATION RUBBER from CEYLON, INDIA, BURMAH, MALAYA, SUMATRA, BORNEO, and JAVA, ETC.

Exported from—	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Ceylon	37,350	46,000	59,000	56,000	58,000	80,500
Malaya, &c. (inc. re-exports).....	259,750	319,000	391,000	371,000	409,000	577,000
Java (direct shipments)	38,500	45,000	50,000	53,000	57,000	63,500*
Sumatra (East Coast (direct shipments))	41,000	44,000	55,000	59,000	60,000	66,000*
Other N.E.I. Ports	...	6,000	8,000	10,000	23,000	27,500*
India, Burmah and Fr. Indo - China (direct shipments).....	11,000	17,000	18,000	18,000	19,000	18,500*
Total	387,600	477,000	581,000	567,000	626,000	833,000†

* December shipments estimated.
† Excluding about 2,500 tons of rubber shipped in latex form.

All estimates, including our own, of production and consumption during 1929 have been so greatly exceeded that they have been worse than useless. Although Malaya had been under restriction, more or less, for seven years no one expected that the trees could increase their yield of latex to such an extent and continue to do so for such a long period. Some estates in Malaya have given as much as 550 to 600 lbs. per acre, and no one can tell how long this will continue. The native area in Malaya has also greatly increased its output, and there is no doubt that the natives are tapping heavily. Shipments from British Malaya are about 455,000 tons; this makes the production 36 per cent. above the last reduced standard production figure of 320,000 tons. European estates have not increased in so great a proportion as the native holdings, where the low price has no doubt stimulated heavy tapping. The Netherlands East Indies have not increased their output to any considerable extent. The total shipments of rubber from all parts are about 860,000 tons, including 25,000 tons wild rubber. Our estimate for 1929 production at the beginning of the year was 700,000 tons, so that, subtracting the surplus of 30,000 tons from 860,000 tons, we have a production of 830,000 tons, which is 130,000 tons greater than our estimate.

Consumption has shown almost as great an expansion. That of the United States has increased from 441,000 tons in 1928 to 470,000 tons. After the tremendous increase of 70,000 tons in 1928 this year's excess of 30,000 tons is most gratifying. That of the rest of the world has increased from 235,000 tons in 1928 to 325,000 tons, a considerably larger percentage. No doubt manufacturers allowed their stocks to fall to a low level a year ago, but the expansion has been most marked, particularly in France and Japan. Many countries so far apart as South Europe and Manchuria have taken to the use of rubber-soled footwear to a very large extent. The total consumption has reached 795,000 tons, which is 120,000 tons more than was consumed in 1928. As will be seen, this leaves us with an excess of rubber during the year of 65,000 tons, the shipments being 860,000 tons, which include the 30,000 tons surplus shipped this year. The heavy quantities "afloat" at the end of 1928 have been taken into the world's stocks. At the end of 1929 stocks had increased here from 22,606 to 73,235 tons; in America they are 105,138 tons, about the same as at the beginning of 1928, but 40,000 tons more than at the end of that year; dealers' stocks in Penang and Singapore are 33,157 tons, as against 32,905 tons at the end of 1928. Stocks here and in the United States together are rather more than 2½ months' normal consumption.

The following estimate of production in 1930 is based on a price of 8d. for standard rubber:—

Malaya	435,000 tons.
Ceylon	75,000 ,,
Dutch	265,000 ,,
Rest	46,000 ,,
Wild	25,000 ,,
	846,000 tons.

We estimate the consumption of the principal countries as follows:—

	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.	1930. Tons.
America	371,000	441,000	470,000	450,000
England.....	45,000	48,400	68,000	...
France	36,000	38,000	60,000	...
Germany	39,000	39,000	50,000	...
Belgium	6,500	8,000	10,000	...
Canada.....	27,000	31,000	35,000	...
Japan.....	19,000	26,000	34,000	...
Russia	12,000	7,000	10,000	...
Australia	10,000	9,000	15,000	...
Italy	11,300	12,000	16,000	...
World	586,000	675,000	795,000	830,000

There was a general "bull" movement in the early part of the year, brought about by the large consumption in the United States. Speculators and some dealers bought largely and lost money, unless they took the opportunity of selling during the advance in the spring. At the opening of the year the price was 8 7/16d. for spot standard, advancing to 11¼d. by the end of January, and to 1s. 0⅜d. in March, which was the highest price of the year. The market declined in April to 9⅝d., fluctuating up to 11⅛d. in May, but generally remained quiet round about 10d. and 11d. up to the end of September. For October there was a slight rally on the news of the Dutch growers' meeting to consider a scheme for restriction or central selling, but the market quickly fell away when it was evident that nothing could be done, and the price declined to 7¾d. on November 12th, the lowest for the year and the lowest price since 1922, when it touched 6¾d. During a good part of the year there has been some premium for thin pale crepe, and sole crepe has met a much better demand. The old stocks were worked off by the middle of the year, and fine quality has sold steadily round about 1s. 3d. and 1s. 4d. The shipments have probably increased by 2,000 tons, and are now about 8,000 tons, which are being consumed. The receipts in Para have again fallen off, and show a decrease of about 2,000 tons as compared with 1928. The price of Para rubber has fallen in sympathy with plantation, and there has only been a very small market business, with no speculative interest. We close with the price of hard cure fine and soft cure quoted at 8d. per lb., and caucho ball 4½d. per lb. There have been practically no new imports of other wild rubbers, and there is very little demand for them even at the low prices.

UNITED KINGDOM STATISTICS, 1929.

	Plantation—London and Liverpool. Imports. Tons.	Deliveries. Tons.	Stock. Tons.
January	12,595	6,214	28,987
February	7,636	7,344	29,279
March.....	9,802	7,215	31,866
April	10,233	6,190	35,909
May.....	7,436	7,628	35,717
June	7,962	8,255	35,424
July	7,238	8,004	34,658
August	15,743	7,396	43,005
September	16,361	7,296	52,070
October.....	17,453	8,065	61,458
November	15,707	7,204	69,961
December	8,899	5,625	63,235
Totals.....	137,065	86,436	...

THE OIL INDUSTRY.

Last year's surplus was the most serious since the slump of 1921-1923. Such a record would have broken the back of most industries, but the oil industry has been saved by the most remarkable progressive annual increase in the consumption of oil products. No doubt the continual expectation that demand will catch up with supply has been responsible for the excess of zeal on the part of the producers. The increase in stocks since 1919 takes on an alarming appearance, but, reckoned in terms of months' supply, the stocks position is no worse than it was seven years ago. The table which follows of the United States' production and imports, as compared with consumption and exports (accounting for about 75 per cent. of the world's oil trade),

gives the statistical record of the oil industry year by year since 1919:—

SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF ALL OILS (Figures of American Petroleum Institute). (In thousands of U.S. Barrels.)

	U.S. Production and Imports.	U.S. Consumption and Exports.	Original % Increase in Consumption.	Excess of Supply.	Stocks at end of Year.	Stocks in terms of Months' Supply.
1919 ...	432,528	425,761	...	6,767	192,046	5·41
1920 ...	551,723	522,309	22·67	29,414	221,460	5·09
1921 ...	600,959	519,301	...	81,658	285,277	6·59
1922 ...	693,478	593,338	14·26	100,140	385,418	7·79
1923 ...	832,015	730,228	23·07	101,787	472,858	7·77
1924 ...	808,474	781,852	7·07	26,620	511,599	7·85
1925 ...	841,880	811,786	3·83	30,094	541,693	8·01
1926 ...	852,158	868,776	7·02	16,618*	519,703	7·18
1927 ...	972,791	905,335	4·21	67,456	588,198	7·80
1928 ...	991,746	966,013	6·70	25,733	613,931	7·63
1929 ...	1,172,000	1,104,517	14·34	67,483	681,414	7·40

* Deficiency.

The year began with a daily average crude-oil production over the whole of the United States of 2,419,800 barrels. The development of the deep sands in the Santa Fé Springs field in California caused the output of the country to rise to 2,650,000 barrels by the end of April. In the following month a temporary shortage of light crude oil developed in the Mid-Continent districts and crude-oil prices were advanced. At this signal the restriction of output, which the producers in Oklahoma and West Texas had been maintaining, broke down completely. By the end of August the daily average output of the United States had reached 2,973,000 barrels, the highest level ever obtained. In September restriction of output was suddenly reimposed in certain fields of Oklahoma, and in October a drastic cut was made in the crude-oil prices in California, which was followed by an agreement among the producers to curtail the output of that State by 145,000 barrels a day. This was the beginning of the decline in the American production. By the end of the year the daily average output had fallen to 2,607,700 barrels. The course of crude-oil prices is shown in the following table:—

U.S.A. CRUDE OIL PRICES.
(Dollars per Barrel.)

Mid-Continent Crude Oil Prices.	Beginning of 1929.	January, 1929.	May, 1929.	January, 1930.
Below 25° Beaumé	0·60	0·60	0·85	0·60
36-36·9 ,, ...	1·36	1·20	1·45	1·30
44° ,, and above	1·76	1·44	1·85	1·44

Californian Crude Oil Prices.	West Texas. May, 1929.	West Texas. Jan., 1930.	Santa Fé Springs. Beginning of 1929.	Santa Fé Springs. Oct., 1929.	Santa Fé Springs. Nov. 1929.
Below 26° Beaumé	0·70	0·55	1·01	0·40	1·01
36° ,, and above	1·18	0·91	1·50	0·60	1·50

Gasoline prices were weak in the first two months. The price of U.S. motor grade of gasoline ex Oklahoma refineries declined from 8½c. per U.S. gallon to 6¾c. at the end of February. The market gradually improved until the end of May, when the price touched 9c. per U.S. gallon, but for the rest of the year, in spite of a decrease in stocks in the period from April to October, the market gradually weakened, until at the end of the year the price was no better than 7c. per U.S. gallon. Consumers outside the American market did not, however, obtain the benefit of cheaper petrol. The export prices at American ports of refined oil products are determined by the American Oil Exporters' Association, which has not altered its schedule since February, 1929, when it fixed the price of U.S. motor grade of gasoline at 8½c. This price, which was well above the real market rate, caused a crisis in Great Britain. The Anglo-American Oil Company, the marketing subsidiary in Great Britain of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, had to buy its petrol at prices fixed by the American Oil Exporters' Association, and found it was selling in Great Britain at a loss. But the problem was how to advance British petrol prices without giving a greater share of the petrol trade to the Russian Oil Products, who were undercutting the market price. The Anglo-American wisely entered into negotiations with the Soviet Government and secured an agreement limiting the Russian Oil Products' share of the British petrol trade to approximately 60,000,000 gallons, an amount at that time greater than the Russian Oil Products turnover. The price of petrol in Great Britain was thereupon advanced in March by 2¼d. per gallon by an

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Reserve Fund - - - - - 9,479,416
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agreement between the Anglo-American, Shell, British Petroleum (Anglo-Persian), and National Benzole Companies. In view of the public criticism of this advance Mr Baldwin's Government asked for an explanation, and the Anglo-American Oil Company had no difficulty in showing that, if the advance had not been made, it would have been selling petrol at a loss. This advance added materially to the prosperity of the Shell and Anglo-Persian marketing subsidiaries, especially as the petrol trade in Great Britain during the year, as the following table will show, reached record proportions:—

U.K. PETROL TRADE.

(In thousands of Imperial gallons.)

	1928.	1929.
Imports	734,737	810,203
Refined from crude (estimated)	158,450	151,000
	893,187	961,203
Less exports and re-exports	69,528	107,793
	823,659	853,410

The following estimates of world production have been prepared by Mr Garfias, of the foreign oil department of Henry L. Doherty and Company:—

WORLD CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION.

	Barrels, 1928.	Barrels, 1929 est. (000's omitted.)	Per Cent. Inc.
United States	901,474	1,010,000	12·04
Venezuela	106,000	135,000	27·35
Russia	87,800	95,500	8·77
Persia	42,080	43,000	2·32
Mexico	50,150	42,000	— 6·25
Roumania	30,600	32,500	6·21
Dutch East Indies	28,500	30,000	4·91
Colombia	19,900	20,400	2·51
Peru	11,970	13,000	8·60
Argentina	9,100	9,000	— 1·10
India	8,300	8,500	2·41
Trinidad	7,750	8,200	5·81
Sarawak	5,290	5,600	5·86
Poland	5,530	5,200	— 5·96
Other Countries	7,926	9,100	— 14·81
	1,322,370	1,467,000	10·9

III.—BEER, WINES AND SPIRITS.

Beer.—The year was one of disappointment, as the Licensing (Amendment) Bill made no progress, and Mr Snowden announced that the proposal for increased licence duties on brewers, distillers and tobacco manufacturers, though dropped for the time being on the defeat of the Conservative Government, would be considered again in the next Budget. Royal Commissions on the Licensing Laws were appointed in July for England and Wales and Scotland respectively. English Hop Growers, Ltd., dissolved itself in August, as the membership had declined to about 80 per cent. and there was great divergence of opinion as to the usefulness of the association. The number of barrels brewed in 1929 is the lowest since 1923, but the specific gravity has continued its steady upward movement, as the following table shows:—

Year to Mar. 31.	Duty. s.	d.	Standard Barrels.	Bulk Barrels.	Average Gravity.
			Great Britain and all Ireland.		
1914	7	9	36,057,913	37,558,767	1,052·80
1920	70	0	25,115,196	35,047,947	1,039·41
1921	100	0	26,729,883	34,504,570	1,042·61
1922	100	0	23,513,774	30,178,731	1,042·88
			Great Britain and N. Ireland.		
1923	*100	0	18,564,212	23,948,651	1,042·72
1924	*100	0	19,890,033	25,425,017	1,043·04
1925	*100	0	20,954,392	26,734,825	1,043·12
1926	*100	0	21,034,419	26,765,610	1,043·23
1927	*100	0	19,745,199	25,100,461	1,043·28
1928	*100	0	19,962,997	25,359,754	1,043·31
1929	*100	0	19,253,000	24,530,155	1,043·33

* Less a rebate of 20/- per bulk barrel.

The yield of beer duty in 1929 was £75,824,000, as compared with £83,318,692 in 1928. The acreage, estimated yield and average price of hops in recent years have been as follows:—

Year.	Acreage.	Produce. Cwts.	Yield per Acre. Cwts.	Average Price. £ s.	d.
1900	51,308	347,894	6·7	5 18	8
1914	33,661	507,258	13·8	4 3	9
1920*	21,002	258,042	11·7	19 10	0
1921*	25,133	236,172	9·3	19 10	0
1922*	26,452	312,000	11·4	12 0	0
1923*	24,893	229,000	9·2	14 10	0
1924*	25,897	476,916	17·2	10 5	0
1925	26,256	355,000	13·5	10 15	0
1926	25,599	332,000	13·0	11 15	0
1927	23,004	255,500	11·1	12 10	0
1928	28,800	242,100	10·2	11 16	0
1929	23,900	359,100	15·0	...	

* Hop Controller's figures.

The quality of the 1929 crop was good, and the quantity, 74,000 cwts., above the average of the preceding ten years. —*Messrs White, Tomkins and Courage, Ltd.*

Wines and Spirits.—According to *Ridley's Wine and Spirit Trade Circular*, there was more activity in the wine and spirit trades in 1929 than during the previous year. Business in wines has been steady, and general consumption is being gradually stimulated. Much interest was shown in the 1927 vintage ports. Christmas trade was comparatively brisk. Imports of all wines during the year amounted to 15,316,571 gallons, compared with 13,644,256 gallons in 1928 and 18,526,222 gallons in 1927. The quantity of foreign and colonial wines on which duty was paid was 14,423,824 gallons, against 13,499,424 gallons in 1928 and 16,947,550 gallons in 1927. Of wine cleared from foreign and Empire sources, Portuguese, Spanish white, Rhenish and Australian showed increases compared with 1928, while French, Spanish red, Madeira and Italian declined. The total cleared of wines of Empire origin is 271,439 gallons higher, about two-thirds of this increase coming from Australia. The foreign and colonial spirits market has shown little change. Home consumption figures show an increase of 25,115 gallons on 1928, but imports were 1,161,142 gallons less at 3,192,340 gallons. The home consumption of British spirits, which was 10,984,368 in 1928, is not yet known, but an estimate places the probable increase in 1929 at 80,647 proof gallons. Exports of British and Northern Irish spirits continue to appreciate, an increase of 86,390 gallons being shown on the 1928 total. Re-exports of spirits have also risen, the comparative amounts being, in 1929, 864,928 gallons and in 1928 844,578 gallons. The export trade in wines has fallen away somewhat, only 703,148 gallons being shipped last year, as against 761,550 gallons in 1928. The following table, derived from the same source, shows the imports and clearances for the past two years of wines and spirits:—

	1928. Imports. Gallons.	1928. Clearances. Gallons.	1929. Imports. Gallons.	1929. Clearances. Gallons.
French (still)	2,064,523	2,003,986	2,091,050	2,025,272
Do. (sparkling)	781,662	692,512	721,079	654,766
Portuguese	5,012,283	5,014,453	5,960,640	5,716,361
Spanish (red)	1,151,321	1,004,843	1,151,221	871,552
Do. (white)	1,362,597	1,249,798	1,549,497	1,349,637
Italy	711,638	679,982	715,074	677,826
Germany	238,041	232,275	262,146	238,716
Madeira	38,597	28,354	43,629	27,114
Empire wines	2,197,345	2,491,483	2,741,332	2,762,922
Other countries	85,649	101,738	80,903	99,658
Total	13,644,256	13,499,424	15,316,571	14,423,824
Brandy	487,397	543,114	515,174	540,690
Rum	2,270,041	807,818	1,549,176	830,267
Other sorts	1,596,044	318,617	1,127,990	323,707
Total	4,353,482	1,669,549	3,192,340	1,694,664

Consumption of French still wines, though better than in 1928, has not recovered its earlier level, and there was a decline in the consumption of champagne. The consumption of port also was unsatisfactory, but wines from Germany and the Empire were in increased demand.

IV.—RAW MATERIALS.

COTTON.

The year opened with fair promise, but from February onwards, with little interruption, apathy characterised all sections of the trade. The wages dispute, the October rise in Bank rate, and the New York Stock Exchange crash all helped to check such signs of recovery as from time to time manifested themselves. The difference between the highest and lowest price of Middling American spot cotton this year has been 1.92d. per lb., as against 2.81d. per lb. in 1928, say Messrs. Robert Barbour and Brothers, Limited, of Manchester. Simultaneously the margin in Egyptian has been 5.65d. per lb., compared with 5.35d. last year. The American growth started at 10.59, and in March reached the highest point of the year—11.14. It was just under 10d. on May 1st, and was never very much above that figure until the latter part of July, when it stood at 10.70. A further period of steadiness followed up to the middle of October, but by the end of that month it was down again to 9.88. On November 7th, following the crash in New York, the quotation fell to 9.47, to be followed a few days later by 9.22, which proved to be the lowest point of the year. Fluctuations covering a range of §d. per lb. took place during the ensuing seven weeks, the final quotation standing at 9.42. In the August Bureau report the condition was notified as 69.6, with an estimated yield of 15,543,000 bales. This was larger than had been expected, but subsequent weather conditions soon made good the initial decline, and by the end of the month the recovery had become complete. The surprise of the second report was the poor response it elicited to the unfavourable news disclosed concerning the progress of the crop. A deterioration on the month of 14.2 per cent. in the condition index and a decline in the indicated production of 718,000 bales would have been more than sufficient under ordinary circumstances to have given bullish

operators a strong lead, but the lack of speculative interest which, so far as cotton is concerned, has been very marked all through the year and has rendered the raw material more susceptible to declines than advances, had a steadying influence, and effectually barred the way to a higher level of values. The preliminary final estimate indicated a yield of 14,919,000 bales, with 12,858,000 bales ginned up to November 30th. The crop figures were rather larger than expected, but no developments occurred. Indeed, the world's probable consumption seems likely to be the more important factor in determining prices for some time to come. The 1928-29 crop was 14,478,000 bales, as against the first estimate of 14,291,000 and the final one of 14,373,000. The 1927-28 crop was 12,955,000, and that of 1926-27 17,977,000 bales.

From first to last Egyptian cotton has, with spasmodic bursts of recovery, steadily declined. F.G.F. Sakellaridis was 19.35 when the year opened, and only for a short period in March, when it touched 91.60, was it ever over that figure. Towards the end of June it was down to 15.75, two months later it had risen to 17.30, two months later again showed a fall to 15.20, and at the close of the year the quotation stands at 14.15, after marking 13.95—the lowest point of all—ten days previously. Demand has been very moderate throughout the entire twelve months, and the lack of business has been accompanied so far as spinners are concerned by a further shrinkage in margins.

American Cotton.—The following table shows the production and consumption of American cotton during a number of years, and is based on the annual statements of the Liverpool Cotton Association, Ltd.:—

	Total Crop.†	Total Deliveries.	American Consumption. North.	American Consumption. South.	Exports to— Great Britain.	France.	North Europe.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
1885-86	6,550	6,509	1,825	340	2,620	410	968	345	4,344
1905-06	11,320	11,569	2,576	2,413	2,903	778	1,978	920	6,580
1912-13	14,129	14,426	2,797	3,005	3,628	1,009	2,714	1,273	8,624
1913-14	14,610	14,849	2,867	3,133	3,435	1,059	3,129	1,226	8,849
1914-15	15,067	14,957	3,415	3,208	3,812	683	1,630	2,203	8,334
1915-16	12,953	13,599	3,547	4,022	2,866	928	207	2,029	6,030
1916-17	12,976	13,212	3,307	4,383	2,681	1,010	171	1,660	5,522
1917-18	11,982	11,802	3,242	4,334	2,276	645	16	1,289	4,226
1918-19	11,603	11,472	2,514	3,505	2,628	756	325	1,744	5,453
1919-20	12,218	13,394	3,281	3,725	3,071	556	987	1,775	6,388
1920-21	11,355	10,987	2,170	3,239	1,743	583	1,702	1,551	5,579
1921-22	11,495	12,722	2,572	4,002	1,779	772	1,800	1,779	6,129
1922-23	11,248	11,933	2,782	4,515	1,286	633	1,315	1,402	4,636
1923-24	11,327	11,566	1,829	4,059	1,719	720	1,866	1,372	5,678
1924-25	14,716	15,022	2,505	4,474	2,547	905	2,617	1,974	8,044
1925-26	15,452	15,470	2,722	4,801	2,291	917	2,423	2,316	7,947
1926-27	19,282	19,150	2,756	5,435	2,582	1,025	4,016	3,336	10,959
1927-28	14,373	15,037	2,071	5,367	1,447	897	3,049	2,206	7,599
1928-29	15,858	16,214	2,489	5,791	1,857	802	2,732	2,583	7,974

† Including linters.

International Cotton Statistics.—The International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners reports the world consumption of American cotton in 1928-29 at 15,076,000 bales, as compared with 15,407,000 bales in 1927-28. Total world's mill stocks of American cotton were, at July 31, 1929, 2,129,000 bales, as against 2,112,000 bales in the preceding years. Of all kinds of cotton, stocks were 4,863,000 bales, as compared with 4,787,000 bales at July 31, 1928. Probable consumption in 1929-30 has been estimated at 14,600,000 bales.

The following table shows the Board of Trade figures of total imports of raw cotton and the value thereof, during the years 1913, 1928 and 1929:—

Cotton, Raw (except Linters).	Quantity. 1913.	Quantity. 1928.	Quantity. 1929.	Value. 1913.	Value. 1928.	Value. 1929.
Imports from—	Centals. of 100 lbs.	Centals. of 100 lbs.	Centals. of 100 lbs.	£	£	£
Egypt	4,026,694	3,041,954	2,953,434	17,642,358	20,619,416	17,740,729
United States of America	15,847,695	8,680,328	8,352,109	47,307,766	40,476,435	37,812,911
Peru	*	803,491	810,592	*	4,286,752	4,036,495
Brazil	618,036	139,485	664,501	1,992,268	732,214	2,809,637
Other foreign countries	531,421	486,014	500,450	1,696,192	2,246,319	2,182,376
Total from foreign countries	21,023,846	13,151,272	13,281,086	68,638,584	68,361,136	64,582,148
British Africa	173,891	898,955	1,014,225	490,484	6,680,775	6,950,268
British India	514,102	963,943	1,059,762	1,128,831	3,742,152	3,818,599
British West Indies	29,895	23,795	18,724	209,422	231,216	178,973
Other British Possessions	1,262	37,834	10,408	3,226	189,618	47,159
Total from British Possessions	719,150	1,924,527	2,103,119	1,931,963	10,843,761	10,994,999
Total	21,742,996	15,075,799	15,384,205	70,570,547	79,204,897	75,577,147

* Not shown separately.

WOOL.

The annual report of Messrs Schwartze, Buchanan and Company runs, in part, as follows:—The year under review had many features in common with 1928: the same accumulation of tops in July, the same break in September, the same slight recovery in November. At the beginning of the season a basis seemed to have been established, but in November a strike in the Australian shipping world caused anxiety as to supplies and prices were forced above the remunerative level. This was the beginning of the lack of confidence in values which gathered momentum as the year progressed, until in September, and prices touched pre-war levels for some wools.

At the opening series, in spite of a good demand from the home trade both for merinos and crossbreds, prices, in buyers' favour at the opening, declined quite 5 per cent. The March series, following on a dull interval in both home and Continental centres, proved to be better than was expected for merinos. Several important failures on the Continent and considerable anxiety with regard to the report of the safeguarding of industry inquiry, both at home and abroad, tended to strangle the increase of confidence at birth. In June the result of the election showed manufacturers at home that they need expect no help from the Government in meeting foreign competition. Trade was universally bad, and there was a continuous depreciation in the value of tops. When the July series opened, therefore, a fall was inevitable. At the lower level established, however, there was some demand, though withdrawals were considerable owing to the general reluctance to accept the losses entailed. The Antwerp Futures market reopened in July, and later in the year, when more transactions were registered, the low quotations in this market had a depressing effect on the already sufficiently difficult position. The stocks of tops on the Continent, which had been gradually accumulating, also reached their highest point about this time. The position of topmakers and merchants was serious, but the excellent demand for noils went some way towards mitigating the heavy losses. These losses caused buyers to operate with hesitation at the opening of the overseas markets, which were, in consequence, weak. Influenced by this weakness,

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Aggregate Assets to 30th September, 1929 £90,806,297 : 7 : 10

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prices at the opening of the September series showed a sharp decline. At first it seemed that this new level might be maintained, but further depressing news from overseas, the desire of holders to liquidate and the rise in the Bank rate, due to the fever of speculation in America, forced prices to pre-war level for topmaking wools. It was decided by the authorities in Australia to reduce the offerings up to Christmas by 33 per cent., and this had the effect of arresting the slump and was undoubtedly beneficial at the time. Almost immediately after the close of the series the low prices had their effect and considerable business was done in all centres. The stocks of tops on the Continent were reduced and an apparently sounder position created. Demand began to slacken, however, before the opening of the November series, and the close hardly maintained the promise of the opening. Since the sales, values for tops have again declined, and the hope that a renewed activity was at hand has gradually dwindled. The American tariff has again been shelved. The sudden news of the amended Australian tariff, which almost closes the door to some of our manufacturers, did not tend to hearten the trade. Thus, the year closes with most of the regain of November lost and the trade once again without bulk orders, for which it has been waiting so long.

Compared to last year, spinner wools are 25, topmaking 30 to 35, pieces 30, fine crossbreds 30 to 35, medium crossbreds 25, coarse crossbreds 20 per cent. lower, and, compared with July, 1914, spinner wools are about 15, topmaking wools par to 5, pieces 5 per cent. above the rates then ruling. Fine crossbreds are, however, 5 per cent. cheaper, but medium and coarse crossbreds 10 to 15 per cent. dearer.

We give below our usual statement of the value per lb. clean of a few representative descriptions in July, 1914, and in December in recent years:—

	N.S.W. Good	Q'land. Good	Victorian Good	South Aust. Average	Cape Short Welsng.	Australian & N.Z. Crossbred.			
						Fine (Super)	Fairly Fine	Med.	Coarse
	d.	d.	d.	d	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
July, 1914	32	30	31	29	23½	27	25	17	15½
Dec., 1919	135	110	138	108	68	95	70	40	29
,, 1921	46	39	45	33	23	35	21	10½	8½
,, 1923	65	63	65	58	48	52	42	23	19
,, 1924	82	78	80	68	60	65	58	37	33
,, 1926	52	49	48	42	34	42	33	19½	17½
,, 1927	57	55	55	47	38	44	35	23½	21½
,, 1928	50	49	48	43	34	41	35	25	22½
,, 1929	35	34	34	27	27	27	23½	19½	18

Average value of the Colonial bale:—1914, £17; 1920, £52; 1921, £18; 1922, £22; 1923, £28; 1924, £39; 1925, £29; 1926, £26; 1927, £27; 1928, £30; 1929, £23.

According to Messrs Charles Balme and Company, the quantities of wool catalogued in the London market during 1929 compare with the figures for 1928 as follows:—

	1928. Bales.	1929. Bales.
New South Wales	127,441	103,740
Queensland	66,079	65,728
Victorian	66,419	83,149
South Australian	22,890	28,478
West Australian	45,935	44,646
Tasmanian	2,546	3,829
New Zealand	221,135	227,323
Cape	29,367	17,906
Punta Arenas and Falkland Islands	68,561	95,047
River Plate	11,217	3,155
Sundries	23,269	13,652
Total	684,859	686,653

The following table, compiled by *The Weekly Wool Chart*, shows the amount of wool retained in the United Kingdom in the years stated, the figures for 1929 being for the twelve months ending November:—

(In million lb.).

	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929
Imports, foreign and colonial wool	801	822	779	789
Re-exports, ditto	307	346	339	326
Retained	494	476	440	463
British clip retained	95	57	72	63
Total retained by trade	589	533	512	526

The quantity of wool retained in 1929 did not differ materially from the average of the previous three years. It is estimated that he consumption in 1929 would be about 515 million lb (excluding wool from sheepskins), so that stocks increased slightly during the year. The estimated consumption in previous years has been:—1928, 525 million lb.; 1927, 555 million lb.; 1926, 515 million lb.; 1925, 460 million lb.; pre-war averages, 575 million lb. The consumption of re-worked wool is much less than before the war. Figures are difficult to obtain.

FLAX, HEMP AND JUTE.

A notable development in the fibre market is the increase in the consumption of hard at the expense of soft fibres. Little money has been earned in the soft fibre section. The volume of the jute crop is maintained but the quality is steadily deteriorating.

Italian Hemp.—The market for North Italian hemp displayed no great activity during 1929; and, with the exception of the first three months of the year, when values were stationary, there was a gradual but steady fall in price, which, at the close of the year, at £54 for PC/SB, is only 22 per cent. over pre-war level.

Russian Hemp.—The value of good, medium Siretz in January was £45 per ton, and in April there was an advance of £3 per ton on account of the protracted closing of navigation in Riga and the scarcity of supplies in warehouse on the Continent. Later prices receded to £45, and remained there during the summer months. Later in the year prices again gave way and medium-quality Siretz is now quoted at £40 c.i.f. U.K.

East Indian Hemp.—The Philibit crop was excellent and was virtually exhausted by midsummer. Prices for Central Province hemps are at a small discount for old crop. Dressed Calcutta hemps and tows have remained relatively dear and tows have made as much as £30 per ton for best marks.

Flax.—In January the price of BKKO was £95 basis I, and of Livonian flax £102 basis R. From then onwards prices fell throughout the year, with the exception of a slight firmness in July, when BKKO had reached a level of £83 and Livonian £79. This improvement in the situation proved to be temporary, and prices again gave way, and continued weak until the end of the year, when BKKO was quoted at £65 and Livonion at £65 10s. per ton c.i.f. The Russian crop is expected to yield, roughly, 250,000 tons, with 60,000 to 70,000 tons available for export. Latvia has 15,000 tons of flax for export, the Lithuanian crop is stated to be 30,000 tons, and the Estonian 10,000 tons. In Poland the flax crop is estimated at 60,000 tons, and the quality is decidedly superior to that of the previous year. In October a delegation from the Irish and Scottish linen industry visited the United States and Canada to make an intensive study of conditions in these two important markets.

Jute.—In the early months of the year undue optimism sent the price of first marks soaring to £36 per ton, but owing partly to heavy stocks there was a persistent decline since February. Early reports on the new crop were very favourable, prices eventually touched £28 10s. per ton for first marks. On the publication of the acreage forecast at 3,319,500, comparing with 3,166,200 acres last year, the market advanced, and the steadier tone continued until September prices recovered to £32 per ton. Although the forecast indicated 9,767,270 bales, against 9,916,000 bales last year, the market failed to respond, and the advance was lost. Trade remained very poor everywhere, and the price of firsts fell to £26 per ton—the lowest point since 1924—since which there has been some recovery in value.

Manila.—The most important event was the steady increase in the visible supply, which, at 1,559,000 bales, constitutes a record. The year finished with prices slightly above their lowest, J2 having touched £34 closed at £35 10s. The finer grades depreciated £22 per ton, "E" grade falling from £76 to £54 per ton. Medium fell, roughly, £10 to £14 per ton, and the lower grades about £6 per ton. Trading conditions show little improvement, competition remaining fierce with the margin of profit insignificant.

FIBRE VALUES in the UNITED KINGDOM.

		Jan. 1, 1913.	Jan. 1, 1926.	Jan. 1, 1927.	Jan. 1, 1928.	Jan. 1, 1929.	Jan. 1, 1930.
		£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Italian P.C.S.B.	per ton	45 0	71 10	52 0	63 10	67 0	54 5
Russian F.S.P.R.H.	,,	40 10	85 0	64 0	66 0	64 0	58 0
Flax, Livonian Z.K.	,,	42 0	70 0	57 0	94 0	96 0	60 0
Flax, Bejetsky	,,	44 0	83 0	64 0	98 0	95 0	65 0
Kotelnitch Tow	,,	...	70 0	63 0	87 0	80 0	56 0
Bombay Hemp H.J.F.	,,	23 15	35 0	23 0	26 0	28 10	24 10
Bengal Sunn	,,	28 0	46 0	34 0	38 0	34 0	35 0
Benares	,,	17 10	31 0	19 0	19 0	23 0	20 10
Jute, first natives	,,	26 0	57 0	31 10	31 0	32 10	28 0
Manila, J. U.K.	,,	35 5	46 0	46 10	42 0	39 10	35 10
New Zealand, fair	,,	32 0	36 10	36 10	33 10	34 10	30 10
African sisal, No. 1	,,	36 10	45 15	42 0	37 0	42 0	36 10
Cebu Maguey, No. 2	,,	...	40 0	38 0	32 10	34 10	28 5
Manila Maguey, No. 2	,,	...	38 10	37 0	32 0	34 0	28 0
Mauritius Hemp, prime	,,	31 10	44 10	35 10	37 10	39 10	33 10
Mexican Henequen	per lb.	7¼c.	9 7/16c.	7¼c.	6¼c.	6⅞c.	7⅛c.
Cotton Spot, Liverpool	,,	7·11d.	10·27d.	6·89d.	11·05d.	10·59d.	9·50d.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION of EUROPEAN HEMPS.

	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Italy	83,000	85,740	83,000
France and Spain	12,000	9,000	14,000
Central Europe	96,000	84,000	86,000

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION of HARD FIBRES.

	1927.	1928.	1929.
Philippine Manila	161,343	175,000	195,000
Philippine Maguey	17,385	16,000	16,250
Mexican Henequen	120,000	127,000	101,000
African sisal	50,000	52,000	70,000
Java and Sumatra sisal	44,000	46,000	52,000
Cuba sisal	(Unascertained)		3,000
Jamaica sisal	1,000	1,000	500
Bahama sisal	1,500	1,500	500
New Zealand hemp and tow	21,896	15,000	14,000
Mauritius	800	2,492	2,400
	417,924	435,992	454,650

—*Messrs. Wigglesworth and Company, Ltd.*

The following figures show our imports of flx, hemp and jute in 1913, 1928 and 1929:—

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1928.	1929.
FLAX.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£
Russia	68,161	679	1,894	2,806,829	63,320	154,612
Esthonia	...	1,930	2,494	...	177,827	191,251
Latvia	...	9,303	11,065	...	854,038	754,710
Netherlands	1,442	1,664	2,369	87,059	182,480	240,875
Belgium	14,194	12,303	15,595	1,262,141	1,346,975	1,753,517
Other countries	473	3,201	2,947	24,100	274,909	226,484
Total	84,270	29,080	36,354	4,180,129	2,899,549	3,321,449
FLAX TOW OR CODILLA.						
Russia	13,416	279	1,019	503,160	17,617	63,355
Esthonia	...	231	374	...	16,992	21,438
Latvia	...	2,188	4,421	...	158,469	256,909
Belgium	3,812	932	1,013	65,335	43,629	55,101
Other countries	955	682	1,753	22,595	38,459	89,045
Total	18,183	4,312	8,580	591,090	275,166	485,848
HEMP.						
Russia	12,318	...	...	432,201	...	...
Germany	4,186	...	...	129,299	...	...
German East Africa	949	...	...	31,210	...	...
Italy	9,102	5,332	7,321	376,044	310,741	441,079
Philippine Islands	64,579	50,884	50,697	2,000,450	1,865,311	1,778,794
British East Africa	283	7,173	5,140	7,279	255,101	197,452
British East Indies	17,390	3,436	4,283	386,680	98,369	127,010
New Zealand	21,824	6,834	4,291	649,170	223,678	137,564
Other countries	6,571	12,125	12,698	179,492	438,413	460,036
Total	137,702	85,784	84,430	4,191,825	3,191,613	3,141,935
HEMP TOW OR CODILLA.						
Russia	2,203	...	...	51,686	...	...
Italy	754	2,378	2,935	22,020	120,691	150,479
New Zealand	4,906	...	...	69,789	...	...
Other countries	709	5,869	6,730	14,909	168,603	186,127
Total	8,576	8,247	9,665	158,404	289,294	336,606
JUTE, Raw	350,826	204,890	213,199	9,246,598	6,293,487	6,581,758
Total of flax, hemp, and jute	599,557	332,313	352,228	18,368,046	12,949,109	13,867,596

SILK.

The hopes based a year ago on the fact that prices were low and that consumption was keeping pace with production have not been fulfilled. The silk industry, although it has been active and favoured by fashion, has left no profit. The primary markets cannot be held responsible for that situation; their stocks have never been heavy nor their offers pressing. They were victims in the end of the policy of intense production which too many manufacturers have adopted, especially in the United States. That so-called progressive policy is a source of profit for those who start first, but it soon becomes a source of universal deception when it is universally adopted. The result is an atmosphere of caution which is unfavourable to forward contracts all along the line, from the cocoon to the woven article. These conditions prevailed almost throughout 1929, and the crisis on the Stock Exchange made matters worse. We may congratulate ourselves that it has not caught the silk trade in an optimistic mood, or the blow would have been more severe.

SILK SUPPLY FROM ALL COUNTRIES.

(Metric Tons.)

	Seasons.					
	1913–14	1925–26	1926–27	1927–28	1928–29	1929–30*
Export from Shanghai (including Tussah)	5,800	5,715	5,545	6,025	6,420	6,000
Do. Canton	2,780	2,405	3,200	2,635	2,795	2,880
Do. Yokohama	12,120	25,845	30,025	31,225	33,600	34,000
Do. Persia and Central Asia	435	185	210	165	180	150
Do. India and Indo-China	115	90	120	140	110	120
European crop	4,235	4,740	4,180	5,005	5,120	5,105
Levant crop	1,880	960	860	875	960	1,062
Total	27,365	39,940	44,140	46,070	49,185	49,317

* Estimates.

There was a short-lived revival in August, but from December onwards the silk market has been depressed by both internal and external causes. It must, however, be borne in mind that more natural silk was sold in 1929 than in any previous year, and that the present very low prices may be expected to act as a stimulus to consumption. Fluctuations on the Stock Exchanges or difficulties in the

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TOTAL RESOURCES EXCEED £400,000,000

finance or sales departments of private companies are secondary matters compared with a low cost for the raw material, when it is a question of the future of an industry favoured by fashion. Consequently, we are entitled to hope that, in 1930, we shall see the end of a period of trials which could have been at least partly avoided had business been conducted more sensibly.

RAW SILK PRICES—END OF DECEMBER.

(In Francs, Lyons Terms.)

	1913.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Italian, Extra, 13/15	...	365–375	305–310	305–310	245–250
Syria, 2nd class, 9/11	45–46	340–350	280–290	290–295	245–250
Shanghai, steam filre., best 9/11	53–54	420–430	370–375	400–410	340–350
,, Tsatlee R. R. merit Pegasus, 1.2.3	33–34	235–240	195–200	210–215	170–172
,, Szechuen filre., No. 1, 13/15	41–43	310–320	250–255	270–275	235–240
,, native Tussah, best to good	8½–9	95–100	...	...	...
Japan filre., 1½ 10/12	45	345–355	300–310	310–315	280–285
,, 1½ 13/15	42½	330–335	275–280	285–290	260–265
Canton filre., best 1 13/15	40	220–230	230–235	235–240	180–185

Extracted from the annual review of Messrs Chabrières, Morel et Cie., Lyons.

HIDE AND LEATHER TRADES.

Prices had reached reasonable levels by the beginning of 1929, and it seemed probable that further reductions would not occur; yet during the first three-quarters of the year the demand was insufficient to absorb even the reduced production which most of our tanners had adopted. Pressure to sell both hides and leather was persistent, so that by the last quarter hide prices were on average down to pre-war level, though, owing to the increased cost of production, leather and shoes had not fallen to the same extent.

The chief reason for the ability of the market to withstand this reduced production has been the widespread use of substitutes for sole leather. The comparatively poor demand for hides is thus accounted for. In short, world supplies of hides have been ample for all requirements, and, though naturally the lower range of values tends to restrict quantities brought to market from distant sources or unremunerative collection there seems no reason to fear any shortage of hides or increase in values until the consumption of leather increases considerably. In the meantime, tanners act with great caution, as there seems to be little reason to expect any large increase in the consumption at present, especially as still greater efforts are now being made by makers of substitutes to place on the market material more suitable in substance and flexibility, so that competition from this source will still have to be reckoned with.

There is a tendency to suppose that, because shoe shops earn good profits, manufacturers must also be doing well, but the fact is that, owing to vagaries of fashion, distributors dare not carry big stocks of fancy sorts, and, in order to cope with any possible demand, manufacturers have now to take that risk. Overhead charges in shoe factories always tend to increase, especially those connected with the production of new designs, and thus the manufacturing is much less profitable than the distribution. Competition is intense and tends to cut down the price of shoes more rapidly than any fall in materials justifies. On the whole, factories have been fairly well employed, although the proportion of export trade is still far below pre-war. Owing, however, to persistent exploration and cultivation of various overseas markets there is a small, gradual improvement noticeable. In spite of some failures and retirements, the capacity of the factories is still very considerably in excess of the demand. The trading results of the year have been generally unsatisfactory. There have been considerable losses on stocks of hides and leather and the difficulty of maintaining turnover has resulted in overhead charges absorbing too large a share of earnings.

The discussion of tariffs in America has influenced markets to a considerable extent during the year, and the outcome is still uncertain. America has imported considerable quantities of certain sorts in anticipation of imposition of duties, and, if the tariff party can establish its ground, quieter world markets may result for a period. A new departure in the trade was the opening in June of an exchange in New York for dealing in hide futures. Tanning is already too speculative by nature owing to the length of time between the purchase of hides at origin and the sale of the leather to the dealer or consumer. The chief desire of tanners is to reduce this risk, and, although the argument is that hedging on the exchange is some protection, it really means professional interest and an additional speculation, so that it is extremely doubtful whether this exchange is a benefit to the trade.

The following is a statement of imports and exports of hides and leather during 1913, 1928 and 1929:—

Imports.	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1928.	1929.
Wet Hides—	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£	£
Calf	32,942	48,516	35,542	145,451	286,960	184,162
Other sorts, including Ox and Cow—						
Russia	92,170	...	...	259,774	...	...
Germany	27,610	...	...	94,588	...	...
Netherlands	...	24,967	31,458	...	118,234	99,551
Belgium	10,007	3,915	5,215	33,691	16,839	17,904
France	35,754	6,407	29,447	122,879	28,929	86,770
Italy	119,702	116,870	86,460	513,509	657,639	379,873
Argentine Republic and Uruguay	188,097	95,329	64,658	874,781	560,158	277,782
Irish Free State	...	90,701	89,722	...	377,298	284,104
British South Africa	68,118	64,748	68,727	242,983	259,837	280,718
Australia	113,331	20,828	30,215	435,464	107,875	111,491
Other countries	142,592	221,258	206,721	436,812	1,039,053	754,792
Total	798,381	648,023	612,633	3,014,381	3,165,862	2,292,985
Total of Wet Hides	831,323	693,539	648,175	3,159,832	3,452,822	2,477,147
Dry and Drysalted—						
Calf	17,313	6,215	4,412	134,257	39,590	27,108
Other sorts, including Ox, Cow, and Kips—						
Russia	57,300	...	...	207,761	...	...
Argentine Republic and Uruguay	...	23,324	15,430	...	170,440	80,752
British South Africa	124,223	230,148	155,063	580,705	1,247,629	859,537
British India	70,554	61,976	14,527	263,951	375,856	68,024
Straits Settlements and Fed. Malay States	40,371	30,299	16,039	134,516	97,424	61,192
Australia	36,253	39,743	26,146	171,107	248,703	121,523
Other countries	276,665	417,525	293,139	1,195,585	2,700,599	1,426,057
Total	605,376	803,015	520,344	2,554,210	4,840,651	2,617,085
Total of Dry and Dry Salted Hides	622,689	809,230	524,756	2,688,467	4,880,241	2,644,193
Leather, Total	1,176,100	1,033,075	803,921	10,572,100	18,065,251	14,358,282
Exports.						
Boots and shoes (wholly or mainly of leather)—	Dz. Prs.	Dz. Prs.	Dz. Prs.	£	£	£
Germany	33,666	...	...	122,206	...	...
Sweden, Norway, and Denmark	...	23,057	20,155	...	86,608	70,487
Netherlands	50,550	33,667	29,520	78,291	115,301	100,974
Egypt	...	17,948	15,710	...	71,950	69,451
United States	...	25,634	32,444	...	353,071	413,879
Irish Free State	...	324,797	289,284	...	1,608,084	1,487,039
British South Africa	387,510	178,597	189,844	1,160,800	766,532	711,452
British East Indies	189,656	36,778	26,138	531,471	160,950	124,136
Australia	210,353	19,123	21,767	317,758	92,819	101,925
New Zealand	99,523	53,403	39,764	305,399	144,834	127,466
Canada	...	129,179	125,272	...	532,970	638,790
Brit. West India Islands (including Bahamas) and British Guiana	37,384	69,249	62,260	73,094	238,277	221,424
Other countries	276,230	54,160	48,877	998,615	226,263	205,241
		113,773	104,501		573,623	533,300
Total	1,452,815	1,079,370	1,005,526	4,194,276	5,073,282	4,805,564

† Under the designation of "Leather" are comprised the following articles, viz.: Hides, tanned, tawed, curried or in any way dressed; Goatskins, tanned or dressed as leather; Sheepskins, tanned or dressed as leather.

CHEMICALS.

In the early months of 1929 the satisfactory state of trade was maintained, but, unfortunately, there has been a falling off, and the year as a whole shows a marked increase in imports and only a very slight increase in exports. A decline in exports occurred only in certain sections, of which the most important is coal-tar products. One explanation of this is the increased American production of creosote and also the extending use of steel for railway sleepers, which is eliminating one of the main outlets for creosote. On the other hand, there have been increased exports of sulphuric acid, sulphate of ammonia, and dyestuffs. The increase in dye exports is considerable, but large quantities of special dyes are still imported. Marked progress has been made in the development of low-temperature carbonisation processes. The year has seen several important mergers, and the tendency towards the elimination of competition in purchase of raw materials is exemplified by the fusion of Lever Brothers and the Margarine Union, and by the Mount Lyell Cuming Smith and Wischer Company fertiliser merger in Australia.

The aim at price-fixing and allocation of sales areas to definite producers is typified in the arrangement by which the I.G. Sandoz and the Society of Chemical Industry at Basle have divided up their territory to effect more economical sales arrangements. A very important agreement is that between the I.G., the I.C.I. and the Chilean Nitrates, while there is every possibility of an international benzol agreement. Possibly the field of greatest activity all over the world has been that of fertiliser manufacture. On the whole, the year has been very productive in research, discovery, development, and consolidation. The trading figures are not good for the whole year, but the last two months showed some improvement. The chemical trade has not suffered any more than other trades in a rather depressed period, and much work has been done which will bear abundant fruit in the future.—*Manchester Guardian Commercial Annual Review.*

Nitrates.—The necessity of a substantial restriction of production until consumption has expanded and can be more closely gauged is now becoming more generally recognised, according to Messrs Aikman, Ltd. A centralisation selling scheme for Europe and Egypt was initiated at the beginning of July, and its sales to date have amounted to about one million tons. A scheme for restricting production has been inaugurated to operate from February 1, 1930. Its object is to achieve a maximum reduction of about 20 per cent. per annum by the voluntary cessation of production in those oficinas where the cost is high. The reduction envisaged will bring production more into line with estimated consumption, and already producers representing about 13 per cent. of the present output are understood to have signified their intention to suspend production. The following is a comparison of the figures for the six months ending December 31, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929, and the nitrate years ending June 30, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930:—

	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Deliveries in Europe and Egypt for six months ending December 31st	296,500	311,000	355,000	397,000
Deliveries in Europe and Egypt for twelve months ending June 30th	917,500	1,315,000	1,486,000	...
Deliveries in United States for six months ending December 31st	206,000	305,000	240,000	137,000
Deliveries in United States for twelve months ending June 30th	673,500	995,000	975,000	...
Deliveries in other Countries for six months ending December 31st	96,000	113,000	100,000	102,000
Deliveries in other Countries for twelve months ending June 30th	162,000	208,000	232,000	...
Shipments to Europe and Egypt for six months ending December 31st	300,000	984,000	972,000	953,000
Shipments to Europe and Egypt for twelve months ending June 30th	737,000	1,540,000	1,703,000	...
Shipments to United States for six months ending December 31st	279,000	387,000	335,000	292,000
Shipments to United States for twelve months ending June 30th	614,000	1,072,000	990,000	...
Shipments to other Countries for six months ending December 31st	102,000	130,000	123,000	121,000
Shipments to other Countries for twelve months ending June 30th	169,000	213,000	221,000	...
Production in Chile for six months ending December 31st	737,000	1,028,000	1,635,000	1,575,000*
Production in Chile for twelve months ending June 30th	1,297,000	2,507,000	3,228,000	...
Visible Supply for Europe and Egypt at December 31st	328,000	803,000	956,500	1,090,500*
Visible Supply for United States	192,000	130,500	206,000	275,000*
Visible Supply for other Countries	25,000	43,000	54,000	39,000*
Stocks in Chile at December 31st	1,274,000	519,000	874,000	1,150,000*
Total Supply in sight at December 31st	1,819,000	1,495,500	2,090,500	2,554,500*

* Estimating production in December at 260,000 tons, and shipments at 150,000 tons to Europe and Egypt, 60,000 tons to the United States, and 10,000 tons to other Countries.

Messrs Aikman forecast the world production of pure nitrogen in 1929-30 at 2,365,000 tons, but state that it is unusually difficult to form an estimate of the prospects of consumption for nitrate of soda during the next six months. The deliveries in all countries have increased as compared with last year, except in the United Kingdom and Spain. The total increased deliveries for Europe and Egypt amount to 42,000 tons. As regards the United States, smaller deliveries July-December are due to a decreased demand from industrial consumers, possibly explained by dear money.

ULSTER BANK LIMITED

ESTABLISHED APRIL 1836.

Affiliated to Westminster Bank Limited.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED AND SUBSCRIBED £3,000,000.

CAPITAL PAID UP £800,000
RESERVE FUND £950,000 } £1,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: WARING STREET, BELFAST.

BALANCE SHEET 30th November, 1929.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Capital paid up	800,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	950,000	0	0
	1,750,000	0	0
Deposits and Credit Accounts	21,588,157	16	7
Acceptances Current	*Nil*		
Bills for Collection	52,702	1	6
Notes in Circulation	1,346,925	17	6
Undivided Profits	62,649	15	7
	£24,800,435	11	2

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Government Stocks—			
War Loan and other Securities of, or guaranteed by the British Government	9,785,412	17	10
Other Securities	957,091	10	8
	10,742,504	8	6
Cash on hand, Balances with London Bankers, and Remittances in transit	2,645,009	12	10
	13,387,514	1	4
Bills discounted, Advances to Customers Short Loans on Securities, &c.	11,179,336	10	1
Acceptances *per contra*	*Nil*		
Bank Premises	233,584	19	9
	£24,800,435	11	2

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	*Cr.*	£	s.	d.
To Dividend at June, 1929	64,000	0	0				By Undivided Profits from 30th November, 1928	72,214	18	3
To Dividend at December, 1929	64,000	0	0				By Net Profits for year ending 30th November, 1929—after deducting rebate on Bills Current, Interest due on Deposits, Income Tax and all other expenses—all ascertained Bad and Doubtful Debts having been written off or fully provided for	218,434	17	4
				128,000	0	0				
To Reserve Fund				50,000	0	0				
To Contingent Fund				50,000	0	0				
To Undivided Profits carried forward				62,649	15	7				
				£290,649	15	7		£290,649	15	7

J. K. PATTEN, *Secretary.*
J. W. BLACKWOOD, *Chief Accountant.*

STANLEY FERGUSON
A. H. MOODY,
W. M. FULLERTON,
JOHN GRAHAM, } *Directors.*

We have examined the Accounts of the Bank and the above Balance Sheet, and in accordance with the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, we report that:—

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required.

We have ascertained the correctness of the cash and bills on hand at the Head Office and in Dublin, and of the money at call and short notice and have inspected the securities representing the investments of the Bank, and find them to be in order.

We have also examined the above Balance Sheet in detail with the Books at the Head Office, and with the certified returns from each Branch, and in our opinion it is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the Books.

ULSTER BANK LIMITED,
Belfast, 12th December, 1929.

HARMOOD BANNER & SON
Chartered Accountants.

JUTE TRADE.

Circumstances combined to bring about poor results in the jute trade and make 1929 the most unprofitable year for a very long time, according to the *Glasgow Herald*. Raw material for the first six months was dearest, when, in view of the volume of supply, it should have been cheapest. Much of it was bought under a fear, which afterwards proved groundless, that the supply was likely to prove smaller than expected. When wants were secured prices began to fall, and there proved to have been no grounds for the fear of a shortage. The extension of working hours by the Calcutta mills as from July was also the means of raising the price of jute and inducing spinners to purchase over a period when it would have been greatly to their advantage to wait. All this was accompanied by a steady falling-off in trade, leaving spinners with dear stocks of jute and rapidly falling prices for their products.

The highest price during the year of best first marks was £39 and the lowest £30; the top price for Daisee 2/3 was £34 and the bottom £24 10s. Trade has been very slow, even at unremunerative prices, and for the greater part yarns and cloth have been sold at under the raw material equivalent. Even at the end of November, when jute touched the lowest for some years, the yarn and cloth producing sections of the trade were still unprofitable. In December, under firmer raw jute influence, better results were recorded, and a favourable amount of business done in yarn and cloth for January-March delivery; still, however, leaving the prices paid considerably short of raw material cost. The profitable course during the latter half of 1929 was by "bearing" the market, and few had the courage to take the risk.

Exports.	Quantity.			Value.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Jute yarn Thou. lbs.	54,448	59,573	57,952	1,245,929	1,343,089	1,316,012
Jute carpets and rugs Thou. sq.yds.	776	746	558	117,892	87,855	66,923
Piece goods Thou. sq. yds.	172,190	192,265	171,037	3,206,861	3,430,156	2,979,565
Jute sacks and bags, empty, new Thou. doz.	1,638	2,222	1,229	743,183	932,881	561,289
Other sorts Thou. cwts.	271	271	281	494,469	455,774	464,684
Total, jute manufactures*	...	...	...	4,562,405	4,906,666	4,072,461

* Other than cordage, cables, ropes, and twine.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS.

The oilseed crushing industry of the United Kingdom had a mixed experience in 1929. In the first half of the year, conditions were stable. Prices of raw materials were at a reasonable level and free from wide fluctuations, so that a good business in the products was possible at a fair margin of profit. In the second half an unexpected shortage of linseed, and a prolonged drought in Argentina affecting the growth of the new crop, were unsettling factors in influencing prices generally, and were followed by an acute depression arising out of financial troubles in the United States and on the Continent. Nevertheless, the quantity of oilseeds, nuts and kernels imported and going into the mills was only slightly less than in 1928 and well up to the average of recent years. Gross imports of oilseeds were 1,160,272 tons and of nuts and kernels 385,737 tons, as against 1,206,546 tons and 348,992 tons in 1928. The re-export amounted to only one quarter per cent. in the case of oilseeds and 7.1 per cent. in the case of nuts and kernels (principally copra), showing little change from the previous year. Imports of linseed at 285,408 tons showed a shrinkage of nearly 63,000 tons, and were below usual requirements. Cotton seed at 569,438 tons was 5,000 tons down, but constituted more than one-third of the total imports. Soya beans at 210,931 tons were over 19,000 tons advance. Rape seed and castor seed, as well as palm kernels, were some way behind, but copra, ground nuts and sesamum seed each recorded an increase. Supplies, with the possible exception of linseed, were ample and came fully up to expectations. World shipments of linseed were approximately 2,034,000 tons, as against 2,150,000 tons in 1928, of which 1,750,000 tons were shipped from South America, as against around two million tons. Shipments from India were 253,000 tons and from the Baltic 30,000 tons. The quantity destined for Europe was 1,410,175 tons, against 1,751,675 tons—a reduction of 341,000 tons. On the other hand, the United States accounted for a much increased quantity, viz., 560,000 tons against 382,000 tons—all from Argentina—to supplement an attenuated domestic yield. Prices remained steady up to the end of June at about £15 12s. 6d. for Plate and £17 15s. for Calcutta. As it became known that the Plate crop was below estimates the market advanced sharply from July onwards. The highest figure for Plate was £24 5s. and for Calcutta £24 10s. on spot at Hull, though much higher figures were asked and refused. Values receded in December, when new crop Plate was dealt in at £19, but this was not maintained in the succeeding weeks, notwithstanding official reports indicating an exportable surplus from Argentina of only 1,200,000 tons. Cotton seed started at a low level and advanced to £12, paid in August and September for black Egyptian. Then financial trouble in the United States and on the Continent reacted severely in the grain markets, and the price dropped to £8 below the previous lowest post-war figure. Indian cotton seed, however, fell only 30s. below the highest. The average price of raw linseed oil, naked, ex Hull mill, prompt, in the first half of the year when markets were stable and trade good, was £28 7s. 3d., and in the second half £40 12s. 6d., the average for the whole year being £34 13s. Crude Egyptian cotton opened at £29, but fell to £26 10s. in April, May and June, and later advanced to £35 in September, subsequently declining to £27 in November. Soya and other seed oils were fairly steady and not subject to wide fluctuations. Shipments of palm kernel oil in bulk are slightly below the 1928 total, and there were decreased exports of soya, rape and linseed oils, but much larger shipments of cotton oil, both refined and unrefined. The United States was again a good buyer of both palm kernel and soya oils. More than 50 per cent. of the imports from abroad consisted of coconut, palm and olive oils, which are not produced in this country. Imports of linseed oil amounted to 31,000 tons. Less soya oil but more rape and castor oil was imported. Generally the export trade in vegetable oils produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom was about the same as in 1928, though much of it was done in the face of very keen competition. The following is a summary of the Board of Trade returns of exports:—

	1926. Tons.	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Unrefined oils	104,304	90,024	96,193	93,463
Refined oils	19,906	16,645	16,370	20,480

The production of the mills of the United Kingdom, estimated from the commercial yield of oil from the net imports of oilseeds, nuts and kernels was 414,496 tons, or 13,899 tons more than in 1928, but a long way behind 1924, when 519,374 tons was recorded. The comparative figures are as under:—

	1926. Tons.	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Linseed oil	119,367	117,388	115,774	94,992
Cottonseed oil	89,471	89,441	95,576	94,906
Other seed oils	23,089	31,758	44,549	60,844
Palm kernel oil	96,872	82,593	72,186	67,883
Ground nut oil.....	38,655	18,626	47,908	52,734
Coconut, &c.	37,103	22,375	24,424	41,137
Total	404,557	362,181	400,597	414,496

Imports of vegetable oils showed a substantial increase of 33,559 tons net. The approximate position of Great Britain's vegetable oil supply is indicated by the following summary:—

	1926. Tons.	1927. Tons.	1928. Tons.	1929. Tons.
Home production	404,557	362,181	400,597	414,496
Deduct British exports	124,210	106,669	112,923	113,943
Net remaining	280,347	255,512	287,674	300,553
Add net imports	214,673	224,588	208,080	241,639
Total remaining in U.K.	495,020	480,100	495,754	542,192

British exports of oilcakes and meals at 105,108 tons compared with 128,389 tons in 1928. At the same time, imports of foreign-made oilcakes substantially increased, being 494,264 tons, against 381,781 tons. The supply of oilcakes for the United Kingdom is estimated at 1,475,000 tons, as against 1,350,000 tons in 1928. The c.i.f. value of the gross imports of oilseeds, nuts and kernels, vegetable oils and oilcakes was £35,419,924, against £33,851,923 in 1928, and the f.o.b. value of British exports of oils and cakes £5,548,151, against £5,893,270. Re-exports of all kinds had a value of £978,973, against £971,072, or less than 3 per cent. of the gross imports.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED

Chairman: J. W. BEAUMONT PEASE

1677

Deputy-Chairman: Sir AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E.

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON, E.C. 3

CAPITAL:
SUBSCRIBED - £73,302,076
PAID UP - - £15,810,252
RESERVE FUND - £10,000,000
(31st December, 1929)
DEPOSITS, &c. - £353,145,981
ADVANCES, &c. - £191,752,253

Over 1,800 Offices in England and Wales, and others in India and Burma.

Colonial and Foreign Department: 80, GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C. 3

Trustee Department: 39, THREADNEEDLE ST., LONDON, E.C. 2

The Bank also has Agents and Correspondents throughout the British Empire and in all parts of the World, and undertakes Overseas business of all kinds. World Letters of Credit and Travellers Cheques are issued, and every description of banking business is transacted.

BARCLAYS BANK

LIMITED.

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

and over 2,000 Branches in England and Wales, and Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the World.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Chairman.
SIR HERBERT HAMBLING, BART., Deputy-Chairman.
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE, Vice-Chairman.
GENERAL MANAGERS:
EDWIN FISHER. HENRY THOMAS MITCHELL.
FOREIGN GENERAL MANAGER: WALTER OSBORNE STEVENSON.

Authorised Capital £20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital... ... ... £15,858,217
Reserve Fund £10,250,000
Deposits, etc. (31st Dec., 1929) £337,439,214

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

FOREIGN BRANCHES:

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH: 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

WEST END (LONDON): 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1 | LIVERPOOL: 45, Castle Street. | BRADFORD: 13, Market Street. | MANCHESTER: 94, Portland Street. | BIRMINGHAM: 63, Colmore Row.

Affiliated Banks:

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS).
Head Office: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
BARCLAYS BANK (CANADA) MONTREAL
BARCLAYS BANK (FRANCE), LIMITED.
Chief Office: PARIS. Branches in France and Algeria.
BARCLAYS BANK S.A.I.: ROME AND GENOA.
THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.
Head Office: EDINBURGH. 194 Branches in Scotland.
THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER LIMITED.
Head Office: MANCHESTER. 165 Branches in Lancashire, Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

TIMBER.

The year had barely begun when there took place an event of prime importance, namely, the formation of a group to take over the buying of the whole of the Russian exports of red and white sawn wood to this country. The syndicate bought the Russian stocks at guaranteed prices. In order that importers outside the scheme should not reap benefit, minimum reselling prices were fixed and guaranteed throughout the year, and all concerned, whether in the syndicate or not, have honoured their pledges.

With the removal of the Russian bogey of former years, trading conditions in 1929 became favourable. There has been no great price fluctuation nor any particularly large business. Stocks carried over from 1928 were considerably less than in the preceding twelvemonth. Another favourable factor was the fact that the extremely severe weather experienced in Northern Europe in February and March delayed winter shipments from those Baltic ports which are usually kept open all the year round, thereby enabling stockholders in Great Britain to hold out for the value of their wood. On the whole, the spot market has been pretty steady throughout, and it was only in the last few weeks that signs of weakness were displayed. A disturbing feature of the season was the rapid rise in freights. Although some improvement was shown on the previous year, disappointment is felt in hardwood circles at the restricted trade done. At no time was there any real activity in the demand. A noteworthy feature was the continued limitation in the use of mahogany. In plywood and veneers, trade fluctuated remarkably. Prices soared in the first six months, as demand was exceptionally good, but about June consumption began to decline seriously. Stocks at the end of December last showed a big increase on the corresponding month in 1928.

From the statistics below, which are taken from the Board of Trade Returns, it will be seen that the total wood imports last year were up on 1928 by about £3½ million, though well below the figure of 1927:—

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	Cub. Ft.	Cub. Ft.	Cub. Ft.	£	£	£
Hewn, hard ...	6,251,817	7,141,394	6,972,550	1,304,833	1,502,933	1,517,442
,, soft.....	319,146	386,439	427,122	1,237,012	1,379,429	1,221,075
Sawn, hard ...	29,846,213	31,562,770	31,825,595	7,463,337	7,929,773	8,074,480
	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.			
,, soft.....	6,025,932	4,605,073	5,221,472	28,239,995	21,435,525	23,765,195
Planed or dressed	688,616	589,470	621,156	4,037,867	3,393,731	3,405,260
Mining timber	2,864,493	2,596,886	2,695,242	5,457,824	4,779,080	5,034,492
Sleepers.....	248,390	261,553	369,109	963,177	1,173,773	1,675,878
Staves.....	104,159	101,416	125,675	739,871	678,081	787,084
Veneers and panel wood	3,803	4,286	4,949	205,703	285,486	347,056
All other sorts	2,718	22	2	17,168	93	13
Totals.....	...	...	...	49,666,787	42,557,904	45,827,975

V.—METAL AND COAL TRADES.

THE COAL INDUSTRY.

United Kingdom.	Output.	Exports (including Bunkers).	Average Export Prices (Board of Trade), F.O.B.	Unemployment in Coal Mining Industry.
	Thous. Tons.	Thous. Tons.	£ s. d.	%
1913	287,430	94,424	0 13 10	0·4†
1922	233,889	85,013	1 2 7	11·5
1923	278,500	97,608	1 5 1	2·4
1924	269,604	79,338	1 3 5	4·3
1925	243,180	67,255	0 19 10	15·8
1926	131,386‡	28,184	1 0 0(a)	9·1*
1927	251,232	67,986	0 17 10	18·4

	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
January...	21,727	22,432	5,272	5,863	0 15 9	0 15 7	18·1	19·1
February..	20,926	21,060	5,312	5,105	0 15 9	0 15 8	18·5	15·3
March	22,706	22,587	5,490	6,093	0 15 10	0 16 1	17·2	13·2
April	18,211	20,871	5,085	6,085	0 15 9	0 16 3	17·9	15·8
May	19,682	20,689	5,941	6,744	0 15 8	0 16 1	21·1	17·9
June.....	18,959	19,882	5,692	6,244	0 15 8	0 15 11	25·7	19·0
July	18,135	21,105	5,586	7,301	0 15 7	0 16 1	29·1	18·9
August.....	18,360	20,538	5,651	6,418	0 15 6	0 15 10	26·6	16·2
September	18,855	20,890	5,409	6,630	0 15 4	0 16 2	22·5	15·1
October...	21,110	22,989	6,071	7,186	0 15 8	0 16 7	25·1	15·5
November	20,641	26,420	5,740	6,681	0 15 6	0 16 7	25·3	14·3
December	19,533	19,980	5,536	6,336	0 15 6	0 16 7	19·1	14·6
Total ...	238,845	259,443	66,785	76,686	0 15 8	0 16 1	22·2	16·2

* Exclusive of those who ceased work on account of the dispute which commenced on May 1, 1926.
† Trade union figures. ‡ Coal strike.
(a) May–December figures entirely unrepresentative.

The following information is extracted from the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*:—The extent of the progress made in 1929 is reflected in the total saleable output, which reached approximately 255½ million tons, as compared with 237,471,931 tons in 1928. The commercially disposable output in 1929 was 237 million tons, as compared with 219,300,000 tons in 1928. Progress was also reflected in exports, which in 1929 amounted to 60,266,000 tons, as against 50,051,000 tons for the preceding year. It will also be found that the proceeds will show a substantial increase, though the figures for the year are not yet available.

Although conversations and negotiations with a view to the formation of selling organisations within the trade have been proceeding for some years, it is only recently that any real experience of the effect of such arrangements has become available. Arising out of the discussions and negotiations there were three main bodies of opinion, firstly, those who considered that no artificial restrictions could cure the trouble and that natural conditions should be allowed play; secondly, those who considered that the fixing of a minimum price, below which no coal was to be sold, would prevent at least the losses which were taking place; and, thirdly, those who took the view that, overproduction being the cause of the trouble, it should be corrected by regulation of output, so that it might correspond to the demand. There were some who favoured a scheme embodying the principles of minimum prices and regulation of output. The year 1929 has seen the operation of schemes embodying all these points of view, but probably it will be agreed that the experience so far gained does not lead to any very definite conclusion. The system of fixing minimum prices is open to very great objections. In the first place, the fixing of a fair schedule of prices of a large range of different quality coals is an extremely difficult task; in the second place, the purchaser of very large quantities is put upon the same terms as the purchaser of very small lots; thirdly, if there is no regulation of output, minimum prices soon become maximum prices. The regulation of output being the one scheme which aims at correcting the real cause of the trouble, is that which more generally commends itself to those who have studied the problem.

In looking for new outlets for British coal one naturally turns to the possibilities of pulverised fuel. In so far as it is used on land there seems no reason to believe that in the near future the pulverising of coal will cause a substantially increased demand; but for marine purposes the situation is more encouraging. Though the day when the luxury passenger liner will return to coal-firing may be distant, it is the opinion of many shipowners that for cargo-carrying ships, even at the present stage of development, those operated by pulverised-fuel-fired marine boilers can be operated considerably more cheaply than those driven by internal-combustion engines. In these circumstances there appears to be a reasonable prospect that in the near future we may see the proportion of coal-burning ships to oil-burning ships revert to that which existed before the rapid development of the Diesel engine. There are evident signs that the cheapening in the cost of producing electric power, caused by greater economy in coal consumption, has had the effect of stimulating the use of electric power, and, judging by the large increases which are taking place in the power stations all over the world, the benefit of the economy is already being felt, and in this respect again the outlook for an increase in the use of coal is encouraging. The cost of production has been gradually decreasing since 1926. This reduction is probably brought about by improved organisation and by the strict economy necessary under present depressed conditions. Unfortunately, during such times of depression there are no profits available out of which re-equipment and improvement of plant can take place, while under such conditions it is impossible to attract new capital into the industry.

The following district reports are from the same source:—

South Wales.—There was a substantial revival during 1929. Though collieries were still being worked at a loss over most of the year, the loss averaged a few pence per ton, compared with 1s. 8¾d. in 1928. Several great enterprises, however, met disaster and passed into new hands. The stabilisation scheme of the previous year was revised, and has been voluntarily agreed to by owners representing 84 per cent. of the output. The principal amalgamation of Welsh colliery enterprises during the year was the formation of Associated Welsh Collieries, Ltd., with a share capital of about £8,500,000 and debentures for £2,000,000 to merge the large coal-exporting firm of Guéret, Llewellyn and Merrett, Ltd., with about a dozen colliery concerns owning 60 pits capable of producing about one-fifth of the output of the Welsh coalfield. This combine, by share exchange, acquired the colliery interests of Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., the collieries of the Cambrian Combine, D. Davis and Sons, Ltd., Llewellyn (Nixon), Ltd., Llewellyn

The BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK
LIMITED

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £5,000,000 ISSUED AND PAID UP £2,000,000
RESERVE FUND £225,000

THROUGH its world-wide connections and agencies the Bank is able to offer to its clients at home and abroad exceptional facilities in foreign exchange and in the financing of every form of foreign trade, and also to provide up-to-date credit reports and information as to international business conditions. Correspondence invited.

33, GRACECHURCH STREET, *Lombard Court*, LONDON, E.C. 3

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
Inland: "SAESREVO, WIRE, LONDON" *Foreign:* "SAESREVO, LONDON"
TELEPHONE No. ROYAL 7111

Affiliated Institution in Poland: ANGLO-POLISH BANK, LIMITED, WARSAW

Glyn, Mills & Co.
(Established 1753)
Registered with unlimited liability, 1885
incorporating
CHILD & CO. and HOLT & CO.
(Established before 1600) (Established 1809)
BANKERS
Army and Air Force Agents, Navy and Prize Agents.

Capital	£1,060,000
Reserve Fund	530,000
Current and Deposit Accounts	39,458,633
Cash in Hand and at Bank of England	6,924,665
Money at Call and Short Notice	7,051,500
Investments	8,430,410
Advances, etc.	14,844,651
Balances with, and Cheques in course of Collection on, other Banks in the United Kingdom	1,714,654

31st December, 1929

Head Office - - - 67, LOMBARD STREET, E.C. 3

Managing Partners:
LORD WOLVERTON.
LAURENCE CURRIE.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
Brigadier-General A. MAXWELL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
ERIC GORE BROWNE, D.S.O.
FREDERICK WILLIAM FANE.
MARTIN DRUMMOND VESEY HOLT.

Childs Branch - - - - - - 1, FLEET STREET, E.C. 4
Partners:—
FREDERICK WILLIAM FANE.
SYDNEY ALEXANDER PONSONBY.
NEVILLE RANDALL.

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Northumberland.—Conditions are better than they have been for several years and the volume of trade and employment have steadily improved. There are definite indications that foreign competition is being steadily overcome and that there is an adequate market for Northumberland coal in the future.

Durham.—From the beginning of the year orders have steadily increased in volume and prices advanced rapidly, though owing to the fact that many long-term contracts at low prices only expired at the end of the year the average received has remained comparatively low.

South Yorkshire.—The experience of the last year may be regarded as a severe test of the success of the marketing proposals contained in what is known as the Five Counties Scheme. The returns show that a considerable recovery of the foreign trade has been secured by this district, although, at intervals, there has been a considerably reduced working time as a result of the regulated output.

The following tables, compiled from figures published by the Mines Department of the Board of Trade, covering about 96 per cent. of the industry, show output, costs and proceeds for the first three quarters of 1929, as compared with recent periods:—

Great Britain.	1928.	1929.		
	First Quarter.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.
Tonnage disposable ..... tons	56,829,836	59,063,619	55,076,924	56,205,905
Wages .....£	27,416,352	26,617,131	25,527,357	26,062,829
Stores and timber .....£	4,674,845	4,432,450	4,322,948	4,372,710
Other costs .....£	7,122,396	6,961,085	7,202,456	7,002,587
Royalties .....£	1,436,248	1,428,162	1,367,865	1,392,951
Net costs .....£	40,355,861	39,165,779	38,208,851	38,639,048
Commercial disposals .....£	38,143,822	41,417,785	37,422,769	38,587,740
Balance.....£	*Dr. 2,212,039*	2,252,006	*Dr.786,082*	*Dr. 51,308*

Working results per ton, together with earnings and output per man-shift, are given below:—

Period.	Proceeds per Ton.	Wages per Ton.	Net Cost per Ton.	Net Balance Credit (+) or Debit (−) per Ton.	Output per Man-shift Worked.	Earnings per Man-shift Worked.
1927.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	Cwt.	s. d.
First quarter	17 4·33	11 1·85	16 1·92	+1 2·41	20·66	10 7·12
Second quarter ...	15 0·05	10 10·41	16 0·70	−1 0·65	20·47	10 2·83
Third quarter	14 1·04	10 4·50	15 3·04	−1 2·00	20·47	9 9·54
Fourth quarter ...	13 9·78	10 0·77	14 2·43	−1 0·43	20·82	9 7·38
1928.						
First quarter	13 5·09	9 7·78	14 2·43	−0 9·34	21·24	9 5·0
Second quarter ...	13 0·88	9 7·04	14 5·90	−1 5·02	20·98	9 3·0
Third quarter	13 0·06	9 5·99	14 4·17	−1 4·11	21·13	9 3·2
Fourth quarter ...	13 5·8	9 2·21	13 8·67	−0 2·87	21·80	9 2·84
1929.						
First quarter	14 0·30	9 0·16	13 3·15	+0 9·15	22·13	9 2·69
Second quarter ...	13 7·07	9 3·24	13 10·50	−0 3·43	21·45	9 2·59
Third quarter	13 8·77	9 3·29	13 8·99	−0 0·22	21·40	9 2·61

The output in recent years of the chief producing countries is shown below:—

Thousands of Metric Tons.

Period. Monthly Average.	United Kingdom.	Belgium.	France.	Germany.	Poland.	United States.
	(*a*)		(*a*)	(*g*)		
1913.....	24,337	1,903	3,338 (*c*)	15,842	748	43,088
1922.....	21,134	1,767	2,595	10,834	(*h*) 1,849	36,057
1923.....	23,369	1,910	3,140	5,193	3,009	49,736
1924.....	22,617	1,947	3,668	9,897	2,685	43,213
1925.....	20,590	1,925	3,921	11,052	2,423	43,988
1926.....	10,692	2,102	4,285	12,108	2,979	49,729
1927.....	21,272	2,296	4,315	12,800	3,174	45,197
1928.....	20,129	2,295	4,280	12,573	3,384	43,052
1929—						
January	22,792	2,454	4,425	13,490	4,039	53,336
February	21,397	2,115	4,094	12,104	3,295	48,934
March	22,949	2,393	4,562	13,502	3.808	40,271
April	21,206	2,243	4,458	13,407	3,734	39,307
May	21,021	2,122	4,438	12,759	3,402	42,166
June	20,201	2,200	4,432	13,221	3,503	39,138
July	21,444	2,231	4,736	14,362	4,024	41,393
August ...	20,867	2,220	4,568	14,467	3,942	45,217
September	21,225	2,132	4,299	13,480	3,951	46,545
October ..	23,358	2,280	4,858	14,835	4,401	54,038
November	22,613	2,306	4,706(*a*)	14,157	4,115	46,919
December	20,295*	...	...	...	...	46,600*

a Including lignite. *c* Including the production of Lorraine and Saar. *d* Saleable coal only. Irish Free State production omitted since 1921. *g* From 1919, excluding Alsace-Lorraine, and from 1920, excluding Saar and Palatinate; from June, 1922, excluding Upper Silesia. *h* Since July, 1922, including Upper Silesia. * Provisional figure.

The destination of our coal exports in 1913, 1928 and 1929 is shown in the following table:—

EXPORTS of COAL, COKE and MANUFACTURED FUEL from the UNITED KINGDOM.

	Quantity.			Value.		
	1913.	1928.	1929.	1913.	1928.	1929.
To—	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£
Russia	5,998,434	24,452	33,787	4,336,582	18,105	26,877
Finland	...	369,607	462,266	...	235,548	332,213
Sweden.....	4,563,076	1,539,753	2,335,855	3,032,459	1,086,802	1,779,148
Norway	2,298,345	1,117,101	1,444,467	1,447,356	729,172	1,025,604
Denmark	3,034,240	1,731,123	2,194,385	1,990,740	1,212,295	1,626,763
Germany	8,952,328	5,367,903	5,520,944	5,327,733	3,549,648	3,797,113
Netherlands.....	2,018,401	2,430,777	3,123,368	1,260,863	1,684,134	2,218,014
Belgium	2,031,077	2,259,581	4,139,634	1,176,130	1,460,522	2,817,292
France.....	12,775,909	9,064,963	13,045,033	8,074,053	6,974,503	10,390,391
Portugal	1,201,722	961,538	1,050,469	877,827	717,741	835,206
Azores & Madeira	154,359	68,485	67,389	126,607	55,472	55,990
Spain	2,534,131	1,867,320	1,782,649	1,811,246	1,550,776	1,613,718
Canary Islands....	1,114,629	447,616	456,410	847,085	360,166	372,996
Italy	9,647,161	6,622,331	7,094,808	6,887,721	5,307,389	5,989,323
Austria ..... }	1,056,634	...	...	724,237	...	...
Hungary ..... }						
Greece	727,899	636,746	589,281	540,875	517,263	512,136
Egypt	3,162,477	2,180,880	2,267,874	2,368,203	1,758,390	1,869,395
Algeria	1,281,664	1,736,775	1,808,081	873,190	1,255,691	1,345,117
French W. Africa	149,107	271,187	215,866	132,564	224,819	181,189
Portuguese West Africa	233,015	239,885	299,764	203,098	185,984	233,461
United States of America	...	374,180	334,781	...	565,201	511,608
Chile	588,526	57,429	40,207	500,380	38,650	29,136
Brazil	1,886,871	1,751,403	1,808,925	1,681,475	1,470,354	1,583,370
Uruguay.....	723,936	308,056	394,724	616,413	259,653	344,538
Argentine Republic	3,693,572	2,659,411	2,798,861	3,090,000	2,396,994	2,559,624
Irish Free State...	...	2,423,134	2,456,122	...	2,244,549	2,397,503
Channel Islands ..	167,862	191,933	208,690	122,453	213,124	228,754
Gibraltar.....	354,702	372,601	347,896	256,102	290,345	276,832
Malta	700,111	159,828	184,953	519,089	129,784	156,377
Aden and Dependencies	181,204	50,381	61,852	154,330	45,280	58,129
British India	179,192	27,959	22,369	146,696	23,393	21,134
Ceylon	239,657	79,913	111,838	203,384	74,513	107,627
Canada	...	629,045	744,823	...	784,014	934,646
Other countries ..	1,749,877	2,027,899	2,818,247	1,398,359	1,638,460	2,385,589
Total						
(*a*) Anthracite .	2,976,389	3,157,355	4,217,326	2,374,353	3,762,794	5,073,147
(*b*) Steam	53,618,922	34,861,978	40,805,453	37,845,546	26,383,548	31,996,397
(*c*) Gas.....	11,527,686	6,518,057	7,316,673	7,154,427	4,740,398	5,441,666
(*d*) Household .	1,769,719	1,756,703	1,855,364	1,164,088	1,631,915	1,841,025
(*e*) Other Sorts	3,507,402	3,757,102	6,071,802	2,188,838	2,540,079	4,264,578
Total of Coal	73,400,118	50,051,195	60,266,618	50,727,252	39,058,734	48,616,813
*Coal, &c., shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade ...	21,023,693	16,729,313	16,419,627	...	...	...

*Coal shipped for the use of steamers, &c., not being an export in the ordinary acceptation of the term, the value thereof is not included in these returns.

IRON AND STEEL.

United Kingdom.	Output (Thousand Tons).		Iron, Steel and Manufactures thereof (Thousand Tons).		Price of Cleveland G.M.B. No. 3 per ton.	Unemployment.	
	Pig Iron.	Steel Ingots and Castings.	Imports.	Exports.		Pig Iron.	Steel.
1913	10,250	7,660	2,230	4,969	£ s. d. 3 0 0	%	%
1922	4,899	5,820	881	3,397	4 18 0	...	...
1923	7,438	8,489	1,322	4,318	5 0 0*	22·1† 19·0†	
1924	7,320	8,220	2,428	3,854	4 7 7	14·3	21·1
1925	6,238	7,397	2,721	3,731	3 6 5	20·3	25·5
1926	2,444	3,561	3,742	2,988	4 7 0	45·9	41·2
1927	7,294	9,100	4,406	4,196	3 12 9	14·6	18·3

	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929	1928	1929
									£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
Jan.	561	564	626	764	284	244	332	421	3 5 0	3 6 0	16·2	18·7	20·4	20·2
Feb.	551	520	764	775	287	160	317	380	3 5 0	3 7 0	14·2	16·1	19·3	19·8
Mar.	593	590	793	860	272	182	409	350	3 6 0	3 7 0	14·6	12·5	20·3	17·6
April	563	611	644	809	253	262	344	340	3 6 0	3 8 6	14·0	11·8	21·2	18·3
May	592	655	753	844	237	257	359	443	3 6 0	3 10 0	13·2	11·1	20·5	18·2
June	564	658	709	831	210	234	366	307	3 6 0	3 12 6	15·4	10·6	20·5	19·3
July	538	672	667	805	219	237	333	376	3 6 0	3 12 6	21·2	10·1	24·4	19·9
Aug.	519	682	648	753	272	255	370	358	3 6 0	3 12 6	19·9	10·4	24·4	20·0
Sept.	504	665	719	848	184	229	295	299	3 6 0	3 12 6	19·4	9·9	22·0	19·0
Oct.	544	689	756	890	261	249	377	390	3 6 0	3 12 6	16·4	10·3	22·5	20·0
Nov.	544	631	763	815	233	251	399	383	3 6 0	3 12 6	17·7	11·2	22·6	22·9
Dec.	540	643	683	661	184	256	359	332	3 6 0	3 12 6	19·1	12·2	19·8	22·0
Total	6613	7580	8525	9655	2896	2816	4260	4379	3 5 10	3 10 6	16·8	12·1	21·5	19·8

* End of year. † Whole industry: Pig-iron and steel branches not separately classified before 1923.

The following information is based on an article in the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*:—The total production of steel in 1929, at 9,654,700 tons, was 60,000 tons less than in the record year 1917, but over a million tons more than in 1928. This increase involved an expansion in pig-iron production to 7,579,500 tons, the highest figure recorded since 1920, and exports of iron and steel at 4,379,400 tons were the highest since the war. The peak of production, of both iron and steel, was reached in October. In spite of this substantial

increase in output, a clear indication that all is not well with the industry is given by the Stock Exchange quotations of several of the leading companies. From these it is clear that, in the opinion of the market, the profit-earning capacity of the industry has not improved. The explanation of this is that the cost of raw materials has increased during the year more rapidly than that of the finished product. Coke prices, for example, increased by about 6s. 6d. per ton, and though about 24 cwt. of coke are used in the production of one ton of pig iron, prices of pig iron only rose by 6s. The price of iron ore has also risen during the year. Further, the expansion in production of pig iron was checked by a lack of adequate supplies of coke. During the past years of depression in the coke industry, due largely to the depression of the pig-iron industry, coking plants have been allowed to go out of repair, or have become obsolete, and have not been adequately replaced with new plant. Another reason for dissatisfaction is the fact that the improved production figures do not indicate improvement in the competitive power of the industry. The steelmakers' rebate scheme is partly responsible for the fact that most of the improved shipbuilding demand was met from British sources, and an important influence in keeping Continental makers from increasing their exports to this country was exercised by the keen demand on the Continent. Already this situation is being reversed.

The movement in the direction of amalgamations has continued, culminating in mergers between such outstanding companies as Dorman, Long and Bolckow, Vaughan, and more recently in proposals for amalgamating the heavy branches of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold and Baldwins. In addition to the amalgamation of individual companies, the co-operation of producers within the industry has developed still further by the formation of the British Steelwork Association and the British Steel Export Association. The former has been formed "to promote and develop the production and use of structural steel and steelwork, etc." The British Steel Export Association is a development of the British Export Committee, which had been in existence for about eighteen months, and has as its object the centralising of the selling of plates, sections and joists in the export markets.

The following tables are also taken from the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*:—

WORLD PRODUCTION OF PIG-IRON AND STEEL.
(In Millions of Tons.)

	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929 partly estmd.
Pig iron—						
Great Britain	10·26	6·26	2·46	7·29	6·61	7·57
Germany.....	10·73	10·01	9·50	12·90	11·62	13·10
Saar	1·35	1·43	1·61	1·74	1·91	2·10
France.....	8·93	8·36	9·28	9·18	9·82	10·30
Belgium	2·45	2·50	3·35	3·69	3·84	4·00
Luxemburg	2·51	2·33	2·52	2·69	2·73	2·83
Total, Western Europe	36·23	30·89	28·72	37·49	36·53	39·90
United States.....	30·97	36·70	39·37	36·57	38·16	43·52
Other countries	10·70	8·10	9·43	11·24	12·25	14·10
World total	77·90	75·69	77·52	85·30	86·94	97·52
Steel ingots and castings—						
United Kingdom	7·66	7·39	3·60	9·10	8·52	9·65
Germany.....	11·99	12·00	12·15	16·06	14·29	16·25
Saar	2·05	1·55	1·71	1·86	2·04	2·16
France.....	6·86	7·33	8·30	8·18	9·35	9·50
Belgium	2·43	2·51	3·32	3·66	3·87	4·05
Luxemburg	1·31	2·05	2·21	2·43	2·53	2·65
Total, Western Europe	32·30	32·83	31·29	41·29	40·60	44·25
United States.....	31·30	45·39	48·29	44·94	51·54	57·00
Other countries	11·55	10·71	12·05	13·99	15·84	17·75
World total	75·15	88·93	91·75	100·22	107·98	119·00

Range of Pig-Iron and Steel Prices.

Grade.	Dec. 31, 1928.	Dec. 31, 1929.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
No. 1 Cleveland.....	3 8 6	3 15 0
No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B.....	3 6 0	3 12 6
No. 4 Foundry	3 5 0	3 11 6
No. 4 Forge	3 4 6	3 11 0
Common iron bars	10 5 0	10 15 0
Steel boiler plates	10 10 0	10 10 0
Steel ship plates*	8 7 6	8 15 0
Steel angles*	7 17 6	8 7 6
Steel joists*	7 17 6	8 10 0
Heavy steel rails	8 10 0	8 10 0
Fishplates	12 10 0	12 10 0
Billets—		
Soft	6 10 0	7 12 6
Medium	6 17 6	6 17 6
Hard	7 12 6	8 2 6
Black sheets	10 0 0	9 17 6
Galvanised corrugated sheets, 24 gauge	13 10 0	12 12 6

* Subject to rebate.

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SILVER.

The year has been noteworthy for the almost monotonous regularity with which prices have declined, and for the establishment of the lowest quotations ever recorded hitherto. The ease with which supplies, augmented by large quantities of silver derived from demonetised coin, were disposed of was the great feature of the market during 1928. Just as it was then due to the ability of China to absorb an abnormal quantity of silver that the market was so well maintained, it is mainly owing to the continued saturation of that country that caused the white metal to become somewhat of a drug in the market. Stocks have tended to accumulate. Those in Shanghai, which amounted to about 108,000,000 ozs. at the beginning of 1928, had increased by the end of that year to about 150,000,000 ozs., and at present amount to about 192,000,000. An accumulation such as this could not but depress the market. Silver required for coinage purposes has made little demand on the market, supplies being already available from old coin in process of demonetisation. The market has also had largely in view the quantity of silver at the disposal of the Indian Government, from which source sales have been made periodically, a fact which has also tended to restrict buying by the Indian Bazaars. Supply has exceded demand, and it is remarkable that the decline was so long delayed.

The highest prices of the year were 26 7/16d. for cash and 26½d. for two months' delivery, which were quoted on four days in January, and the lowest 21 5/16d. and 21⅜d. for the respective deliveries touched on December 30th. The following table shows the movement of prices for the last ten years:—

	Cash Delivery.	Two Months' Delivery.
1920	50⅛d.	48⅞d.
1921	12⅝d.	13d.
1922	7d.	7 7/16d.
1923	3 7/16d.	2⅝d.
1924	4 7/16d.	4 7/16d.
1925	2⅝d.	2⅝d.
1926	7 11/16d.	7⅞d.
1927	3⅛d.	3⅛d.
1928	2 13/16d.	2 13/16d.
1929	5⅛d.	5⅛d.

During the first three months of the year prices were fairly well maintained in the neighbourhood of 26d., and the principal features during this period were the disturbances in Bombay and the revolutionary outbreak in Mexico. The situation in Mexico caused some apprehension, but the slight bullish feeling at first manifest was soon dispelled as it became apparent that the trouble was unlikely to assume the magnitude of similar happenings in the past. Prices during April ruled at a slightly lower level, the average being approximately 25⅜d., and in the following month the weakness of the market became apparent. Support grew less, and reports that in Japan a movement was on foot towards the removal of the embargo on the export of gold caused activity on the part of Chinese speculators to purchase yen exchange. The sales of silver as the counterpart of these operations helped further to depress prices. By the first of May the quotations had receded to 25 5/16d., but during that month the fall was more rapid and on June 4th the price of cash silver had declined to 24d. The average prices of June, July and August, varying by only a small fraction of a penny, fairly indicate the placid state of the market for those three months. The market presented a still weaker appearance as the year progressed, and by the end of September prices had declined to 23 3/16d. and 23¼d. for cash and two months' delivery respectively. With China more inclined to sell than to buy, and the Indian Bazaars operators being content to acquire merely their bare needs, outlet was restricted, quotations still sagged and November saw prices quoted below 23d. By the latter half of December enquiry was practically limited to the Indian Bazaars and prices were forced down to a level at which they were willing to give support. From the highest quotation of the month—22 11/16d. for both deliveries on December 7th—there was a rapid decline until on the 30th the lowest prices hitherto recorded for silver were established, viz., 21 5/16d., the figure quoted for cash delivery with two months' delivery at 21⅜d. Till then the lowest quotation had been 21 11/16d., touched in November, 1902, and January, 1903. The year closed with quotations level at 21 7/16d.

It was officially announced in July that the Master of His Majesty's Mint in Bombay was prepared provisionally to accept silver from the public for refining, and it was about the same time that the Bombay Bullion Exchange decided to remove, with effect from the October 22nd settlement, the discount of 8 annas per 100 tolas which was imposed last year on silver refined at the Bombay Mint.

Sales of silver by the Indian Government have continued, but no official figures have been made available as to the amounts actually sold. It was agreed that the abolition of the discount on Bombay Mint refined silver removed the handicap on the Government selling such silver in India, and the hope was expressed that the fine silver produced in Bombay Refinery would find its place in the Indian market. Early in the following month arrangements were made through London whereby Indian Government refined silver would be delivered in Bombay, against silver purchased in the London market for shipment to India, and delivery in Bombay commenced with about 2,000,000 ozs. of silver bars refined at the Bombay Mint. The Indian Government silver exported has all been in the form of unrefined silver, and the amount imported into the United Kingdom this year was about 20,400,000 ozs. The decision in October to re-establish the currency of Hong Kong on a silver basis led to demand for British silver dollars, and coinage orders were placed with the Royal Mint in London, while at the same time the Bombay Mint intimated that they were prepared to entertain tenders for the purchase of Indian Government silver for minting into dollars. Purchases were made in the London market for the purpose, but the London Mint was also able to furnish some of the required silver from the demonetised British coin of the old standard. Although, therefore, substantial orders were placed for mintage both in London and Bombay, to an estimated total of about 14,000,000 ozs., the market experienced little effect, the demand for new silver for the purpose being comparatively small.

The accumulation of stocks, to which we have already referred, tended, as the year advanced, to render the market sluggish, with the result that for most of the year silver for cash delivery has been quoted at a discount. Following the arrival in this market of substantial shipments of silver from Mexico and the cost of carrying stocks owing to high money rates, the discount reached 3/16d. in October, whilst on several days in November it was ¼d. Cash silver commanded a premium on only two days of the year, on February 1st and May 15th, on which dates the quotations for cash were, however, only 1/16d. higher than those for two months' delivery. Supplies have again been amplified by further demonetisation of silver coin, though to a lesser degree than last year. Nevertheless, the amounts made available to the market from this source are of considerable importance. To arrive at an estimate is a matter of some difficulty, but it is likely that Indian Government silver has provided about 32,000,000 ozs. and French silver coin about 9,000,000 ozs., besides a further quantity of possibly 9,000,000 ozs. derived from British coin. The fact must be considered that the use of some of this silver for re-coinage, such as for Hong Kong dollars, to which reference has already been made, has possibly been instrumental in absorbing silver which might otherwise have come into the market.

The following is an estimate of the production of silver in 1929 compared with that of the preceding years:—

SILVER PRODUCTION (in millions of fine ounces).

	Mexico.	United States.	Canada.	Elsewhere.	World.
1912*	75	64	32	60	231
1919	66	57	16	41	180
1920	67	55	13	39	174
1921	64	53	13	41	171
1922	81	56	19	54	210
1923	91	73	18	64	246
1924	91	65	20	63	239
1925	93	66	20	66	245
1926	98	63	22	71	254
1927	105	60	23	66	254
1928	109	58	22	68	257
1929 (estimated)	105	60	21	68	254

* Pre-war record year.

—*Messrs Samuel Montagu and Company.*

COPPER.

The world's mining production (as distinct from smelter or refinery production) during 1929 amounted to about 1,840,000 tons, again establishing a high record. During the last years of the war production has averaged about 1,450,000 tons, and, after this figure was again reached in 1925, each succeeding year has established a high record for production as well as consumption, as the following tables show:—

WORLD'S MINING PRODUCTION OF COPPER.
(Thousands of Long Tons.)

	1900.	1913.	1920.	1928.	1929.
Africa	7	23	30	135	168
Canada	8	34	35	85	98
Mexico	21	52	45	64	73
Japan	28	66	64	72	71
South America	34	73	134	343	374
United States	263	555	566	832	890
Total*	479	989	960	1,741	1,814

WORLD'S COPPER CONSUMPTION.
(Thousands of Long Tons.)

	1900.	1913.	1920.	1928.	1929.
Great Britain	108	140	106	162	165
France	46	104	68	125	135
Germany	110	260	72	253	240
United States	172	362	606	893	1,000
Total*	503	1,052	977	1,750	1,893

* Including countries not specified above.

Substantial progress has been made in the development of the big South American and Canadian properties. A fair increase in Canadian production may be expected during next year, but really large tonnages from Canada or South Africa will probably not come on the market for another two or three years. It is estimated that by 1933 some 250,000 to 300,000 tons of new production will be available from the properties now under development, the ore reserves of which exceed in magnitude those of all the older large mines with the sole exception of the Chile Copper Company, who claim an ore reserve of almost 700,000,000 tons, containing over 12,000,000 tons of recoverable copper. At the present rate of consumption the world's ore reserves so far developed are sufficient to guarantee the world's requirements for about thirty years. Large additions are being made to the world's refining capacity. The Nichols Copper Company have finished the construction of their new refinery at El Paso, and two refineries will be erected in Canada to deal with the production from the Noranda Mine and that of the Froode Mine, owned by the International Nickel Company, which latter property is expected to rank amongst the world's leading copper producers. A new refinery is also being built in Germany. These new plants will have a capacity of some 250,000 tons per annum. Prices advanced steadily in the early part of the year, but got out of hand in February, and thereafter prices rose, largely under the influence of one group, to 24c. in April, fell to 18c. within a few days, and remained at about that level for the rest of the year. Copper has entirely ceased to be a free market, and is entirely subject to the policies of the Copper Export Association, who control practically all the available supply of electrolytic and refined copper. The widening margin between standard and electro copper reflect the world's opinion that the present level is artificial.—*Messrs Brandeis, Goldschmidt and Company.*

LEAD.

Values of lead showed some improvement during 1929, though they fell to a very low level towards the close. The demand expanded slightly in the United Kingdom, as the apparent consumption from January to October inclusive amounted to 208,049 tons, against 195,082 tons in the same period last year. Production, however, was evidently in excess of requirements, but the position was well under control owing to the agreement among producers. Under this agreement all supplies coming to London from North America, Australia, Burma, Mexico, Spain and Canada are regulated and controlled. Russia bought liberally from time to time and good quantities were absorbed by the Continent.

Extreme prices were as follows:—

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
Soft, foreign—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Near dates, 1929	22 5 0	28 13 9	20 17 6	21 6 3
,, 1928	22 8 9	22 8 9	19 7 6	21 15 0

The demand during the closing weeks of the year fell off considerably. Meanwhile, producers maintained their prices without effecting sales of any importance either in this country or on the Continent. The outlook was not promising at the close, as in several directions it was felt that prices should be more in keeping with the position of supply and demand, the market being considered an artificial one. Imports of lead, pig and sheet for the eleven months ending November 30, 1929, amounted to 268,365 tons, against 238,512 tons in the same period in 1928 and 264,008 tons in 1927.—*Glasgow Herald.*

Prices rose in an orderly manner until March, when there was an outburst of speculative buying; prices for June shipment touched £30. Conditions became quieter in the early summer, and later the market slowly declined to £23 12s. 6d. in August. It was no doubt due to the sagging trend of the market that the principal producers of lead agreed in August to pool their sales. From this time onwards, shipments of Canadian, Mexican and American lead were disposed of in conjunction with those from Australia and Burma, and for the moment the price was practically fixed at £23 12s. 6d. Business on the London Metal Exchange was very much reduced through the fact that it thereby ceased to be an entirely free market. The agreement between producers seems, however, to be somewhat less rigid than that of the copper exporters. There was very little alteration in consumption as against the previous year, the principal change being an increase in the apparent consumption of Great Britain of some 25,000

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tons. Production figures of the American Bureau of Statistics are shown below:—

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF LEAD.
(Thousands of Long Tons.)

	1913.	1927.	1928.	1929.
United States	398	601	580	620
Mexico	62	244	232	247
Spain	198	137	121	101
Australia	123	165	163	173
Burma	...	66	78	79
Canada	16	139	151	143
Germany and Polish Silesia	195	109	121	141
Belgium	53	64	63	64
Other Countries	162	132	136	170
	1,207	1,657	1,645	1,738

—*Messrs Brandeis, Goldschmidt and Company.*

SPELTER.

The spelter situation became steadily worse during the year, and the metal stood at £7 a ton lower in December than in January. The year opened with the price at £26 15s., and after weakness in February rose to £29 in March, chiefly on the rumour that some means of American co-operation with the European cartel had been secured. This rise synchronised with the considerable rise in copper that took place in March, and was undoubtedly influenced thereby to a certain extent, but fundamentally it was based on the expectation of a stronger cartel and strict control. When these expectations were not fulfilled, the price fell away rapidly to about the level at which it stood at the beginning of the year. The latter half of the period under review showed a steady decline to the December level of £19 12s. 6d. The total production for 1929 is estimated at 1,440,000 tons, an increase of about 37,500 tons on 1928. Stocks at the end of 1929 are estimated to have increased to 66,000 tons in the United States, 45,000 tons in Europe, and 4,440 tons in England. Apparent consumption in Great Britain in 1929 was 187,283 tons.—*Messrs Brandeis, Goldschmidt and Company.*

TIN.

As a result of increased production in the absence of a correspondingly higher consumption, the price of tin declined, with minor fluctuations, throughout the year, except for a temporary check in June, July and August, when efforts were made to raise prices by withdrawing large supplies from the market. The highest price, £230 for three months, was reached in February, and the lowest, £177 10s., in December. In June, leading tin-producing companies agitated for a common understanding and a united policy to regulate the rate of supplies. In the following month the formation of an Association of Tin Producers was agreed upon, but it was not until the end of November that a united policy of restricting the supply of the metal was formulated and carried by members of the Association. The agreement as yet is only a gentleman's agreement which some of the bigger mines have promised to support. Production during 1929 continued to expand, and shows an increase of about 12,000 tons compared with the previous year. With the exception of the shipments of Banca tin, which have again fallen off slightly, the output from the other sources have all contributed to the increase. Shipments of Straits tin—at over 101,000 tons—advanced by 4,000 tons, and the production of tin from the Chinese mines expanded by nearly 2,000 tons. A steady growth in the output from the Nigerian mines has taken place. The development in these tin-bearing areas continued to make good progress, and unless the price of the metal drops to an uneconomic level a further steady expansion of production from this source is to be expected. Shipments from Bolivia for the eleven months to November have surpassed those for the same period of the preceding year by nearly 3,000 tons. The recorded stocks show an increase of 5,000 tons, but as several thousand tons which have appeared in the statistics as deliveries are generally understood to have been hidden away by the group of operators already referred to, the true stocks cannot be accurately determined. It is estimated, however, that production exceeded consumption by 10,000 to 12,000 tons.—*Messrs Brandeis, Goldschmidt and Company.*

Tinplate.—The comparatively promising position of this industry is principally due to the American agreement, but it is felt in some quarters that in the long run this policy may prove unwise, as it is a cause of dissatisfaction among former foreign customers of the trade, who are now starting production for themselves. This is encouraged by the high prices of Welsh tinplate, and the primary need of the industry is the reduction of costs. It is expected that an agreement with German producers, on the lines of the American Pact, will shortly be completed.

Another factor accounting for the larger output of tinplates in this country, says the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*, has been the general improvement in the demand owing to the increased consumption throughout the world, to the greater care taken by the leading manufacturers to improve the quality, to more careful assorting and packing, and to the competitive prices quoted. The capacity of the mills has, in recent years, been greatly increased, and Welsh makers again turned their attention to the formation of a more satisfactory scheme for the restriction of output. Whether credit should be claimed by the American Pact or by the pool, or by both, the fact remains that, whereas at the beginning of 1929 the tinplate works were operating at under 70 per cent. of the capacity, and the price of tinplates per standard box was 18s., by December these figures had increased to 80 per cent. capacity, and the price obtainable was 18s. 9d. per standard box. Another important contribution to the improvement in the home demand for tinplates has been the success of the National Food Canning Council in promoting and developing the fruit and vegetable canning industry of this country. In labour policy this year has seen a complete innovation in the shape of a new sliding-scale agreement, under which the wages of the tinplate employees will be governed by the ascertained selling price of tinplates after eliminating the respective costs of tin and sheet bars.

Prices.—The year opened with a price of 18s., which varied little until April and May, when the quotation was 18s. 4½d.-18s. 5½d. In June-August the market was weaker, with price in the neighbourhood of 18s. 3d. September saw a recovery to 18s. 7d., and the highest monthly average of 18s. 10½d. was reached in October, after which there was a slight decline to 18s. 9d. in December.

Bars.—From a price of £6 in January for Siemens tinplate bars there was a steady rise to £6 7s. 6d. in May-July. In the next four months the price was steady about £6 5s., but fell in December to £6 1s. 10½d.

VI.—SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPPING.

SHIPBUILDING.

United Kingdom.	Output (Gross Tons, 000's omitted). Commenced.	Under Construction.	Launched.	Price of a New, Ready 7,500 Ton Cargo Steamer.‡	Unemployment.
	£	£		(Thou. £) £	%
1913	467	2,002	1,932	51·9	...
1922	101	1,810	1,031	64·4	36·9
1923	238	1,374	646	62·0	37·5
1924	263	1,439	1,440	61·8	29·4
1925	204	1,033	1,085	53·2	34·1
1926	145	805	640	55·1	39·7
1927	441	1,431	1,226	63·3	25·0

	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
January									20·6	27·6
February	342	362	1,440	1,357	406	290	60·0	62·0	21·0	25·8
March									22·3	24·6
April									23·0	22·8
May	279	428	1,203	1,454	403	393	57·0	60·0	24·0	22·9
June									26·5	22·5
July									28·3	23·0
August	245	360	1,090	1,448	387	369	57·0	60·0	28·0	24·0
September									30·7	24·8
October									33·1	25·2
November	432	499	1,243	1,560	246	473	62·0	58·0	32·6	23·9
December.									30·3	23·3
Total	325§	412§	1,244§	1,455§	1,446	1,523	59·0§	60·0§	26·7	24·2

§ Average for four quarters. ‡ According to "Fairplay."

The total tonnage launched in the world last year amounted to 2,793,210 tons gross, of which 1,522,623 tons were built in Great Britain and Ireland, and 1,270,587 tons abroad. In comparison with 1928, the British figure shows an increase of 77,000, and the foreign an increase of 17,000 tons. In British yards the year opened with a satisfactory volume of new work, as a result of the large number of orders for new cargo tonnage placed during the last quarter of 1928, and between January 1st and March 31st the tonnage under construction increased by nearly 100,000 tons. In the second and third quarters of the year the quantity of work commenced fell much below the rate of launching, and in the late summer the industry's prospects were not encouraging, unemployment having risen between June and August from 22.5 to 24 per cent. During September and October, however, heavy orders were placed for tanker tonnage, and at the end of the year work in hand had risen to 1,560,254 tons, a figure 317,000 tons higher than that of December 31, 1928.

The output of the industry both in this country and abroad was higher last year than in any year since 1921. In the following table production during the past three years is compared with that in 1922-25 and in the quinquennium immediately preceding the war:—

TONNAGE OUTPUT.

Period.	Tons Launched (000's). U.K.	Abroad.	World.	British. Percentage.	Output as per Cent. of 1909-13. British.	Foreign.	World.
Average—							
1909-13	1,522	967	2,489	61	100	100	100
1922-25	1,050	1,087	2,137	49	69	112	86
1927	1,226	1,060	2,286	54	80	110	92
1928	1,446	1,253	2,699	54	95	130	108
1929	1,523	1,271	2,793	54·5	100	131	112

It will be seen that in 1929 British output almost exactly equalled the average for 1909-13, whereas foreign production showed an increase in comparison with that period of 31 per cent. Despite the improvement in the industry's activity last year, the problem of redundant berths in British yards has remained acute. It is estimated that at no time in 1929 were more than 55 per cent. of the berths available occupied by vessels under construction, and the curtailment of naval shipbuilding has been a serious contributory factor in augmenting surplus capacity. The process of rationalising the industry by the concentration of production in fewer berths requires to be pressed forward before shipbuilding can be re-established on a sound and remunerative basis. Prices throughout last year were again cut to the narrowest margin over costs under pressure of competition, and, though from October 1st the industry began to receive the benefit of the De-rating Act, savings through relief from rates will be counter-balanced by the increased wages granted to some classes of shipyard workers under the new national standard schemes operative from January 1, 1930, and by the increase in steel prices.

Lloyd's Register's annual summary shows that further progress was made last year in the gradual conversion of shipbuilding from steam to motor systems of propulsion. This development, as the next table indicates, was particularly marked in foreign yards:—

MOTOR TONNAGE OUTPUT (in Thousands).

	U.K.	Per Cent. of Total Output.	Abroad.†	Per Cent. of Total Output
1923	87	13	135	14
1924	237	16	262	32
1925	267	25	575	52
1926	202	32	500	48
1927	356	29	506	48
1928	428	30	753	60
1929	464	30	802	63

† Omitting wooden vessels.

Of the total steam tonnage—1,504,000 tons, as compared with 1,289,000 tons of motor vessels—built in 1929, 410,000 tons were designed for burning oil fuel under boilers, so that the tonnage dependent exclusively on coal for propulsion represented only 39 per cent. of the world output. During the past year, however, considerable progress has been made with experiments in the use of pulverised coal as fuel, and though certain difficulties remain to be overcome, the technique of pulverisation for marine use has been greatly improved.

Turning to foreign countries, it will be seen from the following figures of production that the problem of surplus shipbuilding capacity is not confined to this country:—

TONNAGE LAUNCHED ABROAD ('000 Tons).

	High Record since 1920.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Denmark	139	72	139	111
France	211	44	81	82
Germany	526	290	376	249
Holland	232	120	167	187
Italy	220	101	59	71
Japan	227	42	104	164
Sweden	107	67	107	107
U.S.A. (coast)	995	124	86	101

Production showed a large increase in Japan, and was well maintained in Holland, Italy and Sweden, though in the case of Italy the discrepancy between current and maximum output is marked. German output, and the production of Danish yards, recorded large declines. The concluding table compares the figures of work in hand at the end of recent years:—

WORK IN HAND DECEMBER 31.

	1925.	1927.	1928.	1929.
United Kingdom	885	1,580	1,243	1,448
Germany	234	472	382	253
Italy	310	183	93	78
France	167	115	161	167
Holland	109	175	182	232
Sweden	55	101	99	98
World total	2,069	3,119	2,618	3,111

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JAMES STEUART, *Chief Manager.*

Tonnage building in the United States increased, largely as the result of the loans granted under the Jones-White Act, from 48,000 tons at December 31, 1928, to 179,000 tons at the end of last year.

With regard to the future, the outlook is rendered doubtful by the recent acute slump in cargo shipping freights. The competitive position of the British shipbuilding industry is stronger than a year ago, thanks largely to increased costs abroad, and the year has begun with a good volume of work in hand; but since the beginning of December there has been a distinct dearth of new orders.

SHIPPING.

	Tonnage engaged in British Overseas Trade.		*Economist* Index of Freight Rates (1913=100).	Unemployment.	
	Entered (With Cargo).	Cleared (With Cargo).		Shipping Services.	Dock, &c., Services.
	Thousand Tons.	Thousand Tons.		%	%
1913	49,064	67,820	100	...	...
1922	43,396	59,682	122·02	21·2	20·7
1923	51,092	70,691	109·69	19·7	22·0
1924	55,370	65,293	113·44	19·5	25·6
1925	55,513	62,311	102·22	20·6	30·0
1926	64,141	46,977	109·68*	20·5	30·0
1927	60,599	63,500	109·64	16·0	24·3

	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
January...	4,578	4,677	4,958	5,414	98·5	109·6	16·6	19·3	25·8	31·2
February	4,170	3,913	4,767	4,619	94·3	106·7	16·3	18·2	27·6	33·3
March ...	4,741	4,573	5,381	5,510	93·2	102·6	15·1	19·4	28·3	31·7
April	4,836	5,154	4,863	5,514	94·6	99·1	15·0	16·7	30·1	32·8
May	5,284	5,376	5,499	6,013	93·8	97·3	14·8	16·5	32·3	31·9
June	5,289	5,355	5,698	5,746	91·3	92·1	14·9	15·3	31·8	31·8
July	5,438	5,962	5,489	6,183	93·7	94·8	15·2	15·5	32·3	30·2
August....	5,344	5,881	5,967	6,485	98·2	96·1	14·7	15·4	31·3	29·8
September	5,158	5,895	5,474	5,967	99·5	95·3	15·0	15·8	32·1	28·7
October...	5,631	5,831	5,702	6,220	103·0	93·3	19·0	18·8	31·5	27·6
November	4,808	5,130	5,488	5,857	110·9	88·3	18·5	20·6	32·5	30·4
December	5,059	4,944	5,158	5,166	113·2	86·2	18·8	20·5	30·7	29·5
Total ...	60,336	62,701	64,444	68,684	98·8	96·8	16·2	17·7	30·5	30·7

* This figure, being based, in part, on averages for May to November, when no coal freights were obtainable, and homeward freights consequently at an abnorma level, is not comparable with the figures for preceding years.

There is no question that the handicap of high interest rates restricted to some extent during the past year the flow of international commerce on which shipping depends for its livelihood. But, none the less, the volume of seaborne trade, despite monetary difficulties, showed during the first half of 1929 a remarkable resilience; and the influence responsible for the extreme weakness of freights in the later months of the year was the abundance of the European grain harvest and the consequent paralysis of the movement of crops from overseas markets. The trade returns indicate that, at least during the first three quarters of 1929, sea-borne commerce showed a distinct improvement in comparison with the previous year, and the returns of laid-up tonnage and of United Kingdom port traffic also demonstrate that the movement of shipping was considerably more active than in 1928:—

	—Thousand tons net.—		
	Average.		
Laid up on—	1924-27.	1928.	1929
January 1.....	473	372	330
April 1	351	363	236
July 1	632	496	381
October 1.....	388	415	266

Cargo freights, however, with few exceptions, yielded in 1929 a lower average figure than in 1928, and in many homeward routes the declines in gross revenue were appreciable. During January grain movements were heavy, and the Plate absorbed a satisfactory volume of tonnage. In February the Plate market continued the mainstay of "tramp" shipping, but as the spring wore on the somewhat unhealthy concentration of the market on the Plate became accentuated, competition from liners resulting in a veritable collapse of freights from Australia, and North American shippers taking up a very restricted volume of whole-cargo tonnage. Following a severe fall of nearly 4½ per cent. in the average freight level during June, July brought temporarily a mild revival in homeward inquiry; but as the autumn proceeded the new tonnage which had been launched during the first nine months of the year, supplemented by the substantial quantity of laid-up tonnage re-commissioned between July and September, completely broke the homeward freight market.

Rates for outward coal cargoes were, in most instances, somewhat less unremunerative in 1929 than in the previous year. In Europe, the dislocation of transport caused on the Continent by the abnormally severe weather in February and March gave a stimulus to British coal exports from which shipping enjoyed appreciable benefit, and though rates reacted in the Near Trades from the peak reached in March, there continued to be a steady demand for tonnage, and in the autumn values again moved upwards. For Mediterranean discharge, coal freights were maintained, with little fluctuation, at a fairly satisfactory level up to the end of August, after which they sagged heavily as the result of freer offering of tonnage consequent on the more attractive prospects of return employment from the Danube. As regards South America, during the first seven months of the year freights were relatively stable on a low level, after which the slump in homeward quotations had its usual repercussion in producing a sharp upward movement of outward rates.—*Mr Aylmer Vallance, Secretary of the National Maritime Board, in Lloyd's List Annual Review.*

ENGINEERING.

United Kingdom.	Exports of Machinery.	Unemployment.		
		General Engineering.	Electrical Engineering.	Marine Engineering.
	Tons.	%	%	%
1913	689,389	...	...	...
1922	401,437		20·6†	
1923	432,486	18·3*	5·6*	22·2*
1924	463,648	15·2	5·5	16·9
1925	515,896	12·6	5·5	20·9
1926	476,789	15·7	7·7	26·9
1927	512,156	10·4	5·2	15·8

	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
January	50,176	52,175	9·8	10·9	4·7	5·3	11·3	13·4
February	43,617	44,003	9·8	10·3	4·8	5·4	11·8	12·7
March	51,085	45,885	9·6	9·1	4·7	4·7	11·6	11·3
April	44,062	42,644	9·8	9·1	4·7	4·9	12·0	10·4
May	50,031	58,612	9·6	9·5	4·9	4·6	12·3	10·9
June	53,328	37,824	9·5	8·8	4·9	4·4	13·1	8·7
July	48,241	51,977	9·7	8·9	5·0	3·8	13·4	8·9
August	45,172	44,896	10·2	9·7	5·2	4·0	13·5	9·3
September	40,531	38,425	10·3	10·0	5·2	4·1	14·5	9·6
October.....	43,570	49,341	9·7	9·9	5·2	4·1	16·4	10·1
November.....	49,331	52,994	10·5	10·2	5·2	4·2	16·5	9·8
December	47,009	43,696	9·8	10·3	4·7	4·2	15·3	10·2
	566,153	562,472	9·9	9·7	4·9	4·5	13·5	10·4

* End of year. † Whole industry not classified separately before 1923.

Last year was more satisfactory for manufacturers of special lines, and in the traditional and staple branches of engineering the effects of rationalisation began to make themselves felt in some instances. Though employment was still quiet it was better than in 1928, while wage rates remained virtually unchanged. Exports, though still higher than in any other year since 1922, were slightly below the 1928 level.

General Engineering.—Home demand for railway material has been rather better this year, but exports fell off as compared with 1928. Machine tool makers had a better year, and, in spite of a decline, in some cases, in November, the prospects for this branch of the trade are definitely better than they were a year ago. Exports of textile machinery improved slightly, but this branch of the trade suffered from the depression in the textile industries. For similar reasons the agricultural machinery section did badly, though there was a fairly active demand for small oil and petrol engines and for food-preparing machines. The export trade in agricultural machinery is more and more dominated by American producers.

Electrical Engineering.—This industry enjoyed continued activity and development. Substantial orders for heavy generating plant, transformers and switchgear were placed with British manufacturers, and electric furnaces of British make found a ready sale abroad. The Central Electricity Board, which has already placed contracts to the amount of £10 million with British firms, expects to spend ten times this amount within the next five years. A further 38,000 h.p. of electric motors were installed in the mines during the year. The export trade showed considerable improvement.

The following is an index of activity in the electrical industry of Great Britain, and is copyright by the Economic and Statistical Department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association:—

(1920 = 100.)

1928.	Home.	Export.	Total.	1929.	Home.	Export.	Total.
January.....	68	148	88	January	92	122	99
February ...	68	143	87	February	92	126	101
March.....	71	141	89	March	88	126	97
April	70	122	84	April.....	86	145	100
May.....	68	108	79	May	84	143	99
June	68	105	78	June	84	149	101
July	71	80	74	July.....	90	151	106
August	74	86	78	August	88	140	102
September.....	81	102	88	September	81	150	99
October.....	83	107	91	October.....	76	191	106
November...	85	105	93	November.....	71	216	109
December ...	93	103	96	December.....	60	228	102

The average increase in production of electricity over the year was 10 per cent. The following average figures of electrical production in the chief areas of the country are based on the index numbers which appear regularly in the Monthly Supplement of the *Economist*:—

INDEX OF PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY.*
(Monthly average, 1923–24 ∫ 100.)

Date	Britain, Excluding London and Wales.	Coal Mining, Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding, Heavy Engineering.	General Engineering and Automobile Construction.	Chemicals.	Marine Transport, Docks, &c. Date.	Textiles, Cotton and Wool.
Monthly Average.						
1924.....	114	122	111	132	112	102
1925.....	121	124	130	151	126	111
1926.....	119	100	138	162	134	120
1927.....	146	143	158	210	163	139
1928.....	156	150	177	237	190	147
1929.....	171	164	211	260	196	160

* Prepared by the economic and statistical department of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association.

Motor Vehicle Manufacture.—Makers of touring cars have suffered to some extent from the keenness of competition in their limited home market together with the sluggish movement of second-hand cars. Exports, on the other hand, have shown an encouraging expansion from 18,192 in 1928 to 24,197 in 1929, and a steady advance has been made in the improvement of marketing methods. Makers of commercial vehicles had a reasonably good year. The increase in recent years of omnibus and other large passenger vehicle traffic stimulated the production of appropriate chassis. Exports rose from 1,437 to 2,636. The home trade in motor cycles was disappointing, but exports made further progress, and reached a value of £4,015,233, compared with £3,785,799 in 1928.

Marine Engineering.—The year has been marked by steady technical progress, according to *Fairplay*. High-pressure, high-temperature steam has found greater favour as the early difficulties in connection with its employment have been overcome; the water-tube boiler has played a larger part; the efficiency of oil-burning apparatus has been improved; and an appreciable advance has been made in the application to ships of the principle of powdered coal burning. In the domain of internal combustion engineering, the progress has been no less striking. Large double-acting engines of both the four-stroke and the two-stroke type have been produced, and are serving well in ocean-going ships; motors of the trunk piston type have been successfully applied to the propulsion of British cross-Channel packets, and the practice of supercharging has been extended with strikingly successful results. Turbo-electric propulsion has established itself as a suitable system for large passenger ships, and good judges believe that Diesel-electric ships will before long be much in the public eye.

BUILDING TRADES.

The building trade may be reckoned among the more fortunate industries in so far as its percentage of unemployment during the past year has been lower than in many others. Because of the brighter prospects that the trade now affords, many operatives are being attracted back to the building trade, which, during recent years, they had left to work in some other industry. As in the previous year, housing has continued to be the most important element in the building trade. The returns for 1929 show an advance on the number of completed houses included in the 1928 figures—as regards both subsidy and non-subsidy houses. The comparative figures for the two years are as follows:—

SUBSIDY HOUSES.

Number completed in 1929	127,645
" " 1928	101,436

NON-SUBSIDY HOUSES.

Number completed in 1929	71,083
" " 1928	64,624

London and the suburbs continue to enjoy what may be said to amount to a boom in commercial and industrial building, and although every centre is not so busy with building work as the City of London, there has been during the past few years a gradual and fairly general increase in industrial building. It is calculated that there has been about a 7½ per cent. improvement in this class of work during the past four years, but exceptions are to be found in those parts of the country where trade conditions generally are not good. This is exemplified by the variations in the prices of materials which have obtained in various districts during the year—the demand largely regulating the price. Thus, in July last, in some districts common bricks had risen 7s. 6d. per 1,000 as compared with the price in June of the previous year, while in other districts the increase had been no more than 1s. and 1s. 6d. In other localities, again, prices had fallen by amounts varying from 2s. 9d. to 13s. 11d. per 1,000. Throughout the year there has been a pronounced shortage of British-made bricks.—*Chamber of Commerce Journal.*

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SOAP AND GLYCERINE.

The British soap industry, in the face of severe world competition, especially from the United States, finds increasing difficulty in maintaining its position. The 1929 export figures, both for quantity and value, show a rather serious decline as compared with the two previous years. The total weight of exports for the year was 1,513,576 cwts., valued at £3,511,121, as compared with 1,638,132 cwts., valued at £3,798,224, in 1928. The imports, on the other hand, show a slight increase.

IMPORTS.

	Quantities (cwts.).			Values (£).		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Soft	59,064	34,304	47,911	59,612	43,571	66,481
Hard, bars or tablets	133,799	131,175	141,951	299,910	281,874	313,932
Abrasive	8,815	11,867	16,738	11,578	17,204	18,964
Toilet and shaving	68,175	75,993	63,300	304,355	302,560	252,414
Other	21,392	28,070	30,850	33,732	51,878	57,586
	291,245	281,409	300,750	709,177	697,087	709,377

EXPORTS.

Soft	41,482	40,263	38,811	78,156	61,956	50,661
Hard, bars or tablets	1,434,528	1,445,407	1,319,186	2,780,641	2,778,697	2,470,505
Abrasive	5,995	4,627	5,230	70,029	70,881	72,867
Toilet, shaving	82,036	83,904	89,324	726,653	713,501	755,642
Other	40,582	39,948	37,322	169,063	173,099	161,446
	1,624,360	1,638,132	1,513,576	3,824,542	3,798,224	3,511,121
Candles	140,640	126,226	107,748	335,044	306,202	291,287

Of the exports of hard soaps in bars or tablets—excluding toilet, shaving and abrasive soaps—about one-third go to foreign countries outside the British Empire and two-thirds to British oversea dominions. British West Africa, India and the Straits Settlements are large and valuable markets. Among the foreign non-British countries the Dutch East Indies is the largest importer and China among the smallest. A great deal has been said about the almost infinite possibilities of expansion in the soap demand in countries like China and Russia, whose *per capita* consumption of soap is about the lowest of any in the world and their population the largest, but little progress appears to have been made in inducing these teeming millions to take more kindly to soap. There is no doubt that British soaps, in order to maintain their position in the world's markets, have to be cut in price to the lowest possible point; and but for their superior quality—the reputation for which is still well upheld—they would have to be sold at yet lower prices. The time seems to be opportune for a further reduction of prices in the home market, with possibly less expenditure on advertising to counterbalance the temporary loss. It is at least arguable that sales would be better stimulated by a slight fall in price than by maintaining the advertising allocation on quite such an excessive scale as at present.

The glycerine trade does not show much improvement, despite the drastic cuts in price the last year or two. Exports of crude show a considerable increase over preceding years, but the aggregate value was not greatly augmented. Exports of distilled showed a slight increase in quantity, but a remarkable fall in value. On the import side, the amount of crude sent into this country showed an extraordinary decline in quantity and a still larger one in value, for whilst the average price for the year of imported crude in 1928 was about 44s. per cwt. —the lowest known for years—it fell still further in 1929, down to an average price for the year of 35s.

GLYCERINE IMPORTS.

	Quantities (cwts.).			Values (£).		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Crude	19,921	42,903	6,226	74,566	95,447	11,041
Distilled	4,324	7,182	10,985	19,068	25,032	26,548

EXPORTS.

Crude	23,093	22,728	53,455	71,406	64,418	83,819
Distilled	104,618	129,550	130,802	512,615	463,326	342,110

Generally, it may be concluded that the soap industry has not had a particularly brilliant year, and the glycerine side of it, on which it has hitherto depended for quite a large share of its profits, has proved, the last year or two, a veritable broken reed, with small prospect of becoming any stronger. Meantime research is being vigorously prosecuted in many directions, though nothing of a startling or revolutionary character has lately marked the course of soap technology, and research programmes do not strike out in new fields.

VII.—TEXTILES.

THE COTTON TRADE.

United Kingdom.	Imports of Raw Cotton.	Exports. Yarn.	Exports. Piece Goods.	Prices—Middling American.	Unemployment.	Average Earnings per Week.
	Thousand Centals.	Million Lbs.	Million Sq. Yds.	Per Lb. d.	%	Per Week. s. d.
1913	19,167	210·1	*7,057·3	7·27	1·7‡	20 5
1922	14,320	202·0	4,183·7	12·71	10·1	a34 4
1923	12,919	145·0	4,140·2	16·27	16·9	a35 11½
1924	15,777	163·1	4,444·0	16·87	13·7	a37 5½
1925	18,912	189·5	4,433·7	12·72	8·3	a36 11½
1926	17,371	168·5	3,834·3	9·30	18·0	a34 10
1927	15,483	200·4	4,116·9	9·38	9·0	a35 9½

	Imports of Raw Cotton.		Yarn.		Piece Goods.		Prices—Middling American.		Unemployment.		Average Earnings per Week.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928†	1929†	1928	1929	1928.	1929.
											s. d.	s. d.
Jan.	880	2,409	14·9	16·9	337·4	379·3	10·87	10·59	9·7	11·3	36 6½	36 7½
Feb.	1,304	1,284	14·5	13·7	316·2	326·1	9·95	10·28	8·7	11·9	36 8½	36 2½
Mar.	1,424	1,440	15·5	13·5	397·4	334·0	10·56	11·01	9·2	11·5	37 2½	36 5½
April	1,340	1,183	13·8	13·1	314·8	349·4	10·96	10·80	10·1	13·7	37 2½	36 10½
May	1,270	1,146	14·1	16·0	288·9	321·5	11·90	9·95	9·8	14·0	36 7½	37 3½
June	1,136	759	14·4	12·3	277·9	223·9	11·48	10·26	12·9	13·7	36 3½	35 11½
July	839	677	11·4	15·0	338·6	355·4	12·33	10·14	15·2	14·4	36 5½	36 9
Aug.	843	661	15·8	15·3	341·3	321·3	11·12	10·55	16·5	14·8	35 9½	37 8½
Sept.	523	642	11·2	10·2	298·2	237·5	10·52	10·66	14·5	12·6	35 6½	34 8½
Dec.	1,088	1,311	15·1	13·5	334·0	265·8	10·71	10·41	13·1	12·2	36 7	35 1½
Nov.	2,165	1,915	15·4	12·5	331·4	284·0	10·25	9·65	12·6	13·3	36 6½	34 9½
Dec.	2,246	1,958	13·2	14·5	290·5	273·5	10·77	9·67	11·1	14·4	37 0½	34 6½
Total	15058	15384	169·3	166·5	3866·6	3671·7	10·95	10·33	12·0	13·2	36 6½	36 1

* Million linear yards. a End of year. † Beginning of each month.
‡ Trade Union figure; other figures are Unemployment Insurance returns.

During the first two or three months of 1929 business proceeded quite well on the whole, but the extension of spinning trade difficulties to the finer section of the trade became apparent in February, when masters in the Egyptian sections decided to curtail production by one-third. In March an attempt was made to curtail production in the section spinning American cotton, but sufficient support was not forthcoming. Many mills closed down more or less indefinitely during the year, and many curtailed production in one way or another. Exports of cotton yarns to some of the markets, notably France, Italy, China, the Argentine, Madras, and Australia, were considerably larger than in 1928, but spinners of both coarse and fine counts found less support from some of their other foreign outlets.

After the first four or five months of the year everything seemed to go wrong. Spinning and manufacturing employers began in June to press for a wage cut, and when at last the operatives' resistance led to a general stoppage of the mills for three weeks at the end of July, business was brought virtually to a standstill. For four or five weeks after the resumption of work a considerable amount of business was placed for nearly all the foreign markets. During the last three months of the year, however, except for occasional spurts of moderate buying, mainly for India, business was again of the hand-to-mouth variety. The scales were heavily weighted against Lancashire's trade with many of her markets, especially during the second half of the year. The fall in the price of silver and of many staple commodities reduced purchasing power in China, some South American States, and West Africa; higher tariffs were raised in China, Brazil and Turkey. In spite of this the export returns for the year show some encouraging features.

The year's results, however, showed clearly Lancashire's fundamental need to recover the lost trade in bulk lines of low-quality goods. It also showed that our competitors are preparing to join battle in the finer cloths as well as in the coarse ones, and, moreover, that severe competition is not confined to lines which Far Eastern and Continental producers can turn out economically by mass-production methods. Another feature of the year has been the greater attention attracted by the competition of foreign goods in Lancashire's domestic market. There can be justifiable satisfaction with the efforts which are being put forward to improve the financial condition of the industry and its competitive power abroad. The acute depression at Bolton at the beginning of the year, for example, produced another large combine in the fine spinning trade, which is likely to increase in size as time goes on, while in the American

section of the trade the year has seen the gradual progress of the Lancashire Cotton Corporation. Moreover, other efforts at rationalisation along vertical lines are now going forward, and schemes are virtually completed by which Lancashire bulk lines can be offered on competitive terms in foreign markets.

The following table gives cotton and yarn prices for the year:—

1929.	Cotton Middling American.	American Yarns. 32's Twist.	American Yarns. 40's Weft.	Cotton F.G. Fair Sakellaridis Egyptian.	Egyptian Yarn. 60's Twist.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
January 2	10·59	15½	16½	19·35	28
February 6	10·28	15½	16	18·15	27
March 6	11·01	16	16½	18·55	26½
April 3	10·80	16	16½	19·25	27
May 1	9·95	15	15½	17·40	25½
June 5	10·26	15	15½	17·25	25½
July 5	10·14	15	15½	15·90	25½
August 7	10·55	15½	15½	17·05	26
September 4	10·66	16	16½	17·70	27
October 2	10·41	15⅝	15½	16·75	25½
November 6	9·65	14½	15½	14·90	24½
December 4	9·67	14½	14½	14·65	24
December 31	9·42	13½	14½	14·15	23½

The relation between yarn and cloth prices is indicated below:—

Beginning of	American Yarn, 32's Twist. Per Lb.			Egyptian Yarn, 60's Twist. Per Lb.			36 in. Shirtings, 75 yards, 19 by 19, 32's and 40's.						39 in. Shirtings, 37½ yards, 16 by 15, 8½ lbs.					
	1927	1928	1929	1927	1928	1929	1927		1928		1929		1927		1928		1929	
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Jan.	12⅜	15½	15½	24½	27½	28	25	9	28	0	28	6	12	0	14	0	14	0
Feb.	12½	15	15½	24½	26½	27	26	0	27	3	28	0	12	1½	13	7½	13	9½
March	13⅜	15½	16	24½	28	26½	27	3	28	0	28	1½	12	9	14	0	13	10½
April	12⅝	16½	16	25	30½	27	26	9	28	6	28	6	12	4½	14	3	14	0
May	13½	17	15	26½	32	25½	27	0	29	6	27	7½	12	9	14	9	13	4½
June	15½	17	15	28	31½	25½	27	9	27	9	27	9	13	4½	13	4½	13	4½
July	15½	17½	15	28	30½	25½	28	3	30	0	27	9	13	6	14	9	13	4½
Aug.	15½	16½	15½	28	29	26	28	6	29	0	28	0	13	6	14	3	13	6
Sept.	17½	16	16	30	29½	27	30	9	28	9	28	9	15	0	14	1½	13	10½
Oct.	17½	16	15⅝	30	28½	25½	30	3	28	3	28	0	14	9	13	9	13	6
Nov.	17½	15⅝	14½	29½	28	24½	29	6	28	3	27	0	14	6	13	9	13	3
Dec.	15½	16½	14½	28	28½	24	27	9	28	9	26	9	13	10½	14	0	13	0
End of Dec.	15½	16⅝	13½	27½	28	23½	28	0	28	6	26	6	14	0	14	0	13	0

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

United Kingdom.	Imports. Sheep's & Lamb's Wool.	Exports. Woollen Tissues.	Exports. Worsted Tissues.	Price of Raw Wool* per Lb.	Unemployment (Woollen and Worsted).	Earnings (Ministry of Labour Figures) Woollen Trade per Week.
	Thou. Centals.	Thou. Sq. Yds.	Thou. Sq. Yds.	s. d.	%	s. d.
1913	21,743	105,884a	62,490a	2 1	...	...
1922	11,055	121,591	62,338	3 4	5·1	41 4½†
1923	7,392	148,556	62,935	4 7	7 5	39 9½†
1924	7,650	164,752	56,832	5 6	6·9	40 10†
1925	7,291	130,295	47,206	4 8½	14·6	41 2†
1926	8,157	120,832	43,136	3 9	15·9	41 4†
1927	8,220	130,914	39,980	3 11	9·0	41 6†

	Imports. Sheep's & Lamb's Wool.		Woollen Tissues.		Worsted Tissues.		Price of Raw Wool* per Lb.		Unemployment (Woollen and Worsted).		Earnings (Ministry of Labour Figures) Woollen Trade per Week.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.	1928	1929	1928.	1929.
											s. d.	s. d.
Jan.	1,024	1,027	13,105	12,425	3,814	6,138	4 0	3 8	8·8	15·1	41 0	39 6½
Feb.	1,192	1,004	11,508	9,989	2,950	4,599	4 0	3 7	7·6	13 1	41 7	39 5½
Mar.	1,353	845	12,150	8,499	2,969	3,562	4 0	3 6	6·7	11·2	42 2	40 9
April	917	1,186	7,990	6,647	1,980	2,866	4 0	3 5	7·1	10·5	42 0	41 10½
May	985	986	9,286	7,648	2,503	3,638	4 0	3 5	8·7	11·5	41 7½	41 8½
June	519	703	12,015	7,168	2,667	3,043	4 0	3 5	12·0	14·1	41 0	41 0½
July	283	390	13,380	12,065	4,574	5,478	3 11	3 5	15·1	15·8	40 4½	40 7
Aug.	267	328	13,989	12,054	5,406	5,030	3 10	3 2	14·7	15·0	40 0	40 9½
Sept.	186	181	9,459	8,276	3,314	3,011	3 9	3 2	16·9	14·7	40 9½	41 3
Oct.	207	220	9,050	7,975	3,662	3,130	3 7	2 4	15·8	15·6	41 5½	40 9½
Nov.	345	487	8,251	7,595	4,241	3,220	3 8	2 8	14·0	15·0	40 9½	40 9½
Dec.	529	779	8,374	7,844	4,032	3,566	3 8	2 9	13·2	14·8	41 0½	40 6½
Total	7,808	8,136	128557	108185	42112	47281	3 10½	3 2½	11·7	13·9	41 1½	40 9

* Queensland scoured, super combing. † End of year. a Thousand linear yards.

The difficulties which have beset the wool-textile industry of this country in recent years were accentuated rather than alleviated during 1929. It must have been for the majority a year of substantial losses. Prices fell almost continuously, apart from a temporary recovery in the finer grades during October, and the consequent depreciation of stocks in all sections of the industry was very serious. The importance of raw material being brought down to a really reasonable basis, having regard to diminished purchasing power throughout the world, was fully appreciated, and from that point of view there was a hopeful side in the restoration of values to somewhere near a pre-war level, but the process of getting there was costly. One of the fundamental problems which had to be faced was created by lack of sufficient business to provide profitable employment for machinery. Profit

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depended mainly on successful speculative buying of wool, tops, or yarns, rather than on normal margins between cost of production and selling prices. Attempts were made to secure a remedy either by reducing wages or by a policy of safeguarding. The wages reduction movement was for a time side-tracked by the safeguarding application, but when all hopes of import duties were abandoned there was a renewed campaign for lower wages. It was, however, found to be well-nigh impossible to arrive at a general agreement covering the whole of the industry. Many firms by individual action brought about reductions, mostly in the woollen section, and at the end of the year there was the anomaly of widely-varying rates operating amongst competing firms.

The Raw Material Position.

The trend of events in the raw material markets during the year has been of more than ordinary interest. At the beginning of the year the demand for wool throughout the world was about keeping pace with supply, and nobody could have foreseen the great change to-day in comparison with a year ago. From the highest point in January to the lowest point in October the price of a 64's average fell 16d., and although there was then a sharp recovery, it did not hold, and has now almost been written off. Medium and low cross-breds were comparatively steady, and it was not until the last month that there was any sign of a real break. Then there was a sharp decline of twopence within a week or two, which left 40's prepared tops about fivepence below the January level.

The United States Department of Agriculture, in a survey of the production of wool in eight countries (representing seven-tenths of the world's clips, excluding Russia and China) puts the production for the season 1929-30 at 2,317 million lb., as compared with 2,326 million lb. for the season 1928-29 and 2,208 million lb. for the season 1927-28. The figures do not suggest that the supply of wool is excessive, nor does experience in the principal wool consuming countries point to any such conclusion. Out of total receipts into store of 2,690,500 bales in Australia last season, there was a carry-forward of only 44,300 bales at the end of June. What has happened during the past year suggests that wool values, after ruling for some years rather above the level of commodity values generally, have now resumed a more normal relation.

The following table shows the prices of tops on the dates given:—

AVERAGE PRICES OF TOPS.

In Pence, per Lb.	July, 1914.	Dec. 29, 1927.	Dec. 27, 1928.	May 2, 1929.	Oct. 10, 1929.	Nov. 7, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929, as % of July, 1914.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	
70's average...	33	54	50	46	34	40	34½	*105*
64's average...	32½	52	47½	43	31	36	31	*96*
60's super	31½	49	45½	42	30	34	30	*95*
58's crossbred	26½	43½	39½	36	27	29	26	*97*
56's crossbred	24½	39	35	33½	26	27½	25	*103*
50's crossbred	20½	29½	29	27½	23	23½	21	*101*
46's carded ...	17	23½	24	23	21	21	18½	*109*
40's prepared	16	22½	22½	22	20½	20½	18	*113*

The following table shows the trend of prices for certain qualities of yarns:—

AVERAGE PRICES OF YARNS.

Per Lb.	July, 1914.	Dec. 27, 1928.	May 2, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929.	Dec. 23, 1929, as % of July, 1914.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1/16's super	1 7	2 5½	2 4	2 0	*126*
*1/60's botany (70's/80's).....	8 1½	14 6	14 0	11 9	*145*
2/16's worsted, med. (44's card) ...	1 8	2 5½	2 4½	2 1½	*127*
2/24's worsted, low (40's crossbred)	1 8	2 7	2 6½	2 3	*135*
2/32's worsted, med. (46's/48's) ...	1 10	3 0	2 10½	2 7	*141*
2/40's (56's super)	2 10½	4 1	3 10	3 3	*113*
2/48's botany (64's)	3 3	5 3	5 2	3 11	*120*
2/60's botany (super 70's)	3 5	6 9	6 8	5 3	*154*

* Per gross.

The export and import figures in 1929 bore witness to the reduced turnover. Imports of tissues were the lowest since 1925; on the other hand, imports of yarns were slightly larger than in 1928. Exports of tops and yarns showed a slight recovery in the second half of the year, but were down on the twelve months; whilst exports of tissues reached the lowest level since 1921. The chief feature in the exports of tissues was a further drop in trade with China and Japan, which was very poor. Exports to Australia were again down, and there was some falling off in Canada. On the other hand, the European market kept up well. The United States took more than in 1928. South and Central America were slightly down.—*Extracted from the Annual Review of the Weekly Wool Chart, Bradford.*

THE RAYON INDUSTRY.

While consumption and production have substantially increased during 1929, the year has seen intense competition and underselling in yarns, and many of the smaller companies are now in a very unenviable position. After the price reduction at the end of 1928 the leading producers went very cautiously during the first quarter, and as two of the smaller plants had been closed down owing to the liquidation of the companies, the total output was rather small. In the second quarter demand increased considerably for both viscose and acetate yarns, and though production reached record figures it was practically all consumed. The position in the third quarter was even more satisfactory from both the standpoint of production and consumption. During the last few months of the year demand for yarns fell away for various reasons, and resulted in the introduction of cheaper yarns by the leading viscose and acetate rayon producers. An interesting development has been the division of demand into two main classes, viz., low-grade yarns and special quality yarns, while the medium or standard quality yarns have fallen from favour. This position has largely resulted from price-cutting in poor-grade yarns by the smaller companies in order to clear stocks, and it has been found by the weavers and knitters that for many purposes these poorer yarns could be used successfully. Thus towards the end of the year, to cater for this trade in low-grade viscose yarns, the largest producing company introduced a new yarn which sold at 3s. 9d. on pirn for 150 denier, which was much cheaper than other similar yarns.

There is not much margin for profits in yarns selling under 3s. 6d. per lb. unless production is on a very large scale, and the position of the smaller companies during the closing months of the year was very bad. Efforts have been made to form a working agreement between the smaller companies, but so far these have proved unsuccessful. Meanwhile demand for special quality yarns has continued to expand, especially for those in multifilament viscose, which have successfully competed with both acetate and cuprammonium. A feature of the export trade in cotton and rayon mixtures has been serious competition from Japan, and this has resulted in a substantial decline in shipments to the Eastern markets. The largest British company has continued to play a leading part in the international affairs of the industry, where further important cartelisation developments have taken place, and good progress has been made towards the establishment of international rayon standards.

LINEN TRADE.

During 1929 the landed price of imported flax was some £8¼ per ton cheaper than in 1928, but at rather over £91¼ per ton it was still a long way above the pre-war price of about £50. The main handicap of the linen trade thus continued to be formidable, and it is a relief to find that traders maintained their oversea business so well as the following table shows them to have done:—

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF LINEN MANUFACTURES.
(Not including Yarns.)

	1913.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
EXPORTS—						
Piece goods { Thous. sq. yds.†	193,681†	83,694	75,282	73,911	66,134	71,430
Piece goods { Thous. £	5,969	6,868	5,495	5,213	4,965	4,986
Handkerchiefs { Thous. dozs.	*	3,128	4,098	5,061	4,569	5,045
Handkerchiefs { Thous. £	§	901	970	1,060	962	943
Finished thread { Thous. cwts.	24	25	23	22	22	21
Finished thread { Thous. £	350	864	792	637	642	604
Damask table linen Thous. £	§	1,285	1,338	1,464	1,346	1,309
All other goods ... Thous. £	1,929	1,290	1,424	1,427	1,375	1,398
Total ..... Thous. £	8,248	11,208	10,019	9,801	9,290	9,240
IMPORTS—						
Total‡ ..... Thous. £	1,194	1,141	1,099	1,174	1,007	1,093
Re-exports ..... Thous. £	74	137	112	122	198	141
Net imports..... Thous. £	1,120	1,004	987	1,052	809	952

* Not recorded. † Linear yards in 1913. ‡ Linen-lace, and embroidery has been added to imports in 1920 and after. § Included in "All Other Goods. || Not in the piece.

The recovery in shipments of piece-goods from 66 million to 71½ million square yards is gratifying, but this figure is still seriously short of the quantities recorded in previous years. A good rise occurred in handkerchiefs, too, the quantity at 5,045,000 dozens being only slightly behind the "record" shipments of 5,061,000 dozens in 1927. Other lines of exports kept up fairly well. Imports were only at the normal level established in recent years. Indeed, it is notable that the contrast between exports and net imports has been more favourable to us during the last five years than it was in the pre-war year 1913. Cheaper flax would probably enable us to make it still more favourable.

APPENDIX.

(A) WHOLESALE PRICES OF COMMODITIES.—31 DECEMBER, 1924-1928; AND MONTHLY, 1929.

NOTE.—The following tables give the variations in prices of the commodities on which the *Economist* Index number is based.

CEREALS AND MEAT.

	Wheat.		Flour.	Barley.	Oats.	Maize.	Rice.	Potatoes.	Beef.	
	No. 2 Northern Manitoba.	English Gazette Average.	London Standard, Ex-Mill.	English Gazette Average.	English Gazette Average.	La Plata, Landed.	No. 2 Burma.	Good English.	English Sides.	Argentine Chilled Hind-Qrs.
	Per Qr.	Per Cwt.	Per 280lb.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Qr.	Per Cwt.	Per Ton.	Per 8 Lb.	Per 8 Lb.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	s.	s.
End of 1924	73 0	12 2	53 0	14 5	9 6	48 0	14 9	9·50	6·17	5·00
End of 1925	66 0	12 5	51 0	10 6	9 3	38 3	15 6	6·25	5·67	3·92
End of 1926	56 6	11 10	44 0	10 7	8 2	32 0	14 1½	6·50	4·83	4·00
End of 1927	58 0	9 10	41 0	11 4	9 3	38 0	14 3	6·00	4·67	4·17
End of 1928	49 3	9 6	35 6	10 2	8 11	42 3	13 9	6·00	5·33	4·17
,, Jan. 1929.....	50 9	9 8	36 6	10 3	9 5	44 9	13 0	5·50	5·33	4·17
,, Feb. ,, ...	52 3	9 9	37 6	10 4	9 9	44 0	12 3	7·00	5·33	4·25
,, Mar. ,, ...	50 3	9 9	35 6	10 3	9 9	43 3	12 9	6·25	5·33	5·08
,, Apr. ,, ...	48 6	9 11	35 6	10 0	9 9	40 6	12 7½	5·25	5·67	5·08
,, May ,, ...	42 6	9 10	31 6	10 7	9 8	36 0	13 0	3·50	5·75	4·33
,, June ,, ...	48 3	9 8	33 6	9 11	9 3	39 0	13 6	3·00	6·00	5·25
,, July ,, ...	64 9	11 3	43 6	10 1	9 7	41 6	14 0	4·00	6·50	4·83
,, Aug. ,, ...	58 6	10 11	39 6	10 1	8 4	38 0	14 0	5·00	5·33	5·17
,, Sept. ,, ...	54 9	9 8	38 0	10 0	7 11	35 3	14 6	4·50	5·08	5·25
,, Oct. ,, ...	52 9	9 7	38 0	10 2	7 9	34 3	13 9	4·75	5·00	4·83
,, Nov. ,, ...	53 0	9 3	38 6	8 11	7 3	31 6	12 9	4·00	5·00	5·17
End of 1929	55 6	9 6	40 0	8 8	7 0	31 0	12 6	3·75	5·67	5·17

	CEREALS & MEAT (*Con.*)			OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS.									
	Mutton.		Bacon.	Tea.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Sugar.		Cheese.	Butter.	Coconut Oil.	Tobacco.	
	English Wethers.	N.Z. Frozen Wethers.	Danish.	Indian Auction Average.	Costa Rica, Good to Fine.	Trinidad.	B.W.I. Crystallised.	Refined Granulated, London.	Canadian.	Danish.	Crude.	Virginia Leaf, Common to Fine.	
	Per 8 Lb.	Per 8 Lb.	Per Cwt.	Per Lb.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Cwt.	Per Ton.	Per Lb.	
	s.	s.	s. d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	s.	
End of 1924...	8·83	5·83	113 0	22·37	187 6	87 6	32 0	34 0	100 0	244 6	49·25	1·75	
End of 1925...	6·50	4·75	129 6	20·50	172 6	67 6	24 1½	28 7½	104 0	173 0	48·00	1·75	
End of 1926...	7·83	4·25	88 0	15·75	132 6	76 0	34 9	34 1½	94 0	185 0	45·50	1·75	
End of 1927...	6·67	4·75	79 6	18·62	177 0	74 0	31 3	29 9½	101 0	181 0	42·50	1·75	
End of 1928...	7·00	5·00	98 0	17·50	160 0	60 6	24 3	24 7	105 0	200 0	39·00	1·75	
,, Jan., 1929	6·33	5·00	91 0	18·00	161 6	61 0	24 0	23 3	104 0	190 0	39·00	1·75	
,, Feb., ,,	7·00	4·92	113 0	17·00	169 0	61 6	23 0	23 5	103 0	189 0	37·50	1·75	
,, Mar., ,,	6·83	5·00	112 0	17·12	170 0	64 0	23 0	23 6	104 0	166 0	35·50	1·75	
,, Apr., ,,	6·67	4·67	122 0	17·00	170 6	64 0	22 6	23 3	104 0	163 0	34·50	1·75	
,, May, ,,	7·33	4·67	108 0	16·37	165 0	62 6	22 3	22 6	103 0	162 0	32·00	1·75	
,, June, ,,	7·50	4·67	115 0	15·00	160 9	61 6	22 3	23 5¼	99 0	176 0	30·50	1·79	
,, July, ,,	6·83	4·50	125 0	13·25	160 0	61 6	23 3	24 3	100 0	171 0	35·00	1·79	
,, Aug., ,,	7·50	4·50	123 0	16·00	158 0	62 0	22 6	23 0¾	100 6	184 0	35·50	1·79	
,, Sept., ,,	6·83	4·58	103 0	15·37	156 0	62 0	23 0	24 2	95 6	200 0	35·50	1·79	
,, Oct., ,,	6·67	4·50	105 0	14·50	160 0	62 0	22 9	23 6	95 0	196 0	33·00	1·79	
,, Nov., ,,	6·50	4·33	107 0	13·12	165 0	62 0	22 3	23 6	97 0	189 0	33·00	1·79	
End of 1929...	7·00	4·83	105 0	13·12	165 0	62 6	22 3	22 9	97 0	180 0	34·00	1·79	

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A.—WHOLESALE PRICES OF COMMODITIES—*Continued.*

TEXTILES.

	Cotton.				Wool.			Silk.	Flax.	Hemp.	Jute.
	American Middling.	Egyptian, f.g.f., Sak	Yarn—32's Twist.	Cloth—39-inch Shirtings.	English, Southdown, Washed.	Queensland, Scoured Super Combing.	Tops, 64's.	Italian, Raw, fr. Milan.	Livonian Z.K.	Manila.	Native Firsts.
	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Piece. s. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. s. d.	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £
End of 1924	13·64	29·85	24·50	18 0	37·00	70·0	82	28 0	121·0	56·00	39·87
End of 1925	10·26	17·30	16·62	14 1½	24·00	50·0	48	28 9	71·5	46·00	59·00
End of 1926	6·90	14·00	12·37	12 0	21·00	45·0	45	26 3	54·0	47·00	31·25
End of 1927	11·06	17·75	15·25	14 0	28·50	48·0	51	20 3	92·0	41·50	31·75
End of 1928	10·59	19·45	15·50	14 0	27·50	44·0	46·0	22 6	91·0	36·00	32·25
,, Jan. 1929	10·37	18·40	15·50	13 9	27·50	43·0	47·0	22 6	90·0	37·50	33·25
,, Feb. ,,	10·76	18·15	15·75	13 9	27·00	42·0	43·0	22 3	90·0	36·75	34·50
,, Mar. ,,	10·96	19·40	16·00	14 0	26·00	41·0	44·0	22 3	89·0	36·75	33·50
,, Apr. ,,	10·03	17·60	15·50	13 7½	26·00	41·0	43·0	21 3	84·0	36·75	30·00
,, May ,,	10·20	17·25	15·00	13 7½	25·00	41·0	41·0	20 6	79·0	38·00	30·12
,, June ,,	10·30	16·15	15·00	13 4½	22·00	41·0	40·0	20 6	77·0	37·75	30·25
,, July ,,	10·60	17·10	14·75	13 4½	23·00	39·0	37·0	20 6	70·0	38·25	30·25
,, Aug. ,,	10·58	17·25	15·00	13 6	23·00	38·0	35·0	21 0	68·0	37·50	31·75
,, Sept. ,,	10·14	16·30	15·00	13 6	23·00	32·0	32·0	21 0	66·0	36·00	29·87
,, Oct. ,,	9·88	15·20	14·50	13 3	23·00	31·0	33·0	20 6	62·0	35·00	28·50
,, Nov. ,,	9·62	14·60	14·20	13 0	23·00	32·0	33·0	19 9	59·0	35·25	26·75
End of 1929	9·42	14·15	13·87	13 0	23·00	33·0	31·0	18 9	58·0	35·50	27·75

MINERALS.

	Pig Iron.	Steel Rails.	Iron Bars.	Tin Plates.	Coal.			Lead.	Tin.	Copper.	Spelter.
	Cleveland, G.M.B. No. 3.	Middlesbrough.	Middlesbrough.	I. C., S. Wales.	Welsh, Best Ad'ty.	Durham, Best Gas.	Sheffield Best House.	English Pig.	Standard.	Standard.	G.O.B.
	Per Ton. s.	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £	Per Box. s. d.	Per Ton. s. d.	Per Ton. s. d.	Per Ton. s. d.	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £	Per Ton. £
End of 1924	81·5	9·00	12·00	23 6	27 0	22 0	27 0	45·00	267·00	67·44	38·45
End of 1925	66·5	8·00	11·25	20 0	22 9	16 6	28 0	36·50	287·25	59·31	38·30
End of 1926	87·5	8·50	12·25	21 9	29 3	23 0	30 0	30·25	300·37	56·19	32·75
End of 1927	65·0	8·25	10·25	18 6	19 1½	15 0	20 6	23·75	265·12	60·91	26·25
End of 1928	66·0	8·50	10·25	18 0	19 4½	14 9	21 0	22·25	225·75	74·00	26·67
,, Jan. 1929	66·0	8·50	10·25	18 0	19 4½	14 9	21 0	23·50	220·00	77·94	26·12
,, Feb. ,,	67·0	8·50	10·25	18 0	19 9	14 9	21 6	25·00	220·50	82·62	26·37
,, Mar. ,,	67·0	8·50	10·25	18 3	21 6	15 3	21 6	26·25	220·50	95·75	27·50
,, Apr. ,,	68·5	8·50	10·75	18 6	21 3	15 6	20 0	26·00	198·12	77·37	26·75
,, May ,,	71·25	8·50	10·75	18 6	20 0	15 6	20 0	25·00	196·25	74·00	26·75
,, June ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 3	20 0	16 6	20 0	24·75	201·50	73·96	26·50
,, July ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 3	20 0	16 6	20 0	24·25	213·50	73·20	25·25
,, Aug. ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 4½	20 0	16 6	20 0	24·75	208·75	74·62	25·06
,, Sept. ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 9	20 0	16 6	21 0	25·00	203·12	74·12	23·87
,, Oct. ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 9	20 1½	16 9	21 0	24·00	189·00	71·00	22·50
,, Nov. ,,	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 9	20 1½	16 9	21 0	22·75	180·00	69·12	19·87
End of 1929	72·5	8·50	10·75	18 9	20 1½	16 9	21 0	23·25	178·12	68·00	19·87

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS BANK
LIMITED
9, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2
Tel. Address: "Ultramarin, London." *Telephone:* London Wall 0295
Capital Authorised £1,500,000 Capital Issued and fully paid £1,000,000
SOLE LONDON AGENTS FOR
BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, LISBON
and its offices in
Portugal, the Portuguese Colonies, Brazil, and Bombay,
and for
BANQUE FRANCO-PORTUGAISE D'OUTREMER, PARIS
The Bank places at the disposal of its clients a complete International Banking Service.

A.—WHOLESALE PRICES OF COMMODITIES—*Continued.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

	Timber.		Cement.	Hides.	Leather.	Petrol.	Petroleum.	Fuel Oil.	Linseed Oil.	Tallow.	Rubber.	Crystals.	Creosote.
	Eng. Oak Planks.	Swed. U/S 2½ × 7.	Best Portland	Market, Best Ox.	Sole Bends 8/14Lbs.	No. 1 Spirit.		Inlaid Furnace Bx. Inst.	Naked, net.	Town.	Plant. Sheet.	Soda.	London.
	Per C. Ft. s.	Per St. £	Per Ton. s. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Gal. d.	Per 8 Lb. d.	Per Ton. s. d.	Per Ton. £	Per Cwt. s. d.	Per Lb. d.	Per Ton. £	Per Gal. d.
End of 1924.....	7	21	60 9	9·31	23½	15½	13	82 6	40·50	46 6	20·00	5·12	6·37
End of 1925.....	7	19	60 9	8·75	23¼	15½	12	77 6	33·50	39 6	46·00	5·12	7·12
End of 1926.....	7	19	60 9	7·69	23½	15½	13	85 0	31·25	37 6	19·12	5·12	9·00
End of 1927.....	7	19	54 0	9·62	31	11½	12	75 0	28·00	34 6	20·00	5·12	8·87
,, Mar., 1928	7	19	54 0	9·62	30	11½	10½	72 6	29·50	35 0	13·25	5·12	8·00
,, June, ,,	7	19	54 0	9·62	28	15¼	10½	72 6	29·50	36 6	9·31	5·12	7·62
,, Sept., ,,	7	19	54 0	9·87	28¾	15¼	10½	70 0	29·50	38 6	8·56	5·12	7·00
End of 1928.....	7	19	47 0	8·25	26	15¼	10½	67 6	29·00	38 6	8·69	5·12	6·25
,, Jan., 1929	7	19	47 0	7·50	23½	15¼	10½	67 6	29·50	38 6	10·87	5·12	5·75
,, Feb., ,,	7	19	47 0	7·00	22⅔	15¼	10½	67 6	30·25	38 0	12·87	5·12	5·50
,, Mar., ,,	7	19	47 0	7·00	22	17½	12	67 6	29·00	38 0	11·00	5·12	5·25
,, Apr., ,,	7	19	47 0	7·06	21	17½	12	67 6	29·00	38 0	9·75	5·12	5·00
,, May, ,,	7	19	47 0	6·25	20	17½	12	67 6	28·75	38 0	10·75	5·12	5·00
,, June, ,,	7	19	47 0	6·62	19½	17½	12	67 6	30·50	38 0	10·62	5·12	4·50
,, July, ,,	7	19	47 0	6·62	20	17½	12	67 6	36·50	38 6	11·00	5·12	4·50
,, Aug., ,,	7	19	47 0	6·56	21	17½	12	67 6	38·00	38 6	10·25	5·12	4·50
,, Sept., ,,	7	19	47 0	6·50	22	17⅝	12	67 6	44·00	38 6	9·75	5·12	4·25
,, Oct., ,,	7	19	47 0	6·50	21	17½	12	67 6	44·50	37 0	9·25	5·12	4·25
,, Nov., ,,	7	19	47 0	6·37	21	17½	12	67 6	45·50	37 0	8·06	5·12	4·25
End of 1929.....	7	19	47 0	6·31	21	17½	12	67 6	45·00	37 0	8·06	5·12	4·25

GUNZE SEISHI
Kabushiki Kaisha
(Gunze Raw Silk Mfg. Co., Ltd.)
Ayabe, Kyoto Prefecture
Japan
One of the Largest Silk Filatures in the World
PRESIDENT:
Mr. SABUROBEI ENDO

Truth
"Truth lies at the bottom of a well," said a philosopher, but this is only half a truth.
Truth may be a living thing both in our ordinary and business life, for a sincere attachment to truth, modern and scientific, is a sure bulwark for the mind.
The habit of truth makes a man exact in all his relations with his fellow men. His word is his bond. It means that in business the thing he sells is exactly what he says it is without equivocation.
The Chatwood Security stands for truth. It is exactly what we say it is. It is not offered on a price competitive basis, but to those who desire to have the best. We refuse business offered at a price which would require us to lower our standard of craftsmanship.
J.E.S.
THE CHATWOOD SECURITY
THE CHATWOOD SAFE Co., Limited, Bankers' Engineers, SHREWSBURY, England.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

ECONOMIST INDEX NUMBER, 1927–1929.

Date.	1927=100. Cereals and Meat.	Other Foods.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.	1913=100. Cereals and Meat.	Other Food.	Textiles.	Minerals.	Miscellaneous.	Complete Index.
1927.												
End Jan.	97·7	100·9	89·7	108·5	102·0	99·6	144·2	204·0	140·8	135·6	118·4	143·1
,, Feb.	98·3	102·2	91·9	109·0	102·8	100·7	145·1	206·7	144·2	136·3	119·3	144·7
,, March	98·2	99·7	93·0	107·9	101·2	99·9	144·9	201·6	146·0	134·9	117·5	143·5
,, April	100·3	97·1	93·5	104·9	100·3	99·4	148·0	196·4	146·8	131·1	116·4	142·8
,, May	105·7	100·0	98·2	100·9	100·5	101·2	156·0	202·2	154·1	126·2	116·7	145·4
,, June	105·4	98·6	100·2	99·1	98·1	100·3	155·5	199·4	157·3	123·9	113·9	144·1
,, July	101·6	98·5	105·5	97·9	98·2	100·3	149·9	199·2	165·6	122·4	114·0	144·1
,, Aug.	103·0	100·0	109·5	96·4	97·4	101·0	152·0	202·2	171·9	120·5	113·1	145·1
,, Sept.	99·2	102·8	107·4	93·5	97·9	99·8	146·4	207·9	168·6	116·9	113·6	143·4
,, Oct.	96·3	100·7	106·6	94·3	99·5	99·2	142·1	203·6	167·3	117·9	115·5	142·5
,, Nov.	97·4	101·3	104·3	95·3	100·6	99·6	143·7	204·8	163·7	119·2	116·8	143·1
,, Dec.	97·4	98·2	102·5	94·1	101·5	98·8	143·7	198·6	160·9	117·8	117·8	141·9
1928.												
End Jan.	100·3	96·6	102·4	92·5	99·9	98·5	148·0	195·3	160·7	115·7	116·0	141·5
,, Feb.	101·6	98·3	104·1	91·0	97·5	98·5	149·9	198·8	163·4	113·8	113·2	141·5
,, March	107·0	96·9	107·4	91·4	96·9	99·9	157·9	196·0	168·6	114·3	112·5	143·5
,, April	111·4	95·0	109·2	91·8	98·3	101·4	164·4	192·1	171·4	114·8	114·1	145·7
,, May	116·3	94·7	108·6	92·5	97·4	102·1	171·6	191·5	170·5	115·7	113·1	146·7
,, June	112·8	92·6	109·8	91·3	95·9	100·6	166·4	187·3	172·3	114·2	111·3	144·5
,, July	106·1	93·1	107·9	90·9	95·6	98·8	156·6	188·3	169·4	113·7	111·0	141·9
,, Aug.	100·4	92·6	105·2	90·7	95·8	97·0	148·2	187·3	165·1	113·4	111·2	139·4
,, Sept.	96·6	93·5	101·4	91·8	95·3	95·7	142·5	189·1	159·2	114·8	110·6	137·5
,, Oct.	98·2	91·5	100·6	92·9	93·1	95·3	144·9	185·0	157·9	116·2	108·0	136·9
,, Nov.	97·4	90·4	102·3	93·8	92·4	95·3	143·7	182·8	160·6	117·3	107·2	136·9
,, Dec.	97·6	90·2	101·7	94·1	94·1	95·0	144·0	182·4	159·6	117·7	106·1	136·5
1929.												
End Jan.	96·7	89·4	101·3	94·8	91·2	94·7	142·7	180·8	159·0	118·6	105·9	136·1
,, Feb	101·2	88·5	99·9	96·4	91·4	95·6	149·3	179·0	156·8	120·6	106·1	137·3
,, March	100·9	87·3	100·8	99·7	91·4	96·1	148·9	176·5	158·2	124·7	106·1	138·1
,, April	99·1	86·5	96·7	96·7	90·0	94·0	146·2	174·9	151·8	120·9	104·5	135·0
,, May	92·6	84·3	94·9	95·7	89·5	91·5	136·6	170·5	149·0	119·7	103·9	131·5
,, June	95·1	84·1	92·7	96·3	89·3	91·7	140·3	170·1	145·5	120·4	103·6	131·7
,, July	103·5	84·7	91·6	96·1	91·0	93·7	152·7	171·3	143·8	120·2	105·6	134·6
,, Aug.	101·3	86·2	91·7	96·3	91·0	93·6	149·5	174·3	143·9	120·4	105·6	134·5
,, Sept.	95·8	86·6	87·7	96·2	91·5	91·8	141·4	175·1	137·7	120·3	106·2	131·9
,, Oct.	94·4	85·0	85·2	94·6	90·7	90·2	139·3	171·9	133·7	118·3	105·3	129·6
,, Nov.	90·6	84·0	83·6	92·4	89·8	88·3	133·7	169·9	131·2	115·6	104·2	126·9
,, Dec.	92·3	83·6	82·6	92·4	89·2	88·3	136·2	169·1	129·6	115·6	103·5	126·9

(B) INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

Extracted from the League of Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.*

(Percentage of 1913.)

Period.	France.	Italy.	Sweden.	Norway.	Netherlands.	Switzerland.	Germany.	United States.	Canada.	B. India, Calc'tta	Australia.	South Africa.	Japan.
	Official.	*Bachi.*	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official (c).	Official.	Bureau of Labour Statistics.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Official.	Bank of Japan.
Base.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1901–1910.	July, 1914.	1913.	1913.	1913.	July, 1914.	1913.	1913.	1913.
Average.													
1913	100	100	100	100	100	...	100	100	100	...	100	100	100
1922	326·6	508	173	...	160	167·5	...	138·5	152·0	176	161·6	128·4	195·8
1923	418·9	512	163	232	151	180·6	...	144·1	153·1	172	178·7	126·6	199·1
1924	488·5	512	162	268	156	174·6	137·3	140·5	155·3	173	173·3	128·7	206·5
1925	549·8	596	161	253	155	161·6	141·8	148·3	160·3	159	169·5	127·6	201·7
1926	702·6	603	149	198	145	144·5	134·4	143·3	156·3	148	168·4	123·3	178·9
1927	617·2	495	146	167	148	142·2	137·6	136·7	152·7	148	167·0	124·0	169·8
1928	619·6	462	148	161	149	144·6	140·0	140·0	150·6	145	164·7	120·4	170·9
	(b)	(b)		(f)		(f)				(b)			
November, 1928	625·7	466	145	157	148	145·2	140·3	138·5	148·3	146	159·5	...	173·1
December, ,,	623·5	464	145	157	148	143·9	139·9	138·5	147·7	145	161·8	...	173·7
January, 1929	630·3	461	144	154	146	142·5	138·9	139·3	147·7	145	164·8	119·6	172·2
February, ,,	638·2	463	145	155	146	142·9	139·3	138·5	149·5	144	163·4	...	171·0
March, ,,	639·5	461	144	155	147	141·8	139·6	139·7	150·2	143	164·7	...	171·0
April, ,,	626·9	455	141	154	144	140·1	137·1	138·7	147·0	140	165·3	116·6	170·2
May, ,,	623·2	452	140	152	142	139·3	135·5	137·2	144·4	139	164·0	...	168·6
June, ,,	610·6	447	139	151	141	139·4	135·1	138·1	144·7	138	165·3	...	167·6
July, ,,	613·0	440	140	152	141	142·8	137·8	140·4	150·0	142	166·6	114·6	166·0
August, ,,	596·4	437	141	154	142	142·7	138·1	140·0	153·3	143	167·8	...	165·1
September, ,,	597·3	437	140	154	141	142·2	138·1	139·7	152·0	143	170·8	...	164·4
October, ,,	589·5	436	138	154	140	142·0	137·2	138·0	151·1	140	168·4	113·4	163·4
November, ,,	583·7	431	135	152	137	140·0	135·5	135·2	149·7	...	...	...	159·6

(b) End of the month. (c) Until end 1925 "Lorenz." (f) 15th of the month.

The National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd.

AUTHORISED & SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £6,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - £2,000,000 } £4,155,154
RESERVE FUND & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £2,155,154 }
AGGREGATE ASSETS TO 31ST MARCH, 1929, £18,809,388

Directors:

HON. W. PEMBER REEVES (*Chairman*). SIR AUSTIN E. HARRIS, K.B.E.
THE RT. HON. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. LINDSAY ERIC SMITH, Esq.
HENRY F. FRESHWATER, Esq. RICHARD DURANT TROTTER, Esq.

Head Office:—8, MOORGATE, LONDON, E.C.2. **Chief Office in New Zealand:—WELLINGTON.**
Manager: ARTHUR WILLIS. General Manager: J. T. GROSE.

95 Branches and Agencies in New Zealand and Correspondents throughout the World.

The National Bank of New Zealand, Limited, Receives Deposits for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application, and conducts every description of Banking Business connected with New Zealand.

S. JAPHET & CO., LTD.,

60, LONDON WALL,
LONDON - E.C.2.

MERCHANT BANKERS.

THE
PIONEER LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

Chief Offices:
67, Dale Street, LIVERPOOL.

Established 1891.

Life Assurance Funds: Exceed £700,000.
Total Claims Paid: Exceed £1,000,000

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE

(Incorporated with Limited Liability in Australia.)
EST. 1865

Paid-up Capital - - - - -	£1,250,000
Reserve Fund - - - - -	985,000
	£2,235,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	1,250,000
	£3,485,000

Head Office: Adelaide, South Australia.

MELBOURNE OFFICE: 267, COLLINS STREET.
SYDNEY OFFICE: 279, GEORGE STREET.
BRISBANE OFFICE: 305, QUEEN STREET.
PERTH (Western Australia) OFFICE: ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE.
FREMANTLE OFFICE: 78/80, HIGH STREET.

London Office:
11, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.

Bills on Australia purchased or collected.
Drafts and Letters of Credit issued, and Remittances cabled. Accounts opened in Australia for Overseas Banks. Every other description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.
Enquiries regarding Australian Trade invited.

THE EASTERN BANK
LIMITED.

Head Office:
CROSBY SQUARE, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.3

Subscribed Capital - - £2,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - £450,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £1,000,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman.
J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Deputy Chairman.
Sir JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. Sir PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Sir THOMAS J. STRANGMAN.

Branches—
BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, BAGDAD, AMARA, BAHREIN, BASRA, MOSUL, KIRKUK.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for one year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On current accounts Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, Manager.

(C) RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON—SELECTED DATES, 1922-1928;—MONTHLY, 1929; AND HIGHEST AND LOWEST OF 1928 AND 1929.

	Paris. Francs to £1.	Brussels. Belgas to £1.	Italy. Lire to £1.	Switzerland. Francs to £1.	Madrid. Pesetas to £1.	Amsterdam. Florins to £1.	Stockholm. Kroner to £1.	Oslo. Kroner to £1.	Copenhagen. Kroner to £1.	Berlin. Marks to £1.	Vienna. Schllngs. to £1.
Par level	25·22½	35·00	92·46	25·22½	25·22½	12·107	18·159	18·159	18·159	20·43	34·58⅓
Highest, 1928	124 5/16	35·04	92·90	25·35	30·27	12·13	18·20	18·34½	18·22	20·48½	34·75
Lowest ,,	123⅞	34·86¾	91·93	25·15	28·03	12·07⅜	18·09	18·18	18·17	20·33½	34·38
Highest, 1929	124⅜	34·96¾	93·27½	25·24¾	36·92	12·13	18·18¾	18·21¼	18·22¼	20·58	34·75
Lowest, ,,	123 11/16	34·84¾	92·52	25·08¾	29·67	12·05⅝	18·08⅜	18·18¾	18·17½	20·31½	34·41
Beginning of—											
January, 1922	52·32½	*c* 54·65½	97¼	21·70⅓	28·19½	11·44½	16·97⅛	26·99½	21·12½	791½	13,000*a*
January, 1923	66·30	*c* 72·85	93½	24·72½	29·73½	11·79	17·37½	25·12½	23·40	48,500	330,000*a*
January, 1924	87·85	*c* 99·45	100 1/16	24·63½	33·58½	11·36⅝	16·26½	29·82½	24·44½	*b* 18–21	305,500*a*
January, 1925	87·40½	*c* 94·79½	112⅜	24·36¼	33·95½	11·71½	17·62½	31·37½	26·85⅛	19·94½	337,500*a*
January, 1926	129·31	*c* 107·00	120	25·08¾	34·31⅛	12·05	18·08	23·83¼	19·60½	20·37½	34·37½
January, 1927	122·68	34·89	107 15/16	25·11½	31·75⅛	12·12⅝	18·16	19·22½	18·19	20·40½	34·37½
January, 1928	124	34·92½	92·32½	25·27¾	28·24	12·09½	18·11¼	18·34½	18·20½	20·45½	34·52
January, 1929	124·10½	34·88½	92·64	25·18¾	29·74	12·08	18·13	18·19	18·17¾	20·38⅜	34·44½
February ,,	124·09¾	34·89⅛	92·64½	25·21¼	30·28⅛	12·10¼	18·14¼	18·19½	18·18 5/16	20·41¾	34·51
March ,,	124·21	34·95½	92·67½	25·23	32·97½	12·11½	18·16½	18·19½	18·20½	20·45¼	34·52⅛
April ,,	124·21½	34·95½	92·74½	25·22	32·22½	12·10⅜	18·17¾	18·19⅞	18·21 5/16	20·46¾	34·52½
May ,,	124·17½	34·95¼	92·61½	25·19	33·87½	12·07	18·16	18·19½	18·20	20·48	34·56⅛
June ,,	124·12	34·91¾	92·68½	25·19¼	34·76¾	12·08	18·13⅝	18·19⅝	18·20⅝	20·33½	34·52
July ,,	123·96	34·92¾	92·68	25·21¼	33·64	12·07⅞	18·09¼	18·20	18·21¼	20·35½	34·49½
August ,,	123·81½	34·89½	92·81	25·21¾	33·20	12·10½	18·10½	18·20½	18·21¼	20·36¼	34·43½
Sept. ,,	123·86	34·89	92·69	25·18¼	32·90	12·09 11/16	18·09⅞	18·20⅝	18·21⅛	20·36¾	34·43⅛
October ,,	123·93	34·87⅞	92·83	25·17¼	32·75	12·10	18·11⅜	18·20½	18·20½	20·39⅛	34·54
Nov. ,,	123·86½	34·87¼	93·13½	25·17½	34·39½	12·08⅜	18·15⅜	18·20½	18·20⅜	20·39	34·69
Dec. ,,	123·94	34·87	93·22	25·11½	34·61½	12·09½	18·11	18·20½	18·19½	20·38⅝	34·67½
January, 1930	123·91	34·88¾	93·22	25·13¾	36·62⅛	12·09 11/16	18·13⅞	18·20¼	18·20⅛	20·43½	34·65½

a Krone to £. *b* Billions. *c* Francs to £.

(C) RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON—*Continued.*

	New York. Dollars to £1.	Buenos Aires. Pence to Dollars.	Rio de Janeiro. Pence to Milreis.	Monte Video. Pence to Dollars.	Valparaiso. Dollars to £.	Bombay. Sterling to Rupee	Hong Kong. Sterling to Dollar.	Shanghai. Sterling to Tael.	Kobe. Sterling to Yen.	Singapore. Sterling to Dollar.
						s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Par level	4·86⅝	47·58	16	51	40·00	1 6	...	...	2 0 7/16	...
Highest, 1928	4·88 15/32	47 29/32	5 1/64	51¼	39·73	1 6⅛	2 1 11/16	2 10¾	1 11⅝	2 4 7/32
Lowest ,,	4·84⅜	47⅜	5 1/64	49⅞	39·34	1 5 27/32	1 11⅜	2 6¾	1 10 3/32	2 3 15/16
Highest, 1929	4·88 7/16	47⅛	5 1/16	51⅛	39·79	1 6 1/64	2 0 15/16	2 7⅞	2 0 3/16	2 4⅛
Lowest ,,	4·84 9/16	44	5 5/16	45¼	39·37	1 5 21/32	1 7⅜	2 1 1/16	1 9 31/32	2 3⅝
Beginning of—										
January, 1922	4·20	43 1/16	7 1/16	41	40·20	1 4	2 7¾	3 6¾	2 3¼	2 3⅞
January, 1923	4·68	44	5 15/16	44	34·70	1 4 5/32	2 3⅛	3 0⅝	2 1	2 4 1/16
January, 1924	4·29⅜	40 7/16	5⅝	43¾	40·30	1 5¼	2 4⅜	3 4⅜	2 1⅛	2 4⅝
January, 1925	4·74 13/16	46 7/32	5 29/32	50⅛	40·30	1 6 1/16	2 3⅞	3 2	1 7⅞	2 4 1/16
January, 1926	4·85⅜	46 17/32	7⅛	50⅛	39·80	1 6⅜	2 4 5/16	3 1 9/16	1 9⅜	2 4 1/16
January, 1927	4·85 11/32	46 7/16	5 27/32	50½	39·63	1 6 7/32	1 11 11/16	2 5⅛	2 0 7/32	2 3 15/16
January, 1928	4·88 29/32	47¼	5⅞	50⅞	39·35	1 6⅜	2 0⅞	2 7½	1 11 1/32	2 4⅛
January, 1929	4·85 1/16	47⅜	5 29/32	51	39·64	1 6 1/16	2 0 9/32	2 7½	1 10¾	2 3 15/16
February ,,	4·84 5/64	47⅛	5 29/32	50⅜	39·65	1 6⅛	2 0⅜	2 6⅞	1 11 1/16	2 3 31/32
March ,,	4·85⅜	47⅜	5 27/32	50⅜	39·46	1 6 1/64	2 0¼	2 7	1 10 1/64	2 3⅞
April ,,	4·85½	47 9/32	5 27/32	50	39·55	1 6	2 0	2 6 17/32	1 10 3/64	2 3 29/32
May ,,	4·85 21/32	47 9/32	5 29/32	47¾	39·61	1 5 15/16	1 11 29/32	2 5 27/32	1 10 1/32	2 3 29/32
June ,,	4·84 29/32	47 9/64	5⅞	47¾	39·58	1 5 27/32	1 11 15/16	2 4 11/32	1 9¾	2 3 29/32
July ,,	4·84⅞	47 1/32	5⅞	47¾	39·42	1 5 13/64	1 11⅞	2 4 9/16	1 9 3/64	2 3 29/32
August ,,	4·85 7/32	47 1/64	5⅞	48⅞	39·55	1 5 13/64	1 11 29/32	2 4 23/32	1 11 3/32	2 3 27/32
September ,,	4·84 47/64	47 3/16	5⅞	48¾	39·49	1 5 7/32	1 11 7/16	2 4 11/32	1 11 3/32	2 3⅞
October ,,	4·85 11/32	47⅛	5⅞	48½	39·42	1 5⅞	1 11 21/32	2 3 7/32	1 11 1/16	2 3 25/32
November ,,	4·87⅛	46⅞	5 29/32	47⅝	39·62	1 5 15/64	1 9⅜	2 3	2 0 1/32	2 3⅞
December ,,	4·88 3/16	46 9/32	5 31/32	47¼	39·60	1 5 1/16	1 8 11/16	2 3	2 0 1/16	2 3 13/32
January, 1930	4·87 31/32	45 13/16	5 13/32	46½	39·80	1 5 3/64	1 7 31/32	2 1½	2 0 3/32	2 3½

The UNION TRUST *Co.*

CLEVELAND, OHIO, U.S.A.

Capital and Surplus $35,000,000
Total Resources over $300,000,000

An interior bank with an international business.
Especially equipped for the financing of foreign trade.

Cleveland Cable Address
"UNIONTRUST"

New York Cable Address
"SECUNION"

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd of March, 1866.

Established in Calcutta 29th September, 1863.

Bankers to the Government in KENYA (B. E. Africa) and UGANDA.

Subscribed Capital - - - - - - £4,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - - - £2,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - - - £3,000,000

Head Office: 26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES:

ADEN, ADEN STEAMER POINT, AMRITSAR, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, CAWNPORE, CHITTAGONG, COCHIN (S. India), COLOMBO, DELHI, KANDY, KARACHI, LAHORE, MADRAS, MANDALAY, NUWARA ELIYA, RANGOON, TUTICORIN, ZANZIBAR, ELDORET, KISUMU, MOMBASA, NAIROBI, NAKURU (Kenya Colony, B.E.A.), ENTEBBE, JINJA, KAMPALA (Uganda), DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANGA (Tanganyika Territory).

The Bank grants Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on all places where it is represented; negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange; collects Pay, Pensions, and generally transacts every description of Eastern Banking business. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods, not exceeding one year, at rates to be obtained on application.

The Bank opens Current Accounts, and, provided they do not fall below £200, allows Two per cent. per annum interest on the minimum monthly balances.

Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

BANK OF LONDON & SOUTH AMERICA · LIMITED ·

Estd. 1862.

LONDON OFFICE:
6, 7 & 8, TOKENHOUSE YARD,
LONDON, E.C.2. *Also at:*
MANCHESTER:
36, Charlotte St.
BRADFORD:
33, Hustlergate.

When *Tradition* is allied to *Vision*

There results an organisation that, firmly founded on pioneer experience, is yet not only abreast but slightly in advance of the times. An organisation possessing a deep-rooted, convincing capacity for interpreting correctly the trend of the intricate influences and complicated conditions that together comprise the Latin-American Markets of to-day.

This organisation—The Bank of London & South America, with Branches and Sub-Branches at every strategical point throughout South America; in France, Belgium, Portugal and U.S.A.; in London, Manchester and Bradford—is singularly well equipped to provide modern Banking facilities of every description. Status reports on South American Firms are supplied on request. A Monthly Review of Market Information is issued free on application.

(D) THE FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1928.	1929.	1928.	1929.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco—	£	£	£	£
A. Grain and flour	97,646,183	95,971,665	5,334,910	4,830,490
B. Feeding-stuffs for animals	9,180,571	9,608,798	3,333,116	3,077,987
C. Meat	109,264,102	113,598,137	1,630,008	1,724,148
D. Animals, living, for food	16,034,355	16,376,347	172,728	206,132
†E. Other food and drink, non-dutiable	209,528,619	214,168,891	...	...
†F. Other food and drink, dutiable	71,711,882	67,986,565	34,423,246	36,262,136
G. Tobacco	17,542,997	18,499,941	9,363,537	9,556,327
Total, Class I.	530,908,709	536,210,344	54,257,545	55,657,220
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unm'fctd—				
A. Coal	39,496	32,890	39,058,734	48,616,813
B. Other non-metallic mining and quarry products and the like	5,611,514	5,954,708	1,898,821	1,995,351
C. Iron ore and scrap	4,829,009	6,430,245	1,103,890	1,501,619
D. Non-ferrous metalliferous ores and scrap	16,524,523	16,986,078	1,777,608	1,853,219
E. Wood and timber	42,557,904	45,827,975	445,980	372,019
F. Raw cotton and cotton waste	80,786,992	77,305,822	1,382,618	1,150,541
G. Wool, raw, and waste, and woollen rags	63,854,572	63,052,343	10,282,320	9,621,916
H. Silk, raw, knubs and noils	1,899,963	1,903,722	37,484	28,050
I. Other textile materials	13,982,104	15,218,530	540,757	419,853
J. Oil seeds, nuts, oils, fats, resins, and gums	44,603,942	44,043,040	5,379,583	5,159,401
K. Hides and skins, undressed	26,051,740	20,431,210	3 085,035	2,642,888
L. Paper-making materials	10,156,304	13,148,675	1,429,547	1,571,578
M. Rubber	11,824,169	17,273,095	255,613	277,972
N. Miscellaneous	11,955,790	12,019,894	3,468,018	3,860,269
Total, Class II.	334,678,022	339,628,227	70,146,008	79,071,189
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
A. Coke and manufactured fuel	9,604	17,660	3,668,328	4,232,807
B. Earthenware, glass, abrasives, &c.	10,897,194	11,301,764	13,076,219	14,004,546
C. Iron and steel and manufactures thereof	24,147,792	24,669,929	66,789,184	68,019,805
D. Non-ferrous metals and manufactures thereof	32,954,198	37,087,325	16,368,083	18,281,065
E. Cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments	7,633,133	8,268,461	9,137,795	9,332,744
F. Electrical goods and appar.	4,710,637	6,505,999	11,629,135	13,177,290
G. Machinery	16,738,244	19,138,340	53,721,526	54,358,673
H. Manufactures of wood and timber	8,423,685	9,683,110	2,502,790	3,002,284
I. Cotton yarns and manufactures	10,733,389	10,932,418	145,302,215	135,449,008
J. Woollen and worsted yarns and manufactures	17,279,336	16,223,681	56,897,302	52,883,966
K. Silk and silk manufactures	14,467,414	13,173,286	2,406,061	2,167,930
L. Manufactures of other textile materials	15,608,412	17,114,513	29,466,156	26,869,551
M. Apparel	19,601,645	19,948,813	26,182,837	25,614,459
N. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours	15,379,957	16,865,995	25,410,243	26,625,924
O. Oils, fats, and resins, manufactured	37,851,121	43,465,365	8,955,933	8,598,854
P. Leather and manufactures thereof	19,496,276	15,815,550	9,369,946	7,906,800
Q. Paper and cardboard	17,271,394	17,973,821	9,292,900	9,809,373
R. Vehicles (including locomotives, ships, and aircraft)	9,554,589	10,769,584	47,257,395	50,248,538
S. Rubber manufactures	3,345,684	3,757,296	3,444,968	3,404,534
T. Miscellaneous articles	31,712,351	31,669,168	37,990,305	39,845,211
Total, Class III.	317,816,055	334,382,078	578,869,321	573,833,362
IV.—Animals, not for food	3,069,025	3,545,842	1,999,433	2,025,342
V.—Parcel Post, non-dutiable articles	9,126,602	7,824,571	18,306,782	18,967,854
Total	1,195,598,413	1,221,591,062	723,579,089	729,554,967

† Duty on tea repealed as from April 22nd, 1929, inclusive. Figures transferred from Group F to Group E.

(E) NEW CAPITAL.

	Whole Year 1926.	Whole Year 1927.	Whole Year 1928.	Whole Year 1929.
	£	£	£	£
British Government Loans	4,666,800	66,003,800	83,861,000	65,400,000
Colonial Government Loans	31,866,000	55,697,200	40,223,000	26,366,100
Foreign Government Loans	23,818,000	11,822,500	15,938,900	3,650,000
British Corporations, &c.	41,833,900	27,114,400	14,871,000	8,316,000
Colonial Corporations	1,223,000	5,136,700	7,296,100	3,859,900
Foreign Corporations	6,235,000	5,683,800	4,332,000	472,500
British Railways	nil	14,207,500	2,080,900	1,920,000
Colonial Railways	nil	16,592,600	nil	10,200,000
Foreign Railways	8,217,200	5,397,500	3,070,000	7,835,000
Australasian Mines	nil	38,400	695,000	12,000
South African Mines	791,100	622,900	1,766,000	1,811,600
Other mines	3,238,000	4,315,000	4,810,300	11,971,700
Exploration, Financial, &c.	22,923,300	28,320,800	42,513,700	27,872,500
Breweries	210,000	6,261,700	5,789,900	4,346,500
Merchants, Importers, &c.	201,500	1,678,600	1,117,500	425,300
Stores and Trading	7,302,300	3,757,500	6,101,000	3,839,700
Estate and Land	2,214,100	5,749,800	2,817,100	3,979,200
Rubber	5,602,100	2,094,000	3,125,000	2,075,100
Oil	693,800	9,059,800	5,623,400	4,320,800
Iron, Coal, Steel & Engineering	4,918,100	2,772,000	2,413,000	4,485,800
Elect. Light, Power & Teleg.	13,667,800	12,764,700	15,179,200	15,028,400
Tramway and Omnibus	232,500	356,000	1,381,700	276,700
Motor Traction & Manuf'ing	5,722,200	1,609,200	4,623,600	380,700
Gas and Water	244,400	448,900	1,368,000	1,476,100
Hotels, Theatres, and Entertainments	495,000	4,248,600	14,650,700	4,011,000
Patents and Prop. Articles	675,000	1,413,000	8,582,800	7,107,400
Docks, Harbours, & Shipping	5,659,500	14,761,500	2,900,000	544,500
Banks and Insurance	1,987,300	13,072,500	9,404,600	6,273,100
Manufacturing & Miscellan's	36,144,700	34,438,100	62,502,700	86,978,800
	230,782,600	355,166,000	369,058,100	285,239,400

Destination of New Capital.

Years.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£
1909	18,681,400	74,758,200	88,917,200
1910	60,296,500	92,378,100	114,764,500
1911	26,145,900	64,994,800	100,618,700
1912	45,335,300	72,642,400	92,872,300
1913	35,951,200	76,137,200	84,448,600
1920	328,021,400	31,639,800	7,888,400
1921	276,176,500	90,577,600	22,223,900
1922	443,518,300	74,924,200	55,233,100
1923	133,915,600	92,722,900	44,754,700
1924	84,612,400	72,276,900	52,436,800
1925	155,018,300	60,919,000	16,276,500
1926	129,175,700	53,174,300	48,432,600
1927	206,883,600	99,812,400	48,470,000
1928	263,583,100	63,158,400	42,316,600
1929	198,026,500	60,977,000	26,236,900

New Capital Applications (since 1906).

Year.	Total for Whole Year. £	Year.	Total for Whole Year. £	Year.	Total for Whole Year. £
1906	120,173,200	1914	512,522,600	1922	573,675,600
1907	123,630,000	1915	685,241,700	1923	271,393,200
1908	192,203,700	1916	585,436,400	1924	209,326,100
1909	182,356,800	1917	1,318,596,000	1925	232,214,500
1910	267,439,100	1918	1,393,381,400	1926	230,782,600
1911	191,759,400	1919	1,036,059,400	1927	355,166,000
1912	210,850,000	1920	367,549,600	1928	369,058,100
1913	196,537,000	1921	388,978,200	1929	285,239,400

(F) DAILY AVERAGE MONEY RATES IN PAST TEN YEARS.

Years.	Bank Rate.	Market Rate, 3 Months' Bills.	Deposit Rate, Banks.	Short Loans.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1920	6 14 4	6 7 11	4 14 4	5 3 7
1921	6 2 4	5 4 3	4 2 4	4 12 8
1922	3 13 10	2 13 0	1 13 10	2 5 11
1923	3 9 9	2 14 1	1 9 9	1 16 8
1924	4 0 0	3 10 9	2 0 0	2 12 5
1925	4 11 0	4 2 0	2 11 0	3 9 3
1926	5 0 0	4 10 3	3 0 0	4 1 1
1927	4 13 0	4 4 10	2 13 0	3 15 0
1928	4 10 0	4 3 0	2 10 0	3 12 6
1929	5 10 0	5 5 4	3 10 0	4 12 3

(G) STOCK MARKET PRICES IN 1929.

	Prices. End of Year 1928.	Prices. End of Year 1929.	Rise or Fall.	Highest & Lowest of Year 1929. Highest.	Lowest.
British Funds.					
War Loans 5%, Redeemable 1929-47	102⅜	100	− 2⅜	103½	99⅜
War Loans 4%, Redeemable 1929-42	100⅜	100⅛	− ¼	101⅛	99⅜
War Loans 4% Funding, 1960-90	90	85½	− 4½	91⅜	82⅜
War Loans 4% Victory Bonds	94⅜	91⅛	− 3⅛	95⅝	90
Consols 2½%, red, at Govt. option	56⅛x	53x	− 3⅛	56⅝	52
Consolidated Loan, 4%	86⅛x	83x	− 3⅛	88½	81⅝
Conversion Loan, 3½%	79⅛	74½	− 5	80½	72⅜
Conversion Loan, 4½%, 1940-1944	99	93⅜	− 5⅛	100	93
Local Loans, 3%	65x	62x	− 3	65⅛	60
India 3½%	70⅛x	61⅛x	− 9	71⅜	60
Do 3%	60⅛x	51⅛x	− 9	61⅛	50⅛
Foreign Govt. Stocks.					
Argentine Rescission 4%	88	87	− 1	88	83
Austrian 6% Sterling Bonds	102	101x	− 1	103⅜	100
Belgian 3%	83	82½	− ½	85	81⅝
Do 7% Stabilisation Loan	109	108	− 1	110⅜	105
Brazilian 5% Funding Bonds, 1914	86	72	−14	90	72
Chilian 4½% Gold Loan, 1889	91	89	− 2	93	88
Chinese 5% Gold Loan, 1912	53	44	− 9	54⅜	41
Czechoslovakia 8%	112	110	− 2	114⅜	105⅛
Dutch East Indies, 5%	102	100½	− 1½	102⅛	98⅛
Egyptian Unified	85	79½	− 5½	86	77⅛
Finland 6%, 1923	97	92	− 5	100	90½
French 3% Rentes	13	17	+ 4	17	13
Do 5%	19	21⅝	+ 2⅝	21⅝	18⅛
German 7% Sterling Bonds, 1924	106	103½	− 2½	107½	101½
Greek 7% Refugee Loan	101½	100½	− 1	103	95⅝
Guatemala New Ext.	58	52	− 6	58	46⅝
Hungarian 7½%, 1924	103	101½	− 1½	104⅜	98⅛
Italian 3½%	19	18	− 1	19½	17⅛
Japanese 6%, 1924	98⅛	100	+ 1⅞	100⅛	95⅝
Mexican 5% Cons. Ext., 1899	35⅛	19	−16⅛	38	17
Portuguese 3%	43	42½	+ 7	45½	40⅜
Spanish 4%	82	65⅝	−16½	82	64
Turkish Unified 4%	23	18	− 5	23½	17⅜
British Railways.					
Great Western Cons. Ord. Stock	81½	91	+ 9½	91	78½
London & North-Eastern Def. Stk.	11⅜	12⅜	+ 1⅛	15⅛	10⅛
Do Preferred Ord. Stock	24⅜	38	+13⅝	39⅜	22⅛
London, Mid. & Scottish Ord. Stk.	54	55	+ 1	59	47⅜
Metropolitan Cons. Stock	65	62½	− 2½	68	56⅛
Metropolitan District Ord. Stock	80½	72⅞	− 8	81⅜	71
Southern Railway Def. Ord.	31⅛	29⅛	− 2	34⅛	27⅛
American & Dominion Rlys.					
Canadian Pacific	243	195½	−47½	275	194½
Atchison Shares	201	222½	+21½	307⅛	201⅛
New York Central	191	172½	−18⅛	265	163⅛
Pennsylvania $50 Shares	73	77⅛	+ 4⅛	113	73
Union Pacific	225	220⅛	− 4⅛	304	190
Bengal & North-Western, Ord. Stk.	303½	274	−29½	306	271½
Nizam's State Railways, Ord. Stk.	239⅛	275	+35⅛	275	232⅛
Rohilkund & Kumaon, Ord. Stock	281⅛	268½	−13	285	267
Foreign Railways.					
Antofagasta(Chile,Bolivia) Cons.Stk	89½	88	− 1½	111½	87½
Argentine North-Eastern Ord.Stock	41	28½	−12½	41	26⅝
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Stock	108	97	−11	110½	96⅛
Buenos Ayres Pacific Stock	98	85	−13	106½	84
Buenos Ayres Western Stock	97	79½	−17½	100½	79
Central Argentine Ordinary Stock	99	84	−15	100½	83
Do. Deferred Stock	91	79	−12	96	79
Central Uruguay Ordinary Stock	89	78½	−10½	96½	78½
Cordoba Central Ordinary Stock	38½	21	−17½	40	20
Entre Rios Ordinary Stock	96⅛	84½	−12	100½	83
Great Western of Brazil (£10)	3⅜	4⅛	+ ⅜	5⅛	3⅜
Leopoldina Ordinary Stock	56	50	− 6	67½	48⅜
Mexican 1st Preference Stock	16	8	− 8	17	8
San Paulo Stock	200	191½	− 8½	219	190
United of Havana Stock	40	24½	−15½	49⅜	24

	Prices. End of Year 1928.	Prices. End of Year 1929.	Rise or Fall.	Highest & Lowest of Year 1929. Highest.	Lowest.
Miscellaneous Shares.					
Midland Bank (£12, with £2½ paid)	9½	8⅜	− ⅛	9⅛	8⅛
Anglo-Dutch Plantations, Java (£1)	1⅞	1⅛	...	2⅛	1⅛
United Serdang Rubber (2/–)	⅛	⅛	...	⅛	⅛
Jorehaut Tea (£1)	4⅛	3⅛	− 1⅛	4⅛	3
Chartered (British S. Africa) (15/–)	1⅛	1⅞	+ ⅛	2⅛	1⅛
Forestal Land, Ord. (£1)	1⅞x	1⅞	− ⅛	1⅛	⅞
Hudson's Bay (£1)	5⅛x	4⅛x	− 1⅛	6⅛	4⅛
Peruvian Corporation Ord. Stock	20⅛	12	− 8⅛	23	11⅛
Do. Pref. Stock	61x	55⅛x	− 5⅞	64⅛	55⅛
Brazilian Traction Co. (No. par)	78⅛	37	−41⅛	84⅛	32⅛
Gas Light and Coke Ord. (£1)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛	1⅛	⅛
J. and P. Coats (£1)	3⅞	3⅛	− ⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Courtaulds (£1)	4⅛	2⅛	− 1⅞	5⅛	2⅛
English Sewing Cotton (£1)	2⅜	2⅛	− ⅛	2⅜	2⅛
Birmingham Small Arms, Ord. (£1)	⅛	⅛	+ ⅛	⅛	⅛
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛	2⅛	1⅜
Mines.					
Burma Corporation (Rs. 10)	⅛	...	...	⅛	⅛
De Beers Deferred (£2½)	11⅛	9⅛	− 2⅛	14⅛	9⅛
Modderfontein (10/–)	5⅛	4⅛	− ⅛	5⅛	4⅛
Rand Mines (5/–)	3⅛	2⅛	− ⅛	3⅛	2⅛
Vickers (6/8)	⅛	⅛	− ⅛	⅛	⅛
Columbia Graphophone Ord. (10/–)	15½	5⅛	−10	18⅛	3⅛
Gramophone Co., Ord. (£1)	13⅛	4⅛	− 8⅛	18⅛	4⅛
Anglo-Persian Oil, Ord. (£1)	4⅛	3⅛	− ⅛	4⅛	3⅛
Shell Transport (£1)	5⅛	4⅛	− 1⅞	5⅛	4⅛
Imperial Chemical Indus. Ord. (£1)	1⅛	1⅞	− ⅛	2⅛	1⅞
Cunard Steamship (£1)	1⅛	1⅛	− ⅛	1⅛	1⅛
P. and O., Deferred (£1)	3	2⅛	− ⅛	3⅛	2⅛
Royal Mail, Ord. Stock	69⅛	35	−34⅛	76	24
Dunlop Rubber (6/8)	1⅛	⅛	− ⅛	1⅛	⅛
Guinness (A.), Ord. (£1)	4⅛	4⅛	+ ⅛	4⅛	3⅛
Watney Deferred (£1)	3⅛	2⅛	− ⅛	3⅛	2⅛

THE
MOSCOW NARODNY BANK
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1919.

HEAD OFFICE:
300, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1.

Paris Branch: 26, RUE VIVIENNE, PARIS.
Berlin Branch: KURFÜRSTENSTRASSE, 33, BERLIN.

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000
Paid-up Capital	845,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profit ...	155,000

The Bank finances the export and import operations of the Russian Co-operative and other Societies.
Principal Foreign Agents of the All-Russian Co-operative Bank, Moscow and Branches.
London Correspondents of the State Bank of the U.S.S.R.
Every kind of Banking Business Transacted.
Remittances to Russia effected. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued on Moscow and other centres in Sterling, U.S. Dollars, and Tchervonetz. Collections undertaken.
Correspondents in all Principal Centres of Europe, the U.S. of America, and everywhere in the U.S.S.R.

ALL-RUSSIAN
CO-OPERATIVE BANK

	Gold Roubles.
Authorised Capital	40,000,000
Paid-up Capital, 1st October, 1929 ...	35,366,905
Total Assets, 1st October, 1929	580,914,783

The Shareholders of the All-Russian Co-operative Bank are 17,806 co-operative societies, all central organisations included.

HEAD OFFICE:
ILYNKA, RIBNY PR. 3, MOSCOW.
Cable Address: "Vsekobank, Moscow."

39 Branches and 1,018 Correspondents throughout the U.S.S.R. Correspondents in all principal foreign centres.

Affiliated Banks:
1. THE MOSCOW NARODNY BANK LIMITED, London and Branches.
2. THE CO-OPERATIVE TRANSIT BANK, Scheunenstrasse 30/32, Riga (Latvia).
CAPITAL, GOLD LATS 8,000,000
All kinds of Russian and foreign banking business transacted.

STOCKHOLMS ENSKILDA BANK

BANK WITH UNLIMITED LIABILITY.
Established in 1856.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: NITTON-STOCKHOLM. — STOCKHOLM. — HEAD OFFICE: STOCKHOLM 16

CAPITAL AND RESERVES - - - Kr. 100,000,000:—

Banking and **Exchange** Business of every description.
Bills negotiated or forwarded for Collection.
Letters of Credit issued available in the principal Cities of the World.
Remittances made by **Telegraphic Transfer.**
Deposits received for fixed periods or at notice.

LONDON AGENTS:
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED, LOTHBURY, E.C.; HAMBRO'S BANK LIMITED; FREDK. HUTH & CO.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

Incorporated with Limited Liability in New Zealand, by Act of the General Assembly, 29th July, 1861.

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT

Authorised Capital, £7,561,238.

Paid-up Capital, as at 31st March, 1929 ... ... £6,858,113
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits 4,042,591
£10,900,704

Aggregate Assets at 31st March, 1929, £54,561,908.

Head Office: WELLINGTON, N.Z.

London Office: 1, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.4.

Branches and Agencies at over 220 points in New Zealand.

And at MELBOURNE—VICTORIA. SYDNEY—NEW SOUTH WALES.
SUVA AND LEVUKA—FIJI. APIA—SAMOA.

THE LONDON OFFICE GRANTS DRAFTS on any of its Branches; MAKES TRANSFERS by mail or telegraph; ISSUES TRAVELLERS' LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World; ESTABLISHES COMMERCIAL CREDITS by Mail or Cable; OPENS CURRENT ACCOUNTS for the convenience of its Overseas Constituents; NEGOTIATES AND COLLECTS BILLS payable in any part of Australasia, Fiji and Samoa; and UNDERTAKES every description of General Banking and Monetary Business.

ROBERT MILL, *Manager.*

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

Capital (fully paid), £2,500,000. Reserve Fund, £2,910,320
Deposits, £46,235,129

Total Number of Offices 236.

OVER
200 YEARS OF COMMERCIAL BANKING

Correspondents throughout the World.

A COMPLETE BRITISH COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKING SERVICE.
CONDITIONS FOR THE OPENING OF ACCOUNTS FURNISHED ON APPLICATION
LONDON OFFICES—City: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2.
West End: 49, CHARING CROSS, S.W.1, and 64, NEW BOND STREET, W.1.

HEAD OFFICE - - EDINBURGH.

General Manager—SIR ALEXANDER KEMP WRIGHT, K.B.E., D.L.

BANK OF SCOTLAND

CONSTITUTED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 1695.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,500,000
RESERVE FUND and BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	£2,052,584
DEPOSITS and CREDIT BALANCES as at 28th February, 1929	£32,068,385

Governor: The Rt. Hon. LORD ELPHINSTONE, K.T. Deputy Governor: Sir RALPH ANSTRUTHER OF BALCASKIE, Bart.
GEORGE J. SCOTT, Treasurer.

Head Office: THE MOUND, EDINBURGH.

GLASGOW, Chief Office: 2, ST. VINCENT PLACE. A. W. M. BEVERIDGE, Manager.
LONDON OFFICES: City Office—30, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2. J. W. JOHNSTON, Manager.
Piccadilly Circus Branch—16/18, PICCADILLY, W. C. D. ALLISON, Manager.

237 Branches and Sub-Branches in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and throughout Scotland.
Every description of British and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament. *Established 1825.*

Affiliated with Lloyds Bank Limited.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid-up, £1,100,000. Uncalled, £3,900,000.

RESERVE FUND - - - - £1,550,000
DEPOSITS, 1st November, 1929 - £32,154,808

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
London Office: 37, NICHOLAS LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.
Glasgow Office: 47, ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW.

Branches in all the principal towns and places in Scotland.
Correspondents in all the leading towns in England and Ireland, and in the principal towns in all parts of the World.

Every description of banking business transacted, including the collection of Dividends and Coupons, whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of remittances to all parts.
The Bank is prepared, in approved cases, to act as Trustee, Executor or Administrator, and also as Trustee for Debenture or other issues, etc.
FOREIGN CURRENCIES bought and sold for immediate or forward delivery.
CLEAN and DOCUMENTARY Foreign Drafts negotiated or collected.
All classes of Overseas business transacted at all the Bank's Branches.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

CAPITAL (PAID UP) £1,250,000 RESERVE & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £2,224,771

Governor: . . . . . .
Deputy-Governor: THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF HOME.

HEAD OFFICE: 38 ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, General Manager. R. W. STEVENSON, Secretary.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT: 110 QUEEN STREET, GLASGOW.
For all classes of Overseas Business.

Over 190 Branches throughout Scotland.

London Office: 38 THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.2.
Where accounts may be opened on usual London terms.
Manager: JAMES FORREST. *Deputy-Manager:* W. F. BLACK.

Every description of Banking Business transacted.

The Bank is prepared to undertake the duties of Executor or Trustee, and to act as Trustee for Debenture Stockholders, Public Institutions, &c.

AFFILIATED TO BARCLAYS BANK LIMITED.

THE P. & O. BANKING CORPORATION
LIMITED.

Head Office: 117-122, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Authorised Capital	£5,000,000	Subscribed Capital	£2,594,160
Paid-up Capital	£2,594,160	Reserve Fund	£180,000

Every description of Banking Business transacted. Correspondents in all parts of the World.

BRANCHES: 14 Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1; Bombay; Calcutta; Calicut; Colombo; Hongkong; Karachi; Madras; Shanghai; Singapore.

Affiliated Bank: ALLAHABAD BANK, LIMITED. Head Office: CALCUTTA; with 36 Branches and Sub-Agencies in India.

Authorised Capital	Rs. 40,00,000	Subscribed Capital	Rs. 40,00,000
Paid-up Capital	Rs. 35,50,000	Reserve Fund	Rs. 44,50,000

The Commercial Bank of Scotland Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

Subscribed Capital	£7,500,000
Paid up	£2,250,000
Reserve Fund	£2,800,000
Deposits (31st October, 1929)	£35,228,897

Head Office: 14 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH.
General Manager, ALEX. ROBB. Secretary, MAGNUS IRVINE.
London, City Office: 62 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.
Manager, ANDREW W. RUSSELL. Asst. Manager, JOHN M. ERSKINE.
Kingsway Branch: IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.
Manager, JAMES O. DAVIDSON.
Glasgow, Chief Office: 113-115 BUCHANAN STREET.
Manager, ANDREW SCOTT. Asst. Manager, WILLIAM COCHRANE.
Princes Street, Edinburgh, Branch: 118 PRINCES STREET.
Agent, JAMES THOMSON.

The Bank has 337 Branches and Sub-Branches throughout Scotland, and Banking Correspondents in the principal Towns in the World.
Every description of British Banking and Foreign Exchange business transacted.
The Bank is prepared to undertake the duties of Executor or Trustee under wills and settlements, and to act as Trustee for Debenture Holders and for Public Bodies and Institutions.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1839.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED - -	£1,000,000	RESERVE FUND - - - - -	£200,000
CAPITAL PAID UP - - -	£600,000	TOTAL ASSETS - - - - -	£5,776,203

HEAD OFFICE: 25/31, Moorgate, LONDON, E.C. 2.

EGYPT: *Central Office*—ALEXANDRIA. 10 Branches and Agencies.

GREECE: *Central Office*—ATHENS. 29 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS: *Central Office*—NICOSIA. 4 Branches and Agencies.

EVERY FORM OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICE.

THE BRITISH BANK FOR THE NEAR EAST.

PROEHL & GUTMANN

Bankers,

AMSTERDAM.

Telegraphic Address: DRESDAGENT.

HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL BANK OF PEST, BUDAPEST.

(Pesti Magyar Kereskedelmi Bank.)

ROYAL CHARTER 1841. OLDEST BANK IN HUNGARY.

Telegrams: "COMMERZ, BUDAPEST."

46 Branches and Affiliated Banks in Hungary.

AFFILIATED BANKS IN

Bulgaria, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Roumania and Yougoslavia.

Correspondents all over the World. *Every kind of banking business transacted.*

BANK GOSPODARSTWA KRAJOWEGO

(NATIONAL ECONOMIC BANK)

Head Office:

5, KRÓLEWSKA STREET, WARSAW, POLAND.

Telegraphic and Cable Address: KRAJOBANK, WARSAW.

Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the World.

Paid-up Capital: Zl. 150,000,000 **Reserve Fund: Zl. 50,886,476,88.**

Offers complete banking facilities to individuals and institutions. Issues of 7% Mortgage Bonds, 7% Communal Debentures, 7½% Bank Debentures, all in gold zlotys. These securities are also available in Dollars, Pounds, Dutch Florins and Swiss Francs. Attention is drawn to the fact that the Mortgage Bonds and Debentures of the National Economic Bank, which are both secured by properties or first mortgages on properties as well as by the total assets of the Bank, and carry in addition to this the guarantee of the State Treasury, afford a perfect security to holders.
Incidentally it should be observed that at the present quotations the actual yields of the aforesaid securities are: the 7% Mortgage Bonds yield 8,50%; the 7% Communal Debentures, 8,57%; the 7½% Communal Debentures, 8,96%

Full terms of business on application.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1894.

Authorised Capital ...	£4,000,000
Subscribed Capital ...	£3,000,000
Paid-up Capital	£1,200,000
Reserve	£400,000

Bankers to the Governments of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Nigeria and Republic of Liberia.

Chairman:

THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE:

37, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

GENERAL MANAGER:

D. W. PATERSON.

Liverpool, Manchester, Hamburg, West Africa, Canary Islands, Morocco.

Agents in New York: Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd.

PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS:

Lloyds Bank Limited; National Provincial Bank Limited; Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited; Westminster Bank Limited.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

(Incorporated in the Colony of Hongkong. The liability of members is limited to the extent and in manner prescribed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1929 of the Colony.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL		$50,000,000
ISSUED AND FULLY PAID UP		$20,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS	STERLING	£6,000,000
	SILVER	$14,000,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS ...		$20,000,000

Head Office - - HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

W. H. BELL, *Chairman.*
J. A. PLUMMER, *Deputy-Chairman.*
B. D. F. BEITH. W. L. PATTENDEN.
A. H. COMPTON. T. E. PEARCE.
M. T. JOHNSON. T. H. R. SHAW.
B. L. LEWIS. J. P. WARREN.
CHIEF MANAGER - - Hon. Mr. A. C. HYNES.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Chefoo, Colombo, Dairen (Dalny), Foochow, Haiphong, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kowloon, Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Moukden, Muar, Nagasaki, New York, Peiping (Peking), Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Sungei Patani, Tientsin, Tokyo, Tsingtao, Yloilo, Yokohama.

COMMITTEE IN LONDON:

Sir Charles Addis, K.C.M.G., *Chairman.* Sir George Maedonogh, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
A. H. Barlow. Lord Revelstoke.
D. G. M. Bernard. Sir Geo. Sutherland.
C. A. Campbell. A. M. Townsend.
C. F. Whigham.

MANAGERS IN LONDON:

Sir Newton J. Stabb. H. D. C. Jones.
Sub-Manager, R. E. N. Padfield. Accountant, A. Moncur.

9, GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.3

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1856.

35, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C. 3

Telegraphic Address: "NATDIS, STOCK, LONDON." Telephones: MANSION HOUSE 5241 (8 lines

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL -	£2,153,335
PAID-UP CAPITAL - -	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - -	£890,000

DIRECTORS:

Col. The Hon. SIDNEY PEEL, C.B., D.S.O., Chairman.

Hon. ARTHUR M. ASQUITH, D.S.O.
FREDERICK W. GREEN.
H. S. H. GUINNESS.
Sir SIGISMUND F. MENDL K.B.E.
BERTRAND T. PETLEY.
CHARLES D. SELIGMAN.
PHILIP H. WADE.

Manager—FRANCIS GOLDSMITH.

Sub-Manager—SYDNEY N. LIGHTON.

Asst. Sub-Managers: R. E. de B. BATE & C. S. FOWLER.

Foreign Dept. Manager—OSCAR H. LIST.

Secretary—CHARLES H. GOUGH.

Auditors: FRANCIS W. PIXLEY (Jackson, Pixley & Co.). Sir ALBERT W. WYON, K.B.E. (Price, Waterhouse & Co.).

Bankers: BANK OF ENGLAND. NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

Treasury Bills, Bank and Mercantile Bills negotiated.

Money received on Deposit at Call and Short Notice at the Current Market Rates of Interest, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

Loans granted upon approved securities.

All communications to be addressed to the Manager.

THE COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY LIMITED

(with which is amalgamated THE BANK OF VICTORIA LTD.)

Established 1834.

Incorporated in New South Wales with limited liability.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - -	£12,000,000: 0:0
CAPITAL PAID-UP - - -	£4,739,012 : 10 : 0
RESERVE FUND - - - -	£4,200,000: 0:0
RESERVE CAPITAL - - -	£4,739,012 : 10 : 0
	£13,678,025: 0:0
TOTAL DEPOSITS, 30th June, 1929 -	£54,420,876 : 0:0
TOTAL ASSETS, " " "	£65,836,660: 0:0

HEAD OFFICE: 343, George Street, Sydney.

General Manager: J. R. DRYHURST.

LONDON OFFICE: 18, Birchin Lane, Lombard Street, E.C. 3.

London Directors:

H. S. H. GUINNESS, ESQ., *Chairman.*
HON. H. S. LITTLETON.
L. W. G. BUTLER, ESQ.
J. N. BUCHANAN, ESQ., D.S.O., M.C.
H. O. HAMBLIN, ESQ.
E. CLIVE MILLER, ESQ.

Manager: V. B. JONES.

468 Offices and Branches in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Federal Capital Territory. Agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand and all other parts of the world.

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit are issued on the London Branch on the Head Office, Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australasia and elsewhere. Bills on Australia negotiated and collected. Remittances cabled and mailed.

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

Incorporated in Canada in 1832 with limited liability.

Capital Authorised	**$15,000,000.00**
Capital Paid Up	**$10,000,000.00**
Reserve Fund	**$20,000,000.00**

HEAD OFFICE - - - HALIFAX, N.S.

S. J. MOORE, Esq., Toronto, Ont., *President.*
HECTOR McINNES, Esq., K.C., Halifax, N.S., *Vice-President.*
J. A. McLEOD, Esq., Toronto, Ont., *Vice-President.*

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE - - - TORONTO.

J. A. McLEOD, *General Manager.*
H. F. PATTERSON, H. D. BURNS, *Assistant General Managers.*

NINETY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the year ending December 31st, 1929.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Balance December 31st, 1928	$914,725·66
Net Profits for year, losses by Bad Debts estimated and provided for	2,761,117·23
	$3,675,842·89
Dividend No. 237 at 16 per cent. per annum paid 2nd April, 1929	$400,000·00
Dividend No. 238 at 16 per cent. per annum paid 2nd July, 1929	400,000·00
Dividend No. 239 at 16 per cent. per annum paid 1st October, 1929	400,000·00
Dividend No. 240 at 16 per cent. per annum payable 2nd January, 1930	400,000·00
Dominion Government Tax on circulation to December 31st, 1929	100,000·00
Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund	110,000·00
Written off Bank Premises Account	400,000·00
Balance carried forward December 31st, 1929	1,465,842·89
	$3,675,842·89

GENERAL STATEMENT AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1929.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
Capital Stock paid in		$10,000,000·00	Current Coin		$9,306,150·49
Reserve Fund		20,000,000·00	Dominion Notes		17,685,183·75
Balance of Profits, as per Profit and Loss Account		1,465,842·89	United States and other foreign currencies		1,876,687·46
Dividends declared and unpaid		402,512·00	Notes of other Banks		1,364,349·93
		$31,868,354·89	Cheques on other Banks		12,415,376·93
Notes of the Bank in circulation		$16,202,263·75	Balances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada		4,344,048·39
Deposits not bearing interest	$37,748,730·56				$46,980,796·95
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date	167,988,664·83	205,737,395·39	Deposit in the Central Gold Reserves		7,500,000·00
Advances under the Finance Act		6,000,000·00	Dominion and Provincial Government securities, not exceeding market value		20,356,003·54
		$227,939,659·14	Canadian municipal securities and British, Foreign and Colonial public securities other than Canadian, not exceeding market value		8,097,176·00
Balances due to other Banks in Canada		3,613,609·82	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value		8,756,451·01
Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United Kingdom and foreign countries		2,982,664·51	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover		32,376,948·82
Bills Payable		823,607·81	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans elsewhere than in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover		12,763,039·01
		235,359,541·28			$136,830,415·33
Letters of Credit outstanding		6,696,978·39	Other current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	$102,339,213·25	
Other Liabilities not included in the foregoing		316,498·44	Other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	20,643,117·51	
			Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit, as per contra	6,696,978·39	
			Non-current loans, estimated loss provided for	178,930·04	
			Bank Premises at not more than cost, less amounts written off	6,848,590·98	
			Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the circulation fund	503,965·18	
			Other assets not included in the foregoing	200,162·32	
					137,410,957·67
		$274,241,373·00			$274,241,373·00

S. J. MOORE, President. J. A. McLEOD, General Manager.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have examined the above General Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at December 31st, 1929, and compared it with the books at the Chief Office and with the certified returns from the Branches. The Bank's investments and cash on hand at the Chief Office and at the Toronto and Montreal Branches were verified by us at the close of business on December 31st, 1929. We have obtained all the information and explanations that we have required, and in our opinion the transactions of the Bank which have come under our notice have been within the powers of the Bank.

We certify that in our opinion the above statement discloses the true condition of the Bank and is as shown by the books of the Bank.

TORONTO, CANADA, 15th January, 1930.

D. McK. McCLELLAND, F.C.A., of Price, Waterhouse & Co.
A. B. SHEPHERD, C.A., of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. } Auditors.

LONDON OFFICE: 108, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C. 2. E. C. MACLEOD, Manager.

The Bank of Nova Scotia conducts a general banking business. Fully equipped for Exchange, Collection and Letter of Credit Transactions with all parts of the world. Particular attention is devoted to business with Canada, Newfoundland and the West Indies, where Branches of the Bank have long been established—329 Branches.

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The Economist
BANKING SUPPLEMENT.

VOL. CX] SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1930 No. 4,524

CREDITO ITALIANO

(LIMITED COMPANY INCORPORATED IN ITALY.)

Capital - - -	**Lire 400,000,000**
Capital Paid-up -	**Lire 400,000,000**
Reserve - - -	**Lire 230,000,000**

HEAD OFFICE OF THE BANK: MILAN.

BRANCHES:

ACIREALE	CIVITAVECCHIA	MILAN	SASSARI
AREZZO	COMO	MODENA	SAVONA
ASTI	CREMONA	MOLA DI BARI	SESTO S. GIOVANNI
BARI	FERRARA	MOLFETTA	SPEZIA
BARLETTA	FIUME	MONOPOLI	TARANTO
BERGAMO	FLORENCE	MONZA	TORRE ANNUNZIATA
BIELLA	FOGGIA	NAPLES	TORRE DEL GRECO
BOLOGNA	FORLI	NERVI	TRENTO
BOLZANO	FRATTAMAGGIORE	NOCERA INFERIORE	TRIESTE
BRESCIA	GENOA	NOVARA	TURIN
BRINDISI	IGLESIAS	ORISTANO	UDINE
CAGLIARI	IMPERIA	PADOVA	VARESE
CARRARA	LECCE	PALERMO	VENICE
CASTELLAMMARE DI STABIA	LECCO	PARMA	VENTIMIGLIA
	LEGHORN	PINEROLO	VERCELLI
CATANIA	LODI	PISA	VERONA
CATANZARO	LONDON	ROME	VICENZA
CHIAVARI	LUCCA	SAMPIERDARENA	VOGHERA
CHIETI	MESSINA	S. GIOVANNI A TEDUCCIO	

Representative Offices: NEW YORK—67 Wall Street. BERLIN—56 Unter den Linden. PARIS—3 Rue Taitbout.

London Branch:

2, ROYAL EXCHANGE AVENUE, E.C. 3

Correspondent of the Royal Italian Treasury.

The London Branch transacts a General Banking Business, and is specially prepared to grant facilities for the Development of Trade between the British Empire and Italy.
Documentary Credits opened.
Telegraphic and Mail Transfers effected to all parts of the world.
Clean and Documentary Bills collected. Tariff sent on application.
Approved Foreign Bills negotiated, and Advances granted against Documents.
Freights collected at principal Italian ports free of commission.
Circular Cheques issued, payable at any Branch or Correspondent of the Credito Italiano free of charge.

Telegrams: "ITALOCREDI, LONDON." Telephones: AVENUE 3031-6.

BARCLAYS BANK
LIMITED.

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

and over 2,000 Branches in England and Wales, and Agents and Correspondents in all the principal towns throughout the World.

FREDERICK CRAUFURD GOODENOUGH, Chairman.
SIR HERBERT HAMBLING, BART., Deputy-Chairman.
WILLIAM FAVILL TUKE, Vice-Chairman.
GENERAL MANAGERS:
EDWIN FISHER. HENRY THOMAS MITCHELL.
FOREIGN GENERAL MANAGER: WALTER OSBORNE STEVENSON.

Authorised Capital	£20,000,000
Issued and Paid-up Capital...	£15,858,217
Reserve Fund	£10,250,000
Deposits, etc. (31st Dec., 1929)	£337,439,214

EXECUTORSHIPS AND TRUSTEESHIPS UNDERTAKEN.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

FOREIGN BRANCHES:

CHIEF FOREIGN BRANCH: 168, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.

WEST END (LONDON): 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.1 | LIVERPOOL: 45, Castle Street. | BRADFORD: 13, Market Street. | MANCHESTER: 94, Portland Street. | BIRMINGHAM: 63, Colmore Row.

Affiliated Banks:

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS).
Head Office: 54, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.
BARCLAYS BANK (CANADA) MONTREAL.
BARCLAYS BANK (FRANCE), LIMITED.
Chief Office: PARIS. Branches in France and Algeria.
BARCLAYS BANK S.A.I.: ROME AND GENOA.
THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.
Head Office: EDINBURGH. 194 Branches in Scotland.
THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER LIMITED.
Head Office: MANCHESTER. 165 Branches in Lancashire, Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Hambros Bank Limited

41. Bishopsgate
London E.C.2

BROWN, SHIPLEY & COMPANY,
LONDON.

FOUNDERS COURT, LOTHBURY, E.C.2.

OFFICE FOR TRAVELLERS:
123, PALL MALL, S.W.1.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS & CONSIGNMENTS.
FOREIGN EXCHANGE.
CABLE TRANSFERS.
FOREIGN COLLECTIONS.
TRAVELLING CREDITS.
DIVIDENDS COLLECTED.
COUPONS PURCHASED.
DEPOSIT and CURRENT ACCOUNTS OPENED.
AGENTS and CORRESPONDENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BROWN BROTHERS & COMPANY,
NEW YORK.
59, Wall Street.

PHILADELPHIA. 1531, Walnut Street.
BOSTON. 60, State Street.
BALTIMORE. (Alexr. Brown & Sons.)
ESTABLISHED 1800.

The Economist Banking Supplement

A SURVEY OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING

Vol. CX.] SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1930. [No. 4,524.

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THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

THE past twelve months have been one of the most eventful banking years since the war. They included the summer and early autumn of 1929, a time during which the Wall Street boom rose to its climax, and London was losing gold first to America and Germany, and then to France. They saw these events first drive the New York rediscount rate up to 6 per cent. in August (with the Bank of England taking the unusual step of announcing that no change in its own rate was imminent) and then force the Bank of England's rate to 6½ per cent. six weeks later. They witnessed the Hatry collapse in London, and the Wall Street crash in New York. Later in the period came the rapid and continued fall in commodity prices all over the world, accentuating the difficulties of countries such as Australia and the Argentine, whose chief business is the production of primary foodstuffs and materials. These late autumn and winter months were also the period when, the Wall Street tension relaxed, money rates fell right through the whole scale from stringency to ease. Finally, in London, the year witnessed a determined and successful attempt on the part of the Government to reduce the size of the floating debt.

The period was thus one of especial difficulty for the banks. There is no need to labour the lessons of the Hatry débacle, or to enlarge upon the direct losses these frauds inflicted upon the banks, for it is to be trusted that this was an isolated affair and that the banks have learned the inadvisability of granting large loans to people with similar records engaged in business of a peculiarly complex nature. Still, each of the remaining events enumerated above presented the banking world with its special problem, and none of these problems proved easy to solve.

Considering first the effects of the autumn rise in Bank rate, there is a disposition to believe that dear money means larger profits for the banks. Up to a point this is true, for it is common knowledge that approximately half the banks' resources consist of money lodged on current account, which is not subject to interest at all. For this reason, the banks stand to gain more from a rise in discount and advance rates (caused by a higher Bank rate) than they lose from the simultaneous rise in deposit rate. Against this, however, must be set several vital facts. One is that dear money causes gilt-edged stocks to depreciate, with the result that the banks have to make extra provision for writing-down their investments. The same applies to bills bought before a rise in Bank rate, if they fail to mature until some time after the rise has taken effect. Again, dear money drives business away from the banks. Less credits are opened in London, less bills come forward for acceptance, and last, but not least, everyone who can pays off his loans from the banks, leaving them only with those unsatisfactory advances which to-day are characterised as "frozen." All these factors were present in the situation which the events of last autumn created for the banks.

The winter and spring set them quite a different kind of problem. During that period money rates were rapidly falling, and gold was flowing into the Bank of England. But, in contradiction to these favourable factors the events of the autumn had largely destroyed confidence, not only on the Stock Exchanges of the world, but also on the commodity markets. One result of this was that in London, at least, Stock Exchange business was stagnant, and the banks were therefore without the normal demand for loans from the Stock Exchange. This helped to produce the easy money conditions that prevailed, for much of the banks' short money usually goes to the Stock Exchange, while the fall in commodity prices had even more untoward effects. It cannot have assisted in the solution of the problem of frozen loans, and it has notoriously discouraged enterprise, been the cause of business losses and unemployment, and has led to a contraction in the supply of commercial bills, which form one of the main sources of income of the financial world.

There must also be taken into account the effects of the spring reduction in the floating debt. Of late years the banks have grown accustomed to look upon their holdings of Treasury bills in much the same light as their call and short loans, namely, as an early line of defence to be expanded or contracted as fluctuations in their resources and other demands upon them warrant. The big reduction in the volume of Treasury bills caused more disturbance in the money market than it did to the banks, but even if it did not force them to modify their practice it meant that they had to pay more for such bills as they required.

The following table, giving the position of the nine English clearing banks, shows that between January and March of this year there has been a substantial contraction in the volume of bills held by the banks and in their deposits:—

	January, 1929. £ Mn.	March, 1929. £ Mn.	October, 1929. £ Mn.	January, 1930. £ Mn.	March, 1930. £ Mn.
Deposits	1,809·6	1,739·3	1,764·7	1,767·5	1,682·0
Acceptances	232·4	222·1	203·2	164·4	159·5
Cash	255·1	239·5	247·1	248·0	235·3
Call money ...	145·1	131·3	144·9	139·9	130·6
Bills	274·2	214·3	226·9	242·9	181·5
Investments	274·3	268·9	265·5	259·6	251·8
Advances ...	956·1	980·3	974·0	969·1	974·7

Comparing January, 1930, with March, 1930, deposits have fallen by £85.5 million and bills by £61.4 million. Cash is £12.7 million and call money £9.3 million lower. Thus, during that period there has been a marked reduction in the volume of banking credit, though if the year ending last March be judged as a whole it is far less than would account for the year's fall of 13.5 per cent. in commodity prices.

These figures only cover the nine English clearing banks, and the next step is to give in greater detail comparative statistics for all British banks. The next table deals with capital and reserves. It and the remaining tables are necessarily based upon the annual accounts relating in most cases to the end of each calendar year, and so do not take account of the events of the past four months:—

CAPITAL and RESERVES.

	1928.	1929.	Incr. or Dec.
	£	£	£
English joint-stock { Capital	77,714,092	78,070,092	+ 356,000
English joint-stock { Reserves	63,802,413	63,523,453	− 278,960
English private (Capital and Reserves)	3,300,000	3,450,000	+ 150,000
Scottish { Capital	11,491,000	12,041,000	+ 550,000
Scottish { Reserves	14,393,288	15,725,320	+1,332,032
Northern Irish. { Capital	2,200,000	2,200,000	...
Northern Irish. { Reserves ...	2,300,000	2,350,000	+ 50,000
	175,200,793	177,359,865	+2,159,072

The increase in capital represents the new shares issued by the Midland Bank, while the decrease in reserves mainly reflects the decision of Williams Deacon's Bank to transfer £300,000 from reserve to contingencies fund. It was stated at that bank's annual meeting that this step was taken in order to provide for future losses arising out of rationalisation schemes, and the sacrifices thus imposed upon all parties.

The next table deals with current and deposit accounts:—

CURRENT and DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.

	1928.	% of Liabilities.	1929.	% of Liabilities.	Inc. or Dec.	
	£		£		£	%
English joint-stock	1,951,477,697	83·5	1,911,007,360	85·4	−40,470,337	−2·1
Private	31,004,479	77·2	29,182,776	73·9	− 1,821,703	−5·9
Scottish	248,800,247	81·0	250,853,396	80·5	+ 2,053,149	+0·8
Northern Irish	49,649,399	82·5	49,469,682	82·5	− 179,717	−0·4
	2,280,931,822	83·0	2,240,513,214	84·4	−40,418,608	−1·8

The contraction noted for the nine English clearing banks in a previous table occurs again here, even though a slightly different period is covered.

The next table shows the banks' holdings of cash and call money. Here again there has been a slight decline during the year covered by the statistics, except in the case of the private banks, which have added to their holdings:—

CASH in HAND and at BANK of ENGLAND, and MONEY at CALL and SHORT NOTICE.

	1928.	% of Assets.	1929.	% of Assets.	Inc. or Dec.	
	£		£		£	%
English joint-stock banks	493,841,201	21·1	481,341,704	21·5	−12,499,497	− 2·5
Private banks	4,072,927	9·8	4,263,007	10·7	+ 190,080	+ 4·7
Scottish banks	63,322,077	20·5	62,307,357	20·0	− 1,014,720	− 1·6
Northern Irish banks	7,306,211	12·1	6,227,146	10·4	− 1,079,065	−14·8
	568,542,416	20·7	554,139,214	20·9	−14,403,202	− 2·5

Coming to the chief earning assets of the banks, investments, in the aggregate, have declined by only 2.1 per cent., though the private banks have made substantial reductions. During the period covered by this table there was a fall of some 4 per cent. in the average price of gilt-edged stocks, and so the reduction in the banks' holding of investments is not surprising. It is not clear, however, why the private banks have realised so huge a proportion of their investments, though a comparison between the absolute shrinkage in their investments and deposits shows that the one contraction has balanced the other.

INVESTMENTS.

	1928.	% of Assets.	1929.	% of Assets.	Increase or Decrease.	
	£		£		£	%
English joint-stock banks	293,156,061	12·5	285,176,223	12·7	−7,979,838	− 2·7
Private banks	5,820,754	13·9	4,194,537	10·6	−1,626,217	−38·8
Scottish banks	83,378,785	27·1	83,657,183	26·9	+ 278,398	+ 0·3
Northern Irish banks	19,638,930	32·6	20,471,667	34·2	+ 832,737	+ 4·2
	401,994,530	14·6	393,499,610	14·8	−8,494,920	− 2·1

Discounts and advances, unfortunately, have to be shown together, as some of the banks do not separate them in their accounts. The following table shows that, except for the Scottish banks, there has been a slight decrease in the two together:—

DISCOUNTS and ADVANCES.

	1928.	% of Assets.	1929.	% of Assets.	Increase or Decrease.	
	£		£		£	%
English joint-stock banks	1,268,803,457	54·2	1,250,763,477	55·8	− 18,039,980	−1·4
Private banks	24,169,112	57·7	23,970,437	60·4	− 198,675	−0·8
Scottish banks	149,622,489	48·6	154,134,948	49·5	+ 4,512,459	+3·0
Northern Irish banks	32,653,916	54·2	32,605,519	54·4	− 48,397	−0·1
	1,475,248,974	53·6	1,461,474,381	55·0	− 13,774,593	−0·9

To interpret this result the figures for the English joint-stock banks must be considered alone, for these institutions make the necessary distinction:—

ENGLISH JOINT-STOCK BANKS.

	1928.	1929.	Increase or Decrease.	
	£	£	£	%
Discounts	259,250,704	224,303,820	− 34,946,884	− 13·5
Advances	1,009,552,753	1,026,459,657	+ 16,906,904	+ 1·7
Total	1,268,803,457	1,250,763,477	− 18,039,980	− 1·4

Here the lessons of the first table covering the year ending March, 1930, are borne out, though naturally the reduction in discounts is not so big, as the main shrinkage occurred in the first quarter of the current year. The expansion in advances is not wholly satisfactory. Trade declined in volume during 1929, and it is to be feared, therefore, that the increase in advances may have been in part due to the gradual accumulation of frozen loans.

The next table summarises the aggregate net profits and appropriations of the three geographical groups of banks for each year since 1908:—

ENGLISH.

Year	Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends.	Per Cent. of Profits.	Investments Depreciation.	Reserve Funds.	Premises.	Staff.	Movement of Carry Forward.
	£		£		£	£	£	£	£
1909	7,453,626	·91	6,721,554	90	92,700	162,930	235,689	162,006	+ 76,324
1910	8,241,490	·94	6,760,889	82	1,105,766	222,517	237,000	107,500	− 192,182
1911	8,214,213	·93	6,818,162	83	842,215	116,138	240,404	91,205	+ 106,089
1912	9,124,327	·99	6,883,634	75	1,578,026	111,606	367,817	120,000	+ 63,244
1913	10,377,225	1·13	6,938,720	67	2,487,535	319,325	406,811	243,000	− 18,166
1914	9,120,656	·94	6,697,295	73	1,190,900	112,000	317,200	109,728	+ 693,533
1915	9,828,732	·86	6,288,456	64	3,647,607	20,100	132,500	40,687	− 300,618
1916	10,734,850	·82	5,937,606	55	4,406,101	18,000	256,500	66,582	+ 50,061
1917	11,678,477	·73	5,915,733	46	224,000	3,354,500	417,500	284,000	+1482744
1918	12,578,524	·71	6,106,495	48	167,500	4,247,960	747,000	740,101	+ 569,468
1919	14,639,643	·69	7,014,262	48	3,421,500	2,103,896	742,500	867,500	+ 439,985
1920	17,399,028	·79	8,426,466	49	4,930,000	1,930,718	945,000	520,000	+ 646,844
1921	13,740,616	·63	8,642,260	63	...	3,153,560	1,445,000	320,000	+ 179,796
1922	12,028,280	·58	8,934,266	74	...	1,514,868	1,225,000	370,000	+ 84,146
1923	11,690,549	·67	9,168,298	79	...	937,500	1,080,000	320,000	+ 184,781
1924	13,023,593	·62	9,456,273	73	...	1,338,027	1,585,000	645,000	− 707
1925	13,892,452	·67	9,856,930	71	...	1,208,000	1,390,000	965,000	+ 472,522
1926	13,843,451	·66	10098602	73	...	1,429,312	1,485,000	910,000	− 79,483
1927	13,348,772	·62	9,854,313	74	...	1,269,000	1,380,000	900,000	− 54,541
1928	13,783,812	·59	10274012	75	...	990,040	1,480,000	941,000	+ 96,760
1929	13,977,765	·63	10461206	75	...	1,281,000	1,475,000	885,000	− 124,441

SCOTTISH.

Year.	Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends.	Per Cent. of Profits.	Investments Depreciation.	Reserve Funds.	Premises.	Staff.	Movement of Carry-Forward.
	£		£		£	£	£	£	£
1909..	1,773,302	1·27	1,437,587	81	65,000	165,750	51,500	29,196	+ 24,269
1910..	1,779,664	1·29	1,436,620	81	192,889	105,750	54,000	31,500	− 41,095
1911..	1,796,794	1·24	1,457,787	81	153,798	115,750	51,500	31,517	− 317
1912..	1,869,525	1·22	1,467,833	78	308,084	97,500	59,000	19,000	− 81,892
1913..	1,885,414	1·18	1,437,203	76	229,931	87,500	70,500	49,000	+ 11,280
1914..	1,907,077	1·13	1,352,075	71	269,116	20,000	46,500	30,000	+ 189,384
1915..	1,937,952	1·09	1,188,967	61	682,779	...	46,500	38,935	− 19,229
1916..	2,015,154	0·97	1,108,141	55	690,132	80,000	51,500	30,000	+ 55,381
1917..	2,127,076	0·85	1,075,015	49	140,000	557,500	135,000	65,000	+ 154,561
1918..	2,250,466	0·82	1,074,188	48	40,000	785,000	170,000	85,000	+ 96,278
1919..	2,387,941	0·75	1,086,424	46	646,085	383,805	100,000	100,000	+ 71,627
1920..	2,392,975	0·71	1,136,124	47	986,491	50,000	120,000	105,000	− 4,640
1921..	2,437,024	0·71	1,203,430	49	...	877,501	170,000	140,000	+ 46,093
1922..	2,545,377	0·79	1,277,110	50	...	861,959	220,000	170,000	+ 16,308
1923..	2,600,745	0·87	1,334,683	51	...	737,226	245,000	210,000	+ 73,836
1924..	2,438,964	0·82	1,308,388	54	...	546,432	285,000	240,000	+ 59,144
1925..	2,441,469	0·82	1,377,099	56	...	542,310	260,000	246,392	+ 15,668
1926..	2,695,911	0·90	1,608,510	60	...	581,545	270,000	235,000	+ 856
1927..	2,732,256	0·92	1,720,510	63	...	386,977	330,000	250,000	+ 44,769
1928..	2,793,449	0·91	1,659,845	59	...	587,661	285,000	245,000	+ 16,043
1929..	2,793,534	0·90	1,708,180	61	...	534,032	260,000	230,000	+ 63,322

IRISH.

Year.	Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends.	Per Cent. of Profits.	Investments Depreciation.	Reserve Funds.	Premises.	Staff.	Movement of Carry-Forward.
	£		£		£	£	£	£	£
1909..	958,247	1·20	848,261	88	15,000	27,500	29,164	5,145	+ 33,177
1910..	989,459	1·20	837,911	85	35,000	91,000	14,471	12,921	— 1,844
1911..	1,006,860	1·18	807,452	80	93,500	73,500	22,545	19,484	— 9,621
1912..	1,053,684	1·22	761,376	72	170,000	123,500	17,757	5,220	— 24,169
1913..	1,101,043	1·21	759,964	64	184,000	125,000	13,253	3,750	+ 16,720
1914..	1,104,836	1·03	750,033	68	150,000	165,000	22,678	10,605	+ 6,520
1915..	1,225,926	1·17	712,264	58	438,000	81,500	6,299	6,350	— 18,486
1916..	1,103,499	·96	639,060	58	361,000	75,000	8,230	13,100	+ 7,109
1917..	1,193,190	·88	616,377	51	110,000	370,000	30,318	5,000	+ 61,495
1918..	1,401,660	·79	662,432	47	15,608	537,500	12,000	64,030	+ 110,090
1919..	1,428,444	·68	690,251	48	295,000	365,309	14,920	65,300	— 2,336
1920..	1,701,534	·71	699,946	41	383,000	516,003	25,781	40,000	+ 36,804
1921..	1,632,968	·66	729,330	45	102,500	627,299	69,429	50,000	+ 54,410
1922..	1,827,227	·75	768,754	42	...	923,502	119,907	52,004	— 36,940
1922*	539,507	·82	187,994	35	...	270,000	84,907	40,000	— 43,394
1923*	547,274	·89	197,082	36	...	300,000	14,342	20,000	+ 15,850
1924*	466,600	·77	206,511	44	...	200,000	9,434	30,000	+ 20,655
1925*	442,693	·75	222,342	50	...	200,900	5,053	50,000	— 34,702
1926*	453,949	·76	225,300	50	...	90,000	5,387	152,800	— 19,538
1927*	451,280	·75	225,300	50	...	240,000	5,527	...	— 19,547
1928*	470,497	·78	277,100	59	...	150,000	5,088	...	+ 38,309
1929*	463,891	·78	277,100	60	...	140,000	1,386	...	+ 45,405

* Three banks of Northern Ireland.

It will be seen that, both absolutely and relatively to resources, net profits for 1929 show an increase over the preceding year, and in view of the difficulties of the past year this is a striking testimony to those responsible for the operations of the banks. It is, however, only fair to add that "net profits" and "reserve funds," as shown in this table, only present a partial picture. "Reserve funds" include both "general reserve" and "contingencies" (this being due to the fact that many banks do not make the necessary distinction in their own accounts), and in several cases it is known that last year several banks made special provision for current emergencies either by abnormally large transfers from profits to contingencies or in one case (noted above) by a special transfer from general reserve to contingencies. Such operations are marked in the table, which therefore presents the position in rather too favourable a light. Still, even allowing for this, the fact that the ratio of dividends to profits is maintained at 75 per cent. shows that the banks have been able to take last year's events in their stride. With one exception, the dividend rates shown in the table at the foot of the page are the same as last year, even though in some cases the capital has been increased.

From this survey of the past year it will be seen that the banking world has had some difficult problems to solve, many of which were not of its own creation. Matters of internal policy, such as the appointment of the Committee on Banking and Finance and the recent activities of the Bank of England, are dealt with elsewhere, as are the questions of the supply of sterling bills and the creation of the Bank for International Settlements. If this institution had been in existence during the past year, it may confidently be asserted that it would have prevented many of the anxieties that have been experienced in most markets of the world, and thereby have helped to maintain confidence—a state of mind without which economic activity becomes uncertain and tends to fade away. It will also be greatly concerned with that key question of the monetary situation—the world's gold supply and its distribution. During the year the Financial Committee of the League of Nations commenced its investigation of this question. This investigation is still in train, and when the Committee's recommendations are forthcoming, their adoption will depend upon the co-operation of banks, and especially of central banks, all over the world. The foundation of the Bank for International Settlements, with its provision of a common meeting ground for central bankers, will go a long way to make such co-operation a practical proposition.

PROFITS OF BANKS FOR LAST COMPLETED FINANCIAL YEAR.

BANK.	Year Ended.	Profits.	Dividend.	Rate.	Reserve.	Premises.	Staff.	To Carry Forward. Increase.	To Carry Forward. Decrease.	Profits a Year Ago.
ENGLISH.		£	£	%	£	£	£	£	£	£
Barclays	Dec. 31	2,331,580	1,666,349	A 10 / B&C 14	500,000	150,000	...	15,231	...	2,301,285
British Mutual	Dec. 31	20,292	14,400	12	6,000	...	...	...	108	17,781
District	Dec. 31	502,727	*579,200	18½	...	20,000	40,000	...	136,473	455,132
Lloyds	Dec. 31	2,542,084	1,973,886	A 16⅔ / B 5	...	250,000	300,000	18,198	...	2,528,143
London Merchant	Dec. 31	74,419	47,250	A 7 / B 5	25,000	...	...	2,169	...	71,845
Manchester and County	Dec. 31	181,225	177,456	16¼	...	...	...	3,769	...	188,681
Martins	Dec. 31	836,240	665,607	16	50,000	100,000	...	20,633	...	825,434
Midland	Dec. 31	2,665,042	1,934,347	18	...	500,000	220,000	10,695	...	2,656,554
National Provincial	Dec. 31	2,189,704	1,706,295	18	200,000	200,000	100,000	...	16,591	2,108,664
Union of Manchester	Dec. 31	176,167	96,000	16	50,000	5,000	25,000	167	...	176,545
Westminster	Dec. 31	2,160,384	1,356,275	20 / 12½	400,000	250,000	200,000	...	45,891	2,148,408
Williams Deacons	Dec. 31	297,901	244,141	A 13⅓ / B 12½	50,000	...	...	3,760	...	305,340
Totals		13,977,765	10,461,206	...	1,281,000	1,475,000	885,000	...	124,441	13,783,812
SCOTTISH.										
Bank of Scotland	Feb. 28	365,872	216,000	18	117,500	30,000	...	2,372	...	374,283
British Linen	Jan. 15	325,954	160,000	16	50,000	50,000	50,000	15,954	...	330,540
Clydesdale	Dec. 31	331,634	234,000	18	50,000	20,000	30,000	...	2,366	340,136
Commercial of Scotland	Oct. 31	367,983	232,000	A 16 / B 10	50,000	50,000	25,000	10,983	...	344,600
National of Scotland	Nov. 1	280,686	140,800	16	50,000	30,000	55,000	4,886	...	291,222
North of Scotland	Dec. 31	277,563	205,380	18	50,000	10,000	15,000	...	2,817	274,368
Royal of Scotland	Oct. 12	504,532	340,000	17	114,532	20,000	30,000	...	...	502,561
Union of Scotland	Apr. 2	339,310	180,000	18	50,000	50,000	25,000	34,310	...	336,239
Totals		2,793,534	1,708,180	...	532,032	260,000	230,000	63,322	...	2,793,449
IRISH.										
Belfast Banking	Dec. 31	116,727	61,600	11	...	...	...	55,127	...	110,800
Northern	Aug. 31	128,729	87,500	A 17½ / B 8¾	40,000	1,386	...	...	157	134,922
Ulster	Nov. 30	218,435	128,000	16	100,000	...	...	...	9,565	224,775
Totals		463,891	277,100	...	140,000	1,386	...	45,405	...	470,497

* Includes capitalised bonus of £200,000.

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CAPITAL ISSUES NEGOTIATED.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS.

DEPOSIT AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS OPENED IN ALL CURRENCIES.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION OF TRUST FUNDS.

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

BANKING AND INDUSTRY.

The official views of the Labour Party on the desirability of nationalising the banking system of the country and also of imposing some sort of direct public control upon the policy and operations of the Bank of England, as expressed in "Labour and the Banks," suggested that when a Labour Government was returned to office some tentative steps would be taken towards these objectives. The result of the election made it certain that these steps would be indeed tentative, for Labour, though "in office," was not "in power," and the most that could be done was to explore some of the ground defined in general terms in the Liberal Yellow Book. Nevertheless, bearing in mind the uneasiness felt in industrial circles at the policy pursued by the Bank of England—even though that policy was forced upon the Bank by events in New York—it was clear that the new Government was likely to take a closer interest in banking than the last.

The first incident in this connection occurred in July, when, in a speech at the Mansion House, delivered at a time when the principal exchanges were adverse, and gold in large quantities was leaving the country almost daily, Mr. Snowden took the unusual step for a Chancellor of the Exchequer of expressing in public the hope that the Bank of England would not find it necessary to raise the Bank rate. A few weeks later, when the New York rediscount rate went from 5 to 6 per cent., the Bank reciprocated by stating, also in public, that a rise in its own rate was not imminent. These two statements showed that at least the Bank and the Government were at one in their outlook, even if no change had occurred in the somewhat loosely defined relation between them.

In October, immediately after the Hatry crisis and the increase of Bank rate to 6½ per cent., but before the Wall Street break and the first reduction in Bank rate, the annual Labour Party Conference was held. It was obvious that banking questions would be a matter for consideration at the Conference, and the City felt some interest if not anxiety as to what views might be expressed. Mr Thomas, who not unnaturally was anxious as to the effect recent financial events might have upon the fruition of his unemployment schemes, launched a somewhat violent criticism upon the Bank of England, but Mr Snowden, who spoke the following day, placed matters in a more reasonable perspective. While making it clear to the Conference that the Government had no responsibility for determining Bank rate, which belonged to the Bank alone, he nevertheless accepted the view that in consequence of the continued loss of gold, the coming of the autumn drain, and the difficult situation in New York, the Bank could do no other than raise its rate. At the same time, he announced that, in order to explore the whole position, a Committee on Finance and Industry would be appointed

> "to inquire into banking, finance and credit, paying regard to the factors, both internal and inter-national, which govern their operation, and to make recommendations calculated to enable these agencies to promote the development of trade and commerce and the employment of labour."

The Committee, whose names were subsequently announced, is presided over by Lord Macmillan, and consists of Sir Thomas Allen, Vice-Chairman of the Co-Operative Wholesale Society; Mr. Ernest Bevan, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union; the Right Hon. Lord Bradbury, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury from 1913-1919; the Hon. R. H. Brand, Managing Director of Messrs. Lazard Brothers; Professor T. E. Gregory; Sir E. Cassel, Professor of Banking in London University; Mr J. M. Keynes, the well-known economist; Mr Lennox B. Lee, President of the Federation of British Industries; Mr Cecil Lubbock, a Director, and formerly Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England; the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, Ltd.; Mr J. T. Walton Newbold, Editor of the *Social-Democrat;* Sir Walter Raine, Managing Director of J. Raine and Son, Ltd., and Deputy-President of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce; Mr J. Frater Taylor, Director of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company, Ltd.; and Mr A. A. G. Tulloch, Deputy-Chairman of the District Bank, Ltd. The Committee is thus representative of banking, industry, commerce and labour, as well as of economic theory. The Committee quickly got to work and is still engaged on its task. Unfortunately, it decided to hold its meetings in private, and the public, therefore, knows nothing of the evidence that is being submitted on this important matter. But the appointment of the Committee had the effect of placating both labour and industrial opinion, and with the coming of cheap money, banking policy has for the present ceased to be an important political question.

Meanwhile developments have occurred in regard to the financing of industry and the relations of the banks to this problem. In November last, there was registered unobtrusively a subsidiary of the Bank of England, called the Securities Management Trust. The Bank, too, continued its policy of recent years of recruiting from outside its walls a team of economists of world-wide repute, to assist it on matters of high policy, and, in particular, appointed Professor Henry Clay as economic adviser to its new subsidiary, while its liaison with the United States was continued through the replacement of Mr W. W. Stewart, on his retirement, by Professor O. M. W. Sprague, of Harvard. The Bank by this time had also become committed to taking the leading part in several outstanding industrial rationalisation schemes, including the Armstrong-Vickers merger, Beardmore's reconstruction, and, possibly most important of all, the foundation of the Lancashire Textile Corporation.

It was thus apparent that the Bank of England was beginning to take an active interest in the process of what has come to be known as rationalisation. The matter came to a head in a speech delivered by Mr Thomas in Manchester early in the present year, in the course of which he made the folowing statement:—

> "In considering the steps that might be taken to produce a better employment position by improving the organisation and equipment of British industries, I have found that a feeling exists that manufacturers are handicapped in bringing about the necessary reorganisation and re-equipment by the fact that the long-continued trade depression has pushed them to the limits of the credit which they can reasonably expect to obtain from their bankers or which the bankers can reasonably be expected to provide. As a result of consultations which I have had, I am now in a position to state that the City is deeply interested in placing industry upon a broad and sound basis and ready to support any plans that in its opinion lead to this end. Those in the City who have been studying this matter are convinced that a number of our important industries must be fundamentally reorganised and modernised in order to be able to produce at prices which will enable them to compete with the world. Industries which propose schemes that, in the opinion of those advising the City, conform to this requirement will receive the most sympathetic consideration and the co-operation of the City in working out plans and finding the necessary finance. In the case of individual undertakings the City will be similarly ready to help, provided that the scheme under discussion fits in as part of the general plans for the industry in question as a whole and gives reasonable promise that the changes will enable the undertaking to become an effective unit in combination and co-operation with other similar undertakings."

It was soon made clear that this undertaking had been given by the Bank of England, in consultation with the other banks, and it became evident that the Bank's new subsidiary, the Securities Management Trust, had for its primary object the examination of schemes of rationalisation in British industry.

The chairmen of the joint-stock banks, in their annual addresses, delivered a few days later, gave a qualified but cordial welcome to these developments, though they were careful to restate the limitations their duties to their customers imposed upon them. Mr Thomas, however, stated in the House that prior to his Manchester speech he had been in touch with the joint-stock banks, and it could be inferred that he could count upon their co-operation within the limit of their powers. Meanwhile successive reductions of Bank rate were being made at intervals of a few weeks, and it was obvious that the Bank was taking every possible advantage of the change in the international monetary situation, brought about by the Wall Street break, to give industry as quickly as possible the benefits of cheap money.

Early in April of this year one further step was taken. This was the registration of a new company called the Bankers' Industrial Development Company, with a nominal capital of £6 million, divided into forty-five "A" shares and fifteen "B" shares of £100,000 each. The "A" shares have been subscribed by practically every home bank and issuing house of first-rate importance, while the "B" shares have been subscribed by Securities Management Trust. As the "B" shares have three times the voting rights of the "A" shares, the Bank of England will control 50 per cent. of the voting strength. The object of this company is to advise and assist definite industries or sections of a particular industry in their preparation of reorganisation schemes, so that they may take a form which the new company can recommend to the City as worthy of its careful consideration. The new company will not make loans itself, nor will it advise individual firms, but its purpose apparently is to give its hallmark to approved schemes, and once this is forthcoming it is reasonable to suppose that the necessary capital will be made available through existing channels.

The significance of this chain of events is clear. British banks have often been accused of being of less help to industry than banks in other countries, and, though the joint-stock banks do make a very large part of the advances to British industry, there is no doubt that the fact that the proportion of Britain's activities concerned with commerce rather than industry is greater than in other countries has led to the development of our banking system on special lines. The banks have not, in fact, taken nearly so direct an interest in industry as they have done in both Germany and America. Moreover, partly as a result of this, it has been found difficult for the banks to act together in regard to schemes of industrial reconstruction. The present scheme is not an attempt to create a new organ for financing industry, but rather to smooth over the difficulties that have hitherto existed, whether on the industrial side or as a result of the lack of co-ordination between those who are financially interested in an industry, to ensure that schemes for bringing industry into larger units are well thought out, and by associating the chief City firms in this enterprise to ensure that, if a scheme gets a clean bill, it will be financially supported.

It has been questioned whether it is an appropriate function for a central bank to take the initiative in any such matter, the more particularly since the exercise of discretion in regard to who shall or shall not be included is a very delicate matter in which the central bank is in a position to exercise autocratic powers. It has, however, been essential that some means should be taken to bring City interests together in this matter, and, if the institutions other than the Bank of England which are concerned in this enterprise will take their appropriate part, the Bank of England will doubtless revert in this matter to its natural *rôle* of adviser, rather than that of initiator.

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THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

THE first meeting of the nominated directors of the Bank for International Settlements was held at Basle on the 22nd and 23rd of last month. As expected, Mr McGarrah was elected President, and Sir Charles Addis and Dr Melchior Vice-Chairmen. Of the appointments to the staff, subject to confirmation at the first official meeting of the board, that of Monsieur Quesnay as Director-General and that of Dr Hülse as Deputy-Director-General and head of the banking department have already been noted in the *Economist*. The Secretary-General will be an Italian, Signor Pilotti; Monsieur Marcel van Zeeland will be head of the department of deposits and investments; and a Japanese will take charge of the department of foreign exchange.

After the first issue of the shares of the bank has been made in the markets of the principal countries, it is probable that the question of making a further issue in other centres at a subsequent date will be considered by the board. The election of additional members of the board will also be a matter for early consideration. In principle the remaining seats on the board should be filled as soon as possible in order that the fundamental defects of the board's composition may be mitigated as far as possible and the bank be given a complexion less suggestive of the Reparation Commission and more indicative of central bank co-operation. Yet a little delay may not be amiss, as it will afford time for members of the board to get to know each other well. The most important of all objectives before the bank is to establish an atmosphere of mutual trust, and this may be more easily secured at first in a board that is relatively small.

A matter which will have to be given immediate attention is the form in which the bank's accounts are to be published. The Statutes (Article 51) lay down that the bank shall issue an annual report, and, at least once a month, a statement of account in such form as the board may prescribe. It is essential that this statement should be as full and informative as possible. Proposals have been made that it should be drawn up in a money of account, say, a gramme of gold. It is doubtful whether this would be even theoretically preferable to the use of a particular currency based on the gold standard. A return drawn up in Swiss francs would be much more intelligible to most people than one made out in grammes, but it would be well to publish the statement not only in Swiss francs, but in several other of the principal gold currencies, converted at parity.

The first business of the bank will be the arrangement of a loan to raise $300 million, $200 million representing the mobilisation of German annuities and the balance being for the benefit of Germany; the whole to be issued before October 1st next. The first *tranche* of the combined loan is expected to be offered about the end of May. This issue will not be made by the bank itself; when, however, the loan has been subscribed the proceeds will be distributed through the bank, one-third going to the German Government and two-thirds to the creditor countries in various proportions. The bank may also act as trustees for the bondholders.

The bank's potentialities, however, are not limited to its Reparation functions, which will tend to become a matter of routine; and, if public expectations are to be realised, its work in other spheres will be of still greater importance. The B.I.S., as the Governor of the Bank of England has recently suggested, is largely a fulfilment of the policy laid down at Genoa in 1922. The Conference of Central Banks which was then recommended never took place, and events have led the public to think that the informal meetings of central bank governors have not been a sufficient substitute. The B.I.S. will be expected to give some evidence within the next few years that the more systematic co-operation between central banks which it makes possible is capable of conferring further benefits on the world.

It is difficult to foresee to what specific task requiring such co-operation the B.I.S. will first turn. If for one reason or another the task is not entrusted to the League, its services may be called upon for the stabilisation of some of the few currencies not yet based on the gold standard. It might even be asked to assist in the introduction of a gold bullion standard into India and a gold exchange standard into China. In such tasks it will be merely continuing work which has hitherto been performed by the League or by groups of central banks, or both; and it is evident that even more important functions await it in the future, as regards which no concerted effort has as yet been made. It will have to try to stop any future "scramble for gold" and educate gold standard countries into the belief that they need no more gold and/or foreign exchange reserves than the maximum amount they may have to surrender before the normal operation of gold standard weapons reverses the outward flow. The gold standard countries must learn to play the gold standard game—perhaps under improved rules; the controlled use of the gold exchange standard under the influence of the B.I.S. may, for example, be found to be of permanent advantage.

Then there is the problem of the short loan fund. Since the war the gold exchange standard, the increased facilities which exist for transferring funds, the high rates obtainable in the short loan market, especially in New York, the enormous holdings of short balances by France, etc., have meant that unprecedentedly large sums have moved from market to market, with disturbing effects upon exchange rates and Bank rates. The central banks doubtless have not been offenders. But in so far as the short loan fund is in the possession of or can be controlled by central banks, the board of the International Bank may be able to arrive at a concerted policy, whereby these funds may be distributed and moved according to the requirements of the moment and in the general interest.

It is to be hoped that the central banks represented on the board may at once give a lead to the other central banks by making considerable deposits with the International Bank in order that the financial strength of the bank may thus be reinforced. For the operations referred to above could presumably be undertaken only with the free funds of the bank, as they would tend to diminish its profits. The bank will not, however, any more than the central banks, regard the making of profits as its chief objective, nor will it need to worry over much on this score as suitable arrangements for its remuneration have been made.

But it is not only that the movements over the exchanges of a large volume of short money often have ill effects; there is the additional difficulty that the fund itself, however distributed, is unduly large. It consists to a considerable extent of money which has been lent long and borrowed short (reconstruction loans), or of Reparation payments by Germany, and it therefore largely represents savings which may be regarded as being artificially withheld from their proper destination, industry. No wonder the world is short of capital when one central bank alone holds £200 million of short money. The B.I.S. should direct its energies towards getting a part of the short loan fund invested in industry and commerce, and in this way fulfil an aspiration of the Young Committee that it should "promote the increase of world trade."

The control and diminution of the short loan fund must precede an endeavour to stabilise within reasonable limits the value of gold in terms either of commodities or, as some economists now consider preferable, in terms of human effort. If an improvement on the pre-war state of affairs is attainable it can probably only be carried out through the agency of the International Bank.

In embarking upon these entirely new tasks, which must entail considerable research work, the Bank will undoubtedly need the services of a first-class economist. It is not enough that some of the central banks, notably the American Reserve System, and, more recently, the Bank of England, should have economists attached to their staffs, and that many European banks have statistical departments. Much of the work of these departments should now be centralised in an information department at the B.I.S. But much more essential is it that an economist of standing (if possible one with central banking experience) should give the bank his whole-time services. He could undertake no more useful task.

The policies of the bank must have an international outlook and a reasoned basis; they must not consist of experimental compromises between conflicting national aspirations, as may happen if the bank is insufficiently provided with expert guidance. A tendency to do nothing, on the other hand, may be made difficult if proposals supported by informed and relatively disinterested arguments are pressed upon the board from below.

AMERICAN BANKS AND THE PANIC OF 1929.

(BY A NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

IT is natural that students of the American banking system should regard the events of 1929 as a first-rate test of its capacity and stability, and that they should inquire how far the banks have "stood up" under the onset of panic conditions. It was not possible to give any answer to this question at the time, particularly in view of the extraneous influences that were then making themselves felt. Even as yet enough time has hardly elapsed to permit the making of any very positive judgment with regard to the subject, so far as details go. But some general conclusions of fundamental importance are possible and should be carefully analysed.

Probably the outstanding aspect of American banking, as viewed from the standpoint of the panic, is that it did not, on the surface, result in any very great increase of bank failures. It is quite true that the monthly bank failure record kept by the Federal Reserve Board did show a tremendous expansion, numerically speaking, and the total failures rose from about fifteen during the month preceding the panic (September, 1929) to about four times that figure in the month following it. These, however, were all small bank failures, representing merely the collapse of weak institutions of low capitalisation, which were ready to give way almost at a moment's notice. It is, of course, true that the full effects of the panic and the business recession have not as yet made themselves fully felt in the banking world. But there have been, at any rate, none of the unexpected and disastrous collapses that have often been characteristic of American banking in times of panic.

As for relief of panic conditions, there are many different opinions and considerable differences of experience. The New York banks, and those of some of the larger cities outside of New York, had long expected the panic to develop, and were in at least a fair degree of readiness for it when it did come. This enabled that group of banks to absorb the vast volume of brokers' loans which was transferred to them as the result of the retirement of the "others" who had been making such advances, but who sought to get out of them at the time of the panic in order to use their funds in actually buying securities at bargain prices. These banks were able satisfactorily to take care of their customers. Nevertheless, the rank and file of the banks

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throughout the country were anything but liberal to their own customers. In many cases, naturally, they were not able to sell out their clients and compel them to retire from the market, but found it necessary to carry them along until conditions were better. In others, however, they insisted upon prompt payment or larger margins, or in other ways sought to force the customer to come to terms at a time when he could least afford it. Because of the fact that the panic had been so long and so widely predicted before it actually made its appearance, it had been possible for banks to raise the loan margins of customers up to a point which protected them pretty well, and so made it unnecessary to ask for further margin when the panic appeared. This, however, did not supply actual fluid cash.

The close of the panic, accordingly, found banks throughout the country heavily overburdened with securities, those away from the financial centres being probably in the worst condition. The first bank statements put out after the panic depicted the banks as being in an extraordinarily " frozen " condition. This was as might have been expected. There naturally followed an effort to bring about liquidation and to cut down the frozen loans, but every such effort has been unsuccessful, save for a very short time during the early weeks immediately after the breakdown. During those weeks the accounts that were most dangerous were closed out, and the banks' position correspondingly improved. This change, however, had to be carried on very slowly and cautiously, and by the end of February it had completely come to an end. From that time forward until the middle of April improving conditions in the stock market encouraged the belief on the part of bankers that their situation has been decidedly improved. Nevertheless, there had been no real liquidation as compared with a year ago—a fact which is illustrated by the following figures reflecting the condition of about six hundred representative banks as contrasted with their position at the corresponding date in 1929. The statement is the official one issued by the Federal Reserve Board :—

	April 16, 1930.		Increase or decrease on Week.		Year.
	$		$		$
Loans and investments—					
Total	22,592,000,000	+	32,000,000	+	252,000,000
Loans—Total	16,845,000,000	+	16,000,000	+	414,000,000
On securities	8,238,000,000	+	75,000,000	+	885,000,000
All other	8,607,000,000	−	59,000,000	−	471,000,000
Investments—Total	5,747,000,000	+	16,000,000	−	162,000,000
United States Government securities	2,849,000,000	+	11,000,000	−	171,000,000
Other securities	2,898,000,000	+	5,000,000	+	8,000,000
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	1,746,000,000	+	32,000,000	+	75,000,000
Cash in vaults	207,000,000	−	9,000,000	−	20,000,000
Net demand deposits	13,383,000,000	+	175,000,000	+	265,000,000
Time deposits	7,068,000,000	−	34,000,000	+	289,000,000
Government deposits	141,000,000	−	32,000,000	−	24,000,000
Due from banks	1,194,000,000	+	64,000,000	+	56,000,000
Due to banks	2,961,000,000	+	7,000,000	+	236,000,000
Borrowings from Federal Reserve Banks	65,000,000	−	10,000,000	−	664,000,000

+ Increase. − Decrease.

This absence of real liquidation is the significant factor in the case. If there had been real liquidation, the resumption of an upward movement in loans on securities would not be especially alarming. But, to put the case in plain language, the banks are now starting in just about where they left off, or, in other words, are beginning to let their loan accounts grow again from somewhat the same level at which they had been checked by the panic. The hazardousness of this renewed growth is obvious when we remember that the gold in the banks of the United States is now decidedly less than 6 per cent. of the outstanding deposit liabilities which it is intended to sustain.

While it is thus necessary to take a rather pessimistic view of the management of the speculative and financial situation by the banks—looking at the matter from a strict banking viewpoint—one is further obliged to adopt an even more critical and less complaisant point of view with respect to the question of new securities issues. It was generally admitted before the autumn panic that one important factor tending to bring on that disaster was the constant over-issue of new securities. This over-issue had been very general, and the effects of it were so obvious that, since the close of the panic, not merely critics, but practically all persons conversant with the situation had regarded the over-issues as a major cause of difficulty. It is perhaps sufficient to say in this connection that even Mr E. H. H. Simmons, the President of the Stock Exchange for several years past, in a recent public address at Philadelphia, has taken that view of the matter. Assuming that that is the case, the question arises whether something ought not to be done to prevent recurrence of the evil of over-issue. The Investment Bankers' Association has from time to time discussed this matter, but has done nothing, and to-day the evil is reappearing, perhaps in an aggravated form. Issue houses concerned with the flotation of new loans, both foreign and domestic, have been so anxious to get their securities into the hands of the public, that they have shown a very decided disposition to overwork the domestic market since January 1st. Indeed, for the first quarter of the year, the total of new issues has been fully $2,000,000,000, of which probably about $1,300,000,000 has been in bonds. There was no such free margin of buying power in the community, so that the banks have fallen into their old habit of allowing unsuccessful issue houses to carry the unsold portion of their offerings on loans until such time as they could get rid of them. Estimates of the totals of loans so carried are, of course, conjecture, but probably amount to at least $300,000,000.

This must be esteemed a very grave blunder on the part of American banks, particularly when it is remembered at the same time that the rank and file of the smaller banks have ceased liquidation, as has already been explained, and have begun to lend more heavily upon securities, as well as (in some cases) to buy more largely of outstanding investment offerings. The banking mechanism, in its present somewhat depleted condition so far as liquid credit goes, might manage to endure the onset of another attack of excessive speculation, but certainly cannot add to that burden the extra shock caused by renewed over-issue of securities which cannot be fully absorbed and, hence, have to be carried by means of bank credit. Taken together, if they are allowed to go much further, these two factors necessarily put the banking mechanism into a decidedly embarrassing situation.

No review of the temporary and post-panic banking conditions would be adequate, without a brief glance at the Federal Reserve System. It has been a striking and interesting commentary upon the situation of the system that, within the past month, four chairmen of reserve banks (New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Cleveland) have plainly stated, in their official reports covering the year 1929, that they had all, for months before the panic of 1929, urged upon the Reserve Board the raising of their discount rates, but had not received the assent of the board until the summer was far advanced. Even when the rates were thus increased, there was no strenuous effort at the reduction of market accommodation, and the speculative movement was then maintaining so high a speed that a mere advance in discount rates had little effect one way or the other. The reductions in rates, which were almost instantaneously ordered when the panic had become a reality, have been followed by subsequent reductions and by many cuts in acceptance charges, as well as by the adoption of extraordinarily liberal open-market buying policies. Indeed, it is only in that way that the remarkable rejuvenation of security prices that occurred in the first quarter of 1930 could have been effected. The danger, however, is that this reversion to the pre-panic low-rate policy may encourage renewal of the forward movement in speculation and security prices, notwithstanding that no effective liquidation (as already explained) has taken place. That these conditions should furnish serious grounds for apprehension about the continued stability of the American, and particularly of the New York market, is not surprising. They are already viewed with great apprehension by conservative observers, both in and out of the Reserve System.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PARIS MONEY MARKET.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

During the last few months a vigorous campaign has been in progress in France in favour of the adoption of a policy of investment abroad. The Bank of France and the private banks have appealed to the Government to take steps in this direction. The Government was reluctant at first, and has only recently become bold enough to agree to the reforms asked for by banking circles.

The imports of gold during the second half of 1929 gave rise to an incipient inflation. To check the rise in prices the Government sought to counteract the extraordinary abundance of capital in France, and with the co-operation of the Bank of France it set to work to find means of encouraging the export of capital. This is the crux of the whole problem. The French people are naturally thrifty and each year there is a considerable surplus of savings for investment. But tax restrictions used to make the issue of foreign loans in Paris difficult and this surplus, remaining in the home market, tended to depress the value of money until such time as the banks were ready and willing to exchange it into British, American, or German short-term securities. Since, however, the banks have to meet their engagements in francs they must not hold too large a part of their assets in foreign currencies, and since they must maintain a certain rough proportion between the respective items in their balance sheets, their foreign holdings cannot be unlimited. That is why the surplus of French capital could not be drained away abroad.

To alleviate this condition the Bank of France had already urged the private banks to develop on behalf of foreign traders the acceptance business which, for nearly a century, had been in the hands of the City of London. Accepting bills payable in francs they would run no risk on the exchange, and since they were rediscountable at the Bank of France the bills would be an ideally liquid security. The private banks took the advice, and a special company, " La Banque Française d'Acceptations," was formed. But this new venture failed to reduce the superabundance of money because of the serious embarrassment to the acceptance business which, until last April, was caused by the stamp duties. The duty on bills was 0.15 per cent., which, with bills of three months' currency, meant that credit was burdened with a tax at the excessive rate of 0.60 per cent. per annum. The Government has now submitted to the pressure brought to bear on it and has just reduced the stamp duty from 0.15 per cent. to 0.025 per cent., or from 0.60 per cent. per annum to 0.10 per cent. per annum.

This great decrease in stamp duty will undubitably lead to increased acceptance business in francs; for the price of loans in Paris will be exceptionally cheap. Nevertheless, inordinate expectations must not be founded on the power of this reform. Although, naturally, cheap credit plays a great part in the building up of an active acceptance market like that of London, it must not be forgotten that the pre-eminence of the City of London is not due only to its excellent banking facilities. It is due largely to the part played by Britain in international trade, the extent of her foreign commerce, the strength of her mercantile marine, and the fact that she is an island, easily accessible from both America and Europe.

The Paris money market, indeed, is much better placed to undertake long-term than short-term finance. The French nation is not only accustomed to invest its savings in home and foreign bonds, but is eager for

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such investments. Recently, however, it has had to be content with French issues, since excessively high taxation has prevented the raising of foreign loans in Paris. For several years the totals of the taxes on dividend coupons and the stamp duty on foreign bonds have been 25 per cent. and 4 per cent. respectively of their nominal value. But in this connection the Government has just taken some important steps. It has lowered the stamp duty to 1 per cent. and the taxes on dividends from 25 per cent. to 18 per cent. This reduction in the cost of loans will mean that French bankers will henceforth be able to compete successfully with English and American bankers, so that it may be expected that before long a foreign issues market will develop in Paris, and that a proportion of French capital will consequently find its way abroad.

This foreign business will include both the direct issue of foreign bonds and the introduction of foreign securities on the Bourse. Both will give rise to demands for foreign exchange which, in order that excessive exports of gold may be avoided, will probably be met partly by the sale, on the part of the Bank of France, of some its foreign bills, and partly by the realisation by the private banks of some of their considerable holdings of dollars, sterling and marks.

The money markets of London and New York are seriously affected by the way the French banks employ their foreign holdings. For as soon as there is a slight stringency in the French market the big French firms sell their dollar and their sterling holdings for francs; francs rise in terms of dollars or sterling and the English and American markets are upset. For the big financial companies dislike rediscounting their bills with the Bank of France, preferring to sell part of their holdings rather than to borrow from the central bank. It is no use disguising the fact that, as long as they keep large holdings of foreign currencies they will be tempted to obtain credits by selling exchange, and so cause rises in the franc and imports of gold. This was why the franc was so exceptionally strong during the second half of 1929, when the Bank of France imported five milliards of gold francs.

The Bank of France has taken steps to make the working of the Paris money market more flexible, and, like the Bank of England, it now lends money at seven days. This type of loan eases the difficulties of the end of the month, and avoids violent fluctuations in the rates for day to day money, but, though the system has not yet been sufficiently tested for a judgment on this point to be possible, it seems hardly likely that it will prevent the banks selling their exchange holdings during periods of prolonged stringency. Foreign markets will not really be freed from the danger of a sudden sale of their exchange holdings on the part of the French banks until the latter have ceased to keep large credits abroad; in other words, until France has disbursed her surplus funds on the other markets.

It is questionable, as we have said, whether France has a great future in the acceptance business. On the other hand she can now take a great part in long-term finance. She can now develop her international financial business, thanks to the remission of duty granted by Parliament, and make a considerable reduction in her holdings of exchange. This is the real matter for congratulation in the last tax reductions. Nevertheless, it will probably be some years before the reserves of currency which have accumulated in France fall to a more normal level. From 1927-29 the only foreign outlet for French capital for short-term investment has been in London and New York. To-day it has new outlets in the purchase of foreign bonds and the acceptance of bills of exchange. But the foreign balances acquired during the last three years cannot be immediately withdrawn; their gradual replacement by credits in francs must be a matter of time.

THE SUPPLY OF BILLS IN THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE heavy reduction in outstanding Treasury bills has called attention recently to the adequacy and composition of the supply of bills in the discount market. The Treasury bills outstanding on January 13, 1930, totalled £757,700,000, and by April 12th the volume had been reduced to £570,945,000. Part of this reduction represents a seasonal movement during the first three months of the year, floating debt being repaid out of the collection of revenue. In the first quarter of the past four years, however, this seasonal reduction has averaged £100,000,000, so that £87,000,000 of this year's decline may be regarded as abnormal.

The importance of such a large additional reduction is easily seen. Discounted approved bills form a necessary part of the investments of the commercial banks of the country, and are in addition the stock-in-trade of the discount market. Owing to the demand nature of their deposits, the commercial banks are forced to keep their assets in a more or less liquid form. Part of the more liquid assets consists of discounted bills. The proportion of such assets to total assets for the joint-stock banks is, roughly, 12 per cent., so that the importance of an adequate supply of bills is evident.

How far does the volume of Treasury bills outstanding affect the total supply of bills? Before the war Treasury bills formed only a small proportion of the total supply. The war, however, saw bank deposits doubled owing to currency inflation, while the volume of commercial bills, in the nature of events, did not grow in proportion. Even at present it is doubtful whether commercial bills are greater in value than their pre-war amount, although with the higher prices ruling they should be greater to a considerable degree.

The banks have thus been faced with the problem of finding profitable use for deposits greatly swollen in amount, whilst maintaining and finding liquid forms of investment. If they had had to rely solely on the volume of commercial bills to take up part of the additional deposits the supply would have been inadequate. Actually they were furnished with a similar investment, which took up their additional deposits, in the increase in volume of Treasury bills from the modest amount of £13,000,000 in 1914 to the present figure of £570,000,000.

Treasury bills, in fact, have become the dominating factor, and now largely overshadow the commercial variety. Their importance is illustrated by the fact that three of the large joint-stock banks showed in their balance sheets for 1929 that 45 per cent. of their bill portfolio consisted of Treasury bills. The percentage for all banks is probably higher than this, while the chairman of one of the big discount companies has stated that his firm has relied largely for its business on Treasury bills.

In view of these facts the recent reduction in the volume of such bills causes inquiry to be made as to the effects of such reductions. Ought there to be a reduction in view of the needs of the market for such security? Again, will there be a sufficient growth in commercial bills (including, of course, bank acceptances) to counterbalance any reduction in Treasury bills, or will the discount market have permanently to work under conditions different from those of pre-war days?

The effects of the recent reduction of Treasury bills in issue have coincided with effects due to other causes,

and have, in consequence, been exaggerated. The smaller supply of bills has certainly helped to bring down discount rates and so render the official rate repeatedly ineffective. The whole fall in rates cannot, however, be attributed to this one cause, since an era of cheap money was probably due in any case after the collapse in Wall Street and would, in addition, be the natural corollary of the stagnant condition of our own Stock Exchange and trade and the world fall in prices. Nor is there much weight in the argument that there is bound to be a contraction of credit merely because the Floating Debt is being reduced. Substitution of a long-dated security for a constantly renewed short-dated one does not necessarily affect the volume of assets eligible to be used as the basis of credit.

In the near future further reductions are unlikely. Recent repayments were effected out of Conversion Loan subscriptions and incoming revenue. The latter source no longer supplies money to any extent, while the final Conversion payment this month is not sufficient to meet redemptions to be made. Moreover, on June 1st, the Treasury has to provide for payment of War Loan interest. Finally, French funds are still being withdrawn from the market, and this is likely to continue as French foreign lending grows. All told, therefore, the present reduction in bills is probably finished, and as the supplies of money may be contracted by the French withdrawals, the market may find the supply of bills becoming sufficient for its current needs. Present low discount rates may in part be artificial owing to the efforts of the authorities to prepare the way for the Reparations loan.

On the longer view the problem has to be faced, however, that the Government is likely to seek further reductions in the outstanding volume of Treasury bills. Even for the present financial year, the Chancellor has estimated the Floating Debt cost at a figure presuming either a very low interest charge or else a reduction in the capital amount of the debt. Logically, there can be no obligation on the part of the Treasury to provide the discount market with a supply of bills unless to do so coincides with its own interest as a borrower.

Sir Otto Niemeyer pointed out to the Colwyn Committee that he regarded the high volume of Floating Debt as undesirable, both because of its fluctuating interest cost and also because in time of crisis many holders of Treasury bills would certainly leave the Treasury in difficulties by refusing to renew their bills. The discount market must, therefore, look forward to the prospect of a steady effort to reduce Treasury bills in issue, with the needs of itself but a secondary consideration at most modifying the rate of reduction. If no further deflation takes place, as is to be hoped with industry in its present state, then the market will be faced with the task of finding employment for its resources with a lesser volume of bills.

Some of its difficulty will doubtless be overcome by the growth that is likely to occur in the volume of commercial bills which, as a result of the present state of trade, are unduly low in amount and are likely to be increased by the growth of acceptance business with lower interest rates. Moreover, the central authority itself would be unlikely to witness passively the continuance of competition for bills making its own rate ineffective and causing, ultimately, a loss of part of its gold reserve through the consequent unfavourable exchanges created by the low discount rates. Some help will thus probably come to the market from this quarter by the Bank of England selling some of its bills and replacing them by longer-dated securities. But if commercial bills are not encouraged by cheaper rates and by trade expansion, the market may face a real shortage necessitating a changed outlook. Banks will have to face the prospect of less bills available for investment and less call money loans, while discount brokers may find their business curtailed. New forms of bills—possibly those arising out of hire-purchase agreements—or equivalent investments may then have to be found.

THE BANKS AND ACCOUNTING BY MACHINE METHODS.

(BY A CORRESPONDENT.)

ONE of the most remarkable features of the past year is the extent to which the banks in this country have proceeded in the direction of "mechanisation," or, as it should more properly be called, "accounting by machine methods." The "Big Five," and all the other joint stock banks, except one, are now engaged in the installation of machines to cope with the ever-increasing volume of the figures that have to be dealt with and proved day by day. Machines for listing and adding have been used for many years in the larger offices. The present development goes much further, and embraces not only the customers' ledgers and pass-books, and the recording by machine of particulars of cheques paid in by customers, but in the case of one bank, at any rate, the whole of the work from the counter to the personal and general ledgers.

This change in accounting methods is the more remarkable in view of the traditional conservatism of the English banks and their senior officials, and the fact that the introduction of machines necessitates the substitution of loose-leaf records for the bound books which for so long have been considered by them as essential even for records of minor importance. It would seem as though the keen competition among the banks, coupled with increasing demands from the public for services on cheaper and cheaper terms, and a narrowing margin between credit and debit interest rates among other causes, had led the banks with one accord to endeavour to reduce overhead costs by the employment of modern methods.

It is essential for success that those responsible for drawing up the system of accounting by machine methods to be applied in any bank, should have, not only a knowledge of the fundamental principles of accountancy, but also a complete comprehension of the various machines available, and of their application to the various accounting problems, combined with a grasp of the principles of machine methods that have been adopted with acknowledged success in all large manufacturing organisations. From such information as it has been possible to glean, it seems questionable whether all the banks in this country have approached the problem with the foregoing essentials clearly in mind. The evidence available points to the fact that most of them have been primarily concerned in obtaining a machine which will enable them to keep as closely as possible to their existing handwritten systems and organisations without regard to, or a scientific study of, the possibilities of a new system that would exploit to

the full the advantages of the various machines and equipment that are to be obtained.

That they will effect savings is probable, if only by the substitution of women clerks to operate the machines in place of men, but as Schnackell and Long say in the preface to their book *Accounting by Machine Methods*:—"The best accounting machine is rendered ineffective if applied incorrectly, and practically useless if the accounting routine is improperly organised." Those banks which have attacked the problem from the other angle have not considered the question from the point of view of what has always been the handwritten practice, but have looked at the results and information desired, and having a knowledge of the essentials mentioned earlier, have evolved, or are in course of evolving, systems which will enable the work to be handled with a minimum of effort and greater accuracy than was previously possible. These banks have realised that the subject can be divided into the following sections:—

1. A system or systems specially devised for accounting by machine methods.
2. Organisation, both pre-installation and post-installation.
3. Machines and equipment.

The order above may be regarded as indicating the relative importance of the three sub-divisions. People who have not an intimate knowledge of the problems involved in "mechanisation" always think and talk about the "machines," whereas those who really know the subject when they foregather discuss "systems" or "organisation," and only mention "machines" casually. It is a mistake to think that all that is necessary for machine work is to show a sheet of paper to the machine and it will do the rest.

Although machines come third in the order of relative importance, it is, as mentioned earlier, essential that their possibilities be completely realised before the system is compiled. It, therefore, seems appropriate to mention here the various makes of accounting machines on the market in this country for the class of work envisaged in this article. They can be divided into two main groups:—

(*a*) Machines which print totals and balances by the depression of one key.
Burroughs machines of various types specially designed for different classes of work.
Burroughs typewriter adding machines (Moon Hopkins).
N.C.R. (Ellis) accounting machines.

(*b*) Machines which do not permit of totals and balances being printed automatically, the individual figures having to be typed from registers or cross-footers.
Elliott Fisher machines.
Mercedes Ad-Electra.
Remington accounting machines.
Underwood accounting machines.
They are all typewriter machines.

It would be inappropriate to discuss here the relative merits and demerits of the various types; but a few of the points that should be borne in mind by those responsible for drafting systems of accounting by machine methods may be mentioned:—

(1) Descriptive matter should be reduced to a minimum consistent with the keeping of proper records. Not only does the typing of detail take time, but the necessity for tabulation reduces the output. Use should be made of the facilities offered by machines for the taking of carbon copies. In this connection the draftsman should carefully distinguish between information that is in fact essential and information that was recorded under pen methods because, although it was not indispensable, the percentage increase in the time occupied was immaterial, and the details were occasionally of some use.

(2) As far as possible the work should be so organised that the machine operator should have little else to think about but the correct manipulation of the machine. In this way not only will greater speed of output be obtained, but the percentage of errors will be decreased. Work should be arranged so that tabulation is reduced to a minimum, while there should be a constant flow of work to the machines.

(3) The system should be so constructed that the labour of looking for errors is reduced to an extent not possible in hand work. This can be accomplished by working in batches of a few hundred entries, so rendering it possible to localise mistakes.

(4) In order that the transfer from pen to machine methods may be carried through with a minimum of difficulty, it is essential that all concerned in the change be thoroughly trained in the new system before transfer. Every little detail must be thought out and provided for. The new stationery must be delivered well ahead of zero hour and all arrangements made for such alterations to premises, lighting and power as may be necessary to be carried out without disturbance to the ordinary work of the office. Those responsible for the change from one system to the other should be in charge of the transfer, and responsible for keeping the work right. This necessitates the subordination of the ordinary executive officers to the installation officer for a few days until the new system is running.

In this article an attempt has been made to bring out certain fundamental points connected with the adoption by banks of machine methods of accounting which, although common knowledge in those countries which have experience of such matters, in this country are appreciated by only a few of the higher bank officials.

BANK RATE SINCE 1848.

Year.	No. of Changes.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average. £ s. d.
1848.....	3	5	3	3 14 5
1849.....	1	3	2½	2 18 11
1850.....	1	3	2½	2 10 2
1851.....	..	3	3	3 0 0
1852.....	2	3	2	2 3 2
1853.....	6	5	2	3 13 10
1854.....	2	5½	5	5 2 4
1855.....	8	7	3½	4 17 9
1856.....	7	7	4½	6 1 4
1857.....	9	10	5½	6 13 2
1858.....	6	6	2½	3 4 7
1859.....	5	4½	2½	2 14 10
1860.....	11	6	3	4 3 7
1861.....	11	8	3	5 4 11
1862.....	5	3	2	2 10 7
1863.....	12	8	3	4 8 3
1864.....	15	9	6	7 7 0
1865.....	16	7	3	4 15 5
1866.....	14	10	3½	6 19 0
1867.....	3	3	2	2 10 10
1868.....	2	3	2	2 1 11
1869...	7	4	2½	3 4 0
1870...	10	6	2½	3 2 0
1871...	10	5	2	2 17 8
1872...	14	7	3	4 1 11
1873...	24	9	3	4 15 11
1874...	13	6	2½	3 13 10
1875...	12	6	2	3 4 8
1876...	5	5	2	2 12 2
1877...	7	5	2	2 18 0
1878...	10	6	2	3 15 7
1879...	5	5	2	2 10 3
1880...	2	3	2½	2 15 3
1881...	6	5	2½	3 9 7
1882...	6	6	3	4 2 11
1883...	6	5	3	3 11 7
1884...	7	5	2	2 19 1
1885...	7	5	2	2 18 4
1886...	7	5	2	3 1 1
1887...	7	5	2	3 6 11
1888...	9	5	2	3 6 1
1889...	8	6	2½	3 11 1
1890.....	11	6	3	4 10 6
1891.....	12	5	2½	3 6 5
1892.....	4	3½	2	2 10 5
1893.....	12	5	2½	3 1 2
1894.....	2	3	2	2 2 4
1895.....	...	2	2	2 0 0
1896.....	3	4	2	2 9 7
1897.....	6	4	2	2 12 9
1898.....	6	4	2½	3 4 11
1899.....	6	6	3	3 15 5
1900.....	6	6	3	3 19 3
1901.....	6	5	3	3 14 5
1902.....	3	4	3	3 6 7
1903.....	3	4	3	3 15 0
1904.....	2	4	3	3 5 11
1905.....	3	4	2½	3 0 2
1906.....	6	6	3½	4 5 4
1907.....	7	7	4	4 18 6
1908.....	6	7	2½	3 0 3
1909.....	6	5	2½	3 2 0
1910.....	9	5	3	3 14 5
1911...	4	4½	3	3 9 4
1912...	4	5	3	3 15 5
1913...	2	5	4½	4 15 5
1914...	8	10	5	6 14 4
1915...	None	6	5	5 0 3
1916...	1	6	5	5 9 3
1917...	2	6	5	5 5 0
1918...	None	6	5	5 0 0
1919...	1	6	5	5 3 4
1920...	1	7	6	6 14 4
1921...	4	7	5	6 2 9
1922...	4	5	3	3 13 9
1923...	1	4	3	3 9 0
1924...	None	4	4	4 0 0
1925...	4	5	4	4 11 0
1926...	None	5	5	5 0 0
1927...	1	5	4½	4 13 0
1928...	None	4½	4½	4 10 0
1929...	5	6½	4½	5 10 0

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Last Return of Year.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital.	Per Cent.	Rest.	Per Cent.	Note Circulation.	Per Cent.	Post Bills.	Per Cent.	Deposits.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Coin and Bullion.	Per Cent.	Govt. Securities.	Per Cent.	Other Securities.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890.....	11	14,553,000	17·6	3,241,083	3·9	25,114,170	30·4	178,281	0·2	39,814,589	47·9	82,901,123	23,465,834	28·3	26,256,433	31·7	33,178,856	40·0
1900.....	11	14,553,000	15·9	3,215,471	3·5	29,813,280	32·5	153,097	0·2	43,797,846	47·9	91,532,694	28,541,163	31·1	33,962,060	37·0	29,029,471	31·9
1910.....	11	14,553,000	14·2	3,187,804	3·1	28,610,215	28·0	24,848	...	55,962,860	54·7	102,338,727	31,355,727	30·6	34,349,568	33·6	36,633,614	35·8
1920.....	10	14,553,000	4·3	3,338,587	1·0	132,851,150	39·0	7,639	...	189,859,334	55·7	340,610,710	128,267,670	37·6	126,314,798	37·2	86,028,242	25·2
1921.....	10	14,553,000	5·4	3,334,313	1·2	126,520,245	47·4	14,362	...	122,599,335	46·0	267,011,255	128,434,359	48·1	55,411,987	20·7	83,164,909	31·2
1922.....	10	14,553,000	5·2	3,345,073	1·2	124,877,670	45·1	16,064	...	133,227,231	48·5	276,019,038	127,443,007	46·1	70,417,900	25·5	78,158,131	28·4
1923.....	10	14,553,000	5·2	3,279,847	1·2	128,142,780	46·1	9,185	...	132,462,063	47·5	278,446,875	128,019,382	46·1	69,354,532	31·4	81,072,961	36·5
1924.....	10	14,553,000	4·5	3,342,741	1·0	128,295,915	40·1	7,675	...	174,290,577	54·4	320,489,908	128,560,002	40·1	88,329,552	27·6	103,500,354	32·3
1925.....	10	14,553,000	4·4	3,344,666	1·1	144,730,510	43·6	2,021	...	169,044,292	51·0	331,674,489	144,556,367	43·6	83,837,526	25·3	103,280,596	31·1
1926.....	10	14,553,000	4·8	3,380,348	1·1	140,784,940	46·7	1,959	...	142,974,783	47·4	301,695,030	151,118,648	50·1	53,917,539	17·9	96,658,843	32·0
1927.....	10	14,553,000	4·9	3,382,834	1·1	138,711,420	47·0	2,515	...	138,536,802	47·0	295,186,571	152,408,849	51·6	59,594,092	20·2	83,183,630	28·2
1928.....	10	14,553,000	2·8	3,381,508	0·6	388,242,899	73·8	2,500	...	119,970,102	22·8	526,150,059	159,306,490	30·3	311,882,028	59·2	54,961,541	10·5
1929.....	10	14,553,000	2·8	3,390,838	0·7	379,573,841	74·0	1,984	...	115,666,738	22·5	513,186,401	150,548,712	29·4	311,761,133	60·6	50,876,556	10·0

POSITION OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND FROM APRIL 17, 1929, TO APRIL 23, 1930.

Date.	Issue Department. Notes Issued.	Circulation.	Banking Department. Public Deposits.	Bankers' Deposits.	Other Deposits.	Gold in or out of Bank.	Bank Rate	Issue Department. Govt. Debt and Securities.	Other Securities.	Both Depts. Gold Coin and Bullion and Reserve Ratio.	Banking Department. Govt. Securities.	Discounts and Advances.	Other Securities.	Reserve and the "Proportion."
1929.	£	£	£	£	£	£	%	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ %
April 17	415,836,622	358,940,958	17,876,233	60,779,118	36,016,599	760,357 in	5½	246,741,657	8,430,376	156,271,783 32½	48,346,855	11,028,809	15,621,612	57,330,825 49½
24	416,043,567	357,277,566	18,317,977	58,432,912	35,655,296	203,121 in	5½	246,791,289	8,383,489	156,541,341 33⅛	44,256,855	10,949,807	15,612,927	59,263,775 52⅜
May 1	418,216,669	361,371,339	10,939,252	60,688,826	38,473,837	2,125,861 in	5½	246,822,960	8,351,096	158,766,163 33⅝	45,351,855	9,285,812	15,783,945	57,394,824 52⅛
8	420,213,172	362,793,961	8,679,717	63,223,123	35,531,591	1,991,901 in	5½	247,204,557	7,974,765	160,880,419 34⅛	39,781,855	11,607,200	15,705,552	58,086,458 54
15	421,140,187	362,810,877	9,290,798	61,070,863	36,078,600	923,715 in	5½	247,226,046	7,951,539	161,860,918 34⅜	37,816,855	9,586,015	17,746,941	59,050,041 55⅛
22	421,990,492	362,363,774	15,299,748	57,507,302	35,314,698	846,806 in	5½	247,248,974	7,922,728	162,747,297 34⅜	38,486,855	6,915,678	20,119,480	60,383,523 55⅜
29	422,467,271	360,106,563	24,340,708	56,349,043	35,268,620	437,112 in	5½	247,220,785	7,945,442	163,269,940 34⅞	40,031,855	8,151,163	22,422,917	63,163,377 54⅜
June 5	422,968,424	361,576,772	8,511,444	70,346,971	35,945,514	494,107 in	5½	247,267,677	7,900,003	163,851,130 34⅛	43,106,855	6,215,102	20,999,901	62,274,358 54⅞
12	423,241,482	362,058,951	10,580,976	61,100,497	35,523,122	270,967 in	5½	247,268,035	7,899,471	164,211,400 35⅛	36,211,855	5,675,391	21,006,730	62,152,449 57½
19	422,469,470	360,303,589	21,263,029	56,237,150	35,554,502	788,263 out	5½	246,518,364	8,649,008	163,500,617 34⅞	35,401,855	7,596,498	24,756,088	63,197,028 55½
26	419,076,427	362,732,885	24,714,405	67,420,265	36,159,499	3,405,970 out	5½	246,018,364	9,149,509	160,207,077 32⅛	38,551,855	26,987,712	23,236,682	57,474,192 44⅜
July 3	414,524,998	369,100,858	28,296,091	75,558,462	37,297,824	4,687,122 out	5½	246,010,860	9,149,368	155,705,931 30⅛	37,281,855	52,321,206	22,957,340	46,605,073 33
10	414,494,374	368,839,800	9,230,390	65,360,123	37,167,709	142,058 out	5½	246,011,313	9,149,498	155,711,707 31⅜	43,291,855	16,182,431	23,466,991	46,871,907 41⅜
17	414,443,014	367,325,080	11,565,660	62,811,677	35,821,247	52,639 out	5½	246,011,431	9,149,548	155,665,097 32⅛	42,711,855	13,568,391	48,340,017	48,340,017 43⅛
24	409,466,630	367,332,145	11,684,787	61,009,441	36,483,919	5,046,346 out	5½	246,008,574	9,148,575	150,700,158 31⅛	50,781,855	9,426,937	23,672,822	43,368,013 39⅜
31	401,375,637	371,817,795	11,078,094	60,277,499	37,687,086	8,098,130 out	5½	246,228,933	8,931,291	142,610,244 29⅜	62,256,855	9,951,195	24,151,272	30,702,449 28½
August 7	400,180,545	376,202,888	8,269,890	67,127,342	37,128,407	1,699,324 out	5½	246,295,328	8,861,042	141,431,583 29⅛	74,266,855	6,834,541	24,328,890	25,228,695 22⅜
14	399,444,263	370,591,830	14,998,847	64,501,795	36,288,434	759,967 out	5½	246,401,998	8,748,514	140,687,935 28½	73,421,855	5,188,642	25,230,723	30,096,105 25⅜
21	396,959,972	365,443,495	26,286,065	55,850,949	36,037,051	2,695,237 out	5½	246,445,036	8,712,172	138,202,004 28⅜	71,046,855	3,832,387	28,737,815	32,758,509 27⅜
28	396,362,778	364,044,884	20,517,890	57,990,151	36,140,826	639,657 out	5½	246,442,050	8,714,288	137,633,677 28⅜	73,276,855	3,752,639	22,265,792	33,588,793 29⅛
Sept. 4	396,256,451	366,230,569	9,095,078	73,967,915	37,167,115	113,556 out	5½	246,432,708	8,724,112	137,548,740 28⅛	75,806,855	4,309,556	27,073,169	31,318,171 26
11	396,054,213	364,958,974	14,010,848	66,458,288	36,512,838	202,904 out	5½	246,506,142	8,647,833	137,392,581 28½	75,686,855	3,457,467	23,716,133	32,433,607 27⅛
18	395,581,352	361,855,509	18,588,618	63,344,434	36,097,767	524,355 out	5½	246,528,676	8,624,960	136,921,000 28⅛	73,781,855	3,298,964	24,182,345	35,065,491 29⅜
25	391,937,837	361,071,486	14,704,568	56,954,329	36,448,027	3,648,106 out	5½	246,746,909	8,405,843	133,212,565 28⅜	68,871,855	3,232,880	22,177,744	32,141,679 29⅜
Oct. 2	389,120,543	363,347,695	8,992,562	64,909,909	38,041,651	2,820,603 out	6½	246,750,569	8,406,803	130,343,588 27⅛	73,766,855	8,507,649	20,974,306	26,995,893 24⅛
9	390,736,578	363,840,543	8,459,324	66,244,273	38,084,142	1,613,205 in	6½	246,758,110	8,406,255	131,997,134 27⅛	72,706,855	8,836,136	20,749,797	28,156,591 24⅜
16	391,706,365	360,244,812	9,550,806	69,875,903	37,125,740	966,510 in	6½	246,758,053	8,406,290	132,932,889 27⅛	76,076,855	4,936,473	20,523,707	32,688,077 28
23	391,825,440	357,386,753	15,788,487	59,111,334	37,136,656	78,010 in	6½	246,376,389	8,790,730	133,021,044 28⅜	69,461,855	4,199,821	20,440,776	35,634,291 31⅛
30	391,017,041	358,819,845	14,383,959	58,105,976	38,125,120	812,523 out	6½	246,376,351	8,790,875	132,141,823 28⅛	68,851,855	5,890,868	20,232,291	33,321,978 30⅛
Nov. 6	391,262,400	358,403,760	9,526,637	61,620,909	38,746,612	242,430 in	6	246,382,490	8,791,081	132,266,076 28⅛	67,171,855	6,754,012	19,816,220	33,862,316 30⅛
13	391,928,886	358,108,337	15,784,557	54,705,309	41,755,117	655,853 in	6	246,390,385	8,791,153	132,771,032 28⅜	66,834,792	9,210 ,078	19,276,175	346,62,695 30⅛
20	392,103,434	355,086,839	15,340,173	58,544,923	38,544,908	165,226 in	6	246,385,575	8,791,121	132,830,637 27⅛	62,498,618	8,108,161	21,843,957	37,743,798 33⅛
27	394,712,194	354,556,744	17,432,949	58,219,448	38,200,325	2,568,435 in	5½	244,743,704	10,432,762	135,381,905 28⅛	57,703,618	15,263,821	17,880,406	40,825,161 35⅛
Dec. 4	393,725,605	361,085,989	8,002,907	58,620,463	37,497,753	995,323 out	5½	244,744,435	10,431,977	134,269,209 28⅛	60,428,618	9,623,606	18,730,735	33,183,220 31⅛
11	397,006,947	365,159,088	8,859,520	58,072,562	36,399,055	3,277,426 in	5½	244,234,017	10,942,367	137,434,418 29⅛	60,663,618	8,827,605	19,470,351	32,276,330 31⅜
18	400,504,845	371,698,128	9,859,355	62,065,360	35,517,307	3,490,526 in	5	244,248,529	10,929,370	140,734,339 29⅛	65,143,618	10,629,732	20,565,519	29,036,211 27
26	405,898,399	379,573,841	8,829,268	71,048,531	35,788,939	5,333,308 in	5	244,637,515	10,841,360	146,027,587 29⅛	67,123,618	22,300,076	17,735,120	26,453,746 22⅞
1930. Jan. 1	405,960,084	369,782,581	12,350,138	110297026	37,522,803	21,032 out	5	244,831,464	10,695,352	146,115,746 25⅛	81,658,618	42,170,602	18,013,503	36,333,165 22⅛
8	409,061,137	362,921,772	17,210,657	75,701,298	35,574,069	3,088,955 in	5	245,098,463	10,431,484	149,214,869 30⅛	69,885,615	15,081,971	15,284,733	46,293,097 36
15	410,466,378	351,942,915	24,810,835	64,358,135	36,419,015	1,399,602 in	5	245,102,958	10,429,647	150,654,341 31⅛	61,250,615	9,671,904	14,033,836	58,711,426 46⅛
22	411,058,475	346,399,540	29,151,416	55,948,356	36,011,972	590,186 in	5	244,665,689	10,855,940	151,288,975 32⅛	57,665,615	5,779,566	14,878,876	64,889,435 51⅛
29	410,134,547	348,017,972	14,592,859	67,463,302	35,987,303	960,518 out	5	244,710,035	10,806,329	150,428,168 32⅛	54,300,615	5,500,023	13,976,447	62,410,196 52⅜
Feb. 5	410,783,865	348,690,421	23,294,173	54,250,174	36,226,901	622,665 in	5	244,616,294	10,924,481	151,212,106 32⅜	49,894,613	5,602,697	13,914,631	62,521,685 54⅛
12	410,936,551	348,003,176	17,937,246	59,083,652	35,481,738	106,033 out	4½	244,613,696	10,924,838	151,499,219 32⅛	44,711,563	7,963,260	14,513,308	63,496,043 56⅛
19	410,971,511	345,580,773	13,871,221	59,167,021	34,416,671	12,681 in	4½	244,615,041	10,924,483	151,638,500 33⅛	38,581,563	4,732,768	16,293,348	66,057,727 61⅛
26	411,326,828	346,812,165	11,987,053	50,713,918	36,231,367	347,661 in	4½	244,613,290	10,924,646	151,979,238 34⅛	34,441,563	4,716,355	12,868,859	65,167,073 65⅛
March 5	411,601,773	347,295,975	7,674,949	63,694,475	35,921,849	271,167 in	4½	244,589,229	10,944,046	152,290,198 33⅛	38,631,563	6,840,871	15,103,832	64,994,223 60⅛
12	411,873,749	350,447,635	8,987,199	59,001,400	36,742,704	269,088 in	4	244,593,701	10,944,051	152,622,838 33⅛	37,331,563	7,959,833	15,570,281	62,175,203 59⅛
19	413,458,058	348,890,201	12,882,680	62,086,473	35,883,025	1,581,607 in	4	244,884,874	10,651,478	154,245,375 33⅛	41,481,563	6,060,054	16,258,430	65,355,174 58⅜
26	415,143,878	352,303,815	18,786,773	54,874,277	35,916,736	1,677,982 in	3½	244,001,980	11,537,685	155,996,569 33⅜	44,766,909	6,110,557	13,300,861	63,692,754 58⅛
April 2	416,188,963	357,265,456	18,422,477	62,833,897	37,358,126	1,036,467 in	3½	244,006,148	11,537,499	157,125,492 33	54,021,909	10,309,949	12,705,909	59,860,036 50⅜
9	419,829,239	359,250,323	15,167,701	65,251,317	36,657,417	3,635,997 in	3½	244,002,296	11,537,677	160,781,478 33⅜	55,861,909	6,288,218	11,063,311	61,531,15 55⅜
16	419,822,774	361,321,558	14,798,522	65,815,639	36,303,070	34,960 out	3½	243,912,989	11,628,838	160,788,326 33⅛	58,282,629	6,386,083	10,442,736	59,466,768 50⅜
23	422,887,487	362,184,405	17,313,565	66,010,758	35,779,186	3,063,403 in	3½	243,912,989	11,629,001	163,843,217 33⅜	58,052,629	6,804,492	10,273,976	61,658,812 51⅛

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS.

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES (EXCLUDING BANK OF ENGLAND).

Year.	Banks.	No. of Brchs.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits	% of Liabilities.	Acceptances.	% of Liabilities.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call & Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890	104	2,203	67,826,000	14·5	368,663,000	79·4	22,693,000	4·9	464,075,000	83,955,000	18·0	182,816,000	17·8	269,507,000	58·0
1895	99	2,690	69,213,000	12·4	455,561,000	81·6	23,724,000	4·2	558,744,000	111,208,000	19·9	107,498,000	19·2	311,678,000	56·7
1900	77	3,757	73,847,000	11·3	586,726,000	84·0	21,530,000	3·0	698,762,000	144,400,000	20·7	127,766,000	18·3	395,313,000	56·6
1905	59	4,558	82,010,000	10·8	627,529,000	82·6	39,225,000	5·2	758,712,000	179,530,000	23·6	131,731,000	17·3	401,485,000	52·9
1907	52	4,822	81,551,000	10·4	648,596,000	82·8	44,403,000	5·7	782,813,000	174,491,000	22·1	125,772,000	16·1	431,209,000	55·1
1908	50	4,903	82,248,000	10·2	674,660,000	83·5	42,244,000	5·2	806,727,000	194,134,000	24·1	136,765,000	17·0	427,739,000	53·0
1909	46	5,022	81,255,000	9·9	685,040,000	84·0	41,303,000	5·0	815,767,000	199,749,000	24·4	137,253,000	16·8	433,595,000	53·1
1910	45	5,202	80,946,000	9·4	720,687,000	83·6	52,263,000	6·0	862,134,000	199,724,000	23·0	137,711,000	16·0	467,880,000	54·3
1911	44	5,410	79,775,000	9·0	748,641,000	84·6	48,839,000	5·5	885,058,000	211,064,000	23·8	133,757,000	15·1	485,415,000	55·0
1912	44	5,577	81,154,000	8·8	773,974,000	83·6	61,295,000	6·6	925,927,000	216,110,000	23·4	127,645,000	13·7	515,902,000	55·7
1913	43	5,797	82,068,000	8·5	809,352,000	84·0	61,705,000	6·4	963,051,000	235,958,000	24·3	121,238,000	12·6	539,800,000	56·0
1914	38	5,869	81,904,000	7·9	895,561,000	86·6	47,802,000	4·6	1,034,486,000	276,046,000	27·6	146,493,000	14·2	553,499,000	53·5
1915	37	6,027	81,731,000	7·1	992,555,000	86·4	62,512,000	5·5	1,146,807,000	262,453,000	22·9	310,771,000	27·0	503,617,000	43·9
1916	35	5,993	81,089,000	6·2	1,154,877,000	87·9	68,726,000	5·2	1,316,220,000	369,460,000	28·0	323,002,000	24·6	542,773,000	41·4
1917	34	6,004	84,475,000	5·5	1,365,297,000	89·2	65,775,000	4·3	1,528,631,000	427,855,000	28·0	339,631,000	22·2	685,677,000	44·9
1918	26	6,501	92,902,000	5·3	1,583,412,000	90·9	58,850,000	3·4	1,742,724,000	481,220,000	27·6	347,230,000	20·0	834,668,000	47·9
1919	21	7,195	106,273,000	5·0	1,874,184,000	87·9	151,138,000	7·1	2,137,908,000	452,755,000	21·3	398,611,000	18·7	1,129,582,000	53·0
1920	20	7,612	128,154,000	5·8	1,961,527,000	89·0	102,920,000	4·7	2,200,317,000	449,153,000	20·4	368,734,000	16·7	1,263,091,000	57·4
1921	20	7,963	129,131,000	5·9	1,974,898,000	90·0	74,166,000	3·4	2,185,438,000	438,519,000	20·0	375,564,000	17·1	1,280,171,000	58·3
1922	20	8,235	129,173,000	6·3	1,833,971,000	89·0	85,687,000	4·2	2,056,242,000	423,092,000	20·6	424,413,000	20·6	1,102,643,000	53·7
1923	19	8,491	129,004,000	6·2	1,822,067,000	88·1	111,490,000	5·4	2,069,847,000	413,532,000	20·0	404,392,000	19·5	1,116,865,000	54·0
1924	18	8,676	132,103,000	6·3	1,813,513,000	86·9	132,318,346	6·3	2,085,016,802	437,889,000	20·9	361,416,000	17·3	1,132,070,000	54·3
1925	18	8,873	134,846,000	6·5	1,806,810,000	87·1	125,005,000	6·0	2,073,810,000	441,787,000	21·3	317,572,000	15·3	1,167,952,000	56·3
1926	18	9,105	138,717,000	6·6	1,848,174,000	87·9	108,686,000	5·2	2,102,747,000	444,014,000	21·1	307,661,000	14·6	1,208,975,000	57·5
1927	17	9,381	139,444,000	6·4	1,892,948,000	86·8	140,159,000	6·4	2,179,372,000	492,652,000	22·6	290,544,000	13·3	1,220,983,000	56·0
1928	16	9,595	141,516,505	6·1	1,951,477,697	83·5	237,140,923	10·1	2,337,234,765	493,841,201	21·1	293,156,061	12·5	1,268,803,457	54·3
1929	16	9,815	141,593,545	6·3	1,911,007,360	85·4	179,295,205	8·0	2,238,855,706	481,341,704	21·5	285,176,223	12·7	1,250,763,477	55·8

PRIVATE BANKS.

Year.	Number of Banks.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Notes.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Miscellaneous.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Deposits.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and Money at Call and Notice.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Investments.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent. of Liabilities.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1895	38	11,834,400	13·9	412,600	0·5	2,864,800	3·4	70,372,000	82·2	85,483,700	20,476,300	23·9	25,099,700	29·4	36,320,000	42·5
1900	19	6,192,800	12·8	151,750	0·3	1,264,100	2·6	40,420,500	84·3	48,029,200	10,523,400	21·8	14,633,700	30·5	20,919,600	43·5
1905	12	4,393,900	13·2	83,500	0·3	1,018,000	3·1	27,775,000	83·4	33,270,400	7,271,500	21·8	10,150,500	30·5	14,738,600	44·3
1907	11	4,156,600	12·9	75,230	0·2	1,048,900	3·2	26,957,700	83·7	32,238,400	7,350,800	22·8	8,647,400	26·8	15,049,000	46·8
1908	10	3,474,800	12·3	66,940	0·2	968,900	3·4	23,634,200	84·1	28,144,800	6,462,200	22·9	7,394,000	26·2	13,247,200	47·0
1909	9	3,507,100	11·6	62,650	0·2	1,110,000	3·7	25,690,100	84·5	30,369,900	7,017,600	23·2	8,119,000	26·8	14,234,200	47·2
1910	9	5,535,100	11·2	57,920	0·2	1,096,700	3·5	26,808,000	85·1	31,497,700	6,478,000	20·6	8,113,100	25·8	15,912,700	50·3
1911	9	3,561,000	11·1	54,920	0·2	1,309,000	4·1	27,099,300	84·6	32,024,500	6,865,700	21·4	7,975,100	24·8	16,071,700	50·1
1912	9	3,637,760	11·4	55,900	0·2	1,473,900	4·6	26,753,380	83·8	31,920,940	7,113,230	22·4	7,243,510	22·7	16,403,540	51·3
1913	8	3,616,590	11·2	45,810	0·1	1,522,370	4·7	27,089,810	84·0	32,274,570	6,468,700	20·0	7,819,440	24·2	16,803,530	52·0
1914	8	3,269,406	8·8	58,990	0·2	955,795	2·6	32,874,025	88·4	37,158,216	6,641,997	17·8	8,018,873	21·5	21,360,580	57·1
1915	7	3,180,707	8·6	60,400	0·2	786,018	2·1	32,890,739	89·1	36,917,864	8,038,863	21·7	8,879,329	24·0	18,635,160	50·7
1916	7	3,182,584	7·4	77,495	0·2	591,666	1·4	39,183,354	90·9	43,035,099	10,176,174	23·5	8,785,019	20·3	22,855,849	53·0
1917	7	3,189,219	6·6	93,755	0·2	675,379	1·4	44,696,800	91·8	48,655,153	12,007,542	24·6	10,190,618	21·0	25,135,069	51·7
1918	7	3,735,082	6·7	122,930	0·2	821,153	1·5	51,271,230	91·6	55,950,395	16,249,863	29·0	13,356,332	23·9	24,625,406	44·0
1919	6	3,536,591	5·8	153,690	0·3	1,188,226	1·9	56,246,064	92·0	61,124,571	13,183,181	21·4	14,325,897	23·4	31,728,358	52·7
1920	5	3,123,098	5·7	...	...	1,024,656	1·9	50,864,631	92·4	55,012,385	11,537,610	21·3	6,186,350	11·2	35,501,368	64·0
1921	5	3,186,738	6·1	...	...	970,412	1·9	48,306,822	92·0	52,463,972	8,484,742	16·2	6,108,554	11·6	36,214,429	69·2
1922	8	3,813,420	6·8	...	...	1,124,254	2·0	50,955,682	91·2	55,893,356	8,593,043	15·4	11,524,744	20·6	33,301,819	59·0
1923	5	2,816,442	7·2	...	...	2,557,537	6·6	33,485,334	86·2	38,859,363	3,185,610	8·2	5,159,713	13·3	27,756,144	71·4
1924	4	2,575,000	7·1	...	...	4,431,214	12·3	29,151,063	80·6	36,157,277	2,590,161	7·2	6,021,018	16·7	22,933,848	63·4
1925	4	2,625,000	7·4	...	...	4,968,029	14·1	27,780,929	78·5	35,373,958	2,809,784	7·9	5,131,034	14·5	22,287,452	63·1
1926	4	2,675,000	7·2	...	...	4,573,707	12·3	29,928,971	80·5	37,177,678	3,597,586	9·7	4,670,175	12·6	24,104,002	64·7
1927	4	2,775,000	7·2	...	...	5,530,068	14·3	30,366,826	78·5	38,671,894	3,613,589	9·3	6,417,668	16·6	22,912,522	59·2
1928	4	3,300,000	7·9	...	...	7,398,759	17·7	31,004,479	74·4	41,703,238	4,072,927	9·8	5,820,754	13·9	24,169,112	57·9
1929	4	3,450,000	8·7	...	...	7,077,700	17·8	29,182,776	73·9	39,710,476	4,263,007	10·7	4,194,537	10·6	23,970,437	60·4

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF SCOTLAND.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand and Money at Call.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890	10	975	14,755,000	12·6	91,610,000	77·9	6,468,000	5·5	117,874,000	21,427,000	18·2	29,349,000	24·9	60,103,000	51·4
1895	10	1,013	15,090,000	12·3	94,592,000	77·8	7,264,000	5·9	122,525,000	22,795,000	18·6	30,770,000	25·3	62,241,000	51·1
1900	10	1,075	16,217,000	11·8	107,154,000	77·9	8,056,000	5·9	137,498,000	26,438,000	19·2	33,401,000	24·3	70,395,000	51·2
1905	11	1,159	17,246,000	13·0	100,643,000	76·1	7,545,000	5·7	132,261,000	23,937,000	18·1	31,396,000	23·7	68,714,000	51·9
1907	10	1,155	17,069,000	12·1	108,723,000	77·2	7,411,000	5·3	141,054,000	26,973,000	19·0	31,954,000	22·6	73,023,000	51·9
1908	10	1,178	17,280,000	12·5	105,787,000	76·5	7,162,000	5·2	137,562,000	25,695,000	18·7	33,456,000	24·2	69,478,000	50·3
1909	9	1,185	17,472,000	12·5	106,736,000	77·5	7,192,000	5·2	139,246,000	25,749,000	18·6	34,479,000	24·7	69,411,000	49·9
1910	9	1,221	17,559,000	12·7	106,652,000	77·5	7,126,000	5·2	137,850,000	25,604,000	18·6	33,322,000	24·2	70,661,000	51·5
1911	9	1,225	17,670,000	12·2	112,209,000	77·5	7,331,000	5·0	145,043,000	30,129,000	20·8	33,944,000	23·4	71,559,000	49·5
1912	9	1,225	17,350,000	11·3	118,795,000	77·6	7,651,000	5·0	153,228,000	33,882,000	22·1	36,617,000	23·9	72,437,000	47·3
1913	9	1,240	17,296,000	10·8	125,887,000	78·8	7,744,000	4·8	159,803,000	33,961,000	21·3	38,049,000	23·9	77,764,000	48·7
1914	9	1,253	16,684,000	10·0	132,504,000	79·0	9,502,000	5·7	167,841,000	34,598,000	20·6	44,815,000	26·8	78,363,700	46·7
1915	9	1,251	16,205,000	9·1	140,569,000	82·0	12,555,000	7·1	177,004,000	36,730,000	20·7	67,019,000	37·9	64,621,000	36·5
1916	8	1,243	15,631,000	7·5	166,620,000	80·2	15,461,000	7·5	207,376,000	42,026,000	20·3	69,693,000	33·5	85,136,000	41·1
1917	8	1,242	16,064,000	6·7	196,538,000	81·7	19,023,000	7·9	240,550,000	47,788,000	19·8	71,584,000	29·6	112,159,000	46·5
1918	8	1,249	16,577,000	6·6	222,055,000	81·1	25,141,000	9·2	273,658,000	57,250,000	20·9	93,889,000	34·3	113,961,000	41·6
1919	8	1,264	17,009,000	5·3	259,610,000	81·2	28,032,000	8·8	318,754,000	65,556,000	20·6	111,985,000	35·0	129,962,000	40·6
1920	8	1,283	17,911,000	5·3	279,228,000	82·1	29,363,000	8·7	339,167,000	72,974,000	21·5	102,968,000	30·4	153,122,000	45·0
1921	8	1,308	18,521,000	5·4	291,060,000	84·6	25,188,000	7·3	344,974,000	70,232,000	21·0	114,531,000	32·2	150,850,000	43·9
1922	8	1,423	19,751,000	6·1	267,791,000	83·2	23,321,000	7·3	321,781,000	63,814,000	19·8	126,025,000	39·2	122,366,000	38·1
1923	8	1,467	20,468,000	6·8	247,226,600	82·5	22,106,500	7·4	299,359,100	64,015,300	21·4	112,137,800	37·5	114,277,300	38·1
1924	8	1,535	22,632,000	7·6	242,572,000	81·3	22,181,000	7·4	298,693,000	61,330,000	20·5	103,927,000	34·8	122,977,000	41·2
1925	8	1,563	23,947,000	8·0	240,945,000	81·0	21,668,000	7·3	297,839,000	60,341,000	20·3	95,204,000	32·0	131,309,000	44·1
1926	8	1,587	24,578,200	8·4	238,821,400	81·4	20,716,800	7·1	293,678,000	59,592,900	20·3	91,208,300	31·1	133,057,000	45·3
1927	8	1,612	25,165,200	8·4	241,965,600	81·1	21,165,000	7·1	298,421,400	61,223,800	20·5	88,592,300	29·7	138,745,500	46·5
1928	8	1,624	25,884,288	8·4	248,800,347	80·7	21,053,087	6·8	308,091,180	63,322,077	20·5	83,378,875	27·0	149,622,489	48·5
1928	8	1,646	27,766,320	9·2	250,853,396	80·5	21,361,931	6·9	311,356,958	62,307,357	20·0	83,657,183	26·9	154,134,948	49·5

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF IRELAND.

Year.	Banks.	No. of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	% of Liabilities.	Deposits.	% of Liabilities.	Notes.	% of Liabilities.	Total Liabilities.	Cash in Hand, Money at Call and Short Notice.	% of Liabilities.	Investments.	% of Liabilities.	Discounts and Advances.	% of Liabilities.
			£		£		£		£	£		£		£	
1890	9	456	10,374,000	18·5	38,521,000	68·8	6,642,000	11·8	56,132,000	9,086,000	16·1	17,144,000	32·2	28,791,000	51·0
1895	9	496	10,200,000	16·5	44,390,000	72·0	6,143,000	9·9	61,663,000	11,253,000	18·3	17,934,000	29·1	31,182,000	50·5
1900	9	543	10,894,000	16·0	49,449,000	72·8	6,708,000	9·9	67,988,000	11,697,000	17·2	17,719,000	26·1	37,464,000	55·0
1905	9	627	11,320,000	15·7	53,556,000	74·4	5,966,000	8·3	71,967,000	10,396,000	14·4	18,961,000	26·3	41,568,000	57·7
1910	9	663	11,475,000	13·9	62,508,000	76·0	7,211,000	8·8	82,150,000	13,762,000	16·7	23,215,000	28·2	44,127,000	53·7
1912	9	683	11,164,000	12·9	66,901,000	77·1	7,228,000	8·4	86,363,000	14,030,000	16·3	24,026,000	27·8	47,161,000	54·7
1913	9	710	11,095,000	12·2	70,657,000	77·9	8,074,000	8·9	90,905,000	17,189,000	19·0	23,935,000	26·3	48,600,000	53·5
1914	9	693	11,203,000	11·5	74,501,000	76·3	10,918,000	11·2	97,809,000	22,382,000	22·9	25,970,000	26·6	48,149,000	49·9
1915	9	703	11,013,000	10·5	77,722,000	74·0	15,000,000	14·3	104,799,000	23,313,000	22·2	35,330,000	33·6	44,706,000	42·6
1916	9	708	10,844,000	9·4	83,746,000	72·8	19,112,000	16·6	115,205,000	32,561,000	28·3	38,148,000	33·2	42,972,000	37·2
1917	9	773	11,262,000	8·4	99,310,000	73·8	22,336,000	16·6	134,515,000	40,088,000	29·8	42,113,000	31·4	50,622,000	37·5
1918	9	848	11,837,000	6·7	131,610,000	74·9	30,896,000	17·6	175,739,000	56,813,000	31·8	65,307,000	37·2	51,993,000	29·6
1919	9	869	12,832,000	6·1	166,231,000	79·2	29,054,000	13·9	209,632,000	55,090,000	26·3	77,242,000	37·0	75,303,000	36·0
1920	9	912	12,899,000	5·4	200,441,000	83·2	24,717,000	10·3	240,391,000	46,698,000	19·4	80,959,000	33·5	109,623,000	45·5
1921	9	947	13,154,000	5·3	212,860,000	86·1	19,052,000	7·7	246,881,000	42,887,000	17·4	81,670,000	33·0	119,275,000	44·1
1922	9	986	13,779,000	5·7	209,777,000	86·0	17,321,000	7·1	242,199,000	31,834,000	13·1	103,019,000	42·5	104,554,000	43·1
1922	3*	267	3,350,000	5·1	56,686,000	86·4	4,989,000	7·6	65,596,000	8,173,500	12·5	23,221,500	35·4	33,572,000	51·2
1923	3*	248	3,750,000	6·1	51,962,000	84·7	5,016,000	8·2	61,329,000	6,857,000	11·2	21,263,000	34·7	32,450,000	52·9
1924	3*	249	4,100,000	6·8	51,100,000	84·3	4,864,000	8·0	60,687,000	6,723,000	11·1	21,532,000	35·5	31,747,000	52·3
1925	3*	252	4,200,000	7·1	50,057,000	84·7	4,399,000	7·4	59,153,000	5,956,000	10·1	18,947,000	32·1	33,543,000	56·7
1926	3*	254	4,200,000	7·0	50,643,000	84·6	4,137,000	6·9	59,836,000	6,420,000	10·7	18,943,000	31·7	33,379,000	55·8
1927	3*	255	4,400,000	7·3	49,342,000	82·4	4,037,000	6·7	59,909,000	7,658,000	12·8	18,819,000	31·4	32,814,000	54·8
1928	3*	255	4,500,000	7·5	49,649,399	82·5	3,909,809	6·5	60,253,773	7,306,211	12·1	19,638,930	32·6	32,653,916	54·2
1929	3*	256	4,550,000	7·6	49,469,682	82·5	3,663,512	6·1	59,935,355	6,227,146	10·4	20,471,667	34·2	32,605,519	54·4

* Northern Ireland.

ENGLISH JOINT STOCK BANKS.

1 Name of Bank.	Date.	2 No. of Branches & sub-branches.	3 Capital Subscribed.	4 Uncalled Capital. Callable.	4 Uncalled Capital. Reserved	5 Capital Paid up.	6 Reserve Funds.	7 Undivided Profits.	8 Notes in Circulation (d)	9 Drafts, &c.	10 Acceptances and Endorsements.	11 Miscellaneous Credits, Rebate, Staff Funds,&c.
			£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Barclays Bank ...	Dec 31	2,032	*15,858,217*	Nil	Nil	15858217	10250000	...	...	...	21,991,928	...
2 Baring Bros. & Co.	Dec 31	1	*1,025,000*	Nil	Nil	1,025,000	1,000,000	18,440	...	...	6,695,344	...
3 Brit.Mut.Bnkg. Co.	Dec 31	None	*300,000*	*180,000*	Nil	120,000	80,000	22,867	...	...	...	...
4 Coutts & Co.	Dec 31	3	*1,000,000*	Unlimited	...	1,000,000	1,000,000	...	...	...	400,020	...
5 District Bank.....	Dec 31	391	*9,796,000*	*1,264,000*	*6,320,000*	2,212,000	2,000,000	378,825	...	...	2,400,469	...
6 Glyn Mills & Co....	Dec 31	2	*1,060,000*	Unlimited	...	1,060,000	530,000	...	...	...	2,699,728	210,000
7 Isle of Man Bank	Dec 31	9	*150,000*	Nil	*100,000*	50,000	156,000	16,241	(d)80,444	6,057	...	...
8 Lloyds Bank	Dec 31	1,853	*73,302,076*	*3,593,239*	*53,898,585*	15810252	10000000	1495178	(d) 5,839	...	52,226,285	...
9 London Merchnt Bk	Dec 31	None	*1,350,000*	*525,000*	Nil	825,000	...	47,235	...	...	3,293,152	...
10 Manchester Cty Bk.	Dec 31	188	*5,460,200*	*273,010*	*4,095,150*	1,092,040	1,092,040	166,423	...	...	499,103	...
11 Martins Bank.....	Dec 31	564	*20,602,272*	*5,167,558*	*11,274,672*	4,160,042	3,507,872	464,935	(d)16,025	...	7,184,161	...
12 Midland Bank ...	Dec 31	2,044	*40,689,218*	*7,172,697*	*20,098,053*	13432968	13432968	1826432	...	...	37,474,366	...
13 National Provincial	Dec 31	1,308	*43,617,080*	*5,839,611*	*28,298,053*	9,479,416	9,479,416	849,255	...	...	15,174,188	...
14 Union Bk of Mchstr	Dec 31	169	*1,500,000*	*750,000*	Nil	750,000	675,000	12,041	...	...	633,788	...
15 Westminster Bank	Dec 31	1,050	*30,533,127*	*7,070,990*	*14,141,980*	9,320,157	9,320,157	1184442	(d) 7,794	...	27,599,579	...
16 Willms Deacons Bk	Dec 31	201	*8,125,000*	*1,562,500*	*4,687,500*	1,875,000	1,000,000	151,123	...	...	1,023,094	...
Totals		9,815	*254368190*	*33398605*	*142899493*	78070092	63523453	6633437	110,102	6,057	179295205	210,000

(d) In Isle of Man.

SCOTTISH BANKS.

1 Bank of Scotland ..	Feb. 28	190	*2,250,000*	*750,000*	Nil	1,500,000	2,000,000	280,456	3,040,524	470,321	802,408	
2 British Linen Bank	Jan. 15	200	*1,250,000*	Nil	Nil	1,250,000	2,250,000	170,726	2,504,866	353,305	653,730	
3 Clydesdale Bank ...	Dec. 31	193	*5,300,000*	Nil	*4,000,000*	1,300,000	1,550,000	324,054	2,645,689	347,827	701,188	
4 Com. Bk. of Scot. ..	Oct. 31	326	*7,500,000*	*2,450,000*	*2,800,000*	2,250,000	2,800,000	194,552	3,230,644	2061213	585,677	
5 Nat. Bk. of Scotland	Nov. 1	143	*5,000,000*	*900,000*	*3,000,000*	1,100,000	1,550,000	214,566	2,601,044	...	1,475,182	
6 N. of Scotland Bk..	Dec. 31	158	*3,260,000*	*163,000*	*1,956,000*	1,141,000	1,115,000	203,345	2,166,879	...	...	
7 Royal Bk. of Scot.	Oct. 13	236	*2,500,000*	Nil	Nil	2,500,000	2,910,320	170,000	2,758,043	736,557	1,177,823	
8 Union Bk. of Scot..	Apr. 2	200	*5,000,000*	Nil	*4,000,000*	1,000,000	1,550,000	340,054	2,414,224	41,014	1,071,314	
Totals		1,646	*32,060,000*	*4,263,000*	*15,756,000*	12041000	15725320	1897753	21361931	3010236	6,467,322	

NORTHERN IRISH BANKS.

1 Belfast Banking Co.	Dec 31	50	*2,500,000*	*300,000*	*1,500,000*	700,000	600,000	178,908	823,640	...	...	1800000
2 Northern Bnkg Co.	Aug 31	90	*3,500,000*	*700,000*	*2,100,000*	700,000	800,000	46,001	1,492,946	...	47,609	64,291
3 Ulster Bank	Nov 30	115	*3,000,000*	*200,000*	*2,000,000*	800,000	950,000	62,650	1,346,926	...	...	52,702
Totals		255	*9,000,000*	*1,200,000*	*5,600,000*	2,200,000	2,350,000	287,559	3,663,512	...	47,609	1916993

PRIVATE BANKS.

	Date.	Partners' Capital and Reserve. 1	Deposit and Current Accounts. 2	Miscellaneous. 3	Total Liabilities. 4	Cash on Hand, &c., at Call and Short Notice. 5	Investments. 6	Advances, Bills, Loans, and Other Securities. 7	Miscellaneous. (Premises, &c.). 8	Total Assets. 9
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1 Baker, Duncombe and Co.	Mar. 31	250,000	7,395,306	...	7,645,306	105,227	883,370	6,650,406	6,303	7,645,306
2 Blydenstein (B. W.) & Co.	Dec. 31	700,000	11,490,770	113,228	12,303,998	114,951	306,247	11,852,385	30,415	12,303,998
3 Hoare (Chas.) and Co. ...	July 5	500,000	2,994,121	...	3,494,121	1,018,670	1,176,522	1,198,929	100,000	3,494,121
4 S. Japhet & Co.	Dec. 31	2,000,000	7,302,579	6,964,472	16,267,051	3,024,159	1,828,398	4,268,717	7,145,777	16,267,051
Totals		3,450,000	29,182,776	7,077,700	39,710,476	4,263,007	4,194,537	23,970,437	7,282,495	39,710,476

ENGLISH JOINT STOCK BANKS.

12 Deposit and Current Accounts.	13 Total Liabilities.	14 Cash. In Hand and at Bank of England(x).	14 Cash. At Call and Short Notice.	15 Investments. British Govt. Secs. Where Stated Separately.	15 Investments. Bonds, Stocks and Other Investments.	16 Discounts and Advances. Discounts Where Stated Separately.	16 Discounts and Advances. Advances, Loans, &c.	17 Building and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	18 Total Assets.	19 Name of Bank.
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
337,439,214	385,539,359	62,668,721	23,582,200	49,950,067	10,060,538	36,966,668	174,454,652	27,856,513	385,539,359	Barclays.
20,069,156	28,807,940	(c)6,822,887	...	...	1,420,502	9,426,284	4,315,923	6,822,344	28,807,940	Barings.
814,460	1,037,327	(c)173,805	...	52,291	98,750	...	665,366	47,115	1,037,327	Brit. Mutual.
19,801,165	22,201,185	3,098,242	2,103,050	3,137,012	650,442	1,094,148	11,346,271	772,020	22,201,185	Coutts & Co.
52,240,453	59,231,747	8,063,750	3,857,140	14,339,864	487,366	5,029,778	24,327,283	3,126,566	59,231,747	District.
39,458,633	43,958,361	8,639,319	7,051,500	7,821,315	609,095	1,597,753	14,844,651	3,394,728	43,958,361	Glyn,Mills&Co
2,194,017	2,502,759	294,752	250,000	1,003,131	345,971	...	578,905	30,000	2,502,759	Isle of Man.
351,644,965	431,182,519	57,002,848	31,150,461	33,717,600	10,150,632	39,625,277	200,351,693	59,184,008	431,182,519	Lloyds.
1,356,754	5,522,141	80,237	979,293	...	165,101	442,145	523,477	3,331,888	5,522,141	Lon.M'rchant
18,281,581	21,131,187	(c)4,386,990	...	...	4,221,639	570,558	10,952,898	999,102	21,131,187	Man.&County
82,620,494	97,953,529	13,309,171	6,278,861	16,122,844	1,685,024	7,232,087	43,942,731	9,382,811	97,953,529	Martins.
379,622,758	445,789,492	65,293,445	21,670,909	31,798,351	8,252,204	58,783,657	210,374,230	49,616,696	445,789,492	Midland.
271,712,337	306,694,612	41,884,704	19,413,496	30,162,686	9,113,693	28,190,610	156,678,357	21,251,066	306,694,612	Nat. Prov.
16,798,273	18,869,102	(c)5,514,919	...	2,711,059	166,533	469,466	8,926,802	1,080,323	18,869,102	U.Bk.ofMan.
285,160,311	332,592,440	45,980,673	33,169,823	36,636,169	4,279,183	32,501,317	147,350,592	32,674,683	332,592,440	Westminster.
31,792,789	35,842,006	5,208,318	3,412,190	5,085,974	931,187	2,374,072	16,825,826	2,004,439	35,842,006	Wms.Deacon.
1911007360	2238855706	328,422,781	152,918,923	232,538,363	52,637,860	224,303,820	1026459657	221,574,302	2238855706	Totals.

(c) Includes Call Money.

SCOTTISH BANKS.

32,258,308	40,352,034	5,138,225	2,689,000	11,163,447	172,941	2,103,730	17,852,283	1,232,408	40,352,034	Bk. of Scotld.
26,811,000	33,993,627	c)7,997,131	...	10,242,180	461,715	...	14,207,355	1,085,246	33,993,627	Brit. Lin. Bk.
28,625,133	35,493,891	5,084,367	2,172,300	8,096,474	363,955	2,223,600	16,147,811	1,405,384	35,493,891	Clydesdle Bk.
35,228,898	45,350,984	6,076,179	4,553,657	9,530,459	647,688	3,499,738	19,637,699	1,405,564	45,250,984	Com.Bk.ofSc.
32,154,808	39,095,600	4,457,508	2,760,500	10,746,117	286,950	4,515,246	14,217,096	2,112,183	39,095,600	Ntl. Bk. of Sc.
21,277,613	25,903,837	c)3,468,360	...	9,616,697	297,623	349,887	11,976,985	194,285	25,903,837	North of Scot.
46,235,129	56,487,872	5,172,859	6,770,174	10,821,798	1,459,768	6,214,951	23,833,634	2,214,688	56,487,872	Ryl. Bk.of Sc
28,262,507	34,679,113	2,856,075	3,111,022	6,349,870	3,399,501	2,752,684	14,602,249	1,607,712	34,679,113	UnionBkof Sc
250,853,396	311,356,958	40,250,704	22,056,653	76,567,042	7,090,141	21,659,836	132,475,112	11,257,470	315,356,958	Totals.

c Includes Call Money.

NORTHERN IRISH BANKS.

13,728,292	17,830,840	c)1,613,180	...	4,789,535	638,496	329,327	10,410,473	49,829	17,830,840	Belfast Bkg.
14,153,232	17,304,079	1,968,956	...	3,497,406	803,725	...	10,686,383	347,609	17,304,079	Northern Bk.
21,588,158	24,800,436	2,645,010	...	9,785,413	957,092	...	11,179,336	233,585	24,800,436	Ulster Bank.
49,469,682	59,935,355	6,227,146	...	18,072,354	2,399,313	329,327	32,276,192	631,023	59,935,355	Totals.

(x) Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom.
(c) Includes Call Money.

DISCOUNT COMPANIES.

	Date.	Capital and Reserves.	Loans, Deposits, &c. (inc. Undivided Profits).	Bills Rediscounted.	Rebate, &c.	Total Liabilities.	Cash at Bankers.	Investments.	Bills Discounted.	Loans and Sundry Accts.	Total Assets.
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Alexanders	Dec. 31	1,350,000	19,516,432	4,959,832	240,855	26,067,119	586,527	3,021,017	21,888,919	570,656	26,067,119
National.....	Dec. 31	1,890,000	26,867,989	23,001,203	443,890	52,203,082	659,417	2,911,915	47,141,632	1,490,118	52,203,082
Union of Lond.	Dec. 31	3,000,000	45,997,920	12,310,529	634,033	61,942,482	1,328,877	7,629,621	52,574,107	409,877	61,942,482
Totals		6,240,000	92,382,341	40,271,564	1,318,778	140,212,683	2,574,821	13,562,553	121,604,658	2,470,651	140,212,683

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED AS A PRIVATE BANK PRIOR TO 1729. INCORPORATED 1896 AS BARCLAY AND COMPANY, LIMITED, NAMED CHANGED AS ABOVE FEBRUARY 1917.

1896—Formed by amalgamation of 20 private banks.
1897—Absorbed Woods and Co.
1899—Swaledale and Wensleydale Banking Co., Limited, taken over.
1900—Milbanke, Woodbridge, and Co., Woodbridge, Lacy, and Co., and Parsons, Thomson, and Co. absorbed.
1902—York Union Banking Co., Limited, Marten Part and Co., J. and J. W. Pease, and Roper and Priestman absorbed.
1904—Absorbed Thomas Ashby and Co., Staines, &c.
1905—Absorbed Bolitho, Williams, Foster, Coode, Grylls, and Co., Limited, Hammond and Co., Newmarket.
1906—Absorbed Leatham, Tew, and Co.
1909—Wootten and Co., Oxford, absorbed.
1911—Stamford, Spalding, and Boston Banking Co., Limited, acquired.
1913—Absorbed Messrs J. and C. Simonds and Co.
1914—Messrs Nevile, Reid, and Co. acquired.
1916—Absorbed United Counties Bank, Limited.
1918—Absorbed London, Provincial and South-Western Bank, Limited.
1919—Absorbed Gillett and Co., Oxford, &c.
1919—Affiliated with Union Bank of Manchester, Limited, and The British Linen Bank.
1920—Absorbed Tubb and Co., Bicester.
1922—Sole control secured of Cox and Co. (France), Limited, and business now conducted under the title of Barclays Bank (France), Limited.
1925—Barclays Bank, S.A.I., Rome and Genoa, established. (See page 473, *Economist*, March 7, 1925.)
1925—Affiliation with Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), formerly the Colonial Bank, with which are amalgamated the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited.

CAPITAL

	Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
	£	£	£	£
"A" Shares	3,430,356	3,430,356	Nil.	Nil.
"B" Shares	11,760,811	11,760,811	Nil.	Nil.
"C" Shares	667,050	667,050	Nil.	Nil.
Per Share "A"	£4	£4	Nil.	Nil.
Per Share "B"	£1	£1	Nil.	Nil.
Per Share "C"	£1	£1	Nil.	Nil.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended June 30.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserve, Investments, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1913 ...	754,726	1·13	418,404	13¼	364,025	125,361
1914 ...	823,400	1·12	486,750	A Shs 10 / B Shs 18¾	321,340	140,671
1915 ...	890,968	1·08	446,015	A Shs 10 / B Shs 17½	515 000	70,624
†1915 ...	484,268	1·19	207,281	A Shs 10 / B Shs 17½	275,000	72,611
Dec. 31, 1916	1,111,044	0·95	512,716	A Shs 10 / B Shs 17½	550,000	120,938
1917 ...	1,182,143	0·81	546,708	A Shs 10 / B Shs 20	470,000	186,373
1918 ...	1,788,697	0·69	854,382	A Shs 10 / B Shs 20	950,000	278,428
1919 ...	2,122,192	0·65	992,169	A Shs 10 / B Shs 20	900,000	508,450
1920 ...	2,927,523	0·81	1,420,371	A Shs 10 / B & C 14‡	1,450,000	565,602
1921 ...	2,201,651	0·61	1,432,002	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	800,000	535,251
1922 ...	1,873,731	0·56	1,508,717	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	350,000	500,266
1923 ...	1,891,066	0·57	1,572,646	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	300,000	518,686
1924 ...	2,067,281	0·61	1,585,431	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	480,000	520,536
1925 ...	2,289,837	0·66	1,623,789	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	650,000	536,584
1926 ...	2,427,162	0·69	1,651,462	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	800,000	512,285
1927 ...	2,306,329	0·65	1,666,349	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	600,000	552,265
1928 ...	2,301,285	0·60	1,666,349	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	650,000	537,201
1929 ...	2,331,580	0·65	1,666,349	A Shs 10 / B & C 14	650,000	552,432

† For six months ended Dec. 31, 1915.
‡ After reorganisation of capital—equivalent to 21% formerly.

Dec. 31	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Acceptances and Endorsements.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank, &c. (a).	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments. (b)	Per Cent.	Discounts	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1900 ...	269	3,416,800	9·0	250,184	0·7	34,323,736	90·3	37,990,720	4,836,678	12·7	3,893,500	10·2	9,232,398	24·4	...	...	*18,750,483	49·4	1,277,661	3·3
1910 ...	497	4,400,000	8·2	346,483	0·6	48,881,845	91·2	53,628,328	7,024,625	13·1	4,983,550	9·3	11,650,167	21·8	4,856,702	9·1	23,370,213	43·4	1,743,071	3·3
1913 ...	570	5,200,000	7·8	436,552	0·7	60,805,754	91·5	66,442,306	9,154,593	13·8	6,812,500	10·2	11,214,812	16·8	9,602,176	14·4	27,339,746	41·3	2,318,479	3·6
1914 ...	606	5,200,000	7·1	637,562	0·9	67,425,433	92·0	73,262,995	11,929,518	16·2	5,098,850	6·9	14,741,968	20·1	9,649,227	13·2	29,390,108	40·2	2,453,324	3·4
1915 ...	620	5,200,000	6·4	2,229,805	2·8	73,342,191	90·8	80,771,996	14,181,269	17·4	4,470,000	5·5	25,908,497	32·1	3,721,689	4·6	28,408,026	35·3	4,082,515	5·1
1916 ...	817	6,794,443	5·8	2,861,428	2·5	107,290,830	91·7	116,946,701	23,983,218	20·4	5,526,400	4·7	27,041,404	23·1	16,880,286	14·4	38,203,822	32·9	5,311,571	4·5
1917 ...	816	6,794,443	4·9	2,151,136	1·6	129,067,902	93·5	138,013,481	24,526,865	17·8	10,171,963	7·4	26,266,878	19·0	28,089,055	20·4	44,201,242	31·9	4,757,478	3·5
1918 ...	1332	†14,160,743	5·5	4,211,796	1·6	239,660,041	92·9	258,032,580	43,922,371	17·0	29,222,675	11·3	50,559,988	19·6	47,442,254	18·4	78,854,583	30·6	8,030,709	3·1
1919 ...	1449	15,820,356	4·9	13,588,825	4·2	296,059,132	90·9	325,468,313	65,174,350	20·0	20,031,495	6·2	62,341,380	19·2	30,263,309	9·3	130,095,257	39·9	17,572,522	5·4
1920 ...	1510	23,842,372	6·6	10,227,554	2·8	327,788,370	90·6	361,858,296	61,710,646	17·0	21,313,395	5·9	63,936,119	17·6	44,860,805	12·4	155,560,920	43·1	14,476,411	4·0
1921 ...	1578	23,842,372	6·6	6,239,151	1·7	330,942,299	91·7	361,023,822	58,283,897	16·1	20,041,300	5·6	63,668,610	17·6	74,839,526	20·6	133,360,925	37·1	10,839,564	3·0
1922 ...	1660	23,842,372	7·2	5,458,603	1·6	303,185,535	91·2	332,486,510	53,611,311	16·1	19,950,450	6·0	78,606,182	23·6	43,568,119	13·1	126,374,955	38·1	10,375,493	3·1
1923 ...	1741	23,842,372	7·2	7,677,388	2·3	301,549,963	90·5	333,069,723	52,773,838	15·8	18,654,259	5·6	77,661,180	23·3	38,623,075	11·6	132,520,239	39·8	12,837,132	3·9
1924 ...	1778	23,842,372	7·1	11,308,303	3·4	301,026,825	89·5	336,177,500	55,840,497	16·6	20,347,095	6·0	70,261,832	20·9	33,248,646	9·9	140,078,977	41·7	16,400,453	4·9
1925 ...	1837	24,842,372	7·1	17,175,922	4·9	306,259,816	88·0	348,278,110	55,490,009	15·9	19,864,335	5·7	65,639,709	18·8	32,028,847	9·2	153,028,485	44·0	22,226,725	6·4
1926 ...	1894	26,108,217	7·5	12,446,160	3·6	309,883,690	88·9	348,438,067	55,248,882	15·9	21,284,818	6·1	62,172,062	17·8	36,617,279	10·5	155,454,795	44·6	17,660,231	5·1
1927 ...	1945	26,108,217	7·3	12,830,669	3·6	318,373,472	89·1	357,312,358	59,635,277	16·7	26,041,049	7·3	59,010,287	16·5	32,518,234	9·1	161,867,906	45·3	18,239,605	5·1
1928 ...	1979	26,108,217	6·8	24,874,317	6·5	335,081,222	86·7	386,063,756	60,914,638	15·8	23,988,400	6·2	63,906,320	16·7	38,258,569	9·9	168,620,475	43·7	30,375,354	7·9
1929 ...	2032	26,108,217	6·8	21,991,928	5·7	337,439,214	87·5	385,539,359	62,668,721	16·3	23,582,200	6·1	60,010,605	15·6	36,966,668	9·6	174,454,654	45·2	27,856,512	7·2
Weekly Averages March, 1930		26,108,000	7·0	22,115,000	6·0	322,281,000	87·0	370,504,000	43.491,000	11·9	25,358,000	6·8	59,810,000	16·1	38,612,000	10·4	175,267,000	47·3	27,966,000	7·5

* Includes discounts. † Includes £871,299 instalments in respect of new issue of 364,472 A shares of £4 each (including premium).
(a) Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom. (b) Includes investments in affiliations.

BRITISH MUTUAL BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

CAPITAL.

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
300,000	120,000	180,000	Nil.
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£5	£2	£3	Nil.

This Bank has no branches.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserve Investments, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1910	5,584	0·75	3,600	†6	2,000	2,194
1920	7,353	1·09	5,400	9	2,000	1,497
1921	8,141	1·22	6,000	10	2,000	1,639
1922	9,317	1·37	6,000	10	3,000	1,956
1923	10,172	1·53	6,000	10	4,500	1,628
1924	9,814	1·37	6,000	10	3,611	1,830
1925	14,192	1·83	7,200	12	5,000	3,822
1926	15,010	1·86	7,200	12	5,000	6,632
1927	16,363	1·94	9,600	12	5,000	8,395
1928	17,780	1·99	9,600	12	8,000	8,575
1929	20,292	1·93	14,400	12	6,000	8,467

† Free of income-tax.

Continued on page 24.

HIGGINSON & CO.

Merchant Bankers,

80 Lombard Street
LONDON, E.C. 3

Acceptance Credits.

Foreign Exchange.

Every description of Banking business transacted.

Special Facilities between United Kingdom and U.S.A.

Proposals entertained for financing Governments, Municipalities, and Established Industrial Companies.

CORRESPONDENTS OF

LEE, HIGGINSON & CO.,

Bankers,

BOSTON, NEW YORK, CHICAGO, U.S.A.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA

(Limited Company incorporated in Italy.)

Established in 1894. Head Office: MILAN. Capital: 700 million Lire. Reserves 580 millions.

Branches in every centre of commercial and industrial importance in Italy, and in most of the best known tourist resorts; also in London, New York, Istanbul (Constantinople) and Izmir (Smyrna).

Affiliated and Auxiliary Institutions in France (Paris and Riviera), Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, U.S.A., Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, etc. Representative in Berlin.

ALL OF WHOM TRANSACT BANKING BUSINESS IN ALL BRANCHES.

TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES ISSUED free of charge in Pounds Sterling, Dollars, Lire and Francs, payable in all parts of the world.

London Office:

32, Threadneedle St., E.C. 2

A. JOEL, Manager.

Correspondents to the Italian Treasury.

BRITISH MUTUAL BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED—*Continued from page 22.*

Year Ended December 31.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Loans and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Sundries.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1890	70,663	16·2	7,362	1·7	357,047	82·1	435,072	27,099	6·2	20,000	4·6	364,709	83·9	23,264	5·3
1910	125,791	16·8	5,794	0·8	610,872	82·4	742,457	83,098	11·2	141,675	19·0	511,994	69·0	5,690	0·8
1915	115,104	17·0	4,951	0·7	553,425	82·3	673,480	56,483	8·4	158,672	23·6	453,385	67·3	4,940	0·7
1916	116,104	18·1	4,789	0·7	521,854	81·2	642,747	64,867	10·1	147,450	22·9	425,640	66·3	4,790	0·7
1917	117,603	18·8	5,312	0·9	503,490	80·3	626,405	63,597	10·2	144,666	23·1	413,502	66·0	4,640	0·7
1918	119,103	17·5	5,390	0·8	557,180	81·7	681,673	112,697	16·5	171,926	25·2	392,560	57·6	4,490	0·7
1919	120,603	17·8	6,944	1·0	546,778	81·2	674,325	67,862	10·1	184,625	27·4	417,498	61·9	4,340	0·6
1920	122,603	18·2	6,898	1·0	545,737	80·8	675,238	62,317	9·3	152,391	22·6	456,340	67·5	4,190	0·6
1921	124,603	18·6	7,639	1·1	535,682	80·3	667,924	91,880	13·8	124,923	18·6	447,081	67·0	4,040	0·6
1922	127,603	18·7	7,956	1·2	544,901	80·1	680,460	102,242	15·0	169,420	24·9	404,908	59·5	3,890	0·6
1923	130,603	19·6	7,628	1·1	526,648	79·3	664,879	84,211	12·6	158,925	23·8	418,003	63·0	3,740	0·6
1924	130,603	18·2	7,830	1·1	579,465	80·7	717,898	101,267	14·1	125,456	17·5	487,585	67·9	3,590	0·5
1925	135,603	17·5	11,022	1·4	630,238	81·1	776,863	113,039	14·6	65,948	8·5	594,436	76·5	3,440	0·4
1926	140,604	17·5	13,832	1·7	650,880	80·8	805,316	99,728	12·4	91,142	11·3	611,156	75·9	3,290	0·4
1927	155,000	18·3	17,995	2·1	671,217	79·6	844,212	118,291	14·0	78,126	9·3	644,655	76·3	3,140	0·4
1928	163,000	18·2	18,175	2·1	713,599	79·7	894,774	68,361	7·6	110,482	12·6	712,941	79·5	2,990	0·3
1929	200,000	19·3	22,867	2·2	814,460	78·5	1,037,327	173,805	16·7	151,041	14·6	665,366	64·2	47,115	4·5

BARING BROTHERS AND CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1890.

	Capital: Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	25,000	25,000	Nil.	Nil.
5% 1st Pref.	500,000	500,000	Nil.	Nil.
6% 2nd Pref.	500,000	500,000	Nil.	Nil.

Year ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Balance Carried Forward.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand, at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Receivable.	Per Cent.	Advc's & Liability of Customers on Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1895	1	1,125,000	13·0	75,191	0·9	4,912,729	56·7	2,554,091	29·4	8,667,011	1,318,993	15·2	902,854	10·4	2,394,975	27·6	3,923,189	45·3	127,000	1·5
1910	1	1,125,000	4·4	12,481	...	7,498,544	42·1	9,177,763	51·5	17,813,788	2,728,345	15·3	2,370,125	13·3	4,722,952	26·5	7,865,366	44·2	127,000	0·7
1911	1	1,125,000	6·9	11,232	0·1	6,049,830	37·1	9,096,558	55·9	16,282,620	3,077,752	18·9	2,470,642	15·2	3,388,793	20·8	7,218,433	44·3	127,000	0·8
1912	1	1,125,000	6·9	12,350	0·1	6,584,794	40·0	8,693,647	53·0	16,415,797	2,968,915	18·0	1,464,994	8·9	3,928,225	23·8	7,926,663	48·5	127,000	0·8
1913	1	1,125,000	7·1	11,121	0·1	6,636,589	42·0	8,042,292	50·8	15,815,002	3,029,015	19·1	1,503,519	9·5	2,909,820	18·4	8,245,639	52·2	127,000	0·8
1914	1	1,125,000	6·9	12,232	0·1	3,723,682	22·9	11,377,869	70·1	16,238,783	7,378,471	45·4	1,489,299	9·2	1,493,550	9·2	5,750,463	35·4	127,000	0·8
1915	1	1,125,000	4·9	11,009	...	6,781,991	29·1	15,275,245	66·0	23,193,245	4,306,533	18·6	1,692,023	7·3	8,095,535	34·8	8,972,154	38·8	127,000	0·5
1916	1	1,125,000	4·8	12,110	0·1	4,613,591	19·8	17,602,610	75·3	23,353,311	7,611,963	32·6	1,651,942	7·1	7,031,403	30·4	6,931,003	29·4	127,000	0·5
1917	1	1,125,000	4·0	12,399	...	5,939,554	21·2	20,934,869	74·8	28,011,822	5,587,500	19·9	1,656,941	5·9	12,291,060	43·9	8,349,321	29·8	127,000	0·5
1918	1	1,125,000	4·8	12,658	0·1	3,064,047	13·0	19,245,252	82·1	23,446,957	5,385,994	22·9	1,607,306	6·9	11,317,959	48·3	5,008,698	21·4	127,000	0·5
1919	1	1,125,000	2·9	13,923	0·1	11,257,865	29·0	26,304,836	68·0	38,701,624	6,985,389	18·0	2,011,257	5·2	15,661,723	40·4	13,916,255	36·1	127,000	0·3
1920	1	2,025,000	8·3	13,360	0·1	3,731,786	15·4	18,500,885	76·2	24,271,031	6,639,984	27·3	830,431	3·4	10,468,677	43·0	6,204,939	25·8	127,000	0·5
1921	1	2,025,000	6·8	13,836	...	8,101,960	27·2	19,624,855	66·0	29,765,651	6,572,050	22·0	984,079	3·3	12,119,467	40·6	9,963,055	33·7	127,000	0·4
1922	1	2,025,000	7·5	13,766	0·1	6,642,222	24·6	18,255,809	67·8	26,936,797	7,046,782	26·2	2,007,210	7·5	9,793,788	36·3	7,962,017	29·6	127,000	0·4
1923	1	2,025,000	8·5	14,080	0·1	5,276,495	22·2	16,411,775	69·2	23,727,350	7,067,110	29·8	2,861,040	12·1	6,584,029	27·7	7,088,171	29·9	127,000	0·5
1924	1	2,025,000	6·5	15,060	...	8,858,965	28·5	20,275,491	65·0	31,174,516	7,301,244	23·4	1,153,924	3·7	12,303,855	39·5	10,288,493	33·0	127,000	0·4
1925	1	2,025,000	5·3	16,146	...	10,029,740	26·0	26,406,295	68·7	38,477,181	10,342,058	26·9	1,024,797	2·7	15,433,059	40·1	11,550,267	30·0	127,000	0·3
1926	1	2,025,000	6·3	16,839	...	7,661,022	23·8	22,512,055	69·9	32,214,916	8,259,914	25·6	1,058,237	3·3	13,529,522	42·0	9,240,243	28·7	127,000	0·4
1927	1	2,025,000	6·3	16,964	...	7,638,264	23·8	22,462,368	69·9	32,142,596	7,651,115	23·8	2,088,308	6·5	12,349,739	38·4	9,926,434	30·9	127,000	0·4
1928	1	2,025,000	6·1	17,266	0·1	9,253,107	27·8	22,096,857	66·1	33,392,230	7,393,421	22·1	1,066,301	3·2	11,331,487	33·9	13,474,021	40·4	127,000	0·4
1929	1	2,025,000	7·0	18,440	0·1	6,695,344	23·2	20,069,156	69·7	28,807,940	6,822,887	23·7	1,420,502	4·9	9,426,284	32·7	11,011,267	38·3	127,000	0·4

COUTTS AND COMPANY,

440 Strand, W.C.

(Members of London Clearing.)

(Affiliated with National Provincial Bank, Limited.)

City Office: 15 Lombard Street (formerly Robarts, Lubbock, and Co.). Branches: 1 Park Lane, 16 Cavendish Square; and Sloane Street (1 Cadogan Place).

Established 1692, and Incorporated 1892 as a Joint Stock company, with unlimited liability. The businesses of Coutts and Company and Robarts, Lubbock, and Co. were amalgamated in 1914.

Year Ended Jan. 18.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserve.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bank, &c. a	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings & Sundries, Including Cover for Acceptanc's	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1901	1,000,000	11·6	...	...	7,622,611	88·4	8,622,611	643,601	7·5	1,402,000	16·2	2,871,800	33·3	3,705,210	43·0	...	...
1910	1,000,000	10·7	337,487	3·6	8,031,263	85·7	9,368,750	795,619	8·5	1,310,000	14·0	2,306,266	24·6	4,399,378	47·0	557,487	5·9
1911	1,000,000	10·4	176,231	1·8	8,444,681	87·8	9,620,912	964,488	10·0	1,270,000	13·2	2,547,077	26·5	4,443,116	46·2	396,231	4·1
1912	1,000,000	10·3	165,931	1·7	8,572,404	88·0	9,738,335	1,009,305	10·4	1,126,907	11·6	2,653,707	27·1	4,562,485	46·9	385,931	4·0
1913	1,000,000	9·9	110,907	1·1	9,003,403	89·0	10,114,310	1,160,387	11·5	1,704,307	16·8	2,488,213	24·6	4,430,496	43·8	330,907	3·3
1914	1,000,000	10·1	104,663	1·1	8,792,208	88·8	9,896,871	1,055,973	10·7	1,163,879	11·8	2,791,310	28·1	4,561,046	46·1	324,663	3·3
1914*	1,500,000	10·3	386,744	2·7	12,666,393	87·0	14,553,137	2,064,964	14·2	2,334,407	16·0	3,313,774	22·8	6,112,948	42·0	727,044	5·0
1915*	1,500,000	9·9	243,914	1·6	13,385,762	88·5	15,129,676	2,366,702	15·6	2,078,439	13·8	4,705,530	31·1	5,394,791	35·6	584,214	3·9
1916*	1,500,000	8·3	419,056	2·3	16,145,790	89·4	18,064,846	2,956,304	16·4	3,463,018	19·1	5,739,465	31·6	5,146,703	28·7	759,356	4·2
1917*	1,500,000	8·0	404,500	2·2	16,852,100	89·8	18,756,600	3,056,963	16·4	3,499,815	18·6	5,612,369	30·0	5,842,653	31·0	744,800	4·0
1918*	1,500,000	7·4	385,243	1·9	18,426,905	90·7	20,312,148	3,616,010	17·7	3,912,011	19·3	6,057,667	29·8	6,000,917	29·6	725,543	3·5
1919*	1,500,000	7·0	690,207	3·2	19,153,247	89·8	21,343,454	3,500,550	16·4	2,281,585	10·7	7,074,326	33·1	7,456,486	35·0	1,030,507	4·8
1920*	1,600,000	6·8	596,118	2·5	21,265,775	90·7	23,461,893	3,103,702	13·2	2,855,222	12·2	9,236,787	39·5	7,329,764	31·1	936,418	4·0
1921*	1,600,000	7·6	193,666	0·9	19,283,951	91·5	21,077,617	2,430,623	11·5	3,503,025	16·6	4,581,290	21·6	10,022,583	47·8	540,096	2·5
1922*	1,600,000	8·4	58,745	0·3	17,489,879	91·3	19,148,624	2,773,721	14·5	2,717,750	14·2	4,660,588	24·4	8,591,390	44·8	405,175	2·1
1923*	1,600,000	8·7	62,997	0·3	16,705,946	91·0	18,368,943	2,790,975	15·2	1,775,157	9·6	4,190,775	22·8	9,202,609	50·2	409,427	2·2
1924*	1,600,000	8·5	20,555	0·1	17,164,935	91·4	18,785,490	2,807,370	14·9	2,502,700	13·3	4,183,729	22·2	8,924,706	47·7	366,985	1·9
1925*	1,600,000	8·6	983	...	17,083,565	91·4	18,684,548	2,635,667	14·1	1,932,600	10·3	4,293,483	23·0	9,475,385	50·7	347,413	1·9
1926*	1,600,000	8·4	265,272	1·4	17,119,599	90·2	18,984,871	2,908,814	15·3	1,548,450	8·1	4,257,807	22·4	9,658,098	51·0	611,702	3·2
1927*	2,000,000	10·4	270,456	1·4	16,996,453	88·2	19,266,909	2,730,859	14·2	1,635,950	8·5	4,226,708	21·9	10,030,936	52·1	642,456	3·3
1928*	2,000,000	9·9	463,613	2·3	17.715,988	87·8	20,179,601	2,938,070	14·6	1,717,000	8·5	3,774,434	18·7	10,914,484	54·0	835,613	4·1
1929*	2,000,000	9·0	400,020	1·8	19,801,165	89·2	22,201,185	3,098,242	14·0	2,103,050	9·5	3,787,454	17·0	12,440,419	56·0	772,020	3·5
Weekly Av'gs. March 1930.	2,000,000	9·6	617 000	3·0	18,199,000	87·4	20,816,000	2,273,000	10·9	1,723,000	8·3	3,923,000	18·9	11,908,000	57·2	989,000	4·7

a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom. * December 31.

DISTRICT BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

1863—Business of Loyd, Entwisle, Bury, and Jervis, of King Street, Manchester, acquired.
1891—Business of Wm. John and Thos. Brocklehurst, Macclesfield, taken over.
1907—Amalgamation with Lancaster Banking Co., Limited.
1916—Absorbed Bank of Whitehaven, Limited.
1924—Title shortened from Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company Limited, to above.

	*Capital: Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
	9,796,000	2,212,000	1,264,000	6,320,000	6,537,200
	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
A	£5	£1	13s. 4d.	£3 6s. 8d.	£3⅛
B	£1	£1	—	—	£1 11/16

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends: Amount.	Rate.	Reserve, etc.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1911	374,524	1·28	331,800	*17½	25,000	28,711
1912	380,920	1·20	331,800	*17½	35,000	42,831
1913	378,435	1·17	331,800	*17½	40,000	49,465
1914	370,547	1·12	317,975	‡17½	20,000	65,672
1915	380,804	1·11	331,800	17½	...	114,676
1916	403,896	0·96	331,800	17½	...	102,140
1917	419,574	0·88	331,800	17½	50,000	139,914
1918	468,835	0·94	339,700	17 11/12	100,000	126,389
1919	510,878	0·75	347,600	18⅓	100,000	135,197
1920	561,783	0·86	347,600	18⅓	...	264,152
1921	539,275	0·80	347,600	18⅓	100,000	236,406
1922	465,245	0·75	347,600	18⅓	...	267,833
1923	428,606	0·69	347,600	18⅓	...	348,840
1924	448,073	0·73	347,600	18⅓	140,000	309,313
1925	458,993	0·76	347,600	18⅓	140,000	280,706
1926	450,139	0·78	347,600	18⅓	86,000	297,245
1927	452,521	0·77	347,600	18⅓	144,000	258,167
1928	455,132	0·77	347,600	18⅓	40,000	325,699
1929	§502,727	0·85	†579,200	18⅓	60,000	189,225

* Free of income-tax. † Including capitalised bonus of £200,000.
‡ Free from income-tax at June.
§ Expenditure on bank properties, formerly charged against net profits, is now charged to Bank Property Account.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills of Exchange Less Rebate.	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1890	68	2,015,000	13·2	109,898	0·8	341,108	2·2	12,691,257	83·8	15,157,263	908,907	6·0	1,888,254	12·4	1,478,430	9·7	...	...	*10,581,314	69·9	300,358	2·0
1900	95	2,695,000	12·6	138,713	0·6	1,737,178	8·1	16,815,019	78·7	21,385,910	1,989,219	9·3	1,867,395	8·7	2,760,522	12·9	...	...	*12,725,745	59·5	2,043,029	9·6
1905	106	3,325,000	15·8	168,697	0·8	1,679,778	8·0	15,869,253	75·4	21,042,728	1,967,263	9·4	1,813,805	8·6	3,317,974	15·8	3,307,380	15·7	8,656,528	41·1	1,979,778	9·4
1907	179	3,581,000	13·4	217,614	0·8	1,668,486	6·2	21,443,822	79·6	26,910,922	2,509,839	9·4	1,378,220	5·1	4,546,882	16·9	3,740,486	13·9	12,567,008	46·6	2,168,487	8·1
1908	184	3,601,000	13·2	220,644	0·8	1,231,683	4·5	22,278,182	81·5	27,323,509	2,324,618	8·5	2,475,350	9·0	4,216,805	15·4	3,565,516	13·1	13,009,537	47·7	1,731,683	6·3
1909	195	3,621,000	13·1	224,631	0·8	1,361,281	4·9	22,321,490	81·2	27,528,402	2,448,473	8·9	3,187,845	11·5	3,932,892	14·2	2,913,190	10·7	13,184,721	47·9	1,861,281	6·8
1910	197	3,646,000	12·6	177,588	0·6	2,402,032	8·4	22,522,459	78·4	28,748,079	2,718,816	9·4	2,736,117	9·5	3,826,792	13·3	3,589,255	12·5	12,975,067	45·0	2,902,032	10·3
1911	201	3,556,000	12·1	195,679	0·6	2,168,551	7·4	23,497,271	79·9	29,417,501	3,007,057	10·3	3,326,965	11·3	3,727,365	12·6	3,815,631	13·0	12,871,932	42·7	2,668,551	9·1
1912	202	3,576,000	11·2	210,129	0·7	2,950,356	9·3	25,070,072	78·8	31,806,557	3,114,669	9·8	3,874,068	12·2	3,646,349	11·4	4,500,615	14·2	13,220,500	41·6	3,450,356	10·8
1913	208	3,496,000	10·8	215,365	0·7	2,690,116	8·3	25,916,689	80·2	32,318,170	3,480,025	10·8	3,741,597	11·6	3,530,352	10·9	4,806,296	14·9	13,571,143	41·9	3,188,757	9·9
1914	212	3,506,000	10·6	219,065	0·7	2,052,962	6·2	27,412,987	82·5	33,191,014	3,601,141	10·8	3,793,922	11·4	4,502,552	13·6	4,762,626	14·4	13,977,811	42·1	2,552,962	7·7
1915	211	3,506,000	10·2	281,470	0·8	2,010,542	5·8	28,666,699	83·2	34,464,711	4,100,476	11·9	2,213,109	6·4	10,839,262	31·5	1,682,944	4·9	13,118,378	38·0	2,510,542	7·3
1916	217	3,396,000	8·1	268,040	0·6	2,795,954	6·7	35,346,576	84·6	41,806,570	5,325,210	12·8	4,220,929	10·1	9,900,237	23·6	6,646,967	15·9	12,417,274	29·7	3,295,953	7·9
1917	217	3,446,000	7·2	305,814	0·6	3,261,935	6·8	40,592,886	85·4	47,606,635	6,185,094	13·0	3,033,861	6·4	8,942,616	18·8	11,075,009	23·3	14,608,120	30·6	3,761,935	7·9
1918	221	3,446,000	6·9	300,189	0·6	1,567,079	3·2	44,530,513	89·3	49,843,781	7,192,479	14·4	3,562,409	7·1	8,903,719	17·9	14,705,232	29·5	13,412,863	26·9	2,067,079	4·2
1919	291	3,446,000	5·0	308,997	0·5	5,259,016	7·7	59,108,850	86·8	68,122,863	9,725,270	14·3	3,357,570	4·9	10,676,119	15·7	15,432,706	22·7	23,172,182	34·0	5,759,016	8·4
1920	326	3,446,000	5·3	437,952	0·7	1,596,659	2·4	60,037,956	91·6	65,518,567	7,195,514	10·9	3,305,970	5·0	7,272,306	11·1	12,476,005	19·0	33,172,113	50·6	2,096,659	3·2
1921	339	3,546,000	5·2	410,206	0·6	1,493,834	2·2	62,116,777	92·0	67,566,817	7,912,384	11·7	3,689,490	5·5	12,162,796	18·0	12,918,934	19·1	28,889,379	42·7	1,993,834	3·0
1922	343	3,546,000	5·7	441,634	0·7	1,602,899	2·6	56,549,059	91·0	62,139,592	8,431,414	13·6	5,003,490	8·1	17,475,779	28·1	5,073,270	8·2	24,052,740	38·7	2,102,899	3·4
1923	351	3,546,000	5·7	522,640	0·8	3,136,927	5·1	54,547,553	88·4	61,753,120	8,078,025	13·1	3,363,890	5·4	17,446,779	28·2	4,917,289	8·0	24,310,210	39·4	3,636,927	5·9
1924	361	3,646,000	5·9	483,113	0·8	2,486,753	4·1	54,786,962	89·2	61,402,828	9,335,374	15·2	4,782,240	7·8	16,381,628	26·7	3,668,431	6·0	24,048,403	39·1	3,186,752	5·2
1925	367	3,746,000	6·2	454,506	0·8	2,035,112	3·4	54,050,541	89·6	60,286,159	7,997,848	13·3	5,331,360	8·9	14,565,211	24·1	4,101,395	6·8	25,555,233	42·4	2,735,112	4·5
1926	378	3,792,000	6·6	471,045	0·8	899,450	1·6	52,321,532	91·0	57,484,027	7,791,947	13·6	4,590,420	8·0	14,544,836	25·3	4,768,582	8·3	24,188,792	42·1	1,599,450	2·8
1927	382	3,896,000	6·6	431,967	0·7	1,029,527	1·7	53,721,367	91·0	59,078,861	8,246,430	14·0	5,786,620	9·8	14,793,705	25·1	3,402,174	5·8	25,120,405	42·4	1,729,527	2·9
1928	387	3,896,000	6·6	499,499	0·8	2,464,878	4·2	52,254,949	88·4	59,115,326	8,043,460	13·6	4,724,125	8·0	14,786,850	25·0	5,146,318	8·7	23,249,695	39·3	3,164,878	5·4
1929	391	4,212,000	7·1	378,825	0·6	2,400,469	4·0	52,240,453	88·2	59,231,747	8,063,750	13·6	3,857,140	6·5	14,827,230	25·0	5,029,778	8·5	24,327,283	41·1	3,126,566	5·3

* Includes bills of exchange.

GLYN, MILLS AND CO.

ESTABLISHED 1753. Incorporated as Unlimited Liability Company, 1885.
1923—Acquired Holt and Co.—1 Branch. 1924—Acquired Child and Co.—1 Branch.
Members of London Clearing.

Capital Subscribed and Paid-up .... £1,060,000 | Number of Stockholders 15

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserve.	Per Cent.	Reduction of Premises Account.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bank, etc. (a)	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts, Loans and Other Securities.	Per Cent.	Premises and Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1885*	1,500,000	13·7	...	...	...	...	9,459,627	86·3	10,959,627	1,313,573	12·0	1,564,000	14·3	2,757,785	25·2	5,224,269	47·6	100,000	0·9
1896*	1,500,000	10·8	60,000	0·4	...	...	12,325,401	88·8	13,885,401	1,662,741	12·0	2,654,750	19·1	3,172,018	22·8	6,215,892	44·8	180,000	1·3
1901	1,500,000	9·6	60,000	0·4	...	...	13,998,068	90·0	15,558,068	1,663,449	10·7	2,012,000	13·0	3,092,803	19·9	8,609,816	55·2	180,000	1·2
1905	1,500,000	8·9	10,000	...	...	...	15,457,875	91·1	16,967,875	2,702,769	16·0	6,052,527	35·7	2,709,402	16·0	5,133,177	30·1	370,000	2·2
1906	1,500,000	9·2	20,302	0·1	...	...	14.863,608	90·7	16,383,910	2,312,934	14·2	4,556,144	27·9	2,701,090	16·6	6,443,742	39·0	370,000	2·3
1907	1,500,000	9·5	30,950	0·2			14,247,921	90·3	15,778,871	2,402,012	15·3	3,553,291	22·6	2,656,084	16·9	6,797,484	42·9	370,000	2·3
1908	1,500,000	8·9	41,847	0·2			15,301,097	90·9	16,842.944	2,064,020	12·2	5,251,750	31·0	2,644,879	15·6	6,512,295	39·0	370,000	2·2
1909	1,500,000	8·9	53,119	0·3			15,326,391	90·8	16,879,510	2,685,931	15·9	4,190,800	24·8	4,346,590	25·6	5,286,189	31·5	370,000	2·2
1910	1,500,000	8·3	65,158	0·4			16,590,995	91·3	18,156,153	2,775,805	15·3	4,716,794	26·1	3,730,334	20·6	6,563,220	36·0	370,000	2·0
1911	1,500,000	8·0	77,757	0·4			17,095,208	91·6	18,672,965	2,809,722	15·0	4,012,620	21·5	3,917,605	21·0	7,563,018	40·5	370,000	2·0
1912	1,500,000	8·5	90,908	0·5			16,021,740	91·0	17,612,648	2,600,225	14·7	3,394,330	19·2	2,918,671	16·5	8,329,422	47·5	370,000	2·1
1913	1,500,000	8·0	104,745	0·6			17,194,359	91·4	18,799.104	3,244,374	17·2	4,729,030	25·2	2,849,689	15·1	7,606,011	40·5	370,000	2·0
1914	1,500,000	7·1	119,229	0·6			19,422,903	92·3	21,042,132	4,055,473	19·2	5,023,000	23·9	3,637,722	17·2	7,955,937	37·9	370,000	1·8
1915	1,500,000	8·0	123,967	0·7			17,193,471	91·3	18,817,438	3,181,023	16·9	3,337,200	17·7	5,659,895	30·0	6,269,320	33·4	370,000	2·0
1916	1,500,000	6·9	128,330	0·6			19,992,138	92·5	21,620,468	3,880,343	17·9	6,019,000	27·7	5,621,418	25·9	5,729,707	26·8	370,000	1·7
1917	1,500,000	5·7	133,102	0·5			24,781,965	93·8	26,415,067	4,650,405	17·6	8,120,000	30·8	7,363,751	28·0	5,910,911	22·2	370,000	1·4
1918	1,500,000	5·4	137,736	0·5			26,346,874	94·1	27,984,610	4,800,548	17·2	6,605,000	23·6	10,747,764	38·4	5,461,298	19·5	370,000	1·3
1919	1,500,000	4·7	142.456	0·4			30.559,059	94·9	32,201,515	5,467,410	17·0	6,638,750	20·6	9,986,983	31·0	9,738,372	30·3	370,000	1·1
1920	1,500,000	4·9	147,311	0·5			29,007,506	94·6	30,654,817	6,852,997	22·4	7,199,750	23·5	6,430,246	20·9	9,801,824	32·0	370,000	1·2
1921	1,500,000	5·5	152,369	0·6			25,625,242	93·9	27,277,611	5,658,310	20·7	6,258,500	22·9	8,245,884	30·2	6,744,917	24·8	370,000	1·4
1922	1,500,000	5·3	157,387	0·6	...	...	26,435,294	94·1	28,092,681	6,139,686	21·9	7,741,500	27·5	8,671,873	30·9	5,169,622	18·4	370,000	1·3
1923	1,590,000	5·1	162,834	0·5	1,742,274	5·6	27,775,514	88·8	31,270,622	6,316,665	20·2	6,976,500	22·3	9,036,146	28·9	6,754,037	21·6	2,187,274	7·0
1924	1,590,000	4·7	168.561	0·5	1,882,344	5·6	30,153,508	89·2	33,794,413	7,090,949	21·0	6,278,200	18·6	9,358,829	27·7	8,489,091	25·1	2,577,344	7·6
1925	1,590,000	4·6	174,541	0·5	1,906,262	5·5	31,026,456	89·4	34,697,259	6,966,732	20·1	6,086,250	17·5	8,573,291	24·7	10,469,724	30·2	2,601,262	7·5
1926	1,590,000	4·7	183,498	0·5	1,428,288	4·2	30,766,210	90·6	33,967,996	6,764,456	19·9	6,095,400	17·9	7,499,649	22·1	11,485,203	33·8	2,123,288	6·2
1927	1,590,000	4·2	191,116	0·5	1,560,975	4·1	34,875,006	91·2	38,217,097	7,066,378	18·5	8,327,100	21·8	8,905,061	23·3	11,662,583	30·5	2,255,975	5·9
1928	1,590,000	4·0	200,000	0·5	2,081,205	5·2	35,928,161	90·3	39,799,366	7,368,652	18·5	7,620,250	19·1	7,618,875	19·1	14,415,386	36·2	2,776,204	7·0
1929	1,590,000	3·6	210,000	0·5	2,699,728	6·1	39,458,633	89·8	43,958,361	8,639,319	19·7	7,051,500	16·0	8,430,410	19·2	16,442,404	37·4	3,394,728	7·7
Weekly Averages, March, 1930	1,590,000	4·7	214,000	0·6	2,826,000	8·4	29,039,000	86·3	33,669,000	4,444,000	13·2	3,146,000	9·3	6,603,000	19·6	15,955,000	47·4	3,521,000	10·5

* Jan. 31st. (a) Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom.

ISLE OF MAN BANK, LIMITED.

(Late Isle of Man Banking Company, Limited.)

ESTABLISHED 1865. Incorporated in the Isle of Man.

	Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
	£	£	£	£	
Capital	150,000	50,000	Nil	100,000	£232,500
Per Share.	£10	£3 6s. 8d.	...	£6 13s. 4d.	£15½

Authorised note issue, £110,000.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserves, Investments, etc.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1911	8,151	0·87	4,500	15	3,000	2,367
1912	8,262	0·86	4,500	15	4,000	2,129
1913	8,610	0·86	4,500	15	4,400	1,839
1914	8,464	0·85	4,500	15	4,000	1,803
1915	9,197	0·92	4,500	15	4,500	2,000
1916	10,038	0·93	4,500	15	5,000	2,538
1917	12,355	0·96	4,500	15	7,500	2,893
1918	14,991	0·99	6,000	20	8,500	3,279
1919	18,299	0·94	6,750	22½	11,000	3,828
1920	18,927	0·83	6,750	22½	12,000	3,805
1921	18,909	0·86	6,750	22½	12,000	3,964
1922	19,016	0·81	6,750	22½	12,000	4,230
1923	19,232	0·84	6,750	22½	12,000	4,713
1924	19,948	0·84	7,500	25	12,000	5,161
1925	20,117	0·81	7,500	25	12,000	5,778
1926	21,523	0·90	9,000	18	12,000	6,301
1927	22,258	0·89	9,500	19	12,000	7,059
1928	22,911	0·89	9,500	19	12,000	8,470
1929	24,271	0·97	10,000	20	12,000	10,741

LIABILITIES.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, etc.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.
		£		£		£		£		£		£
1890	4	70,000	9·8	10,687	1·5	19,645	2·8	4,975	0·7	608,095	85·2	713,402
1900	7	74,000	7·4	6,121	0·6	30,341	3·0	10,465	1·0	880,377	88·0	1,001,304
1905	7	71,500	7·7	6,665	0·8	28,292	3·0	7,412	0·8	821,728	87·7	935,597
1910	8	68,000	7·5	3,965	0·5	26,340	2·9	2,814	0·3	803,536	88·8	904,655
1911	8	68,000	7·3	5,617	0·6	25,179	2·7	2,003	0·2	834,798	89·2	935,597
1912	8	68,000	7·1	5,379	0·6	25,122	2·6	2,730	0·3	856,798	89·4	958,029
1913	8	68,000	6·8	4,089	0·4	25,488	2·5	3,554	0·3	893,203	90·0	994,334
1914	8	68,000	6·8	8,053	0·8	38,649	3·9	3,251	0·3	876,174	88·2	994,127
1915	7	63,000	6·3	4,250	0·4	57,850	5·8	5,770	0·6	858,037	86·9	998,907
1916	7	98,500	9·1	4,788	0·4	63,086	5·9	5,959	0·6	903,138	84·0	1,075,471
1917	7	100,000	8·5	5,143	0·4	68,395	5·8	12,782	1·0	993,390	84·3	1,179,710
1918	7	108,000	7·2	7,029	0·5	84,174	5·6	23,957	1·6	1,232,912	85·1	1,506,072
1919	7	118,000	6·1	7,578	0·4	88,643	4·5	17,019	0·9	1,710,976	88·1	1,942,216
1920	7	118,000	5·2	7,555	0·3	90,362	4·0	11,223	0·5	2,038,803	90·0	2,265,943
1921	7	90,000	4·1	7,714	0·4	85,743	3·9	8,450	0·4	2,000,344	91·2	2,192,251
1922	7	102,000	4·3	7,981	0·3	88,299	3·7	4,860	0·2	2,154,463	91·5	2,357,603
1923	7	114,000	5·0	8,463	0·3	83,869	3·7	5,639	0·2	2,075,317	90·8	2,287,288
1924	8	126,000	5·3	9,661	0·4	80,606	3·4	7,098	0·3	2,152,668	90·6	2,376,033
1925	8	138,000	5·6	10,278	0·4	82,196	3·3	23,834	1·0	2,216,731	89·7	2,471,039
1926	8	170,000	7·1	11,551	0·5	84,864	3·5	11,974	0·5	2,119,450	88·4	2,397,839
1927	8	182,000	7·2	12,059	0·5	86,028	3·4	14,309	0·6	2,221,728	88·3	2,516,124
1928	8	194,000	7·5	13,470	0·5	80,896	3·1	12,958	0·5	2,293,065	88·4	2,594,389
1929	9	206,000	8·2	16,241	0·7	80,444	3·2	6,057	0·3	2,194,017	87·6	2,502,759

ASSETS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£	
1890	167,730	23·6	207,223	29·0	334,480	46·8	3,969	0·6
1900	142,268	14·2	399,292	39·9	439,054	43·8	20,690	2·1
1905	124,819	13·4	392,731	41·9	382,487	40·8	35,560	3·9
1910	123,019	13·6	377,636	41·7	370,425	41·0	33,575	3·7
1911	140,183	15·0	353,474	37·8	408,365	43·6	33,575	3·6
1912	166,845	17·4	346,813	36·2	410,755	42·9	33,616	3·5
1913	176,802	17·5	329,387	33·1	455,386	46·1	32,759	3·3
1914	232,561	23·4	370,374	37·4	358,433	35·9	32,759	3·3
1915	233,658	23·4	359,083	36·0	373,666	37·4	32,500	3·2
1916	222,204	20·7	406,706	37·9	414,561	38·4	32,000	3·0
1917	206,657	17·5	438,914	37·3	502,639	42·5	31,500	2·7
1918	283,328	18·8	830,297	55·1	361,447	24·1	31,000	2·1
1919	335,607	17·2	1,177,041	60·5	399,568	20·8	30,000	1·5
1920	535,608	23·6	1,267,288	56·0	433,047	19·1	30,000	1·3
1921	326,065	14·9	1,081,289	49·4	754,897	34·3	30,000	1·4
1922	302,445	12·8	1,600,125	67·9	425,033	18·0	30,000	1·3
1923	290,115	12·6	1,485,344	65·1	481,829	21·0	30,000	1·3
1924	*600,481	25·3	1,199,103	50·5	546,449	22·9	30,000	1·3
1925	*608,859	24·6	1,289,790	52·2	542,390	22·0	30,000	1·2
1926	*517,487	21·6	1,243,537	51·8	606,815	25·3	30,000	1·3
1927	*738,013	29·3	1,192,044	47·4	556,067	22·1	30,000	1·2
1928	*666,127	25·6	1,359,899	52·4	538,364	20·8	30,000	1·2
1929	*544,752	21·8	1,349,102	53·9	578,905	23·1	30,000	1·2

* Includes money at call.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

FORMED 1765. INCORPORATED 1865.

With this Bank have been incorporated the undermentioned companies and firms :—

1865—Lloyds and Co., Birmingham Old Bank.
1865—Moilliet and Sons, Birmingham.
1865—P. and H. Williams, Wednesbury Old Bank.
1866—Stevenson, Salt and Co., Stafford Old Bank.
1866—Warwick and Leamington Banking Co.
1868—A. Butlin and Son, Rugby Old Bank.
1872—R. and W. F. Fryer, Wolverhampton Old Bank.
1874—Shropshire Banking Co.
1879—Coventry and Warwickshire Banking Co.
1880—Beck and Co., Shrewsbury and Welshpool Old Bank.
1884—Barnetts, Hoares and Co., London.
1884—Bosanquet, Salt and Co., London.
1888—Pritchard, Gordon and Co., Broseley and Bridgnorth.
1889—Birmingham Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
1889—Worcester City and County Banking Co., Limited.
1890—Wilkins and Co., Old Bank, Brecon, Cardiff, &c.
1890—Beechings and Co., Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, &c.
1891—Praeds and Co., London.
1891—Cobb and Co., Margate, &c.
1891—Hart, Fellows and Co., Nottingham.
1892—R. Twining and Co., London.
1892—Bristol and West of England Bank, Limited.
1893—Curteis, Pomfret and Co., Rye.
1893—Herries, Farquhar and Co., London.
1894—Bromage and Co., Old Bank, Monmouth.
1895—Paget and Co., Leicester Bank.
1897—County of Gloucester Bank, Limited.
1897—Williams and Co., Chester, &c.
1898—Jenner and Co., Sandgate and Shorncliffe Bank.
1899—Burton Union Bank, Limited.
1899—Stephens, Blandy and Co., Reading, &c.
1900—Vivian, Kitson and Co., Torquay Bank.
1900—Liverpool Union Bank, Limited.

CAPITAL (December 31, 1929).

	Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
	£	£	£	£	April 30, 1930.
"A" shares....	71,864,780	14,372,956	3,593,239	53,898,585	£44,556,000
"B" shares ...	1,437,296	1,437,296	Nil	Nil	£1,581,000
	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
	£5	£1	5s.	£3 15s.	£3 2s. 0d.
	£1	£1	Nil.	Nil.	£1 2s. 0d.

1900—Cunliffes, Brooks and Co., Manchester, &c.
1900—Brooks and Co., London.
1900—William Williams, Brown and Co., Leeds.
1900—Brown, Janson and Co., London.
1902—Bucks. and Oxon. Union Bank, Limited.
1902—Pomfret, Burra and Co., Ashford Bank.
1903—Hodgkin, Barnett and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, &c.
1903—Grant and Maddison's Union Banking Co., Limited.
1905—Hedges, Wells and Co., Wallingford Bank.
1906—Devon and Cornwall Banking Co., Limited.
1908—Lambton and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, &c.
1909—David Jones and Co., Llandovery, &c.
1911—Hill and Sons, West Smithfield, E.C., &c.
1912—Peacock, Willson & Co., Sleaford, &c.
1914—Wilts. and Dorset Banking Co., Limited.
1918—Capital and Counties Bank, Limited.
1919—West Yorkshire Bank, Limited.
1921—Fox, Fowler and Co., Wellington (Som.), &c.
1923—Cox and Co., London, &c.
1923—Henry S. King and Co., London, &c.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserves, etc.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1911	884,620	0·91	716,910	18¾	167,500	78,138
1912	991,413	0·95	718,324	18¾	275,000	76,226
1913	1,183,912	1·11	718,324	18¾	465,000	76,814
1914	1,175,590	0·88	837,844	18¾	310,000	104,558
1915	1,259,190	0·84	786,779	18¾	470,000	106,969
1916	1,283,798	0·75	703,562	18¾	580,000	107,205
1917	1,463,126	0·75	680,866	18¾	600,000	289,464
1918	2,358,381	0·79	1,014,631	18¾ Bonus 1¼	1,160,460	472,755
1919	2,876,302	0·76	1,293,637	18¾ Bonus 1¼	1,550,000	505,420
1920	3,237,741	0·83	1,649,297	*16⅔	1,550,000	543,864
1921	2,529,124	0·66	1,676,845	16⅔	850,000	546,143
1922	2,068,875	0·55	1,766,675	16⅔	350,000	498,343
1923	2,047,116	0·53	1,841,535	16⅔	200,000	503,923
1924	2,468,934	0·64	1,856,506	16⅔	600,000	516,351
1925	2,569,366	0·67	1,901,422	†16⅔	650,000	534,295
1926	2,523,582	0·65	1,973,886	A 16⅔ B 5	550,000	533,992
1927	2,475,674	0·58	1,973,886	A 16⅔ B 5	550,000	485,780
1928	2,528,143	0·58	1,973,886	A 15⅝ B 5	550,000	490,037
1929	2,542,084	0·59	1,973,886	A 16⅔ B 5	550,000	508,235

* After re-arrangement of the capital, this dividend is the equivalent of the previous rate. † Also share bonus.

Continued on page 27.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED—*Continued from page 26.*

LIABILITIES.

Year ended December 31.	Number of Offices.	Paid-up Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances and Endorsements.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.
		£		£		£		£		£
1895	201	2,780,000	8·7	142,894	0·4	434,161	1·4	28,786,096	89·5	32,143,151
1905	496	6,151,600	9·0	421,843	0·7	3,894,901	5·7	57,609,599	84·6	68,077,943
1910	589	7,171,600	7·6	433,927	0·5	8,227,468	8·7	78,116,468	83·2	93,949,463
1911	612	7,108,672	7·3	437,299	0·4	5,939,819	6·1	84,221,328	86·2	97,707,118
1912	620	7,108,672	6·8	435,388	0·4	7,889,140	7·5	89,396,993	85·3	104,830,193
1913	679	7,208,672	6·8	435,976	0·4	7,462,309	7·0	91,511,992	85·8	106,618,949
1914	880	8,608,672	6·5	515,914	0·4	6,226,218	4·7	117,657,945	88·4	133,008,749
1915	893	8,608,672	5·8	487,120	0·3	9,497,082	6·4	130,017,379	87·5	148,610,253
1916	890	8,608,672	5·0	447,638	0·3	11,207,870	6·5	151,368,307	88·2	171,632,487
1917	887	9,008,672	4·6	629,898	0·3	10,375,536	5·3	174,068,047	89·8	194,082,153
1918	1,389	17,954,056	6·0	1,158,300	0·4	14,764,992	4·9	266,808,139	88·7	300,685,487
1919	1,486	19,095,649	5·1	1,226,681	0·3	32,079,843	8·5	324,711,756	86·1	377,113,929
1920	1,530	24,137,796	6·2	1,368,569	0·4	17,867,530	4·6	345,028,984	88·8	388,402,879
1921	1,593	24,372,956	6·4	1,384,566	0·4	8,174,114	2·1	347,507,410	91·1	381,439,046
1922	1,613	24,372,956	6·5	1,396,652	0·4	15,560,149	4·1	330,556,815	89·0	371,886,572
1923	1,649	24,372,956	6·3	1,432,177	0·4	19,176,523	5·0	340,168,551	88·3	385,150,207
1924	1,667	24,372,956	6·3	1,444,604	0·4	22,701,941	5·8	339,989,727	87·5	388,509,228
1925	1,685	24,372,956	6·4	1,492,492	0·4	20,686,775	5·4	337,178,515	87·8	383,730,738
1926	1,712	25,810,252	6·6	1,520,935	0·4	16,950,606	4·3	346,132,523	88·7	390,414,316
1927	1,772	25,810,252	6·0	1,472,723	0·3	43,768,116	10·2	357,189,821	83·5	428,240,912
1928	1,813	25,810,252	5·9	1,476,980	0·3	60,341,184	13·7	352,161,962	80·1	439,790,378
1929	1,853	25,810,252	6·0	1,495,178	0·3	52,226,285	12·1	351,650,804	81·6	431,182,519
Weekly Averages, Mar., 1930		25,810,000	6·5	...	...	47,175,000	11·8	326,436,000	81·7	399,421,000

ASSETS.

Year ended December 31.	Cash in Hand and at Bank, etc. (a)	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments. (b)	Per Cent.	Bills of Exchange.	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1895	3,602,508	11·2	2,978,076	9·3	7,153,615	22·2	3,554,558	11·1	13,730,911	42·7	1,123,483	3·5
1905	9,960,617	14·7	4,419,852	6·5	10,657,118	15·7	7,374,926	10·8	30,194,866	44·3	5,470,564	8·0
1910	14,104,395	15·0	5,498,865	5·8	11,709,417	12·5	8,758,707	9·3	43,741,880	46·6	10,136,199	10·8
1911	14,168,939	14·5	7,365,183	7·5	11,092,356	11·3	10,810,515	11·1	46,305,979	47·4	7,964,145	8·2
1912	15,582,549	14·8	8,446,919	8·1	10,979,213	10·5	9,481,148	9·1	50,347,649	48·0	9,992,715	9·5
1913	16,176,860	15·1	8,617,330	8·1	10,456,561	9·8	10,829,874	10·2	50,871,241	47·8	9,667,083	9·0
1914	24,634,181	18·6	10,072,645	7·5	16,373,142	12·3	13,420,193	10·1	59,439,647	44·7	9,068,941	6·8
1915	30,419,416	20·4	3,964,170	2·7	42,825,433	28·8	4,042,326	2·7	55,008,883	37·1	12,350,025	8·3
1916	38,115,549	22·3	6,430,339	3·7	41,882,389	24·4	15,306,653	8·9	55,856,841	32·5	14,040,716	8·2
1917	34,684,836	17·8	7,191,892	3·7	37,760,074	19·4	39,901,359	20·6	61,466,709	31·8	13,077,283	6·7
1918	48,767,706	16·2	15,570,977	5·1	62,522,683	20·8	74,340,196	24·8	81,072,135	27·0	18,411,790	6·1
1919	57,587,215	15·2	14,621,756	3·9	75,765,779	20·1	57,491,864	15·2	135,763,591	36·1	35,883,724	9·5
1920	51,153,076	13·2	14,747,688	3·8	73,376,529	18·9	76,037,123	19·6	151,079,174	38·8	22,009,289	5·7
1921	50,296,370	13·3	15,952,886	4·2	80,996,736	21·2	90,619,462	23·7	130,847,130	34·3	12,726,462	3·3
1922	47,234,842	12·7	17,310,497	4·6	99,085,269	26·8	64,405,252	17·3	123,388,679	33·1	20,462,033	5·5
1923	50,629,775	13·1	15,979,470	4·1	98,489,682	25·5	54,403,792	14·1	141,405,774	36·9	24,241,714	6·3
1924	53,343,189	13·7	21,913,353	5·6	76,497,001	19·7	43,890,956	11·3	164,714,331	42·5	28,150,398	7·2
1925	51,548,595	13·5	20,507,062	5·3	60,303,790	15·7	41,624,130	10·9	183,330,726	47·7	26,416,435	6·9
1926	55,641,977	14·2	16,458,305	4·2	53,038,139	13·6	47,182,971	12·1	194,757,519	49·9	23,335,405	6·0
1927	57,945,584	13·5	27,797,328	6·5	46,149,711	10·8	52,048,834	12·1	187,798,225	43·9	56,501,230	13·2
1928	55,457,101	12·6	29,005,684	6·6	44,553,811	10·1	49,281,472	11·2	194,373,479	44·2	67,118,831	15·3
1929	57,002,848	13·2	31,150,461	7·2	43,868,232	10·2	39,625,277	9·2	200,351,693	46·5	59,184,008	13·7
Weekly Averages, Mar., 1930	45,962,000	11·5	26,940,000	6·7	41,290,000	10·3	32,145,000	8·1	x 198,838,000	49·8	54,246,000	13·6

a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom. *b* Includes investments in affiliations.
x Includes Balances in account with Subsidiary Companies. Items in transit, and other Assets and Accounts.

LONDON MERCHANT BANK, LIMITED.

Late LONDON AND HANSEATIC BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

The Bank has no Branches.

By a special resolution passed on February 3, 1916, the minimum number of directors was reduced from 12 to 4.

	Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
	£	£	£	£	April 30, 1930.
Capital	1,350,000	825,000	525,000	Nil.	£718,100
	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
	"A" £5	£5	Nil.	Nil.	£5½
	"B" £7	£3 10s.	£3 10s.	...	2⅛

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1910	68,704	1·19	50,000	8	16,000	19,800
1915	38,989	0·92	37,500	5	...	26,932
1916	39,823	0·99	37,500	5	...	29,255
1917	40,329	1·11	37,500	5	...	32,084
1918	41,227	...	37,500	5	...	35,811
1919	61,733	1·69	45,000	6	...	52,544
1920	60,044	1·46	45,000	6	...	67,588
1921	46,195	1·21	45,000	6	50,000	18,783
1922	36,876	1·07	18,750	2½	36,909	Nil.
1923	24,576	0·70	3,656	"A" 7	...	20,902
1924	71,807	1·46	44,801	"A" 7 "B" 5	25,000	22,906
1925	76,318	1·47	47,250	"A" 7 "B" 5	25,000	26,994
1926	70,216	1·59	47,250	"A" 7 "B" 5	25,000	24,960
1927	67,011	1·37	47,250	"A" 7 "B" 5	20,000	24,721
1928	71,845	1·26	47,250	"A" 7 "B" 5	20,000	29,317
1929	74,419	1·35	47,250	"A" 7 "B" 5	25,000	31,485

LIABILITIES.

Year Ended Dec. 31	Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Rebate.	Per Cent.	Deposit & Current Accounts (inc. Pensions Fund)	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.
	£		£		£		£		£		£
1890...	487,000	20·1	25,015	1·2	...	...	1,581	...	*1,899,018	78·7	2,412,614
1900...	525,000	18·2	38,590	1·3	...	...	1,155	...	*2,323,254	80·5	2,887,990
1905...	550,000	17·4	28,136	0·9	2,504,629	79·0	1,362	...	89,162	2·7	3,173,289
1910...	860,000	14·9	67,051	1·2	4,196,683	72·9	3,676	...	637,784	11·0	5,765,194
1911...	875,000	12·0	72,549	1·0	5,120,006	70·6	1,277	...	1,198,164	16·4	7,266,996
1912...	895,000	11·4	85,536	1·1	5,447,003	69·7	2,979	...	1,391,755	17·8	7,822,273
1913...	1,100,000	13·2	64,891	0·8	5,749,836	68·5	3,616	...	1,460,054	17·5	8,378,397
1914...	1,100,000	20·1	47,943	0·9	4,126,415	75·5	2,155	...	192,653	3·5	5,469,166
1915...	1,100,000	26·0	45,682	1·1	2,877,206	68·6	1,478	...	182,147	4·3	4,206,513
1916...	1,100,000	27·4	48,005	1·2	2,471,913	61·5	2,888	0·1	393,638	9·8	4,016,444
1917...	1,100,000	30·3	50,834	1·4	2,131,601	58·6	292	...	352,420	9·7	3,635,147
1918...	1,100,000	31·9	73,312	2·1	1,911,497	55·2	328	...	374,851	10·8	3,459,988
1919...	1,100,000	30·4	78,794	2·2	1,988,340	54·6	1,001	...	464,492	12·8	3,632,627
1920...	1,100,000	26·4	93,838	2·2	2,259,618	54·0	2,418	...	718,957	17·4	4,174,831
1921...	1,100,000	28·7	45,033	1·2	1,562,314	41·0	...	...	1,117,547	29·1	3,824,894
1922...	750,000	21·8	...	...	1,608,687	46·6	a242,227	7·0	846,997	24·6	3,447,911
1923...	789,545	22·7	24,576	0·7	1,806,877	51·9	...	...	860,542	24·7	3,481,540
1924...	790,015	16·1	38,676	0·8	3,093,894	63·0	...	...	987,073	20·1	4,909,658
1925...	825,000	15·8	42,744	0·8	3,224,434	61·9	...	...	1,119,862	21·5	5,212,040
1926...	825,000	18·7	40,710	0·9	2,068,502	46·9	...	...	1,476,824	33·5	4,411,036
1927...	825,000	16·9	40,471	0·8	2,614,522	53·7	...	...	1,393,204	28·6	4,873,197
1928...	825,000	14·5	45,066	0·8	3,377,291	59·4	...	...	1,437,214	25·3	5,684,571
1929...	825,000	14·9	47,235	0·9	3,293,152	59·6	...	...	1,356,754	24·6	5,522,141

ASSETS.

Year Ended Dec. 31	Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises and Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£	
1890...	42,893	1·8	225,000	9·3	221,450	9·1	1,923,169	79·0	100	...
1900...	49,456	1·7	301,600	10·5	211,179	7·3	2,325,754	80·5	10	...
1905...	68,930	2·2	315,000	9·9	209,072	6·6	2,580,277	81·3	...	...
1910...	42,765	0·7	509,000	8·8	284,380	4·9	4,929,049	85·6	...	...
1911...	33,925	0·5	640,000	8·8	307,199	4·2	6,285,872	86·5	...	...
1912...	103,007	1·3	632,600	8·1	276,005	3·5	6,810,661	87·1	...	...
1913...	52,867	0·6	532,700	6·4	311,217	3·7	7,481,613	89·3	...	...
1914...	47,638	0·9	398,540	7·3	340,742	6·2	4,682,246	85·6	...	...
1915...	39,272	0·9	183,000	4·4	309,968	7·3	3,674,273	87·4	...	...
1916...	54,608	1·4	160,000	4·0	286,903	7·1	3,514,933	87·5	...	...
1917...	54,484	1·5	160,000	4·4	250,500	6·9	3,170,163	87·2	...	...
1918...	63,705	1·8	145,000	4·2	188,547	5·5	3,062,736	88·5	...	...
1919...	46,944	1·3	186,000	5·1	114,924	3·1	3,284,759	90·5	...	...
1920...	106,000	2·5	135,000	3·2	106,932	2·5	3,826,899	91·8	...	...
1921...	106,999	2·8	150,000	3·9	72,568	1·9	1,933,013	50·4	1,562,314	41·0
1922...	135,590	3·9	350,000	10·2	86,068	2·5	1,267,566	36·8	1,608,687	46·6
1923...	84,312	2·4	305,000	8·8	267,901	7·7	972,969	27·9	1,851,358	53·2
1924...	93,860	1·9	530,000	10·8	181,338	3·7	967,167	19·6	3,137,293	64·0
1925...	65,186	1·3	735,000	14·1	158,519	3·0	986,614	18·9	3,266,721	62·7
1926...	115,890	2·6	845,000	19·2	148,414	3·4	1,192,098	27·0	2,109,634	47·8
1927...	69,511	1·4	715,000	14·7	166,519	3·4	1,266,267	26·0	2,655,900	54·5
1928...	74,544	1·3	705,000	12·4	162,753	2·9	1,324,901	23·3	3,417,373	60·1
1929...	80,237	1·5	979,293	17·8	165,101	3·0	965,622	17·6	3,331,888	60·1

* Includes acceptances. *a* Advances under Government Scheme of Sept., 1914, since liquidated.

MARTINS BANK, LIMITED.

Member of the London Bankers' Clearing House.

ESTABLISHED in 1831 as the Bank of Liverpool.

Absorbed :—

1883—Arthur Heywood, Sons and Co., Liverpool.
1889—Liverpool Commercial Banking Co., Limited.
1893—Wakefield, Crewdson and Co., Kendal, &c.
1906—Craven Bank, Limited.
1911—Carlisle and Cumberland Banking Co., Limited.
1914—North-Eastern Banking Co., Limited.
1918—Martins Bank, Limited, London; and name changed to Bank of Liverpool and Martins, Limited.
1919—Palatine Bank, Limited, Manchester.
1919—Cocks, Biddulph and Co., London.
1920—Halifax Commercial Banking Co., Limited.
1923—Cattle Trade Bank, Limited, Birkenhead.
1927—Equitable Bank, Limited.
1928—Amalgamated with Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited; and name changed to Martins Bank, Limited.

Continued on page 28.

MARTINS BANK, LIMITED—*Continued from page 27.*

CAPITAL

On completion of amalgamation with Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank.

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	£
20,602,272	4,160,042	5,167,558	11,274,672	12,890,100
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
939,556 shares of £20	£2 10s.	£5 10s.	£12	£7 11/16
1,811,152 shares of £1	£1	...	...	£3 9/32

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year ended Dec. 31,	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends—Amount. £	Dividends—Rate. %	Reserve, Investments, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1919	325,320	0·38	*171,911	8	150,000	114,288
1920	735,948	0·80	375,822	16	350,000	124,414
1921	548,528	0·63	375,822	16	150,000	147,119
1922	504,802	0·63	375,822	16	150,000	126,099
1923	486,965	0·63	375,822	16	100,000	137,242
1924	530,442	0·72	375,822	16	150,000	141,862
1925	572,316	0·81	375,822	16	200,000	138,356
1926	542,731	0·77	375,822	16	200,000	105,265
1927	555,229	0·75	383,822	16	175,000	101,671
1928	825,434	0·68	665,607	16	150,000	111,499
1929	836,240	0·85	665,607	16	150,000	131,132

* Half-year.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank, &c. a	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills of Exchange.	Per Cent.	Short Loans on Stocks and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings & Sundries including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1920	312	3,748,890	4·1	313,318	0·3	6,518,294	7·1	81,206,768	88·5	91,787,270	12,604,557	13·7	9,973,071	10·9	14,159,582	15·4	7,081,836	7·7	40,185,509	43·8	7,782,715	8·5
1921	320	3,748,890	4·3	336,447	0·4	3,683,244	4·3	78,645,611	91·0	86,414,192	9,509,230	11·0	10,665,851	12·3	15,840,532	18·3	5,307,605	6·1	40,015,644	46·4	5,075,330	5·9
1922	335	3,848,890	4·8	315,028	0·4	7,290,049	9·1	68,301,352	85·7	79,755,319	11,261,658	14·1	6,041,418	7·6	12,500,425	15·6	4,459,005	5·6	36,759,400	46·2	8,733,413	10·9
1923	355	3,948,890	5·1	326,095	0·4	7,852,472	10·2	64,537,818	84·3	76,665,275	10,437,199	13·6	4,888,198	6·4	10,131,320	13·2	3,944,024	5·1	37,927,980	49·5	9,336,554	12·2
1924	366	4,048,890	5·5	330,817	0·4	8,254,768	11·2	61,290,020	82·9	73,924,495	10,217,143	13·8	3,606,664	4·9	9,503,748	12·9	3,415,813	4·6	37,431,444	50·6	9,749,683	13·2
1925	379	4,198,890	5·9	327,355	0·5	6,618,372	9·3	59,819,627	84·3	70,964,244	9,693,871	13·7	4,741,132	6·7	8,677,097	12·2	4,315,722	6·1	35,413,245	49·9	8,123,177	11·4
1926	389	4,348,890	6·2	294,189	0·4	6,078,122	8·6	59,819,326	84·8	70,540,527	8,046,100	11·4	5,826,728	8·3	9,349,216	13·2	2,981,480	4·2	36,702,937	52·1	7,634,066	10·8
1927	*417	4,698,890	6·3	298,731	0·4	6,389,255	8·6	62,890,872	84·7	74,277,748	9,976,920	13·4	6,679,533	9·0	10,421,736	14·0	2,646,294	3·6	36,572,971	49·3	7,980,294	10·7
1928	560	7,617,914	7·5	445,915	0·4	10,949,041	10·7	82,932,881	81·4	101962502	12,116,604	11·9	5,420,745	5·3	25,104,768	24·6	3,702,147	3·6	42,600,479	41·8	13,017,759	12·8
1929	564	7,667,914	7·8	464,935	0·4	7,184,161	7·4	82,620,494	84·4	97,953,529	13,309,171	13·6	6,278,861	6·4	17,807,868	18·2	7,232,087	7·4	43,942,731	44·8	9,382,811	9·6
Weekly Averages Mar., 1930		7,668,000	8·6	...	...	6,494,000	7·3	74,622,000	84·0	88,800,000	10,539,000	11·9	4,292,000	4·8	17,019,000	19·2	3,258,000	3·7	44,945,000	50·6	8,747,000	9·9

a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom. * Exclusive of Lancashire and Yorkshire Branches.

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.

Member of the London Bankers' Clearing House.

ESTABLISHED 1836 as The Birmingham and Midland Bank.

Amalgamations and absorptions have been as follows:—

1851—Bate and Robins, Stourbridge.
1862—Nichols, Baker and Crane, Bewdley.
1883—Union Bank of Birmingham, Limited.
1889—Coventry Union Banking Co.
1889—Leamington Priors and Warwickshire Banking Co., Limited.
1890—Leeds and County Bank, Limited.
1890—Derby Commercial Bank, Limited.
1890—Exchange and Discount Bank, Limited, Leeds.
1891—Central Bank of London, Limited. New title—The London and Midland Bank, Limited.
1891—Lacy, Hartland, Woodbridge and Co., West Smithfield.
1892—Manchester Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
1893—Bank of Westmorland, Limited.
1894—Preston Banking Co., Limited.
1896—Carlisle City and District Banking Co., Limited.
1897—Channel Islands Bank, Limited.
1897—Huddersfield Banking Co., Limited.
1897—North-Western Bank, Limited.
1898—Oldham Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
1898—City Bank, Limited. New title—The London City and Midland Bank, Limited.
1899—City of Birmingham Bank, Limited.
1900—Leicestershire Banking Co., Limited.
1901—Sheffield Union Banking Co., Limited.
1901—Yorkshire Banking Co., Limited.
1905—Nottingham Joint Stock Bank, Limited.
1908—North and South Wales Bank, Limited.
1910—Bradford Banking Co., Limited.
1913—Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank, Limited.
1913—Lincoln and Lindsey Banking Co., Limited.
1914—Metropolitan Bank (of England and Wales), Limited.
1917—Belfast Banking Co., Limited. Purchase of share capital.
1918—London Joint Stock Bank, Limited. New title—London Joint City and Midland Bank, Limited.
1920—Clydesdale Bank, Limited. Purchase of share capital.
1923—New title—Midland Bank, Limited.
1924—North of Scotland Bank, Limited. Purchase of share capital.

CAPITAL, April, 1930.

Authorised. No. of Shares.	Authorised. Denomination.	Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1930.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2,869,079	12	34,428,948	7,172,697½	7,172,697½	20,083,553	26,180,300
2,000,000	2½	4,804,192½	4,804,192½	Nil	Nil	18,135,800
5,771,052	1	*1,456,078	*1,456,078	Nil	Nil	5,505,800
		Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share
...	...	£12	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	£7	£9½
...	...	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	Nil	Nil	£9 1/16
...	...	£1	£1	Nil	Nil	£3 13/16

* New £1 shares have been offered to shareholders at £2 per share in the proportion of one new share for every £20 of paid-up capital.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits, less tax—Amount £	Net Profits, less tax—% of Resources at end of Year.	Dividend, less tax. Amount. £	Rate. %	Allocations to Reserve and other Funds. £	Carried Forward. £
1911 ...	788,754	0·87	718,062	*18	50,000	122,993
1912 ...	968,063	0·98	718,062	*18	240,000	132,993
1913 ...	1,161,410	1·07	750,410	*18	396,000	147,993
1914 ...	1,079,086	0·76	785,794	‡18	20,000	421,285
1915 ...	1,130,976	0·68	745,803	18	692,860	113,598
1916 ...	1,429,362	0·75	666,921	18	632,501	243,538
1917 ...	1,663,197	0·69	672,950	18	500,000	733,785
1918 ...	2,211,198	0·61	919,886	18	1,350,000	675,098
1919 ...	2,354,258	0·56	1,052,503	18	1,250,000	726,852
1920 ...	2,831,861	0·67	1,367,094	18	1,450,000	741,619
1921 ...	2,454,084	0·59	1,368,449	18	1,050,000	777,253
1922 ...	2,253,492	0·56	1,441,778	18	800,000	788,967
1923 ...	2,210,972	0·53	1,502,870	18	700,000	797,069
1924 ...	2,424,993	0·58	1,670,594	18	750,000	801,467
1925 ...	2,522,469	0·61	1,760,770	18	750,000	813,166
1926 ...	2,535,730	0·59	1,823,874	18	700,000	825,022
1927 ...	2,554,650	0·58	1,823,874	18	720,000	835,797
1928 ...	2,656,554	0·53	1,923,788	18	720,000	848,563
1929 ...	2,665,042	0·60	1,934,347	18	720,000	859,258

* Free of income-tax. ‡ 1914, first half, free, second half, less tax.

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.

December 31.	Number of Offices, Dec. 31.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserve Fund.	Per Cent.	Profit Balance and Dividend Payable.	Per Cent.	Acceptances, &c.	Per Cent.	Current Deposit and Other Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank of England.	Per Cent.	Money at Call and Short Notice. (a).	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted.	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1900	315	5,046,450	11·1	515,670	1·1	1,920,406	4·2	37,844,949	83·6	45,327,475	6,996,216	15·4	6,057,998	13·4	5,568,589	12·3	4,118,627	9·1	19,773,977	43·6	3,812,068	6·2
1906	485	6,285,700	9·9	454,373	0·7	4,578,991	7·2	52,223,799	82·2	63,542,863	9,783,832	15·4	8,299,375	13·2	6,745,001	10·6	4,733,489	7·4	28,040,495	44·1	5,940,671	9·3
1907	499	6,285,700	9·8	454,914	0·7	3,962,775	6·2	53,282,061	83·3	63,985,450	11,340,058	17·7	6,734,961	10·6	6,629,335	10·4	4,945,360	7·7	28,992,425	45·2	5,343,311	8·4
1908	630	7,218,290	9·1	518,042	0·7	5,103,990	6·4	66,974,403	83·8	79,814,725	11,654,202	14·7	9,190,416	11·5	9,530,320	12·0	8,503,128	10·7	34,002,461	42·5	6,884,198	8·6
1909	659	7,218,290	8·8	521,659	0·7	5,128,918	6·2	69,644,520	84·4	82,513,387	13,063,800	15·8	9,868,196	12·0	8,988,303	10·9	6,795,327	8·2	36,897,233	44·7	6,900,528	8·4
1910	689	7,579,552	8·6	461,332	0·5	6,461,941	7·4	73,414,509	83·5	87,917,334	13,332,567	16·2	9,810,744	11·0	8,697,124	9·9	6,686,140	7·6	41,088,146	46·8	8,302,613	9·5
1911	716	7,379,552	8·1	482,024	0·5	6,037,094	6·6	77,707,785	84·6	91,606,455	13,690,685	14·9	9,806,744	10·7	8,757,243	9·6	7,883,357	8·6	43,434,769	47·4	8,033,657	8·8
1912	768	7,379,552	7·5	492,023	0·5	6,741,032	6·9	83,664,327	85·1	98,276,934	13,877,240	14·1	10,412,539	10·6	8,289,211	8·4	10,460,534	10·6	46,441,982	47·4	8,795,428	8·9
1913	867	8,048,650	7·4	539,371	0·5	6,162,612	5·7	93,833,580	86·4	108,584,213	17,241,279	15·9	11,946,769	11·0	7,824,892	7·2	11,790,641	10·8	51,309,563	47·3	8,471,069	7·8
1914	1,028	8,780,792	6·1	815,701	0·6	7,210,915	5·1	125,732,736	88·2	142,540,144	33,196,459	23·2	9,865,226	6·8	13,078,221	9·2	14,085,806	9·9	62,424,616	43·8	9,889,816	6·9
1915	1,063	8,780,792	5 3	473,950	0·3	9,157,602	5·5	147,750,702	88·9	166,163,046	30,881,201	18·6	8,651,258	5·2	38,829,434	23·4	9,961,546	6·0	65,921,541	39·6	11,918,066	7.2
1916	1,035	8,780,792	4·6	566,242	0·3	7,220,781	3·8	174,620,725	91·3	191,188,540	47,973,686	25·0	8,844,378	4·6	37,190,296	19·4	23,336,817	12·2	63,868,857	33·6	9,974,506	5·2
1917	1,026	9,531,666	4·0	1,084,032	0·5	8,826,866	3·7	220,551,768	91·8	239,994,332	44,110,354	18·4	31,003,560	12·9	36,254,814	15·1	35,052,992	14·6	81,155,897	33·8	b12,416,715	5·2
1918	1,362	14345395	3·9	1,126,977	0·3	13145849	3·6	334,898,436	92·2	363,516,657	63,756,371	17·6	67,810,656	18·6	61,600,652	17·0	39,249,296	10·8	113431816	31·2	b17,667,868	4·8

Continued on page 29.

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED.

Continued from page 28.

		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£		£	
1919	1,444	16,834,670	4·0	1,257,145	0·3	29,014,568	6·9	371,742,389	88·8	418,848,772	60,216,796	14·3	26,489,759	6·3	67,303,428	16·0	52,889,521	12·6	178,556,048	42·7	b33,393,219	8·1
1920	1,492	21,719,600	5·1	1,425,786	0·3	27,849,904	6·6	371,841,968	88·0	422,837,258	62,493,818	14·7	26,194,363	6·2	51,766,315	12·2	57,671,879	13·6	189,719,805	45·0	b34,991,078	8·3
1921	1,595	21,721,705	5·2	1,461,487	0·3	19,848,322	4·7	375,117,092	89·8	418,148,606	59,989,012	14·3	24,454,204	5·8	56,758,809	13·6	72,118,034	17·2	176,779,261	42·4	b28,049,286	6·8
1922	1,669	21,721,705	5·4	1,522,075	0·4	25,862,341	6·4	354,406,336	87·8	403,512,457	54,254,534	13·5	30,735,949	7·6	55,454,831	13·7	46,066,631	11·4	182,307,521	45·2	b34,692,991	8·6
1923	1,744	21,721,705	5·2	1,554,613	0·4	36,552,607	8·7	360,267,722	85·7	420,096,647	54,298,126	12·9	31,147,328	7·4	41,890,168	10·0	58,418,747	13·9	188,737,732	45·0	b45,604,546	10·8
1924	1,802	23,953,645	5·7	1,636,851	0·4	39,203,319	9·3	355,774,872	84·6	420,568,687	50,876,592	12·1	34,640,797	8·2	42,725,269	10·2	50,818,762	12·1	190,691,323	45·3	b50,815,944	12·1
1925	1,855	25,330,768	6·2	1,725,074	0·4	35,747,790	8·7	348,682,135	84·7	411,485,767	53,590,604	13·1	35,705,406	8·7	34,791,276	8·5	41,888,022	10·2	196,747,548	47·7	b48,762,911	11·8
1926	1,904	25,331,596	5·9	1,736,959	0·4	37,065,445	8·6	366,423,103	85·1	430,557,103	52,994,044	12·3	41,009,343	9·5	38,853,582	9·0	46,744,312	10·9	200,459,993	46·6	b50,495,829	11·7
1927	1,969	25,331,596	5·8	1,747,735	0·4	36,997,594	8·4	374,375,147	85·4	438,452,072	49,763,778	11·4	46,150,346	10·5	35,435,530	8·1	49,314,778	11·2	206,487,910	47·1	b51,299,730	11·7
1928	2,013	26,865,936	5·4	1,815,737	0·4	74,441,134	14·9	394,591,227	79·3	497,714,034	45,440,918	9·1	47,928,380	9·6	36,868,698	7·4	63,347,503	12·8	214,050,972	43·0	b90,077,563	18·1
1929	2,044	26,865,936	6·0	1,826,432	0·4	37,474,366	8·4	379,622,758	85·2	445,789,492	65,293,445	14·7	21,670,909	4·9	32,928,890	7·4	58,783,657	13·2	212,338,674	47·6	b54,773,916	12·2
Weekly Average. Mar., 1930		26,865,936	6·4	...	...	36,423,692	8·7	355,648,177	84·9	418,937,805	51,996,215	12·4	19,536,000	4·7	31,470,348	7·5	47,184,036	11·2	214,831,164	51.3	b53,919,675	12·9

(*a*) Including balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in Great Britain and Ireland. (*b*) Includes investments in affiliations.

THE MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1862.

1866—Absorbed Saddleworth Banking Co.
1871—Absorbed the Bank of Stockport.
1897—Absorbed Bank of Bolton, Limited.

CAPITAL

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value. April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	
5,460,200	1,092,040	273,010	4,095,150	£2,934,900
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£20	£4	£1	£15	£10¾

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends—Amount. £	Dividends—Rate. %	Reserves, &c. £	Carried. Forward £
1911	186,320	1·45	150,156	16·2	42,500	17,346
1912	192,378	1·43	154,706	15·4	32,806	21,302
1913	193,930	1·41	154,706	14·1	35,000	25,526
1914	171,043	1·27	150,155	13¾	...	46,413
1915	166,901	1·20	145,605	13½	...	67,708
1916	196,044	1·18	145,605	13½	57,951	60,197
1917	*197,952	1·12	154,706	14½	40,000	63,443
1918	206,415	1·04	*163,806	15	40,000	66,052
1919	240,372	0·82	163,807	15	70,000	72,618
1920	296,077	0·95	177,457	16¼	80,000	106,238
1921	260,953	0·90	177,456	16¼	100,000	89,735
1922	226,108	0·86	177,456	16¼	50,000	88,386
1923	190,105	0·78	177,456	16¼	10,000	91,035
1924	193,393	0·81	177,457	16¼	15,000	91,971
1925	199,319	0·86	177,457	16¼	20,000	93,834
1926	186,116	0·85	177,457	16¼	20,000	82,493
1927	188,860	0·87	177,456	16¼	15,000	78,897
1928	188,681	0·84	177,456	16¼	12,040	72,082
1929	181,225	0·86	177,456	16¼	...	75,851

* After bonus to staff.

Year ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Rebate.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand, at Call, and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills of Exchange, less Rebate.	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890	50	1,249,000	15·5	84,818	1·1	543,118	6·7	13,639	0·2	6,187,980	76·5	8,078,555	1,359,008	16·8	589,600	7·3	...	...	*6,039,947	74·8	90,000	1·1
1900	80	1,803,632	15·0	107,661	0·9	634,072	5·3	17,793	0·1	9,411,753	78·7	11,975,011	2,306,153	19·2	1,168,965	9·8	...	...	*8,324,393	69·5	175,000	1·5
1905	98	1,908,234	15·6	99,272	0·8	839,321	6·9	15,973	0·1	9,379,480	76·6	12,242,280	2,600,646	21·2	1,502,700	12·3	...	...	*7,124,613	58·2	1,014,321	8·3
1907	100	1,938,234	15·0	114,644	0·9	1,049,143	8·9	26,146	0·2	9,705,471	75·6	12,833,637	2,406,277	18·8	1,506,125	11·7	1,912,240	14·8	5,761,853	45·0	1,247,142	9·7
1908	101	1,958,234	15·8	114,123	0·9	575,968	4·7	...	...	9,701,653	78·6	12,349,978	2,647,918	21·4	1,549,360	12·5	2,177,518	17·2	5,203,214	42·5	771,968	6·3
1909	102	1,968,234	16·8	114,993	1·0	339,779	2·9	...	...	9,225,441	79·3	11,648,447	2,430,897	20·8	1,577,510	13·5	1,520,476	13·1	5,576,785	47·9	542,779	4·7
1910	103	1,988,234	16·3	119,538	1·0	728,268	6·9	...	...	9,339,025	76·7	12,175,065	2,919,954	23·9	1,578,340	13·0	1,479,335	12·2	5,259,169	43·2	938,267	7·7
1911	107	1,998,234	15·5	123,469	1·0	689,681	5·3	...	...	10,052,155	78·2	12,863,539	3,232,628	25·1	1,612,840	12·5	2,106,122	16·4	5,002,268	38·9	909,681	7·1
1912	108	2,002,040	14·9	99,251	0·7	685,883	5·1	...	...	10,701,060	79·3	13,488,234	3,272,647	24·4	1,742,000	13·0	2,323,489	17·3	5,229,215	48·5	920,883	6·8
1913	115	1,942,040	14·2	103,387	0·8	718,329	5·2	...	...	10,875,579	79·8	13,639,335	3,373,193	24·7	1,765,881	12·9	1,983,745	14·5	5,573,186	41·0	943,330	6·9
1914	119	1,942,040	14·4	121,282	0·9	369,452	2·7	...	...	11,047,391	82·0	13,480,165	4,272,078	31·8	1,877,738	13·9	1,401,835	10·4	5,284,063	39·1	644,451	4·8
1915	119	1,942,040	14·0	141,302	1·0	428,594	3·1	...	...	11,431,430	81·9	13,943,366	2,717,817	19·6	4,646,457	33·3	704,393	5·1	5,171,105	37·0	703,594	5·0
1916	120	1,932,040	11·6	183,539	1·1	1,299,795	7·8	...	...	13,181,812	79·5	16,607,186	4,191,087	25·1	4,391,011	26·4	1,750,490	10·5	4,699,803	28·5	1,574,795	9·5
1917	120	1,942,040	11·0	185,346	1·1	1,017,700	5·8	...	...	14,506,660	82·1	17,651,746	4,343,306	24·5	3,746,212	21·1	1,778,692	10·1	6,491,836	37·0	1,292,700	7·3
1918	120	1,942,040	9·5	189,129	0·9	506,126	2·4	...	...	17,679,775	87·2	20,317,070	5,434,490	26·7	3,810,278	18·8	4,439,006	21·9	5,852,170	28·8	781,126	3·8
1919	144	1,942,040	6·6	225,818	0·8	3,012,230	10·3	...	...	24,071,009	82·3	29,251,097	7,430,129	25·4	4,899,579	16·7	3,232,383	11·1	10,376,776	35·5	3,312,230	11·3
1920	150	1,942,040	6·2	283,063	0·9	1,325,358	4·2	...	...	27,673,512	88·7	31,223,973	5,048,014	16·2	4,749,579	15·2	3,915,389	12·6	15,785,633	50·5	1,725,358	5·5
1921	154	1,942,040	6·7	286,598	1·0	323,119	1·1	...	...	26,378,177	91·2	28,929,934	6,185,707	21·4	5,564,613	19·2	2,069,532	7·1	14,386,963	49·8	723,119	2·5
1922	158	2,042,040	7·8	235,193	0·9	337,784	1·3	...	...	23,760,827	90·0	26,375,844	4,841,103	18·4	5,988,111	22·7	1,595,902	6·1	13,212,944	50·0	737,784	2·8
1923	160	2,092,040	8·5	190,992	0·8	611,229	2·5	...	...	21,560,559	88·2	24,454,820	3,050,478	12·5	5,939,397	24·2	1,010,470	4·1	13,443,246	55·1	1,011,229	4·1
1924	163	2,102,040	8·8	197,412	0·8	664,072	2·8	...	...	20,991,160	87·6	23,954,684	4,320,158	18·1	4,448,397	18·6	1,141,792	4·7	12,980,265	54·1	1,064,072	4·5
1925	167	2,117,040	9·2	205,796	0·9	574,419	2·5	...	...	20,211,047	87·4	23,108,302	3,978,857	17·2	4,065,898	17·6	1,071,559	4·6	13,017,569	56·4	974,419	4·2
1926	172	2,137,040	9·8	192,902	0·9	337,857	1·5	...	...	19,248,593	87·8	21,916,392	3,782,687	17·3	4,065,897	18·6	865,833	4·0	12,464,118	56·7	737,857	3·4
1927	176	2,157,040	9·9	184,345	0·8	305,850	1·4	...	...	19,178,500	87·9	21,825,735	3,900,361	17·9	4,215,897	19·3	771,310	3·5	12,132,317	55·6	805,850	3·7
1928	182	2,172,040	9·7	174,597	0·8	560,071	2·5	...	...	19,587,527	87·0	22,494,235	5,381,752	23·9	4,207,647	18·7	849,083	3·8	10,995,681	48·9	1,060,072	4·7
1929	188	2,184,080	10·3	166,423	0·8	499,103	2·4	...	...	18,281,581	86·5	21,131,187	4,386,990	20·7	4,221,639	19·9	570,558	2·7	10,952,898	51·8	999,102	4·9

* Includes bills of exchange.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED.

Member of London Clearing.

Established in 1833 as the National Provincial Bank of England, and registered as limited in 1880; the Union of London and Smiths Bank was established in 1839, and registered as limited in 1882. Amalgamation took place under title of National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, as from December 31, 1917, and on February 15, 1924, name changed as above. As from December 31, 1917, the Bradford District Bank, Limited, as from December 31, 1918, the Sheffield Banking Company, Limited, and as from December 31, 1919, the Northamptonshire Union Bank, Limited, were acquired. From January 1, 1920, Messrs. Coutts and Co. became affiliated, December 31, 1919, Messrs Richards and Co., Llangollen, and June 30, 1920, Messrs. Shilson, Coode and Co., St. Austell, and as from June 30, 1921, Messrs. Dingley and Co., of Launceston, and Messrs. Dingley, Pearse and Co., of Okehampton, were acquired. December 31, 1923, the Guernsey Banking Co., Limited, and the business of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., December 31, 1923, were acquired, the latter undertaking being continued as a private limited company.

CAPITAL

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	
43,617,080	9,479,416	5,839,611	28,298,053	£32,656,500
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£25	£3 10s.	£4 16s. 8d.	£16 13s. 4d.	£11¾
£20	£4	£2 13s. 4d.	£13 6s. 8d.	£13¾
£5	£5	nil.	nil.	£18⅝

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends—Amount. £	Dividends—Rate. %	Reserves, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1919..........	2,265,483	0·83	1,121,942	16	1,000,000	630,859
1920..........	2,762,513	0·92	1,369,302	16	1,200,000	824,070
1921..........	2,054,686	0·70	1,489,507	16	500,000	889,250
1922..........	1,854,190	0·64	1,489,507	16	321,959	931,975
1923..........	1,791,287	0·61	1,489,507	16	300,000	933,755
1924..........	1,974,043	0·68	1,516,707	16	479,416	911,675
1925..........	2,161,580	0·77	1,706,295	18	450,000	916,960
1926..........	2,115,654	0·73	1,706,295	18	450,000	876,319
1927..........	2,093,452	0·69	1,706,295	18	400,000	863,476
1928..........	2,108,654	0·64	1,706,295	18	400,000	865,846
1929..........	2,189,704	0·72	1,706,295	18	500,000	849,255

Continued on page 30.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED—*Continued from page* 29.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank, &c. a	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments. b	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1919	880	15,045,905	5·5	630,859	0·2	5,968,448	2·2	251,751,125	92·1	273,396,337	35,685,632	13·1	10,997,504	4·0	53,531,285	19·6	164,305,656	60·1	8,876,260	3·2
1920	1,003	18,187,457	6·0	824,070	0·3	4,404,104	1·5	278,335,366	92·2	301,750,997	41,954,105	13·9	11,850,947	3·9	56,437,173	18·7	183,439,432	60·8	8,069,340	2·7
1921	1,005	18,187,457	6·2	889,250	0·3	2,863,921	1·0	272,933,344	92·5	294,873,972	45,050,674	15·3	12,294,328	4·2	48,109,727	16·4	182,666,169	61·8	6,753,074	2·3
1922	1,070	18,309,416	6·3	931,974	0·3	7,909,282	2·7	263,037,483	90·7	290,188,155	41,613,577	14·3	13,900,102	4·8	55,317,905	18·9	167,334,766	57·8	12,021,805	4·2
1923	1,098	18,309,416	6·2	933,755	0·3	10,708,228	3·6	263,786,055	89·9	293,737,454	40,806,749	13·9	15,872,368	5·4	54,188,932	18·4	167,918,446	57·2	14,950,959	5·1
1924	1,116	18,958,832	6·6	911,675	0·3	12,948,373	4·5	254,921,144	88·6	287,740,024	40,427,702	14·0	15,997,119	5·5	45,750,570	15·9	168,336,808	58·6	17,227,825	6·0
1925	1,130	18,958,832	6·7	916,960	0·3	10,025,151	3·5	252,737,817	89·5	282,638,760	38,188,662	13·5	18,358,868	6·5	42,115,503	14·9	169,498,176	60·0	14,477,551	5·1
1926	1,171	18,958,832	6·6	876,319	0·3	9,166,822	3·2	259,249,807	89·9	288,251,780	37,930,824	13·2	18,769,651	6·5	40,098,804	13·9	177,290,858	61·5	14,161,643	4·9
1927	1,217	18,958,832	6·2	863,476	0·3	12,024,760	3·9	273,597,202	89·6	305,444,270	41,816,515	13·7	21,817,455	7·1	38,640,115	12·7	185,708,682	60·8	17,461,503	5·7
1928	1,277	18,958,832	5·8	865,846	0·3	19,563,740	5·9	290,310,253	88·0	329,698,671	44,170,901	13·4	25,920,942	7·9	40,217,198	12·2	194,071,259	58·8	25,318,371	7·7
1929	1,308	18,958,832	6·2	849,255	0·3	15,174,188	5·0	271,712,337	88·5	306,694,612	41,884,704	13·7	19,413,495	6·3	39,276,379	12·8	184,868,967	60·3	21,251,066	6·9
Weekly Averages, Mar., 1930	...	18,960,000	6·4	...	...	16,525,000	5·6	258,899,000	88·0	294,384,000	36,378,000	12·3	19,435,000	6·6	37,461,000	12·7	178,452,000	60·7	22,658,000	7·7

a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collecton on, other banks in the United Kingdom. b Includes investments in affiliations.

UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

1888—Sewell and Nephew absorbed.
1904—E. W. Yates and Co., Liverpool, absorbed.
1906—Blackburn Bank absorbed.
1917—Halifax and District Permanent Banking Co. absorbed.
1918—East Morley and Bradford Deposit Bank, Limited, acquired.
1919—Affiliated with Barclays Bank.

CAPITAL

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
1,500,000	750,000	750,000	Nil.
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£5	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	Nil.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1911	86,632	1·15	64,740	12½	19,000	8,020
1912	95,895	1·27	64,740	12½	19,000	20,175
1913	108,984	1·34	64,740	12½	48,000	12,113
1914	100,948	1·22	63,379	12½	35,000	8,182
1915	120,821	1·38	59,583	12½	25,000	25,919
1916	152,025	1·30	68,750	*12½	50,000	25,694
1917	178,254	1·37	75,000	18 3/11	38,500	40,448
1918	191,035	1·08	97,812	20	90,000	18,670
1919	277,248	0·90	105,000	20	175,000	15,918
1920	341,027	1·25	105,000	20	240,000	11,945
1921	293,738	1·11	105,000	20	180,000	20,683
1922	247,188	1·10	110,625	20	140,000	17,246
1923	227,047	1·01	115,313	20	110,000	18,980
1924	221,395	1·02	116,250	20	105,000	19,125
1925	214,221	1·04	119,062	20	96,000	18,284
1926	205,762	1·04	120,000	20	85,000	19,046
1927	195,283	0·99	108,000	18	95,000	11,330
1928	176,545	0·87	96,000	16	80,000	11,874
1929	176,167	0·93	96,000	16	80,000	12,041

* Free of income-tax.

Year ended Dec. 31	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand, at Call, and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills of Exchange	Per Cent.	Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890*	43	530,000	16·9	38,487	1·2	53,217	1·7	2,526,868	80·2	3,148,572	524,110	16·6	213,593	6·8	With Advances	...	†2,317,479	73·6	93,390	3·0
1900*	62	925,000	16·8	48,524	0·9	320,329	5·9	4,195,229	76·4	5,489,082	582,754	10·6	172,175	3·1	Do.	...	†4,216,459	76·8	517,694	9·5
1905	72	874,000	15·5	34,298	0·6	417,378	7·4	4,317,193	76·5	5,642,868	845,596	15·0	620,336	11·0	738,623	13·1	2,770,960	49·1	667,353	11·8
1906	75	882,000	14·0	42,064	0·7	467,567	7·4	4,915,586	77·9	6,307,487	716,034	11·4	700,236	11·1	1,080,476	17·1	3,085,050	48·9	725,691	11·5
1907	78	892,000	13·8	40,046	0·6	479,276	7·4	5,035,101	78·2	6,446,423	1,127,257	17·4	692,224	10·8	771,742	12·0	3,099,491	48·1	755,709	11·7
1908	80	905,000	14·5	40,057	0·6	374,160	6·0	4,901,961	78·9	6,221,178	766,031	12·3	1,016,288	16·3	715,660	11·5	3,065,254	49·4	657,945	10·5
1909	83	915,000	14·6	37,593	0·6	340,963	5·5	4,968,076	79·3	6,261,632	1,147,071	18·4	808,699	12·9	509,403	8·1	3,167,087	50·6	629,372	10·0
1910	85	920,000	13·6	37,498	0·6	596,344	8·8	5,213,193	77·0	6,767,035	1,119,547	16·6	829,968	12·2	622,628	9·2	3,304,644	48·8	890,248	13·2
1911	85	880,000	13·0	40,390	0·6	332,663	4·9	5,530,732	81·5	6,783,785	1,395,443	20·6	713,193	10·5	577,259	8·5	3,468,003	51·1	629,887	9·3
1912	88	890,000	11·8	52,545	0·7	610,929	8·1	6,009,553	79·4	7,563,027	1,502,372	20·0	743,996	9·8	789,839	10·6	3,617,223	47·6	909,596	12·0
1913	88	900,000	11·2	44,483	0·6	674,181	8·4	6,428,858	79·8	8,047,522	1,592,993	19·8	801,779	10·0	795,345	9·9	3,884,297	48·2	973,108	12·1
1914	88	905,000	11·0	39,334	0·5	665,556	8·1	6,594,015	80·4	8,203,905	1,344,255	16·4	736,095	9·0	718,005	8·7	4,440,240	54·2	965,310	11·7
1915	88	905,000	10·3	54,709	0·6	764,545	8·7	7,053,582	80·4	8,777,836	821,664	9·3	2,166,738	24·6	520,747	5·9	4,204,289	48·1	1,064,398	12·1
1916	88	905,000	7·7	60,069	0·5	1,556,936	13·3	9,117,392	78·5	11,639,397	2,048,042	17·4	2,866,537	24·5	876,968	7·5	3,999,731	34·8	1,848,119	15·8
1917	97	905,000	6·9	77,948	0·6	901,654	6·9	11,127,088	85·6	13,011,690	1,715,031	13·1	4,026,180	30·9	955,205	7·3	5,113,620	39·5	1,201,654	9·2
1918	111	1,275,000	7·2	71,170	0·4	1,150,084	6·5	15,212,193	85·9	17,708,447	2,393,458	13·5	7,212,890	40·7	1,093,485	6·2	5,508,530	31·1	1,500,084	8·5
1919	130	1,325,000	4·3	68,418	0·2	3,896,157	12·7	25,378,022	82·8	30,667,597	3,050,848	9·9	4,417,171	14·4	1,302,541	4·2	17,600,880	57·5	4,296,157	14·0
1920	139	1,425,000	5·3	64,445	0·2	3,424,881	12·6	22,294,412	82·0	27,208,738	2,416,827	8·8	3,367,106	12·3	1,489,335	5·5	16,110,589	59·4	3,824,881	14·0
1921	145	1,425,000	5·3	73,183	0·3	1,990,302	7·5	23,002,017	86·8	26,490,502	4,209,575	16·0	2,799,702	10·6	1,263,316	4·8	15,827,607	59·6	2,390,302	9·0
1922	149	1,425,000	6·4	17,246	0·1	1,524,181	6·8	19,522,479	86·7	22,488,906	2,425,802	10·8	2,595,828	11·5	1,016,288	4·5	14,526,807	64·6	1,924,181	8·6
1923	162	1,425,000	6·3	18,980	0·1	1,539,752	6·8	19,591,486	86·8	22,575,218	1,607,848	7·1	2,654,121	11·8	934,667	4·1	15,438,830	68·4	1,939,752	8·6
1924	158	1,425,000	6·0	19,125	0·1	1,287,714	6·0	18,840,503	87·3	21,572,342	1,710,381	7·9	2,678,774	12·4	1,091,966	5·1	14,403,507	66·8	1,687,714	7·8
1925	162	1,425,000	6·9	18,284	0·1	917,857	4·5	18,283,110	88·5	20,644,250	2,608,341	12·6	2,659,160	12·9	1,010,940	4·9	13,047,953	63·2	1,317,857	6·4
1926	162	1,425,000	7·2	19,046	0·1	818,391	4·2	17,434,522	88·5	19,696,959	3,478,419	17·7	2,670,102	13·6	754,596	3·8	11,548,019	58·6	1,245,823	6·3
1927	165	1,425,000	7·2	11,329	0·1	643,162	3·2	17,734,302	89·5	19,813,793	4,551,541	23·0	2,664,208	13·4	743,228	3·8	10,780,358	54·4	1,074,558	5·4
1928	165	1,425,000	7·0	11,874	0·1	713,185	3·5	18,069,360	89·4	20,219,419	6,557,651	32·4	2,637,659	13·0	619,913	3·1	9,258,142	45·8	1,146,054	5·7
1929	169	1,425,000	7·5	12,041	0·1	633,788	3·4	16,798,273	89·0	18,869,102	5,514,919	29·2	2,877,592	15·2	469,466	2·5	8,926,802	47·4	1,080,323	5·7

* Year ended June 30th. † Includes bills.

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

Members of London Bankers' Clearing House.

1834—London and Westminster Bank established.
1836—London and County Banking Co. established.
1909—The above two banks amalgamated as London County and Westminster Bank, Limited.
1917—Ulster Bank, Limited, affiliated.
1918—Parr's Bank, Limited (established 1865), amalgamated under combined title of London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Limited.
1919—Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Banking Co., Limited, absorbed.
1921—Beckett and Co. absorbed.
1923—Title changed to Westminster Bank, Limited.
1923—Stilwell and Sons absorbed.
1924—Guernsey Commercial Banking Co., Limited, absorbed.

Continued on page 31.

WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED—*Continued from page* 30.

CAPITAL

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1929.
£	£	£	£	
28,283,960	7,070,990	7,070,990	14,141,980	£27,842,000
2,249,167	2,249,167	Nil	Nil	£5,622,900
*Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£4	£1	£1	£2	£3 11/16
£1	£1	Nil	Nil	£2½

* In February, 1929, the £20 shares of the Bank were sub-divided into five shares of £4 each (£1 paid).

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserves and other Appropriations.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1919	2,455,007	0·71	1,052,620	20 / †6½	1,365,721	414,226
1920	2,915,708	0·85	1,115,302	20 / 12½	1,753,718	460,914
1921	2,167,846	0·61	1,159,052	20 / 12½	950,000	519,708
1922	1,888,021	0·61	1,221,144	20 / 12½	650,000	536,585
1923	1,804,783	0·60	1,272,888	20 / 12½	500,000	568,480
1924	2,013,502	0·65	1,287,887	20 / 12½	700,000	594,095
1925	2,205,393	0·72	1,319,045	20 / 12½ *	450,000	457,565
1926	2,157,233	0·68	1,356,275	20 / 12½	750,000	508,522
1927	2,132,815	0·68	1,356,275	20 / 12½	750,000	535,063
1928	2,148,408	0·63	1,356,275	20 / 12½	775,000	552,196
1929	2,160,384	0·65	1,356,275	20 / 12½	850,000	506,305

* Also bonus of 1 £1 share for every 5 £20 shares held. † For half-year.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances and Endorsements.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, Rebate, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank, &c. a	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments. b	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cove for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1919	779	17,253,718	5·0	971,877	0·3	23,704,366	6·8	*318,698	0·1	304,547,726	87·8	346,796,385	58,766,910	16·9	18,794,487	5·4	65,058,988	18·8	177,442,468	51·2	26,733,532	7·7
1920	873	17,507,436	5·1	1,018,566	0·3	19,034,317	5·6	*492,842	0·1	305,380,814	88·9	343,433,975	49,124,145	14·3	22,937,762	6·7	57,984,694	16·8	190,874,245	55·6	22,513,129	6·6
1921	896	18,007,436	5·1	1,099,234	0·3	16,755,101	4·7	*505,452	0·1	317,655,838	89·8	354,023,061	44,491,298	12·6	19,814,891	5·6	56,931,120	16·0	212,120,835	59·9	20,664,917	5·6
1922	899	18,007,436	5·8	1,157,506	0·4	9,923,238	3·2	*276,642	...	280,820,292	90·6	310,185,114	42,501,014	13·7	19,816,167	6·4	58,385 523	18·8	175,653,514	56·5	13,828,896	4·3
1923	901	18,007,436	6·0	1,210,098	0·4	12,099,401	4·0	*244,019	...	269,502,093	89·6	301,063,047	41,616,836	13·8	18,872,671	6·3	58,568,371	19·4	165,956,209	55·2	16,048,960	5·6
1924	906	18,103,436	5·9	1,238,038	0·4	16,430,325	5·3	*14,616	...	272,832,400	88·4	308,618,815	44,494,145	14·4	23,399,849	7·5	56,299,378	18·2	163,916,498	53·3	20,508,945	6·6
1925	909	18,103,436	5·9	1,695,158	0·6	13,562,790	4·5	*15,487	...	271,379,668	89·0	304,756,539	42,343,822	13·9	28,301,235	9·3	49,930,231	16·4	166,515,556	54·6	17,665,695	5·8
1926	932	18,640,314	5·9	1,186,660	0·4	11,543,630	3·6	*13,728	...	285,406,068	90·1	316,790,400	42,657,508	13·5	27,370,851	8·6	48,859,390	15·4	182,147,935	57·5	15,754,716	5·0
1927	956	18,640,314	6·0	1,213,200	0·4	12,572,869	4·0	*13,934	...	280,612,020	89·6	313,052,337	42,727,387	13·6	36,520,212	11·7	43,024,466	13·7	173,893,812	55·6	16,886,460	5·4
1928	1009	18,640,314	5·5	1,230,333	0·4	26,538,040	7·8	*13,038	...	294,086,580	86·3	340,508,305	47,313,929	13·9	34,813,607	10·2	41,430,690	12·2	185,725,635	54·5	31,224,444	9·2
1929	1050	18,640,314	5·6	1,184,442	0·4	27,599,579	8·3	*7,794	...	285,160,311	85·7	332,592,440	45,980,673	13·8	33,169,823	10·0	40,915,352	12·3	179,851,909	54·1	32,674,683	9·8
Weekly Averages, April 1930		18,640,314	5·8	...	...	24,965,333	7·8	*14,135	...	277,269,929	86·4	320,889,711	36,794,247	11·4	27,472,393	8·6	41,116,641	12·8	185,341,716	57·8	30,164,714	9·4

* Includes notes in circulation in the Isle of Man.
a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom. b Includes investments in affiliations.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1836.—Member of London Clearing.

1874—Absorbed Heywood Brothers and Co., Manchester.
1878—Absorbed Hardcastle, Cross, and Co., Bolton.
1881—Absorbed Clement Royds and Co., Rochdale.
1890—Manchester and Salford Bank amalgamated with Williams, Deacon and Co. New title—Williams Deacon and Manchester and Salford Bank, Limited.
1901—Title changed to Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited.
1907—Sheffield and Rotherham Joint Stock Banking Co., Limited, absorbed.

CAPITAL

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	£
8,125,000	1,875,000	1,562,500	4,687,500	3,701,200
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
A £5	A £1	A £1	A £3	£1 11/16
B £1	B £1	B nil	B nil	£2 1/16

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1912	231,542	1·20	187,500	15	40,000	33,642
1913	243,286	1·23	187,500	15	55,000	34,429
1914	221,480	1·06	181,250	14½	...	74,659
1915	238,048	1·06	175,000	14	125,000	12,708
1916	280,188	1·01	175,000	14	100,000	17,896
1917	297,916	0·79	175,000	14	120,000	20,811
1918	319,191	0·91	185,156	14 13/16	125,000	29,846
1919	399,481	0·95	234,375	12½†	175,000	19,932
1920	463,653	1·07	234,375	12½	225,000	24,230
1921	365,231	0·83	234,375	12½	125,000	30,086
1922	337,175	0·81	244,140	A 13¼ / B 12½	80,000	43,121
1923	327,247	0·80	253,906	A 13¾ / B 12½	80,000	36,462
1924	338,893	0·82	253,906	A 13¾ / B 12½	80,000	41,449
1925	344,859	0·90	253,906	A 13¾ / B 12½	90,000	42,402
1926	330,856	0·88	253,906	A 13¾ / B 12½	75,000	44,352
1927	310,585	0·83	253,905	A 13¾ / B 12½	75,000	26,031
1928	305,340	0·82	253,906	A 13¾ / B 12½	50,800	27,465
1929	297,901	0·85	244,141	A 13¼ / B 12½	50,000	31,226

* Free of income tax. † Equivalent to 15⅝% on the old shares.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Acceptances, etc	Per Cent.	Rebate Account.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank, etc. (a)	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890	51	1,360,000	12·0	65,001	0·6	694,223	6·1	22,980	0·2	9,207,222	81·1	11,349,426	*1,141,072	10·1	...	...	1,887,625	16·6	7,388,873	65·1	931,858	8·2
1895	67	1,460,000	10·8	77,534	0·6	592,232	4·4	18,773	0·1	11,394,379	84·1	13,542,918	1,813,402	13·4	2,621,059	19·3	1,539,552	11·4	6,718,848	49·6	850,057	6·3
1900	75	1,575,000	10·9	103,506	0·7	340,595	2·4	23,651	0·2	12,342,046	85·8	14,384,798	1,973,991	13·7	1,326,143	9·3	2,221,945	15·4	8,198,157	57·0	664,562	4·6
1905	82	1,650,000	12·1	86,417	0·6	317,058	2·3	23,524	0·2	11,531,776	84·8	13,608,775	1,753,429	12·9	1,743,468	12·9	2,319,042	17·0	7,094,840	52·1	697,996	5·1
1910	106	2,000,000	11·1	120,994	0·7	737,494	4·1	30,712	0·2	15,156,575	83·9	18,045,775	2,316,092	12·8	1,698,536	9·4	2,679,715	14·9	10,178,793	56·4	1,172,639	6·5
1912	110	1,950,000	10·1	129,651	0·7	850,847	4·4	32,207	0·2	16,393,582	84·6	19,356,287	2,471,941	12·8	2,583,875	13·4	2,584,027	13·4	10,415,907	53·7	1,300,537	6·7
1913	115	1,900,000	9·6	129,537	0·7	549,556	2·8	32,470	0·2	17,188,009	86·7	19,799,572	3,043,372	15·4	2,418,332	12·2	2,464,867	12·5	10,873,818	54·8	1,000,183	5·1
1914	118	1,900,000	9·1	163,988	0·8	407,503	2·0	32,029	0·2	18,349,552	87·9	20,853,072	2,949,932	14·1	3,314,042	15·9	3,360,104	16·1	10,361,708	49·8	867,286	4·1
1915	118	1,900,000	8·4	102,299	0·5	623,665	2·8	31,944	0·1	19,855,853	88·2	22,513,761	3,356,432	14·9	1,347,270	6·0	7,090,885	31·4	9,623,982	42·9	1,095,192	4·8
1916	115	1,900,000	6·8	107,002	0·4	1,327 834	4·8	68,803	0·2	24,419,301	87·8	27,822,940	5,921,012	21·5	1,928,508	6·9	6,780,830	24·4	11,387,723	40·7	1,804,867	6·5
1917	115	2,000,000	6·2	110,091	0·3	1,443,159	4 5	50,948	0·2	28,443,616	89·1	32,047,814	6,193,199	19·2	2,541,770	7·9	6,130,644	19·1	15,280,962	47·9	1,901,589	5·9
1918	120	2,100,000	6·0	129,320	0·3	9[illegible]1,029	2·7	58,768	0·2	31,778,651	90·8	35,007,768	5,641,141	16·1	5,909,730	16·9	6,586,806	18·8	15,493,317	44·3	1,376,774	3·9
1919	138	2,775 000	6 6	138,997	0·3	2,150,023	5·1	46,391	0·1	37,001,415	87·9	42,111,826	6,690,600	15·8	2,779,453	6·6	7,904,150	18·8	22,116,238	52·6	2,621,385	6·2
1920	151	2,875,000	6·6	143,588	0·3	1,539,191	3·5	...	...	38,870,845	89·6	43,428,624	7,420,349	17·1	3,585,269	8·3	7,034,199	16·2	23,266,806	53·5	2,122,001	4·9
1921	162	2,975,000	6·7	149,343	0·3	1,243,847	2·8	...	...	39,917,598	90·2	44,285,788	7,222,552	16·3	4,930,831	11·1	5,746,798	13·0	24,495,282	55·3	1,890,325	4·3
1922	170	3,025,000	7·3	172,498	0·4	751,121	1·8	...	...	37,626,708	90·5	41,575,327	6,964,704	16·7	2,934,895	7·1	7,353,780	17·7	22,910,683	55·1	1,411,265	3·4
1923	170	3,075,000	7·5	165,490	0·4	3,104,070	7·6	...	...	34,372,244	84·5	40,716,804	6,297,354	15·5	3,220,481	7·9	6,310,770	15·5	21,083,867	51·8	3,804,332	9·3
1924	184	3,125,000	7·6	170,748	0·4	2,970,674	7·2	...	...	34,836,370	84·8	41,102,792	6,034,050	14·7	3,514,495	8·5	5,631,107	13·7	22,108,176	53·8	3,814,964	9·3
1925	188	3,175,000	8·3	171,417	0·4	2,359,452	6·1	...	...	32,787,663	85·2	38,493,532	5,543,461	14·4	2,985,794	7·8	4,745,349	12·3	22,008,402	57·2	3,210,626	8·3
1926	192	3,225,000	8·6	173,488	0·5	1,800,918	4 8	...	...	32,438,363	86·1	37,637,769	5,481,713	14·6	2,957,233	7·9	5,049,670	13·4	21,425,732	56·9	2,723,421	7·2
1927	197	3,225,000	8·6	155,188	0·4	1,393,259	3·7	...	...	32,662,567	87·3	37,436,014	6,093,211	16·3	2,952,915	7·9	5,284,671	14·1	20,749,553	55·4	2,356,664	6·3
1928	197	3,225,000	8·7	156,696	0·4	1,520,117	4·1	...	...	32,221,395	86·8	37,123,208	5,219,565	14·1	2,871,374	7·7	5,349,678	14·4	21,194,189	57·1	2,488,432	6·7
1929	201	2,875,000	8·0	151,123	0·4	1,023,094	2·9	...	...	31,792,589	88·7	35,842,006	5,208,318	14·5	3,412,190	9·5	6,017,161	16·8	19,199,898	53·6	2,004,430	5·6
Weekly Averages. March, 1930		2,875,000	8·4	...	...	985,000	2·9	...	...	30,547,000	88·8	34,407,000	4,403,000	12·8	2,649,000	7·7	6,029,000	17·5	19,358,000	56·3	1,968,000	5·7

* Includes money at call and short notice. a Includes balances with, and cheques in course of collection on, other banks in the United Kingdom.

ERLANGERS, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital: 600,000 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each, £600,000; 950,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each, £950,000; 5,000 Management shares of £10 each, £50,000	1,500,000	Cash in hand and on current account at bankers in the United Kingdom	142,179
Special reserve account: Premium on ordinary shares	250,000	Cash at call and short notice	1,267,247
General reserve account	75,000	Cash on deposit with London banking houses	357,492
Current, deposit and other accounts, including balance of profit and loss account	3,046,846	Bills receivable	541,147
Current accounts of subsidiary companies	10,040	Investments: British Government securities (including £345,000 Treasury bills), £783,837; dominion, colonial and foreign government, provincial and municipal stocks and bonds, £470,057; share capital of Erlangers Estate Company, Limited (4 Moorgate, London, E.C.2), at cost, £60,000; share capital of Moorgate Nominees, Ltd., at cost, £100; other investments, £468,913	1,782,907
Acceptances on account of customers	4,217,670	Advances to customers and other accounts, including balances with banks abroad	968,290
NOTE.—There are contingent liabilities in respect of: (*a*) Investments not fully paid, £114,889 14s. 5d.; (*b*) endorsements on bills discounted, £602,481 18s. 11d.; (*c*) commitments in respect of confirmed credits and forward exchange contracts.		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, *less* sums received on account	4,140,294
		Statement as to subsidiary companies in accordance with the provisions of Section 126 of the Companies Act, 1929:— The profits of Erlangers Estate Company, Limited, have not been incorporated in the accounts of Erlangers, Ltd. The accounts of Moorgate Nominees, Ltd., show neither a profit nor a loss.	
	9,199,556		9,199,556

YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up—250,000 £5 shares, £3 paid	750,000	Cash in hand, at Bank of England and at short notice	6,411,080
250,000 £1 shares, fully paid	250,000	British Government Treasury Bills	240,000
Reserve fund	1,000,000	British Government redeemable securities—	
Amount due to depositors and other accounts	28,201,067	4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1930–32	2,874,156
Uncalled capital, £500,000.		4 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1931–33	5,130,799
		4½ per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1932–34	3,072,000
		5 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1933–35	2,722,500
		4 per cent. War Loan, 1929–42	991,816
		4½ per cent. Conversion Loan, 1940–44	1,355,750
		5 per cent. War Loan, 1929–47	1,998,334
		Colonial Government and English Corporation redeemable stocks	531,646
		3 per cent. local loans and Bank of England stocks	207,792
		Loans to local authorities	2,316,418
		Loans on security and other accounts	1,798,776
		Bank premises	550,000
	30,201,067		30,201,067

PRIVATE BANKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

B. W. BLYDENSTEIN AND CO., LONDON.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	LIABILITIES. Partners' Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Advances, Loans, Bills, &c.	Per Cent.	Premises, &c.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1895	260,000	16·9	1,174,237	76·2	106,948	6·9	1,541,185	70,462	4·6	367,130	23·8	1,099,059	71·3	4,534	0·3
1900	500,000	21·3	530,695	22·7	1,313,832	56·0	2,344,527	111,084	4·8	851,898	36·3	1,377,420	58·8	4,125	0·1
1905	500,000	11·9	726,473	17·3	2,969,441	70·8	4,195,914	126,571	3·0	1,260,439	30·3	2,805,129	66·9	3,775	0·1
1910	566,000	7·9	763,699	10·7	5,836,767	81·4	7,166,466	129,904	1·8	1,202,478	16·8	5,820,902	81·2	13,182	0·2
1912	623,000	9·3	1,044,932	15·4	5,092,348	75·3	6,760,280	227,844	3·4	792,996	11·7	5,706,810	84·4	32,630	0·5
1913	625,000	7·6	1,064,829	12·9	6,544,282	79·5	8,234,111	361,184	4·4	1,887,473	22·9	5,954,091	72·3	31,363	0·4
1914	625,000	8·3	438,543	5·8	6,446,690	85·9	7,510,233	267,678	3·6	1,287,729	17·1	5,924,685	78·9	30,141	0·4
1915	625,000	12·3	27,431	0·5	4,447,703	87·2	5,100,134	137,255	2·7	120,229	2·4	4,813,683	94·3	28,967	0·6
1916	625,000	8·3	61,907	0·8	6,815,307	90·9	7,502,214	78,817	1·1	...	...	*7,395,549	98·5	27,848	0·4
1917	625,000	7·9	60,296	0·8	7,216,015	91·3	7,901,311	69,931	0·9	...	...	*7,804,598	98·8	26,782	0·3
1918	625,000	6·2	63,909	0·6	9,439,590	93·2	10,128,499	1,861,597	18·4	882,142	8·7	*7,358,995	72·6	25,765	0·3
1919	625,000	5·6	118,994	1·0	10,378,973	93·4	11,122,967	57,082	0·5	1,217,981	10·9	*9,823,108	88·4	24,796	0·2
1920	625,000	4·7	194,719	1·5	12,442,235	93·8	13,261,954	94,674	0·7	167,548	1·3	*12,974,805	97·8	24,927	0·2
1921	625,000	4·6	155,302	1·1	12,810,760	94·3	13,591,062	90,461	0·7	362,598	2·7	*13,114,076	96·4	23,927	0·2
1922	625,000	4·7	65,104	0·5	12,525,787	94·8	13,215,891	122,380	0·9	2,348,370	17·8	*10,722,252	81·1	22,889	0·2
1923	625,000	4·7	106,926	0·8	12,607,170	94·5	13,339,096	171,057	1·3	234,185	1·8	*12,906,337	96·7	27,517	0·2
1924	625,000	4·6	106,554	0·8	12,954,867	94·6	13,686,421	102,913	0·7	2,829,170	20·7	*10,720,005	78·4	34,333	0·2
1925	625,000	4·6	118,776	0·9	12,899,571	94·5	13,643,347	89,638	0·7	1,415,610	10·4	*12,102,582	88·7	35,517	0·3
1926	625,000	4·6	126,311	0·9	12,986,426	94·5	13,737,737	115,707	0·8	1,067,425	7·8	*12,520,440	91·1	34,165	0·2
1927	625,000	4·7	103,680	0·8	12,525,450	94·5	13,254,130	186,997	1·4	2,755,149	20·8	*10,279,114	77·6	32,870	0·2
1928	700,000	5·1	92,387	0·7	12,872,105	94·2	13,664,492	200,049	1·5	1,869,054	13·7	*11,563,789	84·6	31,600	0·2
1929	700,000	5·7	113,228	0·9	11,490,770	93·4	12,303,998	114,951	0·9	306,247	2·5	*11,852,385	96·4	30,415	0·2

* Includes Treasury Bills.

HOARE (CHAS.) & CO.

Year Ended July.	LIABILITIES. Partners' Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand, at Bank, and at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	British Government Securities.	Per Cent.	Other Securities and Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Premises, &c.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1895	435,805	13·7	2,750,221	86·3	3,186,026	552,801	17·4	282,000	8·8	751,610	23·7	1,499,615	47·0	100,000	3·1
1900	475,000	13·4	3,075,875	86·6	3,550,875	876,699	24·7	325,500	9·1	950,580	26·9	1,298,096	36·5	100,000	2·8
1905	485,000	15·6	2,618,050	84·4	3,103,050	941,432	30·3	276,000	8·9	744,863	24·1	1,040,755	33·5	100,000	3·2
1907	485,000	14·6	2,838,602	85·4	3,323,602	1,044,874	31·4	276,450	8·3	518,082	15·5	1,384,196	41·8	100,000	3·0
1908	485,000	16·5	2,447,338	83·5	2,932,338	785,648	26·7	277,000	9·5	521,532	17·8	1,248,158	42·6	100,000	3·4
1909	485,000	15·2	2,710,611	84·8	3,195,611	1,058,315	33·1	288,000	9·1	659,968	20·6	1,089,328	34·1	100,000	3·1
1910	485,000	14·7	2,818,680	85·3	3,303,680	926,826	28·1	285,000	8·6	727,083	22·0	1,264,771	38·3	100,000	3·0
1914	485,000	15·0	2,752,753	85·0	3,237,753	988,704	30·5	-*	...	719,513	22·1	1,429,536	44·3	100,000	3·1
1915	485,000	15·3	2,683,411	84·7	3,168,411	1,070,766	33·7	*	...	618,945	19·4	1,378,700	43·7	100,000	3·2
1916	485,000	17·1	2,348,755	82·9	2,833,755	842,805	29·7	*	...	844,142	29·8	1,046,808	37·0	100,000	3·5
1917	485,000	18·8	2,089,841	81·2	2,574,841	661,581	25·7	*	...	544,700	21·1	1,268,560	49·3	100,000	3·9
1918	485,000	15·3	2,688,628	84·7	3,173,628	571,587	18·0	*	...	1,533,053	48·3	968,988	30·5	100,000	3·2
1919	485,000	13·1	3,213,275	86·9	3,698,275	882,394	23·9	1,323,274	36·0	83,723	2·3	1,308,884	35·1	100,000	2·7
1920	485,000	10·3	4,221,675	89·7	4,706,675	1,051,158	22·3	2,173,685	46·1	179,471	3·8	1,202,361	25·7	100,000	2·1
1921	500,000	11·4	3,889,230	88·6	4,389,230	993,370	22·6	1,812,349	41·3	232,486	5·3	1,251,025	28·5	100,000	2·3
1922	500,000	11·7	3,791,627	88·3	4,291,627	1,029,307	24·0	1,701,669	39·6	185,964	4·3	1,274,687	29·8	100,000	2·3
1923	500,000	13·7	3,152,521	86·3	3,652,521	829,174	22·6	1,036,875	28·3	526,156	14·4	1,160,316	32·0	100,000	2·7
1924	500,000	14·0	3,066,343	86·0	3,566,343	867,916	24·3	928,750	26·1	480,935	13·5	1,188,742	33·3	100,000	2·8
1925	500,000	13·3	3,267,513	86·7	3,767,513	1,029,176	27·3	1,150,625	30·5	586,459	15·6	901,253	23·9	100,000	2·7
1926	500,000	13·4	3,236,729	86·6	3,736,729	1,163,360	31·1	1,166,500	31·2	362,381	9·7	944,488	25·3	100,000	2·7
1927	500,000	14·1	3,051,358	85·9	3,551,358	1,051,250	29·6	1,006,750	28·3	377,482	10·6	1,015,876	28·7	100,000	2·8
1928	500,000	13·9	3,093,254	86·1	3,593,254	1,097,214	30·5	972,632	32·5	258,746	1·8	1,164,662	32·4	100,000	2·8
1929	500,000	14·3	2,994,121	85·7	3,494,121	1,018,670	29·1	995,521	28·5	181,001	5·2	1,198,929	34·3	100,000	2·9

* Not shown separately.

BAKER, DUNCOMBE, AND CO., LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—32,000 fully-paid "A" shares of £5 each	160,000	Investments—4½ per cent. and 5 per cent. Treasury Bonds and Indian Railway Debentures	853,379
8,000 fully-paid "B" shares of £5 each	40,000	Bills discounted (including re-discounts)	6,650,406
Reserve	50,000	Sundry accounts	6,303
Liability on deposits and loans and bills re-discounted (including rebate and sundry accounts)	7,395,306	Assets to the value of £7,353,564 are held by bankers and others as cover for liabilities, per contra.	
		Cash in hand and at bankers	105,227
	7,645,306		7,645,306

ESTABLISHED 1809.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE

INSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.

FIRE LIFE

BURGLARY - ACCIDENT - ANNUITIES - MARINE

TOTAL FUNDS - - - - - - £38,992,900

TOTAL INCOME - - - - - £10,614,500

Chief Offices:

LONDON: 61, Threadneedle St., E.C.2. EDINBURGH: 64, Princes St.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Founded 1826.

President:
The Right Hon. LORD STAMFORDHAM, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.

AN OLD MUTUAL OFFICE WITH A GREAT BONUS RECORD

At the latest Division of Profits on 31st December, 1925, the Bonus Additions to ordinary participating Policies ranged from £2 per cent. to £5 13s. per annum on the original sums assured.

Interim Bonus increased from 1st January, 1929, to £2 2s.% compound.

EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RATES FOR "NON-PROFIT" ASSURANCES.

Head Office:
35, ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW.
London Office:
17, TOKENHOUSE YARD, E.C. 2.

SECURITY FIRST

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

TOTAL FUNDS - - - £39,764,766

ALL CLASSES OF INSURANCE EFFECTED.

HEAD OFFICES:
LIVERPOOL: NORTH JOHN ST.
LONDON: LOMBARD ST.

GRACE BROTHERS AND CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1889. INCORPORATED 1899.

ISSUED CAPITAL.

	£
Ordinary shares	750,000
Preference shares	250,000
Deferred shares	15,000

Dec. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Deposit, Current, and Other Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash at Call, at Bankers, and in Hand.	Per Cent.	Foreign Bankers—Balances on Loan, Current, & Deposit Accounts.	Per Cent.	Investments, including Treasury Bills.	Per Cent.	Bills Receivable.	Per Cent.	Properties and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1924	1	1,065,000	48·7	749,622	34·2	373,528	17·1	2,188,150	451,466	20·6	...	...	309,143	14·1	443,449	20·2	984,092	45·1
1925	1	1,065,000	43·9	696,387	28·7	665,368	27·4	2,426,755	387,061	15·9	33,388	1·4	341,457	14·1	394,672	16·3	1,270,177	52·0
1926	1	1,065,000	40·3	1,001,200	37·9	576,704	21·8	2,642,904	400,512	15·2	239,879	9·1	400,568	15·1	305,702	11·6	1,296,243	49·2
1927	1	1,065,000	36·5	1,061,578	36·3	794,044	27·2	2,920,622	349,393	12·0	354,462	12·1	322,046	11·0	283,028	9·7	1,611,693	55·9
1928	1	1,065,000	27·6	1,995,099	51·6	802,142	20·8	3,862,241	356,166	9·2	300,030	7·8	378,874	9·8	359,259	9·3	2,467,912	63·3
1929	1	1,115,000	27·0	2,061,609	50·0	949,999	23·0	4,126,608	397,795	9·6	189,217	4·6	358,550	8·7	434,950	10·5	2,746,096	66·6

S. JAPHET AND CO., LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Share capital issued—1,300,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	1,300,000	Cash in hand and at bankers in United Kingdom	520,870
Reserve account	700,000	Cash at call and at short notice	2,503,289
Deposit, current and other accounts	7,302,579	Treasury bills and other British Government securities at market value	1,155,710
Acceptances for customers, per contra	6,964,472	Colonial, Foreign Government and other securities at market value	672,688
		Bills discounted	872,870
		Advances to customers, balances at bankers abroad, and other accounts	3,395,847
		Freehold premises at cost, *less* amount written off	181,305
		Liability of customers for acceptances, per contra	6,964,472
	£16,267,051		£16,267,051

Note.—There are contingent liabilities in respect of bills re-discounted of £1,281,759 14s. 1d. (of which £588,043 12s. 10d. had run off by February 6, 1930), and guarantees on behalf of customers of £160.859 13s. 5d.

The company has in the ordinary course of business entered into forward contracts for the purchase and sale of foreign exchange.

LONDON DISCOUNT COMPANIES.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT COMPANY LIMITED.

(Formerly Alexanders and Company, Limited.)

ESTABLISHED 1810. REGISTERED 1891.

	CAPITAL. Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary	1,150,000	575,000	Nil.	575,000
Preference	200,000	200,000	Nil.	Nil.
	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
Ordinary	£10	£5	Nil.	£5
Preference	£10	£10	Nil.	Nil.

Price of Ordinary Shares, April 30, 1930 (now £2, with £1 paid), £3⅛; Market Value, £2,084,375.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Ordinary Dividends. Amount.	Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1914	68,980	0·66	40,000	10	20,000	15,030
1915	47,990	0·46	40,000	10	...	17,020
1916	67,007	0·52	40,000	10	20,000	18,020
1917	89,002	0·60	48,000	*12	30,000	23,027
1918	89,992	0·54	52,000	†13	30,000	25,021
1919	75,860	0·41	60,000	13‡	15,000	25,881
1920	115,941	0·56	74,250	*16⅓‡	35,000	26,571
1921	141,015	0·63	76,500	*17	55,000	30,087
1922	188,202	0·91	100,000	‡20	80,000	32,289
1923	136,208	0·62	100,000	‡20	30,000	32,496
1924	136,510	0·59	100,000	‡20	30,000	33,006
1925	106,113	0·45	100,000	‡20	...	33,119
1926	106,045	0·43	100,000	‡20	...	33,165
1927	109,051	0·41	100,000	‡20	...	36,216
1928	138,773	0·47	127,000	‡20	...	47,989
1929	132,100	0·51	127,000	‡20	...	53,089

* Bonus 2 per cent., free of tax. † Bonus 1 per cent., free of tax. ‡ Bonus 5 per cent., free of tax.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Loans, Deposits, and Other Accounts.	Per Cent.	Bills Re-discounted.	Per Cent.	Rebate, &c.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted.	Per Cent.	Loans and Sundry Accounts.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1912	580,000	4·8	34,126	0·3	9,731,880	80·3	1,685,154	13·9	81,392	0·7	12,112,552	284,685	2·4	1,083,006	8·9	10,416,363	86·0	328,498	2·7
1913	600,000	4·9	35,050	0·3	10,134,947	82·0	1,497,231	12·1	86,334	0·7	12,353,562	293,726	2·4	944,221	7·7	10,798,650	87·3	316,965	2·6
1914	620,000	5·9	38,030	0·4	9,427,422	90·3	281,748	2·7	76,935	0·7	10,444,135	350,144	3·4	1,341,713	12·8	8,684,172	83·1	68,106	0·7
1915	620,000	5·9	40,021	0·4	9,439,747	90·3	272,535	2·6	86,555	0·8	10,458,858	367,437	3·5	1,141,307	10·9	8,885,693	85·0	64,421	0·6
1916	640,000	5·0	41,027	0·3	10,978,632	84·9	1,145,851	8·9	118,000	0·9	12,923,510	389,560	3·0	1,673,906	12·9	10,856,120	84·1	3,924	...
1917	670,000	4·5	54,029	0·4	12,668,671	85·2	1,348,701	9·0	128,270	0·9	14,869,671	409,895	2·7	1,790,859	12·0	12,616,556	84·9	52,361	0·4
1918	700,000	4·2	56,021	0·3	13,826,917	83·2	1,912,260	11·5	124,205	0·8	16,619,403	420,496	2·5	2,235,363	13·4	13,798,181	83·1	165,363	1·0
1919	715,000	3·9	56,881	0·3	15,991,169	87·8	1,327,012	7·3	130,015	0·7	18,220,077	423,057	2·3	1,347,582	7·4	16,346,470	89·7	102,968	0·6
1920	820,000	4·0	72,321	0·4	17,196,230	83·7	2,255,865	11·0	175,881	0·9	20,520,297	448,111	2·2	1,818,289	8·8	18,063,470	88·1	190,427	0·9
1921	870,000	3·9	75,837	0·3	18,931,993	83·7	2,523,491	11·2	195,176	0·9	22,596,497	477,954	2·1	2,511,776	11·1	18,955,449	83·9	651,318	2·9
1922	1,000,000	4·8	97,788	0·5	17,756,879	85·6	1,692,619	8·2	191,990	0·9	20,739,276	471,141	2·3	2,553,308	12·4	17,412,608	83·8	302,219	1·5
1923	1,030,000	4·7	97,997	0·4	18,393,625	83·3	2,368,861	10·7	193,617	0·9	22,084,100	492,591	2·2	3,063,586	13·8	17,733,836	80·4	794,087	3·6
1924	1,060,000	4·6	98,506	0·4	17,862,592	76·7	4,076,038	17·5	196,076	0·8	23,293,212	504,450	2·2	2,900,383	12·4	19,473,923	83·6	414,456	1·8
1925	1,060,000	4·5	98,619	0·4	17,525,655	74·0	4,812,533	20·3	200,044	0·8	23,696,851	502,364	2·1	2,726,828	11·5	20,169,517	85·1	298,142	1·3
1926	1,060,000	4·3	98,665	0·4	17,344,837	71·1	5,709,378	23·4	197,063	0·8	24,409,943	505,411	2·1	2,544,915	10·4	21,021,784	86·1	337,833	1·4
1927	1,350,000	5·1	101,716	0·4	19,109,251	72·0	5,756,939	21·7	210,372	0·8	26,528,278	506,639	1·9	3,336,269	12·6	21,995,533	82·9	690,837	2·6
1928	1,350,000	4·5	125,864	0·4	21,374,593	71·9	6,666,883	22·4	236,108	0·8	29,753,448	569,687	1·9	5,107,044	17·2	23,827,160	80·1	249,557	0·8
1929	1,350,000	5·2	130,964	0·5	19,385,468	74·4	4,959,832	19·0	240,855	0·9	26,067,119	586,527	2·2	3,021,017	11·6	21,888,919	84·0	570,656	2·2

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

CAPITAL. Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value, April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	£
2,153,336	1,000,000	1,153,335	Nil.	3,040,200
Per Share;	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
A £2 10s.	£2 10s.	Nil.	Nil.	£4 ½
B £7 10s.	£2 10s	5	Nil.	£9½

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends. Amount.	Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1914	86,517	0·52	82,109	10½	...	26,093
1915	80,072	0·47	73,378	10	...	32,787
1916	66,681	0·26	65,617	10	...	33,852
1917	81,733	0·25	69,850	11	...	45,736
1918	120,906	0·43	69,321	11½	50,000	47,320
1919	135,050	0·40	71,120	12	64,000	47,250
1920	123,005	0·35	82,973	14	10,000	77,283
1921	165,305	0·42	94,826	16	10,000	137,760
1922	190,682	0·47	100,330	16	15,000	213,112
1923	108,225	0·26	107,526	A 10 / B 23	...	213,810
1924	159,545	0·30	108,267	A 10 / B 23	50,000	215,088
1925	147,588	0·29	139,060	A 10 / B 23	...	223,615
1926	153,081	0·27	139,973	A 10 / B 23	...	226,723
1927	178,007	0·32	139,973	A 10 / B 23	60,000	204,757
1928	175,860	0·39	139,973	A 10 / B 23	25,000	215,644
1929	179,861	0·28	144,587	A 10 / B 24	39,076	211,842

Continued on page 38.

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NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED—*Continued from page 34.*

Year Ended Dec. 31.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Deposits and Sundry Balances.	Per Cent.	Bills Re-discounted.	Per Cent.	Rebate.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Securities.	Per Cent.	Loans at Call, Short and Fixed Dates.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1900	1,306,665	10·0	52,161	0·4	*8,757,155	67·6	2,833,197	22·0	...	...	12,949,178	†1,829,994	14·1	...	...	1,725,544	13·4	9,262,729	71·5	130,910	1·0
1905	1,246,665	8·3	54,109	0·4	*10,420,018	69·5	3,263,484	21·8	...	...	14,984,276	171,500	1·1	1,831,387	12·2	2,369,945	15·8	10,448,539	69·8	162,903	1·1
1910	1,296,665	6·9	62,229	0·3	14,312,200	75·9	3,051,121	16·2	129,033	0·7	18,851,248	311,670	1·6	2,631,868	14·0	1,524,683	8·1	14,178,757	75·2	204,269	1·1
1914	1,351,665	8·0	64,546	0·4	13,010,539	77·0	2,285,466	13·5	186,603	1·1	16,898,819	427,865	2·5	1,851,902	11·0	761,450	4·5	13,690,459	81·1	167,143	0·9
1915	1,351,665	7·9	68,241	0·4	11,667,210	68·7	3,705,487	21·6	238,697	1·4	17,031,300	464,144	2·7	1,375,907	8·1	328,608	1·9	14,702,812	86·4	159,829	0·9
1916	1,296,665	5·0	65,602	0·3	16,784,916	64·9	7,361,649	28·6	320,906	1·2	25,829,738	490,045	1·9	1,038,146	4·0	1,960,165	7·6	22,104,645	85·6	236,737	0·9
1917	1,296,665	4·0	83,835	0·3	21,141,491	65·0	9,597,240	29·5	404,499	1·2	32,523,730	653,424	2·0	1,153,225	3·5	2,393,287	7·4	28,000,608	86·1	323,186	1·0
1918	1,346,665	4·8	82,880	0·3	17,973,136	63·9	8,388,687	29·8	323,783	1·2	28,115,151	515,646	1·8	2,368,987	8·4	1,445,295	5·2	23,491,363	83·6	292,860	1·0
1919	1,346,665	4·0	82,810	0·2	22,753,164	67·4	9,151,250	27·1	454,938	1·3	33,788,827	577,067	1·7	1,472,785	4·4	1,538,840	4·5	29,824,042	88·3	376,093	1·1
1920	1,346,665	3·8	124,695	0·4	21,231,476	60·0	12,174,743	34·4	507,146	1·4	35,384,725	614,179	1·7	575,855	1·6	1,682,161	4·8	32,406,636	91·6	105,895	0·3
1921	1,346,665	3·4	197,027	0·5	22,412,026	57·2	14,703,190	37·5	547,243	1·4	39,206,151	530,082	1·3	1,890,717	4·8	2,223,457	5·6	34,125,925	87·2	435,970	1·1
1922	1,346,665	3·3	276,612	0·7	21,852,475	53·4	16,911,235	41·4	491,332	1·2	40,878,319	644,119	1·6	3,138,439	7·7	1,465,118	3·6	35,497,409	86·8	133,234	0·3
1923	1,346,665	3·2	276,146	0·7	23,333,716	55·3	16,673,991	39·5	546,147	1·3	42,176,665	667,985	1·6	2,138,452	5·1	1,886,469	4·5	37,363,756	88·5	120,003	0·3
1924	1,396,665	2·6	277,424	0·5	26,826,096	49·7	24,785,957	46·0	624,073	1·2	53,910,215	661,308	1·2	1,728,854	3·2	2,860,633	5·3	48,543,666	90·1	115,754	0·2
1925	1,800,000	3·5	305,136	0·6	28,681,949	55·4	20,339,298	39·3	611,302	1·2	51,737,685	624,527	1·2	1,912,008	3·7	4,234,528	8·2	44,848,452	86·7	118,170	0·2
1926	1,800,000	3·1	308,243	0·5	29,135,662	50·7	25,706,910	44·7	579,479	1·0	57,530,294	702,662	1·2	2,277,647	4·0	2,033,556	3·5	52,393,603	91·1	122,826	0·2
1927	1,850,000	3·3	286,277	0·5	29,208,384	52·0	24,201,139	43·1	597,965	1·1	56,143,765	595,713	1·1	2,847,684	5·1	2,213,187	3·9	50,357,207	89·7	129,974	0·2
1928	1,865,000	4·1	297,164	0·7	25,182,037	55·5	17,526,606	38·6	621,966	1·1	45,392,773	602,311	1·3	3,205,021	7·1	1,225,388	2·7	40,239,735	88·6	120,318	0·3
1929	1,890,000	3·6	297,976	0·6	26,570,013	50·8	23,001,203	44·1	443,890	0·9	52,203,082	659,417	1·3	2,911,915	5·6	1,360,007	2·6	47,141,632	90·3	130,111	0·2

* Includes rebate. † Includes investments.

UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1885.

CAPITAL Authorised and Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value. April 30, 1930.
£	£	£	£	£
2,500,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	Nil	4,593,750
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.		Per Share.
£5	£2 10s.	£2 10s.	...	£9⅛

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profit. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividend—Amount. £	Dividend—Rate. %	Allocations to Reserves, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1913	143,350	0·45	93,750	13	35,000	98,915
1914	123,975	0·58	100,961	13	...	121,929
1915	147,259	0·61	95,767	13	80,000	93,421
1916	118,251	0·45	94,138	14*	10,000	107,534
1917	125,390	0·45	91,375	14*	25,000	116,549
1918	116,779	0·34	87,231	14*	25,000	121,096
1919	155,579	0·39	100,680	14*	50,000	126,025
1920	197,019	0·42	118,000	16†	50,000	155,044
1921	245,606	0·50	135,000	18††	115,000	149,651
1922	316,070	0·72	160,625	20**	138,596	166,499
1923	248,993	0·51	165,312	20**	60,000	190,180
1924	253,753	0·47	172,487	20**	70,000	201,466
1925	221,275	0·41	190,195	20**	...	232,566
1926	220,240	0·40	191,250	20**	10,000	251,556
1927	232,915	0·39	191,250	20**	70,000	223,221
1928	245,365	0·36	196,980	20**	30,000	241,607
1929	260,186	0·42	212,500	20**	20,000	269,292

* Bonus of 1 per cent., free of tax. † Bonus of 2 per cent., free of tax.
** Bonus of 5 per cent., free of tax. †† Bonus of 3 per cent., free of tax.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Loans and Deposits.	Per Cent.	Bills Rediscounted.	Per Cent.	Rebate.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Securities.	Per Cent.	Loans at Call and Short Date, and Other Accounts.	Per Cent.	Bills Discounted, &c.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
	£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1900	1,144,600	5·7	82,446	0·4	*12,605,208	62·2	6,414,149	31·7	...	...	20,246,403	417,241	2·0	2,084,728	10·3	1,941,523	9·6	15,692,206	77·5	110,705	0·6
1905	1,211,619	5·5	105,020	0·5	*14,957,518	67·5	5,865,486	26·5	...	...	22,139,643	480,289	2·2	2,798,292	12·7	2,926,802	13·2	15,826,984	71·4	107,276	0·5
1910	1,421,928	5·7	126,617	0·5	*17,163,143	68·5	6,321,697	25·3	...	...	25,033,385	829,556	3·3	3,449,238	13·8	1,782,289	7·1	18,854,427	75·3	117,875	0·5
1913	1,549,147	4·9	152,665	0·5	20,662,330	65·6	8,966,329	28·3	229,830	0·7	31,560,301	886,339	2·8	2,213,542	7·0	954,500	3·0	27,363,391	86·7	142,529	0·5
1914	1,758,968	8·2	172,574	0·8	16,223,359	75·4	3,113,506	14·6	209,979	1·0	21,478,386	918,652	4·3	2,786,718	13·0	980,741	4·6	16,634,946	77·4	157,329	0·7
1915	1,763,976	7·3	139,693	0·6	17,836,515	73·7	4,155,122	17·2	280,937	1·2	24,176,243	965,685	4·0	2,184,397	9·0	576,082	2·4	20,286,413	83·9	163,666	0·7
1916	1,769,150	6·7	157,471	0·6	19,261,601	73·3	4,765,204	18·1	335,380	1·3	26,288,806	1,040,703	4·0	1,975,879	7·5	807,554	3·1	22,302,551	84·8	162,119	0·6
1917	1,799,508	6·0	166,486	0·6	23,343,383	77·5	4,450,769	14·8	326,822	1·1	30,086,968	1,043,251	3·5	2,655,404	8·8	363,730	1·2	25,868,582	86·0	156,001	0·5
1918	1,830,303	5·3	168,271	0·5	27,577,516	79·6	4,823,455	13·9	243,918	0·7	34,643,463	1,065,677	3·1	4,249,108	12·3	2,491,569	7·2	26,657,036	76·9	180,073	0·5
1919	2,132,138	5·3	185,025	0·5	30,792,022	76·5	6,723,646	16·8	345,150	0·9	40,177,981	1,173,981	2·9	3,796,422	9·4	1,307,943	3·2	33,689,891	84·0	209,744	0·5
1920	2,138,666	4·5	224,044	0·5	36,669,304	67·3	12,661,765	26·8	424,480	0·9	47,118,259	1,259,557	2·7	3,019,944	6·4	1,558,415	3·3	41,079,453	87·2	200,890	0·4
1921	2,254,609	4·6	235,651	0·5	33,417,986	67·8	12,660,346	25·8	643,535	1·3	49,212,127	1,256,490	2·6	4,517,666	9·2	2,339,478	4·8	40,382,932	83·0	215,561	0·4
1922	2,377,005	5·4	272,749	0·6	34,139,416	77·7	6,795,272	15·4	393,404	0·9	43,977,846	1,274,375	2·9	4,819,974	11·0	230,940	0·5	37,484,422	85·2	168,135	0·4
1923	2,437,689	5·0	298,305	0·6	36,345,007	75·2	5,694,704	18·0	564,761	1·2	48,340,466	1,293,887	2·7	5,088,622	10·5	569,859	1·2	41,208,472	85·2	179,626	0·4
1924	2,798,732	5·1	315,848	0·6	40,100,868	73·3	11,053,918	20·2	423,485	0·8	54,692,851	1,320,683	2·4	5,724,642	10·5	474,524	0·9	47,023,680	85·9	149,322	0·3
1925	2,800,111	5·2	356,316	0·7	40,794,107	76·3	8,840,656	16·5	688,583	1·3	53,479,773	1,303,690	2·4	5,868,991	11·0	695,564	1·3	45,464,614	85·0	146,914	0·3
1926	2,803,673	5·0	375,306	0·7	41,455,141	74·4	10,467,234	18·8	608,861	1·1	55,710,215	1,311,175	2·4	6,985,282	12·5	124,716	0·2	47,088,122	84·5	200,920	0·4
1927	2,650,000	4·5	346,971	0·6	44,801,420	75·8	10,554,812	17·8	786,228	1·3	59,139,431	1,328,062	2·2	7,494,791	12·7	1,175,192	2·0	48,908,891	82·7	232,495	0·4
1928	3,000,000	4·6	371,086	0·6	45,875,810	70·0	15,634,655	23·9	585,005	0·9	65,466,556	1,339,129	2·0	8,963,231	13·8	123,231	0·2	54,842,540	83·7	198,425	0·3
1929	3,000,000	4·8	406,792	0·7	45,591,128	73·6	12,310,529	19·9	634,034	1·0	61,942,482	1,328,877	2·1	7,629,621	12·3	208,768	0·3	52,574,107	85·0	201,109	0·3

* Includes rebate.

GILLETT BROTHERS DISCOUNT CO., LIMITED.

BALANCE-SHEET—JANUARY 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	£
Capital issued, fully paid—20,000 "A" shares of £5 each, £100,000: 10,000 "B" shares of £10 each, 100,000	200,000
Reserve fund	120,000
Deposits, loans, bills re-discounted and sundry accounts, including rebate on bills, investments reserve fund and balance of profit and loss account	11,899,124
	12,219,124

ASSETS.	£
Cash at bankers and in hand	94,773
British Government securities (maturing 1930-1935)	516,700
Bills discounted (including re-discounts)	11,434,495
Loans on security and sundry accounts	173,156
	12,219,124

Note.—Assets of the face value of £11,801,238 5s. 1d. are held by depositors and others as cover for liabilities per contra.

Receive £1,000 more than you pay!

A whole-life Policy for £1,000, with profits, at age 30 next Birthday, premiums ceasing at age 65,

will cost annually 25 16 4
less rebate of Income Tax at 2/- in the £ 2 11 7
Net Cost £23 4 9

Assuming that the current rate of Bonus is maintained, the sum assured will be increased by £24 each year—an amount in excess of the annual net cost, as above!

Consequently, no matter when a claim occurs, a sum of about £1,000 in excess of the premium payments will become payable.

Write for particulars suitable to your age.

WESLEYAN & GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY
Chief Offices : : Birmingham

The Young to-day are the Old to-morrow—Save to-day for Leisure to-morrow.

At age 24, £13 13s. 3d. yearly, which is equivalent to little over 5s. a week, will provide £1,000 at age 60, assuming present rates of bonus and tax abatement.

Sum payable at age 60 - £1,000
Total payments - - - 492
Profit - £508

The profit of £508 is in addition to an assurance at death of £547 upwards.

WRITE NOW to the

PEARL
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED
HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1
(*or any Representative*).
BRANCHES IN EVERY TOWN.
FUNDS £59,000,000. CLAIMS PAID £62,000,000.

THE WAY TO A LARGER INCOME

A WELL-SELECTED ANNUITY will mean a larger and a guaranteed income, with freedom from anxiety, for the rest of your days. The Prudential Assurance Company, with assets exceeding £228,000,000, is now offering new and better rates which provide larger life incomes to annuitants of all ages. At age 65, for example,

NEARLY £11 A YEAR CAN BE SECURED FOR EVERY £100 INVESTED.

Favourable terms are also offered to husbands and wives for joint-life and survivorship annuities. Contracts can be arranged under which the return of the original capital is certain, whether the annuitant lives or dies.

An exact quotation—without any obligation to purchase—will be supplied on application to

The PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD.
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.1

THE LARGEST INSURANCE INSTITUTION IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

P.P. 2138

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1864

Chief Office:
OXFORD STREET
MANCHESTER

ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS
£10,700,000
ASSETS EXCEED
£45,000,000
CLAIMS PAID EXCEED
£61,000,000

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF SCOTLAND.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.

ESTABLISHED 1695.

1868—Acquired the business of the Central Bank of Scotland. | 1907—Absorbed Caledonian Banking Co., Limited.

CAPITAL Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
2,250,000	1,500,000	750,000	Nil.
Stock.	Stock.	Stock.	Stock.
£150	£100	£50	Nil.

Authorised note issue, £396,852.

Year Ended Feb. 28.	Net Profits £	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserves, Invest-ments, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1912	306,145	1·16	251,750	*19	55,000	12,646
1914	320,825	1·20	265,000	*20	55,000	12,030
1915	294,099	1·04	219,707	18	75,000	11,422
1916	267,255	0·97	181,613	16	85,000	12,064
1917	258,369	0·78	161,208	16	85,000	24,224
1918	285,508	0·82	159,000	16	115,000	35,732
1919	312,327	0·79	149,447	16	145,000	53,612
1920	319,722	0·71	148,400	16	170,000	54,934
1921	309,603	0·68	148,400	16	140,000	76,137
1922	320,242	0·71	148,400	16	175,000	72,978
1923	345,178	0·83	157,955	16	175,000	85,202
1924	355,727	0·88	163,779	16	175,000	102,149
1925	365,975	0·94	164,300	16	175,000	128,824
1926	368,164	0·97	171,641	16	175,000	150,347
1927	370,119	0·93	192,000	16	175,000	153,466
1928	372,335	0·95	204,000	17	155,000	166,801
1929	374,283	0·95	216,000	18	155,000	170,084
1930	365,872	0·91	216,000	18	147,500	172,456

* Free of income-tax.

Year Ended Feb. 28.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Investments and Money at Call.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1891	113	2,050,000	10·3	102,154	0·5	937,165	4·7	1,131,560	5·8	223,713	1·1	15,516,050	77·6	19,960,642	1,312,095	6·6	7,690,983	38·5	9,433,789	47·2	1,523,775	7·7
1901	124	2,025,000	9·9	86,116	0·4	1,073,920	5·2	1,213,022	5·9	201,198	1·0	15,887,972	77·6	20,487,228	1,610,824	7·9	7,877,159	38·5	9,167,175	44·6	1,832,070	9·0
1906	130	2,250,000	11·0	106,784	0·5	1,067,088	5·2	1,509,691	7·4	423,287	2·1	15,097,363	73·8	20,454,213	1,535,556	7·5	7,191,180	35·2	9,599,374	46·9	2,128,103	10·4
1911	164	2,575,000	10·9	132,501	0·6	1,172,060	5·0	1,676,828	7·1	314,625	1·3	17,648,362	75·1	23,519,376	1,773,740	7·5	8,096,915	34·5	11,283,951	48·0	2,364,770	10·0
1912	165	2,625,000	10·0	145,146	0·6	1,180,669	4·5	2,849,495	10·8	221,834	0·8	19,249,180	73·3	26,271,324	1,763,256	6·7	9,109,529	34·7	11,864,891	45·2	3,533,648	13·4
1913	165	2,675,000	9·8	143,704	0·5	1,296,789	4·7	2,742,799	10·1	311,984	1·1	20,172,278	73·8	27,342,554	1,876,099	6·9	9,800,440	36·0	12,243,448	44·6	3,422,567	12·5
1914	165	2,725,000	10·2	144,530	0·5	1,238,666	4·6	2,609,030	9·8	420,989	1·6	19,639,635	73·3	26,777,850	1,808,776	6·8	9,643,567	36·0	12,028,203	44·9	3,297,304	12·3
1915	165	2,525,000	8·9	106,910	0·4	1,556,979	5·5	2,522,997	8·9	566,184	2·0	21,103,759	74·3	28,381,829	2,165,207	7·6	11,694,313	41·3	11,309,582	39·7	3,212,727	11·4
1916	165	2,375,000	8·7	100,043	0·4	2,119,702	7·7	1,052,042	3·8	284,764	1·0	21,552,004	78·4	27,483,555	3,217,393	11·7	12,547,245	45·6	9,981,646	36·4	1,737,271	6·3
1917	165	2,075,000	6·3	103,724	0·3	2,492,623	7·5	1,184,764	3·6	248,407	0·7	26,912,606	81·6	33,017,124	3,821,053	11·6	13,907,055	42·1	13,424,172	40·7	1,864,844	5·6
1918	165	2,075,000	6·0	115,232	0·3	3,074,872	8·8	996,398	2·8	234,943	0·7	28,456,735	81·4	34,953,180	4,582,375	13·1	15,450,213	44·3	13,254,548	37·9	1,666,044	4·7
1919	166	1,875,000	4·8	127,812	0·3	4,022,757	10·1	676,162	1·8	292,626	0·8	32,275,869	82·2	39,270,226	5,863,229	15·0	19,681,684	50·2	12,387,339	31·6	1,337,974	3·2
1920	167	1,875,000	4·1	129,134	0·3	4,228,825	9·3	673,307	1·5	1,446,699	3·2	36,943,953	81·6	45,296,918	6,565,604	14·5	19,345,243	42·6	18,064,236	40·0	1,321,835	2·9
1921	167	1,875,000	4·1	150,337	0·3	4,328,175	9·6	841,751	1·9	415,979	0·9	37,687,358	83·2	45,298,600	6,574,003	14·5	16,882,834	37·4	20,362,823	44·9	1,478,940	3·2
1922	170	2,000,000	4·4	147,178	0·3	3,575,429	7·9	276,426	0·6	698,000	1·5	38,624,814	85·3	45,321,847	5,970,654	13·2	20,711,141	45·7	17,762,485	39·2	877,567	1·9
1923	175	2,125,000	5·1	164,702	0·4	3,338,804	8·0	653,019	1·6	563,193	1·4	34,695,037	83·5	41,539,755	6,174,005	14·8	19,818,780	47·8	14,296,690	34·3	1,250,280	3·0
1924	180	2,250,000	5·6	184,299	0·5	3,305,833	8·2	460,598	1·1	642,668	1·6	33,232,600	83·0	40,075,998	5,700,699	14·2	19,998,407	49·9	13,338,642	33·3	1,038,250	2·6
1925	183	2,375,000	6·1	210,974	0·5	3,231,858	8·3	635,396	1·6	946,830	2·4	31,429,270	81·1	38,829,328	5,752,535	14·8	15,604,177	40·2	16,277,070	41·9	1,195,546	3·1
1926	186	3,007,500	8·0	237,709	0·6	3,046,114	8·1	768,123	2·0	843,818	2·2	29,903,512	79·1	37,806,776	5,378,899	14·2	14,596,936	38·6	16,526,920	43·8	1,304,021	3·4
1927	187	3,132,500	7·9	249,466	0·6	3,015,709	7·6	1,045,003	2·6	269,877	0·7	31,936,520	80·6	39,649,075	5,710,749	14·4	14,480,219	36·5	17,890,869	45·1	1,567,238	4·0
1928	187	3,257,500	8·3	274,801	0·7	2,874,100	7·4	864,579	2·2	784,256	2·0	30,984,420	79·4	39,039,656	5,414,397	13·9	15,876,227	40·6	16,387,454	42·0	1,361,578	3·5
1929	188	3,382,500	8·5	278,084	0·7	2,776,147	7·0	834,124	2·1	266,951	0·7	32,068,386	81·0	39,606,192	4,896,234	12·4	13,372,478	33·8	20,043,356	50·5	1,294,124	3·3
1930	190	3,500,000	8·7	280,456	0·7	3,040,542	7·5	802,408	2·0	470,320	1·2	32,258,308	79·9	40,352,034	5,138,225	12·7	14,025,388	34·8	19,956,013	49·4	1,232,408	3·1

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK.

ESTABLISHED 1746. 1919—AFFILIATED WITH BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED.

CAPITAL Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
£	£	£	£	£
1,250,000	1,250,000	Nil	Nil	4,125,000

Fully-paid stock, April 30, 1930, price £330.
Note issue, £438,024.

Year Ended Jan. 15	Net Profits. £	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserves, Investments, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1912	269,305	1·62	250,000	20	3,797	47,570
1913	267,916	1·51	237,500	19	40,442	37,545
1914	257,679	1·46	225,000	18	40,981	29,242
1915	266,318	1·34	207,506	18	25,227	62,827
1916	280,585	1·33	172,980	16	140,922	29,509
1917	266,047	1·07	154,466	16	85,712	55,378
1918	296,234	1·02	150,000	16	120,000	81,612
1919	297,873	0·89	142,233	16	170,000	67,252
1920	307,215	0·85	140,000	16	186,086	48,382
1921	340,428	0·89	140,000	16	220,352	28,457
1922	285,646	0·73	140,000	16	120,000	54,104
1923	294,340	0·84	147,767	16	150,000	50,676
1924	309,665	0·94	153,884	16	150,000	56,457
1925	317,812	0·90	155,000	16	150,000	69,270
1926	320,234	0·94	158,883	16	175,000	55,621
1927	317,750	0·93	160,000	16	170,000	43,371
1928	321,361	0·94	160,000	16	150,000	54,732
1929	330,040	0·94	160,000	16	150,000	74,772
1930	325,954	0·96	160,000	16	150,000	90,726

Year Ended Jan. 15.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Acceptances and Parliamentary Deposits.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, &c.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand, at Bankers, and at Call or Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances (including Short Loans).	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptanc's	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1890*	117	1,825,000	12·5	89,097	0·6	753,274	5·2	86,723	0·6	206,666	1·4	11,609,223	79·7	14,569,983	2,345,363	16·1	3,464,034	23·8	8,331,596	57·1	428,990	3·0
1900*	125	2,950,000	16·2	142,723	0·8	918,670	5·1	598,742	3·3	160,566	0·9	13,415,885	73·7	18,186,586	2,809,669	15·4	3,963,401	21·8	10,327,187	56·8	1,086,329	6·0
1905*	138	3,050,000	18·2	170,561	1·0	840,105	5·0	562,434	3·4	203,186	1·2	11,917,009	71·2	16,743,295	1,873,179	11·2	4,037,149	24·1	9,238,241	55·2	1,594,726	9·5
1910	141	3,050,000	18·5	163,155	1·0	738,763	4·5	384,834	2·3	320,097	1·9	11,853,342	71·8	16,510,191	1,989,013	12·0	4,097,831	24·8	9,007,563	54·6	1,415,784	8·6
1911	145	3,050,000	18·3	157,063	1·0	737,170	4·4	339,096	2·0	221,007	1·3	12,118,184	73·0	16,622,520	1,743,056	10·5	3,910,618	23·5	9,603,441	57·8	1,365,405	8·2
1912	147	3,000,000	17·5	172,570	1·0	810,145	4·7	201,007	1·2	142,124	0·8	12,776,504	74·8	17,102,350	2,902,964	17·0	3,744,913	21·9	9,234,429	53·9	1,220,044	7·2
1913	147	2,900,000	16·4	150,045	0·8	792,017	4·5	113,450	0·6	222,395	1·3	13,495,696	76·4	17,673,603	3,360,140	19·0	4,195,109	23·6	9,008,880	51·1	1,109,474	6·3
1914	150	2,750,000	15·1	141,743	0·8	796,620	4·6	193,936	1·1	231,214	1·3	14,108,626	77·1	18,222 139	3,485,205	19·1	4,615,591	25·3	8,938,399	49·1	1,182,944	6·5
1915	153	2,600,000	13·1	164,655	0·8	1,048,215	5·3	661,350	3·3	488,163	2·5	14,929,671	75·0	19,892,054	3,773,140	19·0	5,123,449	25·8	9,349,312	47·1	1,646,153	8·1
1916	151	2,500,000	11·9	113,126	0·5	1,441,925	6·9	419,191	2·0	505,139	2·4	16,023,675	76·3	21,003,056	4,292,842	20·4	6,902,746	33·0	8,409,752	40·0	1,397,716	6·6
1917	150	2,450,000	9·9	130,378	0·5	1,889,913	7·6	866,401	3·5	293,089	1·2	19,257,797	77·3	24,887,578	5,887,066	23·6	7,017,585	28·3	10,147,641	40·7	1,835,286	7·4
1918	146	2,500,000	8·6	156,612	0·5	2,334,137	8·0	545,428	1·8	924,705	3·2	22,747,306	77·9	29,208,188	6,589,704	22·5	6,913,311	23·6	14,260,697	48·9	1,444,476	5·0
1919	146	2,600,000	7·7	137,252	0·4	3,182,911	9·5	391,180	1·2	876,032	2·6	26,425,026	78·6	33,612,401	6,608,777	19·7	9,578,353	28·5	16,202,493	48·2	1,222,778	3·6
1920	141	2,600,000	7·2	118,382	0·3	3,399,800	9·4	593,283	1·6	673,194	1·9	28,631,068	79·6	36,015,727	6,643,488	18·4	10,578,908	29·2	17,380,266	48·5	1,413,065	3·9
1921	141	2,600,000	6·8	98,457	0·3	3,622,276	9·4	605,759	1·6	1,343,294	3·5	30,187,012	78·4	38,456,798	8,819,159	23·0	10,141,320	26·3	18,008,593	46·8	1,487,726	3·9
1922	142	2,600,000	6·7	124,103	0·3	3,099,932	7·9	298,626	0·8	870,383	2·2	31,987,836	82·1	38,980,880	8,610,221	22·1	11,624,428	30·0	17,591,802	44·9	1,154,429	3·0
1923	149	2,700,000	7·7	125,676	0·4	2,890,140	8·2	208,001	0·6	341,979	1·0	28,849,249	82·1	35,115,045	6,732,003	19·2	16,996,386	48·4	10,421,575	29·7	965,081	2·7
1924	152	2,800,000	8·5	133,957	0·4	2,704,165	8·2	167,967	0·5	391,416	1·2	26,794,343	81·2	32,991,848	7,263,232	22·0	15,098,055	45·8	9,748,501	29·5	882,060	2·7
1925	185	2,900,000	8·6	146,770	0·4	2,682,525	8·0	534,785	1·6	615,299	1·8	26,654,369	79·6	33,533,748	7,962,760	23·7	14,210,545	42·4	10,190,063	30·4	1,170,380	3·5
1926	189	3,050,000	9·0	135,621	0·4	2,698,952	7·9	657,338	1·9	423,200	1·2	27,078,222	79·6	34,043,333	7,361,185	21·6	13,816,258	40·6	11,588,479	34·0	1,277,411	3·8
1927	192	3,200,000	9·4	123,371	0·4	2,666,322	7·8	641,097	1·9	425,777	1·2	27,001,897	79·3	34,058,464	7,506,891	22·1	12,553,639	36·9	12,762,957	37·4	1,234,977	3·6
1928	196	3,300,000	9·6	134,732	0·4	2,659,123	7·8	607,669	1·8	407,915	1·2	27,084,333	79·2	34,193,772	7,726,685	22·6	11,659,644	34·1	13,679,951	40·0	1,127,492	3·3
1929	195	3,400,000	9·7	154,772	0·4	2,560,190	7·3	721,271	2·7	941,171	2·0	27,236,608	77·9	35,014,012	8,679,982	24·8	10,792,285	30·8	14,369,274	41·0	1,172,471	3·4
1930	200	3,500,000	10·3	170,726	0·5	2,504,866	7·4	653,730	1·9	353,305	1·0	26,811,000	78·9	33,993,627	7,997,131	23·5	10,703,895	31·5	14,207,355	41·8	1,085,246	3·2

* Year ended April 15th.

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1838.

Affiliated with Midland Bank, Limited, 1920.

CAPITAL Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Reserved.
£	£	£
5,300,000	1,300,000	4,000,000
	Per Share.	Per Share.
100,000 shares of £50	£10	£40
25,000 shares of £10	£10	

Authorised note issue, £274,321.

Year Ended Dec. 31.	Net Profits. £	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	To Reserve, etc. £	Carried Forward. £
1911	217,222	1·36	140,000	14	75,017	27,518
1912	230,099	1·26	150,000	15	80,000	27,617
1913	237,512	1·28	150,000	15	95,000	20,129
1914	250,654	1·26	150,000	15	95,000	25,783
1915	255,616	1·14	150,000	15	105,000	26,419
1916	265,391	0·96	150,000	15	115,000	26,810
1917	286,258	1·08	160,000	16	125,000	*28,068
1918	315,683	0·83	180,000	18	120,000	43,751
1919	330,836	0·78	180,000	18	150,000	44,587
1920	336,975	0·73	180,000	18	155,000	46,562
1921	331,009	0·74	180,000	18	150,000	47,571
1922	334,855	0·81	180,000	18	150,000	52,426
1923	330,971	0·87	180,000	18	150,000	53,398
1924	345,643	0·88	198,000	18	150,000	51,041
1925	341,567	0·90	225,000	18	100,000	67,608
1926	334,191	0·91	225,000	18	100,000	76,799
1927	335,485	0·91	225,000	18	105,000	82,284
1928	340,136	0·91	225,000	18	105,000	92,420
1929	331,634	0·93	234,000	18	100,000	90,054

Year Ended Jan. 15	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, etc.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Investments and Money at Call.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1690	107	1,450,000	11·8	141,146	1·2	741,960	6·5	1,088,845	8·9	140,439	1·1	8,642,684	70·5	12,205,074	1,336,175	11·0	3,633,978	29·8	5,766,427	47·2	1,468,494	9·0
1900	122	1,580,000	10·3	187,210	1·2	989,219	6·4	190,262	1·2	167,138	1·1	12,310,515	79·8	15,424,344	1,740,977	11·2	6,332,721	41·1	6,733,723	43·7	616,923	4·0
1905	135	1,780,000	12·7	153,559	1·1	836,427	5·9	167,708	1·2	172,474	1·2	10,923,453	77·9	14,033,621	1,783,731	12·7	5,222,018	37·2	6,425,291	45·8	602,581	4·3
1906	137	1,810,000	12·0	140,945	0·9	865,005	5·7	358,479	2·4	153,859	1·0	11,740,556	78·0	15,068,844	1,642,985	10·9	5,127,850	34·1	7,504,563	49·7	793,446	5·3
1907	139	1,810,000	11·4	143,112	0·9	856,863	5·4	337,158	2·1	229,455	1·4	12,534,996	78·8	15,911,584	2,213,917	13·9	5,151,817	32·4	7,778,195	48·9	767,655	4·8
1908	141	1,860,000	12·2	143,822	0·9	843,212	5·5	244,296	1·6	191,123	1·2	12,015,897	78·6	15,298,350	1,764,547	11·6	5,262,016	34·4	7,599,492	49·6	672,295	4·4
1909	143	1,910,000	12·3	154,942	1·0	769,484	4·9	160,177	1·0	218,555	1·4	12,345,624	79·4	15,558,782	1,897,740	12·2	5,443,845	35·0	7,625,998	49·0	591,199	3·8
1910	146	1,950,000	12·3	155,313	1·0	772,947	4·9	165,145	1·0	187,108	1·2	12,589,533	79·6	15,820,046	1,830,974	11·6	5,897,208	37·3	7,493,657	47·4	598,207	3·7
1911	146	2,000,000	12·6	159,351	1·0	823,963	5·2	222,269	1·4	198,918	1·2	12,492,327	78·6	15,896,828	1,880,629	11·8	5,531,333	34·8	7,831,952	49·3	672,914	4·1
1912	147	2,030,000	11·1	168,867	0·9	907,875	5·0	436,745	2·4	325,818	1·8	14,382,212	78·8	18,251,517	2,324,192	12·7	6,630,338	36·4	8,425,764	46·1	871,223	4·8
1913	149	2,050,000	11·1	161,379	0·9	913,847	4·9	208,260	1·1	241,551	1·3	14,992,012	80·7	18,567,049	2,180,687	11·8	6,854,661	37·0	8,885,572	47·7	646,129	3·5
1914	153	2,070,000	10·4	164,258	0·8	1,165,321	5·9	182,986	0·9	223,631	1·1	16,029,688	80·9	19,835,884	2,443,657	12·3	8,458,950	42·4	8,312,554	42·2	620,723	3·1
1915	155	2,000,000	9·0	156,522	0·7	1,415,425	6·3	352,486	1·6	331,782	1·5	18,066,557	80·9	22,322,772	3,331,757	14·9	11,223,737	50·4	6,976,311	31·2	790,967	3·5
1916	158	2,000,000	7·2	143,245	0·5	1,776,614	6·4	538,963	1·9	603,081	2·2	22,685,445	81·8	27,747,348	4,284,480	15·4	12,045,963	43·5	10,440,266	37·6	976,639	3·5
1917	158	2,070,000	6·6	148,068	0·5	2,266,315	7·2	357,436	1·1	282,032	0·9	26,426,240	83·7	31,550,091	4,932,216	15·6	10,407,184	33·0	*15,419,942	48·9	790,749	2·5
1918	158	2,170,000	6·0	172,094	0·5	3,092,333	8·6	251,110	0·7	506,429	1·4	29,747,572	82·8	35,939,538	5,561,418	15·5	16,585,495	46·1	13,117,862	36·5	674,763	1·9
1919	158	2,200,000	5·2	224,687	0·5	3,534,066	8·4	720,717	1·7	717,036	1·7	34,813,809	82·5	42,210,215	7,470,286	17·7	18,406,566	43·7	15,187,784	35·9	1,145,579	2·7
1920	161	2,200,000	4·8	226,562	0·5	3,712,881	8·1	512,308	1·1	907,830	2·0	38,341,333	83·5	45,900,914	7,357,432	16·0	15,959,341	34·7	21,623,447	47·2	960,694	2·1
1921	167	2,200,000	4·9	227,571	0·5	3,073,430	6·9	758,635	1·7	768,317	1·7	37,833,774	84·3	44,861,727	5,501,081	12·3	15,085,657	33·6	22,984,437	51·2	1,290,552	2·9
1922	183	2,300,000	5·6	232,427	0·6	3,018,723	7·3	1,081,958	2·6	671,030	1·6	34,102,092	82·3	41,406,230	5,380,696	13·0	13,310,077	32·1	21,025,817	50·8	1,689,640	4·1
1923	185	2,400,000	6·3	233,398	0·6	2,846,831	7·5	817,070	2·1	418,148	1·1	31,319,196	82·4	38,034,643	5,373,640	14·1	10,136,117	26·6	21,055,867	55·4	1,469,019	3·9
1924	187	2,400,000	6·1	399,041	1·0	2,849,020	7·3	1,587,148	4·0	946,384	2·4	31,070,379	79·2	39,251,972	5,803,635	14·8	10,011,407	25·5	21,125,772	53·8	2,311,158	5·9
1925	188	2,600,000	6·9	292,608	0·8	2,713,604	7·1	1,751,418	4·6	384,843	1·0	30,181,161	79·6	37,923,634	5,358,809	14·1	10,201,832	26·9	19,883,838	52·5	2,479,155	6·5
1926	189	2,650,000	7·2	301,799	0·8	2,472,469	6·7	869,573	2·4	548,812	1·5	29,887,391	81·4	36,730,044	5,081,493	13·8	11,659,934	31·7	18,407,164	50·2	1,581,453	4·5
1927	192	2,700,000	7·4	307,284	0·8	2,724,466	7·4	951,880	2·6	410,003	1·1	29,619,723	80·7	36,713,356	5,072,075	13·8	11,154,593	30·4	18,837,781	51·3	1,648,907	4·3
1928	192	2,750,000	7·3	317,420	0·8	2,742,946	7·3	1,009,351	2·9	537,139	1·4	30,242,808	80·3	37,599,664	5,480,733	14·6	12,056,399	32·1	18,366,141	48·8	1,696,391	4·5
1929	193	2,850,000	8·0	324,054	0·9	2,645,689	7·5	701,188	2·0	347,827	1·0	28,625,133	80·6	35,493,891	5,084,367	14·3	10,632,729	30·2	18,371,411	51·7	1,405,384	4·0

* Includes Treasury Bills.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

	CAPITAL Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
A	7,000,000	1,750,000	2,450,000	2,800,000	5,414,100
B	500,000	500,000	nil	nil	984,400
	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
A	£4	£1	£1 2/5	£1 3/5	£3 3/32
B	£1	£1	nil	nil	£1 31/32

Note issue, £3,070,995. Authorised issue, £374,880.

Year Ended Oct. 31	Net Profits. £	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserves, etc. £	Carried Forward. £
1911	230,456	1·23	188,333	20	40,000	24,588
1912	239,250	1·20	188,333	20	55,000	20,503
1913	240,569	1·10	188,333	20	50,000	22,741
1914	249,536	1·10	180,000	18	75,000	30,355
1915	240,923	1·03	140,546	16	105,000	25,732
1916	247,908	0·89	126,667	16	105,000	41,973
1917	282,536	0·88	120,000	16	160,000	44,509
1918	312,255	0·83	122,589	17	185,000	49,176
1919	317,456	0·70	119,000	17	195,000	52,632
1920	302,039	0·59	157,500	"A" 14 "B" 10	145,000	52,171
1921	341,896	0·65	166,250	"A" 15 "B" 10	170,000	57,817
1922	349,600	0·71	182,285	"A" 16 "B" 10	170,000	55,132
1923	347,217	0·78	191,129	"A" 16 "B" 10	155,000	58,220
1924	335,117	0·78	193,750	"A" 16 "B" 10	125,000	72,587
1925	334,897	0·78	197,336	"A" 16 "B" 10	135,000	75,149
1926	326,695	0·79	200,000	"A" 16 "B" 10	125,000	76,844
1927	335,126	0·80	200,000	"A" 16 "B" 10	130,000	81,970
1928	344,600	0·81	200,000	"A" 16 "B" 10	175,000	51,570
1929	367,983	0·81	232,000	"A" 16 "B" 10	125,000	62,562

* Free of income-tax.

Year ended Oct. 31.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Acceptances and Endorsements.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, Staff Fund, etc.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890	135	1,600,000	11·0	912,305	6·2	149,776	1·0	227,634	1·6	11,499,591	79·7	14,464,402	1,325,909	9·2	2,712,316	18·8	2,757,124	19·0	6,978,592	48·3	690,461	4·7
1900	142	2,000,000	11·1	1,077,959	6·0	164,049	0·9	220,924	1·2	14,418,109	80·1	18,001,462	1,827,067	10·2	2,303,643	12·8	3,475,536	19·3	9,731,070	54·1	664,146	3·6
1905	152	2,000,000	11·8	1,008,934	5·6	295,913	1·7	434,244	2·4	14,024,773	78·4	17,885,210	1,834,579	10·2	2,705,935	15·2	3,142,634	17·5	9,390,199	52·5	811,863	4·6
1910	166	1,900,000	10·8	997,229	5·4	404,421	2·2	431,700	2·3	14,687,812	79·2	18,543,627	1,849,214	9·9	2,872,352	15·5	3,580,760	19·3	9,322,212	50·3	919,079	5·0
1911	167	1,900,000	10·2	994,620	5·3	352,616	1·9	448,122	2·4	14,861,356	79·6	18,675,469	2,151,194	11·5	3,327,589	17·8	3,623,503	19·4	8,706,775	46·6	866,408	4·7
1912	167	1,900,000	9·5	1,017,496	5·1	388,956	2·0	410,673	2·1	16,094,867	80·8	19,926,663	2,131,929	10·7	4,512,790	22·7	4,066,519	20·4	8,310,822	41·7	904,603	4·5
1913	170	1,900,000	8·8	1,107,342	5·1	216,399	1·0	366,303	1·7	18,056,150	83·0	21,763,102	2,458,852	11·3	4,382,004	20·1	4,345,219	20·0	9,842,623	45·2	734,394	3·4
1914	174	1,800,000	7·9	1,278,330	5·6	310,054	1·4	278,516	1·2	18,953,227	83·2	22,723,361	2,962,291	13·0	3,079,702	13·6	4,860,134	21·4	10,993,283	48·8	827,951	3·2
1915	173	1,800,000	7·7	1,754,857	7·5	274,677	1·2	398,994	1·7	19,036,911	81·9	23,358,860	3,039,178	13·1	2,984,026	12·8	8,726,997	37·4	7,740,108	33·0	868,551	3·7
1916	172	1,700,000	6·1	2,109,716	7·5	683,019	2·5	473,196	1·7	22,873,082	82·0	27,940,986	2,292,700	8·2	3,809,192	13·6	8,190,493	29·3	12,376,744	44·7	1,271,857	4·2
1917	174	1,700,000	5·3	2,421,155	7·5	718,578	2·7	619,839	1·9	26,659,325	82·9	32,223,406	4,968,824	15·4	2,109,913	6·5	9,210,079	28·5	14,637,245	45·6	1,297,395	4·0
1918	178	1,850,000	4·9	3,307,838	8·7	1,023,858	2·7	812,669	2·2	30,698,529	81·2	37,805,284	6,545,786	17·3	3,430,348	9·1	10,216,612	27·0	16,062,262	42·5	1,550,276	4·1
1919	191	2,000,000	4·4	3,988,975	8·8	2,151,287	4·7	878,061	1·9	36,071,163	80·0	45,205,118	7,672,181	17·0	4,110,793	9·1	14,059,646	31·0	16,685,833	37·0	2,676,665	5·9
1920	196	2,750,000	5·4	4,350,944	8·5	2,034,586	3·9	878,578	1·7	41,096,568	80·0	51,241,597	8,227,119	16·0	5,332,423	10·4	13,484,567	26·3	21,581,707	42·2	2,615,781	5·1
1921	206	2,875,000	5·5	3,874,263	7·4	1,083,326	2·1	1,042,286	2·0	43,711,678	83·1	52,731,870	7,028,231	13·3	5,654,770	10·7	13,972,480	26·4	24,394,021	46·4	1,682,368	3·2
1922	277	3,350,000	6·8	3,741,381	7·1	1,040,927	2·1	1,004,429	2·0	40,071,556	81·4	49,091,595	6,125,877	12·5	5,135,315	10·4	16,035,541	32·6	20,048,125	41·0	1,746,737	3·3
1923	288	3,450,000	7·8	3,242,556	7·3	753,805	1·7	684,032	1·6	35,822,541	81·1	44,106,029	6,485,545	14·7	4,272,764	9·7	14,720,792	33·3	17,182,999	39·0	1,473,929	3·3
1924	300	3,500,000	8·1	3,303,929	7·6	704,085	1·6	809,032	1·9	34,716,735	80·3	43,203,244	6,423,626	14·9	2,820,250	6·5	13,727,452	31·8	18,807,556	43·5	1,424,350	3·3
1925	308	3,550,000	8·2	3,121,271	7·2	1,075,992	2·5	1,046,793	2·4	34,153,619	79·2	43,122,824	6,494,525	15·1	3,420,851	7·9	10,977,668	25·4	20,335,917	47·2	1,893,863	4·4
1926	315	3,600,000	8·7	3,005,315	7·2	808,363	1·9	764,966	1·8	33,180,028	79·8	41,535,515	5,783,481	13·9	3,224,683	7·8	9,911,595	23·9	20,978,927	50·5	1,636,829	3·9
1927	326	3,650,000	8·7	3,070,995	7·3	331,510	0·8	1,127,440	2·3	33,616,659	80·5	41,796,604	6,037,998	14·4	4,156,829	9·9	9,480,503	22·7	20,991,270	50·3	1,130,004	2·7
1928	326	3,750,000	8·9	3,132,671	7·4	429,927	1·0	1,176,125	2·8	33,834,406	80·0	42,323,129	6,090,678	14·4	3,712,567	8·8	9,866,223	23·3	21,459,712	50·7	1,193,949	2·8
1929	326	5,050,000	11·1	3,230,644	7·1	585,677	1·3	1,255,765	2·8	35,228,898	77·7	45,350,984	6,076,179	13·4	4,553,657	10·0	10,178,147	22·4	23,137,437	51·1	1,405,584	3·1

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1825.

CAPITAL			
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
5,000,000	1,100,000	900,000	3,000,000

STOCK			
£500	£110	£90	£300

Year Ended Nov. 1.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserve, etc. £	Carried Forward. £
1911	228,058	1·14	188,333	20	65,000	40,641
1912	230,580	1·15	188,333	20	50,000	32,888
1913	232,050	1·08	169,500	18	60,000	35,438
1914	237,045	1·05	169,069	18	15,000	88,413
1915	250,980	1·01	140,547	16	135,000	63,847
1916	266,541	0·92	126,800	16	140,000	54,365
1917	288,597	0·84	120,000	16	160,000	62,962
1918	284,867	0·77	115,400	16	160,000	72,429
1919	326,664	0·79	112,000	16	120,000	167,093
1920	295,310	0·67	123,200	16	175,000	64,203
1921	285,458	0·63	123,200	16	160,000	66,461
1922	291,063	0·69	128,263	16	165,000	64,261
1923	296,229	0·77	134,531	16	160,000	65,959
1924	291,583	0·79	136,400	16	155,000	66,142
1925	288,397	0·79	138,926	16	151,392	64,221
1926	284,777	0·79	140,800	16	140,000	68,198
1927	286,060	0·79	140,800	16	145,000	68,458
1928	291,222	0·77	140,800	16	150,000	68,880
1929	280,686	0·74	140,800	16	135,000	73,766

Year Ended Nov. 1.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Acceptances.	Per Cent.	Drafts Outstanding	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890	100	1,725,000	10·0	760,015	4·4	790,944	4·6	143,350	0·8	13,693,571	79·2	17,287,859	1,175,139	6·8	3,746,567	21·6	2,761,369	16·0	8,557,240	49·5	1,047,544	6·1
1900	113	2,000,000	10·1	953,468	4·9	742,814	3·6	124,920	0·6	15,738,707	79·3	19,776,326	1,568,583	7·9	4,297,675	21·7	3,308,018	17·0	9,425,236	47·6	1,176,814	5·8
1905	119	2,030,000	11·2	891,527	5·0	710,424	3·9	67,640	0·4	14,133,647	78·1	18,072,990	1,396,167	7·7	2,270,402	12·6	3,260,379	18·0	9,905,618	54·8	1,240,424	6·9
1910	121	1,900,000	9·7	836,720	4·2	705,162	3·7	76,685	0·4	15,893,223	80·9	19,666,039	1,494,932	7·5	3,315,914	16·9	3,178,597	16·2	10,359,034	52·6	1,317,562	6·8
1911	122	1,950,000	10·0	859,031	4·2	531,060	2·6	66,878	0·4	16,413,349	81·9	20,049,292	1,510,754	7·5	3,862,104	19·3	3,400,548	17·0	10,138,126	50·5	1,137,760	5·7
1912	123	1,900,000	9·5	923,508	4·6	899,526	4·4	123,969	0·6	15,945,021	79·3	20,013,245	1,632,068	8·1	3,690,639	18·4	3,140,017	15·6	10,037,895	50·4	1,512,626	7·5
1913	124	1,900,000	8·8	910,084	4·2	1,019,688	4·7	47,285	0·2	17,426,661	80·9	21,508,656	1,823,180	8·5	3,824,837	17·8	3,047,798	14·1	11,185,503	52·1	1,627,338	7·5
1914	125	1,900,000	8·4	1,098,453	4·8	1,210,380	5·3	46,441	0·2	18,116,314	80·0	22,629,070	2,036,110	9·0	3,621,697	16·0	3,234,862	14·3	11,919,422	52·7	1,816,979	8·0
1915	125	1,800,000	7·3	1,531,533	6·2	763,774	3·1	43,703	0·2	20,442,025	82·3	24,785,429	2,468,556	9·9	2,997,935	12·1	7,746,123	31·2	10,204,441	41·3	1,368,374	5·5
1916	125	1,700,000	5·9	1,851,085	6·4	1,150,510	4·0	44,781	0·2	23,957,116	83·0	28,884,657	3,520,895	12·2	3,383,792	11·7	7,201,751	25·0	13,026,708	45·0	1,751,511	6·1
1917	125	1,800,000	5·2	2,254,494	6·6	1,173,909	3·4	55,455	0·2	29,005,324	84·2	34,472,144	4,324,005	12·6	2,699,733	7·8	7,072,247	20·5	18,603,150	53·9	1,773,009	5·2
1918	126	1,900,000	5·1	3,167,678	8·5	1,127,175	3·0	153,874	0·4	30,594,496	82·4	37,131,051	4,095,277	11·0	5,355,690	14·4	8,923,913	24·8	17,006,746	45·8	1,749,425	4·7
1919	126	2,000,000	4·9	3,248,797	7·8	1,444,468	3·5	103,477	0·3	34,294,546	83·0	41,370,381	5,236,080	12·7	4,887,026	11·8	11,922,405	28·8	17,246,002	41·7	2,078,868	5·0
1920	128	2,100,000	4·8	3,798,878	8·6	898,782	2·0	84,014	0·2	36,973,590	83·8	44,042,667	6,028,528	13·7	6,208,469	14·0	11,554,984	26·1	18,714,804	42·7	1,535,882	3·5
1921	130	2,200,000	4·9	3,065,644	6·8	861,788	1·9	51,713	0·1	38,590,983	85·9	44,959,789	4,823,594	10·7	5,754,159	12·8	12,378,915	27·5	20,513,533	45·7	1,489,588	3·3
1922	133	2,300,000	5·5	2,654,630	6·3	1,210,397	2·9	84,797	0·2	35,638,251	84·7	42,080,599	3,610,680	8·6	4,320,088	10·3	15,715,620	37·4	16,607,014	39·4	1,827,197	4·3
1923	134	2,350,000	6·1	2,476,488	6·5	1,004,587	2·6	67,034	0·2	32,314,689	84·1	38,413,288	3,565,086	9·3	4,092,709	10·7	14,149,691	36·9	14,997,605	38·9	1,608,197	4·2
1924	136	2,400,000	6·5	2,590,657	7·0	674,313	1·8	90,732	0·2	31,018,368	83·9	36,976,613	3,710,916	10·0	3,951,467	10·7	12,372,084	33·5	15,673,292	42·4	1,268,853	3·4
1925	138	2,450,000	6·7	2,446,797	6·7	313,349	0·9	71,639	0·2	31,200,756	85·0	36,685,589	3,272,639	8·9	4,229,378	11·5	11,889,064	32·4	16,388,608	44·7	906,000	2·5
1926	139	2,500,000	6·9	2,312,536	6·4	300,217	0·8	57,173	0·2	30,884,577	85·2	36,265,500	3,147,385	8·7	4,528,022	12·5	11,433,452	31·5	16,241,254	44·8	913,387	2·5
1927	140	2,550,000	7·0	2,349,470	6·5	380,902	1·1	51,626	0 1	30,745,611	84·7	36,286,867	3,119,351	8·6	4,264,426	11·7	10,920,445	30·1	17,001,243	46·9	981,402	2·7
1928	140	2,600,000	6·8	2,503,143	6·2	1,033,779	2·7	...	...	31,652,172	83·4	37,998,774	4,641,518	12·2	3,057,000	8·1	10,919,060	28·7	17,760,117	46·7	1,621,879	4·3
1929	143	2,650,000	7·0	2,601,044	6·7	1,475 182	3·8	...	...	32,154,808	82·0	39,095,600	4,457,508	11·4	2,760,500	7·1	11,033,067	28·2	18,732,342	47·9	2,112,183	5·4

NORTH OF SCOTLAND BANK LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

1908—North of Scotland Bank amalgamated with Town and County Bank, Limited, and the title changed to North of Scotland and Town and County Bank, Limited.
1923—Title shortened as above.
1924—Controlling interest acquired by Midland Bank, Limited.
1925—Transfer of capital to Midland Bank, Limited, completed.

CAPITAL			
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
3,260,000	1,141,000	163,000	1,956,000
Per Share. £20	Per Share. £7	Per Share. £1	Per Share. £12

Year Ended Sept. 30.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount. £	Dividends Rate. %	Reserve, &c. £	Carried Forward. £
1910	106,254	1·16	81,500	*12½	23,000	11,038
1912	108,581	1·10	81,500	*12½	25,500	15,490
1913	109,422	1·04	81,500	*12½	25,500	17,912
1914	115,664	1·06	81,500	*12½	Nil.	52,076
1915	117,830	0·98	76,406	†12½	Nil.	93,500
1916	122,648	0·85	64,181	12½	Nil.	134,647
1917	126,799	0·77	66,015	13½	47,500	125,926
1918	159,260	0·76	69,519	14½	110,000	79,016
1919	180,764	0·60	73,024	16	67,000	88,460
1920	152,645	0·44	73,024	16	65,000	71,785
1921	186,792	0·65	107,580	17	68,000	82,998
1922	202,020	0·76	110,840	17	85,000	89,178
1923	206,062	0·84	117,360	18	85,000	92,880
1924 and 1925	Profits and appropriations not disclosed.					
§1926	268,084	1·11	152,568	18	75,000	97,452
§1927	270,407	1·11	152,568	18	75,000	102,149
§1928	274,368	1·039	158,436	18	75,000	103,472
§1929	277,563	1·07	205,380	18	75,000	100,655

* Free of income tax. † Second half less income tax. § Dec. 31.

Year Ended Sept. 30.	Number of Branches.	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Miscellaneous Credits, etc.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bank.	Per Cent.	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts and Advances.	Per Cent.	Buildings and Sundries.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1910 ...	148	1,039,500	11·4	74,788	0·8	749,368	8·2	226,981	2·5	7,033,931	77·1	9,124,568	1,152,881	12·7	903,227	9·9	1,788,269	19·6	5,003,917	54·8	276,274	3·0
1912 ...	145	1,069,900	10·9	81,740	0·8	780,667	8·0	120,337	1·2	7,738,960	79·1	9,791,204	1,164,016	11·9	1,693,000	17·3	1,736,888	17·7	4,915,319	50·2	281,980	2·9
1913 ...	148	1,087,000	10·2	84,162	0·8	791,178	7·5	130,010	1·2	8,374,742	79·9	10,467,092	1,246 251	11·9	2,019,000	19·2	1,817,257	17·3	5,120,848	49·1	263,736	2·5
1914 ...	149	1,104,500	10·2	92,826	0·8	983,277	8·3	100,693	0·9	8,670,580	79·8	10,871,876	1,451,213	13·3	1,886,790	17·4	1,951,541	17·9	5,323,849	49·0	258,483	2·4
1915 ...	149	1,104,500	9·3	129,156	1·1	1,054,560	8·9	210,947	1·8	9,406,915	78·9	11,906,078	1,664,055	14·0	805,588	6·7	4,518,611	38·0	4,660,958	39·2	256,866	2·1
1916 ...	148	1,104,500	7·6	182,529	1·3	1,354,308	9·4	197,478	1·6	11,611,969	80·1	14,450,784	2,282,058	15·8	552,342	3·8	7,468,811	51·7	3,891,259	26·9	256,313	1·8
1917 ...	148	1,104,500	6·7	230,884	1·4	1,546,002	9·4	177,746	1·1	13,416,415	81·4	16,475,547	2,602,003	15·8	429,375	2·6	8,817,669	53·6	4,372,193	26·5	254,307	1·6
1918 ...	148	1,152,000	5·5	254,624	1·2	2,114,062	10·1	681,632	3·2	16,845,707	80·0	21,048,025	3,400,181	16·1	...	...	13,261,543	63·0	4,121,479	19·6	254,822	1·3
1919 ...	149	1,252,000	5·0	223,269	0·9	2,513,741	10·0	288,450	1·1	20,810,862	83·0	25,088,322	3,431,551	13·6	...	...	14,958,138	59·6	6,451,243	25·8	247,390	1·0
1920 ...	152	1,304,000	4·7	204,593	0·7	2,644,222	9·5	594,158	2·1	23,125,584	83·0	27,872,557	4,032,148	14·5	...	...	17,329,905	62·2	6,283,801	22·5	226,703	0·8
1921 ...	152	1,304,000	4·6	222,066	0·8	2,436,027	8·6	258,954	0·9	24,359,195	85·1	28,580,242	3,683,682	12·9	...	...	17,278,577	60·5	7,407,853	25·9	210,130	0·7
1922 ...	156	1,352,000	5·1	246,224	0·9	2,242,993	8·4	320,683	1·2	22,428,517	84·4	26,590,417	3,001,440	11·3	...	...	17,631,896	66·3	5,719,145	21·5	237,936	0·9
1923 ...	158	1,402,000	5·7	253,675	1·0	2,137,550	8·7	269,681	1·1	20,528,331	83·5	24,591,237	3,481,365	14·2	...	...	16,069,256	65·3	4,808,697	19·6	231,918	0·9
1924 ...	158	1,909,500	7·8	94,227	0·4	2,168,431	8·9	...	...	20,285,257	82·9	24,457,415	3,078,985	12·6	...	...	13,502,320	55·2	7,638,034	31·2	238,076	1·0
1925*	157	1,974,500	7 9,	95,078	0·4	2,351,600	9·4	...	...	20,538,810	82·3	24,959,988	3,210,092	12·9	...	...	10,838,482	43·4	10,738,802	43·0	172,612	0·7
1926*	157	2,024,500	8·3	192,807	0·8	2,208,853	9·1	...	...	19,853,442	81·8	24,279,602	3,152,093	13·0	...	...	10,319,753	42·5	10,644,409	43·8	163,347	0·7
1927*	155	2,074,500	8·5	197,504	0·8	2,223,345	9·2	...	...	19,791,999	81·5	24,287,348	3,016,216	12·4	...	...	10,001,913	41·2	11,094,493	45·7	174,726	0·7
1928*	158	2,206,000	8·4	206,162	0·8	2,174,254	8·3	...	...	21,811,626	82·5	26,398,042	3,578,531	13·5	...	...	9,754,284	37·0	12,880,905	48·8	184,322	0·7
1929*	158	2,256,000	8·7	203,345	0·8	2,166,879	8·4	...	...	21,277,613	82·1	25,903,837	3,468,360	13·4	...	...	9,914,320	38·2	12,326,872	47·6	194,285	0·8

* December 31.

for every banking service

1677

Lloyds Bank is organized to undertake banking operations of every description, from the smallest to the largest. Besides more than 1850 branches in England and Wales, it has offices in India and Burma and agents or correspondents in all parts of the world. Deposits with the bank exceed £350,000,000.

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Colonial & Foreign Department: 80 Gracechurch Street, E.C.3
Trustee Department: 39 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2

THE
STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA
LIMITED.

Bankers to the Imperial Government in South Africa and to the Governments of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and Tanganyika

CAPITAL AUTHORISED & SUBSCRIBED	£10,000,000
CAPITAL PAID-UP	£2,500,000
RESERVE FUND	£3,164,170
CAPITAL UNCALLED	£7,500,000

Head Office: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD STREET,
and 77, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
LONDON WALL BRANCH: 63, London Wall, E.C.2. WEST END BRANCH: 9, Northumberland Ave., W.C.2.
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BERTRAM LOWNDES, *London Manager.*

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

ESTABLISHED 1727.

1924—Acquired Messrs Drummond.

Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid-up.	Capital Callable.	Capital Reserved.	Market Value.
£	£	£	£	£
2,500,000	2,500,000	Nil.	Nil.	9,000,000

Fully-paid stock. Market price on April 30, 1929, £360.

Year Ended October.	Net Profits.	Profits and Dividends. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1912	267,809	1·30	207,167	11	60,642	951,565
1913	275,932	1·27	207,167	11	59,700	960,630
1914	266,308	1·22	206,667	11	59,641	960,630
1915	293,732	1·19	176,875	10	116,856	800,986
1916	338,420	1·21	157,500	10	180,920	800,986
1917	303,982	0·93	150,000	10	40,000	914,968
1918	310,503	0·86	145,000	10	50,000	1,030,471
1919	325,805	0·74	154,000	11	120,000	1,082,276
1920	375,139	0·79	154,000	11	50,000	1,083,276
1921	377,501	0·78	168,000	12	50,000	1,241,777
1922	401,959	0·83	190,000	13	50,000	1,403,736
1923	426,226	0·92	214,000	14	50,000	1,565,962
1924	452,370	0·92	280,938	14½	50,000	2,347,394
1925	472,623	0·94	305,313	15½	50,000	2,464,704
1926	476,545	0·96	320,000	16	50,000	2,571,250
1927	481,977	0·89	420,000	21	50,000	2,683,227
1928	502,561	0·91	340,000	17	50,000	2,795,788
1929	504,532	0·89	340,000	17	50,000	2,910,320

* Includes "Rest" or Reserve Funds.

Year Ended October.	No. of Branches.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserves.	%	Notes.	%	Acceptances.	%	Drafts Outstanding.	%	Deposit and Current Accounts.	%	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bank.	%	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	%	Investments.	%	Discounts and Advances.	%	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	%
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1890	123	2,794,691	16·2	843,995	4·9	327,491	1·9	336,200	1·9	12,844,269	74·4	17,236,646	1,101,915	6·4	2,559,414	14·8	2,652,508	15·4	10,128,044	58·8	794,765	4·6
1900	137	2,844,079	15·0	1,056,670	5·5	550,655	2·8	381,627	2·0	14,157,122	74·0	19,100,153	1,530,848	8·0	2,591,519	13·6	3,052,480	16·0	10,807,892	56·6	1,117,414	5·8
1905	148	2,933,440	15·8	996,431	5·3	547,313	2·9	467,097	2·5	13,606,172	73·0	18,660,453	1,390,233	7·4	2,596,935	14·1	2,823,889	15·1	10,684,368	57·3	1,165,028	6·1
1910	160	3,013,565	16·3	976,860	5·3	204,614	1·1	276,617	1·5	13,920,173	75·1	18,501,829	1,402,607	7·6	3,177,043	17·2	3,529,051	19·1	9,551,609	51·6	841,519	4·5
1911	162	3,013,565	15·5	994,036	5·1	332,966	1·7	624,572	3·2	14,455,195	74·2	19,533,334	1,518,129	7·8	3,910,071	20·0	3,586,383	18·4	9,559,492	48·9	959,259	4·9
1912	161	2,951,565	14·4	1,001,125	4·9	380,720	1·8	703,310	3·4	15,406,007	75·0	20,555,727	1,599,073	7·8	3,886,419	18·9	3,848,002	18·6	10,215,484	49·8	1,006,749	4·9
1913	164	2,960,630	13·7	1,041,019	4·8	319,454	1·5	580,532	2·7	16,654,482	77·0	21,669,117	1,609,336	7·4	3,858,101	17·8	4,013,517	18·5	11,247,390	51·9	940,773	4·4
1914	166	2,960,630	13·5	1,233,729	5·2	394,265	1·8	326,871	1·5	16,948,700	77·0	21,976,695	2,277,832	10·4	2,872,477	13·1	4,438,583	20·2	11,369,588	51·7	1,018,215	4·6
1915	167	2,800,986	11·4	1,640,239	6·6	442,193	1·8	580,579	2·3	19,144,394	77·2	24,695,787	3,119,279	12·6	3,256,317	13·2	7,959,894	32·3	9,294,498	37·6	1,065,799	4·3
1916	167	2,800,986	10·0	2,091,083	7·5	540,333	1·9	522,894	1·9	22,041,711	78·7	27,997,007	3,097,167	11·0	3,882,937	13·9	7,224,669	25·8	12,631,734	45·1	1,160,500	4·2
1917	167	2,914,968	8·9	2,590,251	7·9	335,034	1·0	771,042	2·3	26,177,865	79·8	32,864,160	3,930,482	12·0	4,184,063	12·8	7,005,120	21·4	16,798,203	50·9	946,292	2·9
1918	167	3,030,471	8·4	3,266,556	9·0	193,925	0·6	536,389	1·5	29,202,380	80·5	36,299,721	4,849,075	13·4	4,360,800	12·0	7,766,285	21·4	18,537,439	51·1	786,122	2·1
1919	172	3,082,276	7·2	3,637,299	8·2	347,589	0·8	1,367,461	3·1	35,548,823	80·5	44,067,448	5,158,547	11·7	5,783,604	13·1	12,766,093	28·8	19,438,362	44·1	920,842	2·1
1920	177	3,082,276	6·7	3,539,685	7·4	311,772	0·6	1,328,825	2·8	39,114,127	82·5	47,460,685	5,376,180	11·3	5,333,477	11·2	10,537,570	22·3	25,353,227	53·4	860,231	1·8
1921	177	3,241,777	6·7	3,222,760	6·6	318,139	0·7	1,116,555	2·3	40,740,032	83·7	48,737,263	4,885,476	10·1	5,742,195	11·8	12,180,193	24·9	25,084,688	51·5	844,711	1·7
1922	184	3,403,736	7·0	3,036,687	6·3	428,425	0·9	1,227,875	2·5	40,265,016	84·0	48,481,739	5,133,175	10·6	5,643,111	11·7	15,663,628	32·4	21,077,516	43·3	964,309	2·0
1923	192	3,565,962	7·7	2,876,175	6·2	593,706	1·3	1,032,552	2·2	37,880,519	82·1	46,072,914	4,877,340	10·6	5,885,828	12·7	14,453,679	31·3	19,682,831	42·9	1,173,236	2·5
1924	207	4,847,394	9·9	2,800,696	5·7	828,254	1·7	626,242	1·3	39,719,332	81·1	48,967,230	4,842,807	9·9	5,347,809	10·9	16,632,194	34·0	20,357,121	41·5	1,787,299	3·7
1925	213	4,964,704	9·9	2,663,730	5·3	734,827	1·5	814,901	1·6	40,790,229	81·4	50,128,391	4,731,859	9·4	5,722,329	11·4	15,147,063	30·2	22,828 676	45·6	1 698 464	3·4
1926	218	5,071,250	10·2	2,529,189	5·1	592,837	1·2	868,333	1·7	40,457,711	81·5	49,679,319	4,670,080	9·4	6,169,886	12·4	13,870,199	27·9	23,388,561	47·1	1,580,593	3·2
1927	224	5,183,227	9·6	2,707,112	5·0	1,134,344	2·1	687,422	1·3	44,186,574	81·6	54,158,679	5,062,622	9·3	6,620,857	12·2	13,883,103	25·6	26,453,671	48·9	2,138,426	4·0
1928	230	5,295,788	9·6	2,685,251	4·9	1,766,599	3·2	746,607	1·4	44,674,152	80·6	55,348,397	4,994,471	9·0	6,619,234	11·9	12,383,155	22·4	28,555,926	51·6	2,795,611	5·1
1929	236	5,410,000	9·6	2,758,043	4·9	1,117,823	2·0	736,557	1·3	46,235,129	81·8	56,487,872	5,172,859	9·2	6,770,174	12·0	12,281,566	21·7	30,048,585	53·2	2,214,688	3·9

UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1830.

Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.	Market Value.
£	£	£	£	£
5,000,000	1,000,000	Nil.	4,000,000	4,187,500
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£5	£1	Nil.	£4	£4 1/8

Authorised note issue, £454,346.

Year Ended April.	Net Profits.	Profits and Dividends. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends Amount.	Dividends Rate.	Reserve, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1913	206,731	1·06	150,000	15	55,000	35,124
1914	209,886	1·02	150,000	15	50,000	45,010
1915	225,873	1·03	150,000	15	20,000	100,883
1916	229,507	1·08	150,000	15	78,935	101,456
1917	249,830	1·12	150,000	15	140,000	61,286
1918	279,167	0·97	150,000	15	130,000	60,452
1919	284,349	0·87	150,000	15	140,000	54,801
1920	310,775	0·79	160,000	16	170,000	35,576
1921	312,132	0·80	160,000	16	140,000	47,708
1922	308,480	0·76	170,000	17	135,000	51,188
1923	326,362	0·87	180,000	18	145,000	52,550
1924	328,648	0·94	180,000	18	105,000	96,198
1925	330,464	0·99	180,000	18	145,000	101,662
1926	315,587	0·96	180,000	18	145,000	92,249
1927	317,750	1·01	180,000	18	145,000	89,504
1928	329,505	1·03	180,000	18	145,000	89,504
1929	336,239	0·99	180,000	18	145,000	100,743
1930	339,310	0·98	180,000	18	125,000	135,054

Year Ended April.	No. of Branches.	Liabilities: Capital and Reserves.	%	Notes.	%	Acceptances.	%	Drafts on London.	%	Deposit and Current Accounts.	%	Total Liabilities or Assets.	Assets: Cash in Hand and at Bank.	%	Cash at Call and Short Notice.	%	Investments.	%	Discounts and Advances, including Short Loans on Stocks.	%	Buildings and Sundries, including Cover for Acceptances.	%
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£		£	
1891	132	1,440,000	10·4	820,702	6·0	60,061	0·4	52,513	0·4	11,237,632	82·0	13,758,093	1,062,583	7·7	1,827,612	13·3	4,168,376	30·4	6,274,695	...	424,824	...
1901	144	1,660,000	10·2	1,039,266	6·4	105,571	0·6	83,469	0·5	13,253,604	82·8	16,343,669	1,426,119	8·7	3,185,485	19·5	2,950,120	18·1	8,349,995	51·1	431,950	2·6
1906	151	1,875,000	11·7	981,811	6·2	20,463	0·1	131,324	0·8	12,740,020	79·9	15,913,988	1,632,440	10·2	3,230,609	20·3	2,933,414	18·4	7,779,322	49·0	338,203	2·1
1910	156	2,000,000	12·4	866,795	5·3	246,364	1·5	99,945	0·6	12,833,038	79·4	16,220,354	1,633,501	10·1	2,957,173	18·2	3,396,544	21·0	7,569,668	46·6	663,468	4·1
1911	158	2,000,000	12·6	883,747	5·6	134,587	0·9	67,616	0·4	12,586,538	79·0	15,853,094	895,589	5·6	3,164,915	20·0	3,233,142	20·4	7,980,300	50·3	579,148	3·7
1912	161	2,000,000	11·1	912,724	5·0	320,139	1·8	71,361	0·4	14,573,356	80·2	18,070,972	1,299,978	7·2	3,748,135	20·8	3,067,256	17·0	9,193,989	50·8	761,614	4·2
1913	162	2,000,000	10·3	931,909	4·8	729,784	3·7	240,069	1·2	15,409,195	79·0	19,496,081	1,170,499	6·0	4,817,782	24·7	3,106,351	15·9	9,218,724	47·3	1,182,725	6·6
1914	162	2,000,000	9·7	945,432	4·6	889,972	4·3	137,020	0·7	16,458,022	79·9	20,650,456	1,231,406	6·0	4,009,781	19·5	3,617,892	17·6	10,454,922	50·4	1,336,455	6·8
1915	160	1,800,000	8·4	1,217,971	5·6	401,845	1·9	97,893	0·5	17,751,946	82·3	21,530,539	1,570,532	7·3	4,427,429	20·6	4,948,724	22·9	9,726,851	45·2	857,003	4·0
1916	160	1,800,000	8·5	1,594,494	7·5	691,890	3·3	176,934	0·8	16,739,330	78·7	21,264,104	1,755,536	8·2	3,780,048	17·8	7,281,138	34·2	7,299,513	34·4	1,147,889	5·4
1917	158	1,800,000	8·1	1,895,883	8·5	955,362	4·3	219,649	1·0	17,219,195	77·2	22,311,375	2,348,179	10·5	2,317,049	10·4	6,554,556	29·3	9,688,233	43·5	1,403,358	6·3
1918	159	1,900,000	6·6	2,535,731	8·8	373,726	1·3	124,485	0·4	23,648,883	82·1	28,803,278	3,163,006	11·0	3,272,810	11·4	6,708,027	23·3	14,813,168	51·4	846,267	2·9
1919	160	2,000,000	6·1	2,987,221	9·2	418,547	1·3	666,717	2·0	26,265,016	80·7	32,552,302	3,362,649	10·3	3,816,321	11·7	7,875,340	24·2	16,525,790	50·8	972,202	3·0
1920	160	2,000,000	5·1	3,480,280	8·8	907,566	2·3	410,847	1·0	32,495,518	82·2	39,499,787	4,258,644	10·8	4,338,481	11·0	9,947,705	25·3	19,508,755	49·2	1,446,202	3·7
1921	161	2,000,000	5·1	3,366,092	8·7	397,556	1·0	209,047	0·5	32,702,296	84·1	38,892,700	3,796,640	9·8	3,693,093	9·5	9,273,312	23·8	21,193,369	54·5	936,286	2·4
1922	164	2,100,000	5·1	2,840,934	7·0	273,423	0·7	138,018	0·3	35,211,965	86·3	40,800,528	3,297,867	8·1	4,710,250	11·6	16,869,451	41·4	15,110,727	36·9	812,933	2·0
1923	164	2,200,000	5·9	2,667,304	7·1	360,186	1·0	249,538	0·7	31,740,997	84·9	37,475,575	3,048,875	8·1	4,174,224	11·2	16,187,467	43·1	13,170,242	35·2	894,767	2·4
1924	172	2,250,000	6·4	2,516,933	7·2	523,549	1·5	147,064	0·4	29,334,378	83·7	35,073,122	3,177,930	9·1	4,187,000	11·9	13,153,964	37·5	13,492,151	38·5	1,052,077	3·0
1925	179	2,300,000	6·9	2,554,092	7·6	589,119	1·8	45,876	0·1	27,677,789	82·7	33,473,538	3,077,720	9·2	3,548,824	10·6	12,875,213	38·4	12,907,692	38·6	1,064,089	3·2
1926	181	2,350,000	7·1	2,626,224	7·9	751,024	2·3	45,284	0·1	27,098,455	81·7	33,168,236	3,004,699	9·1	3,311,831	10·0	12,580,791	37·9	13,017,562	39·2	1,253,353	3·6
1927	189	2,400,000	7·6	2,506,379	8·0	672,135	1·8	94,216	0·3	25,619,821	81·5	31,482,550	2,780,595	8·8	2,753,680	8·7	12,063,410	38·4	12,742,896	40·5	1,141,969	3·6
1928	193	2,450,000	7·7	2,556,363	8·0	685,863	2·1	22,109	0·1	25,936,327	81·2	31,945,167	2,971,363	9·3	3,171,599	9·9	10,205,234	32·0	14,299,902	44·7	1,297,069	4·1
1929	195	2,500,000	7·4	2,478,485	7·3	1221092	3·6	17,461	...	27,280,189	80·6	33,802,970	2,957,433	8·8	3,628,396	10·7	9,220,201	27·2	16,187,058	47·9	1,809,882	5·4
1930	200	2,550,000	7·4	2,414,224	7·0	1071314	3·1	41,014	...	28,262,507	81·5	34,679,113	2,856,075	8·2	3,111,022	9·0	9,729,371	28·1	17,354,931	50·1	1,607,712	4·6

MIDLAND BANK

LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: POULTRY, LONDON, E.C. 2

A Complete Banking Service

The Midland Bank offers exceptional facilities for transacting banking business of every description through over 2000 branches covering all important agricultural, commercial, industrial and residential districts in England and Wales.

The Overseas Branch at 122 Old Broad Street, London, E.C. 2, is specially organised and equipped to meet the financial requirements of modern commerce and has agents and correspondents in all parts of the world.

Affiliations: Belfast Banking Co. Ltd., Northern Ireland; The Clydesdale Bank Ltd. and North of Scotland Bank Ltd., Scotland; Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Co. Ltd.

TOTAL RESOURCES EXCEED £400,000,000

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

HEAD OFFICE - - - SYDNEY.

E. C. RIDDLE, *Governor.* H. T. ARMITAGE, *Deputy-Governor.*

Guaranteed by the Australian Commonwealth Government.

BRANCHES IN
The Principal Cities and Towns of Australia
and at
36-41, New Broad Street, E.C., and Australia House, Strand, W.C.
LONDON.

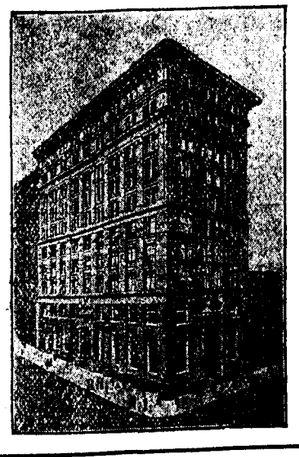
Agents and Correspondents throughout the World.

BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION TRANSACTED.

Bankers to:
GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA.

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

Branches in the Chief Centres and 3,655 Agencies at Post Offices throughout Australasia.



Head Office:
Sydney, New South Wales.

As at 31st December, 1929.

General Bank Balances	£37,505,336
Savings Bank Balances	51,375,150
Note Issue Department	45,301,226
Rural Credits Department	1,315,114
Other Items	7,462,384
	£142,959,210

LONDON BRANCH: 36-41 NEW BROAD STREET, E.C. 2.
J. S. SCOTT, Manager.

JOINT STOCK BANKS OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

BELFAST BANKING CO., LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1827.

(Affiliated with Midland Bank, Limited.)

	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid-up.	Capital Callable.	Capital Reserved.
	£	£	£	£
	2,500,000	700,000	300,000	1,500,000
Per Share	£12 10s.	£3 10s.	£1 10s.	£7 10s.

Authorised note issue, £350,000.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended July 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends — Amount. £	Rate. % Old.	Rate. % New.	Reserves, &c. £	Carried Forward £
1911	69,452	0·95	55,000	*20	*8	10,667	41,858
1912	69,273	0·90	55,000	*20	*8	25,720	30,411
1913	73,141	0·89	55,000	*20	*8	750	47,802
1914	75,982	0·91	55,000	*20	*8	22,055	46,729
1915	70,958	0·79	53,791	†20	†8	25,000	33,846
1916	69,799	0·64	48,163	†20	†8	30,215	24,967
1917	68,870	0·56	44,687	†20	†8	...	49,150
Dec. 31.							
1918	80,850	0·68	43,745	†20	†8	...	86,255
1919	(a)105,991	0·52	59,087	†20	†8	70,000	63,159
1920	122,403	0·56	41,708	†20	†8	70,000	73,854
1921	111,102	0·52	41,708	†20	†8	70,000	73,247
1922	110,580	0·55	43,943	†20	†8	70,000	69,884
1923	109,293	0·61	45,805	†20	†8	50,000	83,373
1924	106,797	0·59	51,150	11		50,000	89,020
1925	104,534	0·59	52,387	11		50,000	91,167
1926	106,252	0·59	52,700	11		52,800	91,819
1927	104,762	0·56	52,800	11		100,000	43,781
1928	110,800	0·59	61,600	11		...	92,981
1929	116,727	0·65	61,600	11		...	148,108

* Free of income-tax. † And bonus. (a) 17 months.

Year ended July 31.	No. of Branches.	LIABILITIES: Capital and Reserves. £	%	Undivided Profits. £	%	Notes. £	%	Bills for Collection. £	%	Staff Funds. £	%	Deposit and Current Accounts. £	%	Total Liabilities or Assets. £
1890 ...	37	700,000	17·8	65,984	1·7	473,191	12·0	...	...	10,025	0·2	2,691,731	68·3	3,940,931
1900 ...	43	800,000	14·8	52,283	1·0	523,434	9·7	...	...	28,011	0·5	4,000,245	74·0	5,403,973
1905 ...	45	1,000,000	17·2	18,322	0·3	479,492	8·2	37,507	0·6	37,256	0·6	4,257,684	73·1	5,830,271
1906 ...	45	1,000,000	16·8	27,007	0·4	499,449	8·4	35,672	0·6	37,645	0·6	4,350,242	73·2	5,960,015
1907 ...	46	950,000	14·8	25,147	0·4	510,586	8·0	40,795	0·6	38,166	0·6	4,834,740	75·6	6,399,434
1908 ...	46	950,000	14·6	40,230	0·6	491,098	7·5	33,767	0·5	38,497	0·6	4,981,590	76·2	6,535,182
1909 ...	46	950,000	14·3	53,630	0·8	495,792	7·5	39,945	0·6	38,670	0·6	5,044,773	76·2	6,622,866
1910 ...	46	950,000	13·9	42,889	0·6	543,104	8·0	35,921	0·5	38,772	0·6	5,215,246	76·4	6,825,932
1911 ...	47	950,000	12·9	41,858	0·6	560,166	7·7	29,766	0·4	48,097	0·7	5,692,655	77·7	7,322,542
1912 ...	47	950,000	12·4	30,411	0·4	565,702	7·4	38,756	0·5	47,257	0·6	6,045,837	78·7	7,677,963
1913 ...	47	950,000	11·6	47,802	0·6	631,257	7·8	35,402	0·4	45,892	0·6	6,428,194	79·0	8,138,547
1914 ...	49	950,000	11·4	46,729	0·6	656,388	7·9	27,603	0·3	47,779	0·6	6,636,032	79·2	8,364,431
1915 ...	49	950,000	10·6	33,546	0·4	986,368	11·0	31,417	0·4	47,926	0·5	6,945,533	77·1	8,994,790
1916 ...	49	950,000	8·7	24,967	0·2	1,378,990	12·6	427,331	3·9	48,112	0·4	8,103,492	74·2	10,932,892
1917 ...	49	950,000	7·8	49,150	0·4	1,664,591	13·7	228,273	3·7	48,276	0·4	9,258,176	75·8	12,198,466
Dec. 31														
1918 ...	60	1,000,000	6·5	86,255	0·6	2,253,720	14·6	77,617	0·5	48,343	0·3	11,947,054	77·5	15,412,989
1919 ...	66	1,050,000	5·2	63,159	0·3	2,108,389	10·4	...	...	...	...	17,001,418	84·1	20,222,966
1920 ...	67	1,050,000	4·9	73,854	0·3	1,661,679	7·7	...	...	...	...	19,142,592	88·9	21,540,494
1921 ...	67	1,050,000	4·9	73,247	0·3	1,274,655	5·9	...	...	...	...	17,908,049	88·3	20,285,551
1922 ...	67	1,050,000	5·2	69,884	0·3	1,257,618	6·2	...	...	...	...	15,258,943	85·5	17,847,314
1923 ...	48	1,200,000	6·7	83,373	0·5	1,304,998	7·3	...	...	...	...	15,432,713	85·7	17,993,363
1924 ...	48	1,200,000	6·7	89,020	0·5	1,271,630	7·1	...	...	...	...	15,381,372	86·8	17,722,466
1925 ...	50	1,200,000	6·8	91,167	0·5	1,049,927	5·9	...	...	...	...	15,916,350	87·7	18,149,224
1926 ...	50	1,200,000	6·6	91,819	0·5	941,055	5·2	...	...	...	...	14,576,969	78·1	18,681,057
1927 ...	50	1,300,000	7·0	43,781	0·2	960,317	5·1	1,800,000*	9·6	...	...	14,779,530	78·2	18,901,096
1928 ...	50	1,300,000	6·9	92,981	0·5	928,585	4·9	1,800,000*	9·5	...	...	13,728,292	77·0	17,830,840
1929 ...	50	1,300,000	7·3	178,908	1·0	823,640	4·6	1,800,000*	10·1	...	...	13,728,292	77·0	17,830,840

Year ended July 31.	ASSETS: Cash in Hand and at Call. £	%	Investments. £	%	Discounts and Advances. £	%	Buildings. £	%
1890 ...	554,260	14·1	1,117,786	28·3	2,221,813	56·4	77,072	1·2
1900 ...	734,625	13·6	1,157,573	21·4	3,433,371	63·5	78,404	1·5
1905 ...	832,703	14·2	1,255,466	21·5	3,666,035	63·0	76,067	1·3
1906 ...	703,268	11·8	1,330,192	22·3	3,853,158	64·6	73,397	1·3
1907 ...	862,063	13·5	1,497,118	23·4	3,967,593	62·0	72,660	1·1
1908 ...	653,711	10·0	1,530,405	23·4	4,276,739	65·5	74,327	1·1
1909 ...	778,386	11·8	1,529,796	23·1	4,241,128	64·0	73,508	1·1
1910 ...	732,992	10·7	1,400,993	20·5	4,620,659	67·7	71,288	1·1
1911 ...	1,328,410	18·1	1,439,166	19·7	4,480,243	61·2	74,723	1·0
1912 ...	1,420,590	18·5	1,469,846	19·2	4,713,552	61·3	73,975	1·0
1913 ...	1,720,494	21·1	1,536,957	18·8	4,811,034	59·2	70,062	0·9
1914 ...	2,028,097	24·3	1,485,606	17·8	4,782,061	57·1	68,667	0·8
1915 ...	1,617,206	18·0	2,817,236	31·4	4,485,378	49·8	74,970	0·8
1916 ...	3,199,605	29·2	2,855,734	26·1	4,802,897	44·0	74,656	0·7
1917 ...	2,946,392	24·1	2,850,985	23·5	6,326,979	51·8	74,110	0·6
1918 ...	6,205,843	40·3	2,875,984	18·6	6,259,624	40·6	71,538	0·5
1919 ...	4,054,562	20·0	4,694,765	23·2	11,409,619	56·5	64,020	0·3
1920 ...	5,309,157	24·6	3,021,649	14·0	13,142,598	61·1	67,090	0·3
1921 ...	3,053,343	15·0	5,455,779	27·4	11,704,785	57·2	71,644	0·4
1922 ...	1,735,285	9·7	5,122,493	28·7	10,941,398	61·3	48,138	0·3
1923 ...	1,658,244	9·2	5,767,361	32·1	10,516,284	58·4	51,474	0·3
1924 ...	1,691,239	9·5	4,574,073	25·8	11,403,846	64·4	53,308	0·3
1925 ...	2,054,257	11·3	4,769,418	26·1	11,270,540	62·3	55,009	0·3
1926 ...	3,259,121	17·4	4,577,919	24·5	10,785,597	57·8	58,430	0·3
1927 ...	3,327,480	17·6	5,129,071	27·2	10,388,948	54·9	55,597	0·3
1928 ...	1,613,180	9·1	5,428,031	30·4	10,739,800	60·2	49,829	0·3
1929 ...	1,968,956	11·4	4,301,131	24·9	10,686,383	61·7	†347,609	2·0

* Midland Bank Limited (Government of Northern Ireland Guaranteed Loans Account).

NORTHERN BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

1888—Absorbed Ball and Co., Dublin.

	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid-up.	Capital Callable.	Capital Reserved.
	£	£	£	£
	3,500,000	700,000	700,000	2,100,000
"A" Shares.....	£10	£2	£2	£6
"B" Shares.....	£10	£2	£2	£6

Authorised note issue, £244,000.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS.

Year Ended Aug. 31.	Net Profits. £	Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends — Amount. £	Rate. % "A"	Rate. % "B"	Reserves, &c. £	Carried Forward £
1912	65,108	0·95	51,000	*12	*6	16,757	15,732
1913	70,753	1·03	51,000	*12	*6	21,253	14,053
1914	75,388	1·00	51,000	*12	6	20,678	17,763
1915	78,342	0·94	49,701	13	6½	26,299	20,106
1916	75,545	0·83	44,153	13	6½	31,230	20,269
1917	81,420	0·81	41,435	13	6½	36,318	23,935
1918	90,399	0·67	43,856	14½	7½	43,108	27,370
1919	94,433	0·57	48,344	16½	8½	30,920	42,538
1920	146,764	0·68	61,417	17½	8½	80,781	47,104
1921	134,099	0·67	64,317	17½	8½	29,429	87,457
1922	238,682	1·26	66,190	17½	8½	209,907	50,043
1923	234,393	1·31	69,847	17½	8½	164,342	50,247
1924	148,425	0·85	73,017	17½	8½	59,434	66,221
1925	121,779	0·70	85,881	17½	8½	55,053	47,066
1926	136,970	0·86	87,500	17½	8½	45,387	51,150
1927	135,700	0·81	87,500	17½	8½	45,527	53,823
1928	134,922	0·80	87,500	17½	8½	55,088	46,158
1929	128,729	0·78	87,500	17½	8½	41,386	46,001

* Free of income-tax.

Year Ended Aug.31	No. of Branches.*	LIABILITIES: Capital and Reserves. £	%	Undivided Profits Carried Forw'd. £	%	Notes. £	%	Staff Funds. £	%	Deposit and Current Accounts, &c. £	%	Total Liabilities or Assets. £
1895	51	690,000	15·2	16,726	0·3	512,387	11·3	21,960	0·5	3,298,911	72·7	4,539,984
1905	55	800,000	14·7	27,000	0·5	500,178	9·2	48,631	0·9	4,069,228	74·7	5,445,037
1906	57	800,000	14·3	21,882	0·3	548,108	9·8	51,153	0·9	4,195,765	74·7	5,616,908
1907	57	800,000	13·7	15,969	0·3	572,790	9·8	53,235	0·9	4,400,253	75·3	5,842,247
1908	58	800,000	13·3	18,101	0·3	525,936	8·7	55,334	0·9	4,616,531	76·7	6,015,902
1909	59	800,000	13·0	23,639	0·4	552,112	9·0	57,701	0·9	4,700,724	76·6	6,134,176
1910	59	805,000	12·7	28,392	0·4	624,994	9·9	59,575	0·9	4,834,552	76·1	6,352,463
1914	62	860,000	11·4	17,763	0·2	828,394	10·9	70,206	0·9	5,811,803	76·6	7,588,165
1915	62	885,000	10·6	20,106	0·2	926,826	11·1	71,808	0·9	6,418,533	77·2	8,322,373
1916	62	915,000	10·1	20,268	0·2	1,258,942	13·7	73,585	0·8	6,875,169	75·2	9,142,964
1917	64	945,000	9·4	23,935	0·2	1,355,851	13·6	75,453	0·7	7,610,176	76·1	10,010,415
1918	75	985,000	7·3	27,370	0·2	2,043,604	15·1	79,470	0·6	10,361,605	76·8	13,497,049
1919	77	1,085,000	6·5	42,538	0·2	2,472,011	14·8	82,165	0·5	13,014,325	77·9	16,696,039
1920	82	1,080,000	5·0	47,104	0·2	2,572,945	12·0	88,627	0·4	17,675,181	82·4	21,463,857
1921	84	1,100,000	5·5	87,457	0·4	1,794,866	9·0	52,204	0·3	16,843,909	84·8	19,878,436
1922	86	1,200,000	6·4	50,043	0·3	1,643,266	8·7	53,553	0·3	15,864,697	84·3	18,811,560
1923	86	1,250,000	7·0	50,247	0·3	1,597,347	9·0	55,819	0·3	14,893,423	83·4	17,846,836
1924	87	1,500,000	8·6	62,221	0·4	1,554,591	8·9	58,202	0·3	14,259,107	81·8	17,438,121
1925	87	1,500,000	8·7	47,066	0·3	1,569,848	9·1	59,204	0·3	14,114,283	81·6	17,290,401
1926	88	1,500,000	8·6	51,150	0·3	1,491,658	8·5	60,911	0·3	14,428,394	82·3	17,532,113
1927	90	1,500,000	8·9	53,823	0·3	1,416,003	8·4	62,134	0·4	13,810,351	82·0	16,842,311
1928	91	1,500,000	8·8	46,158	0·3	1,446,857	8·5	62,976	0·4	13,907,790	82·0	16,962,781
1929	91	1,500,000	8·7	46,001	0·3	1,492,946	8·6	64,291	0·4	14,200,841	82·0	17,304,079

Year Ended Aug.31	ASSETS: Cash in Hand and at Bankers. £	%	Investments. £	%	Discounts and Advances. £	%	Premises. £	%
1895	802,853	17·7	959,931	21·3	2,652,200	58·4	125,000	2·7
1905	846,784	15·6	1,296,730	23·8	3,191,523	58·6	110,000	2·0
1906	916,546	16·3	1,423,493	25·3	3,168,869	56·4	108,000	2·0
1907	751,044	12·8	1,535,973	26·3	3,444,230	58·9	111,000	2·0
1908	902,794	15·0	1,591,243	26·5	3,413,865	56·7	108,000	1·8
1909	871,199	14·2	1,741,312	28·4	3,417,665	55·7	104,000	1·7
1910	1,021,963	16·1	1,750,186	27·6	3,477,314	54·7	103,000	1·6
1914	1,666,413	22·0	2,036,586	26·8	3,770,167	49·7	115,000	1·5
1915	1,431,627	17·2	3,421,139	41·1	3,354,607	40·3	115,000	1·4
1916	1,847,653	20·2	4,083,573	44·7	3,096,738	33·8	115,000	1·3
1917	2,386,099	23·8	3,258,326	32·6	4,253,990	42·5	112,000	1·1
1918	3,039,796	22·5	6,120,493	45·4	4,216,760	31·2	120,000	0·9
1919	3,570,428	21·4	6,819,033	40·9	6,176,578	36·9	130,000	0·8
1920	3,580,083	16·7	4,915,426	22·9	11,965,582	55·7	†1,002,766	4·7
1921	3,255,447	16·4	4,390,432	22·1	11,673,121	58·7	†559,436	2·8
1922	2,247,027	11·9	5,786,527	30·6	10,412,748	55·6	†365,258	1·9
1923	2,402,764	13·5	5,116,362	28·6	9,806,500	55·0	†521,210	2·9
1924	2,048,218	11·8	4,750,268	27·3	10,195,626	58·3	†444,109	2·6
1925	1,850,181	10·7	4,116,504	23·8	10,869,673	62·9	†454,043	2·6
1926	1,805,251	10·3	4,056,423	23·1	10,846,748	61·9	†823,691	4·7
1927	1,714,756	10·2	4,012,455	23·8	10,771,409	64·0	†343,691	2·0
1928	1,591,621	9·4	4,001,165	23·6	10,994,369	64·8	†375,626	2·2
1929	1,968,956	11·4	4,301,131	24·9	10,686,383	61·7	†347,609	2·0

* Excluding agencies. † Includes cover for acceptances.

Glyn, Mills & Co.

(Established 1753)
Registered with unlimited liability, 1885.
incorporating
CHILD & CO. (Established before 1600) and HOLT & CO. (Established 1809)

BANKERS

Army and Air Force Agents, Navy and Prize Agents.

EVERY MODERN BANKING FACILITY

Head Office - - - 67 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3

Managing Partners:
LORD WOLVERTON.
LAURENCE CURRIE.
LORD HILLINGDON.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
Brigadier-General A. MAXWELL, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O
ERIC GORE BROWNE, D.S.O.
FREDERICK WILLIAM FANE.
MARTIN DRUMMOND VESEY HOLT.

Childs Branch - - - - - - - - 1 FLEET STREET, E.C.4
Holts Branch - - - - - - - 3 & 4 WHITEHALL PLACE, S.W.1

The Bank is prepared to act as **REGISTRAR** and **TRANSFER AGENT**, being **fully equipped** with the **necessary personnel** and machinery for the **expeditious** and **accurate handling** of **transfers, preparation of share and stock certificates** and **Dividend Warrants, maintenance of Stock and Share Registers, registration of probates** and **Powers of Attorney,** and all other duties pertaining to the office of **Registrar** and **Transfer Agent.**

MARTINS BANK LIMITED.

Head Office:
7, WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL.

London Office:
68, LOMBARD STREET, E.C. 3.

Manchester District Office:
43, SPRING GARDENS.

CAPITAL PAID UP AND RESERVES .. £7,800,045
DEPOSITS, ETC., AT 31ST DEC., 1929 £82,620,493

The Bank has over 560 Offices, and Agents in all the principal towns at home and abroad.

All descriptions of Banking, Trustee and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted. The Bank is prepared to act as Registrar for Public and Corporate Bodies, etc.

The
ANGLO-FRENCH BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED

CAPITAL

Authorised	Subscribed & Paid up
£2,000,000	£1,250,000

President :
The Rt. Hon. The EARL OF DERBY, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., P.C.
Directors :
CHARLES LAURENT (*Vice-President*).
F. A. SZARVASY (*Chairman*)
S. CHRISTOPHERSON
R. M. HOLLAND-MARTIN, C.B.
PIERRE MIRABAUD
LORD CHARLES MONTAGU, C.V.O., D.L.
VICOMTE DE LA PANOUSE, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.
JEAN PARMENTIER
HENRI POUYANNE, C.B.E. } *Joint General Managers*
S. METZ. }

The Bank undertakes commercial banking business of every description throughout the world and is specially equipped to assist in the development of trade between Great Britain and France.

Telephone: Mansion House 7711. (5 lines). **31, LOMBARD ST. LONDON. E.C.3.** Cable Address: "Angfrebank, London."

ULSTER BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1836.

Affiliated to Westminster Bank, Limited, in October, 1917.

CAPITAL			
Subscribed.	Paid-up.	Callable.	Reserved.
£	£	£	£
3,000,000	800,000	200,000	2,000,000
Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.	Per Share.
£15	£4	£1	£10

Authorised note issue:—

In Northern Ireland £290,000.

In Irish Free State £419,000.

Year Ended Aug. 31.	Net Profits.	PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS. Per Cent. of Resources.	Dividends—Amount.	Dividends—Rate.	Reserves, &c.	Carried Forward.
	£		£	%	£	£
1912....	116,641	1·10	100,000	•20	33,000	21,207
1913....	121,943	1·06	100,000	•20	17,000	26,150
1914....	122,940	0·96	100,000	•20	33,550	15,540
1915....	130,484	0·95	95,589	21¼	35,000	15,436
1916....	134,083	0·87	84,891	21¼	41,600	23,028
1917....	135,181	0·74	79,688	21¼	34,000	36,561
Nov. 30.						
†1918....	206,359	0·93	96,147	21¼	20,000	108,734
1919....	174,816	0·62	74,375	21¼	105,300	103,875
1920....	210,306	0·71	74,375	21¼	133,000	106,806
1921....	195,581	0·70	74,375	21¼	135,000	93,013
1922....	190,245	0·72	77,861	21¼	115,000	90,397
1923....	203,588	0·79	81,430	21¼	120,000	92,555
1924....	211,378	0·84	82,344	21¼	130,000	91,589
1925....	216,380	0·90	84,074	21¼	150,000	73,895
1926....	210,727	0·87	85,000	21¼	150,000	49 621
1927....	210,818	0·86	85,000	21¼	100,000	75,439
1928....	224,775	0·92	128,000	•16	100,000	72,215
1929....	218,435	0·96	128,000	•16	100,000	62,650

• Free of income tax. † 15 months.

Year Ended Aug. 31.	Number of Branches.*	LIABILITIES. Capital and Reserves.	Per Cent.	Undivided Profits.	Per Cent.	Notes.	Per Cent.	Bills for Collection.	Per Cent.	Deposit and Current Accounts.	Per Cent.	Total Liabilities or Assets.	ASSETS. Cash in Hand and at Bankers.	Per Cent.	Investments.	Per Cent.	Discounts, Advances and Short Loans.	Per Cent.	Premises.	Per Cent.
		£		£		£		£		£		£	£		£		£		£	
1890...	56	1,000,000	16·6	14,378	0·2	672,025	11·2	62,907	1·0	4,251,850	71·0	6,001,160	694,240	11·6	1,238,654	20·6	4,018,130	67·0	50,136	0·8
1900...	63	1,200,000	15·2	30,065	0·4	860,100	11·0	59,094	0·7	5,748,186	72·7	7,897,445	1,222,928	15·3	1,767,070	22·3	4,877,447	62·0	30,000	0·3
1905...	70	1,200,000	13·4	18,489	0·2	825,537	9·2	85,669	1·0	6,832,159	76·2	8,962,496	1,276,439	14·3	2,070,660	23·1	5,614,755	62·6	Nil	...
1910...	73	1,200,000	11·3	37,091	0·4	1,042,394	9·8	135,995	1·3	8,182,556	77·2	10,598,036	1,617,327	15·3	2,797,132	26·4	6,183,577	58·3	Nil	...
1911...	75	1,200,000	10·9	37,566	0·3	1,025,661	9·4	149,471	1·4	8,567,213	78·0	10,979,911	1,633,184	14·9	2,853,742	26·0	6,492,985	59·1	Nil	...
1912...	75	1,200,000	10·5	21,207	0·2	1,054,895	9·2	154,002	1·4	8,972,287	78·7	11,402,391	1,555,808	13·6	2,879,017	25·3	6,967,566	61·1	Nil	...
1913...	76	1,200,000	9·9	26,150	0·2	1,221,042	10·1	150,137	1·2	9,533,961	78·6	12,131,290	1,919,257	15·8	2,892,534	23·8	7,319,499	60·4	Nil	...
1914...	78	1,200,000	9·5	15,541	0·1	1,306,488	10·3	141,635	1·1	9,829,187	79·0	12,612,853	2,563,904	20·3	2,883,892	22·8	7,165,057	56·9	Nil	...
1915...	79	1,200,000	8·8	15,436	0·1	1,709,803	12·5	148,583	1·0	10,553,480	77·6	13,627,302	2,758,126	20·1	4,897,599	36·0	5,971,577	43·9	Nil	...
1916...	80	1,200,000	7·8	23,028	0·2	2,417,187	15·7	194,858	1·3	11,544,114	75·0	15,379,187	3,706,924	24·1	6,484,752	42·3	5,187,511	33·6	Nil	...
1917...	83	1,200,000	7·0	36,562	0·2	2,883,831	16·6	175,421	1·0	12,877,151	75·2	17,172,965	4,173,029	24·3	6,524,383	38·0	6,475,553	37·7	Nil	...
Nov. 30																				
1918...	98	1,200,000	4·9	108,734	0·4	4,804,918	19·9	171,272	0·8	17,892,704	74·0	24,177,628	6,222,771	25·7	11,133,541	46·1	6,821,316	28·2	Nil	...
1919...	106	1,200,000	4·2	103,875	0·4	4,492,374	15·8	138,858	0·5	22,522,850	79·1	28,457,957	6,234,530	22·0	11,974,698	42·0	10,248,729	36·9	Nil	...
1920...	112	1,200,000	4·0	106,806	0·4	3,530,334	11·9	104,125	0·4	24,800,893	83·3	29,742,158	5,577,857	18·7	10,246,765	34·5	13,782,494	46·3	135,042	0·5
1921...	113	1,200,000	4·3	93,013	0·3	2,075,418	7·5	99,735	0·4	24,287,432	87·5	27,755,598	3,660,175	13·2	11,336,765	40·9	12,558,967	45·2	199,691	0·7
1922...	114	1,200,000	4·5	90,397	0·3	2,088,182	7·9	81,724	0·3	23,039,108	87·0	26,499,411	2,873,133	10·9	11,979,153	45·0	11,454,623	43·4	192,502	0·7
1923...	114	1,300,000	5·1	92,555	0·4	2,113,502	8·2	78,357	0·3	22,050,621	86·0	25,635,035	2,719,182	10·6	11,024,253	43·0	11,702,043	45·7	189,557	0·8
1924...	114	1,400,000	5·6	91,589	0·4	2,037,707	8·1	159,207	0·7	21,567,007	85·2	25,255,510	3,016,798	11·9	11,014,453	43·6	11,034,702	43·7	189,557	0·8
1925...	114	1,500,000	6·2	73,895	0·3	1,779,184	7·4	66,688	0·3	20,720,742	85·8	24,140,509	2,414,263	10·0	10,256,472	42·5	11,269,617	46·7	200,157	0·8
1926...	115	1,500,000	6·2	49,621	0·2	1,703,922	7·0	77,488	0·3	20,823,751	86·3	24,154,782	2,560,243	10·6	10,116,897	41·9	11,261,533	46·6	216,109	0·9
1927...	114	1,600,000	6·6	75,439	0·3	1,660,984	6·8	51,026	0·2	20,997,853	86·1	24,385,302	2,684,047	11·0	10,228,493	42·0	11,256,653	46·1	216,109	0·9
1928...	114	1,700,000	7·0	72,215	0·3	1,535,367	6·3	44,609	0·2	21,037,705	86·2	24,389,896	2,387,110	9·8	10,508,694	43·1	11,270,599	46·2	223,493	0·9
1929...	115	1,750,000	7·1	62,650	0·3	1,346,926	5·4	52,702	0·2	21,588,158	87·0	24,800,436	2,645,010	10·7	10,742,505	43·4	11,179,336	45·0	233,585	0·9

• Excluding agencies.

LATEST BALANCE SHEETS OF DOMINION BANKS HAVING LONDON OFFICES.

IRISH FREE STATE BANKS.

BANK OF IRELAND.

The report for the year ended December 31, 1929, is as follows:—The net profits of the bank for the year ended December 31, 1929, after meeting all charges and providing for bad and doubtful debts, interest due on deposits, and rebate on bills not at maturity, amount to £542,089, to which must be added a sum of £86,093 brought forward from December, 1928, making a total of £628,182. Out of this total an interim dividend of 8½ per cent., less income tax, absorbed £200,077. The governors and directors having transferred £130,000 to the rest, now recommend that a final dividend of 9 per cent., less income tax, be declared for the year ended December 31, 1929, which will absorb £211,846, making, together with the dividend paid on August 1, 1929, a distribution of 17½ per cent., less income tax, for the year, leaving a surplus of £86,259 to be carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	2,769,231	Cash at head office, branches, and Bank of England	2,037,953
Rest	3,350,000	Cash at call and short notice	1,836,924
Notes and post bills in circulation	2,799,398	British Government debt	2,630,769
Government and other public accounts	3,670,496	Irish Free State Government bills	3,050,000
Deposit, current and other accounts	29,454,194	Government securities	13,142,136
Profit and loss account, balance as below	298,105	Other securities	3,364,545
		Bills discounted, advances to customers, &c.	15,438,761
		National City Bank, Ltd.—406,000 shares of £1 each, 10s. paid, £203,000: 18 shares of £1 each, fully paid, £18	203,018
		Bank premises, head office, and branches—at cost, less depreciation	637,318
	42,341,424		42,341,424

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Amount transferred to rest	130,000	Balance brought forward from last year	86,093
Interim dividend paid Aug. 1st of 8½ per cent., less income tax	200,077	Net profit for the year, after meeting all charges, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, interest on deposits and rebate on bills not at maturity, pension fund and other contingencies	542,089
Proposed final dividend for the year ended Dec. 31st, of 9 per cent., less income tax, £211,846; balance carried forward to next year, £86,259	298,105		
	628,182		628,182

HIBERNIAN BANK, LTD.

The report for the half-year ending December 31, 1929, states that, after providing for rebate on bills, interest on deposits, bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, the net profits for the half-year amount to £46,419; to which has to be added balance of undivided profits from last account, £30,023—£76,442. The directors have transferred to the reserve fund the sum of £10,000; and they recommend that the balance be applied as follows, viz.: in payment (subject to deduction of income tax) of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum (£31,250), and a bonus of 1 per cent. (£5,000) for the year 1929, £36,250; in reduction of bank premises account, £5,000; to next account, £25,192—£76,442.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital, viz.:—100,000 shares of £20 each, £2,000,000; amount paid up, £5 per share	500,000	Cash in hand and with bankers	750,445
Reserve fund	670,000	Investments, viz.:—	
Bank's consolidated notes in circulation	370,532	War Loan, Irish Free State National Loans, and other Government stocks	5,652,507
Deposit, current and other accounts, including interest due on deposits	11,913,598	Corporation stocks, railway debenture stocks, and other securities	227,656
Sundry agents	34,037	Bills discounted, advances on current accounts, loans, &c.	6,636,773
Rebate on bills discounted not at maturity	7,756	Sundry agents	77,311
Profit and loss account, £76,442; *less* transferred to reserve fund, £10,000	66,442	Bank premises and furniture (head offices and 58 branches) written down to	217,673
	13,562,365		13,562,365

BANQUE NATIONALE DE CRÉDIT

Head Office: 16, Boulevard des Italiens, Paris.

Chairman: A. Vincent. General Manager: E. Level.

723 BRANCHES IN FRANCE

Authorized Capital	- -	Frs. 400,000,000
Paid-up	„ - -	Frs. 318,750,000
Reserves	- - - -	Frs. 200,000,000
Deposits	- - - -	Frs. 5,129,431,000

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT: 15, rue Scribe, Paris

LONDON REPRESENTATIVE:
FRED. E. COTTIER, 33, Cornhill, E.C. 3.
Phone: Mansion House 8468 (2 lines).

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Constituted under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920.

For the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras.
The liability of the members is limited.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL: 225,000 Shares of Rs. 500 each	Rs.	11,25,00,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL as on Dec. 31st, 1929; 75,000 Shares of Rs. 500 each—Fully Paid	„	3,75,00,000
150,000 Shares of Rs. 500 each—Rs. 125 Paid	„	1,87,50,000
	Rs.	5,62,50,000
RESERVE FUND as on Dec. 31st, 1929	„	5,32,50,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS as on Dec. 31st, 1929	„	5,62,50,000

Managing Governors:—Sir O. A. SMITH, Kt.; K. M. MACDONALD, Esq., M.C.
Local Head Offices: CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS.
London Office:—22, Old Broad Street, E.C. 2. Sir S. A. H. SITWELL, Manager.

BRANCHES:

Burra Bazaar, Calcutta
Clive Street, Calcutta
Park Street, Calcutta
Byculla, Bombay
Mandvi, Bombay
Sandhurst Road, Bombay
Mount Road, Madras
Abbottabad
Adoni (Sub-Agency)
Agra
Ahmedabad
Ahmedabad City
Ahmednagar
Ajmer
Akola
Akyab
Aligarh
Allahabad
Alleppey
Ambala
Ambala Cant.
Amraoti
Amritsar
Asansol
Bangalore
Bareilly
Bassein
Bellary
Benares
Berhampore (Ganjam)
Bezwada
Bhagalpur
Bhopal
Broach
Bulandshahr
Calicut
Cawnpore
Chandpur
Chapra
Chittagong
Cocanada
Cochin
Coimbatore
Colombo
Cuddalore
Cuddapah
Cuttack
Dacca
Darbhanga
Darjeeling
Dehra Dun
Delhi
Dhanbad
Dhulia
Dibrugarh
Ellore
Erode
Etawah
Farrukhabad
Ferozepore
Fyzabad
Gaya
Godhra
Gojra
Gorakhpur
Gujranwala
Guntur
Gwalior
Hathras
Howrah
Hubli
Hyderabad (Deccan)
Hyderabad (Sind)
Indore
Jaipur
Jalgaon
Jalna
Jalpaiguri
Jamshedpur
Jhansi
Johdpur
Jubbulpore
Jullundur City
Karachi
Kasur
Katni
Khamgaon
Khandwa
Kumbakonam
Lahore
Larkana
Lucknow
Ludhiana
Lyallpur
Madura
Maidalay
Mangalore
Masulipatam
Meerut
Mirzapore
Montgomery
Moradabad
Moulmein
Multan
Murree
Mussoorie
Muttra
Muzaffarnagar
Muzaffarpur
Myingyan
Mymensingh
Nadiad
Nagpur
Naini Tal
Nandyal
Narsingunge
Nasik
Negapatam
Nellore
New Delhi
Nowshera
Ootacamund
Patna
Peshawar
Peshawar City (Sub-Agency)
Poona
Poona City
Purnea
Quetta
Raichpur
Raipur
Rajahmundry
Rajkot
Rangoon
Rangpur
Rawalpindi
Saharanpur
Salem
Sargodha
Secunderabad
Serajgunge
Shillong
Sholapur
Sialkot
Simla
Sitapur
Srinagar (Kashmir)
Sukkur
Surat
Surat City
Tellicherry
Tinnevelly
Tiurpur
Trichinopoly
Trichur
Trivandrum
Tuticorin
Ujjain
Vellore
Viramgaum
Vizagapatam
Vizianagram
Wardha
Yeotmal

CURRENT ACCOUNTS.—Opened free of charge.
SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS.—Received and Interest allowed.
GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECURITIES—Received for safe custody, Interest and Dividends collected and credited to account or remitted in accordance with instructions.
LOANS AND CASH CREDITS—Granted, and approved Mercantile Bills discounted.
FIXED DEPOSITS.—Received at Interest.
Rates, copies of rules, Power of Attorney, &c., may be had on application at any of the Local Head Offices or Branches of the Bank.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Expenses of management, including directors' fees, salaries, pensions and allowances, bonuses and grants to staff, rents, rates, repairs, revenue taxes, and all other outlay	100,537	Balance from last account	30,023
Amount transferred to reserve fund	10,000	Gross profits for half-year, after providing for rebate on bills, interest on deposits, bad and doubtful debts and contingencies	146,956
Dividend to be paid in February, 1930, subject to deduction of income tax, £31,250; bonus of 1 per cent. for year 1929, do., £5,000; bank premises account, £5,000; balance to next account, £25,192	66,442		
	176,979		176,979

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—375,000 shares of £5 each, £2 paid	750,000	Cash on hand and with other bankers	1,905,092
Reserve fund	1,000,000	Money at call and at short notice	2,500,000
Deposit, current and other accounts	25,248,416	Investments—War Loan and other British and Irish Government stocks, £10,028,246; corporation stocks, railway debenture and preference stocks, and debenture bonds, £208,695	10,236,941
Bank's consolidated notes in circulation	852,000	Bills discounted	1,317,533
Profit and loss—Balance from June 30, 1929, £43,130; net profit for half-year ended Dec. 31, 1929, 88,642—£131,772; *less* amount transferred to contingencies account, premises account and staff pension fund, £40,000	91,772	Advances on securities and current accounts	11,629,233
		Bank premises, head office and branches	353,389
	27,942,188		27,942,188

The report of the directors for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, states that the profits, after deducting expenses, providing for interest on deposits, rebate on bills, and for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £88,642; to which has to be added the balance from the last account, £43,130; making a total of £131,772. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, £52,500; and, after transferring to contingencies accounts £10,000, and applying in reduction of premises account £20,000, and placing to staff pension fund £10,000, there will remain to be carried to the next account £39,272—£131,772.

NATIONAL BANK, LTD.

The report for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, states that the profit and loss account, including £29,290 brought forward from June 30th last, shows a balance of £155,376 available for distribution. The board have transferred the sum of £10,000 in reduction of bank premises, and have carried a sum of £10,000 to contingencies account, leaving a balance of £135,376, out of which they have declared a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, and have carried forward the sum of £30,376 to profit and loss account.

BALANCE SHEET, December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid-up on 150,000 shares	1,500,000	Cash on hand at head office, branches, and Bank of England	4,370,015
Reserve fund (Government securities)	1,455,000	Money at call and at short notice, including Stock Exchange loans and British Treasury Bills	3,820,091
Notes in circulation	1,446,594	Exchequer Bonds, maturing 1930, and War Loan 5 per cent., 1929/47	8,314,611
Amount due by the Bank on deposit, current and other accounts	37,393,114	Government securities, including reserve fund	5,649,620
Acceptances to bankers drafts and on security	34,669	Corporation, railway and other investments	592,028
Net profits for the half-year £126,086; brought forward from the 30th June, 1929, £29,290	155,376	Advances on securities at sundry dates, and current accounts	16,093,008
		Bills discounted	2,311,261
		Bankers' guarantee and securities held against acceptances, per contra	34,669
		Bank Premises — London, Dublin, and branches, freehold and leasehold (at cost, *less* depreciation)	799,450
		Note.—There is a contingent liability of £45,500 for uncalled capital in respect of the shares of the Agricultural Credit Corporation, Ltd., which are guaranteed by the Government of the Irish Free State both in regard to capital and interest).	
	41,984,753		41,984,753

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Half-year's dividend to December 31, 1929, being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum	105,000	Amount brought from last account	29,290
Amount transferred in reduction of bank premises	10,000	Net profits for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, after payment of all expenses (including directors' fees and income tax thereon amounting to £4,632) and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts and income tax (other than income tax on dividend)	126,086
Amount carried to contingencies account	10,000		
Balance to credit of profit and loss new account	30,376		
	155,376		155,376

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LTD.

The report for the half-year ending December 31, 1929, is as follows:—Including £36,780 brought forward from last account, there remains a profit of £87,574. Out of this the directors have declared a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 14½ per cent. per annum, less income tax, which will require £31,320; they have added to reserve fund £10,000; written off bank premises account, £10,000; and carried forward, £36,254—£87,574.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	540,000	Cash at head office, branches, and in London	1,169,794
Reserve fund	640,000	Money at call and short notice	780,000
Notes in circulation	921,677	British Government Treasury bills	1,900,000
Deposit receipts, current and other accounts, including reserves	14,830,175	Investments, viz.:—British Government and Colonial securities, £6,017,910; corporation stocks and other investments, £171,177	6,189,087
Amount due to subsidiary nominee companies	200	Shares in subsidiary nominee companies	200
Net profits for the half-year, including £36,780 brought forward from June 30, 1929, £87,574; *less* £10,000 added to reserve fund, £10,000 written off bank premises—£20,000	67,574	Advances to customers, accrued interest on investments and sundry debtor balances	5,793,779
Note.—There is a contingent liability of £21,600 in respect of partly paid-up shares in the Agricultural Credit Corporation, Ltd.		Bills discounted	967,032
		Bank premises, freehold and leasehold, less amounts written off	199,734
	16,999,626		16,999,626

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Added to reserve fund	10,000	Balance, June 30, 1929	36,780
Written off bank premises	10,000	Profits for the half-year after providing for interest on deposits, income tax, corporation profits tax in Irish Free State, duty on notes and post bills in circulation, law costs, rebate on bills discounted not yet due, and bad and doubtful debts and expenses at head office and branches, including remuneration to directors and income tax thereon, £3,750	50,794
Dividend at the rate of 14½ per cent. per annum, for the half-year to December 31, 1929, payable on and after February 1st next, less income tax	31,320		
Carried to new account	36,254		
	87,574		87,574

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—August 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Proprietors' capital, £1,500,000, divided into 30,000 shares of £50, on each of which £10 has been paid up	300,000	Investments:—British Government securities (including war issues)	1,945,619
Reserve fund	240,000	Colonial Government stocks, railway debenture stocks, &c.	249,786
Bank's consolidated notes in circulation	273,000	British Treasury bills	247,750
Current, deposit and other accounts including officers' superannuation fund	6,646,842	Bankers' balances and cash at head office and branches	501,527
Profit and loss, balance after paying interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (less tax) as per account below, £66,017; *less* appropriated to reserve fund, bank premises, officers' superannuation, and other contingencies, £40,000	26,017	Bills discounted	116,576
		Advances on current and other accounts	4,199,601
		Bank premises (head office and 42 branches)	225,000
	7,485,859		7,485,859

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (less income tax) for the half-year to February 29, 1929	10,200	Balance brought forward from last year	11,545
Balance carried to balance sheet	66,017	Net profits for the year after providing for all expenses, bad and doubtful debts, &c.	64,672
	76,217		76,217

The report states that the net profits of the bank for the year ended August 31, 1929, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to £64,672, which, with the amount brought forward from last year of £11,545, make together £76,217. From this an interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (less tax) for the first six months of the year has been distributed to the shareholders, £10,200, leaving a balance of £66,017, out of which the board have appropriated to reserve fund, bank premises,

The BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK
LIMITED

CAPITAL AUTHORISED £5,000,000 ISSUED AND PAID UP £2,000,000
RESERVE FUND £225,000

THROUGH its world-wide connections and agencies the Bank is able to offer to its clients at home and abroad exceptional facilities in foreign exchange and in the financing of every form of foreign trade, and also to provide up-to-date credit reports and information as to international business conditions. Correspondence invited.

33, GRACECHURCH STREET, *Lombard Court*, LONDON, E.C. 3

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
Inland: "SAESREVO, WIRE, LONDON" *Foreign:* "SAESREVO, LONDON"
TELEPHONE No. ROYAL 7111

Affiliated Institution in Poland: ANGLO-POLISH BANK, LIMITED, WARSAW

OTTOMAN BANK
(INCORPORATED IN TURKEY WITH LIMITED LIABILITY.)
Founded 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000. Paid-up - £5,000,000.
Reserve Fund - - - £1,250,000.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

LONDON.
General the Hon. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
ALBERT G. GLADSTONE.
VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., V.D.
SIR W. GUY GRANET, G.B.E.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.
LORD HILLINGDON.
A. G. A. JAMIESON.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.
RAOUL MALLET.
RENÉ BECHMANN.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
JACQUES DE NEUFLIZE.
LE COMTE PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.
Manager: E. W. H. Barry.
Deputy Manager: R. S. C. Pearce.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: W. P. Sheppard.
Sub-Managers: F. Fisher, G. F. Kerr.

MANCHESTER: 56-60 Cross Street.
PARIS: 7 Rue Meyerbeer.
MARSEILLES: 41-43 Rue Grignan.
NICE: 13 Place Massena.

ISTANBUL (formerly Constantinople).

EGYPT. Alexandria. Cairo. Ismailia. Mansura. Minya. Port Said.
PALESTINE. Haifa. Jaffa. Jerusalem. Nablus.
CYPRUS. Nicosia. Larnaca. Limassol. Famugusta. Paphos.
PERSIA. Tehran. Hamadan. Kermanshah.
TRANSJORDANIA. Amman.

SYRIA.
Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban—(*Affiliated Bank.*)
Aleppo. Alexandretta. Antioch. Beirut. Damascus. Hama. Homs. Latakia. Saida. Tripoli.
SALONICA. IZMIR (Over 80 Branches in the Near East.) IRAK. TUNIS, Africa.
ATHENS / PIRÆUS - British French Discount Bank, Ltd.—(*Affiliated Bank.*)
YUGO-SLAVIA: Banque Franco Serbe. (*Affiliated Bank.*)

Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.
Exchange and Insurance operations effected.

officers' superannuation and other contingencies £40,000, leaving available a balance of £26,017, which they recommend should be appropriated as follows:—A further dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum (less tax) for the six months ended August 31st last, £15,300. The balance to be carried forward to the credit of next year's account, £10,717.

AFRICAN BANKS.

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS).

BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Current, deposit and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss account)...	61,043,263	Cash in hand and with bankers, and gold bullion...	11,649,107
Notes in circulation	968,017	Money at call and short notice	3,051,500
Acceptances and other liabilities on account of customers	4,561,854	Remittances in transit	1,266,939
Capital, viz.—1,793,000 8% cum. pref. shares of £1each, fully paid, £1,793,000; 2,682,500 "A" shares of £1 each, fully paid, £2,682,500; 500,000 "B" shares of £5 each, £1 paid, £500,000.....	4,975,500	Bills discounted	12,564,919
Reserve fund	1,550,000	Investments—Securities of the British and of the Dominion and Colonial Governments (including securities lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies as security for note issue, and with others), £8,676,602; other investments, £524,175	9,200,777
Liability on bills rediscounted, £2,130,193, of which £1,930,830 has since run off.		Advances to customers and other accounts	28,690,100
		Liability of customers for acceptances, &c.....	4.561,855
		Bank premises account	2,113,437
	73,098,634		73,098,634

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Provision for income tax, &c....	130,000	Profit unappropriated on 1st October, 1928	130,709
Reserve fund	150,000	Net profit, full provision having been made for rebate, and bad and doubtful debts	516,594
Interim dividends, less income tax.....	108,296		
Final dividend on preference shares, less income tax	57,376		
Final dividend on "A" and "B" shares, less income tax	63,650		
Balance, carried forward	137,981		
	647,303		647,303

The report states that the net profit for the year ended September 30, 1929, amounted to the sum of £516,594, to which has to be added the sum of £130,709 brought forward from September 30, 1928, making a total of £647,303, which has been appropriated as follows:—Provision for income tax, etc., £130,000; reserve fund, £150,000; interim dividends paid July 19, 1929, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares, and at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the "A" and "B" shares, less income tax, £108,296; final dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares of £1 each fully paid, less income tax, payable January 22, 1930, £57,376; final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares of £1 each fully paid, and the "B" shares of £5 each, £1 paid, less income tax, payable January 22, 1930, £63,650; balance to be carried forward, £137,981—£647,303.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital, 400,000 shares of £10 each, £4,000,000; of which there have been issued 300,000 shares on which £4 per share has been paid up...	1,200,000	Cash in hand and at bankers, including branches and agencies, £1,505,437; cash in transit, £52,725.....	1,558,162
Reserve	400,000	Investments—British Government securities, £1,552,016; other securities, £52,563; West Africa Buildings Co., Ltd., £50,000 (50,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid).....	1,654,579
Current, deposit and other accounts	6,873,385	Bills of exchange—Treasury bills, £890,000; other bills, £1,196,607	2,086,607
Drafts issued	356,559	Loans, advances and other accounts	3,294,623
Bills for collection.....	1,391,213	Bills for collection contra.....	1,391,213
Rebate on bills	13,465	Liability of customers for acceptances	47,919
Liability on acceptances for customers	47,920	Premises and furniture.....	345,050
Final dividend, payable June 28, 1929	42,000		
Balance of profit carried forward	53,611		
There are contingent liabilities on bills re-discounted and outstanding forward exchange contracts, most of which have since run off, also in respect of engagements on behalf of customers.			
	10,378,153		10,378,153

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK

Limited

Subscribed Capital - - - - £43,617,080
Paid-up Capital - - - - 9,479,416
Reserve Fund - - - - - 9,479,416
Deposits, &c. (31st Dec., 1929) - 272,561,592

DIRECTORS:
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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

Sir ARTHUR BALFOUR, Bart., K.B.E.
Brig.-Gen. The Hon. EVERARD BARING, C.V.O.
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BRITISH WEST AFRICA . BRITISH WEST INDIES
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(Incorporated in France with Limited Liability.)

Subscribed Capital - - - Frs. 625,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - Frs. 319,019,250
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits Frs. 402,351,373
Deposits (31st December, 1929) - - Frs. 11,761,743,434

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NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital subscribed and paid up	468,542	Cash in hand and with bankers (including obligatory balance with the South African Reserve Bank)	391,272
Reserve fund	166,667	S. African Treasury bills	50,000
Current accounts, deposits and other liabilities	1,876,520	Bills discounted	1,315,108
Acceptances	134,405	Securities	40,079
Acceptances by correspondents	509,362	Investments	10,309
Bills payable	38,026	Acceptances: customers, £515,562; banks, £114,729	630,291
Bills for collection, per contra	4,811	Loans and advances to customers	718,387
Appropriation account for 1928 (including taxes)	49,393	Bank premises	83,333
Balance carried forward	1,036	Properties in South Africa	5,172
All the bills discounted, amounting to £1,315,107, and also all bills rediscounted, amounting to £1,547,295, have since been paid, with the exception of about £22,855, which will only mature during the next few weeks. Contingent liability on guarantees, £219,385.		Bills for collection	4,811
	3,248,762		3,248,762

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

The directors declared an interim dividend of 7s. per share (being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum), subject to income tax, out for the profits for the half-year ended September 30, 1929. The bank's investments stand in the books at less than the market value as at September 30, 1929, and all usual and necessary provisions have been made.

BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital subscribed—500,000 shares of £20 each, £10,000,000; called up £5 per share	2,500,000	Cash in hand and with bankers (including deposit of £2,319,000 with South African Reserve Bank in terms of the Union of South Africa "Currency and Banking Act, 1920")	6,284,708
Reserve fund	3,164,170	Cash at call and short notice	3,025,000
Notes in circulation	614,144	Native gold in hand and in transit	57,075
Deposit, current, and other accounts (including profit and loss account and provision for contingencies)	52,788,725	*Investments—British Government securities, Colonial Government, municipal and other securities, £5,103,736; Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., 33,334 £10 shares £4 paid, £125,003	5,228,739
Drafts outstanding and acceptances under credits	2,304,430	Bills of exchange purchased and current at this date	6,751,390
Customers' bills for collection, per contra	10,693,401	Bills discounted, advances to customers and other accounts	36,552,992
(Contingent liability on bills re-discounted, £1,144,890, the whole of which has since run off.)		Remittances in transit	1,853,078
		Customers' bills for collection, per contra	10,692,401
		Bank property and premises (including furniture and fittings) at cost, *less* amounts written off	1,573,370
		Stamps, stationery, and open policies	45,117
	72,063,870		72,063,870

* These investments appear at, or under, cost, and below market values as at September 30, 1929.

AUSTRALASIAN BANKS.

AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LTD.

The report presented at the meeting on July 30, 1929, states that the balance of profit and loss for the year, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, deducting rebate on current bills, and expenses of management, directors' and auditors' fees, interest on fixed deposits, rates, etc., amounts to £278,984, less graduated land and income taxes for the year, £60,439—£218,545. From this amount the following appropriations have been made:—To transfer to reserve fund, £40,000; interim half-yearly dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum was paid in January, absorbing £88,320; and a final half-yearly dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum is now recommended, amounting to £88,320—£176,640—£216,640; balance, £1,905; brought forward from last year, £26,765; leaving to be carried forward, £28,670.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid-up	2,208,000	Coin and bullion	787,122
Reserve fund	1,086,880	Australian notes and cash with Commonwealth Bank	1,404,596
Customers' deposits and other liabilities	14,595,786	Cash at London bankers and at short call in London	659,168
Government deposits	118,352	British Treasury bills and other Government and municipal securities	881,105
Bills in circulation and other amounts payable	1,623,924	Balances due by other banks	548,556
Balances due to other banks	230,836	Bills receivable and remittances in transit	2,375,570
Profit and loss account: Balance for dividend, £88,320; to increase amount carried forward, £1,905; £90,225; brought forward from June 30, 1928, £26,765	116,990	Bills discounted, loans, advances, all other debts due to the bank, and other assets	12,913,155
Contingent liabilities, consisting of letters of credit, &c.; for which customers are responsible to the bank, £956,656 8s. 2d.		Bank premises	411,496
	19,980,768		19,980,768

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Transfer to reserve fund (now £1,086,880)	40,000	Profit for the year ended June 30, 1929, £278,984; *less* graduated land and income taxes, £60,439	218,545
Interim half-yearly dividend paid	88,320	Balance to be brought down—after payment of dividend £88,320 recommended	1,905
Final half-yearly dividend recommended	88,320	Balance brought forward from last year	26,765
Balance to be carried down	1,905		
	218,545	To be carried forward	28,670

BANK OF ADELAIDE.

The report for the year ended March 25, 1929, states that the balance of profit and loss (including the balance brought forward from previous year, £33,464) amounts to £178,875, out of which an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was paid in November last, £62,500, leaving available £116,375. From this the directors have resolved to transfer £15,000 to the reserve fund, and have declared a dividend for the half-year ended March 25, 1929, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, £62,500, leaving a balance to carry forward of £38,875.

BALANCE SHEET—March 25, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	1,250,000	Specie, bullion and cash balances	251,967
Reserve fund	970,000	Australian notes and cash with Commonwealth Bank	654,305
Profit and loss	116,375	Government securities	813,944
Notes in circulation	6,713	Municipal debentures	3,250
Bills in circulation and other liabilities	206,525	Balances due from other banks	182,322
Balances due to other banks	360,675	Notes of other banks	2,790
Deposits	6,177,592	Remittances *in transitu*	948,635
Interest accrued on fixed deposits and rebate on bills discounted	65,875	Bank premises and furniture	347,435
	9,153,755	Bills receivable and all other advances	5,949,107
			9,153,755
Contingent liabilities, consisting of letters of credit, &c.	385,838	Liabilities of customers on letters of credit, &c., as per contra	385,838

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

The report for the year ended October 14th last states that, after providing for rebate on bills current, for British, Australian and New Zealand rates and taxes, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts and other contingencies, the net profit for the year amounted to £677,183. To this has to be added £139,760 brought forward from the previous year's account, making a total of £816,943. From this £315,000 was paid as an interim dividend on October 4th last, and the directors have now appropriated a further sum of £315,000 to pay a final dividend of 7s. per share, making in all £630,000, equal to 14s. per share, and representing for the year a distribution at the rate of 14 per cent., free of income tax. The directors have also transferred £25,000 to bank premises account. There will remain £161,943 to be carried forward to the next account.

BALANCE SHEET—October 14, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Circulation	434,328	Specie, bullion, Government notes and cash balances	7,182,967
Deposits at interest	22,523,257	Loans at call and at short notice	50,000
Current accounts	11,891,541	British Government securities	2,224,075
Bills payable, drafts in transit, and other liabilities, including provision for contingencies	4,569,795	Government securities of Australasia and other investments	1,457,820
Acceptances for customers, as per contra	452,733	Bills receivable and remittances in transit	3,362,670
Capital	4,500,000	Advances on securities, and other assets	34,314,959
Reserve fund	4,475,000	Liability of customers for acceptances as *per contra*	452,733
Dividends payable April 4, 1930	315,000	Bank premises in Australia, New Zealand and London at cost, less accounts written off	278,373
Profit account balance	161,943		
	49,323,597		49,323,597

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

The report for the year ended September 30, 1929, is as follows:—The net profits for the year, after deducting rebate on current bills, interest on deposits, and paying income, land and other taxes (amounting to £350,087), reducing valuation of bank premises, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and fluctuations in the value of investment securities, and including recoveries from debts previously written off as bad, amount to £994,825; to which is added —undivided balance from September 30, 1928, £168,654— £1,163,479. Interim dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for quarters ended December 31, 1928, March 31, 1929, and June 30, 1929, paid out of the year's profits, in terms of Clause 105 of Deed of Settlement, £562,500, leaving a balance of £600,979, which the directors recommend to be dealt with as follows:—To payment of a quarter's dividend to September 30, 1929, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the year's profits, £187,500;

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION, December 31, 1929

RESOURCES		LIABILITIES	
Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	$271,914,190.52	Deposits	$583,424,099.30
Call Loans, Commercial Paper and Loans Eligible for Rediscount with Federal Reserve Bank	172,721,318.84	Official Checks	76,948,444.28
United States Obligations	21,857,047.70	Acceptances (including Acceptances to Create Dollar Exchange)	64,275,685.36
Short Term Securities	45,306,361.48		
Loans due on demand and within 30 days	133,037,469.66	Discount Collected but not Earned	1,598,967.33
Loans due 30 to 90 days	71,353,202.65	Reserve for Taxes, Interest, etc.	3,992,200.53
Loans due 90 to 180 days	45,267,943.40	Dividend payable January 2, 1930	2,000,000.00
Loans due after 180 days	1,815,618.87		
Customers' Liability for Acceptances (anticipated $3,532,105.41)	60,743,579.95	Capital Stock	50,000,000.00
Bonds and Other Securities	20,738,366.51	Surplus and Undivided Profits	83,740,994.46
New York City Mortgages	10,486,415.00		
Bank Buildings	10,738,876.70		
	$865,980,391.28		$865,980,391.28

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(At 28/2/30)

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: HISPAMER

augmentation of the reserve fund, £250,000; balance carried forward, £163,479—£100,979.

BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Notes in circulation	584,091	Coin, bullion, Government legal tender notes and cash at bankers	11,180,804
Deposits, accrued interest and rebate	66,056,052	Notes of other banks	12,245
Bills payable and other liabilities (which include reserves held for doubtful debts, amount at credit of investments fluctuation account, and amounts due to other banks	7,284,445	Money at short call in London	1,920,000
Paid-up capital	7,500,000	Investments—	
Reserve fund	5,900,000	British and Colonial Government securities	7,932,563
Profit and loss, £1,163,478; less interim dividends to June 30, 1929, £562,500	600,978	Municipal and other securities	394,641
	87,925,566	Due by other banks	767,463
Contingent liabilities—		Bills receivable in London and remittances in transit	4,839,890
Outstanding credits as per contra	2,880,731	Bills discounted and loans and advances to customers	59,427,960
	90,806,297	Bank premises	1,450,000
		Liabilities of customers and others on letters of credit, as per contra	2,880,731
			90,806,297

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividends for quarters ended December 31, 1928, March 31, 1929, and June 30, 1929, at 10 per cent. per annum, paid in terms of clause 105 of deed of settlement out of the year's profits	562,500	Amount from last account	168,654
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows: Quarter's dividend to September 30, 1929, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the year's profits, £187,500; augmentation of the reserve fund, £250,000; balance carried forward, £163,479	600,979	Balance of year's profits after deducting rebate on current bills, interest on deposits, paying income, land and other taxes, amounting to £350,087, reducing valuation of bank premises, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and fluctuations in the value of investment securities, and including recoveries from debts previously written off as bad	994,825
	1,163,479		1,163,479

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

The report for the year ended March 31, 1929, states that the profits, after providing for expenses of management, all bad and doubtful debts, and other contingencies, and after making provision for the annual donation to the provident fund, also for bonus to staff, are £934,153. From this has to be deducted interest on guaranteed stock, £21,199—leaving balance of profit for the year, £912,954. To this has to be added provision previously made for certain doubtful advances not now required, and recoveries, £212,005, and the balance brought forward from last year, £582,525, making a total of £1,707,484. From this has been paid dividend on preference "A" shares, £50,000; interim dividend on "C" long-term mortgage shares, £6,152; interim dividend on "D" long-term mortgage shares, £15,381; interim dividend on preference "B" shares, £41,667; interim dividend on ordinary shares, £250,000—amounting to £363,200—leaving available to distribution £1,344,284. The directors proposed to dispose of this as follows:—Dividend on "C" long-term mortgage shares of 7½ per cent. per annum, £7,031; dividend on "D" long-term mortgage shares at 7½ per cent. per annum, £17,578; dividend on preference "B" shares (making £162,500 for the year), £120,833; bonus on preference "B" shares, £18,750; dividend of 1s. 4d. per share on ordinary shares (making £500,000 for the year, equal to 2s. 8d. per share), £250,000; bonus of 1 per cent. on ordinary shares, £37,500; transfer to reserve (making £3,425,000), £275,000; leaving £617,591 to be carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital—4% guaranteed stock	529,989	Coin, cash balances, and deposits with bankers	7,172,140
Preference "A" fully-paid £1 shares issued to the New Zealand Government	500,000	Government notes—Commonwealth, Fijian and Samoan Administration	86,733
"C" long-term mortgage shares issued to the New Zealand Government—paid up	234,375	Notes of other banks (legal tender)	18,031
"D" long-term mortgage fully paid £1 shares	468,750	Balances due by other banks	188,154
Preference "B" fully-paid £1 shares issued to the New Zealand Government	1,375,000	Bullion on hand and in transit	5,004
Ordinary shares of £1, fully paid	3,750,000	Money at call and short notice, Government securities and other securities in London	9,097,168
Reserve fund	3,150,000	Bills receivable in London and in transit	3,362,051
Notes in circulation	4,290,793	New Zealand Government securities	4,008,886
Deposits	33,939,651	Australian Government securities	3,560,161
Balances due to other banks	27,094	Municipal and other local bodies' securities	1,227,215
Bills payable and other liabilities (including provision for contingencies)	4,286,629	Bills discounted	1,336,073
Reserve for taxes	426,000	Other advances and securities and debts due to the bank, after deducting provision for bad and doubtful debts	21,505,380
London office acceptances under credits	234,595	Remittances in transit between branches	1,507,810
Transfers from long-term mortgage department	4,749	Landed property, premises, &c.	549,383
Balance of profit and loss	1,344,284	Liabilities of customers for acceptances, per contra	234,595
		Long-term mortgage department	703,125
	54,561,909		54,561,909

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LTD.

According to the statement presented to the annual meeting, the net profits for the year ended June 30, 1929, amount to £391,624, to which is added the amount brought forward, £90,485, making a total of £482,109. £49,788 has been placed to reserve fund, £30,000 to reduction of bank premises, £42,347 to payment of interim dividend on preference shares, and £107,031 to payment of interim dividend on ordinary shares, leaving a balance of £252,943. This amount will be appropriated as follows:—To dividend for six months on the preference shares, at 4 per cent. per annum, £42,347; to dividend for six months or from the due dates of instalments on the ordinary shares at 15 per cent. per annum, £116,406; to carry forward to next year, £94,190.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
211,735 Preference shares paid in cash to £10 per share, £2,117,350; 3,245,253 ordinary shares paid in cash to 10s. per share, £1,622,626; 1,544 ordinary shares paid in cash to 7s. 6d. per share, £579; 251,155 ordinary shares paid in cash to 5s. per share, £62,789; 2,048 ordinary shares paid in cash to 2s. 6d. per share, £256	3,803,600	Coin, bullion, Australian notes and cash at bankers	3,278,933
Reserve fund	1,900,000	Money at call and short notice in London	610,000
Profit and loss account	252,943	Short-dated British Treasury bills	1,815,000
Notes in circulation	244,027	Government, municipal, and other public stocks and funds, and other debentures	761,362
Bills payable and other liabilities, including reserves for contingencies	1,704,584	Bills receivable in London and balance of remittances and drafts in transit	2,000,574
Government deposits — net bearing interest, £126,629; bearing interest, £408,996; other deposits—not bearing interest, £10,055,492, bearing interest, £13,589,929	24,181,046	Notes and bills of other banks	186,172
Balances due to other banks	12,526	Balances due from other banks	266,299
Contingent liabilities, as per contra	853,322	Stamps	15,211
	32,952,048	Bills discounted, and other advances, exclusive of provision for bad or doubtful debts	22,260,876
		Real estate, consisting of bank premises	904,300
		Liabilities of customers and others in respect of contingent liabilities, as per contra	853,321
			32,952,048

COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital paid-up	4,739,012	Coin, bullion, Australian Commonwealth notes and cash at bankers	3,732,102
Reserve fund	4,075,000	Money at short call	1,360,000
Notes in circulation	14,130	Short dated British Treasury bills	2,080,000
Bills in circulation	2,104,183	British and Australian Government stocks and other securities	7,170,256
Deposits and other liabilities	54,420,876	Bills receivable in London and remittances in transit	4,493,337
Profit and loss account	483,459	Notes and bills of other banks	484,189
		Bills discounted, and other debts due to the Bank	40,173,312
		Bank premises, furniture, &c.	1,343,464
	65,836,660		65,836,660

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividend for the half-year ended December 31, 1928, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, paid on January 25, 1929	236,951	Amount brought forward from last year	65,215
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:		Profit for year ended June 30, 1928	655,195
Dividend for past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, £236,951; reserve fund, £125,000; bank premises account, £50,000: balance carried forward, £71,508	483,459		
	720,410		720,410

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital account	4,000,000	Coin, bullion and cash balances	1,190,629
Reserve fund	745,668	Australian notes	3,033,116
Rural Credits Department—		Money at short call in London	6,244,746
Capital account	1,185,474	Short-term loans in Australia	5,788,294
Reserve fund	69,570	Investments—British, Colonial and Government securities (face value, £7,678,500)	7,676,150
Development fund	60,070	Commonwealth Government securities (face value, £4,656,180)	4,652,638
Deposits, accrued interest and rebate	33,822,878	Bills receivable in London and remittances in transit	1,649,917
Bills payable and other liabilities	3,682,458	Bills discounted, loans and advances to customers and other sums due to the bank	12,876,781
Contingent liabilities — Outstanding credits per contra	459,633	Bank premises	455,847
		Liabilities of customers and others on letters of credit per contra	459,633
Total general bank and rural credits departments	44,025,751		
Note issue department	45,301,226	Total general bank and rural credits department	44,025,751
		Note issue department	45,301,226
	89,326,977		89,326,977

BANCO DI ROMA

Established 1880.

Head Office: ROME.

Capital Paid-up - - Lit. 200,000,000

Reserves - - - Lit. 55,000,000

The Bank is prepared to transact every class of approved banking business in and connected with ITALY and COLONIES, FRANCE, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, MALTA, RHODES, SYRIA, LEBANON, PALESTINE, EGYPT, and TURKEY.

Affiliated Banks:

BANCO DI ROMA (France) S.A. Head Office; PARIS, and Branch at LYONS.
BANCO DI ROMA (España). Head Office: BARCELONA.
BANCO ITALO EGIZIANO S.A. Head Office: ALEXANDRIA.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

London Representative:

Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, E.C. 2

Telephones: LONDON WALL 9656-9657.

THE MITSUI BANK, LIMITED, JAPAN.

(The Oldest Banking Institution in Japan—Founded in 1683.)

Capital Subscribed	Yen 100,000,000·00	Special Reserve Fund	Yen 27,000,000·00
Capital Paid up	50,000,000·00	Reserve Fund for Dividend	9,000,000·00
Reserve Fund	29,200,000·00	Undivided Profits	2,078,361·40

HEAD OFFICE: No. 1, SURUGA-CHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO, JAPAN.

Inland Branches:

Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Kobe, Kyoto, Marunouchi (Tokyo), Moji, Nagasaki, Nagoya, Nihonbashi (Tokyo), Osaka, Osaka-Dojima, Osaka-Kawaguchi, Osaka-Nishi, Otaru, Shimonoseki, Wakamatsu, (Kyushu), Yokohama.

Foreign Branches: Bombay, London, New York, Shanghai, Sourabaya.

Foreign Bankers:
London—Barclays Bank, Ltd.; Midland Bank, Ltd.
New York—Bankers Trust Company; The Chase National Bank of the City of New York; The National City Bank of New York.

Foreign Agents:
Paris—Banque de l'Union Parisienne; Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
Berlin-Hamburg—Commerz- und Privat-Bank, A.G.

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET:
31st December, 1929.

Dr. Liabilities.	Yen.	Cr. Assets.	Yen.
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	660,378,923·80	Cash in hand and at the Bank of Japan	45,591,681·85
Foreign bills sold	696,819·10	Money at call and short notice	18,480,000·00
Due to foreign banks (including discounts)	41,434,998·84	Japanese and Foreign Government Bonds	117,093,787·80
Due to inland correspondents	630,384·23	Municipal and other Bonds	119,589,463·85
Outstanding cheques	275,929·71	Stocks	525,000·00
Liabilities under L/C, etc.	19,292,031·32	Loans and Discounts	454,339,153·54
Interest accrued on deposits not due	6,767,954·40	Foreign Bills purchased	76,010,145·18
Rebate on bills not due	2,754,801·85	Due from Foreign Banks	6,634,937·40
Provisional receipts, etc.	669,436·25	Due from Inland Correspondents	230,143·41
Capital	100,000,000·00	Customers' Liabilities under L/C, etc., per contra	19,292,031·32
Reserve Funds	64,700,000·00	Office Buildings under construction	1,114,728·22
Pension Fund	2,952,624·52	Provisional Payments	46,047·75
Profit for the half-year	6,391,561·40	Bank Premises and Real Estates	7,943,394·48
Including:		Capital uncalled	40,000,000·00
Balance from last account, 3,183,251·83			
Transfer from Pension Fund, 296,504·65			
	906,940,465·22		906,940,465·22

APPROPRIATION OF PROFIT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve Fund	500,000·00	Profit for the half-year	6,391,561·40
Pension Fund	523,200·00		
Bonus	290,300·00		
Dividend to Shareholders	3,000,000·00		
Balance carried forward to next account	2,078,361·40		
	6,391,561·40		6,391,561·40

The Bank sells Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers, buys approved inward and outward Bills, grants Commercial Credits, issues Travellers' Letters of Credit available in all important places in the World, and makes collections.

London Office: WINCHESTER HOUSE, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2.

Telephone Nos. London Wall 3221, 3222.
Foreign Exchange: London Wall 4239.

Inland Telegram Address: "Mitsuigink, Stock, London."
Cable Address: "Mitsuigink, London."

PROFIT AND LOSS.

	£		£
General Banking Department		By profits for half-year ended	
To reserve fund	127,083	31st December, 1928	
To National Debt sinking fund	127,083	Banking business	254,166
Rural Credits Department		Rural Credits Department	29,211
To reserve fund	14,606	Note Issue Department	446,954
„ Development fund	14,606		
Note Issue Department			
To Commonwealth Treasury	335,215		
„ Rural Credits department capital account	111,738		
	730,331		730,331

NOTE ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Notes in circulation	45,261,227	Gold coin and bullion	18,259,497
Property reserve account	40,000	Debentures and other securities	21,092,078
		Other assets	5,949,652
	45,301,227		45,301,227

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LTD.

The report for the year ended June 30, 1929, is as follows:—The profits for the year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, amount to £1,619,924, less expenses of management, £818,422, income and other taxes, £200,239—£1,018,662, leaving £601,263. From this the following deductions have been made: An interim dividend of 5 per cent. free of income tax, £150,000; reserve fund, £15,000—£165,000, leaving £436,263; and it is proposed to make further appropriations as follows: To reserve fund, additional, making £80,000 for the year, when the fund will stand at £3,080,000, £65,000; to the E.S. and A. Bank officers' provident fund, £10,000; to the payment of a further 7½ per cent., making a dividend of 12 per cent. for the year, free of income tax, £225,000; to contingency account, £50,000; to reduction of bank premises account, £50,000—£400,000; unappropriated from the profits of the year, £36,263; brought forward from June 30, 1928, £311,478; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £347,741.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Paid-up capital — 1,000,000 shares (£3 per share)	3,000,000	Cash and bullion	5,797,465
Reserve fund (used in the business of the bank)	3,015,000	Cash at bankers and at short notice	1,583,206
Perpetual stocks—Debenture stock, £983,547; preferred inscribed deposit stock, £889,419	1,872,966	Investments (British and Colonial Government Securities)	1,621,169
Deposits at interest (including Government balances)	21,152,099	Bills receivable and remittances in transit	5,911,167
Current accounts	12,582,397	Advances and other assets (after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies)	29,587,339
Notes in circulation	1,083	Security for note issue (colonial Government securities)	3,625
Bills payable, rebate on bills, and other liabilities	2,891,325	Bank premises and furniture	758,640
Profit and loss—Balance as per last balance sheet, £711,729; less transferred to reserve fund, £55,751; E. S. & A. bank officers' provident fund, £10,000; final dividend free of income tax, £225,000; applied to the cancellation of deferred inscribed deposit stock, £59,500; contingency account, £50,000—£400,251—£311,478; balance for the year as per profit and loss account, £436,263	747,741		
	45,262,611		45,262,611

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Expenses of management in London and Australia, including directors' and auditors' fees, &c.	818,422	Profit, after deducting interest on perpetual stocks and making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies	1,619,924
Income and other taxes	200,239		
Interim dividend	150,000		
Reserve fund	15,000		
Balance	436,263		
	1,619,924		1,619,924

THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital	5,000,000	Coin, bullion, Australian notes and cash at bankers	4,981,476
Reserve fund account	3,100,000	Government, municipal, and other public stocks, debentures and funds	5,823,371
Profit and loss account	407,773	Bills and remittances in transitu	2,807,583
Notes in circulation	47,900	Notes and bills of other banks	139,879
Bills in circulation	819,350	Balances due from other banks	205,654
Government deposits — not bearing interest, £273,894; bearing interest, £1,065,889	1,339,783	Duty stamps	33,110
Other deposits—not bearing interest, £13,282,012: bearing interest, £22,719,669	36,001,682	Real estate, consisting of bank premises	1,187,585
Interest accrued and rebate on current bills	445,767	Other real estate	57,037
Balances due to other banks	269,569	Bank furniture	68,933
Contingent liability, as per contra, in regard to obligations of customers and others on letters of credit and guarantees, £1,104,358		Bills discounted and other advances, exclusive of provision for bad and doubtful debts	32,127,196
		Liabilities of customers and others on letters of credit, drafts, and guarantees, as per contra, £1,104,358.	
	47,431,824		47,431,824

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Expenses at head office and 155 agencies	817,815	Balance brought forward	148,495
Income, land and note taxes	124,998	Gross profits, including recoveries, *less* rebate on bills current, interest accrued on deposits, repairs to premises, &c.	1,602,091
Interim dividend	250,000		
Transfer to reserve fund	100,000		
Reduction of bank premises account	50,000		
Balance	407,773		
	1,750,586		1,750,586

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital issued—800,000 shares of £7 10s. each, £2 10s. paid	2,000,000	Coin and bullion at head office and branches, £850,544; cash at bankers, £328,391	1,178,935
Reserve fund	2,000,000	Investments in British Treasury bonds and New Zealand and Australian Government securities	2,229,749
Notes in circulation	1,297,385	Bills receivable in London and in transit	2,703,428
Deposit and current accounts	10,567,019	Bills discounted	1,260,622
Bills payable and other liabilities (including provision for doubtful debts and depreciation of investments)	2,618,830	Advances on securities and current accounts	10,361,671
Profit and loss account	326,154	Remittances in transit between branches	469,074
		Landed property, premises and furniture	605,909
	18,809,388		18,809,388

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Interim dividend for the half-year ended September 30, 1928, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum	120,000	Balance at April 1, 1928	165,572
Premises	10,000	Gross profits for the year ended March 31, 1929, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, £693,715; *less* expenses of management, directors' remuneration, and charges at head office and 94 branches and agencies, £403,133	290,582
Proposed allocation of balance Dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1929, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, £120,000; bonus of 2 per cent., £40,000	160,000		
Pension and gratuity funds	11,000		
To be carried forward	155,154		
	456,154		456,154

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK,

BALANCE SHEET, June 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital paid up	1,750,000	Coin, bullion, Australian Notes and cash at bankers	1,511,338
Reserve fund	815,000	British Treasury bills	230,000
Profit and loss	49,809	Commonwealth loans (at or under market value)	1,087,008
Intermainable Inscribed Deposit stock	3,091,669	Government stocks:—	
Bills payable and other liabilities	407,581	Queensland Government	100,000
Deposits	9,404,099	Victorian Government (short dated)	600,000
		Cash balances	86,902
		Bills remitted and *in transitu*	894,447
		Money in London at call and on short notice	135,000
		Advances to customers on current account, bills discounted and other debts due to the bank	10,348,614
		Bank premises, furniture and stationery (of the bank premises figures £170,000 is revenue producing)	524,849
	15,518,158		15,518,158

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	CR.	£
Interim dividends paid Nov. 15, 1928, £43,749; Feb. 14, 1929, £43,749; May 16, 1929, £43,750	131,248	Balance from June 30, 1928	8,672
Transfer to reserve fund	30,000	Net profit for year ended June 30, 1929	202,385
Balance at June 30, 1929	49,809		
	211,057		211,057

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—February 29, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital issued, £12,000,000; *Less* reserve liability thereon £8,000,000: paid up	4,000,000	Specie on hand and cash balances	6,300,461
Reserve fund	4,850,000	Bullion and advances on bullion	72,683
Balance of undivided profits	386,336	Money at call and short notice in London	1,060,000
Circulation	579,729	Investments on account of reserve fund — British Government securities	1,000,000
Deposits	35,644,350	Other investments, British Government, Australian Government and municipal securities	1,223,199
Bills payable and other liabilities (including reserves held against contingencies)	3,507,051	Balance of remittances and drafts in transit, and bills receivable at London office	8,470,947
		Bills discounted, loans and other securities at the branches and in London	30,454,431
		Bank premises in Australia and New Zealand	286,600
		London leasehold premises, £142,305; reserves against same and accrued interest, £43,160	99,145
	48,967,466		48,967,466

ANGLO-INTERNATIONAL BANK,

LIMITED

Head Office:

24-28, Lombard Street, London, E.C. 3.

Telephones: Mansion House 6543 (9 lines).

Telegrams: "Anglank, London."

CAPITAL:

Authorised - - £2,000,000

Paid Up - - - £1,960,008

London Clearing Agents:

Bank of England. Glyn, Mills & Co.

National Provincial Bank Ltd.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

GENERAL THE HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, G.C.B. (*Chairman.*)

H.E. PETER BARK, G.C.V.O. (*Managing Director.*)

E. W. H. BARRY, ESQ.
JULIAN DAY, ESQ., M.C.
A. G. M. DICKSON, ESQ.
THE LORD FARINGDON, C.H.
ZOLTAN HAJDU, ESQ.
DR. PAUL HAMMERSCHLAG.
SIR GORDON NAIRNE, BART.
LUDWIG VON NEURATH, ESQ.
SIR OTTO NIEMEYER, G.B.E., K.C.B.
SIR WILLIAM PEAT, C.V.O.
KUNES SONNTAG, ESQ.
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Every description of Home and Foreign Banking transacted.
Special facilities for business with the Continent of Europe.
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KOMMANDITGESELLSCHAFT AUF AKTIEN

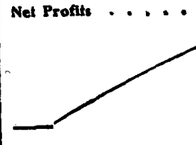
Berlin W 8, Behrenstraße 68/70

Telegraphic Address: Danatbank

Over 100 Branches / Correspondents at all important places of the world

Balance Sheet per December 31, 1929

Assets	Reichsmark	Pf	Liabilities	Reichsmark	Pf
Cash in Hand, foreign currency, and interest or dividend coupons due for payment	25 375 459	40	Share capital	60 000 000	—
Credit balances with banks of issue and clearing institutions	54 222 570	92	Reserves	60 000 000	—
Cheques, Bills and Treasury Bills	605 516 091	53	Creditors	2 383 555 054	53
Credit balances of the Bank ("Nostro" balances) with banks and banking firms payable within three months	257 722 608	62	Acceptances	90 183 712	13
Contangos and loans against securities admitted to quotation on the Stock Exchange	160 989 520	60	Pension Fund for employees	5 000 000	—
Advances on goods consigned or warehoused	577 618 276	80	Other liabilities	11 483 741	61
Securities owned by the Bank	58 000 000	—	Net Profits	11 799 172	17
Holdings in syndicates and joint operations	57 006 000	—			
Permanent holdings in other banks and banking firms	24 000 000	—			
Loans and advances on current account ("Debitoren")	1 016 777 353	07			
Bank Premises	25 000 000	—			
	2 622 021 680	74		2 622 021 680	74



Dividend for the year 1929: 12 per cent

CANADIAN AND W.I. BANKS.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

The report for the year ended October 31, 1929, is as follows:—Balance of profit and loss account, October 31, 1928, $713,789; profit for the year ended October 31, 1929, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, $7,070,892; premiums on new stock, $6,031,841—$13,816,522. Quarterly dividend 3 per cent. paid March 1, 1929, $897,501; quarterly dividend 3 per cent. paid June 1, 1929, $972,030; quarterly dividend 3 per cent. paid September 1, 1929, $1,048,146; quarterly dividend 3 per cent. payable December 1, 1929, $1,075,557; bonus 2 per cent. payable December 1, 1929, $720,000—$4,713,234; provision for taxes, Dominion Government, $435,865; reservation for bank premises, $900,000—$6,049,099; amount credited to rest account, $7,031,841, leaving balance of profit and loss carried forward, $735,582.

BALANCE SHEET—October 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital stock	35,948,541	Gold and subsidiary coin current	42,811,390
Rest	37,948,541	Dominion notes	58,153,281
Balance of profits carried forward	735,582	Deposit in the central gold reserves	16,000,000
Unclaimed dividends	10,524	Deposits made with and balances due from other banks in Canada, $1,847; United States and other foreign currencies, $644,203; balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada, $30,727,715; call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada, on bonds, debentures and stocks and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover, $39,406,650; call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Great Britain and United States on bonds, debentures and stocks, and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover, $115,506,017	186,286,434
Quarterly dividend payable 1st December, 1929	1,075,557	Dominion and Provincial Government securities not exceeding market value	98,670,890
Bonus of 2% payable 1st December, 1929	720,000	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks not exceeding market value	5,906,829
Notes of the bank in circulation	45,465,137	Canadian municipal securities, and British, foreign and Colonial public securities other than Canadian not exceeding market value	25,033,797
Deposits not bearing interest	178,284,099	Notes of other banks	3,653,754
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date of statement	594,049,161	Cheques on other banks	59,753,603
Advances under the Finance Act	15,000,000	Current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	370,082,135
Deposits made by and balances due to other banks in Canada	5,020,965	Loans to cities, towns, municipalities and school districts	28,751,575
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	34,369,332	Current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	35,108,249
Bills payable	298,580	Non-current loans, estimated loss provided for	2,033,633
Letters of credit outstanding	13,338,456	Bank premises at not more than cost (less amounts written off)	14,500,000
Liabilities not included in the foregoing	3,072,522	Real estate other than bank premises	360,512
		Mortgages on real estate sold by the bank	1,684,739
		Liabilities of customers under letters of credit (as per contra)	13,338,458
		Deposit with the Minister for the purposes of the circulation fund	1,449,356
		Shares of and loans to controlled companies	1,384,801
		Other assets not included in the foregoing	373,561
	965,336,997		965,336,997

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Statement for the year ending December 31, 1929:—Profit and loss: Balance December 31, 1928, $914,726; net profit for year, losses by bad debts estimated and provided for, $2,761,117—$3,675,843. Dividend No. 237 at 16 per cent. per annum paid April 2, 1929, $400,000; dividend No. 238 at 16 per cent. per annum paid July 2, 1929, $400,000, dividend No. 239 at 16 per cent. per annum paid October 1, 1929, $400,000; dividend No. 240 at 16 per cent. per annum payable January 2, 1930, $400,000; Dominion Government tax on circulation to December 31, 1929, $100,000; contribution to officers' pension fund, $110,000; written off bank premises account, $400,000; balance carried forward December 31, 1929, $1,465,843—$3,675,843.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital stock paid in	10,000,000	Current coin	9,305,151
Reserve fund	20,000,000	Dominion notes	17,685,184
Balance of profits, as per profit and loss account	1,465,843	United States and other foreign currencie	1,876,687
Dividends declared and unpaid	402,512	Notes of other banks	1,354,350
Notes of the bank in circulation	16,202,264	Cheques on other banks	12,415,377
Deposits not bearing interest $37,748,730; Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date $167,988,665	205,737,395	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	4,344,048
Advances under the Finance Act	6,000,000	Deposit in the Central Gold reserves	7,500,000
Balances due to other banks in Canada	3,613,610	Dominion and provincial government securities, not exceeding market value	20,356,004
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents in the United Kingdom and foreign countries	2,982,665	Canadian municipal securities and British, Foreign and Colonial public securities other than Canadian, not exceeding market value	8,097,176
Bills payable	823,608	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value	8,756,451
Letters of credit outstanding	6,696,978	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	32,376,949
Other liabilities not included in the foregoing	316,498	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans elsewhere than in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	12,763,039
		Other current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	102,339,213
		Other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	2,643,118
		Liabilities of customers under letters of credit, as per contra	6,696,978
		Non-current loans, estimated loss provided for	178,930
		Bank premises at not more than cost, less amounts written off	6,848,591
		Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the circulation fund	503,965
		Other assets not included in the foregoing	200,162
	274,241,373		274,241,373

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

The report of the directors for the twelve months ending November 30, 1929, was as follows:—The balance at credit of profit and loss account, brought forward from last year, was $304,336; the premium received on new shares issued during the year was $4,974,610; the net profits for the year ending November 30th, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, were $5,066,229—$10,345,175. This has been appropriated as follows:—Dividends Nos. 168, 169, 170 and 171, at 12 per cent. per annum, $3,233,216; bonus of 1 per cent., payable December 1st, $297,659; Dominion and Provincial Government taxes and tax on bank note circulation, $650,000; donations and subscriptions, $65,000; transferred to pension fund, $249,571; written off bank premises, $400,000; transferred to reserve fund, $4,974,610; balance carried forward, $475,119—$10,345,175.

GENERAL STATEMENT—November 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Notes of the bank in circulation	35,026,038	Gold and silver coin current on hand, $24,890,817; gold deposited in central gold reserves, $8,000,000	32,890,817
Deposits not bearing interest, $142,093,081; deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date, $421,247,469	563,340,551	Dominion notes on hand, $41,997,337; Dominion notes deposited in central gold reserves, $2,000,000	43,997,337
Balances due to other banks in Canada	1,253,192	Notes of other banks	2,261,280
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents in the United States, the United Kingdom and foreign countries	72,697,980	United States and other foreign currencies	873,369
Advances under the Finance Act	25,000,000	Cheques on other banks	22,278,740
Bill payable	9,007,564	Balances due by other banks in Canada	16
Letters of credit outstanding	33,640,677	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	32,212,156
Dividends unpaid	6,504	Dominion and Provincial Government securities, not exceeding market value	49,972,248
Dividend No. 171 and bonus, payable December 1st	1,182,163	Canadian municipal securities and British, foreign and Colonial public securities exceeding market value	17,252,140
Capital paid up, $29,798,010; reserve fund, $29,798,010; balance of profits as per profit and loss account, $475,119	60,071,139	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value	9,573,827
		Call and short loans (not exceeding 30 days) in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	55,026,138
		Call and short loans (not exceeding 30 days) elsewhere than in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and	

B.W. BLYDENSTEIN & Co.,

54-55-56, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.2.

BANKERS

ALL BANKING AND DISCOUNT BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Dealers in British Treasury Bills of any Maturity.

Deposits received for short and longer periods at rates to be obtained on application.

Special Facilities for Business with Holland.

FORWARD CONTRACTS IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

And under a Special Concession Bankers to the Imperial Government of Persia.

CAPITAL FULLY CALLED UP - £650,000
(With power to increase to £4,000,000)
RESERVE ACCOUNT - - - £610,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS UNDER THE CHARTER - £1,000,000

LONDON OFFICE:

33/36, King William Street, London, E.C. 4.

CHIEF OFFICE IN PERSIA:

TEHERAN.

BRANCHES IN PERSIA:

Abadan, Ahwaz, Barfrush, Birjand, Bunder Abbas, Burujird, Bushire, Dizful, Duzdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Masjid-Suleiman, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Pehlevi, Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd.

BRANCHES IN IRAQ (*Mesopotamia*): Baghdad, Basra.

BRANCH IN INDIA: Bombay.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia, Mesopotamia, India and the Near East.

THE

BANK OF INDIA

LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 7th SEPTEMBER, 1906.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED	..	Rs. 2,00,00,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	.. ..	„ 1,00,00,000
RESERVE FUND	.. ..	„ 90,00,000

HEAD OFFICE:—ORIENTAL BUILDINGS, BOMBAY.

BRANCHES:—CALCUTTA, AHMEDABAD, BULLION EXCHANGE (Shaikh Memon Street, Bombay). BANDRA near BOMBAY, POONA.

LONDON AGENTS: The Westminster Bank, Ld.

DIRECTORS:

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Baronet (Messrs. J. Cowasjee Jehangir & Co., Bombay), Chairman.
Mr. F. E. Dinshaw (Messrs. Payne & Co., Bombay).
Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai (Ahmedabad).
Sir Joseph Kay, Kt: (Messrs. W. H. Brady & Co., Ld.)
Mr. Andrew Geddis (Messrs. James Finlay & Co., Ld., Bombay).
Sir Dinshaw Petit, Baronet (of Messrs. D. M. Petit Sons & Co., Bombay).
Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, K.C.S.I., of Bombay.
Mr. Paliram Mathradas.

Current Deposit Accounts.—From 25th December to 25th June, interest is allowed at 2½% on daily balance, Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,00,000. From 26th June to 25th December interest is allowed at 2% on daily balance. On sums exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 interest is allowed by special arrangement. No interest will be allowed which does not amount to Rs. 3 per half-year.

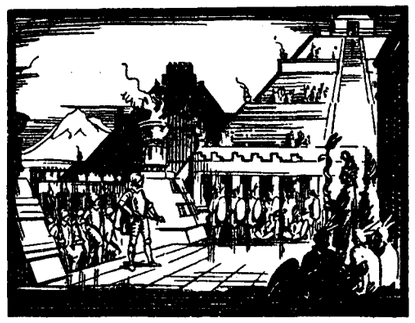
Fixed Deposits.—Deposits are received fixed for one year or for shorter periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

Savings Bank.—Accounts opened on favourable terms. Rules on application.

The Bank undertakes Executor and Trustee Business.—Rules may be obtained on application.

General Banking Business transacted, rules for which can be obtained upon application.

A. G. GRAY, Manager.



CONQUISTADORES!

¶ It is a far cry since the adventurous days of the Spanish Conquistadores and their pioneer expeditions to the ancient American civilisations.

¶ To-day, a great and growing volume of overseas trade is transacted annually by the Republics of the New World, and unrivalled facilities for every description of modern banking business are afforded by

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK LTD
117 OLD BROAD ST, LONDON, EC2

other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	105,018,915
Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purpose of the circulation fund	1,250,000
Other current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	341,958,868
Other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	27,489,667
Liabilities of customers under letters of credit, as per contra	33,640,677
Non-current loans (estimated loss provided for)	2,032,063
Real estate other than bank premises	1,868,074
Mortgages on real estate sold by the bank	2,025,560
Bank premises at not more than cost, less amounts written off	14,917,829
Shares of and loans to controlled companies	4,385,159
Other assets not included in the foregoing	308,928
	801,225,808

DOMINION BANK.

The report for the year ended December 31, 1929, is as follows:—Balance of profit and loss account, December 31, 1928, $272,287; profits for the year, after deducting charges of management, interest accrued on deposits and making full provision for all doubtful assets, $1,522,809; premium received on new stock issue, $996,030—$2,791,126; which amount has been disposed of as follows: Dividends (quarterly) at 12 per cent. per annum, $815,322; bonus, 1 per cent., $69,944; total distribution to shareholders of 13 per cent. for the year $885,266; contribution to officers' pension fund, $50,000; Dominion and Provincial Government taxation, $185,286; written off bank premises, $300,000; transferred to reserve fund—premiums on new stock issue, $996,030; balance of profit and loss account carried forward, $374,544—$2,791,126.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital stock paid in	6,996,030	Gold and silver coin	1,500,930
Reserve fund	8,996,030	Dominion Government notes	8,491,936
Balance of profit and loss account carried forward	374,544	Deposit in the Central gold reserves	1,500,000
Dividend No. 189, payable January 2, 1930	209,593	Notes of other banks	961,440
Bonus, 1 per cent., payable January 2, 1930	69,944	United States and other foreign currencies	114,722
Former dividends unclaimed	3,577	Cheques on other banks	10,781,726
Notes of the Bank in circulation	7,690,312	Balances due by other banks in Canada	21
Deposits not bearing interest, $25,248,748; deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date, $88,102,836	113,351,584	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	3,502,009
Advances under the Finance Act	6,500,000	Dominion and Provincial Government securities, not exceeding market value	14,365,735
Balances due to other banks in Canada	1,582,539	Canadian municipal securities, and British, foreign and Colonial public securities other than Canadian, not exceeding market value	3,153,991
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	2,803,658	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks, not exceeding market value	2,321,457
Bills payable	22,632	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	14,076,370
Liabilities not included in the foregoing	539,792	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans elsewhere than in Canada on stocks, debentures and bonds and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	7,004,039
Letters of credit outstanding	5,041,068	Other current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	73,693,206
		Other current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	1,328,732
		Non-current loans, estimated loss provided for	85,939
		Bank premises, at not more than cost, less amounts written off	5,809,841
		Real estate other than bank premises	1,503
		Mortgages on real estate sold	17,811
		Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the circulation fund	329,863
		Other assets not included in the foregoing	98,964
		Liabilities of customers under letters of credit, as per contra	5,041,068
	154,181,303		154,181,303

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

The statement for the year ended November 30, 1929, is as follows:—Balance of profit and loss account, November 30, 1928, $2,361,086; profits for the year, after deducting charges of management, accrued interest on deposits, full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and rebate of interest on unmatured bills, $7,145,137—$9,506,223, appropriated as follows:—Dividends Nos. 166, 167, 168 and 169 at 12 per cent. per annum, $4,023,939; bonus of 2 per cent. to shareholders, $698,133; contribution to officers' pension fund, $200,000; appropriation for bank premises, $400,000; reserve for Dominion Government taxes, including tax on bank note circulation, $610,000; balance of profit and loss carried forward, $3,574,151—$9,506,223.

BALANCE SHEET—November 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital stock paid up	35,000,000	Gold and subsidiary coin on hand	22,471,201
Reserve fund	35,000,000	Dominion notes on hand	38,412,271
Balance of profits carried forward	3,574,151	Deposit in the central gold reserves	12,000,000
Dividends unclaimed	16,562	United States and other foreign currencies	18,836,513
Dividend No. 169 (at 12% per annum), payable Dec. 1, 1929	1,046,276	Notes of other Canadian banks	3,832,753
Bonus of 2%, payable Dec. 2, 1929	698,133	Cheques on other banks	28,368,237
Deposits not bearing interest, $180,707,298; deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date of statement, $591,380,471; total deposits	772,087,769	Balances due by other banks in Canada	785
Notes of the bank in circulation	43,565,900	Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	33,710,355
Advances under the Finance Act	25,000,000	Dominion and Provincial Government securities (not exceeding market value)	96,563,143
Balances due to other banks in Canada	1,065,835	Canadian municipal securities, and British, foreign and colonial public securities other than Canadian (not exceeding market value)	17,400,157
Balances due to banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada	28,322,222	Railway and other bonds, debentures and stocks (not exceeding market value)	15,468,621
Bills payable	2,085,402	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans in Canada on bonds, debentures and stocks and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	56,036,372
Liabilities not included in the foregoing	331,712	Call and short (not exceeding thirty days) loans elsewhere than in Canada on bonds, debentures and stocks and other securities of a sufficient marketable value to cover	66,175,557
Letters of credit outstanding	53,648,779	Current loans and discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	364,055,352
		Current loans and discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of interest) after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts	147,525,411
		Non-current loans, estimated loss provided for	2,233,740
		Bank premises at not more than cost, less amounts written off	15,407,056
		Real estate other than bank premises	1,812,766
		Mortgages on real estate sold by the bank	1,357,299
		Liabilities of customers under letters of credit as per contra	53,648,779
		Shares of and loans to controlled companies	3,813,109
		Deposit with the Minister for the purposes of the circulation fund	1,650,000
		Other assets not included in the foregoing	663,264
	1,001,442,741		1,001,442,741

INDIAN BANKS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

According to the report for the year ended December 31st last, net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, was £848,254, inclusive of £186,656 brought forward from the previous year. The interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £210,000. The amount now available is therefore £638,254, and the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, making 20¼ per cent. per annum for the whole year, free of income tax; to set aside £50,000 on account of contingencies, and to carry forward the balance of £190,754.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE:
15 GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C. 3

Authorised Capital ... £3,000,000
Paid-up Capital... ... £1,050,000
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ... £1,646,506

Branches and Agencies in:
INDIA, CEYLON, BURMA, SIAM, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, and DUTCH EAST INDIES.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit, and conducts every description of Banking Business both at Home and Abroad.

FIXED DEPOSIT RATES will be quoted upon application.

EXECUTORSHIPS and TRUSTEESHIPS accepted.

On CURRENT ACCOUNTS interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on Daily Balances, provided accrued interest for the half-year amounts to £1.

JAMES STEUART, *Chief Manager.*

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.)

Registered Capital - -	£5,000,000	0s. 0d.
Subscribed Capital - -	£3,867,350	0s. 0d.
Reserve Fund (used in the business) - - -	£1,963,749	15s. 0d.

DIRECTORS:
John L. Webb, Esq., Chairman.
R. C. Meares, Esq. George Kettlewell, Esq.
A. W. Palfreyman, Esq. W. H. Swanton, Esq.
General Manager: C. H. Tranter.
Chief Inspector: E. T. Bailey.

HEAD OFFICE: 335-7-9, COLLINS ST., MELBOURNE.
Manager: R. D. Kennan. Accountant: G. A. Malloch

LONDON OFFICE: 17, MOORGATE, E.C.2.
LONDON BOARD:
George Niven, Esq. Joseph White, Esq.
Manager: P. H. Gardner.

DRAFTS AND LETTERS OF CREDIT are issued by the London Office on the Head Office of the Bank and the Branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.
REMITTANCES made by CABLE TRANSFER, BILLS NEGOTIATED or sent for COLLECTION, BANKING and EXCHANGE BUSINESS of every description transacted with the various Australian States and New Zealand.

STATE BANK OF THE U.S.S.R.

Created by Decree of the Soviet Government of October 12th, 1921.

	Chervonetz.
Capital	25,000,000
Bank Note Issue on May 1st, 1930	164,628,949
Issue Dept.'s Gold, Platinum and Silver Reserve on May 1st, 1930	35,277,124
Issue Dept.'s Foreign Currency Reserve on May 1st, 1930	6,097,851

N.B.—1 Chervonetz contains 119.4826 grains of pure gold and equals £1 1s. 1¼d. or $5.14½.

Head Office and Foreign Department, MOSCOW.
500 BRANCHES.

FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION TRANSACTED.

Deposits and Current Accounts in Foreign and Soviet Currency. Mail and Cable Remittances effected throughout the territories of the Soviet Union. Collections. Letters of Credit. Bills of exchange. The Bank is specially interested in facilitating trade with the Soviet Republics.

AGENTS AND CORRESPONDENTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS.—Lloyds Bank Ltd.; Barclays Bank Ltd.; Midland Bank Ltd.; National Provincial Bank Ltd.; Westminster Bank Ltd.; Bank for Russian Trade Ltd.; Equitable Trust Co. of New York; Hambros Bank Ltd.; Fredk. Huth & Co.; S. Japhet and Co., Ltd.; Kleinwort, Sons and Co.; Samuel Montagu and Co.; Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd.; National City Bank of New York; N. M. Rothschild and Sons; J. Henry Schröder and Co.

ITALO-BELGIAN BANK

(Banque Italo-Belge, Société Anonyme).
Incorporated in Belgium with Limited Liability.

Capital subscribed and paid -	Frs. 100,000,000
Reserve Funds - - -	Frs. 100,000,000

Head Office: ANTWERP.

London Office:
100 OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.2.

Branches:
FRANCE—Paris. ARGENTINE—Buenos Aires.
URUGUAY—Montevideo.
BRAZIL—Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Campinas.

Correspondents in all the Principal Places in South America.

The Bank Transacts every description of Banking Business. Clean Bills and Documentary Bills negotiated, advanced upon, or sent for collection. Drafts and Letters of Credit issued and Cable and Mail Transfers effected on Branches and Correspondents. Documentary Credits opened or Confirmed. Coupons and Drawn Bonds collected and negotiated.

Telegrams: "Itabelban, London."
Telephone: London Wall 6514 (5 lines).

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital, 600,000 shares of £5 each, paid up	3,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	4,782,716
Reserve fund	4,000,000	Bullion on hand and in transit	362,877
Notes in circulation	2,105,222	Government and other securities	8,885,337
Current and other accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies	25,020,059	P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., 208,566 shares of £10 each, fully paid, at cost	2,276,333
Fixed deposits	19,897,432	Security lodged against note issue and Government deposits	2,360,250
Bills payable	2,936,171	Bills of exchange, including Treasury Bills	14,619,600
Acceptances on account of customers	1,825,027	Bills discounted and loans	24,182,092
Loans payable, against security, per contra	849,261	Liability of customers for acceptances, per contra	1,825,027
Due to agents and correspondents	17,149	Due by agents and correspondents	120,861
Sundry liabilities, including rebates	793,110	Sundry assets, including exchange adjustments	496,402
Profit and loss	638,254	Bank premises and furniture at the head office and branches	1,170,190
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £8,696,412, of which £7,145,682 has run off at 10th March, 1930.			
Outstanding forward exchange contracts for purchase and sale of bills and telegraphic transfers, &c., £36,240,633.			
	£61,081,685		61,081,685

PROFIT AND LOSS.

For the year ended December 31, 1929.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividend at 30th June, 1929	210,000	Balance at 31st December, 1928, £624,156; *less* dividend for half-year to 31st December, 1928, £210,000; bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, £187,500; contingencies account, £40,000—£437,500	186,656
Balance proposed to be dealt with as follows:—			
Dividend, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, for the half-year to date	210,000	Net profits after deduction of expenses of management, and after providing for bad and doubtful debts, taxation, &c.	661,598
Bonus of 6s. 3d. per share	187,500		
Contingencies account	50,000		
Carried forward to profit and loss new account	190,754		
	848,254		848,254

EASTERN BANK, LTD.

The report for the year ending December 31, 1929, is as follows:—The net profits to December 31, 1929, after providing for contingencies and including the balance brought forward from the last account, as shown by the annexed statements, amount to £167,991. An interim dividend at the rate of 4s. a share was paid in October, absorbing £40,000, and the directors now recommend a final dividend of 5s. a share, less income tax, at 3s. 9d. in the £ (after allowing for relief in respect of Indian taxation). They propose to add £30,000 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £480,000, leaving a balance of £47,991 to be carried forward to the next account.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital paid up, £5 per share	1,000,000	Cash on hand and at bankers	1,272,491
Reserve fund	450,000	British Government, Indian Government and other securities, of which £20,000 4½% Treasury Bonds have been deposited as security for Government accounts—valued at, or under, prices current on December 31, 1929	2,851,330
Current and deposit accounts	6,223,523	Bills receivable	1,688,427
Bills payable	302,398	Customers' liability for drafts against shipments, per contra	1,175,080
Acceptances on account of customers	1,175,080	Loans receivable and advances	3,993,521
Loans payable against bills and securities	1,835,000	Due by agents and correspondents	8,981
Sundry accounts, including exchange adjustments	124,804	Sundry accounts, including exchange adjustments	59,411
Profit and loss account	127,991	Premises and furniture	189,555
Bills receivable, rediscounted, £1,136,904, of which up to March 5, 1930, £941,023 had run off.			
Forward contracts outstanding for the purchase and sale of sterling bill and telegraphic transfers, £4,593,959.			
	11,238,796		11,238,796

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividend paid October 1, 1929	40,000	Balance at December 31, 1928, £124,470, less dividend at 5s. per share paid March 31, 1929, £50,000; transferred to reserve fund, £25,000; transferred to premises, £5,000; balance brought forward	44,470
Balance	127,991	Net profits for the year ended December 31, 1929, after deducting expenses of management and general charges at head office and branches, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation, income tax, and including remuneration of directors, amounting to £7,000	123,521
	167,991		167,991

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

The report for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, states that the net profit of the bank for the half-year amounted to Rs. 40,99,687, which, with Rs. 27,83,525 brought forward from the half-year ended June 30, 1929, made a total of Rs. 68,83,212. This sum the governors of the bank disposed of as follows:—(1) In payment of a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, Rs. 45,00,000; (2) transferred to reserve fund, Rs. 5,00,000; (3) transferred to pension funds, Rs. 3,57,000; (4) carried forward to the profit and loss account of the current half-year, Rs. 15,26,212—total Rs. 68,83,212.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Rs.	Assets.	Rs.
Capital paid up	5,62,50,000	Government securities	30,16,63,727
Reserve	5,32,50,000	Other authorised securities under the Act	2,83,57,263
Public deposits	7.59,96,984	Ways and Means advances to the Government of India	...
Other deposits	71,64,31,282	Loans	6,95,76,781
Loans against securities per contra	...	Cash credits	27,37,16,500
Loans from the Government of India under Section 20 of the Paper Currency Act, against Inland Bills discounted and purchased per contra	...	Inland bills discounted and purchased	6,23,98,635
		Foreign bills discounted and purchased	1,72,769
Contingent liabilities	...	Bullion	...
Sundries	67,99,756	Dead stock	2,79,80,334
		Liability of constituents for contingent liabilities per contra	...
		Sundries	43,20,312
		Balances with other banks	5,57,097
		Cash	13,99,84,604
	Rs. 90,87,28,022		Rs. 90,87,28,022

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

The report for the year ending December 31, 1929, states that the net profits for the year, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, and including £162,047 brought forward from last account, amount to £419,506. From this sum has to be deducted £84,000, being the interim dividend of 8 per cent., less income tax, on the "A," "B" and "G" shares paid in September last. The directors have added £30,000 to the reserve fund, £15,000 to the officers' pension fund, and written £40,000 off freehold banking premises. They now recommend a final dividend on the "A," "B" and "C" shares of 8 per cent., less income tax (making 16 per cent. for the year), leaving a balance of £166,506 to be carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued—		Cash in hand and at bankers	2,039,863
30,000 "A" shares, £12 10s. paid	375,000	Bullion	112,616
30,000 "B" shares, £12 10s. paid	375,000	Securities and coin deposited against note issue	299,500
60,000 "C" shares, £5 paid	300,000	Shares in subsidiary agency and nominee companies	4,753,378
Reserve fund	1,480,000	Government and other stocks—	
Notes in circulation	246,566	Treasury bonds, National War bds., Indian Government rupee paper and other securities	175
Current, fixed deposit and other accounts, including rebates and provision for bad and doubtful debts	12,677,951	Bills receivable	2,927,590
Balances due to subsidiary companies	175	Bills discounted	92,376
Bills payable	555,194	Loans receivable and advances	6,720,420
Loans payable against security, per contra	1,350,000	Freehold banking premises	344,324
Acceptances on account of customers, per contra	247,024	Liabilities of customers for acceptances, per contra	247,024
Profit and loss account	250,506	Sundry accounts, including amounts due by agents	320,150
	17,857,416		17,857,416

Contingent liability on bills receivable re-discounted £2,304,740, of which up to March 10, 1930, £1,584,093 have run off. Forward exchange contracts outstanding for purchase and sale of bills and telegraphic transfers, £10,068,385.

NOTE.—The rupee assets and liabilities included in the above are converted at 1s. 6d. per rupee.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Ad interim dividend of 8 per cent. on 30,000 "A" shares, 30,000 "B" shares and 60,000 "C" shares	84,000	Balance from December 31, 1928, £246,047; *less* final dividend for year 1928 of 8 per cent, making 16 per cent. for the year on the "A," "B" and "C" shares, £84,000	162,047
Amount transferred to reserve fund	30,000	Net profit for the year ending December 31, 1929, after providing for bad and doubtful debts and directors' fees and tax thereon, £4,501	257,459
Amount transferred to officers' pension fund	15,000		
Amount written off freehold banking premises	40,000		
Balance	250,506		
	419,506		419,506

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA LIMITED.

The report for the year ending December 31st last states that the net profits for the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £511,133, and adding £277,329 brought forward, the available total is £788,462. An *ad interim* dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was paid on September 14th last, amounting to £200,000. The directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate. They propose to write £60,000 off house property account and to add £50,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving a balance of £278,462 to be carried forward.

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE

Established in 1841.

Capital paid-up and Reserves - Drs. 1,205,000,000.
Deposits - - - - - - „ 6,550,000,000.
Total Resources - - - - „ 8,058,362,302.

HEAD OFFICE IN ATHENS. Branches throughout Greece.

New York Agency: 51 MAIDEN LANE. Affiliated Institution in New York: Hellenic Bank Trust Company; 51 Maiden Lane. Correspondents in all parts of the World.

COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Correspondence Invited.

Tel. Address: ULTRAMARIN, LONDON.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS BANK LIMITED

Telephone: LONDON WALL 0295.

9 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2

Capital Authorised £1,500,000

Capital Issued and fully paid £1,000,000

A COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICE

SOLE LONDON REPRESENTATIVES OF { BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, LISBON and its offices in Portugal, the Portugese Colonies, Brazil, and Bombay, BANQUE FRANCO-PORTUGAISE D'OUTREMER, PARIS

Bank for Russian Trade Limited

58-60 Moorgate, London, E.C.2

Cable Address: "SOCRABANK." *Telephone:* METROPOLITAN 3600

Authorised Capital - - £750,000
Paid-up Capital - - £550,000
Reserves - - - £210,000

Established in 1923 to assist in the rebuilding of Russian Foreign Trade.

All Banking Operations Transacted

Agents and Correspondents at all Banking Centres of the U.S.S.R. and throughout the World.

DEUTSCHE UNIONBANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Unter den Linden 17/18, BERLIN, W.8

Telephone: A 4 Zentrum 4802, 4803, 4823, 4843
Trunk Calls: A 4 Zentrum 13150, 13151
Telegrams; "Aktunibank, Berlin"
Codes: Peterson's 2nd and 3rd Editions, Bentley's

* * *

Capital and Reserves - RM. 13,300,000

* * *

Every description of Banking Business undertaken

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

(The rupee assets and liabilities have been converted at the rate of 1s. 6d. per Rupee.)

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital—Paid up £12 10s. per share	2,000,000	Cash on hand, at call and at bankers	4,463,121
Reserve fund	3,000,000	Bullion on hand and in transit	451,388
Current, fixed deposit and other accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies	31,467,322	Indian Government rupee securities	5,804,641
Bills payable	813,116	British Government securities, Indian Government guaranteed debentures and other securities (of which £300,000 War Loan lodged with Bank of England as security for Government accounts)	6,070,155
Acceptances for customers	650,127	House property and furniture	545,515
Profit and loss account, as under	588,462	Bills of exchange	7,450,327
		Discounts, loans receivable, and other sums due to the bank	13,083,753
		Customers for acceptances per contra	650,127
	38,519,027		38,519,027

To bills receivable, re-discounted, £4,974,124, of which up to March 17, 1930, £3,931,495 have run off. Forward contracts outstanding for the purchase and sale of sterling bills and telegraphic transfers £8,425,091.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£		£
Ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended June 30, 1929	200,000	Balance at December 31, 1928, £607,329, deduct dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended December 31, 1928, £200,000; amount written off house property account, £30,000; officers' pension fund, £50,000; amount carried to reserve fund for the year ended December 31, 1928, £50,000—£330,000; balance brought forward	277,329
Expenses of management at head office and branches, including directors' fees, £6,250	626,881		
Balance	588,462	Gross profits for the year ended December 31, 1929, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts	1,138,014
	1,415,343		1,415,343

THE P. & O. BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.

BALANCE [SHEET—March 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital — Issued — 259,416 shares of £10 each, fully paid up	2,594,160	Cash at bankers and in hand	769,148
Reserve fund	180,000	Bullion in hand and in transit	183,489
Current, deposit and other accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful debts, contingency reserve, &c.	7,238,242	Money at call and short notice	526,429
Loans payable against security	3,492,875	Bills receivable in hand and in transit, including Treasury bills	3,036,050
Acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	806,060	Investments — British and Colonial Government securities at or below market value, £360,588; Indian Government securities at market value, £397,566; foreign Government and municipal and other securities at market value, £70,525; Indian Railway debentures, guaranteed by Indian Government, £173,250	1,001,929
Bills receivable for collection, as per contra	540,473	Allahabad Bank, Limited—23,403 ordinary shares of Rs. 100 each, of which 14,665 are fully paid and 8,738 are paid up to the extent of Rs. 50 per share, at cost	589,569
Profit and loss account—Balance brought forward from March 31, 1928, £20,495; net profit for the year ended March 31, 1929, £106,917	127,412	Loans receivable against security	3,130,000
		Advances to customers on current and other accounts	4,219,181
		Bank premises and furniture	176,895
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, endorsements, &c., as per contra	806,059
		Bills receivable for collection, as per contra	540,473
	14,979,222		14,979,222

NOTE.—There is a contingent liability in respect of bills re-discounted amounting to £6,043,506, of which £5,659,682 had run off by June 30th. Outstanding forward exchange contracts for purchase and sale of bills and telegraphic transfers, etc., £12,287,256. The rupee, tael, Straits dollar and Hong Kong dollar assets and liabilities are converted at the rates of 1s. 6d. 2s. 6d., 2s. 4d. and 2s. respectively, with the exception of the Allahabad Bank, Ltd. investment, which is at cost, viz., 1s. 5¼d.

LATEST BALANCE SHEETS OF FOREIGN BANKS HAVING LONDON OFFICES AND OF BRITISH BANKS TRADING ABROAD.

ANGLO-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BANK.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	Kc.	Assets.	Kc.
Share capital paid	120,000,000	Cash in hand	73,290,459
Reserves	88,065,892	Balances at call with National Bank and other local banks	73,035,825
Staff pension fund	18,000,000	Foreign currency balances with banks	51,478,214
Deposits and other creditors on current accounts	1,636,506,988	Foreign bills and cheques	58,363,806
Transitory liabilities	14,578,803	Bills receivable	99,071,851
Contrast — Acceptances Kc. 99,923,744; guarantees and other obligations, Kc. 315,456,265, Kc. 415,380,010.		Investments	141,748,101
		Participations	98,000,000
		Debtors	1,250,335,920
Net profit	19,369,388	Bank premises at head office and branches	40,672,298
		Transitory assets	10,524,597
		Contrast — Liabilities of customers for acceptances as per contra, Kc. 99,923,744; liabilities of customers for guarantees and other obligations as *per contra*, Kc. 315,456,265, Kc. 415,380,010.	
	1,896,521,071		1,896,521,071

The Anglo-Czechoslovakian Bank has amalgamated with the Prague Credit Bank and the Bohemian Commercial Bank. For this purpose the capital of the Anglo-Czechoslovakian Bank was increased to 235 million Kc. The new title is the Anglo-Czechoslovakian and Prague Credit Bank, and the fusion took effect from January 1, 1929. The latest available balance sheet is shown below.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.

The report of the directors submitted at the ordinary annual general meeting on January 16, 1930, stated that the year 1929 represented the first full working year of the bank. The profit for the year, after making full provision for all expenses, rebate of discount and commission, bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £65,846, to which is to be added the balance carried forward from last account, £2,133—£67,979; from this is to be deducted directors' fees and remuneration of management committee, £7,686, leaving a balance of £60,293. At this early stage of the bank's existence the directors consider it advisable to apply the whole of the profit to writing off all preliminary expenses, and to the formation of reserves. Accordingly it is proposed to appropriate the available balance as follows:—In writing off all preliminary expenses, £32,607; in writing off cost of installation, furniture, etc., £3,864; to provide for taxation, £11,632; to carry to reserve, £10,000; leaving a net balance to be carried forward to next year of £2,190.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued—1,250,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	1,250,000	Cash in hand and at clearing banks	51,526
NOTE.—Option certificates have been issued entitling the holders to take up at par 500,000 shares of £1 each, at any time up to and including December 31, 1931.		Money at call and short notice	725,000
		Deposits with London and foreign banks and bankers due within seven days	497,000
Reserve account	10,000	Gold in transit on joint account and silver in transit	190,432
Current, deposit and other accounts (including £65,251 deposits for special transactions secured)	2,718,895	Balances with banks abroad	103,883
Acceptances and guarantees on account of customers	2,950,206	British and Dominion Government securities at market value and British Treasury Bills	250,981
Balance of profit and loss account	2,190	Bills discounted	224,515
Contingent liabilities in respect of: Forward exchange contracts, £2,823,564 8s. 5d.; endorsements on bills sold, £490,570 19s. 8d.		Fixed deposits with British and foreign banks and bankers	1,238,856
		Investments at or under market value	5,490
		Loans, advances and other accounts	693,401
		Liability of customers for acceptances and guarantees, per contra	2,950,206
		Furniture and alterations to leasehold premises, at cost, £3,865; *less* amount written off, £3,864	
		Establishment expenses, including stamp duty on increase of capital, £32,607; *less* amount written off, £32,607.	
	6,931,291		6,931,291

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Furniture and alterations to leasehold premises written off	3,864	Balance brought forward on December 31, 1928	2,133
Establishment expenses, including stamp duty on increase of capital, written off	32,607	Profit after providing for all expenses, including rebate of discount and commission and for bad and doubtful debts	65,846
Directors' fees	4,625		
Remuneration of Management committee of board of directors	3,061		
Provision for taxation	11,632		
Amount carried to reserve account	10,000		
Balance carried to balance sheet	2,190		
	67,979		67,979

ANGLO-INTERNATIONAL BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued—1,960,008 shares of £1 each, fully paid	1,960,008	Cash with bankers in London and cash in hand—London and branches	129,904
Current, deposit and other accounts	4,415,184	Money at call	405,000
Amount owing to subsidiary company on current account	1,351	Balances with bankers abroad	196,638
Acceptances and guarantees for account of customers	2,567,615	Bills receivable	435,820
Profit and loss account	138,227	British Government securities and Treasury Bills	665,075
		Investments—in banking, industrial and other undertakings in England and abroad	630,593
		Investment in subsidiary company	15,000
		Advance to subsidiary company	50,000
		Advances to customers and other accounts, less reserves	3,761,474
		Customers for acceptances and guarantees on their behalf, as per contra	2,567,615
		Premises abroad and furniture and fittings	225,266
	9,082,385		9,082,385

NOTE.—There are contingent liabilities in respect of bills of exchange re-discounted amounting to £222,549.

THE MITSUBISHI BANK, LTD.

(Incorporated in Japan.)

Subscribed Capital: Yen 100,000,000.
Paid-up Capital: Yen 62,500,000. Reserve Funds: Yen 39,500,000.

General Banking and Foreign Exchange Business. Deposit Rates on Application.

Head Office: TOKYO.

Branches: TOKYO, OSAKA, KOBE, KYOTO, NAGOYA, OTARU, SHANGHAI, NEW YORK, LONDON.

London Office: 3, BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL, E.C. 3.

PANSTWOWY BANK ROLNY

(THE STATE LAND BANK).

Head Office: **50, Nowogrodzka str., WARSAW.**
Branches throughout Poland.

Telegraphic Address: "Centropebrol."

Capital paid up - - - Zlotys 130,000,000
(£3,000,000)

THE STATE LAND BANK
promotes the rural economic development;

Supplies to the rural holdings long-term credit for agricultural investments and improvements, as well as short-term credit for turnover.

The State Land Bank transacts banking business of every description. The 7 per cent. Mortgage Bonds and Debenture Bonds of the State Land Bank are expressed in gold zlotys and in foreign currencies, are secured by the total assets of the Bank, by land mortgage, and by the guarantee of the State.

THE PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK

Organized 1803.

The Philadelphia National Bank Affiliate.

COMBINED CAPITAL AND SURPLUS - - - **$55,500,000**

The Largest Bank in the State of Pennsylvania.

Complete International Banking Service of every Description.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS:

Barclays Bank, Ltd.
Lloyds Bank, Ltd.
Westminster Bank, Ltd.
Midland Bank, Ltd.
National Provincial Bank, Ltd.

The report submitted at the meeting held on Friday, February 28, 1930, covers the year ended December 31, 1929. In spite of exceptional difficulties the period under review, it is stated, has been one of substantial progress. The profits for the year amount to £117,695, to which must be added the balance brought forward from the previous year's accounts, £20,532, making an available balance of £138,227, from which it is proposed to place £10,000 to premises amortisation and £100,000 to contingency reserve, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £28,227.

ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LTD.

The report presented to the shareholders at the meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 1929, states that the net profit, after making provision for all charges, rebate, etc., amounts to £480,716, which, together with £506,901 brought forward, makes a total of £987,617, of which £174,693 was absorbed by the interim dividend paid on April 29th. There is now an available balance of £812,924, of which the directors recommend that £174,693 be applied to the payment of a final dividend of 5s. per share, less income tax, making a total distribution for the year of 10 per cent.; £25,329 be placed to legal reserves in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador; £30,000 be added to the staff pension fund; £75,000 be placed to reserve fund, and that the balance of £507,901 be carried forward.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Issued capital 873 466 shares of £10 each £5 paid	4 367 330	Cash in hand, at bankers and at short notice	8,879,879
Reserve fund	3,275,000	Balances with auxiliary banks	553,717
Legal reserves in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador	81,604	British Government securities	6,262,855
Sight drafts on head office and branches	1,075,581	Foreign Government, railway and other securities	2,917,444
Bills payable—drafts on head office and branches at usance	2,094,931	Bills receivable	9,238,026
Acceptances and engagements on account of customers	8,333,132	Holdings in foreign and auxiliary banks, &c., at cost	2,457,537
Current, deposit and other accounts	50,363,213	British Bank of South America, Limited, 99,892 shares at £23 10s.	2,347,462
Bills for collection	9,536,390	Commercial Bank of Spanish America, Limited, 438,768 shares at cost	463,691
Rebate of interest on bills, &c., not due	130,618	Liability of customers for acceptances and engagements, per contra	8,333,132
Profit and loss, as per account below, £987,617; *less* interim dividend paid on April 29, 1929, £174,693; transfer to legal reserves, £25,329; transfer to reserve fund, £75,000	712,594	Advances, &c.	28,375,472
To liability on bills re-discounted and on uncalled capital on investments held, £7,870,639, of which £6,381,643 has run off.		Bank premises and office furniture	604,789
		Bills for collection, per contra	9,536,389
		Certain of the above assets have been lodged with other parties on which a lien exists to the amounts of £1,205,023.	
	79,970,393		79,970,393

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Charges at head office and branches including British and other income taxes	1,586,422	Balance brought forward from last account	506,901
Rebate of interest on bills, &c., not due	130,618	Gross profits and credits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts	2,197,756
Balance as per balance sheet	987,617		
	2,704,657		2,704,657

BANCO DE BILBAO.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Pesetas.	Assets.	Pesetas.
Capital	100,000,000	Cash in hand and at Bank of Spain	80,762,178
Reserve funds	65,000,000	Foreign money and notes, cash value	364,140
Deposits	684,142,678	Cash at other banks and bankers	43,977,167
Bills payable	23,363,969	Bills receivable	70,338,227
Acceptances for account of customers as per contra	12,131,803	Government securities	214,183,371
Sundry creditors	72,781,946	Railway and other industrial debentures	78,213,501
Profit and loss	2,794,248	Other securities	91,373,128
	960,214,644	Advances to customers against security	64,247,474
Depositors of securities, nominal value, as per contra	3,126,737,988	Other loans	39,712,273
		Banking correspondents, &c.	72,419,475
		Banking correspondents, &c., in foreign money (equivalent)	39,726,924
		Premises account	19,969,909
		Furniture and fittings	1,899,422
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, as per contra	12,131,804
		Unissued shares	40,000,000
		Sundry debtors	90,895,651
			960,214,644
		Securities deposited, nominal value	3,126,737,988
	4,086,952,632		4,086,952,632

BANK OF ATHENS.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Drs.	Assets.	Drs.
Capital fully paid	100,800,000	Cash in hand and at banks, Treasury bonds and coupons	450,584,091
Statutory and special reserves	224,200,000	Balances with banks abroad	321,762,481
Current and other accounts	2,814,504,287	Bills receivable	513,599,254
Cheques payable	78,577,875	Discounts, advances, and other accounts	1,897,039,554
Dividends payable	47,030,054	Investments	18,460,332
Profit and loss account (balance forward)	5,169,820	Freehold premises, &c.	68,836,215
		Furniture, &c.	109
	3,270,282,036		3,270,282,036

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Lire.	Assets.	Lire.
Capital	700,000,000	Cash in hand	536,923,358
Reserve funds	560,000,000	Bills receivable, Treasury bonds and Government securities (Littorio Loan)	3,928,763,044
Bills payable	243,603,271	Bills for collection	162,003,843
Commercial acceptances	700,446,305	Contango and loans	633,618,105
Deposits and current accounts	7,676,072,529	Participations in other banks and syndicates	550,766,671
Creditors on collection accounts	306,130,697	Government securities, railway and other bonds and shares	567,265,059
Guarantees	655,295,921	Current accounts	3,905,993,296
Securities deposited	5,616,412,690	Bank premises	72,077,307
Other liabilities	395,813	Guarantees as per contra	655,295,921
Rebate on bills	27,929,234	Securities as per contra	5,616,412,690
Net profit (including Lire 28,481,934 brought forward from December 31, 1928)	142,832,834		
	16,629,119,294		16,629,119,294

BANCO DE CHILE.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	Chilean Currency. $	Assets.	Chilean Currency. $
Cash	112,719,229	Current accounts and sight deposits, &c.	258,188,396
Loans and advances	553,365,119	Term deposits	181,168,312
Investments—		Guarantees	20,516,997
Buildings and real estate	16,615,826	Other obligations	7,562,960
State and municipal bonds	11,919,395	Other credit accounts	85,575,890
Shares—Banco Central de Chile	23,486,336	Interest pending	2,556,529
Other bonds and shares	32,304,734	Profit and loss	8,238,460
Deposit with superintendency of banks	600,000	Capital and reserves—	
Furniture and office material	1,624,812	Paid-up capital	100,000,000
Other Accounts—		Statutory reserve	25,000,000
Branches	2,661,718	Other reserves	100,372,395
Exchange operations	14,086,004		
Clients for letters of credit	13,334,594		
Operations pending, &c.	747,025		
Interest pending	5,715,248		
	789,180,040		789,180,040

BANCO ESPANOL DEL RIO DE LA PLATA.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital subscribed	4,365,080	Shareholders (liability on uncalled capital)	1,890,391
Reserve fund	25,366	Cash	4,847,110
Contingency fund	1,378,622	Bills discounted, bills receivable and advances in current account	28,595,753
Deposits	33,500,814	Advances on mortgage	2,088,734
Re-discounts	5,598,391	Loan on Bolsa de Comercio premises, Buenos Aires	533,129
Rebate — Corresponding to next half-year	196,323	Accounts overdue and in process of liquidation	2,463,153
Sundries	206,367	Furniture and fittings	124,832
Profit and loss	113,504	Bank premises	1,188,762
Argentine Government Treasury bills	2,837,301	Freehold properties received in payment of advances—	
		Head office	1,434,970
		Branches	83,731
		Operations in suspense (branches and agencies)	866,690
		Securities	1,225,623
		Investments in National Loans—	
		Account reserve	25,283
		Account contingency fund	16,327
		Argentine Government Treasury bills	2,837,301
	48,221,768		48,221,768

BANCO DI ROMA.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Lire.	Assets.	Lire.
Share capital	200,000,000	Cash at funds at central institution	183,481,849
General reserve	15,000,000	Funds with other banks in Italy and abroad	232,253,631
Special reserve	35,000,000	Bills receivable and Treasury bills	816,350,708
Deposits and savings account	460,499,804	Investments	215,775,149
Securities deposited (as per contra)	104,762,300	Securities on deposit as per contra	104,762,300
Drafts in circulation—		Banking and sundry participations	63,697,394
Ordinary	7,217,001	Advances	203,679,948
Circular	83,013,846	Real estate	29,500,000
Correspondents — credit balances	1,510,175,111	Secured current accounts	87,879,388
Sundry creditors	9,112,266	Correspondents	498,782,628
Rebate on bills	4,752,296	Sundry debtors	13,120,234
Acceptances on behalf of customers, per contra	78,120,795	Liability of customers for acceptances as per contra	78,120,795
Guarantees for third parties, per contra	90,874,155	Liability of customers for guarantees as per contra	90,874,155
Profits carried forward from preceding year	1,025,250		
Net profits for current year	16,722,446		
	2,618,275,270		2,618,275,270

GILLETT BROTHERS DISCOUNT CO., LTD.

27, CLEMENTS LANE, E.C.4.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st January, 1930.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Assets.	£ s. d.
Capital Authorised—			Cash at Bankers and in Hand	94,773 3 4
20,000 "A" Shares of £5 each,	100,000 0 0		British Government Securities (Maturing 1930-1935)	516,700 0 0
10,000 "B" Shares of £10 each,	100,000 0 0		Bills Discounted (including re-discounts)	11,434,495 4 9
20,000 "C" Shares of £5 each,	100,000 0 0		Loans on Security and Sundry Accounts	173,155 8 10
	£300,000 0 0			
Issued Fully Paid—				
20,000 "A" Shares of £5 each,	100,000 0 0			
10,000 "B" Shares of £10 each,	100,000 0 0			
		200,000 0 0		
Reserve Fund		120,000 0 0		
Deposits, Loans, Bills re-discounted and Sundry Accounts, including Rebate on Bills, Investments Reserve Fund and Balance of Profit and Loss Account		11,899,123 16 2		
		£12,219,123 16 2		£12,219,123 16 2

Note.—Assets of the face value of £11,801,238 6s. 1d. are held by Depositors and others as Cover for Liabilities *per contra*.

J. R. PARSONS, H. H. SCOTT, } *Directors.*

We report to the Members that we have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. We have verified the Securities representing Investments of the Company, those held against Loans made by the Company, and all Bills discounted in hand. We have also verified the Cash Balances and vouched the Securities and Bills given as collateral Security for Loans, and we have now to report to the Members that the foregoing accounts agree with the books, and that, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shewn by the books of the Company.

5, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C. 2. 10th *February*, 1930.

DELOITTE, PLENDER, GRIFFITHS & CO., *Chartered Accountants.* } *Auditors.*

CRÉDIT LYONNAIS

(Limited Liability Company Incorporated in France)

ESTABLISHED 1863

Capital - - - - - - - - Fcs. 408,000,000

Reserve Fund - - - - - - - „ 800,000,000

Deposits and Current Accounts, 28th February, 1930 „ 11,931,393,703

Central Office: PARIS. Head Office: LYONS.

Over 1,250 BRANCHES and OFFICES in FRANCE, ALGERIA, MOROCCO and TUNIS. Also at ALEXANDRIA, ANTWERP, BARCELONA, BRUSSELS, CAIRO, GENEVA, ISTANBUL, LUXEMBURG, MADRID, PORT SAID, SAN SEBASTIAN, SEVILLE, VALENCIA.

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SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES, INCORPORATED IN SWITZERLAND)

ESTABLISHED 1872.

BASLE, ZURICH, ST. GALL, GENEVA, LAUSANNE, LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, NEUCHATEL, SCHAFFHOUSE.

LONDON OFFICE - 99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2

WEST END BRANCH: 11, REGENT STREET, (WATERLOO PLACE), S.W.1

Capital paid-up - - £6,400,000

Reserves - - - - £2,080,000

The Bank has agents in all parts of the world, and undertakes overseas business of all kinds.

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES ARE ISSUED AND EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED.

THE

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK,

LIMITED.

(*Incorporated in Japan*). *Established* 1880

Capital Subscribed and Fully Paid - Yen 100,000,000

Reserve Fund - - - „ 111,500,000

Head Office - - YOKOHAMA

BRANCHES AT

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BATAVIA.	KARACHI	SAMARANG.
BOMBAY.	KOBE.	SAN FRANCISCO.
BUENOS AYRES	LONDON.	SEATTLE.
(temporarily closed).	LOS ANGELES.	SHANGHAI.
CALCUTTA.	LYONS.	SHIMONOSEKI.
CANTON.	MANILA.	SINGAPORE.
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DAIREN (Dalny).	NAGOYA.	SYDNEY
FENGTIEN (Mukden).	NEWCHANG.	TIENTSIN
HAMBURG.	NEW YORK.	TOKYO
HANKOW.	OSAKA.	TSINANFU
HARBIN.	PEKIN.	TSINGTAU
HONOLULU.	RANGOON.	VLADIVOSTOCK
HONG KONG.	RIO DE JANEIRO.	(temporarily closed).

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

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LONDON OFFICE: 7, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2. D. NOHARA, Manager.

BANÇO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Esc.	Assets.	Esc.
Capital paid up	50,000,000	Cash in hand and with other banks	47,900,724
Reserves	65,437,920	Investments	43,472,291
Sight deposits	158,489,835	Securities (Art. 17 of Duree No. 17,154)	6,706,473
Fixed deposits	176,060,235	Exchange (bills on abroad, &c.)	28,557
Bills payable	19,476,000	Bills (on Portugal) discounted and transfers	113,504,282
Unclaimed dividends	629,419	Bills receivable	99,764,642
4½% bonds issued	895,680	Loans and secured accounts —debit balances (merchandise, bills, stocks, &c.)	97,980,203
4½% bonds drawn and payable	6,390	Agents and correspondents —debit balances	116,810,514
Interest payable on 4½% bonds	8,746	Account current debtors	460,737,883
Predial Colonial Bonds 6%, Law of April 27, 1901	359,100	Mortgage loans, Law of April 27, 1901	358,585
Predial Colonial Bonds 6%, drawn and payable, Law of April 27, 1901	14,850	Mortgage and municipal loans	1,246,163
Interest payable on 6% bonds, Law of April 27, 1901	6,453	Bank premises	72,710,684
Account current creditors	420,071,635	Strong rooms, furniture and fittings	4,782,975
Loans and secured accounts —credit balances	778,749	Securities deposited (as per contra)	503,431,422
Agents and correspondents —credit balances	123,620,511	Securities (shares of the bank) deposited as cover (as per contra)	672,165
Creditors for securities deposited (as per contra)	503,431,422	Sundry impersonal accounts (as per contra)	464,020,144
Creditors for securities (shares of the bank) deposited as cover (as per contra)	672,165	Interim dividend in respect of 1929	3,384,436
Sundry impersonal accounts (as per contra)	464,020,144	Head office and branches—amounts in transit	99,438,539
Notes in circulation	171,721,951	Government Treasury account (as per contra)	53,469,283
Government Treasury account (as per contra)	53,469,282	Monetary Reserve	4,430,857
Profit and loss	14,013,457	Diverse accounts	32,979,175
Pensions fund	1,655,652		
Ministry of Colonies	2,990,391		
	2,227,829,997		2,227,829,997

BANK OF LONDON AND SOUTH AMERICA, LTD.

The report for the year ended September 30, 1929, states that the net profit, after making ample allowance for bad and doubtful debts, income tax and rebate of interest on bills not due, amounts to £435,144, to which has to be added £208,828 brought forward from last year, making a total of £643,972, out of which an interim dividend of 4 per cent., paid in June last, amounted to £141,600. From the unappropriated balance, viz., £502,372, the directors recommend the following distribution:—To dividend of 7 per cent., payable December 23, 1929, making 11 per cent. for the year, subject to income tax, £247,800; to contingency reserve account, £45,000; to profit and loss carried forward, £209,572—£643,972.

BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital, 708,000 shares of £5 each, fully paid	3,540,000	Cash in hand, at bankers and at call	7,120,964
Reserve	3,000,000	Bills receivable	15,601,538
Current accounts, deposits, &c.	40,991,968	Advances and other accounts receivable (after making provision for bad and doubtful debts), securities, &c.	27,095,976
Deposit by Brazilian Trust and Loan Corporation, Ltd.	69,237	Investment in Brazilian Trust and Loan Corporation, Ltd.	36,797
Bills payable	3,339,771	Liability of customers for acceptances, per contra	2,453,286
Acceptances on account of customers	2,453,286	Bills for collection, per contra	14,781,856
Bills for collection on account of customers	14,781,856	Bank premises and furniture, allowing for depreciation	1,772,230
Rebate of interest on bills not due	184,156		
Profit and loss account, as per statement below	502,373		
NOTE.—Contingent liability as endorsers of foreign bills discounted £3,942,049, of which £2,805,236 has since run off.			
	68,862,647		68,862,647

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Charges at head office and branches	1,362,269	Balance brought forward	208,828
Interim dividend	141,600	Gross profit after providing for bad and doubtful debts	1,815,414
Directors' fees	18,000		
Balance carried down	502,373		
	2,024,242		2,024,242

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	
Capital	300,000	Cash in hand and at bankers, London	20,840
Reserve account—Old, £19,693; New, £60,307	80,000	Money at call and short notice	135,000
Current accounts, sight drafts, balance of contingency account, &c.—Sterling	240,043	British Treasury bills	25,000
Current accounts, sight drafts, &c., Lei 282,641,724·14 at 807 per £	350,238	British Government and other securities (at or under market value)	204,827
		Bills receivable, loans, current accounts, &c.—Sterling	201,645
		Bills receivable, loans, current accounts, &c.—Lei 244,660,388 at 807 per £	303,173
		Cash in hand and at bankers, Bucarest—Lei 64,395,497 at 807 per £	79,796
	970,281		970,281

BANK FOR RUSSIAN TRADE, LTD.

December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued—550,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	550,000	Cash in hand and with bankers in London	629,600
Reserve	210,000	Cash with bankers abroad (United States of America, Germany, &c.)	163,671
Loans against investments and other security	989,738	Bills discounted	655,788
Current, deposit and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss account and provision for taxation and contingencies)	1,490,318	Investments (British Government securities)	643,942
Acceptances and endorsements on account of customers against deposit of investments and other security of £221,073	1,659,459	Loans, advances and other accounts	1,147,054
Bills rediscounted	2,704,231	Liabilities of customers for acceptances and endorsements, as per contra	1,659,460
Guarantees and other engagements for account of customers	729,225	Liabilities of customers on bills rediscounted, as per contra	2,704,231
Bills and documents for collection, er contra	1,374,466	Liabilities of customers on guarantees and other engagements, as per contra	729,225
	9,707,437	Bills and documents for collection	1,374,466
			9,707,437

BANK OF TAIWAN.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Yen.	Assets.	Yen.
Capital subscribed	15,000,000	Cash account—	
Notes in circulation	49,247,077	In hand	6,687,743
Current accounts, fixed deposits, &c.	245,685,746	At bankers	4,944,157
Bills payable	63,341,471	Bullion and foreign money	16,429,174
Bills rediscounted	101,760,945	Bills discounted, loans, &c.	281,823,142
Acceptances and guarantees	13,952,445	Interest bills, bills bought and export advances	39,903,974
Correspondents' cr.	2,286,442	Acceptances and guarantees	13,952,445
Dividend unclaimed	39,987	Government bonds, &c.	113,543,411
Net profit carried forward	14,533	Correspondents' dr.	3,008,195
		Bank's premises	9,161,405
		Capital uncalled	1,875,000
	491,328,646		491,328,646

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	Frs.	Assets.	Frs.
Capital	200,000,000	Premises	9,000,000
Reserves	110,000,000	Shareholders' liability	52,955,812
Sundry creditors—		Cash in hand and with bankers	777,993,914
Current account	2,319,087,218	Bills receivable	667,345,135
Deposit account	1,979,720,814	Sundry debtors—	
Note issue in China	11,212,473	Bankers	1,375,973,925
Obligations	4,500,000	Clients	1,615,795,307
Acceptances	803,820,705	Government and Government guaranteed securities and treasury bills	60,874,034
Profit and loss account	30,594,810	Shares of allied or affiliated banks	171,254,610
		Financial participations	23,922,578
		Liability of customers on acceptances	803,820,705
	5,458,936,020		5,458,936,020

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Frs.	Cr.	Frs.
Reserves	10,000,000	Balance brought in	1,414,400
Provision for taxes	1,500,000	Net profit of the business year	29,180,410
Dividend, free of tax	15,842,412		
Directors' fees (tantiemes)	1,798,235		
Balance forward	1,454,163		
	30,594,810		30,594,810

BANQUE DU CONGO BELGE.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	Francs.	Assets.	Francs.
Capital	20,000,000	Property and premises	6,989,000
Reserves	43,250,000	Furniture and fixtures	979,000
Notes	166,124,748	Cash in hand and at bank	348,058,060
Due to Colonial Treasury	7,221,927	Government securities	58,418,101
Dividend due	3,855,421	Current accounts	265,650,370
Creditors	546,640,877	Bills receivable	110,045,637
Bills payable	6,951,986	Debtors	3,933,522
Profit and loss	28,731		
	794,073,690		794,073,690

BANQUE NATIONALE DE CRÉDIT.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	Fr.	Assets.	Fr.
Capital	262,500,000	Cash, at Bank of France and in Treasury	365,492,713
Legal reserve	23,957,224	Cash at banks	896,070,175
Supplementary reserve	72,106,482	Commercial bills and National defence bonds	2,444,096,433
Premises reserve	25,000,000	Coupons	56,167,654
Provision for buying in founder's shares	15,900,000	Advances against security	584,517,509
Deposit and current accounts	4,630,762,452	Current accounts	684,396,205
Cheques payable	82,145,285	Securities	23,877,618
Acceptances	212,788,543	Investments	4,411,157
Acceptances by foreign correspondents	77,048,685	Acceptances	289,837,228
Sundry accounts	25,186,995	Sundry accounts	27,737,930
Profit and loss	45,108,956	Premises	80,000,000
		Founders' shares brought in	15,900,000
	5,472,504,622		5,472,504,622

GRACE BROTHERS & COMPANY

LIMITED

BANKERS

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LONDON, E.C. 3.

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LIVERPOOL

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COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELLERS' CREDITS
FOREIGN EXCHANGE

ESTABLISHED 1871.

THE DOMINION BANK.

Incorporated in Canada with Limited Liability.

Head Office: TORONTO.

CAPITAL PAID UP - - - - - $7,000,000.00
RESERVE FUND and UNDIVIDED PROFITS - - $9,500,000.00

A. W. AUSTIN, *President.* C. A. BOGERT, *Vice-President & General Manager.*
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YAMASHITA SHOTEN

IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS & GENERAL MERCHANTS.

10, KITAKYUTARO-MACHI, OSAKA, JAPAN.

BRITISH BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—April 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued, 48,000 shares of £1 each	48,000	Cash in hand, at bankers in London and abroad	48,473
Current, deposit and other accounts	1,335,144	Premises account	46,000
Profit and loss	18,637	Investments at cost or under	58,152
		Loans to customers	1,249,156
	1,401,781		1,401,781

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Office charges, including rent, salaries, directors' fees, and other expenses	15,150	Gross profit	33,775
Balance, being profit for the year	18,637	Transfer fees	12
	33,787		33,787

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL BANKING COMPANY, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—September 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Issued capital, 25,000 shares of £10 each	250,000	Cash in hand and at other banks	150,050
Reserve	40,000	Money at call and short notice	1,039,657
Current accounts	2,086,747	Treasury Bills, Treasury Bonds (1930), bank and other bills discounted	1,332,035
Deposit accounts	4,849,354	Deposits in London and abroad, guaranteed loans and advances to customers	4,743,896
Other accounts (including sundry creditors and balance of profit and loss account)	104,215	Investments, including British Government securities	64,678
Acceptances on behalf of customers, per contra	18,568	Liability of customers for acceptances per contra	18,568
Note.—There is a contingent liability in respect of bills discounted, £50,037.			
	7,348,884		7,348,884

THE BRITISH ITALIAN BANKING CORPORATION, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital—Issued 50,000 shares of £20 each fully paid	1,000,000	Cash in hand	4,761
Reserve account	225,000	Cash at call and short notice	595,000
Investment reserve	51,791	Balances with bankers in London	239,131
Current, deposit and other accounts, including rebate of bills, provision for contingencies, and balance of profit and loss account	2,672,033	Balances with bankers abroad	443,631
		Bills receivable	299,045
		Investments — Banca Italo-Britannica — 50,000 "A" shares, 12,080 "B" shares, 36,720 "C" shares of Lit. 500 each, fully paid. Taken at lire cost, viz., Lit. 50,486,168, and converted at exchange £1 = 92·46	546,033
Acceptances, confirmed credits and guarantees — Acceptances, £4,158,030; acceptances of foreign correspondents, £168,339; confirmed credits, £261,975; guarantees, £21,650	4,609,994	Advances and current account balances	1,420,820
NOTES.—There were contingent liabilities on December 31, 1928, on foreign exchange contracts amounting to £1,480,079; and on endorsements amounting to £763,116. Since December 31, 1928, the Corporation has contracted a contingent liability under a conditional contract of indemnity relating to Debenture stock of B.I. Holding Company, Ltd., limited to £1,500,000 and postponed to all present and future creditors.		Advances to customers and other accounts	367,160
		Liabilities of customers for acceptances, confirmed credits and guarantees as per contra —Italian and other foreign banks, £2,156,735; Banca Italo-Britannica, £1,100,045; other customers, £1,353,214.	4,609,994
		Premises account	33,242
		Office furniture	1
	8,558,818		8,558,818

THE BRITISH OVERSEAS BANK, LIMITED.

The report to the meeting held on December 3, 1929, is as follows:—The profits, after allowing rebate of interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and income tax, for the year ended October 31, 1929, amounts to £159,928; balance available from last account, £58,202; making a total of £218,130. Interim dividend paid on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (less income tax) for the half-year ended April 30, 1929, and income tax thereon, £30,000; leaving a balance of £188,130, which has been appropriated as follows:—In payment of a dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (less income tax) for the half-year ended October 31, 1929, which together with income tax thereon amounts to £30,000; in payment of a dividend on the "B" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (less income tax) for the year ended October 31, 1929, which together with income tax thereon amounts to £60,000; to reserve fund, £25,000; to reduction of premises account, £5,000; to Pensions and Allowances Fund, £10,000; leaving a net balance to be carried forward to next year of £58,130—£188,130.

BALANCE SHEET—October 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Subscribed and paid in full—200,000 "A" ordinary shares of £5 each	1,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	278,234
200,000 "B" ordinary shares of £5 each	1,000,000	Money at call and short notice	2,281,669
Current, deposit and other accounts	5,113,907	Balances with bankers abroad	310,425
Amounts owing to subsidiary companies	100	Bills discounted	1,000,397
Reserve fund	225,000	Government securities	305,068
Acceptances, &c., for account of customers (per contra)	4,659,312	Investments in subsidiary companies	56,925
Balance of profit and loss account	58,130	Other investments, including shareholding interests in foreign banks	548,727
NOTE.—Contingent liability on account of Endorsements on bills discounted, £1,011,784.		Advances to customers and other accounts	2,161,390
		Amounts owing from subsidiary companies	114,409
		Liability of Customers for acceptances, &c. (per contra)	4,659,311
		Premises account	339,894
	12,056,449		12,056,449

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Interim dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and income tax thereon	30,000	Balance brought forward	58,202
Final dividend on the "A" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. er annum, and income tax thereon	30,000	Net profit, after allowing rebate of interest and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and income tax, for the year ended October 31, 1929	159,928
Dividend on the "B" ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and income tax thereon	60,000		
Reserve fund	25,000		
Reduction of premises account	5,000		
Pensions and allowances fund	10,000		
Balance carried to balance sheet	58,130		
	218,130		218,130

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital—Paid up £10 per share	1,000,000	Cash in hand, and at bankers	2,414,561
Reserve as per balance sheet of December 31, 1927	1,000,000	Bills receivable in hand	1,820,501
Amount due on current and deposit accounts	5,349,690	Other accounts	4,886,434
Bills payable	7,071	Freehold and leasehold premises in South America at cost	530,487
Other accounts	2,136,574	Bills for collection, as *per contra*	1,949,356
Bills for collection	1,949,356	The contingent liability on Bills rediscounted at the date of the balance sheet was £1,502,021 14s. 3d., which has since run off.	
Profit and loss account	158,648		
	11,601,339		11,601,339

CITY BANK FARMERS TRUST COMPANY.

BALANCE SHEET—September 27, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital	10,000,000	Cash in vault and in Federal Reserve Bank	1,200,358
Surplus	10,000,000	Due from banks and bankers	60,994,358
Undivided profits	1,093,858	Loans and other secured advances	1,467,001
Deposits	63,249,609	United States Government Bonds	7,444,518
Reserves for interest, taxes, and expenses	1,782,506	Other bonds, mortgages and securities	13,115,784
		Other assets	1,903,963
	86,125,973		86,125,973

COMMERCIAL BANK OF THE NEAR EAST, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued and fully paid: 40,000 shares of £5 each	200,000	Cash in hand and at London bankers	18,580
Reserve fund	14,000	Money at call and short notice	60,000
Current, deposit, and other accounts	294,588	Remittances in transit	17,133
Bills for collection, per contra	129,120	Balances with foreign bankers and correspondents	20,435
Liability under acceptances and endorsements	39,942	Bills discounted	62,132
Profit and loss account—Balance brought forward as at December 31, 1928, £366, add profit for year, £10,467—£10,833, less interim dividend at 6% per annum, less tax, paid for half-year to June 30, £4,800	6,033	Investments — British Government securities whereof £3,000 held for account of Provident Fund, £66,025; Foreign Government Securities, whereof £4,844 held by Commercial Bank of Greece, £34,342; shares of Commercial Bank of Greece (held by that Bank), £1,265; securities held by branches, £2,946	104,578
		Advances to customers and other accounts	230,058
		Bills for collection	129,120
		Liability of customers for acceptances and endorsements, per contra	39,942
		Furniture and fittings (less depreciation)	1,780
	683,683		683,683

The following is a statement of the profits for the year 1929:—Net profit for the year, £10,467; add balance brought forward from the year ended December 31, 1928, £366—£10,833; deduct interim dividend at 6 per cent. per annum, less income tax for the half-year ended June 30, 1929, which was paid on September 2, 1929, £4,800; leaving a balance of £6,033. The directors recommend the distribution of this amount as follows:—To transfer to reserve fund, including the 5 per cent. required by the Articles of Association, £1,000; to payment of a final dividend for the half-year to December 31, 1929, at the rate of 6 per cent.

UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES

Union Bank of Switzerland

ZURICH.

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CAPITAL (fully paid)	Swiss Francs 100,000,000
RESERVES	" " 31,500,000
DEPOSITS	" " 758,000,000
TOTAL ASSETS	" " 992,000,000

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BALANCE SHEET AS PER DECEMBER 31st, 1929.

ASSETS.	RM	RM
Cash in hand, Foreign Currencies, Coupons, Balances with Issuing and Clearing Banks	60 299 303·22	
Bills discounted, Treasury Bills	562 911 965·03	
Due from other Banks and Bankers	299 811 775·45	
Advances against Stock Exchange Securities	57 335 548·32	
Advances on stored goods and shipments	397 421 349·02	
	1 377 779 941·04	
Investments	40 458 655·96	
Interest in Syndicates	22 245 955·55	
Permanent participations in other Banks and Banking Firms	35 066 929·70	
Debtors on current account	1 003 489 642·83	
In addition: Debtors' liabilities for guarantees given RM 138 868 202·99	30 700 000·—	
Bank Premises	286 000·—	
Other Real Estate	1·—	
Furniture	2 597 625·15	
Investments of Pension Fund	2 512 624 751·23	
	RM	
LIABILITIES.		
Share Capital	100 000 000·—	
Open Reserves	34 000 000·—	
Creditors on current and deposit account	2 275 836 698·46	
Acceptances	88 714 895·19	
In addition: Guarantees on account of customers	RM 138 868 202·99	
Contingent liabilities from Bills rediscounted: (*a*) Prime Bankers' acceptances RM 163 446 442·37 (*b*) Good commercial paper RM 108 828 165·20		
		RM
Pension Fund		2 600 000·—
Dividends Unpaid		56 477·28
Net Profit		11 416 680·30
		2 512 624 751·23

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31st, 1929.

LOSS.	RM
General Expenses	59 826 822·11
Taxes	7 174 212·45
Net Profit	11 416 680·30
	78 417 414·86
PROFIT.	RM
Brought forward from 1928	627 086·—
Bills, Interest, Foreign Exchange and Dividend Warrants Accounts	37 306 737·16
Commission Account	37 716 729·42
Profits from permanent participations in other Banks and Banking Firms	2 423 373·27
Various Receipts	343 489·01
	78 417 414·86

per annum, less income tax at 4s. per £, making a total payment for the year of 6 per cent., £4,800; to carry forward to the current year, £233—£6,033.

THOS. COOK AND SON (BANKERS), LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—October 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Issued, 250,000 shares of £1 each, 10s. paid	125,000	Cash at bankers and in hand	457,907
Reserve fund	110,000	Currencies in hand	46,482
Current, deposit and other accounts, including liability on travellers' cheques, letters of credit, and drafts sold; rebate on bills not due, provision for bad and doubtful debts, contingencies, &c., and the balance of profit and loss account	3,069,061	Remittances in transit	340,390
		Money at call and short notice	490,508
		Bills discounted—British and Indian Government Treasury bills, £1,149,232; bank and other acceptances, £65,040	1,214,272
Liabilities to customers on account of bills receivable for collection and other engagements, as per contra	88,162	Investments—British Government securities, £240,774; corporation and county stocks, Great Britain, £6,341; Indian and Colonial Government securities, £147,297; foreign Government and other securities, £13,728	408,140
		Advances to customers and other accounts	290,235
		Bank premises and furniture	56,127
		Bills receivable for collection, &c., as per contra	88,162
	3,392,223		3,392,223

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital stock	7,000,000	Cash on hand in Federal Reserve Bank and due from banks and bankers	57,634,521
Surplus and undivided profits	8,790,490	U.S. Government bonds and certificates	8,450,816
Reserve for taxes, interest, etc.	1,035,540	Other bonds and investments	2,723,153
Liability as acceptors, endorsers, or makers on acceptances and foreign bills	32,898,871	Loans and discounts	69,415,778
Other liabilities	1,034,408	Customers' liability on acceptances (exclusive of acceptances discounted and anticipations)	13,895,588
Deposits	101,767,352	Interest accrued and other assets	406,805
	152,526,661		152,526,661

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SPANISH AMERICA, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued, 500,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	500,000	Cash at bankers and in hand	470,125
Sight drafts	2,371	Advances, etc.	56,110
Bills for collection	42,238	Bank premises	586
Current deposit and other accounts (including balance of profit and loss account)	24,450	Bills for collection, per contra	42,238
	569,059		569,059

COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Current and deposit accounts	364,181,346	Cash in hand and at bank	41,524,820
Fixed deposits	2,876,252	Bills of exchange discounted and French Treasury bills	228,942,353
Acceptances	6,101,211	Credit balances with banking correspondents	36,066,023
Sundry accounts	1,607,995	Advances against collateral	23,174,826
Reserves	5,574,713	Investments	307,223
Profit and loss account	1,876,649	Current accounts	48,353,957
Capital	10,000,000	Liability of customers on acceptances	6,097,712
		Branches abroad	6,595,340
		Sundry accounts	555,912
		Bank premises	600,000
	392,218,166		392,218,166

CRÉDIT FONCIER D'ALGÉRIE ET DE TUNISIE.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

Liabilities.	Francs.	Assets.	Francs.
Capital	125,000,000	Cash	113,396,641
Reserves	24,607,276	Bills	1,218,142,948
Superannuation fund	350,000	Correspondents	120,810,410
Crédit Foncier de France	155,785,906	Investments	28,334,585
Crédit Foncier d'Orient	19,400,250	Premises, &c.	47,935,182
Caisse Hypothe. d'Egypte	30,000,000	Caisse de Prêts Immobiliers de Maroc	2,250,000
Current and deposit accts.	1,239,648,454	Crédit Foncier de France	155,785,906
Deposits	405,343,671	Crédit Foncier d'Orient & Caisse Hyp. d'Egypte	40,087,333
Correspondents & creditors	210,928,289	Advances against securities	179,610,620
Acceptances, &c.	49,532,251	Current accounts	295,179,867
Sundry accounts	3,588,263	Syndicates	40,812,598
Dividends payable	8,281,228	Cover for acceptances	30,704,360
Profit and loss	584,862		
	2,273,050,450		2,273,050,450

CREDIT LYONNAIS.

BALANCE SHEET—January 31, 1930.

Liabilities.	Francs.	Assets.	Francs.
Deposits at call	5,303,203,693	Cash in hand and at banks	1,082,144,212
Current accounts	6,453,685,438	Bills discounted & French Treasury bills	8,178,868,876
Accounts payable after collection	218,361,502	Loans and advances	483,550,012
Acceptances	478,438,028	Current accounts	4,450,448,371
Deposits for fixed periods	432,257,663	Investments	4,428,857
Sundry liabilities	370,456,633	Sundries	234,282,683
Profit and loss	4,320,054	Premises	35,000,000
Reserve fund	800,000,000		
Capital fully paid	408,000,000		
	14,468,723,011		14,468,723,011

CREDITO ITALIANO.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Lire.	Assets.	Lire.
Capital	354,888,850	Cash and balances at call with banks	421,185,023
Reserve fund	210,000,000	Bills receivable on Italy, England, and other countries	2,444,549,388
Deposits and saving accounts	1,187,878,336	Loans against collateral securities	602,322,906
Current accounts	4,083,572,691	Current accounts	1,838,355,348
Acceptances on account of customers	301,329,180	Liabilities of customers for acceptances	301,329,180
Cheques outstanding	166,660,482	Investments	286,060,656
Sundry creditors	52,180,766	Participations	224,031,339
Guarantees on account of customers	268,261,855	Freehold bank premises	12,500,000
Rebate on bills receivable maturing next year	20,098,089	Sundry debtors	304,025,850
Net profit	57,751,296	Customers' liabilities against guarantees	268,261,855
Clerks' provident fund, as per contra	45,418,543	Securities belonging to clerks' provident fund	45,418,543
	6,748,040,088		6,748,040,088

EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE-SHEET—March 27, 1930.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital	50,000,000	Cash on hand and in banks	80,692,975
Surplus and undivided profits	63,916,252	Exchanges for Clearing House	129,052,072
Accrued dividend payable March 31	1,875,000	Due from foreign banks	16,112,215
Reserve for contingencies	1,871,729	Bonds and mortgages	5,861,365
Reserve for taxes, interest, &c.	4,060,485	Public securities	64,165,633
Deposits	624,488,322	Other stocks and bonds	23,658,634
Officers' checks	91,912,208	Demand loans	155,438,702
Acceptances (less in portfolio)	94,408,190	Time loans	172,210,977
Notes payable (foreign offices)	2,135,735	Bills discounted	177,058,233
Other liabilities	4,360,868	Customers' liability on acceptances (less anticipations)	91,423,259
		Real estate	16,277,117
		Due from foreign offices	2,363,440
		Accrued interest receivable	2,951,303
		Other assets	1,762,866
	939,028,789		939,028,789

GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

BALANCE SHEET—June 29, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital	70,000,000	Cash on hand, in Federal Reserve Bank, and due from banks and bankers	253,834,142
Surplus fund	90,000,000	U.S. Government bonds and certificates	124,157,315
Undivided profits	26,418,068	Public securities	24,120,465
Outstanding bills	375,840	Other securities	31,978,017
Bills payable	84,000,000	Loans and bills purchased	976,334,538
Accrued interest, reserve for taxes, &c.	18,627,319	Real estate bonds and mortgages	404,040
Agreements to repurchase United States securities sold	1,296,188	Items in transit with foreign branches	6,299,154
Acceptances	110,542,967	Credits granted on acceptances	110,542,967
Liability as endorser on acceptances and foreign bills	112,841,315	Real estate	13,627,238
Deposits, $981,193,799; outstanding cheques, $60,715,464	1,041,909,263	Accrued interest and accounts receivable	14,713,084
	1,556,010,960		1,556,010,960

HAMBROS BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Paid-up capital—£2 10s. 0d. per share on 400,000 shares of £10 each: £1 per share on 400,000 "A" shares of £1 each	1,400,000	Cash in hand, at bankers, and at call	5,872,486
Reserve	1,050,000	Bills of exchange	3,970,704
Profit and loss account	220,673	Investments valued at or below prices current at Mar. 31, 1929: British Government securities, £3,378,375; other investments, £1,054,856	4,433,231
Current, deposit, and other accounts	18,520,140	Loans, advances, and other accounts	6,460,905
Acceptances	12,518,117	Liabilities of customers for acceptances as per contra	12,518,117
Memorandum: Contingent Liability as endorsers of Bills Discounted £2,605,486 17s. 8d. and on Guarantees given covered by counter Guarantees or Securities £568,140 3s. 5d.		Bank premises	453,487
	33,708,930		33,708,930

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.
Sterling exchange taken at 1/7¼d.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Authorised capital—400,000 shares of $125 each, $50,000,000.		Cash (including $30,000,000 coin lodged with the Hongkong Government and $7,600,000 coin lodged with H.B.M. Consul-General, Shanghai, against authorised and/or excess note circulation)	10,219,781
Issued and paid-up capital—160,000 shares of $125 each	1,625,000	Bullion in hand and in transit	22,982
Reserve liability of proprietors—$125 per share on 160,000 shares issued, $20,000,000.	6,500,000	British Government, Indian, Colonial and other securities	10,515,101
Sterling reserve	731,250	Bills discounted, loans and credits	27,269,282
Silver reserve		Bills receivable and balance of remittances and drafts in transit	19,169,275
Notes in circulation (authorised and additional issue against securities and coin amounting to $72,992,105 deposited with the Crown Agents for the Colonies, their trustees, and the Hongkong Government)	5,269,448	Liabilities of constituents for acceptances, per contra	517,441
Current accounts	35,336,648	Bank premises	1,579,361
Fixed deposits	17,863,107		
Bills payable (including call loans and short sight drawings on London office and drafts on London bankers)	433,514		
Acceptances on account of constituents	517,441		
Profit and loss account	1,016,795		
Liability on bills of exchange re-discounted, £8,965 of which £8,314,459 have since run off.			69,29
	69,293,203		

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

(Incorporated in Canada in 1832 with limited liability.)

General Executive Office—TORONTO.

Capital Paid Up - - - $10,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - $20,000,000
Total Assets - - - $274,000,000

Address enquiries to—

London Branch: 108, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C. 2.

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED.

Fully equipped for Foreign Exchange, Collection and Letter of Credit business with all parts of the World. Particular Attention is devoted to Business with CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND, and the WEST INDIES, where Branches of the Bank have been established many years. 328 Branches.

THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

(*Incorporated by Royal Charter*, 1835.)

Head Office: 4 THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C. 2.

West End Branch: 17 NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C. 2.

Paid-up Capital	£4,500,000
Reserve Fund	4,475,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors under the Charter	4,500,000
	£13,475,000

DIRECTORS:

RIGHT HON. LORD ALDENHAM. CHARLES EDWARD BARNETT, ESQ. J. F. G. GILLIAT, ESQ. KENNETH GOSCHEN, ESQ. CHARLES GIPPS HAMILTON, ESQ. T. R. JOHNSON, ESQ. FREDERICK V. C. LIVINGSTONE-LEARMONTH, ESQ., D.S.O. RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF MIDLETON, K.P. HAROLD NELSON, ESQ. HORACE PEEL, ESQ. JOHN SANDERSON, ESQ. ARTHUR WHITWORTH, ESQ.

Numerous Branches throughout the States of VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, and the Dominion of NEW ZEALAND.

Letters of Credit and Bills of Exchange granted. Bills Negotiated or sent for Collection. Telegraphic Transfers made. Banking Business of every description transacted with Australia and New Zealand.

Deposits received in London at interest for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained at the Office.

Established 1829.

DISTRICT BANK

LIMITED

Every Banking Facility

HEAD OFFICE: Spring Gardens, Manchester.

1829 DISTRICT BANK 1930

LONDON OFFICES: 75, Cornhill, E.C. 3 45, Old Bond St., W.1

BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER, S.A.

Limited Company Incorporated in Belgium.

(*Filiale de la Société Générale de Belgique.*)

CAPITAL (subscribed)	Frs. 200,000,000
CAPITAL (paid up)	Frs. 158,424,125
RESERVES	Frs. 120,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: BRUSSELS, 66, rue des Colonies.

Branches:—PARIS (12, Place de la Bourse), NEW YORK (67, Wall Street), PEKING (PEIPING), SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HANKOW.

LONDON OFFICE ... ... 4, Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Manager: A. S. Donnay (Director).

London Committee: Messrs. J. S. Haskell, A. F. Buxton, G. Grinnell Milne, Emile Francqui, Chevalier de Wouters, F. Haegler (Honorary General Manager), and A. S. Donnay.

AFFILIATED BANKS throughout BELGIUM and LUXEMBURG, and also in FRANCE and GERMANY.
ALLIED BANKS in Austria, Bulgaria, Czecho-Slovakia, Egypt, Holland, Hungary, Italy (Tyrol), Morocco, Poland, Rumania, Spain and Yugo-Slavia.

CORRESPONDENTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE business a speciality; FOREIGN CURRENCIES bought and sold for immediate or forward delivery, enabling traders to secure the exchange for their contracts in the currency of the country of their customers.

ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS UNDERTAKEN.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	$	Cr.	$
Interim dividend paid on August 6, 1929, of £3 per share on 160,000 shares = £480,000 at 1/11½ =	4,981,621	Balance of undivided profits, December 31, 1928	3,397,813
Remuneration to directors	50,000	Amount of net profits for the year ending December 31, 1929, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies, deducting all expenses and interest paid and due	14,148,209
Final dividend of £3 per share on 160,000 shares = £480,000 at 1/7½ = $5,907,692; bonus of £1 per share on 160,000 shares = £160,000 at 1/7½ = $1,969,231	7,876,923		
Transfer to bank premises account	750,000		
Transfer to silver reserve	500,000		
Balance forward to next year	3,387,478		
	17,546,022		17,546,022

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

BALANCE SHEET—March 20, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets	£
Capital — 99,800 ordinary shares of £6 10s.; 200 founders' shares of £6	650,000	Cash in hand, at bankers, and in transit and money at call and short notice, and bullion	6,186,438
Reserve account	610,000	Investments in British and Colonial Government and other securities taken at or under prices ruling at March 20, 1929	*2,536,787
Notes in circulation	3,021,884	Bills discounted, loans and advances, including adjustments, past due bills, loans and sums due from other banks	2,404,766
Deposits	6,176,015	Bills receivable	1,571,097
Bills payable, endorsements, adjustments and sums due to other banks	2,203,395	Liability of customers for acceptances, etc., as per contra	371,172
Acceptances, etc., on behalf of customers	371,172	Bank premises, furniture and stationery	32,808
Profit and loss account	70,602	*This includes £182,310 value of Funding and Treasury bonds deposited at Bank of England under Government regulations.	
There is a contingent liability in respect of bills rediscounted amounting to £32,341, which has since run off.			
	13,103,068		13,103,068

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	$	Assets.	$
Capital	2,500,000	Cash on hand and in local depositaries	10,530,618
Surplus	2,500,000	Due from banks and bankers	8,199,102
Undivided profits	2,528,170	Loans, discounts and advances	22,134,363
Deposits	35,055,099	Bonds and securities	3,616,838
Notes in circulation in China	2,368,040	Bank buildings	1,000,000
Acceptances	10,232,836	Items in transit with branches	704,713
Reserves for—		Customers' liability account of acceptances	10,232,837
Taxes, accrued interest and expenses, $919,360; contingencies, $329,092	1,248,452	Other assets	55,417
Other liabilities	41,291		
	56,473,888		56,473,888

IONIAN BANK, LTD.

The report presented at the meeting on December 23, 1929, states that the profits (provision having been made for expenses of management, losses, all bad and doubtful debts, bonus for staff, rates, taxes and income tax at the branches and in England) amount to £48,046, to which has to be added balance brought forward from last year, £19,012—£67,058; from which there has been paid interim dividend for the year ended August 31, 1929, at 3s. per share, free of income tax, paid June 4, 1929, £18,000, leaving available for distribution £49,058. This, the directors propose, should be disposed of as follows:—Final dividend for the said period at 4s. per share, less income tax, £24,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £25,058.

BALANCE SHEET—August 31, 1929.

The exchange for drachmas is taken at 375·00 per £, and for £E. at 97·50 per £100.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Capital issued	600,000	Cash in hand, at bankers, and in transit	715,088
Reserve fund, £250,000, less amount transferred to investments reserve, £50,000	200,000	Agents' balances, including remittances in transit	84,228
Investments reserve	50,000	Investments—Securities of, or guaranteed by the British Government, £614,091; British Dominions and Foreign Government Securities and other investments, £293,649	907,740
Current and deposit accounts	3,849,297	Bills receivable	911,151
Balances due bankers abroad	201,581	Loans and advances	2,568,271
Outstanding advices, exchange contracts, letters of credit, unclaimed dividends and reserves for taxation, pensions and contingencies	523,964	Outstanding advices, exchange contracts, expenses prepaid, and goods under realisation	338,279
Bills payable	259,613	Liabilities of customers for acceptances	32,052
Liabilities for acceptances on account of customers	32,052	Mortgaged property in possession, at or below valuation	7,732
Rebate on bills discounted not due	10,638	Bank premises, including installations at cost, *less* amount written off	211,662
Profit and loss	49,058		
There are contingent liabilities in respect of participations in Greece with other banks.			
	5,776,203		5,776,203

ITALO-BELGIAN BANK.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	Frs.	Assets.	Frs.
Capital	100,000,000	Premises	21,000,000
Reserves	90,000,000	Furniture and fittings	[illegible]
Current and deposit accounts	1,237,155,315	Cash in hand and with banks	370,529,110
Bankers and correspondents	1,129,990,894	Bankers and correspondents	542,515,125
Bills payable	203,278,073	Bills receivable	1,015,450,734
Dividends not claimed	173,026	Securities:	
Re-discount on bills	4,694,913	Government stock and Treasury bonds, 88,151,242f.: shares and bonds, 10,077,400f.	98,228,642
Profit and loss	24,878,416	Current accounts	742,446,935
	2,790,170,637		2,790,170,637
Depositors and sundry accounts, as per contra	2,924,450,879	Securities deposited and sundry accounts as per contra	2,924,450,879

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Frs.	Cr.	Frs.
Dividend at the rate of 12% per annum	12,000,000	Brought forward from the business year 1927–1928	2,023,529
Directors' fees	2,678,233	Net profits for the year	22,854,887
Reserves	10,000,000		
Balance forward	200,183		
	24,878,416		24,878,416

THE LONDON AND EASTERN TRADE BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Paid-up capital—60,000 shares of £10 each, fully paid	600,000	Cash in hand and at bankers in London	133,422
Current, deposit and other accounts (including customers' currency deposits)	1,125,432	Money at call and short notice	645,000
Acceptances per contra	1,357,817	Treasury bills	150,000
Profit and loss account	61,795	Bills discounted	76,669
Note.—Contingent liabilities; Rediscounted bills, £20,058: guarantees, confirmed credits and forward foreign exchange contracts, £157,139.		Sundry securities (at under market value)	89,826
		Loans, overdrafts and other balances (including currency with bankers abroad, £84,334 3s. 11d.) *less* reserve for doubtful debts	692,618
		Customers' liabilities for acceptances	1,357,817
	3,145,044		3,145,044

THE MITSUBISHI BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

Liabilities.	Yen.	Assets.	Yen.
Deposits	581,002,209	Cash on hand and in banks	61,535,314
Foreign bills sold	835,605	Money at call and short notice	17,664,335
Due to foreign banks	27,673,827	Government and municipal bonds	138,302,858
Due to inland correspondents	950,190	Other bonds	155,535,082
Acceptances and guarantees	1,955,586	Securities	36,363,180
Interest accrued on deposits	6,471,629	Loans and bills discounted	269,138,816
Rebate on bills discounted not yet due	921,100	Bonds loaned to customers	4,438,320
Suspense accounts	429,259	Foreign bills bought	28,143,202
Bills payable	496,603	Due from foreign banks	487,197
Capital	100,000,000	Due from inland correspondents	723,605
Reserve funds	34,789,353	Acceptances and guarantees, as per contra	1,955,586
Balance brought forward from last profit and loss account	2,664,110	Bank premises and real estates	13,051,232
Profit for the current half-year, including premium on new shares, Yen 5,875,000	9,493,737	Temporary payments	317,767
		Money trust (pension reserve fund)	1,750,000
		Accounts *en route*	776,784
		Capital uncalled	37,500,000
	767,683,208		767,683,208

APPROPRIATION.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Legal reserve fund	6,500,000	Profit for the current half-year	9,493,737
Pension reserve fund	180,000	Balance brought forward from last profit and loss account	2,664,110
Bonus	180,000		
Dividend at 10 per cent. per annum	2,354,167		
Balance carried forward to next half-year	2,943,680		
	12,157,847		12,157,847

MITSUI BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Yen.	Assets.	Yen.
Deposits (current, fixed, &c.)	660,373,924	Cash in hand and at the Bank of Japan	45,591,682
Foreign bills sold	696,819	Money at call and short notice	18,480,000
Due to foreign banks (including discounts)	41,434,998	Japanese and foreign government bonds	117,093,758
Due to inland correspondents	630,384	Municipal and other bonds	119,589,684
Outstanding cheques	275,930	Stocks	525,000
Liabilities under L/C, &c.	19,292,032	Loans and discounts	454,389,154
Interest accrued on deposits not due	6,767,954	Foreign bills purchased	76,010,146
Rebate on bills not due	2,754,802	Due from foreign banks	6,634,937
Provisional receipts, &c.	669,436	Due from inland correspondents	230,143
Capital	100,000,000	Customers' liabilities under L/C, &c., per contra	19,292,032
Reserve funds	64,700,000	Office buildings under construction	1,114,738
Pension fund	2,952,625	Provisional payments	46,046
Profit for the half year	6,391,561	Bank premises and real estates	7,943,394
		Capital uncalled	40,000,000
	906,940,465		906,940,465

ANGLO-CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BANK

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Reserves - - - 112,878,595 Czech Crowns

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Subscribed Capital - - -	£5,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - -	£3,000,000
Further Liability of Proprietors	£2,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - -	£3,080,000

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JOHN PATERSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

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THE HON. WALTER D. GIBBS.
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Manager & Secretary—E. M. JANION.
Asst. Mgr.—A. A. SHIPSTON. *Sub-Mgr.*—J. A. ROBERTSON.
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National Central Savings Bank of Hungary

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Central Wechselstuben A.G. Niederlassung Vienna, I. Kärntnerstrasse 43.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve fund	500,000	Profit for the half-year	6,391,561
Pension fund	523,200		
Bonus	290,000		
Dividend to shareholders	3,000,000		
Balance carried forward to next account	2,078,361		
	6,391,561		6 ,391,56

MOSCOW NARODNY BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—June 30, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital—issued, 50,000 shares of £10 each, fully paid, £500,000; 50,000 shares of £10 each, £6 18s. paid, £345,000	845,000	Cash at banks on current accounts and in hand	453,925
Reserve account	135,000	Deposits at banks	20,621
Clients' current and deposit accounts	817,155	Loans at short notice (secured by British and Indian Government securities)	325,000
Correspondents of the Bank	655,777	Investments—British Government securities (at market value), £328,264; foreign government securities (at market value), £3,250; Co-operative Transit Bank, Riga—9,000 fully-paid shares of 100 gold lats each (at cost), £38,035	369,549
Bills re-discounted	802,485	Loans and advances to clients	12,994
Bills discounted (collateral security)	375,378	Correspondents of the bank	233,857
Advances against merchandise	1,112,604	Bills discounted (including bills of £168,341 6s. 3d. deposited as collateral security against advances received)	1,425,781
Advances against bills of exchange	48,000	Advances against—	
Acceptances by banks	514,843	Goods and documents	1,902,901
Acceptances under documentary credits	7,523	Bills of exchange (collateral security)	608.187
Miscellaneous creditors and accrued charges	44,873	Miscellaneous debtors	18,696
Liabilities of the bank (as per contra) in respect of—		Office furniture and fittings (less depreciation)	5,008
Guarantees	1,457,635	Leasehold premises — Paris branch (less depreciation)	3,379
Acceptances	101,616	Liabilities of customers (as per contra) in respect of—	
Indemnities	8,999	Guarantees issued	1,457,635
Documentary credits, creditors for bills and documentary collections (as per contra)	1,141,577	Bank acceptances	101,616
Profit and loss account—Balance as at December 31, 1928, £2,704; add profit for six months ended June 30, 1929, £33,556—£36,260; less transferred to reserve account, £15,000	21,260	Indemnities	8,999
		Debtors in respect of documentary credits, bills and documentary collections (as per contra)	1,141,577
	8,089,725		8,089,725

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The report presented at the meeting held in Cairo on March 20, 1930, states that the gross profit for the year ended December 31, 1929, after providing for depreciation on the bank's buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount and for doubtful debts, amounts to £1,099,870; after deducting from this sum: for directors' fees £13,833, for current expenses £464,351—£478,184—there remains £621,686. In conformity with Article 49 of the bank's statutes, a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital, £120,000; after this distribution there remains £501,686; adding to this the balance brought forward from last year, £221,795, the amount available is £723,481. The directors consider it prudent to allocate to special reserve for contingencies a sum of £75,000, which leaves £648,481. From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 14 per cent. on the share capital, which will absorb £420,000, and to carry forward the balance of£228,481. The total dividend for the year will thus be at the rate of 18 per cent., equivalent to £1 16s. per share.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Share capital—300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each	3,000,000	Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	20,663,134
Statutory reserve fund	1,500,000	Sundry securities	927,624
Special reserve	1,450,000	Advances on merchandise	4,172,393
Current, deposit, and other accounts	15,148,511	Advances on securities	5,904,335
Egyptian Government	18,259,374	Advances otherwise secured	1,484,536
Sudan Government	192,171	Sundry other advances	1,303,064
Mixed Tribunals	2,104,276	Bills of exchange	3,187,685
Bankers' accounts	273,693	Local bills discounted	526,214
Cheques and bills payable	191,231	Buildings, furniture, &c.	194,469
Rebate of discount on bills not yet due	33,272	Money at call and at short notice	1,600,000
Dividends unclaimed	22,972	Bankers' accounts	401,940
Acceptances, &c.	859,243	Clients' liability for acceptances, &c., as per contra	859,243
Provision for payment of final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum	420,000	Cash: Notes, £E1,671,715,000; gold and silver coin, &c., £E725,406,923	2,458,587
Profit and loss account balance	228,481		
	43,683,224		43,683,224

There is a contingent liability in respect of bills rediscounted of £633,944.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E		£E
Notes issued	28,300,000	Gold	3,339,570
		*British Treasury bills	10,810,430
		Securities—	
		Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	1,500,000
		British Treasury Bills and British War Loan	12,650,000
	28,300,000		28,300,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916.)

THE NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK.

INCLUDING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BRANCHES.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	$	ASSETS.	
Capital	110,000,000	Cash in vault and in Federal Reserve Bank	172,195,091
Surplus	110,000,000	Due from banks, bankers and United States Treasurer	264,930,396
Undivided profits	19,650,233	Loans, discounts and acceptances of other banks	1,245,424,078
Deposits	1,649,554,261	United States Government bonds and certificates	178,466,500
Liability as acceptor, endorser, or maker on acceptances and foreign bills	292,164,182	State and municipal bonds	24,684,908
Circulation	99,365	Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	6,600,000
Reserves for:		Other bonds and securities	74,466,508
Contingencies	6,758,394	Subsidiaries—	
Accrued interest, discount and other unearned income	6,155,972	International Banking Corporation	6,000,000
Taxes and accrued expenses, &c.	8,393,763	Bank of Haiti, Inc.	2,000,000
Dividend payable Jan., 1930	3,465,000	Bank buildings	34,953,148
		Items in transit with branches	22,963,885
		Customers' liability account of acceptances	165,162,956
		Other assets	8,393,700
	2,206,241,170		2,206,241,170

OTTOMAN BANK.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	£
Capital	5,000,000	Cash in hand and at bankers	3,066,071
Statutory reserve	1,250,000	Money at call and notice	1,042,573
Bank notes in circulation	503,151	Bills receivable	3,956,089
Bills payable and sight drafts	298,251	Investments	3,207,413
Current accounts of sundries	12,627,727	Current accounts of sundries	7,452,510
Deposits for fixed terms	3,064,672	Advances on securities	3,622,218
Acceptances	1,794,779	Clients for acceptances	1,794,779
Profit and loss account	263,249	Bank premises and real estate	660,205
	24,801,829		24,801,829

RELIANCE BANK.

BALANCE SHEET—March 31, 1929.

LIABILITIES.	£	ASSETS.	
Capital issued—60,000 shares of £1 each, fully paid	60,000	Cash at head office, £2,502; at Bank of England and other banks, £152,165	154,667
Reserve account	36,000	Investments — At or under market price on this date	329,442
Deposits fixed for a term of years, £19,959; ordinary (subject to notice), £310,733	330,692	Loans on mortgage	160,957
Current accounts	230,965	Short loans	28,998
Sundry creditors (for interest accrued, etc.)	5,424	Sundry debtors (including interest and dividends accrued)	6,608
Repairs reserve	1,650		
Profit and loss account (balance), £16,941; less transfer to repairs reserve, £1,000	15,941		
	680,672		680,672

SOCIÉTE BELGE DE CRÉDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL ET DE DEPOTS.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1928.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Subscribed capital	20,000,000	Cash	5,984,198
Statutory reserve	2,000,000	Due from other banks	29,447,846
Extraordinary reserve	5,000,000	Bills receivable	26,203,300
Deposit and current accounts	108,618,928	Loans and advances	20,874,437
Profit and loss	2,489,657	Current accounts	7,396,3[illegible]
Other accounts	736,050	Coupons for collection	568,495
		Uncalled capital	13,640,400
		Sundry assets	33,692,289
		Buildings and furniture	1,037,352
	138,844,635		138,844,635

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE.

(Pour Favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.)

BALANCE SHEET—January 31, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	Francs.	ASSETS.	Francs.
Capital	625,000,000	Cash in hand and at Bank of France	762,695,827
Reserves	306,573,349	At banks and correspondents	2,122,371,579
Cheque accounts	3,713,359,978	Bills and National Defence Bonds	6,255,739,64[illegible]
Deposits for fixed periods	350,507,700	Coupons for encashment	196,677,916
Acceptances due or to be met	405,621,841	Contangoes	175,546,429
Diverse current accounts	7,868,355,881	Advances on security	622,182,069
Interest and dividends	6,059,401	Diverse current accounts	2,980,826,081
Undivided profits	19,015,495	Government stocks, shares, bills and debentures	33,805,735
Sundry accounts	371,107,544	Investments	25,634,591
		Real Estate and "Immobilière Parisienne et Départementale"	71,397,039
		Sundry accounts	100,416,757
		Calls on shares	305,807,[illegible]
		Interest on shares	12,50[illegible]
	13,665,601,189		13,665,601,189

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Total Claims Paid: Exceed £1,000,000

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE
(Incorporated with Limited Liability in Australia.)
EST. 1865

Paid-up Capital	£1,250,000
Reserve Fund	1,000,000
	£2,250,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	1,250,000
	£3,500,000

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SYDNEY OFFICE: 279, GEORGE STREET.
BRISBANE OFFICE: 305, QUEEN STREET.
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Capital Paid-up - £4,000,000 } together £8,850,000
Reserve Fund - £4,850,000 }
Reserve Liability of Proprietors - - £8,000,000

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Manager:—W. A. LAING. *Assistant Manager:*—G. S. GODDEN.
Secretary:—F. H. MCINTYRE.

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„	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	15
„	NEW SOUTH WALES	55
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„	QUEENSLAND	18
„	TASMANIA	3
„	NEW ZEALAND	49
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CHICAGO: Mr. James A. Poulaki, Representative, 33 South Clark Street.

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE DE CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Francs.	Assets.	Francs.
Deposit accounts	297,359,114	Cash in hand	98,805,804
Current accounts	725,711,406	Due from other banks	91,605,797
Fixed deposits	230,647,101	Coupons for collection	15,004,898
Acceptances	36,186,060	Bills receivable and "Bons de la Défense Nationale"	794,930,012
Unclaimed interest and dividends	264,715	Current accounts	193,525,155
Transitory and sundry accounts	20,684,629	Advances guaranteed	64,296,472
Rebate	2,745,781	Acceptances guaranteed	36,186,060
Reserve fund: Statutory Frs. 10,000,000 / Extraordinary 60,000,000	70,000,000	Payments made on account of interest and dividends for 1929	1,865,769
Capital subscribed	100,000,000	Transitory account	6,397
Brought forward from 1928	2,958,961	Investments	45,659,851
Profit and loss account for 1929	10,455,073	Shares of affiliated societies	78,876,625
		Bank premises	20,000,000
		Uncalled capital	56,250,000
	1,497,012,840		1,497,012,840

SUMITOMO BANK, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Yen.	Assets.	Yen.
Deposits	662,680,950	Cash in hand	70,441,686
Exchange sold	49,251,441	Money at call and short notice	21,430,000
Due to other banks	5,776,869	Bonds, debentures and other securities	233,072,443
Foreign credits, acceptances and guarantees	7,765,378	Bills discounted	78,062,950
Accrued interest, unearned discount, &c.	10,183,386	Loans	331,209,110
Subscribed capital	70,000,000	Securities lent	1,877,508
Reserve fund	26,000,000	Exchange purchased	47,469,308
Pension reserve	2,040,149	Due from other banks	7,547,981
Balance of profit brought forward from previous half-year	1,801,556	Customers' liabilities on foreign credits, acceptances and guarantees	7,765,378
Net profit for this half-year	2,909,392	Bank premises	19,532,757
		Capital unpaid	20,000,000
	838,409,121		838,409,121

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	Yen.	Cr.	Yen.
Reserve fund	500,000	Balance of profit brought forward from previous half-year	1,801,556
Dividend	2,250,000	By net profit for this half-year	2,909,392
Pension reserve	150,000		
Bonus	120,000		
Balance carried forward to next half-year	1,690,948		
	4,710,948		4,710,948

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

After deduction of expenses and taxes, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, etc., the net profit for the year ended December 31, 1929, amounts to £695,732. The board propose to allocate to pension fund £20,000, to the reserve fund for the extension of the head office premises in Basle £40,000; to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital (according to Art. 36 of the Articles of Association), £320,000—£380,000; leaving a balance of £315,732. After deduction of the statutory participation of directors, £31,573, the remainder, £284,159, together with the amount carried forward from last year, £28,611, viz., in all, £312,770 is at the disposal of the general meeting. The board propose to pay a further dividend of 3 per cent. (making in all 8 per cent. for the year 1929), which will absorb £192,000; to place to reserve fund £80,000—£272,000, and to carry forward £40,770.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

(£1 = 25 francs.)

Liabilities.	£	Assets.	£
Share capital	6,400,000	Cash	2,661,564
Reserves	1,960,000	Banks and bankers	11,289,703
Fixed deposits	9,101,660	Bills receivable	13,078,217
Current accounts, &c.—sight deposits, £18,171,783; time deposits, £22,499,880	40,671,663	Loans at short dates on securities	1,987,394
Acceptances	4,768,973	Advances to customers, &c.	29,901,207
Profit	724,343	Permanent investments	1,035,350
		Government, railway and other securities	2,341,530
		Syndicates	739,288
		Bank premises and other property	592,386
	63,626,639		63,626,639

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	Cr.	£
General expenses and taxes	995,703	Balance from 1928	28,611
Provision for bad and doubtful debts (less return of amounts previously written off) and depreciation on buildings and expenses of new issue	83,790	Discounts	724,387
		Interest	347,358
		Commissions	489,956
		Investments and syndicates	150,554
Net profit available	724,343	Coupons, foreign moneys, &c.	62,970
	1,803,836		1,803,836

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LTD.

The report for the half-year ended December 31, 1929, states that the net profit of the bank, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills, etc., shows 17,731,848 yen, inclusive of 10,420,920 yen brought forward from last account. The directors propose that 3,000,000 yen be added to the reserve fund, and 500,000 yen be set aside to a staff bonus in recognition of the semi-centenary. They also recommend a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a special semi-centenary bonus of 3 yen per share, which will absorb 8,000,000 yen. The balance, 6,231,848 yen, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

BALANCE SHEET—December 31, 1929.

Liabilities.	Yen.	Assets.	Yen.
Capital	100,000,000	Cash account — in hand, 24,910,216 Y; at bankers, 84,436,489 Y	109,346,705
Reserve fund	108,500,000	Investments in public securities and debentures at current market price	282,906,484
Reserve for doubtful debts	3,545,757	Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	347,574,519
Notes in circulation	5,938,368	Bills receivable and other sums due to the bank	544,818,816
Deposits (current, fixed, &c.)	664,186,125	Bullion and foreign money	520,350
Bills payable, bills rediscounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	408,244,051	Bank's premises and properties estimated at cost price *less* allowance for depreciation	21,474,878
Dividends unclaimed	39,161	Bank's furniture	1,543,556
Balance of profit and loss brought forward from last account	10,420,921		
Net profit for the past half-year	7,310,927		
	1,308,185,310		1,308,185,310

STOCKHOLMS ENSKILDA BANK

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Established in 1856.

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Other offices throughout London, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and North Wales.

Enquiries may be made at any branch of:
WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK LIMITED
Governing Office: **MANCHESTER**

BARMER BANK-VEREIN

HINSBERG, FISCHER & COMP.

Established 1867

Head Office - - - DÜSSELDORF

50 Branches at all important places of the Rhineland and of Westphalia

Branch Establishments:
Von der HEYDT-KERSTEN & SÖHNE, Elberfeld: SIEGFRIED FALK, Düsseldorf

CAPITAL AND RESERVES - - Reichsmark 54,000,000

Correspondents in all parts of the World

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND

Incorporated with Limited Liability in New Zealand, by Act of the General Assembly, 29th July, 1861.

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT

Authorised Capital, £7,561,238.

Paid-up Capital, as at 31st March, 1929	£6,858,113
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	4,042,591
	£10,900,704

Aggregate Assets at 31st March, 1929, **£54,561,908.**

Head Office: WELLINGTON, N.Z.

London Office: 1, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.4.

Branches and Agencies at over 220 points in New Zealand.

And at MELBOURNE—VICTORIA. SYDNEY—NEW SOUTH WALES.
SUVA AND LEVUKA—FIJI. APIA—SAMOA.

THE LONDON OFFICE GRANTS DRAFTS on any of its Branches; MAKES TRANSFERS by mail or telegraph; ISSUES TRAVELLERS' LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the World; ESTABLISHES COMMERCIAL CREDITS by Mail or Cable; OPENS CURRENT ACCOUNTS for the convenience of its Overseas Constituents; NEGOTIATES AND COLLECTS BILLS payable in any part of Australasia, Fiji and Samoa; and UNDERTAKES every description of General Banking and Monetary Business.

ROBERT MILL, *Manager.*

STOCKHOLMS INTECKNINGS GARANTI AKTIEBOLAG

STOCKHOLM

ESTABLISHED 1869.

Paid-up Capital and Reserve Funds Kr. 34,000,000

Telegraphic Address: SIGAB, STOCKHOLM.

London Agents:

HAMBROS BANK, Ltd., LAZARD BROTHERS & Co., Ltd., WESTMINSTER BANK, Ltd.
CORNHILL.

All kinds of Banking Business Transacted.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC BANK

(BANK GOSPODARSTWA KRAJOWEGO)

WARSAW, KRÓLEWSKA 5.

Telegraphic Address: KRAJOBANK, WARSAW.

Chairman: ROMAN GÓRECKI.

Paid-up Capital: Zl. 150,000,000 Reserve Fund: **Zl. 51,025,715**

Total of Balance Sheet, as on December 31st, 1929, Zl. 1,830,672,311

19 Branches in Poland. *Correspondents all over the world.*

HANDLING OF BANKING TRANSACTIONS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Issue of 7% Mortgage Bonds as well as 7% Municipal and 7½% Bank Bonds, the latter for requirements of industry, in gold Zlotys, U.S. Dollars, Pounds Sterling, Swiss Francs and Dutch Florins.

All issues of the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego are secured by the First Mortgage on properties, or by the properties owned by municipalities as well as by total assets of the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego and are guaranteed by the Polish Government.

THE SUMITOMO BANK, LIMITED

(INCORPORATED IN JAPAN).

Head Office: OSAKA, JAPAN.

Capital Subscribed - - - -	Yen 70,000,000.00
Capital Paid-up - - - -	Yen 50,000,000.00
Reserve Fund - - - -	Yen 28,690,000.00

HOME OFFICES:—Fukuoka (2), Hiroshima (3), Kobe (3), Kokura, Kumamoto, Kure, Kurume (2), Kyoto (2), Moji, Nagoya (2), Niihama, Okayama, Onomichi, Osaka (26), Shimonoseki, Tokyo (17), Wakamatsu, Yanai and Yokohama.

OFFICES in PACIFIC LINERS:—M.S. "Asama Maru," M.S. "Chichibu Maru" and M.S. "Tatsuta Maru."

FOREIGN OFFICES:—Shanghai, Hankow, Bombay, London, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

AFFILIATED BANKS:—The Sumitomo Bank of California, Sacramento, California, U.S.A. The Sumitomo Bank of Hawaii, Ltd., Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A. The Sumitomo Bank of Seattle, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

LONDON BANKERS:—Lloyds Bank Limited.

Correspondents in all important places at Home and Abroad.

GENERAL BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

London Office: 67, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2.

Telephone: London Wall 1511 and 1512. *Cable Address:* "Sumitbank, London."

THE

LONDON & EASTERN TRADE BANK LTD.

(Established 1920)

61/62, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

Telegraphic Address: "EASTRABANK, LONDON"

CAPITAL: Authorised - - - £1,000,000
Subscribed and paid-up - £600,000

Specially organised for the financing of trade with Europe and the Near East.

ENQUIRIES INVITED.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

INCORPORATED IN EGYPT. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS IS LIMITED.

Head Office - - - CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - -	£3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - -	£2,950,000

LONDON AGENCY:

6 & 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

Branches in all the Principal Towns in EGYPT and the SUDAN.

BRITISH MUTUAL BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED,

LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.

Telegraphic Address—"Brimful, London." (Established 1857.) *Telephone—City 7831, 7832.*

CAPITAL, £300,000 (fully subscribed), in 60,000 SHARES OF £5 EACH.
PAID UP £120,000.

DIRECTORS:

Sir EDGAR HORNE, Bart. (*Chairman*). | J. ROY LANCASTER, Esq.
FREDERICK SCHOOLING, Esq., F.I.A. | JAMES MOON, Esq.
Sir WILLIAM H. DAVISON, K.B.E., M.P. | A. E. LEONARD, Esq.
Manager—G. KIRWOOD TAYLOR.

Banking business of every description transacted. Current Accounts are kept in conformity with the practice of London Bankers, interest being allowed on minimum monthly balances by arrangement and credited to the accounts half-yearly on the 30th of June and 31st of December.

Deposits received in sums of not less than £10. No charge is made for keeping an Account when a remunerative balance is maintained.

Every information can be obtained on application to the Manager.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

Capital (fully paid), £2,500,000 Reserve Fund, **£2,910,320**

Deposits, £46,235,129

Total Number of Offices 237.

OVER
200 YEARS OF COMMERCIAL BANKING

Correspondents throughout the World.

A COMPLETE BRITISH COLONIAL AND FOREIGN BANKING SERVICE.

CONDITIONS FOR THE OPENING OF ACCOUNTS FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

LONDON OFFICES—City: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2.
West End: 49, CHARING CROSS, S.W.1, and 64, NEW BOND STREET, W.1.

HEAD OFFICE - - EDINBURGH.

General Manager—SIR ALEXANDER KEMP WRIGHT, K.B.E., D.L.

BANK OF SCOTLAND

CONSTITUTED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 1695.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - -	£4,500,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - - -	£1,500,000
RESERVE FUND and BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD - -	£2,172,456
DEPOSITS and CREDIT BALANCES as at 28th February, 1930 -	£32,258,308

Governor: The Rt. Hon. LORD ELPHINSTONE, K.T. Deputy Governor: Sir RALPH ANSTRUTHER OF BALCASKIE, Bart. GEORGE J. SCOTT, Treasurer.

Head Office: THE MOUND, EDINBURGH.

GLASGOW, Chief Office: 2, ST. VINCENT PLACE. A. W. M. BEVERIDGE, Manager.
LONDON OFFICES: City Office—30, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2. J. W. JOHNSTON, Manager.
Piccadilly Circus Branch—16/18, PICCADILLY, W. C. D. ALLISON, Manager.

237 Branches and Sub-Branches in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and throughout Scotland.
Every description of British and Foreign Banking Business transacted.

THE BRITISH LINEN BANK

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1746.

Capital and Reserve Funds - - £3,500,000

London Office - - 38 Threadneedle Street, E.C.2,
where accounts may be opened on usual London terms.

Head Office: 38 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.
200 Branches throughout Scotland.

Every Description of Banking Business transacted.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament. *Established 1825.*

Affiliated with Lloyds Bank Limited.

Capital Subscribed, £5,000,000. Paid-up, £1,100,000. Uncalled, £3,900,000.

RESERVE FUND - - - - £1,550,000
DEPOSITS, 1st November, 1929 - £32,154,808

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
London Office: 37, NICHOLAS LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.
Glasgow Office: 47, ST. VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW.

Branches in all the principal towns and places in Scotland.
Correspondents in all the leading towns in England and Ireland, and in the principal towns in all parts of the World.

Every description of banking business transacted, including the collection of Dividends and Coupons, whether payable in Great Britain or abroad; the issue of Drafts, Letters of Credit, and Circular Notes payable in the principal Cities and Towns throughout the World; and Cable transfer of remittances to all parts.
The Bank is prepared, in approved cases, to act as Trustee, Executor or Administrator, and also as Trustee for Debenture or other issues, etc.
FOREIGN CURRENCIES bought and sold for immediate or forward delivery.
CLEAN and DOCUMENTARY Foreign Drafts negotiated or collected.
All classes of Overseas business transacted at all the Bank's Branches.

The Commercial Bank of Scotland Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1810.

Subscribed Capital - - - - - - -	£7,500,000
Paid up - - - - - - - -	£2,250,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - - -	£2,800,000
Deposits (31st October, 1929) - - - - -	£35,228,897

Head Office: 14 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH.
General Manager, ALEX. ROBB. Secretary, MAGNUS IRVINE.

London, City Office: 62 LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3.
Manager, ANDREW W. RUSSELL. Asst. Manager, JOHN M. ERSKINE.

Kingsway Branch: IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.
Manager, JAMES O. DAVIDSON.

Glasgow, Chief Office: 113-115 BUCHANAN STREET.
Manager, ANDREW SCOTT. Asst. Manager, WILLIAM COCHRANE.

Princes Street, Edinburgh, Branch: 118 PRINCES STREET.
Agent, JAMES THOMSON.

The Bank has 337 Branches and Sub-Branches throughout Scotland, and Banking Correspondents in the principal Towns in the World.
Every description of British Banking and Foreign Exchange business transacted.
The Bank is prepared to undertake the duties of Executor or Trustee under wills and settlements, and to act as Trustee for Debenture Holders and for Public Bodies and Institutions.

CREDIT FONCIER D'ALGERIE ET DE TUNISIE

CAPITAL Frs. 150 MILLIONS

HEAD OFFICE PARIS
REGD OFFICE ALGIERS

OVER 120 BRANCHES IN
ALGERIA, TUNIS, MOROCCO, & NEAR EAST

The Bank transacts every kind of International Banking business and offers facilities for the financing of trade with the above countries.

Accounts opened in English and Foreign Currencies. Collection of clean and documentary drafts.

Mail and Cable Transfers—Cheques and Letters of Credit issued in all Currencies. Forward exchange rates quoted against future contracts.

18, ST SWITHINS LANE LONDON, E.C 4.

TELEGRAMS: FONCALTUN, LONDON. TELEPHONE: MANSION HOUSE 8131 (FIVE LINES)

HUNGARIAN COMMERCIAL BANK OF PEST, BUDAPEST.

Telegraphic Address: "COMMERZ, BUDAPEST."

OLDEST BANK OF HUNGARY.

EVERY KIND OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

50 Branches and Affiliated Banks in Hungary.

AFFILIATED BANKS IN
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA, YUGOSLAVIA, BULGARIA, ROUMANIA.

WARSAW DISCOUNT BANK

Banque d'Escompte de Varsovie. Bank Dyskontowy Warszawski.

Established 1871.

Head Office - - WARSAW.

Branches:—LWÓW, LODZ, DROHOBYCZ.

ALL KINDS OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Correspondents all over the world.

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1839.

CAPITAL AUTHORISED - -	£1,000,000	RESERVE FUND - - - - -	£200,000
CAPITAL PAID UP - - -	£600,000	TOTAL ASSETS - - - - -	£5,776,203

HEAD OFFICE: 25/31, Moorgate, LONDON, E.C. 2.

EGYPT: *Central Office*—ALEXANDRIA. 10 Branches and Agencies.

GREECE: *Central Office*—ATHENS. 29 Branches and Agencies.

CYPRUS: *Central Office*—NICOSIA. 4 Branches and Agencies.

EVERY FORM OF INTERNATIONAL BANKING SERVICE.

THE BRITISH BANK FOR THE NEAR EAST.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

(ESTABLISHED 1817.)

Incorporated in New South Wales with Limited Liability.

With Branches and Agencies (588) in all the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua, and Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

Paid-up Capital - - - - - - -	£7,500,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - - -	6,150,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors - - -	7,500,000
	£21,150,000

Aggregate Assets to 30th September, 1929, £90,806,297 : 7 : 10

Head Office—SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

General Manager: A. C. DAVIDSON.

LONDON DIRECTORS:

H. L. M. TRITTON, ESQ., *Chairman.* I. C. GEDDES, ESQ. CHAS. L. DALZIEL, ESQ. OSCAR LINES, ESQ., *Hon. Director.*

J. S. CAMPBELL, *Manager.* D. GEDDIE, *Assistant Manager.* A. L. KENNEDY, *Secretary.* G. S. KETT, *Accountant.*

The London Offices issues drafts on demand on its Head Office (Sydney, N.S.W.) and Branches in all the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua, Mandated Territory of New Guinea. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Arranges Wool and other Produce Credits. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods, on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australasian Banking Business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C. 2.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Incorporated in Canada with Limited Liability.

Head Office: TORONTO

SIR JOHN AIRD, *President.*

RT. HON. SIR THOMAS WHITE, K.C.M.G.
E. R. WOOD
ARTHUR F. WHITE
} *Vice-Presidents.*

S. H. LOGAN, *General Manager.*

Branches throughout Canada and Newfoundland

OTHER BRANCHES:—

Kingston, Jamaica.	San Francisco, Cal.
Bridgetown, Barbados.	Seattle, Wash.
Port of Spain, Trinidad.	Portland, Ore.
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.	Mexico City, Mexico.
Havana, Cuba.	St. Pierre-Miquelon.

NEW YORK.

London Office - 2, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3

CHARLES CAMBIE, *Manager.* A. R. PHIPPS, *Assistant Manager.*

Telegraphic Transfers made to all principal points of America; Commercial and Travellers' Letters of Credit and Travellers' Cheques issued: Collections made at all points: a general Banking and Exchange Business conducted with Canada, Newfoundland, the United States, the West Indies, Mexico, and South America.

THE

Commercial Banking Company of Sydney,

LIMITED

(with which is amalgamated the BANK OF VICTORIA, LTD.)

ESTABLISHED 1834. INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES WITH LIMITED LIABILITY.

Authorised Capital		£12,000,000 0 0
Capital Paid up	...	£4,739,012 10 0
Reserve Fund	...	£4,200,000 0 0
Reserve Capital	...	£4,739,012 10 0
		£13,678,025 0 0
Total Deposits 30th June, 1929	...	£54,420,876 0 0
Total Assets 30th June, 1929	...	£65,836,660 0 0

Head Office: Sydney—343 George Street.

General Manager: J. R. Dryhurst.

469 Offices and Branches in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Federal Capital Territory. Agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand, and all other parts of the world.

Drafts payable on demand and Letters of Credit are issued by the London Branch on the Head Office, Branches and Agencies of the Bank. Bills on Australasia negotiated and collected. Remittances cabled and mailed.

LONDON OFFICE:

18 BIRCHIN LANE, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.3

V. B. JONES, Manager.

THE EASTERN BANK LIMITED.

Head Office:

CROSBY SQUARE, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.3

Authorised Capital - -	£2,000,000
Paid-up Capital - -	£1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - -	£480,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£1,000,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman.
J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Deputy Chairman.
Sir JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. Sir PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.
Sir THOMAS J. STRANGMAN.

Branches—

BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, BAGHDAD, AMARA, BAHREIN, BASRA, MOSUL, KIRKUK.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for one year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application. On current accounts Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, Manager.

ALEXANDERS DISCOUNT CO. LIMITED.

24 Lombard Street, E.C.3

Capital Authorised - -	*£1,500,000*
Subscribed - - - -	*1,350,000*
Paid-up Preference Shares	*200,000*
Paid-up Ordinary Shares -	*575,000*
Reserve Fund - - - -	*575,000*

DIRECTORS.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, *Chairman.*
GEORGE CLEVERLY ALEXANDER.
ERIC GORE BROWNE, D.S.O.
SIR AUSTIN EDWARD HARRIS, K.B.E.
FRANK NEWCOMB.
Manager—F. NEWCOMB.
Sub-Manager—B. F. CREWDSON, C.B.E.
Secretary—A. K. BRUCE.

Approved Mercantile Bills discounted. Loans granted on negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notices at current market rates, as advertised from time to time in the daily papers. For longer periods on specially agreed terms.

The Company deals in British Treasury Bills of any maturity.

THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, Ltd.

ESTABLISHED 1830.

CENTENARY YEAR.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL (2nd April, 1930)	£5,000,000
PAID-UP - - - -	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - -	£1,550,000
DEPOSITS - - - -	£28,250,000

HEAD OFFICES:

GLASGOW—St. Vincent Street. EDINBURGH—George Street.
200 Branches throughout Scotland.

LONDON OFFICE: 62, CORNHILL, E.C.3.

Manager: JOHN THOMSON. *Asst. Manager:* JOHN A. MORRISON.

HAS FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

London: West End Branch, 1, Regent Street, S.W.1.
JOHN MACDONALD, *Manager.*

Adapted in every way to carry through all forms of Banking Business in London and Scotland.

Every description of Home and Foreign Banking transacted.

Letters of Credit issued on all places at Home and Abroad; Cable Remittances, Freight Collections, Ship's Disbursements Credits, Commercial Credits, &c., arranged. Bills of Exchange and Shipping Documents collected or negotiated subject to approval.

The Bank also undertakes the duties of TRUSTEE and EXECUTOR.

SMALL DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS BEARING INTEREST. Sums of 1/- and upwards received. PASS BOOKS and HOME SAFES ISSUED. Strictest Secrecy is observed by the Bank's Officials.

At London Offices Current Accounts and other business conducted on the usual terms of London Banks. Deposits received at Interest.

NORMAN L. HIRD, *General Manager.*

The

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

(Incorporated in the Colony of Hongkong. The liability of members is limited to the extent and in manner prescribed by Ordinance No. 5 of 1929 of the Colony.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	... ...	$50,000,000
ISSUED AND FULLY PAID UP	... ...	$20,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS { STERLING	... ...	£6,500,000
RESERVE FUNDS { SILVER	... ...	$9,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS	...	$20,000,000

Head Office - - HONGKONG.

COURT OF DIRECTORS:

J. A. PLUMMER, *Chairman.*
C. G. S. MACKIE, *Deputy-Chairman.*
B. D. F. BRITH. W. L. PATTENDEN.
W. H. BELL. T. E. PEARCE.
A. H. COMPTON. T. H. R. SHAW.
B. LANDER LEWIS. J. P. WARREN.
ACTING CHIEF MANAGER - - - V. M. GRAYBURN.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Chefoo, Colombo, Dairen (Dalny), Foochow, Haiphong, Hamburg, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe, Kowloon, Kuala Lumpur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Moukden, Muar, Nagasaki, New York, Peiping (Peking), Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Sungei Patani, Tientsin, Tokyo, Tsingtao, Ylolio, Yokohama.

COMMITTEE IN LONDON:

Sir Charles Addis, K.C.M.G., *Chairman.* Sir George Macdonogh, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
A. H. Barlow. Lord Revelstoke.
D. G. M. Bernard. Sir Geo. Sutherland.
C. A. Campbell. A. M. Townsend.
C. F. Whigham.

MANAGERS IN LONDON:

Sir Newton J. Stabb. H. D. C. Jones.
Sub-Manager, R. E. N. Padfield. Accountant, A. Moncur.

9, GRACECHURCH ST., LONDON, E.C.3

THE DAI-ICHI GINKO, LIMITED

TOKYO, JAPAN

(FORMERLY THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.)
Established 1873.

CAPITAL - - - -	Yen 57,500,000.00
RESERVE FUND - - -	Yen 57,500,000.00
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND -	Yen 6,850,000.00

Y. SASAKI, President.
K. ISHII, Vice-President.
S. SUGITA, Managing Director.
Y. OHSAWA, Managing Director.
T. AKASHI, Managing Director.

Head Office:
No. 1 KABUTO-CHO, NIHONBASHI-KU, TOKYO
T. AKASHI, Manager.

City Branches:
Akasaka, Asakusa, Azabu, Fukagawa, Ginza, Gofukubashi, Hibiya, Hongo, Honjo, Horiecho, Kanda, Komagata, Kyobashi, Marunouchi, Mita, Muromachi, Shinjuku, Shin-Osakacho, Ushigome.

Home Branches:
Ashikaga, Chofu, Fukuoka, Fushimi, Gojo (Kyoto), Hakodate, Hiroshima, Honmachi (Osaka), Hyogo (Kobe), Kiryu, Kobe, Kokura, Kumamoto, Kurume, Kyomachi (Kobe), Kyoto, Marutamachi (Kyoto), Minamiku (Osaka), Moji, Muroran, Nagoya, Nishijin (Kyoto), Nishiku (Osaka), Osaka, Otaru, Sano, Sapporo, Shimonoseki, Tamayacho (Nagoya), Tatebayashi, Tochigi, Toyohashi, Utsunomiya, Yokkaichi, Yokohama.

Branches in Korea:
Fusan, Seoul.

London and New York Agents:

LONDON.	NEW YORK.
Westminster Bank, Ltd.	The National City Bank of New York.
Midland Bank, Ltd.	Guaranty Trust Co. of New York.
The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.	The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.

Correspondents:
The Bank, in addition to its own Branches, has numerous Agents or Correspondents in the principal Cities and Towns at Home and Abroad.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1856.

35, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C. 3

Telegraphic Address: "NATDIS, STOCK, LONDON." Telephones: MANSION HOUSE 5241 (3 lines)

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL -	£2,153,335
PAID-UP CAPITAL - -	£1,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - -	£890,000

DIRECTORS:
Col. The Hon. SIDNEY PEEL, C.B., D.S.O., Chairman.

Hon. ARTHUR M. ASQUITH, D.S.O.
FREDERICK W. GREEN.
H. S. H. GUINNESS.
Sir SIGISMUND F. MENDL, K.B.E.
CHARLES D. SELIGMAN.
PHILIP H. WADE.

Manager—FRANCIS GOLDSMITH.

Sub-Manager—SYDNEY N. LIGHTON.

Asst. Sub-Managers—R. E. de B. BATE & C. S. FOWLER.

Foreign Dept. Manager—OSCAR H. LIST.

Secretary—CHARLES H. GOUGH.

Auditors:
FRANCIS W. PIXLEY (Jackson, Pixley & Co.).
Sir ALBERT W. WYON, K.B.E. (Price, Waterhouse & Co.).

Bankers:
BANK OF ENGLAND.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

Treasury Bills, Bank and Mercantile Bills negotiated.

Money received on Deposit at Call and Short Notice at the Current Market Rates of Interest, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

Loans granted upon approved securities.

All communications to be addressed to the Manager.

HUNGARIAN LAND MORTGAGE INSTITUTE

Crédit Foncier de Hongrie.
Magyar Földhitelintézet.

BUDAPEST.

THE OLDEST FARM MORTGAGE BANK AND MORTGAGE BOND ISSUING HOUSE IN HUNGARY.

ESTABLISHED 1863.

Every Description of Banking Business transacted.

Telegraphic Address:—HUMUS.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS:
Swiss Bank Corporation, Hambros Bank Limited, Anglo-International Bank Limited, M. Samuel & Co., Ltd.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENTS:
Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Irving Trust Company.

ISSUES from 1st January, 1926, to 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

£2,000,000 7½% Series "A" Sterling Land Mortgage Bonds (therefrom outstanding £1,975,000).
£660,000 7½% Series "B" Sterling Land Mortgage Bonds (therefrom outstanding £660,000).
Paying Agents: Hambros Bank, Limited, London; and Anglo-International Bank, Limited, London.
$3,000,000 7½% Series "A" Sinking Fund Land Mortgage Gold Bonds (therefrom outstanding $2,978,000.)
$3,000,000 7½% Series "B" Sinking Fund Land Mortgage Gold Bonds (therefrom outstanding $2,978,000).
Paying Agents: Guaranty Trust Company of New York, New York.

Hire-Purchase Financing

Manufacturers and Distributors of merchandise whose products are adaptable to Hire-purchase distribution are invited to consult United Dominions Trust Ltd. regarding their particular problems.
The experience and organisation of this Company enables it to offer comprehensive facilities and service to meet individual requirements.

Funds now employed exceed £2,500,000.

SIR EDWARD M. MOUNTAIN, BT., J.P., *Chairman.*

J. GIBSON JARVIE, *Managing Director.*

KING'S HOUSE, KING ST., LONDON, E.C.2
and at MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, BIRMINGHAM, and NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE P. & O. BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Head Office: 117-122, LEADENHALL ST., LONDON, E.C.3

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£5,000,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£2,594,160
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£2,594,160
RESERVE FUND	£180,000

Every description of Banking Business transacted.
Correspondents in all parts of the World.

BRANCHES:
14, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1; Bombay; Calcutta; Calicut; Colombo; Hongkong; Madras; Shanghai; Singapore.

AFFILIATED BANK:

THE ALLAHABAD BANK, LTD.

Head Office: CALCUTTA; with 36 Branches and Sub-Agencies in India.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	Rs. 40,00,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	Rs. 40,00,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	Rs. 35,50,000
RESERVE FUND	Rs. 44,50,000

BANCO DE CHILE

94 GRACECHURCH STREET, E.C. 3

	Chilean Dollars.
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - -	$100,000,000.00
STATUTORY RESERVE - - - - -	25,000,000.00
SPECIAL RESERVE - - - - -	33,000,000.00
FUND FOR CONTINGENCIES - - -	20,000,000.00
EXTRAORDINARY RESERVE - - -	40,000,000.00
DIVIDEND FUND - - - - -	7,816,293.69
(Equivalent to £5,645,407)	$225,816,293.69

Head Offices—SANTIAGO & VALPARAISO.

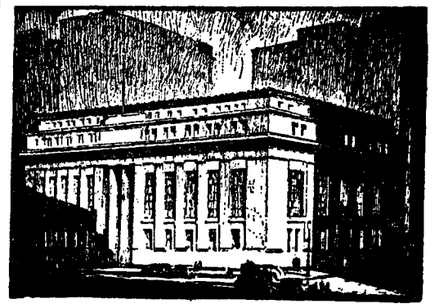
BRANCHES.

Santiago (Estacion), Santiago (Matadero), Santiago (San Pablo), Valparaiso (Almendral), Antofagasta, Arica, Chillan, Concepcion, Copiapó, Coquimbo, Curicó, Iquique, La Calera, Lautaro, Linares, Los Andes, Los Angeles, Mulchen, Nueva Imperial, Osorno, Ovalle, Puerto Montt, Quillota, Rancagua, Rengo, San Antonio, San Carlos, San Fernando, San Felipe, San Javier, Santa Cruz, Serena, Talca, Talcahuano, Temuco, Tocopilla, Traiguen, Valdivia, Vallenar, Victoria, Vina del Mar.

The London Agency transacts every class of Banking business with Chile. Current Accounts also opened and Deposits received.

PERCY C. WEST, Manager.

AGENTS OF { BANCO DE LA NACION ARGENTINA. BANCO DO BRAZIL. BANCO CENTRAL DE CHILE.



PRE-EMINENT IN THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED

MELLON NATIONAL BANK

PITTSBURGH, PA., U.S.A.

Cable Address . . . "Mellonson, Pittsburgh"
London Agents: National Provincial Bank, Ltd.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the Netherlands.)

Authorised Capital -	£750,000
Subscribed and Paid-up Capital -	£468,541 13s. 4d.
Reserve - - -	£166,666 13s. 4d.

Head Office:
AMSTERDAM, HEERENGRACHT, 546.

London Agency:
201, SALISBURY HOUSE, FINSBURY CIRCUS, E.C. 2.
LONDON MANAGER: J. COST BUDDE.

Hamburg Agency:
SCHAUENBURGERSTRASSE 32, HAMBURG.

Head Office in South Africa:
PRETORIA.

London Bankers: NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LTD., MIDLAND BANK LIMITED and Messrs. B. W. BLYDENSTEIN & CO.

BRANCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA:
Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Brits, Capetown, Dullstroom, Durban, East London, Ermelo, Hartebeestfontein, Johannesburg, Pietersburg, Port Elizabeth, Potchefstroom, Premier Mine, Pretoria, Worcester.

The Bank is prepared to issue Drafts and Letters of Credit, and to make Telegraphic Transfers upon its branches, as well as upon its Agencies in the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, and Transvaal. Bills negotiated and collected, and every description of Banking business transacted in connection with South Africa. Current Accounts kept and Deposits received for fixed periods.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA,
LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862 on the 23rd of March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta 29th September, 1863.
Bankers to the Government of KENYA (B. E. Africa) and UGANDA.

Board of Directors.

SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD, BART., *Chairman.*
R. LANGFORD JAMES, ESQ., *Deputy Chairman.*
HON. E. JULIAN HAWKE. | C. NICOLL, ESQ.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. | W. SHAKSPEARE, ESQ
ROBERT MILLER, ESQ.

General Manager - W. ROSS MUNRO, ESQ.
London Manager - E. H. LAWRENCE, ESQ.
Sub Manager - G. B. LINTON, ESQ.

Subscribed Capital - - - - - - £4,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - - - £2,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - - - - - £3,000,000

Head Office: 26 BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES:

ADEN	CHITTAGONG	MADRAS	ELDORET	Kenya Colony, B.E.A.	ENTEBBE, JINJA, KAMPALA — Uganda
ADEN STEAMER POINT	COCHIN (S. India)	MANDALAY	KISUMU		
AMRITSAR	COLOMBO	NUWARA ELIYA	MOMBASA		
BOMBAY	DELHI	RANGOON	NAIROBI		DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANGA — Tanganyika Territory.
CALCUTTA	KANDY	TUTICORIN	NAKURU		
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	ZANZIBAR			
	LAHORE				

The Bank grants Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on all places where it is represented; negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange; collects Pay, Pensions, and generally transacts every description of Eastern Banking business. The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods, not exceeding one year, at rates to be obtained on application.

The Bank opens Current Accounts, and, provided they do not fall below £200, allows Two per cent. per annum interest on the minimum monthly balances.

Trusteeships and Executorships also undertaken.

NEDERLANDSCHE HANDEL-MAATSCHAPPIJ, N.V.
(NETHERLANDS TRADING SOCIETY.)

Established by Royal Charter A.D. 1824.

BANKERS.

Capital Paid Up - - f.80,000,000 Neth. Currency (£6,666,666)
Statutory Reserve Fund - f.40,000,000 „ „ (£3,333,333)

Head Office: AMSTERDAM.

Branches: ROTTERDAM, THE HAGUE.
Branches in the NETHERLANDS INDIES: BATAVIA, SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, MEDAN, and further Principal Ports.
Branches in the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, BRITISH INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN and ARABIA: SINGAPORE, PENANG, RANGOON, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, KOBE and YIDDAH.

Grant Drafts and Issue Letters of Credit on all their Branches and Correspondents in the East, on the Continent, on Great Britain, Africa, America and Australia, and transact Banking Business of every description.

LONDON CORRESPONDENTS: National Provincial Bank, Ltd., LONDON.

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